

Appendix 8

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE
IMPACT





MALLEE WIND FARM
ARUMPO ROAD, MALLEE, NEW SOUTH WALES
STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

Prepared for Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd

25 September 2024

Final

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

PROJECT DETAILS

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Project address: Arumpo Road, Mallee, New South Wales

Prepared by: Peta Rice, David Marcus and Nicci Foster

Organisation: Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd

Contact Details: info@australarchaeology.com.au

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respect and acknowledge the First Nations Peoples of the lands and waterways on which we live and work, their rich cultural heritage, and their deep connection to Country, and we acknowledge their Elders past and present.

CULTURAL WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this report may contain images or names of First Nations people who have passed away.

AUSTRAL
ARCHAEOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd (Austral) has been commissioned by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd (Umwelt) on behalf of Spark Renewables (the Proponent) to prepare a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) for the proposed development of the Mallee Wind Farm at Arumpo Road, Mallee, New South Wales (NSW) [the subject site]. The subject site is located 4 kilometres north-east of the township of Gol Gol, within the Wentworth Shire Local Government Area (LGA) in far-western NSW. The subject site is located within the parishes of Brewang, Cliffs, Gol Gol, Matong, Uki, Wambera and Winnegow in the county of Wentworth.

This report has been prepared to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared in accordance with the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for a State Significant Development (SSD) being assessed under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) [SSD-53293710]. The subject site is situated within the following cadastral lots:

- Lot 1 DP 756995
- Lot 3805 DP 763156
- Lot 1 DP1233260
- Lot 3 DP 756993
-
- Lot 1726 DP 763664
- Lot 1727 DP 763667
- Lot 7 DP 1256363
- Lot 3 DP1182353

The location of the subject site and associated cadastral lots are shown on Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3.

The purpose of this SoHI is to assess the potential impact from the development on the significance of any historic built heritage or potential archaeological values that may be present within or near to the subject site. The report will provide suitable management recommendations should impacts to heritage values be anticipated.

Within this report, the terminology regarding site and works used are adopted from the NSW guidelines for preparing a SoHI (Department of Planning and Environment 2023b). It should be noted that within the broader EIS documentation, the subject site is referred to as the Project Area, with the proposed works area named the Development Corridor. This brief explainer is provided as to assist the review of this SoHI within that broader set of documentation, and to mitigate confusion.

IDENTIFIED HERITAGE VALUES

The subject site is not listed on any NSW heritage registers and is not considered to have any built or archaeological heritage value. Similarly, land parcels impacted by off-site disturbance required as a result of minor road upgrades are not listed on any NSW heritage registers and are not considered to have any heritage significance.

PROPOSED IMPACTS

The Project will include the installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of up to 76 wind turbine generators (WTGs), battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities, ancillary infrastructure and temporary facilities associated with construction of the Project. Significant earthworks will be required for the construction of the Project. However, as no heritage values have been identified within the subject site or within the vicinity of the proposed works, there will be negligible heritage impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that the proposed works are acceptable from a heritage standpoint. The following measures are recommended to mitigate impacts:

- 1) No further works or assessments are required in regard to historical heritage, and the proposed works can proceed with caution.
- 2) If historical archaeological relics not assessed or anticipated by this report are found during undertaking of the works, all works in the immediate vicinity are to cease immediately and Heritage NSW be notified. A qualified archaeologist is to be contacted to assess the situation and consult with Heritage NSW regarding the most appropriate course of action.
- 3) Should the development be altered significantly from the proposed design, then a reassessment of the heritage impact may be required. This includes any impacts not explicitly stated in Section 4 and the installation of any subsurface services.
- 4) Provide a copy of this report to relevant stakeholders including the Wentworth Historical Society and Heritage NSW.

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1 THE HERITAGE ITEM

Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd (Austral) has been commissioned by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd (Umwelt) on behalf of Spark Renewables (the Proponent) to prepare a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) for the proposed development of the Mallee Wind Farm at Arumpo Road, Mallee, New South Wales (NSW) [the subject site]. The proposed works include the installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of up to 76 wind turbine generators (WTGs), battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities, ancillary infrastructure and temporary facilities associated with construction of the Project.

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- Lot 1727, DP763667
- Lot 7, DP1256363
- Lot 3, DP1182353

The location of the subject site is shown on Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3.

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The *Assessing Heritage Significance; Guidelines for Assessing Places and Objects Against the Heritage Council of NSW Criteria* (Department of Planning and Environment 2023a) require that targeted stakeholder consultation occurs with relevant knowledge holders. As part of this assessment, Austral identified and contacted the following stakeholders to obtain information pertinent to the preparation of this SoHI:

- Wentworth Historical Society

The Wentworth Historical Society was contacted on 17 June 2024; however, no response was received regarding the occupation or land use history of the subject site. Separately, Umwelt also contacted the Wentworth Historical Society on 27 March 2024 with an invitation to participate in the Project's Social Impact Assessment (SIA), however no response was received.

PROJECT TEAM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project team has been led by Dr Amanda Markham (Principal Anthropologist, Austral) who has managed the assessment. This assessment was authored by Peta Rice (Archaeologist, Austral). The site assessment was completed by Taylor Foster (Senior Archaeologist, Austral), Teleea Thomas (Graduate Archaeologist, Austral), Carmen Baulch (Archaeologist, Austral) and Crystal Wooding (Archaeologist, Austral). David Marcus (Director, Austral) reviewed the draft report for quality assurance and technical adequacy. Finn Otley (GIS Operator, Austral) prepared all mapping presented in this report.

LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

This assessment includes an assessment of archaeological values to support the EIS being prepared by Umwelt. The report must be read in conjunction with the EIS as it refers to supporting documentation not

included within this report. It does not include an assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage that may be present within the subject site.

The results, assessments and judgements contained in this report are constrained by the standard limitations of historical research and by the unpredictability inherent in archaeological zoning from the desktop. Whilst every effort has been made to gain insight to the historical values of the subject site, Austral cannot be held accountable for errors or omissions arising from such constraining factors.

