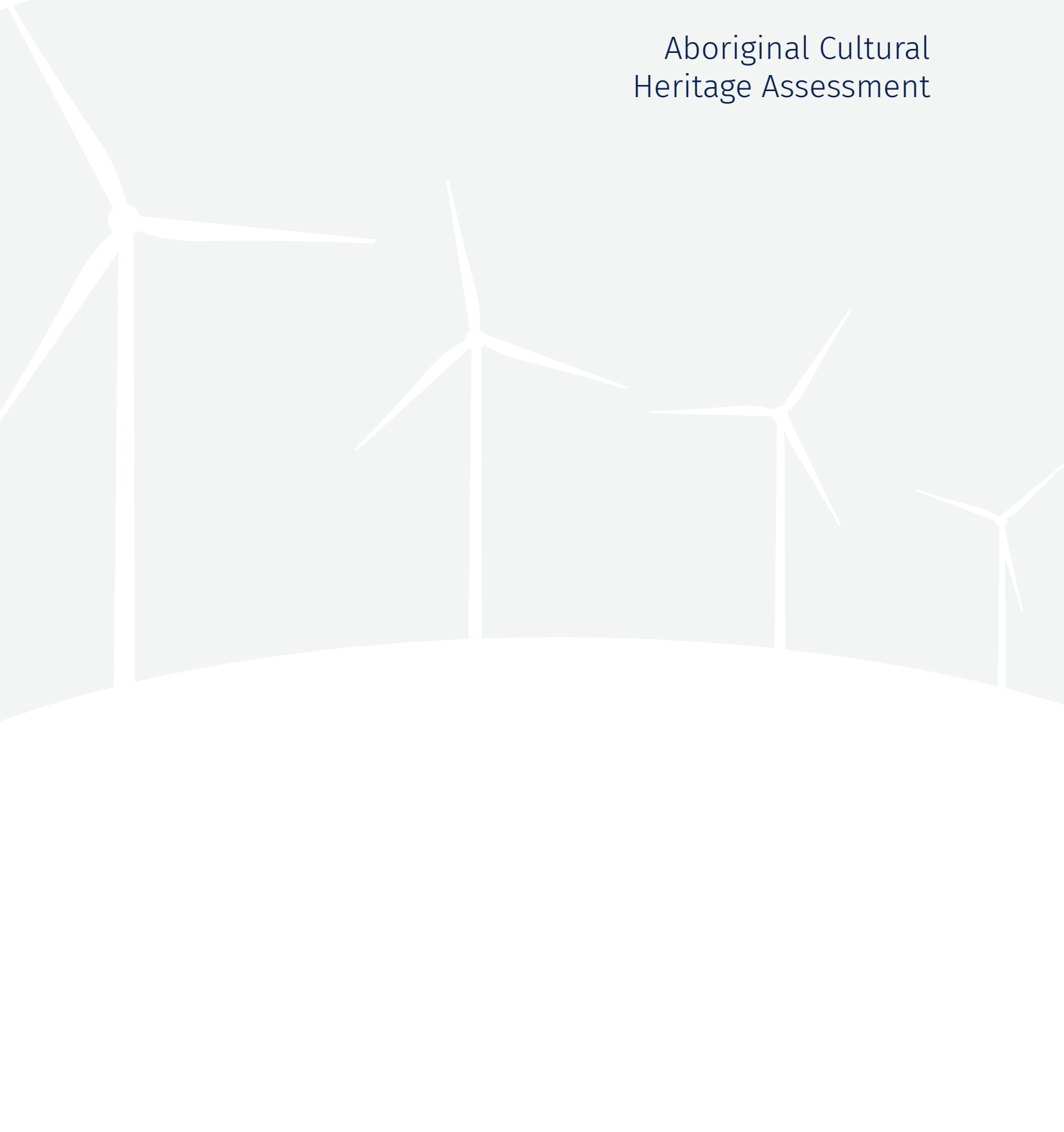


Appendix 14

Aboriginal Cultural
Heritage Assessment





NEOEN

**THUNDERBOLT ENERGY HUB STAGE 1
– ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT**

FINAL

March 2022



THUNDERBOLT ENERGY HUB STAGE 1 – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

FINAL

Prepared by
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
on behalf of
Neoen

Project Director: John Merrell
Project Manager: Penelope Williams
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Report No. 7066/R07
Date: March 2022



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Document Status

Rev No.	Reviewer		Approved for Issue	
	Name	Date	Name	Date
Final	Nicola Roche	20 January 2022	John Merrell	20 January 2022

Acknowledgement

Umwelt and Neoen Australia Pty Ltd (Neoen) would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Project Area and pay respect to their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land.

Umwelt and Neoen would also like to acknowledge the post-contact experiences of Aboriginal people who have attachment to the Project Area and surrounds.

We pay our respect to the Elders – past, present, and future – for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of Aboriginal people in the area.

Executive Summary

Neoen Australia Pty Ltd (Neoen) is seeking approval for the construction of Stage 1 of the Thunderbolt Energy Hub (the Project). The Project consists of two stages, with both wind and solar electrical generation proposed. The current assessment relates only to Stage 1, which comprises wind electricity generation. The Project has been identified as State Significant Development (SSD-10807896) in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act).

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd (Umwelt) has been engaged by Neoen to work with the registered Aboriginal parties to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that 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 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 NPW Regulation and the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a) (the Consultation Requirements). 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 2010b) (the Code of Practice). This approach is taken to satisfy the relevant key issues within the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Project.

The Project includes the construction and operation of 32 wind turbines (WTGs) with a total capacity of approximately 192 megawatts (MW). Associated electrical infrastructure, including a new substation, and switching station will require connecting to the existing electrical transmission network.

In relation to project impacts, all proposed infrastructure and construction works will be contained within the Development Corridor. The Development Corridor comprises a corridor that is larger than the anticipated impacts in order to allow for micro-siting of infrastructure. Thus, while the Development Corridor comprises an area of approximately 568 hectares (ha), the estimated area of ground disturbance within the Development Corridor is approximately 215 ha.

In accordance with current requirements and expectations, consultation with Aboriginal parties regarding the proposal was undertaken in accordance with the relevant aspects of Clause 60 of the NPW Regulation and the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents. The registered Aboriginal parties for the ACHA are:

Registered Aboriginal Party	Registered Aboriginal Party
Gomeroi People (Native Title Claim – NSD37/2019)	Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council	Nyakka Corporation
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	Natasha Rodgers
Brian Draper	Ngoorumba Tingha Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Larissa Ahoy
Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation

The registered Aboriginal parties were consulted regarding the methodology for the ACHA and representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties participated in the survey of the Development Corridor for the Project. The registered Aboriginal parties were also provided with a copy of the draft ACHA for their review and comment. No objections to the content of the proposed ACHA were received.

The survey of the Project Area was undertaken in consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties and with reference to the predictive model established for the Project Area with reference to its environmental and cultural context. The survey took place over two periods, with the first survey period extending from 28-30 April, 3-7 May and 10-12 May 2021, and included the current Development Corridor and additional areas which will form part of Stage 2 of the Project Area. The second survey period took place from 15-17 September 2021 following refinement of the Project design and included a secondary survey of the Development Corridor. Participants in the two surveys are listed in **Table 3.2**.

During the combined surveys, seven new Aboriginal archaeological sites (comprising three artefact scatters and four isolated artefacts) were recorded. The artefact scatters (TWF AS1, TWF AS2 and TWF AS3) all contained low densities of artefacts. Of the sites identified, two (TWF AS1 and TWF AS2) were located outside of the Development Corridor. All of the sites were identified in proximity to a water source, being Pine Creek, Spring Creek, or an associated tributary.

The majority of the Development Corridor was assessed as having low archaeological potential as it comprises landforms that do not provide direct access to water resources, have a slope inclination that is not conducive to camping/occupation activities, are extremely rocky with limited topsoil depth (within which subsurface deposits may be located) and/or have been subject to disturbance. The exceptions to this are three areas along Pine Creek and one area along Spring Creek. In these areas, the assessed level of archaeological potential is low to moderate or moderate (depending on the individual context). The nature and location of these areas of potential is consistent with the archaeological predictions for the local area.

The archaeological potential of these landforms could be clarified by the completion of test excavations under the provisions of the Code of Practice. The final impact locations within the Development Corridor will be determined post-approval during further design and construction planning. On this basis, it would not be possible to determine a defined footprint within which impacts will occur, which would in turn inform test excavation locations. Undertaking test excavation at this stage would risk impacting archaeological deposits that may not be subject to impacts associated with the Project. In addition, based on level of potential (and disturbance) at many of the locations, there are no grounds to undertake controlled excavation as limited likelihood that the deposits will retain integrity and therefore will have limited capacity to inform our understanding of the site beyond the presence or absence of artefacts.

The scientific significance of the identified sites was assessed as documented in the table below. In relation to the assessment of significance for the areas of archaeological potential, this is inherently difficult as any such assessment can only be based on the nature of the evidence that the area may contain. For this reason, the assessment of significance of areas of archaeological potential remains a provisional assessment of potential significance only and is linked almost entirely to the research potential of the site. That is, areas of low-moderate archaeological potential have a provisional assessment of low-moderate archaeological significance and areas of moderate archaeological potential have a provisional assessment of moderate archaeological significance.

Site Name	Scientific Significance
TWF AS1	Low
TWF AS2	Low
TWF AS3	Low
TWF IA1	Low
TWF IA2	Low
TWF IA3	Low
TWF IA4	Low
Pine Creek 1	Moderate
Pine Creek 2	Moderate
Pine Creek 3	Low-moderate
Spring Creek 1	Low-moderate

No further commentary on the social/cultural value of the recorded sites, areas of archaeological potential or the Development Corridor as a whole were provided by the registered Aboriginal parties during the fieldwork or in response to the draft ACHA.

The micro-siting of infrastructure allows for some flexibility in the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage. In relation to the sites identified during the assessment, the following considerations apply:

- impacts can be avoided to sites TWF AS1, TWF AS2, TWF AS3 and to Possible Scarred Trees 1-4 and Potential Stone Arrangements 1 and 5
- partial or complete impact may occur at TWF IA1, TWF IA2, TWF IA3, TWF IA4 and to areas of potential identified as Pine Creek 1-3 and Spring Creek 1. During final design and construction planning, consideration will be given to minimising impacts to these sites and areas of potential significance, however, for the purposes of this ACHA, it is assumed that partial or complete impact to these sites/areas may occur

Based on the outcomes of consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties, the archaeological context of the region, the findings of previous archaeological assessments of the Development Corridor, the potential impacts of the Project, current cultural heritage legislation and the nature and extent of archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential identified within the Development Corridor, management recommendations have been developed for the Development Corridor. The opportunity to make recommendations from an Aboriginal cultural perspective was provided to the registered Aboriginal parties as part of their review of the draft ACHA. No additional recommendations were received.

Archaeological recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed in light of the archaeological context of the region, the potential impacts of the Project, current cultural heritage legislation and the nature and extent of archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential identified within the Development Corridor:

1. The Proponent should ensure that all employees and contractors are aware that it is an offence under Section 86 of the NPW Act to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object unless that harm has been subject to approval as part of the necessary approvals process.

An Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan for the Project should be developed in consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties. It should include measures that will be implemented for:

- Protecting the Aboriginal archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential not subject to impact (as identified in **Table E1**) including establishing appropriate fencing/site demarcation prior to the commencement of construction and ensuring ongoing protection during construction and operation.
- Impacts to sites and areas of archaeological potential identified in **Table 11.1** that cannot be practically avoided. This will include the provision of methodologies for the completion of the recommended mitigation activities, as referenced in **Table E1**. In relation to areas of archaeological potential subject to impact, this will comprise test excavation prior to submission of the Response to Submission Report. For all other sites and where test excavation identifies the need for further salvage this will occur prior to or during the course of construction activities.
- Protocols to be followed in the instance that additional ground disturbance works are required outside the Development Corridor. This will include requirements for further survey and assessment of any such works.
- The management of any new Aboriginal archaeological sites that may be identified during these inspections or over the course of construction or operational activities.
- The management of Aboriginal skeletal remains should any be identified within the construction or operational activities for the Project.
- Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of these measures and to compile a report on the outcomes of any approved mitigation works.
- Ensuring that all staff and contractors working on the Project receive Aboriginal cultural heritage awareness training and are informed of their obligations to comply with the requirements of the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan.

Table E1 Recommendations by site/area of archaeological potential

Sites	Proposed Management Strategy	Requirements
TWF AS1 TWF AS2 TWF AS3 Possible Scarred Trees 1-4 Potential Stone Arrangements 1 and 5	Outside Development Corridor therefore no impacts required (avoidance)	Establish appropriate fencing/site demarcation prior to the commencement of construction and ensure ongoing protection during construction and operation
TWF IA1 TWF IA2 TWF IA3 TWF IA4	Minimise impacts (micro-siting/final design demonstrates that impacts to sites can be fully or partially avoided)	Establish appropriate fencing/site demarcation of the site/area (or portion thereof that is not being impacted) prior to the commencement of construction and ensure ongoing protection during construction and operation

Sites	Proposed Management Strategy	Requirements
Potential Stone Arrangements 2, 3 and 4	Minimise impacts (micro-siting/final design demonstrates that impacts to sites cannot be fully or partially avoided)	<p>Surface collection of identified surface artefacts</p> <p>In relation to Potential Stone Arrangements 2-4, further consultation with Aboriginal parties regarding appropriate mitigation measures for these potential sites (if required) can be undertaken as a component of the development of an Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan for the Project.</p>
Spring Creek 1 Pine Creek 1 Pine Creek 2 Pine Creek-3	Minimise impacts (micro-siting/final design demonstrates that impacts to sites can be fully or partially avoided)	Establish appropriate fencing/site demarcation of the area (or portion thereof that is not being impacted) prior to the commencement of construction and ensure ongoing protection during construction and operation
	Minimise impacts (micro-siting/final design demonstrates that impacts to area of archaeological potential cannot be fully or partially avoided)	<p>Undertake test excavation within the area of PAD prior to submission of Response to Submissions Report.</p> <p>Outcomes of test excavation will inform additional management requirements which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further works required Additional salvage works required

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Appendix 1	Aboriginal Party Consultation
Appendix 2	AHIMS Search Results

1.0 Introduction

The proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub is located in the Kentucky area of NSW, approximately 47 km north-east of Tamworth adjacent to the New England Highway (refer to **Figure 1.1**). The Thunderbolt Energy Hub is comprised of two stages and includes wind and solar electricity generation. This assessment relates to Thunderbolt Energy Hub – Stage 1 (the Project) only, which comprises wind electricity generation only. Stage 2 of the Thunderbolt Energy Hub will be subject to separate future development approval processes. The Project has been identified as State Significant Development (SSD-10807896) in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act).

Umwelt has been engaged by Neoen Australia Pty Ltd (Neoen) to work with the registered Aboriginal parties to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that 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 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 NPW Regulation and the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a) (the Consultation Requirements). 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 2010b) (the Code of Practice).

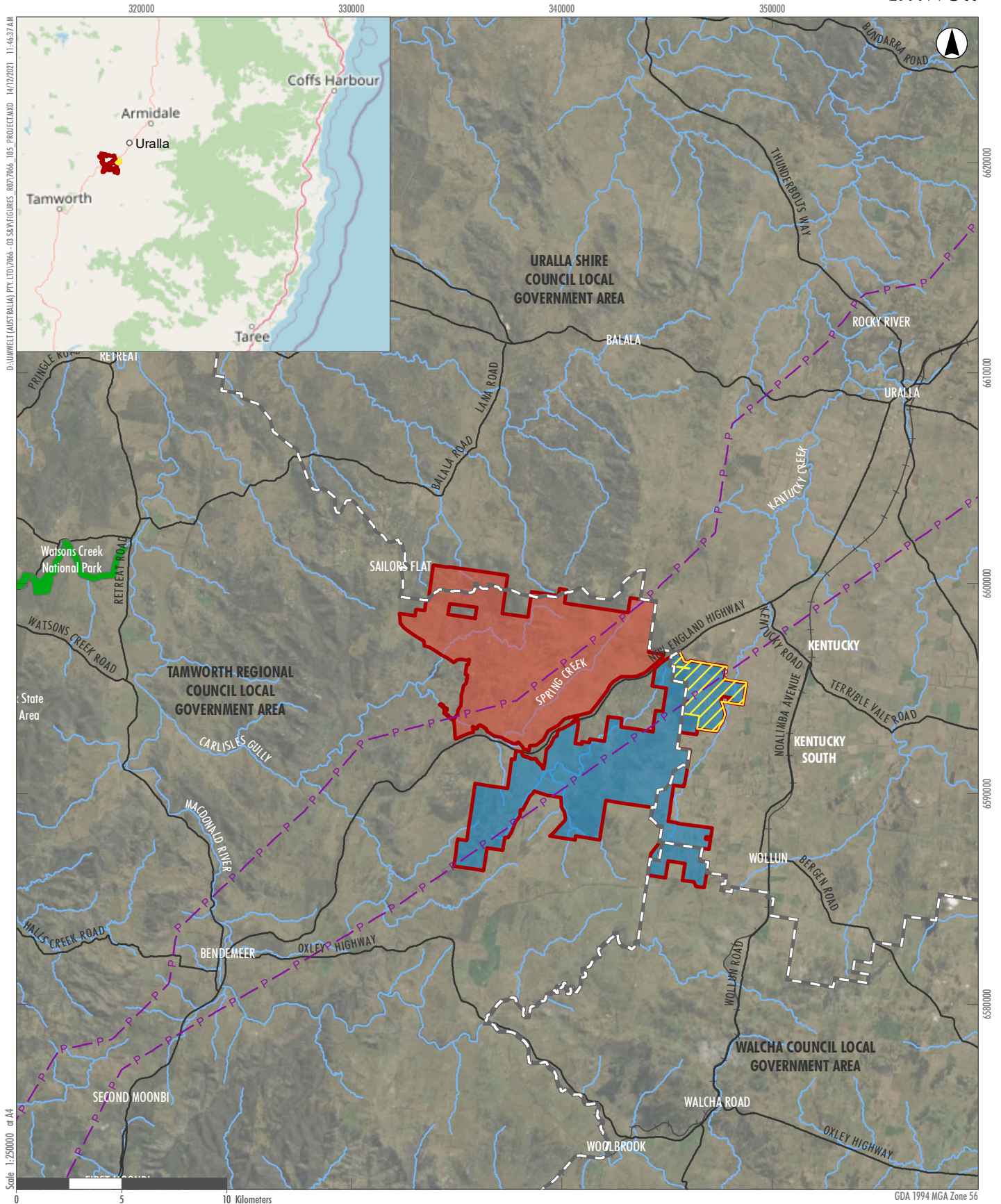
1.1 Project Description

The Project includes the construction and operation of 32 wind turbines (WTGs) with a maximum tip height of up to 260 m and total capacity of approximately 192 megawatts (MW). Associated construction and operational phase infrastructure is also proposed including construction compound and facilities, laydown areas, operation and maintenance buildings, internal access roads, civil works, concrete batching plants and electrical infrastructure (including one new substation and switching station) required to connect to the existing electricity transmission network. The location of proposed infrastructure is shown in **Figure 1.2**.

Each WTG will have a generating capacity of approximately 5 MW to 8 MW and each WTG site will consist of a foundation and tower, nacelle, rotor hub and blades. To achieve visual consistency through the landscape, the WTGs will feature uniform colour, design, height and rotor diameter, a matt-white finish and non-reflective material to reduce visibility. There will also be limited signage and lighting to reduce project visible impacts.

A total construction period of approximately 18-24 months is expected for the Project. To facilitate construction, a range of temporary buildings and facilities will be required including a construction compound (site offices, car parking and amenities for construction personnel), mobile concrete batching plants, laydown and storage areas for the temporary storage of plant, equipment, materials and WTG components. Construction materials will be sourced locally if available, or regionally and transported to site. Major turbine components will be delivered to the Port of Newcastle and transported to the Project Area by truck via the New England Highway. One entry point is proposed from the New England Highway to the Project Area.

The Project Area comprises approximately 5,918 ha and includes all relevant land parcels that will accommodate Project infrastructure. The assessment of the Project has focused on a Development Corridor, which forms a buffer to the conceptual project layout (50 m buffer either side of the centreline of internal access tracks and a 140 m buffer zone around WTG locations), and is approximately 568 ha, as shown in **Figure 1.2**. The total disturbance area (contained within the Development Footprint) associated with the proposed infrastructure is approximately 215 ha. This assessment approach will allow for micro-siting of turbines and flexibility in final design of access tracks, laydown areas and other infrastructure elements. For the purposes of this assessment, it is conservatively assumed that the entirety of the Development Corridor may be subject to disturbance.



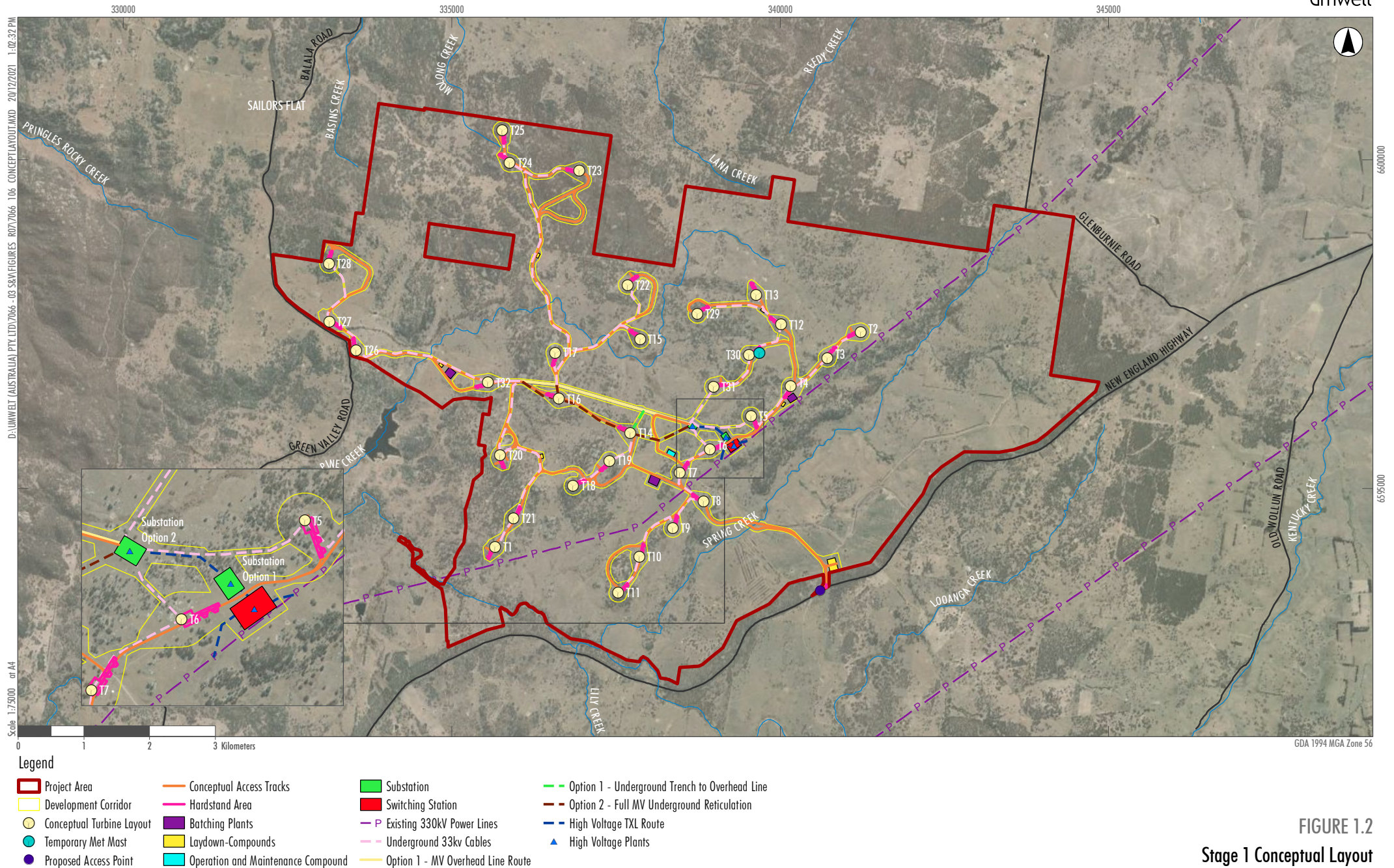
Legend

- Thunderbolt Energy Hub
- Stage 1 Project Area
- Stage 2 Project Area - Subject to separate Approval Process
- Thunderbolt Solar Farm - Subject to separate Approval Process
- Local Government Areas
- National Park
- P — Existing 330kV Power Lines

- Watercourse
- Road
- + — Railway

FIGURE 1.1

Thunderbolt Energy Hub



1.2 Objectives of this Assessment

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 also ensuring that the required archaeological information is appropriately documented.

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 (DECCW 2010a) and with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code of Practice). This approach is taken to satisfy the relevant key issues within the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Project.

In order to demonstrate how this ACHA meets these objectives, **Table 1.1** documents the required components specified in the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH 2011) and the Code of Practice with reference to the section of this document in which they are addressed.

Table 1.1 Required Information

Required Information (Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW)	Relevant Section in this ACHA	Required Information (Code of Practice)	Relevant Section in this ACHA
Introduction	1.0	Introduction	1.0
Description of the area	1.1	Investigator and contributors	1.3
Consultation process	3.0	Description of Modification	1.1
Summary and analysis of background information	4.0 and 5.0	Landscape context	4.0
Cultural heritage values and statement of significance	8.0	Previous archaeological work and regional character	5.0
Avoiding and/or mitigating harm	10.0	Predictions	5.3
Recommendations	11.0	Sampling strategy and field methods	6.0
		Results	7.0
		Analysis and discussion	7.5 and 7.6
		Scientific values and significance assessment	8.5
		Impact assessment	9.0
		Management and mitigation measures	10.0
		Recommendations	11.0

1.3 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**.

This report was prepared by Nicola Roche (Manager, Cultural Heritage) with assistance from Steph Howden and Alison Fenwick (Archaeologists). The report was reviewed by Penelope Williams (Project Manager). Additional support was provided by the Umwelt drafting and admin teams.

Input on project design (including all spatial data) was provided by Joanna Murphy (Neoen Project Manager).

2.0 Legislative Context

In relation to this assessment, the relevant statutory controls for the protection of Aboriginal heritage are the EP&A Act and the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (the NPW Act). Reference is also made to the requirements of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

2.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act regulates development activity in NSW. As previously discussed, the Project is assessed as being State Significant Development (SSD) and will be subject to the provisions of Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

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 State Significant Development. Projects approved as State Significant Development 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 is primarily responsible for regulating the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW 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 (DECCW 2010b).

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 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) and the activities were carried out in accordance with that AHIP. As noted above, it is not necessary to obtain an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act for designated State Significant Development.

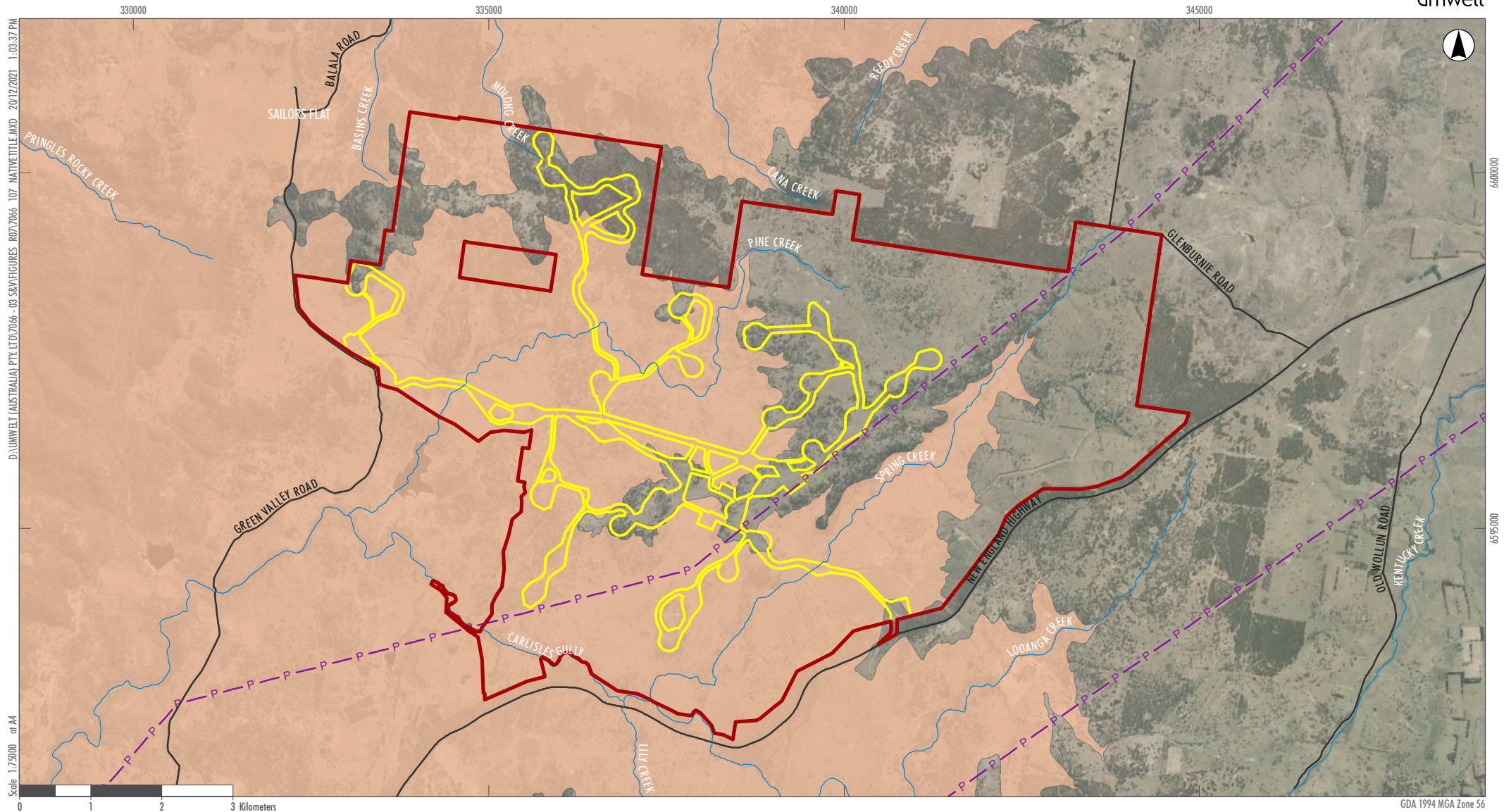
Section 87 (2,4) also establishes that it is a defence to prosecution under Section 86(2) (the strict liability offence) if due diligence is exercised to reasonably determine that the activity or omission is a low impact act or omission. The NPW Regulation specifies that compliance with the due diligence code is taken to constitute due diligence in determining whether a proposed activity will harm an Aboriginal object. The Regulation identifies that compliance with the Code of Practice (DECCW 2010b) is excluded from the definition of harm.

2.3 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 agreement.

