



APPENDIX H

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT REPORT



Garoo Solar Farm and BESS

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Assessment Report

PREPARED FOR

The Trustee for GreenPulse Solar
Farm and BESS Unit Trust
(GreenPulse)

DATE

5 November 2025

REFERENCE

0751705



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Garoo Solar Farm and BESS

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

0751705



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description
AAR	Aboriginal Ancestral Remains
AC	Alternating Current
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
ACHMP	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
ATSIHP Act	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i>
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CMT	Culturally Modified Tree
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Water (former)
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ERM	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
DC	Direct Current
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GPS	Global Positioning System
ha	Hectares
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolt
kya	One thousand years ago
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
m	Metres
MW	Megawatt
MWAC	Megawatt converted to AC
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage (former)
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SSD	State Significant Development
SU	Survey Unit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) has been engaged by GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust (GreenPulse, The Applicant) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the proposed Garoo Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project), situated in the rural locality of Garoo, New South Wales (NSW).

The Applicant is proposing the construction, operation and decommissioning of a solar farm and associated infrastructure with a targeted electricity generation capacity of 133.76 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC). The Project Area covers 369 hectares (ha) as shown in **Figure 1-1**. It is located 40 km south of Tamworth in the rural locality of Garoo in central north NSW.

The Project will be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) application under Part 4, Division 4.7, of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (SSD-79747209).

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

Archaeological field survey to inform this ACHAR was undertaken by ERM and RAP representatives between the 26 - 28 February 2025. The information gathered during the survey was used by GreenPulse to re-design the Project infrastructure layout which resulted in reduced and minimised impacts to all cultural heritage sites and values. Consultation between GreenPulse and RAPs also led to the implementation of buffer zones being established around culturally modified trees to protect their heritage values.

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

There are no previously registered Aboriginal sites located within the Project Area;

A total of 13 new Aboriginal sites were identified within the Project Area during the development of this ACHAR (comprising Culturally Modified Trees, (CMTs) Isolated Artefacts, Artefact Scatters and a potential Hearth); and

Based on the current development footprint no sites will be harmed by the Project (including both site extents and their buffer, if applied).

Proposed key measures to manage impacts by the Project to identified heritage sites are summarised below:

Impact Avoidance:

- Preservation and management of Aboriginal sites and heritage values will form a key objective of development controls for the Project. It should be noted that amendments to the Project development footprint in May 2025 has reduced direct impact to all sites; and
- If design changes are to occur within any areas that will impact registered sites, additional assessment and consultation will be required.

Site Buffers:

ERM recommends a buffer of at least 10 m be provided to recorded CMTs. This would affect the following sites:

GSF CMT 01;

GSF CMT 02;

GSF CMT 03;

GSF CMT 04; and

GSF CMT 05.

Cultural Heritage Induction and Acknowledgement:

All personnel involved with construction activities within the Project Area should undertake a cultural heritage induction

Unexpected Finds Procedure:

An Unexpected Finds Procedure should be developed prior to the construction phase, and construction workers should be briefed on its procedures.

1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) has been engaged by GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust (GreenPulse, The Applicant) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the proposed Garoo Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project), situated in the rural locality of Garoo, New South Wales (NSW).

It is understood that the Project will require an ACHAR to support the Environmental Impact Statement. The ACHAR will be prepared in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (Consultation Requirements) (DECCW, 2010a), Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (Code of Practice) (DECCW 2010b), the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and all other relevant guidelines and legislation. The ACHAR will be prepared to identify, assess, and develop management recommendations for any identified Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values within the Project Area. Preparation of the ACHAR will include First Nations community consultation, field investigations, and associated data analysis and reporting.

The Project is situated in the rural locality of Garoo, approximately 40 kilometres (km) south of Tamworth, NSW (**Figure 1-1**). Located entirely within the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area (LGA), the Project Area extends across approximately 369 hectares (ha), comprising 17 freehold land parcel and one Crown Land lot. The land is currently used for agricultural activities, predominantly livestock grazing and irrigated cropping.

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Project involves the construction, operation and decommissioning of an Alternating Current (AC) solar farm, BESS and associated supporting and ancillary infrastructure. **Table 1-1** summarises the key indicative Project components and specifications.

TABLE 1-1 INDICATIVE PROJECT DESIGN - COMPONENTS AND SPECIFICATION

Component	Feature	Specification
Energy generation	Solar Arrays	133.76 MW AC solar farm. Single axis tracking system with maximum panel height of up to 2.9 metres (m) when fully tilted.
Electrical Reticulation Network	On-site substation	New customer and TransGrid high voltage interconnection facilities will be developed in the northeast section of the Project Area, linking into the existing 330 kV Liddell-Tamworth transmission line.
	Internal electrical reticulation network (Medium Voltage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electrical reticulation will generally follow rows of panels and internal access routes to reach the step-up substation (33 / 330 kV) for the Project. ▪ The Project will connect into the substation (33 / 330 kV) on-site directly via underground cables (33 kV, internal reticulation voltage). ▪ The Project will be connected to the Grid by Switching Station (330 kV) located on-site boundary.
	Switchyard / BESS	BESS with a capacity of 360 MW / 1,440 MWh storage capacity. Switch and other electrical equipment providing connection to the existing 330 kV transmission network.

Component	Feature	Specification
Access Roads	Access to site	Access to the Project Area will be via the existing Garoo Road, located on Crown land and road reserve. Approximately 330 m of a currently unsealed road, that runs from Garoo road into the northeast section of the Project Area, will be required to be upgraded. This will be subject to assessment in the EIS phase.
On-site Temporary Infrastructure	Temporary Workforce Accommodation Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary construction compounds with offices, car parking and amenities; Temporary workers accommodation camp (capacity 250 FTE), which will be operational for 15 months (refer Figure 1-3); On-site borrow pits, laydown and storage areas, fencing, and access; and Utilities, including water sourcing, power supply, and communications

The indicative Project layout is displayed in **Figure 1-2** and identifies the proposed development footprint for the solar farm, including solar panels, BESS, substation and associated ancillary infrastructure. The Project layout will be subject to further design development during the EIS phase.

The Project proposes to connect to the national grid via the existing 330 kilovolt (kV) Liddell-Tamworth overhead transmission line, which traverses the Project Area in a general north-south alignment. Once operational, the solar component will provide enough electricity to power approximately 70,000 homes, and the BESS will store up to four (4) hours of electricity, released during peak demand to assist reliable power supply and grid stability.

1.1.1 SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS (SEARS)

Project-specific Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) (SSD-79747209, dated 4 March 2025). The requirements for Aboriginal heritage assessment and where they have been addressed are summarised in **Figure 1-2**

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

SEAR	Section addressed in this report
An assessment of the impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage items (archaeological and cultural) in accordance with the <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW</i> (OEH 2011) and the <i>Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW 2010), including results of archaeological test excavations (if required); and	Whole report
Provide evidence of consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, developing options, and selecting options and mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents</i> (DECCW 2010).	Section 4
Assess the impact to historic heritage having regard to the <i>Guidelines for Preparing a Statement of Heritage Impact</i> , in consultation with Council.	See Appendix I of the EIS.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

This report aims to:

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

1.3 AUTHORSHIP

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

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

Name	Title	Role	Relevant Qualifications and years of experience in cultural heritage management
Lorien Perchard	Managing Consultant - Heritage	Fieldwork, Data manager, Author	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology; Ancient History), University of Queensland, 2010 • Bachelor of Archaeology Honours, University of Queensland • Fourteen years' professional experience
Mia Linton-Smith	Consultant - Heritage	Data manager, Author	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology), University of Queensland, 2021 • Three years' professional experience
Lucy Baker	Partner	Quality Assurance Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Environmental Engineering Management, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, 2008 • Graduate Diploma of Management, Deakin University, Australia, • Bachelor of Engineering Civil, University of Technology Sydney, Australia, 1990 • Registered Planner with Planning Institute of Australia • 30 years' professional experience

1.4 LIMITATIONS

A representative sample of landforms was surveyed which resulted in 90% coverage of the Solar Farm. The determination of the archaeological potential of the Project Area is discussed in **Sections 8.3** and **8.4**.

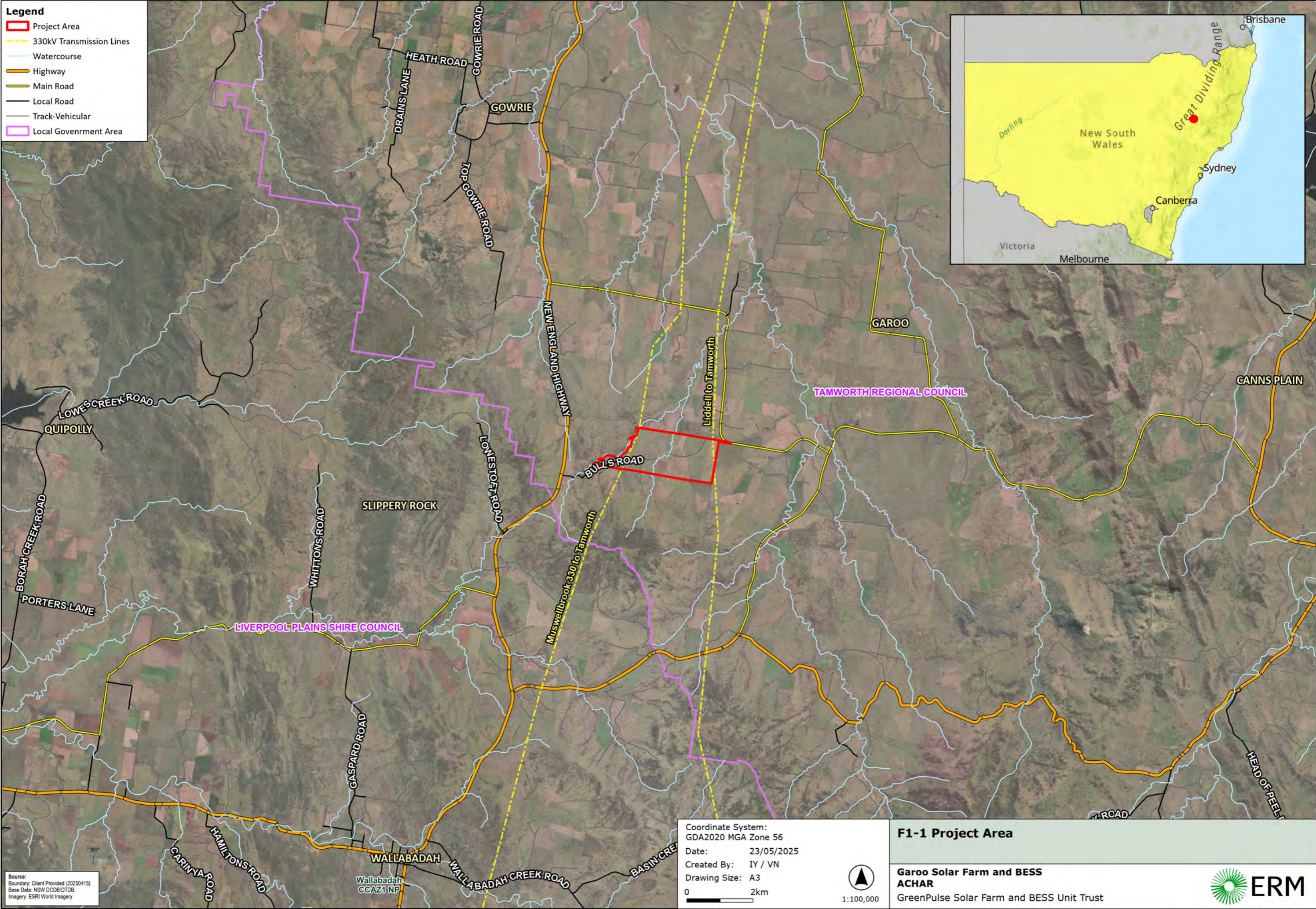
Based on the number and type of sites recorded across the Project Area, ERM believes this survey coverage to be sufficient to provide a clear understanding of the cultural landscape, and to determine appropriate management recommendations for the Project Area.

1.5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ERM gratefully acknowledges the support and input of the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and all the Representative Aboriginal Party's (RAPs), and their representatives, who participated in the fieldwork, and the information provided during the consultation period, as well as review of the draft ACHAR.

Legend

- Project Area
- 330kV Transmission Lines
- Watercourse
- Highway
- Main Road
- Local Road
- Track-Vehicular
- Local Government Area



Source:
Boundary: Client Provided (20250415)
Base Data: NSW DCDB/DTDB
Imagery: ESRI World Imagery

Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Date: 23/05/2025
Created By: IY / VN
Drawing Size: A3
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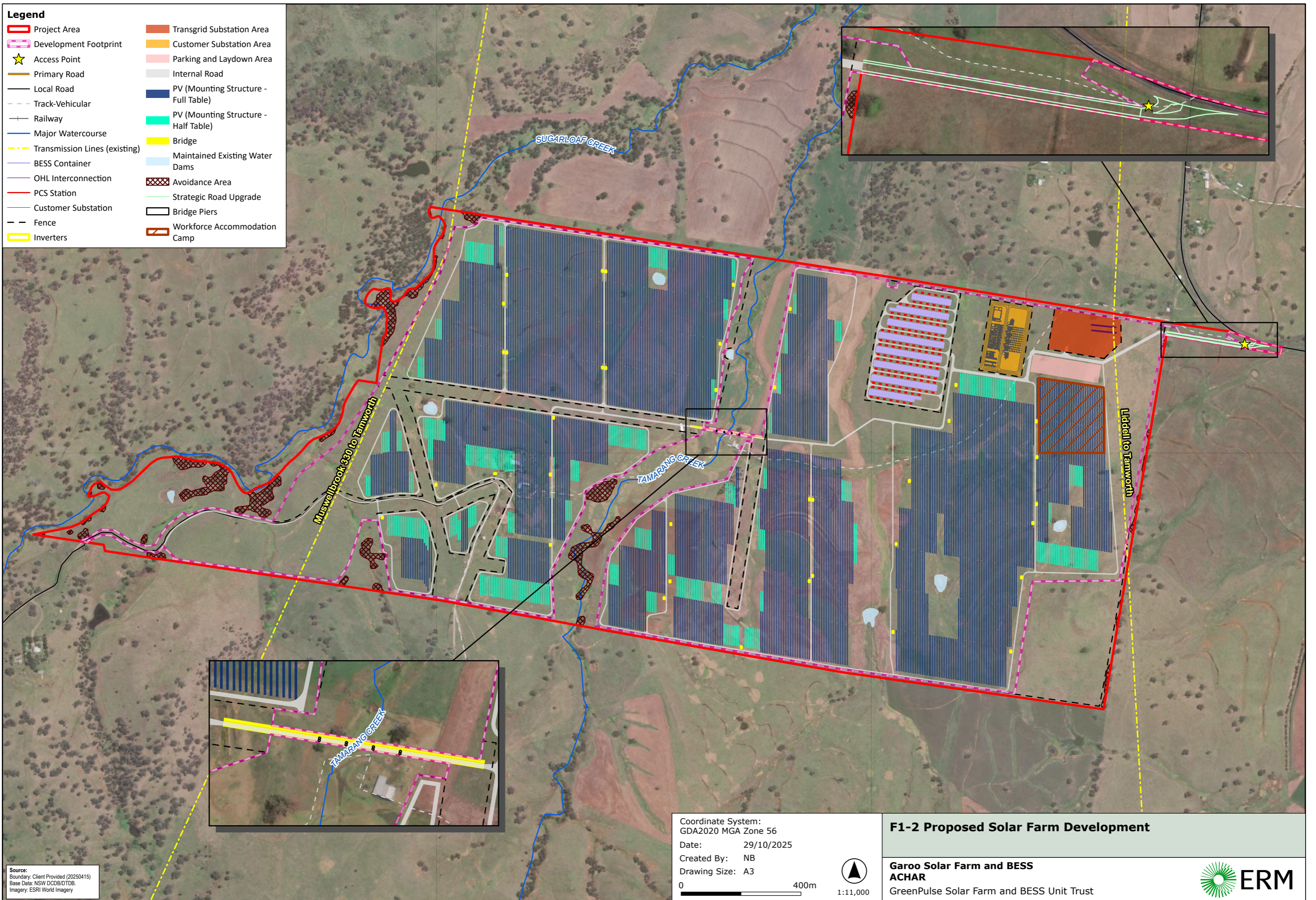
F1-1 Project Area

Garoo Solar Farm and BESS
ACHAR
GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust



Legend

Project Area	Transgrid Substation Area
Development Footprint	Customer Substation Area
Access Point	Parking and Laydown Area
Primary Road	Internal Road
Local Road	PV (Mounting Structure - Full Table)
Track-Vehicular	PV (Mounting Structure - Half Table)
Railway	Bridge
Major Watercourse	Maintained Existing Water Dams
Transmission Lines (existing)	Avoidance Area
BESS Container	Strategic Road Upgrade
OHL Interconnection	Bridge Piers
PCS Station	Workforce Accommodation Camp
Customer Substation	
Fence	
Inverters	



Source:
 Boundary: Client Provided (20250415)
 Base Data: NSW DCDB/DTDB
 Imagery: ESRI World Imagery

Coordinate System:
 GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
 Date: 29/10/2025
 Created By: NB
 Drawing Size: A3



1:11,000

F1-2 Proposed Solar Farm Development

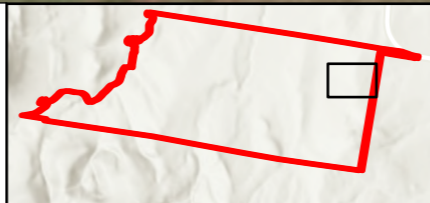
Garoo Solar Farm and BESS
ACHAR
 GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust





Legend			
Project Area	Verandah	Potable Water	Machinery Area
Development Footprint	Fire Hydrant	WWTP	Fire Suppression
Transmission Lines (existing)	Loading Area	Car Parking	Gas hazard area
Internal Road	Accommodation Area	Fence	Generators and fuel store
Admin & First Aid	Amenities & Services	Accommodation Area	Maintenance containers
	Smoking Area	Waste Area	

Source:
Boundary: Client Provided (20250415)
Base Data: NSW DCDB/DTDB.
Imagery: ESRI World Imagery



Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Date: 29/10/2025
Created By: NB
Drawing Size: A3
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Workforce Accommodation Area

Garoo Solar Farm and BESS

GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust

2. LEGISLATION

2.1 METHODOLOGY

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

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

Preparation of this report included:

- Desktop research and archaeological site database searches;
- Review of previous assessment for the Project Area, and within the local area;
- Consultation with the local Aboriginal community in accordance with the guidelines listed above;
- Field survey of the Project Area with representatives from the local Aboriginal community.
- Assessment of heritage significance;
- Impact assessment; and
- Preparation of management and mitigation recommendations.

