

Appendix A. Cultural Heritage Management Plan



Tamworth Solar Farm

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Tamworth LGA NSW

March 2020



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Advanced Regional Environmental Assessments (AREA)

- ✓ Environmental impact assessment, auditing and approvals
- ✓ High level preliminary environmental assessment (PEA)
- ✓ Review of environmental factors (REF)
- ✓ Peer review
- ✓ Community engagement
- ✓ Biobanking and biodiversity offsetting assessments
- ✓ Aboriginal heritage assessments and community walkovers
- ✓ Landscape architecture and design

**AREA Environmental Consultants & Communication acknowledge Traditional Owners of the
country on which we work**

Executive Summary

Oriens Energy Pty Ltd is seeking approval under Division 4.1, Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for a Development Application (DA) for the Tamworth Solar Farm (the proposal) on Lot 186 DP755340. This State Significant Development (SSD-9264) is comprised of three Development Areas cumulatively on 200.49 hectares of land (**Figures 1-1 to 1-8**):

- The Solar Farm, 200.04 hectares
- The deceleration lane at the intersection of Oxley Highway and Babbinsboon Road, 0.41 hectares
- An area requiring one tree, a mature acacia, removed to improve sight distance at Babbinsboon Road and Warminster Road intersection, 0.04 hectares.

The Solar Farm Development Area is located approximately seven kilometres south of Somerton in the Tamworth Local Government Area (LGA). Ancillary sight distance work at Warminster and Babbinsboon Roads intersection and a proposal deceleration lane on Oxley Highway for Gunnedah bound traffic at the Babbinsboon Road intersection, are both 4.5 kilometres from Somerton.

The proposal involves the construction of an 80MW Photovoltaic (PV) facility and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Oriens Energy has an option to purchase the property. It is intended that the PV Facility will have minimal impact to the overall landscape when decommissioned.

Area Environmental Consultants and communication (AREA) have been commissioned to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). This CHMP will be required to be altered throughout the phases of this project as additional investigations / activities are completed.

This document has been developed in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the project and the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

Aboriginal Heritage

Twenty-two Aboriginal sites were recorded in two Development Areas, the Solar Farm (22 sites) and the Deceleration Lane at the intersection of Oxley Highway and Babbinsboon Road (one site). Eleven isolated finds (stone artefact, IF), nine open camp sites (more than one stone artefact within 50 metres of another, OS) and two culturally modified trees (CMT) were recorded. The Deceleration Lane Development Area has one open camp site and the rest of

the Aboriginal sites were recorded on, or immediately next to the Solar Farm Development Area.

Ground surface visibility was generally very high in all three Development Areas.

The Solar Farm Development Area is on Category 1 Land as defined under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*. Property Vegetation Plan approval number 22PVP00121 (17 December 2014, Appendix D) allows routine agricultural management activities such as ploughing. Due to ploughing and the depth of surface soils, this assessment finds there is a low likelihood for significant sub-surface remains of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Under the design for the proposal provided by Oriens Energy, ten Aboriginal sites (five isolated finds and five open camp sites) will be affected by the proposal and 11 are at risk of inadvertent impact (six isolated finds, four open camp sites and two culturally modified trees).

The Deceleration Lane Development Area is in an existing stockpile in a state highway road corridor area and is substantially disturbed. This assessment finds there is a low likelihood for significant sub-surface remains of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The Sight Distance Development Area is in a local road corridor on the bank of Onus Creek, a Strahler Second Order drainage line. This area has been substantially disturbed though road work and causeway construction. This assessment finds there is a low likelihood for significant sub-surface remains of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The proposal will affect Aboriginal objects; therefore, the following recommendations will be made for Aboriginal cultural heritage to be included in this Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP):

1. Should the consent for the removal of any Aboriginal object be given, the following mitigation measures are recommended:
 - The induction/training of construction workers by Aboriginal people endorsed by the RAPs would occur.
 - The Registered Aboriginal Parties should be consulted over the process of impact, conservation or mitigation.
 - Any conditions accompanying the consent for impact, conservation or mitigation of Aboriginal objects must be followed.
 - An Aboriginal Site Impact Recording form will need to be submitted for each Aboriginal site damaged or destroyed (including relocated / removed).
2. In order to avoid accidental or inadvertent impact, the following measures are recommended:

- o The locations of Aboriginal objects should be provided to the relevant supervisors responsible for the construction and operation of the solar farm and associated ancillary infrastructure. They should be informed Aboriginal objects are protected sites under the NPW Act and no harm is to come to them. The presence of the Aboriginal objects should be made clear to the workforce as part of an induction.
 - o The induction / orientation of location of the Aboriginal objects would be undertaken by Registered Aboriginal Parties who completed the field assessment.
 - o Should any of the Aboriginal objects deteriorate to the point that they are at risk during the operation of the solar farm, further management measures will need to be formulated with the assistance of the local Aboriginal community and a heritage professional.
3. This CHMP developed for the management of cultural heritage will include an unexpected finds protocol that includes the obligations of a person who encounters an Aboriginal object. This protocol should form part of the induction for any workforce that is involved in the construction or operation of the solar farm.
 4. Employment of Aboriginal people during construction should be an important consideration of all service providers.

Oriens Energy have advised they will engage a community liaison officer to assist in the management this project including for Aboriginal heritage matters. The person will not be Aboriginal but will liaise with the RAPs to maintain the lines of communication throughout the project.

Two management groups have been created. These are:

- Group 1: Avoidance through the Implementation of Mitigative Measures
- Group 2: Surface Collection Only.

The placement of sites within these groups is applicable to the first phase of management (Pre-construction). To simplify this, management recommendations have been categorised into three phases: pre-construction, construction, and operational.

Pre-construction phase:

Once the final design has been determined the logistics discussion to collect and move of all artefacts recorded during the cultural heritage assessment will be started with the RAPs.

Preparation of induction/training of construction workers by Aboriginal people endorsed by the RAPs would occur.

Construction phase:

The Construction phase will require the continued management of Aboriginal sites / portions of Aboriginal sites either within or close to the development footprint. This includes:

- Cultural heritage inductions would occur for all workers.
- The fencing of Culturally Modified Trees CMT2 & CMT3. These will be fenced with a 10m buffer around both trees, to protect the health of the trees and create areas, a keeping place, where Aboriginal all objects recorded in the cultural heritage assessment can be relocated to.
- Each fence will be a timber post and rail structure with a gate, stock proof 1.3 to 1.5m high.
- Each fenced area to have a 'Environmentally sensitive area' sign and not specifically mention presence of Aboriginal sites. The fencing and signage of sites CMT2 & CMT3 ensure works do not intrude on the protected Aboriginal sites. These areas are indicated in **(Figure 3-3)**.
- All RAPs agreed that all stone artefacts recorded during the survey were to be collected and moved to their closest modified tree and placed within the 10m buffer.
- This provides security and future protection of the Aboriginal objects from inadvertent displacement or damage from machinery.
- In the occurrence of additional stone artefacts not recorded as part of the cultural heritage assessments to date being found throughout the duration of construction or operation, the unanticipated finds protocol is to be implemented and followed.

Operational phase:


The Operational phase will require:

- the Proponents community liaison officer is to effectively communicate with the RAPs on the project. This position should ensure all protocols and requirements outlined within this (CHMP) Cultural Heritage Management Plan are met.

- the maintenance team leader should consult maps (including GIS versions) that clearly display site locations of CMT2 & CMT3 such that maintenance activities can be scheduled with reference to the location and preservation of heritage sites; and
- any maintenance work must be carried out by crew that have undertaken the prepared workforce briefing (Appendix B) which includes an unanticipated finds protocol.

Any areas of new impact arising from works to the solar farm after construction will require additional cultural heritage assessment.

Document Controls

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Terms and acronyms used in this document

Acronym	Definition
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
DEWHA	Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
GIS	Geographic information system
GPS	Global positioning system
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NP&W Act	National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Services
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
proposal	Development of an 80MW Solar PV Facility and BESS (Approx. 200.04 hectares). The site is located on Lot 186 DP755340
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SEARS	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SSD	State Significant Development
Development Area	Cumulatively all components disturbance areas affected by the proposal i.e. the Solar Farm Subject Site, the Access Road Subject Site, the Water Pipelines Subject Site etc.
Subject Site	An individual component disturbance area i.e. the Access Road Subject Site
SoC	SoC (statement of commitments)
T-LALC	Tamworth Local aboriginal land Council

1 Introduction

AREA Environmental Consultants & Communication (AREA) was commissioned by PROJECT.e- on behalf of Oriens Energy Pty Ltd (the Proponent) to complete an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for a proposed solar farm near Tamworth, NSW (the proposal).

The Proponent is seeking approval for a Development Application (DA) under Division 4.1, Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) on Lot 186 DP755340. A cultural heritage Assessment has been submitted for approval. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required as part of the approval process. The Standard Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) for the EIS state that an Aboriginal heritage assessment be carried out, including adequate consultation with the local Aboriginal Community.

This assessment addresses requirements of the following legislative frameworks:

International agreements

- The Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013).

Commonwealth legislation

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

State legislation

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act)
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act).

1.1 Background

Oriens Energy (the Proponent) has proposed the construction 80MW Photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility located on approximately 200.04 ha of farmland in Tamworth LGA, NSW (Figure 1-2).

The PV facility will consist of the following components:

- Solar panels (also known as “modules”)
- A BESS facility
- Steel module mounts
- Electrical transformers and inverters
- Electrical wiring
- Telecommunications equipment
- Electrical metering and switchgear
- Perimeter fencing and access gates.

The facility will include a battery/electrical storage system that would be housed in electrical enclosures approximately the size of a shipping container.

The extent of civil works to occur on the site will include the following:

- Site preparation, tree removal and minor earth work for buildings, temporary handstand and compound areas and for roads
- Poles driven into the ground and panel fixed (about 200,000 panels), the maximum height for the panels will be 4.5 metres
- Trenching for the electrical wiring
- The internal access track leading from the main entrance will be graded and surfaced with crushed rock, there some internal roads and there is also a basic road in the APZ surrounding the panels
- The existing soil will be retained and reseeded to provide grass coverage over the site. Grass will be maintained through periodic grazing opportunities.

AREA Environmental Consultants and Communications have been commissioned to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

1.1.1 Locality

The proposal involves construction of an 80MW (DC) Photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated Battery Energy Storage System. The Tamworth Solar Farm (the proposal) State Significant Development (SSD-9264) is comprised of three Development Areas cumulatively on 200.49 hectares of land (Figures 1-1 to 1-7):

- The Solar Farm, 200.04 hectares
- The deceleration lane at the intersection of Oxley Highway and Babbinsboon Road, 0.41 hectares
- An area requiring a tree removed to improve sight distance at Babbinsboon Road and Warminster Road intersection, 0.04 hectares.

The Solar Farm Development Area is located approximately seven kilometres south of Somerton in the Tamworth Local Government Area (LGA). Ancillary work at Warminster and Babbinsboon Roads intersection and the deceleration lane for Gunnedah bound traffic at the Oxley Highway and Babbinsboon Road intersection are both 4.5 kilometres from Somerton.

All three Development Areas are on land subject to previous significant ground surface disturbance activities.

The regional geographical context of the Development Areas is provided in Table1-1.

