

Appendix D Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

DAROOBALGIE SOLAR FARM PROJECT

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

FINAL

June 2021



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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

FINAL

Prepared by
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
on behalf of
Pacific Hydro

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Report No. **4961/R01**
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Executive Summary

Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) is seeking approval for the development of a utility scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, to be known as Daroobalgie Solar Farm (the Project). This Project will directly contribute to the state's renewable energy targets with an expected generating capacity of approximately 100 Megawatts (MW). The Project has been classed as a State Significant Development (SSD 10387).

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited (Umwelt) has been engaged by Pacific Hydro to prepare this Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and other relevant legislation and guidelines. The ACHA which will form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The Project is proposed to comprise installation of approximately 420,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, associated infrastructure (i.e., substation, Battery Energy Storage System, inverters, power cabling, site offices, car parking, and new access tracks) and a 132kV Electricity Transmission Line (ETL) to connect the solar farm to an existing 132kV powerline west of Newell Highway. The project will have an estimated capacity of approximately 100 megawatts (MW) and will provide enough electricity to power up to the equivalent of 34,000 homes each year.

Consultation with Aboriginal parties is an integral part of the identification and assessment of the significance of Aboriginal objects/places and determining and implementing appropriate strategies to mitigate impacts to Aboriginal heritage. As a result of the regulatory project notification and registration process, five Aboriginal parties registered an interest in ongoing consultation regarding the project. These parties are:

- Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council (PHLALC)
- Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation (CAC)
- Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation (GCHC)
- Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party
- Wiradjuri Council of Elders.

Of the five Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), three participated in the fieldwork component of this ACHA (PHLALC, CAC and GCHC).

The environmental context of the Project Area indicates that the area had access to fresh water periodically throughout the year and was situated within 3.5 km of a perennial water source. While vegetation clearance for agricultural purposes has significantly impacted the flora and fauna populations present in the region, it is likely that the Project Area was richly resourced prior to European settlement. The landscape is generally uniformly flat with a very low slope gradient, containing no elevated or steep landforms.

Due to the ephemeral nature of the gilgai and watercourses found across the Project Area, it is likely that the perennial Lachlan River 3.5 km to the south was favoured for prolonged use and occupation by Aboriginal people. As stated, the presence of gilgai within portions of the Project Area would have provided Aboriginal people travelling through the landscape with valuable resources including water, fauna and flora. This may have attracted smaller groups to camp for short periods of time, prior to continuing to the Lachlan River or the surrounding plains. Prior to agricultural disturbances, the occurrence of gilgai would not have been unique to the Project Area but would have occurred throughout the local area and Aboriginal people would potentially have used much of the local area in a similar fashion. It is noted, however, that the nearby Lachlan River would have been a more desirable target due to its reliable perennial resources.

The area in which the project lies is towards the north eastern boundary of the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database of the general region indicates that the primary site types that have been recorded in the area are scarred trees and low-density artefact scatters and isolated finds.

Based on the environmental and cultural context, it was predicted that artefact scatters would occur at low to moderate densities within the Project Area, with varying expectations for site integrity based on disturbance factors. Scarred trees (whilst common in the local area) are unlikely to occur due to the extent of vegetation clearance.

The survey was completed over three days and a total of fifteen sites recorded within the Project Area. There were five artefact scatters and three isolated finds in the Core Development Area (CDA) with a total of 38 artefacts. There were four artefact scatters and three isolated finds recorded within the survey area for the Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) with a total of 57 artefacts. The sites were located on previously disturbed areas, such as access tracks, dams, fence lines and agricultural paddocks.

It was assessed that the pattern of sites located during the survey was broadly similar to the predictive model, being predominantly low-density artefact scatters and isolated finds in a disturbed context. Both the CDA and the ETL were assessed as having low archaeological potential due to the extensive nature of the disturbance associated with past agricultural practices. It is acknowledged that there is potential for additional artefacts to occur within both the CDA and ETL, however, as discussed above, due to the extent of disturbance, any such deposits would not retain integrity.

The majority of sites within the Project Area were assessed as having low archaeological significance. The exception to this is DSF IF3 and DSF AS2, both of which contained a less common artefact type in the form of an axe blank and partial axe. These sites are assessed as having low-moderate potential. DSF AS7 was also assessed as having low-moderate significance as this site contains a relatively high number of artefacts (35) compared with other sites recorded during the survey and previous studies in similar contexts. As such, it was considered moderate for rarity and representativeness, with an overall rating of low-moderate.

The following are recommendations and mitigation strategies for the Project developed from an archaeological perspective:

- Pacific Hydro must ensure that all parties involved in the Project are aware that it is an offence under Section 86 of the NPW Act to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object unless that harm or desecration is authorised by an approved ACHMP as applicable, and the requirements of that plan have been met in relation to mitigation activities.
- Following Project approval (should it be granted), an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) for the project should be developed in consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties and agencies. The following aspects should be included in the ACHMP:
 - Provision for the completion of collection of surface artefacts associated with the recorded archaeological sites discussed in this report. The surface collection should be conducted in accordance with the methodology provided in **Section 11.0**.
 - Where it is identified that surface collection is not warranted as the site will not be subject to impact as a result of the Project and/or ongoing land management activities, the site/sites should be temporarily fenced during construction and a process developed to ensure sites are not impacted during ongoing Project activities.

- Any topsoil material excavated from within the Core Development Area or at pole locations along the ETL should remain within the local area and should not be transported off-site. This ensures that any artefacts that may have been present (within a disturbed context) will remain in the area.
- A procedure for managing any additional Aboriginal objects identified during the construction process in accordance with that provided in **Section 11.0**.
- A procedure to be followed in the unlikely event that human remains is located during construction, with the procedure to follow that provided in **Section 11.0**.
- Provision for ongoing consultation with registered Aboriginal parties, as required during construction and operation.

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1.0 Introduction

Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) is seeking approval for the development of a utility scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, to be known as Daroobalgie Solar Farm (the Project). This Project will directly contribute to the state's renewable energy targets with an expected generating capacity of approximately 100 Megawatts (MW). The Project has been classed as a State Significant Development (SSD 10387).

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) which will form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project. This assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation), the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011), with all consultation undertaken in accordance with Clause 60 of the NPW Regulation and the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a) (the consultation requirements), as documented in **Appendix 1**. The ACHA incorporates required archaeological technical information in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010c) (the Code of Practice).

The completion of this assessment is intended to address requirements established in the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued 19 December 2019 which state that the EIS for the Project must include, "an assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development, including consultation with the local Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*."

The draft of this report was supplied to the registered Aboriginal parties for review and comment and included the outcomes of all consultation undertaken with registered Aboriginal parties to date. Registered Aboriginal parties were asked to provide information on the cultural significance of the area and the sites that were located for inclusion in the final ACHA report. No additional comments of cultural significance received from registered Aboriginal parties following review of the draft report.

1.1 Project Description

1.1.1 Project Background

The Project is proposed to comprise installation of approximately 420,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, associated infrastructure (i.e., substation, Battery Energy Storage System, inverters, power cabling, site offices, car parking, and new access tracks) and a 132kV Electricity Transmission Line (ETL) and switchyard to connect the solar farm to an existing 132 kV powerline west of Newell Highway. The Project will have an estimated capacity of approximately 100 megawatts (MW) and will provide enough electricity to power up to the equivalent of 34,000 homes each year.

For the purposes of assessment, the Project is divided into the core development area, within which the photovoltaic infrastructure will be concentrated and an ETL which will provide connection from the core development area to existing the existing power distribution network.

The core development area encompasses approximately 300 hectares (ha) within the Forbes Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 11 km north-east of the Forbes township. The ETL runs for approximately 8.5 km to a switchyard and will connect into the existing 132KV powerline that runs generally north-south between Forbes and Parkes. The core development area and the ETL are herein referred to as the 'Project Area' (refer to **Figure 1.1**).

The core development area is accessed via Troubalgie Road to the north and is situated on Lot 77, DP750183, currently zoned RU1 Primary Production. The Project design will be further refined throughout the EIS preparation, including based on the outcomes of this ACHA. For the purposes of this ACHA and to allow for flexibility in the detailed design process, the entirety of the core development area and an allowance of 100 m in width along the ETL easement was assessed.

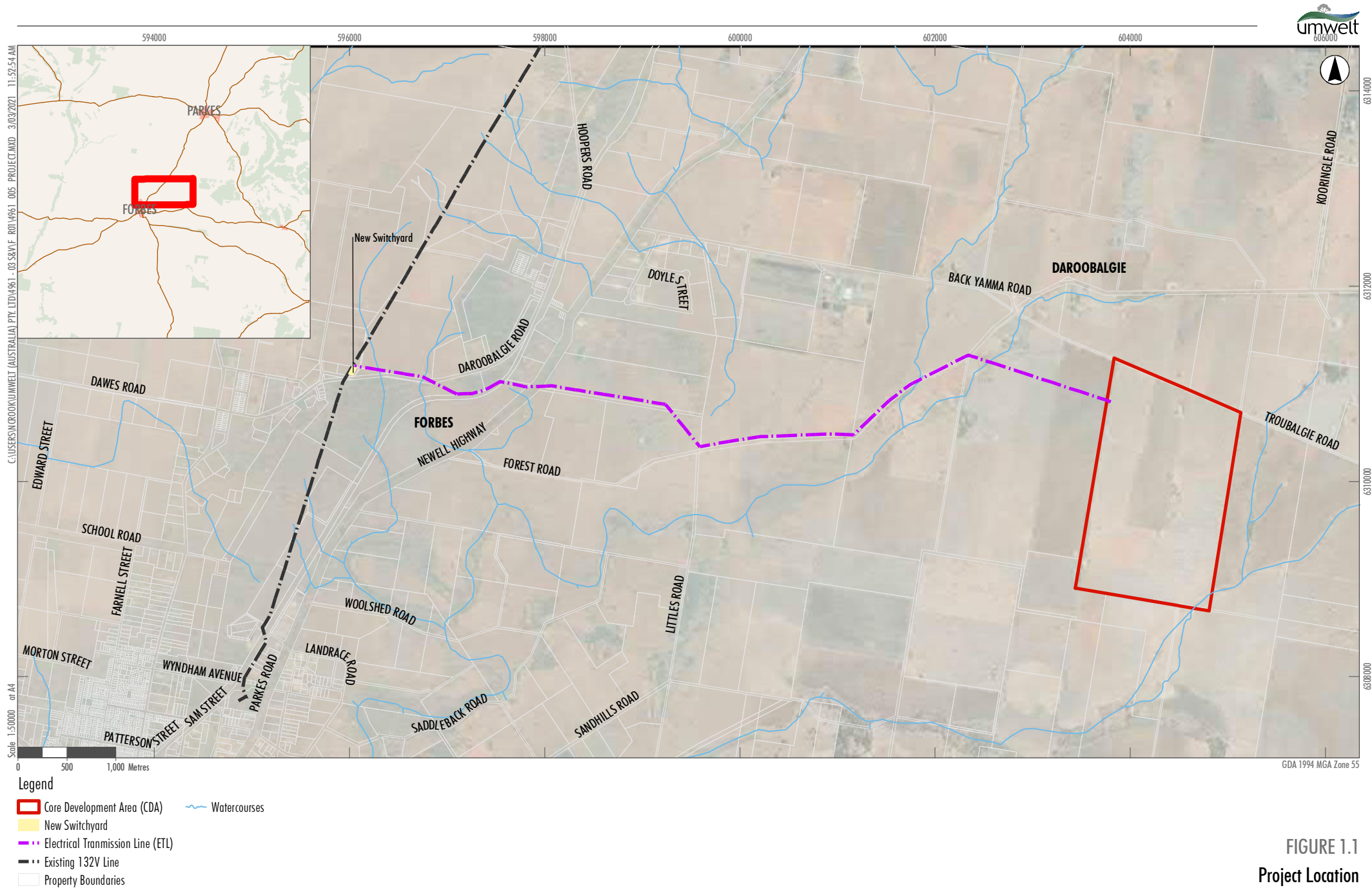


FIGURE 1.1
Project Location

1.2 Project Components

Key features of the Project include:

- network of photovoltaic solar panel arrays and power conversion units (PCUs)(DC-AC inverters)
- battery energy storage system (BESS) with embedded storage capabilities of approximately 40MW/160MWh
- electrical collection systems, substation and control room
- temporary construction compound
- Operations and Maintenance (O&E) facility, including demountable offices, amenities, equipment sheds, storage and parking areas
- internal access tracks
- ETL infrastructure
- switchyard

The Project's development will be consistent with the NSW Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline for State Significant Development (NSW DPIE, 2018) and is expected to deliver several benefits including:

- production of renewable energy, directly contributing to the State's renewable energy targets
- creation of local employment opportunities, including approximately 320 full-time jobs during the construction period and approximately 4-6 permanent jobs during operations
- direct and indirect benefits during the lifetime of the Project including local investment through Pacific Hydro's Community Investment Program
- diversification of local revenue streams
- increased energy security by contributing to Australia's diversifying energy mix and including the provision of grid support / security through energy storage systems.

1.3 Objectives of this Assessment

The primary objective of this ACHA is to ensure that the Aboriginal cultural values of the Project Area are appropriately documented and assessed with reference to the approach specified in *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011), the consultation requirements and with the Code of Practice.

It is acknowledged that Aboriginal people are the primary determinants of the cultural significance of their heritage. This ACHA is prepared to ensure that the information provided by registered Aboriginal parties is documented and presented in a manner that informs decision making on the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Project Area, whilst ensuring that the required archaeological information is also appropriately documented.

1.4 Project Team and Report Authors

All Aboriginal cultural input for this report has been provided by the registered Aboriginal parties and their representatives, through the consultation process outlined in **Section 3.0**.

Jessica Blackman (Senior Archaeologist) and Stephanie Howden (Senior Archaeologist) prepared this ACHA as the primary authors, with assistance from Alison Fenwick (Archaeologist). Nicola Roche (Manager, Cultural Heritage) reviewed the report, and additional support was given by the Umwelt drafting and admin teams. Kate Munro (Senior Environment & Development Planner, Pacific Hydro) completed a review to ensure accuracy of the Project details.

1.5 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

As noted above, the Project is designated as SSD, which requires approval under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The SEARs were requested from the Secretary of the DPIE for the preparation of the EIS and these were provided on 19 December 2019. The SEARs include provision for heritage assessment, for which the compliance checklist is provided below in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 SEARs Requirements

Requirement	Section
Include an assessment of the likely Aboriginal ... heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development	This report
Including consultation with the local Aboriginal community in accordance with the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents</i> .	Section 3.0 , and throughout this report

1.5.1 Report Structure

Table 1.2 summarises the required components of an ACHA and refers to the section of this document in which they are addressed.

Table 1.2 Required Information

Required Information (Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment)	Relevant Section	Required Information (Aboriginal archaeological assessment)	Relevant Section
Introduction	1.0	Introduction	1.0
Description of the area	4.0	Investigator and contributors	1.4
Consultation Process	3.0	Project description	1.1
Summary and analysis of background information	4.6 & 5.6	Landscape context	4.0
Cultural heritage values and statement of significance	7.0	Previous archaeological work and regional character	5.0
Avoiding and/or mitigating harm	8.0 & 9.0	Predictions	5.6
Recommendations	10.0 & 11.0	Sampling strategy and field methods	6.1 & 6.2
		Results	6.0
		Analysis and discussion	6.6
		Scientific values and significance assessment	7.0
		Impact assessment	8.0
		Management and mitigation measures	9.0
		Recommendations	10.0 & 11.0

2.0 Legislative Context

In NSW, Aboriginal cultural heritage (including Aboriginal objects and Places) is afforded statutory protection under the following Acts:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (the NPW Act)
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act).

Other relevant legislation is also discussed below.

2.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act regulates development activity in NSW. The Project has been designated as State Significant Development (SSD) in accordance with the provisions of the EP&A Act.

It is noted that Division 4.41 (d) of the EP&A Act specifies that it is not necessary to obtain an Aboriginal heritage impact permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act (refer to **Section 2.2**) for designated SSD projects. Projects approved as SSD under the EP&A Act are subject to conditions of approval issued by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and (where relevant) Aboriginal cultural heritage is addressed by appropriate conditions.

2.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Heritage NSW (formerly the Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH]) is primarily responsible for regulating the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales under the NPW Act. The NPW Act is accompanied by the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (the Regulation) and a range of codes and guides including the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011), the consultation requirements and the Code of Practice.

The NPW Act defines an Aboriginal object 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.

Under Section 84 of the NPW Act, an Aboriginal Place must be declared by the Minister as a place that, in the opinion of the Minister, is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. Section 86(4) of the NPW Act states that a person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal place.

In accordance with Section 86(1) of the NPW Act, it is an offence to harm or desecrate a known Aboriginal object, whilst it is also an offence to harm an Aboriginal object under Section 86(2). Harm to an object or place is defined as any act or omission that:

- destroys, defaces or damages an object or place, or
- in relation to an object – moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or
- is specified by the regulations, or
- causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c),

but does not include any act or omission that:

- desecrates the object or place (noting that desecration constitutes a separate offence to harm), or
- is trivial or negligible, or
- is excluded from this definition by the regulations.

Section 87(1) of the NPW Act specifies that it is a defence to prosecution under Section 86(1) and Section 86(2) if the harm or desecration of an Aboriginal object was authorised by an AHIP and the activities were carried out in accordance with that AHIP. As discussed above, there is no requirement to obtain an AHIP for projects designated as SSD but rather any approved harm to Aboriginal objects is likely to be addressed by the requirements of conditions of approval.

2.3 Heritage Act 1977

In addition to the above legislation, the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) is administered by Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage, DPC) (formerly the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)). The purpose of the Heritage Act is to ensure cultural heritage in NSW is adequately identified and conserved. The Heritage Act is the primary item of State legislation affording protection to items of environmental heritage (natural and cultural) in NSW.

Under the Heritage Act ‘items of environmental heritage’ include places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic values. State significant items are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register and are given automatic protection against any activities that may damage an item or place or affect its heritage and/or archaeological significance.

This assessment does not comprise an assessment completed in accordance with the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977* as a separate assessment has been completed for the Project (Umwelt, 2021).

2.4 Other Relevant Legislation

2.4.1 Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)

The *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) recognises that Aboriginal people have rights and interests to land and waters which derive from their traditional laws and customs. Native Title may be recognised in places where Indigenous people continue to follow their traditional laws and customs and have maintained a link with their traditional country. It can be negotiated through a Native Title Claim, Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) or future Act agreements. There are no current registered or determined Native Title claims or any ILUAs over the Project Area (nntt.gov.au, accessed 9/02/2021).

3.0 Aboriginal Party Consultation

Consultation with Aboriginal parties is an integral part of the identification and assessment of the significance of Aboriginal objects/places and determining and implementing appropriate strategies to mitigate impacts to Aboriginal heritage.

In accordance with current requirements, consultation with Aboriginal parties regarding the Project was undertaken in accordance with the relevant aspects of Part 5, Division 2 Clause 60 of the Regulation and the consultation requirements. A detailed log of all Aboriginal party consultation and correspondence is included in **Appendix 1**.

3.1 Consultation in accordance with the consultation requirements

The consultation process is shown in **Figure 3.1** below and documented in **Appendix 1**, with reference to the four consultation stages specified in the consultation requirements.

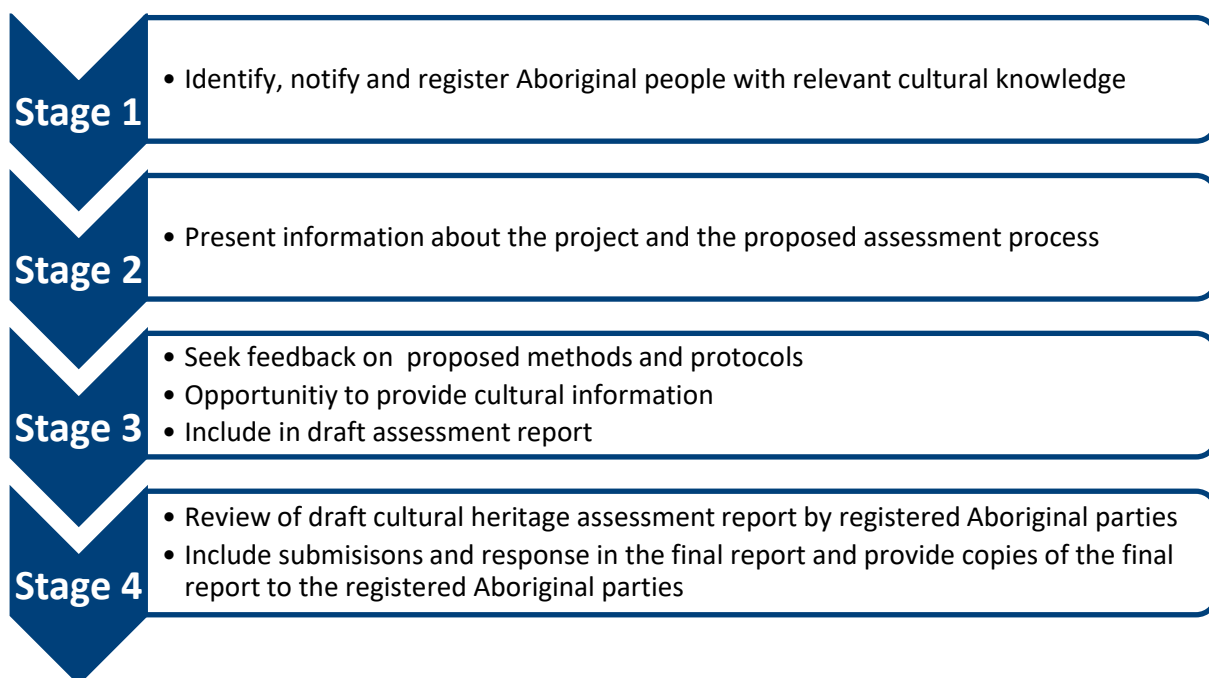


Figure 3.1 Stages in the Consultation Process

© DECCW, 2010a

Details about the implementation of each of these stages are provided in the following sections.

3.1.1 Stage 1 – Notification and registration

Notifications were developed and the registration of Aboriginal parties was completed in accordance with Part 8A, Clause 80C of the Regulation (now Part 5, Division 2 Clause 60), as documented in **Table 3.1**. As a result of the Project notification and registration process, five Aboriginal parties registered an interest in ongoing consultation regarding the Project. These parties are:

- Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)
- Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
- Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation
- Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party
- Wiradjuri Council of Elders.

Table 3.1 Summary of Aboriginal Party Consultation

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Communication Type	Response
24 April 2020	Provision of letter requesting identification of Aboriginal parties with cultural knowledge/interest in the Project Area	Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment	Email	Response received
		Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email/Phone	Response received 8 May 2020 registering interest in the Project
		National Native Title Tribunal	Email	Response received 24/4/2020 informing that the Project has no relevant NT claims or applications.
		NSW Native Title Services/NTS Corp	Email	No response received
		Office of the Registrar: <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> (NSW)	Email	No response received
		Forbes Shire Council	Email	No response received
		Central West Local Land Services	Email	No response received
24 April 2020	Public advertisement providing notification of assessment and opportunity to register interest for consultation.	Forbes Advocate Parks Champion Post Both publications were digital/online advertisements as due to COVID-19 no hard copy newspapers were being printed.	Newspaper Ad	No responses to the advertisement were received.

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Communication Type	Response
27 May 2020	Provision of letter to identified Aboriginal parties inviting registrations of interest	Peak Hill LALC	Email	Registration already received
		Condobolin LALC	Email	No response received
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email	Response received 27 May 2020 registering interest
		Danny Molloy	Email	No response received
		Delma Butler	Email	No response received
		Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Email	No response received
		Jodie Markwort	Email	No response received
		Joy Russel	Email	No response received
		Kerry Stirling	Email	No response received
		Lachlan Catchment Management Authority	Email	Letter returned to sender 10 June 2020.
		Larry Toney	Email	No response received
		Mary Hodge	Email	No response received
		Peak Hill Bogan River Traditional Owner	Email	No response received
		Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Email	27 May 2020 response registering interest
		Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party	Email	27 May 2020 response registering interest
		Wiradjuri Council of Elders	Email	27 May 2020 registration of interest received
		Peak Hill Aboriginal Advisory Committee	Email	Response received 5 June 2020 advising that the PHAAC would not be registering interest.

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Communication Type	Response
27 May 2020	Methodology letter sent to the registered Aboriginal parties including invitation to submit EOI for fieldwork	Peak Hill LALC	Email	No response received
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email	Response received 29 th June 2020, forwarding certificate of currency and workers insurance form. No EOI received.
		Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Email	Response received 29 th June 2020, forwarding expression of interest and insurance form.
		Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party	Email	No response received
		Wiradjuri Council of Elders	Email	No response received
19 June 2020	Follow up with registered Aboriginal party that previously expressed interest in 2018	Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party	Phone	Discussion with David Acheson to confirm involvement with FACWP. David was looking forward to engaging with Pacific Hydro during the Project.
25 June 2020	Follow up with Elder – recommended by Council	Aileen Allen	Phone	Message left, no response received.
20 July 2020	Following up with RAPs regarding EOI for fieldwork	Peak Hill LALC	Email/Phone	No response received
		Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party	Email	No response received
		Wiradjuri Council of Elders	Email	No response received
27 July 2020	Follow up email to Peak Hill LALC	Peak Hill LALC	Email	No response received
28 October 2020	Project update and timeframe for survey	Peak Hill LALC	Email	No response received
		Wiradjuri Council of Elders	Email	No response received
		Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Email	No response received
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email	No response received
		Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party	Email	No response received

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Communication Type	Response
12 November 2020	Organise survey	Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Phone	Cherie Turrise. Confirmed for 8/9th Dec (tentative for 10 th)
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Phone	Marylyn Carroll Johnson. Confirmed for 8/9th Dec (tentative for 10 th)
		Peak Hill LALC	Phone	No answer, no message left.
		Peak Hill LALC	Email	Email to former CEO, requesting representative for survey. Shannon Hando (acting CEO) responded requesting a phone call on Monday 16/11/2020.
16 November 2020	Organise survey	Peak Hill LALC	Phone	Organised representatives for PLALC to attend survey.
30 November 2020	Organise survey	Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email	Marilyn Carroll-Johnson reached out to confirm survey dates. Response provided confirming dates, with further details to come.
3 December 2020	Organise survey	Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Email	Details for survey confirmed, response received.
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email	Details for survey confirmed, response received.
		Peak Hill LALC	Email	Details for survey confirmed, response received.
9-11 December 2020	Field Survey	Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	In person	Steve Johnson participated in the field survey on behalf of Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	In person	Jolene Smith participated in the field survey on behalf of Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
		Peak Hill LALC	In person	Lyn Bell and Anthony Wilson participated in the field survey on behalf of Peak Hill LALC

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Communication Type	Response
22 March 2021	Draft report sent to RAPs for review and comment (28-day review period)	Peak Hill LALC	Email	No response.
		Wiradjuri Council of Elders	Email	No response.
		Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Email	Response provided by email on 20 April 2021 agreeing with the ACHA.
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email	No response.
		Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party	Email	No response.
21 April 2021	Follow up email reminding of comment period closing 26 April 2021	Peak Hill LALC	Email	No response.
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email	No response.
22 April 2021	Follow up email reminding of comment period closing 26 April 2021	Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party	Email	No response.
		Wiradjuri Council of Elders	Email	No response.
12 May 2021	Follow up requesting comments on ACHA and cultural significance	Peak Hill LALC	Email	No response received

3.1.2 Stage 2 and 3 – Presenting Information and Gathering Information About Cultural Significance

Correspondence providing information about the Project and requesting information about cultural significance was provided to all registered Aboriginal parties. It included a proposed methodology for a cultural heritage survey and an invitation for input in relation to developing an understanding of the cultural values of the Project Area and the ways in which these values may be identified during the field assessment activities.

The registered Aboriginal parties were requested to provide comment on the draft cultural heritage survey methodology. However, no comments were received prior to survey. The methodology was discussed with RAPs in the field on the first day of survey prior to commencement.

3.1.3 Aboriginal Party Participation in Survey

The registered Aboriginal parties who were represented in the survey are listed below.

Table 3.2 Registered Aboriginal Party Involvement in Site Survey

Date	Organisation	Name
9-11/12/2020	Peak Hill LALC	Lynette 'Lyn' Bell
	Peak Hill LALC	Anthony 'Bones' Wilson
	Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Jolene 'Jo Jo' Smith
	Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Steve Johnson

3.1.4 Outcomes of In-Field Consultation

On the first day of the survey, Kim Derriman and Darren Chesterfield (Pacific Hydro) joined the field team to discuss the general plans for the Project and discuss the local area and any cultural knowledge that the RAP representatives wished to share. Umwelt archaeologist, Steph Howden, discussed the general principles of the site protection with representatives in the field. The initial view of the registered Aboriginal party representatives was for sites to remain on Country, where possible. The potential for site disturbance was discussed (e.g., access tracks and solar array) and it was understood that salvage would be the likely outcome in these areas prior to disturbance. Salvage of sites that are located on access tracks on private properties was discussed with Aboriginal party representatives since landowners will likely continue to utilise these tracks (see **Section 9.0** for further discussion).

3.1.5 Stage 4 – Review of Draft Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

A copy of the draft ACHA was provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for review and comment on 22 March 2021. This includes those Aboriginal groups who did not participate in the field assessment.

Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation provided comment by email on 21 April 2021, providing agreement with the outcomes of this ACHA (refer to **Appendix 1**).

4.0 Environmental Context

This section provides a summary of key environmental information for the Project Area and assesses the implications of this information for the archaeological evaluation of the Project Area.

4.1 Project Area

The Project Area is described in **Table 4.1** below with reference to Lot/DP and type of land tenure.

Table 4.1 Project Area Lot/DP with Information On Land Tenure

Location	Lot	Deposited Plan	Land Tenure
Core Development Area	77	750183	Freehold
Electrical Transmission Line	2	750183	Freehold
	2	220212	Freehold
	88	750183	Freehold
	12	104642	Freehold
	2	573421	Freehold
	1340	750158	Freehold
	6402	1257397	Rail Corridor
	1664	750158	Crown Land
	7003	1060435	Crown Land
	38	1242538	Freehold
	5	113068	Freehold
	14	750158	Freehold
Forest Road, Newell Highway, Daroobalgie Rd	-	-	Road Easements
Switchyard	14	750158	Freehold

The Forbes Shire region is predominately known for its agriculture, with upwards of 80% of the region utilised for agricultural purposes. The land within the Project Area has previously been used for cropping and livestock grazing and is currently some of the least productive sections of land within a larger landholding. No residential properties are located within the core development area, with the closest dwelling being 600 m to the north-west of the western site boundary.

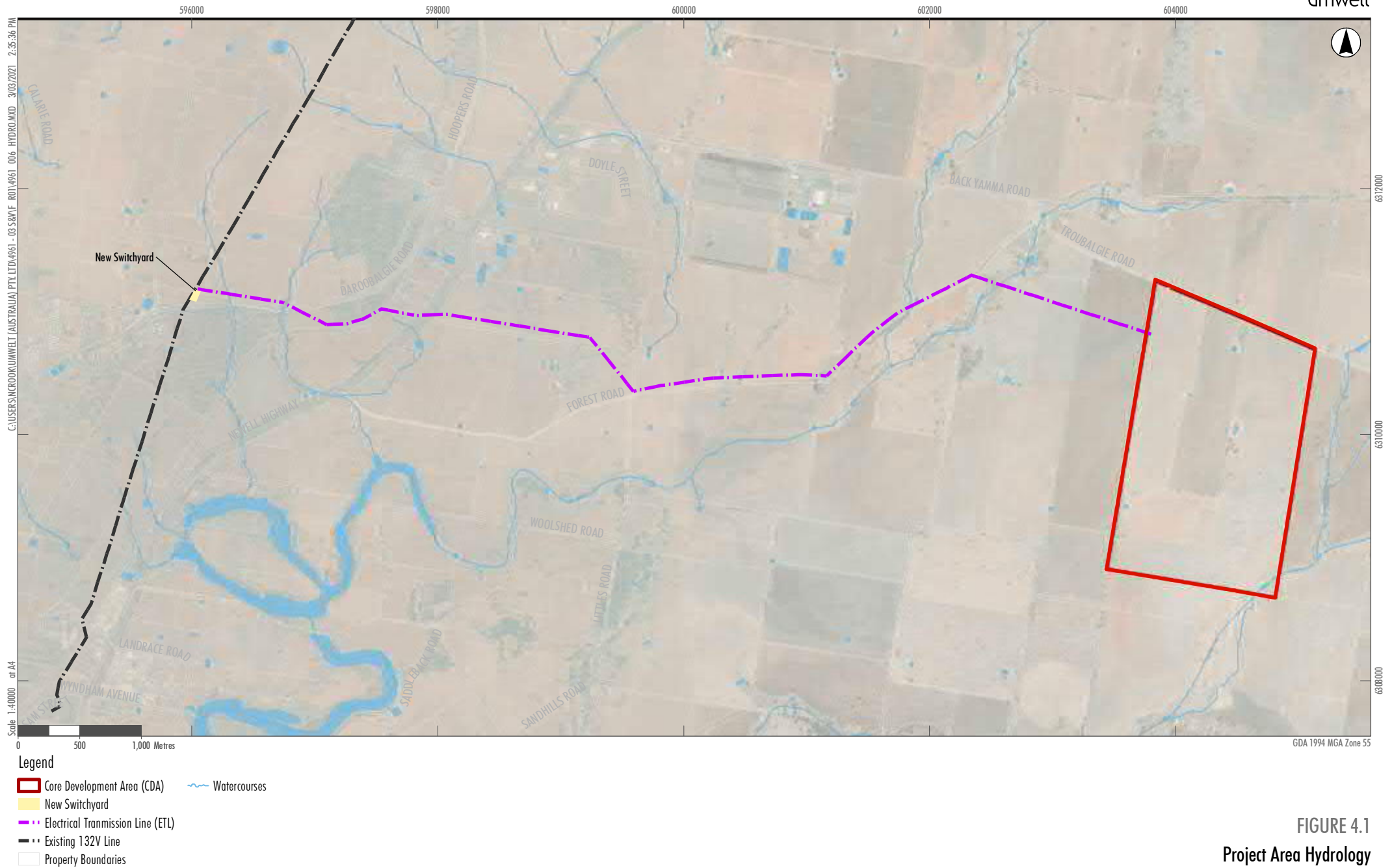
4.2 Hydrology

The Project Area is located within the Lachlan Catchment, an area of approximately 84,700 km² (DLWC 1996). The Lachlan River is located 3.5 km to the south of the Project Area and comprises the closest perennial water source. The river has a total length of approximately 1,400 km stretching from the Great Diving Range to the Great Cumbung Swamp and is the fourth longest river system in Australia.

An unnamed watercourse runs through the south-eastern corner of the core development area, flowing to the south-west. The watercourse forms part of a larger ephemeral wetlands landscape and contributes to the prolonged containment of water within the Project Area (see **Figure 4.1**). The ETL also intersects several unnamed tributaries that flow south to join to a larger unnamed watercourse that incorporates an area of meander cut-offs to the south of the ETL (refer to **Figure 4.1**).

In addition, ephemeral waterholes known as gilgai (a word derived from the Wiradjuri 'gilgaay', meaning waterhole) were previously present in the south-eastern and western portion of the core development area and in a stretch of approximately 1.5 km along the ETL. Gilgai are depressions formed by the expansion and contraction of clay rich soils caused by seasonal wetting and drying. The depressions will capture and hold water following rainfall. Within the core development area, the former gilgai have been heavily modified as a result of historical land use including ploughing, cropping and construction of man-made dams. The section of gilgai along the ETL have been subject to lower levels of disturbance and remain partially intact.

