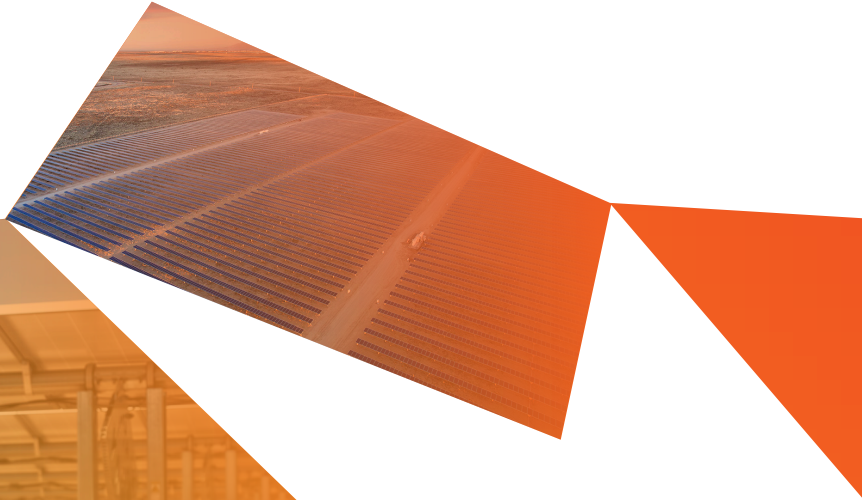


# Appendix B

## Updated Biosis Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

Limondale Sun Farm





Limondale Sun Farm, Balranald, New South  
Wales:

Aboriginal cultural heritage  
assessment report

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for Overland Sun Farming Pty Ltd

29 June 2017

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- Overland Sun Farming Company: John Zammit
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- National Native Title Tribunal

Biosis staff involved in this project were:

- Sonika Kumar (mapping)
- Lauren Harley (mapping)

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## Glossary

<b>ACHAR</b>	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
<b>AHIMS</b>	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
<b>DA</b>	Determining Authority
<b>DECCW</b>	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now OEH)
<b>DP</b>	Deposited Plan
<b>EPA</b>	Environment Planning and Assessment
<b>GDA</b>	Geocentric Datum of Australia
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>GSV</b>	Ground Surface Visibility
<b>ICOMOS</b>	International Council on Monuments and Sites
<b>LALC</b>	Local Aboriginal Land Council
<b>LEP</b>	Local Environmental Plan
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>MGA</b>	Map Grid of Australia
<b>NHL</b>	National Heritage List
<b>NPW Act</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Act
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales
<b>NTSCORP</b>	Native Title Services Corporation
<b>OEH</b>	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
<b>PAD</b>	Potential Archaeological Deposit
<b>RAP</b>	Registered Aboriginal Party
<b>REF</b>	Review of Environmental Factors
<b>REP</b>	Regional Environmental Plan
<b>SEPP</b>	State Environmental Planning Policy
<b>NNTT</b>	National Native Title Tribunal
<b>ICOMOS</b>	International Council on Monuments and Sites

## Summary

---

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Limondale Sun Farm, a large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility and associated infrastructure in the Murray Darling Depression bioregion of south-western NSW (the project) (Figure 1). The site is located approximately 14 kilometres south of Balranald and approximately 160 kilometres east of the Mildura central business district (CBD).

There are 22 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites registered with the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register in the vicinity of the site, which includes AHIMS sites 47-5-0008, 47-6-0603, 47-6-0604, 47-5-0605 and 47-5-0606 located within the site boundary.

Research into the use of the study area indicated that the land was established for cattle grazing and sheep grazing in the 1830s to 1860s. The site has also been subject to broad acre cereal cropping in recent years.

A survey of the study area located a further 11 Aboriginal sites, including artefacts scatters, hearths, earth mounds and a scarred tree. Two of the Aboriginal sites also had historical objects indicating that they are post-contact sites. In addition to the Aboriginal sites, there was also one historical site consisting of an old cottage found. This historical site will not be impacted by the project.

The Department of Planning and Environment is the consent authority and will assess the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine if the project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, including Aboriginal cultural heritage.

### Consultation

The Aboriginal community was consulted regarding the heritage management of the project throughout its lifespan. Consultation has been undertaken as per the process outlined in the document, *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The appropriate government bodies were notified and advertisements placed in The Guardian newspaper (Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017), which resulted in the following Aboriginal organisations registering their interest:

- Wakool Aboriginal Corporation
- Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation
- Mr John Jackson

Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council informed Biosis that they were unable to register their interest as they are currently under administration.

A search conducted by the Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* listed no Aboriginal Owners with land within the site boundary. A search conducted by the National Native Title Tribunal listed one Registered Native Title Claim, one Native Title Determination, and no Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements within the site boundary.

Upon registration the Aboriginal parties were invited to provide their knowledge on the site and proposal provided in the *Project Methodology Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm*. No responses were received. Responses from the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are included in Appendix 3.

The outcome of the consultation process was that the RAPs considered the site to have a moderate level of cultural significance. The results of the consultation process are included in this document.

The recommendations that resulted from the consultation process are provided below.

### **Management recommendations**

Of the 13 sites within the site boundary, five would be impacted by the project. Prior to any development impacts occurring, the following is recommended:

The recommendation below responds specifically to the wishes of the RAPs, as documented during the site survey of the study area. Recommendations regarding the archaeological value of the site, and the subsequent management of Aboriginal cultural heritage is provided in the archaeological report (Appendix 5).

#### **Recommendation 1: Continued consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties**

It is recommended that Overland Sun Farming continue to inform the RAPs about the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the site boundary throughout the construction of the project. This recommendation is in keeping with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a).

#### **Recommendation 2: Sites Limondale 1, 9 and 11 should be salvaged prior to development.**

The development footprint is unable to avoid impacts to sites Limondale 1, 9 and 11. It is recommended that these sites undergo surface salvage prior to construction, with the exact details developed as part of a cultural heritage manage plan (CHMP).

#### **Recommendation 3: Sites Limondale 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12, and AHIMS sites 47-5-0008, 47-5-0604, 47-6-0603, are to be avoided from impact.**

The development footprint avoids impact to sites Limondale 2, 4,5,6,7, 8 and 12, and AHIMS sites 47-5-0008, 47-6-0603, 47-5-0604 so further investigation is not required. However, in future if the development area changes and impact to these sites becomes likely further archaeological investigation in the form of sub-surface testing and would be required.

#### **Recommendation 4: Further assessment required for AHIMS sites 47-6-0606 and 47-6-0605, or if further works are proposed outside of the current study area**

The development footprint is unable to avoid impacts to AHIMS sites 47-6-0606 and 47-6-0605. It is recommended that further assessment, in the form of sub-surface testing, be undertaken at these sites.

If further disturbance is proposed in areas outside of the current study area, then additional survey may be required.

#### **Recommendation 5: Discovery of unanticipated Aboriginal objects**

All Aboriginal objects and places are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. It is an offence to knowingly disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works associated with this proposal, works must cease in the vicinity and the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an Aboriginal object the archaeologist will provide further recommendations. These may include notifying the OEH and Aboriginal stakeholders to inform options for management of the objects.

#### **Recommendation 6: Discovery of unanticipated historical relics**

Relics are historical archaeological resources of local or State significance and are protected in NSW under the Heritage Act 1977. Relics cannot be disturbed except with a permit or exception/exemption notification.

Should unanticipated relics be discovered during the course of the project, work in the vicinity must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make a preliminary assessment of the find. The Heritage Council will require notification if the find is assessed as a relic.

### **Recommendation 7: Discovery of Aboriginal ancestral remains**

Aboriginal ancestral remains may be found in a variety of landscapes in NSW, including middens and sandy or soft sedimentary soils. If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity you must:

1. Immediately cease all work at that location and not further move or disturb the remains
2. Notify the NSW Police and OEH's Environmental Line on 131 555 as soon as practicable and provide details of the remains and their location
3. Not recommence work at that location unless authorised in writing by OEH.

### **Recommendation 8: Stop work provision for any potential discovery of human remains**

If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity works, all activity must cease immediately. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. The following contingency plan describes the immediate actions that must be taken in instances where human remains or suspected human remains are discovered. Any such discovery at the activity area must follow these steps:

1. **Discovery:** If suspected human remains are discovered all activity must stop to ensure minimal damage is caused to the remains; and the remains must be left in place, and protected from harm or damage.
2. **Notification:** Once suspected human skeletal remains have been found, the Coroners Office and the NSW Police must be notified immediately. Following this, and if the human remains are likely to be Aboriginal in origin, the find will be reported to the Aboriginal parties and DECCW NSW. If the find is likely to be non-Aboriginal in origin and more than 100 years in age, the Heritage Council of NSW will be notified of the find under s.146 of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project background

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Limondale Sun Farm, a large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility and associated infrastructure in the Murray Darling Depression bioregion of south-western NSW (the project) (Figure 1). The assessment included a field survey and a review of background resources including soil landscapes, geology, hydrology and past reports and site records to inform predictive statements about the likelihood of Aboriginal heritages sites to occur within the study area.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is a requirement of the approval process. This report details the investigation, consultation and assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage undertaken for the project and forms part of the EIS.

## 1.2 Location of the study area

The study area is located approximately 14 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira (see Figure 1). The study area encompasses 2,058 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves as shown in Figure 2. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is zoned RU1 Primary Production with portions of the site identified as having high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

The property description for the site is given in Table 1.

Lot number	Deposited plan (DP)
Lots 4, 12, 13, 15, 21 and 71	751179
Lots 11 and 12	751173
Lot 2	1017111
Lots 1 and 2	1190069

## 1.3 Proposed development

The project includes the development, construction and operation of a solar PV electricity generation facility, which comprises the installation of PV solar panels and associated infrastructure on the site.

The project will connect to the Transgrid 220 kV electricity distribution network at the Balranald 220 kV Substation. The electricity and associated environmental products generated from the project will be sold to one or more of a registered energy retailing organisation, large energy users (governmental or private) or to the National Electricity Market that is managed by the Australian Energy Market Operator.

The project will have an estimated capacity in the order of 250 MW and comprises the following key components:

- a network of PV solar panel arrays
- electrical collection systems, switchyard and control room
- a management hub, including demountable offices and amenities and equipment sheds
- parking and internal access roads
- easement and connection infrastructure to the Balranald 220 kV Substation.

The development footprint is defined as the land area within the site where project infrastructure is proposed to be constructed and operate for the project life. The development footprint encompasses an area of 1102 ha, which has been refined through the project design process to avoid environmental constraints (primarily remnant vegetation and Aboriginal heritage). The conceptual infrastructure layout within the development footprint is presented in Figure 3.

## 1.4 Planning approvals

The project is a State significant development (SSD) under the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 (SRD SEPP). A development application for the project is required to be submitted under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The NSW Minister for Planning, or the Minister's delegate, is the consent authority.

Other relevant legislation and planning instruments that will inform the assessment include:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPW Act) 1974* (NSW)
- *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010* (NSW)
- Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010.

This report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. These were set out in the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project, issued on 4 November 2016. The SEARs identify matters which must be addressed in the EIS. The SEARs state that the EIS must address:

- Heritage – including an assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development, including adequate consultation with the local Aboriginal community

Further comments from OEH in regards to the SEARs also state that the EIS must:

- identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the whole area that will be affected by the proposed Limondale Sun Farm and document these in the EIS. This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation. The identification of cultural heritage values should be guided by the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (DECCW, 2011) and consultation with OEH regional officers.
- Where Aboriginal cultural heritage values are identified, consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken and documented in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW). The significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land must be documented in the EIS.
- Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values are to be assessed and documented in the EIS. The EIS must demonstrate attempts to avoid impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes. Where impacts are unavoidable, the EIS must outline measures proposed to

mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to OEH.

## 1.5 Restricted and confidential information

Appendix 1 in the Archaeological Report contains AHIMS information which is confidential and is not to be made public. This is clearly marked on the title page for the Attachment.

## 1.6 Aboriginal cultural heritage

### 1.6.1 General description

According to Allen and O'Connell (2003), Aboriginal people have inhabited the Australian continent for the last 50,000 years, and the NSW area. These dates are subject to continued revision as further evidence of Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered and as more research of this evidence is conducted.

Without being part of the Aboriginal culture and the productions of this culture, it is not possible for non-Aboriginal people to fully understand their meaning to Aboriginal people – only to move closer towards understanding this meaning with the help of the Aboriginal community. Similarly, definitions of Aboriginal culture and cultural heritage without this involvement constitute outsider interpretations.

With this preface Aboriginal cultural heritage broadly refers to things that relate to Aboriginal culture and hold cultural meaning and significance to Aboriginal people (DECCW 2010a: 3). There is an understanding in Aboriginal culture that everything is interconnected. In essence Aboriginal cultural heritage can be viewed as potentially encompassing any part of the physical and/or mental landscape, that is, 'Country' (DECCW 2010a: iii).

Aboriginal people's interpretation of cultural value is based on their "traditions, observance, lore, customs, beliefs and history" (DECCW 2010a: 3). The things associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage are continually / actively being defined by Aboriginal people (also see DEC 2005: 1; DECCW 2010a: 3). These things can be associated with traditional, historical or contemporary Aboriginal culture (also see DEC 2005: 1, 3; DECCW 2010a: 3).

### 1.6.2 Tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage

Three categories of tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage may be defined:

- Things that have been observably modified by Aboriginal people.
- Things that may have been modified by Aboriginal people but no discernible traces of that activity remain.
- Things never physically modified by Aboriginal people (but associated with Dreamtime Ancestors who shaped those things).

### 1.6.3 Intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage

Examples of intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage would include memories of stories and 'ways of doing', which would include language and ceremonies (DECCW 2010: 3).

### 1.6.4 Statutory

Currently Aboriginal cultural heritage, as statutorily defined by the NPW Act, consists of objects and places.

Aboriginal objects are defined as:

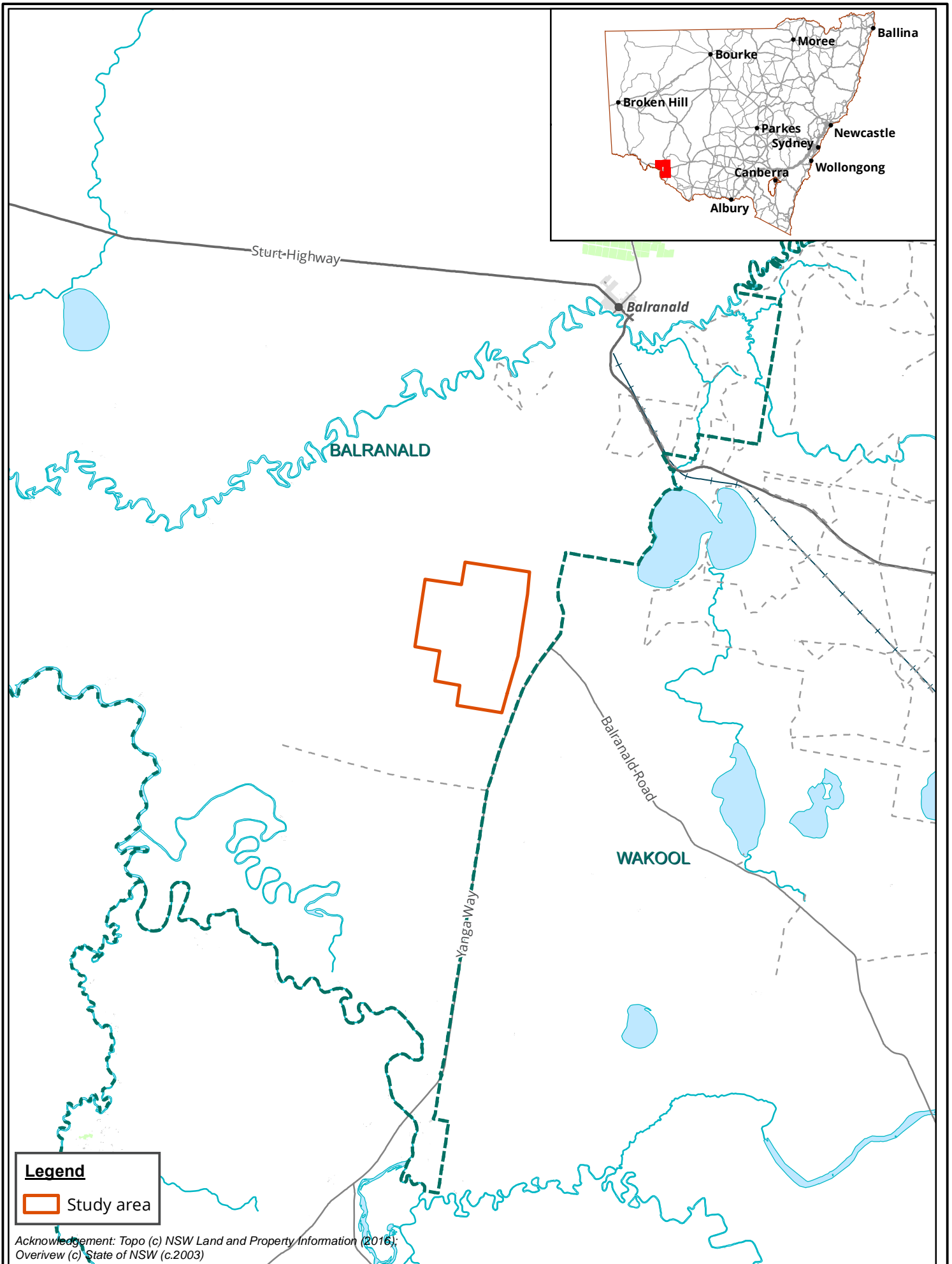
*“any deposit, object or material evidence...relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains”*

Aboriginal places are defined as a place that is or was of special Aboriginal cultural significance. Places are declared under section 84 of the NPW Act.

