

Parkes Hospital Historical Archaeological Assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact

Prepared for Appian Group on behalf of Health and Infrastructure

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Abbreviations

RNECHL	Commonwealth Heritage List
DA	Development Application
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
DGRs	Director General's Requirements
DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure
DSEWPC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Community
DEWHA	Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts
EA	Environmental Assessment
EPA	Environment Planning and Assessment
EPBC	Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LPI	Land & Property Information
m	Metre
km	Kilometre
NT	National Trust
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet
REP	Regional Environmental Plan
S170	Section 170 registers
SHI	State Heritage Inventory

SoHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SHR	State Heritage Register
TSR	Travelling Stock Route
RNE	Register of the National Estate (former)

Contents

Acknowledgements	ii
Abbreviations.....	ii
Executive Summary	vii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 Project Area	1
1.3 Planning Approval	1
1.4 Report Methodology	1
1.4.1 Approach.....	1
1.4.2 Documentary Investigation.....	2
1.5 Assessment Objectives.....	2
1.6 Investigators and Contributors.....	2
1.7 Limitations of the report	2
2 Statutory Framework	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Statutory Framework	6
2.2.1 Heritage management in New South Wales	6
2.2.2 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	6
2.2.3 NSW Heritage Act 1977	7
Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers	8
2.2.4 The State Heritage Inventory	8
2.2.5 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1978.....	8
2.2.6 Parkes Local Environmental Plan 2012	8
2.3 Non – Statutory Registers	8
2.3.1 National Trust of Australia	8
2.3.2 Register of National Estate	8
3 Historical Context.....	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Historical Themes	10
3.3 Regional Context.....	11
3.3.1 Topography & Resources	11
3.3.2 Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures.....	11
3.3.3 Exploration and surveying for the Crown	12
3.3.4 Land tenure and Pastoralism	12
3.3.5 Mining	15
3.3.7 Transport.....	19

3.3.8	Government and Administration	19
3.3.9	Towns Suburbs and Villages	20
3.3.10	Project Area	22
4	Site Analysis.....	24
4.1	Site Inspection	24
4.1.1	Methodology	24
4.1.2	Results	24
4.2	Documentary Evidence	25
4.2.1	Maps and Aerial Photographs.....	25
4.2.2	Historical Photographs.....	33
4.2.3	Summary of Historical Analysis.....	34
4.3	Assessment of Archaeological Potential.....	34
4.4	Archaeological Research Potential.....	34
5	Assessment of Significance	36
5.1	Background to assessing significance.....	36
5.2	Levels of Heritage Significance	37
5.3	Evaluation.....	37
6	Statement of Heritage Impact	39
6.1	Introduction	39
6.2	Proposal Details	39
6.3	Description and Assessment of Impacts	39
6.3.1	Discussion.....	39
6.4	Statement of Heritage Impact	40
7	Conclusion and Recommendations	41
7.1	Conclusions.....	41
7.2	Recommendations	41
	References.....	42

List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of Heritage listings within the Project Area.....	9
Table 2: Identified NSW Historical Themes for the Parkes Region.....	10

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location of the Project Area.....	4
Figure 2: Overview of the Project Area.....	5
Figure 3: Surveyor's map of the county of Ashburnham 1853 showing the Town and sub-boundaries of Goobang and Currajong/Bushman's reserve. Red arrow indicates approximate location of the Project Area. (NSW State Records SG Map A.1770)	14
Figure 4: Geological parish map of Parkes 1890 (NSW Government Land and Property Information http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm)	18
Figure 5: Overlay of an 1890 geological parish map over a modern aerial photograph (NSW Government Land and Property Information http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/mapping_and_imagery/parish_maps).....	26
Figure 6: Detail of 1891 parish map showing gold mining leases in the vicinity of the Project Area (NSW Government Land and Property Information http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm).....	28
Figure 7: A modern aerial photograph of the Project Area and surrounds showing crop marks on the sites of mine shafts indicated in figure 7. (NSW Government Land and Property Information http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/mapping_and_imagery/parish_maps)	29
Figure 8: Detail of 1900 parish map of Parkes showing Andrew Stewart's Conditional Lease of Small Portion 550. (NSW Government Land and Property Information http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm).....	30
Figure 9: Detail of 1932 parish map of Parkes showing the subdivision of Andrew Stewart's Conditional purchase into portions 550 and 610. (NSW Government Land and Property Information http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm)	31
Figure 10: Detail of 1957 parish map of Parkes showing the dedication of Lots 550 and 610 as pastoral and forestry reserves. (NSW Government Land and Property Information http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm)	32

List of Plates

Plate 1: The New Bushman's Mine, 1894 (The Glint of Gold 1999 p.252).....	16
Plate 2: Surveyor's camp on the proposed site of Currajong, later Parkes, 1853. (Source: The Glint of Gold – A History and Tourist Guide of the Gold Fields of the Central West of NSW 1999:250).....	21
Plate 3: View east across the central survey area	24
Plate 4: Modern concrete block building found within the Project Area	25
Plate 5: Aerial photograph of the Project Area and vicinity from January 1980. Lot 550 within the Project Area is indicated by a red arrow. (Parkes Shire council online resource; Library http://library.parkes.nsw.gov.au/history/magicgallery/aerial%20shot.jpg)	33

Executive Summary

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by Appian Group on behalf of Health Industries to undertake a statement of heritage impact (SoHI) assessment for the proposed hospital development site in Parkes, NSW (

). The Project is being assessed against Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and is therefore subject to approval by the Minister for the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI).

An investigation of the historical heritage and archaeological sensitivity within the Project Area has been undertaken; this has included an analysis of historical records, site investigation, statement of heritage impact and assessment of historical significance. The Project contains no registered heritage items or evident archaeological deposits and has limited archaeological potential.

Strategies have been developed based on the archaeological (significance) of cultural heritage relevant to the Project Area and influenced by:

- Predicted impacts to heritage
- The planning approvals framework
- Current best conservation practise, widely considered to include:

The Ethos of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter.

This Statement of heritage Impact (SoHI) assessment has concluded the following:

The Project Area is not located near any registered heritage items. The assessment has not identified any items of heritage significance or anticipated archaeological deposits that could be impact by the proposed development. The Project Area has been assessed as possessing a low potential for unforeseen archaeological remains, however measures should be implemented to manage the discovery of relics in the event that these are encountered during the construction works. Therefore the following recommendations apply:

Recommendation 1 The project may proceed with conditions

The project is considered to pose no threat to existing heritage items or archaeological deposits and may proceed on the condition that, should relics be encountered during construction works which are believed to be of local or state significance, all works should cease and the relevant project authority and NSW Heritage Division be contacted immediately. Until the relics can be investigated further measures should be implemented in accordance with established Heritage Management Plan chance finds procedures¹ that include the documentation of the discovery and exclusion of the area from further disturbance.

If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity works, all activity in the vicinity must cease immediately. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. The following contingency plan describes the immediate actions that must be taken in instances where human remains or suspected human remains are discovered. Any such discovery at the activity area must follow these steps:

Discovery: If suspected human remains are discovered all activity in the vicinity must stop to ensure minimal damage is caused to the remains; and the remains must be left in place, and protected from harm or damage.

Notification: Once suspected human skeletal remains have been found, the Coroner's Office and the NSW Police must be notified immediately.

¹ RMS 2012 M5 West Widening project CHMP p.28

http://www.m5westwidening.com.au/Content/UserUploaded/Heritage_Management_Plan_Rev_1.pdf

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Biosis Pty Ltd has been commissioned by Appian Group on behalf of Health Infrastructure to undertake an historic period heritage assessment and statement of heritage impact (SoHI) for the site of the proposed Lachlan Health Services Forbes and Parkes Hospital campus (Error! Reference source not found.). This Archaeological assessment and SoHI will be presented as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will support a State Significant Development (SSD) application (Project number SSD 13_6107) under Part 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Director General's Environmental Requirements (DGR's) for the project were issued on 23 September 2013, and this report has been prepared in accordance with these.

1.2 Project Area

The Project Area is a 9.7ha in area and comprises Lot 550/DP 750179 and parts of the adjoining SP2 Road Infrastructure Facilities Zone Lot7313/ DP 1147330 and transport corridor to the north. These are Crown Lands and are currently utilised as pastoral land associated with a Travelling Stock Route which passes through the northern portion of the Project Area. The Project Area is situated within the Local Government Area (LGA) of Parkes, in the Parish of Parkes, and the County Ashburnham (Figure 1)

). It is located directly east of the Newell Highway 2.2km south of Parkes CBD and accessed via Henderson Street (Figure 2).

1.3 Planning Approval

The proposed development will be assessed against Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* NSW. Other relevant legislation and planning instruments that will inform this assessment include:

- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW).*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010 (NSW).*
- *Infrastructure SEPP 2007.*
- *Parkes Local Environmental Plan 2012.*

1.4 Report Methodology

1.4.1 Approach

This report provides an archaeological assessment to identify whether archaeological remains are likely to exist within the Project Area and if so, to assess the significance of any likely archaeological sites, assess the likely impacts posed to any such sites and to determine the most appropriate management strategy. This report was prepared in accordance with the DG's Environmental Requirements for the project (SSD 13_6107), received on 23 September 2013. The DG's Environmental Requirements state that the EIS must address the following factors to satisfactorily address European Heritage:

- *A statement of significance and an assessment of the impact on the heritage significance of any heritage items and/or conservation areas should be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual.*

Accordingly, this report was prepared in accordance with current heritage guidelines including Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office 2001), Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and "Relics" (Heritage Branch, Dept. of Planning 2009) and Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS Inc. 1999).

1.4.2 Documentary Investigation

Documents investigated include primary archival sources including historic maps, plans, photographs and newspapers. Secondary sources such as published and unpublished works have been used to provide the historical context in this report. Descendants of the first leaseholder of Lot 550 were consulted with the assistance of the Parkes Historical Society in regards to prior land use of the site.

1.5 Assessment Objectives

The following is a summary of the major objectives of the assessment:

- Identify and assess the potential archaeological resource of the Project Area. The study aims to achieve this objective by:
 - Providing a brief summary of the principle historical influences that have contributed to creating the present – day built environment of the Project Area using recourses already available and some limited new research;
 - Identifying sites and features within the Project Area which are already recognised for their cultural heritage value through statutory and non – statutory heritage listings;
 - Preliminary identification of the cultural heritage significance of sites and features within the Project Area which are not recognised through statutory heritage listings;
 - Preliminary identification of known or potential archaeological sites within the study area.
- Assess the impact of the proposed works on the cultural heritage significance of the study area; and
- Recommend measures to avoid or mitigate any negative impacts on the cultural heritage significance of the Project Area.

1.6 Investigators and Contributors

This report was prepared by James McGuinness (Archaeologist) under the supervision of Alexander Beben (Senior Archaeologist) at Biosis Pty Ltd. This report has been reviewed by Alexander Beben (Senior Archaeologist).

1.7 Limitations of the report

This report assesses the historical archaeological potential and significance of the subject site. It does not consider the built environment. Time limitations appropriate to the assessment have prevented an exhaustive search of all potential reference material, particularly material that may be held within the Parkes area. Some archival maps and material may not have been traceable via conventional avenues of historical research.