The presence of gilgai within the Project Area has implications for how Aboriginal people may have used the Project Area and the likelihood that this evidence will remain present. Gilgai can provide a critical source of water during dry times of year and it is likely that they would have been targeted by people moving through the landscape towards more reliable watercourses such as the Lachlan River. The gilgai could provide critical water resources for small groups of people as well as hosting plant and animal resources. The mapping for the area indicates that gilgai were not isolated to the Project Area alone but occur broadly across the local area in areas of low-lying country subject to periodic inundation. On this basis, while the Project Area is not unique within the locality, the review of hydrology indicates that resources utilised by Aboriginal people would have been available and potentially targeted seasonally.



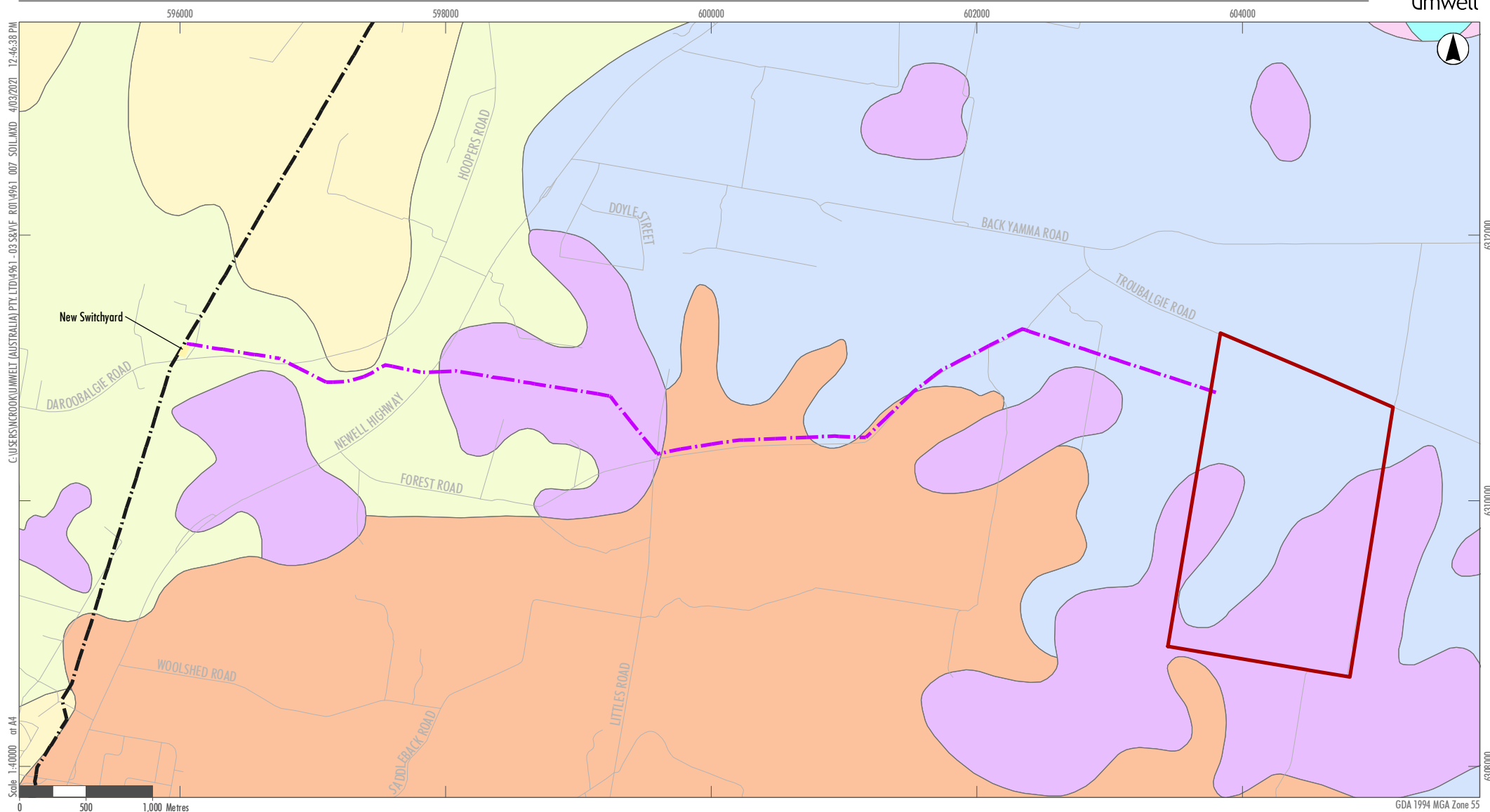
4.3 Soils, Geology and Topography

The Project Area is located within the NSW South Western Slopes Biogeographic Region, characterised by a large area of foothills and ranges. This comprises the western fall of the Great Dividing Range, to the edge of the Riverina Bioregion.

The core development area is spread across two different soil landscapes, the Brolgan Plain and Daroobalgie soil landscapes and the ETL route crosses Brolgan, Waughan, Daroobalgie and Parkes soil landscapes. The characteristics of the varying soil landscape are (NSW Government 2020) as follows:

- Brolgan Plain soil landscape is characterised by a gently undulating landscape on Quaternary alluvium. The soil profile can vary from imperfectly drained Red Brown Earths, to non-calci Brown soils, moderately well drained Red Podzolic soils, poorly drained Yellow Solodic soils and to poorly drained Brown Clays. The A horizon varies between 10-70 cm in depth, with the total soil profile reaching upwards of 100-150 cm. This soil profile is prone to hard-setting, seasonal waterlogging and high erodibility. The geology associated with the Brolgan Plain is Quaternary alluvium.
- Daroobalgie soil landscape is characterised by unpronounced gilgai and consists of very deep moderately well-drained Red Brown Earths at 5-30 cm and very deep poorly drained Grey Clays between 10-60 cm of depth in the B horizon. This soil profile is prone to seasonal waterlogging, has a high shrink potential and moderate to high erodibility. The geology associated with the Daroobalgie landscape is Quaternary alluvium with minor colluvial material from adjoining slopes occurring in some areas.
- Waughan soil landscape is characterised by mostly high-level floodplains of the Lachlan River with deep (>150 cm) imperfectly drained Red Brown Earths found on more highly elevated areas within the landscape. Deep (>150 cm) imperfectly drained Yellow Podzolic Soils and occasional poorly drained Brown and Red Clays are present on prior streams, abandoned channels and backwaters. Alluvial Soils occur along some active stream channels. The geology associated with the Waughan soil landscape is Quaternary alluvium comprised of clays, silts, sands and gravels.
- Parkes soil landscape is characterised by shallow to moderately deep (<60 cm), moderately well drained Red Earths and Red Podzolic Soils/Non-calci Brown Soils on side slopes overlaying Ordovician metasediments. The geology associated with this soil landscape include lithologies ranging from sedimentary sequences of siltstone, chert, conglomerates, sandstones and limestones to volcanic sandstones and intermediate volcanics. White quartz is commonly found on crests and upper slopes within the Parkes landscape.

Although the soils of the Project Area are not considered high-quality agricultural land, the site has nonetheless been subject to extensive agricultural and infrastructure disturbances historically. Many of the gilgai have been progressively ploughed and levelled by farming activities over time, resulting in the soils surrounding these formations being redistributed and making the location of former gilgai difficult to identify.



Legend

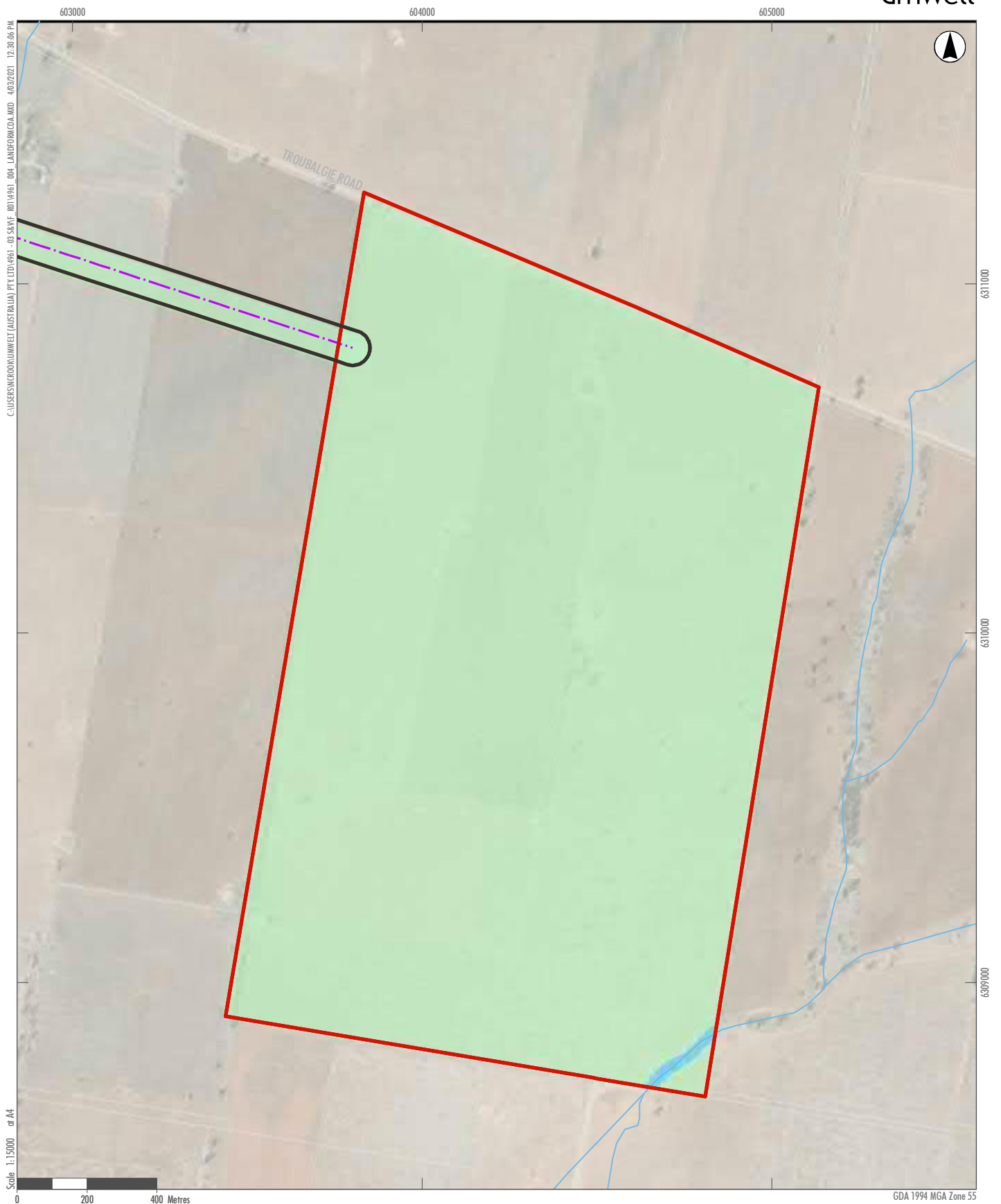
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Core Development Area (CDA) | Soil Landscape | DAROOBALGIE (Glda) |
| New Switchyard | BALD HILL (ERbrh) | MUGINCOALE (ERmg) |
| - - - Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) | BROILGAN PLAIN (ALbp) | PARKES (ERpa) |
| - - - Existing 132V Line | COOKAMIDGERA (TRam) | WAUGHAN (ALwh) |
| — Roads | | |

FIGURE 4.2
Project Area Soil Landscapes

The Project Area landscape is predominately flat, with an average elevation of 240 m above the Australian Height Datum (AHD). The northern segment of the core development area is level to gently undulating, with a slope gradient of 0-2%, local relief of <10 m and an elevation of 240 m. The southern segment of the core development area is characterised by gilgai mounds, with a slope gradient of 0% and local relief of <9 m (eSPADE 2020). Similarly, the landscape that the ETL crosses is predominately flat and gently undulating slopes, with an average elevation of 240 m above AHD.

Due to the relatively uniform nature of the Project Area, few individual landforms were identified. The core development area consists of unpronounced gilgai and level to very gently slopes, with access tracks and fence lines intersecting the site. The ETL easement comprises similar landforms; however, also interacts with gullies/non-perennial waterways, highways and a small section of an environmental conservation area.

The landforms identified across the Project Area can be seen in **Figure 4.3A** and **Figure 4.3B**.



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
| Core Development Area (CDA) Project Area | Landforms |
| Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) Project Area | Minor Drainage |
| - - - Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) | Plains |
| Property Boundaries | |
| ~ Watercourses | |

FIGURE 4.3A

Project Area Landforms - CDA

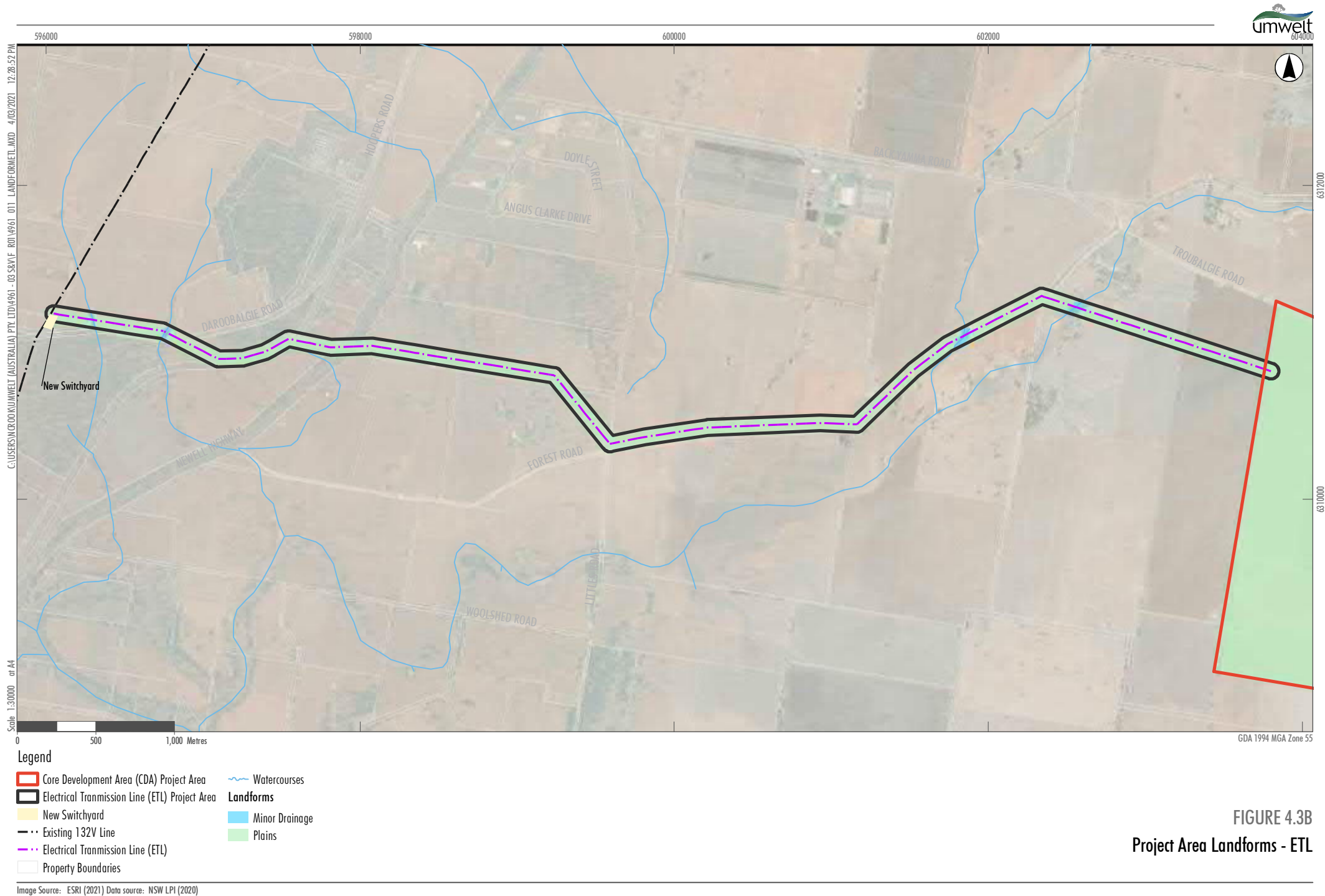


FIGURE 4.3B
Project Area Landforms - ETL

4.4 Flora and Fauna

The Project Area has been substantially disturbed from its original condition and is largely cleared of vegetation in order to facilitate livestock grazing, cropping and other agricultural activities.

Across the core development area, the property has had ongoing crop rotations, the most recent being wheat. There are only isolated mature trees and small stands of vegetation remaining.

The ETL, whilst being predominantly cleared, has a wider variety of identifiable vegetation communities remaining including (NSW DPIE 2019):

- Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils (on Lot 78 DP750183, Lot 88 DP750183, Lot 2 DP573421, Newell Highway alignment, Crown Land, Lot 38 DP1242538)
- River Red Gum - Lignum very tall open forest or woodland wetland (along Forest Road)
- Derived grasslands of the NSW South Western Slopes (on Lot 88 DP750183)
- Plain Grass grassland (on Lot 12 DP1046542, Lot 2 DP573421, Crown Land)
- Derived tussock grassland (Lot 2 DP573421)
- White Box - White Cypress Pine - Western Grey Box shrub/grass/forb woodland (Crown Land).

The nearest forest, Back Yamma State Forest, situated approximately 7 km to the east, which comprises Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils, Western Grey Box – White Cypress Pine tall woodland on loam soil on alluvial plains and derived grasslands.

Prior to European settlement and disturbance, the Project Area would have contained a variety of fauna species, particularly where the natural gilgai provided more reliable, seasonal water sources throughout the year. These gilgai would have attracted a rich array of fauna that would have been targeted by Aboriginal people.

4.5 Historical Land Use

The Project Area is currently located within a predominately rural/agricultural setting. The landscape has been highly modified by past activity such as land clearing, cropping, livestock grazing, and other practices associated with farming. The Forbes and Lachlan River region was first noted in written records in 1815 (Reed 1969) and has been settled by Europeans from the early 1830s (MDBA 2019). Daroobalgie is first mentioned in an 1848 gazette post detailing individuals who had obtained licenses to pasture their stock, with Thomas Arkell mentioned as the land licensee (Trove 2020). In 1885, the land surrounding and including the Project Area was divided for pastoral use, with a secondary focus on wheat production. Agriculture remained the primary industry until the early 20th century when the Daroobalgie Meatworks and Freeze Works began operation (History Parkes 2020). By 1932, upwards of 10,000 sheep were processed weekly. The meatworks experienced periods of inactivity through to 1948 and was sold to private buyers in 1968 (Trove 2020). By 1972 the complex was undergoing demolition.

The Forbes Livestock Exchange is currently located 2.5 km to the west of the core development area, on Back Yamma Road. This facility facilitates the sale of cow, sheep and pig and is one of the primary sources of revenue for the district. The ETL crosses a designated Travelling Stock Reserve (Crown Land) that forms part of the network utilised for moving or grazing stock around the state of NSW (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2021). The ETL also crosses a number of properties that are a currently being utilised for grazing stock. To facilitate agricultural practices, a number of dams have been established along watercourses which have contributed to the modified hydrology within the area.

As previously referenced above, the core development area is currently being used for crop rotation. The preparation for cropping, which includes ploughing, has significantly modified the landscape including the leveling of gilgai.

In addition, there is a variety of both private and public infrastructure within the Project Area that has impacted the landscape, including public road easement (e.g., Newell Highway, Daroobalgie Rd and Forest Road), the Stockinbingal-Parkes rail corridor and graded access tracks and agricultural fence construction on private property.

4.6 Summary

The environmental context of the Project Area indicates that the area had access to fresh water periodically throughout the year and was situated within 3.5 km of a perennial water source. While vegetation clearance for agricultural purposes has significantly impacted the flora and fauna populations present in the region, it is likely that the Project Area was richly resourced prior to European settlement. The landscape is generally uniformly flat with a very low slope gradient, containing no elevated or steep landforms.

Due to the ephemeral nature of the gilgai and watercourses found across the Project Area, it is likely that the perennial Lachlan River 3.5 km to the south was favoured for prolonged use and occupation by Aboriginal people. As stated, the presence of gilgai within portions of the Project Area would have provided Aboriginal people travelling through the landscape with valuable resources including water, fauna and flora. This may have attracted smaller groups to camp for short periods of time, prior to continuing on to the Lachlan River or the surrounding plains. Prior to agricultural disturbances, the occurrence of gilgai would not have been unique to the Project Area but would have occurred throughout the local area and Aboriginal people would potentially have used much of the local area in a similar fashion. It is noted, however, that the nearby Lachlan River would have been a more desirable target due to its reliable perennial resources.

5.0 Cultural Context

In order to adequately understand and assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of an area, it is necessary to also understand the cultural context of the area. The term cultural context encompasses both ethnographic information regarding how Aboriginal people lived in the region prior to European settlement and in the historical context.

5.1 The Wiradjuri People

The Project Area is located within the north-eastern boundaries of the territory of the Wiradjuri people. Known as being amongst Australia's largest tribes, their territory spreads from Bathurst, Goulburn and Tottenham to the Victorian border, covering an area of approximately 97,000 km² (Tindale 1974). The Wiradjuri have been noted to comprise a single core language, with various dialects present throughout their territories, such as Jeithi and Wirraayaraay/Wiriyaraay. These dialects relate to the various clan groups that comprise the Wiradjuri. Collectively these groups communicated using the common language and established relationships to one another through their ceremonial practices (Go Green Services 2002).

Go Green Services (2002) detail how prior to European colonisation the Wiradjuri people lived a hunter gatherer lifestyle and utilised semi-permanent camps for at least 40,000 years. The size of such camps was dependant on the water source, with creeks and seasonal springs attracting moderate to small family groups, whilst larger gatherings of 2,000-3,000 individuals could be supported at billabongs or flood plains. Plant resources commonly exploited include the Guwandang, Beard Orchid, Yam Daisy and Ngarru. Local flora was further utilized in the construction of shelters, tools, traps and medicine, with common species such as the White and Yellow Box tree, Teatree and Common Reed being vital to Wiradjuri. Animals were utilised for their meat, but also in the making of cloaks, rugs, water carriers, decorations and ceremonial totems. Aquatic species were also commonly utilized, such as freshwater mussels, yabbies, fish, waterfowl and various aquatic plants. This would be specifically applicable within the Project Area region as the Lachlan River catchment is known to support a large variety of native fish, amphibian, bird and mammal species.

The social organisation of the Wiradjuri appears to have revolved around kinship systems based on totem names and associations. This system governed and controlled marriage and determined ceremonial kinship obligations. Individual identity and clan affiliations were expressed partly through elaborate carvings on wooden implements and on skin cloaks (White and Cane 1986). Ceremonial practices in Wiradjuri country declined rapidly from the 1960s and were not apparent in historical records by the 20th Century.

Disease followed the route of early European settlements and explorers as they travelled the waterways of Australia, with cases of smallpox decimating the Wiradjuri communities as early as the 1790s. As settlers spread across the territory for industry and resources, the resident Wiradjuri groups were displaced from their traditional lands. By the 1830s the Wiradjuri had adopted many European customs, including iron tools, cloth clothing, food practices and tobacco use. Furthermore, many Aboriginal people were given or took on European family or property names (Go Green 2002).

Common issues arose in the region in response to Aboriginal groups killing cattle or sheep for food as settlers began refusing to share resources. Violence ensued between the two groups, and this in combination with the exploitation of women, labour, the effects of disease and alcohol, loss of land and ill treatment led to the severe reduction of Wiradjuri peoples by 1900. The opening of missions, assimilation practices and cultural integration further negatively impacted the community until the 1960's (Go Green Services 2002).

5.2 Aboriginal Archaeological Context

A review of available archaeological information is crucial to the cultural heritage assessment process, as it informs the understanding of archaeological site patterning, site survival and the potential for detection of extant archaeological sites. This information is discussed with reference to the outcomes of a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database (which documents the location and nature of sites for which site cards have been lodged with Heritage NSW/OEH) and a summary of the outcomes of previous archaeological investigations in the local area. This information is then considered with reference to key environmental characteristics discussed above in terms of the archaeological implications for the Project Area.

5.3 AHIMS Search

The AHIMS is a database of Aboriginal places or objects for which site cards have been submitted. Site cards are used to record Aboriginal sites in NSW and the submission of site cards is a requirement of the NPW Act.

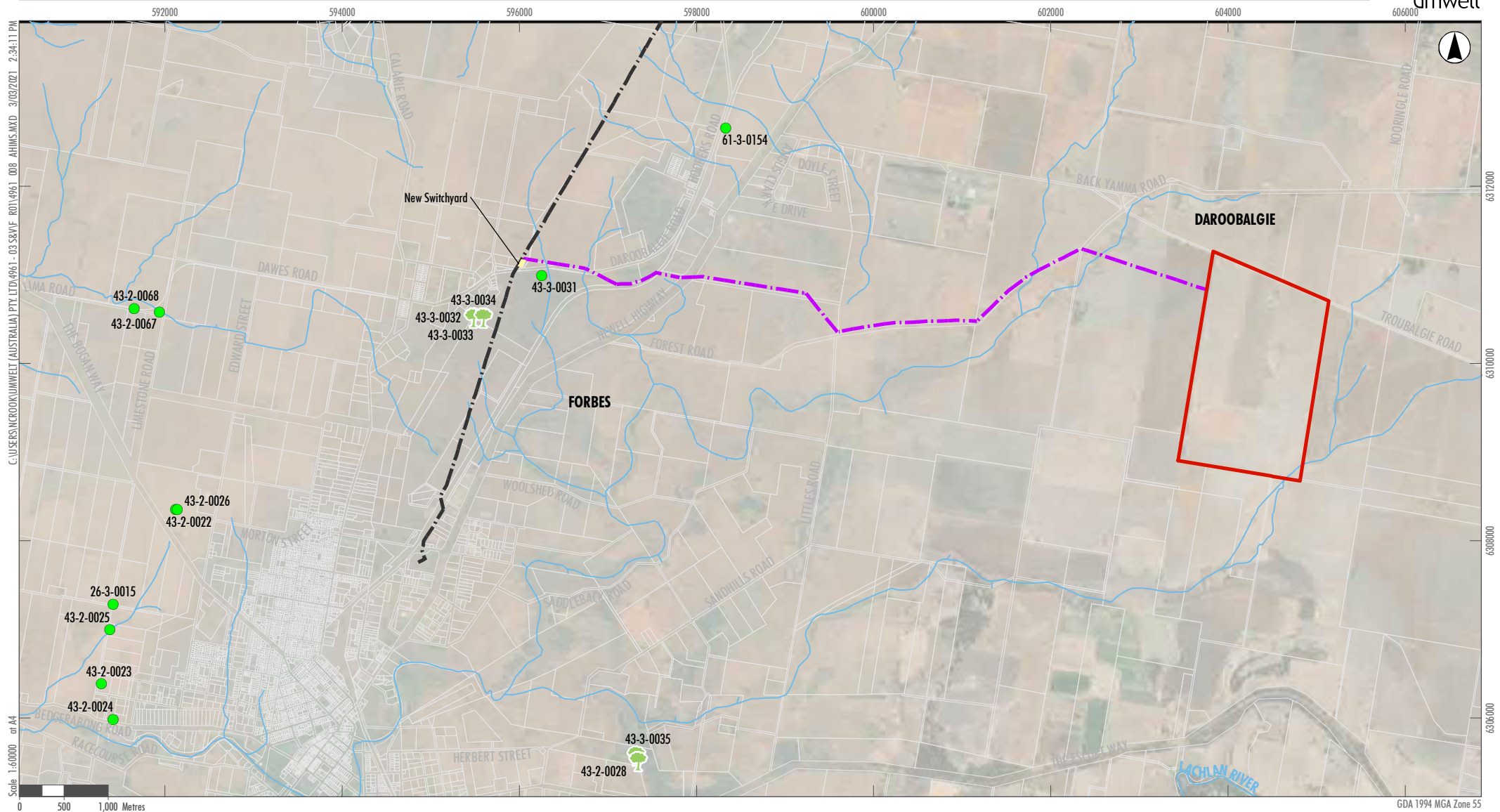
A search of the AHIMS database was conducted on 25 May 2020, and again on 9 February 2021, using the eastings and northing data for the Project Area and surrounding region. A 1 km buffer was used during the search, to ensure an adequate search area was captured. The search yielded the result of 15 sites (refer to **Figure 5.1**). These sites comprised five modified trees (either scarred or carved) and ten sites containing stone artefacts, including two open campsites and two isolated artefacts. All the sites hold a valid site status, and no permit information has been listed, indicating that these sites are extant in the landscape.

Table 5.1 Results of AHIMS Search

Site Features	Count	Percentage of Total
Modified trees (carved or scarred)	5	33.3%
Artefact sites (isolated finds)	8	53.3%
Artefact sites (artefact scatters)	2	13.3%
Total	15	100%*

* Does not equal 100% due to rounding to 1.d.p.

Out of the 15 sites identified, none were located within the confines of the Project Area, with the closest site, C-IF-1(Forbes)(AHIMS 43-3-0031), being an isolated artefact located approximately 150 m south of the ETL (refer to **Figure 5.1**).



