

A.C.N. 006 175 097

Health Infrastructure

Attention: Bruno Zinghini

Level 8, 77 Pacific Highway,

North Sydney NSW 2059

25/06/2012

Re: Due Diligence Assessment for Aboriginal Archaeological Heritage: Dubbo Base Hospital Redevelopment: Stage 1 & 2 – Review Environmental Factors (REF)

Our Ref: 14768

Dear Bruno,

This letter documents a due diligence assessment of Aboriginal Archaeological Heritage at Dubbo Base Hospital. This document fulfills Health Infrastructure's obligation under the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010). This assessment has been written by Anna Nardis, and reviewed internally by Samantha Higgs and Samantha Gibbins (Biosis Research Pty. Ltd.).

Project Area

The project area consists of the Dubbo Base Hospital and is located within the Dubbo Local Government Area (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Proposed Works

The proposed Dubbo Base Hospital Redevelopment Stage 1 and 2 includes the construction of new and refurbished hospital facilities as identified by the Western NSW Local Health District. This Review of Environmental Factors (REF) seeks approval for a range of Early Works as described below.

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The proposed impact zone will include two existing buildings which will be impacted by the following activities:

- Demolition of various structures including the existing Nurses Accommodation and Boiler House buildings;
- Construction of a new electrical substation building (including switchboard and generators) and relocation of existing padmount substations;
- Upgrades and expansion of existing car park;
- Termination and relocation of existing hydraulic, water, sewer, stormwater, gats and electrical infrastructure services across the site;
- Relocation of sheds to accommodate a new link road and construction access road in the northern part of the site;
- Construction of a new building for ICT infrastructure;
- Minor reconfiguration of the Hospital's main entry and front of house areas; and
- Provision of new landscaping.

Report Objectives

The following is a summary of the major objectives for the due diligence investigation:

- Identify Aboriginal objects and Places known to exist within the project area through a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), maintained by the Office of the Environment and Heritage's (OEH) Country, Culture and Heritage Division;
- Consult with the identified Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Undertake a site visit to relocate any previously recorded sites, assess previous disturbance and the potential for Aboriginal Archaeological Heritage to be present;
- Record and assess sites identified during the site visit in compliance with the guidelines issued by the OEH;
- Identify impacts to all identified Aboriginal sites and places based on potential ground disturbance from the works; and,
- Make recommendations to avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts to cultural heritage values within the Project area.

Legislation

This investigation has been carried out under the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010). The code sets out steps which individuals and organisations need to take to determine if:

- Aboriginal objects are, or are likely to be present in the area;
- the proposed activity will harm Aboriginal objects.

If it is determined through the due diligence assessment that Aboriginal objects are present, or are likely to be present, and that the proposed activity will harm Aboriginal objects, the code requires that:

- further investigation and consultation under the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010) will be necessary; and,
- an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application will be required if Aboriginal objects or Places are present and will be harmed.

Investigation Methodology & Results

Community Consultation

Consultation with the Aboriginal community is not a formal requirement of the due diligence process, however it is recognised in NSW that Aboriginal people are the primary determinants of the significance of their cultural heritage. A landscape may hold intangible values that can be assessed only by the Aboriginal community. The project area falls within the boundary of the Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC).

This due diligence advice has been prepared in consultation with DLALC. Terry Toomey (DLALC) attended the site visit on 10th May 2012. A copy of the final report will be provided to DLALC for their records.

AHIMS Search

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) maintains a database of Aboriginal sites within NSW under Part 6 of the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Aboriginal objects and places in NSW are legally required to be registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register.

A search of the NSW OEH AHIMS database was conducted on 7th May 2012 and the results are summarised below.

Eight previously recorded sites are located within a 2.0 km x 2.0 km search area centred on

the project area. Details of these sites are provided in table below and their locations are shown in figure 3.