2.2 COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION

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

2.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act; as amended 2004) provides the framework for the Commonwealth Government's environmental legislation. The EPBC Act outlines a legal framework for the protection and management of nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. Several heritage listings were established under the EPBC Act including the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), National Heritage List (NHL), and Register of National Estate (RNE) (now repealed).

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

2.2.2 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT 1984

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

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

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

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

2.3 NSW LEGISLATION

2.3.1 NSW NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

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

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

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

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

2.3.2 NATIVE TITLE ACT 1994

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

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

2.3.3 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT 1983

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

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

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

A letter containing the Project details was sent to Office of the Registrar requesting land claim information (dated 8 August 2023, **Appendix C**). Details are provided in **Section 4.1**.

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

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

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

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

A copy of the guidelines can be accessed at:

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

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

3. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1 DESKTOP INVESTIGATION

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

3.2 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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

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

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

3.3 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SURVEY

An archaeological Aboriginal heritage survey was undertaken to inform this ACHAR. The survey of the Project was undertaken between the 26 - 28 February 2025 by ERM Heritage Consultants Lorien Perchard and Jess Hatfield Dodds with representatives from Tamworth LALC and other identified RAPs participating in the survey.

The survey methodology targeted representative samples of each landform type within the Project Area with the sampling methodology focusing on areas of archaeological potential that coincided with areas of proposed ground disturbance. The archaeological potential of the Project Area is detailed in **Sections 8.3** and **8.4**.

GPS-enabled devices were carried by the survey team and used to direct the survey, track log areas covered throughout the survey, and record new sites. Tracklogs are recorded in **Figure 7-1**. A photographic record was kept of all survey units. Photographs were taken to document the existing environment and landform context of each survey unit.

During the survey a total of 13 Aboriginal heritage features were identified within the Project Area. No locations with potential Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (AAR) were identified. Results of the archaeological Aboriginal heritage survey were used to refine the predictive modelling completed for the Project (**Section 6.4.1**).

3.4 RECORDING AND ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.4.1 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ABORIGINAL SITES

There were no previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the development footprint or 2 km surrounds. However, this does not indicate lack of potential for cultural heritage sites, more so the lack of cultural heritage surveys previously complete in the area.

3.4.2 NEWLY IDENTIFIED SITES

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

Details recorded for each newly identified site included:

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

3.4.3 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

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

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

- Whether Aboriginal objects were likely to have been deposited within the subsurface of a location as a result of Aboriginal occupation or through post-depositional processes;
- Defined geomorphological / landscape features (such as rises, Palaeochannel margins, lunettes, and/or soil mapping (see **Section 5.4**) which indicates higher potential for intact subsurface deposits to be present (see predictive model in **Section 6.4.1**); and
- Whether historic land use or disturbances was likely to have resulted in impact or removal of any Aboriginal objects that may have been present within the assessment area.

3.4.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES ASSESSMENT

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

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

- Social or cultural value (assessed only by Traditional Owners/First Nations People) refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical, or contemporary associations and attachments the place or area has for Aboriginal people. Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them;

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

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

3.5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

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

The direct and indirect impact associated with the Project is assessed in **Section 9**.

4. ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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

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

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

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

To identify people with a potential interest in the project (as per 4.1.2 of the Consultation Requirements), two public advertisements stating the location and nature of the Project and seeking registration of interested Aboriginal parties was run in the Northern Daily Leader on 25th November 2024 (**Appendix B**). Note, the project name has changed from GreenPulse Solar Farm to Garoo Solar Farm and BESS, to reflect the geographical location of the town.

In addition, a letter containing the Project details (dated 6 November 2024, **Appendix C**) was sent to the following agencies:

- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Nungaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Walhallow Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Tamworth Regional Council;
- North-West Local Land Services;
- Officer of the Register;
- Heritage NSW; and
- National Native Title Tribunal.

Responses received from these agencies indicated a total of 48 Aboriginal individuals or organisations may have an interest in the Project (**Appendix D**). An invitation to register letter was sent to each of these identified parties on 25 November 2024 and a period of 14 days was provided for the parties to respond. A copy of this letter is provided as **Appendix E**.

On 27 March 2025, a Section 4.1.6 notification letter was sent to the Tamworth LALC, Nungaroo LALC, and Heritage NSW to notify them of the interested registered parties for the project and provide them evidence of the advert placement (**Appendix F**).

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

TABLE 4-1 REGISTERED INTEREST ABORIGINAL PARTIES

Organisation/Individual
<Removed for public display>
<Removed for public display>
<Removed for public display>
<Removed for public display>
Guyinbaraay People Clan Group
Gomery Cultural Consultants
Ngambaa Cultural Connections
Wurrumay Culture Heritage Consultants
Long Gully Cutlural Services
D F T V Enterprises
AT Gomilaroi Cutlruul Consultancy
Didge Ngunawal Clan
<Removed for public display>
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
<Removed for public display>
Ngagga Ngagga
Tamworth LALC

4.2 STAGE 2: PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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

The proposed survey and assessment methodology was sent to each of the RAPs 21 January 2025 providing 28 days in which to respond (**Appendix H**). The letter included:

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

No further comments on the methodology or cultural values were received during the review period of the methodology.

4.3 STAGE 3: GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

Cultural values, including intangible Aboriginal heritage significance of the Project Area, were also discussed with all RAP groups during the heritage survey between the 26 - 28 February 2025. A total of six RAPs were invited to participate in the site survey each day. See **Table 7-1** for participation details.

4.4 STAGE 4: REVIEW OF DRAFT ACHAR

The draft ACHAR was provided to RAPs on 23 May 2025, via email. Each of the RAPs was provided 28 days to provide comments on the report and any recommended management and mitigation measures, prior to finalisation. No comments were received.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

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

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

5.1 BIOREGION

The Nandewar Bioregion is located in northern New South Wales and extends into southern Queensland, and is characterized by diverse landscapes, including mountain ranges, plateaus, and valleys (Department of Environment & Heritage, 2003). The region's topography has been shaped by ancient volcanic activity, most notably the extinct Nandewar Volcano, which has contributed to the area's fertile basalt soils.

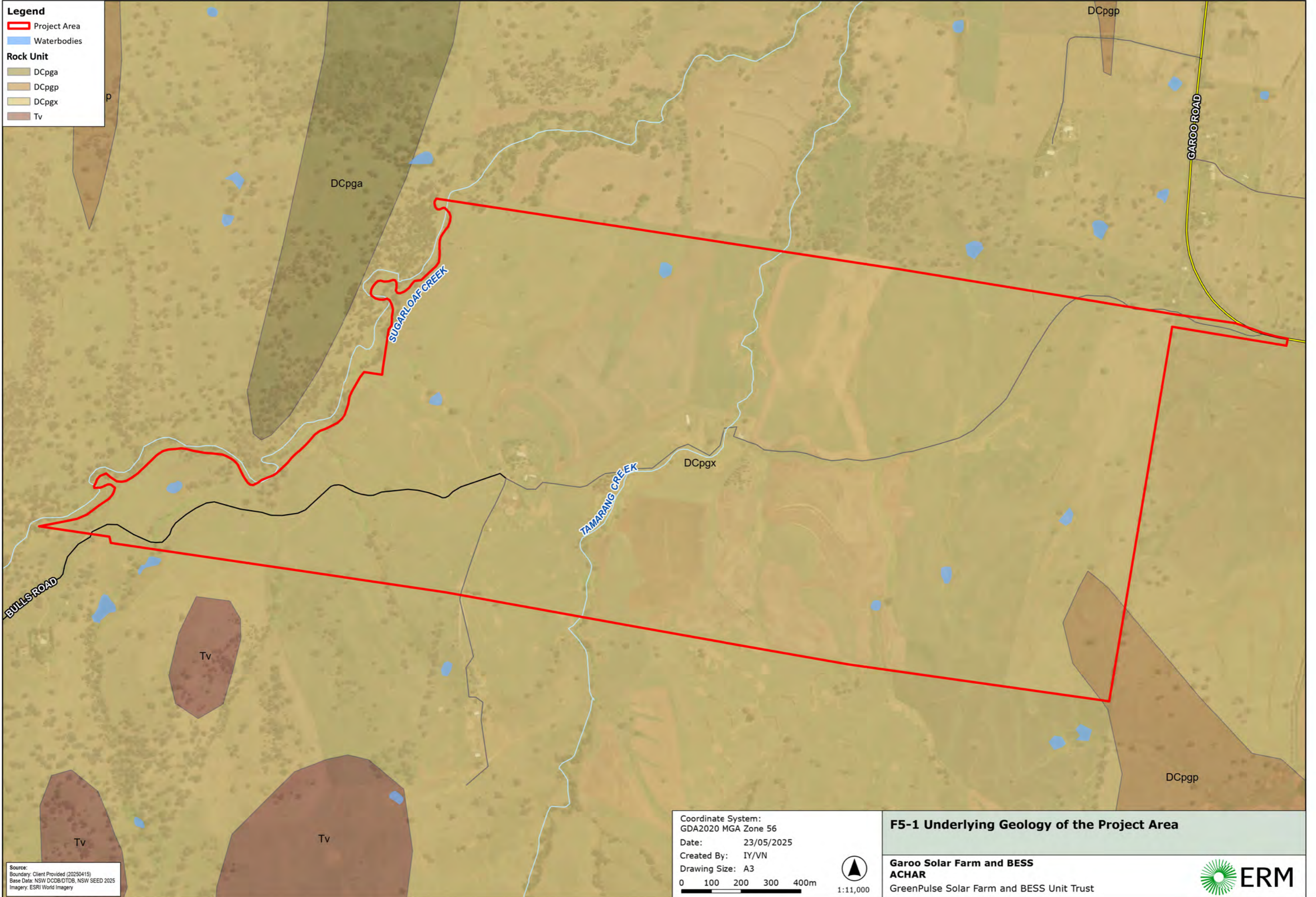
The bioregion experiences a temperate to subtropical climate with warm summers and mild winters. Rainfall varies depending on elevation, with the Project Area locality of Garoo receiving approximately 679 mm of rain per annum, with December being the wettest month of 80.4 mm rainfall (Elders Weather, 2025).

Land use in the bioregion is dominated by agriculture, forestry, and conservation areas. National parks and nature reserves, such as Mount Kaputar National Park play a key role in preserving the region's ecological values.

5.2 GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The Garoo region lies within a transitional zone between the uplifted highlands and the western slopes, showcasing a diverse geological history shaped by sedimentary deposition, volcanic activity, and structural folding. The nearby Nandewar ranges, located approximately 90 km north of the Project Area, played a significant role in shaping the landscape, with volcanic eruptions occurring between 32-19 million years ago and 21-17 million years ago. (Department of Environment & Heritage, 2003). Limestone deposits contribute to the development of karst landscapes, influencing underground drainage systems and cave formations. The area's foot slopes and drainage channels have led to moderate sheet erosion and minor to moderate gully erosion (Department of Environment & Heritage, 2003), with alluvial deposits facilitating the movement of archaeological material, thereby reducing the likelihood of *in situ* perseveration.

The Project Area lies within Devonian sedimentary rocks geologically, and the type of lithology is variable including conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone (**Figure 5-1**). These geological features are widespread in eastern NSW, including the Cobar Basin, the Hill End Trough and the Tamworth Belt (SEED, 2024).



Source:
 Boundary: Client Provided (20250415)
 Base Data: NSW DCDB/DTDB, NSW SEED 2025
 Imagery: ESRI World Imagery

Coordinate System:
 GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
 Date: 23/05/2025
 Created By: IY/VN
 Drawing Size: A3
 0 100 200 300 400m
 1:11,000

F5-1 Underlying Geology of the Project Area

Garoo Solar Farm and BESS
ACHAR
 GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust

5.3 SOILS

The Project Area is characterized by Chromosols, which are well-structured soils with distinct upper and lower horizons that exhibit minimal mixing (eSPADE, n.d.). These soils generally provide moderate drainage and fertility, making them capable of preserving archaeological materials in a stable environment. However, their potential for erosion and disturbance from agricultural and natural processes may impact the integrity of buried archaeological features.

The Tangaratta Formation (Cspa) comprises thinly bedded, fine-grained feldspathic arenite, siltstone, mudstone, and limestone. These geological units influence soil development, creating a substrate that varies in texture and composition (Department of Environment & Heritage, 2003). Fine-grained siltstones and mudstones contribute to the formation of compacted soils that can act as protective layers over archaeological sites, slowing down post-depositional movement and preserving organic materials (Banks, 1993). Limestone components, depending on their concentration, may alter pH levels and influence the preservation of faunal remains and other calcareous remains.

The surface and near-surface soils, described as pale brown (dull yellow) to light grey silty clay loam and clay loams (Banks, 1993), indicate relatively fine textured, moisture-retentive conditions. Silty clay loam has moderate water-holding capacity, however, clay loams particularly in wetter conditions, can undergo shrink swell cycles, potentially disturbing stratified archaeological deposits. Additionally, lighter grey tones may indicate leaching processes (Banks, 1993), which could affect artefact preservation, particularly for materials susceptible to chemical weathering.

The soils and geological formations in the Project Area create a complex environment for archaeological preservation. While fine-grained sediments and clayey components may contribute to the long-term stability of artefacts, potential disturbances from erosion, soil movement, and chemical processes must be considered in assessing site integrity.

5.4 LANDFORM

The landscape of the Garoo region is shaped by a combination of long foot slopes, broad drainage plains, and undulating hills, with elevations ranging from 440 to 490 m (Topographic Map, 2025). These gentle landforms create an easily navigable terrain, allowing for convenient movement across the area. The presence of well-developed drainage plains indicates the availability of water sources, making the region well-suited for temporary or seasonal habitation. The combination of accessible slopes, water availability, and relatively stable terrain would have supported both human occupation and ecological diversity, contributing to its significance within the broader landscape.

5.5 HYDROLOGY

Today the Murray-Darling Basin comprises a network of rivers forming Australia's largest river system. The Project Area is located within part of the vast Murray-Darling Basin which extends across 14% of Australia's land mass (MDBA, 2023).

The Project Area is located within the Namoi catchment, which the northern portion of the catchment is bordered by the steep ranges and elevated tablelands of the Great Dividing Range (MDBA, 2023). The Namoi River and several of its main tributaries have their headwaters in the range (**Figure 5-2**).

Many of the Namoi's tributaries meet the river in the foothills of the ranges, including the Peel River, which is a regulated tributary running through the city of Tamworth. Beyond the town of Gunnedah, the Namoi River is the main waterway that runs west through undulating country. The catchment is bounded by the Nandewar Ranges and Mount Kaputar in the north and the Liverpool and Warrumbungle ranges in the south. (MDBA, 2023)

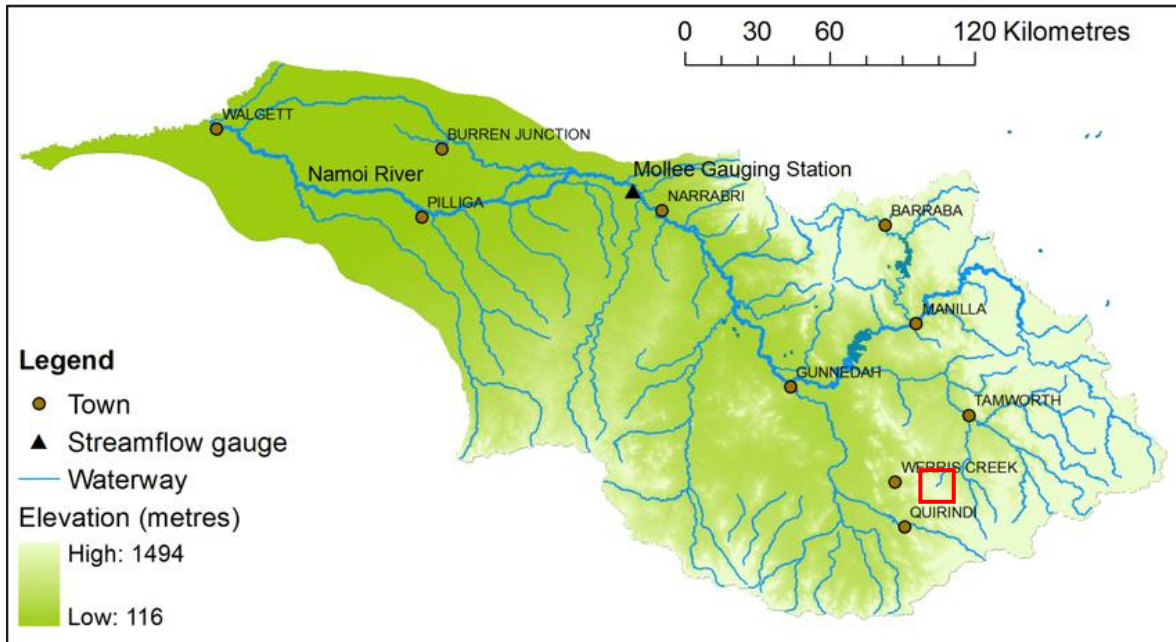
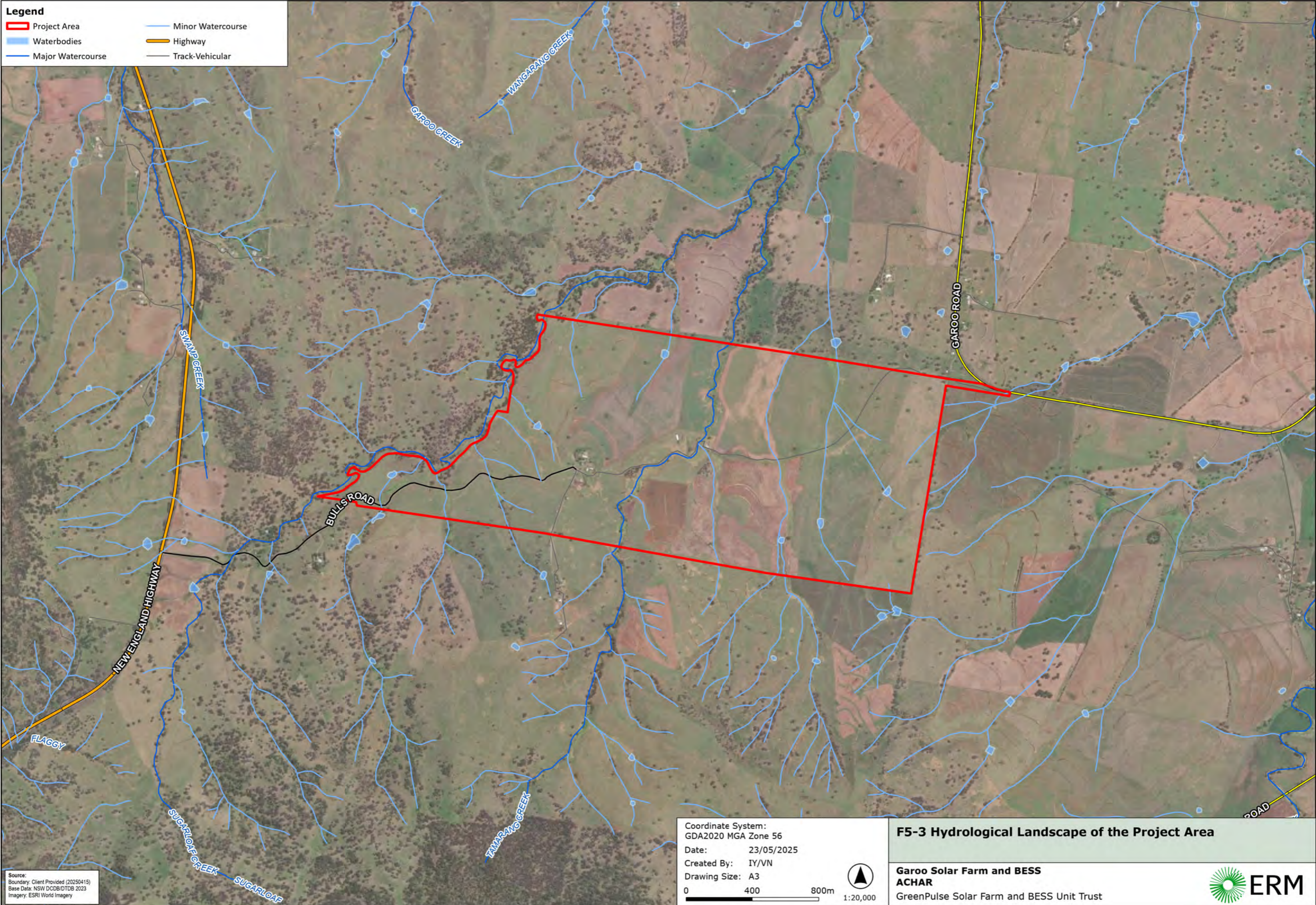


