

**Appendix E.2    Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report**



View north across Lot 12 DP1115583 within the Development Footprint.

## **ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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### **COROWA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM**

FEDERATION LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

DECEMBER 2025

This report is not confidential and is for public distribution

Report prepared by  
OzArk Environment & Heritage  
for Corowa Energy Project Trust

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Heritage NSW



## ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT COVER SHEET

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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### **Acknowledgement**

OzArk acknowledge the traditional custodians of the area on which this assessment took place and pay respect to their beliefs, cultural heritage, and continuing connection with the land. We also acknowledge and pay respect to the post-contact experiences of Aboriginal people with attachment to the area and to the Elders, past and present, as the next generation of role models and vessels for memories, traditions, culture and hopes of local Aboriginal people.

## ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACHAR            | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. As set out in the <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i> , all developments where harm to Aboriginal objects is likely must be assessed in an ACHAR.         |
| ACHCRs           | <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Applicants</i> . Guidelines for conducting Aboriginal community consultation for developments where harm to Aboriginal objects is likely.                                                                 |
| AHIMS            | Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System. Administered by the DCCEEW, AHIMS is the central register of all Aboriginal sites within NSW.                                                                                                                        |
| AHIP             | Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit. Issued by Heritage NSW to allow harm to Aboriginal objects.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| BP               | Years before present                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Code of Practice | <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i> under Part 6 NPW Act. Issued by DECCW in 2010, the Code of Practice is a set of guidelines that allows limited test excavation without the need to apply for an AHIP. |
| DCCEEW           | NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. DCCEEW contains the Environment and Heritage Group including Heritage NSW.                                                                                                                         |
| DPHI             | NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. DPHI contains the Planning agency.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| EIS              | Environmental Impact Statement. A required document for major projects documenting all potential impacts to the environment, including heritage, that may arise due to the development.                                                                                 |
| GSE              | Ground surface exposure. A measure of factors that may reveal surface artefacts such as erosion scalds.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| GSV              | Ground surface visibility. A measure of factors that may obscure the detection of surface artefacts such as leaf litter.                                                                                                                                                |
| Heritage NSW     | Government department tasked with ensuring compliance with the NPW Act. Heritage NSW is advised by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC).                                                                                                         |

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Holocene: | Geological epoch which lasted from around 12,000 years ago (10,000 BCE) to the present. This period is generally warmer and wetter than the preceding Pleistocene period.       |
| NPW Act   | <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . Primary legislation governing Aboriginal cultural heritage within NSW.                                                            |
| PAD       | Potential archaeological deposit. Indicates that a particular location has potential to contain subsurface archaeological deposits, although no Aboriginal objects are visible. |
| RAP       | Registered Aboriginal Party. An individual or group who have indicated through the ACHCR process that they wish to be consulted regarding the Project.                          |
| SEARs     | Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements issued by DPHI.                                                                                                               |

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Flow Power (Utilacor Pty Ltd) on behalf of Corowa Energy Pty Ltd as trustee for the Corowa Energy Project Trust (The Applicant) is proposing the development of the Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS; the Project) at 275 Whitehead Street, Corowa NSW, 2646, in the Federation Local Government Area (LGA).

The Project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a BESS and will involve construction of the following primary infrastructure:

- 100 megawatts (MW) / 200MWh (100MW x 2hr) BESS and associated equipment
- Onsite substation
- Connection works to the existing Corowa substation
- Permanent office and control room
- Site access and parking.

The Project is a State Significant Development (SSD-87041214). The purpose of the assessment is to form part of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) being prepared by NGH to accompany an application for development consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by the Applicant to complete an *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (ACHAR) for the Project. This ACHAR has been undertaken to meet the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued for SSD-87041214. It has also been prepared as per the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011), and the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice; DECCW 2010a). The Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Project has followed the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Applicants 2010* (the ACHCRs; DECCW 2010b).

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) completed prior to the survey shows there are no previously recorded Aboriginal sites within or near the Development Footprint.

The field survey was undertaken on 8 October 2025 by Sophia Grubnic (OzArk Archaeologist, BA Ancient History [Hons] University of Queensland) and Dozer Atkinson representing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Pty Ltd.

No Aboriginal sites were identified and no landforms within the Development Footprint were assessed as having potential to contain subsurface archaeological deposits due to the extent of landform modification and a lack of elevated landforms adjacent to permanent or semi-permanent

water sources. Further, no Aboriginal cultural heritage values have been identified within the Amendment Assessment Area through consultation with the Aboriginal community.

Recommendations concerning Aboriginal cultural values within the Development Footprint are as follows:

1. Following development consent of the Project, the proposed work may proceed with caution. In the unlikely event that unexpected Aboriginal heritage items are encountered during work the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* in **Appendix 4** should be implemented. **Appendix 5** provides the appropriate procedure to be undertaken in the unlikely event that human remains are encountered.
2. This ACHAR concludes that the Project may proceed without further archaeological investigation under the following conditions:
  - a. All land and ground disturbance activities must be confined to within the Development Footprint, as this will eliminate the risk of harm to potential Aboriginal objects that may be in adjacent landforms. Should the parameters of the Project extend beyond the assessed Development Footprint, then further archaeological assessment may be required.
  - b. Prior to undertaking any land and ground disturbance activities, all staff and contractors involved in the proposed work should undergo a cultural heritage induction to ensure that they can recognise Aboriginal artefacts (**Appendix 6**) and are aware of the legislative protection requirements for all Aboriginal sites and objects under the NPW Act and are familiar with the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* and the skeletal remains protocol.



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PROJECT OUTLINE

Flow Power (Utilacor Pty Ltd) on behalf of Corowa Energy Pty Ltd as trustee for the Corowa Energy Project Trust (The Applicant) is proposing the development of the Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS; the Project) at 275 Whitehead Street, Corowa NSW, 2646, in the Federation Local Government Area (LGA) (**Figure 1-1**).

The Project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of up to approximately 100 megawatts (MW) / 200MWh (100MW x 2hr).

The Project would involve construction of the following primary infrastructure:

- 100MW / 200MWh (2hr) BESS and associated equipment
- Onsite substation
- Connection works to the existing Corowa substation
- Permanent office and control room
- Site access and parking.

The Project is a State Significant Development (SSD-87041214). The purpose of the assessment is to form part of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) to accompany an application for development consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

## 1.2 PROPOSED WORK

The Project comprises the development, construction, operation and decommissioning of a BESS facility that would store electricity from the grid and release it during periods of high demand.

Key features of the Project would include:

- Permanent electrical infrastructure:
  - A BESS with a capacity of up to 100 MW / 200 MWh:
    - comprised of Lithium-Ion Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) battery storage units
    - enclosed in 60 containers (approx. 5,000 cells per container)
  - Switch room, power inverters, High Voltage (HV) transformers and HV switchgear
  - 30 x Medium Voltage Power Station (MVPS) Power Conversion Systems (PCS)
  - Harmonic filter

- Above ground, below ground (or a combination of both) transmission connection from the proposed BESS to the neighbouring existing 132 / 22 kilovolt (kV) Essential Energy Corowa substation site
- Permanent ancillary infrastructure:
  - Operation and maintenance facility including site office
  - A Battery Management System to monitor individual battery cell health and integrated fire monitoring and control systems
  - Internal vehicle access tracks and parking
  - Security fencing, lighting, signage and lightning protection
  - Water tanks
  - Parking / garage
  - Security fencing
  - Access off Whitehead Street for:
    - Dedicated access to the host landholder's property and dwelling
    - Dedicated access to the BESS facility.
- Temporary construction facilities including:
  - Construction compound and laydown areas
  - Temporary vehicle access tracks and parking.
- Environmental management provisions
  - Screening vegetation
  - A noise wall and amenity (solid) screening fence.

The Project Site, selected and investigated for the siting of the Project, and the proposed Development Footprint, where all construction and operational activities would be confined, are detailed in **Section 1.3** and **1.4** respectively.

The conceptual layout of the Project is shown on **Figure 1-2**.

### 1.3 PROJECT SITE

The Project Site describes the land selected for siting of the Project. In total the Project Site covers an area of approximately 42.3 hectares (ha) of land across Lots 11 and 12 DP1115583 (**Figure 1-3**). The Project will be located on a privately owned lot (Lot 12 DP1115583) on a property named 'Yanina'. Connecting works will take place across the adjacent lot comprising Essential Energy's Corowa substation (Lot 11 DP1115583).

## 1.4 DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT

The Development Footprint describes the area that would be impacted directly by the Project (including temporary construction impacts). The Development Footprint includes the following three discrete areas (**Figure 1-3**):

- 10.19 ha of land across Lots 11 and 12 DP1115583 and the adjoining corridors of Whitehead Street
- 1.8 ha of land at the intersection of Whitehead Street and the Riverina Highway
- 1.8 ha of land at the intersection of Bullecourt Road and Honour Avenue.

## 1.5 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by the Applicant to complete an *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (ACHAR) for the Project. Potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage from the Project are addressed in this report in accordance with relevant regulatory requirements and guidelines.



Figure 1-1: Regional location of the Project.

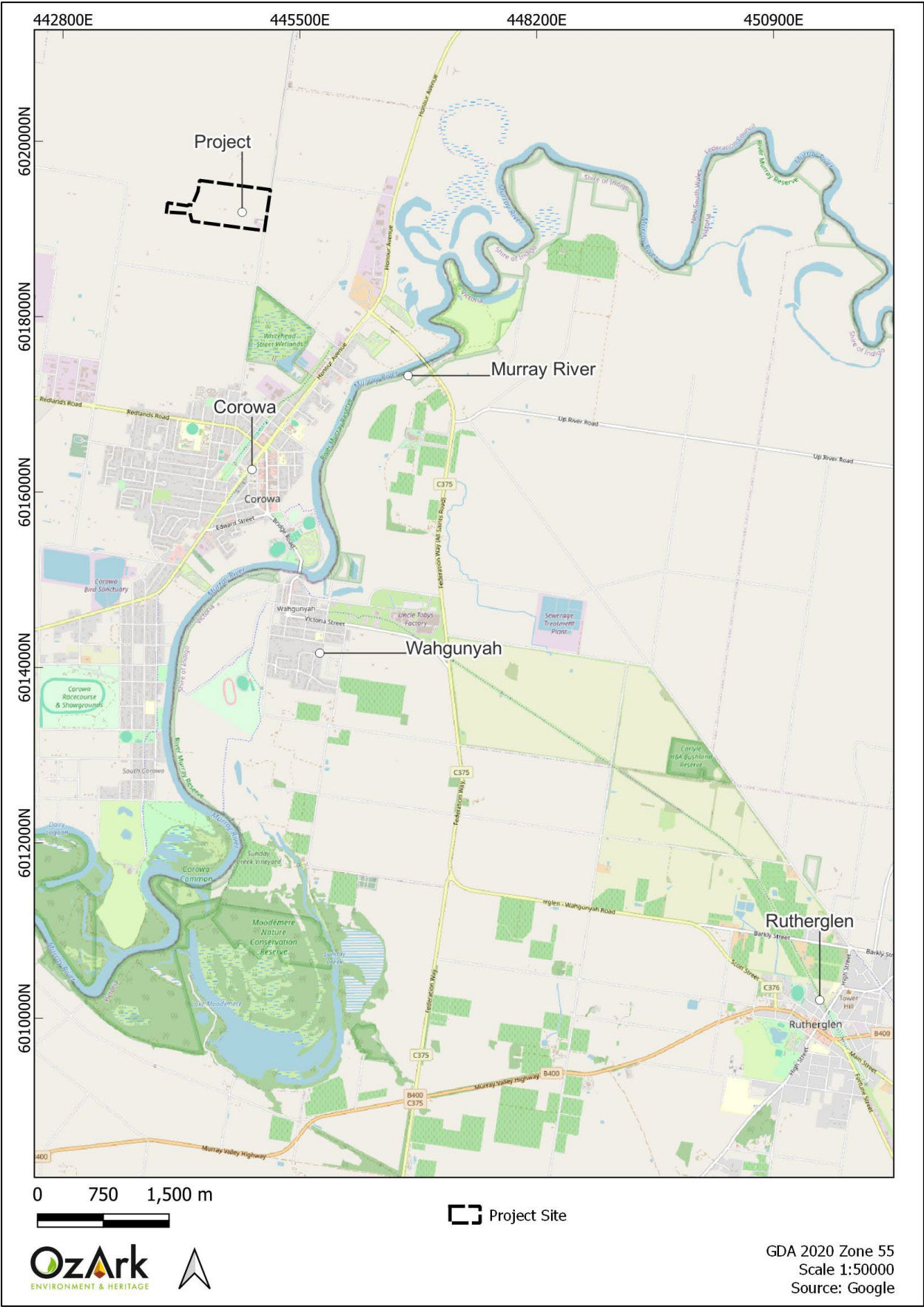




Figure 1-2: Conceptual layout of the Project (provided by Flow Power).

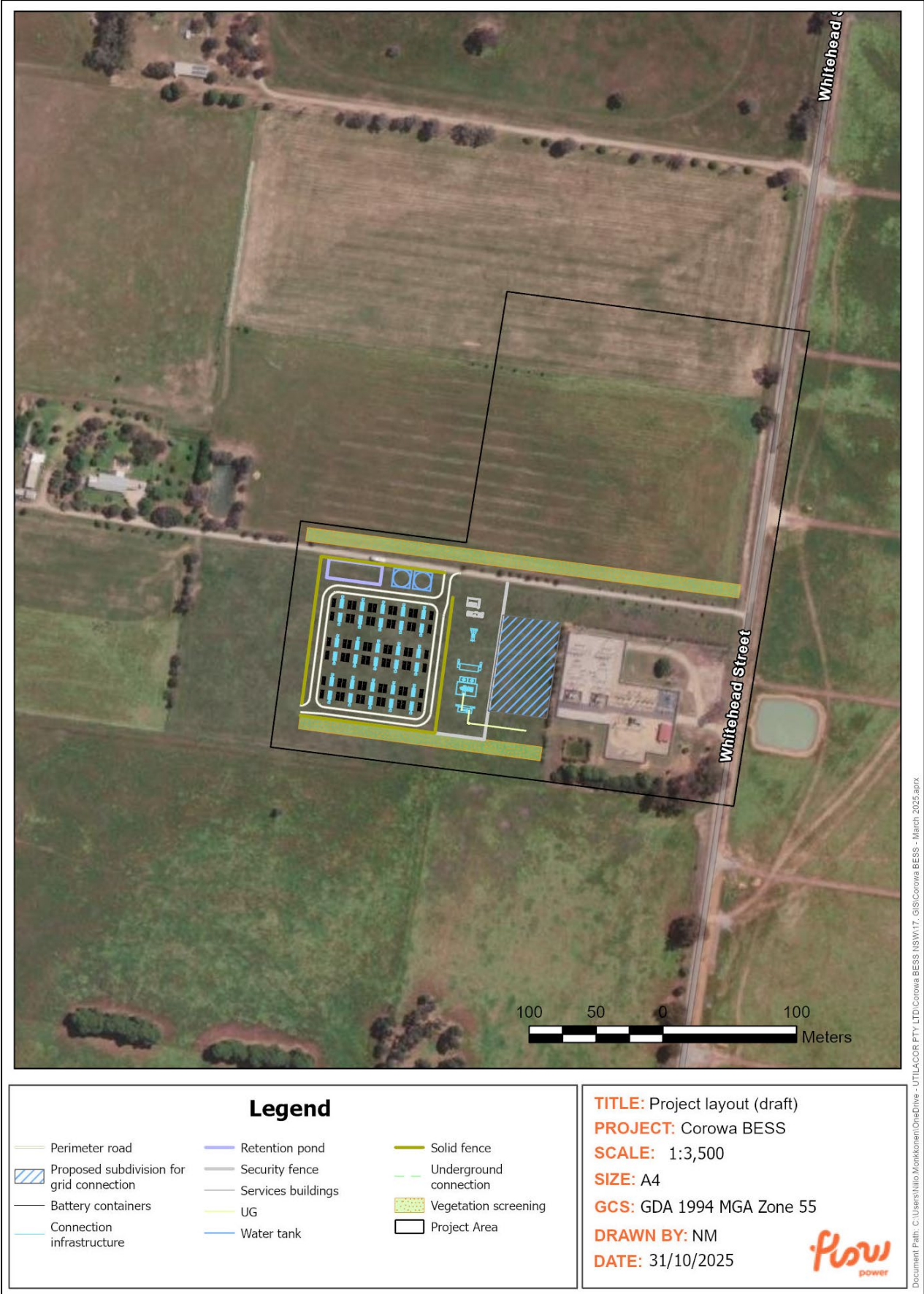




Figure 1-3: Project Site and Development Footprint.



## 2 THE ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

#### 2.1.1 *Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)*

SEARs for the Project (SSD-87041214) were issued by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 23 July 2025. In relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, the SEARs state:

- *an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared in accordance with the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011) and the Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010), identifying, describing, and assessing any impacts to any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the site (including impacts from any proposed earth works, construction works and road upgrades), including results of archaeological test excavations (where required), undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards and requirements;*
- *evidence of adequate consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts, identifying and selecting options for avoidance of Aboriginal cultural heritage and identifying appropriate mitigation measures (including the final proposed measures), having regard to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Applicants (DECCW, 2010)*

No additional requirements from Heritage NSW are contained in the SEARs.

This ACHAR has been prepared to meet the requirements of the SEARs.

### 2.2 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Cultural heritage is managed by several state and national Acts. Baseline principles for the conservation of heritage places and relics can be found in the *Burra Charter* (Burra Charter). The *Burra Charter* has become the standard of best practice in the conservation of heritage places in Australia, and heritage organisations and local government authorities have incorporated the inherent principles and logic into guidelines and other conservation planning documents. The *Burra Charter* generally advocates a cautious approach to changing places of heritage significance. This conservative notion embodies the basic premise behind legislation designed to protect our heritage, which operates primarily at a state level.

Several Acts of parliament provide for the protection of heritage at various levels of government.

## 2.2.1 Commonwealth legislation

### 2.2.1.1 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, provides a framework to protect nationally significant flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places. The EPBC Act establishes both a National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List of protected places. These lists may include Aboriginal cultural sites or sites in which Aboriginal people have interests. The assessment and permitting processes of the EPBC Act are triggered when a proposed activity or development could potentially have an impact on one of the matters of national environment significance listed by the Act. Ministerial approval is required under the EPBC Act for proposals involving significant impacts to national/commonwealth heritage places.

### 2.2.1.2 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* is aimed at the protection from injury and desecration of areas and objects that are of significance to Aboriginal Australians. This legislation has usually been invoked in emergency and conflicted situations.

#### Applicability to the Project

It is noted there are no Commonwealth or National heritage listed places within the Development Footprint (refer to **Table 5-1**), and as such, the heritage provisions of the EPBC Act and other Commonwealth Acts do not apply.

## 2.2.2 State legislation

### 2.2.2.1 *EP&A Act*

The EP&A Act established requirements relating to land use and planning. The main parts of the EP&A Act that relate to development assessment and approval are Part 4 (development assessment) and Part 5 (environmental assessment). The purpose of the Part 5 assessment system is to ensure public authorities fully consider environmental issues before they undertake or approve activities that do not require development consent from a council or the Minister. The Minister responsible for the Act is the Minister for Planning.

The EP&A Act currently provides the primary legislative basis for planning and environmental assessment in NSW. The objects of the EP&A Act include encouragement of:

- The proper management, development, and conservation of natural resources
- The provision and coordination of the orderly and economic use and development of land



- Protection of the environment, including the protection and conservation of native animals and plants, including threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and their habitats
- Ecologically sustainable development.

The objects also provide for increased opportunity for public involvement and participation in environmental planning and assessment.

The EP&A Act includes provisions to ensure that the potential environmental impacts of a development or activity are rigorously assessed and considered in the decision-making process.

The framework governing environmental and heritage assessment in NSW is contained within the following parts of the EP&A Act:

- Part 4: Local government development assessments, including heritage. May include schedules of heritage items
  - Division 4.7: Approvals process for state significant development

#### Applicability to the Project

The current Project will be assessed under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act.

As the Project is a SSD, if approved, Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act would apply and therefore an AHIP under section 90 of the NPW Act to harm Aboriginal objects would not be required. Instead, all management related to Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Development Footprint would be governed by the policies within an approved *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (ACHMP), if warranted to manage Aboriginal objects and sites.

#### **2.2.2.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974**

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides for the protection of Aboriginal objects (sites, objects, and cultural material) and Aboriginal places. Under the Act (Part 6), an Aboriginal object is defined as: any deposit, object, or material evidence (not being a handicraft for sale) relating to Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation both prior to and concurrent with the occupation of that area by persons of European extraction and includes Aboriginal remains.

An Aboriginal place is defined under the NPW Act as an area which has been declared by the Minister administering the Act as a place of special significance for Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain physical Aboriginal objects.

It is an offence under Section 86 of the NPW Act to 'harm or desecrate an object the person knows is an Aboriginal object'. It is also a strict liability offence to 'harm an Aboriginal object' or to 'harm or desecrate an Aboriginal place', whether knowingly or unknowingly. Section 87 of the Act provides a series of defences against the offences listed in Section 86, such as:

- The harm was authorised by and conducted in accordance with the requirements of an *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit* (AHIP) under Section 90 of the Act
- The defendant exercised 'due diligence' to determine whether the action would harm an Aboriginal object
- The harm to the Aboriginal object occurred during the undertaking of a 'low impact activity' (as defined in the regulations).

Under Section 89A of the Act, it is a requirement to notify the Secretary of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) of the location of an Aboriginal object. Identified Aboriginal items and sites are registered on Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) that is administered by Heritage NSW.

#### Applicability to the Project

Any Aboriginal sites within the Development Footprint are afforded legislative protection under the NPW Act.

The Secretary of DCCEEW will be notified of the location of an Aboriginal object recorded by sending the relevant details to the AHIMS register.

## **2.3 ASSESSMENT APPROACH**

The archaeological assessment followed the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (Code of Practice; DECCW 2010a).

The Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment followed the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (the Guide; OEH 2011) and the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for Applicants* (ACHCRs) (DECCW 2010b).

## **2.4 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this study is to identify and assess heritage constraints relevant to the proposed works.

The study will apply the Code of Practice, the Guide, and the ACHCRs in the completion of the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment to meet the following objectives:

- Objective One:** Undertake background research on the Development Footprint to formulate a predictive model for site location within the Development Footprint
- Objective Two:** Identify and record Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the Development Footprint. This includes intangible cultural values, Aboriginal objects, and any landforms likely to contain further archaeological deposits

**Objective Three:** To assess the significance of any recorded Aboriginal cultural values, Aboriginal objects, or sites in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)

**Objective Four:** Assess the likely impacts of the proposed work to Aboriginal cultural heritage values and provide management recommendations.

## 2.5 REPORT COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE

The Code of Practice establishes requirements that should be followed by all archaeological investigations where harm to Aboriginal objects may be possible. **Table 2-1** tabulates the compliance of this report with the requirements established by the Code of Practice.

**Table 2-1: Report compliance with the Code of Practice.**

| Code of Practice Requirement | Context of the Requirement                                                                            | Concordance in this report                                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Requirement 1a               | Review previous archaeological work                                                                   | <b>Section 5.2 and 5.3.2</b>                                             |
| Requirement 1b               | Review AHIMS searches                                                                                 | <b>Section 5.3.1</b>                                                     |
| Requirement 2                | Review the landscape context                                                                          | <b>Section 4</b>                                                         |
| Requirement 3                | Summarise and discuss the local and regional character of Aboriginal land use and its material traces | <b>Section 5.2 and 5.3.2</b>                                             |
| Requirement 4a               | Develop predictive model                                                                              | <b>Section 5.4</b>                                                       |
| Requirement 4b               | Present predictive model results                                                                      | <b>Section 5.4.3</b>                                                     |
| Requirement 5a               | Archaeological survey sampling strategy                                                               | <b>Section 6.1</b>                                                       |
| Requirement 5b               | Archaeological survey requirements                                                                    | This Requirement was fulfilled during the undertaking of the survey      |
| Requirement 5c               | Archaeological survey units                                                                           | <b>Section 4.1.1</b>                                                     |
| Requirement 6                | Site definition                                                                                       | <b>Section 5.4.1</b>                                                     |
| Requirement 7a               | Site recording information to be recorded                                                             | Not applicable to this report as no new sites were recorded.             |
| Requirement 7b               | Site recording: scales for photography                                                                | Not applicable to this report as no new sites were recorded.             |
| Requirement 8a               | Geospatial information                                                                                | Not applicable to this report as no new sites were recorded.             |
| Requirement 8b               | Datum and grid coordinates                                                                            | All coordinates are provided in GDA Zone 55.                             |
| Requirement 9                | Record survey coverage data                                                                           | <b>Section 6.1</b>                                                       |
| Requirement 10               | Analyse survey coverage                                                                               | <b>Section 6.3</b>                                                       |
| Requirement 11               | Archaeological Report content and format                                                              | This report adheres to this Requirement.                                 |
| Requirement 12               | Records                                                                                               | OzArk undertakes to maintain all survey records for at least five years. |
| Requirement 13a              | Notifying Heritage NSW of breaches                                                                    | Not applicable                                                           |
| Requirement 13b              | Providing Heritage NSW with information                                                               | Not applicable                                                           |
| Requirement 14               | Test excavation which is not excluded from the definition of harm                                     | No applicable as test excavation not warranted.                          |
| Requirement 15a              | Consultation regarding test excavation                                                                | No applicable as test excavation not warranted.                          |
| Requirement 15b              | Developing a test excavation sampling strategy                                                        | No applicable as test excavation not warranted.                          |

| Code of Practice Requirement | Context of the Requirement                                                      | Concordance in this report                                   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Requirement 15c              | Providing Heritage NSW with notification of the test excavation                 | No applicable as test excavation not warranted.              |
| Requirement 16a              | Test excavation that can be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice | No applicable as test excavation not warranted.              |
| Requirement 16b              | Objects recovered during test excavations                                       | No applicable as test excavation not warranted.              |
| Requirement 17               | When to stop test excavations                                                   | No applicable as test excavation not warranted.              |
| Requirement 18–20            | Artefact recording                                                              | Not applicable to this report as no new sites were recorded. |

## 2.6 DATE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The field survey was undertaken by OzArk on 8 October 2025.

