

Appendix A

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Awareness Document

Aboriginal people have lived in NSW for more than 60,000 years. Common sites in north eastern NSW include burials, artefact scatters and isolated artefacts, rock shelters, art sites (paintings and engravings), modified trees, hearths, stone arrangements, and grinding grooves. Aboriginal culture however is not just represented by the physical evidence of occupation. It is a living, contemporary phenomenon that is linked to the surrounding landscape and environment.

Aboriginal cultural heritage is legally protected in NSW under *the National Parks and Wildlife Act*.

Example images of some of the types of Aboriginal sites located within the Central Coast LGA is provided below.

Stone Artefacts:

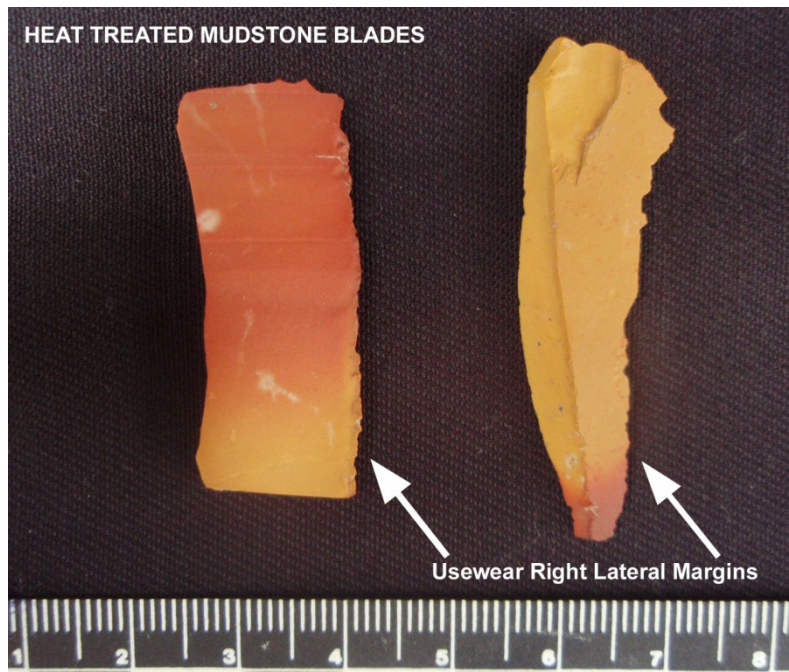
Stone artefacts were used for many day to day purposes such as butchering and skinning animals, grinding seeds and nuts, manufacturing wooden artefacts and for hafting to make tools (axes, spear points). They may be associated with other types of cultural material such as ochre, charcoal, shell or bone¹.

Types of Stone Artefacts - Cores and Flakes



Types of Stone Artefact - Tools





Grinding Flat



Muller / Pestle

Axe Grinding Grooves:

Formed in rock outcrops or boulders generally adjacent to a water source, mainly used for sharpening stone tools.



Consequences of Impacting on an Aboriginal Object

Under the NPW act (1974) it is an offence to knowingly or unknowingly impact on an Aboriginal object. The following penalties apply to Corporations as well as individuals:

Offence	Maximum penalty: Individual	Maximum penalty: Corporation
A person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object that the person knows is an Aboriginal object.	2,500 penalty units (\$275,000) or imprisonment for 1 year 5,000 penalty units (\$550,000) or imprisonment for 2 years or both (in circumstances of aggravation)	10,000 penalty units (\$1,100,000)
A person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object (strict liability offence).	500 penalty units (\$55,000) 1,000 penalty units (\$110,000) (in circumstances of aggravation)	2,000 penalty units (\$220,000)
A person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal Place (strict liability offence).	5,000 penalty units (\$550,000) or imprisonment for 2 years or both	10,000 penalty units (\$1,100,000)

If you suspect that you have come across Aboriginal object/s in the vicinity of your works area **STOP WORK** immediately, secure the area and contact the Project Supervisor, and the Office of Environment & Heritage (Hunter Central Coast Region Archaeologist Ph: 02 4908 6825)

If you suspect that you have come across **human remains** during your works, **STOP WORK** immediately, secure the area and contact the NSW Police and the Office of Environment & Heritage.