



View southeast to Kookaburra HS-01 at the south of the Project area.

HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

BURROWAY SOLAR POWER STATION

NARROMINE SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NSW

SEPTEMBER 2023

Report prepared by
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for Edify Energy Pty Ltd.



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Acknowledgement

OzArk acknowledge the traditional custodians of the area on which this assessment took place and pay respect to their beliefs, cultural heritage, and continuing connection with the land. We also acknowledge and pay respect to the post-contact experiences of Aboriginal people with attachment to the area and to the Elders, past and present, as the next generation of role models and vessels for memories, traditions, culture and hopes of local Aboriginal people.

ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. As set out in the <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i> , all developments where harm to Aboriginal objects is likely must be
DPE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement. A required document for major projects documenting all potential impacts to the environment, including heritage, that may arise due to the development.
Heritage Act	<i>Heritage Act 1977</i> . Provides for the protection and conservation of historical places and objects or cultural heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects.
Heritage Council	The Heritage Council makes decisions about the care and protection of heritage places and items that have been identified as being significant to the people of NSW.
Heritage NSW	Government department tasked with ensuring compliance with the NPW Act. Heritage NSW is advised by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC).
HHMP	Historic Heritage Management Plan
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . Primary legislation governing Aboriginal cultural heritage within NSW.
SOHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements issued by DPIE
SHR	State Heritage Register

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Edify Energy Pty Ltd to complete a Historic Heritage Assessment Report (HHAR) for the proposed Burroway Solar Power Station (the Project). The Project is located at Lot 70 DP1251856, 1955 Eumungerie Road, Burroway and is in the Narromine Shire Council Local Government Area.

The purpose of the assessment is to form part of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) to accompany an application for development consent under Division 4.1 and 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

This HHAR has been undertaken in accordance with the *Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements* (SEARs) and the *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Council 2006).

Desktop database searches completed prior to survey showed that no listed historic heritage items are located within or near to the Project area. The historic heritage survey was completed on 15 and 16 May 2023 and took place at the same time as the Aboriginal heritage assessment for the Project (OzArk 2023).

One item with potential historic heritage values, the Kookaburra homestead complex (Kookaburra-HS01) was recorded within the Project area. No locations within the Project area were assessed as having potential to contain significant historic subsurface archaeological deposits.

Kookaburra-HS01 has been assessed as having no heritage significance under the current Heritage NSW guidelines and the Burra Charter.

Recommendations concerning historic values within the Project area are as follows:

1. Following development consent of the Project, a Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP) will be developed and then used during the construction and life of the Project. If items of historic heritage significance are uncovered during the project, then the anticipated finds protocols in the HHMP will be enacted. An example of an *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* is provided in **Section 7.3.1**.
2. Kookaburra-HS01 currently sits outside of the construction area and is therefore unlikely to be impacted. However, should the item be considered an impediment or hazard in the future it may be removed without employing any further management measures. The item has been assessed as having no heritage significance and this report is a sufficient record of the item.
3. It is assessed that ground disturbing works associated with the project will not harm significant historical archaeological deposits and no further archaeological investigation is required.

4. All land-disturbing activities must be confined within the assessed Project area. Should impacts change such that the area impacted is outside of the assessed Project area, then additional assessment may be required.

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1 INTRODUCTION

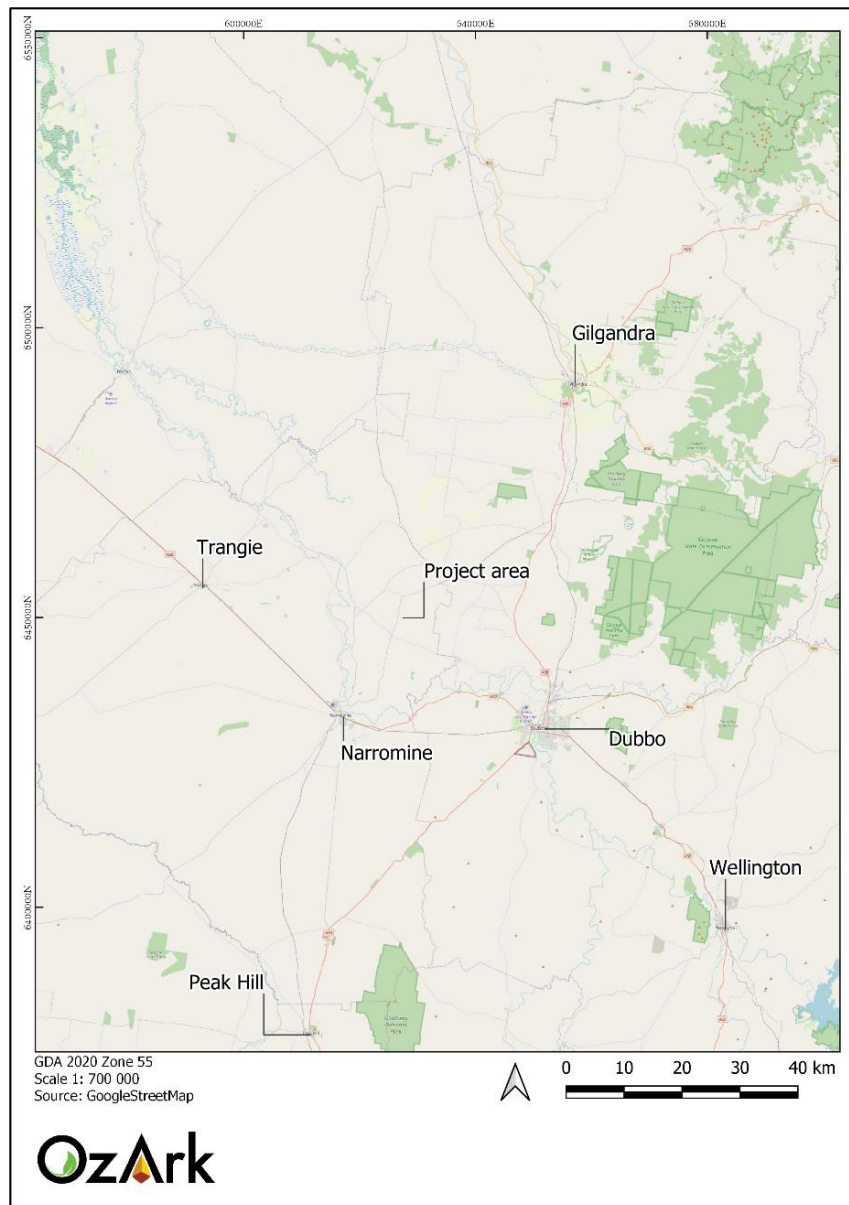
1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Edify Energy Pty Ltd (the proponent) to complete an Historic Heritage Assessment Report (HHAR) for the proposed Burroway Solar Power Station (the Project) (**Figure 1-1**).

