Mobile: 0436 628 707

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Alison Fenwick

From: Tracey Howie <tracey@guringai.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 June 2020 1:18 PM
To: Ashley O'Sullivan; Kerrie Brauer; Amanda Hawken
Subject: Awabakal & Guringai Pty.Ltd. EOI John Hunter
Attachments: 4965_RAP_EOI_JohnHunter620.pdf

Hi Ashley,

Please find A& G's EOI attached below.
Cheers
Tracey

A W A B A K A L & G U R I N G A I

Tracey Howie | Director | Awabakal & Guringai Pty Ltd
ABN : 81 609 498 491 | ACN : 609 498 491
M : 0404 182 049 | E : tracey@guringai.com.au
PO Box 122 Rutherford NSW 2320 Australia

Alison Fenwick

From: Culture <culture@awabakallalc.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2020 2:34 PM
To: Ashley O'Sullivan
Cc: Alison Fenwick
Subject: RE: 4965 John Hunter Hospital - Methodology and Expression of Interest
Attachments: EOI - JH Hospital Upgrade.pdf; ALALC - Public Liabiltiy Cert.pdf; ALALC - Workers Comp Cert.pdf

Hi Ash
See attached fyi, Awabakal LALC's EOI & relevant insurances.

Regards

Peter Townsend
Culture & Heritage Officer

Ph: 02 49654532
Fax: 02 49654531
Mob: 0439217405

Yamadumarang - Yamakara, I am a Wiradjuri - Weilwan man. I acknowledge the traditional custodians, the land and waterways on which I reside and work on.

From: Ashley O'Sullivan <aosullivan@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2020 1:46 PM
To: Ashley O'Sullivan <aosullivan@umwelt.com.au>
Cc: Alison Fenwick <afenwick@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: 4965 John Hunter Hospital - Methodology and Expression of Interest

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the draft methodology and expression of interest for paid engagement for the proposed redevelopment of the John Hunter Hospital. I've also attached a word version of the EOI for you to complete if this is easier. You will also receive a hard copy of this document via the post. At the moment, NSW Health Infrastructure are proposing the following:

- A voluntary meeting to discuss the methodology, to be held virtually or via teleconference
- Paid engagement for select organisations to participate in the field survey of the project area

Please note that the project area encompasses the current John Hunter Hospital, and if you feel uncomfortable with participating in the field survey due to the current concerns around Covid-19, please let us know.

The details of the meeting are TBC, and I'll send a calendar invite out when this is proposed. It is likely that we will hold the meeting somewhere between the closure of the EOI period and the closure of the methodology review

period, to appropriately capture everyone's comments. Please note at this stage, our methodology allows for the completion of survey of the project area, and provisions for test excavations are not yet included. The requirement for test excavations will be determined as a result of the survey of the project area.

As part of the selection process for the paid engagement, please return the attached expression of interest form by no later than **1 July 2020**. Please note that organisations who do not return the EOI document will not be considered for paid engagement, but voluntary opportunities to participate in the field investigation will be provided to all RAPs of the project. The comment period of the draft methodology for this project will close on **15 July 2020**.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Alison.

Thanks,
Ashley

Ashley O'Sullivan
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
75 York Street
Teralba, NSW 2284

Phone: (02) 4950 5322
Mobile: 0436 628 707

www.umwelt.com.au

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Alison Fenwick

From: Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated <lowerhunterai@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2020 7:55 PM
To: Ashley O'Sullivan
Subject: Re: 4965 John Hunter Hospital - Methodology and Expression of Interest
Attachments: Scan.jpeg

Hi Ashley

Attached is expression of interest for field work at John Hunter Hospital project.

On Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 1:46 PM Ashley O'Sullivan <aosullivan@umwelt.com.au> wrote:

> Good Afternoon,
>
> Please find attached the draft methodology and expression of interest for paid engagement for the proposed redevelopment of the John Hunter Hospital. I've also attached a word version of the EOI for you to complete if this is easier. You will also receive a hard copy of this document via the post. At the moment, NSW Health Infrastructure are proposing the following:
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> Please note that the project area encompasses the current John Hunter Hospital, and if you feel uncomfortable with participating in the field survey due to the current concerns around Covid-19, please let us know.
>
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>
> If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Alison.

Thanks,

Ashley

Ashley O'Sullivan
Senior Archaeologist

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Mobile: 0436 628 707

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--
Thank You David Ahoy
Sites Manager
LHAI
Mobile 0421329520

Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated

5 Killara Drive
Cardiff South NSW 2285
ABN: 8192 4628 138
Email: *lowerhunterai@gmail.com*

Alison Fenwick

From: Scott Franks <scott@tocomwall.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 9:52 AM
To: Ashley O'Sullivan
Subject: Re: 4965 John Hunter

Ashley,

Thank you for the email. I would like to confirm that the John Hunter Hospital project is not within Wonnarua lands, Tocomwall Pty Limited on the behalf of the PCWP do not wish to be involved in this project.

Regards
Scott Franks

Native Title & Environmental Services Consultant

Tocomwall Pty Ltd
PO Box 76
CARINGBAH NSW 1495
m: 0404 171544
e: scott@tocomwall.com.au
www.tocomwall.com.au

From: Ashley O'Sullivan <aosullivan@umwelt.com.au>
Date: Wednesday, 24 June 2020 at 9:45 am
To: Scott Franks <scott@tocomwall.com.au>
Subject: 4965 John Hunter

Hey Scott,

Received your voicemail last night re: John Hunter. Thanks for the update, I'll note that you'll be withdrawing your interest in the project.

Thanks,
Ashley

Ashley O'Sullivan
Senior Archaeologist

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

75 York Street
Teralba, NSW 2284

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Alison Fenwick

From: Ashley O'Sullivan
Sent: Tuesday, 23 June 2020 10:08 AM
To: Alison Fenwick
Subject: FW: 4965 John Hunter Hospital - Methodology and Expression of Interest
Attachments: Certificate of currency - Workers Compensation 2020.pdf; Public Liability 08112020.pdf; RAPs_EOI_Final_P4.pdf

Ashley O'Sullivan
Senior Archaeologist

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Newcastle ph. 02 4950 5322 | **Perth** ph. 08 6260 0700 | **Canberra** ph. 02 6262 9484 | **Sydney** ph. 1300 793 267 | **Brisbane** ph. 1300 793 267

From: Worimi TOC <worimitoc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 22 June 2020 7:46 PM
To: Ashley O'Sullivan <aosullivan@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: Re: 4965 John Hunter Hospital - Methodology and Expression of Interest

Hi Ashley,

Please see attached EOI and current certificates.

Cheers,
Candy

Candy Towers

Worimi Custodian

Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation

ph: 0412 475 362

e: worimitoc@hotmail.com

Guudji Yiigu, I am a Worimi and Yorta Yorta woman from Newcastle NSW, I acknowledge and pay my respects to the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which I live and work, to their continuing connection to land, water, culture and community and pay my respects to the Elders past, present and to our future generations.

From: Ashley O'Sullivan <aosullivan@umwelt.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2020 1:46 PM
To: Ashley O'Sullivan <aosullivan@umwelt.com.au>
Cc: Alison Fenwick <afenwick@umwelt.com.au>
Subject: 4965 John Hunter Hospital - Methodology and Expression of Interest

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If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Alison.

Thanks,
Ashley

Ashley O'Sullivan
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Alison Fenwick

From: WIDESCOPE . <widescope.group@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, 25 June 2020 3:26 PM
To: Ashley O'Sullivan
Subject: Engagement for survey as a component of Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment John Hunter Health and Innovation
Attachments: EOI Pro forma John Hunter Health And Innovation.pdf; WIG Public Liability Insurance 2019.2020 .pdf; WIG Workers Comp 2019-2020.jpg

Hi Ashley,

Please see attached Expression Of Interest – Engagement Application, and Current Insurances
Thank you.

Regards
Steven Hickey

umwelt
Environmental & Social Consultants

JOHN HUNTER HEALTH AND INNOVATION PRECINCT

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

DRAFT

September 2020

JOHN HUNTER HEALTH AND INNOVATION PRECINCT

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

DRAFT

Prepared by
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
on behalf of
NSW Health Infrastructure

Project Director:	Nicola Roche
Project Manager:	Ashley O'Sullivan
Report No.	4965/R01/V2
Date:	September 2020

umwelt
Environmental & Social Consultants

Newcastle

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Document Status

Rev No.	Reviewer		Approved for Issue	
	Name	Date	Name	Date
1	Nicola Roche	16 September 2020	Nicola Roche	16 September 2020
2	Ashley O'Sullivan	18 September 2020	Ashley O'Sullivan	18 September 2020

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Appendices

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview

The NSW Government provided pre-planning funds for a number of Hospital redevelopments across the state in the NSW Budget 2018/19. The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct Project was one of these. In June 2019, the NSW Government announced a significant expansion of the John Hunter Hospital with the $780 million John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct (JHHIP) project. The Investment Decision Paper defines a capital cost of $780 million as a first stage of redevelopment of the campus.

