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Romani BESS

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report



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SIGNATURE PAGE

Romani BESS

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report 0704056



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms	Description
AAR	Aboriginal Ancestral Remains
AC	Alternating Current
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
ACHMP	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
ATSIHP Act	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i>
AWEP	Abercrombie Water Efficiency Project
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CMT	Culturally Modified Tree
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Water (former)
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ERM	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
DC	Direct Current
GDA	Geocentric Datum of Australia
GPS	Global Positioning System
ha	Hectares
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
KKWF	Keri Keri Wind Farm
km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolt
kya	One thousand years ago
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
m	Metres
MW	Megawatt
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
NSW	New South Wales

Acronyms	Description
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage (former)
OzArk	OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management Pty Ltd
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
PV	Photovoltaic
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SREA	Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd
SSD	State Significant Development
SU	Survey Unit

ERM would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Deniliquin region and pay respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging. We acknowledge and respect their Indigenous knowledge systems and recognise continuing connection to lands, waters, culture, and community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd was engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA; the Applicant) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the Romani battery energy storage system (BESS) (the Project).

The Project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a storage capacity of 200 MW / 800 MWh, and associated infrastructure with connection to the existing X5 transmission line. The Project Area encompasses approximately 21 hectares, approximately 44 km southwest of Hay, in the Riverina Murray region of New South Wales. External road upgrades will also be completed at the intersection of Booroorban-Tchelery Road and Cobb Highway to accommodate the haul route. The disturbance footprint of the road upgrades is approximately 1.12 hectares.

The Project will be assessed as a State Significant Development application under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (SSD-67105475). This ACHAR has been prepared as an appendix to the Environmental Impact Statement for the Project.

This ACHAR has been prepared to identify, assess, and develop management recommendations for any identified Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Project Area. This ACHAR provides details of the proposed assessment and survey methodology for the Project. Preparation has included Aboriginal community consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), who have expressed interest in the overall Project. RAPs were provided with the methodology, and will be provided this ACHAR, for review and comment.

The following is a summary of the findings of this ACHAR:

- No previously registered AHIMS sites are located within the Project Area;
- No newly recorded sites are located within the Project Area;
- Based on the current development footprint no sites will be harmed by the Project;
- A total of 11 Aboriginal sites were identified during previous survey efforts as part of the design revisions.

Recommendation 1: Cultural Heritage Awareness and Acknowledgement

All personnel involved with construction activities within the Project Area should undertake a cultural awareness induction. The cultural awareness induction should include:

- A summary of the cultural heritage values of the Project Area and surrounds;
- Guidance on the identification of potential Aboriginal objects / heritage finds; and
- A summary of the Unexpected Finds Procedure.

It is recommended that mechanisms to acknowledge Aboriginal cultural values and history of the region be incorporated into ongoing operations of the Project Area. Potential mechanisms to achieve this may include:

- The placement of a cultural acknowledgement within a publicly accessible area of the overall Project Area; or
- The incorporation of Aboriginal art and design into future development; and
- The incorporation of native plantings and species into future landscaping.

Recommendation 2: Unexpected Finds Procedure

An Unexpected Finds Procedure (UFP) that includes mechanisms for managing the unexpected finds of additional Aboriginal cultural material being found during construction activities should be developed.

The Unexpected Finds Procedure should be applied to the entire Project Area, and should include the following items:

- All activity in the immediate area should cease and the location should be cordoned off with visible flagging. Flagging should be placed at a 10 m radius surrounding the find and an appropriately qualified heritage professional should be consulted;
- An appropriately qualified heritage professional should record the location and attributes of the site and determine the significance of the find;
- Heritage NSW should be immediately contacted;
- The Deniliquin LALC should be notified; and
- Works will only recommence once the area has been cleared by further assessment and heritage permits (where required).

In the event of the discovery of human skeletal material (or suspected human skeletal material) during project activities in the Project Area the following steps should be followed:

- All activity in the immediate area should cease and the location should be cordoned off with visible flagging. Flagging should be placed at a 10 m radius surrounding the find;
- The State Police must be contacted along with Heritage NSW; and

Any sand/soils removed from the near vicinity of the find must be identified and set aside for assessment by the investigating authorities. No further excavation is to be undertaken until the area has been assessed, cleared, and any relevant permits granted.

1. INTRODUCTION

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA; the Applicant) is proposing to the construction, operation and decommissioning of a battery energy storage system (BESS) (the Project) with a storage capacity of 200 MW / 800 MWh, and associated infrastructure with connection to the existing X5 transmission line. The BESS is located approximately 44 km southwest of Hay, in the Riverina Murray region of New South Wales (NSW) (*Figure 1.1*).

The Project is located on Booroorban-Tchelery Road, north of The Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 21 hectares (ha). The Project will be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) application under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) was commissioned by the Applicant to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the Project. This ACHAR has been developed to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Project has undergone several design iterations. The Project as originally described in the Scoping Report included the construction, operation and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic energy generating facility with an expected capacity of 250 MW, and associated infrastructure including transmission connection works, and a battery energy storage system (BESS) with an expected capacity of 150 MW / 300 MWh (also referred to as the 'hybrid project'). The SEARs for the Project were initially issued on 1 March 2024.

The Project description was then revised to include a second BESS. An Amendment Letter was issued to the Department on 22 August 2024 describing the revised project description. The BESS is proposed to have a storage capacity of 200 MW / 800 MWh and connect to the existing high voltage transmission line that intersects the southern portion of the Project Area (X5 transmission line). Due to present challenges in securing a suitable transmission connection for the above-mentioned hybrid project, the solar farm and first BESS has been removed from the current development application. An Amended Scoping Report was prepared for the Romani BESS and amended SEARs were issued on 19 June 2025. This ACHAR is assessing the Romani BESS proposed to be connected to the X5 transmission line only.

1.1 PROJECT AREA AND DESCRIPTION

The Project description, as revised includes a total project area of 20 ha, a single stand-alone X5 BESS, substation, switchyard and supporting infrastructure. The revised project description is detailed in *Table 1-1*. A map of the Project is provided in *Figure 1.2* below.

TABLE 1-1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Component	Description
Project Area	Approximately 21 ha
Lot/DP	57/756561 92/756561
BESS	One BESS with a storage capacity of 200 MW / 800 MWh Development footprint of approximately 12.5 ha
Electrical Reticulation Network	220 kV substation 220 kV power transformer with an approximate height of 6 m High voltage connection to the existing X5 transmission line
Associated Infrastructure	Permanent operations and maintenance compound Control building and control room Switch room Vehicles access from Boooroorban-Tchelery Road Internal access tracks Landscaping works and drainage
Temporary Construction Facilities	Construction compound Laydown area Car parking facilities Fencing and landscaping works Total area of 5.85 ha
Construction Period	20 months
Construction Workforce	Peak: 80-100 full time employees Average: 30-50 full time employees
Operational Workforce	3-5 full time employees
Subdivision	Torrens subdivision to create separate allotments for the BESS and/or substation.
External Road Upgrades	Access to the Project Area is proposed via the Cobb Highway. - Upgrades of the Boooroorban-Tchelery Road and Cobb Highway intersection will be required including additional trafficable area, and possible relocation of road signs. - Upgrades of Boooroorban-Tchelery Road at the proposed site entrance will also be required including additional trafficable area, and possible installation of new road signs. - The total area subject to upgrades encompasses 1.12 ha.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Project layout is illustrated in *Figure 1.2*, which shows the proposed development footprint of the BESS, substation, switchyard, transformer and supporting infrastructure and indicative site accesses.

The Project would also require additional project infrastructure and associated works including:

- Operations and maintenance building.

The Project would require the following construction and temporary facilities:

- Temporary construction facilities such as offices, car park and amenities;
- Fencing and landscaping works;
- Delivery of project components, battery modules and associated components;
- Installing maintenance and environmental managements processes and equipment;
- Earthworks required to establish hardstand and laydown areas;
- Installation of underground and overhead cabling; and
- Access to the Project site via Booroorban-Tchelery Road.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

This ACHAR only contains information and heritage sites relevant and recorded during the field survey for the BESS.

This report aims to:

- Identify Aboriginal heritage resources within the Project Area, including archaeological and intangible cultural heritage values;
- Present the results of Aboriginal community consultation undertaken during the preparation of this report;
- Review relevant Aboriginal heritage databases;
- Review historical and environmental contextual data;
- Utilise sourced background information to develop predictive models for the presence of Aboriginal heritage within the Project Area;
- Document the results of an Aboriginal heritage field survey;
- Assess the significance of identified Aboriginal heritage values;
- Evaluate the impact of the proposed works on any identified Aboriginal heritage resources; and
- Provide recommendations for the mitigation of impacts and management of identified Aboriginal heritage resources.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

This ACHAR examines Aboriginal heritage values within the Project Area. This report has been prepared in accordance with the following guidelines:

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (Consultation Requirements);
- *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b) (Code of Practice);
- *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011) (ACHAR Guide);
- *The Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites, Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (also known as the Burra Charter, Australia ICOMOS 2013) and relevant Practice Notes; and

- *Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects* (Clean Energy Council 2024).

Preparation of this report includes:

- Desktop research and archaeological site database searches;
- Review of previous assessment for the Project Area, and within the local area;
- Consultation with the local Aboriginal community;
- Field surveys to inform this ACHAR were undertaken by ERM and RAP representatives on 22 February, and between 16 to 18 July 2024; and the 7 April 2025;
- Assessment of heritage significance;
- Impact assessment; and
- Preparation of management and mitigation recommendations.

1.5 SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS (SEARS)

The SEARs (SSD-67105475) for the Project were issued on 19 June 2025. The requirements for Aboriginal heritage assessment and where they have been addressed are summarised in *Table 1-2*.

TABLE 1-2 SUMMARY OF SEARS REQUIREMENTS FOR ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AND WHERE ADDRESSED IN THE CURRENT REPORT

SEAR	Section addressed in this report
An assessment of the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (archaeological and cultural) in accordance with the <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW</i> (OEH 2011) and the <i>Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW 2010), including results of archaeological test excavations (if required); and	Whole report
Provide 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 <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents</i> (DECCW 2010).	Section 4 and 11

1.6 AUTHORSHIP

A summary of the ERM staff involved in the preparation of this report and their relevant qualifications is provided in *Table 1-3* below.

TABLE 1-3 SUMMARY OF AUTHORS AND REVIEWER'S QUALIFICATIONS

Name	Title	Role	Relevant Qualifications and years of experience in cultural heritage management
Lorien Perchard	Managing Consultant - Heritage	Fieldwork, Data manager	- Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology; Ancient History), University of Queensland, 2010 - Bachelor of Archaeology Honours, University of Queensland - Thirteen years' professional experience
Erin Finnegan	Technical Consulting Director – Heritage	Technical Review	- Bachelor of Arts (Cultural Anthropology), Macalester, 1998 - Post Graduate Diploma – Museum and Heritage Studies, University of Cape Town 2003 - Master of Philosophy (Archaeology), University of Cape Town, 2006 19 years' experience
Lucy Baker	Partner	Quality Assurance Review	- Master of Environmental Engineering Management, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, 2008 - Graduate Diploma of Management, Deakin University, Australia, - Bachelor of Engineering Civil, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, 1990 - Registered Planner with Planning Institute of Australia - Fellow of Engineers Australia, FIEAust - Engineers Australia Congress member for 2023/24 30 years' professional experience

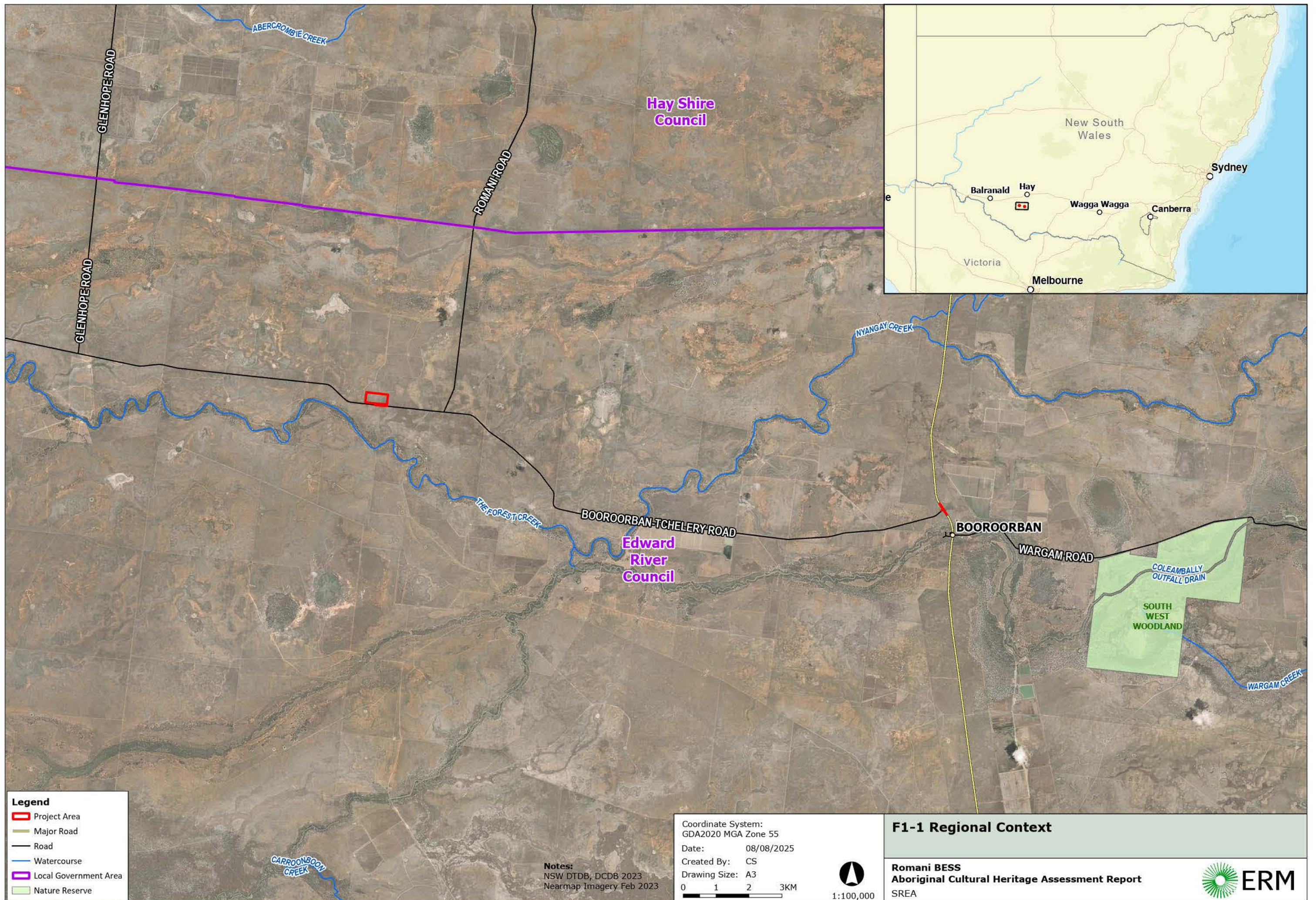
1.7 LIMITATIONS

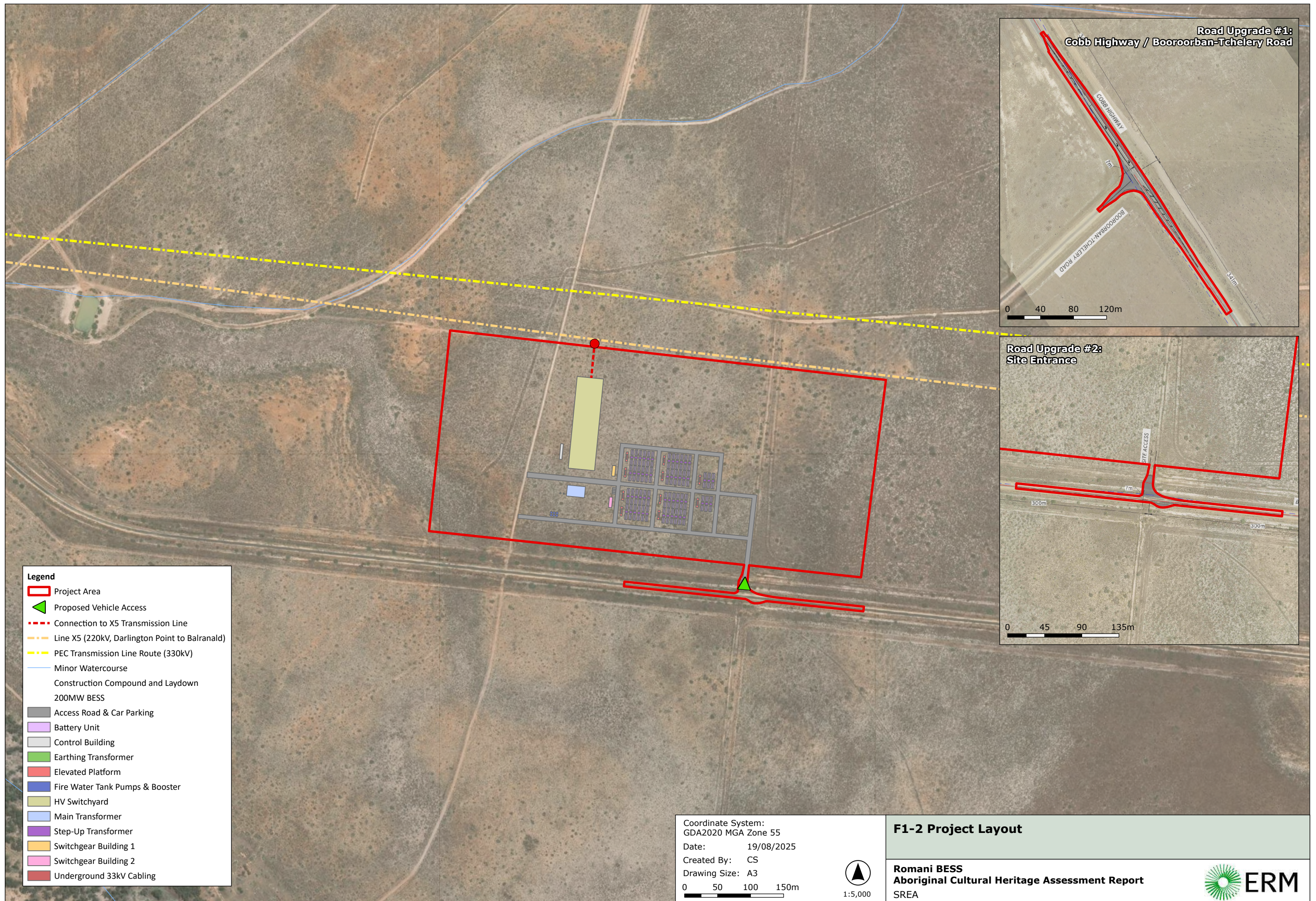
All landforms were surveyed within the Project Area which resulted in 90% coverage of the Project. The determination of the archaeological potential of the Project Area is discussed in *Sections 8.3 and 8.4*.

Based on the number and type of sites recorded across the region, ERM believes this survey coverage to be sufficient to provide a clear understanding of the cultural landscape, and to determine appropriate management recommendations for the Project Area.

1.8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ERM gratefully acknowledges the support and input of the Deniliquin LALC and all the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), and their representatives, who participated in the fieldwork, and the information provided during the consultation period, as well as review of the draft ACHAR.





2. LEGISLATION

The following section provides an overview of the relevant legislation under which this assessment has been prepared.

2.1 COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION

2.1.1 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides the framework for the Commonwealth Government's environmental legislation. The EPBC Act outlines a legal framework for the protection and management of nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. Several heritage lists have been established under the EPBC Act including the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), National Heritage List (NHL), and Register of National Estate (RNE) (now repealed).

There are no items listed on the CHL, NHL, or RNE within the Project area.

2.1.2 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT 1984

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (ATSIHP Act) assists in the protection of places, areas, and objects that 'are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition'.

The ATSIHP Act is designed to deal with Aboriginal cultural property (intangible heritage), which are not currently protected under the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act).

The Commonwealth Minister can make declarations to protect these areas and objects from specific threats of injury or desecration. The responsible Minister may make a declaration under Section 10 of the ATSIHP Act in situations where state or territory laws do not provide adequate protection of intangible heritage.

While no formal database of Section 10 applications or declarations is publicly available, this information is registered in gazettal notices within the Federal Register of Legislation. A search of this register did not identify any Section 10 applications or declarations relevant to the Project Area.

2.2 NSW LEGISLATION

2.2.1 NSW NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

Part 6 of the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides specific protection for Aboriginal objects and places by making it an offence to destroy, deface, damage, or move them from the land. All Aboriginal objects within NSW are protected under Part 6, and particularly Section 90, of the NPW Act. Under Section 5 of the NPW Act, "Aboriginal Object" means any deposit, object, or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Indigenous habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains.

Under Section 86 of the NPW Act, a person who, without first obtaining the consent of the Director-General, knowingly harms or desecrates an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place is guilty of an offence. In most circumstances, it is required that an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) be obtained for any impact to an Aboriginal object or place. Heritage NSW is the responsible authority, with the Director General of that department the consent authority. However, as the Project is assessed as an SSD, an AHIP is not required under Part 4.7 clause 4.41 (1)(d) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Instead, Aboriginal cultural heritage will be managed by an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) that will be developed following Project approval. The ACHMP will contain the recommendations of this ACHAR, as well as an unexpected finds protocol, results of artefact salvage or archaeological excavations, procedures to manage unexpected discoveries or human remains, and any other policies agreed with the Aboriginal community.

Sites of traditional significance that do not necessarily contain archaeological materials may be gazetted as 'Aboriginal places' and are protected under Section 84 of the NPW Act. This protection applies to all sites, regardless of their significance or land tenure.

Aboriginal objects and places are recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database. The results of a search of the AHIMS database for registered Aboriginal objects and places is detailed in *Section 6.2*.

2.2.2 NATIVE TITLE ACT 1994

The *Native Title Act 1994* was introduced to work in conjunction with the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993*. The *Native Title Act 1994* recognises and protects the traditional and continuing rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in NSW. This may include the right to protect places and areas that are important under traditional law where Native Title has been determined.

The Project Area is not located within the boundaries of a native title claim or determination.

2.2.3 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHT ACT 1983

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* established Aboriginal Land Councils (at a State and Local Level). In relation to Aboriginal culture and heritage these bodies have a statutory obligation under Section 52 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* to:

- a) take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area, subject to any other law; and
- b) promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area.

The Project Area is within the boundary of the Deniliquin LALC.

A letter containing the Project details was sent to Office of the Registrar requesting land claim information (dated 6 October 2023, *Appendix C*). Details are provided in *Section 4.1*.

2.3 NON-STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

2.3.1 LEADING PRACTICE PRINCIPLES: FIRST NATIONS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS (CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL 2024)

The Clean Energy Council's *Leading Practice Principles: First Nations and Renewable Energy Projects* is the first comprehensive national guide on First Nations engagement, participation and benefit sharing for renewable energy projects. The guide was co-designed with First Nations peoples and is an important link between community and industry. The guide established ten principles that are practical and culturally appropriate:

1. Engage respectfully;
2. Prioritise clear, accessible and accurate information;
3. Ensure cultural heritage is preserved and protected;
4. Protect Country and environment;
5. Be a good neighbor;
6. Ensure economic benefits are shared;
7. Provide social benefits for community;
8. Embed land stewardship;
9. Ensure cultural competency; and
10. Implement, monitor and report back.

The purpose of the guide is to facilitate the adoption and implementation of these principles by industry, through the identification of minimum and leading practice standards, as well as practical information and guidance on how to appropriately and effectively engage with First Nations peoples and communities. This will support the industry to deliver better engagement and outcomes for First Nations peoples.

A copy of the guideline can be accessed at:

<https://assets.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/documents/resources/reports/Leading-Practice-Principles-First-Nations-and-Renewable-Energy-Projects.pdf>

This ACHAR has been prepared in accordance with the relevant principles of this guidance and to the standard it describes.

3. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1 DESKTOP INVESTIGATION

Desktop investigation included completion of a comprehensive review of existing background information to gain a contextual understanding of the cultural landscape associated with the Project. Review of background information included assessment of environmental information (*Section 5*), former historic land use, available ethnographic information, as well as existing registered Aboriginal heritage sites, AHIPs, and reports.

3.2 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Aboriginal community consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Requirements, as detailed in *Section 4*.

In accordance with the Consultation Requirements, consultation with Aboriginal people formed an essential part of the heritage assessment process to:

- Determine potential harm on Aboriginal cultural heritage from proposed activities; and
- Inform management and mitigation measures where it is determined that harm cannot be avoided.

3.3 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SURVEY

Due to present challenges in securing a suitable transmission connection for the previous and hybrid project design several Aboriginal heritage surveys were undertaken to inform this ACHAR. The surveys for the Project Area occurred on 22 February 2024, 16 to 18 July 2024 and 7 April 2025 by ERM Managing Consultants Lorien Perchard and Victoria Gleeson, and ERM Senior Consulting Associate Timothy Pinches, with representatives of Denliquin LALC and other RAP groups.

The survey methodology for each survey program targeted representative samples of each landform type within the Project Area with the sampling methodology focusing on areas of archaeological potential that coincided with areas of proposed ground disturbance. The survey on the 7 April 2025 was able to complete a 90% survey of the Project Area. The archaeological potential of the Project Area is detailed in *Sections 8.3* and *8.4*.

GPS-enabled devices were carried by the survey team and used to direct the survey, track log areas covered throughout the survey, and record new sites. A photographic record was kept of all survey units. Photographs were taken to document the existing environment and landform context of each survey unit.

A total of 11 Aboriginal heritage features were identified across the three survey programs. No Aboriginal sites were recorded within the Project Area for the current BESS. No locations with potential Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (AAR) were identified. Results of the archeological Aboriginal heritage surveys were used to refine the predictive modelling completed for the Project (*Section 6.4.3*).

3.4 RECORDING AND ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.4.1 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ABORIGINAL SITES

There were no previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the development footprint. The closest previously recorded Aboriginal site is located approx. 2.6 km north west of the Project Area. This site was not re-visited during the survey.

3.4.2 NEWLY IDENTIFIED SITES

Newly identified sites were recorded in accordance with the requirements in Sections 6-8 of the Code of Practice and the Guide to completing the AHIMS Site Recording Form (OEH 2012).

Details recorded for each newly identified site included:

- The spatial extent of the site as delineated by either:
 - The spatial extent of the visible objects;
 - Obvious physical boundaries where present;
 - Landscape features (such as slight rises, exposed red sands, or other); or
 - Identification by the Aboriginal community based on cultural information;
- A photographic record with scale at an appropriate distance to record both the site feature and its context;
- Geospatial information of the site recorded using ArcGIS mapping; and
- Enough detail to enable registration of the site on AHIMS.

As mentioned above, 11 Aboriginal heritage features were identified across the three survey programs. These sites were recorded on AHIMS with the closest site being located 2.5 km north of the current BESS project boundary.

3.4.3 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Areas which were identified as having the potential to contain subsurface deposits of Aboriginal objects or the potential for Aboriginal objects to otherwise be obscured by surface conditions would be recorded as areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD).

The assessment of areas of PAD was based primarily on an assessment of:

- Whether Aboriginal objects were likely to have been deposited within the subsurface of a location as a result of Aboriginal occupation or through post-depositional processes;
- Defined geomorphological / landscape features (such as rises, palaeochannel margins, lunettes, or exposed red sands; and/or soil mapping (see *Section 5.4*) which indicates higher potential for intact subsurface deposits to be present (see predictive model in *Section 6.4.3*; and
- Whether historic land use or disturbances was likely to have resulted in impact or removal of any Aboriginal objects that may have been present within the assessment area.

No PADS were identified within the current BESS project boundary.

3.4.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES ASSESSMENT

Aboriginal heritage sites, objects, and places hold value for communities in many ways. The nature of those heritage values is an important consideration when deciding how to manage a heritage site, object, or place and balance competing land use options.

Assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the Project Area has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the ACHAR Guide. Assessment has included identification of social, historic, scientific, and aesthetic values which are discussed below:

- *Social or cultural value* (assessed only by Traditional Owners/First Nations People) refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical, or contemporary associations and attachments the place or area has for Aboriginal people. Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them;
- *Historic value* (assessed by Traditional Owners/First Nations People and/or non-Aboriginal historical specialists) refers to the associations of a place with a historically important person, event, phase, or activity in an Aboriginal community. Historic places do not always have physical evidence of their historic importance (such as structures, planted vegetation, or landscape modifications). They may have 'shared' historic values with other (non-Aboriginal) communities and include places of post-contact Aboriginal history;
- *Scientific (archaeological) value* (assessed by professional archaeologists) refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness, and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information; and
- *Aesthetic value* (assessed by Traditional Owners and/or non-Aboriginal specialists) refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural, and creative aspects of the place. It is often closely linked with social values. It may consider form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use.

Cultural heritage values for the Project Area were identified through a combination of desktop assessment and consultation undertaken during the preparation of this report. This information was collected by the ERM heritage team.

3.5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Following the identification of Aboriginal cultural values, an impact assessment was completed to identify whether any Aboriginal objects, places, or cultural values have the potential to be harmed through development of the preferred scenario.

The impact assessment for the proposal is guided by the definition of harm under the NPW Act, which is limited to impact which '...destroys, defaces, damages an object or place or in relation to an object – moves the object from land on which it has been situated' (Section 5).

'Direct harm' may occur as a result of activities which disturb the ground surface or identified cultural values including site preparation activities, and the installation of services and infrastructure.

'Indirect harm' for Aboriginal heritage refers to impacts that may affect sites or features which are not located immediately beyond or within the area of the proposed work. Indirect harm may include impacts from vibration, increased visitation, increased erosion, or changing access to resources. The impact assessment evaluates the potential archaeological impacts for the Project. It assessed the type of harm, the degree of harm, and the consequence of harm for any known Aboriginal sites or areas of potential.

The direct and indirect impact associated with the Project is assessed in *Section 10*.

4. ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This chapter contains details of the Aboriginal community consultation undertaken regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the Project Area. Fulfilment of these requirements for this project is outlined below. All correspondence is recorded in the Aboriginal Heritage Consultation Log, included as *Appendix A*.

4.1 STAGE 1: NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT PROPOSAL AND REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

The aim of Stage 1 of the consultation process is to identify, notify, and register the interest of Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area of the proposed project.

On behalf of the Applicant, ERM actively sought to fulfil this aim and identify stakeholder groups or people wishing to be consulted about the Project and invite them to register their interest. It was determined that there was no approved determination of Native Title over the Project Area (per 4.1.1 of the Consultation Requirements).

To identify people with a potential interest in the project (as per 4.1.2 of the Consultation Requirements), two public advertisements stating the location and nature of the Project and seeking registration of interested Aboriginal parties was run in the Deniliquin Pastoral Times on 17 October 2023 as well as the Riverine Grazier on 18 October 2023 (*Appendix B*).

In addition, a letter containing these details (dated 6 October 2023), (*Appendix C*) was sent to the following agencies:

- Deniliquin LALC;
- Edward River Council;
- Murray Local Land Services;
- Heritage NSW;
- Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*;
- Native Title Service Corporation; and
- National Native Title Tribunal.

Responses received from these agencies indicated a total of 8 Aboriginal individuals or organisations may have an interest in the Project (*Appendix D*). An invitation to register letter was sent to each of these identified parties on 26 October 2023 and a period of 14 days was provided for the parties to respond. A copy of this letter is provided as *Appendix E*.

On 20 December 2023, a Section 4.1.6 notification letter was sent to the Deniliquin LALC, and Heritage NSW to notify them of the 11 interested registered parties for the project (*Appendix F*).

A full list of the RAPs can be found in *Table 4-1*, and copies of relevant registrations can be found at *Appendix G*.

TABLE 4-1 REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTIES

Organisation/Individual
Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council
<Removed for public display>
<Removed for public display>
<Removed for public display>
<Removed for public display>
Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation (late registration)
<Removed for public display>
Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation
Thomas Dahlstrom (late registration)
<Removed for public display>
Wakool Indigenous Corporation (late registration)
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre (late registration)

4.2 STAGE 2: PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The aim of Stage 2 of the consultation process was to provide RAPs with information about the scope of the Project and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process.

The proposed survey and assessment methodology was sent to each of the RAPs between 30 November 2023 and 8 January 2024 providing 28 days in which to respond (*Appendix H*). The letter included:

- An outline of the proposed works;
- The proposed assessment and survey methodology including methodology if AAR were identified; and
- A request for RAPs to identify areas of cultural significance or interest within the Project Area.

Interest in participating in the survey program was received from several RAPs. No comments on the methodology or cultural values were received during the review period of the methodology.

4.3 STAGE 3: GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Stage 3 of the consultation process involved discussion on cultural values and intangible elements of significance. Feedback on the cultural heritage significance of the Project Area was requested as part of the survey and assessment methodology.

Cultural values, including intangible Aboriginal heritage significance of the Project Area, were also discussed with all RAP groups during the heritage surveys on 22 February 2024, 16 to 18 July 2024 and 7 April 2025. Between two to four RAPs were invited to participate in the site survey each day.

4.4 STAGE 4: REVIEW OF DRAFT ACHAR

Previous iteration of the draft ACHAR was provided to RAPs for review for each project design change. This current draft ACHAR was provided to RAPs on 30 April 2025, via email. Each of the RAPs was provided with 28 days to provide comments on the report and any recommended management and mitigation measures, prior to finalisation. Zero comments on the content of the report were received during the review period.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

The nature and distribution of Aboriginal cultural values and materials in a landscape are strongly influenced by environmental factors such as topography, geology, landforms, climate, geomorphology, hydrology, and the associated soils and vegetation (Hughes and Sullivan 1984). These factors influence the availability of plants, animals, water, and raw materials; the location of suitable camping places, ceremonial grounds, and burials; and suitable surfaces for the application of rock art. As site locations may differ between landforms due to differing environmental constraints that result in the physical manifestation of different spatial distributions and forms of archaeological evidence, these environmental factors are used in constructing predictive models for Aboriginal site locations.

Environmental factors also affect the degree to which cultural materials have survived in the face of both natural and human influences and affect the likelihood of sites being detected during ground surface survey. Site detection is dependent on several environmental factors including surface visibility (which is determined by the nature and extent of ground cover including grass and leaf litter etc.) and the survival of the original land surface and associated cultural materials. It is also dependent on the exposure of the original landscape and associated cultural materials (by water, sheet and gully erosion, ploughing, vehicle tracks etc.) (Hughes and Sullivan 1984). Combined, these processes and activities are used in determining the likelihood of both surface and subsurface cultural materials being deposited, surviving, and being detected during archaeological surveys.

5.1 BIOREGION

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) represents a landscape-based approach to classifying the land surface of Australia. A total of 89 biogeographic regions and 419 sub-regions have been delineated, each reflecting a unifying set of major environmental influences which shape the occurrence of flora and fauna and their interaction with the physical environment across Australia and its external territories (excluding Antarctica).

The Project Area is located within the Riverina Plain of the Murrumbidgee Province, Riverina Bioregion (IBRA 5.1 [Chapter 8; NSW NPW 2003]). The Riverina Bioregion lies in southwest NSW, extending into central-north Victoria. The Riverina Bioregion extends from Ivanhoe in the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion south to Bendigo, and from Narrandera in the east to Balranald in the west. Within its boundaries lie the towns of Hay, Coleambally, Deniliquin, Leeton, Mossgiel, Hillston, Booligal, and Wentworth, while Griffith, Ivanhoe, Narrandera, and Albury lie just outside its boundary in neighbouring bioregions. The bioregion also includes outlying remnants of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion in its western boundary, and the Victorian Midlands Bioregion in the south.

The Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers, and their major tributaries, the Lachlan and Goulburn Rivers, flow from the highlands in the east, westward across the Riverina Plain (NSW NPW 1999 and 2003). The Murrumbidgee Province is generally comprised of a naturally flat landscape largely consisting of clays, silts, and sands which historically have been subject to a consistent cycle of annual flooding. The Murrumbidgee Province is characterised by extensive coarse deposits, low lying source bordering dunes, and occasional sand dunes created by ancient rivers (Pardoe 2001: 14).

The Riverina Bioregion has a semi-arid climate, with low winter rainfall and relatively hot summers. The temporally averaged median rainfall from 1890–2005, is 272 mm per annum.

5.2 GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

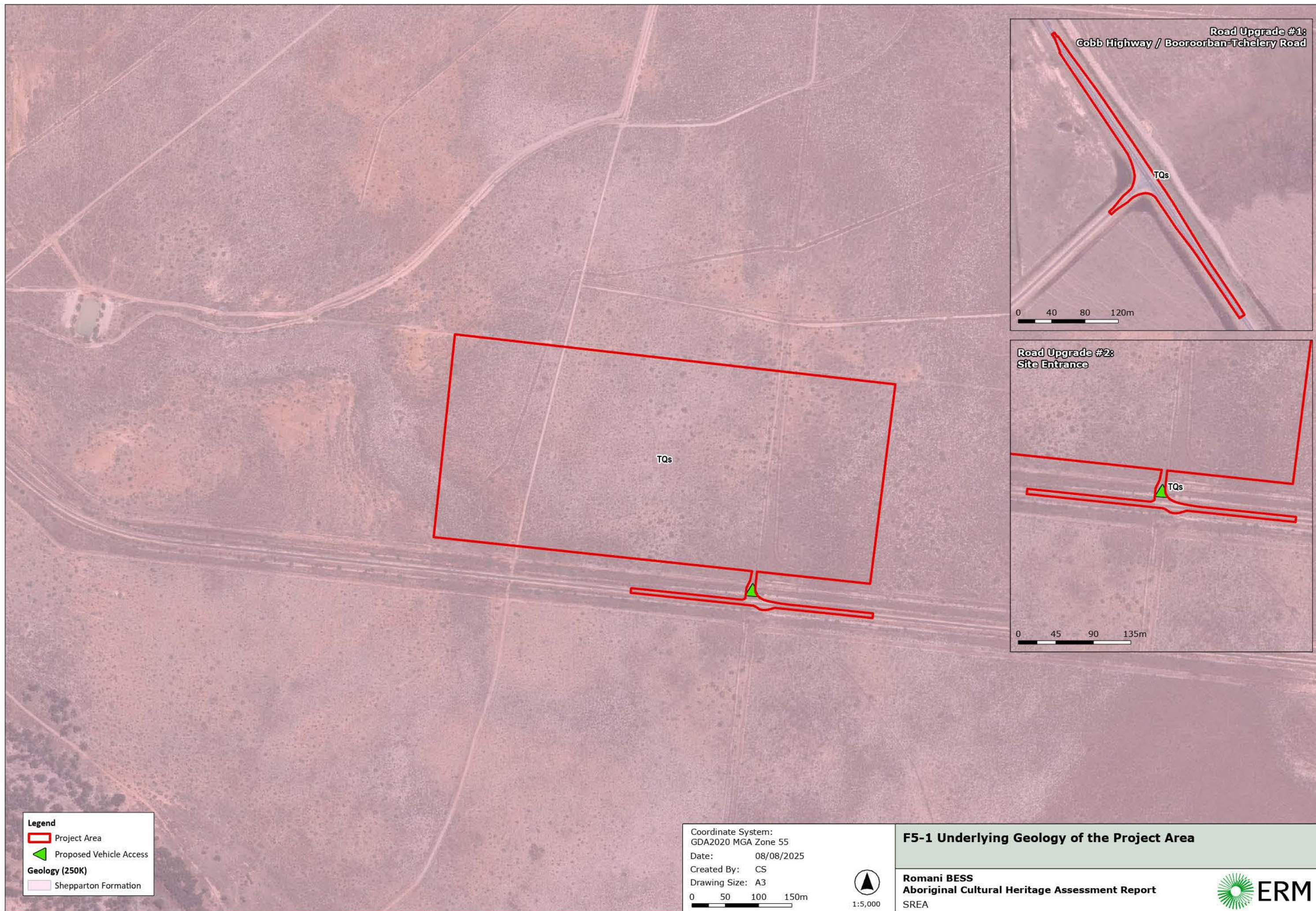
This Riverina Bioregion is dominated by river channels, floodplains, swamps, lakes, and lunettes of Quaternary age (NSW NPW 2003). The evolutionary story of these channels and plains is one of decreasing discharge through time. Different phases of stream discharge have been linked to prior and ancestral stream patterns each with different form and bed load characteristics. Between 15-30,000 years ago (kya), prior streams carried sand far onto the clay plains in wide channels with long meanders. Ancestral streams are more like the modern channels, with tighter meanders and carrying only clay. Alluvial sediments become deeper and older in the western half of the basin, reaching a maximum thickness of about 500 m. Basement rocks are the early Palaeozoic sediments and granites of the Lachlan Fold belt, but almost no outcrops exist in the Riverina (NSW NPW 2003).