Figure 1-1: Location of the Development Areas

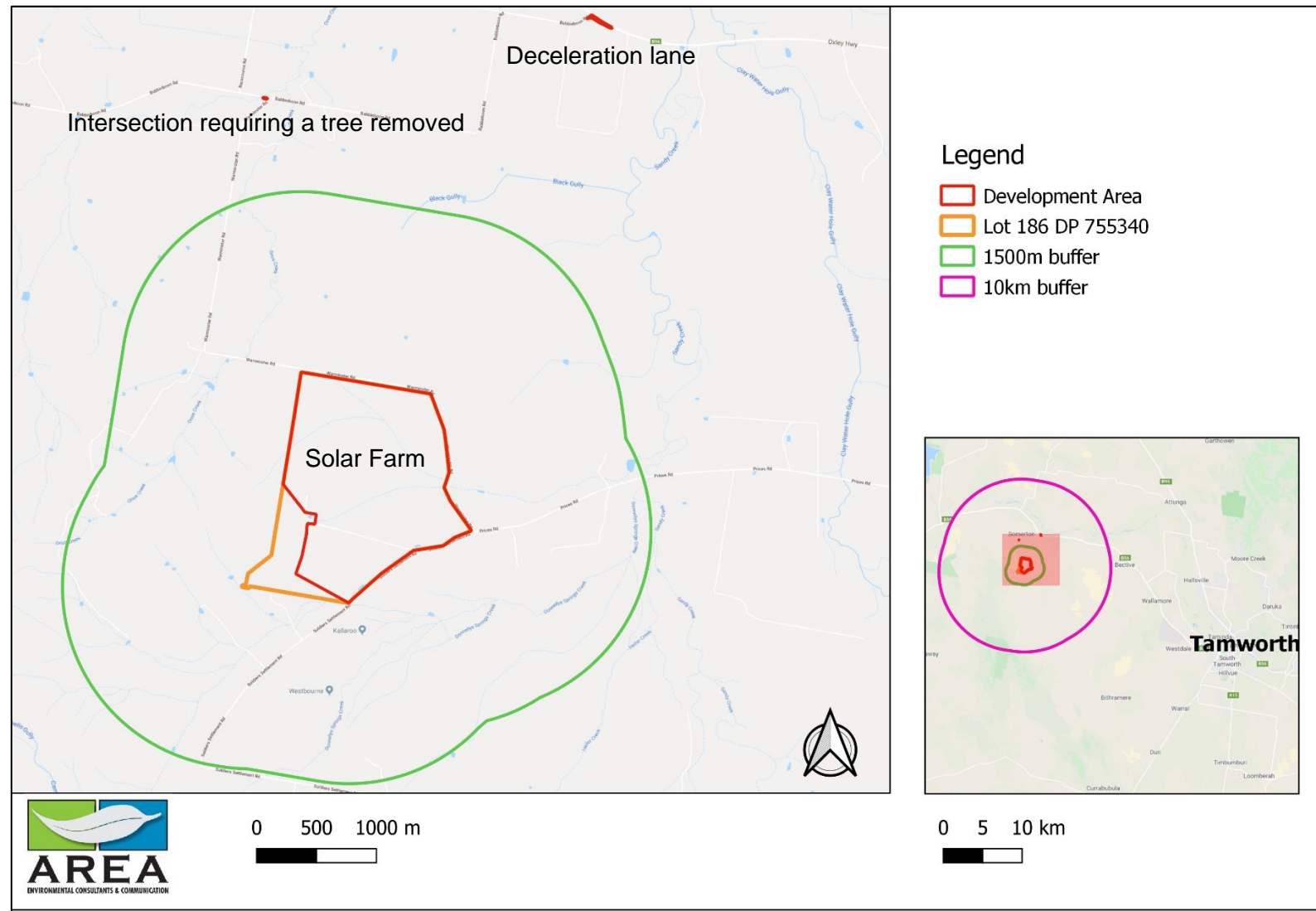


Figure 1-2: Aerial view of the Solar Farm Development Area

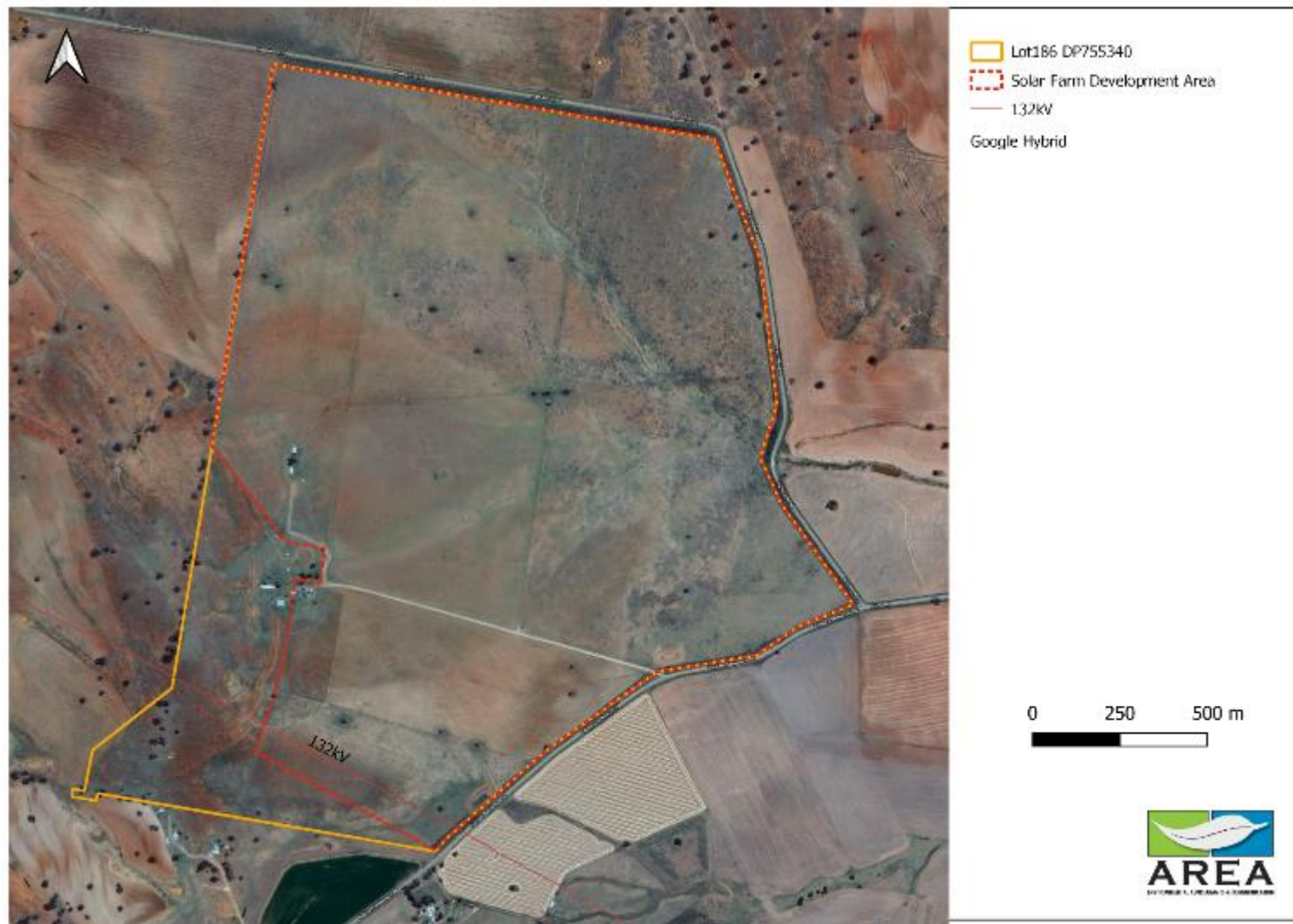


Figure 1-3: Topographical view of the Solar Farm Development Area

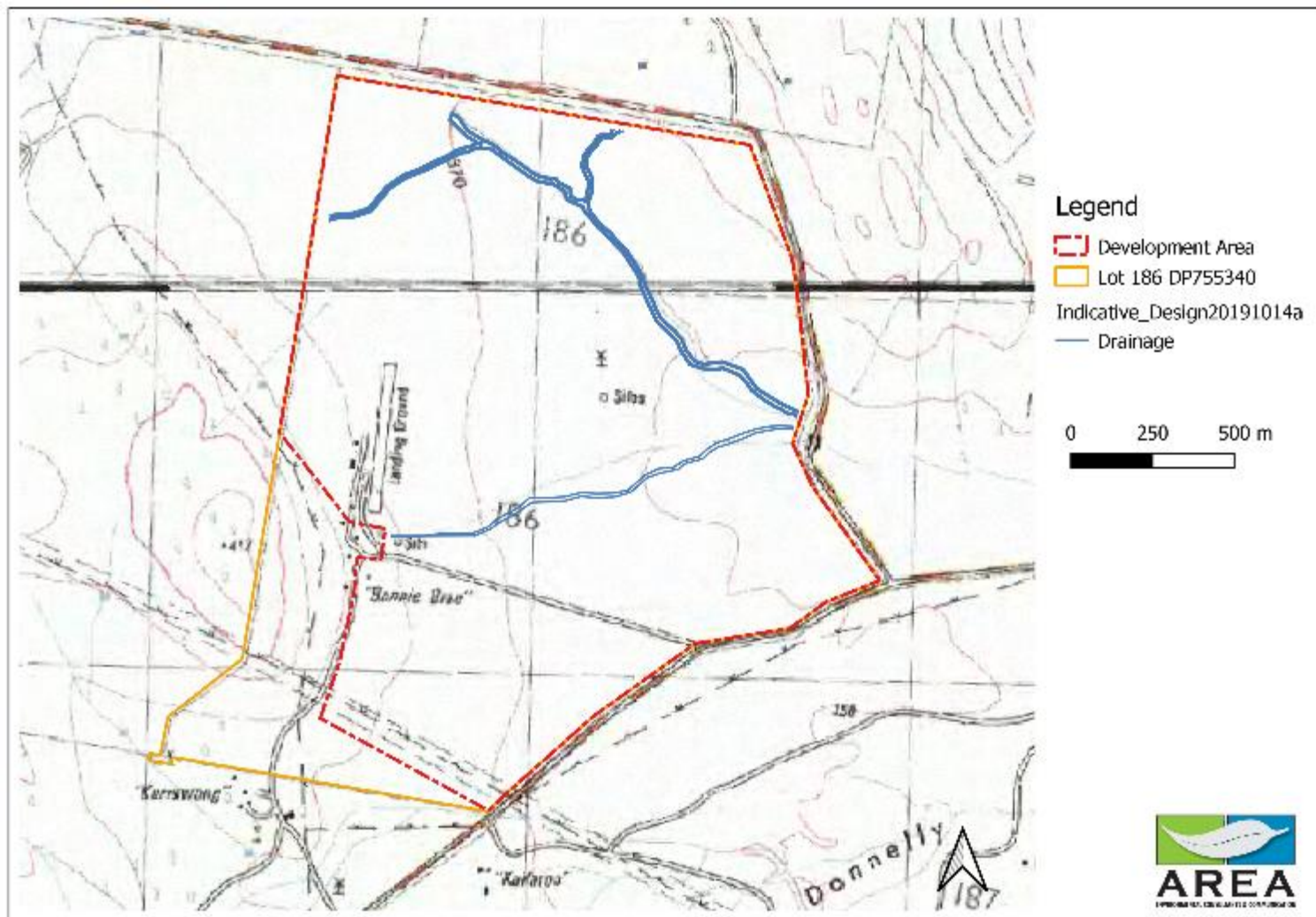


Figure 1-4: Aerial view of the deceleration lane at the intersection of Oxley Highway and Babbins Road Development Area



Figure 1-5: Topographical view of the deceleration lane at the intersection of Oxley Highway and Babbins Road Development Area

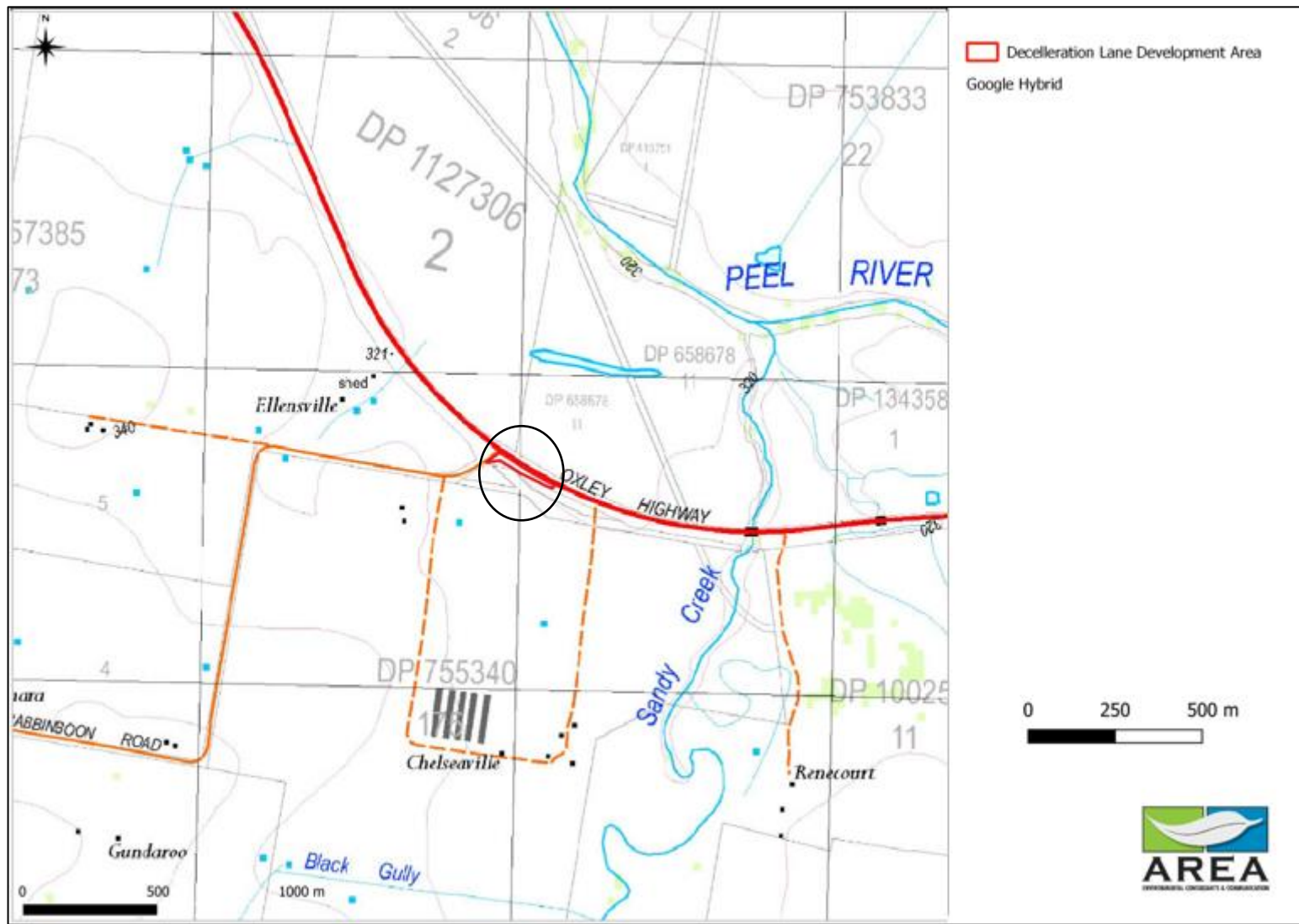


Figure 1-6: Aerial view of sight distance at Babbaboob Road and Warminster Road Development Area



Figure 1-7: Topographical view of sight distance at Babbins Road and Warminster Road Development Area

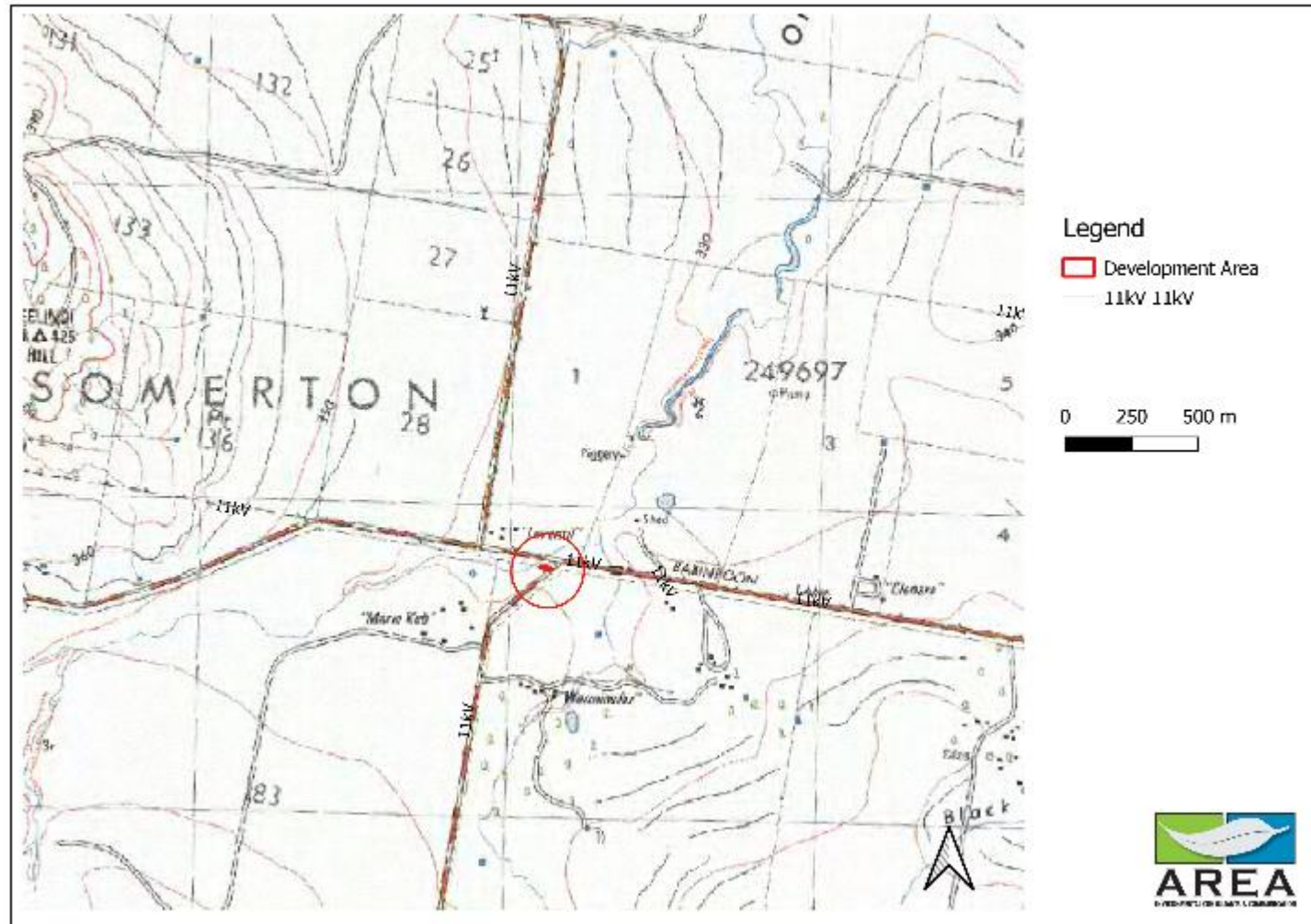




Table 1: Regional geographical context of the Development Area

Criteria	Solar Farm	Deceleration Lane	Sight Distance
Central coordinates (GDA94 z56)	275135.149,6567833.561	274211.205,6571004.721	276942.136,6571735.295
Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA Region)	Nandewar Bioregion Peel subregion NSW		
State	New South Wales		
Topographical map sheet	Somerton 1:25K 9036- 3-S		
Local Government Area	Tamworth LGA		
Local Aboriginal Land Council area (LALC)	Tamworth LALC		
Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications relevant to the study area (Claims, ILUA Future Acts etc.)	Gomeroi Claim: NSD37/2019		
AHIMS study area search results	No previously recorded Aboriginal sites on the AHIMS database plot within the study area. Within a 10KM radius there are 16 Aboriginal sites.	No previously recorded Aboriginal sites on the AHIMS database plot within the study area.	No previously recorded Aboriginal sites on the AHIMS database plot within the study area.
Nearest town / locality	Somerton (locality) (7 km N)	Somerton (locality) (4.5 km E)	Somerton (locality) (4.5 km S)
Accessed from nearest town by	Oxley Hwy along Racecourse and Warminster Roads	Oxley Hwy to Babbinsboon Road	Oxley Hwy along Babbinsboon Road to Warminster Road
Land use / disturbance	Intensive agriculture (ploughed landscapes).	RMS stockpile area	Local road corridor
Nearest waterway (Name, Strahler Order)	The study area possesses three unnamed Strahler 1st Order and one unnamed second order drainage lines. These drainage lines are Unlikely Key Fish Habitat under the NSW FM Act. This drainage line drains into sandy Creek 2km to the East which in turn drains into the Peel river 5km to the North.	Peel river 850 m North. Peel River is Key Fish Habitat under the NSW FM Act.	On the banks of Onus Creek, a Strahler 2nd Order drainage line. These drainage lines are Unlikely Key Fish Habitat under the NSW FM Act. This drainage line drains into the Peel river 5km to the North.
Spot point Australian Height Datum (AHD)	Lowest point is 350 m the highest is, an unnamed hill is 410 m AHD.	320 m AHD.	330 m AHD.
Surrounding land use	Grazing, ploughed agriculture	Road corridor. Grazing, ploughed agriculture	Road corridor. Grazing, ploughed agriculture
Expected disturbance footprint land use	Grazing, ploughed agriculture	Road corridor.	Road corridor.

This CHMP synthesises the results and recommendations of the previous heritage assessments in order to develop a plan for the ongoing management of the cultural heritage resource within Development Area.

The cultural heritage field survey took place on Tuesday 10 to Thursday 12 September 2019. It was attended by three representatives of the Aboriginal community and two staff members from AREA. The Aboriginal representatives were Mr. Don Fermor and Ms. Lynda Bartel, both organised by Tamworth LALC, Mr. Steve Talbott of Gomeroi People (Application number: NC2011/006) and the two AREA staff were Mr. Phillip Cameron (Principal Consultant) and Ms. Gabbi Green (Environmental Administrator, Gomeroi descent). Mr Aaron Talbot was not attending the field assessment.

- Ground surface visibility was generally very high, and all Development Areas were found to be substantially disturbed.

Twenty-two Aboriginal sites were recorded during the survey (Table 9). Of these:

- One, an open camp site (stone artefacts), was recorded in Deceleration Lane Development Area
- The remainder were recorded in association with the Solar Farm:
 - 18 Aboriginal sites in the Development Area (eight open camp sites, nine isolated finds and one culturally modified tree)
 - Four Aboriginal sites recorded on or just outside the Development Area boundary (two culturally modified trees and isolated finds).