The JHHIP will deliver updated and enhanced facilities providing additional capacity to meet the demand of the Greater Newcastle, Hunter New England, and northern NSW Regions. The JHHIP will enable a more integrated service encouraging partnership with key health, education and research partners from within and beyond the immediate region.

The objectives of the Project are to:

- To develop services around patient and staff needs.
- Meet current and future growth of acute services as the northern NSW tertiary referral hospital.
- Update and replace aged and poor infrastructure enabling the implementation of contemporary models of care.
- Create an integrated campus for clinical innovation, education and research.
- Support core clinical relationships.
- Provide an environment that enables contemporary patient focussed service delivery.
- Transform service delivery necessary to respond to future demands and evolving models of care.
- Enable and support precinct growth.
- Develop and support a master plan beyond 2031.
- Maximise value for investment.
- Minimise disruption and maintain business continuity.
- Provide culturally appropriate and contemporary services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population.
- Provide short-term accommodation for staff and families from across northern NSW whilst accessing tertiary services.

The project will realise the economic, liveability and research potential of the Precinct through:

- Attraction of new investment and partnership opportunities between multiple levels of Government, universities, research institutes and the private sector.
- The creation of an employment and education pipeline.
- Establishment of global relationships that will provide ongoing regional benefit.

1.2 Subject Site

The John Hunter Health Campus (JHHC) is located on Lookout Road, Lambton Heights, within the City of Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 8km west of the Newcastle CBD. The hospital campus is located approximately 3.5km north of Kotara railway station.

The JHHC comprises the John Hunter Hospital (JHH), John Hunter Children's Hospital (JHCH), Royal Newcastle Centre (RNC), the Rankin Park Rehabilitation Unit and the Nexus Unit (Children & Adolescent Mental Health Unit). JHHC is a Level 6 Principal Referral Hospital, providing the clinical hub for medical, surgical, child and maternity services within the Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) and across northern NSW through established referral networks. Other services at the campus are the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), Newcastle Private Hospital and the HNELHD Headquarters.

1.3 Concept Proposal and Stage 1 Enabling Works

This component seeks approval for a Concept proposal and Stage 1 Development Application for site establishment and clearing works for the JHHIP Project.

The concept proposal includes for a new Acute Services Building (ASB) plus basement car parking.

Enabling works included in this development application include:

- Establishing access to the Project site and general establishment
- Site preparation including bulk earthworks, environmental clearing, cut and fill
- Mines grouting remediation works
- Shoring and building foundations
- Construction of internal roads network and construction access roads
- Connection to the future Newcastle Inner City Bypass and
- Inground building services works and utility adjustments.

A detailed project description is provided within the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Ethos Urban.

1.4 Stage 2 SSDA

Stage 2 (which will be subject to a separate application following Concept and Enabling Works), would include the detailed design, construction and operation of the Acute Services Building (including connections to the existing Hospital, public domain improvements and refurbishment of existing hospital facilities. Stage 2 will be subject to a separate application following the Concept Proposal and Stage 1 Enabling Work application.

1.5 Objectives of this Assessment

Health Infrastructure have engaged Umwelt Environmental and Social Consultants (Umwelt) to prepare the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support the proposed Concept Proposal and Stage 1 Enabling Works and Stage 2 SSDA. The proposed redevelopment consists of areas within of Lot 9 and 11 DP 826092, Lot 41 DP 1176191, Lot 202 1176551, Lots 1 and 2 DP 1228246. The locality of the Project Area is shown in **Figure 1.1** with the Project Area for this assessment and maximum footprint (allowing for further modification if required) shown in **Figure 1.2.**

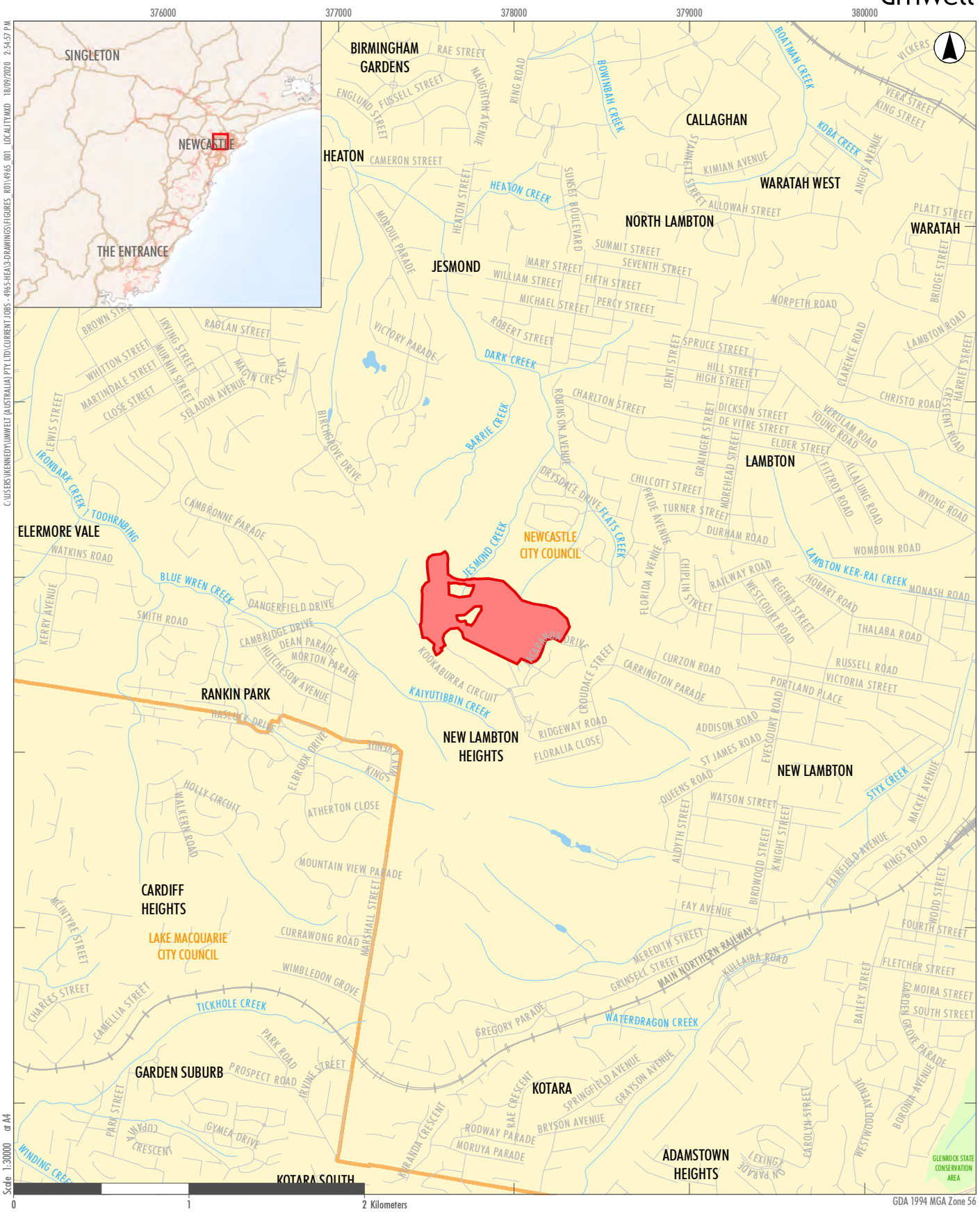
The primary objective of this ACHA is to ensure that the Aboriginal cultural values of the Project Area are appropriately documented and assessed with reference to the approach specified in *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW*, the consultation requirements and with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010c) (the Code of Practice).

Aboriginal people are the primary determinants of the cultural significance of their heritage. This ACHA is prepared to ensure that the information provided by registered Aboriginal parties is documented and presented in a manner that informs decision making on the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Project Area, whilst ensuring that the required archaeological information is also appropriately documented.

This assessment has been prepared in accordance with Clause 61 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NPW Regulation) and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011), with all consultation undertaken in accordance with Clause 60 of *NPW Regulation* and the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a) (the consultation requirements), as documented in **Appendix 1**. The ACHA incorporates required archaeological technical information in accordance with the Code of Practice. The completion of this assessment addresses the requirements established in the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which states that the Environmental Impact Statement and the supporting ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid any impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes (if necessary). In order to demonstrate how this ACHA meets these objectives, **Table 1.1** documents the required components with reference to the section of this document in which they are addressed, and **Table 1.2** lists the relevant SEARs and where they are addressed.