This report is based on historical research and field inspections. It is possible that further historical research or the emergence of new historical sources may support different interpretations of the evidence in this report.

Although this report was undertaken to best archaeological practice and its conclusions are based on professional opinion, it does not warrant that there is no possibility that additional archaeological material will be located in subsequent works on the site. This is because limitations in historical documentation and archaeological methods make it difficult to accurately predict what is under the ground.

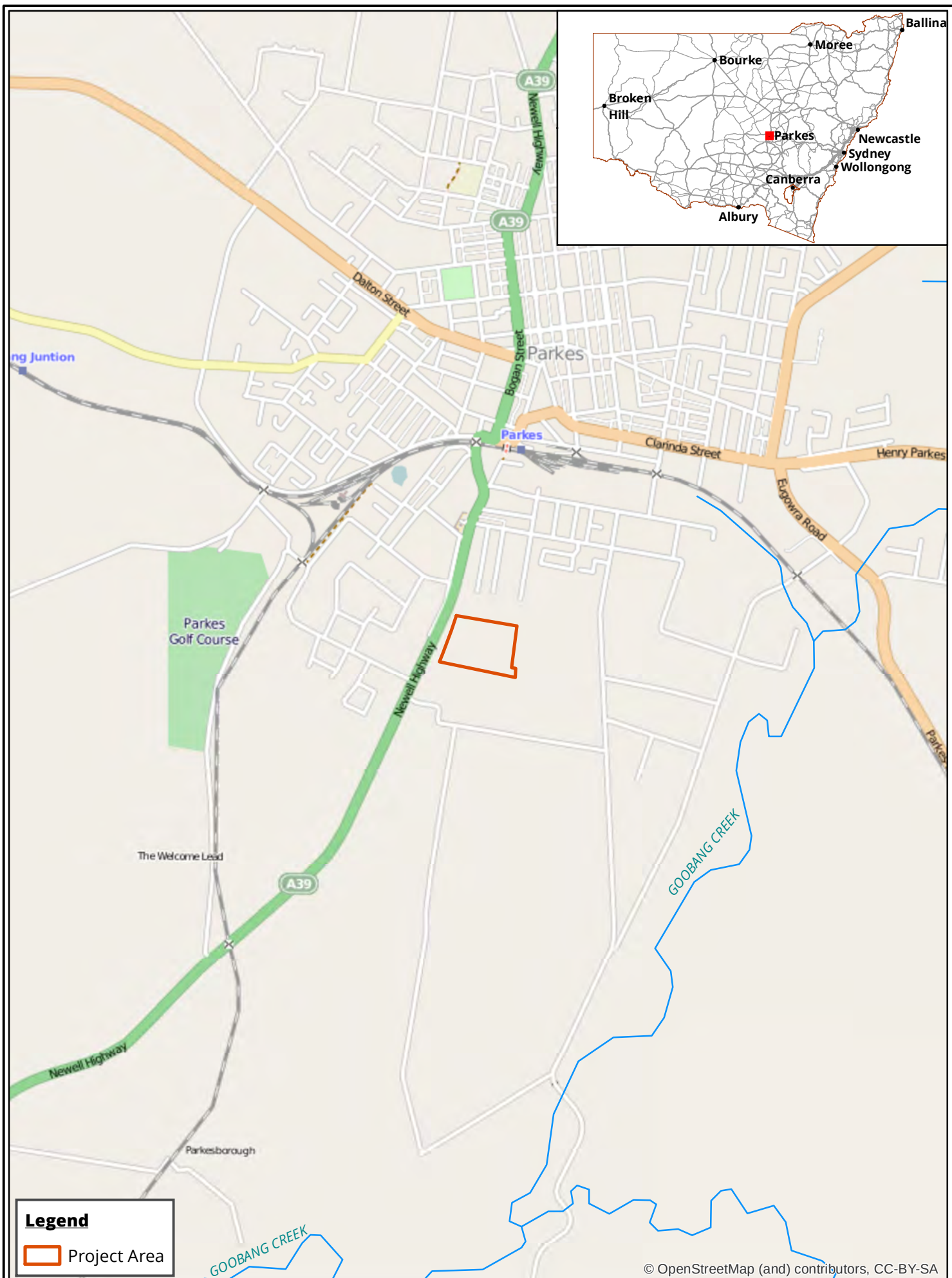


Figure 1: Location of the Project Area



Legend

 Project Area

Figure 3: Overview of the Project Area, Parkes NSW

0 20 40 60 80 100
Metres

Scale: 1:2,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Biosis Pty Ltd

Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

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17264_E3_Overview.mxd

2 Statutory Framework

2.1 Introduction

The project is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) (Project number SSD 13_6107) under Part 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Approval for the project will be made by the Minister for the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) and the investigation is in accordance with the DG Environmental Requirements issued on 23 September 2013. The DG Environmental Requirements state that the EIS must address the following points with respect to European Heritage:

- *A statement of significance and an assessment of the impact on the heritage significance of any heritage items and/or conservation areas should be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual.*

2.2 Statutory Framework

2.2.1 Heritage management in New South Wales

In NSW cultural heritage is managed in a three-tiered system: National, State and local. Certain sites and items may require management under all three systems or only under one or two. The following discussion aims to outline the various levels of protection and approvals required to make changes to cultural heritage in the state.

2.2.2 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the national Act protecting the natural and cultural environment. The EPBC Act is administered by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC). The EPBC Act establishes two heritage lists for the management of the natural and cultural environment:

- The National Heritage List (NHL)
Items listed on the NHL have been assessed to be of outstanding significance and define "critical moments in our development as a nation".²
- The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL)
Items listed on the CHL are natural and cultural heritage places that are on Commonwealth land, in Commonwealth waters or are owned or managed by the Commonwealth. A place or item on the CHL has been assessed as possessing "significant" heritage value.³

A search of the NHL and CHL was conducted by James McGuinness on 28 November 2013. The NHL search did not yield any results within the Project Area or within the near vicinity. There were no NHL results for the wider Central West region.

The NHL search did not yield any results within the Project Area or within the near vicinity. Three CHL listings are found within the wider area; the Forbes Post Office (CHL 105502), Wellington Post Office (CHL 105497) and Orange Post Office (106146). These buildings display significant architectural and historical heritage values linked to colonial Australia and the development of the Central West region.

² "About National Heritage" <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/national/index.html>

³ "Commonwealth Heritage List Criteria" <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/commonwealth/criteria.html>

2.2.3 NSW Heritage Act 1977

The State Heritage Register

The *Heritage Act 1977* established the State Heritage Register (SHR) under Part 3A. Items that are listed on the SHR have been assessed to be of significance to the state of New South Wales on the basis of one or a number of the criteria published in the *Heritage Manual 1996*. The Act is administered by the Heritage Branch under delegated authority of the Heritage Council. Change to items listed on the SHR can only be made with approval from the Heritage Council; demolition is not permitted except in certain circumstances.

A search of the SHR returned two results in Parkes and no SHR listed sites within the Project Area. The two results in the vicinity are listed below; however, neither is close enough to be considered in a future assessment.

- *Parkes Post Office at 39 Currajong Street (SHR 00717) is found 1.8km north of the Project Area*
- *Parkes Railway Station Group at the Parkes-Broken Hill Railway, May Street (SHR 01220). These items are found at approximately 1km distance to the north and northwest respectively.*

Relics Provision

Approval must be obtained from the Heritage Council of New South Wales prior to excavating any land in NSW where there is a possibility that archaeological relics may be disturbed (Section 140 Permit). An archaeological site listed on the SHR or within an SHR curtilage is protected by Section 56 of the Heritage Act and can only be excavated or disturbed with a Section 60 approval (refer to State Heritage Register above).

The NSW *Heritage Act 1977* currently affords statutory protection to relics of local or state significance that form part of archaeological deposits. Sections 139–145 of the Act prevent the excavation of a relic, except in accordance with a gazetted exception or an excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW. This protection is extended to potential relics, that is, unconfirmed but probably existing archaeological sites. Consultation and discussion with the Heritage Branch should begin well before lodging an application for a permit to disturb or destroy a historical archaeological site.

In NSW, the Heritage Branch also has delegated authority to protect shipwrecks on the ANSD in state waters.

The *Heritage Act* also provides automatic protection to "relics". The Act defines "relics" as:

- *Any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:*
 - (a) *relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and*
 - (b) *is of State or local heritage significance*

Section 139 of the *Heritage Act* states that:

- (1) *A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- (2) *A person must not disturb or excavate any land on which the person has discovered or exposed a relic except in accordance with an excavation permit.*

Section 140 of the *Heritage Act* describes the approval required to disturb or excavate relics. In certain circumstances, a permit approval is not required and disturbance or investigation can be undertaken as an exception to the requirement for an excavation permit under Section 139 (4).

Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers

Section 170 of the *Heritage Act* requires that culturally significant items or places managed or owned by Government agencies are listed on departmental Heritage and Conservation Register. Information on these registers has been prepared in accordance with Heritage Branch guidelines.

Statutory obligations for archaeological sites that are listed on a Section 170 Register or may exist within the curtilage of an item include notification to the Heritage Council in addition to relics provision obligations.

- *There are 17 items in the Parkes LGA listed on a Section 170 Register. Of these 1 is located in the suburb of Tullamore, 1 is in Eubalong, 2 are in Bogan Gate, 4 are in Peak Hill and 9 are located in Parkes. Of these 9 the 2 closest to the Project Area are the SHR Listed Parkes Railway Precinct sites on May Street, each 1km from the Project Area.*

2.2.4 The State Heritage Inventory

The Heritage Branch maintains the State Heritage Inventory (SHI), which is a register of heritage items that appear on statutory heritage lists or on an archaeological zoning plan such as the *Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Strategy* (PHALMS). The SHI is a central location for heritage listed items and sites, supplemented with information from the listing sources. As the SHI is manually updated, it is important to check the source for the most up to date information.

- *The SHI has a total of 26 entries for items within Parkes LGA. Of these 17 are those section 170 items listed above, 7 are LEP listings and 2 are the SHR listed Parkes Post Office and Parkes Railway Station Group items.*

2.2.5 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1978

2.2.6 Parkes Local Environmental Plan 2012

Local environment plans contain schedules of heritage items that are managed by the controls of the instrument. The Parkes Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Parkes LEP 2012) is the standard planning instrument for the Local Government Area (LGA). As the project is being undertaken under Part 4 of the EP & A Act, Council is responsible for approving controlled work via the development application system.

A search of the Parkes LEP 2012 Schedule 5 returned 11 results in the Parkes LGA. These include the 7 from the SHI and an additional 4. None of these are in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area, the closest being the Parkes Railway Group (item 16) sites at approximately 1km distance to the north and northwest respectively.

2.3 Non – Statutory Registers

2.3.1 National Trust of Australia

The National Trust of Australia is a community-based, non-government organisation, committed to promoting and conserving Australia's indigenous, natural and historic heritage through its advocacy work and its custodianship of heritage places and objects.

- *There are no items located within the project area are listed on the National Trust of Australia. There are National Trust items within the Parkes LGA, the closest of which is the CBC Bank Former building (R4767) located 1.3km north of the Project Area.*

2.3.2 Register of National Estate

The RNE was originally established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (repealed). The Register of the National Estate was closed in 2007 and is no longer a statutory list. All references to the Register of the National Estate were removed from the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) on 19

February 2012. However, the list remains an archive and an item that was once listed on the RNE may have been transferred to the NHL or the CHL. Listing on the RNE is an indication that the site or item has significance.