Table 1: AHIMS sites previously recorded within the search area

<i>AHIMS SITE NO.</i>	<i>SITE NAME</i>	<i>SITE TYPE</i>
36-1-0324	TG-ST-01	Scarred Tree
36-1-0319	TG-9-01	Quarry
36-1-0320	TG-05-04	Open Camp Site
36-1-0321	TG-05-03	Open Camp Site
36-1-0322	TG-05-02	Open Camp Site
36-1-0323	TG-05-01	Open Camp Site
36-1-0337	TC ST 1	Modified Tree
36-1-0318	TG-ST-02	Scarred Tree

No sites have been recorded within the current project area. Of the 8 sites previously recorded nearby, the predominant site type is Open Camp Site (n=4). The term ‘Open Camp Site’ is used to describe a surface scatter of lithic (stone) artefacts.

Site Visit

A site visit was conducted on the 10th May 2012, attended by Samantha Gibbins (Biosis Research), Anna Nardis (Biosis Research), Brian Cusack (Dubbo Base Hospital) and Terry Toomey (Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council).

The objectives of the site visit were to:

- assess the previous disturbance to the project area;
- assess the potential of the project area to possess intact Aboriginal heritage; and
- locate any Aboriginal objects or Places present within the project area.

Results of Site Visit

The results of the site visit have been divided into three sections; the western section, the northern section and the impact area (refer to figure 1 and 2). The project area was accessed on foot. The entire area was covered during the site visit with each section assessed to its boundary.

The Western Section

The western section is situated in an area of middle to lower slope, off Muller Street. Vegetation has been cleared for development purposes such as a car park, buildings, railway

track, sewerage works which has involved concreting and the installation of fencing and gates (Plate 1). Other disturbances include a current construction site observed in the north west of the area and a makeshift car park (Plate 2). Dense long grass cover resulted in nil visibility except in areas of exposure near an unpaved access track used by vehicles and areas near the sewerage works. There is also a new construction area cordoned in the north west of the western section (Plate 3). The construction has commenced prior to the survey.

Further east, the landform is a lower slope with dense grass coverage which resulted in zero visibility. There are high levels of disturbances including picnic area with chairs and tables, paved pathways and walkways, car parks and buildings (Plate 4).

The Northern Section

The northern section included a makeshift car park and the area up to the hospital that borders a dirt road off River Street. It is situated on a very gentle north – west facing slope and a slope to the north. Vehicle tracks were observed throughout the section (Plate 5). An earthen levy for drainage appears to have been constructed in this area (Plate 6). Visibility was generally nil due to dense long grass cover, with few areas of exposures made by vehicles (Plate 7). In the north west corner there were a group of trees (Plate 8). Other disturbances in the vicinity include vegetation clearance for housing, a recreational area including a pool and tennis courts and associated facilities, fencings, paved pathways, planted pine trees and the use of vehicle tracks.

Impact Area

The area to be impacted by the proposed development includes two large buildings (Plate 9 and 10) in a highly disturbed area comprising of paved footpath and roads, fencing and other buildings close by. An area for the proposed car park was also inspected. This area is currently in use as a makeshift car park (Plate 11). Ground surface visibility was hindered by roads and footpaths which resulted in nil visibility. There were areas of exposure immediately surrounding the buildings, these were also inspected.

Sites Located

No Aboriginal objects were located within the project area.

Archaeological Potential

The ground surface at the western section and the proposed area of impact are already highly disturbed due to previous development, such as car parks and ongoing maintenance to the area. Construction and use of vehicle access tracks has resulted in further ground disturbance in the project area. Therefore the archaeological potential in the western section and the area of impact is considered to be low (refer to figure 4).

The northern section consists of a creek line that may have originally run through the area. It is also a naturally high vantage point. This section is considered to have high archaeological potential; however it is well outside the proposed impact area.

The dense vegetation cover meant that it was not possible to examine 100% of the ground surface.

