VIRTUS HERITAGE



STONEY CREEK BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)

Narrabri, NSW

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Final | August 2025

Prepared for SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Enervest Operations Pty Ltd

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Acknowledgement of Country

Virtus Heritage acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this project was undertaken and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Content Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this publication may contain names and images of deceased people, descriptions of traumatic historic events and parts of Country that have been impacted by development.

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All queries related to the content, or to any use of this report must be addressed to Dr Mary-Jean Sutton.

Executive Summary

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited was engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Enervest Operations Pty Ltd, to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, including an Archaeological Assessment for the proposed State Significant Development Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri NSW (proposed impact areas for these works shown in Figure 1 and referred to hereafter as 'the project area'). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was triggered due to Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs; SSD75680468).

The lands subject to the project is located at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve. The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area and the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council. It falls within the Nandewar County and Narrabri Parish.

The objectives of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment are to investigate and assess the impact the project on known and potential Aboriginal objects, Aboriginal places and cultural heritage values within the project area as well as to provide appropriate management and mitigation strategies. This report has been compiled to meet the SEARs and requirements of the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

An Archaeological Assessment was also compiled to consider the scientific values of the project area, which is an Appendix (Appendix A), to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and meets the requirements of the SEARs and *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) for Archaeological Reports – Requirements 1 to 11).

CONSULTATION

Consultation with the 17 Registered Aboriginal Parties has been undertaken for this assessment and conducted in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010b). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment documents the process of investigation, consultation and assessment undertaken.

IMPACTS

The proponent proposes to establish a BESS at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri. The proposed project is considered a State Significant Development. The Stoney Creek BESS will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of 125 MW / 1,000 MWh connecting via a transmission line directly to the existing Narrabri 132/66 kV substation, operated by TransGrid. The proposed works will include activities that disturb the ground surface.

One new site (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) was recorded during the site survey, comprising an artefact scatter in a secondary depositional context (n=14), with no associated potential archaeological deposit.

Newly identified Aboriginal cultural heritage site SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) will be partially impacted by the proposed works.

Five of the 14 artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

Of the 9 artefacts within the project area**, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly harmed** by the project development. Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be protected.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

The presence of Aboriginal objects (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) demonstrates local Aboriginal land use and cultural history within the project area and surrounds. The artefacts of broken flakes and flakes within the project area are not unusual scientifically but have high cultural value. The project area is located within a songline.

The background research shows the artefact types and raw materials within site SC_AS1 as also common throughout the Narrabri region. The scatter was identified as a low-density background scatter in a disturbed context in a ploughed field with no associated PAD and/or integrity.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management options and recommendations are outlined for this proposal in Section 7.0 and Section 8.0 of this report.

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Definitions

Abbreviations	Description
AA	Archaeological Assessment
ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
ACHCR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010)
AHD	Australian Heritage Database
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
ALRA	Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976
AR	Archaeological Report, Archaeological Assessment
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CABAH	Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
Code of Practice, COP	Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010)
DA	Development Application
DD	Due Diligence
DD Code, Due Diligence Code	Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010)
DPC	NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
DPIE	NSW Department of Primary Industry and Environment
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
GIA	Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural heritage in NSW (OEH 2011)
HNSW	Heritage NSW
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council

LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NPW ACT	National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
NPW Reg	National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019
NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
NTA	Native Title Act 1983
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (now Heritage NSW)
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
PBC	Prescribed Bodies Corporate
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
RD&M	Research Design and Methodology
REF	Review of Environmental Factors
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
S.139	Section 139
S.140	Section 140.
S.170	Section 170
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SHR	State Heritage Register
SoHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
SSD	State Significant Development
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure
The Burra Charter	The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013 (Australia ICOMOS 2013)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Glossary

Aboriginal object - A term used in the NPW Act legislation, meaning: '... any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains' (s.5 NPW Act).

Registered Aboriginal party – An individual or party who registers for Aboriginal consultation as part of the consultation and notification process following Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (NSW DECCW 2010b).

AHIP – An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit which is a document provided by Heritage NSW which provides a defence to the applicant to certain activities which constitute 'harm' to Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places under Part 6 of the NPW Act. A proponent must prepare an application for an AHIP and other relevant documentation (including an ACHA) to obtain an AHIP from Heritage NSW in the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Declared Aboriginal place - A term used in the NPW Act legislation, meaning any place declared to be an Aboriginal place (under s.84 of the NPW Act) by the Minister administering the NPW Act, by order published in the NSW Government Gazette, because the Minister is of the opinion that the place is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain Aboriginal objects.

Due Diligence assessment – Due diligence is taking reasonable and practical steps to determine whether a person's actions will harm an Aboriginal object and, if so, what measures can be taken to avoid that harm. A due diligence assessment will assess the potential for harm and provide recommendations to mitigate harm, generally in the form of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), if Aboriginal objects or places are likely to be harmed by proposed works.

Harm - A term used in the NPW Act Amendments meaning '... any act or omission that destroys, defaces, damages an object or place or, in relation to an object – moves the object from the land on which it had been situated' (s.5 NPW Act).

Project area - Area proposed to be impacted as part of a specified activity or development proposal. These activities include indirect impact.

Place - An area of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the area (whether or not it is an Aboriginal place declared under s.84 of the Act).

Proponent - A person proposing an activity that may harm Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places and who may apply for an AHIP under the NPW Act.

1. Introduction

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter 'Virtus Heritage') was engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR), on behalf of Enervest Operations Pty Ltd (Enervest), to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), including an Archaeological Assessment (AA) for proposed activities associated with the Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri NSW (hereafter referred to as the 'Project Area'). The lands subject to the project are located at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve. The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA).

Virtus Heritage had completed a due diligence assessment for the project; however, the project became a State Significant Development (SSD) and an ACHA was triggered due to Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs; SSD75680468).

The objectives of the ACHA are to investigate and assess the impact of the project on known and potential Aboriginal objects, Aboriginal places, and cultural heritage values within the project area as well as to provide appropriate management and mitigation strategies. This report has been compiled to meet the requirements of the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

An Archaeological Assessment was also compiled to consider the scientific values of the project area, which is an Appendix (Appendix A), to the ACHA. The purpose of the Archaeological Assessment is to provide SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd and Enervest Operations Pty Ltd with archaeological advice on the potential impact of their proposal on Aboriginal archaeological sites and to meet the requirements of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010a) for Archaeological Reports – Requirements 1 to 11).

1.1 PROJECT TEAM AND QUALIFICATIONS

This report was compiled by Kate Morris (Archaeologist, BA/BSc Hons) and reviewed by Julian Travaglia (Principal Archaeologist, BA Hons Archaeology. University of Queensland). Fieldwork was undertaken by Kate Morris and Julian Travaglia. GIS mapping was undertaken by Antonella Skepasianos (MRes, BR/BA, University of Wollongong) and Liam Clerke (BSc Earth and Environmental Science, MRes, Macquarie University). Project information and description of works detailed in Section 2.0 was provided by SLR.

1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following individuals for the completion of this report:

- Yannis Comino, SLR
- Richard Simmons, SLR
- Hugh Jones, SLR
- Olivia Huitema, Enervest
- Julian Hampton, Enervest
- Julian Voller, Enervest

1.3 SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The proposed 41 Stoney Creek BESS project is an SSD with SEARs issued October 2024 (SSD-75680468). The details of the SEARs are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: SEARs SSD-75680468

Application number	SSD-75680468
Project	Stoney Creek BESS, which includes: • the construction, operation and decommissioning of a battery energy storage system (BESS) with an estimated capacity of approximately 125 MW / 1000 MWh; and • ancillary infrastructure including transmission and connection works.
Location	Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri, within the Narrabri Shire LGA
Proponent	Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
Date of Issue	14 October 2024
Key Issue	The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development must meet the minimum form and content requirements in Part 8 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) and must have regard to the *State Significant Development Guidelines*, and any relevant planning circulars. The EIS must address the following specific matters – Heritage – including: • an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared in accordance with the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011) and the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010), identifying, describing, and assessing any impacts to any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the site (including impacts from any proposed earthworks, construction works, and road works), and including results of archaeological test excavations (where required), undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards and requirements; • evidence of adequate and ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, identifying and selecting options for avoidance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and identifying appropriate mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010) including the consultation process outlined within; and • assess the impact to historic heritage having regard to the *NSW Heritage Manual.*

The ACHA and AA have been prepared in accordance with the SEARs.

A separate Historical Assessment, and Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) has been prepared which addresses the SEARs key issue relating to historic heritage.



606: 41 Stoney Creek Road BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Antonella Skepasianos / Liam Clerke
Date: 15/07/2025
Scale: 1:5000 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Lot
- Roads
- Railway
- Named Watercourse
- Cities and Towns
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Transmission Tower

N

0 50 100 150 200 250 m

2. Description of the Area

The purpose of this section is to describe the geographic location of the project area, its environmental context, any known Aboriginal objects and places within the project area and surrounding locality and provide a summary of Aboriginal history within the locality. Much of this information is provided in detail in the attached AA (Appendix A) and only briefly summarised here.

2.1 LOCATION

The SSD project area is located at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW. It falls within traditional Gomeroi (also known as Gamilaroi, Gamilaraay, Kamilaroi, Kamillaroi) lands, the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA) and the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) (Figure 1).

The project area is located on agricultural cotton crop land and situated to the northeast of the Narrabri township. It is bounded by Old Cemetery Road to the west and Stoney Creek Road to the south and east. The Narrabri cemetery is in proximity to the southwest border of the project area.

A row of trees runs in proximity to the projects' western boundary, with the majority of land previously cleared for the purpose of regular crop planting and harvesting. Overhead powerlines run through the project area at several locations. The neighbouring lots are predominantly large rural lots and generally cleared land. Stoney Creek Road runs through the projects southern portion, with the existing substation located on the opposite side of the road, on the south.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

A detailed description of the environmental context is provided in Section 3 of the AA (Appendix A). A summary of the environmental context is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Environmental Context

Environmental Features	Description
Topography and Watercourses	The Project area is located in flat farming land less than 1 km east/northeast of the town of Narrabri. The town of Narrabri is bisected north south by Narrabri Creek and bounded to the south by Namoi River. Horsearm Creek, a second order tributary of Narrabri Creek, runs south of the Project area (approximately 350m to the south of the project area). An artificial drainage line has been constructed from Horsearm Creek adjacent to the Project area and feeding a large artificial dam along the northern boundary of the Project area. Mulgate Creek, a first order tributary of Narrabri Creek, generally bounds the Project area to the north with its closest point approximately 800 m north of the Project area.
Geology and Soils	The base geology of the project area comprises horizontally bedded Jurassic and Triassic quartz sandstone and shale with limited areas of conglomerate or basalts (NPWS 2003). The soils vary greatly across the

	landscape, dependant on topography. Vertosols were identified in the area and are characterised by their high clay content that shrinks and swells significantly with changes in moisture. SLR (2025) undertook soil testing on the north side of Stoney Creek Road with a hydraulic soil corer, to either a depth of 1.2 metres, to equipment refusal, or to bedrock. The findings were that the A horizon soils (A1p i.e. A1 plough) are very shallow (0-0.05m depth i.e. 0-5cm below ground surface), and the B horizon starts at 5cm below ground surface (i.e. B21-0.05m-0.4m; and B22-0.4m-1m).
Vegetation	The vegetation community within the Liverpool Plains subregion consists of plains grass, panic, windmill grass and blue grass on black earths with occasional white box, yellow box, poplar box and wilga. White box and white cypress pine with rough-barked apple, hill red gum, occasional belah and mulga occur on texture contrast hillslope soils (NPWS 2003). The variety of ecological communities within the bioregion and subregion are significant to the faunal values of the region. These ecological communities are often associated with the riparian areas directly associated with the Project Area, with Mulgate Creek to the north, Horsearm Creek to the south and they dominate Narrabri Creek to the west, which is a major landscape feature within the region. Riparian ecological communities often attract a variety of faunal species.
Previous land use	The specific land use history of the Project Area is inferred from aerial photography which shows that it has been completely cleared of all trees and vegetation. Furrow lines associated with agricultural use are present and an existing transmission line bisects the Project Area from north to south. From the early history of the Narrabri region, it is likely that this area was used for sheep and cattle grazing and was then later used for agricultural purposes. The Project area is currently a cotton crop recently sowed. There is a large artificial dam outside the northern boundary of the property fed by an artificial drainage line from Horsearm Creek to the south. There is currently no residential property associated with the Project Area. Disturbances also include the installation of transmission lines which extend across the project area, and the development of road infrastructure and the existing substation on the south side of Stoney Creek Road. These disturbances suggest there is lower potential to find Aboriginal places and objects (if any) in a primary depositional context due to the historic and more recent disturbances that the Project area and region have undergone.

2.3 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE CONTEXT

This section is designed to provide a description of the Aboriginal heritage context as relevant to the proposed project. The Aboriginal heritage context includes a summary of Aboriginal history within the

locality and material evidence of Aboriginal land use, which is a summary of information presented in much greater detail in the AA (refer to Appendix A, Sections 4, 5 and 6).

Please note this section references invasion violence.

2.3.1. Ethnohistory

Historic information of Aboriginal people living on the land includes relevant archival, historic and ethnohistoric sources. The project area is situated within the traditional lands of the Kamilaroi (also known as Gamilaroi, Gamilaraay, Kamillaroi and Gomeroi), who occupied the land for thousands of years. The Gomeroi people are one of the largest Aboriginal language groups in New South Wales (OzArk 2020; Tindale 1974). Their Country extends from the Upper Hunter Valley through the Brigalow Belt to southern Queensland, with the Great Dividing Range forming the eastern boundary (OzArk 2020: 15).

Gomeroi/Kamilaroi Country includes a diverse landscape of grasslands, alluvial plains, and river systems, particularly the Namoi River and its tributaries, which supported a sustainable way of life. The Kamilaroi economy combined foraging, hunting, and the cultivating native grains. Archaeological and ethnographic sources confirm the widespread use of grinding stones and seed cakes made from Panicum species, and it is likely that native foods such as yams (gubiyaay), melons (Cucumis trigona), and bush oranges (bambul) were cultivated or collected across the plains (OzArk 2020: 15–16; O'Rourke 1997: 151–153).

Social organisation followed a four-section kinship system, which governed marriage and social responsibilities and was linked to totemic affiliations such as eagle (gubadhin) and crow (dhilbay). Spiritual beliefs centred around ancestral beings including Garriya the Rainbow Serpent and the One-Legged Teacher of Men, who presided over waterholes and initiation sites respectively.

Place names in the region reflect Kamilaroi linguistic heritage. Narrabri is derived from *nharibaraay,* with interpretations ranging from "place of knotty trees" to "place of forked waters" or "place of camps," while Boggabri (bagaaybaraay) means "place of creeks" (OzArk 2020: 16). These names indicate a deep cultural and linguistic connection to the landscape that persists today.

A number of historical sources documented Kamilaroi life in the 1800s; however, it is important to note that these sources include inherent biases, skewed perspectives and racist language.

Contact Period

During the contact period, conflict was particularly severe on the Namoi and Gwydir. Two massacres are recorded in the Narrabri area including the Barraba, Liverpool Plains and the Waterloo Creek, Jews Lagoon massacres. The Barraba, Liverpool Plains massacre occurred in 1836 where Mounted Police and Stockmen/Drovers killed 80 Gamilaraay people with the intent to "clear" the Barraba area of Aboriginal people" (Ryan et al. 2024). The Waterloo Creek, Jews Lagoon massacre occurred in 1838 where Mounted Police and Stockmen/Drovers killed an estimated 40 Gamilaraay people. The colonists "drove a party of Gamilaraay warriors into Snodgrass Lagoon, now known as Jews Lagoon, and shot and killed at least forty of them. The massacre was allegedly in reprisal for the spear wound of a mounted police trooper two hours earlier" (Ryan et al. 2024). In 1849 native police were sent to the area and "much of the Aboriginal resistance was suppressed by the mid-1850s" (NPWS 2003: 134).

Traditional life

In 1875, Reverand Ridley wrote an article presenting his understanding of the "Kamilarai" spiritual and religious beliefs. In this article, he includes a personal experience about his connections with Ippai Yuluma, or Henry Rose and Harry. Henry was originally from the MacIntyre River but worked as a servant at the

Liverpool Plains, south of Narrabri. His personal recounts includes both violent and peaceful interactions. Regarding Harry, Ridley writes:

> *"When I was preaching on the Upper Patterson, in 1851, he was working as a boy for Mr Alexander Cameron, a highland farmer,* [...] *now cultivating his own property on the Dingo Creek, Manning River. Harry had been brought down from the Namoi to Maitland, about 400 miles, by some carriers; and found his way from Maitland up the Paterson. Cameron and his wife treated him very kindly, and he was content to stay with them and make himself useful. He used to come in with the small congregation that gathered in their house, to the evening service, once a fortnight. He was pleased at being recognised as one for whom the minister cared: and I found that by merely acting on the rule on our all men treating him as a fellow creature, I had won his friendship. About four years afterwards I met him in the district of his tribe, at Bungulgully, near the Namoi. He had heard of my coming and went out on the track to meet me. His countenance expressed joy. He gave me help in learning Kamilaroi, and listened with earnest attention to my endeavours to express, in his native tongue the thought, and the facts that prove the truth of that assertion to a simple mind. When I went down the Namoi in 1871, there was no one else of whom I thought so much as Harry of Bungulgully, my first and most hopeful friend among the Australian Aborigines.* (Ridley 1875:170).

Ridley's (1875) relationship with Harry provides an insight into the more peaceful interactions during the contact period, while still highlighting the negative aspects including indentured servitude, and forced removal. The reverend's (1875) writings do contain inherent biases, however, he is one of the earliest sources to identify the violence of the colonists, the frontier wars, invasion and racism:

> *"and the Murri have not seen the white man take possession of their territory without many an attempt by deeds of cunning and of blood to stop the invasion and to avenge the injury. It would be easy to gather from the records of British colonisation in Australia many instances of horrid crimes committed by the Aborigines. [...] But it must not be forgotten that among the people of British origin have come to settle upon the land formerly occupied by Murri alone, have been some whose crimes against the Aborigines were at least equal in atrocity to theirs. In short, there has been war, and along certain lines of Australian territory there is still war, between the colonists and the Aborigines. [...] There has been a tendency to seek reasons for believing that these people are not of the same species as ourselves.*
>
> *"A very large book might be filled with instances in which Australian Aborigines have exercised the noble qualities of man, as faithful servants and true friends of Europeans. In no branch of the human family can there be found more convincing proofs of gratitude and affection. Many a settler and traveller could relate instances of blacks who, when once assured that a white man was their friend indeed, held to him in danger and distress with unalterable attachment. The faithfulness with which Jackey Jackey attended the explorer Kennedy in his last hours, which has been commemorated by the muses of history and painting, is by no means a solitary case of devoted attachment. Many a lost English child has been saved from a miserable end in the Bush by an earnest and clever search of aboriginal trackers; Many a colonist has been rescued from the floods by aboriginal swimmers; And many a time has the poison injected by a snake bite been sucked from a wound settler by a black fellow.*

> *"Hitherto, it must be confessed, British colonisation has done much to destroy, and British Christianity has done little to save, the Aborigines of Australia. Sometimes effort for their good is discouraged by the anticipation of their speedy extinction. But this too popular theory of the speedy extinction of the aboriginal race must be modified, if not negatived by such a site as I have seen, and as may still be seen in some parts of NSW an assembly of hundreds of them, including dozens of [illegible…] infants at the breast."* (Ridley 1875:171-172)

Five years after the reverend's article, Fison and Howitt (1880) wrote an article about the "Gaewe-gal Tribe of Kamilaroi and Kurnai". They describe the traditional land boundaries as:

> *"The territory claimed by them may be defined as being part of the valley of the hunter river extending to each lateral watershed, and from 25 to 30 miles along the valley on each side of Glendon. These Aborigines spoke the language of, and intermarried with, those of Maitland. Less frequently with those of the Patterson River, and rarely with those of Muswellbrook. They were always in dread of war with the Kamilaroi, who intruded down the heads of the hunter across from that Talbragar to the Munmurra waters, and even occasionally made raids as far as Jerrys Plains. A section of the Kamilaroi occupied the upper sources of the waters flowing into the hunter river that is, those which form the heads of the Goulburn River, for instance, Mumurra Creek. The dividing range between the Munmurra and Talbragar sinks down so that a traveller would not think he was crossing the boundary between any waters, much less those which divide the darling waters from those of the Hunter River. This probably facilitated the spread of the powerful Kamilaroi. The Myall wood weapons made at Liverpool Plains were exchanged with the coast natives for others (Myrtle &c.) which were made on the Hunter, and the Kamilaroi was spoken of as Myall blacks by the Geawe-gal so that Myall was almost synonymous with fierce."*(Fison and Howitt 1880:279-280).

In 1883, Fraser published an article about youth, manhood and old age amongst the 'tribes of New South Wales' (Fraser 1883:199). Fraser (1883) concedes that the article presents a generalized view but is drawn from information from personal conversations with 'the Gringai, the Kamilaroi, and the Oolaroi' (Fraser 1883:200). Fraser writes:

> *"As soon as the boy is able to walk, his father and his elder brothers delight to teach him the elements of all manly accomplishments – to swim, to throw the boomerang and spear; from his mother he learns to dig up roots, to gather edible sedges from the margin of the lagoon, and to become expert in other useful arts."* (Fraser 1883:200-201).

> *"As soon as he is old enough, perhaps seven or eight years old, he goes forth with his father to the chase, and learns to stalk the kangaroo, to recognize on a tree the mark of an opossum's recent ascent, to knock down the pigeon from its branch, to follow the honey-bee to its nest, to dive under water and spear the fish in their resting-places, and all other accomplishments, which in old England would have been included under the name 'woodcraft'.* […] *if he sees a native bee he catches it, fixes a little bit of white down on its body, then sets it free and follows it with his eye, running hard until he knows where its nest is; his reward is a feast of honey. If he sees a pigeon perched on the limb of a tree and wishes to have it, he makes a great circuit until he is behind the tree so that the trunk hides him from the eye of the bird he then moves forward very stealthily until a blow from his*

> *stick secures the prize. Perhaps he assists in hunting the kangaroo when the men see one quietly grazing they spread themselves in a circle* [...] *and at some distance each carrying a leafy branch of a tree before him with these they cautiously advance halting and assuming the appearance of rooted saplings whenever the kangaroo looks up alarmed at last the circle has closed in that when the quarry does at last detect the enemy and begins to hop away he finds a spear or club everywhere near enough to give him his death blow in the rivers where large fish are to be found the black boy learns to dive and remain for a time underwater walking on the bed of the river with his eyes open he dislodges from their lairs the lazy fish and kills them or spears the smaller ones as they hurry past him in this practise the blacks show wonderful precision and dexterity."* (Fraser 1883:201-202).

These excerpts provide small insights into traditional life in the area at the time, indicating education roles of the parents, cultural tools such as boomerangs and spears, food resources and food acquisition for sedges, kangaroos, possums, birds and honey. Fraser (1883) goes on to describe fish traps and weirs at Brewarrina, on the lower Barwon River, approximately 300 km west of Narrabri.

Fraser also describes stone tool manufacture and a significant grinding groove site east of Narrabri:

> *"Our young boy also assists in an important operation, that of axe sharpening. One of the earliest developments of civilization is the stone axe, but* [...] *must be kept sharp and this he can accomplish only by rubbing. Near Yaggabi, on the Gwydir, there is a great rubbing place, which must have been used by the tribes around for many generations. It is an extensive deposit of sandstone of a gritty nature, fit for grindstones. The rock rises out of the deep reach of the river, and slopes backwards for about 30 feet, and then terminates in a flat top, much of which is now covered with grass. Yet over at least 2 acres of this top there may be seen in numerable hollows made in the stone by the black fellow when sharpening his axe; for as soon as one groove became too deep he would begin another beside it. Not only on the top but also on the sloping side these marks are seen down to the water's edge, and below it as far as the eye can penetrate. In 1841 there was a great drought in these parts,* [...] *At that time the water in the river at the rubbing place was very low, and yet the rub marks could still be seen far below the surface of the water. How many generations of Kamilaroi blacks had encamped there we cannot tell, but the rocks still testify why they came there and how laboriously they had toiled."* (Fraser 1883:203).

2.3.2. Archaeological Context

The detailed archaeological context including AHIMS and other heritage database searches, previous archaeological research, regional character, and predictive model, as well as mapping of previously recorded sites and landscape features, place, and natural resources of interest to Aboriginal people, are provided in Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the AA (Appendix A). A summary of this context is provided here, and Table 3 summarises the AHIMS sites located within the project area.

A total of 23 valid Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects were listed within the search area, undertake on 24 February 2025. The most common site type within the searched area is scarred trees, which accounts for over half of the recorded sites (53%). The next most common are isolated finds and open camp sites.

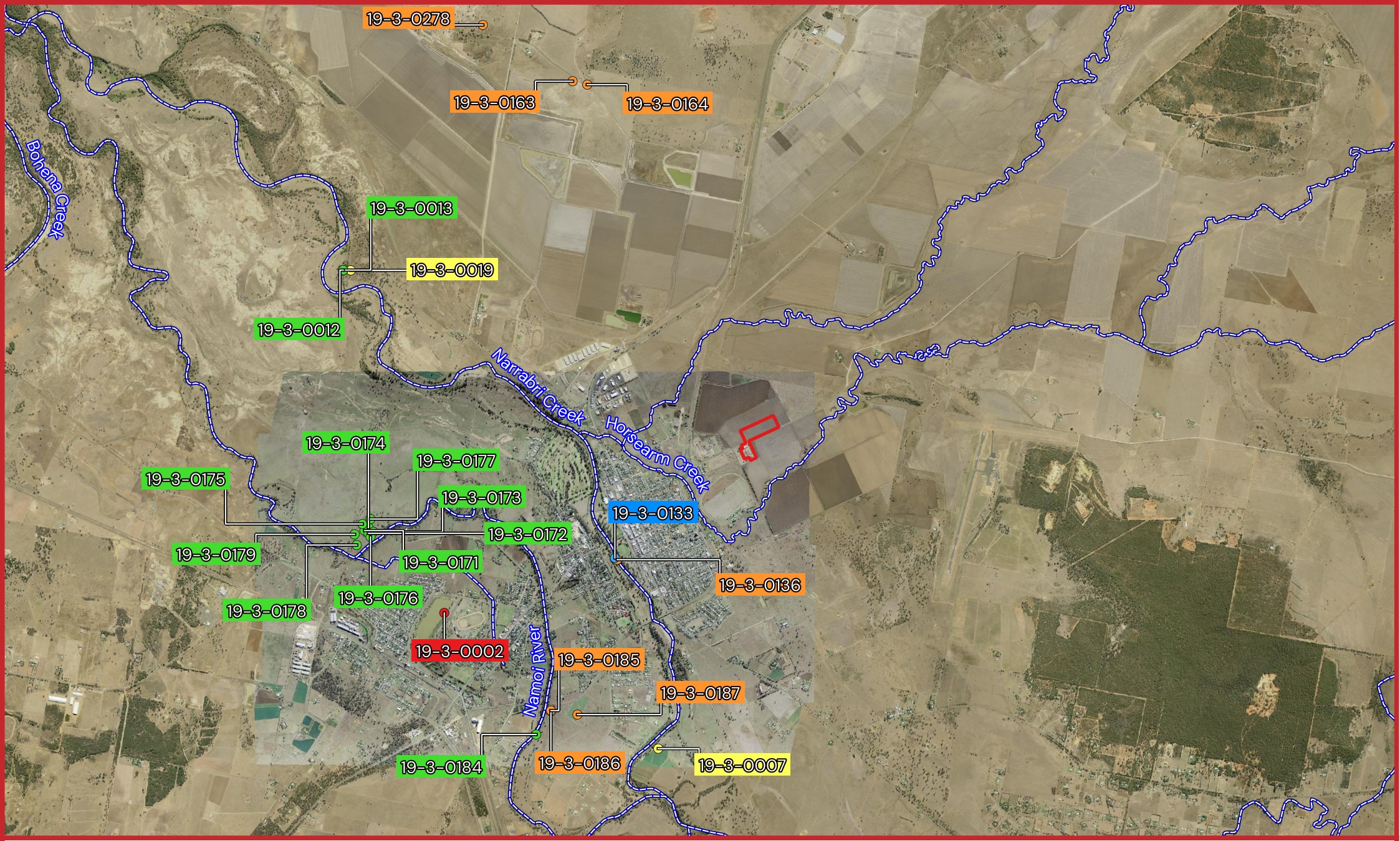
Table 3: Summary of AHIMS Features within the Search Area

Site Features	Frequency	Percentage
Scarred Tree	12	53%
Isolated Find	7	31%
Open Camp Site	2	8%
Scarred Tree and Artefact Scatter	1	4%
Burial/s	1	4%
Total	23	100%

The most common site type within the searched area is scarred trees, which accounts for over half of the recorded sites (53%). The next most common are isolated finds and open camp sites. The closest sites to the project area are a scar tree with artefact (Collins Park site 2 artefacts, AHIMS ID #19-3-0133) and isolated find (Collins Park site 1 artefact, AHIMS ID #19-3-0136), located approximately 1 km to the southwest of the Project Area.

Details of Collins Park site 2 artefacts (AHIMS ID #19-3-0133) and Collins Park site 1 artefact (AHIMS ID #19-3-0136) are provided in Section 4.1.1 of the AA (Appendix A).

No recorded sites are located within the Project Area.



606: 41 Stoney Creek Road BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 2. AHIMS Site Locations

Author: Antonella Skepasianos / Liam Clerke
Date: 15/07/2025
Scale: 1:57143 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Contours
- Named Watercourse

AHIMS Site Types

- Burial/s
- Isolated Find
- Open Camp Site
- Scarred Tree
- Scarred Tree and Art

N

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

3. Consultation Process

3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

We acknowledge that Aboriginal people are the primary determinants of the cultural significance of their heritage. Aboriginal consultation for the ACHA was undertaken in compliance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010b) (hereafter referred to as the "ACHRs"). These consultation requirements are legal requirements that proponents must comply with during the ACHA process which are set out in Clause 60 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation (2019). Aboriginal consultation is crucial in the compilation of the ACHA in order to adequately assess and investigate Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Consultation is important with registered Aboriginal parties in this process in order to:

- determine the cultural significance of a project area;
- identify Aboriginal objects of cultural value within a project area; and
- identify places of Aboriginal cultural value (whether or not they are Aboriginal places declared under Section 84 of the *NPW Act*).

Seventeen (17) Aboriginal Parties/individuals registered interest for this project during the notification process (responded to the advertisements in the local newspapers or to an invitation to register in the project after their contact details were provided by notified organisations). The groups/individuals registered for consultation are listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Aboriginal Parties/Individuals Registered Interest for this Project

Name of Contact	Registered Aboriginal Party
Stephen Matthews	Individual
Gomeroi Applicant	Gomeroi Applicant c/- NTSCORP Limited
David Horton	Gomery Cultural Consultants
Cory McKenzie, Allan McKenzie Sr. and Allan McKenzie Jr.	Googar
Aaron Talbott	AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy
Natasha Rodgers	Individual
Redacted	Redacted
Redacted	Redacted
Diana Astin	Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation
Chairperson Lynn Trindall	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)
Steven Booby	Individual

Raymond Moon	Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation
Bill Trewlynn	Individual
Aliethea Cutmore	Guda Birgingira Aboriginal Corporation
Cindy Foley	Individual
Donna Moodie	Individual
Jeremy Duncan	Individual

All consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties undertaken Virtus Heritage is documented in greater detail in Appendix B and Appendix C. SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd and Enervest carried out the commercial engagement and selection of interested registered Aboriginal parties for fieldwork for this project. Commercial engagement is stipulated in the ACHRs as separate to consultation and discussions between registered Aboriginal parties and SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd which are commercial in confidence will not be reiterated in the Aboriginal consultation log.

Table 5 provides a summary of compliance by this project with the ACHRs. It should be noted that consultation was undertaken through multiple forms of contact with registered Aboriginal parties for all correspondence including registered post via delivery confirmation, email (wherever possible), phone calls, SMS, and fax (where all other forms of contact were exhausted).

Table 5: Compliance with the ACHRs

Step #	Description of Step in the ACHRs	How this step of the ACHRS was complied with
1: Notification of project proposal and registration of interest		
1a	Proponents must compile a list of Aboriginal people who have an interest in the proposed project area and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places from reasonable sources of information which include writing to: • The relevant Heritage NSW regional office; • The relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council; • The National Native Title Tribunal; • Native Title Services Corporation; • Relevant local council (s); and • Relevant Local Land Services.	Letters were sent by Virtus Heritage to all of these relevant organisations (via registered post with delivery confirmation) requesting their input on the names and contact details of Aboriginal people who have an interest in the proposed project area and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the locality of the project area on 18 March 2025. A closing date of 1 April 2025 was provided to all agencies for a response to this letter.
1b	Proponent prepares a notification via newspaper which must include: • The name and contact details of the proponent;	A notification was placed in The Courier in the Public Notices section on April 3 2025 which complied with these requirements and is provided in Appendix B. A closing date of 16 April 2025 was provided for registrations of interest.

	• 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; • A statement that the purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in preparing an application for an AHIP and to assist Heritage NSW in their consideration and determination of the application; • An invitation for Aboriginal people who hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural 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; and • A closing date for the registration of interests.	
1c	Proponent writes to the Aboriginal people whose names were provided by organisations in Step 1a to notify them of the proposed project and opportunity to be involved in consultation and places notification in the local newspaper.	Letters were sent to all Aboriginal people provided by organisations (unless they had registered interest already) via registered post with delivery confirmation and emailed (wherever possible) on 2 April 2025 to comply with this step to invite them to be involved in consultation. Closing date for registrations was 16 April 2025. Phone calls were made (wherever possible) to those who had not responded on 16 April 2025 to remind people of closing date for registration.
1d	Proponent records names of Aboriginal people who have registered an interest in being involved in consultation – the 'Registered Aboriginal Parties'	Table 4 provides a list of the registered Aboriginal parties, who provided written registration of interest for this project.
1e	Proponent provides a copy of the notification and record of the Registered Aboriginal Parties to Heritage NSW and relevant LALC within 28 days of the closing date for registering an interest.	An email was sent to Heritage NSW and Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to comply with this requirement on 23 April 2025.
2 Presentation of the information about the proposed project		

2a	Proponent presents and/or provides project information to registered Aboriginal parties.	Project information package was presented via letter registered post with delivery confirmation and sent via email to all registered Aboriginal parties on 7 May 2025. This information included information from Virtus Heritage on the project proposal and the draft project methodology, requiring written responses/comments from registered Aboriginal parties by 6 June 2025.
2b	Proponent may create an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to visit the proposed project site.	Four registered Aboriginal parties who expressed interest in fieldwork were invited by Proponent to be involved in proposed fieldwork and to maintain an open dialogue on cultural knowledge and values. This invitation was sent out by Enervest via email on 11 June 2025, with a date of 24 June 2025 scheduled for fieldwork.
2c	Proponent records or documents that information on the proposed project has been presented. The record or documentation should include any agreed outcomes and/or contentious issues that may require further discussion (where applicable). Proponent should provide a copy of this record or documentation to registered Aboriginal parties.	Documentation of the Proponent's site invitations is attached in the Aboriginal consultation log to this assessment. Copies of this correspondence were provided to Heritage NSW and RAPs with the draft ACHA.
3 Gathering information about cultural significance		
3a	Proponent presents and/or provides the proposed methodology (s) for the cultural heritage assessment to the registered Aboriginal parties for comment. registered Aboriginal parties have a minimum of 28 days after the proponent provides the methodology (s) to provide written or oral comment.	Project information package was presented via letter registered post with delivery confirmation and sent via email to all Registered Aboriginal Parties on 7 May 2025.
3b	Proponent considers input provided by registered Aboriginal parties and finalises methodology for implementation. Proponent documents how the input has been considered.	Project methodology was finalised and any comments from registered Aboriginal parties were taken into consideration where appropriate (refer to Section 3.1 for further discussion on implementation).
3c	Proponent seeks information from registered Aboriginal parties to identify: Whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value; and Whether there are places of cultural value (whether or not they are Aboriginal places declared under Section 84 of the *NPW Act*).	The presentation of project information and the draft proposed project methodology were provided to all registered Aboriginal parties via email and post requesting information from registered Aboriginal parties in relation to this requirement. An invitation to discuss the proposed methodology and cultural information on potential Aboriginal objects and places of

		cultural value with Virtus Heritage and the proponent was reiterated through phone calls and emails to the registered Aboriginal parties. During fieldwork, registered Aboriginal parties who participated in the surveys were asked to provide input on cultural information and cultural values within the project area. This request is reiterated again in the covering letter sent with the draft ACHA report for registered Aboriginal parties' comment and review.
3d	Proponent seeks input from registered Aboriginal parties on potential management options	During fieldwork, registered Aboriginal parties engaged for the surveys were asked to provide input on potential management options within the project area. This request is reiterated again in the covering letter sent with this draft report for registered Aboriginal parties' comment and review.
4 Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report		
4a	Proponent prepares draft cultural heritage assessment report and provides it to the registered Aboriginal parties for review and comment.	The draft AA and ACHA were sent via email to all Registered Aboriginal Parties on 16 July 2025.
4b	Registered Aboriginal parties have a minimum of 28 days after the proponent provides the draft report to review and provide written or oral comment.	Three Registered Aboriginal Parties provided comments on the draft AA and ACHA.
4c	Proponent finalises cultural heritage assessment report. The final report is submitted to Heritage NSW for consideration with the proponent's AHIP application.	This task will be completed once the final report is submitted to the department.
4d	Proponent provides/makes available the final cultural heritage assessment report and AHIP application to the registered Aboriginal parties and relevant LALCs within 14 days of an AHIP application being made to Heritage NSW.	This task will be completed once the final report is submitted to the department.

3.2 SUBMISSIONS/COMMENTS ON METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this section of the report is to provide information on the submissions/comments raised about the proposed project methodology by registered Aboriginal parties and how these issues were addressed by the Proponent in order to comply with the ACHA guide (OEH 2011) and ACHRs (DECCW 2010b).

All registered Aboriginal parties were provided with the opportunity to provide comment on the methodology for this assessment. All submissions provided by the registered Aboriginal parties are provided in full in Appendix B and summarised in Table 6 below.

Enervest invited representatives who had expressed interest in fieldwork via email on 11 June 2025.

3.3 COMMENTS MADE DURING FIELDWORK

Comments made by representatives from registered parties during fieldwork are summarised in Table 6.

Table 6: Comments Made During Fieldwork

Registered Party	Comments
Cindy Foley	There is a major songline that runs through from Gunnedah to Burning Mountain. Subsurface testing and/or salvage would show what is happening sub-surface, which may be related to the songline. Surface collection should occur prior to works beginning. There needs to be a Care and Control agreement in place prior to final repository of artefacts, or I won't endorse.

3.4 SUBMISSIONS/COMMENTS ON DRAFT ACHA AND AA REPORTS, AND RD&M, AND COMMENTS ON CARE AND CONTROL

A summary of submissions and comments on the draft project methodology, ACHA, AR and Research Design and Methodology are provided in Table 7 once received.

Table 7: Summary of Comments on Project Methodology, Draft ACHA and AA reports and Proposed RD&M

Registered Aboriginal Stakeholder Group	Proposed methodology	Draft ACHA and AA	Care and Control	Additional Comments
Individual (Stephen Matthews)	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	

Registered Aboriginal Stakeholder Group	Proposed methodology	Draft ACHA and AA	Care and Control	Additional Comments
Gomeroi Applicant c/- NTSCORP Limited	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	No Comment Provided	Agrees test excavation is not needed if the site is on subsoil clays and not a clay capping with PAD below. and that monitoring of the trench works should be undertaken	Added that artefacts should be reburied on Country but any artefacts that have educational value should be used as an educational resource and stored off site Added that all artefacts should be catalogued and digitally archived before reburial	
Individual (Natasha Rodgers)	No Comment Provided	Agrees test excavation is not needed if the site is on subsoil clays	Added that artefacts should be reburied on Country with a simple smoking and placed near an old tree or area that is outside of future impacts with a plaque denoting the reason for return, date, and company contact details.	
Redacted	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	Recommends that artefacts should be reburied on Country outside areas of impact, but any significant artefacts could be used for educational purposes but not on displayed	
Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	

Registered Aboriginal Stakeholder Group	Proposed methodology	Draft ACHA and AA	Care and Control	Additional Comments
Individual (Steven Booby)	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	Recommends the artefacts to be stored in a Keeping Place for long term safe keeping at either the Narrabri LALC or Wahgunyah Housing Aboriginal Corporation	
Individual (Bill Trewlynn)	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	Recommends that artefacts should be reburied on Country outside areas of impact	
Guda Birgingira Aboriginal Corporation	No Comment Provided	Agrees with the content and recommendations of the ACHA and AA	Supports the elder local Aboriginal community recommendations	
Individual (Donna Moodie)	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	Supports the elder local Aboriginal community recommendations and recommends the artefacts be stored in a Keeping Place	
Redacted	"No comment"	Supports the local Gamilaroi Aboriginal community recommendations	Supports the local Gamilaroi Aboriginal community recommendations	
Individual (Jeremy Duncan)	Agrees with methodology	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	
Gomery Cultural Consultants	Agrees with methodology	Agrees test excavation is not needed if there is no topsoil	Added that artefacts should be reburied on Country outside areas of impact	

Registered Aboriginal Stakeholder Group	Proposed methodology	Draft ACHA and AA	Care and Control	Additional Comments
Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	No Comment Provided	Agrees with the content and recommendations of the ACHA and AA	Added that artefacts that have previously been found and any new ones will need to be protected and preserved for future generations	
Googar	Recommends the entire area be surveyed and monitored when breaking ground	No Comment Provided	No Comment Provided	
Individual (Cindy Foley)	Recommends subsurface testing There is a major songline that runs through from Gunnedah to Burning Mountain Subsurface testing and/or salvage would show what is happening sub-surface, which may be related to the songline Surface collection should occur prior to works beginning There needs to be a Care and Control agreement in place prior to final repository of artefacts, or won't endorse	Recommends subsurface testing to see what's underneath and save anything there from being destroyed If test pitting won't proceed, recommends salvage excavations with surface salvage/ collection; RAP monitoring during works and ACH inductions and training for workers	A Care and Control agreement be prepared for the salvaged and unexpected finds	
Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	Agrees with methodology and recommends that any identified artefacts that need to be moved should	Agrees with ACHA	Added that with section 9.3 of the AA, the 6 artefacts should be moved to another area on Country and a	

Registered Aboriginal Stakeholder Group	Proposed methodology	Draft ACHA and AA	Care and Control	Additional Comments
	have a smoking ceremony and be kept in a safe place on Country		smoking ceremony take place to cleanse them before reburial	

4. Summary of Background Information

The Project Area is located to the east of Narrabri in flat farming land with occasional undulating hills and is part of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion, and specifically within the Liverpool Plains subregion. The geology and geography are dominated by Narrabri Creek and its tributaries with the discharge of alluvial fans affecting its soils, flora, and fauna. Prior to the colonial period, the region would have provided a rich environment for the collection and management of floral and faunal resources by Aboriginal people. The same alluvial landscape would also have disturbed and redistributed archaeological deposits through regular water movement, and the cracking clays.

