

4.16 HISTORIC HERITAGE

4.16.1 Impacts on Historic Heritage

This section responds to the submissions from stakeholders regarding the impacts of the Project on historic heritage.

Submission reference: RA5, SIG1, SIG10, P11, P18 and P25

Summary response: The Project will result in direct impacts (i.e. removal) to 10 historic heritage sites identified within the Disturbance Boundary. The blast vibration and overpressure generated by the Project will not result in indirect impacts to those heritage sites identified or those situated beyond this extent given the recommended criteria will not be exceeded.

The Historic Heritage Impact Assessment (see Appendix R of the EIS) identified and assessed the impact of the Project on historic heritage items within and surrounding the Project Boundary.

As described in the EIS, the Project Boundary has a strong and diverse European historic record since settlement in 1818. Over time the Project Boundary has been used for coal mining, pastoral and cropping purposes. Many of the local residents have a long connection to the area, dating back many generations.

The NSW Heritage Council and CCAG both acknowledged in their submission that the methodology employed for the assessment was adequate and appropriate.

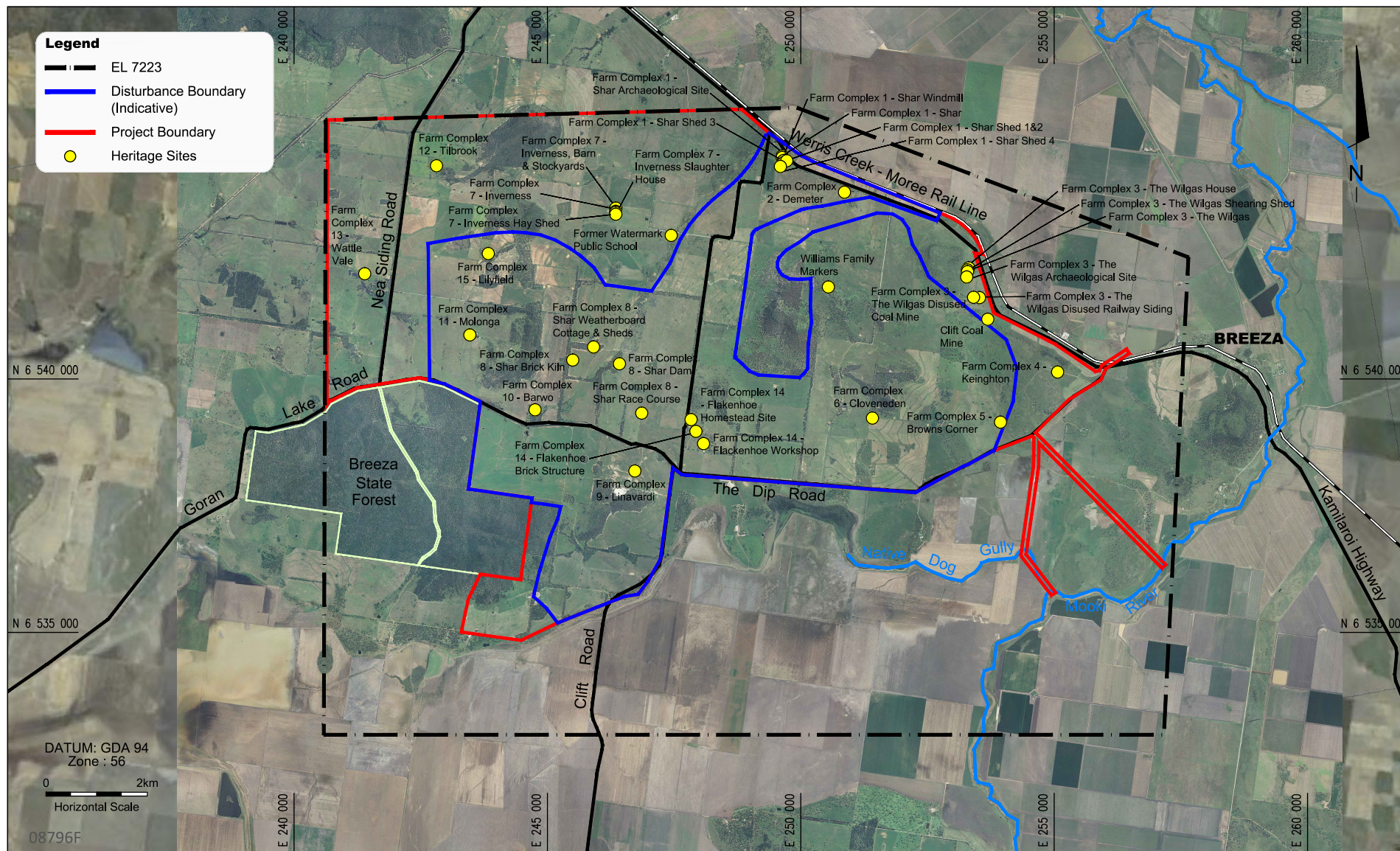
A total of 18 sites were identified within the Project Boundary, 14 of which were identified as being of historical significance. These sites were not listed on any heritage inventory. An overview of each site and its associated local historical significance are provided in **Table 57** and illustrated in **Figure 76**. The development of the Project will result in direct impacts (i.e. removal) to 10 historic heritage sites identified within the Disturbance Boundary as listed in **Table 57**.