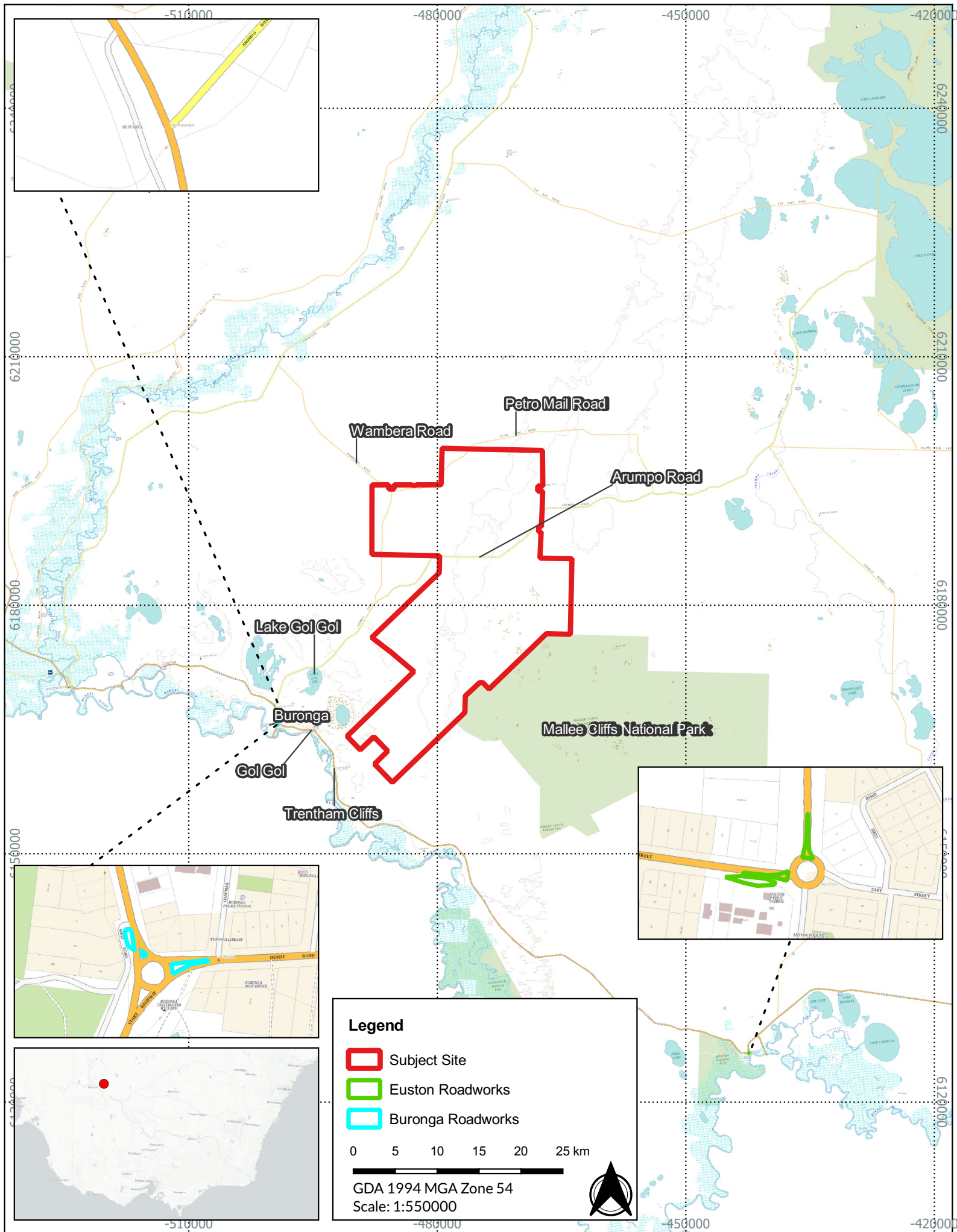


Figure 1.1 - Location of the subject site

22078 - Mallee Windfarm - SoHl



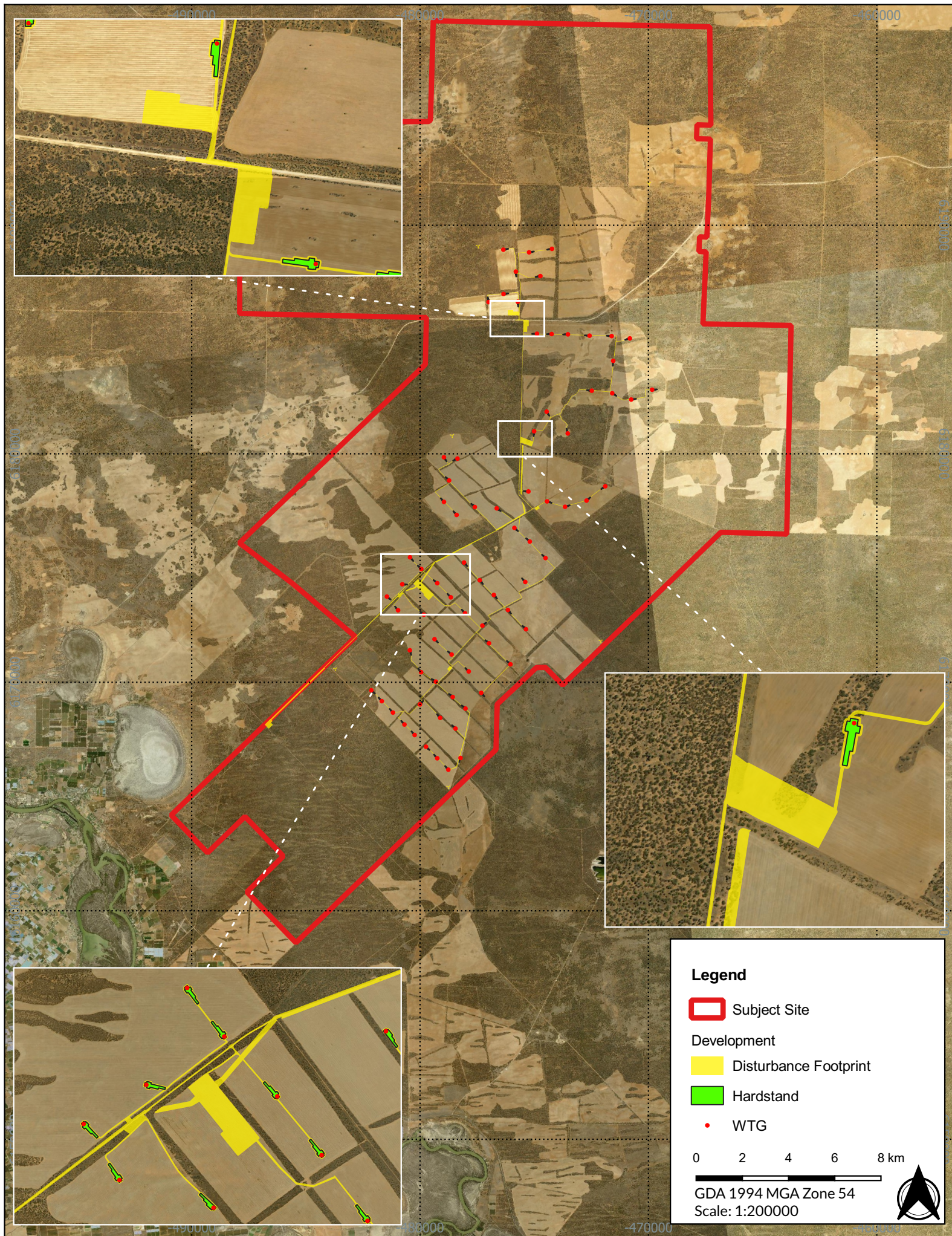


Figure 1.2 - Detailed aerial imagery of the subject site
 22078 - Mallee Wind Farm - SoHI

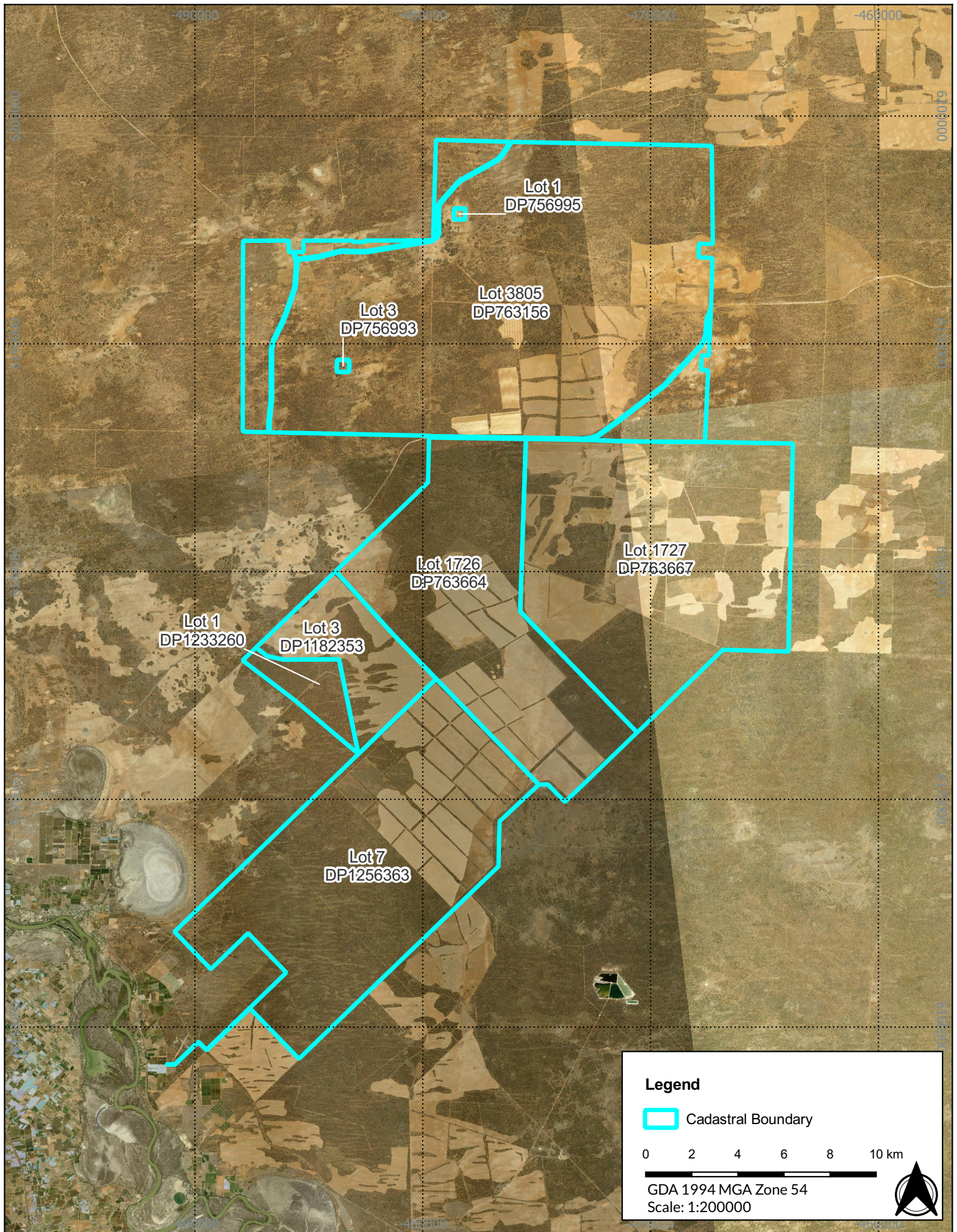


Figure 1.3 - Cadastral boundaries of the subject site
 22078 - Mallee Windfarm - SoHI



ABBREVIATIONS

The following are common abbreviations that are used within this report:

Austral	Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
Burra Charter	<i>Burra Charter: Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013</i>
CBD	Central Business District
CHL	Commonwealth Heritage List
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	<i>NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999</i>
EPI	Environmental Planning Instrument
HAA	Historical Archaeological Assessment
Heritage Act	<i>NSW Heritage Act 1977</i>
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IHO	Interim Heritage Order
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
NHL	National Heritage List
NPW Act	<i>NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
NSW	New South Wales
RNE	Register of the National Estate
S140 Permit	<i>An application under Section 140 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977</i>
S60 Permit	<i>An application under Section 60 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977</i>
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SHR	State Heritage Register
SoHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
Subject Site	Mallee Wind Farm
The Proponent	Spark Renewables
Umwelt	Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
Wentworth LEP	<i>Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011</i>
Wentworth DCP	<i>Wentworth Development Control Plan 2011</i>

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

1.1.1 THE HERITAGE ITEM

The Project is located in the Riverina region of south western NSW, within the South West Renewable Energy Zone (South West REZ). The Project is situated within the Wentworth Shire LGA. The Project is located approximately 16 kilometres north-east of Buronga, NSW (population 6,511), 22 kilometres north-east of Mildura, VIC (population 32,738) and 40 kilometres east of Wentworth, NSW (population 1,305) [ABS, 2021]. Smaller localities of Gol Gol, Mallee, Red Cliffs and Trentham Cliffs are located to the south and south west of the Project. There are no previously identified heritage items within the subject site.

1.1.2 HERITAGE LISTINGS

The following section summarises the relevant statutory context, including heritage listings, acts and environmental planning instruments that are relevant to the subject site and its historic heritage.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999

The Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) established the Australian Heritage Council (formerly the Australian Heritage Commission) and provides for the protection of cultural heritage at a national level and items owned or managed by the Commonwealth. The EPBC Act has established 2 heritage registers:

- Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL): for significant items owned or managed by Commonwealth Government agencies.
- National Heritage List (NHL): for items assessed as being of national cultural significance.

A referral under the EPBC Act that is approved by the Australian Heritage Council is required for works to an item registered on either of these lists to ensure that the item's significance is not impacted upon.

No part of the site appears on either the CHL or the NHL.

The Australian Heritage Council is also responsible for keeping the Register of the National Estate (RNE). In 2007, the RNE was frozen, and no further sites were added to it. The RNE exists as a non-statutory database detailing information about more than 13,000 places throughout Australia. For Commonwealth properties, the RNE was superseded by the CHL and NHL lists.

No part of the site appears on the RNE. The subject site is adjacent to the Murray Mallee-Mallee Cliffs National Park.

NEW SOUTH WALES HERITAGE ACT 1977

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) is a set of legal requirements and pathways established with the goal of conserving the environmental heritage of NSW, that is:

...those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of State or local heritage significance...

In accordance with this, a list of heritage significant sites is kept under Part 3A of the Heritage Act which is known as the State Heritage Register (SHR). The Heritage Council of NSW is the approval authority under the Heritage Act for works to an item on the SHR. Section 57(1) of the Heritage Act identifies the need for Heritage Council of NSW approval if the work involves the following tasks:

- Demolishing the building or work;
- Damaging or despoiling the place, precinct or land, or any part of the place, precinct or land;
- Moving, damaging or destroying the relic or moveable object;

- Excavating any land for the purpose of exposing or moving the relic;
- Carrying out any development in relation to the land on which the building, work or relic is situated, the land that comprises the place, or land within the precinct;
- Altering the building, work, relic or moveable object;
- Displaying any notice or advertisement on the place, building, work, relic, moveable object or land, or in the precinct; and
- Damaging or destroy any tree or other vegetation on or remove any tree or other vegetation from the place, precinct or land.