The purpose of the assessment is to form part of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) to accompany an application for development consent under Division 4.1 and 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the Project.

The Project is in the locality of Burroway, near Narromine in central western NSW (**Figure 1-1**). The Project is located within the Narromine Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA) on land zoned RU1 – Primary Production under the *Narromine Local Environmental Plan 2011* (LEP).

Figure 1-1: Map showing the location of the Project.



1.2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Project involves the construction of a 100-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) generator with an estimated 100 MW / 400 MW per hour energy storage capacity. Solar panels will be mounted on frames which are able to track and absorb sunlight to generate energy which is increased to 33 kilovolt (kV) power by integrated transformers. An adjacent substation is proposed to then increase the 33kV electrical current to 132kV.

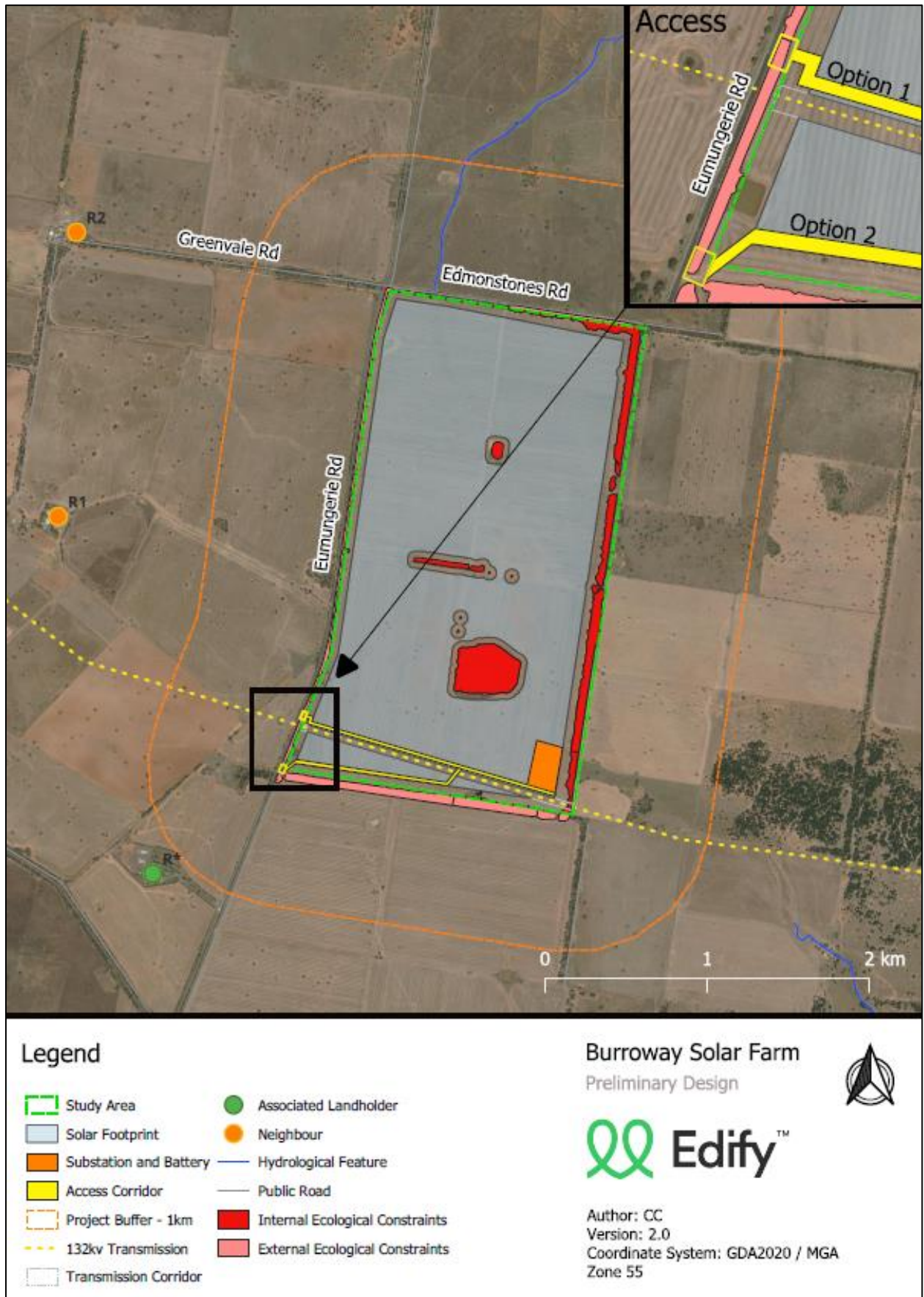
The Project will connect to an existing 132kV transmission line located at the south-western corner of the Project area.