After colonisation, the introduction of livestock, and the clearing, cultivation, and irrigation of the alluvial soils is likely to have disturbed Aboriginal sites and objects. Disturbances also include the installation of transmission lines which extend across the project area, and the development of road infrastructure and the existing substation on the south side of Stoney creek Road. The Project area reflects these observations, being sited in a heavily cleared, cultivated, irrigated, and grazed portion of the landscape. The southern portion of the project area is heavily modified by Stoney Creek Road, and the existing substation and associated infrastructure. These disturbances indicate there is lower potential to find Aboriginal places and objects (if any) in a primary depositional context due to the historic and more recent disturbances that the Project area and region have undergone.

Detail on the background of the area is provided in the AA (Appendix A).

One new Aboriginal cultural heritage site (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) was recorded as partially within the project area, comprising an artefact scatter in a secondary depositional context (n=14), with no associated potential archaeological deposit. Site SC_AS1 comprises 14 artefacts in a ploughed paddock on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road, partially within the project area:

- Five of these 14 artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development.
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly harmed by the project development.
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be protected.

Further detail on the newly recorded site is provided in Section 6 of the AA (Appendix A).

5. Cultural Heritage Values and Statements of Significance

5.1 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013 (Australia ICOMOS 2013, hereafter referred to as the 'Burra Charter') provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places) and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members. Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility. The Burra Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers, and custodians. The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as the "aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects" (Australia ICOMOS 2013:2).

Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are assessed following these categories of significance developed under the Burra Charter (Table 8 for significance assessment of these categories):

- Aesthetic value
    - refers to "the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place" and is often linked with social values (OEH 2011:9). This value may refer to the visual nature of the landscape and "smells and sounds associated with the place and its use" (OEH 2011:9).
- Historic value
    - refers to "the associations of a place with a historically important person, event, phase or activity in an Aboriginal community", for example, post-contact places such as missions or reserves or massacre sites (OEH 2011:9).
- Scientific/archaeological value
    - assessed mostly by archaeologists/heritage consultants according to six criteria in this assessment process, rarity, representativeness, integrity, connectedness, complexity, and potential archaeological deposit.
- Spiritual value (can only be assessed by Aboriginal people)
    - refers to the "the intangible values and meanings embodied in or evoked by a place which give it importance in the spiritual identity, or the traditional knowledge, art and practices of a cultural group. Spiritual value may also be reflected in the intensity of aesthetic and emotional responses or community associations and be expressed through cultural practices and related places" (ICOMOS 2013:4).
- Social value (can only be assessed by Aboriginal people)
    - refers to the contemporary associations and attachments Aboriginal people have to an area or place. The guide to investigating, assessing, and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW notes that "Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them. Places of social or cultural value have associations with contemporary community identity. These places can have associations with tragic or warmly remembered experiences, periods, or events. Communities can experience a sense of loss should a place of social or cultural value be damaged or destroyed. There is not always a consensus about a place's social or cultural value" (OEH 2011:8).

Table 8: Assessment of the Burra Charter Values within the Project Area

Categories of Significance	Statement of Values
Aesthetic	Despite being located in a rural setting, the project area is located within a cultivated paddock which currently has a cotton crop. All trees have previously been cleared to allow ploughing and cultivation. The southern portion of the project area is intersected by a road (Stoney Creek Road), and the existing Transgrid substation and associated infrastructure. Multiple transmission lines also extend in a north south direction across the project area and link with the Transgrid substation. Visually the project area has been heavily impacted by European farming practices and built infrastructure, which has affectively reduced the visual aesthetic (and smells and sounds) of the rural landscape. The project area has low aesthetic values.
Historic	Part of the newly identified scatter assemblage includes possible glass raw material used for artefacts. This indicates post-contact era artefacts; however, this artefact is located outside the project area. The artefacts have been identified in a disturbed post-depositional context however and may not be strictly associated with the project area. Broken shards of earthenware were also identified in the project area (ploughed paddock) but there is no integrity or intactness to the fragments. The nearby heritage listed Narrabri Cemetery is separated from the project area by a row of trees (no visual connection), and there is no known historic connection between the Narrabri Cemetery and the project area. The project area has low historic values. (Please note that the presence of a possible glass artefact, although in a secondary depositional context, indicates there is moderate historic value adjacent to the project area. There is no way to determine the original deposition of this possible glass artefact).
Scientific/archaeological	**Rarity and Representativeness:** There are no registered sites on AHIMS within the project area, though one newly identified site (SC_AS1) was identified during the project survey on 24 June 2025. The project area is situated on alluvial plain landscape which has been identified in past research (OzArk 2020; Mitchell 2002) as a landscape known to contain Aboriginal sites which represent Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape within the Narrabri LGA. Alluvial plain is the dominant landscape throughout the Narrabri LGA. Background artefact scatters on alluvial plain landscape are not considered rare within the Narrabri region.The presence of Aboriginal objects demonstrates local Aboriginal land use and cultural history within the project area and surrounds. The artefacts of broken flakes and flakes within the project area are not unusual scientifically but have high cultural value. Retouched flakes and cores are also represented in the past archaeological research of the region. These artefact types are not considered rare. Although there are other examples of Aboriginal tools being manufactured from European materials in the vicinity of the project area (i.e. artefact manufactured from porcelain approximately 2 km southwest of the project area: AHIMS ID #19-3-0007), the possible artefact manufactured from bottle glass is considered rare in a local and regional context. However, this artefact is located well outside the project area to the west.

	Integrity: Disturbances within the project area included cultivation, grazing, irrigation, vegetation clearing, European farming practices, development of road networks, and development of the existing substation and associated infrastructure. Artefacts within newly recorded site SC_AS1 were disturbed across the project area as a result of recent ploughing, past disturbances, and other post depositional processes. The scatter was identified as a low-density background scatter in a disturbed context in a ploughed field with no associated PAD and/or integrity. **Connectedness:** The site is a low-density background scatter within an alluvial plain landscape. OzArk 2020 (using Mitchell 2002 landscape model) and Appleton (2009) identify artefact scatters in this context as common throughout the Narrabri LGA. The background research shows the artefact types (dominated by flakes, broken flakes, and cores) and raw materials (dominated by mudstone, silcrete) within site SC_AS1 as also common throughout the Narrabri region. The similar landscape, artefact types, and raw materials used in artefact manufacture, when comparing sites within the Narrabri region show a connectedness across the landscape. **Complexity**: The scatter SC_AS1 was identified as a low-density background scatter in a disturbed context in a ploughed field with no associated PAD and/or integrity. The background research shows the artefact types (dominated by flakes, broken flakes, and cores) and raw materials (dominated by mudstone, silcrete) within site SC_AS1 as also common throughout the Narrabri region. The site is not considered high in complexity. **Potential for Archaeological Deposit**: The project area is likely to have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, but at a lower intensity and frequency relative to surrounding landforms (i.e. floodplain and channel landforms within 200m of a water source, and even higher density of sites within 100m of a water source: OzArk 2020; Appleton 2009) resulting in a lower artefact density than surrounding landforms. Ground surface disturbances have decreased the archaeological integrity and potential of finding evidence of Aboriginal occupation in a primary depositional context. Past and ongoing human action (i.e. cultivation, grazing, irrigation, vegetation clearing, European farming practices, development of road networks, and development of the existing substation and associated infrastructure) have likely redistributed artefacts from their deposited locations (if any). Any artefacts are also likely to have been impacted by fluvial movement, and movement associated with cracking clays.
Social value	The consultation process to date and informs there is a songline which passes through the project area which is highly significant to the Aboriginal community. The project area also contains Aboriginal stone tools. Even though the stone tools are in a secondary depositional context, all artefacts have been identified as important to people: Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation have indicated that all objects and sites hold value with recommending that all artefacts need to be protected and preserved for future generations. Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation have indicated that all objects and sites hold value with recommending that artefacts be returned to Country with a smoking ceremony and reburial. Cindy Foley has indicated that all objects and sites hold value with recommending that Care and Control Agreements must be in place for the identified artefacts and any unexpected finds.

	Gomery Cultural Consultants, [redacted] and Bill Trewlynn have indicated that all objects and sites hold value with recommending that artefacts be returned to Country for reburial outside areas of impact. AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy have indicated that all objects and sites hold value with recommending that artefacts be returned to Country for reburial after cataloguing digitally archiving, and that artefacts with education values should be used for teaching. Steven Booby and Donna Moodie have indicated that all objects hold value with recommending that artefacts be stored in a Keeping Place for long term safe-keeping. The project area has high social values.
Spiritual value	The consultation process to date and informs there is a songline which passes through the project area which is highly significant to the Aboriginal community. The project area also contains Aboriginal stone tools. Even though the stone tools are in a secondary depositional context, all artefacts have been identified as important to people. Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation have indicated that all objects and sites hold value with recommending that artefacts be returned to Country with a smoking ceremony and reburial. AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy provided information with their registration, that had been included in a previous report, on creation stories and songlines on areas approximately 50 km south of the current project area. The songline of the Warabah (longneck turtle) is related to a creation story where after Garagua (the rainbow serpent) had made creeks and rivers, the Warabah filtered the water by swimming through thess waterways. Warabah was kicked out of the Billiga (Pilliga) and his song line runs through Boggabri, Barraba to Warabah National Park and Bendemeer (OzArk Environment and Heritage 2023). AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy stated in their registration and reiterated in a verbal comment in response to the draft reports, that there are culturally significant areas around Narrabri including a battle ground between the Wee Waa and Gunnedah groups. The project area has high spiritual values.

5.2 SUMMARY AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The project area is assessed as having low aesthetic value as visually the project area has been heavily impacted by European farming practices and built infrastructure, which has affectively reduced the visual aesthetic (and smells and sounds) of the rural landscape.

Site SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) has low historic and scientific significance, due to the materials present within the project area being in a secondary depositional context and the low research potential (Please note that the presence of a possible glass artefact, although in a secondary depositional context, indicates there is moderate historic value adjacent to the project area. There is no way to determine the original deposition of this possible glass artefact).

All Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and objects may be considered to have high cultural significance (social and spiritual values) to Aboriginal communities. The consultation process to date and informs there is a songline which passes through the project area which is highly significant to the Aboriginal community.

6. The Proposed Activity

This section provides a description of the proposal. Table 9 provides a summary of the history of previous impacts to the project area, the proposed impacts to the project area from the proposal, and a statement regarding potential harm of the proposal on Aboriginal objects within the project area. A full description category is provided in the relevant sections of the AA (Appendix A), as indicated in Table 9.

Table 9: Summary of Project Proposal.

Project Description	Summary
Previous Impacts to the Project Area (AA – Section 3)	The specific past land use history of the Project Area is unknown, however aerial photography shows that is has been completely cleared of all trees and vegetation. Furrow lines associated with agricultural use are present and an existing transmission line bisects the Project Area from north to south. From the early history of the Narrabri region, it is likely that this area was used for sheep and cattle grazing and was then later used for agricultural purposes. There is a large artificial dam on the northern boundary of the property fed by an artificial drainage line from Horsearm Creek to the south. There is currently no residential property associated with the Project Area.
Proposed Impacts to the Project Area (AA – Section 2)	Construction of the Project will require heavy vehicles, plant, and equipment for the transportation and installation of components. The Project will require earth-moving equipment for civil, foundation and road works, cable trenching equipment, forklifts, and cranes (subject to detailed design) to install the BESS and complete ancillary works. The maximum impact depth for construction is anticipated to be no more than 2 m. The BESS itself is proposed to built-up on a bed of imported fill atop the existing ground surface. Key components of the proposed works include: • Installation and operation of a BESS including battery enclosures, inverters, HV Switch rooms, Control rooms and transformers on hardstand. Earthworks will be required on the project area to create the flood mitigation platform level. • Associated upgrades and connection into the Narrabri 132/66kV Substation, including construction of an overhead or underground 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection, associated high voltage steel poles, increase in hardstand area and establishment of easements. • Associated ancillary infrastructure including security fencing, landscaping, access and internal roads, fire water tanks, temporary parking. • Decommissioning.

Potential Harm of Proposed Activity (AA – Sections 9 and 10)	One new Aboriginal cultural heritage site (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) was recorded as partially within the project area, comprising an artefact scatter in a secondary depositional context (n=14), with no associated potential archaeological deposit. Site SC_AS1 comprises 14 artefacts in a ploughed paddock on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road, partially within the project area: • Five of these 14 artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development. • Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly harmed by the project development. • Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be protected.

7. Avoiding or Mitigating Harm

One new Aboriginal cultural heritage site (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) was recorded during the project survey, comprising an artefact scatter in a secondary depositional context (n=14), with no associated potential archaeological deposit. Site SC_AS1 comprises 14 artefacts in a ploughed paddock on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road, partially within the project area:

- Five of these 14 artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development;
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly harmed by the project development.
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be protected.

Destruction without any form of mitigation is not an appropriate management option as Aboriginal objects and values have been identified within the project area. Site SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) will require management options to mitigate harm to the Aboriginal objects and values of the site.

Destruction with mitigation refers to some form of archaeological or cultural salvage or investigation to mitigate the destruction of an Aboriginal object/s or sites by a development proposal. This management strategy would be recommended in areas where Aboriginal object/s and sites were identified, and/or in areas with moderate to high archaeological values with research potential.

The 6 artefacts within the disturbance footprint would be directly harmed by the construction of the BESS and the remaining 3 artefacts within the project area may be indirectly harmed during construction. If these 3 artefacts can be avoided and left *in situ*, this could contribute to the conservation of the site and its values. Further, the remaining 5 artefacts outside the project area will not be impacted by the project and will be conserved.

To ensure avoidance, the 3 artefacts within the project area but outside the disturbance footprint would need to be marked with temporary fencing and conveyed on construction plans as no-go areas. If this is not practical for construction, these artefacts may require collection in addition to the 6 artefacts in the disturbance footprint.

At least 6 of the SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) artefacts will require destruction with mitigation, as harm cannot be avoided, in the form of collection.

This option for destruction with mitigation can be justified by considering the relatively low cumulative impact to the Narrabri region, based on the 3 AHIPs that have been issued in the LGA since 2010. For the project area specifically, the site was identified partially within the project area but in a disturbed context with artefacts located in a secondary depositional environment with no associated PAD. Given the low integrity and low density of the SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) site and low impacts through AHIPs in the region, the option for destruction with mitigation may be justified and has a low cumulative impact.

The purpose of the proposed BESS is to contribute to improving the renewable power supply within the region; provide critical energy storage, and improve the security, affordability, and sustainability of the State's electricity grid. As the aim of the project includes benefits for the local region, the option for destruction with mitigation may be justified.

Test excavations are not recommended for scatter SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302). The site comprises 14 out-of-context artefacts, located in a disturbed ploughed field, and not associated with any PAD. A push test was conducted during the survey which identified resistance at 15 cm and ploughing tends to disturb soils up to 30-50 cm deep. Further, SLR (2025) soil testing found that the A horizon on the north side of

Stoney Creek Road is very shallow (<10 cm) and that both A and B horizons have high clay content. All these factors indicate there is unlikely any intact archaeological deposit extant within the field. The artefacts are located in a secondary depositional context, which means they have not necessarily eroded from the soils onsite. Artefacts can be moved through flood and water wash and agricultural activities.

However, please note that subsurface testing has been recommended by one registered Aboriginal party to investigate the subsurface nature of the site.

Community collection of initial ground disturbing works has also been recommended by the RAPs through the consultation process.

8. Recommendations

Based on the description of project impacts provided by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, the results of the survey, Aboriginal consultation to date, the limitations of this assessment and previous archaeological research, the following recommendations are made below in Table 10.

Management recommendations of this assessment consider all values as set out in The Burra Charter and the requirements of Heritage NSW. This assessment includes the recommendations for the Archaeological Survey Report (Archaeological Assessment). The ACHA includes management recommendations which consider the social (cultural), spiritual, aesthetic and historic values of The Burra Charter.

Table 10: Recommendations, inclusive of recommendations made in the Archaeological Assessment

Recommendation #		Recommendation
1.	Detailed Site Recording	Detailed site recording is recommended for Aboriginal cultural heritage site SC_AS1. The information should be documented in a report and in AHIMS site cards and Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms. This recording will include artefact analysis and may consider use-wear and residue analysis of any collected artefacts where warranted.
2.	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan	Prior to the commencement of construction works, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) must be prepared and submitted to the Department for approval. The ACHMP should include: 1. Roles and responsibilities for undertaking actions within the ACHMP 2. Include protocols for continued consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties throughout the remainder of the project. 3. Detail descriptions and methods to avoid any inadvertent impacts to known Aboriginal objects outside of proposed impact areas. This should include, but not be limited to: i. Works specific Aboriginal Cultural Inductions ii. Protective Fencing and clear marking of heritage sites/Aboriginal Objects in close proximity to proposed works. This should be done with an experience Sites Officer of Registered Aboriginal Parties or a qualified archaeologist. iii. If needed, any additional requirements identified by the Aboriginal community through consultation. iv. A suitable program of monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of these control measures should also be outlined, including locations, methods, personnel and timing. 4. Surface Collection and Community Collection (refer to Recommendations 3 and 4) 5. Processes for reviewing, monitoring and updating the ACHMP as the project progresses, including incorporating any mitigation measures identified in the ACHA being prepared

		and in accordance with the requirements of any future project approval conditions.
3.	Surface Collection	This management strategy is recommended in areas where Aboriginal object/s were identified and cannot be avoided by project works. Surface collection should occur prior to any project works.
4.	Community Collection	RAP/s should have the opportunity to undertake community collection of any Aboriginal Objects identified during initial ground disturbing works.
5.	Cultural Heritage Induction	All site workers and personnel involved in site impact works associated with the proposed work should be inducted and briefed on the identification of Aboriginal sites and objects during works and their responsibilities according to the provisions of the NPW Act 1974, in case any additional unknown objects or items are uncovered during proposed works. a) Site workers should be made aware of the location of any Aboriginal sites that may at any stage occur within the proposal site and their significance, and their legal obligations in relation to the protection and management of these Aboriginal sites under the NPW Act 1974, and the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019. b) As part of this induction, workers should be made aware that in the event that unexpected human remains are uncovered on site, the area of the suspected remains must be secured and cordoned off and the NSW Police notified. No further works can be undertaken until the NSW Police provide written advice. • If these remains are deemed to require archaeological investigation by the NSW Police or NSW Coroner, then Heritage NSW and the relevant Aboriginal parties must be notified. A plan of management for the preservation of Aboriginal human remains or for their salvage must be put in place or conducted under an AHIP methodology and variation developed in consultation with all relevant Aboriginal parties and the Heritage NSW. c) As part of an induction, in the unlikely event that any historical relics are uncovered during proposed works, all workers and subcontractors should be made aware of their responsibilities under the provisions of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 (for example, 19th century bottle dumps, sandstone footings, structural features in situ over fifty years old etc.). In this event all works must cease and the area where objects uncovered is protected until a qualified archaeologist is contacted and can inspect and assess the area to determine its significance in consultation with Heritage NSW. Enervest may wish to consider the input and engagement of interested Aboriginal stakeholder groups in the development of inductions and toolbox talks for this project.
6.	Unexpected Finds Protocol	If Aboriginal objects (excluding human remains or sites such as grinding groove complexes/engravings, rock art) are detected

during ground disturbance, NPWS unexpected finds procedures (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2020: 17) should be observed, namely:

a. establish an appropriate buffer around the Aboriginal object to exclude further works in the area and allow assessment and management;
b. engage with the relevant Aboriginal parties to assess the object's heritage values and undertake appropriate methods to avoid or move the object;
c. complete an AHIMS site card to register the site and document the movement or avoidance strategies taken;
d. complete a report detailing the unexpected find and the Aboriginal community's recommendations for management;
e. send the report to the relevant project manager and Aboriginal parties and Heritage NSW and DPIE's AHIMS area;
f. continue works only once appropriate measures have been taken to avoid or move the site, as per Heritage NSW stipulations.

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Appendix A Archaeological Assessment Report

VIRTUS HERITAGE



STONEY CREEK BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)

Narrabri, NSW

Archaeological Assessment

Final | August 2025

Prepared for SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Enervest Operations Pty Ltd

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Acknowledgement of Country

Virtus Heritage acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this project was undertaken and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Content Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this publication may contain names and images of deceased people, descriptions of traumatic historic events and parts of Country that have been impacted by development.

Disclaimer and cultural restrictions

This Report (including any enclosures and attachments) has been prepared by Virtus Heritage for the exclusive use and benefit of SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Enervest Operations Pty Ltd for their use regarding the Project and solely for the purpose for which it is provided. Unless we provide express prior written consent, no part of this report should be reproduced, distributed or communicated to any third party. We do not accept any liability if this report is used for an alternative purpose from which it is intended, nor to any third party in respect of this report.

Information contained in the Report is current as at the date of the Report and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occur after the date of the Report.

All queries related to the content, or to any use of this report must be addressed to Dr Mary-Jean Sutton.

Executive Summary

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited was engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Enervest Operations Pty Ltd, to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, including an Archaeological Assessment for the proposed State Significant Development Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri NSW (proposed impact areas for these works shown in Figure 1 and referred to hereafter as 'the project area'). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was triggered due to Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SSD75680468).

The lands subject to the project is located at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve. The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area and the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council. It falls within the Nandewar County and Narrabri Parish.

This report constitutes the Archaeological Assessment component required for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment process. This report has been compiled to meet Requirements 1 to 11 of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (hereafter referred to as CoP) (DECCW 2010) for Archaeological reports.

PROPOSAL

The proponent proposes to establish a BESS at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri. The proposed project is considered a State Significant Development. The Stoney Creek BESS will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of 125 MW / 1,000 MWh connecting via a transmission line directly to the existing Narrabri 132/66 kV substation, operated by TransGrid. The proposed works will include activities that disturb the ground surface.

SURVEY RESULTS

One new site (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) was recorded during the site survey, comprising an artefact scatter in a secondary depositional context (n=14), with no associated potential archaeological deposit. The artefact scatter was identified within the ploughed paddock. The assemblage includes 9 artefacts located within the project area, and 5 artefacts located outside the project area (outside the western boundary of the project area).

SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The presence of Aboriginal objects (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) demonstrates local Aboriginal land use and cultural history within the project area and surrounds. The artefacts of broken flakes and flakes within the project area are not unusual scientifically but have high cultural value.

The background research shows the artefact types and raw materials within site SC_AS1 as also common throughout the Narrabri region. The scatter was identified as a low-density background scatter in a disturbed context in a ploughed field with no associated PAD and/or integrity.

Newly identified Aboriginal cultural heritage site SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) will be partially impacted by the proposed works.

Five of the 14 artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

Of the 9 artefacts within the project area**, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly harmed** by the project development. Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be protected.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the description of project impacts, the results of the survey, Aboriginal consultation to date, and previous archaeological research, the following recommendations are made:

1. Detailed site recording
2. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
3. Surface Collection
4. Community Collection
5. Cultural Heritage Induction
6. Unexpected Finds Protocol

These recommendations are presented in detail in Table 18.

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Definitions

Abbreviations	Description
AA	Archaeological Assessment
ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
ACHCR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010)
AHD	Australian Heritage Database
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
ALRA	Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976
AR	Archaeological Report, Archaeological Assessment
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CABAH	Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
Code of Practice, COP	Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010)
DA	Development Application
DD	Due Diligence
DD Code, Due Diligence Code	Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010)
DPC	NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
DPIE	NSW Department of Primary Industry and Environment
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
GIA	Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural heritage in NSW (OEH 2011)
HNSW	Heritage NSW
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council

LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NPW ACT	National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
NPW Reg	National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019
NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
NTA	Native Title Act 1983
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (now Heritage NSW)
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
PBC	Prescribed Bodies Corporate
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
RD&M	Research Design and Methodology
REF	Review of Environmental Factors
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
S.139	Section 139
S.140	Section 140.
S.170	Section 170
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SHR	State Heritage Register
SoHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
SSD	State Significant Development
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure
The Burra Charter	The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013 (Australia ICOMOS 2013)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. Introduction

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter 'Virtus Heritage') was engaged by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Enervest Operations Pty Ltd (hereafter 'Enervest'), to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), including an Archaeological Assessment (AA) for the proposed State Significant Development (SSD) Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri NSW (proposed impact areas for these works shown in Figure 1 and referred to hereafter as 'the project area'). The ACHA was triggered due to Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs; SSD75680468).

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This report constitutes the Archaeological Assessment component required for the ACHA process. The objectives of the ACHA are:

- to investigate and assess the impacts on Aboriginal objects, places and cultural heritage values within the project area; and
- provide appropriate management and mitigation strategies.

This report has been compiled to meet Requirements 1 to 11 of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (hereafter referred to as CoP) (DECCW 2010) for Archaeological reports.

The aims of this Archaeological Assessment are to:

- present an analysis of background data to assist in forming a predictive model and context to allow for the assessment of archaeological potential and archaeological significance of the project area;
- document the field investigations undertaken within the project area to best practice standards;
- describe the archaeological heritage values of the project area including a description and significance assessment of Aboriginal objects recorded;
- determine how the significance of the values of the project area would be affected by the proposal;
- consider potential harm from the proposal to Aboriginal objects and identified cultural heritage values within the project area;
- document measures to avoid, mitigate and/or manage harm to Aboriginal objects and identified cultural heritage values, where necessary; and
- detail any requirements for further archaeological investigation.



606: 41 Stoney Creek Road BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Antonella Skepasianos / Liam Clerke
Date: 15/07/2025
Scale: 1:5000 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Lot
- Roads
- Railway
- Named Watercourse
- Cities and Towns
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Proposed Transmission Tower

N

0 50 100 150 200 250 m

1.1 REPORT STRUCTURE

Table 1 provides a summary of the reporting requirements outlined in the CoP and where these requirements are addressed in the structure of this report.

Table 1. CoP Report Requirement and this Report's Relevant Report Section

CoP Report Requirement	Where addressed in the Report
Requirement 1: Review previous archaeological research	Section 4.2
Requirement 2: Review the landscape context	Section 3.0
Requirement 3: Summarise and discuss the local and regional character of Aboriginal land use and its material traces	Section 4.2 and Section 4.3
Requirement 4: Predict the nature and distribution of evidence	Section 5.0
Requirement 5: Archaeological survey	Section 6.0
Requirement 6: Site definition	Section 5.0
Requirement 7: Site recording	Section 6.0
Requirement 8: Location information and geographic reporting	Section 3.0
Requirement 9: Record survey coverage data	Section 6.3
Requirement 10: Analyse survey coverage	Section 6.4
Requirement 11: Archaeological Report content and format	Entire report

1.2 PROJECT TEAM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was compiled by Kate Morris (Archaeologist, BA/BSc Hons) and reviewed by Julian Travaglia (Principal Archaeologist, BA Hons, Archaeology, University of Queensland). Fieldwork was undertaken by Kate Morris and Julian Travaglia. GIS mapping was undertaken by Antonella Skepasianos (MRes, BR/BA, University of Wollongong) and Liam Clerke (BSc Earth and Environmental Science, MRes, Macquarie University). Project information and description of works detailed in Section 2.0 was provided by SLR.

The representatives of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) who were involved in fieldwork and consultation, which forms the basis of this assessment, are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Representatives of Registered Aboriginal Parties Involved in Fieldwork and Consultation

Name of Contact	Registered Aboriginal Party
Cindy Foley	Cindy Foley
Ashley Noble	Narrabri LALC

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following individuals for the completion of this report:

- Yannis Comino, SLR
- Richard Simmons, SLR
- Hugh Jones, SLR
- Julian Hampton, Enervest
- Olivia Huitema, Enervest
- Julian Voller, Enervest

1.3 PROJECT LIMITATIONS

This report is limited to the assessment of project impacts described in information provided by SLR and mapped in this report. Virtus Heritage takes no responsibility for errors within Department of Premier and Cabinet's (DPC) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Systems (AHIMS) data, Australian Heritage Database (AHD), Land and Property Information (LPI) Heritage data (State Heritage Register [SHR], SHR curtilages and Heritage Conservation layers for relevant LGAs) and has assumed information provided by these agencies and government departments is accurate, however, Virtus have made best efforts to ensure this information is verified and cross checked wherever possible.

2. Description of the Project

The following section provides a description of proposed works based on information recorded during the survey and provided by SLR.

2.1 LOCATION

The project area is located at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW. It falls within traditional Gomeroi (also known as Gamilaroi, Gamilaraay, Kamilaroi, Kamillaroi) lands, the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA) and the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) (Figure 1).

The project area is located on agricultural cotton crop land and situated to the northeast of the Narrabri township. It is bounded by Old Cemetery Road to the west and Stoney Creek Road to the south and east. The Narrabri cemetery is in proximity to the southwest border of the project area.

A row of trees runs adjacent the projects western boundary, with the majority of land previously cleared for the purpose of regular crop planting and harvesting. Overhead powerlines run through the project area at several locations. The neighbouring lots are predominantly large rural lots and generally cleared land. Stoney Creek Road runs along the projects' southern extent, with the existing substation located on the opposite side of the road, on the south.

2.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proponent proposes to establish a BESS at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri. The proposed project is considered a State Significant Development (SSD). Key components of the proposed works include:

- Installation and operation of a BESS including battery enclosures, inverters, HV Switch rooms, Control rooms and transformers on hardstand. Earthworks will be required on the project area to create the flood mitigation platform level.
- Associated upgrades and connection into the Narrabri 132/66kV Substation, including construction of an overhead or underground 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection, associated high voltage steel poles, increase in hardstand area and establishment of easements.
- Associated ancillary infrastructure including security fencing, landscaping, access and internal roads, fire water tanks, temporary parking.
- Decommissioning.

Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 12-14 months. The operational period is expected to be more than 20 years. Construction of the Project will require heavy vehicles, plant, and equipment for the transportation and installation of components. The Project will require earth-moving equipment for civil, foundation and road works, cable trenching equipment, forklifts, and cranes (subject to detailed design) to install the BESS and complete ancillary works. The maximum impact depth for construction is anticipated to be no more than 2 m.

It is anticipated that the construction and commissioning phase will last approximately 12-14 months. Over that time, the main construction activities will include:

- Mobilisation and establishment of access, temporary construction facilities and laydown area.
- Transport of construction personnel, associated heavy and light vehicles, and materials to and from the project area on a day-to-day basis, dependent on construction schedule.

- Road works to formalise internal access road to accommodate heavy vehicles and two new driveways crossing to Stoney Creek Road.
- Clearing and grubbing, cut, fill and compaction activities to create level pads.
- Installation of drainage systems.
- Installation of concrete footings or piles to support transformers, BESS containers, inverters, HV switchrooms and control building(s) and other outdoor electrical infrastructure.
- Delivery and placement of all equipment on the footings/pads.
- Electrical connection and testing of all cabling systems.
- Construction of an overhead 132 kV TL or underground 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Narrabri 132/66 kV substation and associated high voltage steel poles.
- Construction of hardstand, paved internal roads, control room, switchgear, transformers, circuit breakers, harmonic filters, auxiliary underground cables, car parking, lay down area, landscaping, security fencing/lighting, and a demountable building used for operation, maintenance and storage.
- Construction of ancillary works including:
  - Parking area
  - Stormwater management infrastructure
  - CCTV, security lighting and fencing
  - Fire Water Tanks

The BESS is a self-operating facility and will not be accessible to the public.

No previously recorded sites or PAD had been identified within the Project area. However, the 2023 Aboriginal Due Diligence undertaken within the current project area assessed the site inspection as only partially completed. As the proposed SSD construction will include ground surface disturbance activities that have the potential to harm Aboriginal objects, an ACHA and additional survey are required.

Further discussion of potential project impacts to Aboriginal archaeological heritage is presented in **Section 9** and **Section 10** of this report.

3. Environmental and Landscape Context

This section provides a summary of the environmental and landscape context of the project area and the surrounding locality including soils, geology, landforms and hydrology, previous land use history and fauna and flora. Understanding the environmental and landscape context is important for understanding of the survival of any Aboriginal objects in the archaeological record and to predict landforms that were favourable for Aboriginal occupation.

The land's character greatly influences how Aboriginal people interact with it. Therefore, describing the landscape (the physical setting of the land to be assessed) and its resources is essential to understanding the nature of the cultural landscape. The aim of this description is to provide a clear association between the types of occupation evidence and the landscapes they are found in. The landscape context also identifies the range of resources available to Aboriginal people living there.

3.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The Liverpool Range, where the Project area is located, is the largest lava field province in NSW and dates to between 32-40 million years, with up to 400 m thickness of basalt covering an area of over 6,000 km^2. The lava fields did not have a central volcanic vent but erupted from multiple fissures and covered pre-existing topography. Today's landscape is dominated by Quaternary sediments in the form of alluvial plains, alluvial fans and outwash slopes that resemble the larger fans of the adjacent Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion to the west but are composed of coarser sediment and fan out at slightly steeper angles. The relative distribution of sediment from basalt or sandstone has a major impact on soil quality and vegetation (NPWS 2003).

The base geology of the project area comprises horizontally bedded Jurassic and Triassic quartz sandstone and shale with limited areas of conglomerate or basalts (NPWS 2003). The soils vary greatly across the broader landscape, dependant on topography. The sandstone ridge tops carry thin, discontinuous soils with stony, sandy profiles; downslope areas typically contain clay sub-soils; and valley floors tend to be sorted into deep sands with yellow earthy profiles and harsh grey clays. In basalt country, the hill tops have stony, red or brown, well-structured clays with similar but often thicker soils found on the slopes and the valley floors.

The project area is not located within a soil landscape mapped by ESpade; however, the Liverpool Alluvial Plains landscape has been identified in that area by Mitchell (2002) and soil testing was undertaken by SLR in March 2025 as part of the SEARs (SLR 2025). Details of the soil landscapes (Mitchell 2002) and soil testing findings (SLR 2025) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Geology and Soils within the project area

Geology and Soil	Description	Relevance
Liverpool Alluvial Plains	Quaternary alluvial plains and outwash fans derived from Tertiary basalts. Permian and Triassic quartz sandstones with minor basalt caps. Extensive black earths on low angle slopes. Deep black and brown cracking clays, alluvial soils and red or brown texture-	The presence of sandstone in proximity to water is a suitable environment for grinding groove sites and potentially art sites including engravings. The only local raw material suitable for stone tool manufacture is the basalt which may have been utilised for ground edge axes.

	contrast soils on slopes below sandstone (Mitchell 2002).	The location of the project area in an alluvial riverine area is usually indicative of suitable occupation and resource areas; however, water movement may reduce the potential for *in-situ* deposits due to fluvial transportation processes re-distributing material from their primary site of deposition (Brown, 1997: 91). The deep cracking clay soils also constitute a risk that Aboriginal objects may have been displaced, as cracking clays can result in artefacts moving through the A horizon into the cracks with the basal B horizon.
Epipedal Black Vertosols	The surface geology of the area includes a variety of colluvium, residual deposits, and alluvial deposits. Vertosols were identified in the area and are characterised by their high clay content that shrinks and swells significantly with changes in moisture. These soils typically have deep, wide cracks that form when they dry and close when they become wet again. SLR (2025) undertook soil testing on the north side of Stoney Creek Road with a hydraulic soil corer, to either a depth of 1.2 metres, to equipment refusal, or to bedrock. The findings were that the A horizon soils (A1p i.e. A1 plough) are very shallow (0-0.05m depth i.e. 0-5cm below ground surface), and the B horizon starts at 5cm below ground surface (i.e. B21-0.05m-0.4m; and B22-0.4m-1m).	The deep cracking clay soils may contribute to displacement of Aboriginal objects, as cracking clays can result in artefacts moving through the A horizon into the cracks with the basal B horizon. Any such artefacts are considered to be in a secondary depositional context. SLR (2025) identified very shallow A horizon soils (0-5cm) (A horizon soils generally considered to be the artefact bearing horizon) with the B horizon starting at 5 cm below ground surface. The shallow A horizon soils indicate it is unlikely to have artefacts in a primary depositional context below 5cm where the B horizon starts. The identification of A1p (i.e. A1 plough) also indicates any artefacts identified within the A horizon are likely to be in a secondary depositional context due to ground surface and subsurface disturbance associated with ploughing.

3.2 TOPOGRAPHY, LANDFORMS AND HYDROLOGY

The Brigalow Belt South Bioregion extends from south of Dubbo in central-western NSW to the mid-QLD coast. Several major rivers flow through the bioregion including the MacIntyre, Gwydir, Namoi, Castlereagh, Goulburn, Talbragar, and Macquarie Rivers, all of which form an integral part of the Murray-Darling Basin River Systems (NPWS 2003). The Liverpool Range in the southeastern corner of the bioregion feeds the headwaters of the Hunter and Namoi Rivers. The Namoi River is connected to the Darling River via Barwon River and is located approximately 2.5 km south of the project area.

Based upon a desktop analysis of the project area with LiDAR DEM imagery, the project area is situated entirely on a level alluvial plain which has been modified through a combination of agricultural activity and utility installation and maintenance (i.e. roads and substation). Approximately 350 m south/southeast of the project area is Horsearm Creek, which exhibits periodic erosional in-channel features in the form of ledges. This fluvial system is a second order tributary of Narrabri Creek, which feeds into the Namoi River 10 km northwest of the project area. An artificial drainage line has been constructed from Horsearm Creek running parallel to the eastern border of the Project area and feeding a large artificial dam approximately 500 m north of the Project area. Approximately 800 m north of the project area exists Mulgate Creek, a first order tributary of Narrabri Creek flowing east to west.

Table 4. Topography, Landforms and Hydrology within the project area

Topographical landforms and hydrology	Description	Relevance
Alluvial plains	Extensive level alluvial plains with periodic undulating hills, stream banks, sloping plains with alluvial channels and floodplains. General elevation 300-350 m, local relief <10 m.	The location of the project area in an alluvial riverine area is usually indicative of suitable occupation and resource areas. Site types such as artefact scatters, isolated finds and scarred trees may be found. Intact deposits are less likely due to the natural impacts of water, but not rare. Deposits are likely to be located at the base of slopes where the soils aggrade.
Namoi River Narrabri Creek Horsearm Creek	The Namoi River is located approximately 2.5 km from the project area. The Namoi River is a major perennial river that is part of the Barwon catchment of the Murray–Darling basin. Narrabri Creek is located approximately 1 km from the project area. Horsearm Creek is located approximately 350 m from the project area.	Fresh water is a major determinant for occupation and resource sites of Aboriginal groups. The Namoi River would have supported abundant plant and animal resources for food, medicine, cultural and utilitarian purposes and evidence of this land use is preserved in the archaeological record in areas. Horsearm Creek would have supported plant and animal resources for food, medicine, cultural and utilitarian purposes.

3.3 CLIMATE, FLORA AND FAUNA

The southeastern section of the Brigalow Belt bioregion, where the Project area is located, is characterized as a subhumid climate with no dry season and a hot summer (NPWS 2003). Minor areas within the southeast of the bioregion are located within a temperate zone characterized by no dry season, and a warm summer (NPWS 2003).

In the southern end of the bioregion the vegetation comprises narrow-leaved ironbark, white cypress pine and white box on hills and slopes with black cypress pine, hill red gum (*Eucalyptus dealbata*), kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneum*) and scrubby acacia species present in rocky outcrops. Grey box (*E. microcarpa*), yellow box (*E. melliodora*) and rough-barked apple occur on valley floors, while river red gums occur along larger streams and river oaks (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) along the tributaries.