Demolition of an SHR item (in whole) is prohibited under the Heritage Act, unless the item constitutes a danger to its occupants or the public. A component of an SHR item may only be demolished if it does not contribute to the significance of the item. Section 57(1) of the Heritage Act also applies to archaeological remains (such as relics) within an SHR site, and excavation can only proceed subject to approval of a permit application under Section 60 of the Heritage Act (an S60 Permit) by Heritage NSW.

Heritage NSW has issued a set of Standard Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act that allow for certain activities and works to occur to SHR items without the need for an approval under Section 60. General Condition 6 of these exemptions does not permit the removal of relics (NSW Government Gazette [GG], No. 318, 13 November 2020). Therefore, any work or activity that may result in the removal of relics from an SHR site requires an approval under Section 60 of the Heritage Act.

No part of the subject site is listed on the SHR.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCEPTIONS

A schedule of exceptions pursuant to subsection 139(4) of the Heritage Act were introduced on 1 March 2022. These exceptions allow for the disturbance or excavation of land without an excavation permit under subsections 139(1) or 139(2) of the Heritage Act (Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales 1983) provided that the works fall under one or more of the exceptions described in Clause 2 and which are summarised below in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Summary of archaeological exceptions under Section 139(4) of the Heritage Act.

Exception	Requirement
A	<i>Any disturbance or excavation of land that has limited archaeological research potential, as demonstrated by a heritage management document, such as an Archaeological Assessment, completed within the last 5 years.</i>
B	<i>Any disturbance or excavation of land that constitutes minor works involving limited impact to relics of local heritage significance, in accordance with 'Relics of local heritage significance: a guide for minor works with limited impact' (Heritage NSW 2022c).</i>
C	<i>Any disturbance or excavation of land that constitutes minor works involving limited impact to relics of local heritage significance, in accordance with 'Relics of local heritage significance: a guide for minor works with limited impact' (Heritage NSW 2022c).</i>
D	<i>Any disturbance or excavation of land for archaeological test excavation of relics of local heritage significance completed in accordance with the guideline 'Relics of local heritage significance: a guide for archaeological test excavation' (Heritage NSW 2022b).</i>

Exception	Requirement
E	Any disturbance or excavation of land for archaeological monitoring of relics of local heritage significance completed in accordance with the guideline 'Relics of local heritage significance: a guide for archaeological monitoring' (Heritage NSW 2022a).
F	<p>Any disturbance or excavation of land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. for the purpose of exposing underground utility services infrastructure which occurs within an existing service trench and will not affect any other relics. ii. to carry out inspections or emergency maintenance or repair on underground utility services with due care taken to avoid effects on any other relics. iii. to maintain, repair, or replace underground utility services to buildings which will not affect any other relics. iv. to maintain or repair the foundations of an existing building which will not affect any associated relics. v. to expose survey marks for use in conducting a land survey.

In addition to the exceptions listed in clauses 2(a) to 2(f), the works must also be undertaken in compliance with the General Conditions proscribed under Clause 3. The General Conditions state that the exceptions detailed above do not apply to Aboriginal objects that are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, relics of State heritage significance or that are subject to an Interim Heritage Order (IHO). The General Conditions also state that the exceptions are self-assessed and therefore it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that the proposed activities and works fall under the proscribed activities. Adequate records of activities must be kept for auditing purposes and the activities that are completed must be undertaken by people with knowledge, skills and experience appropriate to the work, certain activities such as archaeological testing and monitoring are subject to certain levels of proscribed experience as set out in the guidelines (Heritage NSW 2022b).

Any activities or works that do not fit strictly within the exceptions outlined in the schedule of exemptions will need to be completed in accordance with an approval under Section 140 of the Heritage Act.

HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION REGISTERS

Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, Government instrumentalities must keep a Heritage and Conservation Register (a Section 170 Register) of items under the control or ownership of the agency which are, or could, be listed as heritage items (of State or local significance). Heritage Council approval is required for sites to be removed from their respective Section 170 registers, for ownership of the property to be transferred, and for the agency in question to vacate or demolish any listed place, building, or work.

No area of the subject site is listed under any identified S170 register.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

An Environmental Planning Instrument (EPI) is made under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). An EPI can be a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), with additional guidance as required provided in the form of a Development Control Plan (DCP).

WENTWORTH LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2011

The current LEP for the heritage item is the *Wentworth Local Environmental Plan 2011* (Wentworth LEP). Part 5.10 of the Wentworth LEP deals with heritage conservation, and subsections (2) and (3) determine whether development consent needs to be granted by Wentworth Shire Council before any activities occur which may impact cultural heritage. Heritage items are listed under Schedule 5, Part 10 of the Wentworth LEP.

The subject site is not listed on the Wentworth LEP nor are there any heritage items within proximity of the subject site.

WENTWORTH DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2011

The applicable DCP for the subject site is the *Wentworth Development Control Plan 2011* (Wentworth DCP). Chapter 1.2 of the Wentworth DCP outlines design controls to be implemented when dealing with heritage items in general.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE LISTINGS

The subject site is not listed on any heritage registers.

1.1.3 SITE AND ITS CONTEXT

The subject site is situated within semi-arid rural environment encompassed by pastoral land, located directly north-west of the Mallee Cliffs National Park in the Wentworth LGA of far-western NSW.

1.1.4 THE PROPOSED WORKS AREA

The proposed works will include the installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of up to 76 WTGs, BESS facilities, ancillary infrastructure and temporary facilities associated with construction of the Project. The subject site encompasses about 59,000 hectares of land; however, the proposed works are limited to the central portion of the site, encompassing about 14,440 hectares of land (c.f. Figure 1.2). Further detail regarding the proposed works is provided in Section 4 of this report.

1.2 SITE SUMMARY HISTORY

The following has been compiled through historical research, physical site inspections and previous reporting completed for this site.

1.2.1 DOCUMENTED HISTORY

The following historical background is designed to contextualise a site-specific history which will aid in understanding the heritage values of the subject site. This work will provide a useful and concise summary of the history of the subject site.

HISTORY OF THE WENTWORTH SHIRE

The following history of the Wentworth Shire has been acquired from the Wentworth Shire Heritage Study, prepared for the Council of the Shire of Wentworth by Hassell Planning Consultants Pty Ltd (Hassell) in association with Colin Pardoe (1989), as it is the most detailed historical summary of the region. Minor edits have been implemented for the purpose of clarity, grammar or to add additional sources; this was done to ensure no doubling of work. All historical information provided below has been quoted directly from the Wentworth Shire Heritage Study (Hassell Planning Consultants Pty Ltd and Pardoe 1989).

The Shire of Wentworth is located in south-western NSW and contains some of the most significant landforms and Aboriginal relics in the country. The presence of the 2 largest rivers in Australia, the Murray and the Darling, have enabled settlement and the development of the Shire. The Wentworth district has played an extremely important role in the development of NSW, South Australia and Victoria due to the impact of early pastoral, river trade and irrigation undertakings.

European occupation of the Shire began in the late 1840's with the expansion of pastoralism into the area. Agricultural pursuits and the subsequent rural settlement of the area was highly dependent upon the rivers for water supply and as a transportation route. By the 1850's a regular river boat trade passed through the Wentworth Shire, carrying wool clips to markets and importing domestic items which precipitated the Shire's development. The Wentworth township served as a vital port due to its location on the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers.

The Wentworth Shire, due to its distant location from Sydney was often forgotten by administrative powers and lacked financial aid from the government. However, the Wentworth township and nearby Moorna Station were central to the administration of the vital and wealthy pastoral concerns of the Darling District.

The dominance of pastoralism is notable on the frontages of the Murray, the Darling and the Anabranche rivers by the abundance of fine homesteads, of which many today are derelict, altered or no longer standing. The NSW Government were mostly concerned with the collection of duties resulting from interstate trade. However, at the turn of the century funding was forthcoming for the purpose of irrigation. Horticulture, resulting from irrigation, developed early in the 20th century and is mainly responsible for the establishment of the settlements of Curlwaa, Dareton, Buronga and Gol Gol.

Between 1846 and 1860, a number of squatters established reign over the land along the Darling and Murray rivers, expanding their holdings westwards from the Murrumbidgee area and north-eastwards from South Australia. The junction of the Murray and Darling rivers was the site of the settlement now known as 'McLeod's Crossing'. Transport to the area had been improved with the coming of the Murray River boats and steamships. The land proved to be an ideal location for grazing large stocks of sheep. Squatters continued to take claim to land along the frontages disregarding the territory of the Aboriginal traditional owners.

Between 1861 and 1870, the river boat activities along the Murray and Darling Rivers encouraged further active growth of the area. Settlements and stations continued to concentrate around the frontages to take advantage of the river trade and a reliable water source. The arrival of the first river borne wool at Goolwa was start of an important era in Australian history. Steam navigation of the river followed, and the junction of the Murray and Darling naturally became the site of the township to become an emporium of river traffic and a depot for the supply to the interior. Further settlements started to spring up as points of exchange along the river, located where the steamships could renew their supplies of wood.

The period between 1871 and 1880 brought about municipality and pastoral expansion in Wentworth Shire. The township of Wentworth had gained recognition as a major port and growth centre within NSW and by 1879 the town was proclaimed a municipality. The squatters and graziers continued to expand their holdings and expend great amounts of capital on improving the capacity of the land. From 1881 to 1890 the western land was thrown open for settlement and the wealthy western squatters had their vast lands reduced in size. The settlers and squatters were stricken with 7 seasons of dry weather and subsequent poor wool clips. The additional onslaught of the rabbit plague coupled with overstocking began to cause much erosion and land degeneration. Nonetheless, the settlements continued to thrive and grow at a reasonably rapid pace.

From 1891 to 1900 the agricultural viability of the land was rapidly diminishing as a result of the rabbit plague, exacerbated by continued overstocking, drought and land clearing. The pastoral properties were divided into small, resumed allotments causing grief to many settlers because of the inability to sustain ample production. Some holdings were abandoned and as a result, a new Land Act was passed to hand back resumed lands to the stations until required for settlement. The dismal pastoral industry resulted in demands for the sufficient funding of an irrigation scheme to be established along the Murray, east of Wentworth. From 1901 to 1910, the Wentworth Irrigation Scheme enabled the production of fruits, vegetables and vines of a high quality. As the pastoral leases had expired by 1900, the irrigation scheme allowed for an alternative agricultural income.

Following on from the irrigation scheme, a series of weirs and locks were installed to assist navigation and pumping within the Murray River. In addition to this, an improved system of road networks, statewide rail links and motorised transport reduced the need for river boats as a source of transportation, communication and trade. Irrigation areas within the Wentworth Shire expanded and new settlements were established. From this point forward, the Wentworth Shire continued to thrive economically through the establishment of orchards and vineyards, and as the population began to spread westward from the coastline, the townships developed, creating the municipalities we know within the Shire today.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE SUBJECT SITE

The following section seeks to document the known development history of the site.

