

**Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, 443  
Smithfield Road, Prairiewood**

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report**

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<b>Report to:</b>	Fairfield City Council
<b>LGA:</b>	Fairfield City Council
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## Executive Summary

Fairfield City Council (FCC) proposes the development of an entertainment facility and associated carpark within the Fairfield Showground Precinct, at 430-482 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood. An Aboriginal due diligence assessment was undertaken by Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists (2018) which determined that it was highly unlikely that Aboriginal objects remain within the study area and that no further archaeological investigation was required.

The proposed Events and Community Centre is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) and therefore Aboriginal consultation and preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) is required. This report accompanies a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) that seeks approval for the development of an entertainment facility within the Fairfield Showground Precinct. The carpark is being assessed under an alternate planning pathway and this ACHAR accompanies the planning approval submission for the construction of the carpark facility within the Fairfield Showground Precinct. As such, Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage have been engaged by FCC to undertake the Aboriginal consultation and prepare this ACHAR. This ACHAR has been prepared in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011) and *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010a) and will assess the impacts of the proposed works on the cultural heritage values of the study area and provide management recommendations.

This ACHAR addresses both the proposed Fairfield Community and Events Centre (being assessed as an SSDA) and the proposed carpark (being assessed under an alternate planning pathway).

The proposed Community and Events Centre and associated carpark are not expected to impact on any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits and therefore no harm is expected during the proposed works as shown in this ACHAR.

### **Therefore, it is recommended that:**

#### Community and Events Centre (SSDA)

1. No further Aboriginal archaeological investigation is required in respect of the proposed redevelopment of the site.
2. This ACHAR should be submitted to satisfy Requirement 19 of the SEARs.
3. Consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) should continue throughout the project.
4. If, during the proposed works, any Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

#### Carpark (Alternate Planning Pathway)

1. No further Aboriginal archaeological investigation is required in respect of the proposed redevelopment of the site, as shown in Figure 14 of this report.
2. This ACHAR should be submitted with any planning approval applications.
3. Consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties should continue throughout the project.
4. If, during the proposed works, any Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

# Unearthed

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### 1.0 Background Information

#### 1.1 Introduction

Fairfield City Council (FCC) proposes the development of an entertainment facility and associated carpark within the Fairfield Showground Precinct, at 430-482 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood. An Aboriginal due diligence assessment was undertaken by Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists (2018) which determined that it was highly unlikely that Aboriginal objects remain within the study area and that no further archaeological investigation was required.

The proposed Events and Community Centre is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) and therefore Aboriginal consultation and preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) is required. This report accompanies a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) that seeks approval for the development of an entertainment facility within the Fairfield Showground Precinct. The carpark is being assessed under an alternate planning pathway and this ACHAR accompanies the planning approval submission for the construction of the carpark facility within the Fairfield Showground Precinct.

As such, Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage have been engaged by FCC to undertake the Aboriginal consultation and prepare this ACHAR. This ACHAR has been prepared in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011) and *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010a) and will assess the impacts of the proposed works on the cultural heritage values of the study area and provide management recommendations.

This ACHAR accompanies an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), in respect of a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the construction and operation of Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre. This report addresses the relevant Secretary's environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued for the project. This ACHAR also addresses the proposed carpark, which is being assessed under an alternate planning pathway.

#### 1.2 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

The proposed Fairfield Community and Events Centre stage of the project is being assessed as an SSD and the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for this project includes the following SEARs in respect of the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the study area and which section of this report addresses the SEARs requirements.

Item	SEARs Requirement	Relevant Section of Report
19. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, identifying, describing and assessing any impacts on any Aboriginal cultural heritage values on the land.	The whole of this report.

	Documentation: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.	
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**Table 1:** Showing the relevant SEARs and the sections of this report which address the SEARs requirements.

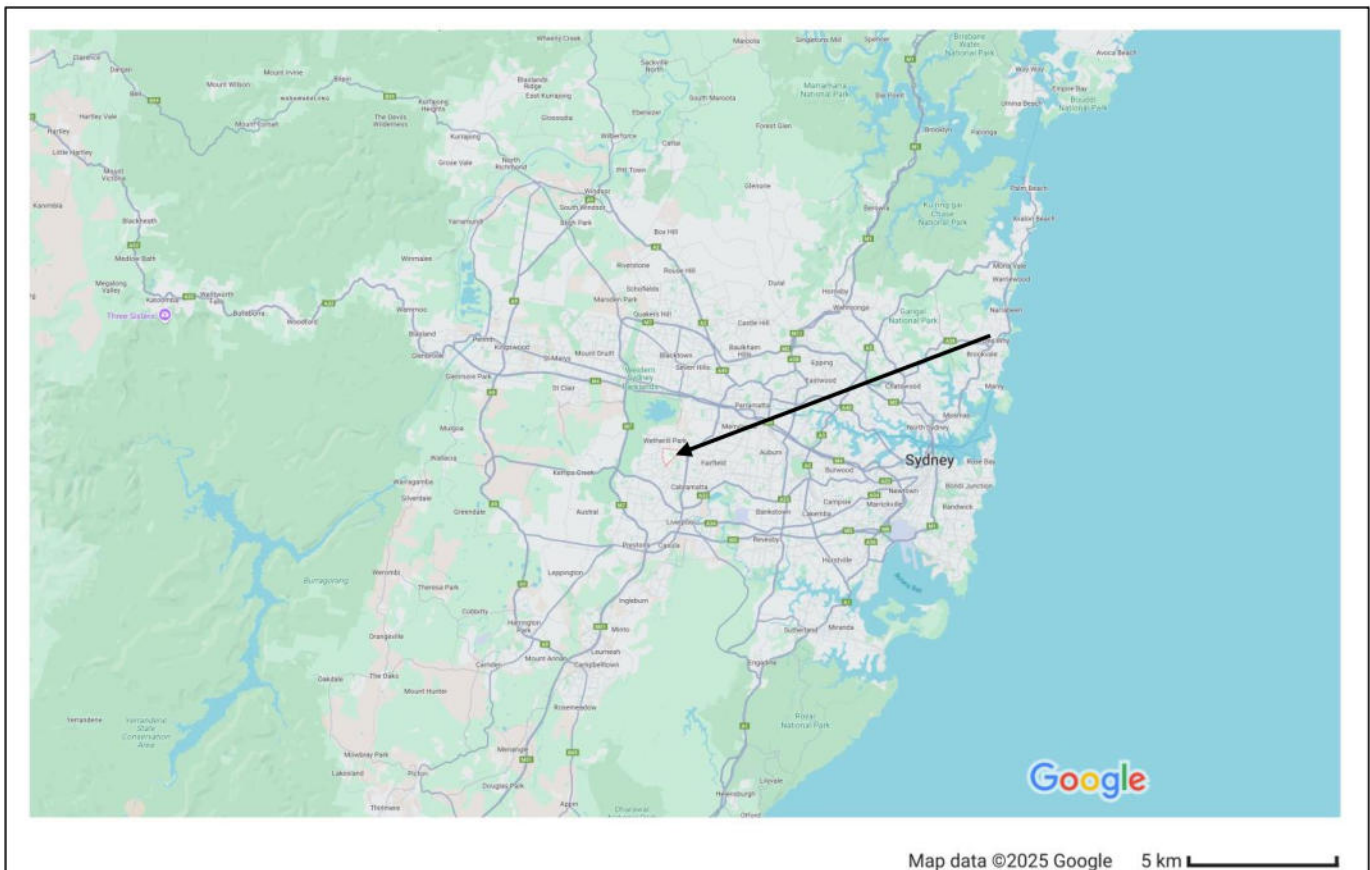
The proposed carpark is being assessed under an alternate planning pathway.

### 1.3 Study Area Location

The project site is located within the Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA), at 430 – 482 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood, legally identified as Lot 1 DP 1251439 and known as Fairfield Showground.

The study area is located within the Fairfield Showground Precinct. The Showground Precinct is bound by Orphan School Creek to the north and east, Smithfield Road itself to the south and the rear boundaries of the properties on the eastern side of Scotchey Street and Moonlight Road itself to the west.

Figure 1 below shows the location of Prairiewood. Figure 2 shows the study area on the NSW Map. Figure 3 shows the study area on the aerial photograph.



**Figure 1:** Showing the location of Prairiewood outlined in red and indicated by the black arrow (map courtesy of Google Maps).

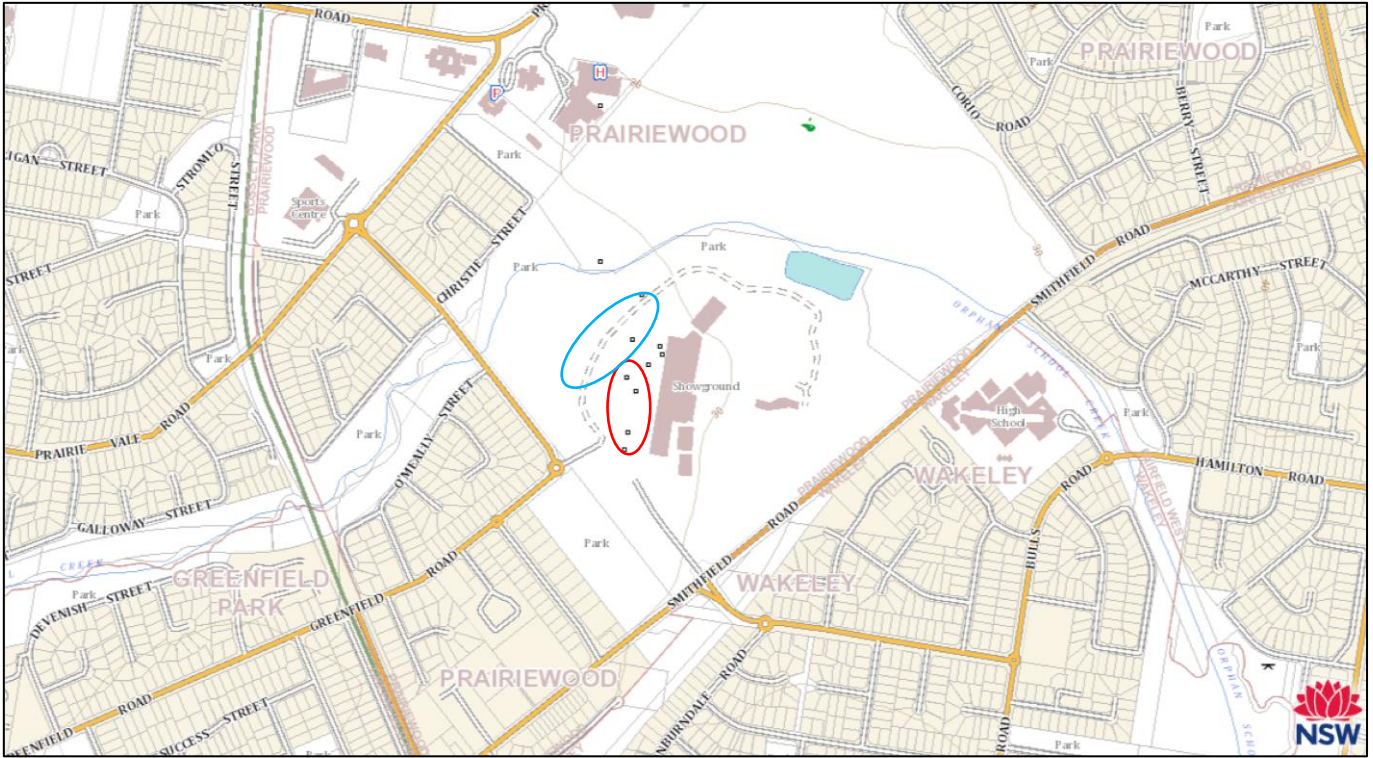


Figure 2: Showing the approximate location of the proposed Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre circled in red and the proposed carpark circled in blue on the NSW map (map courtesy of Six Maps).



Figure 3: Showing the approximate location of the proposed Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre circled in red and the approximate location of the proposed carpark circled in blue on the aerial photograph (aerial photo courtesy of Six Maps).

The regional context of the project site is shown in Figure 4 and includes the following:

- Fairfield Hospital: located approximately 250m to the north of the Fairfield Showground Precinct are Braeside and Fairfield Hospital.
- Fairfield City Golf Club: also located to the north of the site, the Fairfield City Golf Club is an 18 hole golf course, inclusive of a driving range and associated club house.
- Wetherill Park Shopping Centre: located approximately 600m to the north east of the site is the Stockland Wetherill Park Shopping Centre.
- Mackillop Catholic College: to the east of the site is Mackillop Catholic College, being an independent Catholic school for girls.
- Deerbush Park: to the side of the site is Deerbush Park. In the broader context of land to the south of the site are a range of low medium density residential developments.
- Transport Corridors: the key regional transport corridors in proximity to the site are:
  - Smithfield Road: which adjoins the eastern side of the site. A number of bus services travel along Smithfield Road, notably from Parramatta Station (Stand B2).
  - Cumberland Highway: which is located approximately 1.5km to the east of the site.



Figure 4: Showing the project site and its regional context (aerial photograph courtesy of DFP/Nearmap).

## 1.4 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places within New South Wales. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is the State Government agency responsible for the implementation and management of this Act.

Part 6 of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act* provides provision for the protection of all Aboriginal “objects” which are defined as “any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains”. Part 6 of the Act states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

An Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment was undertaken by Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists (2018) in accordance with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010) and *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011). That assessment concluded that there is low potential for Aboriginal “objects” to be present within the location proposed for the Community and Events Centre site. The carpark has been redesigned to avoid areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential.

The proposed Community and Events Centre project is being assessed as an SSDA and there is a SEARs relating to Aboriginal consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010a) and the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This ACHAR details the results of the Aboriginal consultation and satisfies the SEARs. The proposed carpark project is being assessed under an alternate planning pathway

## 1.5 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A ACT)

The proposed Community and Events Centre project is being undertaken as a State Significant Development under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act states the following:

### **4.41 Approvals etc. legislation that does not apply (cf previous s 89J)**

*(1) The following authorisations are not required for State significant development that is authorised by a development consent granted after the commencement of this Division (and accordingly the provisions of any Act that prohibit an activity without such as authority do not apply)*

–

*(a) Repealed*

*(b) A permit under section 201, 205 or 219 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994,*

*(c) An approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of the Heritage Act 1977,*

*(d) An Aboriginal heritage impact permit under section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974,*

*(e) (Repealed)*

*(f) A bush fire safety authority under section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997.*

*(g) A water use approval under section 89, a water management work approval under section 90 or an activity approval (other than an aquifer interference approval) under section 91 of the Water Management Act 2000.*

*(2) division 8 of Part 6 of the Heritage Act 1977 does not apply to prevent or interfere with the carrying out of State significant development that is authorised by a development consent granted after the commencement of this Division.*

*(3) A reference in this section to State significant development that is authorised by a development consent granted after commencement of this Division includes a reference to any investigative or other activities that are required under this Part in connection with a development application for any such development.*

The EP&A Act is administered by the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Development who will provide any necessary consent for this SSDA portion of this project and for any impacts on any items of heritage significance or archaeological deposits. Section 4.41 states that an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is not required in respect of projects approved as a State Significant Development (SSD).

### **1.6 Areas of Proposed Harm to Aboriginal Objects**

The Due Diligence Assessment (Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists 2018) has determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal objects to be present within the portion of the study area where the Community and Events Centre is proposed, and therefore it is not anticipated that those proposed works would impact on any Aboriginal objects. As such, it is not expected that there will be any harm to any Aboriginal objects by the construction of the proposed Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre.

The plans for the proposed carpark have been redesigned and are also located outside of areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential. Therefore, it is not expected that the proposed works will impact on any Aboriginal objects.

Therefore, there are no areas of proposed harm to Aboriginal objects associated with this project.

## 2.0 Aboriginal History

### 2.1 Authorship

The following history has been taken from the Kari Aboriginal Resources Inc website (<http://www.kari.org.au/culture/local-aboriginal-history.php>).

### 2.2 The Cabrogal

In 1795, when Bass and Flinders first explored the Georges River before the colonisation of the Liverpool and Fairfield area, the Darug, Tharawal and Cabrogal people lived in the area. These three tribal groups were divided into smaller clans or bands - extended family units consisting of up to sixty people. Each of these clans was named after the area of land where they normally resided, and which the people had traditional links.

The suffix “gal” was added to the place name for men of the clan and “galleon” was added for women. The clan group around Fairfield was the Cabro (gal) or (galleon), named after the cohbra grubs they harvested at the banks of the Georges River, especially near Cabramatta Creek. The main contact between groups was during ceremonial gatherings. There were linguistic and cultural differences, as well as economic ones. There was a complicated system of kinship and totems which prevented certain types of contact. It is difficult to pinpoint exact language boundaries, as information came from early colonists, explorers and ethnographers trying to interpret Aboriginal languages.

It is thought that the Tharawal language was spoken from South of Botany Bay to the area east of the Georges River (Holsworthy area) to as far south as Jervis Bay and the Darug language on the Western side of the Georges River to Appin and Picton and as far west as the Blue Mountains. Gandangara is said to be the language of the 'mountain' people, from the Blue Mountains to the Nattai and Burragorang Valleys and as far south as Goulburn.

Current Local Land Council boundaries differ from these 'traditional' boundaries. The Cabro clan was recognised as one of the 'woods tribes' by Europeans, together with Aboriginal people living at South Creek, at Cowpastures near Camden, and at Mulgoa near Penrith. Bass and Flinders' favourable reports pleased Governor Hunter, who named the area Banks Town, and by 1799 he was awarding grants of land in the Holsworthy area and along the Cabramatta Creek.

The Aboriginal economy was dependent on harvesting resources with only very little modification to the environment, with the Georges River playing a central part of that economy. People fished from the bank or in canoes and dug for yams and collected cohbra grubs on the banks of the river.

In contrast, Europeans quickly set about clearing the land and planting crops which prevented Aboriginal people from carrying out their traditional hunting of animals and gathering of plant foods. In 1803 Thomas Moore was commissioned to take timber from the Georges River for shipbuilding. The river provided water and for nearly two decades it was the primary means of transport back to Sydney.

When Governor Macquarie first toured the district, he saw much of it in its natural state. The land near Liverpool was generally open forest, as was the country further west along Cabramatta Creek, with eucalyptus of medium height, which covered about 30 percent of the ground surface, with grasses beneath.

