

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

Table 1 below identifies the relevant matters raised by Heritage NSW and sets out the Applicant's response to these submissions.

Table 1 Applicant Response to Submissions

No.	Issue Raised	Applicant Response	Refer to sections in ACHAR and ATR where relevant
HNSW-ACH-1	The ACHAR contains discrepancies in the total number of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) recognised for the project. We note, for example, that Darug Custodians is listed twice in Table 2 (List of registered Stakeholders), while Table 3 in Section 2.1.4 (Proposed assessment methodology) includes responses from two parties (including Pearl Depoma and Kayelene Terry/ Bariyan Cultural Connections) who are not listed as RAPs for the project in Table 2. Further, an email correspondence between Artefact Heritage and Environment Pty Ltd and Jesse Johnson included in the consultation appendix (email dated 11 January 2024) indicates that this individual was to be included in the consultation process despite the late registration. We note, however, that this party has not been included in the list of RAPs in ACHAR and has not been provided with Stage 4 consultation. Please provide clarification regarding this discrepancy and ensure that the list of RAPs is accurate and complete for any future consultation regarding the project.	Artefact Environment and Heritage <i>Table 2 (List of registered Stakeholders) has been updated by Artefact with the following details.</i> <i>1. The duplication of Darug Custodians has been resolved. 2. Pearl Depoma has been added 3. Kayelene Terry - Bariyan Cultural Connections has been added 4. Jesse Johnson - Murgadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation has been added. The final version of the ACHAR was provided to Jesse Johnson - Muragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation on 25 March 2025. Our email has stated the oversight and that any comments received from Muragadi will be incorporated into the ACHAR</i>	Section 2.1.3 in ACHAR 'Registration of Aboriginal parties ' Table 2 P. 5 has been updated to include the correct list of Registered Aboriginal Stakeholders. Section 2.1.6 on p.7 in ACHAR. has been updated to include a statement that Muragadi Heritage Indigenous had been sent the final report on 25 March 2025 The Consultation log has been updated and copy of email is within Appendix 10.1 link on p. 40 of ACHAR
HNSW-ACH-2	Heritage NSW notes that the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search is greater than 12 months old at the time of submission. As per	Artefact Environment and Heritage	Section 3.4 'AHIMS Search' and map on Pp. 13 & 14 of the ACHAR have been

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	Requirement 1b of the Code of Practice, AHIMS searches must be contemporaneous with the project (less than 12 months). Please update the AHIMS search and review for currency.	Artefact has updated the AHIMS site search and associated map in the ACHAR and ATR	updated to include new sites. Section 3.1 Pp 5 & 6 and Map on p. 10 has been updated.
HNSW-ACH-3	Aboriginal Heritage All reasonable steps must be taken to avoid harm, modification, or other impact to Aboriginal objects except as authorised by this approval.	Artefact Environment and Heritage <i>The ACHAR states on p iii states that 'no Aboriginal sites and no areas of increased archaeological potential or sensitivity were identified during the assessment. Therefore, no impacts are expected to Aboriginal objects and there is no requirement to undertake further archaeological investigations'. The 'Recommendations' section within the Executive Summary on p.iv and on p 37 of the ACHAR also recommends that 'An unexpected finds procedure should be prepared in consultation with the RAPs and would be implemented in the event of any unexpected finds of Aboriginal sites, objects, or archaeological deposits being identified'.</i>	Refer to p iii and p iv of 'Summary', and 'Recommendations' p.37 of ACHAR which details summary of investigations and recommendations, Including an 'unexpected finds procedure.' The proponent will engage a suitably qualified consultant to complete these works where necessary.
HNSW-ACH-4	Aboriginal Heritage The Registered Aboriginal Parties must be kept informed about the SSD. The Registered Aboriginal Parties must continue to be provided with the opportunity to be consulted about the Aboriginal cultural heritage management requirements of the SSD.		Artefact has been engaged to maintain engagement/updates until the end of 2026
HNSW-ACH-5	Aboriginal Heritage Prior to carrying out any development, the Applicant must ensure Aboriginal heritage management procedures are prepared for the development and included in the Project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The Aboriginal heritage management procedures must: a. be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons; b. be prepared in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties and be reviewed by Heritage NSW; c. include a description of the measures that		The proponent will engage a suitably qualified consultant to complete these works where necessary.

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would be implemented for:

- i. ongoing consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties, including consultation regarding changes to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- ii. a contingency plan and reporting procedure for the management of Unexpected Heritage Finds and Human Remains that is prepared by suitably qualified and experienced heritage specialist in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties and in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (2010). The Unexpected Heritage Finds and Human Remains Procedure, as submitted to the Planning Secretary, must be implemented for the duration of construction.
- iii. ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that records are kept of these inductions.

HNSW-E- Unexpected finds procedure

- 3 A procedure for the management of unexpected relics and human remains must be developed in consultation with Heritage NSW. This procedure must:
- a. be prepared in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines and codes of practice
 - b. include a hold point requiring the development of a detailed historical archaeological assessment in the event an unexpected relic is identified.
 - i. The archaeological assessment must be prepared in accordance with the guideline Archaeological Assessments (1996) and Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics (2009) to inform and guide archaeological mitigation measures.
 - ii. If harm cannot be avoided in whole or part, an Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology with a nominated Excavation Director should also be prepared to guide any proposed

The proponent will engage a suitably qualified consultant to complete these works where necessary

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excavations or salvage program.

iii. The Archaeological Assessment must be provided to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for approval in consultation with Heritage NSW.

c. be implemented for the duration of the project.



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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

LGA: Cumberland City Council

Report to Tiberius (Holroyd) Pty Ltd

September 2025



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artefact Heritage and Environment (Artefact) has prepared this report on behalf of Tiberius (Holroyd) Pty Ltd in association with a State Significant Development Application (**SSDA**) for a proposed mixed-use development at 1 Crescent Street, Holroyd (**the site**).

The project has been classified as an SSD (SSD 70283710) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued on 6 May 2024 that specify an ACHAR be prepared to assess any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report prepared by Artefact responds to matters raised by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (**DPHI**), Cumberland City Council, other State government authorities /agencies, utility service providers and the community during public exhibition of SSD-70283710.

The report also assesses the proposed amendments to the original proposal, including changes to the following:

- Stage A – Mixed use podium, Buildings 1 to 3 and supporting infrastructure
- Stage B – Buildings 4 and 5 and supporting infrastructure
- Stage C – Buildings 6 and 7 and supporting infrastructure

The proposed changes extend beyond minor refinements which can be accommodated via a Submissions Report. As a result, a combined Submissions and Amendment Report has been prepared and consent sought from DPHI to amend the SSDA as per section 37 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (**the Regulation**).

To understand the cumulative impact of the above design refinements, the project description has been updated to reflect the proposed amendments to the scheme as originally lodged with DPHI for assessment.

The amended description is provided as follows:

- Site establishment works, tree removal, site preparation, earthworks and excavation, services augmentation, and remediation works.
- Development of seven residential buildings comprising four shop top housing buildings and three residential flat buildings as outlined below:
 - Buildings 1-3 are integrated with an eastern mixed-use podium building, while Building 4 is situated above mixed residential / commercial space, offering shop-top housing.
 - Buildings 5-7 consist of residential flat buildings.
- Delivery of 15% of the total floor space as affordable housing to be distributed across each of the 7 residential buildings, or within a consolidated building proposed proportionately as buildings are developed.
- Approximately 134,173 m² total floor space comprising:
 - A total of 2,496 m² retail GFA and approximately 2,672 m² commercial GFA.
 - 1,374 residential apartments
 - Communal amenity facilities for residents.
 - Building services areas.
- Activation of Crescent Street through a mix of amenity areas and pockets of open space.
- Shared car parking for Buildings 1 to 3 and the commercial and retail tenancies within the podium.
- Shared car parking for Buildings 4 to 7 on the lower ground levels and within the above ground parking structures adjoining Buildings 4-5 and 6-7.
- Landscaping and accompanying place making works including:
 - Public open space, hard and soft landscape works.
 - Ground and rooftop communal open space.
 - Publicly accessible through-site links.

- At grade car parking for the park, forecourt and retail areas.
 - Vehicle access via a new internal publicly accessible road and vehicle accessway.
 - New pedestrian footpaths and access arrangements to the site.
 - Café tenancy within park-side structure.
- Staged completion of a public park.
- Associated works involving the widening of Crescent Street and road upgrades to Crescent Street.

Aboriginal community consultation has been conducted in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, hereafter the Consultation Requirements (DECCW 2010b). A consultation log was maintained with details of all correspondence with the RAPs for the project (Appendix 1). As a result of the interest letters and the advertisement, 19 individuals/organisations responded of which 1 group requested that their details not be disclosed. The remaining 18 groups are listed in below in Table 2.