PHASE 0 – ABORIGINAL HISTORY

Initial dates for occupation for Aboriginal populations along the Murray River and surrounds are difficult to establish as post-European disturbances, including deliberate looting of Aboriginal cultural remains, have removed significant quantities of archaeological evidence. Currently, archaeological excavations along the Murray River and its surrounds, including Mallee, have dated Aboriginal activity at Box Gully, Lake Tyrrell to 32,000 - 26,000 years Before Present (BP), Karadoc Swamp at 25,000 - 22,800 years BP (Richards et al. 2007, 1,8) and Kow Swamp, at 15,000 - 9,000 years BP (Stone and Cupper 2003, 99).

The subject site is located in the traditional lands of the Barkindji, Latji Latji, Muthi Muthi and Yitha Yitha people. Tindale describes the traditional lands of the Barkindji as extending from the Darling River at Wilcannia downstream nearly to Avoca and extending 30 to 50 kilometres on each side of the river (Tindale 1974, 192). The Barkandji No.8 Native Title determination (2015) and the Mallee Cliffs Draft POM (2017) recognise the Barkandji (Paakantji/Barkindiji) People as the traditional owners of the country encompassing the neighbouring Mallee Cliffs National Park and the surrounding areas.

For a comprehensive overview of the Aboriginal history and occupation of the subject site, please refer to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (**ACHA**) prepared for this project (Austral 2024).

PHASE 1 – PASTORAL SQUATTING AND STATION ESTABLISHMENT 1830 – 1960s

The first European exploration of Wentworth Shire was conducted by Captain Charles Sturt on a government expedition to trace the Murrumbidgee River in 1829. Along his expedition, Sturt encountered the Darling/Murray River junction in 1830. As a result, further exploration of the region was undertaken again by Sturt alongside Major Thomas Mitchell and Edward John Eyre (Hassell and Pardoe 1989, p. 18).

At the same time as exploration in the area, pastoralists and overlanders were enthusiastically searching for new grazing lands and suitable routes to drive sheep and cattle to South Australia. John Hawdon and Charles Bonney followed Sturt's route along the Murray River, where they found that the Murray/Darling junction provided an ideal campsite which in turn encouraged pastoralists to expand their runs into the district (Hassell Planning Consultants Pty Ltd and Pardoe 1989).

During the mid-19th century, land was claimed by squatters for grazing cattle and sheep along the frontage of the Darling and Murray rivers and at Lake Victoria. Reliable water sources and flat terrains enticed squatters from the Murrumbidgee district, Victoria and South Australia to Wentworth Shire to establish pastoral stations. The first surveys of the district were conducted in 1847; however much of the land had already been taken up by squatters. When the surveys were completed in 1854, the squatters were able to tender for their runs. Some of the earliest and largest holdings (stations) included: Lake Victoria, Polia, Para, Tarcoola Mallara, Moorara, Tapio, Moorna and Mallee Cliffs. The locations for activities within stations were typically focused on the river frontages, where the main residences, workers cottages, stock yards and woolsheds were established to take advantage of the reliable water source, proximity to the river boats for wool collection and trade, and the aesthetic presence of the river (Hassell Planning Consultants Pty Ltd and Pardoe 1989). The subject site is located within the Tapio and Mallee Cliffs pastoral runs (Figure 1.4).

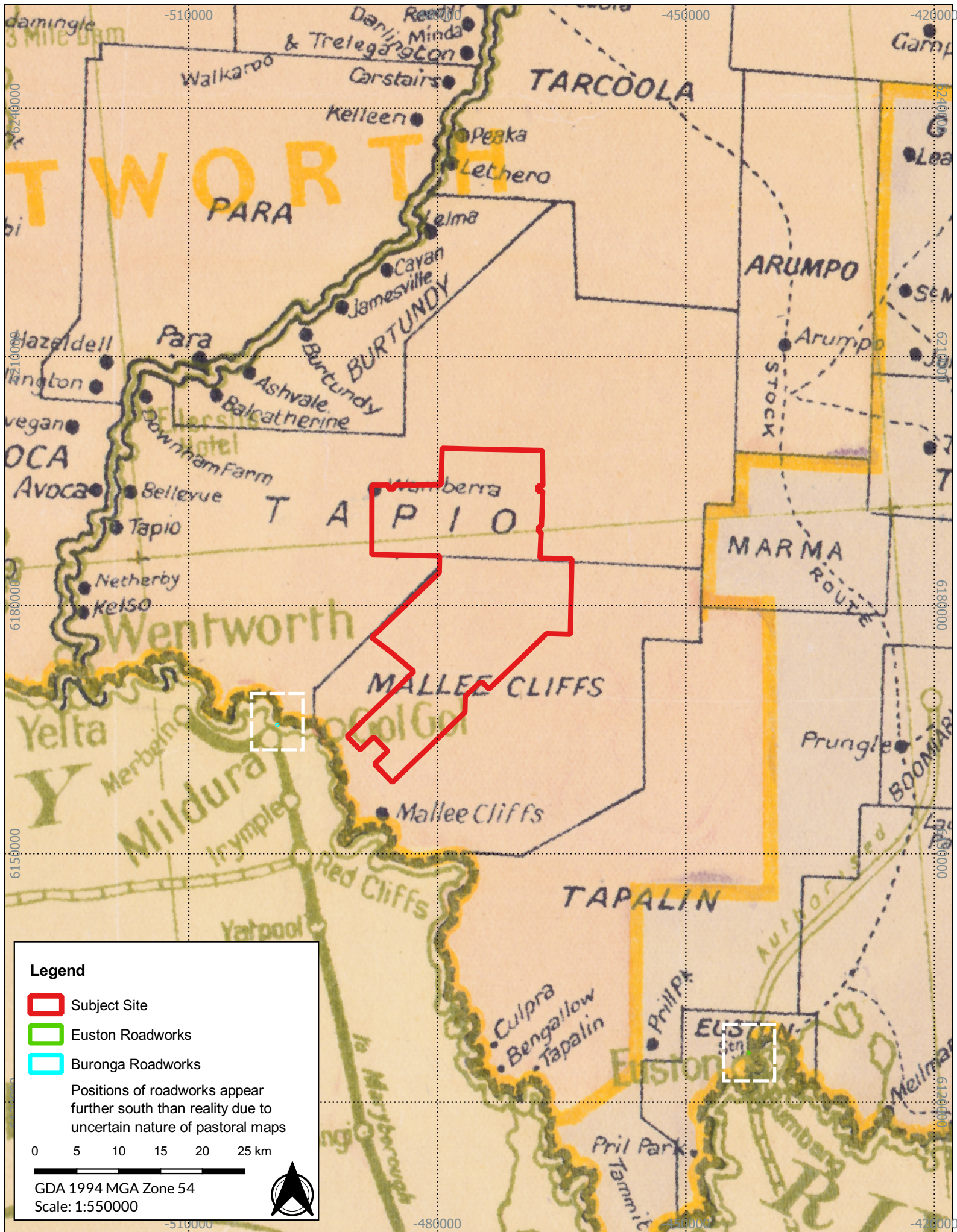


Figure 1.4 - 1923 Map of NSW pastoral stations with subject site and offsite roadworks overlaid

22078 - Mallee Windfarm - SoHI

Source: NSW LPI Basemap, H.E.C. Robinson Ltd 1923

Drawn by: FOT Date: 2024-08-13



TAPIO PASTORAL RUN

The Tapio run was established by Dr Dugald Fletcher, one of 5 major landholders in Sunraysia. Fletcher arrived in Australia in 1840 with his wife and 4 children. In 1846, Fletcher sent his 2 sons to locate a place that was large enough to house their sheep, and instructed them to construct a residence in an area not obstructed by flood waters along the Darling River (Figure 1.5). The Tapio Homestead still exists to this day, however, is uninhabited and is located 35 kilometres north-west of the subject site, which formed part of the wider property rather than being a focal point of settlement.



Figure 1.5 1860 sketch of the Fletcher's homestead on the Darling River (Source: National Library of Australia, Call No: #R11335/28).

In the late 1870s, the Tapio station was purchased by Service, Brooke and Ormand who expanded the station boundaries to about what it is today (Thompson 2007, p. 14). The station was then managed by Thomas Collier Brooke from this point until 1906, when Ben Chaffey purchased the entire holding, although he only owned it for 9 months before relinquishing it (Thompson 2007, p. 14). After this, it is suggested that Eli Barnfield, grazier, purchased the holding (*Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*, 15 June 1910, p. 3391; *Riverina Recorder*, 18 October 1922, p. 2). Upon his death, Eli's son John inherited the Tapio holding as the sole owner. When John died in the 1960s, the holding passed to his wife and sons. There are mentions of a school and new woolsheds being constructed on the Tapio holding, however, these were located near the river front at the homestead.

Two allotments within the Tapio station have an additional history of formal pastoral leases. The first is located in the north-western portion of the subject site (Lot 3, DP756993), which was leased to Thomas Collier Brooke in 1876 for “pastoral purposes”. The position of the property shown on the plan for the allotment (Vol-Fol: 472-128) indicates that a tank and well existed at this time within this portion of the subject site. Additionally, the pastoral map of Tapio suggests that this tank was named “Kings Tank”, although there is no corresponding name for the well within the site. Historical research for Kings Tank has not revealed much information aside from the area being referenced when men were deployed east of the Tapio homestead to shoot rabbits for periods of up to 6 months (*Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record*, 4 June 1914, p. 7). There is no mention of any structures or amenities that were built to house the men though.

