

# 2-16 Pockley Avenue, Roseville

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage  
Assessment Report

LGA: Ku-ring-gai Council

Report to Aqualand Prestige 2 Pty Ltd

April 2025



 artefact

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Declaration		
Name	Dr Samantha Higgs	
Qualifications	Bachelor of Arts (Honours – Archaeology) PhD (Archaeology)	
	The undersigned declares that this 2-16 Pockley Avenue, Roseville Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared in response to the following SEARs requirements issued for the Project on 15/11/2024 for SSD-77825469:	
SEARs item no.	SEARs Requirement	Relevant Section of this Report
18. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, identifying, describing and assessing any impacts to any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the site.	This report
Signed		
Dated	11 April 2025	

The project includes two separate development proposals located in Roseville, which have been defined as Sites A and B. The scope of this report is limited to Site B only. Site B is located at 2-16 Pockley Avenue, Roseville, and the proponent is Aqualand Prestige 2 Pty Ltd. The proposal includes residential flat buildings within the transport-oriented development (TOD) catchment with the provision of in-fill affordable housing. The study area is located within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area (LGA) and within the boundary of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). At its closest point, the Pacific Highway is located approximately 110 metres from the study area, and Roseville Station is located approximately 161 metres to the northeast.

The proponent is seeking Development Consent under Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as a State Significant Development (SSD). The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued for the proposal on 15 November 2024. The application number for Site B is SSD-77825469. As part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the SEARs, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) must be prepared.

Artefact Heritage and Environment Pty Ltd (Artefact) has been engaged by the proponent to prepare an ACHAR to address requirement 18 of the SEARs. This report includes the results of archaeological survey in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, hereafter *the Code of Practice* (DECCW 2010a) (the Code of Practice). This ACHAR is supported by an Archaeological Technical Report (Artefact 2025, Appendix A).

This ACHAR considers the impacts that the proposed development would have on Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area. The report includes:

- assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the study area and identification of any specific areas of cultural significance
- assessment of archaeological potential in the study area
- the results of archaeological survey of the study area
- Aboriginal stakeholder consultation.

This ACHAR is being undertaken in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Code of Practice (DECCW 2010a)
- *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010b).

## Overview of findings

This assessment found that:

- The study area has been subject to significant levels of disturbance through residential development and associated services
- The study area is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects and therefore the proposal will not result in impacts to Aboriginal objects
- No cultural values specific to the study area have been identified. However, the broader significance of the surrounding landscape for Aboriginal people is acknowledged.

## Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

Ref	Mitigation measure	Description
AH1	Unexpected Finds Procedure	<p>An Unexpected Finds Procedure must be prepared and implemented throughout the project, with procedures in place for notification of Heritage NSW, a heritage consultant, and the Registered Aboriginal Parties, where unexpected finds are identified. This procedure must be reviewed by a heritage professional.</p> <p>As per comments from Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group during ACHAR consultation, an Aboriginal heritage induction</p>

Ref	Mitigation measure	Description
		should be included as part of the site induction process for all workers.
AH2	Aboriginal community consultation	The Registered Aboriginal Parties must be consulted in the event of the discovery of any unexpected Aboriginal objects, and in the event of changes and/or new assessments relating to Aboriginal heritage

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## NOTE ON LANGUAGE IN QUOTES

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

## GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

**Aboriginal cultural heritage:** The material (objects) and intangible (mythological places, dreaming stories etc) traditions and practices associated with past and present-day Aboriginal communities.

**Aboriginal object:** Any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale), including Aboriginal remains, relating to the Aboriginal habitation of NSW.

**Aboriginal place:** Any place declared to be an Aboriginal place under s.94 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

**AHIMS:** Acronym for 'Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System'. AHIMS is a register that contains information about NSW Aboriginal heritage, and it is maintained by DECCW.

**Archaeological object:** any object that was made, affected, used, or modified in some way by humans in the past and has been discarded.

**Archaeology:** The scientific study of human history, with focus on material remains and ethnographic evidence.

**Area of archaeological sensitivity:** A part of the landscape that contains demonstrated occurrences of cultural material. The precise level of sensitivity will depend on the density and significance of the material.

**Artefact:** An item of cultural material created by humans.

**Artefact scatter:** Where two or more stone artefacts are found within an area of potential archaeological deposit or a site.

**Easting:** This is a measurement used to determine location. The easting is the x-coordinate and relates to the vertical lines on a map, which divide east to west. It increases in size when moving further east.

**Exposure:** The level of ground exposure is based on the whether the landform is eroding, aggrading or stable.

**Footprint:** The scale, extent or mark that a development makes on the land in relation to its surroundings.

**Holocene:** The Holocene epoch forms part of the late Quaternary period and extends from about 11,000 years ago to the present day.

**In situ:** A description of any cultural material that lies undisturbed in its original point of deposition.

**Northing:** This is a measurement used to determine location. The northing is the y-coordinate and relates to the horizontal lines on a map, which divide north to south. It increases in size when moving further north.

**Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD):** A PAD is a location that is considered to have a potential for subsurface cultural material. This is determined from a visual inspection of the site, background research of the area and the landform's cultural importance.

**Sand:** A material composed of small grains (0.625-2.0 mm) (Keary 2001, p 233). Sand is formed from a variety of minerals and rocks, but commonly contains silica, such as quartz.

**Scarred trees:** Trees that feature Aboriginal derived scars are distinct due to the scar's oval or symmetrical shape and the occasional use of steel, or more rarely, stone axe marks on the scar's surface. Scarred trees are identified by the purposeful removal of bark for use in the manufacture of artefacts such as containers, shields and canoes. The bark was also used for the construction of shelters. Other types of scarring include toeholds cut in the trunks or branches of trees for climbing purposes and the removal of bark to indicate the presence of burials in the area.

**Stratification:** The way in which soil forms in layers.

**Stratigraphy:** The study of soil stratification (layers) and deposition.

**Survey:** In archaeological terms, this refers to walking over a surface while studying the location of artefacts and landmarks. These are then recorded and photographed.

**Tool:** A stone flake that has undergone secondary flaking or retouch.

**Visibility:** Refers to the degree to which the surface of the ground can be observed. This may be influenced by natural processes such as wind erosion or the character of the native vegetation, and by land use practices, such as ploughing or grading. It is generally expressed in terms of the percentage of the ground surface visible for an observer on foot.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project brief

The project includes two separate development proposals located in Roseville, which have been defined as Sites A and B. The scope of this ACHAR is limited to Site B only. Site B is located at 2-16 Pockley Avenue, Roseville, and the proponent is Aqualand Prestige 2 Pty Ltd. The proposal includes residential flat buildings within the transport-oriented development (TOD) catchment with the provision of in-fill affordable housing. The proponent is seeking Development Consent under Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as a State Significant Development (SSD). The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued for the proposal on 15 November 2024. The application number for Site B is SSD-77825469. As part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the SEARs, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) must be prepared for the proposal (Table 1).

Artefact Heritage and Environment Pty Ltd (Artefact) has been engaged by the proponent to prepare an ACHAR to address requirement 18 of the SEARs. A separate Aboriginal Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) has previously been prepared by Artefact as a standalone archaeological report to support the two ACHARs for Sites A and B. This report includes the results of archaeological survey from that ATR in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, hereafter *the Code of Practice* (DECCW 2010a) (the Code of Practice).

**Table 1: SEARs Requirements**

SEARs Requirements	Where addressed
<b>18. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</b> Provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, identifying, describing and assessing any impacts to any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the site.	This report

### 1.2 Description of the study area

Site B (the study area) comprises 2-16 Pockley Avenue, Roseville. The study area is located within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area (LGA) and within the boundary of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). At its closest point, the Pacific Highway is located approximately 110 metres from the study area, and Roseville Station is located approximately 161 metres to the northeast.

To the north of the study area is a two-lane asphalt roadway with no curbs or gutter and 1 - 9 Pockley Avenue. To the east is a two-lane asphalt road, beyond which 1-7 Larkin Street which comprises 1 to 2 storey residential dwellings. The two-lane asphalt roadway with no curbs or gutter continues to the west of the study area, abutting 19-21 Pockley Avenue and 6 Kings Avenue Road. Beyond 6 Kings Avenue is an offshoot of the Blue Gum Creek which connects back to the Lane Cove River. The south road to the study area is Maclaurin Parade which leads to the northeast and connects back to the Pacific Highway.

The lots comprising Site B that legally define that portion of the study area are included below:

- Lot 11 DP8261
- Lot 12 DP8261
- Lot 13 DP8261
- Lot 14 DP8261
- Lot 15 DP8261
- Lot 16 DP8261
- Lot 17 DP8261
- Lot 18 DP8261

### 1.3 Aims and objectives

This ACHAR considers the impacts that the proposed development would have on Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area. The report includes:

- assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the study area and identification of any specific areas of cultural significance
- assessment of archaeological potential in the study area
- the results of archaeological survey of the study area
- Aboriginal stakeholder consultation.

