

# Appendix B
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

# Whitehaven Solar Farm Project

Environmental Impact Statement

WHITEHAVEN COAL

# Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project in the Narrabri Shire, New South Wales



A report to

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd

Prepared by

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Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

September 2024

# Executive Summary

**Project Description**

Whitehaven Energy is proposing to develop a solar farm approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Local Government Area (LGA), in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project) would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatts (MW) direct current (DC) or 20 MW alternating current (AC) of solar electricity generation, including a small modular Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of 10 MWh capacity. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line (ETL).

The Project is located on previously cleared, pastoral land located at 117 Kurrajong Creek Road, Baan Baa, immediately south of the Narrabri Mine entrance and extending north into the mine's infrastructure area.

**Consultation**

Consultation with the Aboriginal community for the Project was undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines (DECCW, 2010a), the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW), and the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NSW).

The ten existing Narrabri Mine Stage 3 Extension Project RAPs were automatically registered for the Project due to the proximity of the Project to the Narrabri Mine. Five new RAPs were also identified through a new registration process.

Aboriginal cultural heritage field surveys were undertaken on 7-8 March 2024 (two days total). The survey involved three RAPs and two archaeologists, who worked together to inspect the entirety of the Investigation Area (i.e. those areas directly associated with the Project).

**Predictive Model**

A desk based review of the environmental, archaeological and cultural context informed a predictive model for the likely presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Investigation Area, which indicates that Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are predicted to occur in areas:

- containing mature native trees in association with Kurrajong Creek; or
- within 200 m of a named watercourse and/or 100 m of a mapped drainage line and/or 50 m of a known Aboriginal cultural heritage site and on slopes no greater than 30 degrees (°); or
- where sandstone outcrops are likely to occur.

No Aboriginal cultural heritage sites had been identified within the Project Area prior to commencement of the surveys, although artefact scatters scarred trees and grinding grooves are known to exist within the wider area.

**Survey Results**

Comprehensive archaeological survey, which was informed by the archaeological predictive model, used pedestrian transects to maximise overall survey coverage. The entire Investigation Area was subject to exhaustive survey, with all sensitive landforms (i.e. areas within 200 m of Kurrajong Creek and 100 m of the unnamed drainage line) subject to detailed inspection.

The Ground Surface Visibility (GSV) was generally good across the Undulating Plains landform, especially in areas being actively ploughed. In areas not being actively ploughed (e.g. immediately adjacent to Kurrajong Creek and its tributary), GSV was generally lower. Despite lower GSV along the creek banks, Kurrajong Creek and its tributary were accessible with sufficient GSV to determine the presence of surface exposures and sandstone outcrops.

The area of the Investigation Area is 1,154,000 square metres ($m^2$) (115.4 ha). Total effective coverage of the survey (i.e. ground inspected for Aboriginal objects) for the Investigation Area equates to approximately 426,590 $m^2$ (approximately 42.7 ha) or 37% of the total Investigation Area. The actual coverage for obtrusive site types (e.g. grinding grooves, rock shelters), however, can be considered greater, as survey was sufficient to identify rock outcrops and landforms with potential for overhangs or caves. Notwithstanding localised areas of low GSV, the resulting effective survey coverage (37%) is considered comprehensive to present an effective assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the Investigation Area.

Upon conclusion of the ACHA survey, a total of 11 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are known to exist within the Investigation Area, nine (9) of which are surface artefact sites, including three (3) artefact scatters and six (6) isolated artefacts. Two grinding groove sites were also identified on the northern edge of Kurrajong Creek; Naroo GG1 containing at least two (2) grooves while Naroo GG2 consists of at least 11 grooves. No (0) other site types were identified within the Investigation Area.

During the ACHA survey, the archaeologists encouraged participants to provide input on bush tucker/medicine, fauna and cultural associations/knowledge of the Investigation Area. There have been no specific spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments identified by the RAPs within the Investigation Area. There is, however, the contemporary view held by RAPs that all Aboriginal objects and sites are important within the region due to their interconnectivity with the natural landscape and their testimony to ancestors' presence within this landscape.

**Significance**

The ACHA has assessed the archaeological potential of the Investigation Area within the context of the wider landscape and previous disturbances. The contextual desktop study and field survey explored the actual and potential archaeological values and resulted in the identification of 11 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (including three [3] artefact scatters, six [6] isolated artefacts, and two [2] grinding groove sites) located within the Investigation Area. Of these 11 sites, 10 are classified as being of low scientific significance, with grinding groove site (Naroo GG2) being of moderate scientific significance; no (0) sites of high scientific significance have been identified within the Investigation Area.

It was noted by some RAPs that, apart from their scientific value, all artefacts are culturally significant to them, because they are reflections of the actions of their ancestors.

**Impact Assessment**

It is expected that the Project impacts will not extend to the banks of Kurrajong Creek, and that the majority of known Aboriginal objects will not be directly impacted by the Project. The proposed solar photovoltaic array layout will likely impact one (1) isolated artefact of low scientific significance located along the tributary of Kurrajong Creek.

Potential impacts resulting from accidental disturbance or inappropriate visitation of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites can be managed through the installation of protective fencing, personnel training, and the maintenance of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Database.

**Results**

The evaluation undertaken as part of this ACHA has determined that 11 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are known to occur within the Investigation Area; one (1) of which would be directly impacted by the Project. The Aboriginal cultural heritage site (Naroo IA4) scheduled to be impacted is of low scientific significance. As a result, no (0) Aboriginal cultural heritage sites of high or moderate scientific significance would be impacted by the Project.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Whitehaven Energy prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which includes the following measures (or protocols) to manage the potential impacts of surface disturbance on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area:

- Whitehaven Energy should maintain a record of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area and mark these sites on relevant Project documentation and plans.
- Whitehaven Energy should implement a protocol for surface disturbance works to reduce the risk of accidental damage to known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (e.g. demarcation of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located in proximity to, but outside of, disturbance areas).
- Where practicable, known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites should be avoided during Project construction and operational works.
- The location of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites should be considered during final detailed engineering designs of surface infrastructure.
- The precise location of surface infrastructure may change during detailed project planning. Where changes to current design of the proposed surface disturbance areas mean that avoidance of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is not practicable, the site(s) should be subject to archaeological salvage.
- It is recommended that proposed surface infrastructure areas should be subject to additional surface investigation prior to commencement of disturbance activities.
- The protocol for the management of previously unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and/or human remains within the CEMP should be implemented for the Project.
- Protocols that prescribe the involvement of RAPs in cultural heritage works are to be contained within the CEMP, and should be implemented for development of the Project.

- A communication protocol should be developed that describes clear methods of communication, including expectations of suitable notification and response times between the proponent and RAPs.
- Options for the final storage location of any collected artefacts should be determined in consultation with the RAPs during preparation of the CEMP.

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# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| % | Percent |
| AACHMP | Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan |
| ACHMP | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan |
| AC | alternating current |
| ACHA | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment |
| ACHAR | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report |
| AHCS | Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Strategy |
| AHIMS | Aboriginal Heritage Information and Management System |
| The Burra Charter | *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Australia ICOMOS, 2013) |
| $^{0}$C | degrees Celsius |
| the Code | *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010b) |
| Consultation Guidelines | *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a) |
| DECCW | Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water |
| DC | direct current |
| DD | Due Diligence |
| DPE | Department of Planning and Environment |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EP&A Act | *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) |
| ETL | Electricity Transmission Line |
| GSV | Ground Surface Visibility |
| ha | hectares |
| ICOMOS | International Council on Monuments and Sites |
| Investigation Area | Those areas directly associated with the Project |
| km | kilometre |
| kV | kilovolt |
| LALC | Local Aboriginal Land Council |
| LGA | Local Government Area |

| | |
|---|---|
| MCCM | Maules Creek Coal Mine |
| mm | metres |
| $m^2$ | square metres |
| mm | millimetres |
| MW | Megawatt |
| NCM | Narrabri Coal Mine |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| OEH | Office of Environment and Heritage |
| PA | Project Approval |
| the Project | the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project |
| RAP | Registered Aboriginal Party |
| SEARs | Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements |
| SSD | State Significant Development |
| SU | Survey Unit |
| TCM | Tarrawonga Coal Mine |
| Whincop Archaeology | Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd |
| Whitehaven | Whitehaven Coal Limited |
| Whitehaven Energy | Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd |

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background and Overview

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited [Whitehaven]) (Whitehaven Energy) is proposing to develop a solar farm approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Local Government Area (LGA), in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1). Whitehaven Energy is seeking approval for the Project as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Section 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project) would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatts (MW) direct current (DC) or 20 MW alternating current (AC) of solar electricity generation, including a small modular Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of 10 MWh capacity. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line (ETL).

The Narrabri Mine is operated by Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd (NCOPL), on behalf of the Narrabri Mine Joint Venture, which consists of Whitehaven's wholly owned subsidiaries of Narrabri Coal Pty Ltd (70 percent [%]) and Narrabri Coal Australia Pty Ltd (7.5%), Upper Horn Investments (Australia) Pty Ltd (7.5%), J-Power Australia Pty Limited (7.5%), Posco International Australia Holdings Pty Ltd (5%) and Kores Narrabri Pty Limited (2.5%). The Narrabri Mine is an underground longwall coal mine and is approved under State Significant Development (SSD) Approval 10269 until 2044.

As the Project is a development for the purpose of electricity generating works with a capital investment value of approximately $55 million (i.e. greater than $30 million), approval for the Project will be sought as a SSD under section 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

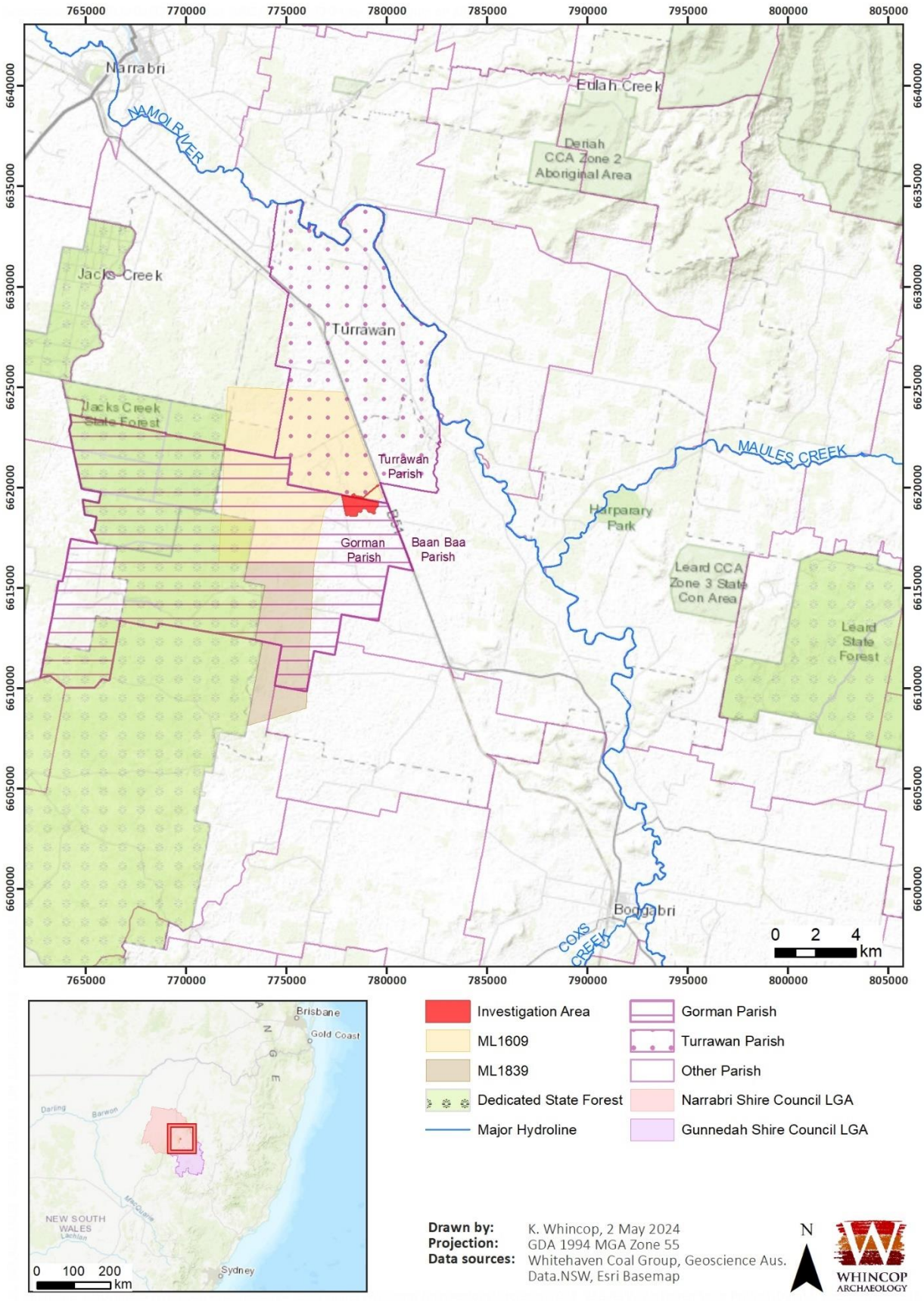



*Figure 1: Location of Investigation Area*

## 1.2 Study Purpose and Objectives

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Project were issued on 14 February 2024. This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) addresses the requirement in the SEARs relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage, which states:

> *The EIS must address the following specific matters:*
>
> ***Heritage** - including*
>
> - *an assessment of the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (cultural and archaeological) in accordance with the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011) and the Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010a), including results of archaeological test excavations (if required);*
> - *evidence of consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures) having regard to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010b).*

This ACHA also addresses the general requirements in the SEARs, including:

- *an assessment of the likely impacts of the development on the environment, and any other significant issues identified in this risk assessment, focusing on the specific issues identified below, including:*
    - *a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the development using sufficient baseline data;*
    - *an assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the development, (which is commensurate with the level of impact), including any cumulative impacts of the site and existing, approved or proposed developments in the region and impacts on the site and any road upgrades, taking into consideration any relevant legislation, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice including the Solar Guidelines and the Cumulative Impact Assessment Guideline (DPIE 2022);*
    - *a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, mitigate and/or offset the impacts of the development (including draft management plans for specific issues as identified below); and*
    - *a description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the development;*

Narrabri Shire Council requires the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to include an ACHA in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), as outlined in their response to the SEARs.

> *The area may hold cultural significance to First Nations people including cultural heritage sites, and more broadly, the cultural heritage value of the environment generally. A detailed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIS documentation including consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).*
>
> Narrabri Shire Council comment on the SEARs
> 23 January 2024

This ACHA also considers the cumulative impacts of the Project, in response to the SEARs (see above) and the below comments provided by the Narrabri Shire Council relating to the SEARs:

> **Narrabri Shire Council**
>
> *An assessment of the cumulative impacts of the proposal with consideration given to the interaction of the proposal with ongoing and future mining operations in proximity to the subject site. Land use conflict considerations should also be clearly assessed.*
>
> Narrabri Shire Council comment on the SEARs
> 23 January 2024

## 1.3 Regulatory Framework

Dr Matthew Whincop of Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd (Whincop Archaeology) was commissioned by Whitehaven Energy to prepare an ACHA for the Project in accordance with the SEARs, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW), the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW), clause 60 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NSW) and the following guidelines:

- *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW], 2010a) (Consultation Guidelines);
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: Standards and Guidelines Kit* (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1997);
- *Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values* (Australian Heritage Commission, 2002);
- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010b) (the Code);
- *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, 2005);
- *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010c);

- *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH], 2011);
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974: Part 6 Approvals – Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* (NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2004);
- *NSW Minerals Industry Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects* (NSW Minerals Council, 2010);
- *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (The Burra Charter) (Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites [ICOMOS], 2013); and
- *Engage Early – Guidance for proponents on best practice Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments under the EPBC Act* (Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy, 2016).

## 1.4 Objectives and Aims

The objectives and aims of this ACHA are to:

- Address the relevant requirements of the SEARs.
- Assess and consider previous archaeological assessments and investigations undertaken within the Investigation Area and wider region (including work prepared for the various Narrabri Coal Mine [NCM] approvals).
- Consider the landscape context, regional character, and ethnographic history of the Investigation Area.
- Develop a predictive model for likely Aboriginal cultural heritage site distribution across the Investigation Area and identify areas of higher archaeological potential.
- Consult with the local Aboriginal community in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines and the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NSW), including in relation to the cultural values of the Investigation Area.
- Undertake an archaeological survey (with representatives of the local Aboriginal community) to identify and describe Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and places within the Investigation Area.
- Identify and describe the cultural heritage values within the Investigation Area.
- Assess and describe the archaeological and cultural significance of the identified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area.
- Identify and assess the nature and extent of potential impacts of the Project on Aboriginal heritage (cultural and archaeological).

- Provide recommendations for the mitigation and management of potential impacts associated with the Project on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area.
- Document and consider input, comments and feedback provided by the RAPs during the consultation process.

# 2 STUDY AREA AND PROJECT LOCATION

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine, which is located approximately 25 km south-east of Narrabri in the Narrabri Shire Council LGA of NSW (Figure 1). The Project is located on previously cleared, pastoral land located at 117 Kurrajong Creek Road, Baan Baa (DP757104 Lot 2583767), immediately south of the Narrabri Mine entrance and extending north into the mine's infrastructure area (DP816020 Lot 2839809) (Figure 2). Access to the Project from the Kamilaroi Highway is via Kurrajong Creek Road. The Project is located on Whitehaven-managed land. The indicative Project general arrangement area is approximately 100 hectares (ha).

Since 2012, underground mining activities have been conducted at the Narrabri Mine, with above ground infrastructure located to the immediate east and north of the Investigation Area.

The Study Area for this ACHA represents a broader area, encompassing the extent of the Project and a conservative 1 km buffer.

Although this ACHA considers Aboriginal cultural heritage within the broader Study Area, the focus of the ACHA field investigations is on those areas directly associated with the Project (i.e. the Investigation Area) (Figure 2).

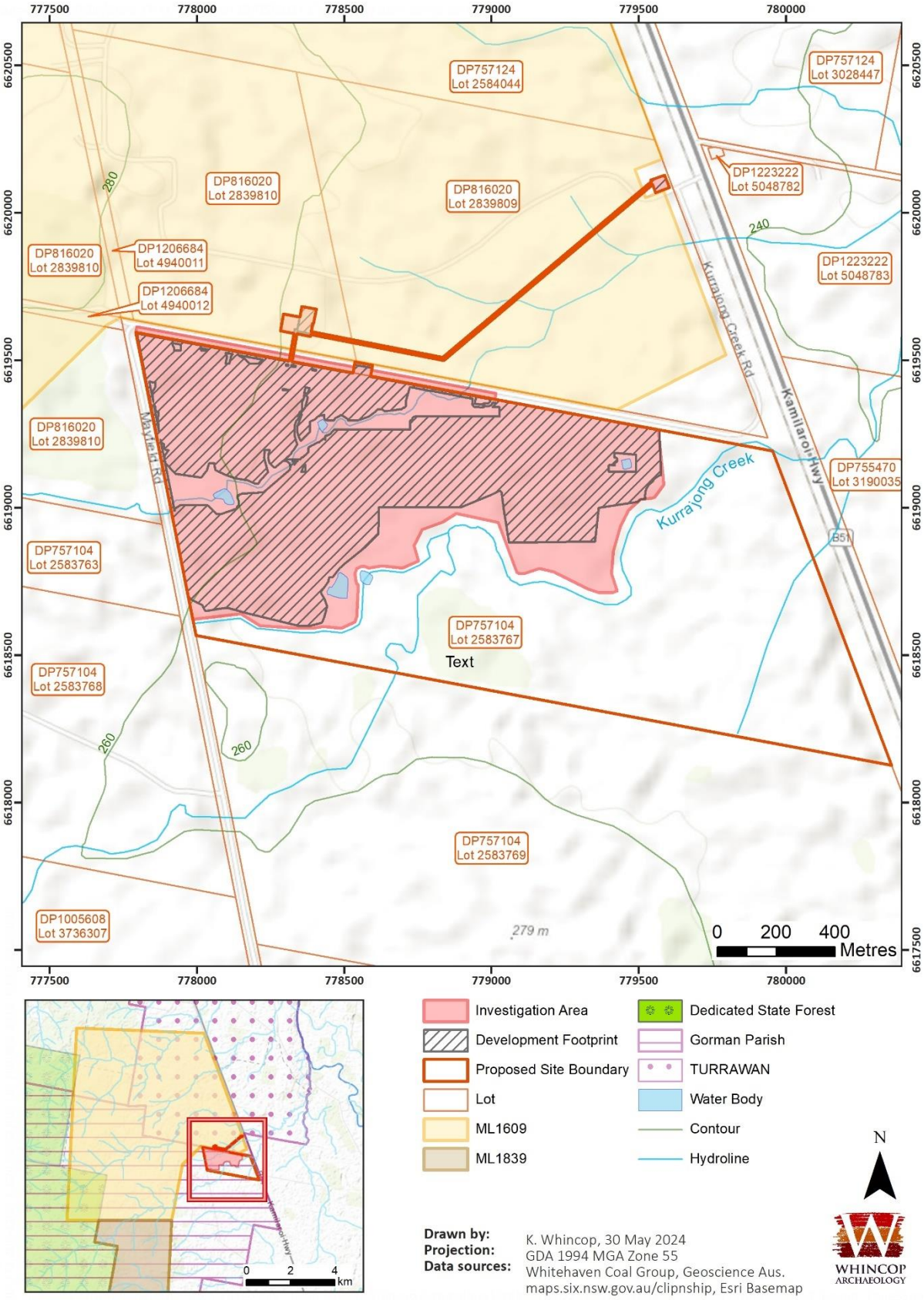



*Figure 2: Investigation Area*

# 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Project includes the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed solar farm to supply electricity to the Narrabri Mine behind-the-meter via the existing 66 kV ETL. The indicative general arrangement is provided on Figure 2.

Ancillary surface infrastructure required for the Project would include operations and maintenance buildings and parking, access roads, fencing and electrical infrastructure (i.e. inverters and a substation).

The Project would include the following primary components and activities:

- construction and operation of approximately 50,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to provide electricity supply for the Narrabri Mine;
- construction of a substation that facilitates connection to the existing 66 kV overhead ETL;
- construction of an overhead ETL to connect the proposed substation to the existing 66 kV overhead ETL, north of Kurrajong Creek Rd;
- construction and operation of ancillary infrastructure including access roads, inverter stations, temporary staging areas, perimeter fencing and operations and maintenance buildings;
- construction and operation of a BESS;
- ongoing maintenance activities; and
- decommissioning and rehabilitation of the Project area.

The Project would also involve the construction of an approximately 1,500 metre (m) ETL to connect the Project to the existing 66 kV ETL located north of Kurrajong Creek Road. This existing 66 kV ETL connects to the existing 66 kV Narrabri Mine switchyard and provides power supply to the mine.

Table 1 provides a summary of the key attributes of the Project.

*Table 1 Summary of Key Project Attributes*

| Project Component | Summary Description |
|---|---|
| • Size and Purpose | • 26 MW DC, 20 MW alternating current (AC) for behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine. |
| • Project Area | • Indicative Project general arrangement area of approximately 100 ha. |
| • Solar Configuration | • Approximately 50,000 PV panels in a north to south alignment.<br>• East to west tracking system (single axis). |
| • Access Route | • The proposed access route is via the Kamilaroi Highway and Kurrajong Creek Road. |
| • Power Infrastructure | • Substation and switchyard.<br>• 66 kV connector to the existing 66 kV ETL. |
| • BESS | • 10 Megawatt Hour DC.<br>• Centralised system.<br>• Lithium battery. |
| • Site Entry | • Site entry would be via a constructed access point on Kurrajong Creek Road. |
| • Construction | • Construction period of approximately six to nine months.<br>• Employment of approximately 30 personnel on average during its construction, with peak construction requiring approximately 65 personnel.<br>• Construction undertaken during daylight hours. |
| • Operational Life | • The design operational life is approximately 50 years. |
| • Decommissioning and Rehabilitation | • Decommissioning at the end of the of Project life, involving the removal of all infrastructure with a proposed final land use to comprise a combination of native vegetation and agricultural (pasture). |
| • Capital Investment | • Approximately $55 M. |
| • Hours of Operation | • 24 hours per day with scheduled maintenance activities generally undertaken during daytime hours. |

Note: ha = hectares; M = million.

# 4 INVESTIGATORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

This assessment has been prepared by Dr Matthew Whincop, Director of Whincop Archaeology. Dr Matthew Whincop's qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Classics and Archaeology and a Master of Arts (Honours) in Archaeology, both from Melbourne University, and a Doctorate in Archaeology from Durham University (United Kingdom). Dr Whincop has more than 27 years' experience on archaeological research and consultancy projects in Australia and overseas, and has worked in the Narrabri area since 2013.

The field investigations were undertaken by archaeologists from Whincop Archaeology: Mr James Carr and Ms Rachel Lillis.

- James Carr holds a Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology (Honours) from Monash University and has over eight years of experience in Aboriginal heritage surveys, excavation, and reporting.
- Rachel Lillis holds a Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Certificate in Archaeological Science and Master of Archaeological Science and has worked in archaeological consultancy projects in NSW since 2018.

Community consultation pursuant to the Consultation Guidelines (DECCW, 2010a) was managed by Whitehaven Energy under the guidance of Whincop Archaeology. The ACHA survey included participation by RAPs (Section 5.4).

# 5 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation with the Aboriginal community for the Project was undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines (DECCW, 2010a), the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW), and the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NSW). The Consultation Guidelines outline a four-stage process that includes detailed guidance as to the aim and actions necessary for each consultation stage. The four stages are:

- Stage 1 – Notification of Project proposal and registration of interest.
- Stage 2 – Presentation of information about the Project.
- Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance.
- Stage 4 – Review of draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).

The following sections outline the consultation process and provide a summary of the community consultation undertaken for the ACHA.

## 5.1 Registration Process

Existing Narrabri Mine Stage 3 Extension Project RAPs were automatically registered for the Project due to the proximity of the Project to the Narrabri Mine. In addition, and in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines and SEARs, notifications for the Project were sent on 27 November 2023 to the following organisations:

- Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC);
- Heritage NSW – Department of Planning and Environment;
- Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW);
- National Native Title Tribunal;
- Native Title Services Corporation Limited;
- North West Local Land Services;
- Gunnedah Shire Council; and
- Narrabri Shire Council.

As a result of contacting the above relevant organisations, a number of individuals and groups were identified as potentially having an interest in the Project in addition to the 10 existing Narrabri Mine Stage 3 Extension Project RAPs. An invitation was sent to each individual/group on 11 January 2024, inviting Aboriginal persons or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to, or who have a right or interest in, determining the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in the 'Area of Interest', to register an interest in the Project by 30 January 2024 (Appendices 2 and 3).

In addition, a public notice inviting the registration of Aboriginal persons or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to, or who have a right or interest in, determining the Aboriginal cultural significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in the 'Area of Interest' was published in the *Narrabri Courier* and the *Gunnedah Times* on 11 January 2024 (Appendix 2).

A copy of the list of the RAPs for the Project, along with a copy of the written notifications and the public notice, were provided to Heritage NSW (now the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment, and Water – Environment and Heritage Group) and Narrabri LALC on 27 February 2024, in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines (DECCW, 2010a).

On 19 March 2024, the Office of the Registrar *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) suggested Whitehaven Energy contact the Chairperson for Bulagaranda to ascertain whether the Board of Management would be interested in the project. On 29 April 2024 Bulagaranda notified Whitehaven Energy that the Project is not within their cultural area and they therefore hold no cultural authority to make comment or be involved in the Project.

As a result of the registration process undertaken for the Project, five (5) new organisations and/or individuals registered an interest in the Project. The list of RAPs for the Project is provided in Table 2.

*Table 2: List of Registered Aboriginal Parties for this Project*

| Group | Representative |
|---|---|
| **New Registered Aboriginal Party** | |
| Gomeroi Applicants | c/- Zoe Robertson NTSCORP Ltd |
| Marvonia Welsh | Marvonia Welsh |
| Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services | Robert Young |
| Bigundi Biame Gunnedarr Traditional People | Wayne Griffiths |
| Natasha Rodgers | Natasha Rodgers |
| **Existing Registered Aboriginal Party** | |
| Muki Namae Two Rivers Aboriginal Corp | Aaron Talbott |
| AGA Culture Services | Ashley Sampson and Donna Sampson |
| Brian Draper | Brian Draper |
| Gomery Cultural Consultants | David Horton |
| Cacatua General Services | Donna Sampson and George Sampson |
| Gomeroi Narrabri Aboriginal Corp | Jim Trindall |
| Kerry Morgan Fernando | Kerry Morgan Fernando |
| Narrabri LALC | Lynn Trindall |
| Michael John Long | Michael John Long |
| Michael Ronald Long Jr | Michael Ronald Long Jr |

A consultation log detailing all Aboriginal community consultation undertaken for the Project is provided in Appendix 1. A copy of relevant written correspondence sent to, and received from, the RAPs is provided in Appendix 2.

## 5.2 Proposed Methodology and Information Sessions

Information regarding the Project, including a copy of the Proposed Methodology, was provided for review and comment on 1 February 2024. The correspondence included an invitation to attend an information session regarding the Project on 20 February 2024.

A minimum of 28 days was allowed for the RAPs to provide input (due 5 March 2024) with regard to the following aspects:

- The nature of the Proposed Methodology.
- Any Aboriginal objects or places of cultural value within the Investigation Area, or issues of cultural significance.
- Any restrictions or protocols considered necessary in relation to any information of sensitivity that may be provided.
- Any other factors considered to be relevant to the ACHA.

RAPs were invited to attend an information session held at 3.30 pm at the Baan Baa Community Hall (Baranbah Street, Baan Baa 2390) and online on 20 February 2024. The purpose of the information session was to provide RAPs with an additional opportunity to review details regarding the Project and raise any cultural issues or comments/perspectives regarding the Project or the Proposed Methodology. A copy of the Proposed Methodology is provided in Appendix 2.

The information session reiterated the information previously provided in writing and included a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process, functions and responsibilities of participants, and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information.

The information session included a site visit to the Investigation Area, where the scale and extent of the Project was discussed. One (1) RAP attended the information session on 20 February 2024 (Table 3). Apologies for the methodology information session were received from two RAPs, who were unable to attend: Mr Brian Draper; and Mr David Horton. Copies of the attendance records for the information sessions are provided in Appendix 3.

*Table 3: List of Attendees at the Methodology Information Session*

| **Registered Aboriginal Party** | **Representative** |
|---|---|
| Bigundi Biame Traditional People | Wayne Griffiths |

## 5.3 Comments on Proposed Methodology

At the close of the Proposed Methodology review period, no (0) comments or feedback on the Proposed Methodology was received.

## 5.4 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Field Surveys

Aboriginal cultural heritage field surveys were undertaken on 7-8 March 2024 (two days total). The survey involved three RAPs and two archaeologists, who worked together to inspect the entirety of the Investigation Area. Areas with higher potential to contain Aboriginal objects, as identified in the predictive model (Section 7.6), were targeted for detailed inspection. Further details regarding the survey and survey coverage are provided in Section 8. Table 4 summarises the survey dates and participants in the surveys.

*Table 4: Participants in the Archaeological Survey*

| Attendee | Representing | Role | Dates (2024) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wayne Griffiths | Bigundi Biame Traditional People (BBTP) | RAP | 7-8 March |
| Vicki Morris | Narrabri LALC | RAP representative | 7-8 March |
| Velvet-Lea Craigie | Narrabri LALC | RAP representative | 7 March |
| James Carr | Whincop Archaeology | Archaeologist | 7-8 March |
| Rachel Lillis | Whincop Archaeology | Archaeologist | 7-8 March |

## 5.5 Cultural Values Assessment

In addition to general consultation conducted for the ACHA (i.e. described in Sections 5.1 to 5.4 above), a cultural values assessment for the Project was undertaken by Dr Matthew Whincop and the team of field archaeologists. The cultural values assessment undertaken was based on the following:

- Review of background resources, including previous cultural values studies for the surrounding region, and existing mining operations and their associated biodiversity offset areas (e.g. Whincop Archaeology, 2018b; 2019b; 2020).
- Historical research.
- Discussions with RAPs during field survey.
- Discussions with RAPs during community information sessions and site inspections.
- Requests for comments during the review period for the Proposed Methodology and the draft ACHAR.

During the field surveys, attending RAPs were invited to provide any cultural information or values associated with the Investigation Area. For example, each field archaeologist encouraged participants

to provide input on bush tucker and medicine, fauna, and cultural associations/knowledge of the Investigation Area.

The outcomes of the cultural values assessment undertaken and a consideration of the identified cultural values are described in Section 9.2.

It is noted that the cultural values assessment for the Project was ongoing during the draft ACHAR review period (Section 5.6). RAPs, Elders and other Aboriginal community members who wished to provide input into the cultural values assessment, or who preferred to arrange a formal interview, were encouraged to contact Whitehaven Energy or Whincop Archaeology during the draft ACHAR review period.

## 5.6 Review of Draft ACHAR

In accordance with the Consultation Guidelines, an initial draft of this ACHAR was provided to all RAPs listed in Table 2 for review and comment on 31 May 2024, with feedback requested by 5 pm 5 July 2024.

As part of the review process for the draft ACHAR, Whitehaven provided all RAPs the opportunity to participate in an information session regarding the draft ACHAR. The purpose of the information session was to discuss the key findings of the draft ACHAR and to provide an opportunity for RAPs to discuss, ask questions and/or provide comment on the draft ACHAR, particularly the cultural significance and proposed management measures. The draft ACHAR information session was scheduled to be held on 14 June 2024 at the Baan Baa Community Hall, two RAPs RSVP'd to the session. Whitehaven Energy and Matt Whincop attended the venue in anticipation for the information session, however, both RAPS who RSVP'd notified Whitehaven Energy they were no longer able to attend. No RAPs attended the information session. At the close of the draft ACHAR review period, no comments or feedback had been received.

A consultation log detailing all Aboriginal community consultation undertaken for the Project (including comments on the draft ACHAR) is provided in Appendix 1. A copy of relevant written correspondence sent to, and received from, the RAPs is provided in Appendix 2.

## 5.7 Review of Final Report

A copy of the final ACHAR will be made available by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to all RAPs during the public exhibition period for the Project EIS. During this exhibition period, all RAPs will have the opportunity to review and provide additional comment on the final ACHAR as well as any other component of the Project EIS (e.g. including the ecological and water assessments).

# 6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

It is important to understand the environmental context of the Investigation Area (and broader Study Area) in order to gain an understanding of the resources potentially available to Aboriginal people (in both the pre- and post-contact periods) and European settlers. This information assists in determining whether natural environmental processes, such as the weathering of land surfaces, will have impacted on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites deriving from activities associated with these resources.

The following discussion highlights aspects of the environmental context that are likely to have influenced pre-contact (i.e. pre-arrival of non-Indigenous Australians in the area) patterns of land use and Aboriginal cultural heritage site locations in and around the Investigation Area. In particular, the nature of the local geology and soils, landform and hydrology, and flora and fauna, combined with an understanding of historical and Aboriginal land use (Sections 7.4 and 7.5), will all contribute to the development of a reliable predictive model for *in situ* Aboriginal cultural heritage objects and/or places within the Investigation Area (Section 7.6).

## 6.1 Geology and Soils

The Project is located within the Gunnedah Basin, a structural trough in north-eastern NSW. The Gunnedah Basin contains sediments of Permian and Triassic age, particularly the Pilliga Sandstone, which is located to the immediate west of the Investigation Area and has a strong influence on the landforms, soils and hydrology of the Investigation Area (Tadros, 1995; Totterdell et al., 2009).

Aboriginal people made wide use of the resources available to them, including a wide variety of stone resources, which were used to produce stone tools. The nature of stone exploitation by Aboriginal people relies on the nature of the available resource, whether as a primary outcrop or as a secondary gravel source (Doelman et al., 2008). The following description of the local geological context provides perspective on stone resources available in the Investigation Area, which is associated with the following geological units (Figure 3):

- **Digby Formation –** Conglomerate at base, overlain by quartz-lithic sandstone, which gradually changes into quartzose sandstone units of cross-bedded sandstone with well-rounded quartz pebbles; a siltstone/sandstone and grey/purple claystone palaeosol is present on top.
- **Deriah Formation –** Very distinctive green sandstone: fine- to medium-grained lithic sandstone rich in volcanic fragments, with common mudstone clasts overlain by off-white lithic sandstone and dark grey mudstone.

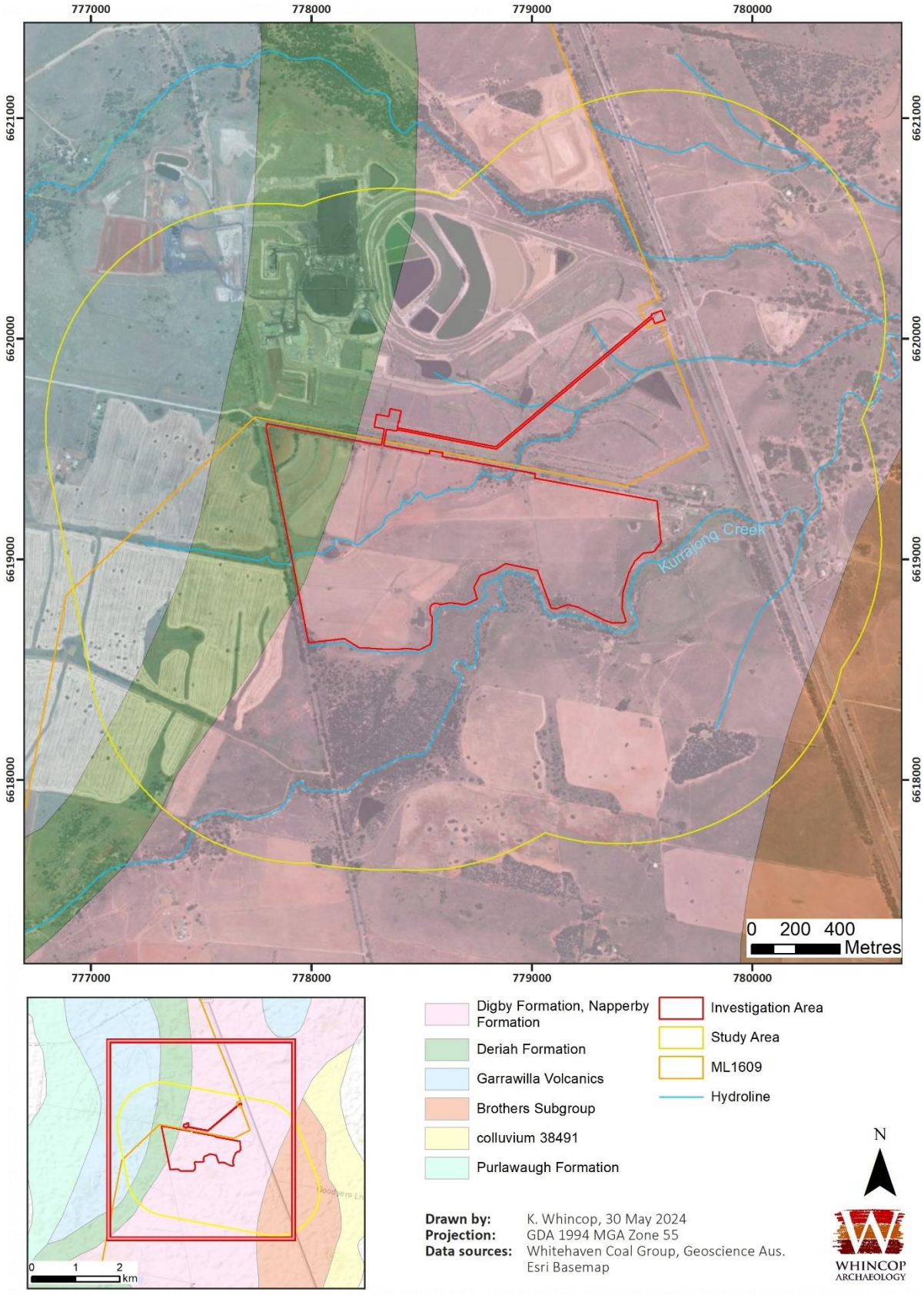



*Figure 3: Local Geological Context*

The geological context of the Investigation Area demonstrates an abundance of sandstone resources, which, while unsuitable for artefact knapping (flaking), can be used for ground edge artefacts. Some stone resources suitable for artefact knapping are available (e.g. fine-grained siltstone).

The alluvial soils of NSW's Northwest Slopes and Plains are generally characterised as abundant quartz sands and extensive black shrink-swell clays on low angle slopes, with brown clays, alluvial soils and red or brown texture contrast soils on more pronounced slopes. Generally, the topsoils of the Investigation Area are free-draining, of low fertility and sandy.

## 6.2 Topography and Hydrology

The Investigation Area is located wholly within the Namoi River catchment area, a major river system situated as an intermediary between the tablelands of the Nandewar Range (to the east) and broad plains of the Gunnedah Basin (to the west). The Namoi River generally flows in a north-westerly direction from its headwaters in the Great Dividing Range and, ultimately, into the Barwon River. Although higher landforms and associated slopes are abundant in areas to the north-east, these slopes quickly flatten out into the undulating plains that characterise the majority of the Investigation Area. In general, perennial surface water is rare in the region except for the main rivers and creeks.

The Investigation Area is characterised by several landform units:

- **Level to very gently undulating plains** (generally with slopes $< 5.45^0$, as defined by McDonald et al., 1984), which encompass a large proportion of the Investigation Area.
- **Ephemeral creeks and drainage lines** are located within the Investigation Area as they drain seasonal surface water from the surrounding undulating plains. As part of the Namoi River catchment, Kurrajong Creek and its associated drainage lines are generally ephemeral floodways rather than seasonal streams.

Surface water is uncommon across much of the Investigation Area, except for short periods following storms or during long, wet periods (Haglund, 1986: 4). The higher-order tributaries and major rivers are located on the valley flats and floodplains, while creeks and billabongs are located at the base of sloping terrain, where temporarily water collects following rainfall. Major floods generally occur in late summer, during which time extensive areas of the wide floodplain are inundated.

Approximately 6 km to the east of the Investigation Area, the Namoi River meanders through wide alluvial plains and is fed by several drainage lines and creeks that traverse the Investigation Area (e.g. Kurrajong Creek) and drain the surrounding plains (Figure 3). Local creeks and streams can be dry for extended periods.

The topography and hydrology of the Investigation Area are presented on Figure 5.

## 6.3 Climate

The climate of the locality is characterised by hot summers and mild winters with frequent frosts. The climate is dry subhumid, receiving an average of 651.8 millimetres (mm) of rainfall per annum in nearby Narrabri (Bureau of Meteorology [BOM], 2024). The hottest month of the year is January, with an average maximum temperature of 33.8 degrees Celsius ($^0$C) and low of 19.3 $^0$C. January is also the wettest month of the year, with an average monthly rainfall of 82.9 mm, respectively; this constitutes approximately 12.7% of the average annual rainfall (651.8 mm). July is generally the coldest month of the year, with average temperatures ranging from 3.7$^0$C to 18$^0$C (BOM, 2024).

## 6.4 Flora and Fauna

The Investigation Area is located within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion, which is one of the largest bioregions in Australia, and which accounts for approximately 6.7% of land in NSW (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2003). Extensive research has been undertaken on the native flora and fauna of this bioregion; the Investigation Area, and much of the surrounding region, has been significantly altered over the past two centuries. The undulating plain within the Investigation Area has been cleared of native vegetation. Dryland cropping and grazing of cattle has been conducted across the Investigation Area except along the margins of Kurrajong Creek.

Native vegetation has been largely removed from the Investigation Area due to clearing associated with pastoral and agricultural activities. In these areas, the undulating plains are dominated by open grasslands, which hold a thick cover of weeds and grasses due to recent higher-than-average rainfalls. As a result, Ground Surface Visibility (GSV) across most of the Investigation Area was low, with only occasional patches of exposed soils evident, usually in association with farm tracks and eroded gullies.

Fauna surveys completed for the Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 project identified native species that likely provided a food resource for past Aboriginal communities, including (but not limited to) the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*), Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*), Common Wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*), Goanna (*Varanus* sp.) and Echidna (*Tachyglossidae*).

# 7 ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The aims of this contextual study are twofold: to determine the level of previous investigation of the Investigation Area and surrounding region; and to determine the presence of any previously identified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area. A review and analysis have been undertaken of data, including previous ACHAs and management plans prepared for surrounding projects, published research, and up-to-date extensive searches of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database, in order to identify and/or characterise the Aboriginal cultural heritage site types and locations likely to be present within the Investigation Area.

The below review of previous archaeological research considers *regional studies*, which assist in characterising the general pattern of Aboriginal cultural heritage site distribution across a broad region, and *localised studies*, which assist in developing an understanding of archaeological sensitivity and the extent and scope of prior investigation in a relatively limited area or environment.

## 7.1 Previous Archaeological Investigations of the Study Area

With an increase in extractive activities in the Gunnedah Basin in recent years, the region has been subject to a number of localised Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys and assessments. Previous investigations undertaken within and immediately adjacent to the Investigation Area are described in Sections 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 below.

### 7.1.1 Narrabri Mine

The Narrabri Mine, which is located immediately adjacent to the Investigation Area, has been subject to several archaeological and cultural heritage investigations since 2007. The initial Aboriginal archaeological survey for the Pit Top Area was carried out by Australian Archaeological Survey Consultants Pty Ltd (2007) to accompany the Narrabri Coal Project Environmental Assessment (the Stage 1 Project). This was followed by an investigation undertaken by Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd (Archaeological Surveys & Reports) (2009) for the initial longwall mining area and associated infrastructure to support the Environmental Assessment for the Stage 2 Project application. During this investigation, archaeologists completed a comprehensive survey of Longwall Panels 1 to 7 and a water pipeline, as well as preliminary reconnaissance of Longwall Panels 8 to 26. As a result of these surveys, 119 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified, consisting of 99 artefact scatters, 17 isolated artefacts (including one [1] incomplete axe head), one (1) grinding groove site, one (1) fireplace and one (1) scarred tree.

The Narrabri Mine Stage 2 Project was granted approval (on 26 July 2010) under Part 3A of the EP&A Act. The Narrabri Mine Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) (NCOPL, 2019) was developed in response to Conditions 22, 23 and 24 of Schedule 4 of the Project Approval (PA) 08_0144. In accordance with Condition 24, Schedule 4 of PA 08_0144 and the commitments in the Narrabri Mine ACHMP, detailed archaeological investigation is to be undertaken prior to proceeding with the development of surface infrastructure above the proposed longwall areas. The spatial extents of known Aboriginal sites within Longwall Panels 1 to 5 were investigated by Landskape (2010b), followed two years later by Advitech (2012a) for Longwall Panels 6 and 7: Advitech recorded one (1) new scarred tree (Pine Creek T1/ST-2).

In 2012, Advitech (2012b) was also commissioned to complete an archaeological survey of Longwall Panels 2 and 3 to assess potential axe grinding grooves identified by mine staff. Inspection confirmed the presence of six (6) grinding grooves on exposed sandstone within a shallow drainage line associated with Pine Creek (Pine Creek T1/AGG 1).

The following year, Advitech (2013) undertook an archaeological survey of Longwall Panels 8 to 13; 12 existing sites were visited, and a further six (6) previously unrecorded sites were identified. One (1) artefact scatter was assessed as being of medium to high scientific significance due to the high number of artefacts (Pine Creek T3 OS 130). Upon completion of the Advitech surveys, a total of 130 sites had been recorded within and around the Stage 2 Project area, including 90 artefact scatters, 33 isolated artefacts, four (4) scarred trees, two (2) grinding grooves, and one (1) fireplace. The vast majority (91%) of recorded sites are located within 50 m of the semi-permanent or permanent drainage lines of Pine Creek and Kurrajong Creek (zero [0] sites were located more than 200 m from any drainage line).

In 2015, Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd (Niche) (2015) prepared an ACHA for the proposed Narrabri Mine Modification 5, which included a widening of Longwall Panels 107 to 120 and a reduction in the number of longwall panels from 26 to 20. No (0) new Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified by Niche during the survey. Niche assessed the survey area as holding low cultural significance. Several years later, Niche (2018) undertook an assessment of Longwall Panels 118 to 120 to partially address the requirements of Condition 24, Schedule 4 of PA 08_0144. This assessment identified one (1) new artefact scatter on the eastern bank of a first order drainage line.

In 2019, Whincop Archaeology (2020) undertook an extensive survey of the then proposed Stage 3 Project area for the Narrabri Mine, including a cultural values survey of the same area during the archaeological survey. A total of 32 previously unrecorded Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified during the survey, which brought the total of sites in the Stage 3 Project area to 60. All but

two (2) of the sites identified were surface artefact sites, including 22 isolated artefacts and 36 artefact scatters. A large proportion of these artefact sites are small discrete artefact scatters containing less than 12 artefacts, with only occasional evidence of more dense and expansive artefact concentrations evident along the margins of Kurrajong Creek (only six [6] sites are known to contain more than 20 artefacts). In addition to artefact sites, two (2) grinding groove sites were identified: Longsight GG1, consisting of two grooves, and Mayfield GG1, consisting of 48 visible grooves upon sandstone near the start of a drainage line on the edge of the Pilliga Forest.

### 7.1.2 Narrabri Gas Project

Prior to 2017, Santos Limited (2017) commissioned an ACHA for the Narrabri Gas Project, located in the Pilliga East State Forest (immediately west of the Narrabri Mine). The subsequent impact assessment identified 268 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the proposed gas field, and concluded that the Narrabri Gas Project area is likely to contain additional sites not yet identified. Known sites are predominantly artefact scatters (121) and isolated artefacts (81), followed by scarred trees (39), grinding grooves (6), historic camps (5), hearths (3), historic burials (2), resource places (2) and historic places (2). All other site type occurrences were singular, including a ceremonial ring, Aboriginal ceremony site, ochre source, rock shelter and cave, rock shelter and artefact scatter, shell midden, and stone arrangement.

The impact assessment did not attempt to undertake a comprehensive survey of the Narrabri Gas Project area, but instead sought only to verify the location, nature and extent of sites already known from the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion surveys. Despite limited survey, a commitment was made within the EIS for all known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, and any new sites of significance that may be identified in future, to be avoided by the Narrabri Gas Project development (due to the flexibility of final design) (Central Queensland Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd, 2016). This would be managed through a series of ongoing investigations of the sensitive areas within the Narrabri Gas Project area prior to each stage of development.

## 7.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations of the Broader Region

Previous investigations within the broader region include intensive survey associated with the other nearby coal mines. These investigations are described in the following subsections. In addition, several other studies undertaken in the wider region have been reviewed and considered as part of the archaeological context for this ACHA.

### 7.2.1 Regional Studies

It is noted that Balme's (1986) broad regional study of the north central river systems identified open artefact scatters and scarred trees as predominant site types in similar landform units to those

recorded in the Investigation Area. Balme (1986) noted that these sites tend to be associated with permanent watercourses and, to a lesser degree, ephemeral creeks at the base of higher landforms.

Haglund (1985) undertook extensive archaeological investigations of proposed coal mining areas north of Gunnedah, including areas now associated with the existing Boggabri Coal Mine, Tarrawonga Coal Mine (TCM) and Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) (Section 7.2.2 to Section 7.2.4). The results of Haglund's archaeological investigations revealed low artefact densities, with the greatest artefact numbers concentrated along the Namoi River and higher order creeks and then, to a lesser degree, ephemeral drainage lines.

In 1991 parts of the Pilliga State Forest (20 km to the west of the Investigation Area) were subject to archaeological survey by Roberts (1991). Not all landform units were sampled by Roberts, and investigation focused on alluvial areas where the larger intermittent stream channels occur. Nevertheless, a common pattern of Aboriginal sites associated with creeks was established. Roberts (1991:25-6) also attempted to demonstrate a link between site distribution and the diversity of flora resources but this theory was unable to be tested due to a lack of surface visibility.

An AGL (1999) gas pipeline development between Dubbo and Tamworth included archaeological survey of a wide variety of landforms along the 226 km-long alignment. A total of 212 watercourses were crossed during the survey, revealing these landform units to be the most sensitive to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

Purcell (2000; 2002) completed an Aboriginal cultural heritage field survey of the Goonoo and Pilliga State Forests as part of a larger investigation of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion with the aim of identifying areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity. The survey was informed by a geomorphological assessment, which identified 12 different landforms units within the Pilliga State Forest (and seven [7] within the Goonoo State Forest located near Dubbo). Survey identified 145 previously unrecorded sites within the Pilliga State Forest. Despite survey sampling being limited to existing tracks and track margins, results confirmed that within forested landscapes Aboriginal sites more frequently occur in association with alluvium landforms dominated by creeks, chains of ponds, swamps and creek terraces. The Brigalow Belt South Bioregion study also incorporated a detailed cultural perspective on archaeological sites, as well as flora and fauna.

In 2010, OzArk excavated cultural deposits within the Boonalla Cave, located immediately west of Kelvin and approx. 50 km south-east from the current Project area. The results of the excavation revealed good stratigraphic integrity of the cultural deposits within the cave, which were dated to the second half of the Holocene Period (i.e. less than 6,000 years old) (OzArk 2010:15-17). More than 150 artefacts were recovered from the excavations, which ceased before reaching culturally sterile layers

(i.e. more artefacts remain within the lower strata of the cave deposits). Analysis of the artefacts from this excavation revealed a surprisingly low percentage (24%) of debitage (waste from artefact manufacture), which implies that knapping was not a common activity at Boonalla cave (OzArk 2010:32). Further research within the Boonalla Aborginal Area has revealed more than 100 cultural heritage sites, including artefact scatters, scarred trees and stone arrangements (DPIE 2020).

### 7.2.2 Maules Creek Coal Mine

The MCCM area has been subject to multiple archaeological and cultural heritage investigations since the 1980s. The earliest survey was by Haglund (1983), who undertook a broad archaeological reconnaissance survey for the Maules Creek Coal Project. The survey was aimed at characterising the archaeological potential of the area based on general observations regarding landform, geology and site identification. Haglund (1983: 2) noted that the river flats in the area (i.e. those associated with the Namoi River, Maules Creek, and Back Creek) were surrounded by more rugged terrain with steep--sided ridges and spurs separated by narrow erosion gullies. While rocky outcrops were noted by Haglund, nowhere was the rock seen to form overhangs or shelters large enough for occupation (*ibid*). North of Back Creek, the more gently sloping terrain consisted of extensive colluvium and alluvium. Haglund concluded that areas 'likely to have been preferred for Aboriginal camp sites occur on flat--topped spurs where finer sediment remains with the gravel, on stretches of Black Soil […] and on the areas of colluvium and alluvium' (Haglund, 1983: 3). Archaeological material was considered more likely on high creek banks close to rocky outcrops exposed in creek beds and, to a lesser degree, on the lower slopes of low hills and broad saddles. No archaeological material was evident above the 340 m contour, likely due to the scarcity of surface water and the prevalence of steep surfaces. Haglund's (1983: 7; see also Haglund 1986: 5) investigations confirmed the relevance of Thompson's (1981: H-10) predictive model at the nearby Vickery Coal Mine: namely, the presence of low-density artefact scatters on intermittent creeks at locations just downstream from steeper sections that drain hills, but upstream of where the creek channels become poorly defined and spread out on the flat alluvial areas downstream (i.e. sites are located in areas where water pools after rain).

Three years after her reconnaissance survey, Haglund (1986) completed a more detailed sampling survey. As a result of the two surveys, Haglund identified 21 artefact scatters and several isolated artefacts in the Maules Creek Coal Project area. Haglund (1986: 9) noted that the richest sites, in terms of artefact frequency and diversity, were those sites located on the banks of Maules Creek. Furthermore, the smaller assemblages primarily consisted of un-retouched flakes, flake cores, and flake fragments – artefact categories that characterise stone-working activities associated with stone resource acquisition. The Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified by Haglund are characterised by

scatters of flaked stone artefacts of variable raw material (e.g. mudstone, silcrete, chert, quartz, quartzite and chalcedony).

In the same year, Dallas (1986) undertook another archaeological survey of proposed infrastructure options for the Maules Creek Coal Project. The survey located four (4) Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, including three (3) low-density artefact scatters and one (1) rock shelter with an indirectly associated bifacial artefact. The rock shelter site (known as MC22), which contained no evidence of Aboriginal occupation or use within the shelter (the bifacial artefact was located downslope from the 'rock shelter'), is located at the western end of the same rock outcrop associated with Gin's Leap. There is no archaeological evidence to indicate that this small overhang, rare for the area, should be considered an Aboriginal cultural heritage site. Dallas's four (4) sites were never registered on AHIMS.

More than two decades later, AECOM (2010) completed an ACHA for the MCCM EIS. In addition to the sites recorded by Haglund, a further 13 artefact scatters and 13 isolated artefacts were identified within the proposed MCCM boundary. AECOM also completed the first MCCM Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan (AACHMP), which was approved in 2013 (AECOM); several revisions have been approved since (Whincop archaeology, 2022a). Cultural heritage sensitive areas are defined in the MCCM AACHMP as those areas within 50 m of a known Aboriginal cultural heritage site and/or land within 200 m of a named watercourse and/or 100 m either side of unnamed but mapped drainage lines. Ongoing cultural heritage work in the region has further confirmed the accuracy of this predictive model.

Since the approval of the MCCM, annual monitoring of forest clearance and multiple Aboriginal Due Diligence (DD) Assessments have been completed for the MCCM and surrounding biodiversity offsets (e.g. Whincop Archaeology 2023a; 2023b; 2023c; 2024a; 2024b). Although many new artefact sites have been identified since the Haglund, Dallas and AECOM surveys, our understanding of the archaeological character of the MCCM area has changed little. There is a clear correlation between reliable water sources and artefact densities.

### 7.2.3 Boggabri Coal Mine

The Boggabri Coal Mine is located within the edge of the Leard State Forest less than 2 km to the south of the MCCM, and is operated by Idemitsu Boggabri Coal (Idemitsu). During the development of the Boggabri Coal Mine, Hamm (2005) identified 59 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (including artefact scatters, isolated artefacts and scarred trees) as part of an ACHA.

The Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for Idemitsu's (2013) Boggabri Coal Mine incorporates the results of several different archaeological surveys, but is not explicit about the actual number of sites located within the relevant project area. An earlier ACHA (Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd, 2005) identified 61 sites (including 30 artefact scatters, 26 isolated artefacts and five [5] scarred trees), while a later survey (Insite Heritage Pty Ltd [Insite], 2010) identified a total of 77 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (again including artefact scatters, isolated artefacts and scarred trees). It is not clear which of Hamm's original 59 sites, if any, are included in the later totals of 61 and 77 sites. Furthermore, several sites identified during the ACHAs prepared for the TCM and MCCM are managed by the currently approved Boggabri Coal Mine CHMP. The 2009 AHIMS search undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report (Insite, 2010: 19) prepared for the Boggabri Coal Mine identified 103 sites within a 500 square kilometre area (see Insite, 2010: Figure 3), including 86 artefact sites, 14 scarred trees, a potential archaeological deposit (PAD) (later de-registered), a scarred tree and a mythological site (Gin's Leap). Two (2) patches of grinding grooves on sandstone bedrock in the Leard State Forest were also identified during subsequent survey, though they are both considered relatively poor archaeological examples of their site type (Insite, 2010: 73).

The results of Insite's 2010 assessment concluded that the majority of artefact sites were located on the lower slopes of the Baan Baa Range, while fewer sites were identified in the sediments of the Namoi River floodplain. Much of what was identified by the various surveys and assessments were notably disturbed, though Insite (2010: 50) states that the lower slopes of the Leard State Forest hold potential for subsurface, undisturbed sites. Commencing in 2022, excavation of an artefact scatter located on a mid-slope saddle overlooking deeply incised drainage lines within the edge of the Leard State Forest (BC 54 – AHIMS 20-4-0147) has revealed a large, in situ subsurface archaeological deposit with tens of thousands of artefacts present; excavation of this site is continuing.

### 7.2.4 Tarrawonga Coal Mine

Whitehaven's TCM is located at the southern edge of the Leard State Forest less than 5 km south of the MCCM. A 2005 archaeological investigation of the then proposed East Boggabri Coal Mine (now known as the TCM identified eight (8) Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, including one (1) scarred tree, one (1) isolated artefact site, and six (6) artefact scatters (Archaeological Surveys & Reports, 2005).

Several assessments have since been undertaken for different aspects of the TCM (Dunk & Vermeltfoort, 2011; Landskape, 2010a; Kayandel Archaeological Services [Kayandel], 2011). The 2010 Environmental Assessment reports the identification of 58 previously unregistered sites (including 22 artefact scatters, 25 isolated artefacts and 11 scarred trees), in addition to the 90 previously recorded sites already registered on AHIMS at that time (76 artefact scatters, 11 scarred trees, a PAD, an artefact scatter with a scarred tree, and a restricted access site).

All but two (2) of the artefact scatters identified during survey were located on the lower slopes or plains landform units, and only one (1) was found in a location not within 200 m of a creek or drainage line. The majority of artefact scatters were considered to be low-density, with the highest number of artefacts recorded being 61 artefacts, which included 10 cores. Isolated artefacts were distributed across a wider variety of landforms than artefact scatters (i.e. ridge tops, plains, and lower slopes), but were generally still located within 200 m of a known creek or water source. Investigations undertaken at the TCM demonstrate that there is a strong correlation between the size and density of artefact remains, water availability and landform.

In 2019, an ACHA for the Life of Mine Modification to the TCM was prepared by Whincop Archaeology (2019a). The modification was largely limited to the existing mine footprint, with the exception of a water pipeline located along the Tarrawonga haul road. Four (4) new artefact sites were identified in the heavily disturbed road reserve.

Since the approval of the TCM, annual monitoring of pit expansion and multiple DDs have been completed for the TCM (e.g. Whincop Archaeology 2023d; 2023e). Although new artefact sites continue to be identified, these are generally within close proximity to Goonbri Creek, confirming the correlation between the presence of artefacts, water availability and landform.

### 7.2.5 The Boggabri, Tarrawonga and Maules Creek Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Strategy

As part of their approval conditions, the Boggabri, Tarrawonga and MCCM were required to develop a single Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Strategy (AHCS) to be implemented across the three mines. The AHCS was initially developed in 2014 (Boer-Mahr, 2014) and finalised in 2017 (University of Queensland Culture and Heritage Unit [UQCHU], 2017). This strategy outlines a unified approach to conserving and managing Aboriginal cultural heritage at these mines, and their associated Biodiversity Offset Areas. Archaeological surveys and Aboriginal cultural values surveys have been undertaken across the relevant properties, including Biodiversity Offset Areas adjacent to Mount Kaputar National Park, and within proximity to these mine sites (Whincop Archaeology 2017a; 2017b; 2017c; 2018b; 2019b; 2022b). No (0) sites of unusual or exceptional cultural significance have been identified, other than those already known (e.g. Gin's Leap, Barbers Pinnacle).

### 7.2.6 Vickery Coal Mine

Kamminga (1978) undertook a sample survey of the proposed coal mining operation at the Boggabri Coal Mine, which included an examination of the then proposed Vickery Coal Mine. In particular, Kamminga's survey focused on identifying potential chalcedony quarries on Robertsons Mount and in the outcrops around Gin's Leap. Kamminga also investigated anecdotal evidence for the presence of burial grounds, scarred trees, a bora and a fish trap, but was unable to conclusively locate any such sites. This is possibly due to destruction through modern land use activities (e.g. ploughing). No (0) Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified during his assessment.

Thompson (1981) undertook an assessment of the then proposed Vickery Coal Mine as part of an EIS. Investigations identified several site types, including grinding grooves, scarred trees, artefact scatters and some small artefact sites near minor drainage channels and on slopes and ridgetops. Thompson (1981: H-10) concluded that the locations of camp sites (represented by extensive artefact scatters) are closely associated with the presence of water; either a permanent river or intermittent creeks. Sites with the highest artefact densities (though none were particularly rich) were generally located on a permanent water source with access to a variety of environments and, therefore, resources (i.e. the Namoi River where it intersects the open plains in proximity to nearby low hills). Thompson noted that, although camp sites rarely occur away from permanent water, smaller artefact scatters do occur along creeks immediately downstream from steeper sections (i.e. where water pools).

Scarred trees are generally not well-represented in Thompson's (1981: H-21) study, except for the Cypress Pine 'torch bark' scars that Thompson associated with nocturnal resource gathering. These same 'torch-bark' scars were inspected several years later by a member of the NSW Forestry Commission, who interpreted these scars to be the result of a fire and should not be associated with Aboriginal cultural practices (Haglund, 1985: 19-20). It is noted that similar scars encountered during archaeological survey of the nearby MCCM were also dismissed by a forestry expert with more than 30 years' forestry experience as not having a cultural origin (Burns, 2013).

Haglund (1982) undertook an archaeological investigation of two (2) artefact scatters located on the Namoi River that had been identified by Thompson (1981): the sites were named 'Top Rocks' (AHIMS 20-4-0009) and 'Bottom Rocks' (AHIMS 20-4-0008), though both were registered on AHIMS under the same name 'Wilga' (the 'Wilga' grinding grooves have been inadvertently recorded a second time as Broadwater Grinding Grooves [AHIMS 20-4-0292]). Haglund's detailed inspection of the two 'Wilga' sites identified a wider class of artefact and raw material evident than that recorded by Thompson. Of the two sites, only 'Top Rocks' (artefact scatter with associated grinding grooves) (Wilga, AHIMS 20-4-0009) was interpreted as maintaining spatial integrity with

*in situ* archaeological deposits. 'Bottom Rocks' (Wilga, AHIMS 20-4-0008) has been disturbed and damaged by erosion and human activity.

Landskape (2012) completed an ACHA of the now-approved Vickery Coal Project. In addition to previously recorded sites, the field surveys identified 20 artefact scatters and 15 isolated artefacts, all of which constituted small, low-density artefact sites. The approved Vickery Coal Project ACHA assessed five (5) previously recorded sites, including the 'Wilga' grinding grooves (AHIMS 20-4-0009).

Also in 2012, Hudson commenced preparation of an ACHA for the then proposed Vickery South Project; the ACHA was never completed. During the field surveys, Hudson identified over 30 potential Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, including more than 20 possible scarred trees. Two separate independent investigations have since determined all the potential cultural scars to be of natural origin (Kamminga and Lance 2016; Burns 2016).

In 2016, the UQCHU undertook archaeological survey of the proposed Vickery Expansion Project, which included a reassessment of the Vickery South Project area; Whincop Archaeology (2018a) completed the final ACHAR. The survey confirmed four (4) of Hudson's sites as Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, as well as 125 additional artefact sites located along the proposed rail loop, pipeline, haul road and infrastructure areas; a subsequent redesign of the rail loop has ensured most of the sites will not be impacted by the development (Whincop Archaeology, 2018a). The highest concentration of artefacts was on the river terrace overlooking the Namoi River. While artefacts were identified away from the river terrace, numbers were significantly reduced. No (0) artefacts were identified within the alluvial floodplain west of the Namoi River.

In 2023, Whincop Archaeology (2024) completed archaeological salvage of 51 artefact sites at the Vickery Coal Mine. While surface collection of artefacts recovered 150% more artefacts at these sites (596) than was recorded on AHIMS (394), no (0) artefacts could be identified at 22 sites. Artefacts were recovered from along the terraces of the Namoi River, but the greatest concentrations of surface artefacts (68%) were associated with a small, ephemeral creek known as Greenwood Creek. Surface collection also identified two (2) ovens, which were subject to controlled excavation. Despite extensive Shovel Test Pitting and open area excavation, only 21 artefacts were recovered from subsurface deposits.

## 7.3 AHIMS Searches

In addition to a review of relevant literature and reports for the Investigation Area and wider region, an extensive search of the AHIMS database for the Investigation Area with a 1000-metre buffer was undertaken on 16 January 2024 (Search ID#855090) prior to the current ACHA survey. This search identified the presence of six (6) Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the search area, four (4) of which have been previously salvaged (Appendix 4). The search results confirm that prior to the commencement of this assessment, no (0) valid AHIMS sites were located within the Investigation Area. The results of the AHIMS search are presented on Figure 4 and provided in Appendix 4.

A more recent AHIMS search was undertaken on 12 July 2024 (Search ID#909582) and confirmed the successful registration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified during this assessment.

It is noted that, while the AHIMS database provides a good indication of the known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in any given area, and can be used to assist in characterising the heritage potential of that area, the search is only reflective of the previous survey effort undertaken in that area. Additional sites may be identified depending on whether the area previously has been extensively and sufficiently surveyed.

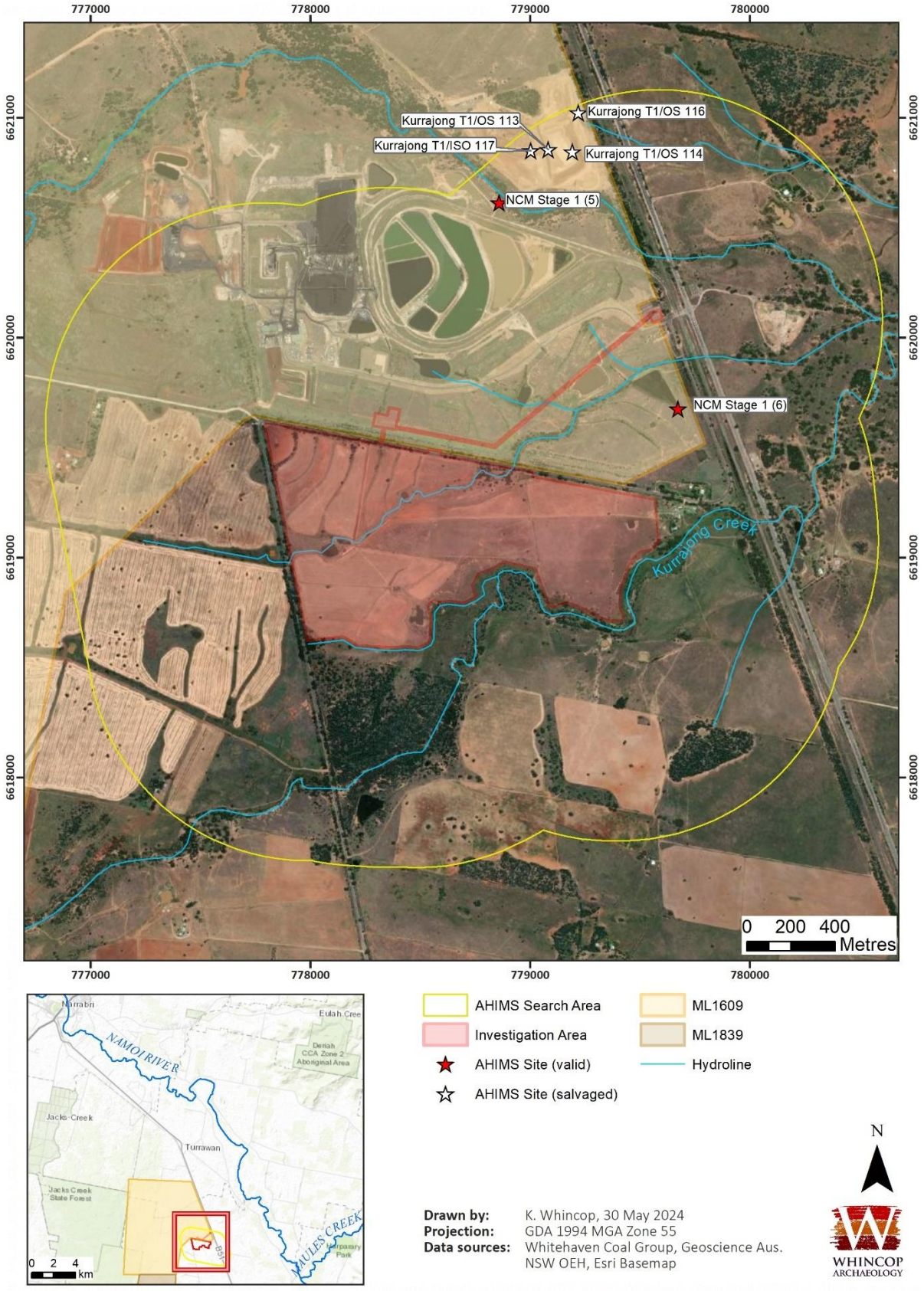



*Figure 4: Results of AHIMS Extensive Search*

## 7.4 Ethnographic and Historical Context

In this section, the available ethno-historical and historical information relating to Aboriginal people of the region is briefly reviewed. This information can assist in formulating a model of local Aboriginal subsistence and occupation patterns. In conjunction with an analysis of the documented archaeological record of the region, the ethno-historical and historical information also assists in the interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the wider area, and in predicting the potential location and likelihood of occurrence of Aboriginal cultural heritage site types within the Investigation Area.

The present distribution, physical condition and visibility of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites depend on local patterns of past human behaviour, as well as intensive land use practices over the last 150 years. This section draws from early ethnographic sources to explore the history of local Aboriginal people at the time of, and subsequent to contact with non-Indigenous peoples. For this reason, the following summary of past land use practices is important to the development of an archaeological predictive model for the Investigation Area.

There are several problems, however, concerned with correctly describing nineteenth century Aboriginal groups west of the Great Dividing Range. This is due to discrepancies in early European accounts and the difficulties early settlers had in understanding Aboriginal languages and social systems. The effects of European settlement on Aboriginal people, such as the loss of traditional lands and resources, spread of disease, social breakdown, and the removal of people to Reserves, have contributed additional complexities. Hence, it is difficult to accurately identify the ethno-history and post-contact history of specific Aboriginal clan groups.

In the late Pleistocene period, during the last glacial maximum (24,000 to 18,000 years ago), the climate was significantly cooler (6-10$^0$C) and drier than at present. Water was less abundant and less reliably available in some areas, especially in areas today generally lacking surface water, such as the undulating plains of the Namoi River catchment. The general lack of water and associated subsistence resources would not have represented an environment conducive to Aboriginal occupation. By the Holocene period, which commenced around 11,700 years ago, water was more frequently available and areas previously considered sub-optimal were much more conducive to human occupation. As a result, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites dating to the Pleistocene, if present in the region, will likely be restricted to the margins of the Namoi River, where water was sufficient to sustain life. Unfortunately, the margins of the Namoi River have been disturbed by frequent flooding and high-energy water events, that repeatedly scour the landscape close to the river.

Aboriginal people of the Kamilaroi (or Gamilaraay) language group occupied the North West Slopes and Plains at the time of European contact (Mitchell, 1839; Fison and Howitt, 1867; Parker, 1905; Tindale, 1974; Howitt, 1996). A language group consisted of independent groups of closely related kin, or 'clans,' who were spiritually linked to designated areas of land through their association with topographic features connected to mythic beings or deities (Berndt, 1982). Clan lands were inalienable and clan members had religious responsibilities (e.g. conducting rituals) to ensure 'the perpetuation of species associated with the particular mythic beings associated with that territory' (Berndt, 1982: 4).

The territory of the Kamilaroi extended from Singleton in the south to the Warrumbungle Mountains in the west and incorporated areas today associated with Quirindi, Tamworth, Narrabri, Boggabri, Walgett, Moree and Mungindi in northern NSW, as well as some parts of southern Queensland. Tribal boundaries were linked with physiographic features (e.g. mountain ranges, rivers) and should not be considered as rigid lines in the landscape.

Traditionally, reconstructions of tribal boundaries have been based on language groups documented in the ethnographic and ethno-historical literature. It is important to note, however, that these reconstructions do not necessarily reflect the spatial distribution of Aboriginal peoples prior to European settlement and, instead, provide an approximate guide to Aboriginal tribal boundaries during initial contact (Sullivan, 1981). During the early phase of European expansion, the few observations made of Aboriginal groups were generally limited to distant sightings of Aboriginal people and their fires (Mitchell, 1839).

European observers noted that the Kamilaroi were hunter-fisher-gatherers who appeared to lead a semi-nomadic lifestyle. In 1831, the Surveyor-General of NSW, Major Thomas Mitchell (1839), examined the Namoi (*Namoy, Nammoy*) River valley and remarked on the open appearance of the undulating landform in the vicinity of Barbers Lagoon (near Boggabri). The managed appearance of this landscape reminded him of farmland in England. Much of the country close to the river consisted of open woodland where Aboriginal land management practices, such as cold season burn-offs, had modified the landscape to make it more productive (i.e. attracting grazers) (Thompson, 1981: H-3; Haglund, 1986: 5). The Kamilaroi caught fish, eels, freshwater crayfish, yabbies, tortoises and freshwater mussels in the Namoi River and other streams and wetlands in the region (Mitchell, 1839; Parker, 1905; O'Rourke, 1997). Watercrafts were manufactured from large slabs of bark cut from river red gum trees. Reed nets were used to catch birds, whose eggs were also collected. Other animals hunted by Kamilaroi included kangaroos, wallabies, possums, emus, echidnas, lizards, snakes, and frogs (Mitchell, 1839; Fison and Howitt, 1867; Parker, 1905; O'Rourke,

1997). A wide variety of plant foods were also collected, including wild orange, native lime, tubers, yams, and roots (Gott, 1983).

Mitchell, amongst others, took note of the extensive Kamilaroi encampments (though Mitchell met only one person in the area) located beside reliable watercourses, such as the Namoi River, Gwydir River, and Coxs Creek (Mitchell, 1839; O'Rourke, 1997). O'Rourke (1997) has estimated a total historical regional population in north-western NSW of around 10,000 Kamilaroi, with each clan having resided throughout the year at a small number of established, favourable locations within their estate. Subsistence was based on seasonal occupation of the riverine corridors and drier 'backcountry.'

Large populations of people congregated at the rivers during the drier months, while in the cooler or wetter months, mobile bands dispersed over the plains and adjacent foothills, exploiting ephemeral resources (O'Rourke, 1997). The archaeological record of this occupation is preserved in the distribution pattern of Aboriginal sites, mostly dating to the Holocene period (Purcell, 2000; 2002).

Other early accounts also record important details about ceremonial activities and burial practices. Mathews (1917) observed large initiation and ritual scarification ceremonies, including taboo behaviours, at the important ceremonial rings at Terry-Hie-Hie (north of Mount Kaputar). Some of these ceremonial areas were lined with carved trees. Around 1845, a traditional burial ceremony was recorded near Dubbo, where the body was placed in a sitting position and wrapped in a possum skin cloak tied together by the mourners' belts (Garnsey, 1942: 24). The body was buried in sandy soil near a river bank, with nearby trees being carved by the participants.

This summary of Aboriginal behavioural patterns in the area during the mid-nineteenth century indicates that occupation was undertaken on a seasonal basis, characterised by temporary encampments shifting between resource-rich zones. Large campsites were placed close to rivers and creeks. Such camps were generally occupied by smaller family groups for a few days or longer in resource-rich areas. Camps and travel routes were also located to take advantage of available resources such as stone for making or maintaining tools. Physical evidence of such activities includes stone-working debris at quarries or campsites, or the presence of axe grinding grooves.

The lives of Aboriginal groups in the wider area were severely disrupted by the establishment and expansion of European settlement. In 1818, John Oxley became the first European explorer to journey through the Boggabri area, but he found the area too wet for effective grazing (Roberts, 1935: 133-134). Several years later (1823), Cunningham investigated the local area for potential pasture, water, and mineral resources, but he too concluded that the area was a permanent swamp 'unsafe' for stock (Rolls, 1984: 67). The earliest recorded contact between the Kamilaroi and European settlers occurred in 1824, when the two cultures clashed violently at a pass

in the Liverpool Range (Roworth, 2000:59), an encounter that temporarily delayed further expeditions westward, at least until Clarke's reports of an 'inland sea' reignited interest.

George 'the barber' Clarke, an escaped convict, resided with the Kamilaroi from 1825 until his recapture five years later. He had journeyed west and encountered the Kamilaroi people in the area of modern Boggabri, eventually settling at a half-moon waterhole today known as 'Barbers Lagoon' (Rolls, 1984: 94). Clarke learned Kamilaroi language, customs, and dress, and was given knowledge enough to allow his participation in ceremonies at Terry-Hie-Hie (Boyce, 1970), where he underwent ritual scarification as well as staining of his body with wild berry juice, clay and ochre.

Clarke also dressed wearing a possum-skin cloak (gifted to him), grass beads, a twisted human hair belt, and a reed headband. During his time with the Kamilaroi, Clarke instructed his new kin in the techniques of stock-rustling and showed them how to build a stockyard by the lagoon, which represents the first structure along the Namoi in the region (Rolls, 1984: 94; Roworth, 2000: 61). On the recapture of Clarke, he recounted a story about a great inland sea (probably the Namoi River in flood) which prompted the 1831 expedition of Mitchell into the area. Mitchell encamped at the stockyard by Barbers Lagoon while exploring the immediate area, but he encountered no local Kamilaroi people (only one elderly woman too frail to flee his arrival). While Mitchell did not find the great 'inland sea' he was expecting, it is his description of the rich environment of the North West Slopes and Plains that initiated a concerted move into the area by European settlers.

By 1834, Andrew Doyle and his brothers established the 'Nurrabry' run, the first squatting run in the region. By 1835, several additional squatters had moved up the Namoi River to establish illegal sheep runs. Edward Cox drove his flock from the headwaters of Coxs Creek to its junction with the Namoi River and established the Namoi Hut Station; this would eventually (in 1860) become the township of Boggabri, a Kamilaroi word meaning 'place of many creeks' (Archaeology Australia, 2010: 13). By 1848, all the land along the Namoi River was occupied by pastoralists (O'Rourke, 1997: 201). The township of Narrabri, a Kamilaroi word meaning 'junction of many creeks' was established in 1860.

As more settlers moved into the North West Slopes and Plains to establish large runs, the Aboriginal community was pushed further and further into marginal areas where subsistence was difficult. Within several decades of first contact many Kamilaroi people were living in 'fringe camps' adjacent to pastoral stations and taking up work as shepherds or stockmen (O'Rourke, 1997). Following the pastoral settlement of the district, the effects of introduced disease, dispossession and European aggression combined to decimate the Aboriginal population and cause the breakdown of traditional social and subsistence systems (e.g. the last recorded Kamilaroi bora ceremony occurred in 1905 at

Wee Waa [O'Rourke, 1997]). In 1909, following the passing of the NSW *Aborigines Protection Act 1909*, a series of Aboriginal Reserves and Stations were established in Kamilaroi lands, including one at Baan Baa less than 5 km south east of the Investigation Area (Thompson, 1981; Barber et al., 2007).

## 7.5 Post-contact Land Use

In the past 150 years, pastoralist activities, farming, mineral exploration, mining and other land management practices have combined to significantly alter the fabric of the North West Slopes and Plains landscape (Haglund, 1986: 5). Land in the Investigation Area was first used and settled by Europeans as squatting runs for stock and sheep in the mid-nineteenth century. Agricultural activities were then introduced into the Narrabri Shire after the passing of the *Robertson Land Acts* of 1861, which facilitated the selection of land by farmers on pastoral holdings for the cultivation of wheat and, later, cotton. Much of the alluvial flats associated with the major creeks and rivers were extensively cleared and heavily cultivated.

As a result of land clearance activities, many Aboriginal cultural heritage sites have been either destroyed, removed, or significantly disturbed over the course of the past 150 years. The ground surface has been extensively cleared, ploughed, and trampled. The nature of unwooded open country has also compounded the erosive effects of annual flooding of the Namoi River, which would have accelerated impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Finally, changes in fire regimes resulted in the loss of a mosaic environment and in the development of more intense fires (Hesse, 2000). As a result, it is likely that the majority of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites have either been significantly disturbed or eroded, while the potential for traditional scarred trees to survive clearing and logging activities, as well as fire, is considered low.

## 7.6 Predictive Model

Predictive models are generally based on the results of previous archaeological investigations within a similar local environment and take into account a wide variety of environmental influences (Rowland and Connolly, 2002).

The purpose of a predictive model is to inform archaeological investigations and intensify focus on areas with archaeological potential. As a result, a large portion of the development of each model is undertaken as a desk-based study. This provisional predictive model is then further refined during site visits and archaeological survey when general observations are recorded regarding landform, geology, elevation, slope and the extent of clearance and disturbance. In other words, the desktop predictive model is subject to further development based on actual conditions on-site.

A summary of the results of previous archaeological investigations indicates that Aboriginal cultural heritage sites do occur in and around the Investigation Area, indicating some potential remains for the discovery of previously unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (Sections 7.1 and 7.2). This section presents the implications of the desktop study and the likelihood for the potential discovery of different Aboriginal cultural heritage site types within the Investigation Area.

General predictions for site patterning:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are known to exist within the vicinity of the Investigation Area.
- Previous archaeological investigations have demonstrated a pattern of Aboriginal cultural heritage site distribution linked to the terraces of the Namoi River and higher order creeks and, to a lesser degree, seasonal drainage lines, as well as raised landforms overlooking permanent water sources.
- The local area (including the Investigation Area) has been subjected to intensive disturbance over the past 150 years, which has variously impacted upon the survival of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. These activities have included vegetation clearance, erosion, crop production, animal pasture, road construction, ploughing, animal trampling, intensified bush fires, mineral exploration, and mining activities. These processes have generally not occurred uniformly, and as a consequence there remains some (though somewhat) limited potential for the survival of *in situ* Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in areas of low disturbance within the Investigation Area. In scientific (or archaeological) terms, disturbed sites are generally considered to be of lower scientific significance and, as such, generally require less rigorous management responses.
- It is thought that flood events associated with the Namoi River catchment have dispersed, buried and/or scoured many sites that may have been located along local creeks and seasonal drainage lines.
- Considering the nature of the known archaeological record in the wider region and the landforms present in the Investigation Area, it has been determined that the margins of Kurrajong Creeks and its associated tributaries (i.e. drainage lines) within the Investigation Area retain the highest potential to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.
- If Aboriginal cultural material has survived in the Investigation Area this will most likely be represented by:
    - Stone artefacts located within disturbed soil horizons in close proximity to Kurrajong Creek.
    - Scarred trees will survive only in areas with mature native vegetation preservation, which are rare within the Investigation Area.

- The underlying geology indicates an abundance of local sandstone, which has potential to contain axe grinding grooves where sandstone outcrops in close proximity to water.

Artefact Scatters:

- Artefact scatters are the most common site type in the wider region, and are the site type most likely to occur in the Investigation Area.
- Artefact sites are more likely to be found on the banks of, and in proximity to, Kurrajong Creek and, to a lesser degree, seasonal drainage lines.
- The archaeology of the surrounding area is characterised by diffuse artefact scatters or isolated artefacts that occur in higher densities along Kurrajong Creek and Pine Creek (and their tributaries), but which conversely decrease in density with distance from water.
- There is a strong correlation between the size and density of artefact remains and water availability (i.e. the frequency of stone artefacts decreases with increasing distance from water). Sites associated with larger watercourses (e.g. Kurrajong Creek) are generally more extensive than sites located in other landforms.
- When artefacts are encountered on higher landforms (i.e. away from reliable water sources), they are generally representative of a sporadic and diffuse Aboriginal presence.
- Stone artefact scatters and isolated artefacts have the potential to occur anywhere within the Investigation Area but are more likely to be found within 50 m of other artefacts and/or 200 m of a named watercourse and/or 100 m of an unnamed drainage line.
- The presence of artefact scatters on seasonal creeks is generally limited to locations downstream from steeper sections that drain higher terrain, but upstream of where the creek channels become poorly defined. These locations are likely associated with temporary waterholes and billabongs following rain.
- The presence of stone artefact scatters on intermittent creeks is often associated with the presence of exposed outcrops of suitable stone resources. The nature of artefacts from these sites reflects preliminary stone-working activities associated with stone resource acquisition, such as the knapping of fine-grained pebbles sourced from Kurrajong Creek.
- A review of the relevant geology indicates the presence of some stone sources suitable for artefact knapping, and likely sandstone outcrops suitable for artefact grinding/sharpening.

Grinding Grooves:

- Grinding groove sites tend to exist where suitable outcrops of coarse sandstone occur close to water. Grinding grooves are known to exist in sandstone outcrops in the vicinity of the Investigation Area.
- The geology of the Investigation Area is dominated by underlying sandstone, generally well suited for the development and use of grinding grooves.
- If sandstone outcrops occur within the Investigation Area, these are likely to contain grinding grooves.