Within the draft report supplied to the registered Aboriginal parties for review and comment, Umwelt has documented the outcomes of all consultation undertaken with registered Aboriginal parties to date. It was emphasised during the consultation process that the registered Aboriginal parties have primary responsibility for assessing the cultural significance of the lands for which they are traditional custodians and/or to which they have contemporary connection.

Summary of comments received from the Aboriginal parties will be provided here.



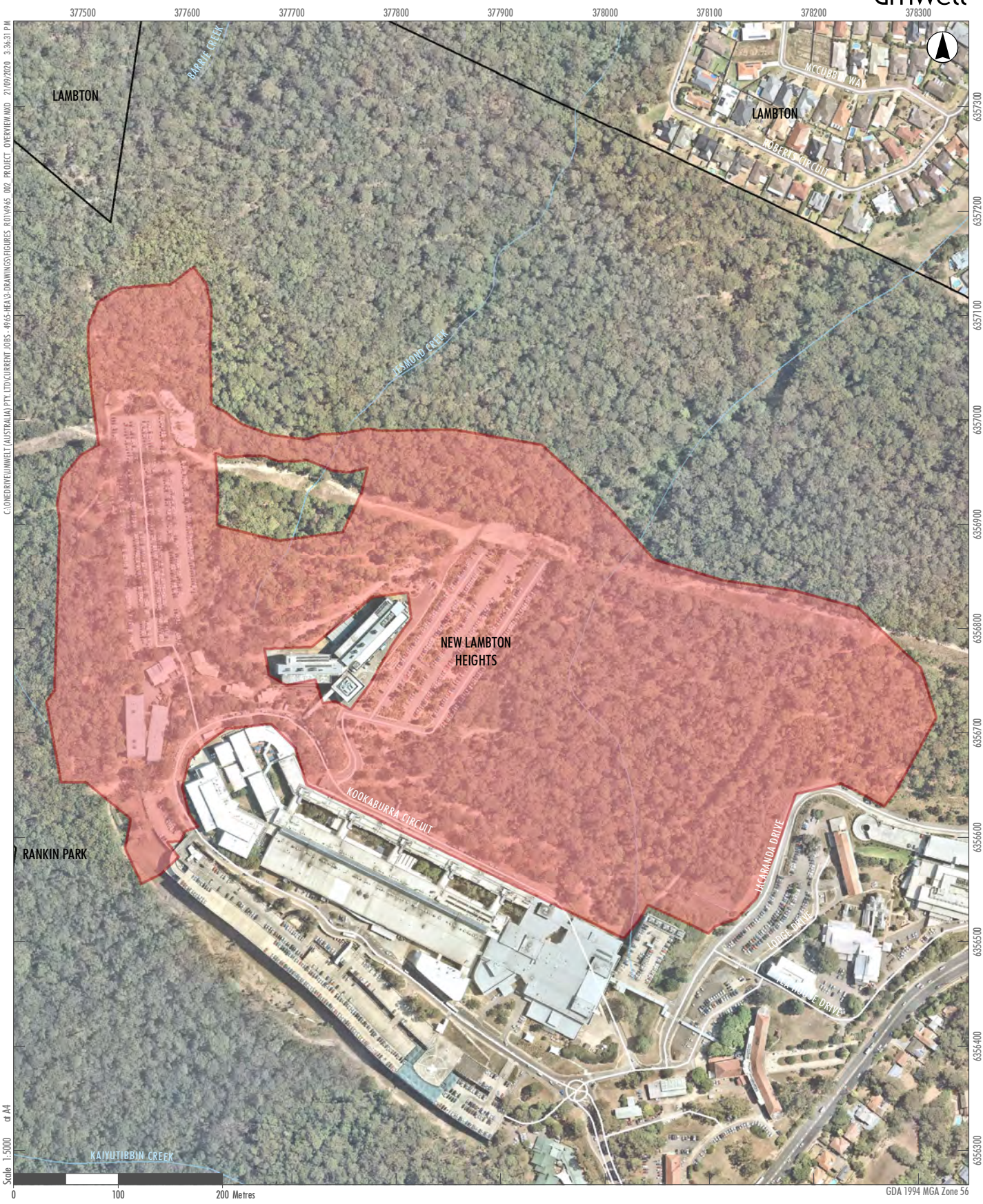
Legend

- Project Area
- Local Government Boundary
- National Parks (NPWS Estate)
- Road
- Drainage Line
- Railway Line

FIGURE 1.1

Locality Plan

Image Source: Data source: Geoscience Australia; Forestry Corporation of NSW (2019); DSFI (2017); NPWS Estate (2019)



Legend

- Project Area
- Drainage Line

FIGURE 1.2

Project Overview

Image Source: Data source:

Table 1.1 Required Information

Required Information (Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment)	Relevant Section	Required Information (Aboriginal archaeological assessment)	Relevant Section
Introduction	1.0	Introduction	1.0
Description of the area	4.0, 5.0, 6.0	Investigator and contributors	1.3
Consultation process	3.0	Description of Proposal	1.3,1.4
Summary and analysis of background information	5.3	Landscape context	4.0
Cultural heritage values and statement of significance	7.0	Previous archaeological work and regional character	5.0
Avoiding and/or mitigating harm	8.0, 9.0	Predictions	5.5
Recommendations	9.0	Sampling strategy and field methods	6.0
		Results	6.0
		Analysis and discussion	5.3
		Scientific values and significance assessment	7.2
		Impact assessment	8.0
		Management and mitigation measures	9.0
		Recommendations	9.0

Table 1.2 Table Outlining where SEARs requirements are addressed

Item	SEARs Requirement	Relevant Sections
1.0	Identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the whole area that will be affected by the development and document these in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation. Identify and address the Aboriginal cultural heritage values in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011) and *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (OEH, 2010). Undertake consultation with Aboriginal people and document in accordance with *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW). The significance of cultural heritage values of Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land are to be documented in the ACHAR. Identify, assess and document all impacts on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the ACHAR. The EIS and the supporting ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid any impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes. Where impacts are unavoidable, the ACHAR and EIS must outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to OEH.	2.0 – 9.0
2.0	Address Aboriginal Cultural Heritage relevant to Stage 1 works in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011) and *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW).	2.0 – 9.0

1.6 Project Team and Report Authors

This report (including facilitating the recording of Aboriginal cultural input) was prepared by Ashley O'Sullivan (Senior Archaeologist) and Alison Fenwick (Archaeologist) with QA review undertaken by Nicola Roche (Manager, Cultural Heritage). All participation and input from registered Aboriginal parties is documented in **Section 3.0**.

2.0 Relevant Legislation

The management and conservation of heritage is subject to a range of statutory provisions under NSW legislation. In NSW, Aboriginal archaeological remains and heritage items are afforded statutory protection under the following Acts:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act).
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (the NPW Act)
- *Heritage Act 1977* (the Heritage Act).

2.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act regulates development activity in NSW. The project has been designated as SSD in accordance with the provisions of the EP&A Act. The project is the subject of SEARs, which establish the assessment requirements. This assessment is prepared to address these requirements.

It is noted that Division 4.41 (d) of the EP&A Act specifies that it is not necessary to obtain an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act (refer to **Section 2.2**) for designated State Significant Development. Projects approved as State Significant Development under the EP&A Act are subject to conditions of approval issued by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and (where relevant) Aboriginal cultural heritage is addressed by appropriate conditions.

2.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

NSW Heritage, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (NSW Heritage) is primarily responsible for regulating the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales under the NPW Act. The NPW Act is accompanied by the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (the Regulation) and a range of codes and guides including the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011), the consultation requirements and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b).

The NPW Act defines an Aboriginal object as:

> *..any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales.*

Under Section 84 of the NPW Act, an Aboriginal Place must be declared by the Minister as a place that, in the opinion of the Minister, is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. Section 86(4) of the NPW Act states that a person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal place.

In accordance with Section 86(1) of the NPW Act, it is an offence to harm or desecrate a known Aboriginal object, whilst it is also an offence to harm an Aboriginal object under Section 86(2). Harm to an object or place is defined as any act or omission that:

- *destroys, defaces or damages an object or place, or*
- *in relation to an object – moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or*
- *is specified by the regulations, or*

- *causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c),*

but does not include any act or omission that:

- *desecrates the object or place (noting that desecration constitutes a separate offence to harm), or*
- *is trivial or negligible, or*
- *is excluded from this definition by the regulations.*

Section 87(1) of the NPW Act specifies that it is a defence to prosecution under Section 86(1) and Section 86(2) if the harm or desecration of an Aboriginal object was authorised by an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) and the activities were carried out in accordance with that AHIP. Section 87(2,4) establishes that it is a defence to prosecution under Section 86(2) (the strict liability offence) if due diligence is exercised to reasonably determine that the activity or omission is a low impact act or omission. The NPW Regulation specifies that compliance with the due diligence code is taken to constitute due diligence in determining whether a proposed activity will harm an Aboriginal object. The Regulation identifies that compliance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b – hereafter referred to as the code of practice) is excluded from the definition of harm.