- *No items located within the project area are listed on the Register of National Estate. The nearest item on the register is the Parkes Uniting Church, Court Street, located 2.8km from the Project Area.*

Table 1: Summary of Heritage listings within the Project Area

Listing	Site Name
NHL	No sites listed within the Project Area
CHL	No sites listed within the Project Area
SHR	No sites listed within the Project Area
S170	No sites listed within the Project Area
SHI	No sites listed within the Project Area
RNE	No sites listed within the Project Area
NT (NSW)	No sites listed within the Project Area

3 Historical Context

3.1 Introduction

Historical research has been undertaken to identify the land use history of the Project Area, to isolate key phases in its history and to identify the location of any archaeological resources within the Project Area. The historical research places the history of the Project Area into the broader context of the Central West Region and specifically the Parkes area.

This historical context is based upon research undertaken at the following locations:

- NSW Department of Lands;
- Heritage Division Library;
- State Library of NSW;
- National Library of Australia; and
- NSW State Records.

3.2 Historical Themes

Contextual analysis is undertaken to place the history of a particular site within relevant historical contexts in order to gauge how typical or unique the history of a particular site actually is. This is usually ascertained by gaining an understanding of the history of a site in relation to the broad historical themes characterising Australia at the time. Such themes have been established by the Australian Heritage Commission and the NSW Heritage Office and are outlined in synoptic form in New South Wales Historical Themes, issued by the NSW Heritage Office (2001).

There are 38 State Historical Themes, which have been developed for New South Wales, as well as 9 National Historical Themes. These broader themes are usually referred to when developing sub-themes for a local area to ensure they compliment the overall thematic framework for the broader region.

The Parkes Thematic Study identified a number of local historic themes⁴. These have been broadly summarised within this report to maintain consistency with the overall heritage study and contextual analysis of the Project Area history. It is important to note that not all of the historical actions identified in the themes applied to the project area.

Table 2: Identified NSW Historical Themes for the Parkes Region

No.	Dates	Theme
1	? - present	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures
2	1817 – 1853	Exploration and surveying for the Crown
3	1830 – 1862	Land tenure
4	1830 – Present	Pastoralism
5	1862 – Present	Mining

⁴ Kass 2003.

No.	Dates	Theme
6	1830 – Present	Transport
7	1817 - Present	Government and administration
8	1853 – present	Towns, suburbs and villages

3.3 Regional Context

3.3.1 Topography & Resources

The area of Parkes is located within the western half of the greater Central West Region of NSW. The natural topography of the Central West falls west from the Great Dividing Range, through the undulating tablelands to the flat floodplains of the Lachlan River. These landforms reflect the underlying geological division between the relatively recent (Late Cretaceous) Ranges and the geologically ancient tablelands.⁵ Watercourses flow westward from the Ranges through rapid streams and limestone caves in the east to ever broader and slower river systems in the west with associated seasonal wetlands.⁶

The natural history of the Central West has shaped and influenced both Wiradjuri and non Aboriginal settlement, land use and resource exploitation in the region. As the vegetation of the region changes from east to west with the landform and climatic conditions, timber and mineral resources associated with the wetter ranges give way to broad downs and floodplains.⁷ Prior to European settlement these were the hunting grounds of the Wiradjuri and were managed with burning regimes. Once European settlers overcame the challenges of crossing the Great Dividing Range these plains were recognized as prime agricultural land and later, as landforms holding a wealth of mineral resources.

The project specific area of Parkes is situated over the Lachlan Fold Belt, a complex of Cambrian to Early Carboniferous sedimentary and volcanic rocks. Hilly landforms occur in linear ranges where more resistant rocks such as quartzite or granite resist weathering processes that create valleys and watercourses through surrounding softer rocks such as sandstone, shale, phyllite or slate. Areas of Tertiary basalts and andesites occur among the broader plains landform of gravels, sands and Quaternary alluvium⁸. The regional lithology of volcanic granite and basalt flows over deep alluvial sediments provides ideal conditions for the entrapment of weathered minerals and this was recognized early in the region's European settlement history.

3.3.2 Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures

Within the region of the Wiradjuri tribal and linguistic group the presence of human activity has been dated to 40,000 years ago⁹. Traditional Wiradjuri stories of the creation of the region's land forms and ecosystems provide another history of the region's environment that also offers an insight into the spiritual and philosophical beliefs of the Wiradjuri nations.¹⁰

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Wiradjuri linguistic group occupied the land from south of the Murrumbidgee to north of the Lachlan as far as the upper reaches of the Macquarie River.¹¹ Small clans or related

⁵ Kass 2003 p4.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Thackway & Cresswell 2000

⁹ (Hope 1981 as cited in Haglund 1985).

¹⁰ Kass 2003: p.10

¹¹ Tindale. 1974

family groups moved around regularly within fairly discrete territories following seasonal and ritual patterns. The rivers contributed to food supplies and many meeting places and sites of special significance were located along them. Prior to the effects of European land use practices there were large numbers of archaeological sites throughout the region ranging from occupation sites indicated by flaked stone artefact scatters, carved trees, art sites, burial sites and others.

The Aboriginal people of the Central West have adapted to the invasion and occupation of the region by people from other cultures. Twenty-first Century Wiradjuri cultures have their own practices and identities, and their own remembrances and histories of their interactions with other peoples.¹²

Following European incursions into these lands conflicts broke out between the two groups prompting the colonial authorities to establish military outposts at Bathurst and Wellington. Local Wiradjuri people had many apprehensions about the colonial settlers and their military attendants, and from the 1840s there was widespread dispersal of Aboriginal people and dislocation of their cultural traditions.

3.3.3 Exploration and surveying for the Crown

European exploration of the Parkes region began in 1817 when John Oxley explored the Lachlan district on a geographical survey for the colonial administration. This was followed on by Charles Sturt in 1829 and in 1833, further investigation was being undertaken of the Bogan River area by Surveyor Robert Dixon. These early forays into the interior were followed by Thomas Mitchell in 1835.

In April 1835 Mitchell's party entered the area of modern Parkes where he encountered an Aboriginal group. This meeting was typical of many small but significant chapters in the early contact history of Europeans and Aboriginal people in Australia, of this encounter Mitchell stated that:

Their enjoyment seemed so derived from nature, that it almost excited a feeling of regret, that civilized men, enervated by luxury and all its concomitant diseases, should ever disturb the haunts of these rude happy beings. The countenance of the first man who came up to me, was a fine specimen of man in an independent state of nature... His manner was grave, his eye keen and intelligent, and, as our people were encamping, he seemed to watch the moment when they wanted fire, when he took a burning stick, which one of the natives had brought, and presented it in a manner expressive of welcome, and an unaffected wish to contribute to our wants.¹³

Through this meeting Mitchell recorded that the range to the northeast, named the Hervey Range by Oxley in 1817, was known as 'Goobang', a variance on the Wiradjuri word 'Coleong' or 'Coobung', which meant place of many wattles¹⁴. This name would be given to the local watercourse and first squatter's sheep station in the area and soon after, the town of Goobang was established to the west of modern Parkes and the Project Area.

3.3.4 Land tenure and Pastoralism

In 1835 Thomas Mitchell also found that despite these areas being outside the legal "Limits of Location" white squatters were already entering the Central West with pastoral stock. These settlers were exploring the region by travelling along the main watercourses in the search for rich agricultural land. Their history is a key element of both the early settlement and governmental historical themes of colonial Australia as outlined by Kass¹⁵.

¹² Kass 2003 p.10

¹³ Mitchell 1835 (Cited in Unger 1977 p.4)

¹⁴ (Kass 2003: 9)

¹⁵ Kass 2003. P.40

During this period the western parts of the Central West fell within the Wellington and Lachlan Squatting Districts. Within the area of the Lachlan River pastoralists were setting up stations as early as the late 1820's around Forbes and Grenfell. Thomas Kite is recognized as the first squatter of the Parkes area, taking up land at Burrawang, later to become known as Coobang Station during the 1830's.¹⁶ Squatters held no legal rights over the land until the institution of the Squatting Act in 1836. At this time a £10 annual "License to Depasture" fee was introduced providing a basic right of tenure. The transition from squatting to this license was a slow one, however as investment in the growing stations grew the desire to establish legitimate rights to the land followed suit and Kite was again the regional pioneer, taking out a License on Coobang station in 1839¹⁷.

Legitimate leaseholds were later introduced for periods of fourteen years with rent payable on a per acre basis. The first leases were taken out after 1848 along Goobang Creek to the east of modern Parkes and the Project Area and included Coobang at 38,400 acres, Coradgery covering 23,040 acres and Gunningbland at 16,000 acres. The pattern and scale of settlement along the eastern margin of Goobang Creek at this time can be seen in **Figure 3**.

Tension between squatters seeking a low-cost leasehold tenure and the government seeking to promote freehold settlement remained a major issue in the district¹⁸ but much of the area eventually became freehold land by auction sales and grants, largely to a minority of established landholders. This established a pattern of large pastoral stations without a formal town centre or services.