## 2.7 OZARK INVOLVEMENT

### 2.7.1 Field survey

The fieldwork survey was undertaken by Sophia Grubnic (OzArk Archaeologist, BA Ancient History [Hons] University of Queensland).

### 2.7.2 Reporting

The reporting component of the heritage assessment was undertaken by:

- Report author: Sophia Grubnic
- Reviewer: Stephanie Rusden (OzArk Principal Archaeologist, BSc University of Wollongong, BA University of New England).



### 3 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL VALUES

*No matter who you are, we all have culture. Each person's culture is important; it's part of what makes us who we are.*

[australianstogether.org.au](http://australianstogether.org.au)

Many Aboriginal people in Australia have a unique view of the world that's distinct from the mainstream. Land, family, law, ceremony, and language are five key interconnected elements of Aboriginal culture. For example, families are connected to the land through the kinship system, and this connection to land comes with specific roles and responsibilities which are enshrined in the law and observed through ceremony. In this way, the five elements combine to create a way of seeing and being in the world that is distinctly Aboriginal.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are connected to Country through lines of descent (paternal and maternal), as well as clan and language groups. Territory is defined by spiritual as well as physical links. Landforms have deep meaning, recorded in art, stories, songs, and dance. Songlines or Dreaming Tracks as well as kinship structures link Aboriginal peoples to the territories of other groups. In the past, these links were also used for trade.

Living on this land for more than 50,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders established effective ways to use and sustain resources. One important aspect is the right of certain people to control the use of resources in a particular area, as well as cultural and spiritual values like totemism that were fundamental in resource management. There was a wide range of traditional methods for gathering food including fish traps, subsistence agriculture, hunting and harvesting a wide range of natural fruits and vegetables. Some groups of people would stay in one place, while others moved around the land according to the seasons, to ensure sustainable and rich food supplies, and to fulfil their spiritual and cultural obligations.

In much of eastern Australia, Aboriginal communities live their lives like most Australians. However, in certain crucial areas, particularly associated with family, leadership roles and caring for Country, Aboriginal lore continues, even in the most urbanised communities.

#### 3.2 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A major aim of this assessment is to identify any cultural values within the landscape in which the Project is located so that those values can be recognised and incorporated into the Project's management recommendations.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Project has followed the ACHCRs (DECCW 2010b). A log and copies of correspondence with Aboriginal community stakeholders is presented in **Appendix 1**.

The ACHCRs include four main stages, and these will be detailed in the following sections.

### 3.2.1 ACHCRs Stage 1

The aim of Stage 1 is to identify the RAPs who wish to be consulted about the Project.

An advertisement was placed in the *The Border Daily* on 6 June 2025 to solicit expressions of interest (**Appendix 1 Figure 2**).

A letter seeking information from various agencies was sent on 6 June 2025 (**Appendix 1 Figure 3**). These agencies were: Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*; Heritage NSW; National Native Title Tribunal; National Native Title Services Corporation Ltd (NTSCORP); Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), Federation Council, and the Murray Local Land Services. Replies from government agencies are provided in (**Appendix 1 Figure 4**).

Letters were sent to individuals and groups whose contact details had been provided by the government agencies (**Appendix 1 Figure 5**).

The following groups or individuals registered to be consulted as RAPs (**Appendix 1 Figure 6**):

- Albury and District LALC
- Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge
- South West Yiradyuri Clans (SWYC)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education Pty Ltd.

### 3.2.2 ACHCRs Stage 2

The aim of Stage 2 is to provide information about the Project to the RAPs.

Detailed Project information was provided in the assessment methodology that was issued to all RAPs for their consideration on 13 August 2025 (**Appendix 1 Figure 7** and **Appendix 2**).

### 3.2.3 ACHCRs Stage 3

The aim of Stage 3 is to acquire information regarding Aboriginal cultural values associated with the Project through RAP consultation and field work.

To inform the RAPs of the assessment, an assessment methodology was issued to all RAPs for their consideration on 13 August 2025 (**Appendix 1 Figure 7**). This document provided the archaeological context of the Development Footprint, a description of the proposed survey, and asked whether there were any cultural values that should be considered in the assessment.

RAPs were provided the stipulated 28 days in which to review and comment on the assessment methodology as per Stage 3 of the ACHCRs. The closing date for comment was 10 September 2025.

A response was received from Mark Saddler from Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge on 13 August 2025 providing feedback on the draft assessment methodology (**Appendix 1 Figure 8**). **Table 3-1** details the feedback provided by Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and OzArk's responses. The reply to Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge was provided by OzArk on 19 August 2025 (**Appendix 1 Figure 9**).

A response was received from Southern West Yiradyuri Clans on 17 August 2025 advising that they had reviewed the assessment methodology and had no comments (**Appendix 1 Figure 8**).

**Table 3-1: Feedback from Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and OzArk responses.**

| Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | OzArk response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Section 3.3.1.</b><br>Archaeological investigations near the study area.<br>Page18 Section OzArk 2025<br>I have concerns that the report states that "Ground surface visibility was extremely limited (10%)"<br><b>Response:</b> That should warranty another survey when conditions are more favorable to be able to see the ground. | Thank you for your comment on this other project. Please note that while visibility was low during the survey completed by OzArk (2025), the area had been previously assessed by Spenneman (1994) (summarised in Section 3.3.1 of the draft assessment methodology) which recorded several Aboriginal sites across the OzArk (2025) study area for the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant. The summary for OzArk (2025) will be amended so that it is clear this area was previously assessed by Spenneman (1994). |
| <b>Section 4.3</b><br>RESEARCH QUESTIONS:<br>One of your questions is "Is there evidence to suggest that Aboriginal people were using the area earlier than the mid to late Holocene? "<br>Response: Evidence is all about in this area and include the finding of several people who have been dated at about 18,000 years old          | Thank you. Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Section 5.3</b><br>SURVEY METHODOLOGY<br>Point 2 states "Some areas may not be physically surveyed if the RAPs and OzArk staff agree they are too disturbed or possess a very low likelihood of sites"<br><b>Response:</b> Regardless of any disturbance the whole area needs to be surveyed and looked over.                         | Noted. Following the Stage 2/3 review period, Section 5.3 will be amended to reflect this comment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| I also ask to have test excavation carried out in this location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | As noted in Section 5.2 of the draft assessment methodology, one of the aims of the field survey will be to determine if any landforms of the study area require test excavation to understand the archaeological potential at a particular location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Can you also advise which RAPs attended your survey work and if none I would ask for this work to be done again and have RAPs onsite?                                                                                                                                                                                                    | The survey for this project has not yet been undertaken. It will be completed following the end of the Stage 2/3 assessment methodology review period.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Also, any and all people who work on or with this project must have a Wiradjuri Cultural Induction delivered to them by a Wiradjuri knowledge holder who has training and assessment qualifications.                                                                                                                                     | The unanticipated finds protocol and requirements for cultural awareness training will all be outlined in the forthcoming Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). You're comments on this will be taken on board.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

### 3.2.3.1 *Aboriginal community participation in the survey*

The field survey as per Stage 3 of the ACHCRs was undertaken with the assistance of Dozer Atkinson, representing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Pty Ltd.

### 3.2.4 **ACHCRs Stage 4**

Stage 4 involves the production of a draft ACHAR that is issued to all RAPs for their consideration. The ACHAR will document the results of the assessment, outline opportunities for the

conservation of Aboriginal cultural values, and suggest recommendations for the management of Aboriginal objects should impacts to these objects be unavoidable.

One response was received from Mark Saddler from Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge on 4 November 2025 provided feedback on the draft ACHAR (**Appendix 1 Figure 10**).

**Table 3-2: Feedback from Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and OzArk responses.**

| Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | OzArk response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Firstly, could you please clarify whether a thorough cultural heritage survey was conducted at the intersections of Riverina Highway and Whitehead Street? This area is of particular interest, and confirmation of its inclusion in the assessment would be appreciated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | The road intersections at Riverina Highway and Whitehead Street were subject to survey. These sections are small, highly disturbed areas which cover active transport corridors. <b>Figure 6-1</b> on page 46 of the ACHAR shows the recorded pedestrian tracks across these areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Additionally, I have reviewed the area in question and noted the presence of a significant wetland adjacent to the proposed project area. Can you confirm whether the proximity to this wetland was considered in your report, and if so, what measures were taken to address any potential impacts?<br><br>See attached map, page 2, that indicates the wet land area that I have concerns over.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Section 4.3</b> of the ACHAR identifies two seasonal wetlands near the proposed BESS location: Whitehead Street Wetlands approximately 1.1 km to the south and Nulla Nulla Swamp approximately 1.2 km to the northwest, the latter being the one provided in your map. The locations of these wetlands, and other surrounding hydrological sources (particularly the Murray River), have been considered as part of this assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Given that this location is recognised as a traditional Wiradjuri travel route, I believe that test pits should be conducted in this area to ensure appropriate cultural and archaeological investigation. The significance of these routes warrants careful attention and thorough examination.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | As outlined in the assessment methodology provided as part of Stage 3 of the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (the ACHCRs; DECCW 2010) one of the aims of the survey was to determine if any landforms of the study area require test excavation to understand the archaeological potential at a particular location. <b>Section 6.4</b> of the ACHAR states that no landforms were identified as having subsurface potential. The reasoning for this conclusion is outlined in <b>Section 6.6</b> of the ACHAR.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| I would also like to inquire why only one Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) was present on site during the cultural survey, and why other RAPs, particularly those representing Wiradjuri interests, were absent. The involvement of multiple RAPs is crucial for a comprehensive and respectful assessment.<br><br>Furthermore, as the Albury Aboriginal Lands Council has an active land claim in the Corowa area, and is a Wiradjuri organisation, the area should be regarded as Wiradjuri and cross over country. This recognition is fundamental to ensuring appropriate engagement and representation throughout the project.<br><br>I reiterate my concern regarding the absence of Wiradjuri RAPs during the cultural survey and request clarification on why their participation was not done. | Due to the size of the study area it was considered that the survey could be adequately undertaken with one archaeologist and one RAP.<br><br>OzArk acknowledges that the land within the study area is within the boundary of the Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). It is also acknowledged in the ACHAR that some sources recognise the Corowa area as being within Wiradjuri Country while others recognised Corowa as being part of Bangerang Country, and that the land on either side of the Murray River is often considered a boundary zone in which multiple groups would interact and share in the river's resources.<br><br>As set out in Section 3.4 of the ACHCRs (DECCW 2010) registration as a RAP enables all RAPs to be involved with the consultation associated with the project including input into determining the cultural values of the landscape in which the project is located and providing comment on the management of any identified cultural values. Registration as a RAP, however, does not automatically imply that all RAPs will be involved in the fieldwork associated with the survey. Fieldwork comprises 'service provision' and sits outside the consultation process. |
| Also, it is important to confirm that cultural awareness programs will be delivered to all staff and contractors associated with this site and project prior to any soil disturbance. Such measures are essential to promote understanding and respect for the cultural values of the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The ACHAR recommends that all staff and contractors involved in the proposed work undergo a cultural heritage induction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### 3.3 CULTURAL VALUES IDENTIFIED THROUGHOUT THE ACHCR PROCESS

No specific cultural values were identified by the RAPs regarding the Development Footprint, however, the strong cultural values of Aboriginal communities towards landscapes and cultural heritage sites are recognised.

## 4 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

An understanding of the environmental context of a Development Footprint is requisite in any Aboriginal archaeological investigation (DECCW 2010a). It is a particularly important consideration in the development and implementation of survey strategies for the detection of archaeological sites. In addition, natural geomorphic processes of erosion and/or deposition, as well as human-activated landscape processes, influence the degree to which the remains of material culture are retained in the landscape as archaeological sites; and the degree to which they are preserved, revealed and/or conserved in present environmental settings.

### 4.1 TOPOGRAPHY

The Development Footprint is in the Riverina bioregion of NSW, specifically in the Murray Fans sub-region (NPWS 2003). The Riverina bioregion spans large portions of southwest NSW and central-north Victoria and includes the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers. Its geology is comprised of Quaternary age river channels, floodplains, backplains, swamps, lakes and lunettes (NPWS 2003). Within this landscape, the Development Footprint can be characterised as part of the region's broad, flat floodplains within the alluvial fans of the Murray River.

The Development Footprint consists entirely of flat plains and has a consistent elevation of 140 metres (m). The land within and surrounding the Development Footprint is primarily used for farming and grazing operations, with small portions being utilised for services including a substation and transport corridors.

#### 4.1.1 Survey units

Typically, survey units are devised based on the topography of the Development Footprint to identify the major topographical features of the Development Footprint and allow comparison of the archaeological potential of the major topographical features. This aids in understanding whether certain landform types are more likely to contain Aboriginal objects than others. The Development Footprint currently under investigation comprises 13.9 ha. As such, it is extremely self-contained and offers minimal topographical variability. The Development Footprint will consequently be assessed as a single survey unit.

The topography of the Development Footprint is primarily flat plain with a consistent elevation of 140 m. The BESS development area consists of two ploughed and cropped paddocks, and a 1.5 ha area which is currently used for the operational Corowa substation. The road intersection upgrades areas both contain flat landforms which are currently used as transport corridors and adjacent road reserve.

## 4.2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soil analysis has important ramifications for archaeological research through the potential impact of different soils on human activity (such as agricultural exploitation) and the impact of the soils on archaeological evidence (such as post-depositional movement).

The geology of the Development Footprint is underlain by the Lachlan Fold belt which characterised by folded and faulted Palaeozoic rocks (Chappell 2010). Individual lithic types are most often comprised of interbedded sandstone and shale, with chert and volcanics.

The Murray Fans subregion is characterised by a flat to gently undulating landscape on recent unconsolidated sediments with evidence of former stream channels, palaeochannels and broad floodplain areas associated with major river systems and prior drainage features. Alluvium deposits from the Cainozoic period gave rise to the red brown earths and texture contrast soils (Chromosols and Sodosols) (State Government of Victoria 2025).

Soils closer to the river channels are mostly sandy while the outer perimeters of the floodplains, such as where the Development Footprint is situated, are characterised by saline, heavy grey – brown clayey soils (Mitchell 2002).

## 4.3 HYDROLOGY

The main channel of the Murray River is located approximately 2.0 km to the east of the proposed BESS location, 315 m southeast of the intersection of Honour Avenue and Bullecourt Road and 4.5 km south of the intersection of Whitehead Street and the Riverina Highway. The Murray River is a major component of the Murray-Darling Basin and the river forms the NSW-Victorian border for over 1,800 km. The Murray River floodplain at Corowa contains heavily forested margins and is characterised by a complex network anabranches and oxbow lakes with smaller meandering tributaries located broadly across the landscape.

No ephemeral watercourses intersect the Development Footprint. Two seasonal wetlands are located within close proximity to the proposed BESS location, Whitehead Street Wetlands approximately 1.1 km to the south and Nulla Nulla Swamp approximately 1.2 km to the northwest.

## 4.4 VEGETATION

Vegetation in the Murray Fans sub-region is generally saturated by river red gum forests and river cooba on channels and lower floodplains. Other vegetation like yellow Box, black box, and saltbush appear on high floodplains and terraces. Dune vegetation is generally restricted to white cypress pines on sandy levees and lunettes. Common reed, cumbungi, and grasses are present in swamps (NPWS 2003). In pre-settlement times, the Development Footprint would have supported black box woodlands and salt-tolerant understory communities (e.g. saltbush).

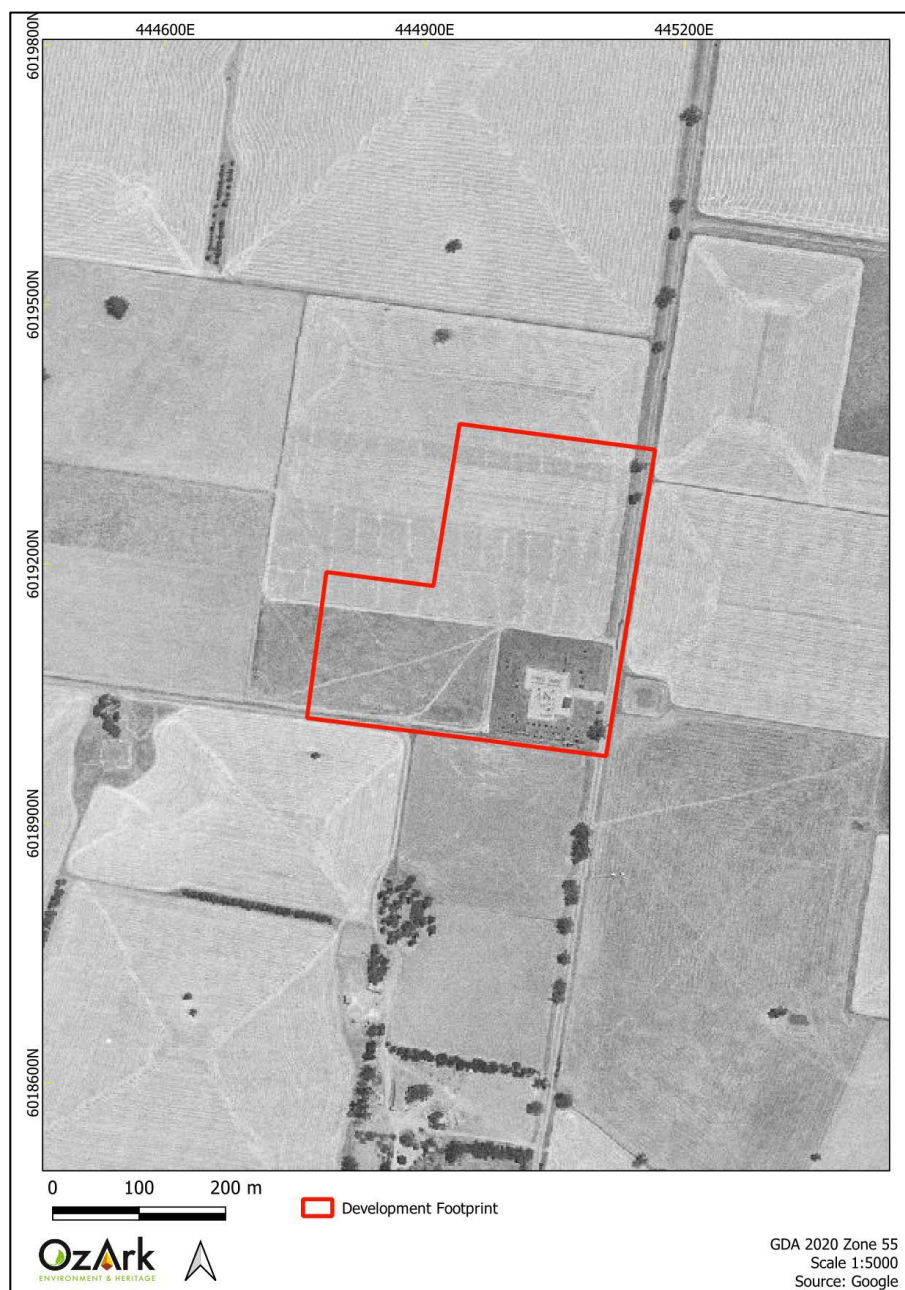


These plant communities would have supported a variety of native fauna and provided Aboriginal people with access to a range of plant and animal resources. However, resources likely to have supported a large population of people would have been present closer to the banks of the Murray River.

#### 4.5 LAND USE HISTORY AND EXISTING LEVELS OF DISTURBANCE

The Development Footprint is used primarily for grazing and cropping purposes. Disturbances inside the Development Footprint include the construction of the Corowa substation, construction of roads, vegetation clearance and cultivation. An aerial from 1977 which covers the Development Footprint shows there has been little change in terms of land use in the past 48 years (Figure 4-1).

**Figure 4-1: 1977 aerial with overlay of Development Footprint (source: SS 2021).**



## 4.6 CONCLUSION

The review of the environmental factors associated with the Development Footprint allows the following conclusions to be drawn in terms past Aboriginal occupation:

- Topography and hydrology: the flat plain landforms that dominates the Development Footprint near the floodplains of the Murray River would have provided resources to encourage occupation and use in the past, however, susceptibility to inundation would have made the Development Footprint largely unsuitable for sustained occupation. The Development Footprint is distant from reliable water. Aboriginal sites are more likely to present in association with permanent waterways like the Murray River. As such, the Development Footprint likely acted as a transitory zone for past Aboriginal people.
- Geology and soils: landforms which typically comprise outcropping rock, i.e., hills, are not present within the Development Footprint, and therefore sources of stone procurement for tool manufacture will not be present. The soils present in the Development Footprint are likely to have been affected by water erosion and are poor draining. The erosional qualities of the soils present will have influenced the likelihood for *in situ* archaeological deposits being present. Saline soils have increased erodibility due to factors like reduced vegetation cover and deteriorated soil structure. Furthermore, the widespread and comprehensive use of most of the Development Footprint for cultivation would have further promoted soil erosion and loss.
- Vegetation: the Development Footprint would have once supported an open woodland which would have provided some resources for Aboriginal subsistence in the past. However, resources likely to have supported a large population of people would have been present closer to the banks of more permanent water sources including the Murray River. The broad-scale vegetation clearance which has taken place across the Development Footprint for agricultural purposes reduces the likelihood that any culturally modified trees remain present, however, should mature native vegetation remain, particularly along the Riverina Highway, culturally modified trees may be present.
- Land use: ground surface disturbances such as vegetation clearance, cultivation, and grazing exist throughout the Development Footprint. These activities may have displaced Aboriginal objects and are likely to have reduced the potential for subsurface archaeological material. However, disturbance at a given location does not necessarily mean that there will be no cultural material present, as often a disturbed context will reveal objects which may have previously been subsurface. As noted above, initial vegetation clearing would also have significantly reduced the likelihood of culturally modified trees remaining.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

### 5.1 ETHNO-HISTORIC SOURCES OF REGIONAL ABORIGINAL CULTURE

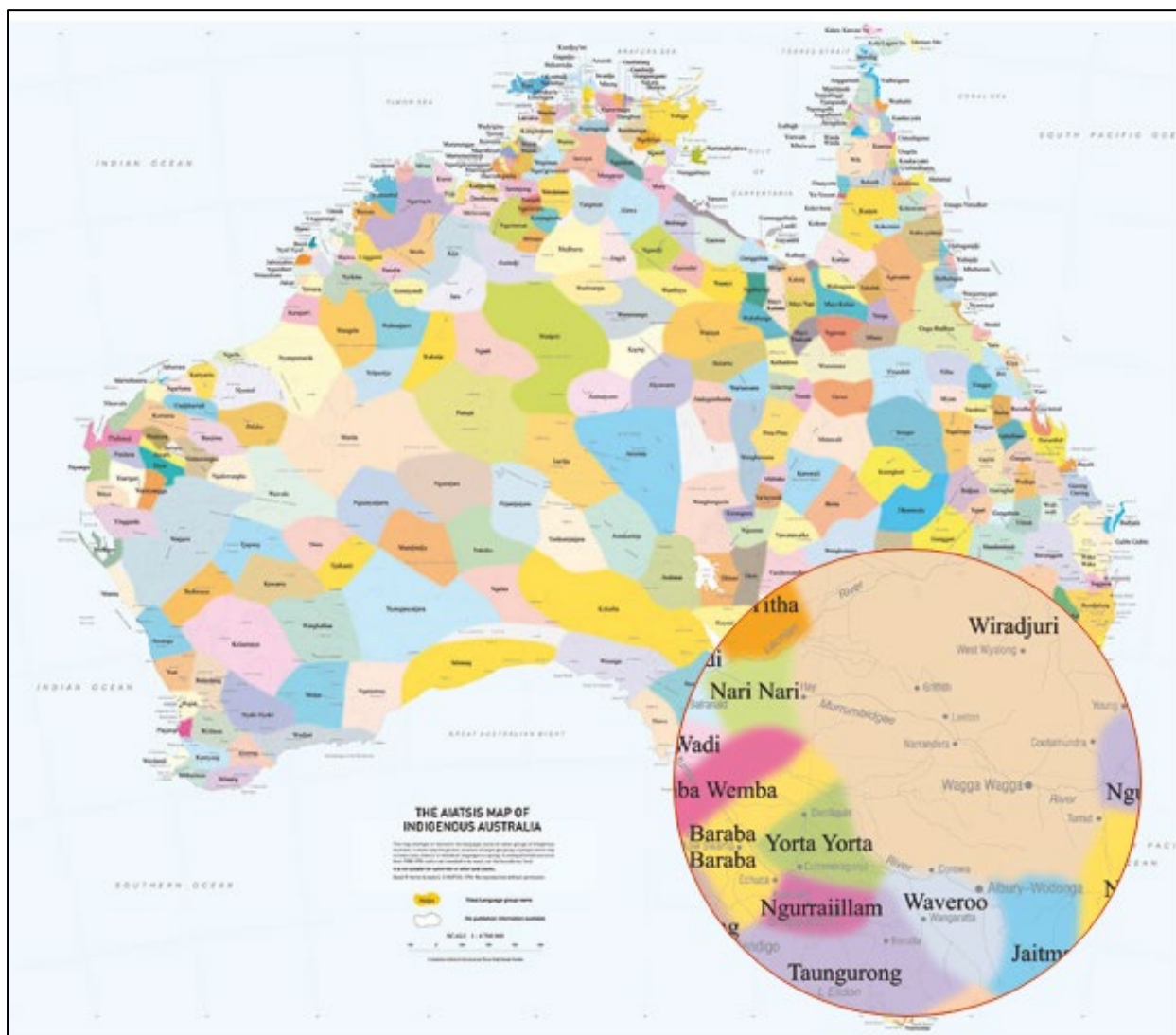
Aboriginal occupation of the land along the Murray River and in the Corowa region can be traced back to approximately 40,000 years ago.