2.3 Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) is administered by NSW Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage, DPC) (formerly the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)). The purpose of the Heritage Act is to ensure cultural heritage in NSW is adequately identified and conserved. The Heritage Act is the primary item of State legislation affording protection to items of environmental heritage (natural and cultural) in NSW. Under the Heritage Act 'items of environmental heritage' include places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic values. State significant items are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) and are given automatic protection against any activities that may damage an item or place or affect its heritage and/or archaeological significance.

The Heritage Council of NSW, appointed by the Minister, is responsible for heritage in NSW, as constituted under the Heritage Act. The Council is a cross-section of heritage experts, with Heritage, DPC being the operational arm of the Council. Certain provisions of the Act may be applicable to land that is divested from Commonwealth ownership if it is known or likely to contain elements of heritage or archaeological significance.

2.4 Other Relevant Legislation

2.4.1 Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)

The *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) recognises that Aboriginal people have rights and interests to land and waters which derive from their traditional laws and customs. Native Title may be recognised in places where Indigenous people continue to follow their traditional laws and customs and have maintained a link with their traditional country. It can be negotiated through a Native Title Claim, Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) or future Act agreements.

An ILUA is an agreement between a native title group and other parties who use or manage the land and waters. The ILUA process allows for negotiation between indigenous groups and other parties over the use and management of land and water resources, and the ability to establish a formal agreement. An ILUA is binding once is has been registered on the Native Title Tribunal's Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

3.0 Aboriginal Consultation

Aboriginal people are the primary determinants of the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places. Consultation with Aboriginal parties is therefore required to document the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places and to obtain an Aboriginal cultural perspective on determining and carrying out appropriate strategies to mitigate impacts to Aboriginal heritage. In accordance with current requirements and expectations, consultation with Aboriginal parties regarding the proposal was undertaken in accordance with the relevant aspects of Division 2, Clause 60 of the NPW Regulation and the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW 2010a). The Aboriginal party consultation process and the outcomes of consultation regarding the proposal are documented in this report as required by the *Guide to investigating assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The identification and registration of Aboriginal parties who identified an interest in being consulted regarding the Project was conducted concurrently for the proposed Concept Proposal and Stage 1 Enabling Works and Stage 2 SSDAs and was undertaken in accordance with Division 2, Clause 60. As a result of this process, 17 Aboriginal parties registered an interest in ongoing consultation regarding the Project (with one party subsequently withdrawing their registration).

The consultation process is documented in **Table 3.1** and **Appendix 1** with reference to the defined consultation stages as specified in the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents*.

3.1 Consultation Stage 1 - Notification and Registration

Notifications were developed and the registration of Aboriginal parties was completed in accordance with Part 5, Division 2 Clause 60 of the Regulation). As a result of the project notification and registration process, 17 Aboriginal parties registered an interest in ongoing consultation regarding the project. These parties are:

- A1 Indigenous Services
- Aliera French Trading
- Awabakal & Guringai Pty Ltd
- Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners
- Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
- D F T V Enterprises
- Divine Diggers Aboriginal Cultural Consultants
- Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation
- Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated

- Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation
- Wattaka Wonnarua CC Service
- Widescope Indigenous Group
- Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation
- Yarrawalk (A division of Tocomwall Pty Ltd), Tocomwall Pty Ltd on behalf of Scott Franks and Anor on behalf of the Plains Clans of the Wonnarua People NSD1680/2013
- Yinarr Cultural Services

Information received from Scott Franks (Yarrawalk / Tocomwall) on 24 June 2020 advised that their registration was in error and they no longer wished to be involved in the project, as it was outside of the PCWP area of interest.

3.2 Consultation Stages 2 and 3 – Presenting information and gathering information about cultural significance

Correspondence providing information about the proposed project and requesting information about cultural significance was provided to all registered Aboriginal parties. It included a proposed methodology for a cultural heritage survey and an invitation for input in relation to developing an understanding of the cultural values of the Project Area and the ways in which these values may be identified during the field assessment activities.

The registered Aboriginal parties were requested to provide comment on the draft cultural heritage survey methodology. Responses providing registrations of interest to undertake survey were received from:

- A1 Indigenous Services Pty Ltd
- Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (ADTOAC)
- Awabakal and Guringai
- Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council (Awabakal LALC)
- Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (ATOAC)
- Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated
- Tocomwall (later withdrew from the project)
- Widescope
- Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation

Two comments were received on the methodology, from Awabakal LALC and ATOAC. Both comments were supportive of the proposed approach for the assessment and survey methodology.

All organisations that registered an interest in the project were provided the opportunity to participate in field investigation. Of the above organisations, the following participated in the survey of the Project Area:

- ADTOAC
- Awabakal and Guringai
- Awabakal LALC
- ATOAC
- Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated
- Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation

3.3 Consultation Stage 4 – Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report

The draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was provided to all the registered Aboriginal parties on 21 September 2020 for review and comment.

A summary of the comments received on the draft assessment will be provided here.

Table 3.1 Summary of Aboriginal Party Consultation

Date	Type of Consultation	Agencies/Aboriginal Parties Contacted	Outcomes	Notes
21/04/2020	Provision of proposal notification letter requesting identification of any parties who may hold knowledge relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage within the project area	Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment	Email response 28/4/2020	Provided RAP listing
		Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email response 20/4/2020	Registered interest
		National Native Title Tribunal	Email response 16/4/2020	Not able to assist due to the project being Cultural Heritage not Native Title. Search of NNTT confirmed that no active registrations were present over the Project Area.
		NSW Native Title Services/NTS Corp	Auto-response 16/4/2020	No further correspondence
		Office of the Registrar: *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW)	No response received	No further correspondence
		City of Newcastle	Auto-response 16/4/2020	No further correspondence
		Local Land Services-Hunter	Email response 16/4/2020	Registered interest
	Public advertisement providing notification of assessment and opportunity to register interest for on-going consultation	Newcastle Herald	Posted in the Newcastle Herald on 7/5/2020	
7/05/2020	Letter to known Aboriginal parties to invite registrations of interest in the project	Awabakal and Guringai Pty Ltd	Email response 11/5/2020	Registered interest
		Tocomwall	Email response 11/5/2020	Registered interest
		Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation	Email response 11/5/2020	Registered interest
		Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated	Email response 8/5/2020	Registered interest
		Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council	Email response 8/5/2020	Registered interest

Date	Type of Consultation	Agencies/Aboriginal Parties Contacted	Outcomes	Notes
		Divine Diggers Aboriginal Cultural Consultants	Email response 8/5/2020	Registered interest
		Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Email response 7/5/2020	Registered interest
		Widescope Indigenous Group	Email response 14/5/2020	Registered interest
		Wattaka Wonnarua CC Services	Email response 14/5/2020	Registered interest
		DFTV Enterprises	Email response 15/5/2020	Registered interest
		Yinarr Cultural Services	Email response 16/5/2020	Registered interest
		Aliera French Trading	Email response23/5/2020	Registered interest
		Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation	Email response 19/5/2020	Registered interest
		Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Email response 18/5/2020	Registered interest
		A1 Indigenous Services	Email response 24/5/2020	Registered interest
		ADTOAC	Phone call response 21/5/2020	Registered interest
		ATOAC	Email response 21/5/2020	Registered interest
		Mur-Roo-Ma Inc	Email response 12/5/2020	Anthony Anderson from Mur-Roo-Ma confirmed that this project was outside of their area of interest
		AGA Services	No response	
		Arwarbukarl Cultural Resource Association, Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre	No response	
		B-H Heritage Consultants	No response	
		Cacatua Culture Consultants	No response	
		Crimson-Rosie	No response	

Date	Type of Consultation	Agencies/Aboriginal Parties Contacted	Outcomes	Notes
		Deslee Talbott Consultants	No response	
		Didge Ngunawal Clan	No response	
		Gidawaa Walang and Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc.	No response	
		Hunter Valley Cultural Surveying	No response	
		Indigenous Learning	No response	
		Jarban and Mugrebea	No response	
		Jumbunna Traffic Management Group Pty Ltd	No response	
		Kauma Pondee Inc	No response	
		Kawul Cultural Services	No response	
		Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites	No response	
		Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services	No response	
		Michael Green Cultural Heritage Management Consultant	No response	
		Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council	No response	
		Myland Cultural and Heritage Group	No response	
		Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd	No response	
		Roger Matthews Consultancy	No response	
		Wonnarua Culture Heritage	No response	
		Wonnarua Elders Council	No response	