The Riverina Plain consists of flat-lying fluvio-lacustrine and aeolian sediments, and much of the surface consists of Pliocene to recent Shepparton Formation (Aap), and the younger incised ancestral rivers of the Coonambidgal Formation (Aam). Pisolitic ferruginous soils (ironstone) identified within the older parts of the Shepparton Formation are equivalent to the Karoonda Surface (Kotsonis and Joyce 2003).

Geologically, the Project Area is part of this extensive alluvial plain, known as the Hay Plain, which developed following a period of land subsidence in the tertiary period. Tertiary-Quaternary (TQs) and paleo-alluvial deposits are seen throughout the Project Area. Following the period of subsidence, sediments began to be deposited across the alluvial plain through a series of prior stream systems (palaeochannels) which are present within the Project Area. The alluvial deposit (Shepparton Formation - Aap) varies in depth between 50-125 m and covers a series of significantly older alluvial and marine sediments.

The Project Area solely consists of the Shepparton Formation. The Shepparton Formation has a variable presentation which includes areas of surface ironstone, unconsolidated to poorly consolidated mottled clays, silty clays, coarse to fine sand and gravels, as well as intercalated red-brown palaeosols. Carbon dating of the Shepparton Formation indicates that the upper and most recent deposits of the formation date to between 20-30 kya (Australian Stratigraphic Units Database 2019).

Following the deposition associated with the Shepparton Formation, a period of stream incision occurred. These incised areas were filled with coarser sediments which form the late quaternary Coonambidgal Formation.



5.3 LANDFORM

The Project Area is located within the Riverina and Hay Plain which is one of the world's flattest places. Landforms in the region are identifiable on a micro level only with landform development associated directly with former and current distributary channels and the effect of flooding.

Key landforms across the Riverina and Hay Plains include the Murrumbidgee River Floodplain, palaeochannels, alluvial plains, and lakes. These landform types are described in *Table 5-1* below.

TABLE 5-1 SUMMARY OF KEY LANDFORMS WITHIN THE RIVERINA AND HAY PLAIN

Landform	Description
Murrumbidgee River floodplain	The modern Murrumbidgee River is located approx. 47 km north of the Project Area and is characterised by its narrow and incised nature. Water within the river is notable for its suspended load of clay and silt. The modern stream channel is located within a belt of alluvium which extends between 1-5 km wide. The alluvium is located slightly below the height of the surrounding plain. In proximity to the Project Area there is a general lack of source bordering dunes surrounding the Murrumbidgee River with sand in this region limited to palaeochannels.
Palaeochannels	Palaeochannels are former streams which carried water during the last glacial period. In the present they are delineated by wide channels of sand which are often slightly raised above the average level of the plain. Palaeochannels are associated with source bordering dunes and shallow channels which carry modern floodwaters. Several palaeochannels in the Murrumbidgee have been dated with their development extending as far back as 105 ka. Palaeochannels within and surrounding the Project Area include the Gum Creek System and the Yanco System which have been associated with the Yanco system which had enhanced fluvial activities between 41 -18 ka (Mueller <i>et al</i> 2018).
Alluvial Plains	The majority of the Murrumbidgee province is comprised of broad alluvial plains which developed as palaeo floodplains.
Lakes	Lakes develop in areas where surface water accumulates on existing flood plains. Surface water accumulations are pushed by wind scour the underlying surface resulting in deeper water basin. Lakes are associated with lunette landforms which form as a result of wind action across the lake surface.

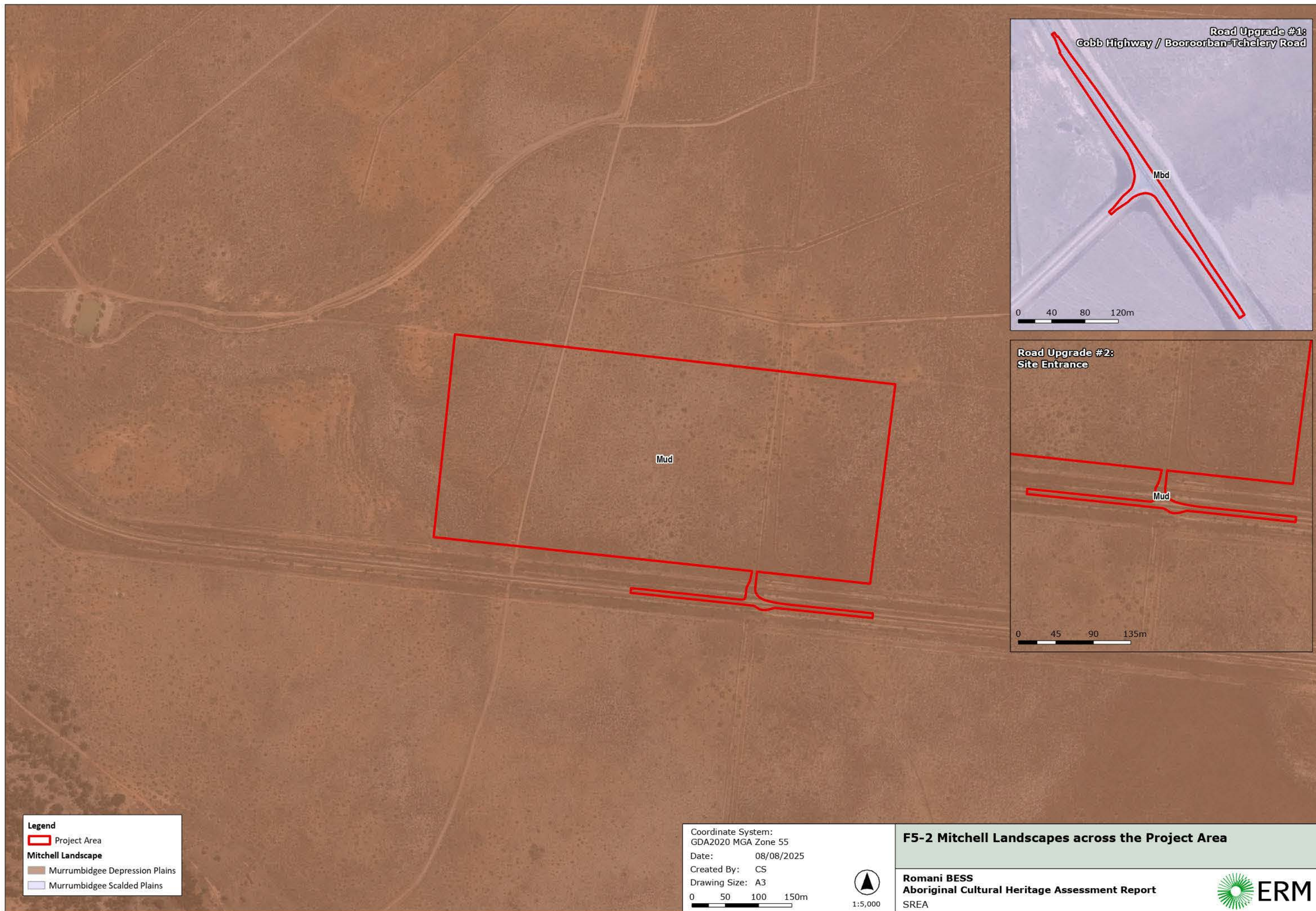
Palaeochannel landforms are identified as demonstrating archaeological sensitivity based on several factors including:

- Their raised nature is more suitable for occupation particularly during flood events;
- Modern ephemeral lakes and water sources are often associated with palaeochannel landforms; and
- The coarser nature of the soil deposits supports a wider variety of land uses and the conservation of a wider range of archaeological deposits including AAR, hearths, and PAD sites.

State level landscape mapping completed by Peter Mitchell in 2002 (Mitchell Landscapes') delineated the Project Area into two broad landscapes. The entirety of the Project Area is comprised of the Murrumbidgee Depression Plains (Mud), with the Murrumbidgee Scalded Plains (Mbd) located approx. 800 m north west. These Mitchell Landscapes were based on geological, geomorphic, and pedologic criteria to describe spatially distinct ecosystems. A summary of the Mitchell Landscapes within and surrounding the Project Area is summarised in *Table 5-2* and shown in *Figure 5.2*.

TABLE 5-2 MITCHELL LANDSCAPES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Landscape	Description	Located
The Murrumbidgee Depression Plains (Mud)	The Murrumbidgee Depression Plains present as numerous circular depressions interpreted as high floodplains or low terraces beyond the reach of average floodwaters. Elsewhere sandy rises and levees trace ancestral streams standing above the general plain, with relief ranging 1 to 10 m (Mitchell 2002:104). The Murrumbidgee Depression Plains is present across the entire Project Area.	Within Project Area
The Murrumbidgee Scalded Plains (Mbd)	The Murrumbidgee Scalded Plains are quaternary alluvial plains with extensive scalding interpreted as relic floodplains or terraces with little relief, often generally <1 m and up to 5 m on associated pans, swamps, and lunettes (Mitchell 2002:105).	~800m north west of Project Area



5.4 SOILS

State level soil mapping of the region (DECCW 2002: 104-105) shows that the Project Area is entirely made up of vertosols which comprise grey, brown, and red clays; siliceous sands; and red and brown earths. Soils are closely related to the current and previous hydrological regimes, with areas of lower relief typically comprised of grey cracking clays associated with flood environments. The majority of the Project Area is comprised of level plains of Quaternary alluvium of sands and clays.

Broad soil mapping for the region completed at a scale of 1:500 000 is available from the Department of Natural Resources which identifies four broad soil landscapes within and surrounding the Project.

These soils with their associated landscape are described in *Table 5-3* below.

TABLE 5-3 SOIL LANDSCAPES

Soils	Landform	Soils
Plain Zone C (PZC) / Tertiary-Quaternary (TQ)	Level plains of Cainozoic/ Quaternary alluvium of the Riverine Plains	Soils related to the prior stream network. In general levee landscapes and localised high points are comprised of red and brown earths. Further into the plain landscape soils are comprised of red brown earths and brown podzolic soils. Soils developed from parent material of clays, silts, and sands from past flow regimes. Moderate to severe scalding occurs on Red Sodic soils, which usually occur near the levees of prior streams. Topsoils are fragile and overgrazing often damages the surface crust
Prior Stream Variant B (PSB)	Landform is comprised of prior stream sand ridges. In general, the sand ridges exhibit narrow and sinuous characteristics. Landscape is characterised by shrublands and low rainfall.	Siliceous Sands on higher sandy ridges–60%, Red Earths on some less distinct rises–20%, Red Brown Earths with sandy topsoils on levees–20%. Soils are dominated by non-cohesive sands, so wind and sheet erosion are potential problems especially on crest and upper slopes.
Western Edge Complex (WX)	Level to gently undulating plains.	Higher undulating rises are dominated by red earths which grade into red/brown earths which are often scalded. Lower lying plains are often comprised of grey cracking clay deposits.
Sandy Prior Stream Ridge (PS)	Linear prior stream sand ridges blown out of coarse sand deposits of relict palaeochannels. Mostly cleared but previously dominated by pine forest and sand-hill shrub species.	Unit is dominated by siliceous sands which occasionally grade to red earths. Adjacent levees/ lower slopes commonly support scalded red earths.

In general, soil development in the region is largely reported to be associated with former stream landforms with soils comprised of a finer substrate with increasing distance from the prior stream deposits (see *Figure 5.3*). This transition is significant archaeologically with clay-based soils in conjunction with flood deposits demonstrating limited potential to support the development of archaeological deposits. It is noted that the effect of flooding may either preserve or disturb archaeological deposits depending on the velocity of flood and the underlying soil types. Clay based soils are considered less likely to support artefact deposition and archaeological site development due to the general impermeable nature of clay soils. Red earth and sandy soils by comparison are considered more likely to support the development of in-situ archaeological deposits. It is however noted that both the PZC and PSB soil profile are reported to be fragile and subject to impact through grazing and wind and sheet erosion, which are a common occurrence within the region.

Vertisols (*Figure 5.4*) are found across the entirety of the Project Area and are the predominant soil matrix, characterised by shrink-swell and cracking clay soils. Water can accumulate seasonally in depressions, and they can form deep cracks from the surface downwards when they dry out. Chromosol soil is present within the central section and south-western corner of the Project Area and is comprised of bright red and brown earths.

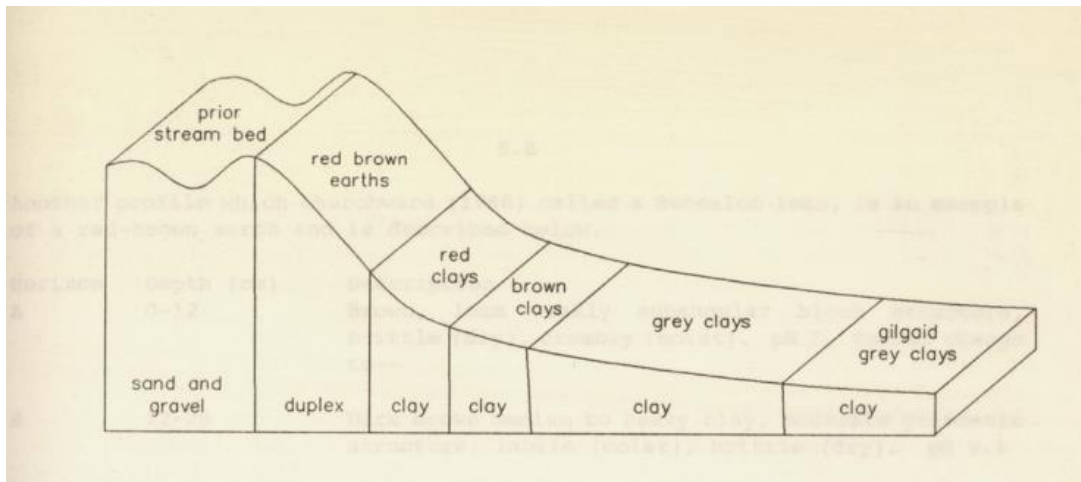
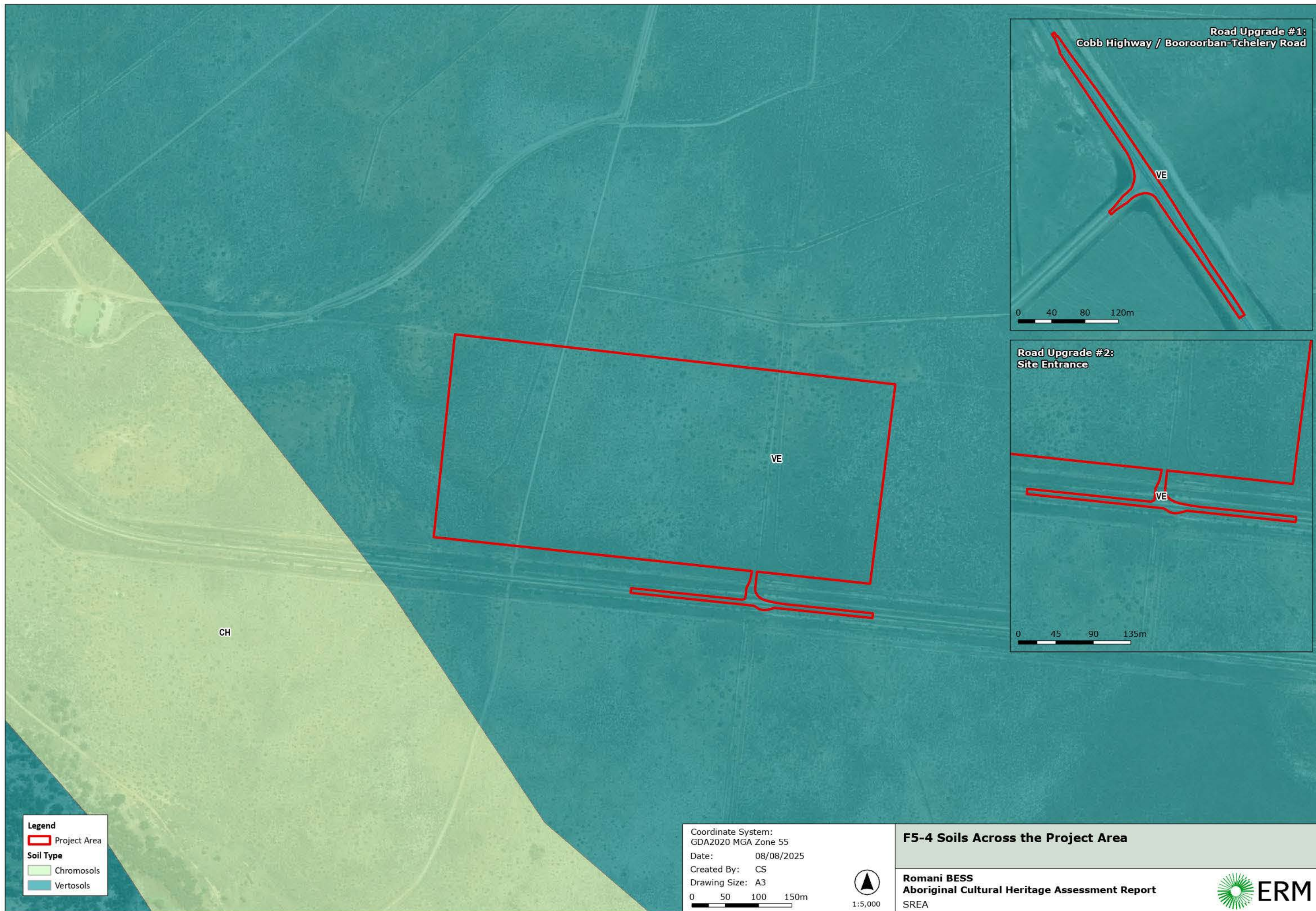


FIGURE 5.3 ILLUSTRATION OF SOIL DEVELOPMENT WITH INCREASING DISTANCE FROM PALAEOCHANNEL LANDFORMS (SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICES OF NSW 1990: 64)



Legend

Project Area

Soil Type

Chromosols

Vertosols

Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Date: 08/08/2025

Created By: CS

Drawing Size: A3

0 50 100 150m

1:5,000

F5-4 Soils Across the Project Area

Romani BESS
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
SREA

ERM

5.5 HYDROLOGY

Today the Murray-Darling Basin comprises a network of rivers forming Australia's largest river system. The Project Area is located within part of the vast Murray-Darling Basin which extends across 14% of Australia's land mass (MDBA 2022). The Murray-Darling Basin is split into two catchment areas (the Northern and Southern basin catchments).

The Southern Murray Darling Basin is generally associated with two large geomorphic forms – the Mallee Plains in the West and the Riverina Plain in the east (including the Project Area). The Riverina Plain is encompassed in the Southern Murray Darling Basin and comprised of a complex network of river channels and floodplains which overlay ancient river systems (see *Section 5.2*). The streams in the Riverina are characterised by low gradients with significant variability in river flow (Williams 2011: 9).

The oldest of the ancient river systems in the Riverina Plain are currently comprised of deeply buried channels which have been filled by sand and gravels and date to 15-30 kya (NSW NPW 2003). These 'prior streams' are identified by their slightly raised nature above the existing floodplain (Williams 2011 :9). More recent 'ancestral rivers' are more closely associated with current drainage networks which are found as winding depressions across the landscape.

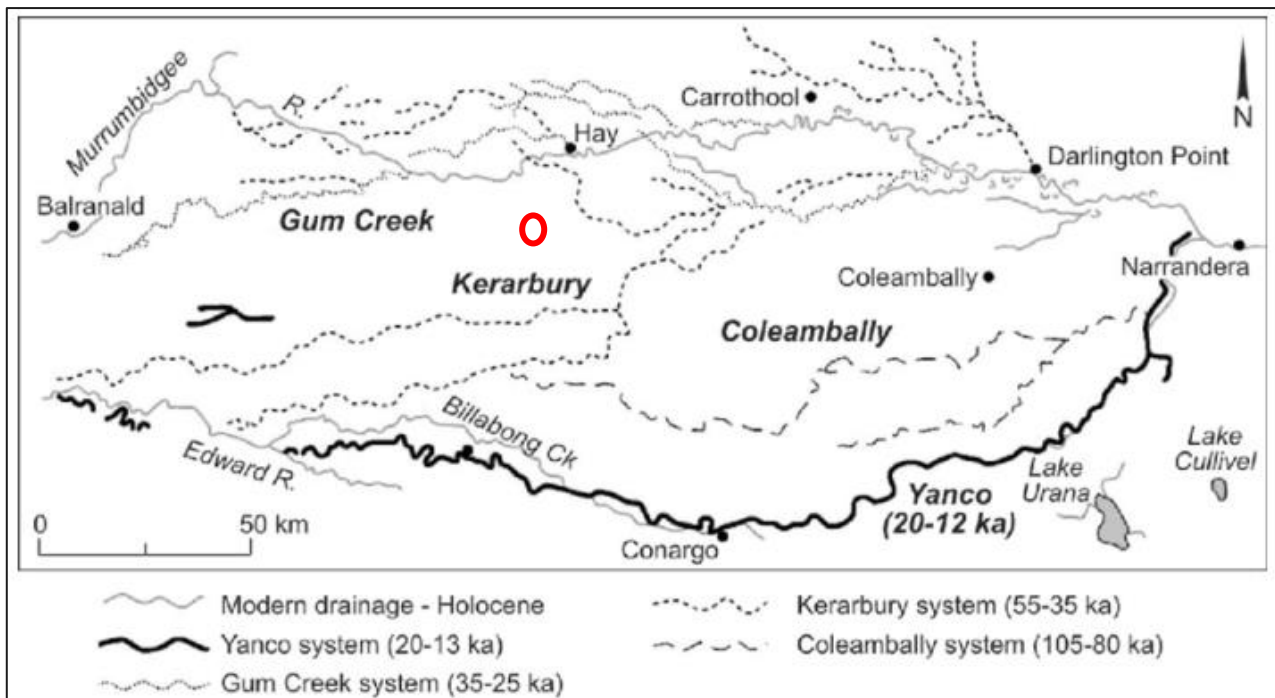


FIGURE 5.5 PHASES OF PALAEOCHANNELS ACROSS THE RIVERINA, APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF ROMANI BESS SHOWN IN RED (PAGE ET AL 2009: 22)

Significant changes to the hydrological landscape occurred between the Pleistocene and Holocene periods which coincided with a period of increased aridity. This increased aridity restricted the flow of palaeochannels with the modern drainage regime for the Riverina Plain estimated to have developed between 15 to 10 kya.

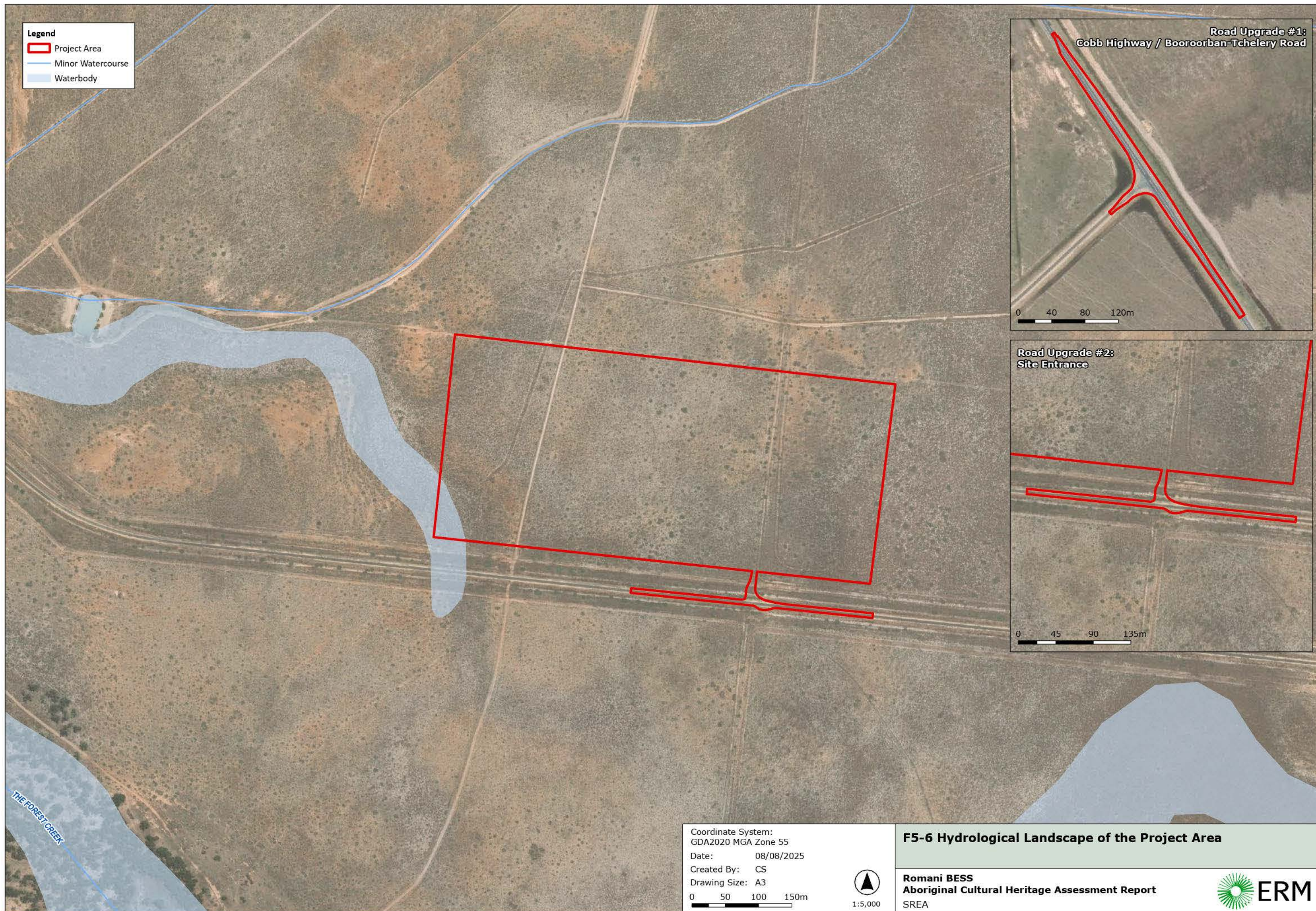
Past Aboriginal occupation is likely to have focused on resources associated with these palaeochannels. This indicates that archaeological evidence is likely to be based in the areas surrounding these palaeochannel resources. Impacts of recent flooding in 2022 and stream activity are noted to have impeded the potential to identify earlier phases of Aboriginal occupation through cycles of erosion, sedimentation and accretion as described by Klaver (1998: 71). It is noted that the high level of clay soils within the Project Area limit drainage across the landscape resulting in large areas of standing water following rain events such as those that occurred in 2022.

At its closest, the Murrumbidgee River is located about 47 km north of the Project Area. The Murrumbidgee River has a catchment of approximately 84,000 km². Rising in the Snowy Mountains, the river flows generally westwards to its confluence with the Murray River, 1,600 km from the river source. The catchment includes 14 dams plus eight large weirs, with its downstream irrigation areas containing over 10,000 km of irrigation canals (Watts 2010: 199).

Water flow along the rivers and creeks in the region have been regulated by major structures predominantly constructed from 1912 through to 1968. The river changes form along its path with the area downstream (west) of Hay, described as the Lower Murrumbidgee floodplain, exhibiting the most extensive wetland area of the catchment.

The natural flow regime of the Murrumbidgee River prior to regulation was characterised by low average flows in summer and autumn, and higher average flows in winter and spring (Page et al. 2005, in Watts 2010: 200). Flows would have naturally been variable, with rainfall events in the upper and mid catchment creating flow pulses that would have travelled down the river, potentially as far as the downstream reaches of the river. River regulation has substantially altered these characteristics as a result of upstream off-takes for irrigation purposes. River regulation has significantly reduced the magnitude of relatively frequent flooding events in the Murrumbidgee floodplains, with impacts to vegetation and fauna diversity and development.

There are no named waterways within the Project Area. Permanent waterbodies in proximity to the Project Area include The Forest Creek (approximately 300 m south). The Forest Creek branches from the Edward River to the southwest and merges with Nyangay Creek in the east. The Project Area is within The Forest Creek and Curtains Creek catchments.



5.6 FLORA AND FAUNA

The availability of flora and fauna resources are primary factors influencing patterns of past Aboriginal land use and occupation. Flora resources have been used by Aboriginal peoples as food, medicine, ceremony, as well as in the construction of tools, shelter and fire.

While the current landscape has been heavily influenced by clearing related to historic farming uses, the Project Area would have contained several flora species which demonstrate Aboriginal cultural values.

River red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and river cooba (*Acacia stenophylla*) communities can be found along the river channels in sandy soils. Herbaceous perennial, annual, and post-flooding ephemeral species make up the understorey in these areas. River cooba was used by Aboriginal people as a source of food (the seeds ground for bread), as well as utilitarian uses (the bark was used as a poison for fishing and the hard wood, Yumang, was used for boomerangs) (Williams and Sides 2008:18). These flora communities, also including cooba (*Acacia salicina*), lignum (*Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii*), nitre goosefoot (*Chenopodium nitrariaceum*), are typical of the Murrumbidgee Channels and Floodplains (Mbc) Mitchell Landscape which is located in the vicinity of the Project Area. Wood and resin from cooba were used by Aboriginal people to make and repair tools, whilst the tree was also considered medicinal with known uses being a mouth wash and body cleansing (Williams and Sides 2008:10).

The riverine forest communities of the Riverina Bioregion (IBRA 5.1) provide habitat for significant fauna including the superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*), sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*), feathertail glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*), squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), carpet python (*Morelia spilota*), freckled duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (Eardley 1999 in NPWS 2003:93).

Black box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) dominated woodlands with an accompanying understorey consisting of salt-tolerant grasses, saltbushes, and daisies and can be found in the grey and black clays on higher land. On land above the flood level, yellow box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) communities can be found with both cypress pine and grey box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) in evidence. The bark of Black box, or Pulty, was used by Aboriginal people in making coolamons and canoes, whilst hollowed branches were fashioned into didgeridoos. Other parts of the tree were used for toolmaking, including the suckers which were used for spear making. Leaves and flowers were commonly used as adornments, especially during ceremonies (Williams and Sides 2008:30).

Stands of Black box offer habitat to a diversity of bird species including the bush thickknee (*Burhinus magnirostris*) and the superb parrot, which rely on box woodland and selected nest trees, typically river red gum. The shrublands and grasslands provide habitat to species such as the plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*), bush thickknee, striped legless-lizard (*Delmar impar*) and fat-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*).

Moving away from the rivers and streams the plain country is relatively treeless, supporting saltbush scrubland with old man saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*), bladder saltbush (*Atriplex vesicaria*), ruby saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*), nardoo (*Marsilea drummondii*) and cotton bush (*Maireana aphylla*) interspersed among the native grasslands (*Danthonia* spp. and *Stipa* spp.) (Williams and Sides 2008: 57) (Figure 5.7). Old man saltbush is used for medicinal purposes and in areas lacking wood supplies, old man saltbush can also be used as a source of wood for fires (per comms. with RAPs during ERM consultation 2023, Table 9-1). Several native animals were sighted during the survey of the Project Area which included emu, kangaroo, raptors, small reptiles, and a range of small insects.

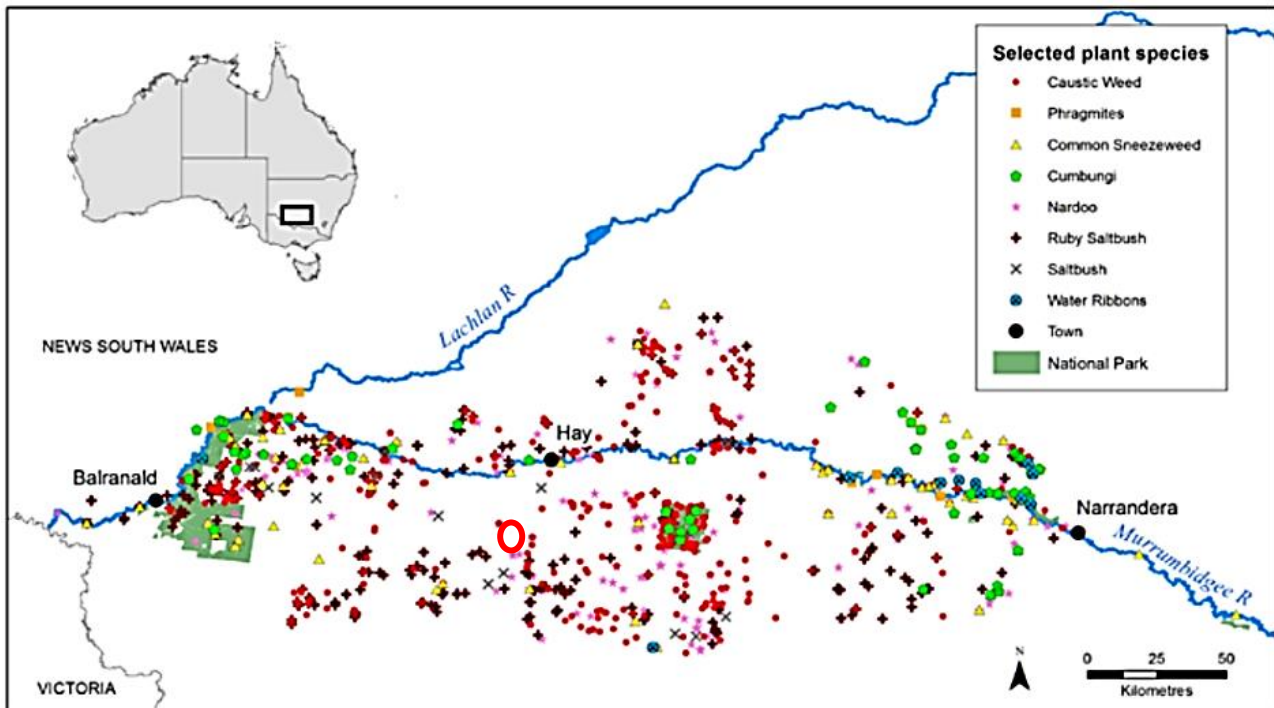


FIGURE 5.7 DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED CULTURALLY IMPORTANT WETLAND SPECIES (DUFFY 2016 IN CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY 2016) WITH APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE ROMANI BESS CIRCLED IN RED

5.7 HISTORIC LAND USES AND DISTURBANCES

The historical development of the Project Area is detailed in the *Romani Solar Farm, Historic Heritage Due Diligence* (ERM, 2024). The following has been taken from that report.

The Romani BESS spans the historic parishes of Miranda (west) and Quandong (east) within the counties of Wakool and Townsend. The Project Area is largely located within the pastoral run of Miranda, with the far eastern area located within Bald Hill run. Large blocks of land in this region between the Murrumbidgee River and Billabong Creek were released by the Government c.1850s (Empire 1865:5).

Miranda pastoral run later became encompassed by the larger Bundyulumbulah Station and Bald Hill pastoral run later became encompassed by Nyangay Station.

By 1861, the Nyangay Station had also been acquired by the Lang brothers. By the late 1860s improvements on the property included a house, store, men's hut, out station huts, wells, dams and a tank (Navin Officer Heritage Consultants, 2022b).

The management of pastoral runs was changed by the *Crown Lands Act 1884*, which introduced new types of land tenure including grazing licences, conditional leaseholds, and pastoral leases. Pastoral runs were divided into two areas; leasehold areas, for which a pastoral lease could be granted to a squatter, and resumed areas, that could be leased under an annual occupation licence (Navin Officer 2021:22).

In 1885, the Bundyulumbulah and Nyangay Stations were gazetted as the 'Bundyulumbulah Holding No.470, and 'Nyangay Holding No.43', respectively (NSW Government Gazette 1888: 7049; New South Wales Government Gazette 1888: 4069). In c.1885, the leasehold area of Nyangay totaled 22,600 acres and the resumed area totaled 16,900 acres (*Figure 5.8*). In c.1886, the leasehold area of Bundyulumbulah totaled 52,400 acres and the resumed area totaled 45,600 acres (*Figure 5.9*). At this time, improvements on the property included a homestead, stores, wool sheds, numerous huts, wells, tanks and dams. These structures were in the south-west of the Project Area (NSW HLRV 2023). The Project Area is within the resumed area of Bundyulumbulah Station and the leasehold area of Nyangay Station.

The Project Area and surrounding property remained largely undeveloped into the mid-twentieth century (*Photograph 5.1*). Around this time, a residence and associated sheds had been established approx. 3.5 km north-east of the Project Area adjacent to Romani Road. The woodland areas, natural drainage channels, and areas cleared for grazing have remained largely unchanged. Little has changed in the use of the property encompassing the Project Area, as pastoral grazing of sheep and cattle remains the principal industry. Section 6.4.2 further describes the relatively recent Project EnergyConnect project, a new High Voltage interconnector between NSW and SA, which has occurred.