The vegetation on the northern basalts includes brigalow, belah, whitewood, wilga, budda and poplar box on the hills, with river red gum, belah, myall (*Acacia pendula*) and poplar box on flats. White box with silver-leaved ironbark, white wood, bull oak and brigalow occur on alluvial clays. Diverse grasslands dominate the Liverpool Plains with common species including plains grass (*Stipa sp.*), panic grass (*Panicum sp.*), windmill grass (*Chloris sp.*) and blue grass (*Dicanthium sp.).* Occasionally, white box, yellow box, poplar box and wilga occur.

The variety of ecological communities within the bioregion and subregion are significant to the faunal values of the region. These ecological communities are often associated with the riparian areas directly associated with the project area, with Mulgate Creek to the north, Horsearm Creek to the south and they dominate Narrabri Creek to the west, which is a major landscape feature within the region. Riparian ecological communities often attract a variety of faunal species. Although few systematic surveys have been conducted in the bioregion, records from a variety of surveys can be used to illustrate the vertebrate fauna

of the bioregion, which consists of 18 amphibian species, 68 reptiles, 281 birds and 82 mammal species. These include threatened fauna such as koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and the eastern pygmy possum (*Cercartetus nanus*).

The birds of the bioregion are highly diverse, mainly consisting of tropical woodland species and comprising the largest number of Australian resident species of any bioregion. There are no major populations of rare or threatened birds in the bioregion and although many birds within the bioregion have restricted ranges, none is endemic. Exotic species are low in numbers and those present are located mainly around towns (NPWS 2003).

This climate and environment by the Namoi River supported a range of plants and animals, described above, that were utilised by local Aboriginal people. Some examples of the uses of these plants are described in Table 5.

Table 5. Flora within proximity to the project area

Native plants	Traditional uses
Cypress pines	Canoe poles and fish spears were made from the wood of the cypress pines. The resin was also a cement for fastening barbs to spears (Gott 2023).
River red gums	Red gums are high quality, hard timber that resists rotting and is excellent for making canoes. Many red gums occur along waterways with huge scars caused by the removal of bark for canoes, coolamons and shields. The leaves of eucalypts were also used medicinally by Aboriginal groups (Cumpston 2020).
Grasses	Grasslands provide food and habitat for animals that can be hunted for meat, pelts, fats and bone. Some grasses produce edible seeds which can be ground into flour for bread, and the leaves and stems used to make cultural items such as baskets and nets (Cumpston 2020).

3.4 LAND USE HISTORY

Please note this section references invasion violence.

The project area is situated within the traditional lands of the Gomeroi (also known as Gamilaroi, Gamilaraay, Kamilaroi, Kamillaroi), who occupy and have occupied the land for thousands of years.

The Gomeroi people are one of the largest Aboriginal language groups in New South Wales (OzArk 2020; Tindale 1974). Their Country extends from the Upper Hunter Valley through the Brigalow Belt to southern Queensland, with the Great Dividing Range forming the eastern boundary (OzArk 2020: 15).

Gomeroi/Kamilaroi Country includes a diverse landscape of grasslands, alluvial plains, and river systems, particularly the Namoi River and its tributaries, which supported a sustainable way of life. The Kamilaroi economy combined foraging, hunting, and the cultivating native grains. Archaeological and ethnographic sources confirm the widespread use of grinding stones and seed cakes made from Panicum species, and it is likely that native foods such as yams (gubiyaay), melons (*Cucumis trigona*), and bush oranges (bambul) were cultivated or collected across the plains (OzArk 2020: 15–16; O'Rourke 1997: 151–153).

Social organisation followed a four-section kinship system, which governed marriage and social responsibilities and was linked to totemic affiliations such as eagle (gubadhin) and crow (dhilbay). Spiritual beliefs centred around ancestral beings including Garriya the Rainbow Serpent and the One-Legged Teacher of Men, who presided over waterholes and initiation sites respectively.

Place names in the region reflect Kamilaroi linguistic heritage. Narrabri is derived from nharibaraay, with interpretations ranging from "place of knotty trees" to "place of forked waters" or "place of camps," while

Boggabri (bagaaybaraay) means "place of creeks" (OzArk 2020: 16). These names indicate a deep cultural and linguistic connection to the landscape that persists today.

Aboriginal history is evident in archaeological deposits, sites and objects. However, recent and historical disturbances can impact and move these sites and objects. For the project area, the agricultural use of the area has likely impacted the integrity of subsurface deposits.

The Liverpool Plains region was identified by colonists in 1817 during a survey by John Oxley, Surveyor General of NSW. By the 1830s, the Liverpool Plains region had been encroached upon by colonists who used the land for sheep and cattle grazing through to the 1880s (NPWS 2003). The pastoral expansion saw squatting runs established across the region in the 1830s, including the Nurrabry Run—later formalised as Killarney Run—which encompassed the current project area. By 1871, Narrabri's population was 350 and the town included stores, inns, a bank and school. The railway reached the town in 1882, and Narrabri became an official municipality the following year, when a courthouse was also built (NSW HO and DUAP 1996: 84). By the end of the 1880s, Narrabri was considered an agricultural hub (OZ Ark 2020).

During the contact period, conflict was particularly severe on the Namoi and Gwydir. Two massacres are recorded in the Narrabri area including the Barraba, Liverpool Plains and the Waterloo Creek, Jews Lagoon massacres. The Barraba, Liverpool Plains massacre occurred in 1836 where Mounted Police and Stockmen/Drovers killed 80 Gamilaraay people with the intent to "'clear' the Barraba area of Aboriginal people" (Ryan et al. 2024). The Waterloo Creek, Jews Lagoon massacre occurred in 1838 where Mounted Police and Stockmen/Drovers killed "at least" 40 Gamilaraay people. The colonists "drove a party of Gamilaraay warriors into Snodgrass Lagoon, now known as Jews Lagoon, and shot and killed at least forty of them. The massacre was allegedly in reprisal for the spear wound of a mounted police trooper two hours earlier" (Ryan et al. 2024). In 1849 native police were sent to the area and 'much of the Aboriginal resistance was suppressed by the mid-1850s' (NPWS 2003: 134).

The specific past land use history of the project area can be informed by aerial photography and historical plans that convey previous disturbances (Table 6). Town plans from the 1880s show Stoney Creek Road on the mapping and it is visible in the 1960s aerial imagery. The establishment of the existing substation is also evident in the 1960s aerial imagery and expansions noted in the 1980s. Associated transmission lines are clearly visible in the 1990s aerial imagery but may have been established in the 1960s along with the substation. Agricultural crops are evident within the project area from the earliest 1960s imagery until the current time.

The previous European land use practices in the Project area may have disturbed or removed intact deposits through clearing vegetation, ploughing, direct impact from European farming techniques, erosional processes, subsurface utilities (e.g. telecommunications), the development of roads infrastructure, transmission line, and the development of the existing substation. Scarred trees, if extant, would likely have been removed due to tree clearing activity. Increased sedimentation loads in watercourses due to accelerated erosion from clearing, may have abraded and/or covered any grinding grooves within/and in the vicinity of the Project area, if extant.

Table 6. Summary of Historical Air Photographs and Previous Land Use History within the project area

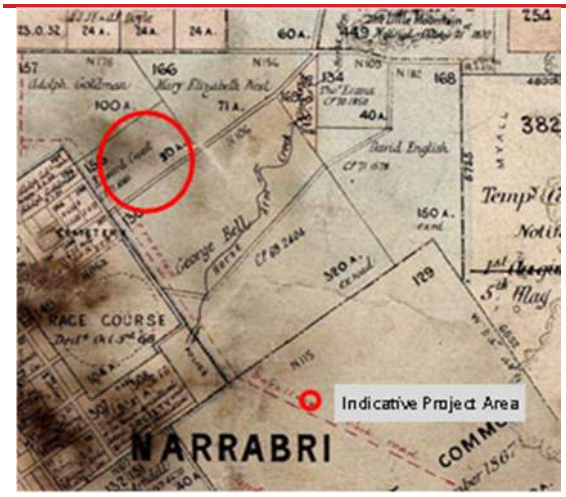
Plate	Description
 *Plate 1: 1881 Historic Parish Map (NSWLRS)*	1881 Historic Parish Map • The earliest plans of the project area date to 1881 and convey lot owners • The plans denote 'Horse Arm Creek' and roadways • The cemetery is visible to the west The town of Narrabri is visible in the very south-west corner
 *Plate 2: Historic Aerial 1963 (NSW Gov). Indicative project area in red.*	Historic Aerial 1963 • The earliest aerial imagery of the project area dates to 1963 • The project area is extensively cleared with roadways, agricultural crops and furrows visible • Clearance and construction appear to be underway for the substation in the south of the project area • The cemetery is visible to the west • Minimal vegetation is visible along the creek line to the south The town of Narrabri is visible in the very south-west corner



Plate 3: Historic Aerial 1988 (NSW Gov). Indicative project area in red.

Historic Aerial 1988

- Not much has changed between the 1963 and 1988 imagery
- The substation now has visible built structures in the south of the project area



Plate 4: Historic Aerial 1988 (NSW Gov). Indicative project area in red.

Historic Aerial 1993

- Not much has changed between the 1988 and 1993 imagery
- Agricultural rows and plots still comprise the majority of the project area, with roadways and the substation also present
- Powerlines are just visible running north from the substation through the project area

Furrow lines associated with agricultural use are present and an existing transmission line bisects the project area from north to south (Virtus 2024). There is currently no residential property associated with the Project area (Virtus 2024). There is a large artificial dam on the northern boundary of the property fed by an artificial drainage line from Horsearm Creek to the south (Virtus 2024).

3.5 SUMMARY

The Project area is located to the east of Narrabri in flat farming land with occasional surrounding undulating hills and is part of the Brigalow Belt South bioregion, and specifically within the Liverpool Plains subregion. The geology and geography are dominated by Narrabri Creek and its tributaries with the discharge of alluvial fans, affecting its soils, flora, and fauna. Prior to colonisation, the region would have provided a rich

environment for the collection and management of floral and faunal resources by Aboriginal people. The location of the project area in an alluvial riverine area is usually indicative of suitable use/occupation and resource areas; however, water movement may reduce the potential for *in-situ* deposits due to fluvial transportation processes re-distributing material from their primary site of deposition (Brown, 1997: 91). The deep cracking clay soils also constitute a risk that Aboriginal objects may have been displaced, as cracking clays can result in artefacts moving through the A horizon into the cracks with the basal B horizon.

After colonisation, the introduction of livestock, and the clearing, cultivation, and irrigation of the alluvial soils is likely to have disturbed Aboriginal sites and objects. Disturbances within the project area include the cotton crop and ploughing, the installation of transmission lines which extend across the project area, and the development of road infrastructure and the existing substation. The Project area reflects these observations, being sited in a heavily cleared, cultivated, and irrigated portion of the landscape. The southern portion of the project area is heavily modified by Stoney Creek Road, and the existing substation and associated infrastructure. These disturbances suggest there is lower potential to find Aboriginal places and objects (if any) in a primary depositional context due to the historic and more recent disturbances that the Project area and region have undergone.

4. Archaeological Context

This section presents the archaeological context of the project area and region. It provides a summary of known archaeological sites identified by previous archaeological investigations, and the understanding of Aboriginal heritage developed by analysis of previous work.

4.1 STATUTORY HERITAGE REGISTER SEARCHES

This section of the report provides a summary of the results of relevant statutory heritage register searches.

4.1.1. Aboriginal Heritage Information System (AHIMS)

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System is a database of registered Aboriginal sites within NSW, administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). An extensive search was conducted on the AHIMS register on 24 February 2025, encompassing the project area. The search covered the area datum: GDA Zone 55, Eastings: 764187-774187, Northings: 6637996- 6647996 (with nil buffer). A total of 23 valid Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects were listed within the search area (Figure 2, Appendix D, Table 7).

Table 7. Summary of AHIMS Features within the Search Area

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Scarred Tree	12	53%
Isolated Find	7	31%
Open Camp Site	2	8%
Scarred Tree and Artefact Scatter	1	4%
Burial/s	1	4%
Total	**23**	**100%**

The most common site type within the searched area is scarred trees, which accounts for over half of the recorded sites (53%). The next most common are isolated finds and open camp sites. The closest sites to the project area are a scar tree with artefact (Collins Park site 2 artefacts, AHIMS ID #19-3-0133) and isolated find (Collins Park site 1 artefact, AHIMS ID #19-3-0136), located approximately 1 km to the southwest of the Project Area.

No recorded sites are located within the Project Area.

COLLINS PARK SITE 1 ARTEFACT (AHIMS ID #19-3-0136)

Collins Park Site 1 Artefact (AHIMS ID #19-3-0136) is approximately 1 km to the southwest of the Project Area. This site was recorded in 2011 as an isolated find located in a disturbed context, adjacent to the toilet block at Collins Park.

Little information about the artefact is recorded in the site card, but the landform in noted as a flat plain, cleared for recreation. The site extent is described as 14 x 12 x 4 cm; however, this is presumably the artefact

dimensions. It was identified approximately 100-120 m from Narrabri Creek. No photo of the artefact is provided.

COLLINS PARK SITE 2 ARTEFACTS (AHIMS ID #19-3-0133)

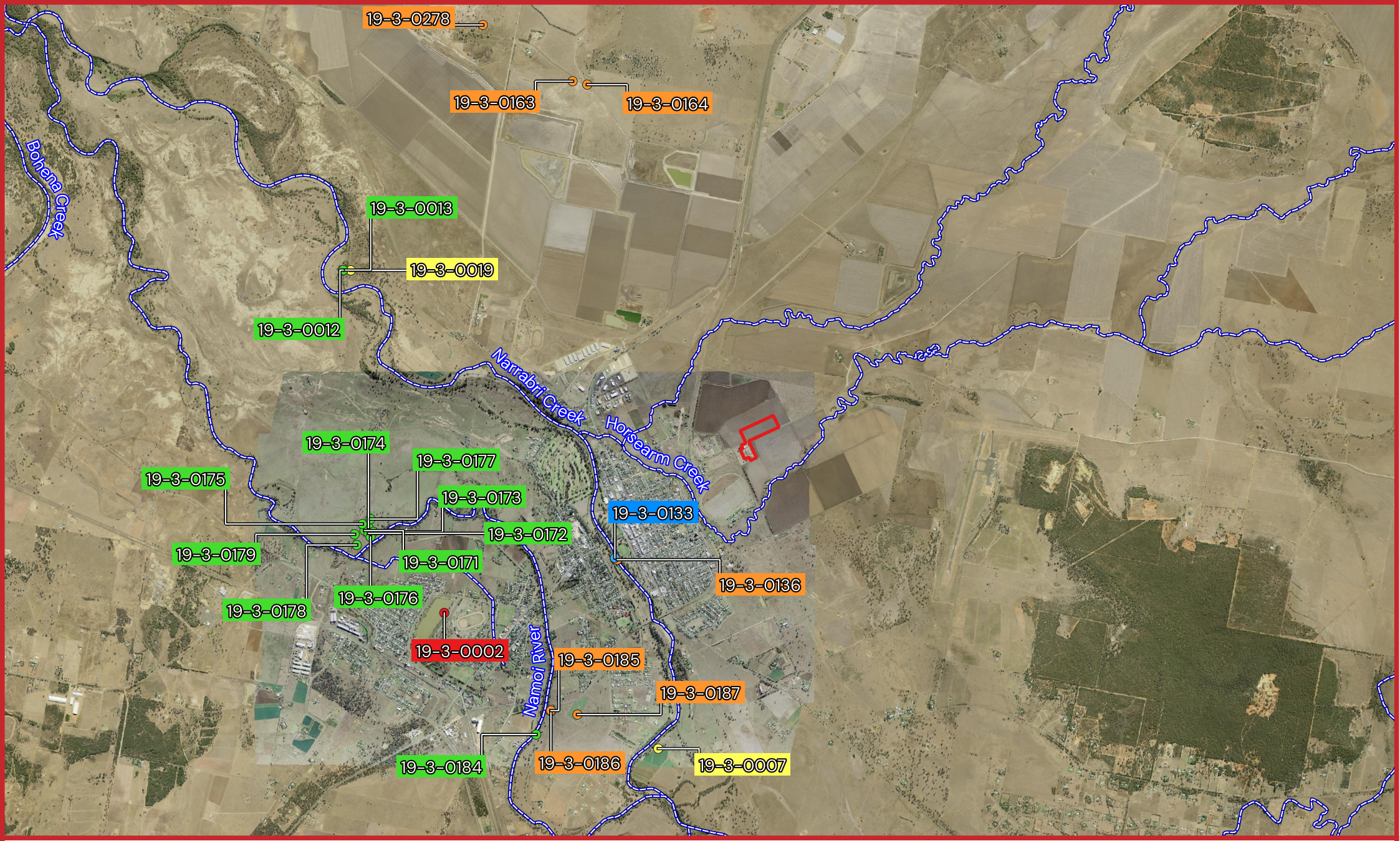
Collins Park Site 2 Artefacts (AHIMS ID #19-3-0133) is approximately 1 km to the southwest of the Project Area. This site was also recorded in 2011 as an artefact scatter located in a disturbed context at Collins Park. Little information about the artefacts is recorded in the site card, but the landform in noted as a flat plain, cleared for recreation. It was identified approximately 100 m from Narrabri Creek. No photos of the artefacts are provided.

One of the next closest sites provides more descriptions of the artefacts identified in the area.

NARRABRI JUNCTION; NAMOI FARM (AHIMS ID #19-3-0007)

Narrabri Junction; Namoi Farm (AHIMS ID #19-3-0007) is approximately 2 km to the southwest of the Project Area. The site was recorded in 1981 as an open campsite comprising a surface scatter approximately 10 m from the bank of a billabong. The scatter extended approximately 100 m along an area of erosion and comprised 'mostly flakes of various kinds, some cores, with little secondary working'.

Glass bottles, metal, porcelain and a potential foundation structure were also identified. No hearths were identified. Four artefacts were described comprising one broken edge-ground implement, one small core, one blade with signs of use-wear and one potential flaked porcelain piece.



606: 41 Stoney Creek Road BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 2. AHIMS Site Locations

Author: Antonella Skepasianos / Liam Clerke
Date: 15/07/2025
Scale: 1:57143 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Contours
- Named Watercourse

AHIMS Site Types

- Burial/s
- Isolated Find
- Open Camp Site
- Scarred Tree
- Scarred Tree and Art

N

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

4.1.2. Other Searches of Heritage Database

Table 8. Other Statutory Searches of Heritage Databases for the Project area

Heritage Database	About the Database	Search Area and Search Date	Results of the Search
Australian Heritage Database	The Australian Heritage Database (AHD) is a Commonwealth administered heritage database that includes entries from the former Register of the National Estate and the current Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists.	This database was searched on the 20 February 2025 for all Indigenous heritage items within the Narrabri Shire LGA.	The search identified 8 places located within the Narrabri Shire LGA, including 3 Indigenous Places. **No places are recorded within or adjacent to the Project area.** **The closest place is at Bulla Creek, approximately 25 km to the east of the project area.**
State Heritage Inventory and State Heritage Register	The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is a heritage database administered by the Heritage NSW (Department of Premier & Cabinet). This database includes heritage listings from local and regional planning instruments and heritage studies and State significant heritage items. Information and items listed in the State Heritage Inventory come from a number of sources. This means that there may be several entries for the same heritage item in the database.	This database was searched on the 20 February 2025 for all Indigenous heritage items within the Narrabri Shire LGA.	Search results are divided into three sections. The results were as follows:
	Section 1 – Aboriginal Places – declared by the Minister for the Environment under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This information is provided by Heritage NSW.	This database was searched on the 20 February 2025 for all Aboriginal places within the Narrabri Shire LGA.	Section 1: **No Aboriginal Places are listed within the Narrabri Shire LGA.**

	Section 2 – State Heritage Register items – listed by the Heritage Council of NSW under the Heritage Act and includes items listed in Interim Heritage Orders. This information is provided by Heritage NSW.	This database was searched on the 20 February 2025 for all SHR items within the Narrabri Shire LGA.	Section 2: Two items are listed under the Heritage Act and located within the Narrabri Shire LGA including one massacre site. **None are located within or adjacent to the Project area.** The closest item is Waterloo Creek Massacre site is the same as the Jews Lagoon Massacre site described in section 3.4 and is approximately 80 km to the north.
	Section 3 – Heritage items listed by local councils on Local Environmental Plans under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and State government agencies under s.170 of the Heritage Act. This information is provided by local councils and State government agencies.	This database was searched on the 20 February 2025 for all SHR items within for all heritage items listed by local Councils on LEPs and State agencies under s.170 listed on this database within the Narrabri Shire LGA.	Section 3: 38 items are listed within the Narrabri Shire LGA. **None are within the project area; however, listing I018, a cemetery, is located approximately 200 m west of the Project area.**
Narrabri Shire LGA LEP 2012	The Narrabri Shire Council Local Environmental Plan (LEP) is a planning instrument which contains provisions and listings of items of environmental heritage including heritage, conservation areas and archaeological sites within Schedule 5.	The LEP was searched on 20 February 2025.	The Narrabri LEP 2012 lists 40 heritage items within the LGA. **None of these items are located within the Project area; however, listing I018, a cemetery, is located approximately 200 m west of the Project area.**

4.1.3. Native Title Tribunal

An updated Native Title search was conducted of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) webmap on 20 February 2025. The search identified that the Gomeroi People have an active Native Title claim over lands containing the Project area (Tribunal No NC2011/006, Date of registration 20 Jan 2012); however, no determination has been made to date.

4.1.4. Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs)

A search of the AHIP public register archive 2010–June 2023 was conducted on 20 February 2025 that identified three AHIPs within Narrabri associated with coal mine applicants (1131456, 1123843, C0000303). None of these AHIPs encompassed the current project area and date between 2010-2014.

A search of the AHIP public register from July 2023 was also conducted on 20 February 2025 that did not identify any AHIPs within Narrabri area.

4.2 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

A review of the AHIMS library and online searches was undertaken to obtain copies of previous Aboriginal heritage studies and archaeological investigations within the locality of the project area. As presented below (Table 9), one of the most relevant previous studies in the project area localities includes the Virtus Heritage DD in 2023 and the OzArk Aboriginal impact assessment in 2019.

The DD survey over the current project area identified no Aboriginal objects or PAD (Virtus 2023). The northern portion of the project area, north of the proposed BESS location, consisted of a disturbed agricultural field with deep furrow lines within the clay. RAPs acknowledged that no Aboriginal objects had been observed in the surveyed areas, however, they could not say the same for the unsurveyed areas (Virtus 2023). It was determined that the surveyed areas had low potential to contain archaeological materials or deposits, but the inspection was only a partial survey.

OzArk's (2019) study area for the project consisted of two areas, the solar farm and electricity easement. The proposed solar farm covered and area of 450 ha (approximately 4 km north of the Project area), while the transmission line easement consisted primarily of existing road corridors and electricity easements. The existing road corridors surveyed for the Ozark project extended along Stoney Creek Road which passes through the Project area.

During the survey two Aboriginal sites were recorded within the solar farm area (OzArk 2019). These two sites were identified as Silverleaf-IF-1 (AHIMS # 19-3-0163) and Sliverleaf-IF-2 (AHIMS # 19-3-0164). Silverleaf-IF-1 consisted of a single silcrete proximal flake fragment located 780 m east of Logans Lane, south of a large artificial drainage line. Silverleaf-IF-2 consisted of a single quartzite proximal flake fragment located within a grazing paddock 970 m east of Logans Lane, north of a large artificial drainage line. Both artefacts were located approximately 4.5km to the north of the current project area.

Both of the isolated artefacts were located in disturbed contexts without subsurface deposits. OzArk (2019) determined that there was a low potential for further sites and subsurface deposit to be located within the remainder of the study area.

Table 9 below presents further detail of the key previous archaeological research undertaken within the area.

Table 9. Previous Archaeological Investigations within the Locality

Author, Date	Locality	Investigation	Recorded Sites	Sites in Project area	Relevance
Silcox and Bowdler (1982)	Walgett to Narrabri	*An archaeological survey of a proposed 132Kv transmission line route from Walgett to Narrabri.* The 180 km long transmission line was surveyed in three parts. The first part covered the first 87 km of the route from Walgett and identified a total of 15 sites. The second part covered the middle 48 km and identified a total of 9 sites. The third part covered the final 45 km to Narrabri and identified a total of 9 sites. The transmission line appears to end approximately 2.5 km to the northwest of the current project area.	The 15 sites recorded in the first survey consisted of 7 isolated finds, 4 scarred trees, 2 open campsites and 2 possible hearths. The 9 sites recorded in the second survey consisted of 8 scarred trees and 1 isolated find. The 9 sites recorded in the third survey consisted of 6 open campsites and 3 scarred trees.	Nil	This survey was undertaken within the same region and its archaeological findings indicate Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape in the region. The survey may also indicate site types relevant to the project area.
Australian Archaeological Survey Consultants (AASC) (2007)	Narrabri	*Narrabri Coal Project: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment.* AASC completed a survey for Narrabri Coal Operations for extensions to the Narrabri Coal Project located approximately 20 km south of Narrabri. The survey was concentrated on the areas known as the Pit Top Survey Area and the Ventilation Shaft Survey Area.	A total of seven sites were recorded during the survey consisting of two isolated finds, two artefact scatters, two scarred trees and one resource site exhibiting a native food resource: Wild Orange Tree.	Nil	This survey was undertaken within the same region and its archaeological findings indicate Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape in the region. The survey may also indicate site types relevant to the project area.

Appleton (2008)	Gunnedah	*The archaeological salvage of three open sites Under Part 3A approval Rocglen Coal Mine, north of Gunnedah, northern NSW.* Appleton conducted archaeological salvage excavations at the Rocglen Coal mine located approximately 25 km north of Gunnedah.	The salvage operation noted significant disturbance between 2002 and 2008 caused by agricultural activity or storms and slope-wash. Additional artefacts were recovered at "B1" (eight stone artefacts, no cores), at "B2" (thirteen stone artefacts), and at "B3" (sixty-seven artefacts, including three cores).	Nil	This survey was undertaken within the same region and its archaeological findings indicate Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape in the region. The survey may also indicate site types relevant to the project area.
Appleton (2009)	30km southeast of Narrabri	*Narrabri Coal Mine Longwall Stage 2 Project.* Located about 30 km southeast of Narrabri, nearby the Kamilaroi Highway, the assessment entailed a survey over four main areas comprising the impact zones.	A total of 121 sites were identified across all four survey areas located on a variety of landforms. Forty-three sites were recorded in the first survey area, sixty-nine sites recorded in the second, nine recorded in the third and no sites recorded within the fourth survey area. Overall, most sites comprised low-density artefact scatters with only four per cent of artefact scatters containing more than twenty artefacts. A scarred tree and a hearth were also identified within the first survey area.	Nil	This survey was undertaken within the same region and its archaeological findings indicate Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape in the region. The survey may also indicate site types relevant to the project area.
On-Site Heritage Management (2017)	Narrabri	*Proposed Construction of Conservation Fencing and Associated Infrastructure, Pilliga State Forest; Due Diligence Assessment for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects.* The study area consisted of 39.6 kms within the Pilliga State Forest 46 km southwest of Narrabri within the Narrabri Shire Council	The survey resulted in the recording of three Aboriginal sites consisting of a single grindstone fragment and two culturally modified trees.	Nil	This survey was undertaken within the same region and its archaeological findings indicate Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape in the region. The survey may

		LGA. The due diligence was prepared as part of a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the installation of proposed fence line and operations base as part of an Extinct Mammal Agreement between the NSW Government and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.			also indicate site types relevant to the project area.
OzArk (2019)	Narrabri	*Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Impact Assessment, Silverleaf Solar Farm, Narrabri LGA.* The study area consisted of two sections, the solar farm, and the electricity line easement. The proposed solar farm covered an area of 450 ha between Logans Lane and the Newell Highway, approximately 5 km north of Narrabri. The associated transmission line easement consists primarily of existing road corridors or electricity easements. The existing road corridors associated with the study form the boundary of the current Project area.	During the pedestrian survey, two Aboriginal sites were recorded: Silverleaf IF-1 (#19-3-0163) and Silverleaf IF-2 (#19-3-0164).	Nil	This survey was undertaken within the same region and its archaeological findings indicate Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape in the region. The survey may also indicate site types relevant to the project area.
Virtus Heritage (2024)	Narrabri	*Aboriginal Archaeological Due Diligence Assessment, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri NSW.* The study area consisted of the current Project area at 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri. The proposed BESS covered an area of 95 ha and only a partial site inspection was undertaken in 2023.	The survey identified no Aboriginal objects or PAD. The northern portion of the Project area, north of the proposed BESS location, consisted of a disturbed agricultural field with deep furrow lines within the clay. RAPs acknowledged that no Aboriginal objects had been observed in the surveyed areas, however, they could not say the same for the unsurveyed areas. It	Nil	This survey was undertaken within the same Project area. It identified no Aboriginal objects or areas of potential within the accessible area of the Project area but was only a partial survey.

			was determined that the surveyed areas had low potential to contain archaeological materials or deposits.		

4.3 REGIONAL CHARACTER

This section synthesises and discusses the previous archaeological research summarised in Section 4.2 and the environmental context of the region (Section 3), in order to build a picture of the regional character of Aboriginal land use and potential archaeology, assist in predicting the types of sites that may be expected to be present in the project area (Section 5), and help inform an analysis (Section 7) of the survey results (Section 6).

There have been limited archaeological surveys and excavations conducted within the broader Narrabri/Liverpool Plains region. Although limited in number, these assessments continue to contribute to our understanding of the nature of Aboriginal occupation. The major relevant studies are summarised below.

OzArk (2020) undertook an Aboriginal Cultural heritage Study of the Narrabri LGA on behalf of Narrabri Shire Council. The study found the environment of the Narrabri LGA would support varying densities of population and therefore the distribution of Aboriginal sites. Main areas of occupation are the major waterway of the Namoi running east–west across the LGA, but smaller waterways that would have had more reliable water are also important locations (Ozark 2020: 12). Areas away from these water sources, such as the subhumid grasslands and open forests of the southeast, would have supported a range of food producing activities. The flat alluvial plains (that characterise much of the northwest) may have been more difficult to manage in terms of resource procurement and supported a smaller population. (Ozark 2020: 12).

Ozark (2020:30) concluded that most site clusters were located within 100m of a stream and became very infrequent further than 200m from a stream. Ozark 2014 (in Ozark 2020:31) amalgamated landforms to understand the landform types most likely to have Aboriginal sites including: Floodplains and Channels; Low Benches; High Terraces; Alluvial/Colluvial Plains and low angled soil mantled bedrock slopes; and Steeper Bedrock Slopes to Outcrop areas. The landform identified with the greatest density of sites was found to be Floodplain and Channel landform due to the strong correlation with the proximity of water sources. Alluvial Plains are identified as landscape containing Aboriginal sites based on the Mitchell (2002) landscapes model. It should be noted that this landscape definition also includes the areas around the channels and floodplains and other landforms such as terraces (Ozark 2020: 50).

Overall, the study found that the majority of sites within the Narrabri LGA are within 200m of a water source in Floodplain and Channel landform, most sites are within the alluvial plains landscape (which includes terrace landforms), and the highest density of sites are within 100m of a water source.

Silcox and Bowdler (1982a) undertook one of the earliest heritage assessments within the region, conducting a survey for the proposed 132kV transmission line route, a total area of 180 km in length with 45 m easements along the entire route. They recorded 15 Aboriginal sites along the first part of the route, consisting of seven isolated artefact find spots, four culturally modified trees, two open campsites and two possible hearths. Stone artefacts recorded within the campsites consisted of flakes, blades, backed blades, cores, a scraper and a grinding stone, containing two possible grinding grooves. The dominant lithic material identified was chert (yellow, brown, pink and mottled yellow/orange), the remaining lithic material consisted of quartz, silcrete and basalt. Silcox and Bowdler returned to the area later in 1982 to conduct excavations and found that the amount and density of the material originally identified had significantly decreased due to natural and man-made disturbances.

The second survey (Silcox and Bowdler 1982b) identified 9 sites including 8 scarred trees and 1 isolated find comprising a basalt axe. The third survey (Silcox and Bowdler 1983) identified 9 including 6 open campsites and 3 scarred trees. Stone artefacts recorded within these sites consisted of silcrete, chert, mudstone, quartz, quartzite, and petrified wood flakes and cores. Of note during the survey was an axe head and "European rubbish – glass and china [...] scattered through the site" (Silcox and Bowdler 1983:15). Overall, sites identified during this assessment were predominately concentrated around the Namoi River.

In 2007 the Australian Archaeology Survey Consultants (AASC) completed surveys for Narrabri Coal Operations in response to request for extensions to the Narrabri Coal project located approximately 20 km south of Narrabri. The survey targeted areas known as the Pit Top Survey Area and the Ventilation Shaft Survey Area. Seven sites were recorded as a result of the survey, consisting of two isolated artefact finds, two artefact scatters, two scarred trees, and one resource site consisting of a known Aboriginal food resource, the Wild Orange Tree. The majority of the sites recorded were located in close proximity to a source of freshwater, the Kurrajong Creek. The survey noted that the banks of Kurrajong Creek were observed as being least disturbed by agricultural activity and that the sites recorded along the creek likely retained some of their archaeological integrity and context.

Following his 2002 survey of the then proposed Belmont Coal Mine site, Appleton (2008) returned to the area to conduct salvage excavations at the Rocglen Coal Mine. The salvage area was located 25 km north of Gunnedah NSW (approximately 70km south of the current Project area) between Vickery State Forest and Wean Road. In his 2002 survey, Appleton previously noted artefacts in three separate locations, a silcrete core at site 'B1', eight silcrete flakes at site 'B2', and a large scatter containing over 40 artefacts consisting of three cores, flakes and flaked pieces at 'B3'. Upon his return in 2008, Appleton noted significant disturbance from 2002 caused by agricultural activity and slope wash. Additional artefacts recovered through salvage excavations included eight flakes and flaked pieces at 'B1', 13 flakes and flaked pieces at 'B2', and an additional 67 artefacts including three cores at 'B3'. Appleton interpreted the assemblage as representing a camping area to which various groups returned over an extended period of time.

In 2009, Appleton completed a survey for the Narrabri Coal Operations "Longwall Project" located approximately 30 km southeast of the Project area, near the Kamilaroi Highway. A survey was undertaken consisting of four main areas within the proposed impact zone. A total of 121 sites were identified in the 4 survey locations across various landforms. Forty-three (43) sites were recorded in the first survey location, 69 sites recorded in the second location, nine recorded in the third location, and no sites recorded within the fourth survey location. The majority of the recorded sites consisted of low-density artefact scatters with only 4% of the artefact scatters containing more than 20 artefacts. A scarred tree and a hearth were also identified within the first survey location. Higher density artefact scatters, the scarred tree and hearth were all recorded along ephemeral and permanent watercourses, including Pine Creek and Kurrajong Creek.

In 2017 On-Site Heritage undertook due diligence surveys of a portion of the Pilliga State Forest, 46 km southwest of Narrabri, for a proposed REF as part of an Extinct Mammals Agreement between the NSW Government and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Approximately 39 km were surveyed within the forest in advance of the installation of fencing and associated operations base. The survey resulted in the recording of three previously unidentified sites consisting of a single grindstone fragment and two culturally modified trees. The survey recommended avoidance of all recorded sites and determined that within the rest of the survey proposed works could proceed with caution.

The nearest dated location to the Project area is located 83 km to the southeast at Lime Springs dated to 19,300+/-500 BP from a swamp located south of Gunnedah containing both artefacts and megafauna. Excavations of a 7 m long trench contained cultural materials including 5218 fragments of bone (including *Diprotodon, Macropus titan, Protemnodon sp. and Procoptodon sp.*) and extant species were recovered in conjunction with 1988 artefacts. The artefacts could be divided into two assemblages, a lower one dominated by siliceous rocks and being amorphous in composition, and an upper assemblage characterised as Kartan (including large horsehoof cores and scrapers) and dominated by tuff. The authors identify the finds as a demonstrating human-megafauna interactions in the Liverpool Plain Region" (Gorecki et al., 1984).

4.4 SUMMARY

Based on the archaeological context of the project area, Aboriginal groups have a long history of occupation throughout the region, taking advantage of the rivers and creeks that run through it for resource procurement. Aboriginal objects (stone artefacts) are likely to occur within the alluvial plains landscape (based on Mitchell 2002 landscape model), but at a lower density than areas closer (within 200m) of a water

source OzArk (2020). The OzArk (2020) Aboriginal heritage study also identified that the highest density of sites are located within 100m of a water source within the Narrabri LGA. This is supported by Appleton (2009) who identified 121 sites across various landforms. The majority of the recorded sites consisted of low-density artefact scatters with only 4% of the artefact scatters containing more than 20 artefacts. Higher density artefact scatters were all recorded along watercourses.

Silcox and Bowdler (1982a) found that the amount and density of Aboriginal cultural material significantly decreased due to natural and man-made disturbances. The introduction of livestock, and the clearing, cultivation, and irrigation of the alluvial soils within the project area is likely to have disturbed Aboriginal sites and objects. Disturbances also include the installation of transmission lines which extend across the project area, and the development of road infrastructure and the existing substation. Brown (1997) also suggests water movement may reduce the potential for *in-situ* deposits due to fluvial transportation processes re-distributing material from their primary site of deposition. The deep cracking clay soils also constitute a risk that Aboriginal objects may have been displaced, as cracking clays can result in artefacts moving through the A horizon into the cracks with the basal B horizon. SLR (2025) also found the A horizon to be very shallow (0-5cm) and disturbed by ploughing. This indicates there is lower potential to find Aboriginal places and objects (if any) in a primary depositional context due to the fluvial movement, cracking clays, shallow soil profile, and historic and more recent disturbances that the Project area and region have undergone.

5. Predictive Model

A predictive model for sites includes both analysis of the most likely site types to occur in a given area and predictions about where in the landscape sites might be likely to be located.

Based on the known archaeological, environmental and landscape context of the locality, a predictive model for evidence of Aboriginal occupation for the project area is presented below. The types of sites that may be encountered is not exhaustive but indicative of the main types of sites that could reasonably be expected to be found in NSW.

Based on previous assessments and recorded site locations Aboriginal cultural heritage is known to exist in the Project area and may be found during field surveys. Aboriginal people utilising the Project area would have had access to resources provided by Narrabri Creek and associated tributaries, including faunal communities that may have inhabited the riparian vegetation that exists along its banks. The limiting factor for the Project area is the high level of disturbance that has occurred from cultivation, grazing, irrigation, vegetation clearing, European farming practices, development of road networks, and development of the existing substation and associated infrastructure. The level of disturbance may have impacted, destroyed, or re-distributed sites and objects if they had previously existed in the Project area.

Table 10. Predictive Model for Aboriginal Occupation within the Project area

Site Type/Material Culture	Description	Relevance to the Project area and Understanding Potential of Aboriginal occupation
Culturally Modified Trees (Scarred/Carved Trees)	Scarred trees and carved trees contain evidence of scars and carved patterns which can be attributed as having Aboriginal cultural origin. Scarred trees include the removal of bark from the trunk of the tree (usually with a stone axe) to make shields, canoes, implements and other types of items which leave a wound on the tree trunk. Carved tree contains carved patterns on the tree trunk and are often found in association with ceremonial grounds, burials, or cultural sites. Carved trees are a very rare site type.	While this is the most common site type in the searched area, due to the level of past vegetation clearance, there is low potential for this site type to be found in the Project area.
Isolated artefacts and open campsites (artefact scatters)	Isolated artefacts and open camp sites (artefact scatters) are the locations of discarded stone artefacts, often material that has been discarded as part of making stone tools or over frequent episodes of occupation/visitation of an area. These sites are most likely to be found within 200 metres of a water course in well drained alluvial flats, alluvial terraces, lower slopes, and confluences where the landscape has not been heavily modified and on spurs, ridge lines and crests. All of Australia has potential for discarded Aboriginal stone tools unless areas are heavily modified and soils have been removed. Stone tools have been found of	Artefact sites are the next most common site type within the searched area. Despite historic disturbance, there is potential for stone artefacts; however, they are likely to occur as isolated finds and in a secondary depositional context. The geology of the area is limited to sandstone and basalt raw materials for the creation of stone artefacts. Other potential raw materials (i.e. not basalt or sandstone) in the area are likely to be imported.

	context in areas of imported fill, quarries, mining emplacement dumps, housing areas and caravan parkas and are often found in eroding A1 soils or any eroding alluvial or colluvial deposits. This site type is the most common site type in Australian and New South Wales, and the most highly recorded evidence of Aboriginal occupation.	
Middens	Middens are perhaps not the best word to describe these sites, as it is a European word to describe rubbish pits. However, these sites are more than often just the accumulation of debris from fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and other shellfish (shells, fish bones) consumed as part of Aboriginal people's diet. Middens may also contain charcoal, stone artefacts, bone and other types of material used by Aboriginal people. Middens or shell mounds are also known to contain cremated human remains or human burials, particularly in coastal environments. These places are argued also have spiritual or ceremonial use or evidence of the early aspects of domiculture or as camp sites. Middens occur within close proximity to freshwater and saltwater sources which have potential to contain mussels, oysters, and other types of edible bivalves. Middens are identified within sand dunes, beaches, terraces above watercourses, and inland, near lagoons and water holes.	The potential for middens is low within the Project area due to the distance from sources of freshwater and the impacts of previous land use and clearing.
Aboriginal axe grinding grooves	Aboriginal axe grinding grooves are grooves most often found in sandstone where Aboriginal people have sharpened or manufactured stone axes and other implements and, in some cases, ground seed and grains in the sandstone forming 'bowls'. This site type can occur where suitable geology is present.	This site type may occur if suitable geology is present such as outcropping sandstone or suitable sandstone shelves in creek beds. Based on the mapped geology within the Project area and lack of suitable sandstone outcropping and/or shelves for grinding, there is low potential for grinding grooves to be found in the Project area.
Stone quarries	Stone quarries for artefact manufacture, are most likely found in areas of exposed bedrock, particularly in silcrete and basalt deposits.	The geology of the area is limited to sandstone and basalt raw materials for the creation of stone artefacts. This site type may occur if suitable geology is present such as outcropping basalt. Based on the mapped geology,

		there is low potential for quarries to be found in the Project area. Materials in the area are likely to be imported.
Burial Sites	Burial sites or Aboriginal ancestral remains, may be found in a variety of landscapes throughout NSW,although most frequently they are found in middens, sand dunes, lunettes, bordering dunes, river terraces and other sandy or soft sedimentary soils, as well as defined cemeteries or burial grounds, mounds, rockshelters and caves. They may be marked with stones, carved trees, or found in association with other sites such as middens. These sites are rare and have a very special importance to Aboriginal people. There are numerous examples in Australian and NSW of burials being found in highly modified contexts such as Narabeen carpark and foreshore for Narabeen man and underneath houses at Nambucca.	Burials are considered to be a very rare site type, with no previously recorded burials located in proximity to the Project area. As such, burials are unlikely to be found within the Project area, in addition to the high degrees of disturbance from past land use activities. Burials are often associated with sandier soils due to the ease of digging. The heavy clay soils found within the Project area are not conducive to burials.
Ceremonial/bora grounds, earthworks and stone arrangements	Ceremonial or Bora grounds, earthworks and stone arrangements are rare site types and sometimes difficult to identify as they are generally low constructions, usually less than a metre high, and may range from being very simple to more elaborate. They are made by the movement and mounding of earth or the arrangement of stones in circular, linear or figurative patterns, cairns and as paths. Bora grounds and stone arrangements are generally found on flat or gently sloping landforms but are known to exist in other contexts (e.g. cairns on hilltops and crests, or stone structures within rockshelters).	Previous land use history and the topography of the Project area suggests that there is low potential for these types of sites to occur.