Note: CMT1 was observed over a fence on a neighbouring property, this area was not accessed as permission to enter this property had not been sought.

- The AHIMS database showed no previously recorded sites were present in the Development Area.
- All stone artefact recorded at the Solar Farm and Deceleration Lane Development Areas will be relocated by the RAPs to the culturally modifies trees CMT2 or CMT3. Re location is to occur within the 10 meter wooden fenced area at the base of each culturally modified tree, ensuring all artefacts are protected from potential harm.

This document has been developed in consultation with all Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the project. All RAPs registered interest in this project through Stage 1 of the ACHCRs (Aboriginal cultural Heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (*Part 6 of National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*)) process in 2019.

1.2 Legislative framework and agency consultation

The legislative framework which has been followed for this project is the ACHCR (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage consultation requirements) process.

Through following the guidelines set by the ACHCRs for the Tamworth Solar Farm a consultation log has been created and maintained documenting all consultations and communications with the RAPs and client for the project.

The ACHCR is part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and “is responsible for the protection and conservation of Aboriginal *objects* and Aboriginal *places*”, (ACHCR 2010).

(c) a Heritage Management Plan

- i. developed in consultation with the registered Aboriginal stakeholders (for Aboriginal heritage) and DPIE.
- ii. procedures for the mitigation and management of identified (and discovery of previously unidentified) sites, objects, potential archaeological deposits and potential archaeologically sensitive areas.
- iii. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Education Induction Program for all contractors and personnel associated with construction activities; and
- iv. and compliance procedures in the unlikely event that non-compliance with the Heritage Management Plan is identified.

Under a State Significant Development permits usually required under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) in relation to impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage do not apply. However, it is both a requirement and condition of the project (see above) that Aboriginal community consultation as per the DPIE *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (ACHCRs) is undertaken. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit would only be required should archaeological management measures or construction in areas of identified sites be required to commence prior to Project Approval being received from the DPIE.

Table 2: Final Statement of Commitments

Management Groups	Statement of Commitments
Group 1 - Avoidance	CMT2 and CMT3 (Culturally Modified Trees) will have a 10 meter buffer and be fenced with a wooden post and rail stock proof fence and gate.
Group 2 – surface collection only	All stone artefacts recorded will be collected and relocated by the RAPs to the closest Culturally Modified Tree within the fenced 10 meter buffer.

1.3 Summary of Impacts and Proposed Management

1.3.1 Project Impacts

The proposal involves the construction of an 80MW Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility located on approximately 200.04 ha of farmland (Figure 1–11).

Oriens Energy has an option to purchase the land. The facility if, or when decommissioned will restore the land to its former use in agricultural pursuits. It is intended that the PV Facility will have minimal impact to the overall landscape when decommissioned.

Site preparation, tree removal and minor earth work for buildings, temporary handstand and compound areas and for roads.

- Site preparation, tree removal and minor earth work for buildings, temporary handstand and compound areas and for roads
- Poles driven into the ground and panel fixed (about 200,000 panels), the maximum height for the panels will be 4.5 metres
- Trenching for the electrical wiring
- The internal access track leading from the main entrance will be graded and surfaced with crushed rock, there some internal roads and there is also a basic road in the APZ surrounding the panels
- The existing soil will be retained and reseeded to provide grass coverage over the site. Grass will be maintained through periodic grazing opportunities.

Table 3: Summary of Projected Impact Footprints Associated with the Tamworth Solar farm

Site	Shape area m2	Hectares
The Solar Farm	2000397.916	200.04 hectares
The deceleration lane at the intersection of Oxley Highway and Babbinsboon Road	4060.098022	0.41 hectares
Sight distance development area at Babbinsboon Road and Warminster Road intersection (An area requiring a tree removed to improve sight distance at)	351.4171143	0.04 hectares

The following aspects of the proposed works will impact on the identified cultural heritage.

Twenty-two Aboriginal sites were recorded during the survey (Figures 2-1 and to 2-3). Of these:

- One, an open camp site (stone artefacts), was recorded in Deceleration Lane Development Area
- The remainder were recorded in association with the Solar Farm:
 - 18 Aboriginal sites in the Development Area (eight open camp sites, nine isolated finds and one culturally modified tree)
 - Four Aboriginal sites recorded on or just outside the Development Area boundary (two culturally modified trees and isolated finds).
- Note: CMT1 was observed over a fence on neighbouring land, this area was not accessed as permission to enter this property had not been sought. (CMT1 is referred to in this document as it is mentioned in the original report, the number of recorded sites and on maps and figures.

Figure 1-8: Location of Open Camp Site 7 recorded during the survey (Deceleration Lane) showing artefacts observed



Figure 1-9: Aerial view of the locations of Aboriginal Sites recorded on or immediately next to Lot 186 DP755340

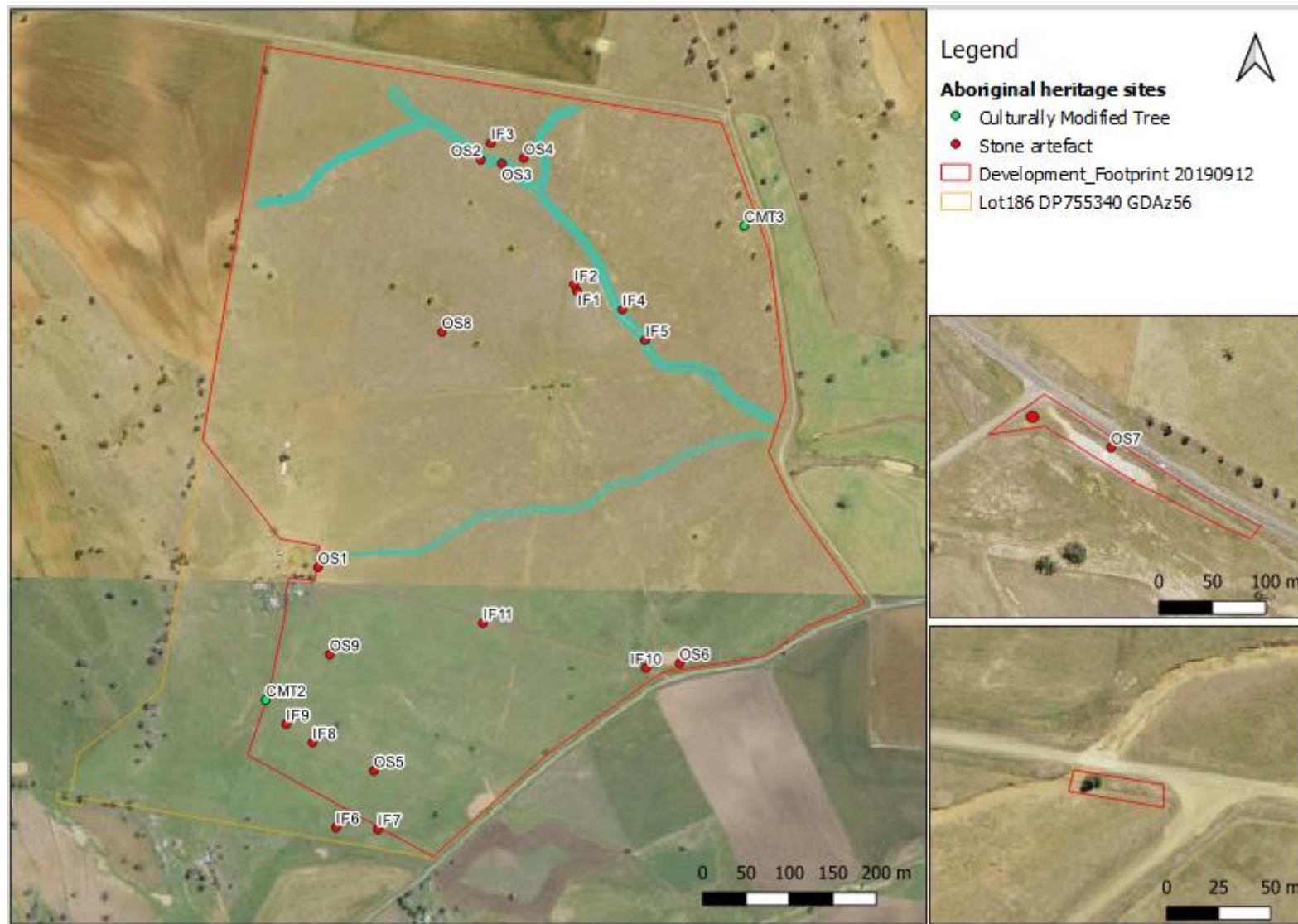


Figure 1-10: Aerial view Aboriginal Sites recorded in the Solar Farm Development Area

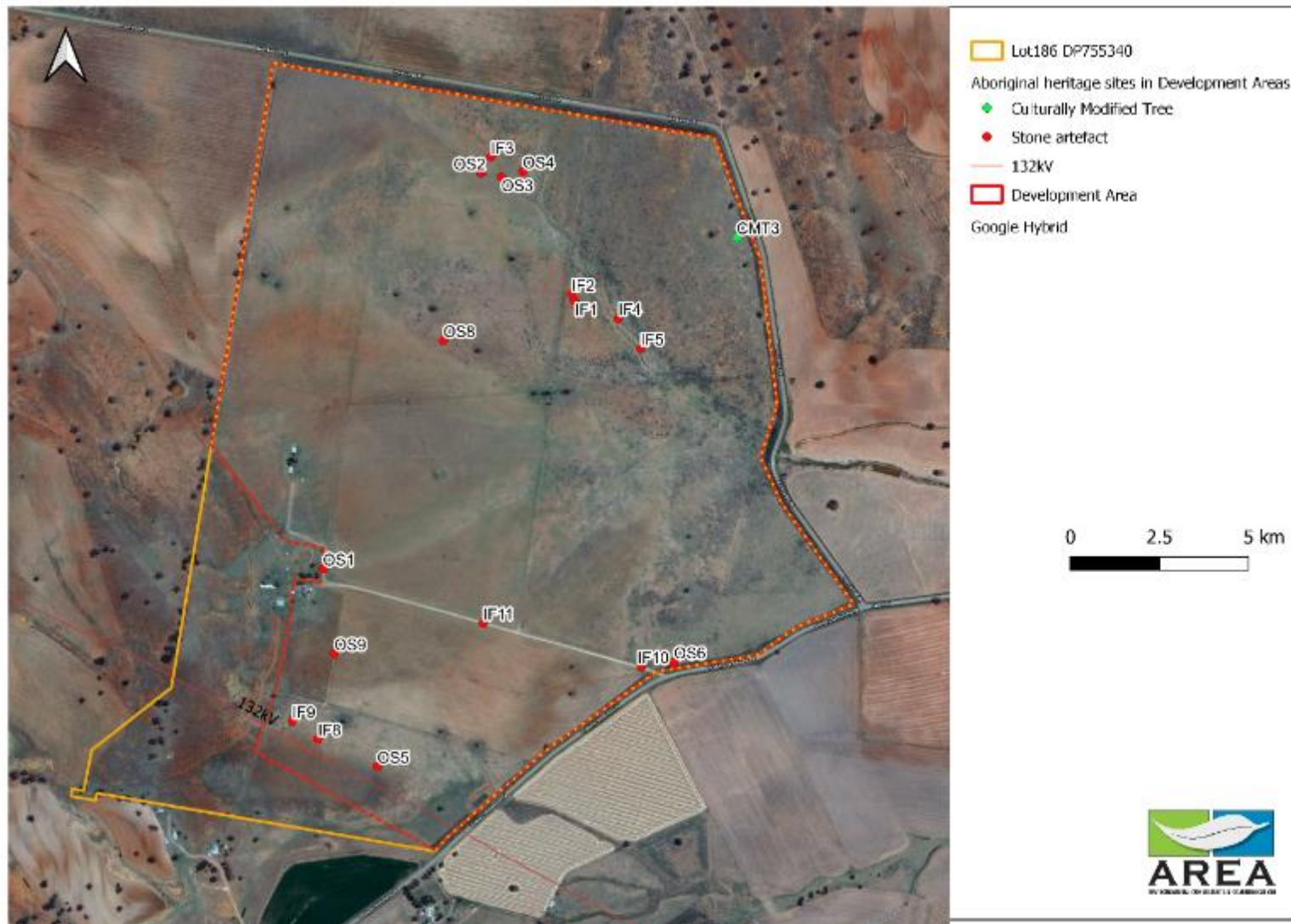


Figure 1-11: Indicative design of the Solar Farm Development Area

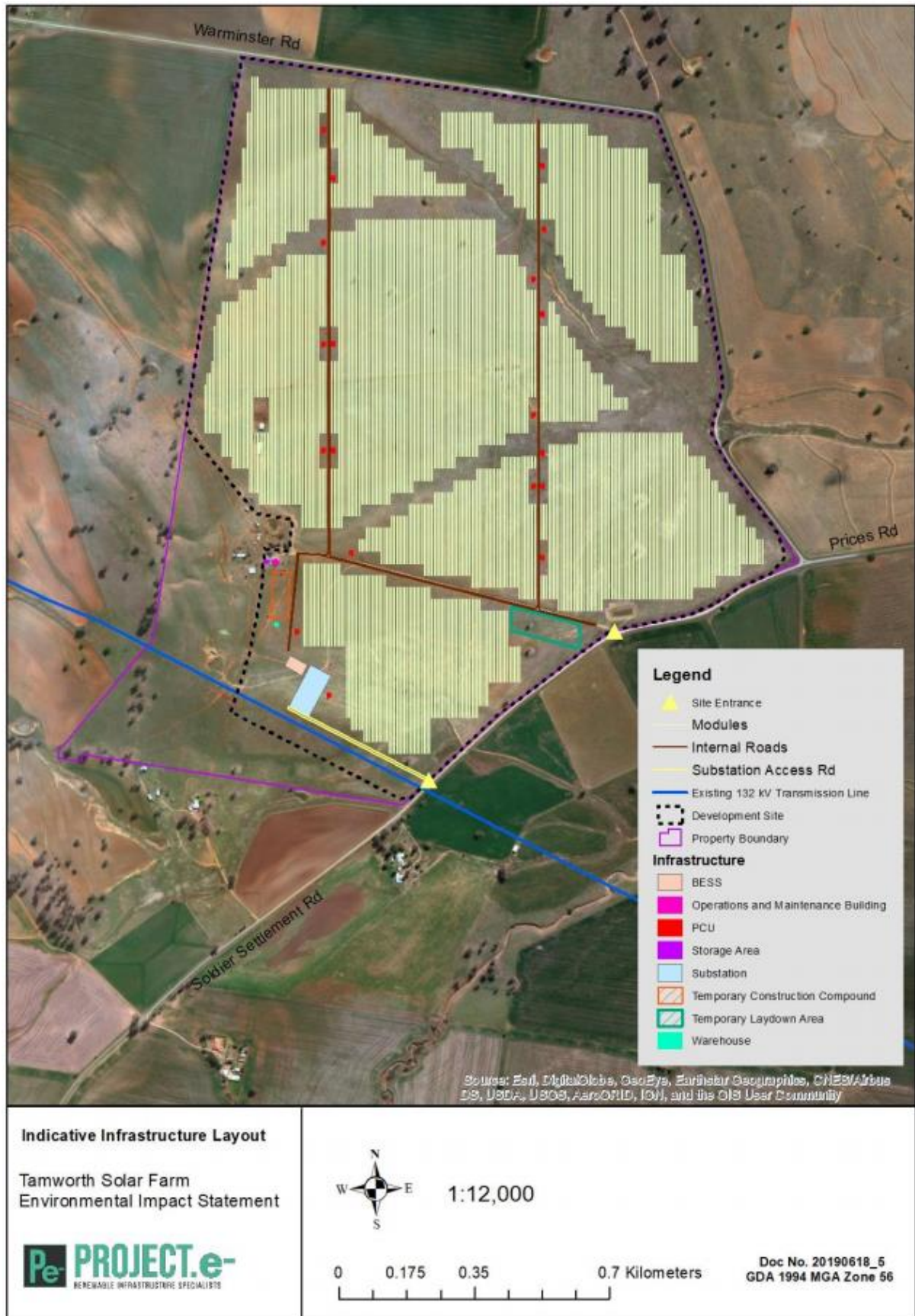
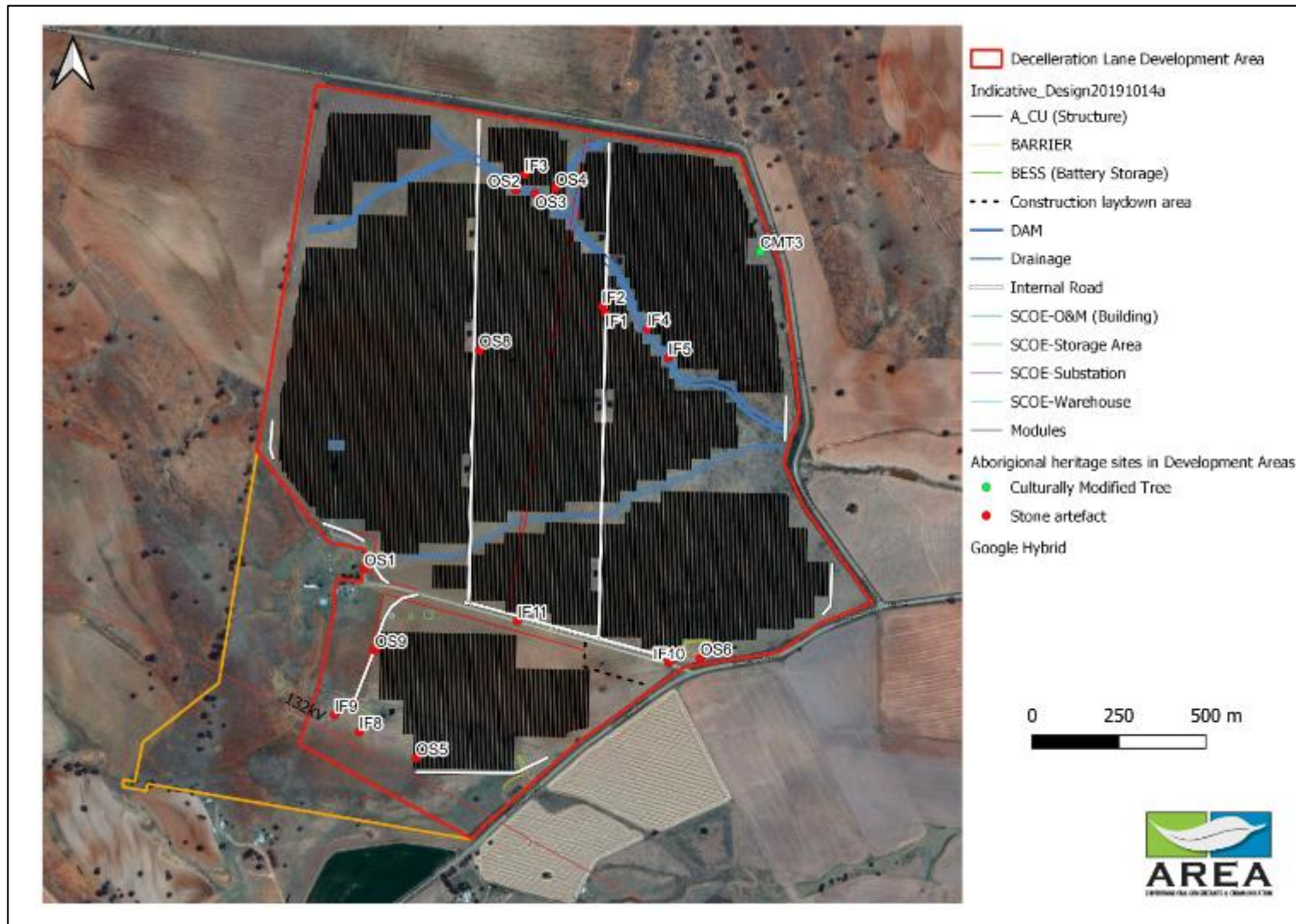