FIGURE 5-2 MAP OF NAMOI CATCHMENT, APPROXIMATE LOCTION OF GAROO SOLAR FARM SHOWN IN RED (ARSHAD, 2012)

Waterbodies in proximity to the Project include Sugarloaf Creek, Goonoo Goonoo Creek, and Burra Creek, and their tributaries which all from part of the Namoi River Catchment. The Tamarang Creek runs through the centre of the Project Area (**Figure 5-3**).

Legend

- ▭ Project Area
- ▬ Minor Watercourse
- ▭ Waterbodies
- ▬ Highway
- ▬ Major Watercourse
- ▬ Track-Vehicular



Source:
 Boundary: Client Provided (20250415)
 Base Data: NSW DCDB/DTDB 2023
 Imagery: ESRI World Imagery

Coordinate System:
 GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
 Date: 23/05/2025
 Created By: IY/VN
 Drawing Size: A3

0 400 800m
 1:20,000

F5-3 Hydrological Landscape of the Project Area

Garoo Solar Farm and BESS
ACHAR
 GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust



5.6 FLORA AND FAUNA

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

There is diverse habitats around Garoo with several common mammals, including the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*), and Brushtail Possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) (Department of Environment & Heritage, 2003) found in the region. While the current landscape has been heavily influenced by clearing related to historic farming uses, the Project Area does contain several flora species which demonstrate Aboriginal cultural values.

Prior to removal the Project Areas vegetation was predominantly composed of eucalypt woodlands, featuring species such as the Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), Blakely Red Gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*) on the ridges and slopes of the hills along stony ridges, along with various Ironbark species. The understory typically includes native grasses like Kangaroo grass and Wallaby grass, along with shrubs like wattles and peas. Riparian zones along waterways like Tamarang Creek are likely to support River Red Gum.

The Gomeri people have long relied on the diverse plant life of the region for sustenance, medicine, and tool making. Many native species were utilized for their medicinal purposes including the Red Ash Tree (*Alphitonia excelsa*), which was used to create soap, and Lemon-scented Grass (*Cymbopogon*), was used to treat fever and diarrhoea (MEHI Centre, 2021). The Emu-bush (*Eremophila*) served as a natural antibiotic, highlighting the deep botanical knowledge embedded in Gomeri traditions.

A key plant family for bush medicine is *Myrtaceae*, known for its essential oils with antiseptic qualities and as a valuable nectar source (MEHI Centre, 2021). Edible plant species also played a crucial role in Gomeri diets, such as *Xanthorrhoea* stems, which could be consumed raw or cooked for their high nutritional value. *Commelina ensifolia*, commonly known as 'Scurvy grass', was another resource, valued for its vitamin C content and its role in preventing scurvy, reflected in the European name (MEHI Centre, 2021). These plants and many others were integral to Gomeri culture, demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of the landscape's natural resources.

Vegetation in the Nandewar Bioregion is highly diverse, reflecting its varied geology and climate. It includes eucalypt forests, brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*) woodlands, and cypress pine communities as well as remnant patches of rainforest in sheltered areas (Department of Environment & Heritage, 2003). Many of these habitats have been cleared for agriculture, particularly grazing and cropping, leading to fragmentation of native ecosystems.

5.7 HISTORIC LAND USES AND DISTURBANCES

John Oxley explored the Nandewar Bioregion in 1818, and by the 1830s, colonial settlers began occupying the land for cattle grazing. The 1850s gold rush led to the growth of towns like Barraba and Bingara, with gold and asbestos mining supporting their economies. Tamworth, established by the Australian Agricultural Company in 1832, grew rapidly with urban development, becoming Australia's first town to use electric lighting in 1888. Railways further boosted towns like Quirindi, turning them into wheat production hubs. By 1990, many softwood forests in the region were designated as state forests.

Following the discovery of grazing land, there was an increase of settlers in the Liverpool Plains, and Hunter valley areas. The settlement of the Liverpool Plains was used for agricultural purposes and thus saw the restriction of land access and resources for Indigenous communities, the introduction of western diseases and the dispossession of traditional lands.

The New England Highway adjacent to the Project Area was surveyed in the mid-18th century, constructed to reach the prime wool growing areas of the New England region. It was originally known as the Great Northern Road until 1928, and is a main thoroughfare from north Newcastle, New South Wales to Yarraman, Queensland (Department of Transport, Roads & Maritime Services, 2016). Early Parish Maps indicate the properties making up the Project Area were owned by various landholders by the early 1900s. Historical aerial photography shows that the homestead and dam in the centre of Lot 2 DP1108524 were present by the mid-1970s. The area continues to be used for agricultural purposes.

6. ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 ETHNOGRAPHIC HISTORY

The Garoo and Tamworth region in New South Wales has been home to Aboriginal communities for thousands of years, with the Kamilaroi (also known as Gamilaraay) people maintaining deep cultural and spiritual connections to the land. These communities followed a semi-sedentary lifestyle, engaging in hunting, fishing, and gathering based on seasonal patterns. Their transient campsites were noted by early European explorers, such as Major Thomas Livingstone Mitchell in 1839, who described the presence of numerous bark shelters and abandoned villages throughout the region (Sahukar, Gallery, Smart, & Mitchell, 2003).

The Kamilaroi people skilfully utilized the natural resources of the region to sustain their way of life. They crafted stone tools from locally available materials such as quartz and greywacke, using them for hunting and food preparation. Kangaroos and possums were primary sources of meat and fur, providing both nourishment and clothing. Other animals commonly hunted included wallabies, koalas, emus, echidnas, lizards, snakes, and frogs (Mitchell, 1839; Fison & Howitt, 1867; Parker, 1905; O'Rourke, 1997).

Fishing was an essential part of Kamilaroi subsistence. The Gwydir River and its tributaries were significant sources of food, where fish—including eels, freshwater crayfish, turtles, and mussels—were caught using stone weirs, plant-fibre nets, and bark fishing lines (Mitchell, 1839; Parker, 1905; O'Rourke, 1997). Waterbirds and their eggs were also collected, and watercraft were constructed from large slabs of bark stripped from river red gums.

Plant foods played a crucial role in the Kamilaroi diet. Edible plants such as wild oranges, emu apples, melons, tubers, yams, and various roots were gathered seasonally (Mitchell, 1839; Parker, 1905; Gott, 1983; O'Rourke, 1997). Grass seeds were ground into flour to make damper, supplementing their diet with a valuable carbohydrate source. O'Rourke estimates that at least 60 Kamilaroi clans inhabited the region, each comprising approximately 160 individuals, bringing the total population in central northern NSW to around 10,000 people. Clans likely occupied a small number of well-established sites within their estate, moving between them in response to seasonal food availability.

Kamilaroi communities established campsites in favourable locations, often near water sources such as rivers and billabongs. Major Thomas Mitchell recorded a 'numerous encampment' along a billabong of the Namoi River near present-day Boggabri, while Allan Cunningham documented a settlement of 14 bark-covered huts with conical roofs on Coxs Creek, northwest of the project site (O'Rourke, 1997). Near Moree (approximately 200 km north-west of the Project Area), Mitchell observed an abandoned village consisting of circular huts built from reeds, grass, and tree branches.

The Kamilaroi language is deeply embedded in the region's place names, reflecting the enduring connection between Indigenous communities and the landscape. Many local towns derive their names from Aboriginal words associated with natural features, particularly water. For example, Bingara means "shallow crossing," and Barraba translates to "camp by the riverbank". As per conversation between the ERM archaeologists and RAPS on site during the archaeological survey it was revealed that Garoo translates to uncle.

The region holds significant intangible cultural value, as evidenced by numerous ceremonial bora grounds, rock art sites, and culturally modified trees. Bora grounds served as important locations for initiation ceremonies and other social gatherings. Carved trees, which marked burial sites and sacred locations, are crucial expressions of Kamilaroi artistic and spiritual traditions (Sahukar, Gallery, Smart, & Mitchell, 2003).

6.2 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The AHIMS database provides information concerning previously recorded Aboriginal sites in NSW. An extensive search of the AHIMS database relevant to the Project was conducted on 24 October 2024 by shapefile. The search was conducted using the parameters provided in **Table 6-1**. The AHIMS search results are provided in **Appendix I**. No sites were identified within the Project Area.

TABLE 6-1 AHIMS DATABASE SEARCH PARAMETERS (24 OCTOBER 2024)

Parameter Type	Parameter Detail
Client Service ID	943297
Datum	GDA Zone 55
Buffer	0 m
Number Sites	0

6.3 AHIP REGISTER

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Public (AHIP) register was conducted on 6 February 2025 and indicated no results within the vicinity of the Project Area.

6.4 REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

6.4.1 EXISTING REGIONAL PREDICTIVE MODELS

Carved Trees: Aboriginal Cultures of western NSW - State Library NSW 2011

The Gamilaroi people of central north-west NSW practiced intricate tree carvings as part of their ceremonial traditions, particularly for boys undergoing initiation at *bora* ceremonies. These carvings known as *yamunyamun*, featured symbolic designs such as circles, spirals, curvilinear lines, diamonds, and depictions of humans and animals. The last recorded bora ceremony took place in the early 1890s. Over time, at least 52 carved trees have been removed from the Tamworth and Collymogle regions and surroundings, but there remains to be potential for these tree carvings to occur in the region of the Project Area.

Goonoo Goonoo Road Duplication, ACHAR – Everick Tamworth 2021

The Goonoo Goonoo Study area, located 32 km north of the Project Area, was investigated in 2021 by Everick who completed test pit excavations, each measuring 1 x 1 m. The soil was characterized as greyish-brown clayish loam. Three artefacts, silcrete flakes and debitage, were identified. The limited archaeological finds were attributed to historic soil disturbance and the sites distance from a permanent water source. It was concluded that a more significant archaeological site with substantial artefact deposits would likely be found closer to the Peel River.

Aboriginal Objects Due Diligence Assessment, Warrah Ridge Road and Inverkip Road – Niche 2023

An Aboriginal due diligence assessment was conducted by Niche in 2023 at nearby Warrah Ridge, located approximately 30 km south-west of the Project Area. Desktop searches found there were nine AHIMS sites within the Study Area. These sites comprised of grinding grooves, modified trees, an artefact scatter, and an artefact and quarry site.

Werris Creek Coal Mine, Cultural Heritage Assessment – LandScape 2010

A previous Aboriginal Cultural Heritage study was conducted for the Werris Creek Coal Mine in 2004, located approximately 24 km west of the Project Area. The study involved an AHIMS site register search, which identified one site within a 1 km radius of the mine, the Narrawolga Axe Grinding Grooves (29-2-0005). Additionally, two other sites, both stone artefact scatters, were identified within a 5 km radius. The primary archaeological survey for the mine site, conducted by John Appleton in 2004, re-identified the AHIMS site, originally recorded in 1964. The site consists of at least 25 axe grinding grooves located on sandstone slabs. In consultation with the Nungaroo LALC, a management plan was created for the removal, relocation, and protection of the Narrawolga Axe Grinding Grooves via an AHIP. The relocation took place in 2007, with the site being relocated adjacent to the mine of 'Eurunderee' property. No other cultural heritage sites were identified in the study area.

Natural Gas Pipeline Dubbo-Tamworth, Aboriginal Archaeology and European Heritage Assessment – McDonald 1998

McDonald conducted a cultural heritage assessment for the AGL Dubbo to Tamworth natural gas pipeline, identifying 98 Aboriginal sites along the 226.2 km survey area (approximately 50 km north-west from Project Area). The majority of these were open camp sites (40) and culturally modified scar trees (36). Of the recorded sites, 65 were not affected by the pipeline, while mitigation measures including realigning the pipeline, were required for 33 sites of high significance.

6.4.2 LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

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

6.4.3 PRELIMINARY PREDICTIVE MODEL

A review of the existing environmental, archaeological, and historical land use suggests that the Garoo region has been utilised by Aboriginal people for thousands of years prior to European occupation. Aboriginal archaeological sites associated with these land uses are most likely to include areas of PAD, artefact scatters and isolated finds due to the durable nature of these site features.

The historic disturbance across the Project Area is considered likely to have resulted in low to moderate impact to tangible Aboriginal heritage values. While tangible remains are likely, especially in areas of high sensitivity, which includes near water and ridgelines, the Project Area may include intangible or cultural values of significance to the Aboriginal community as discussed with RAPS during Stage 3 of the consultation process. The intangible cultural values will be gathered and documented throughout the ACHAR process in consultation with the RAPS.

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

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

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

- CMTs may be present across the Project Area in areas of where mature vegetation has not been removed.
- Stone artefact sites are likely to be located across a variety of soil and geomorphological areas within the Project Area.
- Artefact sites are the most likely site type in the region.
- High order watercourses have provided a focus of Aboriginal occupation.
- Archaeological sites are most likely to be located within 50 m of water, with creek lines reported to have been utilized as transit corridors.
- High density occupation was most likely to be in close proximity to watercourses.
- Historically, Aboriginal occupation of the Project Area is likely to have been associated with low density and transient occupation.
- Aboriginal sites are most likely to be located in landscapes which have been subject to low historic disturbance. Disturbance to Aboriginal sites across the Project Area is likely to be associated with the impact of stock grazing.

The Project Area is considered to demonstrate moderate potential to contain Aboriginal sites.

7. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

7.1 AIMS

The aims of the cultural heritage survey were to:

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

7.2 METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

Survey comprised the completion of linear transects across the footprint of the proposed solar farm, proposed access tracks, and associated infrastructure. Survey was complete with discrete transects to sample both high and low potential landforms.

The Solar Farm Project Area was defined as two survey units based on landform features and accessibility (**Figure 7-1**). Over 25 sample transects were completed across the whole development footprint of the Solar Farm, using a combined method of pedestrian and driving survey. Survey of each transect was undertaken with a survey team of seven to eight people with the team spaced approximately 10 m apart. Where areas of exposure or visible potential archaeological features were identified members of the transect team temporarily deviated from their assigned transect to inspect in closer detail.

Sites were defined in accordance with the methodology defined in **Sections 3.4.2** and **3.4.3**.

A GPS track log was used to track the path of the members of the survey team, as seen in **Figure 7-1**, record the coordinates of survey transects as well as the location of Aboriginal sites.

A photographic record was kept during the survey. Photographs were taken to record aspects of each survey unit including landform, surface exposures, vegetation, areas of disturbance, and any identified Aboriginal site or area of archaeological potential. Scales were used for photographs where required, as specified in the Code of Practice.

7.3 PARTICIPANTS

The survey across the Project Area was undertaken between 26 - 28 February 2025.

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

TABLE 7-1 SURVEY ATTENDANCE

Name	Organisation	Role	Date
Lorien Perchard	ERM	Survey supervisor	26/02/2025 – 28/02/2025
Jesse Hatfield-Dodds	Former ERM	Archaeologist	26/02/2025 – 28/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Gomery Cultural Consultants	RAP site officer	26/02/2025 - 28/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Gomery Cultural Consultants	RAP site officer	26/02/2025 - 28/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Tamworth LALC	RAP site officer	26/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Tamworth LALC	RAP site officer	26/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Bulingha Greg Griffiths, Raymond Welsh	RAP site officer	26/02/2025, 28/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Bulingha Greg Griffiths	RAP site officer	26/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Cindy Foley	RAP site officer	27/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Ngagga	RAP site officer	27/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	Ngagga	RAP site officer	27/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	LGCS	RAP site officer	27/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	DFTV	RAP site officer	28/02/2025
<Removed for public display>	DFTV	RAP site officer	28/02/2025

7.4 SURVEY COVERAGE

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

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

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

In accordance with the Code of Practice, a summary of the survey coverage as delineated into SUs and landform is provided in **Table 7-2** and **Table 7-3**. The landforms have been designated according to their Aboriginal heritage sensitivity (see **Section 8.4**). The below survey coverage information relates to the current layout of the Project Area.