Potential Archaeological Deposits refer to soil profiles within landforms which are predicted to contain buried evidence of Aboriginal occupation. This buried evidence is most often stone artefact scatters which survive frequently in the archaeological record and may occur in both primary and secondary depositional environments. Nearly all soil landscapes and landform types in Australia are connected to Aboriginal occupation and have potential to contain evidence of such.

Artefacts are most commonly recorded in A unit soils (topsoils) and at great depth in B unit alluvial deposits. They occur also in other types of B unit subsoils and deposited between the cracks of C unit cracking clays, where artefacts have moved down the soil profile. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation occurs commonly in both natural secondary deposits as well as in many types of disturbed contexts. Due to the large number of environments and soils where artefacts can occur, deposits are considered to have archaeological potential unless the absence of artefacts is anticipated as a result of post-depositional factors.

How archaeological potential is defined and to be assessed in this report is provided in **Table 11.**

Table 11. Definitions of Archaeological Potential

Archaeological Potential	Definition
Low to Zero	Landforms that have been totally modified and have low to zero potential for any remaining original soil profile or intact archaeological deposits. This category includes existing roads, quarry areas or any area where the original soil profile (topsoil – A horizon) has been stripped and the landform completely modified. This landform may also include areas where there are no intact A horizon soils due to high levels of erosion.
Low	Landforms that may have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, but at a lower intensity relative to all surrounding landforms, resulting in a lower artefact density than all surrounding landforms. This category also includes landscape areas of low terrain integrity, where geomorphic processes or human action may have redistributed artefacts from their deposited locations, such as stripping of soil to create levees or excavation to create culverts, dams or bridges, resulting in site disturbance or destruction.
Moderate	Landforms that are predicted to have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, but not intensively or repeatedly. There is therefore potential for artefactual deposition, but at a lower frequency and density than in areas of high archaeological potential. This category may also refer to landforms known to be sensitive for higher levels of Aboriginal occupation but where prior ground surface disturbances has decreased the archaeological integrity and potential of finding evidence of Aboriginal occupation (for example, creek confluences, alluvial terraces where stratigraphic integrity may have decreased due to previous land use).
High	Landscape areas predicted to have been intensively or repeatedly utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, such as creek confluences, Pleistocene terraces, floodplains or elevated landforms above major watercourses or floodplains. In these areas, site and artefact density are expected to be higher than the surrounding landscape, and sites in these areas may possibly be more complex. Terrain integrity in these areas may be variable although prior ground surface disturbance should be low or non-existent. An important characteristic of areas of high archaeological potential is the research potential or the capacity of sites to provide valuable information on past Aboriginal land use.

5.1 SUMMARY

The archaeological context and previous assessments indicate that sites occur in the region and within the alluvial plains landscape despite historic disturbances. Sites that are likely to be identified within the project area include out of context (secondary depositional context) isolated artefacts and open campsites as they are some of the most common sites in the AHIMS searched area and can remain despite disturbance.

There is low potential for PAD within the project area. The project area is likely to have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, but at a lower intensity and frequency relative to surrounding landforms (i.e. floodplain and channel landforms within 200 m of a water source, and even higher density of sites within 100 m of a water source: OzArk 2020; Appleton 2009) resulting in a lower artefact density than surrounding

landforms. Ground surface disturbances have decreased the archaeological integrity and potential of finding evidence of Aboriginal occupation. Past and ongoing human action (i.e. cultivation, grazing, irrigation, vegetation clearing, European farming practices, development of road networks, and development of the existing substation and associated infrastructure) have likely redistributed artefacts from their deposited locations (if any). Any artefacts are also likely to have been impacted by fluvial movement, and movement associated with cracking clays. The depth of the A horizon is also very shallow (0-5cm) and any artefacts within this profile have likely been impacted by ploughing.

No areas of PAD have previously been registered in the AHIMS search area.

6. Survey and Results

This section of the report provides a summary of the survey strategy for fieldwork, methods employed during fieldwork, the survey team and the results of the survey including sites and predictions for archaeological potential.

6.1 SITE STRATEGY

The site strategy includes:

- coverage of all environmental contexts within the proposal site;
- focusing, where possible, on ground surfaces with higher archaeological visibility;
- inspection of sandstone bedrock (if any) for evidence of grinding grooves; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the proposal site.
- division of the entire proposal site into archaeological survey areas most likely to be based on landforms and previous land use history, following classifications and definitions outlined in the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010);
- within each archaeological survey area, recording the different types of surface exposures (e.g. vehicle track, erosion scour), previous land use history and disturbance, natural features (e.g. presence of sandstone), soils, erosion, ground surface visibility, and geomorphic activity following the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010) and information or comments provided by Aboriginal parties involved in the survey;
- completion of an Aboriginal heritage site recording form for each Aboriginal site or Potential Archaeological Deposit identified, which will include all information required to fill in an OEH AHIMS site card;
- recording any cultural information, information about Aboriginal resources or comments made by Aboriginal parties involved in the field survey on the management or cultural values of the proposal site; and
- mapping and recording all archaeological survey areas and all identified Aboriginal sites and/or PADs within the proposal site using a hand-held GPS and a digital camera.

6.2 SITE SURVEY

Fieldwork was conducted as per the project methodology and survey strategy as outlined in **Section 6.1**.

The pedestrian survey was undertaken by Julian Travaglia (Senior Archaeologist, BA Hons), Kate Morris (Archaeologist, BA/BSc Hons), Cindy Foley (Individual RAP), Ashley Noble (Narrabri LALC), Olivia Huitema (Enervest) and Julian Voller (Enervest) on 24 June 2025.

Before commencing fieldwork, Julian Travaglia spoke to the RAPs informing them that if there was any cultural information or comments during the survey that they could be recorded during fieldwork or at a later time. The importance of cultural information and comment by the Aboriginal representatives involved in fieldwork was stressed in these discussions. Julian Travaglia also stated that if any information was gender sensitive, these comments could be made to one of Virtus Heritage male/female archaeologists alone or at a separate time.

The survey was conducted in transects, with four transects undertaken on the northern side of Stoney Creek, and one transect on the southern side of Stoney Creek Road. Aboriginal objects were recorded in the cultivated paddock on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road within the project area.

The survey included:

- coverage of all environmental contexts within the project area;
- focusing, where possible, on ground surfaces with higher archaeological visibility;
- inspection of any mature trees for evidence of Aboriginal scarring;
- inspection of any stone outcrops for evidence of quarrying;
- inspection of any sandstone bedrock for evidence of grinding grooves;
- inspection of adjacent track exposure and washout areas outside the project area to try and understand soils and potential for artefacts; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the project area.

All survey areas and photographs were recorded using standardised recording forms based on the CoP requirements.

6.3 SURVEY RESULTS

This section of the report describes the results of the site survey including details of newly recorded Aboriginal sites within the project area and survey transect data (**Table 7**).

One new site (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) was recorded during the site survey, comprising an artefact scatter in a secondary depositional context (n=14), with no associated potential archaeological deposit. The artefact scatter was identified within the ploughed paddock. This included **9 artefacts located within the project area**, and **5 artefacts located outside the project area** (outside the western boundary of the project area) (Section 7 and Figure 3).

The entire project area falls within an alluvial floodplain landform. A push test using an artefact flag was undertaken during the survey and found resistance at 15 cm. The paddock surveyed on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road was cleared of vegetation, ploughed and disturbed, contained clay and has low potential for intact archaeological deposit. A ribbon was formed with the clay soils in a texture test on site.

Ground surface visibility on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road (Plate **5**-7), across the ploughed paddock, was generally very good (75%) due to a low crop and the width of the ploughs. At the time of the inspection the ground surface was wet. Given the high clay content of the underlying substrate within the project area, the alluvial plain exhibited poor drainage capabilities. Dark brown silty clays (heavy clays) were identified within the visible uppermost 0 - 15 cm of ground surface exposures. Artefacts were identified in this area (Plate 8-9).

Ground surface visibility on the southern side of Stoney Creek Road, around the substation, was much lower due to ground cover and modified surfaces (<5%) (Plate **10**-12). Seven ground surface exposures were noted in this southern portion, including five ant nests exposures and two areas of erosion, that had higher visibility (100%). The exposures predominately revealed a reddish-brown soil with ironstone and shale inclusions, and some areas of imported fill material. One exposure in the northeast revealed a blackish brown loamy clay with high organic content atop of the reddish-brown soils. Two trees were identified within the project area, however, neither were mature natives exhibiting signs of cultural modifications.

Numerous disturbances were evident throughout the project area including, ploughing, fencing, road carriageway, contour drains, culverts, underground services, overhead easement and services, the substation and associated infrastructure, and earthworks (Plate **10**).

One artefact scatter was identified in the ploughed paddock on the north side of Stoney Creek Road. The scatter itself (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) comprises chert, mudstone, silcrete, quartzite and possible flaked glass artefact (possible flakes glass outside project area). Artefact types were dominated by flakes and broken flakes. Other artefact types included a flake used as a core, cores, and retouched flakes. The distribution of these artefacts is conveyed within the site extent in Figure 3. The site is assessed as a low-

density background scatter with distribution of the artefacts a result of past and current disturbances (i.e. within a cleared and ploughed paddock).



Plate 5: Ploughed paddock with good visibility, view to west



Plate 6: Pedestrian survey of ploughed paddock with good visibility, view to south east



Plate 7: Flagged artefact within ploughed paddock on north side of Stoney Creek Road, view to west



Plate 8: Example of recorded artefact



Plate 9: Example of another recorded artefact



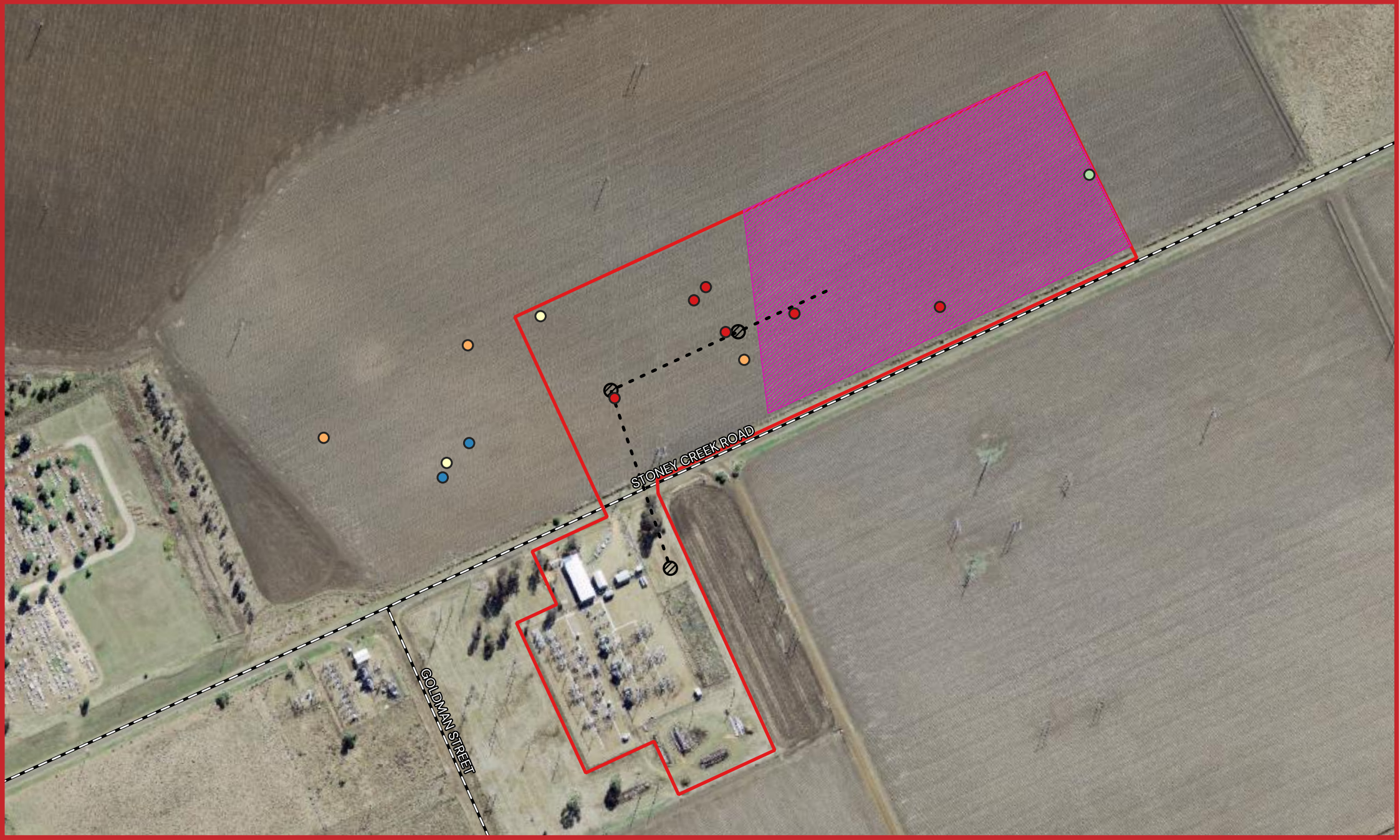
Plate 10: General view of substation area and subsurface utilities on southern side of Stoney Creek Road, view to south



Plate 11: Example of ant nest exposure with high visibility on southern side of Stoney Creek Road, view to south west



Plate 12: Example of modified land with low visibility on southern side of Stoney Creek Road, view to south



VIRTUS HERITAGE

606: 41 Stoney Creek Road BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 3. Newly Recorded Sites within the Project Area and Surrounds

Author: Liam Clerke
Date: 15/07/2025
Scale: 1:3561 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Proposed Transmission Tower
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Roads

Identified Artefacts

- Broken Flake
- Core
- Flake
- Flake used as Core
- Retouched Flake

N

0 50 100 150 m

Table 12. Information Recorded in Survey Transects

Survey Area (Figure 4)	Transect #	Transect Start (MGA)	Transect Finish (MGA)	Landform Unit	Land Use History, vegetation, ground surface visibility, exposures (if any)	Aboriginal Sites
Northern side of Stoney Creek Road	Transect 1	769002E 6642916N	769400E 6643098N	Alluvial Plain	Transect walked in a northeastern direction, parallel to Stoney Creek Road. Ground surface visibility was very good (60%). Dark brown silty clays identified in exposures (70%). River pebbles and cobbles noted. Metal, earthenware and glass noted Disturbances include ploughing, vegetation clearing, transmission lines.	SC_AS1 Artefacts (n=1)
	Transect 2	769387E 6643134N	768990E 6642914N	Alluvial Plain	Transect walked in a southwestern direction. Ground surface visibility was very good (80%). Dark brown silty clays identified in exposures (70%). River pebbles and cobbles noted. Disturbances include ploughing, vegetation clearing, transmission lines..	SC_AS1 Artefacts (n=5)
	Transect 3	768972E 6642980N	769368E 6643177N	Alluvial Plain	Transect walked in a northeastern direction, parallel to Stoney Creek Road. Ground surface visibility was very good (80%). Dark brown silty clays identified in exposures (70%). River pebbles and cobbles noted. Disturbances include ploughing, vegetation clearing, transmission lines..	SC_AS1 Artefacts (n=2)
	Transect 4	769351E 6643216N	768950E 6643029N	Alluvial Plain	Transect walked in a southwestern direction. Ground surface visibility was very good (80%). Dark brown silty clays identified in exposures (70%). River pebbles and cobbles noted. Glass noted. Disturbances include ploughing, vegetation clearing, transmission lines. .	SC_AS1 Artefacts (n=1)
Southern side of Stoney Creek Road	Transect 5	769041E 6642893N	768963E 6642856N	Alluvial Plain (Modified)	The perimeter of the substation was walked starting along the northern boundary. Ground surface visibility was very poor (<5%) with blackish brown loamy clay with high organic content identified in an exposure.	No Aboriginal sites or objects identified.

Survey Area (Figure 4)	Transect #	Transect Start (MGA)	Transect Finish (MGA)	Landform Unit	Land Use History, vegetation, ground surface visibility, exposures (if any)	Aboriginal Sites
					Disturbances include earthworks, Stoney Creek Road and substation access road, the substation and associated infrastructure, contour drains (cemented, and modified earth drains), bioturbation (ants nest), and some active erosion.	

6.4 LANDFORMS, VISIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE COVERAGE

This section presents and discusses the landforms within the project area and the visibility and effective coverage of the survey. This section is required to demonstrate that the survey data provides sufficient evidence for an evaluation of the distribution of objects across the landscape, taking into account archaeological potential. This information is essential to the assessment process and archaeological management recommendations.

During each transect, the area surveyed was recorded (transect length by transect width). The general ground surface visibility and any exposures were also recorded to enable a calculation of survey coverage and effective visibility to be generated.

The survey area on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road was heavily disturbed (ploughed), contained clay and has low potential for intact archaeological deposit. Ground surface visibility on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road, across the ploughed paddock, was generally very good (<75%) due to a low crop and the width of the ploughs. Coverage was very effective and one artefact scatter was identified.

Ground surface visibility on the southern side of Stoney Creek Road, around the substation, was much lower due to ground cover including concrete, asphalt, dense vegetation, and substation infrastructure (<5%). However, seven areas of ground surface exposures were noted with their dimensions and details as follows:

- 2x15 m, 100% visibility, no artefacts, ant nest
- 1x10 m, 100% visibility, no artefacts, ant nest with imported gravels noted
- 7x7 m, 100% visibility, no artefacts, ant nest
- 5x8 m, 100% visibility, no artefacts, ant nest with imported gravels noted
- 3x20 m, 100% visibility, no artefacts, ant nest
- 4x18 m, 100% visibility, no artefacts, erosion
- 40x2 m, 65% visibility, no artefacts, erosion

Table 13 below details the survey coverage and effective visibility for each of the survey units and Table 14 provides a landform summary.

Table 13. Survey Coverage and Effective Visibility

Survey Unit	Landform	Survey Unit Area (m^2)	Visibility (%)	Visibility (m^2)	Exposure (%)	Effective Coverage Area (m^2) †	Effective Coverage (%) ††
1 (Transect 1-4)	Alluvial Plain	69,384 m^2	75	52,038 m^2	65	33,825 m^2	48.7
2 (Transect 5)	Alluvial Plain (modified)	25,785 m^2	2	516 m^2	95	490m^2	1.9
	Total	95,169 m^2	-		-	34,315 m^2	36.1

† (= survey unit area x visibility % x exposure %)

†† (= effective coverage area/survey unit area x 100)

Table 14. Landform Summary – Sampled Areas

Landform	Landform area (m^2)	Effective Coverage m^2	% Landform Effectively Covered	Number of sites	Areas of PAD
Alluvial Plain	95,169 m^2	34,315 m^2	36.1%	1	Nil

6.5 SUMMARY

100% of the project area was surveyed on foot. Overall, the visibility and effective coverage of the project area was high (36.1%) due to recent ploughing and low crop heights. Disturbances within the project area were recorded and included cultivation, irrigation, vegetation clearing, European farming practices, development of road networks, and development of the existing substation and associated infrastructure. One new Aboriginal cultural heritage site identified. The scatter was identified as a low-density background scatter in a disturbed context in a ploughed field with no associated PAD.

While artefact scatter SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) comprises 14 artefacts, only 9 artefacts are located within the project area. Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 artefacts are within the disturbance footprint of the project. These six artefacts would be directly harmed by the construction of the BESS and the remaining 3 artefacts may be indirectly harmed during construction. Consideration on mitigating potential harm is provided in Section 9 and 10.



VIRTUS HERITAGE

606: 41 Stoney Creek Road BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 4. Coverage within the Project Area

Author: Liam Clerke
Date: 15/07/2025
Scale: 1:3561 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

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Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Proposed Transmission Tower
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- Roads

Identified Artefacts

- Broken Flake
- Core
- Flake
- Flake used as Core
- Retouched Flake

N

0 50 100 150 m

7. Analysis and Discussion

One new Aboriginal cultural heritage site (SC_AS1, AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) was identified during the survey for this assessment. The new site comprises a low-density background artefact scatter in a secondary depositional context in a disturbed area. No potential archaeological deposit is associated with the out of context scatter.

The scatter is located in a ploughed field that has a very shallow (0-5cm) A horizon with high clay content (SLR 2025). Plough impacts are typically between 30-50 cm below the ground surface and within the project area, plough activity has likely dragged B horizon soils, which starts at 5 cm, up through the A horizon soils. A horizons are typically artefact-bearing soils. However, due to the shallow soils, presence of cracking clays, and depth of ploughing and human activities, there is low potential for the disturbed soil to retain any PAD with intact stratigraphy or high integrity.

The scatter is predominately silcrete (n=6) and mudstone (n=4) with chert (n=2), quartzite (n=1) and possible glass artefact (n=1) present in smaller quantities. Eleven artefacts (78%) are flakes, including 6 broken flakes, 2 retouched flakes, 2 complete flakes and 1 flake used as a core. The remaining three artefacts are cores. The details of the assemblage are provided in Table 15.

Only 9 of the 14 artefacts are located within the project area. These 9 artefacts include: flakes, broken flakes, one core, and one flake used as a core. These artefacts are manufactured from Silcrete, mudstone, and chert (Table 15).

Table 15. SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) assemblage

Artefact Number	Transect	Artefact Type	Raw Material
1	2	Core	Chert
2	1	Broken Flake	Mudstone
3	2	Flake used as Core	Silcrete
4	2	Broken Flake	Silcrete
5	2	Broken Flake	Chert
6	2	Broken Flake	Silcrete
7	Outside project Area	Retouched Flake	Silcrete
8	Outside Project Area	Flake	Mudstone
9	Outside Project Area	Retouched Flake	Quartzite
10	Outside Project Area	Possible Core	Bottle Glass
11	3	Broken Flake	Silcrete
12	3	Broken Flake	Silcrete
13	4	Flake	Mudstone
14	Outside Project Area	Core	Mudstone

The second most common site type identified in the AHIMS search for this assessment includes artefact sites (isolated finds and open camp sites, n=7). The closest sites to the project area are a scar tree with artefact (Collins Park site 2 artefacts, AHIMS ID #19-3-0133) and an isolated find (Collins Park site 1 artefact, AHIMS ID #19-3-0136), located approximately 1 km to the southwest of the Project Area. The predictions for the survey were that despite historic disturbance, there is potential for stone artefacts; however, they are likely to occur as isolated finds and out of context. This was confirmed during the survey with the artefacts part of a low density background scatter in a secondary depositional context.

The geology of the area is limited to sandstone and basalt raw materials for the creation of stone artefacts. Materials in the area are likely to be imported. This was also confirmed during the survey with the artefacts

identified being dominated by silcrete and mudstone artefacts which are not a raw material available within the project area.

One possible artefact was manufactured from bottle glass, although this artefact is located well outside the project area. The possible use of European material for Aboriginal flaking purposes was also identified approximately 2 km to the southwest of the Project Area. Narrabri Junction; Namoi Farm (AHIMS ID #19-3-0007) and was recorded in 1981 as an open campsite comprising a surface scatter approximately 10 m from the bank of a billabong. The scatter extended approximately 100 m along an area of erosion and comprised 'mostly flakes of various kinds, some cores, with little secondary working'. One artefact was located within this assemblage as flaked porcelain.

In comparison to other regional assessments, the artefact scatter shows similarities to artefact type and raw materials identified in other sites within the Narrabri region.

- Silcox and Bowdler (1982a,b) identified scatters comprising flakes, blades, backed blades, cores, a scraper (backed blades and scrapers have undergone the process of retouch) and a grinding stone made from chert, quartz, silcrete and basalt. Chert was the predominant raw material. Silcrete and chert have both been identified in the SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) scatter, silcrete is the predominate raw material and no basalt is present. The SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) scatter also contains fewer specialised stone tool types than the Silcox and Bowdler (1982) scatters.
- Appleton (2008) identified a silcrete core, eight silcrete flakes, and a large scatter containing over 40 cores, flakes and flaked pieces. Despite the Appleton (2008) scatter containing a high number of artefacts (n=49) compared to the SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) scatter (n=14), the artefact types are fairly similar and largely limited to non-specialised stone tools. Not enough information is provided to compare raw material composition but silcrete is present in both assemblages. The newly identified site SC_AS1 is also considered a low-density artefact scatter, as evidenced when comparing to other larger assemblages in the vicinity of the project area such as the Appleton (2009) site where most sites were low-density artefact scatters excepting areas along watercourses where artefact density was much higher (refer below).
- Appleton (2009) identified 121 sites across various landforms. The majority of the recorded sites consisted of low-density artefact scatters with only 4% of the artefact scatters containing more than 20 artefacts. Higher density artefact scatters were all recorded along watercourses. The SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) scatter is comparable to the many scatters Appleton (2009) identified as it is a low-density scatter containing fewer than 20 artefacts. This is consistent with the higher density scatters associated with waterways because while SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) is located on an alluvial plain approximately 350 m from the nearest watercourse (Horsearm Creek) and approximately 2.5 km from a major watercourse (Namoi River).
- Gorecki et al. (1984) dated a site at Lime Springs to 19,300+/-500 BP. The artefacts were divided into two assemblages, a lower one dominated by siliceous rocks and being amorphous in composition, and an upper assemblage including large horse hoof cores and scrapers and dominated by tuff. The SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) scatter varies from the Gorecki et al. (1984) site in that there was no tuff identified and no large horse hoof cores or scrapers identified.

Site SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) indicates similarity of artefact types and raw materials compared to other scatters in the region and is consistent in that it is a low-density scatter containing silcrete and mudstone.

8. Scientific Values and Significance Assessment

This section of the Archaeological report assesses the scientific/archaeological values of Aboriginal archaeological sites and objects within the project area. The ACHA provides reference to the other values within the Burra Charter, including the cultural values provided by RAPs. Other cultural values are assessed separately in the broader ACHA in comments by the RAPs.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places) and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members. Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians. The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as the "aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects" (ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013:2).

Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are therefore assessed following these categories of significance developed under the Burra Charter:

- Aesthetic value
    - refers to "the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place" and is often linked with social values (OEH 2011:9). This value may refer to the visual nature of the landscape and "smells and sounds associated with the place and its use" (OEH 2011:9).
- Historic value
    - refers to "the associations of a place with a historically important person, event, phase or activity in an Aboriginal community", for example, post-contact places such as missions or reserves or massacre sites (OEH 2011:9).
- Scientific/archaeological value
    - assessed mostly by archaeologists/heritage consultants according to six criteria in this assessment process, rarity, representativeness, integrity, connectedness, complexity, and potential archaeological deposit.
- Spiritual value (can only be assessed by Aboriginal people)
    - refers to the "the intangible values and meanings embodied in or evoked by a place which give it importance in the spiritual identity, or the traditional knowledge, art and practices of a cultural group. Spiritual value may also be reflected in the intensity of aesthetic and emotional responses or community associations and be expressed through cultural practices and related places" (ICOMOS 2013:4).
- Social value (can only be assessed by Aboriginal people)
    - refers to the contemporary associations and attachments Aboriginal people have to an area or place. The guide to investigating, assessing, and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW notes that "Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them. Places of social or cultural value have associations with contemporary community identity. These places can have associations with tragic or warmly remembered experiences, periods, or events. Communities can experience a sense of loss should a place of social or cultural value be damaged or destroyed. There is not always a consensus about a place's social or cultural value" (OEH 2011:8).

This section of the Archaeological report assesses the scientific/archaeological values of Aboriginal archaeological sites and objects within the project area. The ACHA provides reference to the other values within the Burra Charter, including the cultural values provided by RAPs.

Scientific/archaeological values are assessed according to six criteria in this assessment process: rarity, representativeness, integrity, connectedness, complexity, and potential archaeological deposit. No registered AHIMS sites are located within the project area, but one newly identified site (SC_AS1) will be partially impacted by the proposed works A significance assessment is provided for this site below, taking the six scientific criteria into account.

Table 16 provides an assessment of these values within the project area.

Table 16. Assessment of the Burra Charter Values within the Project area

Category of Significance	Statement of Values
Rarity and Representativeness	There are no registered sites on AHIMS within the project area, though one newly identified site (SC_AS1) was identified during the project survey on 24 June 2025. The project area is situated on alluvial plain landscape which has been identified in past research (OzArk 2020; Mitchell 2002) as a landscape known to contain Aboriginal sites which represent Aboriginal occupation and use of the landscape within the Narrabri LGA. Alluvial plain is the dominant landscape throughout the Narrabri LGA. Background artefact scatters on alluvial plain landscape are not considered rare within the Narrabri region. The presence of Aboriginal objects demonstrates local Aboriginal land use and cultural history within the project area and surrounds. The artefacts of broken flakes and flakes within the project area are not unusual scientifically but have high cultural value. Retouched flakes and cores are also represented in the past archaeological research of the region. These artefact types are not considered rare. Although there are other examples of Aboriginal tools being manufactured from European materials in the vicinity of the project area (i.e. artefact manufactured from porcelain approximately 2 km southwest of the project area: AHIMS ID #19-3-0007), the possible artefact manufactured from bottle glass is considered rare in a local and regional context. However, this artefact is located well outside the project area to the west.
Integrity	Disturbances within the project area included cultivation, grazing, irrigation, vegetation clearing, European farming practices, development of road networks, and development of the existing substation and associated infrastructure. Artefacts within newly recorded site SC_AS1 were disturbed across the project area as a result of recent ploughing, past disturbances, and other post depositional processes. The scatter was identified as a low-density background scatter in a disturbed context in a ploughed field with no associated PAD and/or integrity.
Connectedness	The site is a low-density background scatter within an alluvial plain landscape. OzArk 2020 (using Mitchell 2002 landscape model) and Appleton (2009)

	identify artefact scatters in this context as common throughout the Narrabri LGA. The background research shows the artefact types (dominated by flakes, broken flakes, and cores) and raw materials (dominated by mudstone, silcrete) within site SC_AS1 as also common throughout the Narrabri region. The similar landscape, artefact types, and raw materials used in artefact manufacture, when comparing sites within the Narrabri region show a connectedness across the landscape.
Complexity	The scatter SC_AS1 was identified as a low-density background scatter in a disturbed context in a ploughed field with no associated PAD and/or integrity. The background research shows the artefact types (dominated by flakes, broken flakes, and cores) and raw materials (dominated by mudstone, silcrete) within site SC_AS1 as also common throughout the Narrabri region. The site is not considered high in complexity.
Potential for Archaeological Deposit	The project area is likely to have been utilised by Aboriginal people in the past, but at a lower intensity and frequency relative to surrounding landforms (i.e. floodplain and channel landforms within 200m of a water source, and even higher density of sites within 100m of a water source: OzArk 2020; Appleton 2009) resulting in a lower artefact density than surrounding landforms. Ground surface disturbances have decreased the archaeological integrity and potential of finding evidence of Aboriginal occupation in a primary depositional context. Past and ongoing human action (i.e. cultivation, grazing, irrigation, vegetation clearing, European farming practices, development of road networks, and development of the existing substation and associated infrastructure) have likely redistributed artefacts from their deposited locations (if any). Any artefacts are also likely to have been impacted by fluvial movement, and movement associated with cracking clays.

9. Impact Assessment

A summary of the proposed development with impacts that may cause harm to the identified heritage sites and places, was provided in Section 2. The following definitions of harm are reproduced from OEH (2011).

Direct harm/impact may occur as the result of any activity which disturbs the ground including, but not limited to, site preparation activities, stripping of soils, clearing of shrubs, grass and contaminants, installation of services and infrastructure, roadworks, excavating detention ponds and other drainage or flood mitigation measures, and changes in water flows affecting the value of a cultural site.

Indirect harm/impact may affect sites or features located immediately beyond, or within, the area of the proposed activity. Examples of indirect impacts include, but are not limited to, cumulative impact on art in a rockshelter site from increased visitation, vibration impacts to sites from construction equipment, destruction from increased erosion and changes in access to wild food resources (OEH 2011).

9.1 PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The Stoney Creek BESS will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of 125 MW / 1,000 MWh connecting via a transmission line directly to the existing Narrabri 132/66 kV substation, operated by TransGrid.

The BESS will consist of BESS containers (or enclosures), with each container having dimensions of approximately 10.5 m x 2.44 m x 2.94 m with an approximate weight of 47,000 kg. The BESS will be supported by inverters from the BESS and connect to the existing TransGrid substation via approximately 320 m of overhead or underground 132 kV transmission line.

The key elements of the Project include the following:

- Installation and operation of a BESS including battery enclosures, inverters, HV Switchrooms, Control rooms and transformers on hardstand. Earthworks will be required on the site to create the flood mitigation platform level.
- Associated upgrades and connection into the Narrabri 132/66kV Substation, including construction of an overhead or underground 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection, associated high voltage steel poles, increase in hardstand area and establishment of easements.
- Associated ancillary infrastructure including security fencing, landscaping, access and internal roads, fire water tanks, temporary parking.
- Decommissioning.

It is understood that the BESS will be established on a built-up area of imported fill, minimising subsurface impacts in the east of the project area and the options for the transmission line connection include overhead lines. The maximum impact depths for the project are associated with the option for underground cables connecting the BESS to the substation which would involving trenching <2 m.

Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 12-14 months. The operational period is expected to be more than 20 years and there is an additional 10-year lease option. Construction of the Project will require heavy vehicles, plant, and equipment for the transportation and installation of components. The Project will require earth-moving equipment for civil, foundation and road works, cable trenching equipment, forklifts, and cranes subject to detailed design to install the BESS and complete ancillary works. The maximum impact depth for construction would be no more than 2 m and concentrated along the proposed underground transmission cable.

It is anticipated that the construction and commissioning phase will last approximately 12-14 months. Over that time, the main construction activities will include:

- Mobilisation and establishment of access, temporary construction facilities and laydown area.
- Transport of construction personnel, associated heavy and light vehicles, and materials to and from site on a day-to-day basis, dependent on construction schedule.
- Road works to formalise internal site access road to accommodate heavy vehicles and two new driveways crossing to Stoney Creek Road.
- Clearing and grubbing, cut, fill and compaction activities to create level pads.
- Installation of drainage systems.
- Installation of concrete footings or piles to support transformers, BESS containers, inverters, HV switchrooms and control building(s) and other outdoor electrical infrastructure.
- Delivery and placement of all equipment on the footings/pads.
- Electrical connection and testing of all cabling systems.
- Construction of an overhead 132 kV TL to facilitate connection to the existing Narrabri 132/66 kV TS and associated high voltage steel poles.
- Construction of hardstand, paved internal roads, control room, switchgear, transformers, circuit breakers, harmonic filters, auxiliary underground transmission lines, car parking, lay down area, landscaping, security fencing/lighting, and a demountable building used for operation, maintenance and storage.
- Construction of ancillary works including:
  - Parking area
  - Stormwater management infrastructure
  - CCTV, security lighting and fencing
  - Fire Water Tanks

9.2 JUSTIFICATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The BESS has been developed to respond to the National, State and local climate change and energy framework aiming to deliver sustainable and reliable renewable energy supply within the network. The National and State objectives are to improve energy affordability, invest in new power sources and network infrastructure, and ensure new technologies deliver benefits for customers and work towards Australia's emission reduction targets.

The Australian energy market is working toward a 100% renewable electricity grid. This transformation is seeking the rapid uptake of renewable energy and storage technologies. The market for large-scale energy storage in Australia growing at a rapid rate, with batteries playing an ever-increasing role in the grid. Storage plays a significant role in dealing with 'peaky' demand, and the higher costs that energy users face during those peaks. Substantial investment and effort are being expended to increase the availability and use of storage technologies, including grid-scale batteries, to 'smooth out' the availability of electricity generated from renewables at different times of the day.

The key objectives of the BESS include the following:

- Contribute to improving the renewable power supply within the region;
- Provide critical energy storage within the State; and
- Improve the security, affordability, and sustainability of the State's electricity grid.

A comprehensive site selection process was undertaken to determine appropriate siting for the Project. This considered zoning, access, proximity to existing transmission infrastructure, ecological constraints, topography, and surrounding land uses. Of the sites reviewed, the current Project Area was considered to best meet the criteria for successful delivery of the Project.

9.3 AREAS WHERE OBJECTS WILL BE PROTECTED OR HARMED

Newly identified Aboriginal cultural heritage site SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) will be partially impacted by the proposed works.

Site SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) comprises 14 artefacts in a ploughed paddock on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road, partially within the project area:

- Five of these 14 artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development;
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly harmed by the project development.
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be protected.

All Aboriginal objects are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Conservation is the preferred option for all objects. Consideration should be given to avoidance of and conservation of sites where possible. Table 17 below lists the details of the site identified within the project area and summarises the type, level, and consequence of harm.

Table 17. Summary of Likely Harm

Site/Place/PAD	Type of Harm (direct/indirect/ none)	Level of Harm (total/partial/none)	Consequence of Harm (total loss of value/partial loss of value/no loss of value)
SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302)	Direct	Partial	Partial loss of value

9.4 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

Australia's National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992) defines ecologically sustainable development (ESD) (defined in Section 6 (2) of the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991 NSW) as: 'using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased' (Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment Website Ecologically Sustainable Development Webpage). These environmental considerations include cultural heritage. In regard to Aboriginal cultural heritage, ESD can be achieved by applying the principle of intergenerational equity and the precautionary principle.

The principle of Intergenerational Equity states that 'the present generation should make every effort to ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment – which includes cultural heritage – for the benefit of future generations' (OEH 2011). That is, how will future generations be able to visit, see, experience and/or research Aboriginal objects? The Operational Policy: Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (DECCW 2009) states in terms of Aboriginal heritage, intergenerational equity can be considered in terms of the cumulative impacts to Aboriginal objects and places in a region.

One way of gauging what level of impact from development has occurred within a region, is to review how many Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) have been issued for that region. A review of the public register of AHIP) issued between 2010 and 2023, for Narrabri LGA indicates that 3 AHIPs were issued. The current AHIP Public Register for the Narrabri LGA shows that 0 AHIPs has been issued, for the region. Overall, there has been a relatively low cumulative impact to the Narrabri region that includes the project area based

on recent AHIPs. The project area has been subject to impacts from agricultural use as well as impacts from historical land use and natural processes discussed in Section 3.

The **Precautionary Principle** states that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

The precautionary Principle is being adhered to by attempting to conserve the artefacts that are able to be conserved and minimising impact on the site and values through consideration of appropriate management measures.

10. Management and Mitigation Measures

Potential management and mitigation measures for the project area are discussed in this section within the broader context of relevant legislation protecting Aboriginal heritage within NSW and the Commonwealth.

10.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and the *Heritage Act, 1977* are the relevant statutory controls protecting Aboriginal heritage within New South Wales. These acts and other relevant State and Commonwealth legislation are discussed below.

10.1.1. National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Under the provisions of the NPW Act, all Aboriginal objects are protected regardless of their significance or land tenure. Aboriginal objects are defined as 'any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains'.

Aboriginal objects are therefore limited to physical evidence and may also be referred to as 'Aboriginal sites', 'relics' or 'cultural material'. Aboriginal objects can include pre-contact features such as scarred trees, middens and artefact scatters, as well as physical evidence of post-contact use of the area such as Aboriginal built fencing or stockyards and missions.