## 3.0 Landscape and Environmental Context

### 3.1 Topography

The study area is located within the central portion of the Sydney Basin. The Sydney Basin is a geological basin of the Permian-Triassic era that covers an area of 64,000km<sup>2</sup> on the central eastern coast of Australia (Stening 2018b: 6). The Sydney Basin is comprised of sandstone and shales which have been subjected to erosion, creating a landscape of steep sandstone cliffs and escarpments and plateaus over areas of shale (Herbert 1980: 21).

Prairiewood is located within the south eastern edge of the Cumberland Plain, the low lying gently undulating plain which covers approximately 2750km<sup>2</sup> and extends from Windsor in the northwest to Picton in the south, the Nepean-Hawkesbury River in the west, to the headwaters of the Georges and Parramatta Rivers in the east and to the Hornsby Plateau in the north (Stening 2018b: 6).

The study area is located on the southern banks of Orphan School Creek.

Figure 5 below shows the location of the study area on the topographic map.

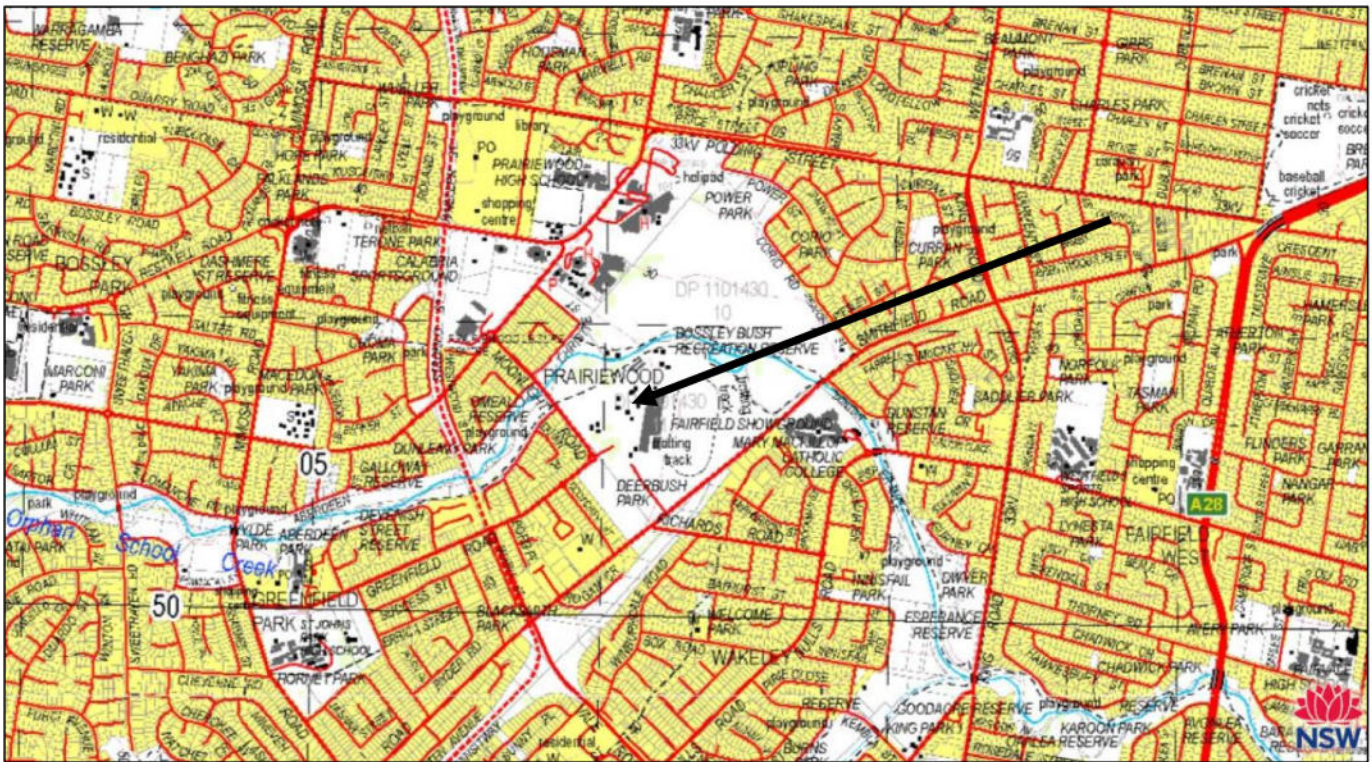


Figure 5: Showing the approximate location of the study area indicated by the black arrow on the topographic map (map courtesy of Six Maps).

### 3.2 Geology

The Cumberland Plain is generally located on the Liverpool subgroup of the Wianamatta Group of Shales. The Liverpool subgroup comprises a lower formation of Ashfield Shale which grades upwards into a fine sandstone siltstone laminate, overlying the Minchinbury Sandstone (Stening 2018a: 7). The Minchinbury Sandstone separates the Ashfield Shale from the overlying Bringelly Shale (Jones and Clark 1991: 17). The Liverpool subgroup does not provide a good variety of lithic materials suitable for stone tool manufacture. A band of Quaternary medium grained sand, clay and silt stretches to the north, east and west of the present study area.



A2 horizon (topsoil): hard setting brown clay loam (7.5YR 4/3, 2.5YR 3/3, 10YR 3/3). Iron indurated gravel sized shale fragments are common, but charcoal fragments and roots are rare.

B horizon (subsoil): mottled brown light clay (2.5YR 4/6, 10YR 4/6). Gravel sized shale fragments are common, but roots and charcoal fragments are rare.

B3 or C horizon (deep subsoil): light grey plastic mottled clay (10YR 7/1, 2.5YR 6/2). Gravel sized shale fragments and roots are occasionally present. Charcoal fragments are rare.

### 3.4 Stream Order Modelling

Stream order can be used to facilitate a predictive model of Aboriginal land use patterns. A creek or small tributary that generally does not have any water flowing into it, but feeds into a larger stream is classified as a first order stream. A first order stream can have intermittent flow. When two first order streams join, it creates a second order stream, and the joining of two second order streams creates a third order stream and so forth (Strahler 1952).

McDonald and Mitchell (1994) developed a predictive model within the Cumberland Plain which demonstrates that stream order can be used to predict areas of archaeological potential. Their hypothesis is that in order to allow permanent stream flow or to allow the formation of waterholes with extended longevity over months and years, it is necessary to have a threshold catchment area. The critical point at where the necessary conditions are met is at the junction of two second or third order streams. Locations such as these areas likely to contain larger, more complex sites with higher densities of artefacts, whilst locations within 100 metres of second and third order streams are likely to contain large sites (Stening 2016: 8).

The Fairfield Showground site is located between Orphan School Creek: a first order stream at this location, although the landscape has been heavily modified for flood mitigation works; and Clear Paddock Creek: a second order stream. The location of the study area indicates that campsites or isolated finds may be found within the landscape of the study area.

### 3.5 Vegetation

Historically, the area of Prairiewood would have been vegetated by Dry Sclerophyll Forest which is characterised by *Melaleuca linariifolia* (narrow leaved paperbark), *Melaleuca styphelioides* (prickly paperbark) and *Casuarina glauca* (river oak). The Dry Sclerophyll Forest supported an understorey of *Juncus usitatus* (common rush), *Persicaria* spp (knotwood) and the now endangered *Persoonia nutans* (Nodding Geebung).

Tea tree oil can be obtained from the crushed leaves of the melaleuca plants and used as traditional medicine. The bark and wood of the *Casuarina glauca* and other large trees provided material for making canoes, spears, shields and coolamons (Low 1989). The stems and leaves of the *Juncus usitatus* provided fibres which were used to make string, fishing line, woven rugs and baskets. The *Persoonia nutans* produces an edible fruit. This wide variety of vegetation provided a rich food source for Aboriginal people and for animal species such as small marsupials and birds associated with the Aboriginal diet.

Orphan School Creek would have provided drinking water and edible aquatic species.

### 3.6 Land Use History and Current Land Use

The following land use history and historical photographs are taken directly from the *Due Diligence Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report: Fairfield Showground, Prairiewood, NSW* (Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists 2018:6–10):

*Historical impacts within the subject land have been determined from a review of historical overviews of the area, local newspaper reporting on the development of the showground site, and a range of aerial and oblique aerial photographs from the 1940s to the present. The land formed part of the large Orphan School Grant made in 1803, but was largely unused except for perhaps timbercutting over the next half a century. In the 1870s when much of the Grant was sold off, the portion of land containing the current Showground and Golf Course was bought by John Bossley and later owned by his son Tarbuton Bossley (1848 – 1932). The area was known as Bossley’s Bush, and was largely cleared regrowth scrub, containing a homestead and several tracks (Figure 7). At this time, Orphan School Creek also retained its meandering natural course. When Tarbuton Bossley died in 1932, he donated the site of the golf course and showground for public recreation.*

*In 1953, the trotting track was established by Council, and from 1955 the site was used for the Annual Shows of the Fairfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society (Figure 8). In the 1950s and early 1960s a grandstand, horse stalls, carparks and other buildings were added, and the southern edge of the site had been stripped of topsoil (Figure 9). The adjacent Fairfield Golf Course was opened in 1967, as well as a drive-in theatre on the opposite side of Smithfield Road, and by 1970 a number of additional buildings had been added to the showground complex (Figure 10). The current, large grandstand, function centre, covered market area, and model stream [sic] railway were added in the 1980s, while Orphan School Creek was modified and sewer and stormwater pipes installed along its length (Figure 11). By this time a large dam had been excavated to the north of the trotting track, a detention basin created to its east, and levee banks were constructed along the southern bank of the creek, possibly with spoil from the dam. Over the past three decades, only relatively minor additions and alterations have been made to the complex, most notably the creation of a hardstand carpark in the southern end of the complex.*

*The extensive construction and flood mitigation works that have taken place over the past 60 years will have had an impact on the survival of Aboriginal archaeological remains within the local area. As any surviving remains are likely to be located within the upper A Horizon of the soil profile, which is not likely to be more than 0.5m deep, it is likely that activities involving subsurface impact will have served to disturb and perhaps destroy archaeological remains in those particular areas.*



Figure 7: 1943 aerial photograph showing the Fairfield Showground Precinct outlined in blue.



Figure 8: Photograph of an early Fairfield Show in the 1950s.



Figure 9: Oblique aerial view west over the showground site in the early 1960s.



Figure 10: 1970 aerial photograph showing the Fairfield Showground Precinct outlined in blue.



Figure 11: 1986 aerial photograph showing the Fairfield Showground Precinct outlined in blue.

### 4.0 Archaeological Context

#### 4.1 Sydney Basin

Research into the regional and local archaeological context of the study area can be used to develop an understanding of the patterning of Aboriginal land use and enable the preparation of a predictive model to determine the likelihood of particular site types being located within the study area.

The Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), the last period when Earth's ice sheets were at their maximum glaciation, occurred between 15,000 – 18,000 years ago. Sea levels were up to 130m below current sea levels during this period (Nutley 2006:1). As temperatures started to rise at the end of the LGM, the polar ice caps started to melt and sea levels began to rise, and in doing so helped to form the present day Sydney landscape.

As sea levels rose, people were forced to move inland, abandoning formerly coastal sites which were now being inundated by the sea (Nutley 2006). Sea levels began to stabilise about 6,000 years ago and the majority of sites around the Sydney region date to the last 5,000 years after sea levels had stabilised. Research into submerged Aboriginal sites has demonstrated that several submerged sites in the Sydney region date to more than 10,000 years BP.

In 1989 the National Parks and Wildlife Service engaged Smith to undertake an Aboriginal Site Planning Study to assist in the management of Aboriginal sites on the Cumberland Plain (Smith 1989), as the number of archaeological investigations being undertaken in the region was increasing due to increasing development.

Smith's study indicated that site location and site densities were heavily influenced by the availability of water and of raw materials to manufacture tools, however other environmental factors including topography, soil type and vegetation had significantly less influence on site location and densities (1989:3). She states that sites "will most likely occur along permanent creeks and within and around swamp margins" (1989: 2). When discussing the Liverpool Local Government Area where the present study area is located, Smith notes that in this area, factors such as soils, topography and vegetation do not influence site location but rather that the vast majority of artefacts within the area are located within 100m of water and that artefacts scatters were most likely to be found in association with permanent water sources (Smith 1989).

The burgeoning expansion of development into southern, northern and western Sydney has increased since Smith's (1989) study, resulting in a significant increase in the archaeological investigation of the Cumberland Plain. The results of these archaeological assessments and excavations has demonstrated the complexity of the archaeological record across the region. In particular, ongoing research and investigation has indicated that the presence of surface artefact scatters does not indicate the full nature and extent of the archaeological deposit. Archaeological deposits can be located despite historical disturbance and in locations with a lack of surface artefacts. The research has indicated that more complex sites with higher artefact densities are generally located on permanent water sources and areas with major confluences present are prime site locations (Stening 2016:11).

Kohen's (1997) studies around Penrith determined that sites such as surface artefact scatters, rock shelters and grinding grooves "are particularly likely to occur adjacent to the rivers and creeks", such as the Nepean River, a fifth order stream.

In 2005, the results of McDonald's excavations in the Rouse Hill Development Area refined the model of occupation for the Cumberland Plain (2005). She examined site location, mobility and change over time, in relation to stream order. Her study determined that confluences of second and third order streams with other watercourses are more likely to contain major, complex sites.

She examined the dynamic nature of lithic, or stone tool, technologies across the Cumberland Plain. She analysed the manner in which "stone technologies were organised in relation to landscape" and the way in

which technologies and the model of occupation across the Cumberland Plain changed over time in response to environmental factors (McDonald 2005: np). As sea levels rose and population levels increased in the region, sites become more intensively occupied and some groups live permanently in the Cumberland Plain. As such, emphasis is placed on locally sourced raw materials for the manufacture of stone tools and lithic technology changes accordingly (McDonald 2005: np).

McDonald's excavation methodology demonstrated that a lack of artefacts on the surface does not reflect the actual archaeological potential of a site. She states that "despite artefacts being rare or completely absent on the surface of each of the sites investigated, all six sites were found to contain intact archaeological deposit" (McDonald 2005: np). Sites were selected for investigation based on their assessed archaeological potential.

McDonald's extensive studies across the Cumberland Plain have resulted in a predictive model for the region. She determined that sites located on fourth or fifth order streams are likely to be more complex and possibly stratified indicating ongoing, repeated, lengthy occupation at these locations. Sites with evidence of frequent occupation are likely to be located within third order stream catchment areas. Second order streams have the potential to contain sites which reflect occasional occupation.

Comber's excavations at Penrith Lakes (2010) confirmed the model of occupation presented by Kohen (1997) and McDonald (2005). Excavations were undertaken in two locations, adjacent to the Nepean River, a fifth order stream. Her excavations revealed that despite only a low density artefact scatter being present on the surface at each location, more than 1,000 artefacts were collected from a highly stratified, intensively occupied site.

Excavations undertaken at a highly disturbed location adjacent to Eastern Creek, a third order stream, at Doonside (Stening 2011). These excavations demonstrated that despite no surface artefacts being recorded, more than 1,000 artefacts were uncovered. Analysis showed that the site had been occupied by a larger, more complex group over more extensive periods of time.

Smith (1989), Kohen (1997) and McDonald's (2005) model of occupation for the Cumberland Plain indicates that larger, more complex sites are more likely to be located at the confluence of several watercourses, especially higher order streams. Evidence of frequent occupation is likely to be located within third order stream catchment areas, despite a lack or a low density of surface artefacts. First and second order creeks are likely to contain evidence of less complex and lower density sites. Therefore, given the present study area is located in the catchment between a second and third order stream, evidence of Aboriginal occupation could be predicted.

## 4.2 Prairiewood

An open campsite comprising predominantly silcrete artefacts (AHIMS 45-5-2820) was recorded approximately 100m to the north of the Fairfield Showground within the Golf Course. It is asserted that the artefacts had likely been moved from the alluvial bank of Orphan School Creek during the construction of the golf course.

AMBS undertook an assessment for the proposed Liverpool to Parramatta Bus Transitway in 2002 and recorded two isolated finds (AHIMS 45-5-2523 and 45-5-2524) near Orphan School Creek and approximately 500m from the Showground. They undertook test excavation of AHIMS 45-5-2524 and uncovered 358 artefacts from 12 1 x 1m test trenches. Their excavation determined that despite urban development and flood mitigation works, the banks of Orphan School Creek retain significant Aboriginal archaeological evidence.

An open campsite comprising four stone artefacts was recorded along a channelised section of Clear Paddock Creek, approximately 1km south of the Showground.

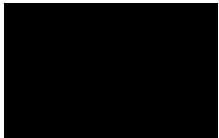
### 4.3 The Study Area

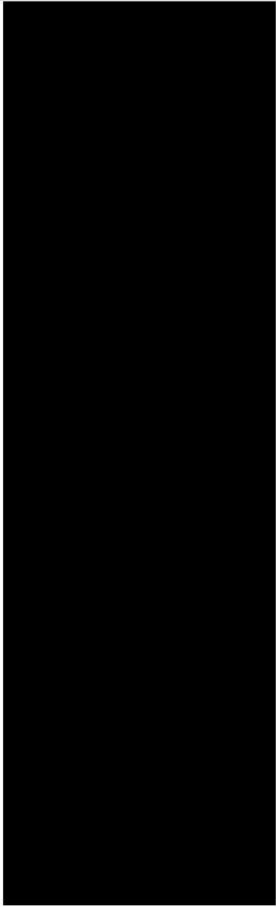
A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database undertaken on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 indicates that there are no registered sites within the present study area.

Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists undertook an assessment of the Fairfield Showground Precinct (2018), a copy of which is attached at Appendix C: Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment Report of this report. They determined that the southern portion of the Showground Precinct, which contains the carpark and training yard, had historically been stripped of original topsoil; the central portion, which contains the racetrack, grandstands, function centre and large sheltered carpark, had undergone heavy disturbance “completely recontouring the existing ground for the racetrack including the large bund wall around the track and raised areas around the grandstands” (Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists 2018:12). They recorded a scatter of six artefacts (AHIMS 45-5-5015) along an approximately 25m section of the levee to the north of the trotting track. They determined that these artefacts had been moved from their original location, during the construction of the levee.