2.4 Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* provides protection for heritage within NSW. The Act provides protection of historic places, structures, relics, moveable objects and landscapes of significance. The Act also affords protection to Aboriginal places of State heritage significance included on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or subject to an Interim Heritage Order. A separate assessment (Umwelt in prep) has been completed with reference to the requirements of the Heritage Act.



Legend

- ▬ Project Area
- ▬ Development Corridor
- Registered Native Title Claim — Gomeroi People
- P - P - P - Existing 330kV Power Lines

FIGURE 2.1
Location of Registered Native
Title Claim

3.0 Aboriginal Party Consultation

Consultation with Aboriginal parties is an integral part of identifying and assessing the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places and determining and carrying out appropriate strategies to mitigate impacts upon Aboriginal heritage. In accordance with current requirements and expectations, consultation with Aboriginal parties regarding the Project was undertaken in accordance with the relevant aspects of Division 2, Clause 60 of the NPW Regulation and the consultation requirements. The documentation of the outcomes of Aboriginal party consultation in this report reflects the requirements of the *Guide to investigating assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW*.

3.1 Stage 1 – Notification and Registration of Aboriginal Parties

Notifications were developed and the registration of Aboriginal parties was completed in accordance with Part 5, Division 2 Clause 60 of the NPW Regulation. As a result of the project notification and registration process, 14 Aboriginal parties registered an interest in ongoing consultation regarding the project. These parties are:

- Gomeroi People (Native Title Claim – NSD37/2019)
- Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council
- AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy
- Brian Draper
- Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
- Didge Ngunawal Clan
- Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation
- Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation
- Larissa Ahoy
- Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation
- Nyakka Corporation
- Natasha Rodgers
- Ngoorumba Tingha Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants (late registration).

Table 3.1 Summary of Aboriginal Party Consultation

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
16/11/2020	Provision of letter (via email) requesting identification of Aboriginal parties with cultural knowledge/interest in the Project area	Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC)	20/11/2020 email – Registered interest and nominated Colin Ahoy Jnr
		Office of the Registrar Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)(ORALRA)	No response received
		Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council (Amaroo LALC)	No response received
		Heritage NSW, Dept of Premier and Cabinet	19/11/2020 letter (via email) - list of known Aboriginal parties for relevant LGAs provided.
		National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)	17/11/2020 email – Native Title claimants provided for each Lot/DP within the project area
		Northern Tablelands Local Land Services	No response received
		NTSCORP Ltd	19/11/2020 email – Request to register the Applicant for the Gomeroi People's native title claim (NSD37/2019) for the Project.
		North West Local Land Services	17/11/2020 email – Advised to contact TLALC
		Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council (TLALC)	17/11/2020 email – Advised Kentucky not in Tamworth LALC boundary
		Tamworth Regional Council	No response received
		Uralla Shire Council	No response received
		Walcha Shire Council	No response received
14/11/2020	Public advertisement providing notification of assessment and opportunity to register interest for consultation.	Northern Daily Leader	Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation (via email 15/12/2020), Didge Ngunawal Clan (via email 26/12/2020) and Leonard Blair (letter via email 19/01/2021) register an interest in the Project.

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
14/12/2020	Provision of letter (via email or post) to identified Aboriginal parties requesting registrations of interest	Gomeri People's native title claim (NSD37/2019)	No response received (registration requested in previous email).
		Armidale LALC	16/12/2020 – email confirming registration and nomination of Colin Ahoy Jnr
		Alison Sampson	No response received
		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	21/12/2020 email – registering interest in the Project
		BJC Cultural Management	No response received
		Brent Matthews	No response received
		Brian Draper	28/12/2020 email – registering interest in the Project
		Cacatua General Services	No response received
		Christine Archibold	No response received
		Clifford Matthews	No response received
		Coonabarabran LALC	No response received
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	15/12/2020 email – registering interest in the Project
		D F T V Enterprises	No response received
		Darrell Matthews	No response received
		Galamaay Cultural Consultants	No response received
		Gomeri Murri Ganuurr Yuuray Wadi Palinka	No response received
		Hazel Collins	No response received
		Jeff Matthews	No response received
		John Matthews	No response received
		Joshua Matthews	No response received
		Justin Matthews	No response received
		Kawul Cultural Services	No response received
		Kevin Sampson	No response received
		Len Waters	No response received
		Lloyd Matthews	No response received

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
		Lorraine Towney	No response received
		Luke Cameron Cultural Management	No response received
		Mavonia Welsh	No response received
		M E Griffiths Cultural Management	No response received
		Michelle Saunders	No response received
		Mooki Plains Management	No response received
		Mooki River Consultants	No response received
		Muswellbrook Cultural Consultants	No response received
		Natasha Rodgers	7/01/2020 email – registering interest in the Project
		Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	21/12/2020 letter (via email) - registering interest in the Project
		Paul Moodie	No response received
		Richard Slater	No response received
		Rick Slater	No response received
		Rodney Matthews	No response received
		Ron Smith	No response received
		Rona Slater	No response received
		Roslyn Smith	No response received
		Scott Smith	No response received
		T&G Culture Consultants	No response received
		Tamworth LALC	No response received
		Tania Matthews	No response received
		Tracy Woltley	No response received
		Wattaka Cultural Consultancy Service	No response received
		Wiradjiri Interim Working Party	No response received
		Craig Archibald	No response received

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
		Aaron Broad	No response received
		Larissa Ahoy	29/12/2020 email – registering interest in the Project
		Aliera French Trading	No response received
		Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation	No response received
		Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	15/12/2020 letter (via email) – registering interest in the Project
		Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation	15/12/2020 letter (via email) – registering interest in the Project
		Norm Archibald	No response received
18/01/2021	Methodology letter sent via email to the representative Aboriginal Parties with EOI for fieldwork	ALALC	No response received. Additional emails sent on 18/02/2021, 15/03/2021 and 19/03/2021. Follow up phone calls were also made on 19/03/2021 and 9/04/2021. Advised that no representatives were available for fieldwork.
		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	Additional email sent 19/01/2021 email – Provided feedback on the methodology and expressed interest in fieldwork. No EOI paperwork or insurances provided. No response to follow up email on 18/02/2020.
		Brian Draper	Additional email sent 18/02/2021 – EOI provided with insurances
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Additional email sent 18/02/2021 – EOI provided with insurances
		Didge Ngunawal Clan	Additional email sent 18/02/2021 – Agreed to methodology and expressed interest in survey. Responded with completed EOI form and insurances.
		Gomeroi People (NSD37/2019)	Additional email sent 15/02/2021 email – Requested two fieldwork positions for the Gomeroi Applicant (one male and one female). No comments provided on the methodology. EOI and insurances not provided.
		Gunjee Wong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Additional email sent 18/02/2021 – Agreed with the project and provided EOI form for the survey. Insurance certificates were provided on 19/02/2021.

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
		Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Additional email sent 18/02/2021 – Eol form completed and recommendations provided for the survey methodology. Copies of insurance certificates to be provided.
		Larissa Ahoy	Additional email sent 14/02/2021 – expressed interest in survey and provided insurance policy numbers. No response to follow up email on 18/02/2020 requesting Eol form and insurance certificates.
		Lennie Blair	Additional email sent 18/02/2021 – Requested survey Eol form and insurances which were not received.
		Natasha Rodgers	Additional email sent 22/02/2021 email – expressed interest in survey. Phone discussion with Steph Howden regarding issue with printer to send Eol. 28/02/2021 Natasha emailed Steph asking if the scanned document had been received. 15/03/2021 SH requested for a picture of the form to be emailed. An additional phone call was made on 9/04/2021 explaining that the client could not engage her for fieldwork without insurances. No response received.
		Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation	Additional email sent 18/02/2021 – Eol form completed and insurance certificates provided.
		Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Additional email sent 28/01/2021 – Eol form completed and insurance certificates provided.
26/4/2021	Email registering interest in the project	Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	Email provided by Bruce Cohen registering an interest in the project. Mr Cohen advised by telephone that his registration was too late to be included in field survey but that he would be listed as a registered Aboriginal party for ongoing consultation
28/4-12/5/2021	Fieldwork – in field consultation	Brian Draper	Refer to Table 3.2 for survey participants
		Gomerioi People (NSD37/2019)	
		Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	
		Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
11/8/2021	Email advising of change in project and requirement for additional survey	ALALC	
		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	
		Brian Draper	
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	
		Didge Ngunawal Clan	
		Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	
		Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	
		Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	
		Larissa Ahoy	
		Lennie Blair	
		Natasha Rodgers	
		Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation	
		Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	
		Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	
15-17/9/2021	Fieldwork – in field consultation	Brian Draper	Refer to Table 3.2 for survey participants
		Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	
		Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	
		Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	
10/11/2021	Draft ACHA provided to registered Aboriginal parties for review and comment	ALALC	
		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	
		Brian Draper	
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email response received 21/11/21 providing agreement with draft ACHA
		Didge Ngunawal Clan	

Date	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
		Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	Email response received 24/11/21 correcting misspelling of name in draft ACHA. No further comments received
		Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	
		Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	
		Larissa Ahoy	
		Lennie Blair	
		Natasha Rodgers	
		Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation	
		Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	
		Armidale and New England Gumbaynggirr Descendants	

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

Correspondence providing information about the proposed 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.

A letter providing information regarding the Project and incorporating a draft methodology for the assessment was provided to all registered Aboriginal parties on 18 January 2021. It was requested that all Aboriginal parties provide comment on the proposed assessment methodology.

Following the completion of initial survey, the extent of the Project was modified from that identified in the previous correspondence, separating the Project into two stages, with Stage 1 to be assessed separately to Stage 2. In addition, the turbine and infrastructure layout within the Stage 1 Project Area was refined and incorporated some changes from that in previous correspondence and subject to survey in April/May 2021. The registered Aboriginal parties were advised on this change via email on 11 August 2021 and the requirement to undertake additional survey (consistent with the previous survey methodology) was identified.

Copies of all communication regarding the draft methodology are provided in full in **Appendix 1** and summarised in **Table 3.1**.

3.3 Aboriginal Party Participation in Survey

The survey of the Project Area was undertaken in two separate periods. The initial survey period incorporated portions of what will now be the Stage 2 area and this data is not presented in the current ACHA but will be collated in a separate short document, including registration of recorded sites. The second period of survey was undertaken to ensure adequate survey following some changes to the turbine and infrastructure layout for the Project (Stage 1). Aboriginal party representatives who participated in the survey are listed in **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2 Aboriginal Party Participation in Survey

Date	Organisation	Name
28 April 2021	Brian Draper	Brian Draper
	Gomerioi People (NSD37/2019)	Dylan Towns
		Donnie Fermor
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Steven Ahoy
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
29 April 2021	Brian Draper	Brian Draper
	Gomerioi People (NSD37/2019)	Dylan Towns
		Donnie Fermor
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Steven Ahoy
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
30 April 2021	Brian Draper	Brian Draper

Date	Organisation	Name
	Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	Dylan Towns
		Donnie Fermor
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Steven Ahoy
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
3 May 2021	Brian Draper	Brian Draper
	Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	Donnie Fermor
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Jocelyn Blair
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
4 May 2021	Brian Draper	Brian Draper
	Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	Dylan Towns
		Donnie Fermor
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Steven Ahoy
6 May 2021	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Jocelyn Blair
	Brian Draper	Brian Draper
	Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	Dylan Towns
		Donnie Fermor
7 May 2021	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Steven Ahoy
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
	Brian Draper	Brian Draper
	Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	Dylan Towns
10 May 2021		Donnie Fermor
		Jocelyn Blair
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
11 May 2021	Brian Draper	Brian Draper
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Jocelyn Blair
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
12 May 2021	Brian Draper	Brian Draper
	Gomeri People (NSD37/2019)	Rose Nean
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Jocelyn Blair
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener

Date	Organisation	Name
15 September 2021	Gomerioi People (NSD37/2019)	Rose Nean
		Malcolm Talbott
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Jocelyn Blair
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
16 September 2021	Gomerioi People (NSD37/2019)	Rose Nean
	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Jocelyn Blair
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener
17 September 2021	Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation	Steven Ahoy
	Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitchener

3.3.1 Outcomes of In-Field Consultation

The outcomes of in-field consultation are presented in **Section 7.1**.

3.4 Consultation Regarding the Draft Assessment

A copy of the draft ACHA was provided to all registered Aboriginal parties on 10 November 2021 with an invitation to review and comment on all aspects of the document. The registered Aboriginal parties were invited to comment on any aspect of the ACHA, noting that information on cultural significance and any recommendations provided from an Aboriginal cultural perspective would be documented in the final ACHA.

In response to the draft ACHA, Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation provided an email response noting that they agree with the draft ACHA. NTSCorp provided email comment noting the misspelling of survey participants name (now corrected). Following the closing period for comments on Wednesday, 8 December 2021, attempts were made to contact all registered Aboriginal parties by telephone or email on 17 December 2021 to ask whether there was any further feedback on the draft ACHA. The ACHA was then finalised on 20 January 2022. No further feedback was received.

4.0 Environmental Context

The decisions that people make regarding such things as where they live, the range of resources they use and other aspects of daily life may be influenced by the environment in which they live. The preservation and visibility of sites is also affected by environmental factors such as vegetation cover, past land-use and disturbance. A review of the environmental context of the Project Area is therefore integral to considerations of site visibility, preservation and occurrence within the Project Area.

This section provides a summary of key environmental information for the Project Area and discusses the implications of this information for the archaeological evaluation of the Project Area. Broadly, the Project Area is predominantly within the Eastern Nandewar subregion with a small portion on the eastern margin within the Yarrowyck-Kentucky Downs subregion of the New England Tableland Bioregion of NSW.

4.1 Landforms and Hydrology

The Project Area is shown with reference to landforms and hydrology in **Figure 4.1**. The Project Area is within Nandawar Range, which is part of the Great Dividing Range. As noted above, the Project Area is predominantly within the Eastern Nandewar subregion, where the western edge of the tablelands slopes down to merge with the North-West slopes. The small portion of Yarrowyck-Kentucky Downs subregion is characterised as undulating to hilly (750-1100m) with a general northwest slope with areas of rocky outcrop and granite tors. Within the Project Area, there are minor ridgelines with associated gullies and isolated hills (Campbells Hill and Black Mountain). **Figure 4.1** shows that the Project Area comprises a series of ridge and crest formations typically bordered by steep to very steep/precipitous slopes. Slope inclination generally reduces with proximity to the mapped drainage lines, where limited sections of flats also occur. The proportion of different landforms within the Project Area is further discussed in relation to survey results in **Section 7.0**.

The Project Area falls within the Namoi and Gwydir River catchments which are part of the broader Murray-Darling basin. The Project Area contains a number of drainage lines, the majority of which are tributaries of Spring Creek and Pine Creek. The main channels of these creeks within the Project Area are variably third or fourth order drainage lines, eventually flowing into Carlisles Gully, which flows along the southern boundary of the Project Area. Based on the catchment and morphology of these creeks, it is likely that freshwater and associated resources would have been semi-reliable but not permanent. There is also a large area of former swampland located outside the north-eastern boundary of the Project Area, draining to Kentucky Creek.

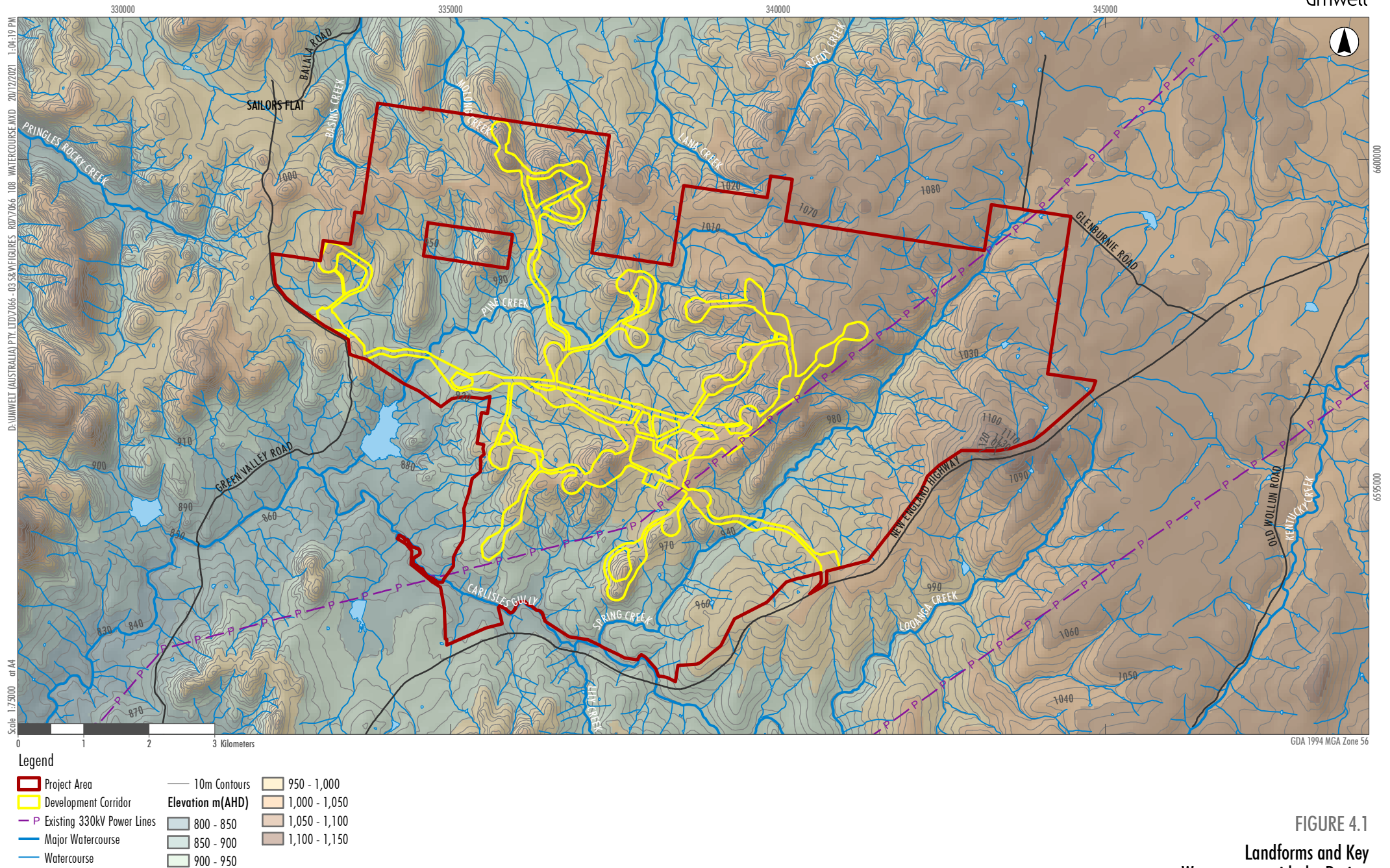


FIGURE 4.1
Landforms and Key
Watercourses with the Project

4.2 Geology and Soils

The Project Area is located within a geological landscape dominated by Permian granite formations. As shown in **Figure 4.2**, the majority of the Project Area is located within the Banalasta Monzogranites. Within this formation, the key geological component is porphyritic biotite-mudscovite-codierite granite. A small section in the south-west of the Project Area is within the Looanga Monzogranites, which typically comprise a medium to coarse grained equigranular biotite - (hornblende) monzogranite. The Walcha Road Monzogranite unit is present in a small section of the Project Area's south-east. The main geological component in this area is a coarsely porphyritic hornblende-biotite monzogranite with equigranular groundmass. Small sections in the north-east of the project area are within the Standbye Monzogranite unit (primarily consisting of coarsely porphyritic hornblende-biotite monzogranite with inequigranular groundmass) and the Sandon beds, Lochaber Greywacke, Oxley Metamorphics, Wybeena Metamorphics (which contain low grade lithic wacke, paraconglomerate, siltstone, mudstone, chert, jasper and minor basalt and other Permian volcanics). Of these raw materials, mudstone, chert, jasper, and basalt were used within the local area in the manufacture of stone artefacts whilst under appropriate conditions, granite formations can weather in a manner that results in the formation of rock shelters. Greywackes located in proximity but not abutting granitic intrusions can be metamorphosed to the point that they are excellent for axe manufacture (as is the case at the Daruka Quarry at Moore Creek north of Tamworth). The Sandon Beds can also be associated with the occurrence of silcrete, a material that was utilised by Aboriginal people in the region. Connolly (1985:5-18) identifies that, in upland areas, silcrete is also commonly associated with basalt. However, based on his research in the region, Connolly (1985:5-18) identified that the western edge of the Armidale-Uralla region (which includes the Project Area) contains little to no identified silcrete deposits, even where the Sandon Beds occur. Rather, the majority of silcrete sources in the Tablelands region are located outside the current Project Area (Godwin 1990).

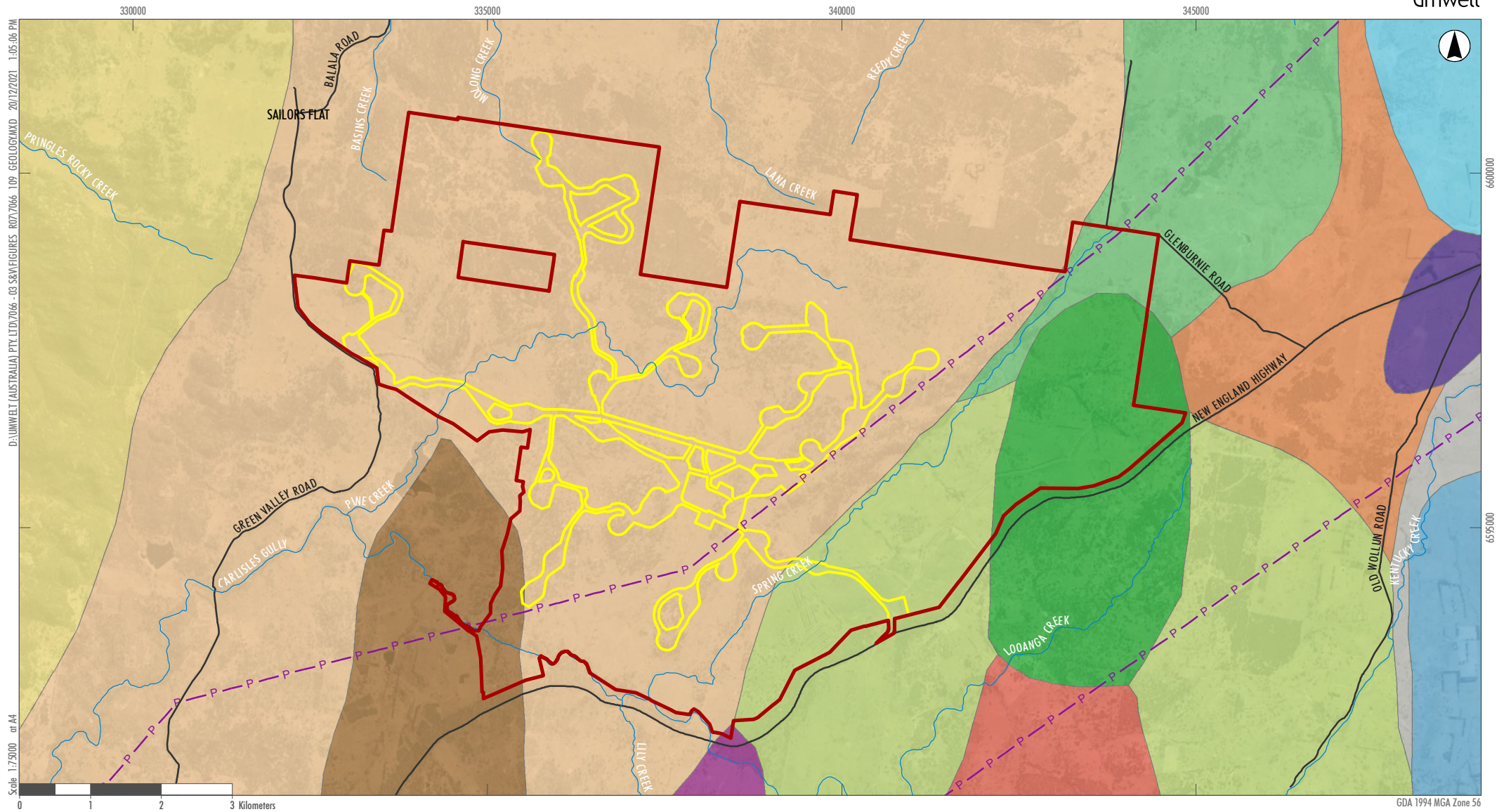
Typical soils within the Eastern Nandewar subregion comprise siliceous sands within rock outcrops and mellow texture contrast soils prone to erosion. Within the Yarrowyck-Kentucky subregions, soils are characterised by mellow texture contrast soils on drained slopes, harsh texture contrast soils on lower slopes and coarse sandy topsoils (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2003: 163-164). The susceptibility of soils to erosion in conjunction with previous clearing for agricultural purposes (refer to **Section 3.4**) may affect the integrity of sites located within the Project Area. In reviewing information relevant to the New England Tablelands as a whole, Godwin (1974:18) notes that this was generally a stable environment and that soil distribution within the area has not changed substantially in post European settlement.

4.3 Resource Availability

In order to understand the likely vegetation within the local area prior to land clearance, the vegetation types within the Eastern Nandewar and Yarrowyck-Kentucky subregions are discussed. It is noted that not all of these species may currently occur within the Project Area but just that they are known throughout the area. Within the Eastern Nandewar subregion vegetation typically comprises open forest and woodland of silver-top stringybark, Blakely's red gum, Youman's stringybark, yellow box, apple box, roughbarked apple with black cypress pine, ribbon gum and some snow gum. On the western slopes within this area common species include tumbledown gum, western New England blackbutt, Caley's ironbark, white cypress pine and black cypress pine, rough-barked apple and silver-leaved ironbark. The Yarrowyck-Kentucky Downs subregion is characterised by woodland of Blakely's red gum, New England peppermint, yellow box, rough-barked apple and New England stringybark. Tumbledown gum and black cypress pine

may be found on rocky hills and River oak is prominent along main streams (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2003: 163-164). In 1859, the government surveyor of the Uralla district (as quoted in Godwin 1974:35) described it as 'well-watered, rugged area with poor granitic soil which was quite well, if rather openly, timbered with gum of various sorts and abounding in coarse grasses'.

Vegetation communities of these types would have provided a range of resources used by Aboriginal people for food, medical treatment and in the manufacture of a variety of items. Key amongst these would have been the grass species present throughout open forest and woodland formations in both cool and warm season species, resulting in grass seeds being available for harvest in more than one season (Godwin 1974:21). In addition, these communities would have hosted a range of animal species used for similar purposes.



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Project Area | Campbells Hill Monzogranite | Sandon beds, Lochaber Greywacke, Oxley Metamorphics, Wybeena Metamorphics | Whitlow Formation |
| Development Corridor | Glenburnie Leucomonzogranite | Standbye Monzogranite | Wilhelmshohe Tonalite |
| P Existing 330KV Power Lines | Harnham Grove Porphyritic Microtonalite | Terrible Vale Porphyritic Microtonalite | |
| Geological Units | Looanga Monzogranite | Walcha Road Monzogranite | |
| Banalasta Monzogranite | Pringles Monzogranite | Wandsworth Volcanic Group | |

FIGURE 4.2
Geological Units within the Project Area

4.4 Land Use History

As documented in the Historical Heritage Assessment for the Project (Umwelt in prep), John Oxley ascended the ranges of the northern tablelands in 1818, commencing the first non-Aboriginal investigation of the area. Although it is unlikely that he progressed as far as the Project Area in his explorations, Oxley noted the parkland-like landscape of the region in his journal, and upon his return recommended the region generally for agricultural pursuits. It was these recommendations which would later set pastoralists' eyes on the region.

The first recorded European to travel into region surrounding the Project Area was Edward Gostwyck Cory in 1832. On this excursion, Cory crossed the Moonbi Ranges from Tamworth before continuing further north where the expedition camped on an upper tributary of Carlyle's Gully, and named it Cory's Camp Creek in his honour. No suitable grazing country was encountered until they reached the tablelands of the Salisbury Waters, to the east of the Project Area. This area proved excellent for sheep, and Cory soon occupied large tracts of it, establishing other stations in the Kentucky and Uralla area such as the stations at Gostwyck, Terrible Vale, and Salisbury Plains.

The arrival of more squatters in the late 1830s followed shortly after Cory, all of whom were attracted to the prime grazing land of the New England Tableland. It was this release of the vast pastoral leases which prompted the development of townships in the region, such as Uralla, Kentucky and Bendemeer.

The primary land use in the area at this time was for grazing sheep and cattle, until 1851 when gold was discovered at Rocky River, to the northeast of the proposal area. Although the quantity initially found was small and considered 'to repay no one for working' a year later the Windeyer Brothers established a mining operation on the field.

Up to March 1853 the mining carried out was alluvial mining confined to the rivers and creeks in the area, with 538 licences recorded to have been issued for prospecting. In 1856 John Jones discovered gold in the impressions made by a cartwheel, leading to the sinking of deep-lead shafts on what is now called Mount Jones. This attracted more people to the diggings in the area and at the peak of the goldrush at Rocky River in 1856/1867, there was a population of some 5,000 inhabitants. Mining continued until the 1900s however the primary land use within the local area remained grazing.

The use of land for grazing over extended periods is typically associated with a range of impacts including land clearance and increased erosion as a result of this clearance and the impacts of hard-hooved animals. These impacts are often most pronounced along creek lines and waterways, which sheep and cattle regularly access, trampling banks and negatively affecting water quality.

4.5 Summary

Based on the review of the environmental context, it is apparent that much of the Project Area comprises elevated rocky slopes within limited access to reliable water and the associated resources. However, the Project Area does contain two key watercourses (being Spring Creek and Pine Creek) that provided semi-reliable freshwater and supported a range of plant and animal resources used by Aboriginal people. The Project Area has been impacted by land clearance and use for grazing over an extended period, with areas of disturbance concentrated in proximity to water.

5.0 Cultural Context

In order to adequately undertake an assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage within an area, it is necessary to also understand the cultural context of the area. The term cultural context encompasses both ethnohistoric information regarding how Aboriginal people lived in the region during the period of non-Aboriginal settlement, and the information available regarding the patterns of distribution of archaeological evidence, based largely on the outcomes of previous archaeological assessments.

5.1 Ethnohistoric Context and Models of Occupation

Historical records, such as official records and personal observations recorded in diaries or publications, can provide information on the Aboriginal history of a region since European contact. Although a valuable source of information, the limitations of these documents must be recognised as colonial observers generally tended to record unusual rather than everyday events, religious and social life rather than economic activity, and men's behaviour rather than that of women and children. In addition, these records typically relate to a period where Aboriginal people had already been significantly impacted by introduced disease and changes to social structures brought about by the effects of non-Aboriginal settlement. As such, ethnohistoric records are neither unbiased nor complete, and they cannot provide a wholistic understanding of Aboriginal beliefs and practices at the time of contact.

For the reasons discussed above, there are often issues with using ethnohistoric accounts to identify specific boundaries for Aboriginal nations or clans. As identified in **Section 2.3**, a portion of the Project Area is within a registered Native Title Claim held by the Gomeroi People. For the purposes of this assessment, it is assumed that this boundary approximates the extent of Gomeroi (or Gamilaroi) Country in this area. Based on mapping provided by Tindale (1974) and the knowledge held by Aboriginal people in the region today, the remaining portion of the Project Area is within the country of the Anaiwan people of the language group Nganyawana. This is supported by Belshaw (1974) who described the New England Tablelands (hereafter the Tablelands) as a boundary area between 'strong tribal groups in the east and west' and referenced the central section of the Tablelands as being occupied by the Anaiwan.