The Project features an option to incorporate batteries into the facility to allow storage of power on site, which will likely store sufficient power to enable power to be distributed to the network outside of sunlight hours, likely during the evening and morning peak times. Exact detail on the size and volume of the battery enclosures are unknown at this time as battery technology is an evolving technology with the size and capacity of the batteries changing at rapid rate. The Project layout is shown on **Figure 1-2**.

The following infrastructure is required for the Project:

- photovoltaic solar panels
- battery energy storage system(s)
- tracking system
- piled foundations
- DC/AC Inverter stations
- internal access tracks
- underground medium voltage network
- administration and amenities building
- vehicle car park
- security fencing
- substation.

Figure 1-2: Preliminary design for the Project showing the impact footprint.



1.3 PROJECT AREA

The Project area is located approximately 18 kilometres (km) north of Narromine and 2 km east of Burroway, NSW at Lot 70 DP1251856, 1955 Eumungerie Road. The Project area consists of approximately 470 hectares (ha) of flat or gently sloping paddocks which have been mostly cleared of vegetation and used for agricultural purposes (**Figure 1-3**).

Figure 1-3: Project area



Remnant vegetation is clustered along the boundary of the Project area. There are two areas where vegetation remains at the centre and in the southeast of the Project area and three dams have also been constructed within the Project area. The only structures located within the Project area are the remains of an early 20th century house and its associated outbuildings.

2 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: INTRODUCTION

2.1 ASSESSMENT APPROACH

The inspection and assessment of heritage significance follows the:

- The International Council on Monuments and Sites' *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Burra Charter 2013)
- Heritage Council's *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Council 2006)
- Heritage Council's *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* (Heritage Council 2009)
- NSW Heritage Office's *Assessing heritage significance* (NSW Heritage Office 2001).

2.2 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Cultural heritage is managed by several state and national Acts. Baseline principles for the conservation of heritage places and relics can be found in the *Burra Charter* (Burra Charter 2013). The *Burra Charter* has become the standard of best practice in the conservation of heritage places in Australia, and heritage organisations and local government authorities have incorporated the inherent principles and logic into guidelines and other conservation planning documents. The *Burra Charter* generally advocates a cautious approach to changing places of heritage significance. This conservative notion embodies the basic premise behind legislation designed to protect our heritage, which operates primarily at a state level.

Several Acts of parliament provide for the protection of heritage at various levels of government.

2.2.1 Commonwealth legislation

2.2.1.1 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*

The EPBC Act, administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, provides a framework to protect nationally significant flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places. The EPBC Act establishes both a National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List of protected places. These lists may include Aboriginal cultural sites or sites in which Aboriginal people have interests. The assessment and permitting processes of the EPBC Act are triggered when a proposed activity or development could potentially have an impact on one of the matters of national environment significance listed by the Act. Ministerial approval is required under the EPBC Act for proposals involving significant impacts to national/commonwealth heritage places.

Applicability to the Project

It is noted there are no Commonwealth or National heritage listed places within the Project area, and as such, the heritage provisions of the EPBC Act and other Commonwealth Acts do not apply (see **Table 4-1**).

2.2.2 State legislation

2.2.2.1 *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) established requirements relating to land use and planning. The main parts of the EP&A Act that relate to development assessment and approval are Part 4 (development assessment) and Part 5 (environmental assessment). The purpose of the Part 5 assessment system is to ensure public authorities fully consider environmental issues before they undertake or approve activities that do not require development consent from a council or the Minister. The Minister responsible for the Act is the Minister for Planning.

The EP&A Act currently provides the primary legislative basis for planning and environmental assessment in NSW. The objects of the EP&A Act include encouragement of:

- The proper management, development, and conservation of natural resources
- The provision and coordination of the orderly and economic use and development of land
- Protection of the environment, including the protection and conservation of native animals and plants, including threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and their habitats
- Ecologically sustainable development.

The objects also provide for increased opportunity for public involvement and participation in environmental planning and assessment.

The EP&A Act includes provisions to ensure that the potential environmental impacts of a development or activity are rigorously assessed and considered in the decision-making process.

The framework governing environmental and heritage assessment in NSW is contained within the following parts of the EP&A Act:

- Part 4: Local government development assessments, including heritage. May include schedules of heritage items
 - Division 4.7: Approvals process for state significant development.

Applicability to the Project

As the Project is a State Significant Development (SSD), Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act (formerly Section 89J) applies and provides a defence for any investigative or other activities that are required to be carried out for the purpose of complying with any environmental assessment requirements (i.e. Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements [SEARs]: see below).

Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act also notes that an approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under Section 139, of the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) are not required. It is normally a condition of approval for SSD projects that historic heritage be managed under an *Historic Heritage Management Plan* (HHMP).

2.2.2.2 *Heritage Act 1977 (Heritage Act)*

The *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) is applicable to the current assessment. This Act established the Heritage Council of NSW. The Heritage Council's role is to advise the government on the protection of heritage assets, make listing recommendations to the Minister in relation to the State Heritage Register (SHR), and assess/approve/decline proposals involving modification to heritage items or places listed on the SHR. Most proposals involving modification are assessed under Section 60 of the Heritage Act.

Automatic protection is afforded to 'relics', defined as 'any deposit or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprised New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and which holds state or local significance' (note: formerly the Act protected any 'relic' that was more than 50 years old. Now the age determination has been dropped from the Act and relics are protected according to their heritage significance assessment rather than purely on their age). Excavation of land on which it is known or where there is reasonable cause to suspect that 'relics' will be exposed, moved, destroyed, discovered or damaged is prohibited unless ordered under an excavation permit.