### 5.0 Consultation Process

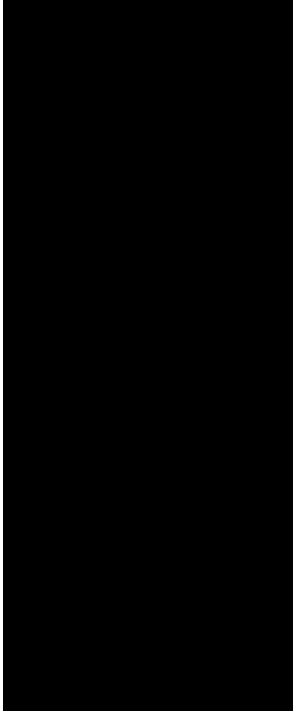
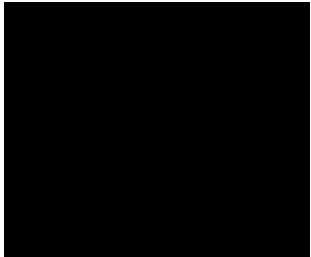
Table 2 below summarises the consultation undertaken in accordance with *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Copies of the letters, notifications, advertisement and emails are attached at Appendix B: Consultation.

Step	Task Requirement	Action	Date of action	Outcome
4.1.1	Identify if native title exists in relation to the project area.	Wrote to National Native Title Tribunal and registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements.	09/08/2024	Response received on 09/08/2024 – by email to state that there are no known Native Title determinations, applications or ILUAs over the study area and that it is freehold land.
4.1.2	Ascertain, from reasonable sources of information, the names of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places. Compile a list of Aboriginal people who may have an interest for the proposed project area and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places.	Wrote to the following organisations seeking the names of any Aboriginal people or organisations who may hold cultural knowledge on 09/08/2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairfield City Council (FCC)</li> <li>Heritage NSW</li> <li>Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC)</li> <li>Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA)</li> <li>National Native Title Tribunal</li> <li>Greater Sydney Local Land Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NTS Corp</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	09/08/2024	Responses were received from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ALRA</li> <li>FCC</li> <li>DLALC</li> <li>Heritage NSW</li> <li>NNTT</li> </ul>
4.1.3	Written notification and advertisement:  Write to the Aboriginal people whose names were obtained in step 4.1.2	Letters written to the Aboriginal organisations and individuals whose names were provided by the Government agencies in 4.1.2 (sent by email and post).	Letters sent 27/08/2024 with a closing date of 10/09/2024.  Advertisement placed in The	Responses were received from the following on the dates indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

	<p>and the relevant LALC(s) to notify them of the proposed project.</p> <p>Place a notice in the local newspaper circulating in the general location of the proposed project, explaining the project and its exact location. Notification by letter and newspaper must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) the name and contact details of the proponent;</li><li>(b) a brief overview of the proposed project that may be the subject of an application for an AHIP, including the location of the proposed project;</li><li>(c) a statement that the purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in the preparation of an application for an AHIP and to assist the Director-General of Heritage NSW in his or her consideration and determination of the application;</li></ul>		<p>Saturday Telegraph on 14/09/2024 with a closing date of 28/09/2024.</p>	
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	<p>(d) an invitation for Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in the area of the proposed project to register an interest in a process of community consultation with the proposed applicant regarding the proposed activity;</p> <p>(e) a closing date for the registration of interests.</p>			
4.1.4	<p>A minimum of 14 days from the date the letter was sent or notice published in the newspaper to register an interest.</p>	<p>Closing date for registration of interest included in the notification letters and notice in the newspaper was at least 14 days from the date the letters were sent and notices appeared in the newspapers.</p>	<p>Letters sent 27/08/2024 with a closing date of 10/09/2024.</p> <p>Advertisement placed in The Saturday Telegraph on 14/09/2024 with a closing date of 28/09/2024.</p>	
4.1.5	<p>Must advise Aboriginal people who are registering an interest that their details will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and the LALC unless they</p>	<p>RAPs informed in initial letter.</p>	<p>27/08/2024.</p>	<p>One RAPs advised they wanted their details withheld.</p>

	specify that they do not want their details released.			
4.1.6	<p>Make a record of the names of each Aboriginal person who registered an interest.</p> <p>Provide a copy of that record and copy of the notification from step 4.1.3 to the relevant Heritage NSW EPRG regional office and LALC.</p>	List of RAPs compiled as listed in point 4.1.3.	August/September 2024.	
4.1.7	LALCs holding cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places in the proposed project area who wish to register an interest to be involved in consultation must register their interest as an Aboriginal organisation rather than individuals.	DLALC were contacted as a part of the consultation process by letter (4.1.2 and 4.1.3) on 09/08/2024 and 27/09/2024.	09/08/2024 and 27/09/2024	DLALC registered an interest in the project.
4.1.8	<p>Where an Aboriginal organisation representing Aboriginal people, who hold cultural knowledge has registered an interest, a contact person for that organisation must be nominated.</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders who have registered an interest may indicate they have appointed a representative to act on their behalf. Where this occurs, the</p>	Responses from organisations and individuals registering interest in the project.		

	registered Aboriginal party must provide written confirmation and contact details of those individuals to act on their behalf.			
4.2	Presentation of information about the proposed project.	<p>Information regarding the proposed Community and Events Centre to be provided to RAPs via a meeting on 20/11/2024.</p> <p>A second meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to discuss the proposed carpark and associated test excavations.</p>	<p>Meeting held on 20/11/2024 and 10/04/2025.</p>	<p>The following RAPs attended the meeting on 20/11/2024:</p> 
4.3.1 - 4.3.2	Notification of proposed assessment methodology	<p>Copy of the proposed assessment methodology and excavation methodology sent to all RAPs with an invitation to provide comment.</p>	16/04/2025	<p>A copy of the proposed test excavation methodology for the carpark was sent by email on 16/04/2025.</p> <p>The following responses were received:</p> 

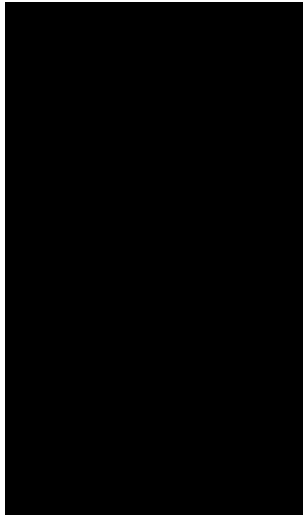

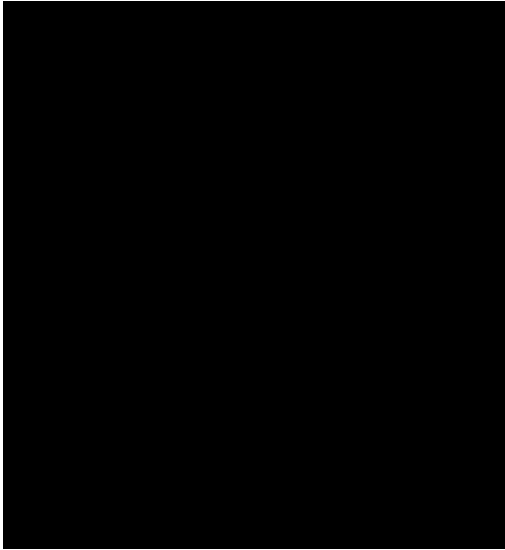
				
4.3.3	Gathering information about cultural significance			No information about cultural significance was gathered.
4.4	Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report	Draft Cultural Heritage Assessment Report provided to RAPs for review and comment with a 28 day review period.	Sent out on 15/05/2025 with a closing date of 12/06/2025.	<p>The draft ACHAR was sent out on 15/05/2025.</p> <p>The following responses were received:</p> 
	Ongoing consultation	Revised ACHAR (version C) sent out to RAPs for review and comment with a 14 day review period	Sent out on 26/06/2025 with a closing date of 10/06/2025.	

Table 2: Showing the stages of consultation and the outcomes.

As a result of the above consultation, the following 14 organisations or individuals are the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for this project:



No cultural knowledge or confidential information was provided by the RAPs in respect of the study area.

## 6.0 Summary and Analysis of Background Information

The Due Diligence Assessment indicates that “original topsoil (A) horizons have survived in areas that have not been heavily disturbed through historical land use. Up to 0.5m of original topsoil associated with the floodplain of Orphan School Creek is likely to survive in those areas, and possibly to greater depth in association with the original creek channel” (Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists 2018:19). That assessment determined that the central portion of the Fairfield Showground site has been subject to

*...considerable disturbance in association with the construction and use of the trotting track and markets and associated buildings. Specifically, impacts such as building, track, carpark and other construction will have heavily disturbed if not removed the uppermost original topsoil (A) horizon with the potential to contain stone artefacts.*

(Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists 2018:21)

The due diligence assessment determined that the central portion of the Fairfield Showground Precinct area does not have any Aboriginal archaeological potential. However, the northern section of the Showground Precinct is indicated as having Aboriginal archaeological potential (Figure 12).



Figure 12: Map showing the location of Aboriginal archaeological potential shaded red (plan courtesy of Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists 2022).

The RAPs were invited to two consultation meetings, on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The first meeting discussed the proposed Community and Events Centre, which is being assessed as a SSDA, and is located in an area with no Aboriginal archaeological potential. The second meeting was to discuss the proposed carpark, which is being assessed under an alternate planning pathway, and is located in an area of Aboriginal archaeological potential. Therefore, test excavations were recommended in the area of the proposed carpark, but not in the area of the proposed Community and Events Centre. The proposed excavation methodology was discussed at the second meeting and all RAPs present agreed with the proposed methodology. Both meetings were held on site and provided the RAPs the opportunity to inspect the relevant locations.

Since the second meeting and provision of the draft ACHAR to the RAPs for their review and comment, Fairfield City Council amended the plans to redesign and move the proposed carpark outside of any areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential. Figure 13 below shows the proposed works on an overlay of areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential. This plan shows that both the proposed SSDA and the proposed alternate approval pathway works are now located outside the areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed works will impact on any Aboriginal objects. As such the proposed management recommendations in respect of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage have been amended in accordance with these outcomes and archaeological test excavation is no longer proposed.

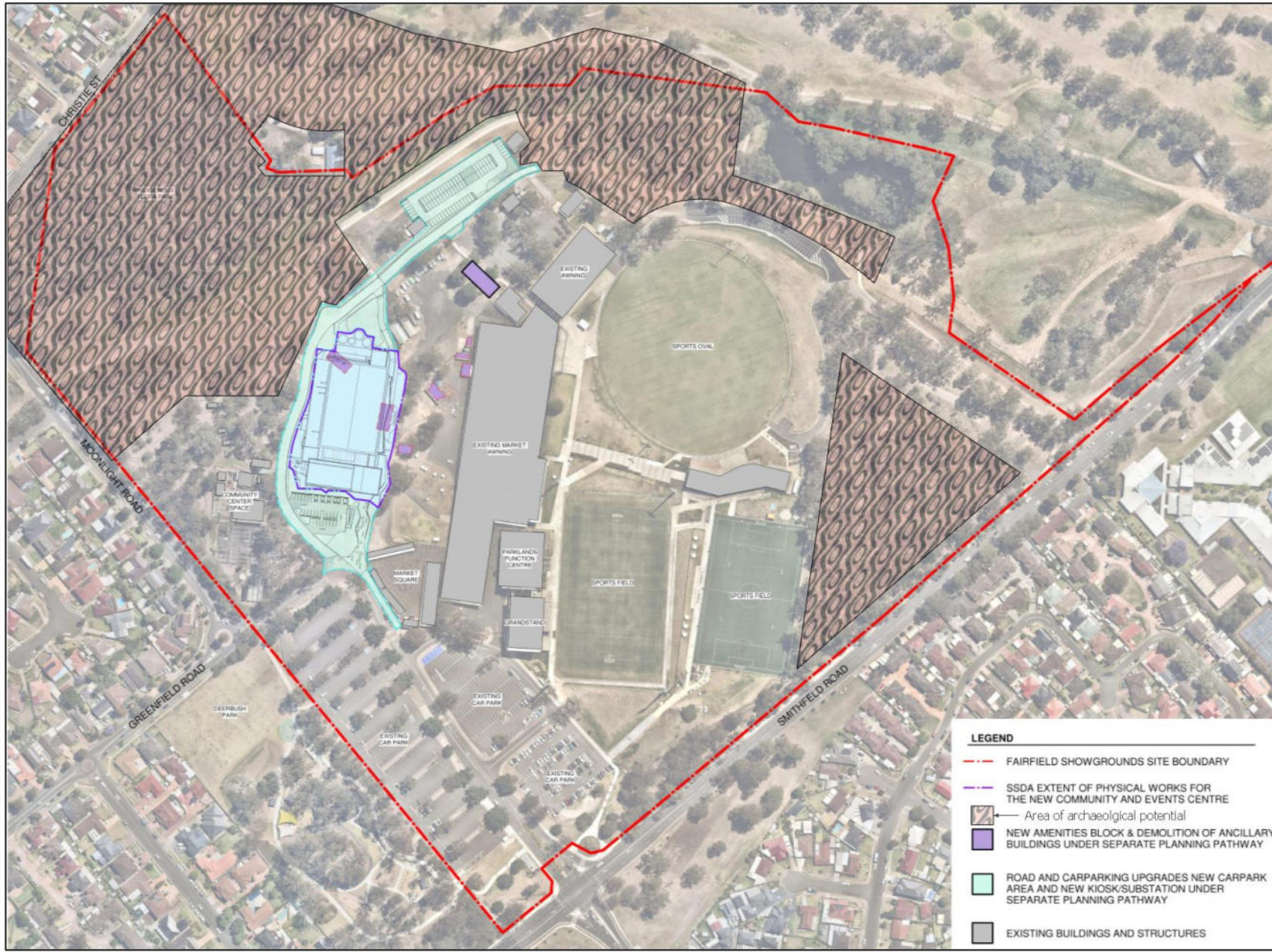


Figure 13: Showing the proposed works on an overlay with the areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential (plan courtesy of Maclex).

### 7.0 Significance Assessment

#### 7.1 Criteria

Significance assessment is the assessment of sites or landscapes to determine their importance or value to the community.

The Burra Charter documents principles and guidelines for the conservation and management of places of cultural heritage significance in Australia. A range of significance assessment criteria have been developed to assist in the determination of significance in accordance with the values of the Burra Charter and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* and *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*.

These documents provide the following criteria for the significance assessment of Aboriginal sites and objects:

**Social Value** (sometimes termed “Aboriginal value”) which refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments which the place or area has for the present-day Aboriginal community.

**Historic Value** refers to the associations of a place with a person, event, phase or activity of importance to the history of an Aboriginal community.

**Scientific Value** refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its archaeological and/or other technical aspects.

**Aesthetic Value** refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place.

**Research Values** refers to the potential for the evidence to contribute to an understanding of the area/region/state’s natural and cultural history.

**Representative Values** refers to how much variability exists, what is already conserved and how much connectivity is there?

**Rarity Values** refers to how important the area/site is in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, land use etc., no longer practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?

**Educational Values** refers to whether the site or area contains teaching potential.

#### 7.2 Significance Assessment

##### Social/Aboriginal Values

This is best assessed by the Aboriginal community. It is expected that any potential archaeological deposit located within the study area is of significance to the Aboriginal community. The background environmental and archaeological research indicates that Orphan School Creek was rich in resources favoured by Aboriginal people.

Evidence of Aboriginal occupation provides the Aboriginal community with both tangible and intangible connections with the history of their culture. Any evidence of Aboriginal occupation and the cultural landscape of the local area and its surrounds indicate the traditional and historical association and attachment to the land of the Aboriginal community of the region.

### **Historic Value**

The presence of any archaeological deposit within the study area demonstrates the ongoing occupation of the area by Aboriginal people and has the potential to provide information about the lifestyles and technology of the people of the area prior to and following European occupation.

### **Scientific Values**

Subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits have the potential to yield significant information about the Aboriginal people of the study area and their use of Orphan School Creek through detailed scientific and archaeological investigation and analysis. Any evidence of Aboriginal occupation would add to the existing knowledge of the Aboriginal occupation of the area and help to form more detailed understanding of the way that Aboriginal lived in the area.

### **Aesthetic Values**

Aboriginal objects and other evidence of Aboriginal occupation has the potential demonstrate the technological and creative achievements of Aboriginal people in the local area prior to European occupation.

### **Research Values**

Subsurface archaeological deposits within the study area have the potential to provide significant information about the Aboriginal people and cultural history of the area. The study area has the potential to demonstrate the activities, lifestyle and diet of the Aboriginal people of the area.

### **Representative Values**

Given the limited archaeological investigation undertaken in the area, any evidence of Aboriginal occupation has the potential to provide an excellent representative example of Aboriginal cultural heritage at Fairfield and Prairiewood.

### **Rarity Values**

It is considered possible that stratified, complex subsurface archaeological sites exist within the vicinity of the study area. While, complex sites might not have been rare within the local area, there has been limited archaeological investigation within the local area and therefore any detailed archaeological information would be considered rare. It is also possible that Aboriginal objects that are rare or unique could be uncovered.

### **Educational Values**

Any Aboriginal objects uncovered at the site have the potential to demonstrate the history and lifestyle of the Aboriginal people of the local area and Orphan School Creek and add to the growing information about the Aboriginal occupation of the area.

## **7.3 Statement of Significance**

This is best assessed by the Aboriginal community. It is expected that any potential archaeological deposit located within the study area is of significance to the Aboriginal community. The background environmental and archaeological research indicates that Orphan School Creek was rich in resources favoured by Aboriginal people.

Evidence of Aboriginal occupation provides the Aboriginal community with both tangible and intangible connections with the history of their culture. Any evidence of Aboriginal occupation and the cultural landscape of the local area and its surrounds indicate the traditional and historical association and attachment to the land of the Aboriginal community of the region.

The presence of any archaeological deposit within the study area demonstrates the ongoing occupation of the area by Aboriginal people and has the potential to provide information about the lifestyles and technology of the people of the area prior to and following European occupation.

Subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits have the potential to yield significant information about the Aboriginal people of the study area and their use of Orphan School Creek through detailed scientific and archaeological investigation and analysis. Any evidence of Aboriginal occupation would add to the existing knowledge of the Aboriginal occupation of the area and help to form more detailed understanding of the way that Aboriginal lived in the area. Aboriginal objects and other evidence of Aboriginal occupation has the potential demonstrate the technological and creative achievements of Aboriginal people in the local area prior to European occupation.

It is considered possible that stratified, complex subsurface archaeological sites exist within the vicinity of the study area. Subsurface archaeological deposits within the study area have the potential to provide significant information about the Aboriginal people and cultural history of the area. The study area has the potential to demonstrate the activities, lifestyle and diet of the Aboriginal people of the area. Given the limited archaeological investigation undertaken in the area, any evidence of Aboriginal occupation has the potential to provide an excellent representative example of Aboriginal cultural heritage at Fairfield and Prairiewood.