Horton's map (1996) shows the Development Footprint situated within the territory of the people belonging to the Wiradjuri tribal and linguistic group, but near the boundary with the Waywurru (Waveroo) people (**Figure 5-1**). The area at Corowa is also recognised as land inhabited by the Bangerang people (NPWS 2003:95).

According to Tindale (1974) and White (1986), the Murray River forms the southern extent of the Wiradjuri territory; although it is worth noting that major rivers were not boundary or territory markers in Aboriginal culture as they are in the European tradition. Tindale's boundaries are principally derived based on Aboriginal language groups and should be interpreted with a degree of flexibility. It is generally accepted that Wiradjuri people shared lands on both sides of the Murray River.

The material cultures of the Wiradjuri consisted of a wide variety of hunting implements including wooden spears, boomerangs, fishing hooks, clubs, and shields. Such hunting tools were common throughout south-eastern Australia (Attenbrow 2010). Wiradjuri people also employed nets and traps for fishing (Clayton and Barlow 1997).

The Bangerang people used the Murray River as a primary resource for food, transport and communication, and are today frequently remembered for their bark canoes (NPWS 2003:95). The Murray River would have provided the local people with Murray cod, shellfish, and yabbies, with nuts, fruits, yam daisies, and orchid tubers being found across the landforms surrounding the river.

**Figure 5-1: Map of Indigenous Australia (Horton 1996).**

## 5.2 REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Development Footprint is located within the Murray-Darling Basin. Aboriginal people have occupied this part of Australia for over 40,000 years, with early occupation focussed on the resources of freshwater lakes and rivers and their floodplains. This occupation also occurred along various river channels that pre-date the present Murray-Darling River system (MDBMC 1987:353).

Archaeological evidence indicates that with the drying up of the lakes around 26,000 years BP (before present) in response to changes in climatic conditions, Aboriginal people remained near major rivers. However, by 4,000 years BP there is evidence of a major increase in site numbers and more intensive occupation of more marginal environmental regions (MDBMC 1987:354).

Prior to the 1980s only a few archaeological studies had been conducted within the Murray Valley region. These studies included academic theses (Bickford 1966 and Allen 1968) and a regional archaeological survey of the Murray Valley by Buchan (1974), which aimed at establishing a



preliminary register of sites in the area. Since that time, numerous archaeological studies have been carried out in the broader region around the regions, concentrated mostly in areas to the east of the Federation LGA, around Albury.

There are limited broad scale regional archaeological studies which either cover the Development Footprint itself or are in general proximity to it. These studies have been summarised below.

Report on Archaeological Survey — The Murray Valley, NSW (Buchan 1974)

One of the earliest archaeological investigations across the region was Buchan's survey of the Murray Valley which aimed at establishing a preliminary register of sites in the area. This assessment covered approximately 41,000 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) focusing on areas along the Murray River between Tooleybuc in the west and Albury in the east. Nearly 200 sites were identified. Approximately half were oven/hearth and mound sites ranging from over one metre (m) diameter and 0.1 m high to 1.2 m in diameter and 2 m high.

Of exception was an oven deposit at Mellool, located approximately 245 km west of the Development Footprint along the Murray River, which extended 150 m (Buchan 1974:38). Scarred trees were the next most common site type. Sixteen sites containing burials were identified. Of these, ten were associated with other cultural material including surface artefacts, middens and ovens. Seven shell middens were identified with freshwater mussel being the dominant species. Middens ranged in length from 15 m to 650 m and ranged in width from 2 m to 60 m. The average depth/thickness of deposit was 0.2 to 0.3 m.

An Archaeological Survey of Northeast Victoria (Thompson 1996)

Thompson conducted an archaeological survey of a large section of north-eastern Victoria, which was divided into three landscape divisions: Murray Basin Plains, Foothills, and Eastern Highlands. Sample surveying was undertaken, and a total of 111 Aboriginal sites were identified, including 69 scarred trees and 42 stone artefact occurrences (Thompson 1996:23). However, of the 69 scarred trees, Thompson (1996:23) suggested that 22 were of European origin. Of the Aboriginal scarred trees, 39 were on grey box, seven were on red box, and one was on a tree of unidentified species. Quartz dominated the stone artefact assemblage, excluding a particular exception associated with a silcrete outcrop. Of all the sites recorded, two-thirds were within 100 m of a water source and two-thirds of the stone artefact sites were within 500 m of a permanent water source. Thompson (1996:25) identified that the flats and terraces of the Mountains/Eastern Highlands category had high artefact density sites present.

Wiradjuri Heritage Study for the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area of NSW (Green 2002)

Green (2002) undertook a survey for the Wiradjuri Heritage Study which involved an extensive level of consultation with government, non-government and Aboriginal interests in the Wagga Wagga LGA, to the north of the present Development Footprint. Broadly the study aimed to

interpret the findings of archaeological findings from various assessments over the LGA. In relation to predictive models Green (2002:77), summarises that:

Quartz is the primary raw material however chert, silcrete, and quartzite are also known to occur.

Artefact scatters are likely to be identified in well drained areas near permanent water sources such as sand hills and creek levees.

Hearth stones and artefacts are likely to be exposed by erosion at the base of sand dunes and drifts.

Mussel shell deposits are often associated with ashy grey material and charcoal.

Burials are usually only detected after disturbance (machine or natural i.e. erosion) but are usually in naturally elevated sand dunes or alluvial landforms.

Modified trees can occur anywhere but are more common near water.

The Wiradjuri did not always live in transient camps but often concentrated, continued or repeated activity around certain camp sites and mounds.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values Strategic Mapping. Federation Council Local Government Area (OzArk 2009)

OzArk was engaged by the Federation Council (the Applicant) to undertake Aboriginal cultural heritage values strategic mapping of the Federation LGA.

The unique nature of the Federation LGA made strategic mapping of the Aboriginal cultural values within the LGA very difficult. These 'unique' features include:

- Few sites have been recorded in the LGA as it mostly consists of privately held farming properties. As there is a relative lack of sizeable towns, national parks, and industries such as extractive mining that usually result heritage surveys and, hence, site recordings, the sites that have been recorded appear to be due to a small number of heritage surveys and recordings by individuals. Therefore, the true site distribution within the Federation LGA is unknown and without some empirical evidence around which to frame a predictive model for site location, any strategic mapping is fraught with difficulties. As such, the results are very general, and, in the end, the mapping has used the usual variable of 'distance to water' as a major determining factor for Aboriginal site location, even though an analysis of the currently known site distribution within the LGA did not support this
- The LGA contains large areas of relic floodplains and terraces. Due to this fact, it is difficult to predict where sites may be located as the landscape has altered markedly over time. Commonly available aerials can show the ephemeral lakes/depressions and relic drainage channels. While most of these landforms are captured in the 'high' and 'moderate' archaeological potential categories in the strategic mapping, should any such



relic drainage features fall into the 'low' potential category landforms, it should be assumed that they may contain potential to contain Aboriginal objects.

In conclusion, the study found that the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Federation LGA are poorly understood and difficult to accurately map. This is unlikely to change until a more systematic heritage study is undertaken, first concentrating on the publicly held reserves and then including a sample of landforms from across the privately held farming properties.

The strategic mapping produced by OzArk 2009 indicates that the Development Footprint is in a landform with low archaeological potential.

## 5.3 LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

### 5.3.1 Desktop database searches conducted

A desktop search was conducted on the following databases to identify any previously recorded heritage within the Development Footprint. The results of this search are summarised in **Table 5-1** and presented in detail in **Appendix 3**.

**Table 5-1: Aboriginal cultural heritage: desktop-database search results.**

| Name of Database Searched           | Date of Search | Type of Search                                  | Comment                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Commonwealth Heritage Listings      | 6/6/2025       | Corowa LGA                                      | No places listed on either the National or Commonwealth heritage lists are located within the Development Footprint |
| National Native Title Claims Search | 6/6/2025       | NSW                                             | No Native Title Claims cover the Development Footprint.                                                             |
| AHIMS                               | 6/6/2025       | 20 x 20 km centred on the Development Footprint | No previously recorded sites occur within the Development Footprint.                                                |
| Local Environmental Plan (LEP)      | 6/6/2025       | Corowa LEP of 2012                              | No items of Aboriginal heritage significance occur near the Development Footprint.                                  |

A search of the AHIMS database returned 79 records for Aboriginal heritage sites within the designated search area. None of these records occur within the Development Footprint boundaries.

**Figure 5-2** shows the location of the AHIMS sites that have been recorded near the Development Footprint.

The most frequently recorded site types are modified trees (carved or scarred) which contribute 78.5% of the site types in the vicinity of the Development Footprint. Other site types are isolated artefacts (20.1%) and one instance of an artefact with an associated shell (1.3%) (see **Table 5-2**).

Site types found in this region are dominated by modified trees. The area surrounding the Murray River is notably flat which makes it prone to environmental events like flooding, weathering and erosion, limiting integrity for other site types to exist. It is also likely that any habitation within the

region of the Development Footprint would be limited to the Murray River due to the unsuitability of settlement in flatter areas.

**Table 5-2: Site types and frequencies of AHIMS sites near the Development Footprint.**

| Site Type                         | Number    | % Frequency |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Modified tree (carved or scarred) | 62        | 78.5        |
| Isolated artefact                 | 16        | 20.2        |
| Artefact with shell               | 1         | 1.3         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>79</b> | <b>100</b>  |

**Figure 5-2: Location of previously recorded AHIMS sites in relation to the Development Footprint.**

This figure has been redacted

### 5.3.2 Previous studies in or near the Development Footprint

There are several broad scale regional archaeological studies which cover the general vicinity and like landscapes to the Development Footprint. Some relevant studies have been summarised below.

#### Spenneman 1994

Spenneman (1994) conducted an archaeological survey for NSW Public Works in 1994 for the proposed Corowa Sewerage Augmentation Scheme. The survey covered two land lots within Corowa township. Fifteen sites were recorded comprising 14 hearth mounds (ovens) and one scarred tree, notably this last site was recorded as a possible culturally modified tree and was considered to be 'doubtful' (Spenneman 1994:14). These fifteen sites are all located within a one-kilometre radius of the Development Footprint (**Figure 5-3**).

Spenneman's oven mounds were recorded in various states of preservation, with only two being deemed 'well preserved', while eight were 'scattered', two 'very disturbed', and one was recorded as 'destroyed by canal' (**Figure 5-3**). The materials recorded at each oven mound site were mostly limited to amorphous raw materials determined to be heat-retaining manuports, including lumps of water-worn and rough-edged quartz, schist, and metamorphosed sandstone. No worked stone artefacts were observed.

**Figure 5-3: Sites recordings as detailed in Spenneman (1994).**

**Table 1. Sites encountered at Corowa, Survey Area B**

| Site N <sup>o</sup> | Type of Site                      | Dimensions (m) | Height (m)       | State of preservation                              |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| COR-B-1             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 4 x 4        | ~0.2-0.3         | well preserved                                     |
| COR-B-2             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 5 x 5        | ~0.2             | well preserved (?)                                 |
| COR-B-3             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 30 x 40      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-4             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 10 x 40      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-5             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 5 x 5        | surface          | very disturbed                                     |
| COR-B-6             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 25 x 30      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-7             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 20 x 30      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-8             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 40 x 60      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-9             | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 40 x 50      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-10            | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 8 x 20       | surface          | disturbed                                          |
| COR-B-11            | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 20 x 30      | surface          | very disturbed                                     |
| COR-B-12            | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 30 x 40      | surface          | destroyed by canal                                 |
| COR-B-13            | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 20x30        | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-14            | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 10x20 (?)    | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-15            | Scarred tree (?)<br>with boulders | —              | surface/standing | scar identity doubtful,<br>large boulders at base. |

### Hamm 1995

In 1995, Hamm completed an extensive survey in this region for the proposed construction of an optic fibre cable. The areas from Finley (96 km northwest of the Development Footprint) to Jerilderie and Darlington Point to Coleambally were subject to field survey. Areas of archaeological sensitivity were identified for the Finley to Jerilderie route at a small lake depression just south of Jerilderie and to the west of a small sand dune (Hamm 1995:5). Generally, sites were considered most likely in proximity to water sources (lake, creek or dry swamp), such as Berrigan Creek, or in elevated flat land such as sand dune crests, lunette or hummocky dune. Locations near water sources were predicted to contain artefact scatters or open camp sites and sand dune or lunettes to contain burials.

Scarred trees were predicted in areas of road reserves, where old growth native trees remain. Due to extensive historic disturbance seen in this region from grazing and farming it was deemed unlikely that surface sites would be identified.

The surveys resulted in three scarred trees located between Darlington Point and Coleambally. A further 17 scarred trees were identified along the Newell Highway between Finley and Jerilderie. These trees lined the travelling stock reserve next to the highway between Finley Canal and Berrigan Creek (Hamm 1995:7).

### OzArk 2008

In 2008, OzArk completed an assessment approximately 35 km west of Corowa for the proposed Mulwala to Finley 132 kilovolt (KV) electricity transmission line, stretching for 68 km. No Aboriginal sites were identified, and it was determined that there was low potential for intact, subsurface archaeological material in the assessment area due to the area comprising predominately plains with clay soils which experiences periodic inundation during flooding events, making them unsuitable for long term occupation. Further to this, no permanent water or rock sources were present in the assessment area, which has undergone extensive disturbance through clearing of native vegetation and agricultural cropping.

### OzArk 2025

In March 2025, OzArk Environment and Heritage completed a Due Diligence Assessment Report for the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant, approximately 5 km northeast of the Corowa BESS Development Footprint. The study area overlapped the area previously surveyed by Spenneman (1994) during which several oven mounds had been recorded. Ground surface visibility was extremely limited (10%) across the Development Footprint with negligible exposures (0 to 5%). Vegetation was largely juvenile with small amounts of quartz pebbles observed. High levels of disturbance were also noted across the Development Footprint. No previously recorded Aboriginal sites could be re-identified, and no new sites were recorded.

## 5.4 PREDICTIVE MODEL FOR SITE LOCATION

Across Australia, numerous archaeological studies in widely varying environmental zones and contexts have demonstrated a high correlation between the permanence of a water source and the permanence and/or complexity of Aboriginal occupation. Site location is also affected by the availability of and/or accessibility to a range of other natural resources including plant and animal foods, stone and ochre resources and rock shelters, as well as by their general proximity to other sites/places of cultural/mythological significance. Consequently, sites tend to be found along permanent and ephemeral water sources, along access or trade routes, or in areas that have good flora/fauna resources and appropriate shelter.

In formulating a predictive model for Aboriginal archaeological site location within any landscape it is also necessary to consider post-depositional influences on Aboriginal material culture. In all but the best preservation conditions very little of the organic material culture remains of ancestral Aboriginal communities survives to the present. Generally, it is the more durable materials such as stone artefacts, stone hearths, shells, and some bones that remain preserved in the current landscape. Even these, however, may not be found in their original depositional context since these may be subject to either (a) the effects of wind and water erosion/transport, both over short- and long-time scales, or (b) the historical impacts associated with the introduction of European farming practices including grazing and cropping, land degradation, and farm related infrastructure. Scarred trees, due to their nature, may survive for up to several hundred years but rarely beyond.

### 5.4.1 Site types in the region of the Development Footprint

The site types listed in **Table 5-3** are present in the region of the Development Footprint. The likelihood of these sites being present in the Development Footprint is discussed in **Section 5.4.3**.

**Table 5-3: Site types recorded in the region of the Development Footprint.**

| Site type              | Site description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Isolated finds         | May be indicative of random loss or deliberate discard of a single artefact, the remnant of a now dispersed and disturbed artefact scatter, or an otherwise obscured or subsurface artefact scatter. They may occur anywhere within the landscape but are more likely to occur in topographies where open artefact scatters typically occur.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Open artefact scatters | Artefact scatters are defined as two or more artefacts, not located within a rock shelter, and located no more than 50 m away from any other constituent artefact. This site type may occur almost anywhere that Aboriginal people have travelled and may be associated with hunting and gathering activities, short- or long-term camps, and the manufacture and maintenance of stone tools. Artefact scatters typically consist of surface scatters or sub-surface distributions of flaked stone discarded during the manufacture of tools but may also include other artefactual rock types such as hearth and anvil stones. Less commonly, artefact scatters may include archaeological stratigraphic features such as hearths and artefact concentrations which relate to activity areas. Artefact density can vary considerably between and across individual sites. Small ground exposures revealing low density scatters may be indicative of a background scatter rather than a spatially or temporally distinct artefact assemblage. These sites are classed as 'open', that is, occurring on the land surface unprotected by rock overhangs, and are sometimes referred to as 'open camp sites'. |



| Site type                 | Site description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           | Artefact scatters are most likely to occur on level or low gradient contexts, along the crests of ridgelines and spurs, and elevated areas fringing watercourses or wetlands. Larger sites may be expected in association with permanent water sources.<br><br>Topographies which afford effective through-access across, and relative to, the surrounding landscape, such as the open basal valley slopes and the valleys of creeks, will tend to contain more and larger sites, mostly camp sites evidenced by open artefact scatters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Culturally modified trees | Aboriginal scarred trees contain evidence of the removal of bark (and sometimes wood) in the past by Aboriginal people, in the form of a scar. Bark was removed from trees for a wide range of reasons. It was a raw material used in the manufacture of various tools, vessels, and commodities such as string, water containers, roofing for shelters, shields and canoes. Bark was also removed because of gathering food, such as collecting wood boring grubs or creating footholds to climb a tree for possum hunting. Due to the multiplicity of uses and the continuous process of occlusion (or healing) following removal, it is difficult to accurately determine the intended purpose for any example of bark removal. Scarred trees may occur anywhere old growth trees survive. The identification of scars as Aboriginal cultural heritage items can be problematical because some forms of natural trauma and European bark extraction create similar scars. Many remaining scarred trees probably date to the historic period when bark was removed by Aboriginal people for both their own purposes and for roofing on early European houses. Consequently, the distinction between European and Aboriginal scarred trees may not be clear. |
| Middens                   | Formed from Aboriginal exploitation and consumption of shellfish, in marine, estuarine, or freshwater contexts. Middens may also include faunal remains such as fish or mammal bone, stone artefacts, hearths, charcoal, and occasionally, burials. They are usually located on elevated dry ground close to the aquatic environment from which the shellfish has been exploited and where freshwater resources are available. Deeper, more compacted, midden sites are often found in areas containing the greatest diversity of resources, such as river estuaries and coastal lagoons.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Oven mounds               | Aboriginal oven mounds, also known as earth mounds or cooking mounds, are a distinctive archaeological feature found along the Murray River. These mounds are evidence of traditional Aboriginal cooking practices, where earth ovens were used repeatedly in the same location over long periods. They are often found on naturally elevated features like levee banks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

#### 5.4.2 Landform modelling of archaeological potential

The number of archaeological studies undertaken within the vicinity of the Development Footprint provides information to obtain a sound understanding of the nature and distribution of archaeological sites within the area. Although there is some conjecture about the relationship between stream order, site numbers and densities, the general pattern is that most sites are present close to watercourses and in areas of minimal disturbances.

The land encompassing the Development Footprint is also notably flat and would have been affected by historical flooding events associated with the Murray River. Clay soils also inundate the Development Footprint making it unusually prone to usual weathering and erosion patterns. Crucial for the preservation of archaeological deposits is the history of past land use in an area is the integrity of the original landscape. As the Development Footprint has faced extensive disturbances over time, it is unlikely that any archaeological evidence will remain. If archaeological items are identified within the Development Footprint, they are unlikely to be in an original context.

#### 5.4.3 Conclusion

Based on knowledge of the environmental contexts of the Development Footprint and a desktop review of the known local and regional archaeological record, the following predictions are made concerning the probability of landforms within the Development Footprint to contain Aboriginal

objects (**Table 5-4**), and what types of sites may be present within the Development Footprint (**Table 5-5**).

**Table 5-4: Likelihood of landforms within the Development Footprint to contain Aboriginal objects.**

| Survey Unit | Landform type | Likelihood to contain Aboriginal objects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1           | Flat plain    | The flat plains and nearby floodplains are an aggrading environment that are impacted by flooding and channel migration. While floodplains would have provided resources to encourage occupation and use in the past, their geomorphic nature makes them poor preservers of archaeological deposits and any objects in such landforms are likely to be in a secondary context. |

**Table 5-5: Likelihood of certain site types being present in the Development Footprint.**

| Site type                 | Likelihood of being present in the Development Footprint                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Isolated finds            | As isolated finds can occur anywhere, particularly within disturbed contexts, it is predicted that this site type could be recorded within the Development Footprint.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Open artefact scatters    | As the Development Footprint is within undifferentiated flat landforms distant to permanent water, this site type is not predicted to be common. However, this site type is possible although the moderate degree of disturbance in the Development Footprint will probably mean that the scatter has become displaced. It is likely that any sites associated with such landforms are likely to have a low artefact density and a low complexity of tool types as the sites are either one-off events or only infrequently used. |
| Culturally modified trees | Due to the almost complete clearing of native vegetation, this site type is unlikely to be located within the Development Footprint.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Middens                   | As the Development Footprint is within flat/plains landforms distant to permanent water, this site type is not predicted to be common.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Oven mounds               | Given the high degree of long-term disturbance from cultivation (see <b>Figure 4-1</b> ), features such as oven mounds, had they been present, are highly likely to have been destroyed in the Development Footprint and are not expected to be recorded.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

The following observations of the Development Footprint can be made:

- The site type most likely to be recorded would be open artefact sites including artefact scatters and isolated finds. However, due to the history of cultivation in the Development Footprint, any artefact sites present in the Development Footprint are likely to be in a secondary context
- The predominant soils within the Development Footprint are clays that are generally poor preservers of archaeological material
- There are no natural water sources within the Development Footprint indicating that the Development Footprint was unlikely to be used for long-term camping activities
- The Development Footprint occupies a relatively dry area with nearly a quarter of the year recording little or no rain. This indicates that the resources available to Aboriginal people in the Development Footprint would have been limited and may have discouraged long-term camping activities
- The entire Development Footprint has been heavily impacted by European land use inevitably leading to the disturbance of surface and subsurface archaeological deposits had they been present.

Due to the above observations, the archaeological potential of the Development Footprint is assessed as low at desktop level. It is noted that the Development Footprint was also classified

as having low archaeological potential in the OzArk 2009 study. The land that encompasses the Development Footprint is classified as flats or plains generally distant to permanent water (1.5 km west of the Murray River) and due to the dry climate of the region, it would be unlikely for long-term camping activities to have occurred in the Development Footprint. The Development Footprint may have been used for transit or resource gathering activities, although these activities do not tend to leave a strong archaeological signature.

## **5.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

Several research questions can meaningfully be applied to the investigation of the Development Footprint. These research questions include:

- What resources were available to the Aboriginal people using the land within the Development Footprint (food, stone, and water) and what resources were transported to the area?
- What tasks were Aboriginal people undertaking at the sites?
- Is there evidence to suggest that Aboriginal people were using the area earlier than the mid to late Holocene? Can dates be obtained for the Aboriginal use of the area?
- Do the findings within the Development Footprint (if any) accord with the regional archaeological context examined in **Section 5.2**?
- Do the survey results support the predictive model set out in **Section 5.4**?