With reference to these boundaries, Godwin (1990) undertook a comprehensive review of ethnohistorical and linguistic resources pertaining to the New England region. Based on evidence from linguistic studies (Crowley 1976), Godwin (1990: Figure 5.2) provided a generalised map of language distribution, in reference to which, the Project Area extends from the Nganjaywana (Anaiwan) language group into the Gamilaroi (or Gomeroi) language group. In this context, the language spoken in the Bundarra-Armidale-Uralla area was identified as the Inuwon dialect area of Anaiwan. Anaiwan is viewed by linguists as being unique within Australian Aboriginal languages, with Crowley (1976) suggesting that the key differences are a result of limited exchange of vocabulary based on the Anaiwan having a separate 'secret or mystical' vocabulary which meant that words that could not be spoken (for reasons associated with key beliefs) could be replaced without having to borrow words from another language. On this basis, Anaiwan existed with some linguistic separation to Gamilaroi and other neighbouring language groups, however some common words are shared with Gamilaroi (Crowley 1976).

Much consideration has been given to the relationships between the Anaiwan, their coastal neighbours (the Dhangutti and the Gumbaynggir) and the Gamilaroi people, as will be discussed further with reference to models of occupation of the Tablelands. In terms of social organisation, Radcliffe-Brown referenced both the Anaiwan and Gamilaroi as having a totemic system based on matrilineal clans, meaning that descent was followed through the female line. Godwin (1990:145) also interprets Wyndham's (1889) ethnohistoric accounts as demonstrating that there was a 'transfer of ceremony or ritual between the tableland and western slope groups', again indicating that these two nations interacted with some frequency.

Godwin (1990) provides a collation of ethnohistoric references relevant to understanding how Aboriginal people lived on the Tablelands and western slopes and reviews previously posited models. In summary, McBryde (1974) suggested that people may have moved west and east off the Tablelands during winter to avoid the colder temperatures and that there was a focus on ceremonial activities in some parts of the Tablelands, as evidenced by the relatively high frequency of sites identified as associated with ceremony. Bowdler (1981) also posits that the Tablelands were a major ceremonial area in the region, with ceremonies occurring primarily in the summer with people from both the Tablelands and the adjoining eastern and western slopes. In this model, ceremonies occurred mainly at high elevation in areas that were typically not used during winter.

Godwin (1990:123) describes an occupation model whereby the Tablelands population comprised small groups of people that were mobile throughout the year, potentially moving to the western slopes in summer and early autumn. People on the western slopes also moved frequently in small groups, potentially into the lower Tablelands in autumn and summer. Movement to attend ceremonies was a significant consideration with people potentially traveling significant distances from the western slopes to attend ceremonial gatherings on the Tablelands and vice versa. Based on accounts from early historical period (including Oxley), Godwin indicates that ceremonial gatherings of many hundreds of people potentially involved both Anaiwan and Gamilaroi people, depending on location and timing. This includes a reference by Calvert (1847:61) that gatherings to 'settle disputes and initiate young men' occurred at Kentucky, in the vicinity of the current Project Area (in Godwin 1990:135). Godwin (1990:382) suggests that the Anaiwan were originally linked to the coastal Dhangutti (based on linguistic similarities) but following occupation of the Tablelands and, over time, interactions were more common with the people of the western slopes, most likely in the last 2,000 years.

More recently, Beck, Haworth and Appleton (2015) have suggested that occupation on the Tablelands occurred throughout the year, with a focus on resources associated with upland wetlands (Appleton et al 2015). Under this model, Aboriginal occupation of the area peaked in the late Holocene. At this time, conditions became drier and more variable. Within this changeable environment, the upland wetlands provided reliable resources that were targeted by Aboriginal people and had the capacity to support larger gatherings for ceremonial purposes. This model also references the higher occurrence of ceremonial sites in the Tablelands, as compared to other regions.

Population estimates are inherently difficult to make based on ethnohistoric records due to the impacts of disease however early estimates can provide an indication of population densities. In 1842, the Commissioner for Crown Lands estimated a 'Tablelands' population of 500-600 people. Godwin (1990:111-112) rightly argues that this is probably flawed for a number of reasons and instead estimates a population of between 1150-1350 people prior to the impacts of smallpox and other introduced diseases. Subsequent population estimates from 1850 and 1882 show a further reduction in the number of Aboriginal people in the area, presumably reflecting the impact of increasing non-Aboriginal settlement and control over land.

In terms of key resources utilised by Aboriginal people in the area, there are several ethnohistoric accounts of hunting in groups in the form of netting of large numbers of macropods or undertaking ‘kangaroo drives’ (Godwin 1990:152), which sometimes required large numbers of participants and may have occurred in association with ceremonial activities. In this instance, the drive would have provided sufficient food to support large gatherings. Other key resources identified in the ethnohistoric records include possums, which may have been most prized for their skins, which were processed to make warm cloaks, a key item in surviving the cold conditions in this area (Godwin 1990:156). Snakes, lizards and many varieties of birds were also consumed. On the Tablelands, eels and crayfish were targeted from freshwater resources (with no fish species naturally occurring in this area), whilst freshwater fish were a common dietary addition on the western slopes.

A range of plant species were also recorded as being used by Aboriginal people on the Tablelands such as multiple types of tubers (including the true yam and daisy yam), kurrajong, wattle, native cherry, fig, native orange, pomegranate and grape. A starchy sap secreted by gums after insect attack (referred to as ‘manna’) provided a high carbohydrate food supply. The key contrast to plant species targeted on the western slopes is the reduced focus on the collection and processing of grass seeds. Grass seeds were a key resource on the western slopes however suitable species for seed collection and grinding did not occur on the Tablelands in significant quantities.

Ethnohistoric accounts indicate that the early period of non-Aboriginal settlement of the region was not initially associated with violence (Godwin 1990:53-55), noting some level of collaboration and ‘good’ relationships. However, as non-Aboriginal settlement increased, there was a concurrent increase in negative impacts on the land and resources of Aboriginal people on the Tablelands, including draining swamps and marshes that provided such a critical source of fresh water and other resources. This, in turn, resulted in increased conflict from the 1830s, noting that this conflict was not universal and that, on some properties, Aboriginal people were employed, and direct violence was avoided. The outcomes of conflict for the Aboriginal population were not documented due, at least in part, to the key authorities having little concern for the welfare of the Aboriginal population. However, records of injuries and deaths of white farmhands and workers gives an indication of the extent of conflict (Godwin 1990:56). On Cory’s Terrible Vale Station (located to the south-east of the current Project Area), there were reports of a massacre of a large number of Aboriginal people and ongoing reports of conflict (refer to EMM 2018:30). By the 1840s, this violence appears to have significantly reduced, perhaps reflecting the impacts of prior violence and introduced disease on the Aboriginal people of the area.

In 1851, a reserve for Aboriginal people was established at Armidale (EMM 2018:31) and following this time, many Aboriginal people from the area were forcibly relocated away from their Country. Despite these impacts, the Anaiwan and Gamilaroi/Gomeroi peoples remain strongly linked to their culture and connected to their respective Country.

5.2 Archaeological Context

A review of available archaeological information is crucial to the archaeological assessment process, as it informs our 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 NSW Heritage Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database (which documents the location and nature of sites for which site cards have been lodged), a review of occupation models for the region 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 to establish a predictive archaeological model for the Project Area.

5.2.1 Regional Context

As discussed previously, the occupation pattern and relationships between the Anaiwan, Gomeroi and nations to the east has been the subject to significant discussion and review. In this section, the archaeological evidence associated with these models is discussed.

Godwin (1990:178) references Binns and McBryde's (1972) work on provenancing axes from the Daruka/Moore Creek quarry (located over 40km south-west of the Project Area at the base of the western slopes) and the Salisbury Court quarry (located approximately 11km east of the Project Area within the Tablelands) and reviewing the distribution of axes from these quarries in the archaeological record. The results of this study identified that stone from Salisbury Court had a limited distribution of no more than 30km from the source whereas material quarried at Daruka was found in sites located up to 600km west of the quarry. Godwin (1990) references this evidence to support the argument that interaction primarily occurred from the Tablelands to the western slopes, rather than to the coast. He does note that the exchange of stone does appear to occur from the western slopes into the Tablelands, but that stone sourced within the Tablelands is more commonly only found within the local area.

In relation to rock art identified within the region, Godwin (1990:184) references art at sites on the Tablelands as primarily wet pigment pictographs including human figures, geometric shapes, animal tracks and items of material culture and some depictions of animals (although these were not common). This style of art is also found on the western slopes with the addition of stencilling and engravings. This contrasts with the key styles of art found in coastal area, which Godwin (1990) interprets as evidencing closer interaction between the Tablelands to western slopes.

In addition to reviewing previously identified archaeological evidence, Godwin (1990) undertook targeted survey within the Tablelands. The survey focused on the portion of the Tablelands to the east of the current Project Area, extending no further west than Uralla. In reviewing the results, he identified that, in areas with texture contrast soils (such as the current Project Area), there is a greater likelihood that, if sites are present in an area, they will be detected in areas where the A soil horizon has been eroded. He also noted a relationship between soil types and site location, stating, that in areas of texture contrast soils, 'the greater the soil variability, the more likely one is to find a site, irrespective of the availability of stone' and suggested that this was reflective of greater resource variability in areas with multiple soil types (Godwin: 1990:373).

Godwin (1990) references silcrete as the most common raw material type in sites he surveyed on the tablelands (noting that most of these sites were in proximity to identified silcrete sources), with quartz more common in areas of large granite outcrops. Chert and mudstone also occurred as these raw materials are available within areas in the Sandon Beds formation, either as outcrop or pebbles in watercourses. However, silcrete remained the most common raw material used in artefact manufacture in areas where chert and mudstone are also available, leading Godwin (1990:325) to argue that silcrete was the preferred raw material. This is supported by evidence at identified silcrete quarries, where the raw material was reduced at the source, high quality material was taken away in reduced blocks and then rationed with distance from the source (even at relatively short distances). While dating evidence is sparse, Godwin (1990:381) suggested that occupation of the tablelands would have been limited to the late Holocene, namely the last 4,000 years.

5.2.2 Local Context

The local archaeological context of the Project Area is discussed with reference to the results of a search of the AHIMS register and a review of Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments completed in the local area.

An initial search of the AHIMS register was undertaken for the project on 26 and 27 March 2020. An updated search was completed on 27 April 2021. The updated search encompassed an area of Easting: 321900 – 357700 and Northing: 6578000 and 6610000. The extensive search is provided as **Appendix 2**. Twenty-eight sites were recorded in the area, all of which remain valid. The relative frequency of site types within the search area is outlined in **Table 5.1**.

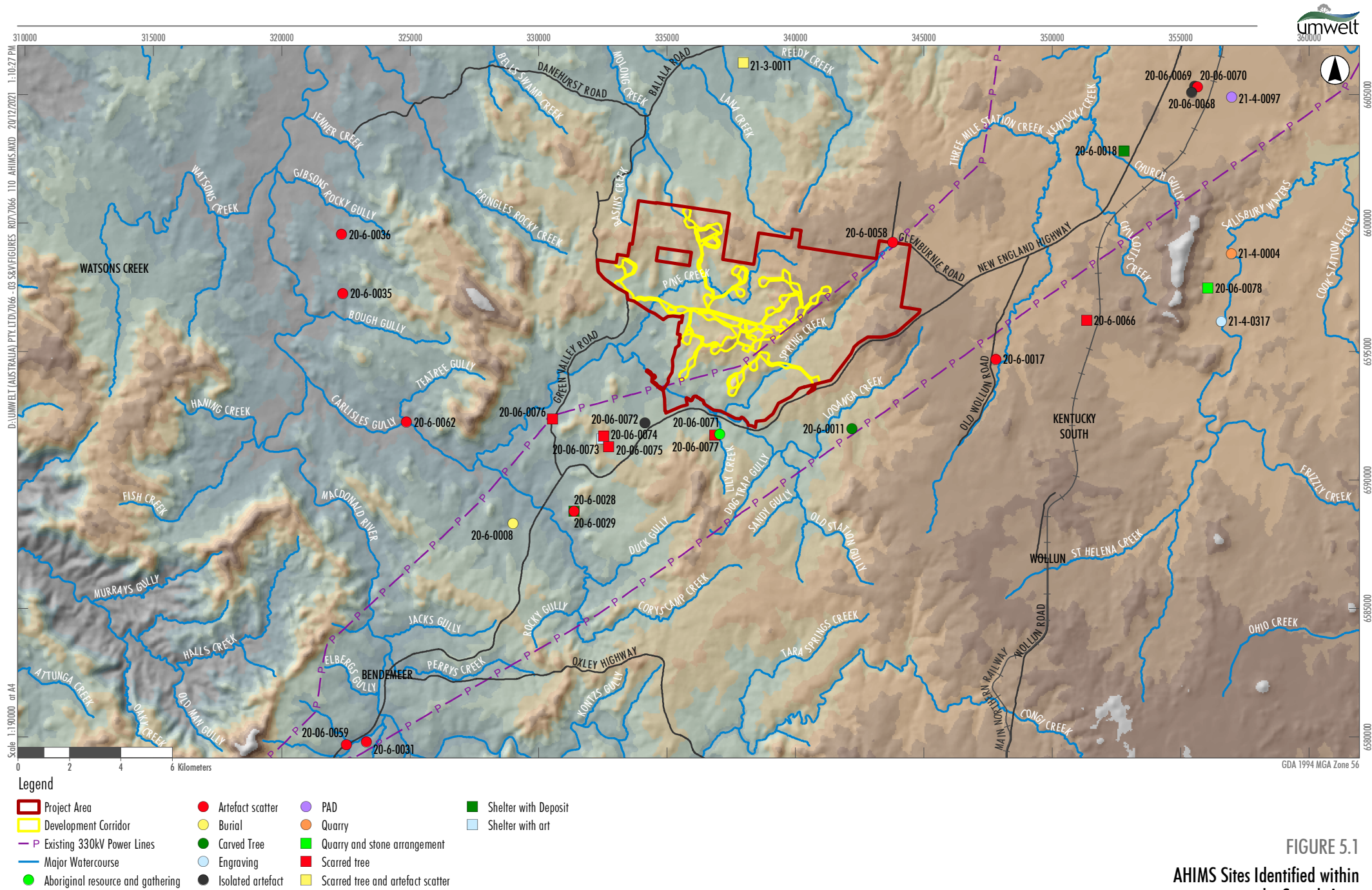
Table 5.1 AHIMS recorded sites within the search area (by site type)

Site Type	Frequency
Aboriginal Resource and Gathering	1
Burial	1
Carved tree	1
Engraving	1
PAD	1
Scarred tree and artefact scatter	1
Shelter with art	1
Quarry and stone arrangement	1
Quarry	1
Shelter with deposit	2
Isolated artefact	3
Scarred tree	5
Artefact scatter	9
Total	28

As is apparent in **Table 5.1**, sites containing stone artefacts (artefact scatters and isolated artefacts) are the most common site type, followed by scarred trees. In terms of the distribution of sites, as shown in **Figure 5.1**, sites containing stone artefacts are most commonly found in association with water sources. The shelters with deposit and the shelter with art are all located to the south of the Project Area on slopes trending down the range towards Bendemeer. These are within the same geological unit as the majority of the Project Area, indicating that the geology within the Project Area may be suitable for the formation of shelters.

The carved tree (AHIMS 20-6-0011) is located less than two km south of the Project Area. A review of the site card for this site indicates that it was originally recorded in the early 1970s as a carving of a lizard. At the time the site was revisited in 1980, the carving was no longer visible however the landowners were able to confirm the location and provide a sketch of the original carving.

Also worthy of note is the cluster of sites approximately 12 km east of the Project Area associated with Salisbury Waters. These sites include two identified stone quarries and an engraving site. These sites will be further discussed below. It is noted that these sites are all within a volcanic geological unit that is not present with the Project Area, indicating that the same types of stone resources as those targeted at these quarries may not be present within the Project Area.



One site (AHIMS 20-6-0058) is located on the northern boundary of the Project Area but over eight km from the Development Corridor. This site was recorded during a survey for the installation of a Telstra cable and was located on the banks of Spring Creek. No further information was provided on the site card. There are no previously recorded sites within the Development Corridor.

The outcomes of previous Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments undertaken in the local area are discussed below.

EMM 2018

EMM completed an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the New England Solar Farm, located over 10 km north-west of Project Area. The approved New England Solar Farm project area includes a section of Salisbury Waters, which (as discussed above) is associated with two recorded stone quarries, a stone arrangement and an engraving site. The survey for this assessment resulted in the recording of 95 Aboriginal archaeological sites, comprising isolated artefacts, artefact scatters, potential archaeological deposit, five quarries, scarred tree and six grinding groove sites. It is noted that these sites do not appear on the AHIMS data obtained in April 2021.

The sites recorded included 25 stone artefact scatters containing a total of 238 artefacts, with artefact density typically being low. Six grinding groove sites were recorded, one of which contained over 100 grooves. The grinding groove sites were present in areas with outcropping boulders and pavements (which EMM identified as being composed of silcrete) in elevated areas without direct access to watercourses. However, EMM (2018) noted that water would pool on the pavement sections and would be accessible following rain. The identified quarries comprised two silcrete quarries, two basalt quarries and one greywacke quarry, all of which are present within geological units not known to occur in the current Project Area.

In reviewing site distribution and patterns of occupation, EMM (2018) noted that sites were most commonly found on hill crests and slopes and suggested that people were targeting crests with outcropping material as locations for raw material extraction, axe manufacture and camping. In reviewing the distribution of sites as mapped by ERM (2018), it is noted that the majority of these elevated areas are situated with relatively easy access to Salisbury Waters and Saumarez Creek, both of which are fifth order, permanent or semi-permanent watercourses.

Hudson 2014

As part of a research thesis, Hudson (2014) reviewed the distribution of axes from the Salisbury axe quarry (AHIMS 21-4-0004), located approximately 11 km east of the Project Area (refer to **Figure 5.1**). Hudson reviewed the evidence from a range of sites within the Tablelands and identified that axes manufactured from material obtained from the Salisbury quarry had a relatively small distribution. These axes were identified in sites up to 50 km west of the source but were not identified in any assemblages from sites located to the east of the quarry. On this basis, Hudson (2014) suggested that the distribution of Salisbury axes provides support for Godwin's (1990) model whereby the people of the Tablelands interacted with the people of the western slopes but that these networks did not extend substantially towards the coast.

Suzanne R Hudson Consulting 2010

In 2010, Suzanne R Hudson Consulting was engaged to undertake an archaeological assessment of a former landfill site near the village of Kentucky. The exact location of the landfill is not clear in the report however, it is described as being within 5 km of the Salisbury axe quarry, which in turn means it is within approximately 5 - 10 km of the Project Area.

Six Aboriginal archaeological sites were recorded during the survey for this project, all of which were scarred trees. Where the tree species was identifiable, all were box trees. One scar was identified as being from the removal of a burial slab however no further detail was provided.

Gorman 1998

A satellite tracking station, telemetry and ground commanding station was proposed on the “Big Ridge” site approximately five km east-northeast of Uralla NSW. The Big Ridge site is located approximately 22 km to the northeast of the Project Area. The general area had been subject to extensive logging; however, it was noted as having some remnant vegetation.

A survey of the area was completed by the Dumaresq Shire Council Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer, with the recommendation for the potential sites to be assessed by an archaeologist. This assessment was completed by archaeologist Alice Gorman, who also carried out a survey of the area as part of a Sites Training Course. The survey resulted in identification of nine potential scarred trees, including a scar on a felled tree, and a possible stone arrangement being identified for further consideration.

The potential scarred trees were also assessed by representatives of the Yarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation and the University of New England’s Department of Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology. Of these, two of the standing trees (SC1 and SC3) and the felled tree (SC8) were assessed as being Aboriginal scarred trees. The potential stone arrangement was assessed as being a border for a European track.

Navin Officer 1995

This assessment was undertaken approximately 18 km south-west of the Project Area on the eastern slopes of the Moonbi Range and at considerably lower elevation than the Project Area. Two sites were identified. Both were low density artefact scatters containing three and five artefacts respectively. It was recommended that the sites be collected with no further requirement for archaeological investigation.

Goorie Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy 1994

Goorie Aboriginal Heritage Consultancy was engaged by Telecom to undertake an Aboriginal site investigation of a proposed fibre optic cable route from Tamworth to Armidale, NSW generally following the Main North railway line. The fibre optic route (and survey area) runs approximately 2.5 km to the east of the Project Area.

Based on the environmental context of the fibre optic cable project, Griffiths predicted the following sites were most likely to occur:

- Quarries – where suitable stone occurs to be quarried for stone tool production
- Open artefact scatters – Associated with open campsites
- Bora rings – circular earth mounds occurring on low-lying areas
- Scarred trees – if mature vegetation exists.

No Aboriginal archaeological sites were located along the fibre optic cable route. Several small gullies and creek crossings were inspected during the survey; however, none were assessed as having the potential for Aboriginal sites to be present. The lack of sites located was attributed to poor visibility and significant prior disturbance along the entire route.

Archaeological Associates (1982)

This assessment was undertaken in relation to a proposed expansion of water supply south of Uralla, approximately 10 km north-east of the current Project Area. The study area bordered the lower reaches of Kentucky Creek and a proposed pipeline connection into Uralla. A total of 25 ha were surveyed and three isolated artefacts were identified. These consisted of a quartzite flake, a silcrete flake and a silcrete core. It was recommended that the artefacts be collected without further assessment.

5.3 Predictive Model

Based on the information presented in the preceding sections, the following predictions are made in relation to the Project Area.

- Stone artefact scatters/isolated artefacts may be present throughout the Project Area. These sites are considered most likely to occur in proximity to the main channels of Spring Creek and Pine Creek on elevated landforms and/or lower slopes with direct access to these key water resources. Given the nature of these watercourses within the Project Area (being semi-permanent only) and the absence of upland wetland/lagoons, it is considered most likely that these sites will contain relatively low densities of artefacts, with potential to higher concentrations of artefacts if significant ponds or pools occur along these creeks. Stone artefacts are most likely to have been manufactured from silcrete or quartz but may also include artefacts manufactured from basalt (typically axes or adzes) and a range of other raw materials such as chert and jasper. The integrity of sites of this type may have been impacted by land clearance, erosion, and grazing.
- Scarred trees may occur anywhere within the Project Area where mature vegetation remains extant. Most commonly, scars will occur on box species however the possibility of scarring of other species cannot be discounted.
- Based on the nature of geological units within the Project Area, silcrete and basalt quarries may not be present as stone of this type is understood to be largely absent in this portion of the Tablelands. However, given the presence of the Sandon Beds (which can be associated with silcrete deposits), the possibility that silcrete or basalt deposits may occur in discrete areas and may have been subject to quarrying cannot be dismissed.
- Similarly, should silcrete occur, evidence from the local area indicates it may have been used as a medium for the manufacture of ground edge implements. The presence of a series of grinding groove sites on silcrete exposures at Salisbury demonstrates that sites of this type may occur. Based on the geology of the Project Area, this is not a high likelihood but cannot be dismissed.
- The Project Area contains substantial elevated areas with steep slopes on outcropping granite. It is possible that suitable rock overhangs may form in these types of landforms with this type of geology and that these overhangs may have been occupied by Aboriginal people. Evidence of this occupation could take the form of artefacts or art. Rock shelters of this type are known within the local area and may occur within the Project Area.
- Elevated areas within the Project Area may also contain stone arrangements. Sites of this type are particularly susceptible to disturbance but may remain preserved on rocky crests where land clearance and grazing impacts are limited.

6.0 Survey Methodology

As discussed in **Section 1.0**, project impacts will be limited to the Development Corridor and thus this area was the focus of survey and assessment. The intent of the survey was to ensure that an appropriate sample of the Development Corridor was surveyed.

6.1 Sampling Strategy

The survey was undertaken to ensure a representative sample of all landforms within the Development Corridor was surveyed, as required to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice. Within the Project Area, one section of proposed access track (from WTG18 to WTG16) was not surveyed as this area was very low-lying and too wet for pedestrian survey.

As will be discussed further in **Section 7.0**, survey efforts were significantly constrained by the presence of heavy vegetation cover, frequently comprising weeds and pasture grasses that in many cases formed a thick blanket within which there was no ground surface visibility. Where this occurred, it was discussed between the archaeologists and the Aboriginal party representatives that pedestrian survey in these areas had limited value as ground surface visibility was so poor that it was not possible to identify any Aboriginal objects that may have been present (if any). Where vehicle tracks were present, pedestrian survey was undertaken to take advantage of increased visibility and exposure. All efforts were made to achieve maximum survey coverage via pedestrian survey. Based on the size of the Development Corridor, it was surveyed in units that reflected a combination of the landforms and proposed impacts.

Consideration of the potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present but not visible was a key component of the survey, as will be discussed further in **Section 6.4**.

6.2 Information Recording During Survey

The survey units were 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), and track logs were recorded for all transects. Start and finish points/boundaries for survey units were defined based on landforms, Development Corridor boundaries, access, or other arbitrary terminations (as specified in the Code of Practice). The spacing between individuals was also recorded for each survey unit.

The distribution of survey participants across the survey units was discussed in the field with survey participants. Survey participants were generally spaced between 5 - 20 m apart where possible, dependent on ground surface visibility and density of vegetation.

Photographs were taken within the survey unit. Information recorded for the survey unit included:

- the landform
- gradient (where relevant)
- vegetation
- geology and soils (where suitable areas of exposure/visibility were present)

- identified Aboriginal resources
- levels of average ground surface visibility within the survey unit (in accordance with 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, proximal construction works, etc.)
- any site or area of identified Aboriginal archaeological potential present within the survey unit.

6.3 Survey Coverage

In accordance with the Code of Practice, the survey coverage description includes landform unit, the total area surveyed within the 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 2010b: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 2010b: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 to designate the proportion of the Development Corridor in which it is possible to accurately assess the presence or absence of archaeological material. Survey coverage is calculated by multiplying the survey unit 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.

6.4 Assessment of Subsurface Archaeological Potential

The assessment was undertaken with reference to factors including the archaeological context of the local area, the evaluation of the soil profile and the predictive model presented in **Section 5.3**. 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 of 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 low intensity compared to other areas within the region. 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 expected at other areas within the region. Terrain integrity in these areas may be variable, but the majority of open camp sites are expected to be of low-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 and would have been a key location for occupation or other regular use likely to result in the deposition of archaeological material. 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.

7.0 Results

The survey of the Development Corridor was conducted by the Aboriginal party representatives listed in **Table 3.2**, Nicola Roche (Umwelt Heritage Technical Lead) and Alison Fenwick (Umwelt Archaeologist) over the course of two survey periods. The first survey period extended from 28 April 2021 to 12 May 2021 and included the current Development Corridor and additional areas that will form part of the Stage 2 Project Area. The outcomes of survey in the Stage 2 Project Area will be reported separately. Following the refinement of Project design, a second phase of survey of the Development Corridor was conducted from 15-17 September 2021.

7.1 Information Provided by Aboriginal Party Representatives

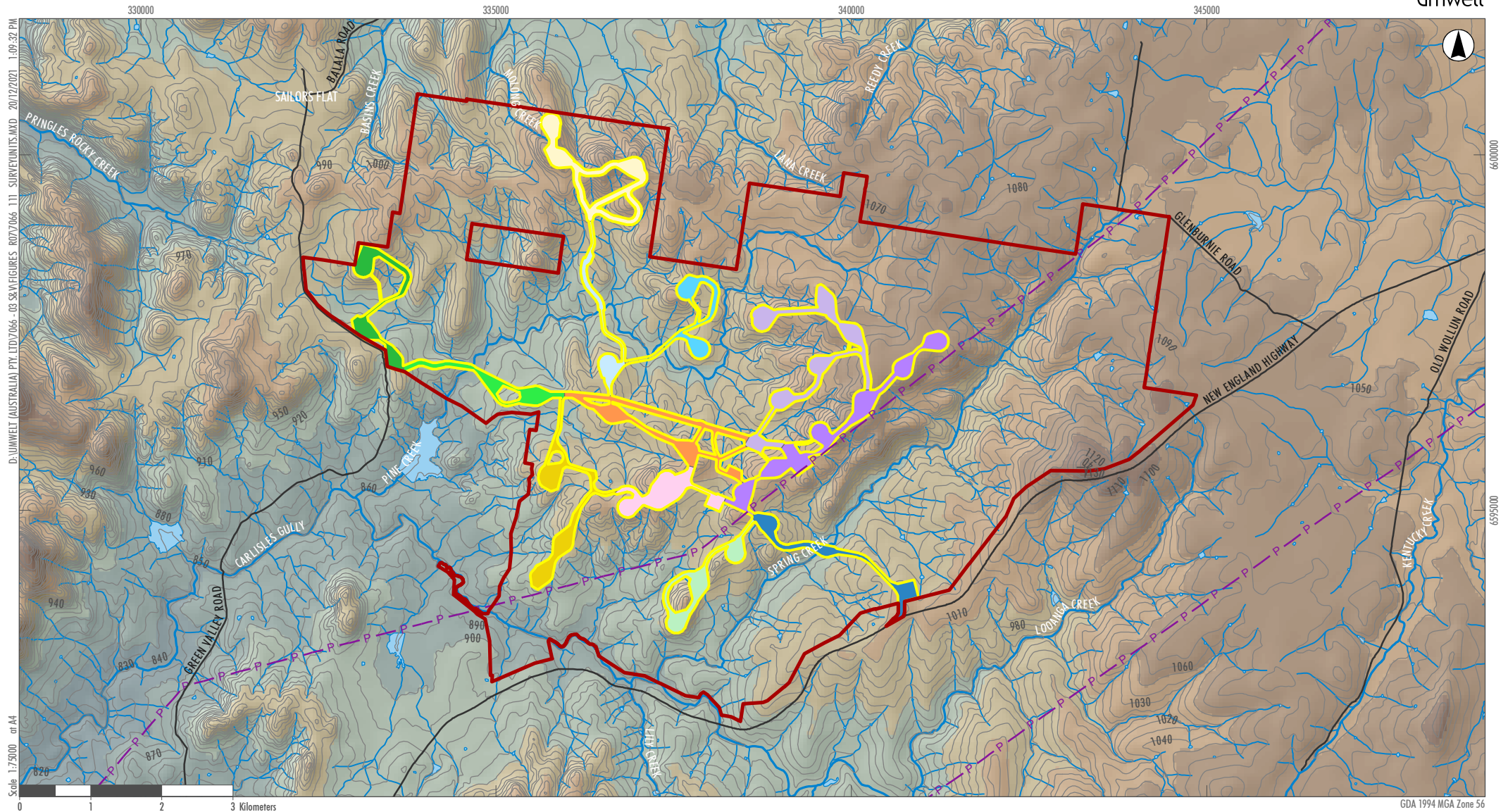
During the survey, the registered Aboriginal party representatives noted that the levels of ground surface visibility and exposure were very low (as will be discussed further in **Section 7.2**). While the registered Aboriginal parties considered that much of the Development Corridor would have been used in a transitional fashion (based on the limited access to water and other resources), the statement was made that additional artefact scatters and isolated artefacts could be present but not visible due to the current conditions. On this basis, the registered Aboriginal parties provided feedback that consideration should be given to monitoring during earthworks for access track construction.