Overview of findings

An updated extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information System (AHIMS) was undertaken on 25 March 2025 (Client Service ID: 988343) to determine the location of Aboriginal sites in relation to the current study area. The search area centred around the study area and included 2 kilometres of land surrounding the study area to inform the characterisation of the local archaeological context. The AHIMS search parameters were as follows:

GDA 1994, Zone 56	313010 – 317350 E 6252920 – 6257170 N
Buffer	0
Number of sites	90

There were 90 sites AHIMS registered sites found within the search area. There are 0 AHIMS registered sites located within the study area (Figure 3).

An archaeological survey was conducted by foot on 29 November 2023 by a team of five persons. In attendance was Matthew Finlayson (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage), Kieran Murray (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer, Artefact Heritage), Bronwyn Partell (Gandangara LALC), Jamaine Thorne (Gandangara LALC), and Lucas Flecha (Project Director, Tiberius (Holroyd). No Aboriginal objects, sites or areas of PAD were identified within the study area as a result of the archaeological survey (Figure 10).

While the landscape and environment of NSW as a whole is significant to Aboriginal people, no specific Aboriginal heritage values were identified for the study area. However, it is acknowledged that lands to the north of A'becketts Creek were utilised in 1814 as a campsite for Aboriginal clans to attend a conference held by Governor Macquarie in 1814. No Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD were identified with the study area.

No Aboriginal sites and no areas of increased archaeological potential or sensitivity were identified during the assessment. Therefore, no impacts are expected to Aboriginal objects and there is no requirement to undertake further archaeological investigations.

Recommendations

The assessment found that the study area is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects based on:

- An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) which did not reveal any sites listed in the study area
- No previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified within the study area during the site inspection
- The study area has experienced significant disturbances including gas storage, commercial and industrial land use. This has resulted in the development of associated infrastructure such as truck loading docks, car parks, and landfill, along with extensive subsurface works. These activities have considerably altered the original state of the area
- Detailed background research and assessment following an archaeological survey
- Historical images support a history of disturbance in the study area illustrating that buildings have been erected, and significant ground disturbance took place from the 1960s onwards.
- The detrimental effects to soil integrity due to construction works is further heightened by the high levels of disturbance of the soil profile with fill existing up to 4.8 metres below the surface in some parts.
- While the landscape and environment of NSW as a whole is significant to Aboriginal people, no specific Aboriginal heritage values were identified for the study area.

Based on the results of this assessment and in accordance with Aboriginal heritage guidelines and the SEARs for the proposal, the following recommendations are made:

- Consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders must be maintained. Should a six-month gap in consultation occur with the RAPs, Heritage NSW may determine that the consultation has lapsed. In the event that consultation has lapsed, the client may be requested to restart the consultation process.
- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impacts to areas not assessed by this ACHAR further assessment must be undertaken.
- An unexpected finds procedure must be prepared in consultation with the RAPs and would be implemented in the event of any unexpected finds of Aboriginal sites, objects, or archaeological deposits being identified.

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GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

ACHAR means Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

AHIMS means Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System

Artefact Heritage means Artefact Heritage Services Pty Ltd

ASR means Archaeological Survey Report

ATR means Archaeological Technical Report

cm means centimetres

DA means Development Application

DCCEEW means Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

DPE means Department of Planning and Environment (former)

DPHI means Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

ESD means Ecologically Sustainable Development

GFA means Ground Floor Area

GSV means Ground Surface Visibility

km means Kilometres

LALC means Local Aboriginal Land Council

LGA means Local Government Area

m means metres

mm means millimetres

NTSCorp means Native Title Services Corporation

OEH means Office of Environment and Heritage (former)

RAP means Registered Aboriginal Party

SEARs means The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

SSD means State Significant Development

Study Area means Lot 700, DP1241836 at 1 Crescent Street, Holroyd.

NOTE ON LANGUAGE IN QUOTES

A number of quotes used in this report come from documents written in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by European observers. They have been included because they provide information on the lives of Aboriginal people in the region, though the language used and views expressed by these writers can be offensive and distressing.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project brief

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared by Artefact Heritage and Environment (Artefact) for Tiberius (Holroyd), the Proponent to accompany a State Significant Development Application (**SSDA**) for a proposed mixed-use precinct located at 1 Crescent Street, Holroyd (**the site**).

The project has been classified as a SSD (SSD 70283710) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

This report has been prepared in response to the requirements contained within the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) dated 6 May 2024 and issued for the SSDA (SSD-70283710). The SEARs specify that an ACHAR be prepared to assess any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage values (Table 1).

1.2 Description of the study area

The land to which this SSDA relates is located at 1 Crescent Street, Holroyd (**the site**). The site is legally described as Lot 700 in Deposited Plan 1241836.

The site comprises an irregularly shaped allotment with an area of 37,877m² and has a primary frontage to Crescent Street to the south and a frontage to Woodville Road to the east. The northern boundary of the site adjoins the Holroyd Sportsground with the M4 Motorway beyond.

The site is located in the Cumberland Local Government Area (**LGA**) and is currently vacant and cleared after WesTrac ceased operations of an industrial facility at the site in early 2018. The site contains existing scattered pockets of landscaped vegetation, predominately located along the site's southern and eastern boundaries to Crescent Street and Woodville Road.

The site is bounded by Parramatta Road/Church Street/Woodville Road intersection to the north east, Woodville Road to the east and Crescent Street to the south. The northern frontage of the site faces the Holroyd Sportsground and the M4 Motorway beyond. It is noted that the eastern portion of the site fronting Woodville Road has been identified for potential future acquisition by Transport of NSW for future planned intersection upgrades to Woodville/Parramatta Road/M4 (Figure 1).

The study area is located within the boundaries of the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council (LGA). Designs for the proposed works are shown below in Figure 2.

1.3 Aims and objectives

This ACHAR has been prepared to contribute to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Crescent Parklands development, aligning with the SEARs.

The objectives of this report are to:

- Evaluate the Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the study area, encompassing archaeological and community cultural aspects, and assessing the significance of these identified values
- Identify potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values resulting from the project, considering cumulative effects, and proposing measures to prevent significant impacts

- Confirm the presence of Aboriginal objects, gathering sufficient information to assess their significance, and determining the likelihood of harm to these objects
- Ensure meaningful Aboriginal community consultation throughout the assessment process
- Identify any recommended further investigations, as well as proposing mitigation and management measures, contingent upon the project's advancement

To fulfill these objectives, the following objectives will be undertaken:

- Conduct a comprehensive desktop research and formulating a predictive model regarding the nature and location of Aboriginal objects
- Validate the predictive model through on-site field investigations
- Consult with the Aboriginal Community to acquire information for assessing the significance of identified Aboriginal sites or objects
- Analyse design plans to ascertain potential harm to recognized Aboriginal sites or objects

This report encompasses:

- A delineation of the project scope and the extent of the study area.
- An assessment of the significance of the study area, encompassing archaeological values.
- Documentation of the statutory requirements for safeguarding Aboriginal heritage. - A detailed account of the consultation process and its outcomes.
- An impact assessment focusing on recorded Aboriginal sites and areas of archaeological potential.
- Proposals for measures to prevent, minimize, and, if deemed necessary, offset the anticipated impacts on Aboriginal heritage values.

1.4 Statutory framework

The development proposal was submitted to the former NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for consideration as an SSD under Part 4.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. SEARS were issued for the project on 6 May 2024 (SSD-70283710) that outlines the requirements of the project as it relates to Aboriginal heritage shown in Table 1 below.