Legend

- Core Development Area (CDA)
- New Switchyard
- Existing 132V Line
- Electrical Transmission Line (ETL)
- Property Boundaries
- ~~~~~ Watercourses
- AHIMS Results
- Artefact
- 🌳 Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)

FIGURE 5.1
Previously Recorded
Archaeological Sites

5.4 Outcomes of Previous Assessments

To supplement the data available via AHIMS and to contribute to the understanding of the archaeological context of the Project Area more specifically, relevant local assessments are summarised below.

Jemalong 50MV PV Project (NSW Archaeology 2017)

NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd (NSW Archaeology) completed an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Vast Solar Pty Ltd's 50MW Photovoltaic Project at Jemalong, NSW (approximately 42 km west of the Project Area). The assessment sought to identify and record Aboriginal cultural areas, objects or places, assess the archaeological potential of the proposal area and recommend management options based on the results of the community consultation, background research, field survey and a significance assessment.

An AHIMS search of 400 km² centred on the Project Area, revealed five sites in the area surrounding the proposed development. With respect to stone artefact sites, the following was predicted:

Given the environmental context, it is predicted that stone artefacts will be present in the proposal area in generally very low to negligible density. The exception would be in areas situated within close proximity to the lagoon where artefact density is likely to be relatively higher.

It was predicted that the likelihood of locating other site types within the study area was low.

NSW Archaeology completed field survey and found the area to be highly disturbed by previous agricultural land use. Six low density stone artefact sites were recorded (one artefact scatter with five artefacts and five isolated finds). Generally, the subject area (broad amorphous flood plain) was found to be of low archaeological sensitivity and significance due to significant agricultural disturbance. However, one site was assessed as having low-moderate significance due to the potential for sub-surface deposit due to its proximity to the lagoon. This pattern of sites was generally consistent with what was predicted.

Inland Rail – Parkes to Narromine (Umwelt 2017)

Umwelt was engaged to conduct an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment ahead of the Parkes to Narromine segment of the Inland Rail Project. This is located approximately 25 km north of the current Project Area. An AHIMS search with a buffer of 500 m was conducted and identified 19 sites. The sites included artefact scatters, isolated artefacts, quarries and scarred trees, and varied in distance from within the proposed development area to 75 m east of the site. The majority of the artefacts were made of stone, however quartz and silcrete were also identified. The largest assemblages were located within the proximity of Ten Mile Creek or Burrabadine Creek, both of which are major perennial watercourses.

Due to the linear nature of the Inland Rail Project, the environmental context varied but included a number of plains and low rounded hills with the plains having been subject to broad scale agricultural practices including wheat harvesting. Based on the environmental and cultural context (including previous sites found in the area), it was predicted that:

- Stone artefact scatters and scarred trees are the most likely site types to be identified within the proposal area. The stone artefact scatters are likely to be the most frequent site type, with site frequency and numbers of artefacts likely to increase in proximity to reliable water.
- Scarred trees may occur anywhere within the proposal area where mature native trees are found and are most likely to occur on box or river red gums.
- Quarry sites may occur where suitable rock outcrops are present but are not common within the local area.

It was noted that the area had been subject to significant disturbance and that burials may have occurred in landforms within the proposal area; however, the areas would more likely be subject to erosion and therefore it was considered unlikely that evidence would remain.

A survey of the proposal area found 19 newly recorded sites comprising of nine artefact scatters (one with sub-surface potential, all containing no more than 20 artefacts), six isolated stone artefacts, three scarred trees and one quarry. The survey findings were consistent with what was predicted and generally reflected the pattern of sites expected near a reliable water source.

Tomingley Gold Project (OzArk 2011)

OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management Pty Ltd completed a Cultural Heritage Assessment of 776 hectares of land proposed for a gold mine at Tomingley, a 46 km pipeline from Tomingley to Narromine and 20 km electricity transmission line to Parkes. The site is located approximately 87 km south of the current Project Area. A survey identified 60 sites, consisting of 54 modified trees, three artefact scatters, two isolated artefacts and one ceremonial/dreaming site. Test excavations uncovered 121 artefacts, with the majority found in the upper portion of the deposit and predominately manufactured from quartz. The assessment found that the majority of sites were located near a water source and on gentle slopes, and those which were some distance from a water source were viewed as small camps or activity sites.

Northparkes Step Change Project (Central QLD CHM 2013)

Central Queensland Cultural Heritage Management (Central QLD CHM) completed an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Northparkes Mine located north-west of Parkes, NSW (approximately 43 km north of the Project Area). Central QLD CHM used the following existing predictive model for the area developed by Paton:

- Goonumbla Creek: medium archaeological potential with artefact scatters near the creek. These would be small and there was limited potential for sub-surface cultural material.
- Limestone State Forest: low archaeological potential with possible isolated finds and small artefact scatters. There was little likelihood of any major sites or any sub-surface deposits although scarred trees might be found if they had not been logged.
- Flat, waterless terrain: very low archaeological potential with perhaps some isolated finds but little else to be found.
- Mined areas and infrastructure: assessed as of nil archaeological potential due to high development impact and near complete removal of topsoil.

The survey for the step change ACHA, found 21 newly recorded sites comprising of one scarred tree and 20 isolated finds. It is noted that a number of isolated finds were located along the creek line and are likely one continuous site. The results of the survey broadly aligned with the results of previous surveys with majority of sites being located near the creek. The scarred tree was considered to unlikely be cultural; however, was recorded as a precaution.

5.5 Native Title

A search of the Native Title Tribunal register was undertaken on 9 February 2021. Currently, no native title claims have been recorded in the Forbes LGA.

5.6 Predictive Model

The environmental context of the Project Area and surrounds demonstrates that the terrain within and surrounding the Project Area largely comprises flat to very gently inclined landforms dispersed with gilgai mounds and ponds. Based on this context, it is likely that that Aboriginal people occupied and passed through the Project Area and broader region, and that archaeological evidence of this occupation may remain. It is likely that Aboriginal people utilised resources that the gilgai provided as they moved through the landscape toward larger more permanent water sources such as the Lachlan River to the south of the Project Area. It is also predicted that large portions of the Project Area will be so significantly disturbed by past agricultural practices that sites are unlikely to remain in those areas.

Based on the information presented in **Sections 4.0** and **5.0**, the following predictive model has been prepared for the Project Area:

- Based on the environmental context of the area, artefact sites and culturally modified trees would be the most common site type predicted to occur. However, the presence of modified trees is unlikely due to the previous extensive vegetation clearance and disturbances that have taken place across the core development area and along the ETL alignment.
- Artefact sites (such as isolated artefacts and artefact scatters) are expected to occur at low to moderate densities (when considered in the local context) along the margins of intact gilgai. Disturbed artefact scatters are also likely to occur in areas where gilgai have been modified by ploughing and other land use, noting that the distribution of artefacts in this context is likely to be more sporadic and reflective of the nature of the impacts. This is based on:
 - The seasonal availability of water and associated resources within gilgai, noting that the proximity of the Lachlan River indicates that this would have been the focus of longer-term occupation (and therefore, high densities of artefacts).
 - The nature of the soils in the core development area, which are prone to substantial expansion and compression, which likely would disturb or relocate artefacts on the surface.
- Rock shelters are unlikely to be present due to a lack of suitable outcrops or boulders within the Project Area.
- The presence of grinding grooves is considered unlikely due to unsuitable underlying geology within the Project Area. It is more likely that areas in closer proximity to the larger Lachlan River system would uncover representative examples. It is acknowledged; however, that grinding grooves may be present at distance from watercourses if sandstone outcrops of suitable quality occur. However, this is not predicted within the Project Area.

6.0 Survey Outcomes

6.1 Survey Methodology

A survey of the Project Area was conducted by an Umwelt Senior Archaeologist and four representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties. During the survey, information was recorded in relation to:

- landform
- vegetation
- geomorphology and soils
- average ground surface visibility
- extent of any exposures
- any information provided by the registered aboriginal parties in relation to cultural values
- occurrence of Aboriginal resources (food and medicine plants, prey animals, stone resources, water etc.)

The aim of the survey was, as far as practical, to record sufficient information to satisfy Requirement 5 of the Code of Practice and to provide the registered Aboriginal parties participating in the survey with an opportunity to discuss the archaeological and Aboriginal cultural significance of the Project Area, and any sites/objects observed or revisited. These discussions extended to the archaeological materials that may remain below the surface of the Project Area.

6.1.1 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

The assessment was undertaken with reference to factors including the archaeological and environmental context of the local area, the evaluation of the soil profile (based on soil landscape mapping, exposed soil profiles identified during the survey and geomorphic understanding of the area) and the identification of landforms that may have greater archaeological sensitivity. The following terms will be employed to classify the archaeological potential of specific locations:

- **no archaeological potential:** areas where the natural soil profile has been removed through geomorphic processes or human action, thereby removing any archaeological resource at the location. Examples of this category would include a landslide or industrial quarry sites.
- **low archaeological potential:** landscape areas that may have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, but at a lower intensity than all surrounding landforms. The density of artefacts deposited within these areas would therefore be low. This category also includes landscape areas of low terrain integrity, where geomorphic processes or human action may have redistributed artefacts from their deposited locations, resulting in site disturbance or destruction.
- **moderate archaeological potential:** landscape areas that are predicted to have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, but not intensively or repeatedly. There is therefore potential for artefactual deposition, but at a lower frequency and density than in areas of high archaeological potential. Terrain integrity in these areas may be variable, but the majority of open camp sites are expected to be of low to moderate integrity only, with geomorphic processes not acting to bury deposits in situ.

high archaeological potential: landscape areas predicted to have been intensively or repeatedly utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, such as creek confluences or elevated terraces above major watercourses. Terrain integrity in these areas may be variable, but the majority of open camp sites are expected to be of low to moderate integrity only, with geomorphic processes not acting to bury deposits in situ.

- **very high archaeological potential:** landscape areas predicted to have been more intensively or repeatedly utilised than all surrounding landforms by Aboriginal people in the past, such as major creek confluences or lagoons. Terrain integrity in these areas may be variable, but these landforms may include areas of high terrain integrity, where geomorphic processes may have acted to bury deposits in situ. Sites may therefore be of very high archaeological potential.

6.2 Survey Units and Effective Coverage

Survey units were defined by landforms and modifications and are described in Table 6.1 . As discussed above, a 100 m corridor was surveyed for the ETL; however, in some areas this was not feasible or required. The surveyed area and survey units are shown on **Figures 6.1 A to C**.

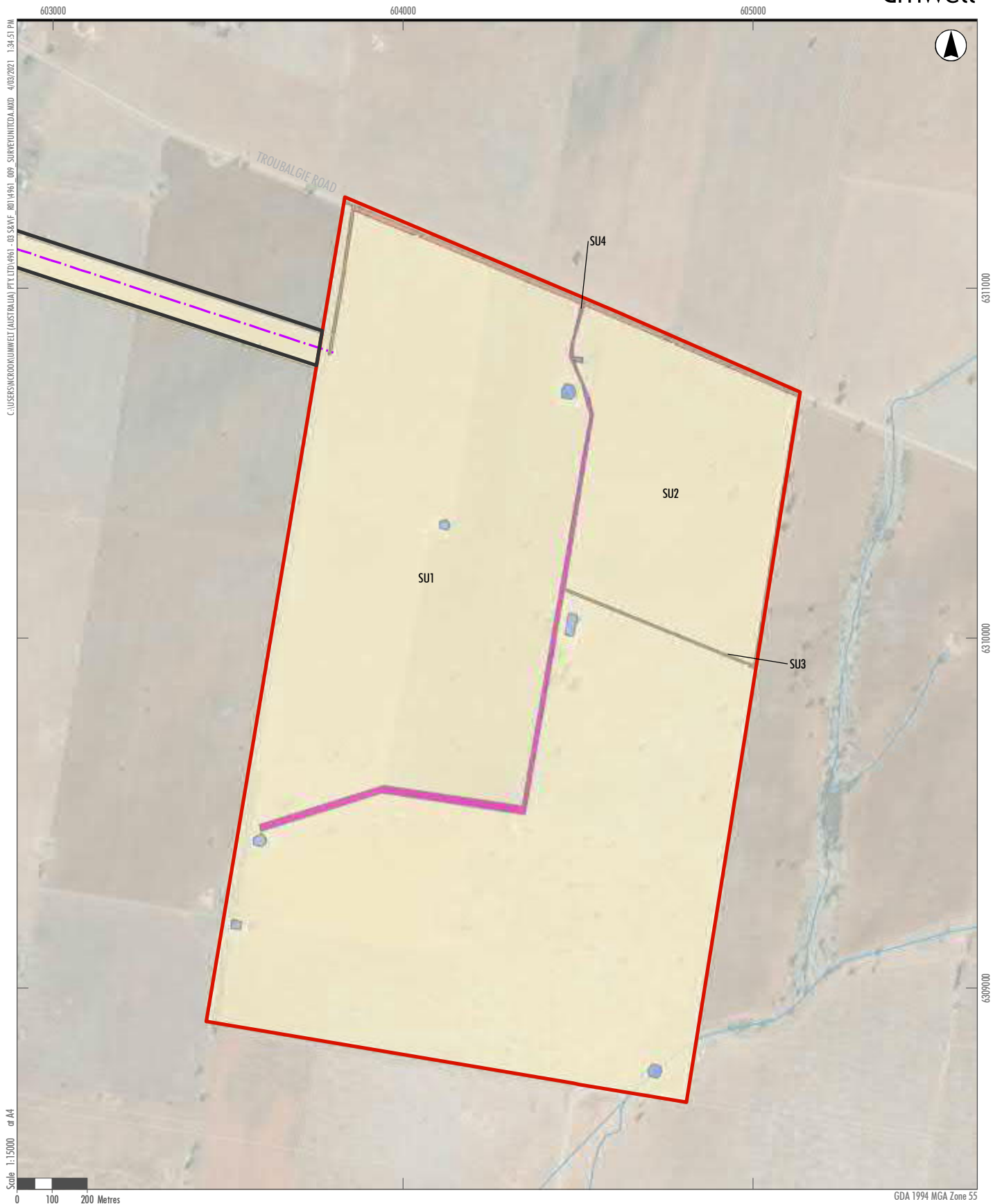
In accordance with the Code of Practice, the survey coverage description includes landform units, the total area surveyed within a landform unit and the quantification of the level of ground surface visibility and exposure. Ground surface visibility is defined as “the amount of bare ground (or visibility) on the exposures which might reveal artefacts or other archaeological materials” (DECCW 2010:13). Exposure is defined as “the percentage of land for which erosion and exposure was sufficient to reveal archaeological material on the surface of the ground” (DECCW 2010:13). As such, exposure refers to the potential for an area to reveal subsurface artefacts or deposits rather than the mere observation of the amount of bare ground.

The calculation of effective survey coverage is undertaken in order to designate the proportion of the Project Area in which it is possible to accurately assess the presence or absence of archaeological material. Survey coverage is calculated by multiplying the total survey area by the percentage of ground surface visibility and exposure within the survey unit. The survey coverage is then expressed as a percentage for the whole survey unit.

Table 6.1 Description of Survey Units

Unit	Landforms	Survey unit area (approx)	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Coverage (%)	Sites	Archaeological Potential Rating	Disturbance Factors
Core Development Area								
1	Plain (Level to gentle slope)	2,545,942 m ²	30	25	191,428m ² (7.5%)	None	Low -highly modified	Heavily ploughed and cropped paddock, minor drainage, constructed dams, machinery shed
2	Plain (Level to gentle slope)	464,877m ²	30	25	34,866 m ² (7.5%)	None	Low - highly modified	Heavily ploughed and cropped paddock, Constructed dams
3	Plain (modified) /Minor drainage	30,056 m ²	70	20	4,208 m ² (14%)	3	Low	Property fence lines
4	Plain (Level to gentle slope)	31,093 m ²	90	20	5,597 m ² (18%)	1	Low	Access track
TOTAL		3,071,969 m ²			236,098m ² (7.7%)			
Electrical Transmission Line and Switchyard								
5	Plain (Level to gentle slope)	413,498m ²	40	20	33,080 m ² (8%)	4	Low	Ploughed and cropped paddock with minor drainage and constructed dams
6	Plain (Level to gentle slope)	18,931 m ²	80	20	3,029 m ² (16%)	2	Low	Access track
7	Gilgai on plain (level to gentle slope)	156,595m ²	30	15	7,063 m ² (4.5%)	None	Low	Expansion and contraction of clay rich soil, cattle grazing.
8	Plain (modified)	43,906 m ²	20	10	878 m ² (2%)	1	Low -highly modified	Newell highway, constructed dams, modified paddock, rail corridor

Unit	Landforms	Survey unit area (approx)	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Coverage (%)	Sites	Archaeological Potential Rating	Disturbance Factors
9	Plain (Level to gentle slope)	46,440 m ²	40	15	529 m ² (3.5%)	None	Low	Minor vegetation clearing and access tracks, Travelling Stock Reserve
10	Plain (Level to gentle slope)	78,908 m ²	30	25	2,786 m ² (6%)	None	Low	Ploughed and cropped paddock with minor drainage and constructed dams
TOTAL		758,642m ²			52,754 m ² (7%)			
Project Area								
TOTAL		3,837,039 m²			288,852 m² (7.5%)			



Legend

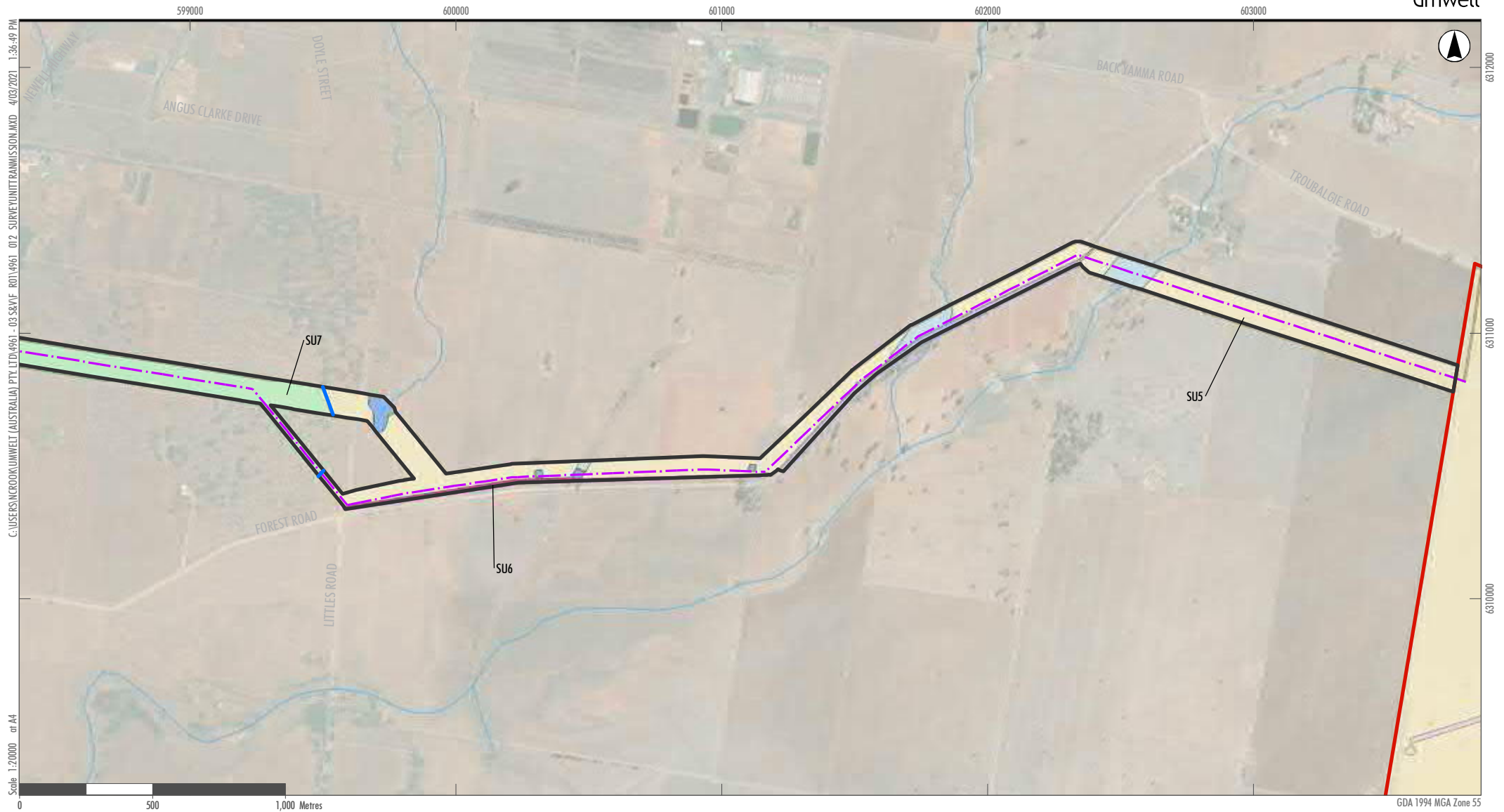
- Core Development Area (CDA) Study Area
- Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) Study Area
- Electrical Transmission Line (ETL)
- Property Boundaries
- ~~~~~ Watercourses

Features

- Access Track
- Dam
- Fence
- Modified Paddocks
- Modified - Man-Made Construction

FIGURE 6.1A

Archaeological Survey Units - CDA

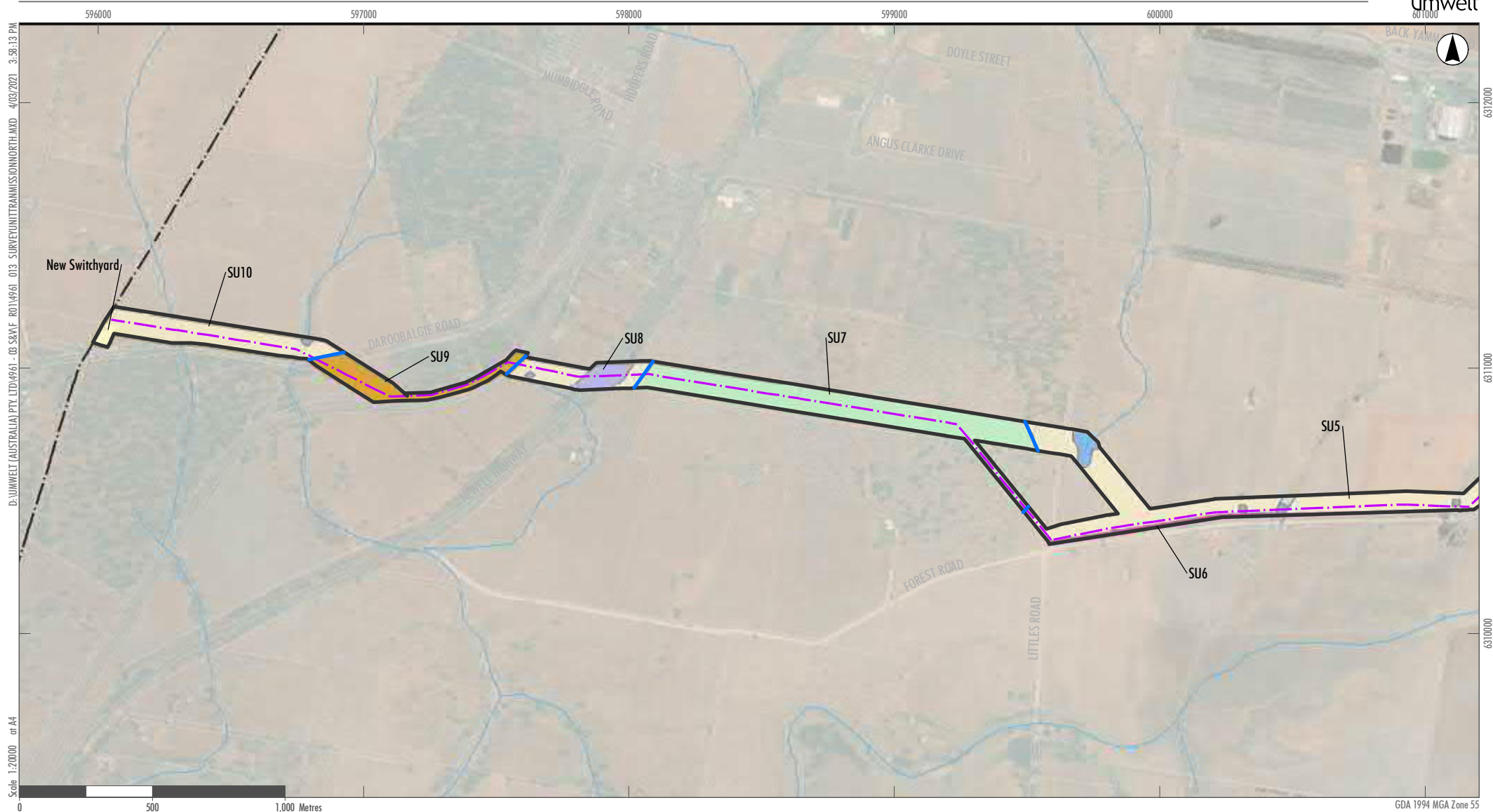


Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Core Development Area (CDA) Study Area | Features | Minor Drainage |
| Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) Study Area | Access Track | Modified Paddocks |
| Survey Boundaries | Dam | Road Easement |
| Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) | Gilgai | Travelling Stock Route |
| Property Boundaries | | |
| Watercourses | | |

Image Source: ESRI (2020) Data source: NSW LPI (2020)

FIGURE 6.1B
Archaeological Survey Units - ETL



Legend

- | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|
| Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) Survey Area | Watercourses | Gilgai |
| New Switchyard | Minor Drainage | Modified Paddocks |
| Survey Unit Boundaries | Access Track | Road Easement |
| Electrical Transmission Line (ETL) | Dam | Travelling Stock Route |
| Existing 132V Line | | |
| Property Boundaries | | |

Image Source: ESRI (2020) Data source: NSW LPI (2020)

FIGURE 6.1C
Archaeological Survey Units - ETL to New Switchyard

6.3 Results

There were 15 newly recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites located during the survey of the Project Area (refer to **Figures 6.2A** and **6.2B**). **Table 6.2** provides the details of the sites.

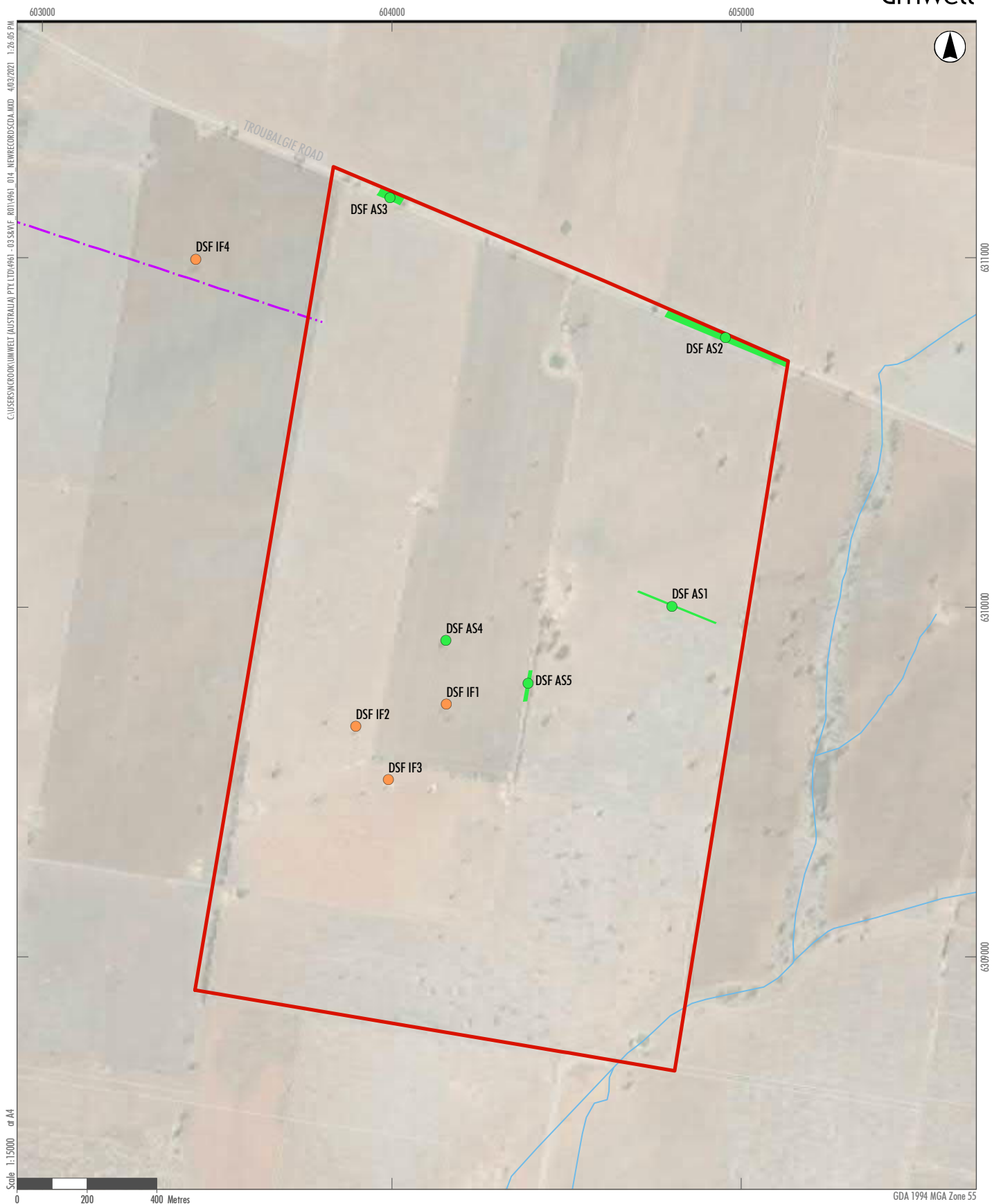
Table 6.2 Descriptions of sites

Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Site Dimensions	Description
Core Development Area					
DSF AS1	604801	6310003	Artefact scatter	215 x 1m	6 artefacts in four loci (2 volcanic flakes, 2 silcrete flakes, 1 quartz flake, 1 quartz flaked piece) located on a 1m wide exposure that runs along an internal paddock fence. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 90-100%. Refer to Plates 6.1 and 6.2 .
DSF AS2	604955	6310772	Artefact scatter	370 x 1m	5 artefacts in four loci (1 volcanic flake, 2 quartz flakes, 1 silcrete flake and 1 volcanic broken axe blank) on a 1m wide exposure that runs along front fence of the property. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 90-100%. Refer to Plates 6.3 and 6.4 .
DSF AS3	603995	6311173	Artefact scatter	65 x 1m	3 artefacts in two loci (1 volcanic core, 1 volcanic flake, 1 quartz flake) on a 1m wide exposure that runs along front fence of the property. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 50-60%. Refer to Plates 6.5 and 6.6 .
DSF AS4	604155	6309906	Artefact scatter	15 x 3m	Four artefacts (quartz, volcanic; flakes, flaked pieces) on a 15x5m exposure around the base of a tree. There is ants nest disturbance within the site. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 80-90%. Refer to Plates 6.7 and 6.8 .
DSF AS5	604390	6309781	Artefact scatter	42 x 2.5m	17 artefacts (silcrete, quartz, volcanic; flakes, flaked pieces) located on the western edge of the main access track within the core development area. The track width at the site is approximately 5m. Visibility within the exposure was 100%. Refer to Plate 6.9 and 6.10 .
DSF IF1	604156	6309723	Isolated Find	1x1m	Silcrete flake on a 5x5m exposure around the base of a dying tree with dropped tree branches. There is ants nest disturbance near the site. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 60-70%. Refer to Plate 6.11 and 6.12 .
DSF IF2	603898	6309659	Isolated Find	1x1m	Quartz flake located on a 15x5m exposure around the base of a tree. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 30%. Poor visibility was due to leaf litter and ants nest disturbance. Refer to Plate 6.13 and 6.14 .

Site Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Site Dimensions	Description
DSF IF3	603990	6309507	Isolated Find	1x1m	Volcanic axe blank located on a 15x5m exposure around the base of an isolated tree. Ants nest disturbance within exposure. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 90-95%. Refer to Plate 6.15 and 6.16 .
Electrical Transmission Line					
DSF IF4	603439	6310997	Isolated Find	1x1m	Silcrete flake located on a 20x4m exposure at the base of an isolated tree. There was an ants nest disturbance within the exposure. Visibility within the exposure was 100%. Refer to Plate 6.17 and 6.18 .
DSF IF5	602638	6311247	Isolated Find	1x1m	Volcanic core located on the margin of a minor drainage line. There was no exposure at the site and the visibility was 0%. Refer to Plate 6.19 and 6.20 .
DSF IF6	601574	6310931	Isolated Find	1x1m	Volcanic flake located in a highly disturbed ploughed paddock that had recently been harvested. Visibility of the area was approximately 50%. Refer to Plate 6.21 and 6.22 .
DSF AS6	600759	6310454	Artefact scatter	410 x 1.5m	10 artefacts in 3 loci (4 silcrete flakes, 2 quartz flakes, 1 volcanic flake, 1 volcanic core, 1 silcrete core and 1 broken grinding implement) located on a graded access track along the front fence line of paddock. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 70%. Refer to Plate 6.23 and 6.24 .
DSF AS7	600060	6310412	Artefact scatter	340 x 1.5m	35 artefacts in four loci (27 silcrete flakes, 1 silcrete core, 2 quartz flakes, 4 volcanic flakes, 1 volcanic core) located on a graded access track along the front fence line of paddock. Visibility within the exposure was approximately 70-90%. Refer to Plate 6.25 to 6.27 .
DSF AS8	599588	6310738	Artefact scatter	100x10m	7 artefacts in three loci (3 silcrete flakes, 1 quartz flakes, 2 volcanic flakes, 1 volcanic grinding implement). There are three exposures across the site area with visibility approximately 50%. Refer to Plate 6.28 and 6.29 .
DSF AS9	597619	6310986	Artefact scatter	2x1m	Two flakes (silcrete, volcanic) located in the inflow area of a constructed dam. Highly disturbed context: artefacts likely washed into the area. Visibility within the exposure was 90%. Refer to Plate 6.30 and 6.31 .

In general terms, the sites demonstrate a low-density distribution of artefacts across the Core Development Area, which likely reflects the impacts of agricultural land use in levelling the former gilgai and redistributing artefacts across the landscape. Only one site (DSF AS5) contained more than 10 artefacts, with this site present on the current main access route within the area. The current location of artefacts within the Core Development Area is almost entirely reflective of the impacts of land use rather than documenting a true archaeological pattern.

Interestingly, within the ETL, there are two sites containing 10 and 35 artefacts respectively (DSF AS6 and AS7), neither of which were associated with areas of intact gilgai. These sites are however adjacent to drainage lines alongside graded access tracks. As with the sites within the Core Development Area, the distribution of artefacts in these sites is, at least in part, a reflection of disturbance.

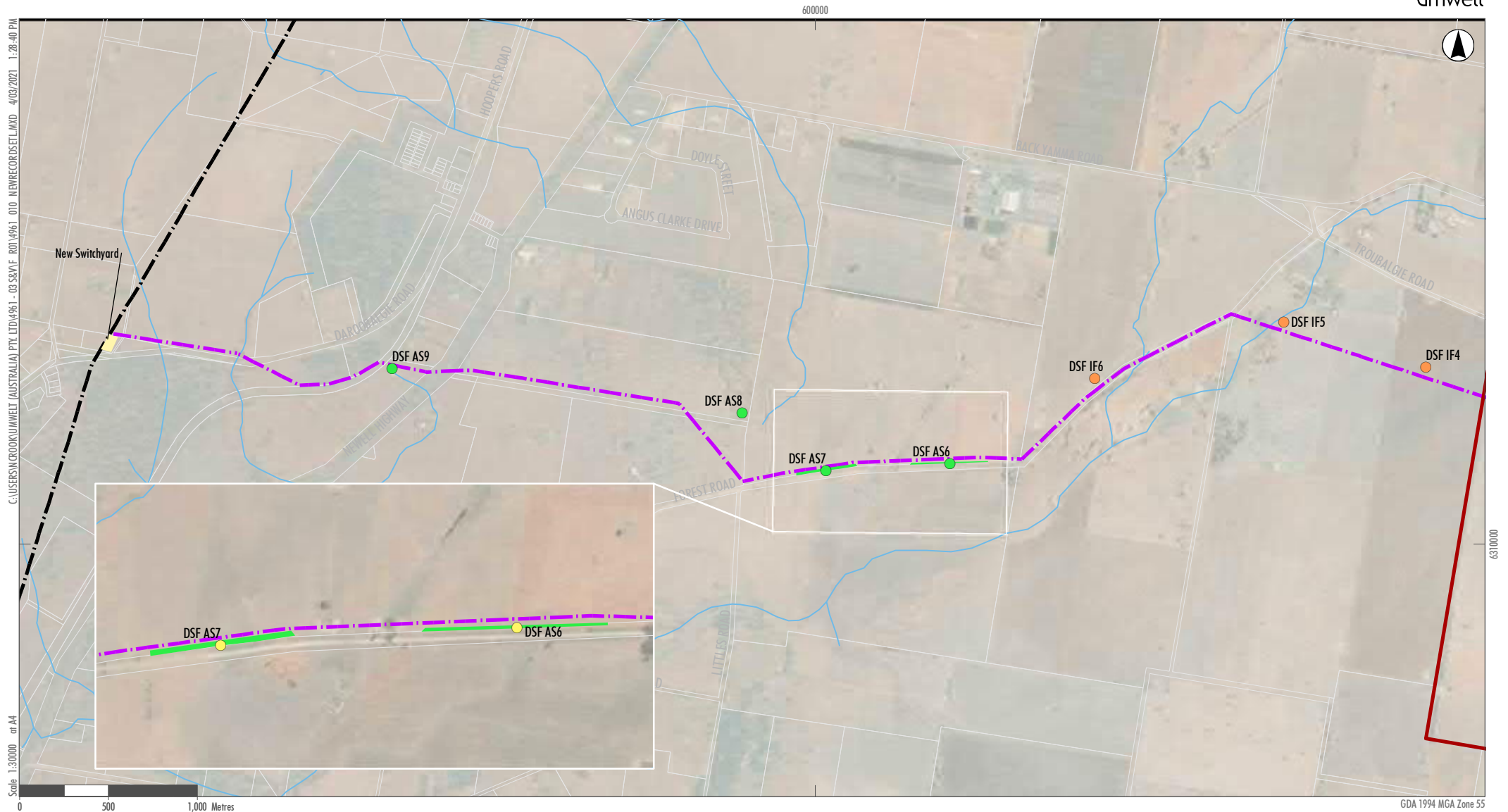


Legend

- Core Development Area (CDA)
- Electrical Transmission Line (ETL)
- Property Boundaries
- ~~~~~ Watercourses
- Artefact Scatter Center
- Isolated Find
- Artefact Scatter Extent

FIGURE 6.2A

Newly Recorded Archaeological Sites - CDA



Legend

- Core Development Area (CDA)
- New Switchyard
- Existing 132V Line
- Electrical Transmission Line (ETL)
- Property Boundaries
- ~~~~~ Watercourses
- Artefact Scatter Centre
- Isolated Find
- Artefact Scatter Extent

Image Source: ERSI (2021) Data source: NSW LPI (2020)

FIGURE 6.2B
Newly Recorded Archaeological Sites - ETL



Plate 6.1 DSF AS1 site context, view east

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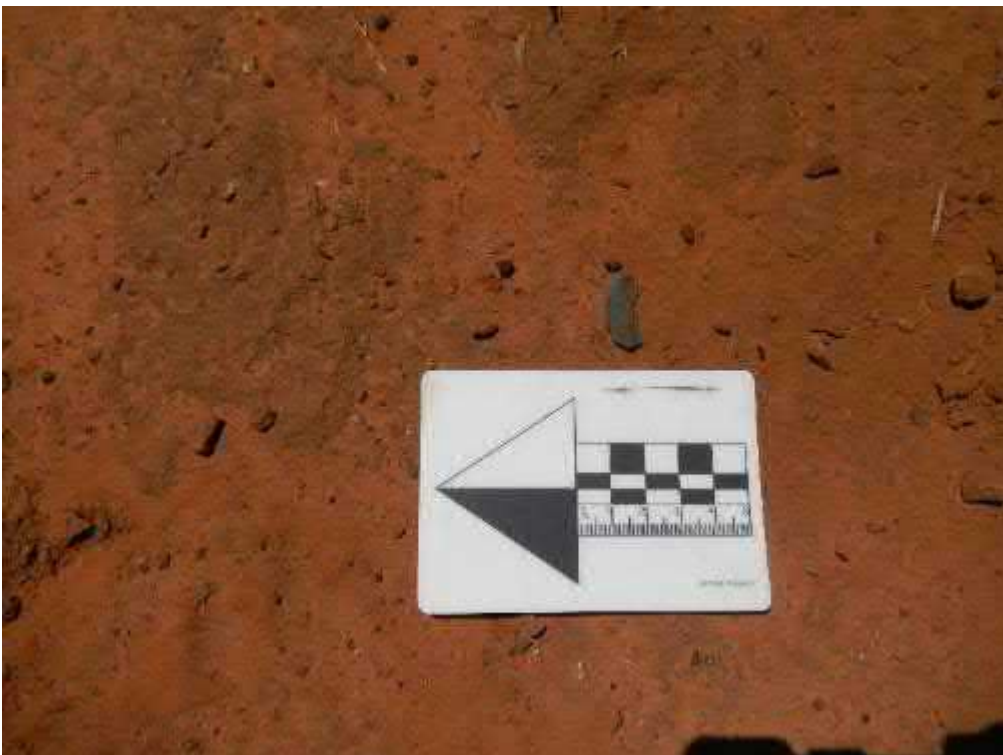