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## 6 RESULTS OF ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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### 6.1 SAMPLING STRATEGY AND FIELD METHODS

Standard archaeological field survey and recording methods were employed in this study (Burke & Smith 2004). The field assessment consisted of full pedestrian survey across the development footprint and sample survey at each of the road intersections. Transects were walked with surveyors spaced approximately 20 m apart across the entire Development Footprint.

Pedestrian tracks were recorded via non-differential GPS and are shown on **Figure 6-1**. The Development Footprint was inspected by OzArk Archaeologist Sophia Grubnic with the assistance of Dozer Atkinson, representing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education Pty Ltd.

### 6.2 PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

All portions of the Development Footprint were accessible during the survey, including the Corowa substation lot outside the fenced hardstand area. The fenced hardstand area within the operational substation did not require survey and was not surveyed. The primary constraint encountered was the generally low level of ground surface exposure and visibility throughout most of the Development Footprint (see **Section 6.3**).



Figure 6-1: Pedestrian tracks across the Development Footprint.



### 6.3 EFFECTIVE SURVEY COVERAGE

Two of the key factors influencing the effectiveness of archaeological survey are ground surface visibility (GSV) and ground surface exposure (GSE). These factors are quantified to ensure that the survey data provides adequate evidence for the evaluation of the archaeological materials across the landscape. For the purposes of the current assessment, these terms are used in accordance with the definitions provided in the Code of Practice.

GSV is defined as:

*... the amount of bare ground (or visibility) on the exposures which might reveal artefacts or other archaeological materials. It is important to note that visibility, on its own, is not a reliable indicator of the detectability of buried archaeological material. Things like vegetation, plant or leaf litter, loose sand, stone ground or introduced materials will affect the visibility. Put another way, visibility refers to 'what conceals' (DECCW 2010a: 39).*

GSE is defined as:

*... different to visibility because it estimates the area with a likelihood of revealing buried artefacts or deposits rather than just being an observation of the amount of bare ground. It is the percentage of land for which erosion and exposure was sufficient to reveal archaeological evidence on the surface of the ground. Put another way, exposure refers to 'what reveals' (DECCW 2010a: 37).*

**Table 6-1** calculates the effective survey coverage within the Development Footprint. In general, **Table 6-1** presents an approximation of the amount of ground surface able to be seen at any location within specific landform units. For example, at any one location within the Development Footprint, approximately 5% of the ground surface afforded exposures. These exposures were generally confined to areas of increased disturbance including grounds adjacent to the substation, fence lines, an empty excavated dam, vehicle tracks, and eroded exposures. Within exposures, the amount of visible ground tended to be relatively high, with factors like plant debris, grass and gravels limiting visibility.

**Table 6-1: Effective survey coverage within the Development Footprint.**

| Survey Unit | Landform   | Survey Unit Area (sq m) | Visibility % | Exposure % | Effective Coverage Area (sq m) | Effective Coverage % |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1           | Flat plain | 139,000                 | 60           | 5          | 4,170                          | 3%                   |

**Table 6-2** cannot demonstrate any comparisons between landform unit and effective survey coverage in relation to recorded sites, as no Aboriginal objects were recorded in the single landform unit comprising the Development Footprint. Although the survey efficacy across the Development Footprint is low at 3%, the high level of pedestrian coverage throughout all parts of

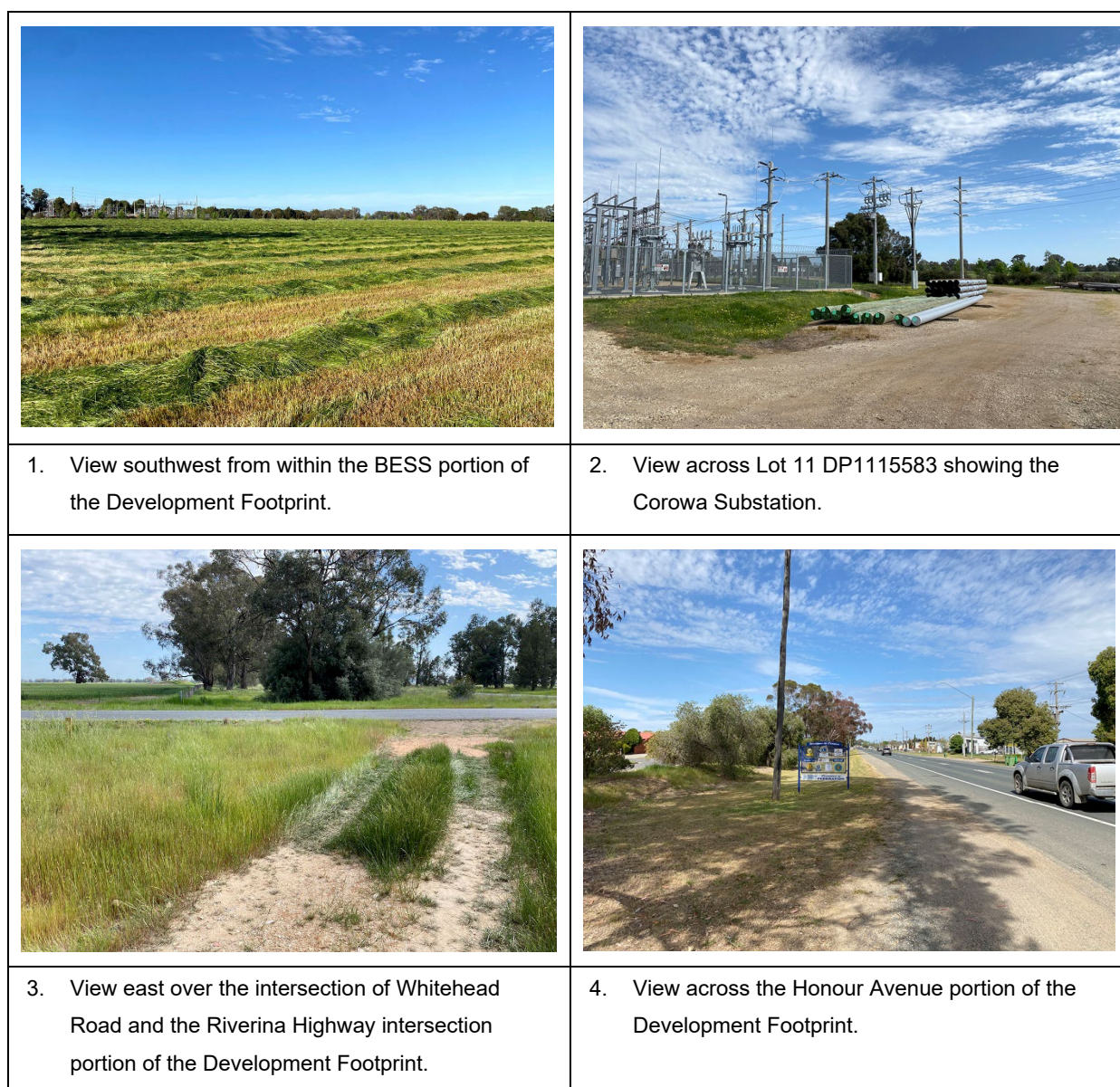


the Development Footprint allowed for a thorough examination of the present landforms and the observable ground condition. The assessment concluded that the low survey efficacy did not prevent the archaeological potential of the landforms to be understood. **Figure 6-2** provides sample views of the landforms present across the Development Footprint.

**Table 6-2: Effective survey coverage and incidences of site recording.**

| Landform | Landform area (sq m) | Area Effectively Surveyed | % of Landform Effectively Surveyed | Number of Sites | Number of Artefacts or Features |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1        | 139000               | 3%                        | 0.75%                              | 0               | 0                               |

**Figure 6-2: Sample views of the landforms across the Development Footprint.**



## 6.4 ABORIGINAL SITES RECORDED

No Aboriginal objects were recorded during the survey of the Development Footprint, and it was assessed that the Development Footprint does not contain landforms with subsurface archaeological potential.

## 6.5 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS ON THE SURVEY

No specific values were attributed to the Development Footprint by the site officer in attendance.

## 6.6 DISCUSSION

The Development Footprint did not result in the identification of any new Aboriginal sites.

The entirety of the Development Footprint has been subject to various intensive disturbances, specifically through historic land clearing, cropping, farm infrastructure construction (fences, unsealed tracks, dam), construction of roads and the construction of the Corowa substation.

Often the limited areas where GSE was available were associated with ground surface impacts related to these disturbances. Despite extra care being taken to inspect these exposures, the high intensity and variety of disturbances were strong limiting factors in the likelihood of archaeological material remaining.

No landforms within the Development Footprint were assessed as having potential for subsurface deposits. This is unsurprising as the soils across the Development Footprint are heavily disturbed and unlikely to retain cultural deposits, there is no evidence of surface manifestations which would suggest remnant archaeological material, and the Development Footprint is distant from reliable water sources with which PADs are typically associated.

Due to the level of observed disturbances, thin soils, and the exposed nature of the location, it was determined by undertaking Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the Code of Practice that subsurface Aboriginal objects with potential conservation value do not have a high probability of being present in the area and that archaeological test excavation is not required.

### 6.6.1 Responses to the research questions

In **Section 5.5** several research questions were advanced to guide the survey of the Development Footprint. Following the survey, responses to these research questions are set out below.

- What resources were available to the Aboriginal people using the land within the Development Footprint (food, stone, and water) and what resources were transported to the area?
  - No specific food resource locations were noted, and water resources were limited to the distant Murray River, approximately 300 m from the Development Footprint at the intersection of Bullecourt Road and Honour Ave, and over 2 km from the proposed BESS location. No outcropping rock materials were identified within the

Development Footprint. Several large cobbles of quartz were noted in one of the paddocks however none displayed evidence of quarrying.

- What tasks were Aboriginal people undertaking at the sites?
  - The lack of archaeological material across the Development Footprint indicates that the landforms present were less preferred for occupation in comparison to local areas closer to the banks of the Murray River to the south and east.
- Do the findings within the Development Footprint (if any) accord with the regional archaeological context examined in **Section 5.2**. Do they support the predictive model set out in **Section 5.4**.
  - The findings within the Development Footprint conform with the regional archaeological context.
- Do the survey results support the predictive model set out in **Section 5.4**?
  - The findings of the Development Footprint accord with the regional archaeological context. Previous assessments indicated that landforms such as flats and gentle slopes distant from reliable water which dominate the Development Footprint have lower archaeological potential compared to landforms immediately adjacent to reliable water, such as the Murray River, particularly where such landforms are less disturbed.

## 7 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION TO SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

#### 7.1.1 Identifying cultural significance

The concept of cultural significance is used in Australian heritage practice and legislation to encompass all the cultural values and meanings that might be recognised in a place. The *Burra Charter*'s definition of cultural significance is broad and encompasses places that are significant to Indigenous cultures (Burra Charter 2013).

The *Burra Charter* definition of 'place' is also broad and encompasses Indigenous places of cultural significance. 'Place' includes locations that embody spiritual value (such as Dreaming places, sacred landscapes, and stone arrangements), social and historical value (such as massacre sites), as well as scientific value (such as archaeological sites). In fact, one place may be all these things or may embody all these values at the same time.

In some cases, the find-spot of a single artefact may constitute a 'place'. Equally, a suite of related locations may together comprise a single 'place', such as the many individual elements that make up a Songline. These more complex places are sometimes called a cultural landscape or cultural route.

The Guide (OEH 2011: 8–9) notes that cultural significance is comprised of an assessment of social values, scientific values, aesthetic values, and historic values. These values are described below.

##### 7.1.1.1 *Social or cultural value*

Social or cultural value refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical, or contemporary associations and attachments the place or area has for Aboriginal people. Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them.

Places of social or cultural value have associations with contemporary community identity. These places can have associations with tragic or warmly remembered experiences, periods, or events. Communities can experience a sense of loss should a place of social or cultural value be damaged or destroyed.

There is not always consensus about a place's social or cultural value. Because people experience places and events differently, expressions of social or cultural value do vary and, in some instances, will be in direct conflict. When identifying values, it is not necessary to agree with or acknowledge the validity of each other's values, but it is necessary to document the range of values identified.

Social or cultural value can only be identified through consultation with Aboriginal people. This could involve a range of methodologies, such as cultural mapping, oral histories, archival

documentation, and specific information provided by Aboriginal people specifically for the investigation.

Cultural value involves both traditional links with specific areas, as well as an overall concern by Aboriginal people for their sites generally and the continued protection of these. This type of value may not be in accord with interpretations made by the archaeologist: a site may have low archaeological value but high social value, or vice versa.

#### **7.1.1.2     *Scientific (archaeological) value***

This refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness, and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information (Burra Charter 2013).

Assessing a site in this context involves placing it into a broader regional framework, as well as assessing the site's individual merits in view of current archaeological discourse. This type of value relates to the ability of a site to answer current research questions and is also based on a site's condition (integrity), content and representativeness.

The overriding aim of cultural heritage management is to preserve a representative sample of the archaeological resource. This will ensure that future research within the discipline can be based on a valid sample of the past. Establishing whether a site can contribute to current research also involves defining 'research potential'. Questions regularly asked when determining significance are: can this site contribute information that no other site can? Is this site representative of other sites in the region?

Information about scientific values will be gathered through any archaeological investigation undertaken. Archaeological investigations must be carried out according to Heritage NSW's Code of Practice (DECCW 2010).

Often scientific values are informed by social values that allow a contemporary understanding of the archaeological data to be understood.

#### **7.1.1.3     *Aesthetic value***

This refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural, and creative aspects of the place. It is often closely linked with the social values. It may consider form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use (Burra Charter 2013).

#### **7.1.1.4     *Historic value***

Historic value refers to the associations of a place with a historically important person, event, phase, or activity in an Aboriginal community. Historic places do not always have physical



evidence of their historical importance (such as structures, planted vegetation or landscape modifications). They may have 'shared' historic values with other (non-Aboriginal) communities.

Places of post-contact Aboriginal history have generally been poorly recognised in investigations of Aboriginal heritage. Consequently, the Aboriginal involvement and contribution to important regional historical themes is often missing from accepted historical narratives. This means it is often necessary to collect oral histories along with archival or documentary research to gain enough understanding of historic values.

## **7.2 ASSESSED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECORDED SITES**

No Aboriginal sites or cultural values have been identified within the Amendment Assessment Area, as such, the significance assessment completed assesses the values of the Amendment Assessment Area.

### *Social or Cultural Value*

There may be places with intangible cultural significance within the Amendment Assessment Area, although no specific locations have so far been identified by the Aboriginal community (see **Section 3.3**)

### *Archaeological/Scientific Value*

During the survey, no Aboriginal sites or objects were recorded and therefore there are no known places with archaeological significance within the Development Footprint.

### *Aesthetic Value*

There are no known places with identified aesthetic values identified in the Development Footprint.

### *Historic Value*

There are no known places with identified historic values identified in the Development Footprint.



## 8 ASSESSING HARM

### 8.1 AVOIDING AND MINIMISING HARM

#### 8.1.1 Conserving significant Aboriginal cultural heritage

An object of the NPW Act is the '*conservation of objects places and features... of cultural value within the landscape, including... places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people*' (s.2A(1(b)(i)).

As heritage professionals, OzArk, strives for good conservation outcomes. In particular, OzArk is primarily concerned with the conservation and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage that is of significance to Aboriginal people.

Two primary objectives when managing harm to an Aboriginal object are:

- Impacts to significant Aboriginal objects and places should always be avoided wherever possible
- Where impacts to Aboriginal objects and places cannot be avoided, proposals should be amended to reduce the extent and severity of impacts to significant Aboriginal objects and places using reasonable and feasible measures.

#### 8.1.2 Opportunities to conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage values

As no Aboriginal sites or specific cultural values were recorded during the current assessment, there are no opportunities for conservation.

### 8.2 LIKELY IMPACTS TO ABORIGINAL HERITAGE FROM THE PROJECT

As no Aboriginal sites or specific cultural heritage values were recorded during the current assessment, there are no known impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage from the Project.

### 8.3 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

Ecologically sustainable development principles (ESD) (defined in s.6 of the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*) requires the integration of economic and environmental considerations (including cultural heritage) in the decision-making process. Regarding Aboriginal cultural heritage, ESD can be achieved by applying the principle of intergenerational equity and the precautionary principle.

#### 8.3.1 Intergenerational equity

Intergenerational equity is the principle whereby the present generation should ensure the health, diversity, and productivity of the environment for the benefit of future generations.

In terms of Aboriginal heritage, intergenerational equity can be considered in terms of the cumulative impacts to Aboriginal objects and places in a region. If few Aboriginal objects and

places remain in a region (for example, because of impacts under previous permits), fewer opportunities remain for future generations of Aboriginal people to enjoy the cultural benefits of those Aboriginal objects and places.

Information about the integrity, rarity or representativeness of the Aboriginal objects and places proposed to be impacted, and how they illustrate the occupation and use of land by Aboriginal people across the region, will be relevant to the consideration of intergenerational equity and the understanding of the cumulative impacts of the Project.

Where there is uncertainty, the precautionary principle should also be followed.

### 8.3.2 The precautionary principle

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

In relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage values, the precautionary principle should be applied if:

- The proposal involves a risk of serious or irreversible damage to Aboriginal objects or places or to the value of those objects or places
- There is uncertainty about the Aboriginal cultural heritage values or scientific or archaeological values, including in relation to the integrity, rarity or representativeness of the Aboriginal objects or places proposed to be impacted.

### 8.3.3 Principle of Integration

The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, 2002, noted the need to *“promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development- economic development, social development and environmental protection- as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars”*.

The principle of integration ensures mutual respect and reciprocity between economic and environmental considerations:

- Environmental considerations are to be integrated into economic and other development plans, programs, and projects
- Development needs are to be considered in applying environmental objectives.

### 8.3.4 Applicability to the Project

There is no impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage values as no Aboriginal sites were recorded, and no intangible heritage values have been identified within the Development Footprint. The results of the surface survey indicate that significant Aboriginal cultural heritage values will not be harmed within the Development Footprint.

**Table 8-1** examines the application of ESD principles to the Project.

**Table 8-1: Application of ESD principles to the Project.**

| ESD principle                          | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Avoiding and minimising harm           | As no Aboriginal values associated with the Development Footprint are known, there will be no harm to Aboriginal cultural values.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| The integration principle              | The environmental consequences of the Project have been carefully assessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| The precautionary principle            | The Aboriginal cultural heritage investigation has followed the precautionary principle though undertaking a robust Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment to ensure that harm to Aboriginal objects and values is minimised. The survey adopted a precautionary principle when it came to describing and assessing landforms within the Development Footprint. |
| The intergenerational equity principle | It is assessed that the Project will not harm significant Aboriginal cultural heritage values and that there will be no diminution of intergenerational equity.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## 9 MANAGEMENT OF ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

### 9.1 GENERAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Appropriate management of cultural heritage items is primarily determined based on their assessed significance as well as the likely impacts of the Project. **Section 7.2** and **Section 8.2** describe, respectively, the significance / potential of the recorded sites and the likely impacts of the Project. The following management options are general principles, in terms of best practice and desired outcomes, rather than mitigation measures against individual site disturbance.

- Avoid impact by altering the Project to avoid impact to a recorded Aboriginal site. If this can be done, then a suitable curtilage around the site must be provided to ensure its protection both during the short-term construction phase of development and in the long-term use of the area. If plans are altered, care must be taken to ensure that impacts do not occur to areas not previously assessed.

As no Aboriginal cultural heritage values have been identified within the Development Footprint, alteration to the proposed Project design is unnecessary in terms of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

- If impact is unavoidable then approval to disturb sites/cultural values under the authority of an ACHMP must be sought from DPHI. Normally the management recommendations contained in the ACHAR become policies of the ACHMP.

As no Aboriginal cultural heritage values have been identified within the Development Footprint, an ACHMP is not warranted. Instead, the management of any unanticipated finds can be managed by an unanticipated finds protocol and a skeletal remains protocol.

### 9.2 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION OF RECORDED ABORIGINAL SITES

There is no specific management to be applied to the Project as no Aboriginal sites or cultural values have been identified within the Development Footprint.

In the unlikely event that Aboriginal objects are noted during the proposed works, the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* in **Appendix 4** will be an appropriate management protocol. If human remains were to be encountered, then the procedure in **Appendix 5** is an example of a human skeletal remains protocol that would be followed.

## 10 RECOMMENDATIONS

Under Section 89A of the NPW Act it is mandatory that all newly recorded Aboriginal sites be registered with AHIMS. As a professional in the field of cultural heritage management it is the responsibility of OzArk to ensure this process is undertaken.

To this end it is noted that no Aboriginal sites were recorded during the assessment.

The following recommendations are made based on these impacts and regarding:

- Legal requirements under the terms of the NPW Act whereby it is illegal to damage, deface or destroy an Aboriginal place or object without an approved ACHMP
- The findings of the current investigations undertaken within the Development Footprint
- The interests of the Aboriginal community.

Recommendations concerning Aboriginal cultural values within the Development Footprint are as follows:

1. Following development consent of the Project, the proposed work may proceed with caution. In the unlikely event that unexpected Aboriginal heritage items are encountered during work the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* in **Appendix 4** should be implemented. **Appendix 5** provides the appropriate procedure to be undertaken in the unlikely event that human remains are encountered.
2. This ACHAR concludes that the Project may proceed without further archaeological investigation under the following conditions:
  - a. All land and ground disturbance activities must be confined to within the Development Footprint, as this will eliminate the risk of harm to potential Aboriginal objects that may be in adjacent landforms. Should the parameters of the Project extend beyond the assessed Development Footprint, then further archaeological assessment may be required.
  - b. Prior to undertaking any land and ground disturbance activities, all staff and contractors involved in the proposed work should undergo a cultural heritage induction to ensure that they can recognise Aboriginal artefacts (**Appendix 6**) and are aware of the legislative protection requirements for all Aboriginal sites and objects under the NPW Act and are familiar with the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* and the skeletal remains protocol.

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## APPENDIX 1: ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

### Appendix 1 Figure 1: Consultation log

| Date    | Organisation                                      | Comment                                                                                                      | Method       |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 4.6.25  | The Border Daily                                  | Catherine Burrowes (CB) emailed newspaper. Will be published on Friday 6.6.25 with a closing date of 23.6.25 | phone/e mail |
| 6.6.25  | The Border Daily                                  | Public advertisement published by The Border Daily. Closing date 23.6.25                                     | newspaper    |
| 6.6.25  | Heritage NSW                                      | CB sent stage 1 agency letter requesting potential stakeholders. Closing Date 23.6.25                        | email        |
| 6.6.25  | Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council | CB sent stage 1 agency letter requesting potential stakeholders. Closing Date 23.6.25                        | email        |
| 6.6.25  | Office of The Registrar, ALRA                     | CB sent stage 1 agency letter requesting potential stakeholders. Closing Date 23.6.25                        | email        |
| 6.6.25  | National Native Title Tribunal                    | CB sent stage 1 agency letter requesting potential stakeholders. Closing Date 23.6.25                        | email        |
| 6.6.25  | NTSCORP                                           | CB sent stage 1 agency letter requesting potential stakeholders. Closing Date 23.6.25                        | email        |
| 6.6.25  | Federation Council                                | CB sent stage 1 agency letter requesting potential stakeholders. Closing Date 23.6.25                        | email        |
| 6.6.25  | Murray Local Land Services                        | CB sent stage 1 agency letter requesting potential stakeholders. Closing Date 23.6.25                        | email        |
| 12.6.25 | Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council | CB received email registering for the Project                                                                | email        |
| 12.6.25 | Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council | CB replied with thanks                                                                                       | email        |
| 24.6.25 | Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation                  | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                                    | email        |
| 24.6.25 | Bundy Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge               | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                                    | email        |

| Date    | Organisation                                                                      | Comment                                                                                             | Method |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 24.6.25 | Dan Clegg                                                                         | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group                                            | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Liz Heta                                                                          | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Patricia Winch                                                                    | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Thomas Dahlstrom                                                                  | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Yalmambirra                                                                       | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation                                           | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation                                             | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Southern West Yiradyuri Clans, Land, Water and Sky Country Aboriginal Corporation | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Muriel Williams                                                                   | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Gadhungal Marring                                                                 | CB emailed Stage 1 Community letter - closing date 8.7.25                                           | email  |
| 24.6.25 | Bundiyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge                                             | CB received email registering for the Project                                                       | email  |
| 25.6.25 | Bundiyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge                                             | CB replied with thanks                                                                              | email  |
| 27.6.25 | South West Yiradyuri Clans (SWYC)                                                 | CB received email registering for the Project                                                       | email  |
| 1.7.25  | South West Yiradyuri Clans (SWYC)                                                 | CB replied with thanks                                                                              | email  |
| 9.7.25  | Heritage NSW                                                                      | CB emailed notification of RAPs                                                                     | email  |
| 9.7.25  | Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council                                 | CB emailed notification of RAPs                                                                     | email  |
| 13.8.25 | Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council                                 | CB emailed Stage 2/3 draft assessment methodology - closing date 10.9.25                            | email  |
| 13.8.25 | Bundiyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge                                             | CB emailed Stage 2/3 draft assessment methodology - closing date 10.9.25                            | email  |
| 13.8.25 | South West Yiradyuri Clans (SWYC)                                                 | CB emailed Stage 2/3 draft assessment methodology - closing date 10.9.25                            | email  |
| 13.8.25 | Bundiyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge                                             | CB received Stage 2/3 feedback on the draft assessment methodology                                  | email  |
| 17.8.25 | South West Yiradyuri Clans (SWYC)                                                 | CB received email - <i>South West Yiradyuri Clans have no comments on the methodology</i>           | email  |
| 19.8.25 | Bundiyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge                                             | SR responded to Stage 2/3 feedback provided.                                                        | email  |
| 4.9.25  | Kait Williamson - Flow Power                                                      | Email received requesting to register Uncle Dozer for the Project and provide the draft methodology | email  |

| Date     | Organisation                                      | Comment                                                                               | Method |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 9.9.25   | ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION PTY LTD    | CB emailed Stage 2/3 draft assessment methodology - closing date 10.9.25              | email  |
| 9.9.25   | ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION PTY LTD    | CB emailed Stage 2/3 draft assessment methodology cover letter – closing date 10.9.25 | email  |
| 4.11.25  | Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council | CB emailed Stage 4 draft ACHAR closing date 2.12.2025                                 | email  |
| 4.11.25  | Bundiyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge             | CB emailed Stage 4 draft ACHAR closing date 2.12.2025                                 | email  |
| 4.11.25  | South West Yiradyuri Clans (SWYC)                 | CB emailed Stage 4 draft ACHAR closing date 2.12.2025                                 | email  |
| 4.11.25  | ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION PTY LTD    | CB emailed Stage 4 draft ACHAR closing date 2.12.2025                                 | email  |
| 4.11.25  | Bundiyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge             | CB received email response.                                                           | email  |
| 18.11.25 | Bundiyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge             | SG sent OzArk response letter to address Stage 4 comments.                            | email  |

## Appendix 1 Figure 2: Advertisement

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**Poultry & Birds**

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**Public Notices**

**Expression of Interest Cultural Heritage Management**

OzArk Environment & Heritage has been engaged by Flow Power (the proponent) to complete an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) within the Corowa Shire local government area. The project involves the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the BESS. These activities may result in harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

OzArk is seeking Aboriginal persons and / groups who wish to be consulted about the project and this consultation group will assist OzArk and the proponent in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and to assist Heritage NSW and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in their consideration and determination of the project.