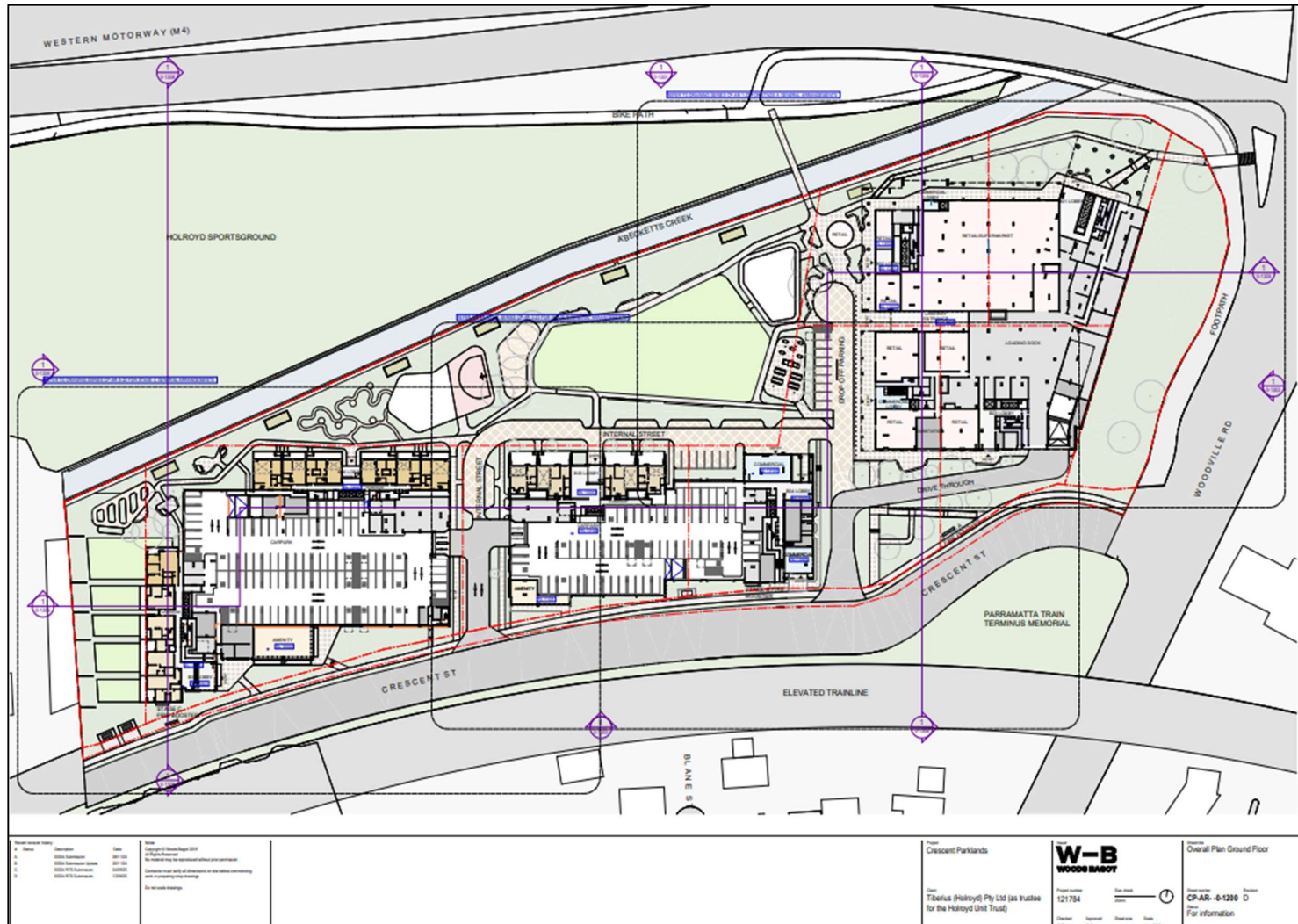
Table 1. Secretary's Environmental Requirements.

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Where addressed in this report
18. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, identifying, describing and assessing any impacts to any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the site	This report

Figure 1: The study area



Figure 2: Proposed works.



2.0 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

2.1 Aboriginal consultation

Aboriginal community consultation was completed in accordance with the Consultation Requirements (DECCW 2010b). A consultation log was maintained with details of all correspondence with the RAPs for the project (Appendix 1).

2.1.1 Agency letters

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the Consultation Requirements, Artefact Heritage corresponded with the following organisations by email on 9 November 2023 requesting the details of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the Aboriginal significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the local area:

- Heritage NSW
- Native Title Service Corporation (NTSCorp)
- National Native Title Tribunal
- Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- Cumberland City Council Local Government Area
- Local Land Services (Greater Sydney)
- Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council

The due date for responses was 4 December 2023.

2.1.2 Advertisement

In accordance with Section 4.1.3 of the Consultation Requirements, an advertisement was placed in “Buy Search Sell” on 23 November 2023 inviting the participation of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the Aboriginal significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the local area. Responses were requested by 1 December 2023.

2.1.3 Registration of Aboriginal parties

In accordance with Section 4.1.3 of the Consultation Requirements, invitations to register an interest in the project were sent by email or letter to all those people identified through contacting the agencies on 4 December 2023.

As a result of the interest letters and the advertisement, 19 individuals/organisations responded of which 1 group requested that their details not be disclosed. The remaining 18 groups are listed in below.

Table 2: List of registered stakeholders

Organisation	Contact person
Gandangara LALC	General organisation contact
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Lilly Carrol and Paul Boyd

Organisation	Contact person
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Marylin Carrol-Johnson
Butucarbin Heritage	Jennifer Beale
Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Justine Coplin
Yarrawalk Pty Ltd	Scott Franks
Clive Freeman	Clive Freeman
Wori Woilywa	Daniel Chalker
Goobah Development PTY LTD	Basil Smith
Yurrandaali & BCS Group	Bo and Lee Field
Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Phil Khan
Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Darleen Johnson
Waawaar Awaa Aboriginal Corporation	Rodney Gunther
A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn Hickey
Widescope Indigenous Group	Donna Hickey
Wurrumay	Vickey Slater
Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services	Robert Young
<i>Individual</i>	Pearl Depoma
Bariyan Cultural Connections	Kayelene Terry
Muragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation	Jesse Johnson

2.1.4 Proposed assessment methodology

A copy of the proposed assessment methodology was sent to the RAPs by email on 19 December 2023, requesting feedback by 16 January 2024. The draft assessment methodology presented information about the project and invited feedback on the cultural significance of the area. No specific Aboriginal heritage values were identified for the study area. A summary of the comments received by Artefact is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of Aboriginal stakeholder comments on the Assessment Methodology

Person / RAP group	Comment
Lilly Carroll and Paul Boyd (Didge Ngunawal Clan)	We have read through what you've proposed for the job at Holroyd, and we are happy with it to proceed.
Darleen Johnson (Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation)	Has read the project information for the above project and endorses the recommendations made.
Marilyn Carroll-Johnson (Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation)	We do not see any issues.
Pearl Depoma (Pearl Depoma)	I have read the proposal below and do not have any further comments at this stage.
Kayelene Terry (Bariyan Cultural Connections)	I am writing in regard to the above project I would like to be involved and added to the list for any upcoming meetings or fieldwork please. I am a descendant of the Dharug custodians and have connection to the project area. My sister's Vicky Slater is on the list.

2.1.5 Draft ACHAR

A copy of the draft ACHAR was sent to the RAPs by email on 31 May 2024 requesting feedback by 28 June 2024. A summary of comments received by Artefact is provided in Table 4.

Table 4. Summary of Aboriginal stakeholder comments on the draft ACHAR

Person/ RAP group	Comment
Marilyn Carroll (Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation)	We support the draft
Phil Khan (Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group)	Thank you for your Draft ACHA, we would like to agree and support your recommendations for 1 Crescent Street, Holroyd.
Darleen Johnson (Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation)	I have read the project information and draft ACHAR for the above project. I endorse the recommendations made.

2.1.6 Final ACHAR

A copy of the Final ACHAR was sent to the RAPs by email on 21 November 2024, and to Maragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation on March 2025. The Final ACHAR included design updates and was sent to RAPs for their information.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Ethnohistorical context

Parramatta is one of several current day Sydney locations based on a traditional Aboriginal word or placename, generally understood to be from the Darug word Burramatta, which is broken down to mean, Burra = eel, matta = place. The suffix gal = the people of, would be added to describe the Burramattagal who lived there. European attempts to transcribe Aboriginal words were often poor, and the early colonists transcribed the place of eels as 'Parramatta' (Kohen 1986, Brook and Kohen, J. L. 1991, Kass et al. 1996).

Parramatta is in the centre of traditional Darug Country in what in 1788 Governor Arthur Phillip called the County of Cumberland. The Cumberland Plain is a biological and geological (biogeographic) feature of the Sydney Basin, the major geological basin extending from the elevated coastal sandstone formations at the Sydney coast in the east, to the Dyarubbin or Hawkesbury-Nepean River in the west and south. The mildly undulating plains consist of soils that have formed through millennia of alluvial deposition are punctuated with occasional rocky outcrops such as at Prospect Hill. Over the entire plain there are over 100 creeks and nine rivers, of which the Parramatta River rises in predominantly grassy or open woodlands to the west (Birch 2007).

The river was navigable by boats to a point at modern day Parramatta where it narrows and becomes rocky. As Surgeon John White described in April 1788; 'here the tide ceased to flow and all further progress for boats was stopped by a flat space of large broad stones over which a fresh water stream ran'. Here was the centre of the Burramattagal eel fishing and trapping activities. David Collins described how burra were harvested by placing hollow logs in the water and then drawing them up with the burra inside. At the confluence of brackish tidal waters and freshwater, the Burramattagal could catch flathead and mullet fish, tortoises, mussels, oysters, crabs, prawns, mussels, freshwater crayfish and other fish. On the riverbanks, as John Hunter noted, Aboriginal people 'live chiefly on the roots they dig from the ground ... the wild yam.' Governor Phillip soon declared Burramattagal land to be 'good country' for farming and 'to be settled' as soon as the colonists were able to (White 1790).