This ACHAR is being undertaken in accordance with the following guidelines:

- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010a)
- *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010b).

### 1.4 Statutory framework

The proposal is seeking Development Consent under Part 4 Division 4.1 of the *EP&A Act 1979* as SSD. The SEARs were issued for the proposal on 15 November 2024 (SSD-77825469). This ACHAR is being prepared to address requirement 18 of the SEARs and to inform the EIS.

The appended ATR contains the full legislative context for this report.

Figure 1: Study area



## 2.0 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

Consultation for this project has been undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010b). A summary of the Consultation for the project has been provided below. The full consultation records for the project are included in Appendix B – Consultation records.

### 2.1 Stage 1

#### 2.1.1 Agency letters

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the Consultation Requirements, Artefact Heritage corresponded with the following organisations by email on 12 November 2024, requesting the details of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the Aboriginal significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the local area:

- Heritage NSW
- Native Title Service Corporation (NTSCorp)
- National Native Title Tribunal
- Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- Ku-ring-gai Council
- Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services

The due date for responses was 26 November 2024.

#### 2.1.2 Advertisement

In accordance with Step 4.1.3 of the Consultation Requirements, an advertisement was published in the Daily Telegraph on 22 November 2024, inviting the participation of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the Aboriginal significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the local area. Responses were requested by 6 December 2024.

#### 2.1.3 Registration of Aboriginal parties

In accordance with Step 4.1.3 of the Consultation Requirements, an Invitation to Register an Interest in the project was sent by email or letter to all those people identified through contacting the agencies on 26 November 2024. Responses were requested by 10 December 2024.

As a result of the interest letters and the advertisement, eleven individuals / organisations responded, and these are listed in Table 2. One group requested that their details not be disclosed to Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

**Table 2: Groups or individuals registered as RAPs**

RAP contact person	Organisation
Nathan Moran	Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

RAP contact person	Organisation
Wallanbah Aboriginal Site Conveyancing	Kelvin Boney
Lillie Carroll and Paul Boyd	Didge Ngunawal Clan
Amanda Hickey	Amanda Hickey Cultural Services
Carolyn Hickey	A1 Indigenous Services
Lee Field and Bo Field	Yurrandaali
Lee Field and Bo Field	Barraby Cultural Services
Phil Khan	Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group
Jesse Johnson	Muragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation
Darleen Johnson and Ryan Johnson	Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation

In accordance with Section 4.1.6 of the Consultation Requirements, a list of the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) was issued to Heritage NSW and Metropolitan LALC on 6 January 2025.

## 2.2 Stage 2 and Stage 3

To satisfy Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Consultation Requirements, a copy of the proposed assessment methodology was sent to the RAPs by email on 12 December 2024, requesting feedback by 12 January 2025. The draft assessment methodology presented information about the project and invited feedback on the cultural significance of the area. A summary of the comments received by Artefact is presented in Table 3.

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

Person / RAP group	Comment	Response
Jesse Johnson Muragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation	Agrees with the Assessment Methodology	Comment recorded
Darleen Johnson and Ryan Johnson Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Endorses the recommendations provided in the Assessment Methodology	Comment recorded
Carolyn Hickey A1 Indigenous Services	Supports the information and methodology.	Comment recorded
Phil Khan Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Stated that the study area is highly significant and sensitive to our people, and recommended site survey.	Comment recorded

Person / RAP group	Comment	Response
		Site survey undertaken as part of the ATR.

## 2.3 Stage 4

A copy of the draft ACHAR was sent to the RAPs by email on 10 March 2025, requesting feedback by 7 April 2025. A summary of responses received by Artefact is provided in Table 4.

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

Person/ RAP group	Comment	Response
Darleen Johnson/ Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Endorses the recommendations	Comment recorded
Phil Khan/ Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Agrees and supports the recommendations. States that if there will be no monitoring by RAP during earth works the contractors should have Aboriginal Cultural Heritage induction.	Comment recorded and included in Section 8.2 of the ACHAR

## 3.0 SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 3.1 Historic records of Aboriginal material culture

After the massive dispossession of Country by the British colonists from 1788 and the smallpox epidemic of 1789, traditional Aboriginal society was decimated. Few historical records by early colonisers are accurate or reliable, often misunderstanding Aboriginal culture and land tenure. While it is difficult to determine precisely, the Cammeraygal people have been associated with Country around what is now known as Willoughby, Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai and North Sydney Council areas as well as Mosman. 'Cammeray' is the name of the area to which the people belonged and the addition of 'gal' refers to the people from that place. The Cammeraygal clan group may have taken their name from the *camy*, a common term for a spear in the Sydney area (they were regarded as a fierce and war-like clan).

Governor Arthur Phillip rather vaguely noted that the Cammeraygal (Gammeraigal) inhabited 'the northwest side of Port Jackson'. North Sydney Historian Ian Hoskins notes this is 'now thought to extend from Cremorne in the east, to Woodford Bay in the west, and probably to Middle Harbour which forms a natural boundary to the north'. Phillip also referred to a group called the Wallumedegal as occupying the 'opposite shore' (to Sydney Cove). Hoskins and others consider the Wallumedegal clan group to have extended from Lane Cove westward to Parramatta and the Borogegal clan to have lived around Bradleys Head. Further to the north, it seems the Garigal lived on the southern edges of Broken Bay (Hoskins 2019: 3; Currie 2008: 33).

There has long been confusion around the language spoken on the North Shore of Sydney Harbour (as elsewhere across Sydney, the colonists often misinterpreted Aboriginal people or failed to ask pertinent questions). As Jessica Currie notes in her history of the area around Willoughby, *Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go. Yesterday Today Tomorrow*, 'it has been long accepted that the Cammeraygal clan are part of the Guringai language nation, however, there are also claims that the Darug language extended through this area.' The 2015 Aboriginal Heritage Office report 'Filling a void – Guringai language review' notes that the first use of the word 'Guringai' was in 1892 and was based on a Hunter Valley group 'Gringai or Guringay' in an attempt to fill a void in language information to the north of Sydney. More recent research has identified Karikal or Garigal as the clan group associated with the southern side of Broken Bay. The term 'Kuringai' (Guringai) has now been rejected by the Aboriginal Heritage Office and other researchers (AHO 2015: 40-41; Currie 2008: 3; Attenbrow 2010: 22-25; Collins 1789: 453; Smith 2006: 10)

As Currie also notes, 'as the Aboriginal population in the Willoughby area was severely diminished following the British occupation in 1788, oral accounts of the Cammeraygal available to us today are all but non-existent.' Today, much of what we know about the traditional lives of Aboriginal people on the North Shore of Sydney Harbour comes from the often imprecise and limited pens of colonial diarists such as Watkin Tench and David Collins (Currie 2008, p. 3).

However, the many ridgelines and spurs with creeks and rivers that over millennia gouged their way through sandstone and run into Sydney Harbour contain hundreds of sites that comprise physical archaeological evidence of Aboriginal people around Lane Cove and the North Shore. Before the British colonists arrived and began clearing the trees, the various creeks and rivers had created sheltered environments for plants and animals. It was in these areas where Aboriginal people lived for thousands of years, with the often-exposed ridgelines and sandstone outcrops more likely to have been travelling and hunting routes and ceremonial areas.

Along with the creeks and rivers, the coastline to the north of Sydney offered areas of abundant saltwater resources from present day Manly along the Northern Beaches to the southern shores of Broken Bay. A variety of fish were caught and rock oysters, cockles, mussels and clams were also consumed, opened either with a thumbnail or stone oyster hammer. Shell middens can still be seen in many places along the waterways of the North Shore and along the Northern Beaches.

Inland, there were fruits, seeds, nuts, grains and nectars and rhizomes and tubers would have been important components of the staple diet for Aboriginal people. Some parts of plants would have required special preparation to remove any poisons, but the seeds of all native grasses are edible. The Melaleuca tree's paper-like bark was used as shelter, wrapping, containers and fire lighting (Currie 2008: 10-15).

While the coastal foreshores, beaches and coves were prolific food sources, the forests inland were less used. David Collins noted that 'the woods, exclusive of the animals which they occasionally find in their neighbourhood, afford them but little sustenance; a few berries, the yam and fern-root, the flowers of different banksia, and at times some honey, make up the whole vegetable catalogue' (Collins 1789). Collins overstates the distinction, but there was certainly a difference between inland Country and the economies of Aboriginal groups like the Cammeraygal, whose territories included foreshores.