Date	Type of Consultation	Agencies/Aboriginal Parties Contacted	Outcomes	Notes
		Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council	No response	Contacted by mistake, and confirmed through follow-up correspondence
17/06/2020	Provision of assessment methodology to registered Aboriginal parties for comment	Awabakal Local Land Council	Email response 17/6/2020	Received expression of interest, public liability certificate and workers compensation form
		Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation	Email response 22/6/2020	Received expression of interest, public liability certificate and works insurance form
		ATOAC	Email response 30/6/2020	Received expression of interest, public liability certificate and workers insurance form
		Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated	Email response 30/6/2020	Received expression of interest
		ADTOAC	Email response 30/6/2020	Received expression of interest, schedule of fee's, workers compensation form and workers insurance form
		Awabakal and Guringai PTY Ltd	Email response 29/6/2020	Received expression of interest, public liability certificate and workers insurance form
		A1 Indigenous Services	Email response 28/6/2020	Received expression of interest, workers compensation form and workers insurance form
		Widescope Indigenous Group	email response 25/6/2020	Received expression of interest, public liability certificate
		Tocomwall	Email response 24/6/2020	Notified Umwelt that they no longer wished to be consulted on the project

Date	Type of Consultation	Agencies/Aboriginal Parties Contacted	Outcomes	Notes
	Draft Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report provided to registered Aboriginal parties for review and comment			

4.0 Environmental Context

The decisions that people make regarding such things as where they live, the range of resources they use and other aspects of daily life may be influenced by the environment in which they live. The preservation and visibility of sites is also affected by environmental factors such as vegetation cover, past land-use and disturbance.

A review of the environmental context of the Project Area is therefore integral to considerations of the Aboriginal archaeological material likely to be located in the Project Area and its potential integrity.

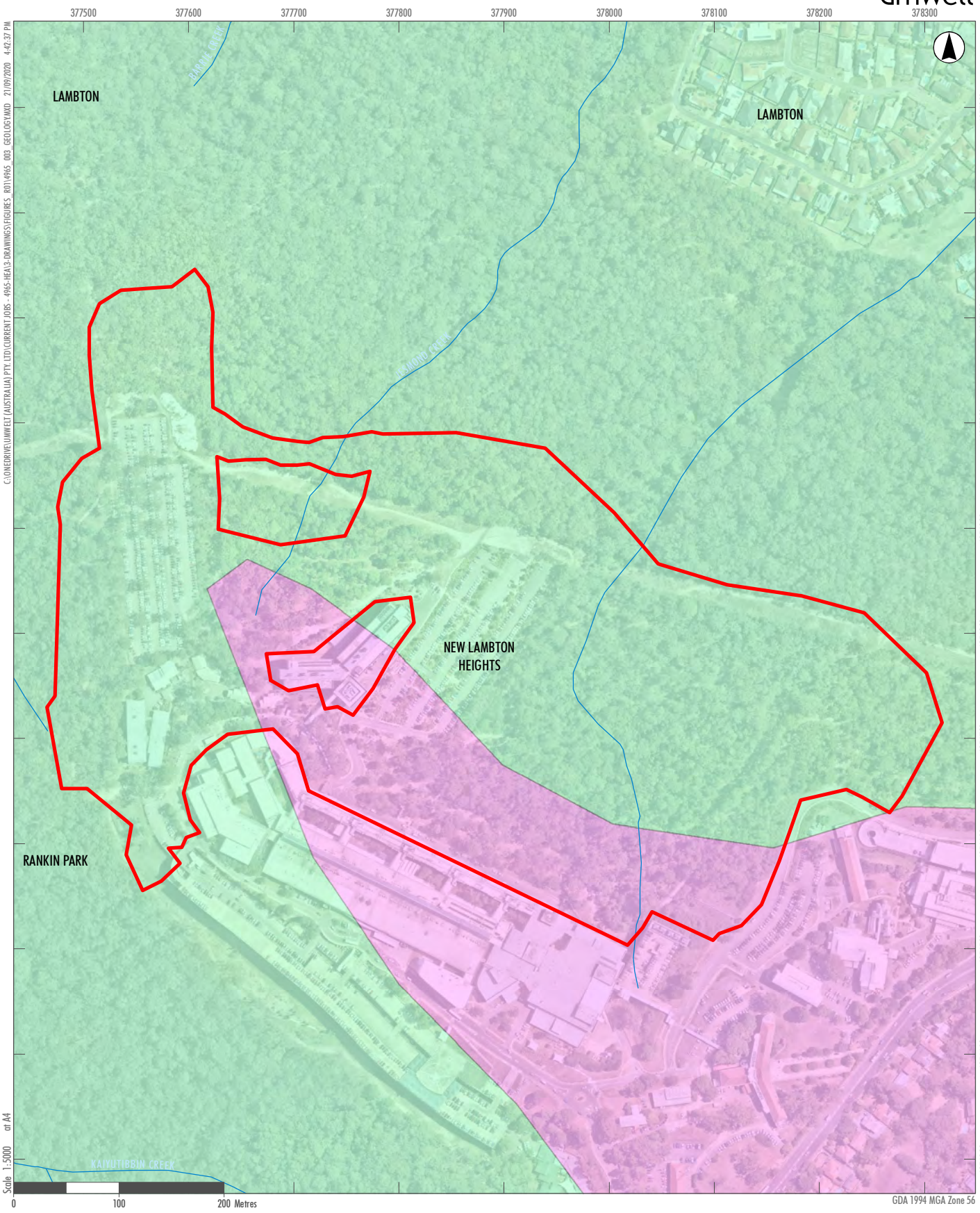
4.1 Soil and Geology

The Project Area is located within the Lower Hunter Valley, a northern physiogeographic region of the Sydney Basin. The underlying geology of the Project Area comprises the Lambton Subgroup (northern extent of the Project Area) and the Adamstown Subgroup (southern extent and majority of the Project Area) of the Newcastle Coal Measures (**Figure 4.1**). The Lambton Subgroup is characterised by sandstone, siltstone, claystone, coal and tuffaceous sandstone, and is located in lower elevations of ridgelines in the local area. The Adamstown Subgroup comprises conglomerate, tuff, sandstone, siltstone, claystone and black coal and is located in the highest elevations of the local area.

The Project Area is entirely underlain by the Killingworth Soil Landscape (including Variant A), shown in **Figure 4.2**. The Killingsworth soil landscape can be described as undulating to rolling hills and low hills, generally at an elevation of 50-160m with local relief of 30-100m. Slopes within this soil landscape vary between 3% and 20%, with slopes steeper than 20% generally considered variant A of the soil landscape. Killingworth is an erosional soil landscape (particularly susceptible to water erosion), which primarily comprises shallow (up to 60cm, on crests and hillslopes) to moderately deep (150cm, primarily in drainage lines) topsoil. Areas within variant A of the Killingworth soil landscape generally are considered to have no more than 60cm of topsoil. This topsoil is made up of a brownish black pedal loam (A_1, usually 5-25cm) that overlies a bleached hardsetting loamy sand to sandy clay loam (A_2, usually 10-150cm). These topsoils generally overlie a pedal yellowish-brown clay (B horizon) (eSpade, 2020).

4.2 Hydrology

Two waterways originate in the Project Area, these being Jesmond Creek (easternmost waterway) and an unnamed tributary of Flats Creek, as shown in **Figure 4.3**. Both of these creeklines are non-perennial and are considered to have a limited catchment area. Higher order watercourses in proximity to the Project Area include Dark Creek to the north, Ironbark Creek to the west and Styx Creek to the east. Ironbark Creek and Styx Creek are both perennial waterways, with Ironbark Creek forming the largest tidal creek catchment in the city of Newcastle. The largest perennial source of freshwater within the vicinity of the site is the Hexham Swamp, currently a part of the Hunter Wetlands National Park and at a distance of 7 kilometres north from the Project Area. It is likely that Aboriginal people utilised these major waterways for access to water and subsistence practices.