¹⁶ Unger 1977 p.7

¹⁷ Cook and Garvey 1999 p.24

¹⁸ Kass 2003

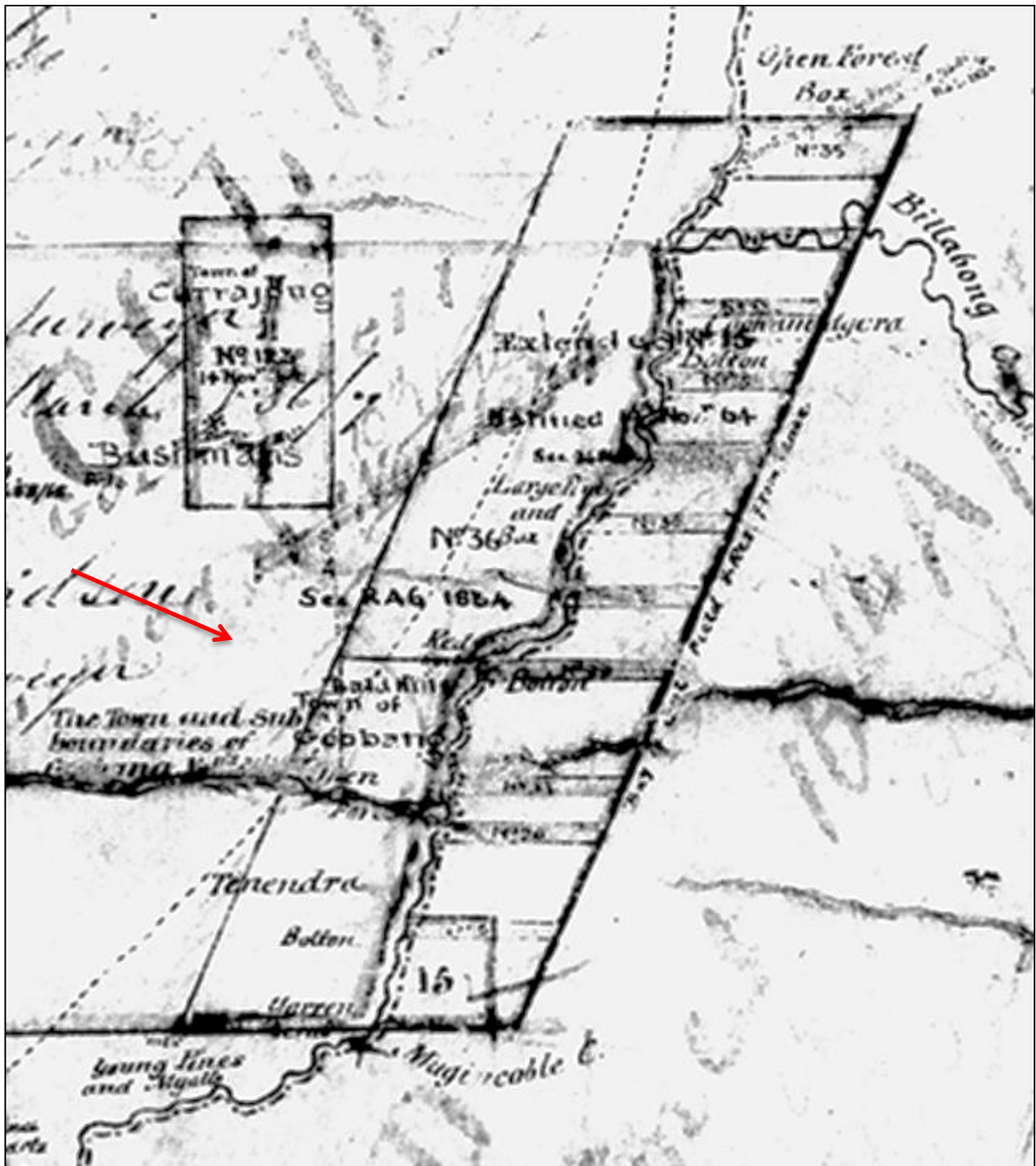


Figure 3: Surveyor's map of the county of Ashburnham 1853 showing the 'Town and sub-boundaries of Goobang and Currajong/Bushman's reserve. Red arrow indicates approximate location of the Project Area. (NSW State Records SG Map A.1770)

A decade after the establishment of the Currajong town reserve further concessions were made to pastoralists when the lands Act (1861) passed rights to the 'pre-emptive purchase' of land within runs that had been improved with buildings and pastoral infrastructure¹⁹. By the 1880's family-run pastoral homesteads were established along

¹⁹ Kass 2003 p.53

all the major watercourses, including Billabong, Goobang and Bindogundra Creeks²⁰. This also became a crucial factor in the establishment of improvement purchases for miners where they had established cottages and helped settle disputed claims over land access²¹.

The Acts of 1861 were tidied up in 1884 and a more structural framework for Conditional Purchase was put in place²². Crown Land Pastoral runs were then subsequently divided into resumed short-term tenure ready for Conditional Purchase and leasehold sections²³.

With the decline of the Forbes-Parkes mining boom the agricultural focus of land use intensified and former gold fields land was taken up on lease and conditional purchase to meet the livestock demands of the mining communities and wider Central West region. Many early encroachments on the formerly dedicated gold fields capitalized on proximity to the existing travelling stock routes. This included the first lease and purchase of small portion 550 within the Project Area.

Further pastoral and suburban subdivision of Crown Land portions, including Lot 550 within the Project Area, took place through to the mid-nineteenth century. Sheep and cattle grazing was complimented and diversified by the establishment of a dairy on Billabong Creek in 1900, which became the Country Freezing Company in 1924.

More recent decades have seen the dedication of former Crown Land conditional purchases and leases as reserves for other purposes and this was the case for the Project Area when Lot 550 and the adjoining Lot 610 to the south were dedicated to community, forestry and TSR purposes some time after the 1950's.

3.3.5 Mining

By 1851 gold was being discovered in Victoria and the first payable gold in NSW was discovered and widely reported at Ophir, 110km east of Parkes, in the same year²⁴ sparking the beginnings of the NSW gold rush. By this time the Government was paying rewards for discoveries of payable gold fields following the establishment of the colonial mint in Sydney and the realization that gold was now a burgeoning economic venture and a means of funding the settlement of the interior.

Ten years after the Ophir strike gold was found at Forbes and this was followed by success in Currajong in 1862 when James Pugh discovered the Currajong Goldfield, later renamed Parkes Goldfield, for which he was rewarded £500²⁵. Alluvial workings sprung up over the 1860's with an influx of miners from Forbes and other areas hoping to capitalize on fresh auriferous deposits.

In 1871 the 'No Mistake' deep lead was found northwest of modern Parkes and within the year the 'Bushman', 'Welcome' 'Great Northern' and others were discovered²⁶. These leads formed at depth in old Palaeochannels buried in deep alluvial strata and required a greater complexity of engineering and industry to be worked. Between 1875 and 1878 these leads produced a great quantity of gold including nuggets as large as 4.6kg. In 1876 alone the McGuiggan's Lead produced 66.6kg of refined gold.

The Bushman was one of the largest and consistently worked leads in the history of Parkes, experiencing several renewed leases of life as payable auriferous deposits were sporadically tapped along its length. These ranged from numerous small leases to larger scale operations such as the 'New Bushman's Mine' of the 1890's shown in **Plate 1**.

²⁰ Kass 2003 p.11

²¹ Kass 2003 p.53

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Cook and Garvey 1999:250

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

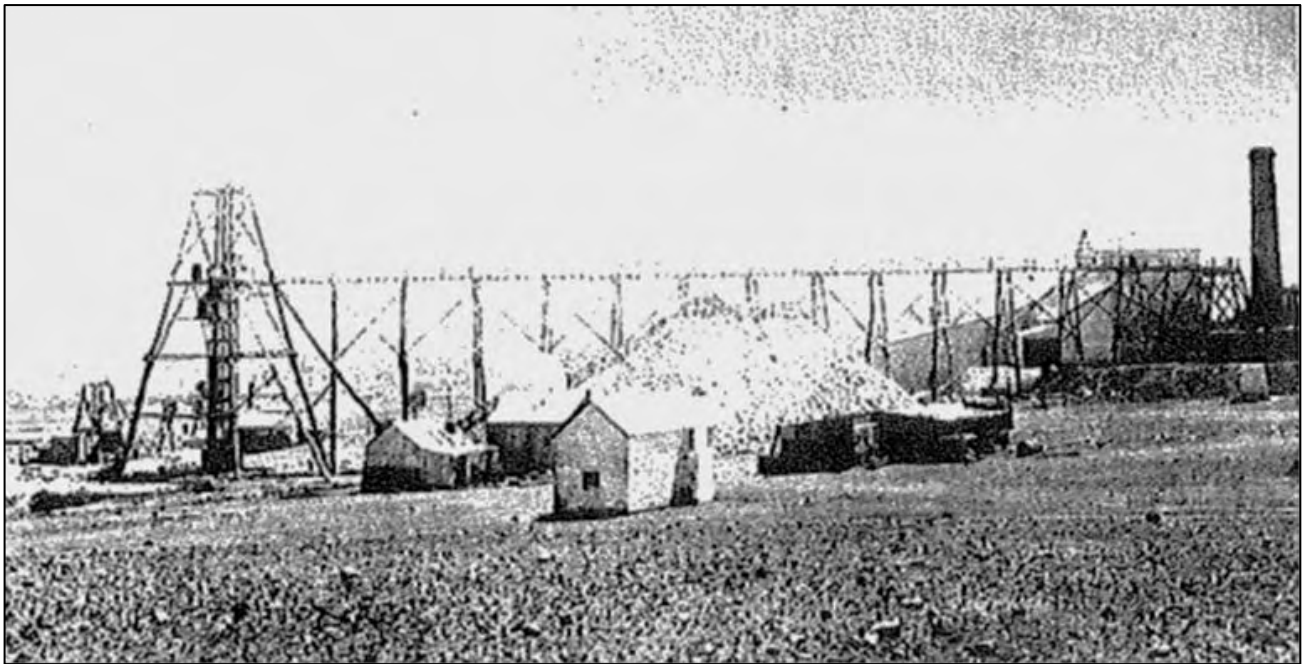


Plate 1: The New Bushman's Mine, 1894 (The Glint of Gold 1999 p.252)

In the early years of its discovery the name Bushman's became synonymous with the settlement and was often interchangeable with Currajong. The Bushman Lead started in the NW and arced down beneath the modern town of Parkes along the approximate line of the railway, passing within 1km of the project Area before following the line of Goobang Creek for several kilometres²⁷ (Figure 4).

The Possum and Sardine leads were later found to head south from the Bushman's for a short distance and these were also productive leads. The Project Area is located between these three deep leads in the heart of the Parkes gold fields, however because of the focus on these deep palaeochannel deposits the intermediate ground was often left unutilised. From the parish maps this appears to have been the case for the lands containing the Project Area which was more closely linked to the adjacent TSR reserve.

For miners numerous challenges were encountered beyond the location of payable lodes. Shaft sinking was a backbreaking and dangerous exercise worsened by the extreme heat of the goldfields and periodic flooding. Water availability was a particular problem with many mines stockpiling lodes in lieu of adequate puddling and sluicing supplies. Underground the engineering associated with hurried operations succumbed to water, quicksands and swelling schists²⁸. Timber and industrial supplies were scarce and the maintenance and operation of steam engines, pumps, winding gear, puddling machines was very costly²⁹.

Private investment was bolstered by government aid and operations were carefully watched by the government. In 1885 Y.V. Slee, Chief Inspector of Mines reported from Parkes that various lead operations had been "...working away very satisfactory to all concerned..."³⁰ on various shafts and lead tunnels sunk up to 153 feet. These

²⁷ Cook. and Garvey 1999 p.252

²⁸ Robinson And Frost 1981 p.103

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Sydney Morning Herald- Friday 21 august 1885 p.5

Inspectors understood the shifting fortunes of mining and that the local community had invested their futures in these ventures. Official reports reflect both the unflagging optimism and general anxiety that pervaded the search for payable gold.

Success was also important to the Government as considerable aid had been invested in the outlay of mining operations and this reflected the great store placed in the hopes that the Parkes goldfields would support the growth of the colony of NSW and relieve economic and employment pressures:

The discovery of a payable lead at the present time is of the greatest importance to New South Wales, because it would have the effect of keeping many of our miners from proceeding to the unknown region of Kimberley, and it would also give employment to many during the present depressed state of the labour market³¹.

By 1890 viable deep lead operations including the Bushman, Dayspring and others were in operation, further prospecting was widespread and ground was being marked off for a considerable distance in all directions from the prospector's shafts in preparation for future industry³². Inspector Slee was again reporting that the returns from these and the alluvial workings indicated that the district was "on the eve of revival, and that in the near future the Parkes district may again come to the front as a great gold-producing locality"³³.

The scale of the industry and its importance to Parkes during this period is evident in a geological parish map of 1890 that shows extensive leads veining the region to the south of town and many small leases and tenements in the surrounding land (Figure 4). By the turn of the century things were winding down and it was stated that "Work is still carried on in the Forbes Parkes Gold Field in a desultory kind of way, it must be admitted that the industry has been at a very low ebb since 1907."³⁴

Comments like these effectively mark the end of the historical gold mining boom on the Parkes-Forbes Gold Field, however with industrial and technological advancements the mining of gold and other minerals has experienced a revival in the Central West and remains a viable component of the local economy and a key component of regional identity.