In 1791 John Hunter described how Aboriginal burning the ground on the north side of the harbour, opposite the settlement', was a practice 'constantly' done when the weather was dry. 'Firestick farming' was the practice of burning land to create new green shoots and thereby attract kangaroos for hunting, but fire was also used to control undergrowth and prevent larger bushfires (Hunter 1793: 361).

Men used wooden spears and women wooden digging sticks - two of the most important possessions of Aboriginal people in the pre-colonial past. The other vitally important items for coastal women were fishing lines and fish hooks. Watkin Tench was especially impressed: 'the fish hooks are chopped with stone out a particular shell, and afterwards rubbed until they become smooth...considering the quickness with which they are finished the excellence of the work, if it be inspected, is admirable' (Tench 1789: 284).

Due to the predominance of relatively soft sandstone in the northern Sydney region, hard stone used for axes and scrapers in particular, was traded from areas such as the basalt gravel beds along the Nepean River. Trading was extensive and far-reaching. Silcrete from an outcrop near present day Plumpton Ridge on the Cumberland Plain in Sydney's west and mudstone from the Hunter Valley or near Warragamba dam have been found in Sydney's north. Numerous grinding grooves for sharpening stone can still be found in the northern suburbs of Sydney in close proximity to water sources or waterholes (Currie 2008: 15).

Along the ridges particularly behind the Northern Beaches there are large flat sandstone outcrops that still today have many significant engravings. Many, such as the cluster of engravings at 'Whale Rock' near Mona Vale Road, are located in prominent locations over the surrounding area with views to the north and south, demonstrating the connection between the 'Saltwater people' of the area and the surrounding region. Their locations on the ridge lines and the inclusion of mundoes (footprints) suggests connections between the engravings that have been called 'ancestral pathways' (Kelleher Nightingale 2015: 34; Symons and Welsh 2021, Pers. Comm.)

Today, there is significant remaining historical and archaeological evidence of the presence of Aboriginal people across the Northern Sydney region. An extensive Aboriginal pathway on the North Shore probably became the route of the Pacific Highway of today and there was a 'well-marked pathway' that led from Manly to Pittwater. Waringa (Warringah) – noted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as Middle Cove - is one of many Aboriginal words that remain in place names in the area. Others such as

Turrانبurra have been replaced (Lane Cove River) but the names survive in historical records (Currie 2008 :69; Karskens 2015; Larmer 1898 [1832]: 223-229).

Rock images in the northern Sydney region include kangaroos, wallabies, whales and emus. People and spiritual beings are also commonly represented along with tools and weapons such as spears, shields, digging sticks and boomerangs. Large engravings of the great sky spirit Baiami, his wife Birrahgnooloo and his son, alternatively known as his brother, Daramulan, can be found across the Sydney region with remarkable sites within the Lane Cove National Park and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

Charcoal and ochre artworks are often found in rock overhangs and shelters, where they often remain well preserved. Drawings and stencils in charcoal and red, white and yellow ochre are common at sites in the lower North Shore. These include white ochre fish and hand stencils, a red ochre eel, charcoal drawings of spirit figures and many others the subjects of which are no longer distinguishable. A source of high quality red and white ochre is known at North Head, approximately 12km east of the study area, however, exactly what sources were used by which clans is not known. Trading of high-quality ochre was common between clans and previous studies have shown that, like stone and other geographically specific resources, ochre can be traded over long distances (Currie 2008: 50).

In the Warringah, Willoughby, Lane Cove and North Sydney Local Government areas alone there are today approximately 1,000 Aboriginal sites including middens, rock engravings, axe grinding grooves, carved trees and stone arrangements. Several engravings depicting sharks can be found in the lower North Shore of Sydney, suggesting that these animals may have been particularly important to the Cammeraygal, and may have been a food source. Whales, fish and stingrays are also commonly depicted in rock engravings in the surrounding North Shore and Northern Beaches areas.

In fact, as North Sydney Historian Ian Hoskins notes, 'North Sydney's foreshore areas have some of the finest cultural sites on the lower North Shore' with hand stencils and drawings still visible in caves and rock shelters. Two major engravings on Berry Island, approximately 5km southeast of the study area depict a large sea creature – possibly a fish or a whale. Nearby this is a small hollowed out rock basin with grinding grooves and an engraving on a sandstone platform near Balls Head shows a large whale or fish with a human figure inside. According to a Bundjalung man from the north coast of NSW the man inside the whale 'is a clever fella' and the whale engraving was 'a place of ceremonies, a place where the whales were sung into the shore' (Hoskins 2015: 6-7).

### 3.2 Archaeological background

Several archaeological assessments have been carried out surrounding the study area. Most assessments undertaken within the surrounding area have been located in the nearby suburb of Chatswood. A review of existing archaeological literature (Table 5) has revealed that Aboriginal sites are typically located surrounding Lane Cover River, and its tributaries. The study by TEC (2007) also stated that Aboriginal activity within the region was more likely concentrated around major, permanent watercourses like Lane Cove River rather than smaller, ephemeral water sources. Most assessments within the surrounding area have documented the significant level of historical development across the Chatswood region. That disturbance has been used to explain the absence of identified Aboriginal sites within the Chatswood area. In some cases, the level of disturbance has been so extensive that natural landforms no longer remain. Due to the proximity of those assessments, similar levels of ground disturbance may be expected within the study area, which may have either displaced or destroyed any potential Aboriginal objects.

Full summaries of the relevant studies in the surrounds of the study area are provided in the ATR (Appendix A).

**Table 5: Previous archaeological literature**

Report	Summary
<p><b>Total Earth Care, 2007. 126 Greville Street, Chatswood West: Aboriginal Heritage and Archaeological Assessment. Report prepared for EDAW Pty Ltd.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located approximately 1.2 km southwest of the study area on the Chatswood Ridge near drainage lines which drain into Lane Cove River.</li> <li>• Despite being located next to Blue Gum Creek, a tributary of Lane Cover River, Total Earth Care did not identify any Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential</li> <li>• The assessment concluded that Aboriginal activity within this region was more likely concentrated around major, permanent watercourses like the Lane Cove River rather than smaller, ephemeral water sources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Artefact, 2018. Chatswood Public School: Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment. Report prepared for TSA Management on behalf of the NSW Department of Education.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located approximately 1.43 km south of the study area.</li> <li>• Desktop research found that no AHIMS sites were located within 1 km of Chatswood Public School.</li> <li>• Sites within the search area were largely centred around tributaries of Lane Cover River and rock shelters.</li> <li>• An overall low number of artefact scatters and open camp sites was noted within the search area, which was interpreted as relating to high levels of historical development in the Chatswood area.</li> <li>• The highly disturbed nature of the Chatswood Public School was confirmed during the site inspection, which did not identify any Aboriginal objects or sites within the school area.</li> <li>• It was concluded that the site was unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects or archaeological potential due to disturbance. This suggests that the present study area is likely to be impacted by similar levels of historical disturbance, given the proximity of Chatswood Public School to the study area, which is likely to have affected the preservation of Aboriginal objects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Artefact, 2023, 763-769 Pacific Highway, Chatswood: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Report prepared for Perpetual Corporate Trust Limited as custodian for Novus Trusco 1 as trustee for Albert Avenue Sub Trust.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located approximately 1.4 km south of the study area.</li> <li>• Archaeological survey revealed that the Pacific Highway, Chatswood study area had been heavily disturbed, with no evidence of natural landforms present.</li> <li>• The development that had occurred was found to have caused significant levels of subsurface disturbance.</li> <li>• No Aboriginal objects were identified within the Pacific Highway, Chatswood study area or its vicinity during the desktop portion of the assessment or the survey (Artefact Heritage 2023).</li> <li>• It was concluded that the Pacific Highway, Chatswood study area was unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects.</li> <li>• The proximity of the Pacific Highway, Chatswood study area to the present study area suggests that similar levels of ground disturbance may be expected within the study area, which may have either displaced or destroyed any potential Aboriginal objects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Artefact, 2024a. 57-61 Archer Street, Chatswood: Archaeological Technical Report. Report prepared for Coronation Property Co. Pty Ltd.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located approximately 1.6 km southeast of the study area.</li> <li>• Artefact reiterated the findings of previous investigations (Artefact Heritage 2018), which stated that the region had been subject to extensive disturbance which was likely to have destroyed or significantly impacted the preservation of Aboriginal objects (Artefact Heritage 2024).</li> <li>• The characterisation developed by Artefact highlighted that, despite the presence of a watercourse (Scotts Creek) within the region, Aboriginal objects and sites appeared to be concentrated around the downstream portion of that watercourse, towards its confluence with the Middle Harbour Creek estuary. It was stated that the Middle Harbour Creek estuary would have functioned as a more permanent source of water, making intensified occupation more attractive to Aboriginal groups.</li> <li>• These findings affirm a connection between proximity to permanent sources of water and in the presence of Aboriginal objects within the Chatswood area, and surrounding region.</li> </ul>

Report	Summary
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Artefact, 2024b. 691-699 Pacific Highway, Chatswood: Archaeological Technical Report. Report prepared for Develotek Property Group.

