

Yurrandaali Cultural Services

Biosis Pty Ltd
27 Annie Street,
Wickham NSW 2293

Friday, 23rd March 2018

Att: Taryn Gooley

**Re: Registration of interest Aboriginal cultural heritage project for:
507 Medowie Road, Medowie NSW (Lot 412 & 413 DP 1063902).**

Yurrandaali Cultural Services (YCS) would like to register an expression of interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage project mentioned above.

We have experience in cultural & heritage maintenance and identification.
Our site officers are fit and able to do cultural site surveys.

I have enclosed copies of my public liability and workers comp policies for your records.

We look forward to working with you.

Kind Regards

Bo Field

Manager

Yurrandaali Cultural Services
ABN: 52 618 794 088
6 Macgibbon Pde,
Old Erowal Bay NSW 2540
0457 546 643
yurrandaali_cs@hotmail.com

From: lilly carroll
To: [Taryn Gooley](#)
Subject: Register an interest
Date: Tuesday, 27 March 2018 4:44:55 PM

Good afternoon Taryn

Didge Ngunawal Clan would like to register an interest into Re: 507 Medowie road
Medowie

Kind regards DNC
Paul Boyd
0426823944

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: Ryan Johnson
To: [Taryn Gooley](#)
Subject: : Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is proposing Catherine McAuley Catholic College development at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie NSW (Lot 412 & 413, DP 1063902) (the study area)
Date: Tuesday, 3 April 2018 11:08:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

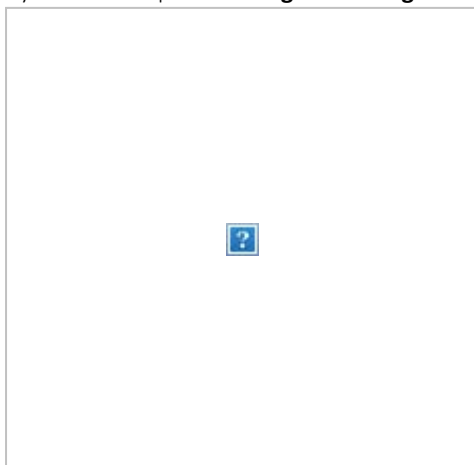
Taryn Gooley
Biosis Pty Ltd
Suite B, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
tgooley@biosis.com.au

Re: Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is proposing Catherine McAuley Catholic College development at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie NSW (Lot 412 & 413, DP 1063902) (the study area).

Our family and members hold a strong connection to the Maitland, Newcastle and surrounding areas. We have lived and some of our family still reside in the area and surrounding areas for many of generations. My Grandfather Phillip Carroll was an Elder and as such my grandfather told me many stories of his travels in the area. I have done many projects in the area Maitland Hospital, singleton and New Castle. I would like to be involved in all aspects of this project i.e. meetings, Surveys, final reports and field work, Ryan Johnson will be the contact person for this project. Our corporation's members and family holds cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects(s) and/or places(s) in the area of the proposed project. We have been involved in projects with the RMS Parramatta (Mark Lester 0448731510), RMS Wollongong (Joanne Damcevski), RMS Wagga Wagga (Andrew Whitton 0418486685), RMS Wollongong (Lee Davison), Aecom Australia (Geordie Oakes 0410513509), Dominic Steele Consulting Services (Dominic 0411884232), Apex Archaeology (Leigh Bate 0401443218), Artefact Heritage (Veronica Norman 0415660490), Navin Officer Heritage (Nicola Hayes 0421274470), EMM Consulting (Ryan Desic 0411329712), Niche Environment and Heritage (Balazs), Kelleher Nightingale (Mark Rawson), Umwelt Australia Pty Ltd (Kym McNamara – Josh Madden), Ozark Heritage (Ben Churcher), Biosis (James) and Extent Heritage (Alistair Hobbs 0437241221). If you require further details please feel free to contact me either by mobile or email. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Ryan Johnson | **Murra Bidgee Mullangari**



Aboriginal Corporation Cultural Heritage

A: PO Box 246, Seven Hills, NSW, 2147

E: murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au

ICN: 8112

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

18 April 2018

Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll
Didge Ngunawal Clan
7 Siskin Street
QUAKERS HILL NSW 2763

Dear Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW
Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
- Construction of three stream primary school, seven stream high school, a place of worship, residential duplex and child care centre.
- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

Culturally sensitive material

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

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

Field Survey

A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

This included inspecting AHIMS sites located within the study area as well as identifying any areas of archaeological potential or previous disturbance.

The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code of Practice dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5mm sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office for analysis (at Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and OEH will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*Enough information is defined by OEH as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density; presence of rare or representative objects; presence of archaeological features; or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.” (DECCW 2010b).

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code of Practice.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area
- Archaeological test excavation results
- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
- The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and Aboriginal cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.
- Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.
- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Sydney NSW

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Sydney NSW

OEH 2011. *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*. Sydney NSW

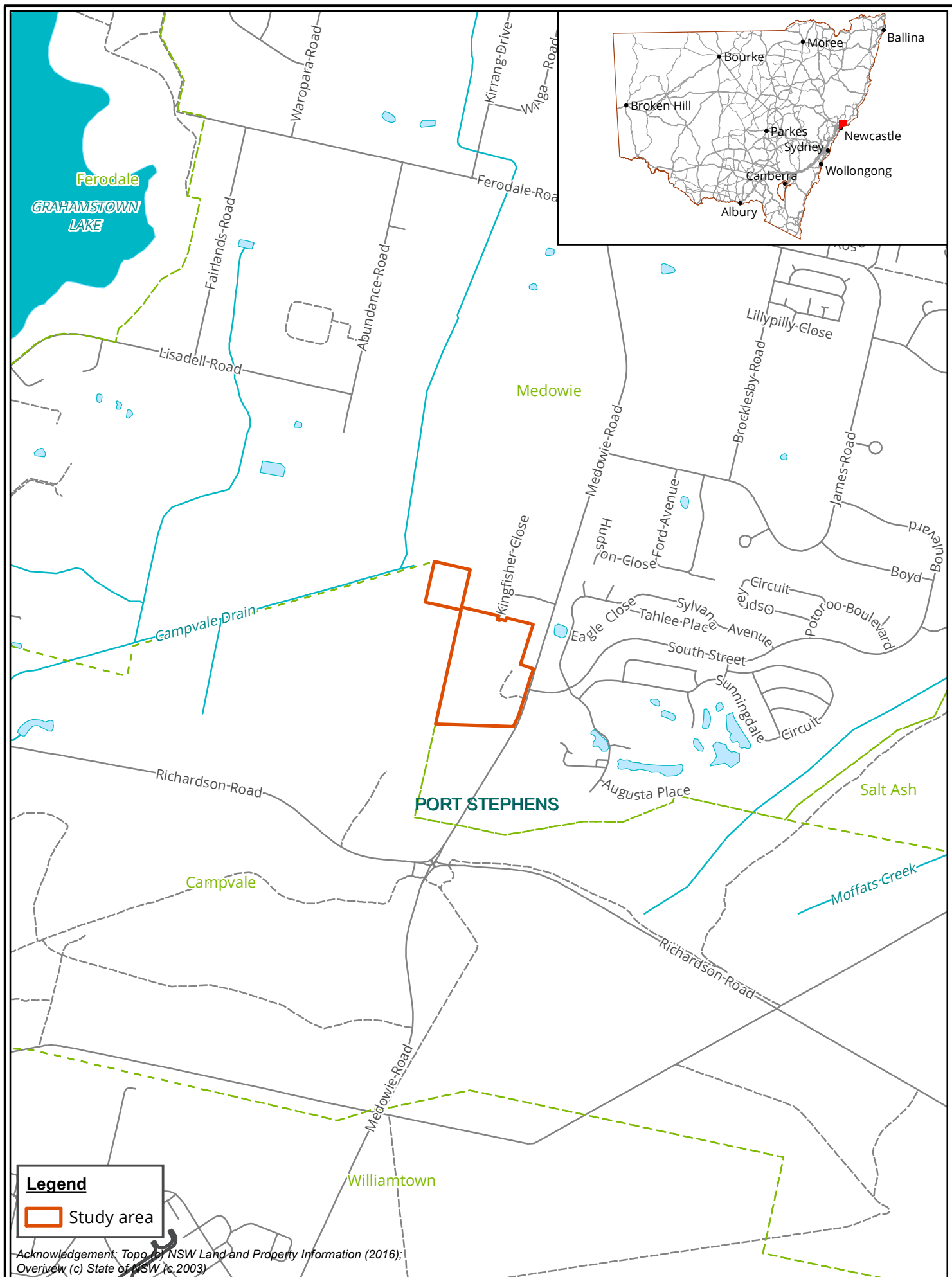


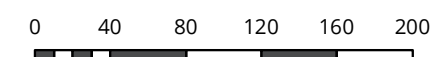
Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend

 Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

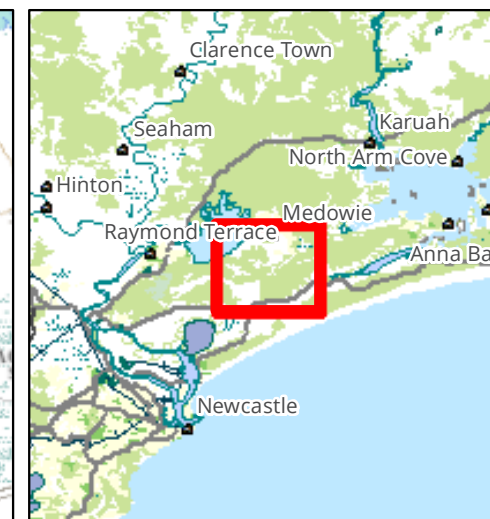
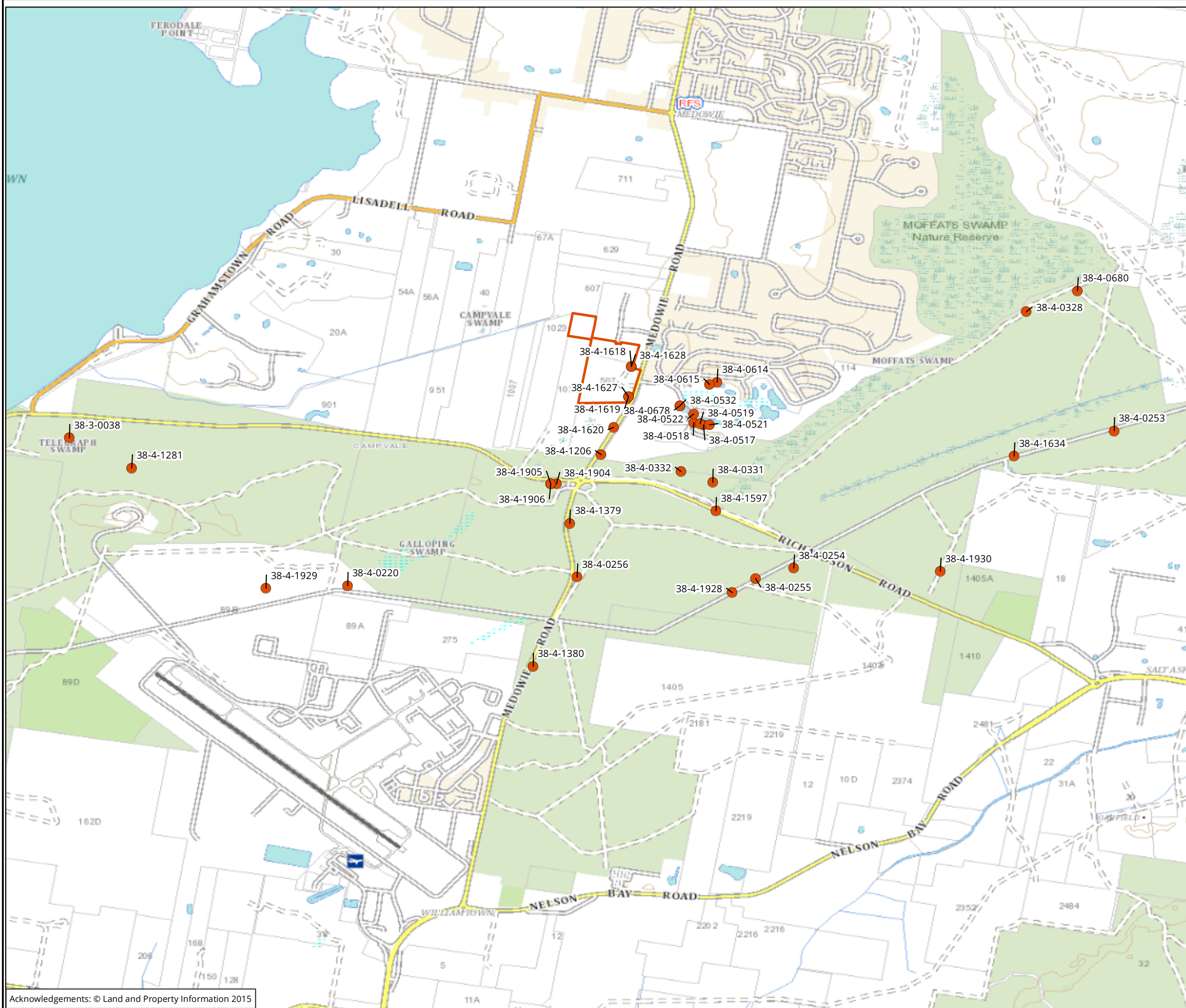


Metres
Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



Biosis Pty Ltd
Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: AKE, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26830s\26830\mapping\26830_CatherineMcAuleyCollege_F2_StudyArea



Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

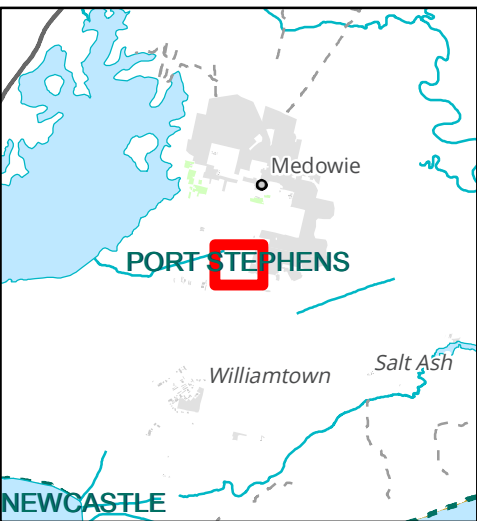
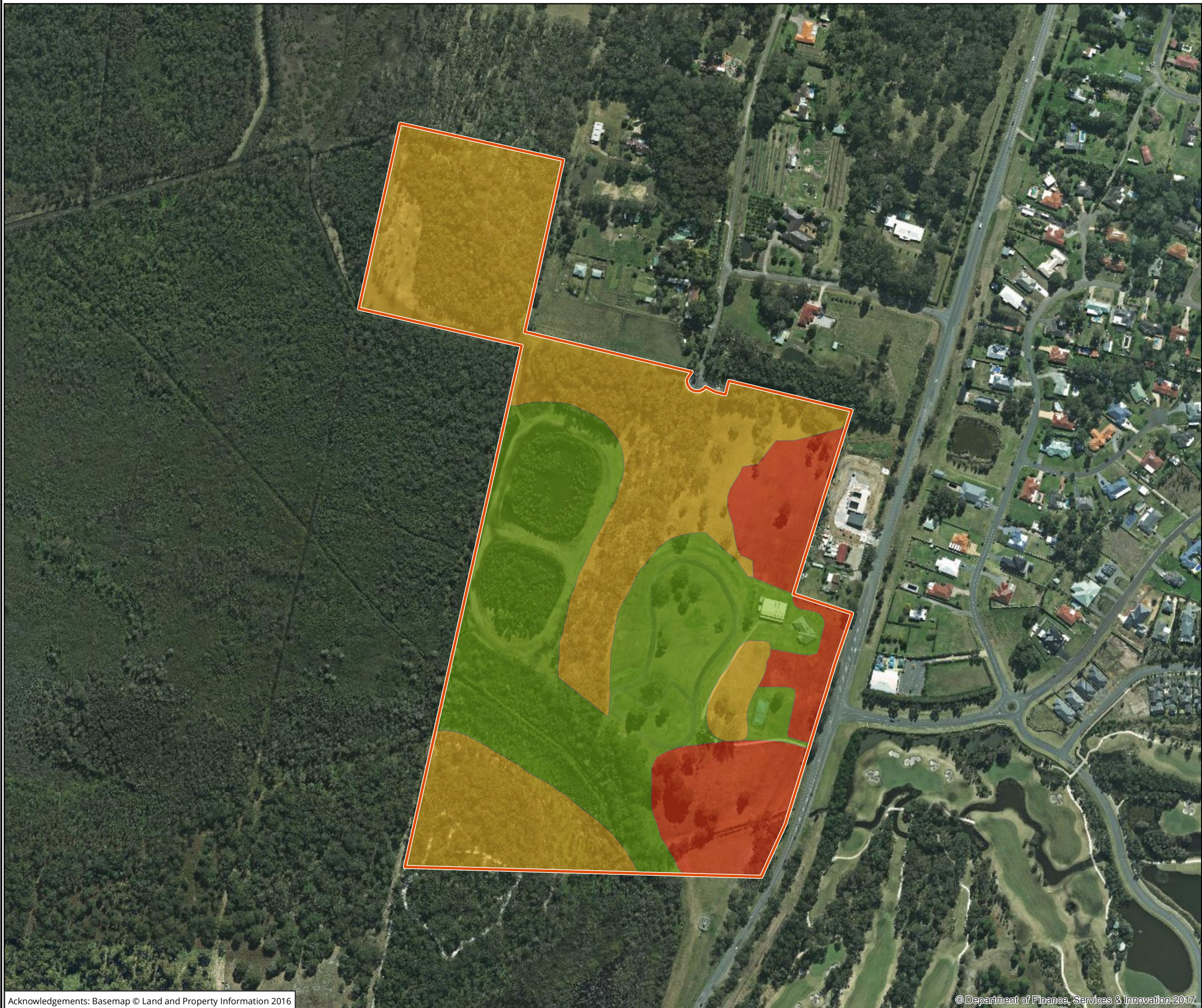
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Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong


Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
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- Legend**
- Study area
- Aboriginal archaeological potential**
- High
 - Moderate
 - Low

Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres
Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

 **biosis**
Biosis Pty Ltd

Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 07 March 2018,
Checked by: TG, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_FX_AboriginalPotential

18 April 2018

Anthony Anderson
Nur-run-gee Pty Ltd

Dear Anthony,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

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Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

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AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

Culturally sensitive material

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

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

Field Survey

A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

This included inspecting AHIMS sites located within the study area as well as identifying any areas of archaeological potential or previous disturbance.

The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code of Practice dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5mm sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office for analysis (at Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and OEH will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*Enough information is defined by OEH as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density; presence of rare or representative objects; presence of archaeological features; or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.” (DECCW 2010b).

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).

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- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code of Practice.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area
- Archaeological test excavation results
- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
- The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and Aboriginal cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.
- Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.
- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Sydney NSW

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Sydney NSW

OEH 2011. *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*. Sydney NSW

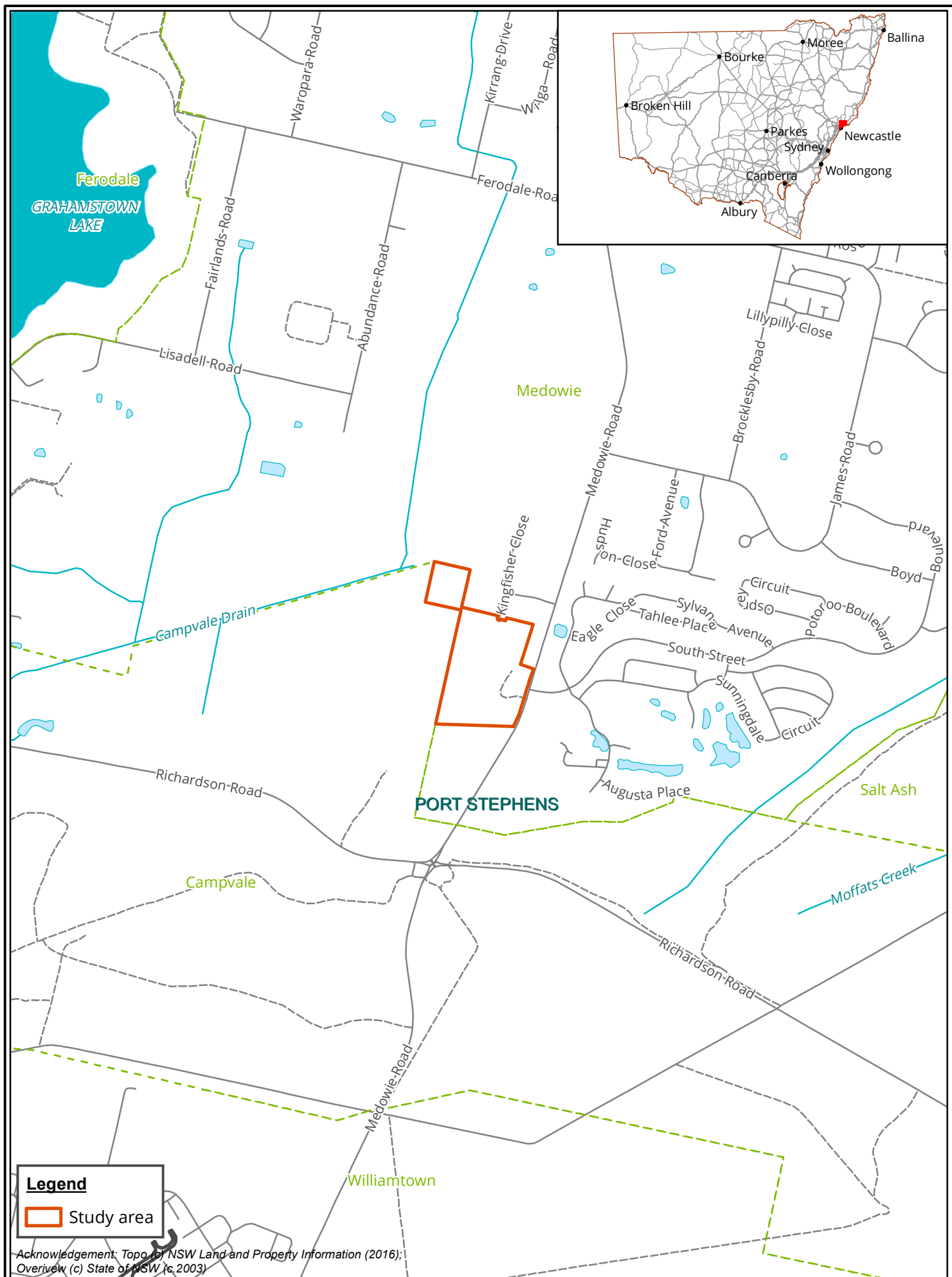


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

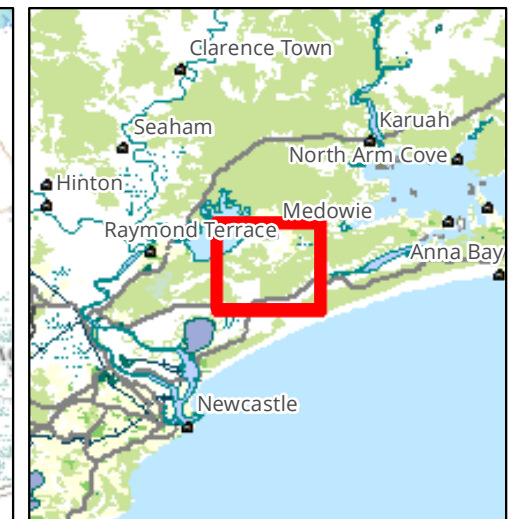
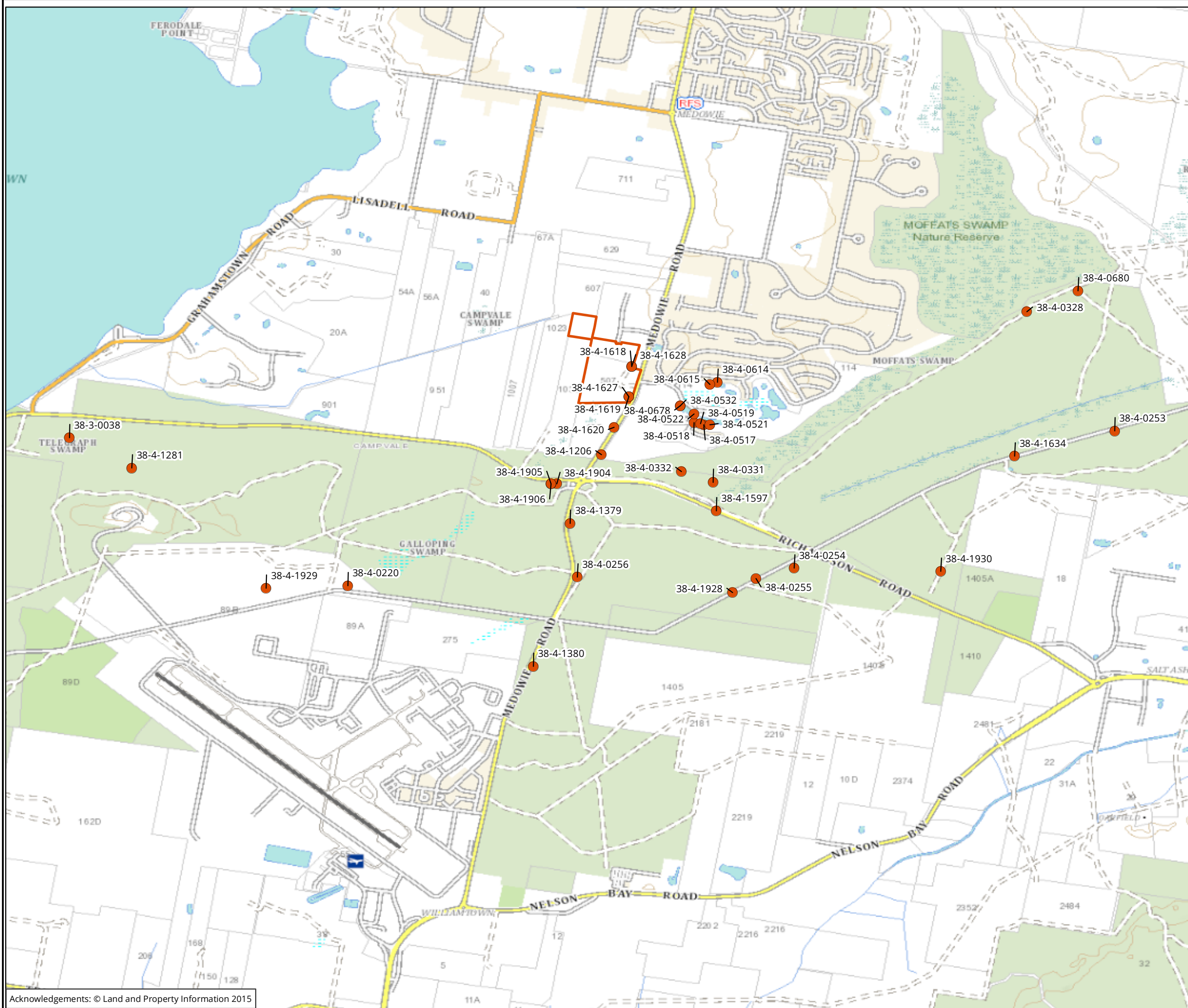
0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres
Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