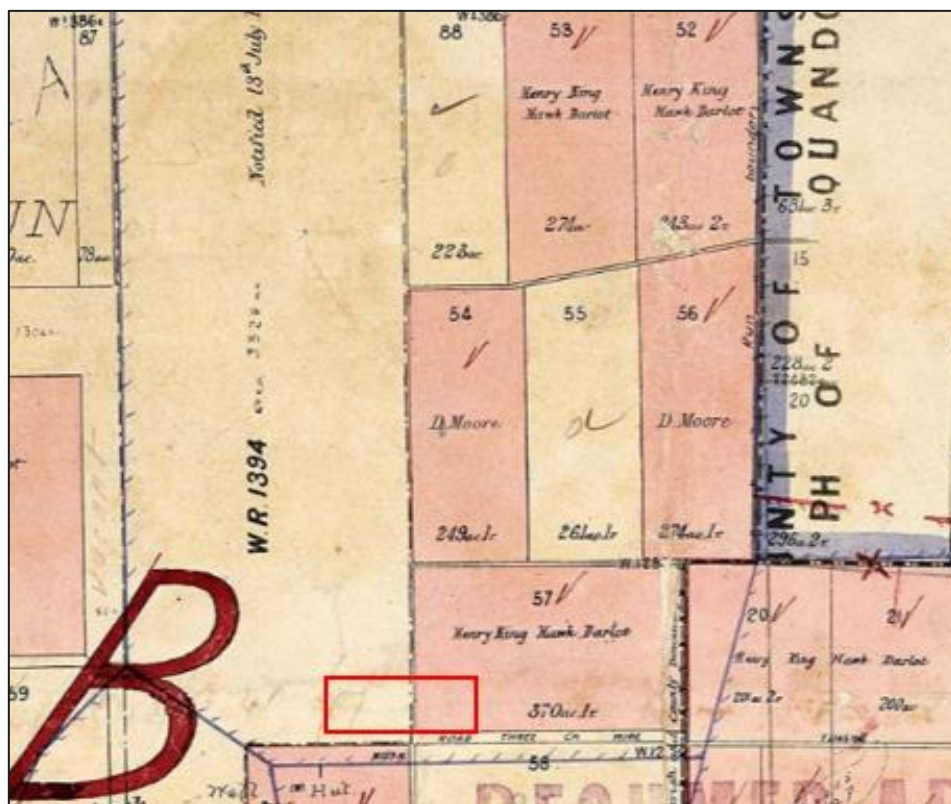


FIGURE 5.8 MAP OF 'BUNDIULIMBLAH', C.1884, WITH THE PROJECT AREA BOXED (NSW HISTORICAL LAND RECORDS VIEWER, [HTTPS://HLRV.NSWLRS.COM.AU/](https://HLRV.NSWLRS.COM.AU/))

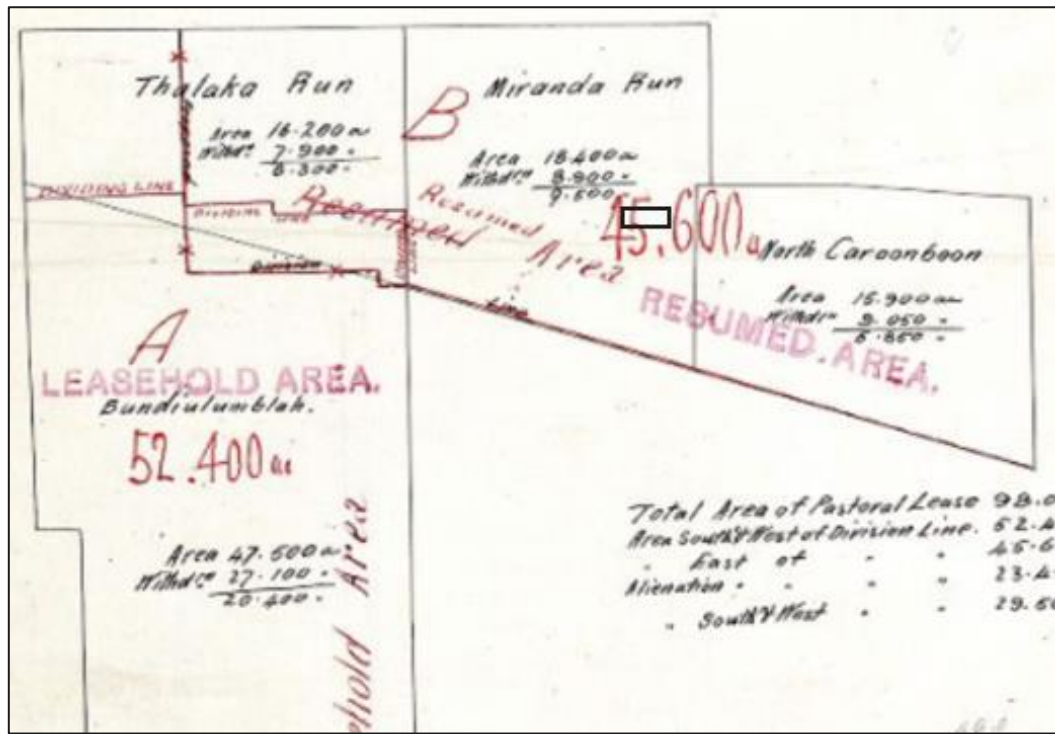
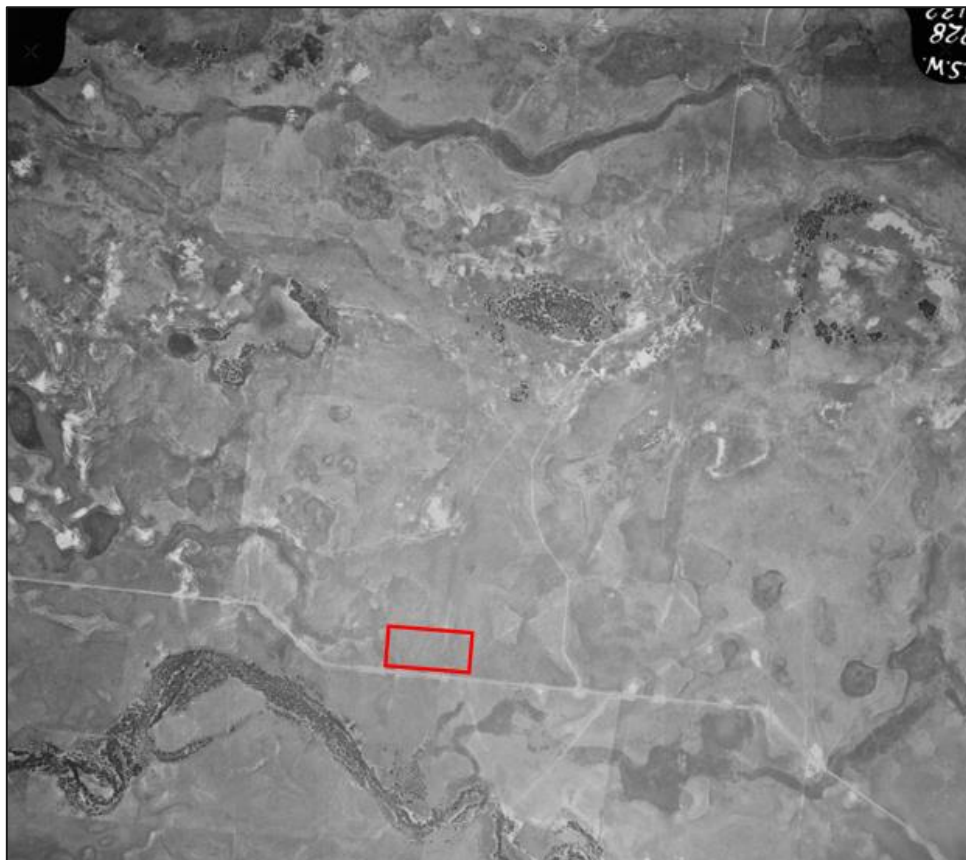


FIGURE 5.9 PASTORAL MAP OF 'BUNDIULIMBLAH', C.1886, SHOWING DIVISION OF LEASEHOLD (A) AND RESUMED AREAS (B). THE PROJECT AREA IS BOXED (NSW HISTORICAL LAND RECORDS VIEWER, [HTTPS://HLRV.NSWLRS.COM.AU/](https://HLRV.NSWLRS.COM.AU/))



PHOTOGRAPH 5.1 1960 AERIAL SHOWING THE PROJECT AREA (BOXED RED), WITH THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF RESIDENCE AND SHEDS INDICATED (NSW HISTORICAL IMAGERY)

6. ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 ETHNOGRAPHIC HISTORY

The Project Area is located around 210 km south-east of Lake Mungo, one of the most famous archaeological sites in Australia that has been dated back as far as 45,000 years (Hiscock 2000: 21-22). According to Pardoe & Martin (2001) in their Murrumbidgee Province Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study, the Project Area is within the boundaries of the Kulin language group of the Western Murrumbidgee, encompassing the Nari Nari, Mathi Mathi, Wathi Wathi, and Wemba Wemba language groups, the boundaries of which are difficult to define and often overlap. Anthropologist Norman Tindale's 1940s map which shows the distribution and diversity of Aboriginal tribes and language groups across Australia maps the Project Area within the Nari Nari and Wemba Wemba groups (Figure 6.1).

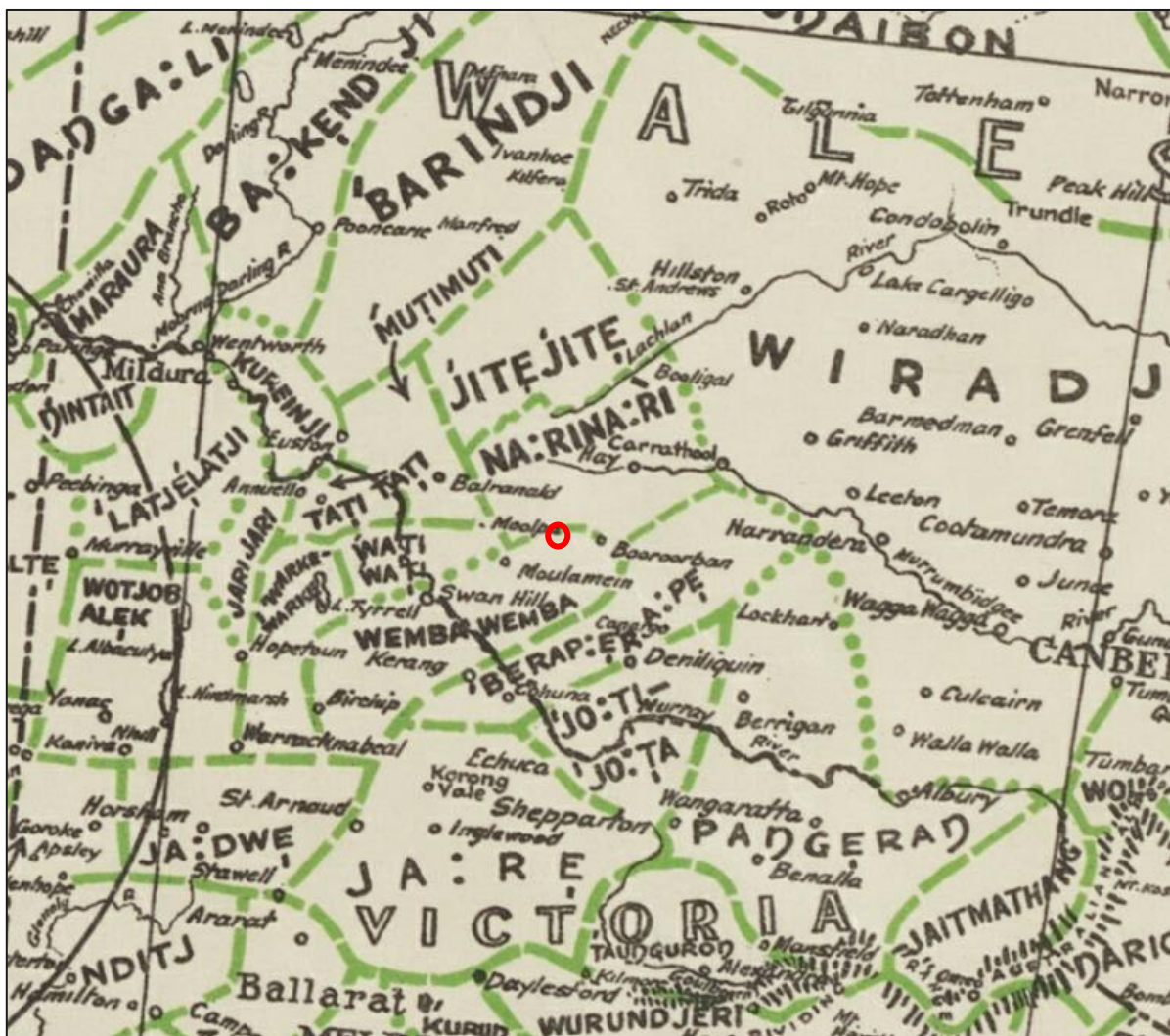


FIGURE 6.1 TINDALE 1940 MAP OF ABORIGINAL TRIBES AND LANGUAGE GROUPS. RED CIRCLE SHOWING THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE PROJECT AREA (SL.NSW.GOV.AU)

The first encounter that many of the Wemba Wemba and Nari Nari people would have had with Europeans was in the early 1800s when explorers first entered the Riverine Plain and surveyed land within the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, and Darling River catchments. The accounts of these early explorers provide valuable insight into the customs and culture of some of the Aboriginal groups of these areas. John Oxley surveyed the Riverina in 1817, accompanied by botanist Charles Cunningham. He followed the Lachlan River downstream below Booligal, but dense swamps prevented progress further west (Eardley 1999).

Between 1828 and 1831, Charles Sturt explored the Murrumbidgee and lower Murray Rivers. Sturt noted that as he travelled downstream along the Murrumbidgee, the population increased. He stated that near the Murrumbidgee-Lachlan junction there was a large tribe of natives...one hundred and twenty in number (Sturt 1833, in Pardoe & Martin 2001).

Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell (1792-1855) explored the Lower Murrumbidgee region in 1836. Mitchell kept journals of his expeditions, detailing observations of Aboriginal people in the region prior to European settlement of the area. Mitchell noted that the staple food crop, bulrush root or balyan was often roasted in features now known as earth mounds or hearths (Mitchell 1839: 134). In reference to these mounds, he stated;

One artificial feature, not observed by me in other places, distinguishes the localities principally frequented by the natives, and consists in the lofty mounds of burnt clay, or ashes used by them in cooking. The common process of natives in dressing their provisions, is to lay the food between layers of heated stones; but here, where there are no stones, the calcined clay seems to answer the same purpose, and becomes better or harder, the more it is used. Hence the accumulation of heaps resembling small hills (Mitchell 1839: 80-81).

Beveridge in his 1884 ethnography described the communities of the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, and Darling areas as being family oriented. The mounds of the plains across the landscape represented territorial markers; the communities were patriarchal, led by elders (Beveridge 1884; Pardoe 1988; Martin 2006). Daily life often consisted of hunting or gathering, cooking, or preparing food, preparing tools such as canoes, and telling stories or playing games.

The rivers were central to the Aboriginal way of life, providing a rich concentration of food resources; Pardoe (1988) suggested that communities living along the rivers would have controlled access to the water and its resources, the rights to this occupation handed down from ancestors (Eardley 1999). For some eight months of the year, resources in the region were available in abundance; however, for the remaining four months of the year, it was substantially more difficult to forage for food. For this reason, the Aboriginal communities participated in a semi-sedentary lifestyle, moving periodically based on the availability of local resources, setting up temporary villages along the way. During the summer when the river systems were abundant, Aboriginal communities would remain in the vicinity for weeks or months (Beveridge 1884). Diet was largely determined by the seasonal availability of resources; the food that sustained them consisted primarily of fish, and of other animals including kangaroo, emu, and possum. Fish traps and weirs were used extensively in the Murrumbidgee region, built across the mouths of swamps and reed beds; these systems were likely used to store fish for months after the floods had passed (Pardoe & Martin 2001).

There is less detail about how Aboriginal people lived on the plains, more than 20 km from a main river channel. The plains were predominantly used in winter when there was usually more surface water resulting from winter rainfall and/or floodwaters pushed out from the rivers along the normally dry creeks. The Aboriginal people within the plains to the west of the lower Murrumbidgee (encompassing the Project Area) were said to retire to the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Rivers as soon as the water on the plains dried up (Pardoe & Martin 2001).

One of the prominent physical features of the Aboriginal campsites were the ovens and/or mounds that were left behind. These features often formed central components within the campsite, most likely to have been used to cook (ovens) and potentially grow food (mounds) (Beveridge 1884; Pardoe & Martin 2001).

Beveridge noted that some mounds discovered in the area contained several and even dozens of burials within; he noted:

Aboriginal skeletons are frequently found in the cooking mounds...the reason for the position of these skeletons, however, can easily be explained...as grave-digging is very arduous when hands are few and the implements merely yam sticks, the easiest method...is simply enough done by scraping a hole in the friable soil of the mound (Beveridge, 1884: 21-22).

Even before European settlement in the region, diseases had spread from their handful of colonial holdings along the coastline. By the time explorers had reached the region, disease had ravaged the population. Beveridge described being involved in exhuming twenty-eight skeletons from a mound; when consulting the elders, he discovered that they were the remains of small-pox victims (Beveridge 1884: 22).

The groups within the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, and Darling region were commercially connected. Trade for certain items would have been vital, as some resources, such as that used for stone tool production, were difficult or impossible to source locally. It also would have been an important method to access food during times of drought or hardship. Beveridge described the importance of certain members of society, the Ngalla Wattow, in facilitating trade links between Aboriginal communities; these men were able to communicate in the languages of the surrounding communities and provided the means to transport goods between these communities. These men were the lifeblood of their respective communities, and no harm was inflicted upon them from rival communities (Beveridge 1884).

6.2 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The AHIMS database provides information concerning previously recorded Aboriginal sites in NSW. An extensive search of the AHIMS database relevant to the previous project design was conducted on 26 September 2023 by shapefile. The search was conducted using the parameters provided in *Table 6-1*. The AHIMS search results are provided in *Appendix I*.

TABLE 6-1 AHIMS DATABASE SEARCH PARAMETERS (SEPTEMBER 2023)

Parameter Type	Parameter Detail
Client Service ID	823173
Datum	GDA Zone 55
Buffer	1000 m
Number Sites ¹	1

One Hearth site, 'Tchelery Hearth Complex' was identified within the 1000 m buffer of the Project Area.

An additional search using a shapefile was completed on 26 September 2024. The search was conducted using the parameters provided in *Table 6-2*.

TABLE 6-2 AHIMS DATABASE SEARCH PARAMETERS (SEPTEMBER 2024)

Parameter Type	Parameter Detail
Client Service ID	934287
Datum	GDA Zone 55
Buffer	1000 m
Number Sites ²	12

A total of 11 valid sites are located surrounding the Project Area. It should be noted that all 11 of these sites were recorded by ERM during the archaeological surveys for the Projects previous designs. One Hearth site, 'Tchelery Hearth Complex' was identified within the 1000 m buffer of the Project Area. The results of the full AHIMS search are summarised in *Table 6-3*.

TABLE 6-3 AHIMS REGISTERED SITE TYPES (SEPTEMBER 2024)

Site Type	Total Number of Site Types Across Search Parameters
Artefact	5
Hearth	2
Artefact, Hearth, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	5
Total	12

6.3 AHIP REGISTER

A review of the following public AHIP registers was undertaken during the preparation of this report:

- AHIP public register 2021-2023 (as accessed on 17 January 2024); and
- AHIP public register archive 2010-2021 (as accessed 17 January 2024).

No AHIPs have been registered within the Project Area.

¹ Number of sites registered following data download on 26 September 2023.

² Number of sites registered following data download on 26 September 2024.

6.4 REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

6.4.1 EXISTING REGIONAL PREDICTIVE MODELS

A localised landscape based predictive model was developed by Colin Pardoe for the 'Murrumbidgee Province' as part of the Murrumbidgee Province Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (Pardoe and Martin 2011). This predictive model has focused on the localised landform features and their relationship to site identification and includes assessment of the Project Area. Pardoe's assessments considered the relationship between several landform features and the location of sites making the following conclusions:

- Water – The pattern of site distribution was identified as having its greatest concentration within proximity to watercourses. Some variation in site distribution based on water source type was also noted:
 - Major Streams – No site was located more than 12 km from a major river channel with most sites found within a short distance of this channel (75% of sites were within 3.3 km of a major stream). For the purposes of predictive modelling all land within 5 km of a major stream was considered moderately sensitive, all lands within 3 km of a major river were considered highly sensitive;
 - Minor Streams – No site was located more than 12 km from a minor stream (75% were within 2.2 km). For the purposes of predictive modelling all land within 5 km of a minor stream was considered moderately sensitive, all lands within 2 km of a minor stream were considered highly sensitive;
 - Lakes – More than 82% of sites are found within 8 km of a lake. For the purposes of predictive modelling all land within 8 km of a lake was considered highly sensitive; and
 - Swamps – No obvious pattern of distribution was identified which was attributed to variations in the way swamps are described in official mapping data.
- Landforms – Plains made up 93% of the Murrumbidgee Province, and as such minor variations in landform were noted to be significant as an impetus to the flow of water and location of resources. While sites were identified across most landform patterns; channelled plain and confined trace landforms were identified as containing a disproportionate number of sites. These landforms were most often associated with the modern active floodplain. Comparatively, burials were most often associated with scalded, channelled, and depressed plains associated with palaeo environments. Based on the Mitchell landform mapping, the majority of the Project Area is located within the Murrumbidgee Channels and Floodplains. This landform would be considered likely to include most sites within the Project Area (*Figure 5.2*); and
- Soils – Soil type was noted for its association with water resources and vegetation communities. Based on this association, varying soil types were identified to be associated more closely with site features (hearths, mounds etc.) rather than overall site distribution.

The Hay Plain is generally located south of Hay and north of Deniliquin and sits within the Murrumbidgee Province. Additional large-scale reviews of archaeological site types were completed by Martin in her review of the Hay Plain (Martin 2007 and Martin 2010). Martin noted several patterns in site distribution related to environmental features:

- The narrow floodplains or confined traces of the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan, the Lowbidgee distributary system, the Gum Creek palaeochannel, and the Abercrombie Creek system in the Hay Plain have the highest density of sites. Large open water lakes also have a high density of sites;

- Sites are widely spread over different geomorphic categories across the Hay Plain with certain site types most likely to be identified in specific soil types. Confined traces (including the Murrumbidgee River), plains with channels, plains with depressions, and channelled plains contained a higher density of sites. Localised landforms including lunettes and lakes were also identified to have a higher-than-average site density;
- Mounds were identified to be located to parts of the Hay Plain and not directly related to geomorphology. Mounds were noted however to be particularly dense along confined traces, the Lowbidgee and Hay Plain Southeast;
- Middens were identified to be largely located along the confined traces of the major rivers and on large water lakes and lunettes;
- Open sites were more commonly found away from riverine grey cracking clays;
- Burials appeared to cluster in the western portion of the Hay Plain in similar locations to mounds. These sites were not identified to be connected to geomorphology;
- Artefact sites and ground ovens were recorded to have been spread widely across the Hay Plain; and
- All archaeological site types are considered likely to occur on slightly raised sandier palaeochannel features.

Martin noted that on a wider scale that the gently west sloped topography of the Hay Plain was identified to have an influence on the overall presence of sites. Martin suggested this may have been related to earlier water retention environments. Prior to modern water control systems, it was noted that the western half of the Hay Plain would have acted as a sump which collected seasonal floodwater and excess rainfall and would have provided appropriate resources for the growth of a number of plant and animal resources. Mound sites in the area surrounding Gum Creek and the Abercrombie Creek System were noted to be focused on palaeochannel features and around ephemeral lakes and swamps (Martin 2007: 199).

Most of the Project Area is comprised of landform types which were identified by Pardoe and Martin as having the potential to contain Aboriginal sites.

6.4.2 LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

A summary of the local archaeological context has been developed using the results of publicly available archaeological reporting and registered AHIMS sites within and in the vicinity of the Project Area. The result of this review helps to provide an indication of the range, nature, and distribution of archaeological sites within the local area.

6.4.2.1 ADJACENT TO THE PROJECT AREA

Project EnergyConnect (NSW Eastern Section), Buronga to Wagga Wagga NSW (Navin Officer Heritage Consultants 2022)

Navin Officer Heritage Consultants (NOHC 2022) prepared an ACHAR to support the EIS and Submissions Report for Project EnergyConnect, a new High Voltage interconnector between NSW and SA. Project EnergyConnect comprises several sections, the NSW Eastern Section would involve the installation of transmission lines between Buronga and Wagga Wagga.

The Aboriginal heritage study area was generally a one-kilometre-wide corridor (500 m either side of the proposed alignment) between the Buronga substation and the Wagga Wagga substation, totaling approximately 540 km and traversing nine Local Government Areas (LGA) being Wentworth Shire, Balranald Shire, Murray River, Edward River, Hay Shire, Murrumbidgee, Federation, Lockhart Shire, and Wagga Wagga LGAs. The proposed 330 kV transmission line traversed the southern portion of the Project Area, as shown in *Figure 6.2*.

Survey commenced in 2021 and by 2022 was completed for approximately 97% of the proposed alignment. During the surveys, 105 new Aboriginal sites and 45 areas of PAD were identified, as well as two non-Aboriginal historical sites. In 2022 test excavations were completed for the PADs that were proposed to be impacted. The most common new site types identified were isolated finds (n=45) and artefact scatters (n=23).

None of these newly recorded sites were located within the Project Area. However, the sites within the locality of the Project Area included earth mounds, isolated artefacts, burials, hearths, artefact scatters, and culturally modified trees (scarred). It was noted that these sites, especially the earth mounds, indicate that people returned to the area seasonally, for various reasons including sedentary lifestyle and for burials.

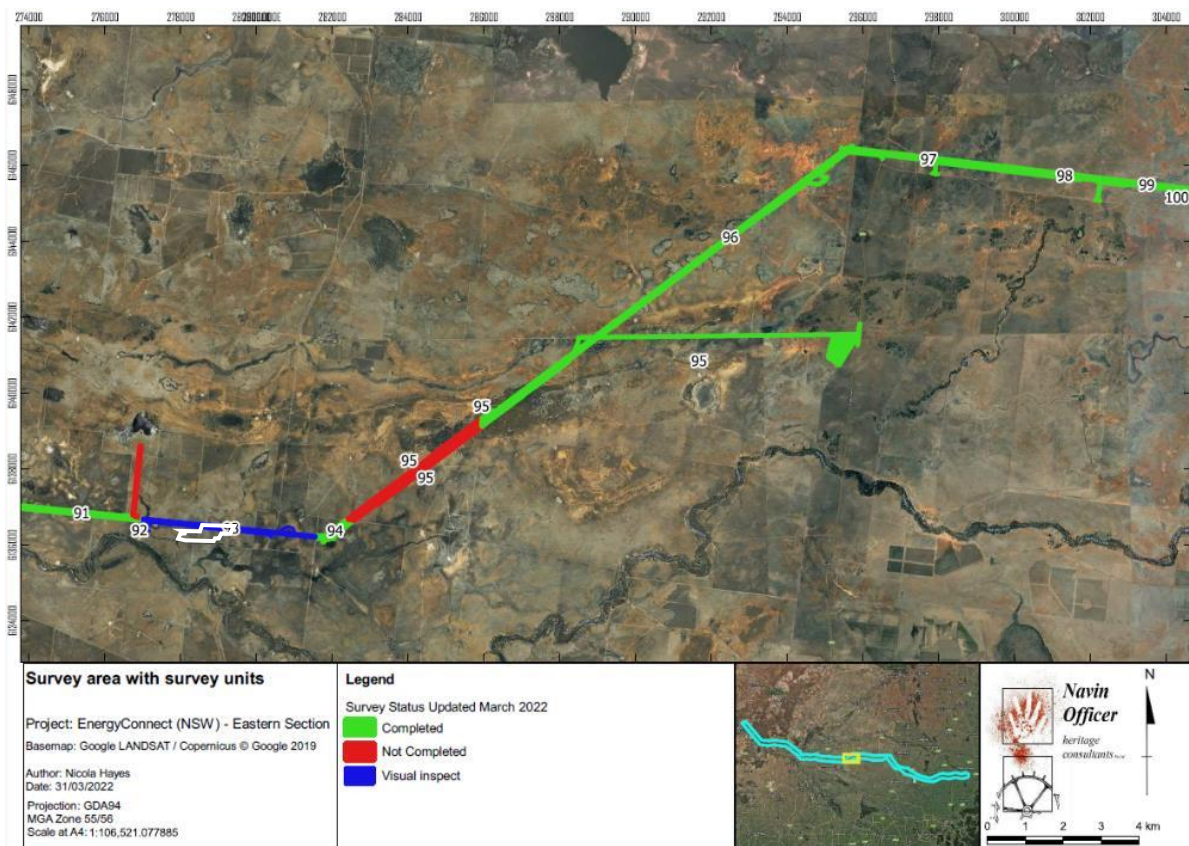


FIGURE 6.2 SURVEY AREA OF EASTERN SECTION OF ENERGYCONNECT TRAVERSING CURRENT PROJECT AREUPDATE WA (BOXED IN WHITE) (NAVIN OFFICER HERITAGE CONSULTANTS 2022: 432)

6.4.2.2 WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT AREA

The Plains Renewable Energy Park (ERM 2024)

In 2022, ERM prepared the individual Scoping reports for the wind farm and solar farm components of The Plains Renewable Energy Park, located approximately 12 km south of Hay (and immediately adjacent to the eastern portion of the Project Area). The two EIS reports for the project are currently being prepared. The proposed Plains Wind Farm would include up to 188 wind turbines and associated infrastructure. The proposed solar farm would comprise approximately 900,900 solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure.

From 2022 to 2023, ERM prepared the ACHARs to support the two separate SSD applications for the project. A total of 41 valid AHIMS registered sites were identified as being within The Plains Renewable Energy Park. During the field surveys, a total of 93 new sites were identified. The sites comprised Artefacts, Hearths, PADs and Modified Trees. Based on the current development footprint, potential harm to 54 sites was identified.

Keri Keri Wind Farm (ERM 2023)

ERM is currently preparing an ACHAR for the site of the proposed Keri Keri Wind Farm (KKWF), proposed to be located approximately 31 km east of Balranald, and about 70 km west of the current Project Area. The KKWF encompasses approximately 18,081 ha of land and is proposed to include up to 159 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure. Field surveys undertaken for the KKWF ACHAR included a preliminary survey as well as two supplementary surveys, the final of which was done in conjunction with a forensic survey of the recorded AAR. The field surveys identified 209 new sites within the KKWF Project Area. Artefact sites were the most common to be recorded, totaling 142 sites.

A total of 61 burials (AARs) at 23 locations were recorded, in addition to seven burials recorded from an earlier survey and registered on AHIMS. Burials generally appeared to be part of residential places in red sandy dunes adjacent to clay pans, ephemeral lakes, and small ponds. They were usually located at the edges of these places but were sometimes observed in the centre when associated with ground disturbance from digging animals. These observations indicate that burials are likely to occur across the entirety of the residential place but are more visible at the eroding extremities.

The KKWF Project Area is comprised of a landscape which is predominantly flat with small rises generally adjacent to clay pans, ephemeral lakes, and small ponds. Some of these rises are natural dunes formed along palaeochannels or lake lunettes, and others are culturally created earth mounds, or a combination of both. These rises have been identified as suitable to retain archaeological deposits as they were the focus of Aboriginal occupation to have easy access to the nearby retained water during dry seasons, and to stay dry when much of the surrounding area was underwater during wet seasons. A total of 34 new locations of PAD were recorded within the KKWF Project Area, 24 of which were associated with visible archaeological material such as AAR, hearths, or artefacts. The remaining 10 PADs were recorded as such due to the presence of dunes or earth mounds with similar characteristics to those with visible archaeological material present.

The distribution of recorded sites was consistent with the predictive model for the KKWF Project Area:

- Five previously recorded and 121 newly recorded sites (artefacts, hearths, and most of the burials/earth mounds) were located in the red brown alluvial loams and aeolian sand associated with the bordering dunes and lunettes of palaeochannels (prior streams) and ancient lakes (very high sensitivity);
- Three previously recorded and 67 newly recorded sites (isolated artefacts, hearths, and eight burials/earth mounds) in the red-brown clays, clay loam alluvial plains, grey-brown cracking clays, or sandy clay soils associated with palaeochannel rangelands, bordering aeolian dunefields, and blackbox woodland (moderate sensitivity);
- One previously recorded and 20 newly recorded sites (isolated artefacts and three earth mounds) in the black, brown, and grey cracking clays and depressions associated with ancient lake beds and former swamps (low sensitivity); and
- One newly recorded site (CMT) in the small area of red-brown clays and red sandy rises associated with the Murray Pine on an elevated plain (high sensitivity).

Bullawah Wind Farm (Umwelt, 2022)

In 2022, Umwelt prepared the Scoping Report and Preliminary Heritage Constraints Assessment for the Bullawah Wind Farm, located approximately 28 km south of Hay (and 44 km east of the current Project Area). The EIS for the project is currently being prepared. The proposed Bullawah Wind Farm would include approximately 170 wind turbines and associated infrastructure.

The reports identified that 115 registered AHIMS sites were located within 10 km of the project boundary, with 13 located within the Bullawah Wind Farm project area. The majority of the sites (96 in total) were identified in the vicinity of waterways within the Oolambeyan National Park. Impacts to these sites were noted as being unlikely due to a 300 m buffer being applied to the Oolambeyan National Park.

Burial and Occupation at Dry Lake and Tchelery, Via Hay (Littleton and Johnston 1993)

Littleton and Johnston prepared a heritage report to summarise two burial sites located as part of the Burial Conservation Program undertaken in conjunction with Hay LALC. The report details the identification of two burial sites located at Dry Lake and Tchelery located approximately 35 km west of the Project Area.

Dry Lake west was described as containing a series of nine mounds with burial and hearth features comprised of mound and hearth features. The site was identified at the western side of Dry Lake which is notable for scalds of coarse red sands. Notably, several of the burials in this location were associated with hearth or clay ball features. Mound features were reported to be spaced approximately 200 m apart with the mounds exhibiting evidence of different land uses including stone artefact production and shellfish consumption. Littleton observed that burials were most often identified in the western half of a mound feature and noted that this may reflect primarily a pattern of erosion.

The Tchelery location was identified approximately 300 m west of Dry Lake in an isolated stand of blackbox and saltbush surrounding an indistinct depression. It was assessed that this depression may have formed a water source in the past. Three mound features were identified at this location including one large mound extending approximately 80 x 120 m. As with Dry Lake, several burials were located across these mound features in association with heat retainer hearth features.

Littleton and Johnson concluded that the sites support a pattern being identified across the Hay Plain associated burials with occupation mound sites. Burials were noted to be common and sometimes numerous in mounds were often associated with campfire debris. Littleton further notes that burials in the Hay Plain have been identified to demonstrate several unique features including a variability of burial position and posture, the inclusion of children's remains and the density of burials.

Abercrombie Water Efficiency Project Balranald, Murrumbidgee River and Hay LGAs (OzArk 2017)

Between 2014 and 2016, OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management Pty Ltd (OzArk) conducted surveys and assessments of the Abercrombie Water Efficiency Project (AWEP), which consisted of a 10 m wide corridor along approximately 276 km of pipeline as well as small areas of ancillary water infrastructure. The AWEP study area is approximately 75 km west of the Project Area. Initial investigation by OzArk had identified seven sites, three of which being open campsites. An AHIP application was recommended for two isolated finds (WAIF1, a grinding stone fragment; and WA-IF3, a flaked piece of silcrete), but was refused based on lack of survey coverage. Re-assessment was undertaken including pedestrian transects and an AHIP application was subsequently approved by the OEH, allowing for the harm (removal) to the two previously mentioned objects and the management of a further 42 Aboriginal objects or 'no harm' areas. The 42 'no harm' sites within the Project Area contained a variety of different features including PADs, modified trees, isolated artefacts, artefact scatters, and oven artefacts. The variety in site types found throughout the Project Area suggests that the region was seasonally inhabited by Aboriginal people.

Darlington Point Solar Farm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd 2018)

In 2017, Kelleher Nightingale Consulting surveyed 1,050 ha of land for the Darlington Point Solar Farm located approximately 7.5 km south-east of the Darlington Point township (approximately 130 km east of the Project Area). There were four previously registered sites within the study area (CMTs, earth mounds and one hearth). The survey identified five new Aboriginal sites (four CMTs, and one artefact scatter), as well as one potential CMT.

The archaeological evidence indicated that a range of activities were undertaken within the study area; the nature of the scars on the CMTs indicated that the bark was being acquired for several different purposes. The sites were located on flat landforms, with the majority being located within one kilometre of an unnamed drainage line. The survey identified that most of the study area contained no potential for subsurface archaeology due to the unfavourable location, tree clearance and the presence of vertosols across the area.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Sunraysia Solar Farm Balranald (NGH Environmental 2016)

In 2016, NGH Environmental surveyed 800 ha of land for the proposed Sunraysia Solar Farm near Balranald, located approximately 100 km west of the Project Area. Most of the survey area was within the Condoulpe land system, consisting of sand plains and dune fields with dense to scattered mallee near Balranald. A small portion of the proposed transmission line alignment is within the Perekertin land system consisting of transitional riverine plains. The landforms were generally the same across the survey area, that is, dunes of varying heights and swales, with gentle slopes in between. The low gradient, gently sloping terrain did not provide any marked differentiation in the soils, vegetation or other variable that may have led to different Aboriginal site use of the environment.

No Aboriginal sites had been previously recorded within or adjacent to the study area. Despite the variable visibility encountered during the survey (with some land cultivated and uncultivated), three sites comprising two clusters of burnt clay recorded as ovens were recorded, as well as a site complex of seven stone artefacts and three hearths. Most of the cultural material was recorded with the Perekertin landscape system and relatively undisturbed areas. It was stated that the recorded sites were not in proximity to water sources, reflecting the opportunistic use and broader movement of people. NGH Environmental noted that lack of scarred trees in the assessment area was likely due to historic clearance across the assessment area and the lack of permanent water within the assessment area. It was stated as possible that additional artefacts and hearths could occur within the development footprint; however, based on the land use history of the area, there was low potential for the presence of intact subsurface deposits. NGH Environmental interpreted the nature of the archaeological material within this landscape to suggest that Aboriginal use of the landscape was intermittent.

Balranald Mineral Sands Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Niche 2015)

Between 2012 and 2014, Niche undertook a survey of approximately 2,120 ha of land for the Balranald Mineral Sands Project (totalling 9,964 ha), located approximately 125 km north-west of the Project Area. A total of 548 sites were identified over the course of the project, 383 of which were located within the study area. A database of sites for the project was created that is referred to as the Balranald Project Aboriginal Heritage Database. During the field survey an emphasis was placed on visually inspecting alluvial plains, playas, and basins while sand plains, sand dunes, and areas with reduced archaeological visibility had less focus. While 11 land systems were identified and surveyed within the Balranald Mineral Sands Project, a moderate number of Aboriginal sites were in the Rata landform.

The study area contained landscapes with a high and moderate archaeological value, but most was considered to have low archaeological value and was assessed as being of fair to poor condition; this was reflective of the impacts of grazing and historic land use.

Stone artefact occurrences as isolated finds and clusters were the most common site types identified, followed by hearths. Niche noted that there was a strong correlation between the location of sites and dunes, rises, lunettes, and exposures associated with depressions or a decrease in elevation in the landscape. Silcrete artefacts dominated the assemblage and accounted for 93.5% of the recorded artefacts. The bulk of the stone artefacts recorded were complete flakes, broken flakes, and angular fragments. Retouched flakes or tools formed a small percentage of the assemblage with several tool types identified including burins, burrens, piecers, and assorted scrapers. Niche (2015) concluded that within the study area sites fell into either short-term occupation or single activity sites, or specific long term seasonal nodal sites.

Balranald Sun Farming Project, NSW (Biosis 2017)

In 2017, Biosis surveyed approximately 2,058 ha of land for the Limondale Sun farm, near Balranald, located approximately 100 km west of the Project Area. The study area had poor ground surface visibility and was comprised of fields of wheat and other crops. The agricultural use of the study area caused extensive disturbance, including vegetation clearance, ploughing, fencing, and the creation of vehicle tracks and access roads. The two main landforms within the study area were Murrumbidgee scalded plain and Mallee cliff sandplain.