- Located approximately 700 m southwest of the study area.
- Confirmed previous assertions about the archaeological character of the Chatswood region, which highlighted the relationship between proximity to permanent watercourses and the presence of Aboriginal objects.
- The significant level of historical development across the Chatswood region was used to explain the absence of identified Aboriginal sites within the Chatswood area.
- 691-699 Pacific Highway was found to be situated on a liminal zone between the Blacktown and Glenorie soil landscapes, similar to the study area. Both soil landscapes are susceptible to disturbance and erosion, which is likely to have affected the preservation of Aboriginal objects.
- No Aboriginal objects were identified in or nearby the investigation area. Due to the high levels of disturbance, it was considered unlikely that Aboriginal objects would be present. Therefore, no further archaeological assessment of was recommended.

### 3.3 AHIMS search

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

An extensive search of the AHIMS database was undertaken on 11 November 2024 (Client Service ID: 949063) to determine the location of Aboriginal sites in relation to the current study area. The search area was defined as and includes a 2.5 km by 2.5 km area of land surrounding the study area to inform the characterisation of the local archaeological context. The AHIMS search parameters were as follows:

GDA, Zone 56	328647 – 333647 m E 6257570 – 6262570 m N
Buffer	0 metres (m)
Number of sites	73

There were 73 AHIMS registered site located within the search area, none of which are located within the study area. The closest AHIMS site to the study area (AHIMS ID 45-6-1633) was located a [REDACTED]

The most prevalent site types identified from the AHIMS extensive search were Shell, Artefact (n=33, 43.8%), which have generally been described as middens or shelters containing middens within the AHIMS database. The next highest site type within the AHIMS extensive search were Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) (n = 19, 26%). The number and diversity of site types within the extensive search indicates that Aboriginal people in the past were utilising this landscape in various ways, including for Art, tool manufacturing and resourcing

Registered sites on the AHIMS database in the search area are concentrated in proximity to and along the waterways of the Lane Cove River to the southwest of the study area. To the northeast of the study area, sites are concentrated around Middle Harbour and Moores Creek. The AHIMS search results demonstrate that the distribution of recorded Aboriginal sites within the local area is heavily biased towards areas which have suffered less disturbance, in particular the Lane Cove River National Park and Middle Harbour foreshore. This pattern also conforms to Beth White and Jo McDonald Stream order predictive model for the Cumberland Plain (White and McDonald 2010), which predicted that artefacts were more likely to be found within 50 to 100 m of higher (fourth) order

streams, within 50 m of second order streams, and that artefact distribution around first order streams was not significantly affected by distance from the watercourse.

The absence of identified Aboriginal sites in areas of high urban development near the study area suggests that significant levels of historical disturbance have likely either displaced or destroyed any potential Aboriginal sites. This absence is also a reflection of survey bias, sites registered on AHIMS are reflective of the areas that have already been surveyed and cannot provide an unbiased representation of the wider study area.

### 3.4 Environmental background

The following information comprises a summary of the detailed environmental background provided in the project ATR (Artefact, 2024).

The study area is located wholly within the Glenorie soil landscape. Glenorie soils consist of shallow to moderately deep (< 1 m) red podzolic soils on crests, moderately deep (0.7 – 1.5 m) red and brown podzolic soils on upper slopes (DPE 2015). Because of the strongly acidic nature of Glenorie soils, organic materials are unlikely to be preserved, meaning that potential archaeological resources will be limited to inorganic materials, primarily lithics. Furthermore, due to the highly erodible nature of this soil landscape, in situ archaeological deposits are only likely to occur at greater depths, with potential artefacts in shallow layers likely having been dispersed, displaced or redeposited downslope through erosion processes or historical ground disturbance.

Glenorie soils are underlain by Wianamatta Group Ashfield and Bringelly Shale formations. Both geological formations comprise shales, variably calcareous claystones, siltstones, laminites, and lithic-quartz sandstones (DPE 2015). The regolith on these bedrocks also commonly contains ironstone pisoliths and ironstone gravels produced by weathering. These geologies do not normally provide lithic raw materials suitable for use in toolmaking and manufacturing processes by Aboriginal groups. Rocky outcrops and scarps are uncommon within these soil landscapes, limiting the potential for rock shelters and quarry sites to be present, although localised outcrops of ferricrete have the potential to be used as grinding sites.

The nearest watercourse to the study area is Blue Gum Creek, located approximately 200 m southwest of the study area at its closest point. Blue Gum Creek is a non-perennial watercourse and a tributary of the Lane Cove River which would have provided a source of potable water and aquatic resources for Aboriginal groups in the region. However, Aboriginal occupation and activity in this area is likely to be concentrated closer to the western portion of the Creek, closer to its confluence with Lane Cove River, as this would have provided a steadier flow of water and resources. That confluence is located approximately 1.8 kilometres southwest of the study area.

Glenorie soil landscapes are prone to hardening on drying, leading to surface run-off after intense summer rain. Soil creep and some wash would be predicted across the study area in an east to west downslope vector in the pre-urban landscape. These processes will have led to net soil loss and soil movement over time across the study area, leading to artefact dispersal in the pre-European landscape. Further phases of disturbance will have been associated with woodland clearance, which will have altered run-off characteristics and soil loss processes.

Urban development is extensive around the study area and will have further disturbed ground surfaces. The study area is small in land area. Building elevations specific to the blocks, including levels for foundations, access and landscaping will be the likely determinants of what if any topsoils and subsoils remain across the study area.

In summary, the residential blocks in the study area would be expected to have relatively shallow (<300 mm deep) topsoils grading down into clayey stiff subsoils, if natural. Garden soils should be

identifiable on surface exposures, as will clayey subsoils appearing at surface from past construction/landscaping works. As the Glenorie soil landscape contains shallow soils that are susceptible to erosion, historical development and past land use practices have likely affected the survival of Aboriginal objects within the study area.

Historic aerial imagery demonstrates that the study area, and Roseville generally have been heavily developed since the early twentieth century. The structures present in the study area appear to be the same structures evident in aerial photographs from 1930. Changes to the study area over time include the construction of swimming pools in the backyard of various lots within the study area. This suggests that a single major construction phase had occurred, when this portion of the suburb was initially developed. As such, portions of the study area not heavily impacted by the initial building development works and subsequent additions may still contain remnants of intact soil profiles.

Outside of the study area, contextual disturbance to the north of the study area included the widening of the Pacific Highway in the late 1960's and renovations to the Roseville Station in 2021. Site types such as scarred trees and stone arrangements are highly unlikely to have survived in the study area due to the clearing of all native vegetation and subsequent development.

### 3.5 Regional and local archaeological character

Archaeological sites around the Port Jackson region have different characteristics than those located across the Cumberland Plain. Sites across the northern side of Port Jackson tend to be located within 100 m of a water source and rock shelters sites most commonly have a northern facing aspect. Artefact assemblages have more diversity and contain higher proportions of chert, quartz, quartzite, and basalt. In contrast, the dominant stone resources associated across the Cumberland Plain tend to be silcrete, quartz and tuff.

In the local area, the AHIMS data and previous archaeological assessments of the Roseville and Chatswood region have demonstrated that the distribution of recorded Aboriginal sites within the local area is heavily biased towards areas that have been subject to relatively less disturbance. This is due to the impactful nature of urban developments, but also the susceptibility of Glenorie soils to the effects of ground disturbance (DPE 2015).

The environmental context of the study area, particularly its distance from Lane Cove River, indicates a lower likelihood for subsurface Aboriginal sites and archaeological deposits than areas closer to the upper streams of the Lane Cove River. The nearest AHIMS registered site is located approximately 1.53 kilometres southwest of the study area. The pattern of AHIMS sites within the region demonstrates a relationship between sites and permanent watercourses. Major watercourses within the region, including Lane Cove River, Middle Harbour and their tributaries would provide abundant sources of freshwater resources. Blue Gum Creek, a tributary of the Lane Cove River is approximately 200 metres southwest of the study area. The Aboriginal sites registered on AHIMS show a prevalence of sites concentrated around the banks of the upstream areas of tributaries and the major watercourses themselves. These sites are also in areas that have not been subject to high levels of historical disturbance and have been subject to archaeological surveys.