Culturally Modified Trees:

- Scarred trees have been reported to occur within the wider area, but are generally quite rare.
- Scarred trees, which represent the sources of material for shields, containers, canoes, and shelters (among other uses) can occur near water or away from it, depending on the type of wood or bark required and its purpose.
- Considering the generally accepted late nineteenth century cessation of cultural tree scarring, only mature native trees have the potential to contain cultural scars.
- Haglund observed in 1986 that few trees in the wider district were old enough to have been affected by traditional Aboriginal practices.
- Not all scars on trees are the result of cultural activities; several trees registered on AHIMS as scarred trees have been reassessed as being of natural origin (e.g. Thompson's [1981] 'torch bark scars'; Burns' [2013] reassessment of trees at Maules Creek Coal Mine; Kamminga and Lance's [2016] assessment of tree scars on the Vickery Expansion Project).
- The survival of scarred trees is dependent upon reliable water sources, and are therefore often associated with permanent water sources (e.g. Namoi River).
- Carved trees have been previously recorded in the Boggabri area (e.g. the Burburgate Tree as described in Dallas, 1986: 5), but such trees are generally known, and unlisted examples would be possible in very remote areas only.

Rock Shelters:

- The local landscape contains several notable, large rhyolite outcrops that have high cultural significance (e.g. Barbers Pinnacle, Gin's Leap).
- Caves significant to the Aboriginal community are known to exist within the nearby Pilliga Nature Reserve, Mount Kaputar National Park and Boonalla CCA Zone 2 Aboriginal Area (near Kelvin).

- The Pilliga Nature Reserve contains rock art, which consists of engravings, painted motifs and stencils within sandstone rock shelters or overhangs (Purcell, 2000).
- Sites dependent upon the presence of rock formations, such as rock shelters and rock art sites, are unlikely to occur in the Investigation Area due to an absence of sufficiently rugged terrain or suitable geology.

Spiritual/Ceremony Sites:

- Mythological or religious sites, including stone arrangements, generally occur on ridges or in association with distinctive landscape features.
- Bora rings and spiritual sites have been reported, but not necessarily substantiated, for the wider region; such sites are rare, and their survival more so.
- Gin's Leap has been registered on AHIMS (20-4-0010) as a Mythological site, and is the only site of this type in proximity to the Investigation Area (approximately 20 km south of the Investigation Area).
- Ceremonial grounds, such as bora rings, tend to be some distance from occupation sites, due to the culturally sensitive nature of activities that occur at these locations (McCarthy, 1940).

Burials:

- Burial sites are either known through tradition or found by accident when disturbed (e.g. eroding out of sand dunes or creek banks, or when disturbed by development).
- Human remains tended to be placed in hollow trees, caves, or sandy deposits along river banks.
- Traditional burials may occur within sandy soils along the banks of Kurrajong Creek, although none are known to exist.

Other Site Types:

- Earthen features, including mounds, ovens, and hearths, are normally restricted to level ground adjacent to water sources. These site types are unlikely to survive in the immediate landscape due to the extent of previous land disturbance close to Kurrajong Creek.
- Ovens are known to exist within the wider landscape (e.g. at the Narrabri Mine, and the Vickery Coal Mine), though such site types are rare.
- Freshwater shell middens rarely occur more than 100 m from permanent water sources (Dunk & Vermeltfoort, 2011: 36).

- Quarry sites (where Aboriginal people obtained stone and/or ochre) may be associated with volcanic rock outcrops and exposed sedimentary formations. Quarry sites are unlikely to occur in the Investigation Area due to the nature of the underlying geology.

A predictive model for the Investigation Area indicates that Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are predicted to occur in areas (Figure 5):

- containing mature native trees in association with Kurrajong Creek; or
- within 200 m of a named watercourse and/or 100 m of a mapped drainage line and/or 50 m of a known Aboriginal cultural heritage site and on slopes no greater than 30 degrees (°); or
- where sandstone outcrops are likely to occur.

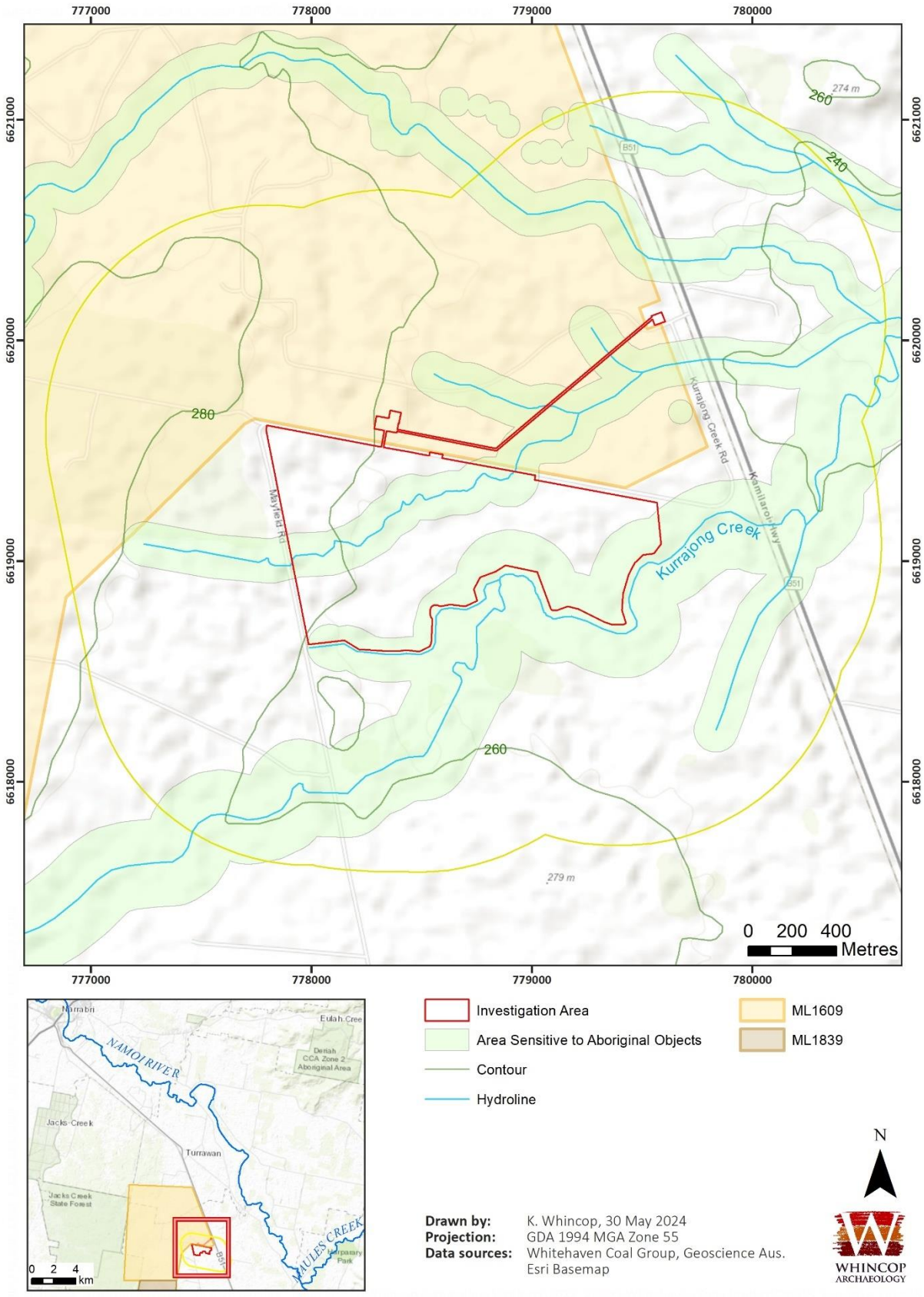



*Figure 5: Areas with Higher Potential for Aboriginal Objects in the Investigation Area*

# 8 FIELD SURVEY

Prior to the commencement of field survey for the Project, research and desktop investigations were undertaken in relation to the environmental, cultural, and archaeological context of the Investigation Area (and broader Study Area), drawing upon previous work completed in the surrounding region (Sections 6 and 7). Consultation was also undertaken with the Aboriginal community in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines (DECCW, 2010a) and the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NSW). Extensive searches of the AHIMS database were also completed (Section 7.3). These three lines of enquiry combined to prepare an effective survey methodology for the Investigation Area.

## 8.1 Survey Approach and Objectives

The survey methodology applied to the Investigation Area was devised in accordance with principles outlined in the Code (DECCW, 2010b). Requirement 5 of the Code covers the principles of 'Archaeological Survey', including the requirements for developing an effective survey sampling strategy (Requirement 5a), undertaking survey (Requirement 5b), and defining relevant survey units (SUs) (Requirement 5c). The Code states that the survey sampling strategy must:

- include all landforms that will potentially be impacted;
- place a proportional emphasis on those landforms deemed to have archaeological potential, clearly describing and justifying the reasons for their selection;
- describe how sampling relates to the footprint that is proposed to be impacted by the Project; and
- clearly state when a full coverage survey will be undertaken and justify when it is not.

Hence, the aims of the current field survey were:

- to examine and undertake a survey of each of the different landforms contained within the Investigation Area[1];
- to target areas of higher archaeological potential (as determined through the development and application of the archaeological predictive model that considers the geological, geomorphological, archaeological, and cultural context of the Investigation Area [Section 7.6]);
- to systematically inspect all areas with GSV for Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area; and
- to identify places of potential cultural significance within the Investigation Area.

[1] To ensure representative coverage of all landform units, including those with a lower probability of retaining *in situ* Aboriginal objects.

## 8.2 Survey Methodology

The landscape of the Investigation Area generally comprises flat to gently undulating plains with several creeks and ephemeral drainage lines. The Investigation Area has been completely cleared for pastoral activities. Due to the limited size and extent of the Project, the Investigation Area was subdivided into five survey units based on a combination of landform, access and GSV (Figure 6).

Comprehensive archaeological survey, which was informed by the archaeological predictive model (Section 7.6), used pedestrian transects to maximise overall survey coverage. The entire Investigation Area was subject to exhaustive survey, with all sensitive landforms (i.e. areas within 200 m of Kurrajong Creek and 100 m of the unnamed drainage line) subject to detailed inspection. Survey in these areas employed pedestrian transects, where team members walked approximately 5-10 m apart, examining all surface exposures. Pedestrian spacing was sufficient to identify any areas of significant ground exposure and these areas were extensively targeted, in accordance with archaeological practice outlined in Burke and Smith (2004: 65-69).

The above methodology was applied to the Investigation Area in consultation with the RAPs present, and ensured that all landforms (1. Undulating Plains and 2. Creeks and Drainage Lines) were sufficiently sampled, and a series of pedestrian transects were strategically positioned to cover areas of highest potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. In addition, the field survey included the examination of all potential mature trees for signs of cultural scarring. All visible sandstone outcrops were inspected for grinding grooves.

The entire Investigation Area was inspected in accordance with Requirement 5 of the Code. The survey coverage obtained is considered to be sufficient for the purposes of this assessment (Section 8.6).

## 8.3 Survey Personnel

As described in Section 5.4, the field survey was undertaken 7-8 March 2024. A list of the attending RAPs and RAP representatives, as well as Whincop Archaeology survey personnel, is provided (Table 4). During the survey, the participants worked as to identify areas of good GSV (i.e. exposures) and maximise surface coverage.

## 8.4 Survey Coverage

Comprehensive archaeological survey coverage was attained across the Investigation Area. All areas holding potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were comprehensively sampled. The remaining intermediate areas were sampled using pedestrian transects and opportunistic access (i.e. targeting exposures), as described in Section 8.2 above.

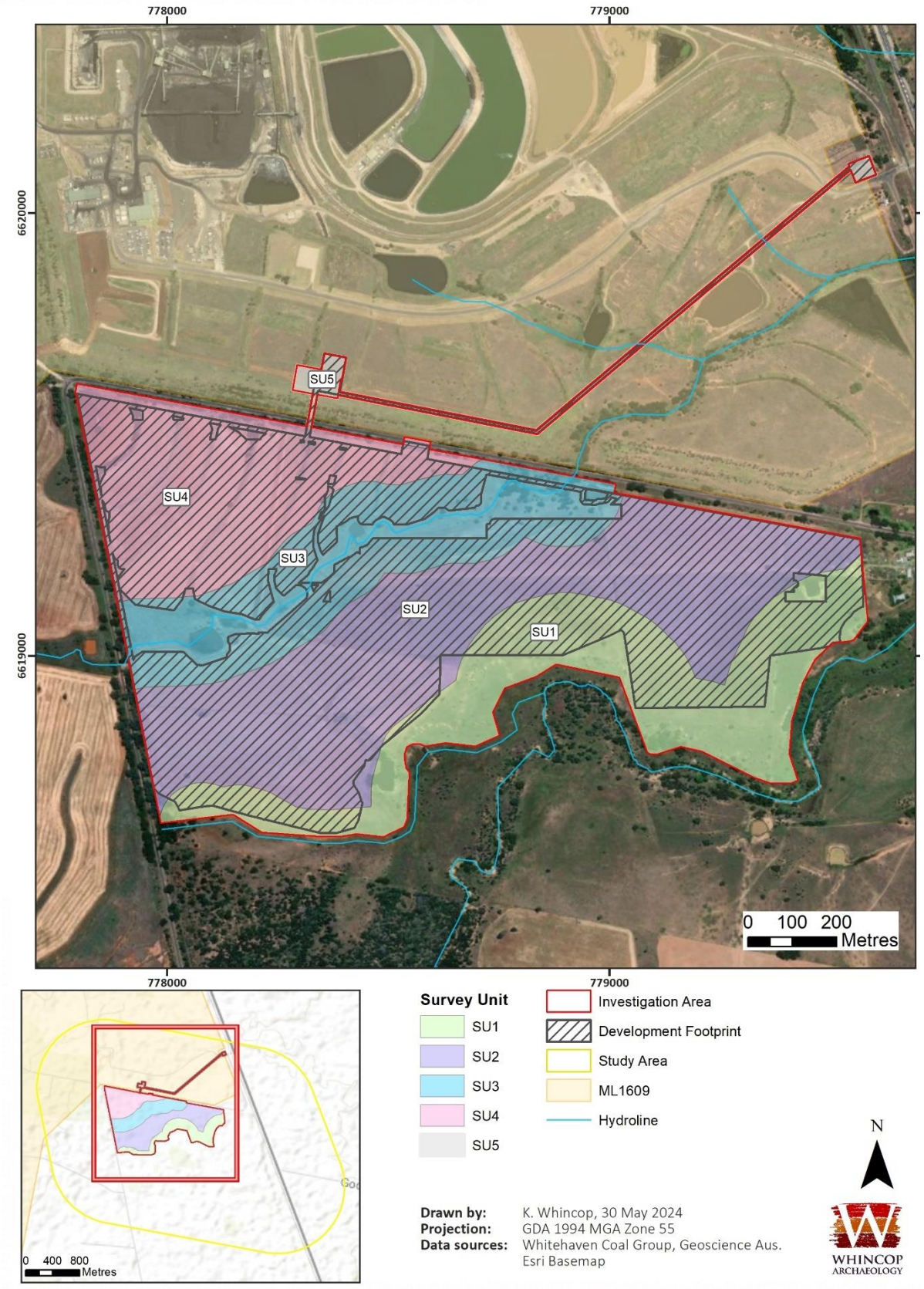



*Figure 6: Survey Units – Investigation Area*

The GSV was generally good across the Undulating Plains landform, especially in areas being actively ploughed (Photos 1-2). In areas not being actively ploughed (e.g. immediately adjacent to Kurrajong Creek and its tributary), GSV was generally lower (Photos 3-4). Despite lower GSV along the creek banks, Kurrajong Creek and its tributary were accessible with sufficient GSV to determine the presence of surface exposures and sandstone outcrops (Photo 4).

Photo 1: Example of undulating plains landform (SU4) (looking east)



Photo 2: View of ploughed field (SU2) towards Kurrajong Creek (looking south)



Photo 3: Low GSV along margins of Kurrajong Creek SU1 (looking north)



Photo 4: Exposure along Kurrajong Creek tributary SU3 (looking west)



The area of the Investigation Area is 1,154,000 square metres ($m^2$) (115.4 ha). Total effective coverage of the survey (i.e. ground inspected for Aboriginal objects) for the Investigation Area equates to approximately 426,590 $m^2$ (approximately 42.7 ha) or 37% of the total Investigation Area (Table 5). The actual coverage for obtrusive site types (e.g. grinding grooves, rock shelters), however, can be considered greater, as survey was sufficient to identify rock outcrops and landforms with potential for overhangs or caves. Notwithstanding localised areas of low GSV, the resulting effective survey coverage (37%) is considered comprehensive to present an effective assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the Investigation Area.

*Table 5: Landform, Size and Effective Coverage for Survey Units in Investigation Area*

| Survey Unit | Landform | SU Area ($m^2$) | Exposure (%) | Visibility (%) | Effective Coverage ($m^2$) | Effective Coverage (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Creek banks and terraces | 272,000 | 10 | 50 | 13,600 | 5 |
| 02 | Undulating plain | 399,000 | 80 | 80 | 255,360 | 64 |
| 03 | Creek banks and terraces | 232,000 | 10 | 50 | 11,600 | 5 |
| 04 | Undulating plain | 227,000 | 80 | 80 | 145,280 | 64 |
| 05 | Mixed disturbance | 25,000 | 10 | 30 | 750 | 3 |
| **TOTAL** | | 1,154,000 | | | **426,590** | **37%** |

## 8.5 Survey Limitations

Thick grass cover, scrub and existing ground disturbances combined to obscure the original GSV in areas associated with Kurrajong Creek and its tributary. Within cleared areas, there were high levels of disturbance due to agropastoral activities.

This report is based on existing publicly available environmental and archaeological information and reports about the Study Area. The background research did not include any independent verification of the results and interpretations of externally sourced reports. Archaeological fieldwork comprised a surface survey only; no subsurface investigation has been undertaken nor is considered required.

## 8.6 Summary of Results

At the time of survey, cleared and ploughed areas within the Investigation Area yielded significantly higher GSV than areas adjacent to Kurrajong Creek and its tributary. In addition, the Investigation Area has undergone a variety of disturbances (e.g. clearance, grazing, cropping, dams, and fences).

All mature native trees within sensitive areas (i.e. along watercourses) of the Investigation Area were inspected for evidence of Aboriginal scarring. Occasional outcrops of sandstone were visible along the margins of Kurrajong Creek and its tributary, but rock overhangs were not identified within the Investigation Area.

For the purpose of this ACHA, an 'artefact scatter' is defined by the presence of two or more stone artefacts in close association (i.e. within 50 m of each other) (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1997). An isolated artefact is one where no other artefacts were identified within a 50 m radius. Each site extent was determined by applying a 5 m buffer to each artefact. As a result, the site extent for an isolated artefact consists of a 5 m circular buffer around the artefact. The site extent for an artefact scatter was determined by creating a polygon that encompasses the 5 m buffers of all artefacts within that scatter. The resulting site extents, therefore, account for potential Global Positioning System (GPS) inaccuracies as well as incorporating a protective buffer around known objects.

On conclusion of the comprehensive field survey, 11 previously unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified within the Investigation Area. No (0) sites registered on the AHIMS database had been previously recorded within the Investigation Area at the time of the ACHA field surveys. Upon conclusion of the ACHA survey, a total of 11 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are known to exist within the Investigation Area, nine (9) of which are surface artefact sites, including three (3) artefact scatters and six (6) isolated artefacts. Two grinding groove sites were also identified on the northern edge of Kurrajong Creek; Naroo GG1 containing at least two (2) grooves while Naroo GG2 consists of at least 11 grooves. No (0) other site types were identified within the Investigation Area, although scarred trees are known to exist within the wider landscape.

All of the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified within the Investigation Area are located within close proximity to the terraces of Kurrajong Creek and its tributary (Table 6; Figure 7). This distribution pattern (concentrations along higher order creek lines and absence of sites within the Undulating Plains landform) supports the validity of the predictive model developed above (Section 7.6), although poor GSV within proximity of the creeks has limited the effectiveness of the survey.

*Table 6: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Located within the Investigation Area*

| Site Name | AHIMS ID | Type | Easting* (zone 55) | Northing* (zone 55) | Area ($m^2$) | Landform | SU | Contents |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Naroo GG1 | 19-6-0290 | GG | 779226 | 6618796 | 163 | Creek terraces | SU01 | 2 grooves |
| Naroo GG2 | 19-6-0289 | GG | 779266 | 6618779 | 78 | Creek terraces | SU01 | 11 grooves |
| Naroo AS1 | 19-6-0288 | AS | 778575 | 6618830 | 744 | Creek terraces | SU01 | 4 artefacts |
| Naroo AS2 | 19-6-0287 | AS | 779043 | 6618926 | 812 | Creek terraces | SU01 | 6 artefacts |
| Naroo AS3 | 19-6-0286 | AS | 779389 | 6618846 | 1441 | Creek terraces | SU01 | 4 artefacts |
| Naroo IA1 | 19-6-0285 | IA | 778902 | 6619327 | 78 | Creek terraces | SU03 | 1 artefact |
| Naroo IA2 | 19-6-0284 | IA | 778823 | 6619321 | 78 | Creek terraces | SU03 | 1 artefact |
| Naroo IA3 | 19-6-0283 | IA | 778735 | 6619312 | 78 | Creek terraces | SU03 | 1 artefact |
| Naroo IA4 | 19-6-0282 | IA | 778497 | 6619196 | 78 | Creek terraces | SU03 | 1 artefact |
| Naroo IA5 | 19-6-0281 | IA | 778777 | 6618955 | 78 | Creek terraces | SU01 | 1 artefact |
| Naroo IA6 | 19-6-0280 | IA | 779469 | 6618963 | 78 | Creek terraces | SU01 | 1 artefact |

AS = Artefact Scatter; IA = Isolated Artefact; GG = Grinding Grooves

* Coordinates system (GDA 2020)

A summary of the survey results according to landform is presented in Table 7, which clearly indicates that the Creek Terraces landform associated with Kurrajong Creek and its tributary is the most sensitive within the Investigation Area, with all Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified in this area.

*Table 7: Summary of Survey Results by Landform Unit*

| Landform | Landform Area ($m^2$) | Area Effectively Surveyed ($m^2$) | % of Landform Effectively Surveyed | Number of Sites | Number of Artefacts | % Landform Represented Investigation Area | % of Total Artefacts Recorded |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Undulating Plain | 626,000 | 400,640 | 64 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 0 |
| Creek terraces | 504,000 | 25,200 | 5 | 11 | 20 | 44 | 100 |
| Mixed disturbance | 25,000 | 750 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| **TOTAL** | **1,155,000** | **426,590** | **37** | **11** | **20** | **100** | **100** |

Archaeological investigations have identified at least 20 artefacts and a further 13 grinding grooves within the Investigation Area, all of which (100%) were identified in the Creek Terraces landform adjacent to Kurrajong Creek and its tributary (Table 7). The Undulating Plain landform unit represents 54% of the Investigation Area, yet no (0) Aboriginal objects were identified in these areas (despite good GSV). This general absence of artefacts in the Undulating Plains likely reflects the absence of water in this area and therefore a lack of human occupation. The results of the survey clearly confirm the conclusions of the predictive model that indicated areas in proximity to Kurrajong Creek and its tributaries are sensitive to Aboriginal objects.

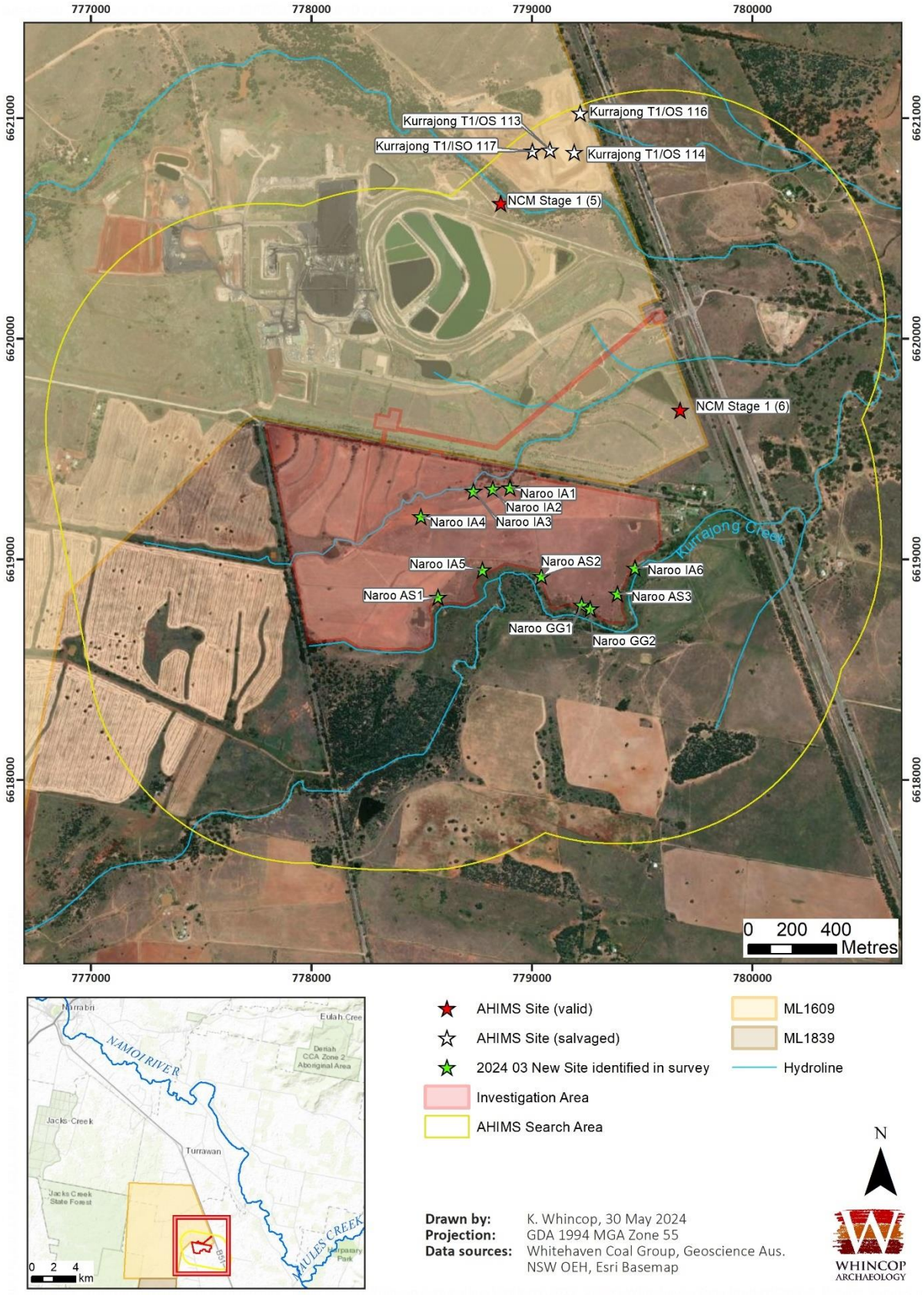



*Figure 7: Results of the ACHA Survey in the Investigation Area*

In view of the predictive modelling and survey results obtained from the sample of effective coverage (37% overall), it is considered that the survey provides a valid basis for formulating recommendations for the management of identified and potential Aboriginal cultural heritage resources in the Investigation Area.

# 9 ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL VALUES

This section presents an overview of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Investigation Area and the broader Study Area, incorporating the results of the AHIMS database search, extensive desktop investigations and the comprehensive field survey.

## 9.1 Archaeological Values

This section describes the nature and extent of the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites known to exist within the Investigation Area. As described in Section 8.6, a total of 11 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified within the Investigation Area, nine (9) of which are artefact sites, including three (3) artefact scatters and six (6) isolated artefacts. These low-density surface artefacts are representative of a region wide back ground scatter. Two (2) grinding groove sites were also identified within the Investigation Area.

**Naroo GG1 (AHIMS 19-6-0290)**

Identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo GG1 consists of at least two (2) axe grinding grooves located on sandstone outcrops on the northern terrace of Kurrajong Creek (Photo 5). Two (2) grooves are located 8 m apart, and more grooves may be present under the surrounding thick grass cover. Groove 1 is 330 mm long and 35 mm wide (Photo 6). Groove 2 is 450 mm long and 45 mm wide (Photo 7).

Photo 5: Location of Naroo GG1, groove 1 (looking south-east)



Photo 6: Naroo GG1 groove 1



Photo 7: Naroo GG1 groove 1



**Naroo GG2 (AHIMS 19-6-0289)**

Identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo GG2 consists of at least 11 grinding grooves located on sandstone outcrops on the northern terrace of Kurrajong Creek (Photo 8). Nine (9) well-defined grooves are clustered together (Photo 9), with a further two (2) small, shallow grooves identified nearby in thick grass cover (Photo 10): more grooves may be present under the surrounding thick grass cover.

Photo 8: Location of Naroo GG2 (looking north)



Photo 9: Naroo GG2 cluster of 9 grooves



Photo 10: Naroo GG1 2 shallow grooves



**Naroo AS1 (AHIMS 19-6-0288)**

Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo AS1 is a low-density artefact scatter identified in erosion scours on the edge of the Kurrajong Creek terrace (Photo 11). The site consists of four (4) artefacts; three (3) siltstone flakes and one (1) silcrete medial flake (Photo 12).

Photo 11: Naroo AS1 (looking south)



Photo 12: Two siltstone flakes (Naroo AS1)



**Naroo AS2 (AHIMS 19-6-0287)**

Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo AS2 is a low-density artefact scatter identified in erosion scours on the edge of the Kurrajong Creek terrace (Photo 13). The site consists of six (6) artefacts, including rhyolite, chert, silcrete and quartzite flakes (Photo 14).

Photo 13: Naroo AS2 (looking south)



Photo 14: Six artefacts (Naroo AS2)



**Naroo AS3 (AHIMS 19-6-0286)**

Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo AS3 is a low-density artefact scatter identified on exposures associated with an ant's nest on the edge of the Kurrajong Creek terrace (Photo 15). The site consists of four (4) artefacts; two (2) chalcedony flakes (one of which is backed), one (1) siltstone proximal flake and one (1) silcrete flake (Photo 16).

Photo 15: Naroo AS3 (looking north)



Photo 16: Chalcedony backed flake (Naroo AS3)



**Naroo IA1 (AHIMS 19-6-0285)**

Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo IA1 is an isolated artefact (siltstone flake) located on the terrace of a Kurrajong Creek tributary (Photo 17).

Photo 17: Siltstone flake (Naroo IA1)




**Naroo IA2 (AHIMS 19-6-0284)**

Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo IA2 is an isolated artefact (chert flake) located on the terrace of a Kurrajong Creek tributary (Photo 18).

Photo 18: Chert flake (Naroo IA2)



**Naroo IA3 (AHIMS 19-6-0283)**

Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo IA3 is an isolated artefact (quartz proximal flake) located on the terrace of a Kurrajong Creek tributary (Photo 19).

Photo 19: Quartz proximal flake (Naroo IA3)




**Naroo IA4 (AHIMS 19-6-0282)**

Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo IA4 is an isolated artefact (silcrete flake with retouch) located in grassed paddock overlooking a Kurrajong Creek tributary (Photo 20).

Photo 20: Silcrete flake with retouch (Naroo IA4)



**Naroo IA5 (AHIMS 19-6-0281)**
Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo IA5 is an isolated artefact (siltstone flake) located on the Kurrajong Creek terrace (Photo 21).

Photo 21: Siltstone flake (Naroo IA5)




**Naroo IA6 (AHIMS 19-6-0280)**
Newly identified during the ACHA survey, Naroo IA6 is an isolated artefact (chalcedony flake) located on the Kurrajong Creek terrace (Photo 22).

Photo 22: Chalcedony flake (Naroo IA6)



## 9.2 Cultural Values Assessment

### 9.2.1 Consultation and Approach to Cultural Values Assessment

As described in Section 5, this assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Consultation Guideli*nes* (DECCW, 2010a) and the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NSW)

The cultural values assessment undertaken to date has been based on the following:

- Review of background resources, including previous cultural values studies for the surrounding region (e.g. NCM, Narrabri Gas Project, MCCM, Whitehaven biodiversity offsets).
- Historical research.
- Discussions with RAPs during field survey.
- Discussions with RAPs during community information sessions and site inspections.
- Requests for comments during the review period for the Proposed Methodology.
- Requests for comments during the review period of the draft ACHA.

These points of consultation provided the opportunity for the Aboriginal community to have direct input into the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage values, both tangible and intangible, in the Investigation Area and wider Study Area, as required by the SEARs, the Consultation Guidelines (DECCW, 2010a) and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011).

During the ACHA survey, the archaeologists encouraged participants to provide input on bush tucker/medicine, fauna and cultural associations/knowledge of the Investigation Area. RAPs were also invited to provide cultural information regarding:

- Objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the Investigation Area or surrounds.
- Places of cultural value to Aboriginal people, including flora and fauna communities, in the Investigation Area or surrounds. This included places of social, spiritual, and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

It is noted that, in the event that RAPs or other community members wish to provide culturally sensitive information, Whitehaven Energy is committed to managing such sensitive material in an agreed manner with the relevant Aboriginal person/group at the time the information is provided. Whitehaven Energy respects the right of Aboriginal people to retain ownership of cultural information they provide.

Although some RAPs were sometimes reluctant to provide detail, the results of the cultural values assessment are generally consistent with the results of previous regional surveys. There have been no specific spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments identified by the RAPs within the Investigation Area. There is, however, the contemporary view held by RAPs that all Aboriginal objects and sites are important within the region due to their interconnectivity with the natural landscape and their testimony to ancestors' presence within this landscape.

### 9.2.2 Outcomes of Cultural Values Assessment

**General Cultural Values**

The cultural values consultation undertaken to date in the Investigation Area and surrounds has established several themes of traditional knowledge:

- **The inter-connectedness of places** - traditionally, Kamilaroi people are considered to have traversed the broader region for trade, hunting and foraging along established routes defined by the topography (e.g. certain creek lines and ridgelines). Further, their movement through the landscape would have been reflected in traditional stories and places (e.g. 'songlines' and 'Dreaming places'). This traditional knowledge has been impacted by the actions of European settlers and government policy since first contact.
- '**Nature' and 'Culture'** - some Aboriginal people do not make a clear distinction between the natural world and 'culture,' as the two things are closely intertwined (e.g. through the existence of totemic species, the use of bush tucker and bush medicine, and through cultural obligations for the management of Country). It is noted that the RAPs consulted have identified some flora and fauna species of traditional importance to them.
- **Access** - some Kamilaroi people maintain a keen interest in their history and traditions, and they wish to be afforded opportunities to access Country to continue to embed their beliefs in physical places, to continue to practice traditional activities, and to educate their younger generations.

During the ACHA survey, the attending RAPs did not identify any specific locations within the Investigation Area that were inter-connected with other known heritage places.

**Flora and Fauna**

During the ACHA survey of the Investigation Area, various species of flora and fauna were sometimes observed by the attending RAPs who identified them as being culturally significant. Mostly, the identified species were stated to be significant for their uses as bush tucker or bush medicine, although some were noted to be totemic species. None of the species identified during Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys are rare or endangered and, in all cases, they are considered better represented in other locations, outside the Investigation Area. A detailed description of ecological surveys and outcomes for the Project can be found in Appendix A of the Whitehaven Solar Farm EIS. Nonetheless, the cultural values of the Investigation Area are closely linked to the biodiversity of the natural environment. A number of references are available that outline the traditional uses of native flora and fauna species (e.g. Ash et al., 2003; McKemey and White, 2011; Sonter and White, 2012) and, as a result, an exhaustive list of significant species is not repeated here.

**Cultural Significance of the Broader Region**

Some RAPs expressed concern about developments that might impact upon Aboriginal heritage values on land that is traditionally theirs. As they express it, all land is considered to have high cultural significance for the local Aboriginal community. It should also be noted that development upon, or disturbance of land is stated by some RAPs to be contrary to fundamental Aboriginal beliefs regarding land, its value, and its inherent cultural significance (Landskape, 2012). RAPs identified the Investigation Area as an area that Aboriginal people occupied in the past. Generally, the RAPs viewed all Aboriginal objects (i.e. artefacts) as significant because they preserve a record of their ancestors.

**Cultural Significance of Known Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites**

In the course of the ACHA survey, it was sometimes observed by the attending RAPs that individual artefacts may not have scientific significance, but were still vivid reminders of the past actions of their ancestors. This also accords with sentiments expressed by Aboriginal participants in community consultation undertaken in previous assessments within the wider region (e.g. Whincop, 2019a; 2020).

### 9.2.3 Ongoing Consultation

The surveys and community consultation undertaken for this assessment have not been the only, or first, opportunity afforded to the local Aboriginal community to provide information in relation to cultural values embodied by the wider region. Other opportunities have been provided during assessments for the Narrabri Mine Stage 3 Project, The Narrabri Gas Project, the MCCM, Vickery Coal Project, Vickery Extension Project, and TCM, but also on a range of projects within the wider region (see Sections 7.1 and 7.2).

As described in Section 5.6, it is noted that the cultural values assessment for the Project was ongoing during the draft ACHA review period. RAPs, Elders and other Aboriginal community members who wished to provide input into the cultural values assessment, or who would prefer to arrange a formal interview, were encouraged to contact Whitehaven Energy during the draft ACHA review period.

# 10 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

The assessment of cultural heritage value or 'significance' is a fundamental component of the heritage management process in that it assists in determining which sites, places, landscapes, environments and items are of sufficient importance that they require conservation.

As such, the significance assessment process underpins the legislative framework for heritage site protection by establishing a framework within which various types (assessment criteria) and levels (significance ratings) of heritage value can be defined. The effective assessment of these values will, in turn, facilitate the formulation of appropriate management decisions for a specific heritage item, whether an Aboriginal cultural heritage object, site, place or landscape.

Aboriginal tradition is not static and unchanging from a distant 'authentic past.' 'Tradition' is the handing down of beliefs from one generation to the next, but does not mean that significance in accordance with Aboriginal tradition requires an immutable value from 'time immemorial.' A scatter of discarded flakes from a one-off utilitarian task may acquire 'significance in accordance with Aboriginal tradition' with the passage of time and cultural change.

A statement of the significance of the Aboriginal cultural heritage found, discovered and/or subject to investigation in terms of this definition of 'cultural heritage significance' is an essential step in the process of developing cultural heritage management recommendations. All Aboriginal cultural heritage may hold 'cultural significance,' but the preservation of all Aboriginal cultural heritage is generally not possible. Therefore, a process of assessing significance is necessary to determine which elements of Aboriginal cultural heritage require preservation, management and/or mitigation.

Assessment of scientific significance can encompass a range of heritage values. A process for establishing cultural significance is outlined in the Burra Charter (2013). The Burra Charter is, in turn, based on preceding international charters, such as the Venice Charter. The revised Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS, 2013) defines cultural heritage significance as the 'social, spiritual, historical, scientific and aesthetic value for past, present or future generations.'

The assessment of the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is a complex process and involves the consideration of both scientific significance and value to the local Aboriginal community (i.e. social and/or spiritual significance, also referred to as cultural or traditional value). While less commonly relevant to the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, the historical and aesthetic values are also briefly discussed below.

This section undertakes an assessment of significance for the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located within the Investigation Area. While it also considers the significance of sites determined during previous assessments, it does not re-assess those same sites (i.e. the significance from previous reports has been maintained).

## 10.1 Scientific Significance

The following section provides an assessment of the scientific significance of the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites recorded in the Investigation Area. Scientific significance is assessed by examining the research potential and rarity/representativeness of the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites recorded. Therefore, the focus of the assessment for the Investigation Area is on those sites that have the potential to yield data that will contribute to substantive research questions.

### 10.1.1 Scientific Significance Assessment Methodology

**Research Potential**

Research potential is assessed by examining site contents and site condition. 'Site contents' refers to all cultural materials and organic remains associated with human activity at a site. It does not only refer to the number of objects (e.g. artefacts) at a site, but the site structure, size, spatial patterning, and presence of any stratified deposits. 'Site condition' refers to the degree of disturbance to the contents of a site at the time it was recorded. Ratings for site contents and condition are given below.

*SITE CONTENTS:*

- 0 - No cultural materials remaining.
- 1 - Site contains a small number (e.g. 0-10 artefacts) or limited range of cultural materials with no evident stratification.
- 2 - Site contains:
  - (a) a larger number, but limited range of cultural materials; and/or
  - (b) some intact stratified deposit remains.
- 3 - Site contains:
  - (a) a large number and diverse range of cultural materials; and/or
  - (b) largely intact stratified deposit; and/or
  - (c) surface spatial patterning of cultural materials that still reflect the way in which the cultural materials were laid down.

*SITE CONDITION:*

- 0 - Site destroyed.
- 1 - Site in a deteriorated condition with a high degree of disturbance; some cultural materials remaining.
- 2 - Site in a fair to good condition, but with some disturbance.
- 3 - Site in an excellent condition with little or no disturbance. For surface artefact scatters this may mean that the spatial patterning of cultural materials still reflects the way in which the cultural materials were laid down.

**Rarity and Representativeness**

'Representativeness' refers to the regional distribution of a particular site type. It is assessed on whether the site is common, occasional, or rare in a given region. Assessments of representativeness are subjectively biased by current knowledge of the distribution and numbers of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in a region. This varies from place to place, depending on the extent of previous archaeological research. Assessment of representativeness also takes into account the contents and condition of a particular site. For example, in any region, there may be only a limited number of sites of any type that have suffered minimal disturbance. Such sites would therefore be given a high rating for representativeness, although the general site type may occur commonly within the region.

*REPRESENTATIVENESS*

- 1 - Common occurrence.
- 2 - Occasional occurrence.
- 3 - Rare occurrence.

**Scientific Significance**

Overall scientific significance ratings for sites, based on a cumulative score for site contents, site condition, and representativeness are given as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **1-4** | Low scientific significance. |
| **5-7** | Moderate scientific significance. |
| **8-9** | High scientific significance. |

### 10.1.2 Scientific Significance Assessment for the Investigation Area

The scientific significance assessment for Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified within the Investigation Area is provided below (Table 8). It is noted that the below significance assessment may change on the basis of future investigations, research and analysis (when undertaken).

*Table 8: Scientific Significance of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites within the Investigation Area*

| Site Name | Type | Area ($m^2$) | Features | Contents | Condition | Representativeness | Scientific Significance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Naroo GG1 | GG | 163 | 2 grooves | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 – Low |
| Naroo GG2 | GG | 78 | 11 grooves | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 – Moderate |
| Naroo AS1 | AS | 744 | 4 artefacts | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 - Low |
| Naroo AS2 | AS | 812 | 6 artefacts | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 - Low |
| Naroo AS3 | AS | 1441 | 4 artefacts | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 - Low |
| Naroo IA1 | IA | 78 | 1 artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 - Low |
| Naroo IA2 | IA | 78 | 1 artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 - Low |
| Naroo IA3 | IA | 78 | 1 artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 - Low |
| Naroo IA4 | IA | 78 | 1 artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 - Low |
| Naroo IA5 | IA | 78 | 1 artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 – Low |
| Naroo IA6 | IA | 78 | 1 artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 - Low |

AS = Artefact Scatter; IA = Isolated Artefact; GG = Grinding Grooves

All but one of the 11 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites known to exist within the Investigation Area are considered to be of low scientific significance due to the low number of site contents, the disturbed context of the sites, and the common occurrence of these site types within the wider region. One (1) Aboriginal cultural heritage site (Naroo GG2) is considered to be of moderate scientific significance due to the relatively higher number of site contents (i.e. concentration of grooves) and limited representation of this site stye (i.e. grinding grooves) within the wider region.

The subject area does not contain teaching sites or sites that might have teaching potential.

## 10.2 Cultural Significance

In addition to the scientific significance assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (Section 10.1), the cultural significance in accordance with Aboriginal tradition also warrants consideration. It should be noted that Aboriginal cultural significance may reflect Aboriginal community values not only with regard to individual sites and groups of sites, but also in terms of the general landscape. As discussed in Section 9.2, Aboriginal values do not necessarily correspond to the scientific values placed on individual sites, but will reflect the social, spiritual, educational, and/or aesthetic values of such locations.

The RAPs consulted for this assessment characterised the social and spiritual significance of the Investigation Area (and the wider environment of which it forms a part) in terms of:

- The identified artefacts being reflections of the activities of their ancestors – their 'footprints.'
- Aspects of the natural world that embody cultural significance, including bush tucker, bush medicine, and totemic species.
- The positive feelings that being 'on Country' produced for them.

The RAPs generally preferred not to 'rank' Aboriginal heritage as being of low, moderate or high cultural significance. For example, they stated that even an isolated stone artefact is of high cultural significance to them. However, they did indicate that different types of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (e.g. an isolated artefact relative to large scatter of artefacts) would demand different levels of management rigour. Of the site types identified in the Investigation Area, none (0) were identified by the RAPs as requiring the highest level of management rigour.

Although not specifically raised by the RAPs for this assessment, it is noted that, in general, Aboriginal people consider that the entire landscape within their Country is of cultural value. Review of literature, previous studies, and consultation with the wider Aboriginal community for previous assessments across the region indicates that the following landscape characteristics are generally considered to be of cultural value:

- **Waterways and wetlands** – in addition to the high potential for the occurrence of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within proximity to these areas, the waterway and wetlands are themselves generally considered to be culturally significant. Fords and fish traps in creeks can make the watercourses culturally significant, as well as the associated stories and dreaming, and the occurrence of nearby Aboriginal objects. Although creeks and drainage lines are present, wetlands are not known to exist within the Investigation Area.
- **Areas of natural habitat, including wildlife corridors**, are likely to have high cultural value. Flora and fauna have cultural value as traditional sources of food, charcoal, gum, resin, medicines, clothing, baskets, tools, artistic expression, stories, spiritual beliefs, and totems. Continuing health of habitat is an important management issue.
- **Known cultural heritage sites** are very important and, in some cases, the surroundings and corridors of access and use associated with such sites may also have associated values.
- **Ceremonial sites and gathering places** known from traditional, historical, and contemporary times are generally considered to be important to the Aboriginal community. It is noted, however, that there are no known ceremonial sites within the Investigation Area.

- **Stone sources** for the manufacture of stone artefacts of different kinds; ochre is another culturally important natural resource. No ochre sources were identified within the Investigation Area.
- **Conspicuous landscape features** – while these areas may or may not have high potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, many of them may represent important story places, landmarks, look-outs, boundary markers, and so on. No such places are known to exist within the Investigation Area, although regional landmarks, Barbers Pinnacle and Gin's Leap, both occur approximately 15-20 km to the south-east.
- **Places of post-contact and contemporary history** – including features or places given Indigenous names in contemporary or historical times, favoured camping and recreation sites, and places where Aboriginal people have held important gatherings or made significant achievements.

Further consideration of cultural values and cultural significance of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is provided in Section 9.2.

## 10.3 Historical Significance

The historic value of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites largely stems from their importance in providing evidence of Aboriginal peoples' association with the area. The Investigation Area (and the broader Study Area) is within a region that was occupied by the Kamilaroi tribal group at the time of first contact with Europeans (Mitchell, 1839). Archaeological and ethno-historical sources show that past Aboriginal people frequented specific places within the region for habitation or to manufacture lithic implements (O'Rourke, 1997). No (0) sites have been identified in the Investigation Area that are considered to have historic (post-settlement) significance for Aboriginal people.

## 10.4 Aesthetic Significance

Aesthetic significance refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural, and creative aspects of a place or Aboriginal cultural heritage site. It is often closely linked with social values. It may consider form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smells and sounds associated with the place and its use (OEH, 2011).

The majority of the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located within the Investigation Area are stone artefact sites (i.e. artefact scatters or isolated finds), which are small features in the landscape. Further, the small clusters of grinding grooves on sandstone outcrops are similarly small features in the landscape. The RAPs consulted did not identify them as places of high aesthetic value.

Part of the Investigation Area has been significantly altered by tree clearing and agricultural/pastoral activities following European settlement with the remaining forested areas also being modified by timber production operations and mineral exploration. This landscape has not been identified as one of cultural significance either by the RAPs present during the field surveys, during the Aboriginal community consultation undertaken to date, or during previous assessments undertaken in the Investigation Area and surrounds.

## 10.5 Statement of Significance

The ACHA has assessed the archaeological potential of the Investigation Area within the context of the wider landscape and previous disturbances. The contextual desktop study and field survey explored the actual and potential archaeological values and resulted in the identification of 11 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (including three [3] artefact scatters, six [6] isolated artefacts, and two [2] grinding groove sites) located within the Investigation Area. Of these 11 sites, 10 are classified as being of low scientific significance, with grinding groove site (Naroo GG2) being of moderate scientific significance; no (0) sites of high scientific significance have been identified within the Investigation Area (Table 9).

*Table 9: Potential Impacts on Known Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites within Investigation Area*

| Site Name | Type | Scientific Significance | Impact | Distance to Impact | Consequence of Harm |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Naroo GG1 | GG | Low | No harm | 95 m | None |
| Naroo GG2 | GG | Moderate | No harm | 120 m | None |
| Naroo AS1 | AS | Low | No harm | 45 m | None |
| Naroo AS2 | AS | Low | No harm | 25 m | None |
| Naroo AS3 | AS | Low | No harm | 65 m | None |
| Naroo IA1 | IA | Low | No harm | 0 m | None |
| Naroo IA2 | IA | Low | No harm | 0 m | None |
| Naroo IA3 | IA | Low | No harm | 10 m | None |
| Naroo IA4 | IA | Low | Yes – direct harm (photovoltaic array) | 0 m | Total loss |
| Naroo IA5 | IA | Low | No harm | 70 m | None |
| Naroo IA6 | IA | Low | No harm | 65 m | None |

AS = Artefact Scatter; IA = Isolated Artefact; GG = Grinding Grooves

All of the identified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are located within close proximity to Kurrajong Creek and its tributary; the greater concentration of artefacts, however, was evident along Kurrajong Creek.

The Investigation Area contains localised evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the Namoi River catchment, much of which has been impacted through historical land use practices. While the overall scientific significance of the Investigation Area is not considered to be high, the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites therein hold potential to add some knowledge of Aboriginal occupation in the broader region (although it is not expected to significantly alter any regional predictive modelling).

The RAPs consulted for this report did not identify the Investigation Area as critical to their ability to connect to 'Country.'

The Investigation Area contains some species of flora and fauna that have cultural significance to the Aboriginal people consulted for this assessment; however, these flora and fauna are neither rare nor endangered, and are well represented in locations outside the Investigation Area.

It was noted by some RAPs that, apart from their scientific value, all artefacts are culturally significant to them, because they are reflections of the actions of their ancestors.

# 11 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Project has the potential to directly and/or indirectly impact Aboriginal objects within the Investigation Area. This section provides an impact assessment for the proposed development of the Investigation Area. The impact assessment includes a consideration of potential surface disturbance impacts from the development of Project infrastructure, as well as a consideration of potential indirect impacts.

In accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011:12-13), the principles of ecologically sustainable development were considered in assessing the Project's likely harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

## 11.1 Potential Direct Impacts

A description of Project infrastructure is provided in Section 2 in the Main Report of the EIS.

Infrastructure required for the Project would be developed within the indicative Project Development Footprint (Figure 8). Some flexibility in the Project Development Footprint is needed over the life of the Project due to further detailed planning during development and operation, operational safety requirements, and for specific siting of infrastructure to minimise impacts (including impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites).

Where avoidance of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is not practicable (e.g. isolated artefacts located within the proposed solar photovoltaic array layout – Figure 8), appropriate management measures would be implemented, including salvage activities where necessary, and avoidance of portions of the site that would not be required to be impacted (Section 12).

Direct harm associated with surface disturbance is anticipated to cause either a total or partial loss of heritage value at affected Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and would have a cumulative partial loss of values for the wider area, as a whole.

Potential direct impacts to known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are described in Section 11.3. It is expected that the Project impacts will not extend to the banks of Kurrajong Creek, and that the majority of known Aboriginal objects will not be directly impacted by the Project. The proposed solar photovoltaic array layout will likely impact one (1) isolated artefact of low scientific significance located along the tributary of Kurrajong Creek (Figure 8; Table 9).

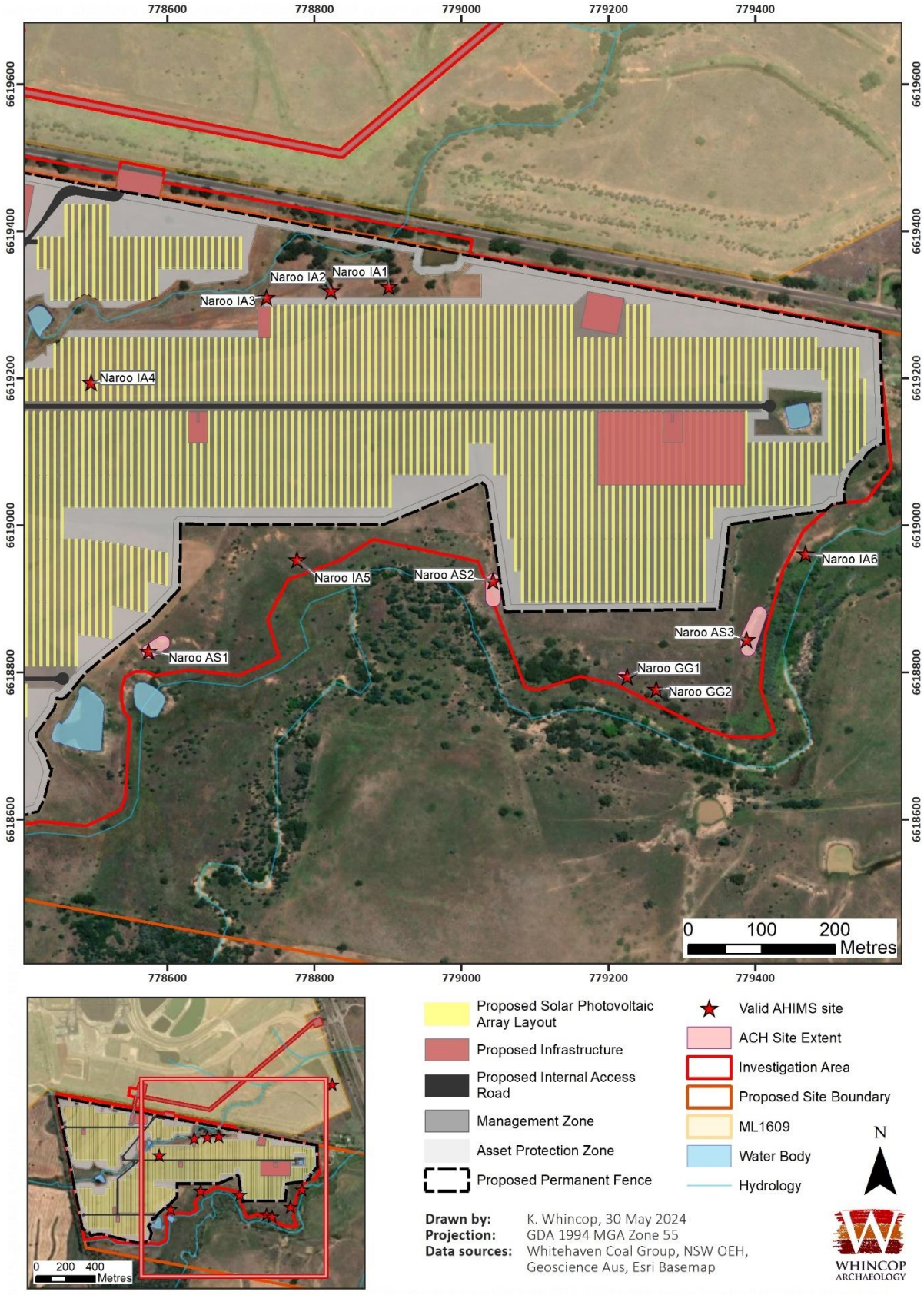



*Figure 8: Impact Assessment for the Investigation Area*

## 11.2 Potential Indirect Impacts

In addition to direct ground disturbance associated with the Project (Section 11.1), potential indirect impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites may also occur. Potential indirect impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites could include (but are not limited to) the following:

- accidental disturbance by peripheral activities; and
- inappropriate visitation of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, including the unauthorised removal of Aboriginal objects.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage objects located within the Investigation Area are located more than 1 km from the Narrabri Mine's underground Longwall Panels. As a result, the grinding groove sites, which are situated on sandstone outcrops, are unlikely to be indirectly impacted by mining activities (e.g. subsidence, blasting).

Potential impacts resulting from accidental disturbance or inappropriate visitation of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites can be managed through the installation of protective fencing, personnel training, and the maintenance of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Database.

## 11.3 Potential Impacts on Known Aboriginal Archaeological Values

The impact of the Project on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the Investigation Area is determined by the nature of the proposed development works and the degree of harm this would cause. The type of harm defined in this assessment is either direct (surface disturbance) or indirect (inadvertent disturbance), and the consequence of harm is either a total or a partial loss in value. A total loss in value would occur when an entire site is impacted by the Project. A partial loss in value would occur when only part of a site is directly or indirectly impacted by the Project.

As described in Section 8.6, there are a total of 11 known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located within the Investigation Area, most of which are surface artefact sites, including three (3) artefact scatters and six (6) isolated artefacts. The Investigation Area also contains two (2) grinding groove sies; no (0) other known site types are evident.

The proposed impacts for the Project will not extend to Kurrajong Creek, but will maintain a stand-off from the waterway. As a result, proposed solar photovoltaic array layout would avoid Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located along the banks of Kurrajong Creek. Hence, surface disturbance would result in a total loss of value for one (1) of the known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located within the Investigation Area (Table 9).

## 11.4 Potential Impacts on Previously Unidentified Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites

Although most of the Investigation Area was comprehensively surveyed, there remains potential for additional Aboriginal cultural heritage sites to be identified during activities associated with the Project (e.g. sites that may have been obscured by vegetation or soil at the time of survey). Based on the predictive model outlined above (Section 7.6), if previously unidentified sites were to occur, they would likely be additional isolated artefacts, low-density concentrations of stone artefacts or, to a lesser degree, grinding grooves or scarred trees. A strategy for managing any previously unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites during the life of the Project is outlined in Section 12.

## 11.5 Potential Cumulative Impacts

The Project is located within the Gunnedah Basin. For the past 150 years, the Gunnedah Basin has been subject to a range of ground impacts associated with pastoral and forestry activities, including widespread clearing and selective logging. Although such activities have impacted different areas to differing degrees, much of the Gunnedah Basin has been affected in some way. The Investigation Area has been significantly impacted by these activities and, as a result, the proposed activity does not represent additional cumulative impacts to the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the region.

The Gunnedah Basin also contains a number of currently approved or operational mine sites. These mine sites have operated for some years, and the approved mining operations have caused adverse heritage impacts to a range of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, principally archaeological ones. For the most part, these adverse impacts have been associated with the disturbance or destruction of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, subsequent to archaeological investigation and assessment.

The results of this assessment indicate that the types of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area that may be impacted by the Project generally comprise part of a region-wide 'background scatter' of isolated artefacts and disturbed artefact scatters of low (or occasionally moderate or high) scientific significance. Given the generally low scientific significance of these sites, the cumulative effect that may result from the development of the Project is considered to be low and would be mitigated by the ongoing program of archaeological recording recommended by this assessment.

In terms of cultural values, the Investigation Area is located within heavily modified terrain, due to extensive tree clearing, agropastoral activities, forestry and mineral exploration. Hence, the Project is considered to cause few impacts additional to those that have already occurred.

On the basis of the above, it is considered that the Project would not substantially increase cumulative impacts to Aboriginal heritage in the region.

## 11.6 Avoiding and Minimising Harm to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites

This ACHA has undertaken an assessment of the potential impacts associated with the development of Project surface infrastructure, as well as potential indirect impacts.

The evaluation undertaken as part of this ACHA has determined that 11 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are known to occur within the Investigation Area; one (1) of which would be directly impacted by the Project. The Aboriginal cultural heritage site (Naroo IA4) scheduled to be impacted is of low scientific significance (Figure 8; Table 9). As a result, no (0) Aboriginal cultural heritage sites of high or moderate scientific significance would be impacted by the Project.

As described in Section 11.1, some flexibility in the Project Development Footprint is needed over the life of the Project due to further planning during development and operational safety requirements, and for specific siting of infrastructure to minimise impacts (including impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites). Where avoidance of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is not practicable, appropriate management measures would be implemented, including salvage activities where necessary and avoidance of portions of the site that were not required to be impacted (Section 12).

# 12 PROPOSED MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

It is a fundamental principle of heritage conservation that the nature and level of an Aboriginal cultural heritage site's significance will determine the appropriate management response. Sites of higher scientific significance generally require a more stringent management regime than sites of lower scientific significance. Similarly, the reasons for a site's scientific significance are relevant to its management. For example, a site that is significant for its scientific value is likely to require a different management strategy to a site considered significant for its aesthetic or spiritual values. Generally, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites that are significant solely for their scientific values will usually be considered appropriately conserved when their research value has been met (e.g. through excavation and documentation).

This section summarises the recommended management measures for the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified within the Investigation Area in order to fulfil the above management principles.

## 12.1 Management of Potential Direct Impacts

Given the nature of the proposed surface disturbance works, it would not be possible to avoid all Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Notwithstanding, this assessment has concluded that only one (1) isolated artefact site located on the tributary of Kurrajong Creek would be directly impacted by the Project's surface disturbance (Table 9). As a result, one (1) Aboriginal cultural heritage site of low scientific significance within the Investigation Area would be impacted by the Project; the remaining ten (10) sites located within the Investigation Area will not be impacted.

It is recommended that Whitehaven Energy prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which includes the following measures (or protocols) to manage the potential impacts of surface disturbance on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area:

- Whitehaven Energy should maintain a record of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Investigation Area and mark these sites on relevant Project documentation and plans.
- Whitehaven Energy should implement a protocol for surface disturbance works to reduce the risk of accidental damage to known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (e.g. demarcation of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located in proximity to, but outside of, disturbance areas).
- Where practicable, known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites should be avoided during Project construction and operational works.
- The location of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites should be considered during final detailed engineering designs of surface infrastructure.

- The precise location of surface infrastructure may change during detailed project planning. Where changes to current design of the proposed surface disturbance areas mean that avoidance of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is not practicable, the site(s) should be subject to archaeological salvage. Salvage protocol should be detailed in a CEMP and developed in consultation with Aboriginal parties. For artefact sites where harm cannot be avoided, detailed mapping and salvage via surface collection, and potential excavation, of a selection of artefacts should be conducted.
- It is recommended that proposed surface infrastructure areas should be subject to additional surface investigation prior to commencement of disturbance activities.
- The protocol for the management of previously unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and/or human remains within the CEMP should be implemented for the Project.
- Protocols that prescribe the involvement of RAPs in cultural heritage works are to be contained within the CEMP, and should be implemented for development of the Project.
- A communication protocol should be developed that describes clear methods of communication, including expectations of suitable notification and response times between the proponent and the RAPs.
- Options for the final storage location of any collected artefacts should be determined in consultation with the RAPs during preparation of the CEMP, and should consider return to the landscape post-rehabilitation and/or retaining for use by the Aboriginal community for display/educational purposes.

## 12.2 Management of Potential Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts through inadvertent disturbance or inappropriate visitation would be managed through the erection of appropriate fencing to protect the site and discourage unauthorised visitation.

## 12.3 Other Management Measures

### 12.3.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Induction Requirements

It is recommended that Whitehaven Energy seeks to minimise the risk of inadvertent damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites by promoting an awareness of heritage conservation via the induction process. It is recommended that Whitehaven provide training to all on-site personnel and contractors regarding the presence of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and protection measures, relevant to their employment tasks.

### 12.3.2 Maintenance of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Database

A comprehensive Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Database, which contains the name, AHIMS number, site type, scientific (or other) significance, coordinates, and status of all Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located in the Investigation Area and immediate environs should be established and maintained for the life of the Project. It is recommended that Whitehaven Energy maintains and adds to the existing Whitehaven Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Database and contact Heritage NSW to advise of any errors in the AHIMS register where discrepancies are identified. Updates to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Database should be undertaken as required.

### 12.3.3 Ongoing Consultation with Aboriginal Community

Whitehaven Energy is committed to involving the local Aboriginal community as an integral participant in the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the Investigation Area. In this regard, it is recommended that Whitehaven maintain ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal community over the life of the Project, including appropriate Aboriginal representation during archaeological fieldwork (e.g. collection of surface artefacts prior to disturbance). As described above, it is recommended that protocols be developed that prescribe the involvement of the RAPs in cultural heritage works conducted under the CEMP. The intent of this would be to focus on RAPs or RAP groups that represent the wider Aboriginal community.

Whitehaven should provide opportunities for Aboriginal community members to access known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located on Whitehaven-owned land (e.g. for cultural reasons or as part of scheduled field activities) in accordance with relevant Work Health and Safety requirements. A protocol is to be developed to ensure reasonable access is available to those RAPs interested in accessing traditional lands.

### 12.3.4 Management of Human Skeletal Remains

In the unlikely event that human skeletal remains are encountered, the below procedure, should be implemented:

1. *All work surrounding the area must cease immediately, and the area must be secured with a 50m buffer area around the object or place to cordon off and the relevant Supervisor notified. Work can continue beyond the 50 m buffer.*
2. *Notify the Environmental Superintendent who will notify the General Manager.*
3. *The Environmental Superintendent will immediately notify NSW Police and Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or Environment Protection Authority Environment Line on 131 555 to advise that potential human remains or a burial have been discovered and that the police have been notified.*
4. *The Environmental Superintendent will contact the RAPs to notify them that potential human remains and/or a burial have been discovered.*

5. *The Environmental Superintendent will implement any requirements of the police to protect the area of the find.*
6. *Traditional Aboriginal burials which occur outside designated cemeteries are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and should not be disturbed. Interpreting the age and nature of skeletal remains is a specialist field and an appropriately skilled archaeologist or physical anthropologist should be engaged to inspect the find and recommend an appropriate course of action. Whitehaven will engage a suitably qualified person to clearly identify the remains or burial.*
7. *Should the remains prove to be Aboriginal in origin, notification of Heritage NSW and the LALC (s) will be required, in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (notification should also be made to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, under the provisions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984).*
8. *Do not recommence work in the area until authorised by NSW Police and Heritage NSW.*

### 12.3.5 Unidentified Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Procedure

Although the Investigation Area was comprehensively surveyed, there remains potential for additional Aboriginal cultural heritage sites to be identified. Such previously unidentified features, should they occur, are likely to be additional isolated artefacts, low density concentrations of stone artefacts or, to a lesser degree, additional axe grinding grooves. As part of the CEMP, an unidentified Aboriginal Cultural Heritage site procedure would be developed, the procedure would allow for the salvage of sites generally consistent with known sites, however would require further consultation with RAPs in the event that a new site type is found.

### 12.3.6 Management of Cultural Values

This ACHA did not identify any specific places or areas of particular significance to the RAPs. Instead, the cultural values are linked in more general terms to the biodiversity of the natural environment such as: the health of habitat, rivers, flora and fauna; enhancing biodiversity; establishing wildlife corridors; and controlling feral species. As a result, the enhancement and conservation of Aboriginal cultural values is directly linked to the biodiversity management of the Investigation Area. In addition, the protection of the known tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage (archaeological) sites is an important component in 'enhancing and conserving' the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the area.

# 13 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this assessment, it is recommended that:

- Whitehaven Energy should coordinate and implement the management strategies described in Section 12 of this report by preparing a CEMP. The CEMP should be developed in consultation with the RAPs.
- If human skeletal remains are encountered during the course of the Project, a Discovery of Possible Human Remains Procedure would be implemented and included in the CEMP.
- An Unidentified Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Procedure would be included in the CEMP in the case that potential Aboriginal cultural heritage objects are encountered during the course of the Project, the.
- Whitehaven Energy should maintain and add to the existing Whitehaven Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites Database which contains the name, AHIMS number, site type, scientific (or other) significance, coordinates and status of all Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located in the Investigation Area.
- Whitehaven should consider the location of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites during final detailed engineering designs of surface infrastructure. Where avoidance of known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites is not practicable, the site(s) should be subject to salvage in accordance with the CEMP.
- Whitehaven should provide training to all on-site personnel and contractors regarding the known Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, relevant to their employment tasks.
- Whitehaven should continue to involve the RAPs in relevant matters pertaining to the Project.

# GLOSSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| Aboriginal Object | Any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales (NSW), being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, including Aboriginal remains (section 5(1) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* [NSW]). |
| Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site | Location of evidence of Aboriginal occupation (typically, Aboriginal objects, but also places of traditional or historical cultural value for which no Aboriginal objects exist). |
| Artefact | An object made by human agency (e.g. stone artefacts). |
| Cumulative Impacts | Combination of individual effects of the same kind due to multiple actions from various sources over time. |
| In situ | Latin terminology meaning 'undisturbed'. |
| Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) | Potential Archaeological Deposit, archaeological evidence (typically stone artefacts buried within the upper soil unit of rock shelters or in open contexts) predicted to occur in a specific place through application of a predictive model of site location. |
| Registered Aboriginal Party | Aboriginal groups or individuals who have registered an interest in the consultation process for the Project. |

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Whincop Archaeology 2024b. *Maules Creek Coal Mine FY24 Clearance Area Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Investigations*.

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# APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION LOG

| DATE | ORGANISATION/PERSON CONTACTED | HOW CONTACTED | CONTACTED BY | NATURE OF CONSULTATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/01/2024 | Public notification | Gunnedah Times<br>Narrabri Times | Whitehaven Coal | Public notification. |
| 11/01/2024 | Existing Narrabri Mine Stage 3 Extension Project Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) list | Letter | Whitehaven Coal | Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project) notification letter to existing Narrabri Mine Stage 3 Extension Project RAPs. |
| 11/01/2024 | RAPS recommended by third parties | Letter | Whitehaven Coal | Project notification letter to new RAPS. |
| 16/01/2024 | Narrabri LALC | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Provision of Project notification letter. |
| 01/02/2024 | All RAPS | Letter | Whitehaven Coal | Provision of proposed methodology and details of proposed methodology information session details. |
| 12/01/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | Wayne Griffiths | Expression of Interest (EOI) to be involved with the Project. |
| 15/01/2024 | Wayne Griffiths | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Confirming receipt of EOI offer. |
| 18/01/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email (two separate emails) | Robert Young | EOI to be involved with the Project. |
| 18/01/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | Lynn Trindall | EOI to be involved with the Project. |
| 18/01/2024 | Lynn Trindall | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Confirming receipt of EOI offer. |
| 22/01/2024 | Robert Young | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Confirming receipt of EOI offer. |
| 22/01/2024 | Lynn Trindall | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Confirming receipt of EOI offer. |
| 23/01/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | Michael Long | EOI to be involved with the Project. |
| 24/01/2024 | Michael Long | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Confirmation of receipt of EOI offer. |
| 24/01/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | NTSCORP on behalf of Gomeroi Applicant | EOI to be involved with the Project. |
| 24/01/2024 | Gomeroi Applicant c/o NTSCORP | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Confirmation of receipt of EOI offer. |
| 29/01/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | Marvonia Welsh | EOI to be involved with the Project. |
| 30/01/2024 | Marvonia Welsh | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Confirmation of receipt of EOI offer. |
| 05/02/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | Wayne Griffiths | Confirmation of attendance at proposed methodology information session. |
| 14/02/2024 | All RAPS | Letter | Whitehaven Coal | Correction of date of proposed methodology information session. |
| 14/02/2024 | Narrabri LALC | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Correction of date of proposed methodology information session. |
| 20/02/2024 | Matt Whincop | Phone | Wayne Griffiths | Confirmation of attendance at proposed methodology information session. |
| 20/02/2024 | Wayne Griffiths | In person meeting | Whitehaven Coal | Attendance at proposed methodology information session meeting and site tour. |
| 21/02/2024 | Wayne Griffiths | Phone | Whincop Archaeology | Invitation to participate in fieldwork. |
| 26/02/2024 | Wayne Griffiths | Phone | Whincop Archaeology | Confirmation of participation in fieldwork. |
| 29/02/2024 | Lynn Trindall (Narrabri LALC) | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Invitation to participate in fieldwork. |
| 06/03/2024 | Lynn Trindall (Narrabri LALC) | Phone | Whincop Archaeology | Confirmation of participation in fieldwork. |
| 06/03/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | NTSCORP on behalf of Gomeroi Applicant | Updating contact details. |
| 31/05/2024 | All RAPs | Letter | Whitehaven Coal | Provision of draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for review and RSVP details for draft ACHA information session. |
| 05/06/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | Wayne Griffiths | Confirmation of attendance at draft ACHA information session. |
| 12/06/2024 | Wayne Griffiths | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Confirming receipt of email. |
| 14/06/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | Michael Long | Confirmation of interest in draft ACHA information session and providing availability. |
| 17/06/2024 | Wayne Griffiths | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Provision of schedule for draft ACHA information session. |
| 17/06/2024 | Michael Long | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Provision of schedule for draft ACHA information session. |
| 19/06/2024 | Whitehaven Coal | Email | Wayne Griffiths | Cancellation of attendance at draft ACHA information session. |
| 19/06/2024 | Wayne Griffiths | Email | Whitehaven Coal | Cancellation of attendance at draft ACHA information session. |

APPENDIX 2: CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS

STEP 1 CORRESPONDENCE

27 November 2023

Via email: ericgroth@infogunnedah.com.au

Dear Eric,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundaries of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979,* Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) (herein referred to as the Consultation Guidelines), Whitehaven would like to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to, or who have a right or interest in, determining the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Area of Interest on the enclosed plan.

Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the Project described above, please provide their details before **5pm on 11 December 2023** to Whitehaven via the following contact details:

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd
Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Whitehaven will then write to each Aboriginal person or group whose details are provided by you to notify them of the proposed Project and invite them to register an interest in the process of community consultation to be carried out in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines.

Whitehaven advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project will be forwarded to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in accordance with Section 4.1.5 of the Consultation Guidelines, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

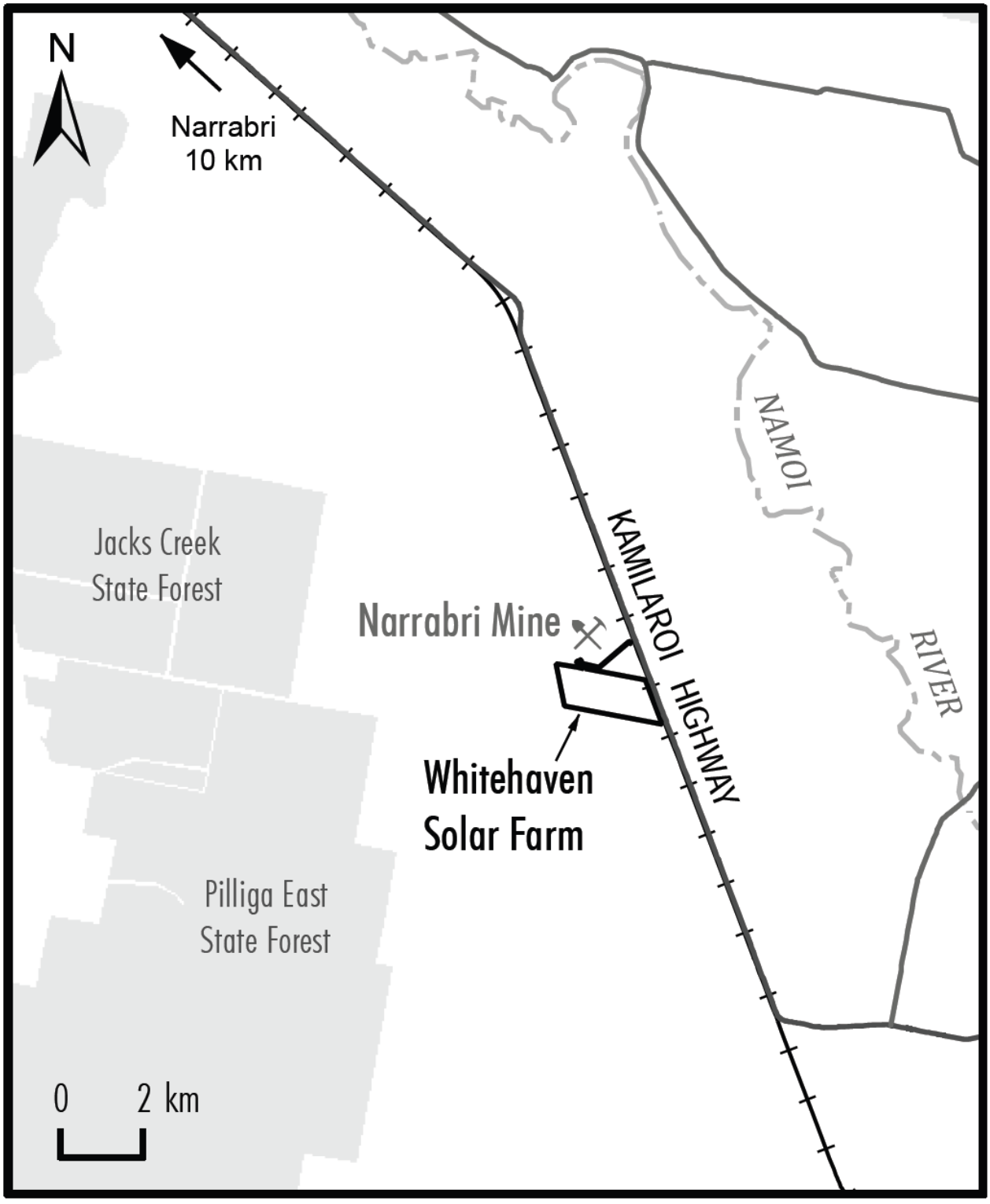
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest


N
Narrabri
10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
State Forest
0
2 km

27 November 2023

Via email: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

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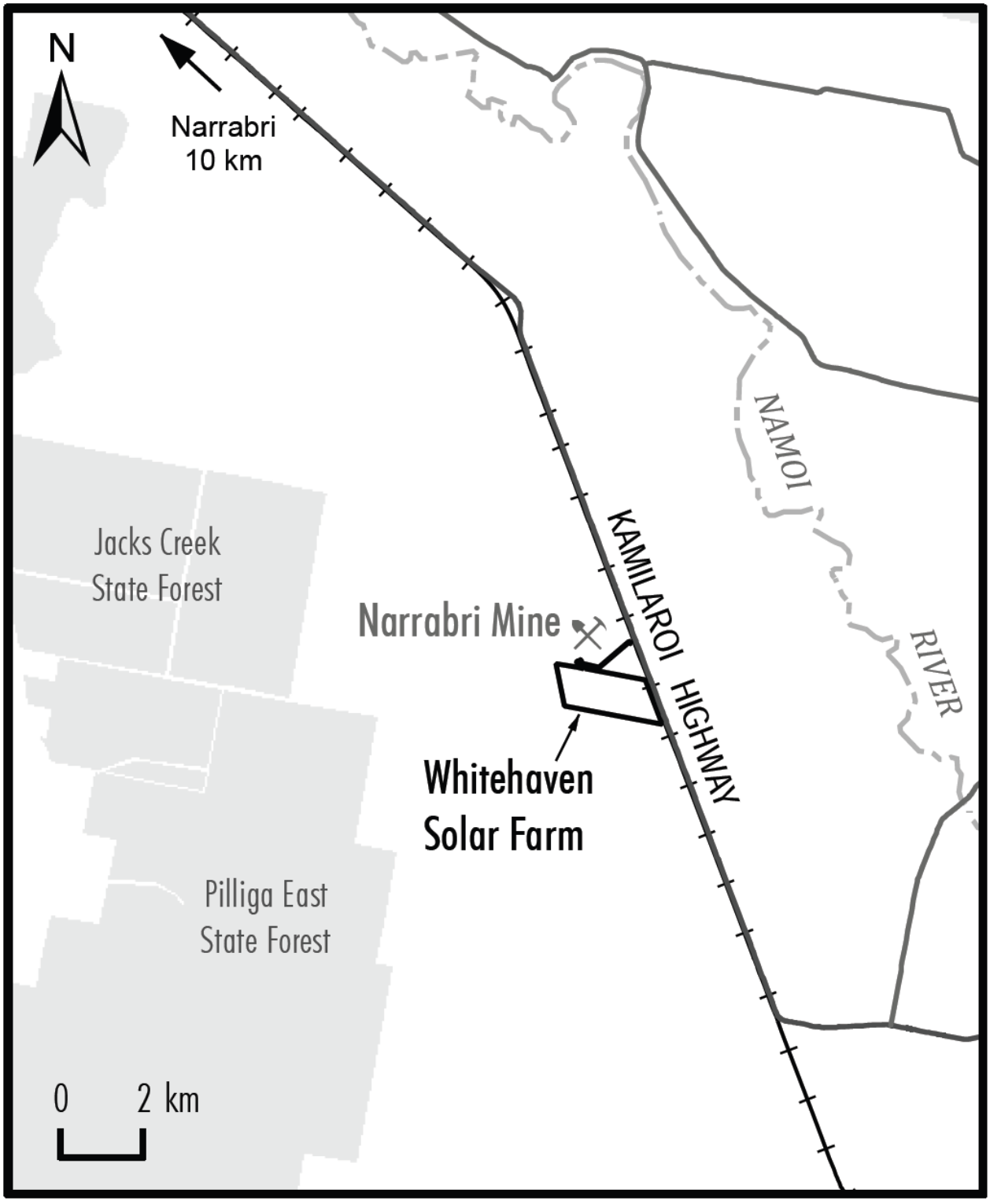
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
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10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
State Forest
0
2 km

24 November 2023

Narrrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council
96 Barwan Street
NARRABRI NSW 2390

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the Project described above, please provide their details before **5pm on 8 December 2023** to Whitehaven via the following contact details:

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd
Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Whitehaven will then write to each Aboriginal person or group whose details are provided by you to notify them of the proposed Project and invite them to register an interest in the process of community consultation to be carried out in accordance with the Consultation Guidelines.