Five previously registered Aboriginal sites were located within the study area; the survey relocated all sites and found them to be in good condition. Additionally, 11 previously unrecorded sites were identified within the study area, one of which was associated with a new PAD. Most of these sites, particularly hearths and earth mound complexes, were located on red earth within Murrumbidgee scalded plain land systems. The sites located within the Mallee Cliff sandplains land system indicated much lower intensity of use than those located within the Murrumbidgee scalded plains. All stone artefacts were silcrete. The large number of hearth sites, as well as the presence of four earth mounds within the study area suggest it was likely used extensively by Aboriginal groups in the past. The presence of two examples of mixed historical and Aboriginal sites (hearth with associated historic material) demonstrate that the land continued to be used by Aboriginal people following European settlement.

6.4.3 PRELIMINARY PREDICTIVE MODEL

There are several factors which have the potential to bias the results and interpretations of former archaeological studies. These factors include elements such as:

- The landform on which a site is observed is not necessarily the site's origin. Post-depositional processes including impacts from flooding and bioturbation are likely to have resulted in the movement of archaeological deposits;
- Biases in landforms investigated are limited by proposed development locations or areas of interest to the archaeologist. Further variation in type, accuracy and level of reporting exist; and
- Site interpretation can be skewed by level of ground surface visibility and fragmentation of the archaeological record.

The following statements provide a summary of identified archaeological site patterning in the Project Area and across the region:

- Stone artefact sites are likely to be located across a variety of soil and geomorphological areas within the Project Area;

- Aboriginal occupation sites are likely to be concentrated in proximity to current or former watercourses (palaeochannels);
- Aboriginal sites within the Project Area are likely to include instances of mounds, hearth, artefact, burial, and PAD features;
- Mound, heath, burial, and PAD features are likely to be concentrated in areas associated with palaeochannel landforms and in areas of ephemeral lakes and swamps;
- AAR sites are likely to be located within raised sandy landforms found in association with palaeochannel features as well as within mound features;
- Archaeological remains associated with low lying clay-based environments within the Project Area are likely to be limited to surface artefact sites;
- CMTs may be present in areas of mature vegetation. Due to the limited presence of tree species across the Project Area, CMTs are not likely to occur within the Project Area; and
- Disturbance to Aboriginal sites across the Project Area is likely to be associated with the impact of stock grazing (refer to *Section 5.7* for a description of historical land use), flooding, erosion, and wind. These post-depositional forces are considered likely to have had a significant impact on the geographic distribution and intactness of archaeological material.

Due to the above predictions the Project Area is considered to demonstrate moderate potential to contain Aboriginal sites.

7. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

7.1 AIMS

The aims of the cultural heritage survey were to:

- Complete a survey across the majority of the Project Area with a focus on areas with potential to be impacted by the BESS development;
- To consult with RAPs over the course of the project life and provide the RAPs an opportunity to provide feedback on the cultural values and elements of cultural heritage significance within the Project Area; and
- Record all Aboriginal objects or sites identified during survey.

7.2 METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

Survey comprised the completion of linear transects across the footprint of the proposed BESS, proposed access tracks, and associated infrastructure. Survey was complete by discrete transects to survey all landforms.

The survey area of the BESS was defined as one survey unit (*Figure 7.1*). A total of 27 pedestrian transects were completed across the whole survey area of the BESS. Survey of was undertaken with a survey team of three people with the team spaced approximately 10 - 20 m apart. Where areas of exposure or visible potential archaeological features were identified members of the transect team temporarily deviated from their assigned transect to inspect in closer detail.

A GPS track log was used to track the path of the ERM survey archaeologist. All survey transect can be seen in *Figure 7.1*, and record the coordinates of survey transects.

A photographic record was kept during the survey. Photographs were taken to record aspects of the survey unit including landform, surface exposures, vegetation, areas of disturbance, and any identified Aboriginal site or areas of archaeological potential.

7.3 PARTICIPANTS

Due to the changes in project design three survey were complete in 2024 and 2025. These were undertaken on 22 February 2024, 16 to 18 July 2024 and on the 7 April 2025.

Participants in each survey day is shown in *Table 7-1*.

TABLE 7-1 SURVEY ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation	Role	Date
Lorien Perchard	ERM	Survey supervisor	First Survey: 22/02/2024 Third Survey: 07/04/2025
Victoria Gleeson	ERM	Survey supervisor	First Survey: 22/02/2024 Second Survey: 16/07/2024 – 18/07/2024

Name	Organisation	Role	Date
Timothy Pinches	ERM	Archaeologist	Second Survey: 16/07/2024 – 18/07/2024
<Removed for public display>	Deniliquin LALC	RAP site officer	First Survey: 22/02/2024 Second Survey: 16/07/2024 – 18/07/2024 Third Survey: 07/04/2025
<Removed for public display>	Deniliquin LALC	RAP site officer	First Survey: 22/02/2024
<Removed for public display>	Wakool Indigenous Corporation	RAP site officer	First Survey: 22/02/2024
<Removed for public display>	Deniliquin LALC	RAP site officer	Second Survey: 16/07/2024 – 18/07/2024 Third Survey: 07/04/2025
<Removed for public display>	Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre	RAP site officer	Second Survey: 16/07/2024 – 18/07/2024
<Removed for public display>	Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre	RAP site officer	Second Survey: 16/07/2024 – 18/07/2024

7.4 SURVEY COVERAGE

An assessment of survey coverage was completed to quantitatively assess the effectiveness of the survey at identifying Aboriginal objects. The assessment of effective survey coverage provides a measure of whether Aboriginal objects are readily visible, buried or otherwise obscured. The conditions which effect the detection of Aboriginal objects are referred to as exposure and visibility.

Visibility is the amount of bare ground that is present across a survey area. Visibility is lowered by elements which conceal the ground surface such as leaf litter, vegetation, stony ground or introduced materials.

Exposure estimates the percentage of land for which erosional processes and exposure was sufficient to reveal archaeological evidence on the ground.

In accordance with the Code of Practice, a summary of the survey coverage was delineated into SUs and landform is provided in *Table 7-2* and

Table 7-3. The landforms have been designated according to their Aboriginal heritage sensitivity (see *Section 8.4*). The survey coverage information below relates to the current layout of the BESS development footprint of the Project Area.

TABLE 7-2 SURVEY COVERAGE SUMMARY – SUS

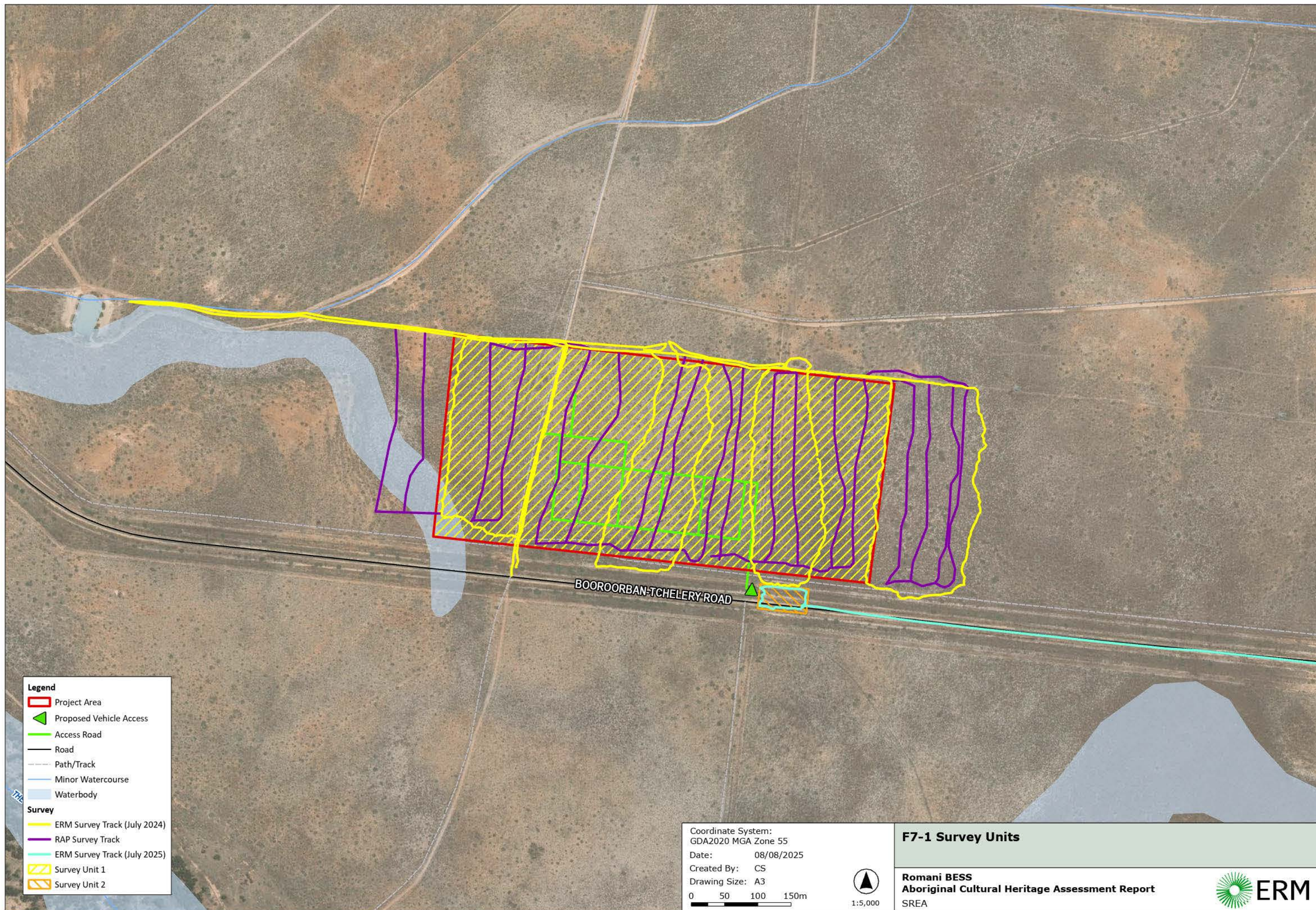
Survey Unit	Survey Unit Area (m ²)	Landform	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Coverage (m ²)	Effective Coverage (%)
1	200,887	Flood plain (Palaeochannel Landform) / Hay Plain	50%	50%	50,221	25 %

TABLE 7-3 SURVEY COVERAGE SUMMARY – LANDFORMS (AS DESCRIBED BY ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY)

Landform	Landform Area (m ²)	Area Surveyed (m ²)	Percentage of Landform Surveyed (%)	Area Effectively Surveyed (m ²)	Percentage of Landform Effectively Surveyed (%)	Number of Sites
Moderate	200,887	180,798	90%	50,221	25%	0

7.5 SURVEY UNITS

A summary of the survey unit is provided in *Table 7-4* and shown in *Figure 7.1*.



Legend

- Project Area
- Proposed Vehicle Access
- Access Road
- Road
- Path/Track
- Minor Watercourse
- Waterbody

Survey

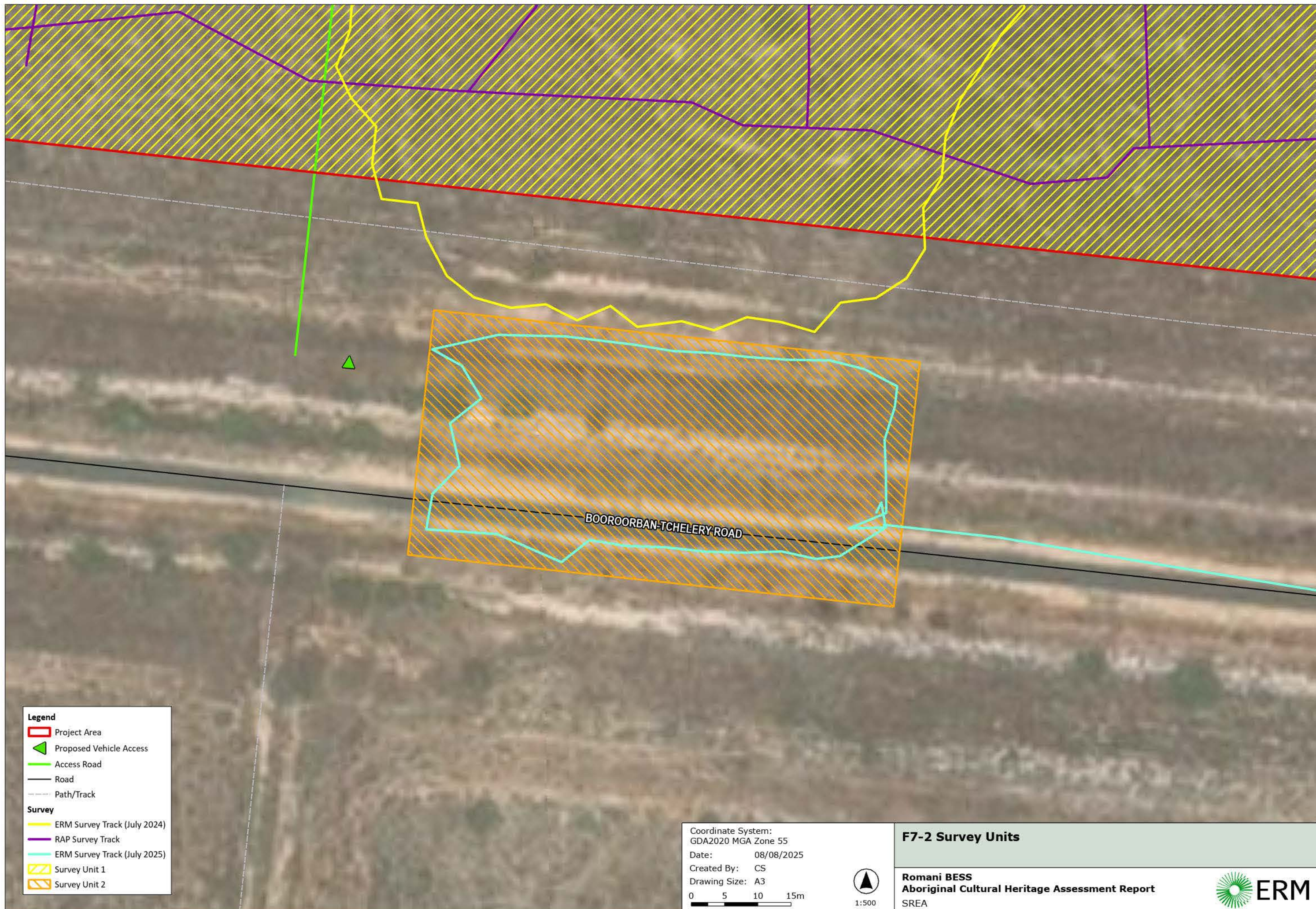
- ERM Survey Track (July 2024)
- RAP Survey Track
- ERM Survey Track (July 2025)
- Survey Unit 1
- Survey Unit 2

Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Date: 08/08/2025
Created By: CS
Drawing Size: A3
0 50 100 150m
1:5,000

F7-1 Survey Units

Romani BESS
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
SREA





Legend

- Project Area
- Proposed Vehicle Access
- Access Road
- Road
- Path/Track

Survey

- ERM Survey Track (July 2024)
- RAP Survey Track
- ERM Survey Track (July 2025)
- Survey Unit 1
- Survey Unit 2

Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Date: 08/08/2025
Created By: CS
Drawing Size: A3
0 5 10 15m
1:500

F7-2 Survey Units

Romani BESS
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
SREA



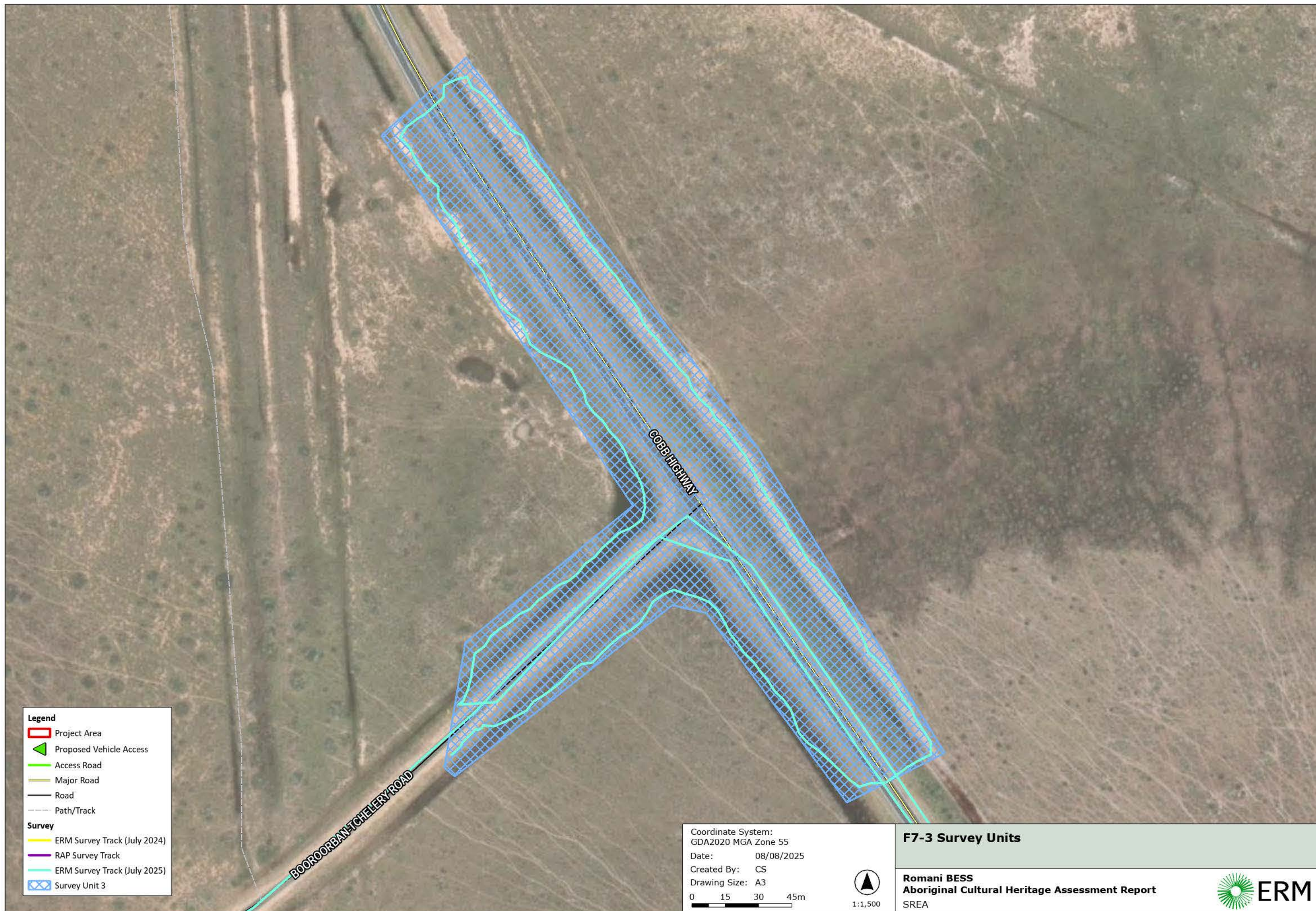


TABLE 7-4 PROJECT AREA SURVEY UNITS

Survey Unit	Description	Identified cultural features	Photograph
Survey Unit 1 Landform features: Flood plain (Palaeochannel Landform) / Hay Plain Size: 20.08 ha Visibility: 50% Exposure: 50%	SU 1 was defined as the entirety of the Project Area. The SU was generally flat with minimal changes in elevation. The SU consisted of sparse vegetation including low grasses and ground creeping vegetation, as well as larger weeds. This resulted in 50% visibility of ground exposure. The SU was predominantly characterised by waterlogged grey clays. No trees were present within the SU. Fauna that were noted within the SU included kangaroos, emus, rabbits and black kites.	Aboriginal heritage values: • None Historic heritage values: • None	 PHOTOGRAPH 7.1 TO THE NORTH ACROSS SU 1 (ERM 2025)

8. SURVEY RESULTS – ABORIGINAL HERITAGE VALUES

8.1 REGISTERED ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES

Heritage NSW provides the AHIMS database which holds information concerning previously recorded Aboriginal sites in NSW. No previously recorded sites are located within the Project Area.

The results of the full AHIMS search are summarised in *Appendix I*.

8.2 IDENTIFIED ABORIGINAL SITES

A total of five sites were discovered during the survey program for the previous project design in February 2024 and an additional six new sites were recorded during the second survey in July 2024. All these sites have now been registered on AHIMS (*Appendix I*) and *Table 8-1* presents their details and their locations are illustrated in <Removed for public display>.

No sites were identified as part of the April 2025 survey for the current BESS Project Area.

No AAR were recorded within the Project Area.

TABLE 8-1 NEWLY IDENTIFIED SITES AND AHIMS DETAILS

AHIMS Site Name	AHIMS Site Number	Site Type
RSF SUA 01	48-5-0673	Artefact (multiple), Hearth, PAD
RSF SUA 02	48-5-0672	Artefact (multiple), Hearth, PAD
RSF SUA 03	48-5-0671	Artefact (multiple), Hearth, PAD
RSF SUA 04	48-5-0670	Artefact (multiple), PAD
RSF SUA 05	48-5-0669	Artefact (multiple)
RSF SUA 06	48-5-0668	Hearth
RSF SUA 07	48-5-0667	Artefact (multiple)
RSF SUA 08	48-5-0666	Artefact (isolated)
RSF SUA 09	48-5-0665	Artefact (multiple)
RSF SUA 10	48-5-0664	Artefact (multiple), Hearth, PAD
RSF SUA 11	48-5-0663	Artefact (isolated)

FIGURE 8.1 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES SURROUNDING THE PROJECT AREA

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8.3 ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The archaeological potential of an area is determined by several factors including its landform, soil features and level of disturbance. Certain landforms are conducive to both Aboriginal occupation and the survivability of subsurface deposits. The location of these landforms in proximity to natural resources including water and resources increase the likelihood that these landforms would have been used by Aboriginal people in the past.

The Project Area is comprised of a landscape which is predominantly flat with no change in relief across the Project Area.

A total of five areas of PAD were recorded approx. 2.6 km north of the BESS Project Area, all of which (AHIMS # 48-5-0673; AHIMS # 48-5-0672, AHIMS # 48-5-0671, AHIMS # 48-5-0670, AHIMS # 48-5-0664) were associated with visible archaeological material such as artefacts.

8.4 DISCUSSION

The distribution of recorded sites is consistent with the predictive model discussed in *Section 6*, which has been refined to determine the Aboriginal heritage sensitivity mapping discussed below and is illustrated in <Removed for public display>;

- Nine sites (artefacts, hearths, PAD) were identified in the red-brown earth or grey-brown cracking clays associated with Murrumbidgee Channels and Floodplains landscape (moderate sensitivity) north of the current Project Area.
- Two sites (artefact, hearth) were identified within the black, brown and grey cracking clays and depressions associated with ancient lake beds and former swamps, or within disturbed areas (low sensitivity) north of the current Project Area.

FIGURE 8.2 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY MAPPING

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9. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT – ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The Aboriginal heritage significance of the project has been assessed based on the comments received from RAPs and the LALC during consultation throughout the life of the project, the background research, the archaeological field survey programs and the results of this report.

9.1 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Aboriginal heritage sites, objects and places hold value for communities and cultural knowledge-holders in many ways. The nature of those heritage values is an important consideration when deciding how to manage a heritage site, object or place and balance competing land use options.

Assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the Project Area has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the ACHAR Guide (OEH 2011). Assessment has included identification of social, historic, scientific, and aesthetic values which are discussed below:

Scientific values were graded with a basic ranking of high, moderate, or low. The grading is based on the rarity, representativeness, and research (educational) potential for each value:

- High significance is usually attributed to sites, which are so rare or unique that the loss of the site would affect our ability to understand aspects of past Aboriginal use/occupation for an area;
- Moderate significance can be attributed to sites which provide information on an established research question; and
- Low significance is attributed to sites which cannot contribute new information about past Aboriginal use/occupation of an area. This may be due to disturbance or the nature of the site's contents.

9.2 IDENTIFYING CULTURAL VALUES

Cultural heritage values for the Project Area were identified through a combination of desktop assessment and consultation undertaken during the preparation of the ACHAR (see *Section 3*). This information was collected by ERM Heritage Consultants.

The Burra Charter states:

cultural significance is embodied in the place—in its fabric, setting, use, associations, and meanings. It may exist in: objects at the place or associated with it; in other places that have some relationship to the place; and in the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the place or that are dependent on the place.

Table 9-1 summarises the cultural heritage values identified for the Project Area and the surrounding region.

TABLE 9-1 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROJECT AREA AND SURROUNDS

Cultural heritage value	Description	Distance from Project Area	Source
Freshwater	The Murrumbidgee River is currently located approximately 47 km north of the Project Area. This river system and the palaeochannels present across the Project Area would have provided an important source of fresh water. The Forest Creek is located approx. 1.5 km south of the BESS boundary.	Surrounding	Pardoe & Martin 2011; ERM 2023
Cultural Landscapes	The palaeochannel landforms present across the Project Area and beyond are generally associated with the Kerarbury system (~55-35 kya) and the Yanco system which formed between 20-13 yka, a peak time for Aboriginal occupation of the area, however several palaeochannels in the Murrumbidgee have been dated with their development extending as far back as 105 yka and could contain much early evidence. Burials are most often associated with scalded, channelled, and depressed plains associated with palaeochannels and they hold great cultural value to the First Nations peoples accordingly.	Within and surrounding	Pardoe & Martin 2011
Aboriginal heritage sites	Of value to the Aboriginal community as a tangible connection between the traditional lands and past Aboriginal occupation and use.	Surrounding	AHIMS; ERM 2023; RAPs (per comms 2024)
Food and raw materials	Pre-colonial contact, the local area would offer hunting and gathering opportunities. During the February 2024 field survey, several plant species were identified by the RAPs as being native bush tucker and medicinal. Of note were the native Saltbush that was abundant across the Project Area.	Within	Deniliquin LALC (per comms 2024)
Animal Totems	Landscape is reported to have been associated with bat and owl animal totems for Nevilles grandparents. The bat totem is associated with men, and the owl totem is associated with women.	Within	<Removed for public display> (per comms 2023-24)

9.2.1 SOCIAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Consultation Requirements specify that the social or cultural value of a place must be identified through consultation with Aboriginal people. All Aboriginal sites are considered to have cultural significance to the Aboriginal community as they provide physical evidence of past Aboriginal use and occupation of the area.

9.2.2 HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Historic values refer to the association of the place with aspects of Aboriginal history. Historic values are not necessarily reflected in physical objects, but may be intangible and relate to memories, stories, or experiences.

The current assessment has not identified a specific person or event of historic value associated with the Project Area.

The Project Area has been assessed to demonstrate low historic significance.

9.2.3 SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Scientific (archaeological) value refers to the importance of the landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness, and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information (Australian ICOMOS 2013b).

In assessing significance consideration should be given the following criteria:

- **Research potential:** does the evidence suggest any potential to contribute to an understanding of the area and/or region and/or state's natural and cultural history?
- **Representativeness:** how much variability (outside and/or inside the site) exists, what is already conserved, how much connectivity is there?
- **Rarity:** is the subject area important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, or design no longer practiced? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?
- **Educational potential:** does the site contain teaching sites or sites that may have teaching potential?

9.2.4 AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Aesthetic values refer to the sensory, scenic, architectural, and creative aspects of the place. These values may be related to the landscape and are often closely associated with social/cultural values.

While the Project Area has some aesthetic values associated with being part of one the flattest landscapes in Australia, it been assessed as having low aesthetic significance due to absence of landmark features within the landscape.

9.2.5 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Project Area forms a component of a cultural landscape associated with Aboriginal use of the Riverina Murray Region for several cultural and subsistence-based activities.

Sites located north of the Project Area have been evaluated as being of low to moderate and unknown scientific significance. Sites with low scientific significance include isolated finds and low-density artefact scatters. These sites are likely to represent movement through the landscape rather than continued or intensive occupation. Research potential of these sites is low, as they have a low likelihood of contributing to our understanding of past Aboriginal land use practices.

Assessment of social/cultural significance can only be undertaken by the local Aboriginal community. No specific areas of social or cultural significance have been identified; however, it is understood that cultural landscapes of the Project Area can retain significance for the Aboriginal community.

10. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 MITIGATION MEASURES

The guiding principle for cultural heritage management is that where possible Aboriginal sites would be protected and preserved. If conservation is not practical, measures would be taken, in agreement with the LALC and RAPs, to mitigate impacts to Aboriginal sites. Mitigation measures vary depending on the significance of each individual site and the severity of the impact (as assessed throughout *Sections 9 and 10*). Some of the most common mitigation measures include micro-siting of project elements, as well as salvage works including artefact collection, detailed artefact analysis of Aboriginal objects, archaeological salvage excavations, and when appropriate the reburial of Aboriginal objects at a location determined with the LALC. This should be conditioned through the Minister's Conditions of Approval.

As discussed in Section 1 the Project design and scope has undergone two major revisions.

10.1.1 PROJECT REDESIGN

In September 2024, SREA undertook substantial design refinements, involving micro-siting solar arrays and associated infrastructure to avoid impacting Aboriginal heritage sites. These amendments to Project infrastructure reduced impact to 10 Aboriginal heritage sites.

Due to present challenges in securing a suitable transmission connection for the above-mentioned project, the solar energy facility of the project has been removed from the current development application, and SREA intends to proceed with a BESS only.

10.2 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Section 1.1 provides a summary of the elements of the Project.

A summary of potential impacts to identified Aboriginal heritage values has been developed based on the revised development footprint of the Project. The reduction in scope and project size has meant that no Aboriginal sites would be affected or harmed as part of the current BESS project.

10.3 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

In accordance with the ACHAR Guide, Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles have also been considered in the preparation of this ACHAR.

The ESD principles as relevant to Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage when considered in the context of the preparation of the current development footprint of the Project are considered below.

10.3.1 THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

The precautionary principle states that lack of full scientific certainty about the threat of harm should never be used as a reason for not taking measures to prevent harm from occurring. The current assessment has included detailed heritage investigation incorporating review of former studies, in depth field surveys and the identification of areas of heritage constraint which would require further investigation to ensure scientific certainty.

10.3.2 THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

The principle of intergenerational equity holds that the present generation should make every effort to ensure the health, diversity, and productivity of the environment – which includes cultural heritage – is available for the benefit of future generations.

Heritage values have formed a key assessment criterion in the development of the current development footprint.

The completion of the current detailed assessment at the proposed development footprint stage has resulted in the development of a uniform and detailed understanding of the Project Area. This will enable an accurate understanding of potential heritage impacts at a site-wide level and allow for appropriate management of the cumulative impacts to heritage associated with the Project ensuring that appropriate management and mitigation strategies can be developed as part of future development stages and ongoing site management.

10.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The ACHAR guide identifies that a consideration of the ESD principles should include an understanding of the cumulative impacts of the proposal in relation other identified sites in the region.

Cumulative impacts are a result of incremental, sustained and combined effects of human action and natural variations over time and can be both positive and negative. They can be caused by the compounding effects of a single project or multiple projects in an area, and by the accumulation of effects from past, current and future activities as they arise (DPIE 2022).

As the Project does not contain Aboriginal objects, there are no cumulative impacts associated with any land uses which would result in impacts to these elements.

Table 10-1 identifies and describes two projects that are within or adjacent to the Romani BESS. The Project Area is in close proximity to The Plains Wind Farm to the east. The Project EnergyConnect (NSW eastern section) traverses the northern boundary of the Project Area. The EnergyConnect Project comprises the complete construction of a high voltage interconnector. As described in Section 6.4.2 a total of 142 sites were identified with direct harm likely to occur to 94 of them. Design refinements to the EnergyConnect Project occurred to minimise impact where possible.

TABLE 10-1 NEARBY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Project	Distance to Project Area	Description	Current Status
Project EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section)	<1 km (within Project Area)	330 kV transmission line	Determination
The Plains Wind Farm	Approx 4 km	190 WTGs 1,800 MW capacity	Response to Submissions

As previously discussed in Section 10.1.1, substantial changes to the project development footprint have reduced the direct impact to all sites. These changes have resulted in total avoidance of all Aboriginal heritage sites.

For the above reasons it is assessed that cumulative impacts as a result of this Project are nil.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

11.1 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SUMMARY

- No previously registered AHIMS sites are located within the Project Area;
- No newly recorded sites are located within the Project Area;
- Based on the current development footprint no sites would be harmed by the Project;
- A total of 11 Aboriginal sites were identified during previous survey efforts as part of the design revisions.

11.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Cultural Heritage Awareness and Acknowledgement

All personnel involved with construction activities within the Project Area should undertake a cultural awareness induction. The cultural awareness induction should include:

- A summary of the cultural heritage values of the Project Area and surrounds;
- Guidance on the identification of potential Aboriginal objects / heritage finds; and
- A summary of the Unexpected Finds Procedure.

It is recommended that mechanisms to acknowledge Aboriginal cultural values and history of the region be incorporated into ongoing operations of the Project Area. Potential mechanisms to achieve this may include:

- The placement of a cultural acknowledgement within a publicly accessible area of the overall Project Area; or
- The incorporation of Aboriginal art and design into future development; and
- The incorporation of native plantings and species into future landscaping.

Recommendation 2: Unexpected Finds Procedure

An Unexpected Finds Procedure (UFP) that includes mechanisms for managing the unexpected finds of additional Aboriginal cultural material being found during construction activities should be developed.

The Unexpected Finds Procedure should be applied to the entire Project Area, and should include the following items:

- All activity in the immediate area should cease and the location should be cordoned off with visible flagging. Flagging should be placed at a 10 m radius surrounding the find and an appropriately qualified heritage professional should be consulted;
- An appropriately qualified heritage professional should record the location and attributes of the site and determine the significance of the find;
- Heritage NSW should be immediately contacted;
- The Deniliquin LALC should be notified; and
- Works will only recommence once the area has been cleared by further assessment and heritage permits (where required).

In the event of the discovery of human skeletal material (or suspected human skeletal material) during project activities in the Project Area the following steps should be followed:

- All activity in the immediate area should cease and the location should be cordoned off with visible flagging. Flagging should be placed at a 10 m radius surrounding the find;
- The State Police must be contacted along with Heritage NSW; and

Any sand/soils removed from the near vicinity of the find must be identified and set aside for assessment by the investigating authorities. No further excavation is to be undertaken until the area has been assessed, cleared, and any relevant permits granted.

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STATEMENT OF LIMITATIONS

This report is based solely on the scope of work described in Section 1 (Scope of Work) and performed by Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) as commissioned by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) (the Client). The Scope of Work was governed by a contract between ERM and the Client (Contract).

No limitation, qualification or caveat set out below is intended to derogate from the rights and obligations of ERM and the Client under the Contract.

The findings of this report are solely based on, and the information provided in this report is strictly limited to that required by the Scope of Work. Except to the extent stated otherwise, in preparing this report ERM has not considered any question, nor provides any information, beyond that required by the Scope of Work.

This report was prepared from July 2024 to June 2025, and is based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the time of preparation. The report does not, and cannot, take into account changes in law, factual circumstances, applicable regulatory instruments or any other future matter. ERM does not, and will not, provide any on-going advice on the impact of any future matters unless it has agreed with the Client to amend the Scope of Work or has entered into a new engagement to provide a further report.

Unless this report expressly states to the contrary, ERM's Scope of Work was limited strictly to identifying typical environmental conditions associated with the subject site(s) and does not evaluate the condition of any structure on the subject site nor any other issues. Although normal standards of professional practice have been applied, the absence of any identified hazardous or toxic materials or any identified impacted soil or groundwater on the site(s) should not be interpreted as a guarantee that such materials or impacts do not exist.

This report is based on information provided by the Client or third parties (including regulatory agencies). All conclusions and recommendations made in the report are the professional opinions of the ERM personnel involved. Whilst normal checking of data accuracy was undertaken, except to the extent expressly set out in this report, ERM:

- Did not, nor was able to, make further enquiries to assess the reliability of the information or independently verify information provided by; and
- Assumes no responsibility or liability for errors in data obtained from the Client, any third parties or external sources (including regulatory agencies).

Although the data that has been used in compiling this report is generally based on actual circumstances, if the report refers to hypothetical examples those examples may, or may not, represent actual existing circumstances.

Only the environmental conditions and or potential contaminants specifically referred to in this report have been considered. To the extent permitted by law and except as is specifically stated in this report, ERM makes no warranty or representation about:

- The suitability of the site(s) for any purpose or the permissibility of any use;
- The presence, absence or otherwise of any environmental conditions or contaminants at the site(s) or elsewhere; or

- The presence, absence or otherwise of asbestos, asbestos containing materials or any hazardous materials on the site(s).
- Use of the site for any purpose may require planning and other approvals and, in some cases, environmental regulator and accredited site auditor approvals. ERM offers no opinion as to the likelihood of obtaining any such approvals, or the conditions and obligations which such approvals may impose, which may include the requirement for additional environment works.

The ongoing use of the site or use of the site for a different purpose may require the management of or remediation of site conditions, such as contamination and other conditions, including but not limited to conditions referred to in this report.

This report should be read in full and no excerpts are to be taken as representative of the whole report. No responsibility or liability is accepted by ERM for use of any part of this report in any other context.

Except to the extent that ERM has agreed otherwise with the Client in the Scope of Work or the Contract, this report:

- Has been prepared and is intended only for the exclusive use of the Client;
- Must not to be relied upon or used by any other party;
- Has not been prepared nor is intended for the purpose of advertising, sales, promoting or endorsing any Client interests including raising investment capital, recommending investment decisions, or other publicity purposes;
- Does not purport to recommend or induce a decision to make (or not make) any purchase, disposal, investment, divestment, financial commitment or otherwise in or in relation to the site(s); and
- Does not purport to provide, nor should be construed as, legal advice.



APPENDIX A CONSULTATION LOG

CONSULTATION LOG – 0704056 ROMANI SOLAR FARM ACHAR

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
2023						
Agency Letters Out						
6/10/2023	Email		Deniliquin LALC		ERM	<Removed for Public display> sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/10/2023	Email		Edward River Shire Council		ERM	<Removed for Public display> sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/10/2023	Email		Murray Local Land Services (LLS)		ERM	<Removed for Public display> sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/10/2023	Email		Heritage NSW		ERM	<Removed for Public display> sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/10/2023	Email		National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)		ERM	<Removed for Public display> sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/10/2023	Email		Native Title Service Corporation (NTS Corp)		ERM	<Removed for Public display> sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/10/2023	Email		Office of the Registrar		ERM	<Removed for Public display> sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
Responses to Agency Letters						
6/10/2023	Email		ERM		Murray Local Land Services (LLS)	Stated that contact details for local First Nations People in the region could not be provided for privacy reasons. Supplied a link with contact details for Local Aboriginal Land Councils. Forward the request on to key First Nations contacts within the region, including members of the Murray LLS Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee.
6/10/2023	Email		ERM	-	National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)	Provided response to request. All of the parcels of land were identified as freehold with no overlapping native title features, with the exception of Lot 34 DP756561, which was not found on NNTT's records.