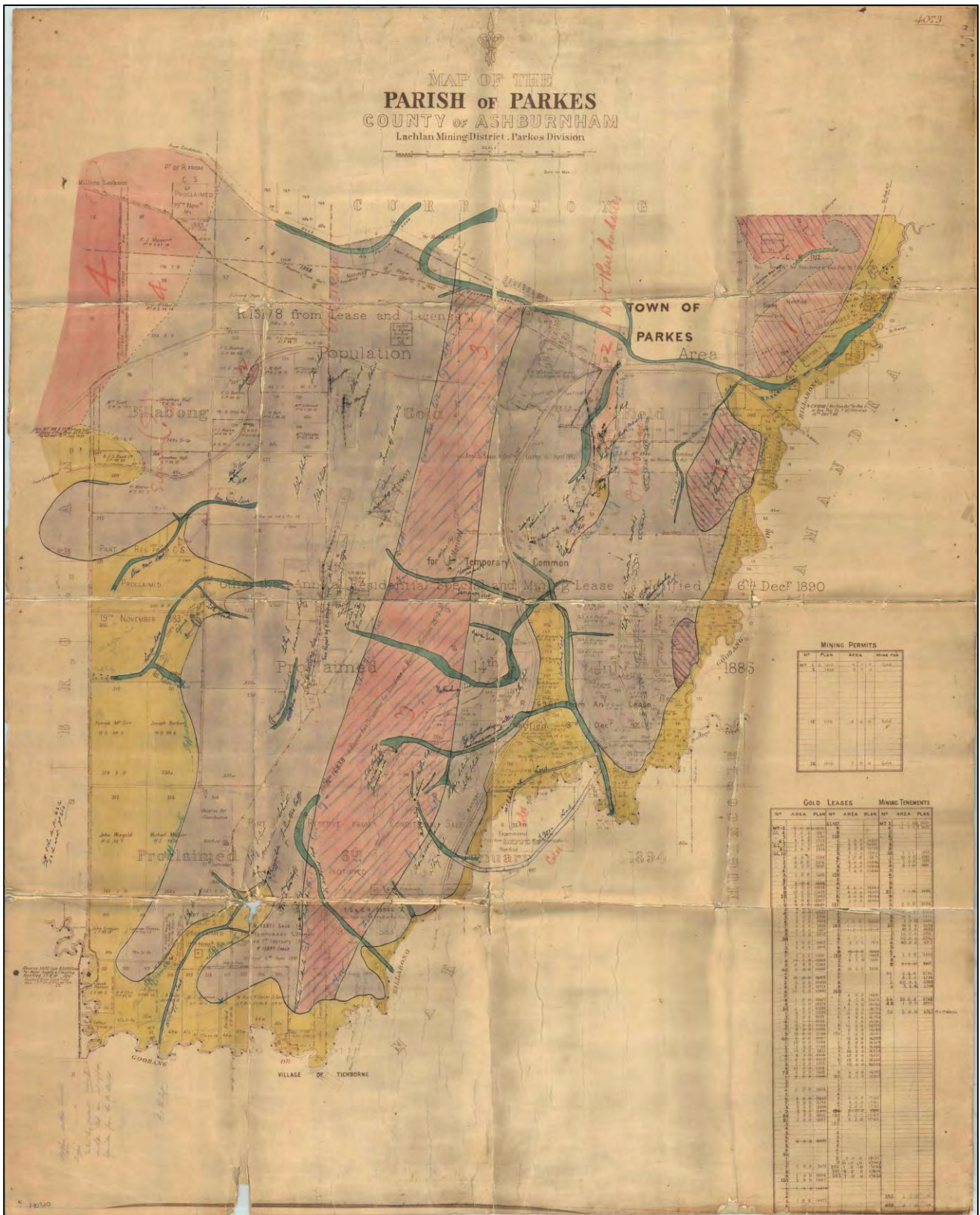
³¹ The Globe, Saturday 5 June 1886 p.2

³² Ibid.

³³ The Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 26 August 1890 p.4

³⁴ Report Summary and Document List for Mineral Resources 13 ec Andrew 1910
<http://digsopen.minerals.nsw.gov.au/?rin=R00050676>

Figure 4: Geological parish map of Parkes1890 (NSW Government Land and Property Information <http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm>)



3.3.7 Transport

The earliest public enterprise in the Central West, which predated settlement, was the building of a road over the Blue Mountains. Further afield the necessary network of roads to serve the settlements of the Central West and the Lachlan evolved informally, later being surveyed and gazetted by the Public Works Department of the Colonial Government³⁵.

Travelling Stock Routes, laid out as pathways for the movement of livestock were also officially gazetted, and their constancy in the Central West Landscape has made them an important historical resource as well as a natural reservoir of native flora and fauna in an otherwise highly modified and depauperate landscape³⁶. The Project Area is located adjacent to a TSR that is one of the more constant features on the changing face of Parkes through the town's history. The relationship between the Project Area and this TSR is discussed further in sections **3.3.10** and **4.2.1**.

The movement of stock over long distances of these stock routes was a major feature of pastoral life in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Inns positioned along the way serviced the stockmen and as discussed by Kass; "some were of high quality serving the coaching trade, whilst others were less salubrious. A constant element in most travelers' accounts of the colony was the detailed description of the quality (or otherwise) of the inns in which the sojourners spent the night."³⁷ Little evidence of these inns and coach stations survives, however they remain an important potential archaeological resource of the rural history of NSW.

In addition to stock routes early roads developed as direct links with other centres of gold mining such as the Forbes Road/Newell Highway adjacent to the Project Area were formed to service the transfer of resources and labour.

Parkes was eventually connected by railway with Forbes to the south and Sydney via Molong in 1893 through the construction of a link 270 miles in length³⁸. This represented a substantial investment in the town's future and modernized the transport of necessary materials into Parkes and the export of livestock, grain and ore out of town overnight. Following the decline in mining in the Parkes region after 1910, the railway continued to provide growth for the town when the line was extended westward and Parkes became a focal centre for the bulk movement of wheat and other supplies. This position within wider networks of trade and travel was further developed with the advent of modern transport networks that continue to service rural Australia.

3.3.8 Government and Administration

In colonial Australia government and administration was headed by the Governor, a vice-regal personage appointed by the Crown in Britain to administer the colony on a semi-military basis³⁹. The system of government was based on the principle of the protection of all free colonial subjects by rule of law and the practice of strict enforcement of penalties and punishments for those who sought to escape abidance by colonial law.

Early incursions into lands beyond the proscribed limits of location proved a notable exception to this pattern as squatter pastoralists moved literally off the political map and ahead of government administrative controls. In the

³⁵ Kass 2003 p.42

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Kass 2003 p.42

³⁸ Unger 1977

³⁹ Kass 2003 p.67

early decades following the establishment of settlements like Goobang and Currajong in the remote Central West the post office was usually the first and only official government agency to be established⁴⁰.

An initial experiment in local government was undertaken in 1843 when a District Council was formed for the Mudgee-Wellington area. Despite these early exercises in practicality the colonial government continued to manage the area and to provide most of the developing services⁴¹. Courthouses served as administrative centres with Magistrates representing a de facto form of government, communicating the district's needs to the central administration in Sydney⁴².

The granting of self-government to New South Wales in 1856 gave a modicum of political power to the colonists, but local needs were still met through the same administrative framework as before and public officials such as the land officers were frequently incorporated into the administrative body of the courthouse building⁴³. These changes were problematic in many instances where local power was abused in relation to the use and procurement of lands⁴⁴.

The 1861 Lands Act created a more transparent procedure and a new administrative structure to oversee the process of alienation. Land Boards were created across the state and operated like a court to arbitrate on matters of land tenure and landholding. Thereafter, corruption was considerably alleviated⁴⁵. The first landholder within the Project Area was a land agent for Parkes and the connection between land and political influence is evident in the progression from this role to that of Mayor for Parkes in later life⁴⁶.

The Federation of the Australian colonies in 1901 was a landmark process in Australia's history and there are many significant sites associated with the press for federation within NSW, such as at Corowa and Tenterfield⁴⁷. As pointed out by Kass, "Though many citizens were apathetic about the issue, some were not. A number of sites across the Central West such as at Orange and Bathurst, Carcoar, Forest Reefs and Wellington were also actively considered before the site of Canberra was finally selected as the seat of Government."⁴⁸

Federation announced the foundation of the modern Australian political system under which State and local governments administer the regulation and management of State affairs including economic (eg. agriculture), legislative (environment & heritage) and resource (eg. Mining, lands and waterways) activities within Parkes and the wider Central West region.

3.3.9 Towns Suburbs and Villages

No concerted effort was made to organise the communities of Goobang Creek and the surrounding region around a town centre until after the discovery of gold in the Central West in 1851. In 1853 the county of Ashburnham was surveyed and a reserve for a town to be named 'Currajong' was set aside to the west of the Goobang area leases (**Plate 2** and **Figure 3**). This town would eventually evolve into the municipality of Parkes⁴⁹.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Greenwood 1955 p.134

⁴⁵ Kass 2003 p.67

⁴⁶ The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate: Friday 20 August 1915 p 6

⁴⁷ Kass 2003 p.68

⁴⁸ Kass 2003 p.68

⁴⁹ Cook and Garvey 1999 p.250

Following the gold strikes in the area the town grew rapidly and from 1871-1873 supported a population of 8000 and maintained 40 businesses, a school, church and post office. On 19 August 1873 the settlement was visited by the then NSW State Premier Henry Parkes who toured the goldfields. In honor of this event, from December 1873 the towns of Currajong and neighbouring settlement of Bushman's were collectively known as Parkes .

During the development of the municipality of Parkes in the 1880's closer, centralized settlement encouraged the subdivision of many larger stations into smaller portions for the growing population. Town plans for Parkes were drawn up in 1873 hot on the heels of Henry Parkes' visit, and in 1881⁵⁰. These displayed the shift away from disconnected holdings and toward a regular urban street plan. Parish maps of the turn of the century show this spread of ordered planning from the centre out into the formerly dedicated goldfield areas to the south.