Plate 6.2 DSF AS1 artefact example – volcanic flake

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Plate 6.3 DSF AS2 site context, view east

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Plate 6.4 DSF AS2 artefact example – Volcanic broken axe blank

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Plate 6.5 DSF AS3 site context, view east

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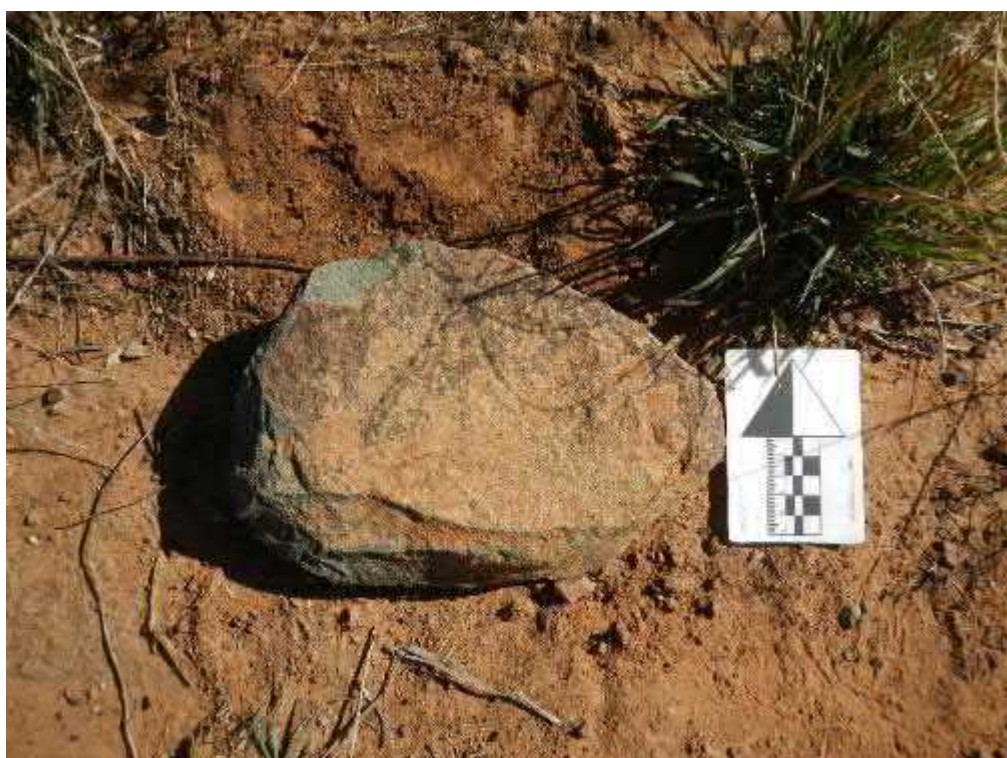


Plate 6.6 DSF AS3 artefact example – volcanic core

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Plate 6.7 DSF AS4 site context, view west

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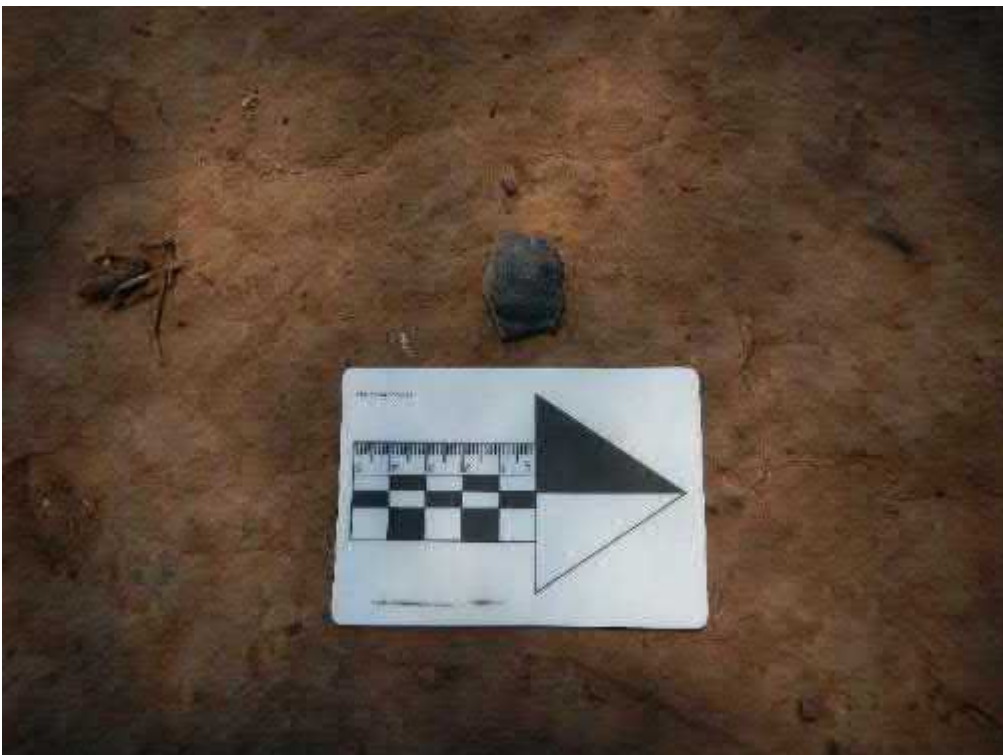


Plate 6.8 DSF AS4 artefact example – volcanic flake

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Plate 6.9 DSF AS5 site context, view approx. southwest

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Plate 6.10 DSF AS5 artefact example – silcrete flakes

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Plate 6.11 DSF IF1 site context, view west

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Plate 6.12 DSF IF1 – Silcrete flake

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Plate 6.13 DSF IF2 site context, view south

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Plate 6.14 DSF IF 2 quartz flake

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Plate 6.15 DSF IF3 site context, view southwest

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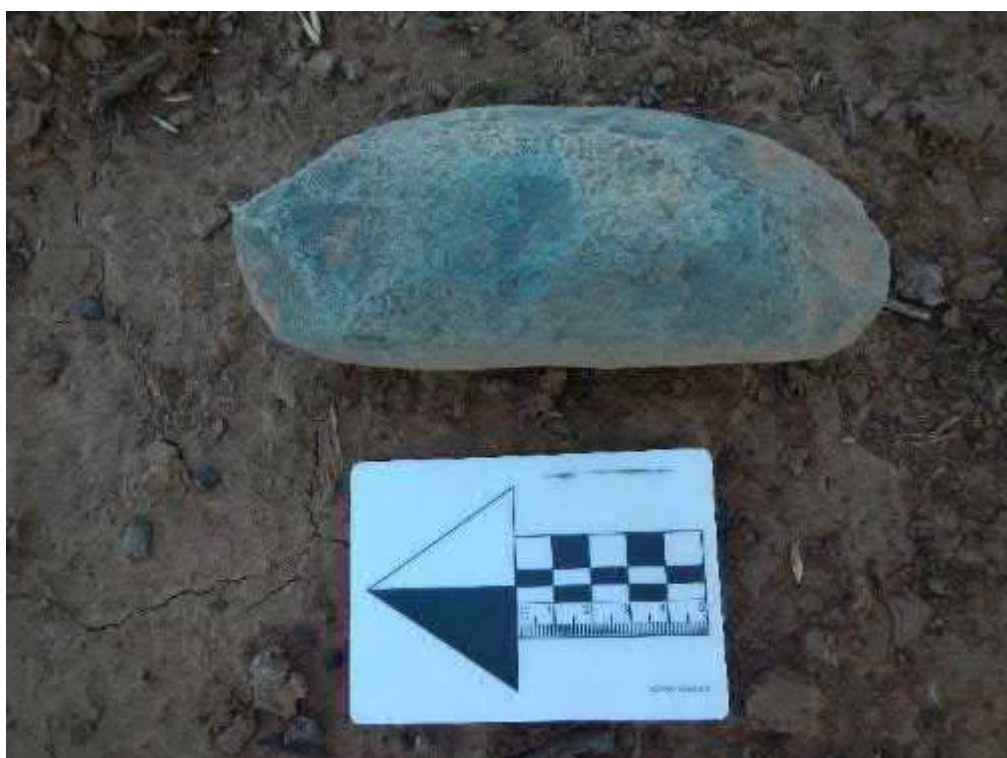


Plate 6.16 DSF IF3 volcanic axe blank

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Plate 6.17 DSF IF4 site context, view south

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Plate 6.18 DSF IF4 silcrete flake

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Plate 6.19 DSF IF5 site context, view approx. north

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Plate 6.20 DSF IF5 volcanic core

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Plate 6.21 DSF IF6 site context, view northeast

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Plate 6.22 DSF IF6 volcanic flake

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Plate 6.23 DSF AS6 site context, view approx. west

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Plate 6.24 DSF AS6 artefact example – silcrete and volcanic flake

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Plate 6.25 DSF AS7 site context, view approx. east

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Plate 6.26 DSF AS7 artefact example – silcrete flakes

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Plate 6.27 DSF AS7 artefact example – volcanic core

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Plate 6.28 DSF AS8 site context, view approx. northwest

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Plate 6.29 DSF AS8 artefact example – volcanic and quartz flake

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Plate 6.30 DSF AS9 site context – view approx. northwest

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Plate 6.31 DSF AS9 artefact example – volcanic flake

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6.4 Areas of Sub-surface Potential

When assessing sub-surface potential, the archaeological pattern identified within the local area (i.e., low density artefact scatters and isolated finds and scarred trees where remnant mature vegetation remains), the criteria for differing levels of archaeological potential as described in **Section 6.1.1** and particularly the level of prior disturbance were considered.

The Core Development Area was assessed as having an overall low archaeological potential. It is recognised that the area contains nine recorded sites containing stone artefacts (typically at low densities), with the distribution of these surface artefacts largely reflecting the impacts of disturbance. It is recognised that it is likely that additional artefacts will be present (again, at relatively low densities). However, the high level of disturbance associated with ploughing and cultivation means that there is no integrity to the landform and the area therefore has low archaeological potential.

Similarly, the ETL was considered overall to have low archaeological potential. It is noted that the ETL contained two sites comprising more than 10 artefacts, one of which contained 35 artefacts (which represents a moderate density within the local context). However, these sites were located on access tracks with high levels of exposure and visibility within which significant impacts have occurred. While there is potential for additional artefacts to be associated with these sites, again the level of disturbance is such that any additional deposits will have been substantially impacted and will have low archaeological potential. The other artefact sites found along the ETL were low density scatters or isolated finds that were consistent with other sites previously recorded in the region. It was assessed that these sites were in a disturbed context and the likelihood of intact subsurface deposits was considered low. Similar to the CDA, it is likely that there will be additional artefacts within the ETL Project Area; however, it is considered that the previous disturbance within the area is such that these deposits will not retain any integrity and therefore the area has low archaeological potential.

6.5 Information Provided by Aboriginal Party Representatives

In accordance with the approved methodology, Aboriginal party representatives who participated in the survey were invited to provide information on any Aboriginal cultural values that they identified within the Project Area.

It was noted by the representatives in the field that all sites were culturally important, and it was considered that the axe blank (DSF IF3), ground edge axe fragment (DSF AS2) and grinding implements located within the Project Area were of high significance. No further cultural information was provided during the survey.

6.6 Discussion

Fifteen new sites were located during the survey of the Project Area. There were five artefact scatters and three isolated finds in the Core Development Area with a total of 38 artefacts. There were four artefact scatters and three isolated finds recorded within the survey area for the ETL with a total of 57 artefacts. The sites were located on previously disturbed areas, such as access tracks, dams, fence lines and agricultural paddocks.

It was assessed that the pattern of sites located during the survey was broadly similar to the predictive model, being predominantly low-density artefact scatters and isolated finds in a disturbed context. Both the CDA and the ETL were assessed as having low archaeological potential due to the extensive nature of the disturbance associated with past agricultural practices. It is acknowledged that there is potential for additional artefacts to occur within both the CDA and ETL, however, as discussed above, due to the extent of disturbance, any such deposits would not retain integrity.

The assessment of archaeological significance for each site is discussed in **Section 7.0** and the results of the survey informs the impact assessment discussed in **Section 8.0**.

7.0 Significance Assessment

The assessment of significance is critical in establishing mitigation and management strategies for cultural heritage. Cultural significance is defined by the Australian ICOMOS *Burra Charter* 1999 (the *Burra Charter*) in terms of aesthetic, scientific, historic and social values. In NSW, Aboriginal cultural heritage is typically assessed according to its social and scientific significance (in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*, 2011).

The Burra charter defines cultural significance as meaning ‘aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations’ (Article 1.2). The *Burra Charter* was written to explain the basic principles and procedures that should be followed in looking after important places.

7.1 Social or Cultural Value

Cultural heritage value refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments a place has for Aboriginal people (OEH 2011:8). There is not always a consensus about the cultural value of a place as people experience places and events differently. Cultural significance can only be determined by Aboriginal people and is identified through Aboriginal community consultation.

It was recognised that registered Aboriginal parties may wish to provide information regarding the cultural significance of the Project Area following the review of the draft version of this report. No further information regarding the cultural value was provided by the registered Aboriginal parties.

7.2 Scientific Values and Significance Assessment

The Burra Charter defines the archaeological significance of an Aboriginal site, object or place according to its potential to address research questions and provide greater insight into Aboriginal society and landscape use (Australian ICOMOS Incorporated 2000:12). The primary criteria for determining archaeological significance relate to the rarity and representativeness of a site, as well as its integrity, intactness, and overall research potential. **Table 7.1** provides further clarification for these criteria:

Table 7.1 Criteria for the Assessment of Archaeological Significance

Criterion	Low	Moderate	High
Rarity	The site within the surrounding landscape, its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts, are common within the local and regional context.	The site within the surrounding landscape, its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts, are common within the local context but not the regional context.	The site within the surrounding landscape, its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts, are rare within the local and regional context.

Criterion	Low	Moderate	High
Representativeness	This site, when viewed in relation to its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts is common within a local and regional context and sites of similar nature (or in better condition) are already set aside for conservation within the region.	This site, when viewed in relation to its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts is common within a local and regional context and sites of similar nature (or in better condition) are already set aside for conservation within the region.	This site, when viewed in relation to its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts is common within a local and regional context and sites of similar nature (or in better condition) are already set aside for conservation within the region.
Research Potential	The site, when viewed in relation to its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts has limited potential to contribute to a greater understanding of how Aboriginal people lived within this area or region.	The site, when viewed in relation to its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts has moderate potential to contribute to a greater understanding of how Aboriginal people lived within this area or region.	The site, when viewed in relation to its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts has high potential to contribute to a greater understanding of how Aboriginal people lived within this area or region.
Education Potential	The site is not readily accessible and/or when viewed in relation to its contents, integrity and location in the landscape has limited suitability to be used for educational purposes. Other sites with higher education potential are known to be present in the local area and region.	The site is not readily accessible and/or when viewed in relation to its contents, integrity and location in the landscape provides a tangible example that is suitable to assist in educating people regarding how Aboriginal people lived in this area or region. However, other sites with higher education potential are known or expected to be present in the local area or region.	The site is readily accessible and/or when viewed in relation to its contents, integrity and location in the landscape, provides a very good tangible example that is suitable to assist in educating people regarding how Aboriginal people lived in this area or region. Other sites of higher education potential are generally not known to exist in the local area or region.
Integrity	Stratigraphic integrity of the site has clearly been destroyed due to major disturbance/loss of topsoil. The level of disturbance is likely to have removed all spatial and chronological information.	The site appears to have been subject to moderate levels of disturbance, however, there is a moderate possibility that useful spatial information can still be obtained from subsurface investigation of the site, even if it is unlikely that any useful chronological evidence survives.	The site appears relatively undisturbed and there is a high possibility that useful spatial information can still be obtained from subsurface investigation of the site, even if it is still unlikely that any useful chronological evidence survives.

7.3 Assessment of Archaeological Significance

Generally, the sites located during the survey for the Project were similar in type and nature to previously recorded site in the region. The site patterning indicates evidence of Aboriginal people regularly traversing the area and utilising resources in a transient way, as shown by the high number of isolated finds and small, low-density artefact scatters. Each element of significance was assessed for each site (refer to **Table 7.2**).

The majority of sites within the Project Area are within landscape contexts and have contents that are common within the local context and are represented at other locations within the area. Consequently, these sites have low value for rarity and representativeness. This has some flow on effect for educational value. In addition, the sites were primarily located in disturbed contexts on land that is not readily accessible to the general public and are therefore assessed as having low educational potential. In terms of research potential, it was assessed that any additional sub-surface deposits that may be present in association with these sites will have been subject to substantial disturbance, have little to no integrity and are therefore assessed to have low potential to contribute to our understanding of how Aboriginal people lived in this area. On this basis, the majority of sites had low archaeological significance.

The exception to this is DSF IF3 and DSF AS2, both of which contained a less common artefact type in the form of an axe blank and partial axe. These sites are assessed as having low-moderate potential. DSF AS7 was also assessed as having low-moderate significance as this site contains a relatively high number of artefacts (35) compared with other sites recorded during the survey and previous studies in similar contexts. As such, it was considered moderate for rarity and representativeness, with an overall rating of low-moderate.

Table 7.2 Summary of Archaeological Significance

Site	Rarity	Representativeness	Research Potential	Education Potential	Integrity	Overall
Core Development Area						
DSF AS1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF AS2	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low-moderate
DSF AS3	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF AS4	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF AS5	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF IF1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF IF2	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF IF3	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low-moderate
Electrical Transmission Line						
DSF IF4	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF IF5	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF IF6	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF AS6	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF AS7	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low-moderate
DSF AS8	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
DSF AS9	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

7.4 Historic Value

Historic value encompasses all aspects of history and often underlies other values. A place may have historic value because it has influenced or been influenced by a historic event, phase, movement, activity, person or group of people.

No specific areas or items of historical value with a direct association with Aboriginal people were identified in the Project Area during the survey assessment, and none of the Aboriginal representatives present during the survey provided any additional information regarding the historical values of the Project Area.

7.5 Aesthetic Value

Aesthetic value refers to the sensory and perceptual experience of a place. It may consider form, scale, texture and material of the fabric of the landscape and may also include smell and sounds associated with the place (OEH 2011:9).

No information regarding the aesthetic value was provided by the registered Aboriginal parties for the Project.

8.0 Impact Assessment

8.1 Core Development Area and Switchyard

The proposed solar infrastructure will generally require disturbance across the majority of the core development area, including a number of isolated trees within the core development area to be cleared. This includes the trees that have sites recorded within the exposures surrounding them. As shown in **Figure 6.1** and **Table 6.1**, the majority of the core development area has been significantly modified by ploughing and planting crops over a number of years. The construction of the solar panels and associated infrastructure will not cause additional impact, apart from areas where internal paddock fences occur. Along these areas, artefact sites have been identified and will be impacted by the proposed development.

A perimeter access track will be established, and the existing access tracks will also be utilised and modified during construction. This will impact artefact scatters and isolated finds that were identified during the survey.

It is noted that the stand of trees in the central portion of the core development area will remain. A number of the dams on site will also be retained to provide some water on site and to assist to mitigate sedimentation impacts. Dam water may also be utilised during construction and operation (e.g. – dust management).

8.2 Electrical Transmission Line

The methodology for the electrical transmission line construction will involve a 1 m diameter (approximate) pole being driven into the ground. If conditions are unsuitable a larger area may need to be drilled or excavated to allow for installation of the pole. As such, the impact associated with the electrical transmission line is minimal with disturbance each pole being up to 2 m². As shown in **Section 6.2**, majority of electrical transmission line alignment is within highly disturbed contexts (road reserves, paddocks used for a variety of agricultural purposes) with low archaeological potential. Within this context, the driving or augering of poles does not represent a substantial change from the nature of impacts that have already occurred in the area.

In addition, equipment and materials (using heavy vehicles) will need to be transported along the proposed transmission line. It is likely that existing access tracks will be utilised where possible, including those where artefact scatters and isolated finds were located. These tracks have been utilised by property owners, which has likely displaced artefacts and continued use will further impact sites over time. It is noted that the Aboriginal sites located on the ETL could be avoided during construction with appropriate mitigation in place however any such avoidance would not prevent ongoing impacts to the sites from general land use not directly related to the current Project.

9.0 Mitigation and Management Strategies

There are a range of management strategies that are available in relation to the Project Area that include varying levels of mitigation of identified or potential harm. The selection of management strategies is guided by the information included in the preceding sections of this ACHA. These management strategies were provided in draft for review by the registered Aboriginal parties. No changes to the management strategies were requested.

The management strategies are discussed below.

9.1 Strategy 1 Conservation

This management strategy would involve the conservation of the Project Area, which in turn would require that the proposed solar farm be redesigned to allow for protection of sites. A significant redesign would allow the Project to avoid impacts to any recorded archaeological sites.

While the Core Development Area contains four artefact scatters and two isolated finds with low archaeological potential and one artefact scatter and one isolated find with low-moderate archaeological significance, the overall archaeological potential of the Core Development Area is low. All sites within the Core Development Area have been subject to past disturbance, such as vegetation clearing, fence and access construction. Whilst it would be possible to protect sites during construction, the potential for indirect impact to occur over time would be high. The situation is much the same for the sites within the ETL.

On this basis, site conservation outcome is not considered a practical management outcome from an archaeological perspective.

The registered Aboriginal parties who participated in the survey identified conservation of sites as an option where practical.

9.2 Strategy 2 Further Investigation

Strategy 2 involves undertaking further investigation to clarify the nature, extent and significance of the sites or areas of archaeological potential within the Project Area. As discussed in **Section 6.4**, the Project Area was considered to have low archaeological potential and unlikely to contain intact sub-surface deposits, given the extensive disturbance across the Project Area meaning archaeological integrity would be low. On this basis, it is not considered warranted from an archaeological perspective to undertake further investigation (in the form of detailed excavations) within the Project Area.

The subsurface disturbance required for the ETL is minimal (up to 2m² at each pole location), with poles to be located in areas subject to substantial disturbance and assessed as having low archaeological potential. As above, further investigation is not considered warranted from an archaeological perspective.

9.3 Strategy 3 Impacts with Salvage

Strategy 3 would involve undertaking salvage works within the Project Area following Project Approval (if granted). Given the nature and significance of sites within the Project Area, salvage activities would consist of surface collection of visible artefacts. This strategy allows for the recovery of identified Aboriginal objects and also provides the opportunity to ensure that sites are appropriately collected and documented.

A number of sites located within the survey area for the ETL are unlikely to be subject to impact as a result of the Project, these sites will be subject to ongoing impact from use by landholders and access for maintenance of the ETL once established. On this basis and to avoid any incidental impacts should the Project subsequently require vehicle movements within the easement, it is considered suitable to salvage these artefacts via surface collection.

The requirements for surface collection will be established under an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan to be developed based on receiving Project approval and with reference to the methodologies provided in **Section 11.0**. All salvage should occur prior to impacts to the sites from Project activities.

This approach was discussed with the registered Aboriginal parties who participated in the survey.

9.4 Strategy 4 Impacts without Salvage

Strategy 4 would involve proceeding with the Project and the subsequent disturbance to any cultural material that may be present in the vicinity of the Project Area without any further salvage. As discussed above, the Project Area contains areas where isolated finds and artefact scatters have been located. In recognition of the cultural significance of these sites, it is considered that this management strategy is not suitable.

10.0 Recommendations

10.1 Aboriginal Party Recommendations and Strategies

Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation agreed with the archaeological recommendations and strategies presented in **Section 10.2** below. No further recommendations were provided by any of the registered Aboriginal parties.

10.2 Archaeological Recommendations and Strategies

The following are recommendations and mitigation strategies developed from an archaeological perspective:

- Pacific Hydro must ensure that all parties involved in the Project are aware that it is an offence under Section 86 of the NPW Act to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object unless that harm or desecration is authorised by an approved ACHMP as applicable, and the requirements of that plan have been met in relation to mitigation activities.
- Following Project approval (should it be granted), an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) for the Project should be developed in consultation with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties and agencies. The following aspects should be included in the ACHMP:
 - Provision for the completion of collection of surface artefacts associated with the recorded archaeological sites discussed in this report. The surface collection should be conducted in accordance with the methodology provided in **Section 11.0**.
 - Where it is identified that surface collection is not warranted as the site will not be subject to impact as a result of the Project and/or ongoing land management activities, the site/sites should be temporarily fenced during construction and a process developed to ensure sites are not impacted during ongoing Project activities.
 - Any topsoil material excavated from within the Core Development Area or at pole locations along the ETL should remain within the local area and should not be transported off-site. This ensures that any artefacts that may have been present (within a disturbed context) will remain in the area.
 - A procedure for managing any additional Aboriginal objects identified during the construction process in accordance with that provided in **Section 11.0**.
 - A procedure to be followed in the unlikely event that human remains is located during construction, with the procedure to follow that provided in **Section 11.0**.
 - Provision of an ongoing consultation with registered Aboriginal parties, as required during construction and operation.

11.0 Methodologies for inclusion in the ACHMP

The following protocols are documented for inclusion in the ACHMP to ensure that this document adequately allows for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Project Area.

11.1 Management of Previously Unrecorded Sites

The following sections outline the protocols to be adhered to in the event that any new sites are identified within the Project Area. It is noted that all new sites will be recorded in accordance with Heritage NSW requirements, including submission of a site card in accordance with Section 89A of the NPW Act.

11.1.1 Artefact scatters and isolated artefacts

Should a previously unknown artefact scatter or isolated artefact be identified, all works within 20m of the artefact or identified extent of the site will cease and the relevant Project Manager will be informed of the presence of the site. Pacific Hydro (or delegate e.g. appointed construction contractor) should demarcate this area with temporary site-specific no-go signage/flagging. The opportunity will then be provided to an archaeologist and Aboriginal party representatives to inspect the newly identified artefact scatter/isolated find as soon as reasonably practical.

If the site is not subject to impact as a result of the Project (either during construction or maintenance), it will be subject to temporary protective fencing (if within 50m of Project works) and will remain in-situ. If the site will be subject to impact as a result of the Project, the nature and significance of the site will be considered, and one of the two approaches outlined below will be adopted:

- If the nature and significance of the new site is low or low to moderate, a surface collection will be conducted in accordance with the methodology in **Section 11.2**.
- If the nature and significance of the new site is moderate or higher, Pacific Hydro will consult with the five registered Aboriginal parties for the Project (refer to **Section 3.1.1**) to develop an appropriate management strategy for the site. As an interim management measure, the site will be subject to temporary protective fencing.

11.1.2 Potential Human Skeletal Remains

In the extremely unlikely event that a potential burial site or potential human skeletal material is exposed within the Project Area, the following procedure should be followed.

- All work within 50m of the skeletal material will cease immediately and an area of 10m radius around the find will be cordoned off with temporary construction fencing.
- The find will be immediately reported to the work supervisor who will immediately advise the Project Manager or other nominated senior staff member.

- If the remains are suspected to be human, Pacific Hydro will promptly notify local police and Heritage NSW. A suitably qualified person should inspect the remains and make a determination of whether the remains are human and if so, the likely ancestry (Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal) and antiquity (pre-contact, historical or forensic).
 - If the remains are identified as forensic, the area is deemed a crime scene and will remain under the control of NSW Police until written notification of recommencement is received.
 - If the remains are identified as Aboriginal, the site is to be secured and Heritage NSW and all registered Aboriginal parties are to be notified.
 - If the remains are non-Aboriginal (historical) remains, the site is to be secured and NSW Heritage is to be contacted.

The above process functions only to appropriately identify the remains and secure the site. From this time, the management of the remains is to be determined through liaison with the appropriate stakeholders (including the NSW Police Force, forensic anthropologist, Heritage NSW and registered Aboriginal parties). No works will be recommenced at the location skeletal remains until the relevant body (NSW Police or Heritage NSW) provide written notification of the approved course of action.

11.2 Surface Collection

Surface collection will be undertaken at the recorded sites and where relevant for previously unknown artefact scatters/isolated artefacts (refer to **Section 11.1.1**) are identified at other locations within the Project Area. Surface collection will be undertaken with representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties.

The proposed surface collection methodology is:

- the distribution of surface archaeological material will be assessed and where appropriate, archaeological material will be grouped into loci for the purposes of recording and analysis
- all surface archaeological material and/or loci of surface archaeological material will be flagged and photographed
- the location of each loci or isolated area of surface archaeological material will be recorded and mapped using a hand-held 12 channel GPS
- artefacts will be collected and placed in labelled bags with reference to site and locus (where appropriate).

11.3 Post-salvage Analysis and Reporting

Should the recovered archaeological assemblage contain enough archaeological material to allow for a statistically viable analysis, the salvaged artefact assemblage will be subject to detailed analysis. This will involve the recording of artefact class and raw material for all artefacts, with additional attributes to be recorded for specific artefact classes, as listed in **Table 11.1**.

Table 11.1 Artefact Analysis Attributes with reference to Artefact Class

Artefact Class	Attributes to be recorded
Complete flakes	Length Width Thickness % Cortex Cortex Type Heat Treated (yes/no) Visible Use-Wear (yes/no) Visible Residue (yes/no) Comments – description, does it conjoin with another artefact, if used which margin was used, if it has residues on the flake etc.
Retouched Flakes	Retouched/broken retouched flake class Retouch type Visible Use-Wear (yes/no) Visible Residue (yes/no) Comments
Cores	Length Width Thickness % Cortex Cortex Type Heat Treated (yes/no) Rotation (count) Level of exhaustion Visible Use-Wear (yes/no) Visible Residue (yes/no) Comments
Other tool types (e.g., grindstones, axes, hammerstones etc.)	Length Width Thickness % Cortex Cortex Type Heat Treated (yes/no) Visible Use-Wear (yes/no) Visible Residue (yes/no) Comments

Following the completion of salvage activities and subsequent artefact analysis, a report will be compiled that presents the findings of the activities. Reports will be completed in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines and requirements and will include a description of the results of the activities including general environmental information, landscape information, soil descriptions and excavation profiles (where applicable) and the results of detailed recording and analysis of salvaged archaeological material.

11.4 Care and Control of Artefactual Material

Any salvaged Aboriginal stone artefacts will be temporarily stored in a secure capacity either within the Project Area or at the offices of the Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council. Following completion of the analysis and submission of a final report on salvage works to Heritage NSW, arrangements for care and control of the salvaged artefacts will be made in consultation with Heritage NSW and the registered Aboriginal parties. Should the artefacts be retained by Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council, Pacific Hydro will assist Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council in the development of a care agreement in accordance with Heritage NSW requirements.

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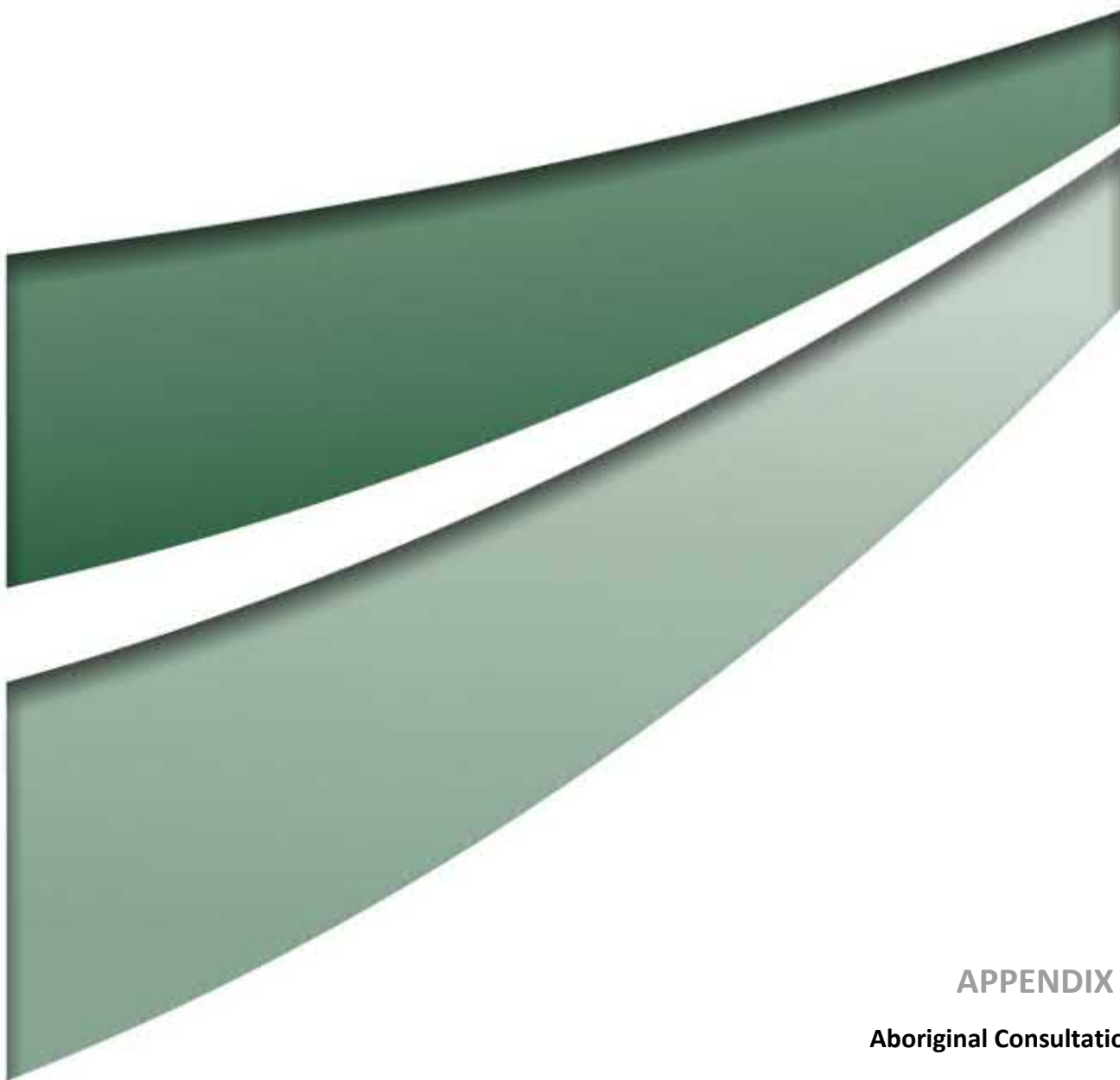
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APPENDIX 1

Aboriginal Consultation

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/23042020

23 April 2020

Forbes Shire Council
2 Court Street
Forbes NSW 2871

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project,
Daroobalgie NSW**

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to a proposed solar farm project at Daroobalgie, located 11km northeast of Forbes. The project comprises a Core Development Area of 300 hectares, primarily covering Lot 77 DP 750183, however proposed Electricity Transmission Lines connecting the project to the National Electricity Market (NEM) grid will cover various additional land parcels. The project area is shown in **Figure 1.1**, which comprises the Core Development Area with three potential options for the proposed electricity transmission line shown.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage will address the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The project is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* and will be supported by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), of which the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will be a component.

It is intended that the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of the proponent) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (2010)*. This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in consideration and determination of the project.