If you hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects or places in the project area, please register your interest to be consulted.

Registrations can be made by post: OzArk PO Box 2069 Dubbo NSW 2830, email: [catherine@ozarkem.com.au](mailto:catherine@ozarkem.com.au) or by phoning OzArk on 02 6882 0118. All submissions should be received no later than 23 June 2025.

Note: Those registering an interest will be contacted to discuss the project further. Those who do register are advised that their details will be provided to Heritage NSW and the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless specifically advised in writing that details are not to be forwarded.

**Work Wanted**

**CONCRETOR**, no job is too small. — Phone Jason, free quote: 0409 809 070.

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**Self Service**



## Appendix 1 Figure 3: Stage 1 Agency sample letter and correspondence



**OzArk Environment & Heritage**

Dubbo | Queanbeyan    T: 02 6882 0118  
Wollongong | Newcastle    enquiry@ozarkehm.com.au  
Katoomba    www.ozarkehm.com.au

**ABN 29 675 720 564**

145 Wingewarra St  
PO Box 2069  
DUBBO NSW 2830

6 June 2025

Heritage NSW  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au  
Locked Bag 5020  
Parramatta NSW 2124

**ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

**PROPOSED COROWA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM**

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Flow Power (the proponent) to undertake Aboriginal community consultation as per the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

The project involves the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Preliminary design includes a proposed 100 MW BESS and transmission line connecting to the 132/22kV Essential Energy Corowa Substation adjacent to the project location. The project is located within a broader study area of approximately 41 hectares (ha) with an impact footprint of approximately 7.3 ha. These activities may result in harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

We are therefore seeking Expressions of Interest from relevant Aboriginal stakeholder groups and individuals in the area who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects or places within the Corowa area.

This consultation group will assist OzArk in preparing the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and to assist Heritage NSW and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in their consideration and determination of the project.

If your organisation can recommend and provide contact details for any known Aboriginal groups or individuals with cultural knowledge relevant to determining the impacts to the cultural significance of the above-mentioned project, please advise our office.

We would appreciate it if you could provide any feedback, by responding to this email catherine@ozarkehm.com.au, regarding these Aboriginal stakeholder groups by Monday 23 June 2025 or sooner if possible.

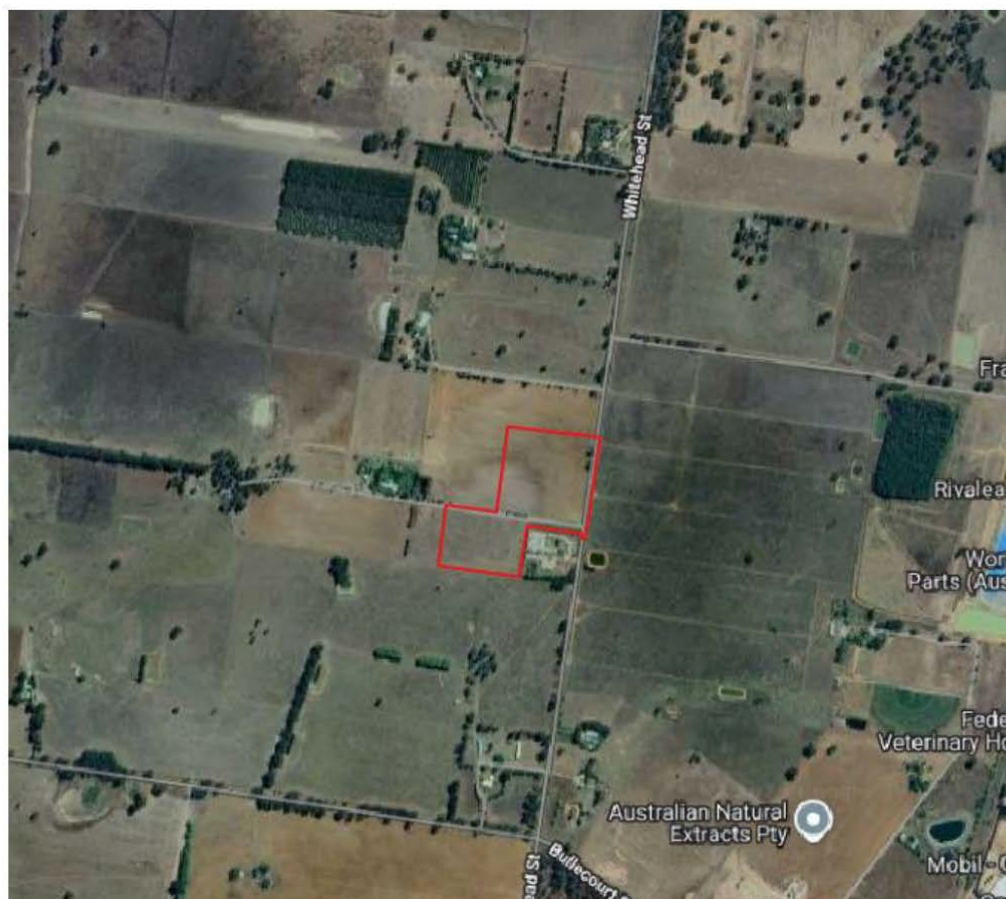
Kind regards,



Catherine Burrowes  
**Office Manager/ Community Liaison**



Figure 1: Proposed BESS footprint (red polygon).



## Stage 1 Agency - Corowa BESS



Catherine Burrowes

To [REDACTED]

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Fri 6/06/2025 4:22 PM

Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council Stage 1\_Agency letter Corowa BESS.docx  
.docx File

Hello Members,

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Corowa BESS.**

Please find attached letter requesting relevant stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

## Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS



Catherine Burrowes

To [REDACTED]

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Fri 6/06/2025 4:22 PM

Federation Council Stage 1\_Agency letter Corowa BESS.docx  
.docx File

Hello Members,

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Corowa BESS.**

Please find attached letter requesting relevant stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

## FW: Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS



Catherine Burrowes

To [REDACTED]

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Fri 6/06/2025 4:22 PM

Heritage NSW Stage 1\_Agency letter Corowa BESS.docx  
.docx File

Hello Members,

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Corowa BESS.**

Please find attached letter requesting relevant stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

## Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS



Catherine Burrowes

To [REDACTED]

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Fri 6/06/2025 4:26 PM

Murray Local Land Services Stage 1\_Agency letter Corowa BESS.docx  
.docx File

Hello Members,

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Corowa BESS.**

Please find attached letter requesting relevant stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

## FW: Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS



Catherine Burrowes

To [REDACTED]

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Fri 6/06/2025 4:24 PM

National Native Title Tribunal Stage 1\_Agency letter Corowa BESS.docx  
.docx FileRequest for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers.docx  
.docx File

Hello Members,

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Corowa BESS.**

Please find attached letter requesting relevant stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

## Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS



Catherine Burrowes

To [REDACTED]

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Fri 6/06/2025 4:24 PM

NTSCORP Stage 1\_Agency letter Corowa BESS.docx  
.docx File

Hello Members,

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Corowa BESS.**

Please find attached letter requesting relevant stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS

Catherine Burrowes

To [REDACTED]

Office of the Registrar, ALRA Stage 1\_Agency letter Corowa BESS.docx

.docx File

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Fri 6/06/2025 4:23 PM

Hello Members,

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Corowa BESS.**

Please find attached letter requesting relevant stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment & Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report: Corowa Battery Energy Storage System

69

Appendix 1 Figure 4: Stage 1 Agency responses

From: [Geospatial Search Requests](#)  
To: [Catherine Burrowes](#)  
Cc: [Geospatial Search Requests](#)  
Subject: RE: SR25/908 - FW: Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS  
Date: Monday, 9 June 2025 1:35:12 PM

OFFICIAL

Your ref: Corowa BESS    Our ref: SR25/908

Dear Catherine Burrowes,

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

**Search Results**

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

- Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications
- Register of Native Title Claims
- Native Title Determinations
- Indigenous Land Use Agreements (Registered and notified)

**Results for overlapping native title matters in NSW:**

| Feature ID     | Tenure   | Cadastral Data As At | Feature Area SqKm | Overlapping Native Title Feature |      |          |                   |                    |
|----------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------|----------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                |          |                      |                   | NNTT File Number                 | Name | Category | Overlap Area SqKm | % Selected Feature |
| 12/D/P1 115583 | FREEHOLD | 10/01/2025           | 0.4063            | <a href="#">No overlap</a>       |      |          | -                 | 0.00%              |

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

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

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

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

**Search results and the existence of native title**

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

**The Tribunal accepts no liability for reliance placed on enclosed information**

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

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au)

Regards,

[Geospatial Searches](#)  
National Native Title Tribunal | Perth  
Email: [GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au) | [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au)

From: Catherine Burrowes <catherine@ozarkehm.com.au>  
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 2:24 PM  
To: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>  
Subject: SR25/908 - FW: Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS

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

Hello Members,

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Corowa BESS**

Please find attached letter requesting relevant stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment & Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report: Corowa Battery Energy Storage System

70

## RE: Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS



Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>

To Catherine Burrowes



6/06/2025

Your email has been received and is being actioned. For information regarding timeframes and what you will receive in response please refer to our website at this address:

[http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Geospatial/Pages/Geospatial\\_Searches.aspx](http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Geospatial/Pages/Geospatial_Searches.aspx)

### Geospatial Searches

**National Native Title Tribunal | Perth**

Email: [GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au) | [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au)

## Re: Stage 1 - Agency -Corowa BESS



Federation Council <council+canned.response@federationcouncil.nsw>

To Catherine Burrowes



6/06/2025

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

You don't often get email from [council+canned.response@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council+canned.response@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au). [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you for contacting Federation Council.

This is an automatic reply confirming we have received your email.

Your email will now be forwarded to the relevant officer for actioning.

Yours sincerely,

**Federation Council**



**P:** (02) 6033 8999

Federation Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land in which we work and live. We pay our respects to elders past, present, and emerging and recognise their continuing connection to the land, waters, and community. We will work together for a united Council that respects this land and values the contribution to our community of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their culture, and heritage.

[federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au)

100 Edward St (PO Box 77), Corowa NSW 2646

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.

**Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of the Federation Council.**



### **List of Aboriginal Stakeholders held by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for the purposes of the Aboriginal Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.**

The purpose of this letter is to assist you as the proposed applicant in undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidelines.

The consultation process involves getting the views of, and information from, Aboriginal people and reporting on these. It is not to be confused with other field assessment processes involved in preparing a proposal and an application. Consultation does not include the employment of Aboriginal people to assist in field assessment and/or site monitoring. Aboriginal people may provide services to proponents through a contractual arrangement however, this is separate from consultation. The proponent is not obliged to employ those Aboriginal people registered for consultation. Consultation as per these requirements will continue irrespective of potential or actual employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

In accordance with Clause 60 (10) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019, where an agreement of the kind listed below specifies or identifies a modified or alternative consultation process for the purposes of Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, the applicant is to undertake consultation in accordance with the modified or alternative process. The applicable agreements are:

- a) a registered Indigenous Land Use Agreement under the Native Title Act 1993 of the Commonwealth entered into between an Aboriginal community and the State,
- b) a lease entered into under Part 4A of the Act,
- c) an agreement entered into by the Secretary and a board of management reserved under Part 4A of the Act that has the consent of Aboriginal owner board members for the land concerned,
- d) an agreement entered into between an Aboriginal community and the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment.

Where you believe your application is wholly or partially located within an area subject to any of the above agreements, please provide further correspondence (including mapping, if required) detailing the applicable agreement and its relationship to the application area to [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au). Heritage NSW will respond with further advice.

Where the above does not apply, please proceed with consultation in accordance with the Clause 60 (1-9) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (the "Consultation Requirements"). A copy of the Consultation Requirements can be found on the OEH website at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/commconsultation/09781ACHconsultreq.pdf>.

Under the Consultation Requirements, a proponent is required to provide Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places as relevant to the proposed project area, with an opportunity to be involved in consultation. Section 3.3.1 of the Consultation Requirements states that Aboriginal people who can provide this information are, based on Aboriginal lore and custom, the traditional owners or custodians of the land that is the subject o the proposed project.

The Consultation Requirements also state that:

Traditional owners or custodians with appropriate cultural heritage knowledge to inform decision making who seek to register their interest as an Aboriginal party are those people who:

- continue to maintain a deep respect for their ancestral belief system, traditional lore and custom
- recognise their responsibilities and obligations to protect and conserve their culture and heritage and care for their traditional lands or Country
- have the trust of their community, knowledge and understanding of their culture, and permission to speak about it.

This list is provided to proponents in accordance with Clause 60(2)(a)(i) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and section 4.1.2 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.

The stakeholders identified on this list may have an interest in the proposed project area and may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places.

#### How to use this list

- Contact the organisations/individuals who have indicated an interest in the relevant LGA/s and invite them to register an interest in your project.
- Do not reproduce the attached list in publicly available reports and other documents. Your report should only contain the names of the organisations and individuals who you have invited to register an interest in your project and those who have registered as stakeholders for your project.
- Note that the provision of this Aboriginal stakeholder list does not override a proponent's requirement to also advertise in the local newspaper and to seek from other sources the names of any other Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge as required under clause 60 (2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019.
- Please refer to Clause 60 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 for further information on the requirements of the consultation process.
- If contact details of stakeholders are found to be incorrect or outdated, please contact [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

***Last updated April 2025***

Heritage NSW reference: DOC25/469880

ACHA - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System - 275 Whitehead Street, Corowa

Aboriginal Stakeholders Federation Council Local Government Area



| Organisation/<br>Individual                             | Contact Name                         | Email Address | Phone | Mobile | Fax | Postal Address | Additional<br>information                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------|--------|-----|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <del>Bangerang</del><br>Aboriginal<br>Corporation       | Primary<br>contact Kevin<br>Atkinson |               |       |        |     |                | Primary contact<br>is Kevin<br>Atkinson                          |
| <del>Bundy</del><br>Aboriginal<br>Cultural<br>Knowledge | Mark Saddler                         |               |       |        |     |                | -                                                                |
| Dan Clegg                                               | Dan Clegg                            |               |       |        |     |                | -                                                                |
| Kamilaroi<br><del>Yankuntjatjara</del><br>Working Group | Phil Khan                            |               |       |        |     |                | -                                                                |
| Liz Heta                                                | Liz Heta                             |               |       |        |     |                | -                                                                |
| Patricia Winch                                          | Patricia Winch                       |               |       |        |     |                | -                                                                |
| Thomas<br>Dahlstrom                                     | Thomas<br>Dahlstrom                  |               |       |        |     |                | Offers ACH value<br>by using 3D<br>Laser and Drone<br>technology |
| Yalmambirra                                             | -                                    |               |       |        |     |                | -                                                                |

List of Aboriginal Stakeholders held by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
 Provided: 27 October 2025

Page: 3 of 4

| Organisation/<br>Individual                                                                                 | Contact Name       | Email Address | Phone      | Mobile     | Fax        | Postal Address | Additional<br>information |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| <del>Girragirra</del> Murun<br>Aboriginal<br>Corporation                                                    | Diana Astin        | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]     | -                         |
| <del>Wingarra Wilay</del><br>Aboriginal<br>Corporation                                                      | Raymond<br>Moon    | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]     | -                         |
| Southern West<br><del>Yiradyuri</del> Clans,<br>Land, Water and<br>Sky Country<br>Aboriginal<br>Corporation | Will Carter        | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]     | -                         |
| Muriel Williams                                                                                             | Muriel<br>Williams | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]     | -                         |
| <del>Gadhungal</del><br>Marring                                                                             | Nigel Millgate     | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]     | -                         |

List of Aboriginal Stakeholders held by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
 Provided: 27 October 2025

Page: 4 of 4

## Appendix 1 Figure 5: Stage 1 Community correspondence (sample letter)

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage</b><br>Dubbo   Queanbeyan   T: 02 6882 0118<br>Wollongong   Newcastle   enquiry@ozarkehm.com.au<br>Katoomba   www.ozarkehm.com.au | <b>ABN 29 675 720 564</b><br>145 Wingewarra St<br>PO Box 2069<br>DUBBO NSW 2830 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

24 June 2025

Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation



**ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**  
**PROPOSED COROWA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM**

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Flow Power (the proponent) to undertake Aboriginal community consultation as per the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

The project involves the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Preliminary design includes a proposed 100 MW BESS and transmission line connecting to the 132/22kV Essential Energy Corowa Substation adjacent to the project location. The project is located within a broader study area of approximately 41 hectares (ha) with an impact footprint of approximately 7.3 ha. These activities may result in harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Accordingly, we are seeking Expressions of Interest from relevant Aboriginal groups and individuals in the Corowa area, to form a consultation group. This consultation group will assist OzArk in preparing the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) to assist Heritage NSW and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in their consideration and determination of the project.

If you hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the impacts to the cultural significance of this project area, should you wish to register for the project please provide the following information:

- Group or individual name
- Contact name (if registering as a group)
- Email or postal address
- Contact number

Please do this by contacting our office on (02) 6882 0118 or responding to this email catherine@ozarkehm.com.au. The closing date for expressions of interest is Tuesday 8 July 2025.

If you wish to register interest it is noteworthy that as per the Heritage NSW guidelines, we are required to provide your details to Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Lands Council unless we are advised that you do not wish your details to be released.

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Once relevant groups and individuals have been identified, they will form part of the formal consultation process for the project.

Kind regards,



Catherine Burrowes  
**Office Manager/ Community Liaison**

**Figure 1: Proposed BESS footprint (red polygon).**





Appendix 1 Figure 6: Stage 1 Community responses

Dan Clegg

Re: ACHA - Stage 1 Community - Corowa BESS

DB

Dan Bundadhaany

To

Catherine Burrowes

Follow up. Completed on Tuesday, 1 July 2025.

Thanks Catherine

I will not be registering an interest in this development.

Regards

Dan

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Fri 27/06/2025 5:15 PM

Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge

Re: ACHA - Stage 1 Community - Corowa BESS

MS

Mark Saddler

To

Catherine Burrowes

You replied to this message on 25/06/2025 3:53 PM.  
If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

Yamma,

Please register my interest in this project.

Please confirm my request by return email.

Guwayu (Safe Travels)

Mark Saddler,

Cultural Awareness,

School & Tour Programs,

Bundyi Cultural Tours,

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 24/06/2025 2:42 PM

## South West Yiradyuri Clans

**Fw: ACHA - Stage 1 Community - Corowa BESS**

 Heritage [redacted]  
To: Catherine Burrowes

 Follow up. Completed on Tuesday, 1 July 2025.  
You replied to this message on 1/07/2025 10:36 AM.  
If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

 Field Work Conditions Summary 10 January 2025.pdf .pdf File

 Public Liability Renewal Invoice FEB 2025.pdf .pdf File

Hi Catherine,

It's Mark Williams here, please use our heritage address for further communication.

South West Yiradyuri Clans (SWYC) would like to register for the project.

- Group or individual name: South West Yiradyuri Clans (SWYC)
- Contact name (if registering as a group): Mark Williams
- [redacted]

As per previous correspondence with your office you would know Southern West (SW) Yiradyuri Clans Aboriginal Corporation is the Traditional Owner representative group for SW Yiradyuri Country. The proposed project is within SW Yiradyuri Country. To that end, the Corporation holds Cultural Authority for matters pertaining to Country, Culture and Heritage.

I have attached our Field Work Conditions summary with SWYC rates and our insurance Certificate of currency.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Mark

 Heritage Services  
Southern West Yiradyuri  
Clans  
[redacted]

## Albury and District LALC

**RE: Stage 1 Agency - Rivelea Intensive Livestock Facilities**

 Admin | Albury District LALC [redacted]  
To: Catherine Burrowes  
Cc: Andom Rendell

 You replied to this message on 12/06/2025 5:08 PM.

Hello Catherine,

Thank you for your email.

Albury & District Local Aboriginal Land Council (ADLALC) would like to Express its Interest in joining the consultation group for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the proposed Corowa Battery Energy Storage System.

ADLALC has Members who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects or places within the Federation Local Government Area.

We look forward to working together.

Kind regards,  
Jamie

Jamie Penny  
CEO

 **Albury & District Local Aboriginal Land Council**

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education

**From:** Jiarra Atkinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 September 2025 7:47 PM  
**To:** Kait Williamson [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [consultation@ozarkehm.com.au](mailto:consultation@ozarkehm.com.au); Niilo Monkkonen [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SPAM!! - Re: ACHE / Ozark - Cultural Heritage Survey for Corowa Battery

**CAUTION: This email originated external from Flow Power. Please do not click on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.**

Hi Kait, thank you for the opportunity to yarn and share some of ACHE's future endeavours and look forward to working with you.

Hello OZARK as I am a traditional owner of the country where the installation will take place I am really keen to be involved in the cultural heritage works for the corowa battery project, can you please send me a copy of the draft assessment methodology.

Kind Regards

Uncle Dozer

## Appendix 1 Figure 7: Stage 2/3 cover letter



**OzArk Environment & Heritage**

Dubbo | Queanbeyan  
Wollongong | Newcastle  
Katoomba

T: 02 6882 0118  
enquiry@ozarkehm.com.au  
www.ozarkehm.com.au

**ABN 29 675 720 564**

145 Wingewarra St  
PO Box 2069  
DUBBO NSW 2830

13 August 2025

***ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE COROWA  
BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM***

---

Dear Members,

Thank-you for your registration of interest to become a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) to be consulted for the proposed Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project. OzArk are currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Flow Power, on behalf of Corowa Energy Project Trust. The project is to be assessed as State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine any impacts the proposed development will have on Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area and to assist in developing/modifying designs in order to minimise the impacts on Aboriginal heritage values.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this letter is to invite you to comment on the enclosed draft methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology, Corowa Battery Energy Storage System.

In addition to comments on the draft report, if you can share any Aboriginal cultural heritage knowledge relevant to the proposed study area, we welcome this input to improve our assessment outcomes and to ensure Aboriginal cultural values are considered. OzArk is required to give you 28 days to supply feedback on the attached documents. This period closes 5pm on **Wednesday 10 September 2025**.

If you need any help supplying feedback or have any queries in relation to the enclosed information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Kind regards,



Catherine Burrowes  
**Customer Liaison**

## Stage 2/3 draft methodology - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System



Consultation

To

Cc Consultation

Bcc

Reply

Reply All

Forward

...

Wed 13/08/2025 12:35 PM

Stage 2-3 Cover Letter SSD Corowa BESS.docx  
.docx FileV2.0\_Corowa BESS\_Assessment Methodology\_August2025.pdf  
.pdf File

Good afternoon,

Please find attached stage 2 cover letter and draft assessment methodology regarding the proposed Corowa BESS

Kindly reply to this email with any comments or feedback by the closing date of Wednesday 10 September 25.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Office Manager

(02) 6882 0118

## RE: SPAM!! - Re: ACHE / Ozark - Cultural Heritage Survey for Corowa Battery



Consultation

To Kait Williamson; Jiarra Atkinson

Cc Niilo Monkkonen

Reply

Reply All

Forward

...