Applicability to the project

There are no SHR listed items within 10 km of the Project Area (see **Table 4-1**). Items of local heritage significance that are normally listed in LEPs are also protected under the Heritage Act (see **Section 2.2.3**).

2.2.2.3 *Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements*

SEARs were issued by DPE on 29 March 2023.

Regarding Historic Heritage, the SEARs specify the requirement to:

- *“Assess the impact to historic heritage having regard to the NSW Heritage Manual.”*

No additional requirements from Heritage NSW are contained in the SEARs.

This HHAR has been prepared in accordance with the relevant codes and guidelines required for assessing historic heritage.

2.2.3 Local legislation

Local Environmental Plans

The Project area is within areas administered by the Narromine Shire Council LEP 2011.

The Narromine LEP includes a schedule of heritage conservation areas and items that require either development consent or exemptions for projects that may impact conservation outcomes (Section 5.10). The objectives set out in Section 5.10 of the Narromine LEP state:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of the Narromine Shire Council LGA*
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings, and views,*
- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,*
- (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.*

Section 5.10(3)(a) (i) and (ii) set out the circumstances when a Development Application is not required when there is an impact to heritage items. Exemptions to consent are related to works that are of a minor nature or works that will not adversely impact the heritage values of a place.

Applicability to the Project

There are no items listed on the Narromine LEP within 10 km of the Project area (see **Table 4-1**).

2.3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The current assessment will apply the Heritage Council's *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Council 2006) in the completion of a historical heritage assessment, including field investigations, to meet the following objectives:

- Objective One:** To identify whether historical heritage items or areas are, or are likely to be, present within the project area
- Objective Two:** To assess the significance of any recorded historical heritage items or areas
- Objective Three:** Determine whether the proposal is likely to cause harm to recorded historical heritage items or areas
- Objective Four:** Provide management recommendations and options for mitigating impacts.

2.4 DATE OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

The historic heritage assessment took place at the same time as the Aboriginal heritage assessment. The fieldwork survey was undertaken by Harrison Rochford (OzArk Archaeologist) and Brendan Fisher (OzArk Archaeologist) on 15 and 16 May 2023.

2.4.1 Reporting

The reporting component of the heritage assessment was undertaken by:

- Report author: Dr Bernadette Drabsch (Bachelor of Arts [Hons], PhD, University of Newcastle).
- Report contributor: Harrison Rochford (OzArk Archaeologist, Bachelor of Liberal Studies [Hons], M. Phil, University of Sydney).
- Reviewer: Ben Churcher (OzArk Principal Archaeologist; BA [Hons], Dip Ed).

3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

The Project area is situated at the south-eastern edge of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion, within the Pilliga subregion (NPWS 2003). The Brigalow Belt South bioregion extends from central Queensland to central western NSW. The Project area is situated within the Macquarie Alluvial Plains and Goonoo Slopes landscape units (Mitchell 2002). The topography of the Project area is generally flat plains landforms at an elevation of 270–290 m above sea level. Two portions of marginally increased elevation exist at the centre and north-eastern boundary of the Project area. The Macquarie River is the largest named waterway in the region and is located approximately 8.3 km to the west of the Project area (**Figure 3-2**).

Figure 3-1: Topography of the Project area



Figure 3-2: Topography and hydrology surrounding the Project area



4 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: BACKGROUND

4.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BURROWAY AREA

The project area sits amongst a rural locality known as Burroway, 17 km to the north of Narromine. Prior to British settlement, the area of Narromine and its surrounding region was occupied by the Wiradjuri people. In 1818, explorer John Oxley passed through the district during his exploration of the Macquarie River and was followed by other notable explorers, such as Major Mitchell and Captain Charles Sturt.

In the 1830s, squatters entered the area and began settlement along the Macquarie River, including William Charles Wentworth, the explorer who crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813 and established 'Narramine' station in 1835. The name of the pastoral property came from the Wiradjuri word 'ngarru-mayiny' meaning 'honey people'.

The region became more accessible in 1882 with the arrival of the railway in Narromine and Trangie. In 1893, William O'Neill, one of the first people to grow wheat for grain in Narromine, raised the possibility of irrigation in the Narromine region (NLHG 2004, Umwelt 2017). O'Neill was ahead of his time, since a severe drought began in 1895 which continued to 1903 and caused parts of the Macquarie River to dry up. It was not until the completion of Burrendong Dam in 1969 which provided a stable and consistent water source that irrigation in the Narromine region became more prevalent. Burrendong Dam provided irrigation water for downstream landholders and agriculturalists, who used the water to supplement existing supplies and increase the holding capacity of the riverside holdings or to enable growth of high value crops (Kass 2003). In particular, the completion of Burrendong Dam allowed farmers to complete the Buddah Lake Irrigation Scheme in 1969, the Narromine/Trangie scheme in 1971 and the Trangie/Nevertire scheme in 1973. With the irrigation schemes, crops such as cotton, sorghum, canola, wheat, lucerne, oats and vegetables were more secure (NLHG 2004).

The Narromine area has strong historical ties to the Australian Military, as it was the location of RAAF No. 19 Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot (IAFD) during World War II. The base contributed to the preparation of troops through a training organisation known as the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS). The town was one of only twelve locations for the No. 5 Elementary Flying Training School RAAF in 1940.

4.2 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROJECT AREA

The Project area sits within the Parish of Emogandry, County of Ewenmar. The New South Wales Government Gazette (November 1877) notes that the land was initially leased by Government tender to pioneering graziers, John Maxwell Irving and William Maxwell Irving. They called their lease the West Moonul Run (**Figure 4-1**).