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Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
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In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to identify Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area. If your organisation is aware of any such Aboriginal people or groups who you think may want to be involved in the project, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **8 May 2020** to:

Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

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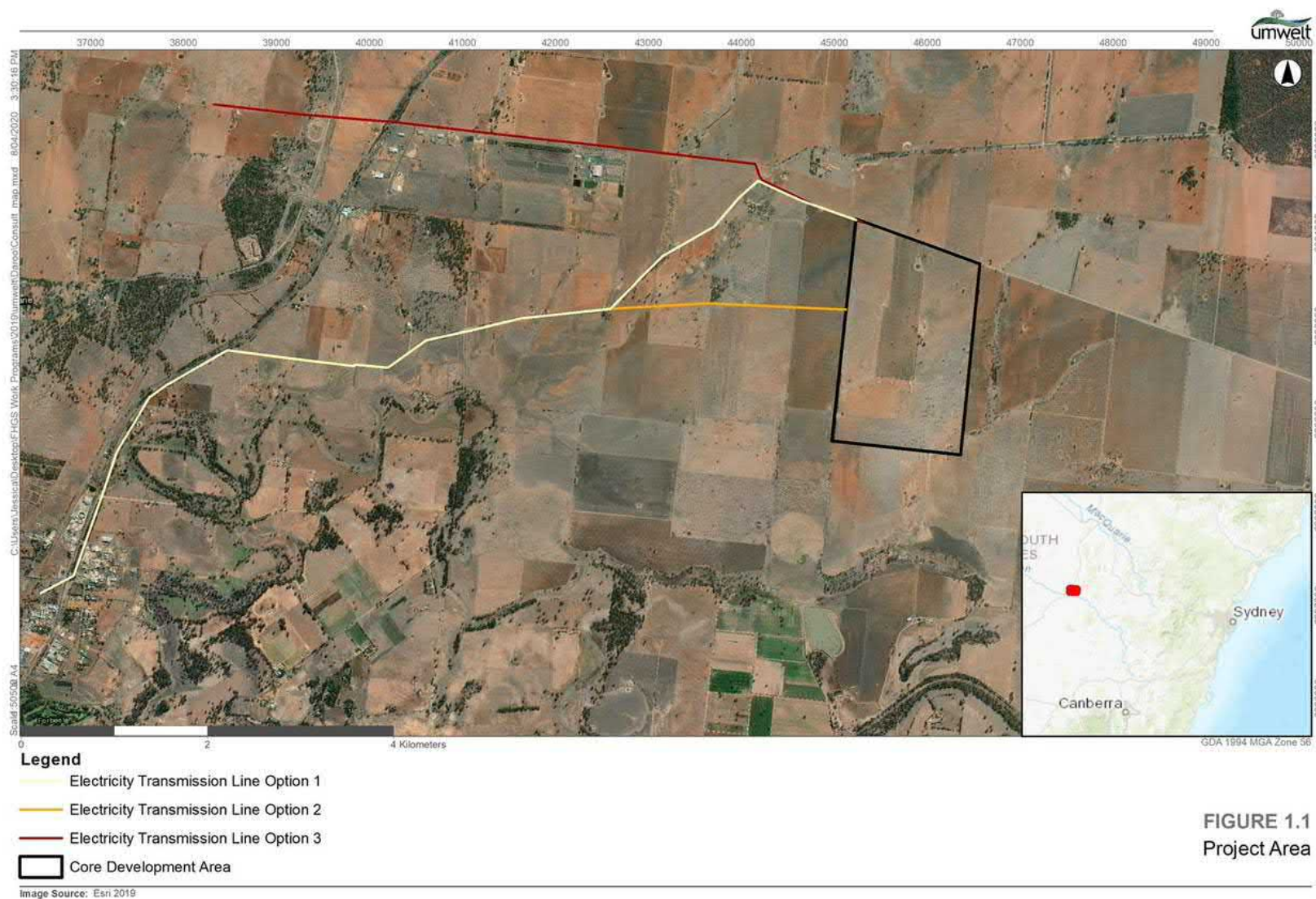
Catherine O'Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone 0 3 8621 6485
coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or wish to discuss the proposed project further, please do not hesitate to contact myself via email or on 02 4950 5322.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/23042020

23 April 2020

National Native Title Tribunal
GPO Box 9973
Sydney NSW 2001

E| enquiries@nntt.gov.au

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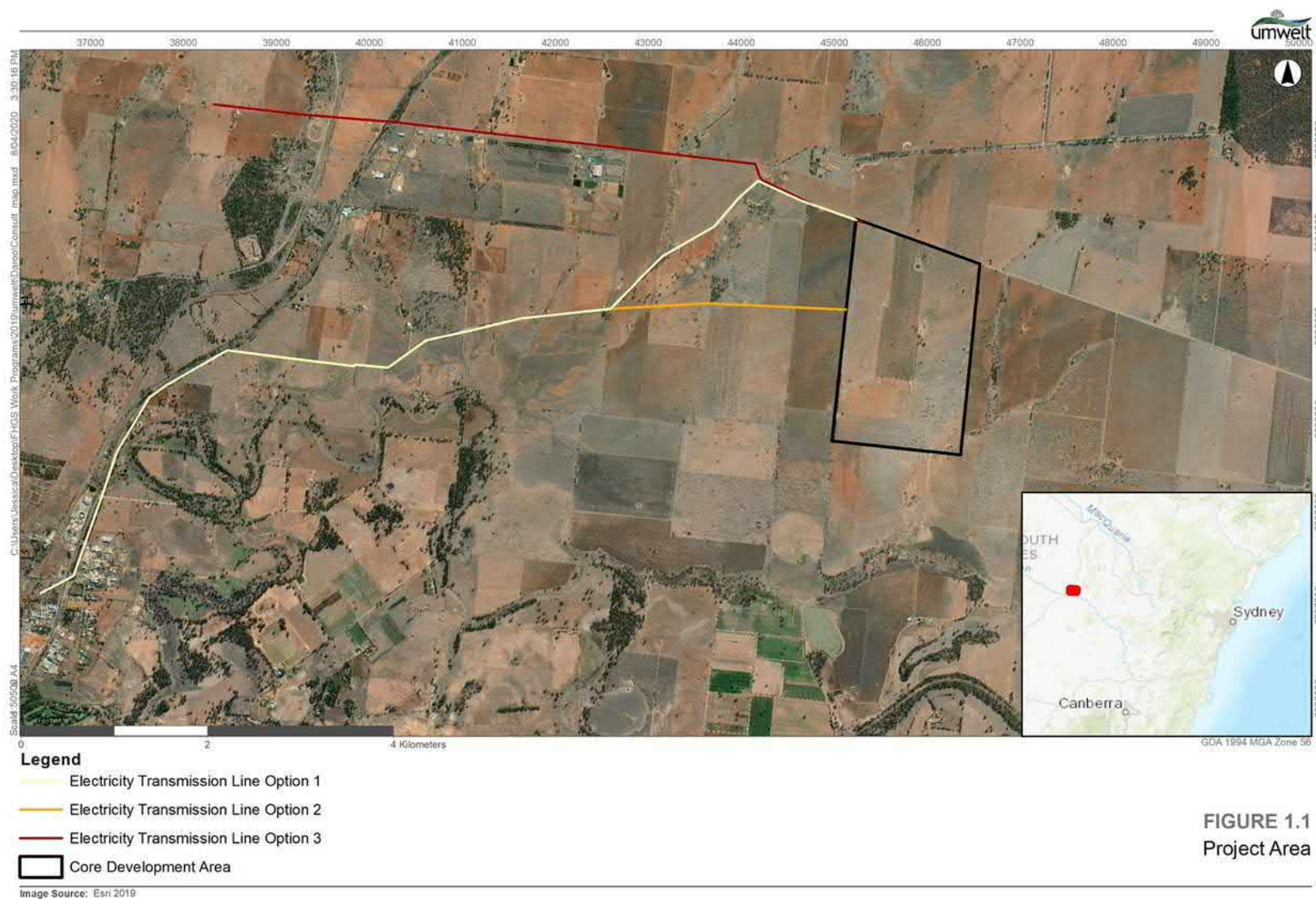
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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/23042020

23 April 2020

Central West Local Land Services
PO Box 897
46 Sheriff Street
Forbes NSW 2871

E| admin.centralwest@lls.nsw.gov.au

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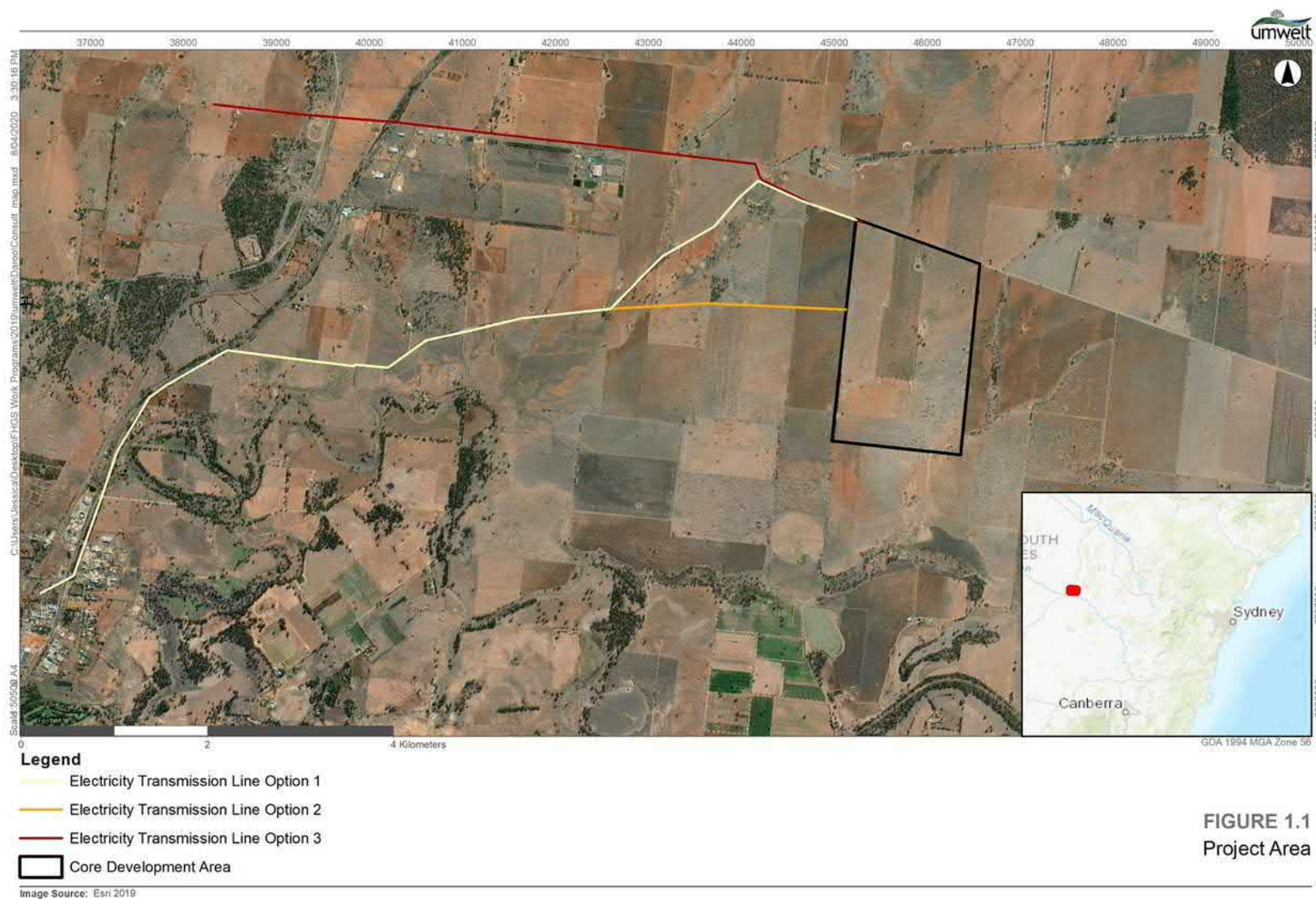
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Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone 0 3 8621 6485
coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or wish to discuss the proposed project further, please do not hesitate to contact myself via email or on 02 4950 5322.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/23042020

23 April 2020

NTSCORP Ltd
PO Box 2105
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

E | information@ntscorp.com.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project,
Daroobalgie NSW**

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to a proposed solar farm project at Daroobalgie, located 11km northeast of Forbes. The project comprises a Core Development Area of 300 hectares, primarily covering Lot 77 DP 750183, however proposed Electricity Transmission Lines connecting the project to the National Electricity Market (NEM) grid will cover various additional land parcels. The project area is shown in **Figure 1.1**, which comprises the Core Development Area with three potential options for the proposed electricity transmission line shown.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage will address the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The project is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* and will be supported by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), of which the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will be a component.

It is intended that the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of the proponent) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (2010)*. This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in consideration and determination of the project.

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Sydney | Canberra |
Brisbane | Perth

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www.umwelt.com.au

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
ABN 18 059 519 041

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to identify Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area. If your organisation is aware of any such Aboriginal people or groups who you think may want to be involved in the project, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **8 May 2020** to:

Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

In compliance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010) the contact details for the proponent are as follows:

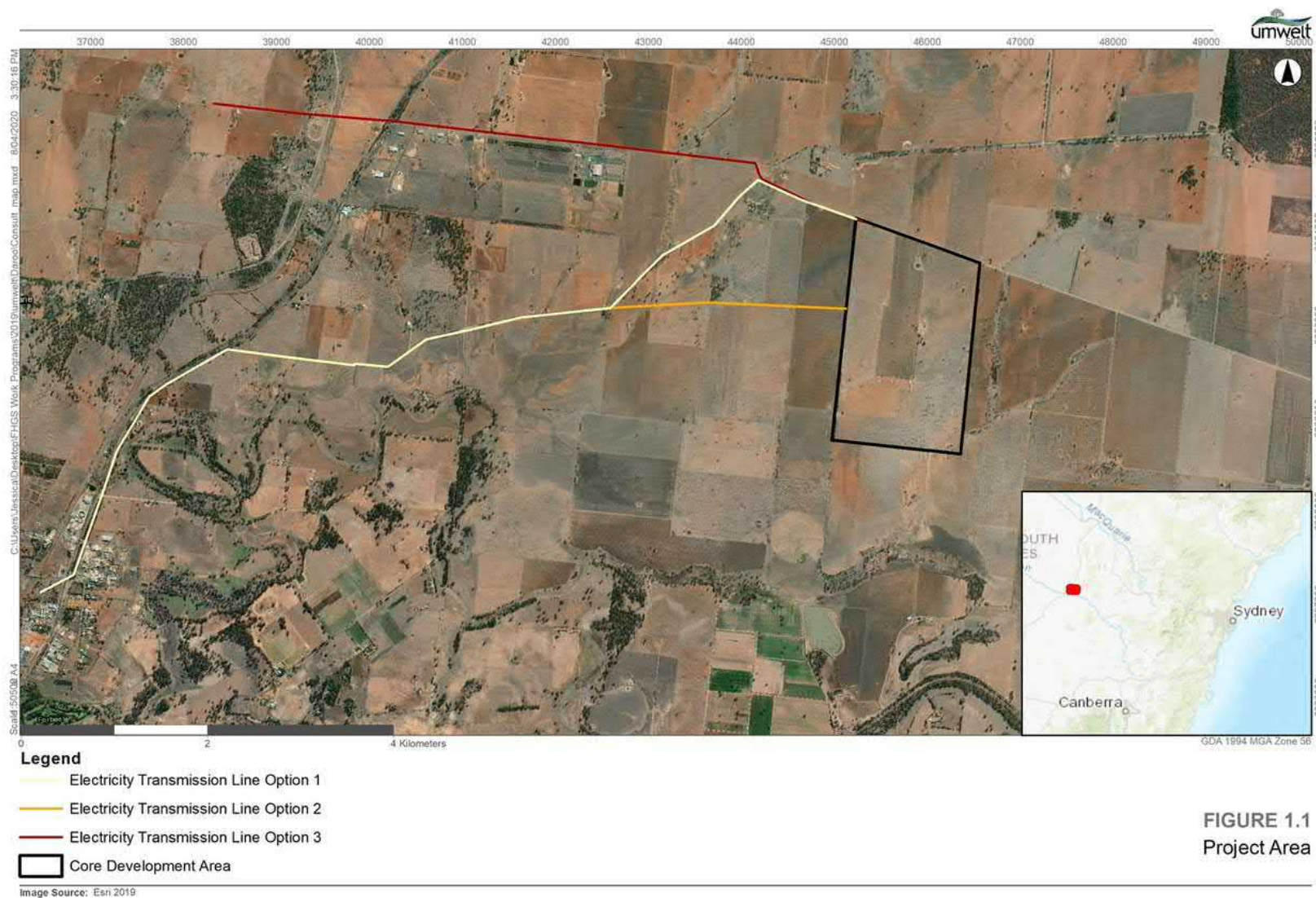
Catherine O'Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone 0 3 8621 6485
coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or wish to discuss the proposed project further, please do not hesitate to contact myself via email or on 02 4950 5322.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/23042020

23 April 2020

Office of Environment and Heritage
Dubbo Regional Operations
PO Box 2111
Level 1, 4852 Wingewarra Street
Dubbo NSW 2830

E | info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project,
Daroobalgie NSW**

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to a proposed solar farm project at Daroobalgie, located 11km northeast of Forbes. The project comprises a Core Development Area of 300 hectares, primarily covering Lot 77 DP 750183, however proposed Electricity Transmission Lines connecting the project to the National Electricity Market (NEM) grid will cover various additional land parcels. The project area is shown in **Figure 1.1**, which comprises the Core Development Area with three potential options for the proposed electricity transmission line shown.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage will address the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The project is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* and will be supported by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), of which the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will be a component.

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Alison Fenwick
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75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

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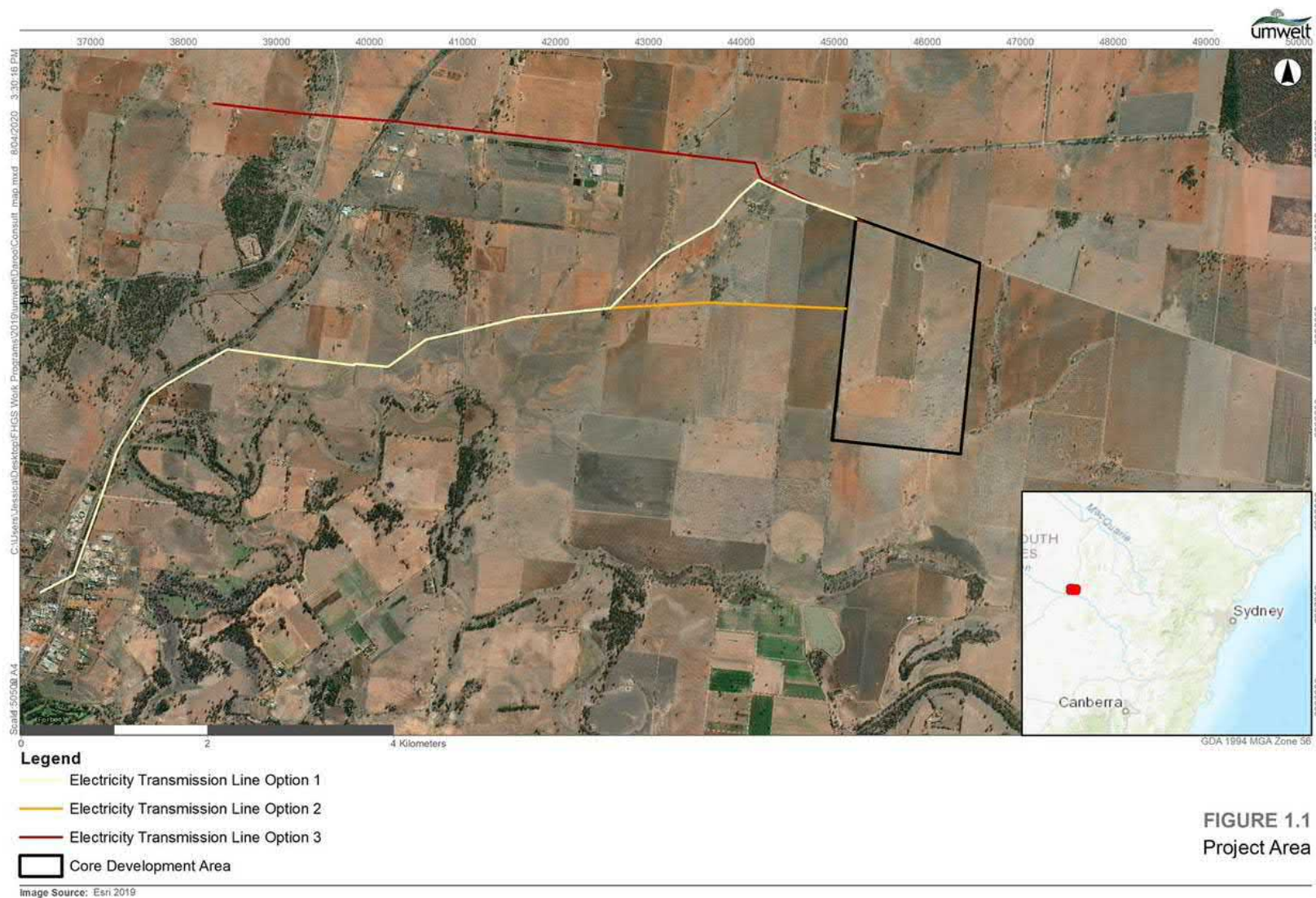
Catherine O'Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
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Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone 0 3 8621 6485
coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

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Yours sincerely

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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/23042020

23 April 2020

Office of the Registrar
Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)
PO Box 112
Glebe NSW 2037

E | adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Darroobalgie Solar Farm project,
Darroobalgie NSW**

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to a proposed solar farm project at Darroobalgie, located 11km northeast of Forbes. The project comprises a Core Development Area of 300 hectares, primarily covering Lot 77 DP 750183, however proposed Electricity Transmission Lines connecting the project to the National Electricity Market (NEM) grid will cover various additional land parcels. The project area is shown in **Figure 1.1**, which comprises the Core Development Area with three potential options for the proposed electricity transmission line shown.

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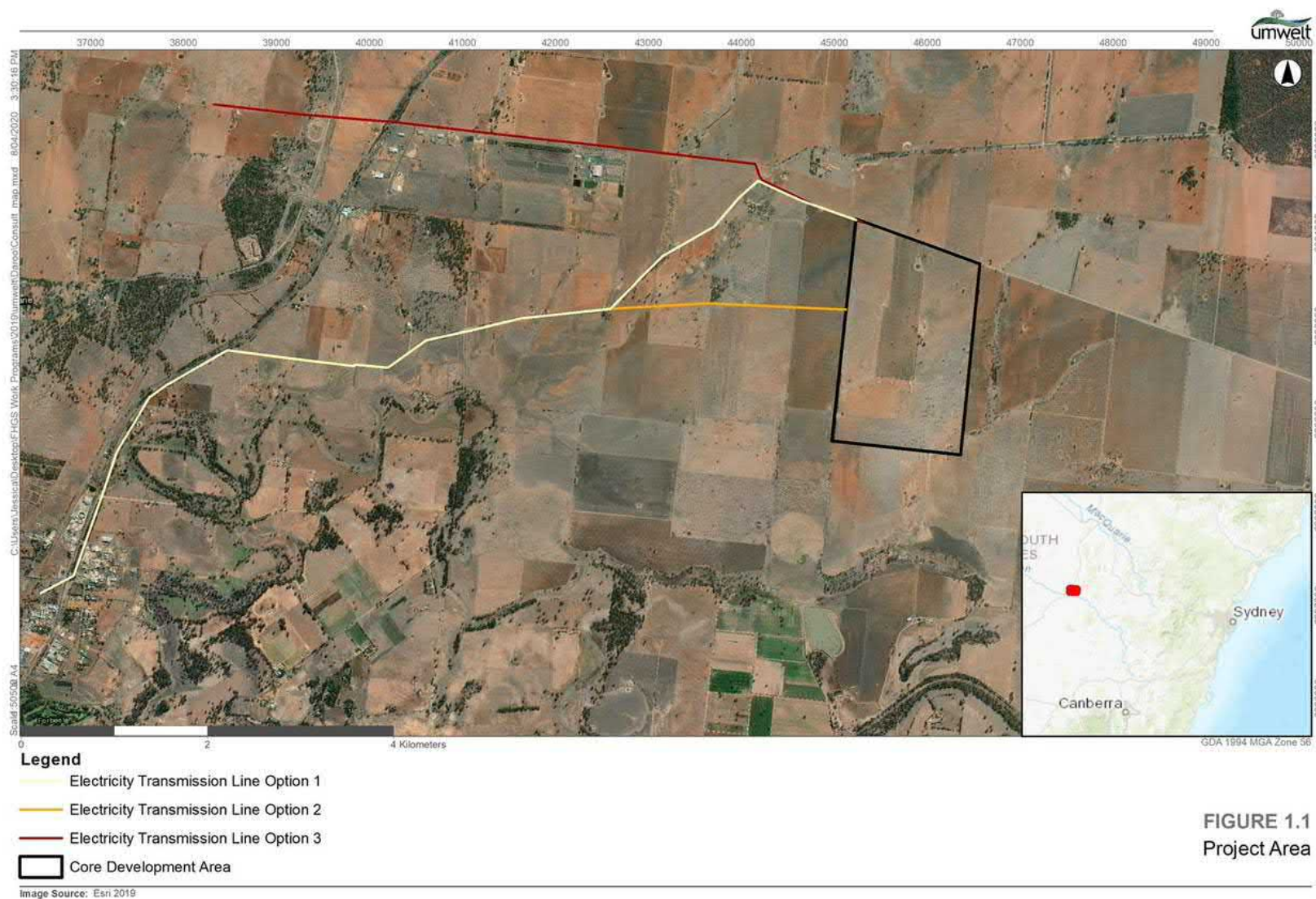
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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/23042020

23 April 2020

Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 63
88 Caswell Street
Peak Hill NSW 2869

E| phlalc@yahoo.com.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project,
Daroobalgie NSW**

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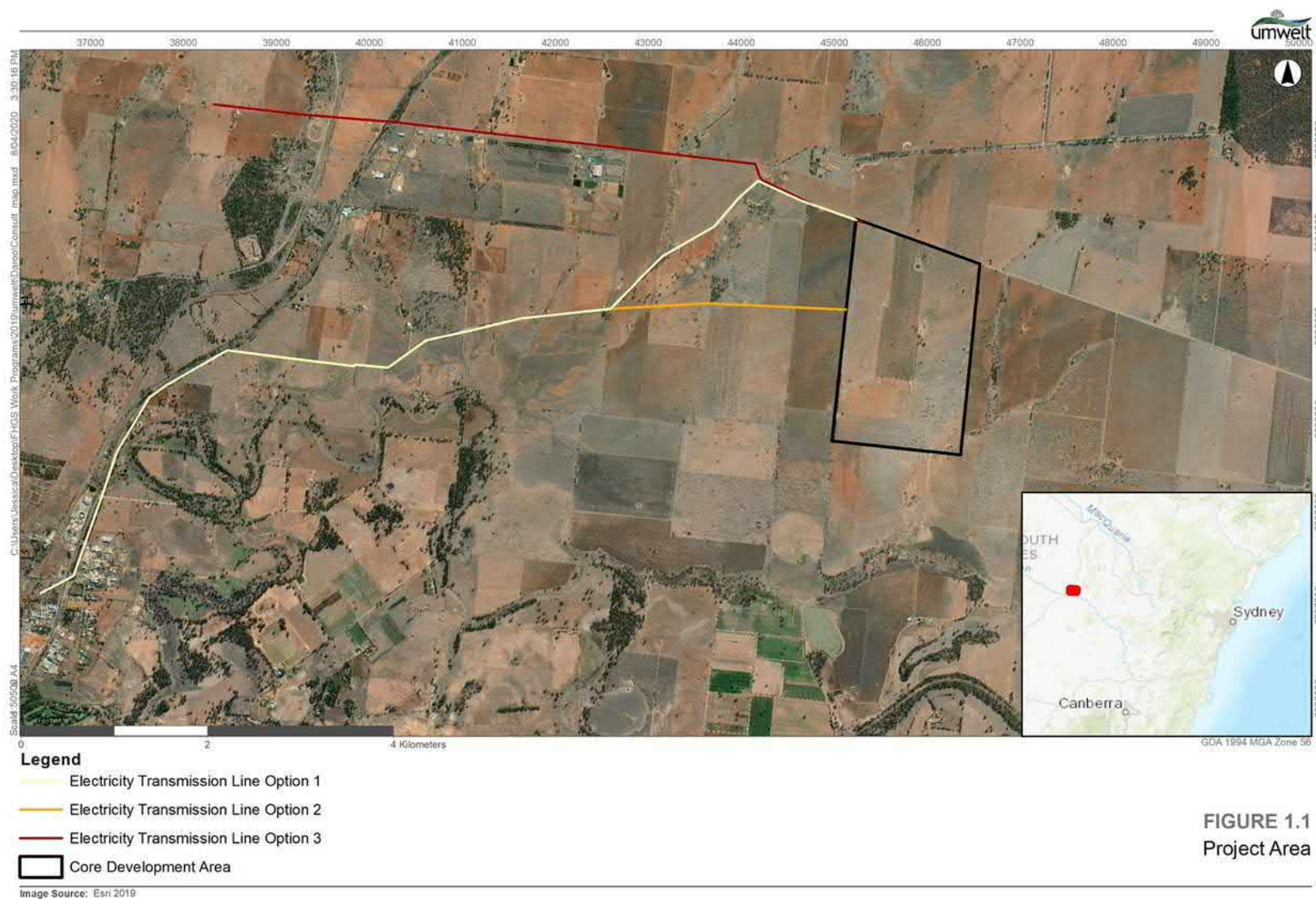
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Stephanie Howden

From: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 8:00 PM
To: Jessica Blackman
Cc: Alison Fenwick
Subject: RE: SR20/468 - Register Search for proposed solar farm project, Daroobalgie - SR20/468
Attachments: 20202005_SR20_468_NSW_Forbes_Shire_Council.xlsx

UNCLASSIFIED

Native title search – NSW LGA – Forbes Shire Council

Your ref: 4961 Pac - **Our ref:** SR20/468

Dear Jessica Blackman,

Thank you for your search request received on 20 May 2020 in relation to the above area. Based on the records held by the National Native Title Tribunal as at 20 May 2020 it would appear that there are no Native Title Determination Applications, Determinations of Native Title, or Indigenous Land Use Agreements over the identified area.

Search Results

The results provided are based on the information you supplied and are derived from a search of the following Tribunal databases:

- Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications
- Register of Native Title Claims
- National Native Title Register
- Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements
- Notified Indigenous Land Use Agreements

At the time this search was carried out, there were **no relevant entries** in the above databases.

Please note: There may be a delay between a native title determination application being lodged in the Federal Court and its transfer to the Tribunal. As a result, some native title determination applications recently filed with the Federal Court may not appear on the Tribunal's databases.

The Tribunal accepts no liability for reliance placed on enclosed information

The enclosed information has been provided in good faith. Use of this information is at your sole risk. The National Native Title Tribunal makes no representation, either express or implied, as to the accuracy or suitability of the information enclosed for any particular purpose and accepts no liability for use of the information or reliance placed on it.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on the free call number 1800 640 501.

Regards,

Geospatial Searches

National Native Title Tribunal | Perth

Email: GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au | www.nntt.gov.au

From: Jessica Blackman <jblackman@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 8:17 AM
To: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>
Cc: Alison Fenwick <afenwick@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: SR20/468 - Register Search for proposed solar farm project, Daroobalgie

Caution: This is an external email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Please find attached search form for a non-freehold tenement project near Forbes, NSW.

If you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
75 York Street
Teralba, NSW 2284

Phone: (02) 4950 5322
Mob: 0412 350 780

www.umwelt.com.au

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Newcastle ph. 02 4950 5322 | **Perth** ph. 08 6260 0700 | **Canberra** ph. 02 6262 9484 | **Sydney** ph. 1300 793 267 | **Brisbane** ph. 1300 793 267

Please Note:

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are for the use of the intended recipient only. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately and delete all copies of this email and attachments. We maintain regular virus checks; however, before opening or using any attachments, check them for viruses and defects. Contents which do not relate to the formal business of Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited are not endorsed by the company.

Please consider the environment before printing this email



Our ref: DOC20/322131-2

Ms Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
afenwick@umwelt.com.au

Dear Alison,

Written notification as required under the former Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) now Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) Aboriginal cultural heritage requirements for proponents 2010 – Daroobalgie Solar Farm, Forbes LGA NSW Proposal

Thank you for your email dated 23 April 2020 to the Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD) regarding the above matter.

A list of known Aboriginal parties that BCD considers is likely to have an interest in this development is attached as **Attachment 1**. Please note this list is not necessarily an exhaustive list of all interested Aboriginal parties and receipt of this list does not remove the requirement of a proponent/consultant to advertise in local print media and contact other bodies seeking interested Aboriginal parties, in accordance with the requirements of clause 60 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019.

Should you require further information regarding issues that are the responsibility of the BCD please contact Helen Knight, Senior Conservation Planning Officer on (02) 6883 5327 or helen.knight@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Renee Shepherd'.

Renee Shepherd
Acting Senior Team Leader Planning North West – ACH and Special Projects
Biodiversity and Conservation Division

27/04/2020

Table 1: List of Aboriginal stakeholder groups within the Forbes Local Government Area - that may have an interest in the project; provided as per the “OEH Aboriginal cultural heritage requirement for proponents 2010”.

Organisation/ Affiliation	Name	Address	Email	Phone
Condobolin LALC	Chairperson	PO Box 114, Condobolin NSW	bildangl@bigpond.net.au	
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Marilyn Carroll- Johnson, Director			
Danny Molloy			dgajp@hotmail.com	
Delma Butler			delmabutler@bigpond.com	
Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Aboriginal Reference Group	Private Bag 2010, Paterson NSW 2421		
Jodie Markwort			jodie.markwort1@det.nsw.edu.au	
Joy Russell			Joy.Russell@det.nsw.edu.au	
Kelly Bowden			kelly@binaalbilla.com.au	
Kerry Stirling			ast18520@bigpond.net.au	
Lachlan Catchment Management Authority	Aboriginal Reference Group	2 Sherriff Street, Forbes NSW 2871		
Larry Towney			larry.towney@lfs.nsw.gov.au	
Mary Hodge			marytommy27@hotmail.com	
Peak Hill Bogan River Traditional Owner		C/- Sylvana Keating, A/Area Manager NPWS Lachlan Area PO Box 774, Forbes NSW 2871		

Alison Fenwick

From: Claire Davis <Claire.Davis@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 June 2020 9:27 AM
To: Alison Fenwick
Subject: Aboriginal Community consultation for Daroobalgie Solar Farm

Morning Alison,

I just wanted to reply to your invitation to the Peak Hill Bogan River Aboriginal Advisory Committee for involvement in cultural information that may be relevant to the Daroobalgie Solar Farm. (ref 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020).

I brought the request to the attention of our Chairperson, Frances Robinson, and we are in agreeance in that this committee only assists with the management of the local National Park estate near Peak Hill. As such the committee will not be registering any interest in the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project.