#### 1.6.5 Values

Aboriginal cultural heritage is broadly valued by Aboriginal people as it is used to define their identity as both individuals and as part of a group (also see DEC 2005: 1, 3; DECCW 2010: iii). More specifically it is used:

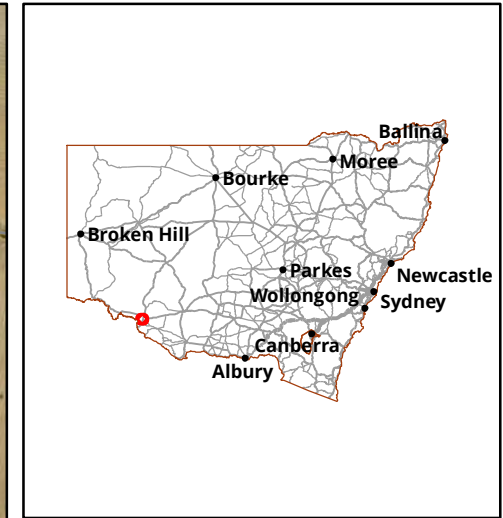
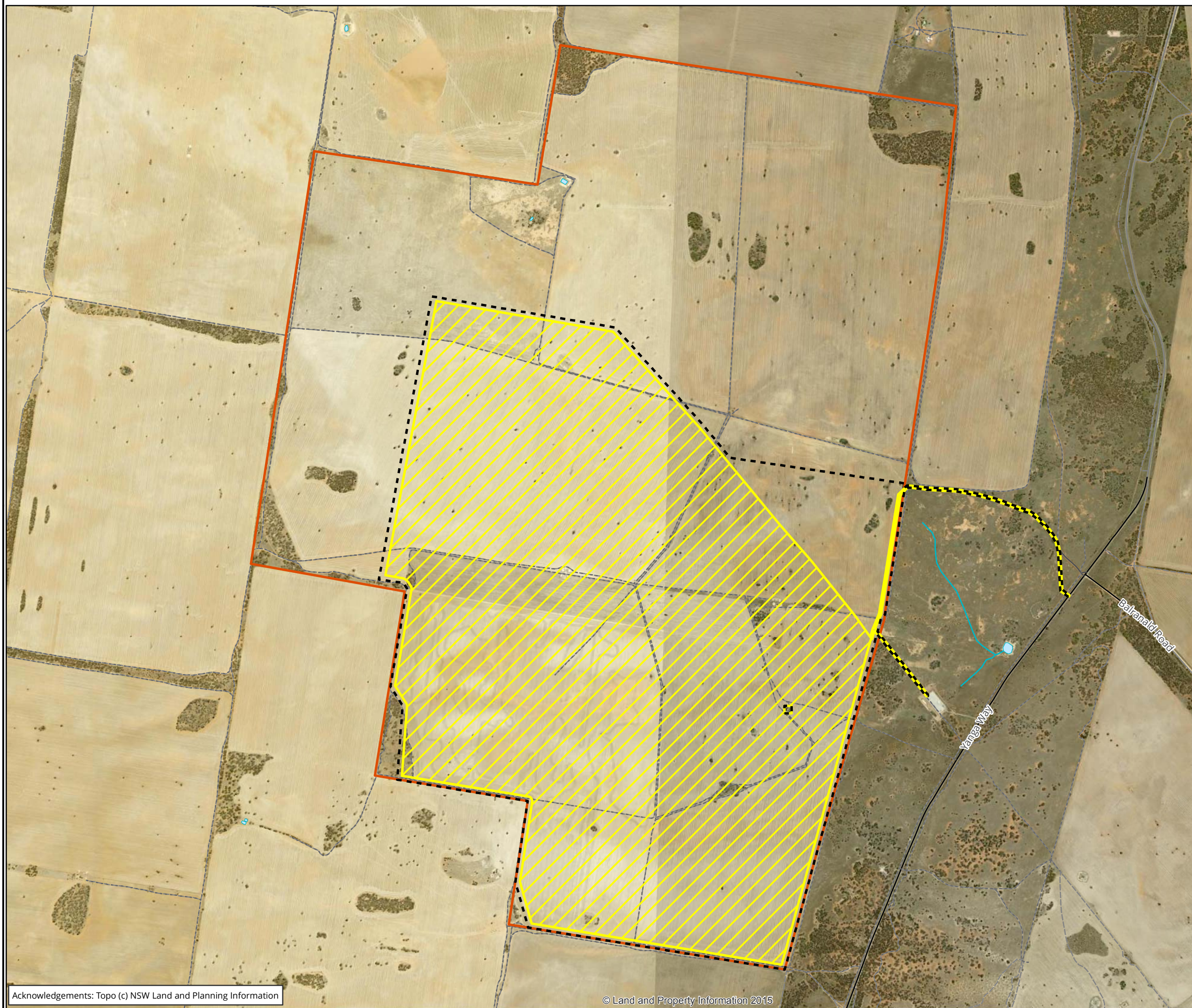
- To provide a:
  - *“connection and sense of belonging to Country”* (DECCW 2010: iii)
  - Link between the present and the past (DECCW 2010: iii).
- As a learning tool to teach Aboriginal culture to younger Aboriginal generations and the general public (DECCW 2010: 3).
- As further evidence of Aboriginal occupation prior to European settlement for people who do not understand the magnitude to which Aboriginal people occupied the continent (see also DECCW 2010: 3).



**Legend**  
 Study area

Acknowledgement: Topo (c) NSW Land and Property Information (2016);  
 Overview (c) State of NSW (c.2003)

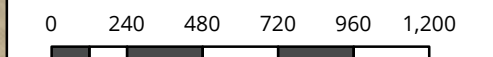
Figure 1: Location of the study area



**Legend**

- Study area
- Development footprint
- Infrastructure area

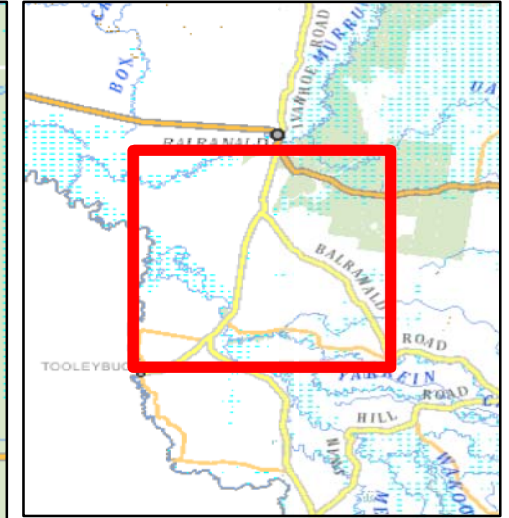
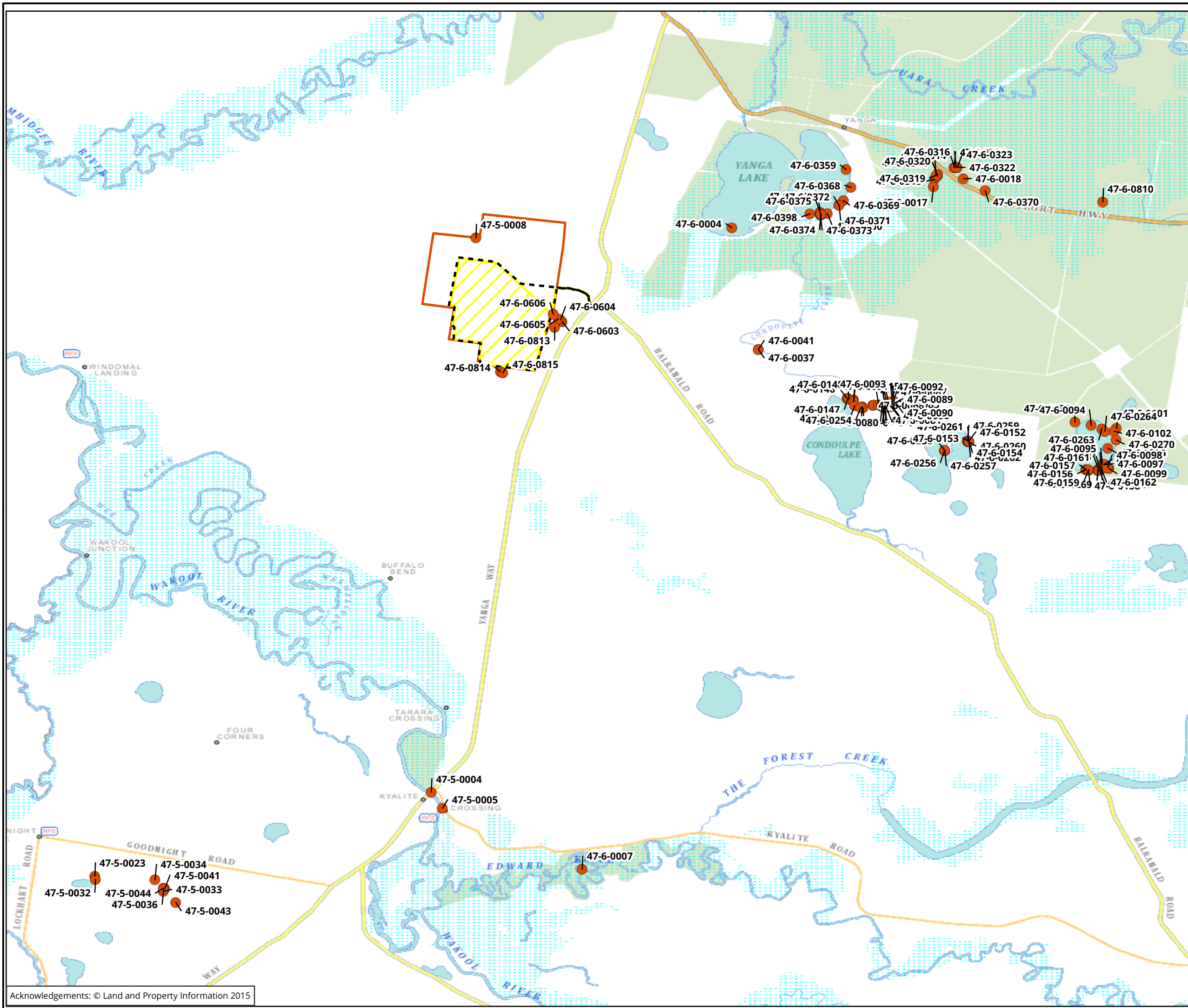
**Figure 2: Location of the study area**



Metres  
 Scale: 1:24,000 @ A3  
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,  
 Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong



**Legend**

- Study area
- Development footprint
- Infrastructure area
- AHIMS Records

**Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area**

0 1,400 2,800 4,200 5,600 7,000

Metres  
Scale: 1:140,000 @ A3  
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



Biosis Pty Ltd  
Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,  
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

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## 2 Project area context

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This section discusses the site in regards to its landscape, environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage context. This section should be read in conjunction with the archaeological report attached in Appendix 5.

The site is located within the Murray Darling Depression of far south-west NSW (Figure 1). The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves as shown in Figure 2. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. As noted in Chapter 1, the development footprint is defined as the land area within the site where project infrastructure is proposed to be constructed and operate for the project life. The development footprint encompasses an area of 1102 ha, which has been refined through the project design process to avoid environmental constraints (primarily remnant vegetation and Aboriginal heritage). The conceptual infrastructure layout within the development footprint is presented in Figure 2.

### 2.1 Topography and hydrology

The study area is located in far south-west NSW, an area characterised by its ancient landscape and ancient lakes and waterways. The broader landscape formed over 60 million years when the area was covered by an inland sea. At this time marine sands were deposited and these sands are present in the current landscape. Subsequent draining of the sea led to periods of inundation by a giant fresh water lake and periods of deposition of clays and carbonates. The present landscape surface therefore represents the final phase of deposition, the youngest of which is approximately 36,000 years old (Porteners 1993).

The study area is located within the Murray Darling Depression bioregion. In NSW bioregions are characterised by broad areas which contain natural features and environments that influence the functions of entire ecosystems. The Murray Darling Depression bioregion is located in south-west New South Wales, extending into Victoria and South Australia. In total the Murray Darling Depression bioregion is 19,717,651 hectares, with 40.71 per cent lying within New South Wales (Eardley 1999, NPWS 2003). The Murray Darling Depression bioregion includes few towns; Ivanhoe is the major settlement in the bioregion with large pastoral stations including, Balranald, Manilla and Emmdale also located within this bioregion (NPWS 2003). The bioregion includes the four major river systems being the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan and Darling as well as three smaller systems of the Barwon, Yanda and Peacock Rivers.

The Murray Darling Depression bioregion is dominated by dunefields, sandplains and undulating plains of brown calcareous soils that are all of Tertiary and Quaternary age deposited from a shallow inland sea (Figure 3). Over time the sandy surface has been reworked into dunes and sandplains with the dunes in the study area being of a linear east-west orientation. All of the lakes and swamps in this bioregion have well-formed lunettes on their eastern margins. These lunettes have high potential to contain *in-situ* evidence of human occupation which could be of great antiquity (NPWS 2003). The climate in this bioregion is distinctly hot and dry with some areas being arid but that majority of the bioregion being semi-arid. The average temperature ranges from 3°C to 35°C and the mean annual rainfall is 210 to 400 millimetres (Stern *et al.* 2000).

Soil landscapes have distinct morphological and topological characteristics that result in specific archaeological potential. Because they are defined by a combination of soils, topography, vegetation and weathering conditions, soil landscapes are essentially terrain units that provide a useful way to summarise archaeological potential and exposure.

The Murrumbidgee scalded plains (Mbd) soil landscape is present within the study area. It is characterised as a flat alluvial landscape consisting of sediments of grey, brown and red cracking clays and red brown texture

contrast soils. The Murrumbidgee depression plains (Mud) is characterised by alluvial plains with numerous circular depressions to a relief of 10 metres. The Mud soil landscape contains grey to brown clays and clay loams. The Mallee cliffs sandplains (Msc) contains numerous land systems; the land systems present within the study area were not mapped as part of this assessment. Generally, the Msc soil landscape contains east-west oriented dunefields of quaternary Aeolian sands often with blowouts (see Table 1). These blowouts often contain evidence of previous human occupations.

**Table 1 Soil landscape characteristics of soil landscapes in the study area (DECC 2002, pp. 101-105).**

Soil material	Description
<b>Mbd – Murrumbidgee scalded plains</b>	Quaternary alluvium plains with extensive scalding interpreted as relic floodplains or terraces. Grey, brown and red cracking clays, red-brown texture contrast soils with scalds. Levees traces evident, relief generally <1 m up to 5 m on associated pans, swamps and lunettes. Low shrublands, grasslands and saltbush occur.
<b>Mud – Murrumbidgee depression plains</b>	Quaternary alluvial plains with numerous circular depressions interpreted as high floodplains or low terraces beyond the reach of average floodwaters with a relief to 10 m. Grey to brown clays and clay loams with a linear pattern from prior sandy streams. Now covered by extensive grasslands.
<b>Msc - Mallee cliffs sandplains</b>	Mallee cliffs sandplains landscape includes part of twelve land systems which include Ashmount, Bulgamurra, Frenchmans, Gulthal, Hatfield, Mulurulu, Overnewton, Quambi, Roo Roo, Trelega and Wilkura. The landscape is characterised by extensive and slightly undulating sandplains of quaternary Aeolian sands with east-west trending dunes, often with blowouts. It also contains partly scalded broad swales and small depressions with a relief of 6 to 10 m.

## 2.2 Landscape resources

The area surrounding the study area supports natural and modified vegetation communities. The term modified is used to describe land where the original natural vegetation cover has been cleared and replaced with agricultural land uses. The state of vegetation in these modified areas varies considerably, from recently cropped areas to regenerating native vegetation. Although areas of natural vegetation cover the study area, most plant communities have been disturbed or degraded as a result of altered water regimes, physical disturbance from earthworks, livestock and pest animal grazing and weed invasion.