At several points during the survey, Steven Ahoy identified view lines from elevated landforms within the Project Area to key landscape features (being elevated areas) located many km outside the Project Area and noted that these views were sensitive from an Aboriginal cultural perspective.

A number of potential sites were identified by the registered Aboriginal parties during the survey. Where these potential sites did not have suitable characteristics to be recorded as an archaeological site, it was agreed that the potential sites would be documented and discussed separately in this report to allow the registered Aboriginal parties to revisit the information during their review of the draft report and provide further feedback on these potential sites.

7.2 Description of Survey Units

The survey units within the Development Corridor are shown in **Figure 7.1** and are described in **Table 7.1**. The survey units total 553 ha, with information on survey area by landform provided in **Table 7.1**. Images of the survey units are provided in **Photo 7.1** to **Photo 7.46**.



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Project Area | Survey Unit | SU6 | SU12 |
| Development Corridor | SU1 | SU7 | |
| -P- Existing 330kV Power Lines | SU2 | SU8 | |
| — Major Watercourse | SU3 | SU9 | |
| — Watercourse | SU4 | SU10 | |
| — 10m Contours | SU5 | SU11 | |

Image Source: ESRI Basemap Data source: NSW DFSI (2020), Neoen (2021)

FIGURE 7.1
Location of Survey Units

Table 7.1 Survey Unit Descriptions

Unit	Survey unit area (ha)	Visibility %*	Exposure %*	Effective Coverage *	Sites	General description	Archaeological potential rating
1	Total – 34.77 Flat 6.5 Level to gently inclined slopes – 5.43 Moderately inclined slopes – 12.86 Ridge/crest – 3.15 Spur – 2.45 Valley – 2.02	5	10	0.5%	None but TWF AS1 and TWF AS2 are adjacent Potential stone arrangement 3 is within survey unit	<p>Small section of remnant vegetation (including mature Euc sp.) and some native grasses bordering New England Highway but otherwise predominantly cleared and vegetated by pasture grasses. Partially follows existing access tracks that are heavily eroded. Crossing of Spring Creek occurs adjacent to areas of substantial granite exposure bordered by gently inclined lower slopes.</p> <p>As SU1 turns west towards WTG8, slopes become moderate and rocky. An outcrop of coarse grained siliceous material (potentially aplite, quartzite or a very coarse silcrete) was present on mid slope of track to WTG8 but no evidence of quarrying. Steven Ahoy noted that he would typically describe this material as silcrete. WTG8 is on elevated rocky crest.</p> <p>Disturbance factors include existing property access tracks, vegetation clearance and grazing.</p>	Low-moderate or moderate on low inclination slopes bordering Spring Creek (Spring Creek 1) Low for remainder of survey unit

Unit	Survey unit area (ha)	Visibility %*	Exposure %*	Effective Coverage *	Sites	General description	Archaeological potential rating
2	Total – 36.1 Footslopes – 0.54 Level to gently inclined slopes – 2.14 Moderately inclined slopes – 12.32 Steep slopes – 4.56 Very steep/precitous slopes – 0.82 Ridge/crest – 5.13 Spur – 6.28 Valley – 4.3	5	5	0.25%	No recorded archaeological sites Potential stone arrangements 2 and 4 and potential scarred tree 3 are within survey unit	Extends along Thunderbolts Ridge and includes sections of crests and steeply inclined rocky slopes and one section of lower inclination slopes on the access track between WTG10 and WTG11. Frequent granite exposures throughout. Vegetation included some sections of mature trees (most commonly on crests and steep slopes) but otherwise was heavily vegetated with imported grasses and weeds that significantly impacted ground surface visibility.	Low
3	Total – 79.27 Flat – 7.61 Footslopes – 0.24 Valley – 5.18 Level to gently inclined slopes – 16.33 Moderately inclined slopes – 21.64 Steep slopes – 1.44 Ridge/crest – 19.98 Spur – 6.85	10	10	1%	No recorded archaeological sites Potential stone arrangement 2 is outside survey unit	The majority of SU3 follows an existing access track associated with an existing transmission line that runs approximately parallel to the SU. This SU primarily follows a spur connecting the series of minor crests containing WTGs. Visibility was constrained by vegetation (primarily pasture grass with some areas of mature trees), with visibility limited to the current access track. The existing transmission line is included within parts of this SU	Low

Unit	Survey unit area (ha)	Visibility %*	Exposure %*	Effective Coverage *	Sites	General description	Archaeological potential rating
4	Total – 75.08 Flat – 3.56 Footslopes – 3.11 Valley – 9.87 Level to gently inclined slopes – 6.98 Moderately inclined slopes – 24.37 Steep slopes – 3.33 Ridge/crest – 15.27 Spur – 8.58	5	10	0.5%	None	The majority of SU4 is very similar to SU3 in terms of landforms, vegetation, and other conditions. One WTG (WTG14) is located on a gently inclined slope, with others located on crests. However, the southern section of SU4 is different, comprising very gently inclined lower slopes bordering Pine Creek (Pine Creek 2)	Low-moderate or moderate on low inclination slopes bordering Pine Creek (Pine Creek 2) Low for remainder of survey unit
5	Total – 42.58 Footslopes – 2.31 Valley – 7.2 Level to gently inclined slopes – 0.75 Moderately inclined slopes – 9.8 Steep slopes – 5.13 Very steep to precipitous slopes – 0.35 Ridge/crest – 10.4 Spur – 6.64	5	5	0.25%	None	Survey unit comprises sections of gently inclined, heavily grassed slopes and moderate slopes leading to crests containing WTG19 and 20. Moderate slopes and crests contain significant rock outcrops including weathered granite overhangs (no evidence of occupation)	Low

Unit	Survey unit area (ha)	Visibility %*	Exposure %*	Effective Coverage *	Sites	General description	Archaeological potential rating
6	Total – 59.99 Flat – 1.7 Footslopes – 6.56 Level to gently inclined slopes – 7.3 Moderately inclined slopes – 24.82 Steep slopes – 0.29 Ridge/crest – 6.8 Spur – 7.07	20	20	4%	TWF IA2	SU6 largely follows an existing track across moderate to gently inclined slopes, with a short section off track leading to T15. Levels of visibility and exposure along the track were variable from very high (70% visibility and 40% exposure) to moderate (20% visibility, 20% exposure). Visibility off track was low due to heavy grass coverage, with sections of mature trees also present off-track. T15 is located off track on a minor crest	Low
7	Total – 28.08 Footslopes – 0.74 Valley – 6.00 Level to gently inclined slopes – 0.39 Moderately inclined slopes – 7.58 Steep slopes – 0.72 Ridge/crest – 7.98 Spur – 4.66	5	5	0.25%	None	SU7 comprises crests containing WTG16 and 23, with the access tracks between being located on relatively steeply inclined slopes crossing minor gullies. The SU is partially cleared and heavily grassed, restricting visibility.	Low

Unit	Survey unit area (ha)	Visibility %*	Exposure %*	Effective Coverage *	Sites	General description	Archaeological potential rating
8	Total – 25.35 Flat – 1.66 Valley – 0.69 Footslopes – 0.64 Level to gently inclined slopes – 1.6 Moderately inclined slopes – 11.76 Steep slopes – 1.46 Very steep to precipitous slopes – 0.05 Ridge/crest – 4.84 Spur – 2.66				TWF IA4	SU8 includes the treed crest containing WTG18 and then transitions to gentle slopes bordering the main channel of Pine Creek. On the northern side of Pine Creek it transitions to low to moderate inclination slopes.	Low-moderate or moderate on low inclination slopes bordering Pine Creek (Pine Creek 3)
9	Total – 56.03 Valley – 8.02 Footslopes – 0.27 Level to gently inclined slopes – 0.37 Moderately inclined slopes – 10.17 Steep slopes – 4.18 Very steep to precipitous slopes – 2.11 Ridge/crest – 20.01 Spur – 10.9	5	5		None	The western section of SU9 primarily comprises heavily treed moderate to very steeply inclined slopes with sections of thick understorey. Slope inclination was more variable in the eastern section, ranging from gently to steeply inclined. Visibility was highly constrained by vegetation. Slopes also contained frequent granite boulders and exposures.	Low

Unit	Survey unit area (ha)	Visibility %*	Exposure %*	Effective Coverage *	Sites	General description	Archaeological potential rating
10	Total – 46.42 Flat – 4.01 Valley – 1.71 Footslopes – 2.83 Level to gently inclined slopes – 6.13 Moderately inclined slopes – 14.3 Steep slopes – 0.27 Ridge/crest – 7.87 Spur – 9.3	5	5		TWF IA1 Potential scarred tree 1 is outside the survey unit	Survey unit largely comprises sections of gently inclined, heavily grassed slopes with some sections of moderate slope. WTG1, 21 and 22 are on lower elevation landforms than other WTGs. Significant granite outcrops present throughout area	Low
11	Total – 30.8 Flat – 5.7 Valley – 0.54 Footslopes – 1.34 Level to gently inclined slopes – 4.4 Moderately inclined slopes – 7.6 Ridge/crest – 7.51 Spur – 3.71	15	20		None	SU11 comprises relatively low inclination slopes leading to T33 on the eastern side of the Pine Creek crossing and moderately inclined, rocky slopes for the access track to T27 on the western side of the Pine Creek crossing. There are substantial areas of exposure and visibility resulting from erosion along Pine Creek however no artefacts were present. The slopes on the eastern side of Pine Creek have been ploughed, cultivated and heavily grazed whilst some remnant mature vegetation remains with the SU west of Pine Creek.	Low

Unit	Survey unit area (ha)	Visibility %*	Exposure %*	Effective Coverage *	Sites	General description	Archaeological potential rating
12	Total – 38.43 Flat – 1.28 Valley – 4.62 Footslopes – 2.17 Level to gently inclined slopes – 0.68 Moderately inclined slopes – 17.34 Steep slopes – 1.57 Ridge/crest – 6.46 Spur – 4.31	5	5		TWF IA3	SU12 commences at WTG27 and descends moderately inclined rocky slopes to WTG28. From WTG28 the proposed access track to WTG29 crosses minor tributaries of Pine Creek in a relatively low-lying and boggy area before ascending moderate slopes to the crest containing WTG29. Visibility is limited due to grass growth	Low

Photo 7.1 SU 1 -view of access from New England Highway



Photo 7.2 SU1 – View of Spring Creek crossing showing low inclination bordering slopes (Spring Creek 1)



Photo 7.3 SU1 – view along access track to WTG8 showing increase in slope inclination



Photo 7.4 SU1 – outcrop of silcrete occurring on mid slope to WTG8



Photo 7.5 SU1 - outcrop of silcrete occurring on mid slope to WTG8



Photo 7.6 SU1 – location of WTG8



Photo 7.7 SU2 – view along crest at WTG9



Photo 7.8 SU2 – view along saddle between WTG9 and WTG10



Photo 7.9 SU2 – within WTG11 footprint



Photo 7.10 SU2 – view along proposed access from WTG10 to WTG11



Photo 7.11 SU2- view along level section of proposed access from WTG10 to WTG11



Photo 7.12 SU3 – showing existing track and farm infrastructure



Photo 7.13 SU3 showing existing access track along spur



Photo 7.14 SU3 – view in vicinity of WTG5



Photo 7.15 SU3 – view of access between WTG4 and 3



Photo 7.16 SU3 – view in vicinity of WTG3



Photo 7.17 SU4 – view in the vicinity of WTG32



Photo 7.18 SU4 – view in the vicinity of WTG31



Photo 7.19 SU4 – view along access to WTG30



Photo 7.20 SU4 – view in the vicinity of WTG14



Photo 7.21 SU4 -view across gently inclined slopes to Pine Creek



Photo 7.22 SU5 – view towards WTG20



Photo 7.23 SU5 – rock overhang



Photo 7.24 SU5 showing standard vegetation and visibility on slopes



Photo 7.25 SU5 – view towards WTG19



Photo 7.26 SU6 – showing existing access track



Photo 7.27 SU6 – WTG15 location



Photo 7.28 SU6 – access track exposure adjacent to WTG17



Photo 7.29 SU7 – general view along access between WTG13 and WTG16



Photo 7.30 SU7 – general view at base of slope to crest containing WTG16



Photo 7.31 SU8 - WTG18 location



Photo 7.32 SU8 – view across middle portion



Photo 7.33 SU8 – lower slopes leading to Pine Creek (Pine Creek 4)



Photo 7.34 View along access to WTG24 in eastern portion of SU9



Photo 7.35 SU9 – WTG24 location



Photo 7.36 SU9 – WTG26 location



Photo 7.37 SU9 – WTG25 location



Photo 7.38 SU9 – access to WTG25



Photo 7.39 SU10 - showing standard vegetation and visibility on slopes



Photo 7.40 SU10 – granite outcrops in the vicinity of WTG1



Photo 7.41 SU10 view towards WTG21



Photo 7.42 SU11 – view from T33 footprint to Pine Creek



Photo 7.43 SU11 – proposed access track up rocky moderate slopes



Photo 7.44 SU12 – view across WTG27 location



Photo 7.45 SU12 -view across WTG29 location



Photo 7.46 SU12 – view along access route to WTG29



To summarise the survey unit descriptions broadly, the majority of survey units had been cleared (at least partially). Vegetation communities were variable across the survey units but in all instances, ground surface visibility was constrained by vegetation, predominantly pasture grasses and some native species. Where areas of visibility and exposure occurred, the soils typically comprised texture contrast soils of varying depth, with areas of deeper A horizons most often identified in association with the main channel of Pine Creek and Spring Creek.

Outcropping granite occurred throughout the survey areas, in the form of boulders, fractured slabs and/or general bedrock exposures. None of the granite exposures exhibited clear archaeological evidence of modification (noting that the Aboriginal parties identified some potential stone arrangements as will be discussed below). Some sections of dark grey to black volcanic material were present in association with granite exposures, most commonly in association with quartz veins. This material may have been suitable for manufacturing ground edge implements (such as axes or adzes) however none of the exposed material inspected had been subject to quarrying. In some areas, outcropping granite and/or granite boulders had weathered in such a fashion as to form an overhang that could have been suitable for occupation by Aboriginal people however no evidence of this occupation (such as stone artefacts or art) was identified in the inspected overhangs.

Landforms within the survey areas consisted of crests, typically adjoined by steep or very steep rocky slopes, with slope inclination reduced in proximity to Pine Creek and Spring Creek. The key disturbance factor across the survey units was land clearance and use for grazing, with established vehicle access tracks present in various survey units. Land clearance has increased erosion susceptibility, with substantial sections of gully erosion present along watercourses. In portions of the survey area, evidence of ploughing and cropping was apparent, dictating that the soil in these areas had been substantially disturbed to the depth of the plough zone.

Information on the archaeological sites identified and the archaeological potential of the Development Corridor is provided in the following sections.

7.3 Newly Recorded Archaeological Sites

The location of newly recorded archaeological sites is shown in **Figure 7.2**. Descriptions of the sites are provided below, and site images are provided in **Photos 7.47 to 7.62**. The sites were named in the field with the acronym TWF (for Thunderbolt Wind Farm) followed by AS (artefact scatter) or IA (isolated artefact) and then numbered sequentially.

7.3.1 TWF AS1

TWF AS1 is an artefact scatter containing two artefacts located approximately five metres apart on an existing access track. The artefacts are a quartz flake with potential retouch and a flake of dark grey volcanic material (likely basalt). The artefacts were exposed on the access track which is subject to ongoing rill and gully erosion in sections. It is the main access track for the property, is subject to regular vehicle traffic and appears to be graded periodically. The track is cut into a gentle to moderate slope located just under 200 metres from the main channel of Spring Creek and a minor drainage gully is located to the east of the site. Despite high levels of exposure and visibility along the track from Spring Creek to TWF AS1, no additional artefacts were identified closer to Spring Creek although TWF AS2 is present on the same track approximately 250 metres away. Based on the levels of disturbance, TWF AS1 has limited archaeological integrity and the artefacts are not in their original depositional context. TWF AS1 is located outside the Development Corridor.

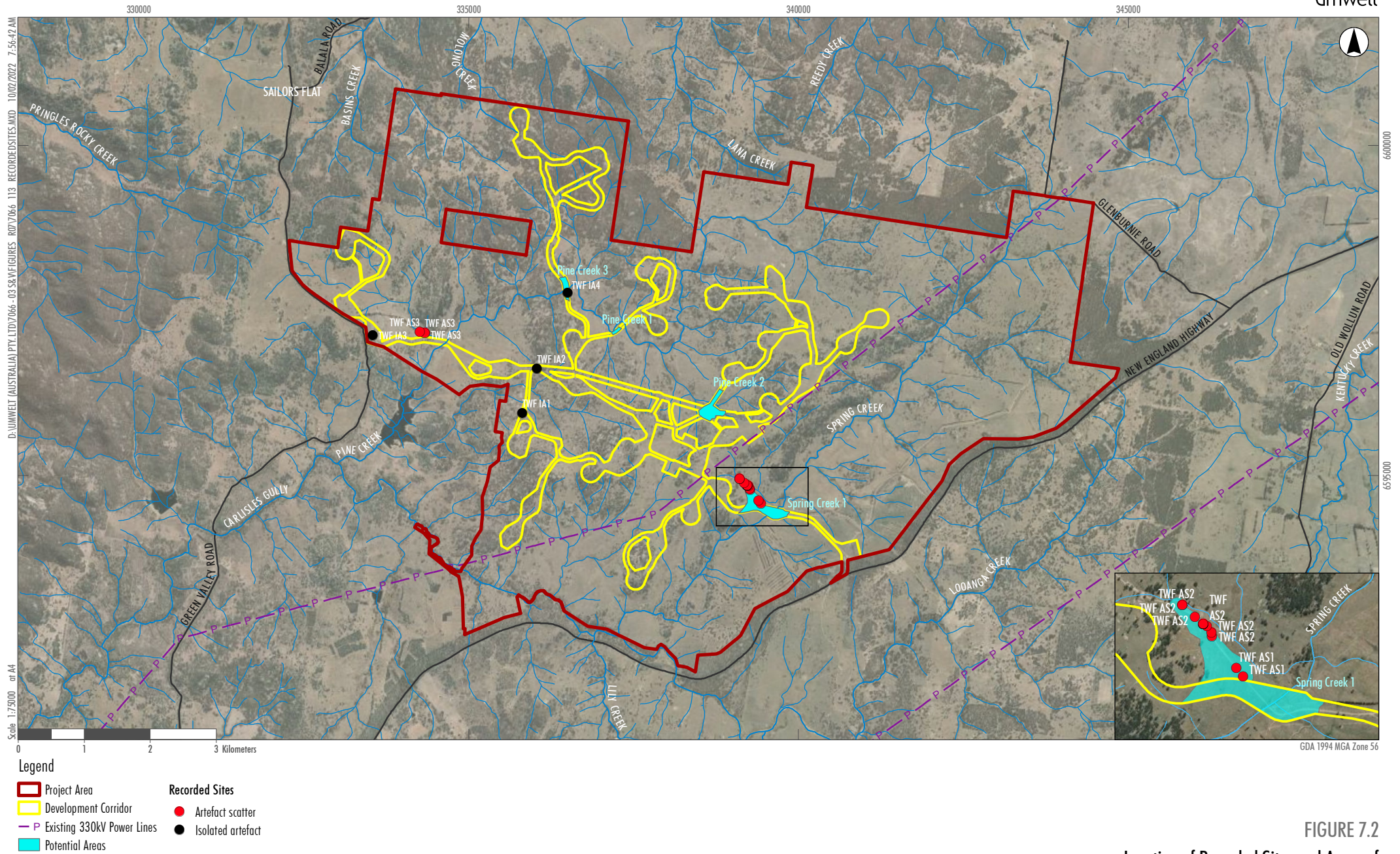


FIGURE 7.2
Location of Recorded Sites and Areas of Archaeological Potential

Photo 7.47 TWF AS1 – view along track containing site



Photo 7.48 TWF AS1 – quartz flake



7.3.2 TWF AS2

TWF AS2 is an artefact scatter containing 14 artefacts distributed along an access track at eight locations, covering an area of approximately 200 metres. The artefacts are listed by their location in **Table 7.2**.

The site has been significantly affected by erosion, with artefacts frequently exposed on the edges of the access track where the access track has been incised into the natural soil profile and is subject to ongoing erosion. As with TWF AS1, TWF AS2 has limited integrity and is located outside the Development Corridor.

Table 7.2 TWF AS2 artefacts by location

Location	Artefacts
1	White silcrete flake
2	Quartz/chalcedony core
3	Volcanic (likely basalt) flake
4	Silicified sandstone flake
5	Dark grey fine grained siliceous flake Quartz/chalcedony flake Quartz broken retouched flake Quartz broken flake Quartz core
6	Quartz flake Quartz broken flake Quartz broken flake Quartz broken flake
7	Jasper flake

It is likely that TWF AS1 and AS2 represent two occurrences of the same site and that the separation of the artefacts reflects the impacts of erosion and disturbance along the track. Based on the number of artefacts visible on the access track and the fact that the access track is the only area of exposure and visibility within the immediate area, it is considered likely that additional artefacts will be present in a subsurface context. As will be discussed in **Section 7.5**, this potential is considered to extend to the gently inclined lower slopes bordering Spring Creek and those extending along the minor tributary to the east of TWF AS1 and TWF AS2.

7.3.3 TWF AS3

TWF AS3 is a scatter of three artefacts visible in an access track adjacent to a tributary of Pine Creek. The access track has been graded into the hillslope and is subject to significant ongoing erosion and repair. The artefacts were identified adjacent to a large gravel borrow pit and there is introduced material (including road base gravel) in the vicinity. Based on the level of impact at this location from earthworks to establish and maintain the access track, the artefacts do not retain archaeological integrity and it is likely that in situ artefacts and deposit has been removed.

Photo 7.49 TWF AS2 – view along track containing site



Photo 7.50 TWF AS2 – silcrete flake



Photo 7.51 TWF AS2 – quartz broken flake

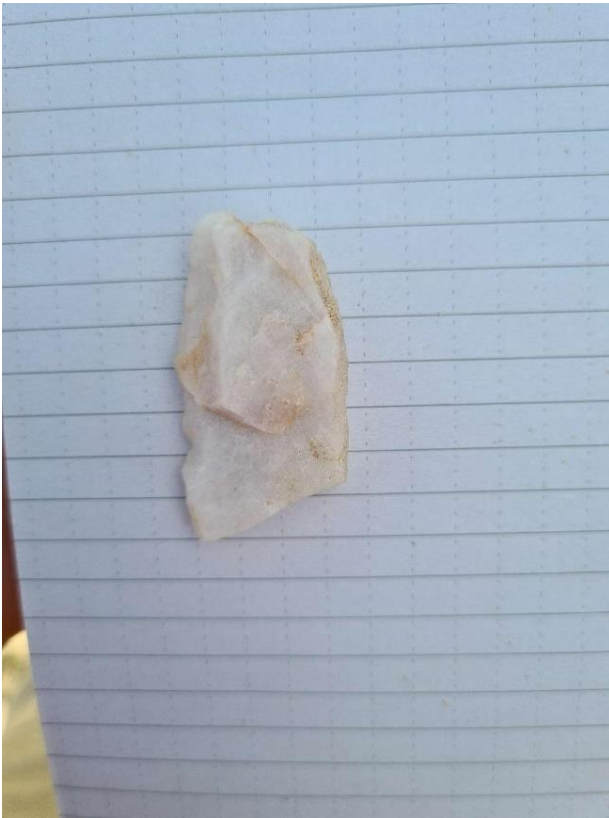


Photo 7.52 TWF AS2 – quartz/chalcedony core

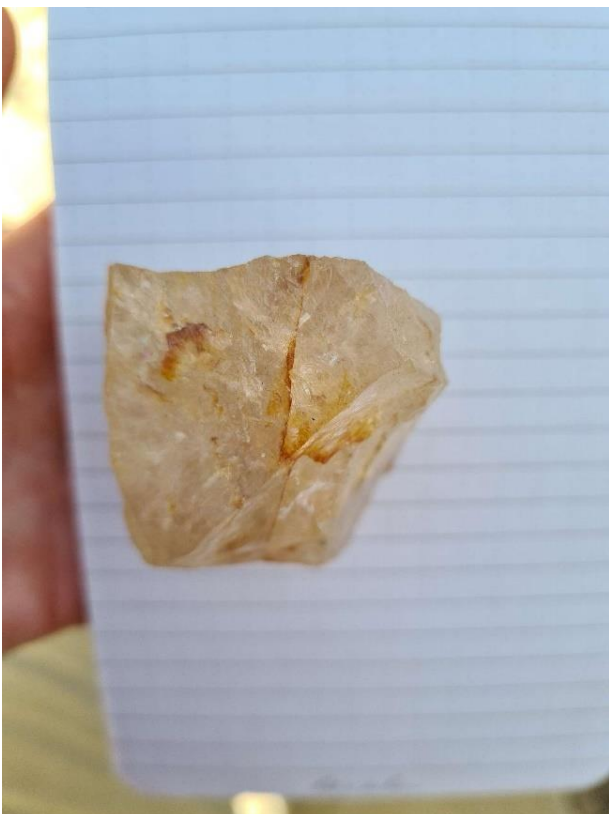
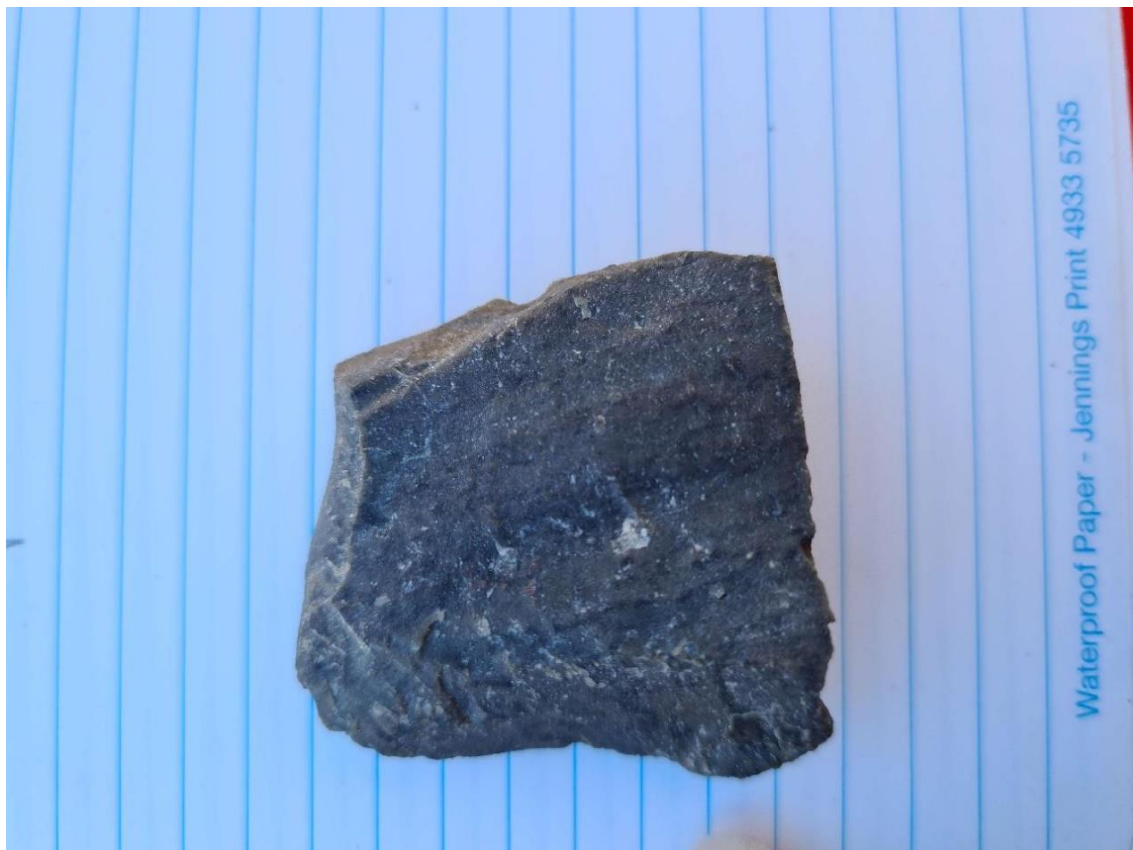


Photo 7.53 TWF AS3



Photo 7.54 TWF AS3 – broken flake (basalt)



7.3.4 TWF IA1

TWF IA1 is a small broken flake of banded coarse-grained material (likely quartzite) located in a small area of enhanced visibility at the base of an apple box tree. Despite the presence of a range of other exposed stone lag, no additional artefacts were present. The artefact is present on a gently inclined slope with frequent bedrock exposures approximately 100 metres from a minor tributary of Pine Creek.

7.3.5 TW IA2

TWF IA2 is a small quartz flake located on a graded section of vehicle track extending along a gently inclined slope approximately 200 metres from a tributary of Pine Creek. The track appears to have been relatively recently graded, with excellent visibility and exposure along the track. Despite the high levels of visibility and exposure, no additional artefacts were visible.

7.3.6 TWF IA3

TWF IA3 is a silcrete broken flake located on the edge of a large granite exposure on a gently inclined slope approximately 250 metres from a minor tributary of Pine Creek. No further artefacts were identified in the area.

7.3.7 TWF IA4

TWF IA4 is a small silcrete flake (with potential use-wear on distal margin) located on the edge of a large granite exposure on a gently inclined slope. This landform trends gradually towards the main channel of Pine Creek and will be subject to further discussion in **Section 7.5**.