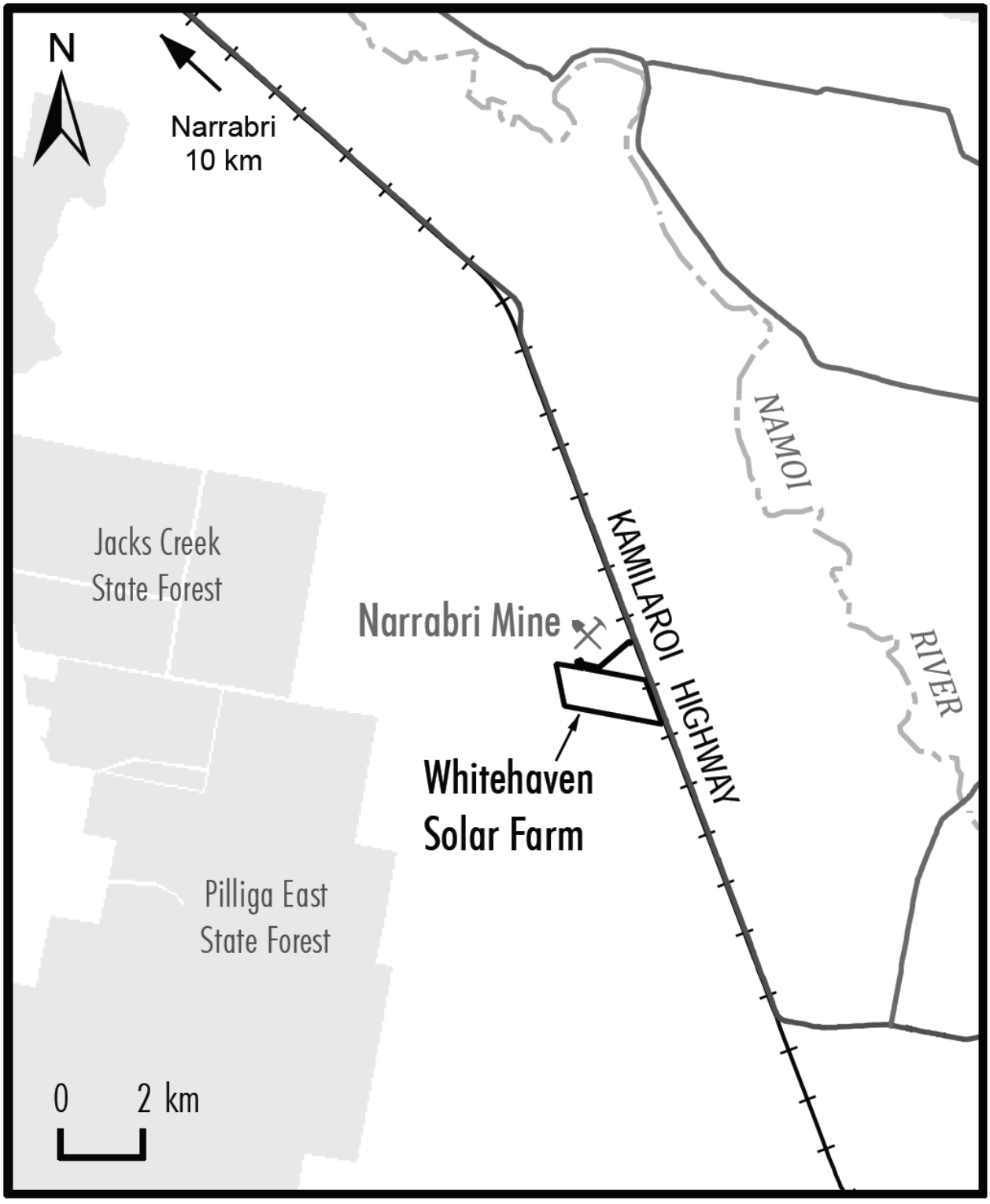
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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

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27 November 2023

Via email: enquiries@nntt.gov.au

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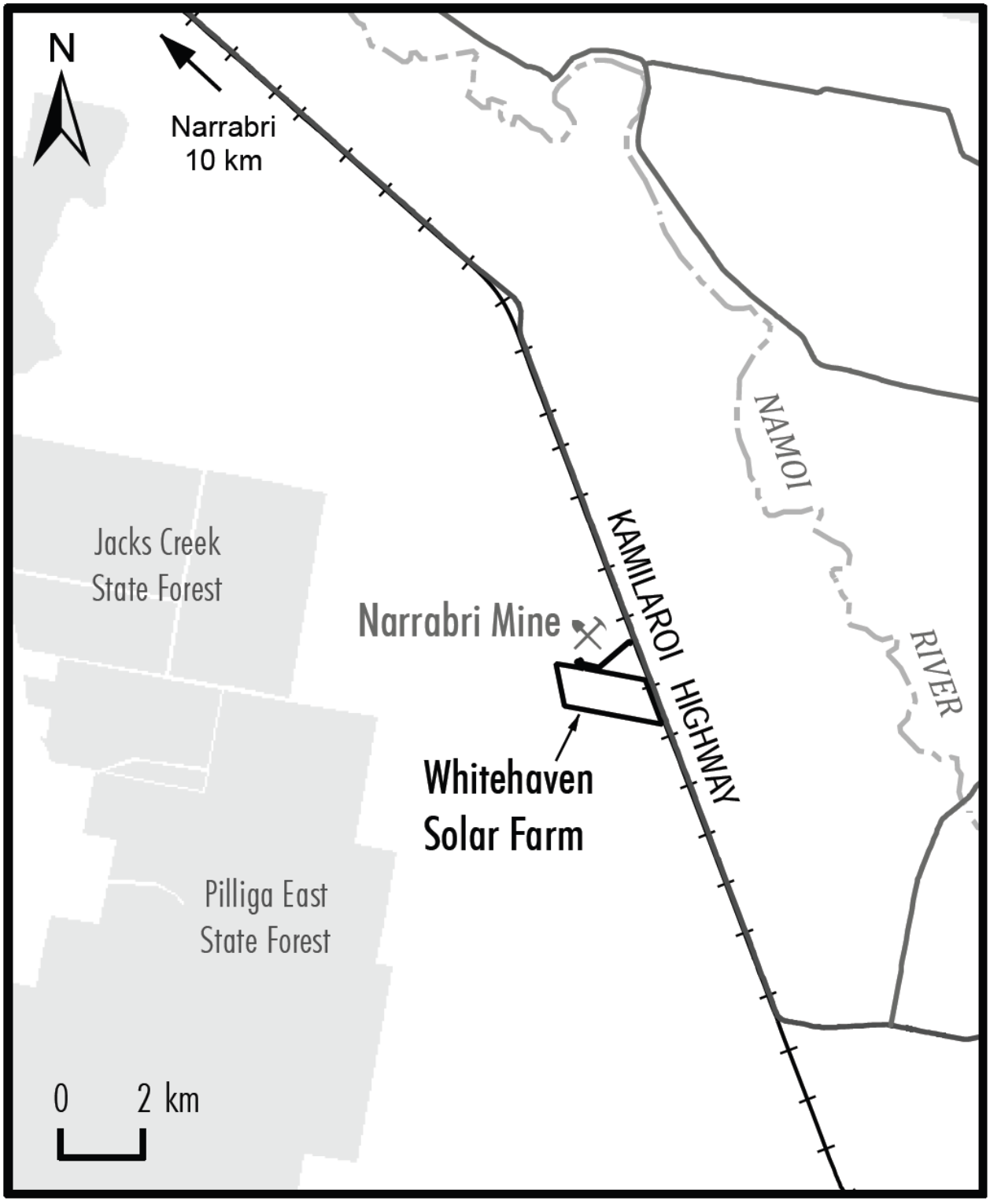
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General Manager Community Engagement

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27 November 2023

Via email: council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au

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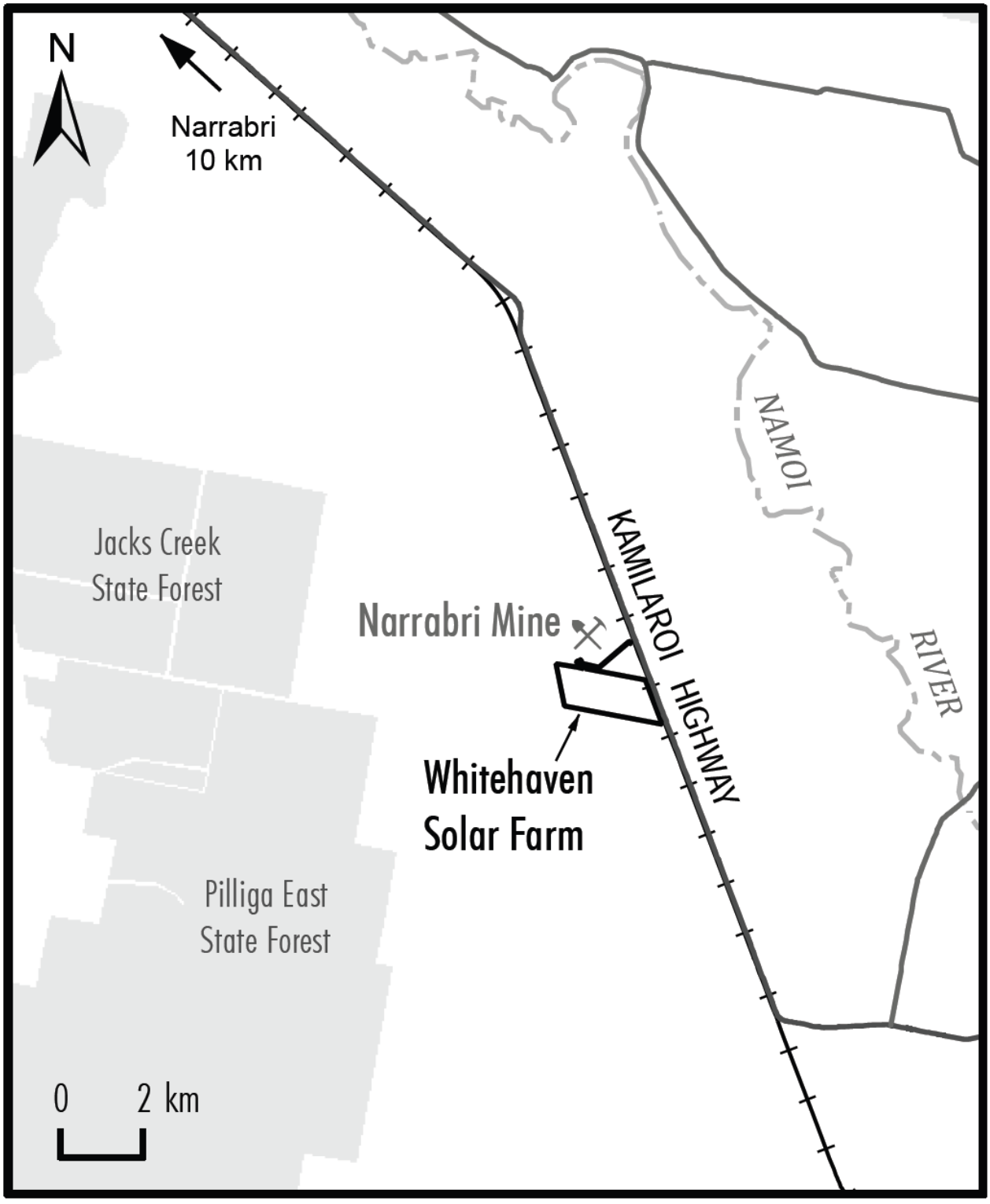
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest


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10 km
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KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
State Forest
0
2 km

27 November 2023

Via email: information@ntscorp.com.au

Dear Sir/Madam

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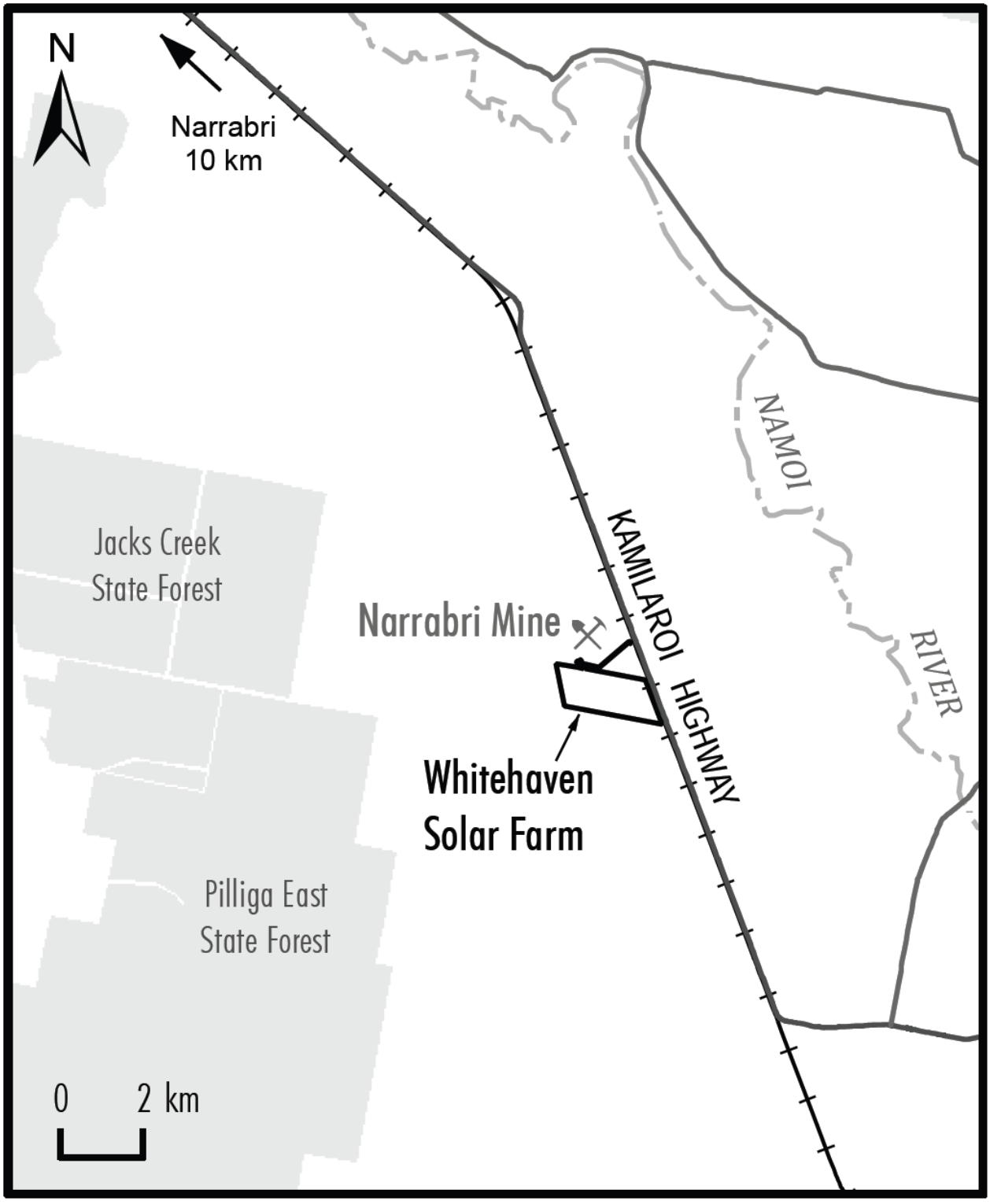
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State Forest
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2 km

27 November 2023

Via email: admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au

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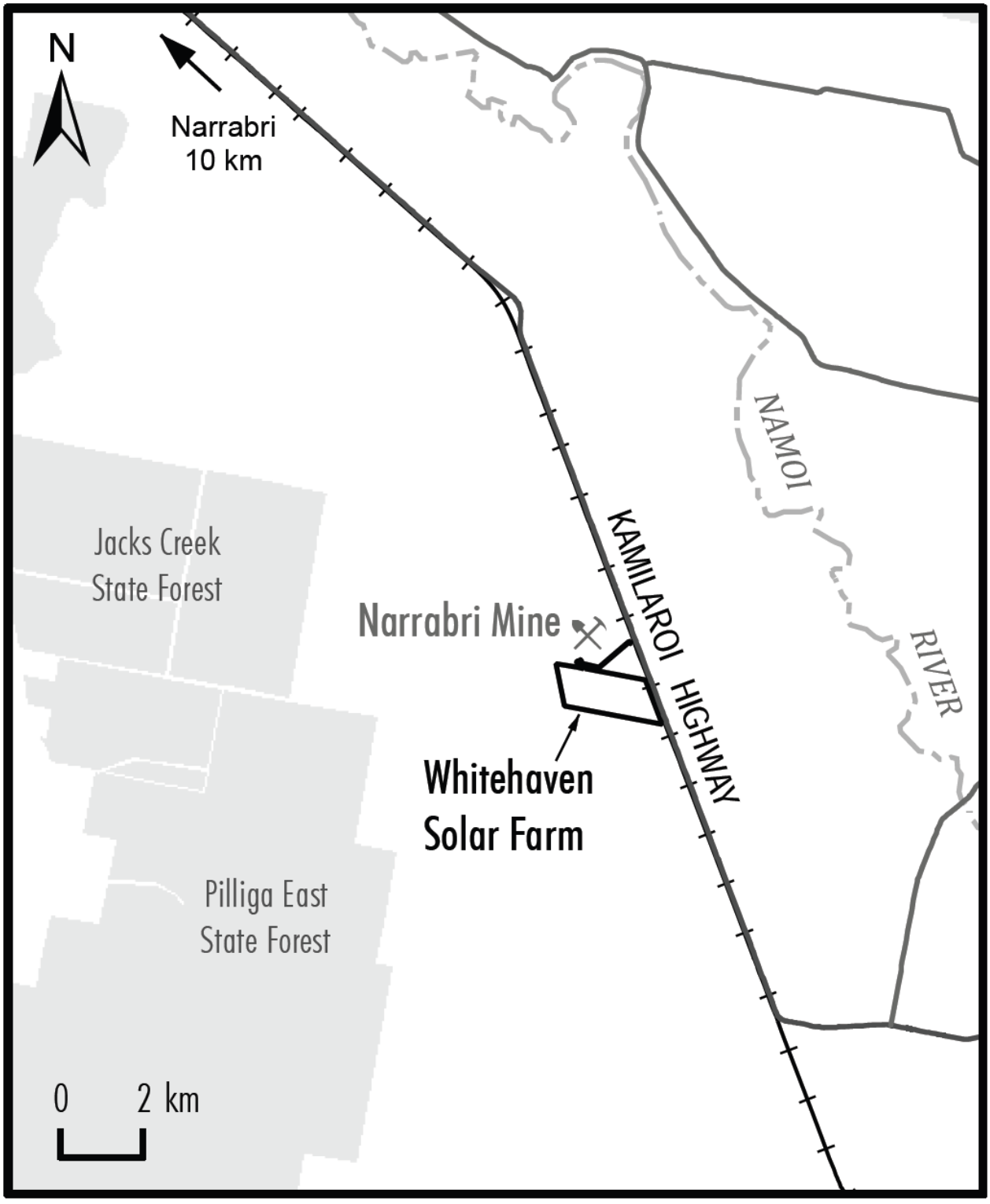
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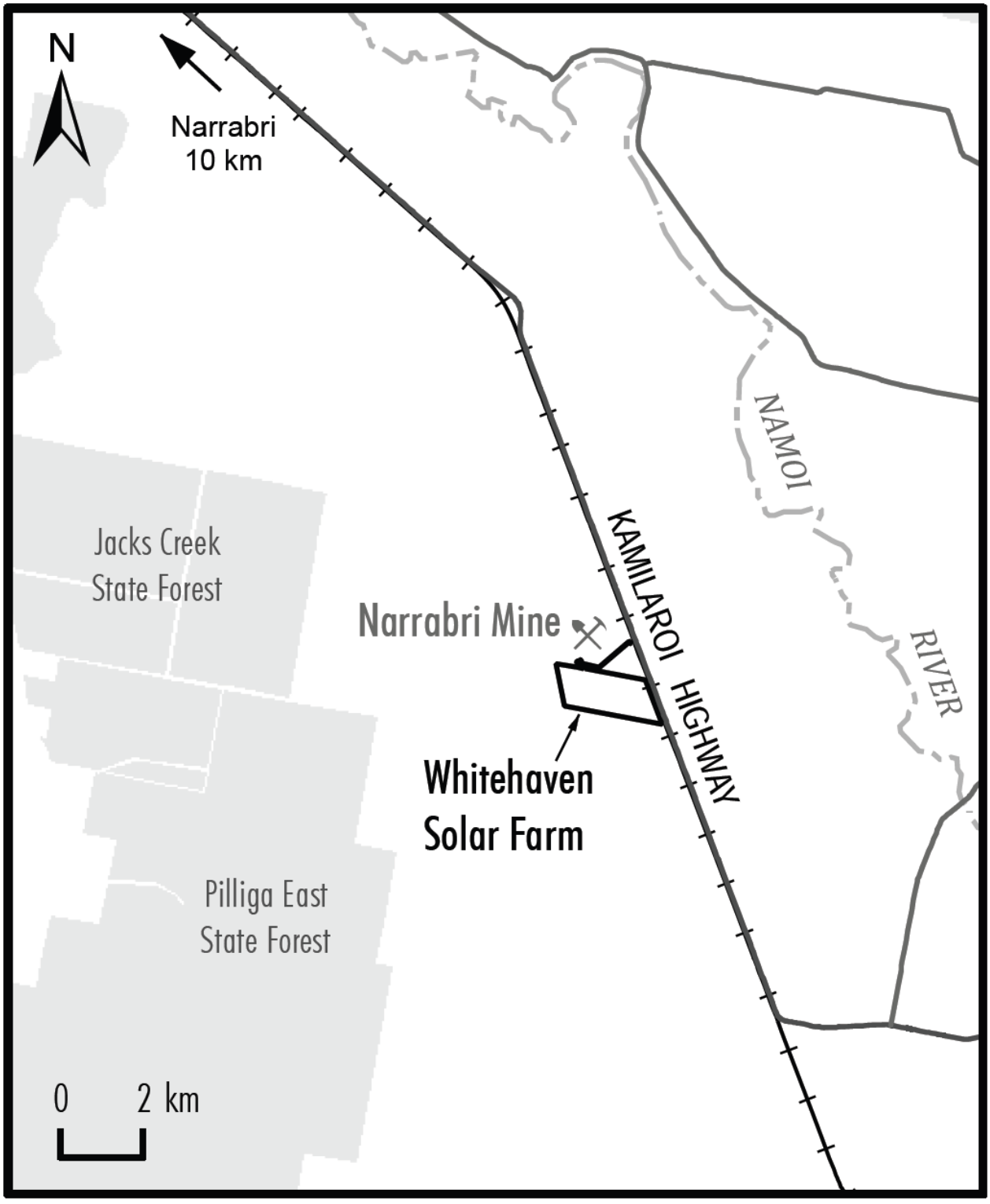
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STEP 2 CORRESPONDENCE

# Industry gathering farewells CSD's Peter Graham

After decades of leading Cotton Seed Distributors' successful and expanding operations, Peter Graham officially retired as managing director in December.

People from across the spectrum of the cotton industry and wider community gathered at CSD's Shenstone plant in Wee Waa on December 18 to offer congratulations to Peter and Belinda Graham.

The function brought together Mr Graham's industry colleagues from the years which saw significant developments in cotton science and technologies and the major expansion in the scope of the Australian cotton industry.

As a CSD board member and later managing director Mr Graham was actively engaged as a key driver in CSD's pivotal role in the growth of the industry.

CSD chief executive officer Dr Ian Taylor was MC for the occasion with speakers including CSD chair Tony Quigley and Mr Graham's work colleagues, Brett Ross, Bruce Cowan, Fiona Campbell, James Quinn and Jesse Nancarrow offering their thanks and appreciation for his mentorship, friendship and service to CSD and the industry.

They reflected on Mr Graham's 'dedication, diplomacy, attention to detail and care for his CSD staff' - he has been a key player in an important Australian industry for three decades.

As a CSD board member and managing director Mr Graham was actively engaged in CSD's pivotal role in the growth of the industry.

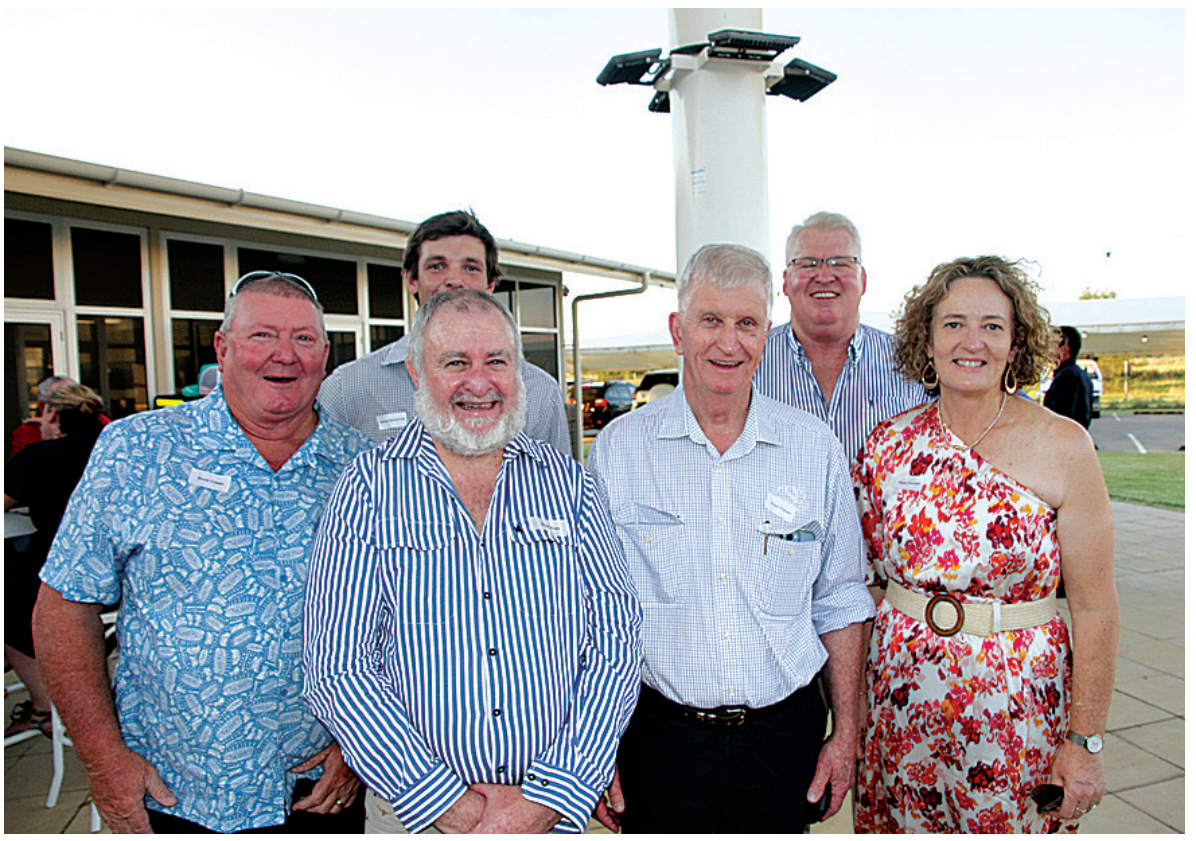
"We celebrate the achievements of Peter Graham over his 21 years as managing director and 33 years as a CSD board director," Dr Taylor said.



Cotton industry and community colleagues and friends of three decades gathered to wish retiring CSD managing director Peter Graham well at his retirement function. From left, CSD CEO Dr Ian Taylor, CSD chair Tony Quigley, former Cotton Grower Services general manager Rob Dugdale, former CSD chair James Kahl and Peter Graham.



Kara Taylor, new CSD CEO Dr Ian Taylor, retiring CSD managing director Peter Graham and Belinda Graham.



CSD colleagues were among the speakers at Peter Graham's retirement celebration – back, Bruce Cowan, Jesse Nancarrow, Brett Ross, front, James Quinn, Peter Graham and Fiona Campbell.

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project**

**Community consultation for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment**

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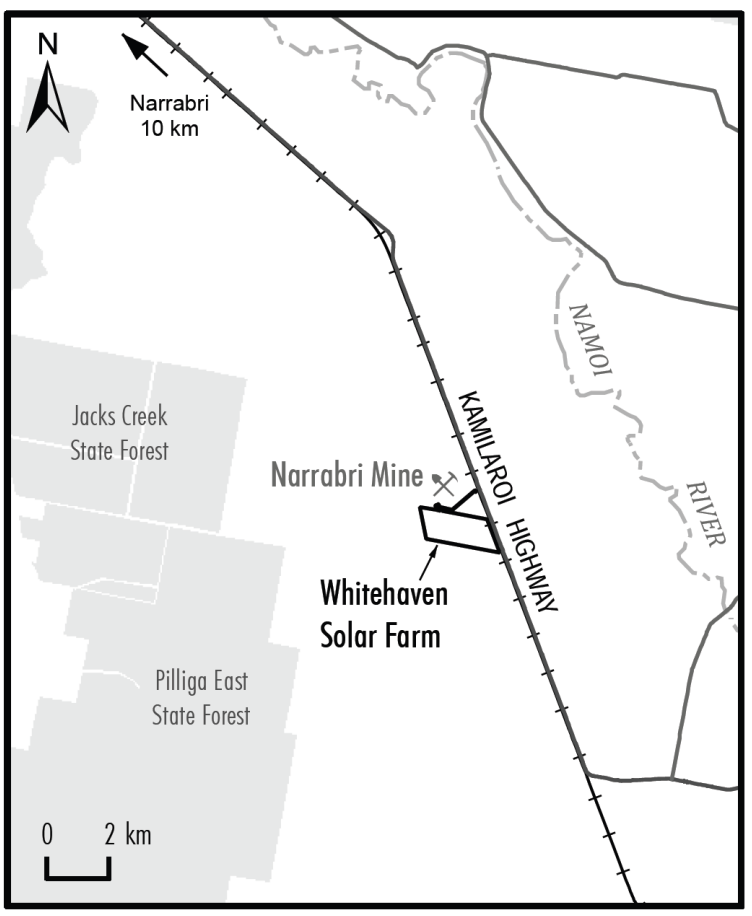
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# Visit the library to beat the heat and take a break

**LIBRARY LINKS**

By **CHRISTIANE BIRKETT**



## Spotlight: Programmes and events!

If it is hot and horrible outside, or pouring with rain, remember your library is a haven of comfort and air conditioning! Take a break from your shopping and catch up with the local news, wait for the train to come in, use time while your car is being serviced – there are cosy places to sit and read, or work on your laptop, you can eat and drink in the library, and there is always something for the young, and the young at heart, to do.

Starting on Monday, January 15, at 10.30am is the first session of Brain Training at the library –it is a fun filled hour of games and activities – spot the difference, mazes, number puzzles, colouring in with the non-dominant hand are all designed to engage your mind and have some conversation and a good laugh at the same time.

If you are an afternoon person, there is also a session in the afternoon at 3.30pm.

Wednesday afternoon brings the library's popular school holiday Trivia Afternoon, running from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. This month the afternoon is based on four of Julia Donaldson's popular children's books: *Room on the Broom*, *What the Ladybird Heard*, *Sharing a Shell*, and of course, *The Gruffalo*. So the young and the young at heart – read the books, dress in a costume, get ready to answer questions and play games, and be in the running for some great prizes! There is a five dollar charge for this programme, and bookings are essential as space is limited. Just ring the library on 6740 2190 to book a spot.

And do not forget Book Buddies for youngsters each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10.30am and Crafty Creations for 8 to 80s+ on Tuesday and Thursday this week at 3.30pm.

## Spotlight: Talking books!

Still thinking of going away, or have to do a long business or health trip? Nothing passes the time like listening to a talking book, and we have them for adults and children. You can borrow them in normal CD or MP3 format, or if you are IT inclined, hop onto one of our Libraries on Line resources, such as Indyreads, uLibrary or LOTE4Kids, and download from hundreds of available eBooks or audio books.

It is all free with your library card number.

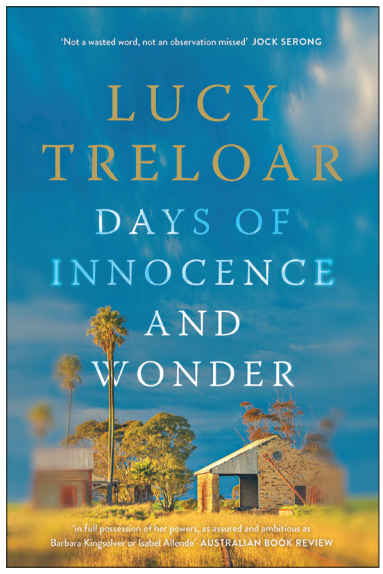
## Spotlight: New books

Lots of new books are ready to be borrowed and enjoyed –

Amongst the new titles are *Wonka*, inspired by Roald Dahl's C*harlie and the Chocolate Factory* (which the library also holds!) This book is based on the recent movie and is written by Sibeal Pounder.

Lucy Treloar has written *Days of Innocence and Wonder*. It is described as 'both a reckoning with fear and loss, and a recognition of the power of belonging ... a richly textured, deeply felt novel from one of Australia's finest writers.'

Val McDermid has written *Past Lying*, a Karen Pirie thriller, and Linda La Plante's latest novel, a Tennison thriller, is called *Taste of Blood*. Sophie Hannah has written *Hercule Poirot's Silent Night* which is a great read for fans of Agatha Christie.




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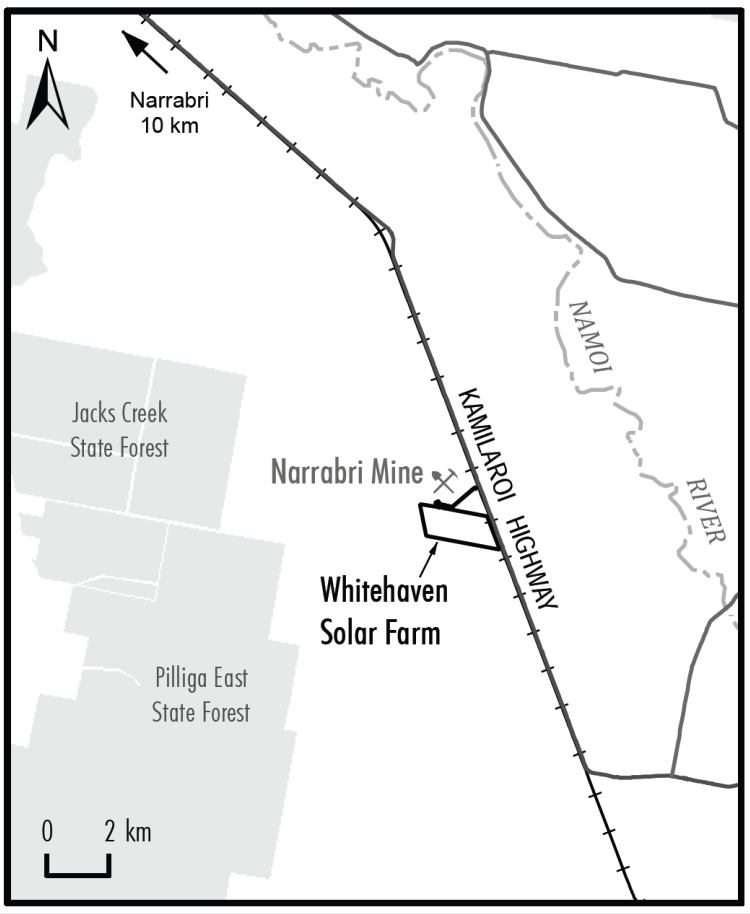
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# Former Gunnedah resident looks back on life and celebrates 105th birthday



Former Gunnedah resident Lucy Kelty recently celebrated her 105th birthday.

By **MARIE HOBSON**

Former Gunnedah resident Lucy Kelty has reached the magnificent milestone of 105 years and still has very fond memories of the community she embraced when she moved to her adopted town with her husband Merv in 1963.

Now a proud grandmother of 15, Lucy has a lasting legacy in her family of 32 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Lucy and Mervyn were blessed with five children - Leonie Webb (now of Inverell), Kerry Cushan (Buderim Queensland), Murdoch (Raymond Terrace), Nigel (North Epping) and Pauline Clark (Bathurst).

The youngest of eight children born to Murdoch and Lucy Campbell, Lucy came into the world at 'Oban' Coolatai, 40 miles (64.3 kms) north of Warialda, on January 5, 1919.

She remembers with affection growing up on the large property, where they had to be self-sufficient, baking 48 loaves of bread a week, milking their own cows to make butter, making their own soap and robbing bee hives for honey.

When Lucy was young, she walked to school, but was very excited when her father purchased a pony, Minty, which she rode to a neighbouring property where classes were held.

For entertainment the neighbours came around for games of tennis or they had dances and balls in the local halls. A horse and sulky was their mode of transport, so the 40 miles to town was a long and arduous trek, not undertaken very often.

During World War II Lucy and her mother had to run the property while her brothers were at war so they became proficient at the many jobs required to keep the farm productive.

When Lucy's brother came home on R&R leave from war service in New Guinea, he introduced his sister to a handsome young Lieutenant who was to become the love of her life.

Merv Kelty served with the 53/55 AIF and was discharged on October 16, 1945, after their marriage at Inverell in 1944.

> Now a proud grandmother of 15, Lucy has a lasting legacy in her family of 32 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Merv had worked as a postmaster before taking up a position as secretary at the Peak Hill Hospital.

Their Gunnedah connection began in 1963 when they moved to the town from Peak Hill.

Merv worked for a short time at JT Fossey and then in the accounts section at McDonagh's Department Store for many years before joining his son-in-law Al Cushan at Gun Soft Drinks.

The couple became very involved in the Gunnedah Municipal Brass Band where Mervyn was in the president's chair when the new band hall was constructed.

He had always loved music and encouraged his sons Nigel and Murdoch to be involved, with his grandsons Peter, Adrian and Scott Cushan later carrying on the tradition.

For many years Lucy worked tirelessly on the auxiliary, raising funds for the band, while in her earlier years she had helped raise funds for the Royal Far West Children's Scheme at Inverell and served as secretary of the hospital auxiliary.

Lucy had lived through the Great Depression and the war years but always considered herself blessed.

As the years rolled by, Lucy and Merv celebrated their golden wedding anniversary but in 1995 life changed when Mervyn suffered a stroke.

They left their much-loved adopted town to live with their daughter Pauline in Bathurst and after 53 years of marriage Mervyn passed away.

Today Lucy enjoys watching sport on television, with rugby league a speciality - she knows many of the players and their positions and is a fan of the Newcastle Knights.

She has always taken a great interest in the lives of her descendants and till loves to communicate with all her family, as often as possible.

Lucy looks back with fondness on her life and has no regrets.

11 January 2024

Aaron Talbott
Muki Namae Two Rivers Aboriginal Corporation
13 Hunter Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Aaron,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

**Due to your previous involvement in the Narrabri Mine Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan, you have been automatically registered for the consultation process associated with the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project). You do not need to contact Whitehaven to re-register for the Project.**

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**Due to your previous involvement in the Narrabri Mine Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan, you have been automatically registered for the consultation process associated with the Project. You do not need to contact Whitehaven to re-register for the Project.**

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Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
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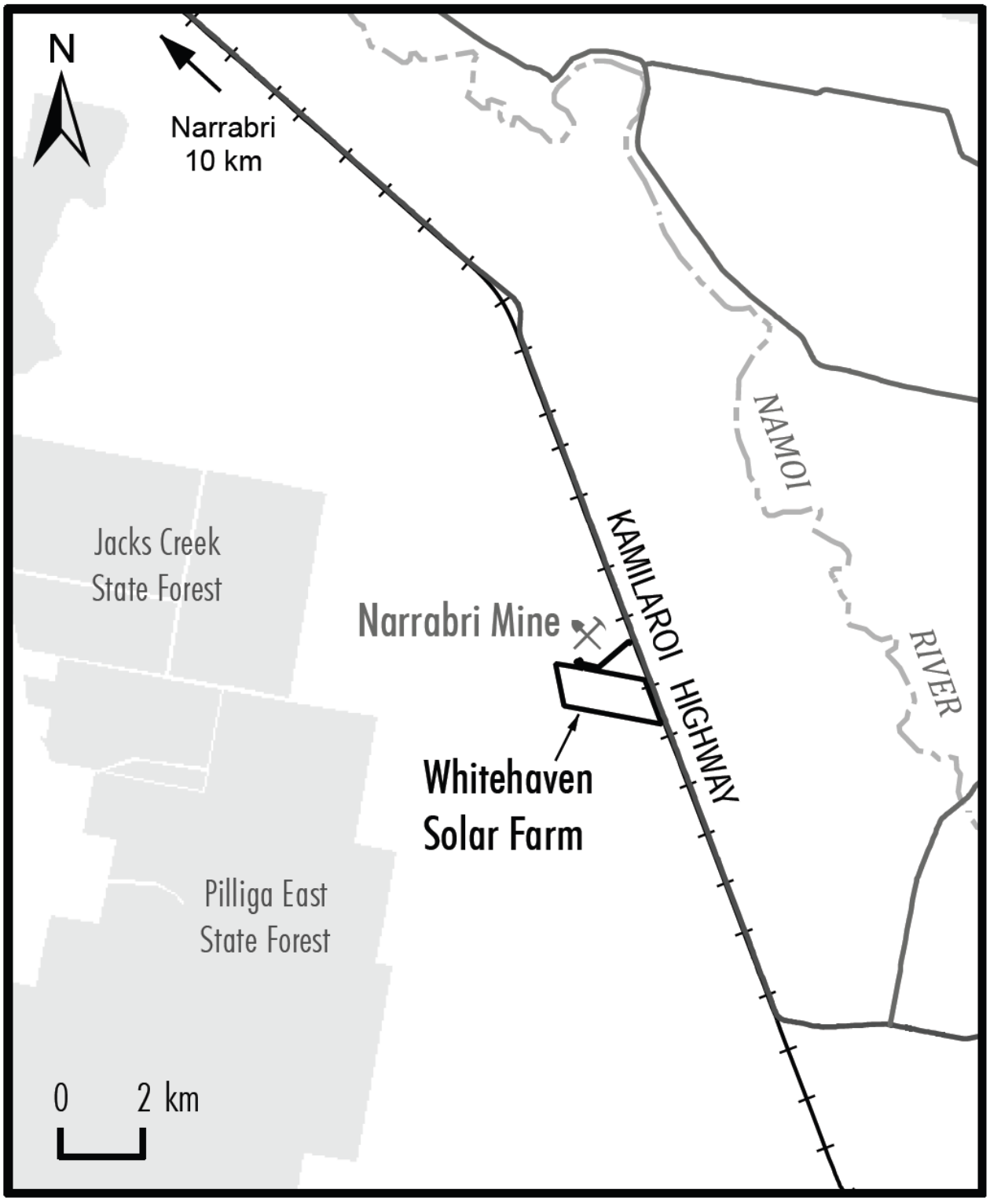
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


N
Narrabri
10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
State Forest
0
2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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| **Name** | |
| **Registered Aboriginal Party (if different to above)** | |
| **Email Address** | |
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| **Telephone Number** | |

11 January 2024

Ashley Sampson
AGA Culture Services
22 Ibis Parade
WOODBERRY
NSW 2322

Dear Ashley,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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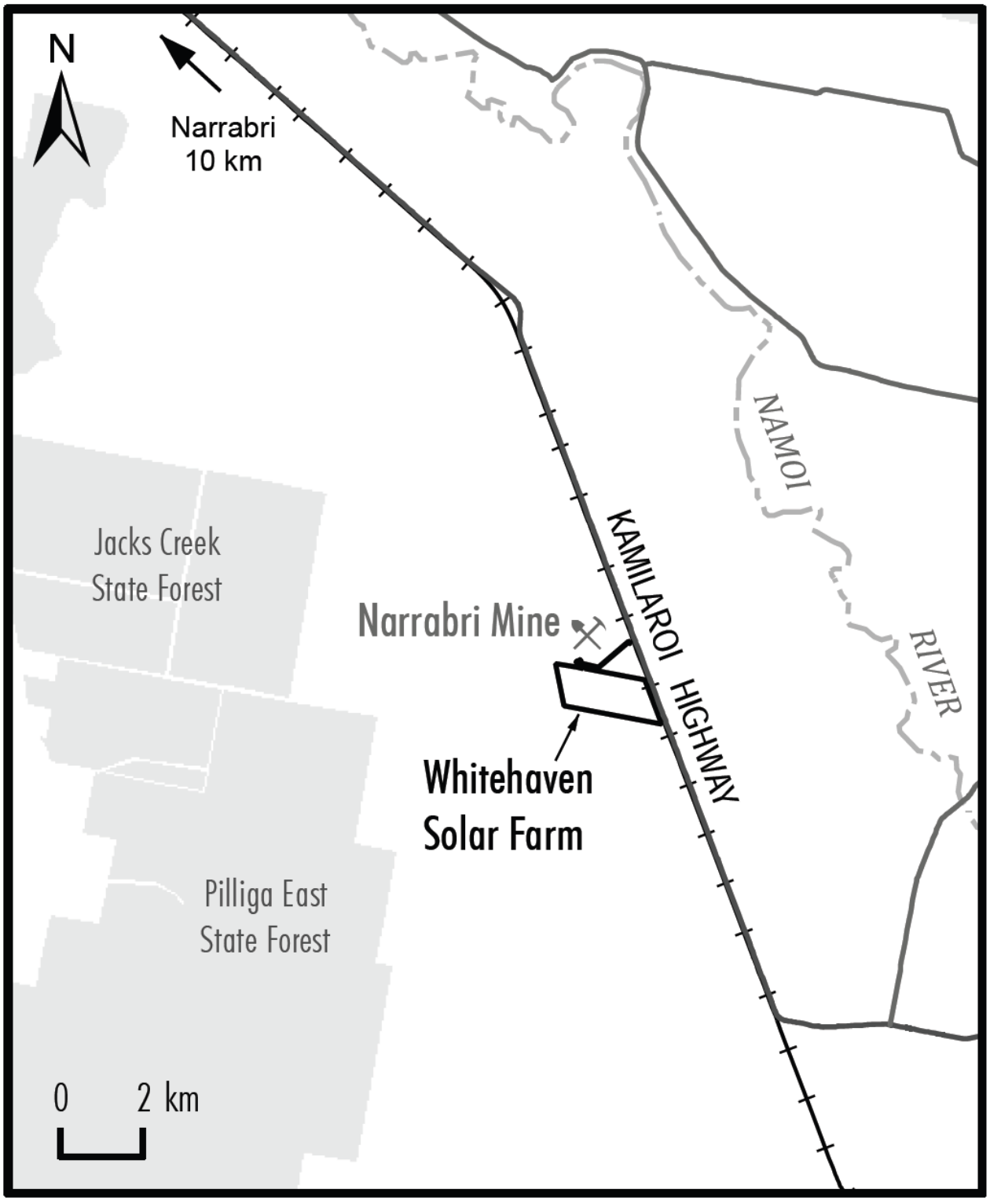
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General Manager Community Engagement

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**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
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11 January 2024

Brian Draper
2/135 Bloomfield Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Brian,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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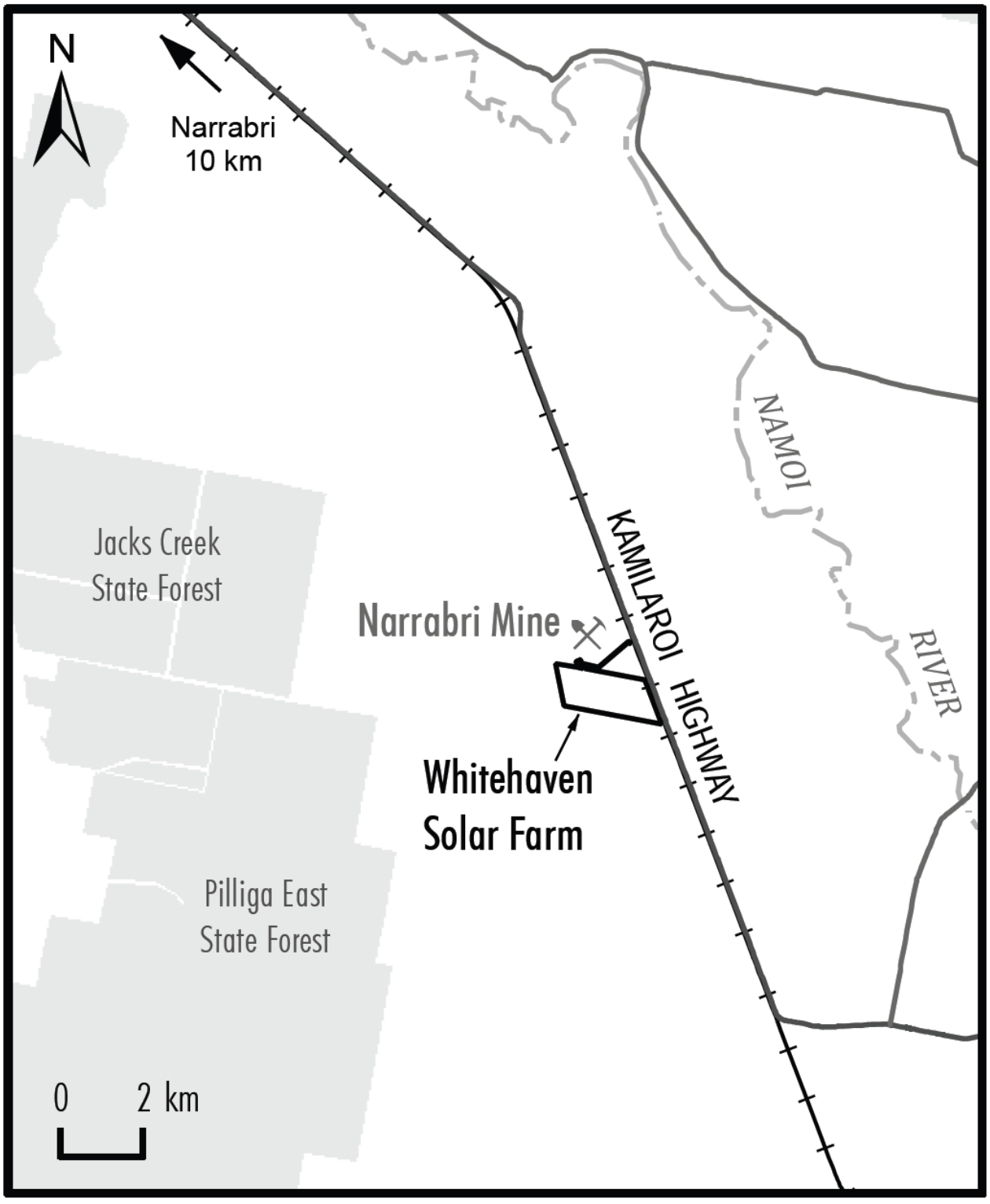
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11 January 2024

David Horton
48 Tempest Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear David,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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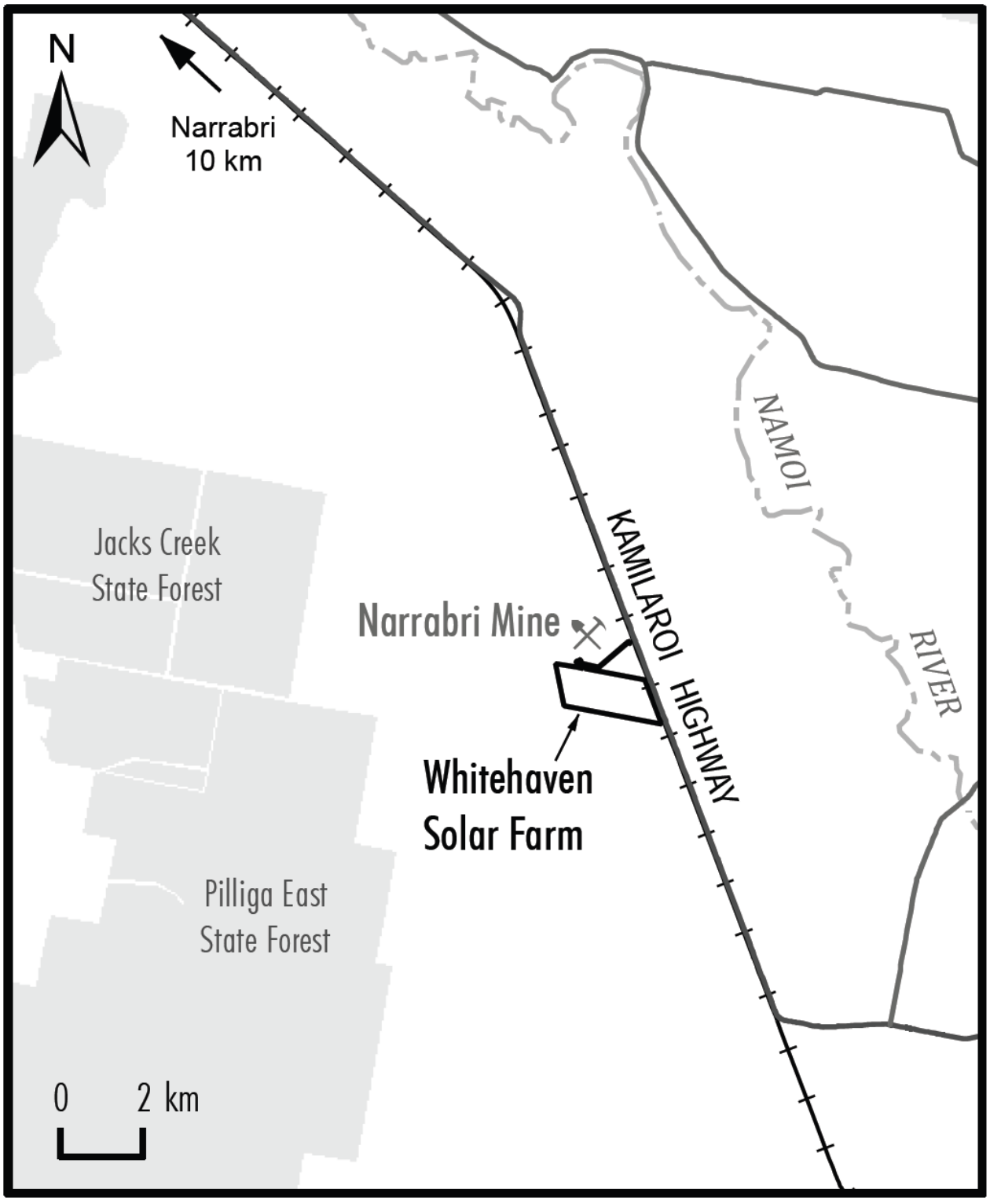
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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details




**Whitehaven Coal Limited** ABN 68 124 425 396

Level 28, 259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 | P 02 8222 1100 | F 02 8222 1101
PO Box R1113, Royal Exchange NSW 1225

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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11 January 2024

Donna Sampson
AGA Culture Services
22 Ibis Parade
WOODBERRY
NSW 2322

Dear Donna,

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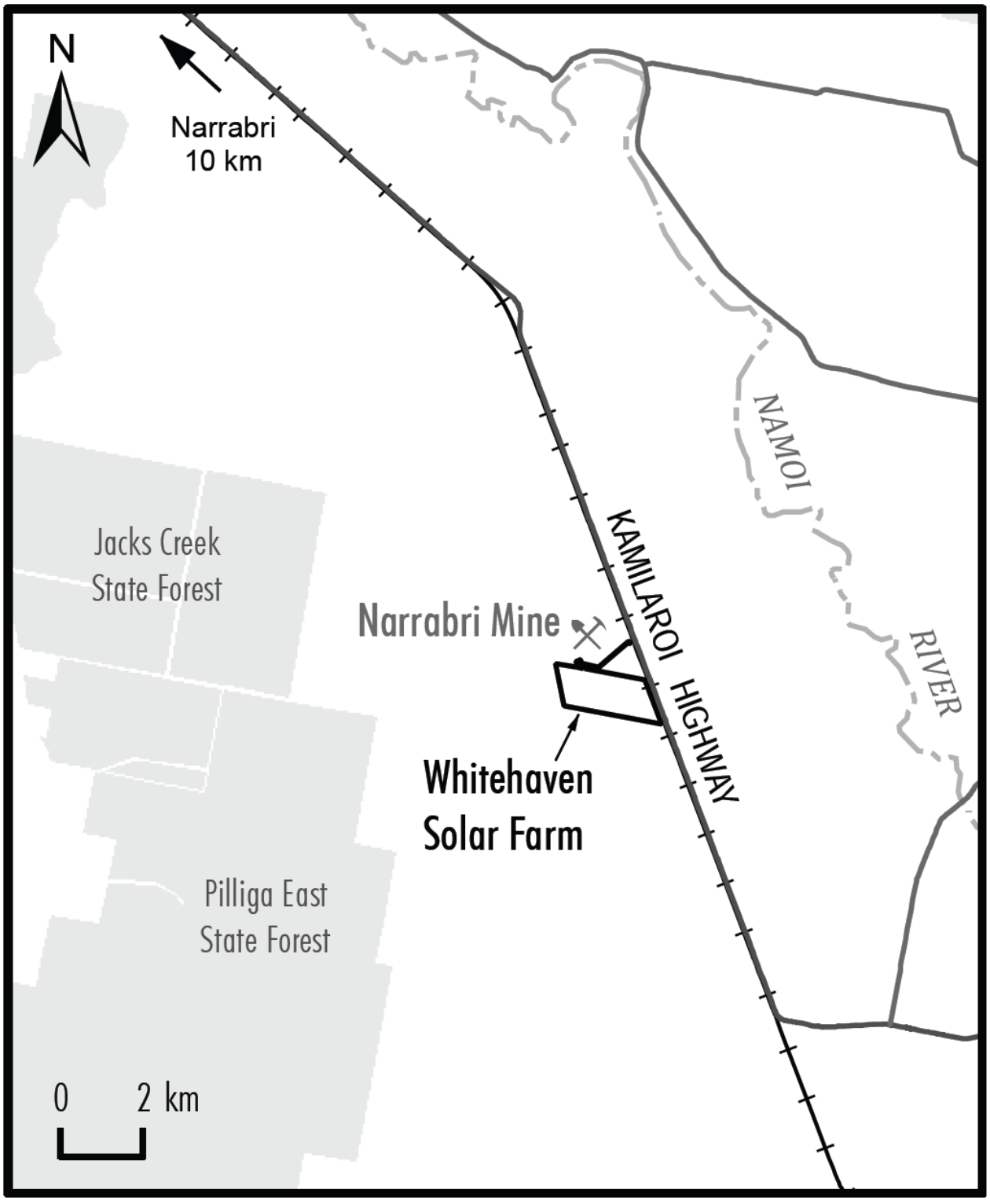
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11 January 2024

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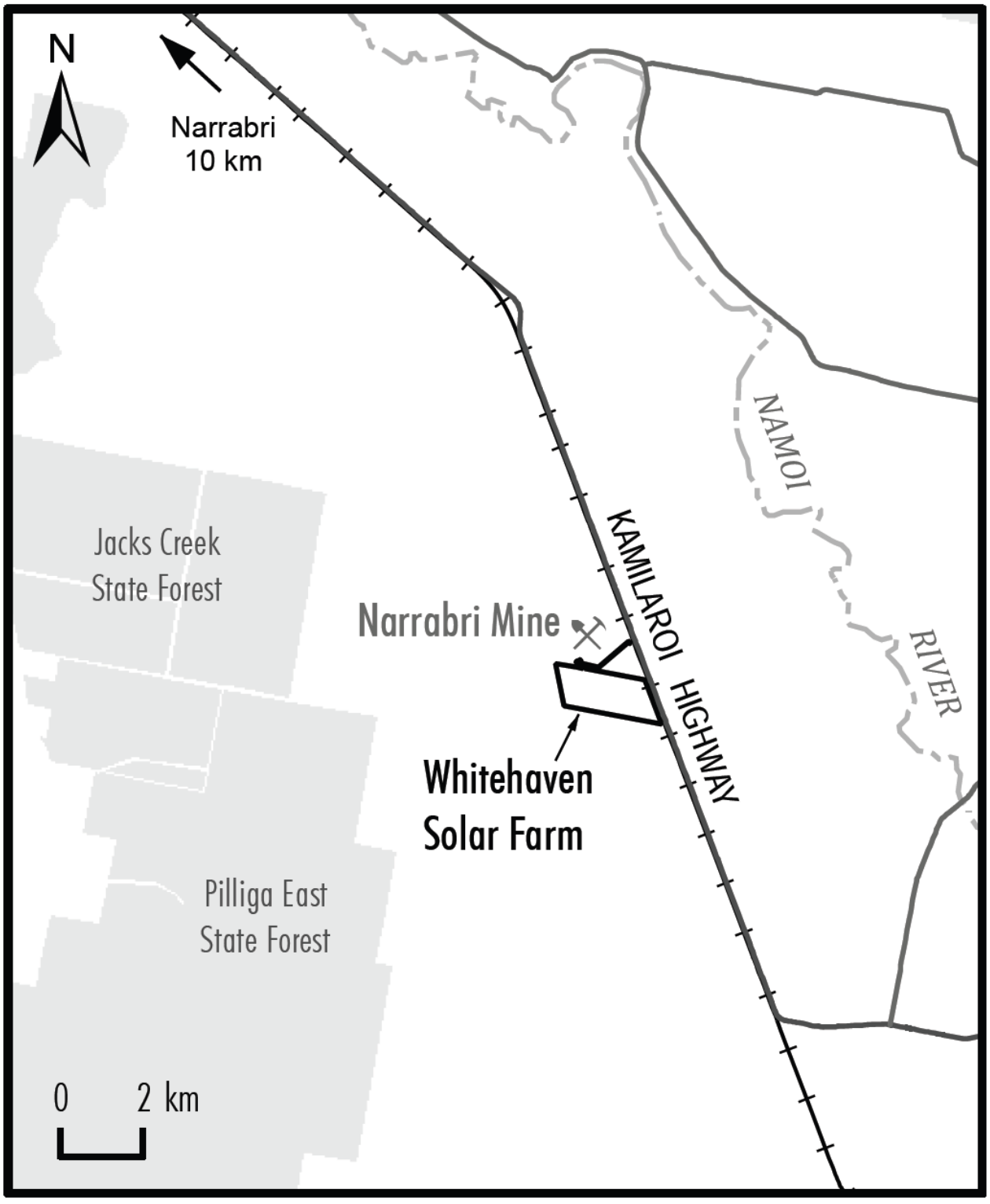
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11 January 2024

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**Due to your previous involvement in the Narrabri Mine Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan, you have been automatically registered for the consultation process associated with the Project. You do not need to contact Whitehaven to re-register for the Project.**

However, Whitehaven would appreciate if you could please provide updated contact details for the Project in the enclosed form. Could you please complete the enclosed form and return to Whitehaven before 5:00 pm on 30 January 2024 via the following contact details:

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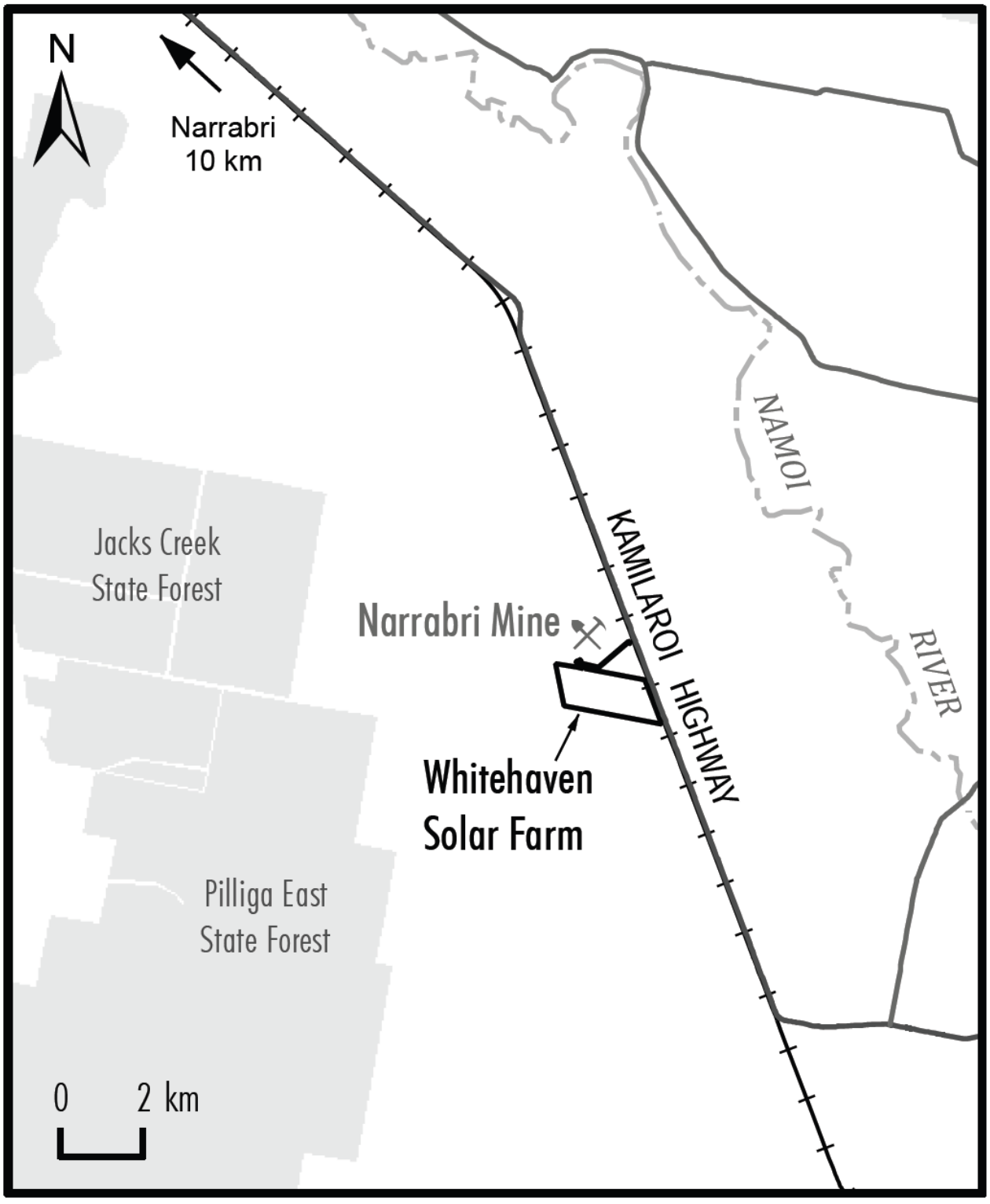
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details




**Whitehaven Coal Limited** ABN 68 124 425 396

Level 28, 259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 | P 02 8222 1100 | F 02 8222 1101
PO Box R1113, Royal Exchange NSW 1225

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | |
| **Registered Aboriginal Party (if different to above)** | |
| **Email Address** | |
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| **Telephone Number** | |

11 January 2024

Jim Trindall
Gomeroi Narrabri Aboriginal Corporation
42 Mooloobar Steet
NARRABRI
NSW 2390

Dear Jim,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

**Due to your previous involvement in the Narrabri Mine Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan, you have been automatically registered for the consultation process associated with the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project). You do not need to contact Whitehaven to re-register for the Project.**

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The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

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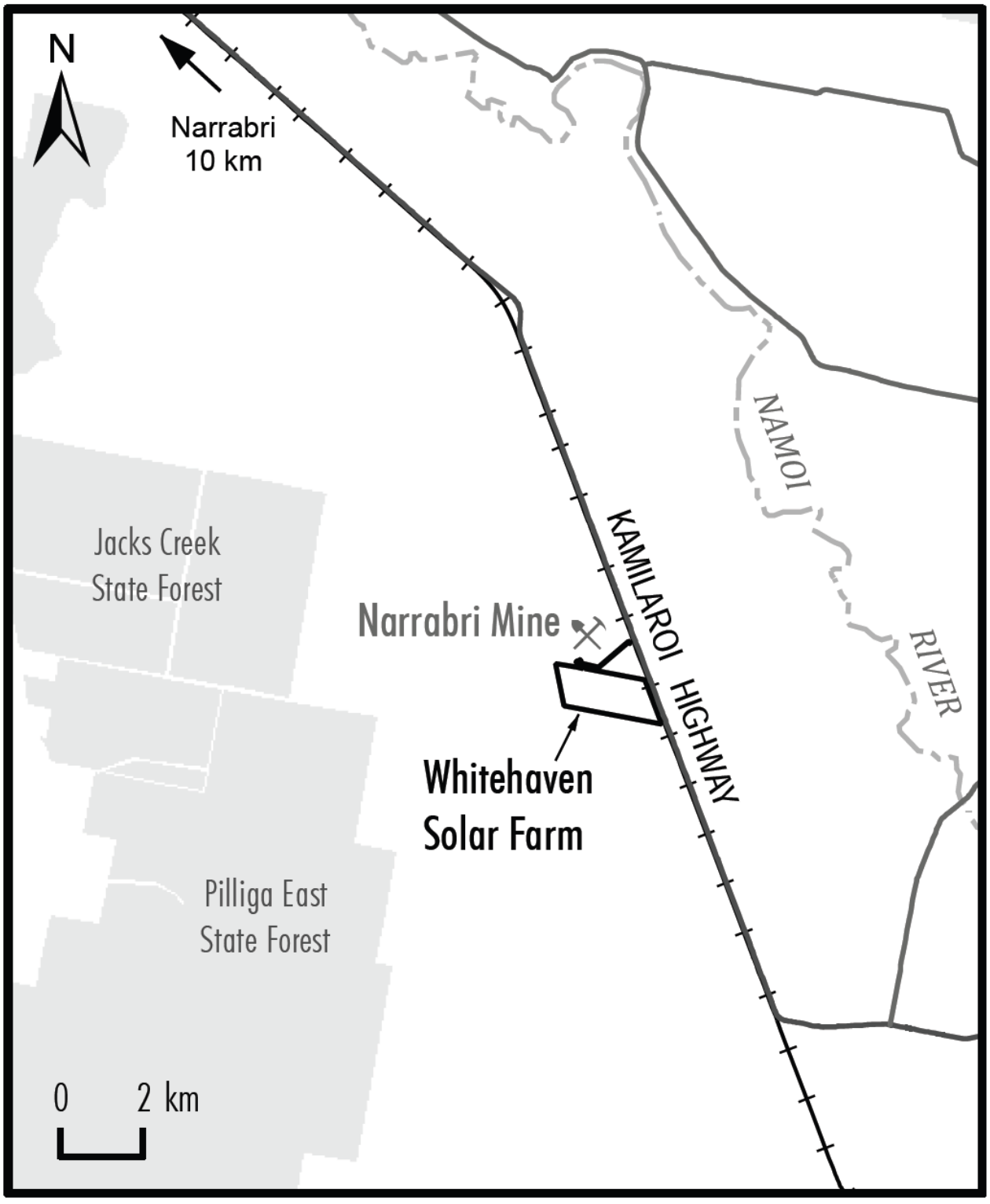
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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
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Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


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Narrabri
10 km
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KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
State Forest
0
2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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11 January 2024

Kerry Morgan Fernando
17 Albion Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Kerry Morgan,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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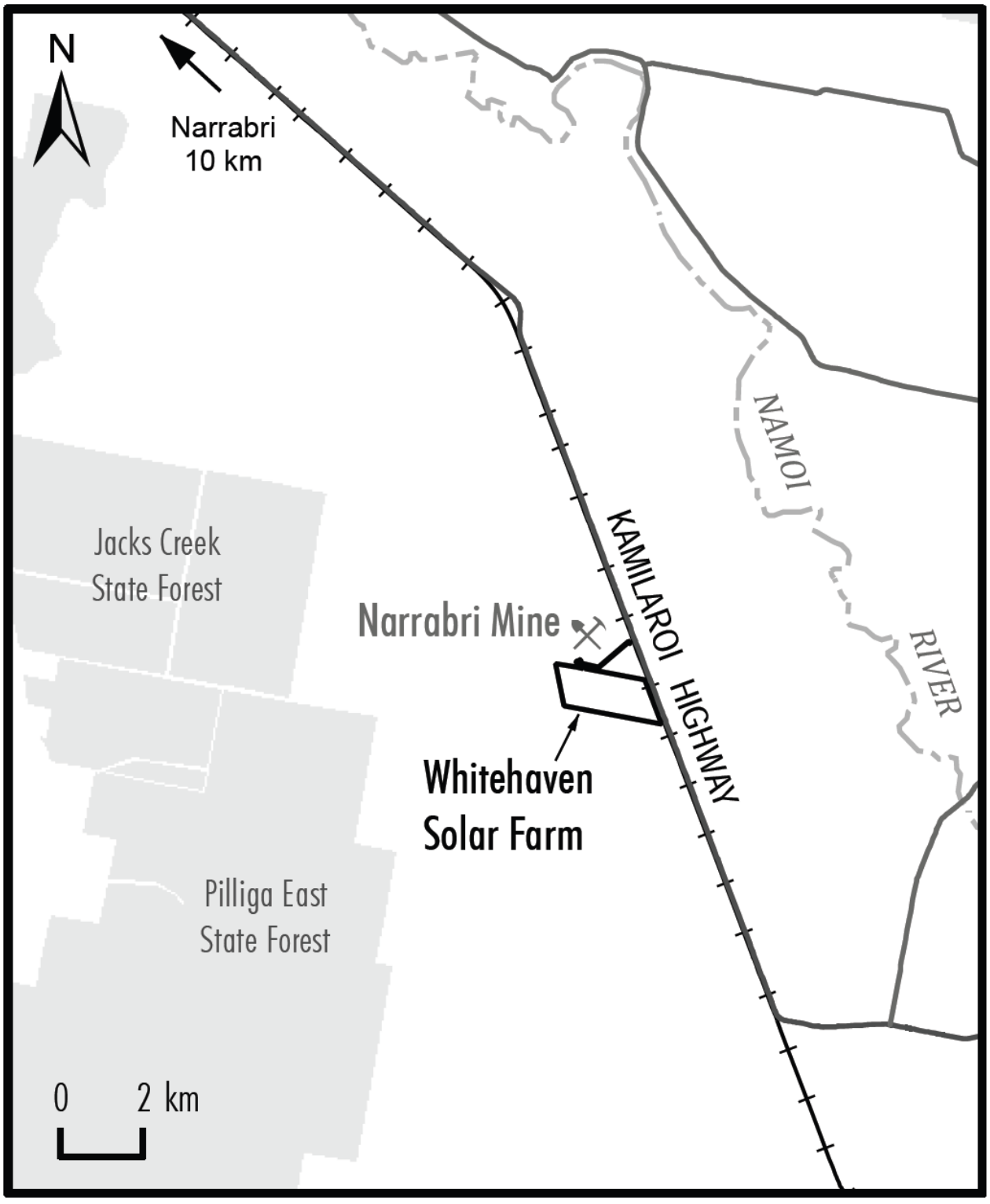
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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

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**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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11 January 2024

Leslie Woodbridge
14 Balarang Street
WEEMELAH
NSW 2406

Dear Leslie,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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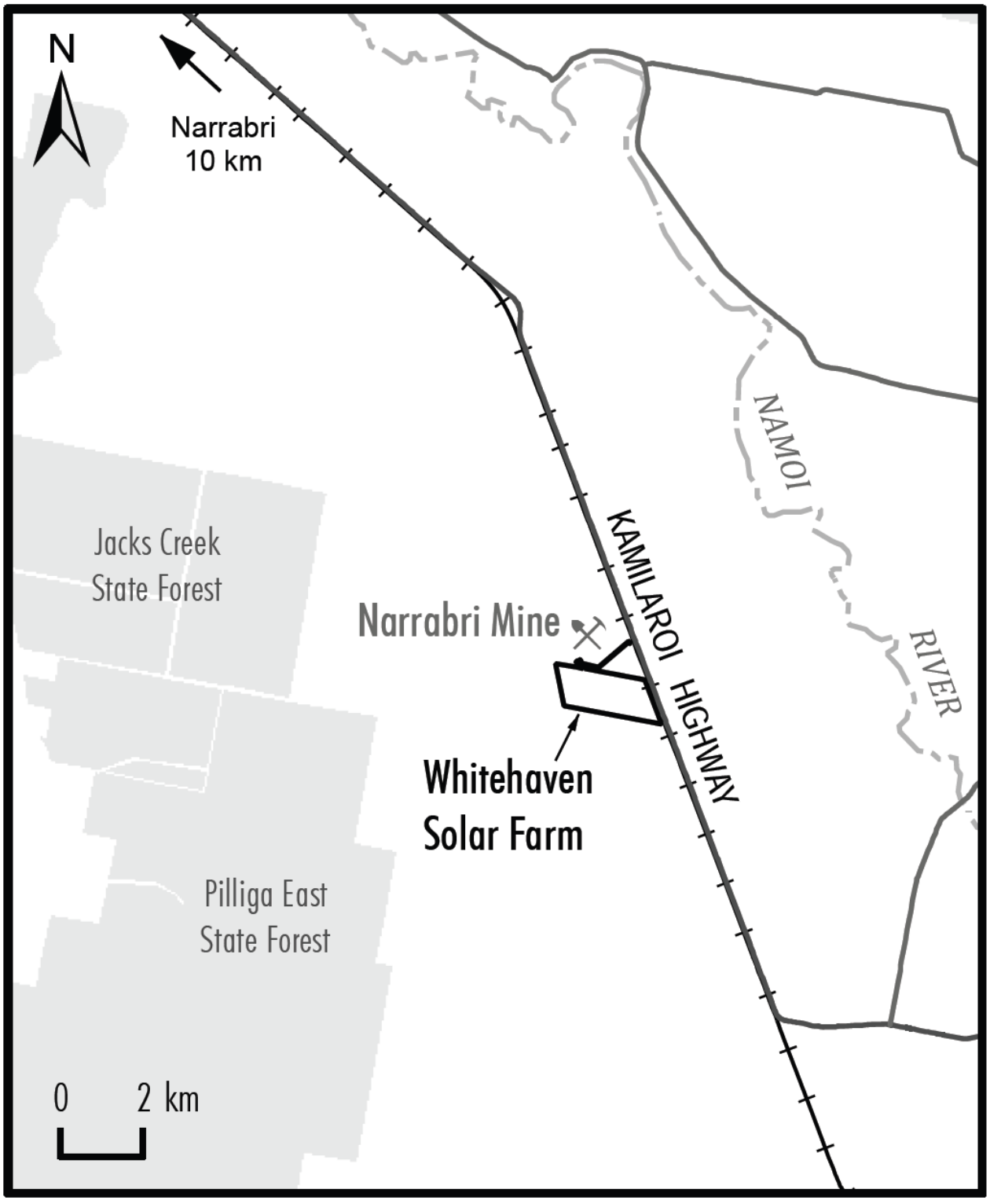
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details




**Whitehaven Coal Limited** ABN 68 124 425 396

Level 28, 259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 | P 02 8222 1100 | F 02 8222 1101
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**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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11 January 2024

Lynn Trindall
Narrabri LALC
96 Barwan Street
NARRABRI
NSW 2390

Dear Lynn,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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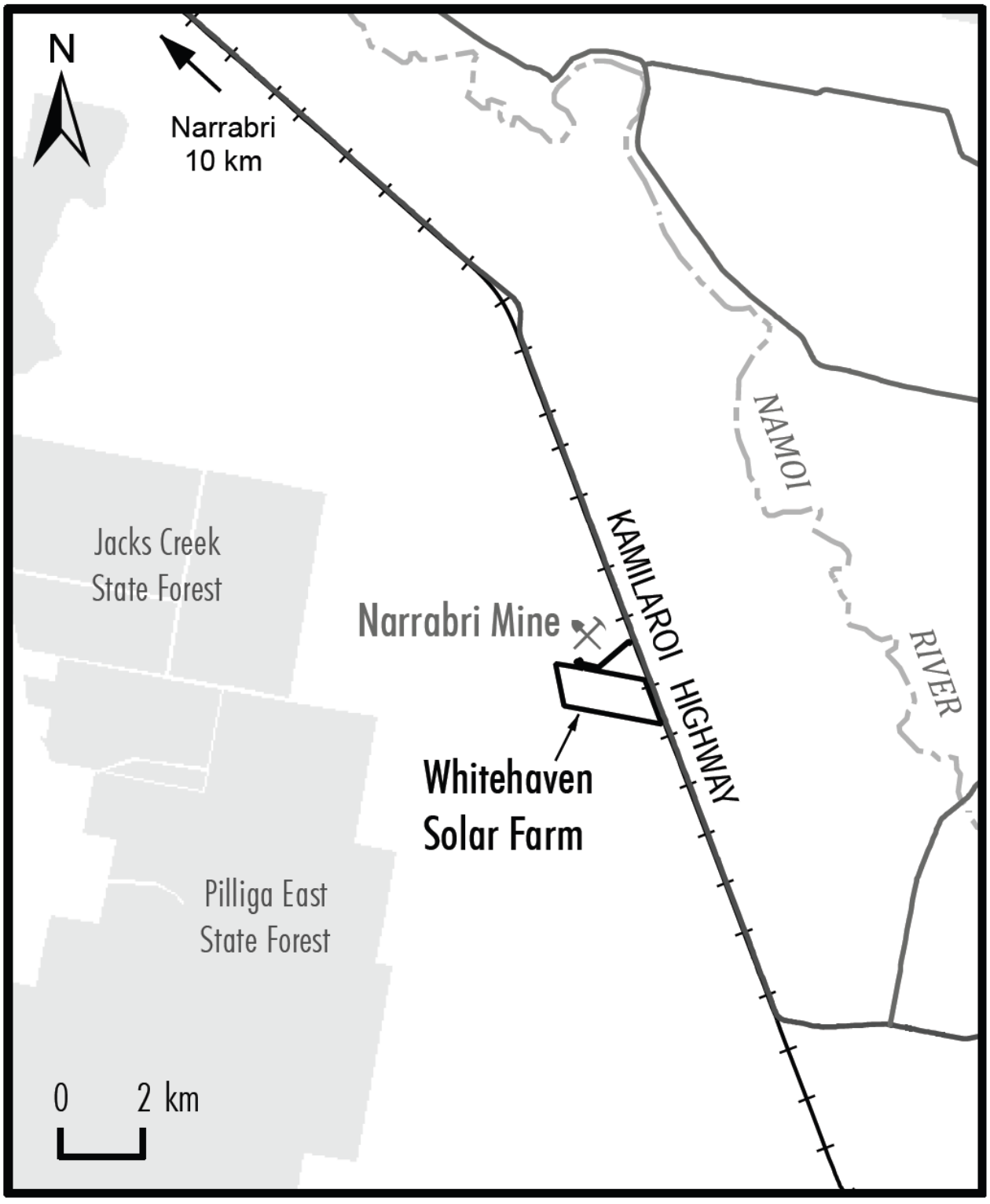
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**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
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11 January 2024

Michael John Long
17 Albion Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Michael John,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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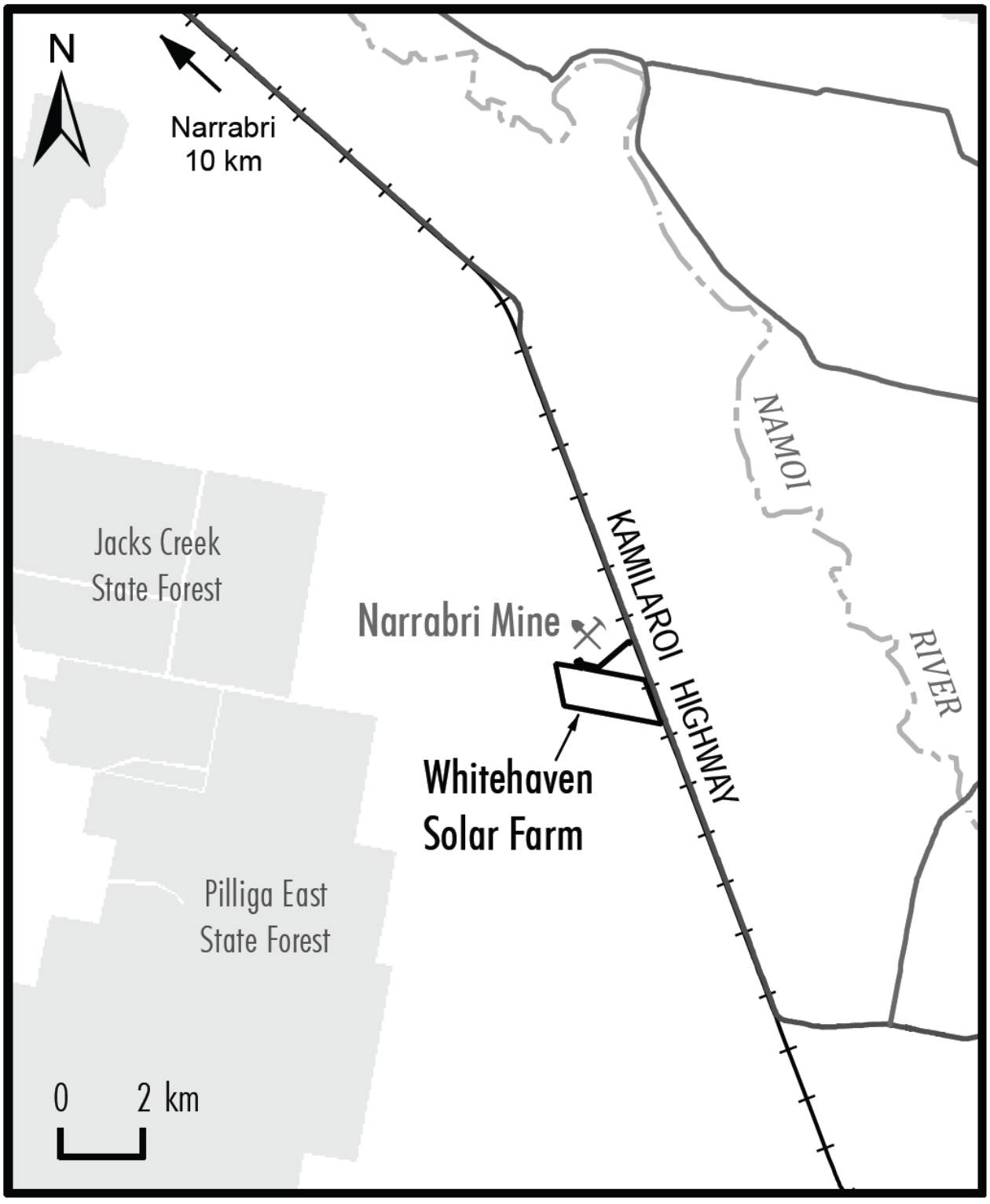
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11 January 2024

Michael Ronald Long Jr
17 Albion Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Michael Jr,

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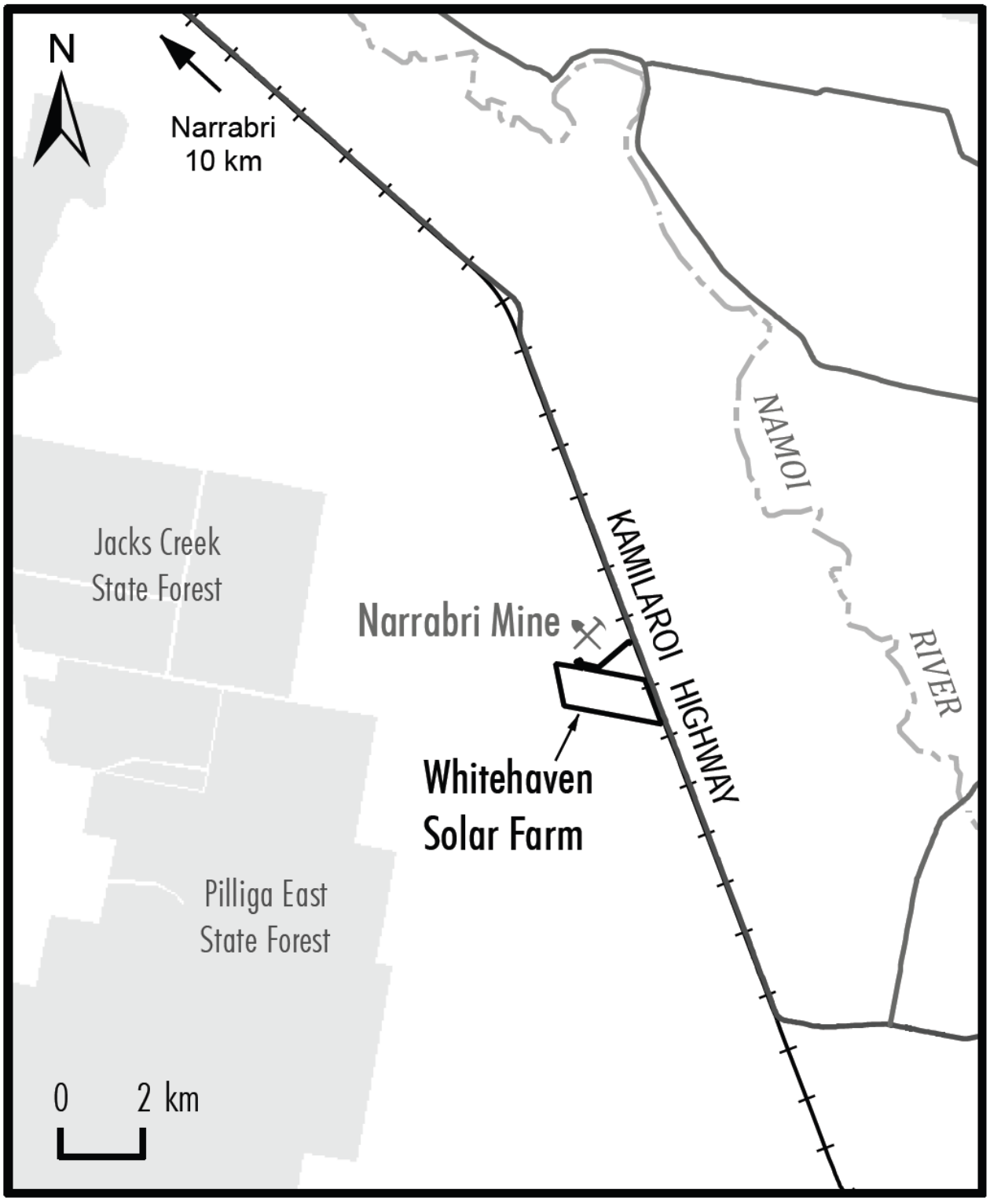
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


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10 km
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RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
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0
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**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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11 January 2024

Aaron Talbott
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy
13 Hunter Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Aaron,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent (SSD Consent) for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) (herein referred to as Consultation Guidelines), the purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist Whitehaven in the preparation of an application for an SSD Consent for the Project and to assist the consent authority in its consideration and determination of this application under the EP&A Act.