Biosis Pty Ltd
Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: AKE, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26830\26830\mapping\26830_CatherineMcAuleyCollege_F2_StudyArea



Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

0 260 520 780 1,040 1,300

Metres

Scale: 1:33,000 @ A3

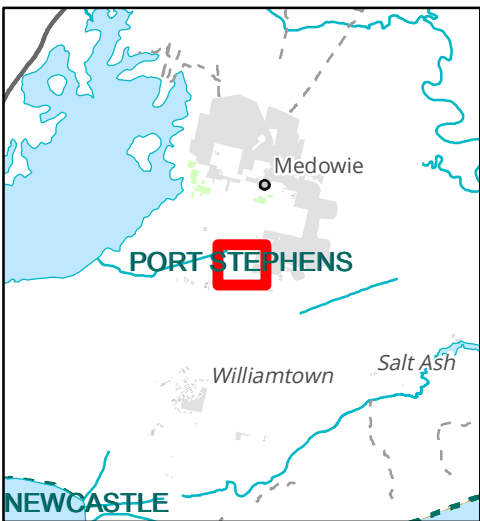
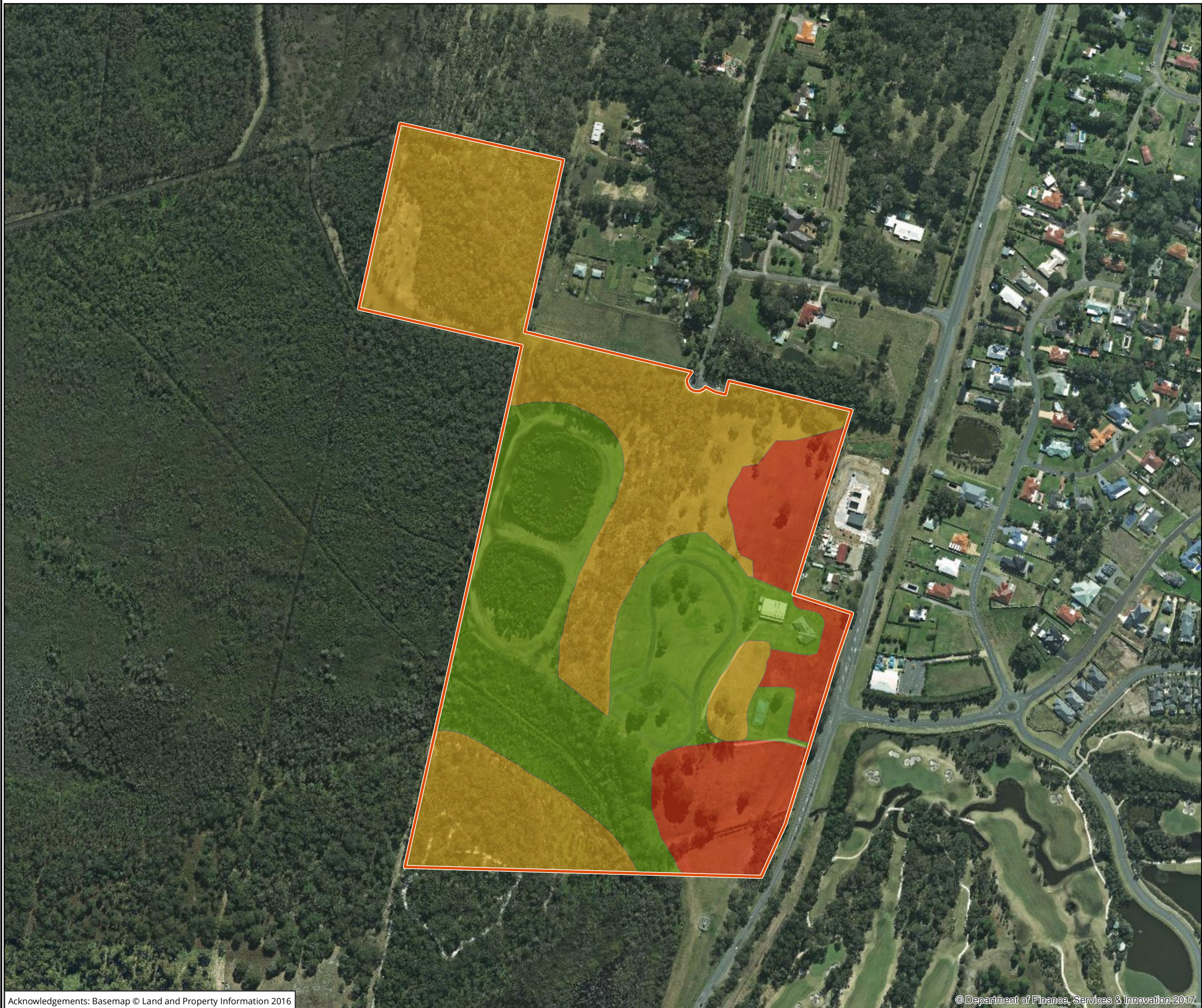
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Biosis Pty Ltd

Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong


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Legend

 Study area

Aboriginal archaeological potential

 High

 Moderate


 Low


Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

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Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 07 March 2018,
Checked by: TG, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_FX_AboriginalPotential

18 April 2018

Lennie Anderson
Nur-run-gee Pty Ltd

Dear Lennie,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
- Construction of three stream primary school, seven stream high school, a place of worship, residential duplex and child care centre.
- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

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- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
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- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
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Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then the Aboriginal stakeholder should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

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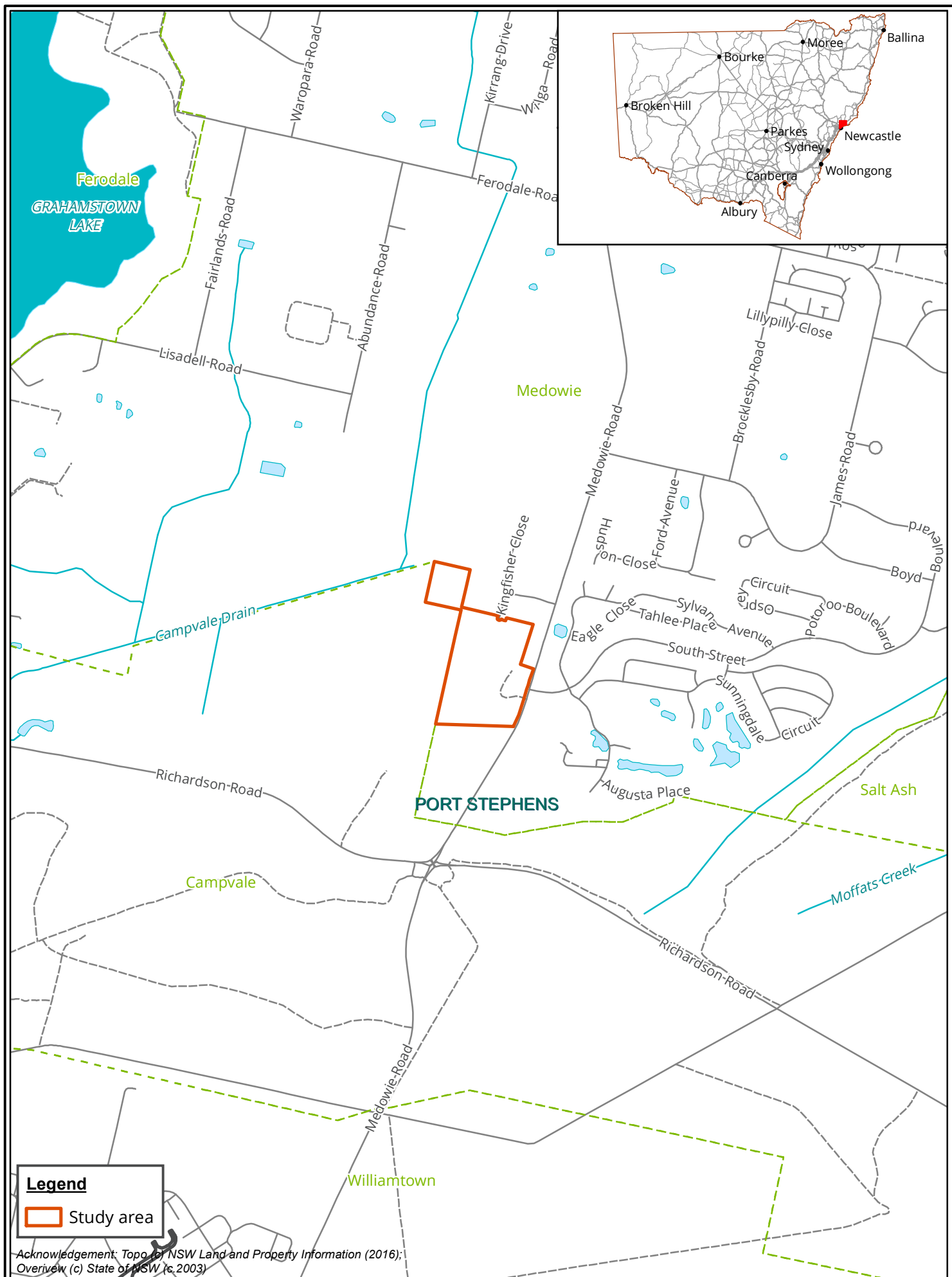


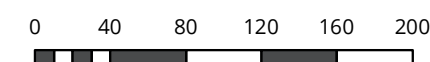
Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

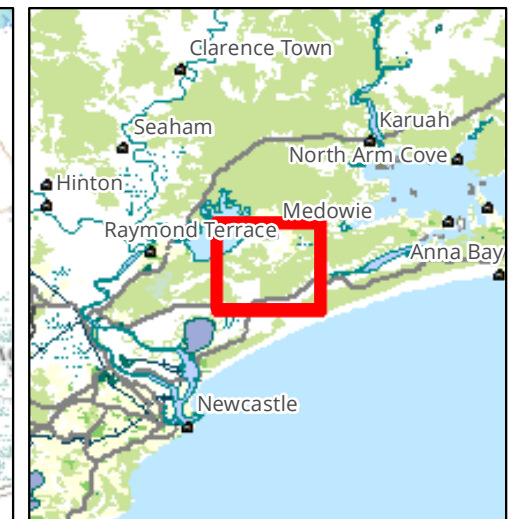
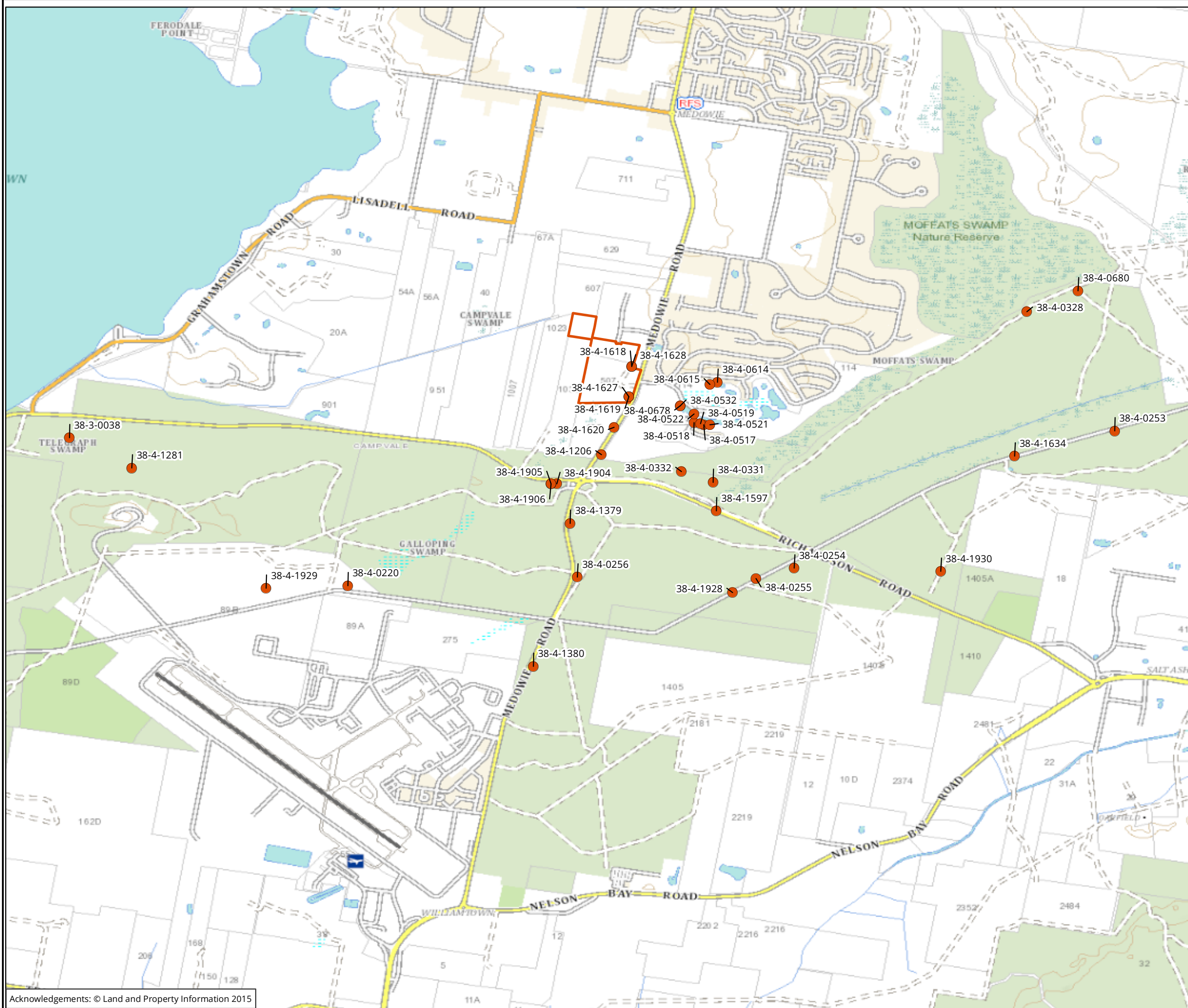


Metres
Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



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Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: AKE, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26830\26830\mapping\26830_CatherineMcAuleyCollege_F2_StudyArea



Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

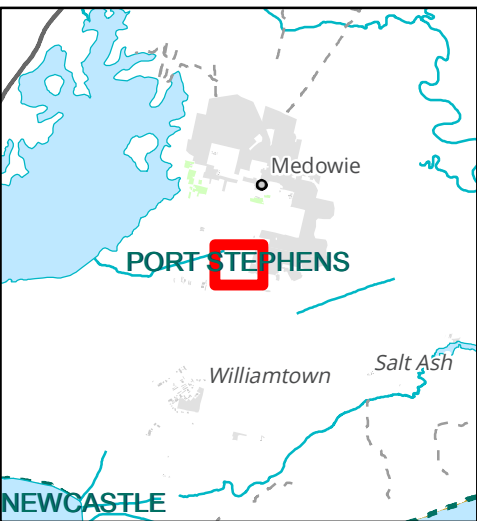
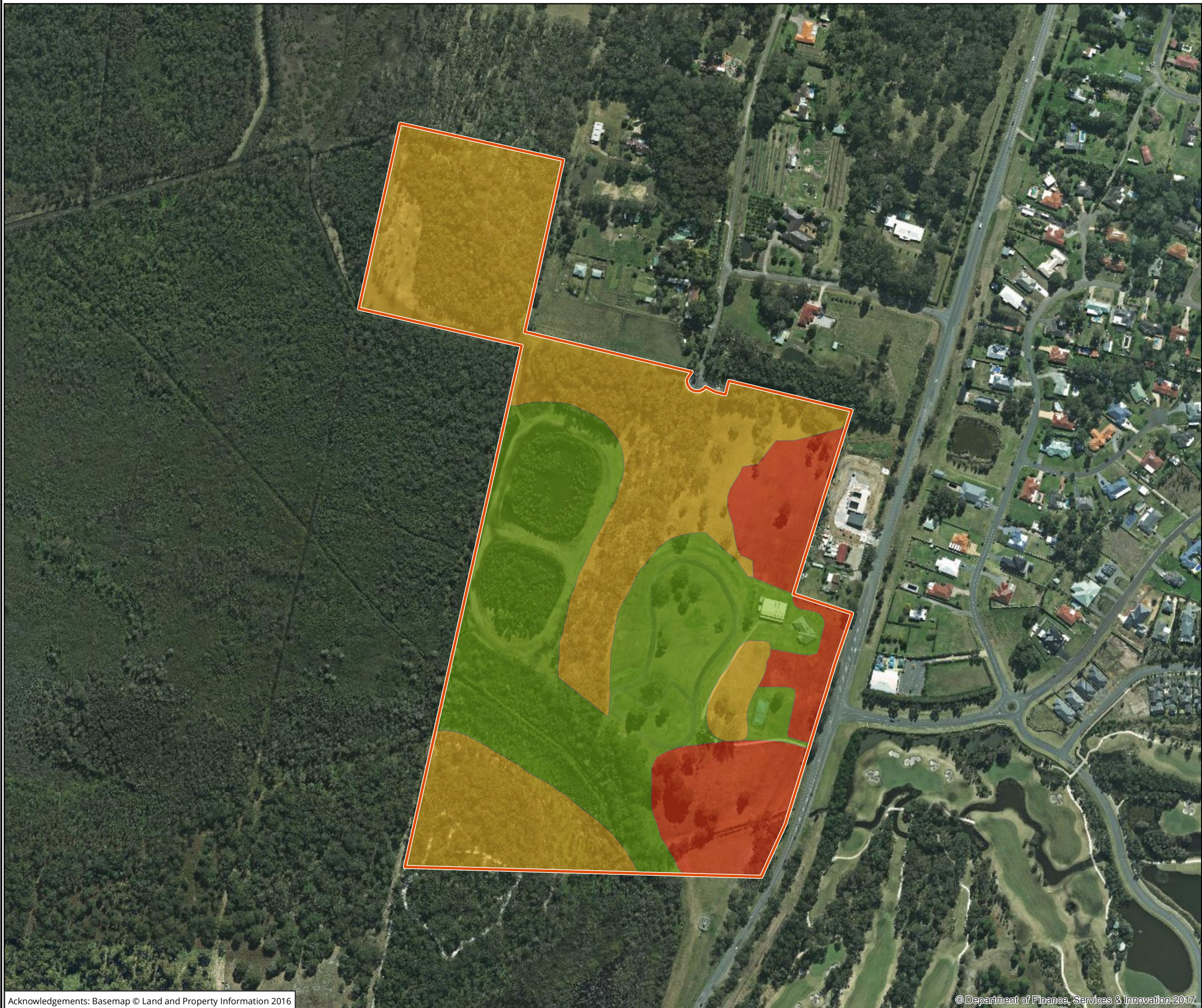
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Metres

Scale: 1:33,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



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Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: gdavies, Generated by: gdavies
Location: P:\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_F5_AHIMS.mxd



- Legend**
- Study area
 - Aboriginal archaeological potential
 - High
 - Moderate
 - Low

Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres
Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

biosis
Biosis Pty Ltd
Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

18 April 2018

Dave Feeney
Nur-run-gee Pty Ltd

Dear Dave,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

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The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

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Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

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Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
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Culturally sensitive material

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

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

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A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

This included inspecting AHIMS sites located within the study area as well as identifying any areas of archaeological potential or previous disturbance.

The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code of Practice dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5mm sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office for analysis (at Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and OEH will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*Enough information is defined by OEH as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density; presence of rare or representative objects; presence of archaeological features; or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.” (DECCW 2010b).