Tue 9/09/2025 10:09 AM

You replied to this message on 9/09/2025 1:32 PM.

V2.0\_Corowa BESS\_Assessment Methodology\_August2025.pdf  
2 MB

Good morning to all,

Please find attached draft methodology as requested.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Consultation Officer

(02) 6882 0118

## RE: SPAM!! - Re: ACHE / Ozark - Cultural Heritage Survey for Corowa Battery



Consultation

To Jiarra Atkinson

Cc Niilo Monkkonen; Kait Williamson

Reply

Reply All

Forward

...

Tue 9/09/2025 1:32 PM

Stage 2-3 Cover Letter SSD Corowa BESS.docx  
102 KB

Hi Dozer,

My apologies I didn't include the cover letter which has the closing date for feedback or comments being tomorrow 10 September (attached).

We will of course take your comments/feedback after this date.

Regards, Catherine

**Catherine Burrowes**

OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

Consultation Officer

(02) 6882 0118

Appendix 1 Figure 8: Stage 2/3 RAP feedback

Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge

Re: Stage 2/3 draft methodology - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System



Mark Saddler

To 

 Reply

 Reply All

 Forward



Wed 13/08/2025 3:45 PM

 You replied to this message on 19/08/2025 10:01 AM.  
If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

 COROWA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM.docx  
.docx File

Yamma (Hello)

Please find my response to your Corowa BESS Project report which was sent to me today.

Can you confirm receipt of this email and my report by return email ?

Guwayu (Safe Travels)

Mark Saddler,  
Cultural Awareness,  
School & Tour Programs,  
Bundyi Cultural Tours,

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report: Corowa Battery Energy Storage System

83



**COROWA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM**  
**FEDERATION COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NSW**  
**REPORT AUGUST 2025**

Yamma (hello)

Please see following my responses to your report which I have received today 13/08/2025 at 12-36 PM

**Section 3.3.1.**

Archaeological investigations near the study area.

Page18 Section OzArk 2025

I have concerns that the report states that "Ground surface visibility was extremely limited (10%)"

**Response:** That should warranty another survey when conditions are more favorable to be able to see the ground.

**Section 4.3**

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

One of your questions is "Is there evidence to suggest that Aboriginal people were using the area earlier than the mid to late Holocene?"

**Response:** Evidence is all about in this area and include the finding of several people who have been dated at about 18,000 years old.

**Section 5.3**

**SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

Point 2 states "Some areas may not be physically surveyed if the RAPs and OzArk staff agree they are too disturbed or possess a very low likelihood of sites"

**Response:** Regardless of any disturbance the whole area needs to be surveyed and looked over.

I also ask to have test excavation carried out in this location.

Can you also advise which RAPs attended your survey work and if none I would ask for this work to be done again and have RAPs onsite ?

Also, any and all people who work on or with this project must have a Wiradjuri Cultural Induction delivered to them by a Wiradjuri knowledge holder who has training and assessment qualifications.

Guwayu (safe travels)

Mark Saddler, Bundyi Culture RAP



13/08/2025

South West Yiradyuri Clans

Re: Stage 2/3 draft methodology - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System

H

To 

Consultation

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Sun 17/08/2025 5:46 PM

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

Yama Catherine,

South West Yiradyuri Clans have no comments on the methodology.

Kind regards

Mark



Heritage Services  
Southern West Yiradyuri  
Clans

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report: Corowa Battery Energy Storage System

85

## Appendix 1 Figure 9: Stage 2/3 OzArk response to RAP feedback

### Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge

RE: Stage 2/3 draft methodology - Corowa Battery Energy Storage System



Stephanie Rusden  
To: ☐ Mark Saddler  
Cc: ☐ Consultation

Reply Reply All Forward ...

Tue 19/08/2025 10:02 AM

Thank you for taking the time to read the draft assessment methodology and provide feedback.

Please see below in blue responses to your feedback.

**Section 3.3.1.**  
*Archaeological investigations near the study area.*  
 Page18 Section OzArk 2025  
*I have concerns that the report states that "Ground surface visibility was extremely limited (10%)"*  
**Response:** That should warrant another survey when conditions are more favorable to be able to see the ground.  
 Thank you for your comment on this other project. Please note that while visibility was low during the survey completed by OzArk (2025), the area had been previously assessed by Spenneman (1994) (summarised in Section 3.3.1 of the draft assessment methodology) which recorded several Aboriginal sites across the OzArk (2025) study area for the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant. The summary for OzArk (2025) will be amended so that it is clear this area was previously assessed by Spenneman (1994).

**Section 4.3**  
**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**  
*One of your questions is "Is there evidence to suggest that Aboriginal people were using the area earlier than the mid to late Holocene?"*  
**Response:** Evidence is all about in this area and include the finding of several people who have been dated at about 18,000 years old.  
 Thank you. Noted.

**Section 5.3**  
**SURVEY METHODOLOGY**  
*Point 2 states "Some areas may not be physically surveyed if the RAPs and OzArk staff agree they are too disturbed or possess a very low likelihood of sites"*  
**Response:** Regardless of any disturbance the whole area needs to be surveyed and looked over.  
 Noted. Following the Stage 2/3 review period, Section 5.3 will be amended to reflect this comment.

*I also ask to have test excavation carried out in this location.*  
 As noted in Section 5.2 of the draft assessment methodology, one of the aims of the field survey will be to determine if any landforms of the study area require test excavation to understand the archaeological potential at a particular location.

*Can you also advise which RAPs attended your survey work and if none I would ask for this work to be done again and have RAPs onsite ?*  
 The survey for this project has not yet been undertaken. It will be completed following the end of the Stage 2/3 assessment methodology review period.

*Also, any and all people who work on or with this project must have a Wiradjuri Cultural Induction delivered to them by a Wiradjuri knowledge holder who has training and assessment qualifications.*  
 The unanticipated finds protocol and requirements for cultural awareness training will all be outlined in the forthcoming Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). Your comments on this will be taken on board.

If you have any further comments or questions please send them through.

Kind regards,

.....  
**Stephanie Rusden**  
 OzArk Environment & Heritage  
 Principal Archaeologist and Director

Appendix 1 Figure 10: Stage 4 cover letter

C

Consultation

← Reply

↩ Reply all

→ Forward

📎

⋮

Bcc: [REDACTED]

Tue 04/11/2025 11:17 AM

V2.2 DRAFT\_Corowa BESS AC...

17 MB

Dear Registered Aboriginal Stakeholder,

Please find an attached copy of the *draft* Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the Corowa BESS.

Closing date for feedback or comments is Tuesday 2 December 2025

Please get in touch with any queries or if we can be of any assistance.

Regards, Catherine  
**Catherine Burrowes**  
OzArk Environment & Heritage  
Consultation Officer  
(02) 6882 0118

Appendix 1 Figure 11: Stage 4 RAP feedback

Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge

MS

[REDACTED]

←

↩

→

📎

⋮

To: 📧 Consultation

Tue 04/11/2025 12:59 PM

ⓘ

You forwarded this message on Tue 04/11/2025 3:11 PM

Response to Corowa BESS A...

2 MB

*Yamma Catherine,*

*Please find my response to the proposed Corowa BESS attached to this email.*

*If you can confirm receipt of my response, that would be great.*

*Guwayu (Safe Travels)*

*Mark Saddler,*  
*Cultural Awareness,*  
*School & Tour Programs,*  
*Bundyi Cultural Tours,*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*"I respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of my land, The Wiradjuri people"*

*"Always Was, Always Will Be"*

⋮



## **Response to Corowa BESS ACHA: Cultural Survey and Wiradjuri Concerns 04/11/2025**

Att, Sophia Grubnic,

OzArk Environment & Heritage, Dubbo NSW 2830.

*I am writing to formally address several important points regarding the recent cultural heritage assessment and associated activities at the proposed Corowa BESS site.*

*Firstly, could you please clarify whether a thorough cultural heritage survey was conducted at the intersections of Riverina Highway and Whitehead Street? This area is of particular interest, and confirmation of its inclusion in the assessment would be appreciated.*

*Additionally, I have reviewed the area in question and noted the presence of a significant wetland adjacent to the proposed project area. Can you confirm whether the proximity to this wetland was considered in your report, and if so, what measures were taken to address any potential impacts?*

*See attached map, page 2, that indicates the wet land area that I have concerns over.*

*Given that this location is recognised as a traditional Wiradjuri travel route, I believe that test pits should be conducted in this area to ensure appropriate cultural and archaeological investigation. The significance of these routes warrants careful attention and thorough examination.*

*I would also like to inquire why only one Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) was present on site during the cultural survey, and why other RAPs, particularly those representing Wiradjuri interests, were absent. The involvement of multiple RAPs is crucial for a comprehensive and respectful assessment.*

*Furthermore, as the Albury Aboriginal Lands Council has an active land claim in the Corowa area, and is a Wiradjuri organisation, the area should be regarded as Wiradjuri and cross over country. This recognition is fundamental to ensuring appropriate engagement and representation throughout the project.*

*I reiterate my concern regarding the absence of Wiradjuri RAPs during the cultural survey and request clarification on why their participation was not done.*

*Also it is important to confirm that cultural awareness programs will be delivered to all staff and contractors associated with this site and project prior to any soil disturbance. Such measures are essential to promote understanding and respect for the cultural values of the area.*

*Thank you for your attention to these matters. I look forward to your detailed response addressing each of the points raised.*

Guwayu (safe travels)

Mark Saddler, Wiradjuri Man and RAP

E: [REDACTED]

P: [REDACTED]

Background artwork, Mark Saddler, Ngumbaay Bula Bila Mayiny (3 River People)



***Map showing “Wetland Area”  
which has close vicinity to the proposed BESS***





Appendix 1 Figure 12: Stage 4 OzArk response to RAP feedback

Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge

SG

Sophia Grubnic

⏪ Reply

⏪ Reply all

➡ Forward

⋮

To: [REDACTED]

Tue 18/11/2025 11:47 AM

Cc: Stephanie Rusden

Corowa BESS Stage 4 - OzAr...  
133 KB

▼

Hi Mark,

Thank you for providing your feedback on the Corowa BESS draft ACHAR. Please see the attached letter for our responses to your comments.

Please let me know if you need any further information or have any questions.

Kind regards,

Sophia

.....

**Sophia Grubnic**  
OzArk Environment & Heritage  
Archaeologist  
(02) 6882 0118  
*My office days are Monday-Wednesday.  
Please be aware I may not be available outside of these times.*

⋮

⏪ Reply

⏪ Reply all

➡ Forward

**OzArk Environment & Heritage**

Dubbo | Queanbeyan  
Wollongong | Newcastle  
Katoomba

T: 02 6882 0118  
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www.ozarkehm.com.au

**ABN 29 675 720 564**

145 Wingewarra St  
PO Box 2069  
DUBBO NSW 2830

18 November 2025



### **COROWA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Dear Mark,

Thank you for taking the time to review and provide feedback on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the proposed Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the project). This response addresses the feedback provided on 4 November 2025. Your comments are replicated throughout this letter in bold italics, and OzArk's responses below.

***Firstly, could you please clarify whether a thorough cultural heritage survey was conducted at the intersections of Riverina Highway and Whitehead Street? This area is of particular interest, and confirmation of its inclusion in the assessment would be appreciated.***

The road intersections at Riverina Highway and Whitehead Street were subject to survey. These sections are small, highly disturbed areas which cover active transport corridors. Figure 6-1 on page 46 of the ACHAR shows the recorded pedestrian tracks across these areas.

***Additionally, I have reviewed the area in question and noted the presence of a significant wetland adjacent to the proposed project area. Can you confirm whether the proximity to this wetland was considered in your report, and if so, what measures were taken to address any potential impacts?***

***See attached map, page 2, that indicates the wet land area that I have concerns over.***

Section 4.3 of the ACHAR identifies two seasonal wetlands near the proposed BESS location: Whitehead Street Wetlands approximately 1.1 km to the south and Nulla Nulla Swamp approximately 1.2 km to the northwest, the latter being the one provided in your map. The locations of these wetlands, and other surrounding hydrological sources (particularly the Murray River), have been considered as part of this assessment.

***Given that this location is recognised as a traditional Wiradjuri travel route, I believe that test pits should be conducted in this area to ensure appropriate cultural and archaeological investigation. The significance of these routes warrants careful attention and thorough examination.***

As outlined in the assessment methodology provided as part of Stage 3 of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (the ACHCRs; DECCW 2010) one of the aims of the survey was to

## OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage

determine if any landforms of the study area require test excavation to understand the archaeological potential at a particular location. Section 6.4 of the ACHAR states that no landforms were identified as having subsurface potential. The reasoning for this conclusion is outlined in Section 6.6 of the ACHAR.

*I would also like to inquire why only one Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) was present on site during the cultural survey, and why other RAPs, particularly those representing Wiradjuri interests, were absent. The involvement of multiple RAPs is crucial for a comprehensive and respectful assessment.*

*Furthermore, as the Albury Aboriginal Lands Council has an active land claim in the Corowa area, and is a Wiradjuri organisation, the area should be regarded as Wiradjuri and cross over country. This recognition is fundamental to ensuring appropriate engagement and representation throughout the project.*

*I reiterate my concern regarding the absence of Wiradjuri RAPs during the cultural survey and request clarification on why their participation was not done.*

Due to the size of the study area it was considered that the survey could be adequately undertaken with one archaeologist and one RAP.

OzArk acknowledges that the land within the study area is within the boundary of the Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). It is also acknowledged in the ACHAR that some sources recognise the Corowa area as being within Wiradjuri Country while others recognised Corowa as being part of Bangerang Country, and that the land on either side of the Murray River is often considered a boundary zone in which multiple groups would interact and share in the river's resources.

As set out in Section 3.4 of the ACHCRs (DECCW 2010) registration as a RAP enables all RAPs to be involved with the consultation associated with the project including input into determining the cultural values of the landscape in which the project is located and providing comment on the management of any identified cultural values. Registration as a RAP, however, does not automatically imply that all RAPs will be involved in the fieldwork associated with the survey. Fieldwork comprises 'service provision' and sits outside the consultation process.

*Also, it is important to confirm that cultural awareness programs will be delivered to all staff and contractors associated with this site and project prior to any soil disturbance. Such measures are essential to promote understanding and respect for the cultural values of the area.*

The ACHAR recommends that all staff and contractors involved in the proposed work undergo a cultural heritage induction.

Please let us know if you require any additional information or if you are not satisfied with any part of our response.

Kind regards,

---

OzArk Environment & Heritage



Sophia Grubnic  
Archaeologist  
sophia@ozarkehm.com.au  
02 6882 0118

## APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY



A generic view of a Battery Energy Storage System.

### ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

#### COROWA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

FEDERATION COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NSW

SEPTEMBER 2025

Report prepared by  
OzArk Environment & Heritage  
for Corowa Energy Project Trust



#### OzArk Environment & Heritage

145 Wingewarra St  
(PO Box 2069)  
Dubbo NSW 2830

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[www.ozarkehm.com.au](http://www.ozarkehm.com.au)

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**DOCUMENT CONTROLS**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proponent                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Corowa Energy Project Trust                                                                                                                                                  |
| Document Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology:<br>Corowa Battery Energy Storage System.                                                                                |
| File Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | OzArk Job No.                                                                                                                                                                |
| S:\OzArk EHM Data\Clients\Flow Power\Corowa BESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 5015                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Document Status: V3.0 FINAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Date: 12 September 2025                                                                                                                                                      |
| Draft V1: OzArk internal edits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | V1.0: GA-S author 6/6/25<br>V1.1 JH edit 3/7/25<br>V1.2 GA-S edit 3/7/25<br>V1.3 BC edit 16/7/25                                                                             |
| Draft V2: OzArk and client edits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | V2.0 OzArk to client 16/7/25                                                                                                                                                 |
| Final V3: Final document                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | V3.0 OzArk incorporates RAP comments 12/12/25                                                                                                                                |
| Prepared for                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Prepared by                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Niilo Monkkonen<br>Project Manager<br>Flow Power<br>L15 S2 309 Kent Street<br>Sydney NSW 2000<br>P: 0459 939 982<br>Niilo.monkkonen@flowpower.com                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Gloria Aranda-Spinazze<br>Archaeologist<br>OzArk Environment & Heritage<br>145 Wingewarra Street (PO Box 2069)<br>Dubbo NSW 2830<br>P: 02 6882 0118<br>gloria@ozarkeh.com.au |
| <p style="text-align: center;">COPYRIGHT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">© OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage 2025 and © Corowa Energy Project Trust 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All intellectual property and copyright reserved.</p> <p>Apart from any fair dealing for private study, research, criticism, or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, 1968, no part of this report may be reproduced, transmitted, stored in a retrieval system, or adapted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without written permission.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enquiries should be addressed to OzArk Environment &amp; Heritage.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                              |

### **Acknowledgement**

OzArk acknowledge the traditional custodians of the area on which this assessment will take place and pay respect to their beliefs, cultural heritage, and continuing connection with the land. We also acknowledge and pay respect to the post-contact experiences of Aboriginal people with attachment to the area and to the Elders, past and present, as the next generation of role models and vessels for memories, traditions, culture and hopes of local Aboriginal people.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PREAMBLE

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Corowa Energy Project Trust (the proponent) to prepare an assessment methodology for the proposed Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the project).

The project is located approximately 2.5 kilometres (km) north of Corowa in the Murray River Region of NSW (**Figure 1-1**). The project is located at 275 Whitehead Street within the Federation Council Local Government Area (LGA).

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). Planning approval for the project will therefore be sought under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) are not yet available for the project, although a Scoping Report has been prepared (GHD 2025).

This methodology is in accordance with Stage 3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (ACHCRs; DECCW 2010a). The project information provided here also complies with Stage 2 of the ACHCRs.

The investigation set out in this methodology aims to identify Aboriginal cultural values, both tangible and intangible, that exist in the study area. The results of this investigation will be presented in an *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (ACHAR).

### 1.2 STUDY AREA

The study area describes the area in which all impacts associated with the project will be located (**Figure 1-2**). The study area encompasses eight hectares (ha) of agricultural land and road corridor situated along Whitehead Street. The study area is directly adjacent to the Corowa substation.

### 1.3 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project involves the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the BESS. Preliminary design includes a proposed 100-megawatt (MW) BESS and transmission line connecting to the 132/22kV Essential Energy Corowa Substation adjacent to the study area (**Figure 1-1**).

Key features of the project would likely include:

- A BESS with a capacity of up to 100 MW / 200 MWh comprised of lithium-ion battery storage units enclosed in containers Power inverters, transformers and switchgear

- Above ground, below ground (or a combination of both) transmission connections from the proposed BESS to the neighbouring 132 / 22 kV Essential Energy Corowa substation site
- Ancillary infrastructure including a site office and monitoring system, access modification, security fencing, lighting and signage and screening vegetation.

The project may also require upgrades to portions of the following public roads: Honour Avenue, Bullecourt Road, Whitehead Street, and Riverina Highway (**Figure 1-3**). These roads will only be subject to survey if it is determined that the upgrades are required.



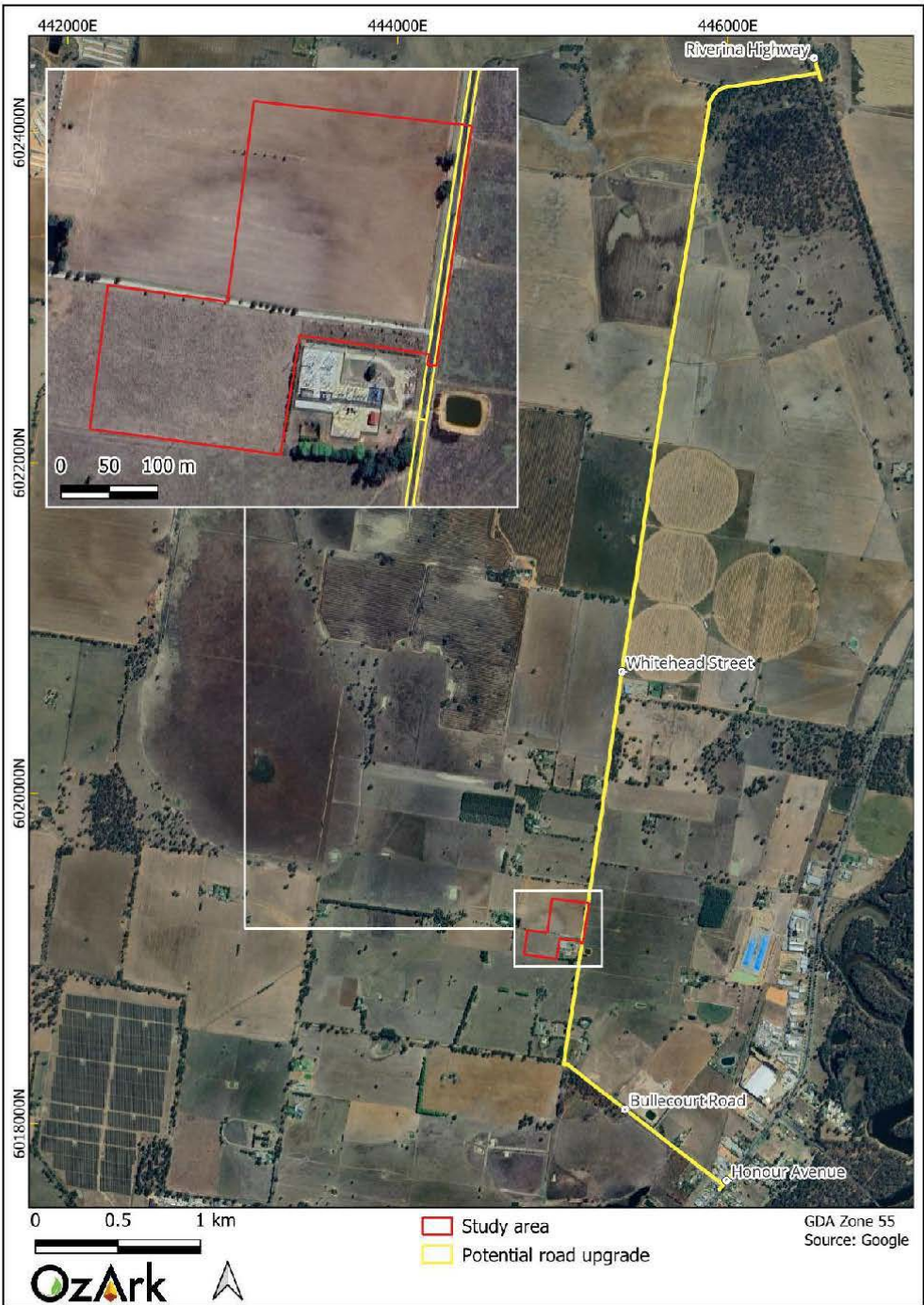
Figure 1-1: Location of the study area.



Figure 1-2: Aerial of the study area.



Figure 1-3: The potential road upgrades in relation to the study area.





## 1.4 CONSULTATION ON THIS METHODOLOGY

Consultation for this proposal has followed the guidelines established in the ACHCRs (DECCW 2010b) whereby an advertisement was placed in the local press and relevant agencies were contacted to ascertain if they were aware of groups or individuals who may have cultural knowledge of the region containing the project.

On 6 June 2025 an advertisement was placed in the *Border Daily* requesting expressions of interest in being consulted about the project. In addition, the following agencies were contacted to identify potential stakeholders for the area: Heritage NSW; Albury and District Aboriginal Land Council (LALC); the Office of The Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*; the National Native Title Tribunal; Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTSCORP); Federation Council; and the Murray Local Land Services.

As a result, the following individuals/groups registered to be consulted about the project:

- Albury and District LALC
- Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge
- South West Yiradyuri Clans'
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education Pty Ltd.

These individuals/groups constitute the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the project.

To inform the RAPs of the assessment, a draft of this assessment methodology was issued to all RAPs for their consideration on 13 August 2025. RAPs were provided the stipulated 28 days in which to review and comment on the assessment methodology as per Stage 3 of the ACHCRs. The closing date for comment was 10 September 2025.

A response was received from Mark Saddler from Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge on 13 August 2025 providing feedback on the draft assessment methodology. **Table 1-1** details the feedback provided by Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and OzArk's responses.

A response was received from Southern West Yiradyuri Clans on 17 August 2025 advising that they had reviewed the assessment methodology and had no comments.