Photo 7.55 TWF IA1



Photo 7.56 TWF IA1 – broken flake

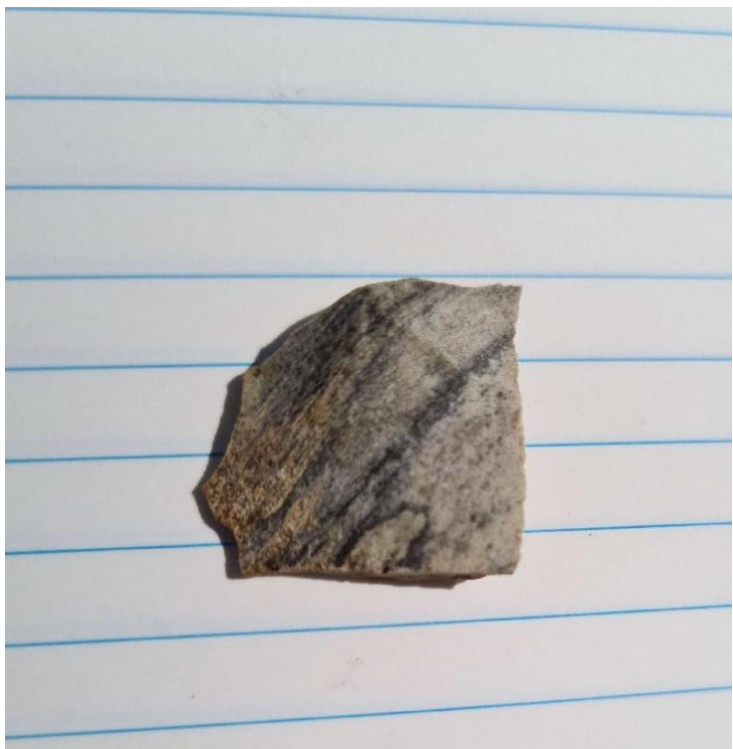


Photo 7.57 TWF IA2



Photo 7.58 TWF IA2 – quartz flake



Photo 7.59 TWF IA3



Photo 7.60 TWF IA3 – silcrete broken flake



Photo 7.61 TWF IA4

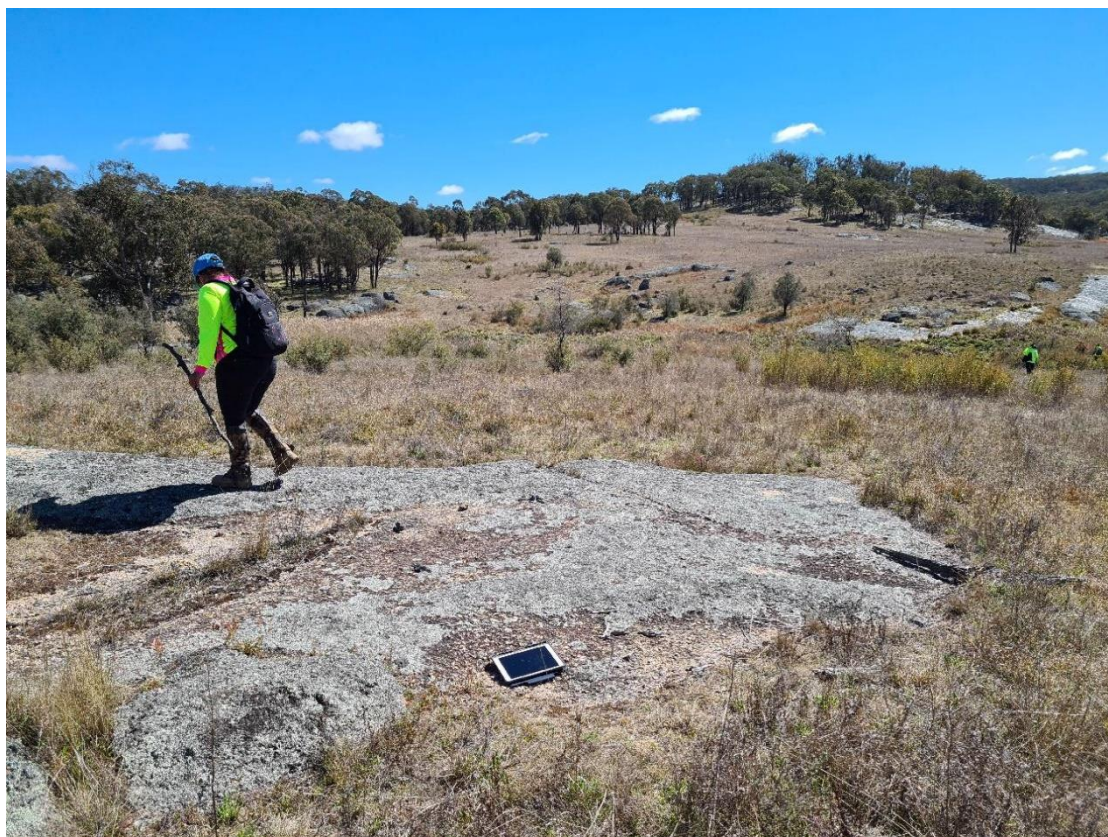


Photo 7.62 TWF IA4 – silcrete flake



7.4 Potential Sites

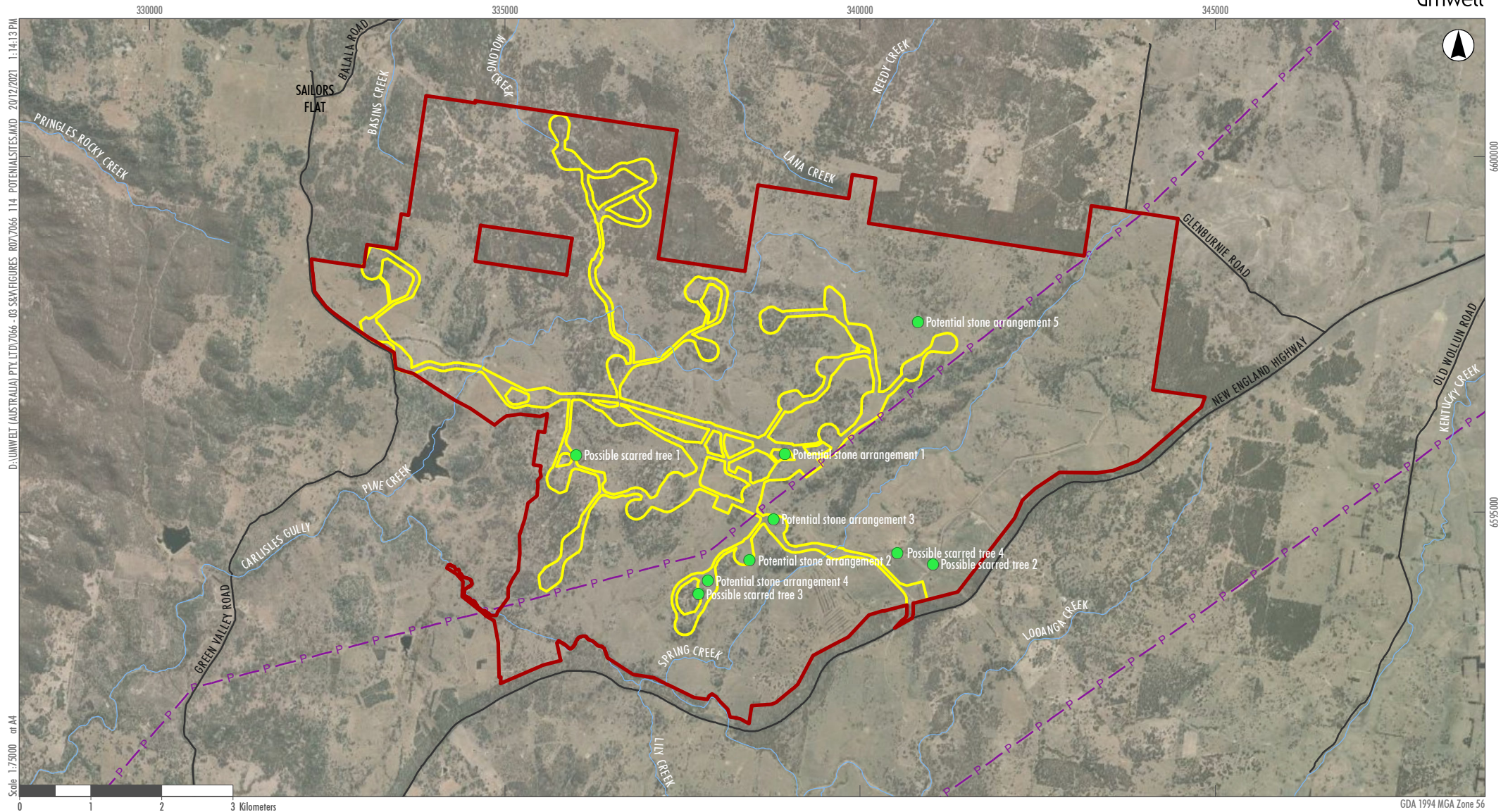
During the survey, Aboriginal party representatives identified several sites that they felt may have cultural value even if not necessarily meeting archaeological criteria for recording of sites of this type. It was discussed that these sites would be documented in the report for further consideration by the Aboriginal parties. The location of these potential sites is shown in **Figure 7.3**.

Information on the potential sites was provided to the Aboriginal parties in the draft ACHA. No comments on these potential sites were received. On that basis, they remain in this document as potential sites only.

Table 7.3 Potential sites (as requested by Aboriginal parties)

Name	Description
Possible scarred tree 1	Large red gum with irregularly shaped scar approximately 0.75m long x 0.3m wide with bulging callus regrowth. The scar twists substantially from top to bottom, potentially as a result of growth of the limb present just above the scar. From an archaeological perspective, this was considered unlikely to be a scar of Aboriginal cultural origin due to the irregularity of the scar and the indication that the scar once extended to the ground but has since healed (refer to Photo 7.63)
Possible scarred tree 2	Dead tree with relatively small diameter trunk. The scar is present on the south-western face of the tree and measures approximately 1.5m by 0.1m with approximately 0.2m of regrowth. The tree has been subject to significant insect and lightning damage. Based on the size of the tree, the size and shape of the scar and the comprehensive damage to the tree from an archaeological perspective it is considered highly unlikely to be a scar of Aboriginal cultural origin.
Possible scarred tree 3	Large stringybark located on a crest with sub-ovoid scar approximately 2m long x 0.5m wide with up to 30cm of regrowth. Scar twists from base to top, has irregular scarring at top and extends almost to ground level. Based on the shape of the scar and the presence of comparable damage on the tree, from an archaeological perspective it is considered unlikely to be a scar of Aboriginal cultural origin.
Possible scarred tree 4	Large eucalypt with small scar. Based on the location and dimensions of the scar, it is considered unlikely to be a scar of Aboriginal cultural origin.
Potential stone arrangement 1	This site was identified by Aboriginal parties based on the presence of a group of medium sized rough-edged granite boulders located on top of a large slightly domed granite outcrop. The Aboriginal parties felt that the boulders formed an approximate circle. Water was seeping from an area nearby and it was thought that there may be some association. From an archaeological perspective, there was no clear formation to the boulders nor was there significant difference to the appearance of other rock outcrops in the local area.
Potential stone arrangement 2	This site was identified by one Aboriginal party representative as potentially being a stone arrangement in the form of a seasonal or sun movement calendar. It comprises a large domed granite outcrop with multiple boulders present on the surface over an area of approximately 3.8m x 1.5m. From an archaeological perspective, there was no clear formation to the boulders nor was there significant difference to the appearance of other rock outcrops in the local area.
Potential stone arrangement 3	This site comprises an accumulation of granite boulders on a granite exposure. One of these is roughly triangular in shape and sits on edge. Based on the lichen growth, the triangular boulder previously sat flat but has then been turned on edge. From an archaeological perspective, there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the stones are in a clear arrangement.

Name	Description
Potential stone arrangement 4	<p>This site was identified by the Aboriginal parties on the basis that there is a larger slab of rock with two small rocks underneath it, making it semi-level off the surface of the underlying granite.</p> <p>From an archaeological perspective, it is noted that rock slabs appear to fracture and stack in similar ways and there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that this is an archaeological site.</p>
Potential stone arrangement 5	<p>This site was identified by Aboriginal parties based on the presence of stacked slabs on the edge of a large granite outcrop. The slabs overlie each other in two sets of three slabs sitting on top of each other.</p> <p>From an archaeological perspective, it is noted that rock slabs appear to fracture and stack in similar ways and there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that this is an archaeological site.</p>



Legend

- ▬ Project Area
- ▬ Development Corridor
- P-P- Existing 330KV Power Lines
- Potential Sites

FIGURE 7.3

Location of Potential Sites
for Review

Photo 7.63 **Possible scarred tree 1**



Photo 7.64 **Possible scarred tree 2**



Photo 7.65 Possible scarred tree 3



Photo 7.66 Possible scarred tree 3 – close up of top of scar showing irregularity

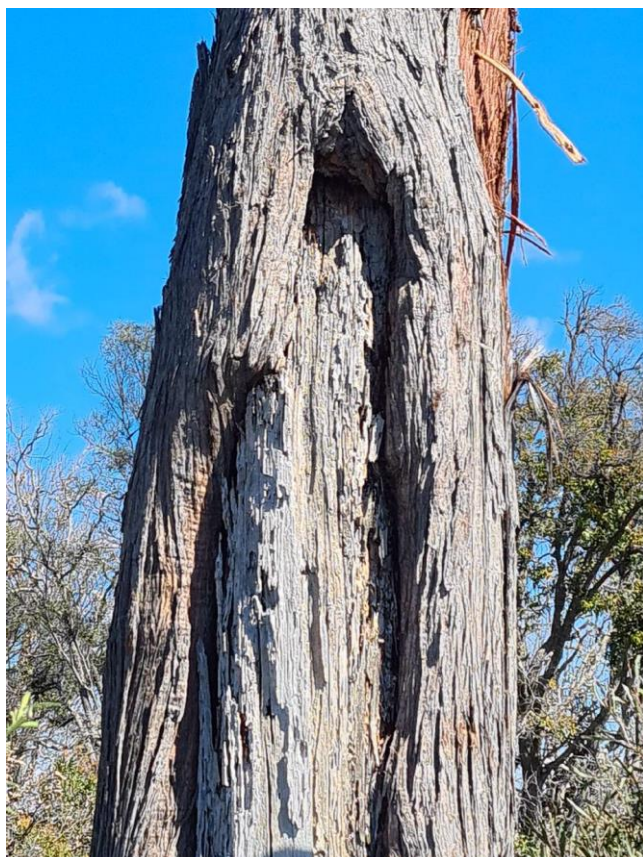


Photo 7.67 **Possible scarred tree 2**



Photo 7.68 **Possible scarred tree 2 showing scar position on trunk**



Photo 7.69 Potential stone arrangement 1



Photo 7.70 Potential stone arrangement 2



Photo 7.71 Potential stone arrangement 3



Photo 7.72 Potential stone arrangement 3 – stone on end



Photo 7.73 Potential stone arrangement 4 (general view)



Photo 7.74 Potential stone arrangement 4



Photo 7.75 Potential stone arrangement 5



Photo 7.76 **Potential stone arrangement 5**



7.5 Areas of Archaeological Potential

As discussed throughout the preceding sections, the low levels of visibility within the Development Corridor require consideration of the potential that additional Aboriginal stone artefacts may be present but not identified during the survey, either as a result of low visibility or as subsurface deposits. The majority of the Development Corridor comprises landforms that do not provide direct access to water resources, have a slope inclination that is not conducive to camping/occupation activities, are extremely rocky with limited depth of topsoil (within which subsurface deposits may be located) and/or have been subject to disturbance. When considered with reference to the archaeological pattern identified within the local area and the criteria for differing levels of archaeological potential described in **Section 6.4**, the majority of the Development Corridor is assessed as having low archaeological potential.

The exceptions to this are the areas discussed below and shown in **Figure 7.2**.

Spring Creek and Pine Creek are the main watercourses within the Project Area and, while not as substantial as other watercourses in the local area, they would have provided a semi-reliable source of water and associated plant and animal resources. Within the local area, other more substantial and permanent water sources were available (such as Salisbury Waters) and higher frequency/intensity of occupation is likely to have occurred at these locations, particularly given the presence of stone quarries and ground-edge artefact manufacturing sites at Salisbury.

It is also critical to consider the levels of disturbance along these watercourses. Within the Development Corridor, it was identified that Spring Creek, Pine Creek and their tributaries had been subject to gully erosion, with slopewash occurring on adjoining landforms. In addition, low inclination slopes bordering watercourses typically provide prime land for cultivation and grazing and therefore can be subject to substantial modification as a result of hundreds of years of non-Aboriginal agricultural use.

On this basis, the following areas are assessed as having low-moderate or moderate archaeological potential, as described below.

- **Pine Creek 1** – this area was not accessible during the survey as Pine Creek was in flow and it was not possible to cross it whilst the approach from the other direction was limited due to the ground being too wet to walk through in sections. However, the area of Pine Creek 1 was visible from the opposite bank of Pine Creek. It is a low elevation level rise directly above a substantial rockbound bend in the main channel of Pine Creek at which there are also confluences with smaller tributaries. Disturbance appears to be limited to general land clearance and grazing. This area is preliminarily assessed as having moderate archaeological potential, noting that this may be revised on further inspection.
- **Pine Creek 2** – this area comprises gently inclined lower slopes at the confluence of two minor tributaries and the main channel of Pine Creek. Based on exposures along the creek line, there is likely to be a considerable depth of topsoil remaining in situ and disturbance appears to be limited to general land clearance and grazing. This area is assessed as having moderate archaeological potential outside of areas of erosion immediately bordering the drainage lines.
- **Pine Creek 3 (including TWF IA4)** – this area consists of low inclination slopes bordering the main channel of Pine Creek. Based on the presence of substantial bedrock exposures within this area, it is likely that the depth of topsoil may be limited, thereby limiting the potential for subsurface deposits with integrity however pockets of deeper topsoil may be present. There is one artefact visible on an exposure within this area (TWF IA4). On this basis, this area is assessed as having low-moderate archaeological potential.

- **Spring Creek 1** (including TWF AS1 and AS2) – this area comprises a relatively large section of gently inclined slopes bordering the main channel of Spring Creek adjacent to the confluence with an associated tributary and bordering this tributary. The area includes the highest volume of stone artefacts identified during the survey (16 in total) exposed in a vehicle track. The area has been disturbed immediately along Spring Creek and in association with the existing vehicle access track. On this basis, the area is assessed as having low-moderate archaeological potential in areas of access track and creek line disturbance and moderate archaeological potential outside these areas.

With reference to the above, it may seem inconsistent that the area of proposed access track between T27 and T33 that crosses the main channel of Pine Creek and contains a recorded site (TWF AS3) is not identified as having moderate potential. However, within this area, on the west side of Pine Creek, the proposed access track ascends steep rocky slopes, rather than following the lower inclination slope bordered by the minor drainage where TWF AS3 was found. On the east side of creek, slope inclination is lower and landforms may have been suitable for occupation however these lower slopes have been subject to ploughing and cultivation resulting in substantial disturbance. Despite reasonable ground surface visibility, no surface artefacts were identified in this area and, based on the extent of disturbance it has low archaeological potential within the Development Corridor. The section of lower slopes bordering Pine Creek in the vicinity of TWF AS3 is likely to have low-moderate or moderate archaeological potential however as this area is outside the Development Corridor it has not been assessed in detail or mapped.

7.6 Discussion

The results of the survey are broadly consistent with expectations based on the environmental and archaeological context of the Project Area. While the Development Corridor was identified to contain rock overhangs suitable for occupation, no evidence of any such use was apparent. Given that these overhangs were typically located on isolated crests bordered by steeply inclined slopes and were at a considerable distance from key water resources, this is not inconsistent with the pattern in the local area. Similarly, it was recognised that outcrops of raw material suitable for the manufacturing of artefacts may occur but these are likely to be limited in extent based on the local geological conditions. This proved to be the case, with suitable raw materials identified at a small number of locations within the Development Corridor, none of which had been subject to quarrying. No material suitable for the purposes of grinding implements (such as axes and adzes) was identified. In addition, no confirmed stone arrangements were identified within the Development Corridor, noting that the registered Aboriginal parties identified some formations as potential arrangements.

Isolated artefacts and stone artefact scatters were found within the Development Corridor and comprised low density deposits. The main raw materials used were quartz, volcanics and silcrete which differs slightly from the pattern within the local area (where silcrete artefacts are most common) however this may reflect the absence of suitable silcrete resources in the immediate vicinity (noting that the raw material sources in the Development Corridor were not quarried). All artefact scatters and several of the isolated artefacts were found in association with Pine Creek and Spring Creek and four areas of archaeological potential were identified on landforms bordering these watercourses. This is broadly consistent with the local archaeological pattern.

8.0 Significance Assessment

The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (Australia ICOMOS 2013) (the Burra Charter) defines cultural significance as the sum of the qualities or values that a place embodies. The Burra Charter identifies the values – aesthetic, historic, archaeological, social or cultural and spiritual – that contribute to cultural significance.

Social or cultural value refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical and contemporary associations and attachments of a place (OEH 2011:8). It is noted that a consensus as to the cultural value of an object or place is not always possible as people experience places and events differently.

Spiritual value refers to the intangible values embodied in a place, which give it importance in the spiritual identity.

Archaeological value refers to the potential physical remains and the ability of those remains to provide an understanding about an aspect of the past.

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

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

8.1 Social/Cultural Value

Cultural 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 consensus about the cultural value of a place as people experience places and events differently, and in some instances cultural values may be in direct conflict. Cultural significance can only be determined by Aboriginal people and is identified through Aboriginal community consultation.

It was requested that the registered Aboriginal parties provide information regarding the cultural value of the Project Area, the associated landscape features, archaeological sites, areas of archaeological potential and potential sites as part of their review of the draft ACHA. No comments on significance were received.

8.2 Historical 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.

The historic values associated with the Project Area are subject to a separate assessment (Umwelt in prep). No comments on historic values were provided by the registered Aboriginal parties.

8.3 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 notable aesthetic values were identified in relation to the identified sites or the Development Corridor as a whole during the survey. No comments on aesthetic value were provided by the registered Aboriginal parties.

8.4 Intergenerational Equity

Intergenerational equity is the principle whereby the present generation should ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment for the benefit of future generations (Commonwealth of Australia, 2002:5).

When assessing likely harm on Aboriginal objects and places, it is important to consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD), in particular the precautionary principle and the principle of intergenerational equity. Intergenerational equity is:

“...the principle whereby the present generation should ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment for the benefit of future generations”.
(Commonwealth of Australia, 2002:5)

In terms of Aboriginal heritage, intergenerational equity can be considered in terms of the cumulative impacts to Aboriginal objects and places in a region. If few Aboriginal objects and places remain in a region (for example, because of impacts under previous AHIPs), fewer opportunities remain for future generations of Aboriginal people to enjoy the cultural benefits of those Aboriginal objects and places.

Information about the integrity, rarity or representativeness of the Aboriginal objects and places proposed to be impacted, and how they illustrate the occupation and use of land by Aboriginal people across the region, will be relevant to the consideration of intergenerational equity and the understanding of the cumulative impacts of a proposal. Where there is uncertainty, the precautionary principle should also be followed (DECC 2009: 26)”.

The Project Area contains recorded archaeological sites and areas of identified archaeological potential. However, based on the nature of the Project, it is anticipated that impacts to these sites and areas of potential can be avoided or mitigated to ensure that Aboriginal sites (of both scientific and cultural significance and the cultural values of area are retained while still permitting modern, sustainable land use practices.

8.5 Scientific Values and Significance Assessment

Archaeological significance is determined by assessing Aboriginal sites/places/objects against a number of archaeological criteria as set out in the Code of Practice. The assessment of Aboriginal archaeological significance is used to develop a series of cultural heritage management and impact mitigation strategies. The archaeological significance of the Assessment Area has been assessed in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table 8.1**.

Table 8.1 Archaeological significance assessment criteria

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 regional context but not the local context.	The site within the surrounding landscape, its integrity, contents and/or potential for subsurface artefacts, are rare within the local and regional context.
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 uncommon within a local context but common in a 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 uncommon within a local and regional context and sites of similar nature (or in better condition) are not already set aside for conservation within the locality or 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.

Criterion	Low	Moderate	High
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.

In relation to the above criteria, the identified stone artefact scatters and isolated artefacts are identified as having low value for rarity, representativeness, educational potential and integrity. Artefact scatters and isolated artefacts are a common site type in the local area and well represented in the archaeological record. These sites are located on private land holdings and are inaccessible to the general public, thereby limiting their educational potential. All surface artefacts have been subject to disturbance and are unlikely to retain integrity. These sites are therefore assessed as having low archaeological potential.

The assessment of significance for areas of archaeological potential is inherently difficult as any such assessment can only be based on the nature of the evidence that the area may contain. For this reason, the assessment of significance of areas of archaeological potential remains a provisional assessment of potential significance only and is linked almost entirely to the research potential of the site. That is, areas of low-moderate archaeological potential have a provisional assessment of low-moderate archaeological significance and areas of moderate archaeological potential have a provisional assessment of moderate archaeological significance.

9.0 Impact Assessment

The key aspects and components of the Project are listed in **Section 1.1**. All ground disturbance activities (including vegetation clearance and earthworks for the construction of access tracks, substations, laydown areas and wind turbines) will be located within the bounds of the Development Corridor. The Development Corridor is larger than the anticipated impacts in order to allow for micro-siting of infrastructure. Thus, while the Development Corridor comprises an area of approximately 567 ha, the required area of ground disturbance within the Development Corridor is approximately 215 ha.

The micro-siting of infrastructure allows for some flexibility in the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage. In relation to the sites identified during the assessment, the following considerations apply:

- impacts to sites TWF AS1, TWF AS2, TWF AS3 and to Possible Scarred Trees 1-4 and Potential Stone Arrangements 1 and 5 can be avoided during works as these sites sit outside the Development Corridor
- sites TWF IA1, TWF IA2, TWF IA3, TWF IA4 and to areas of potential identified as Pine Creek 1-3 and Spring Creek 1 and to Potential Stone Arrangements 2-4 are located within the Development Corridor and may be subject to impact. Based on the nature of the proposed works and with some flexibility in terms of micro-siting, during final design and construction planning, all consideration will be given to minimising impacts to these sites and areas of potential. However, in applying the precautionary principle, it is assumed that partial or complete impact to these sites/areas may occur when assessing impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

9.1 Impact to Aboriginal cultural values

No comments were received from the registered Aboriginal parties following their review of the draft ACHA in relation to impacts to Aboriginal cultural values. .

10.0 Management and Mitigation Strategies

There are a range of management strategies that are available in relation to the Project 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 reflect the outcomes of consultation with the registered Aboriginal party representatives, including in-field consultation.

The management strategies are discussed below.

10.1 Conservation/Avoidance

The application of a conservation management strategy would involve the avoidance of ground disturbance activities in association with the recorded sites/areas of archaeological potential and the subsequent active management of these sites/areas of potential to ensure ongoing protection from future impacts. Given the location of these sites/areas of potential on privately owned land, Neoen cannot directly commit to this management option.

However, as discussed in **Section 9.0**, the nature of impacts associated with the Project is such that the Neoen can potentially avoid impacts to discrete sites/areas. Currently, impacts can be avoided to sites TWF AS1, TWF AS2, TWF AS3 and to Possible Scarred Trees 1-4 and Potential Stone Arrangements 1 and 5. Appropriate protections and controls will be put in place during construction to ensure ongoing site avoidance and protection for these sites.

10.2 Mitigation of Predicted Impacts

When impacts to sites or areas of archaeological potential are unavoidable, this strategy involves implementing appropriate strategies to manage and mitigate these impacts with reference to the archaeological and Aboriginal cultural significance of the sites/areas of potential. Based on current designs, partial or complete impact may occur at TWF IA1, TWF IA2, TWF IA3, TWF IA4 and to areas of potential identified as Pine Creek 1-3 and Spring Creek 1. In relation to the level of archaeological significance of these sites and areas of archaeological potential, partial or complete impacts to these sites (noting that the impact footprint within each area will be relatively discrete) can be mitigated by the collection of identified surface artefacts and the completion of salvage excavation prior to the commencement of construction and/or community collection prior to or during the course of construction activities, depending on the level of integrity of associated subsurface deposits. These strategies are appropriate from an archaeological perspective as they allow for the collection and interpretation of a representative sample of the assemblage from each site/area and may inform some understanding (albeit potentially limited) of how Aboriginal people accessed resources, manufactured stone artefacts and travelled through the local area.

It is noted that Potential Stone Arrangements 2-4 may be subject to impact (where final design cannot be modified to exclude these areas). No comments were received from the registered Aboriginal parties on appropriate mitigation measures for these potential sites. Further consultation regarding this matter can be undertaken as a component of the development of an Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan for the Project.

10.3 Impacts without Mitigation

This strategy would involve proceeding with the construction of the Project and the subsequent disturbance to any cultural material that may be present in the Development Corridor without any further salvage. As discussed above, the Development Corridor contains recorded sites of a level of cultural significance and archaeological significance such that this management strategy is not suitable. However, the remainder of the Development Corridor does not contain recorded Aboriginal objects and is assessed as having low archaeological potential. From an archaeological perspective it is therefore justifiable to undertake the proposed works in the areas of low archaeological potential without undertaking salvage activities (noting that if objects are identified over the course of the proposed works, additional management requirements will apply).

11.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed in consideration of in-field and ongoing consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties and in light of the outcomes of the archaeological context of the region, the potential impacts of the Project, current cultural heritage legislation and the nature and extent of archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential identified within the Development Corridor.

11.1 Aboriginal party recommendations

No recommendations were provided by the registered Aboriginal parties in response to the review of the draft ACHA.

11.2 Archaeological recommendations

The following recommendations are provided with reference to the archaeological outcomes of this assessment.

1. The Proponent should ensure that all employees and contractors are aware that it is an offence under Section 86 of the NPW Act to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object unless that harm has been subject to approval as part of the necessary approvals process.
2. An Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan for the Project should be developed in consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties. It should include measures that will be implemented for:
 - a. Protecting the Aboriginal archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential identified in **Table 11.1** including establishing appropriate fencing/site demarcation prior to the commencement of construction and ensuring ongoing protection during construction and operation.
 - b. Impacts to sites and areas of archaeological potential identified in **Table 11.1** that cannot be practically avoided. This will include the provision of methodologies for the completion of the recommended mitigation activities, as referenced in **Table 11.1**. In relation to areas of archaeological potential subject to impact, this will comprise test excavation prior to submission of the Response to Submissions Report for the Project. For all other sites and where test excavation identifies the need for further salvage this will occur prior to or during the course of construction activities.
 - c. Protocols to be followed in the instance that additional ground disturbance works are required outside the Development Corridor. This will include requirements for further survey and assessment of any such works.
 - d. The management of any new Aboriginal archaeological sites that may be identified during these inspections or over the course of construction or operational activities.
 - e. The management of Aboriginal skeletal remains should any be identified within the construction or operational activities for the Modified Project.
 - f. Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of these measures and to compile a report on the outcomes of any approved mitigation works.
 - g. Ensuring that all staff and contractors working on the Project receive Aboriginal cultural heritage awareness training and are informed of their obligations to comply with the requirements of the Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan.