Parramatta, accessible by boat, with fresh water and surrounded by open woodlands, was of strategic military importance to the colony as well. The first structure was a redoubt or small fort and the location chosen as the second seat of government. As historian Grace Karskens notes, Governor Phillip's attitude towards the Darug people at Parramatta was strikingly different to his attempts to gain the confidence of people such as Bennelong around Sydney Cove – 'there were no meetings, no dancing, no gifts or high hopes of "living in amity" ... the settlement of Parramatta was a true invasion, with well-organised military defences (Karskens et al. 2017).

The colonists were correct in their fears of conflict and the threat Aboriginal warriors posed to their precious stock and maize crops that were spreading out into other small settlements at Prospect Hill and 'The Ponds', 2 miles northwest of Parramatta. In mid-1791, the small group of farms at the foot of Prospect Hill came under attack from 'more than one hundred' warriors in one raid, and were attacked several times over the next months, requiring soldiers to be sent out from Parramatta. Between 1791 and 1794 several colonists in the districts around Parramatta were attacked and some were killed by warriors. David Collins noted their attacks and raids had become 'frequent and extensive' and in April 1794, one raid on the Government Farm at Toongabbie turned into a battle between constables and warriors (Gapps 2018).

Ongoing resistance warfare came to a head in 1797 when Pemulwuy led a large force of warriors into the township of Parramatta itself. In what has become known as the Battle of Parramatta, at least five warriors were killed and Pemulwuy and others wounded. As he had received 'seven buck shot in his head and other parts of his body', yet soon escaped captivity, it was rumoured by both colonists and

Aboriginal people alike that Pemulwuy 'could not be killed' by firearms. Pemulwuy's resistance continued, with several escaped convicts apparently joining forces with his guerrilla warband. By 1801, Governor King had had enough and issued orders to the settlers to 'drive back the hordes of natives' around Parramatta, the Georges River and Prospect Hill. In November, rewards were offered including free pardons for convicts. Pemulwuy, wanted 'dead or alive', was shot and killed in June 1802 and his head cut off and sent to England. To this day it has not been returned to his Country (Collins 1975, Smith 2010).

Even after the death of Pemulwuy, conflict and resistance continued across the Sydney region. Another Government Order banning all Aboriginal people from entering the 'Grounds of Dwellings of any Settler' was issued in 1805. While some Aboriginal people attempted to negotiate their safety and continued access to the settlements and a 'Conference' was arranged at 'the brush between Prospect and George's River', Pemulwuy's son Tedbury had united a band that continued to harass travellers, kill stock and raid farms, until Tedbury was shot in 1810. By 1814, drought conditions and expanding settlement to the south led to more conflict, culminating in the Appin Massacre in April 1816 which effectively ended resistance warfare in the region (Gapps 2010, Karskens 2010).

Macquarie's efforts to as he called it 'civilise' Aboriginal people also centred on the Annual Feast that began in the same year as the Institution, and with the hope of attracting parents from across the Sydney region to hand their children over to the school. People were recorded having travelled from the south coast and southern highlands in 1843 to attend the feast, which proved a more enduring institution in Parramatta than the school. By the 1830s the practice of issuing blankets at the feast had turned into a kind of census of Aboriginal people (Hassall 1997, Gapps 2010).

Today, some descendants of Burramattgal such as Jules Christian continue to revive cultural traditions such as the Burramattagal Eel Festival that has been held since 2016 (Christian 2021).

3.2 Regional archaeological context

The regional context is framed by the Eastern Regional Sequence, initially formulated by McCarthy in 1948 and subsequently refined by Hiscock and Attenbrow in 2005. This sequence delineates the evolution of Aboriginal stone tool technology across the Cumberland Plain, identifying three distinct technologies and tool types that span the history of Aboriginal occupation in the region. In the local context, the presence of Aboriginal sites is notably concentrated around watercourses, particularly the Parramatta River 1.8 kilometres to the north. A'becketts Creek is noted to be adjacent to the north of the study area but does not contain any previously recorded Aboriginal sites that are both in proximity to the centreline of the watercourse and the study area itself. The immediate vicinity around the study area has experienced substantial disturbance, and no known Aboriginal sites are documented in this altered ground.

3.3 Previous archaeological investigations

A number of studies have taken place within the wider area these are summarised in Table 5.

Table 5: Previous studies

Study	Key Points
Archaeological salvage excavation of site CG1 (NPWS #45-5-2648), at the corner of Charles and George Streets, Parramatta (Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management [JMCHM] 2005)	- The excavation revealed phases of Pleistocene and more recent Holocene occupation. - Stone artefacts were recovered at low to moderate densities across all excavated areas.

Study	Key Points
	• The assemblage showcased changes in raw material preference and stone reduction strategies over time. • The collection included 4,775 artefacts, predominantly made of silcrete. • Approximately 75% of the artefacts were found within the first 400 mm of the deposit. • Other raw materials present in descending order of frequency included silicified tuff, quartz, and various volcanic and igneous materials. • Designated as RTA-G1 [AHIMS ID 45-6-2673], the site was deemed of high archaeological significance. • At the time of the report, the site represented the oldest known Aboriginal occupation site in Sydney and the southeast coastline of Australia, dating back approximately 30,000 years BP (Wk-17435). • This date served as the maximum basal date for occupation and was derived from a sterile layer beneath the lowest artefacts (JMCHM 2005b:135).
Parramatta Justice Precinct: Aboriginal Heritage Aspects (Haglund and Associates 2007)	• The site exists on the Blacktown soil landscape, the same as our study area. • Silcrete and tuff cores and flakes were present. • Some silcrete artefacts showed signs of heat treatment, suggesting their use in tool manufacturing. • A lack of manuports or cortex traces on artefacts suggests that initial raw material reduction did not occur on-site. • Most tools and usable flakes were transported elsewhere, with no evidence of on-site use. • Colonial construction activities, wind, and sheet erosion heavily disturbed the archaeological deposit.
Rosehill Recycled Water Scheme Cultural Heritage Assessment (AMBS 2008)	• The predominant site types were low-density surface open artefact scatters and isolated finds.

Study	Key Points
	• Resource-rich areas showed higher concentrations of artefacts. • Ridgetops and hill crests had fewer sites, while artefact scatters were common near water sources. • Sites were mainly within 100m of permanent fresh water, and alluvial soils retained potential for stratified deposits. • Complex sites, indicating intensive or repeated use, were near major water sources and confluences. • Artefact assemblages were primarily flakes and debitage, with silcrete as the dominant raw material. • Post-contact camp sites were likely near European structures, and old-growth vegetation might retain scarred trees. • Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) are likely to be identified along valley floors and low, well-drained slopes. • Surface artefact distribution may not accurately reflect subsurface deposits, with areas lacking surface manifestations often containing significant subsurface deposits.
Paramatta RSL Club Post Excavation Analysis Report (Artefact Heritage 2017)	• PRSL AS-01 is located partially on the same soil landscape as the study area • 185 Artefact and 1 hearth were identified • Site demonstrates potential for Aboriginal object to be present within Blacktown Soils despite historic disturbance.
Site 45-6-2630, AHIP C0004705: Archaeological Testing Report (ATR) (Comber and Garbov 2019)	• Two stages of test excavation yielded a total of 517 artefacts, including a single hearth. • Despite notable disturbance, isolated patches of partially preserved soil profiles characteristic of the Blacktown Soil profile were discerned. • Stone artefacts predominantly comprised silcrete and indurated mudstone.

Study	Key Points
	• Notably, nine glass artefacts and a flaked flint piece were recovered, suggesting post-contact Aboriginal utilisation of the area. • The date range for the hearth spanned approximately 2,000 years BP to the 1830s (thermoluminescence dated). • The c.1830 hearth may be linked to Governor Macquarie's annual feast, a significant gathering for Aboriginal people and an early contact site. • Designated as AHIMS ID 45-6-3630, this site exemplifies the potential for contact archaeology to endure despite extensive disturbance in the local Parramatta area.

3.4 AHIMS search

NOTE: The location of Aboriginal sites is considered culturally sensitive information. It is advised that this information, including the AHIMS data appearing on mapping below must be removed from this report if it is to enter the public domain.

