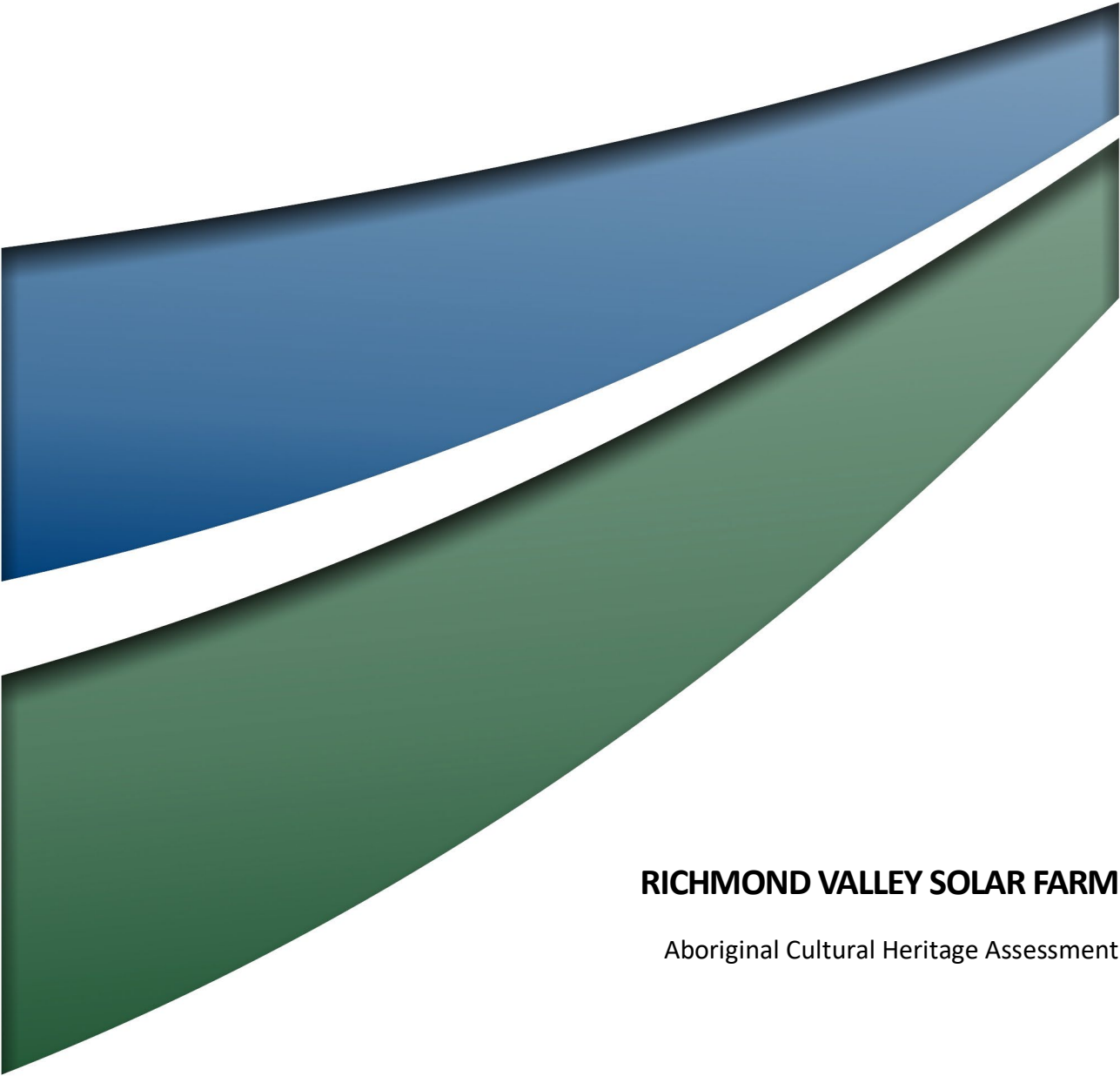


APPENDIX 15

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

This report has been prepared for Richmond Valley Solar & BESS Pty Ltd (ABN 43 672 993 869) a wholly owned special purpose vehicle of Ark Energy Projects Pty Ltd and the Proponent of the Project. Richmond Valley Solar & BESS Pty Ltd will herein be referred to as Ark Energy or Ark Energy Projects.



RICHMOND VALLEY SOLAR FARM

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

FINAL

April 2024

RICHMOND VALLEY SOLAR FARM

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

FINAL

Prepared by
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
on behalf of
Ark Energy Projects Pty Ltd

Project Director: **Malinda Facey**
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Report No. **23252/R06**
Date: **April 2024**



This report was prepared using
Umwelt's ISO 9001 certified
Quality Management System.

Acknowledgement of Country

Umwelt would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the country on which we work and pay respect to their cultural heritage, beliefs, and continuing relationship with the land. We pay our respect to the Elders – past, present, and future.

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Document Status

Rev No.	Reviewer		Approved for Issue	
	Name	Date	Name	Date
V1	R Desic/ J Henderson-Wilson	17/11/2023	M Facey	21/11/2023
V2	Ryan Desic	28/11/2023	Ryan Desic	28/11/2023
V3	Ryan Desic	15/01/2024	Jessica Henderson-Wilson	24/01/2024
V4	Jessica Henderson-Wilson	4/04/2024	Jessica Henderson-Wilson	4/04/2024

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AHD	Australian Height Datum
ACHA	Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
ACHMP	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
BP	Years before present (present defined as A.D. 1950)
cm	centimetres
DECCW	Department of Environment Climate Change and Water, now Heritage NSW
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act/DEE	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)</i>
ESD	Ecologically sustainable development
FGS	Fine grained siliceous
GPS	global positioning system
ha	hectare
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IMT	Indurated mudstone/tuff
km	kilometres
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
m	metres
m ²	square metres
mm	millimetres
n	Number
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage, now Heritage NSW
PAD	Potential archaeological deposit
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Executive Summary

Ark Energy Projects Pty Ltd (Ark Energy) proposes to develop a Solar Farm in the Richmond Valley, approximately 7 km east of the town of Rappville in the Northern Rivers region of NSW (the Project) at Myrtle Creek, Richmond Valley LGA (the Study Area, made up of a Project Area consisting of the proposed solar farm development, and a Road Upgrade Area). The Project will be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project is required under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act). Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued on 21 September 2022. Ark Energy has engaged Umwelt to prepare the EIS and supporting technical assessments. This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) comprises one of the technical assessments that support the EIS.

A comprehensive desktop review was undertaken to understand the archaeological potential of the Study Area. It was determined that the Development Footprint and Road Upgrade Footprint are not within a particularly sensitive archaeological landscape; around half of the Study Area is within a stagnant floodplain, and previous archaeological excavations have indicated that such areas were subject to transient use, as opposed to long-term habitation, limiting the potential for archaeological evidence. Based on the archaeological predictive model developed for this assessment, the most likely sites would be stone artefact sites on spurs overlooking the floodplain, which was the focus of a three-day archaeological survey across the Project Area and Road Upgrade Area.

Umwelt conducted the archaeological field survey of the Study Area between 25 and 27 July 2023. The survey team consisted of Lara Tooby (Umwelt Senior Archaeologist) and Chantelle Laucht (Technical Assistant) and Aboriginal Site Officers Craig Torrens and Warren Williams. All landforms across the Study Area where development is proposed were sampled (a portion of each subject to visual inspection). Only one site, comprising of a single artefact, was identified. The artefact was a fine-grained silicious (FGS) stone flake located on the edge of a vehicle track in eastern edge of the Project Area. This site, with a 5 m buffer, was registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) as site RVSF-UMW-01 (AHIMS ID # 13-1-0252). Site RVSF-UMW-01 indicates that the Project Area was more likely traversed by Aboriginal people in the past, as opposed to habituated for long-periods. The absence of other stone artefacts indicates that the find is a result of transient movement rather than resulting from longer camping event. This aligns with the broader understanding that the Study Area lacks characteristics conducive to long-term habitation by past Aboriginal people.

Furthermore, the Study Area has been subject to various levels of historical disturbance, limiting the opportunity to pursue research questions through archaeological investigation. However, forested portions of the Project Area were observed to be generally less disturbed but were only surveyed if within the proposed Development Footprint (e.g. portions of the proposed transmission line). The forested areas that were surveyed were not considered to be archaeologically sensitive as they were in partially cleared, regrowth vegetation and not intact remnant native mature forest.

Site RVSF-UMW-01 is within the Development Footprint and it is anticipated that this site will be impacted by the Project. To mitigate this impact, this site will be subject to surface collection.

Aboriginal cultural heritage will be managed under an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) which will be developed post-approval. The ACHMP will include provisions for Aboriginal community collection of site RVSF-UMW-01 prior to development impact. Additionally, the ACHMP will detail Aboriginal consultation protocols, community collection, on-site inductions, interpretation, and protocols for unexpected finds and suspected Aboriginal ancestral remains.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Ark Energy Projects Pty Ltd (Ark Energy) proposes to develop a Solar Farm in the Richmond Valley, approximately 7 km east of the town of Rappville in the Northern Rivers region of NSW (the Project). The Project is a State Significant Development (SSD) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project is required under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued on 21 September 2022. Ark Energy has engaged Umwelt to prepare the EIS and supporting technical assessments. This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) comprises one of the technical assessments that support the EIS.

This ACHA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (NPW Regulation) and the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH 2011). All consultation has been 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).

1.2 The Project

1.2.1 Project Description

The site for the proposed Richmond Valley Solar Farm is in Myrtle Creek in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales (**Figure 1.1**). It is approximately 7 km east of Rappville and 25 km south of Casino, with the villages of Ellangowan to the north and West Bungawalbin to the east (**Figure 1.2**).

The Project involves the construction, operation and decommissioning of up to 500 MW of DC solar generation, a BESS with a power capacity of 275 MW and an energy storage capacity of up to 2,200 MWh over eight hours and a transmission line to connect the Project from the substation to the national electricity market (NEM). The Project will include various associated infrastructure including inverters to convert DC to AC electricity, a substation and switching substation, temporary construction facilities, operations and maintenance (O&M) facility, internal roads, civil works and other required electrical infrastructure.

The Project Area is an irregular shape associated with lot arrangement, existing land uses and property boundaries. The Project covers an area of approximately 1,475 ha and is proposed to have a development footprint of approximately 803 ha.

Key components of the Project would include, but not be limited to:

- Up to 730,000 bifacial photovoltaic (PV) modules (solar panels) in an east-west single-axis tracking arrangement with a maximum height of 4 metres (m) above ground level at maximum tilt.

- A BESS with an approximate 275 MW power and 2,200 MWh storage capacity, housed in a series of outdoor containers, aggregated in one central location adjacent to the substation and switching substation.
- Up to 118 inverter stations to convert the DC solar panel electricity to AC electricity.
- One onsite 330kV switching substation and 330 kV/33kV substation for the BESS and solar farm, with underground electrical conduits and cabling.
- Approximately 2 km of new transmission line connecting to the Transgrid Lismore – Coffs Harbour 330 kV transmission line (line 89) from a 330 kV switching substation and a 330 kV / 33 kV substation.
- Underground electrical cable reticulation between solar arrays and infrastructure within the Project Area to transport power from the solar arrays to the onsite substation.
- Office and an O&M facility with parking for the operations team.
- Three access points from Avenue Rd (SA1, SA2 and SA3) via Main Camp Rd and Summerland Way.
- Internal roads to allow for Project maintenance and emergency response.
- Road upgrades - The access route from Summerland Way will require upgrades including Summerland Way / Main Camp Rd intersection, Main Camp Rd and Avenue Rd Intersection and sealing of sections of Avenue Rd from Main Camp Rd to the north most Project access point (SA3).
- A biodiversity corridor to improve habitat connectivity and reduce amenity impacts.
- Drainage line crossings (where required) to manage existing surface water flows (to be determined during further design development).
- Vegetation clearance associated with establishment of infrastructure.
- Perimeter security fencing around the Development, crossing gates, water tanks and/or dams, and internal access points around the project.

Additionally, during the construction of the Project, temporary laydown areas will be established to support the safe and efficient establishment of the facility.

The Project is expected to operate for 30 years. After the initial 30 year operating period, the solar farm would either be decommissioned, removing all infrastructure except the transmission lines and substations and returning the Project Area to its existing land capability, or repurposed with new PV equipment subject to technical feasibility and planning consent.

1.2.2 Study Area – Terms and Definitions

The **Project Area** referenced throughout this report comprises the broader envelope in which the Development Footprint and a portion of the Road Upgrades Area that traverses through the Project Area.

The **Road Upgrades Area** represents where anticipated road widening, sealing and intersection treatments are proposed.

The **Study Area** represents the Project holistically and is used to refer to the combination of the Project Area and Road Upgrade Area, inclusive of the Development Footprint.

The **Development Footprint** referred to in this report represents the potential disturbance footprint of the solar arrays, BESS and associated infrastructure. It also represents where ground disturbance may occur as part of the Road Upgrades Area.

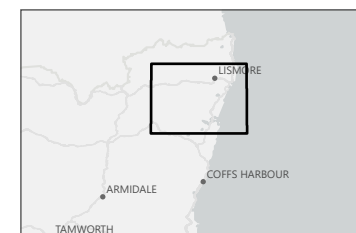
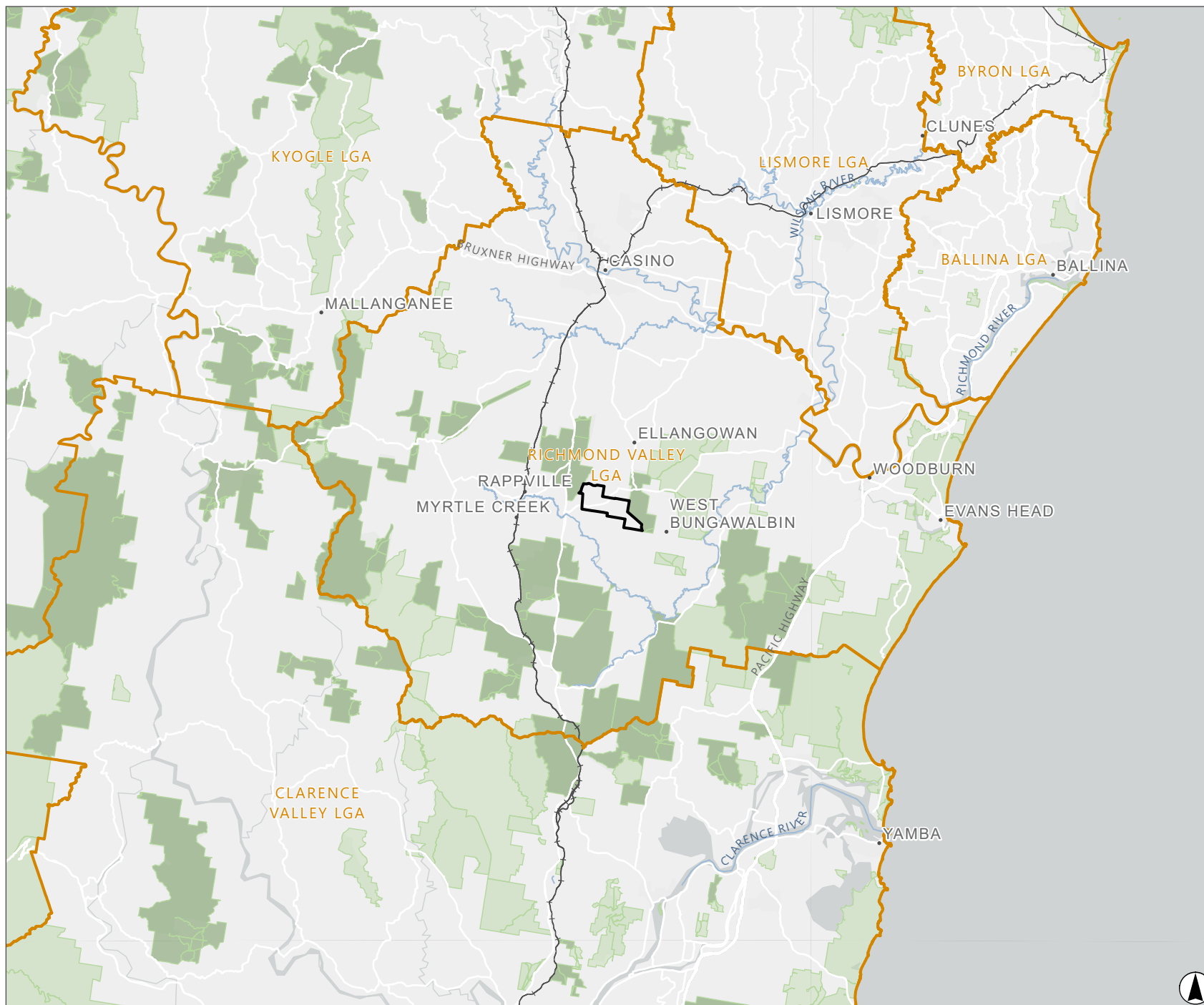
Figure 1.2 illustrates these terms and definitions.

FIGURE 1.1

Locality and Regional Context

Legend

- Project Area
- Local Government Area Boundary
- NPWS Reserve
- State Forest
- Roads
- Watercourse
- Railway



Scale 1:600,000 at A4
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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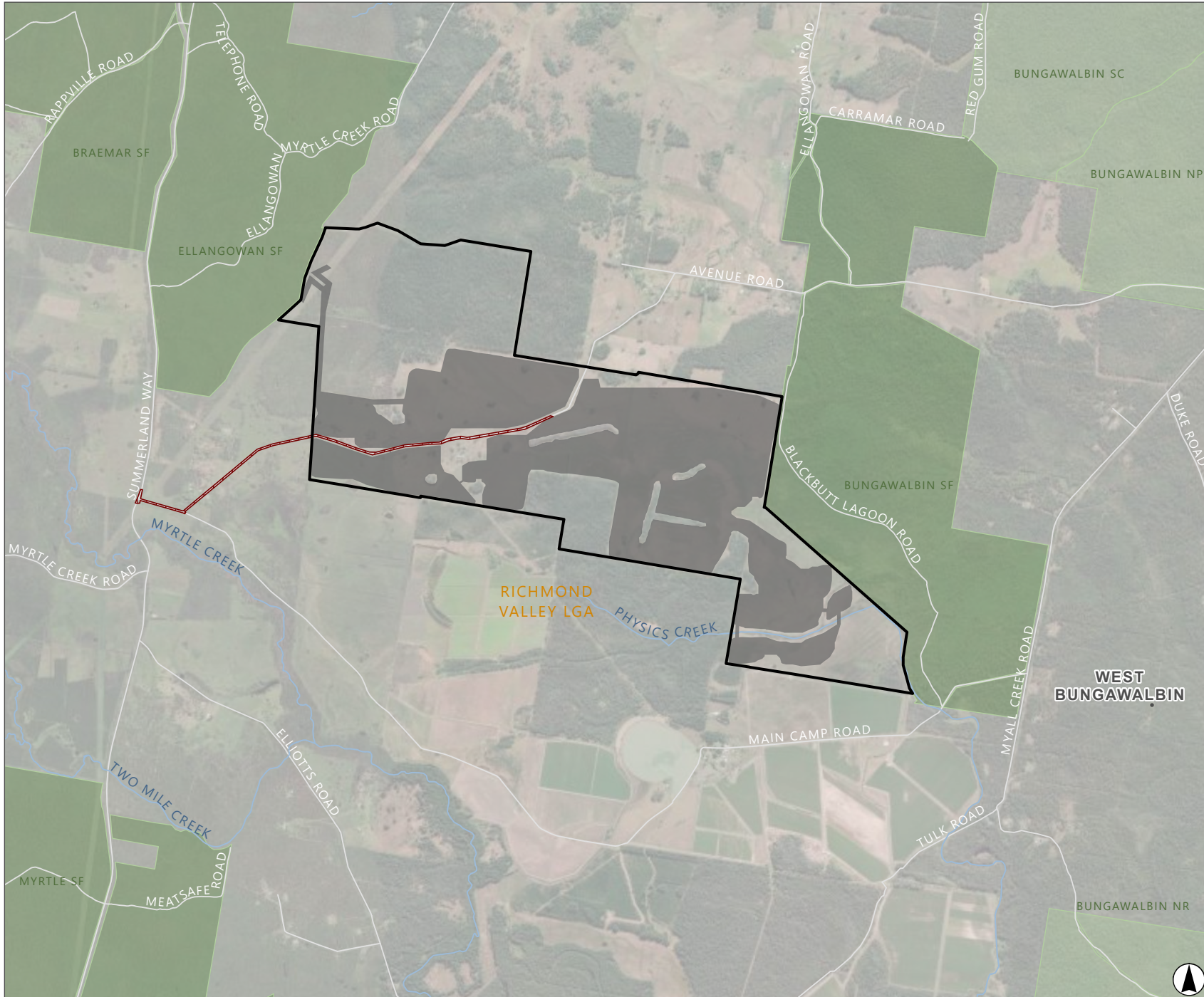
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FIGURE 1.2

Study Area

Legend

- Project Area
- Development Footprint
- Road Upgrade Area
- NPWS Reserve
- State Forest
- Roads
- Watercourse



Kilometers
Scale 1:60,000 at A4
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1.3 Objectives and Assessment Requirements

1.3.1 Objectives

The key objectives of this ACHA report are to:

- Describe the applicable regulatory framework relevant to the Project.
- Identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values relevant to the Study Area which include:
 - Aboriginal objects and sites.
 - Aboriginal socio-cultural or historic values which might not be related to Aboriginal objects.
 - Areas of archaeological sensitivity.
- Describe and characterise the existing environment relevant to the Study Area.
- Assess the significance of Aboriginal objects, sites and places/locations identified in the course of archaeological investigations and through Aboriginal community consultation.
- Identify and assess potential impacts of the Project construction and operation on identified Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- Identify appropriate mitigation and management measures for potentially impacted Aboriginal cultural heritage values in response to their assessed significance.

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 Study Area, whilst ensuring that the required archaeological information is also appropriately documented.

1.3.2 Assessment Requirements and Legislation

The assessment was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Department of Planning, Environment (DPE), which are set out in the SEARs for the Project, issued on 21 September 2022.

To inform preparation of the SEARs, the DPE invited relevant government agencies to advise on matters to be addressed in the EIS. These matters were considered by the Secretary for DPE when preparing the SEARs, which have been considered in the preparation of this report.

This report follows SEARs relating to Aboriginal heritage by being prepared in accordance with the following NSW government best practice guidelines for Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and management:

- Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011).
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (the Consultation Requirements) (DECCW 2010a).
- Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010b) (the Code of Practice).

Table 1.1 lists the matters relating to ‘heritage’ relevant to this assessment and where they are addressed in this report. This report only includes matters relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage and not historical heritage, which is addressed in respective technical assessment and the EIS and not in this document.

Table 1.1 SEARs for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Requirement	Section addressed
An assessment of the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (cultural and archaeological) in accordance with the <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW</i> (OEH, 2011) and the <i>Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW, 2010), including results of archaeological test excavations (if required);	Whole report, with a focus on Section 9.0 .
Evidence of consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010)	Section 2.0 .

1.3.3 Legislative Context

There are several Commonwealth and State Acts (and associated regulations) that protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage in Australia. This legislation and its relevance to the Project is summarised in **Table 1.2**.

Table 1.2 Legislative Context

Legislation Overview	Relevant to the Project?	Details
Commonwealth		
<p><i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i></p> <p>Recognises sites with universal value on the World Heritage List (WHL). Protects Indigenous heritage places with outstanding heritage value to the nation on the National Heritage List (NHL), and significant heritage value on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).</p>	No	There are no Indigenous heritage places within the Study Area that are listed on the WHL, NHL, or the CHL.
<p><i>Native Title Act 1993</i></p> <p>The <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (NT Act) recognises that Aboriginal people have rights and interests to land and waters which derive from their traditional laws and customs. Native Title may be recognised in places where Indigenous people continue to follow their traditional laws and customs and have maintained a link with their traditional country. It can be negotiated through a Native Title Claim, Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) or future act agreements.</p>	No	A search of the Native Title Tribunal Claims Register 25/05/2023 identified no claims have been made within the Study Area.