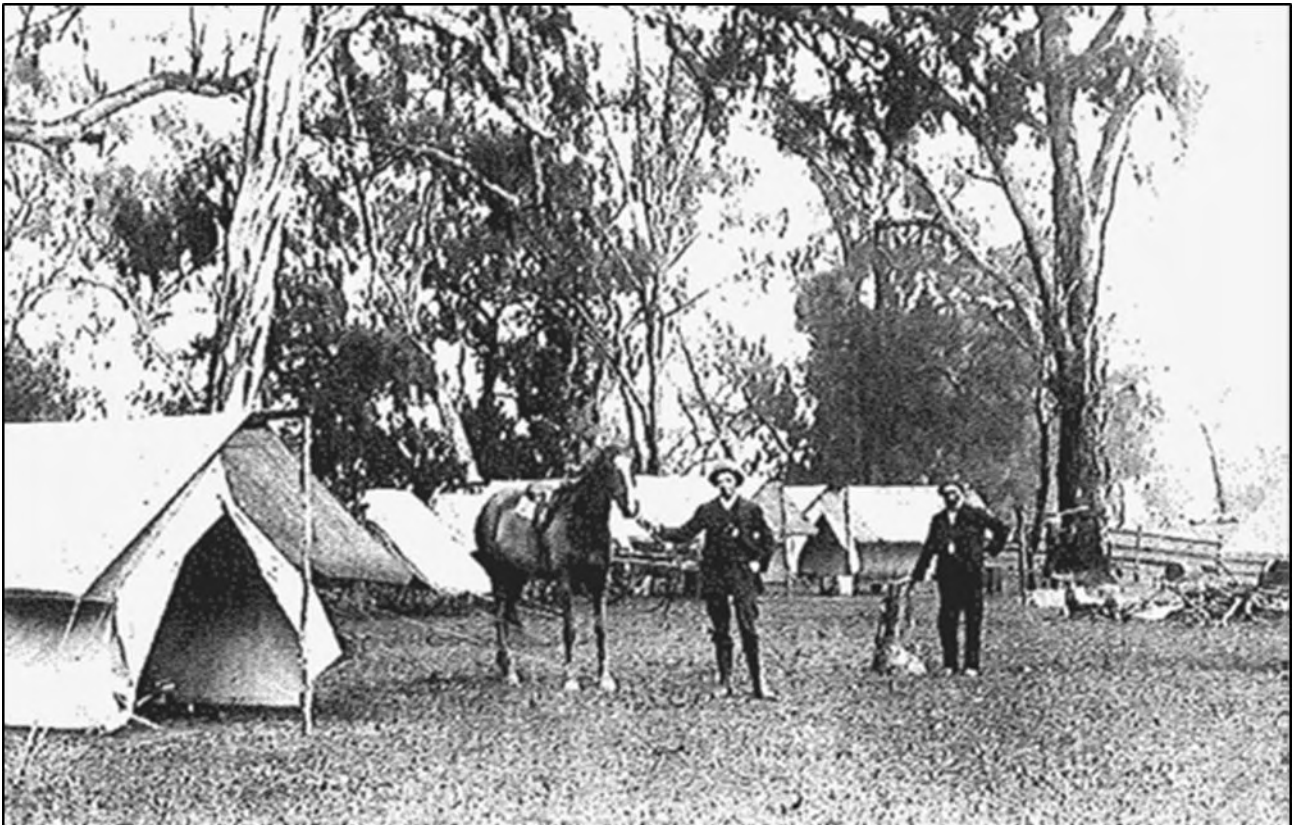


Plate 2: Surveyor's camp on the proposed site of Currajong, later Parkes, 1853. (Source: The Glint of Gold – A History and Tourist Guide of the Gold Fields of the Central West of NSW 1999:250)

Parkes and other rural towns of the Central West are home to heritage listed buildings that today stand as a record of architectural statements of period design. In their time these well-constructed public and commercial buildings pronounced the modernity, permanency and refinement of rural settlements and statements about the broader success of the colonial enterprise of NSW.

Postal services were early necessities of rural life, however only the larger towns or settlements were graced with a formal purpose-built post office⁵¹. In 1880, following the adoption of the name of Parkes and in preparation for municipal town planning the current Parkes Post Office was built, replacing the earlier timber Currajong post office building.

⁵⁰ Preliminary survey in connection with extension of design 1881 (NSW State Records SR 4949 SG map 2139d; Parkes design tracing showing locations – Parish Currajong, County Ashburnham 1873 (NSW State Records SR 4948 SG map 2139b

⁵¹ Kass 2003 p.45

In an article in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1893, written on the eve of the opening of the railway, Parkes was described in terms of the town's assets:

...one of the most substantial towns in the west. Up to the present, however, mineral wealth has been its strongest feature...The town occupies an admirable site, and is well furnished with substantial brick buildings. Most of the business places are large, and of a good style of architecture. In 1883 the town was pro-claimed a municipality, and was marked out to cover an area of 16 miles. It has 1000 houses. Its property is valued at £320,000. There are four banks, ten hotels, good stores, good schools, and good churches. The hospital is on a choice site; and, strange to think of, the post and telegraph office and courthouse are the smallest of all the structures of any pretensions in the town⁵².

In the twentieth century Parkes expanded into a modern suburban municipality while retaining its historical character. It is interesting to note that the town or village of Goobang recorded in the earliest map of the area (Error! Reference source not found.) and still evident in 1900, did not continue to grow but was absorbed back into the pastoral outskirts of modern Parkes.

3.3.10 Project Area

The Project area is located in an area of Crown land that was not taken up for pastoral usage early in the region's history. Despite the rapid onset of mining development in the area within and surrounding the project area it is not until well after the establishment of the Parkes gold fields that the land enters the historical record.

The first recorded individual associated with the Project Area is Andrew Stewart who is listed on the parish map of 1900 (Error! Reference source not found.) as the holder of a conditional lease of small portion 550. This number has remained in use for the northwestern corner of this original lease to the present day.

At the time of the 1900 map Stewart's lease is situated on the limits of the gold field with numerous small mining leases found in close proximity to the west. The land to the east has been resumed from any previous mining leaseholders following a reduction in the size of the gold fields and subdivided into 'suburban holding area' lots.

Prior to this time the gold reserves effectively barred residents and particularly agriculturalists to what was considered rich grazing land. Previously, under section 14 of the Crown lands Act it was stated that lands;

...not occupied for gold mining purposes, shall be open for conditional sale...Provided that at any period persons specially authorized by the Minister shall be at liberty to dig and search for gold within the land selected, and that should the land be found to contain auriferous deposits it shall be in the power, of the Governor and Executive Council to annul the sale, and thereupon the conditional purchaser shall be entitled to compensation for the value, other than auriferous, of the lands and improvements... Few agriculturalists would care to enter upon land on such terms...⁵³

It is for this reason that holdings prior to 1900 in this area south of Parkes are almost exclusively the domain of mining leases and tenements. This parish map of 1900 then represents a turning point in the land use patterns around Parkes with a significant reduction in the size of the gold fields in favour of small pastoral allotments and suburban growth. Andrew Stewart's is one of the largest portions among these new subdivisions and this is an indication of his unique position within the community at this time.

⁵² Sydney Morning Herald, 18 December 1893 p.6

⁵³ The Sydney Morning Herald 17 September 1874 p.3

Stewart started out as a policeman⁵⁴ and by the time of his lease within the Project Area had become a land agent in Parkes. He was already a figure of some prominence at this time, referred to frequently in the press as a leading figure within the Parkes Farmers' and Settlers' Association who;

*...has a wide knowledge of farming in all its branches: he is a clear, vigorous speaker; and despite the frequency with which he rises, the delegates invariably hear him with pleasure and profit. The Parkes district will always be kept well to the front so long as it has a man like A. Stewart representing it*⁵⁵.

Stewart reappears frequently in such references to land and agricultural matters at this time and his position as land agent sees him uniquely placed at the forefront of a renewed focus on agricultural land use in the waning years of the Parkes gold boom. It is no accident that his portion adjoins the primary travelling stock route (TSR) through town as consultation with his direct descendants through the Parkes Historical Society confirms that he ran sheep and cattle on the property adjacent to this TSR on which "40,000 sheep travelled each year"⁵⁶.

By 1916 Stewart had subdivided small portion 550 and the southern half was now small portion 610. Only portion 550 is contained within the Project Area, together with a section of land from the TSR to the north. This land was held by Stewart until sometime prior to 1957.

Following his career as a land agent Andrew Stewart went on to become Mayor of Parkes for successive terms and he has a street dedicated to him within the municipality of Parkes.

By the 1950's Lot 550 was a dedicated TSR reserve and the adjoining plot 610 to the south was set aside as a 'community forest' reserve. The most recent map for the parish of Parkes, created in 1972 shows that Lot 550 had also been dedicated as a forest reserve and wildlife refuge, probably associated with the natural values of the adjacent TSR. Subsequent notified references on this map outline the lands use by the Boy Scouts Association from 1974 -2003⁵⁷.

⁵⁴ Western Champion Friday 30 July 1909 p 13

⁵⁵ The Sydney Stock and Station Journal Tuesday 2 December 1913 p 4

⁵⁶ Western Champion Thursday 7 February 1924 p 29.

⁵⁷ County of Ashburnham, Parish of Parkes map (sheet 1) 1974 – LPI <http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm>

4 Site Analysis

4.1 Site Inspection

A site inspection of the Project Area was undertaken on 7 May 2013 by Biosis Pty Ltd. The principal aims of the survey were to identify whether any historical items are located within the Project Area and assess the potential for archaeological deposits to be present. The methodology and a discussion of results are provided below.

4.1.1 Methodology

The site inspection involved pedestrian survey of the project area in order to understand the heritage character of the land. The field investigation also sought to more accurately determine the nature and extent of the likelihood of archaeological resources. All built structures were inspected and a photographic record was prepared (**Plate 3**).



Plate 3: View east across the central survey area

4.1.2 Results

The site inspection concluded that a single modern concrete brick building stands within the Project Area. No structures of any heritage value were identified. The survey of the landform did not detect any evidence of mining activity in the form of mounds, depressions or visible relics associated with mining equipment or activity.



Plate 4: Modern concrete block building found within the Project Area

4.2 Documentary Evidence

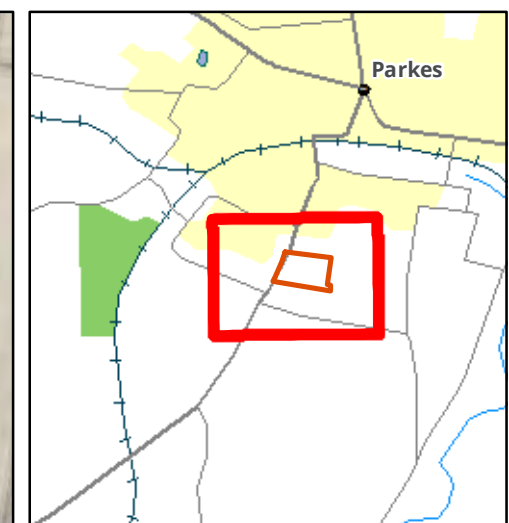
4.2.1 Maps and Aerial Photographs

The Project Area does not fall within the limited pastoral holdings shown in the Ashburnham county map of 1853 and is situated well south of the Currajong/Bushman's town reserve (Error! Reference source not found.)

The historical record provided by geological, parish and county maps from 1853 to the mid-20th century detail numerous major auriferous leads as well as smaller leases and tenements throughout the wider region surrounding the Project Area. These maps probably represent an incomplete record of all the gold workings that have taken place however they provide a sufficient framework to illustrate the site history of the Project Area.

Figure 5 shows the project area overlaid with a detail of the 1890 geological parish map shown in Figure 4. From this and Figure 6 it can be seen that numerous small mining leases marked 'GL' or 'MT' and associated surface shafts are found along the approximate alignment of the Newell Highway and adjacent lands. The lower section of the Possum lead is also seen in green. The Project Area does not contain any such visible notations relating to the mining or any other industry. The only notation throughout the Project Area is a north-south feature drawn to the east of the Project Area that records the geological character of the ground as 'chert and flinty claystones – contorted'⁵⁸.