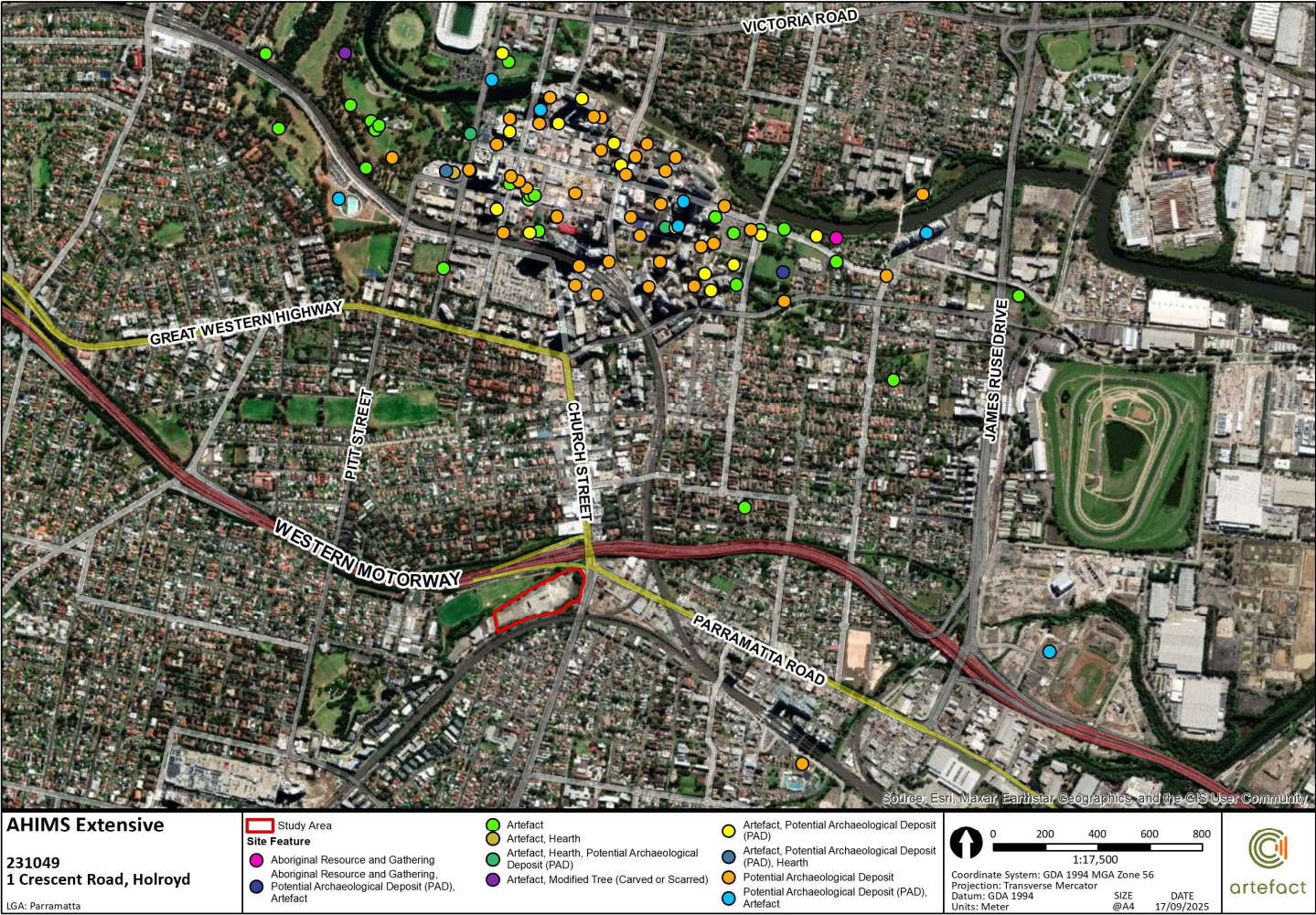
An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information System (AHIMS) was undertaken on 25 March 2025 (Client Service ID: 988343) to determine the location of Aboriginal sites in relation to the current study area. The search area centred around the study area and included 2 kilometres of land surrounding the study area to inform the characterisation of the local archaeological context. The AHIMS search parameters were as follows:

GDA 1994, Zone 56	313010 – 317350 E 6252920 – 6257170 N
Buffer	0
Number of sites	91

There were 91 sites AHIMS registered sites found within the search area. There are 0 AHIMS registered sites located within the study area (Figure 3).

Aboriginal sites within the search area, predominantly comprise Artefacts and PADs. The majority of the sites are located within Parramatta, this is reflective of both the greater quantity of development that has taken place within that area and the presence of the Parramatta sand sheet, a geographic feature comprising deep dune sands known to contain Aboriginal objects. Outside of central Parramatta Aboriginal sites within the search area are tied to watercourses, with all known sites located within 165m of creek lines.

Figure 3: AHIMS Extensive Search



3.5 Environmental background

The environmental context of the study area is to assist in the prediction of:

- The potential of the landscape to have accumulated and preserved Aboriginal objects over time
- The ways Aboriginal people have used the landscape in the past with reference to the presence of resource areas, surfaces for making art, or other focal points for activities and settlement
- The likely distribution of the material traces of Aboriginal land use based on the above

3.5.1 Geology and soils

The study area is situated in the Blacktown Soil Landscape, characterized by shallow to moderately deep (>1m), hard-setting, mottled texture contrast soils. These soils predominantly consist of shallow to moderately deep red and brown podzolic soils, transitioning to yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and drainage lines. Although Blacktown Soils can be deep, Aboriginal archaeological deposits are typically found in the upper soil layers, rarely exceeding 0.5m (eSPADE 2023). The Glenorie soil landscape is located approximately 10 meters north of the study area, separated by A'becketts Creek. These soils include shallow to moderately deep Red Podzolic Soils on crests, moderately deep Red and Brown Podzolic Soils on upper slopes, and deep Yellow Podzolic Soils and Gleyed Podzolic Soils along drainage lines.

The study area is situated on the Wianamatta Group, which includes Ashfield shale and Bringelly shale. The Ashfield shale is characterized by laminate and dark grey shale, reaching a maximum thickness of 61.6 m at Erskine Park, approximately 18 km to the west. In contrast, the Bringelly shale consists of shale, calcareous claystone, laminate, and fine to medium-grained lithic-quartz sandstone (Herbert 1983). The Ashfield shale dates to the middle Triassic (Clark N.R. and Jones D.C 1991). Although the study area itself lacks known sources of stone for tool manufacturing, such materials were accessible in and around Parramatta. Tertiary laterites have been identified near Duck River, about 1.5 km southeast (with Duck Creek 1,100 m southeast) of the study area. Additionally, silcrete and other siliceous materials are available at Homebush Bay, approximately 7,500 m to the east. Silcrete from the St Mary's Formation near Blacktown could also have been used, and the surrounding waterways likely served as additional sources for raw materials.

The topography of the Blacktown Soil Landscape is characterized by gently undulating rises, featuring broad rounded crests and ridges with gently inclined slopes (Chapman & Murphy 1989: 35-38). The study area generally aligns with this description, situated on a gently undulating landform. In the context of the urbanized zone, it lies within, the landform has undergone modifications. The gently undulating nature of the study area's landform likely presented favourable terrain for accessing subsistence resources associated with Parramatta River 1.8 km to the north. As such, it is more likely that the study area would have been used in a transient and incidental manner as opposed to being a focal point for localised occupation of the A'Beckett's Creek area.

3.5.2 Hydrology and vegetation

The study area is bordered to the north by A'becketts Creek, a perennial stream and northern tributary of the Duck River and part of the Parramatta River catchment. Parramatta River is located approximately 1.8 km to the north of the study area where eel fishing and trapping activities occurred (Collins 1975).

The study area is completely cleared of native vegetation, however, previously would likely have been occupied by tall open-forest (wet sclerophyll forest) and open-woodland (dry sclerophyll forest) (eSpade 2023).

3.5.3 Historical land disturbance

Historical aerial imagery was used to investigate the level of land disturbance relevant to the study area. The analyses of historical imagery have been summarised below:

- 1929 – Seen in Figure 4, the study area had been cleared of vegetation. Earth works had also begun with buildings having been constructed in the eastern half of the study area.
- 1950 – Seen in Figure 5, the study area had been levelled. Buildings now exist on the lot including the foundations of a large, circular gas storage tank.
- 1960 – Seen in Figure 6, buildings exist within the study area. A large gas storage tank has been constructed.
- 1970 – Seen in Figure 7, an access road has been constructed which goes around the north and to the west of the gas storage tank.
- 1990 – Seen in Figure 8, all previous structures on the eastern half of the lot have been demolished. Ground disturbance is evident with the existence of the foundations of the gas storage tank still being present. Industrial structures have been constructed in the western half of the lot. A'Beckett's Creek has been diverted to flow adjacent to, rather than within the lot.
- 1997 – Seen in Figure 9, the previous structures had been demolished with a new industrial facility having been constructed on the lot. Car parking is present in the east with a ramp bending from the south of the lot around the eastern boundary and up into the structure. Parking for machinery is present along the northern boundary with a large area of disturbance present in the southwestern corner.
- 2023 – The study area currently sits empty besides the evident ground disturbance of concrete covering the entirety of the lot.