While, complex sites might not have been rare within the local area, there has been limited archaeological investigation within the local area and therefore any detailed archaeological information would be considered rare. It is also possible that Aboriginal objects that are rare or unique could be uncovered. Any Aboriginal objects uncovered at the site have the potential to demonstrate the history and lifestyle of the Aboriginal people of the local area and Orphan School Creek and add to the growing information about the Aboriginal occupation of the area.

### 8.0 The Proposed Activity

The proposed forms part of a masterplan located on the Fairfield Showground site which will comprise works to be carried out under multiple planning pathways.

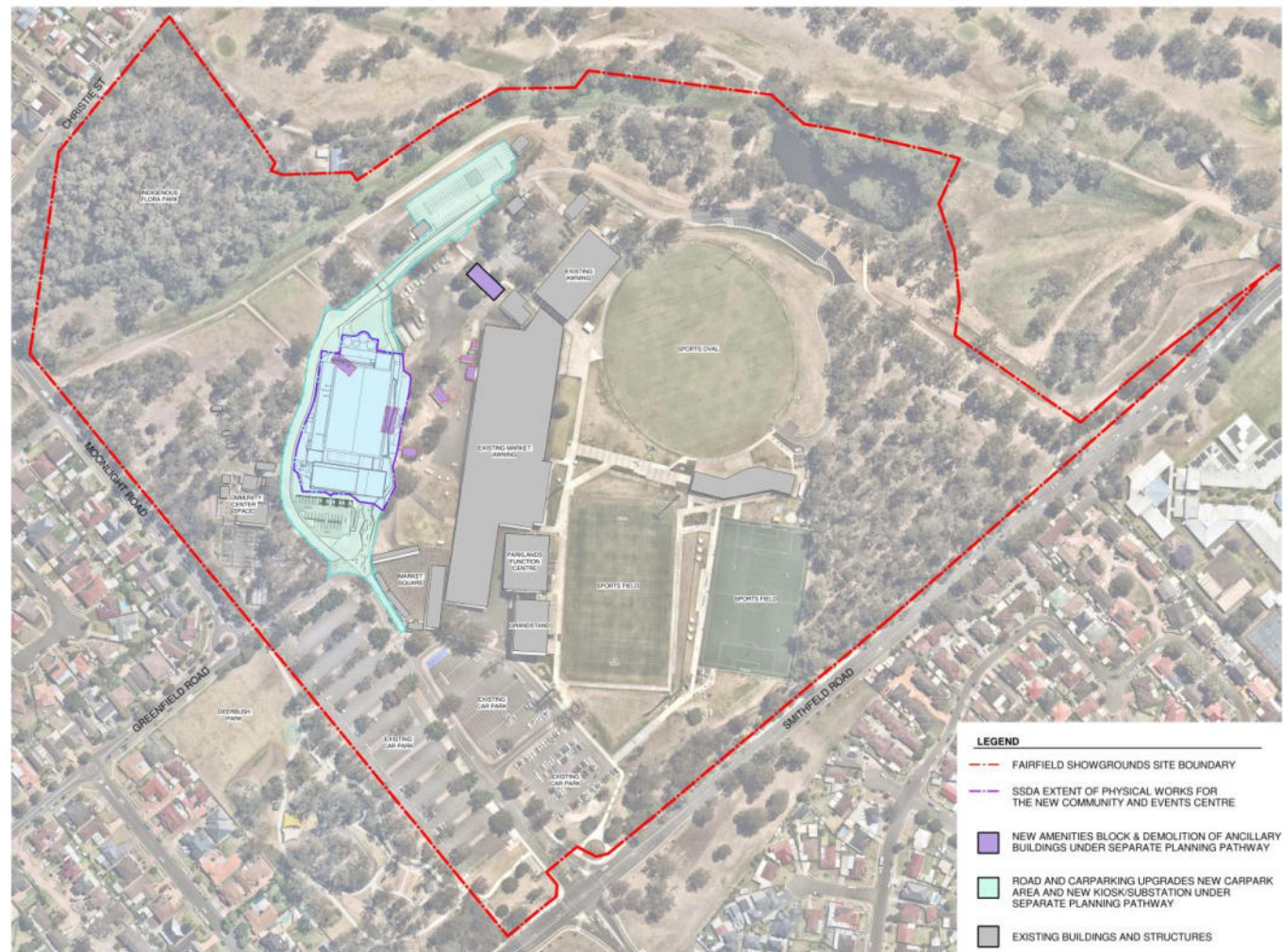
Under State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 (SEPP TI), certain works can be undertaken as development permitted without consent (Part 5 approval). Accordingly, these works do not form part of the scope of physical works proposed under this State Significant Development Application (SSDA).

The proposed extent of works to be carried out under the development permitted without consent (Part 5/REF) planning pathway as part of the masterplan includes:

- Demolition of six small ancillary buildings and construction of a new amenities block.
- Road a car parking upgrades and new car parking area.
- New kiosk/substation; and
- Associated civil and landscape works.

The proposed activity to be carried out under the SSDA as part of the masterplan includes:

- Construction and use of a one story multipurpose building; and
- Associated civil and landscape works.



- LEGEND**
- - - FAIRFIELD SHOWGROUNDS SITE BOUNDARY
  - SSDA EXTENT OF PHYSICAL WORKS FOR THE NEW COMMUNITY AND EVENTS CENTRE
  - NEW AMENITIES BLOCK & DEMOLITION OF ANCILLARY BUILDINGS UNDER SEPARATE PLANNING PATHWAY
  - ROAD AND CARPARKING UPGRADES NEW CARPARK AREA AND NEW KIOSK/SUBSTATION UNDER SEPARATE PLANNING PATHWAY
  - EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Issue No.	Date	Description	Chgd
1	08.06.2025	Master Plan	RP
A	08.06.2025	Final Draft for SSDA	RP
B	13.06.2025	Final SSDA	RP
C	08.07.2025	Master Plan	RP
D	08.07.2025	Issue for State Significance Development Application	RP

Changes to this Revision

**CLIENT**  
**FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL**  
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 0829 220 181  
 council@fairfield.nsw.gov.au

**TOWN PLANNER**  
**DPP**  
 11 Durrant Rd, Thornleigh NSW 2120  
 0829 220 181  
 townplanning@fairfield.nsw.gov.au

**BUILDING SERVICES**  
**NORTHROP**  
 Level 11, 340 George Street Sydney NSW 2000  
 02 9156 3000  
 Sydney@northrop.com.au

**QUANTITY SURVEYOR**  
**MULLER**  
 Suite 100, 201 Miller Street, North Sydney, 2060  
 02 9493 2777  
 sydney@mulleerpartnership.com.au

**Project**  
 Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre  
 #1  
 #42 Smithfield Road, Princeswood  
 Fairfield City Council

**NBRS®**  
 4/11 2 9022 2344  
 rbrs.com.au

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Drawing Reference: 23334-NBRS-SSDA-DR-A-000MP0 D  
 Revision: 1

Figure 14: Showing the proposed masterplan with the proposed Community and Events Centre shaded blue and the proposed carpark area shaded green to the north of the Community and Events Centre (plan courtesy of NBRS).

### **9.0 Avoiding and Minimising Harm**

#### **9.1 Avoiding and Minimising Harm**

The redesigned carpark plans place the proposed new carpark outside of the areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential. The proposed Community and Events Centre is also located outside of any areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential, as indicated by Figure 13. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed works will impact on any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits and therefore no harm is expected from the proposed SSDA or alternate planning pathway works.

#### **9.2 Consideration of the Principles of Environmental Sustainability**

The proposed Community and Events Centre and associated carpark are not expected to impact on any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits. Based on the results of this ACHAR in respect of the proposed Community and Events Centre and carpark, there is no known cumulative impact or impact to intergenerational equity on Aboriginal cultural heritage values as no Aboriginal archaeological potential has been identified in this location.

Consultation with the RAPs has commenced, as detailed in this report, and will continue throughout the entirety of this project. It is considered that the RAPs will be invited to participate in any future management of the study area.

### 10.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in accordance with:

- The legal requirements of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (as amended) which states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object without gaining prior consent of the Director General of DPIE.
- Research into the environmental and archaeological record of the study area.
- Consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties as detailed in this Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.
- Research into the environmental and archaeological record of the study area.
- The results of this Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment which concludes that it is unlikely that Aboriginal objects and subsurface archaeological deposits remain within the areas of the proposed Community and Events Centre location and carpark.

**Therefore, it is recommended that:**

#### Community and Events Centre (SSDA)

1. No further Aboriginal archaeological investigation is required in respect of the proposed redevelopment of the site.
2. This ACHAR should be submitted to satisfy Requirement 19 of the SEARs.
3. Consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties should continue throughout the project.
4. If, during the proposed works, any Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

#### Carpark (Alternate Planning Pathway)

1. No further Aboriginal archaeological investigation is required in respect of the proposed redevelopment of the site.
2. This ACHAR should be submitted to with any planning approval applications.
3. Consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties should continue throughout the project.
4. If, during the proposed works, any Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

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#### AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Fairfield Showground

Client Service ID : 957082

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
45-5-5015	FS OC1	GDA	56	306275	6250865	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>		Murray Brown,Mr.Paul Irish				<u>Permits</u>	4470,5168	

**\*\* 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 04/12/2024 for Tory Stening for the following area at Lot : 1, DP:DP1251493, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters.. 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.

Page 1 of 1

## Appendix B: Consultation

### Letters to NNTT and Other Government Organisations (4.1.2)

# Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage

A.2024

Name of Government Organisation  
By email:

9<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Fairfield Entertainment Centre, 430 – 482 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood  
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010**

Fairfield City Council propose the development of a new entertainment facility within the Fairfield Showground Precinct, 430 -482 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood. An Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment of the study area was undertaken by Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists in 2018 to inform the Master Plan for the design. That assessment determined that the proposed works would not impact on any Aboriginal objects. However, the project is being assessed as a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) and therefore Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* and the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) is a condition of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

I am therefore writing to you, in accordance with 4.1.2 of the consultation requirements, to seek the names and contact details of Aboriginal people or organisations who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the study area.

Please forward your response to:

Ms Tory Stening  
Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage  
P.O. Box 3132  
Redfern NSW 2016  
[tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au](mailto:tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au)  
Phone: 0410 686 309

**Please respond by COB Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024.**

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

With kind regards

Tory Stening  
Director/Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist/Project Director

## Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage



Figure 1: Showing the approximate boundaries of the study area outlined in red on the aerial photograph (aerial photo courtesy of Six Maps).



## Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers

### 1: Your details

Your name:	Tory Stening		
Your company:	Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage		
E-mail address:	tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au	Phone:	0410 686 309
Your reference:	Fairfield Showground	Your state:	New South Wales
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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:	1//1251493	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.

Council owned land within Fairfield Local Government Area – presently known as the Fairfield Showground.
--

E-mail the completed form to [GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au)

### Responses to Letter to NNTT and Other Government Organisations (4.1.2)

OFFICIAL



13 August 2024

By email: [tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au](mailto:tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au)

Tory Stening  
Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage  
PO Box 3132  
REDFERN NSW 2016

Dear Tory

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed development of a new entertainment facility within the Fairfield Showground precinct Prairiewood NSW: request for list of potential Aboriginal stakeholders**

We refer to your email and letter to this Office dated 9 August 2024 requesting contact information for Aboriginal organisations, stakeholders and/or people who may have cultural knowledge relevant to the proposed development of a new entertainment facility within the Fairfield Showground precinct Prairiewood NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

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.

Based on the project map, "Figure 1", provided in your letter it appears the proposed works fall within the boundary of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). We suggest contacting them, as they may wish to participate or contribute.

Additionally, we note the proposed works is very close to the boundary of Gandangara LALC. We propose reaching out to them as they may also wish to participate or contribute.

Yours sincerely

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

Deerubbin LALC  
PO Box 2341  
NTH PARRAMATTA NSW 1750  
(02) 4724 5600

Gandangara LALC  
PO Box 1038  
LIVERPOOL BC NSW 1871  
(02) 9602 5280

Address: 10 Darcy Street PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Post: P.O Box 787 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Phone: 02 8575 1160

OFFICIAL

**Barry Gunther** <Barry.Gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au>  
To: Tory Stening <tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au>

19 August 2024 at 14:13

Hi Tory,

Please find attached the Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, [443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood](#).

regards

Barry Gunther  
Aboriginal Senior Assessment Officer  
Heritage NSW  
Department of Climate Change,  
Energy, the Environment and Water

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage)

Locked bag 5020  
Parramatta NSW 2124

**justinecoplin@optusnet.com.au** <justinecoplin@optusnet.com.au>  
To: Caroline Barton <CBarton@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au>  
Cc: Tory Stening <tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au>

12 August 2024 at 06:59

Warami  
Please register Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation for this project.  
Yanu  
Justine

**Kayne Moreton** <KMoreton@deerubbin.org.au>  
To: "tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au" <tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au>  
Cc: "mlai@ntscorp.com.au" <mlai@ntscorp.com.au>

21 August 2024 at 12:05

Yes please put Deerubbin LALC down for this excavation ACH works please.

Kind regards  
Kayne Moreton

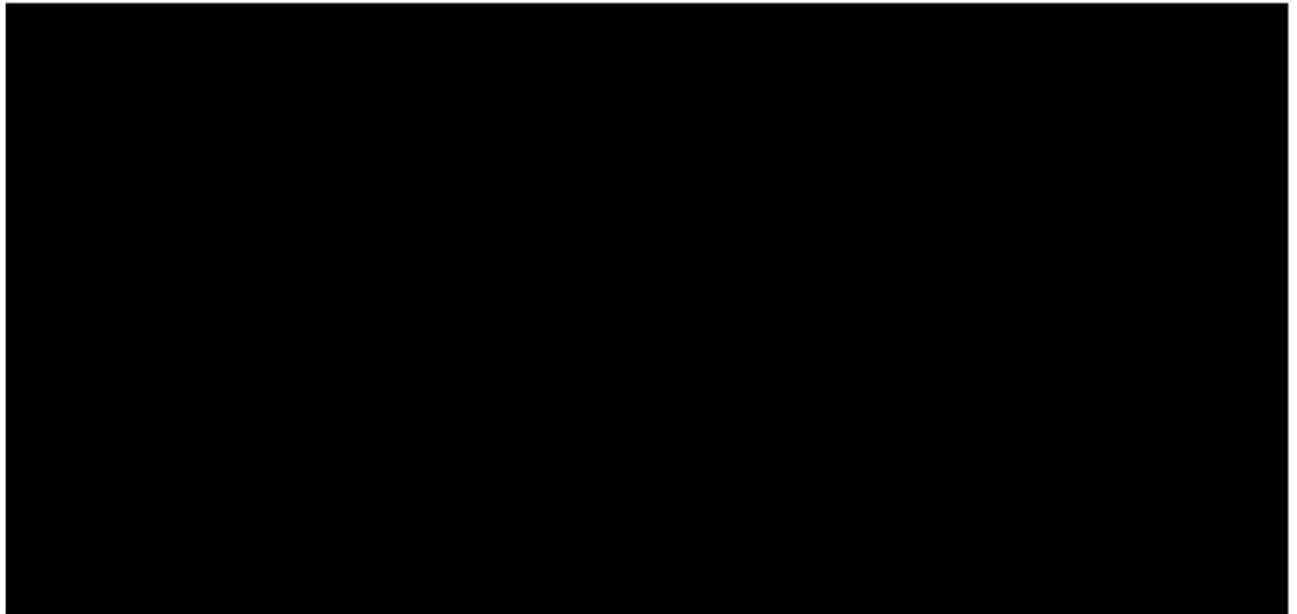
**Caroline Barton** <CBarton@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au>  
To: Tory Stening <tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au>  
Cc: Strategic Planning <strategicplanning@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au>

23 August 2024 at 10:28

Good morning Tory

Thank you for your correspondence received 09 August 2024 regarding Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, [443 Smithfield Rd Prairiewood](#), Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.

As per your request, please find the names and contact details of local Aboriginal people and/or organisations who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places within the study area:



Please note that the local Aboriginal Land Council relating to the proposed study area is Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council. Emails were sent to [reception@deerubbin.org.au](mailto:reception@deerubbin.org.au) and to their Senior Heritage Officer, Steven Randall, however no responses were received for this consultation.

Sincerely

**Caroline Barton**

Community Projects and Partnerships Officer,  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Social Planning and Community Development  
City and Community Services

PO Box 21, Fairfield NSW 1860

P 9725 0129 | **Work days – Wed, Thurs, Friday**

### Letters to Aboriginal Organisations and Individuals (4.1.3)

# Unearthed

## Archaeology & Heritage

A.2024

27<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood  
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010**

Fairfield City Council propose the development of a new entertainment facility within the Fairfield Showground Precinct, 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood. An Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment of the study area was undertaken by Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists in 2018 to inform the Master Plan for the design. That assessment determined that the proposed works would not impact on any Aboriginal objects. However, the project is being assessed as a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) and therefore Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* 2010 and the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) is a condition of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

In accordance with 4.1.2 of the consultation requirements, letters seeking the names and contact details of Aboriginal people or organisations who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the study area were sent to government agencies. Heritage NSW provided your details in response to that request. I am therefore writing to you, in accordance with 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements, to notify you of the proposed development and to invite you to register an interest in this community consultation with respect to the proposed development.

If you have any cultural knowledge that will assist in determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the study area or that will add to the story of the Aboriginal history of the study area, please provide your name and contact details to:

Ms Tory Stening  
Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage  
P.O. Box 3132  
Redfern NSW 2016  
[tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au](mailto:tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au)  
Phone: 0410 686 309

**Please respond by COB Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please note that it is a requirement to provide the names and contact details of any registered parties to Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council. Please advise on registering your interest if you wish to have your details withheld.

With kind regards

Tory Stening  
Director/Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist/Project Director

## Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage



Figure 1: Showing the approximate boundaries of the study area outlined in red on the aerial photograph (aerial photo courtesy of Six Maps).

### Responses to Letters to Aboriginal Organisations and Individuals (4.1.4)

27 August 2024 at 17:04

Hi Tory,

I would like to register [REDACTED] for this project.

This project area is located not too far from Moonrise and Sugarloaf lookout which overlooks the Fairfield area so that area would of been used for hunting and maybe gatherings.