### 3.6 Predictive model

The predictive model comprises a series of statements about the nature and distribution of archaeological evidence of Aboriginal land use within the study area. Based on a synthesis of information from desktop research, landscape context and previous archaeological reports, the following predictive statements can be made:

- The survival of Aboriginal objects is contingent on the depth of disturbance from existing structures and associated infrastructure. Most houses within the study area appear to have been built prior to 1930, however aerial imagery indicates that the backyard of most properties have been subject to landform modification. This would have significantly disturbed if not destroyed any archaeological traces of the use of the area by Aboriginal people
- Site identification will rely on visibility, projected to be nil to low, based on analysis of both historic and contemporary aerial imagery
- Desktop assessment has determined that Aboriginal sites in the region are concentrated around high order, upstream permanent watercourses. Aboriginal sites are less likely to be identified in the study area, which is located approximately 200 m northeast of Blue Gum Creek
- Based on the AHIMS search results, the concentration of midden sites in the local area are centred primarily along the banks of the Lane Cove River. Shell middens are unlikely to be recorded in the study area
- Analyses of aerial imagery has revealed that vegetation clearance associated with extensive development is likely to have impacted the survival of mature native trees. Culturally modified trees are unlikely to be present within the study area.

## 4.0 SUMMARY OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The archaeological survey of the study area was conducted by Jonathan Bennett (Heritage Consultant, Artefact), Katherine Douglas (Graduate Heritage Consultant, Artefact), Jordan Marr (Site Officer, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council) and Celia Mak (Development Manager, Aqualand) on 6 December 2024. The study area was characterised by a single survey unit (Survey Unit 2) reflecting the study area's past land use. The survey unit was subject to a full coverage survey.

A summary of the survey results has been included below. The appended ATR contains the full survey results for this report (Appendix A).

### 4.1 Survey results

Survey Unit 2 comprised Site B, which included 2-16 Pockley Avenue, Roseville. Existing residential buildings covered the majority of majority of Survey Unit 2. Visibility was nil within the front yard of 16 Pockley Avenue due to extensive grass coverage. The backyard of that property appeared to have been extensively terraced, with raised garden beds and a pool. A small granny flat was also present within the backyard of 16 Pockley Avenue. Visibility within that backyard was similarly low due to grass and mulch coverage. A small area of exposure surrounding a fire pit contained a homogenous imported fill. Visibility along the western side of that property was impeded by paved surfaces. Subsurface drainage was observed immediately adjacent to that property.

A paved footpath was present within the front yard of 14 Pockley Avenue that impeded visibility. An exposure within the front garden bed was comprised of a light brown sandy silt with mixed fill inclusions. A small garage was located in the backyard of that property. The topography within the backyard was sloped, however the area surrounding the garage appeared to have been levelled. Within the backyard of 12 Pockley Avenue, a pool and associated pump services were observed.

Subsurface drainage was observed at the front of 10 Pockley Ave. Several large sandstone pavers were located within the front yard of that property. Soils within a large area of exposure within the front yard were comprised of a hard set baked greyish-orange clay with mixed fill inclusions. The backyard of that property was terraced and contained a granny flat. Isolated areas of exposure within the backyard were comprised of a clayey silt. Imported material was observed bounding the side of that property, where a retaining wall was also present.

A paved entry and extensive grass coverage impeded visibility at the front of 8 Pockley Avenue. Landform modification was observed in the backyard of that property, where brick pavers had overlain a levelled landform. Mixed fill was observed underneath the residential dwelling. Terracing was also observed within the front yard of 6 Pockley Avenue. Visibility within the front yard of that property was nil due to extensive grass coverage. The backyard of that property had been extensively terraced. Small areas of exposure were present at the base of a tree within that backyard. Landform modification was also observed in a flat levelled area that had been used as a carpark. Isolated disturbance also included a footing for a clothesline.

A large tree was inspected within the front yard of 4 Pockley Avenue. No signs of cultural scarring and marking were present on that tree. An exposure in the front driveway of that property was comprised of a mixed fill. A large undercover pool was located in the backyard of that property. The backyard was also found to be modified through terracing. A large pool was observed within the backyard of 2 Pockley Avenue. The backyard of that property was similarly found to be modified through terracing. A garden bed at the rear of the property contained a mixed fill. In the front yard of that property, exposures were comprised of a dark brown sandy silt.

Overall, it was evident that current and past land use had resulted in extensive subsurface disturbance to the study area. No Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD were identified during archaeological survey.

During the survey, Jordan Marr (Site Officer, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council) stated the study area was unlikely to contain potential for Aboriginal objects and that no further assessment was required.

## 4.2 Analysis of survey coverage and effectiveness

No Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD were identified during survey. Overall, visibility was assessed as being low, estimated at 3% and overall exposure being very low, estimated at 2%. Effective survey coverage is outlined in Table 6, and landform survey coverage is outlined in Table 7. Survey coverage is calculated as being nil as ground visibility and exposure must be calculated in increments of 10% in accordance with the *Code of Practice*. While the study area was subject to a full coverage survey, 0% effective coverage means that the study area is predominantly covered by material that may conceal Aboriginal objects.

**Table 6: Effective survey coverage**

Survey Unit	Landform	Survey unit area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Survey Coverage (m <sup>2</sup> )	Effective Coverage (%)
2	Rolling Hills - Slope	6,556	0	0	0	0

**Table 7: Landform survey coverage**

Landform	Landform area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Area effectively surveyed (m <sup>2</sup> )	% of landform effectively surveyed	Number of sites
Rolling Hills - Slope	6,556	0	0	0

## 5.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES

### 5.1 Methodology

The cultural assessment in this report includes information collected through desktop assessment and Aboriginal community consultation undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Requirements. This information was collected by Jonathan Bennett (Heritage Consultant, Artefact).

#### 5.1.1 Cultural landscape

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

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

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

#### 5.1.2 Types of values

Aboriginal people hold significant knowledge about traditional use of land before and after contact. The landscape which encompasses the study area has cultural value of importance to the Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal community collectively holds values and knowledge that relate to:

- Traditional values: these are passed down by family and community as part of ancient tradition.
- Historical values: these are passed down by family and community and relate to the eras since colonisation; these may include information gained from historical source documents.
- Contemporary values: these are values of modern importance and relevance for Aboriginal stakeholder groups.

There is often no clear separation between these values, and they collectively co-exist with equal importance in forming the value that Aboriginal people place on landscape, cultural heritage, intangible heritage, and particular landforms or parts of the landscape.

## 5.2 Identified Aboriginal cultural heritage values

Table 8 provides a summary of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the study area.

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

Cultural heritage value	Description	Source
Lane Cove River (Traditional and contemporary values)	<p>Large numbers of Aboriginal sites have been recorded in close proximity to Lane Cove River, which would have provided important resources for Aboriginal people as well as being utilised for a range of activities including camping, hunting fishing and ceremonies.</p> <p>The surrounding area, and in particular ridgelines overlooking Lane Cove River, have a deep connection to the river and share its significance.</p>	Background research
Sandstone exposures (Traditional and contemporary values)	Sandstone outcrops are found throughout the local area, these outcrops have significance for Aboriginal people, for the shelter and other resources they provide as well as locations where Aboriginal art can be found, these sites can provide a strong connection to the local Aboriginal community.	Background research
Aboriginal occupation (Traditional and Historical values)	Aboriginal people have lived throughout the local area for tens of thousands of years and hold a deep connection to the land.	Background research
Northern Sydney region (Traditional and Historical values)	An extensive Aboriginal pathway on the North Shore probably became the route of the Pacific Highway of today	(Currie 2008)

## 5.3 Aboriginal cultural values within the study area

Lane Cove River and the surrounding area is highly significant to Aboriginal people. While the local area is significant to Aboriginal people both through their connection with the land and for the presence of Aboriginal objects, no specific cultural values have been identified associated with the study area. In addition, due to the level of disturbance associated with residential development, it is unlikely that any Aboriginal objects that hold cultural significance are present within the study area.

## 6.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

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

### 6.1 Significance assessment criteria

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

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

Scientific values should be considered in light of the following criteria:

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

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

#### 6.1.1 Historic value

Historic values refer to the association of place with aspect of Aboriginal history. Historic values are not necessarily reflected in physical objects, but may be intangible and relate to memories, stories or experiences. The background research did not identify specific historical events associated with the study area. However, it is noted that the Aboriginal people have occupied the broader North Shore area for thousands of years and the surrounding landscape was used for hunting, ceremony and travel routes (see further details in Section 3.1). Contributions as to historic values from the RAPS as part of the consultation process were welcomed but no specific historic values were identified.

### 6.1.2 Aesthetic value

Aesthetic values refer to the sensory, scenic, architectural, and creative aspects of this place. These values may be related to the landscape and are often closely associated with social/cultural values. The study area has been significantly impacted by historic activity, and no specific aesthetic values have been identified as associated with the study area. Contributions as to aesthetic values from RAPs as part of the consultation process were welcomed but no specific aesthetic values were identified.