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Should you wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above, could you please provide your details in the enclosed form and return to Whitehaven before 5:00 pm on 30 January 2024 via the following contact details:

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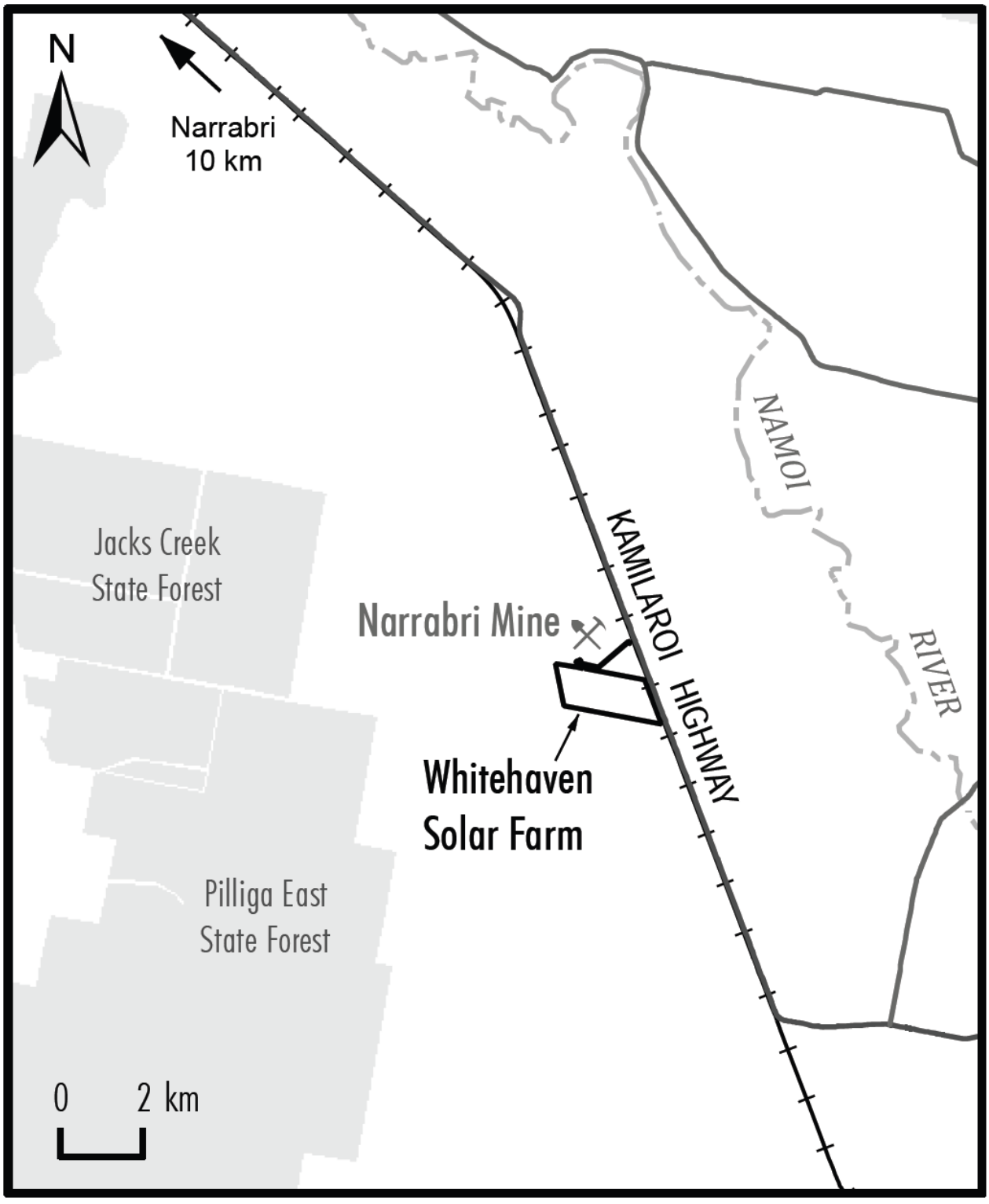
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General Manager Community Engagement

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Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details




**Whitehaven Coal Limited** ABN 68 124 425 396

Level 28, 259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 | P 02 8222 1100 | F 02 8222 1101
PO Box R1113, Royal Exchange NSW 1225

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
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11 January 2024

Ali Maher
A&K Cultural Heritage
67 Semaphore Road
BERKELEY
NSW 2506

Dear Ali,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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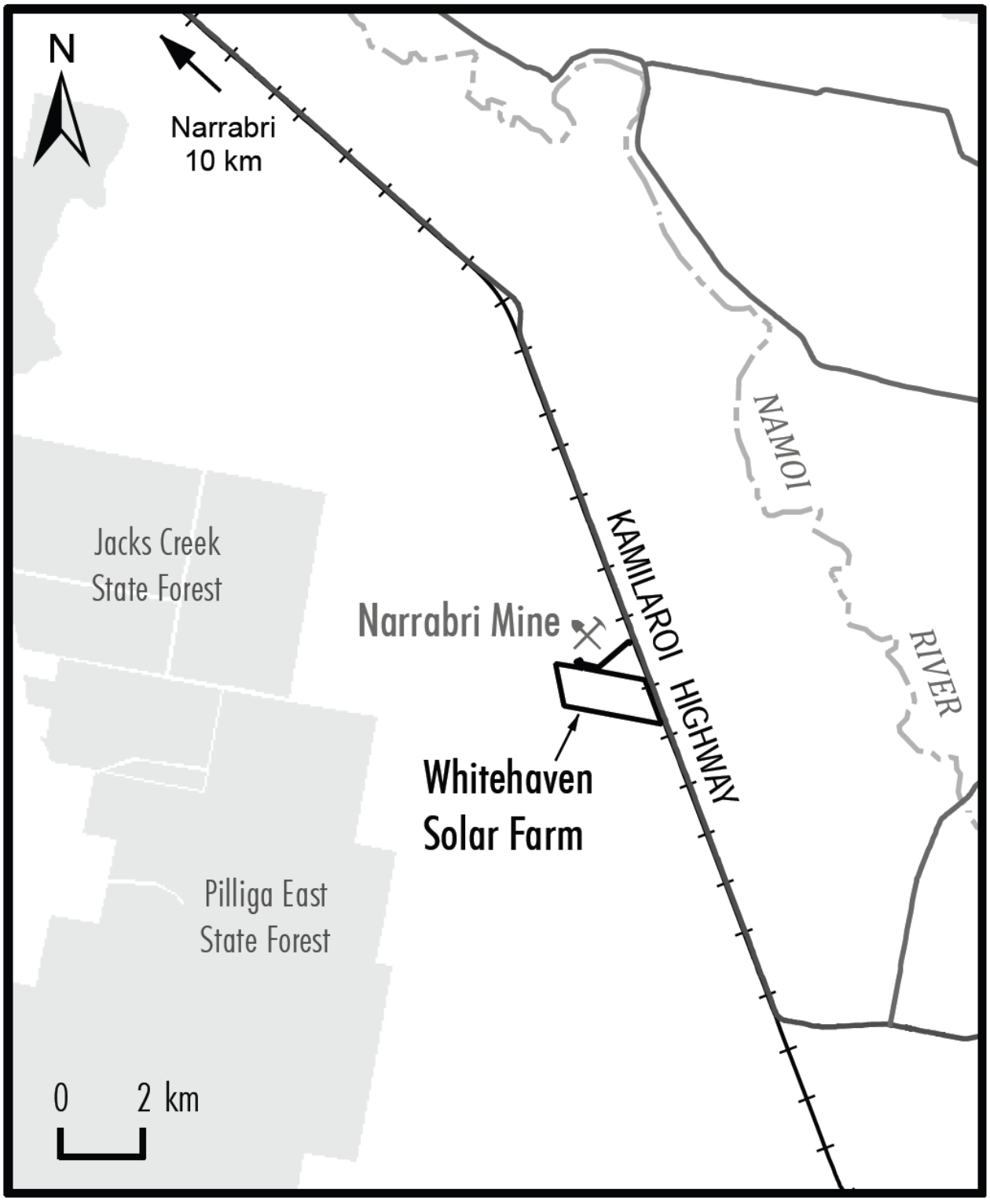
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11 January 2024

Alison Sampson
36 Hill Street
CAROONA
NSW 2343

Dear Alison,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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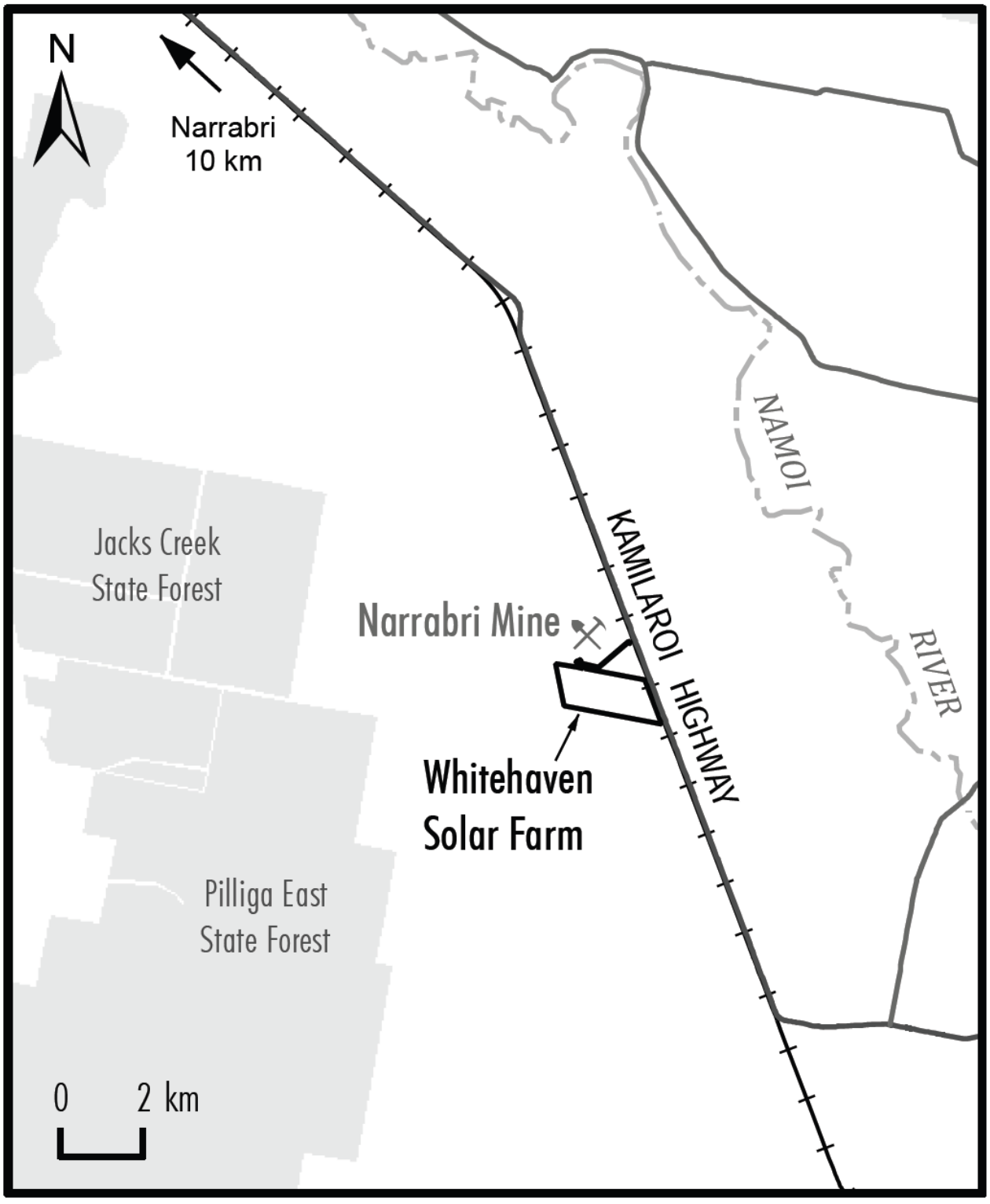
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11 January 2024

Aliethea Cutmore
Guda Birgingira Aboriginal Corporation
23 Watson Avenue
ARMIDALE
NSW 2350

Dear Aliethea,

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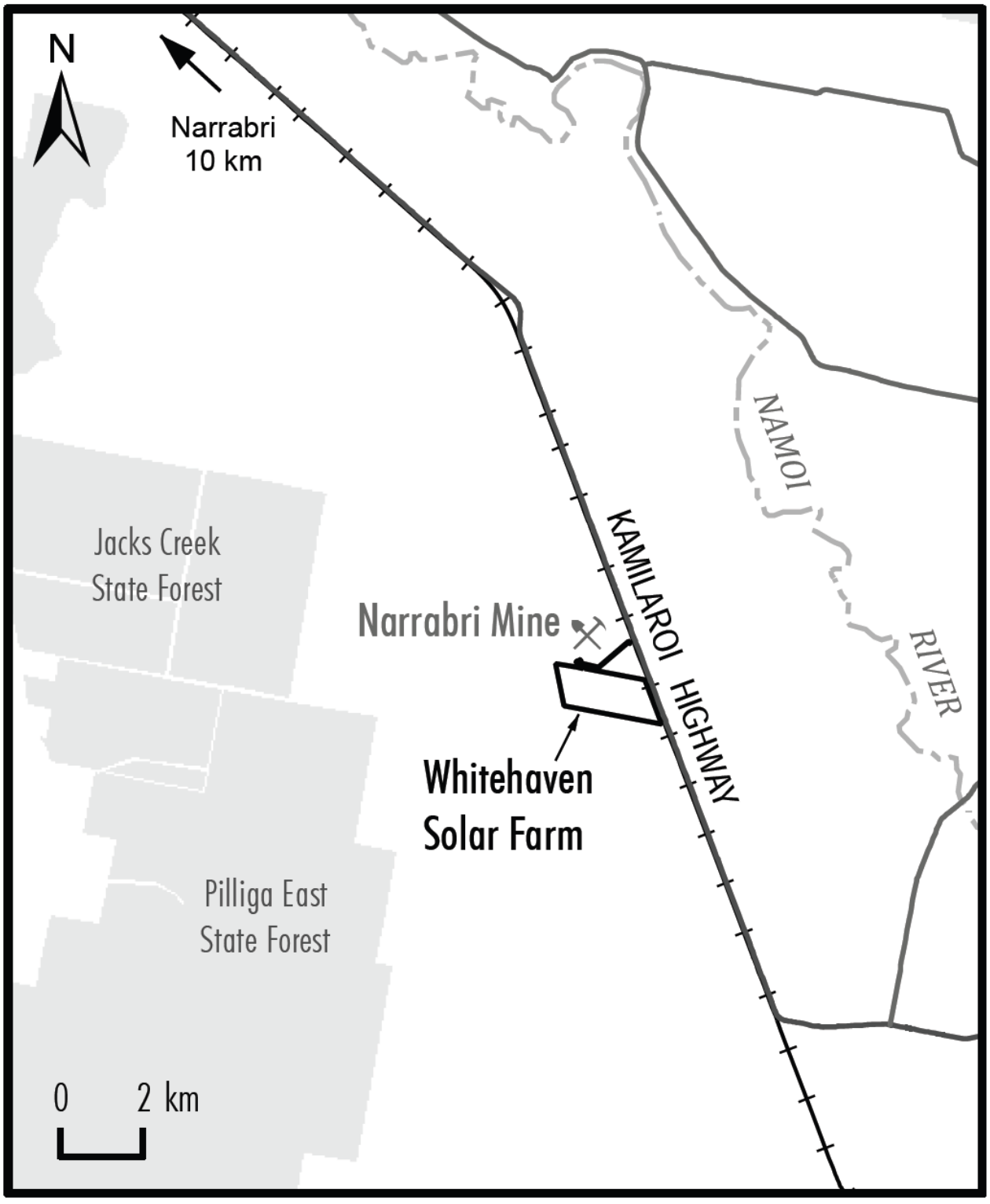
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11 January 2024

Ben Cameron
BJC Cultural Management
11 Stanley Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Ben,

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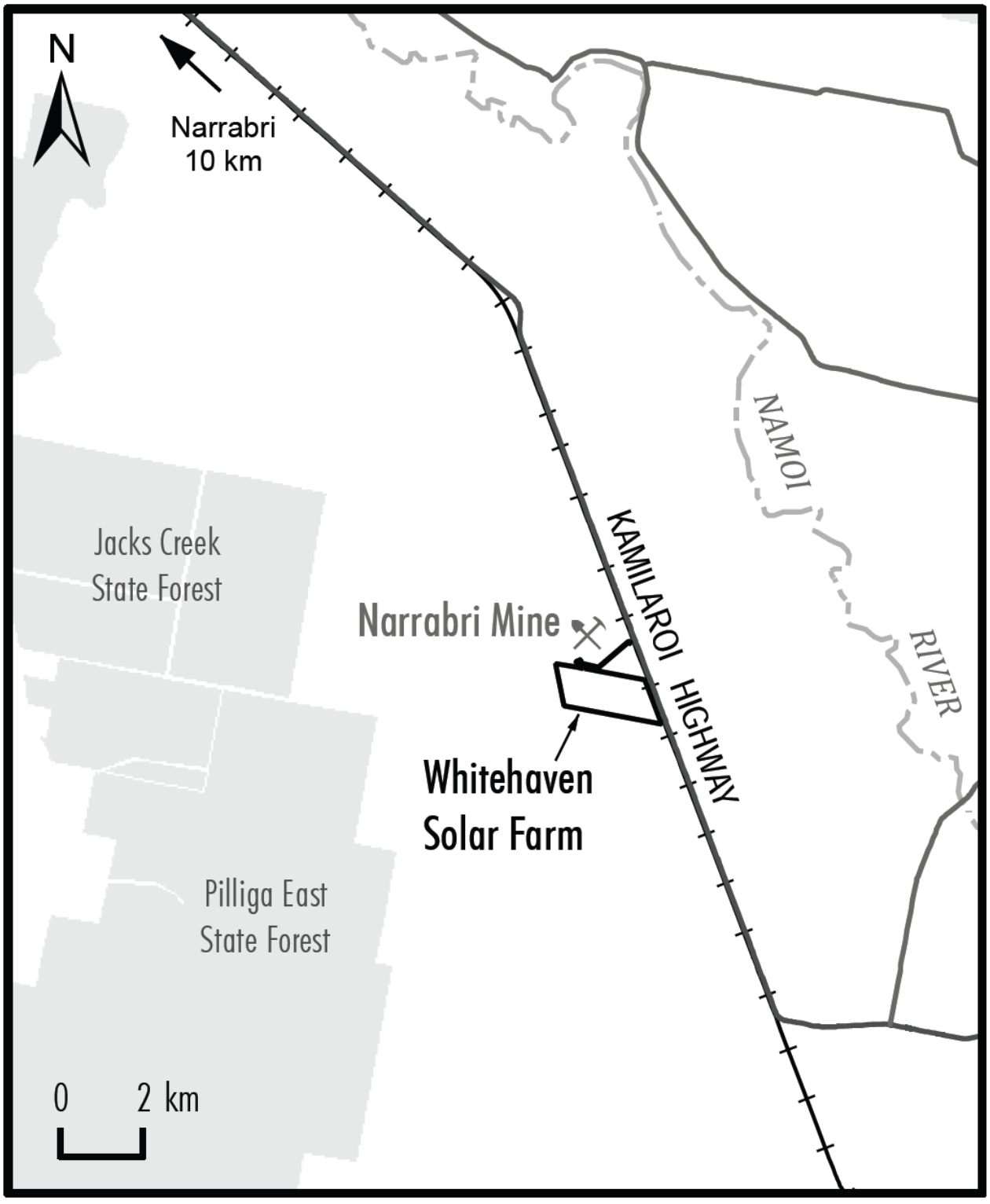
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11 January 2024

Bill Trewlynn
282 Pringle Road
RETREAT
NSW 2355

Dear Bill,

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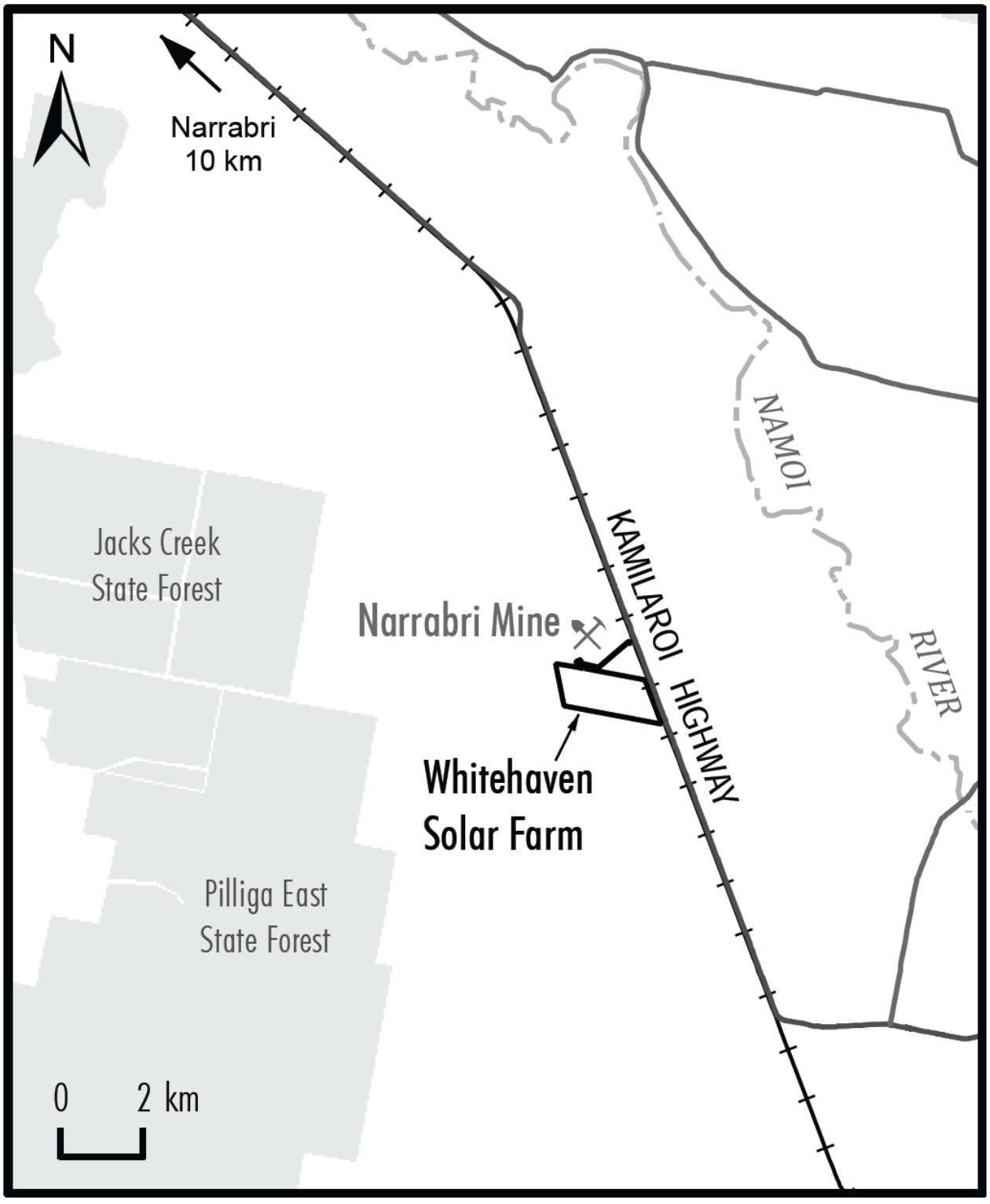
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11 January 2024

Brent Mathews
21 Bando Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Brent,

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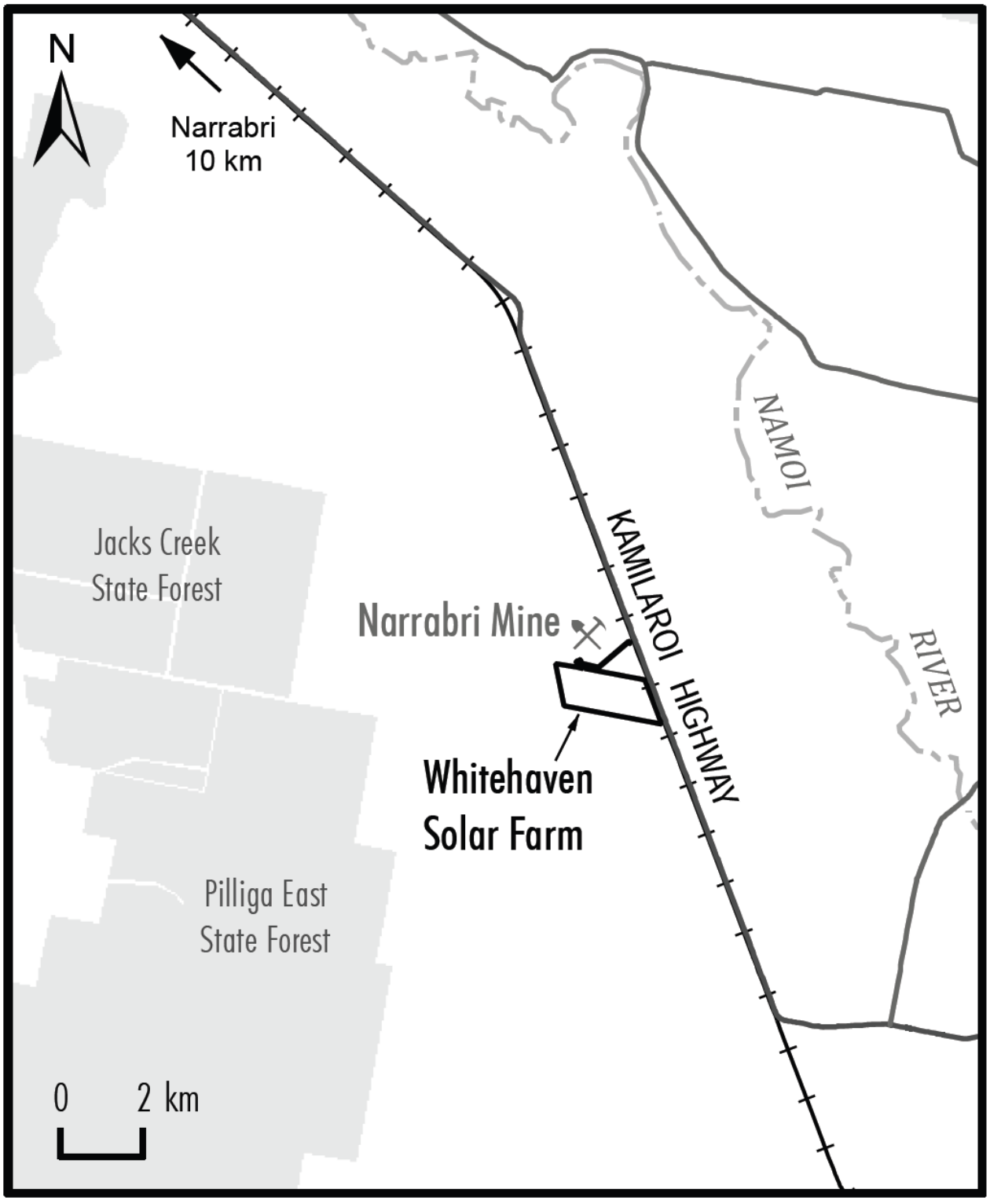
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


N
Narrabri
10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
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Solar Farm
Pilliga East
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0
2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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11 January 2024

Brian Draper
7 Sovereign Street
DUBBO
NSW 2830

Dear Brian,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent (SSD Consent) for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

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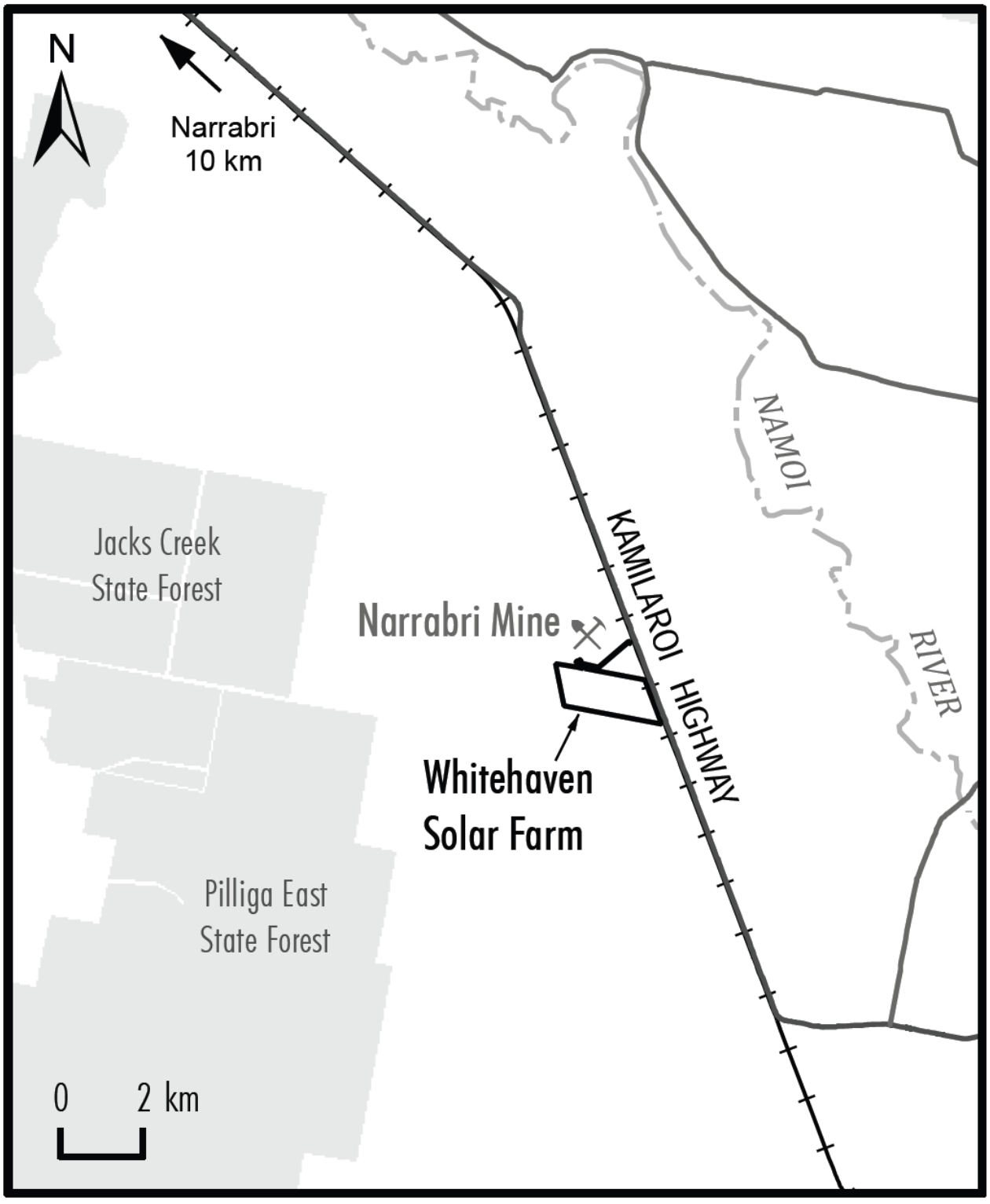
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11 January 2024

Christine Archbold
40 Humphries Street
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

Dear Christine,

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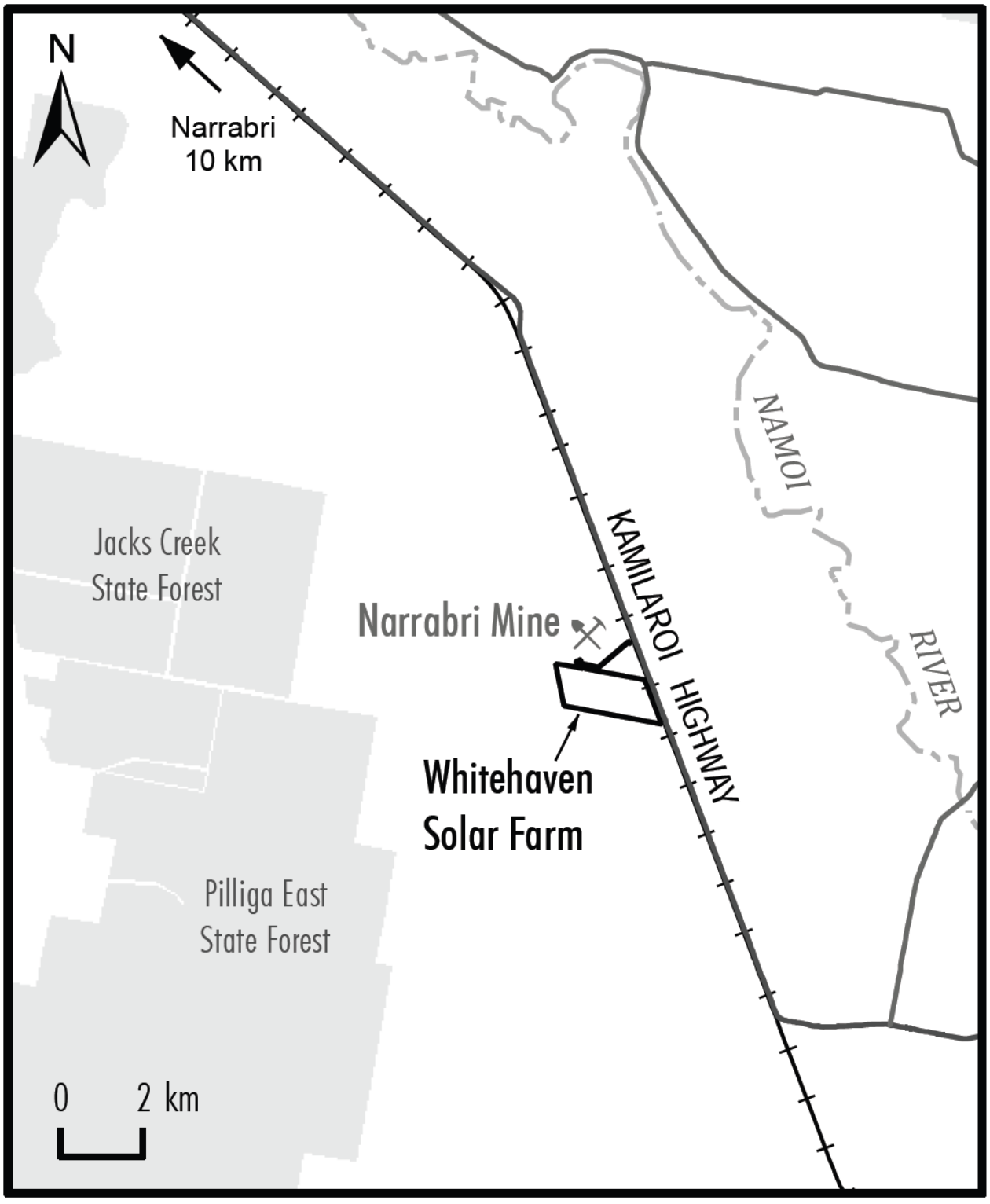
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General Manager Community Engagement

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11 January 2024

Clifford Matthews
16/A Mahogany Avenue
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

Dear Clifford,

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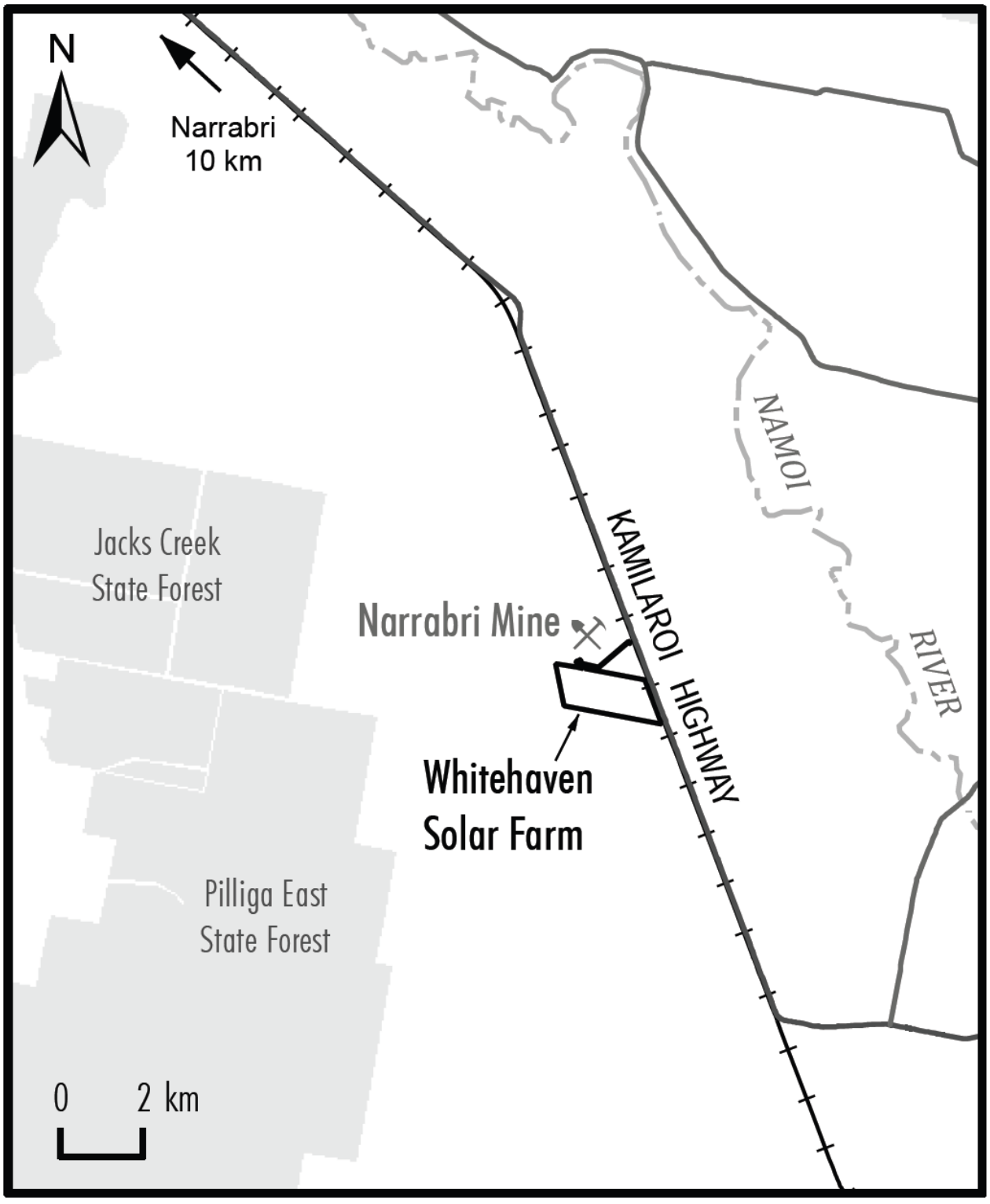
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11 January 2024

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Heilamon Cultural Consultants
77 Tobruk Avenue
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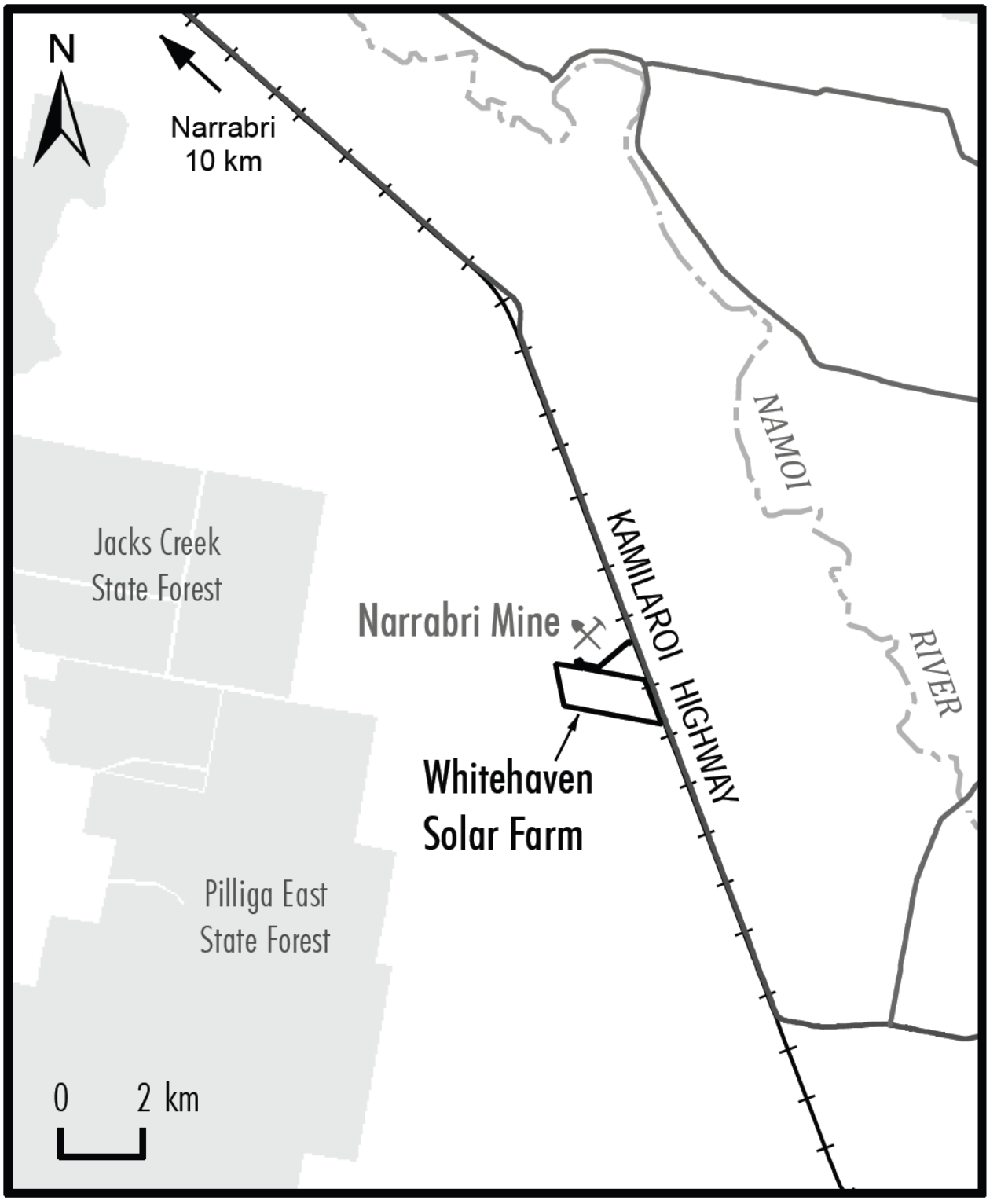
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11 January 2024

Craig Trindall
Gomeroi Narrabri Aboriginal corporation
29 Doyle Street
NARRABRI
NSW 2390

Dear Craig,

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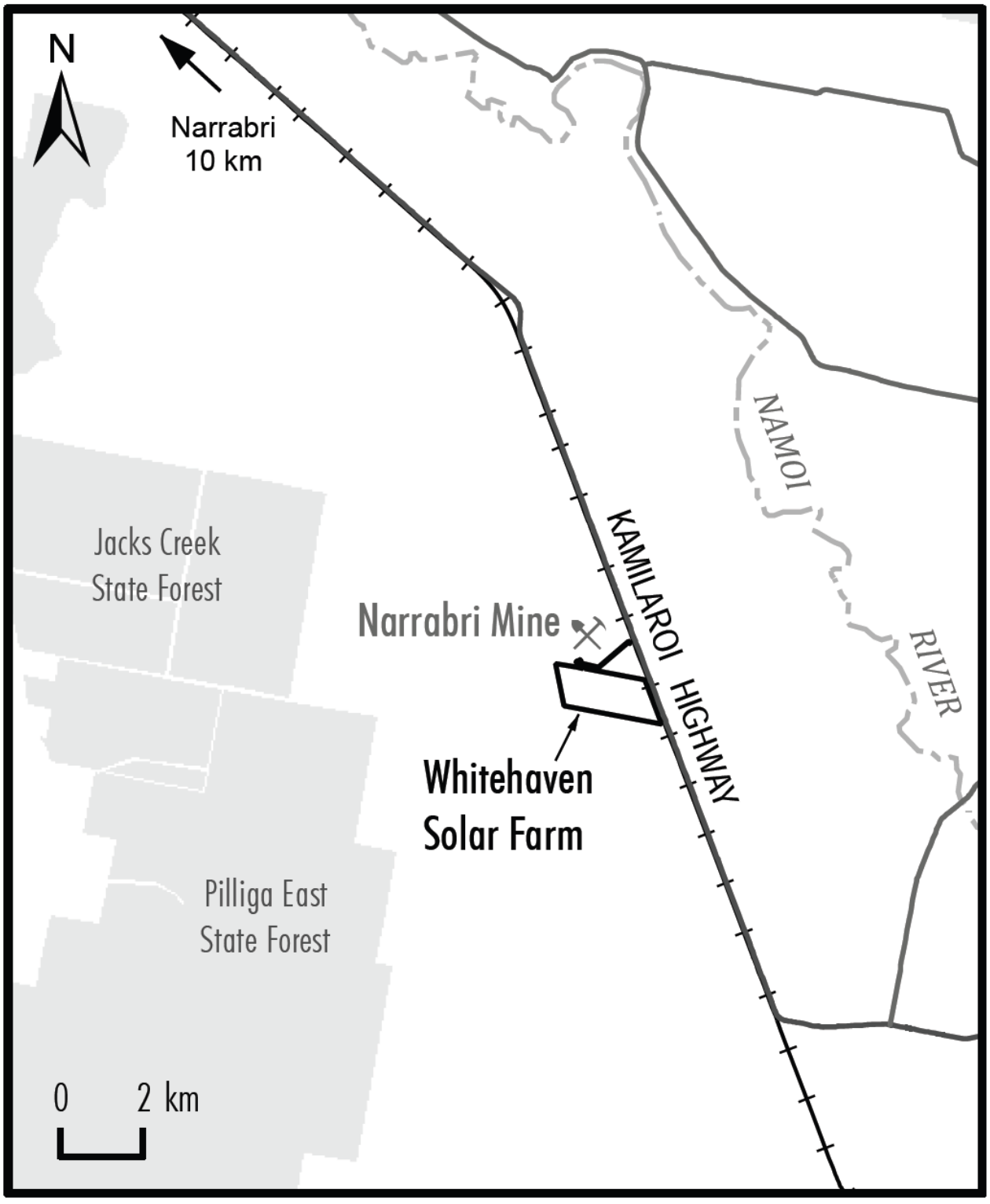
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11 January 2024

Darrell Mathews
14 Edinglassie Drive
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

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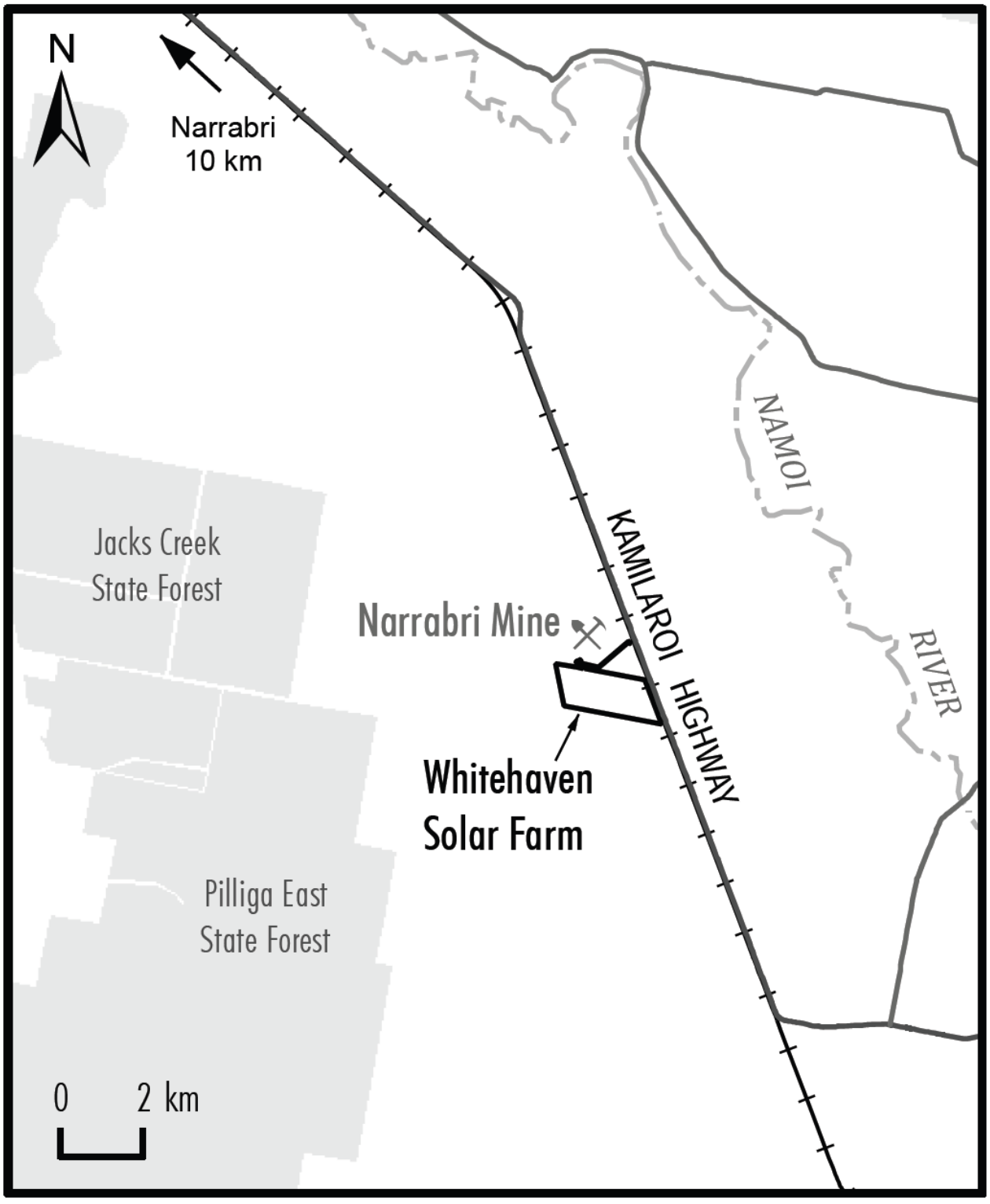
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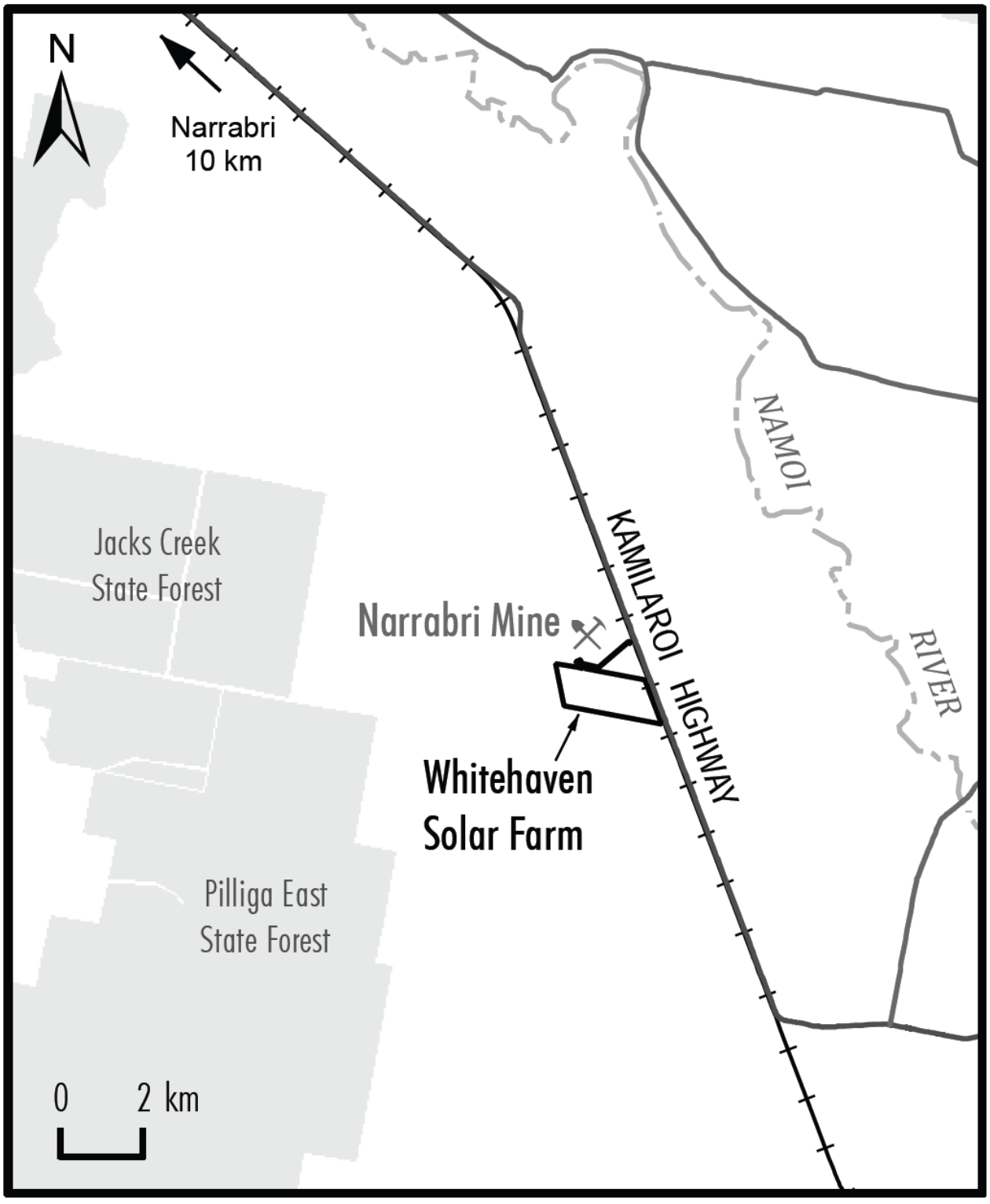
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


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Narrabri
10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
State Forest
0
2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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| **Telephone Number** | |

11 January 2024

Darrell Mathews
16 Edinglassie Drive
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

Dear Darrell,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

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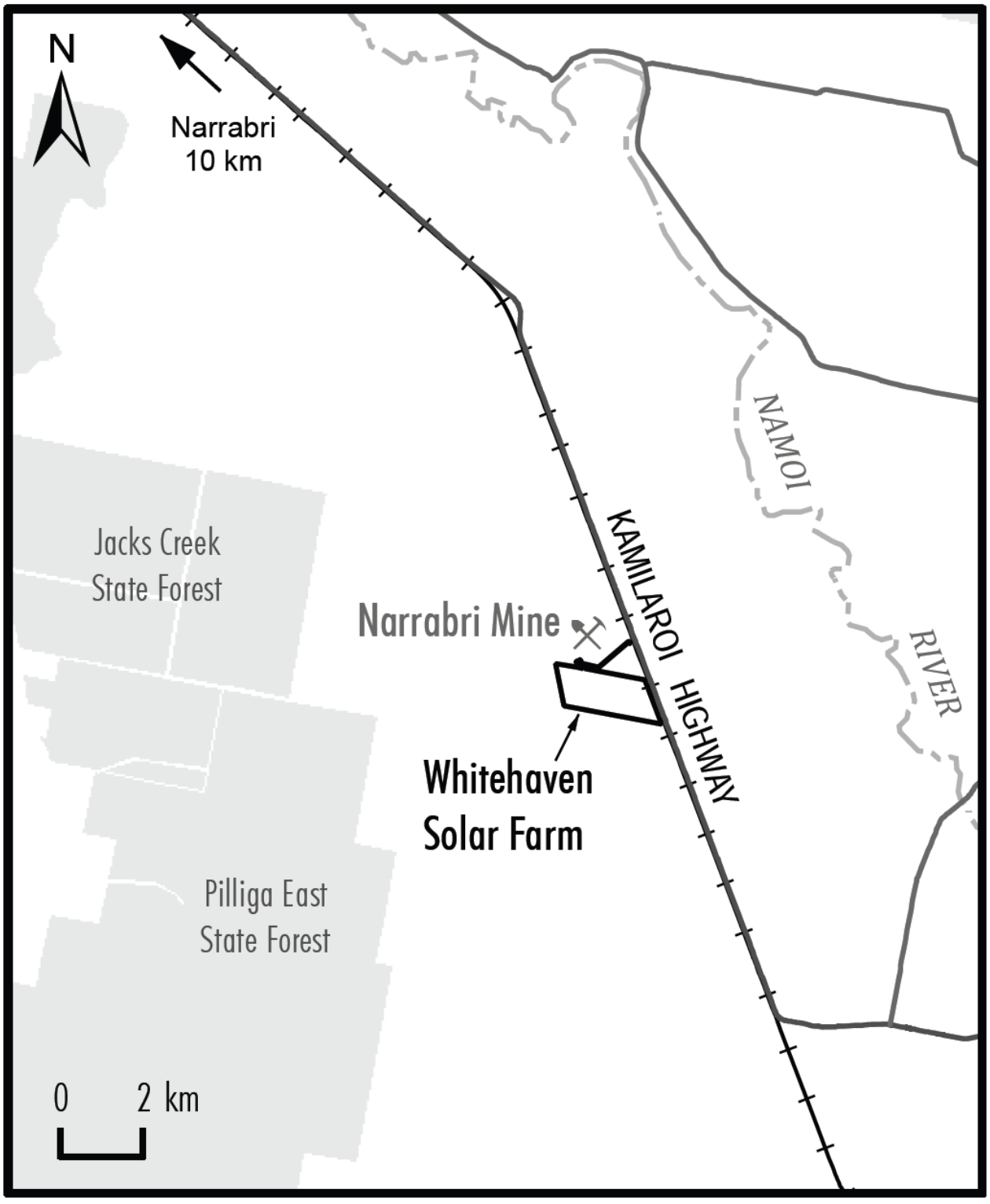
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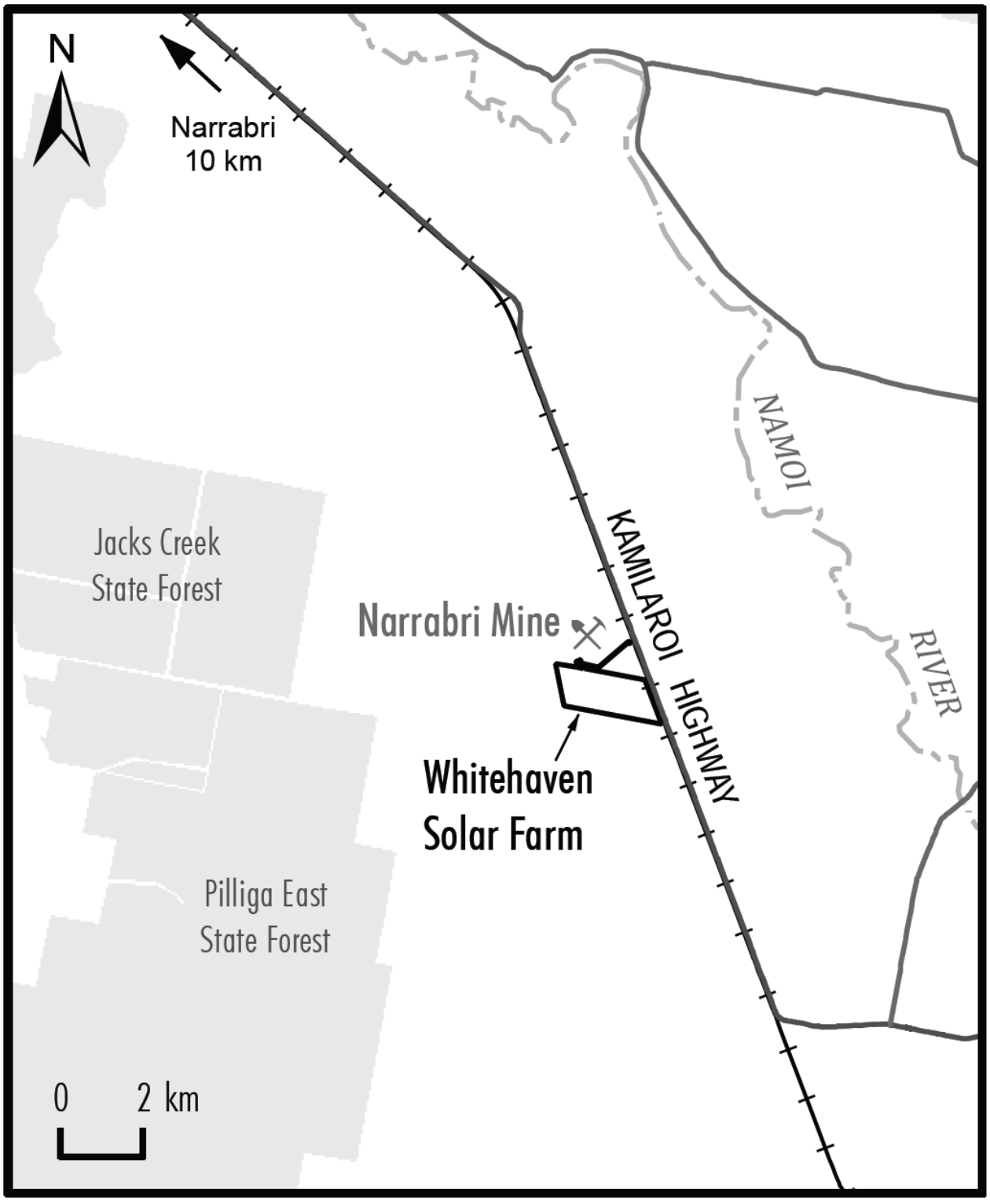
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11 January 2024

David Horton
Gomery Cultural Consultants
22 Cabernet Street
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

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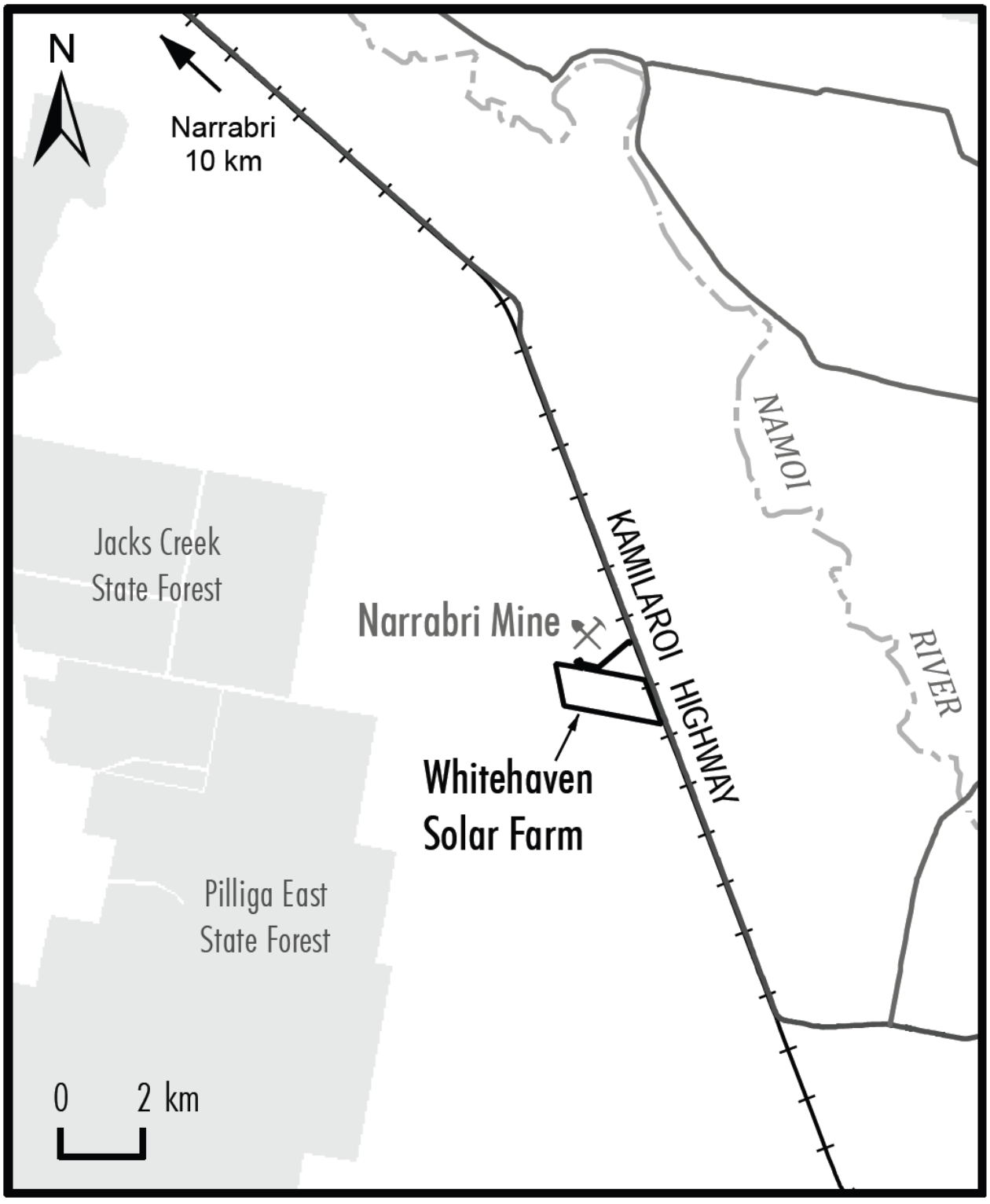
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11 January 2024

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PO Box 148
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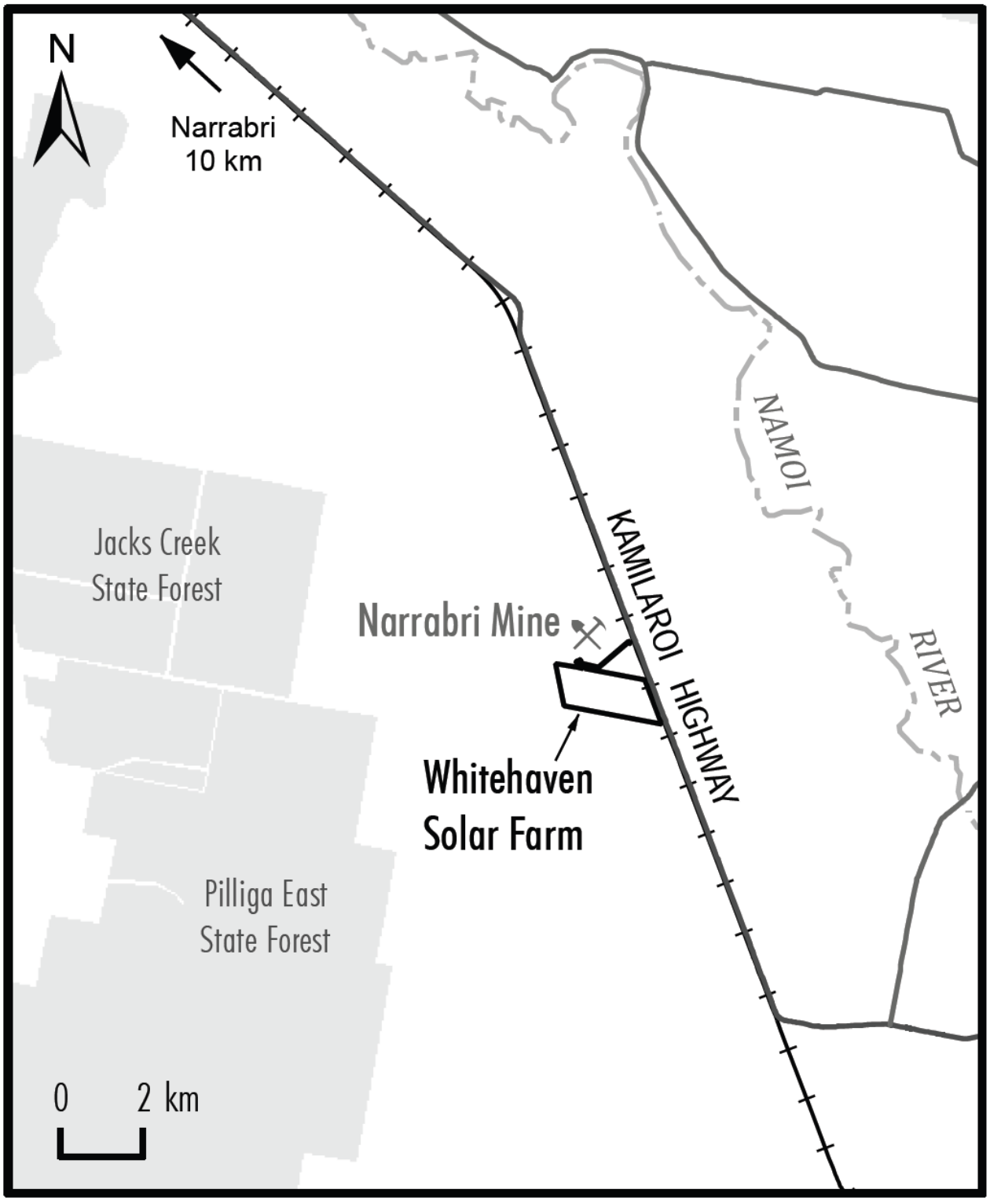
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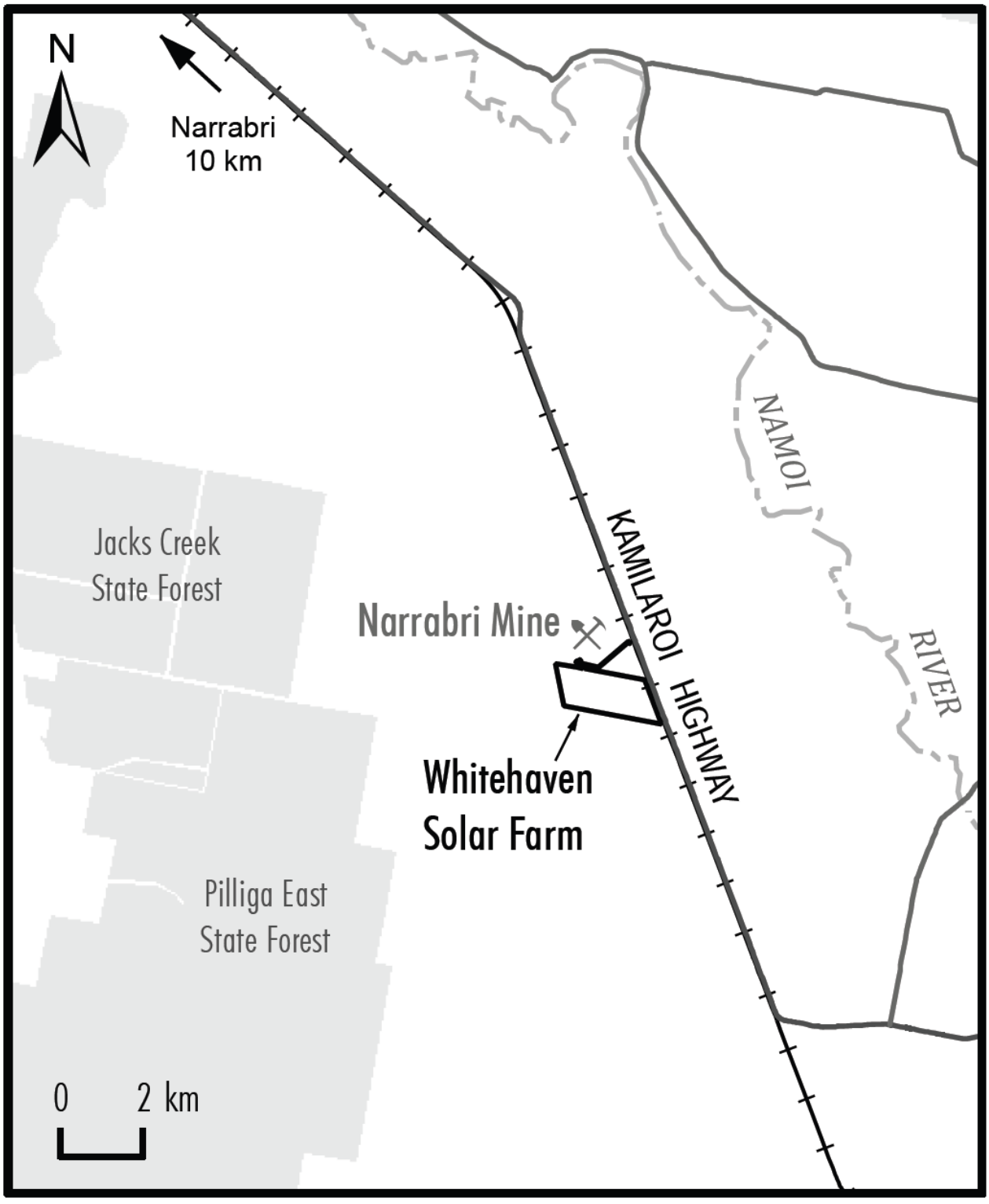
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**Whitehaven Coal Limited** ABN 68 124 425 396

Level 28, 259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 | P 02 8222 1100 | F 02 8222 1101
PO Box R1113, Royal Exchange NSW 1225

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11 January 2024

Donna Moodie
PO Box 356
DARLING HEIGHTS
QLD 4350

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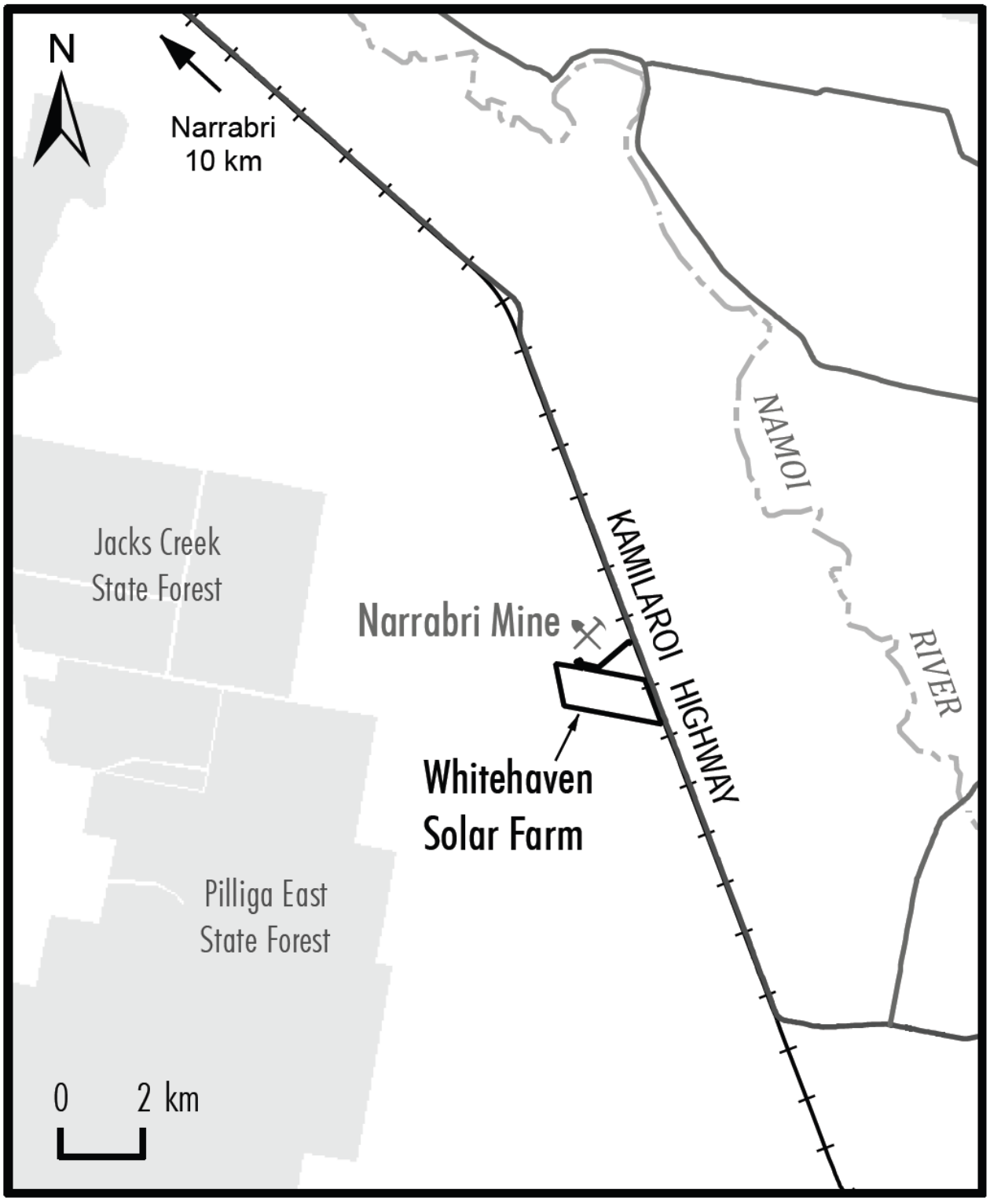
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11 January 2024

Esther Tighe
1/86 Edward Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

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The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

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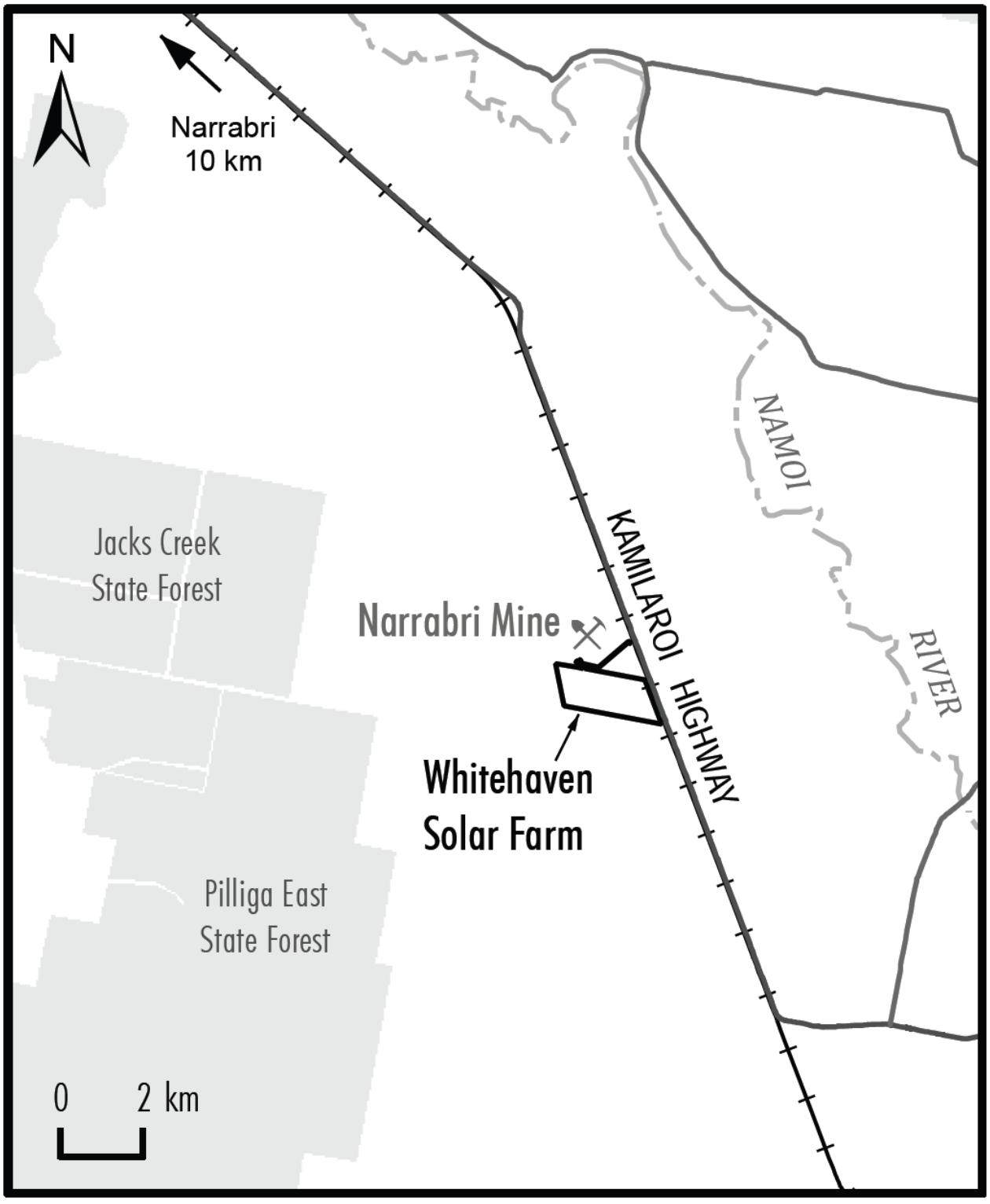
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
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10 km
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RIVER
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0
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**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
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11 January 2024

George Sampson
George Sampson (C/ Cucatua Culture Consultants)
49 Ibis Parade
WOODBERRY
NSW 2322

Dear George,

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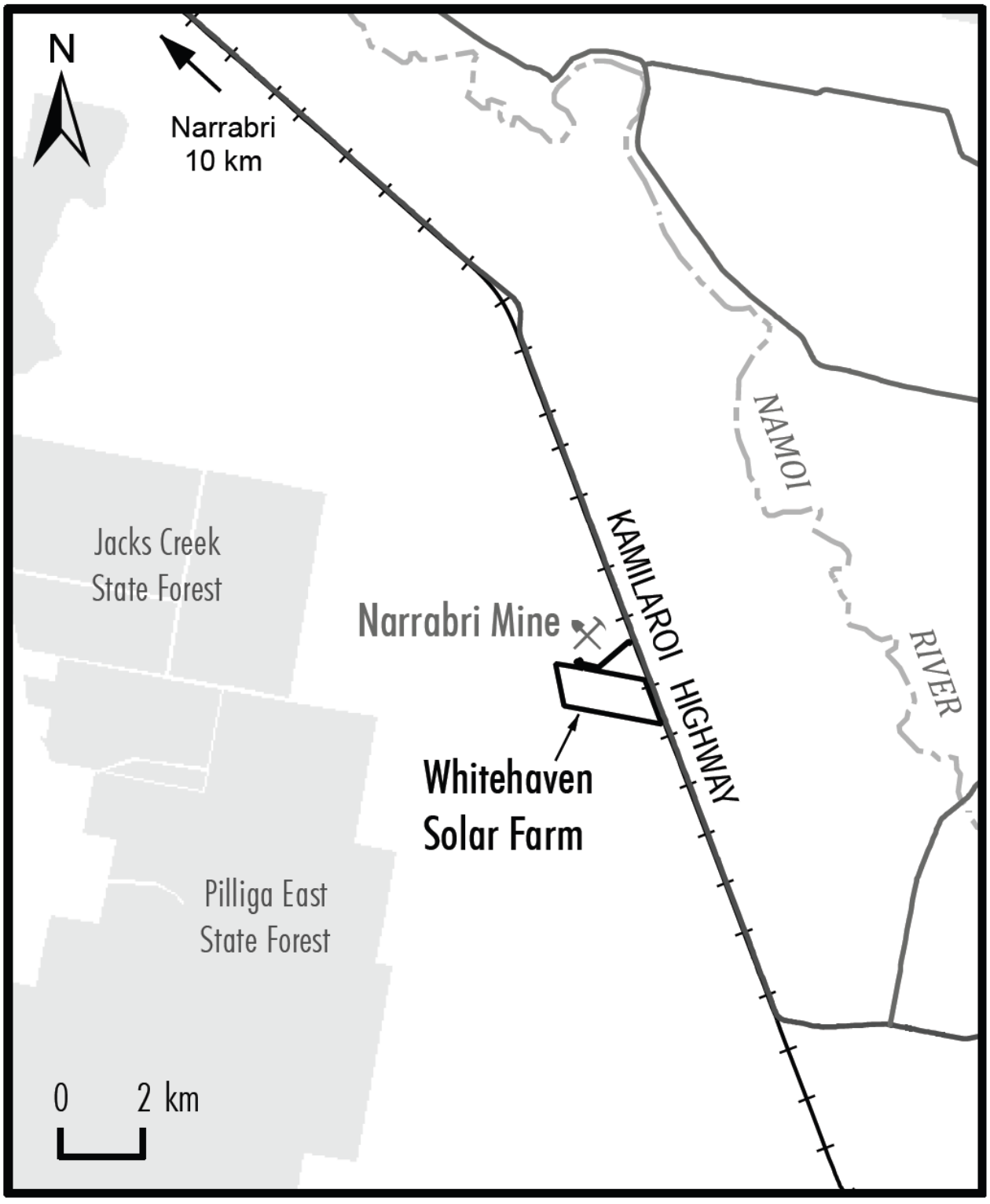
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11 January 2024

Greg Griffiths
Guyinbaraay People Clan Group
PO Box 345
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Greg,

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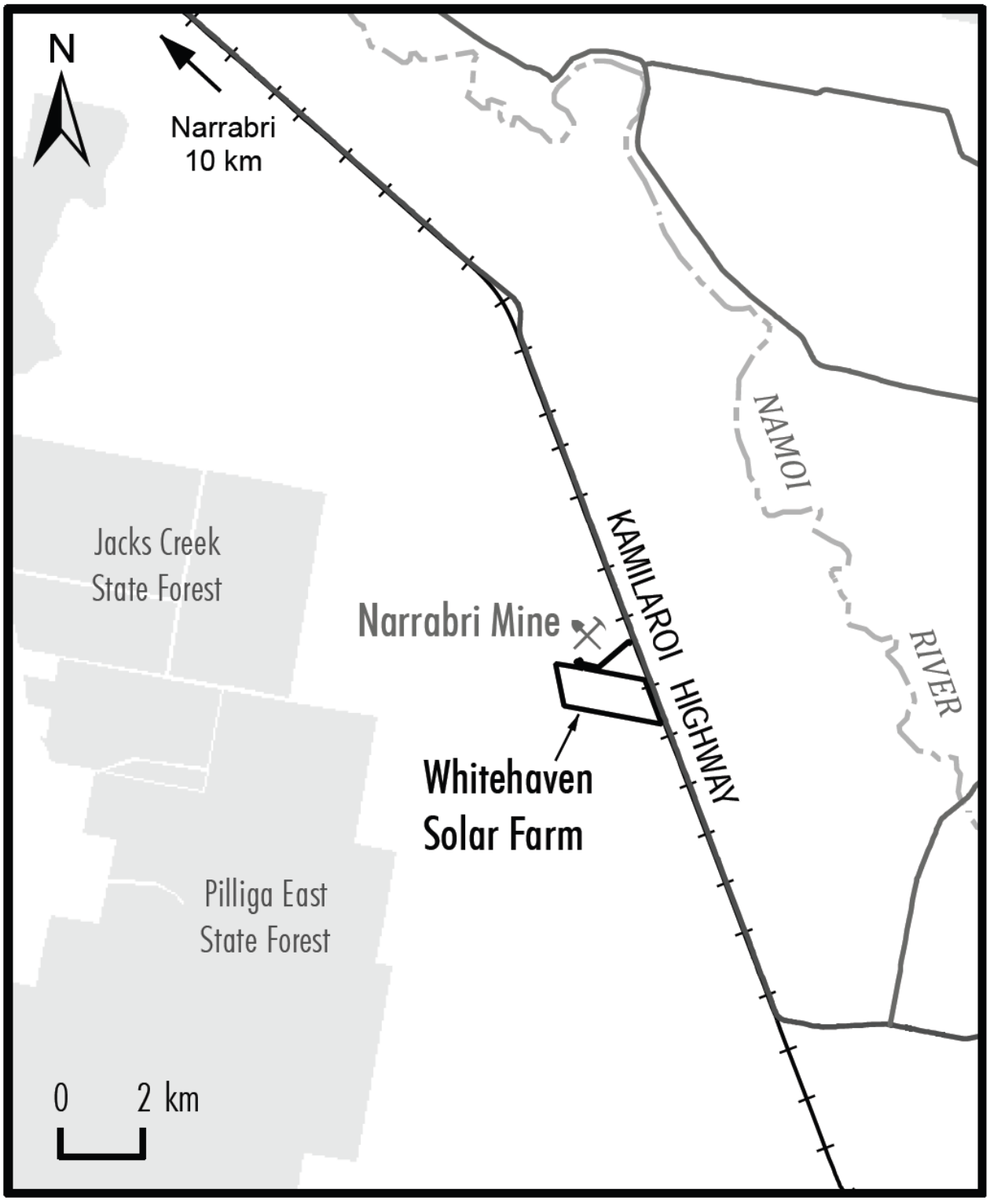
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11 January 2024

Hazel Collins
3 Carroll Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Hazel,

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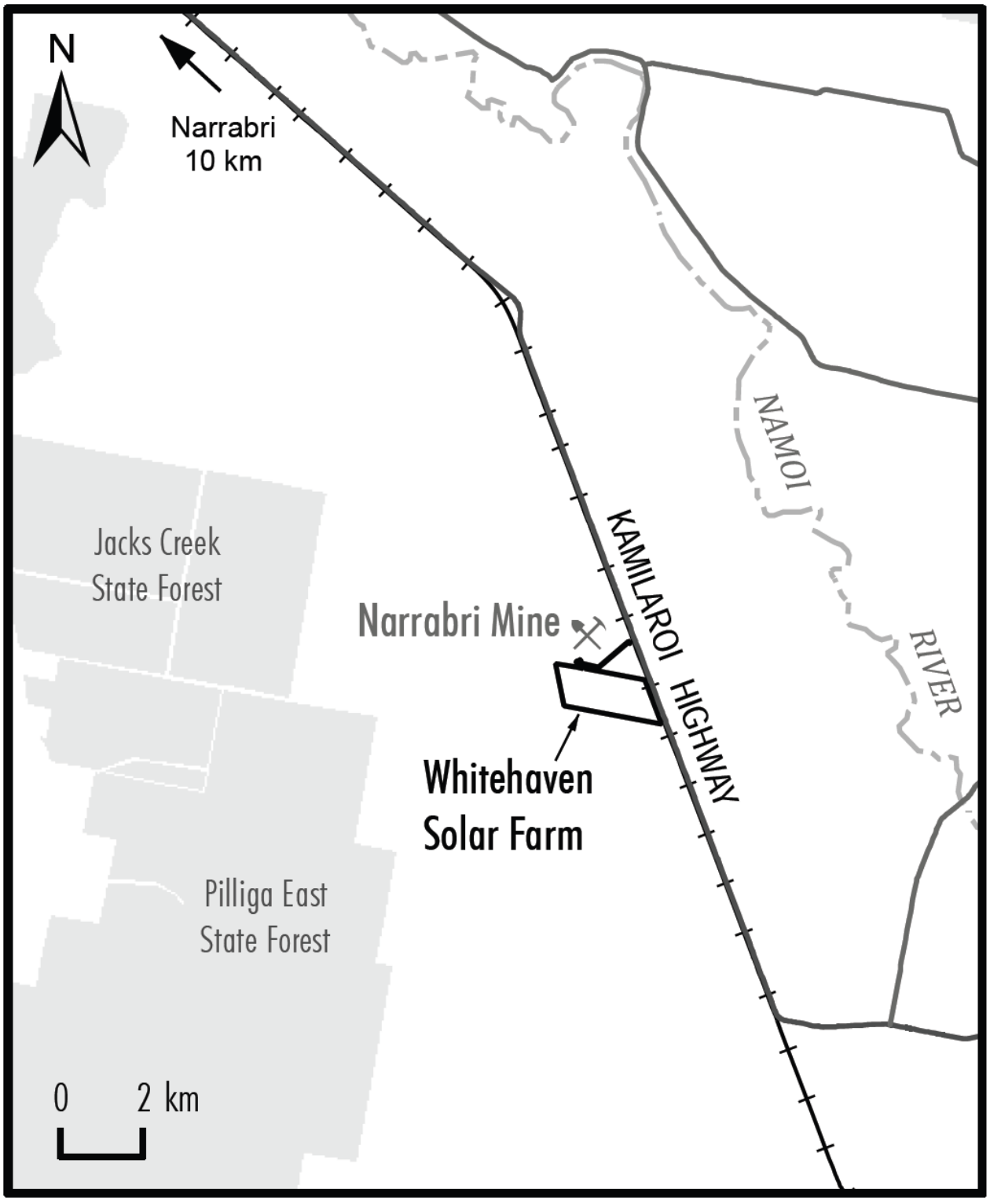
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11 January 2024

Jason Wilson
23 Clews Street
DUBBO
NSW 2830

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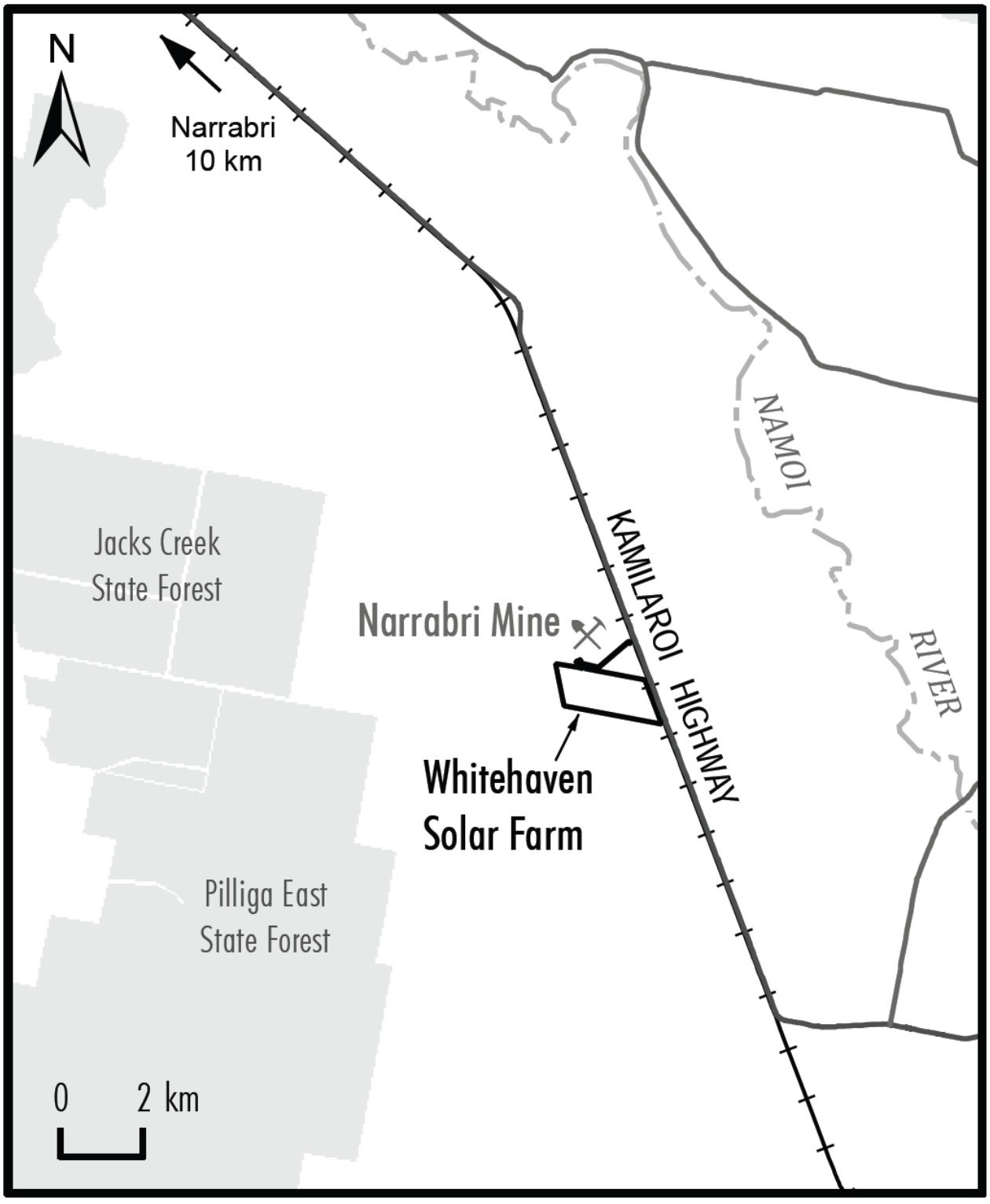
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11 January 2024

Jeremy Duncan
98 Voss Road
ASHFORD
NSW 2361

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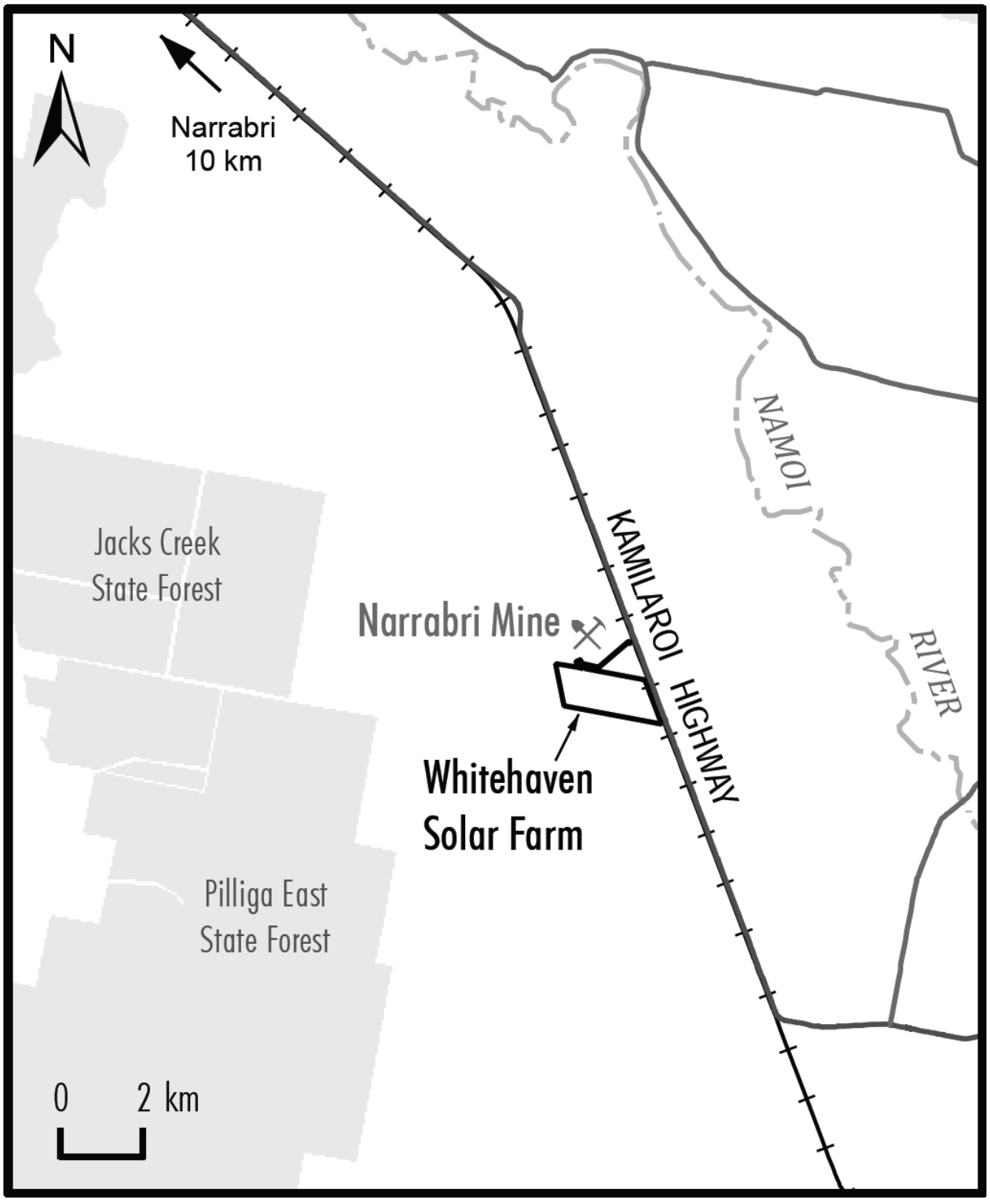
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11 January 2024

Jodie Mckinnon
100 Stock Road
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

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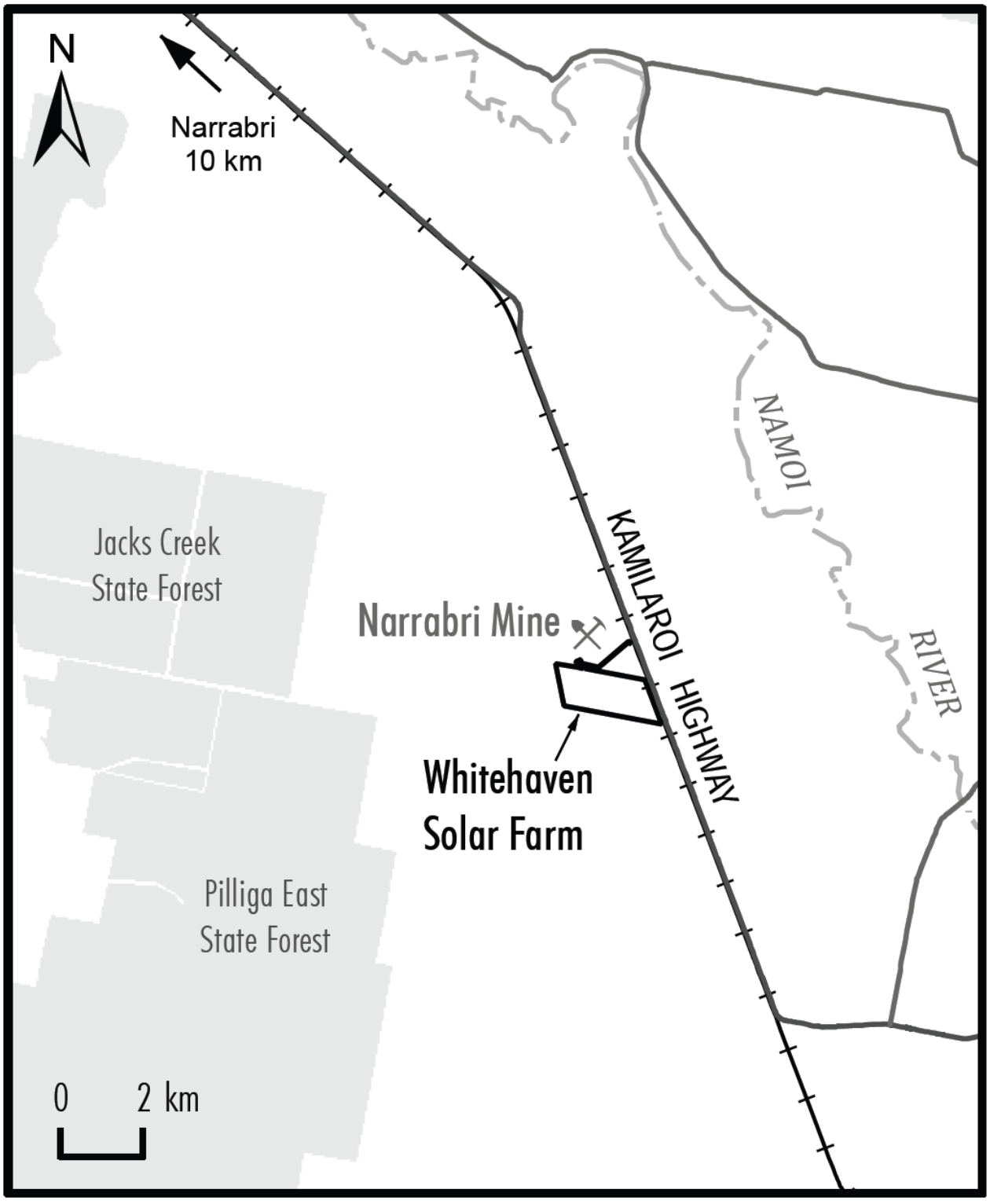
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0
2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | |
| **Registered Aboriginal Party (if different to above)** | |
| **Email Address** | |
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| **Postal Address (if different to above)** | |
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11 January 2024

John Mathews
16/A Mahogany Avenue
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

Dear John,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent (SSD Consent) for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) (herein referred to as Consultation Guidelines), the purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist Whitehaven in the preparation of an application for an SSD Consent for the Project and to assist the consent authority in its consideration and determination of this application under the EP&A Act.