TABLE 7-2 SURVEY COVERAGE SUMMARY – SUS

Survey Unit	Survey Unit Area (m ²)	Landform	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Coverage (m ²)	Effective Coverage (%)
SU1	2,015,000	Crest, Slopes and Flats	69%	30%	426,060	21%
SU2	1,606,000	Crest, Slopes and Flats	10%	25%	41,369	3%

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

Landform	Landform Area (m ²)	Area Surveyed (m ²)	Percentage of Landform Surveyed (%)	Area Effectively Surveyed (m ²)	Percentage of Landform Effectively Surveyed (%)	Number of Sites
Crest	36,561	30,345	83%	1,820	6%	0
Slope	3,541,917	3,152,306	89%	409,799	13%	11
Flat	42,544	33,184	78%	1,659	5%	2

7.5 SURVEY UNITS

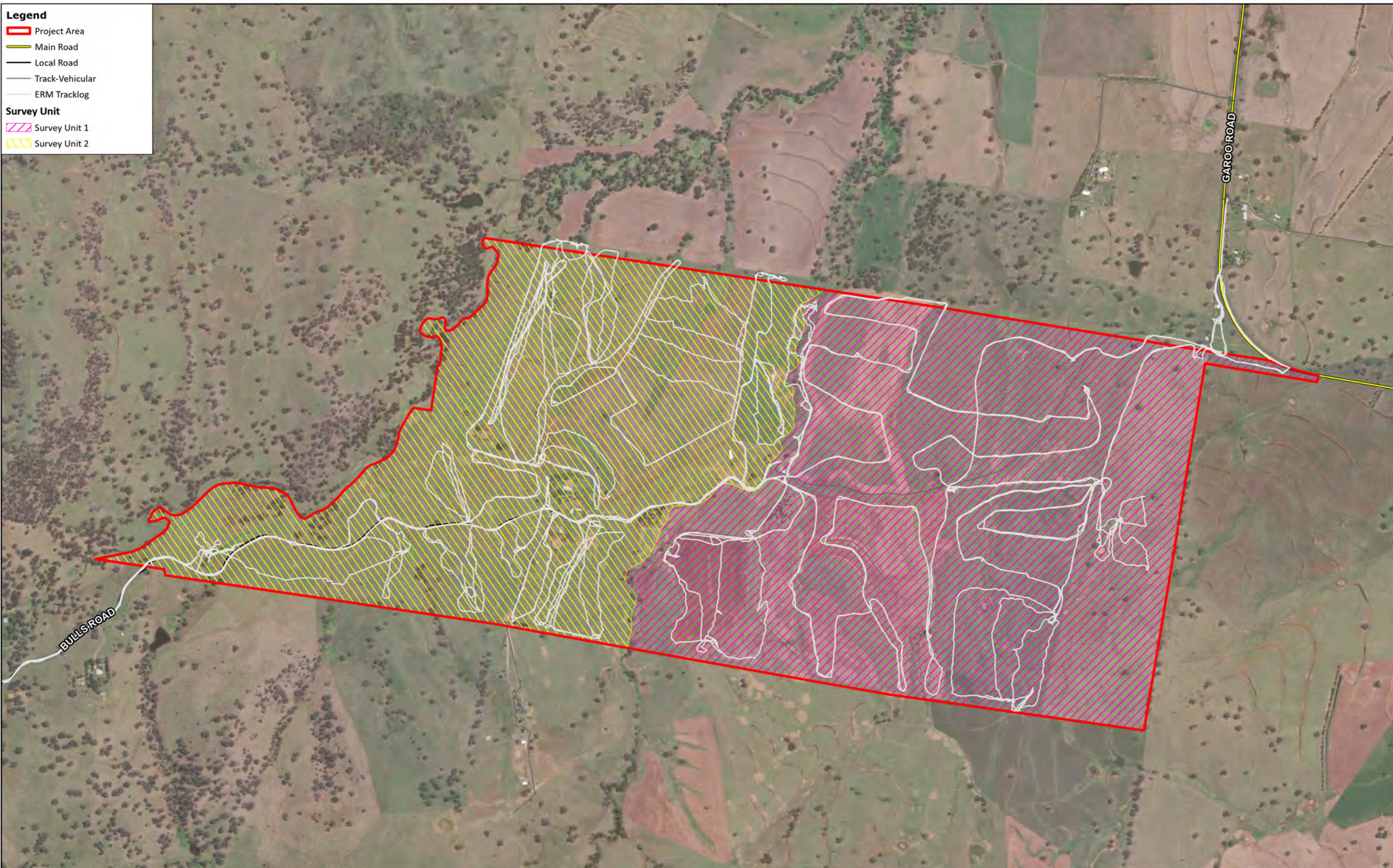
Figure 7-1 and **Table 7-4** below describes and identifies the survey units that were identified during the archaeological survey. The GPS tracklog recorded by ERM archaeologists is shown in **Figure 7-1**.

Legend

- Project Area
- Main Road
- Local Road
- Track-Vehicular
- ERM Tracklog

Survey Unit

- Survey Unit 1
- Survey Unit 2



Source:
 Boundary: Client Provided (20250415)
 Base Data: NSW DCDB/DTDB 2023
 Imagery: ESRI World Imagery

Coordinate System:
 GDA2020 MGA Zone 56

Date: 23/05/2025

Created By: IY/VN

Drawing Size: A3

0 100 200 300 400m


1:12,000


F7-1 Survey Units and Tracklog

Garoo Solar Farm and BESS
ACHAR
 GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust



TABLE 7-4 PROJECT AREA SURVEY UNITS

Survey Unit	Description	Identified cultural features	Photograph
<p>Survey Unit 1</p> <p>Landform features:</p> <p>Size: 201.5 ha</p> <p>Visibility: 69%</p> <p>Exposure: 30 %</p>	<p>SU1 was the eastern portion of the Project Area, bounded by Tamarang Creek in the west, which bisects the Project Area. The SU was predominantly used for agricultural and pastoral purposes and was highly disturbed from past agricultural activities. This portion was an undulating, sloped landscape.</p> <p>The SU was highest in the south and southeast, with flat to moderate rises and granitic outcrops. The northern portion comprised of undulating and gentle slopes, with occasional swales. Parts of the western portion of the SU had been recently ploughed and had an uneven clay surface and crop stubble. The southwest portion of the SU had a rise with numerous large cobbles and small boulders of up to 50 cm. The ridgeline had never been ploughed.</p> <p>Ground visibility was low throughout most of the SU due to disturbed soil and vegetation cover, comprising grass and areas of dense thistle. The majority of the Project Area had been ploughed, and there were numerous swales to slow runoff and capture into dams in multiple locations. Three dams were noted in the southeast of the SU. The SU was sparsely vegetated, with scattered individual native white box (<i>Eucalyptus albens</i>) in the fields and stands of smaller eucalyptus along Tamarang Creek.</p>	<p>Identified Aboriginal heritage values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously registered sites: None • New sites: 11 sites [CMTs, Isolated Artefacts, Artefact Scatters, and Hearth] <p>Historic heritage values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remnants of possible shack (at ASF4, hilltop east of Tamarang Creek) 	 <p style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold;">PHOTOGRAPH 7-1 MID TO LOW SLOPE IN SURVEY UNIT 1</p>

Survey Unit	Description	Identified cultural features	Photograph
	<p>Archaeological material recorded during the survey included isolated stone artefacts, artefact scatters, culturally modified trees, a grinding stone, and glass and ceramic sherds. Artefact lithology was predominantly silcrete, chert, sandstone, and red jasper.</p>		
<p>Survey Unit 2</p> <p>Landform features:</p> <p>Size: 160.6 ha</p> <p>Visibility: 10%</p> <p>Exposure: 25 %</p>	<p>SU2 was the western portion of the Project Area, bounded by Sugarloaf Creek to the west, Tamarang Creek to the east, and by the Project Area the north and south.</p> <p>The SU was predominantly used for agricultural and pastoral purposes and residential areas and was highly disturbed from past agricultural activities. The general landscape of the SU was undulating sloped, with some hills and drainage and erosion gullies in the southern portion.</p> <p>The homestead sits in the central portion of SU2, situated on the edge of a mid-slope terrace where the landscape starts drop towards Tamarang and Sugarloaf creeks to the north and east.</p> <p>The fields to north and east of the homestead sloped towards the creek linens in the east and north, and were heavily ploughed, had an uneven clay surface with crop stubble, and large swales to slow runoff. Ground visibility varied between 10% and 70% due to crop remains and vegetation cover. The two fields in the Northwest sloped towards Sugarloaf creek. They had</p>	<p>Identified Aboriginal heritage values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously registered sites: None • New sites: Two [Isolated Artefact, and Artefact Scatter] <p>Historic heritage values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	 <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">PHOTOGRAPH 7-2 SLOPE AND CREST IN SURVEY UNIT 2</p>

Survey Unit	Description	Identified cultural features	Photograph
	<p>partial tree cover along the northern fence and swales to slow runoff and showed signs of less intensive or less recent ploughing. Ground visibility was low due to vegetation cover, comprising of grass for pastoral use.</p> <p>To the west of the homestead along the northern side of Bulls Road, the land falls to the west and north, and has the same grass as the adjacent pastoral paddocks. South of Bulls Road was higher elevated, consisting of grassed rolling hills with scattered trees concentrated along fence lines and gullies.</p> <p>South of the homestead are buildings, sheds and a livestock pen and a field that slopes along the southern property line to Tamarang Creek in the east. Ground visibility was low due to built structures and vegetation cover, comprising of grass and low shrubs. The SU was sparsely vegetated, with scattered individual eucalypts in the fields, and stands of smaller eucalyptus along Tamarang Creek and surrounding the homestead.</p> <p>Archaeological material recorded during the survey included isolated stone artefacts, artefact scatters, and culturally modified trees. Artefact lithology was predominantly silcrete and chert.</p>		

8. SURVEY RESULTS – ABORIGINAL HERITAGE VALUES

8.1 REGISTERED ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES

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

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



8.2 NEWLY IDENTIFIED ABORIGINAL SITES



A total of 13 new sites were identified during the survey program between 26 - 28 February 2025. All sites have been registered on AHIMS (**Appendix I**) and **Table 8-1** presents their details. **Table 8-2** presents detailed descriptions of the newly identified sites, and their locations are illustrated in <Removed for public display>.



TABLE 8-1 NEWLY IDENTIFIED SITES AND AHIMS DETAILS



AHIMS Site Name	AHIMS ID	Site Type
GSF CMT 01	29-2-0490	Modified Tree
GSF CMT 02	29-2-0488	Modified Tree
GSF CMT 03	29-2-0487	Modified Tree
GSF CMT 04	29-2-0492	Modified Tree
GSF CMT 05	29-2-0493	Modified Tree
GSF AS 01	29-2-0489	Artefact (multiple)
GSF AS 02	29-2-0491	Artefact (multiple); Hearth
GSF AS 03	29-2-0498	Artefact (multiple)
GSF AS 04	29-2-0499	Artefact (multiple)
GSF AS 05	29-2-0497	Artefact (multiple)
GSF ISO 01	29-2-0494	Artefact (isolated)
GSF ISO 04	29-2-0495	Artefact (isolated)
GSF ISO 05	29-2-0496	Artefact (isolated)



TABLE 8-2 DETAILS OF NEWLY RECORDED SITES



AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0490	GSF CMT 01	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	White box tree in fair to poor condition, approximately 20 m tall and 408 cm girth. Scar is facing south-west, oval shape and located 70 cm above ground. Scar measures 65cm length, 25cm width, and regrowth depth of 20cm.	 <p data-bbox="1487 804 1921 831">PHOTOGRAPH 8-1 SITE CMT 01</p>  <p data-bbox="1487 1287 2069 1358">PHOTOGRAPH 8-2 SCAR FEATURE OF CMT 01</p>



AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0488	GSF CMT 02	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	White box tree in poor condition (dead), approximately 12 m tall and 408 cm girth. Scar is facing north-east, oval shape (possible shield) and located 110 cm above ground. Scar measures 70 cm length, 24 cm width, and regrowth depth of 18 cm.	 <p data-bbox="1480 639 1921 667">PHOTOGRAPH 8-3 SITE CMT 02</p>  <p data-bbox="1480 1291 2069 1358">PHOTOGRAPH 8-4 SCAR FEATURE OF CMT 02</p>




AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0487	GSF CMT 03	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	White box tree in poor condition (dead), approximately 12 m tall and 380 cm girth. Scar is facing north-east, poor condition oval shape and reaches ground. Scar measures 180 cm length, 20 cm width, and regrowth depth of 15 cm.	 <p data-bbox="1485 635 1921 663">PHOTOGRAPH 8-5 SITE CMT 03</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1286 2069 1358">PHOTOGRAPH 8-6 SCAR FEATURE OF CMT 03</p>




AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0492	GSF CMT 04	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	<p>White box tree in fair condition, approximately 18 m tall and 500 cm girth. Ring bind located approximately 6-12 m above ground. Ring was too high to measure, so approx. 150 cm length, and 50-70 cm width. RAPs noted it was a 'marriage tree'.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1485 853 1973 882">PHOTOGRAPH 8-7 SITE OF CMT 04</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1281 2063 1353">PHOTOGRAPH 8-8 RING FEATURE OF CMT 04</p>




AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0493	GSF CMT 05	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	White box tree in poor to fair condition, approximately 10 m tall and 492 cm girth. Scar is poor condition (decayed and burnt face), located 130 cm above ground. Scar measures 76 cm length, 27 cm width, and regrowth depth of 10 cm.	 <p data-bbox="1485 639 1973 667">PHOTOGRAPH 8-9 SITE OF CMT 05</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1287 2018 1356">PHOTOGRAPH 8-10 SCAR FEATURE OF CMT 05</p>




AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0489	GSF AS 01	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	Artefact scatter comprised of seven artefacts. Chert and silcrete flakes. Located on a mid-slope with moderate ground visibility due to erosion. Site extent: 20 x 30 m	 <p data-bbox="1485 643 2063 667">PHOTOGRAPH 8-11 SITE PHOTO OF AS 01</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1074 2063 1098">PHOTOGRAPH 8-12 ARTEFACTS OF AS 01</p>



AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0491	GSF AS 02	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	<p>Artefact scatter comprised of 23 artefacts. Fine grain banded chert, red jasper, and silcrete flakes, core, and a possible sandstone grinding stone. Located in a ploughed area on a slope along either side of Tamarang Creek (artefacts in secondary position, and unlikely in situ). As area was ploughed and the land sloped towards the creek, it is unlikely to have stratigraphic potential for subsurface archaeological deposits.</p> <p>Possible hearth feature is 20 x 30 cm eroding in central area of site extent, located south-west side of Tamarang Creek.</p> <p>Site extent: 350 x 100 m</p>	 <p>PHOTOGRAPH 8-13 HEARTH FEATURE OF AS 02</p>
					 <p>PHOTOGRAPH 8-14 ARTEFACTS OF AS 02</p>


AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
					 <p data-bbox="1485 571 2040 603">PHOTOGRAPH 8-15 ARTEFACT OF AS 02</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 938 2058 970">PHOTOGRAPH 8-16 ARTEFACTS OF AS 02</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1321 1966 1353">PHOTOGRAPH 8-17 SITE OF AS 02</p>

AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0498	GSF AS 03	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	Artefact scatter comprised of 5 artefacts. 3 flakes and 2 partial cores of chert and silcrete material. Found in heavily ploughed field, on rise next to Tamarang Creek Site extent: 70 x 50 m	 <p data-bbox="1485 550 1966 582">PHOTOGRAPH 8-18 SITE OF AS 03</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 892 2063 924">PHOTOGRAPH 8-19 ARTEFACTS OF AS 03</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1230 2063 1262">PHOTOGRAPH 8-20 ARTEFACTS OF AS 03</p>

AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
					 <p data-bbox="1482 563 2040 592">PHOTOGRAPH 8-21 ARTEFACT OF AS 03</p>
29-2-0499	GSF AS 04	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	<p data-bbox="1066 624 1464 914">15 pieces of glass and ceramic fragments. 5 pieces of glass are potentially knapped glass fragments. Landowners informed there was a hut in that location prior to their family's acquisition of the land 100 years ago. Found at the top of a heavily ploughed field.</p> <p data-bbox="1066 917 1373 946">Site extent: 65 x 40 m</p>	 <p data-bbox="1482 935 1966 963">PHOTOGRAPH 8-22 SITE OF AS 04</p>  <p data-bbox="1482 1292 2063 1361">PHOTOGRAPH 8-23 GLASS AND CERAMIC FRAGMENTS OF AS 04</p>

AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0497	GSF AS 05	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	Artefact scatter comprised of four flakes of silcrete and chert material. Located in an exposed area of dirt adjacent to Bulls Road. Site extent: 15 x 60 m	 <p data-bbox="1485 579 1973 603">PHOTOGRAPH 8-24 SITE OF AS 05</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 946 1973 970">PHOTOGRAPH 8-25 ARTEFACTS OF AS 05</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1313 1973 1337">PHOTOGRAPH 8-26 ARTEFACTS OF AS 05</p>

AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0494	GSF ISO 01	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	Isolated artefact of a banded chert core piece, featuring cortex and negative scar. Located in thruster and grass in sand exposure embankment.	 <p data-bbox="1485 699 2063 767">PHOTOGRAPH 8-27 CHERT FLAKE OF ISO 01</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1233 2063 1302">PHOTOGRAPH 8-28 CHERT FLAKE OF ISO 01</p>

AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0495	GSF ISO 04	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	Isolated silcrete flake. Located in heavily ploughed field.	 <p data-bbox="1485 619 2033 687">PHOTOGRAPH 8-29 SILCRETE FLAKE OF ISO 04</p>



AHIMS ID	AHIMS Site Name	Easting	Northing	Details	Photographs
29-2-0496	GSF ISO 05	<Removed for public display>	<Removed for public display>	Isolated broken chert flake, found in exposed erosion scar, on elevated ground. Adjacent to drainage line which feeds into sugarloaf creek. Over the flat area from sugarloaf creek	 <p data-bbox="1485 627 1989 651">PHOTOGRAPH 8-30 SITE OF ISO 05</p>  <p data-bbox="1485 1034 2063 1098">PHOTOGRAPH 8-31 CHERT FLAKE OF ISO 05</p>

FIGURE 8-1 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

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8.3 ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

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

As previously stated, one of the major environmental factors influencing human behaviour is distance to water. Land use associated with the landscape is likely to have been focused around creeks and drainage lines, as well as along ridgelines and high points throughout the Project Area. Lands within 100 m of these features are considered to have a high potential for Aboriginal archaeological sites. The sensitivity of these areas is supported by the prevalence of recorded sites within these buffers. A total of two artefact scatters were recorded within areas of high potential and three artefact scatter was recorded within an area of moderate potential within the Project Area; all of these sites were associated with visible archaeological material.