Legislation Overview	Relevant to the Project?	Details
<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</p> <p>Preserves and protects areas and objects of particular significance to Aboriginal people that are under threat from injury or desecration.</p>	No	There are no areas or objects within the Study Area subject to a Declaration under the Act.
State		
<p>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</p> <p>The EP&A Act regulates development activity in NSW and requires environmental impacts, including to Aboriginal heritage, to be considered in land use planning.</p> <p>Provides for the development of environmental planning instruments, including State Environmental Planning Policies and Local Environmental Plans.</p>	Yes	The Project is being assessed as an SSD project under Part 4, Division 4.7, of this Act, and is subject to project-specific environmental assessment and reporting requirements. These requirements (SEARs) stipulate that an Aboriginal heritage assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development, including adequate consultation with the local Aboriginal community impact assessment is required (in accordance with standard Heritage NSW procedures and guidelines).
<p>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</p> <p>Heritage NSW is primarily responsible for regulating the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW under the NPW Act. It provides protection and management mechanisms for Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places.</p> <p>The NPW Act is accompanied by the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (the Regulation)</i> and a range of codes and guides including the <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH 2011)</i>, the <i>Consultation Requirements (DECCW 2010a)</i>, and the <i>Code of Practice (DECCW 2010b)</i>.</p>	Yes	The NPW Act would generally remain in force for the Project in relation to the discovery, impact notification and care of Aboriginal objects in NSW. However, as the Project is classed as SSD, an Aboriginal heritage impact permit (AHIP) is therefore not required to permit harm to Aboriginal objects associated with an approved project. Instead, an approved management plan would manage relevant Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
<p>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</p> <p>Establishes Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs). Allows transfer of ownership of vacant crown land to a LALC.</p> <p>The Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ORALRA), registers Aboriginal land claims and maintains the Register of Aboriginal Owners. Often used in NSW to identify relevant stakeholders for consultation.</p>	Yes	A request to search the Register of Aboriginal Owners was made to the ORALRA on 24/05/2023, with a response on the 28/06/2023 detailing details of potential contact. Emailed David Kennedy (Joint Management Coordinator for Gaagal Wanggaan (South Beach) National Park) on the 29/06/2023. No further response.

Legislation Overview	Relevant to the Project?	Details
<p>Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>The <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> 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.</p>	No	As no Aboriginal places of State heritage significance apply to the Study Area.

1.4 Limitations

This ACHA report has assessed Aboriginal cultural heritage only. Potential impacts to historical (non-Aboriginal) built heritage have not been addressed including potential historical archaeological deposits within the Study Area. Impacts to historical (non-Aboriginal) heritage are managed under standalone legislation and must be managed accordingly.

This report is based on existing and publicly available environmental and archaeological information (including AHIMS data) and reports about the Study Area. The background research did not include any independent verification of the results and interpretations of externally sourced existing reports (except where the ground-truthing was undertaken).

1.5 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Lara Tooby (Umwelt Senior Archaeologist) with support from Chantelle Laucht (Umwelt Technical Assistant) and Sarah Mané (Umwelt archaeologist and heritage consultant). Jessica Henderson-Wilson (Umwelt Principal Environmental Scientist) was the overarching Project Manager, and Malinda Facey (Umwelt Executive Manager) was overarching Project Director. Graphics were prepared by Melinda Beadman (Umwelt GIS Specialist). Technical review was provided by Ryan Desic (Principal Archaeologist).

Umwelt would like to thank registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) for their involvement in ongoing consultation, knowledge sharing and fieldwork assistance. This includes RAP site officers Craig Torrens and Warren Williams.

2.0 Aboriginal Community Consultation

2.1 Overview

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.

Aboriginal consultation for this Project has been undertaken in accordance with procedures set out in the Consultation Requirements (DECCW, 2010a). These guidelines identify a four-stage process which involves notification and registration of Aboriginal parties, presentation of project and assessment information, gathering information about cultural significance, and provision of a draft ACHA for Aboriginal party review.

A summary of the consultation process and its outcomes are provided in the sections below, and full documentation of the consultation process is provided in **Appendix A**.

2.2 Stage 1 — Notification and Registration of Aboriginal Parties

In accordance with Stage 1, Umwelt issued a letter to government agencies on 24 May 2023 requesting advice on which Aboriginal parties to invite for consultation. The agencies contacted included Heritage NSW, Richmond Valley Council, Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council, Native Title Tribunal, Office of the Registrar- Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, Native Title Service Provider (NTSCORP) and the North Coast Local Land Services.

Based on information collected from government agencies, expressions of interest were sent to the knowledge holders inviting them to become a RAPs for the Project.

A notification was placed in a local newspaper detailing the Project name, proponent, location, description, and a request for Aboriginal knowledge holders to register interest in the Project. The advertisement was published in the *Northern Rivers Times* on 1 June 2023. A copy of the advertisement is included in the consultation documentation provided in **Appendix A**.

Aboriginal parties identified by the government agencies were invited to register their interest in the Project on 5 June 2023¹ via letter and email. Aboriginal parties were given 14 days to respond to the invitation.

As a result of the expressions of interest and public notice, five Aboriginal parties registered their interest in being consulted for the Project, as listed in **Table 2.1**.

¹ Agency responses were delayed for North Coast Local Land Services and Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. As a result, two invitations to register were sent out on 20 June 2023 and 29 June 2023. These contacts were still provided 14-days to register (refer to consultation records in **Appendix A**).

Table 2.1 List of registered Aboriginal parties for the Project

Organisation	Contact
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	Aaron Talbott and Natalene Mercy
Koori Digs	Corri Currell
Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC	Tara Mercy
Lois Cook	Lois Cook
Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council	Joanne Bolt

2.3 Stages 2 and 3 – Presentation of Information and Gathering Cultural Information

In accordance with Stage 2 and 3 of the consultation guidelines, details of the Project and Assessment Methodology were sent out to RAPs and opportunities for feedback provided.

On 23 June 2023 Umwelt issued a methodology and Project information letter. The letter included an overview of the Project, the proposed assessment methods, and the consultation process, as well as the results of a preliminary desktop assessment and details about gathering cultural information. RAPs were given 28 days to respond to the proposed assessment method. RAPs were informed that cultural information could be provided throughout the duration of the assessment.

No responses to the methodology were received excluding sending through expressions of interest to be engaged in the survey, for fieldwork.

2.3.1 Consultation During Fieldwork

Representatives from RAP groups Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC (Elder Warren Williams) and Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (Craig Torrens) were engaged as Site Officers for the archaeological survey from 25 to 27 July 2023. Detailed discussion with site officers was undertaken to understand and document cultural values relevant to the Study Area.

Bundjalung Elder Warren indicated the closest known campsite / habitation area (that he was aware of), was located near Main Camp located approximately 2 km to the south of the Project Area, although an exact location was not provided, acknowledging that it was not within the Study Area. It is not clear if this is associated with the Main Camp Homestead. Warren did not believe there was any oral traditions regarding the present Study Area.

Both Craig and Warren expressed that the Study Area was not particularly suitable for past Aboriginal habitation in a long-term sense, although their ancestors would have passed through, as part of movement to other campsites or cultural areas or moving through as part of food procurement. It was considered that the floodplain areas would have been unsuitable terrain for substantial campsites, although both Craig and Warren commented on the Project Area as having suitable resources for subsistence. This interpretation has fed into the interpretation of the archaeological survey (**Section 5.0**), cultural significance assessment (**Section 6.0**), and subsequently has directly informed the management and mitigation recommendations (**Section 8.0**).

2.4 Stage 4 – Review of Draft ACHA

2.4.1 Distribution of Draft Report

A draft version of this report, which included all background information, results, draft significance assessments and draft management recommendations was issued to all RAPs for review and comment on 1 December 2023. Feedback was due by 12 January 2024; a reminder to provide feedback sent out 3 January 2024. As outlined in Section **Table 2.2**, one RAPs provided comments, endorsing the Project.

Table 2.2 Responses to draft ACHA report

RAP	Comment	Umwelt/Ark Energy Response
Koori Digs (Korri Currell)	12/12/23 (emails) - Agrees with ACHA	Noted

3.0 Environmental Context

The decisions that past Aboriginal people made regarding such things as where they lived, the range of resources they used, and other aspects of daily life may be influenced by the environment in which they live. Landscape features were an important factor for the choice of camping and transitory and ceremonial areas used by Aboriginal people. 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 assessment is therefore integral to considerations of site visibility, preservation, and occurrence within the Study Area.

3.1 Landscape Overview

The Study Area is situated within a landscape of low undulating hills and stagnant alluvial plains (Morand 2001), approximately 30 km west of the Pacific Ocean coastline. The elevation of the Project Area is between 25 and 70 m above sea level, with the south-eastern portion of the Project Area forming part of the Bungawalbin floodplain.

3.2 Climate

The climate of the region is subtropical, resulting in hot summers, high annual rainfall, and mild winters (Bailey 1975). The weather is affected by the El Niño- Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which results in inter-annual rainfall variability, typified by heavy rains, which can result in flooding during summer, and generally little rains in winter (Hashimoto, Saintilan and Haberle 2006). The average annual mean temperature (1991–2020) is 21 degrees Celsius (Bureau of Meteorology 2021). The mean maximum temperature in the hottest month of January is 27 degrees Celsius (Bureau of Meteorology 2021), whilst the minimum temperature of the coldest month of July is 6 degrees Celsius across the Richmond Valley area (Bureau of Meteorology 2021). Temperatures dramatically change between topographic regions; the coastal area can be 15 degrees warmer than the upland regions during winter (Sullivan 1978, 194).

Like most regions of the East Coast of Australia, climatic changes were prevalent within the last 10,000 years (Holocene) in the Study Area. The most dramatic changes were caused by sea-level fluctuations and changes in humidity and dryness. Studies indicate that in Northeast and Central Eastern Australia, sea level rose between around 0.01 m per year in the early transition from Pleistocene epoch to the Holocene epoch, slowing down to approximately half this rate between 6500–6000 BP (Hashimoto, Saintilan, and Haberle 2006). Between 7000–6000 BP, sea level began falling, reaching its present position around 2000 BP, with oscillations occurring at 4600-years and 2800-years BP. Evidence indicates that around 6500 years ago, the sea level in Northeast Australia was 1.3–1.7 m higher than present (Lewis et al. 2008).

3.3 Hydrology

The Study Area is within the Bungawalbin catchment area which is particularly poorly drained and is part of the Richmond River catchment (Morand 2001). There are several first to third order streamlines in the northwest portion of the Project Area that feed into the fourth order streamline leading down into Physics Creek on the southeastern portion of the Project Area, as shown in **Figure 3.1**. Many watercourses have been dammed and artificially channelled for agricultural purposes and are the only visible water sources with the streamlines dry. There are 2nd order and 4th order tributaries of Physics Creek intersecting the proposed Road Upgrade Area, but these are low, lying open depression areas with no stream channel, except for where channels have been artificially constructed for agricultural drainage.

Description of the soil landscape as stagnant alluvial plains suggests that any water that does appear during periods of high rainfall does not develop into consistent watercourses, instead resulting in flooding across the tributaries and flats. Flood modelling (Umwelt 2023a) indicates that flood levels across the site do not exceed 1-metre, with an average maximum depth of <0.5 m.

Access to freshwater was a critical requirement for long-term Aboriginal habitation of an area. Overall, the Study Area has only ephemeral waterway, swamps and floodplain, suggesting areas near permanent water sources, such as such as nearby Bungawalbin Creek, may have been preferred for long-term habitation.

3.4 Geology and Soil Landscapes

The underlying geology of the Study Area as shown in **Figure 3.2**, is mostly Quaternary alluvial deposits across the flats, consisting of sand, silt, clay, and gravel. The higher hillslopes and crests correlate with the Grafton Formation of the Clarence-Moreton Basin which includes sandstone, shale, siltstone, claystone, minor coal and carbonate concretions and rare tuff. These are shown to be at a depth of 1–2 m (Morand 2001) and therefore not likely to be visible or accessible on the surface.

The Project Area lies within the *Soil Landscapes of the Woodburn 1:100 000 Sheet* (Morand 2001). Soil landscape classifications and their boundaries provide pre-defined areas that are classified by several geographic features, and which are informative for the archaeological investigation. They provide localised information including landform patterns, soils, geology, rock outcrop percentage, land use and vegetation. This information provides another layer to categorise the landscape for the predictive model, additional to what a topographic description can provide. Soil landscape information builds on underlying geology and describes the depths of residual soils and colluvial soils and identifies areas that are characterised by erosive or skeletal soils and exposed bedrock versus those that may contain a deeper profile where cultural material may be buried.

The majority of the Project Area is divided between two soil landscapes: Ellangowan and Physics Lagoon. Ellangowan comprised of the western half of the Project Area, between an AHD of 30 and 70 m. Physics Lagoon is within the Eastern Portion of the Project Area below 30 m AHD (**Figure 3.1**).

Ellangowan is an erosional soil landscape located on undulating rises. Undisturbed areas of this soil landscape are expected to consist of 2–10 cm of dark sandy clay loam (A1 horizon), overlying 5–40 cm of dull yellow brown bleached sandy clay loam (A2 horizon), overlying dark brown mottled medium sandy clay (B horizon clay) (Morand 2001). Physics Lagoon soil landscape is a stagnant alluvial plain. It is a complex and extensive landscape, formed through high run-off events from the Richmond ranges in the west. The two main soil types are grey kurosols (strong texture contrast between A horizons and strongly acid B horizons) and hydrosols (saturated with water for long periods of time). Soils tend to consist of sandy loam and clay upper layers between 5 cm and 70 cm in depth. Many of these soils are highly waterlogged and acidic (Morand 2001).

Soil sampling across the Project Area, done as part of the *Soil and Agricultural Impact Assessment of the Richmond Valley Solar Farm* (Minesoils 2023) provide an indication of actual subsurface soil conditions across the Project Area, and how they vary from the soil condition predictions of the soil landscape sheets. In total, 39 cores samples from across the Project Area (**Figure 3.3**) were extracted across the Project Area. Notable overall qualities of the soil detected were that was moderate to high risk of dispersion and erosion when soils are disturbed in the Project Area (Minesoils 2023, 45). In addition, the majority of the soils in the Project Area are subject to waterlogging and soil acidity (Minesoils 2023, 26).

Soils where there is a texture (clay content) contrast between silty/sand/loamy topsoils (A horizon soils) to lower clay subsoils (B horizon soils), are referred to as 'duplex' soils. Australian Soil Classification soil types in the Project Area are which are 'duplex' include Kurosols, Sodosols and Chromosols. Non-duplex soils include Kandosols and Dermosols. Kandosols in the Project Area have little or gradual increase of clay with depth; in the Project Area generally being Silty Loam, Loam or Sandy Loam. Dermosols in the Project Area also have a lack of contrast with depth; but have high clay content (as opposed to low clay content) throughout. A summary of core results, defining these soil types across the area, is outlined in **Table 3.1**.

The soil core results broadly reflected the predictions of the *Soil Landscapes of the Woodburn 1:100 000 Sheet* predictions: The cores within the Ellangowan soil landscape designation, tended to be duplex Chromosols and Kurosols. These A horizon soils are shallow; usually around 20 cm, suggesting a lot of the topsoil has been stripped by past land use (discussed in **Section 3.6**). The cores within the Physics Creek Designation were more complex; all contained within a stagnant alluvial plain, with varying dress of acidity. Whilst some areas (Kandosols around cores 19, 20, 21 and 22) had deep sandy/silty/ loamy soils extending through both A and B horizons, these are in low-lying flood-prone areas, and the majority of the area deep clay-based soils.

The depth of sandy, silty, or loamy soils in the Project Area, based on soil sample descriptions, is outlined in **Table 3.2**. From this, the average depth of sandy, silty soils, is calculated to 20 cm. With exceptions, Aboriginal objects are usually located within sandy, silty, or loamy soils, and do not tend to occur in and beneath impermeable clay-based soil. Therefore, pending other archaeological indicators, the depth of sandy, silty or loamy soils can provide a broad indication of likely depth of artefact bearing deposits, should the area have been habituated by Aboriginal people in the past.

In summary, topsoils/ non-clay based across the Project Area are often less the 20 cm in depth, and disturbed by ungulate trampling, cropping, and previous history of commercial forestry. Soil coring across the site has identified only a couple of areas with potential for deep non-clay-based soils. These are in the southeast portion of the site, within the area where flooding is anticipated, as opposed to elevated areas.

Table 3.1 A Horizon depth detected in core samples (sites) across the Project Area, as per Minesoils analysis

Site	Average Slope	Landform Pattern	Landform Element	Land Use	A Horizon Depth (m)	A Horizon Type	Soil Class
1	5%	Hillslope	Midslope	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Loam	Chromosols
2	4%	Hillslope	Crest	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Loam	Kurosol
3	5%	Hillslope	Midslope	Bushland	0.00 – 0.20	Silty Loam	Sodosol
4	2%	Plain	Flat	Bushland	0.00 – 0.15	Loam	Sodosol
5	1%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Heavy Clay	Dermosol
6	2%	Hillslope	Crest	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Loam	Chromosols
7	4%	Hillslope	Lower Slope	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Loam	Chromosols
8	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Silty Clay	Dermosol
9	3%	Hillslope	Lower Slope	Fodder crop for grazing	0.00 – 0.40	Loam	Kurosol
10	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.25	Silty Clay Loam	Dermosol
11	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Silty Clay	Dermosol
12	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Silty Clay	Dermosol
13	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Silty Clay	Dermosol
14	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.10	Silty Clay	Dermosol

Site	Average Slope	Landform Pattern	Landform Element	Land Use	A Horizon Depth (m)	A Horizon Type	Soil Class
15	1%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Silty Clay	Dermosol
16	8%	Hillslope	Lower Slope	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Silty Loam	Sodosol
17	7%	Hillslope	Upper Slope	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Silty Loam	Kurosol
18	1%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.10	Clay Loam	Dermosol
19	1%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.35	Sand / Loamy Sand	Kandosol
20	1%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.60	Silty Loam / Loam / Sandy Loam	Kandosol
21	1%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.0 – 0.15	Loam	Kandosol
22	2%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.45	Silty Loam	Kandosol
23	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.25	Silty Loam	Dermosol
24	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Clay	Dermosol
25	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Silty Clay	Dermosol
26	1%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.40	Loamy Sand	Sodosol
27	2%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Silty Clay	Dermosol
28	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.10	Clay	Dermosol
29	2%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.35	Loam/ Sandy Loam	Sodosol
30	2%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.35	Loam	Sodosol
31	3%	Plain	Rise Crest	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Clay Loam	Sodosol
32	3%	Hillslope	Lower Slope	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.25	Silty Clay Loam	Sodosol
33	3%	Plain	Rise	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Clay Loam	Kurosol
34	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.25	Clay	Dermosol
35	8%	Hillslope	Midslope	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Silty Clay Loam	Kurosol
36	0%	Plain	Flat	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.25	Clay (light)	Kurosol
37*	6%	Hillslope	Lower Slope	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Silty clay loam	Kurosol
38	4%	Hillslope	Crest	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.15	Silty clay loam	Kurosol
39	4%	Hillslope	Crest	Pasture for grazing	0.00 – 0.20	Silty Loam	Kurosol

*(36 on Lab COA).

Table 3.2 Sandy/silty/loamy soils detected in Minesoils core samples (sites) across the Project Area

Site	Depth non-clay-based soils (m)	Site	Depth non-clay-based soils (m)	Site	Depth non-clay-based soils (m)
1	0.20	14	0.00	27	0.00
2	0.15	15	0.00	28	0.00
3	0.20	16	0.20	29	0.35
4	0.15	17	0.20	30	0.35
5	0.00	18	0.10	31	0.15
6	0.20	19	0.60	32	0.25
7	0.20	20	0.60	33	0.20
8	0.20	21	0.80	34	0.00
9	0.40	22	0.45	35	0.20
10	0.55	23	0.25	36	0.00
11	0.00	24	0.00	37	0.20
12	0.00	25	0.00	38	0.15
13	0.00	26	0.40	39	0.20

FIGURE 3.1

Soil Landscape Context

Legend

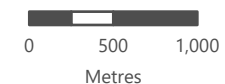
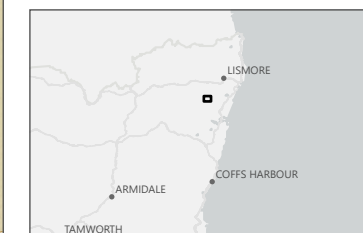
- Project Area
- Road Upgrade Area
- NPWS Reserve
- Roads
- Contours (10m interval)

Strahler Stream Order

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+

Soil Landscapes

- Cahills Road
- Disturbed Terrain
- Ellangowan
- Ellangowan variant b
- Mckee
- Physics Lagoon
- Physics Lagoon variant b
- Physics Lagoon variant c
- Rappville
- Rappville variant a
- Tabbimoble variant a



Scale 1:45,000 at A4
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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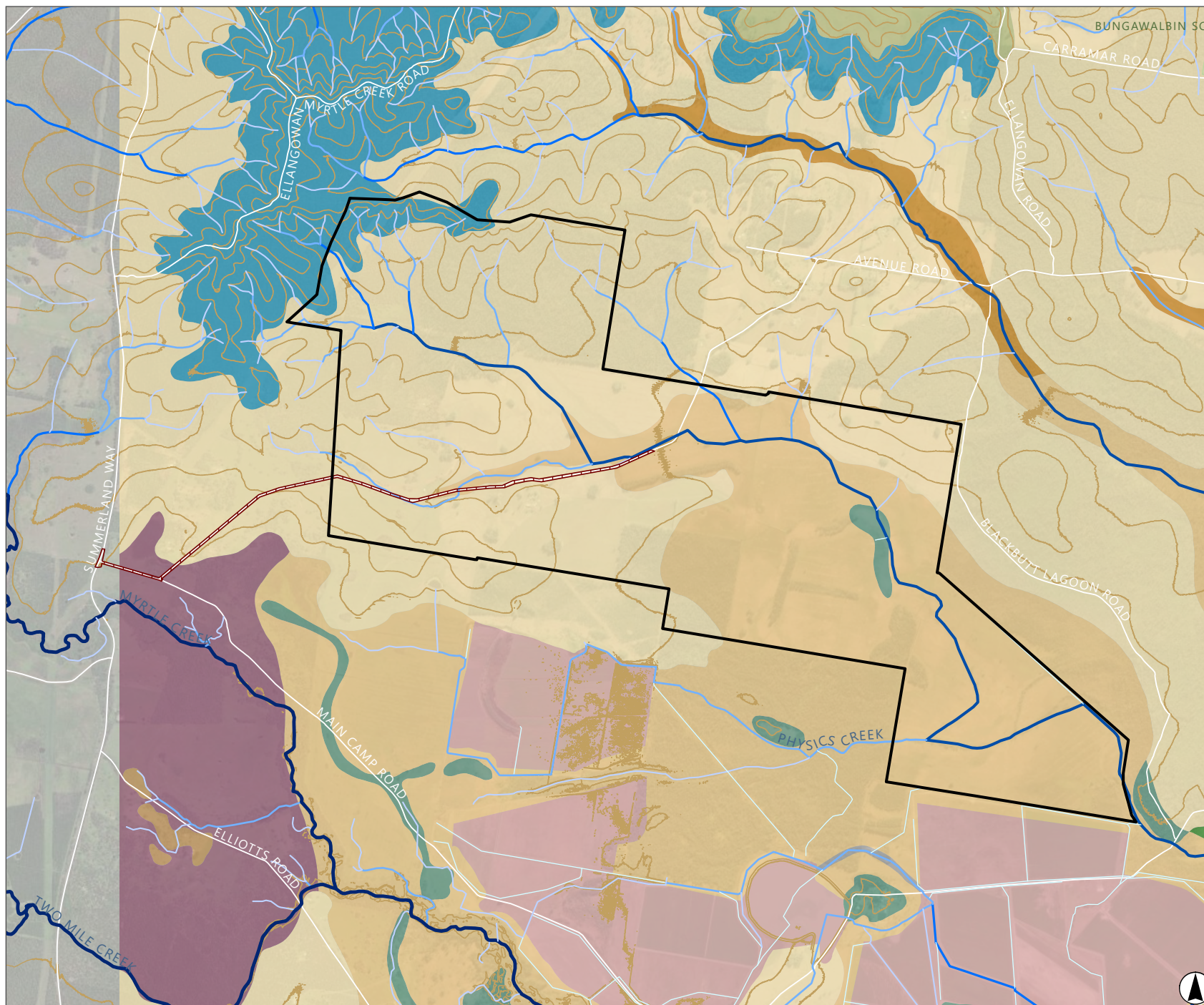
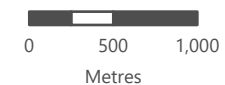
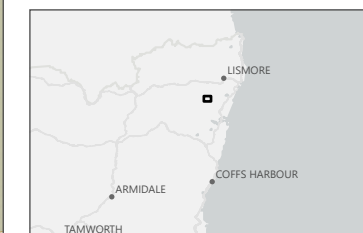