Douglas Partners (2023) previously provided a soil contamination report for the study area which provides further insight as to the history of disturbance of the site. In the 1960s, the A'becketts Creek valley was used for purposes of landfill and dumping and by the 1980s, the course of the creek has been reduced in strength. In 1988, topsoil was stockpiled for reuse and the exposed creek bed was filled with imported concrete to allow for the construction of a new concrete lined stormwater channel (Douglas Partners 2023). Generally, the central portion of the study area was determined to be covered by 'mounds' of filling material to a depth of approximately 1 to 1.5 m. Rubbish filling across the site was also determined to range from a maximum of 4.8 m in the northern portion to 0.5 m in the southern portion of the site (Douglas Partners 2023:16).

Soil sampling subsequently determined that the substantial rubbish fill across the site contained contaminants comprising heavy metals (copper, lead zinc, cadmium, chromium and arsenic), ammonia and numerous other contaminants. No asbestos was identified during observations in the field (Douglas Partners 2023:16).

Figure 4: 1929 Aerial imagery with study area indicated in red.

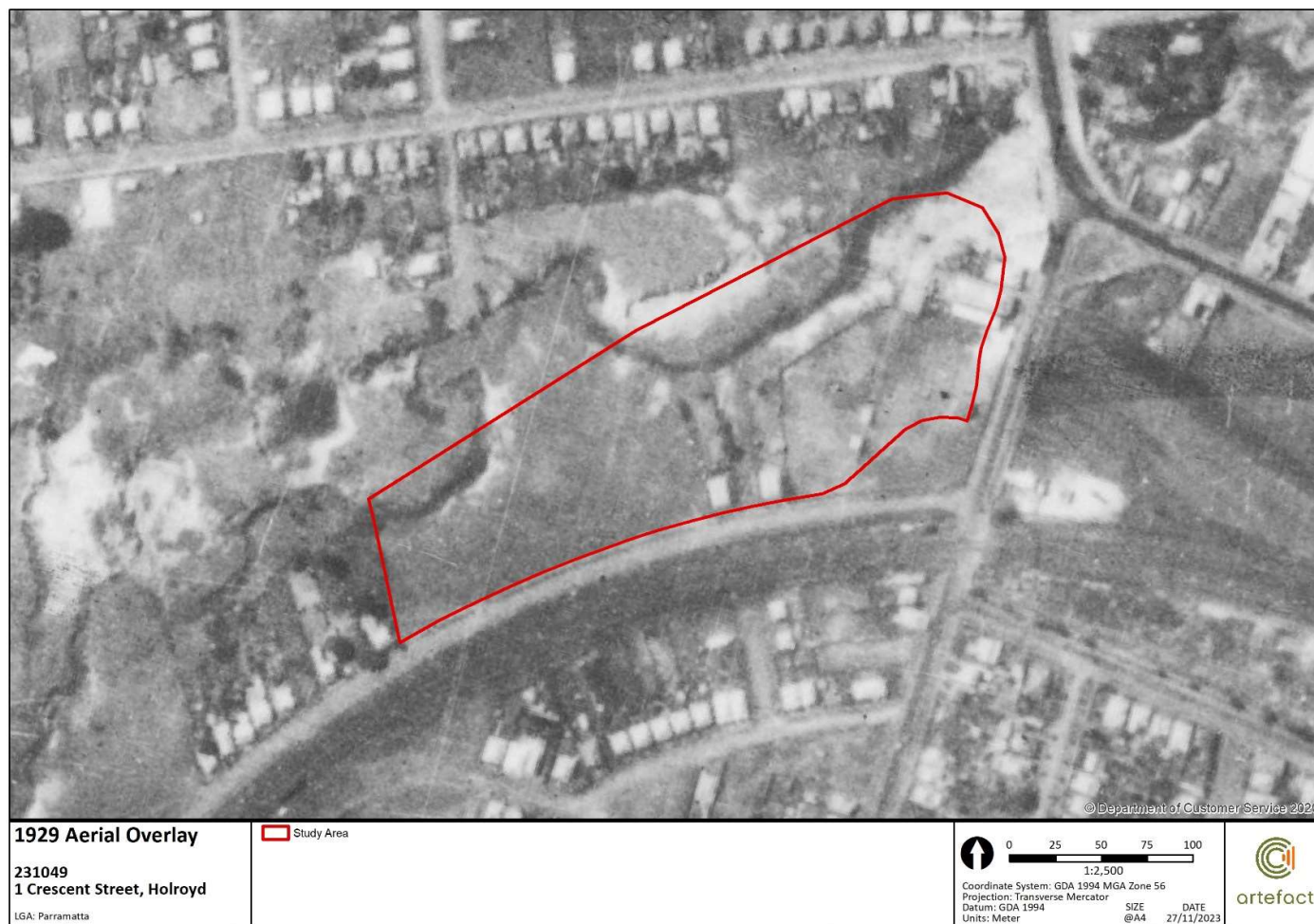


Figure 5: 1950 Aerial imagery with study area indicated in red.



Figure 6: 1960 Aerial imagery with study area indicated in red.

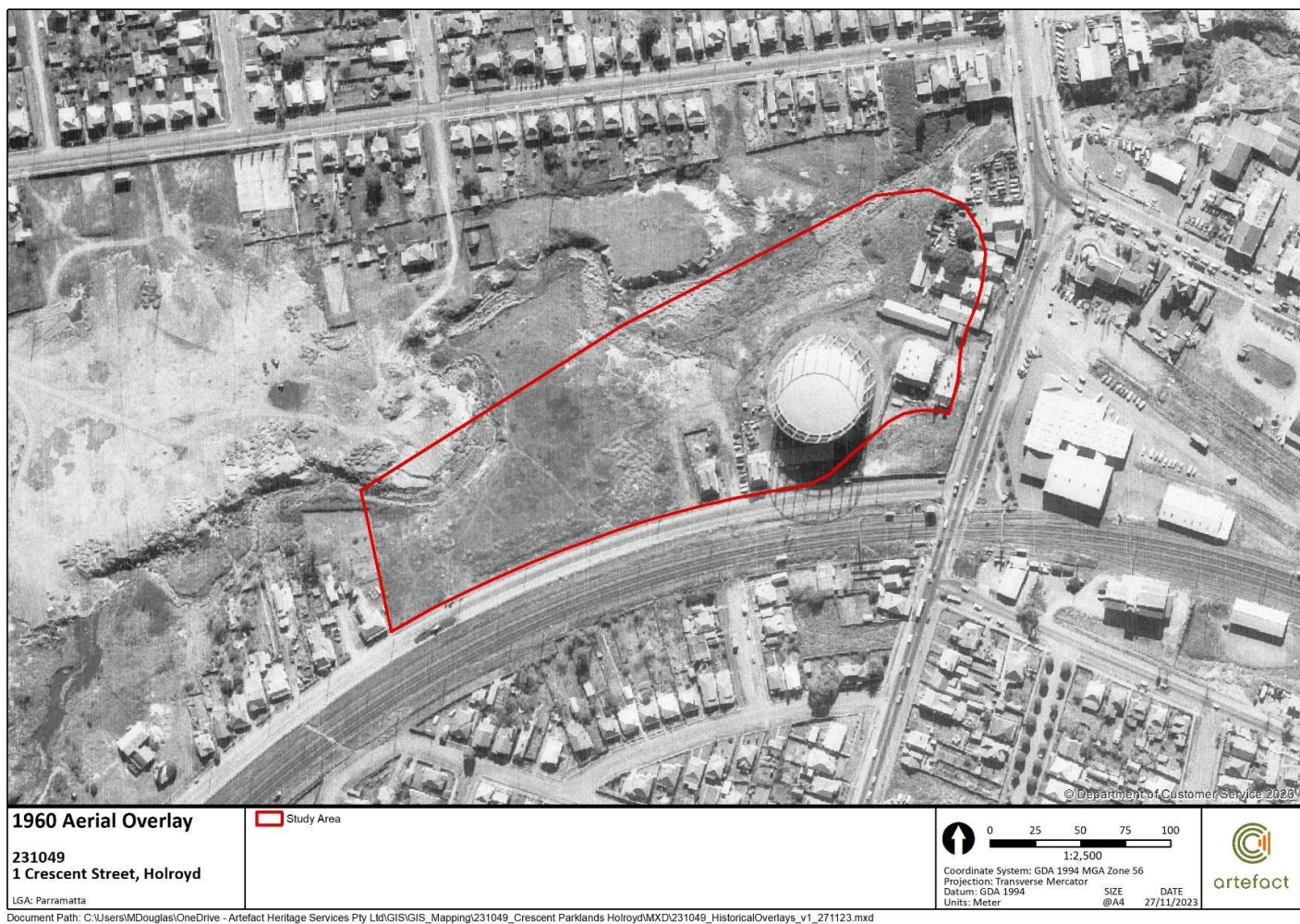


Figure 7: 1970 Aerial imagery with study area indicated in red.