It is noted that some areas of the Project Area in proximity to Bulls Road have been influenced by previous disturbance associated with agricultural activities, including the construction of several houses and shed structures. The archaeological potential within these areas can be considered low.

As such, the archaeological potential of the Project Area is varied, with areas in close proximity to the creeks and drainage lines being of high to moderate potential and those areas that have endured extensive modifications and impacts being of low to moderate potential.

8.4 DISCUSSION

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

- Areas of high sensitivity include areas within 100 m of Sugarloaf and Tamarang Creeks and drainage lines;
- Areas of moderate sensitivity include areas beyond 100 m of Sugarloaf and Tamarang Creeks and drainage lines; and
- Areas of low sensitivity include areas of historic disturbance.

Two newly recorded sites were located within areas of high sensitivity, and 14 newly recorded sites were located within areas of moderate sensitivity. No sites were recorded within areas of low sensitivity; this can be attributed to the level of historic disturbances and landform modification within these areas.

FIGURE 8-2 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY MAPPING

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9. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT – ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

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

9.1 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

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

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

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

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

9.2 IDENTIFYING CULTURAL VALUES

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

The Burra Charter states:

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

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

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

Cultural heritage value	Description	Distance from Project Area	Source
Freshwater	Tamarang Creek flows through the Project Area, and Sugarloaf Creek forms the western boundary. They would have been as sources of fresh water during travel or while camping. Additionally, drainage lines throughout the Project Area would have also been frequented.	Within and Adjacent	ERM 2025
Cultural Landscapes – Rainbow Serpent	The Project Area is part of a wider cultural landscape that is connected to the custodianship of the land. The project Area landscape is reported to have been associated with dreaming stories of the Kamilaroi People. Drainages and soaks within the Project Area relate to 'Rainbow Serpent' storylines. It was noted by RAPs water is often tied to Rainbow Serpent Dreamings, where the movement of Rainbow Serpent spirits across and through the landscape forms features like gullies, creeks and soaks.	Within	<Removed for public display>, (per comms, 2025)
Aboriginal heritage sites	13 new sites were recorded during the archaeological survey.	Within	ERM 2025
Food and raw materials	Pre-European contact the local area would offer hunting and gathering opportunities.	Within	NSW NPWS 2003

9.2.1 SOCIAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

9.2.2 HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

9.2.3 SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

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

In assessing significance consideration should be given the following criteria:

Research potential: does the evidence suggest any potential to contribute to an understanding of the area and/ or region and/or state’s natural and cultural history?

Representativeness: how much variability (outside and/or inside the site) exists, what is already conserved, how much connectivity is there?

Rarity: is the subject area important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, or design no longer practiced? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?

Educational potential: does the site contain teaching sites or sites that may have teaching potential?

A scientific significance assessment of each site type is summarised in **Table 9-2**.

A discussion of the defining characteristics of the sites assessed to demonstrate moderate and unknown scientific significance is provided below.

TABLE 9-2 SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT OF ABORIGINAL SITES PRESENT

Site Type	Research potential	Rarity	Representativeness	Educational potential	Overall
Artefact	Low	Low	Low	Low to Moderate	Low
CMT	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Hearth	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low

9.2.3.1 SITES OF LOW AND MODERATE SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Sites of low and moderate scientific significance include **artefact sites** and **hearth features**.

Most artefact sites recorded within the Project Area are artefact scatters. The artefacts recorded are considered to exhibit moderate rarity values; this is due to there being limited lithic resources across the landscape. Due to the rarity of lithics across the landscape, the site has educational or scientific potential; analysis of the material would provide insight into local occupational use of the landscape.

Hearth features have low research potential, are moderately rare across the national archaeological record and are representative at the Project Area level.

9.2.4 AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

9.2.5 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Project Area forms a component of a cultural landscape associated with Aboriginal use of the region for several cultural and subsistence-based activities. The sites vary in type and density but predominantly represent evidence of residential and subsistence areas.

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

Sites with moderate scientific significance include hearth features. These sites may represent occupation or activity areas subject to repeated use.

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

10. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A full description of the proposed works is located in **Section 1.1**.

The definition of harm is limited to impacts which ‘...destroys, defaces, damages an object or place or in relation to an object – moves the object from land on which it has been situated.’ (s5 NPW Act).

10.1 MITIGATION MEASURES

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

The application of buffers to sites is also an effective mitigation measure. The buffers applied to the defined site extents further protect potential archaeological features, that extend beyond the visible boundary of the sites. A buffer of 10 m should be provided to CMTs (as per discussions with RAPs onsite, detailed in **Section 4.3**). The specific buffers relating to each site are detailed in **Table 10-2** and illustrated in **Figure 10-1**.

10.2 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

In April 2025 the Proponent, GreenPulse, made several design changes to minimise and reduce impacts to all Aboriginal heritage sites after the associated archaeological survey which was complete in February 2025. The information gathered by the archaeologist during this field assessment was used to assist the GreenPulse design team to redesign the infrastructure layout. **Table 10-1** below shows the reduction in number of sites being impacted.

Assessed impacts were defined as follows:

- High: Site extent is within development footprint;
- Moderate: Buffer of site extent is within the development footprint; and
- Low: Site (including buffer) is outside of the development footprint.

TABLE 10-1 NUMBER OF IMPACTED SITES IN DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT

Site Type	Number of Impacted Sites in Development Footprint	
	Initial Survey Layout (February 2025)	EIS Layout (May 2025)
Culturally Modified Tree	High: 5	Low: 5
Isolated Artefact	High: 3	Low: 3
Artefact Scatter	High: 4	Low: 4
Artefact Scatter, Hearth	High: 1	Low: 1
Total # Sites impacted	High: 13	Low: 13
TOTAL	13	13

A summary of potential impacts to identified Aboriginal heritage values has been developed based on the revised development footprint of the Project and are summarised in **Table 10-2** and **Table 10-1**.

TABLE 10-2 POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSED SOLAR FARM PROJECT LAYOUT

Aboriginal heritage site	Site Type	Significance	Potential for impact based on Solar development footprint	Mitigation Measure
GSF CMT 01	Modified Tree	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure
GSF CMT 02	Modified Tree	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffer of 10 m to be applied
GSF CMT 03	Modified Tree	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffer of 10 m to be applied
GSF CMT 04	Modified Tree	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffer of 10 m to be applied
GSF CMT 05	Modified Tree	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffer of 10 m to be applied
GSF AS 01	Artefact (multiple)	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure
GSF AS 02	Artefact (multiple); Hearth	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure
GSF AS 03	Artefact (multiple)	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure
GSF AS 04	Artefact (multiple)	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure
GSF AS 05	Artefact (multiple)	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure
GSF ISO 01	Artefact (isolated)	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure
GSF ISO 04	Artefact (isolated)	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure
GSF ISO 05	Artefact (isolated)	Moderate	Low – outside development footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation measure

10.3 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

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

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

10.3.1 THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

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

10.3.2 THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

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

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

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

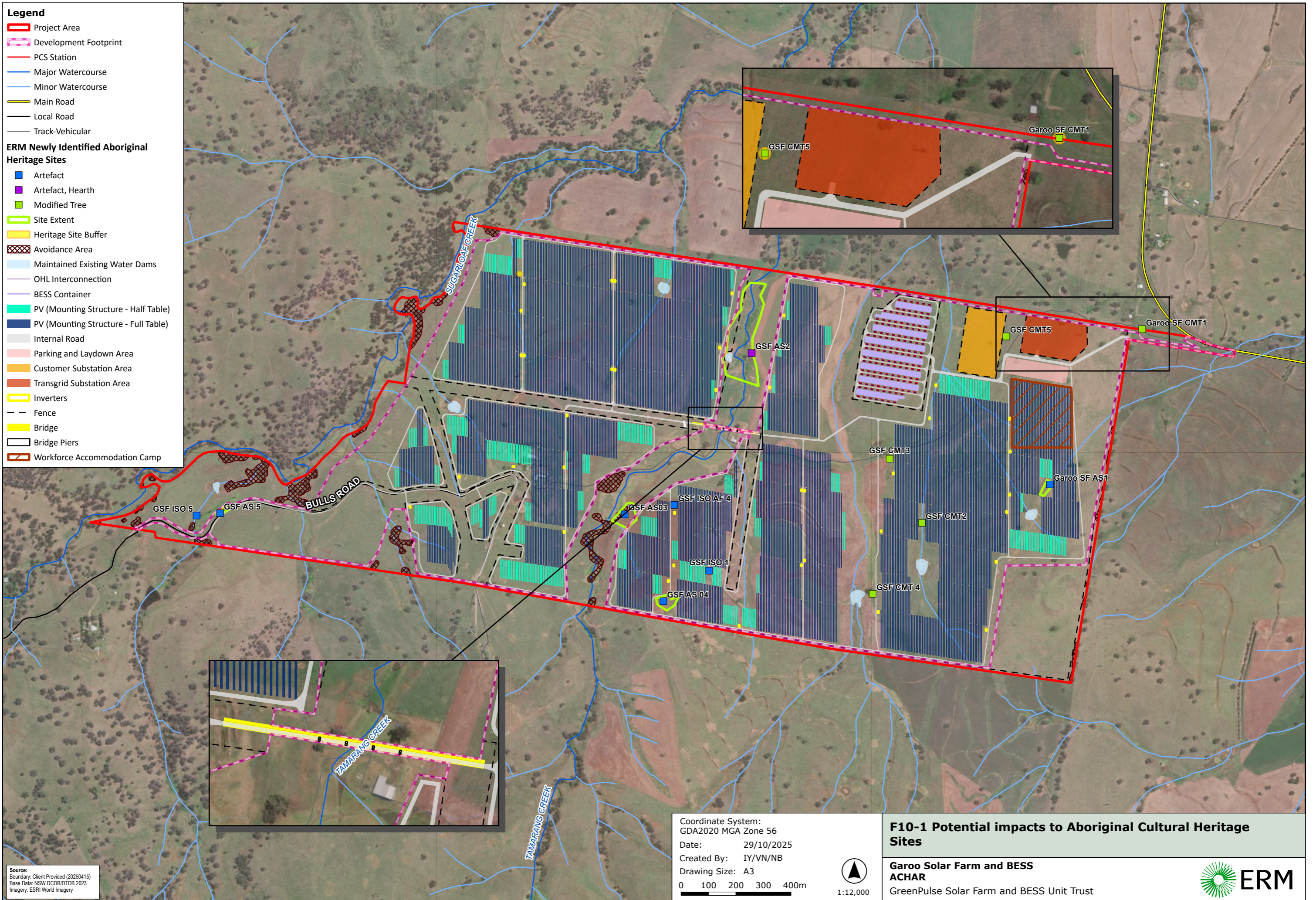
10.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

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

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

The survey did identify a total of 13 Aboriginal Objects or Sites within the Project Area, however, there are no cumulative impacts associated with future land uses that would result in impacts to the identified cultural heritage sites. However, it is also acknowledged that continued development across the Garoo region has the potential to result in a cumulative impact to the cultural values identified in the local area. This effect is dependent on the scale and timing of the impacts and generally occurs when projects are constructed concurrently or consecutively and are based on their location.

- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Development Footprint
 - PCS Station
 - Major Watercourse
 - Minor Watercourse
 - Main Road
 - Local Road
 - Track-Vehicular
- ERM Newly Identified Aboriginal Heritage Sites**
- Artefact
 - Artefact, Hearth
 - Modified Tree
 - Site Extent
 - Heritage Site Buffer
 - Avoidance Area
 - Maintained Existing Water Dams
 - OHL Interconnection
 - BESS Container
 - PV (Mounting Structure - Half Table)
 - PV (Mounting Structure - Full Table)
 - Internal Road
 - Parking and Laydown Area
 - Customer Substation Area
 - Transgrid Substation Area
 - Inverters
 - Fence
 - Bridge
 - Bridge Piers
 - Workforce Accommodation Camp



Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
Date: 29/10/2025
Created By: IY/VN/NB
Drawing Size: A3

0 100 200 300 400m

1:12,000

F10-1 Potential impacts to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites

Garoo Solar Farm and BESS
ACHAR
GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust



11. RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

11.1 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SUMMARY

- No previously registered AHIMS sites are located within the Project Area; 13 newly recorded sites are located within the Project Area; and
- Based on the current development footprint no sites will be harmed by the Project.

11.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.2.1 RECOMMENDATION 1: PROJECT RE-DESIGN AND IMPACT AVOIDANCE

- Preservation and management of Aboriginal sites and heritage values will form a key objective of development controls for the Project. It should be noted that amendments to the Project development footprint in May 2025 has reduced direct impact to all sites; and
- If design changes are to occur within any areas that will impact registered sites, additional assessment and consultation will be required.

11.2.2 RECOMMENDATION 2: SITE BUFFERS

- The proposed Project should limit impacts to identified Aboriginal sites as well as identified associated cultural values as much as possible. ERM recommends a buffer of at least 10 m be provided to recorded CMTs. This would affect the following sites:
 - GSF CMT 01;
 - GSF CMT 02;
 - GSF CMT 03;
 - GSF CMT 04; and
 - GSF CMT 05.

11.2.3 RECOMMENDATION 3: CULTURAL HERITAGE INDUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

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

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

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

11.2.4 RECOMMENDATION 4: UNEXPECTED FINDS PROCEDURE

A robust and site specific Unexpected Finds Procedure (UFP) should be developed prior to the construction phase, and construction workers should be briefed on its procedures. If suspected Aboriginal heritage items are discovered during construction the UFP should include a minimum of the below points to be followed:

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

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

- All activity in the immediate area should cease and the location should be cordoned off with visible flagging. Flagging should be placed at a 10 m radius surrounding the find;
- The State Police must be contacted along with Heritage NSW; and
- Any sand/soils removed from the near vicinity of the find must be identified and set aside for assessment by the investigating authorities. No further excavation is to be undertaken until the area has been assessed, cleared, and any relevant permits granted.
- An appropriately qualified heritage professional should record the location and attributes of the site and determine the significance of the find;
- The Tamworth and Nungaroo LALC should be notified;
- Heritage NSW should be immediately contacted if it is determined the items are heritage items; and
- Works will only recommence once the area has been cleared by further assessment and heritage permits (where required).

12. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

CONSULTATION LOG



CONSULTATION LOG – GREENPULSE SOLAR FARM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
Agency Letters Out						
6/11/2024	Email	-	Tamworth LALC		ERM	Sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/11/2024	Email	-	Nungaroo LALC		ERM	Sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/11/2024	Email	-	Walhallow LALC		ERM	Sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/11/2024	Email	-	Tamworth Regional Council		ERM	Sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/11/2024	Email	-	North-West Local Land Services		ERM	Sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/11/2024	Email	-	Heritage NSW		ERM	Sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
6/11/2024	Email	-	NNTT		ERM	Sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
6/11/2024	Email	-	Officer of the Register		ERM	Sent out letters to agencies requesting the names of registered Aboriginal Parties for the project area.
Response to Agency Letters						
7/11/2024	Email		ERM		North-West Local Land Services	Received a response stating NW LLS cannot supply the requested information.
7/11/2024	Email		ERM		NNTT	Received an email response from NNTT Geospatial search with the results for overlapping native title matters for the project area. No overlap was recorded.
7/11/2024	Email		ERM		Officer of the Register	Received an email letter from OR stating that the Registered Aboriginal Owners within the area are the Bulagaranda. Noted to contact Cheryl Kitchener, and the Nungaroo LALC as they may wish to participate.
11/11/2024	Email		ERM		Heritage NSW	Received a list on the 11/11/24 from Heritage NSW which included the names of Registered Aboriginal parties who may wish to be consulted.
Advert						



Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
25/11/2024	Public advert	Northern Daily Leader		ERM		Advert placed on Friday 25th November 2024 with closing date of 10th December 2024.
Invitation to register						
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Barraby Cultural Services		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		D F T V Enterprises		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Didge Ngunawal Clan		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
25/11/2024	Email		Edgerton kwiembal AC		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Galamaay Cultural Consultants (GCC)		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Gilay Consultants		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Guyinbaraay people Clan group		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Gomery Cultural Consultants		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Muswellbrook Cultural Consultants		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Ngambaa Cultural Connections		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Nyakka Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Thomas Dahlstrom Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Thoorga Nura		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Vicky Hannah Gomeroi Duncan		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Tamworth LALC		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.



Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
25/11/2024	Email		Warragil Cultural Services		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		WATTAKA Pty Ltd		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Wurrumay Culture Heritage Consultants		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Yurrandaali		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Bariyan Cultural Connections		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Bulagaranda (formerly known as Mt Yarrowyck)		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		RAW Cultural Healing		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Gali Heritage Consultants		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
25/11/2024	Email		Long Gully Cultural Services		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Ngagga Ngagga		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Stage 1 invitation to register interest in the project.
Registration of Interest from advert or letter						
25/11/2024	Email		ERM		Stakeholder	Registered interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		ERM		Long Gully Cultural Services	Registered interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		ERM		Wurrumay Culture	Registered interest in the project.



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
					Heritage Consultants	
25/11/2024	Email		ERM		Didge Ngunawal Clan	Registered interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		ERM		Gomery Cultural Consultants	Registered interest in the project.
25/11/2024	Email		ERM		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	Registered interest in the project.
26/11/2024	Email		ERM		Ngagga Ngagga	Registered interest in the project and included rates.
26/11/2024	Email		ERM		Guyinbaraay people Clan group	Registered interest in the project.
26/11/2024	Email		ERM		Stakeholder	Registered interest in the project.
26/11/2024	Email		ERM		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Registered interest in the project.



Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
26/11/2024	Email		ERM		D F T V Enterprises	Registered interest in the project.
27/11/2024	Email		ERM		Stakeholder	Registered interest in the project.
2/12/2024	Email		ERM		Stakeholder	Registered interest in the project.
4/12/2024	Email		ERM		Ngambaa Cultural Connections	Registered interest in the project.
6/12/2024	Email		ERM		Stakeholder	Registered interest in the project.
9/12/2024	Email		ERM		Stakeholder	Registered interest in the project.
Issuing Project Methodology						
21/01/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Long Gully Cultural Services		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Wurrumay Culture Heritage Consultants		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
21/01/2025	Email		Didge Ngunawal Clan		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Gomery Cultural Consultants		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Ngagga Ngagga		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Guyinbaraay people Clan group		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
21/01/2025	Email		D F T V Enterprises		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Ngambaa Cultural Connections		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.
21/01/2025	Email		Tamworth LALC		ERM	Issued ACHAR Project Methodology, with close of response period 18 February.

Section 4.1.6 Letter



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
27/03/2025	Email		Tamworth LALC		ERM	Section 4.1.6 notification letter was sent to notify of the interested registered parties for the project and provide evidence of the advert placement.
27/03/2025	Email		Nungaroo LALC		ERM	Section 4.1.6 notification letter was sent to notify of the interested registered parties for the project and provide evidence of the advert placement.
27/03/2025	Email		Heritage NSW		ERM	Section 4.1.6 notification letter was sent to notify of the interested registered parties for the project and provide evidence of the advert placement.
Comments on Project Methodology						
21/01/2025	Email		ERM		Gomery Cultural Consultants	Confirmed methodology and interest in survey participation
22/01/2025	Email		ERM		Long Gully Cultural Services	Confirmed methodology and interest in survey participation



Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
22/01/2025	Email		ERM		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	Confirmed methodology and interest in survey participation
9/02/2025	Email		ERM		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Confirmed methodology and interest in survey participation
Fieldwork Prep						
3/02/2025	Email		Tamworth LALC		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February and requested to confirm rates & insurances.
3/02/2025	Email		Guyinbaraay people Clan group		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February and requested to confirm rates & insurances.
3/02/2025	Email		Gomery Cultural Consultants		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February and requested to confirm rates & insurances.
3/02/2025	Email		Long Gully Cultural Services		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
						and requested to confirm rates & insurances.
3/02/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February and requested to confirm rates & insurances.
3/02/2025	Email		Ngagga Ngagga		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February and requested to confirm rates & insurances.
3/02/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February and requested to confirm rates & insurances.
3/02/2025	Email		D F T V Enterprises		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February and requested to confirm rates & insurances.
3/02/2025	Email		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Invited RAP to participate in cultural heritage survey 26 th – 28 th February and requested to confirm rates & insurances.



Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
11/02/2025	Call		Stakeholder		ERM	Call to confirm rates and insurances for herself for survey 27 th February
Issuing Draft Solar ACHAR						
23/05/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Guyinbaraay people Clan group		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Gomery Cultural Consultants		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Ngambaa Cultural Connections		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Wurrumay Culture Heritage Consultants		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.



ERM

Date	Method	Addressee	Organisation	Sender	Sender Organisation	Details
23/05/2025	Email		Long Gully Cultural Services		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		D F T V Enterprises		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Didge Ngunawal Clan		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Stakeholder		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Ngagga Ngagga		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.
23/05/2025	Email		Tamworth LALC		ERM	Draft ACHAR issued, with comments requested by Friday 20 th June 2025.



APPENDIX B

ADVERTISEMENT



The Wolfe Brothers racked up three awards in 2024 after being inducted into the Galaxy of the Stars. Picture by Gareth Gardner

He's also up for Bush Ballad of the Year for his track Laura & Giselle, while Sing Me The Land is nominated for Vocal Collaboration of the Year.

In 2023 ARIA nominated band Kingswood spent eight weeks in the #1 spot on the

ARIA's Australian Country Charts. Their latest album, The Tale of G.C. Townes, landed four nominations including Traditional Country Album of the Year and Toyota Album of the Year.

Their track Tell Me A Story is nominated for Bluegrass

Recording of the Year and their song Jet is a contender for Instrumental of the Year.

More than 150 people including nominated artists and industry representatives gathered at the Oxford Art Factory in Sydney last Tuesday for the announcement of

103 nominees, held by 50 artists across 16 categories. The exclusive industry event was hosted by 2024 New Talent of the Year recipient and Tamworth Country Music Festival Ambassador Max Jackson and two-time Golden Guitar winner James Johnston.

The pair will also host the Toyota 53rd Golden Guitar Awards ceremony in January.

James Johnston has received 4 nominations alongside Lee Kernaghan, including Vocal Collaboration of the Year, Song of the Year, CMT Video of the Year and Single of the Year for their song Who I Am.

Max Jackson was announced as a nominee in three categories including Female Artist of the Year, CMT Video of the Year and Single of the Year for her single Little More Country.

Eight other artists have also accomplished three nominations including Andy Penkow, Ashleigh Dallas, Casey Barnes, Kristy Cox, Michael Carpenter & The Banks Brothers, Taylor Moss, Tori Forsyth and The Wolfe Brothers.

Recently hitting #1 on the ARIA Australian Country Albums chart, Adam Harvey is a nominee in two categories.

Dual nominations also went to Andy Golledge, Graeme Connors, Henry Wagons, Jayne Denham, Kelly Dixon, Lane Pittman, Rachel Whitchurch, William Alexander, Zac & George and 2024 Female Artist of the Year Kaylee Bell.

There were 22 artists with single nominations includ-

ing 2024 Toyota Star Maker Wade Forster, Denvah and Dylan Wright in the New Talent of the Year category, Abbie Ferris, Allan Caswell, Amber Lawrence, Andrew Swift, Angus Gill, Brendan Radford, Brooke McClymont & Adam Eckersley, Darlinghurst, Dean Perrett, Hamish Davidson, John Williamson, Lachlan Bryan and The Wildes, Lindsay Waddington, Luke O'Shea, Phil Doublet, Small Town Romance, The Bushwackers, The High Street Drifters and The Pleasures.

Country Music Association of Australia (CMAA) Chairman Dobe Newton said the awards celebrate and recognise esteemed artists, writers, musicians, performers, and their creativity.

"We are particularly pleased with the depth and diversity of this year's lineup," Mr Newton said.

Tamworth Regional Council will present the Toyota 53rd Golden Guitar Awards live on January 25, from Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre and livestreamed via the Festival website and Facebook page.

To purchase tickets for the 2025 Toyota Golden Guitar Awards, visit www.tcmf.com.au/awards.

Notice of Aboriginal Consultation – Proposed GreenPulse Solar Farm & BESS, NSW

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM), on behalf of GreenPulse (the proponent), is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support the proposal to construct and operate the GreenPulse Solar Farm & BESS, south of Tamworth, NSW. These activities may result in harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage. ERM is seeking expressions of interest from any Aboriginal people who may have cultural knowledge relating to the project area who may be able to assist in the development of this assessment.

Local Aboriginal parties wishing to be consulted for this assessment are invited to register a written expression of their interest by COB 9 December 2024.

Please respond in writing to:

Environmental Resource Management Australia



Community Recycling Centres

The right place for your problem waste



Only household quantities accepted.

It's FREE to drop off these items at:

- Armidale & Guyra | Glen Innes | Gunnedah | Inverell | Moree | Narrabri | Tamworth | Tenterfield | Uralla | Walcha

For more information visit cleanout.com.au

Brought to you by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.





APPENDIX C

AGENCY NOTIFICATION LETTER



ERM

Level 14, 207 Kent Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

erm.com

Walhallow Local Aboriginal Land Council
Via email:
<Redacted for public view>

DATE
6 November, 2024

SUBJECT
GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS

REFERENCE
0751705

Dear Sir/Madam,

GreenPulse (the proponent) is proposing to construct, operate, and maintain the GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS (the Project), which extends across an area of approximately 350 hectares (ha). The Project Area is located approximately 40 km South of Tamworth, which is understood to have traditionally been within the lands of the Gomeri People. Currently, the Project is within the rural locality of Garoo and entirely within the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area (LGA) and the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) (see Figure 1).

The Project will be assessed by a State Significant Development application under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the Solar Project have not yet been issued; however, it is understood an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment would be required to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for each component.

GreenPulse has engaged Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) to complete an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). The ACHAR would be prepared in accordance with the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (ACHAR Guide) (DECCW 2011) and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW) (Consultation Requirements). The assessment is intended to assess the Aboriginal cultural values of the Project Area.

The contact details for the proponent are:

GreenPulse Solar Farm & BESS
<Redacted for public view>
<Redacted for public view>

The aim of community consultation is to provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge of the Project Area to assist in the identification of the cultural heritage significance of the Project Area. GreenPulse understands that it is critical that consultation be undertaken with community members who are connected to the local mobs as well as their elders to ensure appropriate and authentic information is gathered.

Community consultation undertaken as part of the heritage assessment will be used to assist the proponent in the preparation of the cultural heritage assessments which would support the

development of the Project EIS's. Consultation would also assist the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in their assessment of the EIS's.

ERM is writing to fulfil Stage 1 of the Consultation Requirements - *project notification and identification of stakeholders*. As part of this step, ERM would like to obtain a list of Aboriginal people who may have an interest in this project and hold relevant knowledge about the cultural significance of the Tamworth and Garoo areas.

Relevant stakeholder lists can be returned to <Redacted for public view> (Heritage Consultant) at the below details.

<Redacted for public view>

Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd

<Redacted for public view>

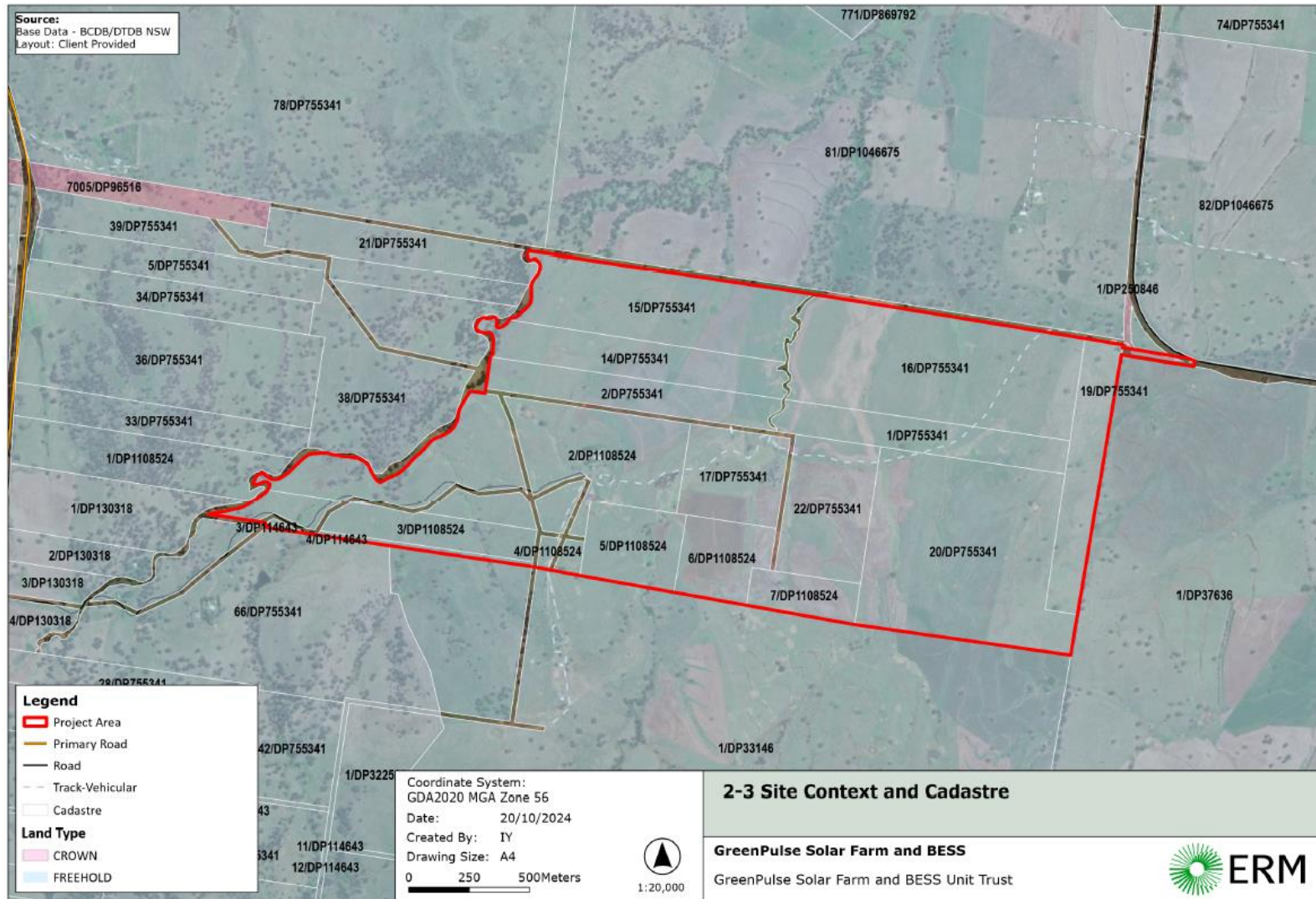
Heritage Consultant



ERM

Level 14, 207 Kent Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

erm.com





APPENDIX D

AGENCY RESPONSES

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Garoo Solar Farm and BESS, Garoo ACHAR
Date: Thursday, 27 March 2025 9:42:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[GreenPulse_Solar_Farm & BESS_Invitation_To_Register_.pdf](#)
[005_ND_A_25112024.PDF](#)
[Section 4.1.6 Notification Letter GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Heritage NSW.pdf](#)

To whom it may concern

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Stage 1, s4.1.6), Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) and our client GreenPulse (The Proponent) has collated a list of registered interested parties who would like to participate in the upcoming project. I have included details of the consult advertisement placed in the local newspaper, the initial registration of interest letter and the Section 4.1.6 notification letter.

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

Thanks, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Consulting Associate
They/Them/Theirs

Canberra

erm.com

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Garoo Solar Farm and BESS, Garoo ACHAR
Date: Thursday, 27 March 2025 9:48:14 AM
Attachments: [Section 4.1.6 Notification Letter GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Nungaroo LALC.pdf](#)
[GreenPulse Solar Farm & BESS Invitation To Register .pdf](#)
[005_ND_A_25112024.PDF](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

To whom it may concern

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Stage 1, s4.1.6), Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) and our client GreenPulse (The Proponent) has collated a list of registered interested parties who would like to participate in the upcoming project. I have included details of the consult advertisement placed in the local newspaper, the initial registration of interest letter and the Section 4.1.6 notification letter.

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

Thanks, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Consulting Associate
They/Them/Theirs

Canberra

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Garoo Solar Farm and BESS, Garoo ACHAR
Date: Thursday, 27 March 2025 9:46:48 AM
Attachments: [Section 4.1.6 Notification Letter GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Tamworth LALC.pdf](#)
[GreenPulse Solar Farm & BESS Invitation To Register .pdf](#)
[005_ND_A_25112024.PDF](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

To whom it may concern

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Stage 1, s4.1.6), Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) and our client GreenPulse (The Proponent) has collated a list of registered interested parties who would like to participate in the upcoming project. I have included details of the consult advertisement placed in the local newspaper, the initial registration of interest letter and the Section 4.1.6 notification letter.

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

Thanks, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Consulting Associate
They/Them/Theirs

Canberra
[REDACTED]

erm.com

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From: [Geospatial Search Requests](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SR24/1925 - Request for potentially interested parties - Garoo, NSW [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 7 November 2024 8:17:04 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

OFFICIAL

Your ref: Environmental Resources Management (ERM)

Our ref: SR24/1925

Dear [REDACTED],

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
1. Register of Native Title Claims
2. Native Title Determinations
3. Indigenous Land Use Agreements (Registered and notified)

Results for overlapping native title matters in NSW:

Feature ID	Tenure	Cadastral Data As At	Feature Area SqKm	Overlapping Native Title Feature				
				NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
1//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.1670	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1670	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1670	100.00%
14//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.1949	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1949	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1949	100.00%
15//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.3260	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.3260	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.3260	100.00%
16//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.5203	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.5203	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.5203	100.00%
17//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.1597	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1597	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1597	100.00%
19//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.1689	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1689	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1689	100.00%
2//DP1108524	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.5524	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.5524	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.5524	100.00%
2//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.1618	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1618	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1618	100.00%
20//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.6004	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.6004	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.6004	100.00%
22//DP755341	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.2068	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.2068	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.2068	100.00%
3//DP1108524	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.1575	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1575	100.00%

				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1575	100.00%
				NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
3//DP114643	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.0027	NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0027	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0027	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0027	100.00%
4//DP1108524	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.0223	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0223	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0223	100.00%
4//DP114643	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.0180	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0180	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0180	100.00%
5//DP1108524	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.1276	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1276	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1276	100.00%
6//DP1108524	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.1131	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.1131	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.1131	100.00%
7//DP1108524	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.0749	NNTT File Number	Name	Category	Overlap Area SqKm	% Selected Feature
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (Schedule)	0.0749	100.00%
				NC2011/006	Gomerai People	Applications (RNTC)	0.0749	100.00%

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: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:53 PM
To: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SR24/1925 - Request for potentially interested parties - Garoo, NSW

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

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

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the Garoo area of NSW. Also attached is the Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers form with site details entered.

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

From: [Aboriginal Owners](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Reply: Request for potentially interested parties - Garoo, NSW
Date: Thursday, 7 November 2024 12:55:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[GreenPulse Solar Farm BESS Agency Letter Officer of the Register.pdf](#)
[20241107_AO Search ACHA GreenPulse Solar Farm Garoo NSW Nungaroo LALC AO Bulagaranda.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Please find attached the response from the Office of the Registrar, ALRA to your email and letter of 7 November 2024 regarding the proposed construction, operation and maintenance of the GreenPulse Solar Farm (various Lot and DP numbers) Garoo NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

Kind regards

The Aboriginal Owners team

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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



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

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

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2024 5:52 PM
To: Aboriginal Owners [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for potentially interested parties - Garoo, NSW

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

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.]

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, please find attached a letter requesting the names of Aboriginal parties who may hold an interest in the Garoo area of NSW.

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

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]

Consultant

Brisbane

erm.com

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



APPENDIX E

INVITATION TO REGISTER LETTER



ERM

Level 14, 207 Kent Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

T 02 8584 8828
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Greenpulse Solar Farm and BESS Pty Ltd as trustee for the GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust (GreenPulse)
<Redacted for Public view>

DATE
25 November 2024

SUBJECT
GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

REFERENCE
0751705

Dear <Redacted for Public view> ,

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a), and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b), Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) wishes to inform you that we have been engaged by GreenPulse to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) associated with the proposed construction and operation of the GreenPulse Solar Farm & BESS (the Project). You have been identified by relevant agencies as having potential to be interested in being consulted about Aboriginal Cultural Heritage matters relevant to this project.