FIGURE 3.2

Geological Context

Legend

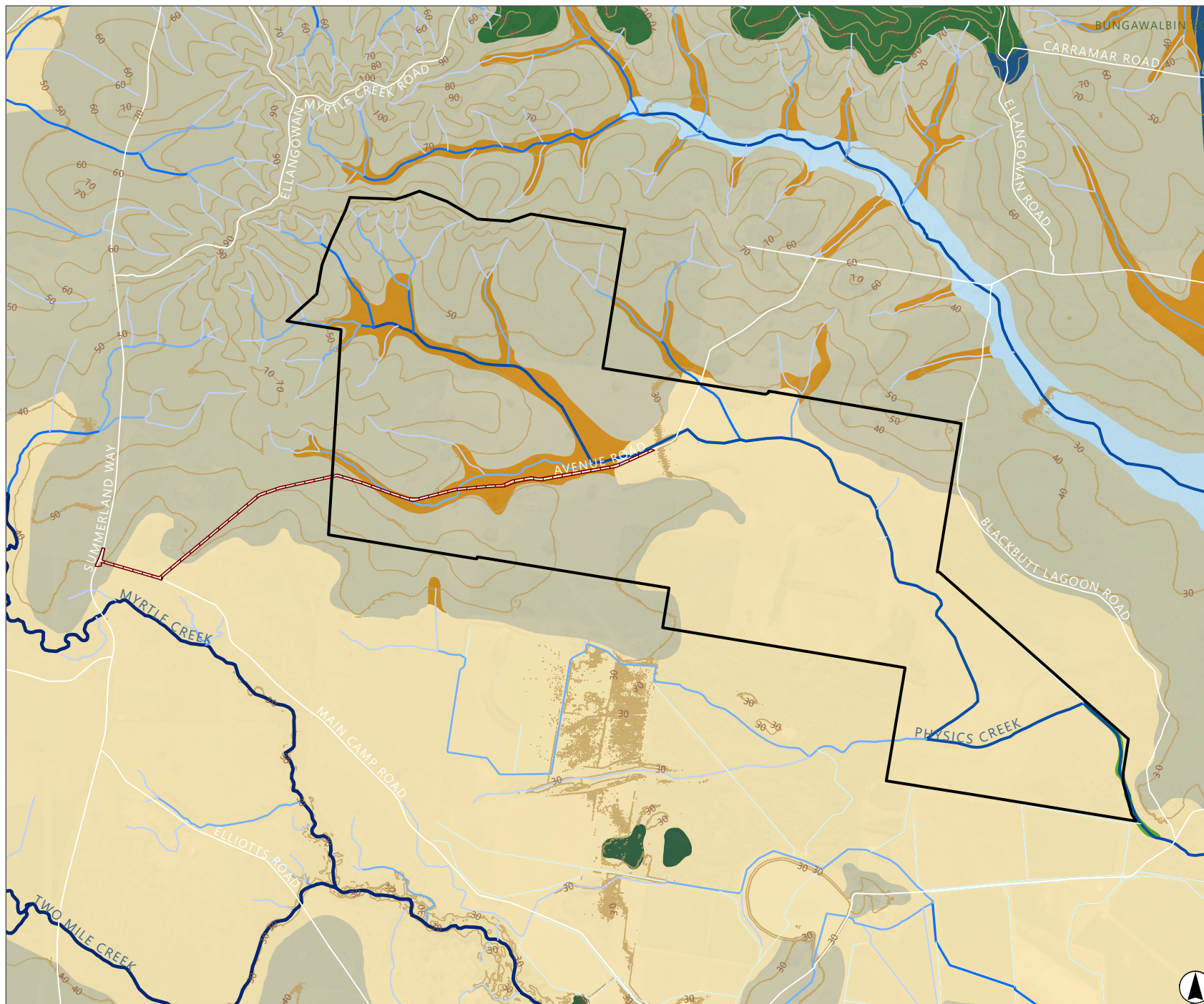
- Project Area
- Road Upgrade Area
- NPWS Reserve
- Roads
- Contours (10m interval)
- Strahler Stream Order**
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+
- Seamless Geology**
- CZ_aa
- Rappville Member
- NMIal
- Alluvium
- Alluvial backswamp deposits
- Alluvial floodplain deposits
- Alluvial palaeochannel deposits
- Alluvial valley deposits



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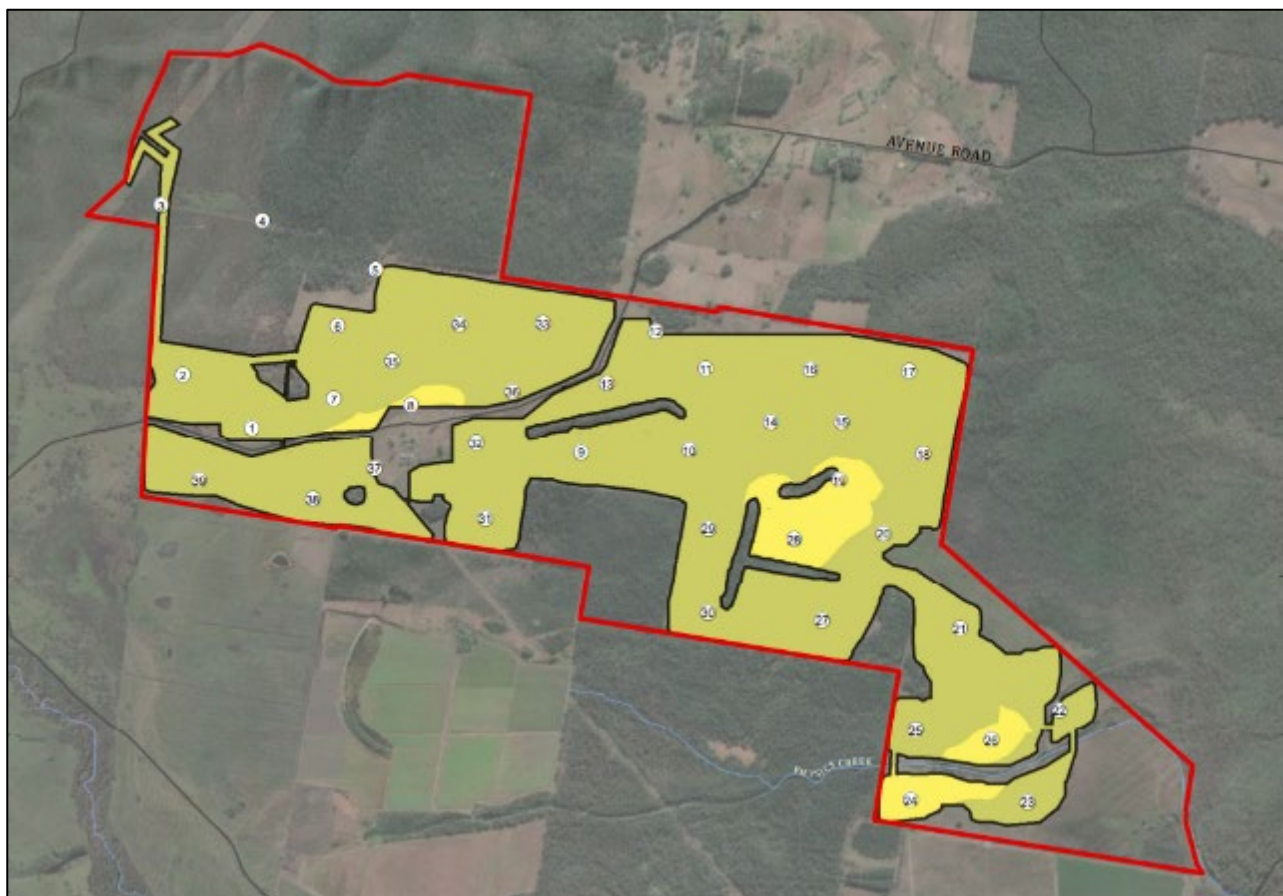


Figure 3.3 Location of Soil Samples

Source: Mines soils 2023.

3.5 Flora and Fauna

Prior to colonial invasion, the Study Area would have supported a range of species that were likely to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for food, clothing, implements and medicine. The region is within the overlapping categories of tropical and temperate biota, usually providing conditions for a high level of biodiversity. While much of the Study Area is cleared land, it would have supported a range of vegetation types, including Coastal Floodplain Wetlands and Clarence Dry Sclerophyll Forest (Keith 2004). Common species in Coastal Floodplain Wetlands include rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*), cabbage gum (*Eucalyptus amplifolia*), flooded gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*), Sydney blue gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*), swamp mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*) and forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*). Casuarina and melaleuca species are also common on inundated low-lying flats. Clarence Dry Sclerophyll Forests are dry open eucalypt forests with a diverse array of eucalypts, such as thick-leaved mahogany (*Eucalyptus carnea*), grey box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), grey gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*), grey ironbark (*Eucalyptus paniculate*) and spotted gum (*Corymbia maculate*). These wetlands and forests would have provided habitat for a wide variety of fauna, including aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Further information about flora and fauna utilised by Aboriginal people in the area is outlined in **Section 4.2.1**.

3.6 Land Use and Disturbance

The Study Area has been disturbed to some extent by historical ground disturbance activities associated with the two primary land use activities that have occurred in the Project Area, being pastoral grazing and commercial forestry.

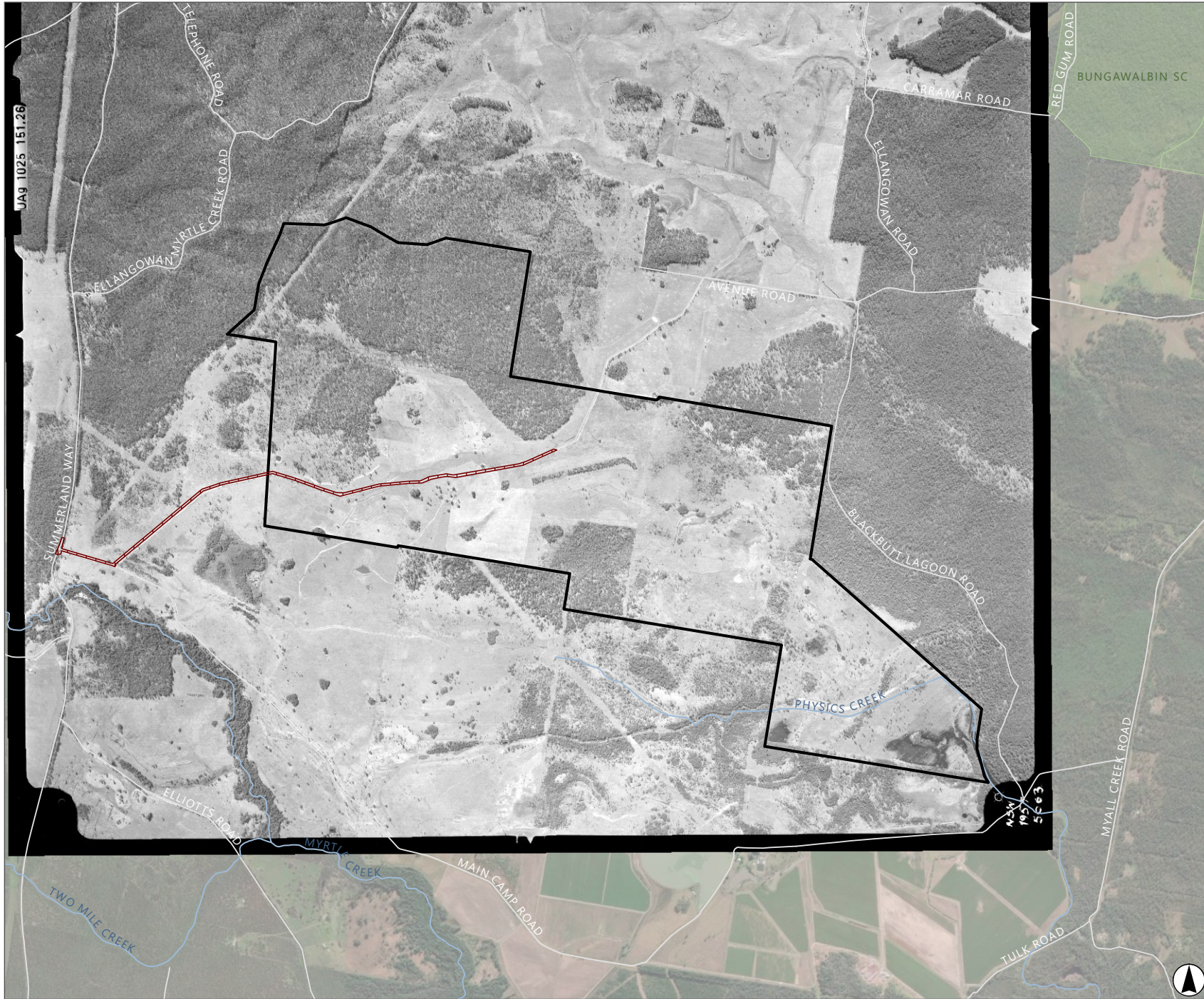
As detailed in the Historical Heritage Impact Assessment for the Project Area (Umwelt 2023b), the Project Area was likely subject to early pastoral occupation by the 1840s, more than a decade after the Richmond and Tweed Rivers were chartered by Captain Henry Rouse in 1828. Due to the complicated history of pastoral holding in the area it is unclear when initial subdivision occurred (Stubbs 2007). The Project Area is also within a broader regional context of commercial forestry which was implemented from the 1880's (Stubbs, 2007). Forestry is a dominant land use activity in the Richmond Valley (Pritchard et al. 2022, 41). In addition, cedar cutting predated official forestry as early as 1838 (Stubbs, 2007) and may have impacted the Project Area prior to agricultural clearing.

The effects of pastoral and forestry activities can be seen within aerial photographs of the Project Area. The Project has been largely cleared of vegetation for the purpose of ungulate grazing with some ploughing for domestic grass cultivation/ fodder cropping. This reduction in vegetation is visible in the aerial photographs of the Project Area from 1957–1997 (**Figure 3.4 to Figure 3.6**). The Project Area is currently used for grazing land with occasional cultivation. At time of reporting, there was approximately 200 head of breeding cattle across the Project Area. The construction of numerous dams (there being 13 farm dams identified) along the watercourses as well as drainage infrastructure has also altered the landscape of the Project Area was also noticeable in the aerial imagery.

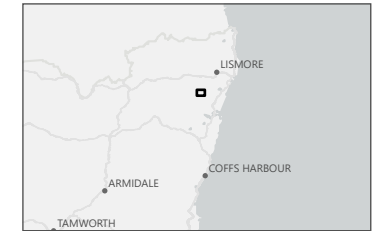
Excluding vegetated portions of the Project Area (where no development is proposed), the remainder of the Project Area is predicted to be moderately to highly disturbed to, at minimum, a depth of 10 cm, due to ongoing cattle grazing and forestry. A survey was undertaken to ground truth the evidence of disturbance during desktop research.

The Road Upgrades Area comprises established unsealed roads along Main Camp Road and Avenue Road, whereas Summerland Way is a sealed road. These roads have experienced cutting and grading in their construction and are therefore considered as highly disturbed terrain.

FIGURE 3.4
Historical Aerial - 1957



- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Road Upgrade Area
 - NPWS Reserve
 - Roads
 - Watercourse



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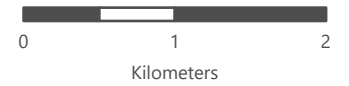
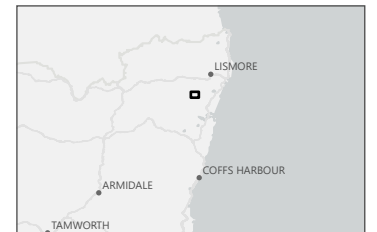
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FIGURE 3.5
Historical Aerial - 1963



Legend

- Project Area
- Road Upgrade Area
- NPWS Reserve
- Roads
- Watercourse



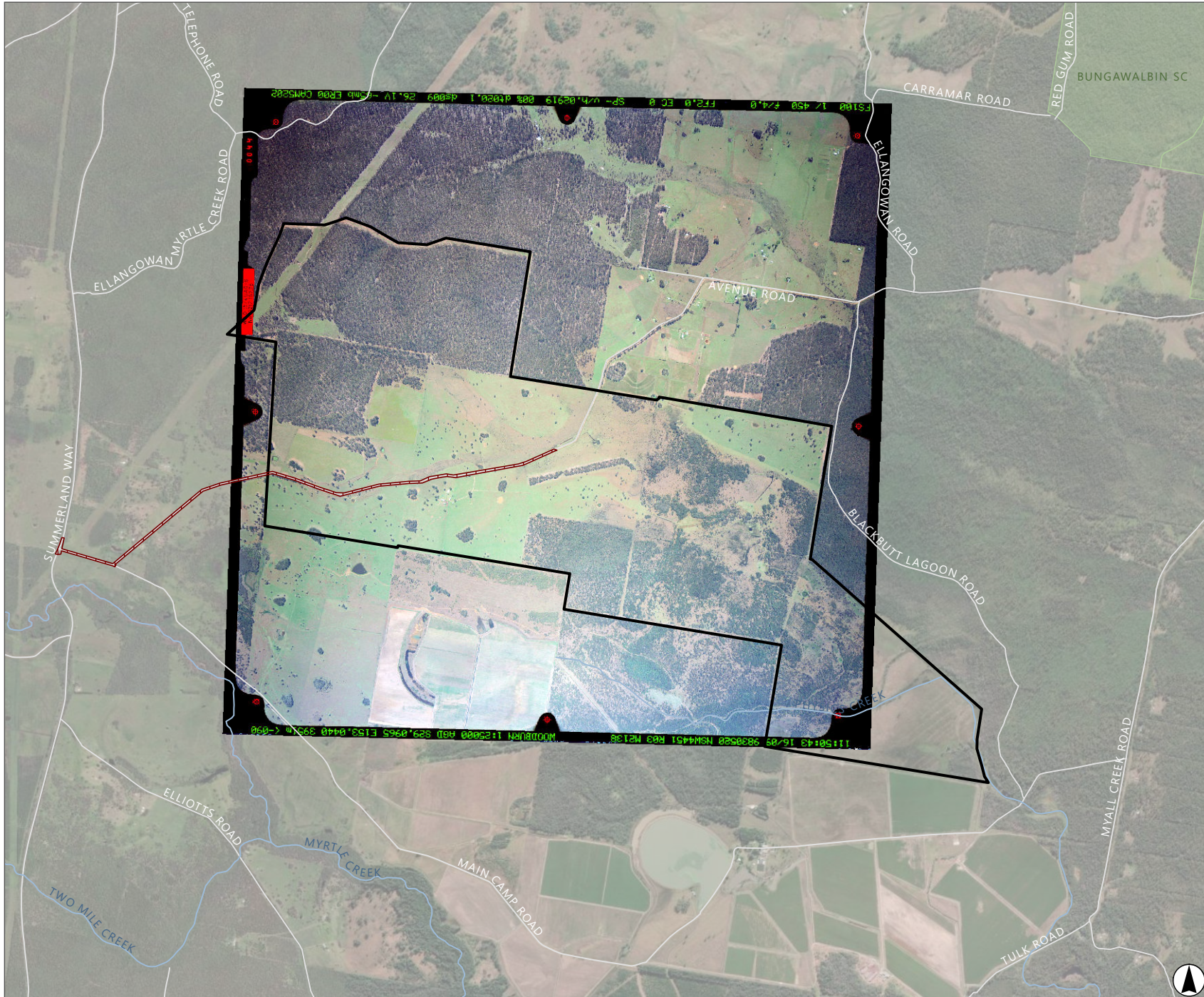
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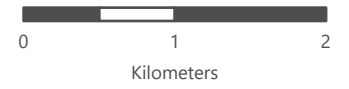
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C:\Users\michael.umwelt\Documents\PROJECTS\TAMWORTH\1963_2022_1 - 03_2022_1963\02_1963_HISTORICAL_AERIAL_1963.dwg

FIGURE 3.6
Historical Aerial - 1997



- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Road Upgrade Area
 - NPWS Reserve
 - Roads
 - Watercourse



Scale 1:50,000 at A4
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C:\Users\mshah\Documents\Umwelt\PROJECTS\AUSTRALIA\PRJ_12032022_03_SAS\02_Plan\03\FIGURE_3.6_HISTORICAL_AERIAL_1997.aprx

4.0 Aboriginal Cultural Context

4.1 Premise

To adequately understand and assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of an area, it is necessary to also understand the cultural context of the area. The term cultural context encompasses both ethnographic information regarding how Aboriginal people lived in the region during the period of non-European settlement and the archaeological context relating to physical evidence.

The following section outlines key components of the ethnohistorical context and archaeological context, which are the framework for predictive model conclusions outlined at the end of this section.

4.2 Ethnohistorical Context

Ethnohistorical evidence comprises historical records (including documents and artworks) of past societies and cultures, often documented by outsiders, which offer insights into the customs, practices, and beliefs of these societies. However, it is crucial to approach ethnohistorical evidence with critical scrutiny since it is often recorded by outsiders, such as colonialists or missionaries, who may have had biased or Eurocentric perspectives. These accounts may distort or misinterpret the cultures they describe, leading to an inaccurate understanding of the past. Ethnohistorical evidence is also subject to temporal biases, as it is documented from the standpoint of a specific time and place, potentially overlooking cultural diversity and change.

This portion of the report utilises ethnohistorical sources with the following objectives:

- Providing an overview of documented Bundjalung traditional custodians of the Study Area and surrounds, serving as a foundation to aid in the interpretation and humanisation of archaeological findings.
- Gathering insights into what material cultural we should expect to have survived the archaeological record.
- Verifying the presence of historical events involving Aboriginal people or culturally significant sites in proximity to the Study Area.

What this section will not do is provide a complete and comprehensive history of Bundjalung people as documented in ethnohistorical and historical record; this falls well beyond the scope of this archaeological report. Instead, the following is an ethnohistorical overview; evidence linked to each of the above points is addressed throughout this report. In addition, ethnohistorical evidence may be used in various locations throughout this report beyond this section, to inform various lines of discussion.

4.2.1 Ethnohistorical Overview

Bundjalung Nation

The people of the Bundjalung Nation are recognised as the Traditional Custodians of the Study Area. The Bundjalung Nation is understood as a large language group (within which were smaller language groups) that stretched from Clarence River in the South to the Albert River region of Queensland, and from Great Dividing Ranges in the West across to the coast on the East (Keats 1990). Marjorie Oakes, a prolific recorder of Bundjalung historical resources, defined 10 sub-groups of the Bundjalung Nation (Oakes 1972); today there is thought to be up to 20 groups (Richmond Valley Council 2023). Linguistic studies indicate that the Study Area affiliated is with Birhim (alternative spelling Birhimbai) people of the Bundjalung Nation (Crowley 1978; Keats 1990), however, anthropologists today understand that boundaries between groups remain ‘undefined’; and that different groups will often express collective right to speak about different sites and objects across Bundjalung Country (Jefferies 2011, 3).

First Contact

Records from the earliest European explorers and settlers within the Richmond Valley, although limited, record the early interactions between the Bundjalung people and the newly arrived Europeans. The sighting and recording of the mouth of the Richmond River by the colonists occurred in 1828² and by 1839, cedar cutters started migrating up the coast into the Richmond Valley, as cedar stands further down the coast were expiring (Daley 1981; Sullivan 1978). Early impressions from the colonists indicate that the Richmond Valley and Ballina Bundjalung groups were at first very friendly with the timber harvesters working with them to find new stands of cedar (Jones 1936, 10; Ainsworth 1922). It is indicated that there were strict boundaries around the different Bundjalung groups stating that the Bundjalung would only point out cedar stands that were from their own ‘district’ (Jones 1936, 10).

Myrtle Creek

The alleged Aboriginal name for Myrtle Creek is *Mucki Winormbin*, which is said to mean a ghost because there was a fear of evil spirits in that vicinity (Richmond-Tweed Regional Library and Richmond River Historical Society 1983, 33). The Europeans first named the area after the native wattle (*Myoporum manatum*); the fruits of which were consumed by Bundjalung people (Richmond-Tweed Regional Library and Richmond River Historical Society 1983, 33). There are limited sources around the Bundjalung people in explicit reference to Myrtle Creek, however there is indications that Aboriginal people who populated Myrtle Creek were connected to the Richmond Rivers groups (e.g. **Figure 4.1**) as opposed to the Clarence River Groups. For instance, in 1852, a ‘Richmond River’ Aboriginal ‘bushranger’ called Woolloomooloo, allegedly was killed between Casino and Myrtle Creek; this was conducted by a group of settlers in reprisal for murders Woolloomooloo inflicted on settlers; and they were allegedly helped by ‘countrymen’ of Woolloomooloo (Bundjalung men) (Medcalf 1989, 15).

Massacres

Once squatters and pastoralists came, clearing of the land and livestock grazing undermined natural resources, and caused tension which escalated into massacres (Sullivan 1978). These periods of violence and conflict are comprehensively documented in Metcalfe’s 1989 series ‘Rivers of Blood’, which documents at least three major massacres of Bundjalung people in the region: an 1841 massacre at Orora River, 1843 massacre at Evans Head and an 1853 or 1854 massacre at East Ballina. In addition, in the early 1860s, dozens of people were allegedly poisoned on the beach at South Ballina after eating damper made with poisoned flour (Medcalf 1989).

² This term is used to define the non-Aboriginal people, mostly British, who inhabited the Richmond Valley prior during the colonial period (1788–1901).



Figure 4.1 Girard family photographs of Bandjalang [Bundjalung] people, Richmond River, New South Wales, ca. 1865

Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (File identifier: KDgb6Rr64ZQAX).

1860s onwards

The farming era was ushered in with the Robertson Land Acts, passed in New South Wales in 1861, which provided for the legal purchase and occupation of Crown lands for farming purposes. The cedar industry in the Richmond Valley was supplanted by farming turned to maize and cane, and later, the dairy industry (Jones 1936). Some cedar getting still took place in places of Yabra, Beehive and Tooloom in the second half of the 19th Century. Mr Simpkins, generation settler, records in the late 19th century, that Aboriginal people would help with Cedar harvesting via bullock trains, moving further and further inland from Casino to Bonalbo (Richmond River Historical Society, n.d.) Bundjalung men also helped with the mustering of cattle on horseback, and often became known as ‘splendid riders’ (Sorenson 1934).