Resources in the vicinity of the study area would have provided adequate sources of nutrition for subsistence activities; however these resources would be largely tied to seasonal variations and the flow of the nearby Murrumbidgee River. In this respect, activities in and around the study area would resemble that elsewhere in Western New South Wales, with the Murrumbidgee finding parallels in the riverine environments surrounding the Murray and Darling River systems, and the semi-arid plain, with its ancestral lakes being similar to other semi-arid areas such as Willandra.

The activities of the Barkindji linguistic group in the Darling Basin, north-west of the study area, have been well documented. Summer marked the period of highest productivity, with river flow being the strongest at this time. As a result of this, aquatic plants and animals were both abundant and nomadic avian species present to reproduce and feed. Cold conditions in winter coincided with lower flow of the river, leading to a marked decrease in available food resources, with fish and many crustaceans being either absent or in hibernation, and other sources, such as mussels, being present in decreased populations (Allen 1974 p. 311).

Although the Murray Darling Basin is a winter-spring dominant system, in contrast to the Darling River which is summer dominant, a similar theory of seasonal use applies to the lower Murray Darling basin. This theory of seasonal use explains the high density of Aboriginal sites located away from the riverine and lacustrine environments in the semi-arid and arid plains.

In contrast, the surrounding arid and semi-arid plains provided greater opportunities to local groups in winter. Although Allen (1974, p. 311) observes that potential sources of food remain relatively stable throughout the year, these sources became more accessible during winter when the plains would become easier to traverse. During summer, high evaporation rates in these areas made water sources scarce, sources which were generally more stable during winter, and allowed groups to traverse these arid regions in search of alternative food sources such as red kangaroo. As a result of this, Allen theorised that these groups would have stayed close to large water sources during summer, when sources of food were plentiful, and venturing into the surrounding arid and semi-arid areas in winter when these areas were more accessible, and the chances of obtaining food higher.

Descriptions are also available on resources available to groups around the Menindee Lakes as a part of Pardoe's (2003) study, which looked at how these resources and environments were used by groups in the area. Like the current study area and other examples described here, the Menindee Lakes area is characterised by a small number of permanent or semi-permanent water sources, which appear to supply a large portion of the landscape resources available to local groups, and arid or semi-arid plains surrounding these sources.

Pardoe noted ethnographic descriptions of Aboriginal resource use in the Menindee Lakes area, noting that different observers described drastically different situations there. Where Mitchell described large stretches of water, plentiful in waterfowl and fish (Mitchell 1839), Sturt in Pardoe described dried up lakes and local populations surviving almost entirely on roots (Sturt 1835). These descriptions give weight to the assertion made by both Pardoe and Allen that Aboriginal groups living in these environments would have employed both the riverine and arid/semi-arid environments.

A selection of resources common in the area has been compiled into Table 2 to give an indication of the resources available to local Aboriginal groups in and around the study area. Notably, the majority of the food sources mentioned in Table 2 are located within or in close proximity to rivers and lakes. This has partially to do with the greater availability of resources in these environments but it is also tied to early ethnographic observations made by explorers and surveyors such as Oxley, Mitchell, and Sturt.

These early explorers predominantly travelled close to the major rivers of the area, such as the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, and Murray, and as a result of this, their observations mostly came as a result of interactions with Aboriginal groups in these environments. Aboriginal activity is not well documented away from water sources, creating a bias in the information available.

**Table 2 Landscape resources available to local Aboriginal groups.**

Plant / animal	Aboriginal use
<b>Bulrush / Cumbungi</b>	Food source, fibres could be used to make twine (Mitchell 1835, Martin 2006, 2010)
<b>Black Box</b>	Wood used for boomerangs and other tools, bark used for canoes, dishes and shields, seeds as a food source, gum used as glue (Martin 2010)
<b>Emus / emu eggs</b>	Food source (Allen 1974), bones could be used for tools, the fat for medicine, and feathers as ornaments (Martin 2010)
<b>Fish species</b>	Food source, fat from these animals could also be used in medicine (Martin 2010)

Plant / animal	Aboriginal use
<b>Freshwater snail</b>	Food source (Martin 2010)
<b>Lignum</b>	Food source – fresh shoots could be eaten raw (Martin 2010)
<b>Marsh clubrush</b>	Food source (Martin 2010)
<b>Possum</b>	Food source, skin could also be used to make cloaks (Martin 2010)
<b>Red / grey kangaroo</b>	Food source, also used to make bags to hold seeds or water (Allen 1974), bone was used for bone points, and the teeth for fish hooks (Martin 2010)
<b>River mussel / lake mussel</b>	Food source (Martin 2010)
<b>River red-gum</b>	Wood used for boomerangs and other tools, bark used for shields, dishes, and potentially boomerangs. (Martin 2010)
<b>Rush</b>	Used to make nets for hunting (Martin 2010)
<b>Saltbush</b>	Leaves used for medicinal wash, seeds ground and cooked (Martin 2010)
<b>Snakes</b>	Food source (Martin 2010)
<b>Termites, termite larvae, and termite eggs</b>	Food source, termite nests could also be used for a heat retainer over (Martin 2010)
<b>Turtles</b>	Food source, fat for medicine (Martin 2010)
<b>Water ribbon</b>	Food source – roots could be baked, and small fruits eaten (Martin 2006, 2010)
<b>Waterfowl / other aquatic birds</b>	Food source available in summer months in riverine environments (Allen 1974)
<b>Yabby</b>	Food source (Martin 2010)

## 2.3 European land use history

The town of Balranald was gazetted in 1851 as part of the wider settlement that occurred along the Murrumbidgee River in the Riverina Bioregion. Pastoral stations were established from the 1830s primarily for cattle grazing, with sheep becoming the primary stock by the 1860s with the expansion of the wool industry (Eardley 1999). In the early 19th Century, several dams were built throughout the region allowing for the production of water reliant crops such as rice and cotton (Eardley 1999). Over the last 150 years, the region has seen extensive changes in terms of vegetation distribution and condition (Eardley 1999). The site has been subject to broad acre cereal cropping in recent years.

## 3 Aboriginal cultural heritage context

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### 3.1 Ethnohistory

Aboriginal occupation of the region dates back to around 50,000 years ago (Hiscock 2008:44). The study area falls within an area identified by Tindale (1974) as being within the boundaries of the Mutthi Mutthi (Mathi Mathi) linguistic group. Although the boundaries of this group varies between the two maps the area occupied by the Mutthi Mutthi lies roughly from below Lake Mungo to down past Balranald. To the west the Kureinji and Dadi Dadi groups are identified, the north is identified as the Barinji group and to the south is the Wathi Wathi (Wati Wati) group. The Yitha Yitha group are identified around the junction of the Lachlan and the Murrumbidgee to the east of the study area, while the Nari Nari are identified around the same area, but on the south side of the Lachlan River (Martin 2006: 155).

Owing to the disturbance of Aboriginal culture by the arrival and colonisation of Australia by Europeans in the 18th and 19th centuries, the actual boundaries of these groups are difficult to identify with great confidence. Martin (2006) studied ethnographic sources from early European observers in an attempt to define these boundaries. Martin notes that the Mutthi Mutthi group was likely to have originally been comprised of two groups with similar languages, the Mutthi Mutthi, located near the junction of the Murray and Murrumbidgee, and the Wathi Wathi, located around present day Balranald (Martin 2006:151). Martin states that it is likely that these groups amalgamated at some point in recent history to form one group. The Mutthi Mutthi people were associated with Balranald, Carrawathal, Lake Benanee, Lake Reedy and Murrumbidgee River. More broadly the Mutthi Mutthi language group is associated with the Kulin language group of western Victoria (Martin 1999:25).

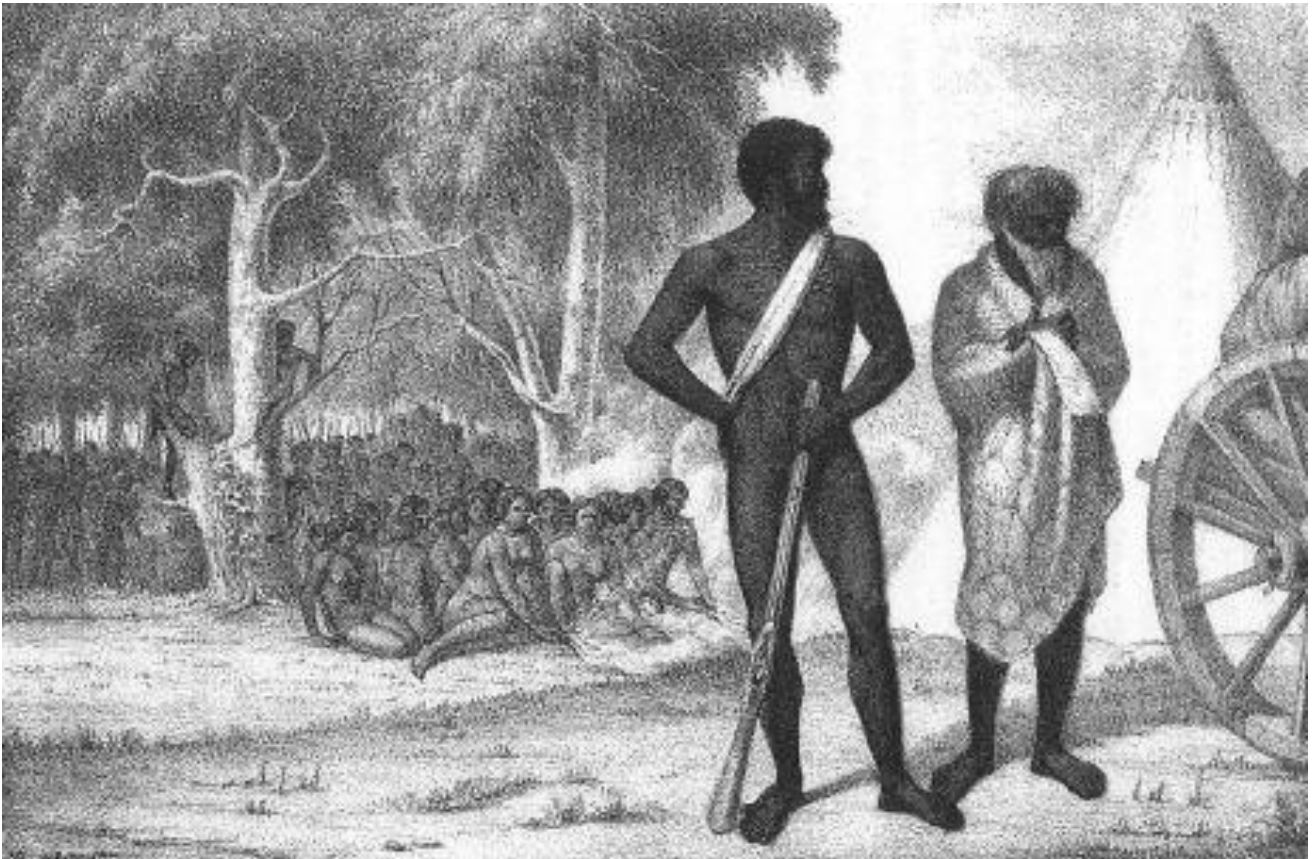
The first encounter many of these people would have had with Europeans was when Mitchell explored the inner regions of NSW. Mitchell (1835) kept journals of his explorations which detail many observations of Aboriginal people in the region before European settlement of the area. It is through these observations that an insight into the lifeways of Aboriginal people on the nearby Hay Plain, and the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Rivers can be imagined (Figure 4).

In reference to features now known as Earth Mounds or Hearths, Mitchell states:

*'One artificial feature, not observed by me in other places, distinguishes the localities principally frequented by the natives, and consists in the lofty mounds of burnt clay, or ashes used by them in cooking'* (Mitchell 1839).

Mitchell describes the burial practices of Aboriginal people at the junction of the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Rivers as small huts constructed over tombs. The junction of the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Rivers is located north-east of the study area; therefore the following description provides good insight of Aboriginal lifeways within or near to the study area:

*'Two of the tombs here consisted of huts, very neatly and completely thatched over, the straw or grass being bound down by a well-wrought net. Each hut had a small entrance on the south-west side, and the grave within was covered with dry grass or bedding on which lay however some pieces of wood. There was a third grave with coverings of the same kind, but it was not so neatly finished, nor was it covered with net. There were also graves without any covering; one where it appeared to have been burnt; and two old-looking graves were open, empty, and about three feet deep.'* (Mitchell 1835).



**Figure 4 A depiction of Mitchell's Aboriginal guide near Bebanee (Mitchell 1835)**

### **3.2 Aboriginal heritage located in the site boundary**

The archaeological assessment of the site identified the following Aboriginal sites recorded on AHIMS in the site boundary:

- 47-5-0008
- 47-6-0603
- 47-6-0604
- 47-5-0605
- 47-5-0606

The archaeological report attached in Appendix 6 provides details for Aboriginal sites identified during the archaeological assessment and shown on Figure 5. A brief description of each site is provided below.

#### **Limondale 1 (47-5-0045)**

Limondale 1 is a hearth with associated artefact scatter located on a graded vehicle track within a Mallee cliff sandplain field. The hearth consists of both burnt clay and termite mound heat retainers and shell fragments were visible within the centre of the hearth. Surrounding the hearth were six silcrete artefacts.

### **Limondale 2 (47-6-0826)**

Limondale 2 is a disturbed site complex measuring 50 by 100 metres and consisting of two heavily disturbed earth mounds and a medial silcrete flake fragment on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. The complex is located within a ploughed field but despite the poor condition of both earthmounds, the concentration of burnt clay and charcoal and the presence of a lithic artefact within the second mound argues for their attribution as cultural.

### **Limondale 3 (47-6-0827)**

One isolated hearth feature, Limondale 3, was located in the northern portion of the study area within a ploughed field on Murrumbidgee scalded plain. It consists of burnt clay heat retainers and charcoal fragments

### **Limondale 4 (47-6-0828)**

Limondale 4 is a diffuse earth mound measuring approximately 30 by 30 metres on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. The site was identified by the concentration of large amounts of burnt clay heat retainers and charcoal in an area of exposure on a slight rise within a cropped field.

### **Limondale 5 (47-6-0829)**

Limondale 5 is a diffuse earth mound measuring approximately 20 by 30 metres on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. The site was identified by the concentration of large amounts of burnt clay heat retainers and charcoal in an area of exposure on a slight rise within a cropped field

### **Limondale 6 (47-6-0830)**

Limondale 6 is a modified box tree measuring 2 metres in circumference with a small oval scar bearing four steel axe marks facing west on its lower trunk. The tree and scar are in good condition, with the scar located 80 centimetres from the ground and measuring 29 centimetres long by 12 centimetres wide and displaying 14 centimetres of regrowth

### **Limondale 7 (47-6-0831)**

Limondale 7 is a disturbed site complex measuring 50 by 100 metres and consisting of a series of heavily disturbed hearths with associated historic material on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. The site was identified by the scattering of burnt clay heat retainers and charcoal across a slight rise of approximately 40 centimetre relief, but due to the extensive ploughing of the area no in situ sources of the burnt clay could be identified

### **Limondale 8 (47-6-0834)**

Limondale 8 is a disturbed site complex measuring 100 by 100 metres and consisting of a series of heavily disturbed hearths with associated historic material on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. The site was identified by the scattering of burnt clay heat retainers and charcoal across a slight rise of approximately 40 centimetre relief, but due to the extensive ploughing of the area no in situ sources of the burnt clay could be identified

### **Limondale 9 (47-5-0046)**

Limondale 9 was an isolated find, a longitudinal silcrete flake fragment with a feather termination, found exposed in a ploughed area of white sand dune. As such, the site is considered to be in poor condition.