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- Placing a notice in a local newspaper explaining the Project and inviting Aboriginal persons or groups to register an interest in the community consultation process for the Project.

Should you wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above, could you please provide your details in the enclosed form and return to Whitehaven before 5:00 pm on 30 January 2024 via the following contact details:

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Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

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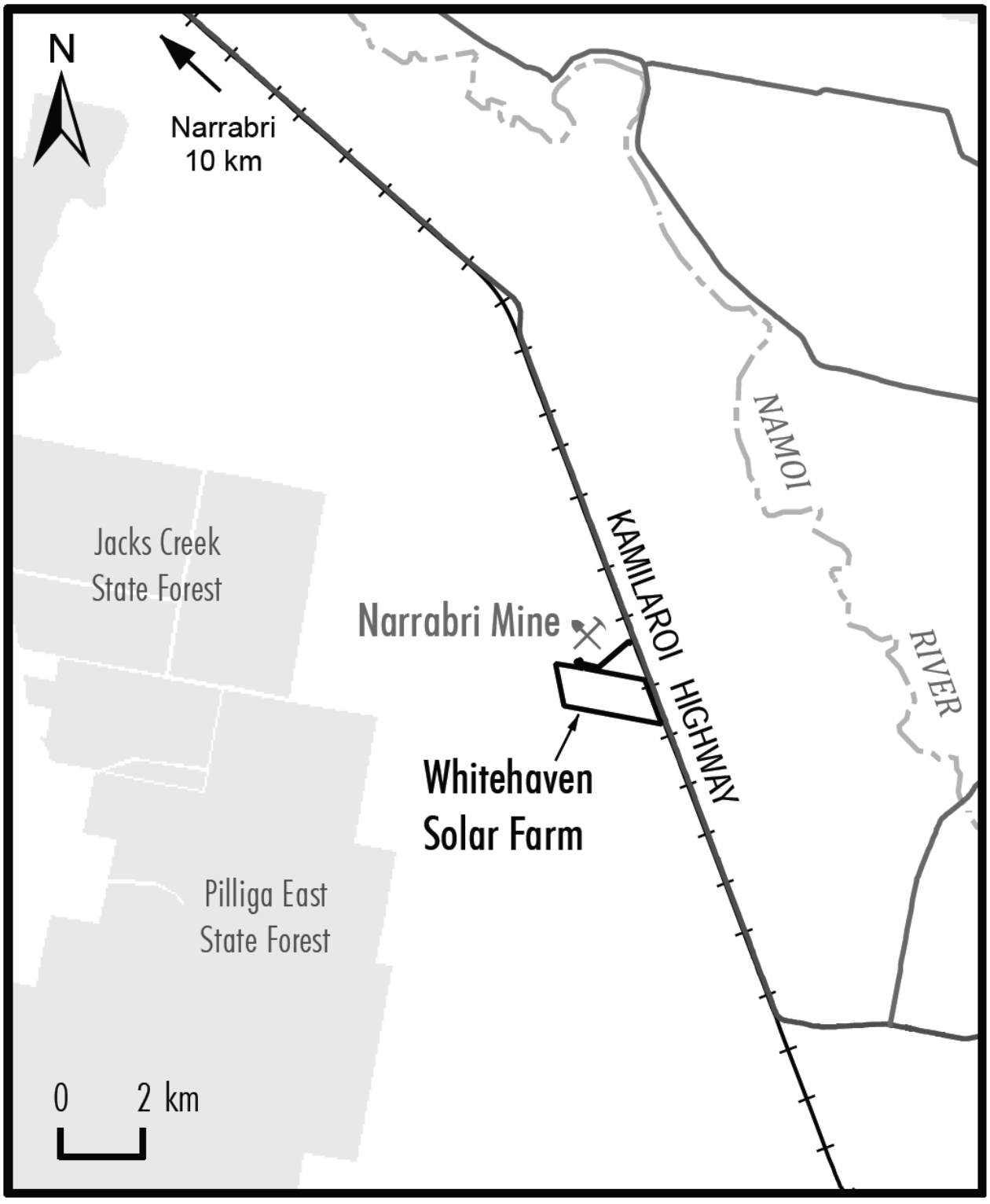
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
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10 km
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11 January 2024

Joshua Mathews
21 Bando Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Joshua,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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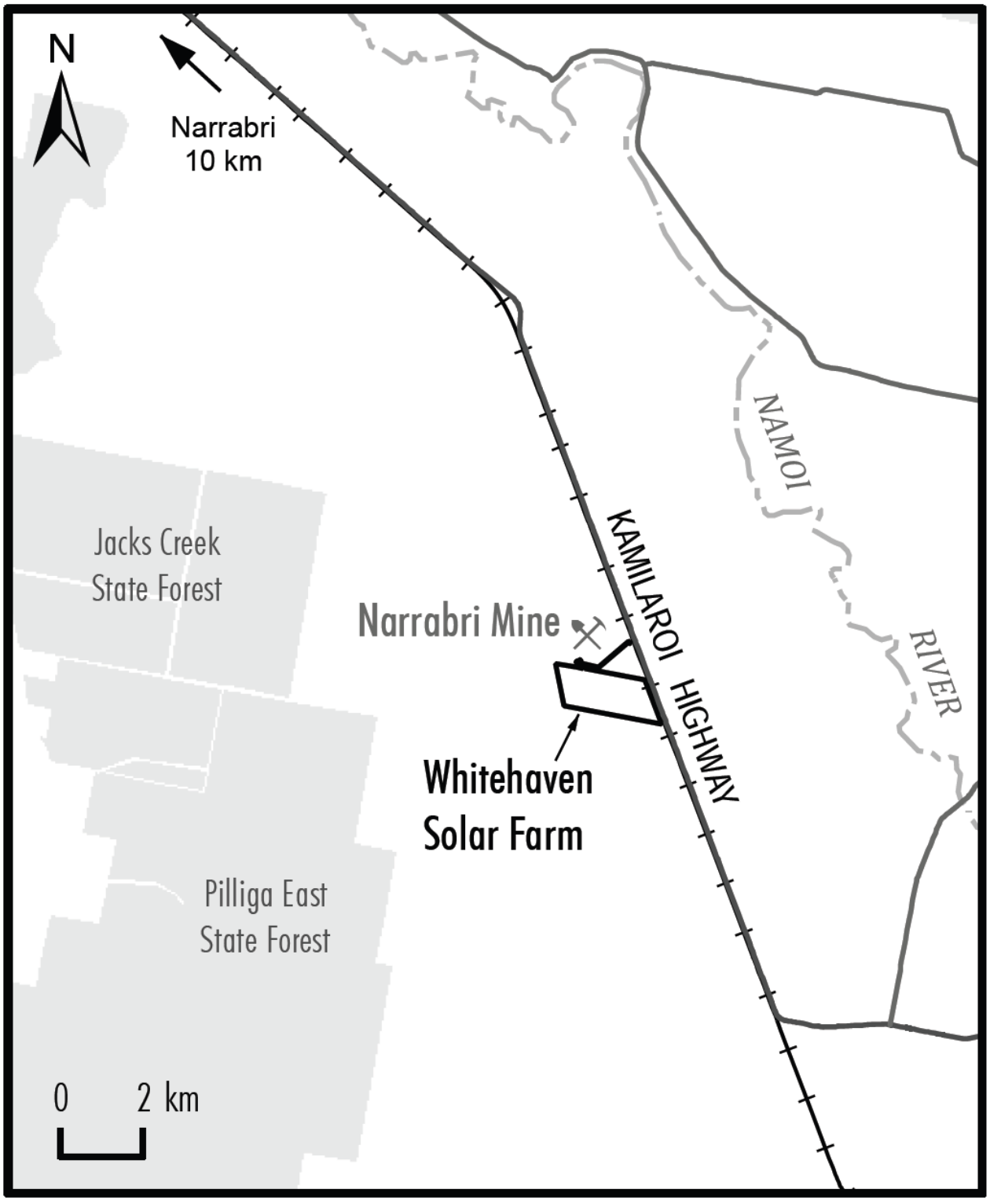
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11 January 2024

Justin Mathews
16/B Mahogany Avenue
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

Dear Justin,

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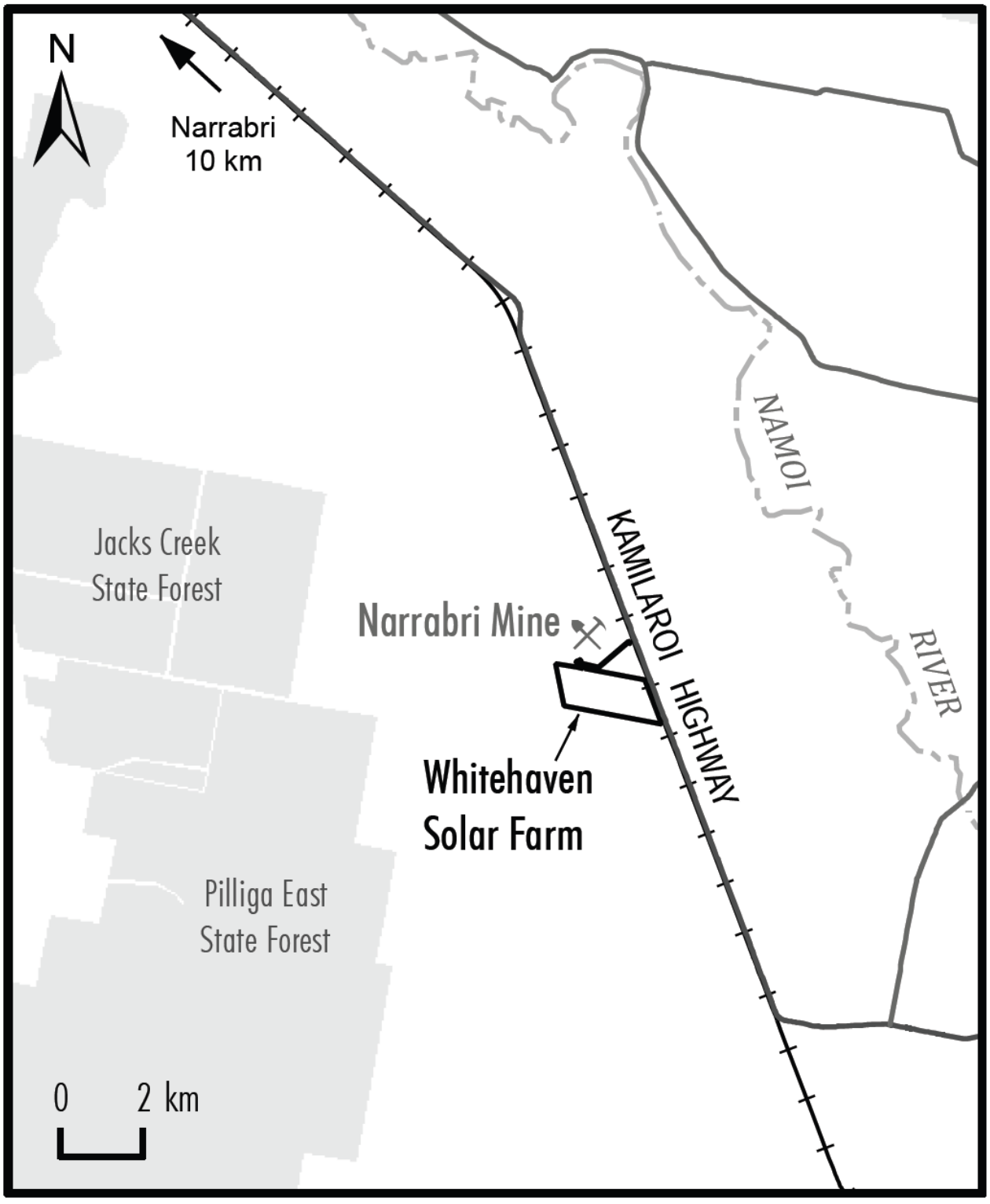
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General Manager Community Engagement

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11 January 2024

Kelvin Boney
Wallanbah Aboriginal Site Conveyancing
153 Francis Street
LILYFIELD
NSW 2040

Dear Kelvin,

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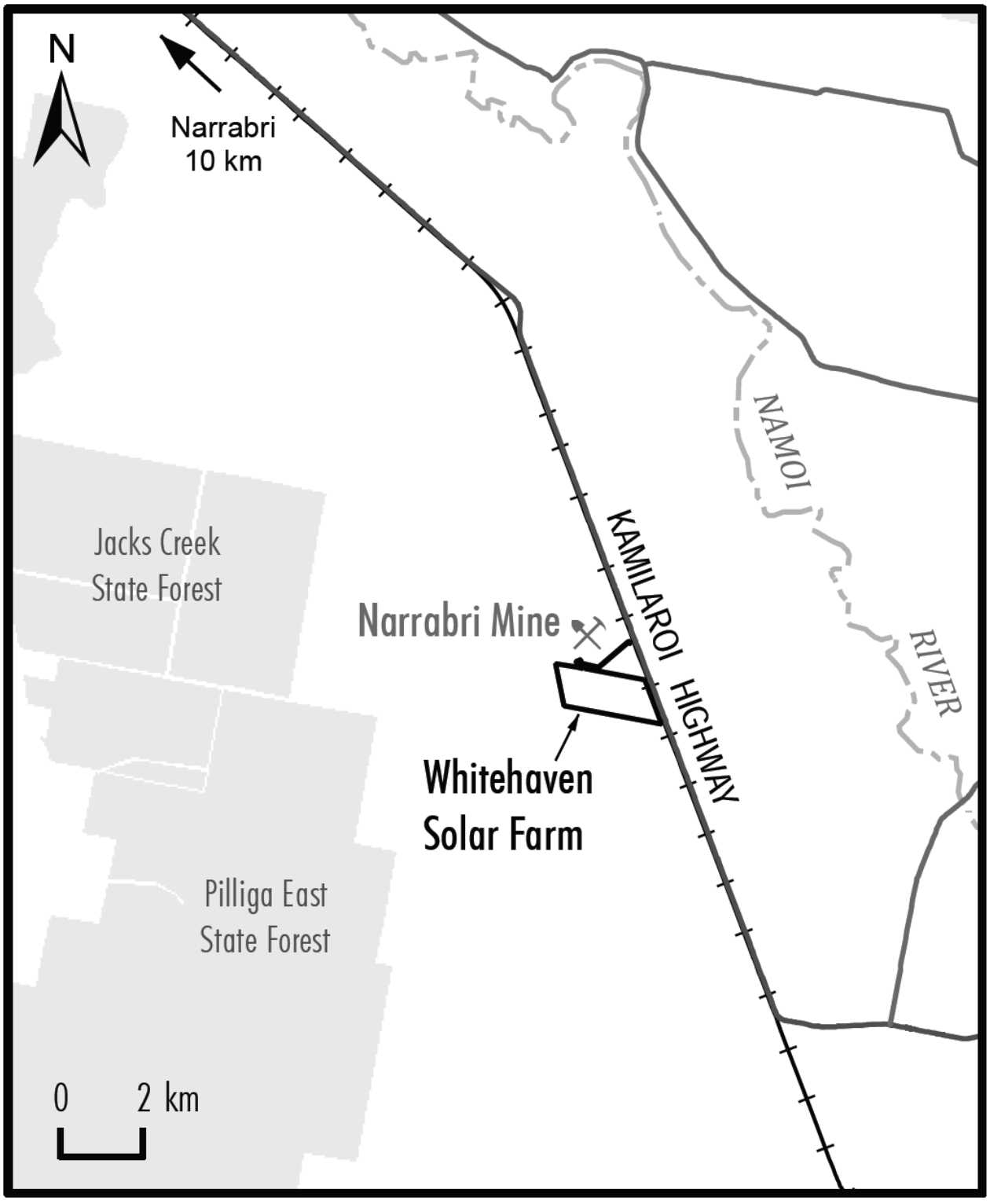
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11 January 2024

Liza Talbot
Edgerton Kwiembal AC
PO Box 45
ASHFORD
NSW 2361

Dear Liza,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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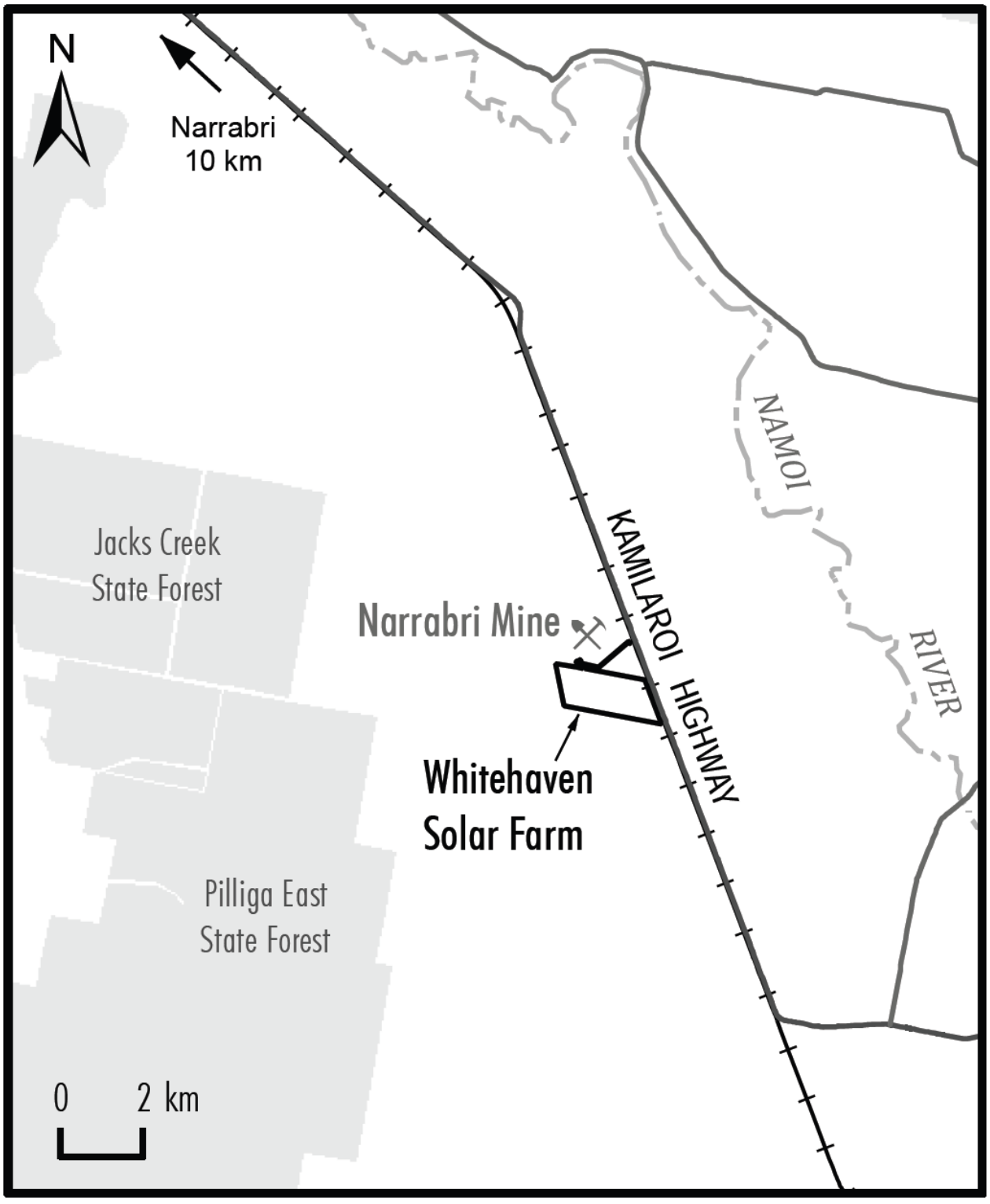
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**Darren Swain**
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11 January 2024

Lorraine Towney
32 Dewhurst Street
QUIRINDI
NSW 2343

Dear Lorraine,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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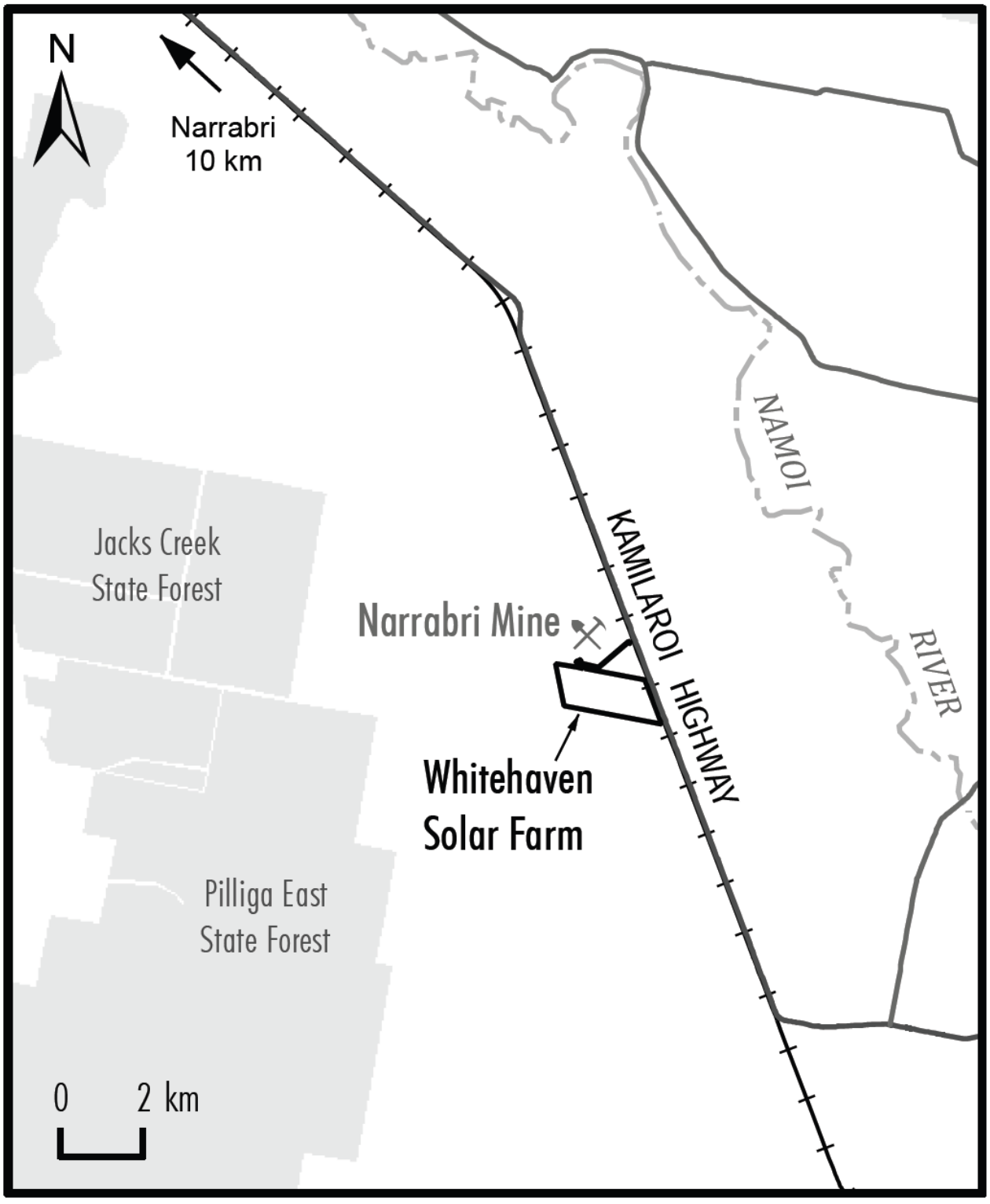
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11 January 2024

Luke Cameron
Luke Cameron Cultural Management
28 Herbert Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Luke,

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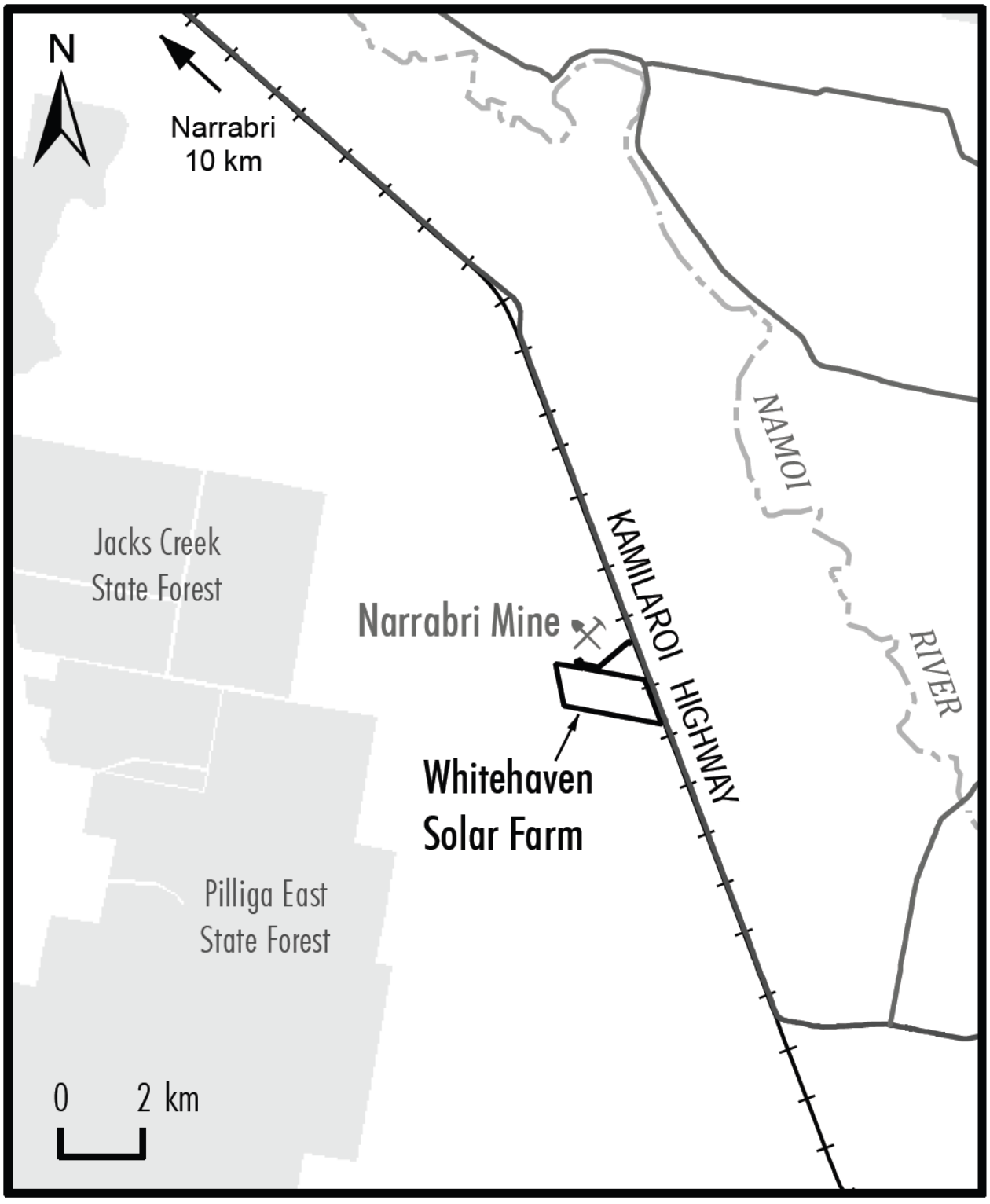
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


N
Narrabri
10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
State Forest
0
2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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11 January 2024

Marie-Ellen Griffiths
ME Griffiths Cultural Management
10 Herbert Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Marie-Ellen,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent (SSD Consent) for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) (herein referred to as Consultation Guidelines), the purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist Whitehaven in the preparation of an application for an SSD Consent for the Project and to assist the consent authority in its consideration and determination of this application under the EP&A Act.

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- Writing to the Aboriginal persons or groups identified by the above process to notify them of the Project and invite them to register an interest in the community consultation process.
- Placing a notice in a local newspaper explaining the Project and inviting Aboriginal persons or groups to register an interest in the community consultation process for the Project.

Should you wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above, could you please provide your details in the enclosed form and return to Whitehaven before 5:00 pm on 30 January 2024 via the following contact details:

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Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
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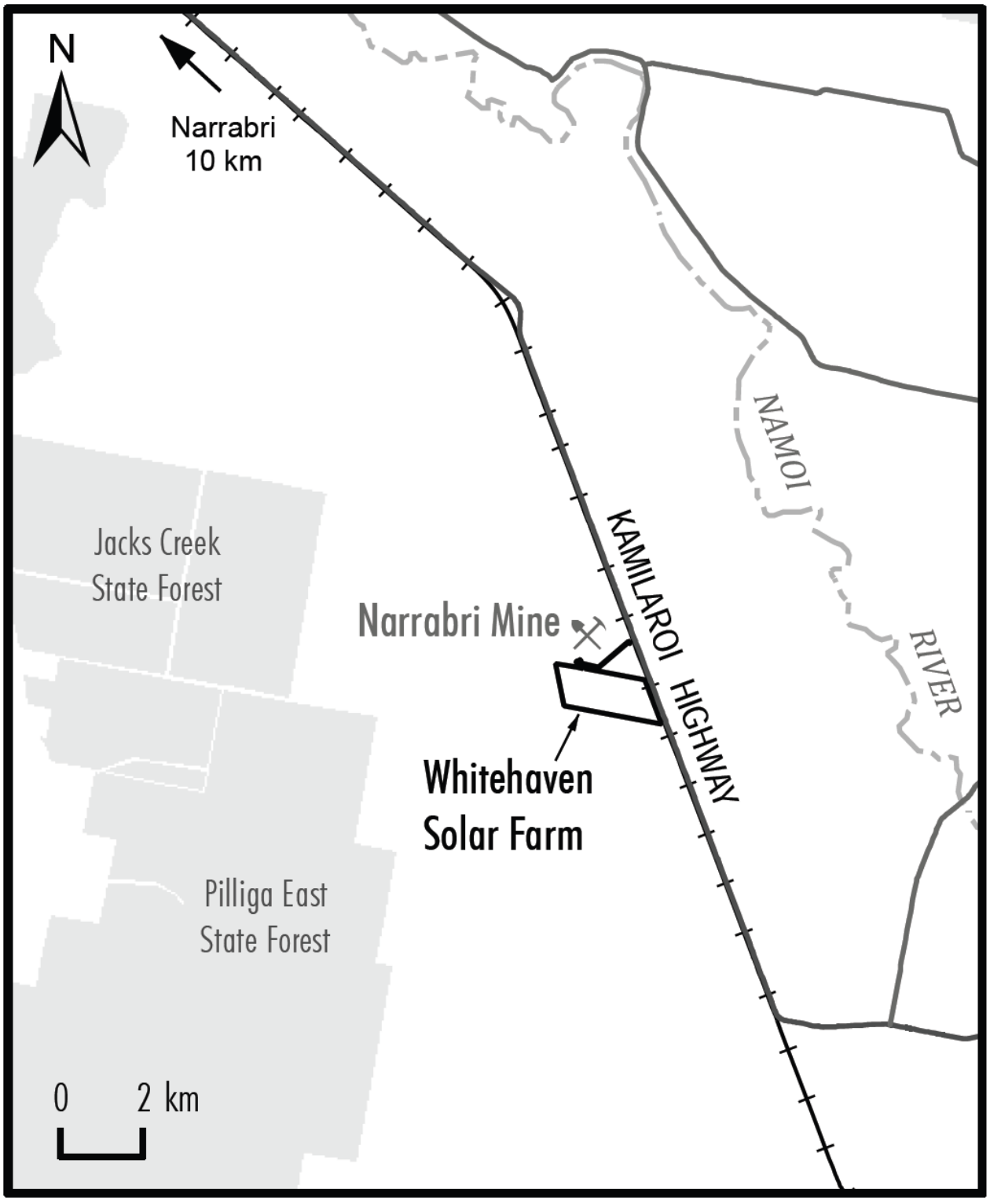
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11 January 2024

Marilyn Carroll-Johnson
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 344
LITHGOW
NSW 2790

Dear Marilyn,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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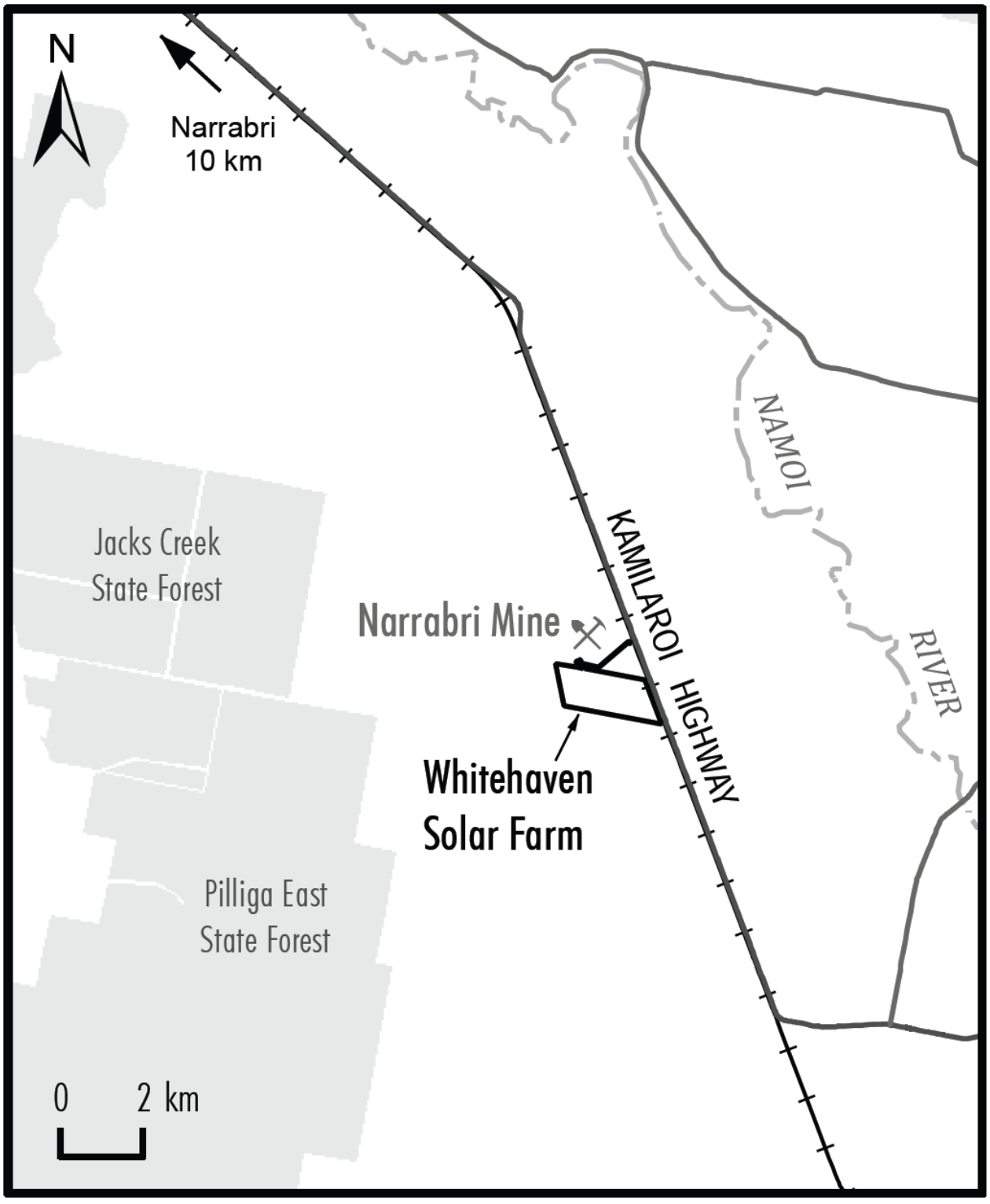
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11 January 2024

Mavonia Welsh
1 Yabsley Avenue
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204

Dear Mavonia,

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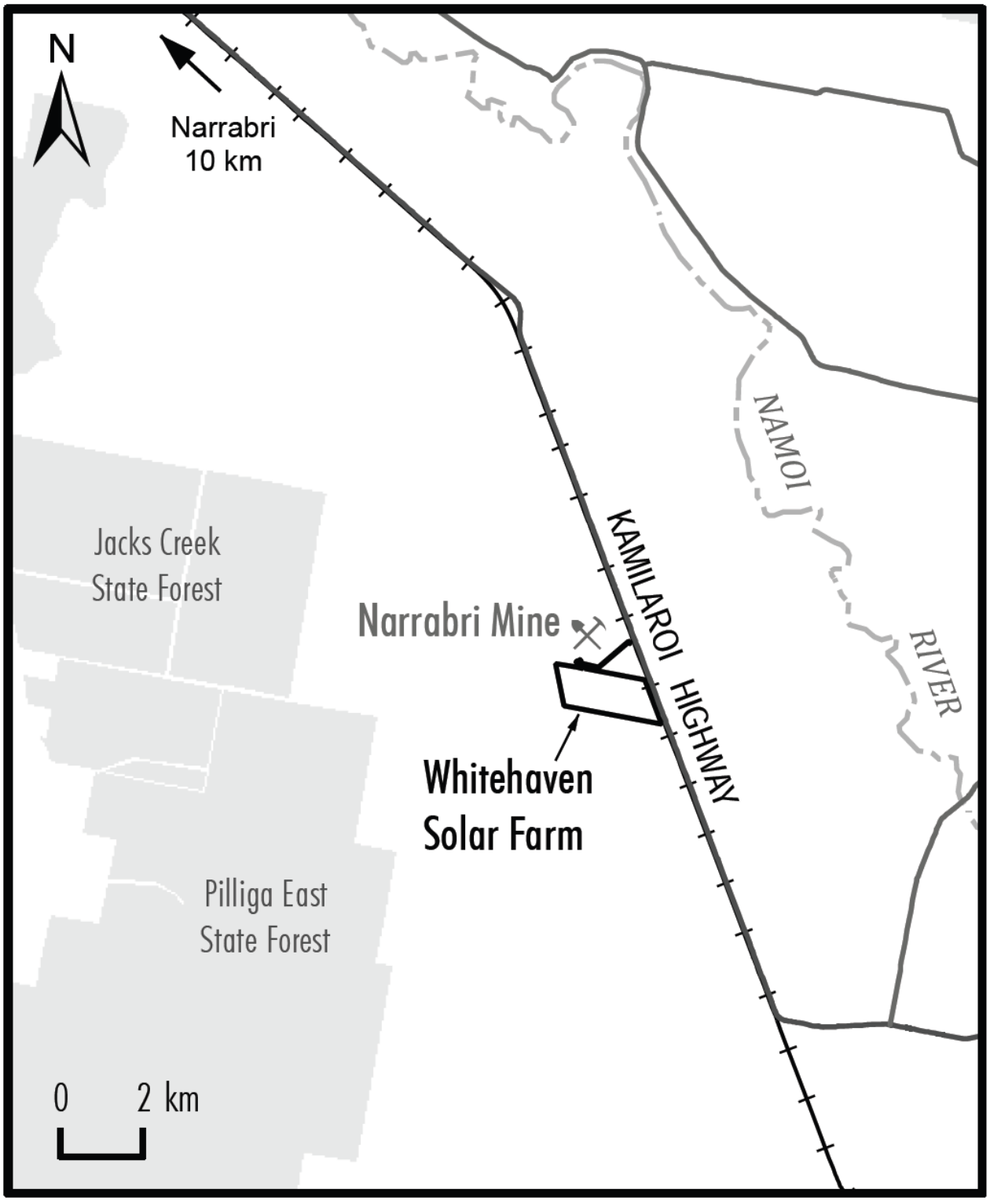
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11 January 2024

Michael John Long
17 Albion Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Michael John,

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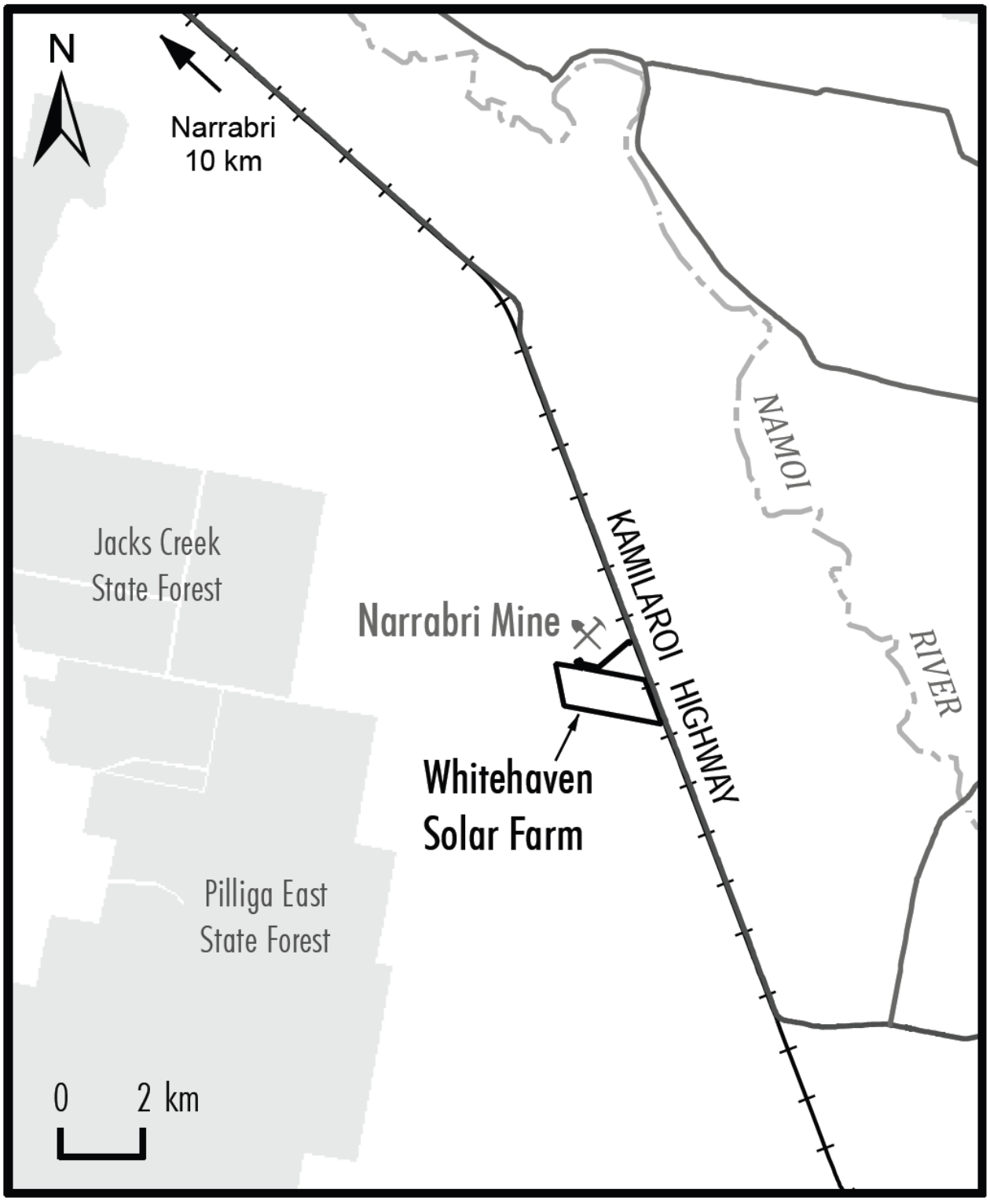
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11 January 2024

Michelle Saunders
24 Walhallow Village
WALLHALLOW
NSW 2340

Dear Michelle,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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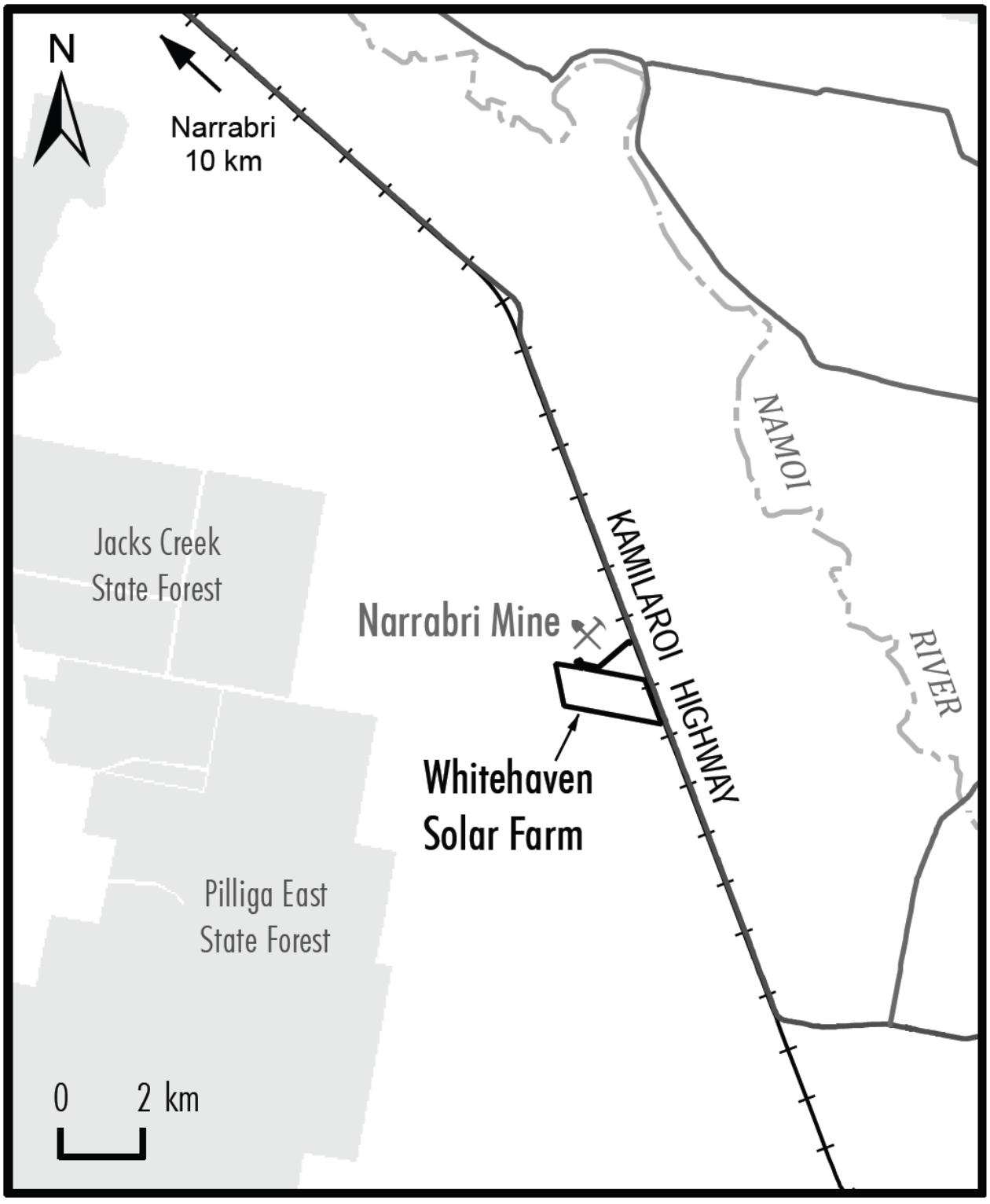
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11 January 2024

Natalene Mercy
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy
13 Hunter Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Natalene,

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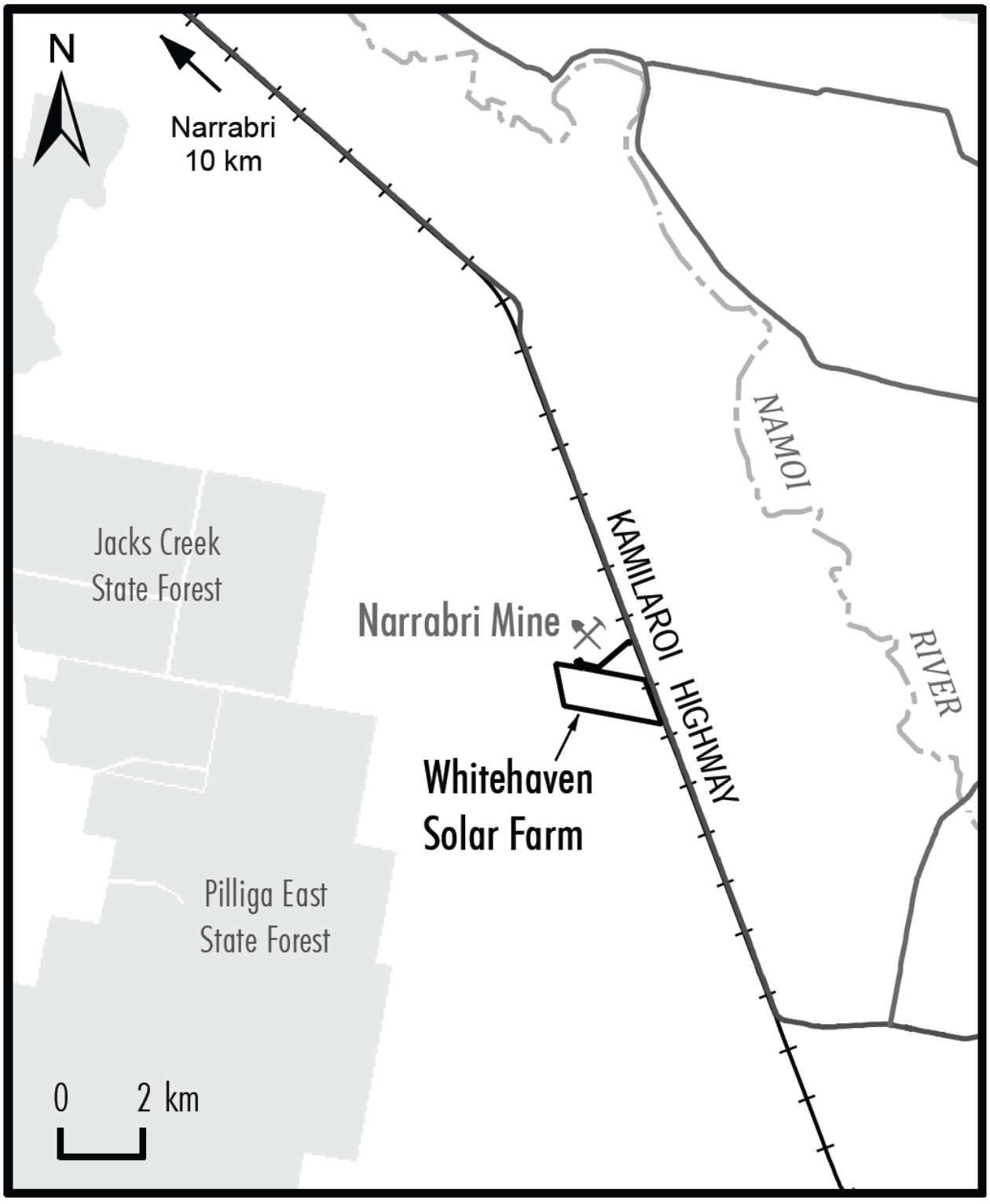
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11 January 2024

Natasha Rodgers
7 Toy Court
WODONGA
VIC 3690

Dear Natasha,

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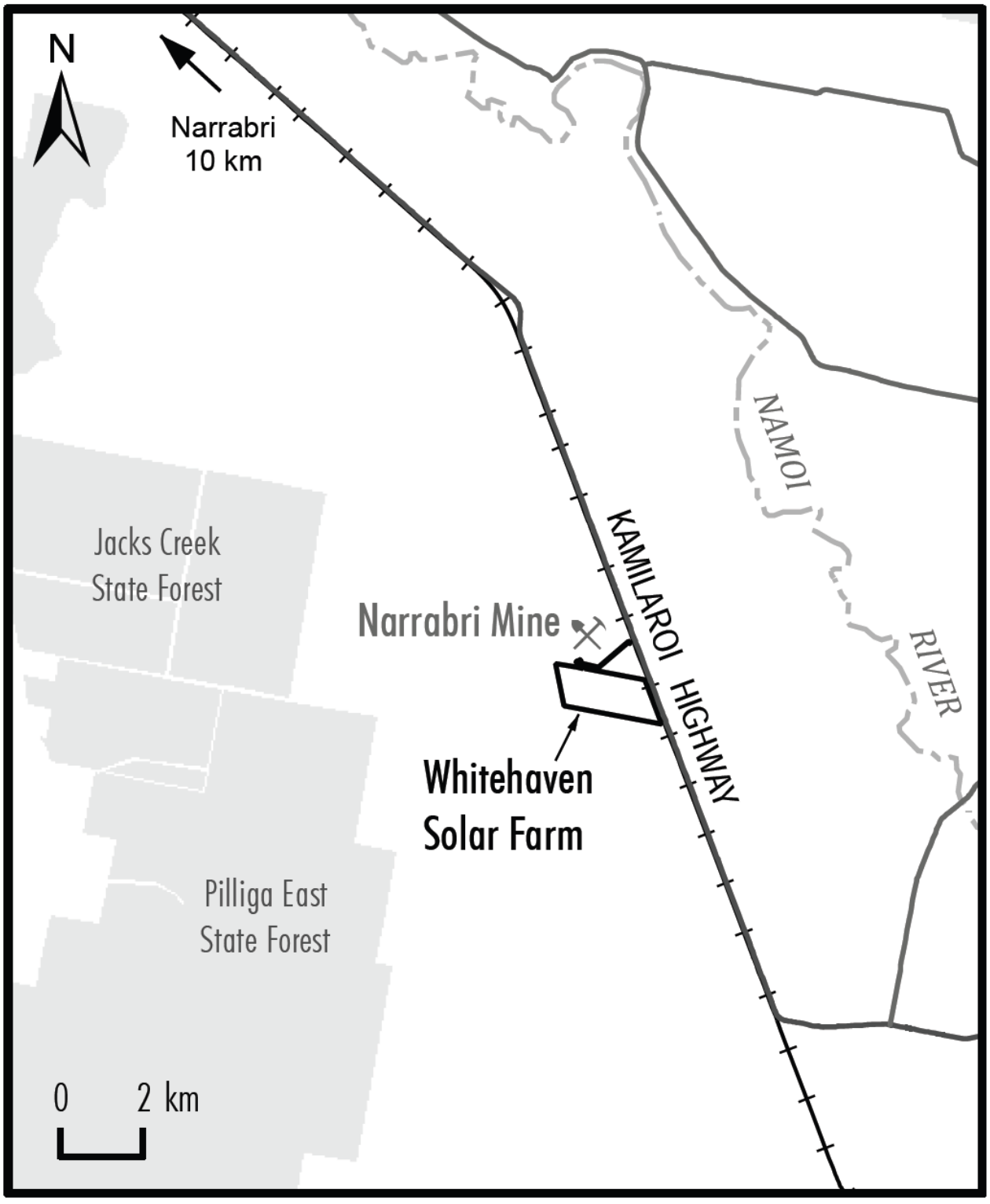
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


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10 km
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RIVER
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Jacks Creek
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**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
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11 January 2024

Patrica Jean Hands
Elli Lewis
20 Acacia Circuit
SINGLETON
NSW 2330

Dear Patrica Jean,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent (SSD Consent) for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

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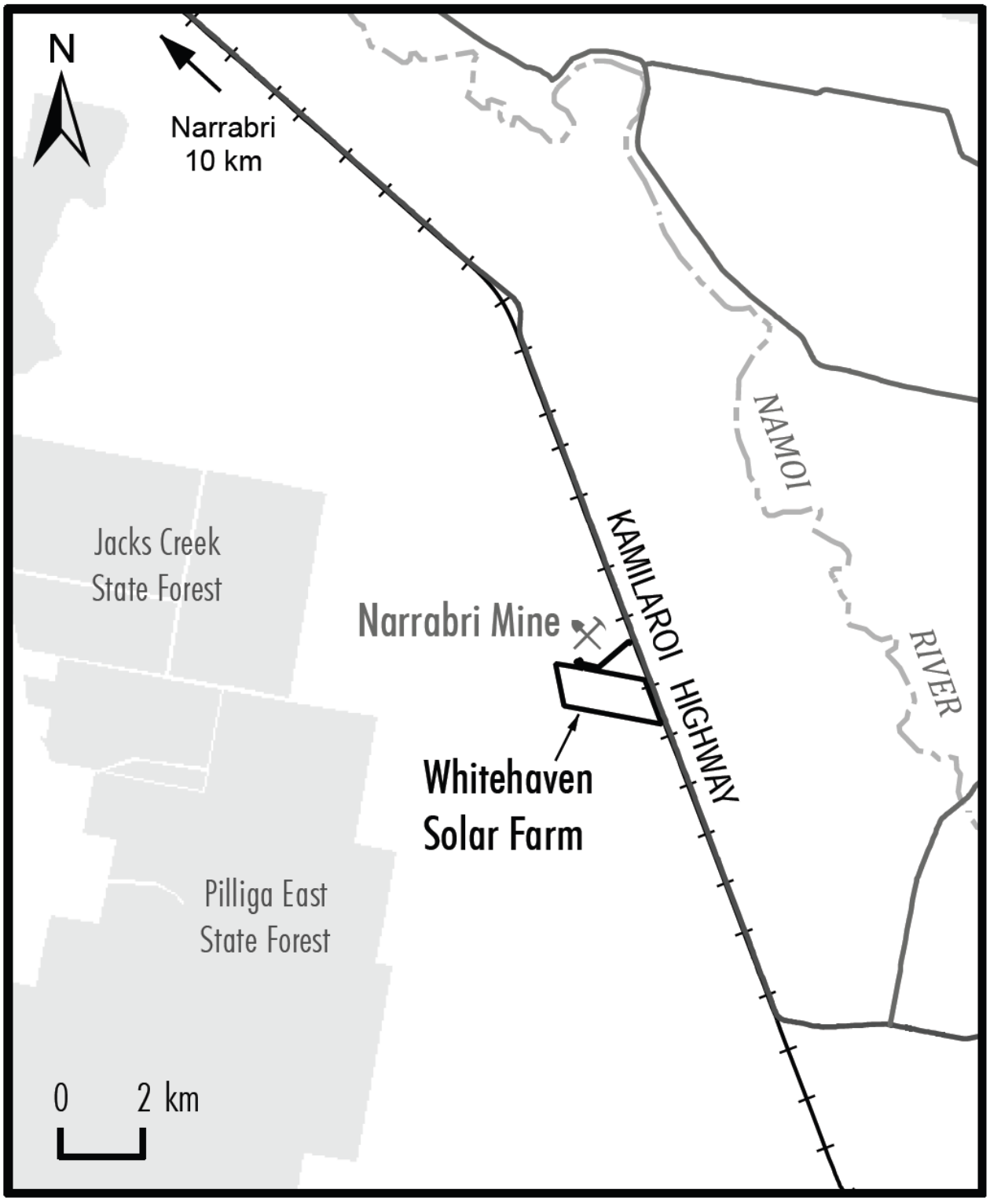
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11 January 2024

Paul Moodie
15 Schwager Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Paul,

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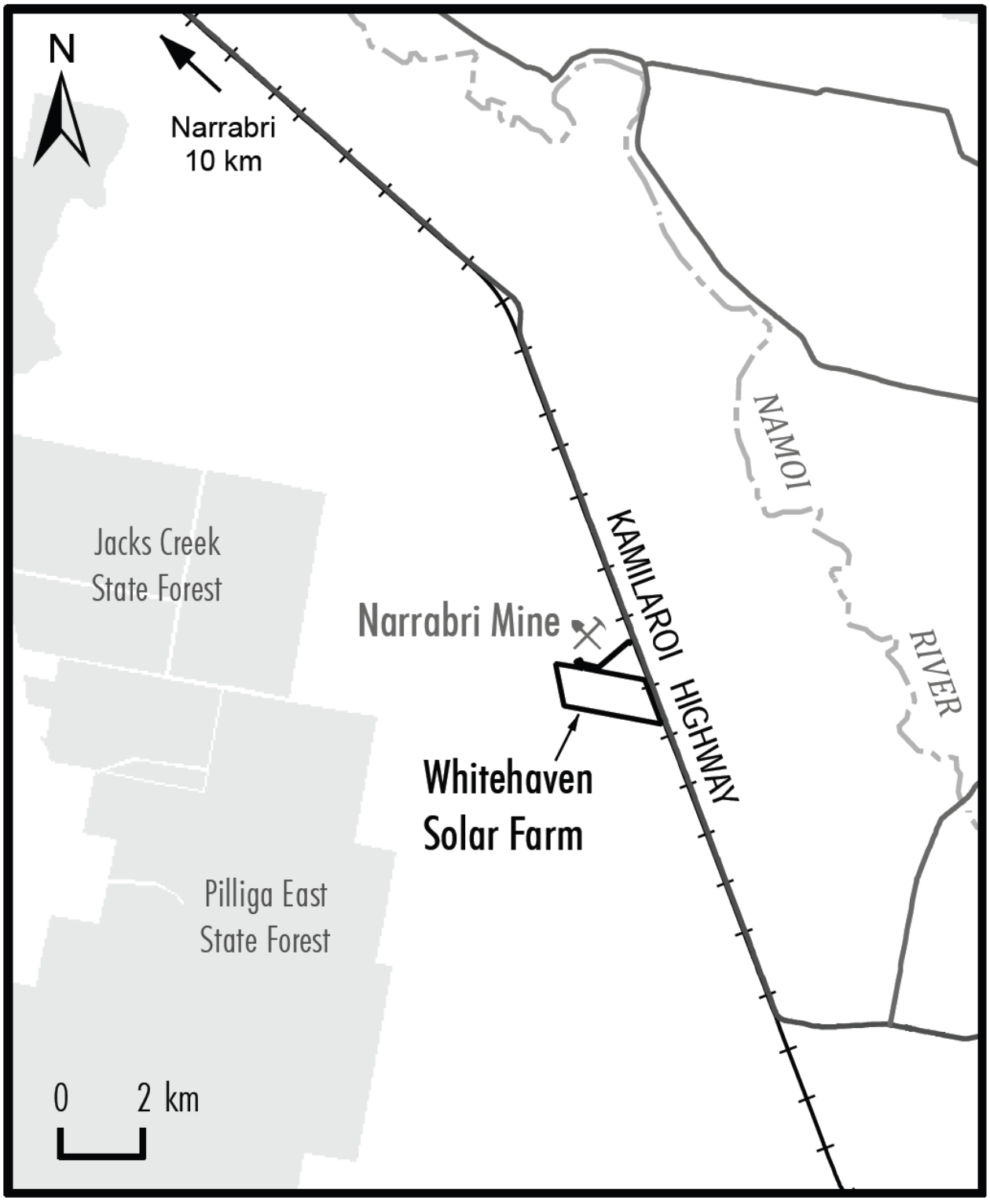
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11 January 2024

Raymond Weatherall
RAW Cultural Healing
8 Rosslyn Drive
CLAYMORE NSW

Dear Raymond,

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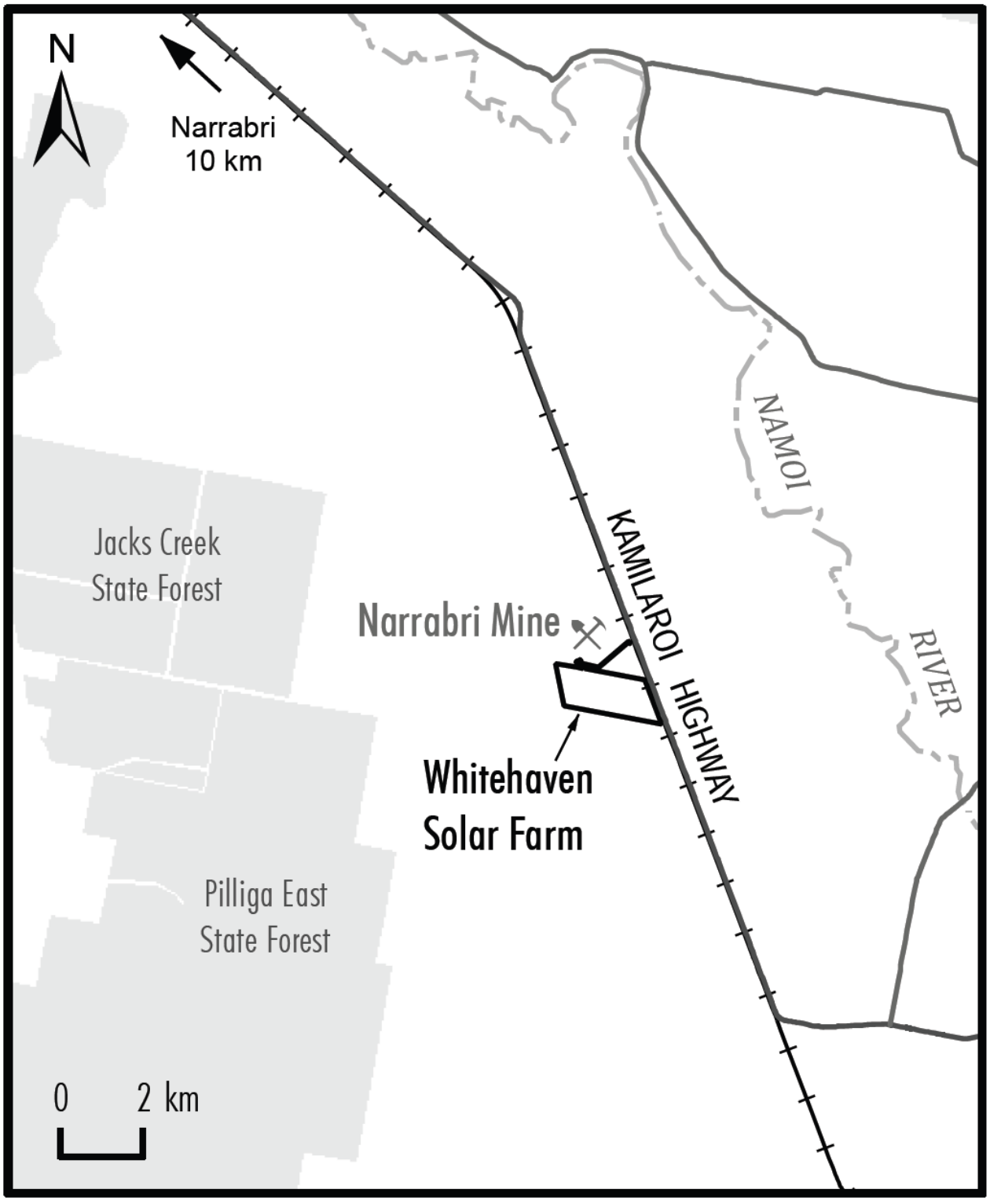
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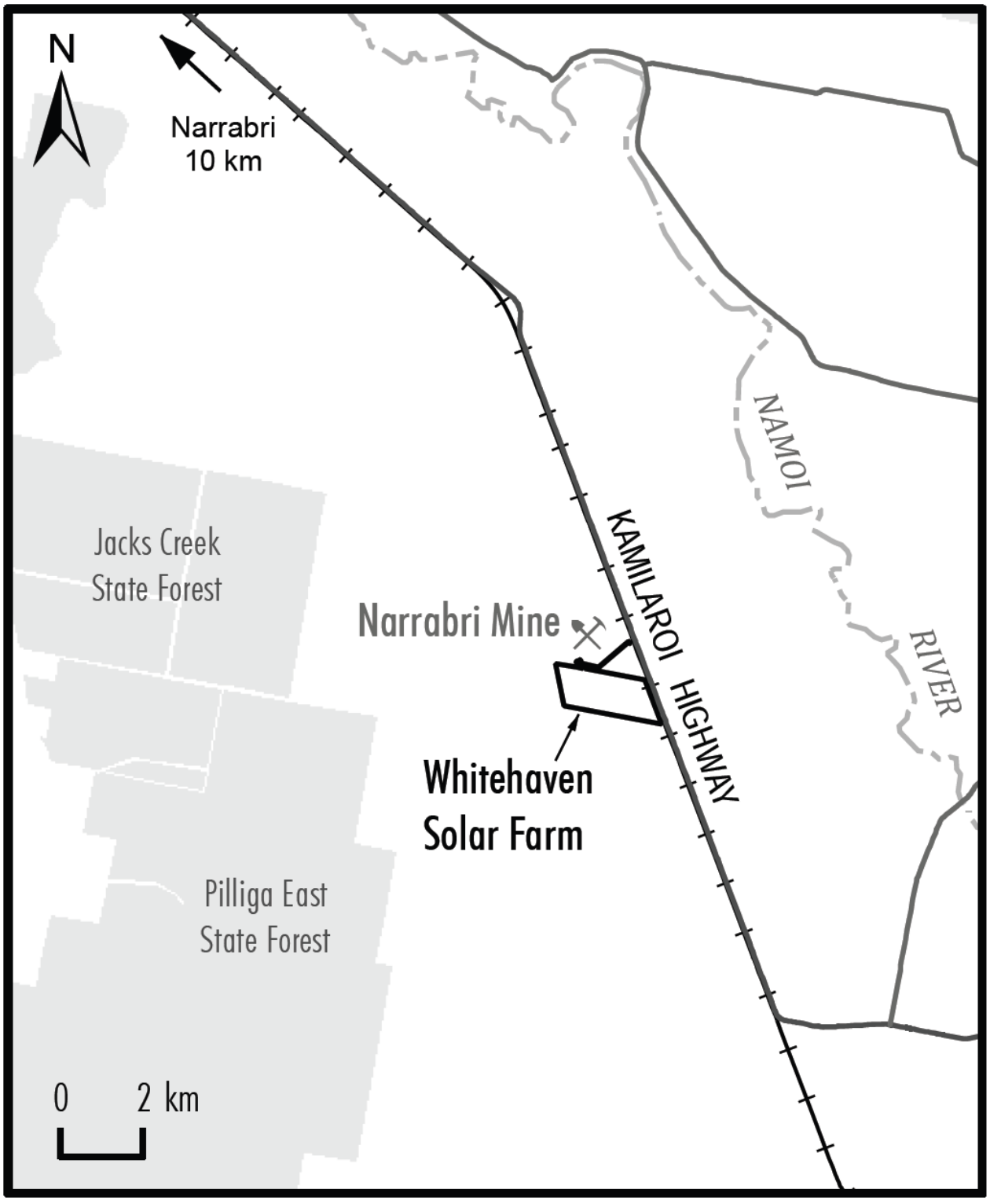
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11 January 2024

Raymond Moon
Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 721
MUDGEE
NSW 2850

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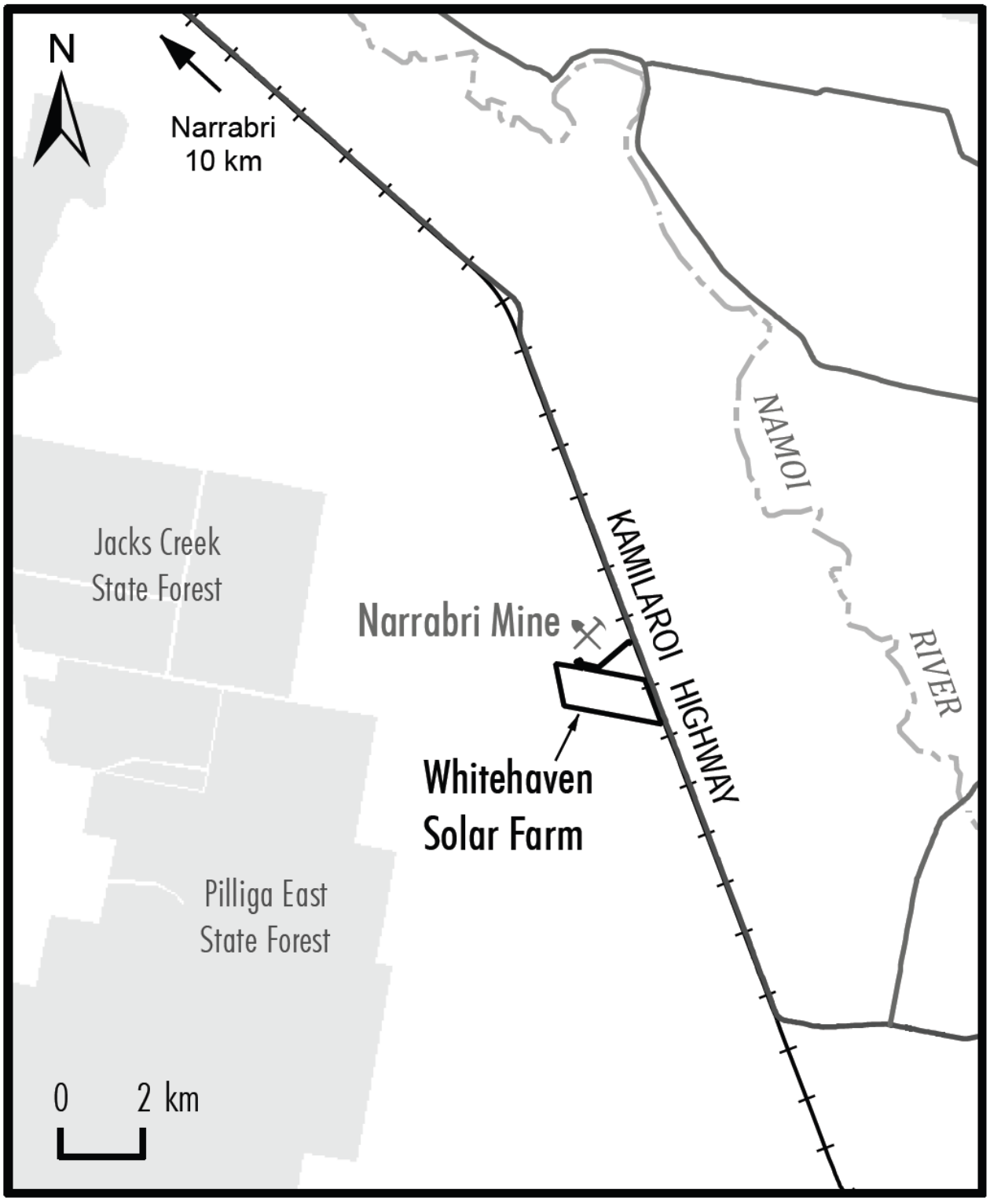
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11 January 2024

Ricky Talbott
Talcon Pty Ltd
32 Farrar Road
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Ricky,

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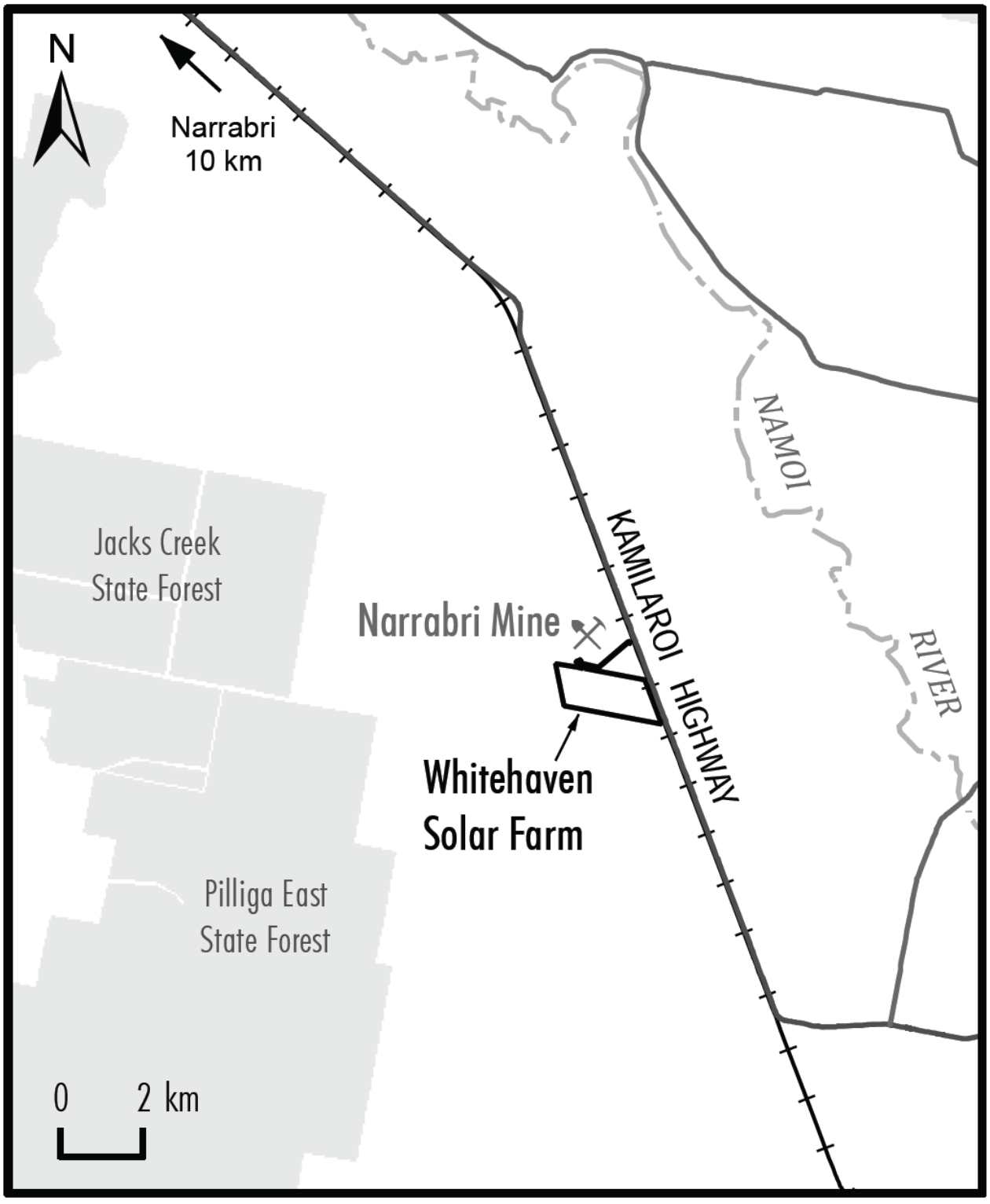
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11 January 2024

Robert Young
Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
2/42 Crawford Road
BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS
NSW 2216