1860s onwards

Settlers recorded many aspects of ongoing Bundjalung cultural practices during the mid to late 20th Century. Following the east Ballina Massacre, conflict was only sporadically fought out in smaller groups (Medcalf 1989); and cultural traditions persisted amongst the remaining groups. Ritual fighting and corroborees were evidently an important aspect of Bundjalung culture, as it was commonly recorded by Europeans in the region during the second half of the 19th century. Many sources (e.g. Ainsworth 1922; R.W.D 1935; Jones 1936; Bray 1922b) detail such combats provided a frightening but memorable scene for early settlers.

Bullen Bullen

With the exception of serious engagements linked to the ‘stealing of women’ the fights were noted as ritual combats as opposed to murderous aggressions (Ainsworth 1922; R.W.D 1935). However, there are number of deadly intertribal fights recorded between the Richmond Area/Coastal Bundjalung and New England groups (Jones 1936). There was also recorded fights between the Richmond, Tweed, and Clarence River Aboriginal people occurring at Lismore; Mr Loft records 600 of them ‘fighting’ at Lismore in the 1870s; one Aboriginal man was injured by spear (Bray 1922b). The event was called a ‘Bullen Bullen’, and the men were recorded as being decorated with sulphur crested cockatoo feathers, parrot feathers, charcoal, and grease.

Gatherings

Although there appeared to be boundaries between groups, these appeared to be relaxed in times of resource abundance, whereby large numbers of different Bundjalung groups would congregate (Sullivan 1978, 105). Bundjalung people participated in the well-known ‘Bunya Gathering/ Festival’ every three years, migrating to the ‘the Bunya Mountains when the Bunya Pines were in season every three years. This large festival as attended by different groups across Eastern Australia. Ethnohistorical records indicate in the 1840s there were reports of 400 to 500 Aboriginal people congregating at Ballina during the ‘Oyster Season’ (Ainsworth 1922). These gatherings likely occurred in conjunction with the Australian salmon (*Arripis Trutta*) and mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) shoaling season (Bailey 1975). It is unclear whether this group was one large family group, or a collection of groups from the surrounding region. What is clear was resource abundance allowed for gatherings of hundreds of people (Sullivan 1978, 105).

Subsistence

Sullivan (1978) undertook a detailed review of early settler records to document the diet and food gathering methods of the Richmond and Tweed Valleys. She concluded that Bundjalung people ‘enjoyed a very favourable environment, being able to secure, within a relatively small area, an abundance of varied and reliable food (Sullivan 1978, 109).

Typical for the North Coast region of NSW, there is no archaeological evidence for line fishing; instead, spears and nets were used in the shallows to catch the shoals of fish (Sullivan 1978; R.W.D 1935). Nets were made from the bark of the kurrajong tree (alternative spelling currajong, *Brachychiton populneus*), and similar nets would be used to hunt paddy melons, wallabies, bandicoots and kangaroos, which were caught by using dingoes to steer the animals into nets (Ainsworth 1922). Flying foxes were also

consumed and yams were harvested (Ainsworth 1922). Shellfish (oysters and middens) were often consumed during coastal gatherings, as evident by large middens all along the lower estuaries and beaches (Hoff 2006; Ainsworth 1922; Bailey 1975).

Materials

Key material culture of the Bundjalung groups near Casino included bark canoes, axes, spears, and dilly bags (Gill 1944a). In terms of habitation, the reminiscences of Oliver Jones (taken down in 1936), records Aboriginal people constructing 'Miamies' or 'gunyas' just above the location of the entrance of the South Arm of the Richmond River (Jones 1936). There is a photograph dated to the 1850s of Aboriginal people outside a gunya on the Richmond River (**Figure 4.2**) potentially like those recounted by Jones later in 1936.

Later 19th and 20th Century

In the later 19th century and start of the 20th century an influx of people came from all over to buy and settle on land in the Richmond River area, which further displaced the declining population of Indigenous people. The impacts of alcohol (rum) and tobacco were devastating to the local population, and there was a disconnect from the older generation and those that became addicted to the introduced substances (Gill 1944a; Jones 1936). The markedly small Bundjalung population on the North Coast began working for Europeans, resulting in a disconnect from the older generation, alongside displacement from traditional hunting grounds, ushering in a new era of Bundjalung life ways. Many groups congregated in small reserves at Lismore (Cubawee), Cabbage Tree Island and Box Ridge (Moran 2007; Morris 1975, 1).

Oral History and Cultural Values

Cultural heritage values have been passed on from generation to generation through oral history, as well as historical records. It is understood from oral history provided by Doug Cook (through his father Baba Cook, who spoke the Bundjalung Language fluently, passing away in 1960 at the age of 104), that men went through several rounds of initiation; the final round of initiation would enable a person to become a clever man (Morris 1975, 7). Clever men were reputed to have fits of levitation, disappearance and lycanthropy as well as being able to suck a bit of bone or quartz out of your body to cure a malady. Their toolkit included a 'mystic rope' and a small bag of quartz and 'other uncommon little stones' (Oakes 1972). Scarification was known to be practised by young men, the scarring process performed using 'flint' (potentially chalcedony or chert); and the cuts then filled with clay so they would heal without closing up again (Bray 1922a). A cave associated with male initiation is located near Evans Heads. Other sacred sites in the region include the Evans Head River made by a snake, and the Evans Head headland (Goanna headland) named after the goanna lying there keeping the snake away (Morris 1975, 2), bora rings and burials at Broadwater (north of Evans Head) (Morris 1975, 3), Gaunggan Lady (conglomerate rocks) and 'rain cave' (Morris 1975, 2–3) as well as a Bora rings at Casino (Gill 1944b).



Figure 4.2 Figure showing the habitation structures of Aboriginal people along the Richmond River. Recorded in 1894 or 1895

Source: NLA (Bib ID 739839, Kerry & Co photograph, <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/739839>)

4.3 Archaeological Context

Humans have occupied Australia for at least 65,000 years (Clarkson et al. 2017) when it was a single continental landmass connected to New Guinea. Eastern NSW has been occupied from at least 50,000 years ago (Williams et al. 2017). Such early dates are rare in the archaeological record, however, and most surviving archaeological deposits relate to the Holocene period; for instance, the Seelands rock shelter, a relatively deep stratified deposit 90 km south of the Study Area was excavated with occupation dating from 6400BP to 300BP making it the oldest in the region (Byrne 1981, 5). This matches the regional trend for the coast/floodplains, coincided when seal levels stopped rising around 6,000BP (Rich 1994).

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

4.3.1 Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)

A search of the AHIMS was undertaken on 1 June 2023 (**Appendix B**) for the area at Latitude, Longitude From -29.2146, 152.8132 – Latitude, Longitude To -29.0107, 153.3083 inclusive of the Study Area and surrounds (AHIMS search extent) as shown in **Figure 4.3**. The search produced a result of 42 Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects as outlined in (**Table 4.1**). There are no AHIMS site recorded in the Project Area, but one culturally modified tree site (ID 13-1-0116) is recorded 300 m south of the Study Area, however, the site card for this site indicates its location in Culgoa National Park (on the border of Queensland); in any case, the site is not within the current Study Area.

Table 4.1 Site types from AHIMS Search

Site Types	Count (n)	Percentage of Total
Culturally Modified Tree	18	42.8%
Restricted	13	30.9%
Open Artefact site	4	9.5%
Art Site	2	4.8%
Ceremonial Ring	2	4.8%
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming	1	2.4 %
Habitation Structure and Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	2.4%
PAD with Artefact(s)	1	2.4%
Total	42	100%

Generally, previously recorded sites within the Richmond Valley region occur within proximity to easily available water (i.e., creeks, springs, and waterholes), such as culturally modified trees, as well as on relatively dry flat areas, such as Bora grounds, or within rock shelters (Byrne 1981).

The most common site type in the region is culturally modified trees. The presence of culturally modified trees in the Great Diving Range is usually higher in more remote pastoral regions and in broad river valleys such as Richmond Valley (Long 2005). This may also be indicative of the number of State Forests and NPWS Reserves in the region, that may have preserved trees from more recent modern commercial clearing. The presence of scarred trees is significant evidence for Aboriginal occupation and provide insight into Aboriginal culture and interactions with the environment (Long 2005). AHIMS site 13-1-0060 (approximately 4km southeast from Project Area) describes a bloodwood tree with two scars presumed to be from manufacturing shields, the tree is located near a freshwater lagoon within Physics lagoon floodplain area. Other examples include a grey gum shield tree located on a gentle slope within Bungawalbin State Forest (AHIMS site card 13-1-0099) approximately 9.5 km from the Project Area. An example of scar trees being located on floodplains or located near watercourses is Bungbah ST2 located near Bungawalbin Creek approximately 200 m from Nieleys Lagoon (AHIMS 13-1.3240).

There are 13 restricted sites within the AHIMS search extent. Restricted sites are available through AHIMS only to certain authorised groups of people, as requested by the Aboriginal Community. Therefore, all the information about the site may not be visible to all stakeholders. The exact location of the sites is not shown, but through correspondence with Heritage NSW on 5 June 2023 it has been confirmed that these restricted sites are not within the Study Area.

Rarer site types include ceremonial rings, such as AHIMS 13-1-0012: Bora Ridge Bora Ground (this does not appear on **Figure 4.3** as it is a restricted site). It is known to be located in the vicinity of the now defunct Bora Ridge Public School (Portion 223), approximately 17 km north-east of the Project Area. The site card mentions that the bora ground is well known among both the local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. McBryde's 1974 *Aboriginal Prehistory of the New England* also refers to this site (McBryde, 1974). The ring was described as egg shaped, 19 m across from east to west, and 28 m north to south, with the perimeter mounded (up to 30 cm high in some parts). Another ceremonial ground, AHIMS 12-3-0010, was reported to be located just south of the town of Wyan (approximately 12 km west of the Project Area) (Tenterfield Historical records 1946).

Other rarer sites in the region, none of them within 10 km of the Study Area, include art sites, and habitation sites (with a Potential Archaeological Deposit). The art sites in the area (such as site 12-3-0012 and 13-0214) are located within sandstone rock shelters.

FIGURE 4.3

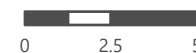
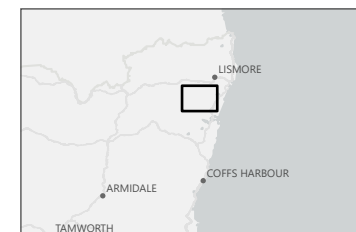
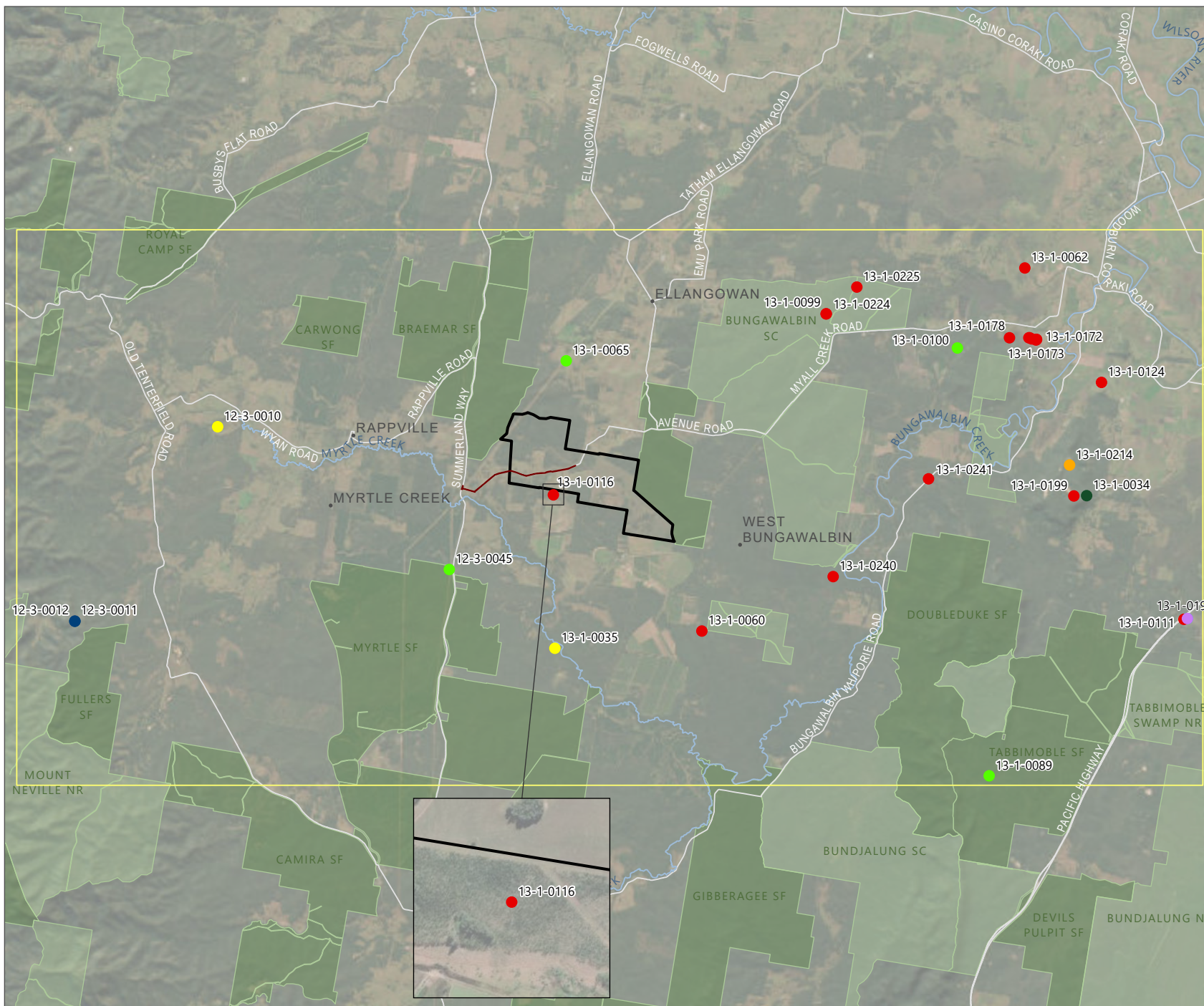
AHIMS Search Results

Legend

- Project Area
- Road Upgrade Area
- AHIMS Search Extent
- State Forest
- NPWS Reserve
- Watercourse
- Roads

AHIMS Search Results

- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming
- Art Site
- Ceremonial Ring
- Culturally Modified Tree
- Habitation Structure and PAD
- Open Artefact Site
- PAD with Artefact(s)
- PAD with Artefact(s) (Partially Destroyed)



Kilometers
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4.3.2 Key Heritage Report Summaries

Table 4.2 outlines key regional (and local) archaeological investigations that have occurred in the Richmond Valley and beyond. The location of these studies in relation to the Study Area is shown in **Figure 4.4**. The relevance of each of these studies to the current Project is incorporated into **Section 4.4** and **Section 4.4.3**.

Table 4.2 Regional Archaeological Investigations

Project and Year	Distance From Study Area	Findings
<p>Byrne, D (1981) Archaeological Survey of the Grafton–Lismore transmission line.</p>	<p>Within and outside (traverses the western portion of the Project Area)</p>	<p>This report detailed the results of an archaeological survey undertaken to document any Aboriginal sites which may be impacted by proposed overhead electricity line between the existing substation at Koolkhan near Grafton, and the proposed substation at McKees Hill near Lismore. During the survey, two single isolated finds and three artefact sites (containing two or more artefacts) were identified. Raw materials included quartz, silcrete and chert. The survey included the western portion of the Project Area (which is outside the Development Footprint), but it is unclear whether this area was traversed during the survey, and no sites were identified in this area. Sites were assessed to be of low scientific significance and that the proponent would adopt measures to avoid and protect these sites. This report also mentions previously recorded sites including 11 rock shelters, 7 sets of grinding grooves, 2 ceremonial grounds (including one called Myrtle Creek Bora ground – last used in the 1920s), one stone arrangement and a one burial ground (Byrne 1981).</p>
<p>SKM (Brooke, Jenkins, Costello, Edmonds and Goldfarb) (2012), Upgrading the Pacific Highway, Woolgoolga to Ballina Upgrade, Iluka Road to Woodburn Section, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Volume 1.</p>	<p>23 km east (Interchange at Woodburn)</p>	<p>This ACHA examined and evaluated possible effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage due to the planned improvement of a 155 km section of the Pacific Highway by Transport NSW (then Roads and Maritime Services).</p> <p>Predictive modelling developed as part of the background assessment indicated that that raised (elevated rises) along the alluvial plains, the margins of large streams and swamps, and flatter areas along slopes, had potential for artefact sites and scarred trees. However, the primary factor determining whether the sites would be present was disturbance from road construction and pastoral activities.</p> <p>During the survey, one PAD, two stone artefact sites with PAD components and two isolated stone artefact sites were identified near or within the boundary of the project between Iluka Road and Woodburn, with a further three identified during heritage register searches adjacent to the boundary. The PADS were classified based on the predictive model, and were all located on low, flat sandy rises adjacent swamps, or flattish areas on uppers slopes in association with artefacts.</p> <p>Aboriginal archaeological test excavation was undertaken on all PADs, with twenty 0.5 x 0.5 m pits dug across each of the PAD sites. A total of 15 artefacts were identified in two of the PAD sites, comprising of silcrete, chalcedony and fine-grained silicious (FGS) artefacts.</p>

Project and Year	Distance From Study Area	Findings
		<p>At the completion of the archaeological assessment, a total of four archaeological sites were within the boundary and were to be impacted by the development. Several management strategies were developed for Aboriginal cultural places and archaeological sites within the boundary of the subject site, (with collection being the recommendation for the archaeological sites). Additionally, a modified tree and two burial sites (both sites were already publicly recorded burial sites in the AHIMS, based on oral history/historical records) were identified and not impacted by development (SKM 2012a).</p>
<p>Woolgoolga to Ballina Planning Alliance (2013) Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway Upgrade, Ancillary facilities and design changes Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment</p>	<p>23 km east (Interchange at Woodburn)</p>	<p>This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report detailed Aboriginal heritage investigations undertaken following completion of the 2012 “working paper” (as described above). Ancillary facilities were required for the construction of the Highway upgrade project, with eighty-five areas identified across the length of the subject site. The impact of ancillary facilities would vary due to the different levels of ground disturbance inherent in the activities for each facility. Some of the different ancillary sites include main and satellite compound areas, stockpile areas, plant and workshops, vehicle parking, bridge construction areas, RMS site offices and materials processing areas.</p> <p>Only the draft version of the report was available, and it had no maps in it, however it was assumed that all sites affected by ancillary facilities would be at least 23km away (near the location of Highway upgrade works).</p> <p>As part of the works, subsurface testing was undertaken at 23 PAD locations, and one control area. Subsurface excavation involved excavation of 418 0.5 x 0.5 m pits dug across each of the sites. This resulted in the discovery of 264 stone artefacts in 11 of these PADs. The PADs which contained subsurface artefacts were all general spurs and terrace adjacent floodplains, swamps and creeks, as well as slopes on undulating plains. Artefacts generally consisted of fine-grained silicious material, silcrete, jasper, chert and basalt. A control area (non-PAD) was subject to excavation – it was a swampy area adjacent to a creek, where because of its low-lying nature it was not considered to be a PAD despite its close association to the creek. No artefacts were found in this location, reinforcing the predictive model developed previously for the Project (Woolgoolga to Ballina Planning Alliance 2013).</p>
<p>Collins (2013) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Proposed Ilmenite stockpile removal and site rehabilitation, Bundjalung National Park, NSW North Coast.</p>	<p>Approximately 80 km south</p>	<p>The National Parks and Wildlife Service engaged Flagship Properties to remove sand stockpiles abandoned following the 1980s cessation of sandmining activities in Bundjalung National Park. The subject site was situated on a Pleistocene dune that has been altered by sandmining and is devoid of natural stone occurrences and mature trees. Consultation with the Bundjalung knowledge holders revealed that the Flagship project would not encroach or otherwise adversely affect any known sites/places of special traditional, historic, or contemporary Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Through this consultation, background research and field inspection, it was assessed that the subject site had a low level of cultural heritage sensitivity, and that the proposal was highly unlikely to impact upon any archaeological deposits or other places of archaeological or otherwise cultural heritage significance (Collins 2013).</p>

Project and Year	Distance From Study Area	Findings
OzArk (2023) Summerville Solar Farm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment	Approximately 2 km west	<p>An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was undertaken for the Summerville Solar Farm Project, 2 km West km from the current Project Area. This assessment included a detailed background assessment with community consultation, and site survey, undertaken over three months over July 2022. The Summerville subject site is within the large coastal plain on which the current Study Area is situated. It comprised of flats, drainage lines, and low slopes (the three survey units), all of which consisted of cleared agricultural land subject to low intensity grazing.</p> <p>A sampling strategy was employed for the project, whereby all field workers (archaeologists and RAPs) present made numerous traverses across the subject area on a rough east-west axis, covering all three survey units. No Aboriginal sites or objects were located, and the RAPs present did not identify any specific areas or objects of significance or other Aboriginal cultural heritage constraints to the project. It was noted that the subject site would likely have been utilised for transient resource gathering and hunting, as opposed to long-term habitation. No areas were considered PADs (as non were considered particularly likely to have higher sensitivity or likelihood of sites than the surrounding landscape) (OzArk 2023).</p> <p>As such, no archaeological excavation (either test excavation or salvage excavation) was recommended to occur as a mitigation strategy for the Project.</p>

FIGURE 4.4

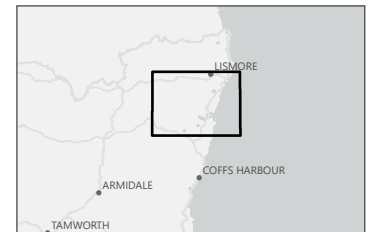
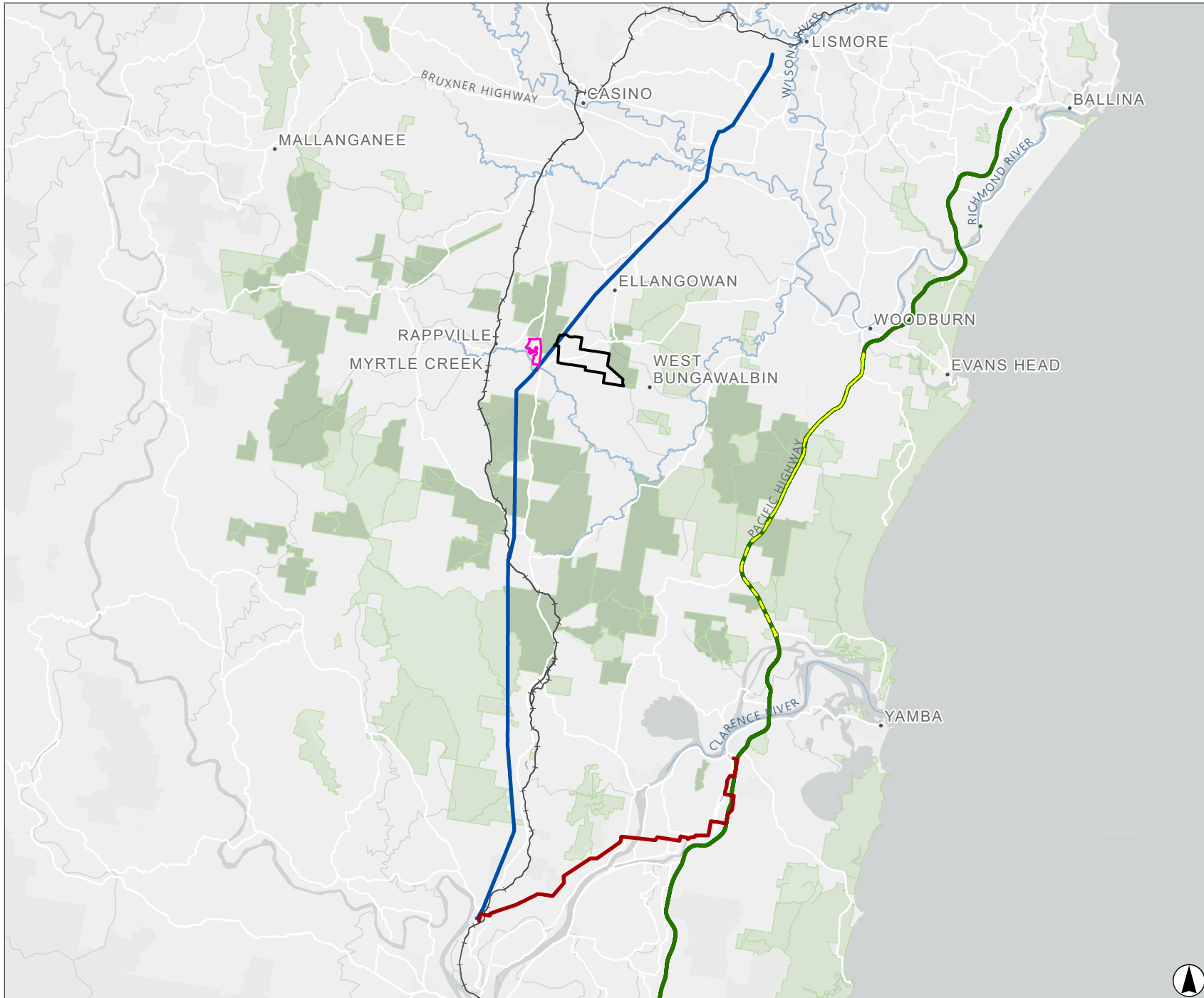
Location of Local Aboriginal Heritage Investigations

Legend

- Project Area
- NPWS Reserve
- State Forest
- Roads
- Watercourse
- Railway

Aboriginal Heritage Investigation Areas

- OzArk (2023)
- Woolgoolga to Ballina Planning Alliance (2013)
- SKM (2012)
- Collins (2009)
- Byrne (1981)



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4.4 Synthesis and Predictive Model

This section aims to summarise the background information presented in **Section 3.0** and **Section 4.0**, and discuss its implications for the Study Area based on landscape analysis. This section of the report provides a preamble to the predictive model that follows.