Ground vibrations and overpressure associated with blasting for the Project have the potential to indirectly impact the structural integrity of the identified historic heritage sites. However, findings from the Acoustics Impact Assessment (see Appendix H of the EIS) concluded that the blast vibration and overpressure generated by the Project will not exceed the recommended criteria (15 mm/s and 133 dBL) at any of the identified heritage sites. In this regard, the Project will not cause indirect impacts at identified heritage sites as a result of blasting.

Table 57
Historic Heritage Sites

Site	Description	Significance	Impact Assessment
Farm Complex 1 - Shar	The complex consists of the potential archaeological site of a former homestead, four corrugated iron sheds and a Southern Cross windmill	Historical, research	Direct Impact
Farm Complex 2 – Demeter	The complex consists of a house (including the original ‘Vine cottage’), corrugated iron shearing shed, sheep shower, domestic rubbish dump and the (assumed) location of the former Breeza Station boundary rider’s hut	Historical, research	Direct Impact
Williams’ Family Markers	The site included two boulders in a rock outcrop near the top of Mt Watermark with a northerly aspect. Each bolder has a brass plaque with commemorative details	Significant to the Williams family	Direct Impact
Farm Complex 3 – The Wilgas	The complex consists of a house, corrugated iron shearing shed, potential archaeological site marked by a scatter of glass, metal artefacts and bricks surrounding a mature Kurrajong tree and a disused coal mine and railway siding	Historical, association, research	Indirect Impact (Visual)
Clift Coal Mine	The site consists of a depression (probably the shaft / tunnel entrance) with adjacent waste rock pile. The depression has been used as a rubbish tip and a collection of c. 1970-80s material is visible in the depression	Not of heritage significance	No Impact
Farm Complex 4 - Keington	The complex consists of a house and collection of c. 1970s farm buildings	Not of heritage significance	No Impact
Farm Complex 5 – Browns Corner	The complex consists of an open sided shed of modern bush timbers. Adjacent is a stockyard with loading ramp of bush timbers, wire and geo-grid	Not of heritage significance	No Impact
Farm Complex 6 – Cloveneden	The complex consists of a house, earlier cottage, ice house and modern farm buildings	Historical, research, representative	Direct Impact
Farm Complex 7 – Inverness	The complex consists of house, a slaughtering shed, hayshed, barn and stockyards	Historical, research, representative	Indirect Impact (Visual)
Farm Complex 8 – Watermark	The complex consists of a house, weatherboard cottage, farm buildings, dams, brick kiln and race course	Research	Direct Impact
Farm Complex 9 – Linavaroi Hut	The complex consists of Linavaroi hut, the outbuildings of Linavaroi house, poultry shed and scattered refuse	Research	Direct Impact

Site	Description	Significance	Impact Assessment
Farm Complex 10 – Barwo	The complex consists of a clad wood cottage, house and farm buildings	Historical, research, representative	Direct Impact
Farm Complex 11 – Molonga	The complex consists of a clad wood cottage, house and farm buildings	Historical, research, representative	Direct Impact
Farm Complex 12 – Tilbrook	The complex includes a two roomed structure likely constructed in the first quarter of the 20th century	Research, representative	Indirect Impact (Visual)
Farm Complex 13 – Wattle Vale	The Complex includes a modern house, farm buildings, avenue of Osage Orange trees and dams	Rarity	Indirect Impact (Visual)
Farm Complex 14 – Flakenhoe	The complex consists of the former Flakenhoe homestead, brick rubble and corrugated iron workshop	Historical, research,	Direct Impact
Farm Complex 15 – Lilyfield	The complex consists of a homestead, a collection of farm buildings, including a shearing shed and an existing dwelling and shed that existed on the property approximately 60 years ago	Historical, Research, representative	Direct Impact
Watermark Public School (former)	The School building was a weatherboard structure that was removed from the site sometime after 1918. The former location was covered in dried grass during the field survey, which limited ground visibility. No evidence of the site could be identified	Historical, research	No Impact



WATERMARK COAL PROJECT

4.16.2 Management and Mitigation

This section responds to the submission from stakeholders regarding the mitigation and management measures proposed for historic heritage sites directly or indirectly impacted during the construction and operation of the Project.

Submission reference: RA5 and SIG10

Summary response: Shenhua Watermark has committed to a range of measures to be included in an overarching Historic Heritage Management Plan and Construction Management Plan to ensure all historic heritage sites impacted by the Project are appropriately mitigated prior to their disturbance. Furthermore, Shenhua Watermark will provide for the ongoing conservation and management of select historic heritage sites by means of a Conservation Management Plan (component of the broader Historic Heritage Management Plan).