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code of Practice.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area
- Archaeological test excavation results
- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
- The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and Aboriginal cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.
- Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.
- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Sydney NSW

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Sydney NSW

OEH 2011. *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*. Sydney NSW

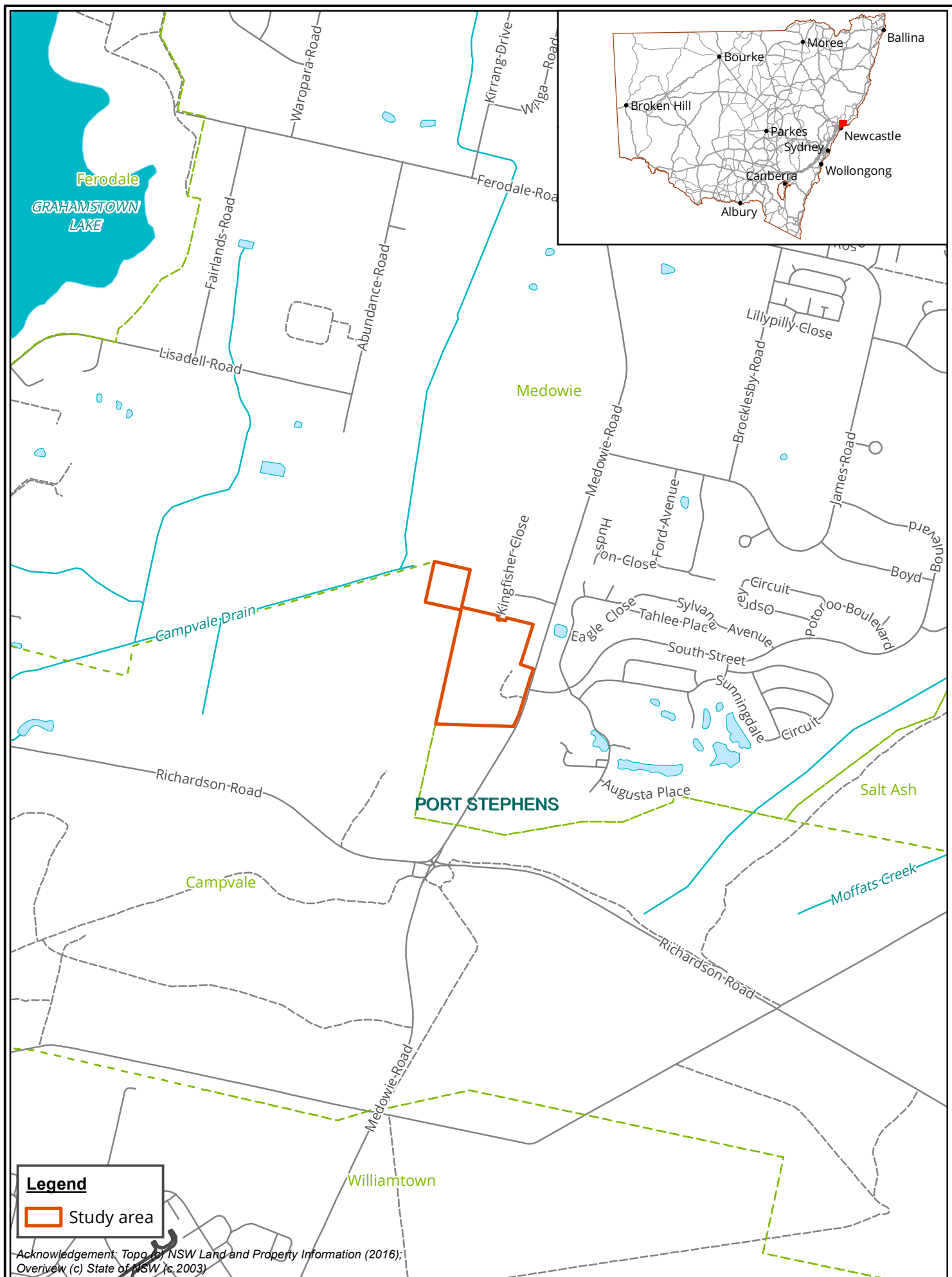


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

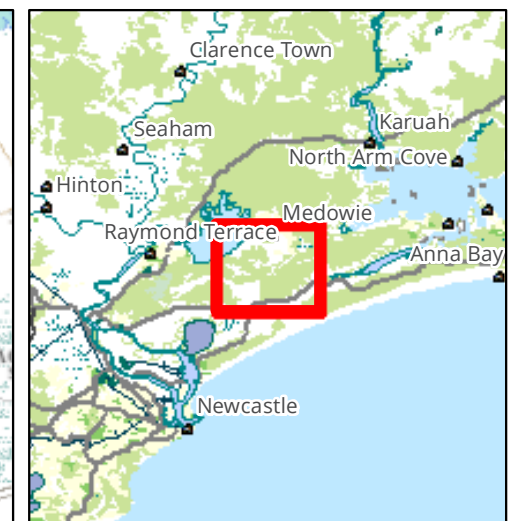
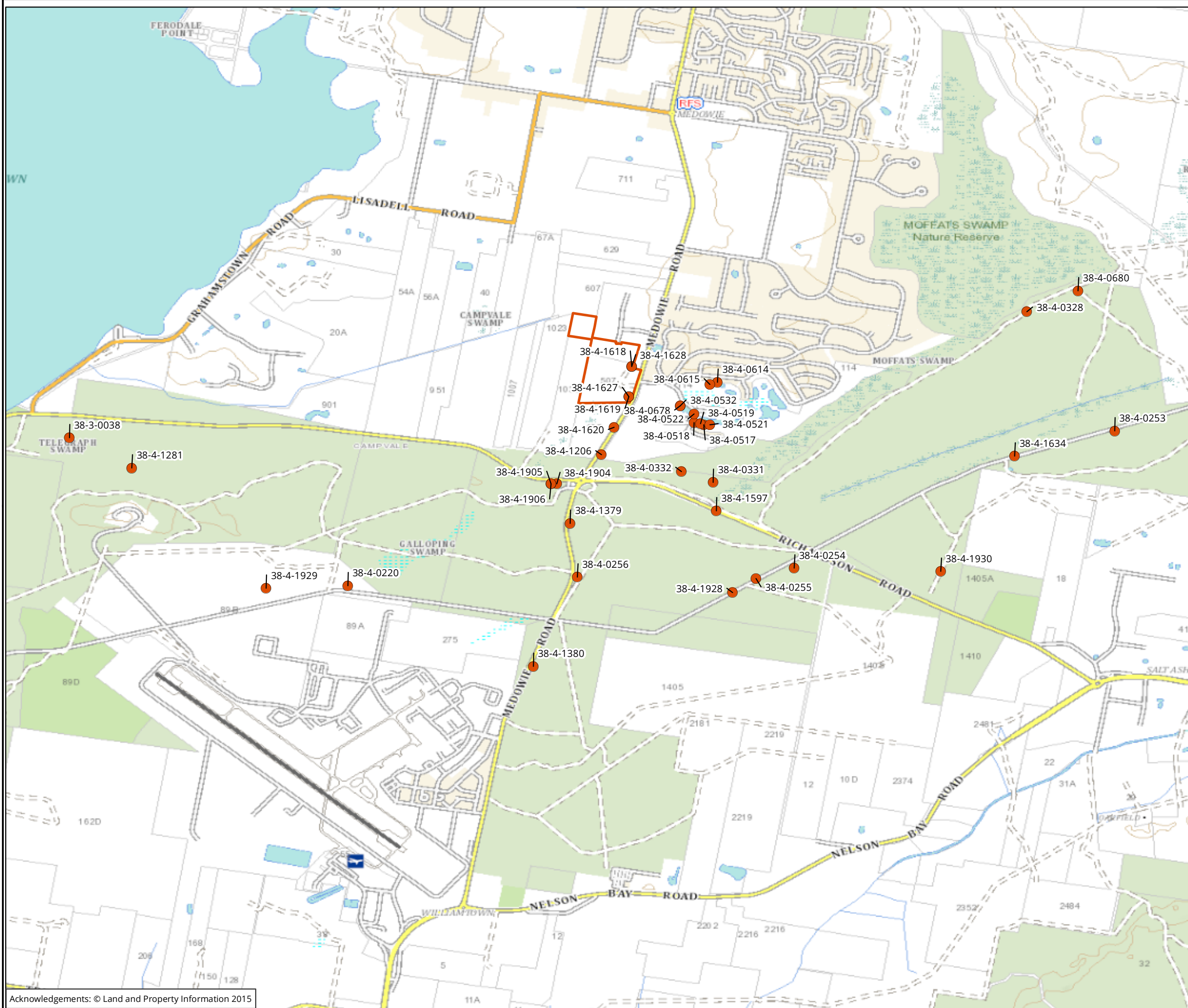
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Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



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Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

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NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

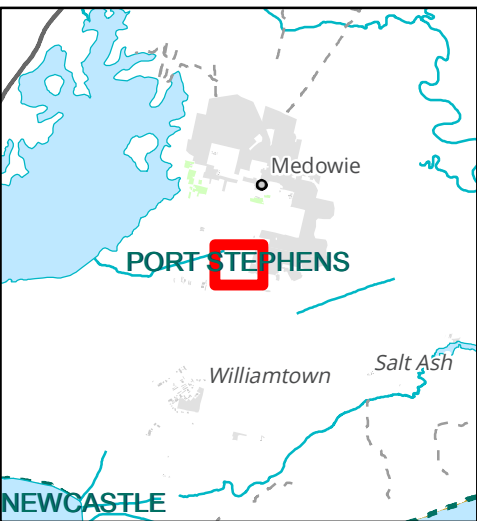
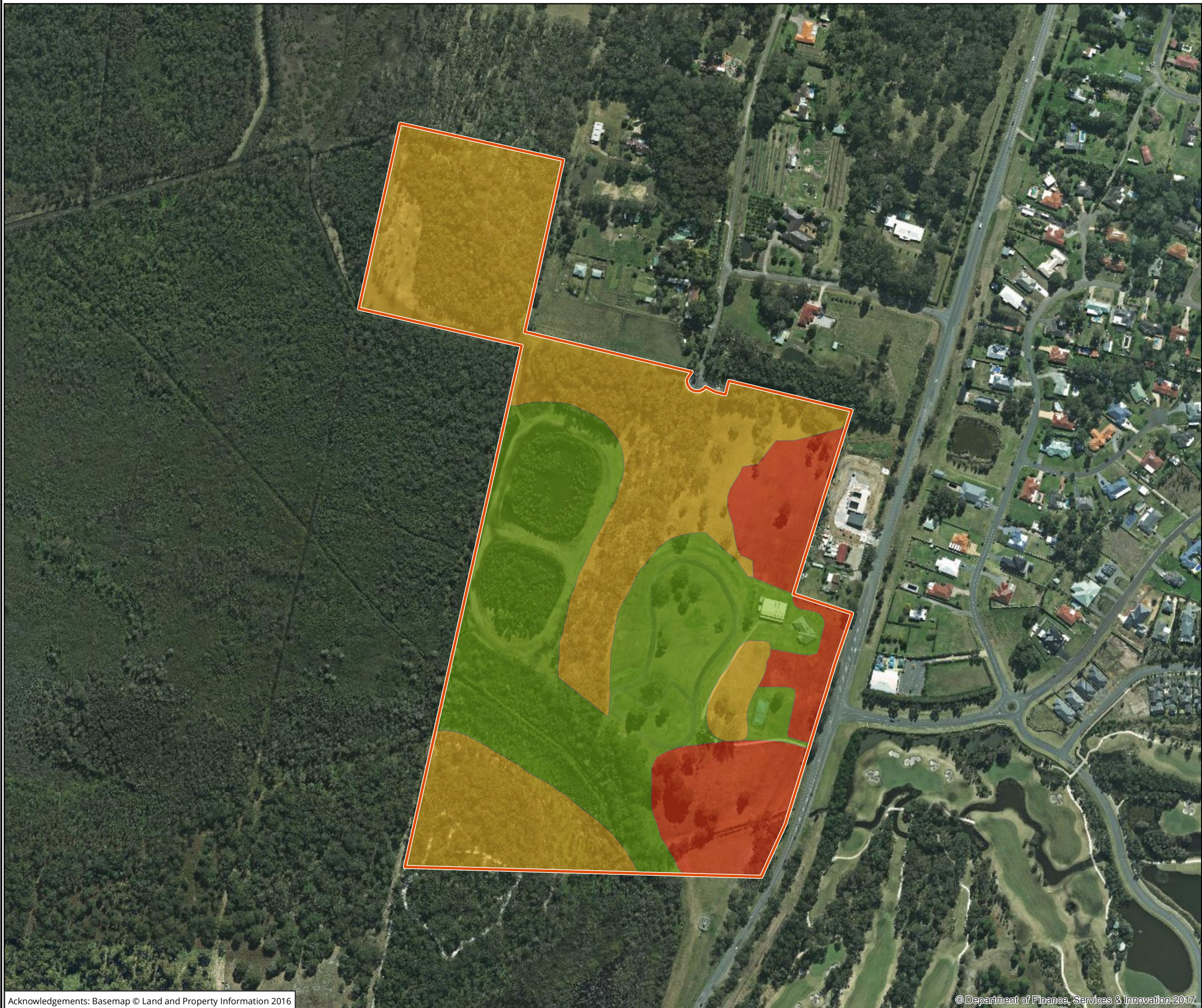
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Location: P:\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_F5_AHIMS.mxd




Legend

 Study area

Aboriginal archaeological potential

 High

 Moderate


 Low


Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

 **biosis**®

Biosis Pty Ltd

Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
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Matter: 26830
Date: 07 March 2018,
Checked by: TG, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_FX_AboriginalPotential

18 April 2018

Deidre Perkins
Divine Diggers Aboriginal Cultural Consultants
6 Ashleigh Street
HEDDON GRETA NSW 2321

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The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code of Practice dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5mm sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office for analysis (at Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
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 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
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- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code of Practice.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

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Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area
- Archaeological test excavation results
- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
- The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and Aboriginal cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.
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As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

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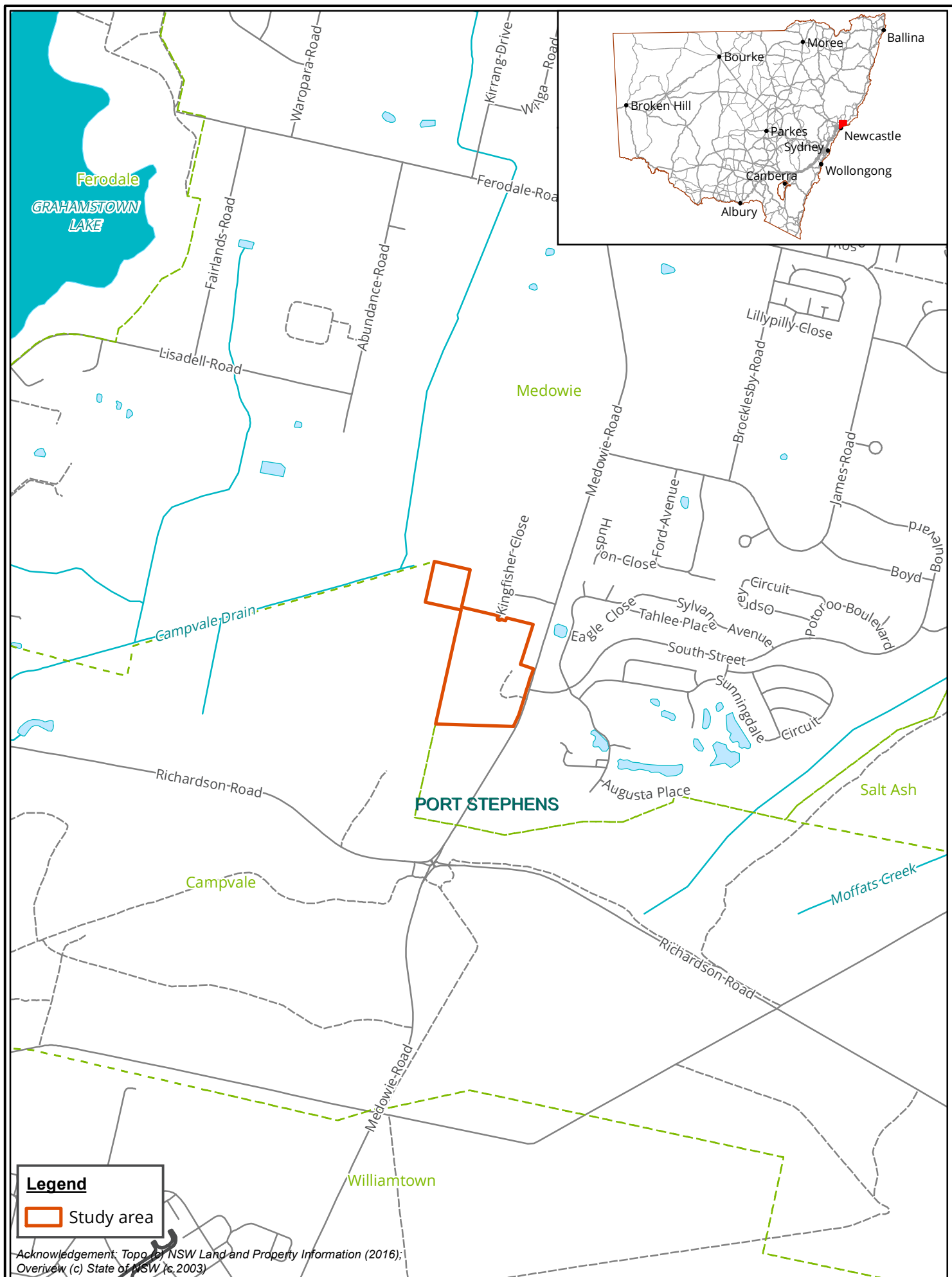
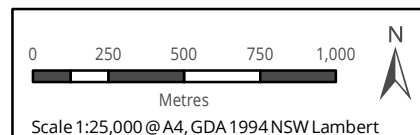


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Biosis Pty Ltd
Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

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Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: SJK, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: P:\26800s\26830\Mapping\

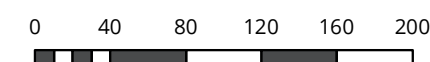




Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

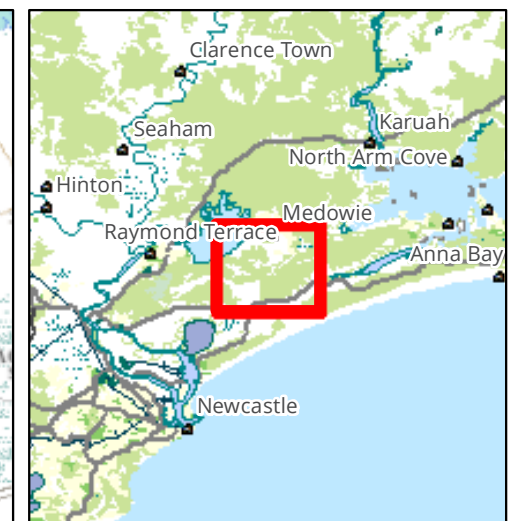
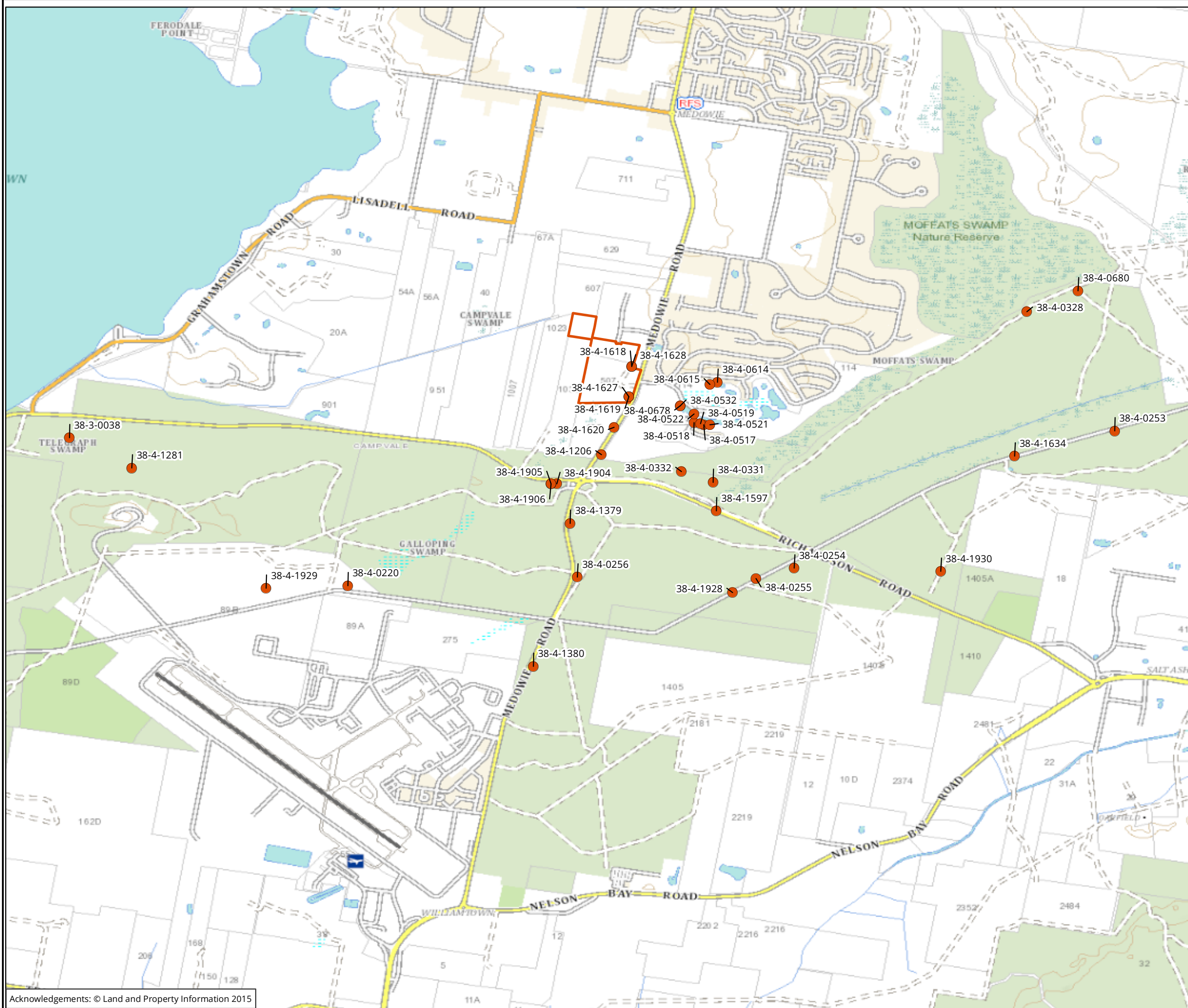


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Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

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Metres

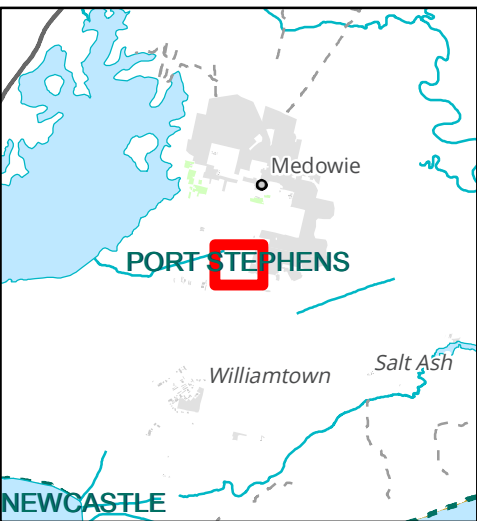
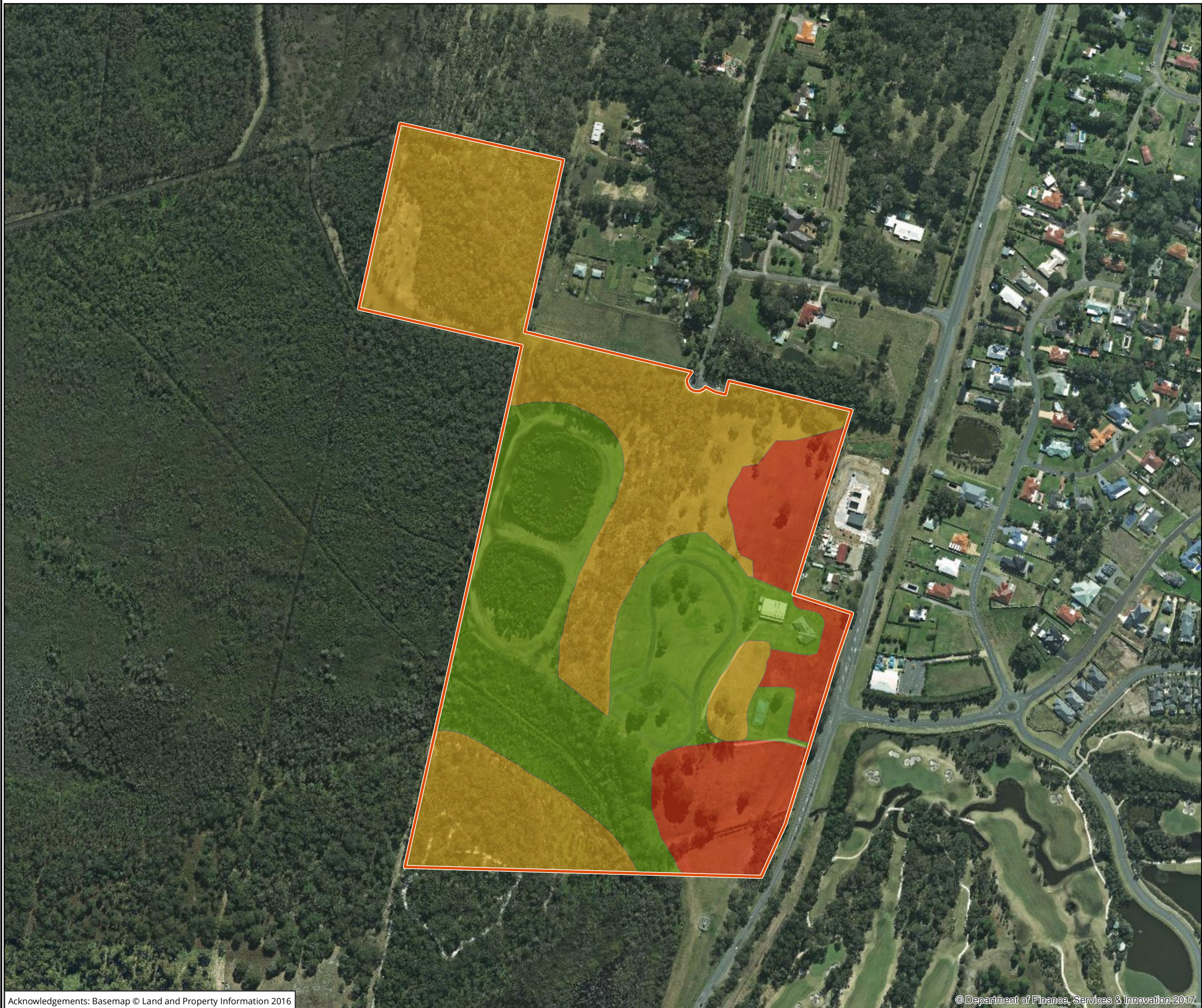
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- Legend**
-  Study area
- Aboriginal archaeological potential**
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Low

Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

 **biosis**
Biosis Pty Ltd

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Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 07 March 2018,
Checked by: TG, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
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18 April 2018

David Feeney
Karuah Indigenous Corporation
1/7 Mustons Road
KARUAH NSW 2324

Dear David,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW
Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
- Construction of three stream primary school, seven stream high school, a place of worship, residential duplex and child care centre.
- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

Culturally sensitive material

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

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

Field Survey

A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

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The final report will incorporate all comments.