4.4.1 Environmental Context

Key reasons for analysing the environmental context of a Study Area are to understand what environmental constraints may have influenced past land use patterns (and therefore archaeological signatures), and the degree to which environmental conditions were suitable for the preservation of archaeological remains.

Overall, the Richmond Valley area was recognised as relatively rich in resources; detailed analysis of ethnohistorical information indicates Bundjalung people ‘enjoyed a very favourable environment, being able to secure, within a relatively small area, an abundance of varied and reliable food’ (Sullivan 1978, 109); it is therefore not a question of was there resources available in the Study Area, as there likely was, but instead whether the site was highly abundant and thus encouraged long-term occupation.

The Study Area is within the Bungawalbin catchment area, which is particularly poorly drained coastal plain, and is part of the Richmond River catchment (Morand 2001). Before being cleared it would have likely contained Coastal Floodplain Wetlands and Clarence Dry Sclerophyll Forest (Keith 2004), would have supported a high number of abundant and varied food sources. Nevertheless, the Study Area did not contain any of the known ‘resource hotspots’ of the Richmond Valley, such as large, perennial waterways or coastline. Access to freshwater was a critical requirement for long-term Aboriginal habitation of an area. The Project Area has only ephemeral waterways, swamps and floodplains, suggesting areas near permanent water sources, such as nearby Bungawalbin Creek, may have been preferred for long-term habitation, whilst the low-lying area preferred for resource accumulation.

In terms of site preservation, it is considered unlikely that any undisturbed archaeological remains would occur within cleared portions of the Study Area, which coincides with the Development Footprint. The Study Area has predominantly been disturbed with the two primary land use activities being pastoral grazing and commercial forestry. The topsoils often less the 20 cm in depth, across the Project Area have been disturbed by ungulate trampling, cropping, and previous history of commercial forestry. Soil coring across the site has identified only a couple of areas with potential for deep non-clay-based soils. These are in the southeast portion of the site, within the area where flooding is anticipated, as opposed to elevated areas.

Additionally, the Road Upgrade Area of the Project has been subject to considerable disturbance from cutting and grading which is likely to have removed any topsoil layers that may have once retained archaeological material.

4.4.2 Cultural Context

The archaeological and historical records provide indications of the rich cultural and archaeological character of the region. The results of an AHIMS Search undertaken in June 2023 demonstrate no known Aboriginal objects or sites recorded in the Study Area. The most common site type in the region (as shown in the AHIMS search results) is culturally modified trees, however, the impacts of land clearance and ongoing agricultural activities indicate there is a low likelihood of modified trees remaining preserved in the Study Area. The AHIMS search results also indicate several ceremonial or culturally restricted sites (including ceremonial rings) are present in the surrounding locality, however, none have been identified within the Study Area.

As discussed in the below section, the most likely cultural material predicted in the Study Area is stone artefacts from materials; although the ethnohistorical record indicates a rich material culture including organic material such as plant fibres and wood, are not likely to have survived to form part of the archaeological record. Stone artefact sites have been found by previous archaeological investigations within the Richmond Valley region. Recorded raw material types include silcrete, quartz, chert, chalcedony, quartzite, fine-grained siliceous materials and volcanics (such as basalt). Soil and geological information indicate it is unlikely there will be outcrops of these raw materials in the Study Area, suggesting artefacts (if present) would have been sourced from other areas in the region.

No ethnohistorical evidence provides limited specific reference to the Study Area; except that the alleged Aboriginal name for the suburb of Myrtle Creek is *Mucki Winormbin*, which is said to mean a ghost because there was a fear of evil spirits in that vicinity (Richmond-Tweed Regional Library and Richmond River Historical Society 1983, 33).

4.4.3 Predictive Model

There is currently no commonly established predictive model specifically for the Richmond Valley LGA. However, regional excavations undertaken for the Pacific Highway upgrades (SKM 2012a; Woolgoolga to Ballina Planning Alliance 2013) have resulted in some fundamental artefact density models that were applicable and relevant for the current Project. As per the current assessment, these past assessments found that the most likely archaeological site to be identified would be stone artefact sites (including subsurface archaeological deposits) and culturally modified trees; but their survival hinged on previous levels of disturbance from road construction and pastoral activities.

Prior to archaeological investigations taken for the assessments, predictive models were undertaken as part of background assessments. These models predicted that elevated rises along the alluvial plains, the margins of large streams and swamps, and flatter areas along slopes, had the most archaeological potential. This predictive model was the basis of establishing the location of PADs, which were then subject to test excavation. The PADs were located on low, flat sandy rises adjacent swamps, or flattish areas on upper slopes in association with artefacts. Excavations confirmed that stone artefact sites were predominantly found on the upper slopes and crests of undulating rises, and generally close to water sources. These relatively flat landforms were considered to have provided relatively flat areas suitable for camping and above the flood zone, and in the case of undulating rises, with views of the surrounding landscape (SKM 2012b, 32).

Archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of the Pacific Highway ancillary works (Woolgoolga to Ballina Planning Alliance 2013) refined the predictive models, finding that subsurface artefacts were generally found on spurs and terrace adjacent floodplains, swamps and creeks, as well as slopes on undulating plains. Artefacts generally consisted of fine grained silicious, silcrete, jasper, chert and basalt. A control area (non-PAD) was subject to excavation – it was a swampy area adjacent to a creek, where because of its low-lying nature it was not considered to be a PAD despite its close association to the creek. No artefacts were found in this location, reinforcing the predictive model (Woolgoolga to Ballina Planning Alliance 2013).

Overall, from a desktop perspective, the Development Footprint portion of the Project Area is not within a particularly sensitive archaeological landscape; the eastern half of the Project Area is within a stagnant floodplain, and previous archaeological excavations have confirmed that swampy areas were unsuitable for habitation locations. The western half of the Project Area has more favourable landforms for past Aboriginal occupation, including gentle slopes and crests, but those portions that are within the Development Footprint have been subject to historical pastoral sources of disturbance. This is unlikely to have completely removed archaeological material if present, but it is likely to have displaced and disturbed and eroded local soils, thus reducing archaeological potential. The most archaeologically sensitive portions of the Project Area are forested crest landforms in its north-western portion but which are outside of the Development Footprint. Additionally, the absence of perennial waterways throughout the Study Area, which limits potential for long-term past Aboriginal habitation and the potential for associated traces of archaeological material. Based on the predictive model, the most likely sites would be stone artefact sites on spurs overlooking the floodplain.

These predictions are supported by the results of an ACHA report developed for the nearby Summerville Solar Farm. This subject site was located is just 2 km West from the current Project Area, and comprised of flats, drainage lines, and low slopes (the three survey units), all of which consisted of cleared agricultural land subject to low intensity grazing. This assessment included a detailed background assessment with community consultation, and site survey, undertaken over three over July 2022. During the survey of the Project Area, no Aboriginal objects were recorded, and no potential archaeological deposits or sensitive landforms were identified. Archaeologists and RAPs interpreted that the area, like the current Richmond Valley Solar Farm Study Area, was used for transient use as opposed to long-term habitation, and that significant levels of post-contact disturbance and land erosion would almost certainly have destroyed or disturbed any such sites.

Predicted archaeological potential by site type is shown in **Table 4.3**.

Table 4.3 Predicted archaeological potential by site type, divided into very low, low, moderate, high and very high

Site Type	Assessment	Potential for occurrence
Art	The topography of the Study Area, does not contain any outcrops or rock overhangs that contain potential for rock art.	Very Low
Artefact Scatters/ Isolated artefacts	Additional stone artefact scatters/isolated artefacts may be present but will likely be relatively dispersed and contain low densities of artefacts, representing transitory use of the area. These are most likely to occur on gentle hill slopes and crests overlooking watercourses, but their presence is likely to have been reduced by widespread vegetation clearing and pastoral activities. Native forested areas are most likely to have retained archaeological material.	Moderate

Site Type	Assessment	Potential for occurrence
Bora / Ceremonial	A number of ceremonial or culturally restricted sites (including ceremonial rings) are present in the surrounding locality; however, none have been identified within the Study Area. Such sites are especially susceptible to ground disturbance. Ground disturbance across the Study Area is likely to have significantly reduced the potential for bora / ceremonial sites to be retained.	Very Low
Burial	Burial sites are very rare and unlikely to remain preserved in open deposits, especially in waterlogged and disturbed contexts such as within the Project Area.	Very Low
Contact site	The Study Area is on the boundaries of early European settlement within the area. However, there are no key features (such as historical homesteads, villages or former missions) directly within the Study Area, where it would be expected that contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people may have occurred.	Very Low
Grinding Grooves	The Study Area does not contain the sandstone or other abrasive geology and outcropping that would typically be conducive for grinding grooves.	Very Low
Midden	The Study Area does not contain the type of tributary/watercourses that would have allowed for sustained resource gathering required for the creation of middens.	Very Low
Modified Trees	Scarred trees may occur within the Study Area, where trees of suitable maturity and species (such as box, river red gum etc) occur, and they are common in the surrounding area. However, the impacts of land clearance and ongoing agricultural activities indicate there is a low likelihood of modified trees remaining preserved in the Study Area, generally, although forested areas outside of the Development Footprint are predicted to be the most likely areas to feature this site type.	Low
PADs	<p>Umwelt has defined PADs as the predicted extent of concentrated subsurface Aboriginal objects in a particular area. PADs are not technically Aboriginal sites until, and if, subsurface Aboriginal objects are identified, which is typically established through archaeological test excavation. PAD areas have been assigned to landforms that are distinguishable from the surrounding landscape (e.g. elevated areas with good outlook overlooking watercourses) as being likely to retain higher artefact densities than the assumed 'background scatter'. Subsurface potential will vary depending on past land use, levels of existing native vegetation, levels of disturbance and past major flood events.</p> <p>Dry, elevated landforms directly associated with reliable water courses may contain subsurface artefact assemblages a result of more prolonged and/or frequent occupation. As no such areas have been identified in the Study Area as part of desktop review, it is considered unlikely a PAD would be identified in the Study Area, but which can only be verified through archaeological survey.</p>	Low
Shelters	The topography of the Study Area, does not contain any outcrops or rock overhangs that contain potential for rock shelters or rock art.	Nil-Low
Quarries (stone or ochre)	Aboriginal stone quarries have not been identified within the Richmond Valley region. However, the geological formation underlying the Study Area (Section 3.3) there remains at least some (low) potential for sandstone, shale, siltstone, claystone, minor coal and carbonate concretions and rare tuff outcrops in shallow deposits. The potential for outcropping material could only be verified through archaeological survey.	Low

5.0 Archaeological Survey

Umwelt and RAP site officers conducted an archaeological field survey of the Study Area between 25 and 27 July 2023. The survey team consisted of Lara Tooby (Umwelt Senior Archaeologist) and Chantelle Laucht (Umwelt Technical Assistant) and Aboriginal Site Officers Craig Torrens and Warren Williams.

The primary aim of the survey was to identify Aboriginal archaeological sites and/or Aboriginal places with the assistance of Aboriginal knowledge holders and identify sites or areas that would require further investigation.

5.1 Methods

The survey strategy was developed based on the predictive model for Aboriginal site location (**Section 4.4.3**). The overarching aims of the survey strategy were to focus on the landforms most likely to feature Aboriginal sites (areas of high archaeological sensitivity) while also gathering a representative sample of landforms less likely to feature Aboriginal sites to confirm predictions of low archaeological sensitivity.

The survey aimed to sample a portion of the indicative development footprint and road upgrade footprint, as opposed to the entire Study Area. The survey methodology was designed in accordance with the requirements for archaeological survey as established in the *Code of Practice*.

The Study Area was categorised into landform units based on the predictive model for Aboriginal site location (**Section 4.4.3, Table 5.1, Figure 5.1**). Hill slope landforms were divided into two categories: one with very gentle to gently inclined slopes that would represent more suitable past Aboriginal activity area; and the other with moderately inclined slopes considered above 10% in slope percentage that would represent less suitable areas for Aboriginal activity and travel. The extent of sampling within each landform class was proportionate to its level of archaeological sensitivity as presented in the predictive model.

Table 5.1 Landform classes and their portion of the Study Area

Landform Class	Description	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Crest	This includes hill crest, spur crest and ridge landform elements.	200.167	13.58
Hill slope 1 (<10%)	Hill slope was divided into two categories: Hill slope 1 – very gentle to gently inclined slopes (representing areas suitable for Aboriginal camping activities). Hill slope 2 – slopes of moderate inclination and above (representing steeper terrain not typically suitable for open camp sites).	440.126	29.86
Hill slope 2 (slope >10%)		14.047	0.95
Flat	This includes flat terrain including undulating plains, floodplains and terraces.	589.207	39.97
Watercourse (1st and second order)	This includes stream channels and a 50 m corridor of land adjacent to watercourses. Watercourse landform units are further divided into three categories: 1 st and 2 nd order streams; 3 rd order streams; and 4 th order and above.	115.628	7.84
Watercourse (3rd order)		17.043	1.16
Watercourse (4th order)		97.837	6.64

Landform Class	Description	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Road Upgrades	Disturbed road corridor.	0.0019 within Project Area and plus 3.8201 outside of PA)	0.0001
Totals		1474	100

5.1.1 Distinguishing Areas of Further Investigation

A key component of the survey was defining whether there are any portions of the Study Area that were suitable for further investigation through archaeological investigations, specifically archaeological test excavation. The only areas for consideration applied to the Development Footprint, as the areas outside of this would not be impacted and accordingly not warrant investigation in response to this Project. Typically, archaeological test excavations occur in designated PAD sites. In accordance with the *Code of Practice*, PADs must be justified as of '*higher significance than the continuous distribution of archaeological material in which it exists*' (DECCW 2010c, 25). This statement acknowledges that many areas of the cultural landscape have potential for low-density archaeological deposits, often referred to as 'background scatter', but excavation should focus on PADs where there are concentrated subsurface Aboriginal objects in a particular area that have potential conservation value.

Predictive modelling has indicated that the highest density of artefacts can be expected in non-disturbed flat and elevated terrain adjacent reliable freshwater, as these areas would be the most likely to retain archaeological evidence of past Aboriginal camping and associated activities. The desktop assessment indicated there would be limited potential meeting this criterion in the Development Footprint due to the landscape setting and levels of historical disturbance, but this was to be ground-truthed and verified during the survey.

5.2 Survey Results

Survey participants remained spaced apart at 5-10 m throughout the course of the survey, allowing for increased coverage of the varied landforms present within the Study Area. The survey route is shown in **Figure 5.2** and calculated on the 10 m survey transect, the proportion of each landform class covered is shown in **Table 5.2**, and overall survey coverage shown in **Table 5.3**. Overall, most landforms had an effective survey coverage of 12%. This was due to the high level of disturbance across the Study Area, and because the majority of the surveyed area was covered in thick grass. Effective survey coverage is further discussed in **Section 5.4**.

The landform class 'Hill slope 2' was not sampled, as it comprised only 0.95% of the Project Area, is considered to have low archaeological sensitivity, and none of this area was within the Development Footprint.

The survey identified one Aboriginal object. The lack of artefacts was attributed to half the terrain being marshy (unsuitable for long-term habitation), the remainder of Project Area (where development was proposed and thus surveyed) was highly disturbed through forestry and pastoral land use, as well as a general lack of areas of high sensitivity in accordance with the predictive model. An overarching visibility and exposure percentage was assigned for each of the landform classes across the surveyed area. The different landform classes and results are further documented below.

Table 5.2 Survey Effective Coverage Summary

Surveyed Landform Class	Number of Survey Units	Area (ha)	Area (ha) Surveyed	Area (%)	Area (%) Surveyed	Sites /PADS Identified
Crest	7	200.167	147.91	13.58	73.89	1
Hill slope 1 (<10%)	12	440.126	294.43	29.86	66.90	0
Hill slope 2 (slope >10%)	0	14.047	0	0.95	0	0
Flat	6	589.207	464.53	39.97	78.84	0
Watercourse (1st and second order)	8	115.628	56.28	7.84	48.67	0
Watercourse (3rd order)	1	17.043	11.62	1.16	68.19	0
Watercourse (4th order)	6	97.837	97.84	6.64	100.00	0
Road Upgrades Area	1	0.002 (plus 3.8201 outside of PA, not included in Grand Total)	0.002 (plus 3.8201 outside of PA, not included in Grand Total)	0.0001	100.00	0
Grand Total	41	1474.1	1072.608	100		1

Table 5.3 Survey Coverage Calculations, as per the Code of Practice 2010

Surveyed Landform Class	Surveyed* Survey Unit Area (m ²)	Exposure	Visibility	Effective Coverage Area (m ²)	Effective Coverage %
Crest	103173	20%	60%	12380.76	12
Hill slope 1 (<10%)	81023	20%	60%	9722.76	12
Hill slope 2 (slope >10%)	0	0%	0%	0	0
Flat	129304	20%	60%	15516.48	12
Watercourse (1st and second order)	59216	20%	60%	7105.92	12
Watercourse (3rd order)	10978	20%	60%	1317.36	12
Watercourse (4th order)	74923	20%	60%	8990.76	12
Potential Road Upgrades	19	10%	50%	1	5

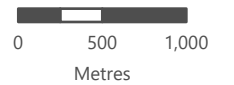
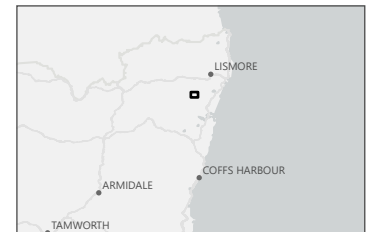
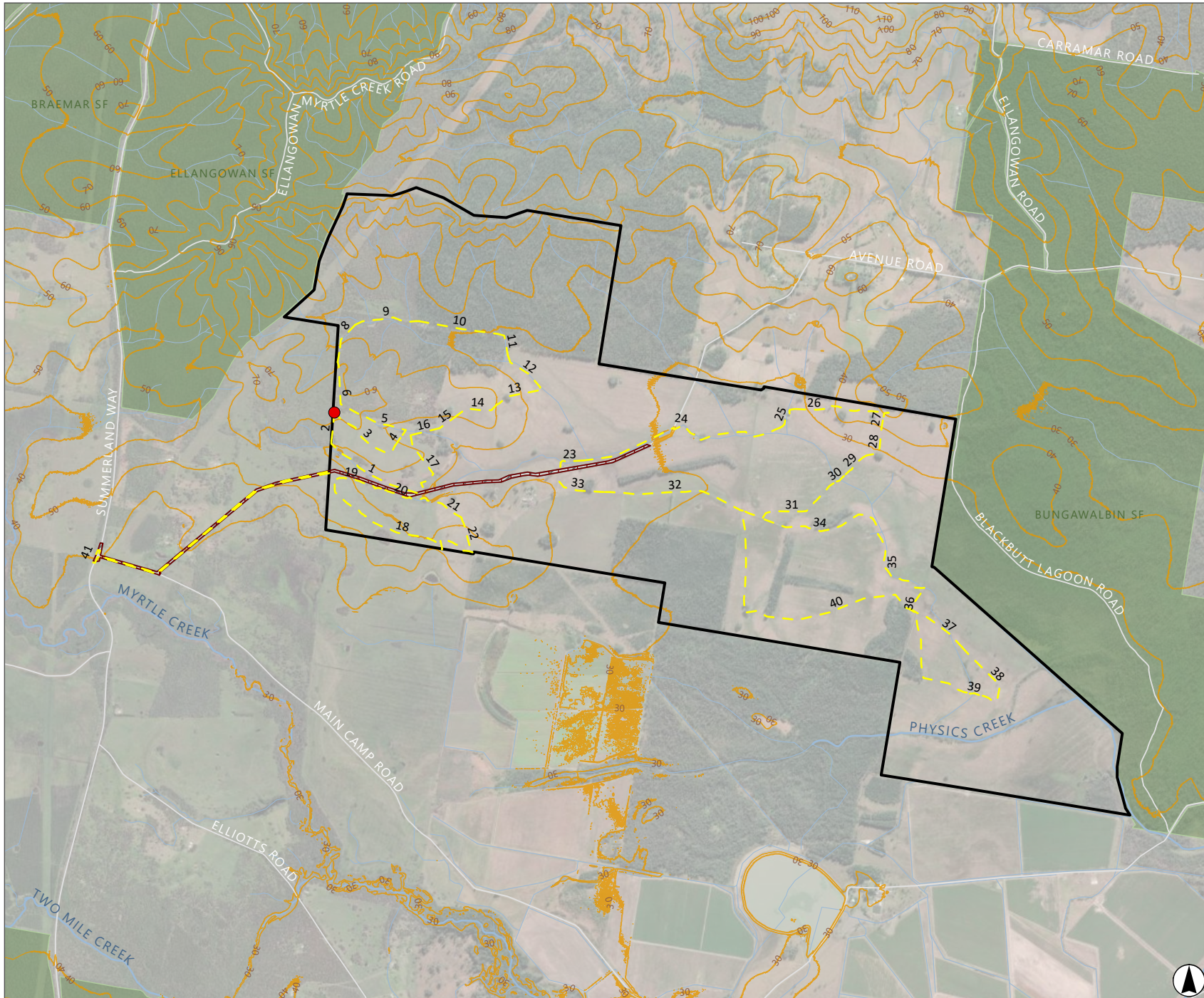
*As per 10 m spacing across the survey transect shown in **Figure 5.2**.

FIGURE 5.2

Survey Results

Legend

- Project Area
- Development Footprint
- Road Upgrade Area
- State Forest
- Survey Units
- Watercourse
- Roads
- Contours (10m interval)
- Open Artefact Site RVSF-UMW-01



Scale 1:45,000 at A4
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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5.2.1 Crest

Crests within the Project Area —which included the highest points of the undulating hills characterising the landscape — included spur lines and the very top of very gently inclined slopes. A total of seven Survey Units (Numbers 3, 6, 14, 18, 22, 27, 32) were conducted within this specific landform type. Overall, this landform type had an exposure rating of around 20%; most of the area was covered with thick grass (see **Photo 5.1**, **Photo 5.2**, and **Photo 5.3**) but there were areas of exposure along vehicle and cattle tracks, where the bare ground was visible. Visibility within this area of bare ground was 60%, with any deposits thought to be visible as the areas of cattle movement cutting into the disturbed topsoil.

The one Aboriginal site identified in the Study Area was located on the slope of a crest landform. This site consisted of a single Fine Grained Silicious (FGS) flake. (**Photo 5.4** and **Photo 5.5**) The site was located on the edge of a vehicle track, near a gate (**Photo 5.6**). The site will be registered on the AHIMS as site RVSF-UMW-01. Despite the surrounding area and tracks being carefully inspected, as similar areas of exposure throughout the Project Area, no additional artefacts were identified. Besides from some surface cobbles, there was no bedrock observed in this landform during the survey.

No PADs were identified in this landform; all areas surveyed (which focussed on the Development Footprint) were disturbed by vehicle movement, livestock movement, ploughing (for pastoral improvement) grazing and forestry activities. In addition, no crests were located adjacent reliable water sources indicative of a previous habitation locations.



Photo 5.1 View west across broad, low crest characterising Survey Unit 14

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.2 View northwest across a very low, broad sloping crest characterising Survey Unit 18

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.3 View east across a crest, Survey Unit 27

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.4 Ventral view of artefact comprising of site RVSF-UMW-01

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.5 Dorsal view of artefact comprising of site RVSF-UMW-01

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.6 Location of RVSF-UMW-01 (shown with yellow tape-measure right-hand side of frame)

Umwelt 2023.

5.2.2 Hill slope 1 (<10%)

Hill slope 1—which included areas with a slope of less than 10%— was found across mostly the Eastern portion of the Project Area. Transects within this landform were generally short, linking between most watercourses/flats and crests. A total of 12 Survey Units (Numbers 2, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 26, 28, 33) were conducted within this specific landform type. The area had identical visibility/ exposure levels as the Crest landform (20% / 60%) with areas of high exposure around vehicle and cattle tracks (**Photo 5.7**) but most of the area being covered by thick grass (**Photo 5.8**).

No PADs were identified in this landform; all areas surveyed (which focussed on the Development Footprint) were disturbed by vehicle movement, livestock movement, grazing and forestry activities.