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Should you wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above, could you please provide your details in the enclosed form and return to Whitehaven before 5:00 pm on 30 January 2024 via the following contact details:

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Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

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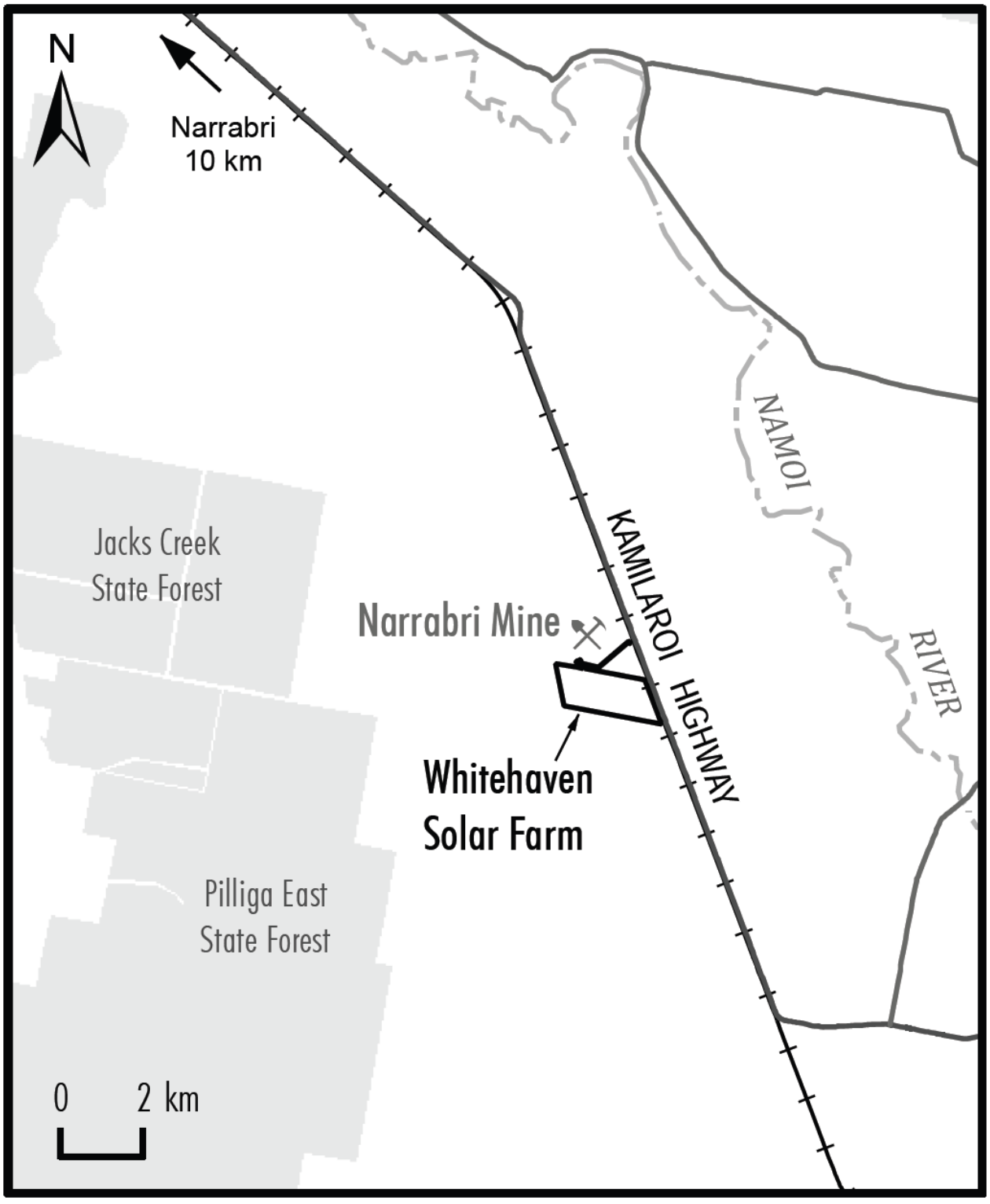
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


N
Narrabri
10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
Pilliga East
State Forest
0
2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | |
| **Registered Aboriginal Party (if different to above)** | |
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| **Telephone Number** | |

11 January 2024

Robert Miller
34 Baxter Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Robert,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

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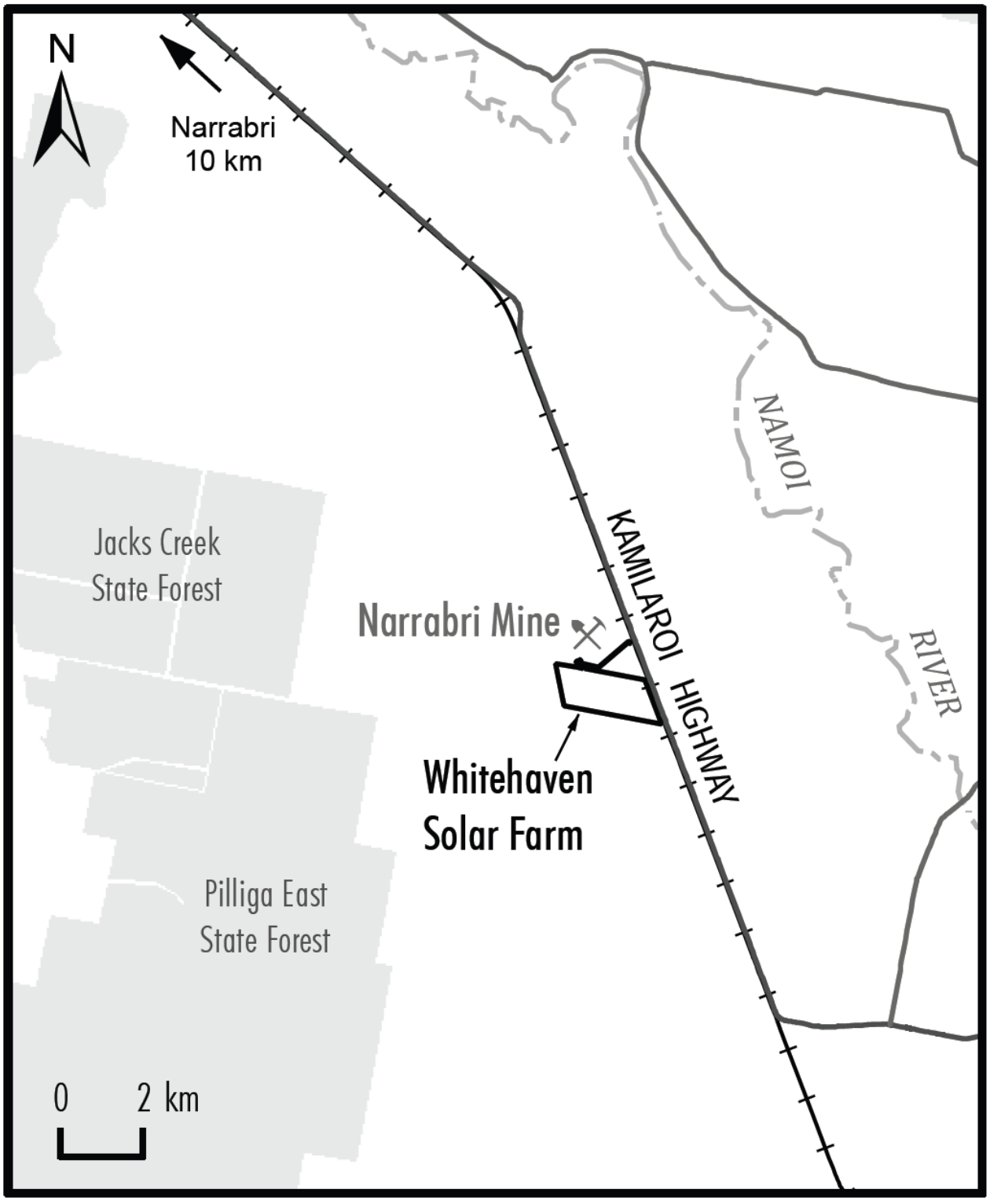
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11 January 2024

Rodney Mathews
8 Fitzgerald Avenue
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

Dear Rodney,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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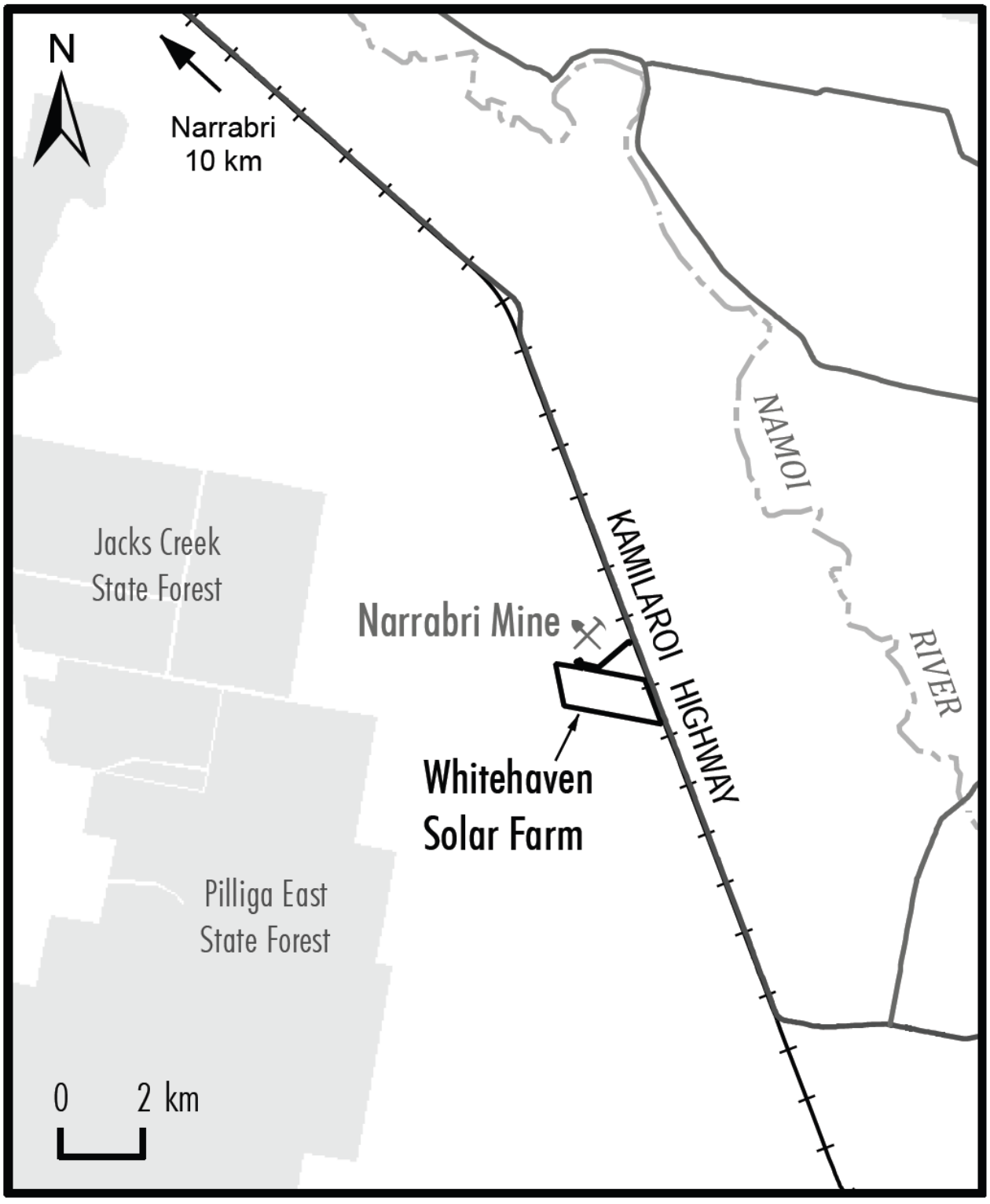
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11 January 2024

Ron Smith
Flat 8 - 6 Hastings River Drive
PORT MACQUARIE
NSW 2444

Dear Ron,

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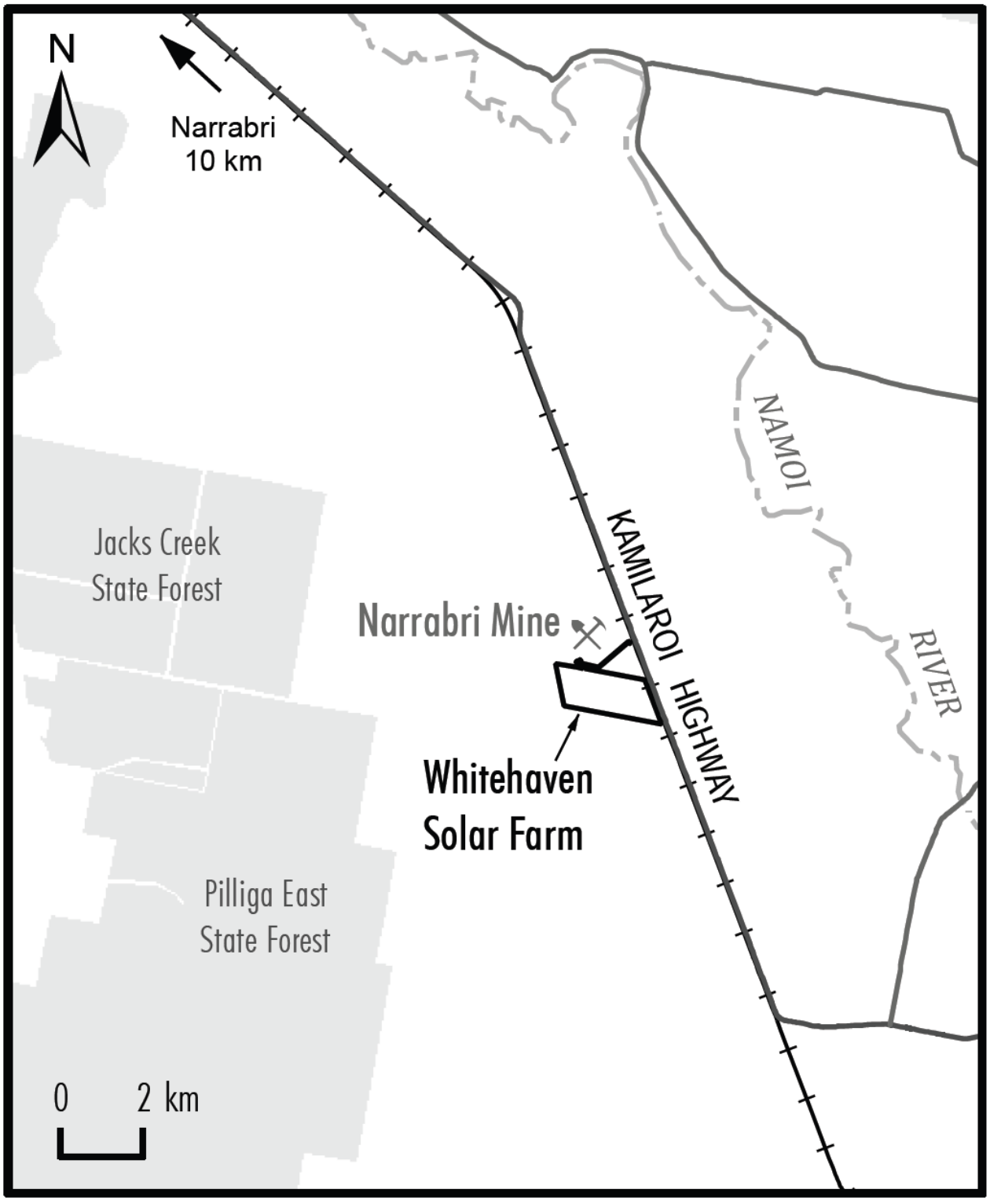
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11 January 2024

Ronald Long
32 High Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Ronald,

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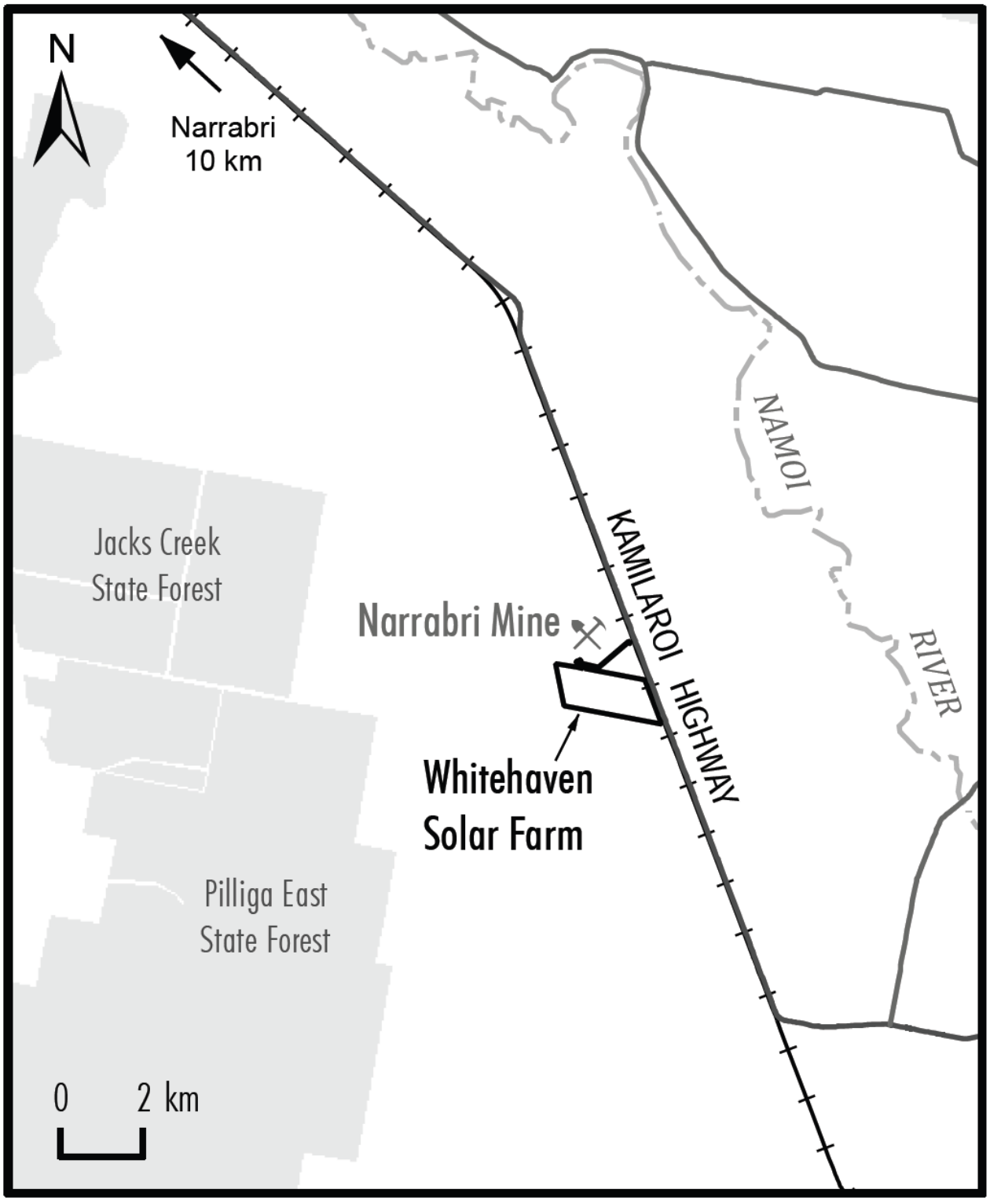
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**Darren Swain**
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11 January 2024

Roslyn Smith
Unit 4, 122 Upper Street
TAMWORTH
NSW 2340

Dear Roslyn,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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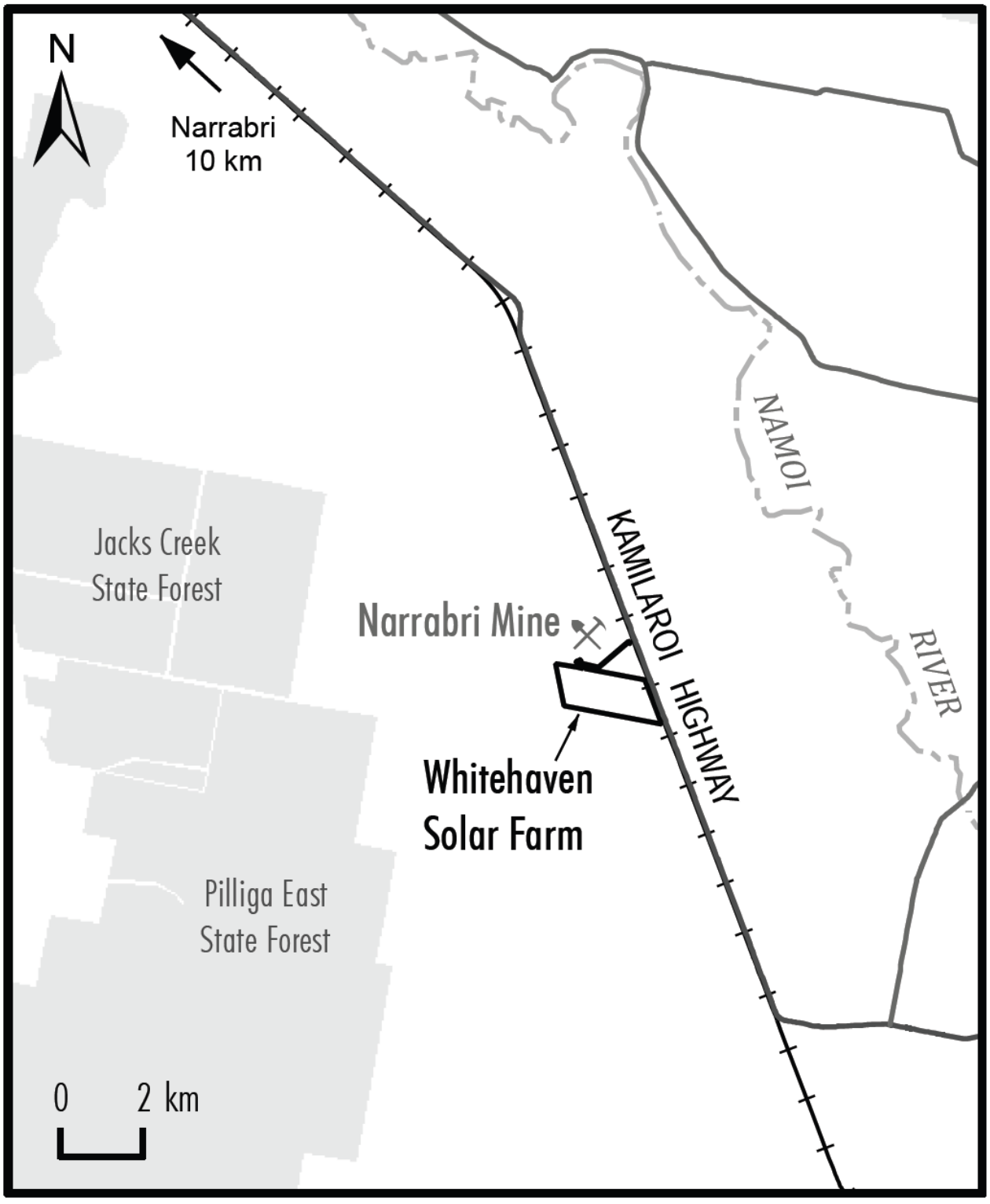
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11 January 2024

Scott Smith
Unit 4, 122 Upper Street
TAMWORTH
NSW 2340

Dear Scott,

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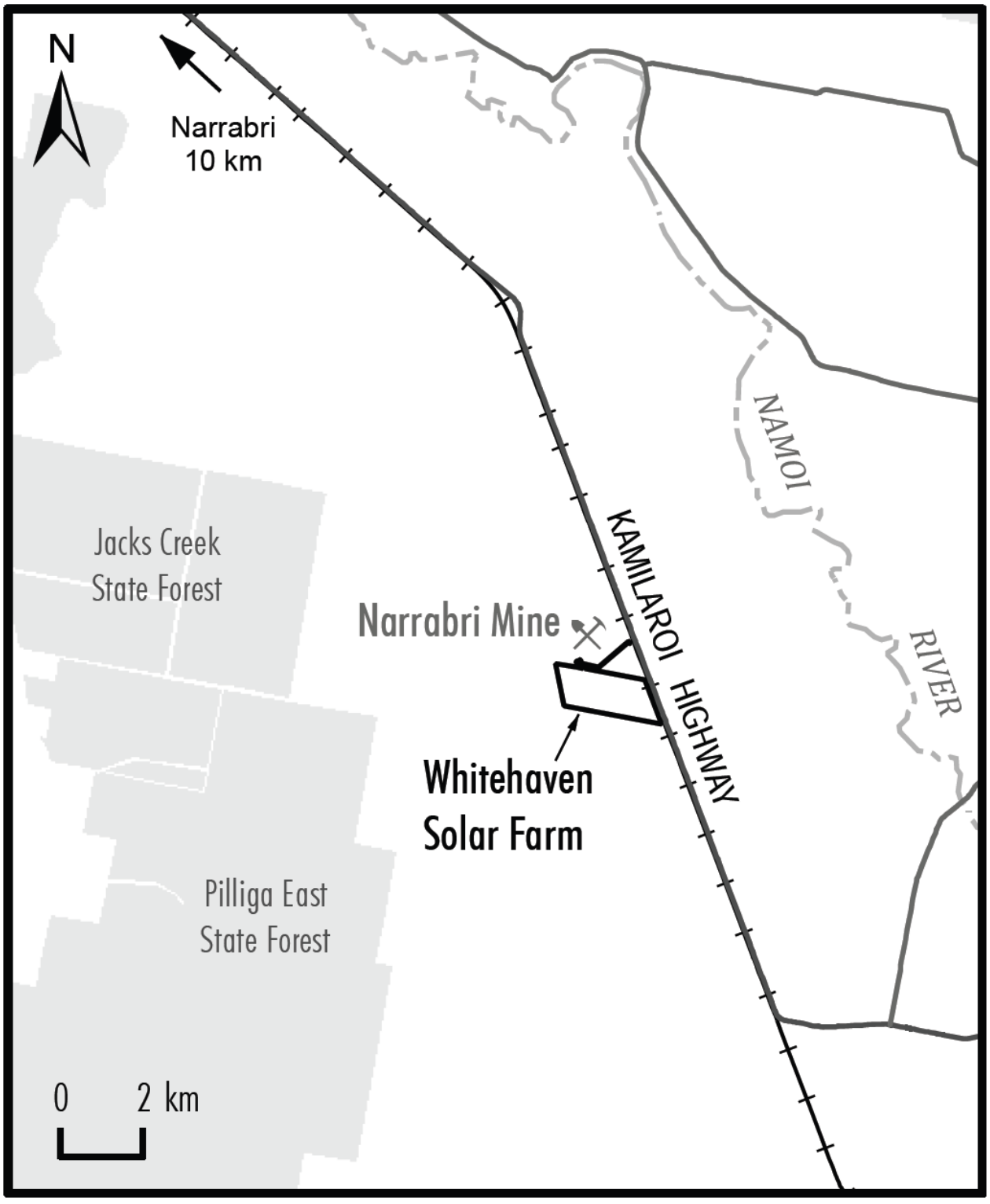
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11 January 2024

Sonny Fitzroy
17 Albion Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Sonny,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent (SSD Consent) for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

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Should you wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above, could you please provide your details in the enclosed form and return to Whitehaven before 5:00 pm on 30 January 2024 via the following contact details:

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Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
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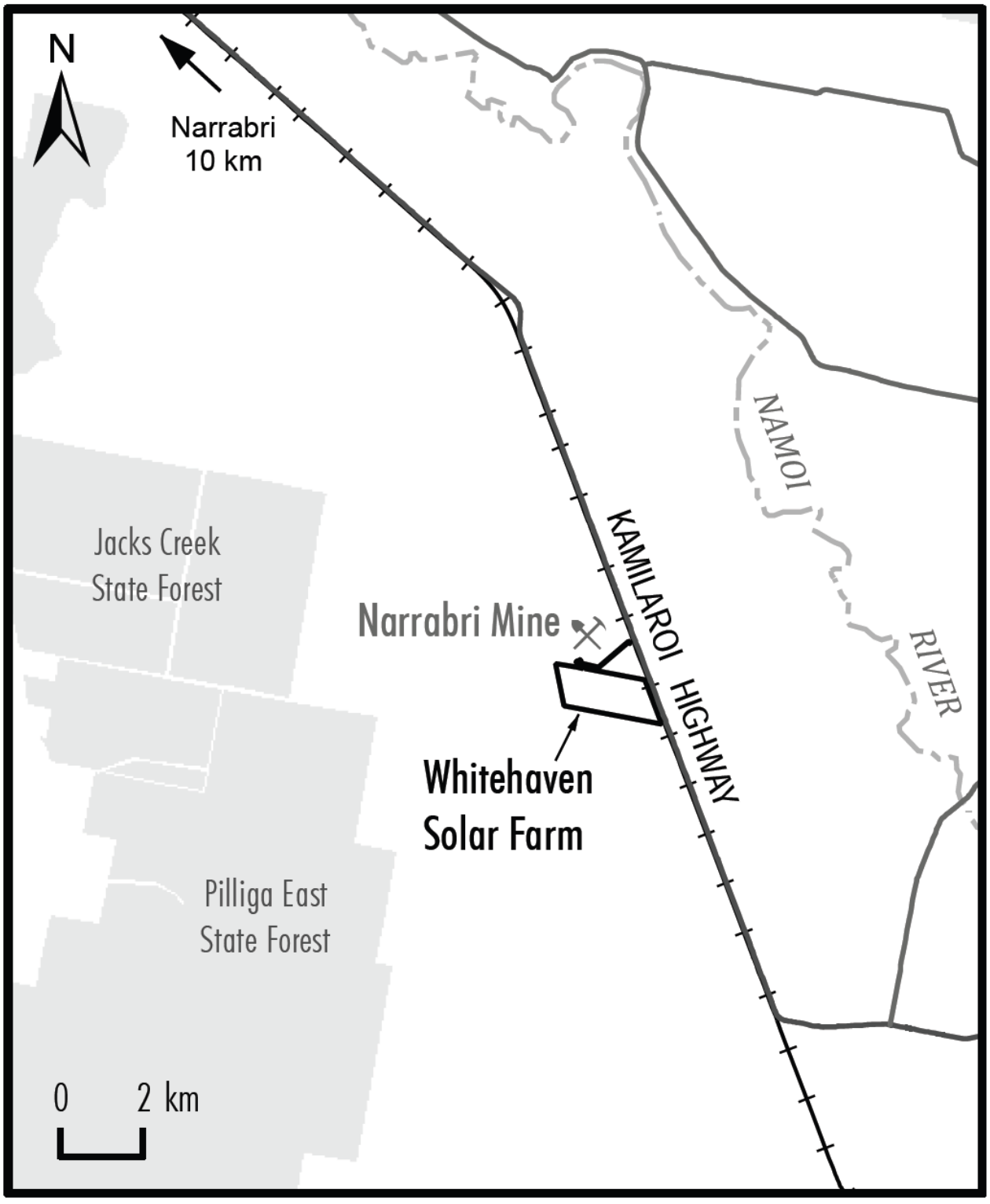
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


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Narrabri
10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
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2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

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11 January 2024

Steve Saunders
35 Walhallow Village
CAROONA
NSW 2343

Dear Steve,

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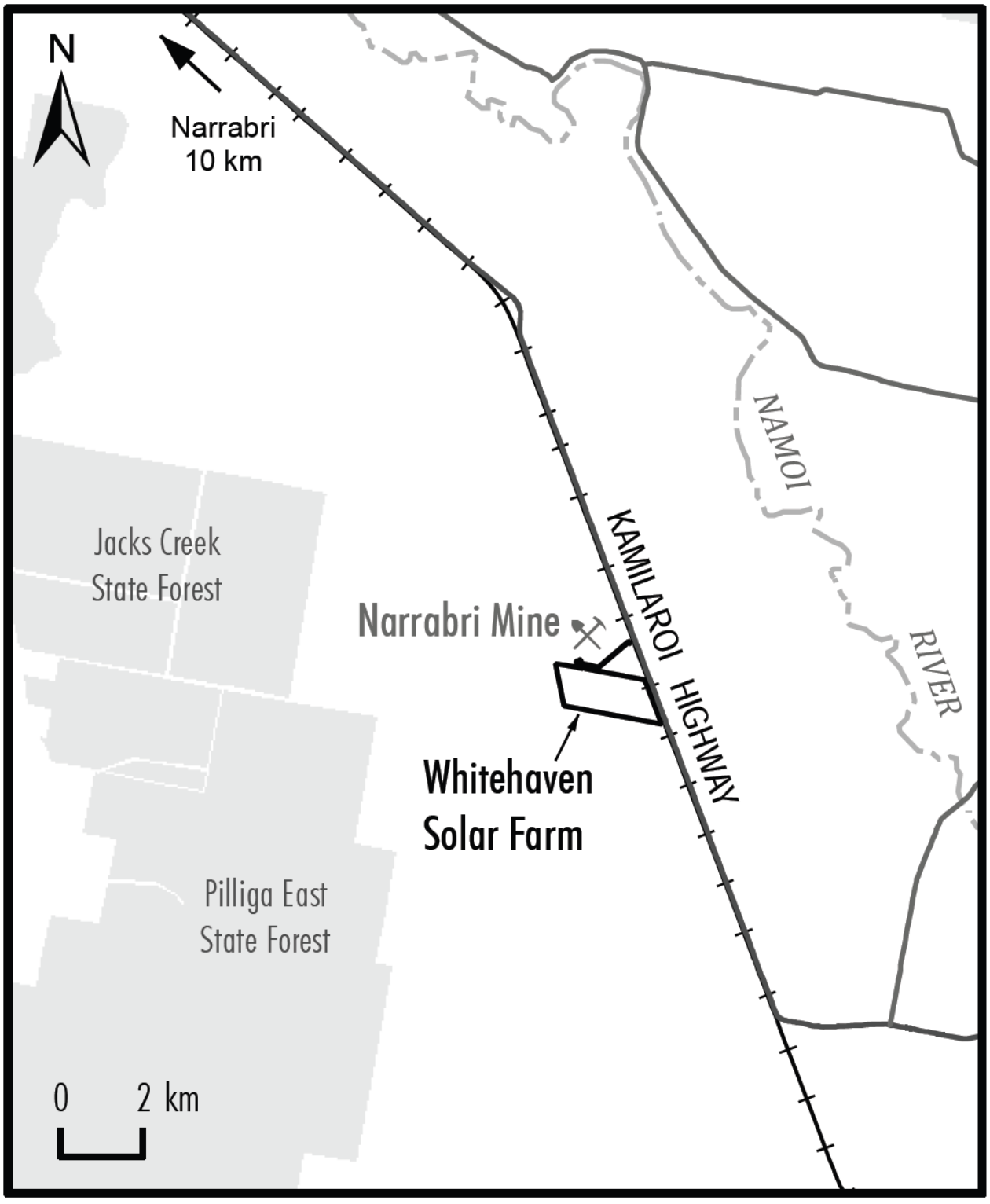
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11 January 2024

Tammy Knox
Bunda Consultants
23 Cunningham Street
TAMWORTH
NSW 2340

Dear Tammy,

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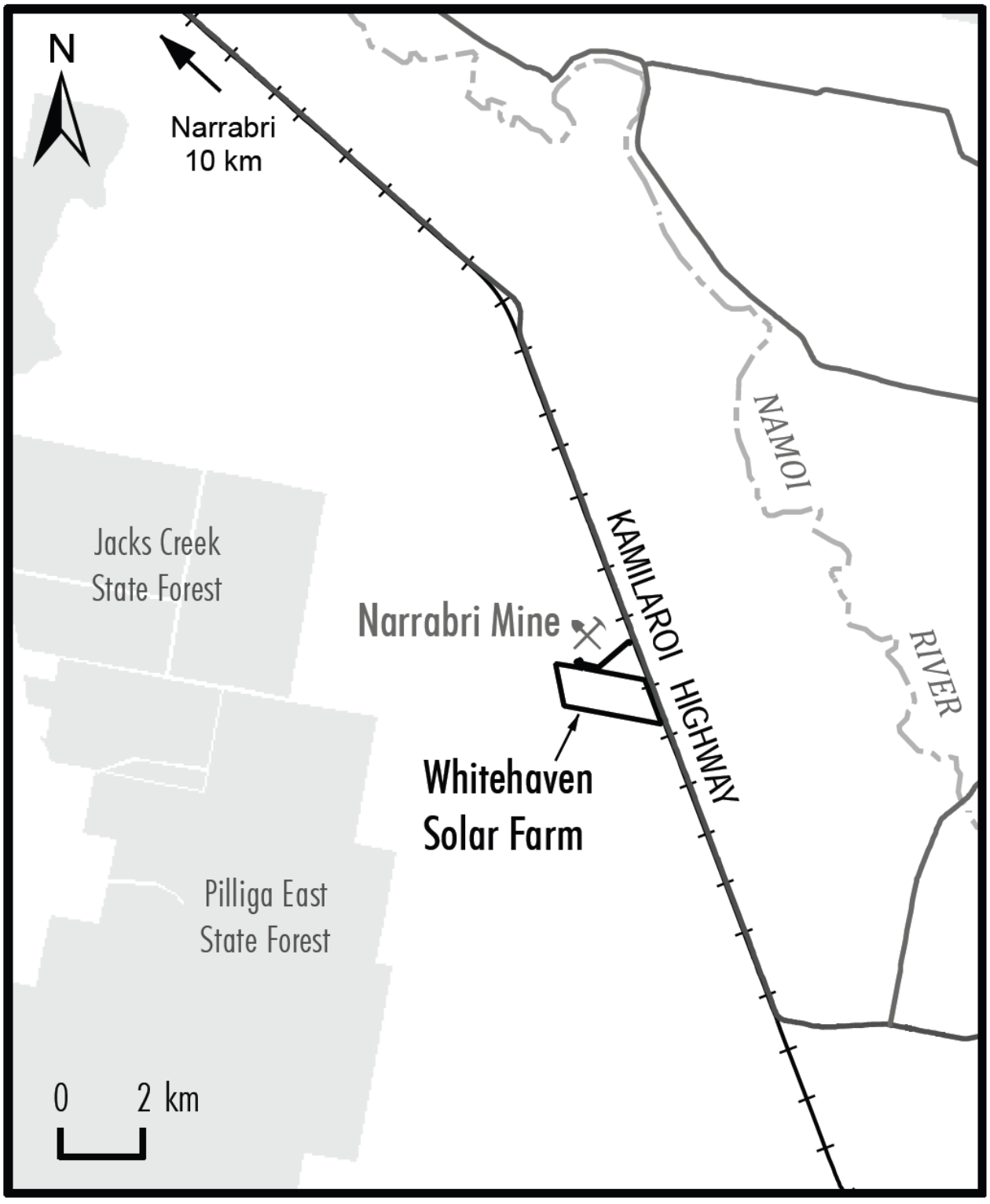
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11 January 2024

Tania Mathews
23 Reid Street
NARRABRI
NSW 2390

Dear Tania,

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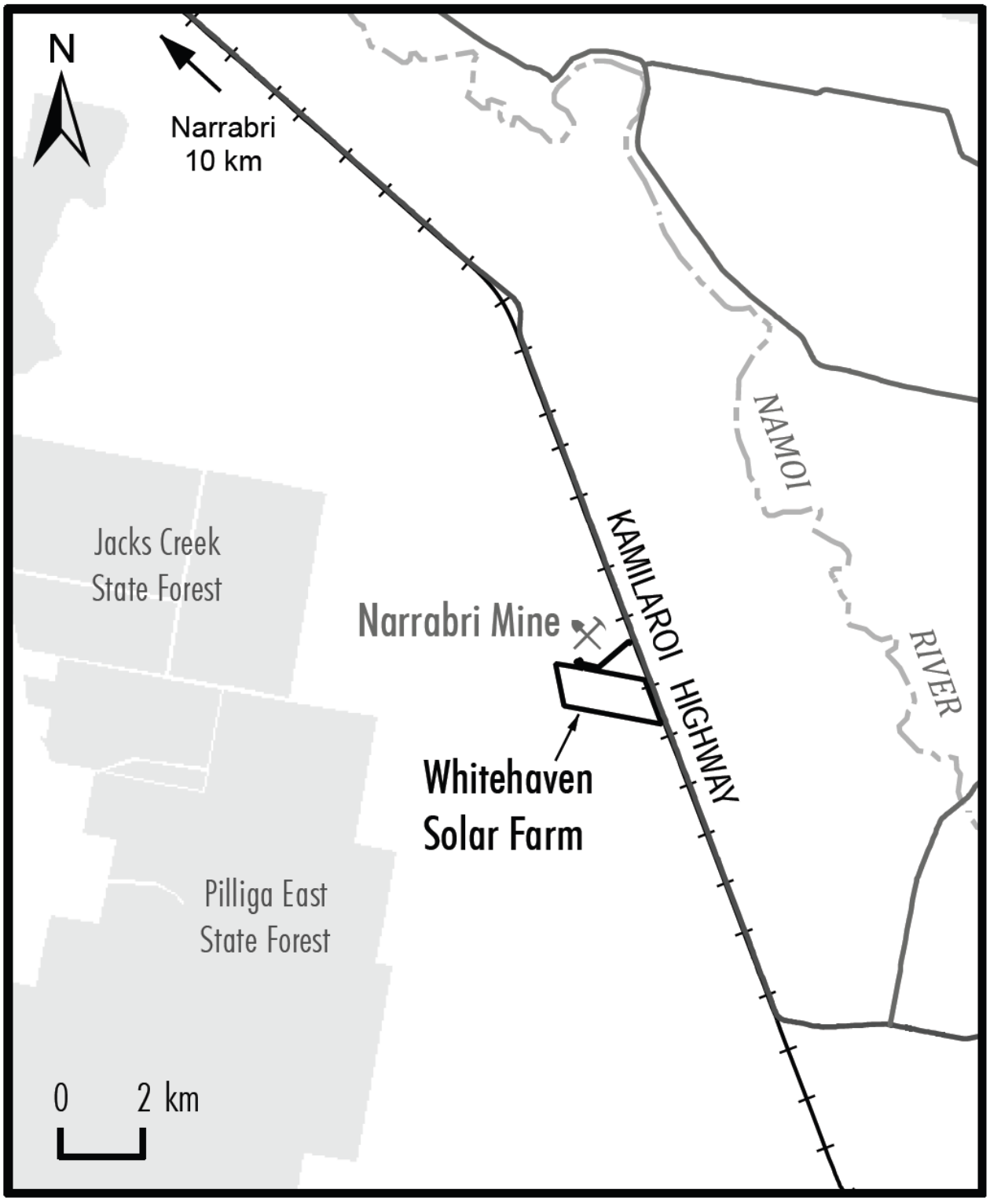
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11 January 2024

Thomas Dahlstrom
1-122 Glebe Point Road
GLEBE
NSW 2037

Dear Thomas,

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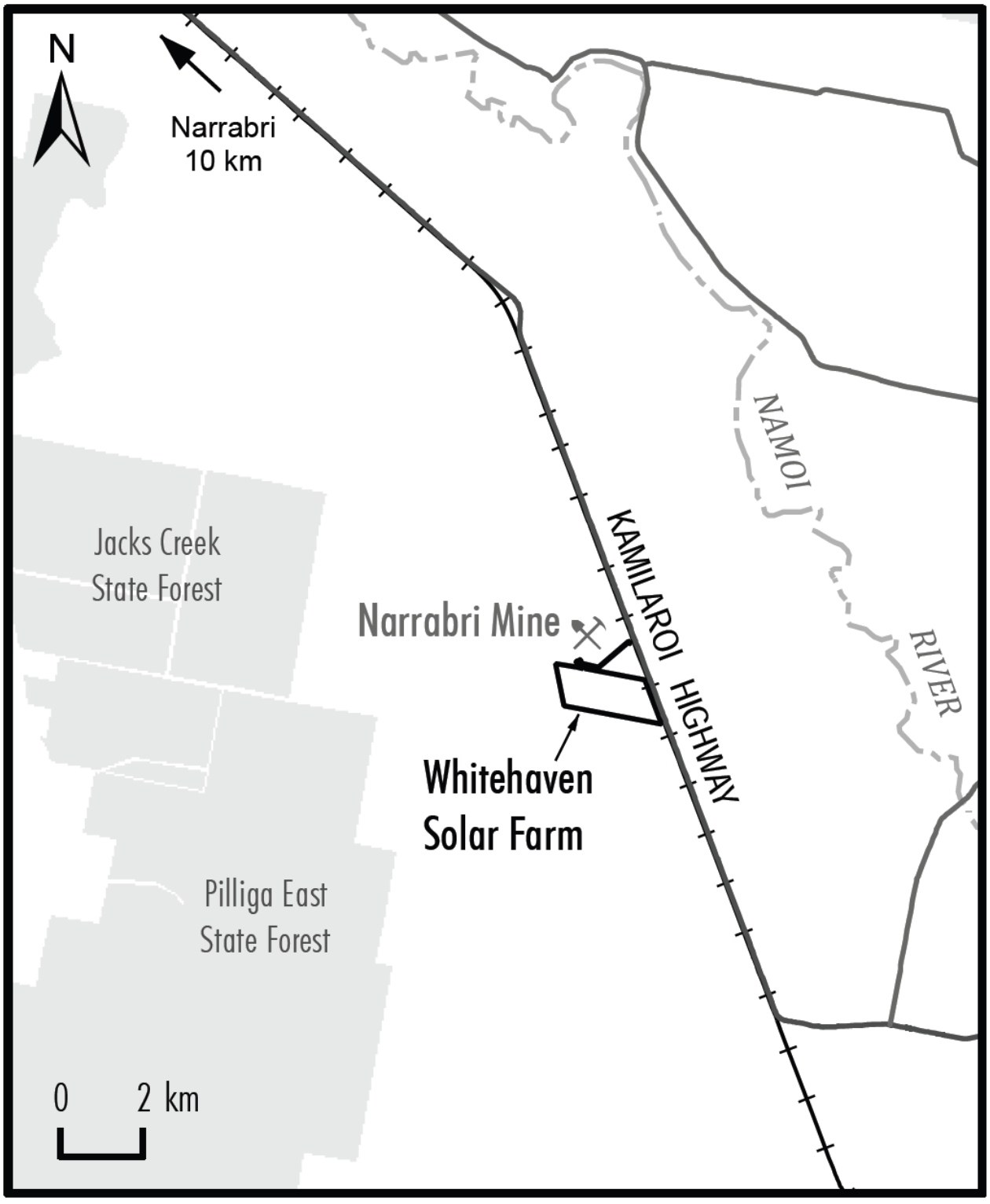
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11 January 2024

Tony Griffiths
T&G Culture Consultants
4 Wattle Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

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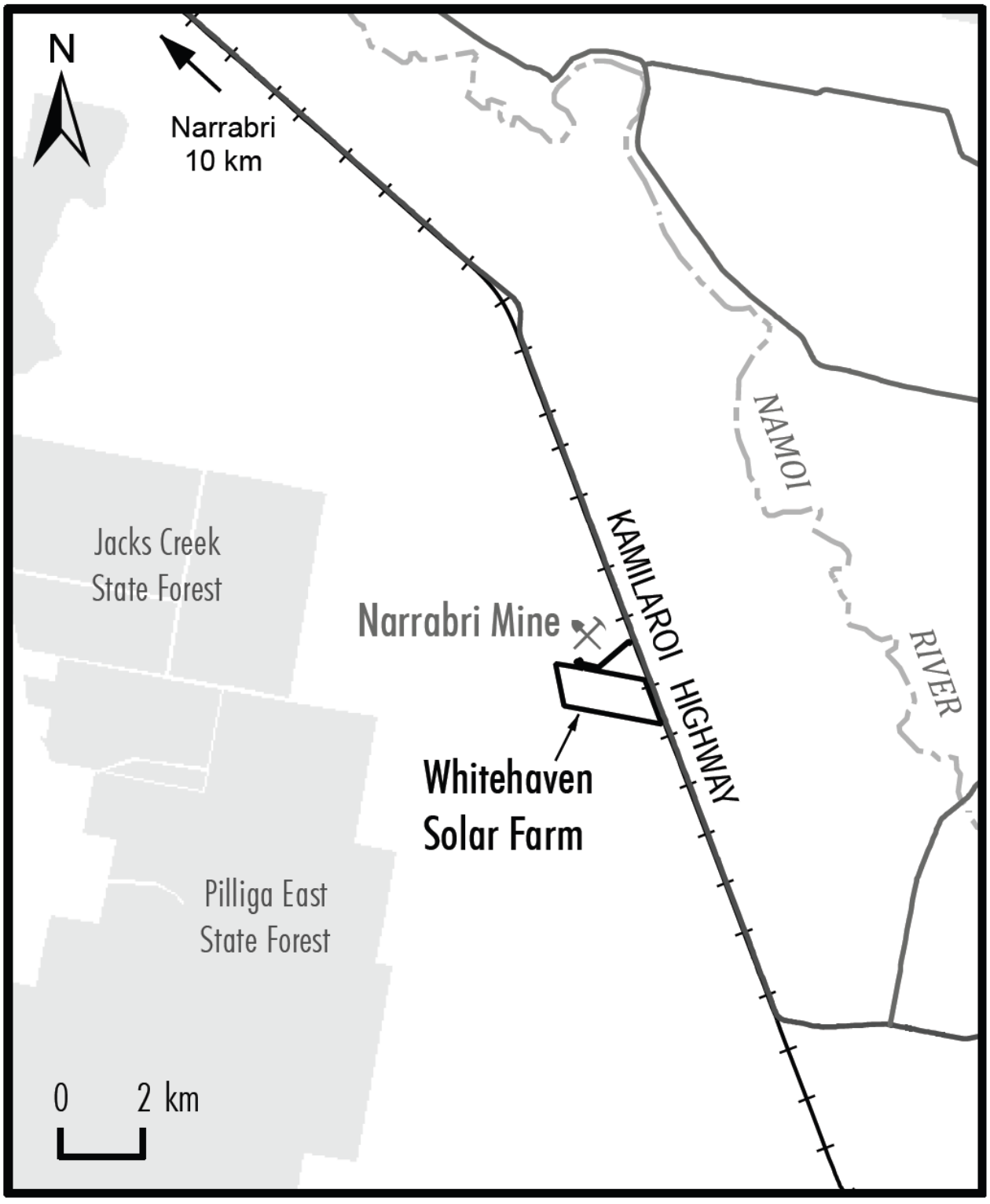
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1 January 2024

Tracy Woltley
75 High Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

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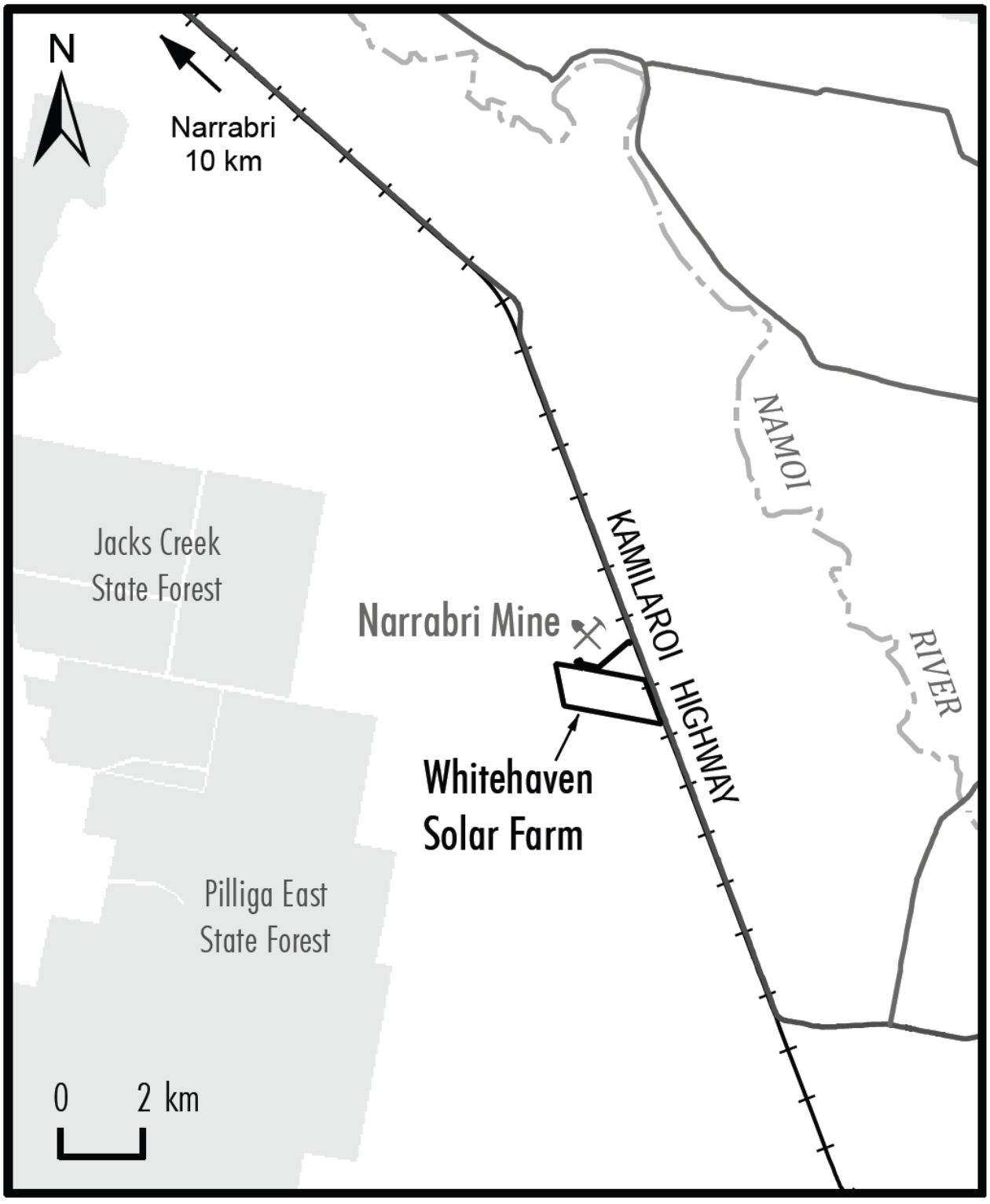
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**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
**Contact Details**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | |
| **Registered Aboriginal Party (if different to above)** | |
| **Email Address** | |
| **Address** | |
| **Postal Address (if different to above)** | |
| **Telephone Number** | |

11 January 2024

Troy Silver
57 Hopedale Avenue
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Troy,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

The subject area of the Project (i.e. the Area of Interest) is depicted on the enclosed plan.

For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent (SSD Consent) for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) (herein referred to as Consultation Guidelines), the purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist Whitehaven in the preparation of an application for an SSD Consent for the Project and to assist the consent authority in its consideration and determination of this application under the EP&A Act.

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- Writing to the Aboriginal persons or groups identified by the above process to notify them of the Project and invite them to register an interest in the community consultation process.
- Placing a notice in a local newspaper explaining the Project and inviting Aboriginal persons or groups to register an interest in the community consultation process for the Project.

Should you wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above, could you please provide your details in the enclosed form and return to Whitehaven before 5:00 pm on 30 January 2024 via the following contact details:

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd
Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

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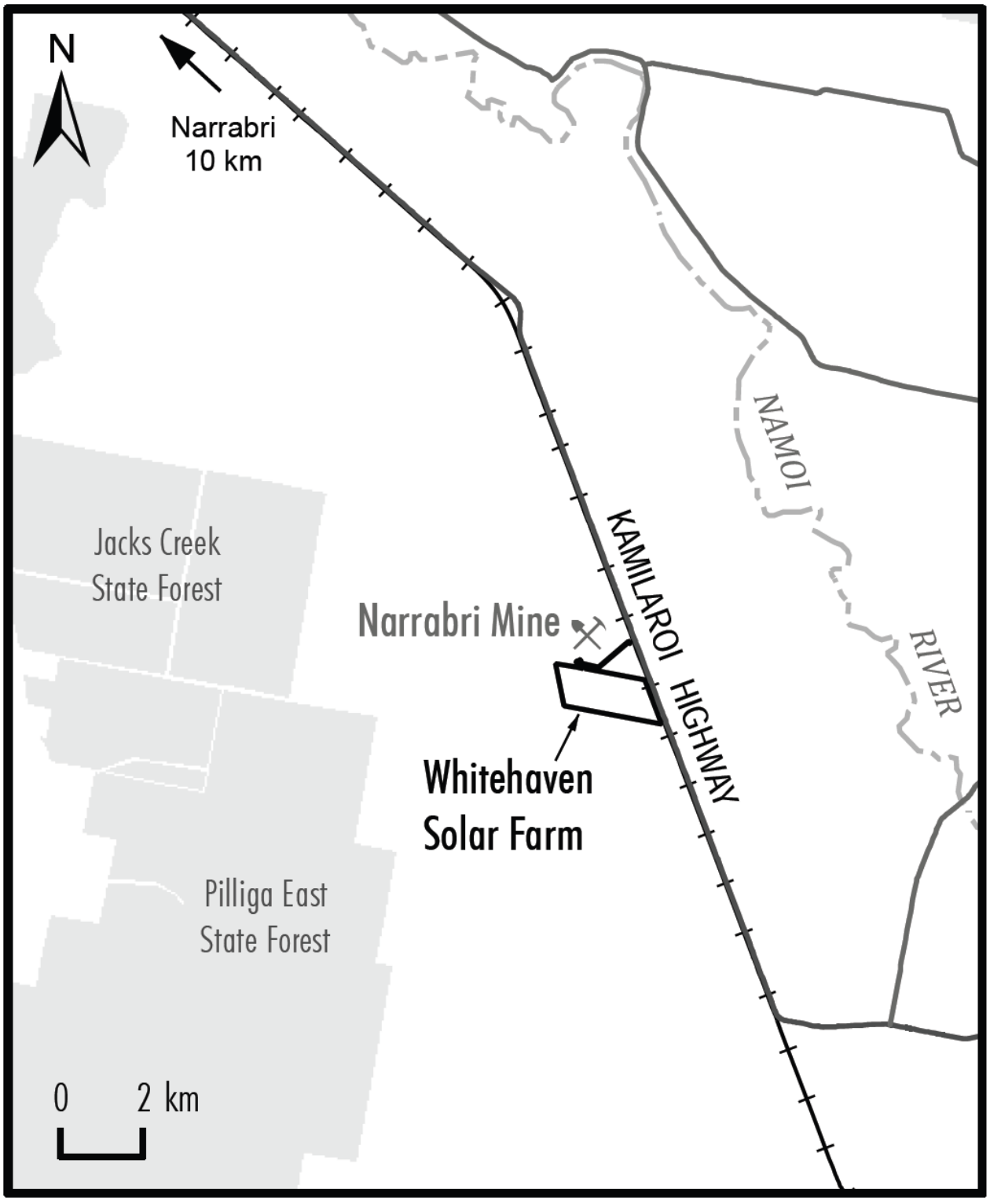
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
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10 km
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RIVER
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11 January 2024

Vicki Devine
Nammoy Pathways Aboriginal Corporation
32 Farrar Road
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

Dear Vicki,

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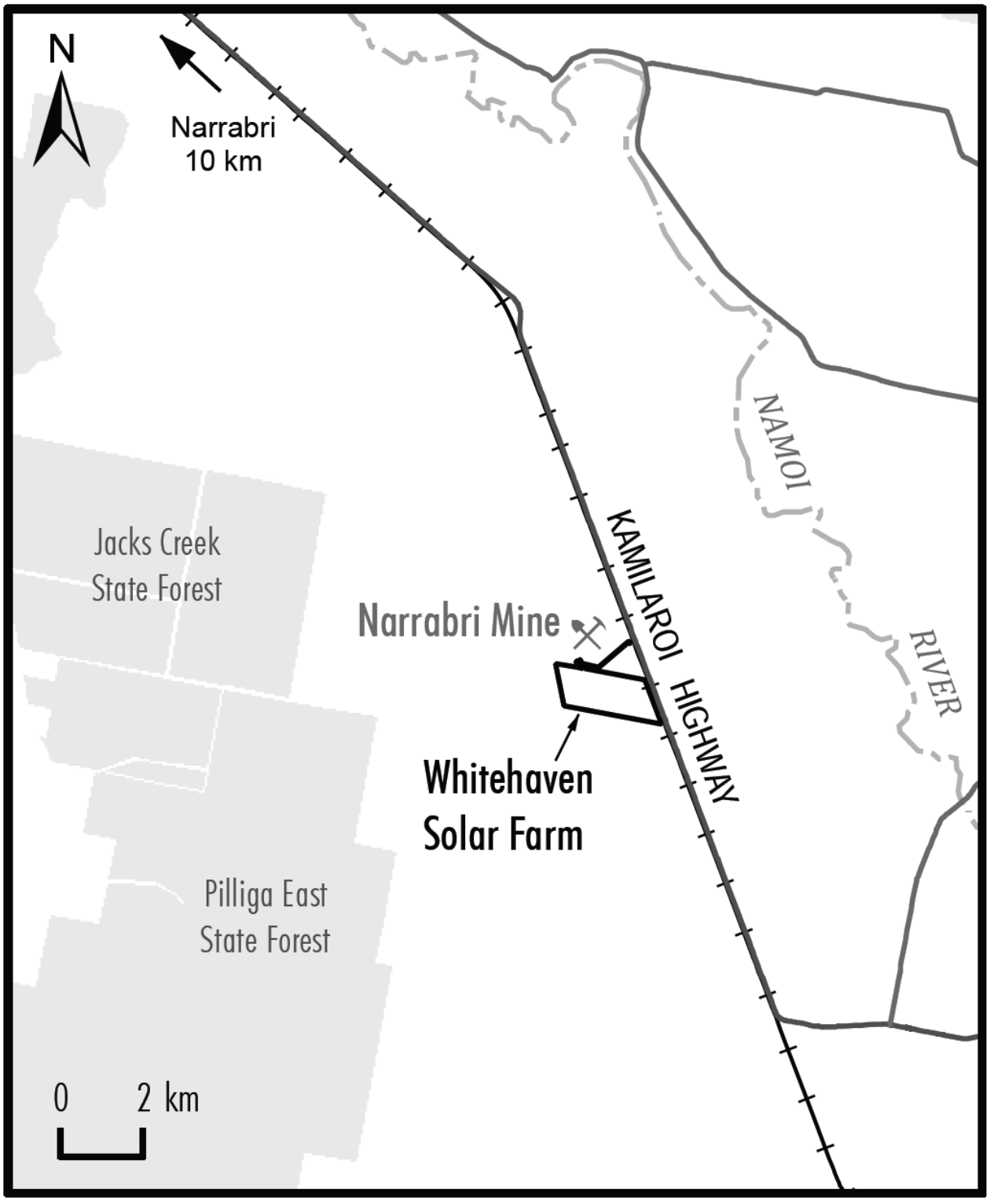
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11 January 2024

Vicky Hannah Gomeroi Duncan
26 Waratah Avenue
INVERELL
NSW 2360

Dear Vicky Hannah Gomeroi,

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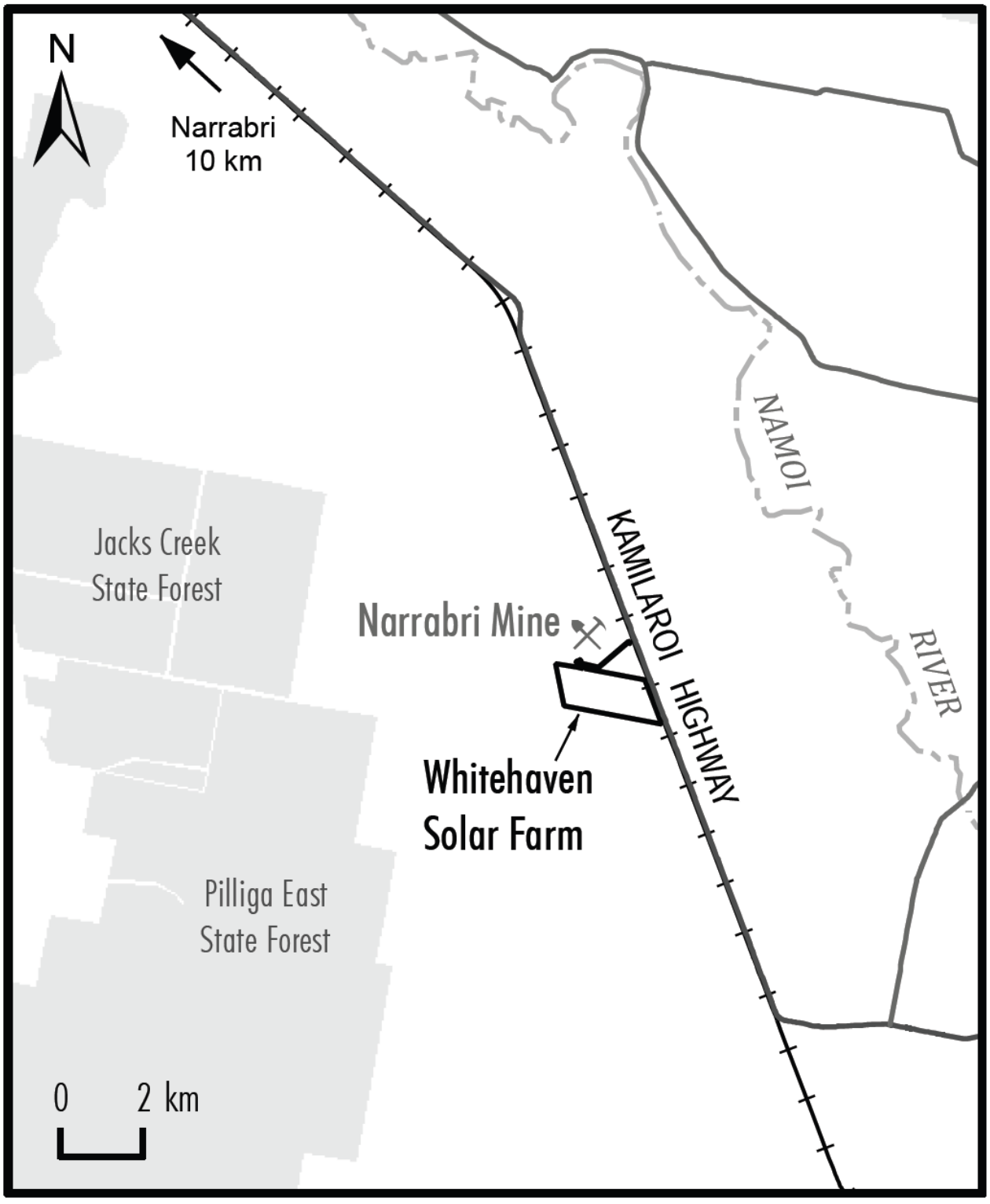
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General Manager Community Engagement

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11 January 2024

Bigundi Biame Gunnedarr Traditional People
16 South Street
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

To whom it may concern,

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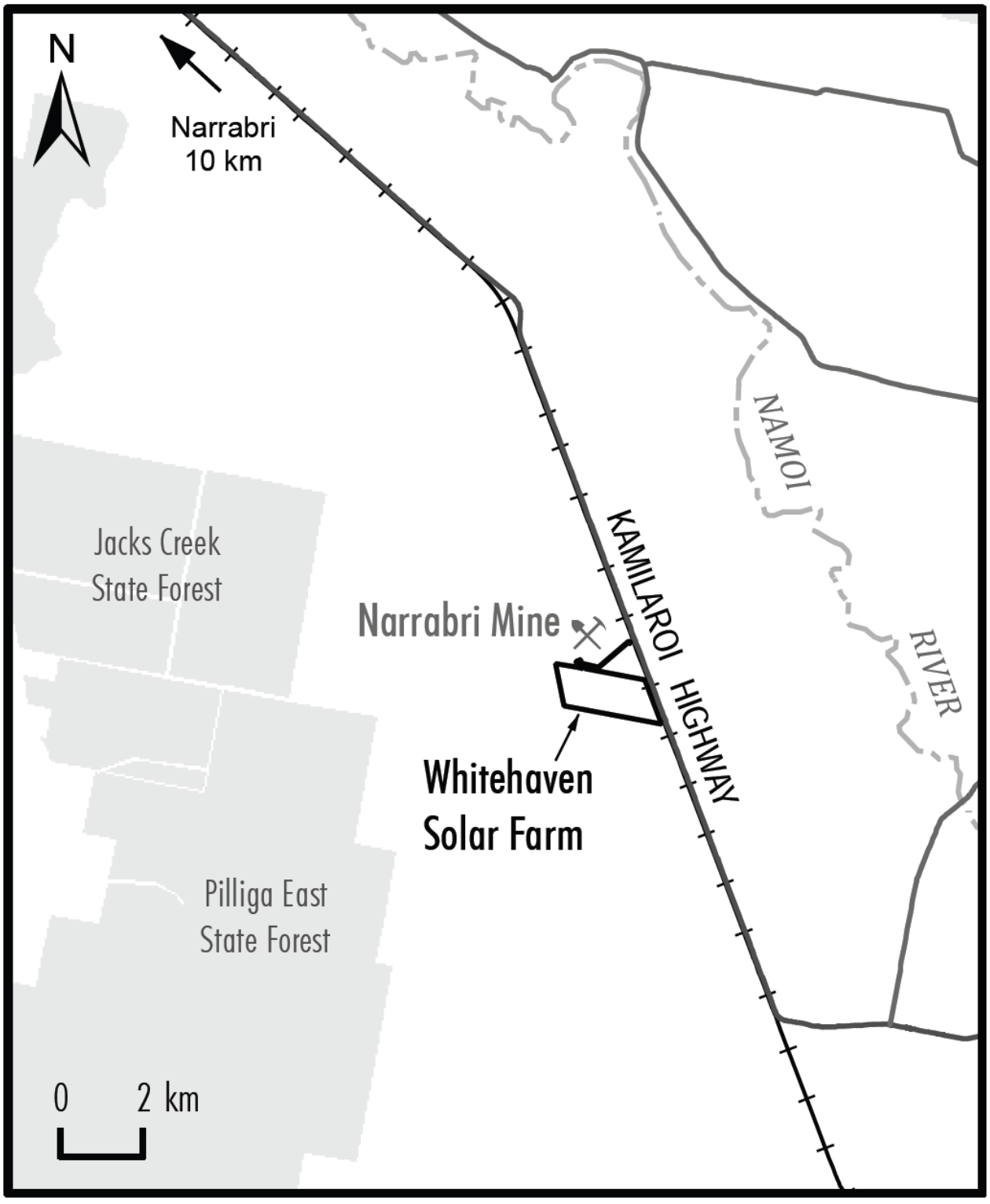
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11 January 2024

Gunida Gunyah
PO Box 439
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

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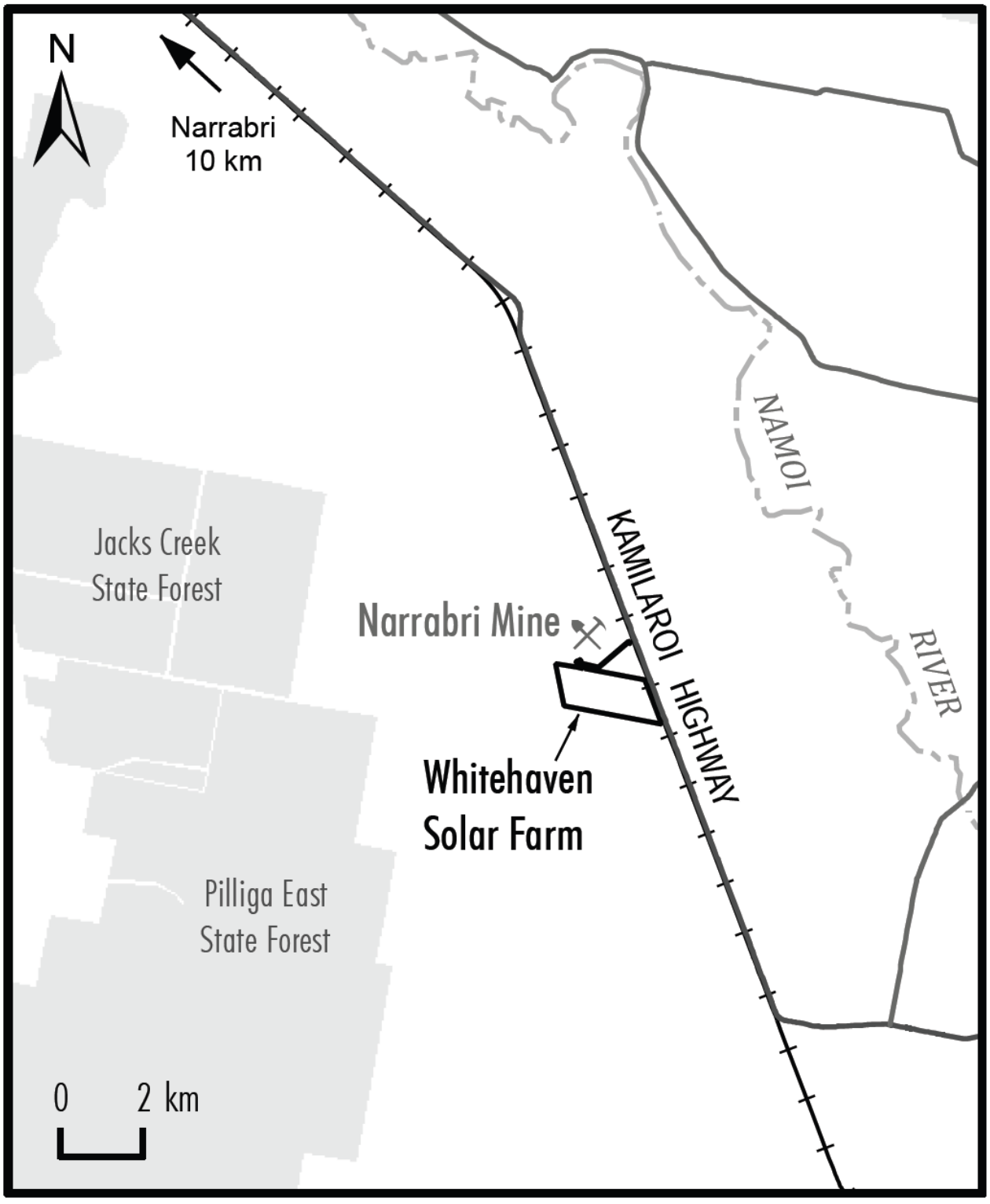
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11 January 2024

KL.KG Saunders Trading Service
6 Bowfield Place
MUSWELLBROOK
NSW 2333

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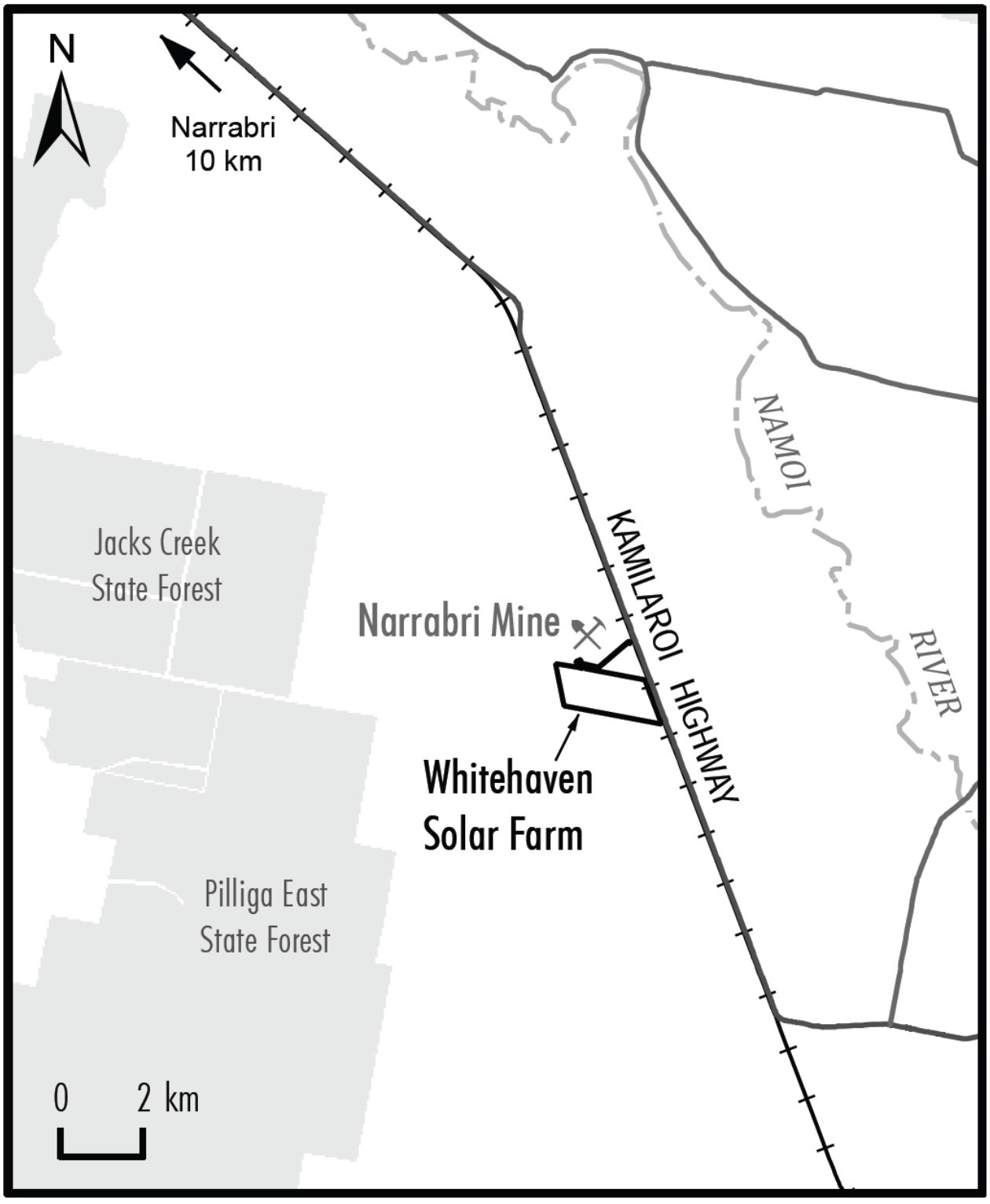
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1 January 2024

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PO Box 877
GUNNEDAH
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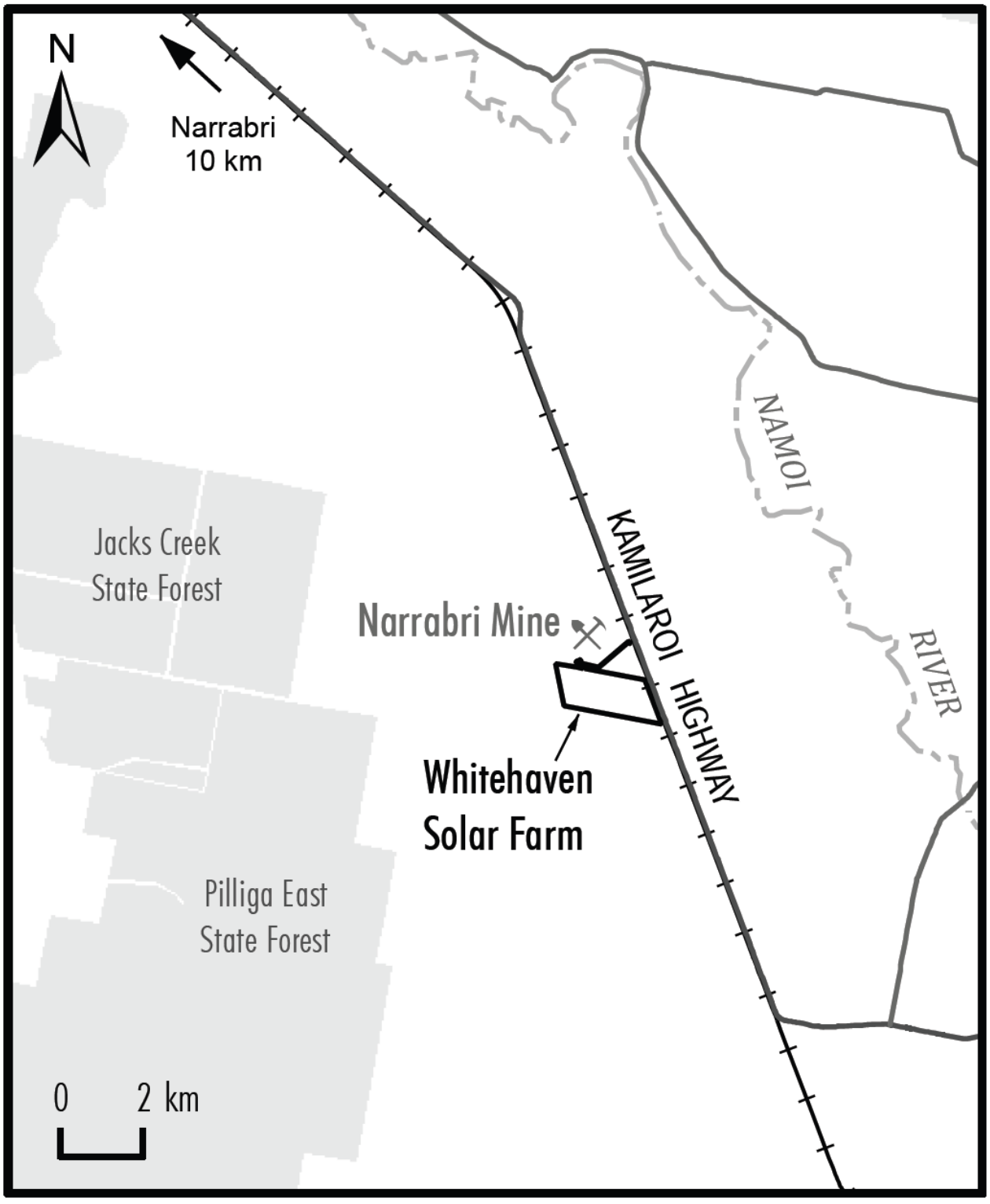
Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**Enclosed**
Plan showing the Area of Interest
Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest – Contact Details


N
Narrabri
10 km
NAMOI
RIVER
KAMILAROI HIGHWAY
Jacks Creek
State Forest
Narrabri Mine
Whitehaven
Solar Farm
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2 km

**Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Interest**
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11 January 2024

Narrabri LALC
PO Box 37
NARRABRI
NSW 2390

To whom it may concern,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project [the Project]) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

The proponent of the Project is Whitehaven's subsidiary Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, and Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd's contact details are set out below.

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For the purpose of applying for a State significant development consent (SSD Consent) for the Project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Whitehaven intends to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report which assesses the potential Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts of the Project.