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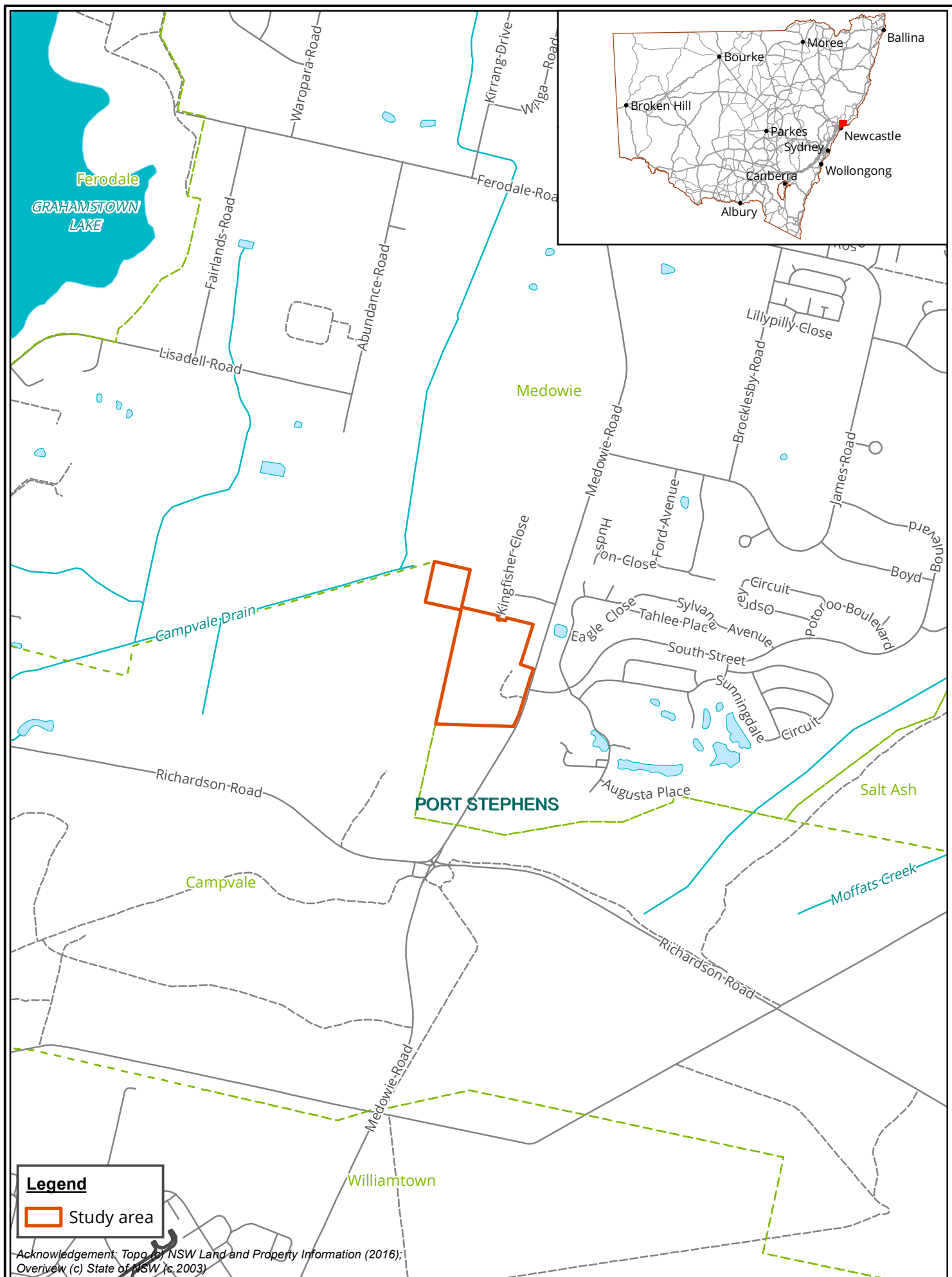


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend


 Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

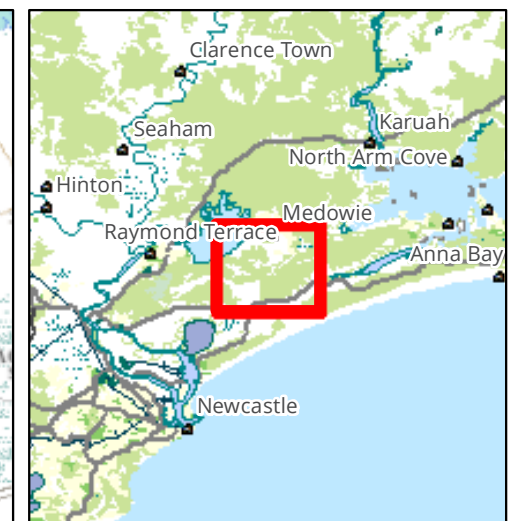
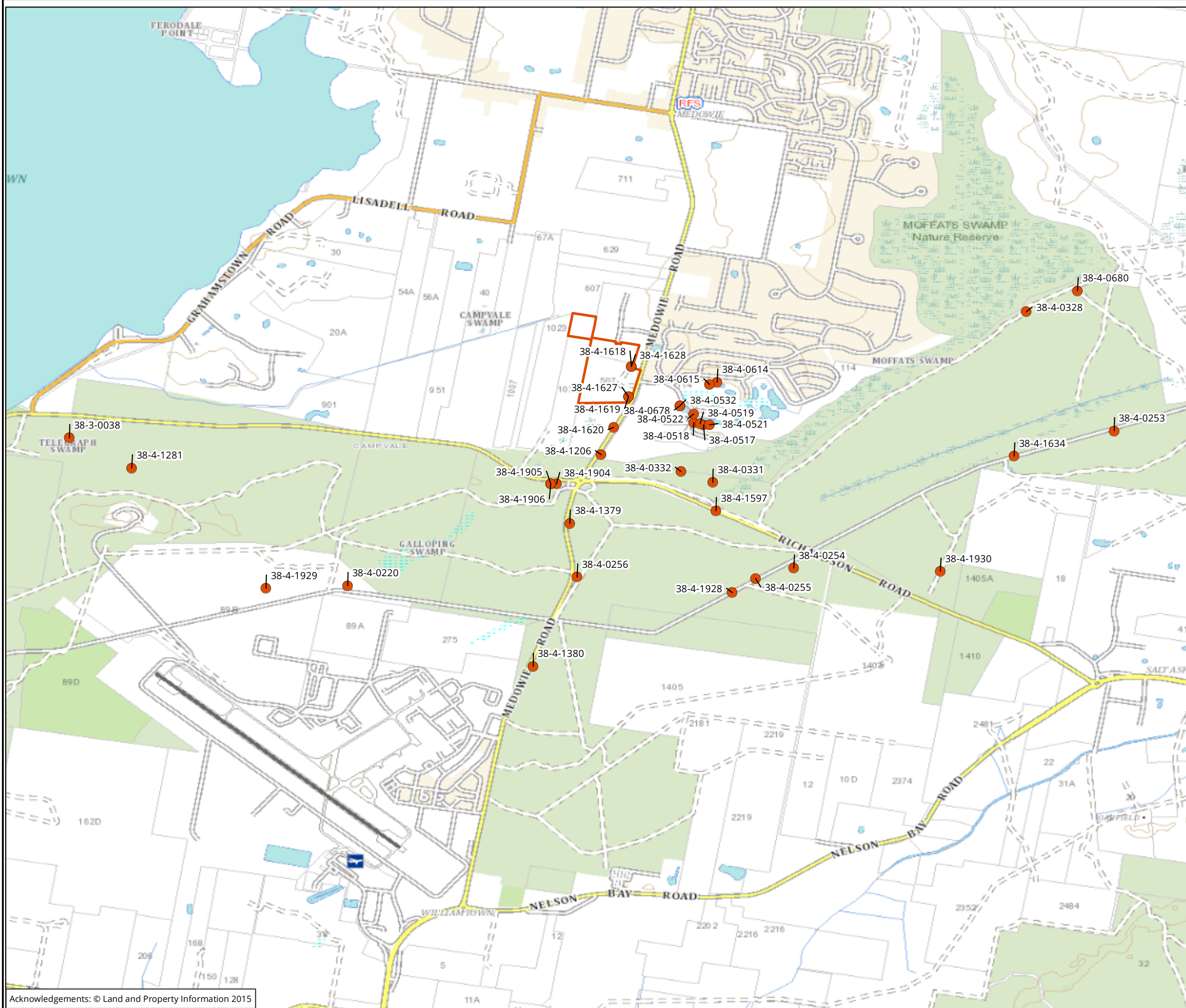
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Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



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Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26830s\26830\mapping\26830_CatherineMcAuleyCollege_F2_StudyArea



Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

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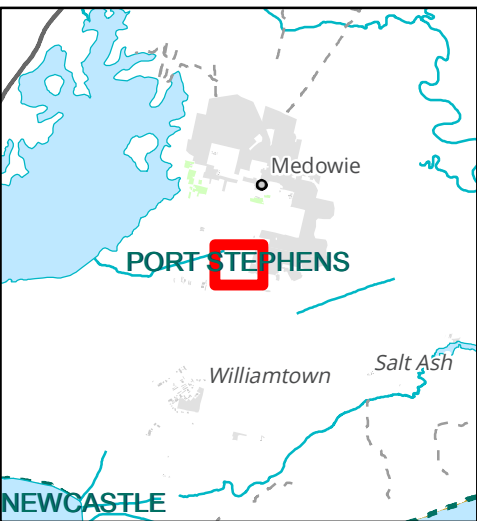
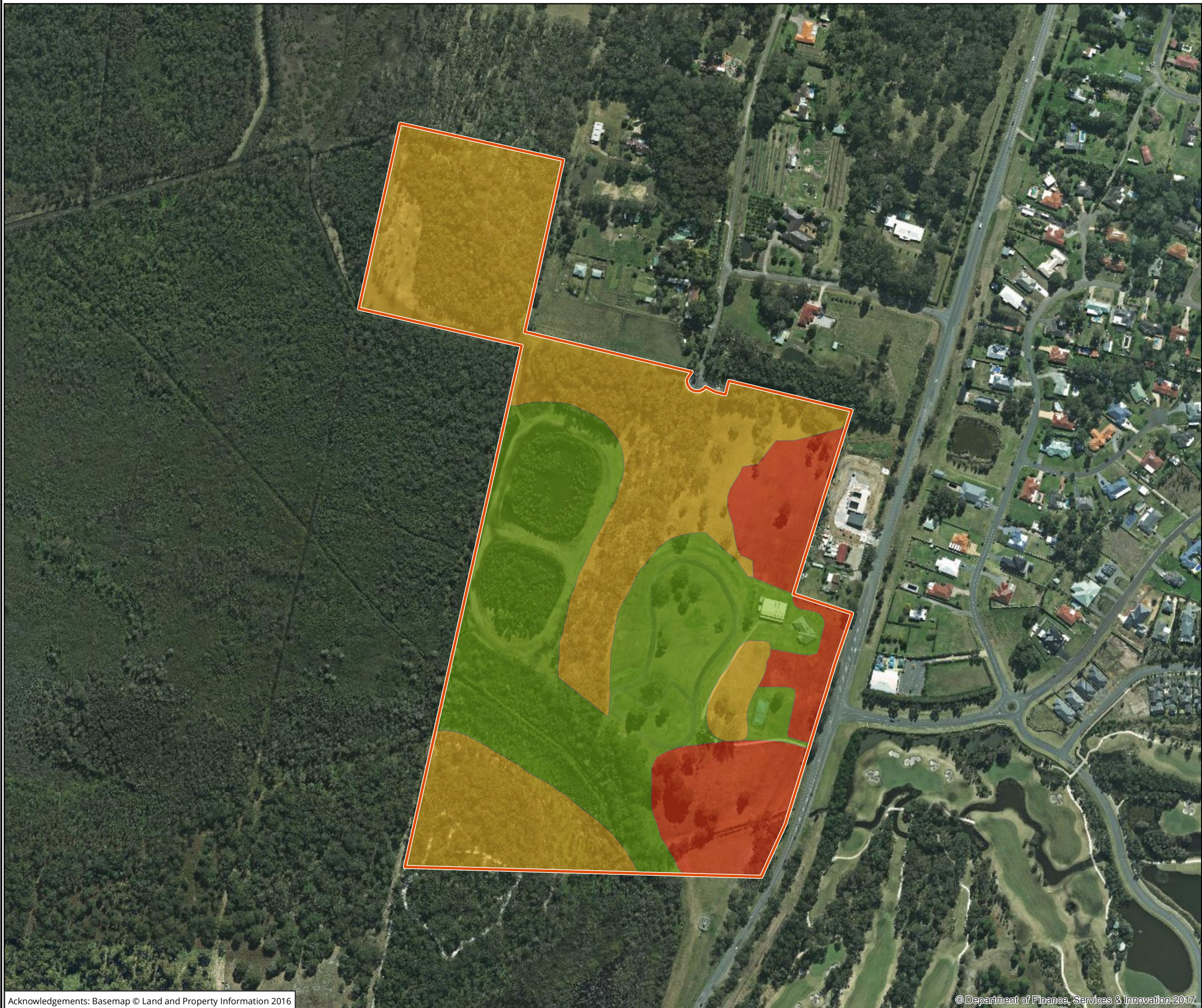
0 260 520 780 1,040 1,300
Metres

Scale: 1:33,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



Biosis Pty Ltd
Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
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Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
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Location: P:\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_F5_AHIMS.mxd







- Legend**
-  Study area
- Aboriginal archaeological potential**
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Low


Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

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18 April 2018

Jesse Carroll-Johnson

Dear Jesse,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
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- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

Culturally sensitive material

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

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

Field Survey

A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

This included inspecting AHIMS sites located within the study area as well as identifying any areas of archaeological potential or previous disturbance.

The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code of Practice dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5mm sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office for analysis (at Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and OEH will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*Enough information is defined by OEH as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density; presence of rare or representative objects; presence of archaeological features; or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.” (DECCW 2010b).

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code of Practice.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area
- Archaeological test excavation results
- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
- The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and Aboriginal cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.
- Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.
- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Sydney NSW

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Sydney NSW

OEH 2011. *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*. Sydney NSW

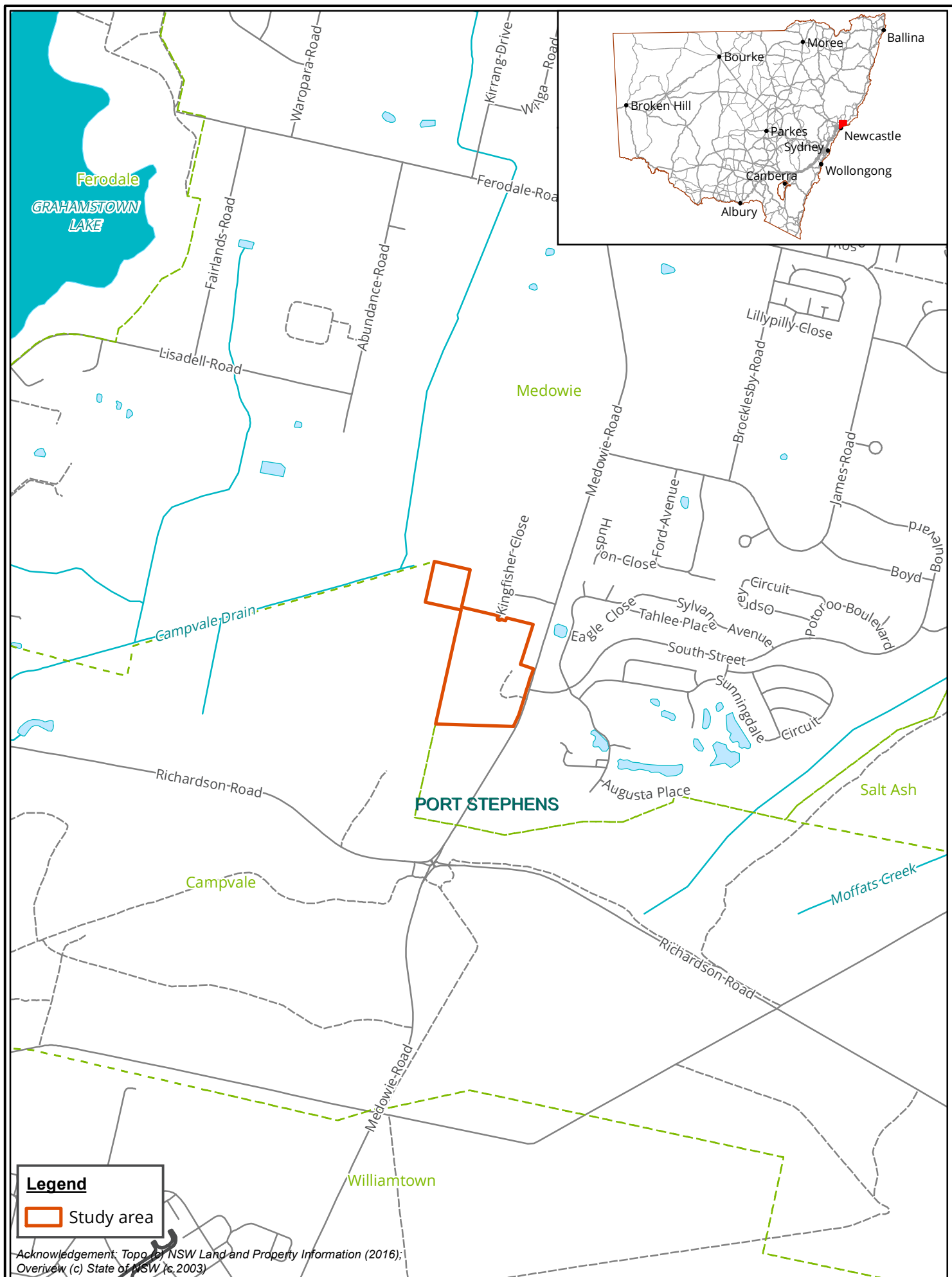


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend


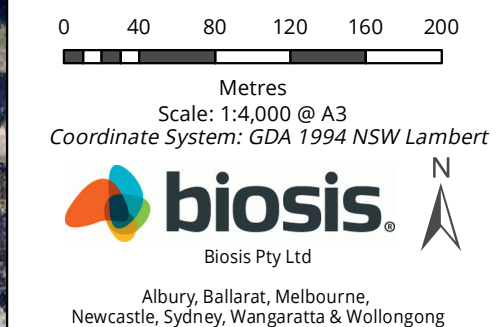
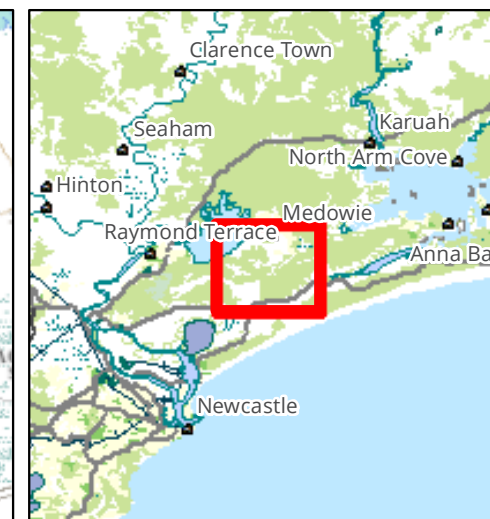
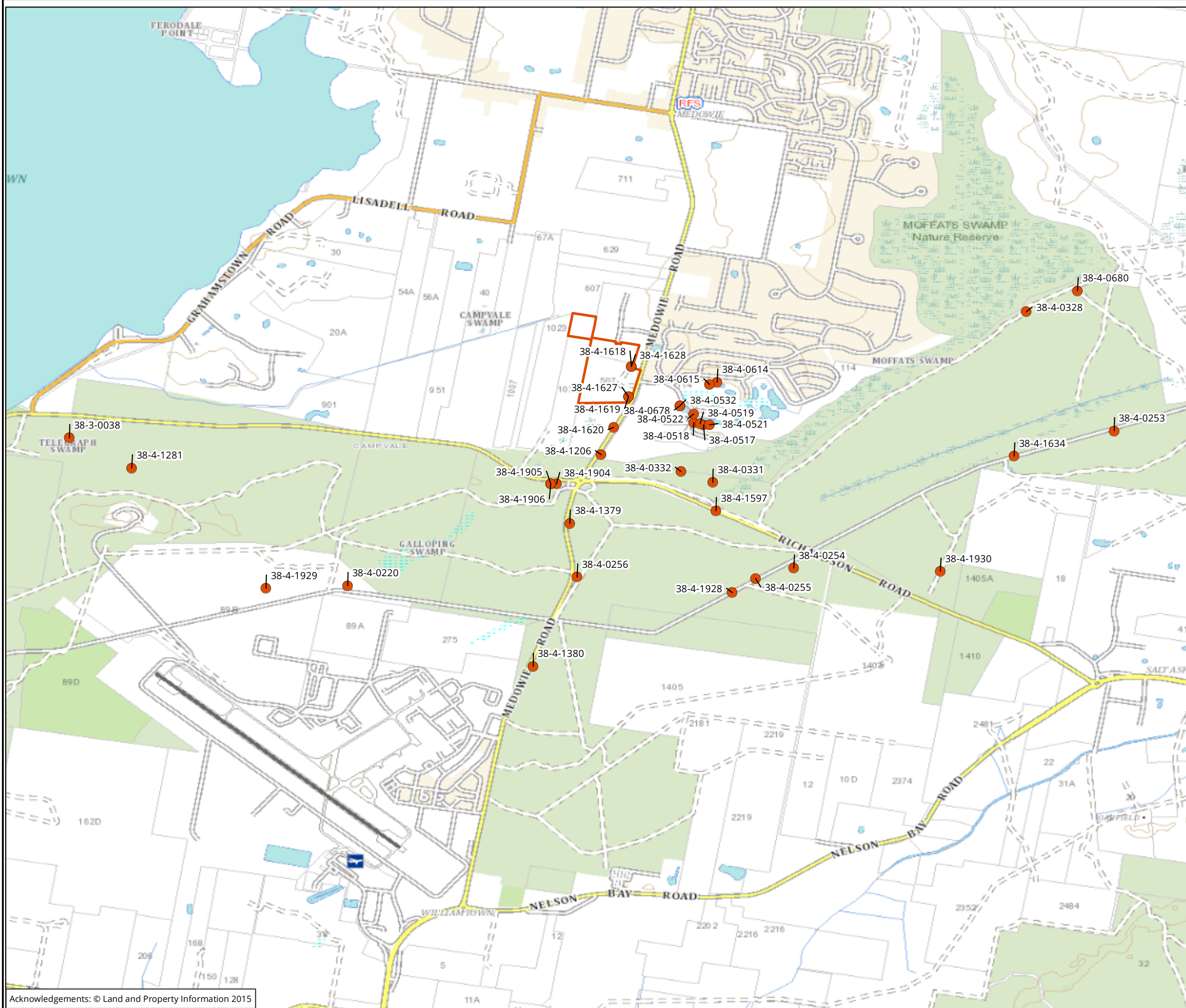
 Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail



Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: AKE, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
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Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

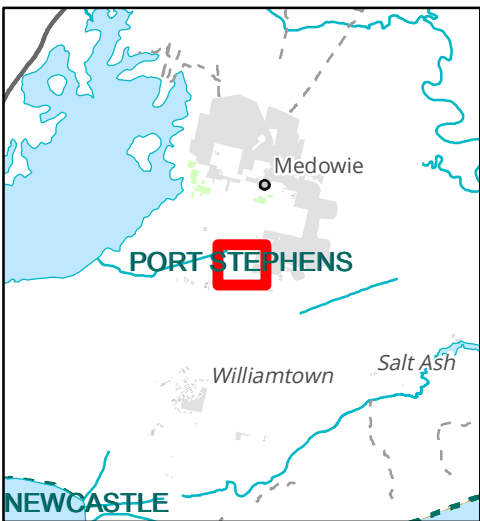
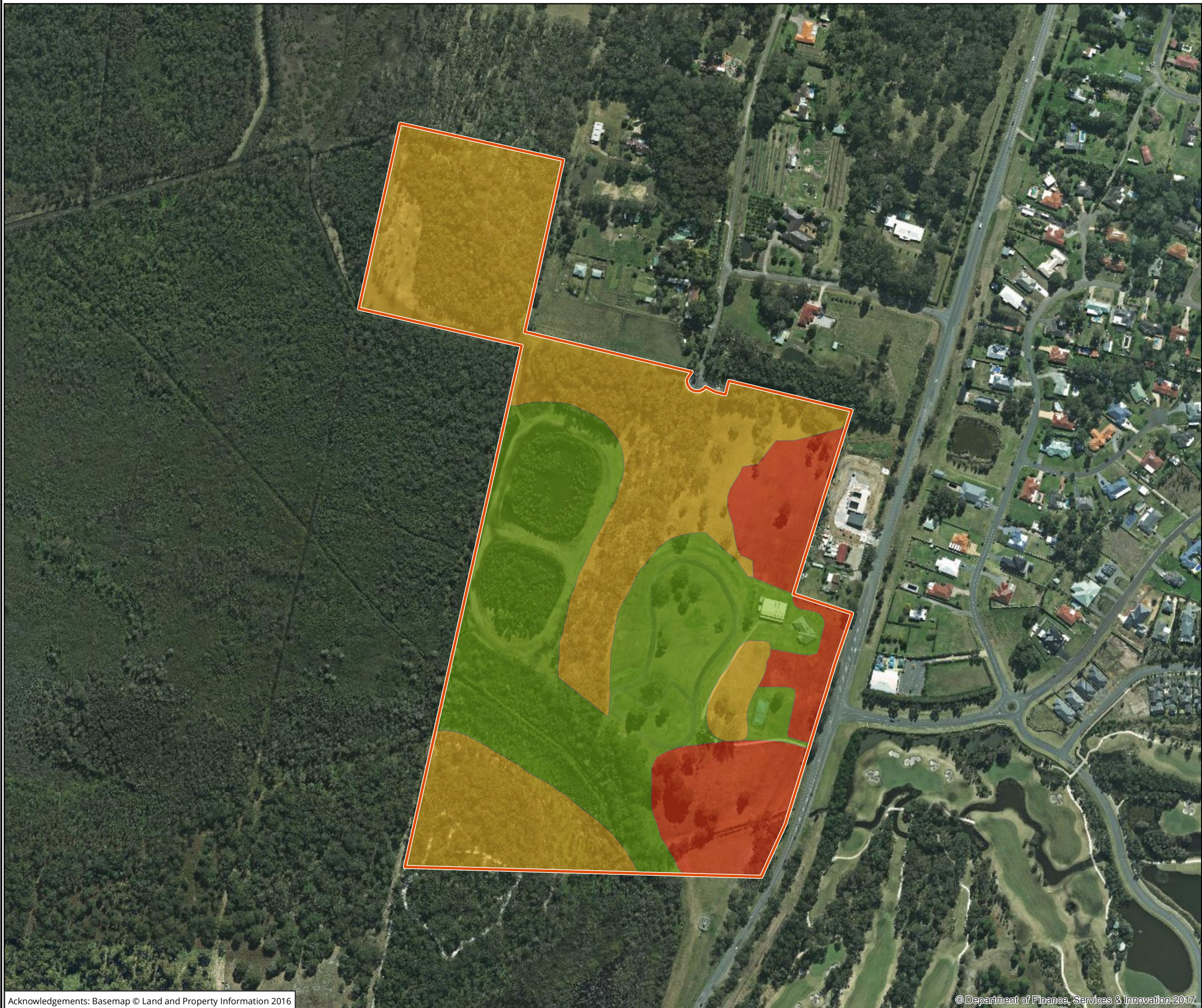
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Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

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18 April 2018

Ryan Johnson
Murra Bidgee Mullangari

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Our Ref: Matter 26830

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Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

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Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code of Practice dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5mm sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office for analysis (at Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and OEH will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*Enough information is defined by OEH as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density; presence of rare or representative objects; presence of archaeological features; or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.” (DECCW 2010b).

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code of Practice.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area
- Archaeological test excavation results
- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
- The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and Aboriginal cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.
- Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.
- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Sydney NSW

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Sydney NSW

OEH 2011. *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*. Sydney NSW

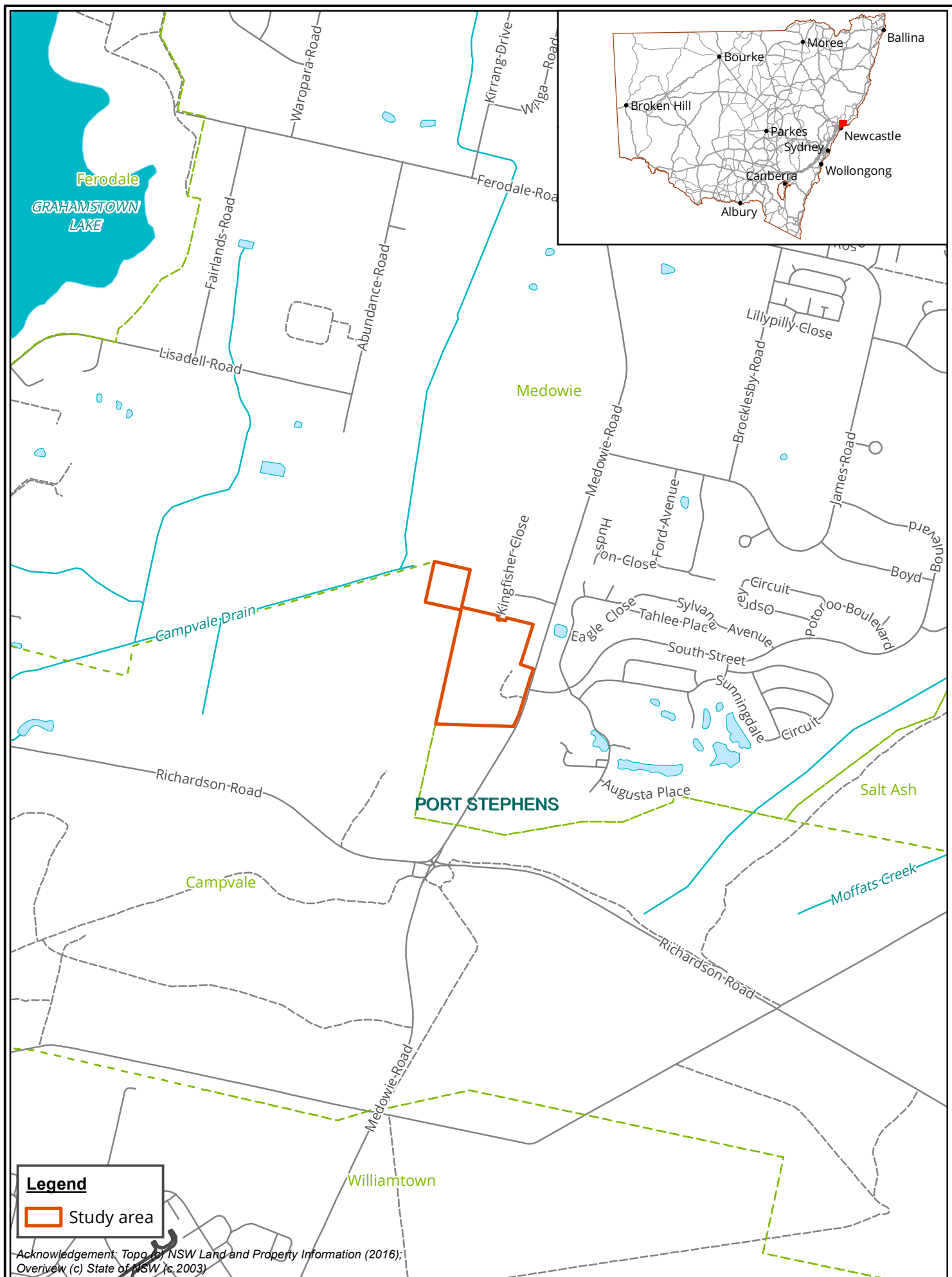


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

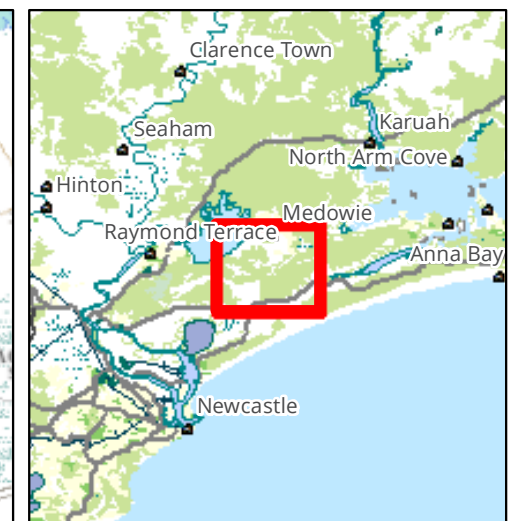
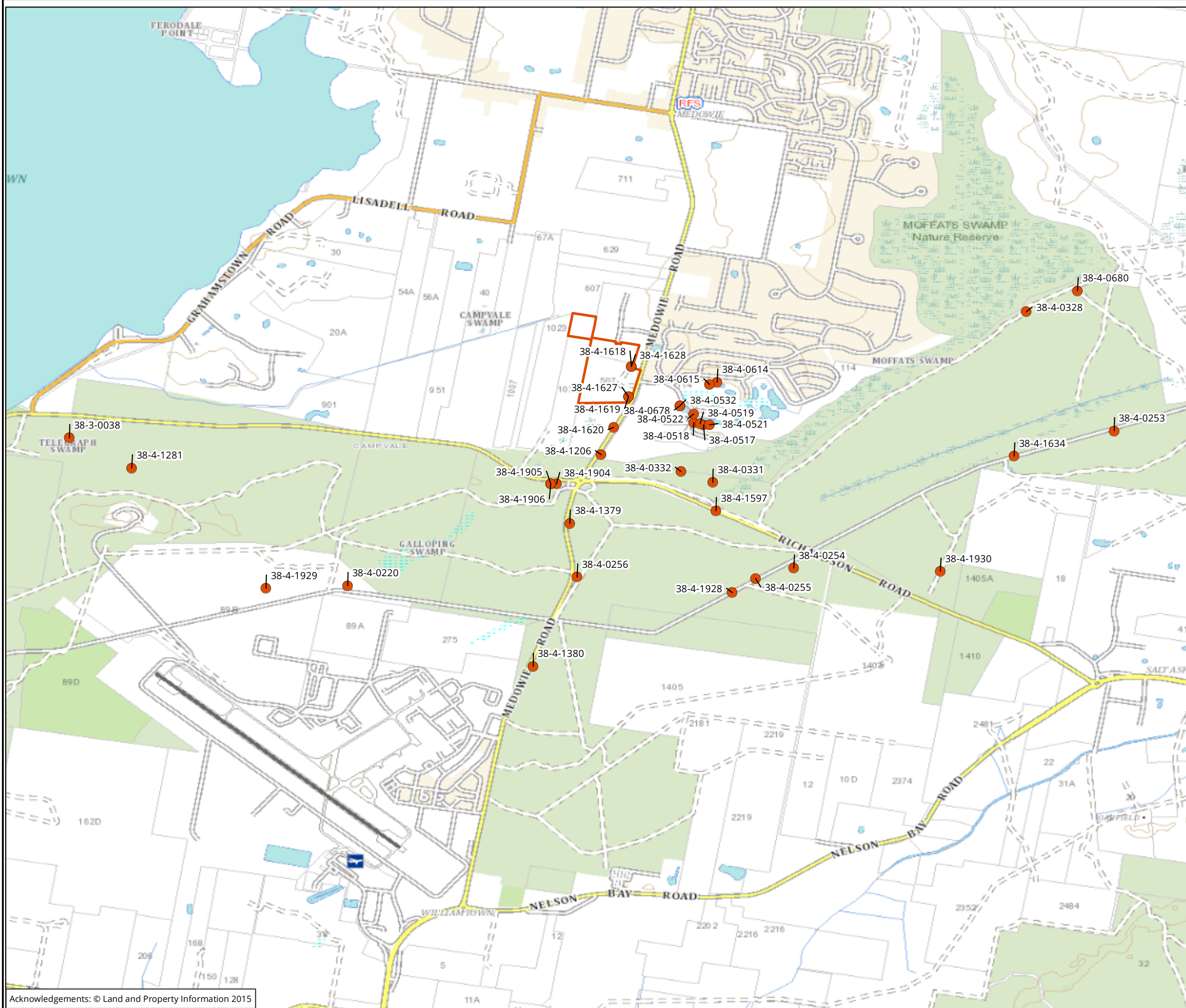
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



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Matter: 26830
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Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

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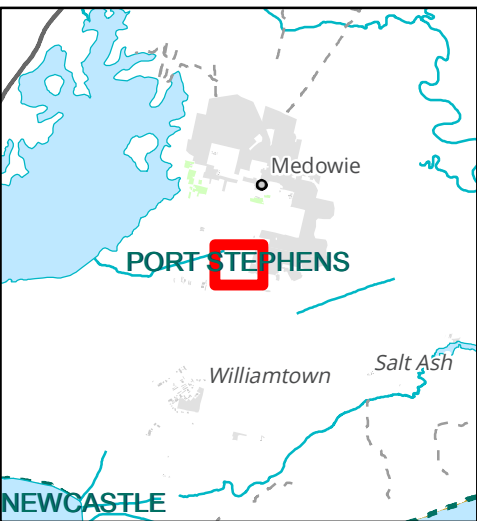
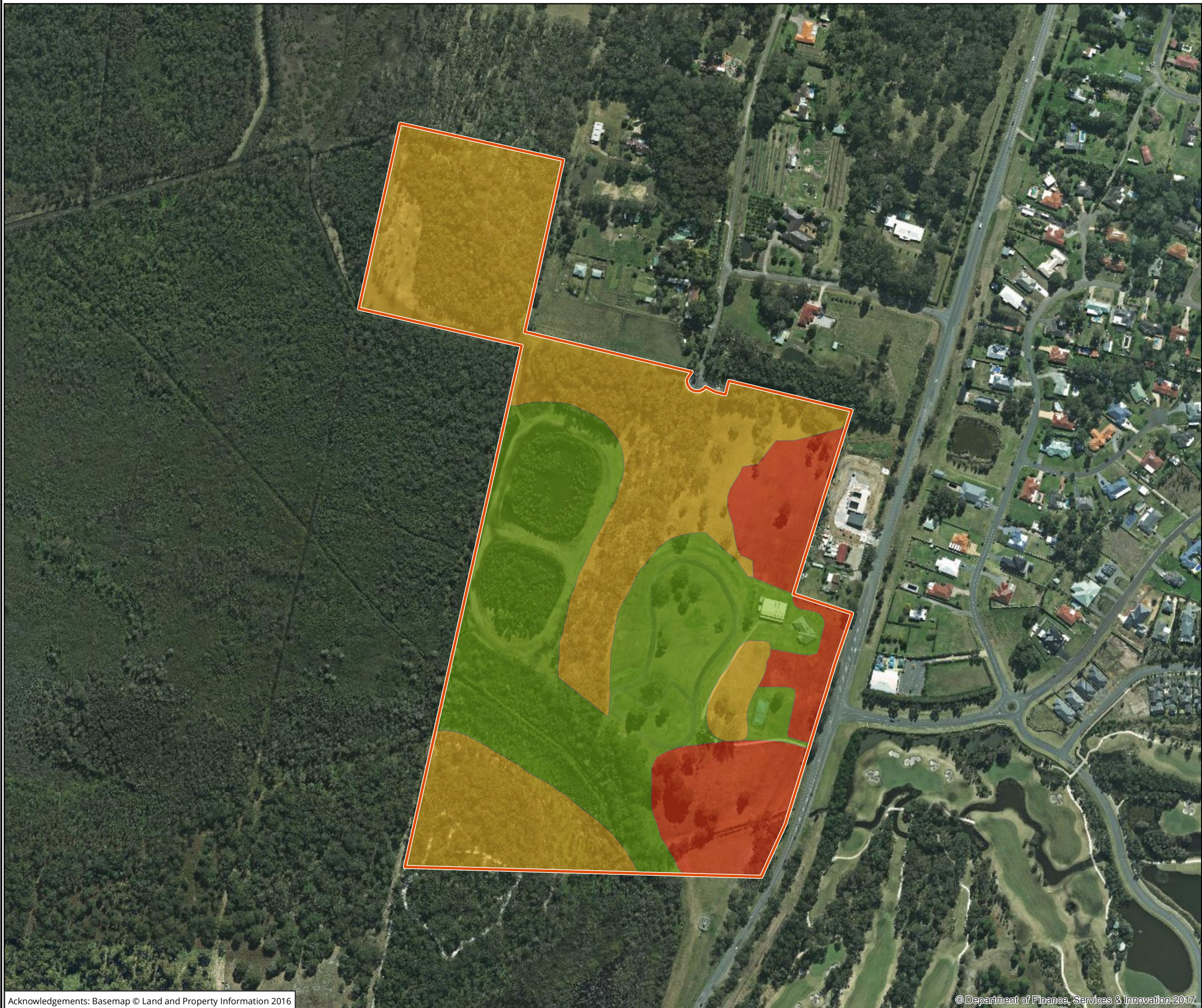
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Metres

Scale: 1:33,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



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Date: 13 February 2018,
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Location: P:\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_F5_AHIMS.mxd







- Legend**
-  Study area
- Aboriginal archaeological potential**
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Low


Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

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18 April 2018

Lee Field
Barraby Cultural Services

Dear Lee,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
- Construction of three stream primary school, seven stream high school, a place of worship, residential duplex and child care centre.
- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

Culturally sensitive material

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

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

Field Survey

A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

This included inspecting AHIMS sites located within the study area as well as identifying any areas of archaeological potential or previous disturbance.

The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

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- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
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- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

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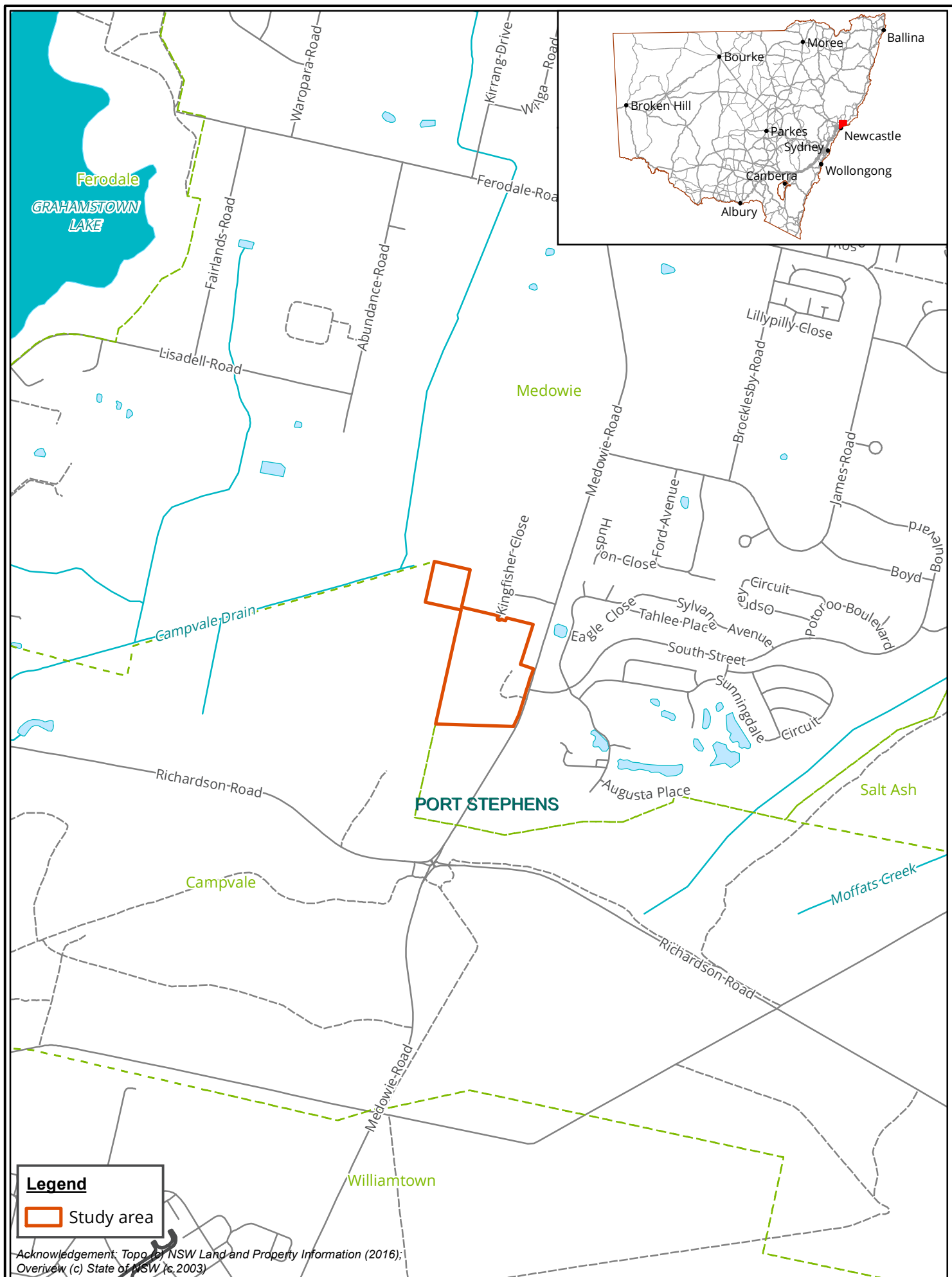