Impact Assessment

The proposed works include:

- Demolition of various structures including the existing Nurses Accommodation and Boiler House buildings;
- Construction of a new electrical substation building (including switchboard and generators) and relocation of existing padmount substations;
- Upgrades and expansion of existing car park;
- Termination and relocation of existing hydraulic, water, sewer, stormwater, gats and electrical infrastructure services across the site;
- Relocation of sheds to accommodate a new link road and construction access road in the northern part of the site;
- Construction of a new building for ICT infrastructure;
- Minor reconfiguration of the Hospital's main entry and front of house areas;
- Reconfiguration of mortuary and mental health entrances; and
- Provision of new landscaping.

The conclusions of this due diligence assessment are as follows:

- No known Aboriginal objects or Places will be impacted.
- The area of proposed impact has been disturbed by previous activity.
- There is an area of high potential in the northern section that will need to be avoided. This area is outside the impact area.

The Code provides a flowchart composed of questions to identify the presence of, and potential harm to, Aboriginal objects within a development area. These questions were applied to the investigation methodology and the results are summarised in Appendix 3.

Discussion

Visibility at the project area was limited by dense vegetation cover in the north west of the northern section and urban development. The proposed works will take place in areas that are already highly disturbed by the hospital buildings and associated infrastructure. Other disturbances at each location include the establishment and use of vehicle access tracks. There is a correspondingly low potential for intact Aboriginal archaeology to be present within the area of proposed impact.

In the northern section the landforms and a creek line running through the area indicates a high potential for intact Aboriginal archaeology to be present in this section. However it is outside the proposed area of works and will not be impacted upon.

No further investigation is required. Work can proceed with caution, with the understanding that all Aboriginal Objects and Places are protected under the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, even if in a disturbed or partially damaged state. If any Aboriginal objects are uncovered during any project activity, work must stop immediately and reference should be made to the recommendations listed below.

Recommendations

Based on this investigation, it is recommended that:

- 1. The proposed works described in this report can proceed without further archaeological or cultural input**

The work described in this report can proceed without further assessment or approval from the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* as no Aboriginal objects or places have been identified as occurring at these locations. This recommendation is conditional upon recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

- 2. Further investigation will be required if any works are proposed in the area of high potential**

Impact to the northern section must be avoided during any proposed works. If impact to this site cannot be avoided further Aboriginal archaeological investigation will be required in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECWW 2010) and the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

- 3. Discovery of Unanticipated Aboriginal Objects**

All Aboriginal Objects and Places are protected under the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works associated with this proposal, works must cease in the vicinity of the find and

the OEH and Aboriginal stakeholders be notified. A qualified archaeologist may also be required to assess the discovery on site.

4. Discovery of Unanticipated Historical Relics

Relics are historical archaeological resources of local or State significance and are protected in NSW under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Relics cannot be disturbed except with a permit or exception/exemption notification. Should unanticipated relics be discovered during the course of the project, work in the vicinity must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make a preliminary assessment of the discovery on site. The Heritage Council will require notification if the discovery is assessed as a relic.

5. Discovery of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains

Aboriginal ancestral remains may be found in a variety of landscapes in NSW, including middens and sandy or soft sedimentary soils. If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity you must:

1. Immediately cease all work at that location and do not further move or disturb the remains
2. Notify the NSW Police and OEH's Environmental Line on 131 555 as soon as practicable and provide details of the remains and their location
3. Not recommence work at that location unless authorised in writing by OEH.

6. Report to Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council

A copy of this report should be sent to Dubbo LALC for their records.