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
17/10/2023	Email		ERM		Heritage NSW	Provided list of Aboriginal stakeholders for Edward River Local Government Area.
25/10/2023	Email		ERM		Office of the Registrar	Provided response to request. Recommended that Deniliquin LALC be invited to register an interest in the project.
Advert						
17/10/2023	Print	Deniliquin Pastoral Times		ERM		Advert placed with response period closing 31 October 2023.
18/10/2023	Print	Riverine Grazier		ERM		Advert placed with response period closing 1 November 2023.
Invitation to register						
26/10/2023	Email		Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		-		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		-		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		<Removed for Public display> Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		-		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		-		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.
26/10/2023	Email		Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project with closing date of 10 November.

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
Registration of Interest from advert or letter						
20/10/23	Call		ERM		-	<Removed for Public display> called <Removed for Public display> to register his interest in the Romani project and discuss pay rates.
20/10/23	Call		ERM		-	<Removed for Public display> called <Removed for Public display> to register his interest in the Romani project and discuss pay rates.
26/10/23	Email		ERM		Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation	<Removed for Public display> email that the heritage works are located on the Traditional Lands of Southern West Yiradyuri and therefore they would like to register and be consulted. <Removed for Public display> replied with approx. field work dates and would issue project methodology in the coming weeks. <Removed for Public display> responded the company requires 2 RAPs per day.
26/10/23	Email		ERM		-	<Removed for Public display> registered himself and his mother for the project. <Removed for Public display> responded on 27.10.23 confirming his registration.
6/12/23.	Email		ERM			<Removed for Public display> emailed <Removed for Public display> and asked for a call back RE invitation.
6/12/23	Phone		ERM			<Removed for Public display> called <Removed for Public display> and spoke about the project, and would like to be kept updated and consulted on the project moving forward.
24/12/2023	Email		ERM		<Removed for Public display> Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology	<Removed for Public display> emailed <Removed for Public display> to register his interest in the project.
Issuing Project Methodology						
30/11/2023	Email		Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 28 December.
30/11/2023	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 28 December.

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
30/11/2023	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 28 December.
30/11/2023	Email		Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 28 December.
30/11/2023	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 28 December.
6/12/2023	Email		Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 3 January 2024.
6/12/2023	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 3 January 2024.
6/12/2023	Email		Wakool Indigenous Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 3 January 2024.
6/12/2023	Email		Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 3 January 2024.
6/12/2023	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 3 January 2024.
8/01/2024	Email		<Removed for Public display> Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology		ERM	<Removed for Public display> thanked <Removed for Public display> for registering his interest in the project and issued ACHAR Project Methodology for his reference. She noted close of registration period was 10 November 2023 and ACHAR Methodology response period closed on 3 January 2024.
Section 4.1.6 Letter						
20/12/2023	Email		Heritage NSW		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Section 4.1.6 letter identifying registered RAPs.
20/12/2023	Email		Deniliquin LALC		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Section 4.1.6 letter identifying registered RAPs.

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
Comments on Project Methodology						
5/12/2023	Email		ERM		-	<Removed for Public display> responded on behalf of himself and Patricia and stated they wished to participate in fieldwork. He provided rate and insurances.
2024						
Comments on Project Methodology						
7/01/2024	Email		ERM		Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation	<Removed for Public display> emailed <Removed for Public display> to confirm that he did not have any comments on the Project Methodology.
Organising Site Survey						
22/01/2024	Email		Deniliquin LALC		ERM	<Removed for Public display> emailed inviting DLALC to participate in 3 days of survey from 20 – 22 February.
22/01/2024	Email		Wakool Indigenous Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> emailed inviting Wakool to participate in one day of survey on 22 February.
22/01/2024	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> emailed inviting Wakool to participate in one day of survey on 21 February.
23/01/2024	Email		Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre		ERM	<Removed for Public display> emailed inviting Yarkuwa to participate in one day of survey on 20 February.
13/02/2024	Phone		Deniliquin LALC		ERM	<Removed for Public display> called to confirm DLALC's availability to participate in survey 20-22 Feb.
13/02/2024	Phone and Email		Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> called to invite PFAC to participate in survey for one day on 21 Feb. <Removed for Public display> confirmed availability and <Removed for Public display> sent follow up email providing details.
13/02/2024	Phone		Wakool Indigenous Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> called <Removed for Public display> to confirm availability to participate in survey on 22 Feb.
14/02/2024	Email		ERM		Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre	<Removed for Public display> confirmed Yarkuwa's availability to participate in survey on 20 Feb.

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
16/02/2024	Email and Phone		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> emailed as a courtesy to let <Removed for Public display> know that as confirmation of availability hadn't been received, another group was invited to participate. <Removed for Public display> called <Removed for Public display> to discuss project.
2/07/2024	Email		Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre		ERM	<Removed for Public display> emailed inviting Yarkuwa to participate in 3 days survey from 16 to 18 July.
2/07/2024	Email		Deniliquin LALC		ERM	<Removed for Public display> emailed inviting DLALC to participate in 3 days survey from 16 to 18 July.
3/07/2024	Email		ERM		Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre	<Removed for Public display> emailed to confirm availability to participate.
4/07/2024	Email		ERM		Deniliquin LALC	<Removed for Public display> emailed to confirm availability.
26/07/2024	Phone		Deniliquin LALC		ERM	<Removed for Public display> called <Removed for Public display> to discuss recommendations of Draft ACHAR, specifically the timing of test/salvage excavation. <Removed for Public display> requested that test/salvage excavation be undertaken post-approval so as to avoid unnecessary impacts to sites. Rose also requested that Warren be consulted.
26/07/2024	Phone		Deniliquin LALC		ERM	<Removed for Public display> called <Removed for Public display> to discuss recommendations of Draft ACHAR, specifically the timing of test/salvage excavation. <Removed for Public display> requested that test/salvage excavation be undertaken post-approval so as to avoid unnecessary impacts to sites.
Issuing Draft Report						
4/10/2024	Email		Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
4/10/2024	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		Wakool Indigenous Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.
4/10/2024	Email		<Removed for Public display> Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft ACHAR, with close of response period on 1 November.

Comments on Draft Report

4/10/2024	Email		ERM		-	<Removed for Public display> responded and stated she was reviewing the report.
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2025
Comments on Draft BESS Report

6/05/2025	Email		Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
6/05/2025	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		Wakool Indigenous Corporation		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		-		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.
6/05/2025	Email		<Removed for Public display> Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology		ERM	<Removed for Public display> issued Draft BESS ACHAR, with close of response period on 3 June.



APPENDIX B

ADVERTISEMENT

Invitation to Register an Interest – Romani Solar Farm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support preparation of the Romani Solar Farm. The Project Area is located south-west of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of NSW.

Aboriginal community consultation is being undertaken to assist the Proponent in the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Assessment to inform the Concept Development Application. It is intended that the consultation process would be continued into subsequent stages of the Project which may require approvals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Future approvals may include an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). If required, this consultation process would be utilised to support the application for an AHIP and to assist the Secretary of Heritage NSW in their assessment of the AHIP application. The proponents contact details are:

Samsung C&T / Renewable Energy Australia

Alfonso (WooSeok) Choi / Project Development Manager
Email: [REDACTED]

ERM is seeking expressions of interest from any Aboriginal people who may have cultural knowledge relating to the Hay and Deniliquin area who may be able to assist. Interested Aboriginal parties wishing to be consulted for this assessment are invited to register a written expression of their interest by Tuesday, October 31.

Please respond in writing to:

Victoria Cottle

PO Box 803

Newcastle, NSW 2300

Australia
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please note that the consultation guidelines require the proponent to provide details of registered Aboriginal parties to Heritage NSW and the Deniliquin LALC. In your response could you please advise if you would like your details to not be provided.



APPENDIX C

AGENCY NOTIFICATION LETTER

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 11:28 AM
To: CEO
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for potentially interested parties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR
Attachments: Romani Solar Farm_Agency Letter_Deniliquin LALC_V01.pdf

To [REDACTED]

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the proposed Samsung Romani Solar Farm project, located south of Hay, NSW.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have queries.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

[REDACTED]
+61 2 4903 5500

At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.



Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council

Via email: 



6 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

Dear Rose,

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Boooroorban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

Aboriginal community consultation is being undertaken to assist the Proponent in the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Assessment. It is intended that the consultation process would be continued into subsequent stages of the Project which may require approvals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Future approvals may include an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). If required, this consultation process would be utilised to support the application for an AHIP and to assist the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment, and Heritage NSW in their assessment of the AHIP application.

As per the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Consultation Requirements), ERM and the Proponent are seeking to undertake community consultation with Aboriginal knowledge holders relevant to the Project Area who can determine the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area of the proposed project.

In order to comply with Stage 1 of the Consultation Requirements we are writing to advise you of the proposal and ask whether you could provide details of any Aboriginal groups or individuals that your organisation is aware of who may have an interest in the Project Area and who hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area of the proposed project.

Relevant stakeholder lists can be returned to Victoria Cottle (Project Archaeologist) at the below details.



PO Box 803
Newcastle, NSW 2300
Australia

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Heritage Consultant
ERM

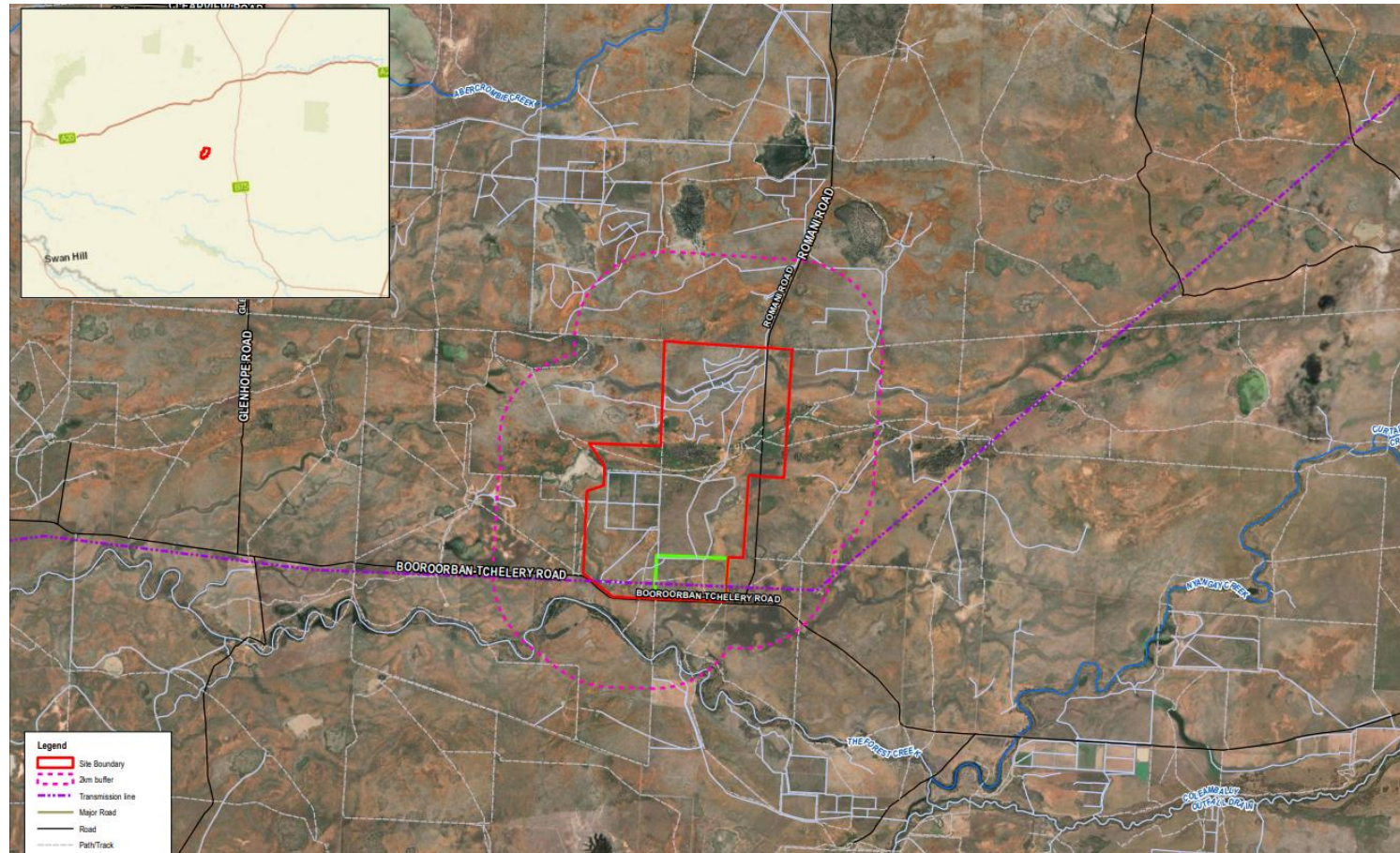


Figure 1 – Project Area

Edward River Council
180 Cressy Street, Deniliquin NSW 2710



Via email: [REDACTED]

6 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Boooroorban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

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Relevant stakeholder lists can be returned to Victoria Cottle (Project Archaeologist) at the below details.



Newcastle, NSW 2300

Australia

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Heritage Consultant
ERM

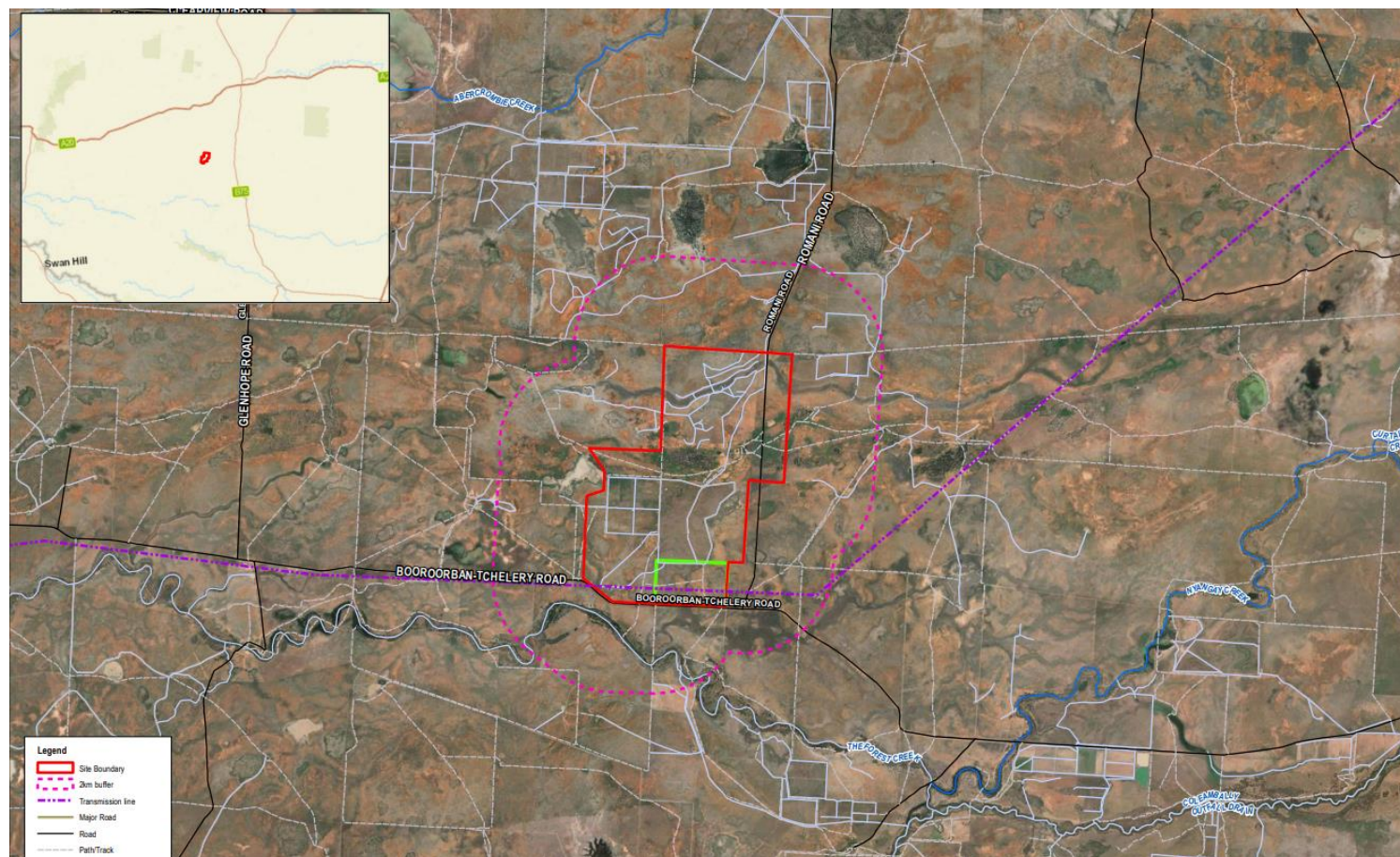


Figure 1 – Project Area

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 11:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for potentially interested parties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR
Attachments: Romani Solar Farm_Agency Letter_Heritage NSW_V01.pdf

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the proposed Samsung Romani Solar Farm project, located south of Hay, NSW.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have queries.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

[REDACTED]
At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.



Heritage NSW

Via email: 

6 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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As per the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Consultation Requirements), ERM and the Proponent are seeking to undertake community consultation with Aboriginal knowledge holders relevant to the Project Area who can determine the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area of the proposed project.

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Relevant stakeholder lists can be returned to Victoria Cottle (Project Archaeologist) at the below details.

Newcastle, NSW 2300
Australia

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Heritage Consultant
ERM

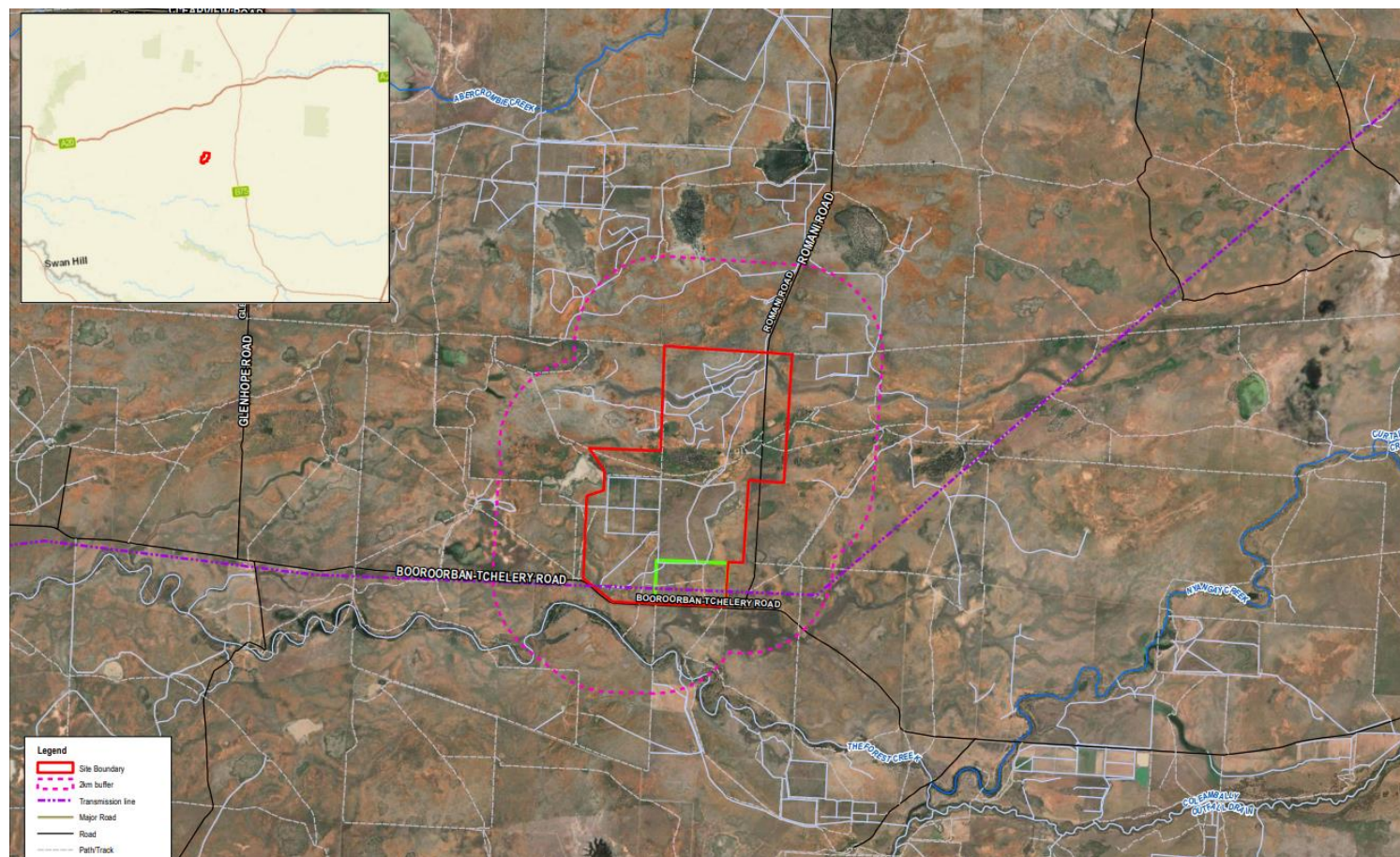


Figure 1 – Project Area

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 11:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: rties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR
Attachments: Romani Solar Farm_Agency Letter_Murray LLS_V01.pdf

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the proposed Samsung Romani Solar Farm project, located south of Hay, NSW.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have queries.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

[REDACTED]
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Murray Local Land Services

Via email: [REDACTED]



6 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Booroorban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

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Newcastle, NSW 2300
Australia



Yours sincerely,



Heritage Consultant
ERM

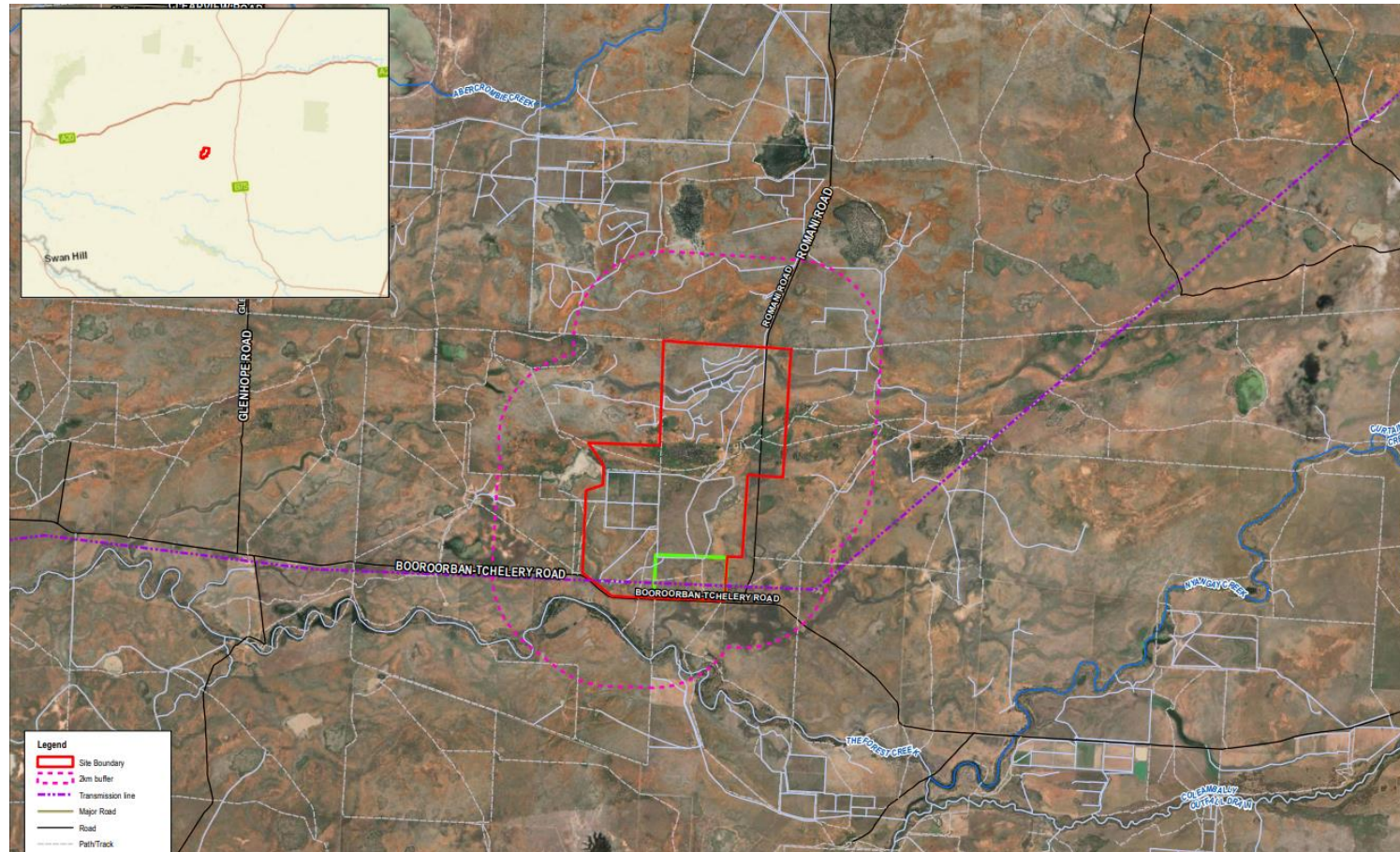


Figure 1 – Project Area

From: [REDACTED]
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:
Attachments:

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the proposed Samsung Romani Solar Farm project, located south of Hay, NSW.

Please also find attached search form requesting a search of the registers for native title claims, native title determinations and Indigenous land use agreements across the identified project area.

Lot Number	Plan Number
34	756561
49	756561
50	756561
51	756561
52	756561
53	756561
54	756561
55	756561
56	756561
57	756561
91	756561
92	756561
97	756561
98	756561

Please feel free to get in touch is you have queries.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]
At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

National Native Title Tribunal

Via email: [REDACTED]



6 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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In order to comply with Stage 1 of the Consultation Requirements we are writing to advise you of the proposal and ask whether you could provide details of any Aboriginal groups or individuals that your organisation is aware of who may have an interest in the Project Area and who hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area of the proposed project.

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[REDACTED]
Newcastle, NSW 2300
Australia



Yours sincerely,



Heritage Consultant
ERM

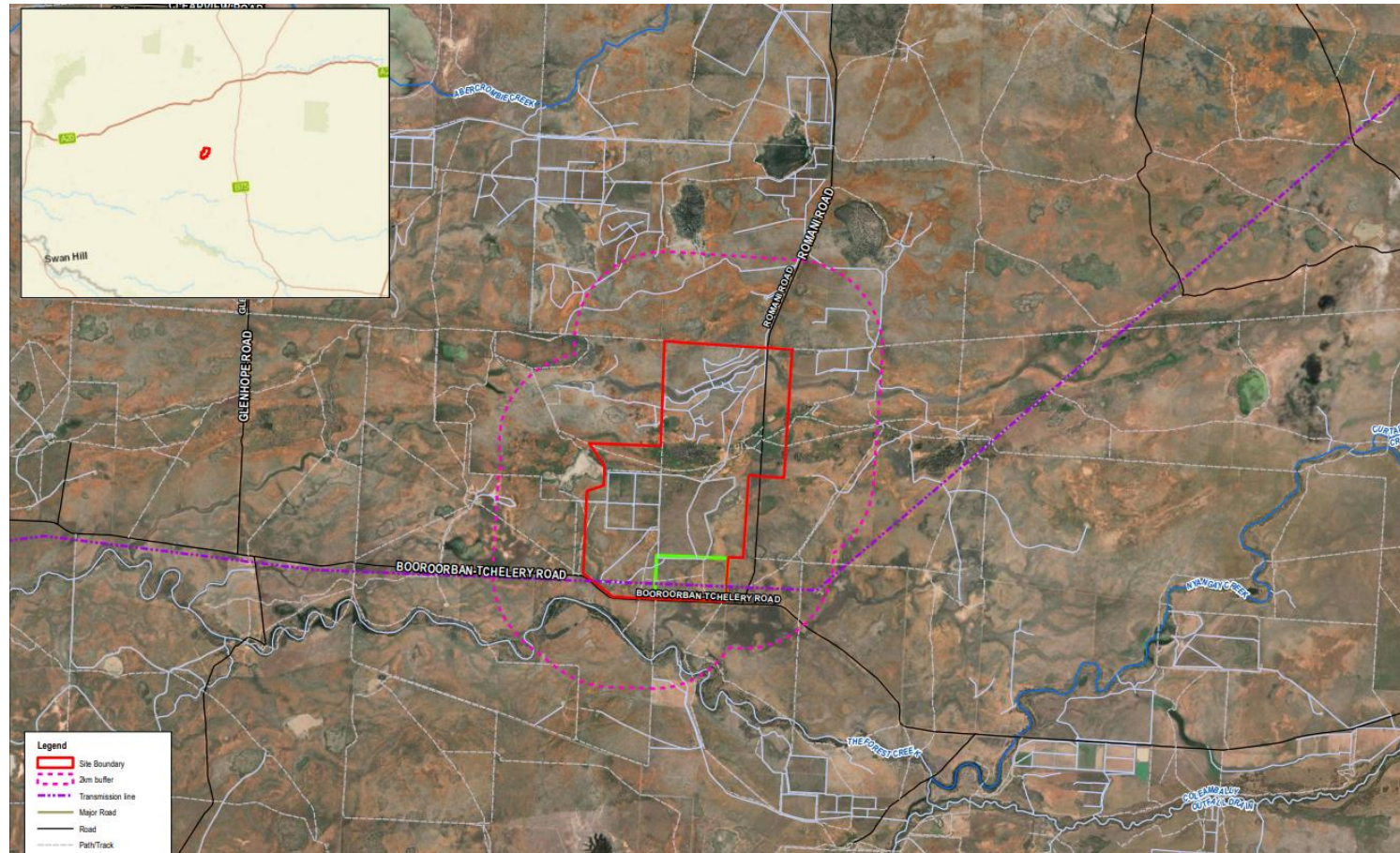


Figure 1 – Project Area

Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers

1: Your details

Your name:	[REDACTED]		
Your company:	Environmental Resources Management (ERM)		
E-mail address:	[REDACTED]	Phone:	[REDACTED]
Your reference:	Romani Solar farm 0704056	Your state:	New South Wales
☒	I have read and acknowledge the terms and conditions on the next page.		

2: Areas to be searched

Jurisdiction to be searched:	New South Wales	Tenure to be searched:	Select one.
------------------------------	-----------------	------------------------	-------------

Parcel or tenement identifiers (add up to 20 separate identifiers). **Please see over for parcel identifiers.**

Parcel 1:	Please see Lot and DPs details attached in the email	Parcel 2:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 3:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 4:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 5:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 6:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 7:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 8:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 9:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 10:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 11:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 12:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 13:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 14:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 15:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 16:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 17:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 18:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 19:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 20:	Click or tap here to enter text.

If your search area is not a parcel or mining or petroleum tenement, you can enter other tenure or administrative regions here (e.g. local government area, townsite or county). Please provide as much detail as you can.

The project site is located approximately 40 km south-west of Hay, NSW, within the Edward River Council region.

E-mail the completed form to [REDACTED]

Parcel Identifiers

In most jurisdictions please identify parcels using lot on plan, or lot/section/plan as appropriate. The NNTT is generally not able to identify parcels using land title information. Where possible, the NNTT uses the terminology and formatting of unique identifiers used in each state to uniquely identify a land parcel. More details are below:

1. **Lot on plan.** Use for Western Australia and Queensland.
2. **Lot/Section/Plan.** Use for New South Wales.
3. **LAISKEY.** Use for the Northern Territory. The laiskey is a unique identifier for each parcel comprised of the location code, LTO code (derived from the survey plan) where applicable and the parcel number.
4. **Parcel ID** – Use for South Australia. Concatenation of Parcel Type, Parcel, Plan Type and Plan.
5. **SPI** (Standard Parcel Identifier) – Use for Victoria.

Terms and Conditions

1. Specify only one jurisdiction (e.g. Queensland) and one type of tenure (e.g. mining tenement) per form. You can add up to 20 separate tenements or parcels per search request. For more than 20 parcels or tenements please submit additional search requests or contact [REDACTED] to discuss your requirements.

Note: if your area of interest cannot be clearly identified from the search form, or is not held in NNTT datasets, we may instead provide search results for a surrounding local government area, or other suitable regional area.

2. Freehold land.

Under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), the valid grant of a freehold estate (other than certain types of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land) on or before 23 December 1996 is known as a 'previous exclusive possession act'. This means that native title has been extinguished over the area. Native title claimants are not allowed to include land and waters covered by previous exclusive possession acts in their applications; therefore they would normally exclude freehold areas. A native title application may, however, be made over freehold land on the basis that freehold was invalidly granted, but the chances of this happening are very low.

3. Cultural Heritage in NSW.

The National Native Title Tribunal has undertaken steps to remove itself from the formal list of sources for information about indigenous groups in development areas. The existence or otherwise of native title is quite separate to any matters relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Information on native title claims, native title determinations and Indigenous Land Use Agreements is available on the Tribunal's website.

4. Spatial searches rely on data obtained from the relevant custodian. Whilst efforts are taken to update such datasets on a regular basis, the collection and interpretation of such datasets may be influenced by a number of factors that can impact of the completeness and accuracy of your search results.

Disclaimer

While the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) and the Native Title Registrar (Registrar) have exercised due care in ensuring the accuracy of the information provided, it is provided for general information only and on the understanding that neither the NNTT, the Registrar nor the Commonwealth of Australia is providing professional advice. Appropriate professional advice relevant to your circumstances should be sought rather than relying on the information provided. In addition, you must exercise your own judgment and carefully evaluate the information provided for accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for the purpose for which it is to be used.

The information provided is often supplied by, or based on, data and information from external sources, therefore the NNTT and Registrar cannot guarantee that the information is accurate or up-to-date.

The NNTT and Registrar expressly disclaim any liability arising from the use of this information.

This information should not be relied upon in relation to any matters associated with cultural heritage.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 11:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Subject: [REDACTED]
Attachments: Request for potentially interested parties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR
Romani Solar Farm_Agency Letter_NTS Corp_V01 [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the proposed Samsung Romani Solar Farm project, located south of Hay, NSW.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have queries.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

[REDACTED]
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Native Title Service Corporation

Via email: [REDACTED]



6 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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In order to comply with Stage 1 of the Consultation Requirements we are writing to advise you of the proposal and ask whether you could provide details of any Aboriginal groups or individuals that your organisation is aware of who may have an interest in the Project Area and who hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area of the proposed project.

Relevant stakeholder lists can be returned to Victoria Cottle (Project Archaeologist) at the below details.

[REDACTED]
Newcastle, NSW 2300
Australia



Yours sincerely,



Heritage Consultant
ERM

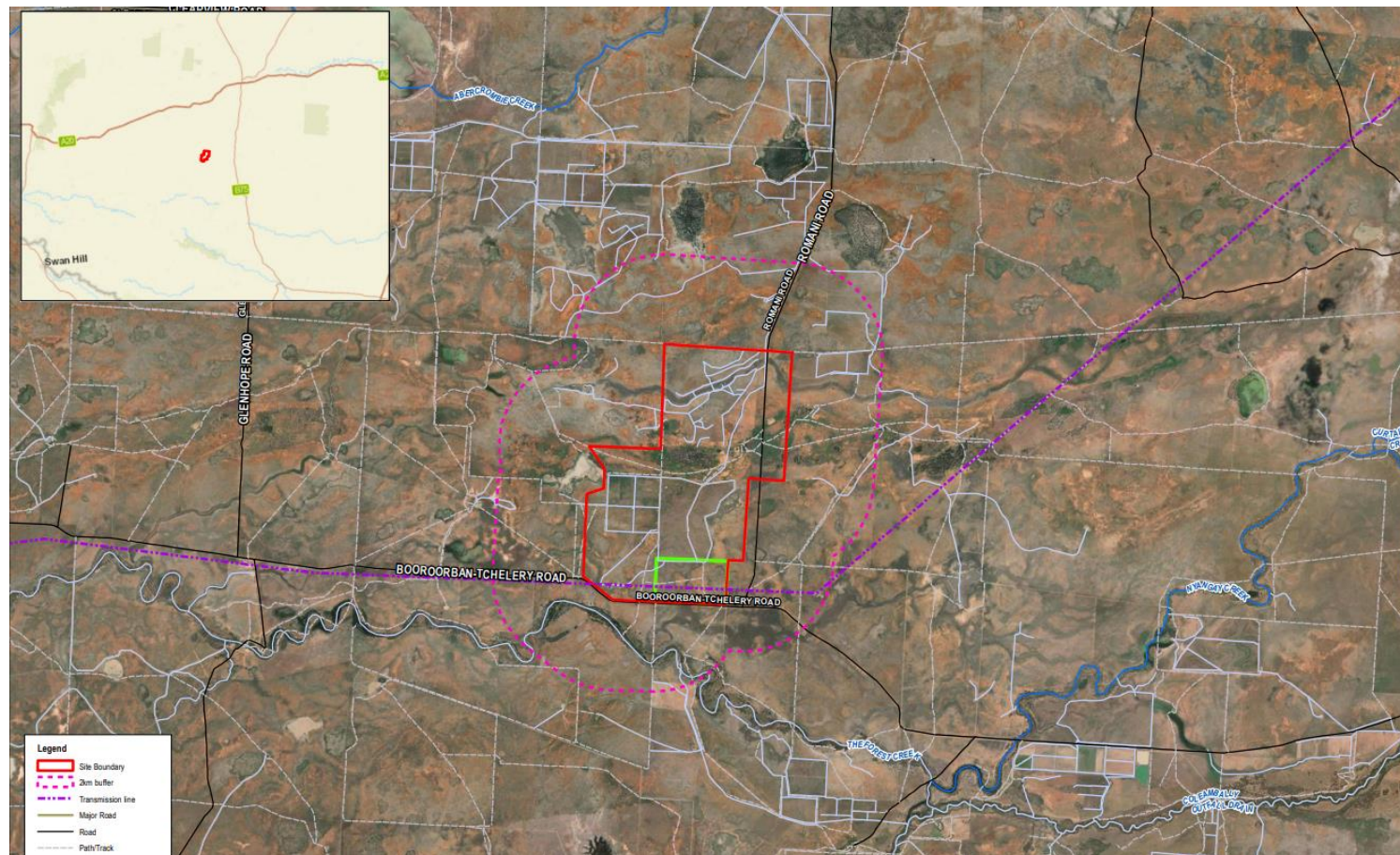


Figure 1 – Project Area

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 11:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]s - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR
Attachments: Romani Solar Farm_Agency Letter_OR_V01.pdf

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the proposed Samsung Romani Solar Farm project, encompassing the following land parcels:

Lot Number	Plan Number
34	756561
49	756561
50	756561
51	756561
52	756561
53	756561
54	756561
55	756561
56	756561
57	756561
91	756561
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97	756561
98	756561

Please feel free to get in touch is you have queries.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]
At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

www.erm.com

Office of the Registrar

Via email:



6 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

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Relevant stakeholder lists can be returned to Victoria Cottle (Project Archaeologist) at the below details.