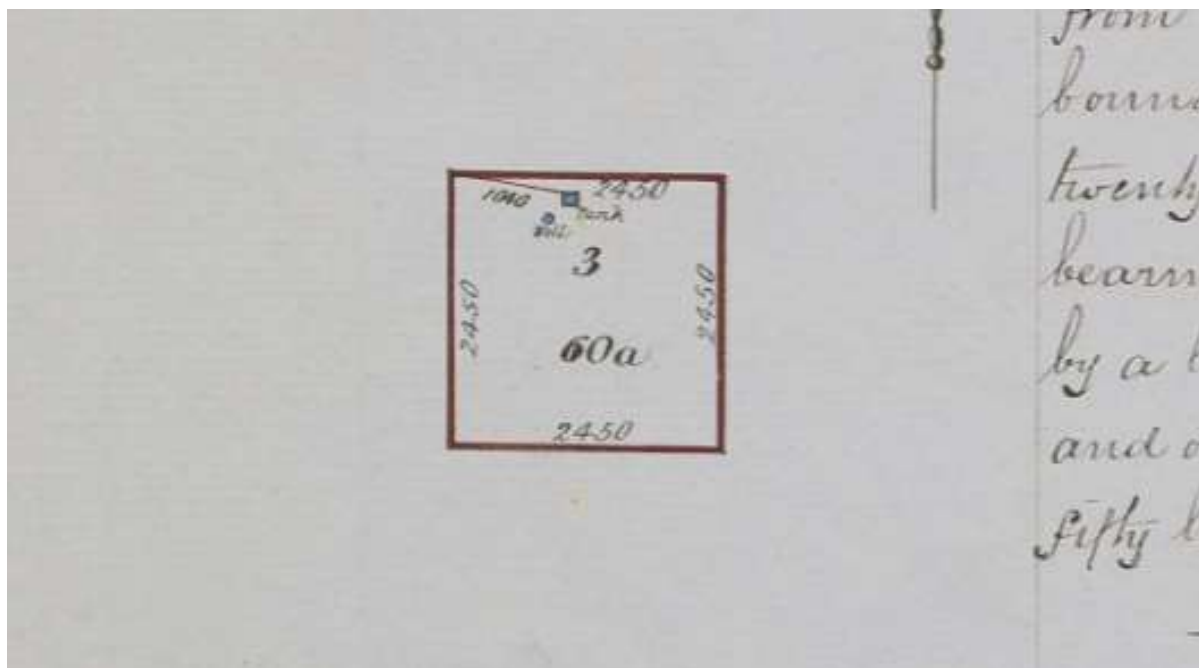


Figure 1.6 Excerpt from Vol-Fol 472-128 showing water tank and well existing on the property in 1876.

The second allotment is located in the centre-north portion of the subject site (Lot 1, DP756995). Similarly to the above allotment, Lot 1, DP756995 has an almost identical ownership history, with the volume and folio for the property (Vol-Fol: 763-31) showing a tank existing on this lot in 1885 when it was first leased (Figure 1.7). This is supported by the pastoral map of Tapio which also indicates a tank is also located here.

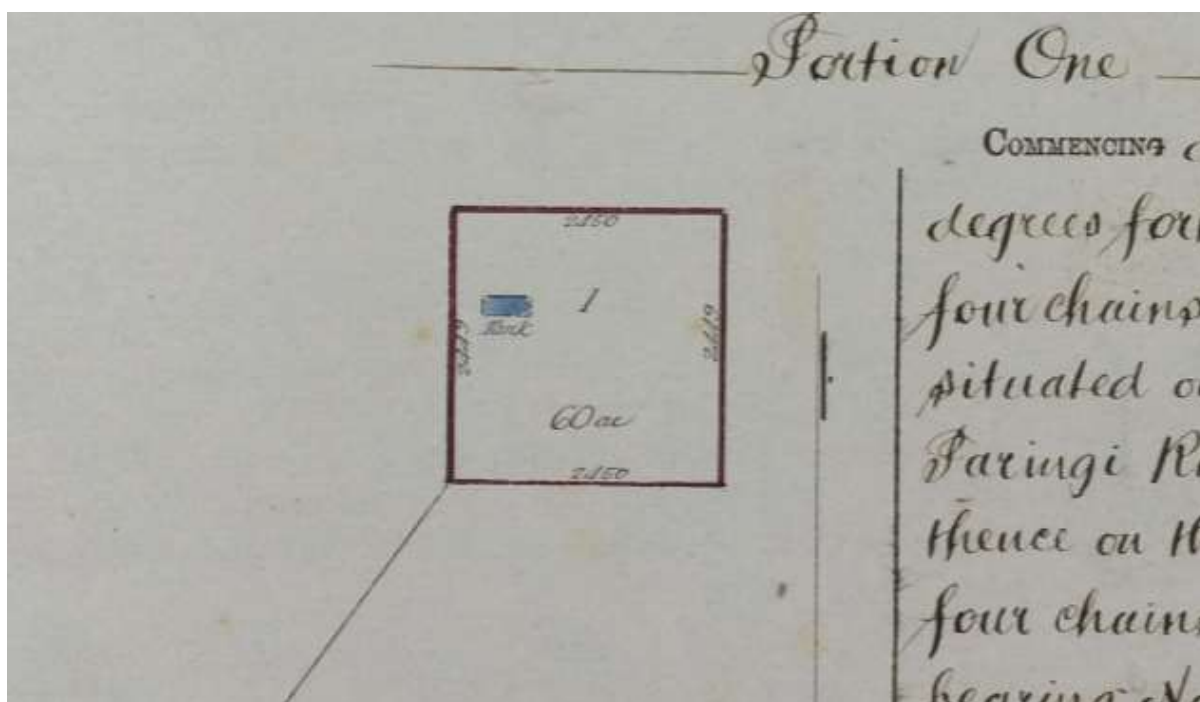


Figure 1.7 Excerpt from Vol-Fol 763-31 showing water tank existing on the property in 1885.

From the available documentation of the Tapio station, it appears the smaller properties associated with access to specific wells or tanks were leased out for grazing purposes, however there is no indication of any additional structures built for the leaseholders or stockmen. The subject site in relation to the Tapio pastoral run boundaries is shown in (Figure 1.8).

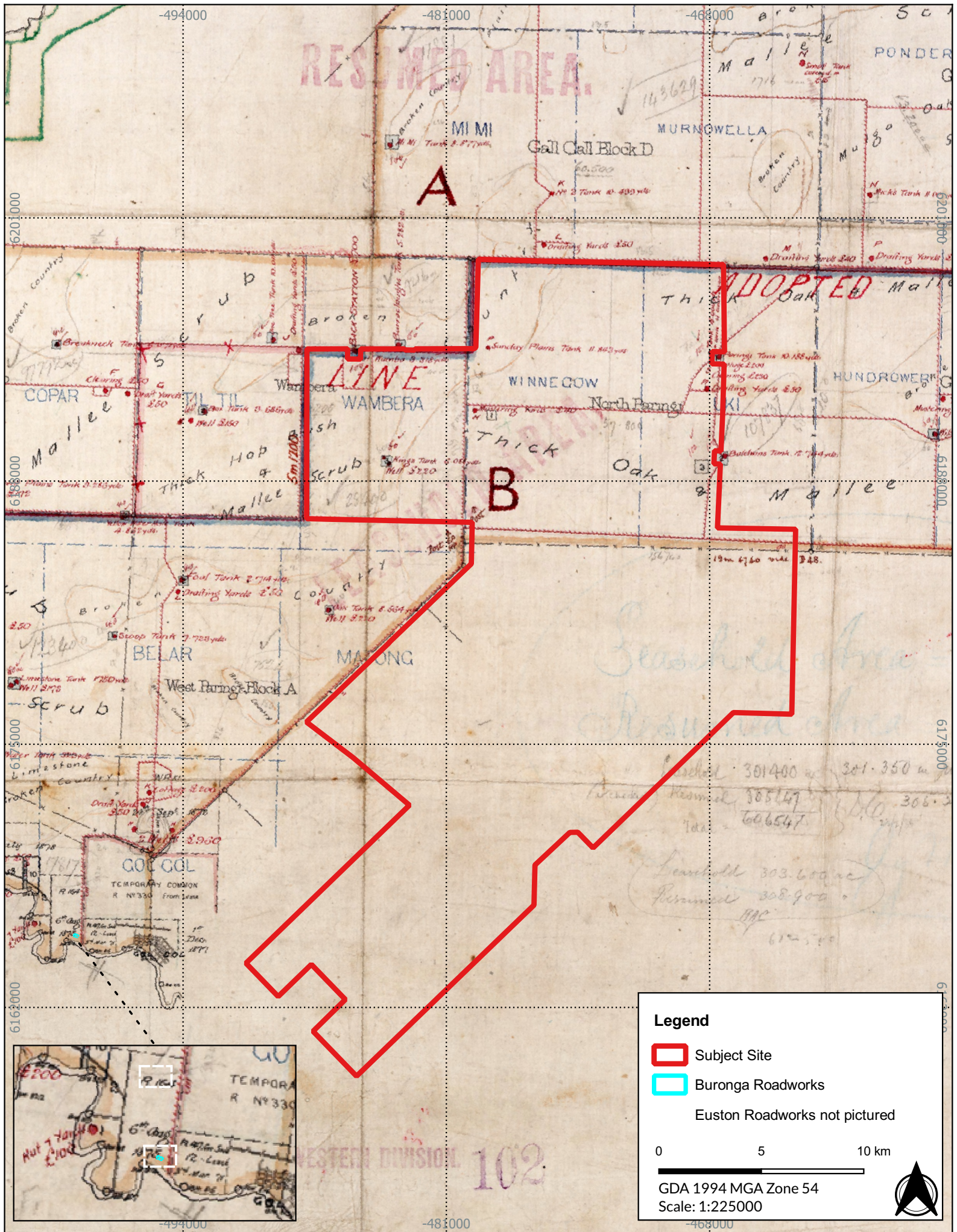


Figure 1.8 - Map of Tapio run with subject site and offsite roadworks overlaid
 22078 - Mallee Windfarm - SoHI

Source: NSW LPI Basemap, HLRV NSW

Drawn by: FOT Date: 2024-08-13



MALLEE CLIFFS PASTORAL RUN

Mallee Cliffs pastoral run is located directly south and south-east of the Tapio run although it is significantly smaller in size. Mallee Cliffs was connected to the nearby township of Gol Gol along the Murray River by an overland stock route between NSW and South Australia. It is suggested by On Site Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd (2017, p. 26) that Mallee Cliffs was established by squatters/pastoralists McFarlane and McDonald prior to 1866 as a leasehold property of 20,480 acres (8,288 hectares). However, an advertisement in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* (9 July 1851, p. 1075) states that the property was transferred to McFarlane and McDonald by the previous occupant, John McKinlay in 1851. This is supported by the profile summary of John McKinlay by Australian Dictionary of Biography (1974) which suggests that he made money by taking up squatting leases on the River Darling and selling them.

The semi-arid landscape of the Wentworth Shire meant that a lot of the pastoral runs and stations could only be stocked at low rates (On Site Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd 2017, p. 26). As a result, the NSW Government moved to break up the large pastoral landholdings in the area through the *Crown Lands Act 1884*. However, with the low rainfalls and frequent droughts in the area, Mallee Cliffs was repossessed by the Commonwealth Bank of South Australia by 1889 after their owners became bankrupt (On Site Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd 2017, p. 26). Further attempts were made in 1901 by the NSW Government to break up the former large landholding in the region with the *Western Lands Act 1901* and it is possible that Mallee Cliffs was further subdivided at this time.