### **Limondale 11 (47-6-0833)**

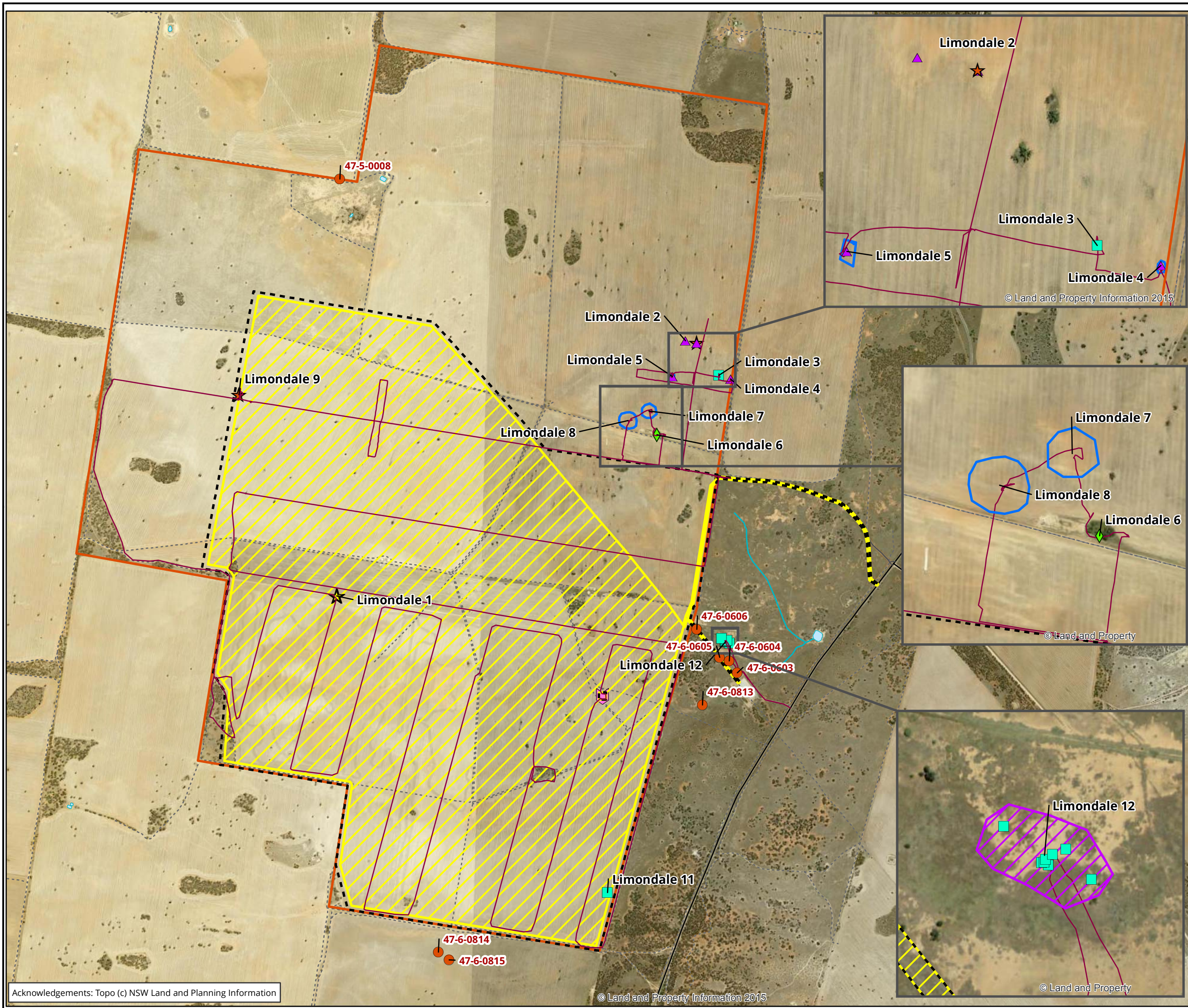
One isolated hearth feature, Limondale 11, was located on a flat between Mallee cliff sand dunes in the southern portion of the study area. The site consists of burnt calcrete heat retainers and is the only hearth of this type identified during the survey.

### **Limondale 12 (47-6-0832)**

One site complex with an associated PAD, Limondale 12, was identified within these clay pans during the survey. It consisted of eight burnt clay heat retainer hearths, six of which also contained fragments of termite mound. One hearth was also found to contain burnt calcrete. All hearths associated with this complex were found to be intact and in good condition, with four still partially covered by residual soils and considered to hold the potential for intact subsurface deposits

## **3.3 Interpretation of past Aboriginal land use**

The Limondale property is highly modified and disturbed due to ongoing agricultural uses, particularly cropping. At the time of survey the property had undergone recent and extensive ploughing and harvesting of a cereal crop. However, the landscape still showed evidence of Aboriginal land use. Eleven heritage sites were located at Limondale, all of which are of Aboriginal origin. Similarly to other studies completed in the region the most prominent site types are earth mounds, artefact scatters and campfires. Earth mounds indicate long term use of the landscape by Aboriginal people. It is difficult to confirm whether the sites conform to the regional predictive model as the landscape has been heavily modified. It is expected that earth mounds are usually located near permanent water sources however none were identified in the study area. Camp fires and artefact scatters are less reliant on permanent water sources in this region as people often travelled up to 10 kilometres per day away from permanent water (Pardoe).



**Legend**

- Study area
- Development footprint
- Infrastructure area
- AHIMS Records
- Survey tracks
- PAD extent
- Site extent
- 🏠 House

**Site Type**

- ★ Artefact Scatter with Hearth
- ▲ Earth Mound
- Hearth
- ◆ Modified Tree
- ★ Surface Artefacts

**Figure 5 : Aboriginal sites located in the site boundary and vicinity**

0 240 480 720 960 1,200  
Metres  
Scale: 1:24,300 @ A3  
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Acknowledgements: Topo (c) NSW Land and Planning Information

© Land and Property Information 2015

Matter: 23049  
Date: 11 April 2017  
Checked by: ALA, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: lharley  
Location: P:\23000s\23049\Mapping\23049\_F5\_ResultsMap.mxd

## 4 Aboriginal community consultation

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Consultation with the Aboriginal community has been undertaken in compliance with the consultation requirements as detailed below. A consultation log of all communications with RAPS is provided in Appendix 1.

### 4.1 Stage 1: Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

#### 4.1.1 Identification of relevant Aboriginal stakeholders

In accordance with the consultation guidelines, Biosis Pty Ltd notified the following bodies regarding the Proposal:

- Balranald Shire Council (BSC)
- NSW Office of Environment and Water (OEH)
- NSW Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTSCORP Limited)
- Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 of Aboriginal Owners
- National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)
- Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council (BLALC)

A list of known Aboriginal stakeholders in the Balranald and Murray River Local Government Areas (LGAs) was provided by OEH (a copy of this/these responses are provided in Appendix 2) and include:

- Muthi Muthi Nations
- WLRWHA Aboriginal Advisory Group
- National Koorie Site Management
- Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre
- Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation
- Pappin Aboriginal Corporation
- Kulila Site Consultants
- Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation
- Wakool Aboriginal Corporation
- Barkandji #8 Native Title Determinations
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

#### 4.1.2 Searches

A search conducted by the Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW) listed no Aboriginal Owners with land within the site boundary. A search conducted by the National Native Title Tribunal listed one Registered Native Title Claim, two Native Title Determination Applications and no Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements within the study area.

#### 4.1.3 Public notice

In accordance with the consultation guidelines, a public notification was placed in the following newspaper:

- The Guardian (Wednesday 16th November 2016)

The advertisement invited Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge to register their interest in a process of community consultation to provide assistance in determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the vicinity of the project. A copy of the public notice is provided in Appendix 2.

#### 4.1.4 Registration of Aboriginal parties

Aboriginal groups identified in Section 4.1.1 were sent a letter inviting them to register their interest in a process of community consultation to provide assistance in determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the vicinity of the project. In response to the letters and public notice, a total of three groups registered their interest in the consultation process. Responses to registration from Aboriginal parties are provided in Appendix 3. A full list of Aboriginal parties who registered for consultation is provided below:

- Wakool Aboriginal Corporation
- Pappin Aboriginal Corporation
- Yita Yita / Nari Tribes Aboriginal Corporation

Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council was contacted; however, they were unable to register as they are currently under administration.

## 4.2 Stage 2: Presentation of information about the proposed project

On 19 December 2016, Biosis provided RAPs with details about the project (project information pack). A copy of the project information pack is provided in Appendix 3.

## 4.3 Stage 3: Gathering information about cultural significance

### 4.3.1 Archaeological assessment methodology information pack

On 19 December 2016, Biosis provided each RAP with a copy of the project methodology pack outlining the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process and methodology for this project. RAPs were given 28 days to review and prepare feedback on the proposed methodology. A copy of the project methodology pack is provided in Appendix 4.

No comments from RAPs were received at this stage of consultation.

### 4.3.2 Information gathered during fieldwork

As part of the site survey Biosis collected any cultural information offered by the site representatives. Neville Williams attended the site survey and during the survey spoke about sites known nearby which included mounds, scar trees and campfires. Specific details and locations were not given.

Although unable to attend the site survey, John Jackson met with Biosis in Balranald. John shared stories of his experiences in the area and provided some details about how he identified scar trees.

## 4.4 Stage 4: Review of draft Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report

Following completion of the DRAFT Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report it was provided to RAPs on 13 April 2017 for review and comment. RAPs were given 28 days to provide comments and no responses were received.

## 5 Aboriginal cultural significance assessment

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The two main values addressed when assessing the significance of Aboriginal sites are cultural values to the Aboriginal community and archaeological (scientific) values. This report will assess the cultural values of Aboriginal sites in the site. Details of the scientific significance assessment of Aboriginal sites in the site boundary are provided in Appendix 6.

### 5.1 Introduction to the assessment process

Heritage assessment criteria in NSW fall broadly within the significance values outlined in the *Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS 1999). This approach to heritage has been adopted by cultural heritage managers and government agencies as the set of guidelines for best practice heritage management in Australia. These values are provided as background and include:

- **Historical significance** (evolution and association) refers to historic values and encompasses the history of aesthetics, science and society, and therefore to a large extent underlies all of the terms set out in this section. A place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, an historic figure, event, phase or activity. It may also have historic value as the site of an important event. For any given place the significance will be greater where evidence of the association or event survives in situ, or where the settings are substantially intact, than where it has been changed or evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the place retains significance regardless of subsequent treatment.
- **Aesthetic significance** (Scenic/architectural qualities, creative accomplishment) refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place. It is often closely linked with social values and may include consideration of form, scale, colour, texture, and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use.
- **Social significance** (contemporary community esteem) refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachment that the place or area has for the present-day community. Places of social significance have associations with contemporary community identity. These places can have associations with tragic or warmly remembered experiences, periods or events. Communities can experience a sense of loss should a place of social significance be damaged or destroyed. These aspects of heritage significance can only be determined through consultative processes with local communities.
- **Scientific significance** (Archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values) refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its archaeological and/or other technical aspects. Assessment of scientific value is often based on the likely research potential of the area, place or object and will consider the importance of the data involved, its rarity, quality or representativeness, and the degree to which it may contribute further substantial information.

The cultural and archaeological significance of Aboriginal and historic sites and places is assessed on the basis of the significance values outlined above. As well as the ICOMOS Burra Charter significance values guidelines, various government agencies have developed formal criteria and guidelines that have application when assessing the significance of heritage places within NSW. Of primary interest are guidelines prepared by the

Australian Government, the NSW OEH and the Heritage Branch, and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The relevant sections of these guidelines are presented below.

These guidelines state that an area may contain evidence and associations which demonstrate one or any combination of the ICOMOS Burra Charter significance values outlined above in reference to Aboriginal heritage. Reference to each of the values should be made when evaluating archaeological and cultural significance for Aboriginal sites and places.

In addition to the previously outlined heritage values, the OEH Guidelines (DECC 2006) also specify the importance of considering cultural landscapes when determining and assessing Aboriginal heritage values. The principle behind a cultural landscape is that 'the significance of individual features is derived from their inter-relatedness within the cultural landscape'. This means that sites or places cannot be 'assessed in isolation' but must be considered as parts of the wider cultural landscape. Hence the site or place will possibly have values derived from its association with other sites and places. By investigating the associations between sites, places, and (for example) natural resources in the cultural landscape the stories behind the features can be told. The context of the cultural landscape can unlock 'better understanding of the cultural meaning and importance' of sites and places.

Although other values may be considered – such as educational or tourism values – the two principal values that are likely to be addressed in a consideration of Aboriginal sites and places are the cultural/social significance to Aboriginal people and their archaeological or scientific significance to archaeologists. The determinations of archaeological and cultural significance for sites and places should then be expressed as statements of significance that preface a concise discussion of the contributing factors to Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

## 5.2 Cultural (social significance) values

Cultural or social significance refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical and/or contemporary associations and values attached to a place or objects by Aboriginal people. Aboriginal cultural heritage is broadly valued by Aboriginal people as it is used to define their identity as both individuals and as part of a group (also see DECC 2005: 1, 3; DECCW 2010: iii). More specifically it provides a:

- "connection and sense of belonging to Country" (DECCW 2010: iii);
- Link between the present and the past (DEC 2005: 2-3; and DECCW 2010: 3);
- A learning tool to teach Aboriginal culture to younger Aboriginal generations and the general public (DECCW 2010: 3); and,
- further evidence of Aboriginal occupation prior to European settlement for people who do not understand the magnitude to which Aboriginal people occupied the continent (also see DECCW 2010: 1; DECCW 2010: 3).

It is broadly acknowledged that Aboriginal people are the primary determiners of the cultural significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage. During consultation the following information was provided by RAPs in regards to the cultural values of the site.

- Neville Williams attended the site survey and during the survey spoke about sites known nearby which included mounds, scar trees and campfires. Specific details and locations were not given.
- A meeting with Mr John Jackson supplied information about culturally modified trees in the local area however the information was not specific to the study area.

- The draft report was supplied to RAPs and each RAP was given 28 days to comment. No comments have been received therefore Biosis is unable to fully determine the cultural values associated with the sites.

### 5.3 Historic values

Historic significance refers to associations a place or object may have with a historically important person, event, phase or activity to the Aboriginal and other communities.

### 5.4 Archaeological (scientific significance) values

An archaeological scientific assessment was undertaken for the site and is presented in detail as part of the attached Archaeological Report (Appendix 6). The site survey revealed 11 Aboriginal heritage sites which included a scar tree, artefact scatters, camp fires and earth mounds. Each of these site types are considered to have archaeological significance particularly earth mounds and camp fires which can reveal significant information about Aboriginal lifeways of the past. There were also 5 previously registered AHIMS sites within the study area, 47-5-0008, 47-6-0603, 47-6-0604, 47-5-0605 and 47-5-0606

### 5.5 Aesthetic values

Although the study area has been disturbed and modified it still represents the semi-arid plains around Balranald. These extensive plains, sometimes with rolling hills of mallee, are characteristic of the region. Due to the disturbance within the study area only moderate aesthetic values apply.

### 5.6 Statement of significance

#### 5.6.1 Statement of significance for Limondale 1 (47-5-0045)

Limondale 1 is a hearth with associated artefact scatter located on a graded track. The hearth is relatively intact and it appears to continue below the surface indicating some subsurface integrity may exist. The associated artefact scatter is in situ. This site type is common for the region and is in good condition so it is considered to have moderate significance.

#### 5.6.2 Statement of significance for Limondale 2 (47-6-0826)

Limondale 2 is a complex of two disturbed earth mounds. Earth mounds are considered to have high scientific and cultural significance as they have potential to contain human remains however these earth mounds are highly disturbed and have been continuously ploughed. Some characteristics still exist so this site is considered to have moderate significance.

#### 5.6.3 Statement of significance for Limondale 3 (47-6-0827)

Limondale 3 is a scattered hearth; there is no site integrity due to ongoing ploughing. The site type is common in the region and due to the disturbed nature it is considered to have low significance.

#### 5.6.4 Statement of significance for Limondale 4 (47-6-0828)

Limondale 4 is a diffuse earth mound measuring approximately 30 by 30 metres on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. Earth mounds are considered to have high scientific and cultural significance as they have potential to contain human remains however these earth mounds are highly disturbed and have been continuously ploughed. Some characteristics still exist so this site is considered to have moderate significance.

#### 5.6.5 **Statement of significance for Limondale 5 (47-6-0829)**

Limondale 5 is a diffuse earth mound measuring approximately 20 by 30 metres on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. Earth mounds are considered to have high scientific and cultural significance as they have potential to contain human remains however these earth mounds are highly disturbed and have been continuously ploughed. Some characteristics still exist so this site is considered to have moderate significance.

#### 5.6.6 **Statement of significance for Limondale 6 (47-6-0830)**

Limondale 6 is a modified box tree measuring 2 metres in circumference with a small oval scar bearing four steel axe marks facing west on its lower trunk. Scar trees hold high significance to the local Aboriginal community. The scar is in good condition and is easy identifiable as being made by humans due to a number of steel axe marks. This site is of high scientific and cultural significance.

#### 5.6.7 **Statement of significance for Limondale 7 (47-6-0831)**

Limondale 7 is a disturbed site complex measuring 50 by 100 metres and consisting of a series of heavily disturbed hearths with associated historic material on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. The historic relics at this site add a degree of significance as it shows post-contact use of European items by Aboriginal people. Earth mounds are considered to have high scientific and cultural significance as they have potential to contain human remains however these earth mounds are highly disturbed and have been continuously ploughed. Some characteristics still exist so this site is considered to have moderate significance.

#### 5.6.8 **Statement of significance for Limondale 8 (47-6-0834)**

Limondale 8 is a disturbed site complex measuring 100 by 100 metres and consisting of a series of heavily disturbed hearths with associated historic material on a Murrumbidgee scalded plain. The historic relics at this site add a degree of significance as it shows post-contact use of European items by Aboriginal people. Earth mounds are considered to have high scientific and cultural significance as they have potential to contain human remains however these earth mounds are highly disturbed and have been continuously ploughed. Some characteristics still exist so this site is considered to have moderate significance.