Table 11.1 Recommendations by site/area of archaeological potential

Sites	Proposed Management Strategy	Requirements
TWF AS1 TWF AS2 TWF AS3 Possible Scarred Trees 1-4 Potential Stone Arrangements 1 and 5	Outside Development Corridor therefore no impacts required (avoidance)	Establish appropriate fencing/site demarcation prior to the commencement of construction and ensure ongoing protection during construction and operation
TWF IA1 TWF IA2 TWF IA3 TWF IA4 Potential Stone Arrangements 2, 3 and 4	Minimise impacts (micro-siting/final design demonstrates that impacts to sites can be fully or partially avoided)	Establish appropriate fencing/site demarcation of the site/area (or portion thereof that is not being impacted) prior to the commencement of construction and ensure ongoing protection during construction and operation
	Minimise impacts (micro-siting/final design demonstrates that impacts to sites cannot be fully or partially avoided)	Surface collection of identified surface artefacts In relation to Potential Stone Arrangements 2-4, further consultation with Aboriginal parties regarding appropriate mitigation measures for these potential sites (if required) can be undertaken as a component of the development of an Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan for the Project.
Spring Creek 1 Pine Creek 1 Pine Creek 2 Pine Creek-3	Minimise impacts (micro-siting/final design demonstrates that impacts to sites can be fully or partially avoided)	Establish appropriate fencing/site demarcation of the area (or portion thereof that is not being impacted) prior to the commencement of construction and ensure ongoing protection during construction and operation
	Minimise impacts (micro-siting/final design demonstrates that impacts to area of archaeological potential cannot be fully or partially avoided)	Undertake test excavation within the area of PAD prior to submission of Response to Submissions Report. Outcomes of test excavation will inform additional management requirements which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further works required Additional salvage works required

12.0 References

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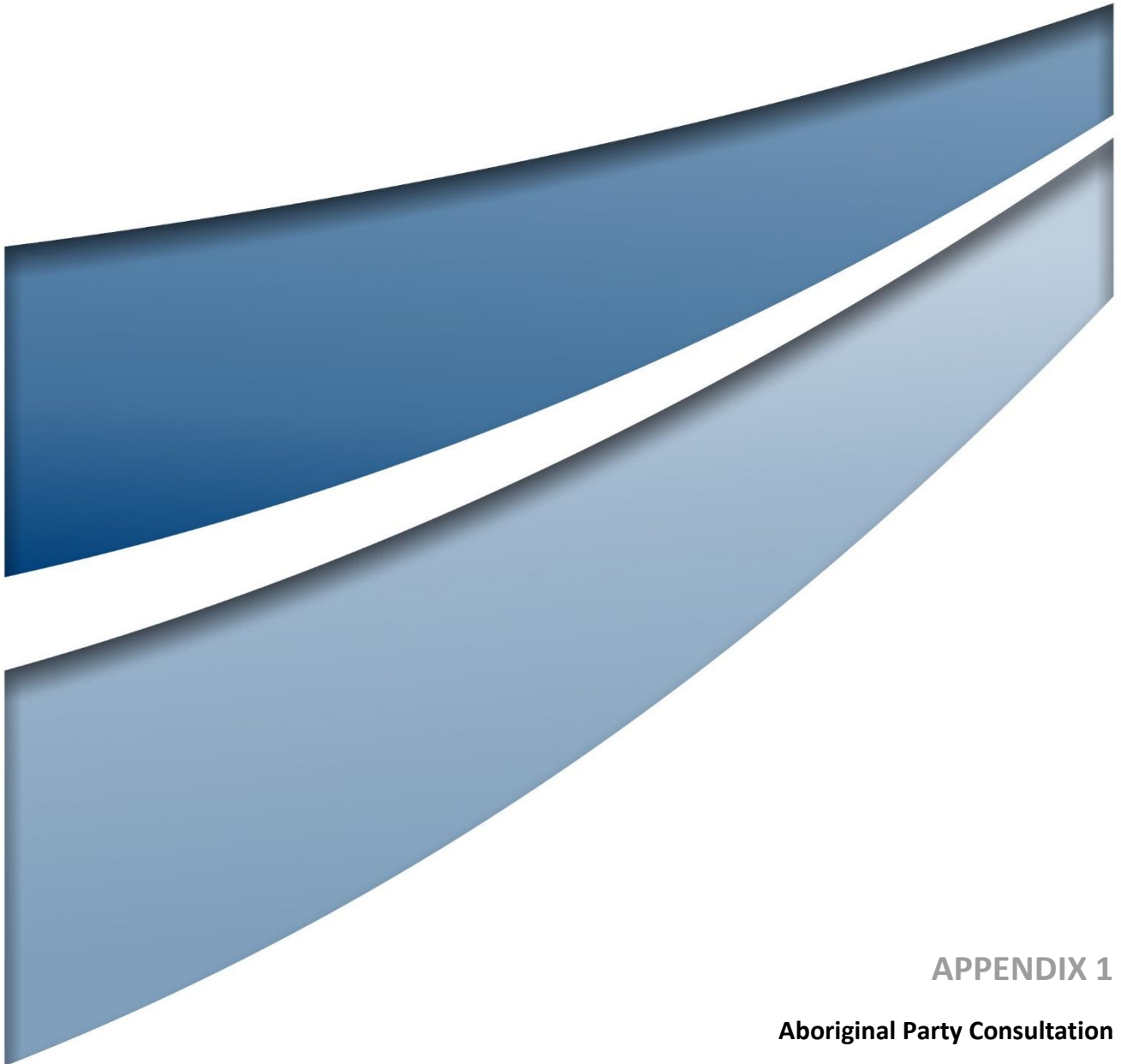
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APPENDIX 1

Aboriginal Party Consultation

Appendix 1 - 1 Agency Notification



Our Ref: 4963/NR/SH/SH/28102020

24 February 2021

«Organisation_1»

«Organisation_2»

«Address_1»

«Address_2»

«Suburb» «State» «Postcode»

E| «Contact_Email»

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub project, near Kentucky, NSW.

Umwelt has been engaged by Neoen Australia (Neoen) to commence the consultation process for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub (the project). The project is located near Kentucky, approximately 40 km northeast of Tamworth, adjacent to the New England Highway. The project falls within Tamworth, Uralla and Walcha Local Government Areas (LGAs), as shown in **Figure 1.1**.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment 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).

Neoen are seeking to obtain development approval for the project as two State Significant Development (SSD) applications (one for the windfarm and one for the solar farm) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* for approval by the Minister for Planning. The project will be supported by Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and associated technical studies, including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments (ACHAs).

It is intended that the ACHAs will inform the EISs. In preparing the ACHA, Umwelt (on behalf of the proponent, Neoen) will be undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). This consultation will inform the ACHA and will assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC) in 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 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 Aboriginal people or groups who may hold such cultural knowledge, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

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

Neoen Contact: Joanna Murphy
Title: Project Manager
Address: Level 6, 16 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, ACT 2601
P: 0423 976 590
E: Joanna.murphy@neoen.com

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or wish to discuss the project further, please do not hesitate to contact myself via email (showden@umwelt.com.au) or on 1300 793 267.

Yours sincerely

Steph Howden
Senior Archaeologist

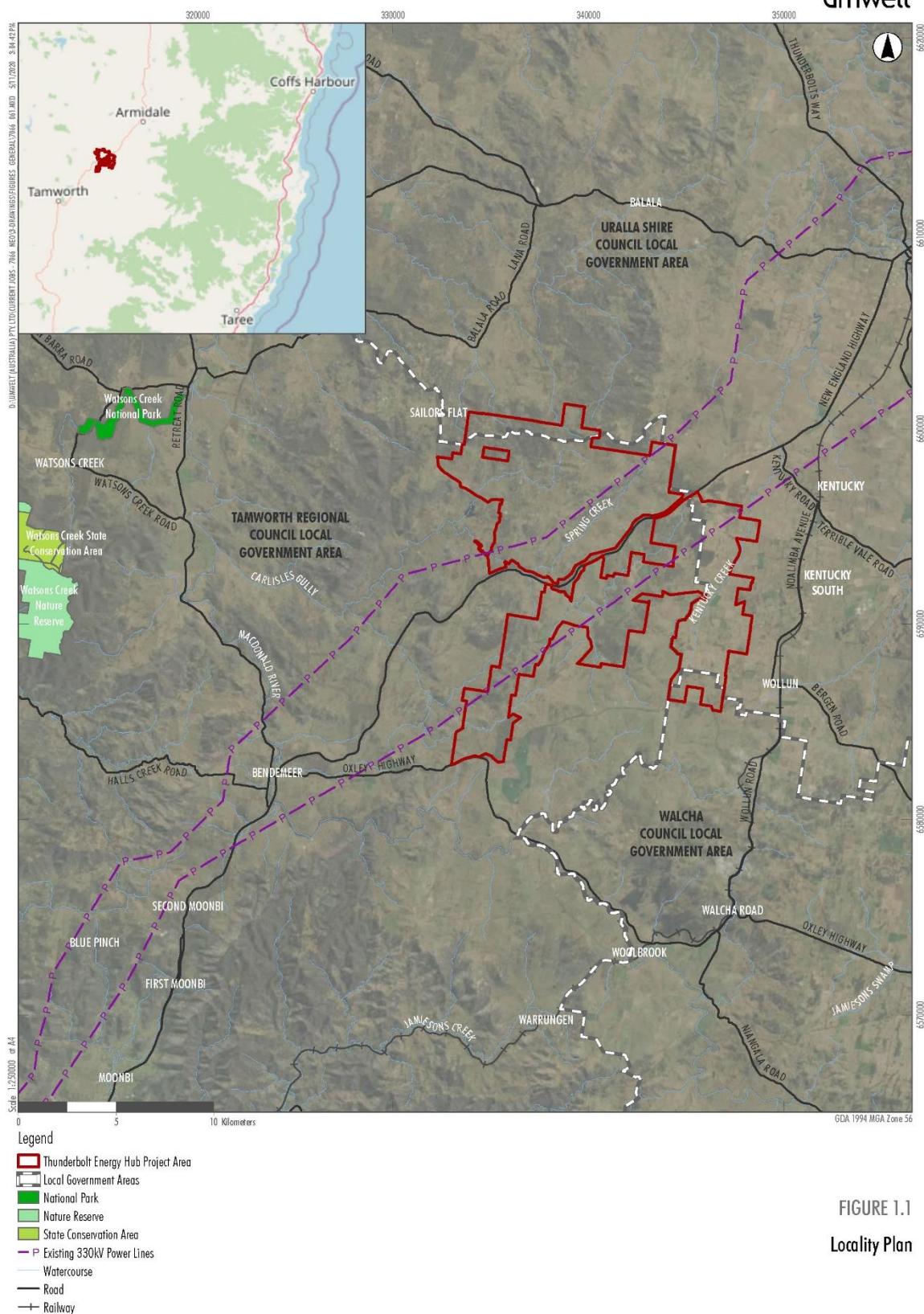


FIGURE 1.1
Locality Plan

Appendix 1 - 2 Agency Response



Stephanie Howden

From: alalcouncil@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, 20 November 2020 5:45 AM
To: Stephanie Howden
Cc: 'Colin Ahoy'; 'Jen Stanford'; ceo@alalc.org.au
Subject: RE: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hey Stephanie,

Thanks for contacting the Armidale LALC in relation to the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

Please be advised that the Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council would like to recommend Colin Ahoy Jnr to carry out the requested sites work on behalf of the Armidale LALC.

Collin has been included within this email, please feel free to contact him directly on: 0421 655 192. Please feel free to include the Armidale LALC in any email correspondence in relation to this work for our record purposes.

The Armidale LALC works on a rotational basis however I have recommended Colin to carry out the requested sites work as he is the only sites officer at this point in time that is in line with the Armidale LALC Sites Policy.

Once an amount is agreed to for the sites work, the Armidale LALC will invoice Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd which we will then pay Colin directly for his services.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Lisa Waters
Chief Executive Officer
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council
Postage: PO Box 1837 Armidale
Office: 02 6772 2447 Mobile: 0481 979 407
Email: ceo@alalc.org.au



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**
8-15 NOV 2020

As a proud Anaiwan woman, I would like to acknowledge that we stand on Aboriginal Land and pay my respects to the many generations of the First Nations people that have occupied and cared for our country for over 65,000 years. We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country, we are the oldest continuous culture on the planet, our sovereignty was never ceded. There are over 500 different nations throughout this country and we have survived!!



From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 3:12 PM
To: ceo@alalc.org.au
Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hello

Please find attached the notification of the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

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 Aboriginal people or groups who may hold such cultural knowledge, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

Cheers
Steph

Steph Howden
Senior Consultant

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Reference: DOC20/946435

Ms Steph Howden
Senior Archaeologist
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
showden@umwelt.com.au

RE: Request for information on Aboriginal stakeholders for an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment – proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub project near Kentucky, NSW.

Dear Ms Howden,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 2020 about Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation for the proposed above matter within the Tamworth, Uralla and Walcha local government areas. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

Please find enclosed a list of known Aboriginal parties for the Tamworth, Uralla and Walcha local government areas (Attachment 1-3) that we consider likely to have an interest in the proposal. Note this is not an exhaustive list of all interested Aboriginal parties. Receipt of this list does not remove the requirement for a proponent/consultant to advertise the proposal in the local print media and contact other bodies and community groups seeking interested Aboriginal parties, in accordance with the '*Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*' (the CRs).

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind the proponent and consultant to ensure that consultation is fair, equitable and transparent. If the Aboriginal parties express concern or are opposed to parts of or the entire project, we expect that evidence will be provided to demonstrate the efforts made to find common ground between the opponents and the proponent.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact me via rosalie.neve@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 6659 8221.

Yours sincerely



Rosalie Neve
Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - Northern
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier and Cabinet

19 November 2020

Attachment 1: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Northern - Aboriginal Stakeholder List for Tamworth Regional LGA

Name	Title	Address	Email	Phone
Alison Sampson		36 Hill Street, Caroona NSW 2343		0457617117
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	Aaron Talbott	13 Hunter Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380	atgomilaroi@outlook.com	0473 058 755
BJC Cultural Management	Ben Cameron	11 Stanley Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		
Brent Mathews		21 Bando Street , Gunnedah NSW 2380		
Brian Draper		7 Sovereign St, Dubbo NSW 2830		
Cacatua General Service (Cacatua Culture Consultants)	Donna	Main Office: 260 Hidden Valley ROW, Wybong NSW 2333 2nd location: 22 Ibis Parade, Woodberry NSW 2322 3rd Location: 49 Herbert Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		Donna 0403 765 019 George 0434 877 016 Land Line: 02 6547 9274
Christine Archbold		40 Humphies St, Muswellbrook NSW 2333		
Clifford Matthews		16/A Mahogany Ave, Muswellbrook NSW 2333		
Coonabarabran LALC	Chairperson	PO Box 110, Coonabarabran NSW 2357		
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Marilyn Carroll-Johnson, Director	PO Box 3340, ROUSE HILL NSW 2155	corroboreecorp@bigpond.com	0415911159
D F T V Enterprises	Derrick Vale	5 Mountbatten Close, Rutherford NSW 2320		
Darrell Mathews		17 Edinglassie Drive, Muswellbrook NSW 2333		
Galamaay Cultural Consultants	Robert Slater		galamaay@hotmail.com	0401871526
Gomerioi Murri Ganuurr Yuuray Wadi Palinka	Greg Griffith	4 Wattle Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		0423902746
Hazel Collins		3 Carroll Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		

Attachment 1: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Northern - Aboriginal Stakeholder List for Tamworth Regional LGA

Jeff Matthews		6 Eucalypt Avenue, Muswellbrook NSW 2333		
John Matthews		16/A Mahogany Avenue, Muswellbrook NSW 2333		
Joshua Matthews		21 Bando Street , Gunnedah NSW 2380		
Justin Matthews		16/B Mahogany Avenue, Muswellbrook NSW 2333		0431720887
Kawul Cultural Services	Vicky Slater	PO Box 817, Singleton NSW 2330		
Kevin Sampson		1 Martyn Street, Breeza NSW 2381		
Len Waters		47 Waters Park Drive, Moore Creek NSW 2340		
Lloyd Matthews		16/A Mahogany Avenue, Muswellbrook NSW 2333		
Lorraine Towney		32 Dewhurst Street, Quirindi NSW 2343		
Luke Cameron Cultural Management		28 Herbert St, Gunnedah NSW 2380		0448260717
Mavonia Welsh		1 Yabsley Avenue, Marrickville NSW 2204		0432772851
ME Griffiths Cultural Management	Marie- Ellen Griffiths	10 herbert Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		0458516775
Michelle Saunders		24 Walhallow Village, Walhallow NSW 2340		
Mooki Plains Management		28 Herbert Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		
Mooki River Consultants	Wayne Mathews	Lot 5 Martyn Street, Breeza NSW 2381		
Muswellbrook Cultural Consultants	Brian Horton	10 Scott Street, Muswellbrook.NSW 2333		
Natasha Rodgers		7 Toy Court, Wodonga VIC 3690		6771 2374
Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda Kitckener	265 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350		0467967880
Paul Moodie		15 Schwager Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		
Richard Slater		121 Roberts Street, Tamworth NSW 2340		
Rick Slater		121 Roberts Street, Tamworth NSW 2340		

Attachment 1: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Northern - Aboriginal Stakeholder List for Tamworth Regional LGA

Rodney Mathews		8 Fitzgerald Avenue, Muswellbrook NSW 2333		
Ron Smith		Flat 8, 6 Hasting River Drive, Port Macquarie NSW 2444		
Rona Slater		71 Roberts Street, Tamworth NSW 2304		
Roslyn Smith		Unit 4, 122 Upper Street, Tamworth NSW 2340		
Scott Smith		Unit 4, 122 Upper Street, Tamworth NSW 2340		
T&G Culture Consultants	Tony Griffiths	4 Wattle Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		
Tamworth LALC	Chairperson	PO Box 57, Tamworth NSW 2340		
Tania Mathews		23 Reid Street, Narrabri NSW 2390		
Tracy Woltley		75 High Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380		
Wattaka Cultural Consultancy Service	Des Hickey	PO Box 749, Tamworth NSW 2340		0423935556
Wiradjuri Interim Working Party		PO Box 73, Peak Hill NSW 2869		0401151124

**Attachment 2; ABORIGINAL PARTIES (OTHER THAN LOCAL ABORIGINAL
LAND COUNCILS) IN THE AREA OF INTEREST
URALLA LGA**

1. Mr Craig Archibald
27 Margaret Street
TERALBA NSW 2284
Phone: 0455550549
2. Aaron Broad
1 Waratah Ave
ALBION PARK RAIL NSW 2527
Mob: 0402 526 888
minnamunnung@gmail.com
3. Larissa Ahoy
LarissaAhoy@gmail.com
Mob: 0412 570 664
4. Gomeroi People
C/- Mishka Holt
NTSCORP Ltd
PO Box 2105
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
Phone: 9310 3188
Fax: 93104177
5. Alier French Trading
17 Kalinda Street
Blacksmiths NSW 2281
Mob: 0421 299 963
alierafrenchtrading@outlook.com
6. Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation
Colin Ahoy
4 Archibald Street Armidale NSW
Email: colinahoy57@gmail.com
Phone: 0423943756
7. Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation
Steve Ahoy
8 Morson Avenue
Armidale NSW 2350
Mob: 0413 990 868
iwattaac@gmail.com

**Attachment 3: ABORIGINAL PARTIES (OTHER THAN LOCAL ABORIGINAL
LAND COUNCILS) IN THE AREA OF INTEREST
WALCHA LGA**

1. Mr Craig Archibald
27 Margaret Street
TERALBA NSW 2284
Phone: 0455550549
2. Aaron Broad
1 Waratah Ave
ALBION PARK RAIL NSW 2527
Mob: 0402 526 888
minnamunnung@gmail.com
3. Norm Archibald
17 Flobern Ave
WAUCHOPE NSW 2446
jtmanagement@live.com.au
4. Gomeroi People
C/- Mishka Holt
NTSCORP Ltd
PO Box 2105
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
Phone: 9310 3188
Fax: 93104177
5. Alier French Trading
17 Kalinda Street
Blacksmiths NSW 2281
Mob: 0421 299 963
alierafrenchtrading@outlook.com
6. Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation
Colin Ahoy
4 Archibald Street
Armidale NSW 2350
Email: colinahoy57@gmail.com
Phone: 0423 943 756
7. Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation
Steve Ahoy
8 Morson Avenue
Armidale NSW 2350
Mob: 0413 990 868
iwattaac@gmail.com

Stephanie Howden

From: James MacLeod <jmacLeod@ntscorp.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2020 5:15 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Cc: Maeve Parker; Matilda Vaughan; Dylan Orsborn
Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation
Attachments: 7066_Agency Notification_20201028a_ltr_NTSCORP.pdf

Dear Stephanie

Please register the Applicant for the Gomeroi People's native title claim (NSD37/2019) as a RAP for this Project.

Many thanks

James

James MacLeod | Senior Solicitor



NTSCORP proudly acknowledge that our office is situated on the country of the Gadigal People of the Dharug Nation. We also acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

I'm working from home. The best way to contact me is on my mobile or by email.

f 02 9310 4177
m 0498 980 212
e jmacLeod@ntscorp.com.au | **w** www.ntscorp.com.au
Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia

A blue rectangular box with white text. The text reads: "NTSCORP is committed to supporting local Aboriginal businesses where possible through the purchase of goods and services." There are some faint, larger blue dots in the background of the box.

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Aboriginal businesses where possible through
the purchase of goods and services.

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From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 3:14 PM
To: info <information@ntscorp.com.au>
Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hello

Please find attached the notification of the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

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 Aboriginal people or groups who may hold such cultural knowledge, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

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: Stephanie Howden
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 11:19 AM
To: fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au
Subject: RE: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)
Attachments: 7066_Agency Notification_20201028a_ltr_TLALC.pdf

Hi Fiona

The project area is quite large and crosses the boundary where Tamworth, Armidale and Amaroo LALCs meet (it is actually a little closer to Bendemeer but the client likes to refer to Kentucky...). You will see the notification letter that I sent through on Monday (also attached) that has a map showing the project area. I sent this through to admin@tamworthlalc.com.au

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
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From: fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au <fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 9:42 AM
To: 'Luke Raveneau' <luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au>; Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Cc: 'Emma Budge' <emma.budge@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Dear All

Kentucky is not in Tamworth LALC Boundary

Regards
Fiona

From: Luke Raveneau <luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 10:16 AM
To: showden@umwelt.com.au
Cc: Fiona Snape Mobile <fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au>; Emma Budge <emma.budge@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hi Stephanie,

Can you please contact the Fiona Snape, CEO of Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council?
She will organise an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

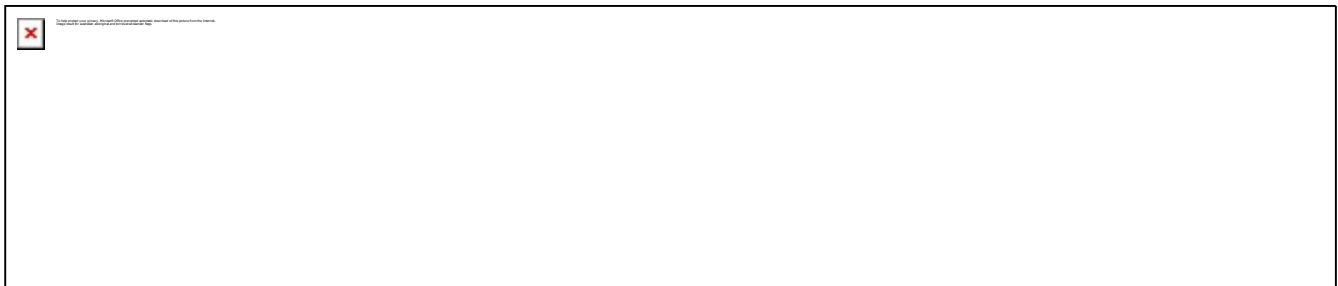
Kind regards,

Luke Raveneau | North West Local Land Services

Senior Lands Service Officer – Aboriginal Communities

4 Marsden Park Road Calala, Tamworth NSW 2340. PO Box 500

M: 0439 523 735 **E:** luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au **W:** northwest.lls.nsw.gov.au



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which I live and work, and pay my respect to the Elders both past & present.

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Should you wish to provide feedback to help us improve, please click here: Rateitnow.com/northwestllsregion



From: LLS Admin NorthWest Mailbox <admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 10:07 AM

To: Luke Raveneau <luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Fw: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Morning Luke

Please see below email for your perusal.

Kind regards

Emma Budge

Customer Service Officer

North West Local Land Services

101 Barwon Street | PO Box 466 | Narrabri NSW 2390

p: 02 6790 7600 | f: 02 6792 1738

e: admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au | w: www.lls.nsw.gov.au

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From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 3:14 PM

To: LLS Admin NorthWest Mailbox <admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au>

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Steph Howden

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd

75 York Street

Teralba NSW 2284

E: showden@umwelt.com.au

Cheers

Steph

Steph Howden

Senior Consultant

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

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Alison Fenwick

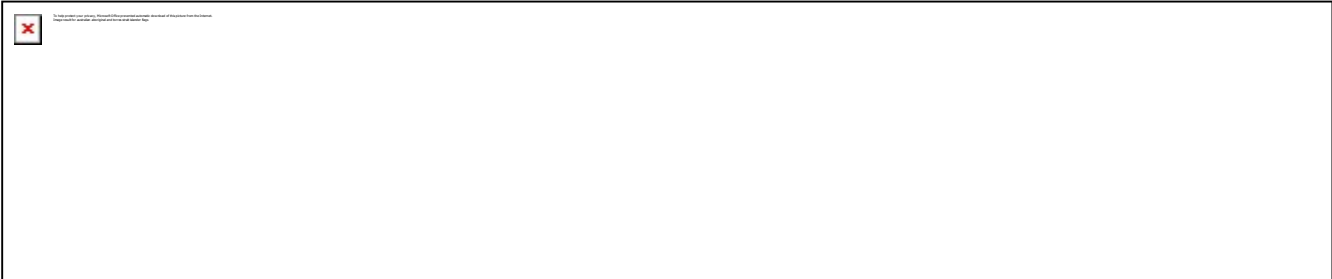
From: Luke Raveneau <luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 10:16 AM
To: Stephanie Howden
Cc: Fiona Snape Mobile; Emma Budge
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Attachments: 7066_Agency Notification_20201028a_ltr_NWLLS.pdf

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Kind regards,

Luke Raveneau | North West Local Land Services
Senior Lands Service Officer – Aboriginal Communities
4 Marsden Park Road Calala, Tamworth NSW 2340. PO Box 500
M: 0439 523 735 **E:** luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au **W:** northwest.lls.nsw.gov.au



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Kind regards

Emma Budge
Customer Service Officer
North West Local Land Services
101 Barwon Street | PO Box 466 | Narrabri NSW 2390
p: 02 6790 7600 | f: 02 6792 1738
e: admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au | w: www.lls.nsw.gov.au

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Steph Howden
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75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

Cheers
Steph

Steph Howden
Senior Consultant

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Alison Fenwick

From: Rosalie Neve <Rosalie.Neve@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2020 2:34 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: HNSW CR response - Thunderbolt Energy Hub
Attachments: HNSW CR response Thunderbolt Energy Hub project.pdf

Response attached.

Rosalie Neve | Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer
Heritage NSW, Community Engagement, Department of Premier and Cabinet
T: 0472 828 864 | rosalie.neve@environment.nsw.gov.au



Premier
& Cabinet

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From: [Geospatial Search Requests](#)
To: [Stephanie Howden](#)
Subject: RE: SR20/1210 - Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066) - SR20/1210
Date: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 4:01:59 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

Native title search – NSW Parcels – Multiple

Your ref: 7066 - **Our ref:** SR20/1210

Dear Stephanie Howden,

Thank you for your search request received on 16 November 2020 in relation to the above area, please find your results below.

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
- Native Title Determinations
- Indigenous Land Use Agreements (Registered and notified)

Cadastral Data as at: 01/07/2020

Parcel ID	Feature Area SqKm	Tenure	NNTT file number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	Percent Selected Feature
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					(RNTC)		
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126//DP753849	1.0817	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	1.0817	100.00%
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128//DP753849	0.2506	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2506	100.00%
128//DP753849	0.2506	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2506	100.00%
13//DP753849	0.1625	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1625	100.00%
13//DP753849	0.1625	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1625	100.00%
132//DP755838	0.5252	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
133//DP753849	0.8536	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
134//DP753849	1.7792	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
135//DP753849	0.1566	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1566	100.00%
135//DP753849	0.1566	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1566	100.00%
14//DP753849	0.1615	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1615	100.00%
14//DP753849	0.1615	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1615	100.00%
156//DP755831	0.4893	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
158//DP753849	1.6516	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
160//DP755838	0.3151	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
162//DP753849	0.7312	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
171//DP753849	2.2175	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1710	7.71%
171//DP753849	2.2175	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1710	7.71%
172//DP753849	1.5881	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	1.4972	94.28%
172//DP753849	1.5881	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	1.4972	94.28%
18//DP755831	0.2087	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
180//DP755831	0.3509	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
181//DP755831	0.3344	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
19//DP755831	0.2219	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
197//DP753849	0.6382	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	0.6382	100.00%
197//DP753849	0.6382	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	0.6382	100.00%
199//DP753836	0.3271	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
2//DP1110574	0.1787	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1787	100.00%
2//DP1110574	0.1787	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1787	100.00%
2//DP1236239	0.1042	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1042	100.00%
2//DP1236239	0.1042	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1042	100.00%
2//DP127707	0.0406	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
2//DP567241	3.7197	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerol People	Applications	2.8714	77.19%

					(Schedule)		
2//DP567241	3.7197	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	2.8714	77.19%
2//DP575812	0.0790	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
2//DP581543	2.1858	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
2//DP619037	1.2784	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
2//DP728629	0.0050	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0050	100.00%
2//DP728629	0.0050	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0050	100.00%
2//DP753849	0.8137	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.8137	100.00%
2//DP753849	0.8137	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.8137	100.00%
2//DP758559	0.0103	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
203//DP753849	0.4670	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.4670	100.00%
203//DP753849	0.4670	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.4670	100.00%
21//DP753849	0.1618	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1618	100.00%
21//DP753849	0.1618	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1618	100.00%
214//DP753849	1.8629	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.7706	41.37%
214//DP753849	1.8629	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.7706	41.37%
215//DP753849	0.2908	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2908	100.00%
215//DP753849	0.2908	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2908	100.00%
216//DP753849	0.2848	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2848	100.00%
216//DP753849	0.2848	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2848	100.00%
219//DP753849	0.3243	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.3243	100.00%
219//DP753849	0.3243	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.3243	100.00%
22//DP753849	0.1996	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1339	67.08%
22//DP753849	0.1996	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1339	67.08%
220//DP753849	0.3706	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.3706	100.00%
220//DP753849	0.3706	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.3706	100.00%
221//DP753849	0.2647	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2647	100.00%
221//DP753849	0.2647	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2647	100.00%
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225//DP753849	0.3202	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.3202	100.00%
226//DP753849	0.1600	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1600	100.00%
226//DP753849	0.1600	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1600	100.00%
228//DP753849	0.5232	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.3887	74.31%
228//DP753849	0.5232	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.3887	74.31%
23//DP753849	0.3585	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2752	76.74%
23//DP753849	0.3585	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2752	76.74%
230//DP753849	2.3782	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	1.0763	45.26%
230//DP753849	2.3782	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	1.0763	45.26%
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234//DP753849	1.0324	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	1.0324	100.00%
235//DP753849	3.3278	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	1.6950	50.94%
235//DP753849	3.3278	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	1.6950	50.94%
24//DP753849	0.3327	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.3327	100.00%
24//DP753849	0.3327	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.3327	100.00%
24//DP755829	0.2043	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
24//DP755831	0.2241	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
25//DP753849	0.1666	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1666	100.00%
25//DP753849	0.1666	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1666	100.00%
25//DP755829	0.2082	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
25//DP755831	0.2155	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
277//DP755838	0.2274	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%

278//DP755838	0.2027	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
279//DP755838	0.1980	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
280//DP755838	0.2067	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
281//DP755838	0.3905	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
282//DP755838	0.3863	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
283//DP755838	0.3903	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
3//DP1110574	0.0013	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0013	100.00%
3//DP1110574	0.0013	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0013	100.00%
3//DP127707	0.0345	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
3//DP206327	0.0410	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0410	100.00%
3//DP206327	0.0410	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0410	100.00%
3//DP210700	0.1072	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1072	100.00%
3//DP210700	0.1072	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1072	100.00%
3//DP542381	1.3669	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
3//DP619037	0.0264	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
3//DP630955	0.4090	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
3//DP728629	0.0143	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0143	100.00%
3//DP728629	0.0143	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0143	100.00%
3//DP758559	0.0103	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
300//DP753849	0.2425	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1770	73.00%
300//DP753849	0.2425	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1770	73.00%
301//DP753849	0.9154	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0812	8.87%
301//DP753849	0.9154	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0812	8.87%
302//DP753849	0.1586	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1537	96.86%
302//DP753849	0.1586	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1537	96.86%
303//DP753849	0.2051	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1864	90.86%
303//DP753849	0.2051	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1864	90.86%
304//DP753849	0.2194	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2194	100.00%
304//DP753849	0.2194	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2194	100.00%
39//DP753849	0.1562	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1562	100.00%
39//DP753849	0.1562	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1562	100.00%
4//DP210700	1.6749	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	1.6749	100.00%
4//DP210700	1.6749	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	1.6749	100.00%
4//DP542381	1.0613	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
4//DP630955	0.4090	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
4//DP758559	0.0103	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
41//DP753849	0.1687	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1687	100.00%
41//DP753849	0.1687	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1687	100.00%
411//DP755838	0.2389	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
422//DP755838	0.1627	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
423//DP755838	0.3181	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
424//DP755838	0.3214	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
5//DP1087354	0.4291	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
5//DP263410	13.1969	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	12.4804	94.57%
5//DP263410	13.1969	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	12.4804	94.57%
5//DP753849	0.4738	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.4738	100.00%
5//DP753849	0.4738	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.4738	100.00%
51//DP755831	0.1615	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
55//DP753640	0.2709	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2460	90.80%
55//DP753640	0.2709	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2460	90.80%
59//DP753849	0.2019	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2019	100.00%
59//DP753849	0.2019	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2019	100.00%
6//DP753849	0.5370	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.5370	100.00%
6//DP753849	0.5370	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.5370	100.00%
60//DP753849	0.4297	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications	0.2521	58.66%

					(Schedule)		
60//DP753849	0.4297	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2521	58.66%
61//DP753640	0.8196	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (Schedule)	0.4679	57.09%
61//DP753640	0.8196	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (RNTC)	0.4679	57.09%
61//DP753849	0.2047	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2033	99.31%
61//DP753849	0.2047	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2033	99.31%
61//DP755838	0.2462	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
69//DP755838	0.8100	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
71//DP627548	11.7804	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (Schedule)	5.7069	48.44%
71//DP627548	11.7804	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (RNTC)	5.7069	48.44%
71//DP755829	0.1638	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
71//DP755831	1.7852	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
72//DP755831	0.5519	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
7306//DP1141750	0.0117	CROWN	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0117	100.00%
7306//DP1141750	0.0117	CROWN	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0117	100.00%
79//DP755831	0.4495	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
86//DP755831	0.5824	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
94//DP755831	1.2264	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
95//DP755831	0.5525	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
96//DP755831	1.0960	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
97//DP755831	1.3923	FREEHOLD	No overlap			-	0.00%
99//DP753849	0.8075	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (Schedule)	0.8049	99.68%
99//DP753849	0.8075	FREEHOLD	NC2011/006	Gomeri People	Applications (RNTC)	0.8049	99.68%

For more information about the Tribunal's registers or to search the registers yourself and obtain copies of relevant register extracts, please visit our [website](#).