The main homestead and Hotel Inn within the Mallee Cliffs station was closer to the township of Euston and along the Murray River which is a significant distance from the subject site (*Adelaide Observer*, 26 July 1873, p. 8 and *The Pictorial Australian*, 1 April 1887, p. 51). Further to this, the Plan of Management for the Mallee Cliffs National Park (2018, p. 5) states that “the homestead and majority of outbuildings associated with the former Mallee Cliffs Station have been demolished”. There is only one tank that is noted to have existed within the subject site boundaries of the Mallee Cliffs station area, and this is located in the south-western portion of the subject site. Due to the map not containing any specific name for the tank, no information was able to be retrieved on this particular feature.

Similarly to Tapio, although more unsuccessful, the Mallee Cliffs pastoral run was established by squatters and leased to graziers overtime; however, it was frequently affected by leaseholders going bankrupt. The use of the Mallee Cliffs run seems to have been significantly less than Tapio. The subject site in relation to the Mallee Cliffs pastoral run boundaries is shown in (Figure 1.9).

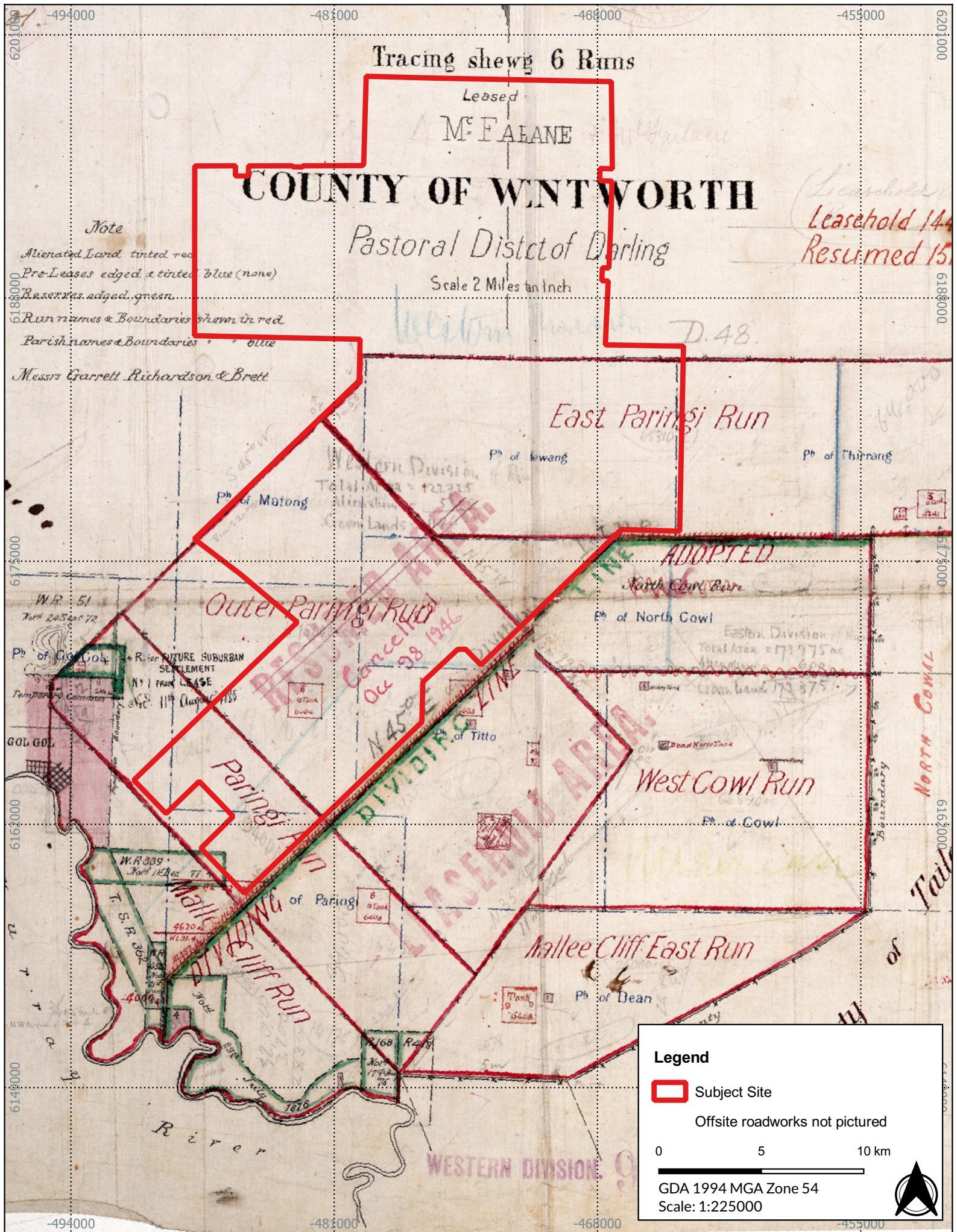


Figure 1.9 - Map of Mallee Cliffs pastoral run with subject site overlaid

22078 - Mallee Windfarm - SoHI

Source: NSW LPI Basemap, HLRV NSW

Drawn by: FOT Date: 2024-08-13



PHASE 2 – LAND USE FROM 1960s TO PRESENT

It seems that the subject site was still being used for the purpose of grazing after the 1960s, with the title history for 2 Tapio run tank sites noting them being purchased by Kevin Albert Byrnes, a grazier from Wamberra station (Vol-Fol 472-128 and 763-31). However, the remainder of the cadastral boundaries within the subject site appear to have remained crown land throughout their historical occupation.

Further, the historical aerials from 1964 (Figure 1.10) and 1993 (Figure 1.11) do not show any evidence of structural remains or any activities other than pastoral activities occurring within the subject site throughout the latter half of the 20th century.