Figure 8: 1990 Aerial imagery with study area indicated in red.



Figure 9: 1997 Aerial imagery with study area indicated in red.



3.6 Predictive model

The predictive model comprises a series of statements regarding the nature and distribution of evidence of Aboriginal land use that is expected in the study area. These statements are based on the information gathered regarding:

- Landscape context and landform units
- Ethno-historical evidence of Aboriginal land use
- Distribution of natural resources
- Results of previous archaeological work within, and in vicinity of the study area
- The Cumberland Plain predictive model, and those developed in previous investigations.

Based on Cumberland Plain predictive model and the results of desktop research, the following predictive statements are made for the study area:

- Site identification will rely on visibility, projected to be minimal to low, based on analyses of both historical and contemporary aerial imagery.
- The study area is anticipated to be substantially disturbed, likely impacting the preservation of archaeological sites.
- The survival of Aboriginal objects is contingent on the depth of disturbance, with rubbish fill on site exceeding 0.5 to 4.8 metres, per Douglas Partners (2023).
- Blacktown soils possess the potential to harbour significant archaeological deposits providing evidence of prolonged Aboriginal occupation, per Artefact Heritage (2017) and Comber & Garbov (2019).
- Subsurface archaeological deposits are expected to contain stone artefacts, with varying densities. Higher densities are more likely in gently sloping or flat landform contexts and near waterways such as the A'Becketts Creek, Parramatta River, Duck Creek and Duck River, per JMCHM (2005).
- Archaeological evidence is likely to pertain to Aboriginal occupation in the Holocene period before 1788, potentially extending into the early post-contact period.
- Vegetation clearance associated with extensive development is likely to impact the survival of mature native trees, yielding to a nil potential for Culturally Modified Trees, as observed in aerial imagery.

3.7 Summary of field investigations

An archaeological survey was conducted by foot on 29 November 2023 by a team of five persons. In attendance was Matthew Finlayson (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage), Kieran Murray (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer, Artefact Heritage), Bronwyn Partell (Gandangara LALC), Jamaine Thorne (Gandangara LALC), and Lucas Flecha (Project Director, Tiberius (Holroyd)).

The Code of Practice (DECCW 2010a) specifies that survey coverage should be assessed to the nearest 10%, and provides the following definitions:

Visibility:

is the amount of bare ground (or visibility) on the exposures which might reveal artefacts or other archaeological materials. It is important to note that visibility, on its own, is not a reliable indicator of the detectability of buried archaeological material. Things like vegetation, plant or leaf litter, loose sand, stony ground or introduced materials will affect the visibility. Put another way, visibility refers to 'what conceals'

Exposure:

is different to visibility because it estimates the area with a likelihood of revealing buried artefacts or deposits rather than just being an observation of the amount of bare ground. It is the percentage of land for which erosion and exposure was sufficient to reveal archaeological evidence on the surface of the ground. Put another way, exposure refers to 'what reveals'

Survey coverage is calculated as being nil as ground visibility and exposure must be calculated in increments of 10% in accordance with the *Code of Practice*. Effective survey coverage for each survey unit is outlined in Table 6, and landform survey coverage for each landform unit is outlined in Table 7.

Table 6: Effective survey coverage

Survey Unit	Landform	Survey unit area (m ²)	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Survey Coverage (m ²)	Effective Coverage (%)
1	Disturbed Creek Bank	Approx. 39,000	0	0	0	0

Table 7: Landform survey coverage

Landform	Landform area (m ²)	Area effectively surveyed (m ²)	% of landform surveyed	Number of sites
Disturbed Creek Bank	Approx 39,000	0	0	0

No Aboriginal objects, sites or areas of PAD were identified within the study area during the archaeological survey (Figure 10). The findings of the archaeological survey generally align with the predictive modelling outlined in Section 3.6. Although the study area falls within a zone identified as having higher potential for Aboriginal objects, the site survey faced limitations, with no ground exposure observed across the entire site. The landform has experienced considerable disturbance since European colonisation, further emphasised by a previous geotechnical study (Douglas Partners 2023) indicating substantial fill up to 4.8 metres below the surface.

The Holroyd locality, including the study area and its surroundings, has undergone substantial disruptions due to extensive urbanisation and industrialisation. The ability to observe original environmental conditions was hampered by significant landscaping alterations that transformed local

hydrology and topography. The majority of the study area was covered by a large concrete slab measuring approximately 29,485 m² . Consequently, the ground surface was obscured and no ground exposure could be directly observed.

While the study area has the potential to offer insights into Aboriginal land use, extensive disturbance has likely impacted the preservation of Aboriginal objects and archaeological deposits, meaning that it is unlikely that Aboriginal objects are present in the study area and no new data was identified to trigger a re-evaluation.

Figure 10: Route of the survey team.



4.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES

4.1 Methodology

The cultural assessment in this report includes information collected through desktop assessment, site survey and Aboriginal community consultation undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Requirements. This information was collected by Kieran Murray (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer, Artefact Heritage).

4.2 Cultural landscape

The World Heritage Convention of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) defines a cultural landscape as one which has 'powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent' (UNESCO 1991). The relationship between Aboriginal Australians and the land is conceived in spiritual terms rather than primarily in material terms (Andrews et al 2006). Aboriginal cultural knowledge has been defined as:

Accumulated knowledge which encompasses spiritual relationships, relationships with the natural environment and the sustainable use of natural resources, and relationships between people, which are reflected in language, narratives, social organisation, values, beliefs and cultural laws and custom (Andrews et al 2006).

Aboriginal cultural knowledge was traditionally bequeathed through oral traditions from generation to generation. Within all Aboriginal communities there was a time of dislocation and upheaval associated with the arrival of colonial settlers. This widespread disruption resulted in much of the detailed knowledge and understanding of many of the elements of the cultural landscape being lost from the Aboriginal community, nonetheless many Aboriginal people maintain a strong connection to the land of their ancestors and collectively possess a wealth of knowledge passed down through the generations.

4.3 Identified Aboriginal cultural heritage values

While the landscape and environment of NSW as a whole is significant to Aboriginal people, no specific Aboriginal heritage values were identified for the study area during Aboriginal community consultation. Table 8 provides a summary of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the study area, identified during background research.

Table 8: Cultural heritage values identified for the study and surroundings

Cultural heritage value	Description	Source
The A'Beckett's Creek	A'becketts Creek (immediately north of the study area) served as a campsite for Aboriginal clan groups from the south during the annual conference initiated by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1814.	Western Sydney Libraries (no date)
A'becketts Creek and Parramatta River	Rivers and creek lines are of importance to Aboriginal people, past and present as camping places and burials.	Attenbrow 2010

Cultural heritage value	Description	Source
The Aboriginal community	At the time of the 2021 Census, 988 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people live in the Holroyd area, demonstrating the ongoing connection to the land.	ABS 2021

5.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

A significance assessment of the scientific, social, historic and aesthetic values of the study area is included below.

5.1 Significance assessment criteria

An assessment of the cultural heritage significance of an item or place is required in order to form the basis of its management. The Guide (OEH 2011: 10) provides guidelines, in accordance with the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013) for significance assessment with assessments being required to consider the following criteria:

- Social values – does the area have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
- Historic values – is the area important to the cultural or natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state
- Scientific values - does the area have the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural and natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state
- Aesthetic values – is the area important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics in the local area and/or region and/or state.

Scientific values should be considered in light of 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 subject area) 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 practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?
- Education potential - does the subject area contain teaching sites or sites that might have teaching potential?

It is important to note that heritage significance is a dynamic value.

5.1.1 Historic value

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

A'becketts Creek (immediately north of the study area) served as a temporary campsite for Aboriginal clan groups from the south during the annual conference initiated by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1814. There is no indication that the study area was part of this campsite, nor that this location previously served as a pre-contact or post-contact sedentary occupation site.

5.1.2 Aesthetic value

Aesthetic values refer to the sensory, scenic, architectural, and creative aspects of this place. These values may be related to the landscape and are often closely associated with social/cultural values. No aesthetic values specific to the study area have been identified during ACHAR preparation and consultation process.

