



Bunnings Inverell Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment

Bunnings Group Limited

DOCUMENT TRACKING

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Template 2.8.1

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

Bunning proposes to construct a new Bunnings Warehouse building and associated infrastructure at a site on Warialda Road in Inverell NSW (Figure 1). The proposed site location contains a first order Strahler drainage line which triggers the need for further assessment in the form of an Aboriginal archaeological Due Diligence Assessment under the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010).

Bunnings Group Limited engaged Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological due diligence assessment of the study area to identify if Aboriginal objects were likely to be located within the area of the proposed works and if so whether the proposed works had the potential to harm those objects.

A map of the proposed works has been provided by Bunnings Group Limited (Figure 2).

This assessment outlines the findings of the Aboriginal archaeological due diligence assessment of the study area, in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (OEH 2010).

1.2 Assessment process

The aims of this archaeological due diligence assessment are to:

- Undertake a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register maintained by the OEH to establish if there are any previously recorded Aboriginal objects or places within the study area.
- Undertake a search of the NSW State Heritage Inventory, the Australian Heritage Database, and the Inverell Shire Council Local Environmental Plan 2012 Schedule 5 (Environmental Heritage) in order to determine if there are any sites of archaeological significance or sensitivity located within the study area.
- Undertake a desktop review of relevant previous archaeological assessments to understand the local archaeological context and assist in predicting the likely occurrence of unrecorded archaeological sites or objects.
- Undertake a site inspection to identify any Aboriginal sites and areas of sensitive landforms.
- Prepare a letter style archaeological due diligence assessment determining if known objects or additional unrecorded objects are present within the study area, as well indicate whether further assessment and/or an AHIP is required.

The OEH process involves “*taking reasonable and practical measures to determine whether your actions will harm an Aboriginal object and, if so, what measures can be taken to avoid that harm*” (OEH 2010:4).

If an AHIP application is required, the OEH necessitate that it is supported by an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) prepared in line with the ‘*Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*’ (OEH 2010), and a copy an approval for the development or infrastructure under Part 4 or Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW).

An archaeologically sensitive landscape is an area that has the potential for archaeological material to be present within. According to the Due Diligence Code of Practice, archaeologically sensitive landscapes can include areas:

- Within 200m of waters, or
- Located within a sand dune system
- Located on a ridge top, ridge line, headland, or
- Located within 200m below or above a cliff face, or
- Within 20m of or in a cave, rock shelter, or a cave mouth;
- And is on land that is not disturbed land

According to the *Due Diligence Code of Practice*, disturbed land is defined as any area that has been the subject of a human activity that has changed the land's surface, being changes that remain clear and observable (OEH 2010:18).

"Land is disturbed if it has been the subject of a human activity that has changed the land's surface, being changes that remain clear and observable.

Examples include ploughing, construction of rural infrastructure (such as dams and fences), construction of roads, trails and tracks (including fire trails and tracks and walking tracks), clearing vegetation, construction of buildings and the erection of other structures, construction or installation of utilities and other similar services (such as above or below ground electrical infrastructure, water or sewerage pipelines, stormwater drainage and other similar infrastructure) and construction of earthworks."(DECCW 2010)

1.3 Due diligence assessment summary

The desktop assessment indicated that it was likely that Aboriginal objects could be located within the study area due to the identified archaeologically sensitive landscape. The visual inspection did not identify any areas of archaeological potential, but a scarred tree was identified by Aboriginal representatives, this site has been recorded on AHIMS (#11-6-0133). A separate addendum report has been supplied by Aboriginal Cultural Site Services (ACSS) who were present on the site survey on behalf of Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A copy of the report prepared by ACSS is included in Appendix B of this report.

