

MANGOOLA OPEN CUT

GLENCORE

28 April 2021

Planning Secretary
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Via: Major Projects Planning Portal

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Endorsement request of suitably qualified and experienced persons for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) preparation – SSD 8642

On 26 April 2021 the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approved the Mangoola Coal Continued Operations (MCCO) Project under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and issued Development Consent for State Significant Development (SSD) 8642. Condition B68(a) of SSD 8642 states:

B68. The Applicant must prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the development.

The plan must:

(a) be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary;

Mangoola Coal Operations Pty Limited (Mangoola) are hereby seeking endorsement from the Planning Secretary of Mr Ben Churcher, Principal Archaeologist at OzArk Environment & Heritage, as a '*suitably qualified and experienced persons*' to prepare the ACHMP for SSD 8642.

We would also ask this endorsement extends to future reviews of the ACHMP where input from suitably qualified/experienced persons is required. We also seek confirmation that minor reviews (e.g. of an administrative nature and general updates that do not impact agreed management strategies) may be completed without the assistance of the endorsed persons.

Mr Churcher and his colleagues have completed extensive archaeological assessment and due diligence programs at Mangoola over a number of years. Mr Churcher was the Project Director for the MCCO Project *Aboriginal Archaeological Impact Assessment* (OzArk, 2019) and has completed numerous ACHMP's in NSW. Mr Churcher's curriculum vitae is provided in **Attachment 1** for your consideration.

We would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience to enable the preparation of the ACHMP and distribution to Heritage NSW and Registered Aboriginal Parties for consultation as per SSD 8642 Condition B68(b).

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Please feel free to contact me at any stage if you would like any further information in relation to the content of this correspondence.

We look forward to your response.

Regards,



Nathan Lane
Environment and Community Manager
Mangoola Coal – A Glencore managed company
Tel: +61 2 6549 5503
Mob: +61 400 794 425
Fax: +61 2 6549 5655
E: nathan.lane@glencore.com.au

Attachment 1: Curriculum Vitae - Mr Ben Churcher (OzArk Environment & Heritage)

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ATTACHMENT 1

Curriculum Vitae - Mr Ben Churcher (OzArk Environment & Heritage)

MR BEN CHURCHER

Principal Archaeologist



Ben, Principal Archaeologist with OzArk Environment & Heritage, has over 37 years' experience as an archaeologist and has been employed with OzArk since 2003. His duties include project director with large scale survey and excavation programs. Ben has written numerous comprehensive reports concerning Aboriginal and historic heritage across NSW including the assessment of scientific values for a number of complex State Significant projects and regional studies for Councils and special activation precincts. Ben's extensive work overseas includes the University of

Sydney's excavations at the site of Pella in Jordan where he holds the position of Field Director. He has also worked on a range of projects in Australia focusing primarily on Aboriginal cultural heritage but he also has a keen interest in historical sites. Ben is also the primary reviewer of archaeological reports written by OzArk staff to ensure their high quality and consistent approach.

MAJOR PROJECTS

2020	Director: Assessment and reporting Snowy Mts Special Activation Precinct Project Manager: Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct heritage assessment Director: United Wambo Joint Venture Project salvage program, Hunter Valley Director: Bowmans Creek Windfarm survey and ACHAR preparation, Hunter Valley Director: Winterbourne Windfarm survey and ACHAR preparation, New England region Project Manager: Rangoon Wind Farm, New England region Co-Director: Copi Mineral Sands Project Test Excavation Program, Wentworth
2019	Author: Bulga Coal Complex Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP), Hunter Valley Author: Bulga Coal Complex Historic Heritage Management Plan, Hunter Valley Author: Ardmore Quarry ACHMP, Bungonia Author: Loders Creek Grinding Groove Relocation Area Plan of Management, Bulga Coal Complex, Hunter Valley Director of Aboriginal heritage assessment for the relocation of the Narama Pipeline, Glendell Coal Mine, Hunter Valley Co-author: Pethville Uniting Church Conservation Management Plan, Bathurst Co-author: Broken Hill North Mine Life of Mine Management Plan Author: Heritage assessment of two structures at Burrinjuck Village Director: Maules Creek Coal Mine Oral History Project, Gunnedah Director: WaterNSW heritage assessments of water infrastructure assets, Blue Mountains Author: CBD and South East Light Rail Operational Heritage Management Plan
2018	Director of the archaeological assessment for the Mangoola Coal Continued Operations, Hunter Valley Director of the archaeological assessment for the Glendell Continued Operations Project, Hunter Valley Author: United Wambo Open Cut Project ACHMP Author: Wollombi Brook Conservation Agreement Area Plan of Management, Bulga Coal Complex, Hunter Valley



OzArk Environment & Heritage

145 Wingewarra St
(PO Box 2069)
Dubbo NSW 2830

Phone: (02) 6882 0118

Fax: (02) 6882 0630

enquiry@ozarkehm.com.au

www.ozarkehm.com.au

2017	Assistant-Director for the Mount Owen Continued Operations salvage program, Glencore, Hunter Valley NSW Director of the historic excavations at the Ravensworth Village site, Mount Owen Complex, Hunter Valley NSW
2003-2016	Director of the Bulga Optimisation Project archaeological salvage program. Glencore, Hunter Valley NSW Director of the Wambo United Open Cut Project archaeological assessment and test excavation program. Glencore , Hunter Valley NSW Director of the historic excavations at the Ravensworth Village site, Mount Owen Complex Author: Bulga Coal Complex ACHMP, Hunter Valley NSW

EDUCATION

1985	Diploma of Education, University of Sydney
1983	Bachelor of Arts with Honours, Majoring in Ancient History, University of Queensland
1982	Bachelor of Arts, Majoring in History and Geography, University of Queensland

WORK HISTORY

2003-present	<p>OzArk Environment & Heritage Principal Archaeologist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Archaeologist for both survey and excavation projects. This includes carrying out survey and excavation tasks, liaising with community representatives, supervision of staff and report writing. Report writing of both Aboriginal and historic Archaeological reports Plan and undertake excavations and assessments for large- and small-scale development projects Liaise with diverse client base, community stakeholders, Biodiversity and Conservation Division of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Aboriginal community consultation, external authorities, contractors and the general public
2006–2012	<p>University of Canberra Sessional lecturer and Tutor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running units on the Archaeology of Australia as part of the Cultural Heritage degree
1993 – 2020	<p>Astarte Design Associates Pty Ltd Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced ten video documentaries (along with support material) focusing on the science or archaeology, ancient Greek history and Australian history Duties include script and product development, finances, advertising copy, layout, general and administrative duties Develop and maintain (Web Master) of various websites, including OzArk and the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation at the University of Sydney
1990–2010	<p>University of Sydney The Centre for Continuing Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessional lecturer with topics including archaeology, ancient or modern history
1993 – present	<p>University of Sydney/Academy Travel Study Tour Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour Leader on specialist archaeology and history tours to Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Morocco, Mali, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, China and Mexico
1983 – present	<p>University of Sydney Archaeological excavations at Pella in Jordan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field supervisor, and since 1994 Field Director, at the Pella excavations. During this time Ben has excavated deposits including the Natufian (10,000 BCE), Bronze Age, Iron Age and Byzantine periods. Site photographer from 1994-2001.

MEMBERSHIPS

1990 – present	Life Membership of the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation at the University of Sydney.
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