Figure 1-12: Indicative design of Aboriginal Heritage sites in the Development Area





1.3.2 Proposed Management of Aboriginal Heritage Sites / Sensitive Areas

The Aboriginal sites can be categorised into two management groups.

Group 1: Avoidance

Throughout the fieldwork it was identified that two sites, both Culturally Modified Trees, in the development area (CMT2 & CMT3) are to be avoided and protected.

During a CHMP meeting held with the RAPs on 9 December 2019 it was agreed a post and rail fence with a 10 meter buffer and a sign stating 'Environmentally Sensitive Area" would be constructed around Culturally Modified Trees #2 and #3 (Figure 3-3).

The locations of the cultural heritage sites should be provided to the relevant supervisors responsible for the construction and operation of the Solar Farm and ancillary infrastructure. They should be informed cultural heritage sites are protected under the NPW Act and no harm is to come to them. The presence of the cultural heritage sites should be made clear to the workforce as part of an induction.

Group 2: Surface Collection Only

All artefacts recorded in the cultural heritage assessment will be / are required to be relocated.

2 Aboriginal Community Consultation

2.1 Overview

In compliance with the Aboriginal *Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). A record of all consultation between all RAPs, the client and AREA was documented throughout the project, including email, post and phone conversations between all parties shown in **(Appendix A)**.

2.2 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Plan Meeting towards the CHMP

Throughout the Cultural Heritage management plan meeting held on Monday 9 December 2019, the RAPs requested if the proponent could come to an agreement with the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council to employ a diversity of Aboriginal people, both male and female. In addition to assisting with the collection and relocation of the stone artefacts, by employing Aboriginal people they will be more aware of unexpected finds of Aboriginal artefacts. In doing so the local Aboriginal community gain experience and connection to the land whilst being employed and gaining new skills and experiences through the construction of the solar farm.

Oriens Energy stated employment will be generated through the individual contractors however part of the engagement process can include a requirement for Aboriginal employment.

RAPs advised Oriens Energy that the T-LALC and 'The Hub' an Aboriginal employment and opportunity scheme based in Tamworth have processes in place to manage employment opportunities. Local Aboriginal Land Councils are NSWs peak representative body in Aboriginal Affairs. T-LALC is an Administrative body, is guided by governance and has auditing checks and measures to ensure Aboriginal employment roles are filled with people possessing a confirmation of Aboriginality.

Lynda (T-LALC) provided a commitment to approach the T-LALC about helping the Project employing Aboriginal people through 'The Hub'.

Minutes were documented throughout the meeting and distributed to all RAPs.

No further feedback has been received, see **(Appendix C)**.

2.2.1 Protocol for Aboriginal Community Involvement in Fieldwork

Working in compliance with the Aboriginal *Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). This process hereafter referred to as the 'ACHCRs'. The ACHCRs has four stages:

1. Notification of the project proposal and registration
2. Presentation of information about the proposal
3. Gathering information about cultural significance
4. Review of draft heritage assessment report.

Stage 1 of Consultation

A range of organisations were contacted on 10 July 2019 to obtain contact details of local Aboriginal people and groups who might want to be consulted on the project. The organisations included Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council (TLALC), the Office of Environment and Heritage Northwest branch (OEH), Native Title Service Corporation (NTS Corp), National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT), Office of the Registrar for the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA), Tamworth Shire Council (NSC) and Local Land Services – Northwest. This process resulted in 56 potential contacts to follow up on.

A letter was sent on 29 July 2019 to each of the contacts obtained through the initial stage of consultation providing background information on the project and offering an opportunity to be consulted. An advertisement was also posted in the Tamworth local paper- The Northern Daily Leader on 12 July 2019.

After Stage 1 of consultation the following Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were recognised:

- AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy (Aaron Talbott)
- Gomeroi People Registered Native Title Claimants (Steve Talbott)
- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Stages 2 and 3 of Consultation and Fieldwork

The RAPs were sent a request for cultural knowledge, more detailed project information and an overview of the methodology for a proposed survey by email on 13 August 2019. No specific comment was received in response to the proposed survey methodology.

An invitation was sent to Tamworth LALC to provide two representatives for the field survey. Tamworth LALC notified a male and female site officer would be provided following their terms of engagement. Aaron and Steve Talbott were invited to participate as representatives of the local Gomeroi community. Aaron called AREA on the first day of the assessment to apologise he would not be able to attend.

The field assessment occurred from 17 to 19 September 2019.

The following comments of note were made by the attending representatives of the Aboriginal community. It was generally agreed by all present that:

- A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required
- The people involved in the sites cultural heritage survey should be present to inform the CHMP
- The Proponent could have dedicated Aboriginal positions in the construction team to assist in implementing the CHMP.

Stage 4 of Consultation

The RAPs were provided with a draft report on 29 October 2019. The RAPs preferred a face to face meeting rather than to review a report and write a response per Stage 4 of the ACHCRs. To facilitate this, request a meeting to discuss the assessment to date and development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) was held on the development site on Monday 9 December 2019. The date of the meeting allowed enough time per Stage 4 of the ACHCRs for the RAPs to consider the draft report and the field assessment.

All RAPs attended as well as a representative of the proponent. The intention of this meeting was to discuss the assessment, how cultural matters were reported how Aboriginal objects recorded during the assessment would be managed. Once issued were addressed an agreement formed the basis of the CHMP.

No comments were received by the RAPs regarding the report, any concerns which were felt by the RAPs were raised by the RAPs at the Cultural Heritage Management Plan Meeting on Monday 9 December 2019 shown in **(Appendix 3)**.

The key messages were:

- o The induction/training of the Aboriginal people endorsed by the RAPs. TLALC are keen to be involved in the inductions for construction workers
- o The employment of Aboriginal people during construction is a key outcome
- o All Aboriginal sites managed need RAP input.

3 Recommended Management of the Aboriginal Heritage Resource

3.1 Overview

The Statement of Commitments (SoC) for this project (**Table 4**) forms the basis of the proposed management of Aboriginal heritage. As discussed with the RAPs through Aboriginal community consultation meeting on Monday 9 December 2019, it can be considered that this set of mitigation measures have been decided, reviewed and approved by the RAPs on this project prior to being submitted to DPIE for Project Approval.

For the purpose of streamlined management, two management groups have been created. These are:

- Group 1: Avoidance through the Implementation of Mitigative Measures
- Group 2: Surface Collection Only.

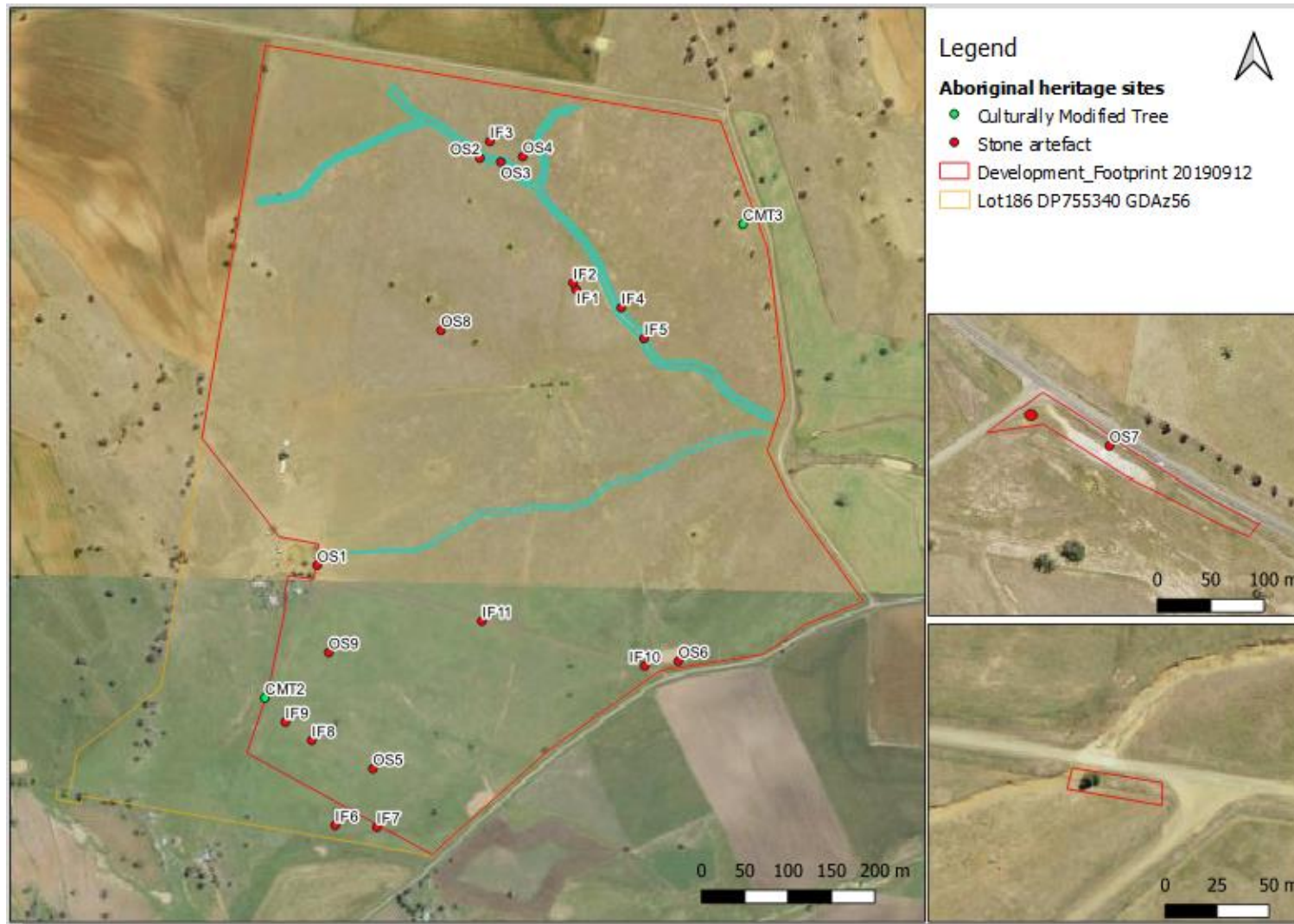
Table 3 Below summarises all Aboriginal sites found and recorded through the survey fieldwork conducted 10 to 12 September 2019 (**Figures 3-1 to 3-2**).

The management for each group is detailed further in (**Sections 3.2 to 3.4**). Overall management has been sub-divided into Pre-construction, Construction and Operational phases. **Section 3.5** provides general management measures recommended for all areas of the proposed works.

Table 4: All Aboriginal sites identified during field assessments and their management group

Site	Location (GDA)			Management Group	RAPs Remarks
	Zone	Easting z56E	Northing z56N		
IF1	56	275322	6568168	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF2	56	275314	6568184	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF3	56	275109	6568515	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF4	56	275430	6568128	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF5	56	275486	6568056	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF6	56	274775	6566887	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF7	56	274874	6566885	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF8	56	274715	6567087	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF9	56	274651	6567129	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF10	56	275504	6567280	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
IF11	56	275114	6567378	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
CMT2	56	274601	6567185	1	Post and rail fencing (with access gate) to be constructed around culturally modified trees with a 10-metre buffer.
CMT3	56	275716	6568332	1	Post and rail fencing (with access gate) to be constructed around culturally modified trees with a 10-metre buffer.
OS1	56	274719	6567502	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS2	56	275086	6568475	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS3	56	275136	6568467	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS4	56	275188	6568481	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS5a	56	274862	6567023	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS5b	56	274859	6567027	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS6	56	275584	6567293	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS7	56	276990	6571712	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS8	56	275002	6568065	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS8	56	275007	6568066	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS9	56	274751	6567296	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.
OS9	56	274757	6567316	2	To be collected and re located to the closest culturally modified tree within the 10 fenced buffers.

Figure 3-1: Aerial view of the locations of Aboriginal Sites recorded on Lot 186 DP755340 and at the proposed deceleration lane (Proposed solar farm)



3.2 Likely impact to Aboriginal sites recorded

The RAPs concluded whether an impact is direct, indirect or possible, all Aboriginal sites will require some level of intervention to avoid harm where possible these are summarised in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Summary of likely impact to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage with no management



Development Area / Site ID	Impact Unless Managed (Direct, Indirect, Unlikely)	Effect of proposal on Significance
Tamworth Solar CMT2 (On same Lot and DP but outside of proposal – on fence line)	Unlikely	Possible accidental impact. None if managed effectively
Tamworth Solar CMT3	Unlikely	Possible accidental impact. None if managed effectively
Tamworth Solar IF1	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar IF2	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar IF3	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar IF4	Indirect	Possible accidental impact or impact if drainage line work is needed. None if managed effectively but total if work is required in drainage line.
Tamworth Solar IF5	Indirect	Possible accidental impact or impact if drainage line work is needed. None if managed effectively but total if work is required in drainage line.
Tamworth Solar IF6 (On same Lot and DP but outside of proposal)	Unlikely	Possible accidental impact. None if managed effectively
Tamworth Solar IF7 (On same Lot and DP but outside of proposal)	Unlikely	Possible accidental impact. None if managed effectively
Tamworth Solar IF8	Unlikely	Possible accidental impact. None if managed effectively
Tamworth Solar IF9	Unlikely	Possible accidental impact. None if managed effectively
Tamworth Solar IF10	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar IF11	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar OS1	Unlikely	Possible accidental impact. None if managed effectively
Tamworth Solar OS2	Indirect	Possible accidental impact or impact if drainage line work is needed. None if managed effectively but total if work is required in drainage line.
Tamworth Solar OS3	Indirect	Possible accidental impact or impact if drainage line work is needed. None if managed effectively but total if work is required in drainage line.
Tamworth Solar OS4	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar OS5	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar OS6	Indirect	Possible accidental impact or impact if work on or near the dam is needed. None if managed effectively but total if work

Development Area / Site ID	Impact Unless Managed (Direct, Indirect, Unlikely)	Effect of proposal on Significance
		is required in this area.
Deceleration Lane Solar OS7	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar OS8	Direct	Total loss.
Tamworth Solar OS9	Direct	Total loss.