27 August 2024 at 13:22

Hi Tory

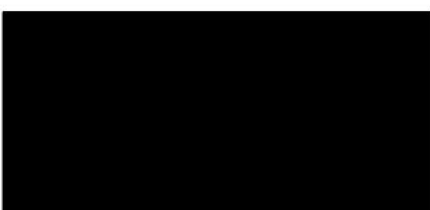
[REDACTED] **Registration of interest as required under Heritage NSW Aboriginal Cultural heritage**

We at [REDACTED] are identified First Nations people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and we wish to register an interest in the process of community consultation. We employ numerous clans that are skilled Aboriginal Culture & Heritage Site Officer's. As such we send the relevant clan members to the relevant project areas. Baring in mind that as per legislation as long as we are Aboriginal and hold our culture connections and knowledge, etc, to the areas we are registered stakeholders. We support participation of our stakeholders/members by providing employment in this field of employee on these projects that we have connections too and knowledge. As part of our registering we look forward to the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal Culture and heritage We are registering Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation in a full capacity. We have worked on a vast number of projects as Cultural Heritage Officers in the project area. We are currently involved on many projects in the subject area. My family and other family members have lived in the area and family currently reside in the surrounding areas.

We are registering in a full capacity. We are Aboriginal people who are culturally & heritage aware. We have the necessary ability, experience, skills, insight and the knowledge to identify artefacts on field work. And as Aboriginal People we connect thru the land, thru our Ancestors and our Heritage. Therefore we are able participate on all levels. We have worked with many archaeologists across a broad landscape. We have consulted with most archeological companies over many years on projects. We have all the relevant insurances and safety gear. We are all fit, capable and adapt to a vast landscape.

Contact is preferred via email: [REDACTED] The contact number, email and contact person is also listed in the signature.

Please do not disclose any of our details to LALC. We have responded for inclusion, to participate on all levels. Thanks.



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which we work and pay our deep respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

29 August 2024 at 11:06

Hi Tory,

[REDACTED] would like to express an interest in the ACHA for *regarding the Fairfield Showground*. We have lived in the Fairfield LGA for many years. [REDACTED] is an Aboriginal Elders group who meet every second Tuesday of the month to do Aboriginal Arts and Crafts.

Guntawang has an experience cultural and heritage officer who has worked with Sydney University to identify the differences between Indigenous Australian's bone structure to Non- Indigenous People. He has participated and co-ordinated a repatriation of Aboriginal skeletal remains to the land from which she belonged. He has years of experience in identifying Aboriginal artefacts.

He has worked with numerous Archaeologist on similar projects. [REDACTED] would like to be included in any field work or excavation involved with this project.

We look forward to working with you.

Kind regards

30 August 2024 at 17:05

Hi Tory  
Please register our company for the above project, we look forward to hearing from you.  
Thanks

On 27 Aug 2024, at 12:51 PM, Tory Stening <[tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au](mailto:tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au)> wrote:

3 September 2024 at 09:15

Good Morning,

Please register my interest in this upcoming project.

Thank you.

Lives & Works on Dharug Country

Proud Kamilaroi and Torres Strait Islander Women.

3 September 2024 at 17:16

Hi Tory  
Please register our company for the above project.  
Kind regards

6 September 2024 at 07:02

Good morning,

would like to register for this project.

Kind regards,

6 September 2024 at 08:26

Hi Tory

Thank you for your email would like to Formally register a interest in this project If you need anything from me please don't hesitate to contact me  
Have a great weekend

6 September 2024 at 08:01

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hi,

Thank you for your email, I would like to register in being involved in all levels of consultation for this project. Including, Meetings, Reports, Sharing Cultural Information, and available Field Work.

About [REDACTED]

I am a traditional owner with over 25 years experience in helping preserve Aboriginal cultural heritage on projects.

I hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and values that exist in the project area.

I have attached [REDACTED] Insurances.

[REDACTED] Represents over 100 Indigenous Locals

**When Selecting Groups for Engagement;**

Please consider that [REDACTED] is a member of the **NSW INDIGENOUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

We carry the NSWICC Assured logo showing that [REDACTED] has met National Policy requirements as upheld by the First Australians Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI) for being identified as a **100% First Nations Owned Indigenous Business** That has demonstrate compliance with Government and Industry Regulators.

I agree to my details being supplied to OEH and the LALC  
Please feel free to contact me on details supplied

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is now a member of the NSW INDIGENOUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

9 September 2024 at 16:54

[REDACTED]

Hi Tori,

Thank you for informing us that **Unearthed Archaeology and Heritage** will be involved in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment at **Fairfield Showground** &, that you are inviting Aboriginal organisations to register, if they wish too be involved in the community consultation process.

As a senior Aboriginal person for the past 51yrs, I actively participate in the protection of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage throughout the Sydney Basin, & particularly throughout Western Sydney, on behalf of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I wish to provide to you my organisation's registration of interest.

I wish to be involved & participate in all levels of consultation/project involvement. I wish to attend all meetings, participate in available field work & receive a copy of the report.

I have attached a copy of [REDACTED] Public Liability Insurance & Workers Compensation certificate.

Our RAPS have up to 16yrs Cultural Heritage experience in - field work which involves manual excavation (digging), sieving, identifying artefacts, setting up transits, setting up equipment, packing equipment, site surveys & attending meetings (Focus groups, CwC, interpretation).

Should you wish me to provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Stefeanie on 0451068480

[REDACTED]