Photo 5.7 View north upslope along Survey Unit 2

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.8 View south-east down along Survey Unit 19

Umwelt 2023.

5.2.3 Hill slope 2 (slope >10%)

As there was no development occurring along the steep slope landform in the Project Area (confined to the northern extent of the Project Area outside of the Development Footprint), this landform was not surveyed.

5.2.4 Flat

Flat landforms in the Project Area consisted of a large stagnant alluvial plain, with various degrees of waterlogging. A total of six Survey Units (Numbers 29, 31, 34, 36, 38, 40) were conducted within this specific landform type. Exposures in the area were minimal (10%), based on areas where cattle had trampled such as areas around tracks and dams. Visibility in these few exposures was generally high (60%). In general, however, the area was covered in thick rushes and grass (**Photo 5.9**) (**Photo 5.11**).

No sites or PADs were identified in this landform; all areas surveyed (within the Development Footprint) were disturbed by vehicle movement, livestock movement, grazing and historic pasture improvement and forestry activities. Across the area vegetated areas of linear windbreak plantings are present, and remnant patches of eucalypt floodplain forests (outside the development footprint).



Photo 5.9 View across the southern portion of Survey Unit 40 (facing west)

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.10 View across the middle portion of Survey Unit 40, facing west

Umwelt 2023.

5.2.5 Watercourse (1st and 2nd order)

A total of eight Survey Units (Numbers 1, 5, 8, 11, 16, 20, 23, 25) were conducted within this specific landform type, which included stream channels and 50 m corridor of land adjacent to Strahler 1st order and 2nd order streams. A site condition confirmed these 1st order streamlines are ephemeral and have been subject to historic trampling and grazing (e.g., **Photo 5.11**). This landform has also been altered through dam construction, which has further disrupted the natural flow of water in many cases (e.g., **Photo 5.12**). There was a general absence of defined stream banks and associated exposures; and due to this, the exposure/visibility levels (and therefore survey coverage) were generally the same as slopes and crests (20% / 60%); with areas of visibility around dams and regions subject to cattle trampling and vehicle movement. No PADs were identified in this landform; and no perennial watercourses were identified.



Photo 5.11 Survey Unit 1, facing southwest

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.12 Survey Unit 20, facing east

Umwelt 2023.

5.2.6 Watercourse (3rd order)

Only one Survey Unit (Number 9) was conducted within this specific landform type, due to only a couple of 3rd order watercourses being present in the Project Area. These watercourses appeared to be in the same condition as 1st and 2nd order streamlines, ephemeral and subject to historic trampling and grazing. Survey Unit 9 wove into a disturbed dry sclerophyll forest (**Photo 5.13**), which had been disturbed through construction of dams; originally, this area along Survey Unit 9 was part of the Development Footprint, but was subsequently modified and excluded. Exposures and visibility were 20% / 60%, as per 1st and 2nd order streams. No PADs were identified in this landform; and no perennial watercourses were identified.



Photo 5.13 Survey Unit 9, view east

Umwelt 2023.

5.2.7 Watercourse (4th order)

A total of six Survey Units (Numbers 12, 24, 30, 35, 37, 39) were conducted within this specific landform type, which included stream channels and 50 m corridor of land adjacent to streams (4th order and above). A site condition confirmed that except for Physics Creek (the bank of which will not be subject to development) the streamlines are ephemeral and have been subject to historic trampling and grazing (e.g., **Photo 5.14** and **Photo 5.15**). The watercourse was prevalent in among the stagnant floodplain (Flat landform), merging into swamp land. Exposures and visibility were 20% / 60%, as per other streamlines in the Project Area. No PADs were identified in this landform; and no perennial watercourses were identified.



Photo 5.14 View Southeast Survey Unit 12

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.15 North-west, Survey Unit 24

Umwelt 2023.

5.2.8 Road Upgrade Area

One Survey Unit (Number 41) was conducted within this modified landform type, which consisted of the road corridor along Main Camp Road (**Photo 5.16**), Summerland Way (**Photo 5.17**) and Avenue Road (**Photo 5.18**). The area was heavily disturbed from road construction. Exposures were very few in this area (10%), and visibility poor (50%), due to high levels of disturbance. No PADs or sites were identified.



Photo 5.16 Survey Unit 41, along Main Camp Road, view east

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.17 Survey Unit 41, view north along Summerland Way

Umwelt 2023.



Photo 5.18 View northeast along Avenue Road, Survey Unit 41

Umwelt 2023.

5.3 Consultation During Fieldwork

Both Site Officers did not feel strongly that any locations in the Study Area were particularly suitable for long-term Aboriginal activity, such as repeated camping events, that would likely leave traceable levels of archaeological material. They believed that although their ancestors would have passed through (as evidenced by the single artefact identified) as part of movement to other campsites or cultural areas or for resources. They did not know of any cultural sites or values associated with the Study Area. They did not feel there was any areas that should be subject to further investigation through archaeological excavation, considering no areas of marked cultural sensitivity were identified, and because the area was so waterlogged and disturbed.

5.4 Evaluation of Survey Coverage

As shown in **Table 5.2** and **Table 5.3**, most landforms had an effective survey coverage of 12%. This was due to the high level of disturbance across the Study Area, and because the majority of the surveyed area was covered in thick grass.

Nevertheless, the survey is considered to have been able to comprehensively record what are considered noticeable or prominent archaeologist site types, such as art sites, grinding groove sites, midden sites, modified trees, shelters, quarries. Background research, in combination with the survey, means that despite the limited effective coverage results, it is considered very unlikely that preserved and undetected Bora / Ceremonial sites, burial sites, contact sites, are present in the Project Area.

Overall, although it is acknowledged that there could be undetected artefact sites within the Study Area, which could not be detected due to the lack of ground surface visibility. However, the survey determined that the overall archaeological sensitivity of the landscape is low and does not warrant further archaeological investigation, primarily because landscape features considered to meet the definition of PAD were not encountered (refer to **Table 4.3** for definition). Even if it were considered necessary to test the hypothesis that the Study Area did not support long-term habitation by past Bundjalung people (as speculated within this report), the high degree of disturbance across areas of the Project Area where development is proposed, verified through the survey, further limits the practicality of any archaeological investigations.

5.5 Aboriginal Archaeological Sensitivity across the Study Area

Site RVSF-UMW-01 indicates that the Project Area (and Road Upgrade Area) was likely traversed and temporarily occupied by past Aboriginal people, as opposed to habituated for repeated or long periods that are likely to have left traceable archaeological material in the landscape. The lack of other stone artefacts indicates that items may have discarded as individuals moved through the landscape intermittently. This aligns with the broader understanding that the Study Area lacks characteristics conducive to long-term habitation by past Aboriginal people.

Furthermore, the Study Area has been subject to various levels of historical disturbance, limiting the opportunity to pursue research questions through archaeological investigation. The exception to this disturbance is within forested portions of the Project Area. These areas were not subjected to detailed survey, and their sensitivity is not assessed, beyond commenting that these areas are likely less disturbed. Any questions regarding the archaeological land sensitivity are, therefore, more appropriately answered through excavations in these areas, which will be conserved for the future.

5.6 Summary

All landforms across the Development Footprint were sampled through archaeological survey (a portion of each subject to visual inspection). Only one site, comprising of a single artefact, was identified. The artefact was an FGS flake located on the edge of a vehicle track in eastern edge of the Project Area. This site, with a 5 m buffer, was registered on the AHIMS as site RVSF-UMW-01 (AHIMS ID # 13-1-0252).

6.0 Significance Of Cultural Heritage Values

6.1 Principles of Assessment

Assessing cultural heritage significance is an essential component for the development of management strategies for the current assessment. There are four recognised classes of value under the *Burra Charter* (ICOMOS (Australia) 2013): aesthetic, historic, scientific and social (cultural). In New South Wales, Aboriginal cultural heritage values for archaeological sites are typically assessed according to scientific values and cultural values, in consideration of *Burra Charter* principals.

6.1.1 Cultural Values Significance Assessment

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 incorporates consideration of aesthetics, historical and social values. Cultural significance can only be determined by Aboriginal people and is identified through Aboriginal community consultation.

Representatives from RAP groups Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC (Elder Warren Williams) and Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (Craig Torrens), when undertaking the site survey, indicated the stone artefact site RVSF-UMW-01 was culturally significant as being tangible confirmation that their ancestors moved through the Project Area. Although indicating the landscape contains intrinsic values as being part of Bundjalung Country, they did not know of any cultural sites or values associated with the Study Area. Beyond this consultation during fieldwork, no specific comments on cultural values explicitly linked to the Study Area were received during the consultation process.

6.1.2 Scientific Values 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 Study Area has been assessed in accordance with the criteria provided in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1 Archaeological significance assessment criteria

Criteria	Description
Rarity	This criterion examines the frequency of the identified site type in the local or regional landscape.
Representativeness	All sites are representative of a site type; however, some sites may be in better condition, or demonstrate more clearly a particular site type. Representativeness is based on the understanding of extant sites in the local or regional landscape and the purpose of this criterion is to ensure a representative sample of sites area conserved for future generations.

Criteria	Description
Integrity	This refers to site intactness. A site with contextual integrity can provide information relating to chronology, social systems, tool technology, site formation processes, habitation, frequency of use as well as other occupation indicators. Moderate to high levels of disturbance will generally result in low integrity.
Research Potential	This criterion is used to identify whether a site has the potential to contribute new information with which to better understand how Aboriginal people lived within the local area or region.

6.1.3 Site RVSF-UMW-01 Scientific Assessment

The sole site discovered in the Study Area was located on the slope of a crest landform. This site consisted of a single FGS flake. The site was located on the edge of a vehicle track, near a gate. This artefact type is not considered rare; the material (FGS) and type (flake) is commonly occurring within the region. Being in a disturbed location (vehicle track), it is not considered to have high representativeness, integrity, or research potential. Overall, the site RVSF-UMW-01 has low scientific significance.

7.0 Impact Assessment

7.1 Overview

The Development Footprint overlain with the Project Area (**Figure 7.1**) indicates the Project will impact the single Aboriginal site (RVSF-UMW-01) identified in the Study Area (**Table 7.1**).

Overall, although it is acknowledged that there could be undetected artefact sites within the Study Area that will be impacted by the development, the overall archaeological sensitivity of the landscape is low, and does not warrant further archaeological investigation. Even if it were considered necessary to test the hypothesis that the Study Area did not support long-term habitation by past Bundjalung people (as speculated within this report), the high degree of disturbance across the Project Area through past forestry and agricultural practices further limits the practicality of any archaeological investigations.

In terms of development impacts, earthworks will be limited to the locations requiring resurfacing activities for temporary construction facilities (including laydown areas, construction compounds and carparking areas) and permanent operational infrastructure such as the substation, BESS and ancillary infrastructure. Minor earthworks will also be required to prepare the Development Footprint for the installation of the rows of PV modules including some grading or levelling including “cutting and filling” where required and grading around lower order streams and drainage channels may also be required in order to manage erosion during construction.

In addition, many remnants native forested portions of the Project Area, considered to have relatively increased archaeological sensitivity due to being less disturbed by past land-use practices, will not be impacted by the Project and will, therefore, be conserved for future generations. This acknowledges that some minor tracts of partially cleared forest will be impacted by the proposed transmission line, but which has been disturbed to some degree by clearing and agricultural practices.

Table 7.1 Summary of Impact Assessment

AHIMS Site	AHIMS ID #	Type of Harm	Degree of Harm	Consequence of Harm
RVS-UMW-01	13-1-0252	Direct	Total	Partial loss of value (due to mitigation measures)

7.2 Measures To Minimise Harm and Alternatives

The most notable consideration from an Aboriginal cultural heritage perspective is the location and design of the Development Footprint within the broader Study Area, which aims to avoid and minimise disturbance of sites and archaeologically sensitive landforms.

Several factors went into deciding the suitability of the Study Area for a solar farm. A number of locations (four) were considered for the Project site and a thorough assessment of each option was conducted with various constraints considered. Alternatives were excluded for various reasons including inconsistency with the strategic planning context set by the New South Wales Government's Renewable Energy Zones, costs and potential environmental impacts. Of the options assessed the Study Area was selected as the optimal location for its proximity to the New England Renewable Energy Zone, distance from existing dwellings, avoidance of environmental constraints including heritage, hydrogeology, and vegetation, and to mitigate potential impacts such as bushfire. The pre-cleared failed forestry land significantly reduces environmental impact for the Project. In addition, the 330kV grid connection is within the Stud. There are a very low number of landowners and neighbours considering the size of the Project. The alternative sites are further from a Renewable Energy Zone, closer to more existing dwellings and were considered likely to result in fragmentation of existing agricultural operations and greater environmental impacts.

Once the location was confirmed, desktop constraints analysis and archaeological surveys were undertaken to identify the most archaeologically sensitive areas so that the Development Footprint could be designed to avoid substantial impacts to Aboriginal sites. As a result, the Project's layout incorporates a minimum setback from Physics Creek, and forested portions of the Project Area.

7.3 Intergenerational Equity and Cumulative Harm

Under the NSW *Protection of the Environmental Administration Act 1991*, Ecologically sustainable development principles (ESD) are to be considered in the assessment of environmental impacts; and this includes impacts to heritage. In particular, the precautionary principle and the principle of intergenerational equity are to be considered where there are proposed impacts to the environment (which includes heritage). The principle of inter-generational equity states that the present generation should ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations. Intergenerational equity can be considered in terms of cumulative impacts (harm) to Aboriginal objects and places in a region.

The cumulative impacts associated with multiple solar farms proposed in the region, including Summerville Solar Farm and Myrtle Creek Solar Farm, both proposed within area 10km from the Study Area in the suburbs of Rappville along Summerland Way. At the time of reporting, the EIS for Myrtle Creek Solar Farm was still in development, but EIS for the Summerville Solar Farm was already on public exhibition and included an ACHA. As summarised in **Table 4.2**, no Aboriginal sites or objects were located as part of the Summerville project, and the RAPs present did not identify any specific areas or objects of significance or other Aboriginal cultural heritage constraints to the project.

Overall, the coastal plain around Myrtle Creek and has not been identified a particularly sensitive archaeological landscape, due to the tendency to be flood-prone a fair distance from known perennial water sources, and site disturbance caused by forestry and drainage. At time of reporting, there is no PADs with research potential that are proposed to be impacted through any of the solar farm projects in the locality. The most sensitive portions of these project areas are areas that have not been cleared by past historical disturbances. Within the current Study Area, forested portions considered to have the relatively increased archaeological sensitivity by being less disturbed by past land-use practices, will not be impacted by the proposed works, and will therefore be conserved for future generations. Thus, in terms of cumulative impact to Aboriginals cultural heritage, progressing with the development would only cause minimal additional impacted to the archaeological resource already done by past land-use.

8.0 Management

8.1 Management and Mitigation Strategy

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.

The management strategies proposed in response to the impacts and significance levels comprise the following:

- Collection.
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

8.1.1 Collection

It is proposed that RVSF-UMW-01 be collected and subject to analysis.

The collection will be undertaken by qualified archaeologist(s) and RAP representatives. The collection method will be as follows:

- The stone artefact (and any previously undetected stone artefact associated with the site) will be flagged on the ground and recorded with GPS and photography.
- All artefact(s) will be collected into snap lock plastic bags marked with the Project name, site name, collection date and waypoint number.
- All artefacts will be sorted and recorded post-fieldwork with respect to technological type, implement type, raw material, and dimensions.

8.1.2 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) will be developed in consultation with Heritage NSW and RAPs. It will provide details of:

- all Aboriginal sites identified during the archaeological investigation for the Project
- management measures and their progress towards completion
- measures to ensure ongoing consultation and involvement of project RAPs
- RAP access arrangements for a selection of significant sites for educational purposes
- protocols for newly identified sites
- protocols for educating staff and contractors of their obligations relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage values through a site induction process

- protocols for suspected human skeletal materials
- protocols for the ongoing care of salvaged Aboriginal objects
- provisions for review and updates of the ACHMP.

The ACHMP will be prepared after project approval, and in addition to the points above, will address all relevant conditions of approval. The ACHMP will provide the details of the management measures outlined in the sections above.

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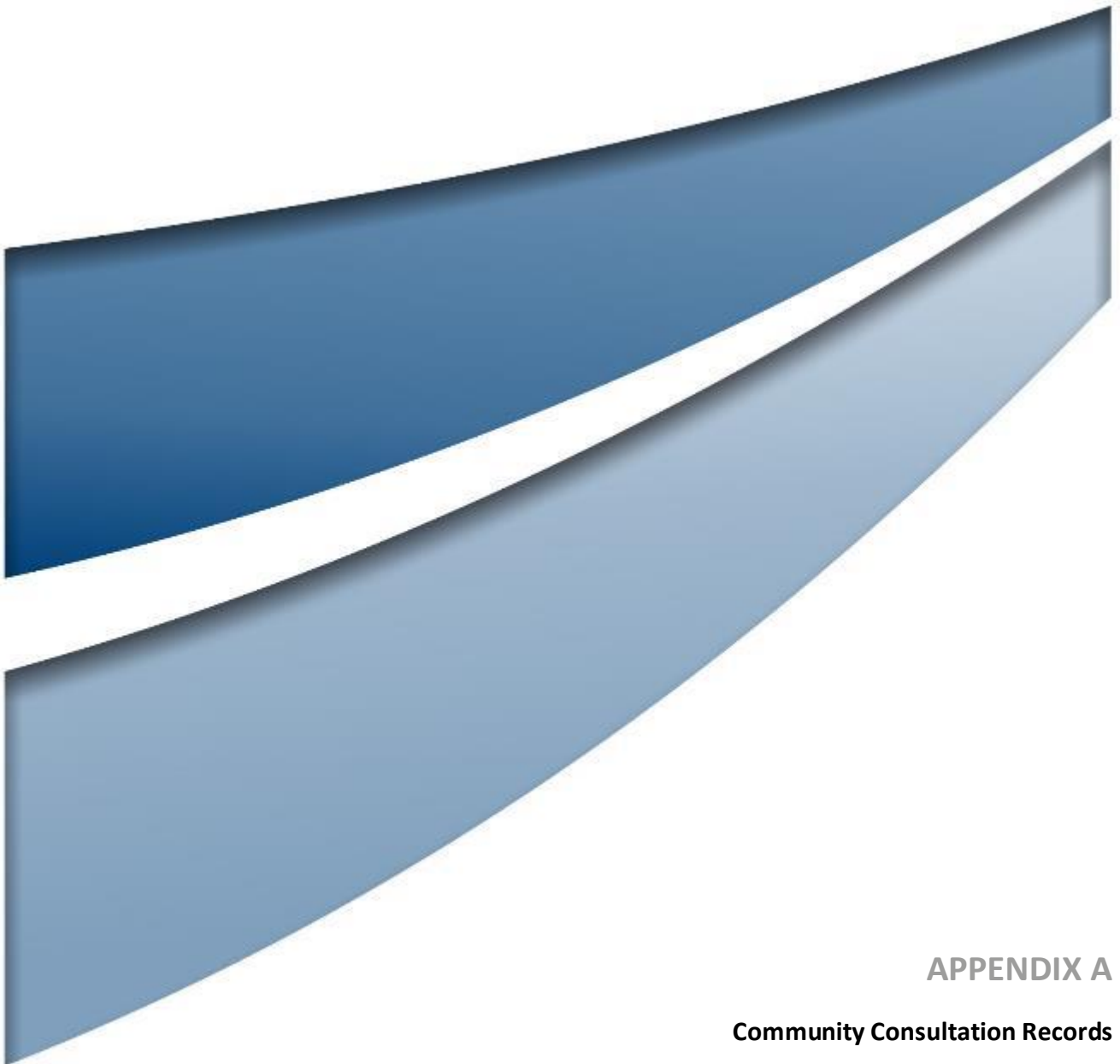
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Redacted version suitable for public display (does not include RAP contact details). This information can be made available for the purposes of development application review by statutory bodies, on request.



APPENDIX A

Community Consultation Records

Contact	Contacted By	Method	Date	Comments
ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION RECORD				
Project Name: Richmond Valley Solar Farm				Project #: 23252
<i>Stage 1 – Notification of project proposal and registration of interest</i>				
Agency Letter Sent				
Heritage NSW	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	24/05/2023	
Richmond Valley	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	24/05/2023	
Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email (bounced) and post	24/05/2023	Email available online bounced due to 'The user(s) account is temporarily over quota' so letter was sent same day to PO Box 72 CORAKI NSW 2471. Phone call made on 13/07/2023 to the publically available LALC number, (6683 2510) was unsuccessful - the number had been
Native Title Tribunal	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	24/05/2023	
Office of the Registrar	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	24/05/2023	
NTSCORP	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	24/05/2023	
North Coast Local Land Services	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	24/05/2023	
Agency Letter Responses				
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Heritage NSW (David Gordon)	Email	25/05/2023	Sent through a list of Aboriginal stakeholders
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	National Native Title Tribunal (Geospatial services)	Email	25/05/2023	No Native Title overlap
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Richmond Valley Council (Tony McAteer)	Email	1/06/2023	Provided the names of two organisations (Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation and Casino-Boolangle LALC) to contact
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	North Coast Local Land Services (Leonie Williamson and Louise Orr)	Email	9/06/2023	Provided an email detailing the name of four potential contacts. Three of these people had already been contacted, the additional contact, Ashely Moran, was contacted on 20 June 2023 to confirm whether they would like to register
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983	Email	28/06/2023	Provided letter detailing the names of one additional potential contact. This additional contact Joint Management Coordinator for Gaagal Wanggaan (South Beach) National Park: David Kennedy was contacted on 29 June to confirm whether they would like to register
Newspaper Public Notice (description)				
<i>Newspaper Name: Northern Rivers Times</i>	<i>Publication Date:</i>	<i>1/06/2023</i>		<i>Tear sheet attached</i>
Expression of Interest Letter Sent				
Marcus Ferguson	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	
Minjungbal Cultural Museum	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Post	5/06/2023	
Thomas Dahlstrom	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	
Tweed Aboriginal Co-operative Society Pty Ltd	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Post	5/06/2023	Email bounced, so sent via post.
Yidabal Gali Maa PTY LTD	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	
Banjalang Aboriginal Corporation	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	
Baryulgil Square Co-operative Society Ltd	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Post	5/06/2023	
Bundjalung Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Post	5/06/2023	
Burra Waj Ad	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Post	5/06/2023	
Canowindrra Tweed Byron Aged and Disabled Aboriginal Corporation	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Post	5/06/2023	Email bounced, so sent via post.
Durahrwa Training and Development Aboriginal Corporation	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Post	5/06/2023	Email bounced, so sent via post.
Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	

Koori Digs Services	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	
Lois Cook	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	bounced, so contacted via email on website (Email)
Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	
Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	5/06/2023	
Casino-Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Post	5/06/2023	
Ash Moran, BCD Heritage Division and Knowledge Holder	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	20/06/2023	
David Kennedy (Management Coordinator for Gaagal Wanggaan (South Beach) National Park)	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	29/06/2023	
Expression of Interest Responses				
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy (Aaron Talbott on behalf of Natalene Mercy, the RAP)	Email	5/06/2023	Aaron Talbott registered Natalene Mercy, who has traditional Githabal and Bundjalung descendents. He sent a follow up email on 7 June 2023 confirming this.
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Koori Digs (Corri Currell)	Email	5/06/2023	Koori Digs registered an interest in the Project, with their nominated representative Korri
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC (Tara Mercy)	Email	5/06/2023	Registered an interest in the Project, noting that The Bandjalang People #2, hold Native Title rights and interests closest to the project
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Lois Cook	Email	5/06/2023	Sent a response; unclear if it was a registration, so Lara sent email to clarify on 7/6/2023, no response. To be safe, based on her responding to the email, Lois has been registered for the Project and can choose to opt out anytime.
Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (Joanne Bolt)	Email	16/06/2023	Sent an email response to letter, confirming updated email. Included the name and details of Cultural Heritage Officer Graham Randall
Notification Letter Sent				
Casino-Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council	Lara Tooby (Umwelt)	Email		Although the Project Area is within Bogal LALC boundaries, as Bogal LALC appears uncontactable (efforts have been made via email (with all emails bouncing) and phone call (with phone line disconnected)), it was decided to treat Casino-Boolangle as the relevant LALC until otherwise directed. Bogal LALC was still kept up to date on the project by post,
Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council	Lara Tooby (Umwelt)	Post	14/07/2023	
Heritage NSW	Lara Tooby (Umwelt)	Email	14/07/2023	
<i>Stage 2 – (Presentation of information about the proposed project) and 3 (Gathering information about cultural significance)</i>				
Methodology / Project Information Sent				
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy (Aaron Talbott on behalf of Natalene Mercy, the RAP)	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	23/06/2023	
Koori Digs (Corri Currell)	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	23/06/2023	
Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC (Tara Mercy)	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	23/06/2023	
Lois Cook	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	23/06/2023	
Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (Joanne Bolt)	Umwelt (Lara Tooby)	Email	23/06/2023	
Methodology / Project Information Responses (due 21 July 2023)				
No responses to the methodology were received excluding sending through expressions of interest to be engaged in the survey, for fieldwork, but RAPS were informed that cultural information could be provided throughout the duration of the assessment.				
<i>Stage 4 – Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report</i>				
Draft Report Sent				

AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy (Aaron Talbott on behalf of Natalene Mercy, the RAP)	Umwelt (Chantelle Laucht)	Email	1/12/2023	
Koori Digs (Corri Currell)	Laucht)	Email	1/12/2023	
Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC (Tara Mercy)	Umwelt (Chantelle Laucht)	Email	1/12/2023	
Lois Cook	Laucht)	Email	1/12/2023	
Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (Joanne Bolt)	Umwelt (Chantelle Laucht)	Email	1/12/2023	
Draft Report Responses (due 12 January 2024)				
Koori Digs (Korri Currell)	Umwelt (Chantelle Laucht)	Email	12/12/2023	Agrees with ACHA



Inspired People.
Dedicated Team.
Quality Outcomes.