Australia



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Heritage Consultant
ERM

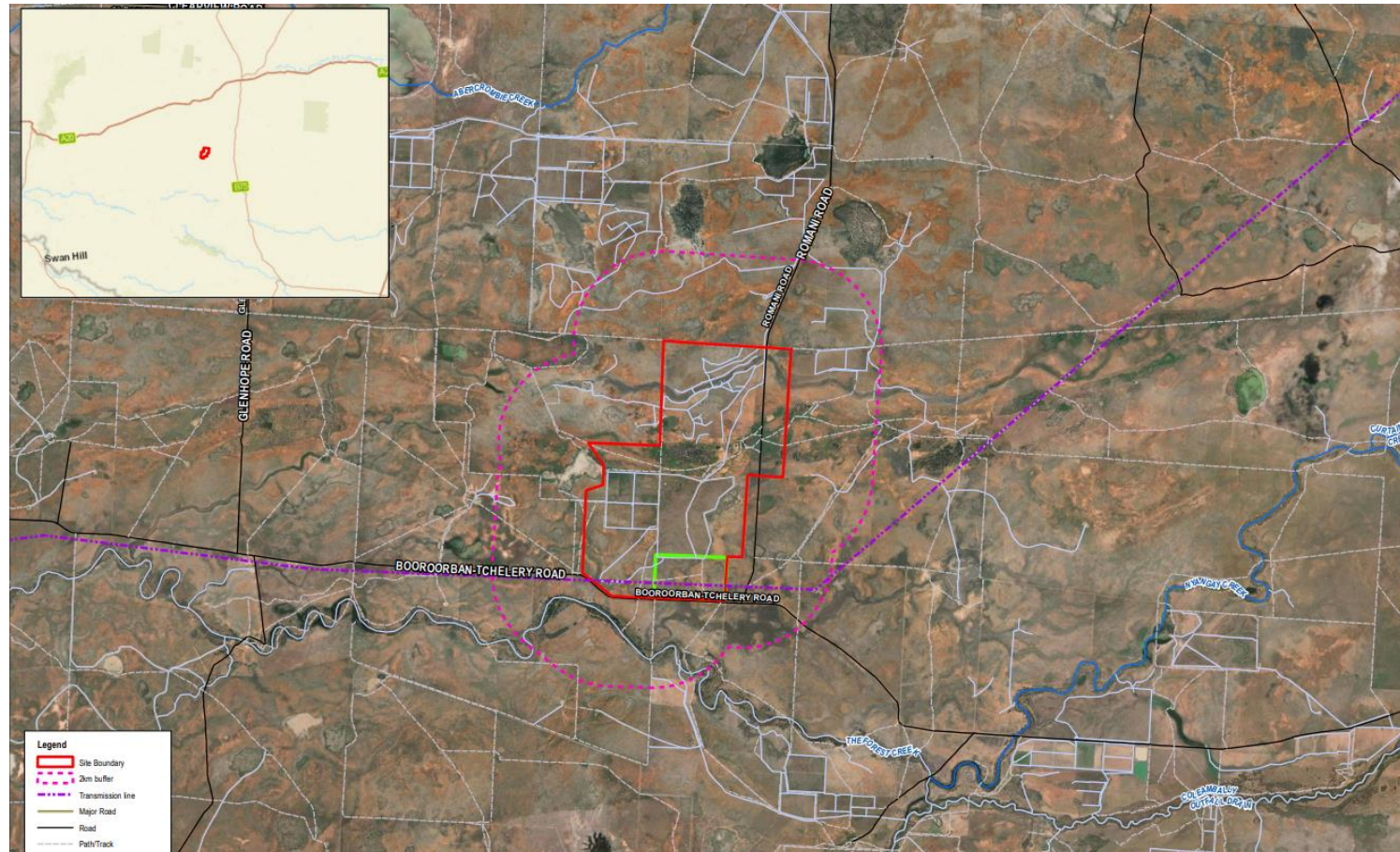


Figure 1 – Project Area



APPENDIX D AGENCY RESPONSES

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 1:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Request for potentially interested parties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Good afternoon,

We have received your request for contact details of local First Nations People who may have an interest in your study area.

Due to privacy restrictions around sharing of personal information, we cannot provide contact details for any individuals in our region, however the contact details for Local Aboriginal Land Councils are available on [REDACTED]

We have forwarded your request on to key First Nations contacts within our region, including members of the Murray LLS Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
A/Executive Assistant
DRNSW Local Land Services Agency | Murray
Local Land Services

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Working Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30



Local Land Services

How would you rate our service today?



Stay up-to-date with advice, information, events and project updates from Murray Local Land Services by [signing up to our e-newsletters](#) and/or liking us on [Facebook](#).

We stand on Country that always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are

committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 11:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for potentially interested parties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the proposed Samsung Romani Solar Farm project, located south of Hay, NSW.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have queries.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]

At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.



This e-mail and any attachments may contain proprietary, confidential and/or privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission errors. This communication is intended solely for the intended recipient, and if you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately, delete it from your system and do not copy, distribute, disclose, or otherwise act upon any part of this email communication or its attachments. To find out how the ERM Group manages personal data please review our [Privacy Policy](#)

Victoria Cottle

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 1:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SR23/1630 - Request for potentially interested parties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR - SR23/1630 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

OFFICIAL

Your ref: *Romani Solar farm 07104056* **Our ref:** *SR23/1630*

Dear Victoria Cottle,

Thank you for your search request, please find your results below.

Search Results

The results provided are based on the information you supplied and are derived from a search of the following Tribunal databases:

- Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications
- Register of Native Title Claims
- Native Title Determinations
- Indigenous Land Use Agreements (Registered and notified)

Results for overlapping native title matters in NSW:

Feature ID	Tenure	Cadastre Data As At	Feature Area SqKm	Overlapping Native Title	
49//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	0.9973	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
50//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	0.9605	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
51//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	1.0643	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
52//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	1.0085	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
53//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	1.1585	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
54//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	0.9930	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
55//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	1.0755	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
56//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	1.1461	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	

57//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	1.5136	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
91//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	0.9859	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
92//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	2.5338	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
97//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	0.4729	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	
98//DP756561	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	1.2684	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	

Please note: The following parcel listed below was not found on the National Native Title Tribunal's records as 06 October 2023. To enable us to complete the search appropriately and adequately please provide us with additional details e.g. **DETAILED** map, plan or shape file.

These items not found in NNTT Cadastre data in NSW:

Parcel ID
34//DP756561

For more information about the Tribunal's registers or to search the registers yourself and obtain copies of relevant register extracts, please visit our [website](#).

Information on native title claims and freehold land can also be found on the Tribunal's website here: [Native title claims and freehold land](#).

Please note: There may be a delay between a native title determination application being lodged in the Federal Court and its transfer to the Tribunal. As a result, some native title determination applications recently filed with the Federal Court may not appear on the Tribunal's databases.

The search results are based on analysis against external boundaries of applications only. Native title applications commonly contain exclusions clauses which remove areas from within the external boundary. To determine whether the areas described are in fact subject to claim, you need to refer to the "Area covered by claim" section of the relevant Register Extract or Schedule Extract and any maps attached.

Search results and the existence of native title

Please note that the enclosed information from the Register of Native Title Claims and/or the Schedule of Applications is **not** confirmation of the existence of native title in this area. This cannot be confirmed until the Federal Court makes a determination that native title does or does not exist in relation to the area. Such determinations are registered on the National Native Title Register.

The Tribunal accepts no liability for reliance placed on enclosed information

The enclosed information has been provided in good faith. Use of this information is at your sole risk. The National Native Title Tribunal makes no representation, either express or implied, as to the accuracy or suitability of the information enclosed for any particular purpose and accepts no liability for use of the information or reliance placed on it.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [REDACTED]

Regards,

Geospatial Searches

National Native Title Tribunal | Perth

[REDACTED] [u](#)

From [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 8:27 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: SR23/1630 - Request for potentially interested parties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR

Caution: This is an external email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the proposed Samsung Romani Solar Farm project, located south of Hay, NSW.

Please also find attached search form requesting a search of the registers for native title claims, native title determinations and Indigenous land use agreements across the identified project area.

Lot Number	Plan Number
34	756561
49	756561
50	756561
51	756561
52	756561
53	756561
54	756561
55	756561
56	756561
57	756561
91	756561
92	756561
97	756561
98	756561

Please feel free to get in touch is you have queries.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]
At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

Victoria Cottle

From: [REDACTED]
Sent:
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: DPE Aboriginal stakeholder list for Romani Solar Farm.
Attachments: Romani Solar Farm_Agency Letter_Heritage NSW_V01.pdf; Aboriginal Stakeholder letter Romani Solar Farm. docx.docx; Aboriginal Stakeholder List- Edward River Local Government Area - LIST OF ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT of PLANNING and ENVIRONMENT.docx

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find attached the DPE Aboriginal stakeholder list for Romani Solar Farm.

Note: There is additional information in the cover letter regarding consultation with ILUA's.

regards

[REDACTED] Aboriginal Senior Assessment Officer
Environment and Heritage – Heritage NSW
Department of Planning and Environment
[REDACTED]

Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Please lodge all Applications to Heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

The Heritage Management System is live from 31 May. More information is available [here](#)

I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and ancestors of the lands I work across.

Heritage NSW and coronavirus (COVID-19)

Heritage NSW has taken steps to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff, communities and customers. Whilst our offices remain open, we have put in place flexible working arrangements for our teams across NSW and continue to adapt our working arrangements as necessary. Face-to-face meetings and field work/site visits with our customers are subject to rules on gatherings and social distancing measures. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately. Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the NSW Office of Environment, Energy and Science.

LIST OF ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT of PLANNING and ENVIRONMENT (DPE) SOUTHERN REGION HELD BY DPE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE OEH ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPONENTS 2010

The purpose of this letter is to assist you as the proposed applicant in undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidelines.

These lists are provided to proponents in accordance with section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (the "Consultation Requirements") which commenced on 12 April 2010.

The consultation process involves getting the views of, and information from, Aboriginal people and reporting on these. It is not to be confused with other field assessment processes involved in preparing a proposal and an application. Consultation does not include the employment of Aboriginal people to assist in field assessment and/or site monitoring. Aboriginal people may provide services to proponents through a contractual arrangement however, this is separate from consultation. The proponent is not obliged to employ those Aboriginal people registered for consultation. Consultation as per these requirements will continue irrespective of potential or actual employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

A copy of the Consultation Requirements can be found on the OEH website at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/commconsultation/09781ACHconsultreq.pdf>.

Under the Consultation Requirements; a proponent is required to provide Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places as relevant to the proposed project area, with an opportunity to be involved in consultation. Section 3.3.1 of the Consultation Requirements states that Aboriginal people who can provide this information are, based on Aboriginal lore and custom, the traditional owners or custodians of the land that is the subject of the proposed project.

The Consultation Requirements also state that:

Traditional owners or custodians with appropriate cultural heritage knowledge to inform decision making who seek to register their interest as an Aboriginal party are those people who:

- *continue to maintain a deep respect for their ancestral belief system, traditional lore and custom*
- *recognise their responsibilities and obligations to protect and conserve their culture and heritage and care for their traditional lands or Country*
- *have the trust of their community, knowledge and understanding of their culture, and permission to speak about it.*

Please note: the placement of an organisation's name on any OEH Aboriginal stakeholder list for the Consultation Requirements does not override a proponent's requirement to also advertise in the local newspaper and to seek from other sources the names of any other Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge as required under clause 60 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019.

How to use this list

- 1. Contact the organisations/individuals who have indicated an interest in the relevant LGA/s and invite them to register an interest in your project**

Do not reproduce the attached list in publicly available reports and other documents. Your report should only contain the names of the organisations and individuals who you have invited to register an interest in your project and those who have registered as stakeholders for your project.

Please note, in accordance with Clause 60 (10) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019, where an agreement of the kind listed below specifies or identifies a modified or alternative consultation process for the purposes of Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, the applicant is to undertake consultation in accordance with the modified or alternative process. The applicable agreements are

- a) a registered Indigenous Land Use Agreement under the Native Title Act 1993 of the Commonwealth entered into between an Aboriginal community and the State,
- b) a lease entered into under Part 4A of the Act,
- c) an agreement entered into by the Secretary and a board of management reserved under Part 4A of the Act that has the consent of Aboriginal owner board members for the land concerned,
- d) an agreement entered into between an Aboriginal community and the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment.

Where you believe your application is wholly or partially located within an area subject to any of the above agreements, please provide further correspondence (including mapping, if required) detailing the applicable agreement and its relationship to the application area to heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au. Heritage NSW will respond with further advice.

Where the above does not apply, please proceed with consultation in accordance with the Clause 60 (1-9) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019. This list is provided to proponents in accordance with Clause 60 (2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019.

The stakeholders identified on this list may have an interest in the proposed project area and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places.

This list is not exhaustive and in line with Clause 60 (2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 you must also contact other reasonable sources to compile a list of Aboriginal people who may have an interest.

Please refer to Clause 60 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 for further information on the requirements of the consultation process

Note:

- **This list must not be reproduced in any publicly available reports or documents. Any report should only contain the names of the organisations and individuals who you have invited to register an interest in your project and those who have registered as stakeholders for your project.**
- **If contact details of stakeholders are found to be incorrect or outdated, please contact heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.**

Last updated September 2023

Aboriginal Stakeholders – Edward River Local Government Area.

Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation	██████████ ██████████	██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████	████ ██████ ██████ ████	██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████		██████████ ██████████ ████	██████ ██████ ██████
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Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre	██████████ ██████████	██████████████████	██████ ████		████ ████ ████	██████████ ██████████ ██████████	-
Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	██████████	██████████████████		██████████		██████████ ██████████ ████ ██████████ ██████████ ████	
Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	██████████	██████████████████		██████████		██████ ██████████ ████	
Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation	██████████	██████████████████		██████████			

[REDACTED]
Archaeologist
ERM Consulting
[REDACTED]

17/10/2023

Dear Victoria,

**WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL AS REQUIRED UNDER DECCW ABORIGINAL
CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPONENTS 2010**

Subject: Romani Solar Farm.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 6 October 2023 to Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment) regarding the above project.

Attached is a list of known Aboriginal Stakeholders for the proposed development at the **Edward River** Local Government Area that Heritage NSW considers likely to have an interest in the activity.

Please note this list is not necessarily an exhaustive list of all interested Aboriginal Stakeholders.

Receipt of this list does not remove the requirement of a proponent/ consultant to advertise in local print media and contact other bodies seeking interested Aboriginal parties, in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (April 2010).

Under Section 4.1.6. of the Consultation Requirements, you must also provide a copy of the names of each Aboriginal person who registered an interest to the relevant Heritage NSW office and Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) within 28 days from the closing date for registering an interest.

Please note that the contact details in the list provided by Heritage NSW may be out of date as it relies on Aboriginal stakeholders advising Heritage NSW when their details need changing. If individuals/companies undertaking consultation are aware that any groups contact details are out of date, or letters are returned unopened, please contact either the relevant stakeholder group (if you know their more current details) and/or Heritage NSW. AHIP applicants should make a note of any group they are unable to contact as part of their consultation record.

If you have any questions about this advice, please email:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



**Aboriginal Senior Assessment Officer
Environment and Heritage – Heritage NSW
Department of Planning and Environment
Aboriginal Heritage Regulation Branch – South Heritage NSW**

Attachment A:

Registered Aboriginal Interests DPE Aboriginal Stakeholders List for the **Edward River** Local Government Area.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 25 October 2023 10:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Request for potentially interested parties - Romani Solar Farm, NSW - ACHAR
Attachments: 20231018 AO Search ACHA - Romani Solar Farm, ERM.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

OFFICIAL

Good morning Victoria,

Please find attached the response from the Office of the Registrar, ALRA to your letter of 06 October 2023 regarding the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales.

If you have any further questions, please respond by return email.

Please note, we now have an Aboriginal Owners email mailbox to which such requests can be sent in future. Please email your ACHA requests to [REDACTED]

Kind Regards

The Aboriginal Owners team

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

The Office of the Registrar stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to supporting the return of land to Aboriginal people as compensation for past dispossession; and to support self-determination through participation and representation in the land council network.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

18 October 2023

By email: [REDACTED]

ERM
Level 1, 45 Watt Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Victoria,

Request - Search for Registered Aboriginal Owners – 0704056 Romani Solar Farm

We refer to your email dated 06 October 2023 seeking the identification of Aboriginal organisations and people who may have an interest in the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales.

Under Section 170 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW), the Office of the Registrar is required to maintain the Register of Aboriginal Owners (RAO) for New South Wales. A search of the RAO has shown that there are currently no Registered Aboriginal Owners in the project area.

We suggest you contact the Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council on [REDACTED].com as they may wish to participate.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Project Officer
Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

[REDACTED]



APPENDIX E

INVITATION TO REGISTER



[REDACTED] Land Council

23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Boooroban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

Aboriginal community consultation is being undertaken to assist the Proponent in the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Assessment. It is intended that the consultation process would be continued into subsequent stages of the Project which may require approvals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Future approvals may include an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). If required, this consultation process would be utilised to support the application for an AHIP and to assist the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment, and Heritage NSW in their assessment of the AHIP application.

The contact details for the proponent are:

REGISTRATION

ERM is seeking expressions of interest from any Aboriginal person or group who may have cultural knowledge relating to the Project Area who may be able to assist.

If you wish to formally register your interest in the process of community consultation could you please contact [REDACTED] (Project Archaeologist) by **6 November 2023** at the below details:

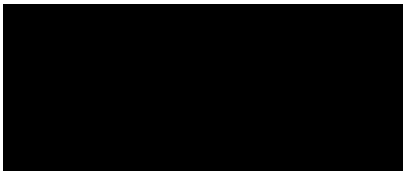


To assist in the identification of specific knowledge holders as part of the consultation process, ERM respectfully requests that you advise us if you have any specific information concerning the cultural values of the Project Area. We would also be grateful if you could identify any other knowledge holders who would be appropriate to contact regarding the Project Area. Any cultural knowledge provided will be treated in confidence and the information will be distributed according to the wishes of the Aboriginal stakeholders.

Please note that the Consultation Requirements require the Proponent to provide details of registered Aboriginal parties to the Heritage NSW and the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council. In your response could you please advise if you would like your details to not be provided.

Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



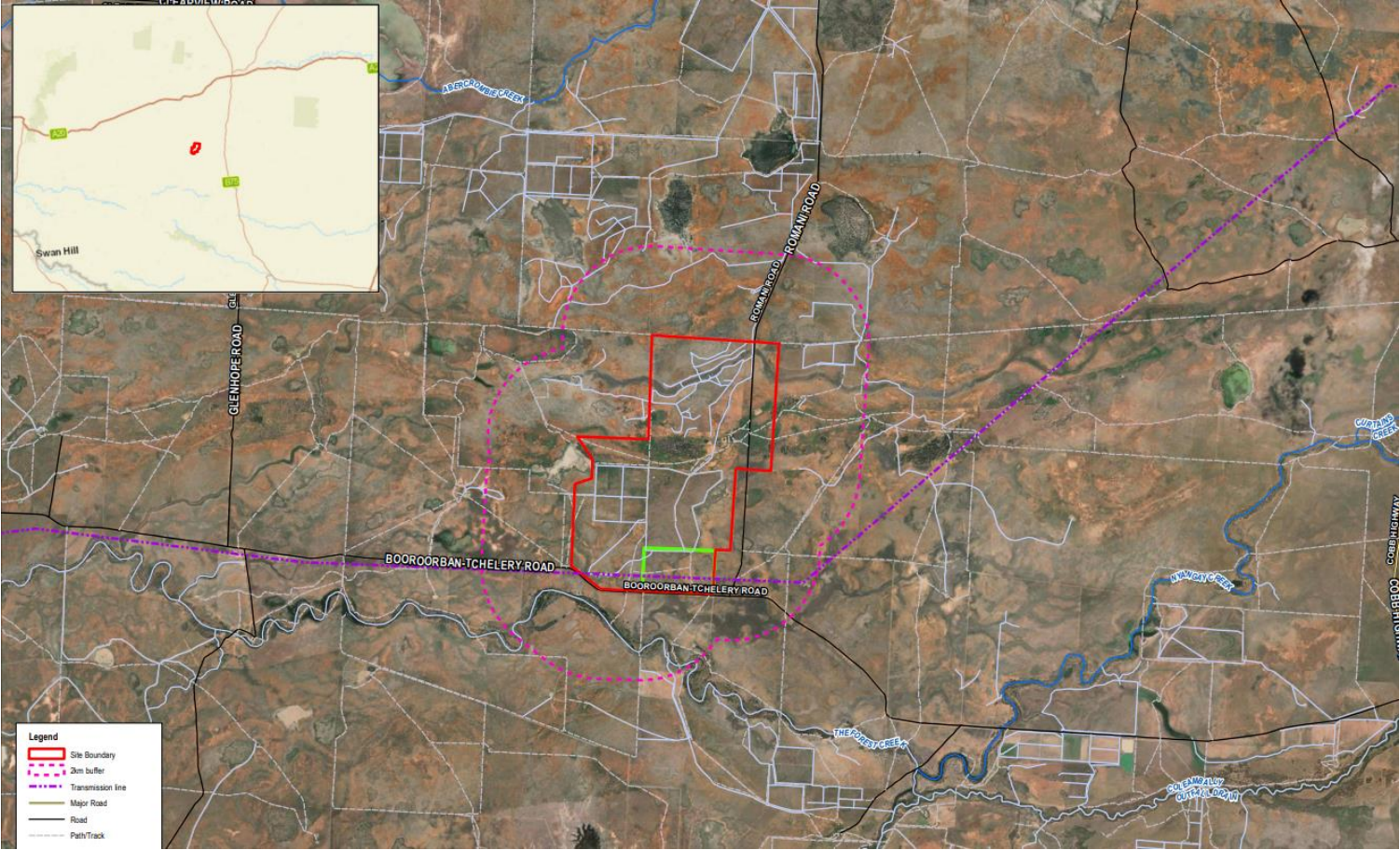


Figure 1: Project Area

Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation



23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Boooroban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

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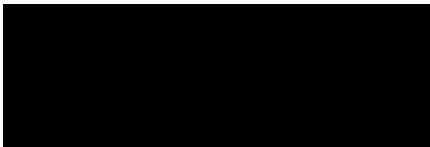


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Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



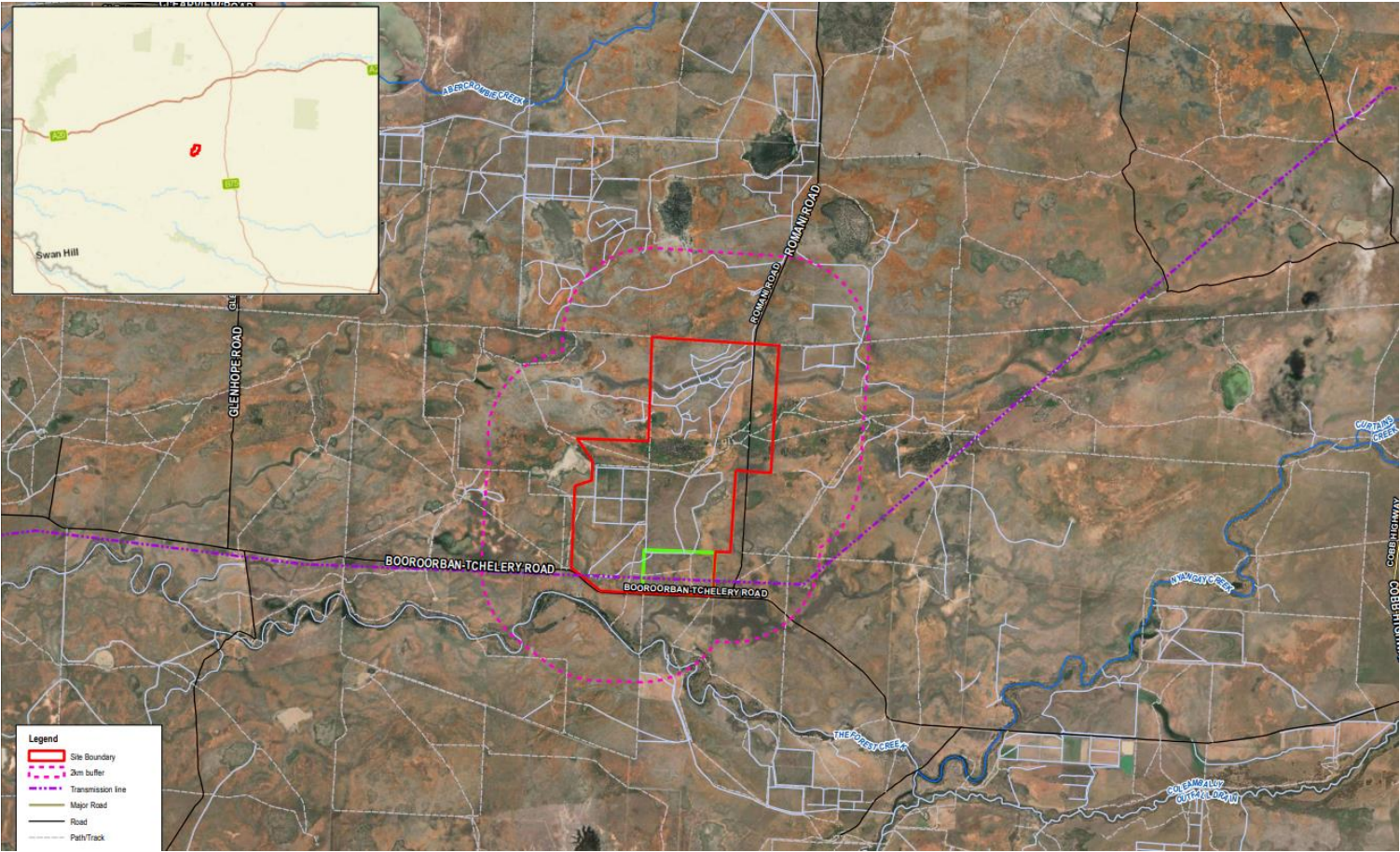


Figure 1: Project Area



[REDACTED]

23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Booororban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

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The contact details for the proponent are:

[REDACTED]

REGISTRATION

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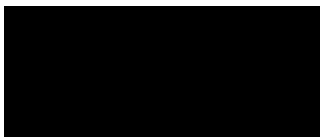


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Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



Project Archaeologist

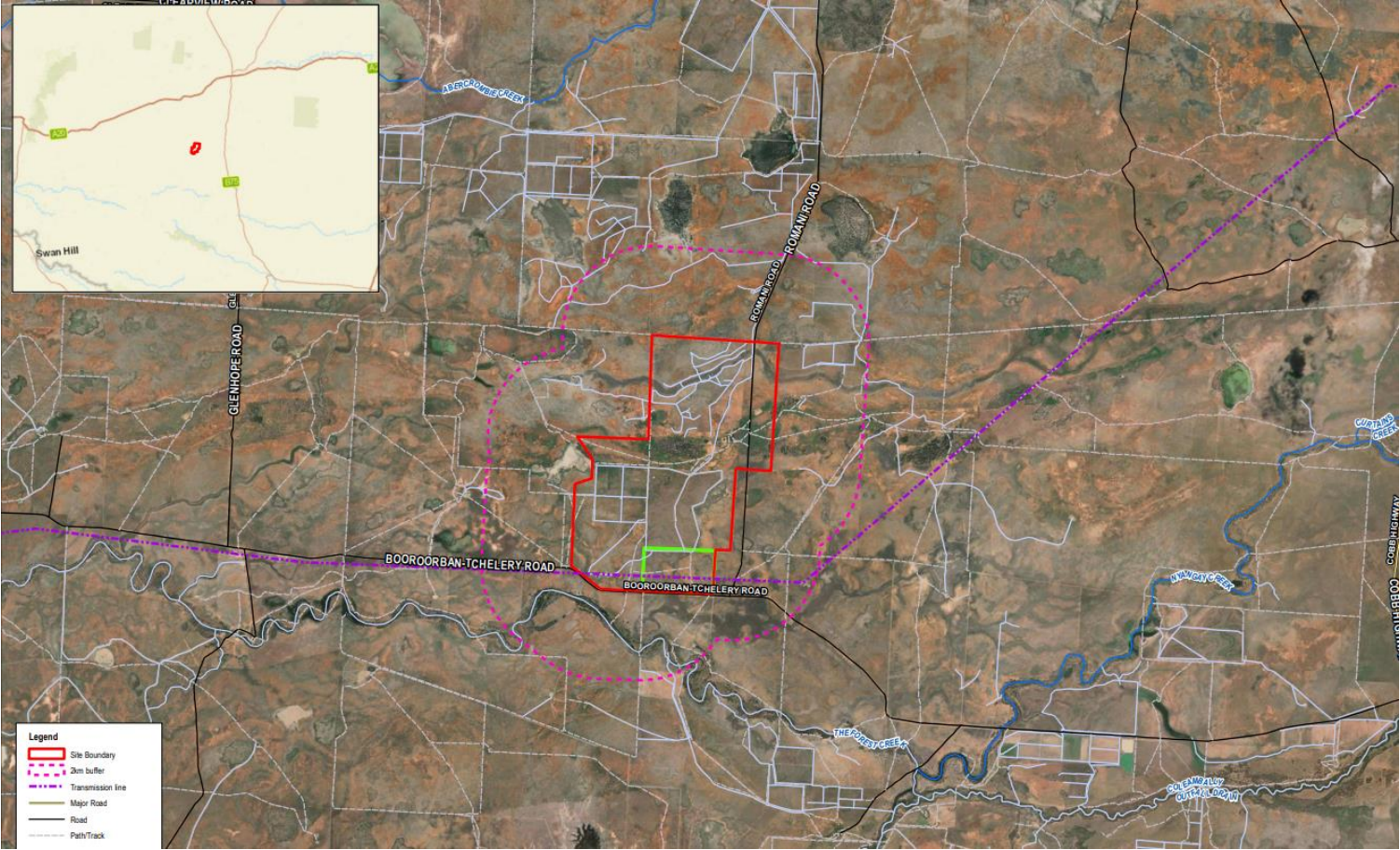


Figure 1: Project Area

[REDACTED]
23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Booororban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

Aboriginal community consultation is being undertaken to assist the Proponent in the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Assessment. It is intended that the consultation process would be continued into subsequent stages of the Project which may require approvals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Future approvals may include an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). If required, this consultation process would be utilised to support the application for an AHIP and to assist the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment, and Heritage NSW in their assessment of the AHIP application.

The contact details for the proponent are:

REGISTRATION

ERM is seeking expressions of interest from any Aboriginal person or group who may have cultural knowledge relating to the Project Area who may be able to assist.

If you wish to formally register your interest in the process of community consultation could you please contact [REDACTED] (Project Archaeologist) by **6 November 2023** at the below details:

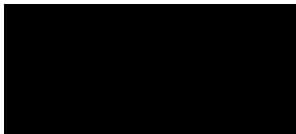


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Please note that the Consultation Requirements require the Proponent to provide details of registered Aboriginal parties to the Heritage NSW and the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council. In your response could you please advise if you would like your details to not be provided.

Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



Project Archaeologist

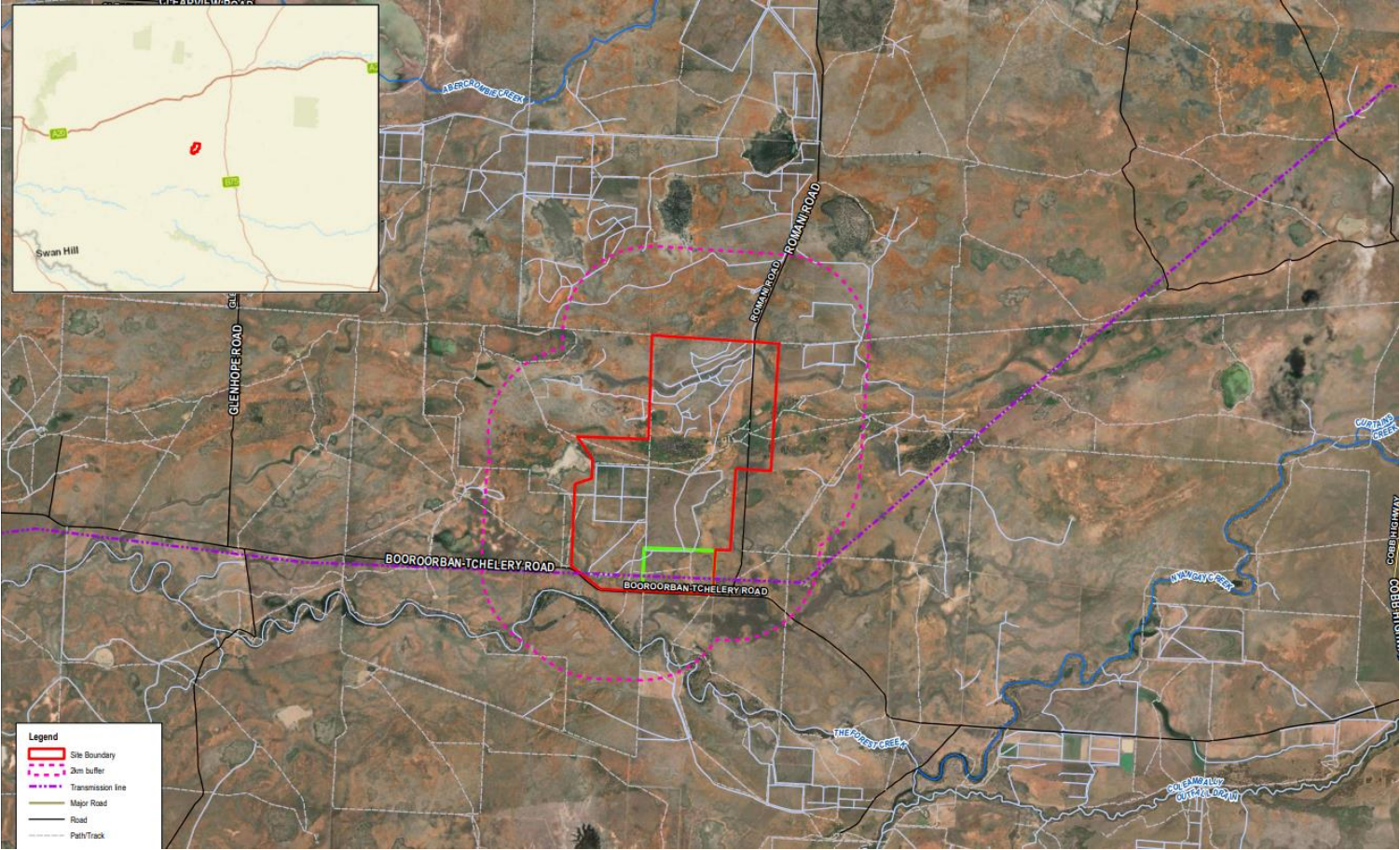


Figure 1: Project Area



23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Booroorban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

Aboriginal community consultation is being undertaken to assist the Proponent in the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Assessment. It is intended that the consultation process would be continued into subsequent stages of the Project which may require approvals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Future approvals may include an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). If required, this consultation process would be utilised to support the application for an AHIP and to assist the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment, and Heritage NSW in their assessment of the AHIP application.