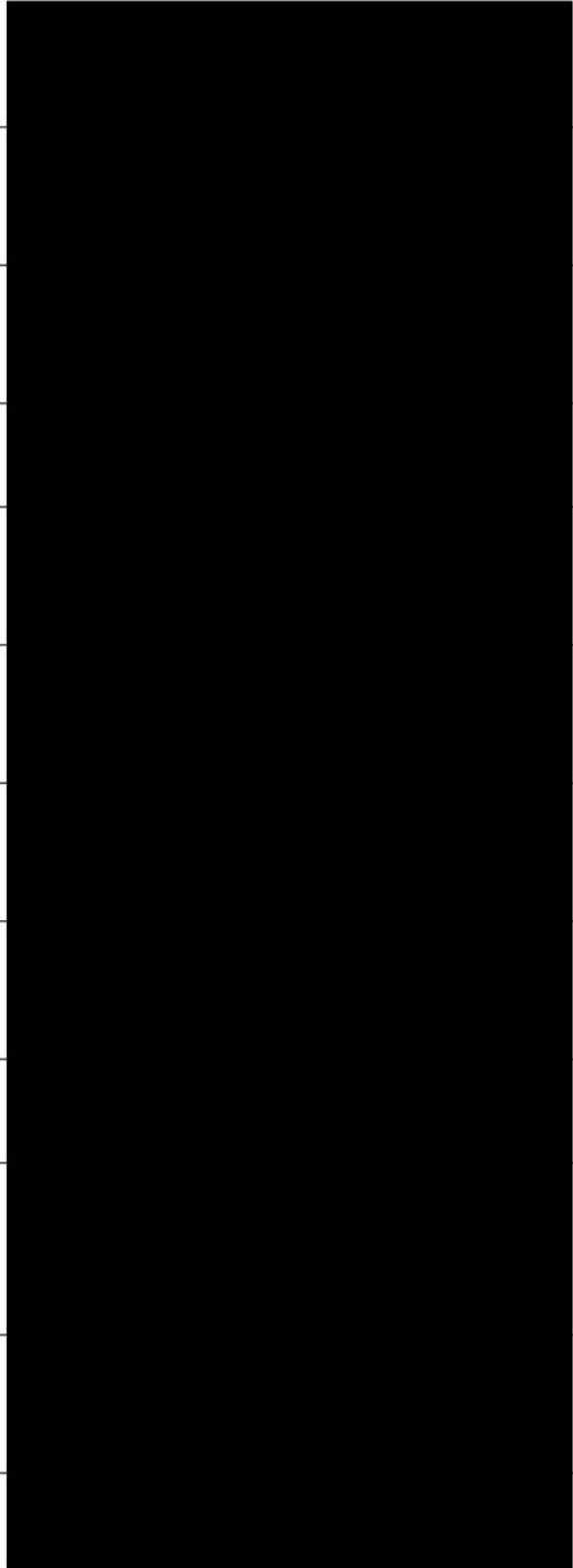
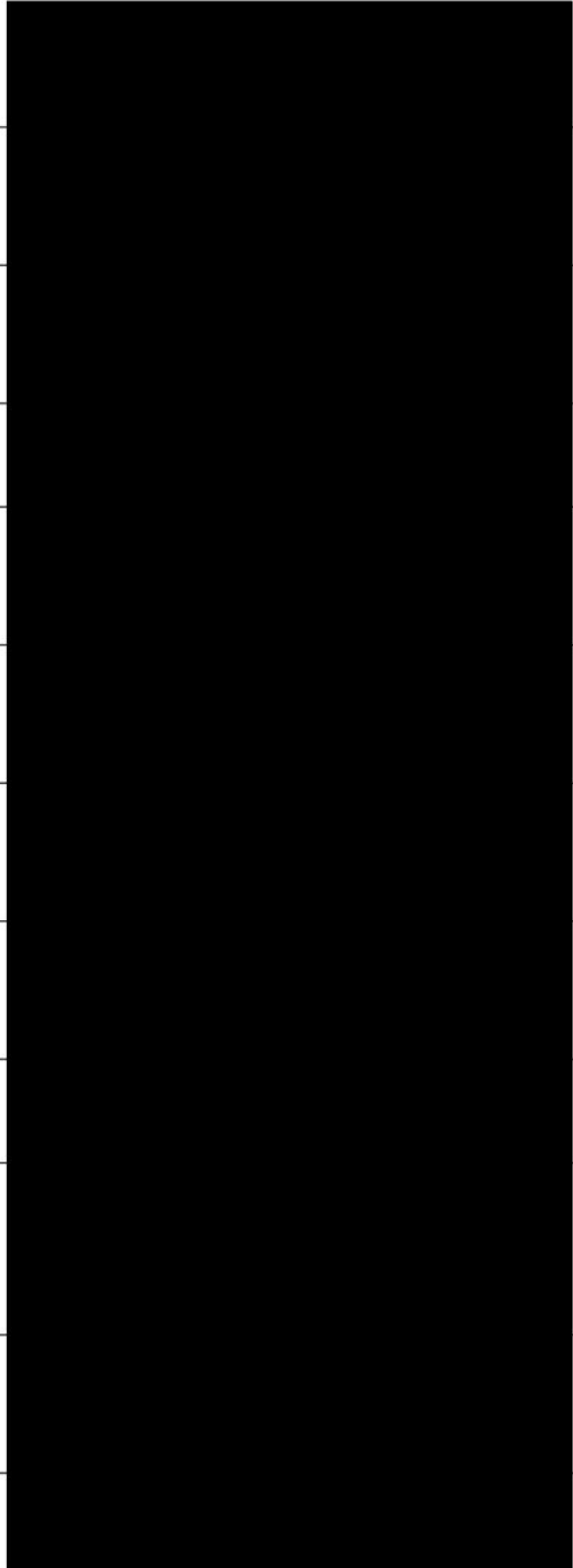
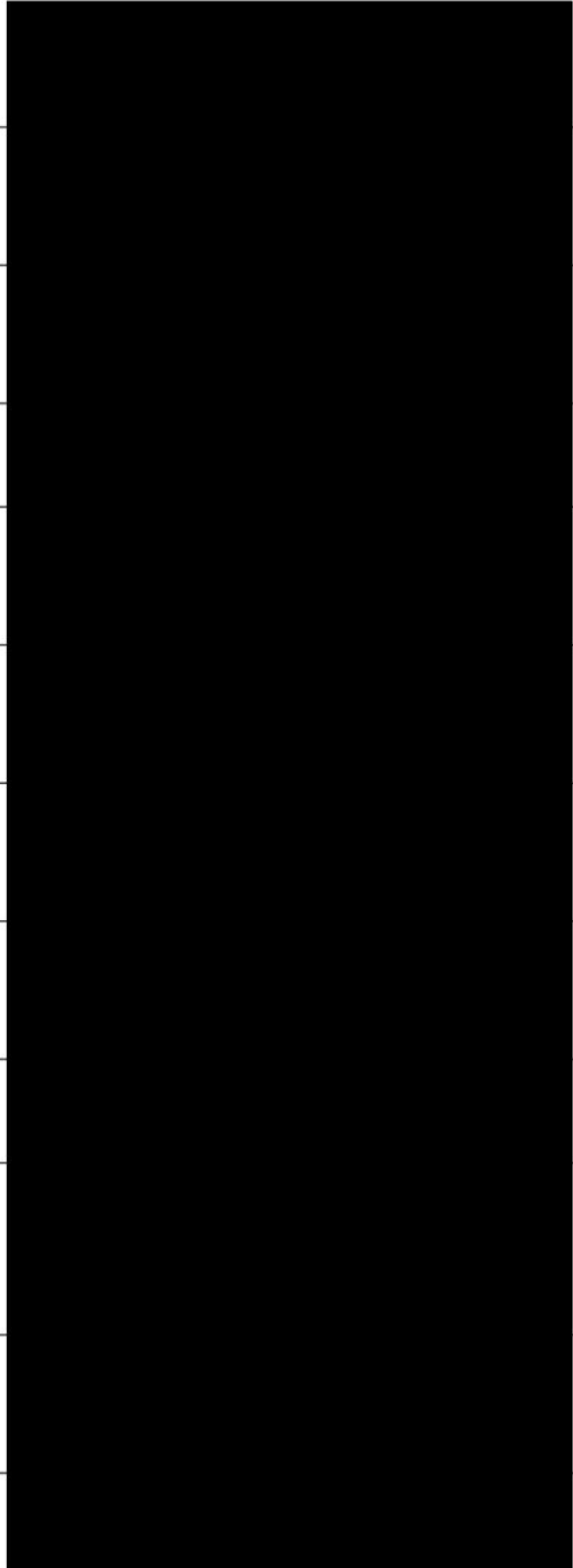
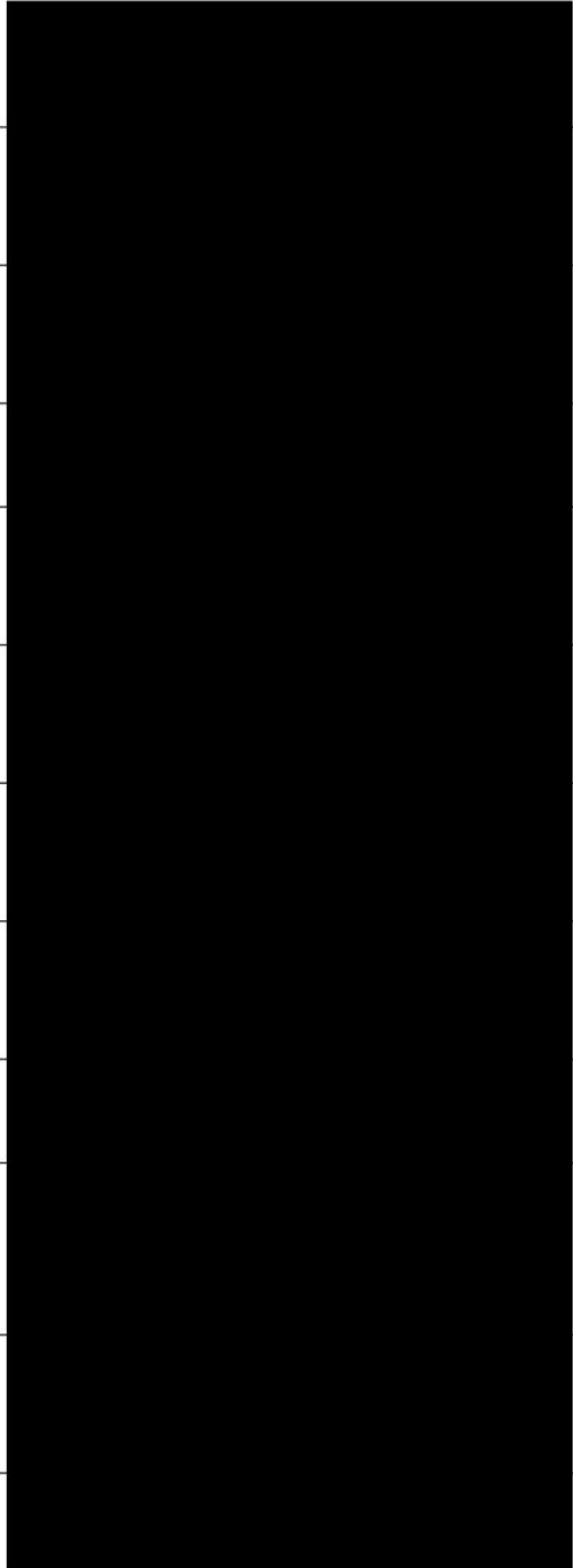
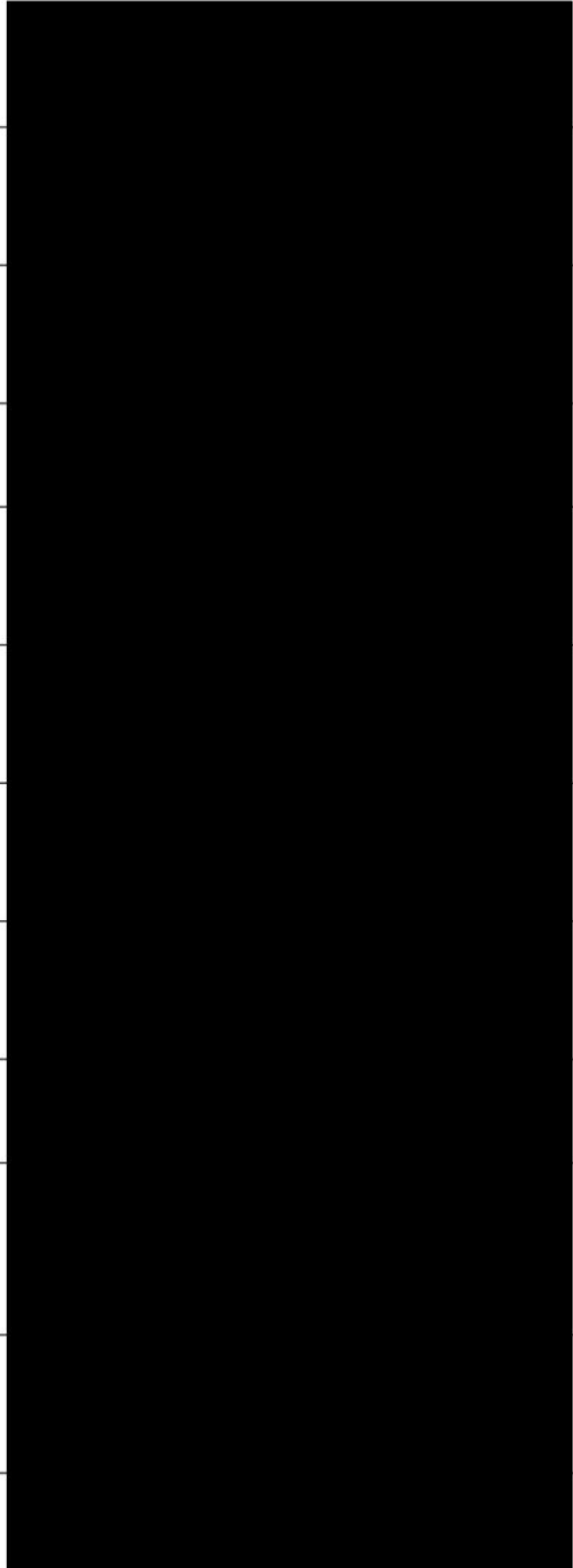
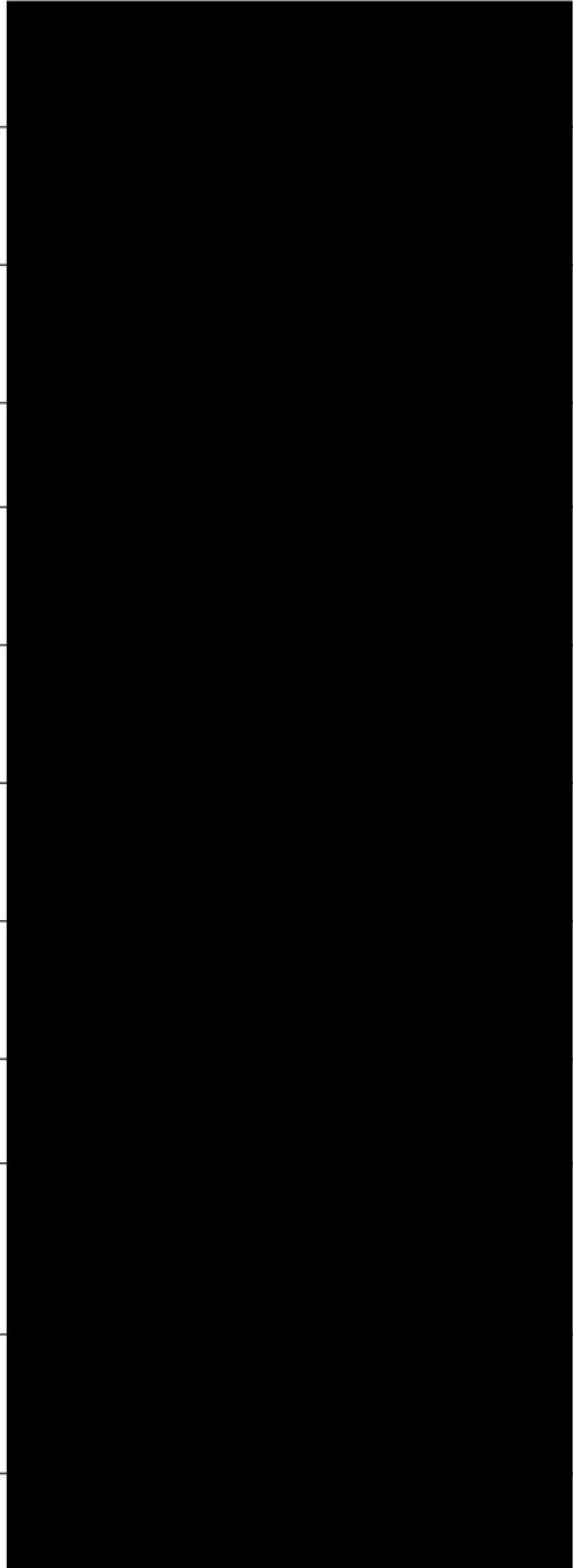
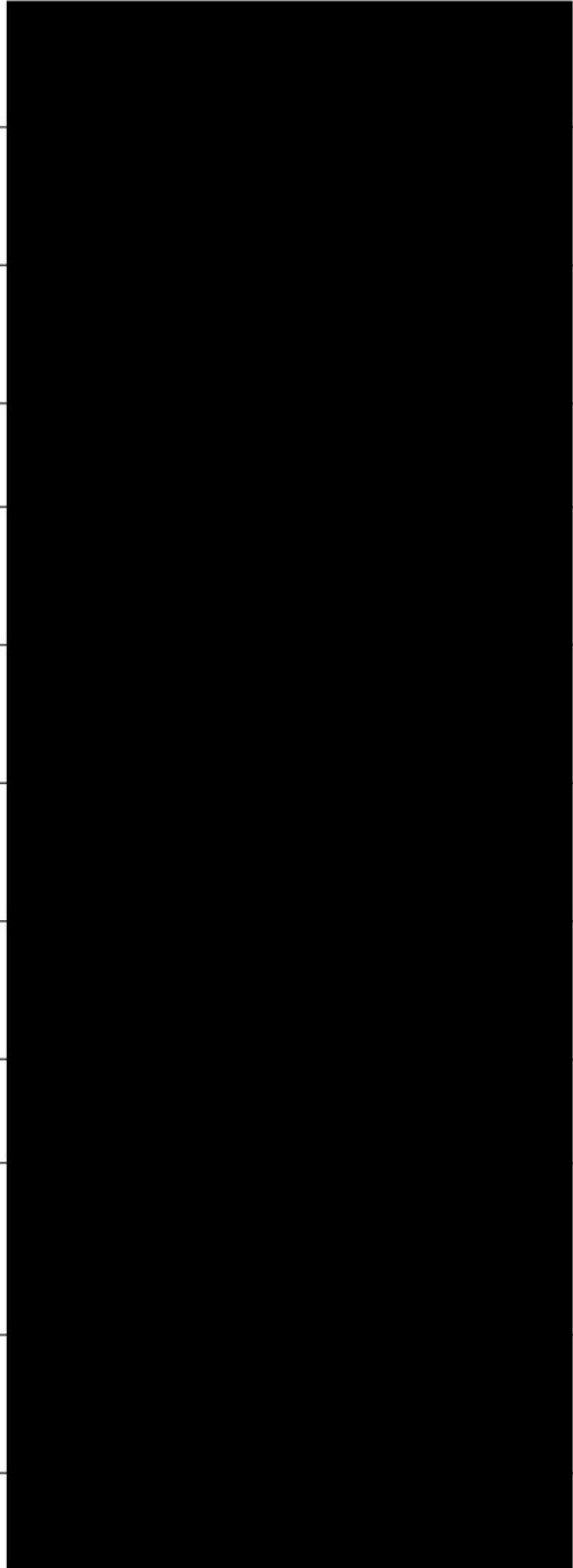
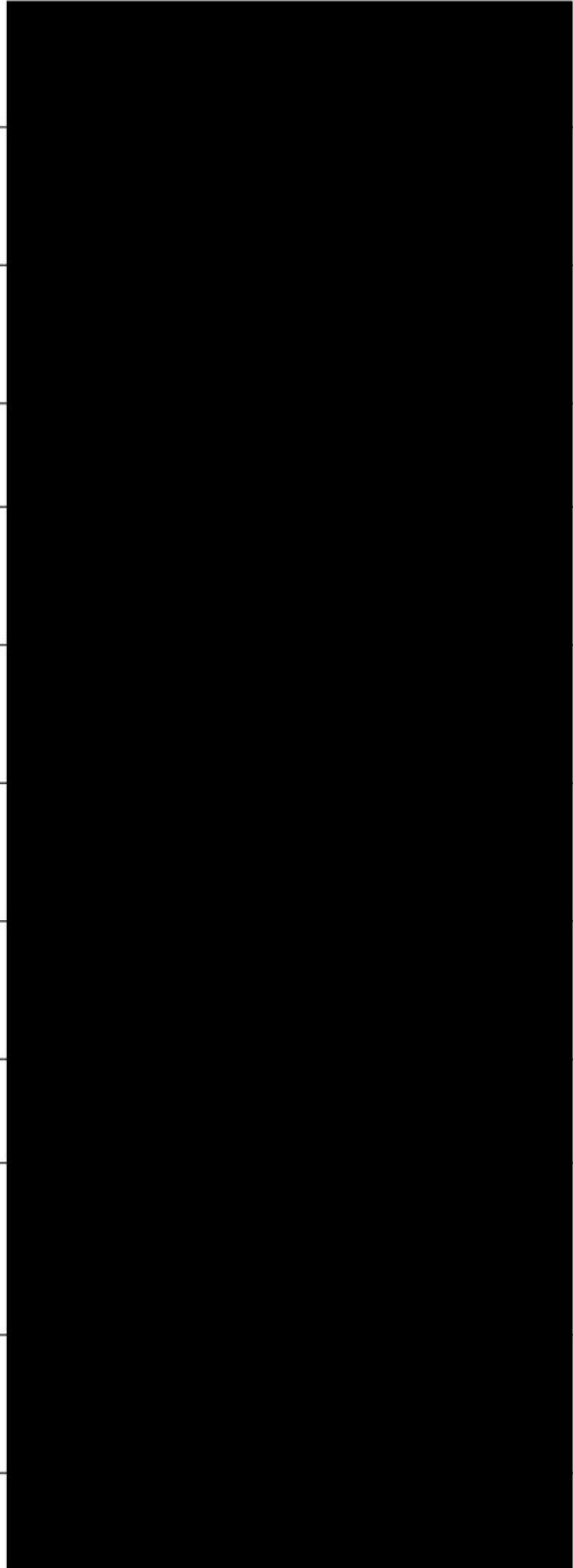
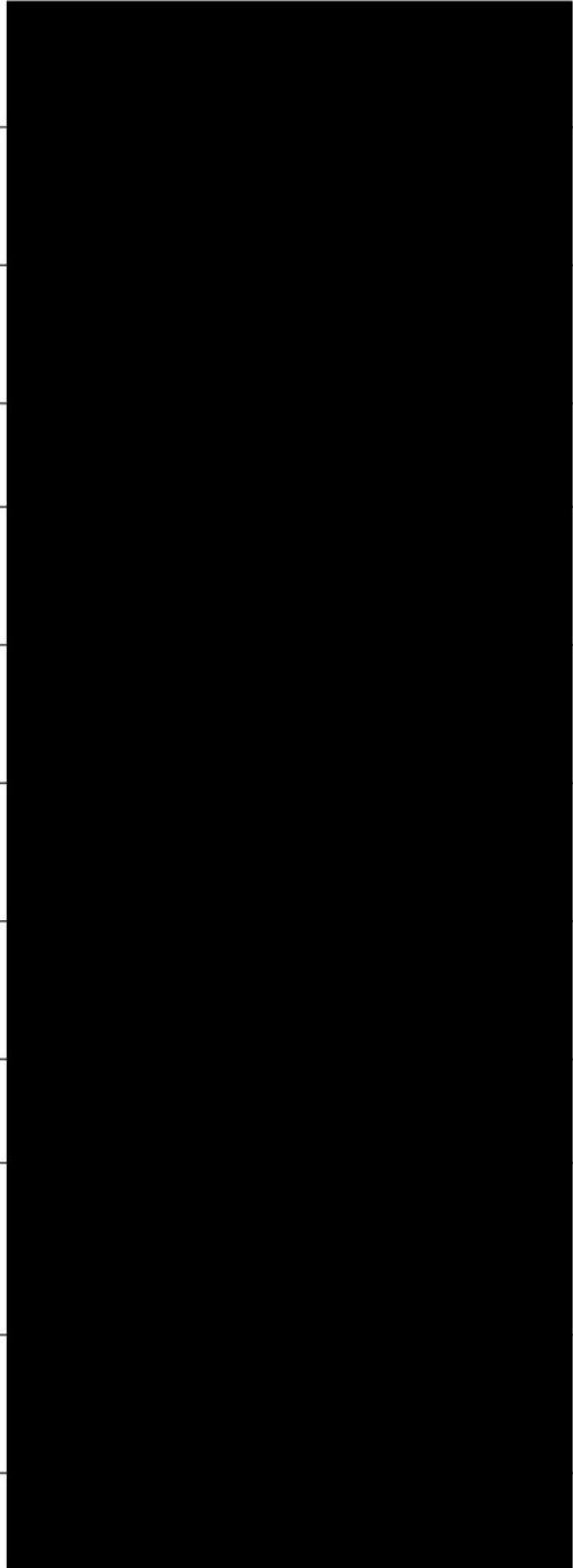
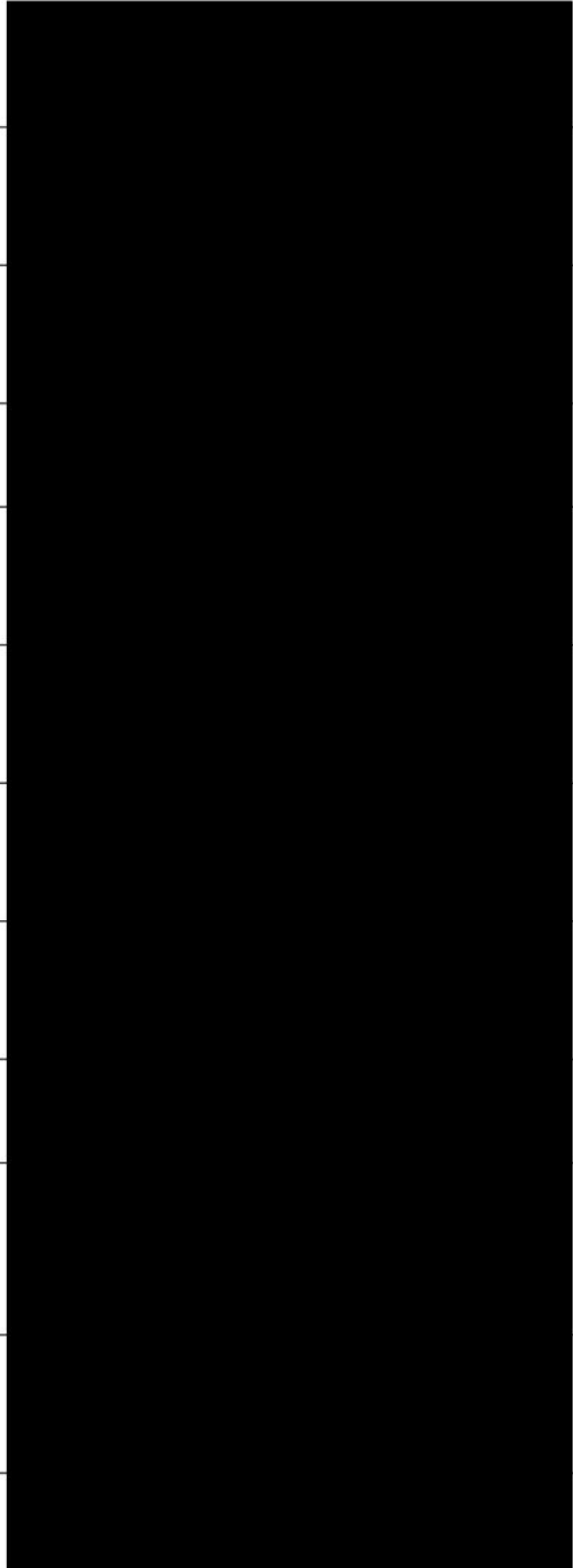
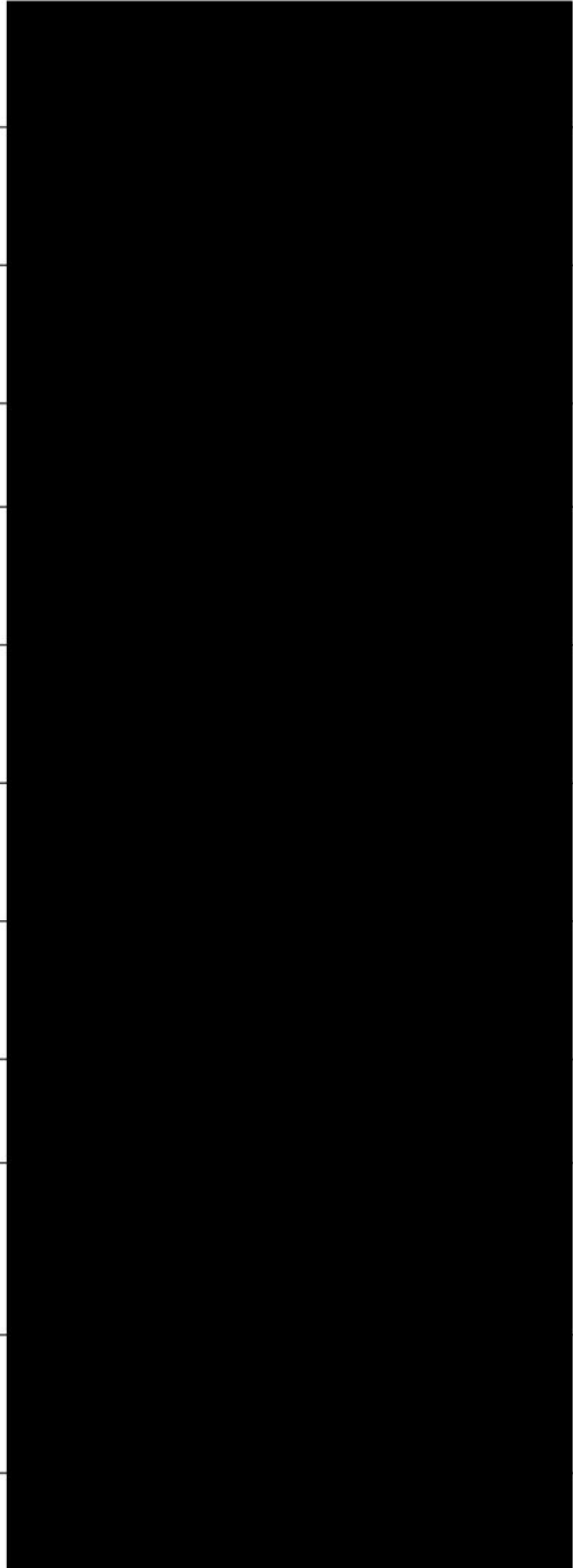
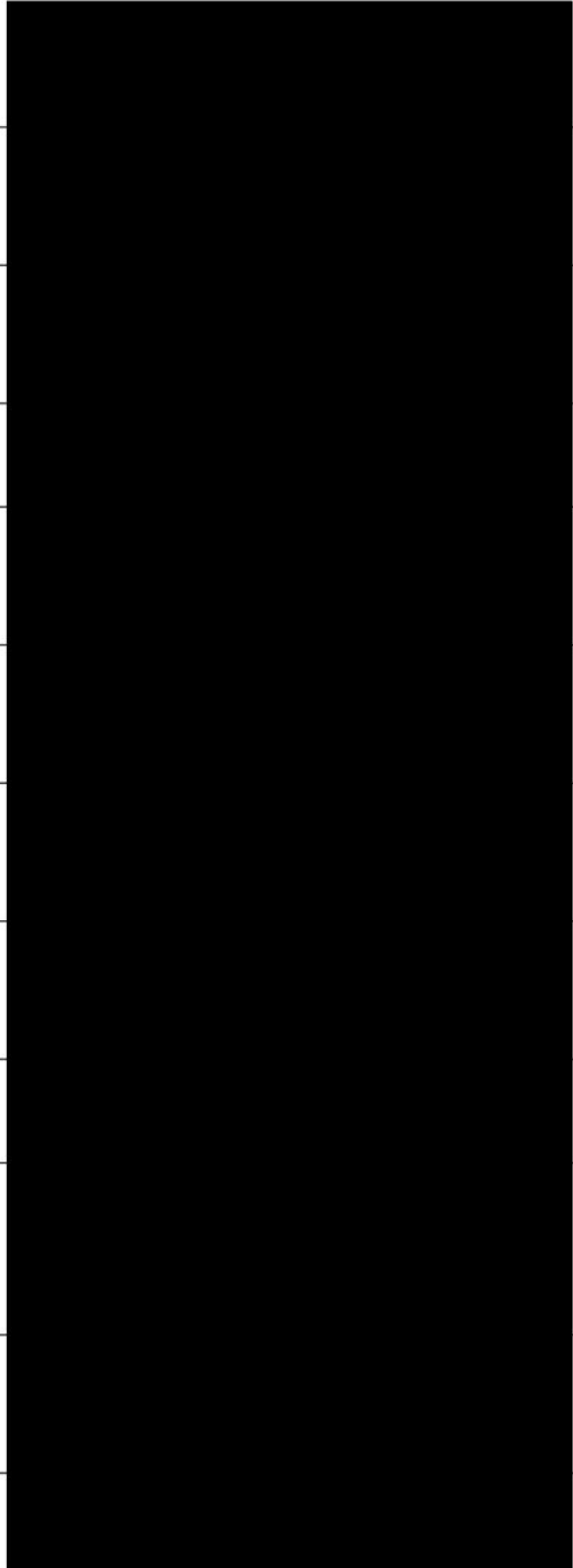
[REDACTED]