Our Ref: 23252_AgencyInvite

24 May 2023

RE: Richmond Valley Solar Farm: Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd (Umwelt) on behalf of Ark Energy Projects Pty Ltd (Ark Energy) is seeking to identify Aboriginal organisations or Aboriginal persons who hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or Aboriginal places within the proposed Project Area of the Richmond Valley Solar Farm (The Project) at Avenue Road, Myrtle Creek, 25 km south of Casino NSW, within Richmond Valley Local Government Area (refer Figure 1 for indicative area).

The Project will involve developing a up to 500 megawatt (MW) solar farm , Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (noting this capacity may be additional to the capacity of the solar farm, and this is to be confirmed), and associated infrastructure. The Project is a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4 Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist Ark Energy in:

1. assessing the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the area;
2. complying with conditions of a development application under the EP&A Act;
3. to assist regulators in the assessment of Aboriginal heritage reports prepared for this Project;
4. the preparation of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application (if required within the Project Area separate to the SSD approval); and
5. any future applications under Part 4, Part 5, Part 4 Division 4.7 or Part 5.2 of the EP&A Act.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, Umwelt requests information about relevant Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who you consider may have cultural knowledge and should be invited to register for consultation.

Please provide a list of relevant organisations or persons by 2 June to 2023 the details below:

Umwelt (Australia)
Pty Limited

ABN 18 059 519 041

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

www.umwelt.com.au

c/o Umwelt
Attn: Lara Tooby
75 York Street
Teralba NSW 2284
Email: ltooby@umwelt.com.au

Yours sincerely

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

E | ltooby@umwelt.com.au
M | 0416 094 225

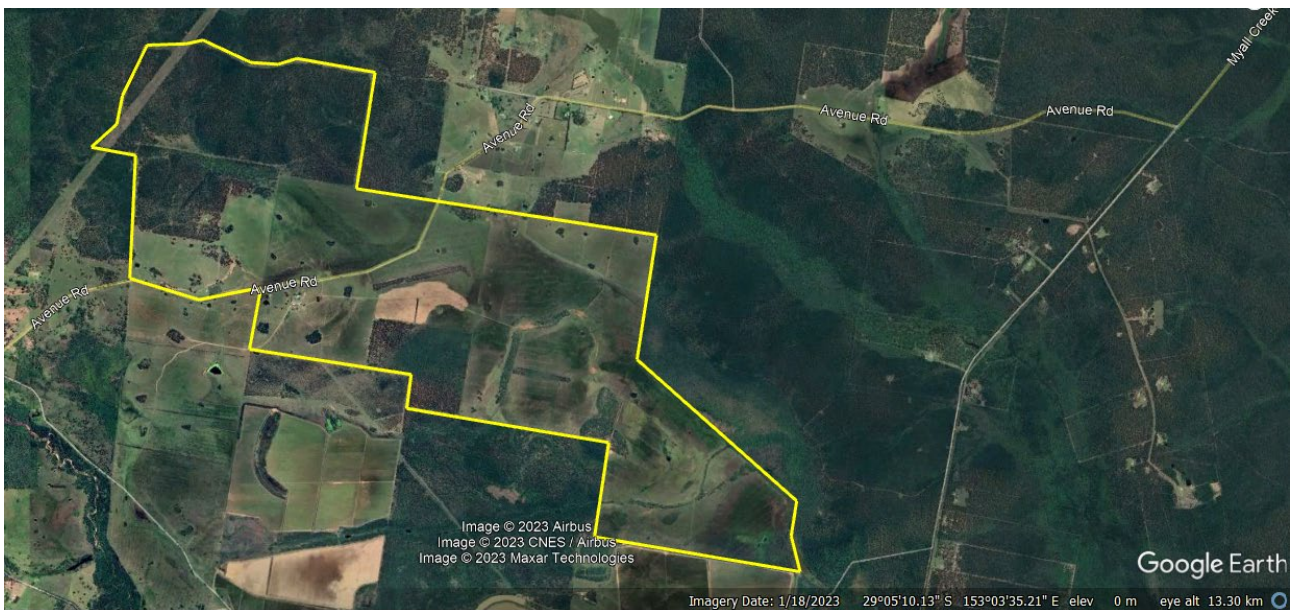


Figure 1 Indicative Project Area , facing North.

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 2:44 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: 23252_RVS_AgencyRequest.pdf

Dear North Coast LLS,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 2:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: 23252_RVS_AgencyRequest.pdf

Dear NTSCORP,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 2:38 PM
To: enquiries@nntt.gov.au
Subject: RE: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers.docx

Dear National Native Title Tribunal,

Following on from the below, please see attached geospatial search associated with the Richmond Valley Solar Farm area.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 2:14 PM
To: enquiries@nntt.gov.au
Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process

Dear Native Title Tribunal,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 2:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: 23252_RVS_AgencyRequest.pdf

Dear ORALRA,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 2:14 PM
To: enquiries@nntt.gov.au
Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: 23252_RVS_AgencyRequest.pdf

Dear Native Title Tribunal,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 2:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: 23252_RVS_AgencyRequest.pdf

Dear Boga Local Aboriginal Land Council,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 2:01 PM
To: council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: 23252_RVS_AgencyRequest.pdf

Dear Richmond Valley Council,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 11:59 AM
To: OEH HD Heritage Mailbox
Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: 23252_RVS_AgencyRequest.pdf

Dear Heritage NSW,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, 24 May 2023 3:07 PM
To: enquiries@nntt.gov.au
Subject: RE: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process
Attachments: Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers.docx; RVSF_Site Boundary.kmz

My apologies: I had a few of the Lot/DP incorrect in the previous letter. Please find attached revised Lot/DP, or if easier, please find attached a shapefile.

Kind regards

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 2:38 PM
To: enquiries@nntt.gov.au
Subject: RE: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process

Dear National Native Title Tribunal,

Following on from the below, please see attached geospatial search associated with the Richmond Valley Solar Farm area.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Lara Tooby

Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 2:14 PM

To: enquiries@nntt.gov.au

Subject: 23252 Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Agency Request for Aboriginal Consultation Process

Dear Native Title Tribunal,

Please find attached letter seeking information on Aboriginal persons and Aboriginal organisations who should be invited to register for consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Project.

This was sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Public Notice

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment - Invitation to Register Interest

Ark Energy (contact: Stephanie Froggatt 1800 731296) proposes to develop a 500 megawatt (MW) solar farm associated infrastructure at Avenue Road, Myrtle Creek, 25 km south of Casino NSW.

Aboriginal organisations or Aboriginal persons who hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or Aboriginal places in the area of the project are invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with the proponent regarding the proposal.

The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the applicant in: 1) assessing the Aboriginal heritage values of the area, 2) complying with conditions of development applications under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), 3) to assist regulators in the assessment of Aboriginal heritage reports prepared for this project, 4) preparation of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application (if required), and 5) any future applications under the EP&A Act.

Registrations of interest must be submitted in writing on or before 15 June 2023 to:
Lara Tooby
Umwelt Senior Archaeologist
ltooby@umwelt.com.au

Please note that Registration of Interest does not guarantee paid involvement, and that the names of registered Aboriginal parties will be passed on to the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council and Heritage SW unless a request to the contrary is made.

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Public Notice



PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE TELSTRA MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT:
Lot 7007 DP92844, SUMMERLAND WAY,
CASINO NSW 2470
www.rfnsa.com.au/ 2470011


Proposed upgrade consists of installing a new headframe, installing three new panel antennas, (measuring not more than 2.53m long), installing three new panel antennas, (measuring not more than 0.71m long), and 3 RRU's and associated ancillary equipment.

The proposal is to improve Telstra's mobile phone network. Telstra regards the proposed installations as Low Impact Facilities under the Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 2018 ("The Determination") based on the descriptions above.

In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Ash Mathulla, 0467953938 community.consult@downergroup.com by COB 15th June 2023.

Telstra Limited A.C.N: 051 775 556
Downer EDI Engineering Limited A.B.N 660 575 935 03

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Lee 0409624451

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N/S - N/D
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Garage Sales call 1300 679 787

Lara Tooby

From: Barry Gunther <Barry.Gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 May 2023 9:48 AM
To: Lara Tooby
Subject: DPE Aboriginal stakeholder list Richmond Valley Solar Farm.
Attachments: Request for the Aboriginal Stakeholder list Richmond Valley Solar Farm.docx; 23252_RVS_AgencyRequest.pdf; Aboriginal Stakeholder List- Richmond Valley Local Government Area - LIST OF ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT of PLANNING and ENVIRONMENT.docx

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

Hi Lara,

Please find attached the DPE Aboriginal stakeholder list Richmond Valley Solar Farm.

regards

Barry Gunther, Aboriginal Senior Assessment Officer
Environment and Heritage – Heritage NSW
Department of Planning and Environment
T: 02 9995 6830 | barry.gunther @environment.nsw.gov.au
Heritage.nse.gov.au and dpie.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 5020
Parramatta NSW 2124

Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Please lodge all Applications to Heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Website Facebook Instagram LinkedIn

The Heritage Management System is live from 31 May. More information is available [here](#)

I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and ancestors of the lands I work across.

Heritage NSW and coronavirus (COVID-19)

Heritage NSW has taken steps to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff, communities and customers. Whilst our offices remain open, we have put in place flexible working arrangements for our teams across NSW and continue to adapt our working arrangements as necessary. Face-to-face meetings and field work/site visits with our customers are subject to rules on gatherings and social distancing measures. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately.



Inspired People.
Dedicated Team.
Quality Outcomes.

Our Ref: 23252_Invite

5 June 2023

RE: Richmond Valley Solar Farm: Invite to Register For Aboriginal Consultation

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd (Umwelt) on behalf of Ark Energy (contact Stephanie Froggatt 1800 731 296) is seeking to identify Aboriginal organisations or Aboriginal persons who hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or Aboriginal places within the proposed Project Area of the Richmond Valley Solar Farm (The Project) at Avenue Road, Myrtle Creek, 25 km south of Casino NSW (refer Figure 1 for indicative area).

The Project will involve developing a 500 megawatt (MW) solar farm. The Project is a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4 Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Your organisation was identified by government agencies as having potential interest in registering for consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist Ark Energy in:

1. assessing the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the area;
2. complying with conditions of a development application under the EP&A Act;
3. to assist regulators in the assessment of Aboriginal heritage reports prepared for this Project;
4. the preparation of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application (if required within the Project Area separate to the SSD approval); and
5. any future applications under Part 4, Part 5, Part 4 Division 4.7 or Part 5.2 of the EP&A Act.

If you wish to register your interest as an Aboriginal party your registration must include:

- your name/organisation;
- appointed representative; and
- current contact details (postal address, email, telephone number/s).

Umwelt (Australia)
Pty Limited

ABN 18 059 519 041

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

www.umwelt.com.au

This information must be received by Lara Tooby (see contact details below) by close of business on **4 July 2023** to Umwelt Senior Archaeologist, Lara Tooby: ltooby@umwelt.com.au

Umwelt is seeking to engage all future correspondence with registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) via email.

As required by Heritage NSW guidelines, details of people registering as Aboriginal Parties will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council unless you specify otherwise.

Please note, in accordance with Section 3.4 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, consultation should not be confused with employment and registration of interest does not guarantee paid employment or fieldwork.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

E | ltooby@umwelt.com.au
M | 0416 094 225

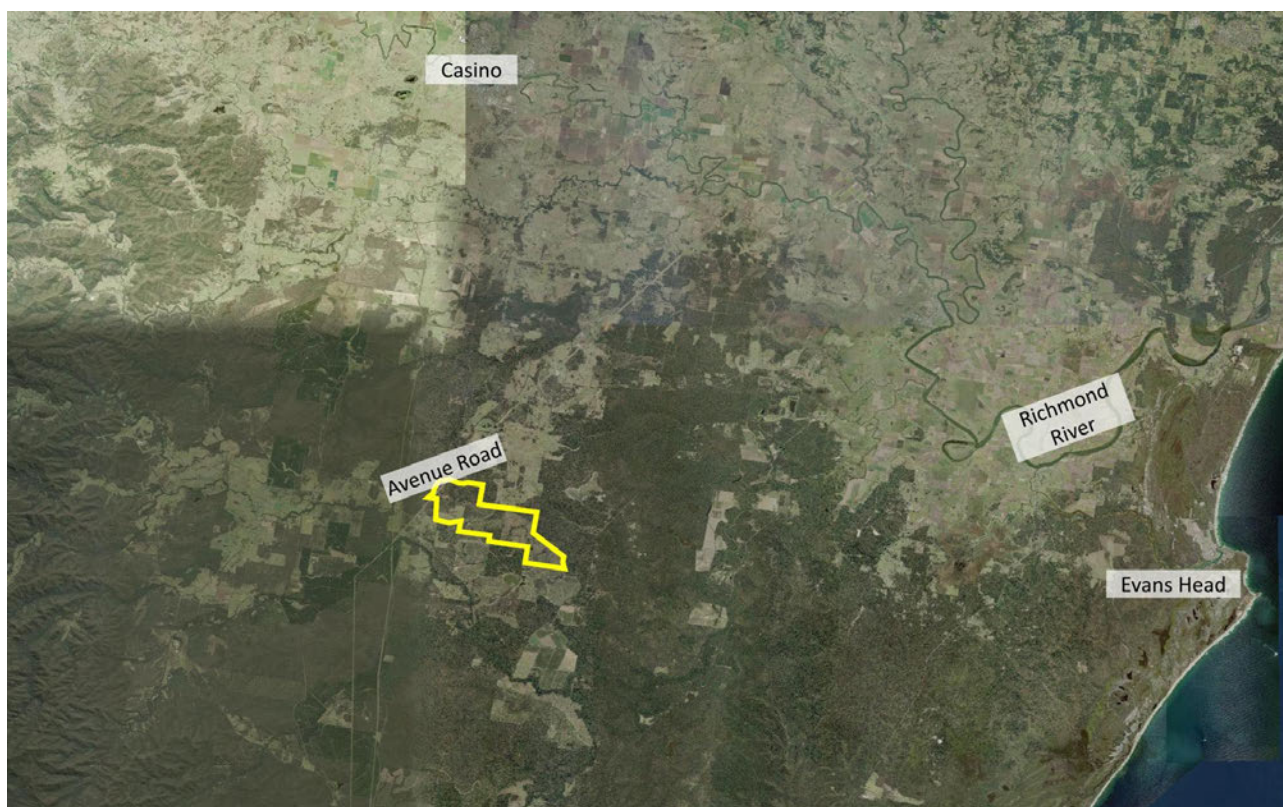


Figure 1 Indicative project area (in yellow)

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Tuesday, 20 June 2023 11:31 AM
To: 'ashley.moran@environment.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite - v2. Ash.pdf

Dear Ashley,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*; your name was provided as a local contact from Louise Orr of the North Coast Local Land Services (LLS).

Although 14-days is allowed for registration time, if you could advise whether you wish to register by the end of this week that would be greatly appreciated, as there was a delay in receiving your name from LLS.

Warm regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Lois Cook,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Tweed Aboriginal Co-operative Society Pty Ltd,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Korri (Koori Digs Services),

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Rob,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Durahrwa Training and Development Aboriginal Corporation,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Canowindrra Tweed Byron Aged and Disabled Aboriginal Corporation,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Banjalang Aboriginal Corporation,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Yidabal Gali Maa PTY LTD,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Thomas Dahlstrom,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_RVS_Invite.pdf

Dear Marcus Ferguson,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Lois Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 4:17 PM
To: Lara Tooby
Subject: Re: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project

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Hi Lara,
Thank you for the day activity breakdown
Talk again soon.

Regards
Lois

On Mon, 5 Jun 2023, 12:34 pm Lara Tooby, <LTooby@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Dear Lois Cook,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

Phone: 0416 094 225

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Lara Tooby

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 3:43 PM
To: Lara Tooby
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

Good Afternoon Lara,

My name is Tara Mercy, I am the business manager for Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC. We would like to express our interest in registering for consultations regarding the proposed Project Area of the Richmond Valley Solar Farm at Avenue Road, Myrtle Creek. The Bandjalang People #2, hold Native Title rights and interests closest to the project area.

The details you have requested are below.

Name/Organisation: Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation Prescribed Body Corporate Registered Native Title Body Corporate
Appointed Representative: To be confirmed.
Postal Address: PO Box 302, CORAKI NSW 2471
Address: Shops 2&3/33 Woodburn Street, EVANS HEAD NSW 2473
Email: [REDACTED]
Contact Number: [REDACTED]

If you Need anything else, please let me know.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED] "
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] "
[REDACTED] "
"
[REDACTED] "
[REDACTED] -"
"
[REDACTED] "
..... [REDACTED]
..... [REDACTED] "



From: Lara Tooby <LTooby@umwelt.com.au>

Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 12:25 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project

Dear Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation,

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Lara Tooby

From: Korri Currell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:50 PM
To: Lara Tooby
Subject: Re: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

Hi Lara

Koori Digs would like to register an interest please

nominated representative Korri Currell

p: [REDACTED]

Kind regards
Korri Currell



Virus-free www.avg.com

On Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 12:28 PM Lara Tooby <LTooby@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Dear Korri (Koori Digs Services),

Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.

This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Lara Tooby

From: Aaron Talbott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 5 June 2023 12:37 PM
To: Lara Tooby
Subject: Re: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 172408301---Standard-Template---CERTIFICATE-OF-CURRENCY---177250033.pdf;
a63348ff-7132-4196-9bfe-6cc1d6600b13.jpeg

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Yaama Lara

Natalene Mercy wishes to confirm registration for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm. Natalene has traditional descendants from the Githabal and Bundjalung nations.

Attached are insurances for fieldwork if considered.

Yaluu

Aaron Talbott
Natalene Mercy

M [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED]

From: Lara Tooby <LTooby@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 12:23:31 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 23252 Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project

Dear AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy,
Please find attached letter inviting you to register for Aboriginal community consultation for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project.
This is sent in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.
Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
Phone: 0416 094 225

www.umwelt.com.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

RVC Solar Farm: Invite to Register for Aboriginal Consultation



[Redacted]

To Lara Tooby

Reply
 Reply All
 Forward

Fri 16/06/2023 1:29 PM

You replied to this message on 19/06/2023 9:19 AM.

Hi Lara,

The Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council would like to register interest as an Aboriginal party to the project of Richmond Valley Solar Farm.

You will find my contact details below or our Cultural & Heritage Officer is Graham Randall his number is [Redacted] or email [Redacted]

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Graham.

Regards

Joanne Bolt
Acting CEO



Casino Boolangle LALC
99 Barker Street
P.O. Box 1047
CASINO NSW 2470

[Redacted]

Casino Boolangle LALC acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land of which we work and live, the Walhahul people of the Bundjalung Nation, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Inspired People.
Dedicated Team.
Quality Outcomes.

Our Ref: 23252 Bogal LALC 2230714

14 July 2023

Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council

PO Box 72
CORAKI
NSW

Dear Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council

RE: List of RAPs for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project

In accordance with Section 4.1.6 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, the name of each Aboriginal person who has registered and interest in the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project is provided below. I have also attached a copy of the notification from stage 4.1.3 of the consultation guidelines.

1. AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy (Aaron Talbott on behalf of Natalene Mercy)
2. Koori Digs (Corri Currell)
3. Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC (Tara Mercy)
4. Lois Cook
5. Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (Joanne Bolt)

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby
Senior Archaeologist

E | ltooby@umwelt.com.au
M | 0416 094 224

**Umwelt (Australia)
Pty Limited**

ABN 18 059 519 041

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

www.umwelt.com.au

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Friday, 14 July 2023 2:07 PM
To: OEH HD Heritage Mailbox
Cc: Ryan Desic; Jessica Henderson-Wilson
Subject: 23252 Section 4.1.6 List of RAPs for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: HeartlandNRT230527p062.pdf; 23252_RVS_Invite1.pdf

Dear Heritage NSW,

In accordance with Section 4.1.6 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, the name of each Aboriginal person who has registered and interest in the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project is provided below. I have also attached a copy of the notification from stage 4.1.3 of the consultation guidelines.

1. AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy (Aaron Talbott on behalf of Natalene Mercy)
2. Koori Digs (Corri Currell)
3. Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC (Tara Mercy)
4. Lois Cook
5. Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (Joanne Bolt)

Please note that we believe Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council is currently out of action (Emails for consultation have bounced back on 24/05/2023 with 'The user(s) account is temporarily over quota, a phone call made on 13/07/2023 to the publicly available LALC number, 6683 2510, was unsuccessful as the number had been disconnected, and the Bogal LALC Facebook page has not been active since 6 May 2020). Casino-Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council is the closest active LALC to the Project Area, and as they have registered an interest in the Project, we will also be sending this LALC a list of all RAPs as per section 4.1.6 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*. Please let us know if there are any issues with this approach.

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

p. 1300 793 267

w. www.umwelt.com.au



Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Friday, 14 July 2023 2:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Ryan Desic
Subject: 23252 Section 4.1.6 List of RAPs for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: HeartlandNRT230527p062.pdf; 23252_RVS_Invite1.pdf

Dear Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council,

In accordance with Section 4.1.6 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, the name of each Aboriginal person who has registered and interest in the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project is provided below. I have also attached a copy of the notification from stage 4.1.3 of the consultation guidelines.

1. AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy (Aaron Talbott on behalf of Natalene Mercy)
2. Koori Digs (Corri Currell)
3. Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation PBC RNTBC (Tara Mercy)
4. Lois Cook
5. Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (Joanne Bolt)

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

p. 1300 793 267

w. www.umwelt.com.au



Our Ref: 23252_Methodology

23 June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Draft Methodology for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed Solar Farm, Richmond Valley NSW

Thank you for registering your interest in the Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project (the Project). As outlined in previous correspondence, this project is designated as State Significant Development (SSD) and will require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), for which an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) will be prepared. Ark Energy (the proponent) has commissioned Umwelt to prepare the EIS including the ACHA and other technical assessments.

As Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) for the Project, we are writing to:

- provide an overview of the Project and how it will be assessed;
- establish the purpose and aims of the Aboriginal consultation process;
- seek information about any Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the Project and how they may affect, inform or refine the Project and/or assessment methods;
- establish opportunities for registered parties to provide cultural information related to the Project area through the consultation process and cultural mapping investigations;
- identify any culturally appropriate protocols that registered parties wish to be adopted during the information gathering process (eg protocols during field survey, or handling of culturally sensitive information); and
- present a draft of the intended assessment methods for your review and comment.

This document has been prepared in accordance with Stage 2 and 3 of the Heritage NSW document Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Consultation Requirements). We welcome your feedback at your earliest convenience and will be consulting with RAPs for the duration of the ACHA, currently proposed to extend November/December 2023.

1.0 Project Information

The Project will involve developing a up to 500 megawatt (MW) solar farm with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a 500 megawatt hour (MWh) capacity, and associated infrastructure (Figure 1.1). Subject to detailed design, the primary components of subsurface development that will impact the Project Area includes vegetation clearance, levelling works, installation of temporary site access arrangements (if required), installation of solar farm panels and site substation and BESS, transmission lines between solar farm elements, additional fencing and gates around the BESS facility, storage and communications rooms outdoor sensor lighting.

Construction is due to commence shortly following approval, with the construction period estimated to be between 12-18 months. The solar farm is expected to remain operational for approximately 20-30 years. Although the project will be monitored and controlled remotely during operation, some routine maintenance will be periodically performed on-site.

2.0 Draft Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

The purpose of the ACHA is to identify, assess and manage the Aboriginal heritage values related to the Project area, specifically those that are at risk of being impacted. The assessment will be developed in response to Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued on 9 September 2022, which require:

- assessment of the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (archaeological and cultural) in accordance with the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011) and the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010a); and
- provision of evidence of consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the *Consultation Requirements*.

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 (with comments due by close of business on Friday 21 July).
3. Completion of a survey of the Project Area in accordance with the draft methodology provided in Section 4 of this letter.
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 Project 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 Project Area
 - an assessment of the archaeological significance of any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits identified within the Project Area
 - an assessment of the potential impact by the project to any sites/objects/potential archaeological deposits identified within the Project Area
 - a discussion of management options
 - management recommendations.
5. The provision of a draft ACHA report for comment by all registered Aboriginal parties (comment period extends for 28 days from receipt of draft ACHA report)
 6. Discussion/incorporation of comments/amendments to develop and finalise the ACHA report
 7. Provision of the final ACHA report to registered Aboriginal parties and Client.