The NPW Act also protects Aboriginal Places, which are defined as 'a place that is or was of special significance to Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain Aboriginal objects'. Aboriginal Places can only be declared by the Minister administering the NPW Act. The NPW Act protects Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places in NSW. Under the NPW Act, including the 2010 amendments, it is an offence to harm an Aboriginal object:

- Which the person knows is an Aboriginal object (a 'knowing offence').
- Whether or not a person knows it is an Aboriginal object (a 'strict liability offence').

The maximum penalty for a knowing offence is $550,000 for an individual or $1.1 million for a corporation and a 2-year gaol term. The maximum penalty for a strict liability offence is $110,000 for an individual or $220,000 for a corporation (DECCW 2010:5). A person or organisation who exercises due diligence in determining that their actions would not harm Aboriginal objects has a defence against prosecution for the strict liability offence if they later unknowingly harm an object without an AHIP (DECCW 2010:5). The due diligence defence is not available for activities which harm Aboriginal places. The Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal objects in NSW (DECC 2010) sets out a procedure which, when followed, will satisfy the due diligence requirement. If a person or company can demonstrate that they exercised due diligence and determined that it was unlikely that Aboriginal objects would be harmed, then they have a defence to prosecution under the strict liability offence under Section 86(2) of the NPW Act (DECCW 2010:5).

Harm includes activities that destroy, deface or damage of Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place, and in relation to an object, moving the object from the land on which it has been situated.

Under 89A (formerly Section 91) of the Act, the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage (now regulated by Heritage NSW in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)

must be informed upon the identification of all Aboriginal objects. Failure to do this within a reasonable time is an offence under the Act.

Under Section 90 of the Act, it is an offence for a person to destroy, deface, damage, or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place without the prior issue of an AHIP. AHIPs may only be obtained from Heritage NSW. If harm to Aboriginal objects and places is anticipated an AHIP is required.

The NPW Act also provides for stop-work orders under Part 6A Division 1 if an action is likely to significantly affect an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place. The order may require that an action is to cease or that no action is carried out in the vicinity of the Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place for a period of up to 40 days.

The Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, the Aboriginal community consultation requirements for proponents and Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal objects in NSW set out processes to demonstrate adequate assessment of the significance of and impacts to Aboriginal objects.

One new site was identified as partially within the project area (refer to Figure 3). Therefore, mitigation measures must be established prior to the proposed works proceeding.

10.1.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979

The EP&A Act requires that consideration be given to environmental impacts as part of the land use planning process. In NSW, environmental impacts include cultural heritage impacts. Part 3 of the Act relates to planning instruments including those at local and regional levels, Part 4 of the Act relates to development assessment processes, including for State Significant Development, and Part 5 of the Act refers to approvals by determining authorities.

10.1.3 Heritage Act (NSW) 1977

The Heritage Act 1977 (as amended in 2009) protects and aims to conserve the environmental heritage of New South Wales. Environmental heritage is broadly defined under Section 4 of the Heritage Act as consisting of "those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of State or local heritage significance" (Heritage Branch DoP 2009:1). Aboriginal places or objects that are recognized as having high cultural value (potentially of local and State significance) can be listed on the State Heritage Register and protected under the provisions of the Heritage Act (http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/06_subnav_01.htm).

Recent amendments to the Heritage Act made in 2009 have changed the definition of an archaeological 'relic' under the Act, so that it is no longer based on age. A relic is now an archaeological deposit, resource or feature that has heritage significance at a local or State level. This significance-based approach to identifying 'relics' is consistent with the way other heritage items such as buildings, works, precincts or landscapes are identified and managed in NSW (Heritage Branch, DoP 2009:1). Section 4(1) of the Heritage Act (as amended 2009) defines 'relic' as follows:

Relic means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

(a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New

South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and

(b) is of State or local heritage significance (Heritage Branch, DoP, 2009:6).

10.1.4 Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

The NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALR Act), administered by the NSW Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, establishes the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) and Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs). The Act requires these bodies to:

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

These requirements recognise and acknowledge the statutory role and responsibilities of NSWALC and LALCs. The ALR Act also establishes the registrar whose functions include, but are not limited to, maintaining the Register of Aboriginal Land Claims and the Register of Aboriginal Owners.

Under the NSW Aboriginal Lands Right Act 1983, the registrar is to give priority to the entry in the register of the names of Aboriginal persons who have a cultural association with:

- lands listed in Schedule 14 to the NPW Act
- lands to which section 36A of the ALR Act applies.

10.1.5 Native Title Legislation

The Native Title Act 1993 (NTA) is a commonwealth act which provides the legislative framework to:

- recognise and protect native title
- establish ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings, including providing certain procedural rights for registered native title claimants and native title holders in relation to acts which affect native title
- establish a mechanism for determining claims to native title
- provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts invalidated because of the existence of native title.

The NSW Native Title Act 1994 was introduced to make sure the laws of NSW are consistent with the Commonwealth's NTA on future dealings. It validates past and intermediate acts that may have been invalidated because of the existence of native title.

The National Native Title Tribunal has a number of functions under the NTA, including maintaining the Register of Native Title Claims, the National Native Title Register and the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements and mediating native title claims.

10.1.6 Other Acts

The Australian Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 may be relevant if any item of Aboriginal heritage significance to an Aboriginal community is under threat of injury or desecration and state-based processes are unable to protect it. The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is relevant to projects where there are heritage values of national significance present.

10.2 MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

This section of the report provides a summary of available management and mitigation options for the proposal and the justification for the final recommendations provided in Section 11.

10.2.1 Conservation

Conservation is the best heritage outcome for preservation of threatened cultural sites and objects with cultural and scientific significance. Conservation through protection or further management should always be explored first before any other option for the management of threatened Aboriginal sites and objects.

Newly identified scatter SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) comprises 14 artefacts:

- Five of these artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development;
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly impacted by the project development.
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be conserved.

Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 artefacts would be directly harmed by the construction of the BESS, and the remaining 3 artefacts can be avoided and left *in situ*, which could contribute to the conservation of the site.

To ensure avoidance, the 3 artefacts would need to be marked with temporary fencing and conveyed on construction plans and site inductions as no-go areas. If this is not practical for construction, the artefacts may also require collection.

Overall, 8 of the 14 artefacts recorded in the site will not be impacted by the project.

10.2.2 Further Investigation – Testing Under the Code of Practice

The Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW 2010) sets out a procedure for further archaeological investigations in areas assessed as having potential archaeological deposits. These investigations are regulated to be specific kinds of archaeological test excavation to a methodology specified in the CoP (DECCW 2010:24-28). The purpose of the CoP test excavations is to assess the cultural heritage significance of the area, interpret the Aboriginal history of the area being investigated and inform future planning decisions (DECCW 2010:27).

Test excavations are not recommended for scatter SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302). The site comprises 14 artefacts:

- Five of these artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development;
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly impacted by the project development.
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be conserved.

Overall, 8 of the 14 artefacts recorded in the site will not be impacted by the project.

The site contains out of context artefacts, located in a disturbed ploughed field, and not associated with any PAD. The A horizon in the project area, which is typically artefact bearing soils, is very shallow (0-5 cm) (SLR 2025) and the plough impacts (30-50 cm) extend into the B horizon (5 cm), suggesting low potential for any site integrity or intact soil profiles.

The majority of artefacts identified are manufactured from a common raw material (mudstone and silcrete) and dominated by flakes and broken flakes and are a low-density artefact scatter in a secondary depositional context across approximately 600 m by 200 m of ploughed paddock. Ground disturbing works

within the proposed impact area is comprised of raising up the ground surface utilising imported fill rather than impacting the subsurface. This is required due to the poor drainage of the heavy clay project area. The only substantial subsurface impacts proposed is an option to connect the BESS infrastructure to the substation via underground cabling. This location is heavily disturbed and unlikely to contribute further to the understanding of the site characteristics and local and regional prehistory. Further, the majority of artefacts within the site will not be impacted by the project.

However, test excavations have been suggested by one of the RAPs to 'investigate the subsurface nature of the project area' (refer to ACHA Virtus: 2025).

10.2.3 Destruction Without Mitigation

Destruction without any form of mitigation could be a feasible management strategy in project areas where no Aboriginal sites or objects were identified, an area had low archaeological significance and cultural significance, and such a strategy was agreed to by the registered Aboriginal parties/or approved native title claimants for a project area.

This is not an appropriate management option as Aboriginal objects and values have been identified within the project area.

10.2.4 Destruction With Mitigation

Destruction with mitigation refers to some form of archaeological or cultural salvage or investigation to mitigate the destruction of an Aboriginal object/s or sites by a development proposal. This management strategy would be recommended in areas where Aboriginal object/s and sites were identified, and/or in areas with moderate to high archaeological values with research potential that can contribute to a greater understanding of the cultural history of the project area and where conservation is not a viable management option. This may also be appropriate, if a project area has high cultural value to registered Aboriginal parties/or approved native title claimants for a project area.

Newly identified scatter SC_AS1 (AHIMS ID 19-3-0302) comprises 14 artefacts:

- Five of these artefacts are outside the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed development;
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 6 fall within the disturbance footprint and will be directly impacted by the project development.
- Of the 9 artefacts within the project area, 3 fall outside the disturbance footprint and can be conserved.

Detailed site recording: Detailed site recording is recommended for Aboriginal cultural heritage site SC_AS1. The information should be documented in a report and in AHIMS site cards and Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms. This recording will include artefact analysis (where possible) and may consider use-wear and residue analysis if warranted on any collected artefacts.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan: The conservation and management in situ of the Aboriginal Objects not impacted by project works can be developed in consultation with the RAPs. For Aboriginal Objects where harm cannot be avoided, consultation with the RAPs will be undertaken on options for their salvage (e.g. Surface Collection, Community Collection) if possible or relocation.

Surface Collection: This management strategy is recommended in areas where Aboriginal object/s were identified and cannot be avoided by project works. Surface collection should occur prior to any project works.

Community Collection: RAP/s should have the opportunity to undertake community collection of any Aboriginal Objects identified during initial ground disturbing works.

Protective Fencing: Representative/s from the RAPs are to have input and be present to ensure areas of protective fencing are adequate for any exclusion zones for cultural heritage.

Development of a Care and Control Strategy: For all collected and salvaged Aboriginal objects, consultation will be undertaken to develop a Care and Control Strategy in consultation with RAPs to manage any artefacts in a manner acceptable to RAPs (for example, options that may be considered may include reburial, relocation on Country, Keeping Place, interpretation etc) and enable cultural value of the artefacts to be documented and partially conserved.

10.2.5. Management options identified by Registered Aboriginal Parties

Further management and mitigation measures are discussed in the ACHA.

Cindy Foley made the following recommendations:

- Subsurface testing should be done to show what is happening subsurface.
- Surface collection should occur prior to works beginning.
- There needs to be a Care and Control agreement in place prior to final repository of artefacts.

Googar recommended that the entire area be surveyed and monitored when breaking ground.

Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation recommended that any identified artefacts that need to be moved should have a smoking ceremony and be kept in a safe place on Country.

11. Recommendations

Based on the description of project impacts, the results of the survey, Aboriginal consultation to date, the limitations of this assessment and previous archaeological research, the following recommendations are made below in Table 18.

Management recommendations of this assessment consider the archaeological (scientific values) as set out in The Burra Charter and the requirements of Heritage NSW for the Archaeological Survey Report (Archaeological Assessment). The ACHA to which this report is appended includes management recommendations which consider the social (cultural), spiritual, aesthetic and historic values of The Burra Charter. The proponent must consider the ACHA recommendations in conjunction with the recommendations of this Archaeological Assessment.

Table 18. Archaeological Assessment Recommendations

Recommendation #		Recommendation
1.	Detailed Site Recording	Detailed site recording is recommended for Aboriginal cultural heritage site SC_AS1. The information should be documented in a report and in AHIMS site cards and Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms. This recording will include artefact analysis and may consider use-wear and residue analysis of any collected artefacts where warranted.
2.	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan	Prior to the commencement of construction works, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) must be prepared and submitted to the Department for approval. The ACHMP should include: 1. Roles and responsibilities for undertaking actions within the ACHMP 2. Include protocols for continued consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties throughout the remainder of the project. 3. Detail descriptions and methods to avoid any inadvertent impacts to known Aboriginal objects outside of proposed impact areas. This should include, but not be limited to: i. Works specific Aboriginal Cultural Inductions ii. Protective Fencing and clear marking of heritage sites/Aboriginal Objects in close proximity to proposed works. This should be done with an experience Sites Officer of Registered Aboriginal Parties or a qualified archaeologist. iii. If needed, any additional requirements identified by the Aboriginal community through consultation. iv. A suitable program of monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of these control measures should also be outlined, including locations, methods, personnel and timing. 4. Surface Collection and Community Collection (refer to Recommendations 3 and 4)

		5. Processes for reviewing, monitoring and updating the ACHMP as the project progresses, including incorporating any mitigation measures identified in the ACHA being prepared and in accordance with the requirements of any future project approval conditions.
3.	Surface Collection	This management strategy is recommended in areas where Aboriginal object/s were identified and cannot be avoided by project works. Surface collection should occur prior to any project works.
4.	Community Collection	RAP/s should have the opportunity to undertake community collection of any Aboriginal Objects identified during initial ground disturbing works.
5.	Cultural Heritage Induction	All site workers and personnel involved in site impact works associated with the proposed work should be inducted and briefed on the identification of Aboriginal sites and objects during works and their responsibilities according to the provisions of the NPW Act 1974, in case any additional unknown objects or items are uncovered during proposed works. a) Site workers should be made aware of the location of any Aboriginal sites that may at any stage occur within the proposal site and their significance, and their legal obligations in relation to the protection and management of these Aboriginal sites under the NPW Act 1974, and the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019. b) As part of this induction, workers should be made aware that in the event that unexpected human remains are uncovered on site, the area of the suspected remains must be secured and cordoned off and the NSW Police notified. No further works can be undertaken until the NSW Police provide written advice. • If these remains are deemed to require archaeological investigation by the NSW Police or NSW Coroner, then Heritage NSW and the relevant Aboriginal parties must be notified. A plan of management for the preservation of Aboriginal human remains or for their salvage must be put in place or conducted under an AHIP methodology and variation developed in consultation with all relevant Aboriginal parties and the Heritage NSW. c) As part of an induction, in the unlikely event that any historical relics are uncovered during proposed works, all workers and subcontractors should be made aware of their responsibilities under the provisions of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 (for example, 19th century bottle dumps, sandstone footings, structural features in situ over fifty years old etc.). In this event all works must cease and the area where objects uncovered is protected until a qualified archaeologist is contacted and can inspect and

		assess the area to determine its significance in consultation with Heritage NSW. Enervest may wish to consider the input and engagement of interested Aboriginal stakeholder groups in the development of inductions and toolbox talks for this project.
6.	Unexpected Finds Protocol	If Aboriginal objects (excluding human remains or sites such as grinding groove complexes/engravings, rock art) are detected during ground disturbance, NPWS unexpected finds procedures (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2020: 17) should be observed, namely: a. establish an appropriate buffer around the Aboriginal object to exclude further works in the area and allow assessment and management; b. engage with the relevant Aboriginal parties to assess the object's heritage values and undertake appropriate methods to avoid or move the object; c. complete an AHIMS site card to register the site and document the movement or avoidance strategies taken; d. complete a report detailing the unexpected find and the Aboriginal community's recommendations for management; e. send the report to the relevant project manager and Aboriginal parties and Heritage NSW and DPIE's AHIMS area; f. continue works only once appropriate measures have been taken to avoid or move the site, as per Heritage NSW stipulations.

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Appendix A AHIMS

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 606 Narrabri

Client Service ID : 977063

Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd - Pottsville

38 Border Crescent
Pottsville New South Wales 2489

Attention: Kate Morris

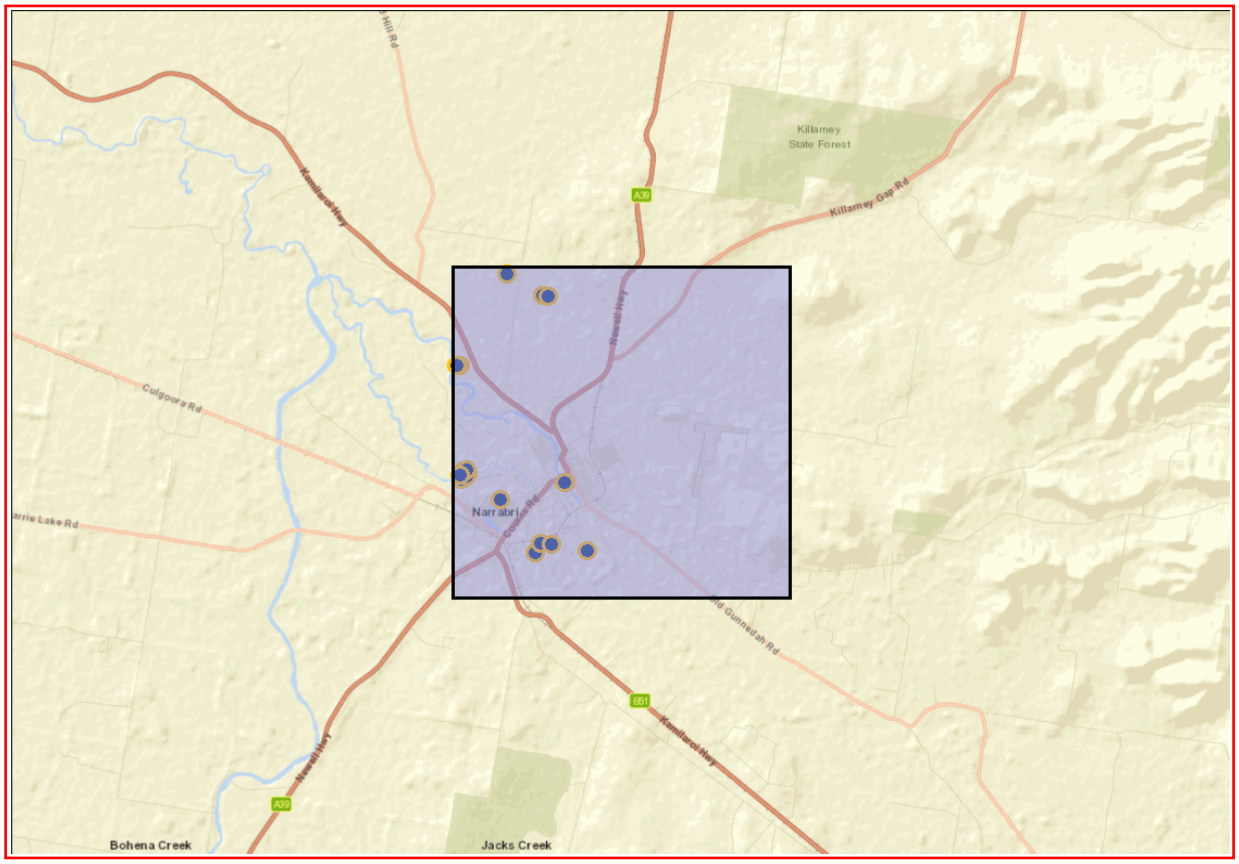
Email: k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Date: 20 February 2025

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 764187.0 - 774187.0, Northings : 6637996.0 - 6647996.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters, conducted by Kate Morris on 20 February 2025.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

23	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the NSW Government Gazette (https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

Important information about your AHIMS search

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Heritage NSW and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date. Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings,
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.

Level 6, 10 Valentine Ave, Parramatta 2150
Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124
Tel: (02) 9585 6345

ABN 34 945 244 274
Email: ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 606 Narrabri

Client Service ID : 977378

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
19-3-0136	Collins Park site 1 artefact	GDA	55	767458	6641465	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Mr.Allison Stewart					Permits		
19-3-0007	Narrabri Junction;Namoi Farm;	AGD	55	767955	6639171	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
Contact		Recorders	Brown					Permits		
19-3-0278	NSF - IF 19	GDA	55	765827	6647957	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
Contact		Recorders	Mr.Matthew Barber,NGH Heritage - Fyshwick					Permits		
19-3-0178	NRST8	GDA	55	764297	6641643	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0186	Namoi River IF 2	GDA	55	766653	6639625	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Paul Houston,Mr.Steven Booby					Permits		
19-3-0171	NRST1	GDA	55	764392	6641819	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0174	NRST4	GDA	55	764439	6641854	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0133	Collins Park site 2 artefacts	GDA	55	767429	6641486	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 5, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Mr.Allison Stewart					Permits		
19-3-0019	WN25 Narrabri;	AGD	55	764224	6644978	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	84
Contact		Recorders	Rex Silcox					Permits		
19-3-0184	Namoi River Scar tree	GDA	55	766474	6639342	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Paul Houston,Mr.Steven Booby					Permits		
19-3-0185	Namoi River IF	GDA	55	766653	6639633	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Paul Houston,Mr.Steven Booby					Permits		
19-3-0173	NRST3	GDA	55	764500	6641803	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0163	Silverleaf IF-1	GDA	55	766916	6647274	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		104286
Contact		Recorders	OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management - Dubbo,Doctor.Alyce Cameron					Permits		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 21/02/2025 for Kate Morris for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 764187.0 - 774187.0, Northings : 6637996.0 - 6647996.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 23

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 606 Narrabri

Client Service ID : 977378

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
19-3-0175	NRST5	GDA	55	764366	6641898	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0164	Silverleaf IF-2	GDA	55	767094	6647233	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		104286
Contact		Recorders	OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management - Dubbo,Doctor.Alyce Cameron					Permits		
19-3-0012	WN24 Narrabri;	AGD	55	764133	6644981	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	84
Contact		Recorders	Rex Silcox					Permits		
19-3-0013	WN23 Narrabri;	AGD	55	764133	6644981	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	84
Contact		Recorders	Rex Silcox					Permits		
19-3-0187	Namoi River Artefact with Pattern	GDA	55	766975	6639584	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Paul Houston,Mr.Steven Booby					Permits		
19-3-0172	NRST2	GDA	55	764440	6641785	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0176	NRST6	GDA	55	764464	6641742	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0002	Dangar Village Narrabri	AGD	55	765359	6640819	Open site	Valid	Burial : -	Burial/s	
Contact		Recorders	Harry Creamer					Permits		
19-3-0177	NRST9	GDA	55	764464	6641958	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0179	NRST7	GDA	55	764271	6641773	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		

**** Site Status**

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 21/02/2025 for Kate Morris for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 764187.0 - 774187.0, Northings : 6637996.0 - 6647996.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 23

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Appendix B Aboriginal Consultation Log

VIRTUS HERITAGE CONSULTATION REGISTER

CONSULTATION LOG ENTRIES

CONTACT DETAILS				MAIL REGISTER			Phone/Email/SMS/Face to Face Meeting Notes	
NO.	DATE REGISTERED - METHOD	ORGANISATION/INDIVIDUAL	CONTACT NAME	DATE	POST RECEIPT # COMMUNICATION TYPE	DELIVERY CONFIRMED/RTS	DATE	NOTES
1	02.04.25	Stephen Matthews	Stephen Matthews	5/07/2025	63800 09400 62436 85604	*19.06.25 - RTS PPI/SS letter*	4/02/2025	registered via email 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS.Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 16/05/25 Called mobile, no answer, left message - LMc 30/05/25 Called mobile, no answer, left message - LMc 30/05/25 Returned Stephen's returned call, no answer, left another message, sent email - LMc 02/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 19/06/25 - RTS PPI/SS letter 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and left a voice message asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessin 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and left a voice message to say comments due in 12 Aug, but if you'd like to provide any please do so by 5pm today.
2	02.04.25	Gomeroi Applicant c/- NTSCORP Limited	Gomeroi Applicant	5/07/2025	63800 09400 62436 86601	*recd delivery conf 15/5/25*	4/02/2025	registered via email - Kate confirmed 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS.Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 07/05/25 Harriet Robertson emailed back stating that she no longer worked for NTSCorp and to contact info@ntscorp.com.au. No further contact with h 16/05/25 Called landline, spoke to William Scott (lawyer for Gomeroi Applicant), confirmed receipt of PPI/SS, reminded of due date - LMc 30/05/25 Spoke to reception, they will pass on message to relevant people - LMc 02/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 17/06/25 Called and spoke to Sophie at NTSCorp, on behlaf of SLR/Enervest who wanted to follow up on their site invitation. Sophie said that email was r but she will see that he responds when he's back 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and spoke with reception asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessi notifications Team as Will onsite today, and will get back to us if any issues downloading the draft reports 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and left a message with reception to ask if Gomeroi Applicant had any comments on the draft report.
3	03.04.25	Gomery Cultural Consultants	David Horton	5/07/2025	63800 09400 62436 87608	*3/6/25 - Recd delivery conf back dated 26.5.25*	4/03/2025	registered via email - AG confirmed and asked if hard copies are needed. 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS.Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 16/05/25 Called mobile, David has requested the PPI/SS to be resent to his email address only. David has requested that ONLY his email address be usec postal address. Information passed on to KM - LMc 16/05/25 DH emailed Km in support of the methodology 19/05/25 Km replied acknowledging and thanking for email 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and spoke to David asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessing - D Reminded of due date on 12 August 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and spoke to DH who asked why no test excations but agreed it would not be necessary if there's no topsoil. DH recommends reburi
4	03.04.25	Googar	Cory McKenzie Allan McKenzie, Sr. Allan McKenzie, Jr.				4/03/2025	registered via email - AG confirmed and asked if hard copies are needed, Cory said email is fine. 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS.Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 11/05/25 Cory replied via email with a comment on the draft SS suggesting that the entire area be surveyed and monitored when breaking ground 13/05/25 KM responded via email acknowledging receipt of the comment. 13/05/25 Cory expressed interest in fieldwork via email 14/05/25 KM replied via email that his interest and availability would be passed onto the proponent 16/05/25 Called Cory in error, made good - LMc 27/05/25 CM emailed to check if we had survey dates 28/05/25 KM replied to CM saying no dates yet 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and unable to leave voice message as message bank full. Cory called back office and JH passed on call. KM spoke to Cory asking wh and if need any assistance downloading and accessing - Corydownloaded them/has access. Reminded of due date on 12 August and Cory said he would 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and left an SMS message to say comments due in 12 Aug, but if you'd like to provide any please do so by 5pm today.

5	07.04.25	AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	Aaron Talbott				4/07/2025	confirmed registration and asked if hard copies were needed - Aaron said emailed copies are fine. 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS.Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 16/05/2025 Called mobile 0457 165 736, left message - LMc 30/05/2025 Called Aaron on both listed mobiles, no answer, left message, and sent email to listed email address - LMc 30/05/2025 Aaron emailed response saying 021 mobile is correct, email address is correct, and he will respond before 6 June - LMc 02/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and spoke to Aaron asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessing - A Reminded of due date on 12 August and he said he'd provide comments. Aaron also meantioned he's been working in ACH for 15 years and has bloodline would like the opportunity to work with us in future. He thanked us for the call and really appreciated it 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and spoke to AT who asked if we were sure we were on subsoil clays and not a clay capping with PAD below. I talked through the soil excavation wasn't required. AT recommends reburial on Country but if there are any particular tools that have education value they could be managed b resource and stored in such an office. AT recommends cataloguing all artefacts and having a digital archive of the artefacts before they are reburied, an should be registered
6	07.04.25	Natasha Rodgers	Natasha Rodgers	5/07/2025	63800 09400 62436 88605	*19.06.25 - RTS PPI/SS letter*	4/07/2025	confirmed registration and asked if hard copies were needed. 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS.Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 16/05/2025 Called Natasha on mobile, confirmed receipt of PPI/SS and reminded 6 June review cutoff - LMc 30/05/2025 Spoke to Natasha, has had covid and been very unwell, not read the information yet, but is planning to over the weekend and before 6 June 02/06/25 Emailed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 19.06.25 - RTS for PPI/SS letter 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and left a voice message asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessin 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and spoke to NR who said she's call back - NR called back and said if reburying onsite then do a simple smoking and place them nea impacts with a plaque denoting the reason for return, date, and company contact details. Agrees with the test ex decision considering the soils. If any sc shouldn't be returned to sites as they will degrade but those could be stored at Keeping Places for educational purposes.
7	[redacted]							
8								

9	15.04.25	Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation	Diana Astin	5/07/2025	Wellington PO Box address not is use. ITR sent out for Project #622 was RTS		15/4/25 via email	registered via email, AG confirmed via email and asked for best mailing address. 07/05/25 - @9.28am - Rang Diana and spoke to her Re; 2 addresses, she confirmed that the Wellington PO Box has been closed down and all future m Ulladulla PO Box. 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS.Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 16/05/25 Called mobile, confirmed receipt of PPI/SS info, and reminded of review 6 June cutoff - LMc 30/05/25 Called mobile, spoke with Diana, said she intended on putting in comments before next Friday cutoff - LMc 02/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and spoke to Diana asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessing - Di emails. She will check today on the access and will call if need any assistance. Reminded of due date on 12 August. She thanked us for the call and really 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 30/07/25 Diana emailed agreeing with the content and recommendations and added that the artifacts that have been previously found and any new on for future generations. 31/07/25 KM replied thanking for comments, confirmed will be included in final report
				5/07/2025	63800 09400 62436 70600			USE THIS ADDRESS ONLY 19.06.25 - recd deliver conf back. Dated 11.06.25
10	15.04.25	Narrabri LALC	Chairperson - Lynn Trindall	5/07/2025	63800 09400 63732 25602	*recd delivery conf 13/5/25*	15/4/25	spoke to AG on phone said she would register via email 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS.Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 16/05/25 Called mobile, left message - LMc 30/05/25 Called mobile, left message, sent email - LMc 02/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and left a voice message asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessin 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and left a voice message to say comments due in 12 Aug, but if you'd like to provide any please do so by 5pm today.
11	15.04.25	Individual	Steven Booby	5/07/2025	63900 05100 34156 34608 5 copies of each sent posted in large registered envelope	*Delivery conf recd 15/5/25*	15/4/25	registered on phone with AG< requested hard copies and a few extra copies mailed for him to distribute 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS. Extra Copies of PPI and SS were posted wit 16/05/25 Called mobile, left message - LMc 30/05/25 Called mobile, left message, sent email - LMc 02/06/25 Emailed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and left a voice message asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessin asked whether Steven was registered as an individual under his work email address or on behalf of the Department or Narrabri National Parks 25/07/25 SB called Km back and explained he is registered as an indivdual and not in the capacity of any organisation - KM amended 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and spoke to SB who would like the artefacts to be stored in a Keeping Place for long term safe keeping at either the NLALC or Wahg
12	15.04.25	Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation	Raymond Moon	5/07/2025	63800 09400 63732 24605		15/4/25	registered via email AG confirmed and asked if hard copies needed, Raymond provided mailing address 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS. 16/05/2025 Called mobile, left message - LMc 29/05/25 RM emailed Km supporting the methodology and proposing that artefacts that need to be moved stay on country after a smoking ceremony. I 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and unable to leave voice - will need another call tomorrow 24/07/25 LMc called, number unable to be connected. 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 30/07/25 Ray emailed agreeing with ACHA but adds with section 9.3 - I would agree that the 6 artifacts be moved to another area on country and a smc before reburial. 31/07/25 KM replied thanking for comments, confirmed will be included in final report

13	15.04.25	Bill Trewlynn	Bill Trewlynn	5/07/2025	63800 09400 62436 83600	*KK has advised Bill needs to be posted the PPI and SS*	15/4/25	registered via phone call 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS. Copies of PPI and SS were posted with trac 16/05/25 Called mobile, confirmed receipt of PPI/SS info and reminded of 6 June review cutoff - LMc 30/05/25 Called both mobile numbers, left messages on each, sent email - LMc 02/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called both numbers left a voice message on each asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downlo on 12 August. 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and spoke to BT who recommends reburial on Country outside the ares of impact
14	15.04.25	Guda Birgingira Aboriginal Corporation	Aliethea Cutmore	No postage address given, requests email correspondence only.	No postage address given, requests email correspondence only.	No postage address given, requests email correspondence only.	15/4/25	registered via phone call - would like to speak with PM about project, AG passed request to JT and KM. 15/04/25 JT called at 12.55 Aliethea back and discussed the project and fieldwork. JT explained in rego period and that we'd forward further information 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS. 16/05/25 Instructed by Kate no need to contact as call received from Aliethea requested inclusion in associated fieldwork. Request sent to proponent b 30/05/25 Spoke to Aliethea, reminded of cutoff - LMc 02/06/25 and SMSed Emailed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 17/06/25 Called but no answer. Sent a text and email (on behalf of SLR/Enervest who wanted to follow up on their site invitation) seeing if Aliethea has re 19/06/25 KM called and left a message regarding the site invite 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and left a voice message asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessin 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and spoke to AC who agrees with the AA and ACHA and supports the elder local Aboriginal community recommendations
15	15.04.25	Cindy Foley	Cindy Foley	5/07/2025	63800 09400 63732 23608	*3/6/25 - Recd Delivery Confimation back dated 19.5.25*	15/4/25	registered via phone call with JH AG sent confirmation email 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS. 16/05/25 Called mobile, message bank full, unable to leave message, sent SMS instead - LMc 30/05/25 Spoke to Cindy, post sent to wrong address, correct one is:10 Westerweller St, Gunnedah NSW 2380, informed Cindy of cutoff- LMc 02/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 CF called the office, TD emailed KM to call her back re comments. KM called back but could not leave message as answering machine was full. worked for the NT claimants before, she says a major songline runs through the project area and testing should be included in the methodology to see w any subsurface objects associated with the songline and nearby AHIMS scar trees associated with Whitehavens creek and the songline 05/06/25 KM emailed confirmation of verbal comments 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 12/06/25 LMc - spoke with Cindy, she wanted to know fieldwork rates, referred her to Yannis SLR 16/06/25 - KM emailed Cindy checking in regarding info on songline prior to closing date of comments. 19/06/25 CF called to confirm fw next week and she will turn up - WHS discussed 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and spoke to Cindy asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessing - C emails. She will check on the access and will call if need any assistance but thinks will be fine. Reminded of due date on 12 August. 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 30/07/25 Cindy called KM to relay verbal comment on the reports - still recommends test pitting to see whats underneath and save anything there fron proceed then reommend salvage excavations with surface salvage and collection, recommend RAP monitoring during works and ACH inductions and tra control agreement be prepared for the salvaged and unexpected finds artefacts 30/07/25 KM followed up with an email, confirming the verbal notes
16	15.04.25	Donna Moodie	Donna Moodie	5/07/2025	63800 09400 63732 22601	*3.6.25 - Recd elivery conf back dated 16.5.25*	15/4/25	registered via phone call with JH AG sent confirmation email 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS. 16/05/25 Called mobile, left message - LMc 30/05/25 Called mobile, left message, sent email - LMc 02/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 04/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 06/06/25 Emailed and SMSed reminder for comments to be in by Friday 6 June at 5pm 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and left a voice message asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessin 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and spoke to DM who supports the elder local Aboriginal community recommendations and recommends the artefacts be stored in she would lke to see VH help support mob establish such places and appreciated the followup calls for comments. REPORT ACCESS RESEND

17	15.04.25	Jeremy Duncan	Jeremy Duncan	5/07/2025	63800 09400 63732 21604	*RTS 13.5.25*	15/4/25	registered via phone call with JH AG sent confirmation email 07/05/25 emailed PPI SS. Date on SS was erroneously typed as 20 March. Email sent with correct date on SS. 16/05/25 Called mobile, confirmed receipt of PPI/SS info and reminded of 6 June review cutoff - LMc 30/05/25 Called mobile, left message, sent email - LMc 30/05/25 Jeremy responded in support of the methodology, saved in C:\Users\Lou McCauley\SynologyDrive\projects\606 - Narrabri - ACHA - SLR\Cor 4/06/25 KM replied to email thanking and acknowledging response 16/07/25 KM emailed draft ACHA and AA 23/07/25 KM called and left a voice message asking whether the draft reports have been recieved and if need any assistance downloading and accessin 30/07/25 KM emailed all RAPs with the comment due date reminder 15/08/25 KM called and left an SMS message to say comments due in 12 Aug, but if you'd like to provide any please do so by 5pm today.

Stage 1 – Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

Agency Notification

VIRTUS HERITAGE

Heritage NSW
Locked Bag 5020
Parramatta, NSW, 2124
Via email: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

18 March 2025

Dear Heritage NSW,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at Narrabri (NSW).

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area.

As a part of the SSD project, Virtus Heritage is required to undertake consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to:

- Assist the proponent in understanding Aboriginal people's views and concerns (if any) about the project;
- Afford an opportunity 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 be involved in consultation;
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- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the cultural values present in the area.

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area.

VIRTUS HERITAGE

If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by 5:00pm on 1 April 2025 (14 days).

Details including the name of the organisation or individual, the name of the contact person for organisations and their postal address, telephone and fax numbers and email address (where available) should be sent to:

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Julian Voller
Land and Planning Manager
Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
julian.voller@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

Please be advised that, as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to Heritage NSW in the Department of Planning and Environment and the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council unless the person or group specifies that they do not want their details released.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Kate Morris

ARCHAEOLOGIST

BA/BSc Hons. (Archaeological Science), University of Queensland



STONEY CREEK BESS

INDICATIVE SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 7

LEGEND

- Transmission Line
- Indicative Access Route to Site
- 1x3 BV2.3B SMA
- 20 x 8 1st Augmentation
- 20 x 8 2nd Augmentation
- 20 x 8 3rd Augmentation
- Cadastre
- Project Area
- Batteries and Inverters
- Indicative 33kV Switchgear
- Indicative Sediment Pond
- Indicative Substation

Data Sources:
NSW SS.
Aerial imagery: Nearmap (July 2024).
Project Area supplied by client.

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Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:5,000 at A4
Project Number:	620.V31316
Date Drawn:	12-Mar-2025
Drawn by:	RB

SLR

Path: \\au.slr.local\Corporate\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.31316.00000 BESS Narrabri 3400\06 SLR Data\01 CADGIS\GIS\620V31316_Narrabri_BESS\620V31316_Narrabri_BESS.aprx\620V31316_F07_Indicative Site Layout

VIRTUS HERITAGE

Narrabri Shire Council
117, Tibbereena Street, Narrabri
New South Wales 2390

18 March 2025

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at Narrabri (NSW).

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area.

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Contact details for the proponent are:

Julian Voller
Land and Planning Manager
Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
julian.voller@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

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VIRTUS HERITAGE

Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council
96 Barwan Street, Narrabri
New South Wales 2390

18 March 2025

Dear CEO,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at Narrabri (NSW).

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area.

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PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Julian Voller
Land and Planning Manager
Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
julian.voller@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

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VIRTUS HERITAGE

NTS Corp
PO Box 2105
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
Via email: notifications@ntscorp.com.au

18 March 2025

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at Narrabri (NSW).

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area.

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Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
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Julian Voller
Land and Planning Manager
Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
julian.voller@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

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VIRTUS HERITAGE

National Native Title Tribunal
PO Box 12440
Brisbane QLD 4003
Via email: nntt@NSW.gov.au

18 March 2025

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at Narrabri (NSW).

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julian.voller@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

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VIRTUS HERITAGE

North West Local Land Services
101 Barwan Street
PO Box 466
Narrabri NSW 2390
Via email: admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au

18 March 2025

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at Narrabri (NSW).

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- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the cultural values present in the area.

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the

opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area.

If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by 5:00pm on 1 April 2025 (14 days).

Details including the name of the organisation or individual, the name of the contact person for organisations and their postal address, telephone and fax numbers and email address (where available) should be sent to:

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Julian Voller
Land and Planning Manager
Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
julian.voller@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

Please be advised that, as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to Heritage NSW in the Department of Planning and Environment and the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council unless the person or group specifies that they do not want their details released.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Kate Morris

ARCHAEOLOGIST

BA/BSc Hons. (Archaeological Science), University of Queensland



STONEY CREEK BESS

INDICATIVE SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 7

LEGEND

- Transmission Line
- Indicative Access Route to Site
- 1x3 BV2.3B SMA
- 20 x 8 1st Augmentation
- 20 x 8 2nd Augmentation
- 20 x 8 3rd Augmentation
- Cadastre
- Project Area
- Batteries and Inverters
- Indicative 33kV Switchgear
- Indicative Sediment Pond
- Indicative Substation

Data Sources:
NSW SS.
Aerial imagery: Nearmap (July 2024).
Project Area supplied by client.

DISCLAIMER: All information within this document may be based on external sources. SLR Consulting Pty Ltd makes no warranty regarding the data's accuracy or reliability for any purpose.

0 100 200 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:5,000 at A4
Project Number:	620.V31316
Date Drawn:	12-Mar-2025
Drawn by:	RB

SLR

Path: \\au.slr.local\Corporate\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.31316.00000 BESS Narrabri 3400\06 SLR Data\01 CADGIS\GIS\620V31316_Narrabri_BESS\620V31316_Narrabri_BESS.aprx\620V31316_F07_Indicative Site Layout

VIRTUS HERITAGE

Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)
PO Box 787
Parramatta, NSW 2124
Via email: adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au

18 March 2025

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Subject: Notification – Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at Narrabri (NSW).

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area.

As a part of the SSD project, Virtus Heritage is required to undertake consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to:

- Assist the proponent in understanding Aboriginal people's views and concerns (if any) about the project;
- Afford an opportunity 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 be involved in consultation;
- Provide 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 with the opportunity to participate in decision making about the management of their cultural heritage by providing the proponent information regarding cultural significance and feedback on management options; and
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the cultural values present in the area.

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the

opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area.

If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by 5:00pm on 1 April 2025 (14 days).