Information on native title claims and freehold land can also be found on the Tribunal's website here: [Native title claims and freehold land](#).

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 search results are based on analysis against external boundaries of applications only. Native title applications commonly contain exclusions clauses which remove areas from within the external boundary. To determine whether the areas described are in fact subject to claim, you need to refer to the "Area covered by claim" section of the relevant Register Extract or Schedule Extract and any maps attached.

Search results and the existence of native title

Please note that the enclosed information from the Register of Native Title Claims and/or the Schedule of Applications is **not** confirmation of the existence of native title in this area. This cannot be confirmed until the Federal Court makes a determination that native title does or does not exist in relation to the area. Such determinations are registered on the National Native Title Register.

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.

Cultural Heritage Searches in NSW

The National Native Title Tribunal (the Tribunal) has undertaken steps to remove itself from the formal list of sources for information about indigenous groups in development areas. The existence or otherwise of native title is quite separate to any matters relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Information on native title claims, native title determinations and Indigenous Land Use Agreements is available on the Tribunal's website.

Interested parties are invited to use Native Title Vision (NTV) the Tribunal's online mapping system to discover native title matters in their area of interest.

Access to NTV is available at <http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Geospatial/Pages/NTV.aspx>

Training and self-help documents are available on the NTV web page under "Training and help documents". For additional assistance or general advice on NTV please contact GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

Additional information can be extracted from the Registers available at <http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/Pages/default.aspx>

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: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 2:03 PM

To: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>

Subject: SR20/1210 - Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

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

Hello

Please find attached the Geospatial search as part of the notification of the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

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 Aboriginal people or groups who may hold such cultural knowledge, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

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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Alison Fenwick

From: alalcouncil@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, 20 November 2020 5:45 AM
To: Stephanie Howden
Cc: 'Colin Ahoy'; 'Jen Stanford'; ceo@alalc.org.au
Subject: RE: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hey Stephanie,

Thanks for contacting the Armidale LALC in relation to the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

Please be advised that the Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council would like to recommend Colin Ahoy Jnr to carry out the requested sites work on behalf of the Armidale LALC.

Collin has been included within this email, please feel free to contact him directly on: 0421 655 192. Please feel free to include the Armidale LALC in any email correspondence in relation to this work for our record purposes.

The Armidale LALC works on a rotational basis however I have recommended Colin to carry out the requested sites work as he is the only sites officer at this point in time that is in line with the Armidale LALC Sites Policy.

Once an amount is agreed to for the sites work, the Armidale LALC will invoice Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd which we will then pay Colin directly for his services.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Lisa Waters
Chief Executive Officer
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council
Postage: PO Box 1837 Armidale
Office: 02 6772 2447 Mobile: 0481 979 407
Email: ceo@alalc.org.au



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**
8-15 NOV 2020

As a proud Anaiwan woman, I would like to acknowledge that we stand on Aboriginal Land and pay my respects to the many generations of the First Nations people that have occupied and cared for our country for over 65,000 years. We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country, we are the oldest continuous culture on the planet, our sovereignty was never ceded. There are over 500 different nations throughout this country and we have survived!!



From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 3:12 PM

To: ceo@alalc.org.au

Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hello

Please find attached the notification of the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

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 Aboriginal people or groups who may hold such cultural knowledge, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

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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Alison Fenwick

From: Enquiries <Enquiries@nntt.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 3:23 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: RE: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

UNCLASSIFIED

Good Afternoon Stephanie,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding Register Searches. To enable us to complete the search appropriately and adequately, please forward your request, along with a Geospatial Search Form, to the following email address: GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

A Geospatial Search Form must accompany your request. Search request forms are available for download from our website at: http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Geospatial/Pages/Geospatial_Searches.aspx

Further information on searching our Registers is available at: <http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Pages/Searches-and-providing-Register-information.aspx>

Please note:

Cultural Heritage - The existence or otherwise of native title is quite separate to any matters relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage. In NSW, the National Native Title Tribunal has undertaken steps to remove itself from the formal list of sources for information about indigenous groups in development areas.

Kind Regards
Madeline

Enquiries

Public enquiry hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm

National Native Title Tribunal

Email enquiries@nntt.gov.au

Freecall 1800 640 501 | www.nntt.gov.au

From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 2:14 PM
To: Enquiries <Enquiries@nntt.gov.au>
Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

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

Hello

Please find attached the notification of the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

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 Aboriginal people or groups who may hold such cultural knowledge, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

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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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Alison Fenwick

From: Stephanie Howden
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 11:19 AM
To: fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au
Subject: RE: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)
Attachments: 7066_Agency Notification_20201028a_ltr_TLALC.pdf

Hi Fiona

The project area is quite large and crosses the boundary where Tamworth, Armidale and Amaroo LALCs meet (it is actually a little closer to Bendemeer but the client likes to refer to Kentucky...). You will see the notification letter that I sent through on Monday (also attached) that has a map showing the project area. I sent this through to admin@tamworthlalc.com.au

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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From: fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au <fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 9:42 AM
To: 'Luke Raveneau' <luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au>; Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Cc: 'Emma Budge' <emma.budge@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Dear All

Kentucky is not in Tamworth LALC Boundary

Regards
Fiona

From: Luke Raveneau <luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 10:16 AM

To: showden@umwelt.com.au

Cc: Fiona Snape Mobile <fiona@tamworthlalc.com.au>; Emma Budge <emma.budge@lls.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Fw: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hi Stephanie,

Can you please contact the Fiona Snape, CEO of Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council?
She will organise an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

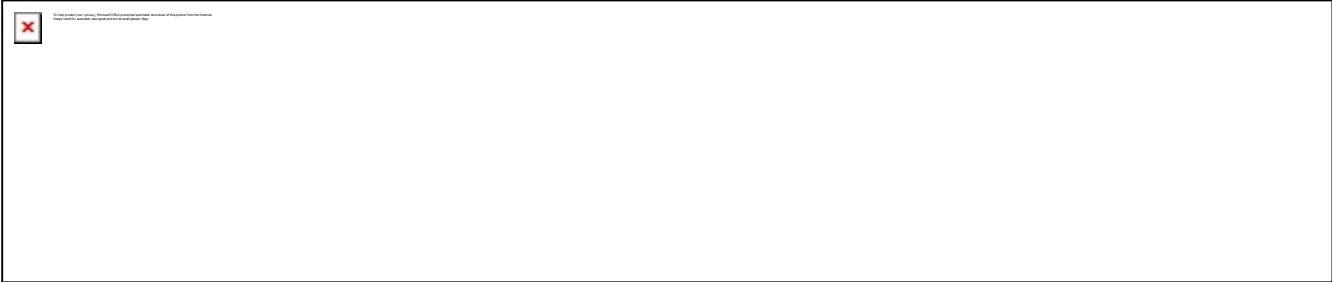
Kind regards,

Luke Raveneau | North West Local Land Services

Senior Lands Service Officer – Aboriginal Communities

[4 Marsden Park Road Calala, Tamworth NSW 2340](#). PO Box 500

M: 0439 523 735 **E:** luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au **W:** northwest.lls.nsw.gov.au



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which I live and work, and pay my respect to the Elders both past & present.

Please rate our service

Local Land Services is committed to providing excellent customer service. Feedback is welcomed and anonymous.

Should you wish to provide feedback to help us improve, please click here: [Rateitnow.com/northwestllsregion](https://rateitnow.com/northwestllsregion)



From: LLS Admin NorthWest Mailbox <admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 10:07 AM
To: Luke Raveneau <luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Morning Luke

Please see below email for your perusal.

Kind regards

Emma Budge
Customer Service Officer
North West Local Land Services
101 Barwon Street | PO Box 466 | Narrabri NSW 2390
p: 02 6790 7600 | f: 02 6792 1738
e: admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au | w: www.lls.nsw.gov.au

[Click here to sign up to the LLS e-newsletter & see how your rates can work for you & your region](#)



Provide feedback on the service you received today via Rateitnow.com/northwestllsregion



From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 3:14 PM
To: LLS Admin NorthWest Mailbox <admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hello

Please find attached the notification of the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

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 Aboriginal people or groups who may hold such cultural knowledge, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

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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Nicola Roche

From: Maeve Parker <mparker@ntscorp.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 November 2021 10:46 AM
To: Nicola Roche; Penelope Williams; Joanna Murphy
Cc: Alison Fenwick; James MacLeod
Subject: RE: 7066 - Thunderbolt Energy Hub Stage 1 Draft ACHA

Thanks Nicola, from a brief look my only feedback at this stage is that 'Donnie Fermoy' should be corrected 'Donnie Fermor'.

I advise if we have any further feedback in due course.

Very best,

Maeve Rose Parker | Solicitor



NTSCORP proudly acknowledge that our office is situated on the country of the Gadigal People of the Dharug Nation. We also acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

t 02 8306 2708 | m 0457 855 690 | f 02 9310 4177 | Free call: 1800 111 844

e mparker@ntscorp.com.au | w www.ntscorp.com.au

Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia

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Aboriginal businesses where possible through
the purchase of goods and services.

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From: Nicola Roche <nroche@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 November 2021 6:30 PM
To: Maeve Parker <mparker@ntscorp.com.au>; Penelope Williams <pwilliams@umwelt.com.au>; Joanna Murphy <joanna.murphy@neoen.com>
Cc: Alison Fenwick <afenwick@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: RE: 7066 - Thunderbolt Energy Hub Stage 1 Draft ACHA

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Maeve,

Please see below

<https://umwelt.sharefile.com/d-scb625c620bd84c3586c3069da75c700f>

Cheers
Nic

Nicola Roche
Manager, Cultural Heritage (NSW, ACT & QLD)
Heritage Technical Lead

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 1300 793 267
Mobile: 0427 125 685

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Maeve Parker <mparker@ntscorp.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 November 2021 11:06 AM
To: Nicola Roche <nroche@umwelt.com.au>; Penelope Williams <pwilliams@umwelt.com.au>; Joanna Murphy <joanna.murphy@neoen.com>
Cc: Alison Fenwick <afenwick@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: RE: 7066 - Thunderbolt Energy Hub Stage 1 Draft ACHA

Hi Nicola,

Are you able to send me a link to the ACHA again – I didn't access it in time.

Cheers,

Maeve Rose Parker | Solicitor



NTSCORP proudly acknowledge that our office is situated on the country of the Gadigal People of the Dharug Nation. We also acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

t 02 8306 2708 | **m** 0457 855 690 | **f** 02 9310 4177 | **Free call:** 1800 111 844
e mparker@ntscorp.com.au | **w** www.ntscorp.com.au
Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia

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From: Nicola Roche <nroche@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 November 2021 2:39 PM
To: Penelope Williams <pwilliams@umwelt.com.au>; Joanna Murphy <joanna.murphy@neoen.com>

Cc: Alison Fenwick <afenwick@umwelt.com.au>

Subject: 7066 - Thunderbolt Energy Hub Stage 1 Draft ACHA

Good afternoon,

As a Registered Aboriginal Party for the Thunderbolt Energy Hub project, Umwelt on behalf of Neoen Australia Pty Ltd (Neoen) and in accordance with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, invite you to review and comment on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) report for the project.

The ACHA 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 this 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 the report and respond carefully. All comments received will be addressed in the finalised report.

In accordance with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, we request that comments be provided by no later than close of business on **Thursday 9 December 2021**.

If you require any further information or if you have any queries relating to this project, please do not hesitate to contact me. We request that the ACHA is treated as confidential and reviewed solely for the purpose of managing Aboriginal cultural heritage. Consultation with the wider community remains ongoing.

Please click on the link below to access the report or let me know if you would like to receive a hard copy version.

<https://umwelt.sharefile.com/d-s809c10e90d734c7cbb6e84bd1661b235>

If you would prefer to discuss the report with me directly, as always, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Regards

Nic

Nicola Roche

Manager, Cultural Heritage (NSW, ACT & QLD)
Heritage Technical Lead

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

Phone: 1300 793 267

Mobile: 0427 125 685

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Nicola Roche

From: Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation <corroboreecorp@bigpond.com>
Sent: Sunday, 21 November 2021 3:52 PM
To: Nicola Roche
Subject: Re: 7066 - Thunderbolt Energy Hub Stage 1 Draft ACHA

Hi Nicola
We agree with draft.

Kind regards
Marilyn Carroll-Johnson
Director
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
Mob: [0415911159](tel:0415911159)
Ph: [0288244324](tel:0288244324)
E: corroboreecorp@bigpond.com
Address: PO Box 3340
ROUSE HILL NSW 2155

On 10 Nov 2021, at 2:39 pm, Nicola Roche <nroche@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Good afternoon,

As a Registered Aboriginal Party for the Thunderbolt Energy Hub project, Umwelt on behalf of Neoen Australia Pty Ltd (Neoen) and in accordance with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, invite you to review and comment on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) report for the project.

The ACHA 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 this 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 the report and respond carefully. All comments received will be addressed in the finalised report.

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If you would prefer to discuss the report with me directly, as always, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Regards
Nic

Nicola Roche
Manager, Cultural Heritage (NSW, ACT & QLD)
Heritage Technical Lead

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 1300 793 267
Mobile: 0427 125 685

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Appendix 1 - 3 Public Notification



**Notification of commencement of Aboriginal
Party Consultation for the proposed
Thunderbolt Energy Hub Project, near
Kentucky NSW.**

Neoen Australia (Neoen) has engaged Umwelt to commence consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub project, adjacent to the New England Highway near Kentucky, approximately 40 km northeast of Tamworth. The project falls within the Tamworth, Uralla and Walcha Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Umwelt invite Aboriginal people or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area to register an interest in being consulted as part of the preparation of the ACHA for the project. Consultation will assist the NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC) with consideration and comment on the assessment and any management recommendations made.

Registrations should be submitted by **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
P: 1300 793 267
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

The name and contact details of the
proponent's project manager:

Neoen Contact: Joanna Murphy
Address: GPO Box 1950
Canberra, ACT, 2601
P: 1800 966 207
E: contact@thunderboltenergyhub.com.au

Our Ref: 7066__RAP Notification_20201113a_itr

13 November 2020

Registered Aboriginal Party
Thunderbolt Energy Hub

E|

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notification of Aboriginal Community Consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Thunderbolt Energy Hub

Umwelt has been engaged by Neoen Australia (Neoen) to commence the consultation process for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to the Thunderbolt Energy Hub (the project). The project is located near Kentucky, approximately 40 km northeast of Tamworth, adjacent to the New England Highway. The project falls within the Tamworth, Uralla and Walcha Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The project area is shown in **Figure 1.1**. The infrastructure proposed to be located within the site boundary includes wind turbine locations, solar farm, a battery, access tracks, electrical transmission lines to connect the turbines, a substation to connect the wind farm to the existing infrastructure and associated temporary work areas such as laydown areas.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment 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).

Neoen are seeking to obtain development approval for the project as two State Significant Development (SSD) applications (one for the windfarm and one for the solar farm) under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for approval by the Minister for Planning. The project will be supported by Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and associated technical studies, including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments (ACHAs).

It is intended that the ACHAs will inform the EISs. In preparing the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Umwelt (on behalf of the proponent, Neoen) 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 NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) in consideration of the project.

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Sydney | Canberra |
Brisbane | Perth

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

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 understand whether you or your organisation has cultural information relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area. If so, and your organisation wishes to be consulted, please register your interest no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

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

Name: Joanna Murphy
Title: Project Manager
Address: Level 6, 16 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, ACT 2601
P: 0423 976 590
E: Joanna.murphy@neoen.com

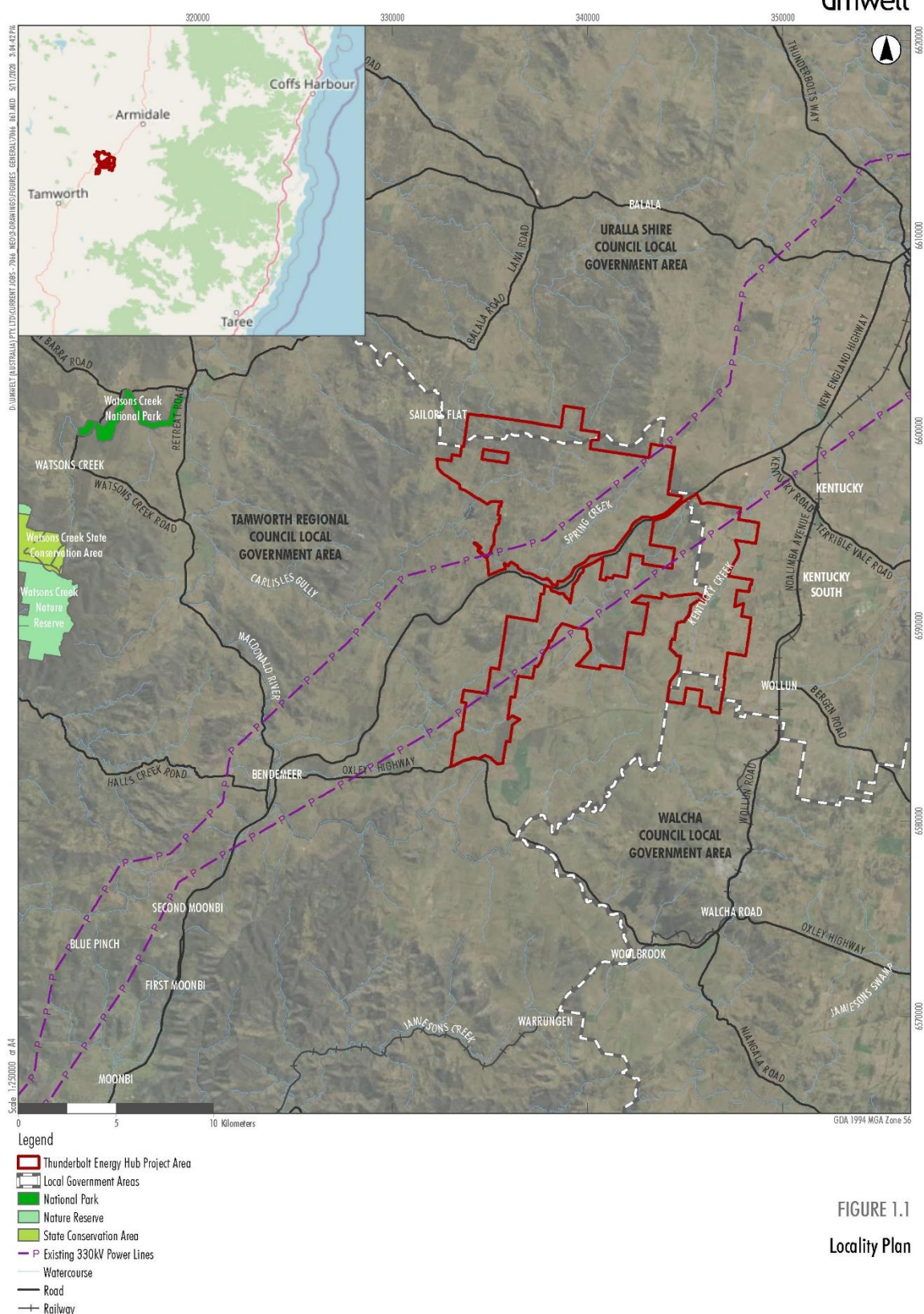
We note that consultation will be undertaken with registered parties and, in accordance with Section 3.4 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), is distinct from employment to undertake on-site works.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or wish to discuss the project further, please do not hesitate to contact myself via email (showden@umwelt.com.au) or on 1300 793 267.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SH', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Steph Howden
Senior Archaeologist



Appendix 1 - 5 RAP Registrations

Stephanie Howden

From: alalcouncil@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 6:52 AM
To: Stephanie Howden
Cc: 'Colin Ahoy Ahoy'; ceo@alalc.org.au
Subject: FW: Notification consultation for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub
Attachments: 7066_RAP Notification_20201214a_ltr1502.pdf

Morning Stephanie,

Thanks for forwarding on the attached notification for a potential wind and solar farm to the north of Tamworth called the Thunderbolt Energy Hub (details in the attached notification).

Yes you are correct Colin Ahoy Jnr is the Armidale LALCs nominated sites officer for this field work.

If you can please forward on the required information once this is confirmed that would be great:

- Hours and dates that Colin will be required for this project.
- Confirm details for the invoice and who this is to be sent to.

Please feel free to contact me I can assist you further in relation to this.

Regards,

Lisa Waters
Chief Executive Officer
Armidale Local Aboriginal Land Council
Postage: PO Box 1837 Armidale
Office: 02 6772 2447 Mobile: 0481 979 407
Email: ceo@alalc.org.au



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**
8-15 NOV 2020

As a proud Anaiwan woman, I would like to acknowledge that we stand on Aboriginal Land and pay my respects to the many generations of the First Nations people that have occupied and cared for our country for over 65,000 years. We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country, we are the oldest continuous culture on the planet, our sovereignty was never ceded. There are over 500 different nations throughout this country and we have survived!!



From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 December 2020 5:21 PM
To: alalcouncil@gmail.com
Cc: cahoy7@myune.edu.au; ceo@alalc.org.au; 'Jen Stanford' <crowsun10@gmail.com>
Subject: Notification consultation for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub

Hi Lisa

Attached is the notification for a potential wind and solar farm to the north of Tamworth called the Thunderbolt Energy Hub (details in the attached notification).

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to understand whether you or your organisation has cultural information relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area.

The date for response of registration is the 29th December; however, I note your previous email dated 20 November 2020 advising your registration and nomination of Colin Ahoy for fieldwork. As such, no further response is needed, I am just sending this notification through as required in the guideline.

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
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Stephanie Howden

From: Aaron Talbott <Aaron@atgomilaroi.onmicrosoft.com>
Sent: Monday, 21 December 2020 3:42 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Thunderbolts Energy Hub

YAAMA Stephanie

Just confirming AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy registration for the Thunderbolts Energy Hub. Look forward to further contact.

Yalu (regards)

Aaron Talbott

AT Gomilaroi CC
13 Hunter Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380
ABN: 92 005 620 045
M 0457 601 685
E aaron@atgomilaroi.onmicrosoft.com

Respect to First Nations People and the Land on which we converse.

Remembrance to Ancestors Past and Action from Living and Future Generations.

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain
privileged information or confidential information or both.

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Stephanie Howden

From: Brian Draper <briandraper0013@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 28 December 2020 4:36 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Brian Draper

Hi, I would like to register my interest in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Thunderbolt Energy Hub Project please.

Regards
Brian Draper

Stephanie Howden

From: Stephanie Howden
Sent: Monday, 4 January 2021 10:18 AM
To: lilly carroll
Subject: RE: Registered interest

Hi Paul and Lilly

Hope you had a good Christmas and New Years. I have registered you for the Thunderbolt Energy Hub project.

Looking forward to working with you on this project.

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
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From: lilly carroll <didgengunawalclan@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Saturday, 26 December 2020 11:59 AM
To: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: Registered interest

Hi Steph

Didge ngunawal clan would like to register an interest into RE: Thunder bolt energy hub

Kind regards DNC
Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll
0426823944

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Stephanie Howden

From: Stephanie Howden
Sent: Monday, 4 January 2021 10:15 AM
To: James MacLeod
Cc: Maeve Parker; Matilda Vaughan; Dylan Orsborn
Subject: RE: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation

Hi James

Hope you had a good Christmas and New Years. Thanks for sending through the registration, I am looking forward to working with you and the Traditional Owners on this project.

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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From: James MacLeod <jmacLeod@ntscorp.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2020 4:15 PM
To: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Cc: Maeve Parker <mparker@ntscorp.com.au>; Matilda Vaughan <mvaughan@ntscorp.com.au>; Dylan Orsborn <dorsborn@ntscorp.com.au>
Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation

Dear Stephanie

Please register the Applicant for the Gomeri People's native title claim (NSD37/2019) as a RAP for this Project.

Many thanks

James

James MacLeod | Senior Solicitor



NTSCORP proudly acknowledge that our office is situated on the country of the Gadigal People of the Dharug Nation. We also acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

I'm working from home. The best way to contact me is on my mobile or by email.

f 02 9310 4177

m 0498 980 212

e jmacleod@ntscorp.com.au | w www.ntscorp.com.au

Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia

NTSCORP is committed to supporting local
Aboriginal businesses where possible through
the purchase of goods and services.

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From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 3:14 PM

To: info <information@ntscorp.com.au>

Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Aboriginal party consultation commencement (our ref: 7066)

Hello

Please find attached the notification of the commencement of Aboriginal party consultation for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub, near Kentucky, NSW.

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 Aboriginal people or groups who may hold such cultural knowledge, please forward the relevant contact details by no later than **1 December 2020** to:

Steph Howden
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
E: showden@umwelt.com.au

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: Ahoy David <larissaahoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 December 2020 6:40 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Re: Notification consultation for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub

Hi Stephanie,

I am writing in response to your email. As an Aboriginal stakeholder Can I kindly ask that my organisation Larissa Ahoy be involved in the Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Assessment, located near Kentucky.

Thank you
Larissa Ahoy

On Tue, 15 Dec 2020 at 5:29 pm, Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Hi Larissa

Attached is the notification for a potential wind and solar farm to the north of Tamworth called the Thunderbolt Energy Hub (details in the attached notification).

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to understand whether you or your organisation has cultural information relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area.

The date for response of registration is the 29th December; however, our offices will be closed over Christmas and I won't be reviewing my emails until the **4th of January**, so any time before then will be accepted.

Cheers

Steph

Steph Howden
Senior Consultant

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

Phone: 1300 793 267

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Stephanie Howden

From: Penelope Williams
Sent: Monday, 11 January 2021 8:34 AM
To: Stephanie Howden
Cc: Nicola Roche
Subject: FW: Thunderbolt | Aboriginal Heritage Consultation

Importance: High

Hi Steph,

See below, can you please add Natasha to the distribution list.

Thanks

Pen

Penelope Williams
Senior Environmental Planner

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

Phone: (02) 4950 5322
Mobile: 0415 880 165

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Joanna Murphy <joanna.murphy@neoen.com>
Sent: Thursday, 7 January 2021 12:05 PM
To: Penelope Williams <pwilliams@umwelt.com.au>
Cc: John Merrell <jmerrell@umwelt.com.au>; Jon Novoselac <jnovoselac@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: Thunderbolt | Aboriginal Heritage Consultation

Hi Pen,

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable break.

I received a call from a Natasha Rodgers on Monday. She said that she received the letter regarding the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment notification for our project late due to redirecting her mail. She noted that the deadline had passed, but would like to be added to the register if possible. I assume this is probably OK?

Her details are:

Natasha Rodgers
32 High St, Gunnedah
Natasharodgers06@gmail.com
0413 960 631

Kind regards,

Joanna Murphy
Project Manager



Level 6, 16 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601
M. +61 (0) 423 976 590
<https://www.neoen.com/en/>

Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation
Armidale, NSW 2350
Email: cahoy7@myune.edu.au
Phone: 0421655192

15/12/2020

Dear Steph,

I am writing to you in response to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in relation to the Thunderbolt Energy Hub I would like to register Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation to your list as an Aboriginal stake holder in the proposed work area. Located near Kentucky, approximately 40 km northeast of Tamworth, adjacent to the New England Highway.

As an Aboriginal stake holder, we would kindly ask if our organisation be involved in the Aboriginal cultural and heritage assessment. I have a strong cultural connection to the land and waterways.

I have worked with many archeologists over the years and I have the trust and respect from those archaeologists. Please feel free to contact me by the email provided.

Regards

Colin Ahoy

Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation

Stephanie Howden

From: Colin Ahoy <cahoy7@myune.edu.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 December 2020 5:37 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Expression of interest
Attachments: Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation(Thunderbolt Energy Hub).pdf

Hello Steph,

Please find attached an expression of interest for Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation for the proposed Cultural and heritage assessment for the Thunderbolt Energy Hub.

Kind regards



**NYAKKA ABORIGINAL CULTURE HERITAGE
CORPORATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CULTURAL
HERITAGE CONSULTANTS**

21/12/2020

**ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE THUNDERBOLT
ENERGY HUB, ARMIDALE, NEW SOUTH WALES**

Attention: Steph Howden

I would like to formally register an interest in the above project.