3.3 Management Group 1: Avoidance

Two sites, both Culturally Modified Trees will be avoided (CMT2 and CMT3), although management is required to ensure their protection (**Table 6**). These sites are not within an area panels will be built and after mitigation measures and implemented will not be subject to indirect impacts such as heavy machinery movement. Details of the sites are provided on **Table 7**.

Table 6: Management actions required for Group 2 sites

Site	Image 1	Image 2	Action	Timing
Tamworth Solar CMT2			Post and rail fencing (with access gate) around culturally trees with a 10-metre buffer will be constructed. This is sturdy enough to protect this site type and improve the health of the tree. This fenced off area will include a sign saying, "Environmentally Sensitive Area". Note the two scars on the outer edge of the tree were not identified as cultural in origin (likely from livestock) – only the middle scar was.	Pre-Construction





Site	Image 1	Image 2	Action	Timing
Tamworth Solar CMT3			Post and rail fencing (with access gate) around culturally trees with a 10-metre buffer will be constructed. This is sturdy enough to protect this site type and improve the health of the tree. This fenced off area will include a sign saying, "Environmentally Sensitive Area".	Pre-Construction

Table 7: Summary of sites in Management Group 1.

Site	Image	GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Identifier	Dimensions (m)
Tamworth Solar		274601	6567185	CMT2	Tamworth Solar CMT2 is a probable cultural scar made on the south side of a white box tree on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm. The tree is on a fence line separating two paddocks. The tree is alive, approximately 30 m tall with a trunk diameter greater than 50cm dbh. The culturally modified scar is in between two non-cultural scars likely caused by horses historically, all are elongated in shape, but the others extend to the ground. The cultural scar is 64 cm long, 8 cm wide and 8 cm deep. The base of the scar is 75 cm above ground level. Card is 10 cm wide.
Tamworth Solar		275716	6568332	CMT3	Tamworth Solar CMT3 is a cultural scar made on the southwestern side of a white box tree on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm. The tree is 40 m from fence line separating the paddock from the Warminster road corridor. The tree is alive, approximately 20 m tall with a trunk diameter greater than 50 cm dbh. The culturally modified scar is elongated / rectangular. The cultural scar is 70 cm long, 25 cm wide and 20 cm deep. The base of the scar is 80 cm above ground level. Card is 10 cm wide.

3.3.2 Pre-construction Management

These sites have been identified through the Aboriginal cultural heritage field survey by the RAPs and AREA team to outline the culturally sensitive areas which require protection from the construction and operation of the project. The field survey was completed in compliance with the Aboriginal *Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

3.3.3 Construction Management

Construction of fencing 10 meters from the Culturally Modified Trees surrounding the circumference of the trees and signage stating “Environmentally Sensitive Area” has been requested by all RAPs involved in the project for sites CMT2 and CMT3. CMT2 will be avoided as it occurs outside the development footprint. CMT3 occurs inside the development footprint however the proponent has modified the proposal to avoid it. As a result, all Culturally Modified Trees will be avoided. It is possible these trees could be inadvertently affected by the proposal, particularly during the construction phase. The trees will also naturally deteriorate during the lifespan of the solar farm, and when they do, they may be at risk of being cut down for safety reasons without effective management.

As seen below in **(Figure 3-3)** the location of the Group 1 sites will be part of the heritage induction given to staff working on the construction and operation of the solar farm, in turn they will be marked on a plan to ensure avoidance of the sites.

The workforce briefing and other general management measures in **(Appendix D)** will be followed.

3.3.4 Operational Management

Fencing and signage should remain after construction, and after operation of the solar farm ceases. All operation and construction work is to minimise any potential impact to the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Any maintenance work must be carried out by crew who have undertaken the prepared workforce briefing which includes an unanticipated finds protocol.



3.4 Management Group 2: Surface Collection of Artefacts Only

In summary, 22 cultural heritage items were identified in or next to the Development Area.

The impact to these can be summarised as:

- **Culturally modified trees – two identified:** both avoided (Group 1)
- **Isolated finds – 11 identified:** Five avoided and six impacted (Group 2)
- **Open sites – nine identified:** Four avoided and five impacted (Group 2).





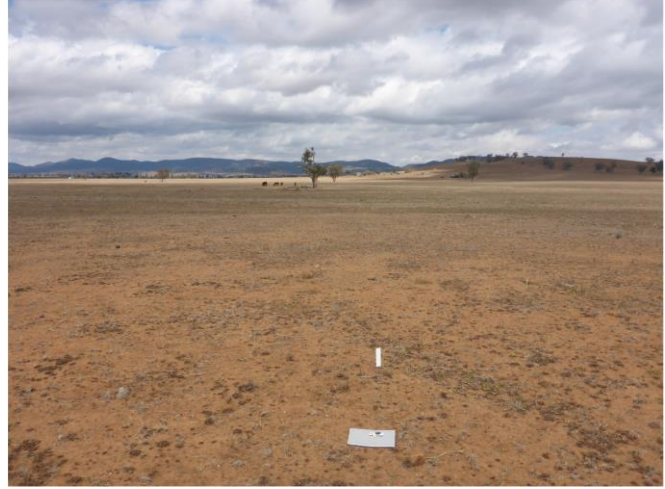

Twenty-two Aboriginal sites were recorded during the survey management actions required for the Group 2 sites are shown below in (Table 8). Table 9 provides further detail.





Table 8: Management actions required for Group 2 sites




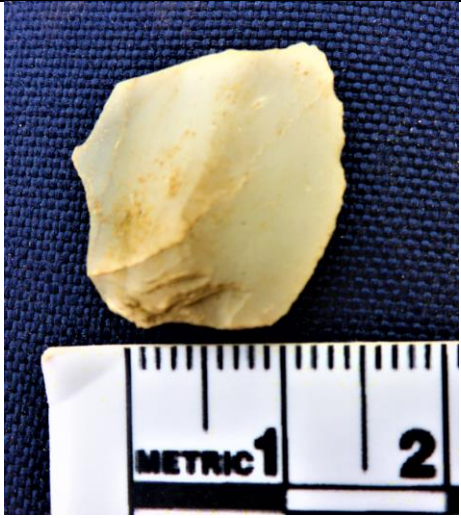
Development Area / Site ID	Reason for Action	Action	Timing
Tamworth Solar CMT2 (On same Lot and DP but outside of proposal – on fence line)	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage tree to be Fenced	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar CMT3	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage tree to be Fenced	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF1	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF2	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF3	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF4	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF5	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF6 (On same Lot and DP but outside of proposal)	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF7 (On same Lot and DP but outside of proposal)	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF8	To avoid any indirect or direct	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally	Pre-Construction




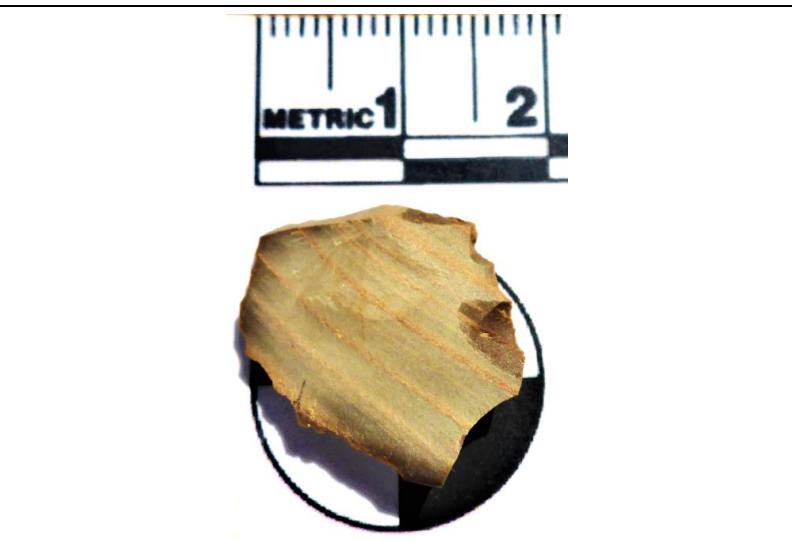
Development Area / Site ID	Reason for Action	Action	Timing
	impact to the site	modified tree in proximity.	
Tamworth Solar IF9	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF10	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar IF11	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar OS1	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar OS2	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar OS3	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar OS4	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar OS5	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar OS6	To avoid any indirect or direct impact to the site	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Deceleration Lane Solar OS7	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar OS8	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction
Tamworth Solar OS9	Item is inside of the impact footprint	Surface collection of artefacts and relocation to the closest culturally modified tree in proximity.	Pre-Construction



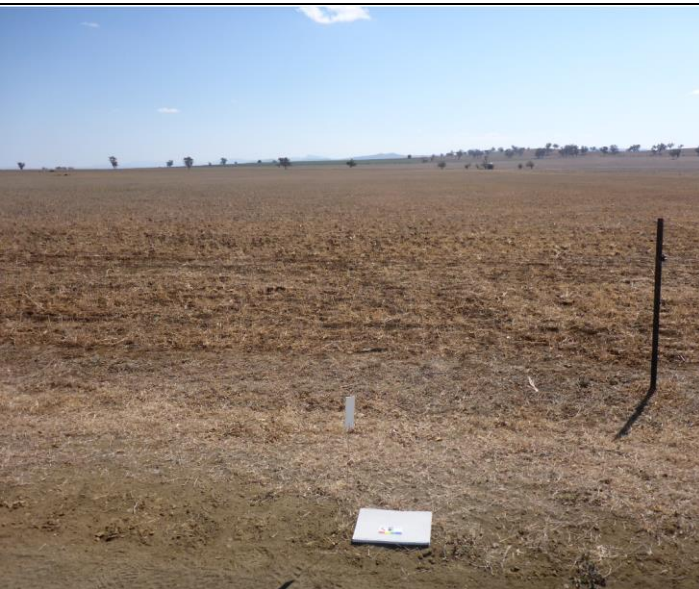

Table 9: Summary of Aboriginal sites recorded





GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
275322	6568168	Tamworth Solar	4	IF1	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land 75 m west of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon. Silcrete broken flake 18x5x8mm. Not the best example of an artefact but in the right light a negative scar and bulb on one surface is evident. Silcrete is not naturally occurring in the landscape.		
275314	6568184	Tamworth Solar	4	IF2	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land 75 m west of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm about 50 m south of IF1. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon. Fine grained quartzite core 32x30x38mm. Negative scars, platforms and bulbs evident. Quartzite is naturally occurring in the landscape.		
275109	6568515	Tamworth Solar	4	IF3	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land 33 m east of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm between 51 to 100 m north of OS2 and OS3 and OS4. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon. Black quartzite broken flake 42x15x13mm. Negative scars, platforms and bulb evident. Quartzite is naturally occurring in the landscape.		


GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
275430	6568128	Tamworth Solar	4	IF4	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land 1m east of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm Centrally located 51 to 100 m of IF1and IF2. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon. A brown fine-grained quartzite broken flake possessing a negative flake, a bulb and point of percussion 12x9x18mm. This material does naturally occur in the landscape.		
275486	6568056	Tamworth Solar	4	IF5	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land 1 m east of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm Located 51 to 100 m south of IF1 and IF4. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon. A grey patterned Hornsfels broken flake (two pieces of same flake) possessing three negative flakes and at least two points of percussion. 42x38x8mm. This material does not naturally occur in the landscape.		





GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
274775	6566887	Tamworth Solar	8*	IF6	Stone artefact	<p>Located on Category 1 Land on the southern boundary of the property in an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is not in the Solar Farm. Located 100 m west of IF7 in the same drainage line. Quartzite hammer stone 140x52x48mm. Use wear on both end and dorsal and ventral surfaces. This material does naturally occur in the landscape.</p>		
274874	6566885	Tamworth Solar	8*	IF7	Stone artefact	<p>Located on Category 1 Land on the southern boundary of the property in an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is not in the Solar Farm. Located 100 m east of IF6 in the same drainage line. Chert flake 18x22x6mm. Use wear on edge. This material does not naturally occur in the landscape.</p>		






GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
274715	6567087	Tamworth Solar	8	IF8	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land on the southern boundary of the property 210 m northwest of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is in the Solar Farm. White / brown quartzite core. 52x56x38mm. Points of impact, platforms and negative scars were observed. This material does naturally occur in the landscape.		
274651	6567129	Tamworth Solar	8	IF9	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land on the southern boundary of the property 350 m northwest of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is in the Solar Farm. Grey with brown banded fine-grained siliceous flake. 22x18x6mm. Points of impact, bulb platforms and negative scars were observed. This material does not naturally occur in the landscape.		




GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
275504	6567280	Tamworth Solar	6	IF10	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land on the central portion of the property 110 m west of a farm dam with OS6 on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is in the Solar Farm. Grey with brown fine-grained quartzite with white cortex. 22x28x6mm. Points of impact, bulb platforms and negative scars were observed. This material does naturally occur in the landscape.		
275114	6567378	Tamworth Solar	6	IF11	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land on the central portion of the property 300 m south of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is in the central portion Solar Farm. Cream Tuff(?). 18x14x12mm. Points of impact, bulb platforms and negative scars were observed. This material does not naturally occur in the landscape.		



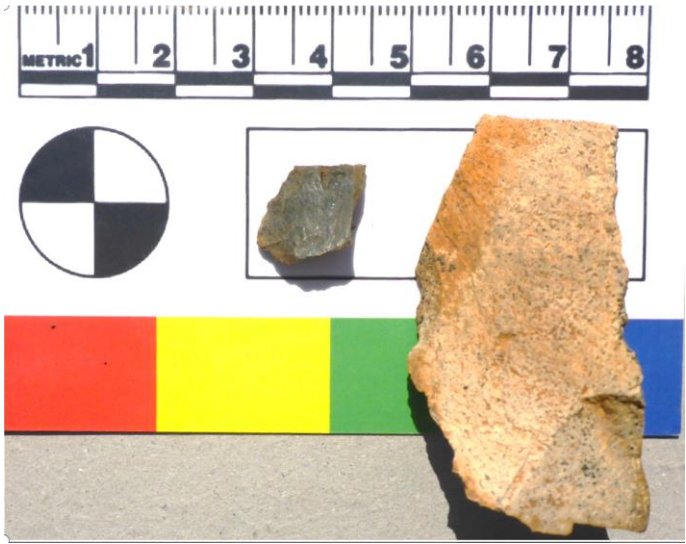


GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
274601	6567185	Tamworth Solar	8*	CMT2	Culturally Modified Tree	<p>Tamworth Solar CMT2 is a probable cultural scar made on the south side of a white box tree on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm. The tree is on a fence line separating two paddocks. The tree is alive, approximately 30 m tall with a trunk diameter greater than 50cm dbh. The culturally modified scar is in between two non-cultural scars likely caused by horses historically, all are elongated in shape, but the others extend to the ground. The cultural scar is 64 cm long, 8 cm wide and 8 cm deep. The base of the scar is 75 cm above ground level.</p> <p>Card is 10 cm wide.</p>		
275716	6568332	Tamworth Solar	4	CMT3	Culturally Modified Tree	<p>Tamworth Solar CMT3 is a cultural scar made on the southwestern side of a white box tree on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm. The tree is 40 m from fence line separating the paddock from the Warminster road corridor. The tree is alive, approximately 20 m tall with a trunk diameter greater than 50 cm dbh. The culturally modified scar is elongated / rectangular. The cultural scar is 70 cm long, 25 cm wide and 20 cm deep. The base of the scar is 80 cm above ground level.</p> <p>Card is 10 cm wide.</p>		




GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
274719	6567502	Tamworth Solar	5	OS1	Stone artefact	Two stone objects located within 5 m of each other next to an existing farm track on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm. White quartzite core 64x74x82mm with more than 10 negative flakes in all directions. Grey volcanic tuff broken flake 21x23x4mm, narrow platform, Errailure scar / bulb of percussion. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon.		
275086	6568475	Tamworth Solar	4	OS2	Stone artefact	Located on Category 1 Land 3 m west of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm between 51 to 100 m south and west of IF3 and OS3 and OS4. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon. Three red silcrete broken flakes located. 12x9x7mm, 11x6x4mm, 8x7x14mm. Negative scars, platforms and bulbs evident. Silcrete is not naturally occurring in the landscape.		

GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
275136	6568467	Tamworth Solar	4	OS3	Stone artefact	<p>Located on Category 1 Land 1 m west of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm centrally located 51 to 100 m of IF3, OS3 and OS4. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon. One black fine-grained quartzite core and a red / white coarse silcrete / quartz broken flake. The latter is not a good example of an artefact, but this material does not naturally occur in the landscape. The back core is 29x32x34mm possessing a negative flake, bulb and platform. The red silcrete / quartz broken flake is 36x12x18mm and has one plane likely to have been flaked (likely meaning evidence of other features was not present).</p>		
275188	6568481	Tamworth Solar	4	OS4	Stone artefact	<p>Located on Category 1 Land 30 m east of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340, the Solar Farm 51 to 100 m west of IF3, OS2 and S3. Surface soils eroded, on B horizon. Two grey chert flakes with many (3 to 10+) negative flakes, both have wide platforms and multiple points of percussion. 72x43x18mm and 56x47x12mm. This material does not naturally occur in the landscape.</p>		

GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
274862	6567023	Tamworth Solar	8	OS5a	Stone artefact	<p>Located on Category 1 Land on the southern boundary of the property 170 m north of an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is in the Solar Farm. A grey and white / pink quartzite broken flakes were observed 5 m apart. 38x42x12mm and 31x24x9mm. Points of impact, platforms and negative scars were observed on both artefacts. These materials naturally occur in the landscape.</p>		
274859	6567027			OS5b				
275584	6567293	Tamworth Solar	4	OS6	Stone artefact	<p>Located on Category 1 Land on the central portion of the property next to a rural dam on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is in the Solar Farm. A banded mudstone core, coarse grained quartzite core and a chert scraper were observed 5 m apart next to a farm dam. 82x38x28mm, 20x214x9mm, 30x26x8mm. Points of impact and negative flakes were observed on all. Microflaking was observed in the scraper. The mudstone and chert did not naturally occur in the landscape.</p>		

GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
								
276990	6571712	Tamworth Solar	1	OS7	Stone artefact	<p>Located on road work stockpile area at the intersection of Oxley Highway and Babbinsboon Road 840 m south of Peel River just above the floodplain. This location is to be developed as a deceleration lane servicing the Solar Farm. A cream / yellow silcrete flake and a grey fine-grained siliceous flake were observed 48 m apart on undisturbed thin strips of natural soil surface in the area. 25x11x8mm and 34x21x11mm. Point of impact, platform and bulb was observed on both. We were unable to determine what material naturally occurred in the landscape due to existing disturbance and import of gravel.</p>		

GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
								
275002	6568065	Tamworth Solar	4	OS8	Stone artefact	<p>Located on Category 1 Land on the north central portion of the property on a scaled area 485 m from an unnamed drainage line on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is in the Solar Farm. A grey fine-grained quartzite and Hornsfels broken flakes were observed 15 m apart. 57x34x18mm and 18x17x9mm. The larger artefact had a platform, bulb, negative scars while the smaller showed a point of percussion and remnant of a crushed platform (otherwise not conclusive). Quartzite naturally occurs but Hornfels does not naturally occur in the landscape.</p>		
275007	6568066							

GDA z56E	GDA z56N	Name Prefix	Survey Unit	Name identifier	Feature	Description	Image 1	Image 2
274751	6567296	Tamworth Solar	6	OS9	Stone artefact	<p>Located on Category 1 Land on the southern portion of the property 250 m north of and south of unnamed drainage lines on Lot 186 DP755340. This location is in the Solar Farm. A grey fine-grained quartzite and Hornfels broken flake were observed 5 m apart next to a farm track. 22x24x18mm and 20x214x9mm. Point of impact was observed on one while negative scars were seen on the other. Quartzite naturally occurs but Hornfels does not naturally occur in the landscape.</p>		
274757	6567316							



3.4.1 Pre-construction Management

All sites have been identified through the Aboriginal cultural heritage field survey by the RAP and AREA team to outline the culturally sensitive areas which require protection from the construction and operation of the project. The field survey was completed in compliance with the Aboriginal *Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

3.4.2 Construction Management

Before construction all preconstruction requirements for all Aboriginal sites identified in **(Table 8)** need to be completed. The Culturally Modified Trees are required to be fenced and signed "Environmentally Sensitive Area". Once completed, Group 1 Aboriginal sites require the RAPs involved in the project to relocate Aboriginal stone artefacts recorded in the cultural heritage assessments as well as any discovered during construction, with the use of GPS coordinates to locate artefacts. All stone artefacts are to be relocated the base of the closest culturally modified tree. Records need to be kept for all Aboriginal sites moved. This record keeping will be done by the RAPs and checked by the Proponents representative as part of the Aboriginal heritage clearing certificate issuing process.

3.5 General Construction and Operational Phase Management Measures

The following measures will be followed throughout all phases of management where applicable. Specific instances where these measures will be invoked are provided in the preceding sections.

3.5.1 Unanticipated finds protocol

The following protocols are in place for any finds of unidentified Aboriginal objects or artefacts observed during construction of the Tamworth Solar Farm. A copy of these protocols will be kept at the site's office during the project and all staff and contractors will know of its existence, what it covers and when to use it.

Aboriginal Heritage

If additional stone artefacts are found throughout the duration of construction or operation the artefacts GPS coordinates should be documented, and the artefact should be collected, photo taken, and the object bagged and tagged. The site supervisor as well as the RAPs will be notified. The artefact is to be taken back to the site office and secured within a lockable box until it can be verified as a genuine Aboriginal stone artefact. The RAPs will provide a second opinion to confirm if the object is Aboriginal in origin.

If the object is confirmed as an Aboriginal artefact, then it / they can then be moved by Aboriginal people endorsed by the RAPs to the closest culturally modified tree and placed in the 10m buffer fenced area along with the other artefacts. When relocated this artefact log will be updated.

Should suspected ancestral human remains be encountered, the following process should be adhered to:

- Do not further disturb or move the remains
- Immediately cease work in the vicinity and cordon area off
- Notify the NSW Police
- Notify the NSW EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) Line on 131555 as soon as practicable and provide available details of the remains and their location
- Do not recommence work in the area unless authorised in writing by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- If unable to contact a suitably qualified heritage professional or achieve an assessment, contact NSW DPIE for support on 02 9873 8500 or via:
HERITAGEmailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.

3.5.2 Workforce Briefing / Induction

All workers involved in construction or operation of the solar farm must have the unexpected finds protocol included in their site induction.

In order to avoid inadvertent impact, the following measures are recommended:

- Locations of cultural heritage sites will be provided to the relevant supervisors responsible for the construction and operation of the solar farm and the ancillary infrastructure. They will be informed cultural heritage sites are protected sites under the NPW Act and no harm is to come to them. The presence of cultural heritage sites will be made clear to the workforce as part of an induction.
- Post and rail fencing (with access gate) around Culturally Modified Trees with a 10 metre buffer will be constructed. This is sturdy enough to protect this site type and improve the health of the tree. This fenced off area will include a sign stating, “Environmentally Sensitive Area”.
- Should any of the culturally modified trees fall or deteriorate to the point they are a safety risk during the operation of the solar farm, further management measures may need to be formulated with the assistance of the RAPs and a heritage professional.

3.5.3 Compliance Procedures

In the event that a non-compliance with this Heritage Management Plan is identified, the following procedures will be undertaken:

- The Site Supervisor will be immediately notified and if feasible/relevant to the breach, the works to stop in the area of the breach and for it to be cordoned off.
- After investigation by the Site Supervisor and community liaison officer to determine the nature and extent of the breach, notification will then be made to the Project Manager.
- Depending upon the type of breach, the Project Manager will then alert any specific agency, the RAPs (if relevant) and /or the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to determine the best course of action.
- An Aboriginal Site Impact Recording form will need to be submitted for each site damaged or destroyed (including removed or relocated).

3.5.4 Fate of Salvaged Artefacts

The final fate of objects retrieved will be determined by the RAPs. It was discussed and decided by all RAPs at the Cultural Heritage management meeting that all known and unexpected stone artefacts are to be relocated to the closest culturally modified tree. The artefact is to be placed within the fenced buffer only after the unexpected finds protocol has been followed and it has been determined by the RAPs to be a legitimate stone artefact. This will be considered as the preferred management of artefacts unless further communication from RAPs is received. Other possible management of artefacts include reburial on site; keeping objects for education purposes or having objects curated by the Australian Museum. If any RAP wishes to keep the objects, then a Care and Control agreement must be reached with all RAPs.

Temporary storage of artefacts will be at the project management site office in a lockable box where they can be securely stored in a locked room. The Aboriginal object will remain there for the purpose of analysis and photography until they can be confirmed as legitimate Aboriginal object and relocated by the RAPs.

3.5.5 Other General Recommendations

1. Any soil excavated for the construction of the solar farm should be replaced in the same area where possible. This is particularly important within the registered Aboriginal sites.
2. Should any aspect of the development change or further details of the construction plan emerge that will impact on an identified site in any way that has not already been mitigated or managed, then further assessment will be required.

4 References

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NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW). (2010a). *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS). (1993). *Aboriginal Site Survey: Proposed Wee Waa to Tamworth Transmission Line*. Unpublished Report to Namoi Valley Electricity.

NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH). (2011a). *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*. NSW Office of Environment & Heritage.

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NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). (2013). *Brigalow Belt South Bioregion*, Retrieved from: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bioregions/BrigalowBeltSouthBioregion.htm>. Accessed 23 May 2017.

Appendix A: Aboriginal Community Consultation - CHMP



Aboriginal Community Consultation Log

Stage 1a

Date	Stage	Organisation	Communication	Method(s)	Response RECEIVED	Response Detail	Method(s)
Stage 1							
12/07/2019	1a	Tamworth local paper- The Northern Daily Leader	Sent Public notice expression of interest to Tamworth local newspaper	email		No responses received from the newspaper article	email
10/07/2019	1a	ALRA	Sent request for potential RAPs	email			email
10/07/2019	1a	Local Land Services - LLS	Sent request for potential RAPs	email	22.7.19	<p>Luke Raveneau <luke.raveneau@lls.nsw.gov.au> Mon, 22 Jul, 08:31(1 day ago) Hi Gabrielle, Below are a couple of contacts who hold cultural knowledge on the area proposed for Solar farm near Somerton.</p> <p>Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council - CEO Fiona Snape Email: fiona@tamworthlalc@gmail.com.au Phone: 02 67669028</p> <p>Donny Fermor - Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council Site Officer Phone: 0401255473</p> <p>Lenny Waters - Cultural Tours Email: leonardwaters0@gmail.com Phone: 0438701576</p> <p>There is also a Native Title group in this area that you will need to consult with (GOMEROI). I'm not quite sure who the main contact is though. But I'd suggest you make contact with Fiona Snape at the Local Aboriginal Land Council first, she will have your answer and point you in the right direction.</p> <p>If you have any questions feel free to contact me.</p> <p>Cheers</p> <p>The National Native Title Tribunal (the Tribunal) has undertaken steps to remove itself from the formal list of sources for information about indigenous groups in development areas.</p>	email
10/07/2019	1a	National Native Title Tribunal - NNTT	Sent request for potential RAPs	email	11.7.19		email

Stage 1a

10/07/2019	1a	NTSCORP	Sent request for potential RAPs	email	23/07/2019	<p>Stephen Talbot was contacted by NTSCORP and provided the following response:</p> <p>Hi Gabbi</p> <p>My names Steve Talbot am 1 of 19 Applicant representing Gomerol People Re native Title Claim over vast area of N.S.W n into Queensland. Besides progressing our claim forward we also have responsibilities in assuring Aboriginal Cultural n Heritage is properly managed n assessed. I would like to register my interest in the above said assessment n all phrases associated with Aboriginal Cultural n Heritage on above said project</p> <p>Thanking you</p> <p>Steve Talbot</p> <p>0476893344</p> <p>Our response was :</p> <p>Hi Stephen,</p> <p>Thankyou very much for your email and identifying that you are a traditional owner and one of the 19 applicants for the registered claim.</p> <p>I have added your name and contact details as Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for this project.</p> <p>On Friday this week the first round of consultation will finish which is writing to government bodies for lists of contacts.</p> <p>To date we have approximately 50 people/organisations on this list to contact to see if they are interesting in becoming a RAP. Next week we will be writing letters to these people, but because you have already registered your interest we will not send one to you, is that ok?</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>Gabrielle Green</p>	email
10/07/2019	1a	Office of Environment & Heritage – OEH	Sent request for potential RAPs	email	19. 7. 19	45 Organisations/affiliations identified	email
10/07/2019	1a	Local Aboriginal Land Services – LALC	Sent request for potential RAPs	email			email
10/07/2019	1a	Tamworth Regional Council	Sent request for potential RAPs	email			email
26/07/2019	1a	Steve Talbot /NT Gomerol People applicant	Request for information	Phone	26/07/2019	<p>Steve called Phil Cameron to say thankyou for our response to his email. He wanted to clarify whether the 45 candidates to contact were RAPs. PJC stated they were not they were candidates needed to be contacted. Steve raised a concern about the selection criteria for the candidates for candidates to participate in field surveys and who could speak for country. PJC offered , and Steve accepted an opportunity to review the list of RAPs on behalf of the Gomerol People registered Applicants and provide advice.</p>	phone

Stage 1a

30/07/2019	1a	Fiona Snape - Tamworth LALC	Email to ask if the LALC would be interested in becoming a RAP	Email	2/08/2019	<p>Hello Fiona,</p> <p>AREA Environmental have been commissioned to complete a cultural heritage assessment for a proposed solar farm near Somerton, Tamworth LGA, NSW.</p> <p>We received your contact details from local land services (LLS), and are contacting you to inquire whether the land council would be interested in becoming a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP).</p> <p>I have included more information in the attached document.</p> <p>I have also been speaking to Donny Fernor who advised he does relay with you in regards to RAP involvement and he has asked me to forward the information meant for him through to you.</p> <p>I have attached individual letters for you both, if it would be possible for you to please forward Donny's on to him?</p> <p>If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>Kind Regards Gabrielle Green</p> <p>Tamworth LALC Response:</p> <p>Hi Gabrielle</p> <p>Yes Tamworth LALC would be interest in becoming a Registered Aboriginal Party</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>Fiona Snape CEO</p> <p>Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council</p> <p>PO Box 57 Tamworth NSW 2340</p>	email
30/07/2019	1a	Donny Fernor	Ring to ask if Donny would be interested in becoming a RAP	Phone		<p>Ring Donny to ask if he would be interested in being a RAP, he advised he is and he relays with Fiona from LALC. Donny asked if I could please send the project information through to Fiona Snape and he will collect it from LALC</p>	phone
30/07/2019	1a	Lenny Waters	Email to ask if Lenny would be interested in becoming a RAP	email		<p>Hello Lenny,</p> <p>AREA Environmental have been commissioned to complete a cultural heritage assessment for a proposed solar farm near Somerton, Tamworth LGA, NSW.</p> <p>We received your contact details from local land services (LLS), and are contacting you to inquire whether you would be interested in becoming a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP).</p> <p>I have included more information in the attached document.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.</p> <p>Kind Regards Gabrielle Green</p>	email

Stage 1a and b

Date	Stage	Organisation	Communication	Method(s)	Response RECEIVED	Response Detail	Method(s)
30/07/2019	1a	Steve Talbot /NT Gomeroi People applicant	Email to update him and provide him with all of the information as he has already advised he would like to be a RAP	Email		<p>Gabrielle Green <gabby@areaenvironmental.com.au></p> <p>Attachments</p> <p>12:07 (0 minutes ago)</p> <p>to Stephen</p> <p>Hi Steve,</p> <p>I understand you have let us know you would like to be a Registered Aboriginal Party, I just wanted to send you an email to update you on our progress.</p> <p>Yesterday we posted to 45 potential RAPs and today we emailed another three (four including yourself), I have attached a document with all of the information you may require. I am sending you the same information as everyone else to keep you informed.</p> <p>Now the letters have been sent, we will wait for 14 days to see who responds and registered as an interested party. Once this is complete we will send another letter which includes project information and a survey methodology.</p> <p>In response to a conversation you had with Phil please note there is a sentence in the letter to honour our promise to give the Applicants of the Gomeroi People an opportunity to provide comment on who becomes a RAP.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>	email
12.08.2019	1b	Office of Environment & Heritage - OEH	Advised of completion of stage 1a of the ACHCRs	Email	13.08.19	Automatic reply response received from OEH awaiting a formal reply.	email
12.08.2019	1b	Local Aboriginal Land Services - LALC	Advised of completion of stage 1a of the ACHCRs	Email	13.08.19		email

Stage 2

Date	Stage	Organisation	Communication	Method(s)	Response RECEIVED	Response Detail	Method(s)
Stage 2/3							
28.08.19	2a	Contacted All RAPS-Emailed all RAPS requesting their certificate of currency and advised them of the fieldwork dates and requirements	<p>Hello Members,</p> <p>This is just an email in regards to the upcoming fieldwork for the Tamworth solar project.</p> <p>The field work for the project will be held from 12pm on Tuesday 17 and finish 12pm on Thursday 19 September 2019 (two days). If you prefer two full days rather than two half days and one full day let me know.</p> <p>Can you please confirm your availability and interest in participating in the field assessment.</p> <p>As you know Stephen Talbott, Aaron Talbott and two positions for the LALC are available and the rate and conditions offered by the Proponent are those of the LALC (so everything is fair and equal).</p> <p>Before the field work can commence need to submit your workers compensation certificate of currency to the Proponent for them to officially make the offer. Without citing this the Proponent is unable to approve the paid RAP positions.</p> <p>On the days of the fieldwork please make sure to bring adequate food and water. Long pants, boots, hat and sunscreen are required as adequate protection from the elements and environmental hazards.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.</p> <p>Kind Regards Gabrielle Green</p>	Email	Aaron Talbott	<p>Aaron Talbott Wed, 28 Aug, 15:55 (16 hours ago) to me Yaama Gabrielle</p> <p>Thankyou for your email. I will accept invitation to participate in field assessment and will. Email my insurances through as soon as possible. I quite happy to do either program you have offered. What the other RAP's are happy to do is fine with me.</p> <p>Regards Aaron Talbott AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy M0455 291762 Thankyou</p>	Email
28.08.20	2a	Contacted All RAPS-Emailed all RAPS requesting their certificate of currency and advised them of the fieldwork dates and requirements	<p>Hello Members,</p> <p>This is just an email in regards to the upcoming fieldwork for the Tamworth solar project.</p> <p>The field work for the project will be held from 12pm on Tuesday 17 and finish 12pm on Thursday 19 September 2019 (two days). If you prefer two full days rather than two half days and one full day let me know.</p> <p>Can you please confirm your availability and interest in participating in the field assessment.</p> <p>As you know Stephen Talbott, Aaron Talbott and two positions for the LALC are available and the rate and conditions offered by the Proponent are those of the LALC (so everything is fair and equal).</p> <p>Before the field work can commence need to submit your workers compensation certificate of currency to the Proponent for them to officially make the offer. Without citing this the Proponent is unable to approve the paid RAP positions.</p> <p>On the days of the fieldwork please make sure to bring adequate food and water. Long pants, boots, hat and sunscreen are required as adequate protection from the elements and environmental hazards.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.</p> <p>Kind Regards Gabrielle Green</p>	Email	Stephen Talbot	<p>Stephen Talbott 08:47 (3 hours ago) to me Hi Gabrielle</p> <p>Attached is my insurances for the upcoming field work</p> <p>Thanks Steve</p>	Email