#### 5.6.9 **Statement of significance for Limondale 9 (47-5-0046)**

Limondale 9 was an isolated find, a longitudinal silcrete flake fragment with a feather termination, found exposed in a ploughed area of white sand dune. Stone flakes are a common site type in the region and this site has been highly disturbed by ploughing. It has low scientific significance.

#### 5.6.10 **Statement of significance for Limondale 11 (47-6-0833)**

One isolated hearth feature, Limondale 11, was located on a flat between Mallee cliff sand dunes in the southern portion of the study area. The site consists of burnt calcrete heat retainers and is the only hearth of this type identified during the survey. The site has been highly disturbed by ploughing and has low scientific significance.

#### 5.6.11 **Statement of significance for Limondale 12 (47-6-0832)**

One site complex with an associated PAD, Limondale 12, was identified within these clay pans during the survey. It consisted of eight burnt clay heat retainer hearths, six of which also contained fragments of termite mound. The hearths are relatively intact and it appears to continue below the surface indicating some subsurface integrity may exist. This site has high scientific significance.

**Table 3 Significance assessment criteria**

Site name	Criteria	Ranking
Limondale 1 (47-5-0045)	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – The site is intact with subsurface potential which could reveal dates for occupation in the region.	High
	Aesthetic – The site is in good condition however not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Moderate
Limondale 2 (47-6-0826)	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – Earth mounds have high scientific significance as they can reveal a lot of information about Aboriginal peoples' occupation of an area however this mound is disturbed reducing the significance to moderate.	Moderate
	Aesthetic – The site is in poor condition and not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Low
Limondale 3 (47-6-0827)	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific –	Moderate
	Aesthetic – The site is in poor condition and not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Low
Limondale 4 (47-6-0828)	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – Earth mounds have high scientific significance as they can reveal a lot of information about Aboriginal peoples' occupation of an area however this mound is disturbed reducing the significance to moderate.	Moderate
	Aesthetic – The site is in poor condition and not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Low
Limondale 5 (47-6-0829)	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – Earth mounds have high scientific significance as they can reveal a lot of information about Aboriginal peoples' occupation of an area however this mound is disturbed reducing the significance to moderate.	Moderate
	Aesthetic – The site is in poor condition and not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Low
Limondale 6 (47-6-0830)	Cultural – unknown	Unknown

Site name	Criteria	Ranking
Limondale 7 (47-6-0831)	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – Culturally modified scar trees can provide information about peoples movement through the landscape and tools which were being used, especially in the post-contact period. This site is of high significance.	High
	Aesthetic – The site is in good condition however not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Moderate
	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
Limondale 8 (47-6-0834)	Scientific – Earth mounds have high scientific significance as they can reveal a lot of information about Aboriginal peoples' occupation of an area however this mound is disturbed reducing the significance to moderate.	Moderate
	Aesthetic – The site is in poor condition and not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Low
	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
Limondale 9 (47-5-0046)	Scientific – Earth mounds have high scientific significance as they can reveal a lot of information about Aboriginal peoples' occupation of an area however this mound is disturbed reducing the significance to moderate.	Moderate
	Aesthetic – The site is in poor condition and not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Low
	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
Limondale 11 (47-6-0833)	Scientific – Limondale 9 consists of one isolated stone artefact in a disturbed context; as this site has no integrity it is considered to have low scientific significance.	Low
	Aesthetic – The site is in poor condition and not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Low
	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – Earth mounds have high scientific significance as they can reveal a lot of information about Aboriginal peoples' occupation of an area however this mound is disturbed reducing the significance to moderate.	Moderate
	Aesthetic – The site is in poor condition and not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Low

Site name	Criteria	Ranking
Limondale 12 (47-6-0832)	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – The site is intact with subsurface potential which could reveal dates for occupation in the region.	High
	Aesthetic – The site is in good condition however not in its natural setting due to ongoing agricultural use of the property.	Moderate
AHIMS 47-6-0605	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – The site contains a Potential Archaeological deposit	Moderate
	Aesthetic – unknown	Unknown
AHIMS 47-6-0606	Cultural – unknown	Unknown
	Historical – There is no historical association with this site.	Low
	Scientific – The site contains a Potential Archaeological deposit	Moderate
	Aesthetic – unknown	Unknown

The significance of sites was assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

- Requirements of the Code (*ICOMOS Burra Charter*) (Australia ICOMOS 1999).
- Guide to Investigating and reporting on Aboriginal Heritage

Use of these guidelines in combination is widely considered to represent the best practice for assessments of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The identification and assessment of cultural heritage values includes the four values of the Burra Charter: social, historical, scientific and aesthetic values. The resultant statement of significance has been constructed for the site based on the significance ranking criteria assessed in Table 3.

## 6 Proposed development limitations & mitigation measures

Within the site, there are 13 recorded Aboriginal sites. As discussed in Section 5.2, it is expected that the potential of harm to Aboriginal archaeological sites from the project ranges from negligible to low. Strategies to avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal heritage are discussed below.

A summary of the potential archaeological impact of the proposal on known Aboriginal sites within the site boundary is provided in Table 4.

**Table 4 Summary of potential archaeological impact**

AHIMS site no.	Site name	Significance	Type of harm	Degree of harm	Consequence of harm
47-5-0045	Limondale 1	Moderate	Total	Total	Total loss of vale
47-6-0826	Limondale 2	Moderate	None	None	No loss of value
47-6-0827	Limondale 3	Low	None	None	No loss of value
47-6-0828	Limondale 4	Moderate	None	None	No loss of value
47-6-0829	Limondale 5	Moderate	None	None	No loss of value
47-6-0830	Limondale 6	High	None	None	No loss of value
47-6-0831	Limondale 7	Moderate	None	None	No loss of value
47-6-0834	Limondale 8	Moderate	None	None	No loss of value
47-5-0046	Limondale 9	Moderate	Direct	Total	Total loss of value
47-6-0833	Limondale 11	Low	Direct	Total	Total loss of value
47-6-0832	Limondale 12	High	None	None	No loss of value
47-6-0605	Transmission Line 5	Moderate	Total	Total	Total loss of vale
47-6-0606	Transmission Line 6	Moderate	Total	Total	Total loss of vale

### 6.1 Potential risks to Aboriginal cultural heritage

The construction of the project includes disturbance to the ground surface within the development footprint. This construction has the potential to disturb Aboriginal heritage sites; however, through project design, Overland has redesigned the development footprint to avoid and minimize impacts to Aboriginal heritage sites as far as practicable.

## 6.2 Management and mitigation measures

Ideally, heritage management involves conservation of sites through the preservation and conservation of fabric and context within a framework of *"doing as much as necessary, as little as possible"* (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 1994: 13). In cases where conservation is not practical, several options for management are available. For sites, management often involves the salvage of features or artefacts, retrieval of information through excavation or collection (especially where impact cannot be avoided) and interpretation.

Overland has redesigned the development footprint to avoid harm to 8 of the 13 Aboriginal heritage sites in the study area. Impacts to Limondale 1, 9, and 11 cannot be avoided so salvage of these sites is recommended to retrieve as much information from them as possible. Impacts are also unavoidable for AHIMS sites 47-6-0606 and 47-6-0605 and further assessment in the form of sub-surface testing is recommended. A cultural heritage management plan will be developed prior to construction which outlines the mitigation methods for these sites.

## 7 Recommendations

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The recommendation below responds specifically to the wishes of the RAPs, as documented during the site survey of the study area. Recommendations regarding the archaeological value of the site, and the subsequent management of Aboriginal cultural heritage is provided in the archaeological report (Appendix 5).

### **Recommendation 1: Continued consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties**

It is recommended that Overland Sun Farming continue to inform the RAPs about the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the site boundary throughout the construction of the project. This recommendation is in keeping with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a).

### **Recommendation 2: Sites Limondale 1, 9 and 11 should be salvaged prior to development.**

The development footprint is unable to avoid impacts to sites Limondale 1, 9 and 11. It is recommended that these sites undergo surface salvage prior to construction, with the exact details developed as part of a cultural heritage manage plan (CHMP).

### **Recommendation 3: Sites Limondale 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12, and AHIMS sites 47-5-0008, 47-5-0604, 47-6-0603, are to be avoided from impact.**

The development footprint avoids impact to sites Limondale 2, 4,5,6,7, 8 and 12, and AHIMS sites 47-5-0008, 47-6-0603, 47-5-0604 so further investigation is not required. However, in future if the development area changes and impact to these sites becomes likely further archaeological investigation in the form of sub-surface testing and would be required.

### **Recommendation 4: Further assessment required for AHIMS sites 47-6-0606 and 47-6-0605, or if further works are proposed outside of the current study area**

The development footprint is unable to avoid impacts to AHIMS sites 47-6-0606 and 47-6-0605. It is recommended that further assessment, in the form of sub-surface testing, be undertaken at these sites.

If further disturbance is proposed in areas outside of the current study area, then additional survey may be required.

### **Recommendation 5: Discovery of unanticipated Aboriginal objects**

All Aboriginal objects and places are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. It is an offence to knowingly disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works associated with this proposal, works must cease in the vicinity and the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an Aboriginal object the archaeologist will provide further recommendations. These may include notifying the OEH and Aboriginal stakeholders to inform options for management of the objects.

### **Recommendation 6: Discovery of unanticipated historical relics**

Relics are historical archaeological resources of local or State significance and are protected in NSW under the Heritage Act 1977. Relics cannot be disturbed except with a permit or exception/exemption notification. Should unanticipated relics be discovered during the course of the project, work in the vicinity must cease

and an archaeologist contacted to make a preliminary assessment of the find. The Heritage Council will require notification if the find is assessed as a relic.

### **Recommendation 7: Discovery of Aboriginal ancestral remains**

Aboriginal ancestral remains may be found in a variety of landscapes in NSW, including middens and sandy or soft sedimentary soils. If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity you must:

1. Immediately cease all work at that location and not further move or disturb the remains
2. Notify the NSW Police and OEH's Environmental Line on 131 555 as soon as practicable and provide details of the remains and their location
3. Not recommence work at that location unless authorised in writing by OEH.

### **Recommendation 8: Stop work provision for any potential discovery of human remains**

If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity works, all activity must cease immediately. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. The following contingency plan describes the immediate actions that must be taken in instances where human remains or suspected human remains are discovered. Any such discovery at the activity area must follow these steps:

1. Discovery: If suspected human remains are discovered all activity must stop to ensure minimal damage is caused to the remains; and the remains must be left in place, and protected from harm or damage.
2. Notification: Once suspected human skeletal remains have been found, the Coroners Office and the NSW Police must be notified immediately. Following this, and if the human remains are likely to be Aboriginal in origin, the find will be reported to the Aboriginal parties and DECCW NSW. If the find is likely to be non-Aboriginal in origin and more than 100 years in age, the Heritage Council of NSW will be notified of the find under s.146 of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

## References

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## Appendices

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## Appendix 1 Consultation log

### A1.1 Stage 1 – Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

#### Step 1- Identification of Aboriginal people/parties with an interest in the project.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Balranald Shire Council</b>	14/11/2016 - Email	23/11/2016 - Letter	Response received. Recommended contacting the Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council
<b>Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	14/11/2016 - Email		Response received. Unable to register an interest in the project as they are currently under administration
<b>Office of Environment and Heritage</b>	14/11/2016 - Email	16/11/2016 - Letter	Response received. Provided list of interested Aboriginal parties for the Balranald and Murray River Local Government Areas
<b>Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</b>	14/11/2016 - Email	16/11/2016 - Letter	Response received. Informed Biosis that there are no registered Aboriginal Owners in the project area
<b>Native Title Services Corporation</b>	14/11/2016 - Email	No response	No response
<b>National Native Title Tribunal</b>	14/11/2016 - Email	16/11/2016 - Email	Response received. Provided native title overlap results within the Balranald LGA

#### Step 2- Public advertisement

The public notice was published in The Guardian on *Wednesday 16 November 2016*. A copy of the advertisement is provided in Appendix 2.

#### Step 3- Registration of interest.

The registration period ran from the 16 November 2016 to the 30 November 2016. Leeway was given to Aboriginal parties/groups who provided responses shortly after the close of this period and they have been registered as Aboriginal parties for consultation.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Muthi Muthi Nations</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>WLRWHA Aboriginal Advisory Group</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>National Koorie Site Management</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Kullila Site Consultants</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Pappin Family Aboriginal</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	15/12/2016 – Phone call	Response received. Registered interest.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Corporation</b>			
<b>Wakool Aboriginal Corporation</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	Response by email	Response received. Registered interest.
<b>Barkandji #8 Native Title Determinants</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation</b>	02/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Yita Yita/Nari Nari Tribes Aboriginal Corporation</b>	11/01/2016 - Phone	11/01/2016 - Phone	Registered interest

## A1.2 Stage 2 – Presentation of information about the proposed project

### Step 1- Provision of project information pack.

A copy of the information pack is provided in Appendix 3 and a copy of the covering email is provided following.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	19/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Wakool Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>John Jackson</b>	19/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A

## A1.3 Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

### Step 1- Provision of project methodology pack and consultation meeting.

A copy of the methodology pack is provided in Appendix 4 and a copy of the covering email is provided following.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	19/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Wakool Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A
<b>Yita Yita/Nari Nari Tribes Aboriginal Corporation</b>	11/01/2016 - Phone	No response	N/A
<b>John Jackson</b>	19/12/2016 - Email	No response	N/A

## Step 2- Field survey

Invitations to attend the field survey of Limondale Sun farm were sent out to John Jackson and Yita Yita registered stakeholders. Representatives from both groups attended the field survey.

## A1.4 Stage 4 – Review of Draft Report

### Step 1- Provision of draft report for review.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	13/04/2017 - email	N/A	No response
<b>Wakool Aboriginal Corporation</b>	13/04/2017 - email	N/A	No response
<b>Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation</b>	13/04/2017 - email	N/A	No response
<b>Yita Yita/Nari Nari Tribes Aboriginal Corporation</b>	13/04/2017 - email	N/A	No response
<b>John Jackson</b>	13/04/2017 - email	N/A	No response

## Appendix 2 Stage 1: Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

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**OVERLAND SUN FARMING COMPANY  
- LIMONDALE  
NOTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION  
OF ABORIGINAL INTERESTS**

Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop a solar energy site and associated infrastructure at Balranald, NSW. This site is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. This area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Overland invites Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the vicinity of the above area to register their interest in a process of community consultation.

The purpose of the community consultation will be to provide sufficient information for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and to assist and inform the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

For more information please contact:

**John Zammit**

**Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd**

**L1, 23 Milton Parade**

**Malvern, VIC 3144**

**Email: [john.zammit@overlandsunfarming.com.au](mailto:john.zammit@overlandsunfarming.com.au)**

To register in writing please contact:

**Amanda Atkinson**

**Biosis Pty Ltd**

**8 Tate Street**

**Wollongong NSW 2500**

**[aatkinson@biosis.com.au](mailto:aatkinson@biosis.com.au)**

**REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED  
BEFORE 5.00pm, 30 November 2016**



14 November 2016

Mr Stephen Wright  
Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983  
PO Box 112  
Glebe NSW 2037

Dear Stephen,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – identification of interested Aboriginal parties**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop the property at Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with a high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Biosis Pty Ltd is assisting Overland on consultation with the Aboriginal community and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Consultation with the Aboriginal community for this proposal will follow the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The purpose of the Aboriginal community consultation is to provide sufficient information for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and to inform the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Overland wishes to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the proposed study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or Places in the Balranald area. If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations of which you are aware it would be greatly appreciated. Please provide these details by **5pm on 30 November 2016**.

In accordance with the consultation requirements, please note that the relevant Overland Sun Farming Company contact for this project is:

John Zammit  
Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd  
L1, 23 Milton Parade  
Malvern Vic 3144

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Wollongong Resource Group

8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Phone: 02 4201 1090  
Fax: 03 9646 9242

ACN 006 175 097  
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: [wollongong@biosis.com.au](mailto:wollongong@biosis.com.au)

[biosis.com.au](http://biosis.com.au)

All correspondence regarding provision of names and contact details of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to the study area should be provided in writing to:

Amanda Atkinson  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
aatkinson@biosis.com.au

If you have any queries regarding the study area please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Amanda Atkinson', written in a cursive style.

**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



14 November 2016

Mr John Stevenson  
Director Infrastructure and Development  
Balranald Shire Council  
PO Box 120  
Balranald NSW 2715

Dear John,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – identification of interested Aboriginal parties**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop the property at Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with a high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Biosis Pty Ltd is assisting Overland on consultation with the Aboriginal community and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Consultation with the Aboriginal community for this proposal will follow the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The purpose of the Aboriginal community consultation is to provide sufficient information for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and to inform the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Overland wishes to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the proposed study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or Places in the Balranald area. If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations of which you are aware it would be greatly appreciated. Please provide these details by **5pm on 30 November 2016**.

In accordance with the consultation requirements, please note that the relevant Overland Sun Farming Company contact for this project is:

John Zammit  
Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd  
L1, 23 Milton Parade  
Malvern Vic 3144

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Wollongong Resource Group

8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Phone: 02 4201 1090  
Fax: 03 9646 9242

ACN 006 175 097  
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If you have any queries regarding the study area please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Amanda Atkinson', written in a cursive style.