The leased West Moonul Run was then resumed by the Government in 1887. The New South Wales Government Gazette, Thursday 8 November 1888, states that:

It is hereby notified, for general information, that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to revoke under the 102nd section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, the temporary reservation from conditional purchase of the Crown Lands comprised within the West Moonul Run, notified 28th September, 1887, specified in the annexed Schedule, the revocation to take effect at the expiration of sixty days to this date. (Government Gazette Notices).

By 1889 Alexander Fisher had purchased the property. The Parish map of 1912 indicates that the land was then divided, with the northern portion purchased by the Corporation of the Bank of Australasia and southern portion by The Australian Widows Fund Life Assurance Society.

The Parish Map of 1929 lists the owner of the southern portion of the land as T.M. Scott & Sons (**Figure 4-3**). Thomas Scott was one of the earliest members of the Grazier's Association and was appointed to the Timbreebongie Council and many other rural bodies. The Project area appears to have become divided into two ownerships later in the 1920s (**Figure 4-3**).

The buildings at the Project area appear to pre-date 1972, as indicated by the insert on **Figure 4-4**.

Figure 4-1: Parish Map of 1884 showing Irving's West Moonul Run (approximate Project area boundary shown in red)

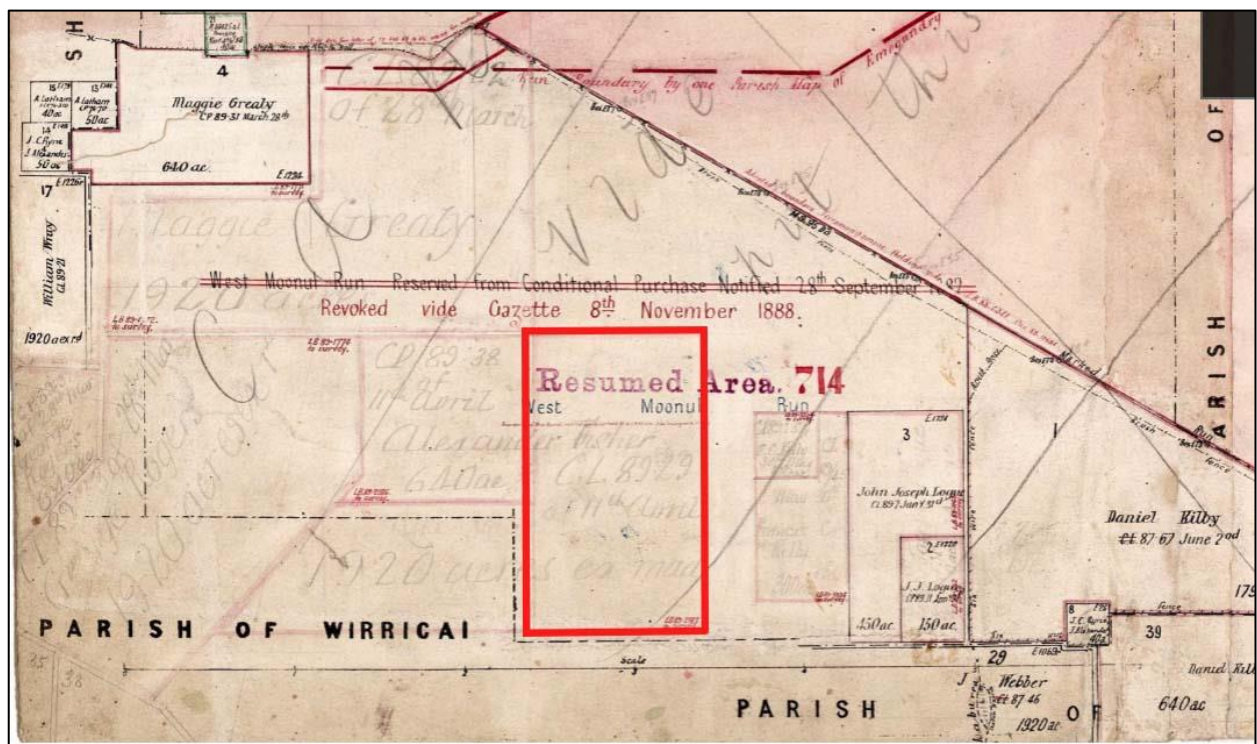


Figure 4-4: 1972 aerial of the Project area



4.3 LOCAL CONTEXT

4.3.1 Desktop database searches conducted

A desktop search was conducted on the following databases to identify any potential previously recorded heritage within the Project area. The results of this search are summarised in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1: Historic heritage: desktop-database search results.

Name of database searched	Date of search	Type of search	Comment
National and Commonwealth Heritage Listings	9/5/23	Narromine LGA	No places listed on either the National or Commonwealth Heritage Lists are located within or near the Project area
State Heritage Listings	9/5/23	Narromine LGA	There are no items listed on the SHR or State Heritage Inventory within 10 km of the Project area
Local Environmental Plan (LEP)	9/5/23	Narromine LEP of 2011	There are no items listed on the LEP within 10 km of the Project area

A search of the Heritage Council of NSW administered heritage databases and the Narromine Shire Council LEP returned no records for historical heritage sites within or near the Project area.

4.4 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Standard archaeological field survey and recording methods were employed in this study (Burke & Smith 2004). The historic heritage assessment occurred concurrently with the Aboriginal heritage survey. The points of possible historic interest were located along the southern boundary. **Figure 4-5** shows the pedestrian track of the OzArk archaeologists during the survey.