Stage 2

Date	Stage	Organisation	Communication	Method(s)	Response RECEIVED	Response Detail	Method(s)
28.08.21	2a	Contacted All RAPS-Emailed all RAPS requesting their certificate of currency and advised them of the fieldwork dates and requirements	<p>Hello Members,</p> <p>This is just an email in regards to the upcoming fieldwork for the Tamworth solar project.</p> <p>The field work for the project will be held from 12pm on Tuesday 17 and finish 12pm on Thursday 19 September 2019 (two days). If you prefer two full days rather than two half days and one full day let me know.</p> <p>Can you please confirm your availability and interest in participating in the field assessment.</p> <p>As you know Stephen Talbott, Aaron Talbott and two positions for the LALC are available and the rate and conditions offered by the Proponent are those of the LALC (so everything is fair and equal).</p> <p>Before the field work can commence need to submit your workers compensation certificate of currency to the Proponent for them to officially make the offer. Without citing this the Proponent is unable to approve the paid RAP positions.</p> <p>On the days of the fieldwork please make sure to bring adequate food and water.</p> <p>Long pants, boots, hat and sunscreen are required as adequate protection from the elements and environmental hazards.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>Gabrielle Green</p>	Email	Latisha from Tamworth LALC (on behalf of Fiona Snape)	Latisha called to confirm they have 2 site Officers lined up for the field work at a rate of \$120 plus gst. She advised that one lives near by and between Manila and Somerton an the second is coming from Bendemeer. Latisha advised she will send through the LALC workers comp and certificate of currencies. Latisha question about specifics of the job, location etc, Gabbi advised that there will be an email going out to all RAPs for specifics of the job closer to the date of fieldwork. Latisha was happy with this.	Phone Conversation
17-19 Sept 20	Three	All RAPs	<p>Aaron Talbot called on 17 to apologies for not being able to attend the field assessment.</p> <p>The study area was assessed 17 to 19 September 2019 by Steve Talbot (TO), and Don Fernor and Lynda Bartel of the T-LALC.</p> <p>23 stone artefact sites and three culturally modified trees were recorded during the assessment.</p> <p>A preliminary discussion after the survey was complete indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A cultural Heritage Management Plan is needed to manage impact to any sites as a result of the proposal. - People involved in the survey are best placed to attend a face to face meeting to document management. A representative of the proponent should attend. - Dedicated Aboriginal positions for construction workers would be beneficial. 	In person	See left hand column	See left hand column	See left hand column

Stage 3

Date	Stage	Organisation	Communication	Method(s)	Response RECEIVED	Response Detail	Method(s)
Stage 3							
17-19 Sept 20	Three	All RAPs	Aaron Talbot called on 17 to apologies for not being able to attend the field assessment. The study area was assessed 17 to 19 September 2019 by Steve Talbot (TO), and Don Fernor and Lynda Bartel of the T-LALC. 23 stone artefact sites and three culturally modified trees were recorded during the assessment. A preliminary discussion after the survey was complete indicated: - A cultural Heritage Management Plan is needed to manage impact to any sites as a result of the proposal. - People involved in the survey are best placed to attend a face to face meeting to document management. A representative of the proponent should attend. - Dedicated Aboriginal positions for construction workers would be beneficial.	In person	See left hand column	See left hand column	See left hand column
19.09.19	Three	All RAPs	Follow up email with details above sent to all RAPs.	Email	All RAPs	N/A	email
24.09.19	Three	All RAPs	A follow up thanks for the survey with billing details of the client sent	Email	All RAPs	N/A	email

Stage 4

Date	Stage	Organisation	Communication	Method(s)	Response RECEIVED	Response Detail	Method(s)
Stage 4							
29.10.19		All RAPs	Draft report issued	email	17-19 Sept during fieldwork. Afo	AREA issued with the proponent who was happy to facilitate a meeting to discuss the report and CHMP.	In person
30.10.2019	Four	Tamworth LALC	Rang and spoke with Fiona from Tamworth LALC to organize a date available for the RAPs to meet for a discussion in regards to what was recorded during the survey of the Tamworth solar Aboriginal heritage assessment	Phone	30.10.19	RAPs available 12pm on 9th December 2019	Phone
30.10.2019	Four	Steve Talbot	Rang and spoke with Steve Talbot to organize a date available for the RAPs to meet for a discussion in regards to what was recorded during the survey of the Tamworth solar Aboriginal heritage assessment	Phone	30.10.19	RAPs available 12pm on 9th December 2019	Phone
30.10.2019	Four	Aaron Talbot	Rang but no answer so I sent a message to organize a date available for the RAPs to meet for a discussion in regards to what was recorded during the survey of the Tamworth solar Aboriginal heritage assessment	Phone	31.10.19	Aaron returned my call and advised he would be grateful to be still included in the project and he is available 12pm on 9th December 2019	Phone

Date	Stage	Organisation	Communication	Method(s)	Response RECEIVED	Response Detail	Method(s)
4.12.19	Four	All RAPs	Gabrielle Green <gabbi@areaenvironmental.com.au> 13:53 (10 minutes ago) to Stephen, Aaron, fiona, Phil, Daryl Hello everyone, This is just a reminder email about our upcoming meeting on Monday 9th December, 12 pm at the proposed Tamworth solar property 'Bonnie Brae'. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the sites which were recorded throughout the fieldwork. I have attached a copy of all sites that were recorded with an added column for management strategies regarding the recorded sites. A printed version of this document will be provided to everyone on the day for reference and to note your individual ideas. Artefact record for RAPs review meeting.pdf We will be providing lunch and afternoon tea for everyone attending and we look forward to seeing you there Kind Regards Gabbi Green	Email			
10.12.19	Four	Stephen Talbot	Steve rang Gabbi to ask how AREA thought the management meeting went, Gabbi replied advising that the meeting was smooth and had a positive outcome. Steve asked where to send his invoice too, gabbi advised she would send an email including the invoice details	phone			

Date	Stage	Organisation	Communication	Method(s)	Response RECEIVED	Response Detail	Method(s)
12.12.19	Four	All RAPs	Gabrielle Green <gabbi@areaenvironmental.com.au> 09:24 (5 hours ago) to fiona, stephen, Aaron, Phil, Daryl Hello everyone, Please see the below invoice details for the Tamworth solar RAPs meeting. The details are as follows: Post: Tamworth Solar Farm Pty Ltd LT7, 9 Castlereagh St. Sydney, NSW, 2000. ABN 19 622 261232. Or email: The invoices can be sent directly to Victor Bocioc at victor@oriensenergy.com.au Victor was the PROJECT.e representative who attended the RAPs meeting on Monday. If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. Kind Regards Gabrielle Green	Email	Aaron Talbot 09:41 (5 hours ago) to me Hi Gabrielle What amount do I invoice for? Regards	Gabrielle Green <gabbi@areaenvironmental.com.au> 10:46 (3 hours ago) to stephen, fiona, Phil, Daryl, Aaron Hello everyone, Just continuing on from my previous email in regards to invoicing for the Tamworth solar Management meeting please invoice for \$120 per hour + gst. This is the standard amount the land council charges per hour per person so we set it as a standard across the board. Number of hours to charge for is 4 hours. If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me I hope you all have a lovely Christmas!	Email
20.12.19	Four	All RAPs	A copy of the report and meeting minutes from the CHMP were issued	Email			

Appendix B: Example Stage 1a Request for Contact Details of Potential RAPs

ABN:29 616 529 867

Advanced Regional Environmental Assessments (AREA)

- ✓ Environmental impact assessment, approvals and auditing
- ✓ Preliminary environmental assessment (PEA)
- ✓ Review of environmental factors (REF)
- ✓ Peer review
- ✓ Community engagement
- ✓ Biobanking and biodiversity offsetting assessments
- ✓ Aboriginal heritage assessments and community walkovers



10.07.2019

Local Land Services - Northwest

admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au

PO Box 500,
Tamworth, NSW, 2340

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Consultation for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Tamworth Solar Farm near Somerton, Tamworth LGA, NSW.

AREA Environmental Consultants & Communication (AREA) have been commissioned by PROJECT.e to complete an Aboriginal heritage report for a solar farm. The proposed solar farm is located approximately 7km South of the Somerton roadhouse on Oxley Hwy along Racecourse and Warminster Roads, the 225 Hectare property will be developed as a solar farm. An AHIMS data base search has not identified Aboriginal objects or places and there are no registered or conditional Native Title Determinations on the study area. The regional context of the study area is provided in **Table 1** and **Figures 1 to 3**.

This correspondence seeks out relevant Aboriginal parties for consultation on the project from your organisation. The closing date for Stage 1 (expressions of interest) from your organisation is 5pm 26 July 2019.

The assessments will follow Commonwealth and NSW environmental assessment legislation for State Significant Developments. The Aboriginal heritage assessment will incorporate the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010) and *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010b).

If your organisation can provide contact details for Aboriginal people who hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in the area of the proposal, we would be grateful. AREA will use these contact details to provide an opportunity for relevant Aboriginal people to register an interest in a process of community consultation for the proposal. If they register, they will form part of the formal consultation process for the project.

The proponent's representative is Victor Bocioc victor@oriensenergy.com.au but all correspondence need to addressed to Gabrielle Green (gabbi@areaenvironmental.com.au) at AREA.

Kind regards,



Gabbi Green
Environmental Administrator
gabbi@areaenvironmental.com.au

AREA Environmental Consultants & Communication

(1) 6 Belmore Street Dubbo NSW 2830

(2) "Thieles Gate" (Type 2 Voluntary Conservation Agreement property) 79 Huonbrook Rd via Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Ph 0409 852 038

phl@areaenvironmental.com.au

Table 1 Regional context of the study area

Criteria	Value
Central coordinates (GDA94)	150.64406, -31.00208
Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA Region)	Nandewar Bioregion Peel subregion NSW
State	New South Wales
Topographical map sheet	Somerton 1:25K 9036- 3-S
Local Government Area	Tamworth LGA
Local Aboriginal Land Council area (LALC)	Tamworth LALC
Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications relevant to the study area (Claims, ILUA Future Acts etc.)	No registered or conditional claims
AHIMS study area search results	No previously recorded Aboriginal sites on the AHIMS database plot within the study area. Within A 10KM radius there are 16 Aboriginal sites.
Nearest town / locality	Somerton (locality) (7 km N)
Accessed from nearest town by	Oxley Hwy along Racecourse and Warminster Roads
Land use / disturbance	Intensive agriculture (ploughed landscapes).
Nearest waterway (Name, Strahler Order)	The study area possesses three unnamed Strahler first order and one unnamed second order drainage lines. These drainage lines are Unlikely Key Fish Habitat under the NSW FM Act. This drainage line drains into sandy Creek 2km to the East which in turn drains into the Peel river 5km to the North.
Spot point Australian Height Datum (AHD)	Lowest point is 350m the highest is, an unnamed hill is 410m AHD.
Surrounding land use	Grazing, ploughed agriculture
Expected disturbance footprint	Grazing, ploughed agriculture

Figure 1: Location of the proposal (yellow and black polygons)

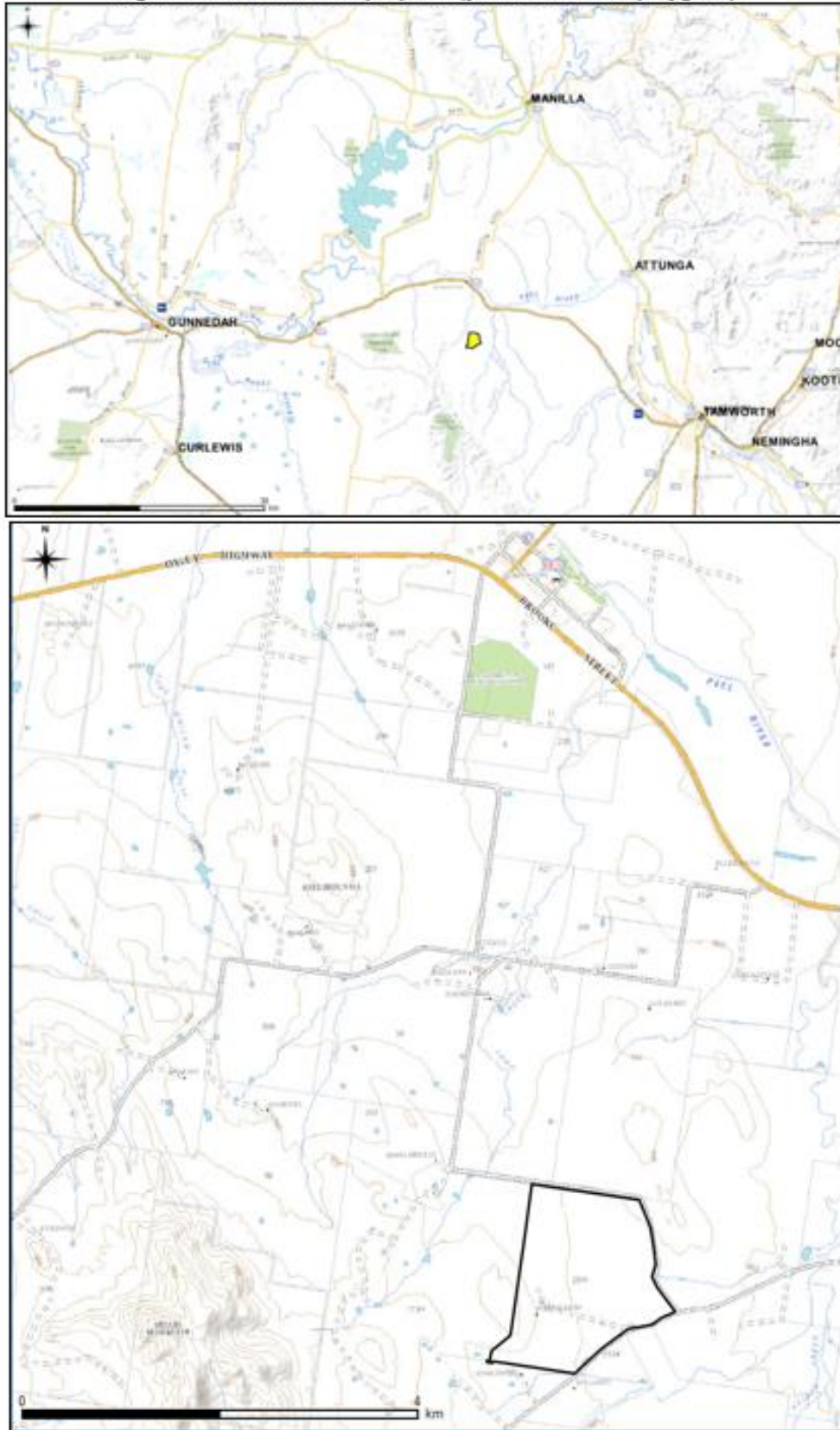


Figure 2: AHIMS 10km search results (10km buffer blue circle)