Regards,
Claire



Claire Davis
Ranger, Central West Area
West Branch
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

PO Box 774, Forbes NSW 2871
T 02 6850 2424
M 0428 265 139
W nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately. Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

**Notification for of commencement of
Aboriginal party consultation for a
proposed development, Daroobalgie
Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW.**

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to the proposed redevelopment of approximately 350 hectares of land within Daroobalgie. The project area will primarily cover Lot 77 DP 750183, however a proposed transmission line will cover various additional land parcels.

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a solar farm development, to be known as Daroobalgie Solar Farm, 11km northeast of the Forbes shire. This project is a State Significant Development (SSD), and so will require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), for which the ACHA will be developed.

Umwelt invite Aboriginal people or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places within the project area to register an interest in being consulted regarding the project. If your organisation is aware of any such Aboriginal people or groups who you think may want to be involved in the project, registrations should be submitted by **14 days from date of correspondence to:**

Alison Fenwick
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
P: **02 4950 5322**
E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

The name and contact details of the proponent's project manager:
Darren Chesterfield
E: enquiries@pacifichydro.com.au
T: **1800 730 734**

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Condobolin LALC
Chairperson
PO Box 114
18 William Street
Condobolin NSW 2877

Email: bildangl@bigpond.net.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Darroobalgie Solar Farm project, Darroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Darroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to ascertain if your organisation has cultural information relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area. If your organisation wishes to be involved in the project, please register your interest no later than 10 June 2020 to:

Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
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Teralba NSW 2284

E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

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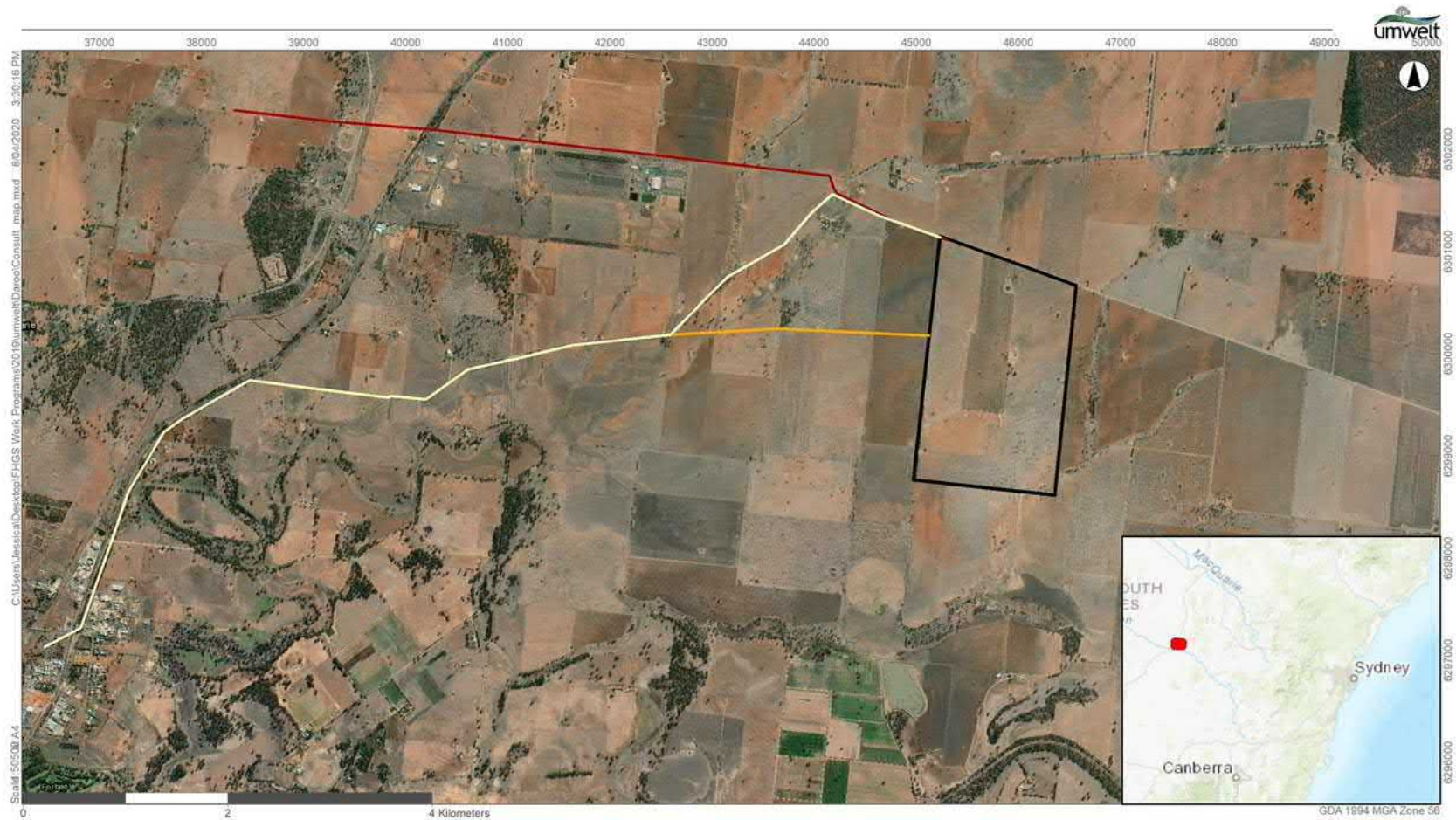
Catherine O’Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
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Yours sincerely

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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Legend

- Electricity Transmission Line Option 1
- Electricity Transmission Line Option 2
- Electricity Transmission Line Option 3
- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
Marilyn Carroll-Johnson, Director

Email:

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

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The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

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Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284

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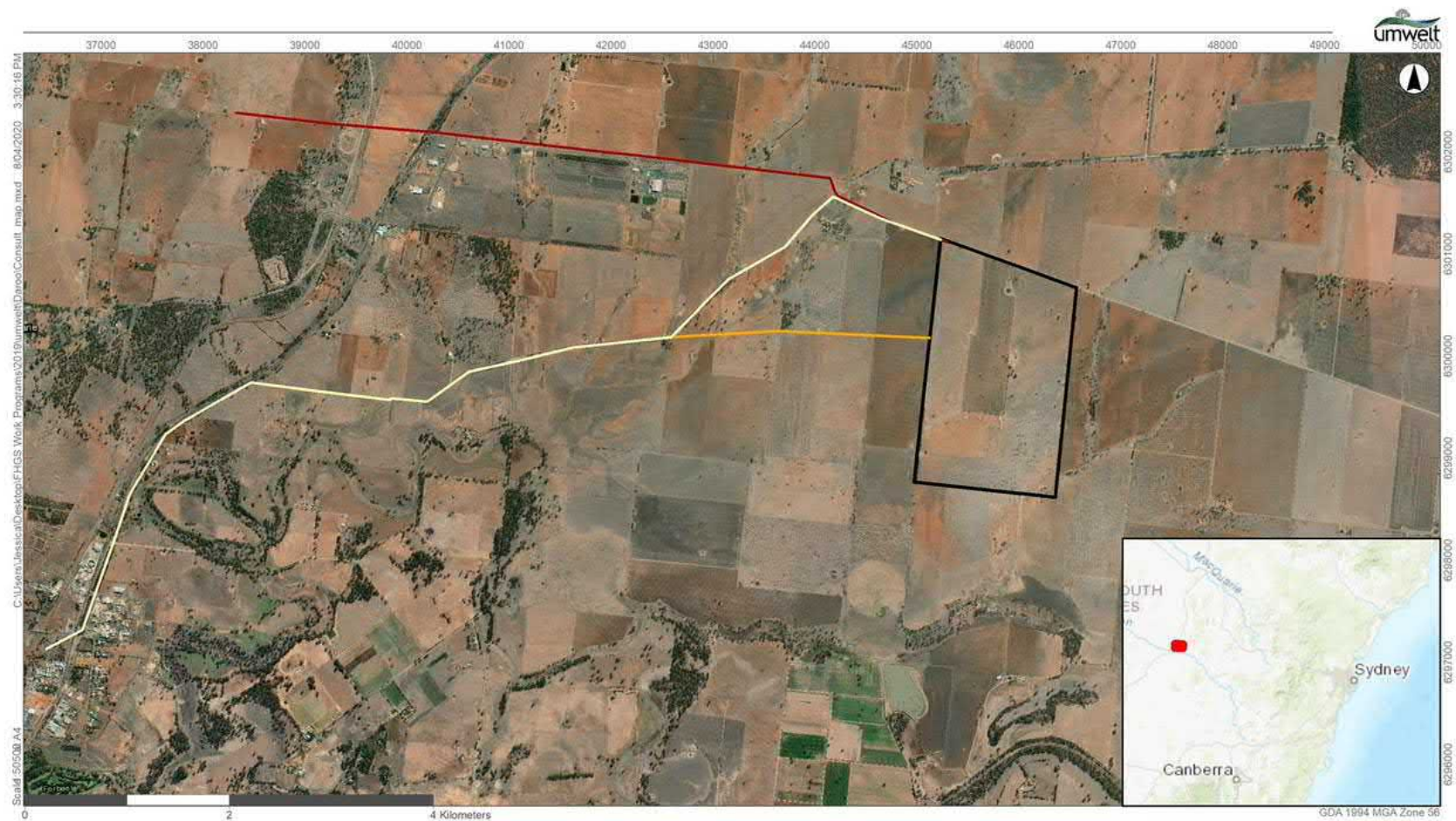
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Legend

- Electricity Transmission Line Option 1
- Electricity Transmission Line Option 2
- Electricity Transmission Line Option 3
- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Danny Molloy

Email: dgaip@hotmail.com

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to ascertain if your organisation has cultural information relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area. If your organisation wishes to be involved in the project, please register your interest no later than 10 June 2020 to:

Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284

E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

In compliance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010) the contact details for the proponent are as follows:

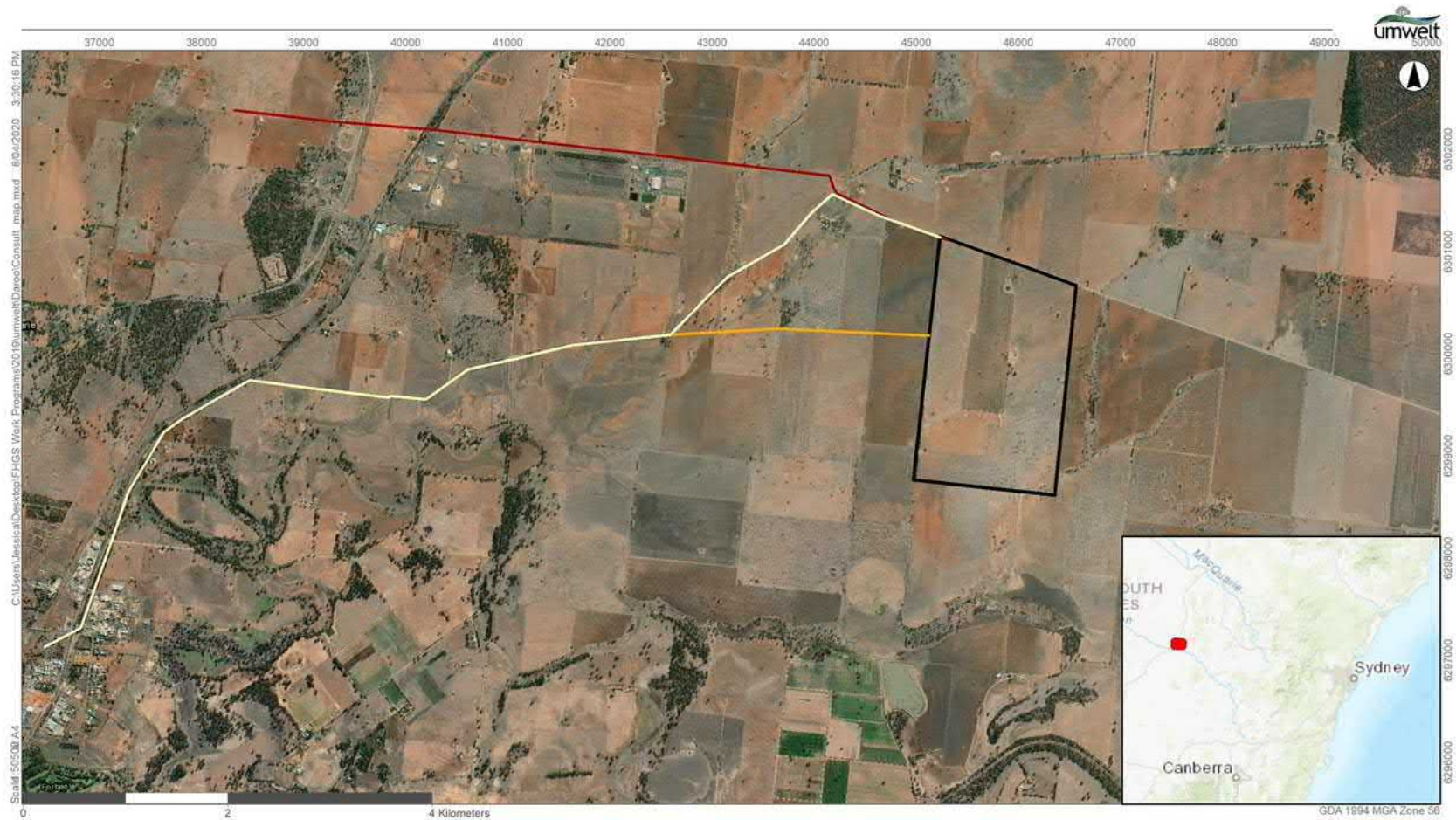
Catherine O’Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone +610 3 8621 6485
E: coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

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Yours sincerely

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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



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- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Delma Butler

Email: delmabutler@bigpond.com

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Darroobalgie Solar Farm project, Darroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Darroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

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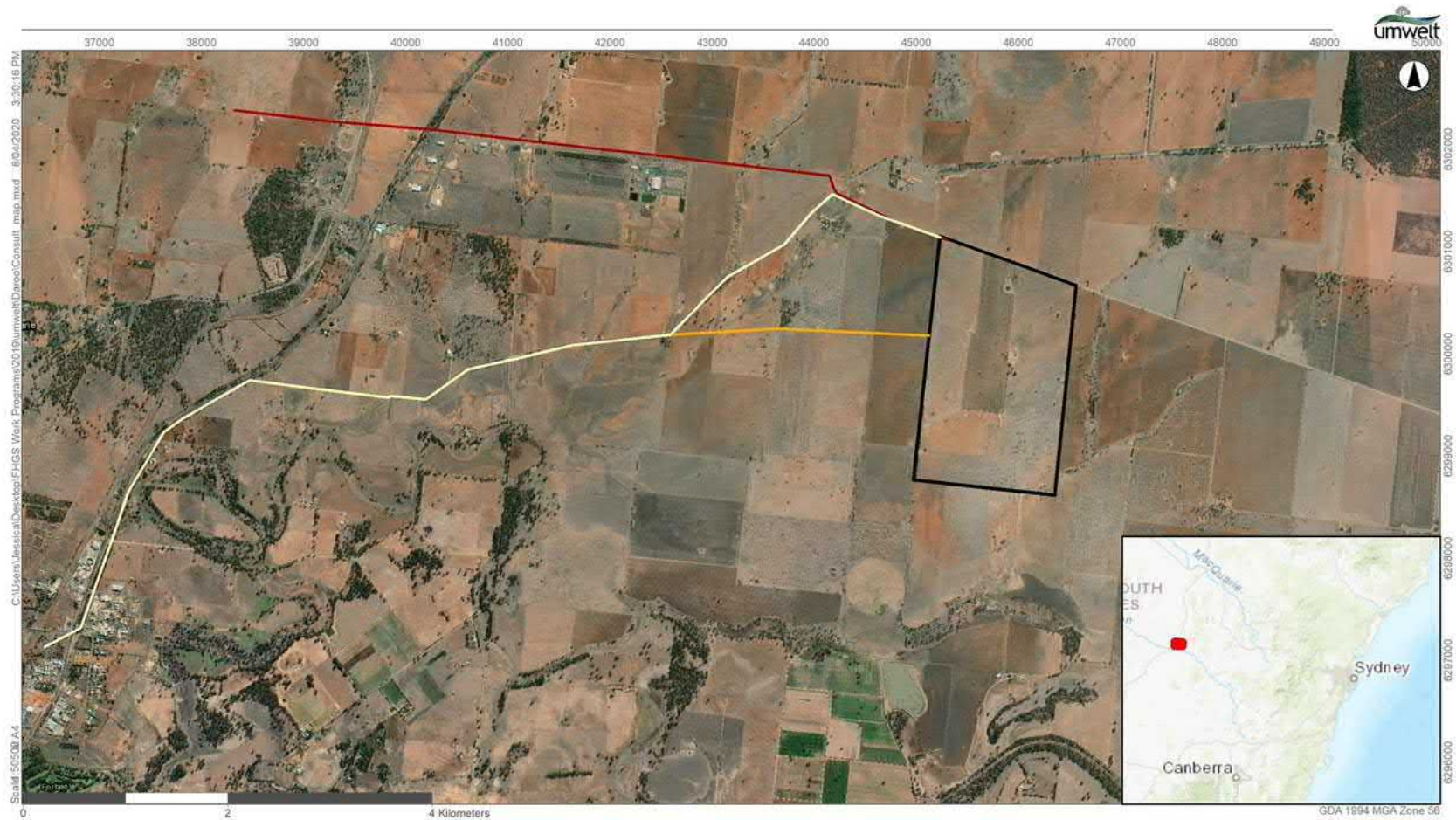
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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



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- Electricity Transmission Line Option 3
- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
Aboriginal Reference Group
Private Bay 2010
816 Tocal Road
Paterson NSW 2421

Email: admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

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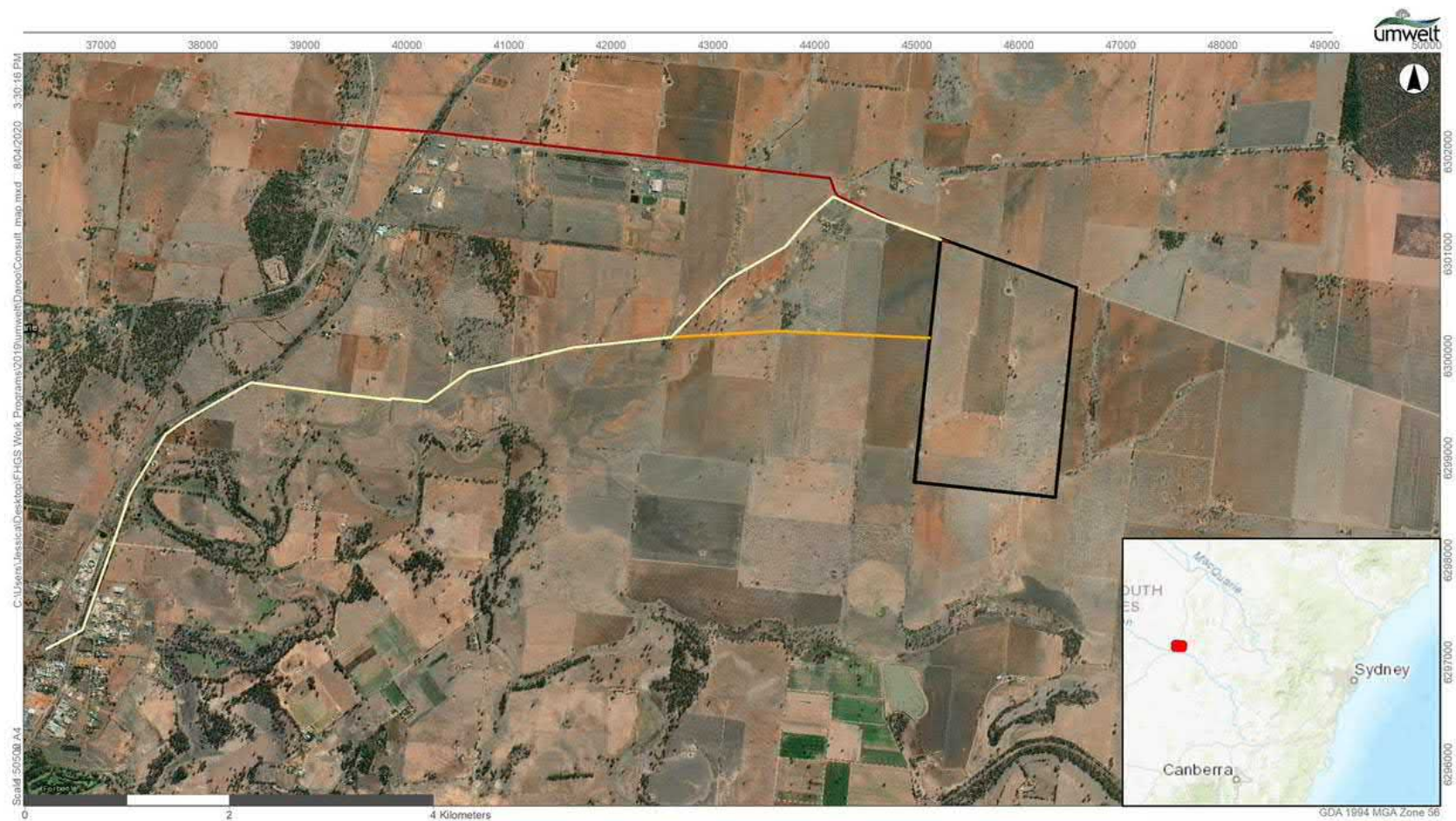
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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



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- Electricity Transmission Line Option 3
- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Jodie Markwort

Email: jodie.markwort1@det.nsw.edu.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

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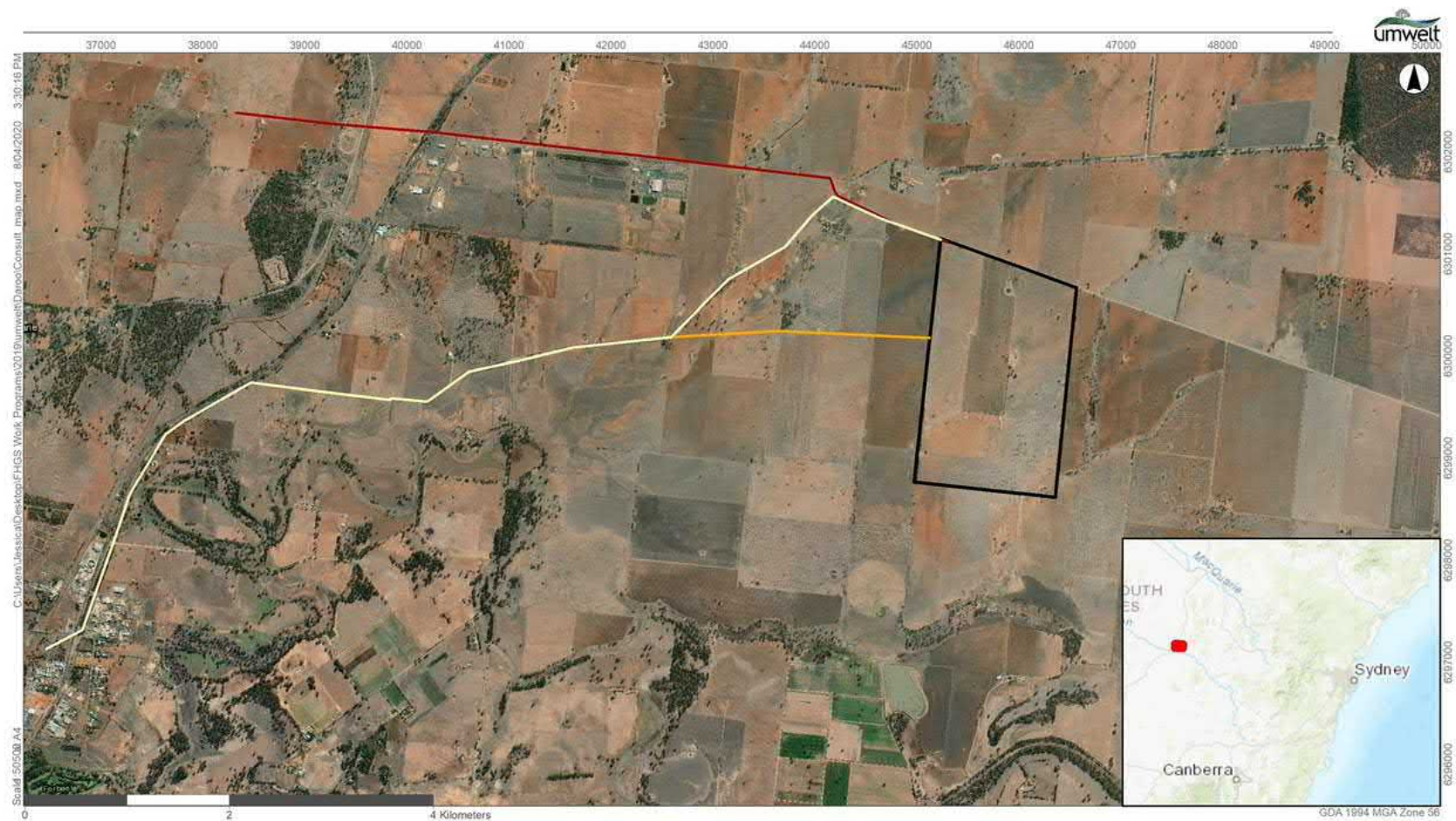
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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



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- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Joy Russel

Email: Joy.Russel@det.nsw.edu.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

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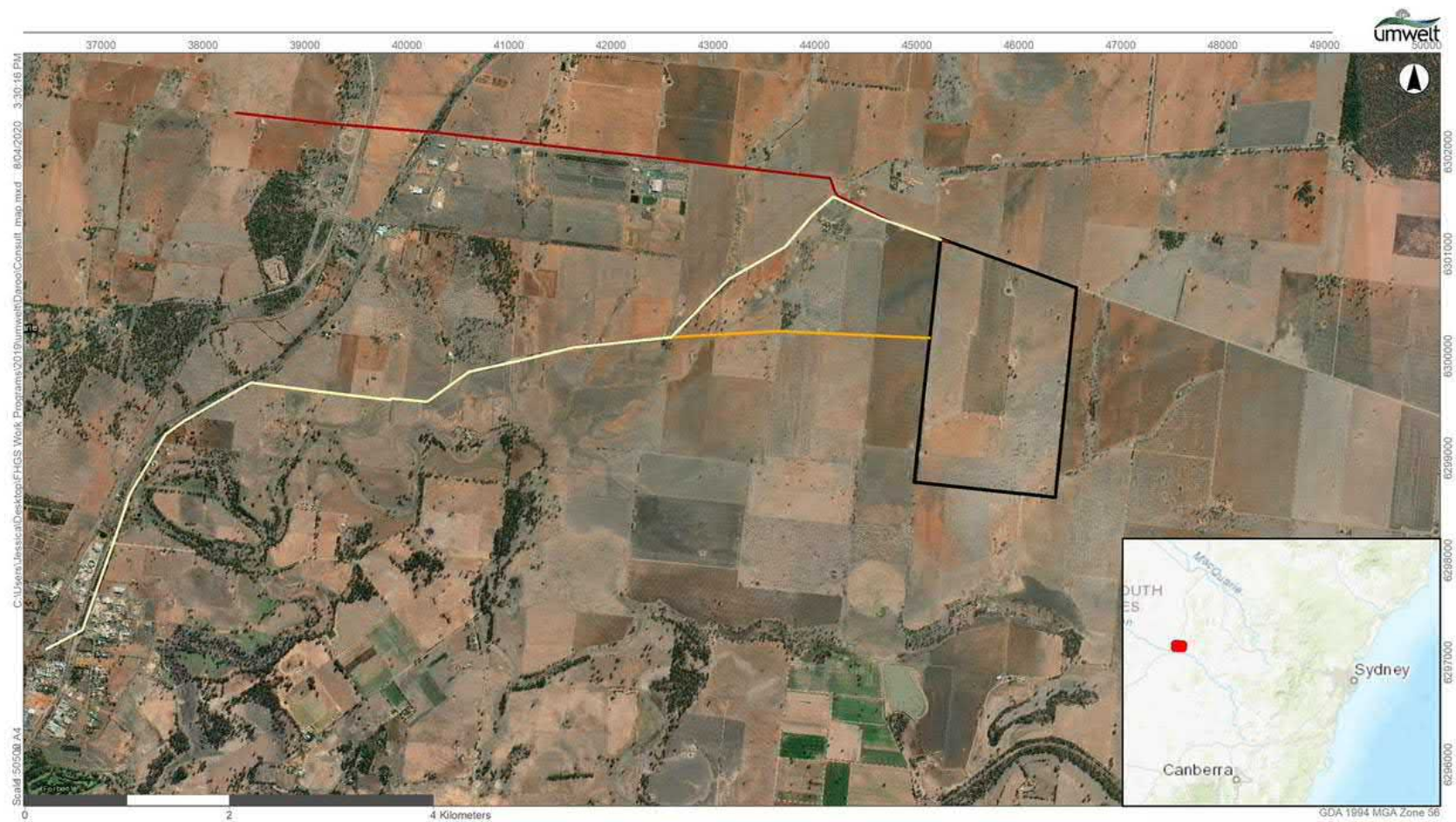
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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



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- Electricity Transmission Line Option 3
- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Kelly Bowden

Email: kelly@binaalbilla.com.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

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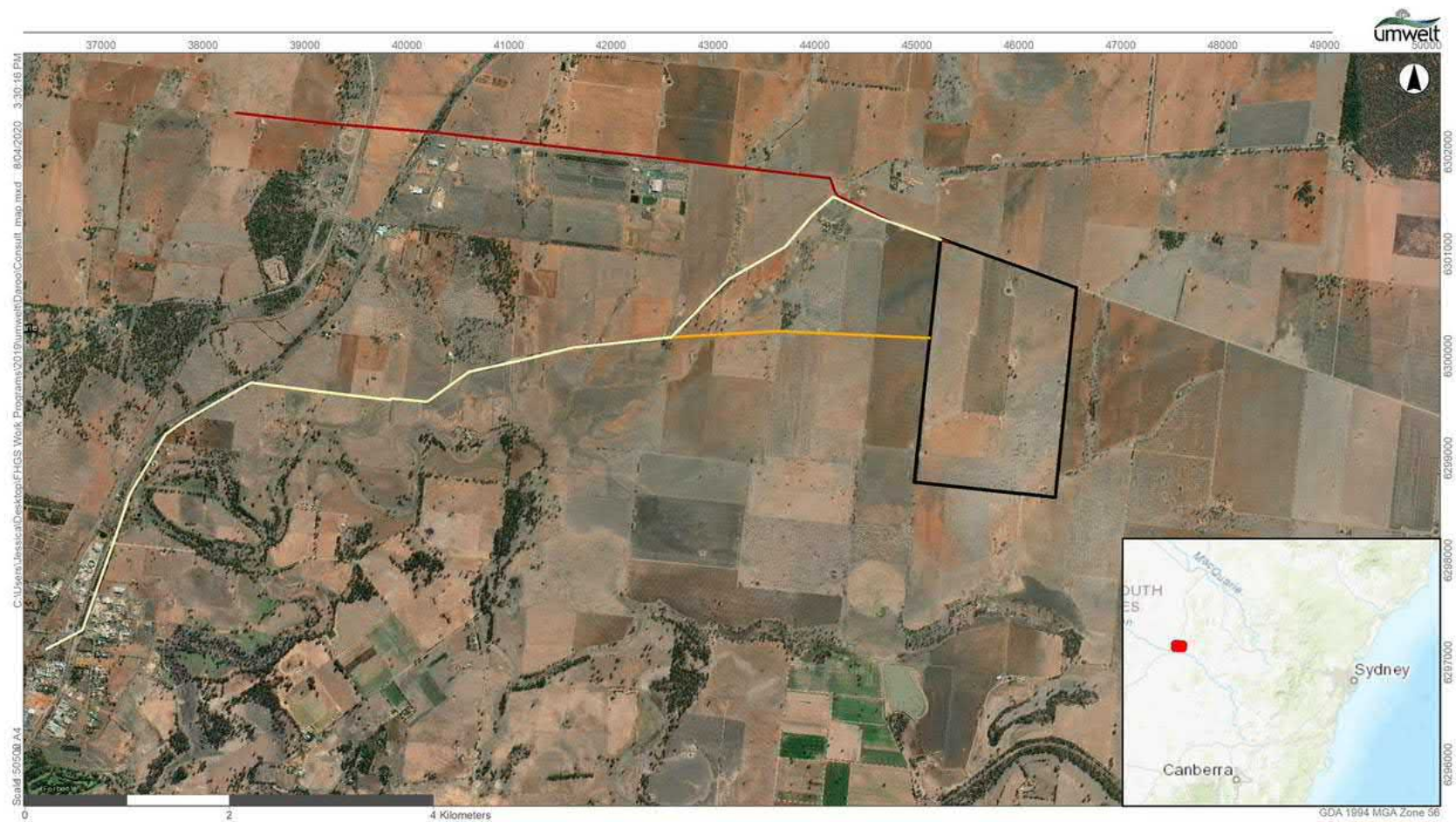


FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Kerry Stirling

Email: ast18520@bigpond.net.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

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The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

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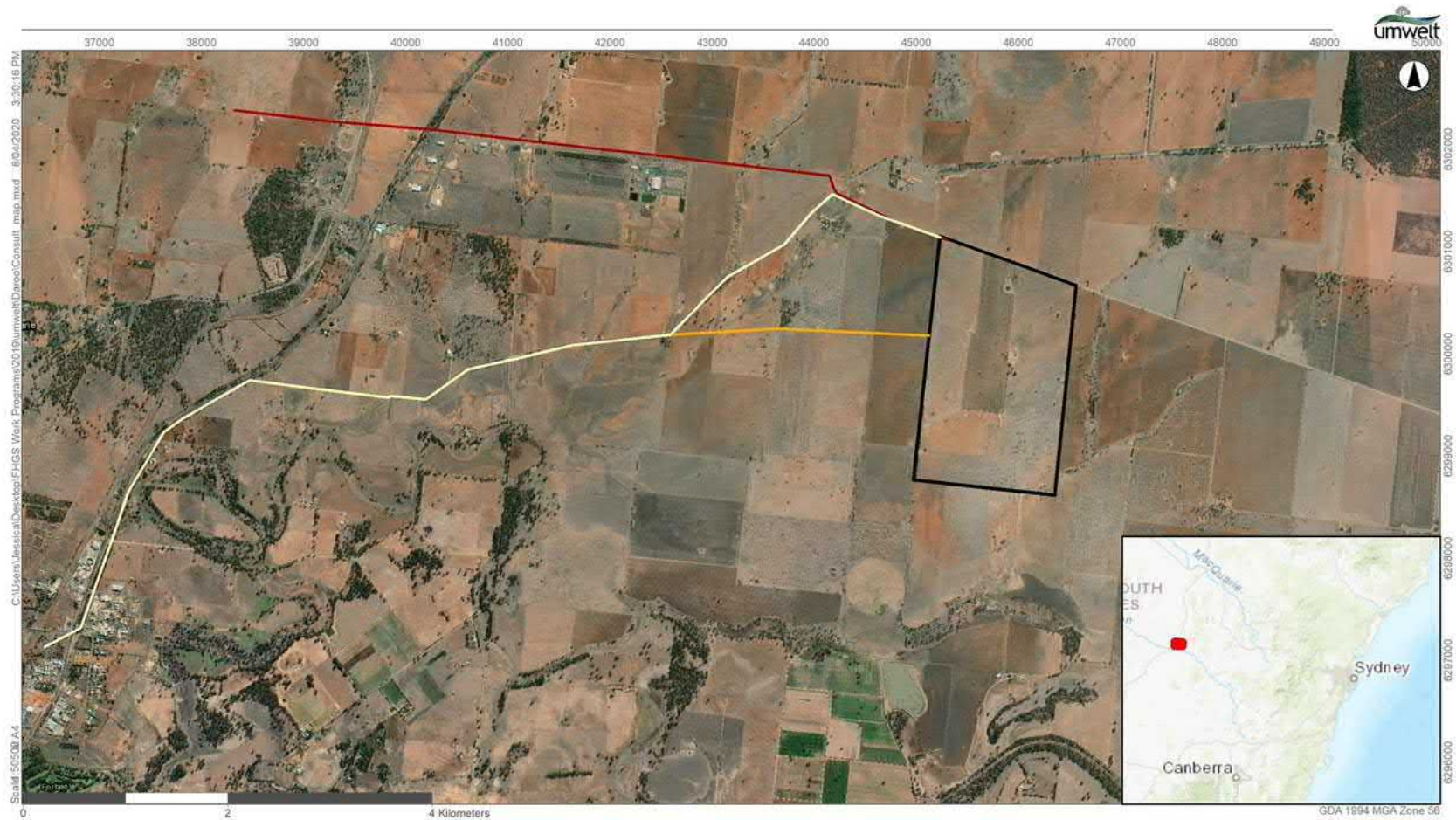
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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