**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

Mary Pappin  
Pappin Aboriginal Corporation

Dear Mary,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop a property near Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Cairn. The study area encompasses 1,500 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). No Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is required for this project as it is being assessed under Part 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*.

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Yours sincerely,

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



14 November 2016

Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council  
PO Box 187  
Balranald NSW 2715

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – identification of interested Aboriginal parties**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop the property at Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with a high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



14 November 2016

National Native Title Tribunal  
GPO Box 9973  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – identification of interested Aboriginal parties**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop the property at Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with a high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist

14 November 2016

Mr George Tonna  
Native Title Services Corporation  
PO Box 2105  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Dear George,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – identification of interested Aboriginal parties**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop the property at Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with a high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist

14 November 2016

Mr John Gilding  
Regional archaeologist – South-west region  
Office of Environment and Heritage  
Via email: john.gilding@environment.nsw.gov.au

Dear John,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – identification of interested Aboriginal parties**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop the property at Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with a high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

John Atkinson  
Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation  
PO Box 989  
Shepparton VIC 3630

Dear John,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop a property near Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 1,500 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

Frank Russo  
Barkandji #8 Native Title Determinants

Dear Frank,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop a property near Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Cairn. The study area encompasses 1,500 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

Paul Charles  
Kullila Site Consultants  
14 Werrang Road  
Primbee NSW 2502

Dear Paul,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

Leanne Mitchell  
WLRWHA Aboriginal Advisory Group  
PO Box 318  
Buronga NSW 2739

Dear Leanne,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

Ali Maher  
National Koorie Site Management  
3 Cuthbert Drive  
Mount Warrigal NSW 2528

Dear Ali,

**RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

Dan Rosendahl  
WLRWHA Aboriginal Advisory Group  
PO Box 318  
Buronga NSW 2739

Dear Dan,

## **RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop a property near Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 1,500 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). No Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is required for this project as it is being assessed under Part 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*.

Biosis Pty Ltd is assisting Overland on consultation with the Aboriginal community and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Consultation with the Aboriginal community for this proposal will follow the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The purpose of the Aboriginal community consultation is to provide sufficient information for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and to inform the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Overland wishes to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the proposed study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or Places in the Balranald area. **If you would like to register your interest to be consulted for this project, please respond by 5pm on 16 December 2016.** Please note: consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Requirements for Proponents 2010, this consultation may not result in paid work for any or all registered stakeholders.

In accordance with the consultation requirements, please note that the relevant Overland Sun Farming Company contact for this project is:

John Zammit  
Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd  
L1, 23 Milton Parade  
Malvern Vic 3144

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Wollongong Resource Group

8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Phone: 02 4201 1090  
Fax: 03 9646 9242

ACN 006 175 097  
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: [wollongong@biosis.com.au](mailto:wollongong@biosis.com.au)

[biosis.com.au](http://biosis.com.au)

All correspondence regarding provision of names and contact details of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to the Project Area should be provided in writing to:

Amanda Atkinson  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
aatkinson@biosis.com.au

If you have any queries regarding the study area please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Amanda Atkinson", written over a light blue circular stamp.

**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

Jeanette Crew  
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre  
PO Box 276  
Deniliquin NSW 2710

Dear Jeanette,

## **RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop a property near Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 1,500 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

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Yours sincerely,

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist



2 December 2016

Neville Atkinson  
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation  
Shier Street  
Barmah VIC 3639

Dear Neville,

## **RE: Limondale Solar Farm, Balranald NSW – Registration of interested Aboriginal Stakeholders**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) is proposing to develop a property near Balranald to provide a solar energy site and associated infrastructure. The study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 1,500 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and is surrounded by other large farming properties. The study area is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production with high conservation values under the Balranald Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Balranald LEP).

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**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist

## Appendix 3 Stage 2: Presentation of information about the proposed project

---



19 December 2016

Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council  
PO Box 187

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Project Information Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The following project information has been provided by Biosis on behalf of Overland Sun Farming Company and is in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The aim of this document is to provide the Registered Aboriginal Parties with information about the scope of the proposed project.

**Study areas**

The Limondale Solar Farm study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and west, and is surrounded by other large farming properties.

**Project**

Biosis Pty Ltd completed a desktop due diligence assessment of the study area on 21 September 2016. The results of this assessment identified that further assessment of the study area was required due to a high potential for Aboriginal heritage objects to be present.

Following from the desktop assessment Biosis has been engaged by Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the study area.

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Process

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

### Background Research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

### Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

This task will allow the Aboriginal community the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and inputting into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with *the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, which includes:

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or Places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by email of the proposed project on 2 December 2016 via Biosis on behalf of Overland Sun Farming Company and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project.
- Biosis will provide details of the project methodology for the archaeological assessment and test excavations to the registered parties. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

## Field Survey

An inspection of the assessment area will be undertaken in order to identify any previously unknown Aboriginal objects or Places, should they be present. If identified, these will be recorded to the required standard.

Any known sites identified by the AHIMS search which are within the assessment area will be inspected to determine their current condition. Registered sites in the near vicinity will be visited to ensure they will not be impacted by the proposed works. Areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD) identified by previous assessments will also be inspected.

This task will assist in the assessment of disturbance and with predictive modelling will define areas of potential archaeological deposit and assessment of whether the proposed works are likely to impact on undiscovered Aboriginal artefacts.

Mapping will be undertaken in ArcGIS and MapInfo Professional.

## Reporting

A draft ACHAR and AR report will be prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* and will include:

- Background and project description.
- A summary and analysis of the findings including the presence and location of registered or undiscovered Aboriginal artefacts or heritage items within proximity of the study areas.
- A summary of any other relevant studies or surveys which have relevance to the assessment area.
- A summary of the landscape features of the site which may indicate a history of Aboriginal activity.
- A summary of previous land use that may have affected the retention of intact Aboriginal archaeology in the landscape.
- The potential or likelihood for the proposed works to uncover or expose potential undiscovered Aboriginal objects.
- Legislative implications of the proposed works.
- Recommendations and justification for further assessment (if required).
- Mitigation measures (if any) required for the works to proceed.
- Mapping will be carried out to show the location of registered and newly located (if any) Aboriginal sites in relation to the proposed works.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments.

## Project schedule

The schedule and time allocations for the project are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Notes
Commencement of Aboriginal community Consultation	Completed	Notices sent to registered Aboriginal stakeholders
Provision of client-reviewed DRAFT Methodology Document to registered Aboriginal stakeholders for review and comment – these methods will form the basis for all archaeological and cultural heritage work.	4 Weeks	<b>28 days</b> review time allowed under OEH Aboriginal community consultation guidelines.
Information gathering	Ongoing	Until finalisation of report.
Site inspection with selected representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties	TBC <sup>1</sup>	
Test excavations with selected representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties (Only if required)	TBC	Only if required
Review of the draft report	TBC	<b>28 days</b> review time allowed under OEH Aboriginal community consultation guidelines.
Final Report	TBC	

---

<sup>1</sup> TBC = to be confirmed.

## **Responsibilities and roles**

As part of the consultation process registered Aboriginal parties are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate in accordance with their role specified in the guidelines (DECCW 2010).

Biosis and Overland, in accordance with their role under the guidelines, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders. Biosis invites Aboriginal stakeholders to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then the Aboriginal stakeholder should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or the information in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me in the office on (02) 4201 1056.

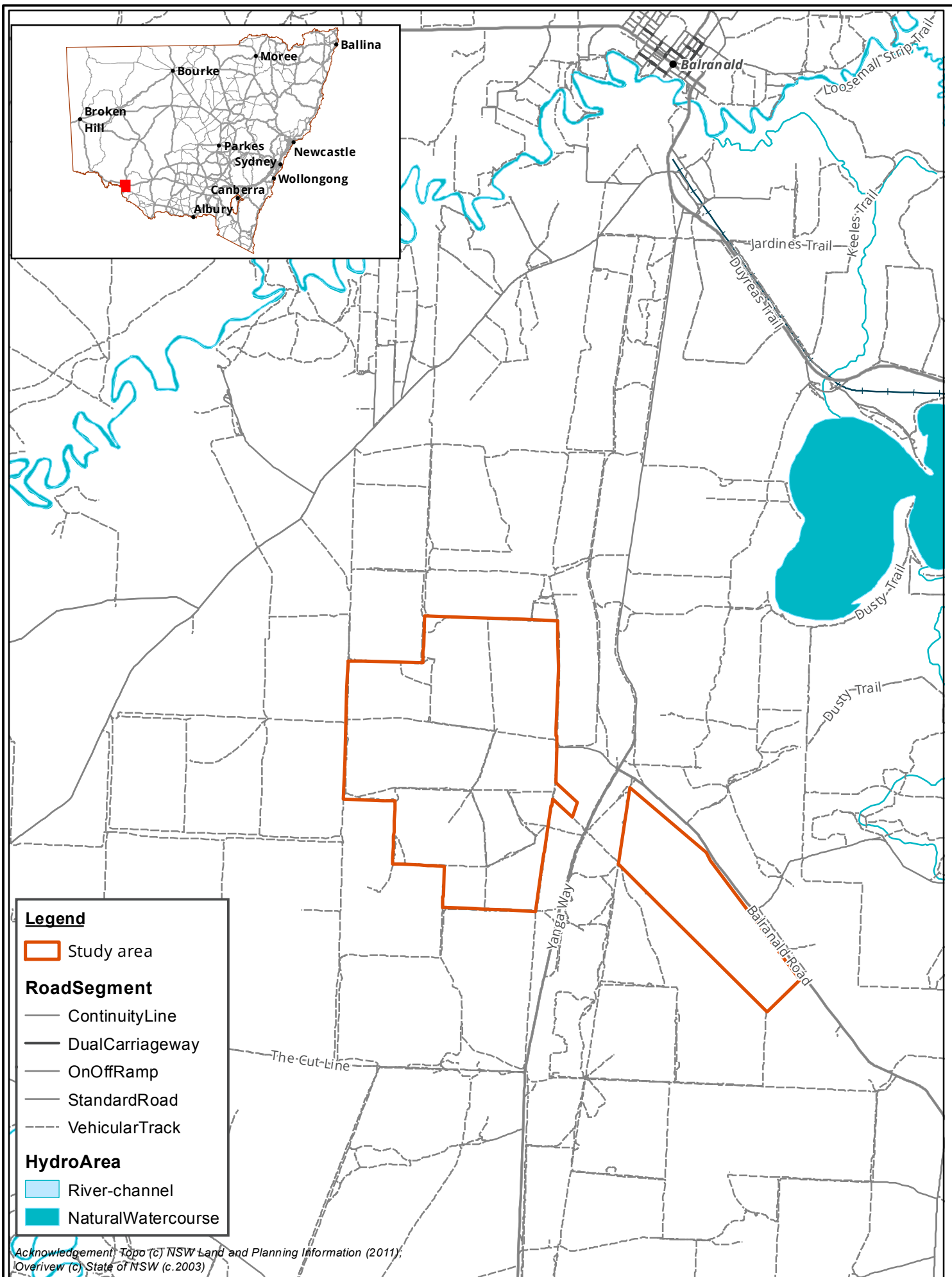
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Atkinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Atkinson  
Senior Archaeologist  
0409 199 785  
[aatkinson@biosis.com.au](mailto:aatkinson@biosis.com.au)

## **References**

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**Legend**

- Study area

**RoadSegment**

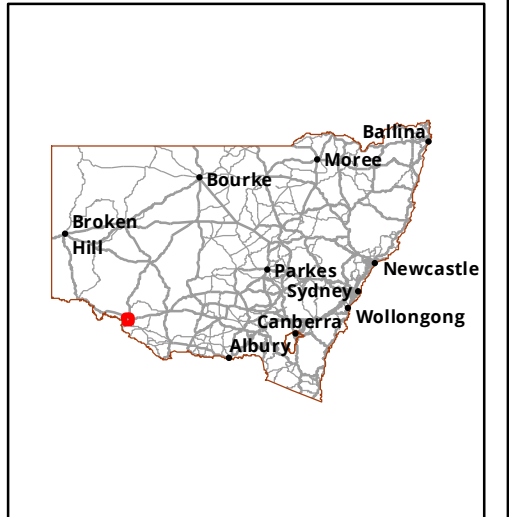
- ContinuityLine
- DualCarriageway
- OnOffRamp
- StandardRoad
- VehicularTrack

**HydroArea**

- River-channel
- NaturalWatercourse

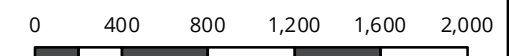
Acknowledgement: Topo (c) NSW Land and Planning Information (2011);  
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Figure 1: Location of the study area



**Legend**  
 Study area

**Figure 2: Location of the Project Area**



Metres  
 Scale: 1:35,000 @ A3  
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,  
 Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 23049  
 Date: 19 December 2016  
 Checked by: ALA, Drawn by: JMS, Last edited by: mlooby  
 Location: P:\23000s\23049\Mapping\23049\_F2\_StudyArea.mxd



19 December 2016

John Jackson  
Balranald

Dear John,

**RE: Project Information Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The following project information has been provided by Biosis on behalf of Overland Sun Farming Company and is in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The aim of this document is to provide the Registered Aboriginal Parties with information about the scope of the proposed project.

**Study areas**

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Biosis Pty Ltd completed a desktop due diligence assessment of the study area on 21 September 2016. The results of this assessment identified that further assessment of the study area was required due to a high potential for Aboriginal heritage objects to be present.

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The assessment process includes the following tasks:

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Final Report	TBC	

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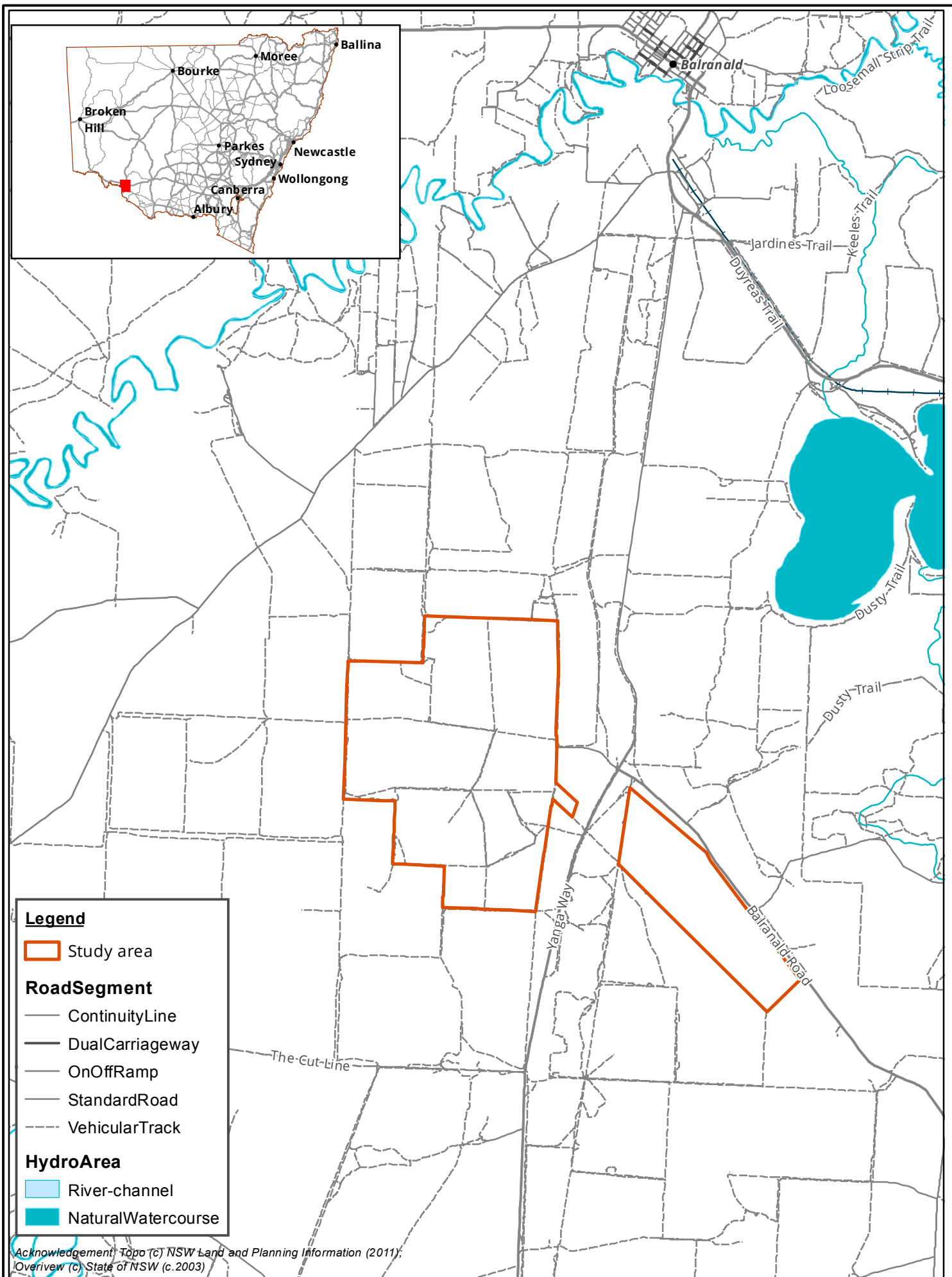
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**Legend**

- Study area

**RoadSegment**

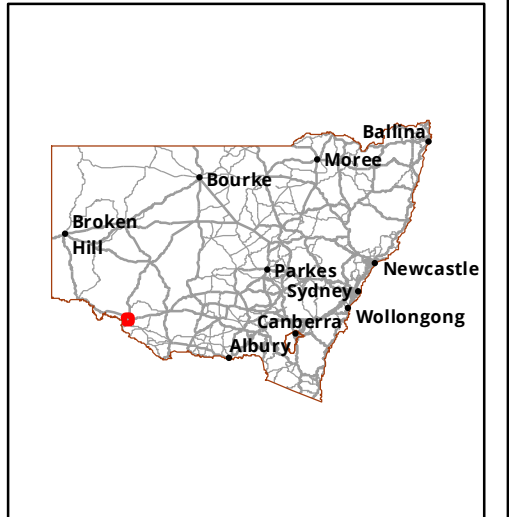
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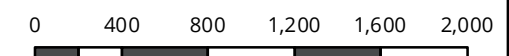
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 Scale: 1:35,000 @ A3  
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,  
 Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 23049  
 Date: 19 December 2016  
 Checked by: ALA, Drawn by: JMS, Last edited by: mlooby  
 Location: P:\23000s\23049\Mapping\23049\_F2\_StudyArea.mxd

Acknowledgements: Topo (c) NSW Land and Planning Information

© Land and Property Information 2015



19 December 2016

Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation  
Mary Pappin

Dear Mary,

**RE: Project Information Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

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Mapping will be undertaken in ArcGIS and MapInfo Professional.