Details including the name of the organisation or individual, the name of the contact person for organisations and their postal address, telephone and fax numbers and email address (where available) should be sent to:

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Contact details for the proponent are:

Julian Voller
Land and Planning Manager
Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
julian.voller@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

Please be advised that, as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to Heritage NSW in the Department of Planning and Environment and the Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council unless the person or group specifies that they do not want their details released.

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Kate Morris

ARCHAEOLOGIST

BA/BSc Hons. (Archaeological Science), University of Queensland



STONEY CREEK BESS

INDICATIVE SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 7

LEGEND

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- Indicative Access Route to Site
- 1x3 BV2.3B SMA
- 20 x 8 1st Augmentation
- 20 x 8 2nd Augmentation
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- Indicative Substation

Data Sources:
NSW SS.
Aerial imagery: Nearmap (July 2024).
Project Area supplied by client.

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0 100 200 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:5,000 at A4
Project Number:	620.V31316
Date Drawn:	12-Mar-2025
Drawn by:	RB

SLR

Path: \\au.slr.local\Corporate\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.31316.00000 BESS Narrabri 3400\06 SLR Data\01 CADGIS\GIS\620V31316_Narrabri_BESS\620V31316_Narrabri_BESS.aprx\620V31316_F07_Indicative Site Layout

Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers

National Native Title Tribunal

Your assistance in providing information in the correct format will ensure that your search request is dealt with as efficiently as possible. **The completed form must accompany your emailed request.**

It may take up to three working days to provide you with your search results when you submit conventional search criteria (tenement or land parcel identifiers). It may take up to five working days for more complex or larger searches. The Tribunal will contact you if a result cannot be provided within this timeframe.

Parcel Identifiers

The NNTT uses the terminology and formatting of unique identifiers used in each state to uniquely identify a land parcel. Please identify land parcels using the formats below:

1. **Western Australia and Queensland** – use Lot on plan details (e.g. WA - 124/P098764 or QLD - 124DP98764).
2. **New South Wales** – use Lot/Section/Plan details (e.g. 124/7/DP258456 or 124//DP568954).
3. **Northern Territory** - use LAISKEY details (e.g. 695 1256 or 000 2568). The laiskey is a unique identifier for each parcel comprised of the location code, LTO code (derived from the survey plan) where applicable and the parcel number
4. **South Australia –** use Plan/Parcel ID (e.g. H529687AL125). Concatenation of Plan Type, Plan, Parcel Type and Parcel.
5. **Victoria -** use SPI (Standard Parcel Identifier) details (e.g. 1\PP2870 or 9E~\PP3306).

The Search Form

1. Specify only **one jurisdiction** (e.g. Queensland) and **one type of tenure** (e.g. mining tenement) per form.
2. You can add up to 20 separate tenements or parcels per search request. Enter one parcel identifier per form field. Do not use ranges such as lots 5 to 15 on Plan DP1486.
3. **For more than 20 parcels or tenements, please submit additional search requests or alternatively attach an Excel spreadsheet along with your completed search form**. List the parcel identifiers in the correct unique format (see above).
4. If your area of interest cannot be clearly identified from the search form, or is not held in NNTT datasets, we may instead provide search results for a surrounding local government area, or other suitable regional area

Disclaimers and additional notes in relation to timeframes, freehold land and cultural heritage in NSW are addressed on the Geospatial Searches homepage and these should be referred to prior to lodging your request.

If you have any further queries please contact GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au to discuss.

Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers

National Native Title Tribunal

1: Your details

Your name:			
Your company:			
E-mail address:		Phone:	
Your reference:		Your state:	
☐	*I have read and acknowledge the terms and conditions on the previous page.*		

2: Areas to be searched

Jurisdiction to be searched:		Tenure to be searched:	

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

Parcel 1:		Parcel 2:	
Parcel 3:		Parcel 4:	
Parcel 5:		Parcel 6:	
Parcel 7:		Parcel 8:	
Parcel 9:		Parcel 10:	
Parcel 11:		Parcel 12:	
Parcel 13:		Parcel 14:	
Parcel 15:		Parcel 16:	
Parcel 17:		Parcel 18:	
Parcel 19:		Parcel 20:	

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.

E-mail the completed form to GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

Outloo

606 - Narrabri ACHA - Agency notification - Aboriginal community consultation

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date Tue 18/03/2025 11:30
To her tage ailbox@ ment sw.go .au <h tag x@ .g
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

1 attachment (2 MB)
606_AgencyNot fication_V3_250318_ NS .pdf;

De NSW,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), n (9) ey ve, ri, e prop

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for th n. If yo are aw Aboriginal people or groups who you belie may wish to reg st, p e p contact details to irtus Heritage by 5:00p **Ap 2025**

If y ation ny q e prop ks,
p vag

ne/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
l: consultation@ rt he itage.co .au

ch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R AE O IS
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q nd;

Virtus Heritage
CONSUL ATION
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the addressee. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete this email. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this email. Virtus Heritage cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.



Outloo

606 - Narrabri ACHA - Agency notification - Aboriginal community consultation

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date Tue 18/03/2025 1:38
To cou cil@ arrabr .g .au <council@narrab w.g
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

1 attachment (2 MB)
606_AgencyNot fication_V3_250318_ Council.pdf;

De r C ncil,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), n (9) ey ve, ri, e prop

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p vag

ne/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
l: consultation@ rt he itage.co .au

ch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R A E O I S
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q nd;

Virtus Heritage
CONSUL ATION
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Outloo

606 - Narrabri ACHA - Agency notification - Aboriginal community consultation

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date Tue 18/03/2025 1:43
To ceo@na abrilalc <ceo@narrabrila c.co
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

1 attachment (2 MB)
606_AgencyNot fication_V3_250318_ LC.pdf;

De r CEO,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), n (9) ey ve, ri, e prop

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If y ation ny q e prop ks, p vag

ne/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
l: consultation@ rt he itage.co .au

Please note: I understand SLR/Enervest have had previous discussions with the LALC regarding this project; however, as the project is now considered SSD, Virtus Her tage is u dertaking consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NS 's *Aborig Cu He itage Consulta Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

ch,

Kate Mo ris *(she/ her)*
R
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q nd;

Virtus Heritage
CONSUL ATIO
Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

US G .CO U

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and territories o Australia e recog ise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, country and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete t is e a If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this ema rtus Heritage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising fro the use of t is e ail or attac ents

Outloo

606 - Narrabri ACHA - Agency notification - Aboriginal community consultation

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date Tue 18/03/2025 1:
To not icat s@nt orp .au <notificatio s@ rp
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

1 attachment (2 MB)
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De TS Corp,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), n (9) ey ve, ri, e prop

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If y ation ny q e prop ks,
p vag

ne/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
l: consultation@ rt he itage.co .au

ch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R AE O IS
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q nd;

Virtus Heritage
CONSUL ATION
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Outloo

606 - Narrabri ACHA - Geospatial form

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date Tue 18/03/2025 11:27
GeospatialSearch@N sp h@ >; tt@ .g
<nntt@NSW.gov.au
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

attac ents (3 MB)
sp (T).pdf; 6_Ag cy n_V3_ 8_N T.pdf;

al,

Please see attached the geospatial form for the below project.

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), n (9) ey ve, ri, e prop

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If y ation ny q e prop ks, p vag

ne/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
l: consultation@ rt he itage.co .au

Note:
I unde stand in NSW, the National Native Title Tribunal has undert ken steps to remove i he fo a list of sources fo fo ation about ndigenous groups develop e t areas

ch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R A E O I S
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q nd;

Virtus Heritage
CONSUL ATIO
Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

US G .CO U

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and territories o Australia e recog ise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, country and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete t is e a If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this ema rtus Heritage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising fro the use of t is e ail or attac ents

Outloo

606 - Narrabri ACHA - Agency notification - Aboriginal community consultation

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date Tue 18/03/2025 11:48
To admin.n hwest@ .gov.a <admin.nort st@ .g
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

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De ir/ ad m,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), n (9) ey ve, ri, e prop

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If y ation ny q e prop ks, p vag

ne/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
l: consultation@ rt he itage.co .au

Please note: I understand Hunter LLS do not have a full list of all of the relevant Aboriginal Tr Custodians that are within your project ea; ho ver, it is a requiremen for Virtus to conta accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aborig Cu He itage Consulta Req ire ents fo Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010)

ch,

Kate Mo ris *(she/ her)*
R
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q nd;

Virtus Heritage
CONSUL ATIO
Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

US G .CO U

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Outloo

606 - Narrabri ACHA - Agency notification - Aboriginal community consultation

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date Tue 18/03/2025 11:50
To aborigina wners@ a.nsw.g v.au <aborig s@ w.g
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

1 attachment (2 MB)
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De ir/ ad m,

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p vag

ne/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
l: consultation@ rt he itage.co .au

ch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R AE O IS
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q nd;

Virtus Heritage
CONSUL ATION
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Agency Responses

Outloo

Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) 41 Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri - Narrabri Shire LGA

From Barry Gunther <Barry.Gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au
Date hu 20/03/2025 15:15
is@ tag

2 chments (2 MB)
Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road, Reserve, Narrabri LGA.docx; 606_AgencyNotification_V3_250318_HNSW.pdf;

Hi Kate,

Please find attached the Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for Proposed Battery Energy Storage Syste (SS) Stoney Cree oad, Narrab arrab i S ire LG

reg

Barry Gunther
Aboriginal Senio Assess e t O fice
Heritage NSW
epartme t of C ate Change,
ergy,

w.g top tag

Locked bag 50
Parra atta S

o ing days onday to riday, 9:00a - 5:00p

I acknowledge the traditional custodians o he land and pay respects to lders past and pre ent. I a ackno ledge a rig ing
S Gove e t a is e

lease consider the e iro e t before p ing is e a

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritag
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 11:31 AM
To: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Stakeholder Request - ACH rop ry ergy rag Sy (SS) ey Road, Narrabri - Narrabri Shire LGA

De NSW,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), n (9) an ney ve, abri, he prop

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If y cation ha any q he prop ks, p avag

hone Fa : (02) 6676 435
n@ tag

h,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*

ARCHAEOLOGIST

A/ c (ons) rsity of Q nd;

tus e tage

CO SU IO

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and territories o Australia We recog ise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo it We pay ou respect to Elders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, country and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

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Outloo

Contact Details_ Aboriginal Community Consultation

From Rindy Maladeni <rindym@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Date Fri 21/03/2025 2:43
To Virtus Con ult <consulta n@vir tag om au
Cc Michelle Castles <michelleh@narrabri.nsw.gov.au>; Sharlee Bruce <sharleeb@narrabri.nsw.gov.au

Kate,

See belo he co tact details fo borig nal co u ity consultation, as requeste

Organisation: Narrabri Loca borig na Land Counc
Postcode: Narrabri 2390
Contact name: Lynn nda
Mobile: 0439924222
a : ceo@narra ila .co .a

Organisation: Aboriginal Heritage Officer, epa e t of C ate Change, nergy, he Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Postcode: Narrabri 2390
Contact name: Steven Booby
Mobile: 0437 306 303
Email: Steven.Booby@environment.nsw.gov.au

Organisation: Wahgunyah (Aboriginal Housing Organisation)
Postcode: Narrabri 2390
Mobile: 0488924197
a hac@bigpond.co

lease le e no if you have any questions

Kind Regards,
Rindy

Rindy Maladeni • VISITOR INFORMATION COORDINATOR
NARRABRI REGION VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
Address 103 Newell Highway, NARRABRI NSW 2390
Phone 02 6799 6760 | Toll Free 1800 659 931 | Mobile 0439 710 823
Email rindym@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Website explorenarrabriregion.com.au
#explorenarrabriregion @narrabriregion



Yaama - Welcome to Kamilaroi Country
We acknowledge the Kamilaroi People, the traditional custodians of the Kamilaroi Nation, we acknowledge their Elders past, present and future.
We also acknowledge peoples fro othe Nations nd Language groups ho have no ade he rrab Region their home.

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 11:38 AM
To: Council <Council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Narrabri ACHA Agency notification Aboriginal community consultation

De r C ncil,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), (9) ey e, ri, e prop

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for th n. If yo are a Aboriginal people or groups who you belie may wish to reg st, p e p contact details to irtus Heritage by 5:00p **Ap 2025**

If y ation ny q e prop ks,
p vag

Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 435
n@ tag

h,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*

ARCHAEOLOGIST

A/ c (hons) rsity of Q nd;

tus e itage

CO SU ION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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RE: SR25/400 - 606 - Narrabri ACHA - Geospatial form [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@ T.gov.au
Date Tue 18/03/2025 16:46
To Kate Mo ris <k.mo ris@ irtusheritage.com.au>
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Your ref: *606 Narrabri ACHA* **Our ref:** *SR25/400*

Dear Kate

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

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

0. Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications

   Register of Native Title Claims

   Native Title Determinations

3. Indigenous Land Use Agreements (Registered and notified)

Results for overlapping native title matters in NSW:

Feature	Tenure	Cadastre Data As At	Feature rea Sq	Overlapping Nat ve itle Feature				
				NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Sele
				_____	Go ero People	Applications (Schedule)	0.045	
				_____	op	Applicat (RNTC)		
156// 7549	O	16/0 2025	0 20	ile Nu be	Na e	Category	Overlap Area Sq m	% Sele
				NC2011/006	Gomeroi People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2014	
				_____	Go ero People	Applications (RNTC)	0 20	
				NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Sele
				_____	Go ero People	Applications (Schedule)	0 18	
				_____	op	Applicat (C)		

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

Regards,

Geospatial Searches
National Native Title Tribunal | Perth
Email: GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au **| www.nntt.gov.au**

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 11:28 AM

To: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>; nntt@NSW.gov.au
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: SR25/400 - 606 - Narrabri ACHA - Geospatial form

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Dea Nationa Native Title ribunal,

lease see attached the geospatial fo for the belo project

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy St rage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP75 44 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabr Substatio (Lot P50 189) and Stoney Cree Road Rese ve, Narrabri, NS he proposed works area is it the Narrab i S ire Counc Loca

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for con ultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification If you are aware o Aboriginal people or groups ho you believe may ish to register a interest, please provide their contact details to irtus tag by 0p **Ap**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Kate Morris or Julian Travaglia at

: (2) 6676
n@ tag

N
I e tep
ndigenous groups n development areas

ha ks so uch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland;

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

us Heritage is co itte to he sp it o ec nciliation a d ac dges boriginal a To es S t Isla r peoples as irs ustralians a he ra l C stodians o the s tes a te rito ies o lia e ecognis Tra itiona O ners he la ds we e pay o respect to ders past, prese emerging ma ta ing re, c try ir sp tual a historical c nections to la ds waters is e ny files trans itte re co ide te solely he use he a ressee If yo have ec his a e or, please notify e se elete his a If y are he de recipient, yo ay isclose, copy, o is rib the c te s o his ema irtus Heritage ca not accep esponsibility r any loss da age arising fro e use o his ema tta ts

Outloo

Gomeroi - ACHA Registration - Stoney Creek Road, Narrabri Substation, Stoney Creek Reserve Narrabri - 18 March 2025.

From NTSCORP Notifications <notifications@ntscorp.com.au
Date Wed 26/03/2025 2:00 PM
To Kat Mo <k.m is@ rtusheritage.com.au>
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; William Scott <wscott@ntscorp.com.au>; Harriet Roberts <hroberts@ntscorp.com.au

te,

k y r y

The Gomeroi Applicant acting on behalf of the Gomeroi People native title claim group are cultura knowledge holders for the project area and as such the Gomeroi Applicant wishes to register as a Registered Aboriginal Party s proj ug and assessment process.

The Relevant contact details are:

Gomeroi Applicant
c/- NTSCORP Limited
Level 1, 44-70 Rose
Redfern NSW 2016
Email: notifications@nt orp u , tt@ orp ts@ orp
Phone: (02) 9310 3188

Kind regards,

Zoe Robertson | Paralegal

ntscorp

NTSCORP proudly acknowledge that our office is situated on the country of the Gadigal People of the Dharug Nation. We also acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

f 02 9310 4177 | **t** 61 2 9310 3188 |
e zrobertson@ntscorp.com.au | **w** www.ntscorp.com.au
Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia



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From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 11:44 AM
To: NTSCORP Notifications <notifications@ntscorp.com.au>
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Narrabri ACHA Agency notification Aboriginal community consultation

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CAUTIO his email originated fro outside of the orga izatio Do not clic ks or open attac ents u less you cog

orp,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW . The proposed

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of rig l p op r g ups who you belie may reg st, p e p tag by 0p **Ap**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, p vag

Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thanks so much,

te o ris *(she/ her)*

CH EOLOGIST

BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland;

tag

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

ny lely If y or, p tify

If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag ep

sp lity ny ag ing



Outloo

Reply: 606 - Narrabri ACHA - Agency notification - Aboriginal community consultation

From Aboriginal Owners <aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au
Date ed 19/03/2025 10:35
n@ tag

2 a ments (MB)
606_AgencyNotification_V3_250318_ORALRA.pdf; 20250319-AO Search ACHA-Virtus Heritage-Stoney Creek Road Narrabri NSW-Narrabri LALC-AO Bulagaranda.pdf;

O FIC

Good ing ate

Please find attached the response from the Office of the Registrar, ALRA to your email and letter of 18 Marc 2025 regarding the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at 41 Stoney Creek Road Narrabri Substation nd Stoney Cree Road ese ab W, as pa t of a Ab rig l Cult ra Heritag Assessment (ACHA).

Kind regards

The Aboriginal Owners team
Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
T (02) 8575 1160 **E** aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au
.oralra nsw.gov.au

PO Box 787
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Working days Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT 1983 (NSW)

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the rig ing

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

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O FIC

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 11:50 AM
To: Aboriginal Owners <aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Narrabri ACHA - Agency notification - Aboriginal community consultation

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Virtus Heritage has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NS he propose works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area.

Please see attached letter for the formal notification for consultation to your organisation, including contact details and more detailed information for the notification. If you are aware of Aboriginal people or groups who you believe may wish to register an interest, please provide their tag by 0p **Ap**

If you would like to discuss this notification or have ny questions about the proposed wo ks, please contact Kate Morris or Julian Travaglia at

hone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
a : consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

ha ks so uch,

s *(he/ her)*

BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland;

Virtus Heritage

St, ing

(02) 6676 435

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT 1983 (NSW)

19 March 2025

By email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Kate Morris
Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
POTTSVILLE NSW 2489

Dear Kate

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at 41 Stoney Creek Road Narrabri Substation and Stoney Creek Road Reserve Narrabri NSW: request for list of potential Aboriginal stakeholders

We refer to your letter and email to this Office dated 18 March 2025 requesting contact information for Aboriginal organisations, stakeholders and/or people who may have cultural knowledge relevant to the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System development at 41 Stoney Creek Road Narrabri Substation and Stoney Creek Road Reserve Narrabri 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. The updated works you are proposing, and location are in proximity to an area for which there are Registered Aboriginal Owners: Bulagaranda (formerly known as Mt Yarrowyck).

We suggest you contact the Chairperson for Bulagaranda, Cheryl Kitchener on her email anaiwannation@gmail.com to ascertain whether the Board of Management is interested in the project.

The proposed development area falls within the boundaries of Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council. We suggest you contact Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council on the details provided below, as they may wish to participate or contribute.

Yours sincerely

KCarter

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

Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council
96 Barwan Street
NARRABRI NSW 2390
02 6792 4228

Advert

CLASSIFIEDS

LIKE US! THE COURIER

COURIER CLASSIFIEDS
Phone: 6792 1011; Fax: 6792 3476
Email: classifieds@nwcourier.com.au
Website: www.narrabricourier.com.au

FOR SALE

SPANLINE Rep in area next week. Patios, Rooms, Cladding, Carports. BL83737C. As on TV 6752 5633 www.spanline.com.au

GARAGE SALES

SATURDAY, April 5, 8:30am-12pm. 463 Kaputar Road, Narrabri. No early birds.

SATURDAY, April 5, 43 Whiting Drive. 8am to 3pm. Household goods, vintage chairs, bric-a-brac, toys. Cash only.

WANTED TO BUY

OLD wrist and pocket watches, old clocks, anything interesting, please run it by me. Call Mike Gunnedah/Narrabri 0437 987 634.

MEETING NOTICE

NARRABRI Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, at 6pm at the Narrabri RSL.

FOR HIRE

CAT Traxcavator
4 in 1 bucket, 16ft stick rake available for earth works, contours etc, clearing of pine trees and wattles.
Phone Stuart 0428 665 535.

MEETING NOTICE

Narrabri Garden Club
April Meeting
Wednesday, April 9

Scout Hall, Wukawa St, 10am
Morning Tea $5

Guest speaker:
Clare Felton-Taylor from Shire Council.
Bring a bloom & your mug.

Contact Sue 0459 629 190
Noeline 0427 922 340



Photographs taken by Courier staff can be ordered by phoning 6792 1011 or emailing classifieds@nwcourier.com.au



DEATH / FUNERAL NOTICE



WILLIAMS, Mary Susannah Rae. Late of Kaputar Rd, Narrabri, formerly of 'Mardi Gras', Maules Creek. Passed away peacefully at home on March 31, 2025. Aged 77 years.

Loving wife of Derek. Much loved mother and mother-in-law of Wendy, Mandy, Suellyn and Rohan. Devoted grandmother of Brendon, Bree, Karlie, Blake, Jack and Olivia. Much loved great grandmother of Angus and Liam.

Relatives and friends of the late Mary Williams are respectfully invited to attend her funeral service which will be held at Logan Funerals Chapel, Narrabri, with the service commencing at 11am on Monday, April 7, 2025.

Afterwards, to celebrate Mary's life, a gathering will be held at the Riverside Room at the Crossing Theatre, Narrabri.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Cancer Council.

In the caring hands of
Logan Funerals
Funeral Directors
of Narrabri and District
Phone 0429 937 847
Member of Funeral Directors Association of NSW.

PUBLIC NOTICE



For sale
Cardboard
is available from The Courier office - **4 sheets for $2** as well as a range of **greeting cards.**
Call in and have a look
60 Maitland Street, Narrabri

PUBLIC NOTICE

Aboriginal Heritage
ACHA for BESS developments at Narrabri, NSW

SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd proposes to undertake Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development at Stoney Creek, Narrabri, NSW. The proposed site is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area.

Virtus Heritage wishes to invite Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places within the Narrabri, NSW to register to be consulted as part of the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment/s (ACHA) and any further investigations. The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed in understanding Aboriginal people's views and concerns about the project; understand cultural values present in the area; and afford an opportunity 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 be involved in consultation.

To register your interest, please contact:
Kate Morris
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
(02) 6676 4354
consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

The proponent contact details are:
Julian Voller
Land and Planning Manager
Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
julian.voller@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

Registrations must be received by phone, writing, or email by ***5:00pm on 16 April 2025.***

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ecological Burn Notice

Please be advised that Whitehaven Coal will be undertaking Burn Preparation and cool season Ecological Burns on the following Biodiversity Properties: "Neranghi North", "Bimbooria", "Long Gully", "Greenwood" and "Nindethana" between April 7th and June 13th, 2025.

For further information, please contact Whitehaven Biodiversity on 0488 407 000.

Narrabri Rotary Markets

Behind No. 2 & 3 Ovals
Next Markets
Saturday, April 5, 2025

Local pottery • handcrafts • clothing • fruit & vegies • chickens & birds • hand-crafted jewellery • plants • local fundraising and so much more ...

For enquiries contact Joan Burrell-Melbourne on 0429 933 114

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

1080 FOX BAITING UNDERWAY

Australian Wildlife Conservancy carries out continuous 1080 fox baiting in the Pilliga State Conservation Area and the Gilgai section of Pilliga National Park. This applies from October 16, 2024 until April 15, 2025 .

Fox baits and Canid Pest Ejectors containing 1080 poison (sodium fluoroacetate) are laid across the entire state conservation area north of Railway Survey Road and west of Pickaxe Road.

Domestic pets, including dogs, are not permitted in national parks or reserves. All neighbours and visitors to the park must be aware that 1080 baits are lethal to domestic dogs and cats. We recommend that dogs in the area where baiting is underway be restrained or muzzled at all times. In the event of accidental poisoning, seek immediate veterinary assistance.

For more information, please contact the Australian Wildlife Conservancy on 02 6792 3613 or the NPWS Castlereagh area office on 02 6843 4000.

NSW GOVERNMENT SAVING OUR SPECIES



Invitation to register

VIRTUS HERITAGE

2nd April 2025

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Subject: Notification and Invitation to participate in Aboriginal community consultation for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System developments at Narrabri (NSW).

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The proposed works area is within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area.

As a part of this assessment, Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people according to Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010).

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to:

- Assist the proponent in understanding Aboriginal people's views and concerns (if any) about the project;
- Afford an opportunity 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 be involved in consultation so that information about cultural significance is provided to Heritage NSW for decision making;
- Provide 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 with the opportunity to participate in decision making about the management of their cultural heritage by providing the proponent information regarding cultural significance and feedback on management options;
- Understand cultural values present in the area; and
- Assist the Director-General of Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in his or her consideration of the determination of Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application/s (if required).

The assessment is proposed within the project works area defined within the map (Figure 1).

Virtus Heritage is seeking to identify Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and who may wish to register an interest. Those who choose to register will have the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal objects and the area/s.

PO Box 101, Pottsville NSW 2489
(02) 6676 4354
info@virtusheritage.com.au
ABN 56 159 910 228

VIRTUS HERITAGE

If you wish to register your interest to be consulted about this project, please provide your contact details to Virtus Heritage by 5:00pm Wednesday 16 April 2025.

Kate Morris
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

Details for registration of your interest in consultation need to be sent in writing or via email/fax and should include:

- If you are a cultural knowledge holder or have historical connection to the proposed works areas (In your response please stipulate your connection to country to meet the Heritage NSW consultation requirements);
- The name of the key contact person for your organisation or individual for all correspondence;
- If there is a representative representing a broader organisation – written nomination and endorsement of that representative from all represented parties/organisations;
- Their postal address;
- Telephone contact number (mobile and landline);
- Fax number; and
- Email address (where available).

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me on (02) 6676 4354

Sincerely,

Kate Morris

ARCHAEOLOGIST

BA/BSc Hons. (Archaeological Sciences), University of Queensland

Figure 1.

Outloo

606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Date ed 02/04/2025 15:00
To n@ tag
Cc
Bcc [redacted]

2 attachments (3 MB)
Figure 1. roject area and locality.pdf; 606_I vitatio to Register_General .pdf;

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Subst n (89) ney Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultati is proj ct, ing s p invitation.

If your organisation/family would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p We nes ay 16th Ap 2025** to n@ itag

If you would like to discuss this notifica any q e prop ks, p contact Kate Mo ris on (02) 6676 4354.

Tha k you,

Virtus Heritage
C O

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg rig r p op

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is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fide tial and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete t is e a If you are not the intended recipient, yo may not disclose, copy, or dis ribute the conte ts of this ema rtus He itage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising fro the use of t is e ail or attac ents

606

Australia Post

KINGSCLIFF LPO, 2487
ABN: 57117135789 WCC: 270158
Date: 02/04/2025, 14:45:42
Operator: amber
Till No: 00 Receipt No: 00/33733

TAX INVOICE	**65 items**
Postal Optional Extras (Dom)	x65 $0.00
Delivery Confirmation	x65 $191.75*
Subtotal	$191.75
Total	**$191.75**
*LPO supplied, price includes GST	
GST on LPO Taxable Supply:	$17.43
Amount tendered	
Card	$191.75

270158:74191749374356543

EFTPOS
406587######1097 (T) CREDIT ACCOUNT
EFTPOS Tender 191.75
TOTAL EFTPOS AUD$191.75
APPROVED 00 AUTH 390212
Visa Debit
AID A0000000031010
CAIC 320000012701580 PSN 01 ATC 00002
RRN 002513144616
02/04/25 14:46:16 270158 00/002513

Lodge your parcel at your local Post Office for tracking events including a lodgement scan.

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and enter details below
Or phone 1800 443 930

Outlet ID: 270158
Receipt Number: 0033733

Registrations

Outloo

Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Date Tue 15/04/2025 10:13
To
Bcc [redacted]

ttachme s (B)
Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf; 606_Invitation to Register_General .pdf;

Hello,
This is a reminder that if your family/organisatio would ike to register for this project to please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritag by **00p ay Ap** consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

k y u,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg rig r p op
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erging ing re, try sp

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From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:00 PM
To: Virtus Consu
Cc: Kate Morr s
Subject: 606 vitatio to Register r a Aborigina Cultura Heritag Assess ent (SSD), rr NS

eg rig rty,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enerves Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, (e proj ea; **Fig 1**)

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation f consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this

f y org n/family ould reg r co sultatio is proj ct, p ease p their
itag by **0p** **ay** **h Ap** n@ itag

If you would like to discuss thi any q e prop ks, p
Kate Mo ris on (02) 6676 435

Tha k you,

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Outloo

Re: Fw: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Date o 28/04/2025 3:25
ery n@g

Good afternoon Cheryl,
Thank you so much for your prompt reply, we under ope y f y
Monday. Thank you for your time and consideration!
st,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G E . C O U

irtus Heritage is co itte to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as he irst Australians and he raditiona Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recog ise he raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, prese and e erging ainta ing he culture, country and he r spiritual and istorical co nections to he lands and waters

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[redacted]

Sent: 28 April 2025 3:23 PM
o: V on@ tag .com
bj eg rig tag t (W

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the invitation to submit an expression of interest for consultation in the above project.

I am an Anaiwan Elder, Knowledge Holder and RAP within the Anaiwan Nation.

The Anaiwan Nation is located in the New England region, the Anaiwan Nation includes Glen Innes in the north, Bundarra in the west, Ebor in the East and Nowendoc in the South.

Narrabri is outside the Anaiwan Nation therefore I have no cultural attachment or cultural authority to speak about this Country.

Kind regards

[redacted]

On Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 3:09 PM Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

> Dear Cheryl,
>
> Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enerves Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Sign fica t Develop ent (SSD) at 41 Stoney Cree Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narra ri S n (L 89) ney ve, ri, NSW (the project area; **Figu 1**)
>
> Please see attached letter for the forma not fication and a vitation to register yo r organisatio fo consultati is proj ct, ing s p vitation.
>
> If your organisation/family would like registe for consultatio for this project, please provide the contact details to Virtus Heritage by **0p ay h Ap** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
>
> If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please n (02)
>
> k y u,
>
> **Virtus H tage**
> C O N S U I O N
>
> Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
> (02) 6676 4354
>
> U S G . C O U
>
> *irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia. e recog ise he Traditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, cou try and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters.*
>
> *This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the addressee. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete this email. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this email. Virtus Heritage cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.*

Outloo

Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

[redacted]

Date Mo 7/04/2025 9:5
To Virtus Con lta <consultat on@ tag
Cc Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

1 attachment (920 KB)
100000 43.jpg;

aa a Kate

IS SO CU TU LUES

AARON TALBOTT

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Good o ing Aaron,

Tha k you so muc fo registe ing. Would you like hard copies o reports and fo (and f so, what is the ling h y u) o y u p op

f y day

rs,

Virtus Heritage
C O

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg rig r p op
og e pay sp s p st, p
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is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete this ema If you are not the intended recipient, you ay not disclose, copy, or distribute he co tents of this e a irtus Heritage ca not accep responsibility for any loss or da age arising fro the use of this e ail or attac ents

[redacted]

Sent: 06 April 2025 6:42 PM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy is registering for the above mentioned project in Gomilaroi country. I have Traditional connection to the area. Narrabri was apart o great b tle between clan groups from Gunnedah and Wee W k p Narrab ea ing ve fork/split associated it lots o ate

eg

Aaron Talbott
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:00:12 PM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

eg rig rty,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enerves Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP50 189) and Stoney Cree Road Reserve, Narrabri, (e proj ea; **Fig 1**)

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation f consultatio for this project, including contact details and ore detailed fo matio as part of this

If your organisation/family would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Wednesday 16 h April 2025** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact n (02)

k y u,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G .C O U

irtus Heritage is co itte to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as he irst Australians and he raditiona Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recog ise he raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, prese and e erging ainta ing he culture, country and he r spiritual and istorical co nections to he lands and waters

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Outloo

Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

ttachme s (B)

Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf; 606_Invitation to Register_General .pdf;

Morning Bill,
Thank you so much for taking the time on the phone with me just now - con ing that we have registered you to consult for this ACHA process an op esp
Feel free to reach out with any questions,
Cheers
nya Graubard
rop log

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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From: Virtus Consultation <co sultation@ rtushe itage.co .au
Sent 15 Ap 2025 10:13 M

To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hello,
This is a reminder that if your family/organisati n would like to regis er for is proje o p e p the r contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o W es ay 16 Ap 25** to n@ itag

Tha k you,

ag

Virtus Heritage
C O N S U L T A T I O N

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

V I R T U S H E R I T A G E . C O M . A U

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ny lely If y or, p tify
If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag ep
sp lity ny ag ing

From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:0
To: Virtus Consultation
c: K s
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eg rig rty,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enerves Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP50 189) and Stoney Cree Road Reserve, Narrabri, (e proj ea; **Fig 1**)

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If your organisation/family would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Wednesday 16 h April 2025** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact n (02)

nk y u,

Image

Virtus H tage
C O N S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 SW
(02) 6676 4354

U S .C O U

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Outloo

Re: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

[redacted]

Date Tue 15/04/2025 6:5

n@ tag

That's great, thank you.

On Tue, 15 Apr 2025, 12:58 pm Virtus Consultation, <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au wrote:

Good afternoon Cindy,
Thank you so much for registering your interest for this project, we will send through more information in the coming e p any q
Cheers,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

V I R T U S H E R I T A G E . C O M . A U

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

ny lely If y or, p tify
If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag
ep sp ility ny ag ing

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: 15 April 2025 10:13 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hello,
This is a reminder that if your family/organisati n would like to regis er for this proje o p ase pr their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o W ne ay 16 Ap 2025** to n@ itag

Tha k you,

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, Apr l 2,
To: Virtus Consultatio
Cc: Kate Morris
bj eg rig tag t (D),

egis rigi arty,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enerves Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lo 1 DP50 189) and Stoney Cree Road Reserve, Narrabri, (e proj area; **Fig 1**)

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation f r consultatio for this project, including contact details and ore detailed i formatio as part of this i

If your organisation/family would like register for consultation for this project, p se p contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Wednesday 16 h April 2025** to n@ itag

If you would like to discuss this notificati any q e prop ks, p contact Kate Morris on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

ny lely If y or, p tify

If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag

ep sp ility ny ag ing

Outloo

Re: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Date [redacted]

Hi Diana,
Thank you for registering, would you like har op f proj o y u, so, the best mailing address for us to reach you?
rs,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

ny lely If y or, p tify
If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag ep
sp lity ny ag ing

[redacted]

Sent: 15 April 2025 10:22 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrab NSW

Good morning,

Could you register Girragirra Murun as a RAP for the below project please.

Kind Regards
Diana Astin
Girragirra Murun

Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer

On Tue, 15 Apr 2025 at 10:14 am, Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

> Hello,
> This is a reminder that if your family/organisati n would like to reg er for this proje o p e p the r contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o We ne ay Ap 2025** to n@ itag
>
> Tha k you,
>
> **Virtus Heritage**
> CONSULTATION
>
> Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
> (2)
>
> VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU
>
> *Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.*
>
> *This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the addressee. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete this email. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this email. Virtus Heritage cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.*
>
> ISO 9001 QUALITY Management System SOUTHPAC certifications
> ISO 45001 OHS Management System SOUTHPAC certifications
> ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENT Management System SOUTHPAC certifications
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Virtus Consultation
> **Sent:** Wednesday, Apr l 2,
> **To:** Virtus Consultatio
> **Cc:** Kate Morris
> **ubj c** eg rig tag t (D),
>
> Regi rigi rty,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Cree Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substa n (L 89) a ney Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**)

Please see attached letter for the formal not fication and a vitation to register your organisatio fo consultati is proj ct, ing c as pa vitation.

If your organisation/family would like registe for consultatio for this project, please provide the contact details to Virtus Heritage by **0p ay h Ap** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please c n (02)

k y u,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O

Suite 17/11-13 Pea l St, ingsc 48 S
(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

irtus Heritage is co itted to he spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges boriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irs Australians and the raditional Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recog ise he rad tional O ners of the lands we wo e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, country and the r spiritual a istorical co nections to he lands and waters

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Outloo

Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

ttachme s (B)

Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf; 606_Invitation to Register_General .pdf;

Dear Donna,

Thank you so muc fo registe ing your interes for this project, we w ll send through ore fo atio coming e p any q rs,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg rig r p op og e pay sp s p st, p erging ing re, try sp

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---

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: 15 April 2025 10:13 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hello,

This is a reminder that if your family/organisation would like to register for this project to please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritag by **00pm ay Ap** consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

nk y u,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg orig r p op

og e pay o sp s p st, p

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is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete this ema If you are not the intended recipient, you ay not disclose, copy, or distribute he co tents of this e a irtus Heritage ca not accep responsibility for any loss or da age arising fro the use of this e ail or attac ents

---

From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:00 PM
To: Virtus Consu
Cc: Kate Mor s
Subject: 606 vitatio to Registe r a Aborigina Cultura He itag Assess ent (SSD), NS

eg rig rty,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, (t e proj ea; **Fig 1**)

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation f consultation for this project, including contact details and more detailed information as part of this

If y org n/family would like register for consultation for this proj ct, p ease p their t d itag by **5:00pm on Wednesday 16 h April 2025** t n@ itag

f you would like to discuss this notificatio o have any questions about the proposed works, please contact n (02)

k y u,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg rig r p op

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is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete this ema If you are not the intended recipient, you ay not disclose, copy, or distribute he co tents of this e a irtus Heritage ca not accep responsibility for any loss or da age arising fro the use of this e ail or attac ents

Outloo

Re: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Morning David,

you like hard copi[redacted]

[redacted]vould you prefer emailed copies only?

rs,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

ny lely If y or, p tify If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag ep sp lity ny ag ing

---

[redacted]

Sent: 15 April 2025 11:19 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hi Virtus,it's David Horton gomery cultural consultants would like to register for the project please thankyou

On Tue, 15 Apr. 2025, 10:13 am Virtus Consultation, <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au wrote:

Hello,

This is a reminder that if your family/organisati n would like to regis er for this proje o p e p the r contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o W ne ay 16 Ap 2025** to n@ itag

Tha k you,

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 4

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From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, Apr l 2,
To: Virtus Consultatio
Cc: Kate Morris
bj Reg rig tag t (D),

eg rig rty,

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Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation f consultatio for this project, including contact details and ore detailed fo matio as part of this

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If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please n (02)

nk y u,

Virtus H tage
C O N S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G .C O U

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recog ise he Traditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, cou try and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

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Outloo

Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Good morning David,

[redacted]u like hard copies of repor[redacted]
[redacted]r do you prefer emailed copies?

Have a beautiful rest of your Thursday!

rs,

Virtus H tage

C O S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW

(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

irtus Heritage is co itte to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as he irst Australians and he raditiona Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recog ise he raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, prese and e erging ainta ing he culture, country and he r spiritual and istorical co nections to he lands and waters

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[redacted]

Sent: 02 April 2025 4:49 PM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hi Virtus,it's David Horton gomery cultural consultants would like to register for the project please thankyou

On Wed, 2 Apr. 2025, 3:00 pm Virtus Consultation, <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au wrote

Dea Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Sign fica t Develop ent (SSD) at 41 Stoney Cree Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri S on (Lot 89) toney ve, bri, NSW (the project area; **Figu 1**)

Please see attached letter for the forma not fication and a vitation to register yo r organisatio fo consultatio is proj ct, ding s p vitation.

If your organisation/family would like registe for consultatio for this project, please provide the contact details to Virtus Heritage by **0p ay h Ap** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please on (02)

k you,

Image

Virtus H tage
C O N S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

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Outloo

Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

[redacted]

Date Thu 3/04/2025 2:38
To Virtus Con lta <consultat on@ tag
Cc Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Hi,

Thank you,

Email copies are fine,

Have a deadly day,

Cheers
Cory

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Good afternoon Cory,
Thank you so much for registering. Would you like hard copies of reports and info (and if so, what is the
ling h y u) o y u p op

f y day

rs,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G .C O U

irtus Heritage is co itte to the spirit o reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as he irst Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recognise he raditional Owners of the lands we wo k wit e pay ou respect to lders past, presen

and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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sp lity ny l ag ing

[redacted]

Sent: 03 April 2025 12:05 PM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hi,

I would like to register for this project along with my Father Allan McKenzie and Brother Allan McKenzie.