Figure 4-5: Pedestrian coverage of the Project area

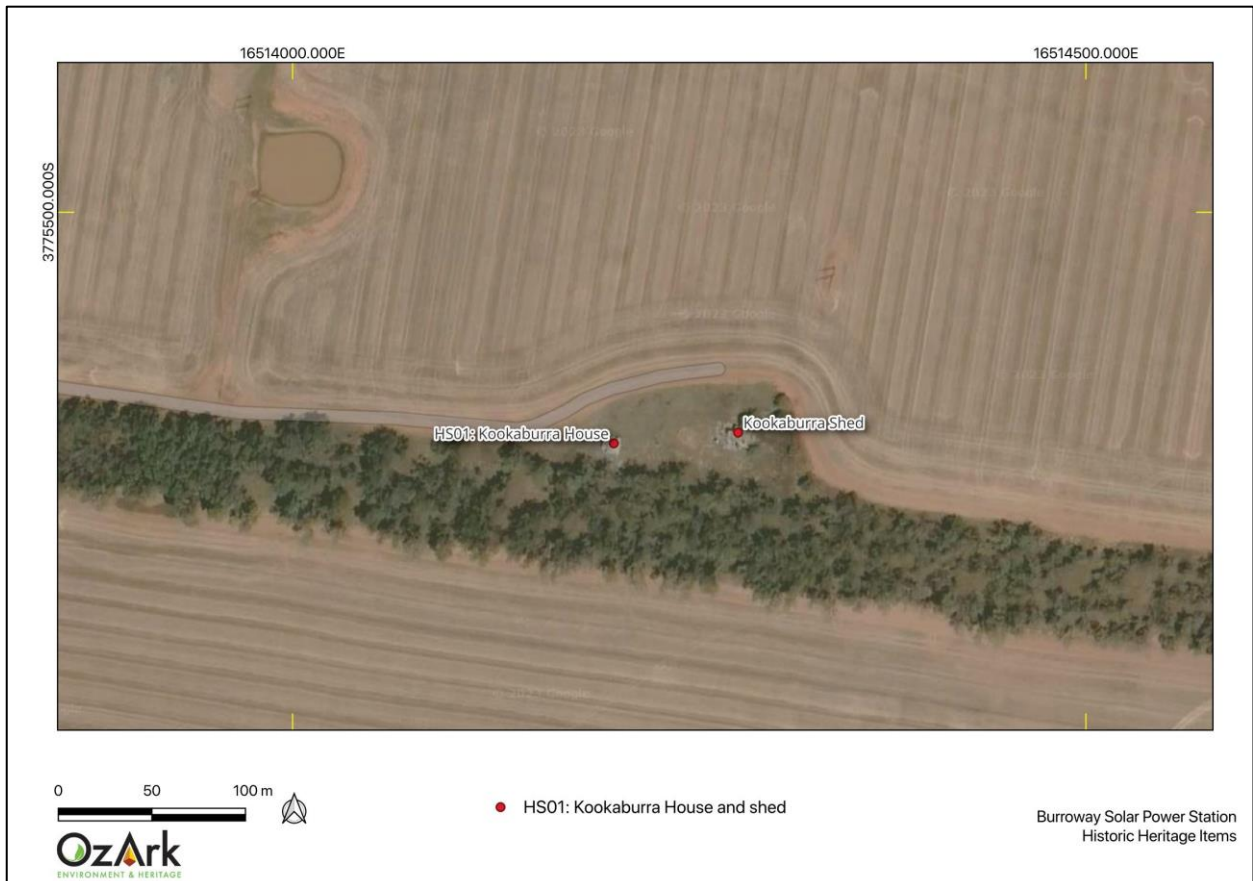


5 RESULTS OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

5.1 HISTORIC HERITAGE SITES

One historic heritage site, the Kookaburra homestead complex (Kookaburra-HS01) was recorded during the survey of the Project area **Figure 5-1**.

Figure 5-1: Aerial showing the location of Kookaburra homestead complex (Kookaburra-HS01).



Kookaburra-HS01

Site type: Homestead complex

GPS coordinates: GDA 2020 Zone 55 627350E, 6448360N

Location of site: Kookaburra-HS01 is a complex of two buildings located on the southern boundary of 1955 Eumungerie Road, Burroway.