**Table 1-1: Feedback from Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and OzArk responses.**

| Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | OzArk response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Section 3.3.1.</b><br/>Archaeological investigations near the study area.<br/>Page18 Section OzArk 2025<br/>I have concerns that the report states that "Ground surface visibility was extremely limited (10%)"<br/><b>Response:</b> That should warranty another survey when conditions are more favorable to be able to see the ground.</p> | <p>Thank you for your comment on this other project. Please note that while visibility was low during the survey completed by OzArk (2025), the area had been previously assessed by Spenneman (1994) (summarised in Section 3.3.1 of the draft assessment methodology) which recorded several Aboriginal sites across the OzArk (2025) study area for the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant. The summary for OzArk (2025) will be amended so that it is clear this area was previously assessed by Spenneman (1994).</p> |
| <p><b>Section 4.3</b><br/>RESEARCH QUESTIONS:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Thank you. Noted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| Bundyl Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | OzArk response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| One of your questions is "Is there evidence to suggest that Aboriginal people were using the area earlier than the mid to late Holocene?"<br><br>Response: Evidence is all about in this area and include the finding of several people who have been dated at about 18,000 years old                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Section 5.3</b><br>SURVEY METHODOLOGY<br>Point 2 states "Some areas may not be physically surveyed if the RAPs and OzArk staff agree they are too disturbed or possess a very low likelihood of sites"<br><b>Response:</b> Regardless of any disturbance the whole area needs to be surveyed and looked over. | Noted. Following the Stage 2/3 review period, Section 5.3 will be amended to reflect this comment.                                                                                                                                                    |
| I also ask to have test excavation carried out in this location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | As noted in Section 5.2 of the draft assessment methodology, one of the aims of the field survey will be to determine if any landforms of the study area require test excavation to understand the archaeological potential at a particular location. |
| Can you also advise which RAPs attended your survey work and if none I would ask for this work to be done again and have RAPs onsite?                                                                                                                                                                            | The survey for this project has not yet been undertaken. It will be completed following the end of the Stage 2/3 assessment methodology review period.                                                                                                |
| Also, any and all people who work on or with this project must have a Wiradjuri Cultural Induction delivered to them by a Wiradjuri knowledge holder who has training and assessment qualifications.                                                                                                             | The unanticipated finds protocol and requirements for cultural awareness training will all be outlined in the forthcoming Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). Your comments on this will be taken on board.                       |

## 1.5 LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY AREA

The study area is located within the Riverina Bioregion of NSW which spans large portions of southwest NSW and central-north Victoria and includes the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

The study area lies further back from the Murray River in the Murray Depression Plains subregion characterised by saline, grey – brown clayey soils. In pre-settlement times, this landscape would have supported black box woodlands and salt-tolerant understory communities (e.g. saltbush).

These plant communities would have supported a variety of native fauna and provided Aboriginal people with access to a range of plant and animal resources. However, resources likely to have supported a large population of people would have been present closer to the banks of the Murray River.

The Murray River is the closest permanent watercourse to the study area and is located approximately 1.5 km east of the study area. No ephemeral watercourses intersect the study area or appear closer than the Murray River and there is no evidence that natural watercourses occur near or within the study area. The study area is located primarily within a flat plain and may flood during times of heavy rainfall (see **Figure 1-4**).

The study area is used primarily for grazing and cropping purposes. Disturbances inside the study area appear to be limited to construction of homesteads and agriculture infrastructure, fence lines, dams and unsealed tracks as well as a section of Whitehead Street. An aerial from 1977 which covers the study area shows there has been little change in terms of land use in the past 48 years (**Figure 1-5**).

Figure 1-4: Hydrological features near the study area.



Figure 1-5: 1977 aerial with overlay of study area (source: SS 2021).





## 2 CULTURAL VALUES

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL VALUES

Fundamentally, culture is living and is not static:

- Culture is acquired - we learn about culture from others in our community, including our parents
- Culture is shared - culture does not exist in a vacuum, it is shared amongst a group of people
- Culture defines core values - because we have been taught our culture and share it with our cultural group, we tend to form the same core values
- Cultures resist change but are not static - culture does and can change, but change is usually slow and gradual.

#### 2.1.1 Connection to Country

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are connected to Country through lines of descent (paternal and maternal), as well as clan and language groups.

Territory is defined by spiritual as well as physical links. Landforms have deep meaning, recorded in art, stories, songs, and dance. Songlines or Dreaming Tracks as well as kinship structures link Aboriginal peoples to the territories of other groups. In the past, these links were also used for trade.

*“When we say Country we might mean homeland, or tribal or clan area and in saying so we may mean something more than just a place; somewhere on the map. We are not necessarily referring to place in a geographical sense. But we are talking about the whole of the landscape, not just the places on it.”*

Professor Mick Dodson AM, August 2007

#### 2.1.2 Managing Country

Living on this land for around 50,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders established effective ways to use and sustain resources. One important aspect is the right of certain people to control the use of resources in a particular area. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people don't see themselves as 'owning' land, animals, plants, or nature, but rather belonging with these things as equal parts of creation.

The rights of different groups to live in and manage certain areas of land are clear and recorded through art, stories, songs, and dance.



### 2.1.3 Recognising lore

In much of eastern Australia, Aboriginal communities live their lives like most Australians. However, in certain crucial areas, particularly associated with family, leadership roles and caring for Country, Aboriginal lore continues, even in the most urbanised communities.

## 2.2 IDENTIFYING CULTURAL VALUES

A major aim of this assessment is to identify any cultural values within the landscape in which the study area is located so that those values can be recognised and incorporated into the ACHAR's management recommendations.

Any cultural values relating to the study area will be captured by the OzArk archaeologists (if such information is provided by RAPs during the survey) and included in the ACHAR.

Understanding cultural landscapes can only come from the views of a particular community, in this case, the Aboriginal community. Unless informed, OzArk will not know of the community's feelings towards the cultural landscape in which the study area will be located. Should any RAPs have knowledge of cultural values regarding the study area that they wish to share or that may affect the survey methodology set out in **Section 5**, OzArk invites them to contact us so that these values can be recorded and/or responded to in the methodology.

### 2.2.1 Use of information collected

An ACHAR will be prepared for the project which articulates Aboriginal cultural values and associated conservation methods across the study area, as identified during the consultations. The ACHAR will be circulated to all RAPs for comment as is set out in the ACHCRs. The ACHAR will be available to Heritage NSW for their consideration of the project and the report will be publicly available.

### 2.2.2 Public / confidential information

Information will be treated in accordance with instructions received by whoever provides the information. Information described as confidential (culturally sensitive) will not be detailed in the publicly available report. Confidential information should be made available to the proponent, its heritage consultants, and Heritage NSW so that significant cultural values can be conserved. On advice from the provider of the information, a redacted ACHAR would be made available to the wider public where any sensitive cultural information is removed.

### 2.2.3 Copyright

Information collected for this assessment remains the property of the person who provided the information. Without written permission from the provider, information may not be used for purposes other than those outlined above.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

#### 3.1 ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THE STUDY AREA

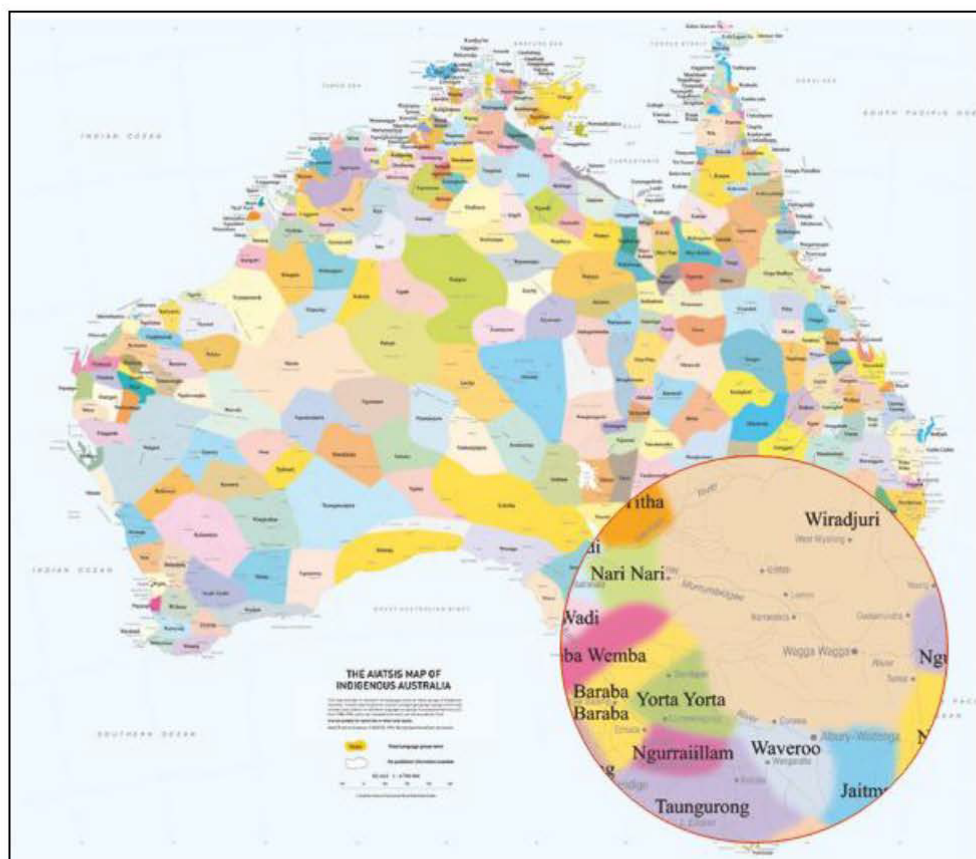
Aboriginal occupation of the land along the Murray River and in the Corowa region can be traced back to approximately 40,000 years ago.

According to Horton (1996), the study area is situated within the territory of the people belonging to the Wiradjuri tribal and linguistic group, but near the boundary with the Waywurru (Waveroo) people (**Figure 3-1**). The area at Corowa is also recognised as land inhabited by the Bangerang people (NPWS 2003:95).

According to Tindale (1974) and White (1986), the Murray River forms the southern extent of the Wiradjuri territory; although it is worth noting that major rivers were not boundary or territory markers in Aboriginal culture as they are in the European tradition. Tindale's boundaries are principally derived based on Aboriginal language groups and should be interpreted with a degree of flexibility. It is generally accepted that Wiradjuri people shared lands on both sides of the Murray River.

The material cultures of the Wiradjuri consisted of a wide variety of hunting implements including wooden spears, boomerangs, fishing hooks, clubs, and shields. Such hunting tools were common throughout south-eastern Australia (Attenbrow 2010). Wiradjuri people also employed nets and traps for fishing (Clayton and Barlow 1997).

The Bangerang people used the Murray River as a primary resource for food, transport and communication, and are today frequently remembered for their bark canoes (NPWS 2003:95). The Murray River would have provided the local people with Murray cod, shellfish, and yabbies, with nuts, fruits, yam daisies, and orchid tubers being found across the landforms surrounding the river.

**Figure 3-1: Map of Indigenous Australia (Horton 1996).**

### 3.2 REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The study area is located within the Murray-Darling Basin. Aboriginal people have occupied this part of Australia for over 40,000 years, with early occupation focussed on the resources of freshwater lakes and rivers and their floodplains. This occupation also occurred along various river channels that pre-date the present Murray-Darling river system (MDBMC 1987:353).

Archaeological evidence indicates that with the drying up of the lakes around 26,000 years BP (before present) in response to changes in climatic conditions, Aboriginal people remained near major rivers. However, by 4,000 years BP there is evidence of a major increase in site numbers and more intensive occupation of more marginal environmental regions (MDBMC 1987:354).

Prior to the 1980s only a few archaeological studies had been conducted within the Murray Valley region. These studies included academic theses (Bickford 1966 and Allen 1968) and a regional archaeological survey of the Murray Valley by Buchan (1974), which aimed at establishing a preliminary register of sites in the area. Since that time, numerous archaeological studies have



been carried out in the broader region around the regions, concentrated mostly in areas to the east of the Federation LGA, around Albury.

There are limited broad scale regional archaeological studies which either cover the study area itself or are in general proximity to it. These studies have been summarised below.

Report on Archaeological Survey — The Murray Valley, NSW (Buchan 1974)

One of the earliest archaeological investigations across the region was Buchan's survey of the Murray Valley which aimed at establishing a preliminary register of sites in the area. This assessment covered approximately 41,000 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) focusing on areas along the Murray River between Tooleybuc in the west and Albury in the east. Nearly 200 sites were identified. Approximately half were oven/hearth and mound sites ranging from over one metre (m) diameter and 0.1 m high to 1.2 m in diameter and 2 m high.

Of exception was an oven deposit at Mellool, located approximately 245 km west of the study area along the Murray River, which extended 150 m (Buchan 1974:38). Scarred trees were the next most common site type. Sixteen sites containing burials were identified. Of these, ten were associated with other cultural material including surface artefacts, middens and ovens. Seven shell middens were identified with freshwater mussel being the dominant species. Middens ranged in length from 15 m to 650 m and ranged in width from 2 m to 60 m. The average depth/thickness of deposit was 0.2 to 0.3 m.

An Archaeological Survey of Northeast Victoria (Thompson 1996)

Thompson conducted an archaeological survey of a large section of north-eastern Victoria, which was divided into three landscape divisions: Murray Basin Plains, Foothills, and Eastern Highlands. Sample surveying was undertaken and a total of 111 Aboriginal sites were identified, including 69 scarred trees and 42 stone artefact occurrences (Thompson 1996:23). However, of the 69 scarred trees, Thompson (1996:23) suggested that 22 were of European origin. Of the Aboriginal scarred trees, 39 were on grey box, seven were on red box, and one was on a tree of unidentified species. Quartz dominated the stone artefact assemblage, excluding a particular exception associated with a silcrete outcrop. Of all the sites recorded, two-thirds were within 100 m of a water source and two-thirds of the stone artefact sites were within 500 m of a permanent water source. Thompson (1996:25) identified that the flats and terraces of the Mountains/Eastern Highlands category had high artefact density sites present.

Wiradjuri Heritage Study for the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area of NSW (Green 2002)

Green (2002) undertook a survey for the Wiradjuri Heritage Study which involved an extensive level of consultation with government, non-government and Aboriginal interests in the Wagga Wagga LGA, to the north of the present study area. Broadly the study aimed to interpret the

findings of archaeological findings from various assessments over the LGA. In relation to predictive models Green (2002:77), summarises that:

- Quartz is the primary raw material however chert, silcrete, and quartzite are also known to occur.
- Artefact scatters are likely to be identified in well drained areas near permanent water sources such as sand hills and creek levees.
- Hearth stones and artefacts are likely to be exposed by erosion at the base of sand dunes and drifts.
- Mussel shell deposits are often associated with ashy grey material and charcoal.
- Burials are usually only detected after disturbance (machine or natural i.e. erosion) but are usually in naturally elevated sand dunes or alluvial landforms.
- Modified trees can occur anywhere but are more common near water.
- The Wiradjuri did not always live in transient camps but often concentrated, continued or repeated activity around certain camp sites and mounds.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values Strategic Mapping. Federation Council Local Government Area (OzArk 2009)

OzArk was engaged by the Federation Council (the proponent) to undertake Aboriginal cultural heritage values strategic mapping of the Federation LGA.

The unique nature of the Federation LGA made strategic mapping of the Aboriginal cultural values within the LGA very difficult. These 'unique' features include:

- Few sites have been recorded in the LGA as it mostly consists of privately held farming properties. As there is a relative lack of sizeable towns, national parks, and industries such as extractive mining that usually result heritage surveys and, hence, site recordings, the sites that have been recorded appear to be due to a small number of heritage surveys and recordings by individuals. Therefore, the true site distribution within the Federation LGA is unknown and without some empirical evidence around which to frame a predictive model for site location, any strategic mapping is fraught with difficulties. As such, the results are very general, and, in the end, the mapping has used the usual variable of 'distance to water' as a major determining factor for Aboriginal site location, even though an analysis of the currently known site distribution within the LGA did not support this
- The LGA contains large areas of relic floodplains and terraces. Due to this fact, it is difficult to predict where sites may be located as the landscape has altered markedly over time. Commonly available aeriels can show the ephemeral lakes/depressions and relic drainage channels. While most of these landforms are captured in the 'high' and 'moderate' archaeological potential categories in the strategic mapping, should any such relic drainage features fall into the 'low' potential category landforms, it should be assumed that they may contain potential to contain Aboriginal objects.

In conclusion, the study found that the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Federation LGA are poorly understood and difficult to accurately map. This is unlikely to change until a more systematic heritage study is undertaken, first concentrating on the publicly held reserves and then including a sample of landforms from across the privately held farming properties.

The strategic mapping produced by OzArk 2009 indicates that the study area is in a landform with low archaeological potential.

### 3.3 LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

A search of the Heritage NSW administered Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database on 6 June 2025 returned 79 results for Aboriginal sites within a 20 km radius of the study area (GDA Zone 55, Eastings: 434971–454971, Northings: 6009128–6029128).

The most frequently recorded site types are modified trees (carved or scarred) which contribute 78.5% of the site types in the vicinity of the study area. Other site types are isolated artefacts (20.1%) and one instance of an artefact with an associated shell (1.3%) (see **Table 3-1**).

Site types found in this region are dominated by modified trees. The area surrounding the Murray River is notably flat which makes it prone to environmental events like flooding, weathering and erosion, limiting integrity for other site types to exist. It is also likely that any habitation within the region of the study area would be limited to the Murray River due to the unsuitability of settlement in flatter areas. **Figure 3-2** shows the location of previously recorded sites in the vicinity of the study area.

**Table 3-1: AHIMS site types and frequencies**

| Site Type                         | Number    | % Frequency |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Modified tree (carved or scarred) | 62        | 78.5        |
| Isolated artefact                 | 16        | 20.2        |
| Artefact with shell               | 1         | 1.3         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>79</b> | <b>100</b>  |



**Figure 3-2. AHIMS sites in relation to the study area.**

This figure has been redacted

### 3.3.1 Archaeological investigations near the study area

There are several broad scale regional archaeological studies which cover the general vicinity and like landscapes to the study area. Some relevant studies have been summarised below.

#### Spenneman 1994

Spenneman (1994) conducted an archaeological survey for NSW Public Works in 1994 for the proposed Corowa Sewerage Augmentation Scheme. The survey covered two land lots within Corowa township. Fifteen sites were recorded comprising 14 hearth mounds (ovens) and one scarred tree, notably this last site was recorded as a possible culturally modified tree and was considered to be 'doubtful' (Spenneman 1994:14). These fifteen sites are all located within a one-kilometre radius of the study area (**Figure 3-3**).

Spenneman's oven mounds were recorded in various states of preservation, with only two being deemed 'well preserved', while eight were 'scattered', two 'very disturbed', and one was recorded as 'destroyed by canal' (**Figure 3-3**). The materials recorded at each oven mound site were mostly limited to amorphous raw materials determined to be heat-retaining manuports, including lumps of water-worn and rough-edged quartz, schist, and metamorphosed sandstone. No worked stone artefacts were observed.

**Figure 3-3: Sites recordings as detailed in Spenneman (1994).**

**Table 1. Sites encountered at Corowa, Survey Area B**

| Site N°  | Type of Site                      | Dimensions (m) | Height (m)       | State of preservation                              |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| COR-B-1  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 4 x 4        | ~0.2-0.3         | well preserved                                     |
| COR-B-2  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 5 x 5        | ~0.2             | well preserved (?)                                 |
| COR-B-3  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 30 x 40      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-4  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 10 x 40      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-5  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 5 x 5        | surface          | very disturbed                                     |
| COR-B-6  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 25 x 30      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-7  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 20 x 30      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-8  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 40 x 60      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-9  | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 40 x 50      | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-10 | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 8 x 20       | surface          | disturbed                                          |
| COR-B-11 | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 20 x 30      | surface          | very disturbed                                     |
| COR-B-12 | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 30 x 40      | surface          | destroyed by canal                                 |
| COR-B-13 | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 20x30        | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-14 | Oven (mound)                      | ~ 10x20 (?)    | surface          | scattered                                          |
| COR-B-15 | Scarred tree (?)<br>with boulders | —              | surface/standing | scar identity doubtful,<br>large boulders at base. |

### Hamm 1995

In 1995, Hamm completed an extensive survey in this region for the proposed construction of an optic fibre cable. The areas from Finley (96 km northwest of the study area) to Jerilderie and Darlington Point to Coleambally were subject to field survey. Areas of archaeological sensitivity were identified for the Finley to Jerilderie route at a small lake depression just south of Jerilderie and to the west of a small sand dune (Hamm 1995:5). Generally, sites were considered most likely in proximity to water sources (lake, creek or dry swamp), such as Berrigan Creek, or in elevated flat land such as sand dune crests, lunette or hummocky dune. Locations near water sources were predicted to contain artefact scatters or open camp sites and sand dune or lunettes to contain burials.

Scarred trees were predicted in areas of road reserves, where old growth native trees remain. Due to extensive historic disturbance seen in this region from grazing and farming it was deemed unlikely that surface sites would be identified.

The surveys resulted in three scarred trees located between Darlington Point and Coleambally. A further 17 scarred trees were identified along the Newell Highway between Finley and Jerilderie. These trees lined the travelling stock reserve next to the highway between Finley Canal and Berrigan Creek (Hamm 1995:7).

### OzArk 2008

In 2008, OzArk completed an assessment approximately 35 km west of Corowa for the proposed Mulwala to Finley 132 kilovolt (KV) electricity transmission line, stretching for 68 km. No Aboriginal sites were identified, and it was determined that there was low potential for intact, subsurface archaeological material in the assessment area due to the area comprising predominately plains with clay soils which experiences periodic inundation during flooding events, making them unsuitable for long term occupation. Further to this, no permanent water or rock sources were present in the assessment area, which has undergone extensive disturbance through clearing of native vegetation and agricultural cropping.

### OzArk 2025

In March 2025, OzArk Environment and Heritage completed a Due Diligence Assessment Report for the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant, approximately 5 km northeast of the Corowa BESS study area. Ground surface visibility was extremely limited (10%) across the study area with negligible exposures (0 to 5%). Vegetation was largely juvenile with small amounts of quartz pebbles observed. High levels of disturbance were also noted across the study area. No previously recorded Aboriginal sites could be re-identified, and no new sites were recorded.

### 3.4 CONCLUSION

The archaeological investigations surrounding the study area as summarised in **Sections 3.2** and **3.3** indicate that:

- Though modified trees are the most prevalent site types in the general region, these tend to be located near permanent watercourses and in areas not affected by historical vegetation clearance events
- Quartz is the predominant material for stone artefacts in the area, although volcanic materials, silcrete, quartzite, mudstone, chert, and chalcedony could also be present
- The landforms occupied by the study area are, plains with clay soils which would have been inundated during periodic flooding of the Murray River prior to water control and storage facilities being built. A combination of the soil type and landform unit makes it unlikely that the study area was suitable for long-term Indigenous occupation
- There is no permanent water sources located within the study area, again making long-term Indigenous occupation likely
- The entire study area has been greatly transformed from its natural state with large scale tree clearing and cropping having taken place. These land uses would have irreparably damaged any archaeological sites/deposits had they existed and if they are found, are likely to have been removed from their original context.

## 4 PREDICTIVE MODEL

### 4.1 LANDFORM MODELLING

The topography of the study area consists entirely of floodplains, with a consistent elevation of 140 m. Previous studies in the district indicate that these flats are unlikely to contain intact sites, especially when distant to permanent water sources.

Preliminary landform mapping within the study area indicates there is only one landform type:

- Floodplain

The study area and surrounding land is primarily used for farming and grazing operations. The presence of hooved livestock is likely to have resulted in trampling and compaction of the ground surface which accelerates soil loss. Vegetation clearance has also accelerated erosional processes across the study area.

### 4.2 PREDICTIVE MODEL FOR THE STUDY AREA

Across Australia, numerous archaeological studies in widely varying environmental zones and contexts have demonstrated a high correlation between the permanence of a water source and the permanence and/or complexity of Aboriginal occupation. Site location is also affected by the availability of and/or accessibility to a range of other natural resources including: plant and animal foods; stone and ochre resources and rock shelters; as well as by their general proximity to other sites/places of cultural/mythological significance. Consequently, sites tend to be found along permanent and ephemeral water sources, along access or trade routes or in areas that have good flora/fauna resources and appropriate shelter.

In formulating a predictive model for Aboriginal archaeological site location within any landscape it is also necessary to consider post-depositional influences on Aboriginal material culture. In all but the best preservation conditions very little of the organic material culture remains of ancestral Aboriginal communities survives to the present. Generally, it is the more durable materials such as stone artefacts, stone hearths, shell, and some bones that remain preserved in the current landscape. Even these however may not be found in their original depositional context since these may be subject to either (a) the effects of wind and water erosion/transport—both over short- and long-time scales—or (b) the historical impacts associated with the introduction of colonial farming practices. Scarred trees, by their nature, may survive for up to several hundred years but rarely beyond.

#### 4.2.1 Site types in the region of the study area

The site types listed in **Table 4-1** are present in the region of the study area. The likelihood of these sites being present in the study area is discussed in **Section 4.2.3**.