⁵⁸ 1890 geological parish map of Parkes - LPI historic parish maps <http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm>



Legend

 Project Area

Figure 5: Overlay of 1890s geological parish map of Possum Lead over a modern aerial

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Metres

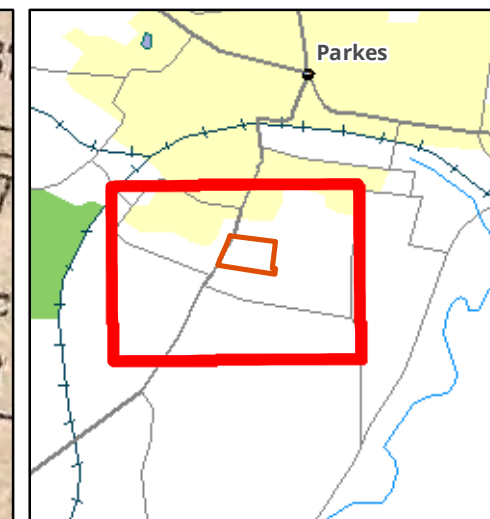
Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

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An analysis of modern aerial photographs (Figure 7) shows historical mining features in the surrounding landscape, clearly visible as pale crop marks. No such marks are detectable within the Project Area. It can also be seen from Figure 5 – Figure 10 that the majority of the Project Area falls within the TSR corridor, a stock route in place since at least 1890 that probably dates back to the municipal zoning of Parkes during the 1880's if not before.



Legend

Project Area

Figure 6: 1891 parish map showing gold mining leases in the vicinity of the Project Area

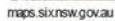
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By 1916 this had become a conditional purchase and subdivision of the portion had taken place by 1932 (Figure 9). By 1957 Stewart is no longer in possession of the land and Lot 550 and Lot 610 to the south have been dedicated to other purposes. From this time on the Project Area is reserved Crown Land with only limited public and pastoral access (Figure 10).

Figure 9: Detail of 1932 parish map of Parkes showing the subdivision of Andrew Stewart's Conditional purchase into portions 550 and 610. (NSW Government Land and Property Information <http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm>)

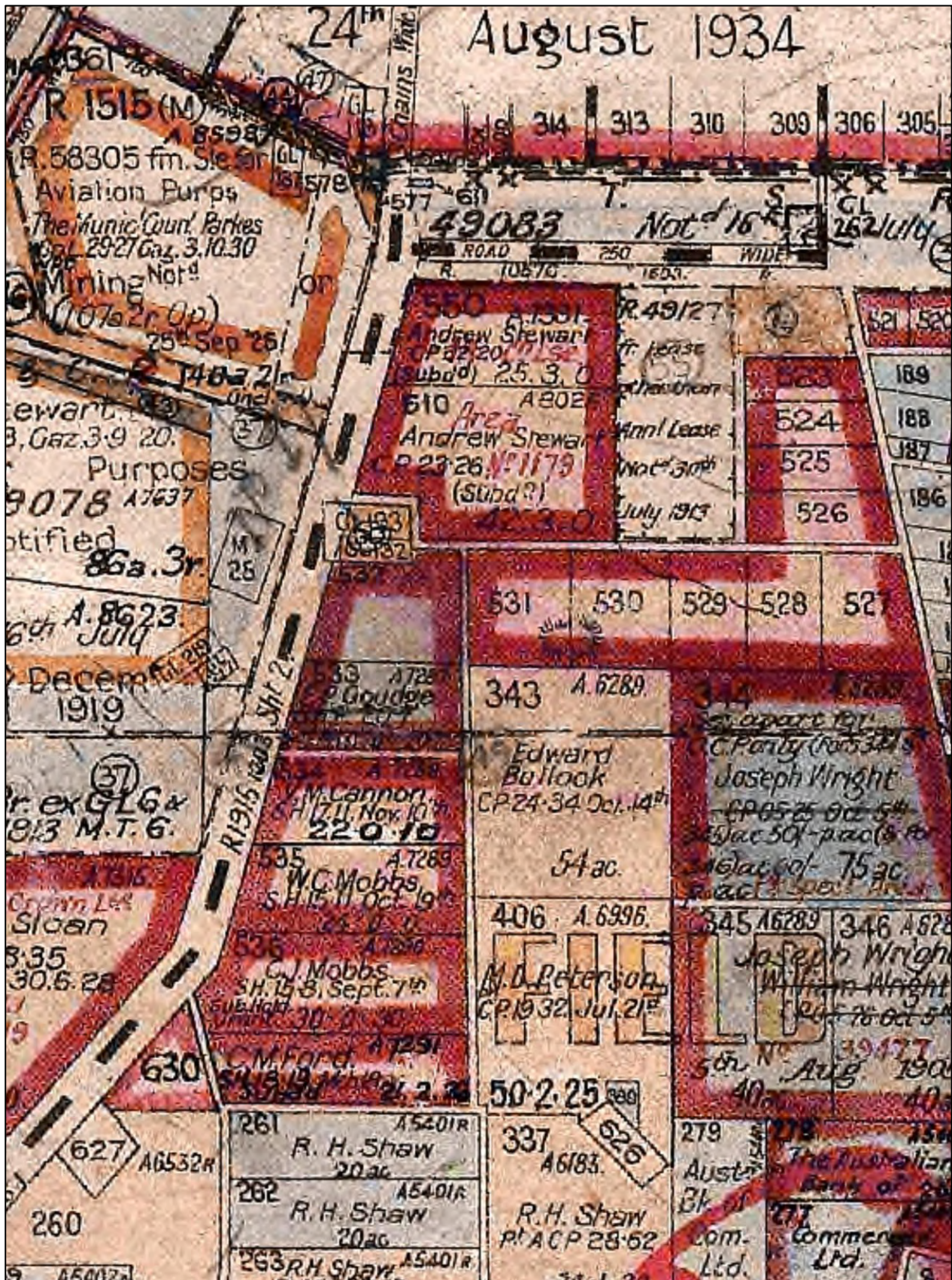
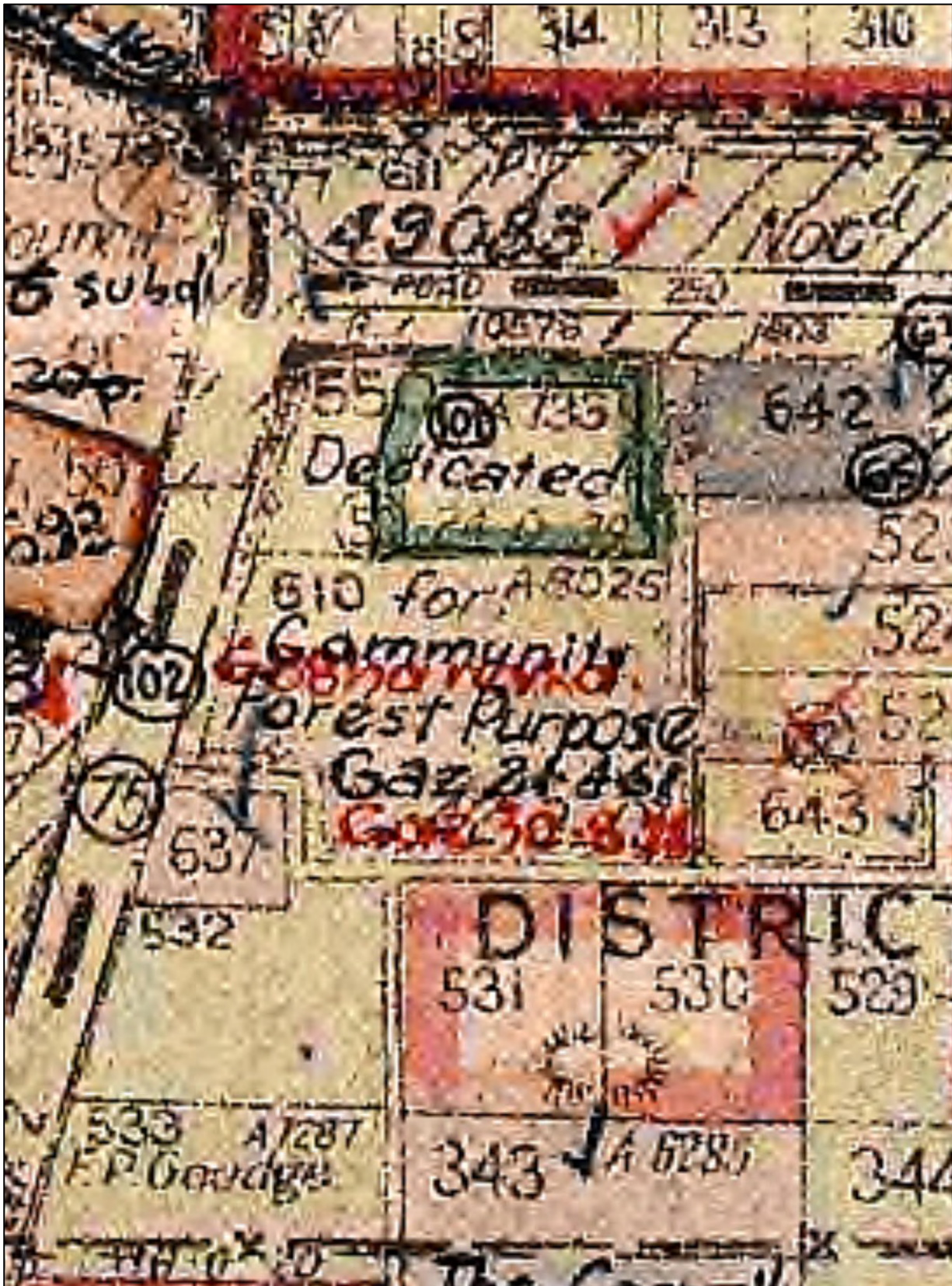


Figure 10: Detail of 1957 parish map of Parkes showing the dedication of Lots 550 and 610 as pastoral and forestry reserves. (NSW Government Land and Property Information <http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm>)



4.2.2 Historical Photographs

A search of images and pictures held in the following collections were inspected on 3 December 2013:

- NLA Pictures in TROVE
- State Library of NSW online resources
- Historic Photographs Australia
- Parkes Library online resources

Photographic records of pastoral lands are uncommon; however aerial photographs can provide detail of any buildings or industry on large portions of land. Only 1 relatively recent aerial photograph was available for the Project Area (**Plate 5**) and this shows that the pattern of roads, tracks and vegetation remain the same and no detectable landform change has occurred since this time. Crop marks indicative of mining activity are again widely evident as white circular or irregular patches on the landscape however these are not present within the Project Area. No further relevant historical photographs were found for the Project Area.