Further details of the proposal are provided in the sections below. The contact details for the proponent are:

GreenPulse
<Redacted for Public view>

Site Location

The Project Area is located approximately 40 kilometres (km) south of Tamworth, NSW. It is located in the rural locality of Garoo within the boundary of the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). The Project Area is within the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area (LGA) and shown in Figure 1.

The Site is approximately 350 hectares (ha) comprising of the following land parcels:

Lot	DP
1, 2, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22	755341
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1108524
3, 4	114643

Proposed Development

The Project includes the in-perpetuity approval for construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a 160 MWac solar farm and a 360MW BESS, electrical and other associated infrastructure, ancillary activities, and site access.

The GreenPulse Solar Farm & BESS comprises the following elements:

- Energy Generation:
 - Approximately 260,000 panels and 320 ha of solar arrays; and 360MW of BESS of up to 4 hours duration
- Solar Power Conversion Unit (PCU):
 - Solar PCUs including a power station, inverter, transformer and associated equipment;
- Approximately 360 MW BESS of up to 4 hours duration;
- Connection to existing national grid via the existing Muswellbrook-Tamworth 330kV transmission lines.

In addition, the Projects will include the following Project infrastructure and associated works:

- Other temporary and permanent infrastructure including:
 - Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facility and infrastructure including site office, storage facilities, car parking and fencing;
 - Construction and operational compounds;
 - Internal access tracks and road turning head connecting Project infrastructure;
- Access road use and Project-required upgrades:
 - Project Area access: via the New England Highway from Garoo Road in the east, as well as emergency access;
- Construction workforce of up to 250 Full Time Equivalent, expected operational staff is 5 Full Time Equivalent; and
- Construction generally within standard construction hours, and operations 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

The Project is being assessed as State Significant Developments, with the application for approval being supported by the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) will form one of the technical studies prepared to support the EIS. The ACHAR will be prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b), the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and all other relevant guidelines and legislation. The ACHAR will be prepared to identify, assess, and develop management recommendations for any identified Aboriginal Cultural Heritage on the Site.

Registration

If you wish to register your interest in being consulted on this project, please contact <Redacted for Public view> (Heritage Consultant) by 10 December 2024 at the below contact details:

<Redacted for Public view>

If you have any specific questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Any cultural knowledge provided will be treated in confidence and information will be distributed in accordance with the wishes of the Aboriginal stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd

<Redacted for Public view>

Heritage Consultant



ERM

Level 14, 207 Kent Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

T 02 8584 8828
E Lorien.Perchard@erm.com

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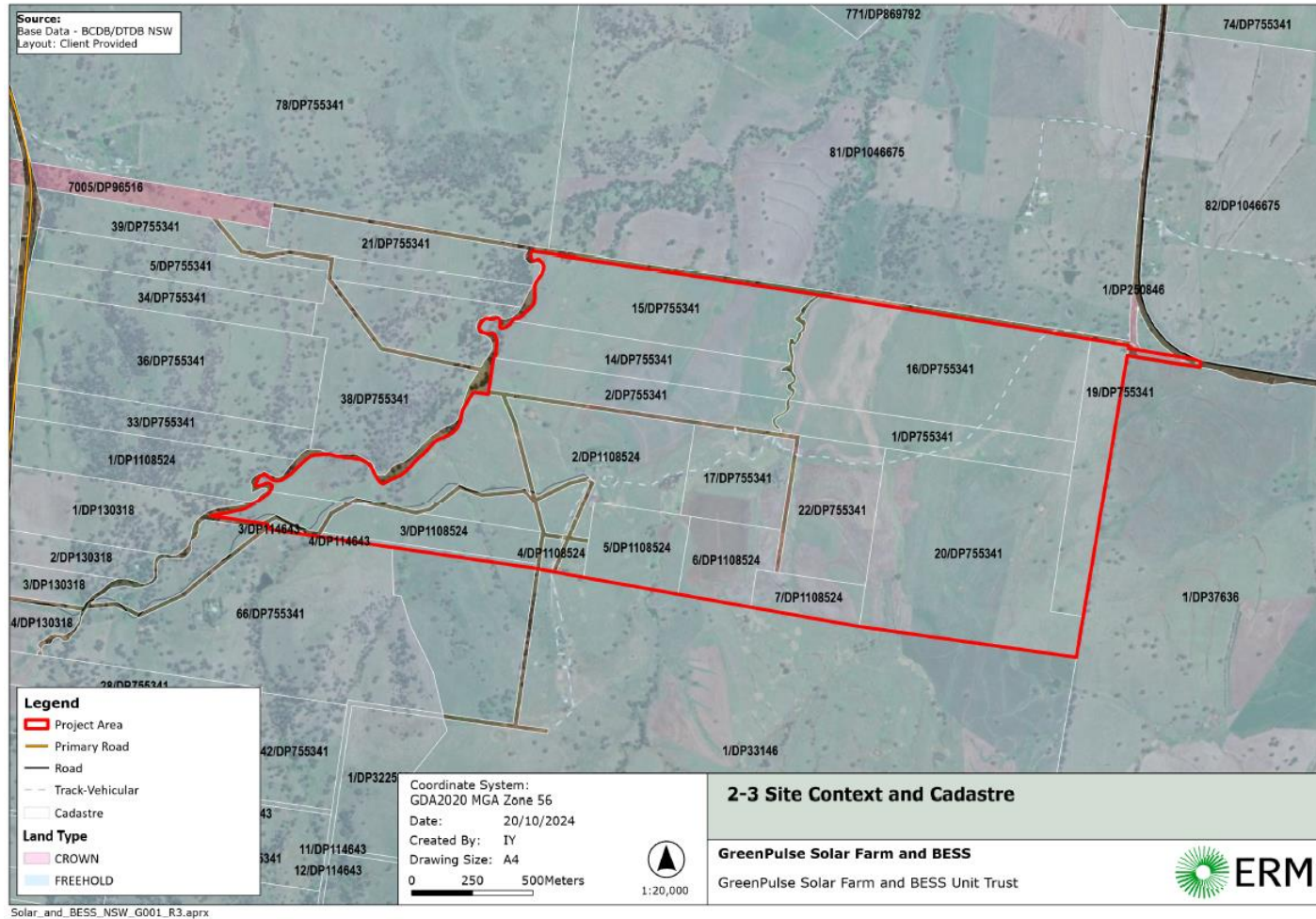


FIGURE 1-1 SITE LOCATION



APPENDIX F

SECTION 4.1.6 NOTIFICATION LETTER

Heritage NSW

Via email: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

27 March 2025

Reference: 0711340

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Written notification of registrations of interest as required under Heritage NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (Stage 1) – Garoo Solar Farm & BESS– Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Project

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Stage 1, s4.1.6), Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) and our client GreenPulse (The Proponent) wishes to inform you of the Aboriginal people who have registered an interest in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) associated with the proposed Garoo Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage System located in Garoo, NSW.

PERSON OR ORGANISATION	CONTACT DETAILS
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Guyinbaraay people Clan group	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Gomery Cultural Consultants	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Ngambaa Cultural Connections	[REDACTED]

	Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Wurrumay Culture Heritage Consultants	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Long Gully Cultural Services	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
D F T V Enterprises	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Lilly Carroll; Paul Boyd Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Ngagga Ngagga	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Tamworth LALC	[REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

One more group registered an interest in the Project but have requested that their details not be disclosed at this time.

As also required, a copy of the invitation to register letter and public advertisement required for *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Stage 1, s4.1.3) is attached for

your records. The advertisement was placed in The Northern Daily Leader on 25 November 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Consulting Associate Archaeologist

ATTACHMENT 1: Invitation to register

ATTACHMENT 2: Public Notice



APPENDIX G

REGISTERED RAP GROUPS



ERM

Organisation	Name	Email	Phone	Address
Stakeholder	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
			-	
Stakeholder	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
			-	
Stakeholder	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
Stakeholder	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
Guyinbaraay people Clan group	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
				-
Gomery Cultural Consultants	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
Ngambaa Cultural Connections	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
				-

Organisation	Name	Email	Phone	Address
Wurrumay Culture Heritage Consultants	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
Long Gully Cultural Services	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
			-	-
D F T V Enterprises	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
			-	
			-	
AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
	<Redacted for Public view>	-		
Didge Ngunawal Clan	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
Stakeholder	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
Stakeholder	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-
Ngagga Ngagga	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-

Organisation	Name	Email	Phone	Address
Tamworth LALC	<Redacted for Public view>	-	-	-



APPENDIX H

METHODOLOGY



Garoo Solar Farm and BESS

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Assessment Methodology Report

PREPARED FOR

The Trustee for GreenPulse Solar
Farm and BESS Unit Trust
(GreenPulse)

DATE

21 January 2025

REFERENCE

0751705



DOCUMENT DETAILS

DOCUMENT TITLE	Garoo Solar Farm and BESS
DOCUMENT SUBTITLE	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology Report
PROJECT NUMBER	0751705
DATE	21 January 2025
VERSION	01
AUTHOR	Victoria Gleeson
CLIENT NAME	The Trustee for GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust (GreenPulse)

DOCUMENT HISTORY

				ERM APPROVAL TO ISSUE		
VERSION	REVISION	AUTHOR	REVIEWED BY	NAME	DATE	COMMENTS
Draft	01	V. Gleeson	L. Perchard	L. Baker	16.01.2025	For client review

Garoo Solar Farm and BESS

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology Report 0751705

DRAFT

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description
AC	Alternating current
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
DECCW	Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (former)
ERM	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd
GWh	Gigawatt hours
ha	Hectare
kV	kilovolt
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
NSW	New South Wales
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
PV	Photovoltaic
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties

1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) has been engaged by GreenPulse Solar Farm and BESS Unit Trust (GreenPulse, The Proponent) to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the proposed Garoo Solar Farm & Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project), situated in the rural locality of Garoo, New South Wales (NSW).

It is understood that the Project will require an ACHAR to support the Environmental Impact Statement. The ACHAR will be prepared in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Consultation Requirements) (DECCW, 2010a), *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (Code of Practice) (DECCW 2010b), the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and all other relevant guidelines and legislation. The ACHAR will be prepared to identify, assess, and develop management recommendations for any identified Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values within the Project Area. Preparation of the ACHAR will include First Nations community consultation, field investigations, and associated data analysis and reporting.

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

1.1 PROJECT AREA

The Project Area comprises several allotments on the eastern side of the New England Highway, at 291 Garoo Road, Garoo, NSW, with an area of approximately 368 hectares (ha) (

Figure 1.1). It is approximately 40 kilometres (km) (by road) south of Tamworth, NSW, and is within the Tamworth Local Government Area (LGA) and Nungarook Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) boundary.

1.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

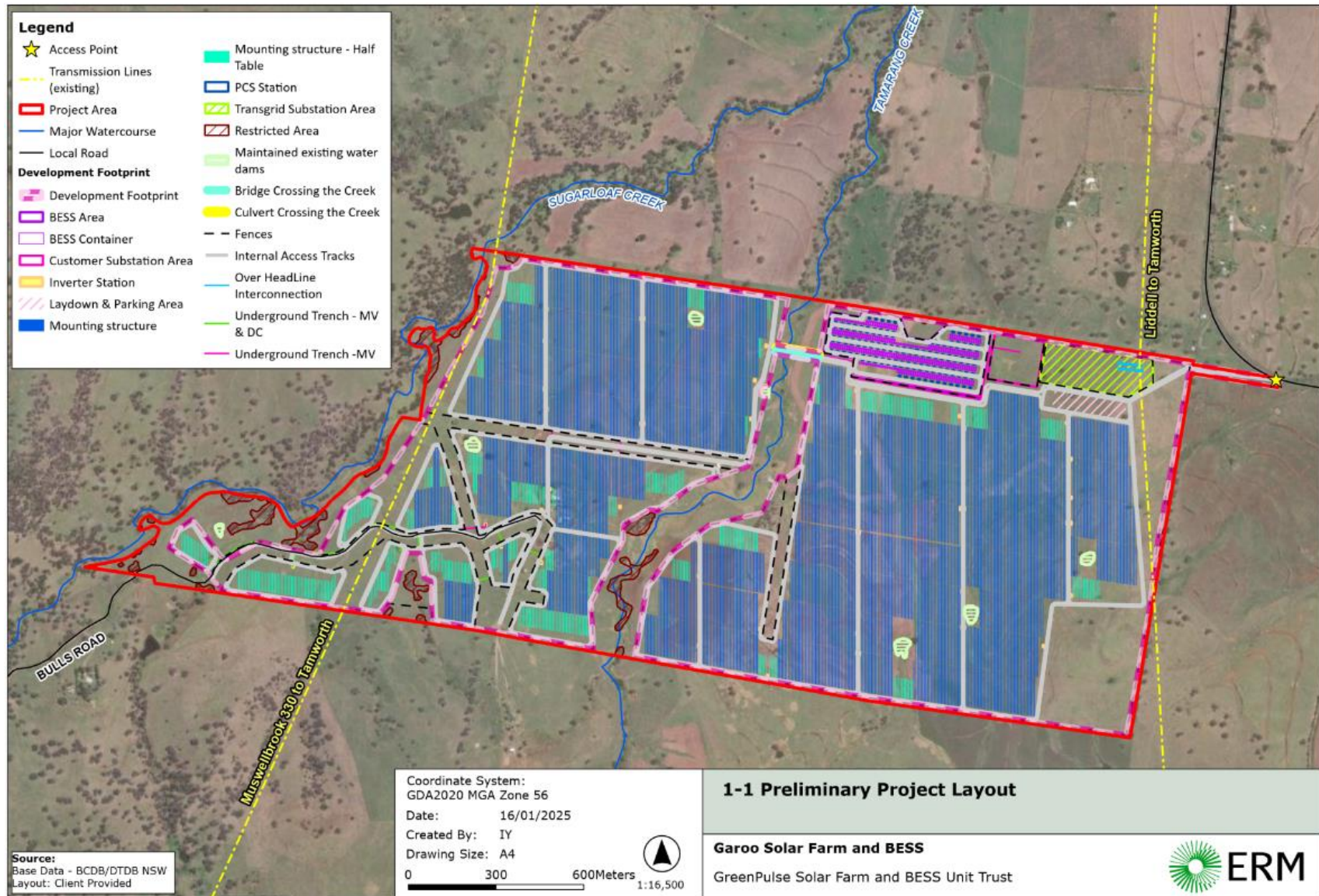
The Project involves the construction, operation and decommissioning of an alternating current (AC) solar farm, BESS and associated supporting and ancillary infrastructure. The Project has a development footprint of approximately 319.5 ha.

Table 1-1 summarises the key indicative Project components and specifications.

TABLE 1-1 INDICATIVE PROJECT DESIGN - COMPONENTS AND SPECIFICATION

Component	Feature	Specification
Energy generation	Solar Arrays	155 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) solar farm. Single axis tracking system with maximum panel height of up to 2.9 metres (m) when fully tilted.
Electrical Reticulation Network	On-site substation	New customer and TransGrid high voltage interconnection facilities will be developed in the northeast section of the Project Area, linking into the existing 330 kilovolt (kV) Liddell-Tamworth transmission line.
	Internal electrical reticulation network (Medium Voltage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electrical reticulation will generally follow rows of panels and internal access routes to reach the step-up substation (33 / 330 kV) for the Project. ▪ The Project will connect into the substation (33/330 kV) on-site directly via underground cables (33 kV, internal reticulation voltage). ▪ The Project will be connected to the Grid by Switching Station (330 kV) located on-site boundary.
	Switchyard / BESS	<p>BESS with a capacity of 360 MW / 1,440 megawatt hour (MWh) storage capacity.</p> <p>Switch and other electrical equipment providing connection to the existing 330 kV transmission network.</p>
Access Roads	Access to site	Access to the Project Area will be via the existing Garoo Road, located on Crown land and road reserve. Approximately 330 m of a currently unsealed road, that runs from Garoo road into the northeast section of the Project Area, will be required to be upgraded. This will be subject to assessment in the EIS phase.

FIGURE 1.1 PROJECT AREA



2. HERITAGE BACKGROUND

2.1 FIRST NATIONS LAND USE

The Project Area lies on Kamilaroi (also known as Gamilaraay and Gomeroi) country. The area was traditionally home to the *Anaiwan*, *Kamilaroi*, *Bingara*, *Weraera*, and *Kwaimbul* language groups, of the Kamilaroi People. Kamilaroi lands extend from the Upper Hunter Valley in the south, through to southern Queensland in the north, from the Great Dividing Range in the east through to Walgett area in the west (TLALC 2022). Kamilaroi country encompasses approximately 75,000 km² of land (Tindale 1974: 194).

Aboriginal presence in the region is understood to extend back at least 40,000 years (Fuller et al., 2014). Population estimates prior to European colonisation in the 1830s are thought to have been approximately 15,000 people (Sveiby and Skuthorpe 2006: 25). However, through conflict, disease, and displacement brought by settling Europeans in the region, the population of Kamilaroi people had been reduced to approximately 1,000 by the 1880s.

The Kamilaroi people established transient campsites, noted by explorer Thomas Mitchell, and followed seasonal patterns for hunting and gathering (Sahukar, Gallery, Smart & Mitchell 2003). Men typically engaged in hunting while women cooked, fished and to a degree farmed (Gammage, 2011). Native fauna of the northern tablelands also formed a key component of the subsistence regime of the local Aboriginal communities. Kangaroo, fish, birds, and many other animal species were hunted and eaten. Fish were trapped in the Gwidir River using stone weirs and plant-fibre nets. Materials from animals were also used in artefact manufacturing. Hides of koala and possums were sought after to make cloaks and rugs, and animal bones could be used as implements to create stone tools, such as pressure flakers (Sonter and White, 2018).

Many local towns, such as Bingara ("shallow crossing") and Barraba ("camp by the riverbank"), derive their names from the Aboriginal words connected to the landscape, usually associated with water. The region holds significant intangible value, as evidenced by ceremonial bora grounds, art sites, and carved trees (Sahukar, Gallery, Smart & Mitchell 2003).

2.2 PREVIOUS ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

The region surrounding the Project Area has been subject to previous archaeological studies performed over the past several decades.