Nyakka Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Corporation was established by Aboriginal people who have direct connection to Anaiwan country. Surrounding areas mentioned form part of the Anaiwan country therefore, we would like to register our group as interested stakeholders and Aboriginal Owners within Armidale and Hillgrove area.

Rhonda Kitchener is our Senior Sites Officer and Knowledge Holder who can assist you with cultural information in the Anaiwan country.

Can you please ensure that Rhonda is placed on your data base as a registered Knowledge Holder and Aboriginal Owner in Anaiwan Country

Yours sincerely

Rhonda Kitchener

Chairperson

265 RUSDEN STREET ARMIDALE 2350 NSW Ph: 0422820657
EMAIL: rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com
ABN 88064518658

Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation

8 Morson ave.
Armidale NSW 2350
Ph: 0413990868
Email: iwattaac@gmail.com



ABN: 62 426 745 509

15th December 2020

Hello,

Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation would like to express interest in the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub development.

The proposed project area is associated with a larger known Ceremony site and for that reason, we predict a high potential for Lithic Artefacts to be present on the surface, Scarred trees and there is a possibility that stone arrangements may still be in situ.

Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation's experienced site officers have Cultural knowledge of the specific area in question and will talk about the Cultural significance of the area with you during the investigation.

Iwatta's motivated team, have been involved with several Solar and wind farm developments in our traditional area, such as: The New England Solar Farm, Metz Solar Farm, Tilbuster Solar Farm, the University of New England's Solar Farm, Dangarsleigh Solar Farm, Oxley Solar Farm, Whiterock Wind Farm and the Winterbourne wind farm.

I have attached a map showing some known recorded sites that you will also find on the AHIMS database.

If you have any questions please contact myself on the contact details provided.

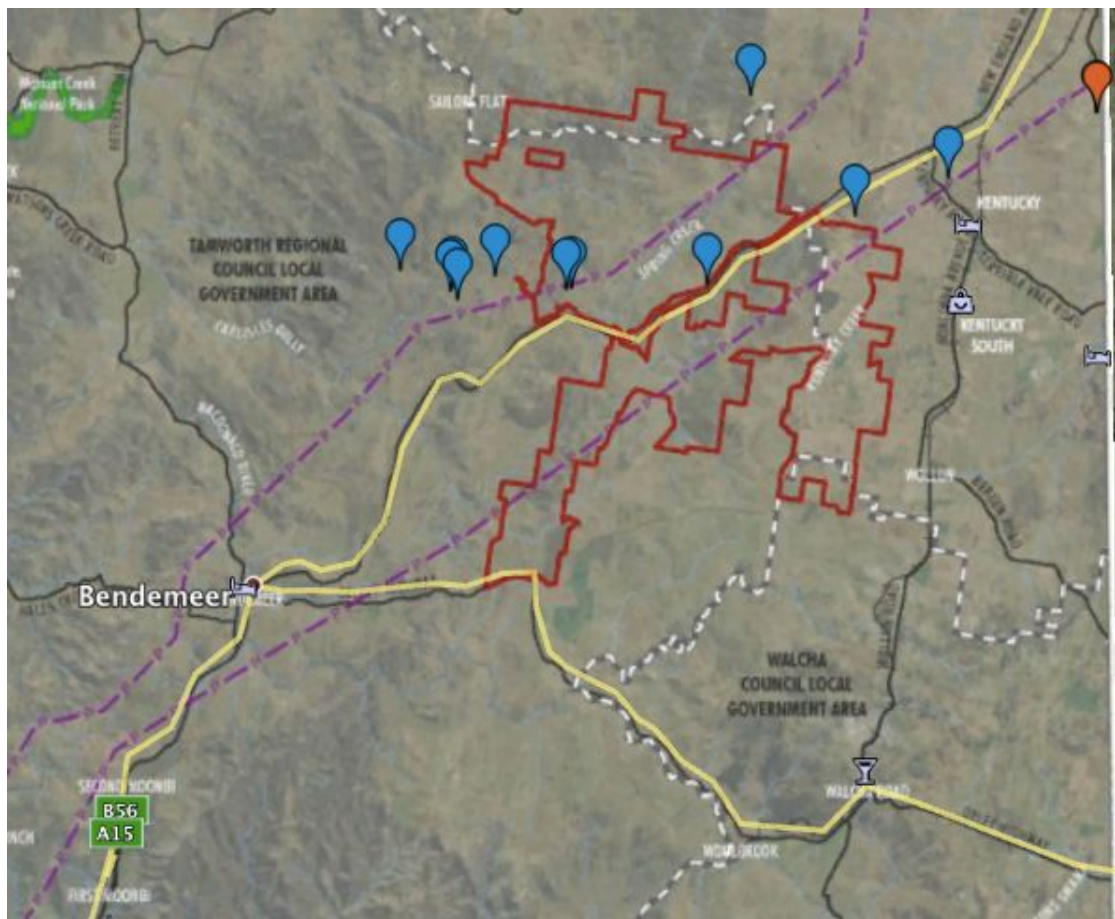
Yours sincerely

Steven Ahoy

Director.

(M) 0413990868

(E) iwattaac@gmail.com



Stephanie Howden

From: Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 December 2020 6:45 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Re: Notification of consultation for the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub
Attachments: Thunderbolt Energy HubIwatta..pdf

Hello Stephanie,

Thank you for the notification.

We (members of Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation) are very interested in your proposal, we have attached our letter of expression and hope you will include us in this exciting project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Thank you
Steven Ahoy
0413990868

On Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 5:33 PM Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Hi Steve

Attached is the notification for a potential wind and solar farm to the north of Tamworth called the Thunderbolt Energy Hub (details in the attached notification).

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the OEH *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), Umwelt are seeking to understand whether you or your organisation has cultural information relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project area.

The date for response of registration is the 29th December; however, our offices will be closed over Christmas and I won't be reviewing my emails until the **4th of January**, so any time before then will be accepted.

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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--

Thank You
Steven Ahoy
Senior Sites Officer
Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation
(E) iwattaac@gmail.com
(M) 0413990868



Appendix 1 - 6 Methodology to RAPs



18 January 2021

Registered Aboriginal Party
Thunderbolt Energy Hub

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Draft Methodology for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed
Thunderbolt Energy Hub Project, near Kentucky NSW**

Neoen Australia (Neoen) is seeking approval for the Thunderbolt Energy Hub (the Project) which will include wind generation, solar generation and battery storage. The wind farm will comprise approximately 70 turbines and will have a capacity of approximately 380 megawatts (MW), with the potential to power approximately 226,800 homes. The solar aspect will produce approximately 120 MW AC, providing a total capacity of the Thunderbolt Energy Hub of 500 MW, with potential to power approximately 276,830 homes once fully operational. Two new substation locations are proposed to be constructed adjacent to the two existing 330kV transmission lines. Energy generated by the Project is proposed to be tied into the existing transmission lines through either one, or both, of the proposed new substations. Additional onsite infrastructure will be required including operation and maintenance buildings, roads, civil works and electrical infrastructure required to connect to the existing electricity transmission network.

Neoen will submit two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for the Project, one for the wind generation component and one for the solar generation and battery storage. Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd (Umwelt) has been engaged by Neoen to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) which will form part of both EISs 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] 2010a) (the consultation requirements) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice, DECCW 2010b).

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 12,940 hectares (ha) of land, near Kentucky, NSW within Tamworth Regional Local Government Area (LGA), Uralla LGA and Walcha LGA. The Project falls within three Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) areas –

Armidale, Tamworth and Amaroo and partly falls within the Gomeroi People native title claim area (NC2011/006, NSD37/2019).

The Project includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 70 turbines (based on preliminary layout subject to review and refinement) and 120 MW solar farm with battery store. Associated infrastructure is also proposed including operation and maintenance buildings, civil works and electrical infrastructure required to connect to the existing transmission network.

The preliminary layout for the Project has been prepared to locate the wind turbines predominately along ridgelines, while also maximising the number of turbines within areas identified as having higher wind resources. The layout will be subject to further refinement as the environmental, cultural heritage and social impact assessments progress.

The Project will include the following key components (refer to preliminary design – **Figure 1.1**):

- approximately 70 (3 blade steel) wind turbines with a total height (tip height) of approximately 250 m
- Approximately 720 ha solar farm (120 MW AC) and battery store
- electrical connections between the proposed wind turbines and solar farm consisting of a combination of underground cables and overhead powerlines
- two new substations and transmission connections to connect to the 330kV transmission line network
- other associated infrastructure including access roads and tracks, operation and maintenance buildings and construction facilities (all facilities subject to further detailed design)
- temporary on-site concrete batching plant during the construction phase
- targeted road network upgrades to facilitate delivery of wind turbine components to the site as required

1.1 Thunderbolt Energy Hub Project Area and Cultural Heritage Assessment Area

The Project Area is shown on **Figure 1.1**. The Project Area is spread across a number of freehold properties. The properties are owned by farming families and a large agricultural company, who utilise the land for predominately grazing activities.

The entirety of Project Area will not be surveyed; instead, the Cultural Heritage Assessment Area (survey and assessment area) will focus on the proposed disturbance areas. The Cultural Heritage Assessment Area (Assessment Area) includes all wind turbine location, transmission lines, access tracks and associated civil works and infrastructure and any temporary areas required during construction (refer to Figure 1.1 for preliminary design). A buffer will also be included to allow for flexibility in design and construction. The buffer will be dependent on the proposed works type including:

- Access tracks and transmission lines will be assessed 25m either side of the centre line (approximately 515 hectares).
- A 200m x 60m area for each wind turbine (approximately 84 hectares).
- Substations and other infrastructure will be buffered by 20m (estimated 2 hectares).
- Solar farm (within the disturbance footprint).

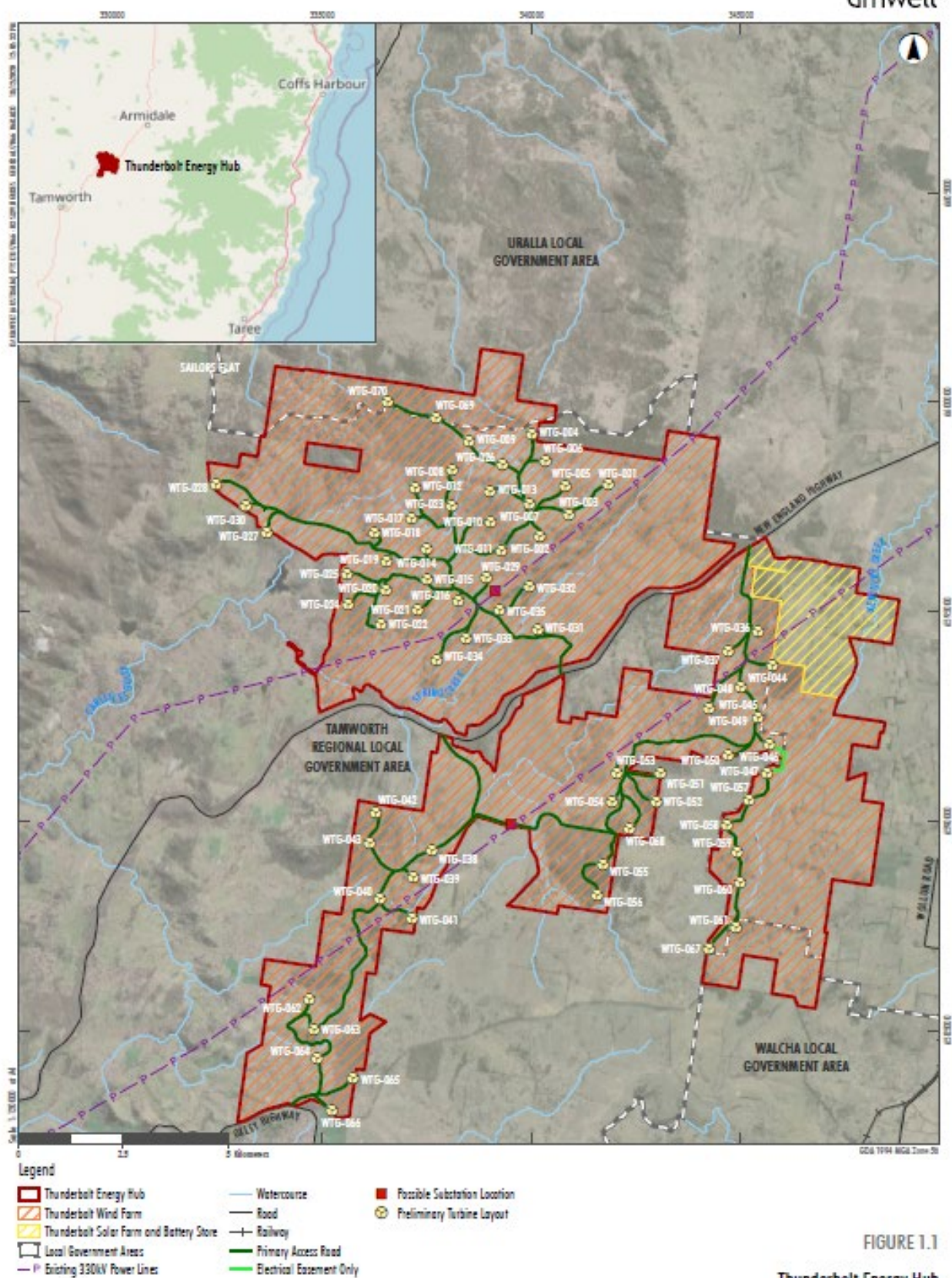


Image Source: ESRI BaseMap, Data source: GPS (2020), Review (2020)

2.0 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 **15 February 2021**)
3. Completion of a survey of the Assessment Area (as defined **Section 1.1**) in accordance with the draft methodology provided in **Section 4** of 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 Assessment 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 environmental and archaeological contextual information to gain an understanding of 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 Assessment Area
 - an assessment of the archaeological significance of any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits identified within the Assessment Area
 - an assessment of the potential impact by the project to any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits identified within the Assessment 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.

3.0 Consultation with Aboriginal Parties During the Assessment Process

Umwelt and Neoen acknowledge and understand 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 Assessment 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.

4.0 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 6 representatives to be selected from the registered Aboriginal parties, and two Umwelt archaeologists over the course of up to ten days. Representatives from Neoen and the project's community liaison consultant will also be present for part of the field survey.

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

4.1 R 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 taken of 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 Assessment 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.

5.0 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 ten days, commencing February 2021. Neoen will be offering paid engagement to 6 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.

6.0 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 **15 February 2021** 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:

Steph Howden
Senior Archaeologist
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants
Phone: 02 4950 5322
Mobile: 0456 196 274

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

Name: Joanna Murphy
Title: Project Manager
Address: Level 6, 16 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, ACT 2601
Postal Address: PO BOX 1950, Canberra ACT 2601
P: 0423 976 590
E: Joanna.murphy@neoen.com

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 black ink, appearing to read 'SH', is placed above the printed name.

Steph Howden
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 (DECCW 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 walking 15-20km per day 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.

We cannot emphasise enough that the fieldwork may be quite physically challenging and that there will be limited capacity to provide an easier component of works. On this basis, we ask that you consider the physical fitness of any representative that you nominate and avoid sending out anyone with any health issues that may impact their capacity to safely undertake the survey.

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 the completed EOI including copies of insurances and daily rates by no later than **15 February 2021** to:

Name: Steph Howden
Address: 75 York St Teralba NSW 2284
Phone: (02) 4950 5322
Email: showden@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 Thunderbolt Energy Hub near Kentucky, NSW

Name of Registered Aboriginal 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:	
Confirmation of fitness for work (all field staff to be able to undertake survey as described, including working in difficult terrain and at elevation)	
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				

Appendix 1 - 7 Methodology to RAPs Responses



Leonard Blair

48 Museum St.

Tingha NSW 2369

Ph: 0428261246

Email: bugsleigh32@gmail.com

ABN : 44563992946

19th January 2021

Hello,

My name is Leonard Blair, I would like to express interest in the proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub development.

The proposed project area is associated with larger known Ceremony site and for that reason, I predict a high potential for Lithic Artefacts to be present on the surface, sacred tree's and there is possibly that stone arrangements may still be in situ.

I have Experience in Artefacts and cultural knowledge of the specific area in question through my Elders in the communities within the Traditional lands of the Thunderbolt Energy Hub development project.

If you have any questions please contact myself on the contact details provided.

Yours sincerely

Leonard Blair

Director

Mobile: 0428261246

Email: bugsleigh32@gmail.com

Nicola Roche

From: Aaron Talbott <Aaron@atgomilaroi.onmicrosoft.com>
Sent: Monday, 5 October 2020 3:02 PM
To: Nicola Roche
Subject: RE: Provision of Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology – proposed modification to the Liverpool Range Wind Farm project (SSD 6696)
Attachments: certificate-3736883-3-20200929123055[779].pdf;
certificate-3736883-23-20200929123054[775].pdf

Yaama Nicola

Thankyou Nicola for the email. AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy would like to be involved in the fieldworks. Insurances are attached. I am a Gomeroi Claimant from the Gunnedah area. The cassillis and Gunnedah clan have extensive tribal history which usually was unfriendly and deadly. The Red Chief Book depicts one of those clashes by Bungaree. Also connected to the Wadijuri Tribe through my G grandmother.

The high sensivity of the area and the watercourses will no doubt find artefact material and sites. Assessing the whole project area is important. With cluster finds and other potential PAD sites can further investigated by test pits. When on the the ground a clearer cultural perspective of the area can be identified and added to knowledge base.

Look forward to working with the Archeologists.

Regards

Aaron Talbott
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy
M 0457 601 685

As Stated the methodology for survey work is walk transects with high sensitivity due to watercourses throughout the project boundary.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Nicola Roche](#)
Sent: Monday, 21 September 2020 5:13 PM
To: [Aaron Talbott](#)
Subject: Provision of Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology – proposed modification to the Liverpool Range Wind Farm project (SSD 6696)

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your registration of interest regarding the above project.

Please find attached the draft assessment methodology for your review and comment. An invitation to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to undertake fieldwork is also provided.

The closing date for comments on the draft assessment methodology and for the submissions of EOIs is **close of business on Tuesday 20 October 2020**.

Should you wish to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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

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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Stephanie Howden

From: Aaron Talbott <Aaron@atgomilaroi.onmicrosoft.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 January 2021 11:15 AM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Re: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Survey and Assessment Methodology and EOI (our ref: 7066)

YAAMA Stephanie

Thankyou for your email. In reading methodology AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy agrees with surveying disturbed areas earmarked for Energy Hub. Turbine locations and the access roads throughout the project area. Any other infrastructure planned or revised project will also be potential survey areas. Pedestrian survey is encouraged where possible with vehicular survey also a back up plan depending on visibility on ground.

I will get appropriate paperwork for fielwork participation and appropriate insurance certificate of currency.

Yalu (regards)

Aaron Talbott

AT Gomilaroi CC
13 Hunter Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380
ABN: 92 005 620 045
M 0457 601 685
E aaron@atgomilaroi.onmicrosoft.com

Respect to First Nations People and the Land on which we converse.

Remembrance to Ancestors Past and Action from Living and Future Generations.

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain privileged information or confidential information or both.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 1:34:10 PM

Subject: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Survey and Assessment Methodology and EOI (our ref: 7066)

Hi all

Thank you for registering your interest in the Thunderbolt Energy Project. Please see attached the methodology for your review and comment. Comments are requested to be returned by 15th of February 2021. Could you also please complete the Expression of Interest Form for the survey which is found on the last 2 pages of the attached letter. Feel free to call me on the numbers below if you wish to discuss.

Cheers

Steph

Steph Howden

Senior Consultant

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

Level 7, 500 Queen St, Brisbane QLD 4105

Phone: 1300 793 267

Mobile: 0456 196 274

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Stephanie Howden

From: lilly carroll <didgengunawalclan@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 January 2021 1:39 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Re: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Survey and Assessment Methodology and EOI (our ref: 7066)

Hi Stephanie

DNC would like to register an interest into the Thunderbolt Energy hub survey and agrees to methodology

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Monday, January 18, 2021, 1:34 pm, Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Hi all

Thank you for registering your interest in the Thunderbolt Energy Project. Please see attached the methodology for your review and comment. Comments are requested to be returned by 15th of February 2021. Could you also please complete the Expression of Interest Form for the survey which is found on the last 2 pages of the attached letter. Feel free to call me on the numbers below if you wish to discuss.

Cheers

Steph

Steph Howden
Senior Consultant

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

Phone: 1300 793 267

Mobile: 0456 196 274
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Alison Fenwick

From: Rhonda Kitchener <rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2021 10:38 AM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Re: Expression Of Interest

Hi Stephanie

I have no comments.

Thanks Rhonda

Sent from my iPhone

On 18 Feb 2021, at 5:32 pm, Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Hi Rhonda

Thanks so much for sending through your EoI and insurances for the Thunderbolt project. I just wanted to follow up to see if you had any comment on the proposed methodology? If you would be able to let me know by close of business tomorrow that would be much appreciated.

Cheers
Steph

Stephanie Howden
Senior Environmental Consultant

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Level 7, 500 Queen St, Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone: 1300 793 267
Mobile: 0456 196 274

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From: rhonda kitchener <rhondakitchener09@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2021 1:05 PM
To: Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: Expression Of Interest

Hi Stephanie,

Please find attached Expression of Interest for Proposed Thunderbolt Energy Hub near Kentucky NSW for Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation.

Thanks

Rhonda Kitchener

<7066_RAP Notification_20210118a_ltr.pdf>

Alison Fenwick

From: Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 18 January 2021 4:53 PM
To: Stephanie Howden
Subject: Re: Thunderbolt Energy Hub Survey and Assessment Methodology and EOI (our ref: 7066)
Attachments: Thunderbolt.pdf1.pdf; 2021 workers insurance Iwatta.pdf; 2021 Business Insurance Iwatta.pdf

Hello Stephanie,

I have just amended an error on our information document and have attached a new amended one along with our insurances.

I would like to point out that the targeted ridge lines have a high potential for lithic Artefacts, stone arrangement and Axe quarries to be present, all rocky out crops should be inspected during the survey.

Also another one of my current roles in the community is as the University of New England's, Aboriginal Cultural Advisor, if there's any research that I can help with please contact me on my mobile.
I look forward to working with you and sharing my Cultural Knowledge of the area.

Cheers
Steven Ahoy
0413990868

On Mon, Jan 18, 2021 at 2:44 PM Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation <iwattaac@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello Stephanie,

I have filled out the required information, if you need further information or clarification please contact me on 0413990868.

On Mon, Jan 18, 2021 at 1:34 PM Stephanie Howden <showden@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Hi all

Thank you for registering your interest in the Thunderbolt Energy Project. Please see attached the methodology for your review and comment. Comments are requested to be returned by 15th of February 2021. Could you also please complete the Expression of Interest Form for the survey which is found on the last 2 pages of the attached letter. Feel free to call me on the numbers below if you wish to discuss.

Cheers

Steph

Steph Howden
Senior Consultant

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

Phone: 1300 793 267

Mobile: 0456 196 274
www.umwelt.com.au

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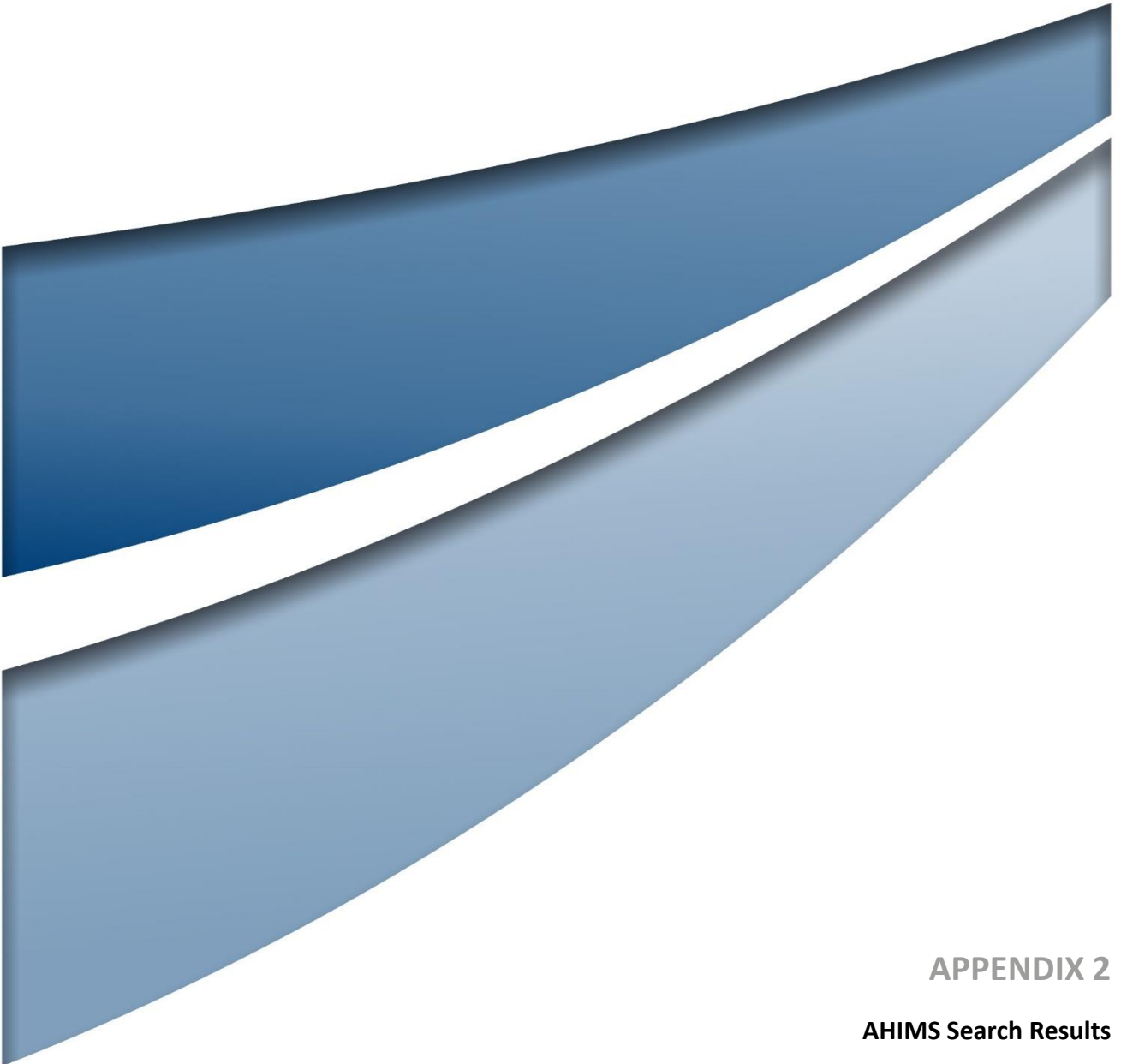
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Thank You
Steven Ahoy
Director
Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation
(E) iwattaac@gmail.com
(M) 0413990868





APPENDIX 2

AHIMS Search Results

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 7066

Client Service ID : 586370

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
20-6-0035	BOUGH GULLY 1	AGD	56	322270	6597050	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		L McAdam,Janice Wilson				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0036	YARRAGOOL 1	AGD	56	322220	6599350	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Archaeological Surveys & Salvage ,Janice Wilson				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0031	Rose Valley Creek 3;Travelling Stock Reserve Bendemeer;	AGD	56	323190	6579600	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Mr.Jason Wilson,Janice Wilson				<u>Permits</u>		
21-4-0004	Salisbury Court;Salisbury Waters;	AGD	56	356872	6598614	Open site	Valid	Stone Quarry : -, Artefact : -	Quarry	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Isabel McBryde,Mr.Malcolm Ridges				<u>Permits</u>	1127	
21-3-0011	Mihi Falls 1;	AGD	56	337860	6606037	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Open Camp Site,Scarred Tree	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Klim Gollan,Mr.Ian Pye				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0062	CARISLES GULLY 1	AGD	56	324750	6592050	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Archaeological Surveys & Salvage ,Janice Wilson				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0066	Kentucky Closed Landfill Site	AGD	56	351239	6596002	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Ms.Suzanne Hudson				<u>Permits</u>		
21-4-0097	Dangars Uralla L&H P1	GDA	56	357000	6604900	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Mr.John Appleton				<u>Permits</u>	3893,4108	
20-6-0069	RACECOURSE ISO 2	AGD	56	355440	6605130	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Mr.John Appleton,University of New England - Armidale				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0070	RACECOURSE OS 1	AGD	56	355548	6605100	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Mr.John Appleton,University of New England - Armidale				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0068	RACECOURSE ISO 3	GDA	56	355430	6605080	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Mr.John Appleton,University of New England - Armidale				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0059	Rose Valley 4	AGD	56	322420	6579500	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Kerry Navin,Mr.Kelvin Officer				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0077	Banalasta ST1	GDA	56	336860	6591722	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Mr.Patrick Gaynor				<u>Permits</u>		
20-6-0071	Banalasta 1	GDA	56	337060	6591764	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Mr.Patrick Gaynor				<u>Permits</u>		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 27/04/2021 for Nicola Roche for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 321900 - 357700, Northings : 6578000 - 6610000 with a Buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Arch assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 28

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AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 7066

Client Service ID : 586370

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
20-6-0072	Banalasta 2	GDA	56	334150	6592210	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Patrick Gaynor <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0073	Banalasta Rock Art Site 1	GDA	56	332458	6591602	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Patrick Gaynor <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0074	Banalasta ST 2	GDA	56	332538	6591702	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Patrick Gaynor <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0075	Banalasta ST 3	GDA	56	332735	6591275	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Patrick Gaynor <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0076	Green Valley Way ST 1	GDA	56	330534	6592359	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Patrick Gaynor <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0078	Salisbury Axe quarry and stone arrangement	GDA	56	356068	6597452	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Resource and Gathering : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Steven Ahoy <u>Permits</u>							
21-4-0317	Salisbury waters engraving	GDA	56	356591	6596160	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Steven Ahoy <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0058	SC-OS-1	AGD	56	343680	6599040	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0008	Kia Ora Station;	AGD	56	328900	6588100	Open site	Valid	Burial : -	Burial/s	3961
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Isabel McBryde <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0011	Myuna Station;Looanga Creek;	AGD	56	342100	6591800	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Carved Tree	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Ray Kelly,Mr.Richard Kelly <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0018	Church Gully Uralla	AGD	56	352700	6602600	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	89
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Sandra Bowdler <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0028	Gunnalong Rockshelter;	AGD	56	331270	6588580	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Jason Wilson,Janice Wilson <u>Permits</u>							
20-6-0029	Gunnalong 4;	AGD	56	331270	6588580	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Jason Wilson,Janice Wilson <u>Permits</u>							

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 27/04/2021 for Nicola Roche for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 321900 - 357700, Northings : 6578000 - 6610000 with a Buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Arch assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 28

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AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 7066
Client Service ID : 586370

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
20-6-0017	The Gums, Daisy Hill	AGD	56	347700	6594500	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Glen Morris					<u>Permits</u>		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 27/04/2021 for Nicola Roche for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 321900 - 357700, Northings : 6578000 - 6610000 with a Buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Arch assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 28

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