Legend

- Project Area
- Drainage Line

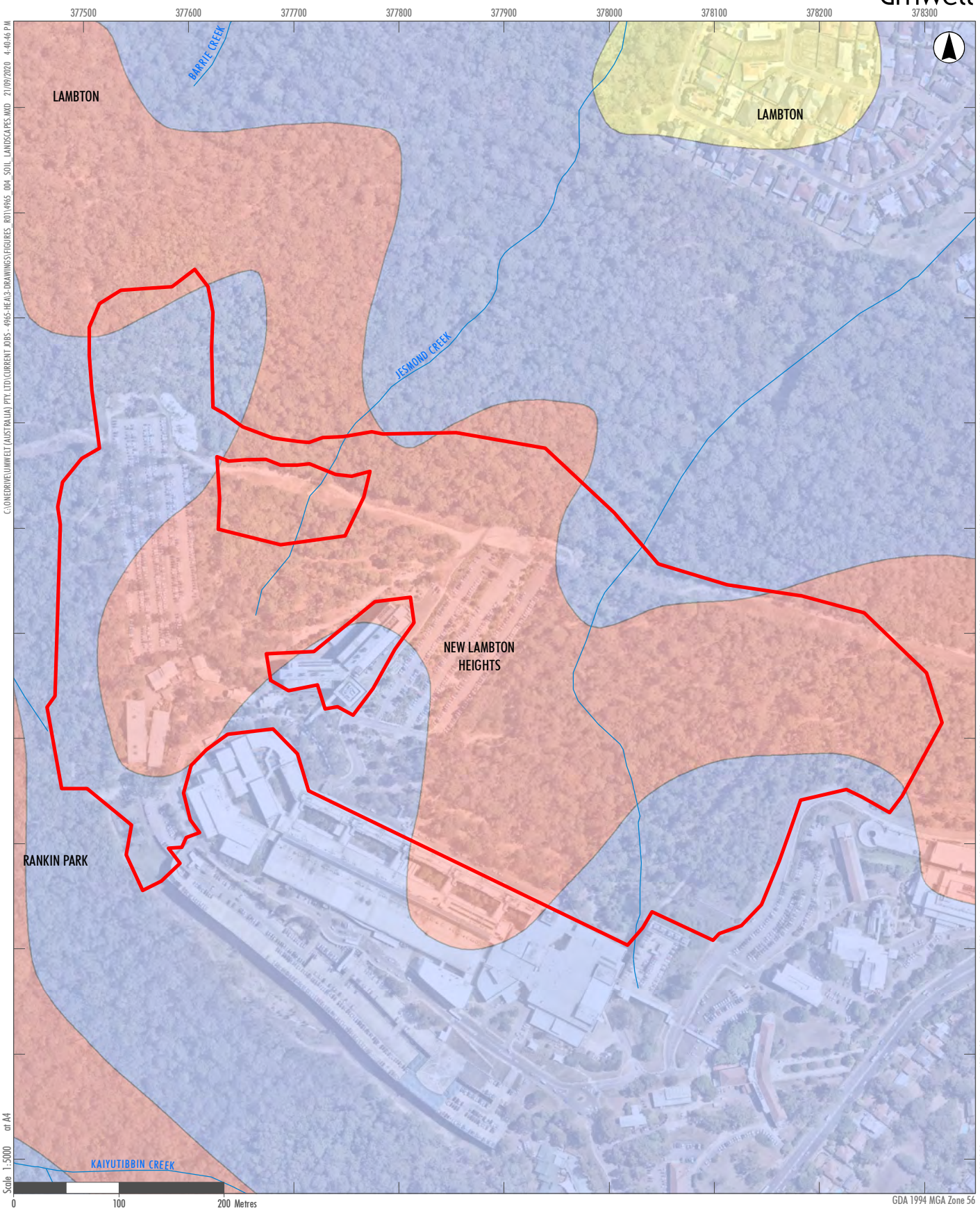
Geological Units:

- Pna
- Pnl

FIGURE 4.1

Geology

Image Source: Nearmap (2020) Data source: Mineral Resources NSW (2003)



Legend

Project Area

Drainage Line

Soil Landscape:

Disturbed Terrain

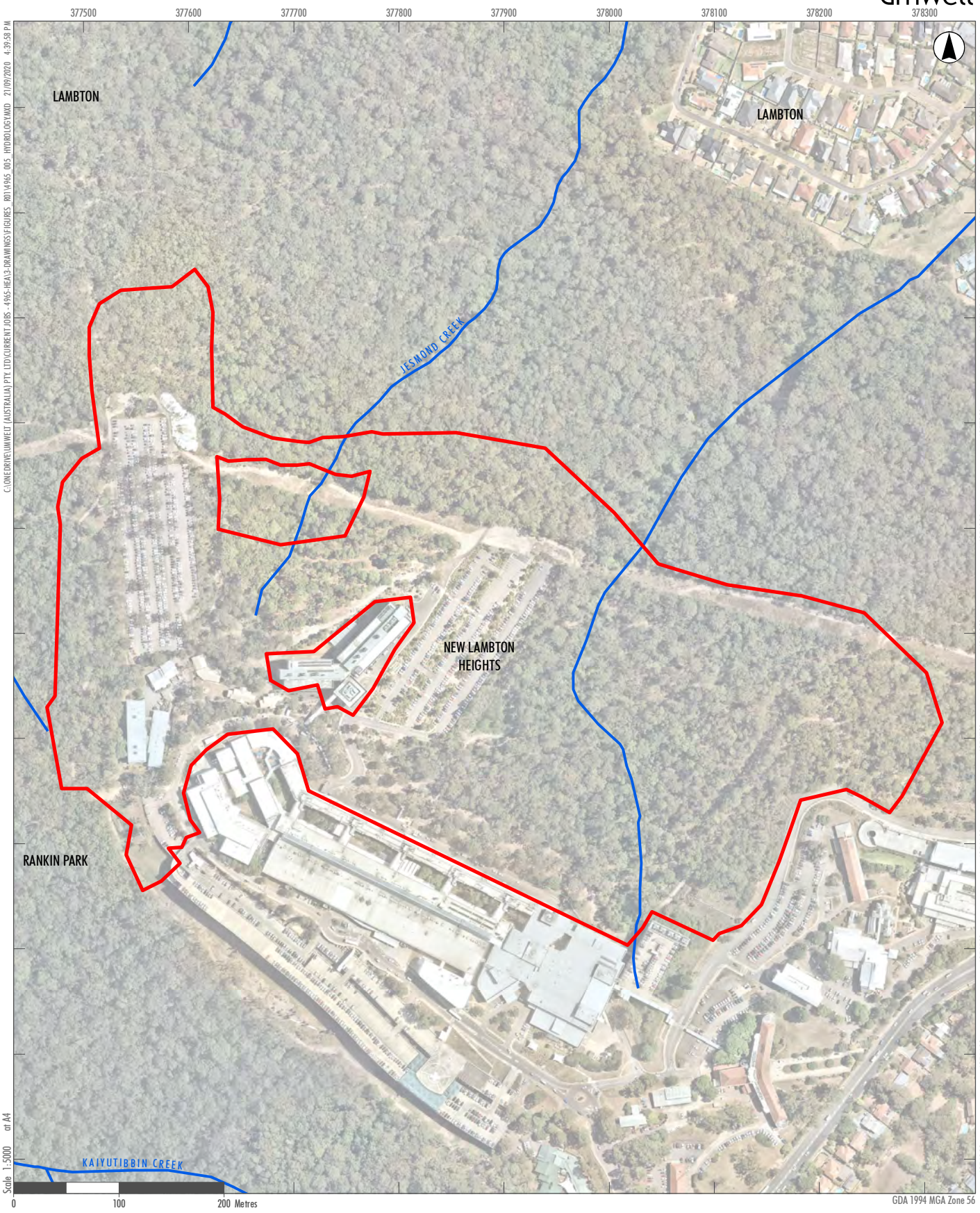
Killingworth

Killingworth (Variant)

FIGURE 4.2

Soil Landscapes

Image Source: Data source:



Legend

- Project Area
- Drainage Line

FIGURE 4.3

Hydrology

Image Source: Data source:

4.3 Flora and Fauna

Detailed ecological assessment of the Project Area has been undertaken both for the JHHIP project and the Newcastle Inner City Bypass that borders the project area to the west. The following reports and databases were reviewed by Umwelt (2020) in order to determine the likely vegetation communities occurring within the Project Area. The literature review included consideration of the following:

- A search of the Bionet Atlas of NSW Wildlife and the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) Protected Matters Database, within a 10 kilometre radius of the Project Area to identify threatened and migratory species, endangered populations and Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) previously recorded within the locality. The objective of the database searches is to identify threatened listings that could potentially occur but are difficult to detect without extensive and seasonal survey effort
- Umwelt Environmental Consultants 2006, Ecological Constraints for a Proposed New Route for State Highway 23 between Rankin Park and Jesmond. An unpublished Report prepared for the Roads and Traffic Authority, February 2006
- Parsons Brinckerhoff 2014, Newcastle Inner City Bypass, Rankin Park to Jesmond Preliminary Environmental Investigation
- GHD 2016, Newcastle Inner City Bypass, Rankin Park to Jesmond Biodiversity Assessment Report.

Following the review, the vegetation within the Project Area was stratified into preliminary Plant Community Types (PCTs) that were then sampled during field surveys.