[redacted]

Thank You
Cory

From: Virtus Consultation <co sultation@ rtushe itage.co .au
Sent: 02 April 2025 12:00
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage .a
Cc: Kate Mor <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 itatio Regis r a Aborigina Cu ritage ssess e t (SSD), rra NS

eg rig rty,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enerves Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP50 189) and Stoney Cree Road Reserve, Narrabri, (e proj ea; **Fig 1**)

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation f consultatio for this project, including contact details and ore detailed fo matio as part of this

If your organisation/family would ike register for consultatio for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o We nes ay 16th Ap 2025** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

f you would like to discuss this notificatio o have any questions about the proposed works, please contact n (02)

k y u,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

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Outloo

Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

ttachme s (B)

Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf; 606_Invitation to Register_General .pdf;

Good morning Aliethea,
Thanks so much for your time just now have registered Guda irgingira Aboriginal Corporatio for this project, and have le e proj nag t y ugh e prop any field dates planned
Hope you have f y day,
nya Graubard
rop log

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

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From: Virtus Consultation <co sultation@ rtushe itage.co .au
Sent 15 Ap 2025 10 13 M

To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hello,
This is a reminder that if your family/organisati n would like to regis er for is proje o p e p the r contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o W es ay 16 Ap 25** to n@ itag

Tha k you,

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 66

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From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, April 2,
To: Virtus Consultation
Cc: Kate Morris
bj eg orig tag nt (D),

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP75494 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri S n (89) ey ve, ri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for is proj ct, ing s p

vitatio

If your organisation/family would ike register for consultatio for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **0p** **ay** **h Ap** to consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

If you would like to discuss this any qu e prop rks, p Kate Morris on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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ny lely If y or, p tify

If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag ep

sp lity ny ag ing

Outloo

Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

ttachme s (B)

Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf; 606_Invitation to Register_General .pdf;

Good afternoon Jeremy,
Thank you so muc fo registe ing your interes for this project, we w ll send through ore fo atio
the coming e p any q
Cheers,

Virtus Heritage

N

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg rig r p op

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: 15 April 2025 10:13 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hello,
This is a reminder that if your family/organisati n would like to regis er for is proje o p ase pr their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o W es ay 16 Ap 25** to n@ ritag

Tha k you,

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

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From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, Apr 2,
To: Virtus Consultatio
Cc: Kate Morris
bj eg rig tag t (D),

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

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If you would like to discuss this n any q e prop ks, p t Kate Morris on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

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ny lely If y or, p tify

If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag ep

sp lity ny ag ing

Outloo

Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Good morning Natasha,

[redacted] copies of reports and info
or do you prefer emailed
op

f y day

rs,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

irtus Heritage is co itte to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as he irst Australians and he raditiona Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recog ise he raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, prese and e erging ainta ing he culture, country and he r spiritual and istorical co nections to he lands and waters

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[redacted]

Sent: 04 April 2025 3:56 PM
o: V ltation@ itage
bj eg rig tag t (D),

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my k n interest in the project and would appreciate the opportunity to participate. Please contact m[redacted]via email or by phone at 0402 343 984.

A itionally, my mother, Yvonne Rodgers, has also expressed interes[redacted]
99[redacted]I will ensure she receives all relevant project updates.

Sincerely,

Natasha Rodgers aka long

-------- Original message --------
From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Date: 2/4/25 2:00 pm (GMT+10:00)
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Dea Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Sign fica t Development (SSD) at 1 Stoney Cree Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri S n (89) ney ve, ri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the forma not fication and a vitation to register your organisatio fo consulta is proj ct, ing s p vitatio

If your organisation/family would like registe for consultatio for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **0pm ay h Ap** to consultation@ irtusheritage.co .a

If you would like to discuss this any q e prop ks, p Kate Morris on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,

ag **Virtus Heritage**

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

V I R T U S H E R I T A G E . C O M . A U

tag sp dg rig r p op
og e pay sp s p st, p
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Outloo

Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

ill,

Thank you for your email, yes, this group was registered during the agency notifications stage.

This is just the formal 'invitation to register' letters that were sent to all pot identified by he agencies, b we ave registered this group, my apologies

ch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
A/ c(ons) rsity of Q nd;

o ris@ irtusheritage.co .au

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(2)

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Friday
We value flexible working hours, but don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your own
ing ky

[redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, 2 April 2025 16:24
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>; NTSCORP Notifications <notifications@ntscorp.com.au>
Subject: RE: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Dea ate,

We note that the Gomeroi Applicant acting on behalf of the Gomeroi People native tit e cla m g oup ave a eady expressed their interest in registering as a Registered Aboriginal Party for this project.

[redacted]

Kind regards,

tt |

ntscorp

[redacted]



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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@ tag
Sent: Wednesday, 2 April 2025 3:00 PM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritag
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
bj eg orig tag t (D), W

CAUTIO his email originated fro outside of the orga izatio Do not clic ks or open attac ents u less you cog

Dea Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Sign fica t Development (SSD) at 1 Stoney Cree Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri S n (89) ney ve, ri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the forma not fication and a vitation to register your organisatio fo consulta is proj ct, ing s p vitatio

If your organisation/family would ike registe for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **0p ay h Apr** to consultation@ irtusheritage.co .a

If you would like to discuss thi any q e prop ks, p Kate Mo ris on (02) 6676 435

Tha k you,

tus e tage

St, ing

(02)

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Outloo

Re: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

[redacted]

Date ed 16/04/2025 8:33

n@ tag

Hi m [redacted]

Regards
Ray Moon
Wingarra Wilay

Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer

On Tue, 15 Apr 2025 at 11:53 am, Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

> Good morning Ray,
> Thank you so much for registering. Would you like hard copies f proje rep to you (and if so what is the best address for us to reach you?)
> eers,
>
> **Virtus H tage**
> C O S U I O
>
> Suite 17/11-13 Pea l St, ingsc 48 S
> (02) 6676 4354
>
> **U S G . C O U**
>
> *irtus eritage is co itted to he spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges boriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Firs Australians and the raditional Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia. We recog ise he rad tional O ners of the lands we wo . We pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, country and the r spiritual a istorical co nections to he lands and waters.*
>
> *This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the addressee. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete this email. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this email. Virtus Heritage cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.*

[redacted]

Sent: 15 April 2025 11:45 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Good o ing,

Could you please registe ingarra ilay as a fo is project

If you require anyt ing further, please don't hesitate to co tac e

Reg rds
Ray oo

On Tuesday 15 April 2025 at 10:14:03 am AEST, Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Hello,
This is a reminder that if your family/organisation would like to register for this project to please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritag by **0p ay Ap** consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the ad Cu od of tes and rri es ali e r ognise th ditional O of e l nds w w w hin e pay sp past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, country and the r spiritual a istorical co nections to he lands and waters

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---

From: Virtus Consultation
day, Ap l 2, 2 M

To: Virtus Consul on
Cc: Kate Morris
Subject: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabr

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Subst n (89) ney Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**)

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultati is proj ct, ing s p invitation.

If your organisation/family would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o We nes ay 16th Ap 2025** to n@ itag

If you would like to discuss this notific any q e prop ks, p contact Kate Mo ris on (02) 6676 435

Tha k you,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 t, ing
(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

tus eritage is c itte to th spirit o reco ation and dges Aborig al a Tor ait Islan er p op the d th raditional Custodians of the states and territories o Australia e recognise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo w hin e pay ou respect to lders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

his em d ny files transm ith i fiden ial a d inte ded olely se of th . If you have eived s em ror, please notify the sender and delete this ema If you are not the intended recipient, you ay not disclose, copy, or distribute the co tents o his ema irtus He itage cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.

Outloo

Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Dat
To [redacted]
Cc Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you so much, Stephen. We have registered you o this project and w ll be n touc w ore information in the coming weeks.
Have a lovely rest of yo r Wednesday

rs,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

v

tag sp dg rig r p op
og e pay sp s p st, p
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---

[redacted]

Sent: 02 April 2025 3:21 PM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hi I would like to put my EOI IN

[redacted]

On Wed, 2 Apr 2025, 3:00 pm Virtus Consultation, <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au wrote:

Dea Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enerves Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Sign fica t Develop ent (SSD) at 1 Stoney Cree Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narra ri S n (L 89) ney ve, ri, NSW (the project area; **Figu 1**)

Please see attached letter for the forma not fication and a vitation to register yo r organisatio fo consultati is proj ct, ing s p vitation.

If your organisation/family would like registe for consultatio for this project, please provide the contact details to Virtus Heritage by **0p ay h Ap** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please n (02)

k y u,

Virtus H tage
C O N S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia. We recog ise he Traditional O ners of the lands we wo it . We pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, cou try and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters.

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Outloo

Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

ttachme s (B)

Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf; 606_Invitation to Register_General .pdf;

Good morning Steven,
Thanks so muc for chat ing with me just now - co ing your registration for the CH at Narrabri, and that you'd like op esp o y r y ng emailed copies.
If you any q is proj ut,
Cheers,
Anya raubard
Se io nt ropologis

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg rig r p op

og e pay sp s p st, p

erging ing re, try sp

is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete this ema If you are not the intended recipient, you ay not disclose, copy, or distribute he co tents of this e a irtus Heritage ca not accep responsibility for any loss or da age arising fro the use of this e ail or attac ents

From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: 15 April 2025 10:13 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Fw: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Hello,
This is a reminder that if your family/organisati n would like to regis er for is proje o p e p the r contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o W es ay 16 Ap 25** to n@ itag

Tha k you,

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

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From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, Apr 2,
To: Virtus Consultatio
Cc: Kate Morris
bj eg orig tag t (D),

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP75494 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri S n (89) ey ve, ri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the forma not fication and a vitation to register your organisatio for consulta o is proj ct, ding s p vitatio

If your organisation/family would ike register for consultatio for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5 0p ay h Ap 5** to consultation@ irtusheritage.com.a

If you would like to discuss this any q e propo orks, p Kate Morris on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

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T ny lely If y or, p tify

If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag ep

sp lity ny ag ing

Outloo

Fw: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

ttachme s (B)

Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf; 606_Invitation to Register_General .pdf;

eryl,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enerves Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP7549 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Cree Road Reserve, Narrabri, (e proj ea; **Fig 1**)

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation f consultatio for this project, including contact details and ore detailed fo matio as part of this

If your organisation/family would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Wednesday 16 h April 2025** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact n (02)

k y u,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G .C O U

irtus Heritage is co itte to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as he First Australians and he raditiona Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia. e recog ise he raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, prese and e erging ainta ing he culture, country and he r spiritual and istorical co nections to he lands and waters.

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Outloo

Re: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Good afternoon Cheryl,
If you could pleas at y if y reg ing project, thank you
st,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O N

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

irtus Heritage is co itte to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as he irst Australians and he raditiona Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recog ise he raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, prese and e erging ainta ing he culture, country and he r spiritual and istorical co nections to he lands and waters

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n@ tag

[redacted]

bj eg rig tag t (D),

Dear Cheryl,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP75494 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri S n (89) ey ve, N ri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**).

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If you would like to discuss this any q e propo orks, p Kate Morris on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

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T ny lely If y or, p tify

If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag ep

sp lity ny ag ing

Outloo

Re: 606 - Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

[redacted]

a gorge f y k,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O N

Suite 17/11-13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

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[redacted]

Sent: 09 April 2025 12:12 PM
o: V ation n@v tag om.au
bj eg rig tag t (SSD),

Hi Kate

On 2 Apr 2025, at 3:01 pm, Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this proj ct, ing information as part of this invitation

If your organisation/family would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00p o W es ay 16th Ap 2025** to n@ itag

If you would like to discuss this notification o any q e prop ks, please contact Kate Mo ris on (02) 6676 4354.

Tha k you,

<Outlook-Image.png>

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(2)

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Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

ny lely If y
or, p tify If y cip nt, y ay e, opy,
tag ep sp lity ny ag ing

<Outlook-dq4byjai.png>
<Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf>
<606_Invitation to Register_General .pdf>

Re: 606 - REMINDER- Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

[redacted]

Date Tue 15/04/2025 12:10 PM

To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Hi Anya

Thank you and yes please.

Have a great week.

Kind regards

Thomas D

On 15 Apr 2025, at 10:21 am, Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au wrote:

[redacted]

is email alright?
Cheers,
Anya Graubard

<Outlook-Image.png>

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(2)

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<Outlook-wrtqvsb5.png

[redacted]

Sent: 15 April 2025 10:18 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject : 60 vitatio to Regis fo borig Cultura He itag Assess e (D),

[redacted]

On 15 Apr 2025, at 10:14 am, Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

Hello,
This is a reminder that if your family/organisation would like to register for this project to please prov de their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **00p We nesday 16 Ap 2025** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.a

Thank you,

<Outlook-Image.png **Virtus Heritage**
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(2)

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<Outlook-vzpgnacc.png

From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, Ap 2,
To: Virtus Consu
Cc: Kate Morris
Subject: 606 - Invitation to Register for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (SSD), Narrabri NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (Virtus Heritage) has been engaged by SLR Co ing on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Sta Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502 89) ey Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1**).

Please see attached letter for the formal notification and an invitation to register your organisation for consultation for this project, including contact details and e d as p his

If your organisation/family would like register for consultation for this project, please provide their contact details to Virtus Heritage by **5:00pm on Wednesday th Ap 5** to consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this notification or have any questio proposed works, please contact Kate Morris on (02) 6676 4354.

Thank you,

<Outlook-Image.png

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

tag sp dg rig r p op ogn

Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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<Outlook-dq4byjai.png>
<Figure 1. Project area and locality.pdf>
<606_Invitation to Register_General .pd

HNSW and LALC RAP list Notification

Outloo

Request #49742 has been updated: 606 - Registered Aboriginal Parties - ACHA in Narrabri NSW Notification to HNSW

From Anna Preize (Heritage NSW) <support@zendesk.environment.nsw.gov.au
Date ed 23/04/2025 4:
n@ tag

Your request has been updated. To add additional comments, reply to this email.
Dear Virtus Team

Thank you for your email. This information has been placed on file. A member of the Assessment Team will co tact you rthe fo atio is require

Your reference: DOC25/331846

Anna Preize
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
T: 02 9873 8500 E: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au
https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage
Locked Bag 5020, NSW 2124
Monday to Friday, 09:00am - 05:00pm

ebsite | Facebook | Instagra | ked

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and seas upon which we work, walk and live and pay respects to Elders past present and emerging.
Please consider the environment before printing this email.

his e a l is a se ice fro eritage NS . De vered by Zendes

On 23 April 2025 at 6:04:28 am UTC, Simmone Horton support@zendesk.environment.nsw.gov.au wrote:

> Your request has been updated. To add additional comments, reply to this email.
> Dear Virtus Team,
>
> Thank you for your email regarding RAPS for your Narrabri project.
>
> Your request has been forwarded to our assessments team who will contact you with a response.
>
> If you'd like to provide further information in the meantime, or have any other question relating to this matter, please respond to this email.
>
> nd Regards,
>
> Simmone Horton
> Heritage NSW
> Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
> T: 02 9873 8500 E: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au
> https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage
> Locked Bag 5020, NSW 2124
> Monday to Friday, 09:00am - 05:00pm
>
> Website | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn
>
> We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and seas upon which we work, walk and live and pay respects to Elders past present and emerging.
> Please consider the environment before printing this email.
>
> tag by _____

On 23 April 2025 at 4:03:10 am UTC, Virtus Consultation consultation@virtusheritage.com.au wrote:

> itag W,
>
> Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The proposed works area is
>
> This email provides formal notification to the Department and Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council as per the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Aboriginal consultation requirements for proponents (ACHRs), Section 4.1.6, that **17 parties (including NLALC)** have registered to date for Aboriginal consultation fo is proj ct, ing 2 p not want their details to be shared (highlighted in yellow below).

Stephen Matthews	Stephen Matthews
Gomeroi Applicant c/ SCOR Lim d	Gomero App
Gomery Cultural Consultants	David Horto
Goog	Cory McKenzie Allan McKenzie, S ie, J
ncy	

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	irp Ly
Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Enviro me t and Wate (DC W)	Steven Booby
Winga ra ilay orig orpo on	Raymond
Bill Trewlynn	Bill Trewly
Guda Birgingira Aboriginal Corporation	Aliethea Cutmore
Ci dy Foley	Ci dy Foley
Do a Moo	Do a Moo
Jeremy D nca	Jeremy D nca

We have also attached, as per ACHRs Section 4.1.3, a copy of the Invitation to Register (see example ed) s RAPs a opy o e p t (s ed) p
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Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to

Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information.
If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately.
Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sende expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the NSW Office of Environment, Energy and Science.
PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL
[P2WJ09-V15MK]
[P2WJ09-V15MK]

Outloo

606 - Registered Aboriginal Parties - ACHA in Narrabri NSW - Notification to NLALC

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Date ed 23/04/2025 2:0
To ceo@na bril lc.co u <ceo@na rab >
Cc Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au>; Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

2 attachments (817 KB)
tearsheet20250403.pdf; 606_ vitatio to Register_General .pdf;

Dear Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council,

Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter, "Virtus Heritage") has been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944 and Lot 4 DP773018), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) an Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The proposed wo ks area is w the Narrab i S ire Counc

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Gomeroi Applicant c/- NTSCORP Limited	Gomero Applica
Gomery Cultural Consultants	David Horton
og	Cory McKenzie lla McKenzie, S ie, J
AT Gomilaro ncy	Aa on Talbot
Natasha Rodgers	Natasha Rodgers
REDACTED	REDACTED
REDACTED	
Girragirra Murun Aboriginal orp	Diana A
Narrabri LALC	Chairpe Ly Trindall
Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Depa nt ange, ergy,	Steve Booby

E iro e t and Water (DCCEEW)	
Winga ra Wilay rig orp	Raym nd
Bill Trewly n	Bill Trewly
Guda Birgingira Aboriginal Corporation	Aliethea Cutmore
Ci dy Foley	C dy Foley
D a M	D a M
Jeremy D nca	Jeremy Dunca

We have also attached, as per ACHRs Section 4.1.3, a copy of the Invitation to Register (see example a ed) RAPs a d a copy e p t (ed) p rd Ap

Please contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

Thank you,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

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Stage 2 – Presentation of information about the proposed project

Proposed project information and proposed project methodology and survey strategy

Outloo

606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

From Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Date ed 07/05/2025 13:05
To is@ tag
Cc
Bcc [redacted]

2 a en s (10 MB)
606_PresentationofProjectInformation_v2_250506.pdf; 606_DraftProjectMethodology&SurveyStrategy_v2_250506.pdf;

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Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Cree Road ve, ri, (e proj ea; **Fig** **nts**)

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage have been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the CH . Please see the attached Presentatio of Projec fo matio vey roj logy r y

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review th draft su vey strategy and projec methodology for the ACH and provide co ment and input. The ing **ay 6 J** **00p**

e provide your written or verb
Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fa : (02) 6676 4354
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Thank you,

Virtus Heritage
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Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
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Outloo

Fw: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date ed 07/05/2025 13:49
To is@ tag
Cc
Bc [redacted]

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Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,

Virtu itage
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Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
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Please note: I value your time an ill resp uring my s rd w ing hours: 9 day to Fr ay. We value fle working rs, exp t y d, r resp f y r o wor ing hours kyou

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From: Virtus Cons ltation
Sent: Wednesday, ay 7,
To: Kate Morris
Cc: Anya Graubard
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eg rig rty,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Cree Road ve, ri, (e proj ea; **Fig ts**)

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Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review th draft su vey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide co ment and input. The ing **Friday 6 June 2025 at 5:00pm**

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fa : (02) 6676 4354
n@ itag

k y u,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 435

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irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal a Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians o he states and territories o Australia e recog ise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging i aintai ing the culture, cou try and their spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

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VIRTUS HERITAGE

7 May 2025

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Subject: Draft Survey Strategy and Project Methodology for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System at Narrabri (NSW).

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest for a proposed State Significant Development (SSD) of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The proposed BESS is located at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1).

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage Pty Limited (hereafter Virtus Heritage) has been engaged to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment, as part of Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements SEARs (SSD- 75680468, issued 14 October 2024). Virtus Heritage is undertaking consultation with Aboriginal people in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponent*s (DECCW, 2010). This presentation of the draft survey strategy and project methodology for your comment is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.3, Stage 3 of these requirements.

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposal site is within the Narrabri LGA (Figure 1, hereafter referred to as the 'project area') and includes ground surface disturbances associated with the construction of a BESS and connection into the existing Narrabri 132/66kV Substation (Lot 1 DP502189), including construction of an overhead or underground 132kV transmission line. Bulk excavation may be required in areas.

Works for the Narrabri BESS site are currently in the planning stage therefore the impacts here are indicative of the final impacts. The proponent proposes to use the location for a 125MW/1000MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The proposed development includes the following:

- Battery Containers
- Inverters
- Control room and 33kV switchgear
- Auxiliary transformers and associated Low Voltage (LV) cabling
- 132/33kV Main HV Transformer
- Harmonic Filter
- Building Structures including Operation and Maintenance shed, storage shed
- Internal access road
- Fence, gates and lighting
- High voltage steel poles and cabling
- On site substation
- Fire Safety Systems

PO Box 101, Pottsville NSW 2489
(02) 6676 4354
info@virtusheritage.com.au
ABN 56 159 910 228

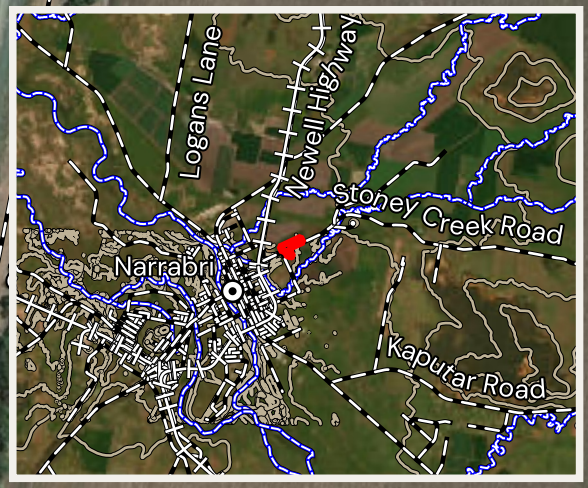
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The development includes the associated upgrades and connection into the Narrabri 132/66kV Substation, including construction of an overhead or underground 132kV transmission line to facilitate the connection.

The general location of the BESS footprint is in the south eastern corner of Lot 156 DP754944 and is a irregular rectangular shape. The northern boundary is approximately 247m in length, while the southern boundary is 296m, eastern boundary 145m and western boundary 149m (Figure 1).

The wider area around the preferred BESS site location is also being assessed as Enervest would like the footprint flexibility within the site, if there are any constraints identified within their preferred location.

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Stoney Creek Road

Stoney Creek Road

Goldman Street

Horsearm Creek

VIRTUS HERITAGE

606 Stoney Creek BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Antonella Skepasianos
Date: 06/05/2025
Scale: 1:5000 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Roads
- Railway
- Contours
- Named Watercourse
- Cities and Towns

N

0 50 100 150 200 250 m

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

The project area is situated within the traditional lands of the Gomeroi (also known as Gamilaroi, Gamilaraay, Kamilaroi, Kamillaroi), who occupied the land for thousands of years.

The Liverpool Plains region was identified by colonists in 1817 during a survey by John Oxley, Surveyor General of NSW. By the 1830s, the Liverpool Plains region had been encroached upon by colonists who used the land for sheep and cattle grazing through to the 1880s (NPWS 2003). By 1871, Narrabri's population was 350 and the town included stores, inns, a bank and school. The railway reached the town in 1882, and Narrabri became an official municipality the following year, when a courthouse was also built (NSW HO and DUAP 1996: 84).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

This section of the draft project methodology provides a summary of known Aboriginal archaeological sites within the proposal site, a review of previous archaeological research for the region and provides a predictive model for site types within the proposed proposal site.

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System is a database of registered Aboriginal sites within NSW, administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). An extensive search was conducted on the AHIMS register on 24 February 2025, encompassing the project area. The search covered the area datum: GDA Zone 55, Eastings: 764187-774187, Northings: 6637996- 6647996 (with nil buffer). A total of 23 valid Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects were listed within the search area.

The results of the search are summarised below in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of AHIMS Features

Site Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Scarred Tree	12	53%
Isolated Find	7	31%
Open Camp Site	2	8%
Scarred Tree and Artefact Scatter	1	4%
Burial/s	1	4%
Total	**23**	**100%**

The most common site type within the searched area is scarred trees, which accounts for over half of the recorded sites (53%). The next most common are isolated finds and open camp sites. The closest sites to the project area are a scar tree with artefact (Collins Park site 2 artefacts ,AHIMS ID #19-3-0133)

and isolated find (Collins Park site 1 artefact ,AHIMS ID #19-3-0136), located approximately 1 km to the southwest of the Project Area.

No recorded sites are located within the Project Area.

REGIONAL OCCUPATION

There have been limited archaeological surveys and excavations conducted within the broader Narrabri/Liverpool Plains region. Although limited in number, these assessments continue to contribute to our understanding of the nature of Aboriginal occupation. One of the most relevant previous studies in the region includes the Virtus Heritage DD in 2023 and the OzArk Aboriginal impact assessment in 2019.

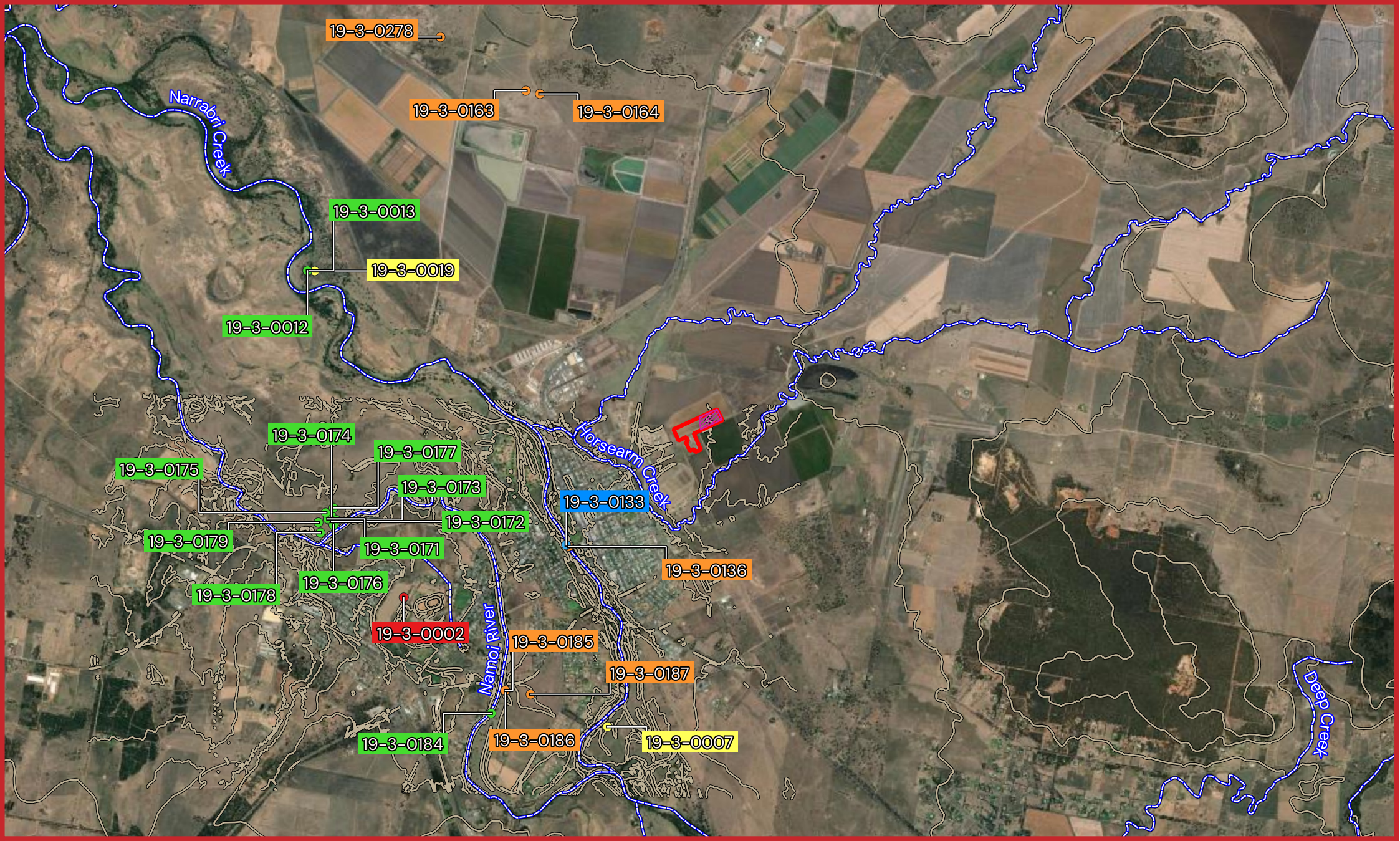
The DD survey over the current project area identified no Aboriginal objects or PAD (Virtus 2023). The northern portion of the project area, north of the proposed BESS location, consisted of a disturbed agricultural field with deep furrow lines within the clay. RAPs acknowledged that no Aboriginal objects had been observed in the surveyed areas, however, they could not say the same for the unsurveyed areas (Virtus 2023). It was determined that the surveyed areas had low potential to contain archaeological materials or deposits, put the inspection was only a partial survey.

OzArk's (2019) study elated to a proposed solar farm approximately 4km north of the project area. The 450ha study area consisted of two areas, the solar farm and the transmission line easement consisting of primarily of existing road corridors and electricity easements. The existing road corridors surveyed for the project currently bound our Project area, however the study area did not include the current Project area.

During the survey two Aboriginal sites were recorded within the solar farm area (OzArk 2019). These two sites were identified as Silverleaf-IF-1 (AHIMS # 19-3-0163) and Sliverleaf-IF-2 (AHIMS # 19-3-0164). Silverleaf-IF-1 consisted of a single silcrete proximal flake fragment located 780 m east of Logans Lane, south of a large artificial drainage line. Silverleaf-IF-2 consisted of a single quartzite proximal flake fragment located within a grazing paddock 970 m east of Logans Lane, north of a large artificial drainage line.

Both of the isolated artefacts were located in disturbed contexts without subsurface deposits. OzArk (2019) determined that there was a low potential for further sites and subsurface deposit to be located within the remainder of the study area.

The nearest dated location to the Project area is located 83 km to the southeast at Lime Springs dated to 19,300+/-500 BP from a swamp located south of Gunnedah containing both artefacts and megafauna. Excavations of a 7 m long trench contained cultural materials including 5218 fragments of bone (including *Diprotodon, Macropus titan, Protemnodon sp. and Procoptodon sp.*) and extant species were recovered in conjunction with 1988 artefacts. The artefacts could be divided into two assemblages, a lower one dominated by siliceous rocks and being amorphous in composition, and an upper assemblage characterised as Kartan (including large horsehoof cores and scrapers) and dominated by tuff. The authors identify the finds as a demonstrating human-megafauna interactions in the Liverpool Plain Region" (Gorecki et al., 1984).



VIRTUS HERITAGE

606 Stoney Creek BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 2. AHIMS Site Locations

Author: Antonella Skepasianos
Date: 06/05/2025
Scale: 1:60000 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Contours
- Named Watercourse

AHIMS Site Types

- Burial/s
- Isolated Find
- Open Camp Site
- Scarred Tree
- Scarred Tree and Art

N

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

PREDICTIVE MODEL

Based on the known archaeological, environmental and landscape context of the locality, a predictive model for evidence of Aboriginal occupation for the proposal site is presented below:

Scarred trees and carved trees contain evidence of scars and carved patterns which can be attributed to Aboriginal cultural use. Scarred trees include the removal of bark from the trunk of the tree (usually with a stone axe) to make shields, canoes, implements and other types of items which leave a wound on the tree trunk. Carved trees contain carved patterns on the tree trunk and are often found in association with ceremonial grounds, burials or cultural sites.

While this is the most common site type in the searched area, due to the level of past vegetation clearance, there is low potential for this site type to be found in the Project area.

Middens are the accumulation of debris from fish, crustaceans and other shell fish (shells, fish bones) consumed as part of Aboriginal people's diet. Middens also often contain charcoal, stone artefacts, bone and other types of material used by Aboriginal people. Middens often occur within close proximity to freshwater and saltwater sources which have potential to contain mussels, oysters and other types of edible bivalves. Middens are identified within sand dunes, beaches, terraces above water courses and inland near lagoons and water holes.

The potential for middens is low within the Project area due to the distance from sources of freshwater and the impacts of previous land use and clearing.

Isolated artefacts and open camp sites (artefact scatters) are locations of discarded stone artefacts, often material that has been discarded as part of making stone tools or discarded over frequent episodes of occupation/visitation in an area. Within the Project Area, isolated artefacts and artefact scatters would be most likely to contain Nobbys Tuff, mudstone or silcrete artefacts (flakes and or broken flakes) which dominate many of the assemblages of sites identified in the Newcastle area. These sites are most likely to be found within 100 metres of a water course in well drained alluvial flats, alluvial terraces, lower slopes and confluences where the landscape has not been heavily modified. Isolated artefacts and small open camp sites (artefact scatters) are also likely to be found on ridges, crests, saddles or floodplains which are not heavily impact by previous land use, as they provide excellent outlook over the surrounding area.

Artefact sites are the next most common site type within the searched area. Despite historic disturbance, there is potential for stone artefacts; however, they are likely to occur as isolated finds and out of context. The geology of the area is limited to sandstone and basalt raw materials for the creation of stone artefacts. Materials in the area are likely to be imported and therefore, more likely to have been retained and re-sharpened to conserve materials.

Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) refers to soil profiles within landforms which are predicted to contain buried evidence of Aboriginal occupation. This buried evidence is most often stone artefact scatters which survive most frequently in the archaeological record. In NSW, buried archaeological deposits are nearly always found within the A unit soils (topsoil) or in alluvial deposits. Occasionally artefacts are found in the B horizon in cracking clays where artefacts have moved down from the topsoil or alluvium. PAD can be defined in a number of different ways; however, the primary archaeological importance of subsurface deposits is the possibility that they will provide information that can be used to interpret changes in the archaeological record through time and space. Consequently, for the

purposes of this assessment, a landform or area will only be designated a PAD if it meets one or more of the following criteria.

The PAD should not have been significantly disturbed by post-depositional factors such as animal burrowing, vegetation clearance, erosion, vehicle activity and track construction. Areas with limited post-depositional disturbance may retain high archaeological integrity and therefore artefacts within these areas are more likely to accurately record the human behaviours leading to their deposition; and/or

It should be likely that the PAD will contain enough artefacts to allow for statistically viable detailed analysis and comparison of the artefact assemblage both within and between sites. The probability that sufficient quantities of artefacts will be present within a PAD should be assessed in light of the environmental context (including topography, resource availability, geomorphic patterns and the depth of the topsoil horizon) and the local archaeological context (in relation to the patterning of site location within the local area); and/or

The PAD should be predicted to contain materials that can be dated, either in relative or absolute terms. The provision of dateable materials allows for the examination of chronological change within and between assemblages. This is an integral component of any discussion of changes in how people used the landscape and resources through time.

Areas of archaeological potential are possible within less disturbed areas of the proposal where A unit soils remain intact.

Petroglyphs (also referred to as Rock Engravings) are art sites where marks have been made in stone by Aboriginal people (for example, spirit figures, animals, implements and footprints) and rock shelter sites with art (rock overhangs used for shelter by Aboriginal people and where smooth sandstone surfaces on the walls of the shelter are painted with ochres and pigments).

This site type may occur if suitable geology is present such as outcropping sandstone or suitable sandstone shelves in creek beds. Based on the mapped geology within the Project area and lack of sandstone, there is low potential for rock engravings to be found in the Project area.

Aboriginal axe grinding grooves are grooves most often found in sandstone where Aboriginal people have sharpened or manufactured stone axes and other implements and, in some cases, ground seed and grains in the sandstone forming 'bowls'. This site type can occur where suitable geology is present.

Based on the mapped geology within the Project area and lack of sandstone, there is low potential for grinding grooves to be found in the Project area.

Aboriginal burial sites, bora grounds, story places or stone arrangements within the proposal based on preliminary previous archaeological and historical research undertaken to date. Cultural sites are usually determined through Aboriginal consultation and may need revision after review of the ACHA by registered Aboriginal parties.

Burials are considered to be a very rare site type, with no previously recorded burials located in proximity to the Project area. As such, burials are unlikely to be found within the Project area, in addition to the high degrees of surface disturbance from past land use activities. Burials are often associated with sandier soils due to the ease of digging. The heavy clay soils found within the Project area are not conducive to burials.

Previous land use history and the topography of the Project area suggests that there is low potential for bora grounds and stone arrangements to occur.

The potential for story places will be advised by Registered Aboriginal Parties.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

As part of the review of this methodology for the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, we request and also seek cultural information from registered Aboriginal parties to identify:

- whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the vicinity of the proposal site; and
- whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the area of the proposal site (whether they are Aboriginal places declared under s.84 of the NPW Act or not). This will include places of social, spiritual and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

DRAFT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The proposal is located at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW.

The proposed survey will include:

- coverage of all environmental contexts within the proposal site;
- focusing, where possible, on ground surfaces with higher archaeological visibility;
- inspection of sandstone bedrock (if any) for evidence of grinding grooves; and
- inspection of any places specifically requested by the Aboriginal parties within the proposal site.

The survey strategy will involve the following components:

- division of the entire proposal site into archaeological survey areas most likely to be based on landforms and previous land use history, following classifications and definitions outlined in the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010);
- within each archaeological survey area, recording the different types of surface exposures (e.g. vehicle track, erosion scour), previous land use history and disturbance, natural features (e.g. presence of sandstone), soils, erosion, ground surface visibility, and geomorphic activity following the requirements of the Archaeological Code of Practice (DECCW 2010) and information or comments provided by Aboriginal parties involved in the survey;
- completion of an Aboriginal heritage site recording form for each Aboriginal site or Potential Archaeological Deposit identified, which will include all information required to fill in an OEH AHIMS site card;
- recording any cultural information, information about Aboriginal resources or comments made by Aboriginal parties involved in the field survey on the management or cultural values of the proposal site; and
- mapping and recording all archaeological survey areas and all identified Aboriginal sites and/or PADs within the proposal site using a hand-held GPS and a digital camera.

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CULTURALLY SENSITIVE/GENDER SENSITIVE INFORMATION

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists, or female and male representatives of the proponent, can also be made available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties.

COMMERCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Only one to two representatives will be selected for fieldwork from registered Aboriginal parties relevant to their area of interest. The initial survey is tentatively set for June.

All registered Aboriginal parties are invited to participate in consultation on a voluntary basis.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS ON SURVEY STRATEGY

Following OEH's ACHCRs, registered Aboriginal parties for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments is by **5:00pm on 6 June 2025.** Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Kate Morris
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

If you would like to discuss this draft survey strategy or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact me directly on (02) 6676 4354.

Sincerely,

Kate Morris

ARCHAEOLOGIST

BA/BSc Hons. (Archaeology), University of Queensland

VIRTUS HERITAGE

REFERENCES

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). 2010. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*, Hurstville, NSW.

PO Box 101, Pottsville NSW 2489
(02) 6676 4354
info@virtusheritage.com.au
ABN 56 159 910 228

VIRTUS HERITAGE

7 May 2025

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Subject: Presentation of project information for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System developments at Narrabri (NSW).

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest for a proposed State Significant Development (SSD) of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The proposed BESS is located at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; Figure 1). The project area is zoned RU1 primary production and is located within the Narrabri Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA).

Virtus prepared a due diligence assessment (DD) for the proposed project in 2023. The DD found no previously recorded sites are located within the project area and the partial survey found no newly identified Aboriginal objects or areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD). Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) acknowledged that no Aboriginal objects had been observed in the areas where survey was possible, however, they could not say the same for the BESS location due to its inaccessibility. It was determined that the areas that were surveyed had low potential to contain archaeological materials or deposits. No assessment was able to be made about the inaccessible areas that were not inspected.

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage has been engaged to prepare the ACHA, including an archaeological assessment, as part of Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements SEARs (SSD- 75680468, issued 14 October 2024). As part of the requirements of the Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW, 2010), Section 4.2, Stage 2, this letter presents information on the proposed works to all registered Aboriginal parties.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information supplied by the proponent to:

a) present the proposal, outline project details relevant to the nature, scope, methodology, and environmental and other impacts;
b) outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;
c) specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports;
d) specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties; and
e) provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

a) The Proposal, Project Details and Project Impacts

The proposal site is within the Narrabri LGA (Figure 1, hereafter referred to as the 'project area') and includes ground surface disturbances associated with the construction of a BESS and connection into

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ABN 56 159 910 228

the existing Narrabri 132/66kV Substation (Lot 1 DP502189), including construction of an overhead or underground 132kV transmission line. Bulk excavation may be required in areas.

Works for the Narrabri BESS site are currently in the planning stage therefore the impacts here are indicative of the final impacts. The proponent proposes to use the location for a 125MW/1000MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The proposed development includes the following:

- Battery Containers
- Inverters
- Control room and 33kV switchgear
- Auxiliary transformers and associated Low Voltage (LV) cabling
- 132/33kV Main HV Transformer
- Harmonic Filter
- Building Structures including Operation and Maintenance shed, storage shed
- Internal access road
- Fence, gates and lighting
- High voltage steel poles and cabling
- On site substation
- Fire Safety Systems

The development includes the associated upgrades and connection into the Narrabri 132/66kV Substation, including construction of an overhead or underground 132kV transmission line to facilitate the connection.

The general location of the BESS footprint is in the south eastern corner of Lot 156 DP754944 and is a irregular rectangular shape. The northern boundary is approximately 247m in length, while the southern boundary is 296m, eastern boundary 145m and western boundary 149m (Figure 2).

The wider area around the preferred BESS site location is also being assessed as Enervest would like the footprint flexibility within the site, if there are any constraints identified within their preferred location.

b) Outline the impact assessment process including the input points into the investigation and assessment activities;

The impacts of this project on Aboriginal heritage are being determined through the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment by Virtus Heritage. The broader environmental impact assessment process and overall project is being managed by SLR on behalf of Enervest.