### 6.1.3 Socio/cultural value

Socio/cultural heritage values should be addressed by Aboriginal people who have connection to, or interest in, the area. The number and diversity of Aboriginal sites in the Ku-ring-gai Council and surrounding LGAs, comprising approximately 1,000 sites including middens, rock engravings, carved trees, art, and ceremony sites, reflects the broader significance of this landscape and its history of Aboriginal occupation. Contributions as to socio/ cultural values from RAPs as part of the consultation process were welcomed but no specific values were identified.

### 6.1.4 Scientific value

Scientific values refer to a site's potential to contribute to our current understanding and information. As no Aboriginal objects or sites were identified during archaeological survey, there are no scientific values for the study area.

## 6.2 Statement of significance

No Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential have been identified through this assessment. The study area has been subject to significant historical disturbances and as a result it is unlikely that Aboriginal objects will be present.

No socio/cultural, aesthetic or historic values specific to the study area have been identified to date during ACHAR preparation. However, the long history of Aboriginal occupation in the broader area, and the number and diversity of surrounding site types is acknowledged.

## 7.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 7.1 Proposed works

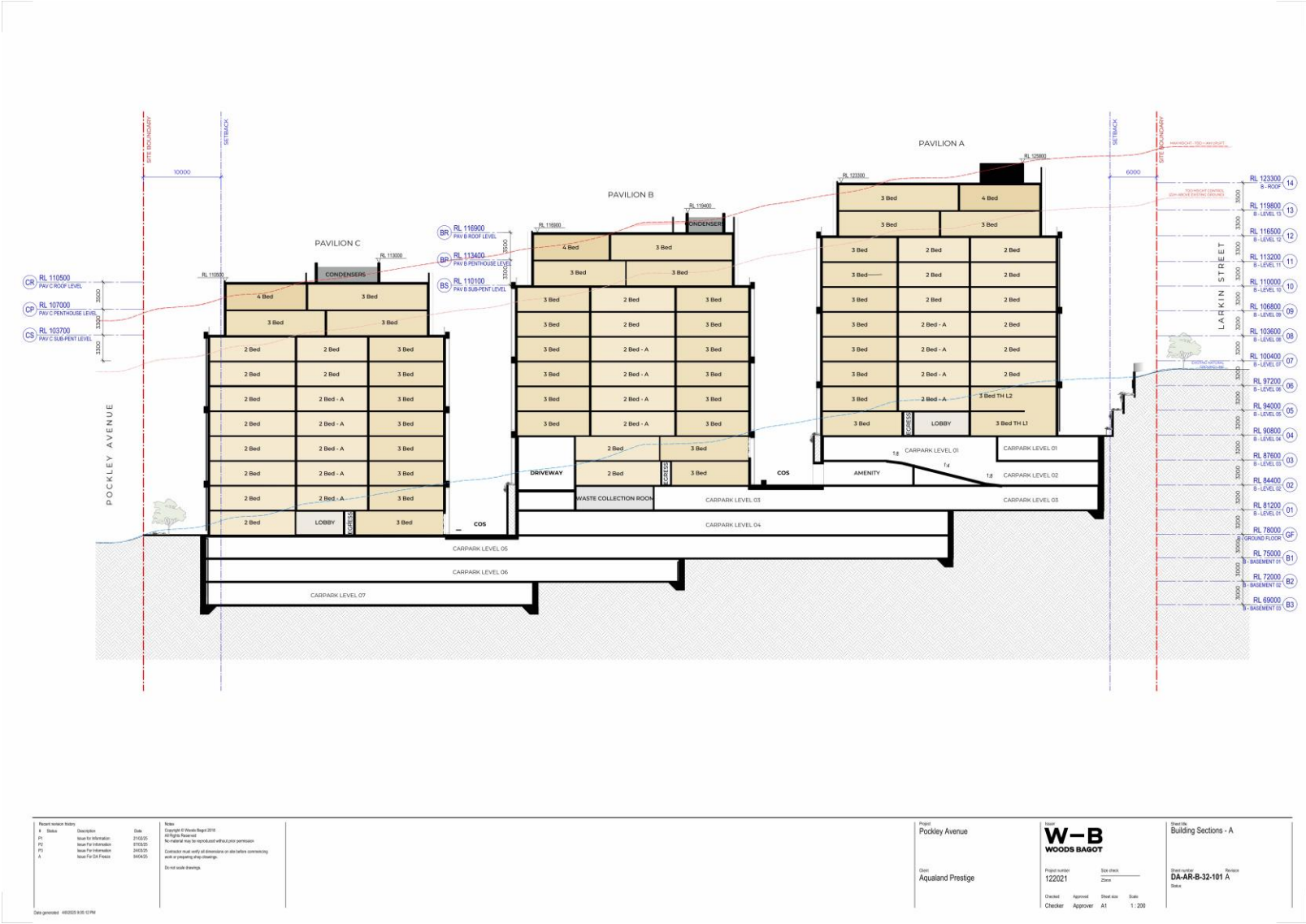
The proponent's proposal for the study area includes residential flat buildings within the transport-oriented development (TOD) catchment with the provision of in-fill affordable housing. The objective of the development is aligned to the aim of Chapter 5 of the *State Environmental Planning Policies (Housing) 2021* (Housing SEPP) to provide much needed market and affordable housing stock that is well-designed and provides high amenity in proximity to existing public transport.

The applicant seeks development consent under Division 4.7 State Significant Development of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for a new residential development comprising three residential flat buildings which includes the provision of in-fill affordable housing on the site at 2-16 Pockley Avenue, Roseville. Specifically, this SSSDA seeks approval for:

- Site preparation including demolition, excavation and tree removal of the site;
- Construction of a residential flat building containing 3 building elements of up to 9 storeys including:
  - Part-3, part 4 and part 5-level combined basement parking with the provision of 285 car parking spaces,
  - 178 dwellings including 39 affordable housing dwellings above carpark;
- Ground level and on-building landscaping works including communal open spaces in Pavilion A.
- Augmentation of, and connection to, existing utilities as required

Plans of the proposed works are shown below in Figure 2 - Figure 5.

Figure 2: Site B Building Sections (Source: Woods Bagot, issued 4 April 2025)



Rev	Description	Date	Notes
1	Issue	21/03/25	Design of Woods Bagot 2025
2	Issue for Information	21/03/25	All Rights Reserved
3	Issue for Information	21/03/25	No content may be reproduced without prior permission
4	Issue for Information	21/03/25	Contractor must verify all dimensions on site before commencing work in compliance with drawings.
5	Issue for Information	21/03/25	Do not scale drawings.

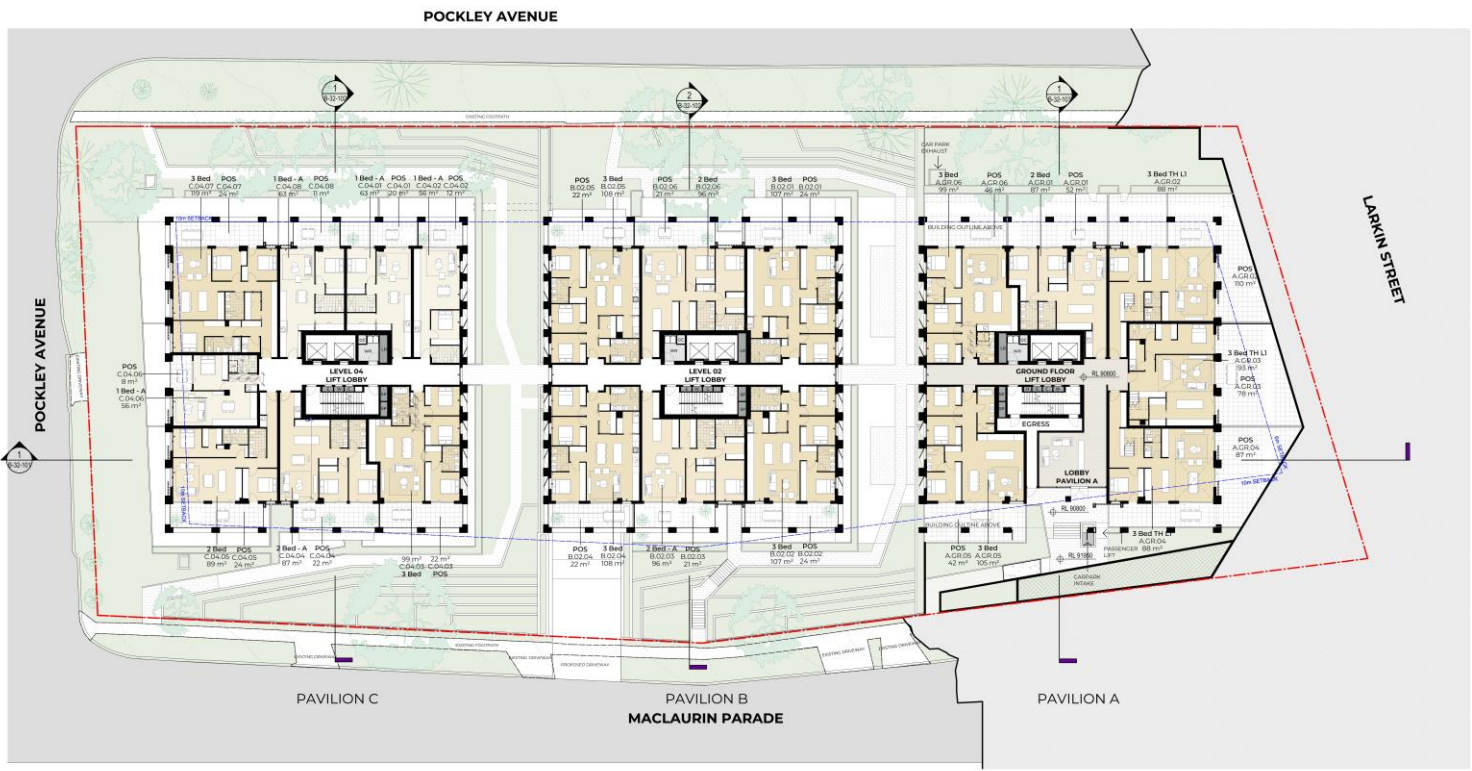
Project: Pockley Avenue  
 Client: Aqualand Prestige