Plate 5: Aerial photograph of the Project Area and vicinity from January 1980. Lot 550 within the Project Area is indicated by a red arrow. (Parkes Shire council online resource; Library <http://library.parkes.nsw.gov.au/history/magicgallery/aerial%20shot.jpg>)

4.2.3 Summary of Historical Analysis

Date	Theme	Physical Evidence
1817 – 1853	Exploration and surveying for the Crown	No historic physical evidence related to this theme has been identified within the Project Area
1830 – 1862	Land tenure	No historic physical evidence related to this theme has been identified within the Project Area
1830 – Present	Pastoralism	No historic physical evidence related to this theme has been identified within the Project Area
1862 – Present	Mining	No historic physical evidence related to this theme has been identified within the Project Area. Sub-surface physical evidence may be present.
1830 – Present	Transport	No historic physical evidence related to this theme has been identified within the Project Area
1817 - Present	Government and administration	No historic physical evidence related to this theme has been identified within the Project Area
1853 – present	Towns, suburbs and villages	No historic physical evidence related to this theme has been identified within the Project Area

4.3 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

Evidence for activities of historic significance within the Project Area has not been found. It remains possible that undocumented small-scale mining activity has taken place on the site, however the historical record does not indicate this is likely. Tunneling associated with mine shafts near the Project Area may underlie the Project Area at depth, however such tunnels, should they occur, are unlikely to be impacted by the Project works.

4.4 Archaeological Research Potential

Archaeological research potential refers to the ability of archaeological evidence to provide information about a site that could not be derived from any other source and which contributes to the archaeological significance of that site. Archaeological research potential differs from archaeological potential in that the presence of an archaeological resource (i.e. archaeological potential) does not mean that it can provide any additional information that increases our understanding of a site or the past (i.e. archaeological research potential).

The research potential of a site is also affected by the integrity of the archaeological resource within a study area. If a site is disturbed, then vital contextual information that links material evidence to a stratigraphic sequence may be missing and it may be impossible to relate material evidence to activities on a site. This is generally held to reduce the ability of an archaeological site to answer research questions.

Assessment of the research potential of a site also relates to the level of existing documentation of a site and of the nature of the research done so far (the research framework), to produce a 'knowledge' pool to which research into archaeological remains can add.

The historical evidence presented indicates that no activities have taken place within the site that present archaeological research potential.

5 Assessment of Significance

5.1 Background to assessing significance

An assessment of archaeological site significance encompasses a range of heritage criteria and values. The heritage values of a site or place are broadly defined as the 'aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values for past, present or future generations' (ICOMOS Burra Charter Marquis-Kyle & Walker 1992). This means a place can have different levels of heritage value and significance to different groups of people.

Archaeological sites are most commonly assessed in terms of historical and scientific values, particularly by what a site can tell us about past lifestyles and people. There is an accepted procedure for determining the level of significance of an archaeological site.

A detailed set of criteria for assessing the State's cultural heritage was published by the (then) NSW Heritage Office. These criteria are divided into two categories: nature of significance, and comparative significance.

Heritage assessment criteria in NSW fall broadly within the four significance values outlined in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 1999). The Burra Charter has been adopted by State and Commonwealth heritage agencies as the recognised document for guiding best practice for heritage practitioners in Australia.

The assessment criteria rely on the following four values:

- **historical** significance (evolution and association);
- **aesthetic** significance (scenic/architectural qualities, creative accomplishment);
- **scientific** significance (archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values);
- **social** significance (contemporary community esteem).

The NSW Heritage Office issued a more detailed set of assessment criteria to provide consistency with heritage agencies in other States and to avoid ambiguity and misinterpretation. These criteria are based on the ICOMOS Burra Charter. The following SHR criteria were gazetted following amendments to the *Heritage Act* that came into effect in April 1999.

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 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 the 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.

5.2 Levels of Heritage Significance

Items, places, buildings, works, relics, movable objects or precincts can be of either local or State heritage significance, or have both local and State heritage significance. Places can have different values to different people or groups.

Local heritage items

Local heritage items are those of significance to the local government area. In other words, they contribute to the individuality and streetscape, townscape, landscape or natural character of an area and are irreplaceable parts of its environmental heritage. They may have greater value to members of the local community, who regularly engage with these places and/or consider them to be an important part of their day-to-day life and their identity. Collectively, such items reflect the socio-economic and natural history of a local area. Items of local heritage significance form an integral part of the State's environmental heritage.

State heritage items

State heritage items, places, buildings, works, relics, movable objects or precincts of State heritage significance include those items of special interest in the State context. They form an irreplaceable part of the environmental heritage of New South Wales and must have some connection or association with the State in its widest sense.

5.3 Evaluation

No evidence has been found to support an assessment that the Project Area contains intact or partially intact archaeological deposits that meet designated criterion of the State Heritage Register based on the ICOMOS Burra Charter. A low potential exists that the Project Area may contain subsurface intact or partially intact archaeological deposits that meet designated criterion of the State Heritage Register based on the ICOMOS Burra Charter.

The evaluation of the designated SHR criterion as they relate to the Project Area is outlined below:

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)*

Although located within the historically important Parkes goldfield area, the Project Area contains no visible traces or documented evidence for mining activity. The Project Area does not meet this criterion.

Criterion B: *Does the item have 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)*

The Project Area has a long association with the life of Andrew Stewart, a person of significance to the local area. However as Stewart's use of the land was confined to the grazing of cattle and sheep the association is not considered strong or special. The Project Area does not meet this criterion.

Criterion C: *Is the item important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)*

The Project Area does not meet this criterion.

Criterion D: *Does the item have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons*

The Project Area does not meet this criterion.

Criterion E: *Does the Item have the 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)*

The Project Area is located within the former Parkes goldfield and as such, a low potential exists that unforeseen sources of information on the cultural history of the local area may be present in the form of archaeological deposits. However no evidence has been identified that such deposits are contained within the Project Area and as such, it is not considered to meet this criterion.

Criterion F: *Does the Item possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*

The Project Area does not meet this criterion.

Criterion G: *Is the item important in demonstrating the principle 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*

The Project Area does not meet this criterion.

Statement of Significance

The Project Area has not been identified as the site of rare or representative activities in the history of the region. No archaeological deposits have been identified and the potential to encounter unforeseen archaeological resources is considered low. The Project Area is considered to have a very low level of heritage significance.

6 Statement of Heritage Impact

6.1 Introduction

This SoHI has been prepared to address the proposed impacts to the 'Crown-2' development site. The SoHI identifies the level of impact of the proposal and the steps taken to avoid or reduce those impacts. This section of the report has been prepared in accordance with the Heritage Manual *Statements of Heritage Impact* published by the Heritage Office and the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning 1996, revised 2002.

6.2 Proposal Details

The proposed development involves the construction of a new hospital campus for the Lachlan Health Service to provide health services to the Parkes, NSW community⁵⁹. The buildings are proposed to be sited in the northwest portion of the wider Project Area and will form a combination of single and double storey components that will comprise the new emergency department, Inpatient unit and Birthing unit facilities for the Parkes area.

6.3 Description and Assessment of Impacts

6.3.1 Discussion

The Scheme Design for the development outlines the adoption of a minimal environmental footprint associated with the construction works however disturbance to the ground surface is a necessary function of the development and would include;

- levelling of the site surface by the excavation of material over a 2525m³ area to depths of between approximately 0 – 2m. The surface leveling will also involve the infill of areas currently below the required level height.
- mechanical excavation employed in the construction of building foundations and services associated with the development that may impact the ground surface below the depth of the initial leveling footprint.
- disturbance of the wider Project Area ground surface by mechanical grading in the course of constructing vehicle access routes and parking areas within the environs of the buildings.
- Grading and excavations associated with the construction of an access road connecting the facilities with the Newell highway and Back Yamma Road.
- excavation associated with the installation of signage, landscaping and tree planting would also take place, further disturbing the existing ground surface of the site.

Due to their relatively recent creation, historical archaeological deposits in Australia are generally buried at very shallow depths below current ground surfaces and disturbance of these sites can occur through only superficial disturbance of the ground surface. The detailed review of historical documentation and survey of the Project Area conducted for this proposal has identified no heritage items or archaeological deposits that could be impacted by the development. A low level of potential exists that such archaeological contexts may exist on the site and any such sites within the areas of works described above would be impacted or destroyed.

The highest areas of potential to encounter unforeseen archaeological deposits within the Project Area are those closest to documented mining-related activities along the eastern boundary adjacent to the Newell Highway. The central section and southern corner of this 180m edge of Lot 550 are the most sensitive areas to adjacent mining

⁵⁹ Scheme Design report for Lachlan Health Service – Parkes hospital 2013

leases shown in **Figure 8 – Figure 10**. The current Lachlan health Service Scheme Design (section 6.2) for site access to the hospital is an appropriate configuration to avoid impacting such areas. Any tree plantings along this sensitive western limit of Lot 550, as indicated in the Scheme Design (section 5.5) may impact mining-related archaeological deposits.

The proposed access road linking The Newell Highway and Back Yamma Roads is sited on the previous travelling stock route (TSR) and this area is considered to be of low archaeological potential.

6.4 Statement of Heritage Impact

The Project Area is not located near any registered heritage items therefore the proposed development does not represent a negative impact on any items of heritage significance or anticipated archaeological deposits. The Project Area has been assessed as possessing a low potential for unforeseen archaeological remains, however measures should be implemented to manage the discovery of relics in the event that these are encountered during the construction works.

7 Conclusion and Recommendations

7.1 Conclusions

Under Part 4 and Part 5 of the EP&A Act, impacts to known or suspected archaeological sites can only be undertaken with an approval or exception (or exemption for SHR sites) from the Heritage Council (or delegates).

On the basis of extensive background research and a survey of the proposed site conducted by Biosis Pty Ltd it is considered that no known heritage sites or archaeological deposits will be impacted by the Lachlan Health Service Hospital Development within the Project Area. The potential for discovering unforeseen archaeological resources is considered low.

In NSW impacts to relics are only permitted with a section 140 approval (excavation permit) or an exception for the requirement of a section 140 approval (exception notification). In the event that relics are encountered during construction works which are believed to be of local or state significance all works should cease and the NSW Heritage Division be contacted immediately.

Excavation permits usually take approximately eight weeks to process and the Heritage Officers may request more information prior to approval; it is therefore prudent to commence the permit process ahead of construction commencing.

Provided that the recommendations are adopted for the project as well as any additional conditions of approval, the project may proceed without harm to historical heritage.

7.2 Recommendations

These recommendations have been formulated to respond to client requirements and the significance of the site. They are guided by the ICOMOS *Burra Charter*.

Recommendation 1 **The project may proceed with conditions**

The project is considered to pose no threat to existing heritage items or archaeological deposits and may proceed on the condition that should relics be encountered during construction works which are believed to be of local or state significance all works should cease and the relevant project authority and NSW Heritage Division be contacted immediately. Until the relics can be investigated further measures should be implemented in accordance with established Heritage Management Plan chance finds procedures⁶⁰ that include the documentation of the discovery and exclusion of the area from further disturbance.

If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity works, all activity in the vicinity must cease immediately. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. The following contingency plan describes the immediate actions that must be taken in instances where human remains or suspected human remains are discovered. Any such discovery at the activity area must follow these steps:

Discovery: If suspected human remains are discovered all activity in the vicinity must stop to ensure minimal damage is caused to the remains; and the remains must be left in place, and protected from harm or damage.

Notification: Once suspected human skeletal remains have been found, the Coroner's Office and the NSW Police must be notified immediately.

⁶⁰ RMS 2012 M5 West Widening project CHMP p.28

http://www.m5westwidening.com.au/Content/UserUploaded/Heritage_Management_Plan_Rev_1.pdf

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"Commonwealth Heritage List Criteria":
<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/commonwealth/criteria.html>
NSW Government Land and property information - HLRV: <http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm>
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