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

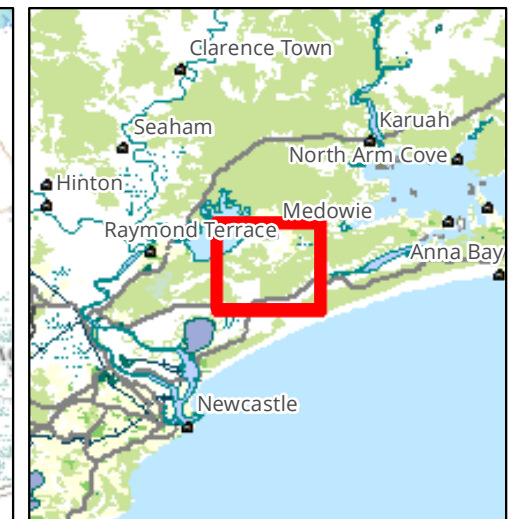
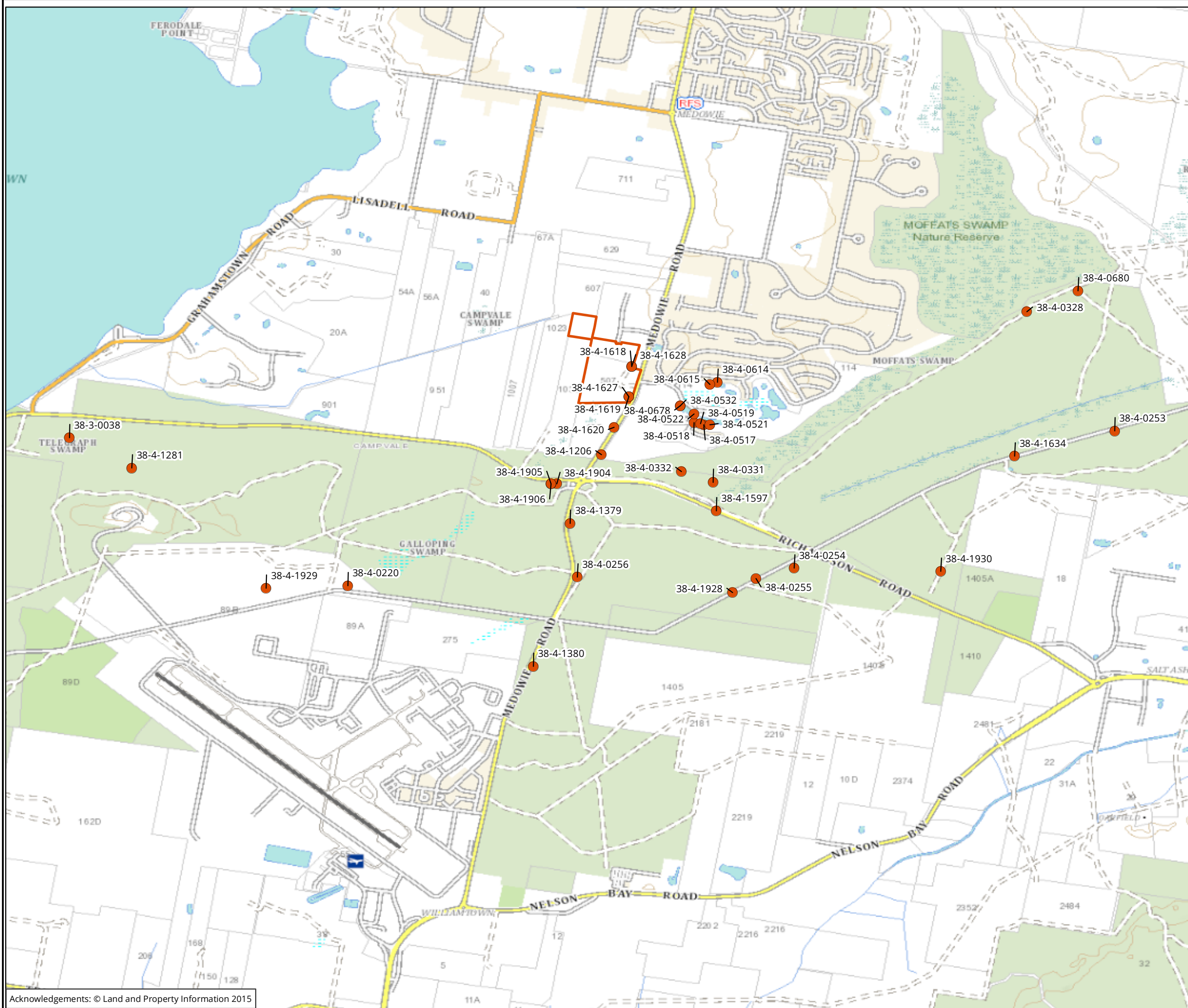
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



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Matter: 26830
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Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26830s\26830\mapping\26830_CatherineMcAuleyCollege_F2_StudyArea



Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

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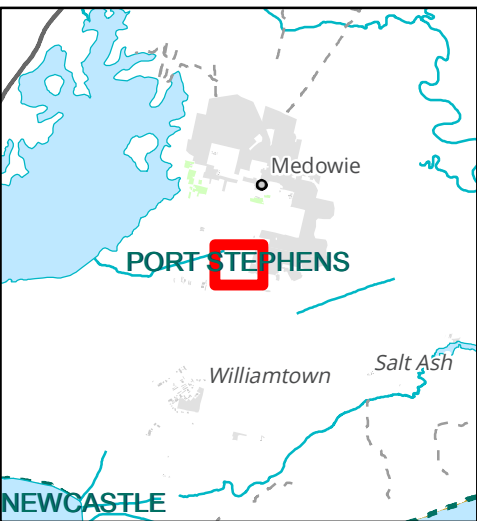
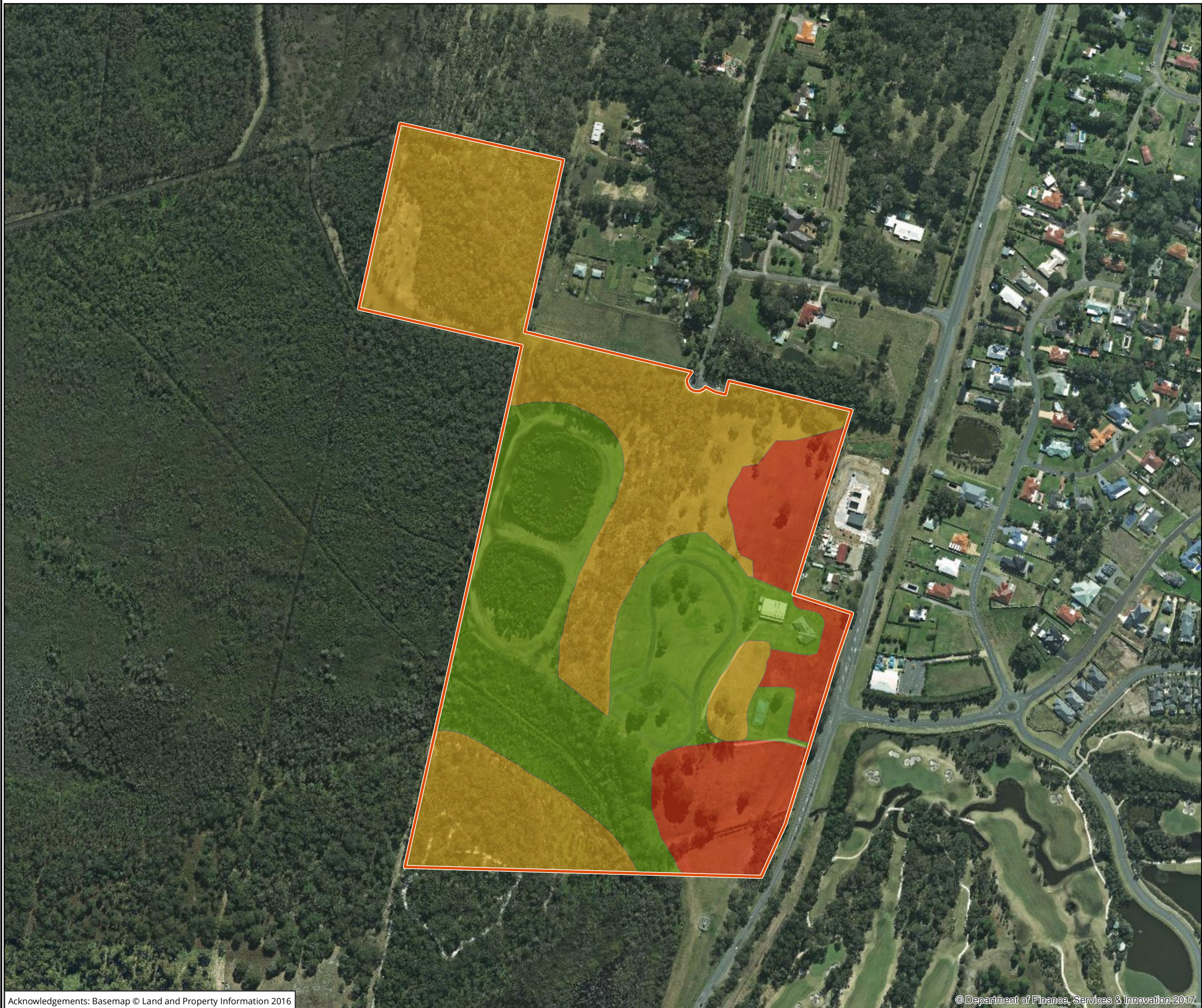
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Metres

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Date: 13 February 2018,
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Location: P:\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_F5_AHIMS.mxd




Legend

 Study area

Aboriginal archaeological potential

 High

 Moderate


 Low


Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

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18 April 2018

Arika Jalomaki
Yulay Cultural Services

Dear Arika,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

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Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
- Construction of three stream primary school, seven stream high school, a place of worship, residential duplex and child care centre.
- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

Culturally sensitive material

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

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

Field Survey

A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

This included inspecting AHIMS sites located within the study area as well as identifying any areas of archaeological potential or previous disturbance.

The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code of Practice dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5mm sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office for analysis (at Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and OEH will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*Enough information is defined by OEH as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density; presence of rare or representative objects; presence of archaeological features; or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.” (DECCW 2010b).

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code of Practice.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area
- Archaeological test excavation results
- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
- The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and Aboriginal cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.
- Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.
- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Sydney NSW

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Sydney NSW

OEH 2011. *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*. Sydney NSW

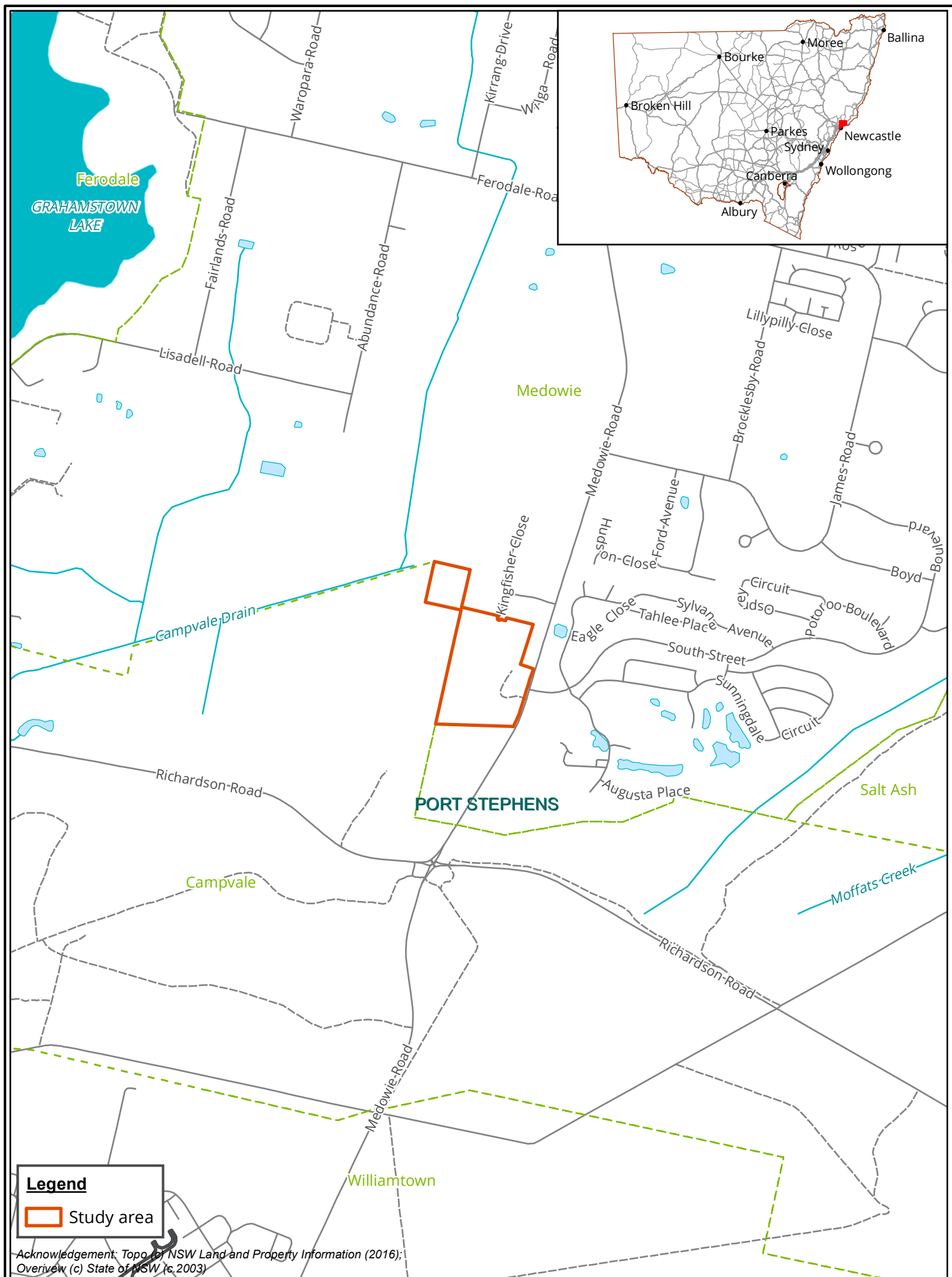


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

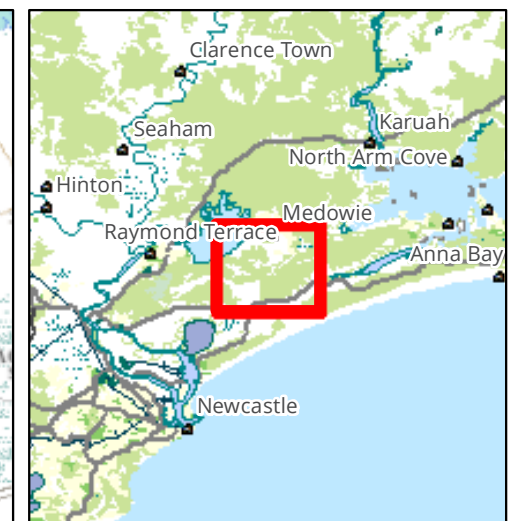
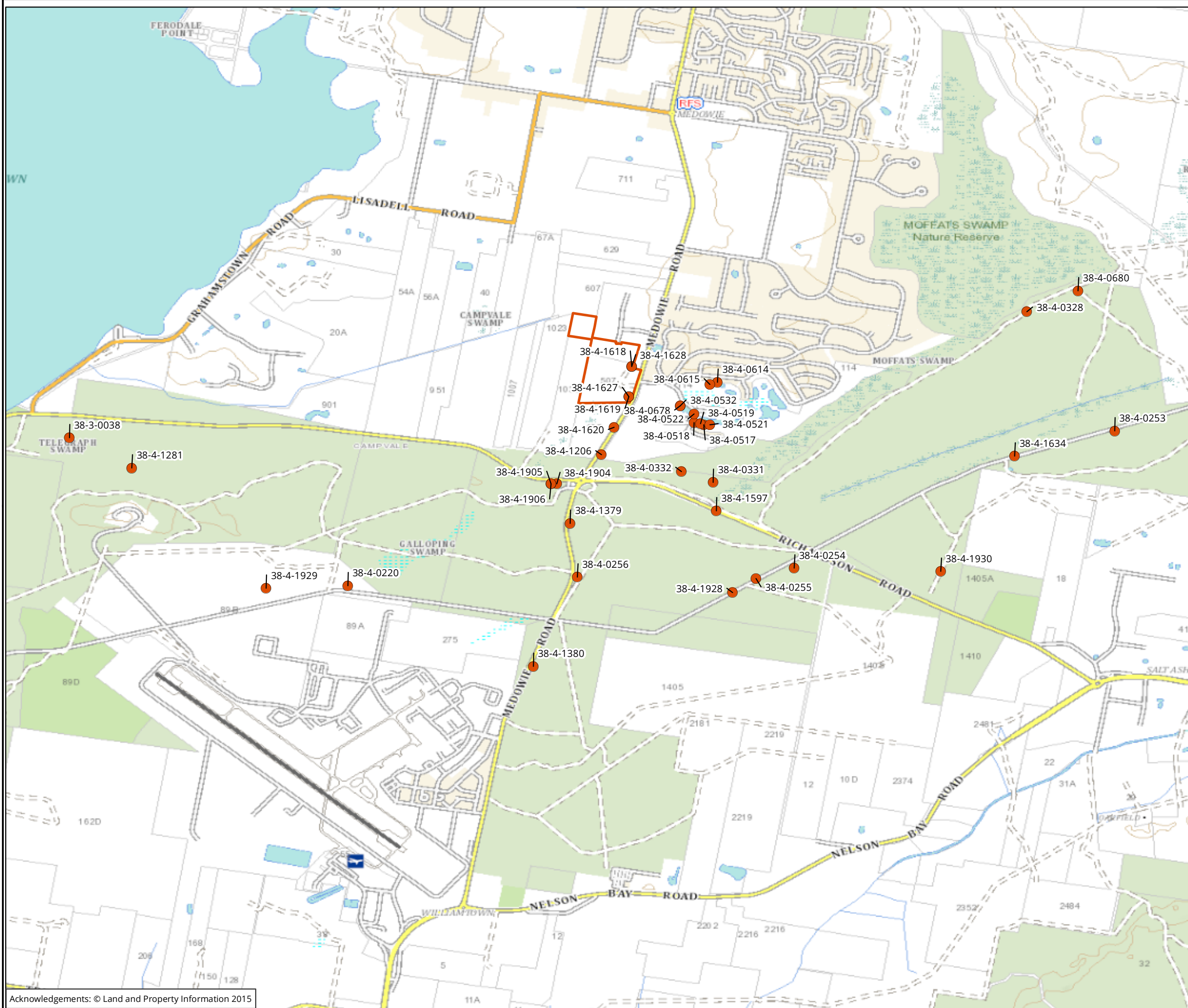
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



Biosis Pty Ltd

Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: AKE, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26830s\26830\mapping\26830_CatherineMcAuleyCollege_F2_StudyArea



Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

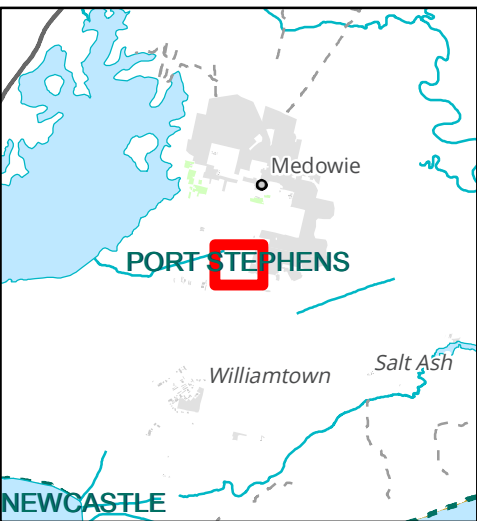
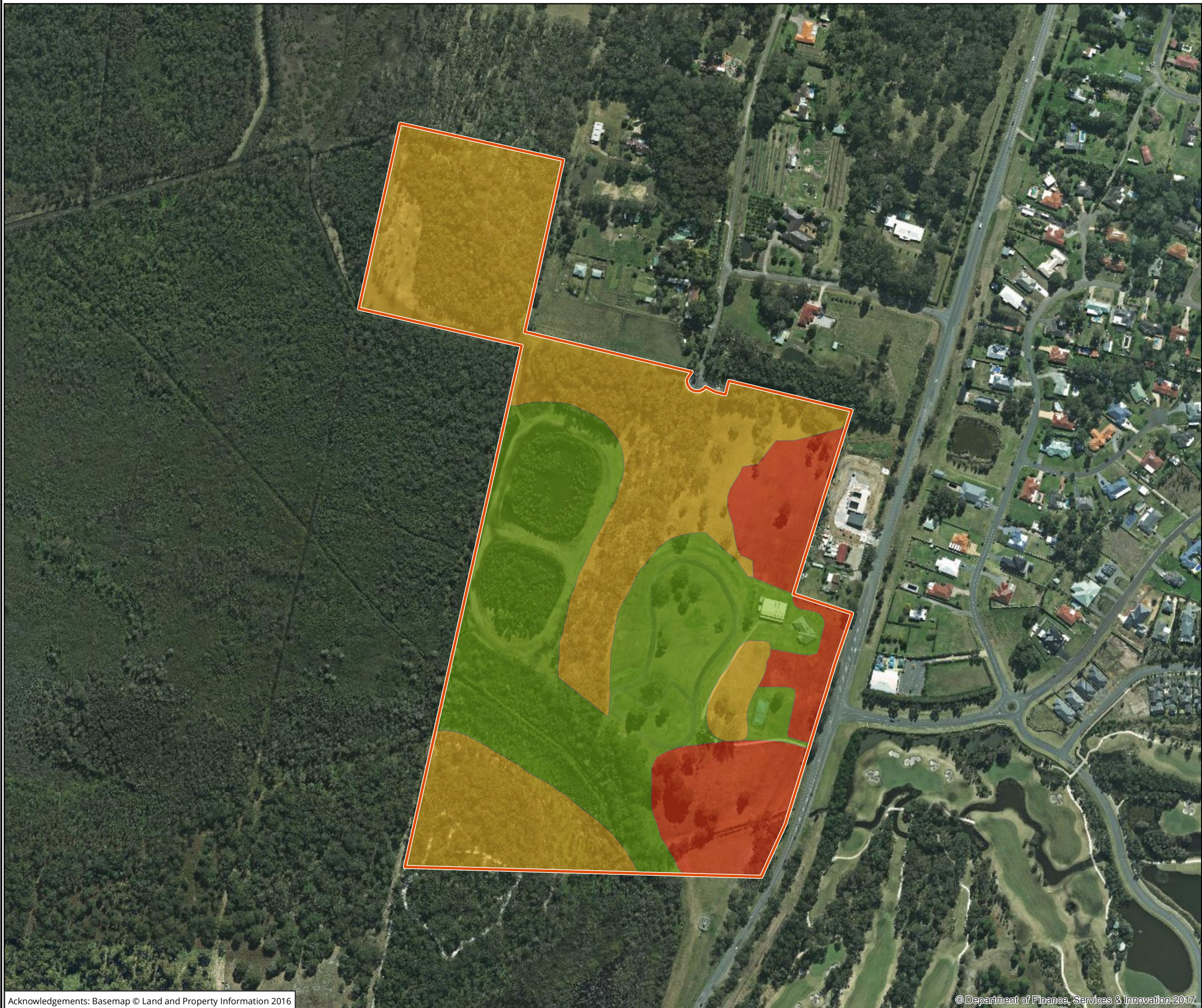
0 260 520 780 1,040 1,300
Metres

Scale: 1:33,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994




Biosis Pty Ltd
Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong


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Legend

 Study area

Aboriginal archaeological potential

 High

 Moderate


 Low


Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

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Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 07 March 2018,
Checked by: TG, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_FX_AboriginalPotential

18 April 2018

Bo Field
Yurrandaali Cultural Services

Dear Bo,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

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- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
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Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

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A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

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Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

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Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

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Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

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Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

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Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

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- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
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- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
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 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

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Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

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Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

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- Impact assessment
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- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
- The RAPs will be provided with the draft archaeological and Aboriginal cultural heritage report and their comments on report content sought.
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- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

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DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Sydney NSW