**W-B**  
**WOODS BAGOT**

Project Number: 122021  
 Scale: 1:200  
 Checked: [ ]  
 Approved: [ ]  
 Date: [ ]  
 Status: 1:200

Building Sections - A  
 Sheet Number: DA-AR-B-32-101 A  
 Date: [ ]

Figure 3: Site B ground floor plan (Source: Woods Bagot, issued 4 April 2025)



Revision	By	Date	Description
1	Woods Bagot	21/03/25	Issue for Information
2	Woods Bagot	03/03/25	Issue for Information
3	Woods Bagot	24/03/25	Issue for Information
4	Woods Bagot	04/04/25	Issue for Information

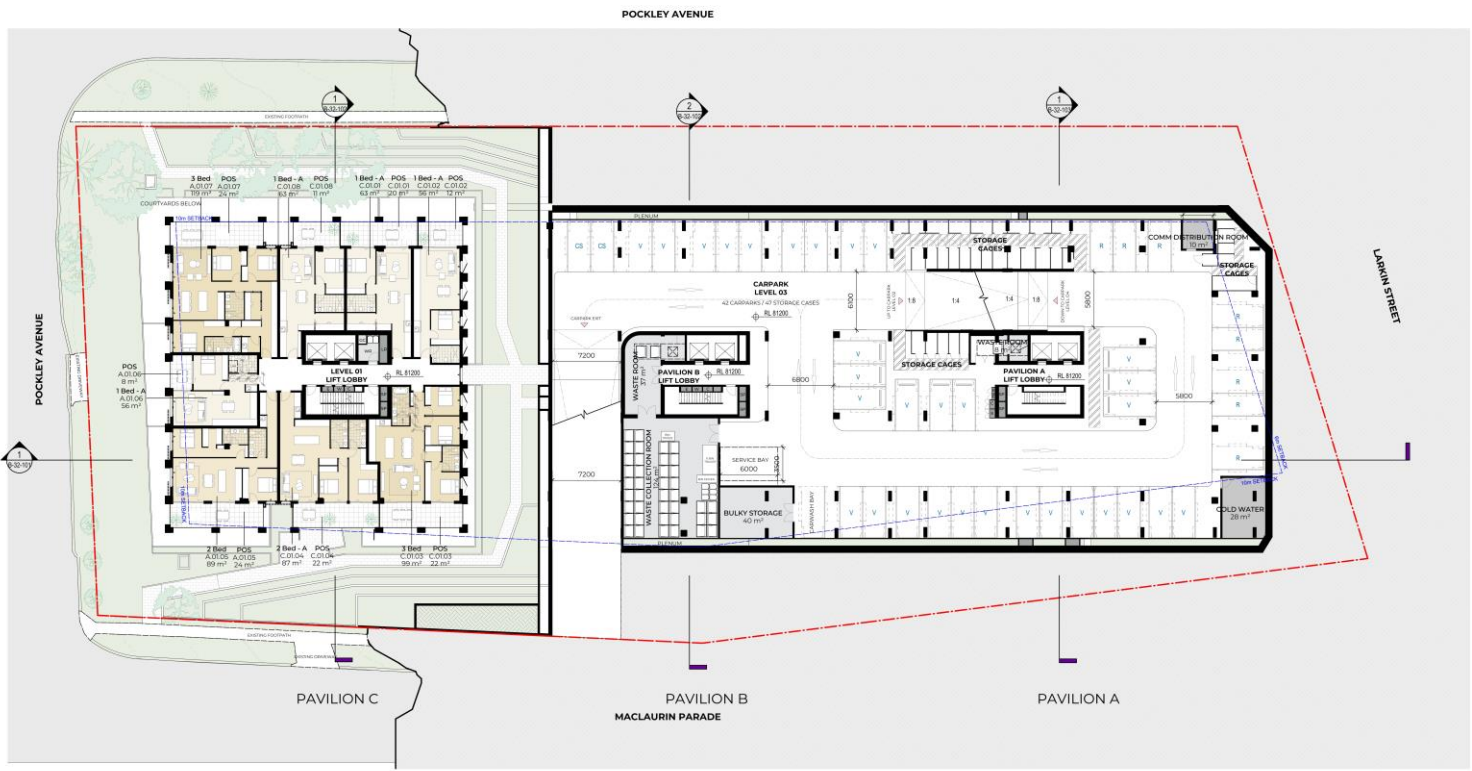
Project: Pockley Avenue  
 Client: Aqualand Prestige

**W-B**  
 WOODS BAGOT

Project Number: 122021  
 Scale: 1:200  
 Date: 04/04/25

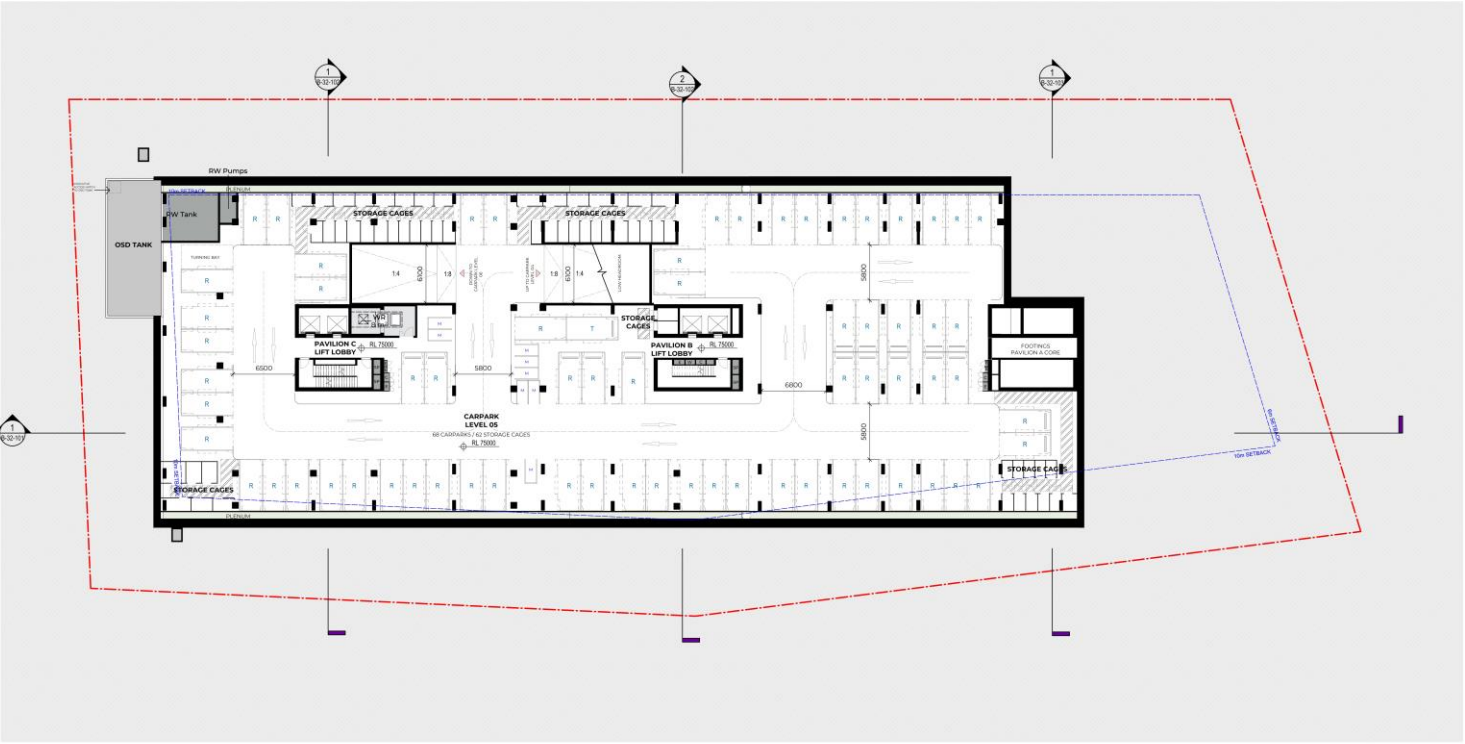
Author: DA-AR-B-22-100 A  
 Review: For Information