**Table 4-1: Site types recorded in the region of the study area.**

| Site type                 | Site description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Isolated finds            | May be indicative of random loss or deliberate discard of a single artefact, the remnant of a now dispersed and disturbed artefact scatter, or an otherwise obscured or subsurface artefact scatter. They may occur anywhere within the landscape but are more likely to occur in topographies where open artefact scatters typically occur.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Open artefact scatters    | Artefact scatters are defined as two or more artefacts, not located within a rock shelter, and located no more than 50 m away from any other constituent artefact. This site type may occur almost anywhere that Aboriginal people have travelled and may be associated with hunting and gathering activities, short- or long-term camps, and the manufacture and maintenance of stone tools. Artefact scatters typically consist of surface scatters or sub-surface distributions of flaked stone discarded during the manufacture of tools but may also include other artefactual rock types such as hearth and anvil stones. Less commonly, artefact scatters may include archaeological stratigraphic features such as hearths and artefact concentrations which relate to activity areas. Artefact density can vary considerably between and across individual sites. Small ground exposures revealing low density scatters may be indicative of a background scatter rather than a spatially or temporally distinct artefact assemblage. These sites are classed as 'open', that is, occurring on the land surface unprotected by rock overhangs, and are sometimes referred to as 'open camp sites'. Artefact scatters are most likely to occur on level or low gradient contexts, along the crests of ridgelines and spurs, and elevated areas fringing watercourses or wetlands. Larger sites may be expected in association with permanent water sources. Topographies which afford effective through-access across, and relative to, the surrounding landscape, such as the open basal valley slopes and the valleys of creeks, will tend to contain more and larger sites, mostly camp sites evidenced by open artefact scatters. |
| Culturally modified trees | Aboriginal scarred trees contain evidence of the removal of bark (and sometimes wood) in the past by Aboriginal people, in the form of a scar. Bark was removed from trees for a wide range of reasons. It was a raw material used in the manufacture of various tools, vessels, and commodities such as string, water containers, roofing for shelters, shields and canoes. Bark was also removed because of gathering food, such as collecting wood boring grubs or creating footholds to climb a tree for possum hunting. Due to the multiplicity of uses and the continuous process of occlusion (or healing) following removal, it is difficult to accurately determine the intended purpose for any example of bark removal. Scarred trees may occur anywhere old growth trees survive. The identification of scars as Aboriginal cultural heritage items can be problematical because some forms of natural trauma and European bark extraction create similar scars. Many remaining scarred trees probably date to the historic period when bark was removed by Aboriginal people for both their own purposes and for roofing on early European houses. Consequently, the distinction between European and Aboriginal scarred trees may not be clear.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Middens                   | Formed from Aboriginal exploitation and consumption of shellfish, in marine, estuarine, or freshwater contexts. Middens may also include faunal remains such as fish or mammal bone, stone artefacts, hearths, charcoal, and occasionally, burials. They are usually located on elevated dry ground close to the aquatic environment from which the shellfish has been exploited and where freshwater resources are available. Deeper, more compacted, midden sites are often found in areas containing the greatest diversity of resources, such as river estuaries and coastal lagoons.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Oven mounds               | Aboriginal oven mounds, also known as earth mounds or cooking mounds, are a distinctive archaeological feature found along the Murray River. These mounds are evidence of traditional Aboriginal cooking practices, where earth ovens were used repeatedly in the same location over long periods. They are often found on naturally elevated features like levee banks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

#### 4.2.2 Landform modelling of archaeological potential

The number of archaeological studies undertaken within the vicinity of the study area provides information to obtain a sound understanding of the nature and distribution of archaeological sites within the area. Although there is some conjecture about the relationship between stream order, site numbers and densities, the general pattern is that most sites are present close to watercourses and in areas of minimal disturbances.

The land encompassing the study area is also notably flat and would have been affected by historical flooding events associated with the Murray River. Clay soils also inundate the study area making it unusually prone to usual weathering and erosion patterns. Crucial for the preservation of archaeological deposits is the history of past land use in an area is the integrity of the original landscape. As the study area has faced extensive disturbances over time, it is

unlikely that any archaeological evidence will remain. If archaeological items are identified within the study area, they are unlikely to be in an original context.

#### 4.2.3 Conclusion

Based on knowledge of the environmental contexts of the study area and a desktop review of the known local and regional archaeological record, the following predictions are made concerning the probability of landforms within the study area to contain Aboriginal objects (Table 4-2), and what types of sites may be present within the study area (Table 4-3).

**Table 4-2: Likelihood of landforms within the study area to contain Aboriginal objects.**

| Survey Unit | Landform type | Likelihood to contain Aboriginal objects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1           | Floodplain    | Floodplains are an aggrading environment that are impacted by flooding and channel migration. While floodplains would have provided resources to encourage occupation and use in the past, their geomorphic nature makes them poor preservers of archaeological deposits and any objects in such landforms are likely to be in a secondary context. |

**Table 4-3: Likelihood of certain site types being present in the study area.**

| Site type                 | Likelihood of being present in the study area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Isolated finds            | As isolated finds can occur anywhere, particularly within disturbed contexts, and as such it is predicted that this site type could be recorded within the study area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Open artefact scatters    | As the study area is within floodplain landforms distant to permanent water, this site type is not predicted to be common. However, this site type is possible although the moderate degree of disturbance in the study area will probably mean that the scatter has become displaced. It is likely that any sites associated with such landforms are likely to have a low artefact density and a low complexity of tool types as the sites are either one-off events or only infrequently used. |
| Culturally modified trees | Due to the almost complete clearing of native vegetation, this site type is unlikely to be located within the study area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Middens                   | As the study area is within flat/plains landforms distant to permanent water, this site type is not predicted to be common.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Oven mounds               | Given the high degree of long-term disturbance from cultivation (see Figure 1-5), features such as oven mounds, had they been present, are highly likely to have been destroyed in the study area and are not expected to be recorded.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

The following observations of the study area can be made:

- The site type most likely to be recorded would be open artefact sites including artefact scatters and isolated finds. However, due to the history of cultivation in the study area, any artefact sites present in the study area are likely to be in a secondary context
- The predominant soils within the study area are clays that are generally poor preservers of archaeological material
- There are no natural water sources within the study area indicating that the study area was unlikely to be used for long-term camping activities
- The study area occupies a relatively dry area with nearly a quarter of the year recording little or no rain. This indicates that the resources available to Aboriginal people in the study area would have been limited and may have discouraged long-term camping activities
- The entire study area has been heavily impacted by European land use inevitably leading to the disturbance of surface and subsurface archaeological deposits had they been present.

Due to the above observations, the archaeological potential of the study area is assessed as low at desktop level. It is noted that the study area was also classified as having low archaeological potential in the OzArk 2009 study. The land that encompasses the study area is classified as flats or plains generally distant to permanent water (1.5 km west of the Murray River) and due to the dry climate of the region, it would be unlikely for long-term camping activities to have occurred in the study area. The study area may have been used for transit or resource gathering activities, although these activities do not tend to leave a strong archaeological signature.

#### 4.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Several research questions can meaningfully be applied to the investigation of the study area. These research questions include:

- What resources were available to the Aboriginal people using the land within the study area (food, stone, and water) and what resources were transported to the area?
- What tasks were Aboriginal people undertaking at the sites?
- Is there evidence to suggest that Aboriginal people were using the area earlier than the mid to late Holocene? Can dates be obtained for the Aboriginal use of the area?
- Do the findings within the study area (if any) accord with the regional archaeological context examined in **Section 3.2**?
- Do the survey results support the predictive model set out in **Section 4.2.3**?

The survey methodology set out in **Section 5** will be framed to help answer these questions; should sites of sufficient significance be encountered. However, based on the results of previous assessments and past disturbances, it is not expected that the study area will contain sites of sufficient significance to help answer those research questions that require a robust data set.



## 5 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 ASSESSMENT APPROACH

The Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the study area will follow the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (Code of Practice; DECCW 2010b). The field inspection will follow the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales* (The Guide, OEH 2011).

Survey for Aboriginal cultural heritage values will concentrate on the study area where project impacts will be located.

### 5.2 SURVEY AIMS

The aim of any archaeological survey is not to locate each artefact in a landscape but to undertake investigations so that the archaeological potential and archaeological characteristics of all landforms within the study area are known. Therefore, the aims of the survey will be to:

- Inspect all landform types in the study area so that their archaeological potential can be determined
- Evaluate whether the predictive model set out in **Section 4.2** is valid
- Determine if the research questions set out in **Section 4.3** can be answered
- Determine if any landforms of the study area require test excavation to understand the archaeological potential at a particular location
- Undertake sufficient assessment to satisfy Sections 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, and 2.7 in the Guide
- Collect sufficient data so that the results can be presented in an ACHAR as set out in Section 3 in the Guide
- Undertake survey and record keeping satisfying Requirements 1–13 of the Code of Practice.

### 5.3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Standard archaeological field survey and recording methods will be employed in this assessment (Burke & Smith 2004) and will follow the Code of Practice.

Full pedestrian survey will be conducted over the entirety of the study area due to its relatively small size.

In the field, OzArk staff will identify, record and evaluate physical (i.e., archaeological) evidence. Site recording will capture all the information required to complete current AHIMS site recording forms (e.g., site location, site boundary, site plan, representative photographs, artefact recording and feature recording). RAPs will participate in the survey, identifying Aboriginal objects, determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects, and identifying cultural places or non-

physical site types within the study area. OzArk staff understand that cultural knowledge may not be provided in some instances due to cultural sensitivities (e.g., men's and/or women's places). Under these circumstances, to assess the potential impacts, OzArk staff will need to be told, only in general terms, why a particular place is important, and what the significance of the impact will be. OzArk staff will liaise with RAPs on a case-by-case basis to determine how to record the location in a culturally sensitive manner (see **Section 2**).

#### **5.4 TEST EXCAVATION**

It is possible that the survey may identify landforms where test excavation under the Code of Practice (Requirements 14–17) is required. Should such landforms be identified during the survey, the test excavation methodology will be prepared as a separate document that will be circulated to all RAPs for review and comment.



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|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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## APPENDIX 3: AHIMS SEARCH RESULT



# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

## Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Corowa BESS 20k  
Client Service ID : 1011882

| SiteID    | SiteName                       | Datum | Zone | Easting | Northing | Context   | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures                           | SiteTypes | Reports |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|------|---------|----------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 55-5-0146 | Scarred Tree 6 Depot TSR       | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 55-5-0147 | Scarred Tree 7 Depot TSR       | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 55-5-0053 | WSWST                          | AGD   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b> T Russell       |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0007 | COR-B-5 (Corowa)               | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |           | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0015 | Ball Park Lagoon 2             | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0017 | Corowa Common 1                | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0038 | Ball Park 445762               | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0002 | CCP 1                          | AGD   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b> T Russell       |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 55-5-0116 | Redlands Hill Corowa 1         | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 55-5-0141 | Scarred Tree 1 Depot TSR       | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 55-5-0144 | Scarred Tree 4 Corowa Landfill | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>                 |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 06/06/2025 for Gloria Aranda-Spinazze for the following area at Datum: GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 434971.0 - 454971.0, Northings : 6009128.0 - 6029128.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 80

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# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

## Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Corowa BESS 20k  
Client Service ID : 1011882

| SiteID    | SiteName                | Datum | Zone | Easting | Northing | Context   | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures                           | SiteTypes    | Reports |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|------|---------|----------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| 60-2-0027 | Collindina ST7          | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |              |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 60-2-0029 | Collindina ST5          | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |              |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 55-5-0057 | COR-B-9 (Corowa)        | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |              | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 55-5-0058 | COR-B-10 (Corowa)       | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |              | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 60-2-0018 | Corowa Common 2         | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |              |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 60-2-0001 | Lake Moodemere;         | AGD   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : | Scarred Tree |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 55-5-0054 | Iona Mt                 | AGD   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |              |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 55-5-0119 | Redlands Hill Corowa 10 | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |              |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 55-5-0121 | Redlands Hill Corowa 9  | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |              |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 60-2-0033 | Collindina ST2          | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |              |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |
| 60-2-0023 | Collindina Reserve3     | GDA   | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |              |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>          |       |      |         |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |              |         |

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## AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

### Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Corowa BESS 20K  
Client Service ID : 1011882

| SiteID    | SiteName                  | Datum | Zone | Eastings | Northings | Context   | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures                           | SiteTypes | Reports |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------|------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 55-5-0145 | Scarred Tree 5 Depot TSR  | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0148 | Scarred Tree 12 Depot TSR | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0150 | Scarred Tree 10 Depot TSR | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0151 | Scarred Tree 9 Depot TSR  | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0028 | Collendina                | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0003 | COR-B-1 (Corowa)          | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |           | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0059 | COR-B-11 (Corowa)         | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |           | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0019 | South Corowa School 1     | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0123 | Redlands Hill Corowa 7    | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0127 | Redlands Hill Corowa 6    | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0034 | Collendina C1 (duplicate) | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -, Shell : -                |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0035 | Collendina C1             | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -, Shell : -                |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>            |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>          |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 06/06/2025 for Gloria Aranda-Spinazze for the following area at Datum: GDA, Zone: 55, Eastings: 434971.0 - 454971.0, Northings: 6009128.0 - 6029128.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 80

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## AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

### Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Corowa BESS 20K  
Client Service ID : 1011882

| SiteID    | SiteName                 | Datum | Zone | Eastings | Northings | Context   | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures                           | SiteTypes | Reports |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------|------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 60-2-0021 | Collendina Reserve5      | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0022 | Collendina Reserve4      | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0043 | Corowa ST 4              | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0047 | Corowa ST7               | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0143 | Scarred Tree 3 Depot TSR | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0004 | COR-B-2 (Corowa)         | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |           | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0055 | COR-B-7 (Corowa)         | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |           | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0056 | COR-B-8 (Corowa)         | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |           | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 55-5-0060 | COR-B-12 (Corowa)        | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |           | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0009 | COR-B-14 (Corowa)        | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                           |           | 2919    |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0014 | Ball Park Lagoon 1       | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0016 | Ball Park Lagoon 3       | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
| 60-2-0032 | Collendina ST1           | GDA   | 55   |          |           | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
|           | <b>Contact</b>           |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |
|           | <b>Recorders</b>         |       |      |          |           |           |                |                                        |           |         |

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## AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

### Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Corowa BESS 20K  
Client Service ID : 1011882

| SiteID    | SiteName                                    | Datum                   | Zone | Easting | Northing | Context     | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures                                | SiteTypes      | Reports |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|---------|----------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 60-2-0044 | <b>Contact</b><br>Corowa ST3                | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0048 | <b>Contact</b><br>Corowa ST 8               | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 55-5-0149 | <b>Contact</b><br>Scarred Tree 11 Depot TSR | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0006 | <b>Contact</b><br>COR-B-4 (Corowa)          | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Artefact : -                                | <b>Permits</b> | 2919    |
| 60-2-0010 | <b>Contact</b><br>COR-B-15 (Corowa)         | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Artefact : -                                | <b>Permits</b> | 2919    |
| 55-5-0120 | <b>Contact</b><br>Redlands Hill Corowa 11   | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 55-5-0125 | <b>Contact</b><br>Redlands Hill Corowa 4    | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 55-5-0126 | <b>Contact</b><br>Redlands Hill Corowa 5    | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0024 | <b>Contact</b><br>Collendina Reserve2       | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Closed site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0025 | <b>Contact</b><br>Collendina Reserve1       | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Closed site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0005 | <b>Contact</b><br>COR-B-3 (Corowa)          | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Artefact : -                                | <b>Permits</b> | 2919    |
| 55-5-0061 | <b>Contact</b><br>COR-B-13 (Corowa)         | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site   | Valid          | Artefact : -                                | <b>Permits</b> | 2919    |

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## AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

### Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Corowa BESS 20K  
Client Service ID : 1011882

| SiteID    | SiteName                                   | Datum                   | Zone | Easting | Northing | Context   | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures                                | SiteTypes      | Reports |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|---------|----------|-----------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 60-2-0036 | <b>Contact</b><br>Ball Park 445534         | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0039 | <b>Contact</b><br>Ball Park 445716         | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 55-5-0122 | <b>Contact</b><br>Redlands Hill Corowa 8   | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0049 | <b>Contact</b><br>Wagon wheel IA1          | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Artefact : -                                | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 55-5-0142 | <b>Contact</b><br>Scarred Tree 2 Depot TSR | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 55-5-0152 | <b>Contact</b><br>Scarred Tree 8 Depot TSR | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0031 | <b>Contact</b><br>callendina ST3           | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0037 | <b>Contact</b><br>Ball Park 445766         | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 55-5-0117 | <b>Contact</b><br>Redlands Hill Corowa 13  | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 55-5-0118 | <b>Contact</b><br>Redlands Hill Corowa 12  | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |
| 60-2-0042 | <b>Contact</b><br>Corowa ST5               | <b>Recorders</b><br>GDA | 55   |         |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) :<br>- | <b>Permits</b> |         |

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## AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

### Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Corowa BESS 20k  
Client Service ID : 1011882

| SiteID         | SiteName                      | Datum            | Zone | Easting                                  | Northing | Context   | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures                           | SiteTypes | Reports |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------|------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 60-2-0045      | Corowa ST 2                   | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Mr.John Gilding,Bligh Gilding Consulting |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 55-5-0115      | Redlands Hill Corowa 2        | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Mr.Mark Saddler                          |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0030      | Callendina ST4                | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | DPIE - Armidale,Mr.John Gilding          |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0008      | COR-B-6 (Corowa)              | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Artefact: -                            |           | 2919    |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Albury & District LALC                   |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0020      | Albury Lands Council Corowa 1 | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Mr.Mark Saddler                          |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0040      | Callendina ST13               | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Mr.John Gilding,Bligh Gilding Consulting |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 55-5-0124      | Redlands Hill Corowa 3        | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Mr.Mark Saddler                          |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0026      | Croppers Lagoon1              | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Mr.Damian Wall                           |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0041      | Corowa ST6                    | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Mr.John Gilding,Bligh Gilding Consulting |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |
| 60-2-0046      | Corowa ST 1                   | GDA              | 55   |                                          |          | Open site | Valid          | Modified Tree<br>(Carved or Scarred) : |           |         |
| <b>Contact</b> |                               | <b>Recorders</b> |      | Mr.John Gilding,Bligh Gilding Consulting |          |           |                | <b>Permits</b>                         |           |         |

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## AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

### Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Corowa BESS 20k  
Client Service ID : 1011882

| SiteID                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | SiteName | Datum | Zone | Easting | Northing | Context | Site Status ** | SiteFeatures | SiteTypes | Reports |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|------|---------|----------|---------|----------------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| <div> <b>** Site Status</b><br/> <b>Valid</b> - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid<br/> <b>Destroyed</b> - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.<br/> <b>Partially Destroyed</b> - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground<br/> <b>Not a site</b> - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified </div> |          |       |      |         |          |         |                |              |           |         |

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## APPENDIX 4: UNANTICIPATED FINDS PROTOCOL

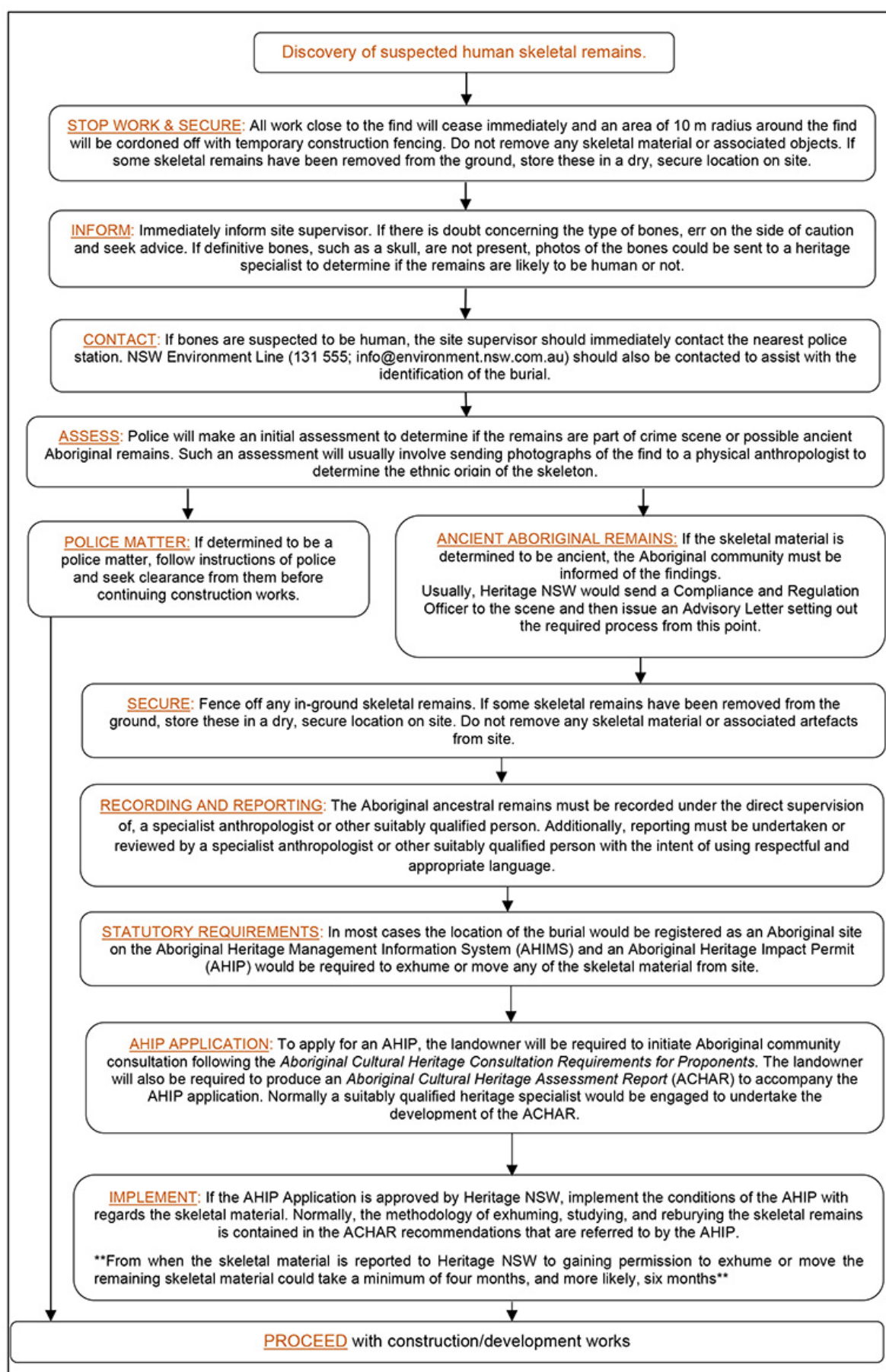
An Aboriginal artefact is anything which is the result of past Aboriginal activity. This includes stone (artefacts, rock engravings etc.), plant (culturally scarred trees) and animal (if showing signs of modification; i.e. smoothing, use). Human bone (skeletal) remains may also be uncovered while onsite.

Cultural heritage significance is assessed by the Aboriginal community and is typically based on traditional and contemporary lore, spiritual values, and oral history, and may also consider scientific and educational value.

Protocol to be followed if previously unrecorded or unanticipated Aboriginal object(s) are encountered:

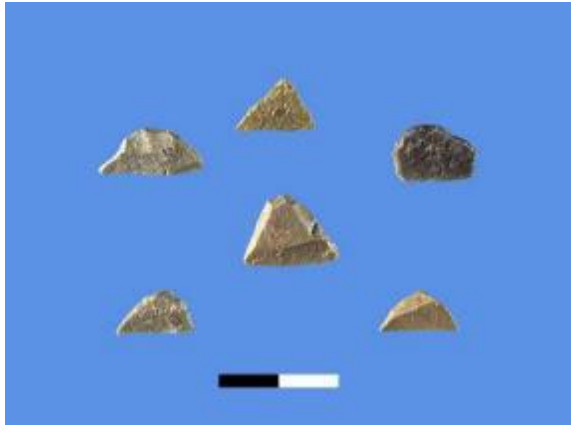
1. If any Aboriginal object is discovered and/or harmed in, or under the land, while undertaking the proposed development activities, the Applicant must:
  - a. Not further harm the object
  - b. Immediately cease all work at the particular location
  - c. Secure the area to avoid further harm to the Aboriginal object
  - d. Notify Heritage NSW as soon as practical on 131 555 (info@environment.nsw.gov.au), providing any details of the Aboriginal object and its location
  - e. Not recommence any work at the particular location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.
2. If Aboriginal burials are unexpectedly encountered during the activity, work must stop immediately, the area secured to prevent unauthorised access and NSW Police and Heritage NSW contacted.
3. Cooperate with the appropriate authorities and relevant Aboriginal community representatives to facilitate:
  - a. The recording and assessment of the find(s)
  - b. The fulfilment of any legal constraints arising from the find(s), including complying with Heritage NSW directions
  - c. The development and implementation of appropriate management strategies, including consultation with stakeholders and the assessment of the significance of the find(s).
4. Where the find(s) are determined to be Aboriginal object(s), recommencement of work in the area of the find(s) can only occur in accordance with any consequential legal requirements and after gaining written approval from Heritage NSW (through the procedures of an approved ACHMP).

## APPENDIX 5: UNANTICIPATED SKELETAL REMAINS PROTOCOL





APPENDIX 6: ARTEFACT IDENTIFICATION

|                                                                                     |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |    |
| A retouched silcrete flake                                                          | A quartz flake                                                                       |
|   |   |
| Microliths (scale = 1 cm)                                                           | Volcanic flakes                                                                      |
|  |  |
| Flake characteristics (scale = 1 cm)                                                | A mudstone/tuff core from which flakes have been removed                             |