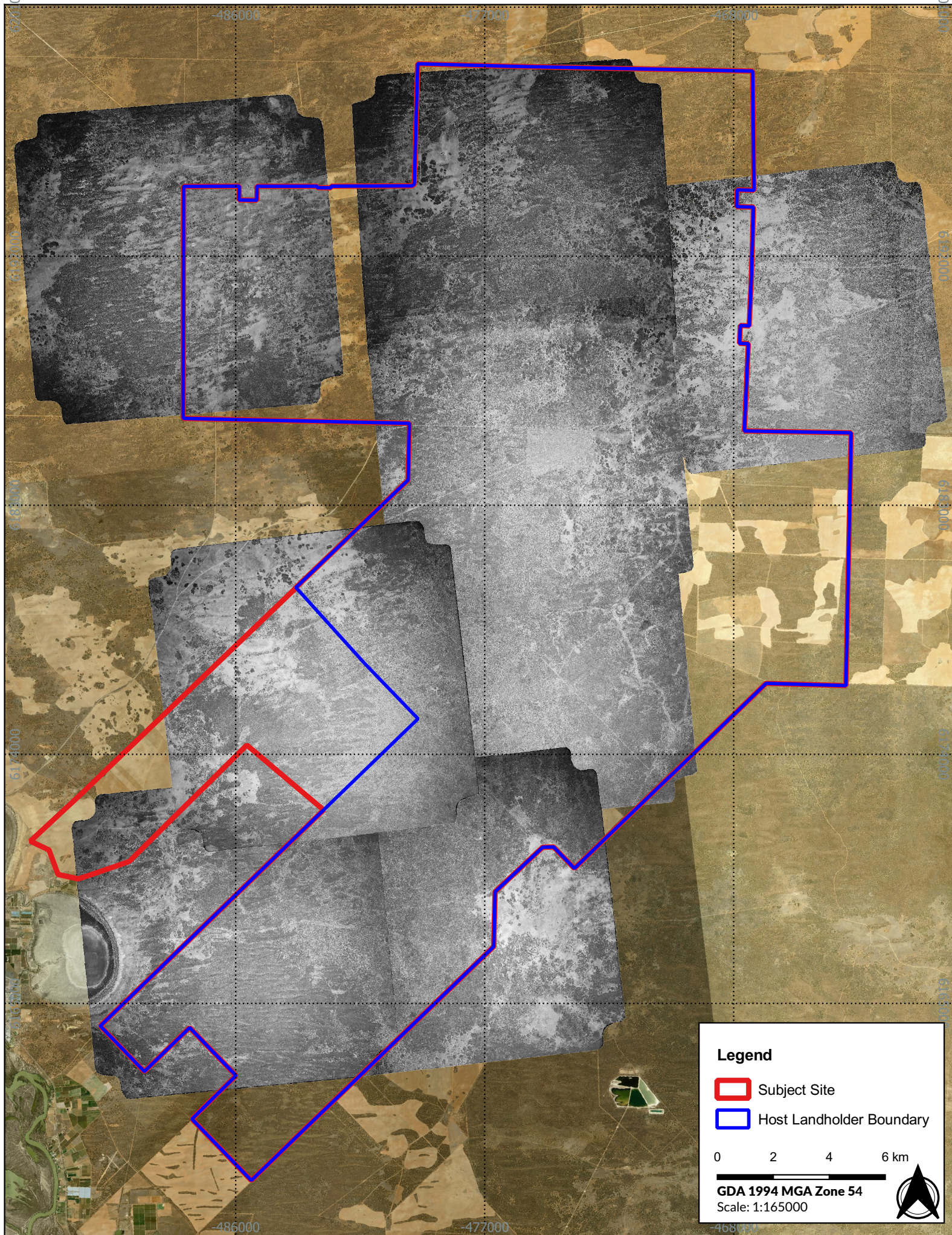


Figure 1.10 - 1964 Aerials of the subject site

22078 - Mallee Windfarm - SoHI

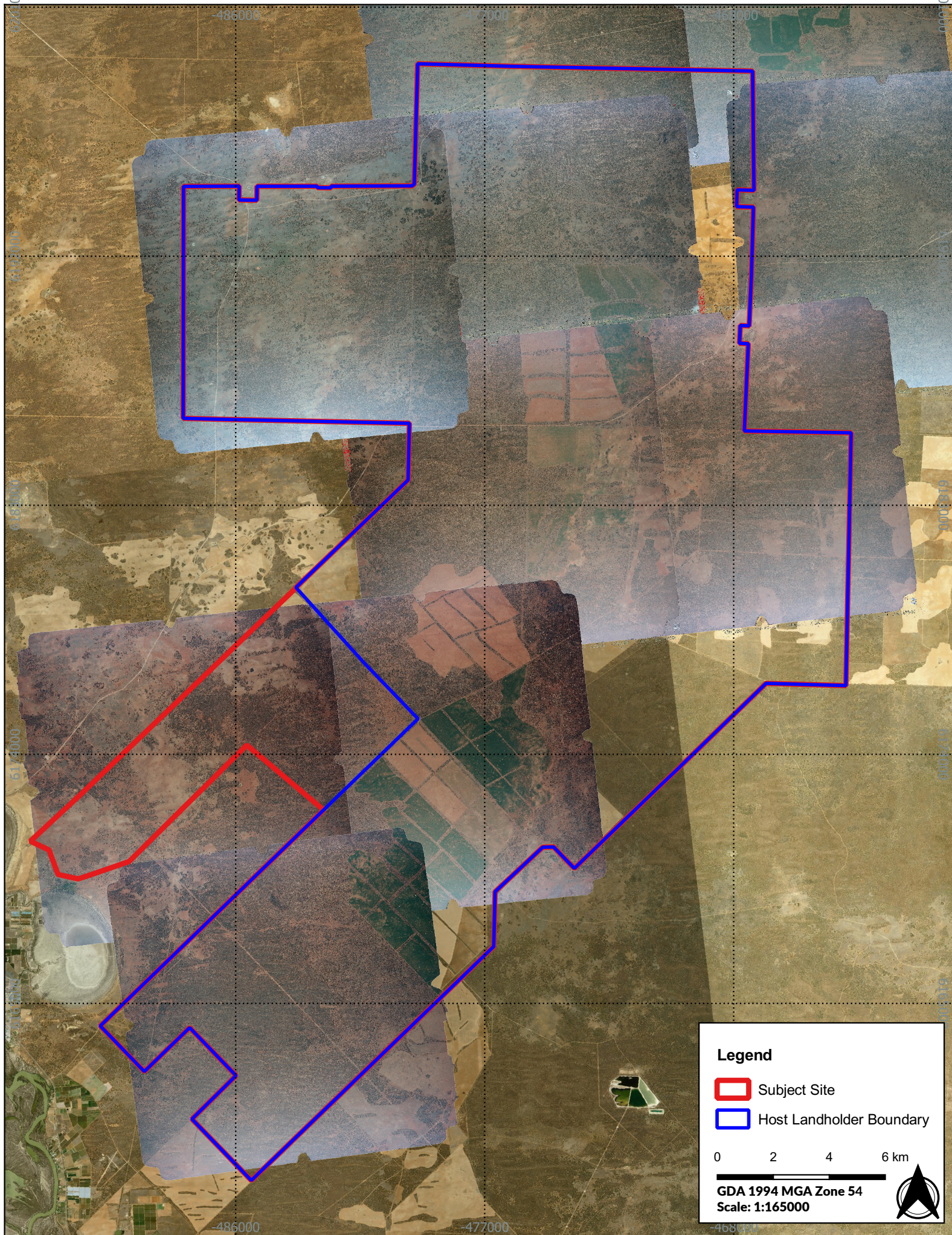


Figure 1.11 - 1993 Aerials of the subject site

22078 - Mallee Windfarm - SoHI

1.2.2 PREVIOUS PHYSICAL CHANGES

Table 1.2 outlines an overview of the chronological events within the subject site.

Table 1.2 Summary of chronological events relating to the subject site.

Phase	Summary	Date Range
0	The subject site would have been inhabited by the Barkindji, Latji Latji, Muthi Muthi and Yitha Yitha Aboriginal traditional owners.	Pre-1829
1	<p>Pastoral squatters establish large land holdings along the Murray and Darling rivers in the Sunraysia district.</p> <p>Tapio station established by Fletcher and his sons, 20 kilometres north of Wentworth along the Darling River.</p> <p>Mallee Cliffs pastoral run established by McKinlay and quickly transferred to McFarlane and McDonald.</p> <p>Both Tapio and Mallee Cliffs pastoral runs used for sheep grazing until the mid-20th century.</p> <p>Mallee Cliffs National Park resumed by the NSW Government in 1977.</p>	1829 – 1960s
2	Grazing activities continue throughout the latter half of the 20 th century and into the 21 st century.	1960s – Present

1.3 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

The following section details the condition of the heritage item, in particular the areas impacted by the proposal.

SITE SURVEY

The site inspection was conducted by Taylor Foster (Senior Archaeologist, Austral) and Teleeha Thomas (Graduate Archaeologist, Austral) between 13 and 17 June 2023, with an additional survey taking place between 18 and 24 March 2024 by Crystal Wooding (Archaeologist, Austral) and Carmen Baulch (Archaeologist, Austral). The inspection consisted of a systematic survey of the subject site to identify historical heritage within the subject site, focusing on the proposed works area. The subject site is situated within land zoned for Environmental Conservation and Primary Production and is bordered by Mallee Cliffs National Park with agricultural land to the south and north, the township of Gol Gol and the Murray River to the west, and agricultural land to the east. The Mallee Cliffs National Park is a significant conservation area; however, it does not have any heritage status or current heritage listings. There are direct viewlines between the subject site and the Mallee Cliffs National Park.

Due to the size of the subject site, it was divided into 4 Survey Units (SUs) corresponding with the differing landscapes. These were named SU 1, SU 2, SU 3 and SU 4.

SU 1 was characterised by Mallee sand dunes and exhibited evidence of previous agricultural land use and pastoral practices; however, no evidence of European occupation other than agricultural disturbance is present within this survey unit. An example of the landform context within SU 1 is shown in Figure 1.12 and Figure 1.13.



Figure 1.12 South facing view showing landform context of SU 1.



Figure 1.13 West facing view of vegetation within SU 1.

SU 2 was characterised by a ridge and crest landform, also within the Mallee dune system. Most areas within this survey unit contained undisturbed areas consisting of both native and introduced vegetation. Disturbances present in these areas largely comprised farm vehicle tracks, dirt roads, fence lines and signs of agricultural practices such as cropping. No evidence of historical heritage was identified in this survey unit. An example of the landform context within SU 2 is shown in Figure 1.14 and Figure 1.15.



Figure 1.14 South facing view of landform context in SU 2.



Figure 1.15 West facing view of vegetation within SU 2.

SU 3 was comprised of an undulating plain and flat landform. Most areas of SU 3, as with SU 2, had native and introduced vegetation throughout. Disturbances present in these areas largely comprised agricultural practices such as cropping as well as land clearing, farm vehicle tracks, dirt roads, fence lines and some stock erosion. No evidence of historical heritage was identified in SU 3. An example of the landform context within SU 3 is shown in Figure 1.16 and Figure 1.17.



Figure 1.16 West facing view showing disturbance in the form of land clearing in SU 3.



Figure 1.17 South facing view of the vegetation within SU 3.

SU 4 comprised of a sloped landform, with native and introduced vegetation species throughout. The survey unit was characterised by red silty sand with high ground visibility. Disturbances present in these areas were largely due to agricultural practices such as cropping, land clearing, farm vehicle tracks, dirt roads, fence lines and some stock erosion. No evidence of historical heritage was identified in SU 4. An example of the landform context within SU 4 is shown in Figure 1.18.



Figure 1.18 West facing view showing landform context in SU 4.

The results of the site inspection did not identify any evidence of historical relics or built heritage remaining in the subject site relating to its post-European land occupation. As such, the potential for heritage to exist within the subject site has been determined as being low.

2 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

2.1 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS was formulated in 1979 (revised 1999 and 2013) [Australia ICOMOS 2013], based largely on the Venice Charter (for International Heritage) of 1966. The Burra Charter is the standard adopted by most heritage practitioners in Australia. The Charter divides significance into four categories for the purpose of assessment. They are: Aesthetic, Historical, Scientific/Technical, and Social significance.

An assessment of cultural significance seeks to establish the importance that a place has to the community. The concept of cultural significance is intrinsically tied to the fabric of the place, its history, setting and its relationship to other items in its surrounds and the response it evokes from the community.

The assessment of cultural significance with respect to archaeological sites can present difficulties because the nature and extent of the “relics” are often indeterminate, and value judgements therefore need to be made based on potential attributes. The element of judgement can be greatly reduced by historical or other research, as have been completed for the current study. Archaeological deposits and features provide important evidence of the history and settlement of NSW. These heritage items may include deposits containing material culture (artefacts) that can be analysed to yield information regarding early urban development that is unavailable from other sources. Archaeological investigations can reveal much about technology, industry, past economic and social conditions and people's lives. Sites that contain these elements therefore have scientific value that may be of considerable significance when analysed in association with documentary evidence. It is through this potential to reveal information about the past use of a place that archaeological sites have heritage significance.

2.2 BASIS FOR ASSESSMENT

The Heritage Council of NSW has established a set of 7 criteria to be used in assessing cultural heritage significance in NSW, and specific guidelines have been produced to assist archaeologists in assessing significance for subsurface deposits (Heritage Council of New South Wales 2009; NSW Heritage Office 2001). The Heritage Council's criteria incorporate those of the Burra Charter, but are expanded to include rarity, representative value, and associative value.

In order to determine the significance of a historical site, the Heritage Council have determined that the following seven criteria are to be considered (NSW Heritage Office 2001):

- **Criterion (a):** an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);
- **Criterion (b):** an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);
- **Criterion (c):** an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);
- **Criterion (d):** an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (or the local area);
- **Criterion (e):** an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);
- **Criterion (f):** an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area); and

- **Criterion (g):** an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or the local area).

These criteria were designed for use on known or built heritage items, where above ground heritage is both tangible and easily identified. Due to the nature of archaeology being that it is invisible until disturbed, the presence and attributes of archaeological material must be assumed based on the recorded levels of disturbance, known site history and the creation of predictive statements. Ultimately, the actual presence of archaeological material can only ever be framed in terms of the potential for it to be present. The following assessment therefore deals with the built and archaeological potential within the subject site in a consolidated manner.

2.3 LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Heritage Act allows for the protection of heritage items of State or local significance. The levels of significance can be defined as:

- Items of State significance are of special interest in a State context. They form an irreplaceable part of the environmental heritage of NSW and must have some connection of association to the State.
- Items of local significance are of special interest to the local region. They are important to the local community and often form an important part of the local identity. Collectively, such items reflect the cultural or natural history of the given area.

2.4 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

The following section addresses the significance of the potential archaeological resource in accordance with the criteria adopted in the Heritage Council's significance guidelines (Department of Planning and Environment 2023, pp. 21-48), using selected questions from the guidelines. These are provided in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Assessment of significance.

Criterion	Assessment
(A) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);	The subject site has historically been used for pastoral activities and has not been associated with any occupational pursuits which could be considered important to the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history. As such, it does not meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.
(B) an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);	The northern portion of the subject site was owned by Dr Dugald Fletcher, a significant pioneer of the Wentworth Shire; however, as the main residence and occupation of his land was focused on the Darling River, there is no evidence to suggest that any material relating Fletcher will be present within the subject site. As such, it does not meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.