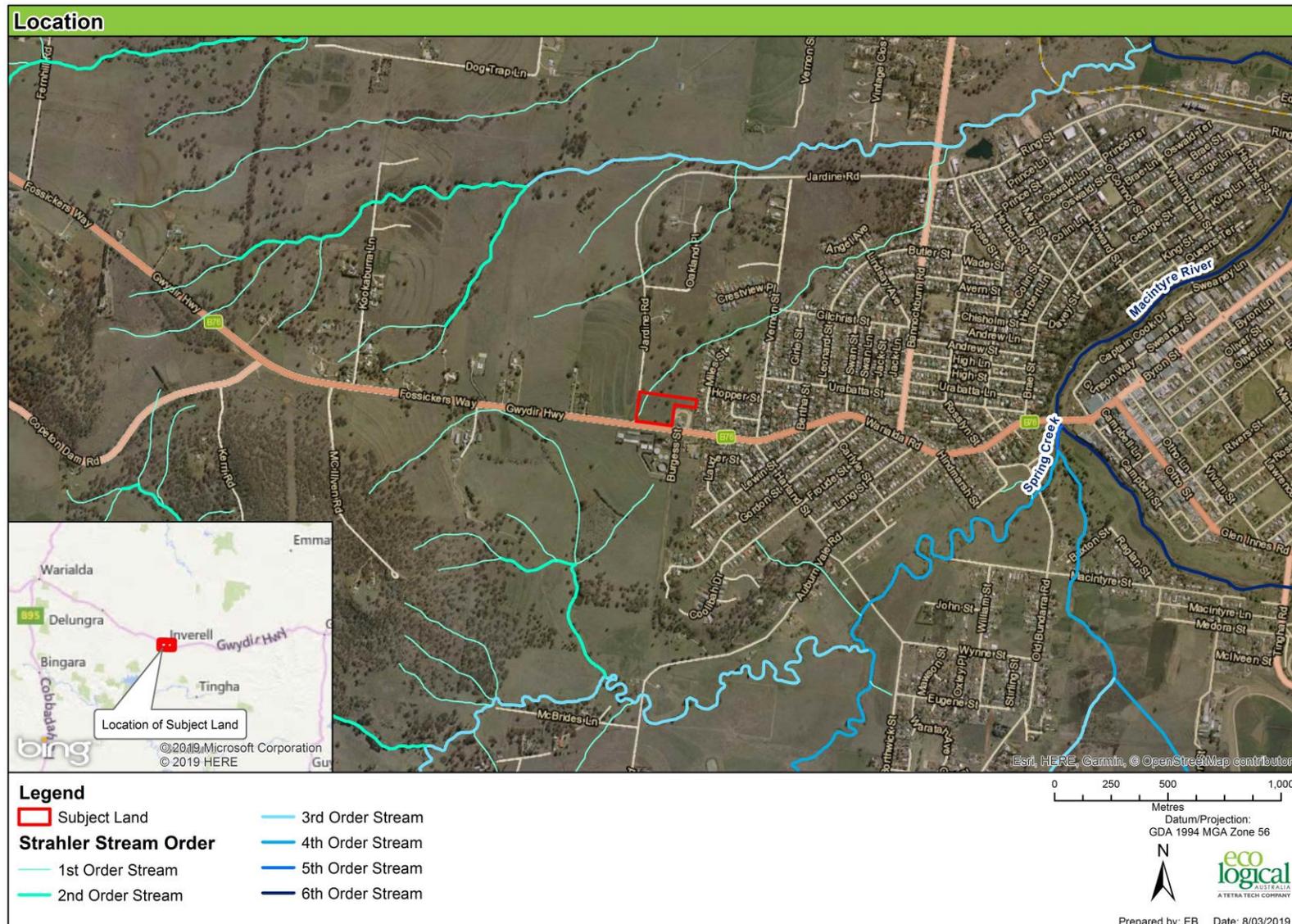


Figure 1: The Study Area

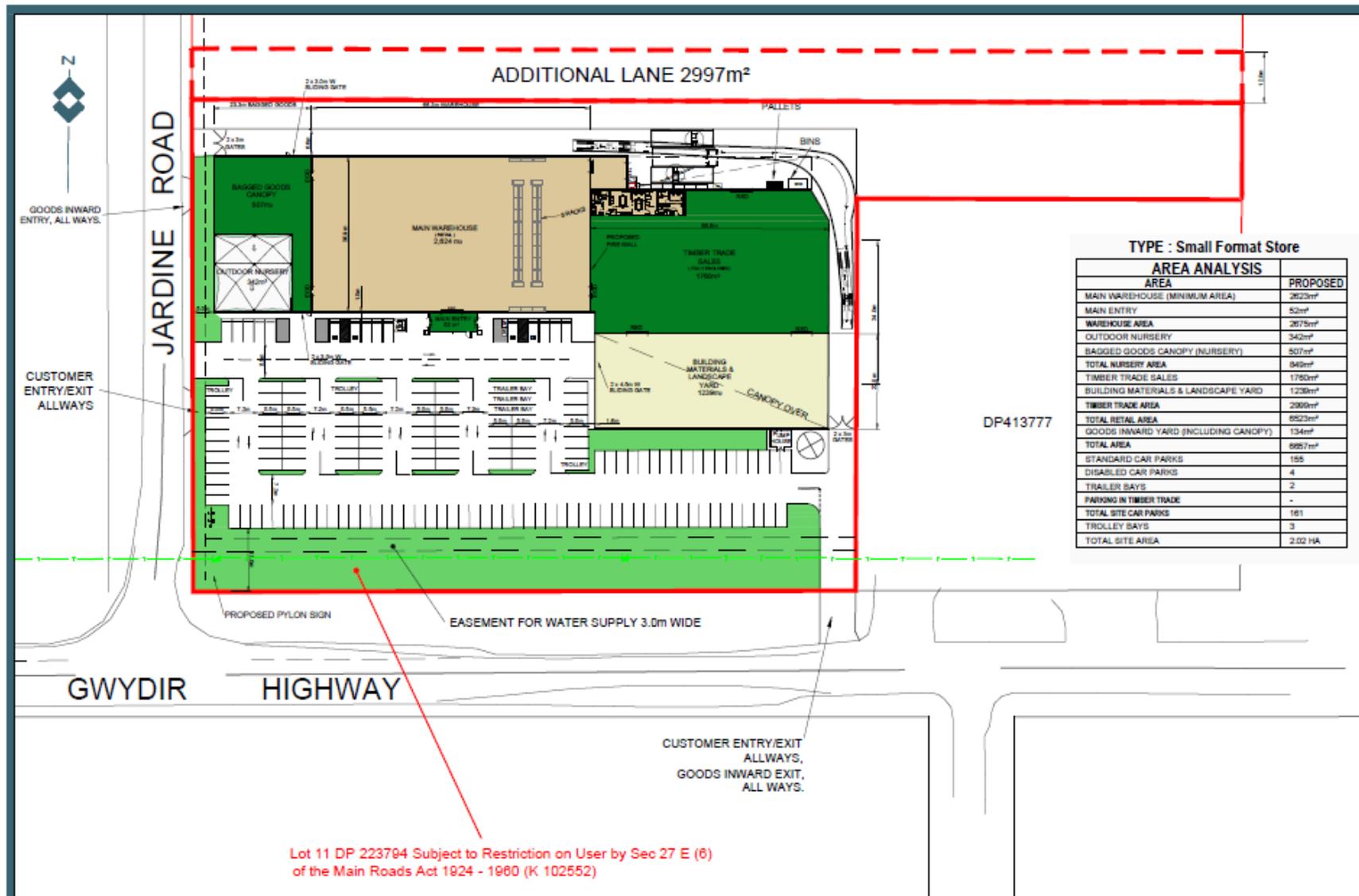


Figure 2: Plan of Proposed Works

2. Assessment Process

2.1 Identify if the proposed activity will disturb the ground surface

The proposed activity will involve the construction of new buildings and associated infrastructure. Landscape plantings and additional roadways will also be included in the development.

2.2 Database searches and known information sources

2.2.1 AHIMS search

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) is a database maintained by OEHL and regulated under Section 90Q of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. AHIMS holds information and records regarding the registered Aboriginal archaeological sites (Aboriginal objects, as defined under the Act) and declared Aboriginal places that exist in NSW.

A search of the AHIMS database was conducted on March 14 2019, to identify if any registered Aboriginal sites were present within, or adjacent to, the study area (**Appendix A**).

The AHIMS database search was conducted within the following lot/coordinates:

GDA: Zone 56

Lat, Long From: -29.8435, 150.9768

Lat, Long To: -29.6994, 151.2054 with

Buffer: 50 m

The AHIMS search result showed:

Table 1: AHIMS search result

13	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location

No Aboriginal sites have previously been recorded within the study area.

The distribution of recorded Aboriginal sites within proximity to the study area is shown in Figure 3, there are no recorded sites located within approximately 5km of the study area. The frequencies of site types and contexts recorded within the AHIMS database search area are listed in **Table 2**:

Table 2: Frequencies of site types and contexts

Site Context	Site Features	Number	%
Open Site	Artefact Scatter	4	30.8
	Grinding Groove	1	7.7
	Isolated Find	1	7.7
	Isolated Find; PAD	1	7.7

Site Context	Site Features	Number	%
	Ochre Quarry	1	7.7
	PAD	2	15.4
	Rock Engraving	1	7.7
	Scarred Tree	1	7.7
Closed Site	Shelter with Art	1	7.7
	Total	13	100

No Aboriginal sites were identified within the study area on the AHIMS database prior to the site inspection.