### Registration of Interest Record (4.1.3)

Registration of Interest Record: 52 Scott Street, Liverpool

Name and Organisation	Method of Registration/Date
	Email 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
	Email 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
	Letter by email 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
	Email 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
	Email 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
	Email 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
	Email 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
	Email 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024
	Email 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024
	Email 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
	Email 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
	Email 10 April 2024

		Email 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
		Phone 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
		Phone 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Notification of Names and Contact Details of RAPs to Heritage NSW and LALC (4.1.6)

# Unearthed

## Archaeology & Heritage

17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Unit

Heritage NSW

By email: [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood 2176**

***Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010***

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage have been engaged by Fairfield City Council to undertake Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010) in respect of the development of a new entertainment facility within the Fairfield Showground Precinct.

In accordance with 4.1.6 of the consultation guidelines, I am writing to provide a copy of the record of each Aboriginal person or organisation that registered an interest in the project. As such, following please find the following documents for your information:

- A copy of notifications forwarded to stakeholders in accordance with 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements.
- A copy of the advertisement in accordance with 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements that was placed in the Daily Telegraph newspaper on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- A record of the names of stakeholders that have registered an interest. No individuals or organisations requested that their details be withheld.

A record of the same has been forwarded to Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council with the details of those who requested their details be withheld redacted.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Tory Stening

Archaeologist/Project Manager

### Notification of Consultation Meeting (4.2.1)



### Invitation

Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood 2176  
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation: Presentation of information about the proposed project

In accordance with 4.2 of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, your Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) is invited to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed project. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the presentation of the proposed project, to discuss the results of the Aboriginal due diligence assessment and to gather cultural information about the study area. An agenda for the meeting follows.

**Date:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**Time:** 10.30 am

**Venue:** On site at 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood 2176.

Please RSVP by C.O.B. 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to

Tory Stening  
P.O. Box 3132, Redfern NSW 2016  
Phone: 0410 686 309  
Email: [info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au](mailto:info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tory Stening'.

Tory Stening  
Director/Archaeologist/Project Manager

# Unearthed

## Archaeology & Heritage

### Agenda

Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood 2176

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation: Presentation of information about the proposed project

**Purpose:** Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with 4.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*. The requirements state that community consultation “must be an open and honest two-way communication process between the proponents and Aboriginal people who have cultural heritage knowledge relevant to the proposed project area”. A record of this meeting, including agreed outcomes, will be provided to all Registered Aboriginal Parties.

**Date:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**Time:** 10.30 am

**Venue:** On site at 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood 2176.

#### AGENDA

1. Welcome to/Acknowledgment of Country, Introduction, and outline of purpose of meeting
2. Outline of project
3. Aboriginal due diligence assessment findings
4. Discussion of Aboriginal significance of the area, including contemporary significance
5. Open forum to discuss any issues of concern
6. Any other business/issues
7. Site Visit
8. Close

### Minutes of Meetings (4.2.3)

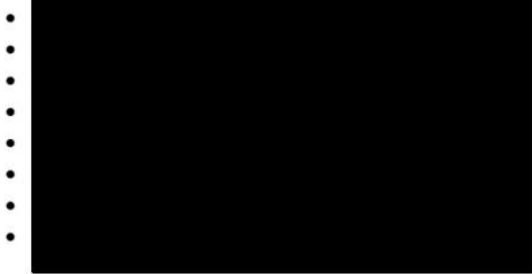
# Unearthed

## Archaeology & Heritage

### Minutes of Meeting – Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

Meeting held on site at Fairfield Showground, 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood, NSW on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Meeting opened at 10.30am.

Attendees:



Please note: The requirements state that community consultation “must be an open and honest two-way communication process between the proponents and Aboriginal people who have cultural heritage knowledge relevant to the proposed project area”.

Business:

- *Outline of the project*  
A brief overview of the project was provided by Tory and Fairfield City Council (FCC). It was explained that the proposal included the construction of a new community and events centre that would be built within the existing outdoor carpark to the west of the showground site.
- *Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment findings*  
An Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment was undertaken by Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists (MCDA) in 2018. A copy is attached at the end of these minutes. That assessment determined that “original topsoil (A) horizons have survived in areas that have not been heavily disturbed through historical land use” (MCDA 2018:19). They determined that within the Fairfield Showgrounds area, areas that have been subjected to less disturbance, along the creek lines in the north western and eastern parts of the Showground site, have the potential to retain original topsoil and Aboriginal objects. However they determined that the area proposed for the proposed Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, which is situated in the middle of the present asphalted car park to the west of the showground, would impact any Aboriginal objects as it is considered that the original topsoil and therefore any Aboriginal objects had been removed by historical disturbance. A copy of the map showing the areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential is reproduced from the MCDA report below:

A copy of the site plans are also included below.

# Unearthed

## Archaeology & Heritage



Figure 1: Showing the Fairfield Showground site outlined in blue with areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential shaded red. The approximate location of the proposed Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre is indicated by the green arrow (plan courtesy of MCDA 2018: 20).

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- *Open Forum to discuss amended archaeological management recommendations or any other issues.*  
No other issues or concerns were raised.
- *Other business/issues.*  
The meeting was opened to see if anyone had any other business, issues or questions. No issues or concerns were raised.
- *Site visit.*  
As the meeting was held on site, this gave all RAPs the opportunity to inspect the project site.

Meeting closed at 11.30am.

## Minutes of Meeting – Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre and Carpark

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

Meeting held on site at Fairfield Showground, 443 Smithfield Road, Prairiewood, NSW on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Meeting opened at 10.00am.

Attendees:

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Please note: The requirements state that community consultation “must be an open and honest two-way communication process between the proponents and Aboriginal people who have cultural heritage knowledge relevant to the proposed project area”.

Business:

- *Outline of the project*  
A brief overview of the project was provided by Tory and Fairfield City Council (FCC). It was explained that since the prior meeting, the plans for the development have changed and a new carpark is also proposed, in addition to the Community and Events Centre. Council have determined that the Community and Events Centre will be assessed as a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) and that the proposed carpark will be assessed under an alternative planning pathway.
- *Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment findings*  
An Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment was undertaken by Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists (MCDA) in 2018. A copy is attached at the end of these minutes. That assessment determined that “original topsoil (A) horizons have survived in areas that have not been heavily disturbed through historical land use” (MCDA 2018:19). As discussed previously, they determined that within the Fairfield Showgrounds area, areas that have been subjected to less disturbance, along the creek lines in the north western and eastern parts of the Showground site, have the potential to retain original topsoil and Aboriginal objects. However they determined that the area proposed for the proposed Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre, which is situated in the middle of the present asphalted car park to the west of the showground, would impact any Aboriginal objects as it is considered that the original topsoil and therefore any Aboriginal objects had been removed by historical disturbance.

The location of the proposed new carpark is situated in an area assessed by MCDA as being of Aboriginal archaeological potential. Therefore, the proposed works have the potential to impact on Aboriginal objects and as a result, test excavations in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* is proposed in the area of the proposed carpark.

A copy of the map showing the areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential is reproduced from the MCDA report below:

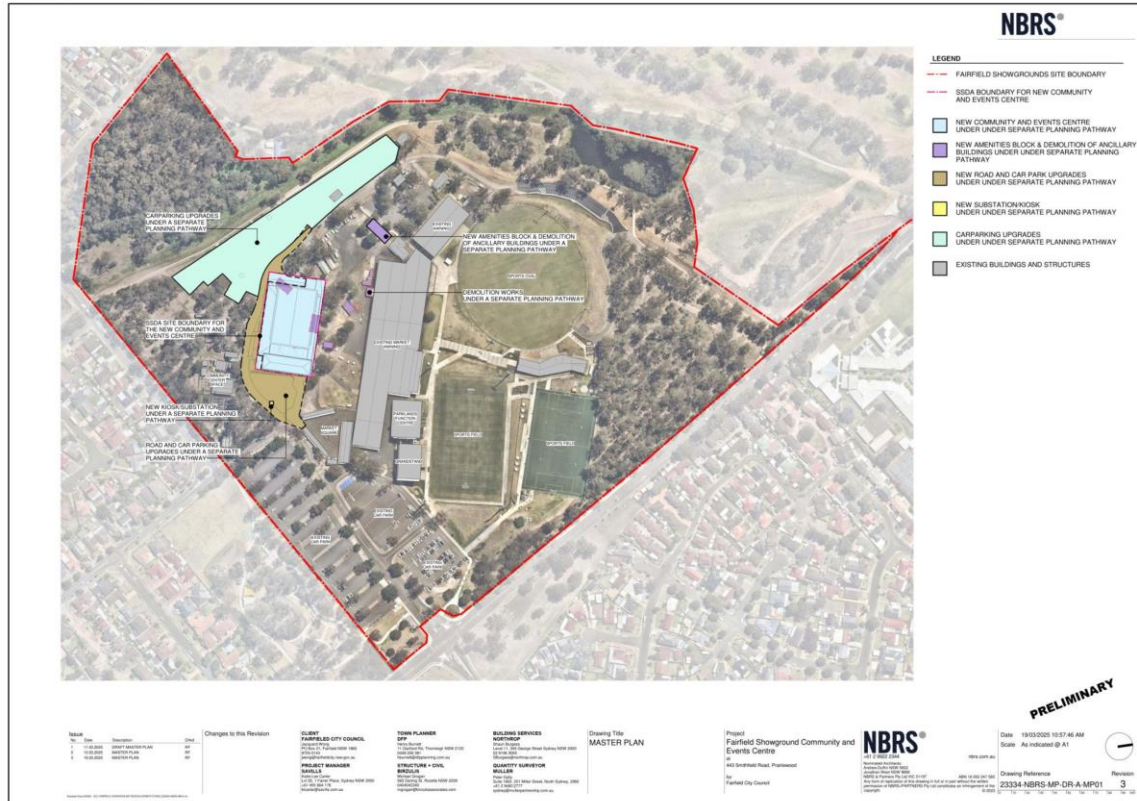
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A copy of the site plans are also included below.



**Figure 1:** Showing the Fairfield Showground site outlined in blue with areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential shaded red. The approximate location of the proposed Fairfield Showground Community and Events Centre is indicated by the green arrow and the approximate location of the carpark indicated by the orange arrow (plan courtesy of MCDA 2018: 20).



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- *Archaeological Test Excavation Methodology*

Tory presented the proposed test excavation methodology which includes excavating test trenches roughly every 10m on a grid and expanding the test trenches if higher density of Aboriginal objects, environmental features or other triggers are met. We discussed that the RAPs would be invited to participate fully in the excavation and that RAPs would be rostered to ensure that every RAPs get equal time on the excavation. Wet sieving with the recycling sieve was discussed. The analysis of any retrieved Aboriginal objects was discussed and [REDACTED] questioned if usewear and residue analysis would be undertaken. It was agreed that if suitable objects for usewear and residue analysis were uncovered, that they would be sent to Dr Nina Kononenko for analysis. The potential for soil science, pollen and dating samples were discussed and it was agreed that if soils or materials suitable for analysis or dating were uncovered, that these would be undertaken as presented in the Research Design and Methodology.

- *Open Forum to discuss amended archaeological management recommendations or any other issues.*

No other issues or concerns were raised.

- *Other business/issues.*

The meeting was opened to see if anyone had any other business, issues or questions. No issues or concerns were raised.

- *Site visit.*

As the meeting was held on site, this gave all RAPs the opportunity to inspect the project site.

Meeting closed at 11.00am.

### Proposed Excavation Methodology (4.3.1)

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### Proposed excavation methodology – Fairfield Community and Events Centre Carpark

#### 1.0 Background

Fairfield City Council are proposing the construction of a new Community and Events Centre and carpark within the Fairfield Showground site. Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists previously undertook an Aboriginal Due Dilligence Assessment of the study area and determined that the proposed Community and Events Centre is located in an area that has undergone significant disturbance and that it is unlikely that any Aboriginal objects remain within this area of the site. The area proposed for the carpark however was mapped as being an area of archaeological potential.

Fairfield City Council have determined that the proposed new Community and Events Centre will be assessed as a State Significant Development Application (SSDA), while the proposed new carpark will be assessed under an alternative planning pathway.

Given that the proposed new carpark is located in an area of archaeological potential, test excavations are being proposed across the area of ground disturbance for the carpark.

A map of the areas of archaeological potential and a concept plan showing the proposed works are presented below.

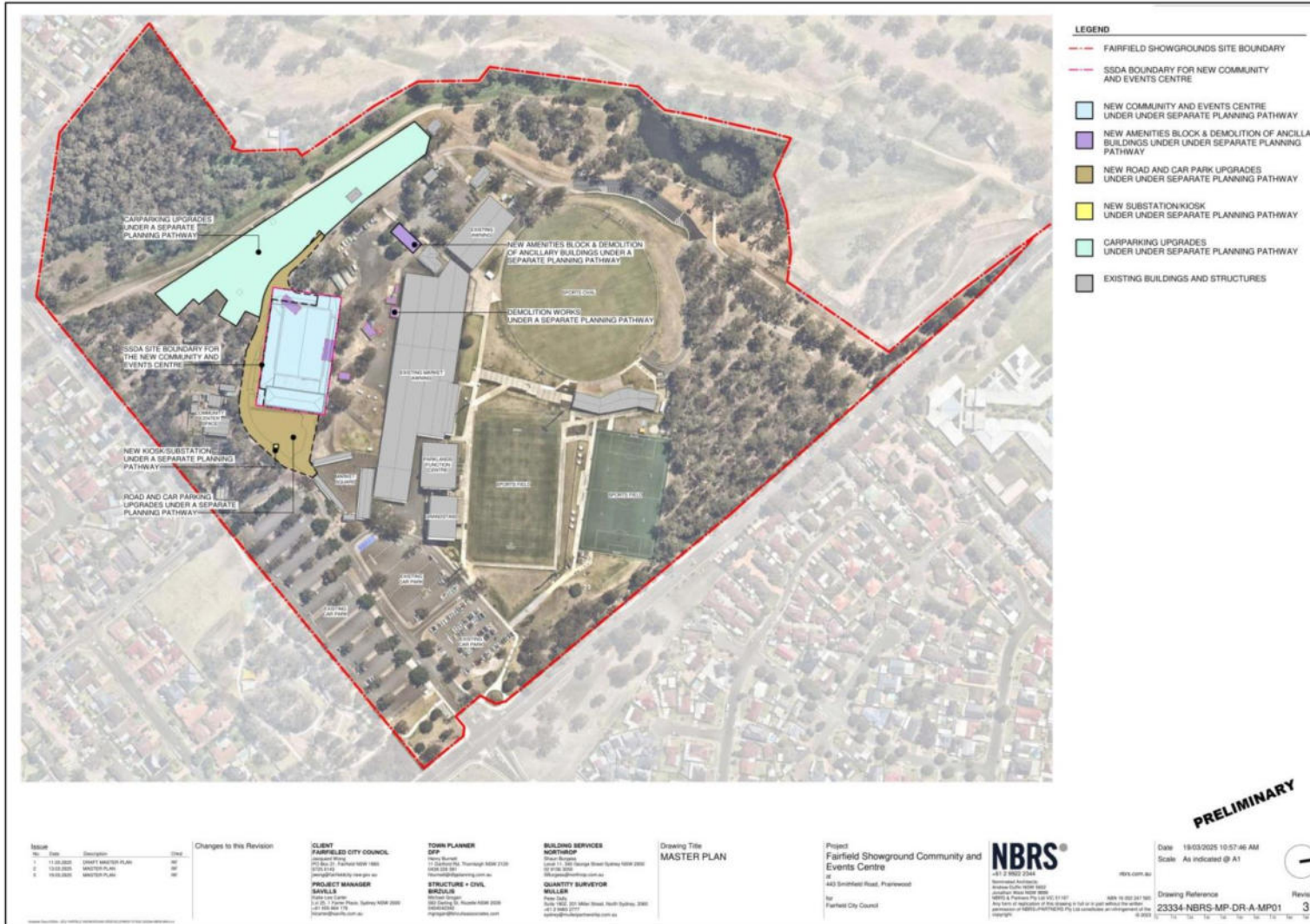
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**Figure 25. Recorded Aboriginal sites and assessed archaeological potential within the subject land.**

[Red shaded areas are considered to have Aboriginal archaeological potential. For management purposes these can be equated to Potential Investigation Areas on the Council Aboriginal Heritage Management System].