## Reporting

A draft ACHAR and AR report will be prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* and will include:

- Background and project description.
- A summary and analysis of the findings including the presence and location of registered or undiscovered Aboriginal artefacts or heritage items within proximity of the study areas.
- A summary of any other relevant studies or surveys which have relevance to the assessment area.
- A summary of the landscape features of the site which may indicate a history of Aboriginal activity.
- A summary of previous land use that may have affected the retention of intact Aboriginal archaeology in the landscape.
- The potential or likelihood for the proposed works to uncover or expose potential undiscovered Aboriginal objects.
- Legislative implications of the proposed works.
- Recommendations and justification for further assessment (if required).
- Mitigation measures (if any) required for the works to proceed.
- Mapping will be carried out to show the location of registered and newly located (if any) Aboriginal sites in relation to the proposed works.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments.

## Project schedule

The schedule and time allocations for the project are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Notes
Commencement of Aboriginal community Consultation	Completed	Notices sent to registered Aboriginal stakeholders
Provision of client-reviewed DRAFT Methodology Document to registered Aboriginal stakeholders for review and comment – these methods will form the basis for all archaeological and cultural heritage work.	4 Weeks	<b>28 days</b> review time allowed under OEH Aboriginal community consultation guidelines.
Information gathering	Ongoing	Until finalisation of report.
Site inspection with selected representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties	TBC <sup>2</sup>	
Test excavations with selected representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties (Only if required)	TBC	Only if required
Review of the draft report	TBC	<b>28 days</b> review time allowed under OEH Aboriginal community consultation guidelines.
Final Report	TBC	

---

<sup>2</sup> TBC = to be confirmed.

## **Responsibilities and roles**

As part of the consultation process registered Aboriginal parties are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate in accordance with their role specified in the guidelines (DECCW 2010).

Biosis and Overland, in accordance with their role under the guidelines, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders. Biosis invites Aboriginal stakeholders to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then the Aboriginal stakeholder should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or the information in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me in the office on (02) 4201 1056.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Amanda Atkinson".

Amanda Atkinson  
Senior Archaeologist  
0409 199 785  
[aatkinson@biosis.com.au](mailto:aatkinson@biosis.com.au)

## **References**

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. 2010. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Sydney NSW.

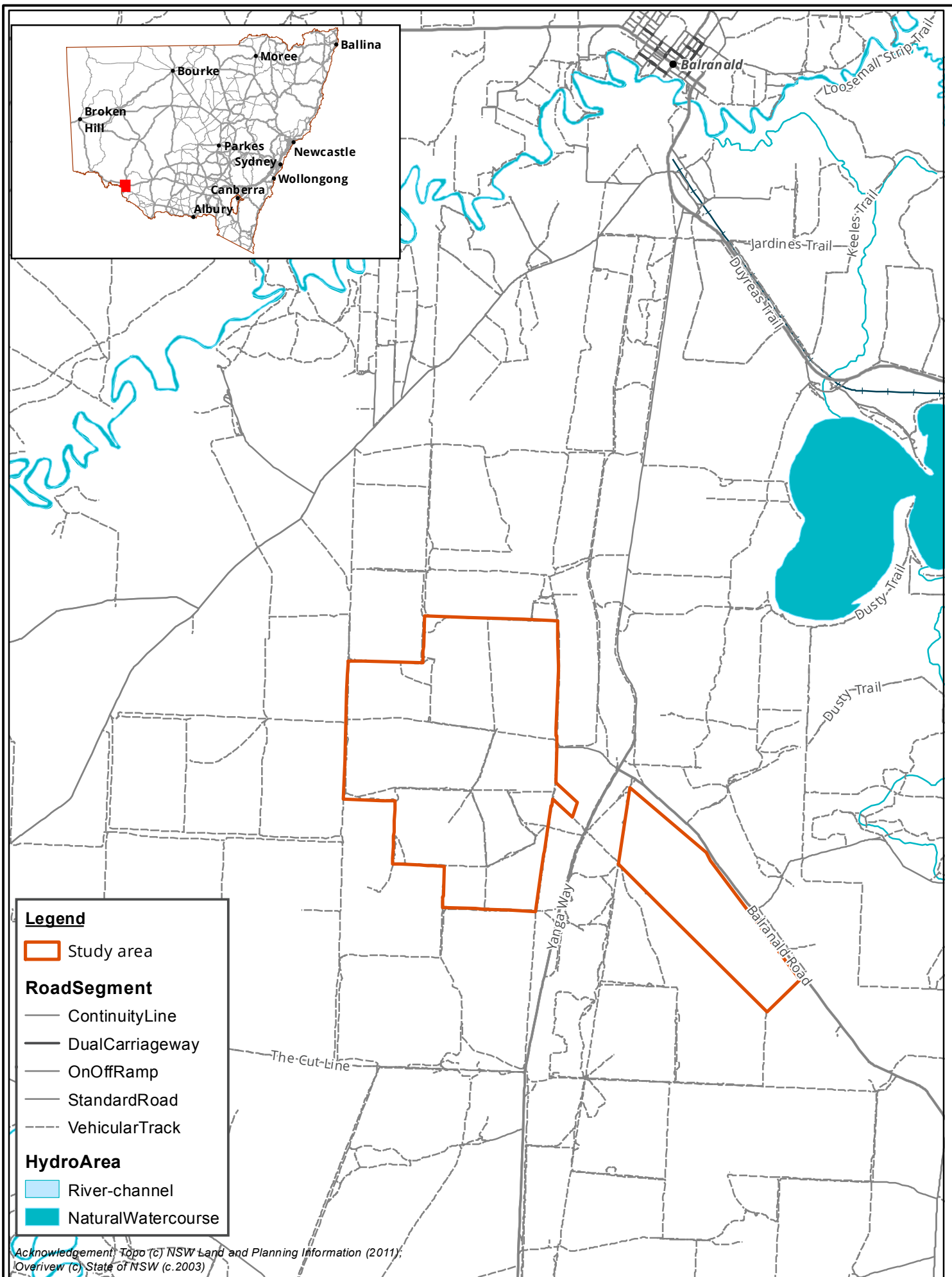
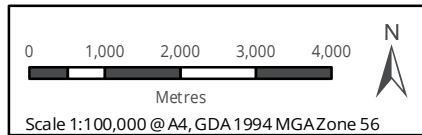


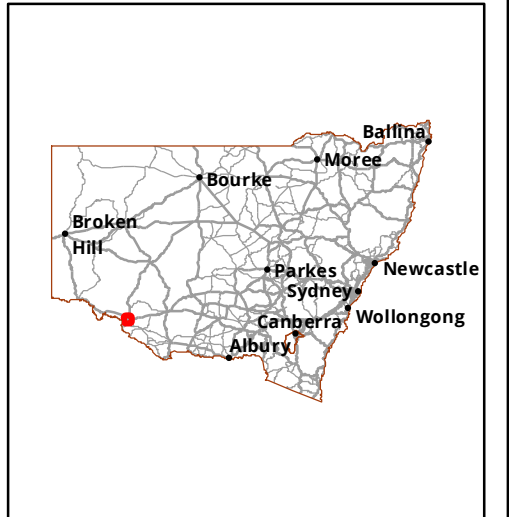
Figure 1: Location of the study area



Biosis Pty Ltd  
Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,  
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

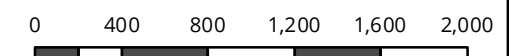
Matter: 23049  
Date: 19 December 2016,  
Checked by: ALA, Drawn by: JMS, Last edited by: mlooby  
Location: P:\23000s\23049\mapping\





**Legend**  
 Study area

**Figure 2: Location of the Project Area**



Metres  
 Scale: 1:35,000 @ A3  
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54



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Matter: 23049  
 Date: 19 December 2016  
 Checked by: ALA, Drawn by: JMS, Last edited by: mlooby  
 Location: P:\23000s\23049\Mapping\23049\_F2\_StudyArea.mxd

19 December 2016

Wakool Aboriginal Corporation  
Cynthia Pappin  
PO Box 243  
Balranald NSW 2715

Dear Cynthia,

**RE: Project Information Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

The following project information has been provided by Biosis on behalf of Overland Sun Farming Company and is in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The aim of this document is to provide the Registered Aboriginal Parties with information about the scope of the proposed project.

**Study areas**

The Limondale Solar Farm study area is approximately 15 kilometres south of Balranald within the Balranald Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Balranald, County of Caira. The study area encompasses 2,048 hectares of private land and the adjacent road reserves. It is bounded by Yanga Way to the east and west, and is surrounded by other large farming properties.

**Project**

Biosis Pty Ltd completed a desktop due diligence assessment of the study area on 21 September 2016. The results of this assessment identified that further assessment of the study area was required due to a high potential for Aboriginal heritage objects to be present.

Following from the desktop assessment Biosis has been engaged by Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd (Overland) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) as part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the study area.

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Process

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

### Background Research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

### Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

This task will allow the Aboriginal community the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and inputting into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with *the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, which includes:

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or Places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by email of the proposed project on 2 December 2016 via Biosis on behalf of Overland Sun Farming Company and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project.
- Biosis will provide details of the project methodology for the archaeological assessment and test excavations to the registered parties. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

## Field Survey

An inspection of the assessment area will be undertaken in order to identify any previously unknown Aboriginal objects or Places, should they be present. If identified, these will be recorded to the required standard.

Any known sites identified by the AHIMS search which are within the assessment area will be inspected to determine their current condition. Registered sites in the near vicinity will be visited to ensure they will not be impacted by the proposed works. Areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD) identified by previous assessments will also be inspected.

This task will assist in the assessment of disturbance and with predictive modelling will define areas of potential archaeological deposit and assessment of whether the proposed works are likely to impact on undiscovered Aboriginal artefacts.

Mapping will be undertaken in ArcGIS and MapInfo Professional.

## Reporting

A draft ACHAR and AR report will be prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* and will include:

- Background and project description.
- A summary and analysis of the findings including the presence and location of registered or undiscovered Aboriginal artefacts or heritage items within proximity of the study areas.
- A summary of any other relevant studies or surveys which have relevance to the assessment area.
- A summary of the landscape features of the site which may indicate a history of Aboriginal activity.
- A summary of previous land use that may have affected the retention of intact Aboriginal archaeology in the landscape.
- The potential or likelihood for the proposed works to uncover or expose potential undiscovered Aboriginal objects.
- Legislative implications of the proposed works.
- Recommendations and justification for further assessment (if required).
- Mitigation measures (if any) required for the works to proceed.
- Mapping will be carried out to show the location of registered and newly located (if any) Aboriginal sites in relation to the proposed works.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments.

## Project schedule

The schedule and time allocations for the project are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Notes
Commencement of Aboriginal community Consultation	Completed	Notices sent to registered Aboriginal stakeholders
Provision of client-reviewed DRAFT Methodology Document to registered Aboriginal stakeholders for review and comment – these methods will form the basis for all archaeological and cultural heritage work.	4 Weeks	<b>28 days</b> review time allowed under OEH Aboriginal community consultation guidelines.
Information gathering	Ongoing	Until finalisation of report.
Site inspection with selected representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties	TBC <sup>1</sup>	
Test excavations with selected representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties (Only if required)	TBC	Only if required
Review of the draft report	TBC	<b>28 days</b> review time allowed under OEH Aboriginal community consultation guidelines.
Final Report	TBC	

---

<sup>1</sup> TBC = to be confirmed.

## **Responsibilities and roles**

As part of the consultation process registered Aboriginal parties are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate in accordance with their role specified in the guidelines (DECCW 2010).

Biosis and Overland, in accordance with their role under the guidelines, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders. Biosis invites Aboriginal stakeholders to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then the Aboriginal stakeholder should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or the information in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me in the office on (02) 4201 1056.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Atkinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Atkinson  
Senior Archaeologist  
0409 199 785  
[aatkinson@biosis.com.au](mailto:aatkinson@biosis.com.au)

## **References**

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. 2010. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Sydney NSW.

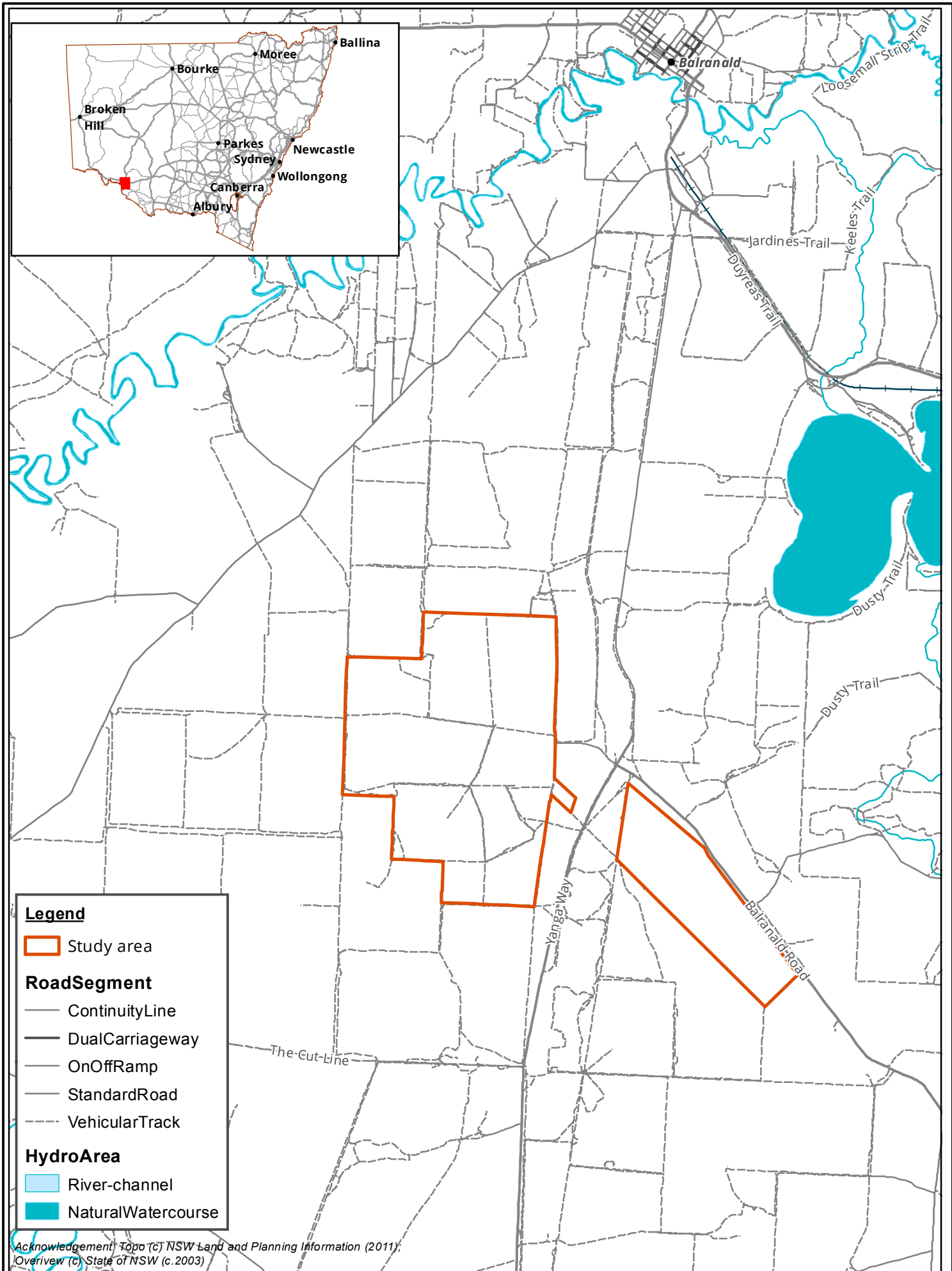
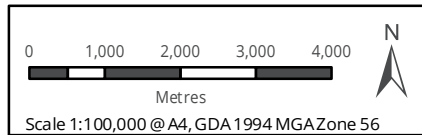