The contact details for the proponent are:

REGISTRATION

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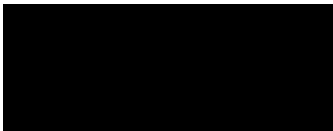


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Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



Project Archaeologist

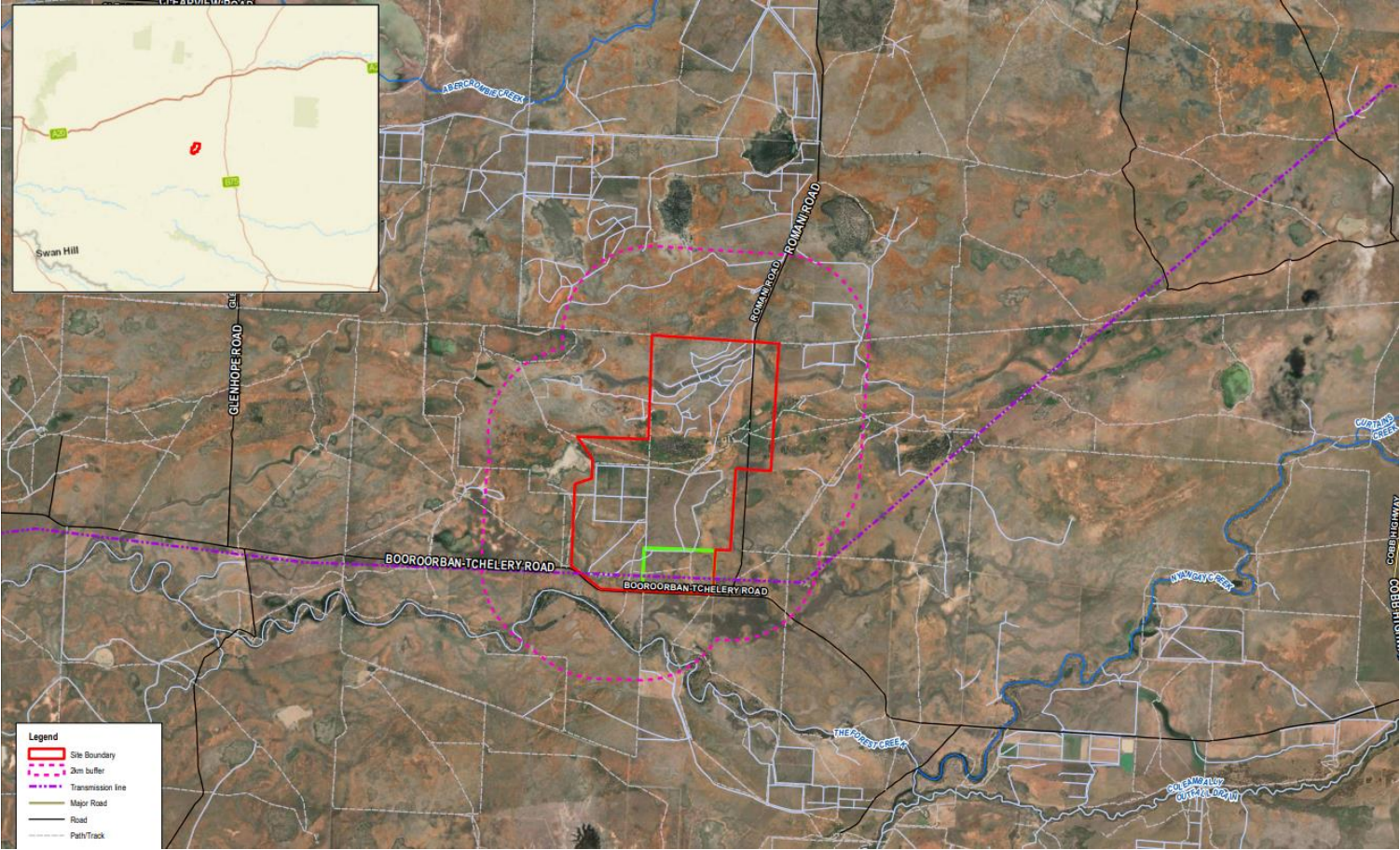


Figure 1: Project Area



23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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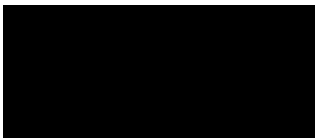


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Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



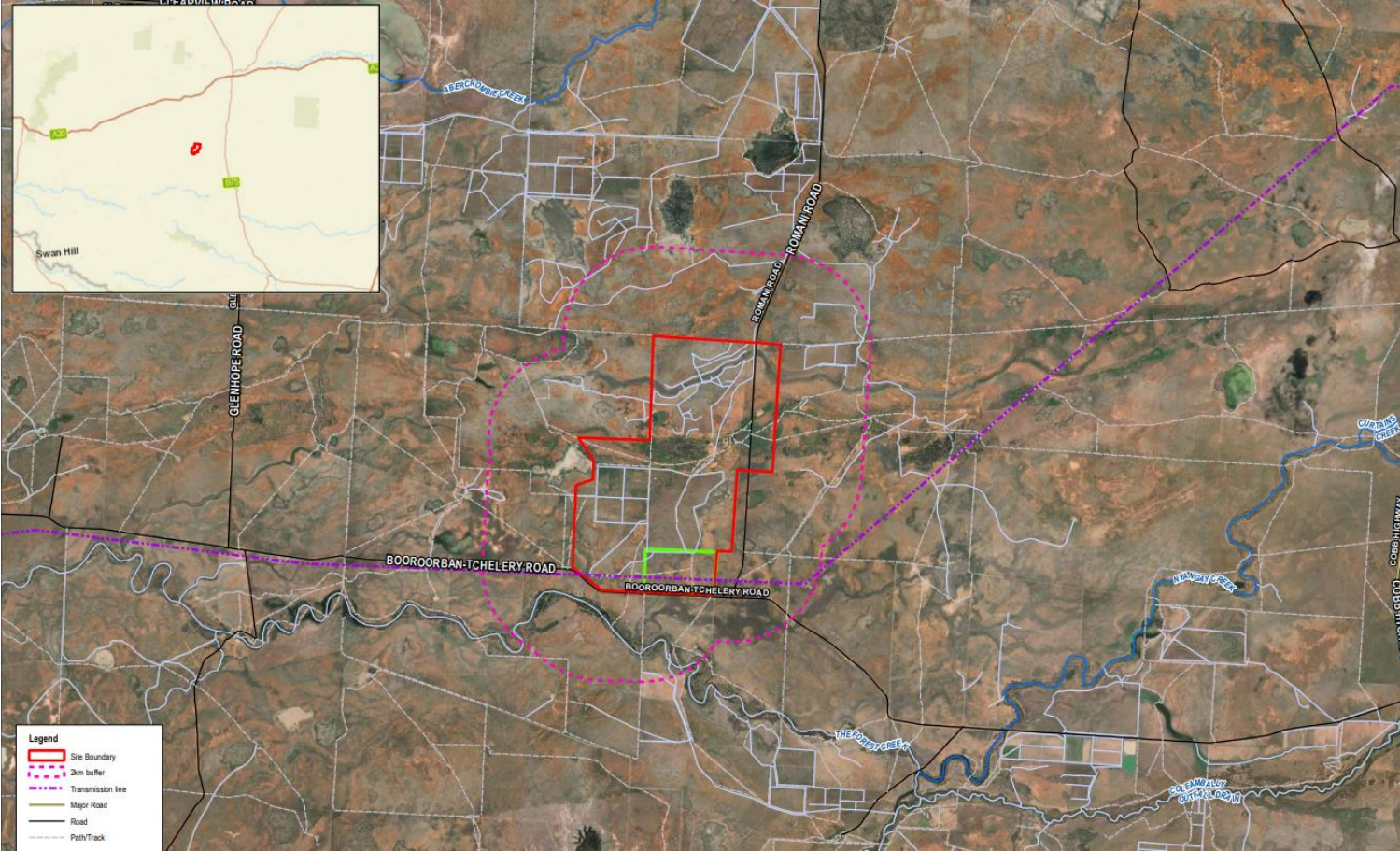


Figure 1: Project Area



Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation

23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Booororban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

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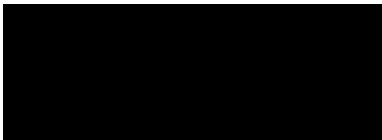


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Yours sincerely,

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Project Archaeologist

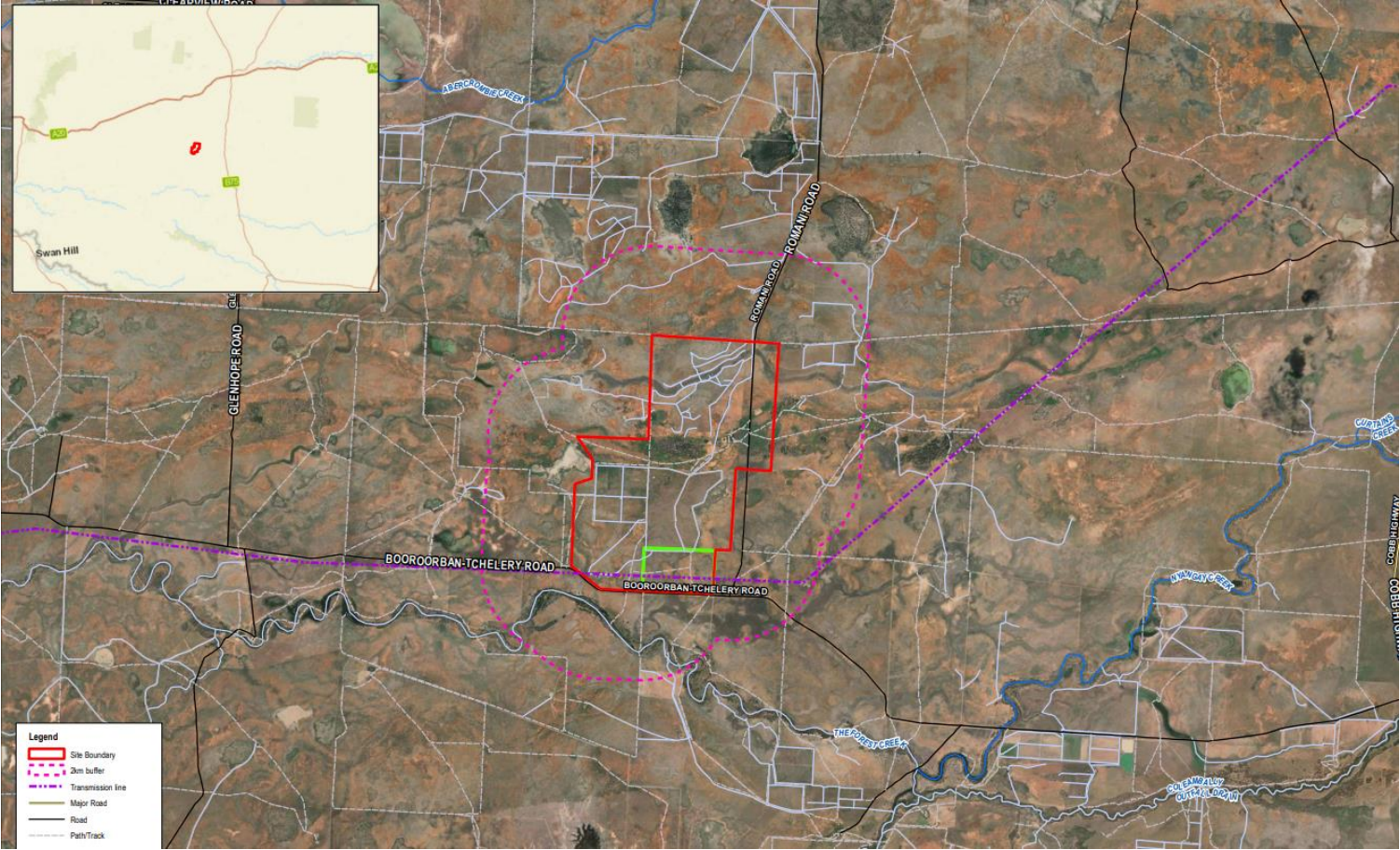


Figure 1: Project Area

Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation
[REDACTED]

23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been engaged by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) (The Proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the development of the proposed Romani Solar Farm, a renewable energy development, located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW) (**Figure 1**). The Project is a proposed solar farm and comprises several allotments located on Boooroban Tchelery Road, north of Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 970 hectares (ha).

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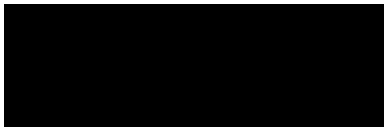


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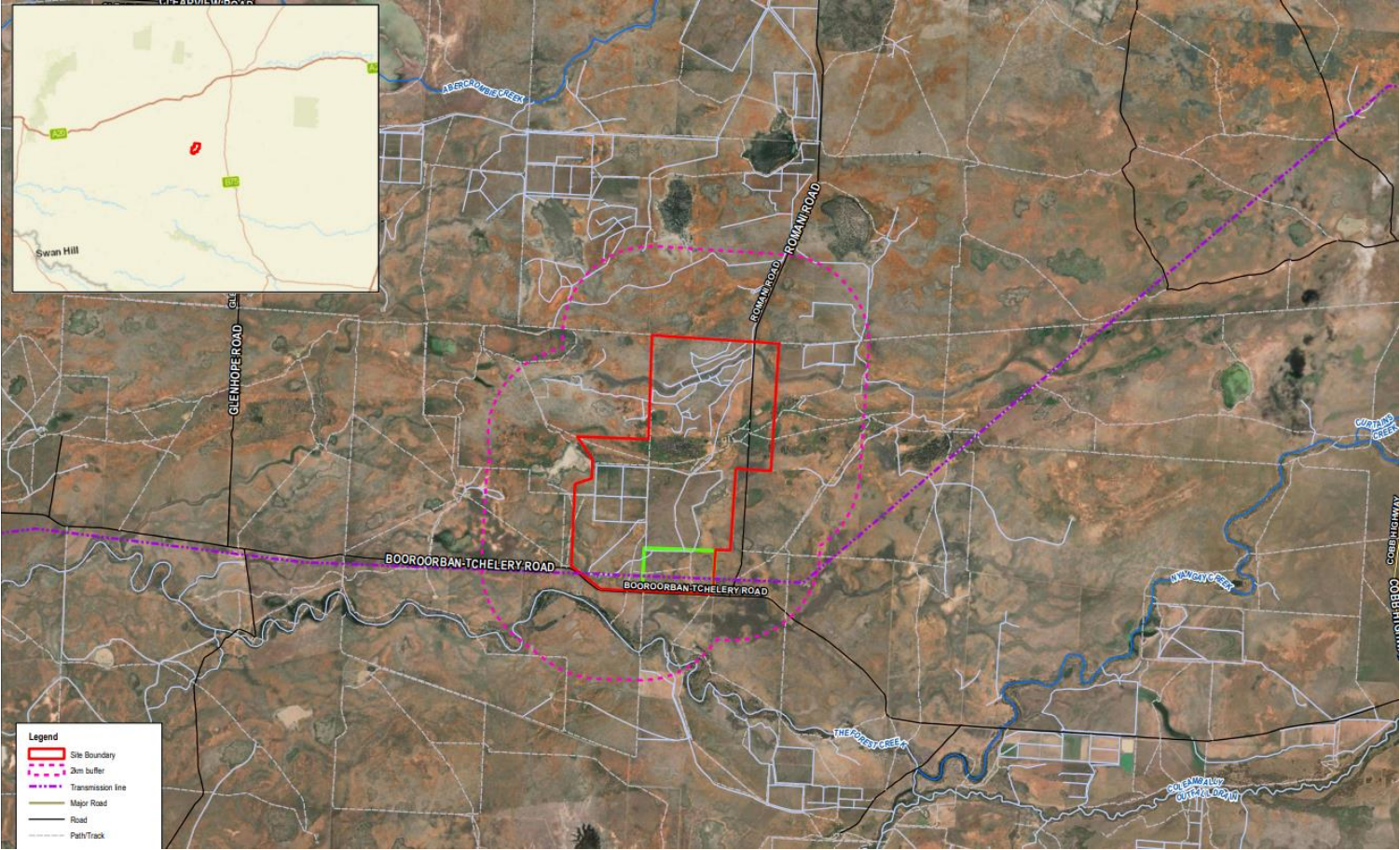


Figure 1: Project Area



23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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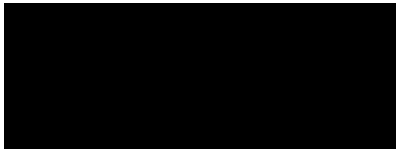


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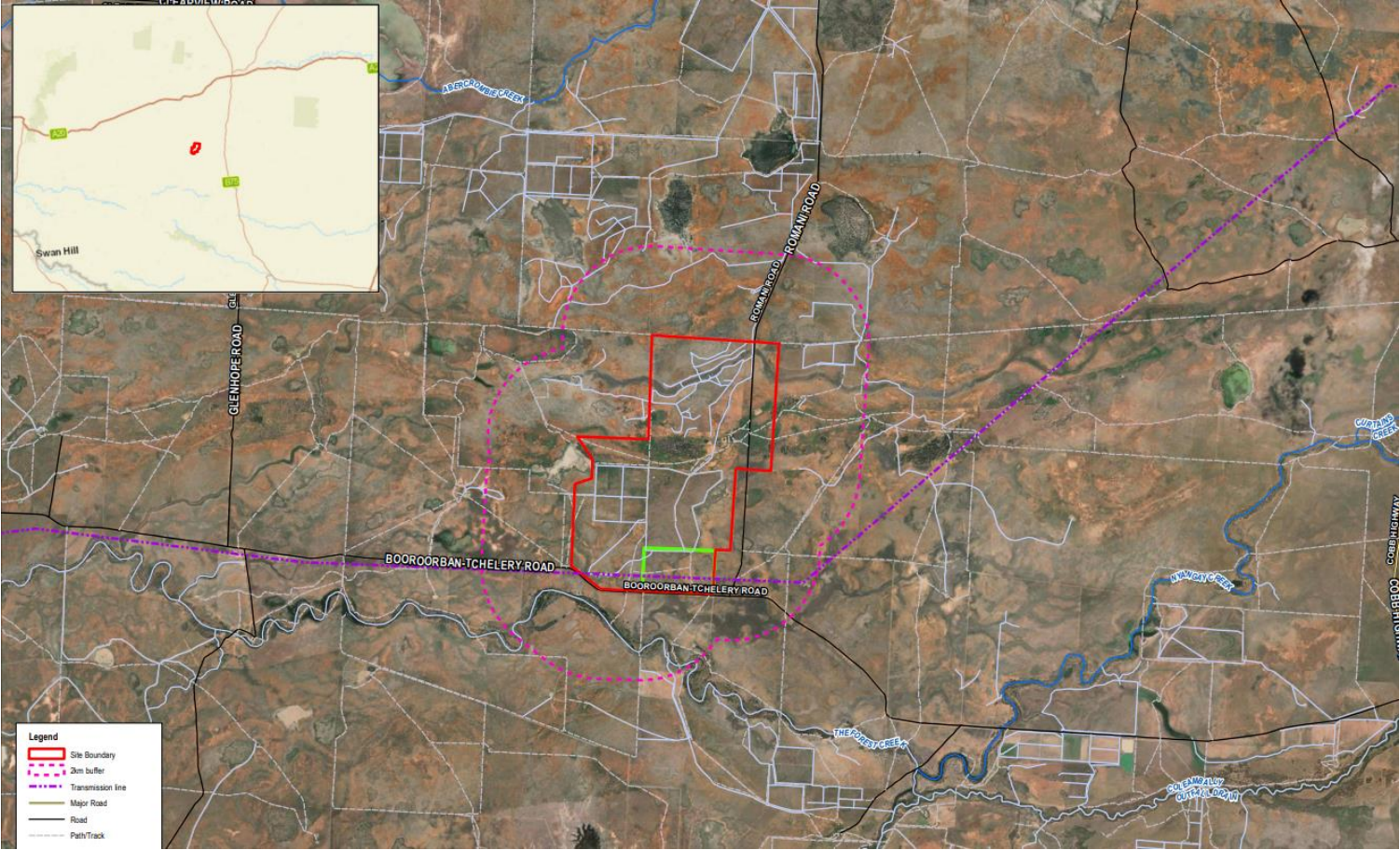


Figure 1: Project Area

Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation



23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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[REDACTED]

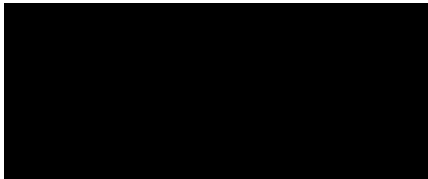


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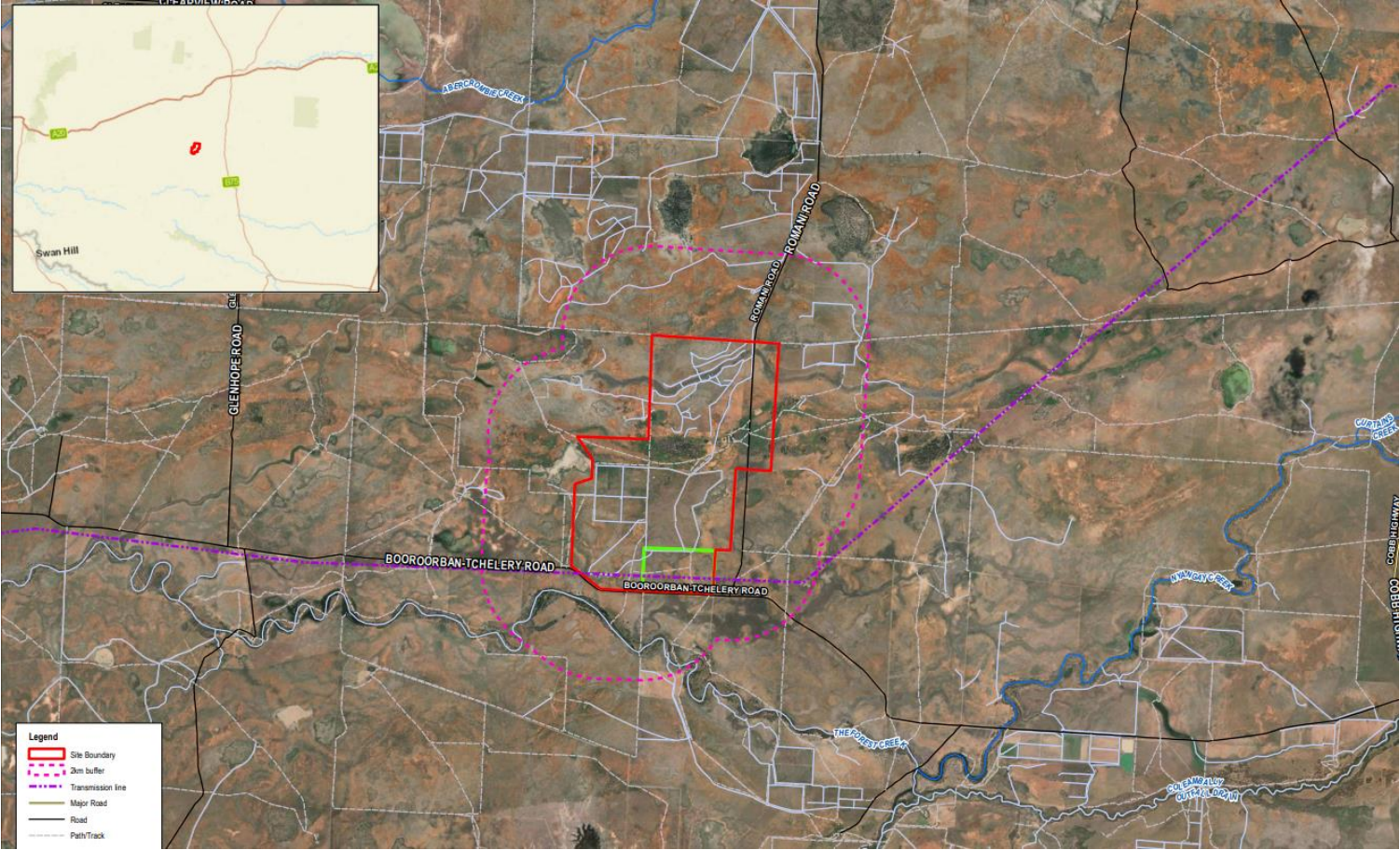


Figure 1: Project Area

Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre
[REDACTED]

23 October 2023

Reference: 0704056

To [REDACTED]

Subject: Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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[REDACTED]

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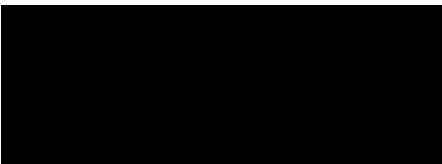


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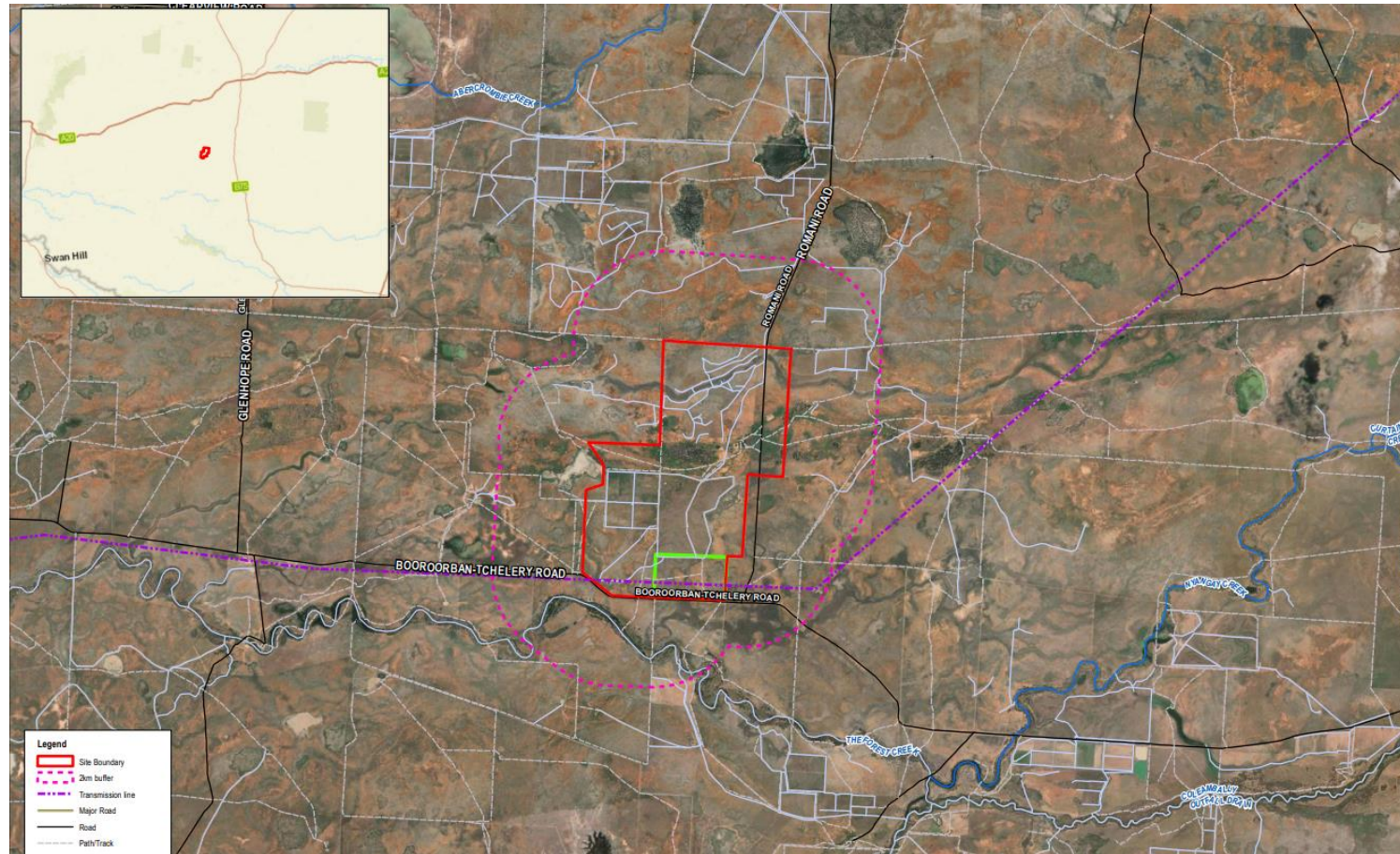


Figure 1: Project Area



APPENDIX F

SECTION 4.1.6 NOTIFICATION LETTER

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm, Booroorban NSW ACHAR
Date: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 8:26:00 AM
Attachments: [Invitation to Register_Romani.pdf](#)
[Public Notice_Romani.pdf](#)
[Section 4.1.6 Notification Letter_Romani_Deniliquin LALC.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Stage 1, s4.1.6), Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) and our client Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (the proponent), has collated a list of registered interested parties who would like to participate in the upcoming project. I have included details of the public advertisements placed in the local newspapers, the initial registration of interest letter and the Section 4.1.6 notification letter.

If you have any queries about the included information or the upcoming project please do not hesitate to reach out.

Many thanks,

ERM

[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]
At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

Deniliquin LALC
[REDACTED]**DATE**
20 December 2023**REFERENCE**
0704056

Dear Deniliquin LALC,

Subject: Written notification of registrations of interest as required under Heritage NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Stage 1) – Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Project

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Stage 1, s4.1.6), Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) and our client Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung), wishes to inform you of the Aboriginal people who have registered an interest in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) associated with the proposed Romani Solar Farm located across an area of approximately 970 hectares, 44 kilometres south-west of Hay.

PERSON OR ORGANISATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Deniliquin LALC	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Family Aboriginal Corporation	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation	[REDACTED]

PERSON OR ORGANISATION	CONTACT DETAILS
[REDACTED] - Individual	Email: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Wakool Indigenous Corporation	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

As also required, a copy of the invitation to register letter and public advertisement required for *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Stage 1, s4.1.3) is attached for your records. One advertisement was placed in the Deniliquin Pastoral Times on the 14 October 2023, and in the Riverine Grazier on 18 October 2023.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Managing Consultant - Heritage

ATTACHMENT 1: Invitation to register

ATTACHMENT 2: Public Notice

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm, Booroorban NSW ACHAR
Date: Wednesday, 20 December 2023 8:26:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Invitation to Register Romani.pdf](#)
[Public Notice Romani.pdf](#)
[Section 4.1.6 Notification Letter Romani Heritage NSW.pdf](#)

To whom it may concern,

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Many thanks,

ERM

[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]
At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

Heritage NSW

Via email:
[REDACTED]**DATE**
20 December 2023**REFERENCE**
0704056

Dear Heritage NSW,

Subject: Written notification of registrations of interest as required under Heritage NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Stage 1) – Romani Solar Farm - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Project

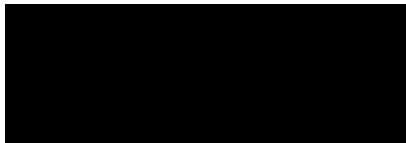
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PERSON OR ORGANISATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Deniliquin LALC	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Family Aboriginal Corporation	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

PERSON OR ORGANISATION	CONTACT DETAILS
[REDACTED] - Individual	[REDACTED]
Wakool Indigenous Corporation	[REDACTED]
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre	[REDACTED]

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Yours sincerely,



Managing Consultant - Heritage

ATTACHMENT 1: Invitation to register

ATTACHMENT 2: Public Notice



APPENDIX G

REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTIES (RAPS)

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR
Date: Friday, 27 October 2023 3:16:36 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Thanks [REDACTED] I will send my insurances through soon, I can also supply a mechanical sieve 140x100 5mm and a excavator with 1m bucket for test excavation and salvage.

Cheers

John

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 8:51:38 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for letting me know! I look forward to working with you over the coming months.

We are drafting the project methodology and should have it ready to issue to you for your review in the coming weeks. There will be a field work component as part of this project, approx.. 1 week in total, which we are planning on running in December/January or February depending on staff availability. We will keep you updated on this to see if you would like to participate.

If you have any queries feel free message me.

Cheers, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 7:32 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Dear [REDACTED]

I would like to register my interest and my mothers interest [REDACTED] in this project.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 3:23 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 26 October 2023 at 1:16:41 pm AEDT
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

Dear [REDACTED]

In accordance with Section 4.1.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached an Invitation to Register an interest to participate in Aboriginal community consultation for the Romani Solar Farm Project located on Boooroorban Tchelery Road approx. 44km southwest of Hay, NSW (see Figure 1).

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any queries or wish to register your interest to participate throughout the process. A response before the 10th November would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Managing Heritage Consultant

Level 14 207 Kent St Sydney NSW 2000 erm.com

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 2:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR
Attachments: image002.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[REDACTED]
Managing Consultant

Sydney [REDACTED] erm.com

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 2:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

how ya day so far I seen email Bout meeting 10th last month.RE invitation of meeting can U call U have time enjoy rest of ya day

On Thu, 26 Oct 2023, 1:15 pm Lorien Perchard, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

In accordance with Section 4.1.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached an Invitation to Register an interest to participate in Aboriginal community consultation for the Romani Solar Farm Project located on Booororban Tchelery Road approx. 44km southwest of Hay, NSW (see Figure 1).

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any queries or wish to register your interest to participate throughout the process. A response before the 10th November would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Managing Heritage Consultant

Level 14 207 Kent St Sydney NSW 2000 **erm.com**
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR
Date: Thursday, 26 October 2023 3:45:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

That sounds great and we look forward to receiving the methodology.

As a friendly FYI to assist with your planning, the Corporation requires two field reps to be on site for each job.

Thank you, and please reach out if you have any questions.

Have a great afternoon, [REDACTED]

On Thu, 26 Oct 2023, 3:01 pm [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Great, thanks for letting me know! I look forward to working with you over the coming months.

We are drafting the project methodology and should have it ready to issue to you for your review in the coming weeks. There will be a field work component as part of this project, approx.. 1 week in total, which we are planning on running in December/January or February depending on staff availability. We will keep you updated on this to see if you would like to participate.

If you have any queries feel free message me.

Cheers, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 2:20 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The heritage works are located on the Traditional Lands of Southern West Yiradyuri and therefore we would like to register and be consulted.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

On Thu, Oct 26, 2023 at 1:16 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

In accordance with Section 4.1.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached an Invitation to Register an interest to participate in Aboriginal community consultation for the Romani Solar Farm Project located on Booororban Tchelery Road approx. 44km southwest of Hay, NSW (see Figure 1).

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any queries or wish to register your interest to participate throughout the process. A response before the 10th November would be appreciated.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

ERM

[REDACTED]
Managing Heritage Consultant

Level 14 207 Kent St Sydney NSW 2000 erm.com

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Yalgirri dhunyal (speak soon),

[REDACTED]

Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I acknowledge Southern West Yiradyuri people as the Traditional Owners of Southern West Yiradyuri Country and pay respect to our unbroken connection to Land, Water and Sky Country, Culture and Community. I also acknowledge and pay my respect to Elders past and present.

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 January 2024 9:12 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

[REDACTED]
Managing Consultant

Sydney **erm.com**

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 24, 2023 7:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

Good evening [REDACTED]

Thank you for the invite.

I would like to register an interest as a RAP please.

Can you please confirm my registration when you get a chance.

Thank you and have a great week.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Cultural Heritage Consultant

On 26 Oct 2023, at 1:15 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

In accordance with Section 4.1.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached an Invitation to Register an interest to participate in

Aboriginal community consultation for the Romani Solar Farm Project located on Boooroorban Tchelery Road approx. 44km southwest of Hay, NSW (see Figure 1).

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any queries or wish to register your interest to participate throughout the process. A response before the 10th November would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Managing Heritage Consultant

Level 14 207 Kent St Sydney NSW 2000 **erm.com**
[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]



APPENDIX H METHODOLOGY



Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd - Romani Solar Farm

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Assessment and Survey Methodology

PREPARED FOR



Samsung C&T Renewable Energy
Australia Pty Ltd

DATE

29 November 2023

REFERENCE

0704056



DOCUMENT DETAILS

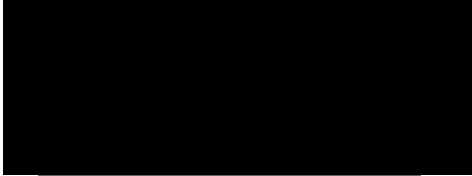
DOCUMENT TITLE	Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd - Romani Solar Farm
DOCUMENT SUBTITLE	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Survey Methodology
PROJECT NUMBER	0704056
Date	29 November 2023
Version	02
Author	Mia Linton-Smith, Victoria Cottle
Client name	Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd

DOCUMENT HISTORY

				ERM APPROVAL TO ISSUE		
VERSION	REVISION	AUTHOR	REVIEWED BY	NAME	DATE	COMMENTS
Version	01	M. Linton-Smith, V. Cottle	E. Finnegan	L. Baker	27.11.2023	For client review
	02	V. Cottle		L. Baker	29.11.2023	

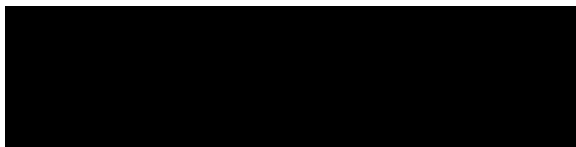
Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd - Romani Solar Farm

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Survey Methodology
0704056



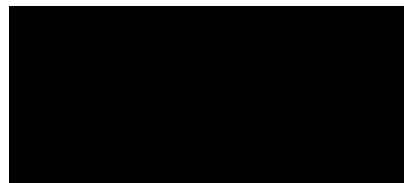
Lorien Perchard

Managing Consultant - Heritage



Simon Bennett

Principal Consultant & Team Leader



Lucy Baker

Partner

Environmental Resources Management
Australia Pty Ltd
Level 14 207 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms	Description
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
Code of Practice	<i>Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW 2010</i>
Consultation Requirements	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010</i>
DECCW	Department of Energy, Climate Change and Water (former)
DP	Deposited Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ERM	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GWh	Gigawatt hours
ha	hectares
km	kilometres
kV	kilovolt
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
m	metres
MW	Megawatt
NEM	National Electricity Market
NSW	New South Wales
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
PCU	Solar Power Conversion Unit
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Person/Party
Samsung	Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd
SSD	State Significant Development
The Project	Romani Solar Farm
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

1. INTRODUCTION

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (Samsung) proposes to construct and operate the Romani Solar Farm (the Project), a renewable energy development located 44 km southwest of Hay in the Riverina Murray Region of New South Wales (NSW). The Project is anticipated to have an installed capacity of up to 250 MW, and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility with 150 MW installed capacity. The Project encompasses several allotments located on Boooroban-Tchelery Road, north of The Forest Creek, with an area of approximately 1809 hectares (ha). An existing 220 kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line running in an east west alignment traverses the south of the Project Area (Figure 1.1).

The Project will be assessed by a State Significant Development (SSD) application under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The application will be supported by preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) will form one of the technical studies prepared to support the EIS.

Samsung has engaged Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) to complete an ACHAR to identify, assess, and develop management recommendations for any identified Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Project Area, in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (prepared by the former Department of Energy, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] in 2011) and the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010a) (Consultation Requirements).

Preparation of the ACHAR will include Aboriginal community consultation which will be undertaken with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) who have expressed interest in the overall Project.

This document provides details of the proposed assessment and survey methodology for the Project. This document will be provided to all RAPs who have registered interest in the Project for their review and comment. Any comments received will be considered and incorporated into the assessment methodologies where practicable.

1.1 PROJECT AREA

The Project Area encompasses 14 land parcels (refer to Table 1-1) that covers a total area of approximately 1809 ha at Boooroban-Tchelery Road, Boooroban.

The site is located north of The Forest Creek and is primarily used for small scale agricultural purposes, and the elevation across the Project Area is relatively consistent ranging from 80 m to 90 m above sea level. A map of the Project Area is provided in Figure 1.1.

TABLE 1-1 LAND CADASTRES

Lot	DP
34, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 91, 92, 97, 98	756561

1.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Project involves the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar farm (with a maximum installed capacity of up to 250 megawatt [MW]), one BESS facility, and associated infrastructure. Table 1-2 summarises the key indicative Project components and specifications.

TABLE 1-2 INDICATIVE PROJECT DESIGN – COMPONENTS AND SPECIFICATION

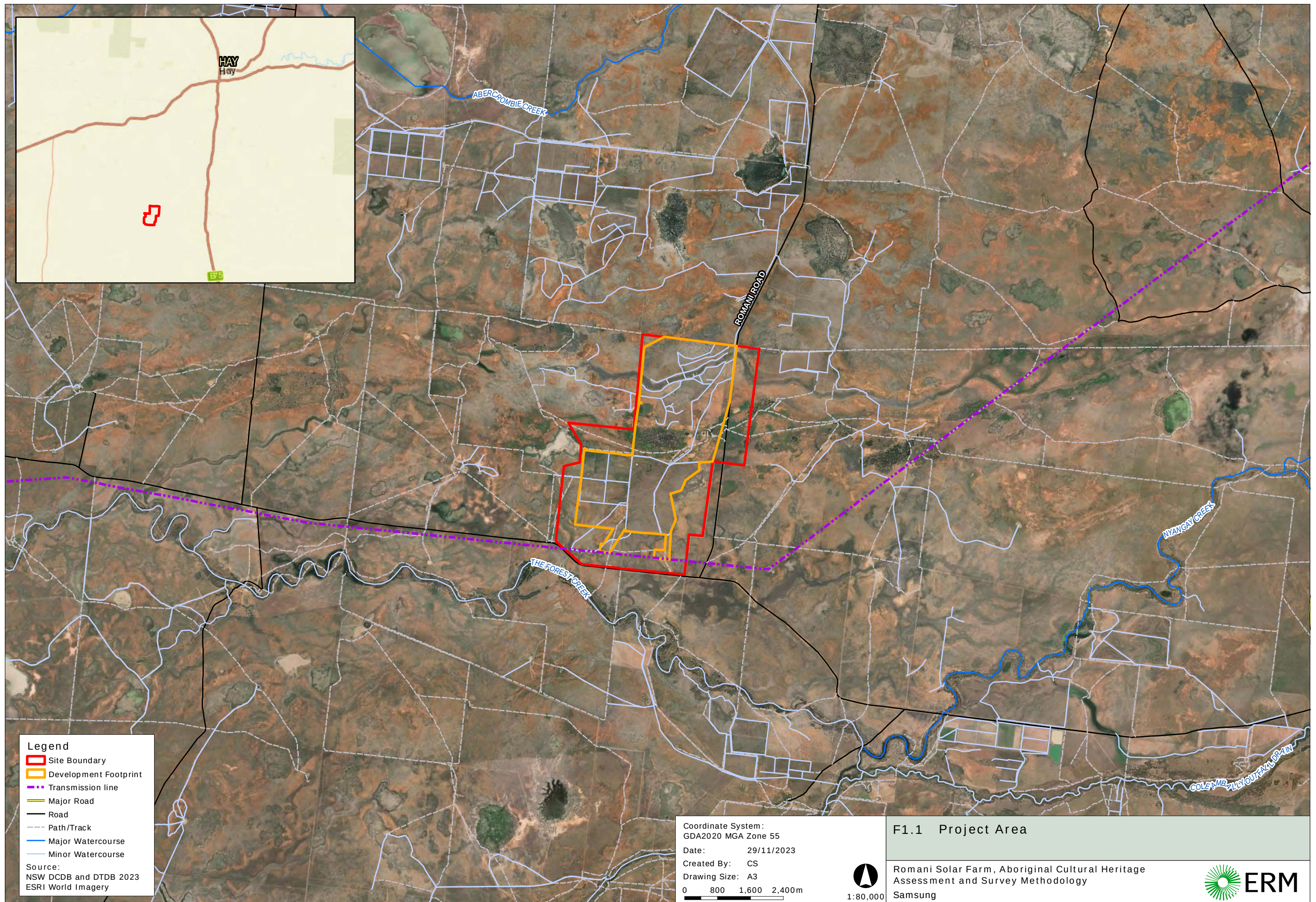
Component	Feature	Specification
Energy generation	Solar Arrays	Approximately 870.5 ha.
Electrical Reticulation Network	Solar Power Conversion Unit (PCU)	Solar PCUs including a power station, inverter, transformer and associated equipment.
	On-site substations	New high voltage substation proposed along Booororban-Tchelery Road.
	Internal electrical reticulation network	Electrical reticulation will generally follow rows of panels and parallel internal access routes. The Preferred solar area will connect into the main substation directly via underground cables.
	Switchyard/BESS	Switch and other electrical equipment providing connection to the existing 220 kV transmission network.
Access Roads	Access to site	Access to the Project Area is proposed from Booororban-Tchelery Road.