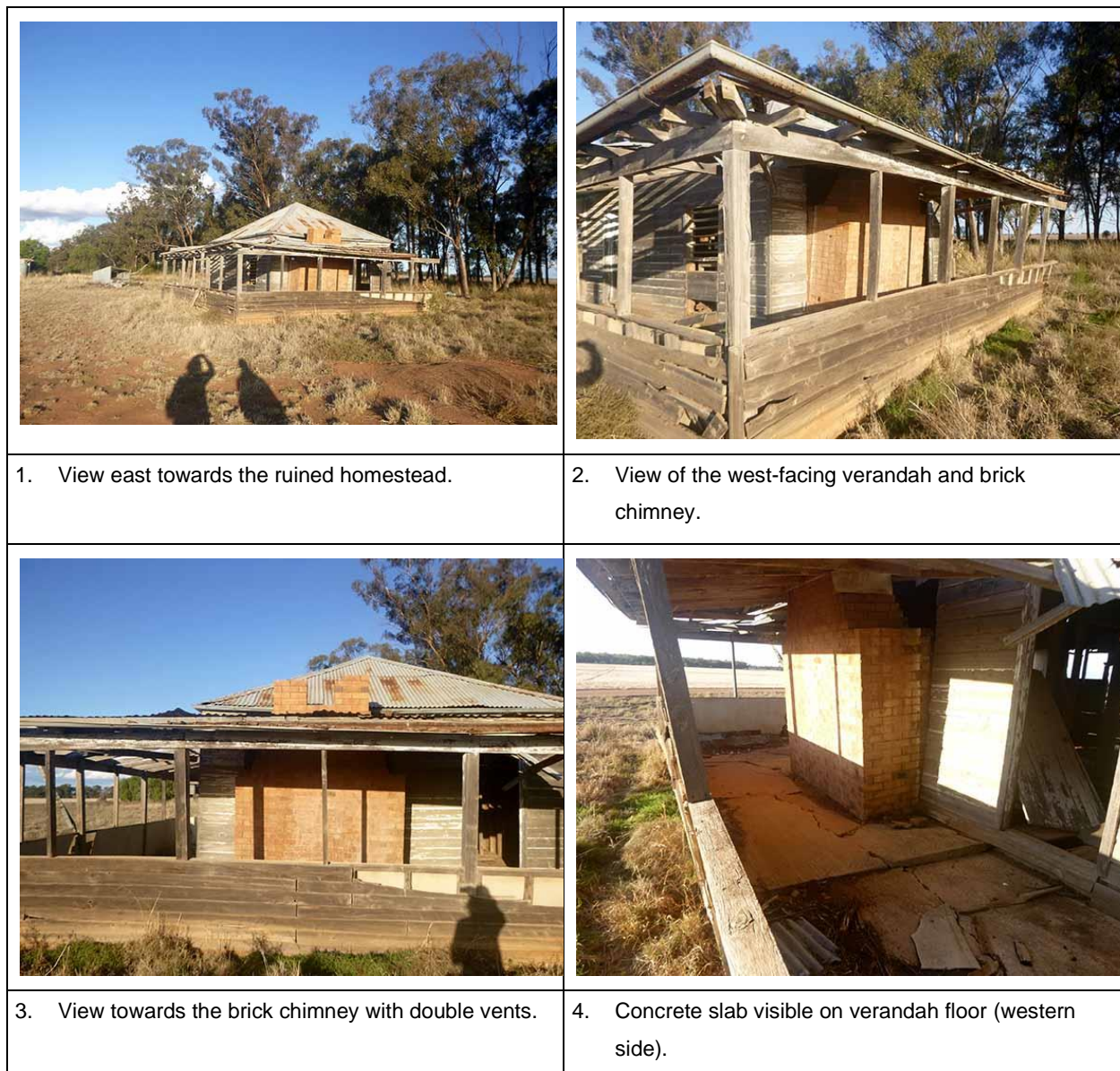
Description of site: Kookaburra-HS01 consists of an early 20th century homestead and a shearing shed. The homestead dwelling is constructed of timber cladding over a timber frame and timber floor (**Figure 5-2**). Most internal wall linings have been removed, exposing the hard wood timber frame. It features an external brick chimney with double vents on the western wall, which contains an open fireplace and a cast iron stove. The roof is constructed of rusted, corrugated iron sheets with steel guttering. The attached verandah, running along the northern and western walls, has timber cladding to waist height and concrete flooring. It was possibly

added to the main dwelling structure at a later date (**Figure 5-2**). The condition of the dwelling structure very poor.

Situated between the dwelling and the shearing shed is a dilapidated outhouse/toilet building which no longer sits on its foundations (**Figure 5-3**). To the east of the main dwelling is an elevated timber and corrugated iron shearing shed with enclosed annexes on either side. Internally the shearing shed retains some areas of timber cladding, relic shaft driven shearing equipment and farm paraphernalia. Externally there is a corrugated iron water tank (**Figure 5-3**). To the east of the shearing shed, situated under the remaining mature trees, are animal holding pens constructed of metal fencing and gates. There is a timber access ramp leading into the northern side of the shearing shed.

The homestead complex was most likely constructed during the land tenure of Alexander Fisher (c. 1912) or Thomas Scott (c. 1928).

Figure 5-2: Views of the Kookabura homestead building.





5. Timber cladding along the western side wall.



6. Timber cladding at the rear of the house (southern side).



7. Back timber door on southern side.



8. Eastern side of the dwelling with cladding removed exposing the hardwood timber frame.



9. Double brick chimney with fireplace to the left and cast-iron oven to the right



10. Hardwood timber flooring and door.



11. Front entryway of dwelling on northern side



12. Glass louvred window

Figure 5-3: Views of the outhouse, animal pens and shearing shed at Kookaburra HS-01.



1. Corrugated iron and timber outhouse/toilet situated between dwelling and shearing shed



2. Southern end of shearing shed showing exposed timber framing



3. Corrugated iron water tank on the southern side of structure



4. Corrugated iron annex on eastern side of main structure



5. 44 Gallon drum with hand pump inside shearing shed



6. Shaft driven shearing equipment. Timber floorboards and internal timber cladding evident



7. Northern wall of shearing shed showing enclosed annexes off main structure



8. Corrugated iron annex on the eastern side of main structure



9. Ramp into shearing shed from holding pens



10. Animal holding pens constructed of metal fencing and gates

6 ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE—GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The current assessment will evaluate the heritage significance of the historic heritage sites identified within the Project area in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office's publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001). A historic heritage site must satisfy at minimum one of the following criteria to be assessed as having heritage significance:

Criterion (a): *An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*

Criterion (b): *An item has a 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 cultural or natural history of 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 (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons*

Criterion (e): *An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*

Criterion (f): *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*

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 a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).*

Significance assessments are carried out on the basis that decisions about the future of heritage items must be informed by an understanding of these items' heritage values. The *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter* (Burra Charter 2013) recognises four categories of heritage value: historic, aesthetic, scientific, and social significance

Items are categorised as having local or state level, or no significance. The level of significance is assessed in accordance with the geographical extent of the item's value. An item of state significance is one that is important to the people of NSW whilst an item of local significance is one that is principally important to the people of a specific LGA.

6.2 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC ITEMS

The guidelines for assessing heritage significance described in **Section 6.1**, will be applied to the recorded historic complex below.

Kookaburra-HS01

Table 6-1 assesses Kookaburra-HS01 against the assessment criteria established in the Heritage Office publication, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001).

Table 6-1: Assessment of heritage significance – Kookaburra-HS01.