Table 4.1 Plant Community Types within the Project Area

PCT ID	PCT Name_Zone	Keith Class
1592	Spotted Gum - Red Ironbark - Grey Gum shrub - grass open forest of the Lower Hunter	Hunter Macleay Dry Sclerophyll Forest
1619	Smooth-barked Apple - Red Bloodwood - Brown Stringybark - Hairpin Banksia heathy open forest of coastal lowlands	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll
1627	Smooth-barked Apple - Turpentine - Sydney Peppermint heathy woodland on sandstone ranges of the Central Coast	Sydney Coastal Dry Sclerophyll Forest

In more general terms, the region surrounding the Project Area to the north, east and west is comprised of uncleared open forest with some open woodland. Urban development and road infrastructure has contributed towards contemporary clearing measures outside of the woodland buffer zone.

The native vegetation communities present in the vicinity of the Project Area would have provided a range of resources used by Aboriginal people for food, medicine and for making day to day items and would also have supported a range of mammal, reptile and bird species that provided food and other resources for Aboriginal people.

4.4 Historical Land Use

Lambton, the neighbouring suburb of the Project Area, was settled under the direction of the Scottish Australian Mining Company in 1862. Mining activities continued until 1936, at which point the area was regarded as primarily residential (Newcastle 2020). While mining subsidence is present throughout the local area, these activities are unlikely to have had significant impact on the surface landscape.

The Project Area includes Newcastle's primary hospital complex. Initially the site of Lambton Lodge, a historic meeting location for Lambton miners in the late 19th to early 20th century (Trove 2020), the land was purchased in 1923 by the Newcastle Hospital Board and expanded in 1926 by 60 acres. By 1942 the construction of the Rankin Park medical centre had begun (Lachlanwetherall 2020), followed by the John Hunter Hospital in 1991, Newcastle Private Hospital in 1994 and the Royal Newcastle Centre in 2006. The construction of the hospital precinct also included the construction of infrastructure such as access roads, numerous car park facilities and an extension of garden grounds.

The Project Area contains unsealed access tracks intersecting the surrounding Jesmond Bushland, which are associated with the Hospital complex. The proposed new building component of the Project Area will potentially overlie part of the existing Hunter Medical Research Institute car park. Furthermore, clearance of a corridor of bushland has been previously undertaken by AusGrid at the northern extent of the Project Area to facilitate the construction of a powerline easement. This easement stretches from Lookout Road to the east of the Project Area across the extent of the area to the north western carpark. It is likely that this clearance and construction of the associated maintenance tracks, has resulted in significant impact to any remnant topsoil profiles with the potential to contain Aboriginal objects.

Given the minimal historical land use of the Project Area outside the existing areas of hospital infrastructure and powerline easement clearance, it is possible that archaeological deposits would remain intact within the less disturbed portions of the Project Area.

4.5 Summary

The Project Area is situated within a broader local area that had access to freshwater within a moderate distance, and abundant flora and fauna resources within a 12km perimeter due to the locality of the swamp reserves and the Hunter River. This would be conducive with the possible temporary habitation of the broader area by Aboriginal communities.

The Project Area comprises a variety of landforms including moderate slopes and elevated crests without direct access to water, which were typically less frequently targeted as camping locations by Aboriginal people. This coupled with a lack of reliable water sources in the immediate vicinity would have made the area less attractive for prolonged occupation by Aboriginal communities. While the topography and hydrology indicates that the Project Area would not have been ideally suited for prolonged Aboriginal occupation, it may have been utilised in a more infrequent manner in which the immediate availability of a permanent fresh water source was not as critical.

5.0 Cultural and Archaeological Context

In order to adequately understand and assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of an area, it is necessary to also understand the cultural context of the area. The term cultural context encompasses both ethnographic information regarding how Aboriginal people lived in the region during the period of non-Aboriginal settlement and the historical context.

5.1 Ethnohistoric Context

The Project Area forms part of a landscape that was used by the traditional Aboriginal owners for many thousands of years prior to European contact and continues to be highly valued by Aboriginal people today. The occupation of the Newcastle area (known to the Awabakal as Mulubinba) by Aboriginal people is demonstrated by the presence of a range of archaeological sites that include evidence of varying levels of occupation and utilisation of different landscapes and resources within the Newcastle area. However, the physical archaeological record is only one part of the cultural context of the area and to gain further understanding, a review of available ethnohistoric records can provide insight that is not readily available from archaeological evidence.

Ethnohistoric accounts can be of use in gaining an understanding of how Aboriginal people lived in the Newcastle area at the time of early contact. However, in reviewing ethnohistoric accounts, it must be noted that many of these document Aboriginal society from the perspective of non-Aboriginal men who would not have had access to all aspects of Aboriginal society. As such these accounts are often written by those who viewed Aboriginal people from an entirely non-Aboriginal perspective. In addition, most ethnohistoric accounts date from a period when introduced diseases had already had an impact upon Aboriginal society (refer to Butlin 1982). These limitations must be considered with reference to all of the information presented below.

Perhaps the single-most important source of ethnohistoric information for the Awabakal people was the missionary, Lancelot Threlkeld, who lived for a time in a house on the Newcastle foreshore and subsequently established a mission at Belmont and then at Toronto on Lake Macquarie and collated a large body of information on the Awabakal people and their language between 1825 and 1841. Threlkeld's account included the story of Yi-ra-na-li, which he described as a sacred place 'near Newcastle on the sea-beach, beneath a high cliff'. He implied that this was connected to his Aboriginal informant's belief that Nobbys Island was the dwelling place of a giant kangaroo who, after breaching totemic rules was chased by flocks of wallabies and hid in Nobbys Island. From here he periodically shakes himself, resulting in the collapse of rocks from the cliff faces around Newcastle. While records also exist of corroborees or ceremonial events being undertaken in the Newcastle area (refer to Umwelt 2010), there are very few other written records of spiritual beliefs and practices of the Awabakal people (noting that where such beliefs and practices are known by modern Awabakal people, it is often not culturally appropriate to make this information available).

Records from the earliest European explorers and settlers within the Newcastle region, although limited, record the early interactions between the traditional Aboriginal owners of the area and the newly arrived Europeans. These early accounts include descriptions of encounters with Aboriginal people during Lieutenant Grant's expedition to the Hunter River in 1801. At this time Patterson wrote of the large quantity of oyster shell built up in middens along the Hunter River, writing to the King 'they are in some places for miles. These are four feet deep, without either sand or earth' (Patterson to King, 25 June 1801 in HRNSW IV), quoted in Dallas 2004: 48). More extensive interactions logically followed the establishment of the second penal settlement in 1804, including records of Aboriginal people returning escaped convicts to settlement officials, possibly in retribution for the manner in which escaped convicts attacked Aboriginal

families. This is typified by an account in the 1821 report of Commissioner Bigge (as quoted in AHMS 2008:63):

> *Many attempts are made by the prisoners to escape, and the natives who inhabit the Hunter River and Port Stephens Districts, have become very active in re-taking fugitive convicts. They accompany the soldiers sent in pursuit, and by their extraordinary site (sic) they can trace to a great distance with accuracy the imprint of a human foot. Nor are they afraid of meeting with the convicts in the woods, when sent in pursuit without the soldiers. By their skill in throwing the long painted darts, they wound and disable them, and bring them back prisoners, by unknown roads and paths, to the Coal River. They are rewarded for these enterprises by presents of blankets and maize, and not withstanding the apprehension of revenge from the convicts whom they bring back, they continue to live in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, but they are observed to prefer the company of soldiers to that of the convict.*

Records exist of Aboriginal people receiving gifts of blankets, tobacco and other supplies in thanks for their involvement (Roberts 2003). Accounts from 1819 and 1820 record the punishment of non-Aboriginal men for the mistreatment of Aboriginal men, including the execution of John Kirby (refer to Umwelt 2010). In addition, early artworks from the period by T.R. Browne, Joseph Lycett, Walter Preson and Joseph Cross all show Aboriginal camps bordering the developing settlement between 1812 and 1828. This is particularly relevant in relation to the image painted by Lycett of Awabakal people camping on the Hunter River foreshore, potentially in the vicinity of present day Wickham (refer to **Plate 5.1**).This does not in any way imply that the ongoing development of Newcastle was positive for the Aboriginal people of the region. Rather as Newcastle expanded following the closure of the penal settlement in 1823, Aboriginal people were increasingly struggling to access their land and resources within the settlement itself. This is demonstrated by the records of violent clashes between the Awabakal and the European settlers in the 1830s in the Lake Macquarie area (Umwelt 2010).