2.2.2 Local, state and national heritage registers

Searches of the Australian Heritage Database, the State Heritage Register (SHR) and the Inverell Shire Council Local Environmental Plan utilising the term “Inverell” was conducted on 12 March 2019 in order to determine if any places of archaeological significance are located within the study area.

There are no Aboriginal archaeological sites or heritage items recorded on these databases within the study area.

2.2.3 Previous archaeological investigations

There have been few archaeological assessments conducted in the immediate Inverell area, they generally occurred in association with large linear developments such as electricity transmission lines and greenfield developments.

R. Paton 1998. Baseline Aboriginal and European Heritage Investigations for the New South Wales Portion of the Queensland Interconnection Transmission Line Project.

Paton was commissioned by TransGrid to undertake an archaeological study between Inverell and the Queensland Border. A total of 93 Aboriginal sites were recorded within the NSW section of the route – although none were within a 5km radius of the study area. The most common site type were surface stone artefact scatters (59 or 63%) and the predominate stone material within the Inverell area was chert and quartz stone.

Witter D. 1992. Regions and Resources unpublished Ph.D. thesis for ANU

Witter undertook a PhD thesis with the aim of determining the effect of sampling strategies, land system analysis, sample unit coverage and site recording on the analysis of stone artefacts in three sample areas – Boorowa, Cobar and Tibooburra. The predictive model prepared by the archaeologist emphasised the proximity to springs and seepage locations to open camp site locations in the adjacent southern tablelands areas to the east of Inverell. This report also identified several potential Aboriginal burial sites on hill crests in the vicinity of their study area. He also stated the belief that elevated ground adjacent to water sources, sand bodies and sand sheets within valley floor contexts and the margins of alluvial river terraces were the most sensitive study area micro landform units. It is important to note that this study focussed on the location of artefact scatters specifically rather than the full array of sites types

J. Wheeler 2008. Glen Innes – Inverell 132 kV Overhead Electricity Transmission Line.

An assessment of a new 3.5 km corridor of new transmission line which extends north of the Gwydir Highway to Glen Innes was undertaken by Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services. A separate minor realignment of the existing route was also proposed approximately 14 km east of Inverell. Six new Aboriginal sites were identified as part of this assessment, three open artefact scatters, one isolated artefact, an Aboriginal stone material quarry and a scarred tree. Additional to this, a total of 17 areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit were identified during the survey. The identified sites are located to the east of the current study area, but the predictive modelling and results are broadly applicable to the study area.

2.3 Landscape assessment

The study area is located within an undulating landscape to the immediate west of the main settlement area of Inverell. The study area is located on a gentle slope towards the first order drainage line to the north west of the study area. The nearest currently flowing water source is Spring Creek, which flows to into the MacIntyre River to the east of the study area. The study area is located in the Nandewar Bioregion which covers Inverell and Tamworth and Quirindi, Bingara, Barraba, Manilla and Bendameer. The underlying geology of the study area is located in northern NSW and over the QLD border and covers Quaternary alluvium deposits. In other areas surface outcrops of Permian or Tertiary basalts are

present. In the Inverell area the basalts develop black earth profiles that thicken downslope and, where the underlying sands and gravels are exposed, the coarse sandy soils may develop podsol pans and support different vegetation. Alluvial loams and clays with moderate to high fertility are found in the valleys (NPWS Nandewar Bioregion website).

2.4 Predictive model

Based on the material evidence and range of archaeological sites across the region, it is clear that Aboriginal people have been utilising the land and resources within the northern New England Tablelands region for thousands of years. Previous studies have put forward predictive models that can be applied to the current study area. According to Wheeler 2008, elevated alluvial terraces and associated foot slope (low hillslope) are landscape features most closely associated with Aboriginal sites. The study area is located on a lower hillslope which runs towards a perennial first order stream.

The predictive model outlined in **Table 3** below has been developed for the study area based on the AHIMS search results, landscape assessment and regional and local Aboriginal archaeological context outlined above.