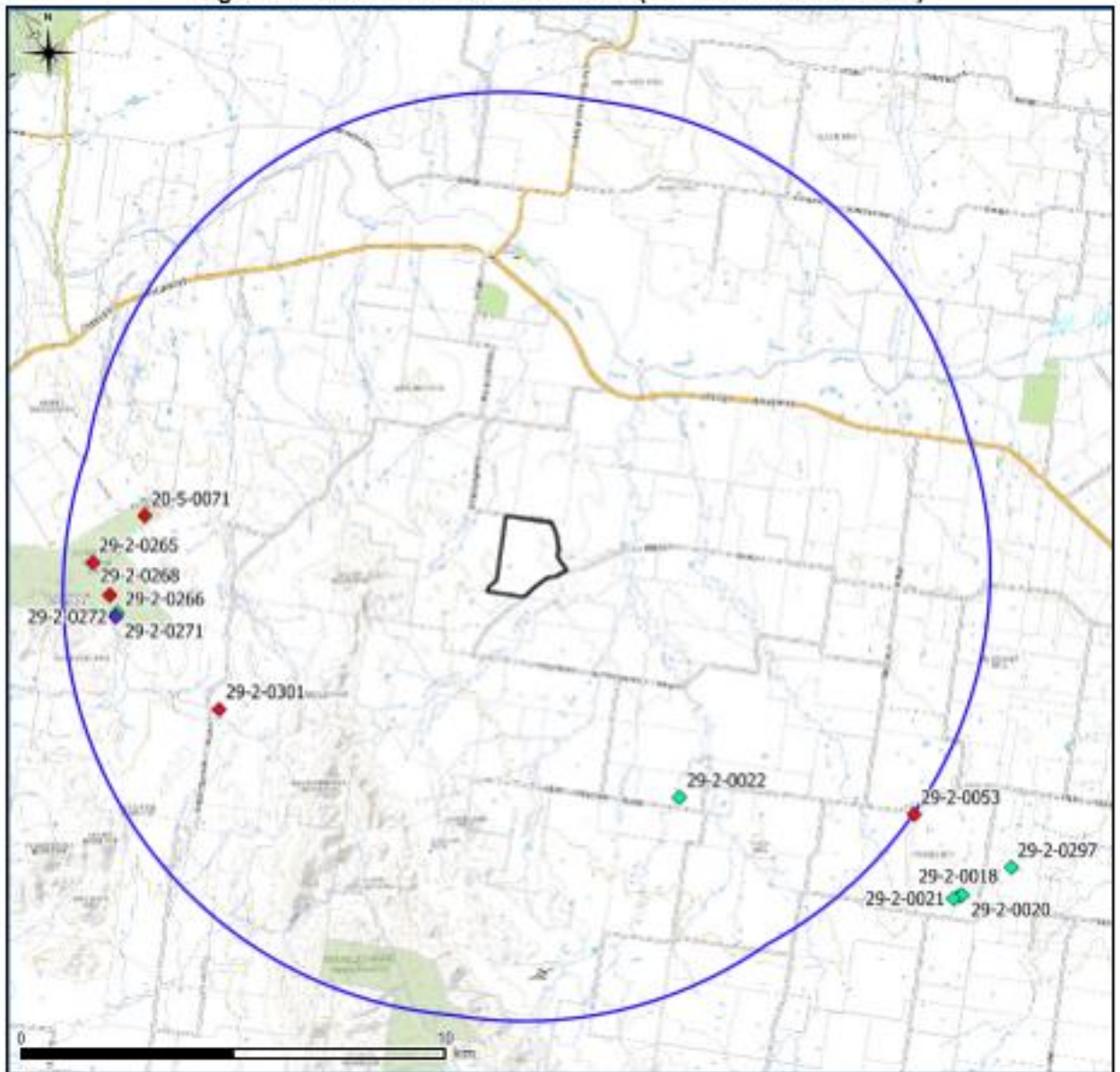


Figure 3: Study area (black polygon)



Appendix C: Tamworth Solar RAPs review meeting minutes

ABN:29 616 529 867

Advanced Regional Environmental Assessments (AREA)

- ✓ Environmental impact assessment and approvals
- ✓ Preliminary environmental assessment (PEA)
- ✓ Review of environmental factors (REF) and Minor Work REF (MWREF)
- ✓ Ecology and heritage assessments
- ✓ Biobanking and biodiversity assessment method (BAM) assessments and offsetting
- ✓ Plans of Management
- ✓ Aboriginal community engagement and cultural walkovers
- ✓ Stakeholder and community engagement
- ✓ Peer review / project briefs / budgeting assistance
- ✓ Landscape design and architecture



Date	Monday 9 December 2019
Purpose of this document:	Tamworth Solar RAPs review meeting minutes
Source of information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On site meeting with Proponents representative, Registered Aboriginal parties and heritage consultant.
Provided to	Daryl Brown Senior Environmental Consultant PROJECT.e- M. 0408 555 084 http://www.projecte.com.au/



1. Details of this information:

Attendees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donny Fermor and Lynda Bartel (Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council – T-LALC), Stephen Talbot (Registered Native Title Claimant), Aaron Talbot (Traditional Owner) Victor Bocioc (Oriens Energy) Phillip Cameron and Gabrielle Green (AREA).
Absentees: NIL	
Introductions	All parties were formally introduced to each other and updated on the project. Phil explained the heritage process and Victor explained pre, during and post construction and operation processes. RAPs explained cultural heritage management process and local protocols.
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oriens Energy informed there will be three contracting teams working at the same time during construction of the solar farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Electrical Mechanical Construction will take approximately eight months to complete. The RAPs will provide cultural awareness training during the induction, so all employees are aware of the cultural heritage responsibilities, the possibility of discovery of further artefacts and what to do if this occurs. Oriens Energy will have a community liaison officer; they will not be Aboriginal but will be a dedicated position to liaise with the RAPs.

AREA Environmental Consultants & Communication

(a) 6 Belmore Street Dubbo NSW 2830

(b) "Thieles Gate" (Type 2 Conservation Agreement Area) 79 Huonbrook Rd Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Ph 0409 852 098

dave@areaenvironmental.com.au



Vegetation Screens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Donny from T-LALC asked if there was going to be any trees planted, and if so, will they be native? ➤ Oriens Energy advised native vegetation would be planted and it will represent what occurs locally. ➤ AREA stated they have a landscape design and architecture side of the business and can assist with this process.
Aboriginal employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The RAPs wanted to see Aboriginal employment for the project. ➤ Oriens Energy confirmed Aboriginal employment was a benchmark for the project and while not a formal arrangement this aspect has been completed on several projects in the past. ➤ Oriens Energy stated employment will be through the individual contractors but as part of the engagement process can include a requirement for Aboriginal employment. ➤ RAPs advised Oriens Energy that the T-LALC and 'The Hub' an Aboriginal employment and opportunity scheme based in Tamworth have processes in place to manage employment opportunities. Local Aboriginal Land Councils are NSW's peak representative body in Aboriginal Affairs. T-LALC is an Administrative body, is guided by governance and has auditing checks and measures to ensure Aboriginal employment roles are filled with people possessing a confirmation of Aboriginality. ➤ Lynda (T-LALC) provided a commitment to approach the T-LALC about helping the Project employing Aboriginal people through 'The Hub'. ➤ The RAPs advised that there are possible government grants Oriens Energy could receive if they employed local Aboriginal people.
Culturally Modified Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AREA asked if culturally modified tree #1 can be removed from the heritage report (but AHIMS site card still submitted) as it is not on land owned by the Project. The RAPs agreed. ➤ Culturally modifies trees #2 & #3 will be fenced with a 15m buffer around both trees, to protect the health of the trees and create areas where Aboriginal objects can be relocated to. ➤ Each fence will be a timber post and rail structure with a gate, stock proof 1.3 to 1.5m high. ➤ Each fenced area to have a sign saying, 'Environmentally sensitive area' and not specifically mention presence of Aboriginal sites. ➤ The RAPs have approved for culturally modified tree #3, an excellent example of this Aboriginal site type, to be used for educational interpretation for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal school children both to learn about Aboriginal culture.
Stone Artefacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All RAPs agreed that all stone artefacts were to be collected and moved to their closest modified tree and placed within the 15m buffer. ➤ This provides their security and future protection from displacement of damage from machinery
Training and supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The RAPs advised that all Aboriginal employees sourced for the job would require a standard level of training for artefact detection. This training must be approved by the RAPs and can likely be provided by the T-LALC. ➤ If possible, a mixture of genders and ages of Aboriginal employees is desirable.



Aboriginal artefacts collection processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Aboriginal objects recorded during the field assessment will be collected by Aboriginal people endorsed by the RAPs before construction begins and relocate them to either Culturally Modified Trees #2 & #3. A modified spreadsheet template used the results section of the heritage report showing details and a photo of each object recorded will be used for record keeping. When relocated this artefact log will be updated. The RAPs will audit this as required. ➤ If additional stone artefacts are found throughout the duration of construction or operation the artefacts GPS location is to be recorded, photo taken, and the object bagged and tagged. The site supervisor as well as the RAPs will be notified. The artefact is to be taken back to the site office and secured within a lockable box until it can be verified as a genuine Aboriginal stone artefact. The RAPs will provide a second opinion to conform if the object is Aboriginal in origin. If the object is confirmed as an Aboriginal artefact, then it / they can then be moved by Aboriginal people endorsed by the RAPs to the closest culturally modified tree and placed in the 15m buffer fenced area along with the other artefacts. When relocated this artefact log will be updated. The RAPs will audit this as required.
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2. The AREAs contact person:

Name:	Phil Cameron
Position:	Director and Principal Consultant
Mobile no:	0409 852 098
e-mail address:	phil@areaenvironmental.com.au

3. Conclusion

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards

Gabrielle Green
Environmental Administrator
AREA Environmental Consultants & Communication
P 0439 340 940
E gabby@areaenvironmental.com.au
a) 6 Belmore Street Dubbo NSW 2830
b) "Thieles Gate" (Type 2 Conservation Agreement Area) 79 Huonbrook Rd Mullumbimby NSW 2842
We acknowledge Traditional Owners and Custodians and their ancestors



Appendix D: Workforce Briefing

Sample Workforce Briefing

The following items should be addressed in briefing the workforce on issues of Aboriginal and historic heritage.

1. Summary of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage works to date:

All Aboriginal cultural Heritage sites have been identified and mitigation methods for all sites have been agreed on by all RAPs involved in the project.

All Aboriginal cultural Heritage sites have been grouped into group 1,2 or 3 to aid the mitigation process.

An unexpected finds protocol has been established on agreement of the RAPs. An Aboriginal employment strategy has been agreed upon between the RAPs and the Proponent, demonstrated in the Cultural Heritage Management Plan meeting minutes **(Appendix C)**.

One Aboriginal site, CMT1 is not on the Development Area (it is on a neighbouring property) and will not be affected by the proposal. Two Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites (CMT2 and CMT3) are to be fenced off. Eleven Aboriginal sites are within the impact footprint of the construction. GPS coordinates and photography were used to record the areas of these sites. Eleven sites remain outside of the impact footprint, however all stone artefacts recorded will be relocated to the closest culturally modified tree for safekeeping and protection. All construction work will stay within the impact footprint to avoid any direct or indirect damage to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites.

2. Relevant legislation:

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act), administered by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), is the primary legislation for the protection of some aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales. Part 6 of the NPW Act provides specific protection for Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places by establishing offences of harm. Some of the other primary legislation that protects Aboriginal heritage are the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* protects the State's natural and cultural heritage and contains measures to protect archaeological resources.

If you are excavating land in NSW and know that you will disturb a relic, or think that you might disturb a relic, then you need to get an excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW.

Figure 7-1: Aboriginal artefacts



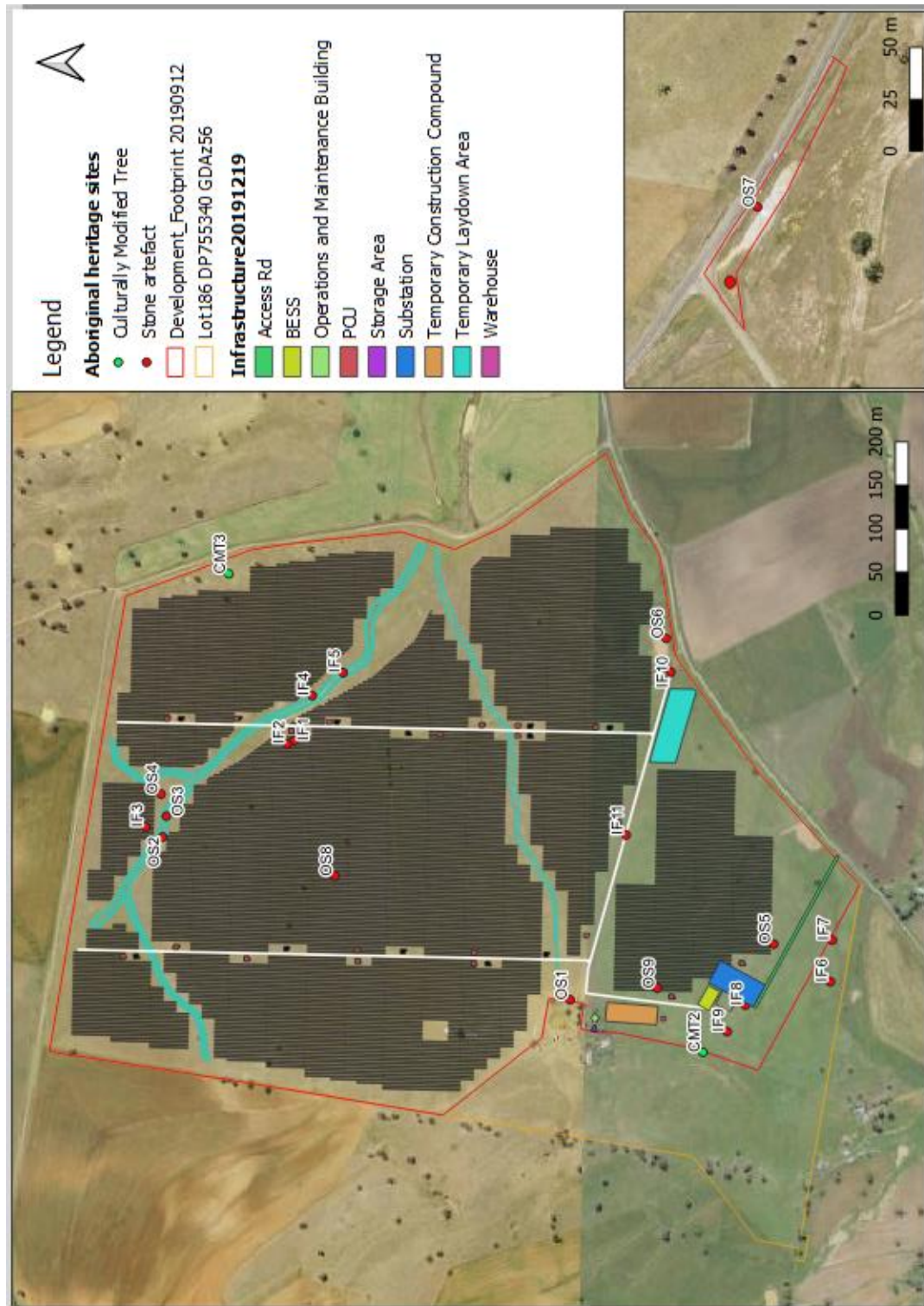
Figure 2: Items to be avoided



The following points should be covered in the induction.

- CMT2 and CMT3 are to be fenced off and signed “Environmentally Sensitive Area” pre-construction of the solar farm.
- All stone artefacts recorded are to be relocated by the RAPs to the 10-meter buffer preconstruction, and no further disturbance is to affect the protected sites
- Should any of the culturally modified trees fall or deteriorate to the point they are a safety risk during the operation of the solar farm, further management measures may need to be formulated with the assistance of the local Aboriginal community and a heritage professional.
- Any impact to the ground surface *outside* of the approved final design of the impact footprint are to be cleared with the site manager first. This includes such actions as excavation, vegetation clearing, repeated heavy vehicle movement outside of established tracks or impact areas, or any other activity that may impact on the integrity of the ground.

Figure 5: Location of heritage sites avoided and affected



Unanticipated finds protocol

The following protocols are in place for any finds of unidentified Aboriginal objects or artefacts that emerge during the construction of the Tamworth Solar Farm. A copy of these protocols is to be kept at the site's office during the project.

Aboriginal Heritage

Should any previously unidentified Aboriginal object, site etc. be revealed during construction, then work in the area should cease. The GPS coordinates of the find should be documented, and the artefact should be collected, photo taken, and the object bagged and tagged. The site supervisor as well as the RAPs will be notified. The artefact is to be taken back to the site office and secured within a lockable box until it can be verified as a genuine Aboriginal stone artefact. The RAPs will provide a second opinion to confirm if the object is Aboriginal in origin.

If the object is confirmed as an Aboriginal artefact, then it / they can then be moved by Aboriginal people endorsed by the RAPs to the closest culturally modified tree and placed in the 10m buffer fenced area along with the other artefacts. When relocated this artefact log will be updated.

Should suspected ancestral human remains be encountered, the following process should be adhered to:

- Do not further disturb or move the remains
- Immediately cease work in the vicinity and cordon area off.
- Notify the NSW Police.
- Notify the NSW EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) Line on 131555 as soon as practicable and provide available details of the remains and their location.
- Do not recommence work in the area unless authorised in writing by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
- postal address: PO Box 58 DUBBO NSW 2830
- If unable to contact a suitably qualified heritage professional or achieve an assessment, contact NSW DPIE for support on 02 9873 8500 or via:
HERITAGEmailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.



Unanticipated finds protocol Register:

I have been given an induction regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage unanticipated finds protocol procedure associated with the Tamworth Solar Farm

[illegible]