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- Electricity Transmission Line Option 3
- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Lachlan Catchment Management Authority
Aboriginal Reference Group
2 Sheriff Street
Forbes NSW 2871

Email:

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

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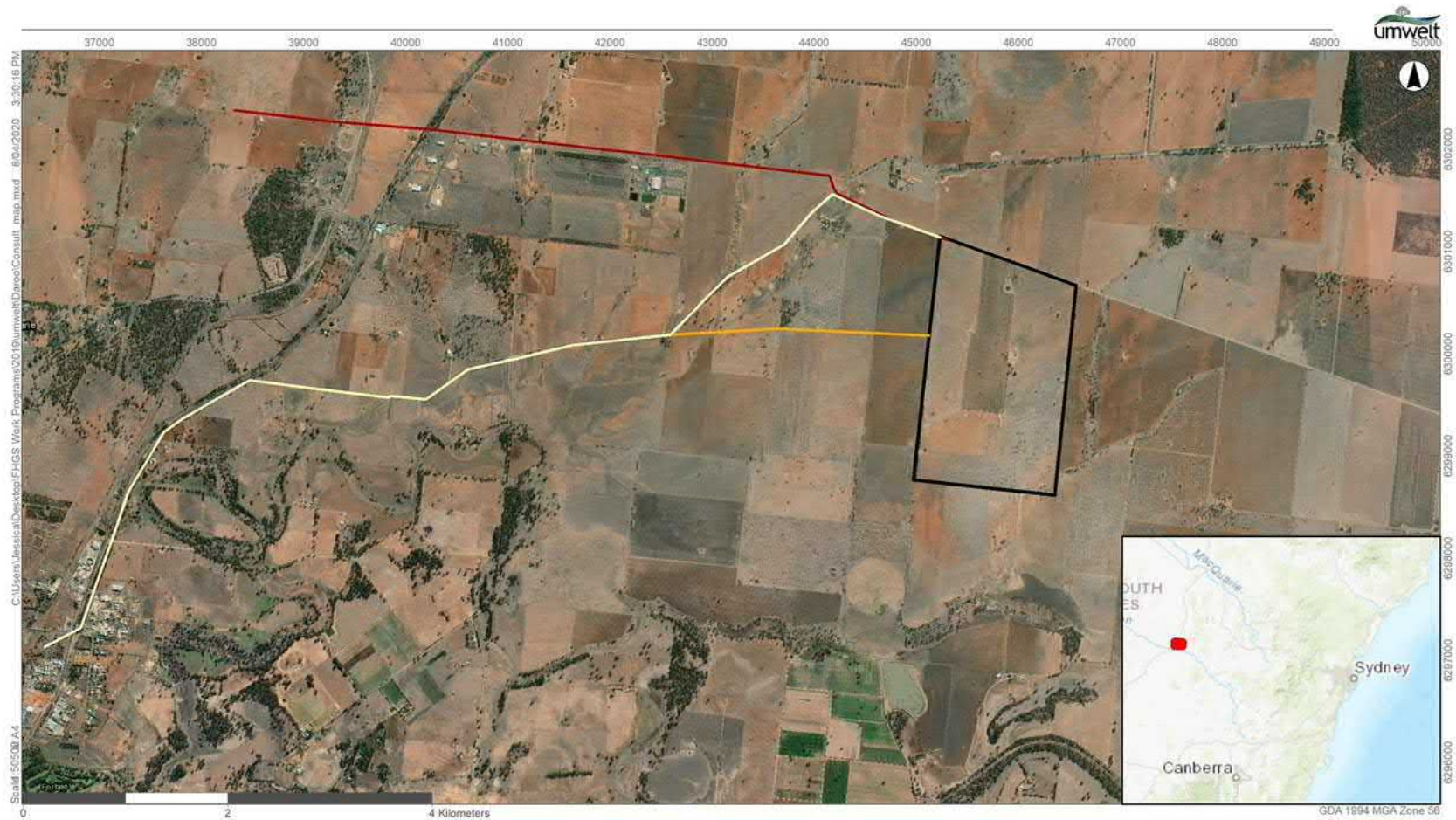
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Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Larry Towney

Email: larry.towney@lts.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Darroobalgie Solar Farm project, Darroobalgie NSW

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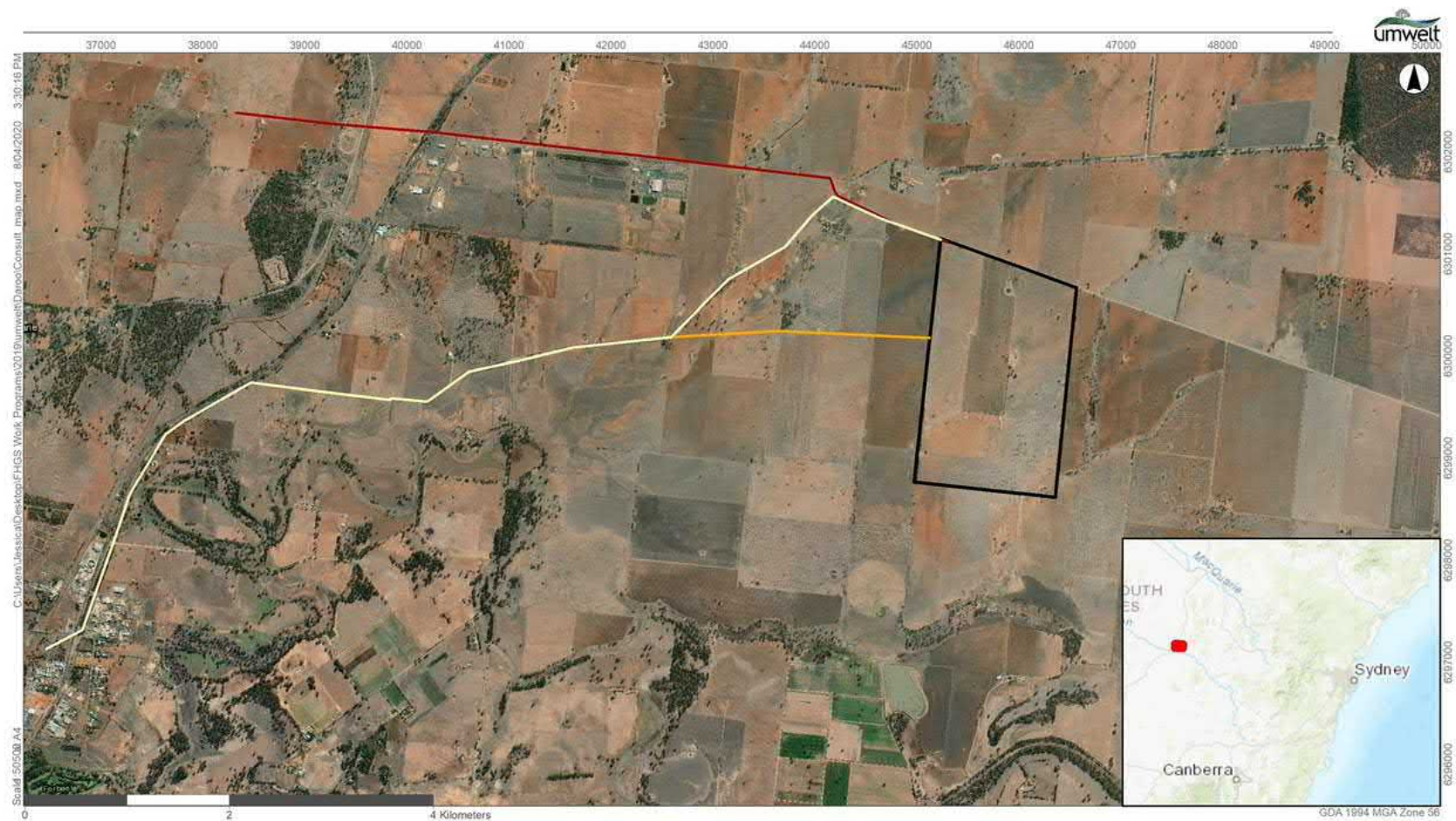
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Senior Archaeologist



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- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Mary Hodge

Email: marytommy27@hotmail.com

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

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The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to ascertain if your organisation has cultural information relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area. If your organisation wishes to be involved in the project, please register your interest no later than 10 June 2020 to:

Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284

E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

In compliance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010) the contact details for the proponent are as follows:

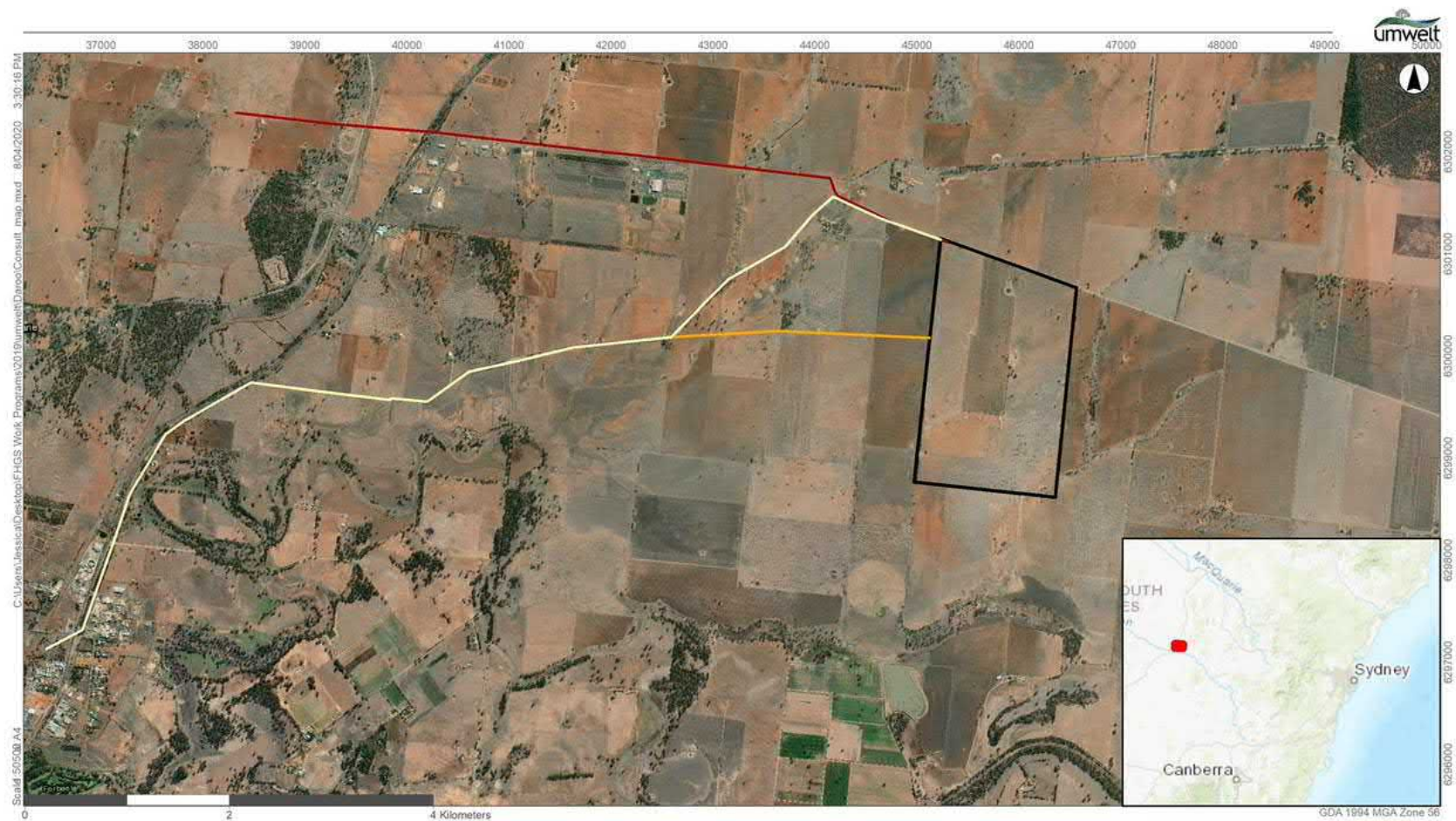
Catherine O’Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone +610 3 8621 6485
E: coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or wish to discuss the proposed project further, please do not hesitate to contact myself via email or on 02 4950 5322.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Legend

- Electricity Transmission Line Option 1
- Electricity Transmission Line Option 2
- Electricity Transmission Line Option 3
- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/AF/27052020

27 May 2020

Peak Hill Bogan River Traditional Owner
Sylvana Keating, Area Manager
PO Box 774
Forbes NSW 2871

Email:

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) have been engaged by Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that addresses the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010c) and *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA relates to the proposed establishment of a new solar farm development, to be known as the Daroobalgie Solar Farm, located 11km northeast of Forbes (see **Figure 1.1** attached).

The Project is expected to generate approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) and is considered a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the assessment process and the ACHA will inform the EIS. In preparing the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of Pacific Hydro) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and will assist the Director General of the OEH in his or her consideration of the project.

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to ascertain if your organisation has cultural information relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area. If your organisation wishes to be involved in the project, please register your interest no later than 10 June 2020 to:

Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284

E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

In compliance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010) the contact details for the proponent are as follows:

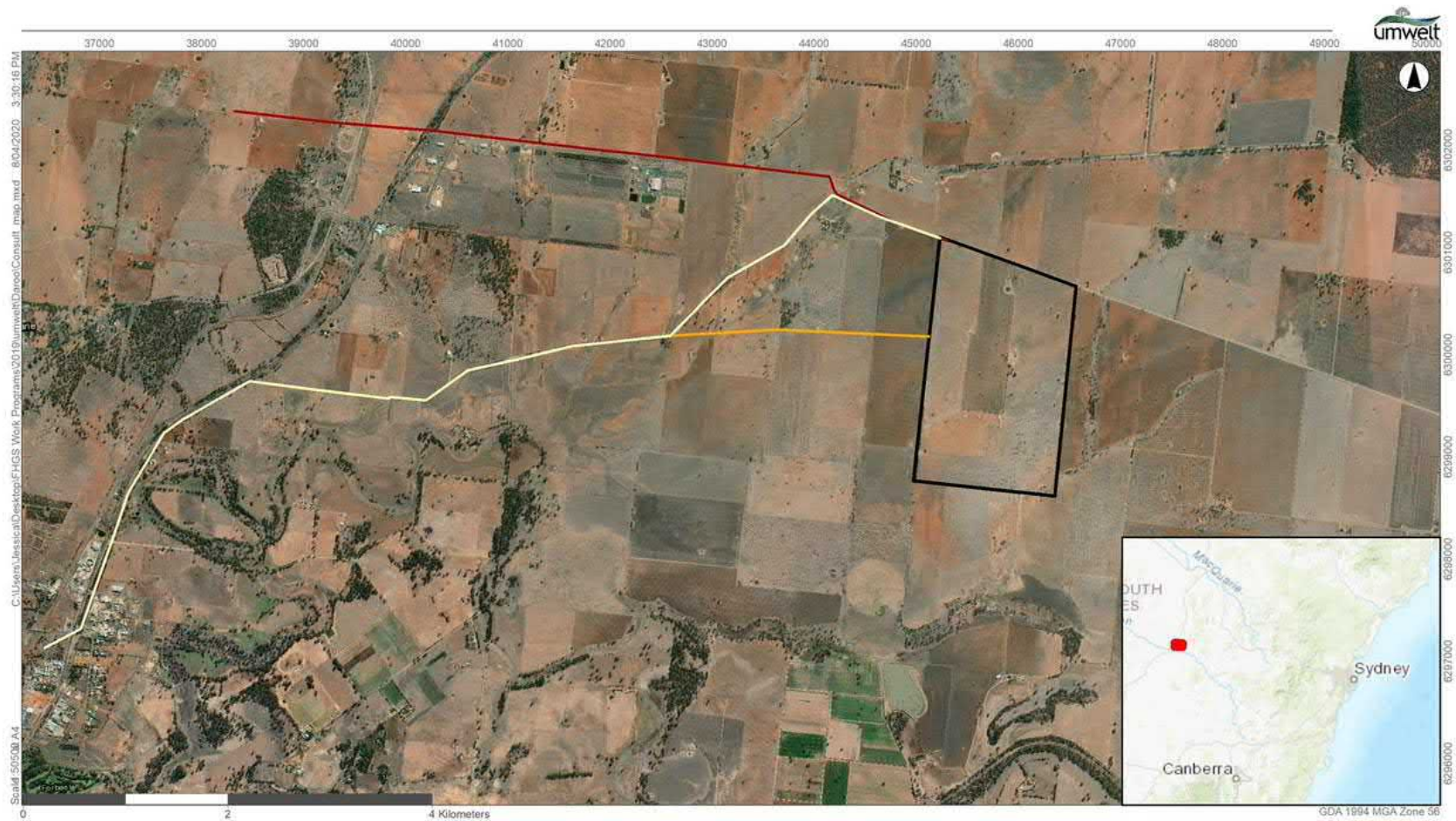
Catherine O’Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone +610 3 8621 6485
E: coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or wish to discuss the proposed project further, please do not hesitate to contact myself via email or on 02 4950 5322.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist



Legend

- Electricity Transmission Line Option 1
- Electricity Transmission Line Option 2
- Electricity Transmission Line Option 3
- Core Development Area

Image Source: Esri 2019

FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

Alison Fenwick

From: Kathy Down
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 3:55 PM
To: Alison Fenwick; Jessica Blackman
Subject: FW: 4961 - Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Response for 4961 below.
Regards
Kath

Kathy Down
Senior Project Administrator

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
75 York Street
Teralba, NSW 2284

Phone: (02) 4950 5322

www.umwelt.com.au

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Newcastle ph. 02 4950 5322 | **Perth** ph. 08 6260 0700 | **Canberra** ph. 02 6262 9484 | **Sydney** ph. 1300 793 267 | **Brisbane** ph. 1300 793 267

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: dgajp@hotmail.com <dgajp@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 3:53 PM
To: Kathy Down <Kdown@umwelt.com.au>
Cc: facwp2014@gmail.com; wiradjurieliderscouncil@gmail.com
Subject: Re: 4961 - Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Kath, thank you. Please register Forbes Aboriginal & Community Working Party as interested. Also Wiradjuri Council of Elders

On 27 May 2020 3:39 pm, Kathy Down <Kdown@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Hi
Please see the attached letter regarding this project.
If your organisation wishes to be involved in the project, please register your interest no later than 10 June 2020 to:
Alison Fenwick
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284

E: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

Regards
Kath

Kathy Down
Senior Project Administrator

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
75 York Street
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Phone: (02) 4950 5322

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Jessica Blackman

From: Jessica Blackman
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2020 11:29 AM
To: phlalc@yahoo.com.au
Cc: Alison Fenwick
Subject: RE: 4961 - Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an ACHA for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Good morning Cherie,

I just wanted to confirm that we received your company's registration of interest to be consulted on the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project. There are no issues with you registering on the last day and I have added you to our consultation list.

In acknowledgement of your office closure and limited access to internet, I will phone you alongside sending future communications so you are aware of it with plenty of time to respond.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
75 York Street
Teralba, NSW 2284

Phone: (02) 4950 5322
Mob: 0412 350 780

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Kathy Down <Kdown@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2020 11:13 AM
To: Jessica Blackman <jblackman@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: FW: 4961 - Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an ACHA for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Hi Jess
A response below for job 4961.
Regards
Kath

Kathy Down
Senior Project Administrator

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

75 York Street
Teralba, NSW 2284

Phone: (02) 4950 5322

www.umwelt.com.au

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**Newcastle ph. 02 4950 5322 | Perth ph. 08 6260 0700 | Canberra ph. 02 6262 9484 | Sydney ph. 1300 793 267 |
Brisbane ph. 1300 793 267**

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council <pahlalc@yahoo.com.au>

Sent: Friday, 8 May 2020 11:12 AM

To: Kathy Down <kdown@umwelt.com.au>

Subject: Re: 4961 - Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an ACHA for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm project, Daroobalgie NSW

Dear Kathy,

Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey

The Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council would like to register our interest to be included in the above mention of the solar farm project in Forbes.

I would like to address that due to the current CO VID 19 crisis at the moment we have to work from home & have limited access to internet, the office is still contactable by phone if you feel the need.

I apologise if there is any problems with us submitting on the final day.

regards

Cherie Keed
CEO
Peak Hill Lalc

On Thursday, 23 April 2020, 02:53:22 pm AEST, Kathy Down <kdown@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Hi

Please find attached a letter regarding the abovementioned project.

Regards
Kath

Kathy Down
Senior Project Administrator

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
75 York Street
Teralba, NSW 2284

Phone: (02) 4950 5322

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Our Ref: 4961/NR/IB/22062020

22 June 2020

Peak Hill LALC
Cherie Keed
PO Box 63
Peak Hill NSW 2869

Email: phlalc@yahoo.com.au

Dear Cherie Keed

**Re: Draft Methodology for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed
Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project, Forbes NSW**

Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) is seeking approval for the development of a utility scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, to be known as Daroobalgie Solar Farm. This project will directly contribute to the state's renewable energy targets with an expected generating capacity of approximately 100 Megawatts (MW). Additional onsite infrastructure will be required including an operations and maintenance facility, temporary construction compound, electrical storage and collection systems, and an electricity transmission line.

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) has been engaged by Pacific Hydro to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) which will form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The ACHA will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation), the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage [OEHS] 2011), the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010) (the consultation requirements) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice).

As a registered Aboriginal party for the project, we are writing to provide you with the draft methodology for the ACHA for your review and comment.

1.0 Description of the Project

The Project encompasses approximately 300 hectares (ha) of land within the Forbes Shire Council Local Government Area (referred to as the core development area) and an electric transmission line (ETL) of up to 11 additional kilometres connecting the core development area to the Forbes Substation located in Wyndham Avenue. There are currently three potential ETL easement routes, of which a single final route will be decided prior to commencement of the physical survey (see **Figure 1.1**).

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Brisbane | Perth

T | 1300 793 267
E | info@umwelt.com.au

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Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
ABN 18 059 519 041



FIGURE 1.1
Project Area

The Project will include the following key components:

- Network of photovoltaic solar panel arrays and power conversion units (PCUs)(DC-AC inverters)
- Substation development
- Battery energy storage system (BESS) with embedded storage capabilities of approximately 40MW/160MWh
- Electrical collection systems, substation, switchyard and control room
- Temporary construction compound
- Operations and Maintenance facility, including demountable offices, amenities, equipment sheds, storage and parking areas
- Internal access roads tracks and
- Electricity Transmission Line (ETL) infrastructure.

1.0 Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

The consultation process will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements (DECCW 2010). The proposed methodology for the ACHA (pending comments from registered Aboriginal parties) is as follows:

1. provision of a draft assessment methodology for review by the registered Aboriginal parties (this letter)
2. provision of a review period during which Aboriginal parties can provide comment and propose amendments to the draft methodology (up to 28 days from receipt of this letter, with comments due by close of business **20 July 2020**)
3. completion of a survey of the project area in accordance with the draft methodology provided in this assessment
4. the development of a draft ACHA report to include:
 - details of the nature of the project
 - a description of the potential impacts
 - full details of the registered Aboriginal party consultation process
 - the results of an Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search, Native Title search and other relevant searches
 - a review of the cultural context of the area that will draw heavily on information provided by registered Aboriginal parties and the results of previous cultural heritage and archaeological assessments undertaken in the area
 - a review of background information related to the environmental characteristics of the project area that may have determined how Aboriginal people may have occupied/utilised the area and the likelihood that archaeological evidence may remain and be detectable within the project area
 - the preparation of a predictive model drawing on the above

- details of the survey methodology and results
 - details of any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits located during the survey
 - an assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance (as provided by the registered Aboriginal parties) of the project area
 - an assessment of the archaeological significance of any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits identified within the project area
 - an assessment of the potential impact by the project to any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits identified within the project area
 - a discussion of management options
 - management recommendations.
5. the provision of a draft ACHA report for comment by all registered Aboriginal parties (comment period extends for 28 days from receipt of draft ACHA report)
 6. discussion/incorporation of comments/amendments to develop and finalise the ACHA report
 7. provision of the final ACHA report to registered Aboriginal parties and Client.

2.0 Consultation with Aboriginal Parties During the Assessment Process

Umwelt acknowledges and understands that cultural values, by definition, relate to values outside those associated with specific archaeological sites/objects. Throughout the assessment process, we invite comment from Aboriginal parties regarding any cultural values associated with the project area and will ensure that any information provided regarding cultural values (be they associated with a specific site or provided with reference to a landscape feature or within a broader context) are documented and recorded in accordance with the wishes of the relevant Aboriginal party for inclusion in the ACHA report. The inclusion of any such information in the final assessment is dependent on its provision by the Aboriginal parties and the way in which parties wish to share that information (for example, if information is particularly sensitive it can be excluded from documents placed on public exhibition).

We note that Section 3.2 of the consultation requirements specifies that the objective of consultation is to ensure 'that Aboriginal people have the opportunity to improve assessment outcomes'. Factors specified as assisting in meeting this objective include providing Aboriginal parties with the opportunity to provide information on cultural values (as invited in this draft methodology and throughout the assessment process), influence methods regarding assessment of significance for Aboriginal objects/places (which can be undertaken in response to this draft methodology, during fieldwork and in commenting on the draft ACHA report) and commenting on the draft ACHA report. Our approach is designed to ensure compliance with this objective, including the potential for in-field consultation with Aboriginal party representatives during fieldwork. Umwelt archaeologists are trained to seek and document cultural feedback provided by Aboriginal party representatives during fieldwork. This is not limited to cultural values associated with archaeological sites but may encompass any values identified by Aboriginal people.

We look forward to working with your organisation throughout the project to ensure that we adequately document any information you wish to provide regarding Aboriginal cultural values. Please feel free to contact us to request any additional information or assistance you may require to facilitate the provision of your input.

3.0 Survey Methodology

The draft survey methodology is designed to ensure compliance with requirements for archaeological survey as established in the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice). This includes development of an appropriate sampling strategy and recording of information during survey.

It is proposed that the survey will be undertaken with involvement of up to three representatives to be selected from the registered Aboriginal parties, and one Umwelt archaeologist over the course of up to three days. It is proposed that the entirety of the core development area and the final confirmed Electricity Transmission Line (ETL) route will be surveyed, with field team members to remain a sufficient distance apart to ensure adequate survey coverage of the survey units.

The field survey will also be undertaken with reference to any COVID-19 management requirements applicable at the time of the survey.

3.1 Recording information during survey

Survey units will be defined and named with reference to Requirement 5c of the Code of Practice, including recording start and finish points and/or boundaries for all survey units using a hand-held GPS receiver (set to allow recording of data with datum MGA94) and topographic mapping (where relevant), with track logs to be recorded for all pedestrian transects. Start and finish points/boundaries for survey units will be defined based on landforms, project area boundaries, access or other arbitrary terminations (as specified in the Code of Practice). The spacing between individuals will also be recorded for each survey unit.

Photographs will be undertaken for landforms/survey units (where informative). Information recorded for each survey unit will include:

- Landform (in units based on those established by McDonald et al 2009)
- Gradient (where relevant)
- Vegetation
- Geology and soils (where suitable areas of exposure/visibility are present)
- Identified Aboriginal resources (food and medicine plants, prey animals, stone and water)
- Levels of average ground surface visibility within the survey unit (in accordance with the Requirement 9 of the Code of Practice)
- Extent and type of exposures within the survey unit (with reference to the factors leading to the exposure such as erosion, earth-moving activities, track establishment etc.)
- Any information provided by the registered Aboriginal parties in relation to cultural values, noting that such information will be recorded in accordance with the wishes of the party providing the information and
- Any site, area of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) or landscape feature of Aboriginal cultural value present within the survey unit (see below for further information on site/PAD recording).

Any Aboriginal archaeological sites identified during the survey will be assessed with reference to the site boundaries. Factors that will be taken into consideration in defining and mapping site boundaries may include the distribution of surface artefacts, landforms or physical boundaries and cultural information.

Sufficient information will be recorded for all sites to meet Requirement 7 of the Code of Practice. The archaeological and Aboriginal and cultural significance of any site will be discussed with the registered Aboriginal parties participating in the survey.

The archaeological potential of landforms/specific areas within the project area will be assessed with reference to factors including the archaeological context of the local area, the evaluation of the soil profile (based on soil landscape mapping, exposed soil profiles identified during the survey and geomorphic understandings of the area) and the identification of landforms that may have greater archaeological sensitivity. The extent of any area of identified archaeological potential will be defined and documented for inclusion in subsequent reporting. The archaeological and Aboriginal cultural significance of any area of identified archaeological potential will be discussed with the registered Aboriginal parties participating in the survey.

4.0 Timing of fieldwork and Expressions of Interest

The dates proposed for the fieldwork will be provided when finalised however it is anticipated the survey will take up to three days, commencing August 2020. As noted above, Pacific Hydro will be offering paid engagement to three representatives of registered Aboriginal parties. In order to assist in identifying the parties to be engaged, an invitation to submit an Expression of Interest is provided to all registered Aboriginal parties with this letter.

It is noted that, regardless of the outcomes of the Expression of Interest process, no Aboriginal parties will be excluded from participating in the fieldwork but are welcome to attend on a voluntary basis if not selected for paid engagement.

5.0 Summary

This letter provides details of the proposed methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with the Project. In accordance with the consultation requirements (DECCW 2010), we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business **20 July 2020** and include your completed Expression of Interest if you wish to be commercially engaged. Comments regarding the draft methodology can be provided verbally or in writing to:

Alison Fenwick
Archaeologist
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt)
Phone: 02 4950 5322

In compliance with the OEH Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (2010) the contact details for the relevant Project Manager are as follows:

Catherine O’Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone +610 3 8621 6485
E: coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

We trust this information meets with your current requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 1300 793 267 should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist

Expressions of Interest for Engagement of Aboriginal Parties

1.0 Key Selection Criteria for Engagement

The key selection criteria for the engagement of Aboriginal parties are divided into two components: information provision and working requirements. These are outlined further below.

1.1 Information Provision

The completion of survey provides the opportunity for further interpretation of the cultural significance of the project area. In order to inform this process and in keeping with the intent of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010*, the intent is to engage Aboriginal parties who can provide this information. Section 3.3.1 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010* specifies the following:

Aboriginal people who can provide the information outlined above are, based on Aboriginal lore and custom, the traditional owners or custodians of the land that is the subject of the proposed project. Traditional owners or custodians with appropriate cultural heritage knowledge to inform decision making who seek to register their interest as an Aboriginal party are those people who:

- continue to maintain a deep respect for their ancestral belief system, traditional lore and custom
- recognise their responsibilities and obligations to protect and conserve their culture and heritage and care for their traditional lands or Country
- have the trust of their community, knowledge and understanding of their culture, and permission to speak about it.

In some cases, the information required for decision making will be held by Aboriginal people with statutory recognition for certain lands:

- Aboriginal owners in accordance with the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* and/or
- Native title holders or registered native title claimants in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* and *Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994*

It is acknowledged that Aboriginal people who, through a historical presence in a particular area, may have developed cultural knowledge relevant to the Aboriginal objects and/or places based on knowledge passed down to them by Aboriginal people with a traditional connection to Country. We respect the rights of Aboriginal people with a historical connection to Country to, with their permission, act on behalf of Aboriginal people with a traditional connection to Country. It is acknowledged that in some cases it will only be Aboriginal people with a historical connection to an area who have the knowledge to inform the assessment of cultural significance of certain objects/places, e.g. on Aboriginal reserves and missions.

It is also noted that the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010* acknowledge the statutory obligations of Local Aboriginal Land Councils under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

In your EOI, we ask that you address these key criteria. We understand that it may not be culturally appropriate to provide specific cultural information. Should you wish to provide verbal feedback, we are happy to discuss.

1.2 Working Requirements

In selecting your fieldwork representative, we ask that you ensure that the representative has appropriate experience and competence. Alternatively, if you wish to send a representative on a training basis, we ask that you just let us know so that we can account for this.

Key skills for fieldwork representatives include ability to identify stone artefacts, ability to undertake a full day of physically strenuous work (including traversing across terrain of varying difficulty) ability to work as part of a team and recognition that the survey must be conducted in accordance with the methodology provided. There will be an emphasis on safe working in accordance with safety planning documents and policies. There must be commitment to work for the agreed daily hours (likely to be 7am to 4pm), unless otherwise discussed.

Your nominated fieldwork representative/s must wear the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on site:

1. Long-sleeved high visibility work shirt
2. Long trousers
3. Steel capped work boots
4. Necessary protection from the elements such as sunglasses, insect repellent and a wide brimmed hat

It is the responsibility of your organisation to ensure your fieldwork representative/s are equipped with the required PPE and are physically capable of undertaking the nominated fieldwork tasks.

Insurances and Rates

All Aboriginal parties undertaking fieldwork will be required to demonstrate that they hold relevant insurances, being workers compensation and public liability insurance.

If you would like to submit an EOI for commercial engagement, please provide copies of insurances and daily rates by no later than **20 July 2020** to:

Name: Alison Fenwick
Address: 75 York St Teralba NSW 2284
Phone: (02) 4950 532
Email: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

Should you require any further information or like to discuss the contents of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided.

Expression of Interest

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Proposed Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project at Daroobalgie, NSW

Name of Registered Aboriginal Party:	Peak Hill LALC
Address	
ABN	
Clarify your cultural connection to the area and the site with reference to the criteria in Section 1.1	
Name of Nominated Representatives:	
Nominated Representative's Contact Details: (phone and/or email)	
Prior Experience:	
We agree to provide our representative with all the required PPE and understand that he/she will not be able to participate without the appropriate PPE or proof of insurance cover.	
Quoted Payment Rates:	Hourly - Daily -
Information provided by: (please insert name)	
Position in Registered Aboriginal Party:	
Signature:	

Please provide details of your insurance cover below and attach copies of all appropriate insurances.