Table 3: Predictive Model

Site Type	Description
Open camp sites / stone artefact scatters / isolated finds	<p>Open camp sites represent past Aboriginal subsistence and stone knapping activities and include archaeological remains such as stone artefacts and hearths. This site type usually appears as surface scatters of stone artefacts in areas where vegetation is limited and ground surface visibility increases.</p> <p>Isolated finds may represent a single item discard event or be the result of limited stone knapping activity. The presence of such isolated artefacts may indicate the presence of a more extensive, in situ buried archaeological deposit, or a larger deposit obscured by low ground visibility.</p> <p>These sites are the most common site type according to the AHIMS results. According to Wheeler, sites are located in higher density 'large scale' occupation sites on alluvial and colluvial creek banks and terraces adjacent to drainage lines, on gently sloping hillslopes, especially associated with creeks, and terraces, ridge crests and summits.</p> <p>All open artefact scatters are more likely to be present in areas which have not been previously disturbed by development.</p>
Potential Archaeological Deposit	<p>Potential Archaeological Deposits (or PADs) are areas where there is no surface expression of stone artefacts, but due to a landscape feature there is a strong likelihood that the area will contain buried deposits of stone artefacts.</p> <p>The likelihood of surface expressions of artefacts in the area indicates that subsurface deposits of artefacts are also likely to be present within the study area in areas where the soil has not been previously disturbed.</p>
Scarred or carved trees	<p>Tree bark was utilised by Aboriginal people for various purposes, including the construction of shelters (huts), canoes, paddles, shields, baskets and bowls, fishing lines, cloaks, torches and bedding, as well as being beaten into fibre for string bags or ornaments (sources cited in Attenbrow 2002: 113). Trees may also have been scarred in order to gain access to food resources (e.g. cutting toe-holds so as to climb the tree and catch possums or birds), or to mark locations such as tribal territories. Such scars, when they occur, are typically described as scarred trees.</p> <p>Scarred trees may be located in areas which have not been previously cleared, so sufficiently mature trees may have the potential to contain cultural scarring.</p>
Axe grinding grooves	<p>Grinding grooves are the physical evidence of tool making or food processing activities undertaken by Aboriginal people. The manual rubbing of stones against other stones creates grooves in the rock; these are usually found on flat areas of abrasive rock such as sandstone.</p>

Site Type	Description
	There is no underlying sandstone in the local area, the underlying stone is likely Basalt which would not have been used for grinding grooves.
Bora / ceremonial	<p>Aboriginal ceremonial sites are locations that have spiritual or ceremonial values to Aboriginal people. Aboriginal ceremonial sites may comprise natural landforms and, in some cases, will also have archaeological material. Bora grounds are a ceremonial site type, usually consisting of a cleared area around one or more raised earth circles, and often comprised of two circles of different sizes, connected by a pathway, and accompanied by ground drawings or mouldings of people, animals or deities, and geometrically carved designs on the surrounding trees.</p> <p>There are no known ceremonial sites recorded in the vicinity of the study area and they are not considered to be likely.</p>