A previous Aboriginal cultural heritage study was conducted for the Werris Creek Coal Mine in 2004, located approximately 24 km west of the Project Area. The study involved an AHIMS site register search, which identified one site within a 1 km radius of the mine, the Narrawolga Axe Grinding Grooves (29-2-0005) (Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd 2004; Landskape 2010). Additionally, two other sites, both stone artefact scatters, were identified within a 5 km radius. The primary archaeological survey for the mine site, conducted by John Appleton in 2004, re-identified the AHIMS site, originally recorded in 1964. The site consists of at least 25 axe grinding grooves located on sandstone slabs. In consultation with the Nungaroo LALC, a management plan was created for the removal, relocation, and protection of the Narrawolga Axe Grinding Grooves via an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). The relocation took place in 2007, with the site being stored adjacent to the mine of 'Eurunderee' property. No other cultural heritage sites were identified in the study area (Landskape 2010).

In 2002 Patrick Gaynor participated in a survey of the State Forests and travelling stock reserves in the Tamworth region with the Walhallow LALC. During which, multiple culturally modified scar trees were recorded in the Doona State Forest (45 km west of Project Area). Followed by further investigations of the area in 2010 by Umwelt Heritage for BHP, who recorded multiple artefact scatters and grinding grooves.

A cultural heritage assessment (McDonald 1998) was conducted for the AGL Dubbo to Tamworth natural gas pipeline, identifying 98 Aboriginal sites along the 226.2 km survey area (approximately 50 km north-west from Project Area). The majority of these were open camp sites (40) and culturally modified scar trees (36). Of the recorded sites, 65 were not affected by the pipeline, while mitigation measures including realigning the pipeline, were required for 33 sites of high significance.

In collaboration with the Tamworth LALC, a survey conducted as part of the Tamworth Aboriginal and Archaeological Study (Wilson and McAdam 2000). The surveyors identified numerous sites primarily artefact scatters of varying densities, consisting of materials such as chert, argillite, hornfels, quartz, and greywacke. Culturally modified trees and Kamilaroi walking tracks were also noted.

2.3 AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS

Heritage NSW managed the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database, which holds information on previously recorded Aboriginal sites in NSW. A search of the AHIMS database was conducted on 24 October 2024, using the details provided in *Table 2-1*.

TABLE 2-1 AHIMS DATABASE SEARCH DETAILS

Item	Detail
Client Service ID	943297
Datum	GDA Zone 56
Number Sites	0

No registered sites are located within the boundary of the Project Area, however the lack of sites does not indicate that no sites are present but rather that a lack of, or limited archaeological survey has occurred to date within the Project Area. Cultural heritage and landform sensitivity mapping and the results from previous archaeological reports from the region demonstrate that areas of high and moderate potential exist within the Project Area.

The result of the AHIMS search is provided in *Appendix A*.

2.4 HISTORIC LAND USE

European presence in the region began with John Oxley exploring the northern tablelands including the Nandewar Bioregion (encompassing the Project Area) in 1818. Squatters began to occupy the area in the 1830s, looking for suitable grazing land (NSW NPWS 1991). Pastoralism was quickly established in the region as land was cleared to make room for cattle and sheep grazing. The gold rush of the 1850s similarly brought increasing numbers of Europeans into the region. Nearby towns such as Bingara, Barraba and Inverell all have direct origins in the local mining industry (NSW NPWS, 2003: 148). Tamworth, established by the

Australian Agricultural Company in 1832, grew rapidly with urban development, becoming Australia's first town to use electric lighting in 1888. Railways further boosted towns like Quirindi, turning them into wheat production hubs. By 1990, many softwood forests in the region were designated as state forests.

The New England Highway adjacent to the Project Area was surveyed in the mid-18th century, constructed to reach the prime wool growing areas of the New England region. It was originally known as the Great Northern Road until 1928, and is a main thoroughfare from north Newcastle, New South Wales to Yarraman, Queensland (Department of Transport, Roads & Maritime Services 2016). Early parish maps indicate the properties making up the Project Area were owned by various landholders by the early 1900s. Historical aerial photography shows that the homestead and dam in the centre of Lot 2 DP1108524 were present by the mid-1970s. The area continues to be used for agricultural purposes.

2.5 PRELIMINARY PREDICTIVE STATEMENTS

Based on the review of the existing environmental, archaeological and historical land use, and comparative studies, the following predictions are made for Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Project Area:

- Stone artefact scatters and isolated finds could occur across the entire site, particularly on well-drained, level ground within 200 m of water sources, as several creeks run through the area (including Sugarloaf Creek);
- Scarred or carved trees may still be found where mature Eucalypt or Cypress Pine trees remain, though unlikely due to prior agricultural disturbances and tree clearing;
- Burial sites are unlikely, given the region's acidic soils which do not preserve organic materials like bone;
- Freshwater shell middens are unlikely, as these are typically located within 100 m of permanent water sources;
- Earthen features such as mounds and hearths, along with ceremonial rings, are typically found on level ground near water sources, but they are unlikely to be encountered due to prior agricultural disturbances;
- Sites reliant on specific rock formations, such as rockshelters or rock art, are also very unlikely given the local geology, and minimal rock overhangs or caves. However, axe-grinding grooves may be present on sandstone surfaces, with nearby deposits; and
- Visibility across the majority of the Project Area is likely to be low. Aboriginal sites are most likely to be identified in areas of erosion and exposure.

While this predictive model helps identify areas where sites related to tangible cultural heritage sites may be found, it does not account for sites of intangible significance, such as ceremonial or dreaming locations, which are often associated with landscape features. Consultation with RAPs is essential to ensure significant cultural sites are identified and protected.

Ground truthing will be required to adequately categorise the archaeological and cultural sensitivity of the Project Area.

3. FIELD INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 FIELD SURVEY

Cultural heritage survey of the Project Area would occur over a 2-day period and will aim to investigate all landform features. ERM proposes to undertake the survey utilising a sample survey approach, in accordance with the following conditions:

- A site meeting will be held with the RAPs at the commencement of each field survey day, to discuss sensitive landforms or locations within the Project Area boundary, proposed survey areas, and any relevant cultural information;
- The Project Area would be delineated into individual landforms with survey including investigation of each landform;
- The survey will consist of all participants traversing the Project Area on foot using transects. Transect spacing will vary across the survey area based on the level of archaeological potential identified during predictive modelling, level of ground surface visibility, and feedback provided by the RAPs. Areas of high archaeological potential and/or higher levels of ground surface visibility would be subject to a more detailed ground survey;
- Where ground visibility is low or nil, a sample survey approach, that focuses on areas of exposure would be implemented;
- If identified, any Aboriginal heritage objects will be recorded in situ and will remain on site. Future management recommendations for identified objects will be developed in consultation with RAPs; and
- Any cultural heritage information, such as the presence and nature of intangible values, for the Project Area which may be identified by RAPs during the field survey would be recorded. This information would be treated in confidence and distributed in accordance with their wishes.

3.2 SITES CONTAINING HUMAN REMAINS

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

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

3.3 SITE RECORDING

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

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

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTING

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

3.5 TEST EXCAVATION

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

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

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

3.6 ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

It is proposed that the survey would consist of one survey team to be comprised of two archaeologists and between two and four RAP representatives each day.

It would be the site archaeologist's responsibility to perform all photographic tasks and site recording and ensure adequate site recording is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice and this methodology.

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

4. ACHAR METHODOLOGY

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

4.1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND PREDICTIVE MODELLING

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

This stage is ongoing, with preliminary information identified throughout this phase summarised in *Section 0* above.

4.2 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Aboriginal community consultation for the Project (in relation to cultural heritage assessment) is proceeding in accordance with the *Consultation Requirements* which involves the following four key steps:

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

Stage 1 has been completed and included the following steps:

- Placement of a public advertisement in the Northern Daily Leader (published 25 November 2024);
- Liaison with relevant legislative bodies to identify potentially interested parties; and
- Liaison with potential interested parties identified to invite them to register an interest in the project.

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

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

4.3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL VALUES

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

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

4.4 ASSESSMENT OF HARM

Following the identification of Aboriginal cultural values for the respective Project Area, an impact assessment will be completed to identify whether any Aboriginal objects, places or cultural values will be harmed by the proposed works.

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

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

4.5 ASSESSMENT TIMEFRAMES

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

TABLE 4-1 ASSESSMENT TIMEFRAMES

Assessment step	Description	Indicative start	Proposed (and statutory) timeframe
Stage 1 – consultation process	Development of RAP list through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from government bodies; • Placement of advert in the Northern Daily Leader; and • Contacting parties identified by government bodies 	November 2024	6 weeks (minimum 14 days from placement of adverts and invitation to register)
Stage 2 and Stage 3 – consultation process	Development and review by RAPs of project information and proposed assessment methodology. This stage includes review of the field survey methodology. Provision of RAP list to Nungaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and Heritage NSW	January 2025 to Mid-February 2025	28 days
Revision of assessment methodology based on RAP comments	Updates to methodology based on feedback received during RAP review	Mid-February 2025	1 week
Field program	Field survey	Mid-Late February 2025	2 days
Post field reporting	Completion of ACHAR	March to April 2025	2-4 weeks
RAP review of draft ACHAR	Issued to RAPs for review	May 2025	28 days
Finalisation of ACHAR		Late May to June 2025	2 weeks

5. FEEDBACK

ERM requests that you review and provide feedback on this information package and express your interest in participating in the fieldwork program by **18 February 2025**.

As part of your response ERM asks you to consider:

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

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

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

Please provide feedback to [REDACTED] at the following contact details:

Post: Environmental Resource Management

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,
For Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



Mia Linton-Smith
Project Archaeologist

6. REFERENCES

- Archaeological Surveys & Reports Pty Ltd. (2004). *Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for the Proposed Werris Creek Coal Mine. Prepared on behalf of Werris Creek Coal Pty Limited – Part 6 of the Specialist Consultant Studies Compendium.*
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APPENDIX A

AHIMS RESULTS



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 0751705 - NE Solar Farm

Client Service ID : 943297

ERM Brisbane

Date: 24 October 2024

[Redacted]

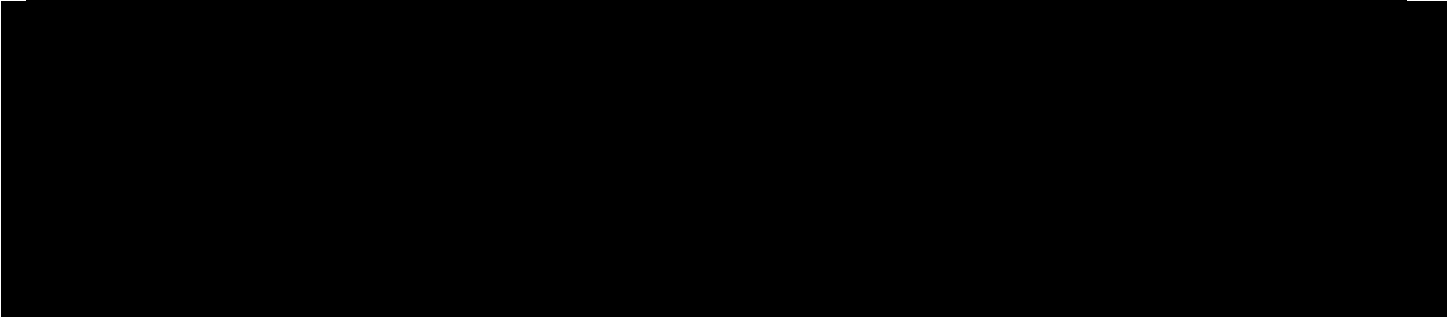
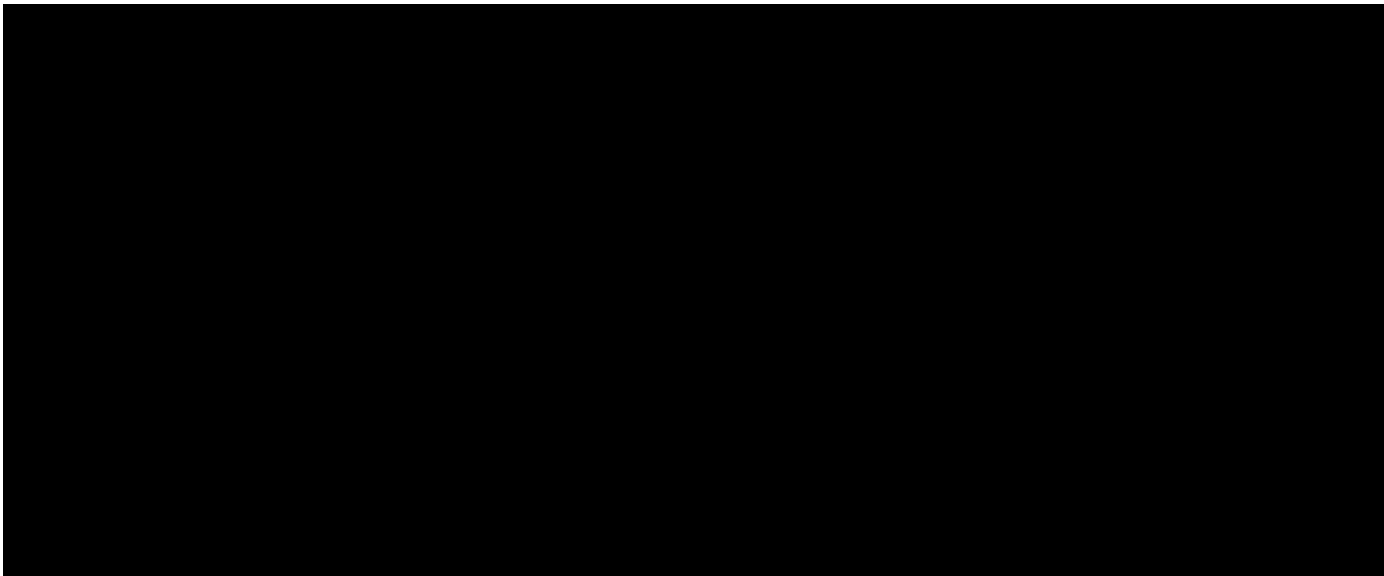
Attention: [Redacted]

Email: mia.linton-smith@erm.com

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Search using shape-file Project Boundary 20241015 with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Due Diligence, conducted by Mia Linton-Smith on 24 October 2024.

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



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

0	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 \(https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette\)](https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

Important information about your AHIMS search

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



APPENDIX I

AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS



ERM Brisbane

Date: 24 October 2024

Level 1 60 Leichhardt St
Spring Hill Queensland 4000

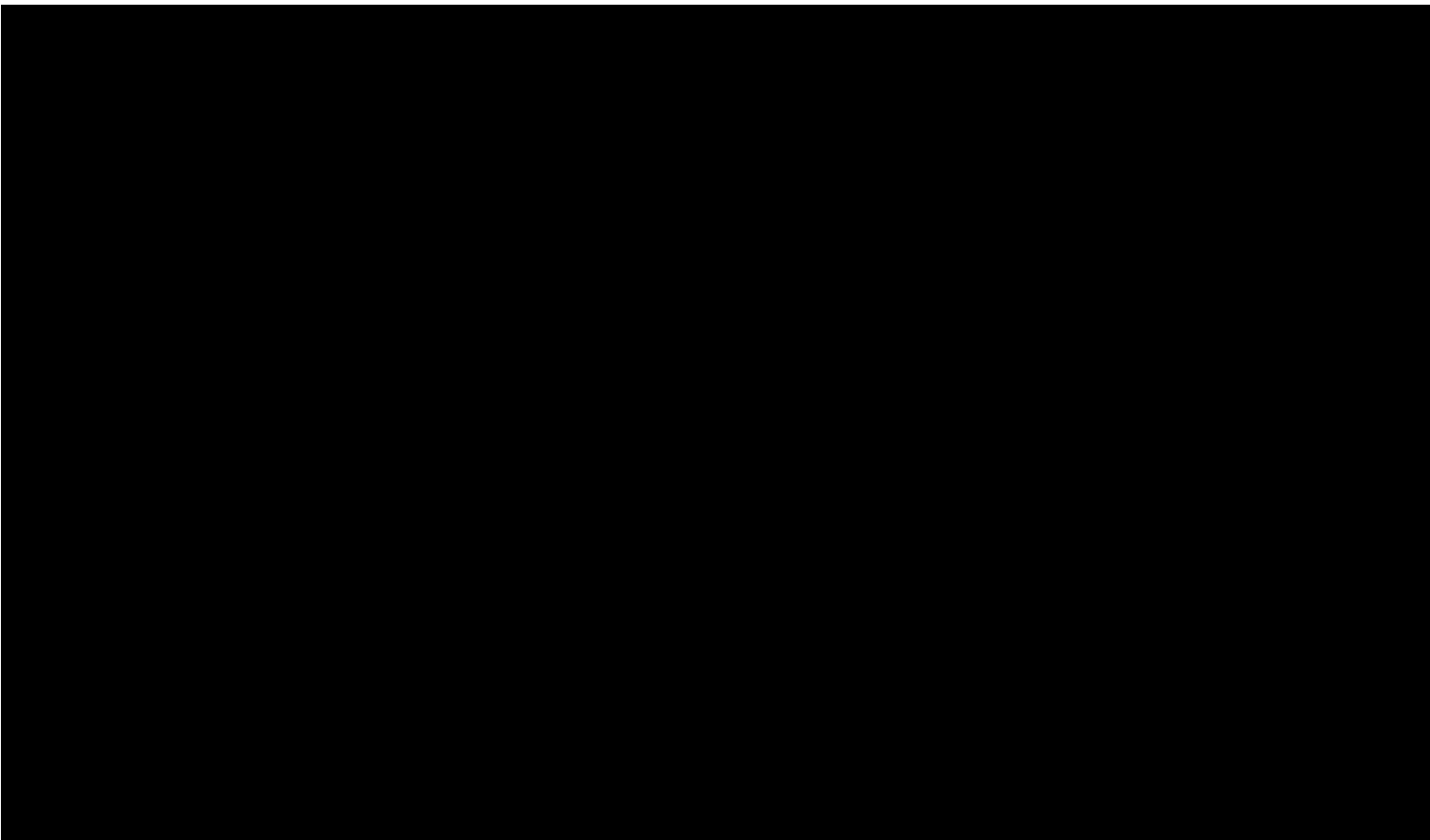
Attention: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Search using shape-file Project Boundary 20241015 with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Due Diligence, conducted by Mia Linton-Smith on 24 October 2024.

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



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- 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.



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