A newspaper account in 1830 (in Turner 1997) indicated that the number of Aboriginal people within the Newcastle settlement at the time was equal to (if not greater than) the non-Aboriginal population and that Aboriginal people provided services to the 'lowest classes' such as carrying wood and water and received 'small pieces of tobacco or a cob of corn' in return. Records show that, with the continuation of European settlement within the Newcastle area, a decrease in the numbers of Aboriginal people living in the area was noted. This can be seen in the blanket distribution records from 1833 that list 117 Aboriginal people in the Newcastle district. However, by 1846 only 29 Aboriginal people were listed on a blanket return list (Umwelt 2010). This may indicate a significant decrease in the Aboriginal population in the area although it must be noted that these records may not be directly comparable.

The decrease in the Aboriginal population was evidenced by Threlkeld who noticed that the number of Aboriginal people occupying the Belmont and later Toronto missions, significantly decreased. Threlkeld attributed this decline as a result of the effects of disease, drought and the ongoing attraction of employment in Newcastle. Threlkeld stated that Aboriginal people were 'employed' in the Newcastle settlement as fishermen, water carriers, messengers, servants and ship hands (in Umwelt 2010). He also noted that while Aboriginal people were living in camps at Newcastle, it was 'being sold out from under their feet, and only the sea-beach, one hundred feet from the high water mark, is the place on which they may rest their heads beneath burning sun or pitiless storm' (refer to Umwelt 2010).

The historical accounts demonstrate the ongoing presence of Aboriginal people within proximity to the Project Area. However, subsequent records of Aboriginal people living or working within the Newcastle area are relatively rare until the modern period. This does not demonstrate the absence of Aboriginal people from the area but is symptomatic of the increasing marginalisation of Aboriginal people resulting from the expansion of the settlement.

The experience of Aboriginal people in NSW since European contact has also been one of movement, forced or otherwise, which has seen Aboriginal people from other traditional countries come to the area and develop their own attachments to Newcastle. The history of the Newcastle area therefore spans the traditional and ongoing connection to country, the attachment to place experienced by other Aboriginal people, European settlers and other migrant peoples since 1788 and the shared history of all.

Plate 5.1 Lycett image - 'Aborigines Resting by a Camp Fire near the Mouth of the Hunter River, Newcastle NSW'

Source: National Library of Australia: Call Number PIC MSR 12/1/4 #R5684

5.2 Aboriginal Archaeological Context

A review of available archaeological information is crucial to the cultural heritage assessment process, as it informs the understanding of archaeological site patterning, site survival and the potential for detection of extant archaeological sites. This information is discussed with reference to the outcomes of a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database (which documents the location and nature of sites for which site cards have been lodged) and a summary of the outcomes of previous archaeological investigations in the local area. This information is then considered with reference to key environmental characteristics discussed above with reference to the archaeological implications for the Project Area.

5.2.1 AHIMS Search

A search of the AHIMS database was conducted on 5 May in a 10km x 10km search area, which centred on the Project Area. A total of 88 sites were identified during the broader AHIMS search. Eight have been registered as 'destroyed' or 'partially destroyed', one has been 'deleted' and four were 'not a site'. Of the 75 remaining sites registered as valid, the majority (63) were comprised of stone artefacts. The remaining sites were grinding grooves (11), shell artefacts (5), modified trees (3) and potential archaeological deposit with artefacts (3), a grinding groove site associated with stone artefacts, an ochre quarry artefact and potential archaeological deposits. **Table 5.1** lists the results of the AHIMS search and **Appendix 2** provides the detailed results of the search.

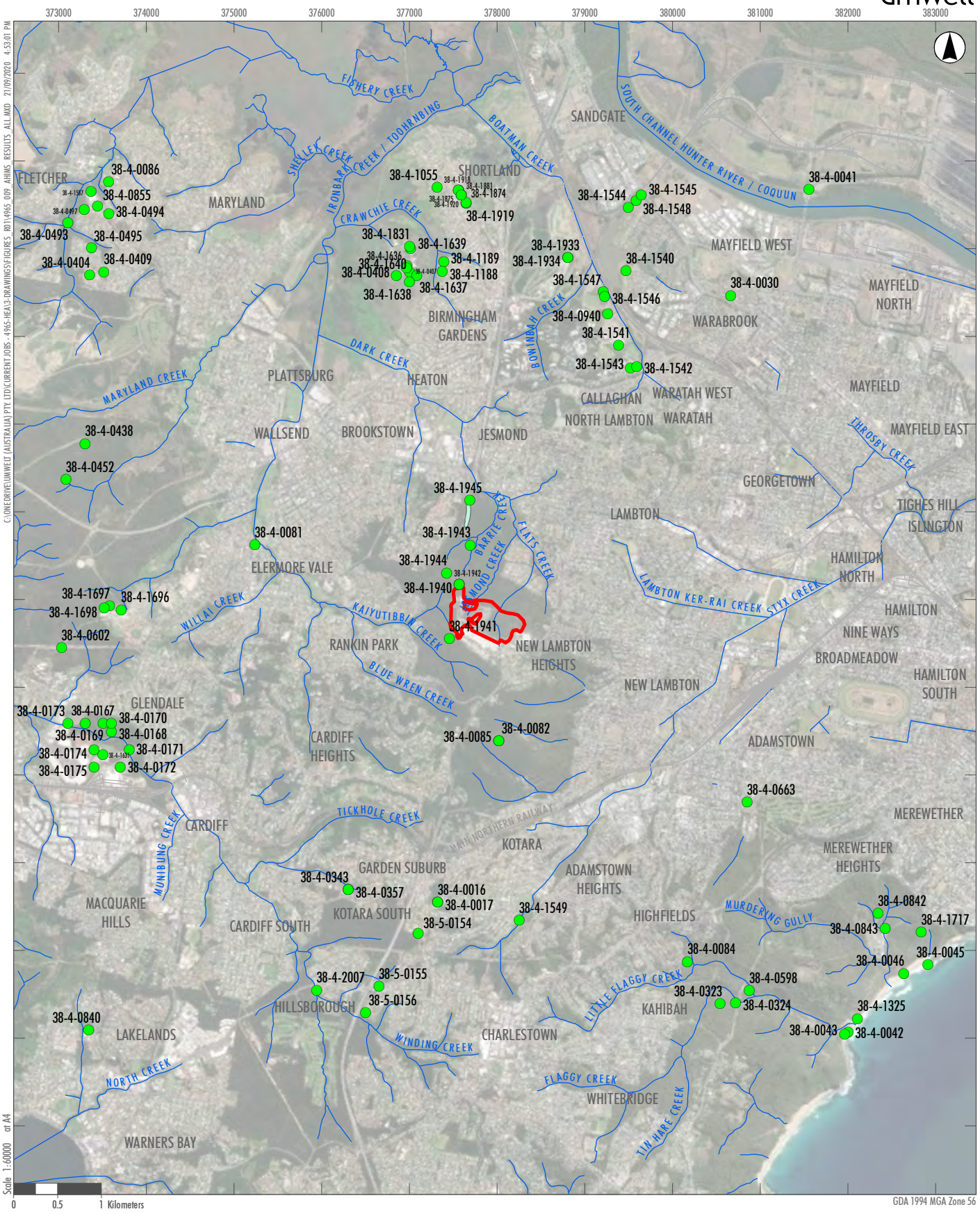
Key sites are listed in **Table 5.2** below with reference to their proximity to the project area, with the location of these sites shown in **Figure 5.2**. Discussion on the outcomes of previous archaeological investigations (where information was made available), including those where investigations resulted in the identification of Aboriginal objects in proximity to the project area, can be found in **Section 5.2.2**.

Table 5.1 Results of the AHIMS Search

Site Features	Count	Percentage of Total
Artefact	63	71.59%
Artefact, Grinding Groove	1	1.14%
Artefact, Ochre Quarry	1	1.14%
Artefact., Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	3	3.41%
Artefact, Shell	5	5.68%
Grinding Groove	11	12.50%
Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)	3	3.41%
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	1.14%
Total	**88**	**100.00%**

Table 5.2 Summary of information for key sites

Site ID	Site name	Features	Proximity to project area	Relevant reports
38-4-1940	RP2J IF 2	Artefact	50m	Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2018
38-4-1941	RP2J AFT 1	Artefact	90m	Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2018
38-4-1943	RP2J AFT 3	Artefact	500m	Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2018
38-4-1944	RP2J IF 1	Artefact	200m	Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2018
38-4-1945	RP2J AFT 4	Artefact	1000m	Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2018
38-4-0081	Wallsend;	Grinding Groove	2000m	Dyall 1971
38-4-0082	Lambton	Grinding Groove	1100m?	Dyall 1971



Legend

- Project Area
- Site Curtliages
- Drainage Line
- AHIMS Sites

FIGURE 5.1

AHIMS Results

Image Source: Nearmap (2020) Data source: AHIMS (2020)