Registered Aboriginal parties have several input points into the investigation and assessment activities for this project, including:

- Review and comment on presentation of project information supplied in this letter;
- Opportunity to discuss with Virtus Heritage or the proponent about this project information at any time during the duration of the project and record comments and input;
- Review, comment and provide cultural information regarding the project and input on cultural heritage management on a draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment within a minimum 28 day comment period;

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ABN 56 159 910 228

- Opportunity to be involved in the Aboriginal heritage survey of the project area (scheduled for May but to be confirmed if comments on the project methodology are provided within this timeframe) and to provide cultural information and input into the assessment.
- Review of a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application for comment; and
- Receipt of all copies of a final Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report and if required an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit to be supplied within 14 days of submission to OEH.

(c) Specify critical timelines and milestones for the completion of assessment activities and delivery of reports

Critical timelines for the completion of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment follows OEH's Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements (DECCW, 2010).

A minimum of 28 days will be provided for both the review of the draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and for the review of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report.

(d) Specify proposed roles, functions and responsibilities for the project for discussion and comment by registered Aboriginal parties;

Virtus Heritage will carry out Aboriginal consultation for this project and undertake the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and AHIP application if required, in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties. Virtus Heritage contacts are:

Julian Travaglia
Principal Archaeologist
Postal Address: PO Box 101 Pottsville NSW 2489
Email:
consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

Kate Morris
Archaeologist
Postal Address: PO Box 101 Pottsville NSW 2489
Email:
consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

If there is gender sensitive information and a male archaeologist is required, please contact Julian. If a female archaeologist is required, please contact Kate.

Enervest are responsible for the co-ordination of the broader project and have engaged Virtus Heritage to undertake Aboriginal consultation. The Enervest contact for this project is:

Olivia Huitema
Development Officer
Enervest Operations Pty Ltd
olivia.huitema@enervest.com.au
stoneycreek@enervest.com.au

Please send expressions of interest for commercial engagement for fieldwork involvement to Enervest and/or Virtus Heritage.

We recognise that registered Aboriginal parties have an integral role in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process and are the primary determinants of the significance of their heritage. Registered Aboriginal parties will be afforded the opportunity as part of the consultation process to provide cultural information on the project area, to be involved in the review and comment of all documentation for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, to be involved in fieldwork and to provide input and comment into potential management options for any identified cultural heritage values.

Gender and Culturally Sensitive Information

We understand that there may be times where registered Aboriginal parties may have information about a project which is culturally or gender sensitive. If registered Aboriginal parties wish to provide cultural information which they do not want to be made public or which is gender sensitive, provision can be made to record this information as confidential as part of the reporting process but without inclusion in the public versions of the report. Female and male archaeologists or representatives of Virtus Heritage are available to record or discuss gender sensitive information during the life of the project, depending on the wishes of registered Aboriginal parties. Please contact me directly to discuss this issue further, if it is of concern.

(e) Provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss their cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).

Please call or email any of the project contacts directly to identify, raise and discuss cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any). We will also attempt to call you early next week to discuss any potential issues, perspectives and assessment requirements.

If you would like to discuss this letter or have any questions about the proposed works, please contact Julian or Kate on (02) 6676 4354.

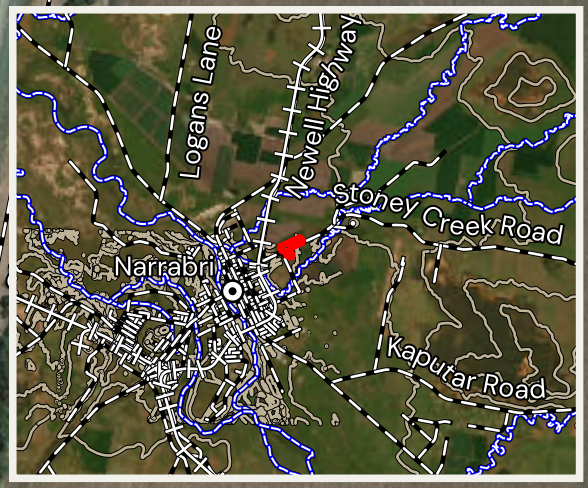
Yours sincerely

Sincerely,

Kate Morris

ARCHAEOLOGIST

BA/BSc Hons. (Archaeology), University of Queensland.



Stoney Creek Road

Stoney Creek Road

Goldman Street

Horsearm Creek

VIRTUS HERITAGE

606 Stoney Creek BESS
Narrabri, NSW
Figure 1. Project Area and Locality

Author: Antonella Skepasianos
Date: 06/05/2025
Scale: 1:5000 @ A4
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
Source: NSW Spatial Services

Maps and figures contained within this document may be based on third party data, may not be to scale and are intended for use as a guide only. Virtus Heritage does not warrant the accuracy of such maps or figures.

Legend

- Project Area
- BESS Footprint
- Roads
- Railway
- Contours
- Named Watercourse
- Cities and Towns

N

0 50 100 150 200 250 m

Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

RAP responses to proposed project information and proposed project methodology and survey strategy

Outloo

Automatic reply: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

[redacted]

Date ed 7/05/2025 1:05

n@ tag

Hi,

I no longer work for NTSCORP LTD. For any urgent research enquiries please send email to the below: info@ntscorp.com.au

Outlook

Re: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

[redacted]

Date Tue 10/06/2025 10:57 AM

To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>

No comment.

Sent from my iPhone

> On 6 Jun 2025, at 8:00 am, Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:
>
> Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,
>
> Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW.
>
> This is a reminder that the closing date for comments is today, 6 June 2025 at 5:00pm
>
> Please provide your written or verbal comments to:
> Kate Morris, Archaeologist
> Virtus Heritage
> PO Box 101
> Pottsville NSW 2489
> Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
> Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
>
> Sincerely,
> <Outlook-Image.png>
>
> **Virtus Heritage**
> CONSULTATION
>
> Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
> (02) 6676 4354
>
> VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: 03 June 2025 3:03 PM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW.

This is a reminder that the closing date for comments is **Friday 6 June 2025 at 5:00pm**

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Sincerely,

<Outlook-Image.png>

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: 02 June 2025 8:57 AM
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW.

This is a reminder that the closing date for comments is **Friday 6 June 2025 at 5:00pm**

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Sincerely,

<Outlook-Image.png>

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
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From: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Sent: 07 May 2025 1:05 PM
To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1 in attachments**).

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage have been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the ACHA. Please see the attached Presentation of Project Information letter and the draft Survey Project Methodology for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The closing date for comments is **Friday 6 June 2025 at 5:00pm**

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,

<Outlook-Image.png>

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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Outloo

606 PPI/SS comments

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au

ing dy,

I just wanted to thank you for your time on the phone yeste day a d co yo r co ents

- a major songline runs through the project area
- testing should be i ded logy ee w at' appening ce an there's any subsur bj ng e, by es, Whitehaven creek
- you're a Gomeroi (including alternative spellings) woman and have worked with the NT app

If I've missed any ing, please le e no nd have a beau fu rest of you week,
Thanks so much,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q

o ris@ irtusheritage.co .au

Based in the Hunter

O fice
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G . C O U

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal a Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians o he states and territories o Australia e recog ise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, cou try and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but do 't expect you to read, actio o respo d out of you own working hours. Thankyou.

Outloo

Re: 606 PPI/SS comments

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

dy,

I hope you had a great weekend. Following the end of the PPI/SS review period, I just wanted to check in ny ing fur r y ished us to ng tag ny reg ing

Thanks so much,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland

is@ tage

Based in the Hunter

Suite 7/ 13 Pea l St, ingsc 48 S
(02) 6676 4354

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Please note: I value your ti e an espond during my stan king h -5 M ay ay
We value flexib orking rs, xp t y d, esp f y
wo ing hours kyou

From: Kate Morris

[redacted]

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>; Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au

Subject: 606 PPI/SS comments

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If I've missed any ing, please le no nd have a beau fu rest of your week,
Thanks so much,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q

o ris@ irtusheritage.co .au

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is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and ntended solely for the use of the addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete this ema If you are not the intended recipient, you ay not disclose, copy, or distribute the co tents of this e a irtus Heritage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or da age arising fro the use of this e ail or attac ents

Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday ay
We value flexible working hours, but don't expect you to read, actio o respond out of your o
working hours. Thankyou.

Outloo

Re: Fw: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Thanks so much Dave,
I'll note that down. Hope you've been well and staying safe in this weathe

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q

o ris@ irtusheritage.co .au

Based in the Hunter

O fice
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal a Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians o he states and territories o Australia e recog ise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, cou try and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fide tial and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete t is e a If you are not the intended recipient, yo may not disclose, copy, or dis ribute the conte ts of this ema rtus He itage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising fro the use of t is e ail or attac ents

Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but do 't expect you to read, actio o respo d out of y own working hours. Thankyou.

[redacted]

Sent: Friday, 16 May 2025 19:46
To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: Fw: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

Hi Kate it's Dave horton gomery cultural consultants agree with methodology.

On Wed, 7 May 2025, 1:49 pm Kate Morris, k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au wrote:

> Dea Registered Aboriginal Party,
>
> **lease see ac e ts w e de tes**
>
> Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for th proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 1 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substa n (Lot 1 DP502189) ney Rese ve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure ac e ts**)
>
> As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage have been engaged by SLR Consulting o beha of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the ACHA. Please see the attached resentation of Projec fo matio letter and the dra t Su vey Project Methodology for yo review & co ent
>
> Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a m o 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and proj methodology for the ACH d p inp closing date for co ents is **ay 6 June 2025 t 5:00p**
>
> Please provide your writte or verbal co ents to
> Kate Morris, Ar logi
> Virtus Heritage
> PO Box 101
> Pottsville NSW 2489
> Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
> Ema l: consultation@ irtusheritage.co .a
>
> k y u,
>
> **Virtus Heritage**
> CONSULTATION
>
> Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
> (02) 6 76 435
>
> *Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.*
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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday Friday. We value flexible working hours, but do t expect you t read, actio o respo d out o your own working hours. Thankyou.

From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, ay 7, 2025 13:05
To: Kate Morris
Cc: Anya Grau
Subject: 606 roj roj logy Narrab NS

eg rig rty,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road ve, N ri, N W (e proj ea; **Fig** **ts**)

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage have been engaged by SLR Consulting of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the ACHA. Please see the attached Presentation of Project vey roj logy r y

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review th draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The ing **ay 6 J** **0p**

e provide your written or verb

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
n@ itag

k y u,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

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Outloo

Re: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

ry,

No firm dates yet, sorry, but I will keep you updated.

ch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*

ARCHAEOLO IS

BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland

k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Based the unte

Office:

t, ing

(02) 6676 435

Image

U S G .C O U

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and territories o Australia e recog ise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, country and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete t is e a If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this ema rtus Heritage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising fro the use of t is e ail or attac ents

Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but do 't expect you to read, actio o respo d out of y own working hours. Thankyou.

[redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 11:00
To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

Hi Kate,

Do we have any proposed dates for any field works,

Cheers
Cory

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

T r y ry,

let ne vest no you're terested nd ava able fo fieldwo

ch,

ag

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R C H A E O I S
A/ Sc (ons) rsity of Q

k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Office:
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

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ISO 45001 OHS Management System SOUTHPAC certifications
ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENT Management System SOUTHPAC certifications

Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but do 't expect you to read, actio o respo d out of you own working hours. Thankyou.

[redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 May 2025 16:20
To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.co .au>
Subjec Re: 606 resentatio o roject l fo atio ra rojec e odology ES

Hi Kate,

Can I be included in any upcoming surveys I'm keen to be out in country and doing what I love.

I have worked in heritage for over 20 years and have just returned from the Pilbara as a Heritage Manager.

Cheers
Cory

---

is@v tag

[redacted]

c: V on@v tag
bj roj roj logy

i Cory,

ky r y ur p mp esp se, l

ks ag n a have a beauti rest of you eek,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland

k is@ tag

Based in the Hunter

Suite 7/ 13 Pea l St, ingsc 48 S
(02) 6676 4354

Image Image

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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Please note: I value your time an will resp uring my s d w ing urs: 9 day t
Fr ay. We value flex working urs, exp t y d, esp f y
o wo ing hours kyou

[redacted]

Sent: Sunday, 11 May 2025 08:04
To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Cc: Kelly Kent <k.kent@virtusheritage.com.au>; Anya Graubard <a.graubard@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subjec Re: 606 resentatio o roject I fo atio ra rojec e odology ES

Hi Kate,

I would suggest the entire area be surveyed and monitoring when breaking ground.

Thank You
Cory

From: Kate Morris <k.mo is@v tag
Sent: 07 May 2025 11:49
To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
c: K lly t@v tage.c u>; ny <a.gr d@v rtushe tag
bj roj roj logy

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Please see attachments with amended dates.

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for th proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) ey Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure 1 in attachments**).

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage have been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the ACHA. Please see the attached Presentat roj letter and the draft Survey Project Methodology for your review & comment.

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA d p inp closing date for comments is **Friday 6 June 2025 at 5:00pm**

Please provide your written or verbal comments to:

Kate Morris, Ar log
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,

Virt ritag

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(2)

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Please note: I value your time an ill resp during my st d w ing urs: 9 day t
Fr ay. We value fle working rs, t exp t y d, esp f y
o wo ing hours kyou

From: Virtus Cons ltation
Sent: Wednesday, ay 7,
To: Kate Morris
Cc: Anya Graubard
bj roj roj logy

eg rig rty,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Cree Road ve, ri, (e proj ea; **Fig ts**)

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage have been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the CH . Please see the attached Presentatio of Projec fo matio vey roj logy r y

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review th draft su vey strategy and projec ethodology for the CH and provide co ment and input. The

closing date for co ents is **ay 6 June 2025 t 5:00p**

Please provide your writte or verbal co ents to

Kate Morris, Ar log t
Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
P ne/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
E l: consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

Tha k you,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

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tify t If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag
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Outloo

Re: 606 - Narrabri BESS comments cutoff next Friday

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

i Jeremy,

r y esp se,

Ha e a gre week,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland

is@ tage

Based in the Hunter

Suite 7/ 13 Pea l St, ingsc 48 S
(02) 6676 4354

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Please note: I value your time an ill resp uring my s d w ing urs: 9 day t Fr ay. We value fle working rs, exp t y d, esp f y o wo ing hours kyou

[redacted]

Sent Iday, 30 ay 2025 16 43

To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Subject: Re: 606 - Narrabri BESS comments cutoff next Friday

Hi the methodology looks good thanks

On Fri, 30 May 2025, 4:40 pm Virtus Consultation, <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au wrote:

my,

This is a courtesy message to remind you that comments for the Narrabri BESS project are due ay

nk you,

ely,

Virtus H tage
CONSU ION

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, Kingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G .C O U

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and the raditional Custodians of the states and te ritories o Australia e recog ise he raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing he culture, country and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

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Outloo

Re: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

ay,

Thankyou for your reply and recommendations, it's very appreciated and I'll include that in our rep ng

kyou so uch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland

is@ tag

Based in the Hunter

Suite 7/ 13 Pea l St, ingsc 48 S
(02) 6676 4354

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Fr ay. We value fle working rs, exp t y d, esp f y o wo ing hours kyou

[redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 29 May 2025 12:02

To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>

Subject: Re: 606 - Presentation of Project Information and Draft Project Methodology - BESS in Narrabri NSW

Good afte noon, Kate,

After reading over the Draft Su vey Strategy and Project Methodology for an Aboriginal Cu ltural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Stoney Creek Battery Energy Storage System at Narrabri (NSW). Wingarra wilay agrees with the way it has been set out it asks if there are any artifacts found tha need to be oved hat a s o ing cere ony take place and ey ep e p try ay

ing ng tag ag

eg

Ray Moon

ingarra ilay

On Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 01:50:00 pm AEST, Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au wrote:

eg rig rty,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Cree Road ve, bri, (e proj ea; **Fig** **ts**)

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e provide your written or verb

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fa : (02) 6676 4354

E a l: consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

k y u,

Virtus Heritage
CONSULTATION

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 435

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your ing ky

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From: Virtus Consultation
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2025 13:05
To: Kate Morris
Cc: Anya Gra bard
Subject: 606 resenta o rojec fo atio nd raft roje ethodology ESS Narrab NSW

Dea Registered Aboriginal Party,

Thank you for registering for Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for th proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Develop ent (SSD) at 1 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substa n (Lot 1 DP502189) ey Reserve, Narrabri, NSW (the project area; **Figure ac e ts**).

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Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a m o 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and proj methodology for the ACH d p inp closing date for co ents is **ay 6 June 2025 t 5:00p**

e provide your written or verb

Kate Morris, Archaeologist
Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
n@ itag

k y u,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O

Suite 17/11-13 Pea l St, ingsc 48 S
(02) 6676 4354

V I R T U S H E R I T A G E . C O M . A U

V tus eritage is c itte to th spirit o re o ation and dges Aboriginal a Tor ait Islan er p op s the d th Traditional Custodians of he states and territories o Australia e recognise the Traditional O ners of the lands we wo within e pay ou respect to lders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

This em d ny files transm ith i fiden ial a d inte ded olely se of th . If you have eived his em or, please notify the sender and delete this e a If you are not the intended recipient, yo may not disclose, copy, or dis ribute the conte ts of this ema rtus He itage cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.

Stage 4 – Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report

Draft report sent to RAPs

606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

From Kate Morris <k.morris@ irtusheritage.com.au
Date Wed 16/07/2025 11:29
To Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Cc
Bcc [redacted]

Dea Registered Ab riginal Party,

Thank you for your involvement to date in the Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lo DP50 189) and Stoney C Road ese ve, Narrabri, NSW

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage have been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the ACHA. Please use the link in this email to access and download the draft ACHA for your review & comment. If you have any issues accessing the documents, please let e now f you would ike a hard copy e dra report, plea le e now and w l arrange fo it to be posted to yo

606 Narrabri draft ACHA - RAP review

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project methodology for the C and p ovide co nd input. T e closing da ents is **ay ug 5:00p**

e p vide y r J vag

Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
n@ itag

k y u,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 St, ing
(02) 6676 4354

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Outloo

Re: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date ed 30/07/2025 15:
To n@ tag
Cc
Bcc [redacted]

Good afte noon,

This is a friendly email reminder that the closing date for comments is **Tuesday 12 August 2025 at 5:00pm for the** Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage Syste (BESS) State Significa t Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Cree Road (Lot 156 44), n (L 89) ney ve, ri,

If you have any issues accessing the documents from the link, please let me know and I can assist. If y would ike a hard copy of the dra report, please let e now and I w ll arrange fo it to be posted to y

—

—

h,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R A E O I S
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q

k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Office:
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

U S .A U

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is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete t is e a If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this ema rtus Heritage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising fro the use of t is e ail or attac ents

Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to ay e va wo ing rs, exp t y d, esp f y ing ky

---

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 11:29
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Cc: Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

Dea Registered Aboriginal Party,

Thank you for your involvement to date in the Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Sig ficant Develop ent (SSD) at 1 Stoney Cree Road (Lo 156 DP754944), Narrab n (L 89) ney ve, ri,

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virt itag engag by ing of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the ACHA.
Please use the link in this email to access and download the draft ACHA for your review & comment. I yo have any issues accessing the doc ents, please let e know. f you would ike a hard copy of the rep rt, p ange e p o y

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Please provide yo writte o verbal co ents to Kate Mo ris or J lian Travaglia

irtus Heritage

Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
E a l: consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

Tha k you,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G .C O U

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RAP responses to draft report sent to RAPs

Outloo

Re: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Date ed 30/07/2025 15:
To n@ tag
Cc
Bcc [redacted]

Good afte noon,

This is a friendly email reminder that the closing date for comments is **Tuesday 12 August 2025 at 5:00pm for the** Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage Syste (BESS) State Significa t Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Cree Road (Lot 156 44), n (L 89) ney ve, ri,

If you have any issues accessing the documents from the link, please let me know and I can assist. If y would ike a hard copy of the dra report, please let e now and I w ll arrange fo it to be posted to y

—

—

h,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R AE O IS
A/ c (ons) rsity of Q

k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Office:
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02)

U S .A U

irtus Heritage is co itted to the spirit o reconciliatio and ac no ledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the irst Australians and he raditional Custodians of the states and territories o Australia e recog ise the raditional O ners of the lands we wo it e pay ou respect to lders past, present and e erging ainta ing the culture, country and the r spiritual and istorical co nections to the lands and waters

is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete t is e a If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this ema rtus Heritage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising fro the use of t is e ail or attac ents

Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to ay e va wo ing rs, exp t y d, esp f y ing ky

---

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 11:29
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au
Cc: Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

Dea Registered Aboriginal Party,

Thank you for your involvement to date in the Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Sig ficant Develop ent (SSD) at 1 Stoney Cree Road (Lo 156 DP754944), Narrab n (L 89) ney ve, ri,

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virt itag engag by ing of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the ACHA.
Please use the link in this email to access and download the draft ACHA for your review & comment. I yo have any issues accessing the doc ents, please let e know. f you would ike a hard copy of the rep rt, p ange e p o y

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Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a m o 28 days to review the draft survey strategy and project metho logy for the ACHA and p inp closing date for co ents is **Tues ay ugus 2025 t 5:00p**

Please provide yo writte o verbal co ents to Kate Mo ris or J lian Travaglia

irtus Heritage

Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
E a l: consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

Tha k you,

Virtus H tage
C O S U I O

Suite 17/ -13 Pea l St, ingsc 487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G .C O U

Virtus Heritage is committed to the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the Traditional Custodians of the states and territories of Australia. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands we work within. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging in maintaining the culture, country and their spiritual and historical connections to the lands and waters.

ny lely If y or, p
tify If y cip nt, y may e, opy, tag
ep sp ility ny mag ing

Outloo

Re: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Dat
To [redacted]
Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Hi Diana,

Thanks so much for providing your comments on the drafts. These will be added to Table 7 in the final ACHA and after we finalise it, we will send you that final copy.

Thanks again, appreciate it,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
R E O IS
A/ c(ons) rsity of Q

k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Office:
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 4

VIRTUSHERITAGE.COM.AU

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Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but don't expect you to read, action or respond out of your ing ky

[redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 18:02

To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

Good afte noo Kate,

G rrag rra Murun, has re ie ed the dra borig nal Cultura eritage Assess ent eport,
ag s prop

The recognition of Aboriginal cul al he tag dg mp
us and one e ust protect at a es

We look forward to working together on the Narrab SS project that continues in,
educating, prot cting, and preserving past Ab rig ing
present va ues roug song nes and stories

he artifacts ha have been pre iously found and any ne ones need to be protected
d p e g

We welcome the continued engagement along with opport ities to be actively involve
he cu ra he itage anage e t processes as he Narra ESS project progresses

nd egards

iana As
rag

O ednesday 30 July 2025 at 03 :53 p EST, Kate o ris o ris@ irtusheritage.co .au rote

Good afternoon,

This is a friendly email reminder that the closing date for comments is **Tuesday 12 August 2025 at 5:00pm for the** Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156
4), on (89) ey ve, ri,

If you have any issues accessing the documents from the link, please let me know and I can assist. If yo would like a hard copy of the draft report, please let me know and I will arrange for it to be posted to yo

–

–

Tha ks so uch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
A/ c (hons) ersity of Q

o ris@ irtusheritage.co .au

Based in the Hunter

O fice
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
(02) 6676 4354

U S G .C O U

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is e ail and any files trans itted it it are co fidential and tended solely for the use o he addressee If you have received this e a error, please notify the sender and delete t is e a If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this ema rtus Heritage ca not accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising fro the use of t is e ail or attac ents

Please note: I value your time and will respond during my standard working hours: 9-5 Monday to Friday. We value flexible working hours, but do 't expect you to read, actio o respo d out of y own working hours. Thankyou.

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtush tag
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 11:29
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com
Cc: Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au
bj ey k,

eg rig rty,

Thank you for your involvement to date in the Aboriginal consultation for the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 44), Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW.

As outlined in earlier correspondence, Virtus Heritage have been engaged by SLR Consulting on behalf of Enervest Pty Ltd to prepare the ACHA.
Please use the link in this email to access and download the draft ACHA for your review & comment. If you have any issues accessing the documents, please let me know. If you wo opy draft report, please let me know and I will arrange for it to be posted to you.

—

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review th draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The ing **ay ug 0p**

e p e y r J vag

Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
n@ itag

k y u,

Virtus Heritage

Suite 17/11-13 t, ing
(02) 6676 4354

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ny lely If y or, p
tify If y cip nt, y ay e, opy, tag
ep sp ility ny ag ing

Outloo

Re: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Hi Ray,

Thanks so much for providing your comments on the drafts. These will be added to Table 7 in the final ACHA and after we finalise it, we will send you that final copy.

Thanks again, appreciate it,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*

RCH E O IS

A/ Sc (ons) rsity of Q

k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Office:

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02)

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[redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 17:22

To: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: Re: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

Good afte noon, Kate,

Wingarra wilay agrees with the ACHA, however brings mention to section 9.3 Newly Identified Aboriginal Cultural heritage site SC-ASI (AHIMS PENDING), Where 6 artifacts are in direct harm's way, and reco endatio is to possibly move he . I would agree tha he 6 artifacts be oved to anothe try ing ny e p cleanse the before reburia

The recog itio and protectio o boriginal cultura heritage is of the u os mportance to us.
We look forward to working collaboratively with Narrabri BESS to continue promoting, protecting, and preserving Aboriginal cultural values within the project area. e also elcome any ongoing engage ent and opportunities to be ac vely vo ved cu ra tag ag t p e proj t prog

Kind Reg
Ray oo

On Wednesday 30 July 2025 at 03:41:54 pm AEST, Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au> wrote:

n,

This is a friendly email reminder that the closing date for comments is **Tuesday 12 August 2025 at 5:00pm for the** Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) State Significant Development (SSD) at 41 Stoney Creek Road (Lot 156 DP754944), Narrabri Substation (Lot 1 DP502189) and Stoney Creek Road Reserve, Narrabri, NSW

If you have any issues accessing the documents from the link, please let me know and I can assist. If you wou opy rep rt, p ang e p you.

—

606 Narrabri draft ACHA - RAP review

—

Thanks so much,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
BA/ B c (ons) rsity of Q

o ris@ irtusheritage.co .au

Based in the Hunter

O fice
Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW
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U S .A U

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his em d ny files transm ith i fiden ial a d inte ded olely se of th . If you have eived his em or, please notify the sender and delete this e a If you are not the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy, or distribute the contents of this ema rtus Heritage cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.

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Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 11:29
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.co
Cc: Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au
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egi rigi rty,

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606 Narrabri draft ACHA - RAP review

Following Heritage NSW's ACHCRs, RAPs for this project have a minimum of 28 days to review th draft survey strategy and project methodology for the ACHA and provide comment and input. The ing **ay ug 0p**

e p e y r J vag

Virtus Heritag
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

Outloo

Re: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

From Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

[redacted]

Cc Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au

dy,

Thanks so much for your call just now. I'm just confirming that your comments on the draft reports

- Still recommend test pitting to see hat's u de neat nd save any ing that has t bee identified from being destroyed
- If test pitting can't proceed, then recommend salvage excavati ng salvage/collection and, RAPs monitoring during works on site
- Recommend cultural heritage inductions/training for workers
- Recommend a care and control agreement be prepared for the salvaged and unexpected finds

ch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLO IS
BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland

k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Based the unte

Office:

t, ing

(02) 6676 435

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From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtush itage.co .au
Sent: Wednesday, 30 July 2025 15:41
To: Virtus Consultation <consultation@virtusheritage.co .au
Cc: Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtushe itage.co .au
Subjec Re: 606 - S ney eek, Na ab ESS

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If you have any issues accessing the documents fro the k, please let e know and I can assist. f yo wou opy rep rt, p ang e p you.

—

606 Narrab i draft CH AP review

—

Tha ks so uch,

Kate Morris *(she/her)*
ARCHAEOLOGIST
BA/ BSc (hons) University of Queensland

is@ tag

Based in the Hunter

Suite 7/ 13 Pea l St, ingsc 48 S
(02) 6676 4354

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Please note: I value your time an will resp uring my s d w ing urs: 9 day t
Fr ay. We value flex working urs, exp t y d, esp f y
o wo ing hours kyou

From: Kate Morris <k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2025 11:29
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Cc: Julian Travaglia <j.travaglia@virtusheritage.com.au>
Subject: 606 - Stoney Creek, Narrabri BESS - Draft ACHA

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Please use the link in this email to access and download the draft ACHA for your review & comment. I you have any issues accessing the documents, please let me know. If you would like a hard copy of the rep rt, p ange e p o y

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Please provide your written or verbal comments to Kate Morris or Julian Travaglia

Virtus Heritage
PO Box 101
Pottsville NSW 2489
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354
Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

Thank you,

Virtus Heritage

C O

Suite 17/11-13 Pearl St, Kingscliff 2487 NSW

(02) 6676 435

V I R T U S H E R I T A G E . C O M . A U

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E a l: consultation@ irtusheritage.co .au

Tha k you,

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Appendix C AHIMS Site Search and other Search Results

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 606 Narrabri

Client Service ID : 977063

Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd - Pottsville

38 Border Crescent
Pottsville New South Wales 2489

Attention: Kate Morris

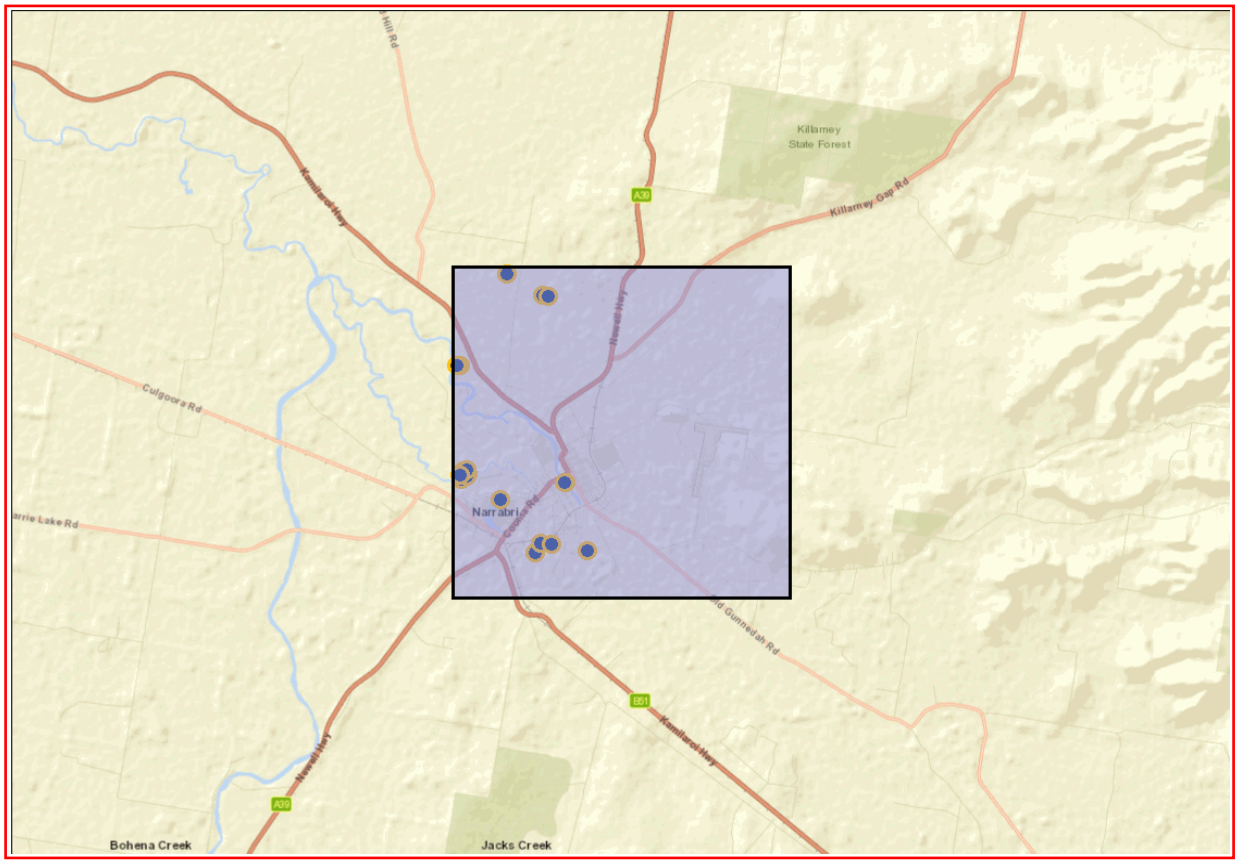
Email: k.morris@virtusheritage.com.au

Date: 20 February 2025

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 764187.0 - 774187.0, Northings : 6637996.0 - 6647996.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters, conducted by Kate Morris on 20 February 2025.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

23	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the NSW Government Gazette (https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

Important information about your AHIMS search

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Heritage NSW and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date. Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings,
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.

Level 6, 10 Valentine Ave, Parramatta 2150
Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124
Tel: (02) 9585 6345

ABN 34 945 244 274
Email: ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 606 Narrabri

Client Service ID : 977378

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
19-3-0136	Collins Park site 1 artefact	GDA	55	767458	6641465	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Mr.Allison Stewart					Permits		
19-3-0007	Narrabri Junction;Namoi Farm;	AGD	55	767955	6639171	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
Contact		Recorders	Brown					Permits		
19-3-0278	NSF - IF 19	GDA	55	765827	6647957	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
Contact		Recorders	Mr.Matthew Barber,NGH Heritage - Fyshwick					Permits		
19-3-0178	NRST8	GDA	55	764297	6641643	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0186	Namoi River IF 2	GDA	55	766653	6639625	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Paul Houston,Mr.Steven Booby					Permits		
19-3-0171	NRST1	GDA	55	764392	6641819	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0174	NRST4	GDA	55	764439	6641854	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0133	Collins Park site 2 artefacts	GDA	55	767429	6641486	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 5, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Mr.Allison Stewart					Permits		
19-3-0019	WN25 Narrabri;	AGD	55	764224	6644978	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	84
Contact		Recorders	Rex Silcox					Permits		
19-3-0184	Namoi River Scar tree	GDA	55	766474	6639342	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Paul Houston,Mr.Steven Booby					Permits		
19-3-0185	Namoi River IF	GDA	55	766653	6639633	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Paul Houston,Mr.Steven Booby					Permits		
19-3-0173	NRST3	GDA	55	764500	6641803	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0163	Silverleaf IF-1	GDA	55	766916	6647274	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		104286
Contact		Recorders	OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management - Dubbo,Doctor.Alyce Cameron					Permits		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 21/02/2025 for Kate Morris for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 764187.0 - 774187.0, Northings : 6637996.0 - 6647996.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 23

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 606 Narrabri

Client Service ID : 977378

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
19-3-0175	NRST5	GDA	55	764366	6641898	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0164	Silverleaf IF-2	GDA	55	767094	6647233	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		104286
Contact		Recorders	OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management - Dubbo,Doctor.Alyce Cameron					Permits		
19-3-0012	WN24 Narrabri;	AGD	55	764133	6644981	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	84
Contact		Recorders	Rex Silcox					Permits		
19-3-0013	WN23 Narrabri;	AGD	55	764133	6644981	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	84
Contact		Recorders	Rex Silcox					Permits		
19-3-0187	Namoi River Artefact with Pattern	GDA	55	766975	6639584	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
Contact		Recorders	Paul Houston,Mr.Steven Booby					Permits		
19-3-0172	NRST2	GDA	55	764440	6641785	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0176	NRST6	GDA	55	764464	6641742	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0002	Dangar Village Narrabri	AGD	55	765359	6640819	Open site	Valid	Burial : -	Burial/s	
Contact		Recorders	Harry Creamer					Permits		
19-3-0177	NRST9	GDA	55	764464	6641958	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		
19-3-0179	NRST7	GDA	55	764271	6641773	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
Contact		Recorders	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd - Newcastle,Mr.Andy Roberts					Permits		

**** Site Status**

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

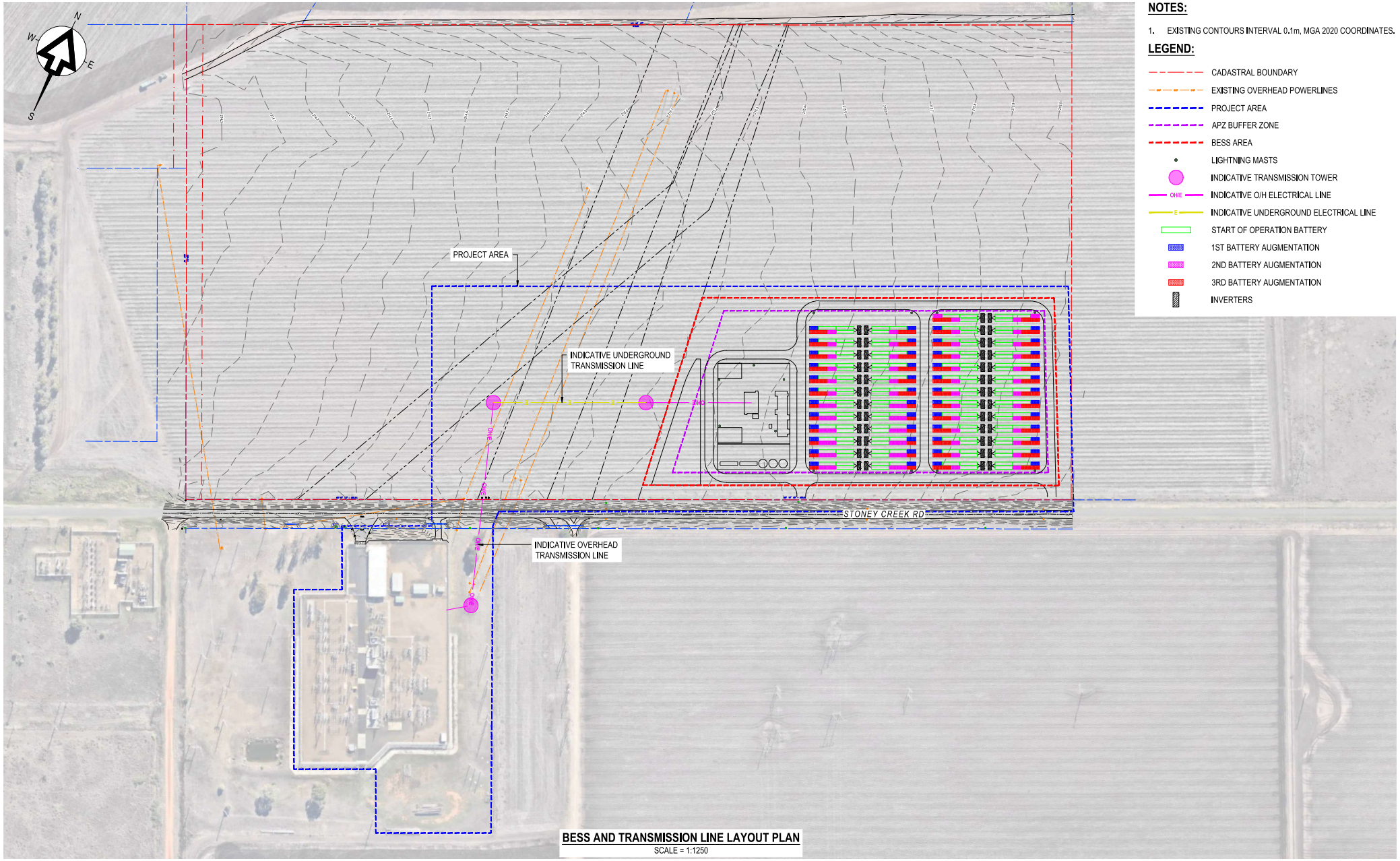
Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

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Appendix D Proposal Plans



NOTES:

1. EXISTING CONTOURS INTERVAL 0.1m, MGA 2020 COORDINATES.

LEGEND:

- CADASTRAL BOUNDARY
- EXISTING OVERHEAD POWERLINES
- PROJECT AREA
- APZ BUFFER ZONE
- BESS AREA
- LIGHTNING MASTS
- INDICATIVE TRANSMISSION TOWER
- O/H/E — INDICATIVE O/H ELECTRICAL LINE
- E — INDICATIVE UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL LINE
- START OF OPERATION BATTERY
- 1ST BATTERY AUGMENTATION
- 2ND BATTERY AUGMENTATION
- 3RD BATTERY AUGMENTATION
- INVERTERS

BESS AND TRANSMISSION LINE LAYOUT PLAN
SCALE = 1:1250

PLOT DATE: 12/08/25, 2:12:34 PM

REVISIONS			
A	17/06/2025	UPDATE TO SUBSTATION AREA, NO E/W UPDATE	RS
	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED

BEFORE YOU DIG www.byda.com.au

0.0 12.5 25 37.5 50 METRES
SCALE 1:1250

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DRAWN: RMC	DATE: 17/06/2025	
DESIGN: RMC	DATE: 17/06/2025	
DWG. CHECK: RS	DATE: 17/06/2025	
DES. CHECK: RS	DATE: 17/06/2025	
RESPONSIBLE PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE:	DATE:	
RPEQ :		

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CLIENT: ENERVEST PTY LTD

PROJECT: BESS FEASIBILITY
41 STONEY CREEK ROAD NARRABRI 2390

DRAWING TITLE: BESS AND TRANSMISSION LINE LAYOUT PLAN

SIZE: A1

STATUS: NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCALE: 1:1250

DATUM: GDA 2020

DRAWING NUMBER: 620.31316-CI-1103

REVISION: A

\\au.sli-local\Corporate\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.31316.00000 BESS Narrabri 3400606 SLR Data\01 CAD\GIS\CAD\02 Cut Fill Plan\620.31316-CI-1100.dwg