Criterion	Assessment
(C) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);	<p>The subject site has had minimal evidence of occupation since the original settlement in the 1800s and has historically been used for pastoral reasons. Additionally, there are no built heritage structures or built structures in general within the subject site.</p> <p>As such, it does not meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.</p>
(D) an item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (or the local area);	<p>As Fletcher had established a residence a good distance away from the subject site, the property does not have a special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</p> <p>As such, it does not meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.</p>
(E) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);	<p>Based on the research conducted, the subject site is unlikely to contain items that would add scientific or research value to the known historical records of the region.</p> <p>As such, it does not meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.</p>
(F) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);	<p>The subject site is indicative of a typical property within the Wentworth Shire.</p> <p>As such, it does not meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.</p>
(G) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or the local area).	<p>The subject site is indicative of a typical pastoral property in the Wentworth Shire and does not exhibit any evidence of having important environmental features relating to European land use.</p> <p>As such, it does not meet the threshold for listing under this criterion.</p>

2.5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the subject site does not possess historical significance or any built heritage items, a Statement of Significance is not required in this case. Based on the research undertaken for this assessment, there is no evidence to suggest that any significant heritage items are present within the subject site.

3 PROPOSED WORKS

3.1 THE PROPOSAL

The proposed works will include the installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of up to 76 WTGs, BESS facilities, ancillary infrastructure and temporary facilities associated with construction of the proposed works.

The key components of the proposed works include:

- Up to 76 (3 blade) WTGs, with a maximum blade-tip height of 280 metres above ground. The hub height for each WTG is 180 metres, and the blade diameter inclusive of the nacelle is 200 metres.
- A single grid-scale 100 MW /200-megawatt hour (MWh) BESS.
- Permanent ancillary infrastructure including internal roads, hardstands, main and collector substations, switchyards, operations and maintenance facilities, underground and overhead electricity transmission lines and poles, telecommunications facilities and utility services, permanent meteorological masts and water storage tanks.
- Temporary facilities including temporary workforce accommodation (TWA) camp (if required), site offices, amenities, construction compounds and laydown areas, concrete or asphalt batching plants, minor 'work front' construction access roads, environmental management and monitoring and signage.
- Off-site road works, involving upgrades to the proposed local transport route and establishment of site access points to facilitate delivery of wind turbine components to the Project Area as required (Figure 1.2).

3.1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE PROPOSAL PRE-LODGE MENT CONSULTATION

As the proposal is an SSD, project specific SEARs were provided. The historic heritage requirements within the SEARs are located on page 4 and state that:

The EIS must address the following specific issues for the wind farm and associated infrastructure: an assessment of the impacts to historic heritage having regard to the NSW Heritage Manual.

It is noted that further advice from Heritage NSW stated that consideration of historic heritage values should be in the format of a SoHI (HMS ID 2248). The impacts to historic heritage have therefore been addressed in this SoHI, and as this assessment has not identified impacts to either heritage items or potential archaeological resources as a result of the proposed works, the SEARs have been appropriately addressed.

3.1.2 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

As there is no identified heritage significance within the subject site, no alternative design options need to be considered and/or discounted.

4 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this section is to present a comprehensive assessment of identified heritage from the proposed works.

4.1 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The following sections cover the matters for consideration as to their impact on the heritage values of the item from the proposed works.

FABRIC AND SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS

As there is no identified heritage within the subject site, there is no change or impact on heritage fabric or spatial arrangements.

SETTING, VIEWS AND VISTAS

As no heritage has been identified within the subject site, there is no impact on the setting, views or vistas from the proposed works.

LANDSCAPE WORKS

As there is no identified heritage within the subject site, there is no impact from landscape works on heritage.

USE

As there is no identified heritage within the subject site, there is no impact on the use at the site from the proposed works.

DEMOLITION

No demolition is noted within the proposed works.

CURTILAGE

As there is no identified heritage within the subject site, there is no impact on heritage curtilage from the proposed works.

MOVEABLE HERITAGE

There is no moveable heritage associated with the site.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

Aboriginal cultural heritage is managed through the ACHA for this project (Austral, 2024).

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

As no historic heritage was identified within the historical record, nor during the site survey, it is not expected that any historical archaeology is present within the subject site.

If historical archaeological relics not assessed or anticipated by this report are found during undertaking of the works, all works in the immediate vicinity are to cease immediately and Heritage NSW be notified. A qualified archaeologist is to be contacted to assess the situation and consult with Heritage NSW regarding the most appropriate course of action.

NATURAL HERITAGE

No natural heritage has been identified within the subject site and therefore will not be impacted by the proposed works.

CONSERVATION AREA

The subject site is not within an area of heritage conservation.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

As there is no identified heritage within the subject site, there is no risk of cumulative impact within the subject site.

OTHER HERITAGE ITEMS IN THE VICINITY

To assist in understanding the impact on heritage within the vicinity of the subject site, the authors of this report assessed the Visual Impact Assessment completed by Moir Landscape Architecture from July 2024. The Visual Impact assessment demonstrates that there will be between 86 and 129 wind turbines visible at a distance of at least 18 kilometres to the east of the subject site (Moir Landscape Architects 2024). While the subject site contains no heritage significance and is not listed on any heritage registers, the viewlines from heritage items within proximity to the subject site must be considered within this assessment. Heritage items with potential viewlines from the subject site are included on Figure 4.1 and include the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area.

The visibility of the wind turbines from a significant distance from the subject site will have an impact on the viewlines from a number of heritage items to the subject site; however, it is unlikely to negatively impact the items or create visual intrusiveness, or be a barrier to the wider views from the items due to their distance to the works. Therefore, it is not expected the proposed works will impact negatively on the overall views of the heritage items within the vicinity.

COMMONWEALTH/NATIONAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The subject site is not listed on the NHL or CHL.

WORLD HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The subject site is not listed on the WHL.

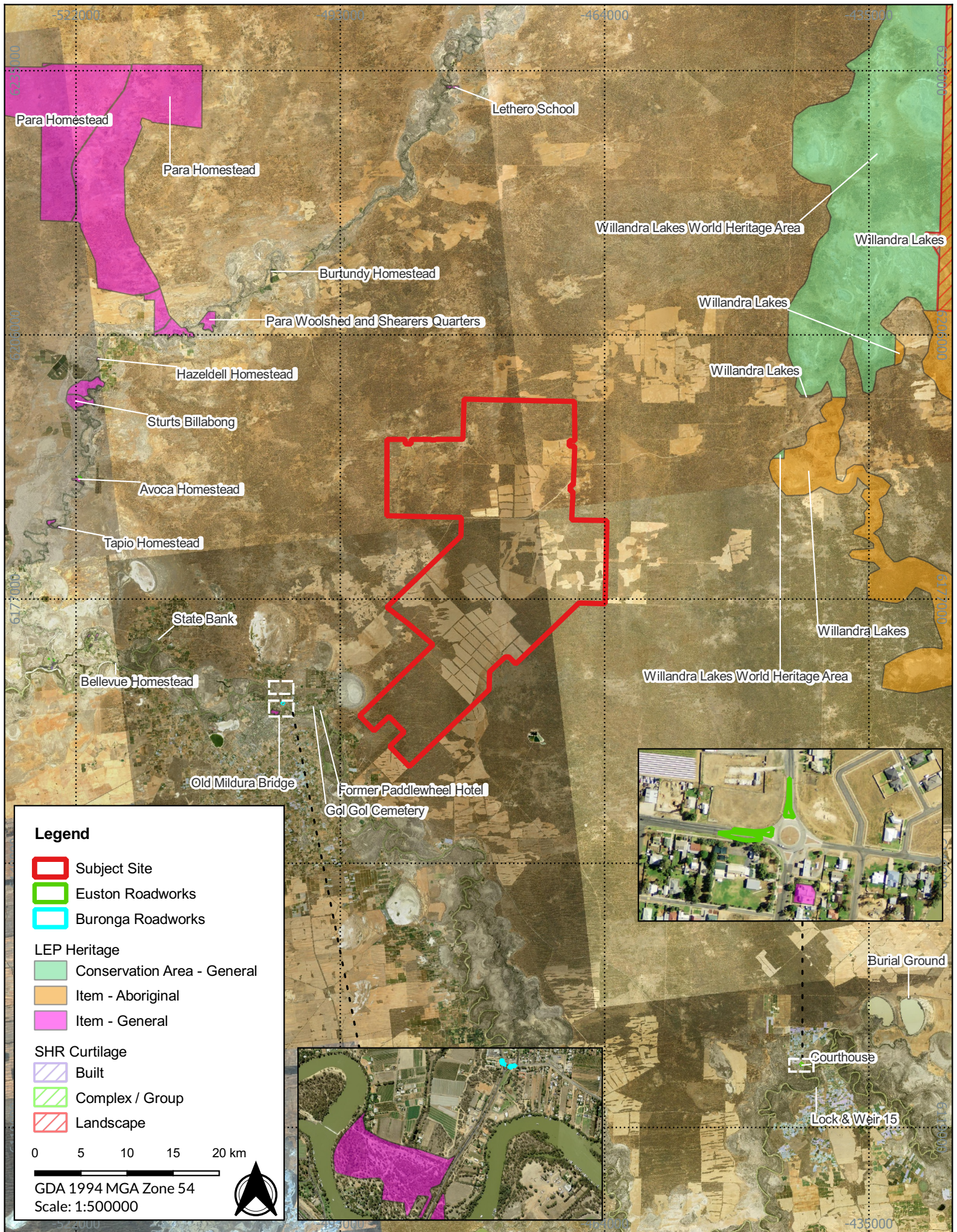


Figure 4.1 - Heritage items in relation to the subject site and offsite roadworks

22078 - Mallee Windfarm - SoHI

Source: NSW LPI Aerial, LEP Heritage, SHR Curtilage

Drawn by: FOT Date: 2024-08-13



5 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

The historical research and site survey has identified that it is unlikely that any historical or archaeological material related to the ownerships of the subject site throughout the 19th and 20th centuries will be revealed during the construction of the works. Any material found is likely to be discarded farming implements and landfill, which is of little significance and is commonly found throughout the local area.

As such, no heritage values have been identified to exist within the subject site, and **the proposed works are considered acceptable from a heritage standpoint.**

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

To mitigate the harm documented in this assessment, it is recommended that:

- 1) No further works or assessments are required in regard to historical heritage, and the proposed works can proceed with caution.
- 2) If historical archaeological relics not assessed or anticipated by this report are found during the undertaking of the works, all works in the immediate vicinity are to cease immediately and Heritage NSW be notified. A qualified archaeologist is to be contacted to assess the situation and consult with Heritage NSW regarding the most appropriate course of action.
- 3) Should the actual development be altered significantly from the proposed design, then a reassessment of the heritage impact may be required. This includes any impacts not explicitly stated in Section 4 and the installation of any subsurface services.
- 4) Provide a copy of this report to relevant stakeholders including the Wentworth Historical Society and Heritage NSW.

6 REFERENCES

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