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### 2.0 Research Questions

The following research questions have been developed to direct the archaeological methodology and ensure that the information gained during these test excavations can contribute to the knowledge of the past history and occupation of the local area.

Following are the research questions for these test excavations:

**Does any evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the site remain within the study area?**

Archaeological test excavations will reveal whether the site retains any evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the form of Aboriginal objects; whether evidence of Aboriginal occupation has been removed by later development; or whether the site likely never contained any evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

**If evidence of Aboriginal occupation remains within the study area, what can that evidence tell us about the people and their activities at the site?**

If Aboriginal objects are uncovered, they will be analysed to determine as much social and technological information as possible. If suitable artefacts are uncovered they will be subjected to use wear and residue analysis. A detailed artefact analysis will be prepared which will provide information about the technological composition of the assemblage, but also as much social and behavioural information that can be gained from the analysis. If suitable sediments are uncovered, they will be subjected to geomorphological, soil science and palynological analysis.

**Is there any evidence of stratified deposits within the study area?**

The results of the test excavation will potentially reveal whether there is evidence of stratified deposits within the study area. Stratified deposits can be evidence of a long, ongoing occupation of the site, or could be evidence of bioturbation.

**What information can the results of the test excavations, in addition to the existing information, provide about the Aboriginal people of the Prairiewood and Fairfield area? Can we gain information about how they were occupying the site and their activities here?**

The results of the test excavations will be analysed in association with the existing historical, ethnographic and archaeological record to provide additional information about the Aboriginal people of Prairiewood and Fairfield and their activities, as well as the environmental history of the place.

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### 3.0 Methodology

#### 3.1 Test Excavation

The purpose of testing is to establish if any archaeological deposits are present within the study area and to determine the nature and extent of that archaeological deposit. The testing stage of the archaeological investigation will be undertaken in the following manner:

- Archaeological test excavations will be undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*.
- Archaeological investigations will be directed by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- Site Officers from the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) will be invited to participate fully in the archaeological excavations, alongside the archaeological team.
- 1m x 1m test trenches will be excavated on a grid at regular intervals of every 10m across the entire study area. The exact location of test trenches will be determined in the field and trench locations will be adjusted to avoid areas of disturbance.
- All excavation will be undertaken by hand in 5cm spits or stratigraphic layers, depending on what is deemed appropriate in each trench in the field.
- The nature of the texture and colour of all excavated soils will be recorded using a Munsell soil chart.
- The pH of all excavated soils will be recorded.
- A description of the soils and any features, bioturbation or other points of interest will be recorded.
- An assessment of the geomorphological context of all excavated soils will be undertaken and recorded.
- All excavated material will be dry or wet sieved on site as appropriate, to retrieve Aboriginal objects and environmental information about each excavated spit. All excavated material will be sieved through 2mm stainless steel mesh to catch small pieces of debitage as well as larger tools.
- Any wet sieving will be undertaken with a recycling sieve so as to minimise the potential for water and sediment run off in the vicinity of the creek and in an urban environment.
- The location of any cultural deposits, features or Aboriginal objects uncovered during the excavation will be recorded, photographed and bagged and catalogued.
- If hearths are uncovered, the trench will be extended to expose the enough of that feature to characterise its nature and significance and allow for archaeomagnetic and paleomagnetic dating and investigation to be undertaken by Dr Andy Herries.

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- Soil samples will be taken for palynological analysis by Mike Macphail and for soil analysis by Roy Lawrie where suitable.
- Soil scientist, Roy Lawrie, will be invited to attend the site and inspect the soil profiles and provide a report on the soil across the study area.
- If required, an analysis of the geomorphological development of the soil profiles will be undertaken in each trench and if considered necessary, a geomorphologist will undertake a geomorphological assessment of the study area to guide investigations and analysis.
- Section and plan drawings and photographs will be prepared to provide a record for the later analysis of the results of the archaeological investigations.
- If charcoal, soil or other samples suitable for dating are uncovered, they will be collected and the relevant dating techniques undertaken by specialists in that field.
- Test trenches will be expanded as deemed necessary in the field to ensure that sufficient archaeological and environmental information is recovered.
- Excavation will cease at least two spits below the last cultural bearing spit to ensure that all potential cultural material has been collected.
- Trenches will be backfilled as soon as practicable, i.e. when sufficient archaeological information has been retrieved and the test trench has been sufficiently recorded.
- In the unlikely event that human remains were uncovered, the following steps in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* will be undertaken:
  1. Not further disturb or move these remains.
  2. Immediately cease all work at the particular location.
  3. Notify NSW Police.
  4. Notify Heritage NSW's Environment Line on 131 555 and provide available details of the remains and their location.
  5. Not recommence any work at the particular location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.
- Any Aboriginal ancestral remains must be recorded and reported under the direct supervision of a specialist physical anthropologist, such as Dr Denise Donlon at the University of Sydney.

If during the program of test excavation, any of the following instances are triggered, test trenches will be expanded as appropriate:

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- Higher relative artefact densities.
- Significant, rare or unusual artefact types including, but not limited to ground edged implements and backed blades.
- Unexpected, uncommon or unusual raw materials.
- If burials or skeletal remains are uncovered, expansion and excavation of trenches will be directed by a specialist physical anthropologist, such as Dr Denise Donlon, in consultation with the Archaeological Excavation Director.
- If hearths are uncovered, the trench will be extended to determine the nature and significance of that feature and archaeomagnetic and paleomagnetic dating and investigation will be undertaken by Dr Andy Herries.
- If midden material is uncovered, the trench will be extended to determine the nature and significance of the midden and to record and investigate the midden.
- If materials suitable for dating are uncovered, the trench will be extended to ensure that all relevant samples and information is recorded and dated.
- Evidence of contact archaeology.
- Evidence relating to the environmental or geomorphological formation of the site.
- Any other cultural or environmental feature identified by the excavation director or any of the RAPs on site to be suitable for further investigation.

### 3.2 Burials

In the unlikely event that any evidence of human remains, including burials or skeletal remains, are uncovered, all work will cease in the vicinity of those remains and the following steps outlined in the Code of Practice will be implemented:

1. Not further disturb or move these remains.
2. Immediately cease all work at the particular location.
3. Notify NSW Police.
4. Notify Heritage NSW's Environment Line on 131 555 and provide available details of the remains and their location.
5. Not recommence any work at the particular location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.

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Any Aboriginal ancestral remains must be recorded and reported under the direct supervision of a specialist physical anthropologist, such as Dr Denise Donlon at the University of Sydney.

Tory Stening of Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage who will direct these excavations has completed Dr Donlon's Forensic Anthropology Short Course at the University of Sydney in May 2024. This course provided students with the knowledge to identify and distinguish between human and animal bones; identify ancestry, gender, age and some illness and trauma in those human bones; and how to appropriately uncover, report, excavate, identify and manage Aboriginal human remains in the archaeological record.

### 3.3 Artefact Recording and Cataloguing

Recording, cataloguing and analysis of any Aboriginal objects uncovered during the testing and/or salvage excavations will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Recording would include but not be limited to provenance information, raw material type, presence of cortex, artefact type, maximum size, oriented size measures for complete and modified artefacts, weight, flake shape, flake platform, core type and core flaking pattern. Measurements and diagnostic criteria will be entered into an Access database and analysed to develop a tentative typology, using the following criteria:

- **Raw Material**, e.g. silcrete, chert, tuff, quartz, etc. Are they of contact origin e.g., artefacts made from glass or insulators or other materials not usually found in pre-contact deposits.
- **Length** (mm).
- **Width** (mm).
- **Thickness** (mm).
- **Artefact type**: i.e. core, flake, flaked piece, etc.
- **Bulb**: yes or no?
- **Retouch**: yes or no? If yes, then a description of the retouch and an estimate of the percentage of the edge of the artefact containing retouch will be undertaken.
- **Cortex**: does the artefact have any cortex on it? If so, an estimate of the cortical coverage of the artefact will be recorded.
- **Erailure scar**: is there one or more erailure scars present?
- **Snap**: is the artefact snapped? If so, is it a transverse or a longitudinal snap? Is it an old break or a new one?
- **End**: is the artefact the proximal or distal end of the original artefact?
- **Heat treatment**: has the raw material been subjected to intentional heating?

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- **Platform type:** cortical, flat, complex or abraded.
- **Initiation type:** bending flake, bipolar flake or conchoidal flake.
- **Termination type:** feather, step, hinged or outré passé.
- **Dorsal scarring:** number and orientation.
- **Core measurements.**
- **Core, flake and tool (complete) measurements.** Are there any complete flakes of maximum dimension 5mm in size? Core scar measurements will be compared to average size of CF length.
- **Maximum dimension** of all artefacts.
- **Weight** of individual artefacts.
- **Usewear and Residue Analysis** will be undertaken by Dr Nina Kononenko at the Australian Museum if suitable objects are uncovered during the excavations.

### 3.4 Excavation Report

A detailed excavation report as outlined in Requirement 11 of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* will be prepared detailing the above aims, methodology, results, significance assessment and any ongoing management/mitigation measures.

### Responses to Methodology (4.3.2)

16 April 2025 at 12:36

Hi Tory

We are happy with everything from our end, and we're happy to proceed

Cheers, [REDACTED]

16 April 2025 at 15:00

Hi Tory,

Thanks for the Methodology and Research Design for the Fairfield Community and Events Centre, [REDACTED] supports and agrees with the proposed test excavation of the area for the new car park area.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Kind regards

16 April 2025 at 16:37



Hello Tory,

Thanks for the methodology.

Looks good to me.

Thank you.

Regards



Lives & Works on Dharug Country

Proud Kamilaroi and Torres Strait Islander Women.

17 April 2025 at 10:59

Hi Tori,

Thank you for your methodology for Fairfield Community & Events Centre, we would like to agree and support your methodology to investigate further in the way of test excavations. We look forward to working alongside you on this project.

We would like to express our interest in the fieldwork.

Kind Regards

17 April 2025 at 11:56

Hi Tory

I have read the project information and methodology for the above project, I agree with the recommendations. Do you have a date for the excavations.

Thanks

17 April 2025 at 14:17

Hi Tory

I have read the project information for the above project, I endorse the recommendations

Thanks

23 April 2025 at 09:58

Hi Tory

Thank you for your email [REDACTED] support the methodology

If you need anything else please don't hesitate to contact me Have a great day

23 April 2025 at 23:04

Dear Tory,

[REDACTED] agrees with the methodology for this project and would like to be involved in the upcoming test excavations for this project.

Kind regards,

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### Draft ACHAR Letter (4.4.3)



Hi all

Please find attached the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the Fairfield Community and Events Centre and car park. Please review and provide any comments by COB Thursday 12th June 2025.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

With kind regards

Tory

**Tory Stening**

Director/Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist

0410 686 309

[tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au](mailto:tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au)

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 **A.1125.pdf**  
21525K

### Responses to Draft ACHAR (4.4)

15 May 2025 at 12:14

Hi Tory,

After reading the ACHAR, I would like to say that I recommend we do test pits also so we can get every bit of evidence with archaeological history to the area. I would like to be apart of the test excavations also. I would be happy with work to commence once we've done those test excavations.

I hope you've been well Tory!

Kind regards,

15 May 2025 at 15:17

Hi Tory

I have read the project information and draft ACHAR for the above project, I endorse the recommendations.

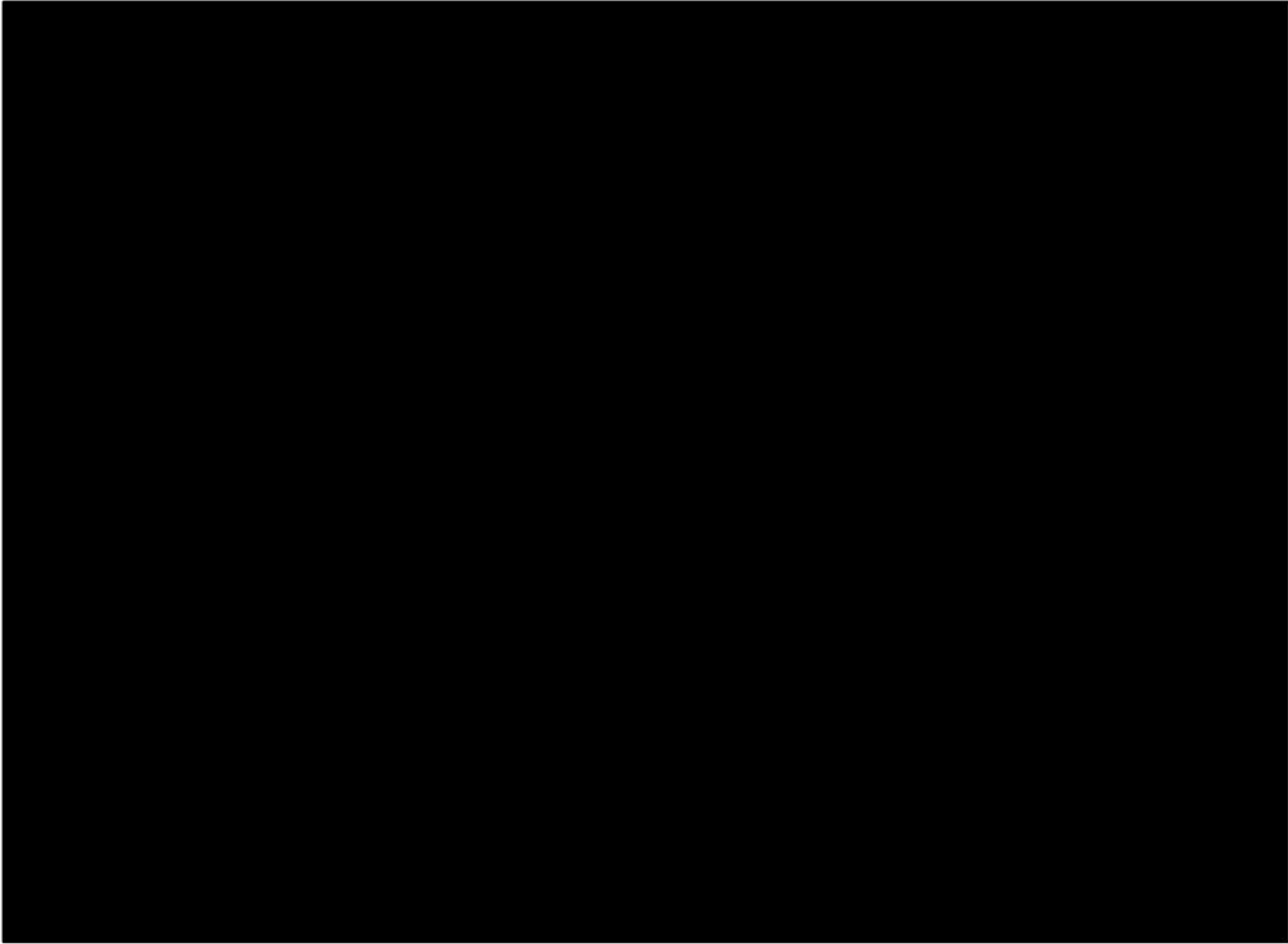
Kind regards

20 May 2025 at 08:30

Hi Tory

I have read the project information and draft ACHAR for the above project; I agree with the recommendations

Kind regards



2 June 2025 at 13:05

Hi Tory,

agrees and supports the draft ACHA for the Fairfield Community and Events Centre.

Please note that this land and the people from this land are the Cabrogal People and the Cabrogal clan not Gandangara. The local Aboriginal Land Council was given the name Gandangara in 1983-84.

Guntawang would like to be involved in any site excavation's or survey.

We look forward to working with you.

kind regards,

### Ongoing Consultation

#### Changes to the Fairfield ACHAR



Hi all

Thank you for your ongoing involvement in the Fairfield Community and Events Centre project.

Since you all had the chance to review and comment on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), Fairfield City Council have changed the plans for the carpark area. Their new plans place the proposed carpark outside of the area of Aboriginal archaeological potential. I have attached an overlay of the new plans with the Aboriginal archaeological potential to this email for your information. It is also included in the attached ACHAR.

As a result of these changes, we are no longer proposing undertaking test excavations, as it is considered that the area of the newly proposed carpark is highly disturbed. As such, we have updated the ACHAR to reflect that there are no longer test excavations proposed. I attach the updated ACHAR for your review and comment.

If you have any comments, please provide them by COB 10th July 2025. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

With kind regards

Tory

**Tory Stening**

Director/Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist

0410 686 309

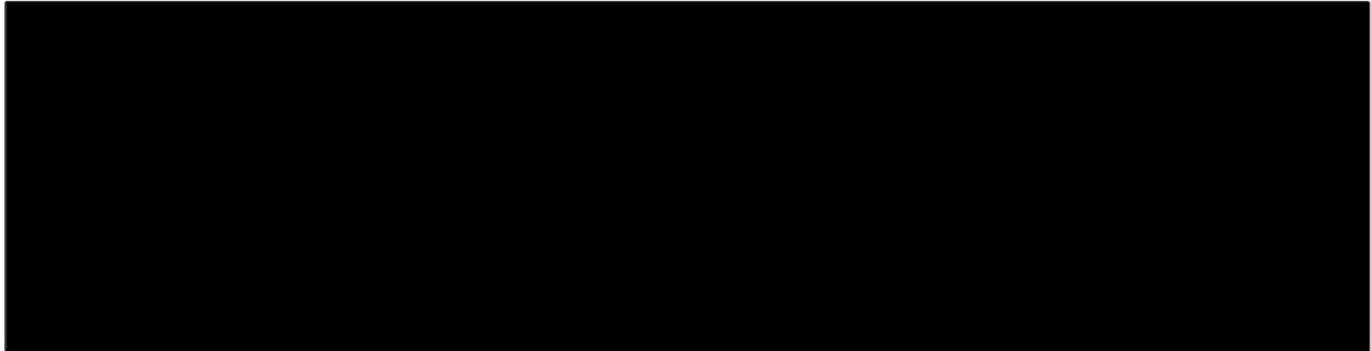
[tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au](mailto:tory@unearthedarchaeology.com.au)

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## Fwd: Changes to the Fairfield ACHAR

1 message

30 June 2025 at 10:27

Warami Tory

[Redacted] agree with the new recommendations.

Didyarigur

I pay my respect to elders past present and emerging.

*Yana muday nurawa diyi nangamili*

Walk softly on country our dreaming is forever.

## Appendix C: Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment Report