Figure 4: Basement 03 Plan (Source: Woods Bagot, issued 4 April 2025) Representative of basement impacts across the study area



<p><b>Recent version history</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>#</th> <th>Version</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P1</td> <td>Issue for Information</td> <td></td> <td>21/02/25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P2</td> <td>Issue for Information</td> <td></td> <td>03/03/25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P3</td> <td>Issue for Information</td> <td></td> <td>24/03/25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>Issue for DA Process</td> <td></td> <td>04/04/25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	#	Version	Description	Date	P1	Issue for Information		21/02/25	P2	Issue for Information		03/03/25	P3	Issue for Information		24/03/25	A	Issue for DA Process		04/04/25	<p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>Design of Woods Bagot 2018          All Rights Reserved          No content may be reproduced without prior permission          Contributor must verify all dimensions on site before commencing work in compliance with drawings.          Do not scale drawings.</p>	<p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>LB - LOBBY RELIEF</td> <td>F - FIRE EXTINGUISHER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SP - STAIR PRESSURIZATION</td> <td>FCR - FIRE CONTROL ROOM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CE - CARBARGE EXHAUST</td> <td>FHR - FIRE HOSE REEL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C - COMMON CURBBOARD</td> <td>W - WATER METER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E - ELECTRICAL CURBBOARD</td> <td>GM - GAS METER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KE - KITCHEN EXHAUST</td> <td>GC - GARBARGE CHUTE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CE - CARBARK EXHAUST</td> <td>WR - WASTE ROOM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HE - HYDRAULIC RISER</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	LB - LOBBY RELIEF	F - FIRE EXTINGUISHER	SP - STAIR PRESSURIZATION	FCR - FIRE CONTROL ROOM	CE - CARBARGE EXHAUST	FHR - FIRE HOSE REEL	C - COMMON CURBBOARD	W - WATER METER	E - ELECTRICAL CURBBOARD	GM - GAS METER	KE - KITCHEN EXHAUST	GC - GARBARGE CHUTE	CE - CARBARK EXHAUST	WR - WASTE ROOM	HE - HYDRAULIC RISER		<p>Project: Pockley Avenue</p> <p>Client: Aqualand Prestige</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p><b>W-B</b> WOODS BAGOT</p> <p>Project Number: 122021</p> <p>Sheet Number: DA-AR-B-22-097 A</p> <p>Scale: 1:200</p> </div> </div> <p>Revision: For Information</p>
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Figure 5: Basement 05 floor plan (Source: Woods Bagot, issued 4 April 2025) Representative of basement impacts across the study area



Revision	Description	Date
1	Issue for Information	21/02/25
2	Issue for Information	03/03/25
3	Issue for Information	24/03/25
4	Issue for Information	04/04/25

**LEGEND**

LD - LOBBY RELIEF  
 SD - STAIR PRESSURIZATION  
 CE - CARPARK EXHAUST  
 C - COMMON CURBWOAD  
 E - ELECTRICAL CURBWOAD  
 KE - KITCHEN EXHAUST  
 CE - CARPARK EXHAUST  
 HR - HYDRAULIC RISER

F - FIRE EXTINGUISHER  
 FCR - FIRE CONTROL ROOM  
 FHR - FIRE HOSE REEL  
 W - WATER METER  
 GM - GAS METER  
 GC - GARAGE CHUTE  
 WR - WASTE ROOM

Project:  
 Pockley Avenue

Client:  
 Aqualand Prestige

**W-B**  
**WOODS BAGOT**

Project Number:  
 122021

Scale:  
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Approved:  
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Basement 05 Plan

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Revision:  
 For Information

## 7.2 Aboriginal heritage impact

The study area is situated within a sloping landscape, not located near significant water resources. Archaeological survey has demonstrated that the study area has been subject to disturbance associated with residential development and associated services. When these impacts are considered alongside the erosional characteristics of the Glenorie soil landscape, and distance to permanent water, it has been assessed that Aboriginal objects are unlikely to be present within the study area.

There are no previously recorded sites within the study area and the archaeological survey undertaken did not identify any Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD. Therefore, the proposed works are unlikely to impact any Aboriginal objects.

## 7.3 Ecological Sustainable Development principles

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

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

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

### 7.3.1 The integration principle

The preparation of this ACHAR demonstrates regard for the integration principle by considering Aboriginal heritage values and impacts to these from the proposal during the planning phase. The proposal intends to provide affordable housing. Therefore, the nature of the proposal is in itself one that contributes to the long term economic and social needs of current and future residents of the area.

### 7.3.2 The precautionary principle

The preparation of this ACHAR demonstrates regard for the precautionary principle by considering impacts to scientific values within the study area.

### 7.3.3 The principle of intergenerational equity

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

## 7.4 Cumulative impacts

A cumulative impact is an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage resulting from the incremental impact of the action/s of a development when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Aboriginal archaeology is by nature an irreplaceable resource and as such any harm to Aboriginal archaeology will have cumulative impacts. As no Aboriginal sites or objects have been identified in the study area, there are no impacts to tangible heritage and this project will not contribute further to cumulative impacts on tangible heritage.

Although the proposed works are unlikely to pose an impact, it is noted that Aboriginal people have been significantly impacted by land dispossession and the impacts of colonisation. Development has altered the landscape and impacted intangible heritage through the disruption and loss of landscape features, views and other elements. Ongoing development presents a significant cumulative impact to intangible cultural values across the broader landscape.

## 8.0 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

### 8.1 Guiding principles

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

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

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

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

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

### 8.2 Proposed management or mitigation measures

As no Aboriginal objects were identified and it is considered unlikely that Aboriginal objects will be present within the study area, works may proceed with caution without mitigation. Unexpected finds of Aboriginal objects are protected under the NPW Act and an Unexpected Finds Procedure (UFP) should be implemented to manage Aboriginal objects that may be encountered during works. As per comments from Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group during ACHAR consultation, an Aboriginal heritage induction should be included as part of the site induction process for all workers.

### 8.3 Ongoing consultation

Aboriginal community consultation should be maintained until approval for the proposed works has been received. In accordance with The Consultation Requirements (DECCW 2010b), contact with RAPs should be maintained no less than once every six months.

## 8.4 Changes to the project area

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

## 9.0 CONCLUSION

Based the background research, site survey, assessment of cultural values and impact assessment the following conclusions can be made:

### 9.1 Findings

This assessment found that:

- The study area has been subject to significant levels of disturbance through residential development and associated services
- The study area is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects and therefore the proposal will not result in impacts to Aboriginal objects
- No cultural values specific to the study area have been identified. However, the broader significance of the surrounding landscape for Aboriginal people is acknowledged.

### 9.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment, the following recommendations are made:

- As no Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD have been identified within the study area, no further archaeological assessment is required
- An Unexpected Finds Procedure (UFP) should be prepared ahead of the proposed works commencing. It is recommended this procedure be prepared by a heritage professional
- Consultation with registered Aboriginal parties should be maintained with gaps in communications of no more than six months until approval for the proposed works has been received.
- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impact to areas not assessed by this ACHAR, further archaeological assessment must be undertaken.

A summary of the mitigation measures has been included below:

Ref	Mitigation measure	Description
AH1	Unexpected Finds Procedure	An Unexpected Finds Procedure must be prepared and implemented throughout the project, with procedures in place for notification of Heritage NSW, a heritage consultant, and the Registered Aboriginal Parties, where unexpected finds are identified. This procedure must be reviewed by a heritage professional  As per comments from Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group

Ref	Mitigation measure	Description
		during ACHAR consultation, an Aboriginal heritage induction should be included as part of the site induction process for all workers.
AH2	Aboriginal community consultation	The Registered Aboriginal Parties must be consulted in the event of the discovery of any unexpected Aboriginal objects, and in the event of changes and/or new assessments relating to Aboriginal heritage

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## APPENDIX A – TECHNICAL REPORT

## APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION RECORDS

DRAFT



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