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Should you wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above, could you please provide your details in the enclosed form and return to Whitehaven before 5:00 pm on 30 January 2024 via the following contact details:

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Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

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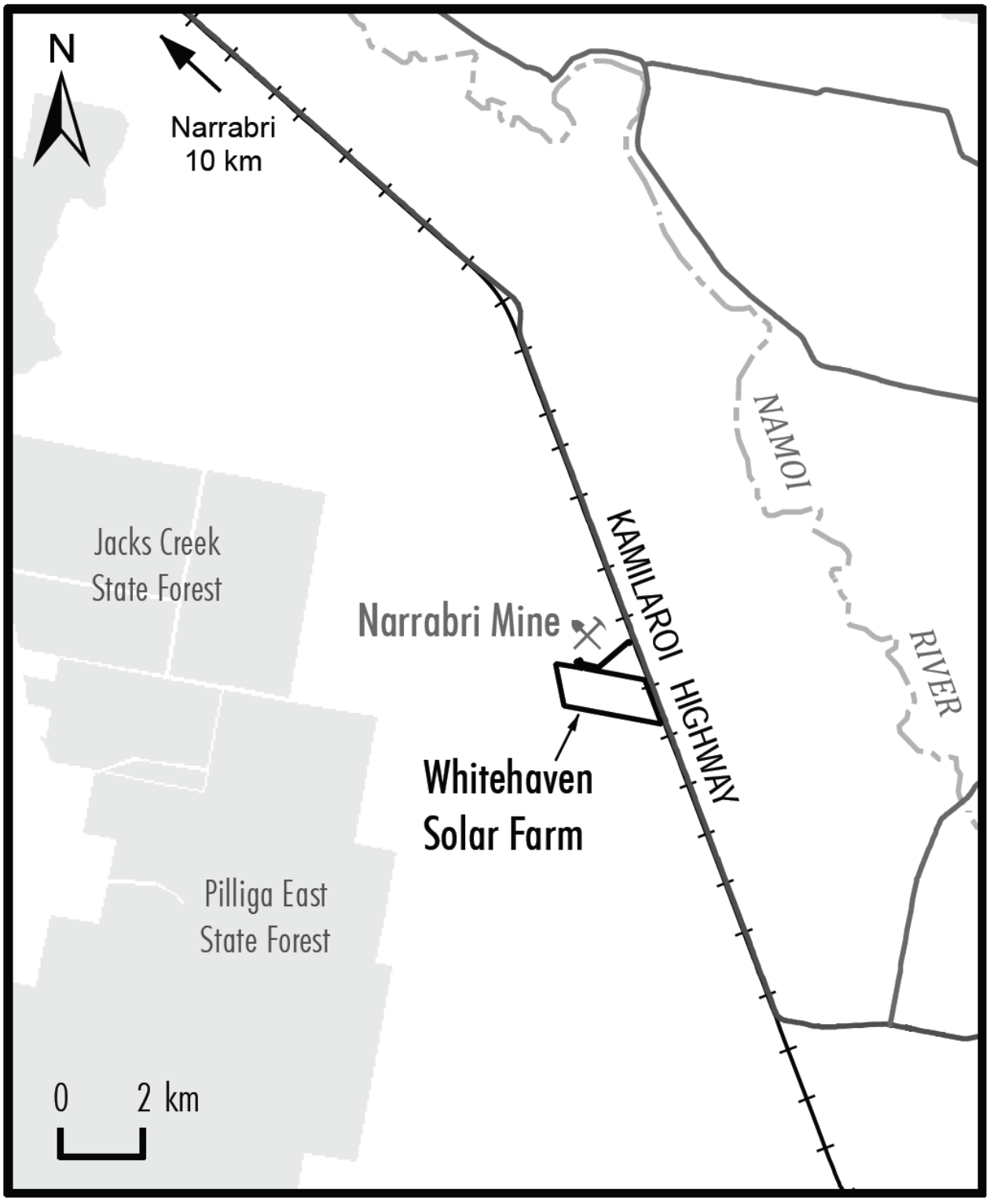
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General Manager Community Engagement

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11 January 2024

Red Chief LALC
PO Box 745
GUNNEDAH
NSW 2380

To whom it may concern,

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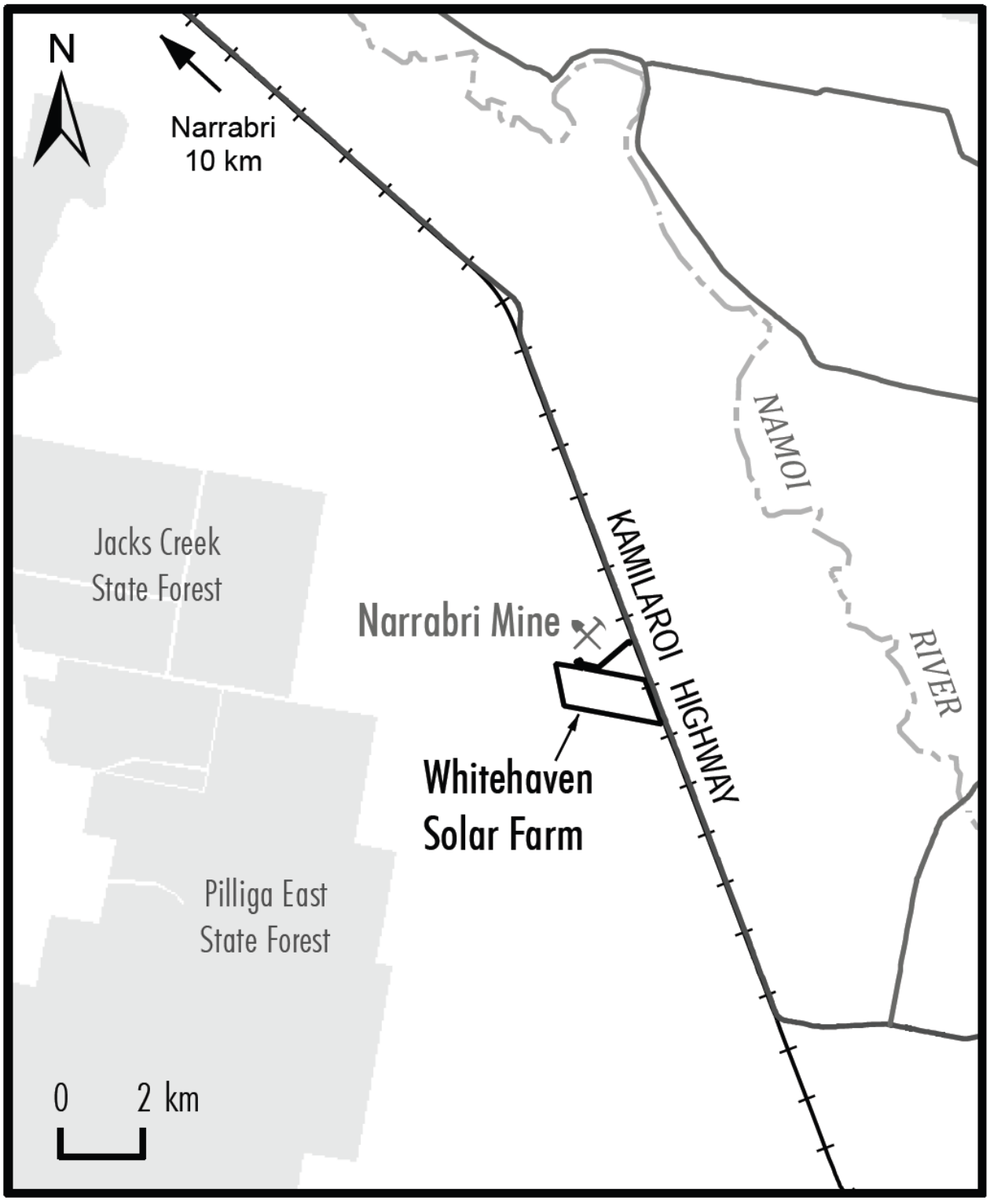
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11 January 2024

Toomelah LALC
PO Box 261
BOGABILLA
NSW 2409

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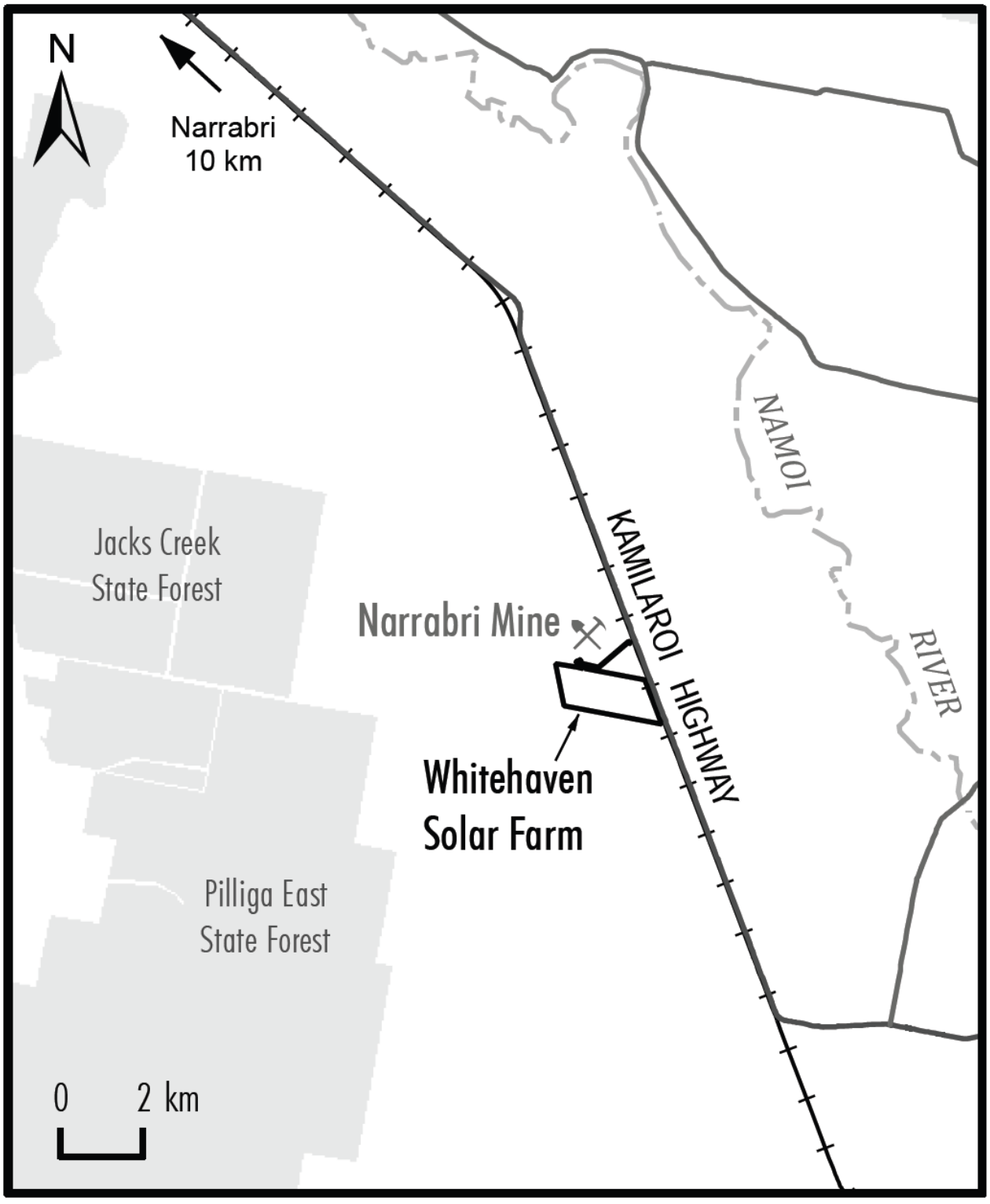
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11 January 2024

Wee Waa LALC
PO Box 106
WEE WAA
NSW 2388

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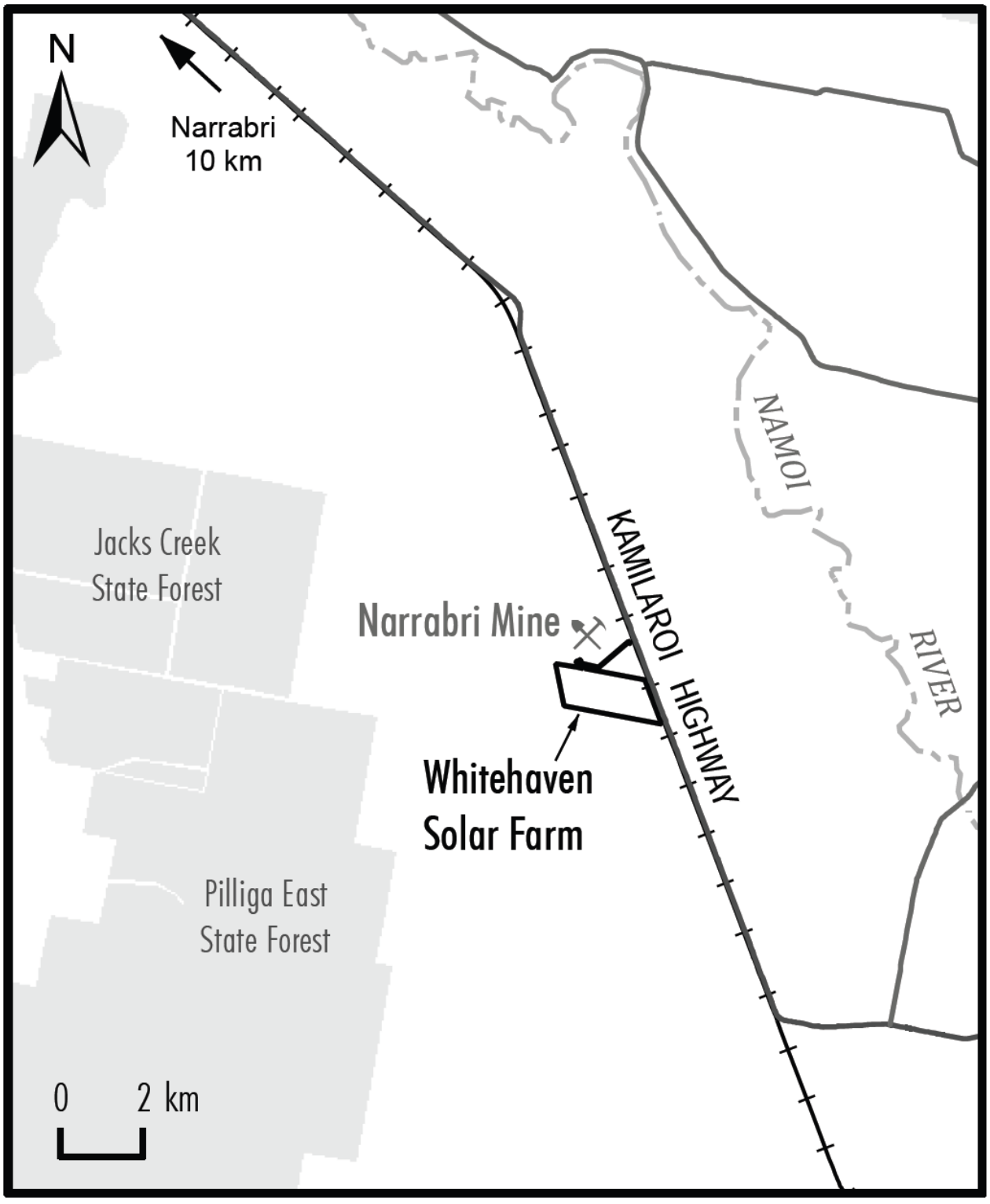
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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

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11 January 2024

Gomeroi Applicant
c/- NTSCORP Limited
Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street
REDFERN
NSW 2016

To whom it may concern,

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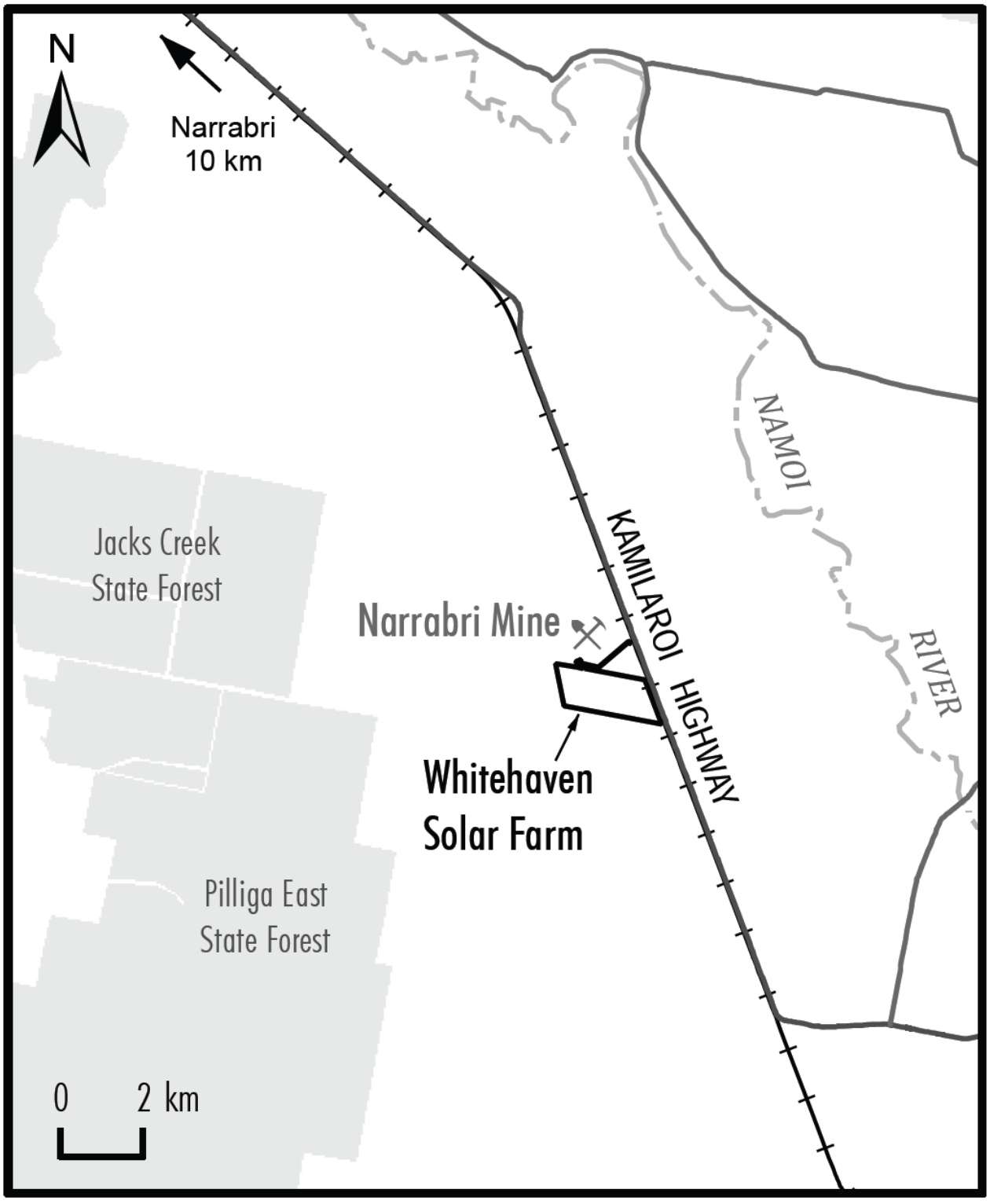
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**26 February 2024**

**Heritage NSW**
**Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water**
**Locked Bag 5022**
**PARAMATTA NSW 2124**
Via email: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

I am writing to inform Heritage NSW, as per Section 4.1.6 of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW], 2010), of the Aboriginal groups and/or individuals who have registered for the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. A list of these the Aboriginal groups and individuals can be found in Attachment A of this letter.

For your information, copies of the public notice and the notification letters sent to the potential Aboriginal Stakeholders in accordance with Section 4.1.3 of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) are attached to this letter as Attachments B and C, respectively.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6741 9302 or DSwain@whitehavencoal.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Scott Mitchell**
Principal Approvals

***Attachment A – List of Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment***

***Attachment B – Copy of Public Notice***

***Attachment C – Notification Letters to Potential Aboriginal Stakeholders***

**26 February 2024**

**Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council**
**96 Barwan Street**
**NARRABRI NSW 2390**
Via email: admin@narrabrilalc.com.au

To whom it may concern,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6741 9300 or Smitchell@whitehavencoal.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

Scott Mitchell
Principal Approvals

***Attachment A – List of Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment***

***Attachment B – Copy of Public Notice***

***Attachment C – Notification Letters to Potential Aboriginal Stakeholders***

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY LETTERS

**1 February 2024**

Aaron Talbott
Muki Namae Two Rivers Aboriginal Corp
13 Hunter Street
Gunnedah, NSW, 2380

Dear Aaron,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION AND PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

Thank you for your interest in the Aboriginal consultation process for the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project).

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Project) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

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Whitehaven is preparing to lodge a State Significant Development application for the Project. Under section 4.4.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 197* (EP&A Act), an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is not required for State Significance Development for which consent has been granted under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Whitehaven has engaged Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), including a process of Aboriginal community consultation, for the Project.

***Proposed Methodology***

In accordance with Section 4.2 and 4.3 of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) attached to this letter is the Proposed Methodology for the preparation of an ACHA for the Project for your review and comment. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may be used to affect, inform or refine the Proposed Methodology.

If you wish to provide input on the Proposed Methodology, please make a submission to Whitehaven (via the contact details provided at the end of this letter) by **Tuesday 5 March 2024**.

In your feedback, please consider:

- The nature of the proposed methodology
- Any Aboriginal objects or places of cultural value within the investigation area, or issues of cultural significance that you are aware of
- Any restrictions or protocols you may consider necessary in relation to any information of sensitivity that you may provide
- Any other factors you consider to be relevant to the heritage assessment.

All comments received will be taken into consideration as the Proposed Methodology is finalised.

***Information Session***

As noted in previous correspondence dated 22 November 2023 *Re: Maules Creek Continuation Project– Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Project Information and Proposed Methodology*, owing to your conduct, we are unable to extend an invitation for you to attend the ACHA information session in person.

You are invited to view the live-stream of the ACHA information session on **Wednesday 20 February** at **3:30 pm (AEDT)** till **5:00 pm (AEDT)** by using this link:

https://whitehavencoal.zoom.us/j/99192297005

During the information session Whitehaven and Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd will provide a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process and discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities of participants and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information.

If you view the live-stream of the meeting and have any questions, please email them to the email address listed below.

The meeting will be recorded and made available online via a weblink mailed to RAPs post the meeting.

***Ongoing Consultation***

All RAPs will be consulted in accordance with the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water policy entitled *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* for the remainder of the assessment, which will include the provision of a copy of the draft ACHA report for review and comment.

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Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Ashley Sampson
AGA Culture Services
22 Ibis Parade
Woodberry NSW 2322

Dear Ashley,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION AND PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

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General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Brian Draper
2/135 Bloomfield Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

David Horton
Gomery Cultural Consultants
22 Cabernet Street
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Dear David,

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General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Donna Sampson
Cacatua General Services
22 Ibis Parade
Woodberry NSW 2322

Dear Donna,

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General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

George Sampson
Cacatua General Services
22 Ibis Parade
Woodberry NSW 2322

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Gomeroi Applicant
c/- Zoe Robertson NTSCORP Ltd
Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street
Redfern NSW 2016

Dear Zoe,

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Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Jim Trindall
Gomeroi Narrabri Aboriginal Corp
42 Mooloobar Street
Narrabri NSW 2390

Dear Jim,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION AND PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Kerry Morgan Fernando
17 Albion Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Kerry,

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General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Lynn Trindall
Narrabri LALC
96 Barwan Street
Narrabri NSW 2390

Dear Lynn,

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General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Marvonia Welsh
1 Yabsley Ave
Marrickville  NSW 2204

Dear Marvonia,

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Michael John Long
17 Albion Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Michael,

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Michael Ronald Long Jr
17 Albion Street
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Dear Michael Jr,

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Robert Young
Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
2/42 Crawford Rd
Brighton-Le-Sands NSW 2216

Dear Robert,

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At the information session Whitehaven and Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd will provide a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process and discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities of participants and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information.

Please indicate whether you are interested in attending the information session by **Wednesday 14 February 2024** via the contact details provided at the end of this letter. Please advise if you will attend in person or online.

***Ongoing Consultation***

All RAPs will be consulted in accordance with the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water policy entitled *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* for the remainder of the assessment, which will include the provision of a copy of the draft ACHA report for review and comment.

***Contact Details***

Any feedback with respect to the Proposed Methodology and/or to indicate your attendance at the information session, can be provided to Whitehaven via the following contact details:

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd
Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Wayne Griffiths
Bigundi Biame Gunnedarr Traditional People
16 South Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Wayne,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION AND PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

Thank you for your interest in the Aboriginal consultation process for the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project).

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to seek approval for the construction and operation of a new solar farm (the Project) adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine.

The Project is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri and approximately 60 km north-west of Gunnedah, within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area. The Project is within the boundary of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the New England North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

The Project would be located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

Whitehaven is preparing to lodge a State Significant Development application for the Project. Under section 4.4.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 197* (EP&A Act), an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is not required for State Significance Development for which consent has been granted under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Whitehaven has engaged Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), including a process of Aboriginal community consultation, for the Project.

***Proposed Methodology***

In accordance with Section 4.2 and 4.3 of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) attached to this letter is the Proposed Methodology for the preparation of an ACHA for the Project for your review and comment. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may be used to affect, inform or refine the Proposed Methodology.

If you wish to provide input on the Proposed Methodology, please make a submission to Whitehaven (via the contact details provided at the end of this letter) by **Tuesday 5 March 2024**.

In your feedback, please consider:

- The nature of the proposed methodology
- Any Aboriginal objects or places of cultural value within the investigation area, or issues of cultural significance that you are aware of
- Any restrictions or protocols you may consider necessary in relation to any information of sensitivity that you may provide
- Any other factors you consider to be relevant to the heritage assessment.

All comments received will be taken into consideration as the Proposed Methodology is finalised.

***Information Session***

You are invited to attend an information session with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd (the consulting archaeologist) and Whitehaven representatives on **Wednesday 20 February 2024** to discuss the proposed methodology. The information session will be held at the **Baan Baa Community Hall**, Baranbah Street, Baan Baa 2390, and will commence at **3:30 pm (AEDT)** and conclude at approximately **5:00 pm (AEDT)**. Following the information session presentation, in-person attendees are invited to join a short bus trip to view the Project area.

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**1 February 2024**

Natasha Rodgers
11 Panorama Place
Upper Kedron QLD 4055

Dear Natasha,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION AND PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

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Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Aaron Talbott
Muki Namae Two Rivers Aboriginal Corp
13 Hunter Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Aaron,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Ashley Sampson
AGA Culture Services
22 Ibis Parade
Woodberry NSW 2322

Dear Ashley,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Brian Draper
2/135 Bloomfield Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Brian,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

David Horton
Gomery Cultural Consultants
22 Cabernet Street
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Dear David,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Donna Sampson
Cacatua General Services
22 Ibis Parade
Woodberry NSW 2322

Dear Donna,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

Further to previous correspondence dated 1 February 2024, this letter provides clarification in regard to the date of the proposed Information Session for the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. All other details for the Information Session (i.e. location and time) remain unchanged. These are reproduced below for your reference.

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Yours sincerely,

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Donna Sampson
AGA Culture Services
22 Ibis Parade
Woodberry NSW 2322

Dear Donna,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

George Sampson
Cacatua General Services
22 Ibis Parade
Woodberry NSW 2322

Dear George,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Gomeroi Applicant
c/- Zoe Robertson NTSCORP Ltd
Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street
Redfern NSW 2016

Dear Zoe,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Jim Trindall
Gomeroi Narrabri Aboriginal Corp
42 Mooloobar Street
Narrabri NSW 2390

Dear Jim,

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Kerry Morgan Fernando
17 Albion Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Kerry,

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**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Lynn Trindall
Narrabri LALC
96 Barwan Street
Narrabri NSW 2390

Dear Lynn,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Marvonia Welsh
1 Yabsley Ave
Marrickville  NSW 2204

Dear Marvonia,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Michael John Long
17 Albion Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Michael,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Whitehaven would like to confirm the date for the Information Session is **Tuesday 20 February 2024.** This letter supersedes the letter provided on 1 February 2024.

***Information Session***

The Information Session will be held on **Tuesday 20 February 2024** at the **Baan Baa Community Hall**, Baranbah Street, Baan Baa 2390, and will commence at **3:30 pm (AEDT)** and conclude at approximately **5:00 pm (AEDT)**. Following the information session presentation, in-person attendees are invited to join a short bus trip to view the Project area.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, you are welcome to view a live-stream of the meeting by using this link:

https://whitehavencoal.zoom.us/j/99192297005

***Contact Details***

Any queries with respect to the Information Session and/or to indicate your attendance at the information session, can be provided to Whitehaven via the following contact details:

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd
Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Michael Ronald Long Jr

17 Albion Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Michael Jr,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Robert Young
Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
2/42 Crawford Rd
Brighton-Le-Sands NSW 2216

Dear Robert,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Wayne Griffiths
Bigundi Biame Gunnedarr Traditional People
16 South Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Wayne,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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Yours sincerely,

**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

**14 Feb 2024**

Natasha Rodgers

24 Windsor Drive
Upper Kedron QLD 4055

Dear Natasha,

**RE: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION UPDATE**

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**Whitehaven Coal Limited**

**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

# PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

**WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM PROJECT**

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Proposed Methodology)**

## BACKGROUND AND KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

The aim of this methodology is to assist in preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (the Project), as required under section 90 of the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The Project is located to the immediate south of the Narrabri Mine, an existing underground coal mining operation located approximately 25 kilometres (km) south-east of Narrabri within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area (Figure 1). The Subject Area is located within the boundaries of the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council in the North West region of New South Wales (NSW).

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) intends to apply for a State Significant Development consent under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the construction and operation of the Project.

The Project would be located on Whitehaven-managed land and would include approximately 26 megawatt (MW) direct current or 20 MW alternating current of solar electricity generation. The Project would provide behind-the-meter electricity supply to the Narrabri Mine via the existing 66 kilovolt electricity transmission line.

As the entire Subject Area has not been subject to previous archaeological investigations and/or assessments, the proposed methodology, ACHA and field surveys for the Project will target the entirety of the Subject Area (Figure 2).

The proposed methodology for the ACHA is outlined below. Whitehaven invites Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to provide comments (either verbally or in writing) on the below proposed methodology.

## PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

With an increase in extractive activities in the Gunnedah Basin in recent years, the region has been subject to numerous Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys, assessments and management plans.

Previous investigations of the adjacent Narrabri Coal Mine area include:

- *Narrabri Coal Project Aboriginal Heritage Assessment* (Australian Archaeological Survey Consultants Pty Ltd, 2007).
- *Narrabri Coal Mine Stage 2 Longwall Project Aboriginal Heritage Assessment* (Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd, 2009).
- *Archaeological Survey, Aboriginal sites within Panels 6 and 7* (Advitech, 2012).
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Narrabri Mine Panel 8-13* (Advitech, 2013).
- *Narrabri Mine Modification 5, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* (Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd, 2015).
- *Narrabri Mine Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd, 2016).
- *Narrabri Mine Longwall Panel 118-120 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey Report* (Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd, 2018).

- *Narrabri Coal Mine Stage 3 Modification Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* (Whincop Archaeology [Whincop], 2020).

Previous investigations within the broader region, associated with the nearby Vickery, Boggabri, Tarrawonga and Maules Creek mines, include (but are not limited to):

- *Amax Proposed Coal Mining Operation at Boggabri* (Kamminga, 1978).
- *Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Vickery Coal Mine* (Thompson, 1981).
- *Archaeological investigations of Areas that May be Affected by Proposed Mining for Coal in the Gunnedah area, NSW* (Haglund, 1985).
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, Boggabri Coal Project* (Hamm, 2005).
- *Archaeological Investigation for Sites of Indigenous Cultural Significance for the Proposed East Boggabri Coal Mine* (Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd, 2005).
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for the Continuation of Boggabri Coal Mine* (Insite Heritage, 2010).
- *Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the Maules Creek Coal Project.* (AECOM Australia, 2010).
- *Tarrawonga Coal Mine Modification Cultural Heritage Assessment* (Landskape, 2010).
- *Tarrawonga Coal Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* (Kayandel Archaeological Services, 2011).
- *Vickery Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement: Appendix I Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* (Landskape, 2012).
- *Appraisal of Scar Trees on the Rail – Infrastructure Footprint for the Maules Creek Mine Project* (Burns, 2013).
- *Vickery Extension Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* (Whincop Archaeology, 2018).
- *Tarrawonga Life of Mine Modification Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* (Whincop Archaeology, 2019).
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Repot for the Narrabri Gas Project (*Central Queensland Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd, 2016*).*

Previously registered Aboriginal cultural heritage sites located within the vicinity of the Subject Area are presented on Figure 3. The most recent search of the AHIMS database was undertaken on 16 January 2024 (Search ID# 855090) for the Subject Area with a 1 km buffer. The results of the search revealed a total of six (6) Aboriginal cultural heritage sites on the AHIMS, four of which have been previously salvaged. The remaining valid sites include an isolated artefact and small artefact scatter identified during the Environmental Impact Statement for the Narrabri Mine (Appendix B: AHIMS Extensive Search Results). Additional AHIMS sites are known to exist within the wider landscape, including grinding grooves, artefact scatters and a hearth.

**PRELIMINARY PREDICTIVE MODEL**

A summary of the results of previous archaeological investigations indicates that Aboriginal cultural heritage places do occur within the wider landscape, which also holds implications for the potential discovery of unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

- One Aboriginal cultural heritage site is known to exist within 1 km of the Subject Area (Figure 3).
- Previous archaeological investigations of the wider region have demonstrated a pattern of archaeological site distribution associated with ephemeral water sources (e.g. Kurrajong Creek) and associated drainage lines (Figure 4), and raised landforms overlooking permanent water sources.
- The archaeology of the surrounding area is characterised by diffuse artefact scatters or isolated occurrences that occur in higher densities in areas associated with reliable water sources, but which decrease with distance from creeks.
- Other site types, such as scarred trees or grinding grooves sites are known to exist within the wider region, but to a much lesser degree.
- The Subject Area has been subject to various impacts over the past 100-150 years, which will have impacted upon the survival of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Impacts include vegetation clearance, crop production, animal pasture, road construction, and mining exploration activities. These processes have generally not occurred uniformly, and as a consequence there remains some limited potential for the presence of in situ Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Subject Area. In scientific terms, disturbed sites are generally considered to be of lower significance and to require less rigorous management measures than in situ sites.
- On the basis of the nature of the known archaeological record in the wider region and the landforms present in the Subject Area, it has been determined that the Subject Area retains some potential to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (Figure 4).

**PROPOSED METHODOLOGY**

The proposed methodology for the Project ACHA is as follows:

- Collate existing information on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the Subject Area and surrounds.
- Conduct archaeological survey of the Subject Area by pedestrian transects, informed by an archaeological predictive model based on the results of previous archaeological investigations.

- Conduct an archaeological assessment (including an archaeological significance assessment) of any known or potential Aboriginal heritage sites identified within the Subject Area (which may include the use of existing information).
- A request by Whitehaven to RAPs for comments regarding the cultural significance of Aboriginal heritage sites and/or areas within the Subject Area.
- In consultation with the RAPs, identification of recommended management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal heritage sites/areas within the Subject Area.
- Provide a copy of the draft ACHA report to the RAPs for their review and feedback.
- Documentation of feedback received as part of the cultural assessment from RAPs for presentation in the final ACHAR (subject to the sensitivity of the information provided).

In accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010), Whitehaven requests that RAPs provide, where relevant during the conduct of the ACHA, cultural information regarding:

- whether there are any Aboriginal sites/objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the Subject Area or surrounds; and
- whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the Subject Area or surrounds. This may include places of social, spiritual and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

**SENSITIVE CULTURAL INFORMATION – MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL**

In the event that a RAP has sensitive or restricted public access information, it is proposed that Whitehaven would manage this information (if provided by the Aboriginal community) in accordance with a sensitive cultural information management protocol. It is anticipated that the protocol would include making note of and managing the material in accordance with the following key limitations/requirements as advised by the relevant RAP at the time of the information being provided:

- any restrictions on access to the material;
- any restrictions on communication of the material;
- any restrictions on the location/storage of the material;
- any cultural recommendations on handling the material;
- any contextual information;
- any names and contact details of persons authorised by the relevant RAP to make decisions concerning the Aboriginal material and the degree of authorisation;
- any details of any consent given in accordance with customary law;
- the level of confidentiality to be accorded to the material; and
- any access and use by the RAPs of the cultural information in the material.

All RAPs should be aware of the mandatory NSW Heritage requirement that all feedback provided must be documented in the final ACHAR, including copies of any submissions received and the proponent's response to the issues raised.

**ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Following consultation on the proposed methodology and the undertaking of any required field components, a draft ACHAR will be prepared. The draft ACHA report will be provided to RAPs for comment and will include:

- details of the sites/objects and/or places and their precise locations within the Subject Area and an assessment of potential impacts from the Project;
- detailed records of the consultation conducted with RAPs and how any comments received throughout the assessment process were considered; and
- management and mitigation recommendations drawing on information provided by RAPs and the results of the ACHA.

**KEY TIMELINES**

Key indicative timelines for the Project ACHA are outlined below:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Collation of culturally significant information: | Ongoing throughout process until end of draft ACHA review period. |
| 2. | Information session | 20 February 2024 |
| 3. | Comments on proposed methodology: | Due 4 March 2024 |
| 4. | Field survey: | March 2024 |
| 5. | Provision of draft ACHA (including proposed management and mitigation measures) to RAPs for review and comment: | Early April 2024 |
| 6. | RAP comments on draft ACHA: | May 2024 |
| 7. | Final ACHA incorporating RAP comments: | May/June 2024 |

**REFERENCES**


Advitech Pty Ltd. 2012. *Archaeological Survey, Aboriginal sites within Panels 6 and 7*.

Advitech Pty Ltd. 2013. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Narrabri Mine Panel 8 – 13*.

AECOM. 2010. *Maules Creek Coal Project Environmental Assessment: Appendix J Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment*.

Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd. 2005. *Archaeological Investigation for Sites of Indigenous Cultural Significance for the Proposed East Boggabri Coal Mine*.

Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd. 2009. *Narrabri Coal Mine Stage 2 Longwall Project Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*.

Australian Archaeological Survey Consultants Pty Ltd. 2007. *Narrabri Coal Project Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*.

Burns, M. 2013. *Appraisal of Scar Trees on the Rail – Infrastructure Footprint for the Maules Creek Mine Project*.

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Kamminga, J. 1978. *Amax Proposed Coal Mining Operation at Boggabri.*

Kayandel Archaeological Services. 2011. *Tarrawonga Coal Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.*

Landskape. 2010. *Tarrawonga Coal Mine Modification Cultural Heritage Assessment.*

Landskape. 2012. *Vickery Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement: Appendix I Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.*

Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Ltd. 2016. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan*.

Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd. 2015. *Narrabri Mine Modification 5, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment*.

Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd. 2018. *Narrabri Mine Longwall Panel 118-120 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey Report*.

Thompson, P. 1981. *Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Vickery Coal Mine Project*.

Whincop Archaeology. 2018. *Vickery Extension Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Historic Assessment.*

Whincop Archaeology. 2019. *Tarrawonga Life of Mine Modification Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.*

Whincop Archaeology. 2020. *Narrabri Coal Mine Stage 3 Modification Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.*

**RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES**

Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites. 2013*. The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance.*

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. 2010. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents*.

NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.*

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. 2010. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.*

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. 2011. *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW.*

**Figure 1: Location of the Project**

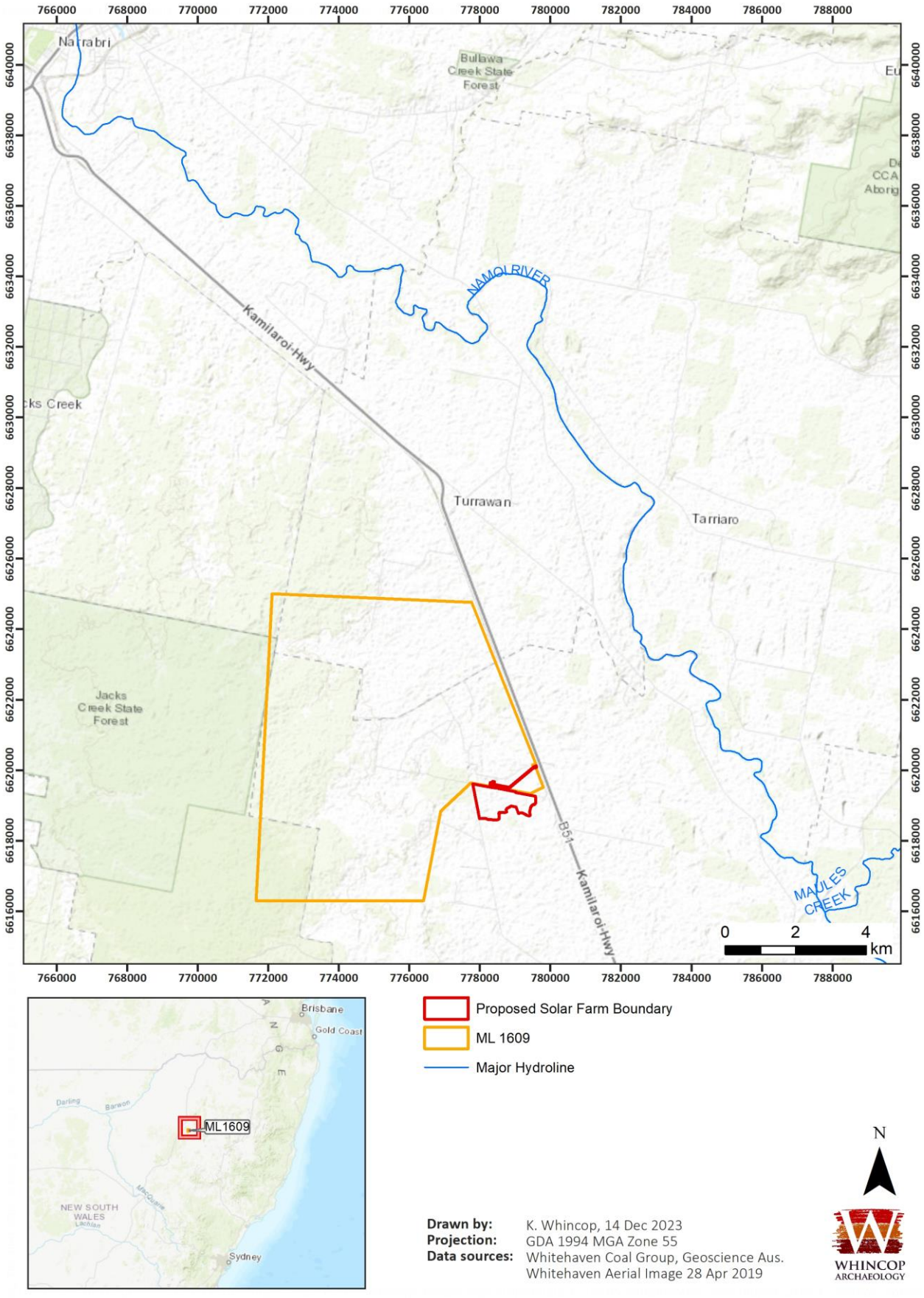


**Figure 2: Extent of the Subject Area**

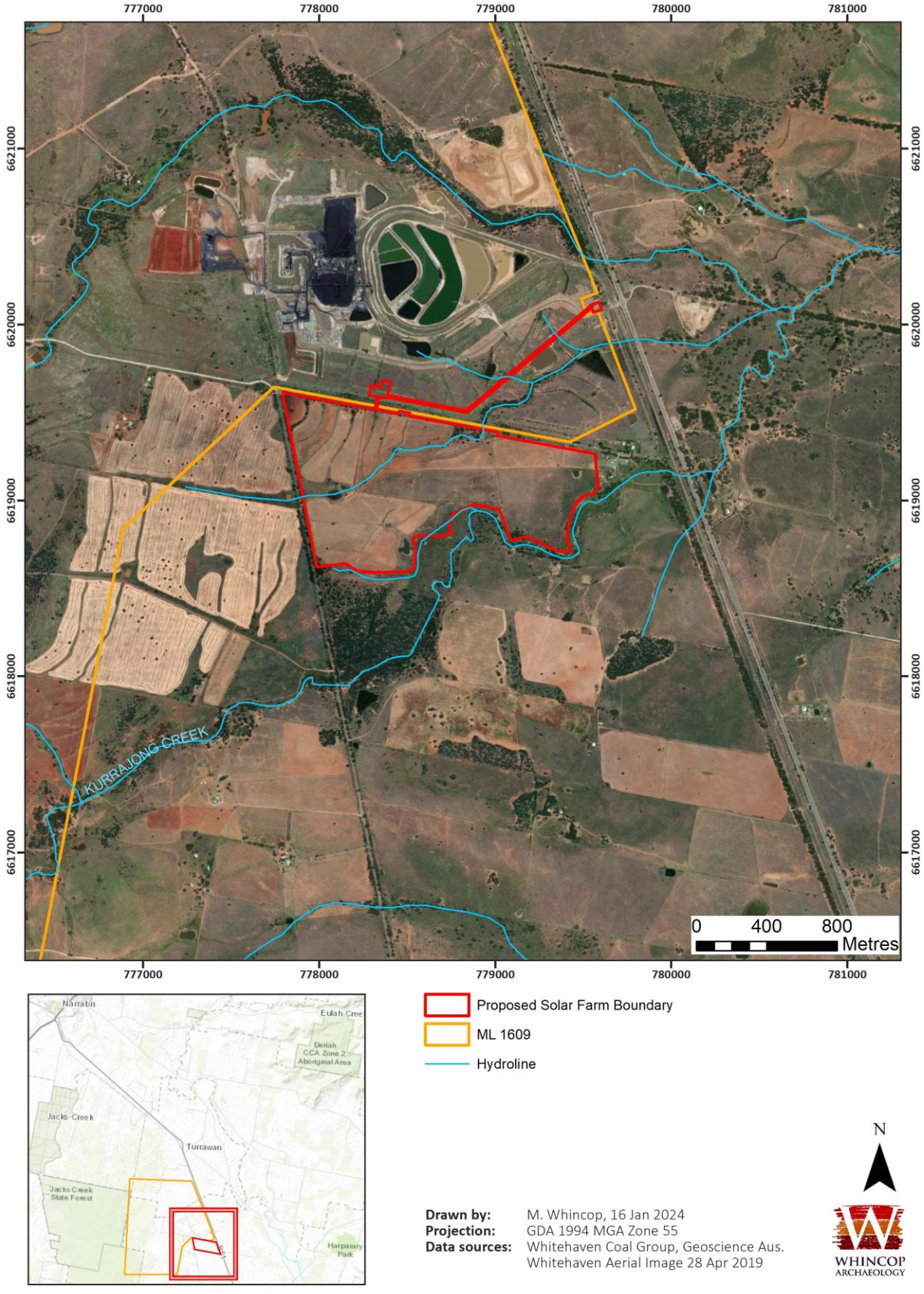
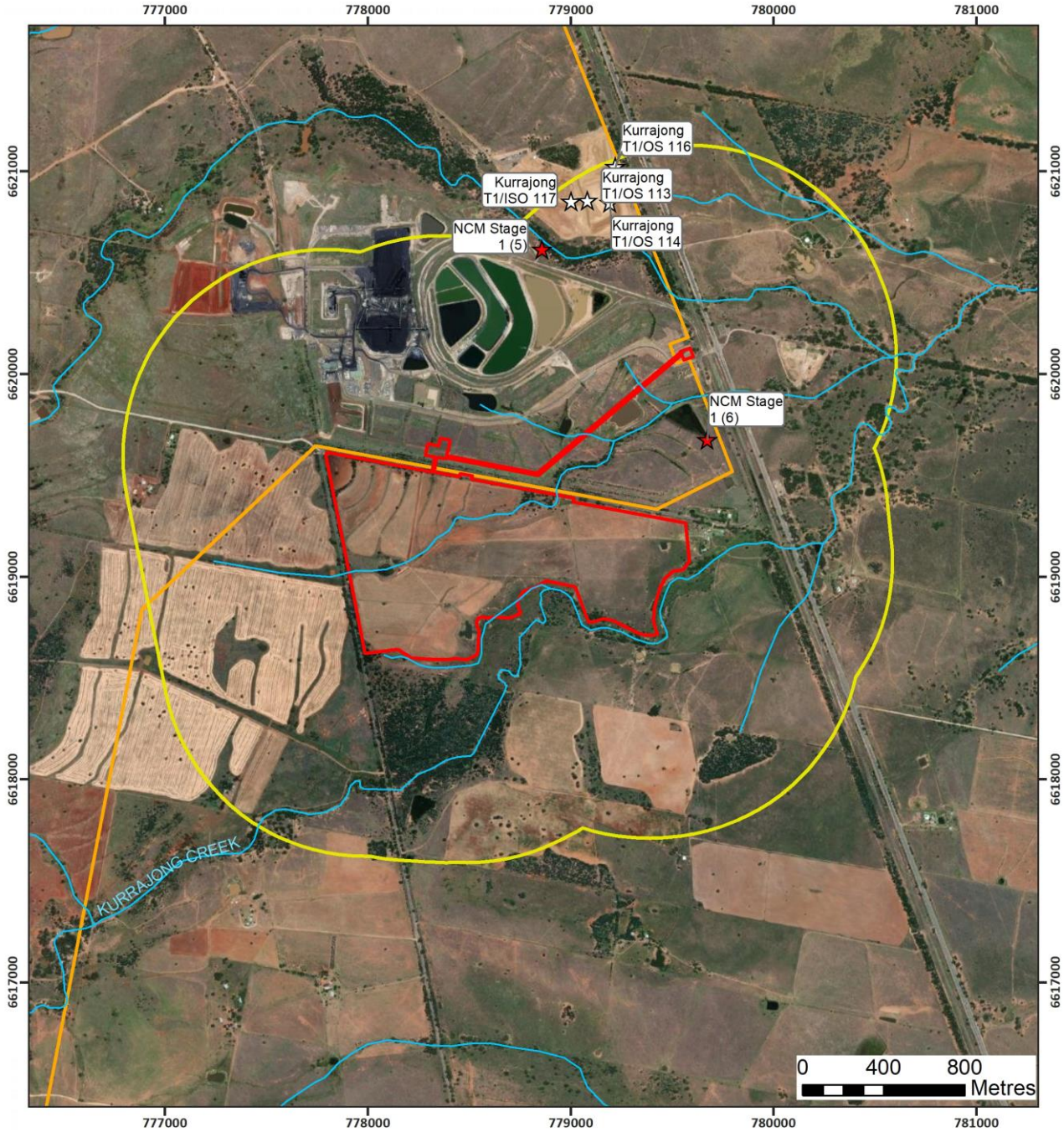
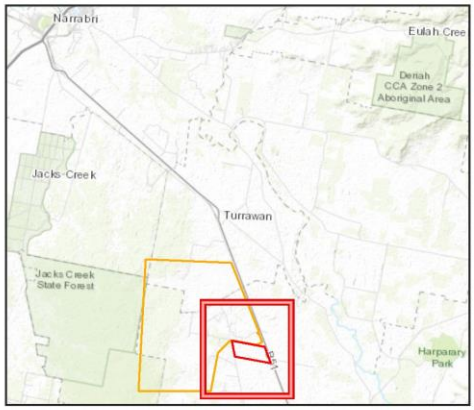


**Figure 3: Results of AHIMS search for the Subject Area (with 1 km buffer)**




Proposed Solar Farm Boundary
Study Area
ML 1609
Hydroline
AHIMS (salvaged)
AHIMS (valid)

N

**Drawn by:** M. Whincop, 16 Jan 2024
**Projection:** GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
**Data sources:** Whitehaven Coal Group, Geoscience Aus.
Whitehaven Aerial Image 28 Apr 2019

WHINCOP ARCHAEOLOGY

**Figure 4: Local hydrology for the Subject Area**

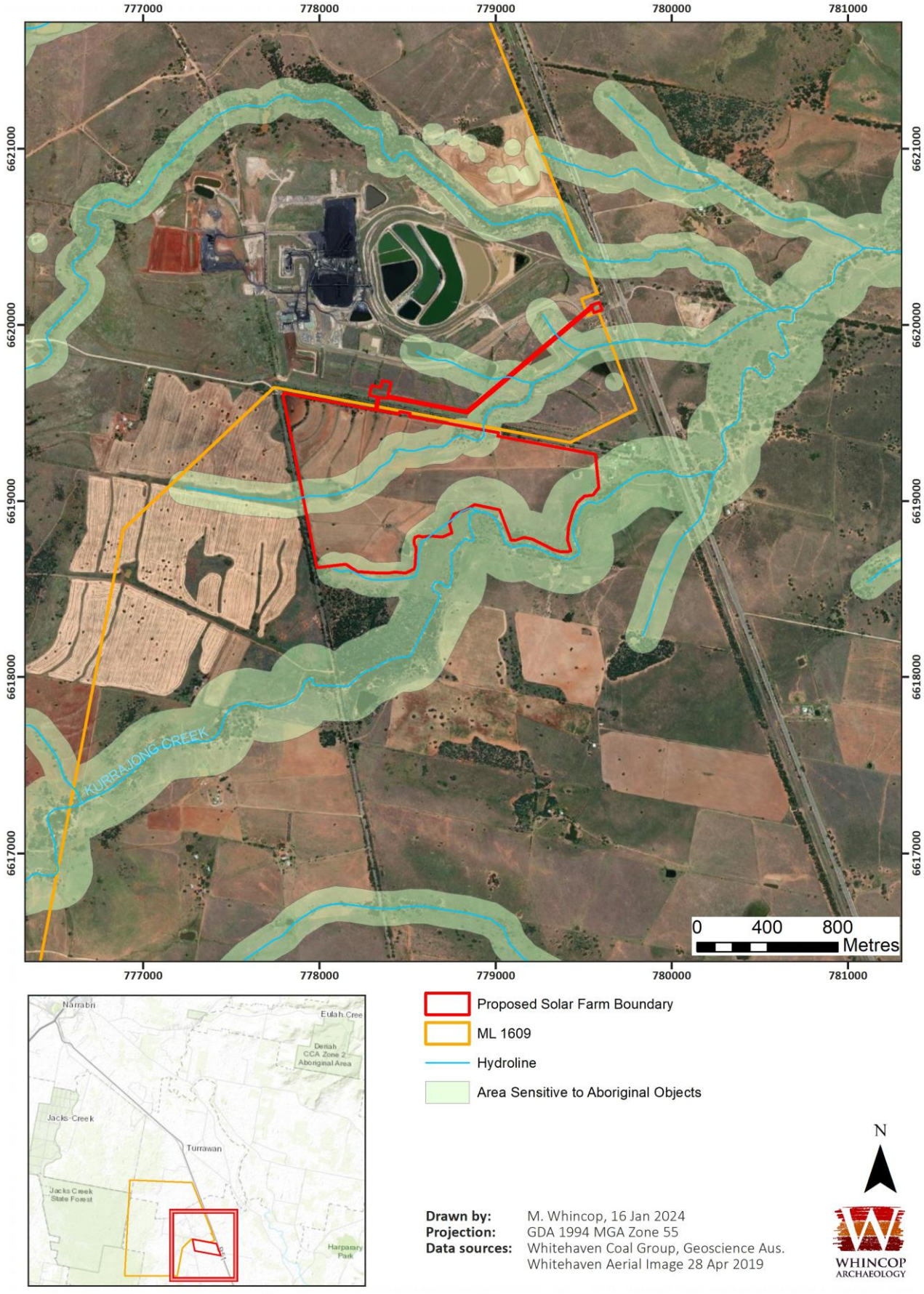


**Figure 3: Results of AHIMS search for the Subject Area (with 1 km buffer)**

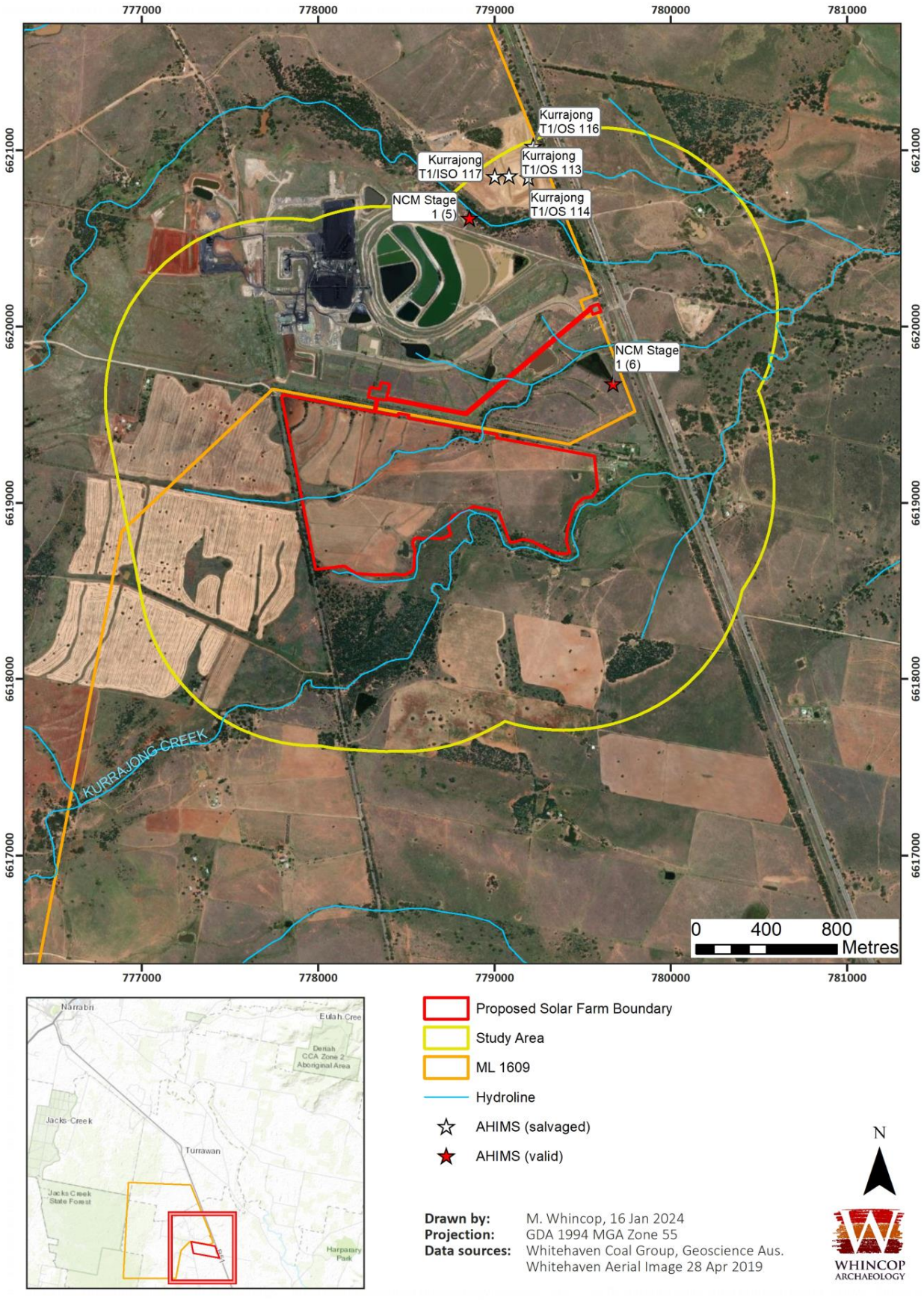
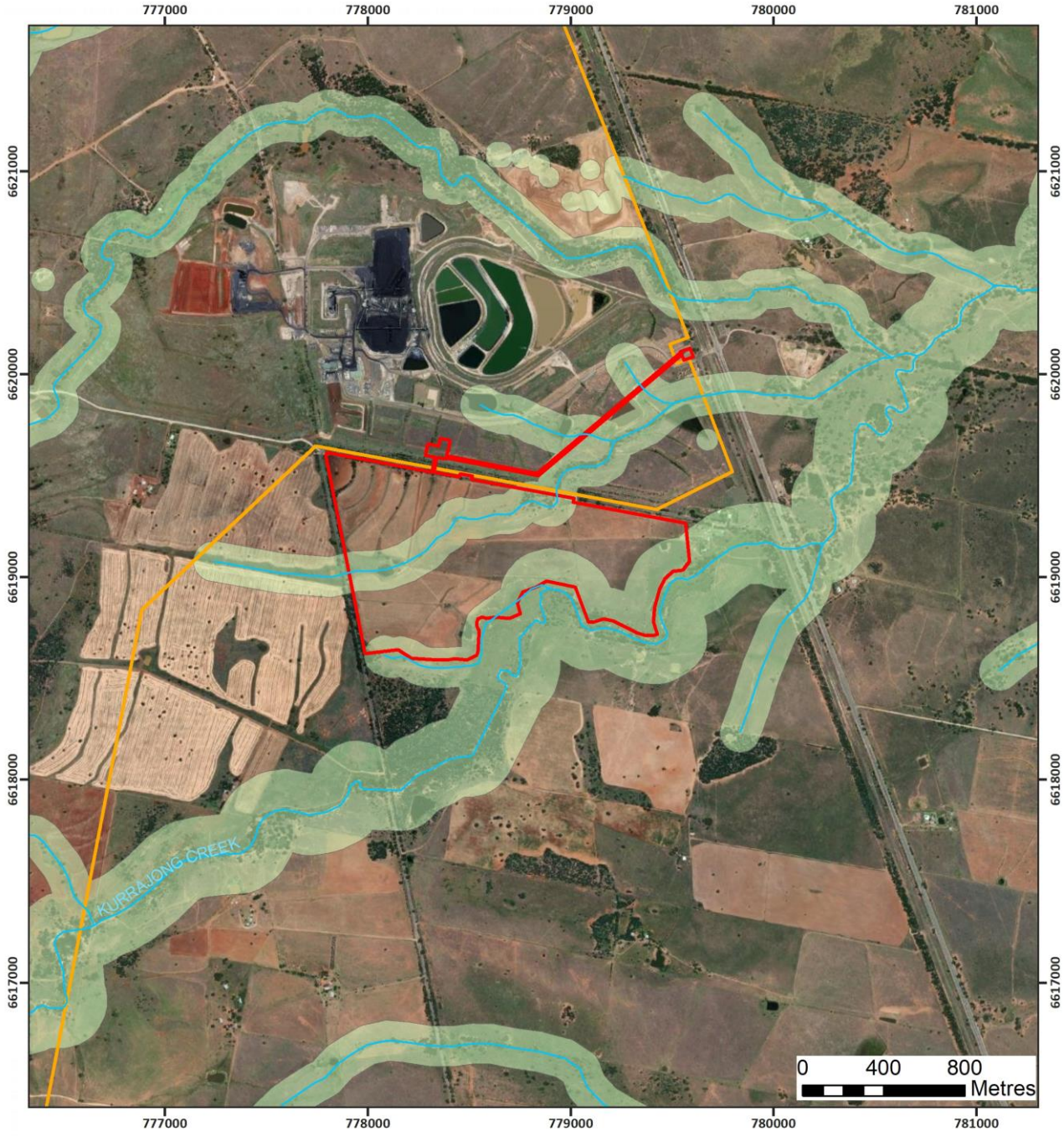
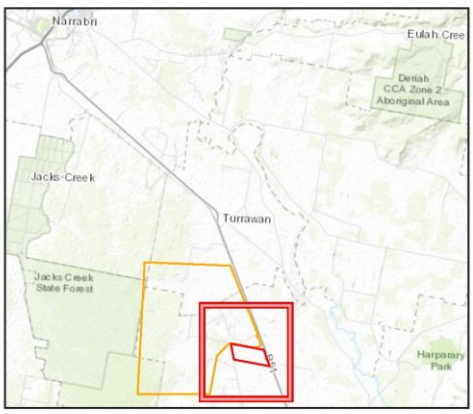



**Figure 4: Local hydrology for the Subject Area**




Proposed Solar Farm Boundary

ML 1609

Hydroline

Area Sensitive to Aboriginal Objects

N

**Drawn by:** M. Whincop, 16 Jan 2024
**Projection:** GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
**Data sources:** Whitehaven Coal Group, Geoscience Aus.
Whitehaven Aerial Image 28 Apr 2019

WHINCOP ARCHAEOLOGY

DRAFT ACHA LETTERS

31 May 2024

Muki Namae Two Rivers Aboriginal Corp
Aaron Talbott
13 Hunter Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Aaron,

**Re: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT DRAFT REPORT AND INFORMATION SESSION**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Whitehaven Solar Farm (the Project).

**Review of Draft ACHA**

In accordance with the New South Wales (NSW) Biodiversity and Conservation Division (formerly Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]) *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010), we have provided the draft ACHA for your review and feedback. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may be used to affect, inform or refine the draft ACHA.

Please provide comments to Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd (Whitehaven Energy) (via the contact details provided at the end of this letter) if you wish to provide input on the following:

- Identification of issues.
- Any Aboriginal objects or places of cultural value within the investigation area, or issues of cultural significance, that you are aware of.
- Any restrictions or protocols you may consider necessary in relation to any information of sensitivity that you may provide.
- Any other factors you consider to be relevant to the heritage assessment.

All comments received will be taken into consideration as the ACHA is finalised. Any feedback with respect to the draft ACHA is requested by **5.00pm** on **Friday 5 July 2024**.

**Information Session**

As part of the review process for the draft ACHA, Whitehaven Energy would like to offer all Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) the opportunity to participate in an information session regarding the draft ACHA. The purpose of the information session is to discuss the key findings of the draft ACHA and to provide an opportunity for RAPs to discuss, ask questions and/or provide comment on the draft ACHA, particularly the cultural significance and proposed management measures. Representatives from the consulting archaeologist and Whitehaven Energy will also participate in the information session.

The information session will take place on **Thursday 20 June 2024** in the Narrabri Area. Meeting details will be provided to those who RSVP.

Please advise Whitehaven Energy (via the contact details provided at the end of this letter) by **5.00pm** on **Friday 14 June 2024** whether yourself, or a representative from your group, is able to participate in the information session. If you would like to attend the information session via teleconference, please note this in your RSVP and a link will be provided to access the webinar.

Please note that if you do not participate in the information session, you will still be involved for the remainder of the consultation process and assessment.

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd
Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

**Site Inspection**

Following the information session all present RAPs who have provided an RSVP will be invited by Whitehaven Energy to attend a site inspection of the investigation area including a selection of recorded sites. During this inspection, attending RAPs can provide further details in relation to any submission that they have made as to the cultural significance of the study area and/or identified sites.

**Contact Details**

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd
Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

31 May 2024

Brian Draper
2/135 Bloomfield Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Brian,

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Yours sincerely



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

31 May 2024

Cacatua General Services
Donna Sampson and George Sampson
22 Ibis Parade
Woodberry NSW 2322

Dear Donna and George,

**Re: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT DRAFT REPORT AND INFORMATION SESSION**

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22 Ibis Parade
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**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

31 May 2024

Gomeroi Narrabri Aboriginal Corp
Jim Trindall
42 Mooloobar Street
Narrabri NSW 2390

Dear Jim,

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**Darren Swain**
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31 May 2024

Kerry Morgan Fernando
17 Albion Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Kerry,

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Narrabri LALC
Lynn Trindall
96 Barwan Street
Narrabri NSW 2390

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Michael John Long
17 Albion Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

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Gomery Cultural Consultants
David Horton
22 Cabernet Street
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

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31 May 2024

c/- Zoe Robertson NTSCORP Ltd
Gomeroi Applicant
Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street
Redfern NSW 2016

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Please advise Whitehaven Energy (via the contact details provided at the end of this letter) by **5.00pm** on **Friday 14 June 2024** whether yourself, or a representative from your group, is able to participate in the information session. If you would like to attend the information session via teleconference, please note this in your RSVP and a link will be provided to access the webinar.

Please note that if you do not participate in the information session, you will still be involved for the remainder of the consultation process and assessment.

Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd
Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

**Site Inspection**

Following the information session all present RAPs who have provided an RSVP will be invited by Whitehaven Energy to attend a site inspection of the investigation area including a selection of recorded sites. During this inspection, attending RAPs can provide further details in relation to any submission that they have made as to the cultural significance of the study area and/or identified sites.

**Contact Details**

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Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

31 May 2024

Marvonia Welsh
1 Yabsley Ave
Marrickville NSW 2204

Dear Marvonia,

**Re: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT DRAFT REPORT AND INFORMATION SESSION**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Whitehaven Solar Farm (the Project).

**Review of Draft ACHA**

In accordance with the New South Wales (NSW) Biodiversity and Conservation Division (formerly Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]) *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010), we have provided the draft ACHA for your review and feedback. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may be used to affect, inform or refine the draft ACHA.

Please provide comments to Whitehaven Energy Pty Ltd (Whitehaven Energy) (via the contact details provided at the end of this letter) if you wish to provide input on the following:

- Identification of issues.
- Any Aboriginal objects or places of cultural value within the investigation area, or issues of cultural significance, that you are aware of.
- Any restrictions or protocols you may consider necessary in relation to any information of sensitivity that you may provide.
- Any other factors you consider to be relevant to the heritage assessment.

All comments received will be taken into consideration as the ACHA is finalised. Any feedback with respect to the draft ACHA is requested by **5.00pm** on **Friday 5 July 2024**.

**Information Session**

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**Contact Details**

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Phone: +61 2 6741 9315
Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

31 May 2024

Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
Robert Young
2/42 Crawford Rd
Brighton-Le-Sands NSW 2216

Dear Robert,

**Re: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT DRAFT REPORT AND INFORMATION SESSION**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Whitehaven Solar Farm (the Project).

**Review of Draft ACHA**

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Address: 231 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380 Australia
Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

31 May 2024

Bigundi Biame Gunnedarr Traditional People
Wayne Griffiths
16 South Street
Gunnedah NSW 2380

Dear Wayne,

**Re: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT DRAFT REPORT AND INFORMATION SESSION**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Whitehaven Solar Farm (the Project).

**Review of Draft ACHA**

In accordance with the New South Wales (NSW) Biodiversity and Conservation Division (formerly Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]) *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010), we have provided the draft ACHA for your review and feedback. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may be used to affect, inform or refine the draft ACHA.

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Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

31 May 2024

Natasha Rodgers
11 Panorama Place
Upper Kedron QLD 4055

Dear Natasha,

**Re: WHITEHAVEN SOLAR FARM – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT DRAFT REPORT AND INFORMATION SESSION**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Whitehaven Solar Farm (the Project).

**Review of Draft ACHA**

In accordance with the New South Wales (NSW) Biodiversity and Conservation Division (formerly Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]) *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010), we have provided the draft ACHA for your review and feedback. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may be used to affect, inform or refine the draft ACHA.

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Email: NCO-NSP-ACHA@whitehavencoal.com.au

Yours sincerely



**Darren Swain**
General Manager Community Engagement

APPENDIX 3: INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE RECORDS

# Proposed Methodology Information Session Attendance Record

| Name | Organisation |
|---|---|
| Bigundi Biame Traditional People | Wayne Griffiths |

APPENDIX 4: AHIMS SEARCHES

# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
## Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 2023_228 revised

Client Service ID : 855090

Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

99 Murton Ave
Holland Park Queensland 4121

Attention: Matthew Whincop

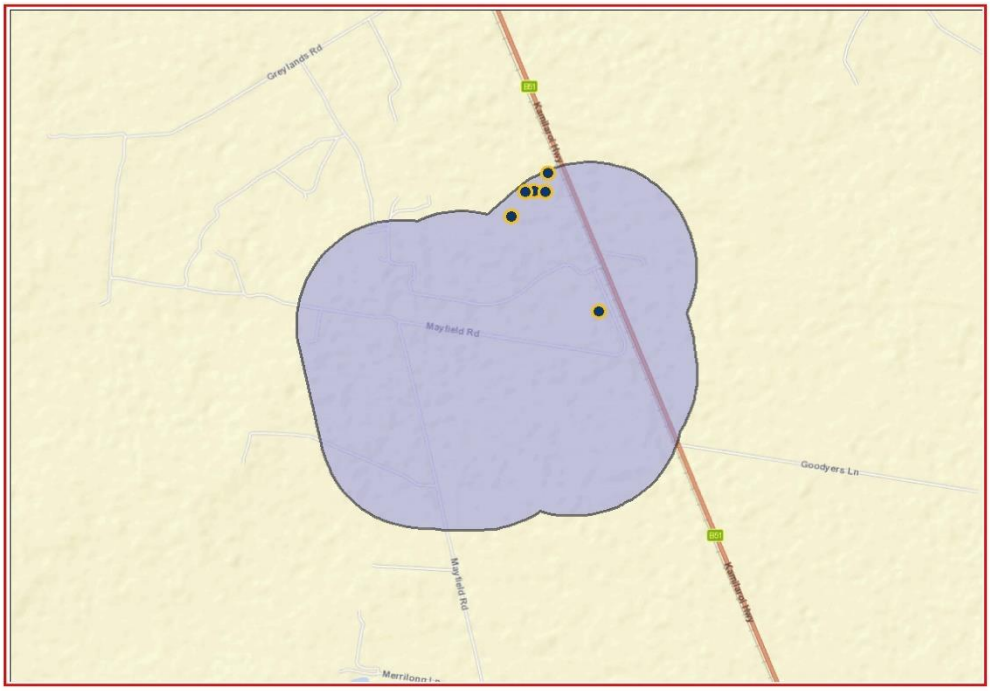
Email: matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

Date: 16 January 2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

**AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Search using shape-file ProposedSolarFarmSiteBoundary_160124_1000mBuffer with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Archaeological Assessment, conducted by Matthew Whincop on 16 January 2024.**

**The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.**




A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 | **Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.** |
| 0 | **Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *** |

**If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?**

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the NSW Government Gazette (https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

**Important information about your AHIMS search**

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Heritage NSW and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date. Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings,
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.

Level 6, 10 Valentine Ave, Parramatta 2150
Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124
Tel: (02) 9585 6345

ABN 34 945 244 274
Email: ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

## Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 2023_228 revised

Client Service ID : 855090

| SiteID | SiteName | Datum | Zone | Easting | Northing | Context | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures | SiteTypes | Reports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19-6-0215 | NCM Stage 1 (5) | GDA | 55 | 778859 | 6620615 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0214 | NCM Stage 1 (6) | GDA | 55 | 779673 | 6619677 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0152 | Kurrajong T1/OS 113 | GDA | 55 | 779082 | 6620856 | Open site | Destroyed | Artefact : 3 | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Mr.John Appleton,Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0153 | Kurrajong T1/OS 114 | GDA | 55 | 779193 | 6620847 | Open site | Destroyed | Artefact : 5 | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Mr.John Appleton,Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0155 | Kurrajong T1/OS 116 | GDA | 55 | 779220 | 6621024 | Open site | Destroyed | Artefact : 2 | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Mr.John Appleton,Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0156 | Kurrajong T1/ISO 117 | GDA | 55 | 779002 | 6620852 | Open site | Destroyed | Artefact : 1 | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Mr.John Appleton,Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |

**** Site Status**

**Valid** - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

**Destroyed** - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

**Partially Destroyed** - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

**Not a site** - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

**Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 16/01/2024 for Matthew Whincop for the following area at Search using shape-file ProposedSolarFarmSiteBoundary_160124_1000mBuffer with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Archaeological Assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 6**

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
## Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : WhincArch228revisedJuly
Client Service ID : 909582

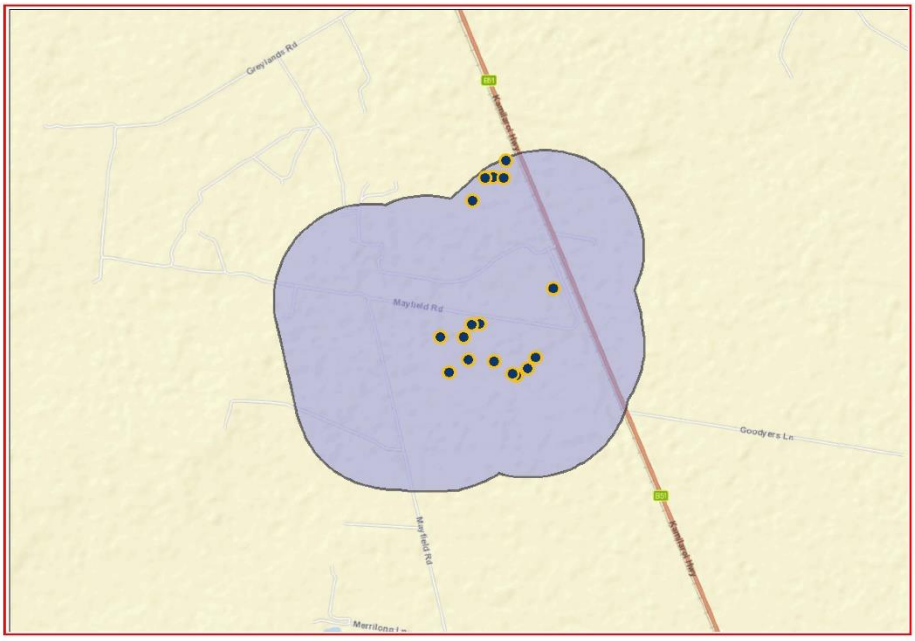
Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd
99 Murton Ave
Holland Park Queensland 4121
Attention: Matthew Whincop
Email: matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

Date: 12 July 2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

**AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Search using shape-file ProposedSolarFarmSiteBoundary_160124_1000mBuffer with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Aboriginal Community, conducted by Matthew Whincop on 12 July 2024.**

**The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.**




A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

| | |
|---|---|
| 17 | Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location. |
| 0 | Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. * |

**If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?**

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the NSW Government Gazette (https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

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- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.

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Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124
Tel: (02) 9585 6345

ABN 34 945 244 274
Email: ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

## Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : WhincArch228revisedJuly

Client Service ID : 909582

| SiteID | SiteName | Datum | Zone | Easting | Northing | Context | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures | SiteTypes | Reports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19-6-0283 | Naroo IA3 | GDA | 55 | 778735 | 6619194 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0286 | Naroo AS3 | GDA | 55 | 779388 | 6618845 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0280 | Naroo IA6 | GDA | 55 | 779468 | 6618961 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0214 | NCM Stage 1 (6) | GDA | 55 | 779673 | 6619677 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0215 | NCM Stage 1 (5) | GDA | 55 | 778859 | 6620615 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0281 | Naroo IA5 | GDA | 55 | 778776 | 6618953 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0285 | Naroo IA1 | GDA | 55 | 778901 | 6619325 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0288 | Naroo AS1 | GDA | 55 | 778575 | 6618829 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0289 | Naroo GG2 | GDA | 55 | 779265 | 6618777 | Open site | Valid | Grinding Groove : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0152 | Kurrajong T1/OS 113 | GDA | 55 | 779082 | 6620856 | Open site | Destroyed | Artefact : 3 | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Mr.John Appleton,Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | 5287 | |
| 19-6-0282 | Naroo IA4 | GDA | 55 | 778496 | 6619194 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0284 | Naroo IA2 | GDA | 55 | 778823 | 6619319 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0287 | Naroo AS2 | GDA | 55 | 779043 | 6618925 | Open site | Valid | Artefact : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0153 | Kurrajong T1/OS 114 | GDA | 55 | 779193 | 6620847 | Open site | Destroyed | Artefact : 5 | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Mr.John Appleton,Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | 5287 | |
| 19-6-0155 | Kurrajong T1/OS 116 | GDA | 55 | 779220 | 6621024 | Open site | Destroyed | Artefact : 2 | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Mr.John Appleton,Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | 5287 | |
| 19-6-0290 | Naroo GG1 | GDA | 55 | 779226 | 6618794 | Open site | Valid | Grinding Groove : - | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | | |
| 19-6-0156 | Kurrajong T1/ISO 117 | GDA | 55 | 779002 | 6620852 | Open site | Destroyed | Artefact : 1 | | |
| | **Contact** | **Recorders** | Mr.John Appleton,Doctor.Matthew Whincop,Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd | | | | | **Permits** | 5287 | |

**Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 12/07/2024 for Matthew Whincop for the following area at Search using shape-file ProposedSolarFarmSiteBoundary_160124_1000mBuffer with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Aboriginal Community. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 17**

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

## Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : WhincArch228revisedJuly

Client Service ID : 909582

| SiteID | SiteName | Datum | Zone | Easting | Northing | Context | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures | SiteTypes | Reports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**** Site Status**

**Valid** - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

**Destroyed** - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

**Partially Destroyed** - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

**Not a site** - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

**Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 12/07/2024 for Matthew Whincop for the following area at Search using shape-file ProposedSolarFarmSiteBoundary_160124_1000mBuffer with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Aboriginal Community. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 17**

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

# APPENDIX 5: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITE CARDS

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0290 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo GG1

**Easting:** 779226 **Northing:** 6618794 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

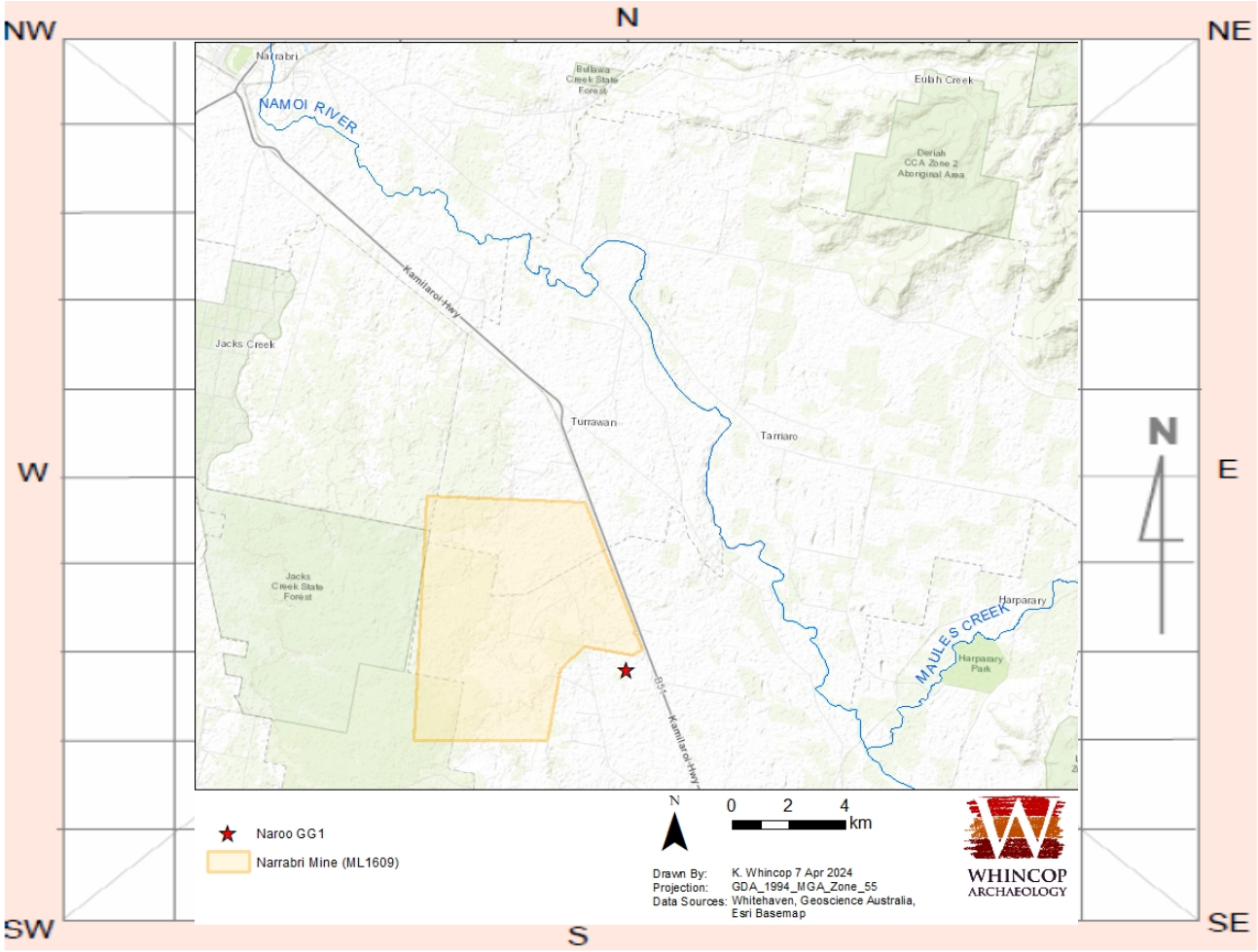
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 50 **Primary Report:**

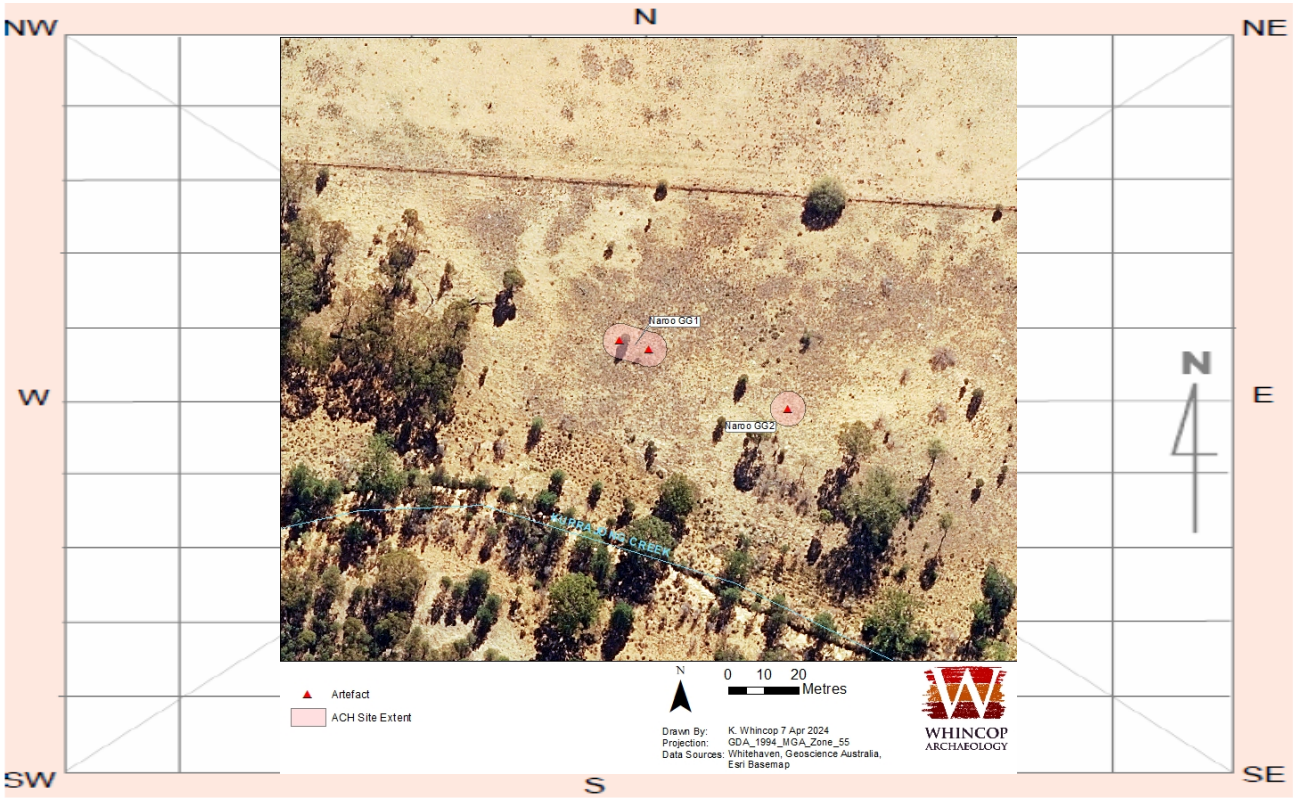
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek located 1.75km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Grinding Groove | 2 | 20 | 10 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Good

Description:

Two separate grinding grooves on sandstone outcrop in grassed paddock on creek terrace (c. 8 m apart). More grooves may be present under dense grass cover. Groove 1 330mm long by 35mm wide. Groove 2 450mm long by 45mm wide

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

## Site photographs



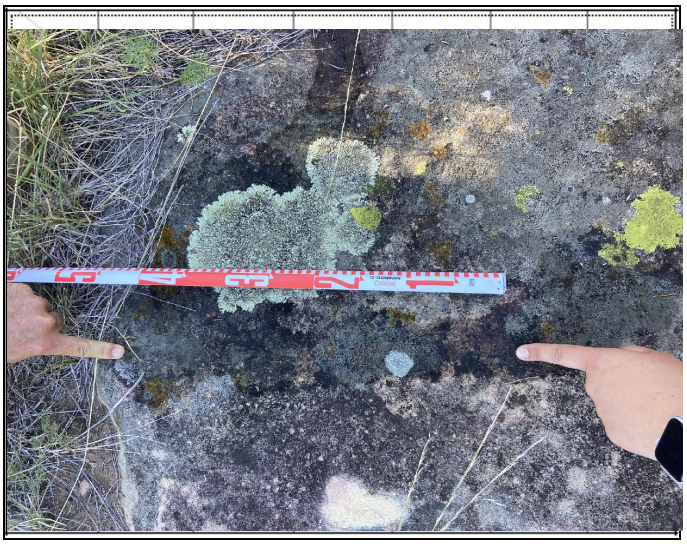
Description: Naroo GG1, looking southeast



Description: Groove 1



Description: Groove 2 (depth)



Description: Groove 2

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender | General | Location — N/A

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** | **Surname** | **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0289 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo GG2

**Easting:** 779265 **Northing:** 6618777 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

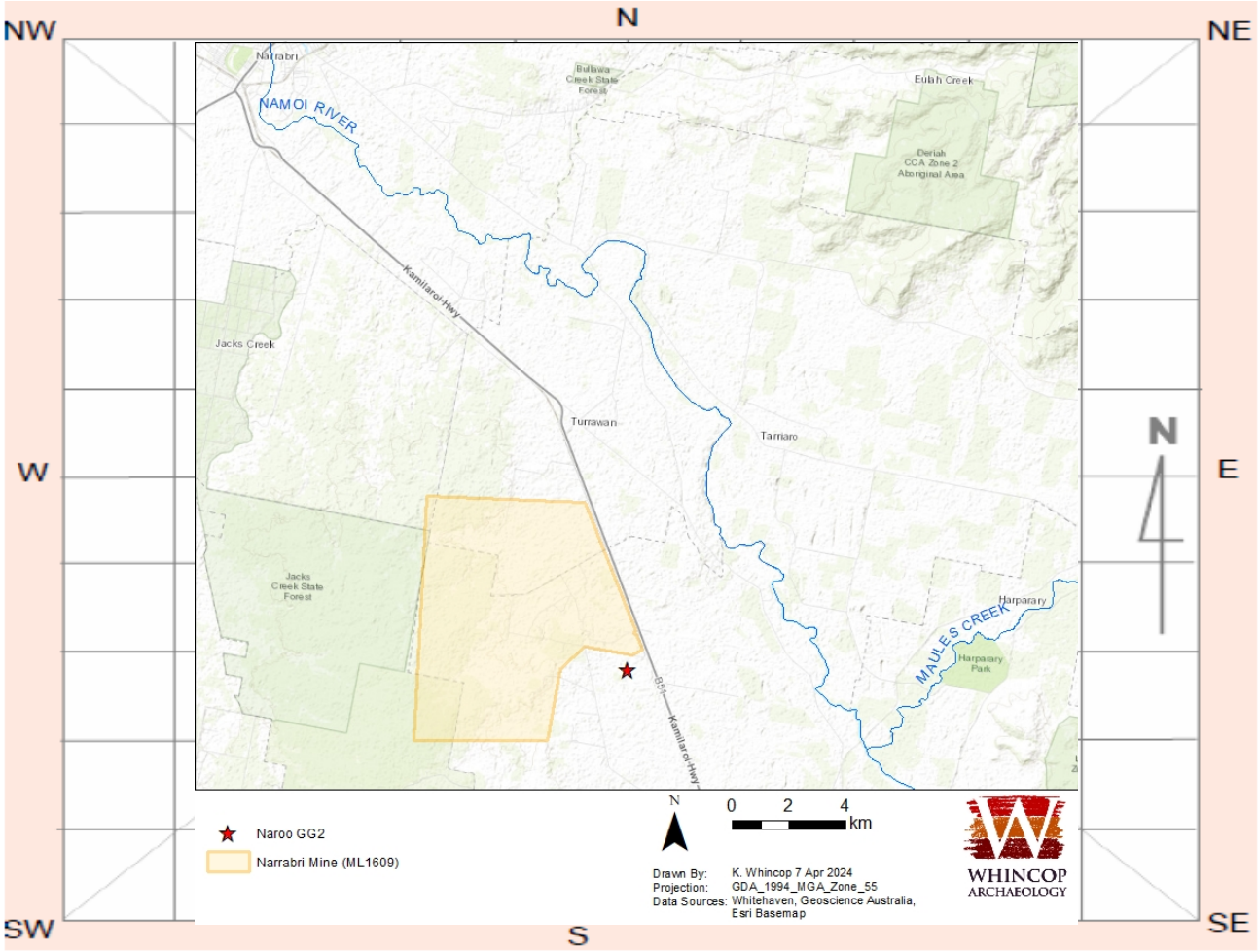
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 50 **Primary Report:**