Criterion	Comments	Significance
a	The item has not influenced the pattern or course of NSW or local history.	Does not satisfy this criterion
b	There are no known associations of the item with a significant event, person or group of persons.	Does not satisfy this criterion
c	The item does not have significant aesthetic values and does not contribute to the cultural landscape of the area.	Does not satisfy this criterion
d	There are no known associations of the item with an identifiable group or a community's sense of place.	Does not satisfy this criterion
e	The item has little potential for further scientific and/or archaeological information. It does not have the qualities of an important benchmark or reference site or type.	Does not satisfy this criterion
f	The item is not a rare site type for the local region or NSW.	Does not satisfy this criterion
g	The item is not a representative example of a rural homestead complex.	Does not satisfy this criterion

Table 6-2 details the assessed significance of recorded historic heritage item in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office guidelines and the *Burra Charter*.

Table 6-2: Historic heritage: assessment of significance.

Site name	Level of significance
Kookaburra-HS01	Does not have significant heritage values

6.3 DISCUSSION

Kookaburra-HS01 has been assessed as having no historic heritage significance. While farming and rural life are significant local historical values in the Narromine/Burroway area, the item does not represent these values in an appreciable way. It is noted that this result reflects the current thresholds and principles of the assessment criteria that rightly emphasise items with collective, aesthetic, technological and/or natural significance.

6.4 LIKELY IMPACTS TO HISTORIC HERITAGE FROM THE PROJECT

Table 6-3 details the anticipated impacts to historic heritage from the proposal.

Table 6-3: Historic heritage: impact assessment.

Site name	Will this site be impacted?
Kookaburra-HS01	No

7 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION: HISTORIC HERITAGE

7.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC SITES

Appropriate management of heritage items is primarily determined based on their assessed significance as well as the likely impacts of the proposed development.

In terms of best practice and desired outcomes, avoiding impact to any historical item is a preferred outcome, however, where a historical site has been assessed as having no heritage value, impacts to these items does not require any legislated mitigation.

7.2 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION OF RECORDED HISTORIC SITES

Kookabura-HS01 has been assessed as having no heritage significance and the complex of buildings is not protected by the Heritage Act. The complex currently sits outside the construction footprint and will not be directly impacted by the Project. If the complex is considered an impediment or hazard to the project at a later date, there are no heritage constraints to it being removed.

Should any items of historic heritage significance be uncovered during the construction of the Project then the *Historic Heritage Unanticipated Finds Protocol (Section 7.3.1)* will need to be enacted. This protocol stipulates the processes to follow should likely historic objects become uncovered through the activities of the project.

7.3 UNANTICIPATED FINDS PROTOCOL

Should consent for the project be gained, a HHMP will be developed in consultation with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). The HHMP will contain procedures should a new discovery of significant historic artefacts or items be made during construction or operation of the project.

The procedure in **Section 7.3.1** is an example of an unanticipated finds protocol that could be incorporated into the HHMP.

7.3.1 Unanticipated Finds Protocol example

A historic artefact is anything which is the result of past activity not related to the Aboriginal occupation of the area. This includes pottery, wood, glass and metal objects as well as the built remains of structures, sometimes heavily ruined.

Heritage significance of historic items is assessed by suitably qualified specialists who place the item or site in context and determine its role in aiding the community's understanding of the local area, or their wider role in being an exemplar of state or even national historic themes.

The following protocol should be followed if previously unrecorded or unanticipated historic objects are encountered:

1. All ground surface disturbance in the area of the finds should cease immediately, then:
 - a) The discoverer of the find(s) will notify machinery operators in the immediate vicinity of the find(s) so that work can be halted
 - b) The site supervisor will be informed of the find(s).
2. If finds are suspected to be human skeletal remains, then NSW Police must be contacted as a matter of priority.
3. If there is substantial doubt regarding the historic significance for the finds, then gain a qualified opinion from an archaeologist as soon as possible. This can circumvent proceeding further along the protocol for items which turn out not to be significant. If a quick opinion cannot be gained, or the identification is that the item is likely to be significant, then proceed to the next step.
4. Notify Heritage NSW as soon as practical on (02) 9873 8500 (heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au) providing any details of the historic find and its location.
5. If in the view of the heritage specialist or Heritage NSW that the finds appear not to be significant, work may recommence without further investigation. Keep a copy of all correspondence for future reference.
6. If in the view of the heritage specialist or Heritage NSW that the finds appear to be significant, facilitate the recording and assessment of the finds by a suitably qualified heritage specialist. Such a study should include the development of appropriate management strategies.
7. If the find(s) are determined to be significant historic items (i.e. of local or state significance), any re-commencement of ground surface disturbance may only resume following compliance with any legal requirements and gaining written approval from Heritage NSW.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 HISTORIC HERITAGE

The following recommendations are made based on the impacts associated with the Project and with regard to:

- Legal requirements under the terms of the Heritage Act
- Guidelines presented in the *Burra Charter*
- The findings of the current assessment
- The interests of the local community.

No items of significant historic heritage are located within the Project area.

Recommendations concerning the historic values within Project area are as follows.

1. Following development consent of the Project, a HHMP will be developed and then used during the construction and ongoing use of the Project. If items of historic heritage significance are uncovered during the project, then the anticipated finds protocols in the HHMP will be enacted. An example of an *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* is provided in **Section 7.3.1**.
2. Kookaburra-HS1 currently sits outside of the construction area and is therefore unlikely to be impacted. However, should the item be considered an impediment or hazard in the future it may be removed without employing any further management measures. The item has been assessed as having no heritage significance and this report is a sufficient record of the item.
3. It is assessed that ground disturbing works associated with the project will not harm significant historical archaeological deposits and no further archaeological investigation is required.
4. All land-disturbing activities must be confined within the assessed Project area. Should impacts change such that the area impacted is outside of the assessed Project area, then additional assessment may be required.

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