3.0 Consultation with Aboriginal Parties During the Assessment Process

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

We note that Section 3.2 of the *Consultation Requirements* specifies that the objective of consultation is to ensure ‘that Aboriginal people have the opportunity to improve assessment outcomes. Factors specified as assisting in meeting this objective include providing Aboriginal parties with the opportunity to provide information on cultural values (as invited in this draft methodology and throughout the assessment process), influence methods regarding assessment of significance for Aboriginal objects/places (which can be undertaken in response to this draft methodology, during fieldwork and in commenting on the draft ACHA report) and commenting on the draft ACHA report.

In accordance with the *Consultation Requirements*, it is Aboriginal people who can determine who is accepted by their community as being authorised to speak for Country and its associated cultural heritage. Where there is a dispute about who speaks for Country, it is appropriate for Aboriginal people, not Heritage NSW or the proponent, to resolve this dispute.

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. Sufficient information will be recorded for all sites to meet Requirement 7 of the Code of Practice.

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

It is proposed that the survey will be undertaken by Umwelt archaeologists and Aboriginal Site Officer Team. Site Officers will be selected by the Proponent based on the Expression of Interest (EOI) process (**Section 5**). At this stage, the survey will be conducted over an anticipated 3-5 working days in late July with the number of field days to depend on several factors and to be adjusted as required.

5.0 Test Excavation

Archaeological test excavation is an investigative method that can help characterise the archaeological resource of the area so that Project impacts can be adequately assessed, and appropriate management measures developed for the identified Aboriginal heritage values. Archaeological test excavation is required under the Code of Practice in instances where areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD) are identified and cannot be substantially avoided by project-related ground disturbance activities.

The necessity for archaeological test excavation in the Project Area is yet to be determined and would be dependent on the results of archaeological survey, the nature of potential impacts and how they overlap with the proposed development footprint, and whether Ark Energy can avoid impacts to PAD through iterative design changes during the preparation of the EIS.

If archaeological test excavation is pursued as part of the ACHA, it would be completed by qualified archaeologists in conjunction with RAP representatives within the Project development footprint. The locations for test excavation would be determined after the archaeological survey is completed and suitable areas are ground-truthed for their archaeological predictions. The test excavation program would be completed in accordance with the Code of Practice and would include the following methods:

- all test excavation pits would be spatially located in a systematic grid (with 10–50 m spacing) using a differential GPS device, which would also provide elevation data;
- manual excavation of 0.25 m² (50 cm by 50 cm) test pits in a systematic grid across areas of archaeological interest within the proposed disturbance footprint. The spatial resolution of the grid would be dependent on on-ground conditions, but would likely have test pits between 10–50 m apart at each test location;
- all excavation would use hand tools. Excavation of the first unit at each test location would be in 5 cm levels of excavation (known as spits), with subsequent excavation allowed in 10 cm spits or according to stratigraphy (whichever is smallest) depending on the results of the first unit. Manual excavation would continue to either: i) the base of the cultural deposits; ii) to the depth of the underlying geology; or iii) to the maximum depth possible via hand excavation (likely ~ 80 cm);
- 0.25 m² test pits may be expanded into larger test pits of up to 3 m² if warranted to further explore subsurface conditions such as artefact concentrations, better resolution of stratigraphic sequences or to achieve excavation depths not feasible from 0.25 m² test pits.

- sieving of all manually excavated material through a 5 mm sieve;
- soil profiles would be recorded in accordance with the Code of Practice, including scaled drawings, photographs, and written descriptions;
- soil samples may be collected for description, sedimentological and chronological analysis where such analysis is considered likely to contribute significant information; and
- excavation procedures and protocols may be modified at the discretion of the Excavation Director, in consultation with RAPs and Pacific Hydro as the conditions in the field and nature of the excavations develop.

If archaeological test excavation is pursued, RAPs will be provided with further detail about the proposed program at a minimum of two weeks prior to its commencement. Further detail will include the indicative scope and duration of the program along with the proposed test excavation locations. Any RAP feedback received during this period will be considered and incorporated into the program where required.

6.0 Indicative timing and RAP feedback opportunities

The following provides the key ACHA milestones and opportunities for RAP feedback and input. Notwithstanding, Umwelt welcomes cultural information and assessment methods feedback from RAPs throughout the course of the ACHA.

Table 1 Indicative timeline

Timing	Activity	Notes
Friday 23 June to Friday 21 July 2023	Distribution of the draft methodology (this letter) to RAPs for review and comment	28-day review period for RAPs to submit feedback about the proposed ACHA scope and methods.
Friday 7 July	Due date for RAP Expressions of Interest for participating in fieldwork	
Week of Monday 24 July (dates to be confirmed in future correspondence)	Field survey	
Not determined	Archaeological test excavation	The requirement for test excavation is currently not determined. RAPs would be notified at least 2 weeks prior to commencement
October/November 2023	Provision of draft ACHA results to RAPs for review and comment	28-day review period for RAPs to submit feedback about the ACHA.
November/December 2023	Finalisation of ACHA	

7.0 What we need from you

Aboriginal heritage incorporates a wide range of values such as stories, traditions and cultural practices. Umwelt welcomes advice from the Aboriginal community about cultural values (which might include archaeological sites or other types of values) relevant to the Project area and its surrounds. Further, we are relying on the Aboriginal community for advice on non-archaeological and intangible Aboriginal values for the Project area. We are happy to discuss any information which you are willing to share and will respect confidentiality where requested.

Umwelt would appreciate your feedback on the above methodology proposed for the investigation and assessment of the Project area. In responding, please also consider:

- Are there any other knowledge-holders or traditional owner groups we should be contacting to obtain cultural information on this area?
- Are there any protocols in relation to community interaction and/or cultural heritage that you would like adopted during the Project?
- Are you aware of any Aboriginal objects, places, sites or stories of cultural significance and/or importance that you are aware of within the Project area? If so, please advise us how you wish them to be dealt with during the Project.
- Are you aware of any past or current fishing and hunting activities within the Project area? Do you have any views on how these should be managed into the future?
- Is the information you are providing sensitive, gender specific, etc? If so, how would you like the information to be managed? Noting that some documentation for the ACHA process will be required.
- Do you require any further information prior to Umwelt proceeding with the ACHA?

In your response, can you please also clearly identify who you would like Umwelt to talk to within your organisation, and provide contact details for these individuals. Please also ensure your preferred method of communication (eg telephone call, e-mail, letter, etc) is highlighted for subsequent stages of the Project.

7.0 Summary

This letter provides details of the proposed methodology for ACHA associated with the Project. In accordance with the *Consultation Requirements*, we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business Friday 21 July. If you wish to be considered for commercial engagement, please submit your Expression of Interest information (detailed at the bottom of this document) by close of business Friday 7 July. Comments regarding the draft methodology can be provided verbally or in writing to Lara Tooby (Umwelt Senior Archaeologist) via email (ltooby@umwelt.com.au) or phone (0416 094 225).

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

Yours sincerely

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist
Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants

Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 11:25 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Project Methodology and Fieldwork EOI - Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_Methodology_EOI.pdf

Dear Joanne Bolt and Graham Randall (Casino Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council),

Thank you for registering for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm project.

The attached letter provides details of the proposed methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with the Project. In accordance with the *Consultation Requirements*, we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business Friday 21 July.

In addition, if you wish to be considered for commercial engagement (e.g., the archaeological survey) please submit your Expression of Interest information (required information on the last page of the document) to this email address by close of business Friday 7 July. The Proponent will be selecting site officers based on the content of the responses (applications which have accurately answered each point will be looked upon favourably). We will contact those people who have submitted an Expression of Interest no later than close of business Friday 14 July on the outcome of their application.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

p. 1300 793 267

p. 03416 094 225

w. www.umwelt.com.au



Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 11:22 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Project Methodology and Fieldwork EOI - Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_Methodology_EOI.pdf

Dear Lois,

Thank you for registering for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm project.

The attached letter provides details of the proposed methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with the Project. In accordance with the *Consultation Requirements*, we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business Friday 21 July.

In addition, if you wish to be considered for commercial engagement (e.g., the archaeological survey) please submit your Expression of Interest information (required information on the last page of the document) to this email address by close of business Friday 7 July. The Proponent will be selecting site officers based on the content of the responses (applications which have accurately answered each point will be looked upon favourably). We will contact those people who have submitted an Expression of Interest no later than close of business Friday 14 July on the outcome of their application.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

p. 1300 793 267

p. 03416 094 225

w. www.umwelt.com.au



Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 11:21 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Project Methodology and Fieldwork EOI - Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_Methodology_EOI.pdf

Dear Bandjalang Aboriginal Corporation Prescribed Body Corporate Registered Native Title Body Corporate,

Thank you for registering for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm project.

The attached letter provides details of the proposed methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with the Project. In accordance with the *Consultation Requirements*, we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business Friday 21 July.

In addition, if you wish to be considered for commercial engagement (e.g., the archaeological survey) please submit your Expression of Interest information (required information on the last page of the document) to this email address by close of business Friday 7 July. The Proponent will be selecting site officers based on the content of the responses (applications which have accurately answered each point will be looked upon favourably). We will contact those people who have submitted an Expression of Interest no later than close of business Friday 14 July on the outcome of their application.

Kind regards,

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

p. 1300 793 267

p. 03416 094 225

w. www.umwelt.com.au



Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 11:18 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Project Methodology and Fieldwork EOI - Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_Methodology_EOI.pdf

Dear Korri Currell (Koori Digs),

Thank you for registering for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm project.

The attached letter provides details of the proposed methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with the Project. In accordance with the *Consultation Requirements*, we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business Friday 21 July.

In addition, if you wish to be considered for commercial engagement (e.g., the archaeological survey) please submit your Expression of Interest information (required information on the last page of the document) to this email address by close of business Friday 7 July. The Proponent will be selecting site officers based on the content of the responses (applications which have accurately answered each point will be looked upon favourably). We will contact those people who have submitted an Expression of Interest no later than close of business Friday 14 July on the outcome of their application.

Any feedback on the methodology is due by Friday 21 July.

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

p. 1300 793 267

p. 03416 094 225

w. www.umwelt.com.au



Lara Tooby

From: Lara Tooby
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 11:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 23252 Project Methodology and Fieldwork EOI - Richmond Valley Solar Farm Project
Attachments: 23252_Methodology_EOI.pdf

Dear Natalie Mercy (and Aaron Talbott), AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy,

Thank you for registering for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm project.

The attached letter provides details of the proposed methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with the Project. In accordance with the *Consultation Requirements*, we ask that your group provides comments on the draft methodology by no later than close of business Friday 21 July.

In addition, if you wish to be considered for commercial engagement (e.g., the archaeological survey) please submit your Expression of Interest information (required information on the last page of the document) to this email address by close of business Friday 7 July. The Proponent will be selecting site officers based on the content of the responses (applications which have accurately answered each point will be looked upon favourably). We will contact those people who have submitted an Expression of Interest no later than close of business Friday 14 July on the outcome of their application.

Any feedback on the methodology is due by Friday 21 July.

Lara Tooby

Senior Archaeologist

p. 1300 793 267

p. 03416 094 225

w. www.umwelt.com.au



Re: 23252 -Richmond Valley Solar Farm- Draft ACHA for review

Chantelle Laucht <CLaucht@umwelt.com.au>

Wed 2024-01-03 9:21 AM

Dear all RAPs,

I hope you had a great holiday break.

This email is just a courtesy reminder that feedback on the Richmond Valley Solar Farm ACHA (report link below) is to be submitted by Friday 12 January. Any feedback is greatly appreciated.

[23252_R06_ACHA_V2.pdf](#)

Kind regards

Chantelle Laucht

Archaeologist

p. 1300 793 267

w. www.umwelt.com.au



From: Chantelle Laucht

Sent: Friday, 1 December 2023 4:38 PM

Cc: Ryan Desic <rdesic@umwelt.com.au>; Lara Donohoe <LDonohoe@umwelt.com.au>; Jessica Henderson-Wilson <JHenderson-Wilson@umwelt.com.au>

Subject: 23252 -Richmond Valley Solar Farm- Draft ACHA for review

Dear all Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm (RVSF) Project

I am pleased to attach the DRAFT RVSF Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) report for your consideration.

In accordance with Stage 4 of the Consultation Guidelines (2010), please provide any comments or feedback on the report by the 12th Jan 2024. We have provided this date to give you more time than the usual 28-day review period across the holiday season as we understand this is a busy time of year.

If you wish to keep any feedback confidential or have knowledge you wish to share that has gender restrictions, please let me know and we can discuss further.

Kind regards

Chantelle Laucht

Technical Assistant

p: 0403521364

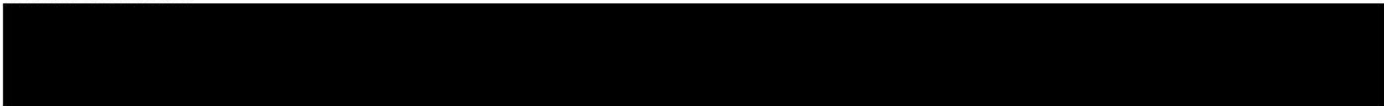
w: claucht@umwelt.com.au



23252 -Richmond Valley Solar Farm- Draft ACHA for review

Chantelle Laucht <CLaucht@umwelt.com.au >

Fri 2023-12-01 4:38 PM



1 attachments (19 MB)
23252_R06_ACHA_V2.pdf;

Dear all Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm (RVSF) Project

I am pleased to attach the DRAFT RVSF Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) report for your consideration.

In accordance with Stage 4 of the Consultation Guidelines (2010), please provide any comments or feedback on the report by the 12th Jan 2024. We have provided this date to give you more time than the usual 28-day review period across the holiday season as we understand this is a busy time of year.

If you wish to keep any feedback confidential or have knowledge you wish to share that has gender restrictions, please let me know and we can discuss further.

Kind regards
Chantelle Laucht
Technical Assistant

p: 0403521364
w: claucht@umwelt.com.au



Chantelle Laucht

From: Korri Currell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 December 2023 11:44 AM
To: Chantelle Laucht
Subject: Re: 23252 -Richmond Valley Solar Farm- Draft ACHA for review

You don't often get email from kooridigs@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

*This message originated from outside of Umwelt - **BE CAUTIOUS** opening any link or attachment.*

Hi Chantelle

Koori Digs agrees

Kind Regards
Koori Digs
[REDACTED]
Korri Currell

On Fri, Dec 1, 2023 at 4:39 PM Chantelle Laucht <CLaucht@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

Dear all Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm (RVSF) Project

I am pleased to attach the DRAFT RVSF Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) report for your consideration.

In accordance with Stage 4 of the Consultation Guidelines (2010), please provide any comments or feedback on the report by the 12th Jan 2024. We have provided this date to give you more time than the usual 28-day review period across the holiday season as we understand this is a busy time of year.

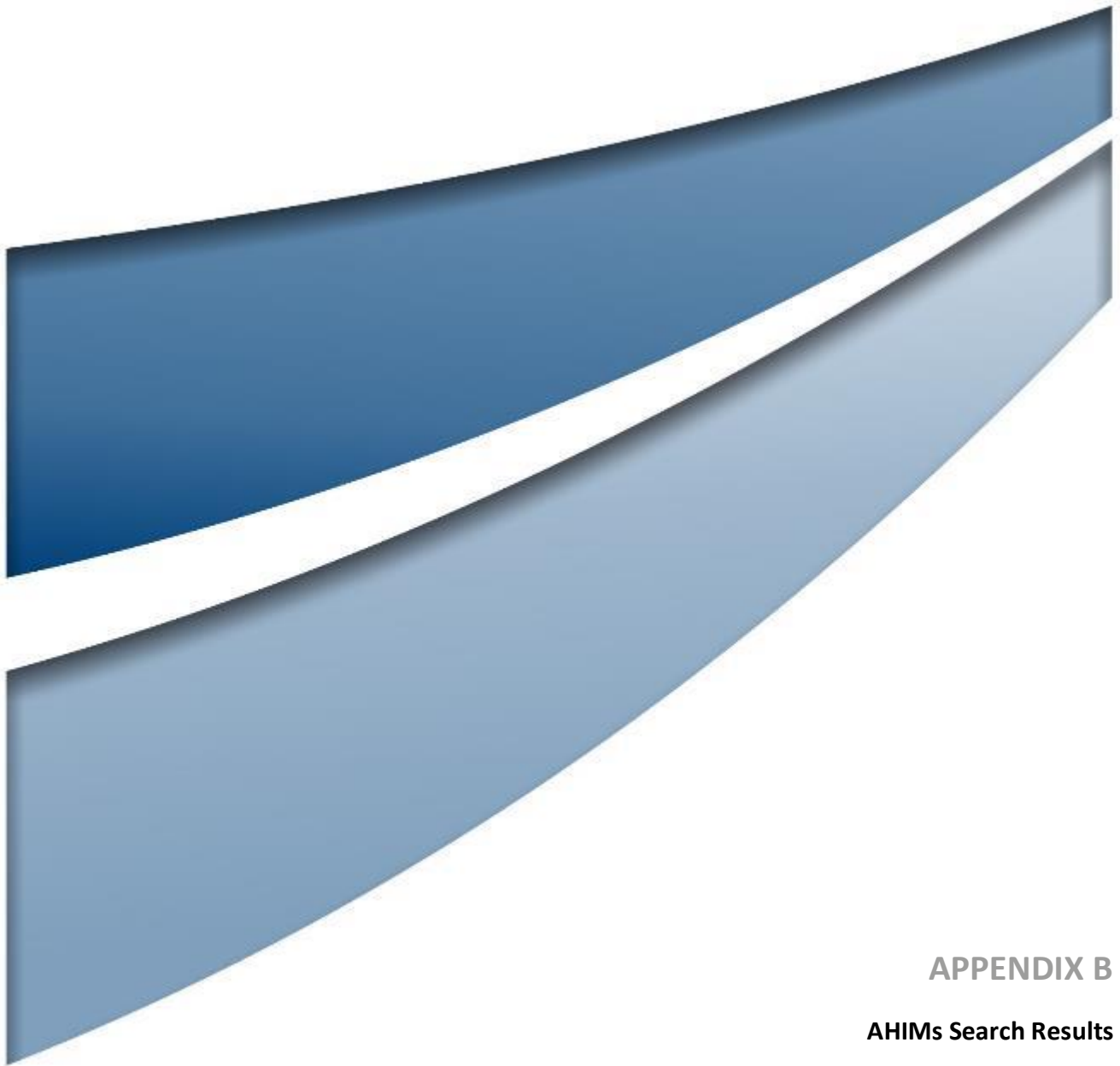
If you wish to keep any feedback confidential or have knowledge you wish to share that has gender restrictions, please let me know and we can discuss further.

Kind regards

Chantelle Laucht
Technical Assistant

p: 0403521364
w: claucht@umwelt.com.au





APPENDIX B

AHIMs Search Results

<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>
13-1-0060	Physics Lagoon Myrtle Creek	AGD	56	509570	6774300	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	
	Contact									Recorders J Gonda
										Permits
13-1-0240	Bungbah ST2	GDA	56	515008	6776700	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	Contact									Recorders Mr.Julian Travaglia,Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd - Pottsville
										Permits
13-1-0116	Culgoa St38	AGD	56	503538	6779833	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
	Contact Gerry Saals									Recorders Craig Wall
										Permits
13-1-0176	Scar Tree 5 Lot 11, DP 773099	GDA	56	522989	6786402	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	Contact Searle									Recorders Mr.Daniel O'Brien
										Permits
13-1-0175	Scar Tree 4Lot 11, DP 773099	GDA	56	523070	6786358	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
	Contact Searle									Recorders Mr.Daniel O'Brien
										Permits
13-1-0034	Ngimboug Cave Moonim Valley;Moonimba Range;	AGD	56	525200	6779800	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -	Natural Mythological (Ritual)	
	Contact									Recorders Harry Creamer
										Permits
13-1-0124	Swanbay Scarred Trees 1,2 and 3	AGD	56	525804	6784401	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 3		
	Contact T Russell									Recorders Bonhomme Craib & Associates
										Permits
12-3-0010	Wyan;Myrtle Creek;	AGD	56	489900	6782600	Open site	Valid	Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth) : -	Bora/Ceremonial	
	Contact									Recorders Isabel McBryde
										Permits
13-1-0136	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact Mr.Lauire Wlison									Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer
										Permits
12-3-0045	Two Mile Creek 1	AGD	56	499310	6776800	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact									Recorders Mr.Peter Kuskie
										Permits
13-1-0035	Myrtle Creek Bora Ground	AGD	56	503600	6773600	Open site	Valid	Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth) : -	Bora/Ceremonial	
	Contact									Recorders Harry Creamer
										Permits

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports	
13-1-0214	Moonimba Quarry Rockshelter	GDA	56	524611	6781232	Closed site	Valid	Habitation Structure :-, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) :-			
	Contact	Recorders	Navin Officer Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd, Miss. Julia Maskell						Permits		
13-1-0100	Coraki Land Fill 1	AGD	56	519950	6785800	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-	Isolated Find		
	Contact	Recorders	Ms. Jacqueline Collins						Permits		
13-1-0089	Pine 2-1;	AGD	56	521240	6768420	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-	Open Camp Site		
	Contact	Recorders	R Hall						Permits		
13-1-0178	Scar Tree 7 Lot 11, DP 773099	GDA	56	522170	6786403	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1			
	Contact	Recorders	Mr. Daniel O'Brien						Permits		
13-1-0196	New Italy PAD	GDA	56	529398	6774995	Open site	Partially Destroyed	Artefact : 1, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) :-			
	Contact	Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Darwin, Miss. Rachel (Elle) (left Virtus Company)						Permits		
13-1-0224	BACFST1	GDA	56	514725	6787375	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1			
	Contact	Recorders	Mr. Jac Carr, Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd - Pottsville						Permits		
13-1-0012	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid				
	Contact	Recorders	Isabel McBryde						Permits	2012	
13-1-0146	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid				
	Contact	Recorders	Claude McDermott, Damien Hofmeyer						Permits		
12-3-0011	Fullers Sate Forest; Cabbage Tree Creek;	AGD	56	484100	6774700	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) :-	Shelter with Art		
	Contact	Recorders	Isabel McBryde						Permits		
13-1-0128	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid				
	Contact	Recorders	Claude McDermott, Damien Hofmeyer						Permits		
13-1-0099	Bunggalbin Sheild Tree	GDA	56	514725	6787375	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree		
	Contact	Recorders	B Caldwell, Miss. Rachel (Elle) (left Virtus Company) Lillis, Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd - F						Permits		
13-1-0065	Woodburn	AGD	56	504060	6785280	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-	Open Camp Site	198	
	Contact	Recorders	Denis Byrne						Permits		

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
13-1-0173	Scar Tree 3 Lot 11,DP 773099	GDA	56	523247	6786312	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
	Contact Searle	Recorders Mr.Daniel O'Brien						Permits		
13-1-0241	Bungbah ST1	GDA	56	518882	6780672	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	Contact	Recorders Mr.Julian Travaglia,Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd - Pottsville						Permits		
13-1-0129	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact Mr.Lauire Wlison	Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer						Permits		
13-1-0172	Scar Tree 1 Lot 11,DP773099	GDA	56	523271	6786330	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	Contact Searle	Recorders Mr.Daniel O'Brien						Permits		
13-1-0145	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact Mr.Lauire Wlison	Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer						Permits		
13-1-0161	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact Mr.Lauire Wlison	Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer						Permits		
13-1-0160	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact Mr.Lauire Wlison	Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer						Permits		
13-1-0177	Scar Tree 6 Lot11, DP 773099	GDA	56	522957	6786403	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
	Contact Searle	Recorders Mr.Daniel O'Brien						Permits		
13-1-0111	IR2W-5	GDA	56	529257	6774965	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		102634,10446 8,104676
	Contact Searle	Recorders Ms.Jacqueline Collins						Permits		
13-1-0062	Sandy Creek	AGD	56	522690	6789050	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	
	Contact	Recorders J Gonda						Permits		
13-1-0199	Robinsons Quarry 1	GDA	56	524786	6779976	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
	Contact	Recorders Everick Heritage Pty Ltd						Permits		
13-1-0144	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			



AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 23252

Client Service ID : 787423

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
13-1-0225	Contact Mr.Lauire Wlison BACFST2	Recorders GDA	56	515970	6788463	Open site	Valid	Permits Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
12-3-0012	Contact Fullers State Forest;Cabbage Tree Creek;	Recorders AGD	56	484100	6774700	Closed site	Valid	Permits Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -	Shelter with Art	
13-1-0164	Contact Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. Mr.Lauire Wlison	Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer				Open site	Valid	Permits		
13-1-0140	Contact Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. Mr.Lauire Wlison	Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer				Open site	Valid	Permits		
13-1-0126	Contact Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. Mr.Lauire Wlison	Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer				Open site	Valid	Permits		
13-1-0125	Contact Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. Mr.Lauire Wlison	Recorders Claude McDermott,Damien Hofmeyer				Open site	Valid	Permits		
13-1-0174	Contact Scar Tree 2 Lot 11, DP 773099 Searle	Recorders GDA	56	523266	6786338	Open site	Valid	Permits Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		

**** Site Status**

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

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

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

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

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 01/06/2023 for Lara Tooby for the following area at Lat, Long From : -29.2146, 152.8132 - Lat, Long To : -29.0107, 153.3083. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 42

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