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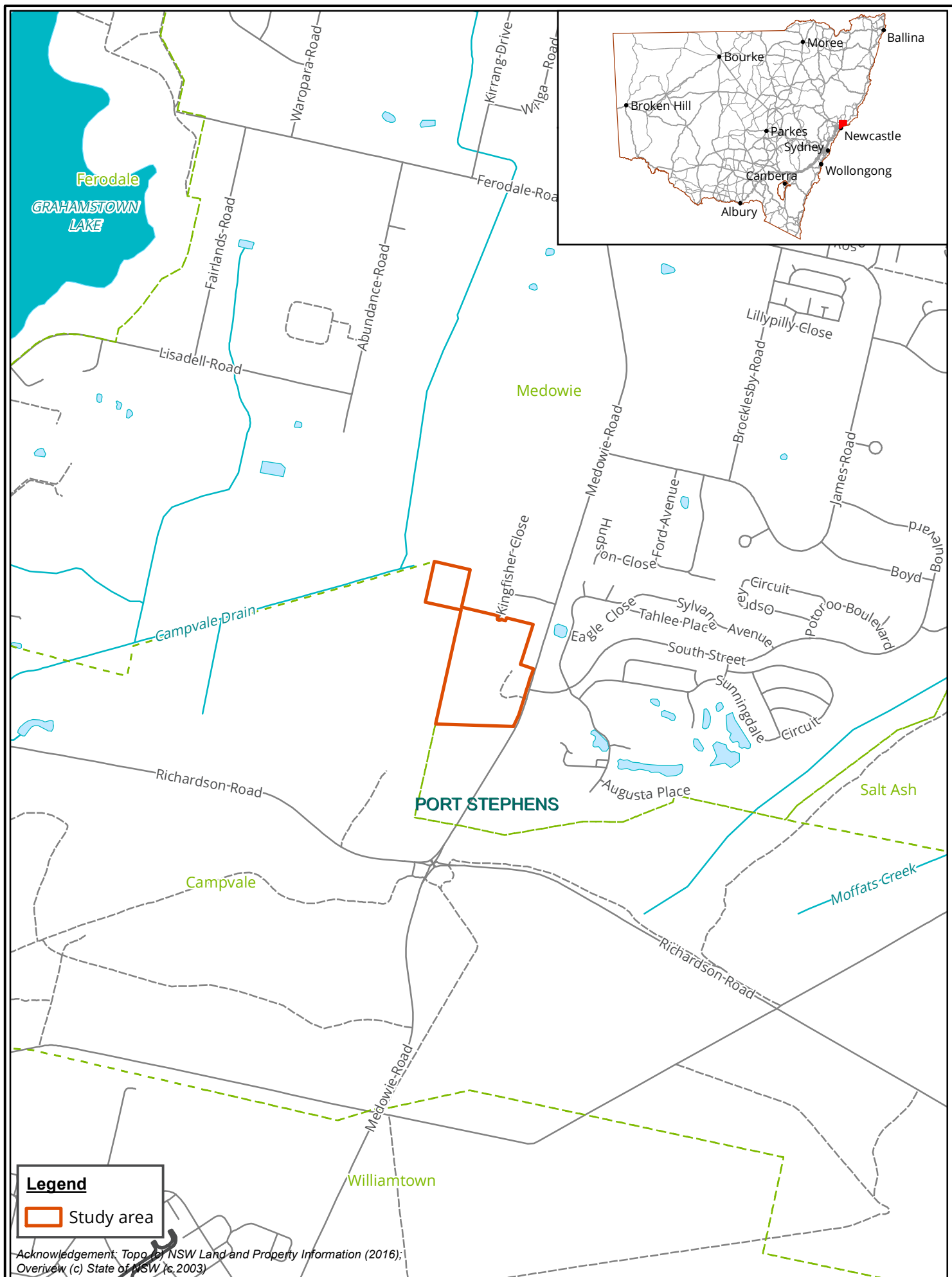


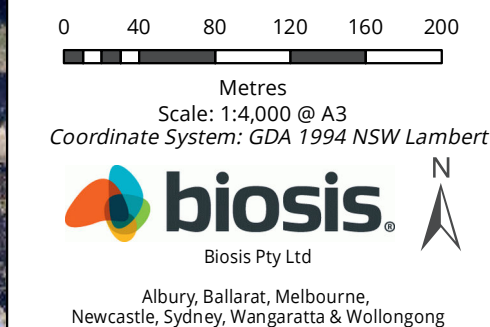
Figure 1: Location of the study area



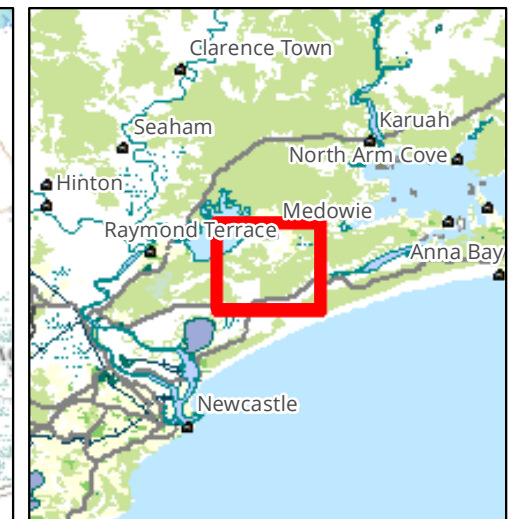
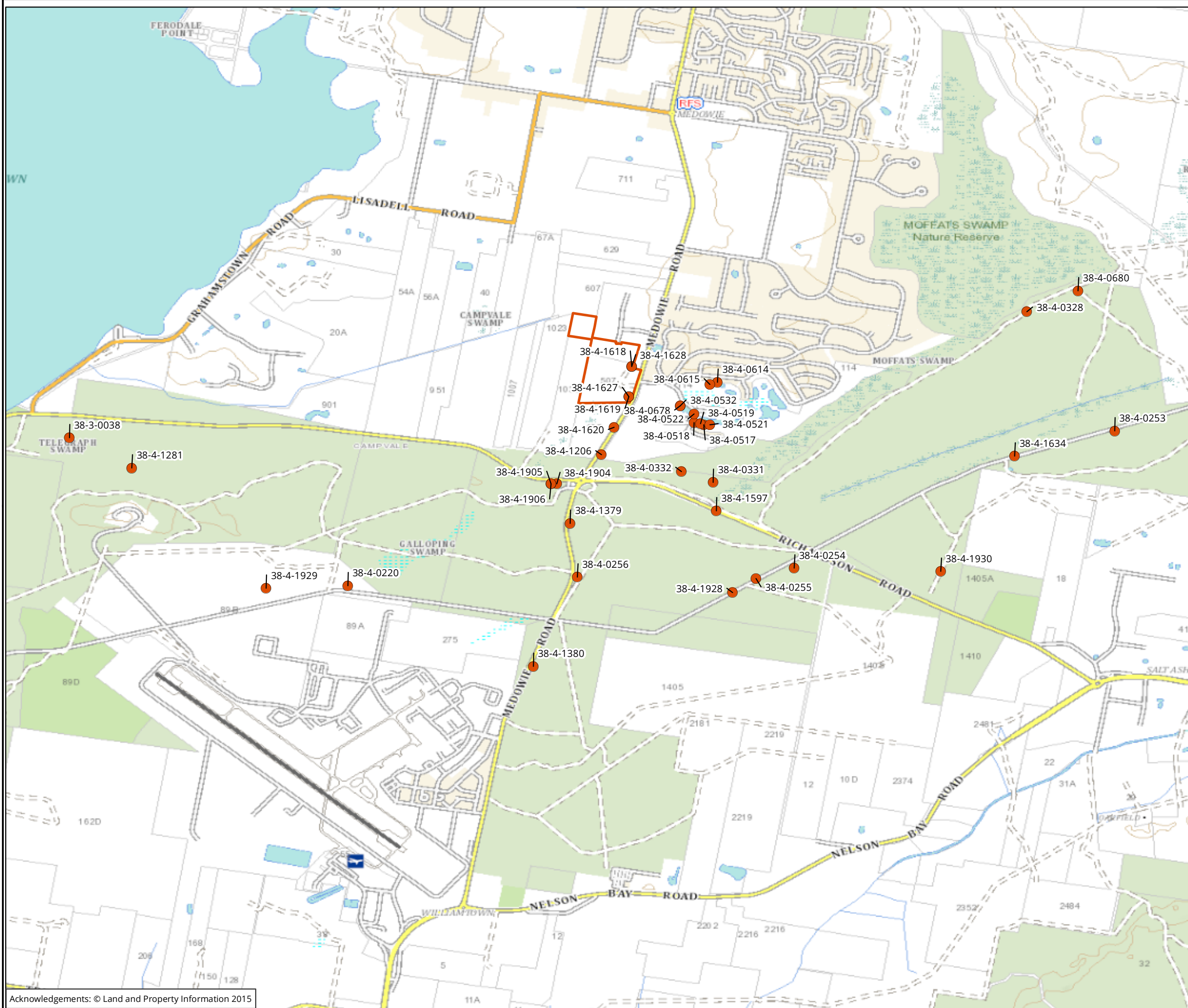
Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail



Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: AKE, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26830s\26830\mapping\26830_CatherineMcAuleyCollege_F2_StudyArea



Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

0 260 520 780 1,040 1,300

Metres

Scale: 1:33,000 @ A3

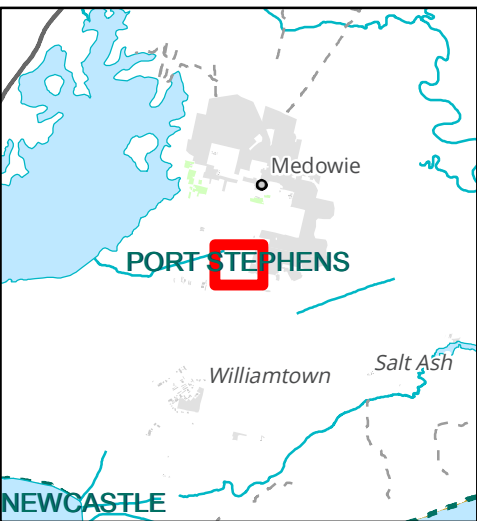
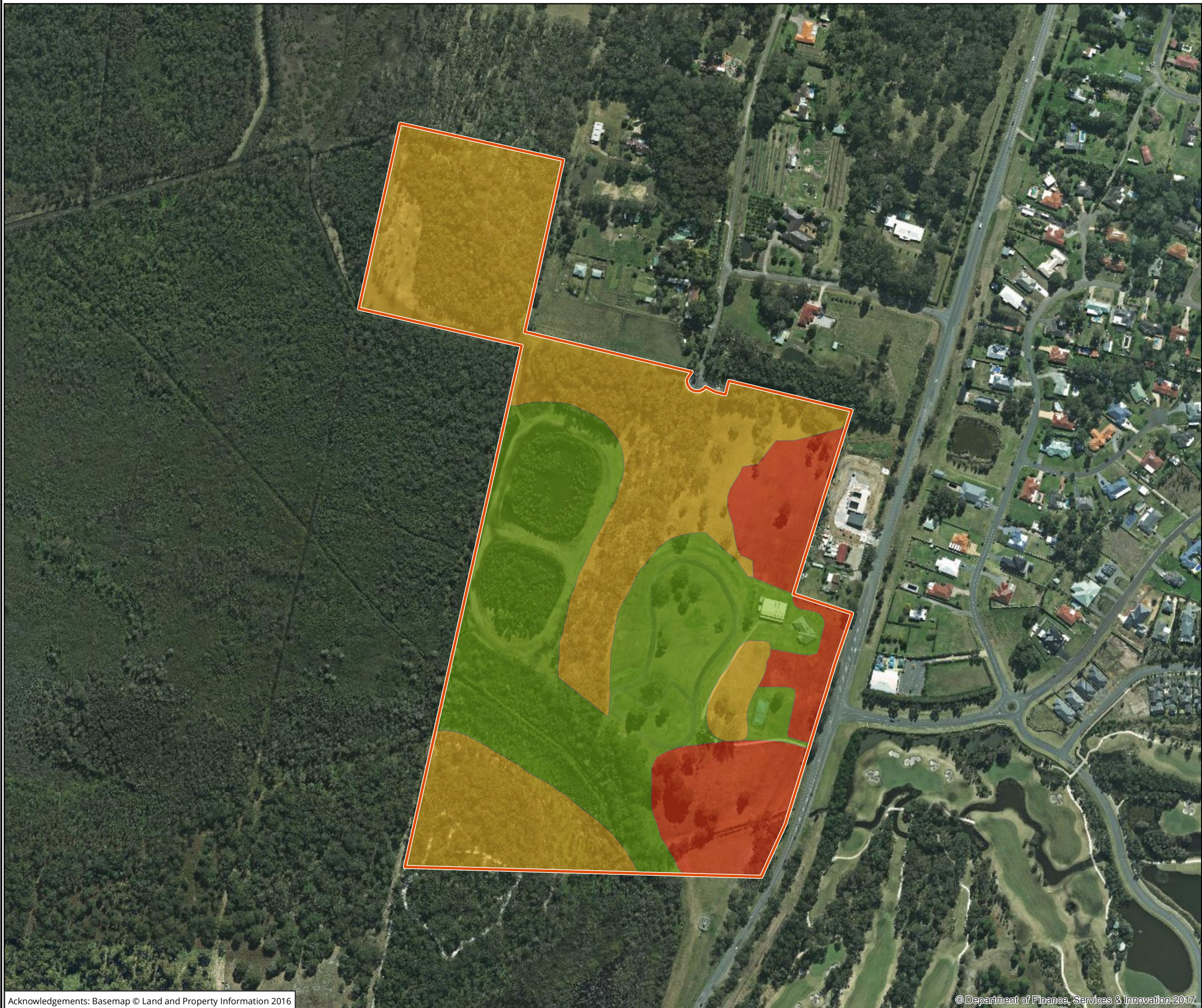
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



Biosis Pty Ltd

Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: gdavies, Generated by: gdavies
Location: P:\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_F5_AHIMS.mxd







- Legend**
-  Study area
- Aboriginal archaeological potential**
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Low


Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

 **biosis**®

Biosis Pty Ltd

Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 07 March 2018,
Checked by: TG, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_FX_AboriginalPotential

18 April 2018

Shaun Carroll

Dear Shaun,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
- Construction of three stream primary school, seven stream high school, a place of worship, residential duplex and child care centre.
- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

Culturally sensitive material

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

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

Field Survey

A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

This included inspecting AHIMS sites located within the study area as well as identifying any areas of archaeological potential or previous disturbance.

The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
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Figure 1 **Locality of the study area**

Figure 2 **Detail of the study area**

Figure 3 **AHIMS sites located within the study area**

Figure 4 Survey results

Appendix 4 Stage 3: Gathering information about cultural significance

18 April 2018

Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll
Didge Ngunawal Clan
7 Siskin Street
QUAKERS HILL NSW 2763

Dear Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW
Our Ref: Matter 26830

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Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

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Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

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Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

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

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- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and Archaeological Report (AR) will be provided to all registered Aboriginal parties for comment – the proponent must allow **28 days** for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an Appendix.
- Representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties will be invited to participate in any archaeological excavations which will take place within the study areas

Culturally sensitive material

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

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

Field Survey

A field survey of the study area was undertaken as part of a due diligence assessment on 13 February 2018 by Taryn Gooley, Consultant Archaeologist from Biosis, and Jamie Merrick, a site officer from Worimi LALC. The principal aims of the survey were to identify Aboriginal heritage values associated with the study area.

This included inspecting AHIMS sites located within the study area as well as identifying any areas of archaeological potential or previous disturbance.

The study area consists of cleared paddocks and regrowth swampland adjacent to Medowie Road. A residential building and sheds are located on a crest landform within the north eastern portion of the study area. A number of sealed and unsealed roadways are also located within the study area. Contour banks and evidence of bulk earthworks were identified in the areas adjacent to the sealed and unsealed roadways within the study area. An electricity transmission line is also located along the eastern boundary of the study area, while a tennis court is located in the southern portion of the study area.

A large portion of the study area was found to have been subject to previous ground disturbance through land clearance, and the construction of access tracks, residential buildings, tennis courts, and sheds. An inspection of the recorded AHIMS sites in the study area found that there has been superficial ground disturbance through activities such as vegetation clearance. No evidence of major disturbance such as bulk earth works which would result in the destruction of archaeological deposits were noted in the areas marked as high or moderate in Figure 4 below.

Surface visibility and ground exposure were noted to be 0-5% throughout the entire property due to high levels of grass cover. Regrowth vegetation in the western portions of the study area also impacted on the levels of surface visibility and ground exposure noted during the survey. This limited the ability of the surveyors to identify any Aboriginal objects or sites that may be present.

Archaeological test excavations

Based on the results of previous test excavations conducted at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628 (Umwelt 2013), and the observations made during the field survey it is likely further subsurface archaeological deposits exist within the study area. Figure 4 outlines areas of high and moderate archaeological potential identified during the background research and field inspection. Areas of low potential include areas of high disturbance such as the access tracks and residential buildings observed during the survey. Areas of low potential also include the low lying swamplands in the southern portion of the study area.

In order to assess the extent and significance of the archaeological deposits identified at sites 38-4-1618/38-4-1627, and 38-4-1619/38-4-1628, archaeological test excavations must be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of potential archaeological deposit within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits identified by Umwelt (2013) in the study area
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy

- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment

Test excavation methodology

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

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 x 50 centimetre units
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 – 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 x 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 x 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 x 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 x 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code of Practice, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code of Practice dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5mm sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office for analysis (at Suite 8 27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
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 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable

- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and OEH will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*Enough information is defined by OEH as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density; presence of rare or representative objects; presence of archaeological features; or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.” (DECCW 2010b).

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Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code of Practice.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis Pty Ltd will prepare an Archaeological cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) and archaeological report (AR) for the proposed project. The ACHAR will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHAR and will document the desktop assessment, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of the OEH, in particular the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area
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- Archaeological test excavation results
- Aboriginal site significance assessment

- Impact assessment
- Management strategies
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.
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- Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis.
- These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHAR.

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

The final report will incorporate all comments.

References

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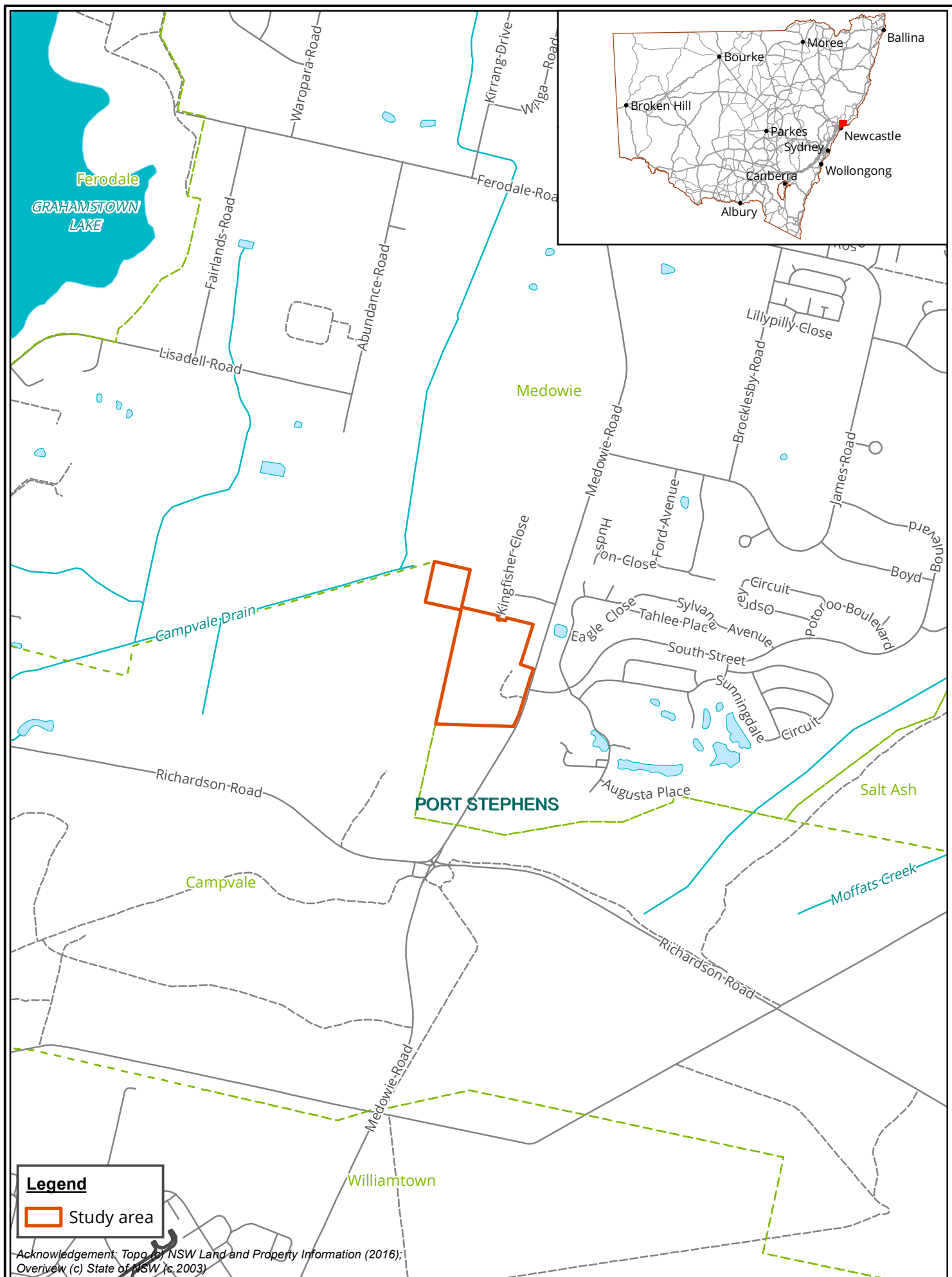


Figure 1: Location of the study area



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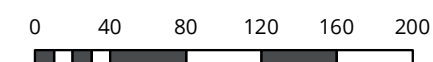
 Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail

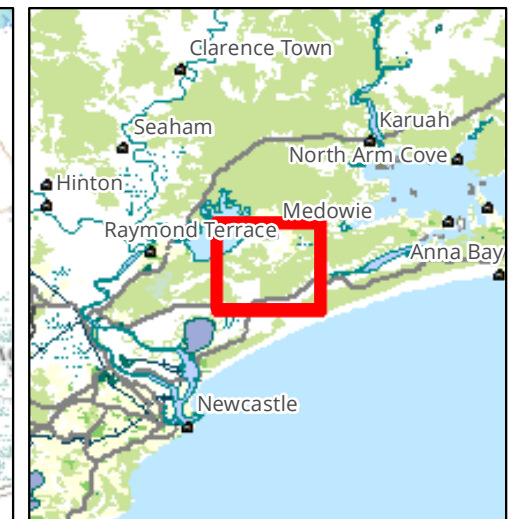
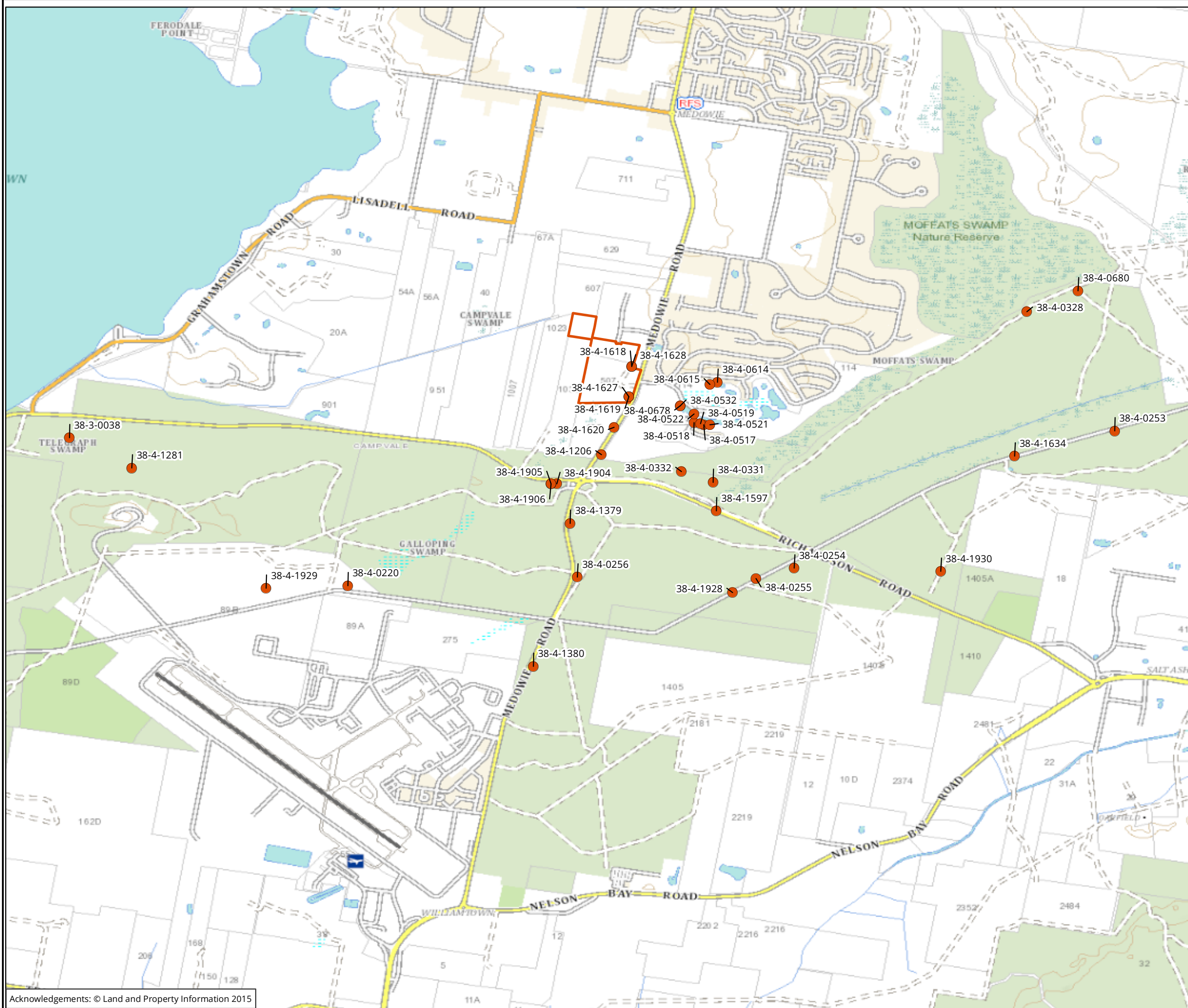