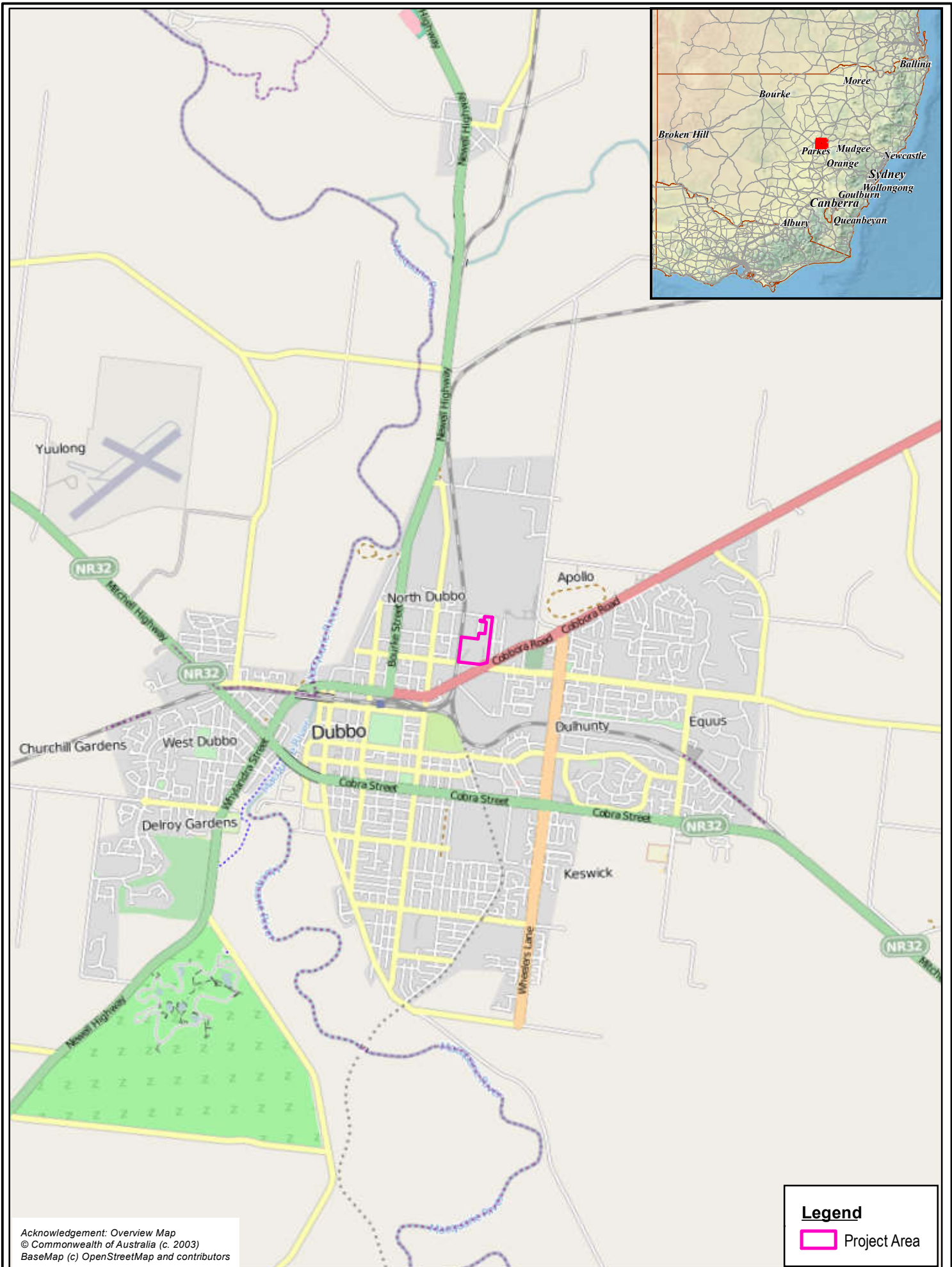
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Nardis
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - FIGURES



Acknowledgement: Overview Map
 © Commonwealth of Australia (c. 2003)
 BaseMap (c) OpenStreetMap and contributors

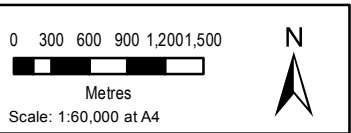
Figure 1: Location of the Project Area

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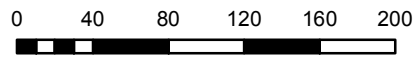




Legend

- Area of Impact
- Project Area**
- Northern Section
- Western Section

Figure 2: Project Area



Metres
 Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56



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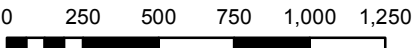
Acknowledgements: Imagery (c) Nearmap
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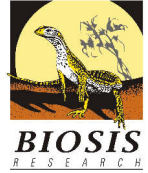
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- + AHIMS
- Project Area