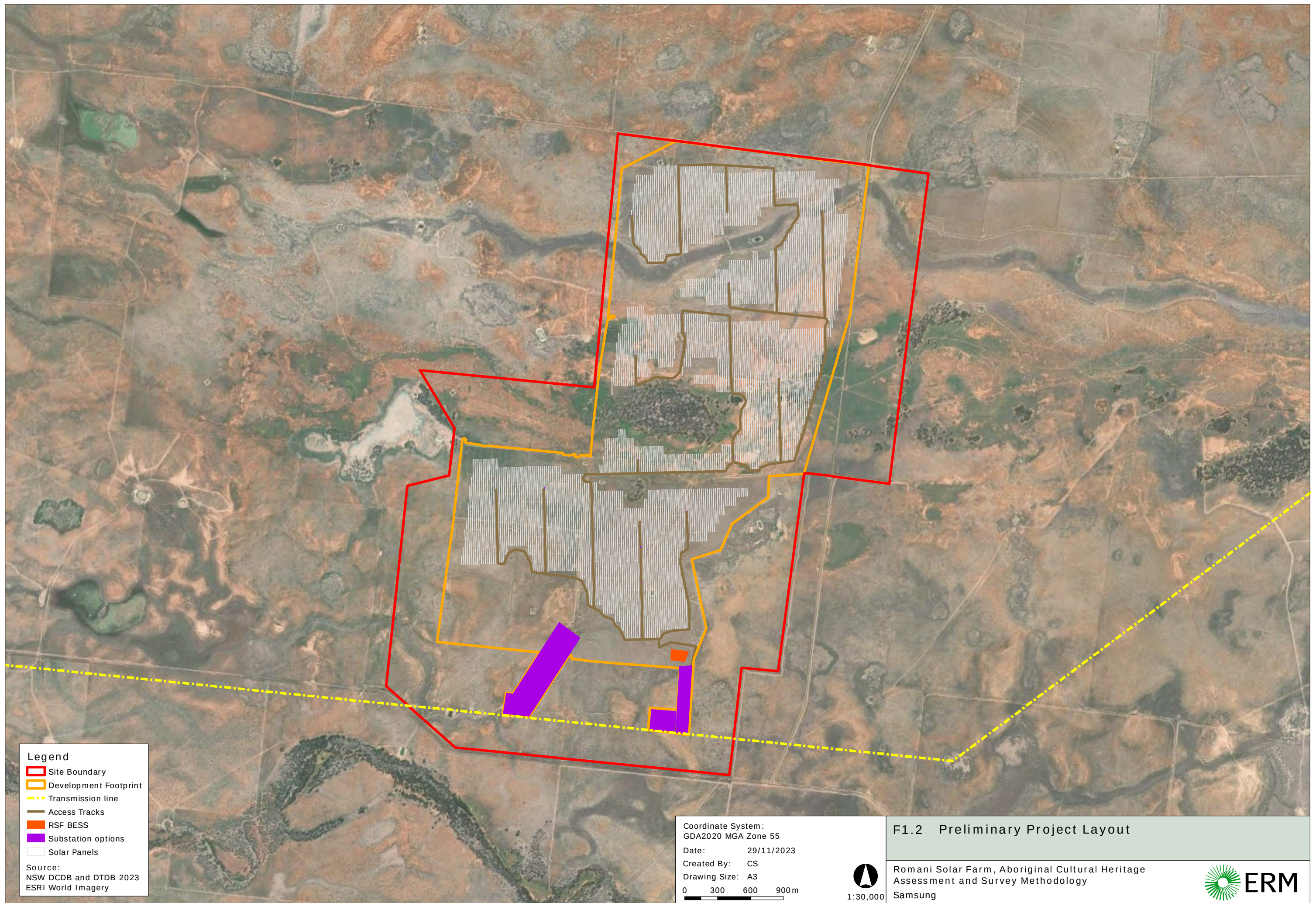
The Project will also require additional project infrastructure and associated works including:

- Underground electrical layouts connecting panels;
- Internal access roads to connect panels and ancillary infrastructure;
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Building;
- Substations; and
- Additional switchyard and transformer.

The Project will require the following construction and temporary facilities:

- Temporary construction facilities such as offices, car park and amenities;
- Fencing and landscaping works;
- Delivery of project components, including panels, battery modules, substations, transformers and associated components;
- Installing maintenance and environmental managements processes and equipment;
- Earthworks required to establish hardstand and laydown areas;
- Installation of underground and overhead cabling; and
- Access to project site via Booororban-Tchelery Road.





Legend

- Site Boundary
- Development Footprint
- Transmission line
- Access Tracks
- RSF BESS
- Substation options
- Solar Panels

Source:
NSW DCDB and DTDB 2023
ESRI World Imagery

Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Date: 29/11/2023

Created By: CS

Drawing Size: A3

0 300 600 900 m

1:30,000

F1.2 Preliminary Project Layout

Romani Solar Farm, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Assessment and Survey Methodology

Samsung

 **ERM**

1.3 HERITAGE BACKGROUND

ERM recognises that the primary source of information regarding the Aboriginal cultural values and significance of a place is Aboriginal knowledge holders. The following background has been prepared as a summary of the current understanding of the environmental, historical, and archaeological background of the Project Area. This information has been used to develop an understanding of the potential cultural heritage values and sites which may be present which will be utilised in conjunction with RAP feedback to develop the proposed assessment approach.

1.3.1 ABORIGINAL LAND USE

Aboriginal people have occupied the Australian continent for at least 40,000 years, with some reports of 60,000 years and beyond. There have been no dated excavations in the Project Area, however it is located around 190 km south-east of Lake Mungo, one of the most famous archaeological sites in Australia that has been dated back as far as 40,000 BP years (Hiscock 2000:21-22).

Within the Riverine Plains region are three major language groups, the Kulin language group (Mathi Mathi, Wathi Wathi, Nari Nari and Wemba Wemba) which cover the western side of the region, the Wiradjuri language groups which covers the northern portion of the region, and the Murray River language group (Yita Yita, Yota Yota and Pangerang) covering the southern portion of the region (Pardoe and Martin, 2001).

Several ethnographic accounts of Aboriginal people are available for the region, however as noted by Barber (2015), these ethnographies provide only a glimpse of a way of life which had already been impacted by disease and colonialism. Consequently, it is noted that the ethnographic record cannot provide a detailed and accurate understanding of how Aboriginal groups of the region inhabited the landscape without the influence of European arrival.

Ethnographic histories may however provide some insight into Aboriginal land use and culture at the time of colonisation. For example, Beveridge (1884) describes the communities of the Lower Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, and Darling areas as family oriented. Daily life often consisted of hunting or gathering, cooking, or preparing food, preparing tools and canoes, and telling stories or playing games. Beveridge notes that these groups had substantial commercial networks, with trade suggested to extend up to far north Queensland.

The Nari Nari and Wiradjuri people in the Boooroorban and Hay area were adept at identifying and utilising local resources. During the natural flooding of the rivers, swamps and river flats were inundated and billabongs filled. Shellfish, waterfowl, and fish provided a significant part of the diet and relatively small areas of land were able to support large groups of people. Canoes were made from a single sheet of Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) or Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) bark. The Nyangay Creek is to the north of the Project Area, and the Coleambally Outfall Drain to the south.

The effect of colonial settlement was initially felt through the rampant spread of disease, which had originally spread from the early colonial holdings along the coastline. By the time colonial explorers had reached the interior disease had ravaged the Aboriginal population. The situation grew even more dire as the true effects of colonialism reached the region and the traditional lands of the communities were possessed by settlers who used them for farming or herding.

During this time resistance by Aboriginal people was usually met with retaliatory acts of violence. Those who had survived both disease and frontier violence were forced to adapt to a different world, as their access to their traditional way of life was blocked by colonial expansion. During this period, many had no other choice except to integrate into the new colonial settlements, as a result, the traditional way of life, along with the acts of hunting, gathering, religious life, marriage links, and ceremonial sites were disrupted or destroyed.

1.3.2 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

Several archaeological surveys and reports have been conducted within the region and the surrounding landscape for renewable energy projects and other land management programs. These are briefly discussed below.

Transgrid EnergyConnect, Buronga to Wagga Wagga

Navin Officer Heritage Consultants (NOHC, 2022) completed an ACHAR to support the EIS and Submissions Report for Project EnergyConnect, a new High Voltage interconnector between NSW and SA. The transmission line route traversed Booroorban-Tchelery Road, approximately 300 m south of the Project Area.

Survey was completed for approximately 97% of the proposed alignment. During the surveys, 105 new Aboriginal sites and 45 areas of PAD were identified, as well as two new non-Aboriginal historical archaeological sites. The most common new site types identified were isolated finds (n=45) and artefact scatters (n=23). Of these, the sites within the locality of the Project Area included earth mounds, isolated artefacts, burials, hearths, artefact scatters, and culturally modified trees (scarred). It was noted that these sites, especially the earth mounds, highlight that people returned to the area throughout the climatic changes, for various reasons including sedentary lifestyle and for burials.

Keri Keri Renewable Energy Project, Kerri Kerri

NGH Environmental (NGH, 2020) completed a Preliminary Cultural Heritage Study on behalf of Acciona for the Keri Keri renewable energy project, which is located approximately 70 km west of the Project Area. The desktop report investigated the preliminary issues relating to cultural heritage potential opportunities and constraints relevant to the project area. Several Aboriginal sites were assessed, and sensitive landscape mapping identified that further archaeological assessment would be required during the development pathway. Preliminary assessment suggested that Aboriginal use of the landscape was seasonally intermittent. The results of these surveys in the landscape immediately adjacent to and within Keri Keri was considered by NGH to suggest that the region of the Hay Plain was extremely sensitive due to its proximity to major regional (and seasonal) waterways along with other landscape features including ancient palaeochannels and relict lake features including lunettes.

Sunraysia Solar Farm, Balranald

NGH Environmental (2016) surveyed 800 ha of land for the proposed Sunraysia Solar Farm near Balranald, located approximately 110 km north-west of the Project Area. The survey recorded three sites comprising two clusters of burnt clay recorded as ovens, and a site complex of seven stone artefacts and three hearths. NGH noted that a lack of culturally modified trees recorded in the assessment area was likely due to historic clearance and the

lack of permanent water. NGH interpreted the nature of the archaeological material within this landscape to suggest that Aboriginal use of the landscape was intermittent.

1.3.3 EXISTING PREDICTIVE MODELS

The Project Area is located within the Murrumbidgee Province of the Riverina Bioregion. The Murrumbidgee Province is generally comprised of a natural flat landscape largely consisting of clays, silts and sands which historically has been subject to a consistent cycle of annual flooding. Environmental influences on this landscape have varied dramatically over time with post glacial climate changes in the Holocene reducing flood peaks and sediment load. Over time this has resulted in modern watercourses crossing and cutting through earlier palaeochannels. These landscape features provide complexity to an assessment of archaeological sensitivity within the Riverine region that may not be identified through the predictive features of the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b).

A localised landscape based predictive model was developed by Colin Pardoe for the 'Murrumbidgee Province' as part of the Murrumbidgee Province Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (Pardoe and Martin, 2001). This predictive model has focused on the localised landform features and their relationship to site identification and includes assessment of the Project Area. Pardoe's assessments considered the relationship between several landform features and the location of sites making the following conclusions.

- Water – The pattern of site distribution was identified as having its greatest concentration within close proximity to watercourses. Some variation in site distribution based on water source type was also noted:
 - Major Streams – No site was located more than 12 km from a major river channel with most sites found with a short distance of this channel (75% of sites were within 3.3 km of a major stream).
 - Minor Streams – No site was located more than 12 km from a minor stream (75% were within 2.2 km).
 - Lakes – More than 82% of sites are found within 8 km of a lake.
 - Swamps – No obvious pattern of distribution was identified which was attributed to variations in the way swamps are described in official mapping data
- Landforms – Plains made up 93% of the province, and as such minor variations in landform were noted to be significant as an impetus to the flow of water and location of resources. While sites were identified across most landforms patterns; channelled plain and confined trace landforms were identified as containing a disproportionate number of sites. These landforms were most often associated with the modern active floodplain. Comparatively, burials were most often associated with scalded, channelled and depressed plains associated with paleo environments.
- Soils – Soil type was noted for its association with water resources and vegetation communities. Based on this association, varying soil types were identified to be associated more closely with site features (hearths, mounds etc) rather than overall site distribution.

Additional large-scale reviews of archaeological site types were completed by Martin in her review of the Hay Plain (Martin 2007 and Martin 2010). Martin noted a number of patterns in site distribution related to environmental features. In particular Martin noted that:

- The narrow floodplains or confined traces of the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan, the Lowbidgee distributary system, the Gum Creek palaeochannel, and the Abercrombie Creek system in the Hay Plain have the highest density of sites;
- Large open water lakes also have a high density of sites;
- Sites are widely spread over different geomorphic categories across the Hay Plain with certain site types most likely to be identified in specific soil types. Confined traces (including the Murrumbidgee River), plains with channels, plains with depressions and channelled plains contained a higher density of sites. Localised landforms including lunettes and lakes were also identified to have a higher-than-average site density;
- Mounds were identified to be located in particular areas of the Hay Plain and not directly related to geomorphology. Mounds were noted to be particularly dense along confined traces of the Lowbidgee and Hay Plain Southeast;
- Middens were identified to be largely located along the confined traces of the major rivers and on the banks of large water lakes and lunettes;
- Open sites were more commonly found away from riverine grey cracking clays;
- Burials appeared to cluster in the western portion of the Hay Plain in similar locations to mounds. These sites were not identified to be connected to geomorphology;
- Artefact sites and ground ovens were recorded to have been spread widely across the Hay Plain; and
- All archaeological site types were considered likely to occur on slightly raised, sandier palaeochannel features.

Martin noted that on a wider scale, the gently west sloped topography of the Hay Plain was identified to have an influence on the overall presence of sites. Martin suggested this may have been related to earlier water retention environments. Prior to modern water control systems, it was noted that the western half of the Hay Plain would have acted as a sump which collected seasonal floodwater and excess rainfall and would have provided appropriate resources for the growth of many plant and animal resources. Mound sites in the area surrounding Gum Creek and the Abercrombie Creek System were noted to be focused on palaeochannel features and around ephemeral lakes and swamps (Martin 2007: 199).

Most of the Project Area is comprised of landform types which were identified by Pardoe and Martin as having the potential to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage. Sensitivity mapping focused on delineating sensitivity into zones based on types of sites which would be expected in each landscape. Areas associated with scalded plains and paleo environments were assessed to contain high archaeological sensitivity associated with their potential to contain burials and intact deposits while depression plains and otherwise clay-based deposits were considered to demonstrate moderate sensitivity. Delineation of soil landscapes was based off data available from the Reconnaissance Soil Landscape of the Riverine Plains (Department of Natural Resources, 2006), which was subsequently adjusted based on visual clues available from aerial imagery.

In addition to the large number of tangible cultural heritage remains identified across the Murrumbidgee Province, Pardoe and Martin also noted that intangible ceremonial, dreaming, and story sites were common through the region. These were often associated with landscape features such as waterholes, hills, trees, or other minor features.

Preliminary and development constraints mapping for the Project Area was provided GHD's Tchelery Solar Farm, Preliminary Site Assessment report (2023). This was based on cultural heritage sensitivity provided in Ozark's Tchelery Solar Farm Preliminary Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (2023). Preliminary cultural heritage sensitivity based on these two reports is provided in Figure 6.1. Detailed environmental modelling and ground-truthing would be required to adequately categorise the archaeological and cultural sensitivity of the Project Area.

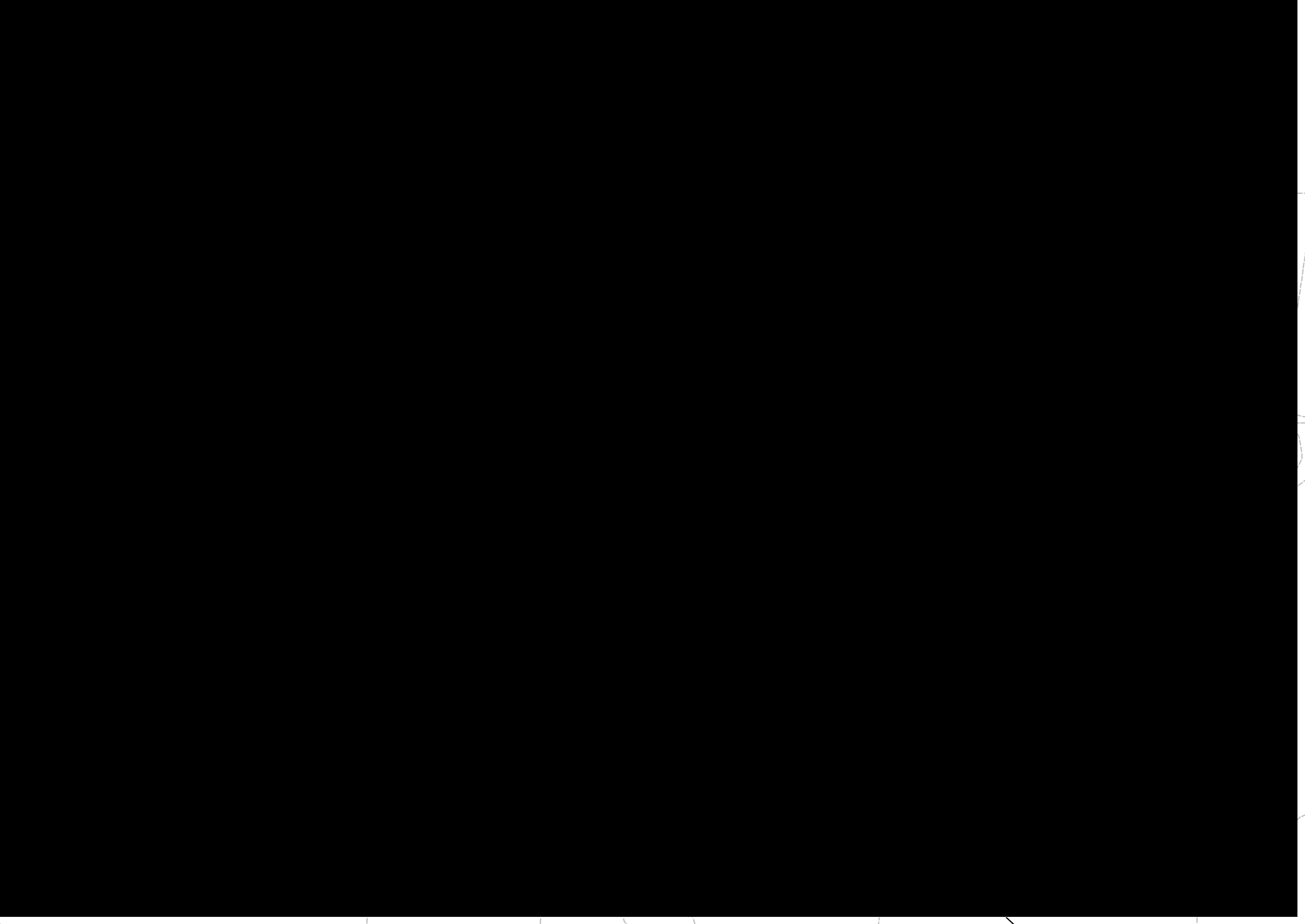
1.3.4 AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database provides information concerning previously recorded Aboriginal sites in NSW. An extensive search of the AHIMS database using a shapefile, was conducted on 26 September 2023 for the Project Area. The search was conducted utilising the parameters provided in Table 1-3.

TABLE 1-3 AHIMS DATABASE SEARCH DETAILS

Parameters	Search
Client Service ID	823173
Buffer	1000 m
Number Sites	1

One site was identified within or in close proximity to the Project Area; AHIMS #48-5-0461 'Tchelery Hearth Complex 1' is a Hearth site located within the 1000 m buffer of the Project Area. Its location is illustrated in Figure 1.3.



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2. FIELD INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGY

The following field investigation methodology has been developed to further assess the significance of the Project Area. Field investigation is proposed to be undertaken over a 5-day period. The survey length may extend depending on site survey results and design changes.

2.1 FIELD SURVEY FOR SOLAR FARM

An archaeological survey of the Solar Farm will aim to identify all Aboriginal sites and areas of cultural significance present within the proposed impact footprint of the Project Area. Survey would include the identification of any areas of PAD and would ground truth the locations of any previously registered Aboriginal sites within the impact footprint.

ERM proposes to undertake the survey with the following conditions:

- A survey would be undertaken across the full extent of the Solar Farm impact footprint;
- The Solar Farm footprint would be delineated into landforms, with survey including investigation of each individual landform across the Solar Farm impact footprint. Survey would also include investigation of varying soil landscapes, varying distances from watercourses and areas of intact vegetation where they overlap with the impact footprint;
- The survey will consist of all participants traversing the selected areas of the impact footprint using transects. Transects will include a sample of each individual landform across the Project Area. Transect spacing will vary across the survey area, between 10 to 50 m apart, based on the level of archaeological potential identified during predictive modelling (see Figure 1.3), level of ground surface visibility, and feedback provided by the RAPs. Areas of high archaeological potential and/or higher levels of ground surface visibility would be subject to a more detailed ground survey;
- A site discussion will be held with the RAPs at the commencement of each field survey to refine the proposed survey sampling strategy, to discuss sensitive landforms or locations, proposed targeted survey areas, and any relevant cultural information;
- The survey will be undertaken on foot, with two teams comprised of one archaeologist and up to four RAPs per team. Survey will be limited to areas that can be traversed on foot;
- Identified objects will be recorded in situ and will remain onsite; and
- Any cultural heritage information for the study area shared by the RAPs will be recorded during the field survey. Any cultural knowledge provided will be treated in confidence and the information will be distributed according to the wishes of the provider.

2.2 SITES CONTAINING HUMAN REMAINS

Where potential ancestral remains are identified they would be subject to a non-invasive recording via photograph and GPS. The extent of the potential remains and an appropriate buffer zone to avoid potential impact to the remains during the remainder of the survey program would be discussed with the RAPs, recorded, and implemented. Identified potential ancestral remains would not be touched during the recording process. Preliminary discussions with the RAPs would also be held to discuss potential mechanisms to manage the remains during construction and operational phases of the project. Identified buffer zones would be provided to the proponent to be incorporated into detailed design considerations.

As part of the preliminary recording, recommendations for long-term management of the remains would also be sought from the RAPs. At the end of the survey program, all potential ancestral remains would be reported to NSW Police and subject to inspection by a forensic anthropologist in accordance with the *Coroners Act 2009*. Heritage NSW would also be notified of the finds with all confirmed ancestral remains registered on the AHIMS database.

2.3 SITE RECORDING

All Aboriginal objects and sites would be recorded and registered on the AHIMS database at the end of the field survey.

Feedback from the RAPs would be sought to identify any culturally sensitive or gendered sites which may need to be registered as a restricted site.

2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTING

The results of the archaeological field investigation would be documented in an ACHAR. The report would detail the results of the field investigation and would be completed in accordance with the Code of Practice.

2.5 TEST EXCAVATION

At present, test excavation has not been incorporated into the current methodology.

Areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) will be recorded during the survey and reviewed against the design layout to confirm if they would be subject to impact by the Project. Where impact cannot be avoided, mechanisms to further investigate these sites through archaeological excavation would be recommended.

Any test excavation program would be subject to a separate test excavation methodology which would be subject to consultation with the RAPs.

2.6 ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

It is proposed that the survey would consist of one survey team. The survey team is proposed to be comprised of two archaeologists and between four to six RAPs per day. It would be the site archaeologist's responsibility to perform all photographic tasks and site recording and ensure adequate site recording is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice and this methodology.

A copy of this proposed survey methodology has been sent to all RAPs to provide any comments they may have prior to its implementation.

3. ACHAR METHODOLOGY

The ACHAR will be prepared in accordance with the Heritage NSW Consultation Requirements and the Code of Practice and will include the following steps.

3.1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND PREDICTIVE MODELLING

A background assessment will review and analyse existing background information to gain a contextual understanding of the cultural landscape associated with the Project Area. Review of background information will include assessment of environmental information, former historic land use, available ethnographic information, as well as existing registered Aboriginal heritage sites and reports.

This stage is ongoing, with preliminary information identified throughout this phase summarised in Section 2 above.

3.2 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Aboriginal community consultation for the project is proceeding in accordance with the Consultation Requirements which involved the following four key steps:

1. **Stage 1:** Notification of project proposal and registration of interest;
2. **Stage 2:** Presentation of information about the proposed project;
3. **Stage 3:** Gathering information about cultural significance; and
4. **Stage 4:** Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report.

- **Stage 1** has been completed and included the following steps:

- Placement of a public advertisement in the Riverine Grazier, and the Deni Pastoral Times;
- Liaison with relevant legislative bodies to identify potentially interested parties; and
- Liaison with potential interested parties identified to invite them to register an interest in the project.

- **Stage 2** and **Stage 3** is currently underway and includes the preparation of the current document to present information regarding the proposed project and assessment methodology. This document also requires information regarding the cultural significance of the Project Area. Feedback on this document will be requested within 28 days of its issue to RAPs.

- **Stage 4** will involve the provision of the Draft ACHAR for review. The Draft ACHAR will provide a summary of the identified Aboriginal heritage values identified and the assessed impacts associated with the development. The report will also identify mitigation and management measures. The review of the Draft ACHAR will request feedback to confirm that the cultural values of the Project Area have been adequately identified and that the proposed management and mitigation measures for any impacts are appropriate.

3.3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL VALUES

The identification and assessment of cultural values will be completed using a combination of consultation with RAPs and field investigation:

- Field investigation for the Project is proposed to involve the field survey component as detailed above;
- Identification and recording of cultural values will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs where possible, information on identified cultural values will be supplemented by the identification of cultural values through the review of previous reporting and publicly available information; and
- Assessment of cultural values will include consideration of Social, Historical, Aesthetic and Scientific values within the Project Area.

3.4 ASSESSMENT OF HARM

Following the identification of Aboriginal cultural values for the respective Project Area, an impact assessment will be completed to identify whether any Aboriginal Objects, Places or cultural values will be harmed by the proposed works. This assessment of harm will be included in the ACHAR.

Where harm is identified which cannot be avoided, recommendations to manage and mitigate the harm will be proposed.

Harm would only be authorised as part of the Project's Conditions of Approval.

3.5 ASSESSMENT TIMEFRAMES

Proposed timing for completion of tasks associated with both field investigation and the ACHAR is provided below.

It is noted that timing for field investigations would be subject to weather conditions and site access.

TABLE 3-1 ASSESMENT TIMEFRAMES

Assessment Step	Description	Indicative Timing	Proposed Timeframe
Stage 1 – consultation process	Development of RAP list through: - Feedback from government bodies; - Placement of adverts in The Riverine Grazier and the Deni Pastoral Times; and - Contacting parties identified by government bodies.	October 2023	6 weeks (minimum 14 days from placement of adverts and invitation to register)
Stage 2 and Stage 3 – consultation process	Development and review by RAPs of project information and proposed assessment methodology. Provision of RAP list to the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Heritage NSW.	November 2023 – December 2023	28 days
Revision of assessment methodology based on RAP comments	Updates to methodology based on feedback received during RAP review.	January 2024	1 week
Field program	Field survey.	Late January – February 2024	5 Days
Post field recording and reporting	Drafting of ACHAR.	February – March 2024	6 weeks
RAP review of draft ACHAR	Review of ACHAR.	March 2024	28 days
Finalisation of ACHAR		March-April 2024	2 weeks

4. FEEDBACK

ERM requests that you review and provide feedback on this information package and express your interest in participating in the fieldwork program by **27 December 2023**.

As part of your response ERM asks you to consider:

- a. whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the Project Area or surrounds; and
- b. whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the Project Area or surrounds.

Any cultural knowledge provided by Aboriginal stakeholders will be treated in confidence and the information will be distributed according to their wishes.

If you wish to be involved in the field investigation program, please include copies of your public liability and worker's compensation insurance as part of your expression of interest.

Please provide feedback to **Lorien Perchard** at the following contact details:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd

[REDACTED]

Managing Consultant – Heritage

5. REFERENCES

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Kenya	US
Malaysia	Vietnam
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Mozambique	

ERM's Sydney Office

Level 14, 207 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000



www.erm.com

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 November 2023 8:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

Please find attached a copy of the ACHAR methodology for the upcoming project which includes mapping of the area for your reference. The methodology includes details on how the field assessment and the ACHAR are proposed to be undertaken. The document also requests any feedback you may have on the assessment procedure including any cultural values or areas of significance within the project area. We request that any feedback is provided by **28th December 2023**.

Please note that ERM will have a Christmas closure from 23 December 2023 to 7 January 2024. Should you email during that time, we will respond when we return to the office on 8 January 2024.

We will confirm fieldwork dates as soon as possible for you. If you are interested in participating in the survey please let us know so we can include you in the preparations that will kick-off over the next month or so. If you are interested in participating in the survey, could you please provide a quote for an hourly rate and include any insurances and public liability documents you may have, if you haven't already.

If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you again.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]

At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 9:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

Please find attached a copy of the ACHAR methodology for the upcoming project which includes mapping of the area for your reference. The methodology includes details on how the field assessment and the ACHAR are proposed to be undertaken. The document also requests any feedback you may have on the assessment procedure including any cultural values or areas of significance within the project area. We request that any feedback is provided by **3rd January 2023**.

Please note that ERM will have a Christmas closure from 23 December 2023 to 7 January 2024. Should you email during that time, we will respond when we return to the office on 8 January 2024.

We will confirm fieldwork dates as soon as possible for you. If you are interested in participating in the survey please let us know so we can include you in the preparations that will kick-off over the next month or so. If you are interested in participating in the survey, could you please provide a quote for an hourly rate and include any insurances and public liability documents you may have, if you haven't already.

If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you again.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]

At ERM we work flexibly. There may be times that I'm sending an email out of hours because it suits me to do so. I don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own working hours.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 November 2023 8:57 AM
To: [REDACTED] rchard
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

Please find attached a copy of the ACHAR methodology for the upcoming project which includes mapping of the area for your reference. The methodology includes details on how the field assessment and the ACHAR are proposed to be undertaken. The document also requests any feedback you may have on the assessment procedure including any cultural values or areas of significance within the project area. We request that any feedback is provided by **28th December 2023**.

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If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you.

Many thanks,
Tori



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 3:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi John,

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

Please find attached a copy of the ACHAR methodology for the upcoming project which includes mapping of the area for your reference. The methodology includes details on how the field assessment and the ACHAR are proposed to be undertaken. The document also requests any feedback you may have on the assessment procedure including any cultural values or areas of significance within the project area. We request that any feedback is provided by **3rd January 2023**.

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If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you again.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 November 2023 8:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

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If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you again.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 November 2023 8:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

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If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 9:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

Please find attached a copy of the ACHAR methodology for the upcoming project which includes mapping of the area for your reference. The methodology includes details on how the field assessment and the ACHAR are proposed to be undertaken. The document also requests any feedback you may have on the assessment procedure including any cultural values or areas of significance within the project area. We request that any feedback is provided by **3rd January 2023**.

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If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you again.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 January 2024 10:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi Thomas.

Thank you for your registration. I note that the registration time frame closed on the 10th November for RAPs and the methodology review time frame finished on the 3rd January however I have attached the project methodology here for your reference. If you have any comments, please let me know so we can consider it moving forward for the field work planning stage.

I'll be in touch with further information as the project continues.

Cheers, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Managing Consultant

Sydney

[erm.com](https://www.erm.com)

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 24, 2023 7:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Invitation to Register - Romani Solar- ACHAR

Good evening Lorien

Thank you for the invite.

I would like to register an interest as a RAP please.

Can you please confirm my registration when you get a chance.

Thank you and have a great week.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

On 26 Oct 2023, at 1:15 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

In accordance with Section 4.1.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached an Invitation to Register an interest to participate in Aboriginal community consultation for the Romani Solar Farm Project located on Boooroorban Tchelery Road approx. 44km southwest of Hay, NSW (see Figure 1).

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any queries or wish to register your interest to participate throughout the process. A response before the 10th November would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Managing Heritage Consultant

Level 14 207 Kent St Sydney NSW 2000 erm.com
[REDACTED]

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[<image002.jpg>](#)

This e-mail and any attachments may contain proprietary, confidential and/or privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission errors. This communication is intended solely for the intended recipient, and if you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately, delete it from your system and do not copy, distribute, disclose, or otherwise act upon any part of this email communication or its attachments. To find out how the ERM Group manages personal data please review our [Privacy Policy](#)

<Romani Solar Farm_Invitation_to_Register_Thomas Dahlstrom.pdf>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 9:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

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If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 November 2023 8:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

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If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 9:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: 0704056 Samsung Romani Solar Farm ACHAR Methodology V2.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

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If you have any queries, please let me know. We look forward to working with you again.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 5 December 2023 9:10 PM
To: [REDACTED] ttle
Subject: Re: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology
Attachments: Certificate of Currency.pdf; Work Cover COC.pdf

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

Hi [REDACTED]

We wish to participate in the field work. I charge a flat rate of \$1500 per day. please see attached certificates of curacy.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

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Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

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This e-mail and any attachments may contain proprietary, confidential and/or privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any transmission errors. This communication is intended solely for the intended recipient, and if you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately, delete it from your system and do not copy, distribute, disclose, or otherwise act upon any part of this email communication or its attachments. To find out how the ERM Group manages personal data please review our [Privacy Policy](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 January 2024 6:40 PM
To: [REDACTED].au; Lorien Perchard
Subject: Re: Romani Solar Farm - ACHAR Methodology

Hi [REDACTED]

Happy New Year!

I'm writing to let you know that Southern West Yiradyuri Traditional Owner Corporation has no comment on the methodology.

Thanks, Will.

On Thu, Nov 30, 2023 at 8:59 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for registering your interest to be included in the consultation process for the Romani Solar Farm project located to the south of Hay, NSW (within Deniliquin LALC boundary).

Please find attached a copy of the ACHAR methodology for the upcoming project which includes mapping of the area for your reference. The methodology includes details on how the field assessment and the ACHAR are proposed to be undertaken. The document also requests any feedback you may have on the assessment procedure including any cultural values or areas of significance within the project area. We request that any feedback is provided by **28th December 2023**.

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Many thanks,



Sustainability is our business

[Redacted]
Senior Consultant
She/Her/Hers

Newcastle
[Redacted]

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--

Yalgirri dhunyal (speak soon),



Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation



I acknowledge Southern West Yiradyuri People as the Traditional Owners of Southern West Yiradyuri Country and pay respect to our unbroken connection to Land, Water and Sky Country, Culture and Community. I also acknowledge and pay my respect to Elders past and present.



APPENDIX I

AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS



AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : Upper Hunter SF (0693265)

Client Service ID : 823173

Environmental Resources Management - Melbourne

Date: 26 September 2023

Level 6 99 King Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Attention: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Search using shape-file

Site Boundary Buffer 10k 20230922 with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Due Diligence,
conducted by Victoria Cottle on 26 September 2023.

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

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 \(https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette\)](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 to 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.



AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Upper Hunter SF (0693265)

Client Service ID : 823173

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status **</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
48-5-0461	Tchelery Hearth Complex 1	GDA	55			Open site	Valid	Hearth : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management - Dubbo, Miss. Eleanore Martin					<u>Permits</u>		

** 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 26/09/2023 for Victoria Cottle for the following area at Search using shape-file Site_Boundary_Buffer_10k_20230922 with a buffer of 0 meters.

Additional Info : Due Diligence. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 1

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 : Romani 2024

Client Service ID : 934287

Environmental Resources Management - Melbourne

Date: 26 September 2024

Level 6 99 King Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Attention: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Search using shape-file

Site Boundary Buffer 10k 20230922 with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Archaeological

Assessment, conducted by Charles Barnett on 26 September 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:

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 \(https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette\)](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 to be made available to the public.
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- 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.

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
48-5-0665	RSF SUA 09	GDA	55			Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Environmental Resources Management - Melbourne, Miss. Meghyn Mathison					Permits		
	Contact	Recorders	Environmental Resources Management - Melbourne, Miss. Meghyn Mathison					Permits		
48-5-0673	RSF SUA 01	GDA	55			Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Hearth : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Environmental Resources Management - Melbourne, Miss. Meghyn Mathison					Permits		
48-5-0672	RSF SUA 02	GDA	55			Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Hearth : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Environmental Resources Management - Melbourne, Miss. Meghyn Mathison					Permits		
48-5-0461	Tchelery Hearth Complex 1	GDA	55			Open site	Valid	Hearth : -		
48-5-0663	RSF SUA 11	GDA	55	279041	6138993	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
48-5-0666	RSF SUA 08	GDA	55			Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
48-5-0670	RSF SUA 04	GDA	55			Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Environmental Resources Management - Melbourne, Miss. Meghyn Mathison					Permits		



AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Romani 2024

Client Service ID : 934287

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status **</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
---------------	-----------------	--------------	-------------	----------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------------	---------------------	------------------	----------------

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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 26/09/2024 for Charles Barnett for the following area at Search using shape-file Site_Boundary_Buffer_10k_20230922 with a buffer of 0 meters.

Additional Info : Archaeological Assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 12

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 J

DRAFT REPORT CONSULTATION

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Romani Solar Farm Draft ACHAR - Review
Date: Friday, 4 October 2024 12:50:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

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If you have any queries, please reach out for further explanation.

I hope you have a lovely weekend!

Many thanks,

ERM

[REDACTED]
Managing Consultant

Newcastle

erm.com

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Lorien Perchard shared the folder "Romani BESS ACHAR RAP Review" with you
Date: Tuesday, 6 May 2025 7:12:42 PM
Attachments: [AttachedImage](#)
[AttachedImage](#)
[AttachedImage](#)
[AttachedImage](#)

-->



Lorien Perchard shared a folder with you

-->

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If you have any comments you want included, or changes made within this ACHAR please let us know by the 3rd June.

Cheers, Lorien



Romani BESS ACHAR RAP Review



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From:

To:

Subject:

Date:

Attachments:

Lorien Perchard shared the folder "Romani BESS ACHAR RAP Review" with you

Tuesday, 6 May 2025 7:12:46 PM

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Romani BESS ACHAR RAP Review



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From:

To:

Subject:

Date:

Attachments:

Lorien Perchard shared the folder "Romani BESS ACHAR RAP Review" with you

Tuesday, 6 May 2025 7:12:45 PM

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Tuesday, 6 May 2025 7:12:41 PM

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Tuesday, 6 May 2025 7:12:47 PM

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Date: Friday, 4 October 2024 1:54:08 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Thank U I am reviewing your report now. Thanks [REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Oct 2024, 12:50 pm [REDACTED] wrote:

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Hong Kong	Spain
India	Switzerland
Indonesia	Taiwan
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