Insurance Details

Insurance Type	Insurance Company	Policy Number	Extent of Cover	Valid to
Public Liability				
Workers Compensation				

Our Ref: 4961/NR/JB/22062020

22 June 2020

Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
Marilyn Carroll-Johnson, Director

Email:

Dear Marilyn Carroll-Johnson, Director

**Re: Draft Methodology for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed
Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project, Forbes NSW**

Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) is seeking approval for the development of a utility scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, to be known as Daroobalgie Solar Farm. This project will directly contribute to the state's renewable energy targets with an expected generating capacity of approximately 100 Megawatts (MW). Additional onsite infrastructure will be required including an operations and maintenance facility, temporary construction compound, electrical storage and collection systems, and an electricity transmission line.

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) has been engaged by Pacific Hydro to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) which will form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The ACHA will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation), the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH] 2011), the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010) (the consultation requirements) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice).

As a registered Aboriginal party for the project, we are writing to provide you with the draft methodology for the ACHA for your review and comment.

1.0 Description of the Project

The Project encompasses approximately 300 hectares (ha) of land within the Forbes Shire Council Local Government Area (referred to as the core development area) and an electric transmission line (ETL) of up to 11 additional kilometres connecting the core development area to the Forbes Substation located in Wyndham Avenue. There are currently three potential ETL easement routes, of which a single final route will be decided prior to commencement of the physical survey (see **Figure 1.1**).

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The Project will include the following key components:

- Network of photovoltaic solar panel arrays and power conversion units (PCUs)(DC-AC inverters)
- Substation development
- Battery energy storage system (BESS) with embedded storage capabilities of approximately 40MW/160MWh
- Electrical collection systems, substation, switchyard and control room
- Temporary construction compound
- Operations and Maintenance facility, including demountable offices, amenities, equipment sheds, storage and parking areas
- Internal access roads tracks and
- Electricity Transmission Line (ETL) infrastructure.

1.0 Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

The consultation process will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements (DECCW 2010). The proposed methodology for the ACHA (pending comments from registered Aboriginal parties) is as follows:

1. provision of a draft assessment methodology for review by the registered Aboriginal parties (this letter)
2. provision of a review period during which Aboriginal parties can provide comment and propose amendments to the draft methodology (up to 28 days from receipt of this letter, with comments due by close of business **20 July 2020**)
3. completion of a survey of the project area in accordance with the draft methodology provided in this assessment
4. the development of a draft ACHA report to include:
 - details of the nature of the project
 - a description of the potential impacts
 - full details of the registered Aboriginal party consultation process
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 - a review of the cultural context of the area that will draw heavily on information provided by registered Aboriginal parties and the results of previous cultural heritage and archaeological assessments undertaken in the area
 - a review of background information related to the environmental characteristics of the project area that may have determined how Aboriginal people may have occupied/utilised the area and the likelihood that archaeological evidence may remain and be detectable within the project area
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- details of the survey methodology and results
 - details of any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits located during the survey
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 6. discussion/incorporation of comments/amendments to develop and finalise the ACHA report
 7. provision of the final ACHA report to registered Aboriginal parties and Client.

2.0 Consultation with Aboriginal Parties During the Assessment Process

Umwelt acknowledges and understands that cultural values, by definition, relate to values outside those associated with specific archaeological sites/objects. Throughout the assessment process, we invite comment from Aboriginal parties regarding any cultural values associated with the project area and will ensure that any information provided regarding cultural values (be they associated with a specific site or provided with reference to a landscape feature or within a broader context) are documented and recorded in accordance with the wishes of the relevant Aboriginal party for inclusion in the ACHA report. The inclusion of any such information in the final assessment is dependent on its provision by the Aboriginal parties and the way in which parties wish to share that information (for example, if information is particularly sensitive it can be excluded from documents placed on public exhibition).

We note that Section 3.2 of the consultation requirements specifies that the objective of consultation is to ensure 'that Aboriginal people have the opportunity to improve assessment outcomes'. Factors specified as assisting in meeting this objective include providing Aboriginal parties with the opportunity to provide information on cultural values (as invited in this draft methodology and throughout the assessment process), influence methods regarding assessment of significance for Aboriginal objects/places (which can be undertaken in response to this draft methodology, during fieldwork and in commenting on the draft ACHA report) and commenting on the draft ACHA report. Our approach is designed to ensure compliance with this objective, including the potential for in-field consultation with Aboriginal party representatives during fieldwork. Umwelt archaeologists are trained to seek and document cultural feedback provided by Aboriginal party representatives during fieldwork. This is not limited to cultural values associated with archaeological sites but may encompass any values identified by Aboriginal people.

We look forward to working with your organisation throughout the project to ensure that we adequately document any information you wish to provide regarding Aboriginal cultural values. Please feel free to contact us to request any additional information or assistance you may require to facilitate the provision of your input.

3.0 Survey Methodology

The draft survey methodology is designed to ensure compliance with requirements for archaeological survey as established in the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice). This includes development of an appropriate sampling strategy and recording of information during survey.

It is proposed that the survey will be undertaken with involvement of up to three representatives to be selected from the registered Aboriginal parties, and one Umwelt archaeologist over the course of up to three days. It is proposed that the entirety of the core development area and the final confirmed Electricity Transmission Line (ETL) route will be surveyed, with field team members to remain a sufficient distance apart to ensure adequate survey coverage of the survey units.

The field survey will also be undertaken with reference to any COVID-19 management requirements applicable at the time of the survey.

3.1 Recording information during survey

Survey units will be defined and named with reference to Requirement 5c of the Code of Practice, including recording start and finish points and/or boundaries for all survey units using a hand-held GPS receiver (set to allow recording of data with datum MGA94) and topographic mapping (where relevant), with track logs to be recorded for all pedestrian transects. Start and finish points/boundaries for survey units will be defined based on landforms, project area boundaries, access or other arbitrary terminations (as specified in the Code of Practice). The spacing between individuals will also be recorded for each survey unit.

Photographs will be undertaken for landforms/survey units (where informative). Information recorded for each survey unit will include:

- Landform (in units based on those established by McDonald et al 2009)
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- Identified Aboriginal resources (food and medicine plants, prey animals, stone and water)
- Levels of average ground surface visibility within the survey unit (in accordance with the Requirement 9 of the Code of Practice)
- Extent and type of exposures within the survey unit (with reference to the factors leading to the exposure such as erosion, earth-moving activities, track establishment etc.)
- Any information provided by the registered Aboriginal parties in relation to cultural values, noting that such information will be recorded in accordance with the wishes of the party providing the information and
- Any site, area of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) or landscape feature of Aboriginal cultural value present within the survey unit (see below for further information on site/PAD recording).

Any Aboriginal archaeological sites identified during the survey will be assessed with reference to the site boundaries. Factors that will be taken into consideration in defining and mapping site boundaries may include the distribution of surface artefacts, landforms or physical boundaries and cultural information.

Sufficient information will be recorded for all sites to meet Requirement 7 of the Code of Practice. The archaeological and Aboriginal and cultural significance of any site will be discussed with the registered Aboriginal parties participating in the survey.

The archaeological potential of landforms/specific areas within the project area will be assessed with reference to factors including the archaeological context of the local area, the evaluation of the soil profile (based on soil landscape mapping, exposed soil profiles identified during the survey and geomorphic understandings of the area) and the identification of landforms that may have greater archaeological sensitivity. The extent of any area of identified archaeological potential will be defined and documented for inclusion in subsequent reporting. The archaeological and Aboriginal cultural significance of any area of identified archaeological potential will be discussed with the registered Aboriginal parties participating in the survey.

4.0 Timing of fieldwork and Expressions of Interest

The dates proposed for the fieldwork will be provided when finalised however it is anticipated the survey will take up to three days, commencing August 2020. As noted above, Pacific Hydro will be offering paid engagement to three representatives of registered Aboriginal parties. In order to assist in identifying the parties to be engaged, an invitation to submit an Expression of Interest is provided to all registered Aboriginal parties with this letter.

It is noted that, regardless of the outcomes of the Expression of Interest process, no Aboriginal parties will be excluded from participating in the fieldwork but are welcome to attend on a voluntary basis if not selected for paid engagement.

5.0 Summary

This letter provides details of the proposed methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with the Project. In accordance with the consultation requirements (DECCW 2010), we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business **20 July 2020** and include your completed Expression of Interest if you wish to be commercially engaged. Comments regarding the draft methodology can be provided verbally or in writing to:

Alison Fenwick
Archaeologist
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt)
Phone: 02 4950 5322

In compliance with the OEH Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (2010) the contact details for the relevant Project Manager are as follows:

Catherine O’Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone +610 3 8621 6485
E: coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

We trust this information meets with your current requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 1300 793 267 should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist

Expressions of Interest for Engagement of Aboriginal Parties

6.0 Key Selection Criteria for Engagement

The key selection criteria for the engagement of Aboriginal parties are divided into two components: information provision and working requirements. These are outlined further below.

6.1 Information Provision

The completion of survey provides the opportunity for further interpretation of the cultural significance of the project area. In order to inform this process and in keeping with the intent of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010*, the intent is to engage Aboriginal parties who can provide this information. Section 3.3.1 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010* specifies the following:

Aboriginal people who can provide the information outlined above are, based on Aboriginal lore and custom, the traditional owners or custodians of the land that is the subject of the proposed project. Traditional owners or custodians with appropriate cultural heritage knowledge to inform decision making who seek to register their interest as an Aboriginal party are those people who:

- continue to maintain a deep respect for their ancestral belief system, traditional lore and custom
- recognise their responsibilities and obligations to protect and conserve their culture and heritage and care for their traditional lands or Country
- have the trust of their community, knowledge and understanding of their culture, and permission to speak about it.

In some cases, the information required for decision making will be held by Aboriginal people with statutory recognition for certain lands:

- Aboriginal owners in accordance with the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* and/or
- Native title holders or registered native title claimants in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* and *Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994*

It is acknowledged that Aboriginal people who, through a historical presence in a particular area, may have developed cultural knowledge relevant to the Aboriginal objects and/or places based on knowledge passed down to them by Aboriginal people with a traditional connection to Country. We respect the rights of Aboriginal people with a historical connection to Country to, with their permission, act on behalf of Aboriginal people with a traditional connection to Country. It is acknowledged that in some cases it will only be Aboriginal people with a historical connection to an area who have the knowledge to inform the assessment of cultural significance of certain objects/places, e.g. on Aboriginal reserves and missions.

It is also noted that the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010* acknowledge the statutory obligations of Local Aboriginal Land Councils under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

In your EOI, we ask that you address these key criteria. We understand that it may not be culturally appropriate to provide specific cultural information. Should you wish to provide verbal feedback, we are happy to discuss.

6.2 Working Requirements

In selecting your fieldwork representative, we ask that you ensure that the representative has appropriate experience and competence. Alternatively, if you wish to send a representative on a training basis, we ask that you just let us know so that we can account for this.

Key skills for fieldwork representatives include ability to identify stone artefacts, ability to undertake a full day of physically strenuous work (including traversing across terrain of varying difficulty) ability to work as part of a team and recognition that the survey must be conducted in accordance with the methodology provided. There will be an emphasis on safe working in accordance with safety planning documents and policies. There must be commitment to work for the agreed daily hours (likely to be 7am to 4pm), unless otherwise discussed.

Your nominated fieldwork representative/s must wear the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on site:

1. Long-sleeved high visibility work shirt
2. Long trousers
3. Steel capped work boots
4. Necessary protection from the elements such as sunglasses, insect repellent and a wide brimmed hat

It is the responsibility of your organisation to ensure your fieldwork representative/s are equipped with the required PPE and are physically capable of undertaking the nominated fieldwork tasks.

Insurances and Rates

All Aboriginal parties undertaking fieldwork will be required to demonstrate that they hold relevant insurances, being workers compensation and public liability insurance.

If you would like to submit an EOI for commercial engagement, please provide copies of insurances and daily rates by no later than **20 July 2020** to:

Name: Alison Fenwick
Address: 75 York St Teralba NSW 2284
Phone: (02) 4950 532
Email: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

Should you require any further information or like to discuss the contents of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided.

Expression of Interest

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Proposed Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project at Daroobalgie, NSW

Name of Registered Aboriginal Party:	Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
Address	
ABN	
Clarify your cultural connection to the area and the site with reference to the criteria in Section 1.1	
Name of Nominated Representatives:	
Nominated Representative's Contact Details: (phone and/or email)	
Prior Experience:	
We agree to provide our representative with all the required PPE and understand that he/she will not be able to participate without the appropriate PPE or proof of insurance cover.	
Quoted Payment Rates:	Hourly - Daily -
Information provided by: (please insert name)	
Position in Registered Aboriginal Party:	
Signature:	

Please provide details of your insurance cover below and attach copies of all appropriate insurances.

Insurance Details

Insurance Type	Insurance Company	Policy Number	Extent of Cover	Valid to
Public Liability				
Workers Compensation				

Our Ref: 4961/NR/IB/22062020

22 June 2020

Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation
Cherie Carroll Turrise

Email:

Dear Cherie Carroll Turrise

**Re: Draft Methodology for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed
Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project, Forbes NSW**

Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) is seeking approval for the development of a utility scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, to be known as Daroobalgie Solar Farm. This project will directly contribute to the state's renewable energy targets with an expected generating capacity of approximately 100 Megawatts (MW). Additional onsite infrastructure will be required including an operations and maintenance facility, temporary construction compound, electrical storage and collection systems, and an electricity transmission line.

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) has been engaged by Pacific Hydro to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) which will form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The ACHA will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation), the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH] 2011), the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010) (the consultation requirements) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice).

As a registered Aboriginal party for the project, we are writing to provide you with the draft methodology for the ACHA for your review and comment.

1.0 Description of the Project

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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist

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Name: Alison Fenwick
Address: 75 York St Teralba NSW 2284
Phone: (02) 4950 532
Email: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

Should you require any further information or like to discuss the contents of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided.

Expression of Interest

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Proposed Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project at Daroobalgie, NSW

Name of Registered Aboriginal Party:	Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation
Address	
ABN	
Clarify your cultural connection to the area and the site with reference to the criteria in Section 1.1	
Name of Nominated Representatives:	
Nominated Representative's Contact Details: (phone and/or email)	
Prior Experience:	
We agree to provide our representative with all the required PPE and understand that he/she will not be able to participate without the appropriate PPE or proof of insurance cover.	
Quoted Payment Rates:	Hourly - Daily -
Information provided by: (please insert name)	
Position in Registered Aboriginal Party:	
Signature:	

Please provide details of your insurance cover below and attach copies of all appropriate insurances.

Insurance Details

Insurance Type	Insurance Company	Policy Number	Extent of Cover	Valid to
Public Liability				
Workers Compensation				

Our Ref: 4961/NR/IB/22062020

22 June 2020

Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party
Danny Molloy

Email: dgajp@hotmail.com

Dear Danny Molloy

**Re: Draft Methodology for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed
Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project, Forbes NSW**

Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) is seeking approval for the development of a utility scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, to be known as Daroobalgie Solar Farm. This project will directly contribute to the state's renewable energy targets with an expected generating capacity of approximately 100 Megawatts (MW). Additional onsite infrastructure will be required including an operations and maintenance facility, temporary construction compound, electrical storage and collection systems, and an electricity transmission line.

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) has been engaged by Pacific Hydro to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) which will form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The ACHA will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation), the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage [OEHS] 2011), the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010) (the consultation requirements) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice).

As a registered Aboriginal party for the project, we are writing to provide you with the draft methodology for the ACHA for your review and comment.

1.0 Description of the Project

The Project encompasses approximately 300 hectares (ha) of land within the Forbes Shire Council Local Government Area (referred to as the core development area) and an electric transmission line (ETL) of up to 11 additional kilometres connecting the core development area to the Forbes Substation located in Wyndham Avenue. There are currently three potential ETL easement routes, of which a single final route will be decided prior to commencement of the physical survey (see **Figure 1.1**).

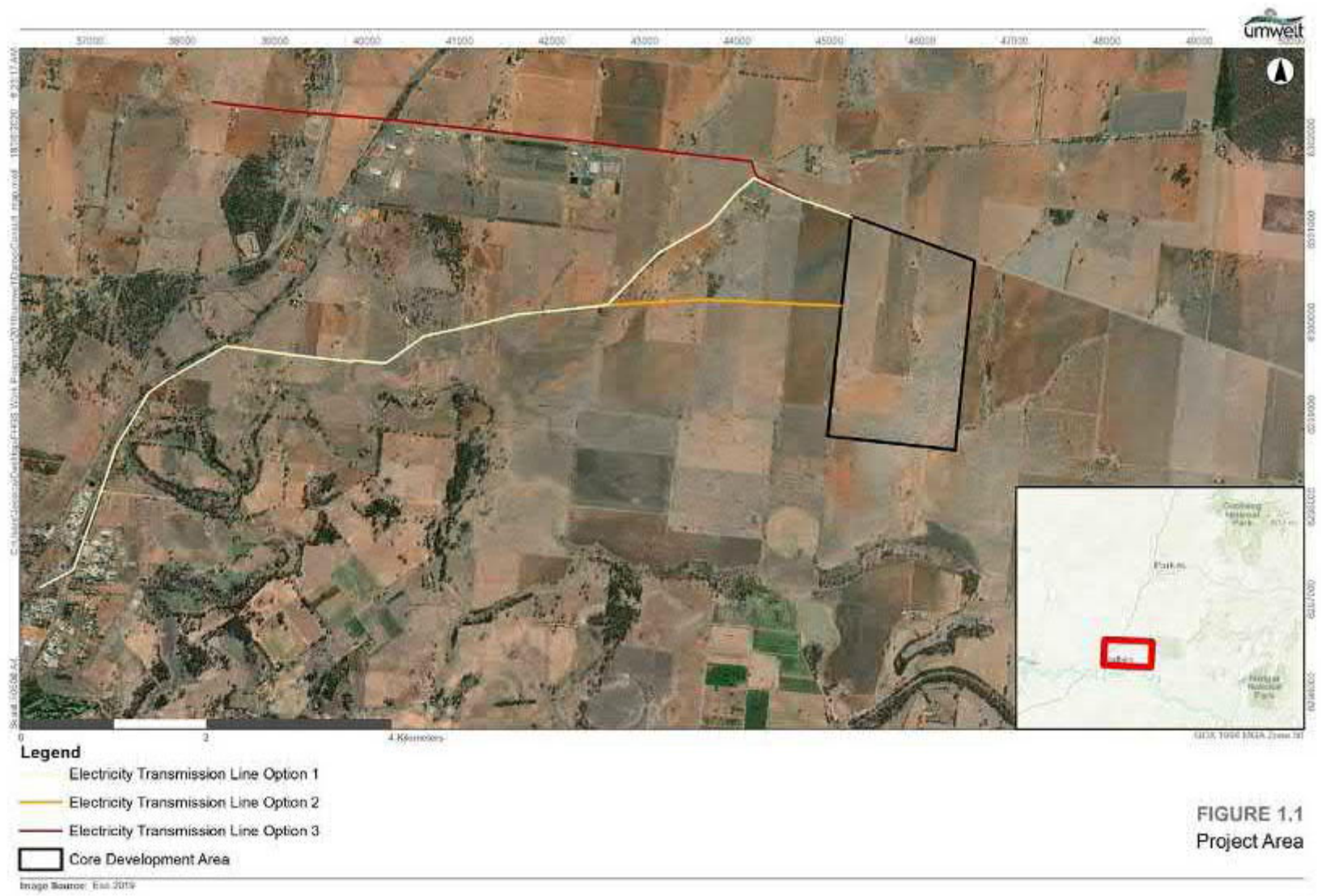
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ABN 18 059 519 041



The Project will include the following key components:

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The consultation process will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements (DECCW 2010). The proposed methodology for the ACHA (pending comments from registered Aboriginal parties) is as follows:

1. provision of a draft assessment methodology for review by the registered Aboriginal parties (this letter)
2. provision of a review period during which Aboriginal parties can provide comment and propose amendments to the draft methodology (up to 28 days from receipt of this letter, with comments due by close of business **20 July 2020**)
3. completion of a survey of the project area in accordance with the draft methodology provided in this assessment
4. the development of a draft ACHA report to include:
 - details of the nature of the project
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 - full details of the registered Aboriginal party consultation process
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 - a review of background information related to the environmental characteristics of the project area that may have determined how Aboriginal people may have occupied/utilised the area and the likelihood that archaeological evidence may remain and be detectable within the project area
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 - details of any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits located during the survey
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 7. provision of the final ACHA report to registered Aboriginal parties and Client.

2.0 Consultation with Aboriginal Parties During the Assessment Process

Umwelt acknowledges and understands that cultural values, by definition, relate to values outside those associated with specific archaeological sites/objects. Throughout the assessment process, we invite comment from Aboriginal parties regarding any cultural values associated with the project area and will ensure that any information provided regarding cultural values (be they associated with a specific site or provided with reference to a landscape feature or within a broader context) are documented and recorded in accordance with the wishes of the relevant Aboriginal party for inclusion in the ACHA report. The inclusion of any such information in the final assessment is dependent on its provision by the Aboriginal parties and the way in which parties wish to share that information (for example, if information is particularly sensitive it can be excluded from documents placed on public exhibition).

We note that Section 3.2 of the consultation requirements specifies that the objective of consultation is to ensure 'that Aboriginal people have the opportunity to improve assessment outcomes'. Factors specified as assisting in meeting this objective include providing Aboriginal parties with the opportunity to provide information on cultural values (as invited in this draft methodology and throughout the assessment process), influence methods regarding assessment of significance for Aboriginal objects/places (which can be undertaken in response to this draft methodology, during fieldwork and in commenting on the draft ACHA report) and commenting on the draft ACHA report. Our approach is designed to ensure compliance with this objective, including the potential for in-field consultation with Aboriginal party representatives during fieldwork. Umwelt archaeologists are trained to seek and document cultural feedback provided by Aboriginal party representatives during fieldwork. This is not limited to cultural values associated with archaeological sites but may encompass any values identified by Aboriginal people.

We look forward to working with your organisation throughout the project to ensure that we adequately document any information you wish to provide regarding Aboriginal cultural values. Please feel free to contact us to request any additional information or assistance you may require to facilitate the provision of your input.

3.0 Survey Methodology

The draft survey methodology is designed to ensure compliance with requirements for archaeological survey as established in the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice). This includes development of an appropriate sampling strategy and recording of information during survey.

It is proposed that the survey will be undertaken with involvement of up to three representatives to be selected from the registered Aboriginal parties, and one Umwelt archaeologist over the course of up to three days. It is proposed that the entirety of the core development area and the final confirmed Electricity Transmission Line (ETL) route will be surveyed, with field team members to remain a sufficient distance apart to ensure adequate survey coverage of the survey units.

The field survey will also be undertaken with reference to any COVID-19 management requirements applicable at the time of the survey.

3.1 Recording information during survey

Survey units will be defined and named with reference to Requirement 5c of the Code of Practice, including recording start and finish points and/or boundaries for all survey units using a hand-held GPS receiver (set to allow recording of data with datum MGA94) and topographic mapping (where relevant), with track logs to be recorded for all pedestrian transects. Start and finish points/boundaries for survey units will be defined based on landforms, project area boundaries, access or other arbitrary terminations (as specified in the Code of Practice). The spacing between individuals will also be recorded for each survey unit.

Photographs will be undertaken for landforms/survey units (where informative). Information recorded for each survey unit will include:

- Landform (in units based on those established by McDonald et al 2009)
- Gradient (where relevant)
- Vegetation
- Geology and soils (where suitable areas of exposure/visibility are present)
- Identified Aboriginal resources (food and medicine plants, prey animals, stone and water)
- Levels of average ground surface visibility within the survey unit (in accordance with the Requirement 9 of the Code of Practice)
- Extent and type of exposures within the survey unit (with reference to the factors leading to the exposure such as erosion, earth-moving activities, track establishment etc.)
- Any information provided by the registered Aboriginal parties in relation to cultural values, noting that such information will be recorded in accordance with the wishes of the party providing the information and
- Any site, area of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) or landscape feature of Aboriginal cultural value present within the survey unit (see below for further information on site/PAD recording).

Any Aboriginal archaeological sites identified during the survey will be assessed with reference to the site boundaries. Factors that will be taken into consideration in defining and mapping site boundaries may include the distribution of surface artefacts, landforms or physical boundaries and cultural information.

Sufficient information will be recorded for all sites to meet Requirement 7 of the Code of Practice. The archaeological and Aboriginal and cultural significance of any site will be discussed with the registered Aboriginal parties participating in the survey.

The archaeological potential of landforms/specific areas within the project area will be assessed with reference to factors including the archaeological context of the local area, the evaluation of the soil profile (based on soil landscape mapping, exposed soil profiles identified during the survey and geomorphic understandings of the area) and the identification of landforms that may have greater archaeological sensitivity. The extent of any area of identified archaeological potential will be defined and documented for inclusion in subsequent reporting. The archaeological and Aboriginal cultural significance of any area of identified archaeological potential will be discussed with the registered Aboriginal parties participating in the survey.

4.0 Timing of fieldwork and Expressions of Interest

The dates proposed for the fieldwork will be provided when finalised however it is anticipated the survey will take up to three days, commencing August 2020. As noted above, Pacific Hydro will be offering paid engagement to three representatives of registered Aboriginal parties. In order to assist in identifying the parties to be engaged, an invitation to submit an Expression of Interest is provided to all registered Aboriginal parties with this letter.

It is noted that, regardless of the outcomes of the Expression of Interest process, no Aboriginal parties will be excluded from participating in the fieldwork but are welcome to attend on a voluntary basis if not selected for paid engagement.

5.0 Summary

This letter provides details of the proposed methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with the Project. In accordance with the consultation requirements (DECCW 2010), we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business **20 July 2020** and include your completed Expression of Interest if you wish to be commercially engaged. Comments regarding the draft methodology can be provided verbally or in writing to:

Alison Fenwick
Archaeologist
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt)
Phone: 02 4950 5322

In compliance with the OEH Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (2010) the contact details for the relevant Project Manager are as follows:

Catherine O’Riordan
Senior Environment and Development Planner
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd
Level 13, 700 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008 Australia
Telephone +610 3 8621 6485
E: coriordan@pacifichydro.com.au

We trust this information meets with your current requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 1300 793 267 should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Blackman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist

Expressions of Interest for Engagement of Aboriginal Parties

6.0 Key Selection Criteria for Engagement

The key selection criteria for the engagement of Aboriginal parties are divided into two components: information provision and working requirements. These are outlined further below.

6.1 Information Provision

The completion of survey provides the opportunity for further interpretation of the cultural significance of the project area. In order to inform this process and in keeping with the intent of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010*, the intent is to engage Aboriginal parties who can provide this information. Section 3.3.1 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010* specifies the following:

Aboriginal people who can provide the information outlined above are, based on Aboriginal lore and custom, the traditional owners or custodians of the land that is the subject of the proposed project. Traditional owners or custodians with appropriate cultural heritage knowledge to inform decision making who seek to register their interest as an Aboriginal party are those people who:

- continue to maintain a deep respect for their ancestral belief system, traditional lore and custom
- recognise their responsibilities and obligations to protect and conserve their culture and heritage and care for their traditional lands or Country
- have the trust of their community, knowledge and understanding of their culture, and permission to speak about it.

In some cases, the information required for decision making will be held by Aboriginal people with statutory recognition for certain lands:

- Aboriginal owners in accordance with the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* and/or
- Native title holders or registered native title claimants in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* and *Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994*

It is acknowledged that Aboriginal people who, through a historical presence in a particular area, may have developed cultural knowledge relevant to the Aboriginal objects and/or places based on knowledge passed down to them by Aboriginal people with a traditional connection to Country. We respect the rights of Aboriginal people with a historical connection to Country to, with their permission, act on behalf of Aboriginal people with a traditional connection to Country. It is acknowledged that in some cases it will only be Aboriginal people with a historical connection to an area who have the knowledge to inform the assessment of cultural significance of certain objects/places, e.g. on Aboriginal reserves and missions.

It is also noted that the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010* acknowledge the statutory obligations of Local Aboriginal Land Councils under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

In your EOI, we ask that you address these key criteria. We understand that it may not be culturally appropriate to provide specific cultural information. Should you wish to provide verbal feedback, we are happy to discuss.

6.2 Working Requirements

In selecting your fieldwork representative, we ask that you ensure that the representative has appropriate experience and competence. Alternatively, if you wish to send a representative on a training basis, we ask that you just let us know so that we can account for this.

Key skills for fieldwork representatives include ability to identify stone artefacts, ability to undertake a full day of physically strenuous work (including traversing across terrain of varying difficulty) ability to work as part of a team and recognition that the survey must be conducted in accordance with the methodology provided. There will be an emphasis on safe working in accordance with safety planning documents and policies. There must be commitment to work for the agreed daily hours (likely to be 7am to 4pm), unless otherwise discussed.

Your nominated fieldwork representative/s must wear the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on site:

1. Long-sleeved high visibility work shirt
2. Long trousers
3. Steel capped work boots
4. Necessary protection from the elements such as sunglasses, insect repellent and a wide brimmed hat

It is the responsibility of your organisation to ensure your fieldwork representative/s are equipped with the required PPE and are physically capable of undertaking the nominated fieldwork tasks.

Insurances and Rates

All Aboriginal parties undertaking fieldwork will be required to demonstrate that they hold relevant insurances, being workers compensation and public liability insurance.

If you would like to submit an EOI for commercial engagement, please provide copies of insurances and daily rates by no later than **20 July 2020** to:

Name: Alison Fenwick
Address: 75 York St Teralba NSW 2284
Phone: (02) 4950 532
Email: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

Should you require any further information or like to discuss the contents of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided.

Expression of Interest

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Proposed Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project at Daroobalgie, NSW

Name of Registered Aboriginal Party:	Forbes Aboriginal and Community Working Party
Address	
ABN	
Clarify your cultural connection to the area and the site with reference to the criteria in Section 1.1	
Name of Nominated Representatives:	
Nominated Representative's Contact Details: (phone and/or email)	
Prior Experience:	
We agree to provide our representative with all the required PPE and understand that he/she will not be able to participate without the appropriate PPE or proof of insurance cover.	
Quoted Payment Rates:	Hourly - Daily -
Information provided by: (please insert name)	
Position in Registered Aboriginal Party:	
Signature:	

Please provide details of your insurance cover below and attach copies of all appropriate insurances.

Insurance Details

Insurance Type	Insurance Company	Policy Number	Extent of Cover	Valid to
Public Liability				
Workers Compensation				

Our Ref: 4961/NR/IB/22062020

22 June 2020

Wiradjuri Council of Elders
Sir/Madam

Email: wiradjurielderscouncil@gmail.com

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Draft Methodology for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed
Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project, Forbes NSW**

Pacific Hydro Australia Developments Pty Ltd (Pacific Hydro) is seeking approval for the development of a utility scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility, to be known as Daroobalgie Solar Farm. This project will directly contribute to the state's renewable energy targets with an expected generating capacity of approximately 100 Megawatts (MW). Additional onsite infrastructure will be required including an operations and maintenance facility, temporary construction compound, electrical storage and collection systems, and an electricity transmission line.

Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) has been engaged by Pacific Hydro to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) which will form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The ACHA will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation), the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage [OEHS] 2011), the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010) (the consultation requirements) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice).

As a registered Aboriginal party for the project, we are writing to provide you with the draft methodology for the ACHA for your review and comment.

1.0 Description of the Project

The Project encompasses approximately 300 hectares (ha) of land within the Forbes Shire Council Local Government Area (referred to as the core development area) and an electric transmission line (ETL) of up to 11 additional kilometres connecting the core development area to the Forbes Substation located in Wyndham Avenue. There are currently three potential ETL easement routes, of which a single final route will be decided prior to commencement of the physical survey (see **Figure 1.1**).

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The Project will include the following key components:

- Network of photovoltaic solar panel arrays and power conversion units (PCUs)(DC-AC inverters)
- Substation development
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Archaeologist
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Catherine O’Riordan
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Yours sincerely

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Jessica Blackman
Senior Archaeologist

Expressions of Interest for Engagement of Aboriginal Parties

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If you would like to submit an EOI for commercial engagement, please provide copies of insurances and daily rates by no later than **20 July 2020** to:

Name: Alison Fenwick
Address: 75 York St Teralba NSW 2284
Phone: (02) 4950 532
Email: afenwick@umwelt.com.au

Should you require any further information or like to discuss the contents of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided.

Expression of Interest

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Proposed Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project at Daroobalgie, NSW

Name of Registered Aboriginal Party:	Wiradjuri Council of Elders
Address	
ABN	
Clarify your cultural connection to the area and the site with reference to the criteria in Section 1.1	
Name of Nominated Representatives:	
Nominated Representative's Contact Details: (phone and/or email)	
Prior Experience:	
We agree to provide our representative with all the required PPE and understand that he/she will not be able to participate without the appropriate PPE or proof of insurance cover.	
Quoted Payment Rates:	Hourly - Daily -
Information provided by: (please insert name)	
Position in Registered Aboriginal Party:	
Signature:	

Please provide details of your insurance cover below and attach copies of all appropriate insurances.

Insurance Details

Insurance Type	Insurance Company	Policy Number	Extent of Cover	Valid to
Public Liability				
Workers Compensation				

Stephanie Howden

From: Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council <phlalc@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 December 2020 9:33 AM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Re: Attn: Shannon Hando - Daroobalgie Solar Farm Survey
Attachments: Workers Insurance Certificate of Currency.pdf; Combined Policy Coverage Summary D187392-000 (1).pdf

Hi Stephanie

Attached is the workers compensation and public liability.

our sites officers are Anthony Wilson 0426993972 and Lynette Bell 0404123968.

regards

Shannon Hando

On Thursday, 3 December 2020, 01:50:41 pm AEDT, Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Hey Shannon

Hope you are well. Sorry for the late email, things have been crazy in the lead up to Christmas.

We spoke a couple of weeks ago about the survey for Daroobalgie on the 8-9th (tentatively the 10th also). Just wondering if you are able to send me through your insurance details and the best contact for the client to get in touch to organise engagement/payment.

Cheers

Steph

Steph Howden
Senior Consultant

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Level 7, 500 Queen St, Brisbane QLD 4105

Phone: 1300 793 267

Mobile: 0488 229 179
www.umwelt.com.au

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Stephanie Howden

From: Cherie Carroll Turrise
Sent: Tuesday, 20 April 2021 1:08 PM
To: Nicola Roche; Stephanie Howden
Subject: Re: 4961 - Daroobalgie Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment - for review

Hello Nicola
We agree.

Cheers
Cherie (Carroll) Turrise - Elder
Director
Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation

Mob:
Email:



On Monday, March 22, 2021, 6:57 pm, Nicola Roche <nroche@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Good evening,

Please find attached the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Daroobalgie Solar Farm Project that you have been working on with Steph Howden.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH 2011). It also includes all relevant archaeological information, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010).

Please note that the report is provided in draft format only and has been developed to incorporate feedback and comments provided by registered Aboriginal parties to date. We ask that you please review and respond carefully. All comments received will be addressed in the finalised report.

Please note that Steph is on extended leave so if you could please provide comment to me by email or post (also happy to also receive phone calls if that is your preference). In accordance with relevant requirements, we ask that you provide by no later than COB 26 April 2021.

If you require any further information or if you have any queries regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As always, if you have any questions, please just give me a call. I'm more than happy to discuss the report.

Regards

Nic

Nicola Roche
Manager, Cultural Heritage

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
75 York Street
Teralba, NSW 2284

Phone: (02) 4950 5322
Mobile: 0427 125 685

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Please note that Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation (CAG) and Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation (GCHC) registered an interest in the project and provided the expression of interest and participated in fieldwork. CAG and GCHC have requested that their information not be made public. Documents supporting consultation can be provided on request.