Figure 3: AHIMS Results near the Project Area



Metres
 Scale: 1:25,000 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

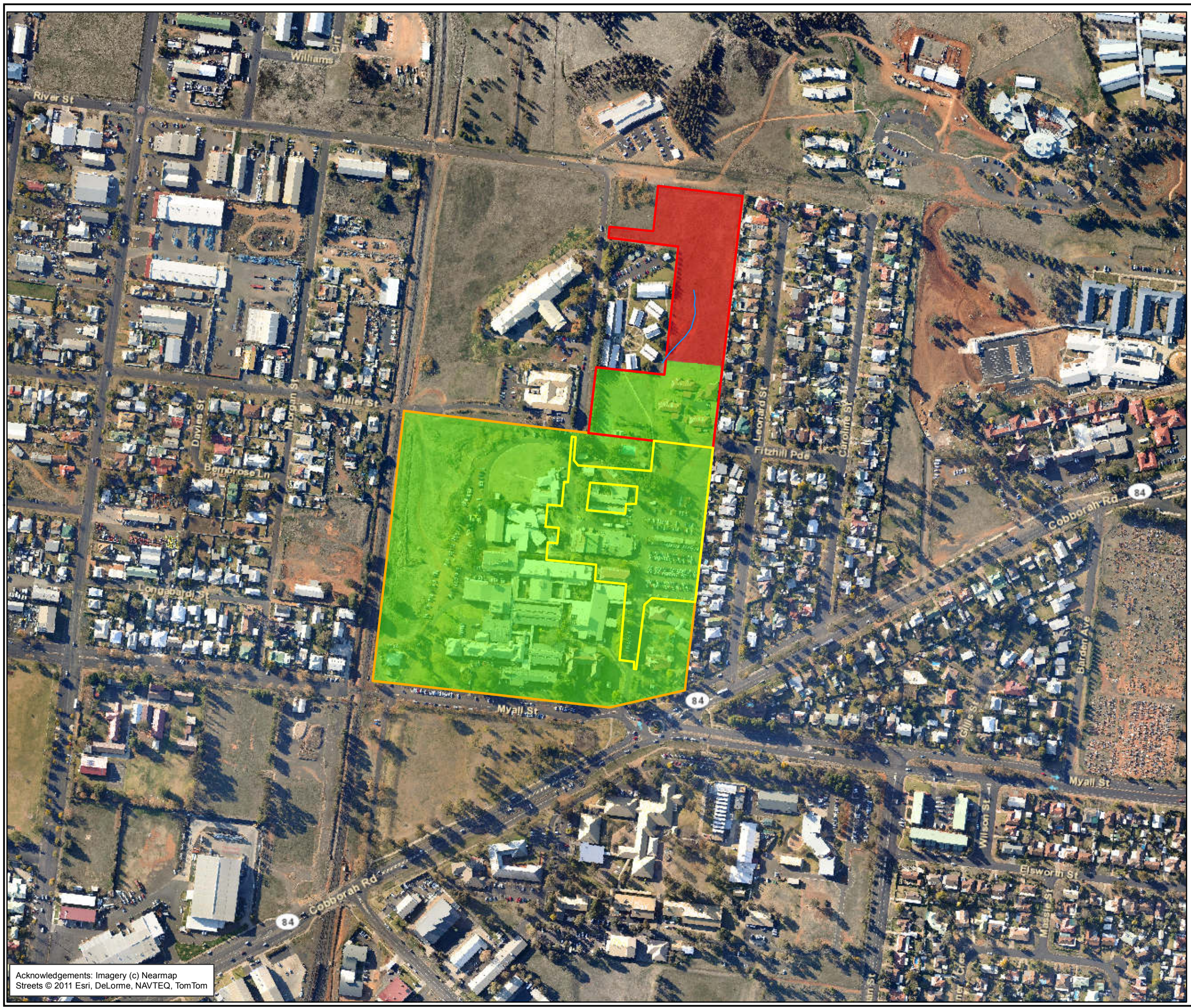


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Legend

- Creekline
- Area of Impact

Project Area

- Northern Section
- Western Section

Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

- High Archaeological Potential
- Low Archaeological Potential

Figure 4: Areas of Archaeological Potential

0 40 80 120 160 200
 Metres
 Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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APPENDIX 2 – PLATES