General Mitigation Measures

As described in the EIS, Shenhua Watermark will manage all Historic Heritage sites impacted by the Project as follows:

- Historic heritage items will be managed in accordance with a Historic Heritage Management Plan developed in consultation with OEH/NSW Heritage Council.
- In accordance with the Historic Heritage Management Plan, Shenhua Watermark will implement the following at each historic heritage site to be impacted by the Project, where appropriate:
 - Archival recordings, including scaled drawings and photographs, prepared in accordance with *How to Prepare Archival Records of Heritage Items* (Heritage Office, 1998) and *Photographic Recording of Heritage Items using Film or Digital Capture* (Heritage Office, 2006);
 - Archaeological test excavation to determine nature, extent and significance of archaeological deposits; and
 - Archaeological salvage, if warranted by testing.
- Shenhua Watermark will prepare a Historic Heritage Conservation Management Plan for Farm Complex 3 – The Wilgas and Farm Complex 7 – Inverness (as part of the Historic Heritage Management Plan).

The NSW Heritage Council also recommended the following in their submission:

- *If archaeological excavation is undertaken this must be completed in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines and a research design and methodology be submitted for the approval of the Heritage Council. Any nominated archaeologist should meet requirements of the Heritage Council excavation director criteria;*
- *If substantial intact archaeological deposits and/or State significant relics are discovered, work must cease in the affected area(s) and the Heritage Council of NSW must be notified. Additional assessment and approval may be required prior to works continuing in the affected area(s) based on the nature of the discovery; and*

- *The above conditions should also form a part of any Construction Environmental Management Plan, or equivalent document, prepared for this Project.*

Shenhua Watermark is willing to consult with the NSW Heritage Council regarding these recommendations and implement such measures, where reasonable and feasible (also see section below).

Timing

The NSW Heritage Council recommended in their submission that mitigation and management measures should be adopted and implemented prior to the commencement of any construction activity.

As noted in Section 7.15.4 of the EIS and reiterated in EIS Statement of Commitment 40, the mitigation and management measures provided will be implemented at each historic heritage site prior to their disturbance. However, as the Project has a long life (30 years), the required staged clearing is relatively slow and not all historic heritage sites will be disturbed immediately at commencement of construction. Furthermore, the mitigation and management measures listed above are comprehensive.

In this regard, Shenhua Watermark will ensure that all mitigation and management measures are implemented at each historic heritage site prior to their disturbance (rather than an arbitrary date of the commencement of any construction activity).

Historic Heritage Management Plan

*The NSW Heritage Council also recommended in their submission that the Historic Heritage Management Plan should include all historic heritage sites indirectly impacted by the Project (see **Table 57**), as well as the (former) Watermark Public School. The NSW Heritage Council recommended that this plan is submitted to the Director-General and NSW Heritage Council for approval prior to the commencement of any mining activities.*

Shenhua Watermark agrees to consult with NSW Heritage prior to submitting the plan to the DP&I for approval.

Conservation Management Plan

The NSW Heritage Council recommended in their submission that the Conservation Management Plans to be prepared for Farm Complexes 3 and 7 should be submitted to the Director-General and NSW Heritage Council for approval within one year of Development Consent. Shenhua Watermark agrees to consult with NSW Heritage prior to submitting the plan to DP&I for approval.

Former Watermark Public School

The NSW Heritage Council recommended in their submission the inclusion of the following conditions of consent in regard to the management of the (former) Watermark Public School:

- *The Watermark Public School Site is not to be disturbed by the proposed development. To ensure the site is not disturbed, a temporary construction fence, marking the perimeter of the Watermark Public School site, is to be erected prior to the commencement of construction works and dissembled upon completion; and*

- *A research design and methodology for any future disturbance or excavation of The Watermark Public School Site is to be included in the Historic Heritage Management Plan for the Project.*

The Watermark Public School building was removed sometime after 1918 with no identifiable evidence of the site remaining. Furthermore, given the site will not be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project, no further mitigation or management measures (including a Statement of Heritage Impact) are necessary, as provided in Historic Heritage Impact Assessment (see Appendix R of the EIS). In this regard, the measures proposed by the NSW Heritage Council are unwarranted.

Construction Management Plan

The NSW Heritage Council recommended in their submission that photographic and archival recording of all impacted historic heritage items is to be undertaken prior to the commencement of any construction activity.

As noted in Section 7.15.4 of the EIS and reiterated in EIS Statement of Commitment 40, the mitigation and management measures listed above (including photographic and archival recording) will be implemented at each historic heritage site prior to their disturbance. However, as the Project has a long life (30 years), the required staged clearing is relatively slow and not all historic heritage sites will be disturbed immediately at commencement of construction.

In this regard, Shenhua Watermark will ensure that photographic and archival recording is conducted at each historic heritage site prior to their disturbance (rather than an arbitrary date of the commencement of any construction activity).