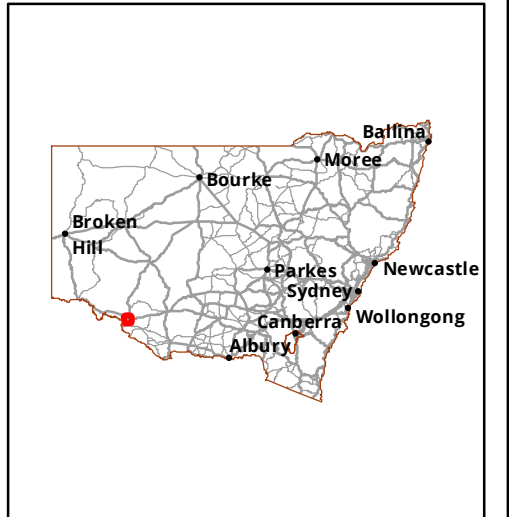
Figure 1: Location of the study area



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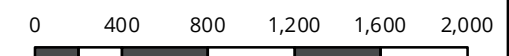
Matter: 23049  
Date: 19 December 2016,  
Checked by: ALA, Drawn by: JMS, Last edited by: mlooby  
Location: P:\23000s\23049\Mapping\





**Legend**  
 Study area

**Figure 2: Location of the Project Area**



Metres  
 Scale: 1:35,000 @ A3  
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,  
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 Location: P:\23000s\23049\Mapping\23049\_F2\_StudyArea.mxd

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## Appendix 4 Stage 3: Gathering information about cultural significance

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19 December 2016

Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council

PO Box 187  
Balranald NSW 2715

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Project Methodology Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

Thank you for your registration of interest in this project. Attached is information about the proposed project and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) methodology. This document also includes the methodology for collecting information regarding cultural significance.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a), we are providing the proposed methodology for a survey of the study area for your review and feedback on behalf of Overland Sun Farming Company.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis Pty Ltd by **5 pm 16 January 2016** either by email, phone or return mail.

**Please address feedback on the methodology to:**

Amanda Atkinson  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
aatkinson@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist

Biosis Pty Ltd  
**Wollongong Resource Group**

8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Phone: 02 4229 5222  
Fax: 03 9646 9242

ACN 006 175 097  
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: [wollongong@biosis.com.au](mailto:wollongong@biosis.com.au)

[biosis.com.au](http://biosis.com.au)

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Biosis Pty Ltd recently completed a desktop due diligence assessment for Aboriginal archaeological heritage for the proposed works. The assessment did not conduct a site survey and so does not meet the requirements of the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b). The desktop assessment identified 5 AHIMS sites in the study area and determined there was a high potential for further unrecorded Aboriginal heritage sites to be present. It was recommended that further assessment be conducted prior to works starting.

Accordingly, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken that will involve undertaking a site survey, possible test excavations required for the project approvals process through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The methodology is detailed below for both survey and test excavations.

### **Assessment Methodology**

#### **Aims of the Survey**

The principle aims of the survey are to:

- Provide RAPs an opportunity to view the study area and to discuss previously identified Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in or within close proximity to the study area.
- To undertake a systematic survey of the study area, while targeting areas with the potential for Aboriginal heritage.
- To inspect listed sites within the study area and to record their current condition.
- Identify and record Aboriginal archaeological sites visible on the ground surface.
- Identify and record areas of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs).

#### **Survey Methodology**

The survey methods are intended to assess and understand the landforms and to determine whether any archaeological material from Aboriginal occupation or land use exists within the study area. Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken if possible. Photographs and recording techniques will be incorporated into the survey including representative photographs of survey units, landforms, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility and the recording of soil information for each survey unit. Any Aboriginal objects observed during the survey will be documented and photographed. Since this is purely a survey, no artefacts are to be removed from the site.

Recording during the survey will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular The Code (DECCW 2010a).

Specific information that will be recorded during the survey includes:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area
- Survey coverage
- Survey effectiveness
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people
- Landforms and general soil information
- Photographs of the site indicating landforms
- Evidence of disturbance
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees, shell middens or any other Aboriginal sites.

Distinguishing landform elements and their association with Aboriginal cultural heritage will assist with the identification of site patterning, though with the awareness of the following limitations:

- The degree of ground surface visibility (GSV) and amount of exposed areas can significantly bias the discovery of surface artefacts.
- Cultural material exposed on the surface is not necessarily representative of the potential extent of the site (either horizontally or vertically).

Information about the presence of potentially exploitable resources helps contribute to predictions of the Aboriginal sites that may occur within the study area. Information about GSV, DV and areas of exposures help to provide a general indication of the effectiveness of the survey for identifying Aboriginal cultural heritage exposed to the surface. Observable disturbances are also considered when assessing the integrity of known or potential sites in an area. The location of Aboriginal cultural heritage and points marking the boundary of the landform elements will be recorded using a hand-held Global Positioning System and the Map Grid of Australia (94) coordinate system.

### **Test excavation methodology (if required)**

#### **Aims of the Sub-surface test excavations (if required)**

If the survey identifies the need for test excavations then the principle objectives of the subsurface test excavations will be to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any archaeological sites located within areas of archaeological potential.

The aims of the testing program will be to:

- Determine whether sub-surface archaeological deposits exist which may be impacted upon by the development
- If so, to determine the extent and nature of such deposits
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, shell midden deposits, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.

### **Test excavation sampling strategy (if required)**

Test excavations across the study area will conform to the following methodology:

- Test excavations will be undertaken in areas as identified having the potential to contain Aboriginal cultural material.
- Area will be systematically gridded at 20 metre intervals to provide test excavation units locations.
- Test excavation units will consist of 50 by 50 centimetre test pits, in order to determine the nature of sub-surface deposit and presence of any possible archaeological deposits.
- Test excavations units must be excavated using hand tools only including spades, handle shovels, and trowels.
- The first test excavation unit will be excavated and documented in 5 centimetre spits. Based on the evidence of the first excavation unit, 10 centimetre spits or sediment profile/stratigraphic excavation (whichever is smaller) will then be implemented.
- All material excavated from the test excavation units must be sieved using nested 5 millimetre aperture wire-mesh sieves.
- Test excavation units must be excavated to at least the base of the identified Aboriginal object-bearing units, and must continue to confirm the soils below are culturally sterile.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office at 8 Tate Street, Wollongong for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
  - Unique test pit identification number
  - GPS coordinate of each test pit
  - Munsell soil colour, texture and pH
  - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit
  - Nature of disturbance where present
  - Stratigraphy
  - Archaeological features (if present)
  - Photographic records
  - Spit records.
- Test excavation units must be backfilled as soon as practicable due to safety issues.

Following test excavation, an Aboriginal Site Recording form must be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar as soon as practicable, for each AHIMS site that has been identified.

Standard protocol for the discovery of any human remains is to be followed in the event that human remains are discovered.

## **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report**

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the proposed development. The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (2010a)* and the Consultation Guidelines 2010.

The report will contain:

- Aboriginal Consultation Process
- Environmental Context
- Aboriginal Archaeological Context
- Survey Results
- Aboriginal Site Significance Assessment
- Impact Assessment
- Management Strategies
- Maps.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.

Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.

These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR. Overland and Biosis will consider and respond to all comments and will also explain how suggestions concerning management strategies were considered and/or implemented in the finalisation of the EIS (DECCW 2010a, p. 6).

## **References**

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. 2010a. *Code of practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales 2010*. NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Sydney NSW.

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. 2010b. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Sydney NSW.

19 December 2016

John Jackson

Dear John,

**RE: Project Methodology Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

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It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis Pty Ltd by **5 pm 16 January 2016** either by email, phone or return mail.

**Please address feedback on the methodology to:**

Amanda Atkinson  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
aatkinson@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist

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Accordingly, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken that will involve undertaking a site survey, possible test excavations required for the project approvals process through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The methodology is detailed below for both survey and test excavations.

### **Assessment Methodology**

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The principle aims of the survey are to:

- Provide RAPs an opportunity to view the study area and to discuss previously identified Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in or within close proximity to the study area.
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#### **Survey Methodology**

The survey methods are intended to assess and understand the landforms and to determine whether any archaeological material from Aboriginal occupation or land use exists within the study area. Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken if possible. Photographs and recording techniques will be incorporated into the survey including representative photographs of survey units, landforms, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility and the recording of soil information for each survey unit. Any Aboriginal objects observed during the survey will be documented and photographed. Since this is purely a survey, no artefacts are to be removed from the site.

Recording during the survey will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular The Code (DECCW 2010a).

Specific information that will be recorded during the survey includes:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area
- Survey coverage
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Information about the presence of potentially exploitable resources helps contribute to predictions of the Aboriginal sites that may occur within the study area. Information about GSV, DV and areas of exposures help to provide a general indication of the effectiveness of the survey for identifying Aboriginal cultural heritage exposed to the surface. Observable disturbances are also considered when assessing the integrity of known or potential sites in an area. The location of Aboriginal cultural heritage and points marking the boundary of the landform elements will be recorded using a hand-held Global Positioning System and the Map Grid of Australia (94) coordinate system.

### **Test excavation methodology (if required)**

#### **Aims of the Sub-surface test excavations (if required)**

If the survey identifies the need for test excavations then the principle objectives of the subsurface test excavations will be to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any archaeological sites located within areas of archaeological potential.

The aims of the testing program will be to:

- Determine whether sub-surface archaeological deposits exist which may be impacted upon by the development
- If so, to determine the extent and nature of such deposits
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, shell midden deposits, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.

### **Test excavation sampling strategy (if required)**

Test excavations across the study area will conform to the following methodology:

- Test excavations will be undertaken in areas as identified having the potential to contain Aboriginal cultural material.
- Area will be systematically gridded at 20 metre intervals to provide test excavation units locations.
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  - Archaeological features (if present)
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  - Spit records.
- Test excavation units must be backfilled as soon as practicable due to safety issues.

Following test excavation, an Aboriginal Site Recording form must be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar as soon as practicable, for each AHIMS site that has been identified.

Standard protocol for the discovery of any human remains is to be followed in the event that human remains are discovered.

## **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report**

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the proposed development. The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (2010a)* and the Consultation Guidelines 2010.

The report will contain:

- Aboriginal Consultation Process
- Environmental Context
- Aboriginal Archaeological Context
- Survey Results
- Aboriginal Site Significance Assessment
- Impact Assessment
- Management Strategies
- Maps.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.

Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.

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19 December 2016

Pappin Family Aboriginal Corporation  
Mary Pappin  
Balranald NSW 2715

Dear Mary,

**RE: Project Methodology Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

Thank you for your registration of interest in this project. Attached is information about the proposed project and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) methodology. This document also includes the methodology for collecting information regarding cultural significance.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a), we are providing the proposed methodology for a survey of the study area for your review and feedback on behalf of Overland Sun Farming Company.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis Pty Ltd by **5 pm 16 January 2016** either by email, phone or return mail.

**Please address feedback on the methodology to:**

Amanda Atkinson  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
aatkinson@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist

## **Project Methodology Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

The following information has been provided by Biosis on behalf of Overland Sun Farming Company in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties with the proposed methodology for the cultural heritage and archaeological assessment.

Biosis Pty Ltd recently completed a desktop due diligence assessment for Aboriginal archaeological heritage for the proposed works. The assessment did not conduct a site survey and so does not meet the requirements of the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b). The desktop assessment identified 5 AHIMS sites in the study area and determined there was a high potential for further unrecorded Aboriginal heritage sites to be present. It was recommended that further assessment be conducted prior to works starting.

Accordingly, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will be undertaken that will involve undertaking a site survey, possible test excavations required for the project approvals process through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The methodology is detailed below for both survey and test excavations.

### **Assessment Methodology**

#### **Aims of the Survey**

The principle aims of the survey are to:

- Provide RAPs an opportunity to view the study area and to discuss previously identified Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in or within close proximity to the study area.
- To undertake a systematic survey of the study area, while targeting areas with the potential for Aboriginal heritage.
- To inspect listed sites within the study area and to record their current condition.
- Identify and record Aboriginal archaeological sites visible on the ground surface.
- Identify and record areas of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs).

#### **Survey Methodology**

The survey methods are intended to assess and understand the landforms and to determine whether any archaeological material from Aboriginal occupation or land use exists within the study area. Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken if possible. Photographs and recording techniques will be incorporated into the survey including representative photographs of survey units, landforms, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility and the recording of soil information for each survey unit. Any Aboriginal objects observed during the survey will be documented and photographed. Since this is purely a survey, no artefacts are to be removed from the site.

Recording during the survey will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular The Code (DECCW 2010a).

Specific information that will be recorded during the survey includes:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area
- Survey coverage
- Survey effectiveness
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people
- Landforms and general soil information
- Photographs of the site indicating landforms
- Evidence of disturbance
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees, shell middens or any other Aboriginal sites.

Distinguishing landform elements and their association with Aboriginal cultural heritage will assist with the identification of site patterning, though with the awareness of the following limitations:

- The degree of ground surface visibility (GSV) and amount of exposed areas can significantly bias the discovery of surface artefacts.
- Cultural material exposed on the surface is not necessarily representative of the potential extent of the site (either horizontally or vertically).

Information about the presence of potentially exploitable resources helps contribute to predictions of the Aboriginal sites that may occur within the study area. Information about GSV, DV and areas of exposures help to provide a general indication of the effectiveness of the survey for identifying Aboriginal cultural heritage exposed to the surface. Observable disturbances are also considered when assessing the integrity of known or potential sites in an area. The location of Aboriginal cultural heritage and points marking the boundary of the landform elements will be recorded using a hand-held Global Positioning System and the Map Grid of Australia (94) coordinate system.

### **Test excavation methodology (if required)**

#### **Aims of the Sub-surface test excavations (if required)**

If the survey identifies the need for test excavations then the principle objectives of the subsurface test excavations will be to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any archaeological sites located within areas of archaeological potential.

The aims of the testing program will be to:

- Determine whether sub-surface archaeological deposits exist which may be impacted upon by the development
- If so, to determine the extent and nature of such deposits
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, shell midden deposits, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.

### **Test excavation sampling strategy (if required)**

Test excavations across the study area will conform to the following methodology:

- Test excavations will be undertaken in areas as identified having the potential to contain Aboriginal cultural material.
- Area will be systematically gridded at 20 metre intervals to provide test excavation units locations.
- Test excavation units will consist of 50 by 50 centimetre test pits, in order to determine the nature of sub-surface deposit and presence of any possible archaeological deposits.
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- The first test excavation unit will be excavated and documented in 5 centimetre spits. Based on the evidence of the first excavation unit, 10 centimetre spits or sediment profile/stratigraphic excavation (whichever is smaller) will then be implemented.
- All material excavated from the test excavation units must be sieved using nested 5 millimetre aperture wire-mesh sieves.
- Test excavation units must be excavated to at least the base of the identified Aboriginal object-bearing units, and must continue to confirm the soils below are culturally sterile.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office at 8 Tate Street, Wollongong for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
  - Unique test pit identification number
  - GPS coordinate of each test pit
  - Munsell soil colour, texture and pH
  - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit
  - Nature of disturbance where present
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  - Spit records.
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19 December 2016

Wakool Aboriginal Corporation  
Cynthia Pappin  
PO Box 243  
Balranald NSW 2715

Dear Cynthia,

**RE: Project Methodology Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Limondale Solar Farm.**

**Our Ref: Matter 23049**

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Biosis Pty Ltd  
8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
aatkinson@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Amanda Atkinson**  
Senior Archaeologist

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Wollongong Resource Group

8 Tate Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Phone: 02 4229 5222  
Fax: 03 9646 9242

ACN 006 175 097  
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: [wollongong@biosis.com.au](mailto:wollongong@biosis.com.au)

[biosis.com.au](http://biosis.com.au)

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## Appendix 5 Stage 4: Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report

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## Appendix 6 Archaeological report

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