Plate 1: Sewage installation and vehicle disturbance (note railway in the background), view west



Plate 2: Upslope towards hospital buildings, noting large exposure which is part of make shift car park in foreground, view east



Plate 3: view south west across new construction area to the western section (note this construction was started before survey)



Plate 4: context shot of hospital grounds taken from main entry, corner of McGuinn and Myall Streets, view east

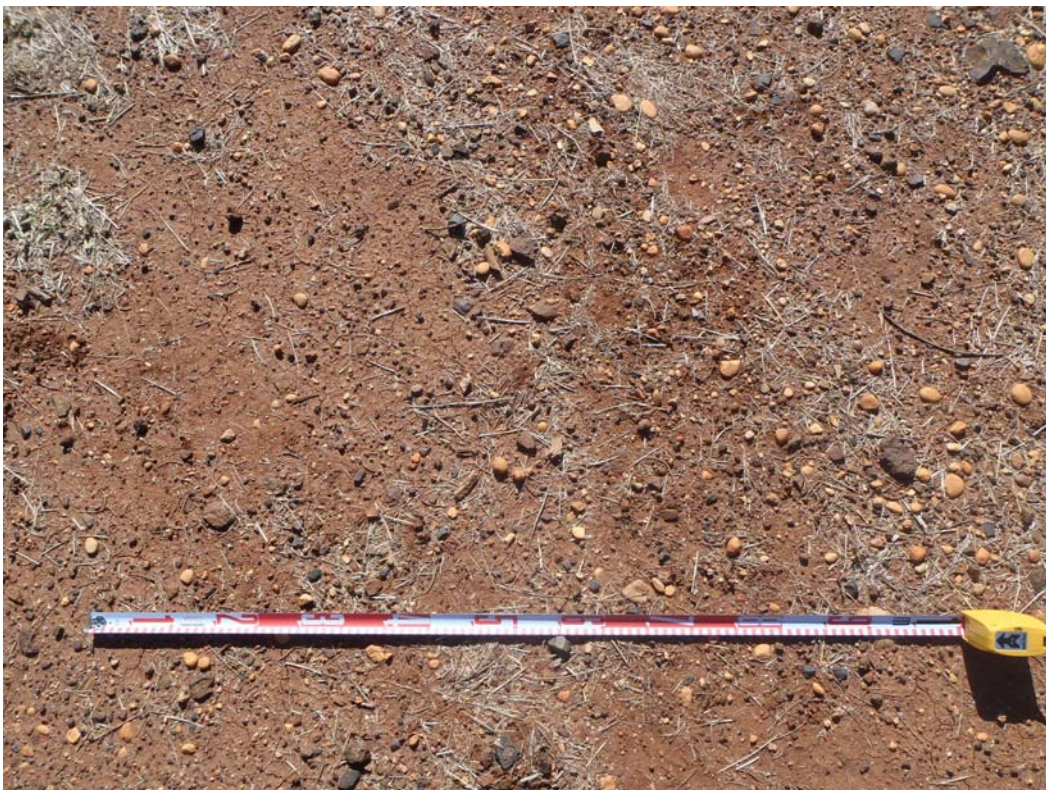


Plate 5: Vehicle track exposure near start of northern section, view north



Plate 6: constructed earthen levy/drainage view north east



Plate 7: vehicle tracks in the northern section, view north



Plate 8: view north west corner of project area



Plate 9: building to be demolished under current proposal, view north east



Plate 10: second building to be demolished under current proposal, view south east



Plate 11: Proposed car park extension area (note cars already parked in area), view south

APPENDIX 3 – THE CODE FLOWCHART