5.1.3 Socio/cultural value

Socio/cultural heritage values should be addressed by Aboriginal people who have connection to, or interest in, the area. No socio/cultural values specific to the study area have been identified during ACHAR preparation and consultation process.

5.1.4 Scientific value

No Aboriginal objects, areas of archaeological potential or cultural values specific to the study area have been identified during ACHAR preparation and consultation process.

5.2 Statement of significance

While the landscape and environment of NSW as a whole is significant to Aboriginal people, no specific Aboriginal heritage values were identified for the study area. However, it is acknowledged that lands to the north of A'becketts Creek were utilised in 1814 as a campsite for Aboriginal clans to attend a conference held by Governor Macquarie in 1814. No Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD were identified with the study area.

6.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Proposed works

The vision for the project is to deliver a new mixed-use precinct that fosters a dynamic live-work-play lifestyle. This precinct will feature a diverse range of housing options, including affordable housing, all complemented by expansive public open spaces. Retail and commercial uses will also be integrated, establishing a new, local destination that encourages community engagement and interaction.

The proposal broadly seeks approval for an SSDA for a mixed-use precinct with public open spaces comprising the following components:

- Site establishment works, tree removal, site preparation, earthworks and excavation, services augmentation, and remediation works.
- Development of seven residential buildings comprising four shop top housing buildings and three residential flat buildings as outlined below:
 - Buildings 1-3 are integrated with an eastern mixed-use podium building, while Building 4 is situated above mixed residential / commercial space, offering shop-top housing.
 - Buildings 5-7 consist of residential flat buildings.
- Delivery of 15% of the total floor space as affordable housing to be distributed across each of the 7 residential buildings.
- Approximately 134,000m² total floor space comprising:
 - A total of 2,500m² retail GFA and 5,000m² commercial GFA.
 - Communal amenity facilities for residents.
 - Building services areas.
- Activation of Crescent Street through a mix of amenity areas and pockets of open space.
- Shared car parking for Buildings 1-3 and the commercial and retail tenancies within the podium.
- Shared car parking for Buildings 4 to 7 on the lower ground levels and within the above ground parking structures adjoining Buildings 5 and 6.
- The widening of Crescent Street and upgrades to Crescent Street.
- Landscaping and accompanying place making works including:
 - Public open space, hard and soft landscape works.
 - Ground and rooftop communal open space.
 - Publicly accessible through-site links.
 - At grade car parking for the park, forecourt and retail areas.
 - Vehicle access via a new internal publicly accessible road and vehicle accessway.
 - New pedestrian footpaths and access arrangements to the site.
 - Café tenancy within park-side structure.
 - Staged completion of a public park.

6.2 Aboriginal heritage impact

No Aboriginal sites and no areas of increased archaeological potential or sensitivity were identified during the assessment. Therefore, no impacts are expected to Aboriginal objects and there is no requirement to undertake further archaeological investigations.

6.3 Ecological Sustainable Development principles

The Guide (OEH 2011) specifies that Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) principles must be considered when assessing harm and recommending mitigation measures in relation to Aboriginal objects.

The following relevant ESD principles are outlined in Section 3A of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*:

- Decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations (the 'integration principle')
- If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation (the 'precautionary principle')
- The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations (the 'principle of intergenerational equity').

6.3.1 The integration principle

Decision making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations (the 'integration principle'). The preparation of this ACHAR demonstrates regard for the integration principle by considering Aboriginal heritage values and impacts to these from the proposal during the planning phase. The nature of the proposal is in itself one that contributes to the long term economic and social needs of current and future residents of the area.

6.3.2 The precautionary principle

If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific confidence should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation (the 'precautionary principle'). This report has been prepared to the Code of Practice and the Consultation Requirements and has met the industry standards for scientific confidence that no archaeological sites are present in the study area, therefore no further archaeological investigation is required.

6.3.3 The principle of intergenerational equity

The proposed works would adhere, as close as possible, to the principle of intergenerational equity by collating scientific and cultural information on former Aboriginal occupation of the study area through the previous investigations and this ACHAR. The ATR prepared an assessment of the study area and synthesised the regional character of Aboriginal objects and sites for posterity and future generations.

6.4 Cumulative impacts

A cumulative impact is an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage resulting from the incremental impact of the action/s of a development when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. No Aboriginal archaeological potential has been identified within the study area therefore no cumulative impacts are expected.

7.0 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

7.1 Guiding principles

The overall guiding principle for cultural heritage management is that where possible Aboriginal sites should be conserved.

Where unavoidable impacts occur then measures to mitigate and manage impacts are proposed. Mitigation measures primarily concern preserving the heritage values of sites beyond the physical existence of the site. The most common methods involve detailed recording of Aboriginal objects, archaeological test and salvage excavations, artefact analysis and, where appropriate, reburial of Aboriginal objects in a location determined by the RAPs.

Mitigation measures vary depending on the assessment of archaeological significance of a particular Aboriginal site and are based on its research potential, rarity, representatives and educational value. In general, the significance of a site would influence the choice of preferred conservation outcomes and appropriate mitigation measures, usually on the following basis:

- Low archaeological significance – conservation where possible. SSD Conditions of Approval would be required to impact the site before work can commence
- Moderate archaeological significance – conservation where possible. If conservation was not practicable, further archaeological investigation would be required such as salvage excavations or surface collection in accordance with the SSD Conditions of Approval.
- High archaeological significance – conservation as a priority. Where all other practical alternatives have been discounted mitigation measures such as comprehensive salvage excavations in accordance with the SSD Conditions of Approval would be required.

Sites of unknown scientific value should be conserved where possible. Where conservation is not practical further investigation under the Code of Practice will be required to confirm the presence of Aboriginal objects and gather enough information to assess significance. Test excavation is not a mitigation measure, it is an investigatory action required to gather enough information to inform the development of appropriate mitigation measures.

7.2 Management measures

Following the outlined criteria and acknowledging the probable absence of Aboriginal objects, the site is categorised as being unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects. Therefore, the project is unlikely to harm Aboriginal objects and as such construction activities are permitted to proceed with caution. However, in the event of unexpected discoveries of Aboriginal objects, a thorough assessment will be required to determine their significance, evaluate potential impacts, and formulate suitable mitigation measures.

While no specific mitigation measures are currently recommended, it is advised that construction works be conducted under an unexpected finds procedure to effectively address any unforeseen discoveries.

7.3 Changes to the project area

Advice provided within this ACHAR is based upon the most recent information provided by the proponent at the time of writing. Any changes made to the project should be assessed by an archaeologist in consultation with the RAPs. Any changes that may impact on Aboriginal sites not assessed as part of the project may warrant further investigation and result in changes to the recommended management and mitigation measures.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The following results and recommendations are based on consideration and requirements of Aboriginal heritage guidelines including:

- *The Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010c) – known as The Code of Practice
- *Guide to Investigating and Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales* (DECCW 2011) – known as ACHAR guidelines.
- *The Aboriginal Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010b) – known as Consultation Guidelines.
- The project SEARs

The assessment found that the study area is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects based on:

- An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) which did not reveal any sites listed in the study area
- No previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified within the study area during the site inspection
- The study area has experienced significant disturbances including gas storage, commercial and industrial land use. This has resulted in the development of associated infrastructure such as truck loading docks, car parks, and landfill, along with extensive subsurface works. These activities have considerably altered the original state of the area
- Detailed background research and assessment following an archaeological survey
- Historical images support a history of disturbance in the study area illustrating that buildings have been erected, and significant ground disturbance took place from the 1960s onwards.
- The detrimental effects to soil integrity due to construction works is further heightened by the high levels of disturbance of the soil profile with fill existing up to 4.8 metres below the surface in some parts.
- While the landscape and environment of NSW as a whole is significant to Aboriginal people, no specific Aboriginal heritage values were identified for the study area.

Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment and in accordance with Aboriginal heritage guidelines and the SEARs for the proposal, the following recommendations are made:

- Consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders must be maintained. Should a six-month gap in consultation occur with the RAPs, Heritage NSW may determine that the consultation has lapsed'. In the event that consultation has lapsed, the client may be requested to restart the consultation process.
- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impacts to areas not assessed by this ACHAR further assessment must be undertaken.

- An unexpected finds procedure must be prepared in consultation with the RAPs and would be implemented in the event of any unexpected finds of Aboriginal sites, objects, or archaeological deposits being identified.

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10.0 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 – Consultation records

The following link to view and download consultation records associated with the 1 Crescent Street, Holroyd project satisfies the requirements of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water 2010):
<https://artefact.box.com/s/jqjmbtw16wwve93uza33bc7tt766p7qu>

10.2 Appendix 2 – Technical report



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