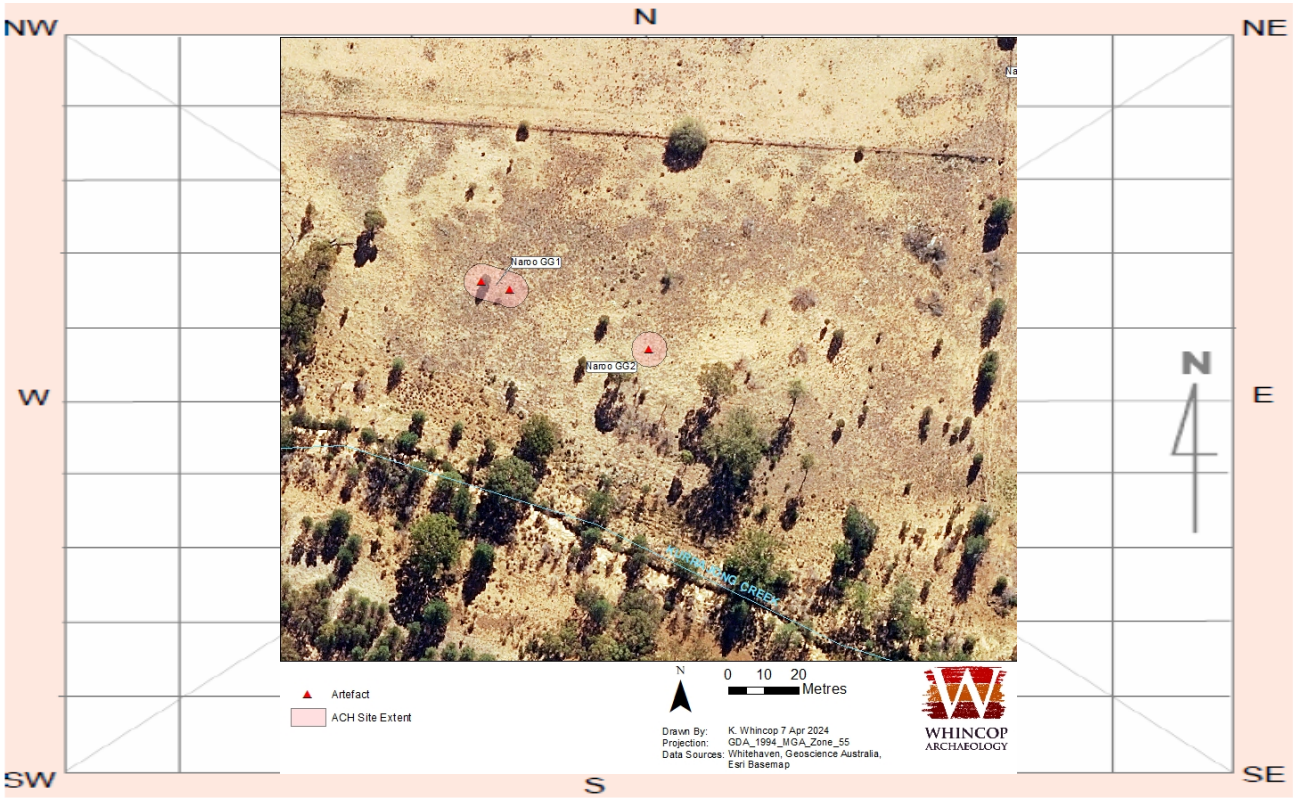
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek located 1.75km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Grinding Groove | 11 | 10 | 10 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Good

Description:

Nine visible grooves over 2m by 1m area on sandstone outcrop on creek terrace. Densely grassed area, likely more grooves under grass/sediment cover. Further 2 grooves 200mm to 500mm long and 50mm to 75mm wide. Some grooves partially covered in sediment.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

## Site photographs



Description: Naroo GG2, looking north



Description: Cluster of 9 grooves



Description: Naroo GG2



Description: Additional 2 grooves

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender | General | Location — N/A

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** | **Surname** | **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0288 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo AS1

**Easting:** 778575 **Northing:** 6618829 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

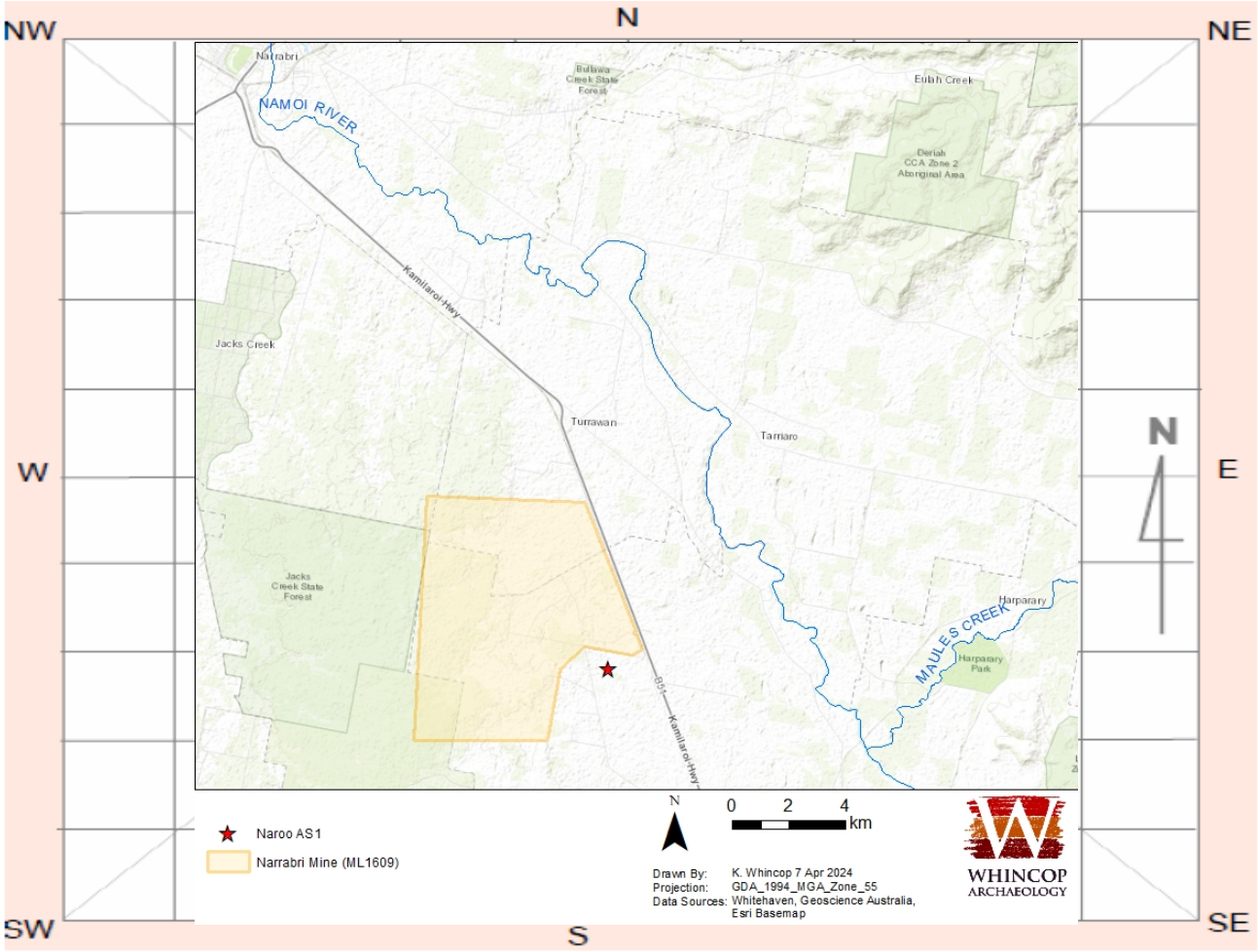
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 40 **Primary Report:**

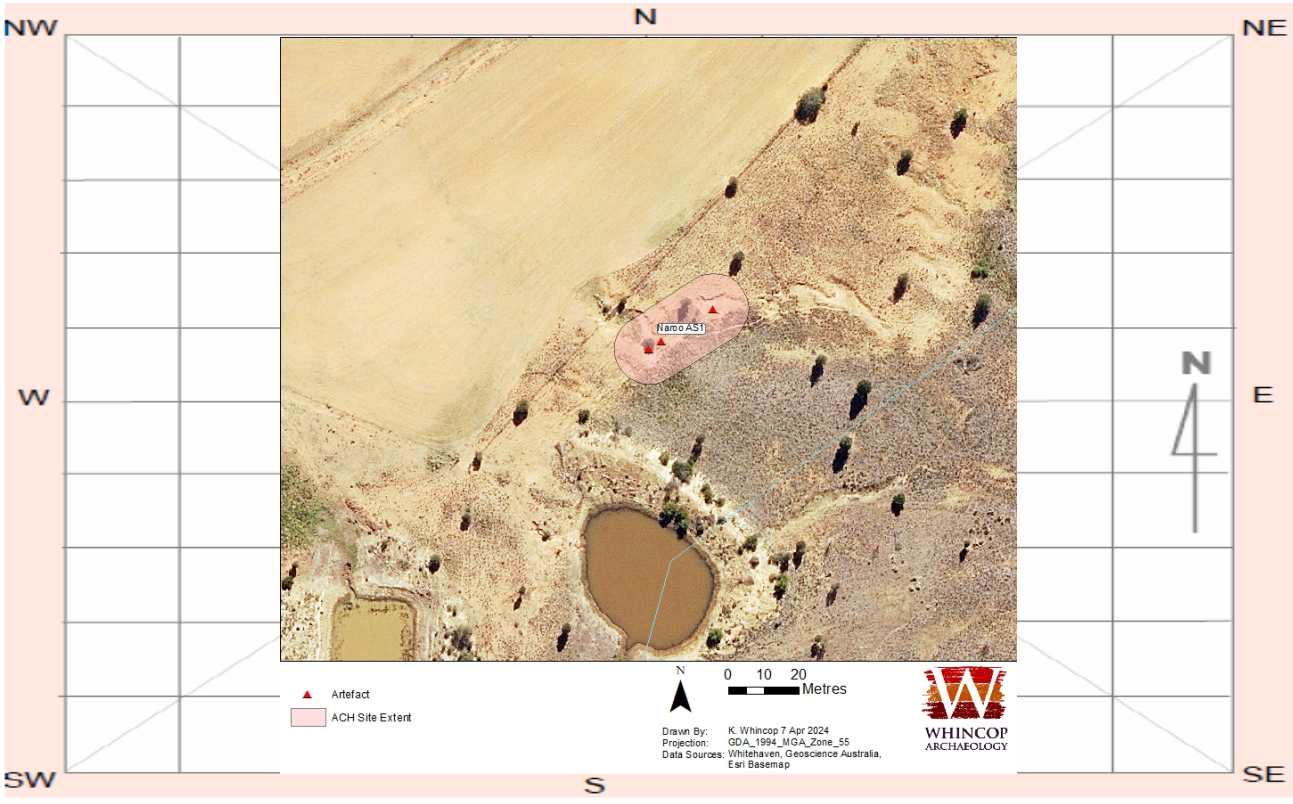
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek located 1.3km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 4 | 40 | 10 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Three complete siltstone flakes and silcrete medial flake identified in gullying erosion scours on edge of creek terrace. Area is largely grassed, with some mature shrubs. Farm infrastructure dam and fence disturbance nearby.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

## Site photographs



Description: Naroo AS1, looking south




Description: Silcrete medial flake



Description: Siltstone flake



Description: Siltstone flakes

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender: N/A | General | Location

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** | **Surname** | **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0287 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo AS2

**Easting:** 779043 **Northing:** 6618925 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

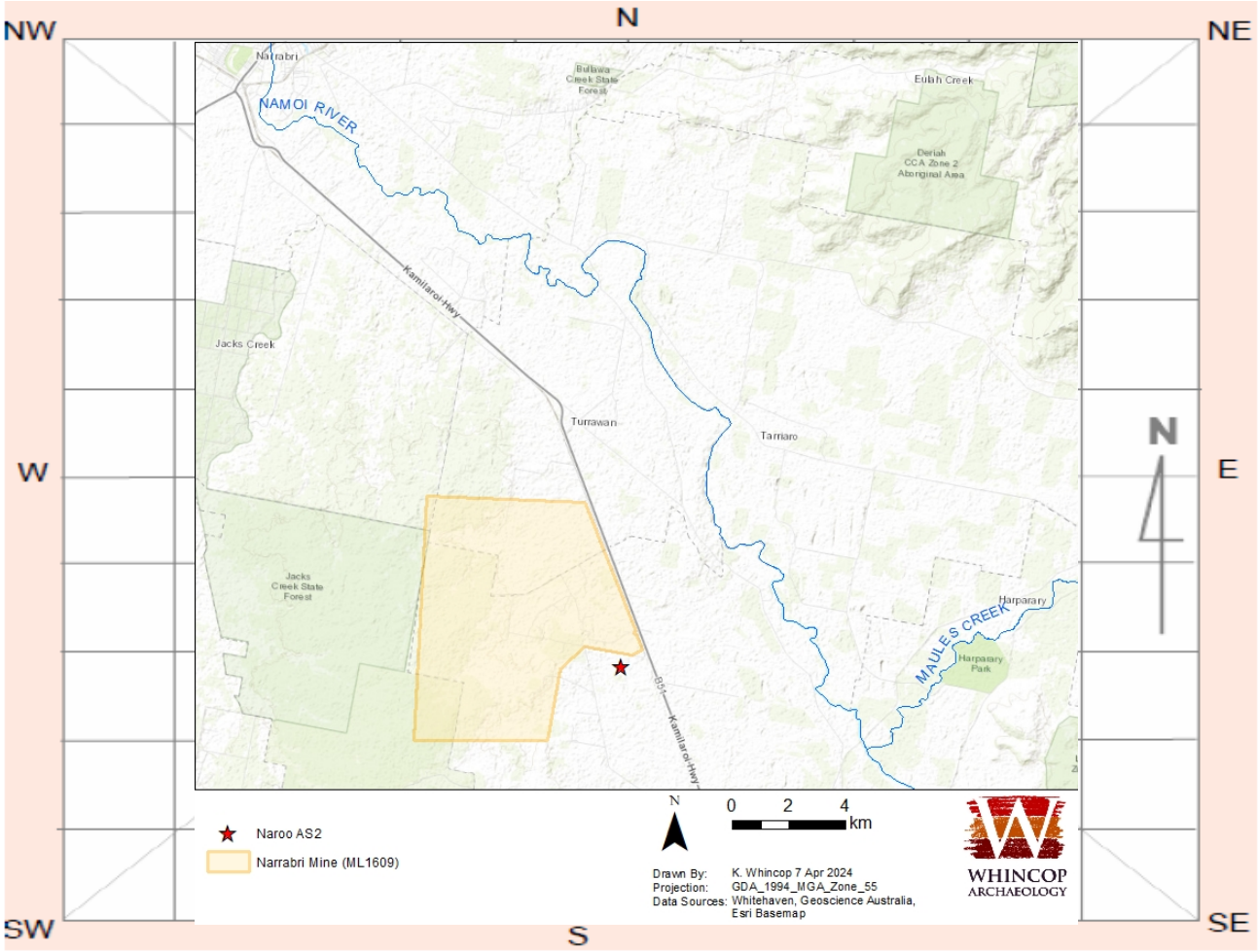
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 30 **Primary Report:**

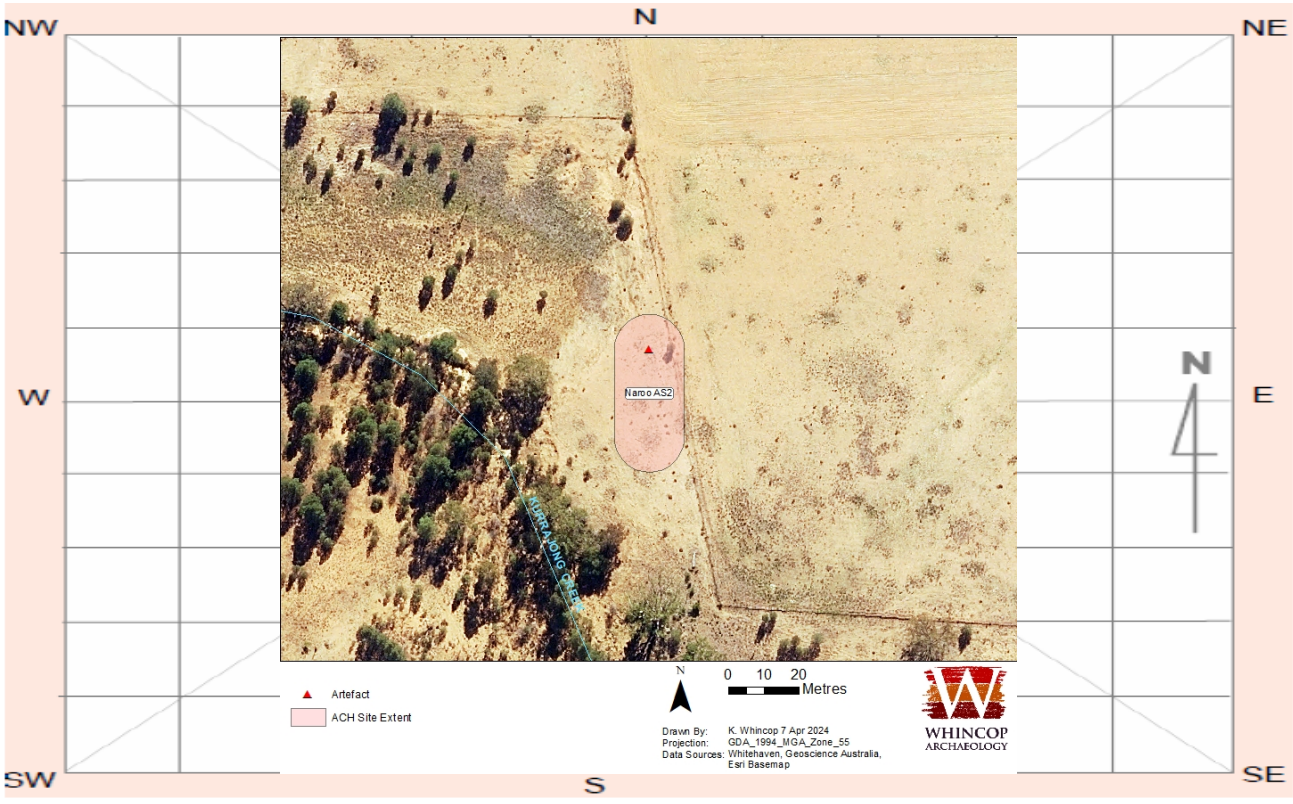
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek located 1.5km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 6 | 45 | 10 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Low density artefact scatter (6 artefacts) located on creek terrace. Material includes rhyolite, chert, silcrete and quartzite.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

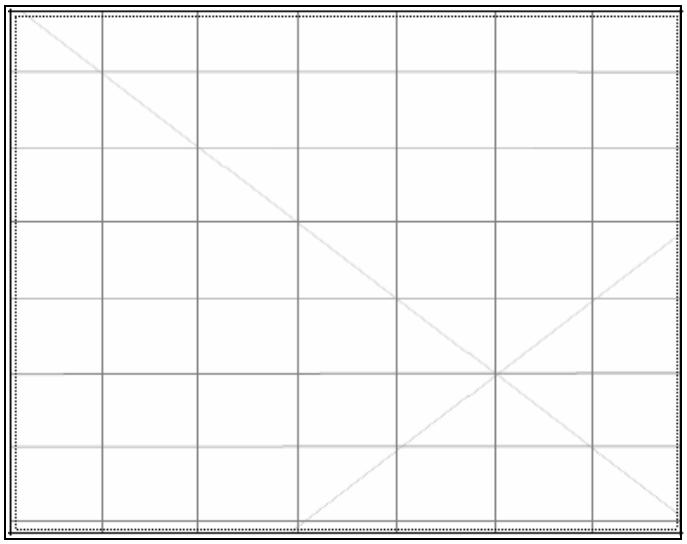
## Site photographs



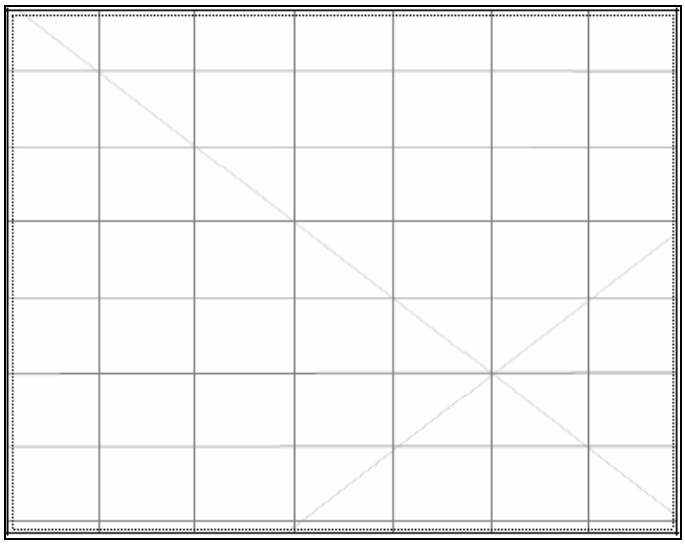
Description: Naroo AS2 south




Description: Six artefacts



Description:



Description:

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender N/A | General | Location

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** **Surname** **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0286 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo AS3

**Easting:** 779388 **Northing:** 6618845 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

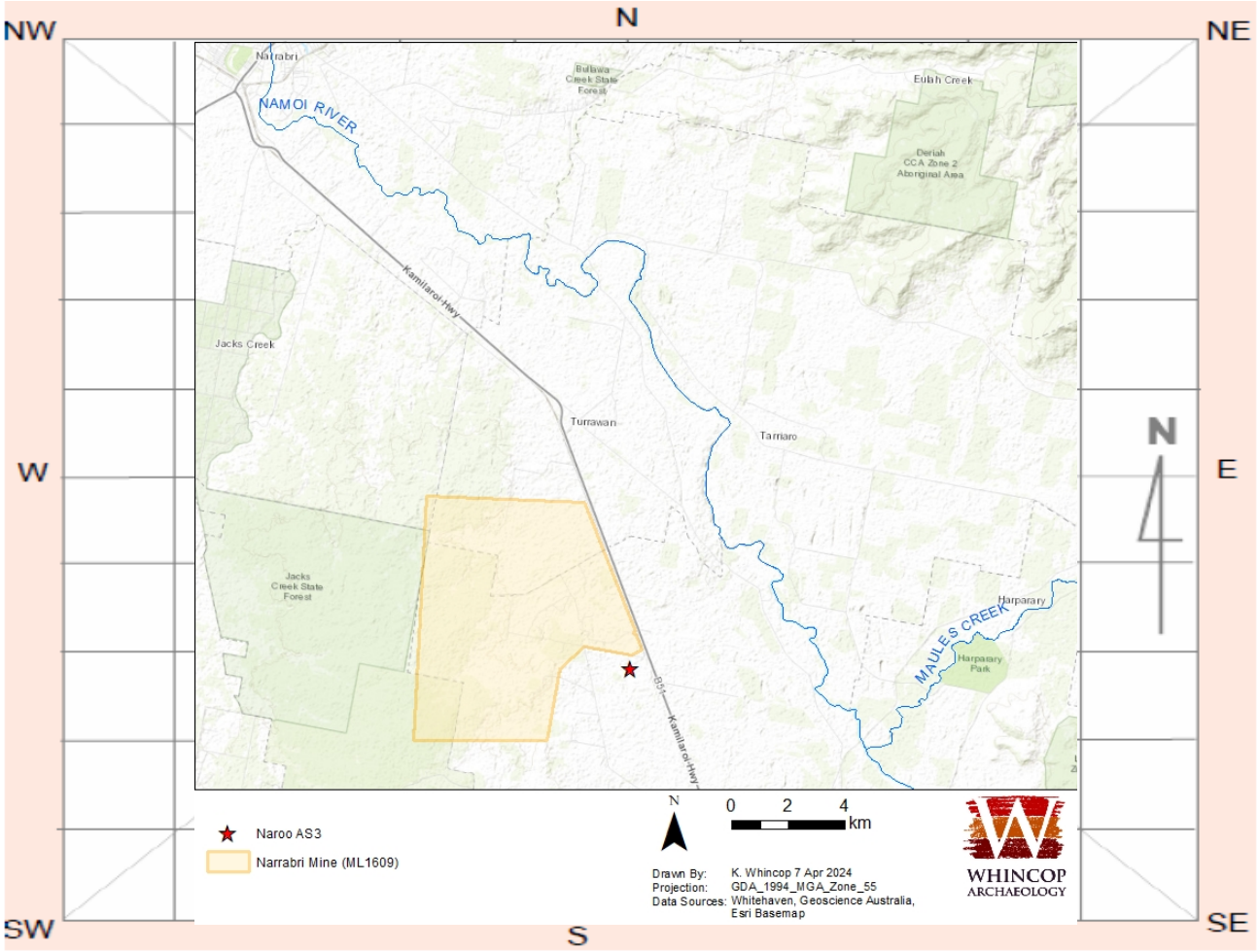
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 35 **Primary Report:**

**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek located 1.8km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 4 | 70 | 25 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Four artefacts identified on ants nest erosion scours in densely grassed paddock on creek terrace: 1 chalcedony backed artefacts, 1 chalcedony artefact, 1 siltstone proximal flake and silcrete flake.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

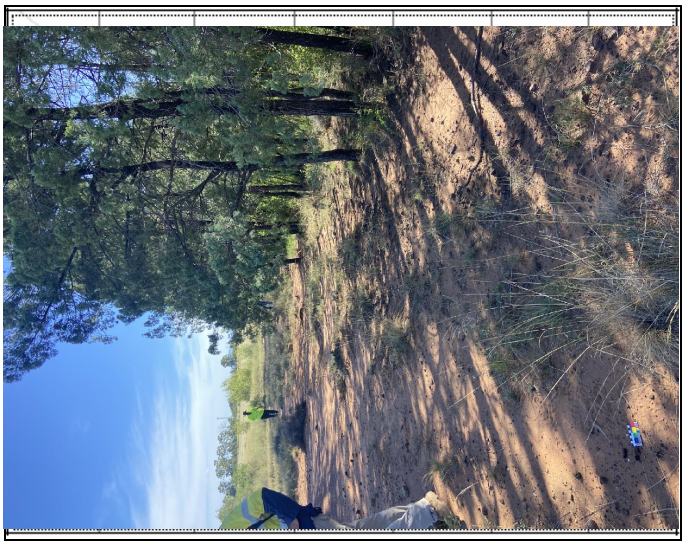
**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

## Site photographs



Description: Naroo AS3, looking north




Description: Chalcedony backed flake




Description: Chalcedony flake and siltstone proximal flake




Description: Silcrete flake

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender | General | Location — N/A

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** | **Surname** | **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0285 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo IA1

**Easting:** 778901 **Northing:** 6619325 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

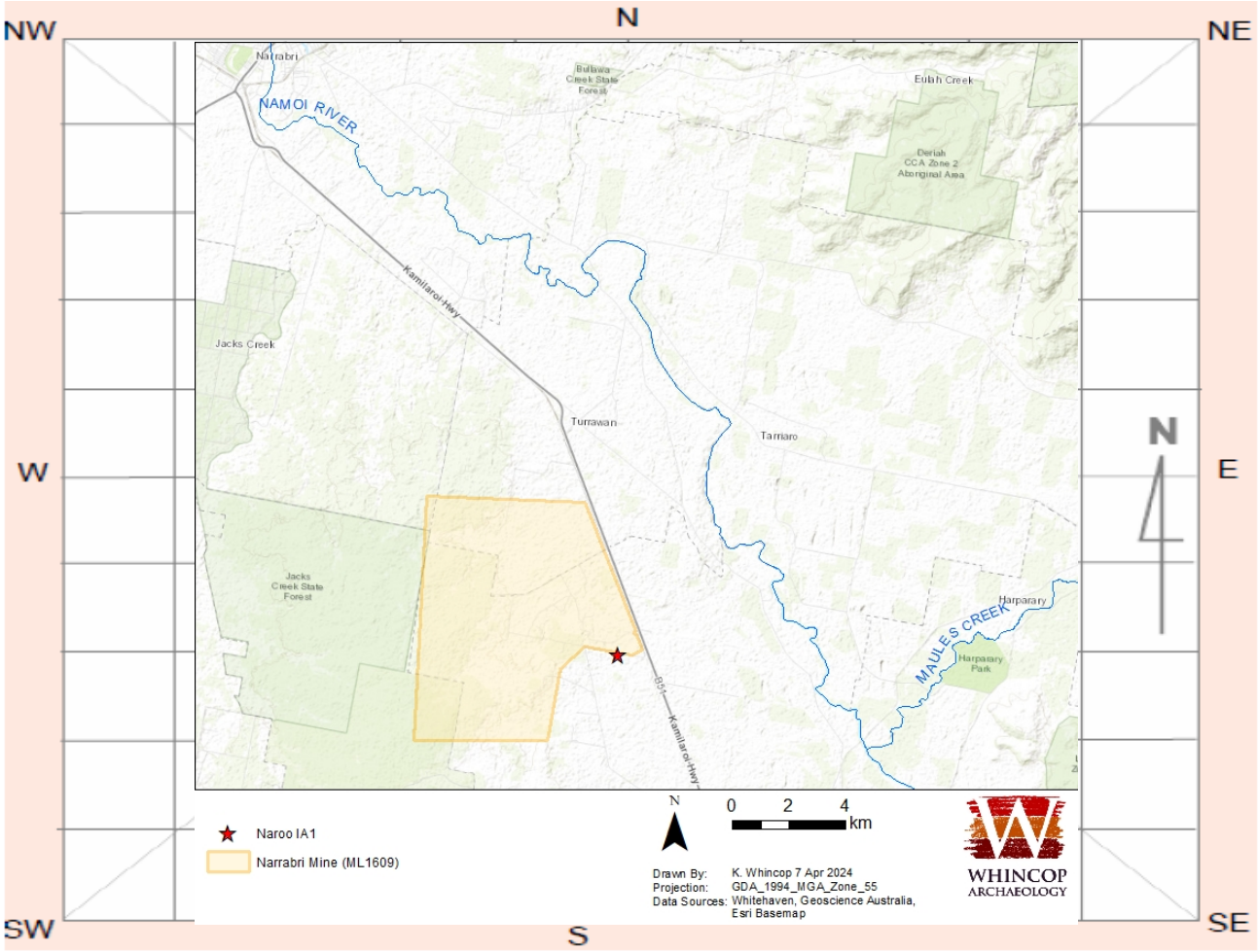
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 20 **Primary Report:**

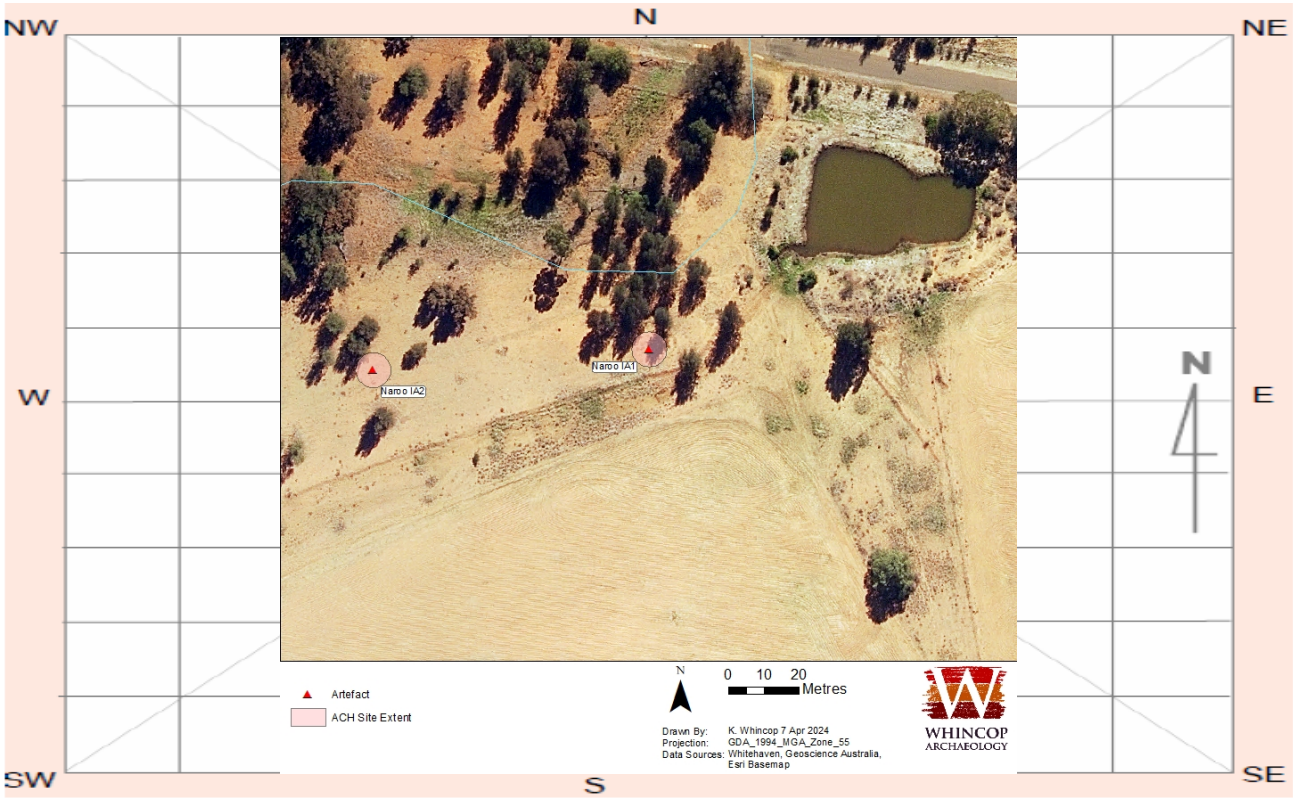
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek tributary located 1.1km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Isolated siltstone complete flake identified on minor drainage bank in erosion scours under stand of casuarina. North of contour bank and cropped field, south of road and drainage depression.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

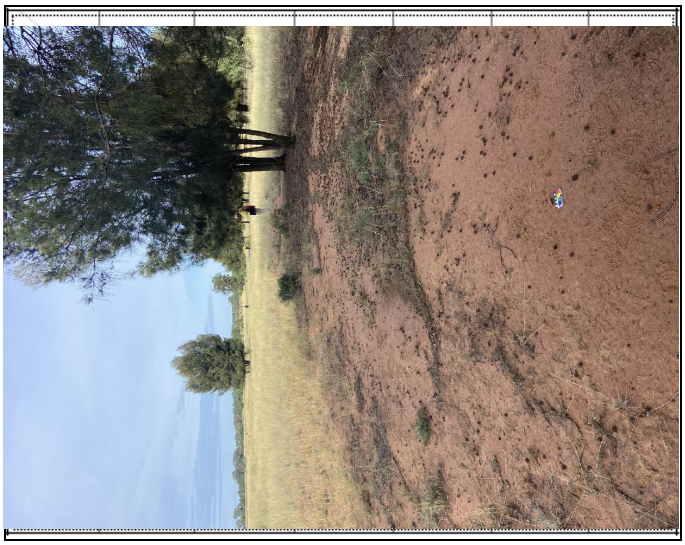
**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

## Site photographs



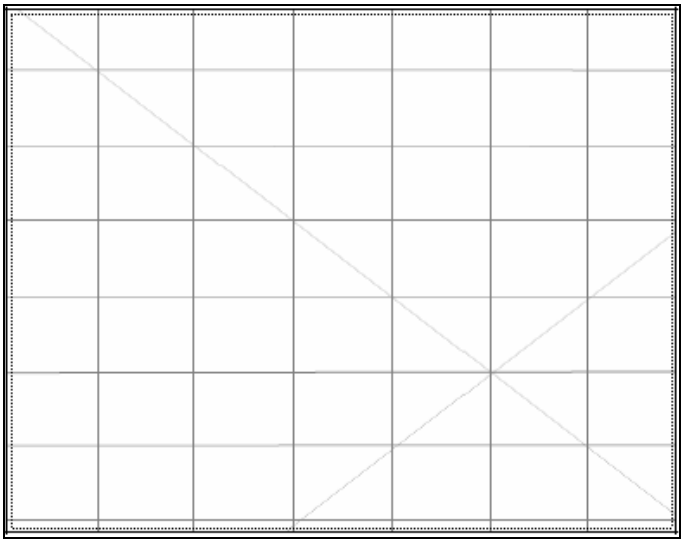
Description: Naroo IA1, looking west




Description: Siltstone flake (dorsal)




Description: Siltstone flake (ventral)



Description:

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender N/A | General | Location

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** | **Surname** | **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0284 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo IA2

**Easting:** 778823 **Northing:** 6619319 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

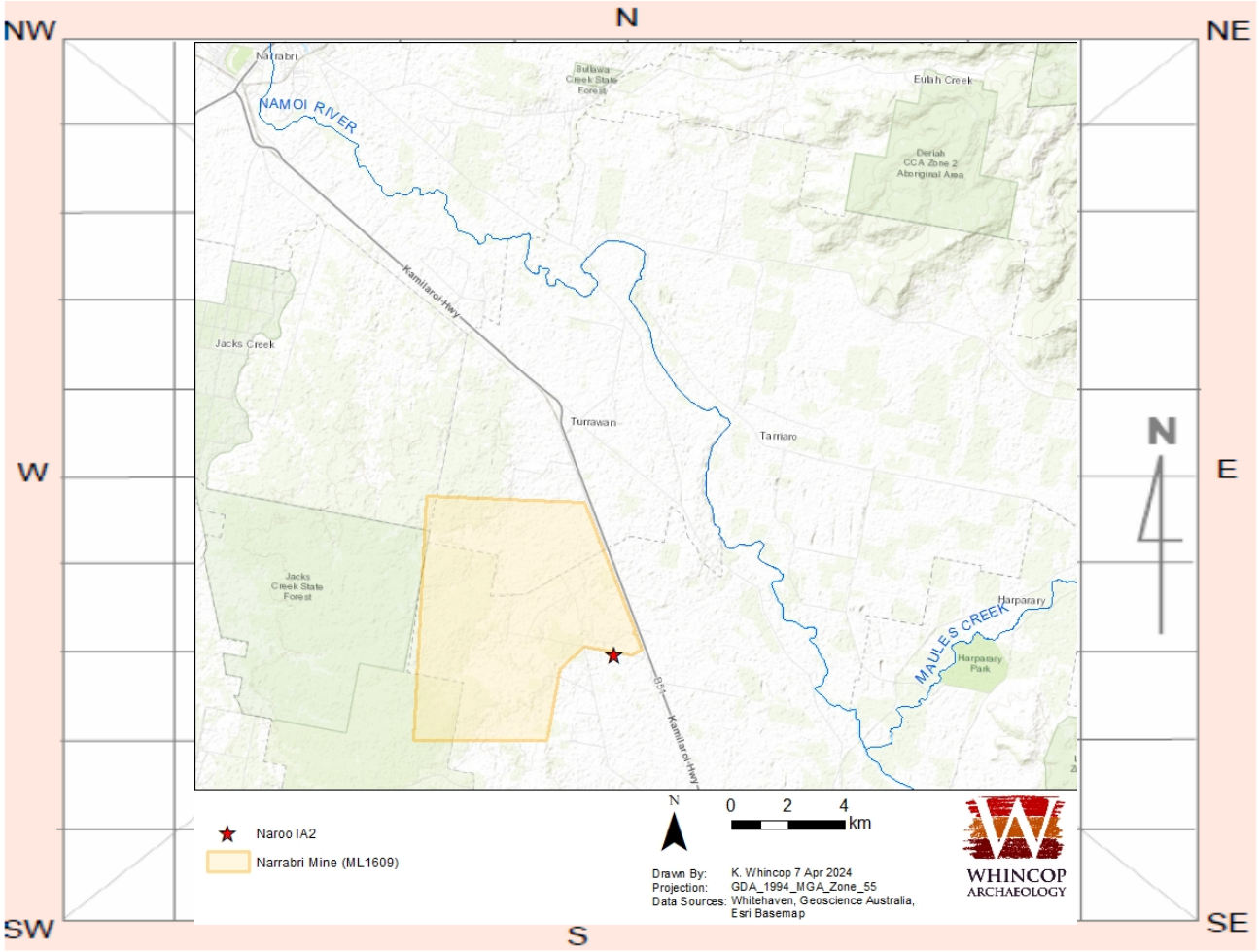
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 50 **Primary Report:**

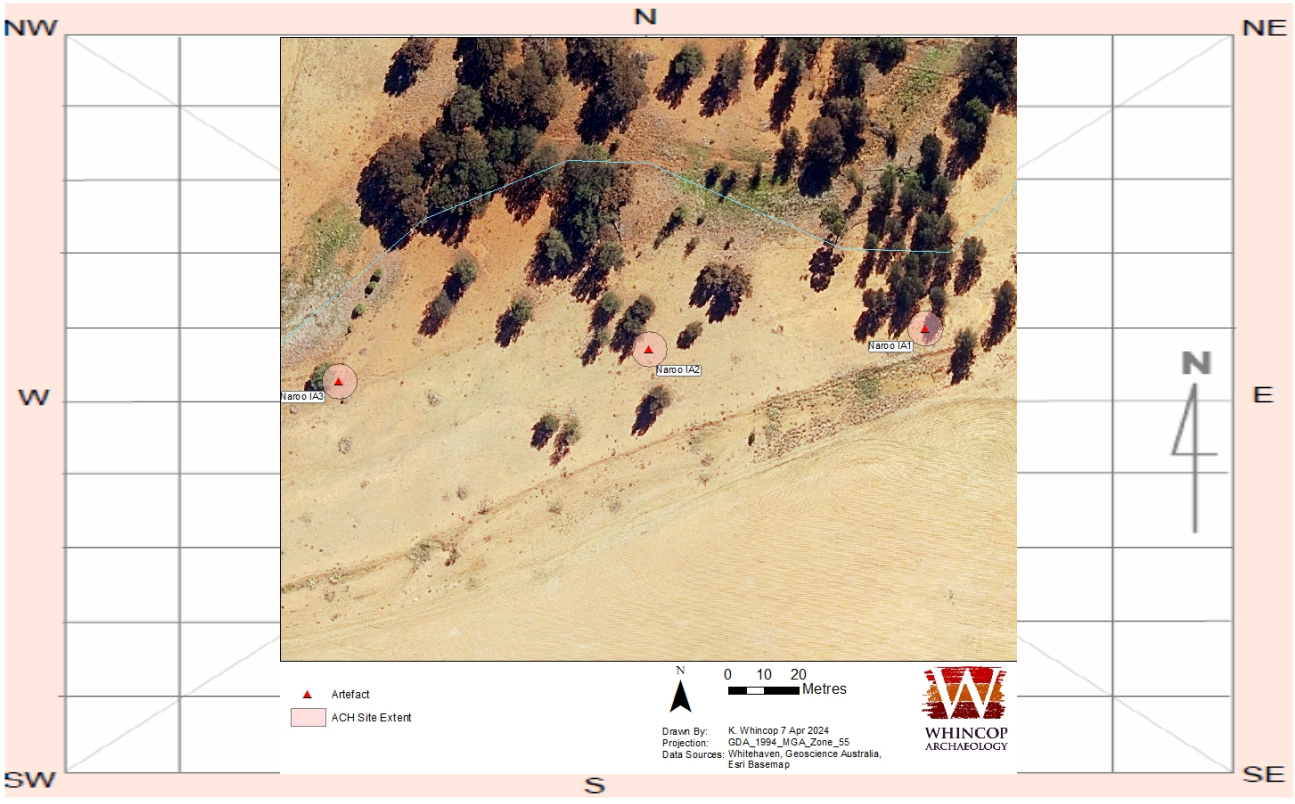
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek tributary located 1.1km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Isolated chert complete flake identified on minor drainage bank in erosion scours under stand of casuarina. North of contour bank and cropped field, south of road and drainage depression.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

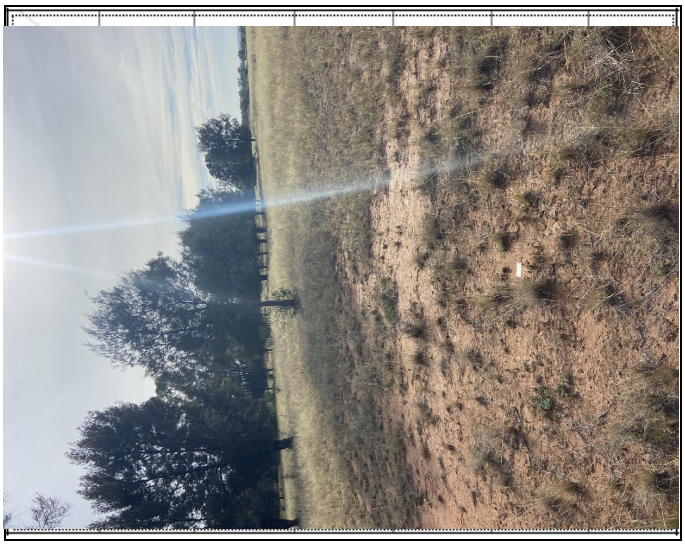
**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

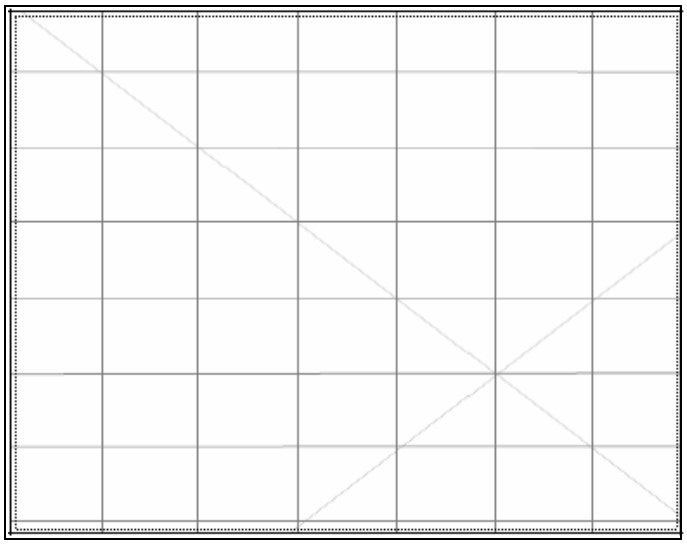
## Site photographs



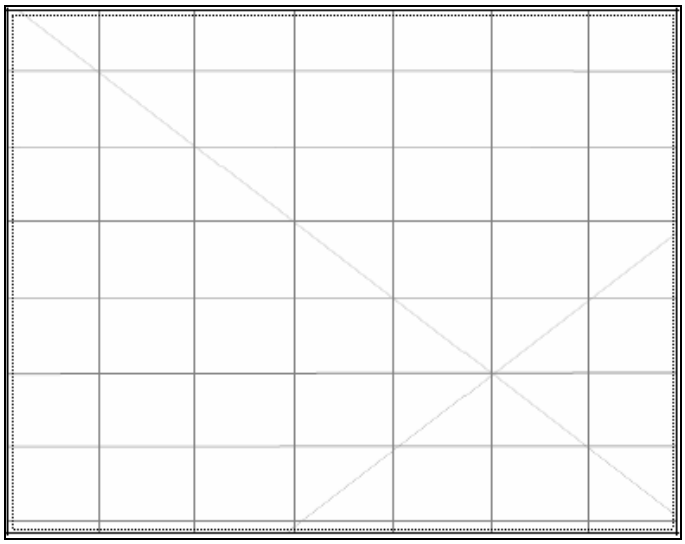
Description: Naroo IA2




Description: Chert flake



Description:



Description:

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender N/A | General | Location

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** **Surname** **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0283 **Date recorded:** 29-08-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo IA3

**Easting:** 778735 **Northing:** 6619310 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** **Land Use:**

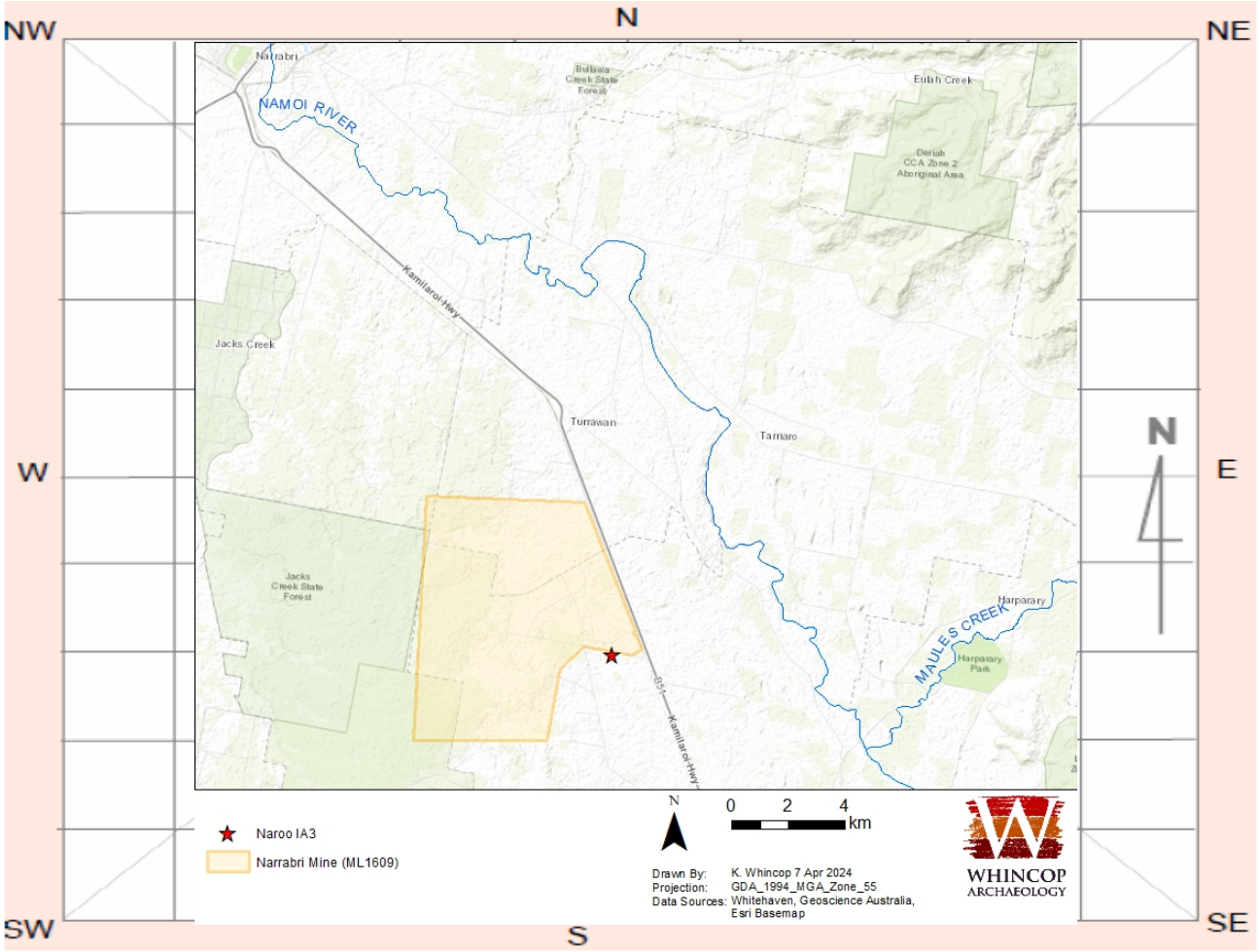
**Land Form Unit:** **Vegetation:**

**Distance to Water (m):** **Primary Report:**

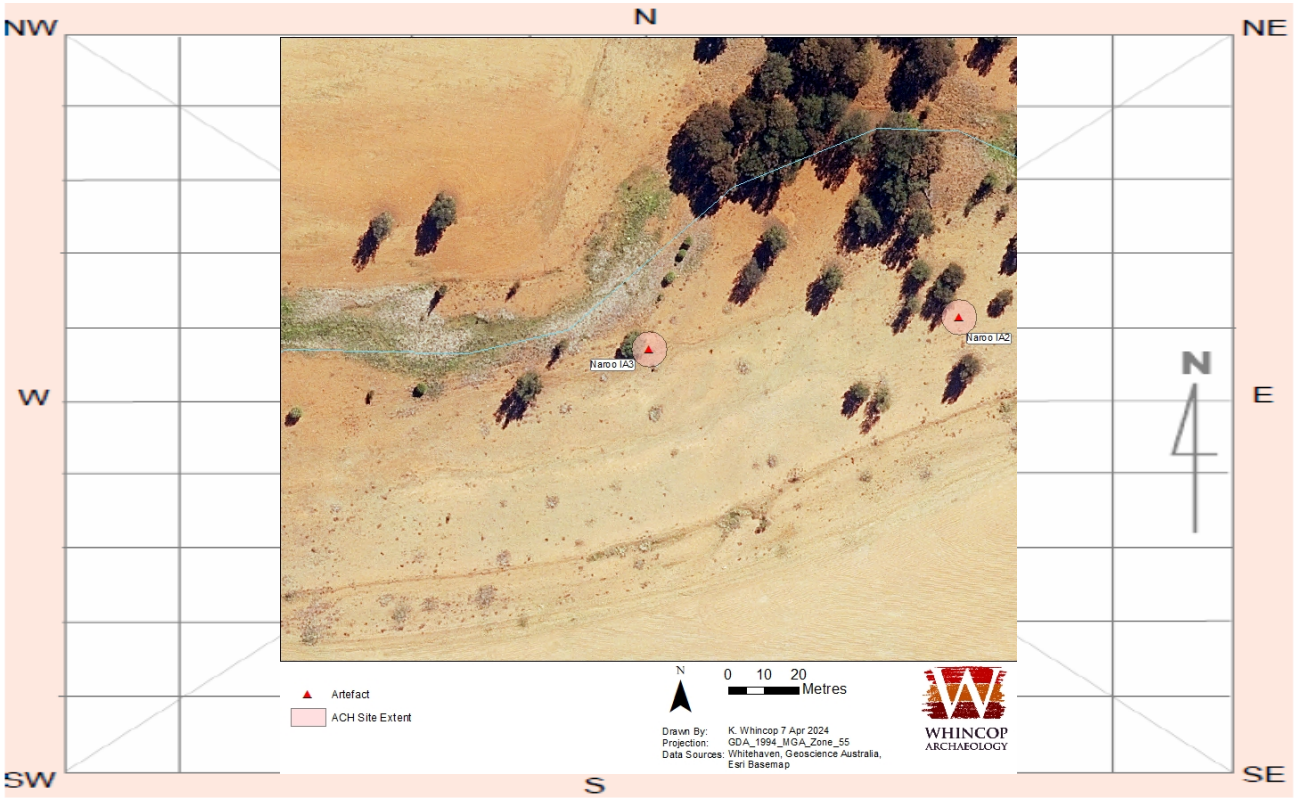
**How to get to the site:**

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Isolated quartz proximal flake identified on minor drainage bank in erosion scours in ants nest exposure. North of contour bank and cropped field, south of road and drainage depression.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

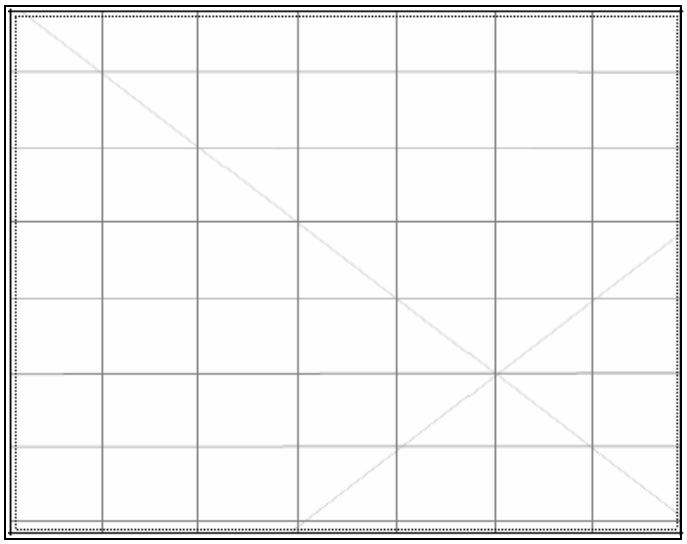
## Site photographs



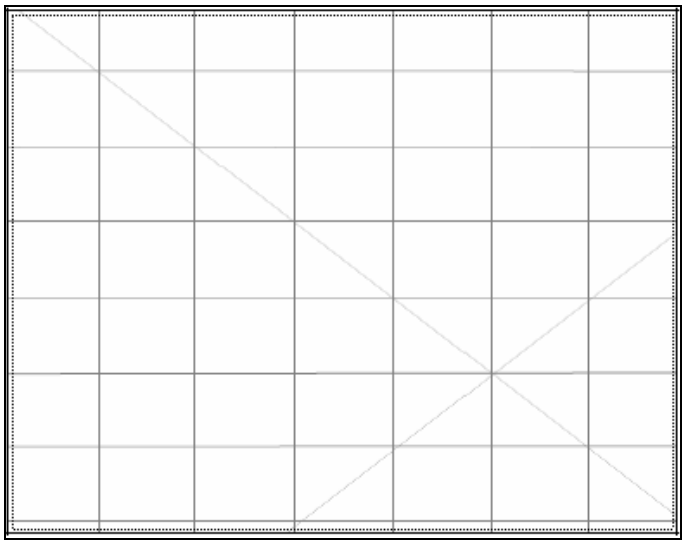
Description: Context Naroo IA3: West




Description: Quartz proximal flake



Description:



Description:

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender General Location

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** **Surname** **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0282 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo IA4

**Easting:** 778496 **Northing:** 6619194 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

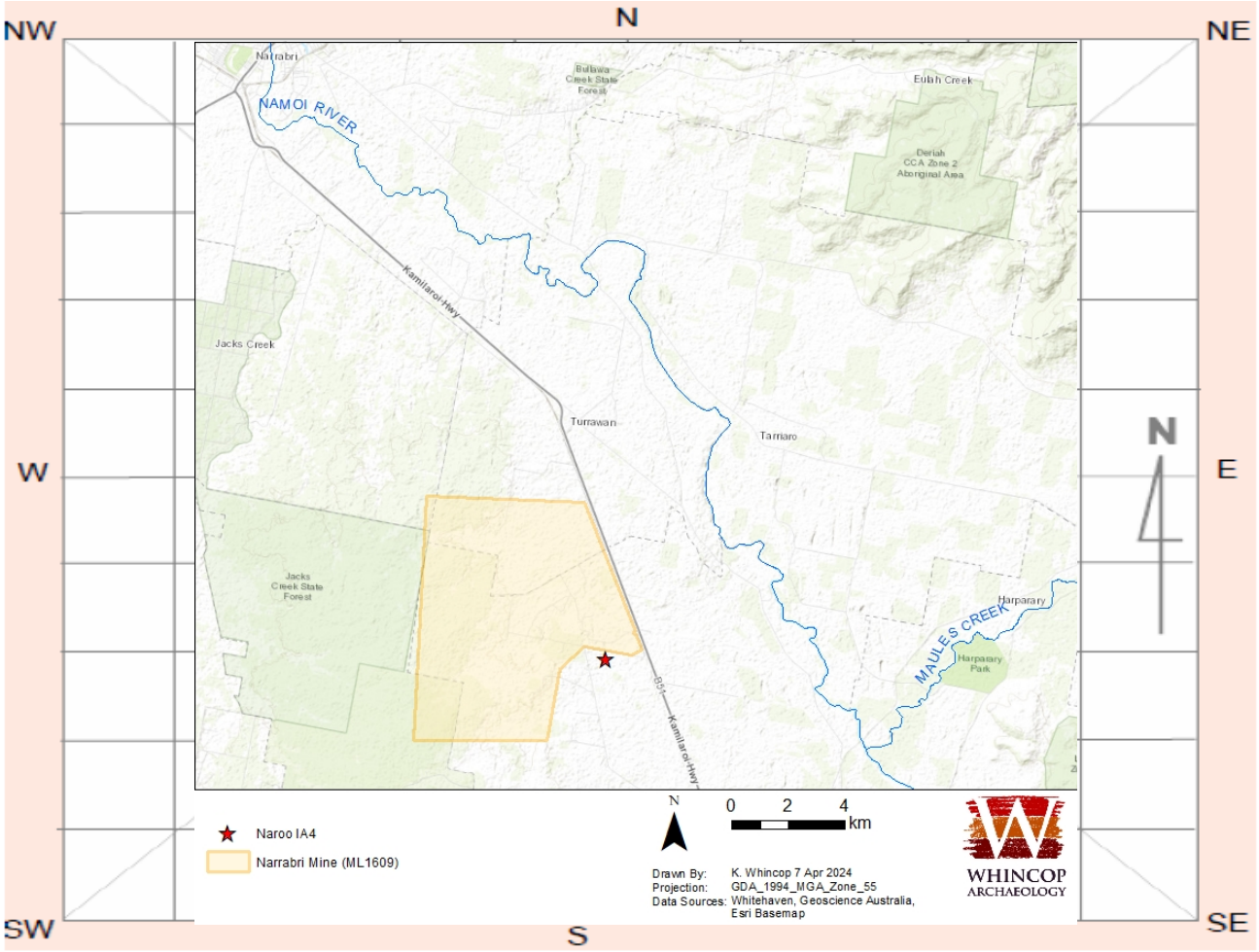
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 100 **Primary Report:**

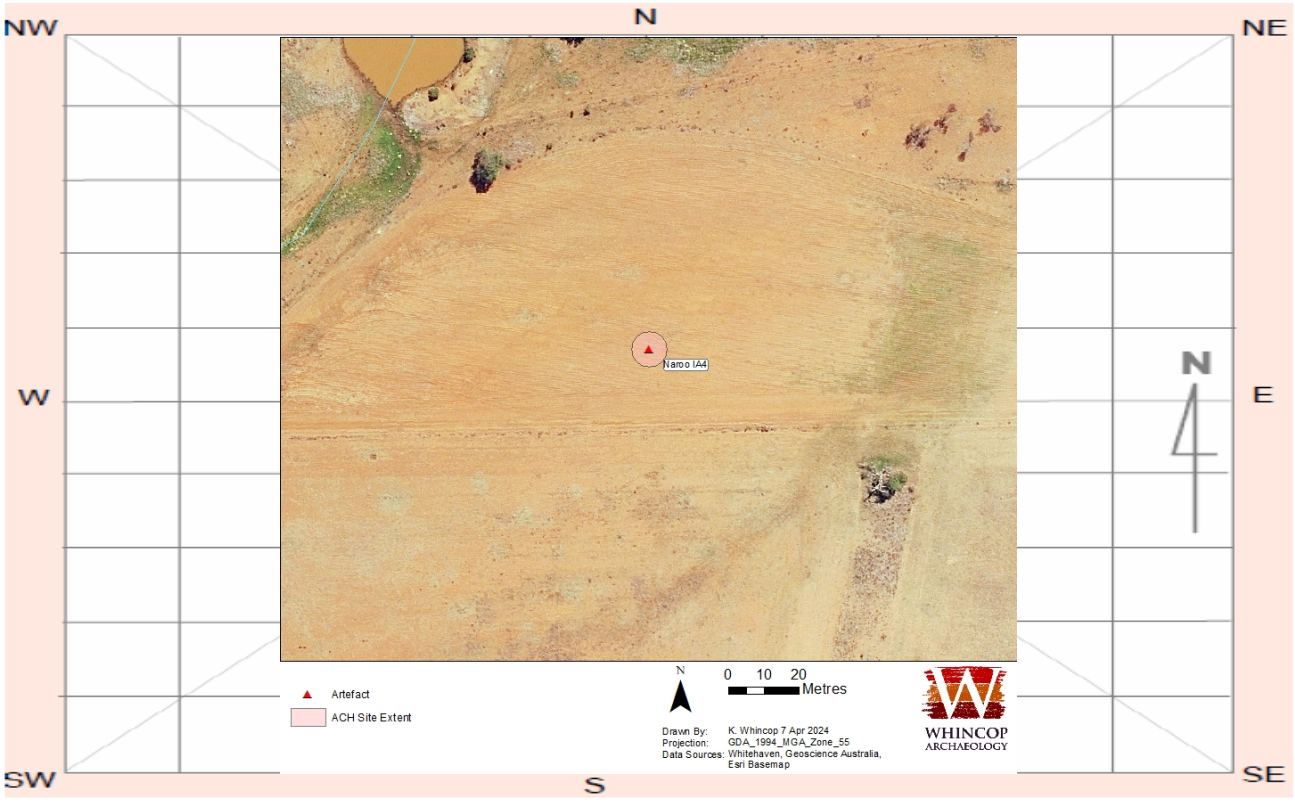
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek tributary located 1km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Silcrete completely flake with steep marginal retouch identified in ploughed, cropped paddock near minor drainage line. Exposure in ploughed area with little vegetation.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

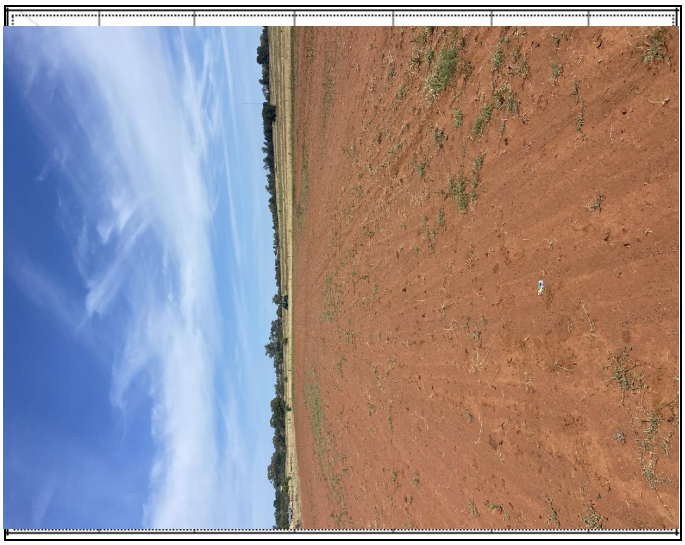
**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

## Site photographs



Description: Naroo IA4, looking west




Description: Silcrete flake with retouch (dorsal)



Description: Silcrete flake with retouch (ventral)



Description: Silcrete flake with retouch

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender | General | Location — N/A

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** | **Surname** | **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0281 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo IA5

**Easting:** 778776 **Northing:** 6618953 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

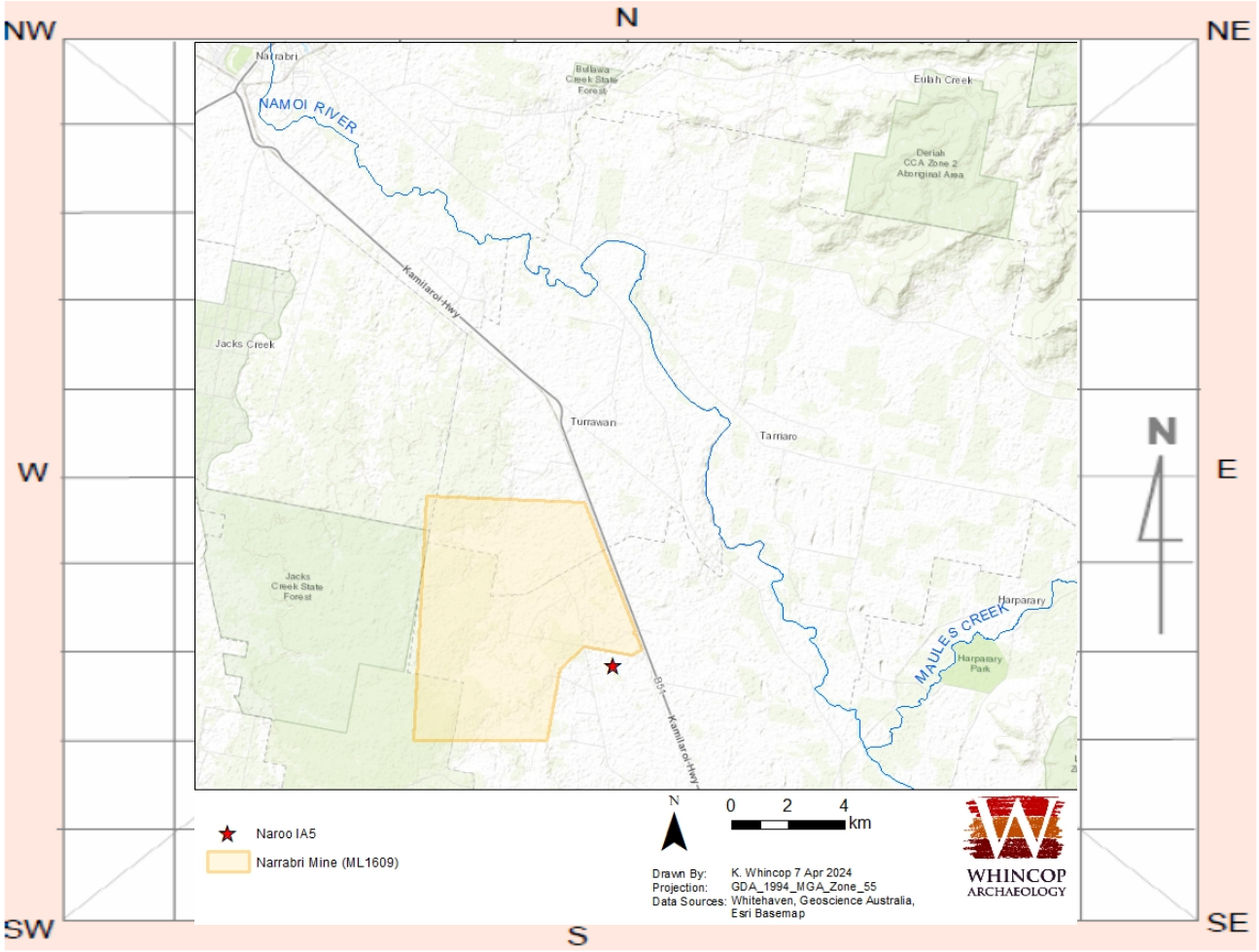
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 25 **Primary Report:**

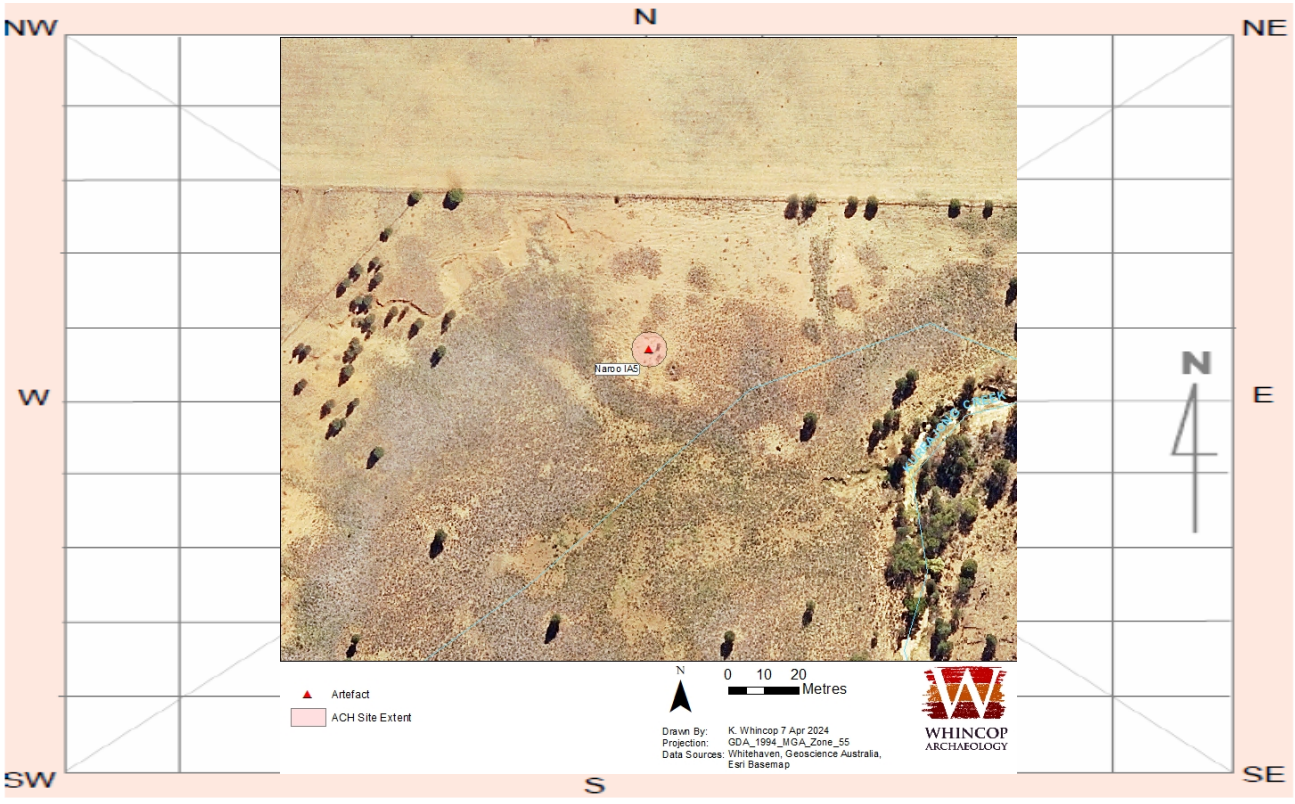
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek located 1.3km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Siltstone complete flake identified in erosion scours on edge of creek terrace. Area densely grassed.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

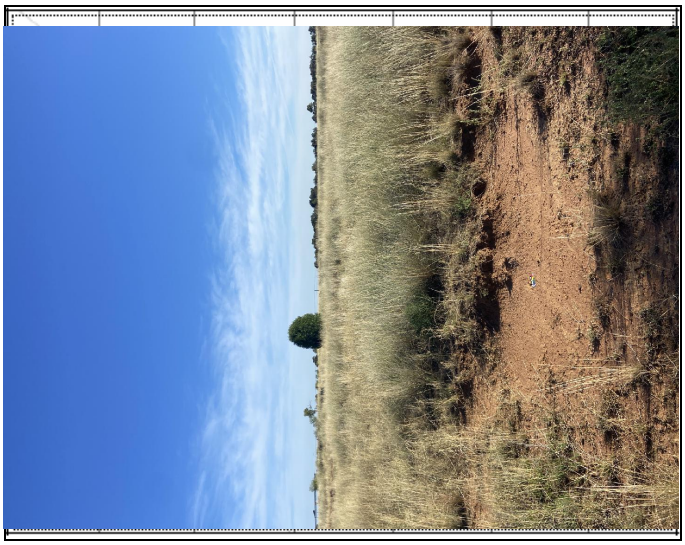
**Features:**

| | | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

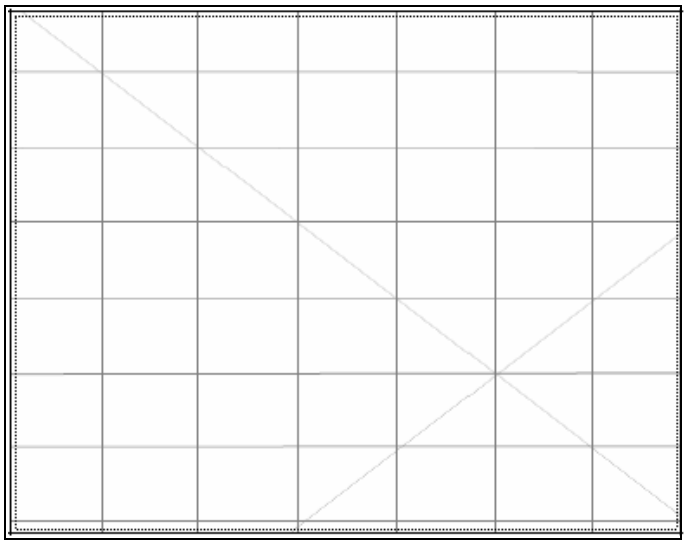
## Site photographs



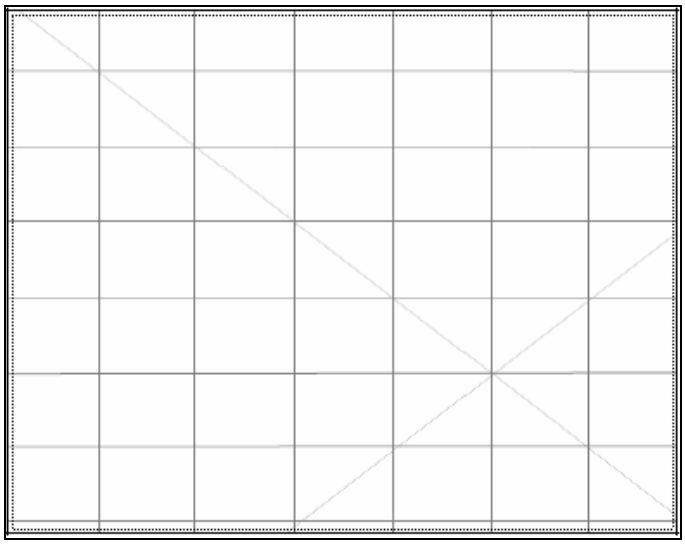
Description: Naroo IA5, looking north




Description: Siltstone flake



Description:



Description:

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender N/A | General | Location

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** **Surname** **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance

# Aboriginal Site Recording Form

Manager, Information Systems
Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124 NSW

**AHIMS site ID:** 19-6-0280 **Date recorded:** 08-04-2024

## Site Location Information

**Site name:** Naroo IA6

**Easting:** 779468 **Northing:** 6618961 **Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)**

**Horizontal Accuracy (m):** 5

**Zone:** 55 Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

| Title | Surname | First name |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. | Whincop | Matthew |

**Organisation:** Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd

**Address:** 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park QLD 4121

**Phone:** 0407038584 **E-mail:** matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au

## Site Context Information

**Land Form Pattern:** Undulating Plain **Land Use:** Pastoral/Grazing

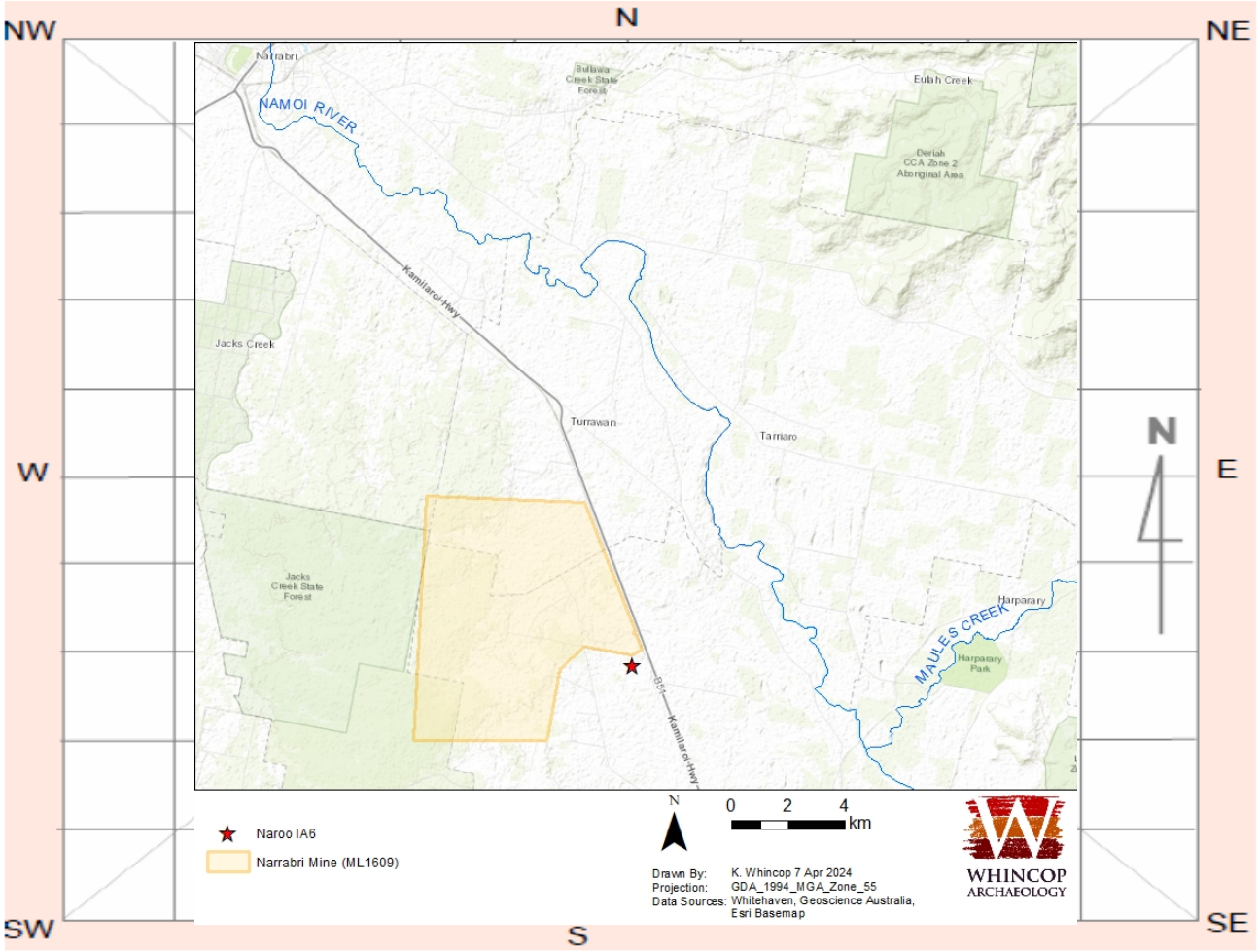
**Land Form Unit:** Stream Bank **Vegetation:** Cleared

**Distance to Water (m):** 15 **Primary Report:**

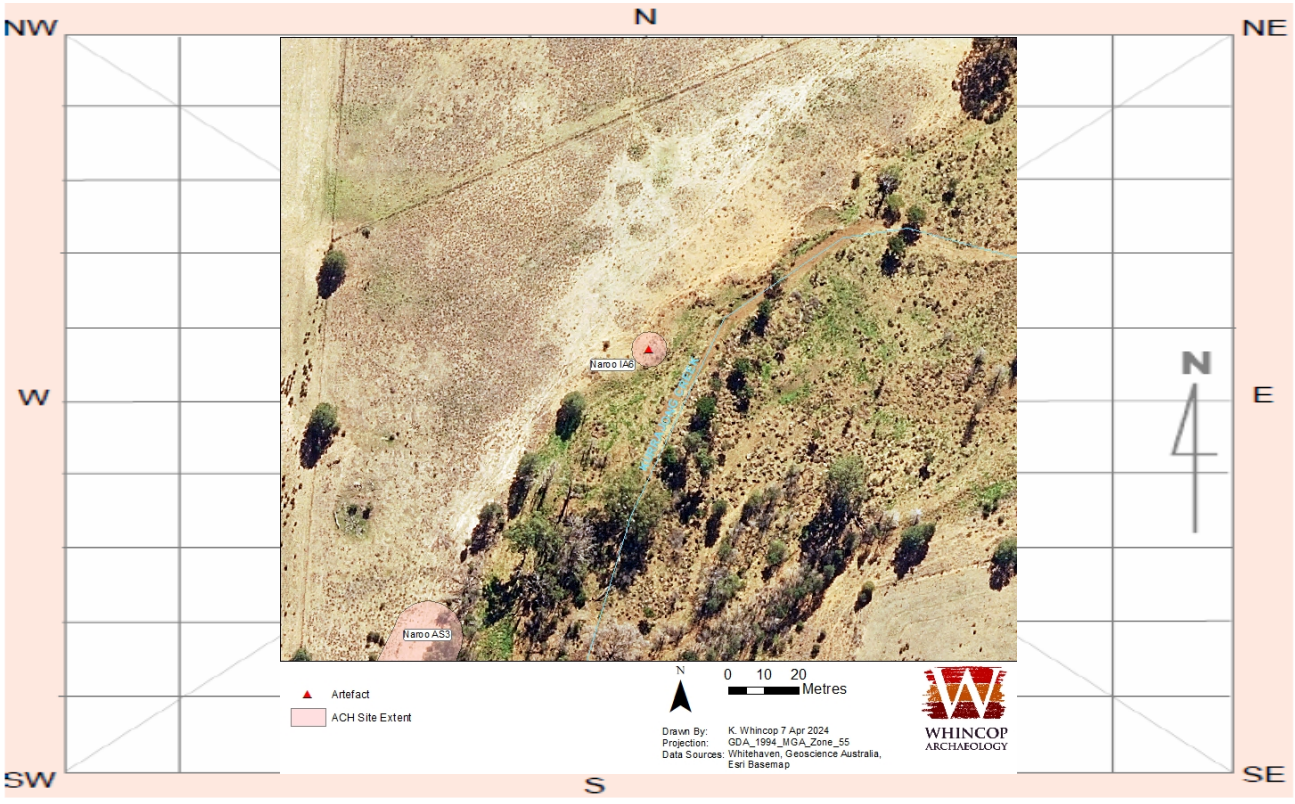
**How to get to the site:** Access to be arranged via Whitehaven Coal Limited; site is located on north bank of Kurrajong Creek located 1.8km SE from the Narrabri Mine office

**Other site information:** None

## Site location map




## Site plan



## Site contents information

**open/closed site:** Open **Site condition:** Disturbed

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Artefact | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |

**Feature condition:** Disturbed

Description:

Complete chalcedony flake identified on ants nest exposure.

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Regrowth (cm) | Scar shape | Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | | | | | | | |

**Feature condition:**

Description:

**Features:**

| | Number of features | Length of feature(s) extent (m) | Width of feature (s) extent (m) | Scarred Trees: Scar Depth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Regrowth (cm) | Scarred Trees: Scar shape | Scarred Trees: Tree Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | | | | | | | |

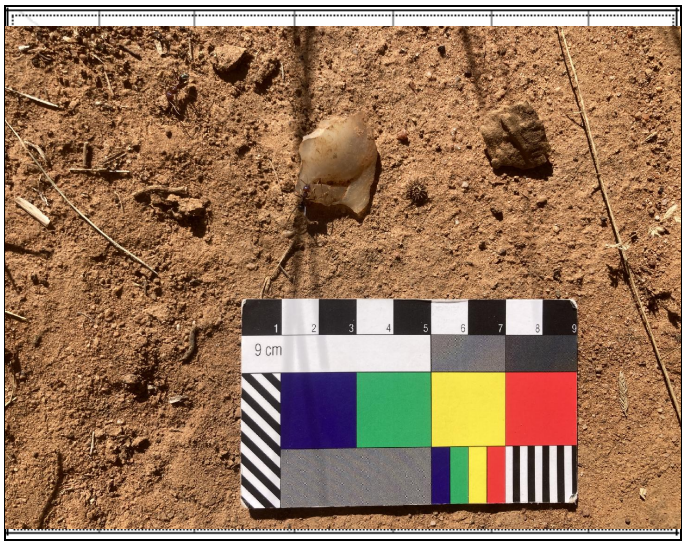
**Feature condition:**

Description:

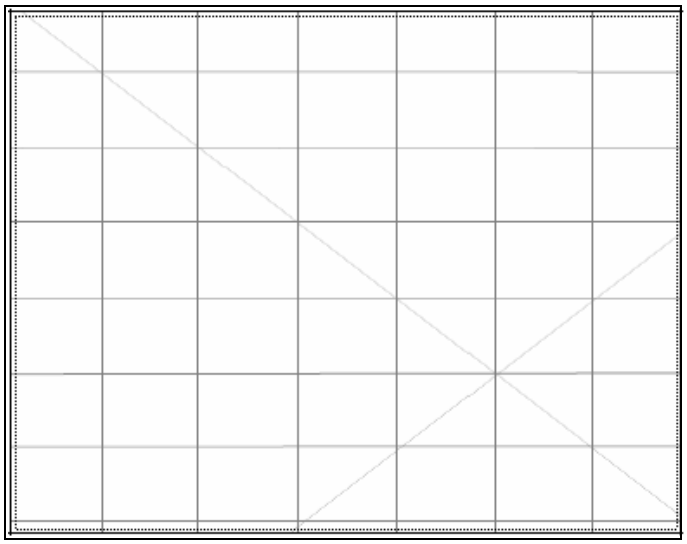
## Site photographs



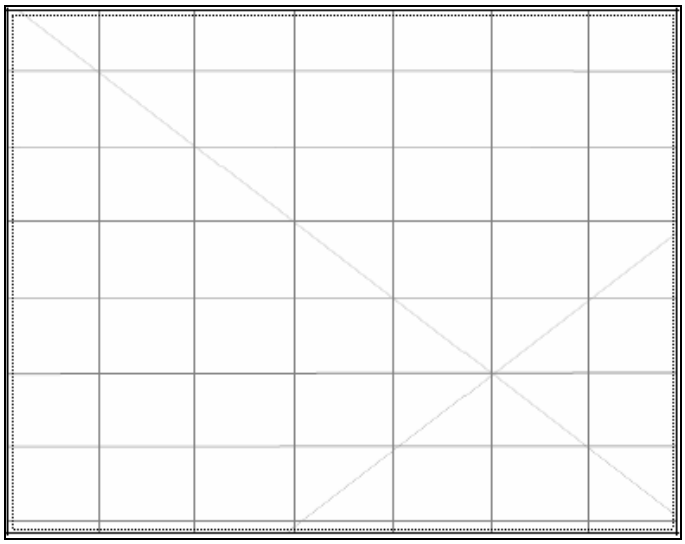
Description: Naroo IA6, looking north




Description: Chalcedony flake



Description:



Description:

## Site restrictions

**Do you want to Restrict this site?:**

**Restriction type:** Gender N/A | General | Location

**Why is this site restricted?:**

## Further information contact

**Title** **Surname** **First name**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Phone:** **E-mail:**

## Site interpretation and community statement

The local indigenous community consider all sites to be of high cultural significance