Metres
Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



Biosis Pty Ltd
Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: AKE, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
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Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

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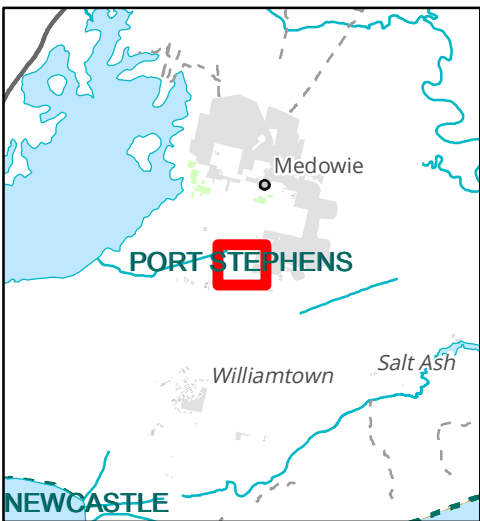
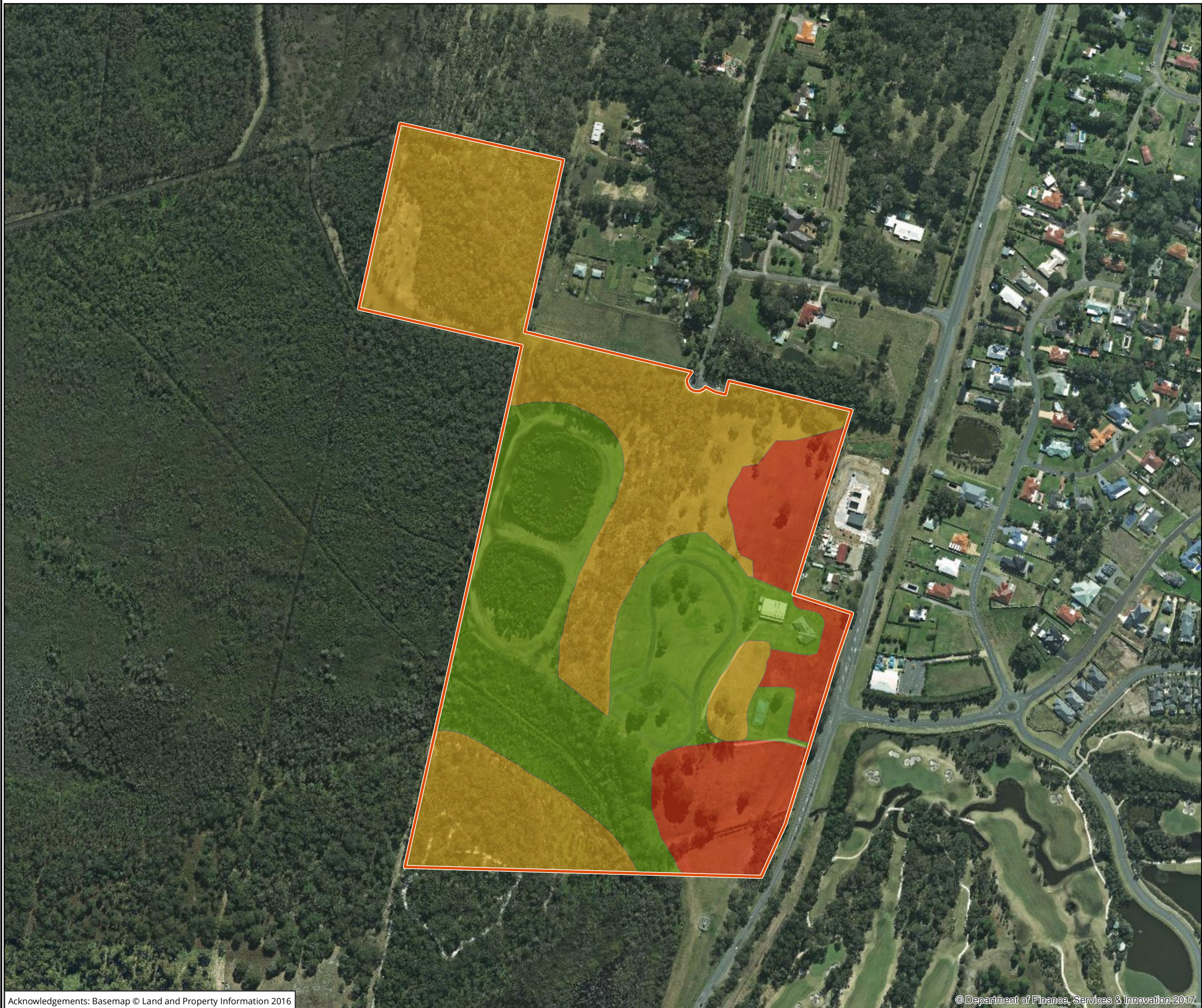
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Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
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- Legend**
-  Study area
- Aboriginal archaeological potential**
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Low


Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

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18 April 2018

Anthony Anderson
Nur-run-gee Pty Ltd

Dear Anthony,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
- Construction of three stream primary school, seven stream high school, a place of worship, residential duplex and child care centre.
- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.

- Review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- Review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study areas.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

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

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

- **COMPLETED.** Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the proposed study area.
- **COMPLETED.** Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the proposed project on 27 March 2018 via Biosis on behalf of Webber Architects and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the proposed project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. The registered Aboriginal parties must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of **28 days** of Biosis providing the methodology document.
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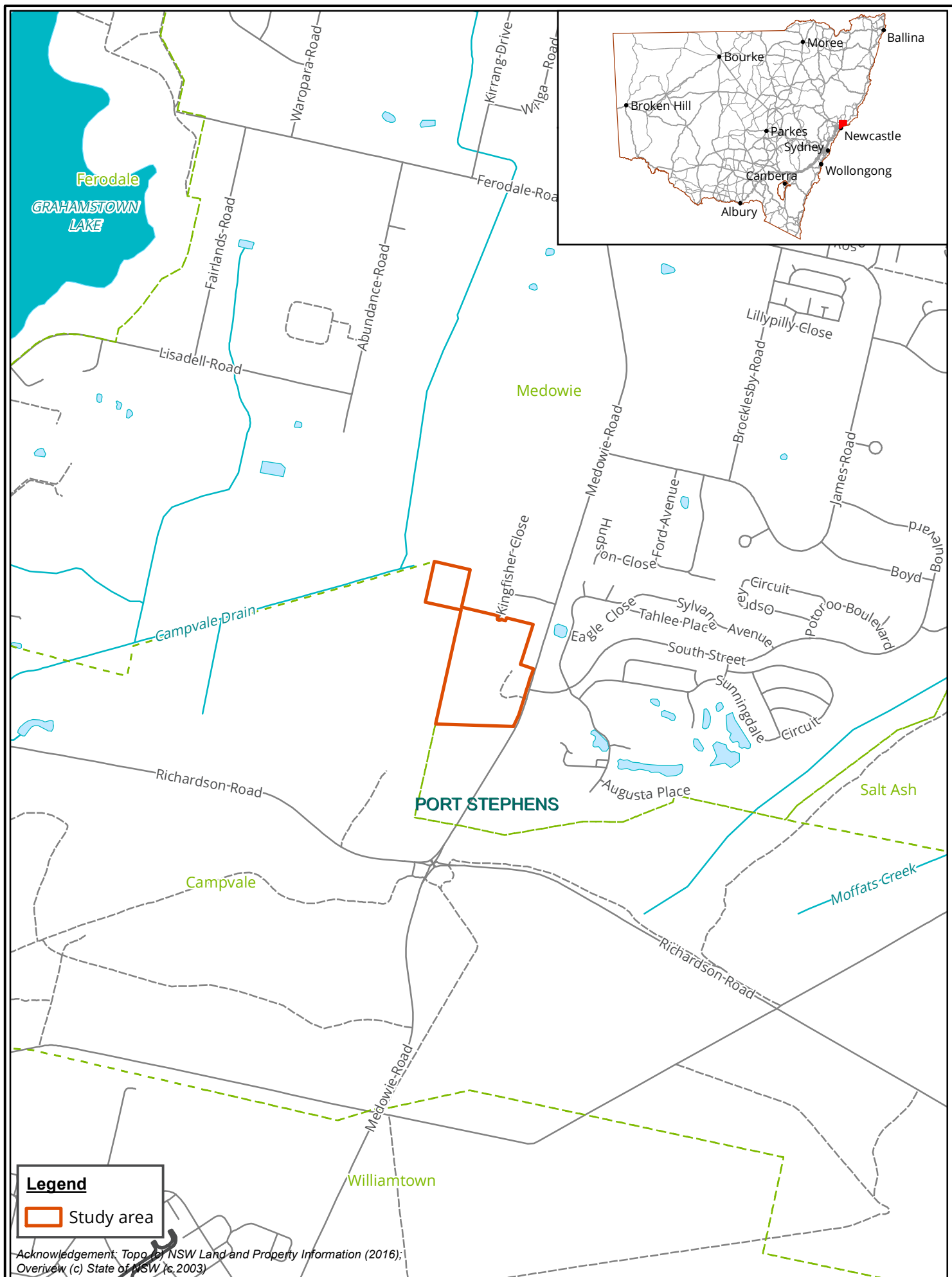


Figure 1: Location of the study area



Legend


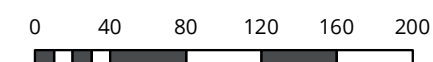
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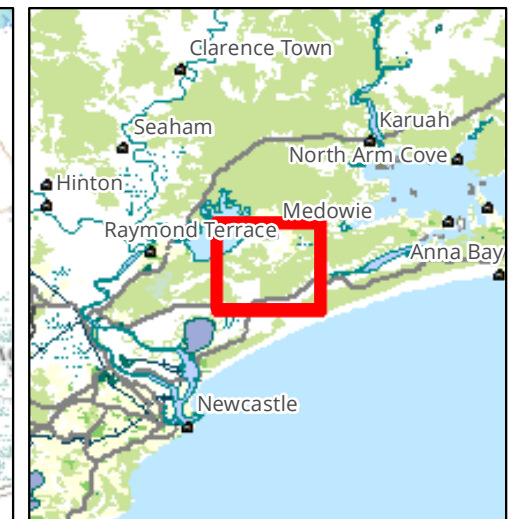
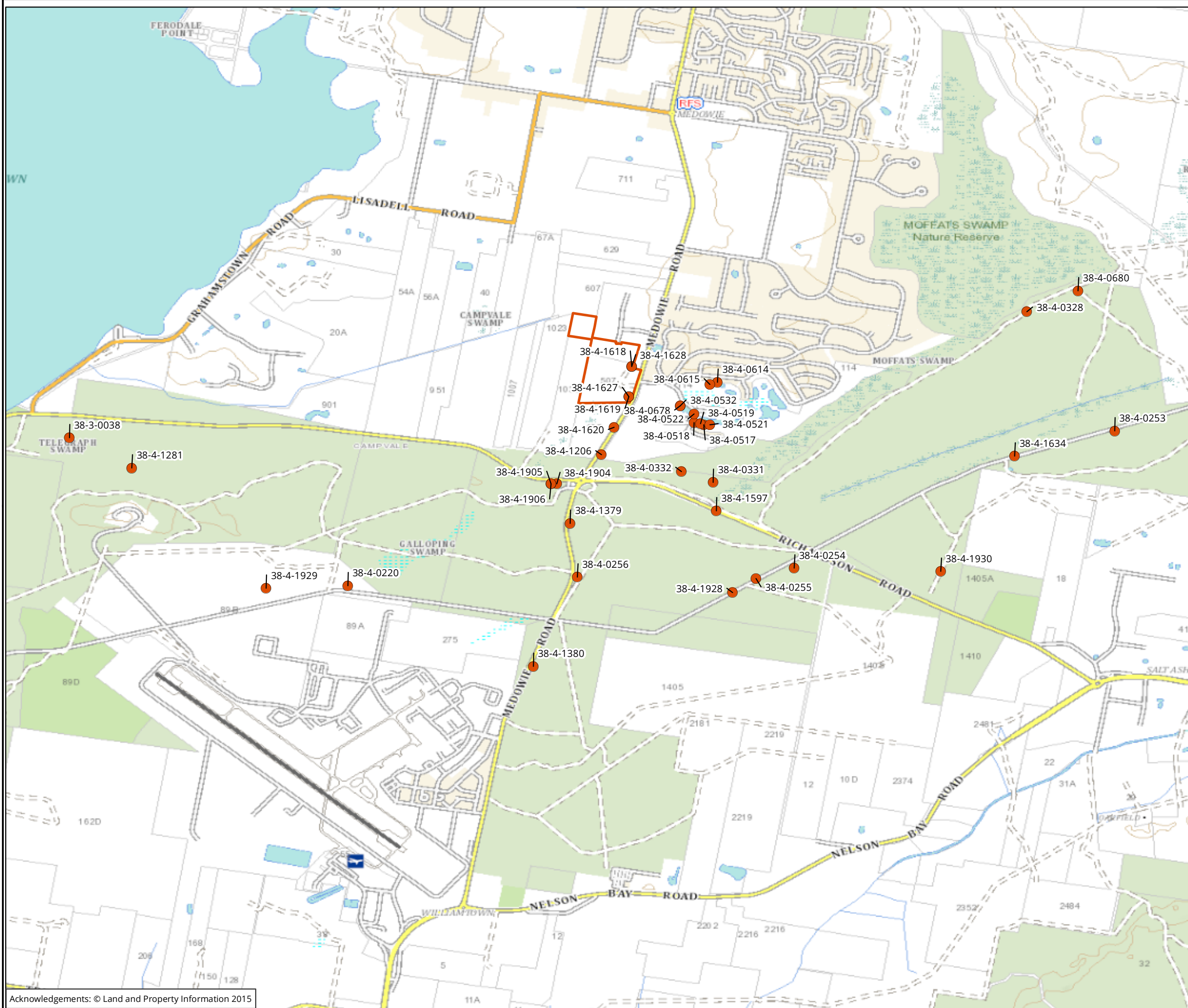


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Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: AKE, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26830s\26830\mapping\26830_CatherineMcAuleyCollege_F2_StudyArea



Legend

- AHIMS Records
- Study area

Figure 3: AHIMS records near the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

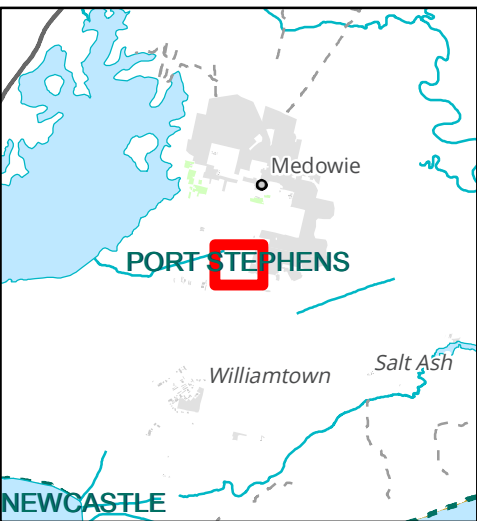
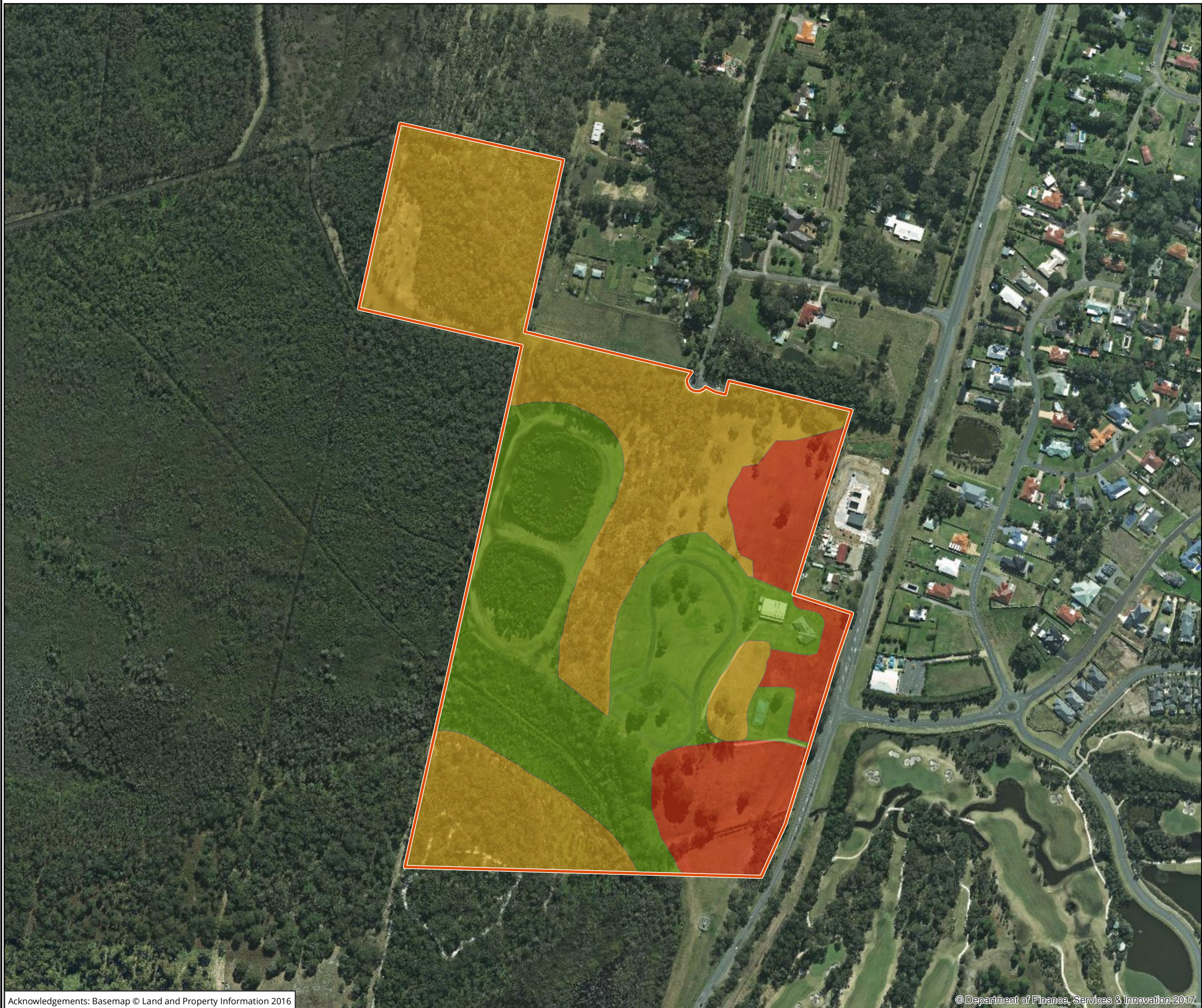
0 260 520 780 1,040 1,300
Metres

Scale: 1:33,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



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Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 13 February 2018,
Checked by: gdavies, Generated by: gdavies
Location: P:\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_F5_AHIMS.mxd



- Legend**
- Study area
 - Aboriginal archaeological potential
 - High
 - Moderate
 - Low

Figure 4: Aboriginal archaeological potential

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres
Scale: 1:4,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

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Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 26830
Date: 07 March 2018,
Checked by: TG, Drawn by: GD, Last edited by: gdavies
Location: \\bio-data-01\matters\26800s\26830\Mapping\26830_FX_AboriginalPotential

18 April 2018

Lennie Anderson
Nur-run-gee Pty Ltd

Dear Lennie,

RE: Stage 2: Project Information and Assessment Methodology - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Catherine McAuley Catholic College, Medowie, NSW

Our Ref: Matter 26830

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The aim of this document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about proposed project, and the proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment process.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5 pm Wednesday 16 May 2018** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback on the methodology to:

Taryn Gooley
Consultant Archaeologist
8/27 Annie St, Wickham NSW 2293
(02) 4201 1090
tgooley@biosis.com.au

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

Yours sincerely,



Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Research Assistant - Heritage

Stage 2 – Project information

Proposed development

Webber Architects on behalf of the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are proposing to undertake the Catherine McAuley Catholic College development project, located at 507 Medowie Road, Medowie (Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902). The development will include the following works:

- Demolition of existing dwelling, shed and out buildings.
- Construction of three stream primary school, seven stream high school, a place of worship, residential duplex and child care centre.
- Associated works including car park, retaining walls, landscaping, etc.
- Establishment and ongoing maintenance of Asset Protection Zones (APZs) necessary to meet bushfire protection requirements.

The project will be assessed as a State Significant Development under Section 89(c) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. The project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

Biosis has been engaged by Webber Architects to undertake the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the proposed development. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). This includes an Archaeological Report prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010). The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will inform Webber Architects of any potential for the proposed works to impact on or expose aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Study area

The study area is located in the suburb of Medowie within the Port Stephens Local Government Area (Figure 1). The study area, located at 507 Medowie Road and comprises of Lot 412 DP 1063902 and Lot 413 DP 1063902 (Figure 2).

Background

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register identified 35 Aboriginal archaeological sites located within a 5 x 5 kilometres search area that included the study area. Of the 35 archaeological sites identified, four AHIMS sites are located within the study area. Two of the sites identified are duplicate recordings (Figure 3). The AHIMS sites identified within the study area were recorded by Umwelt Pty Ltd in 2013 as part of the Tomago-Tomaree Electricity Supply Upgrades and are summarised below:

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1618 (TP5 and TP4)

Site 38-4-1618 is an open artefact site located within the study area, on a crest landform unit approximately 170 east of a drainage line associated with permanent swampland. The site is located approximately 1200 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection, on the west side of Medowie

Road. The site is located adjacent to the residential dwelling within the study area and an electrical substation located immediately to the north east of the study area.

Site 38-4-1618 was identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. Two 1x1 metre test pits spaced 75 metres apart were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. Two flakes and one broken flake were recovered and considered to be in-situ. Raw materials include ignimbrite, mudstone and silcrete. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1627 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power)

Site 38-4-1627 is an open artefact site identified within the lower slopes of a dune landform. This site was also identified during archaeological test excavations undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for electricity supply upgrade works conducted by Ausgrid. The site is located approximately 550 metres north-east of the Medowie Road and Richardson Road intersection. Two of the test pits are located on the west side of Medowie Road, and the third is located on the east, within an electricity easement. The two test pits conducted on the western side of Medowie Road are located within the study area.

Three 1x1 metre test pits were excavated at the proposed sites of electricity transmission poles. These test pits are located approximately 20 metres from a modified drainage line associated with permanent swampland. All artefacts identified during the excavation came from within the A2 sand horizons of the Tea Gardens soil landscape. The artefacts recovered were of tuff, silcrete and mudstone. Tool types varied from broken flakes, flakes, flaked pieces, and a single core. Manuports and retouched flakes were also recorded. The assessment concluded that it is likely this site extends beyond the areas tested during the test excavations.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1619 (TP7, TP9, TP10 – Medowie Power) - Duplicate of 38-4-1627

Site 38-4-1619 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1619.

AHIMS No.: 38-4-1628 (TP5) - Duplicate of 38-4-1618

Site 38-4-1628 is a duplicate recording of site 38-4-1618.

Stage 3 - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology

The assessment process includes the following tasks:

Background Research - COMPLETED

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

- A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- Review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.