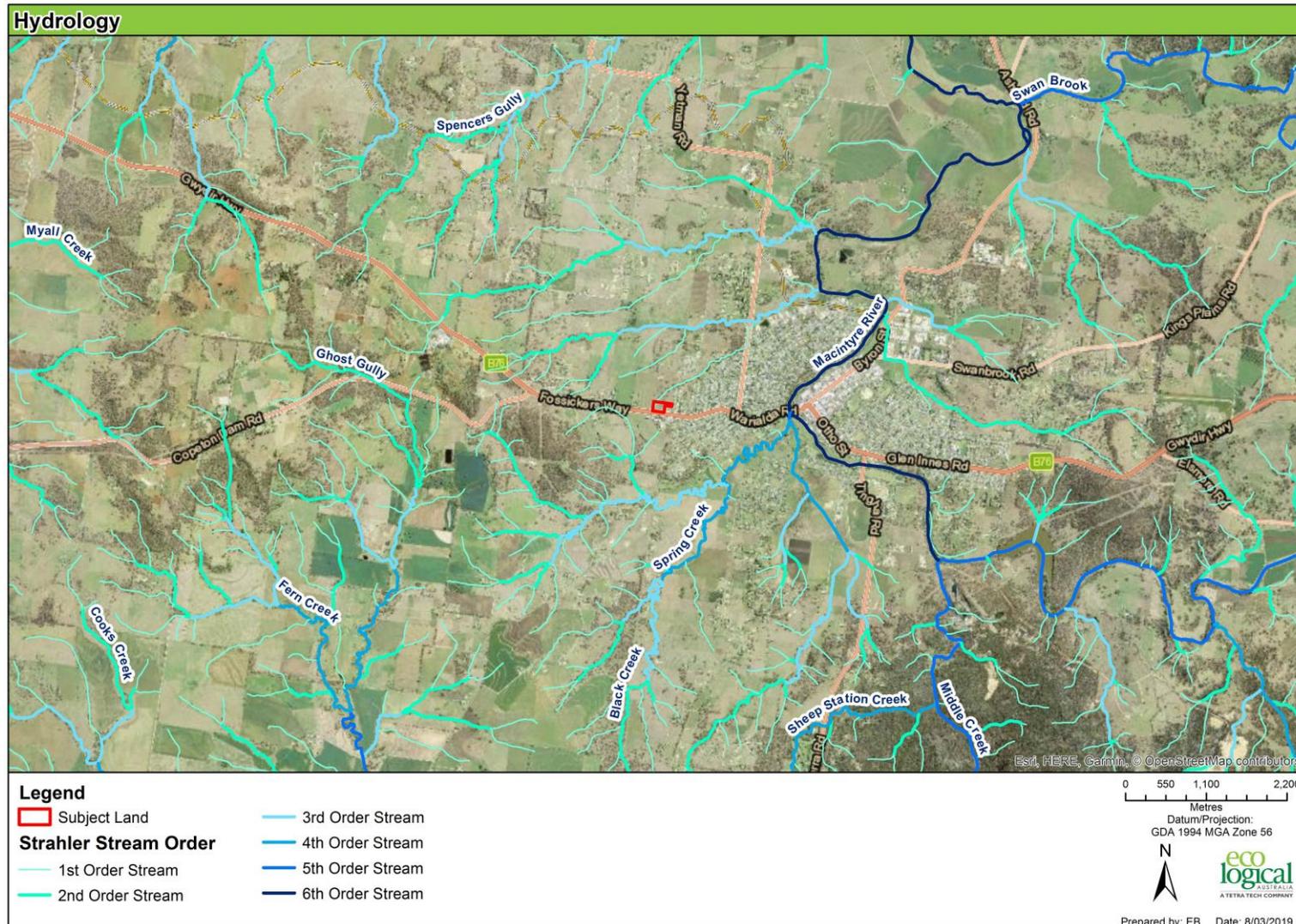


Figure 3: Soil landscapes and hydrology of the study area

2.5 Visual inspection

A visual inspection of the study area was undertaken by Caitlin Marsh, ELA Archaeologist on Thursday 14 March 2019 with assistance from Diane Marlow and Vicky Duncan from Aboriginal Cultural Site Services (ACSS) on behalf of the Anaiwan Local Aboriginal Land Council. Visual inspection aimed to identify Aboriginal objects if present and assess the archaeological potential of the study area. The study area was traversed in 10 m spaced linear transects to cover the entire area. Visibility was variable across the entire study area. There were areas of high visibility in exposures within the drainage line, but grass and vegetation predominately cover the ground surface (Figure 4, Figure 5, Figure 6). The soil profile consisted of a deep black friable loam which was especially noted in the drainage depression which has eroded away (Figure 7). The study area is located on a simple slope which slopes towards channel depression in the north western corner of the study area. The predictive modelling for the area suggests that sites are more likely to be located on alluvial terraces adjacent to water sources. There were no terraces located within the study area. No stone artefacts were noted during the inspection and no areas of archaeological potential were identified by the archaeologist or the attendant Aboriginal representatives.

No obvious development has occurred within the study area. The study area has been used for grazing animals in the past. The adjoining property has been artificially raised with introduced fill, and the associated residential development has disturbed the ground surface at the eastern boundary of the site. In addition, an artificial drainage line was constructed to the west of the property boundaries (Figure 8). Mounded piles of felled timber were present, and abundant dumped rubbish was noted on the surface adjacent to the road house.

Some mature growth trees were noted within the study area – a number of new growth trees have seeded themselves since the most recent aerial photo was taken (Figure 12). During the site inspection all old growth trees were inspected for evidence of cultural markings. Representatives Diane Marlow and Vicky Duncan identified scars within one tree in the south eastern corner of the study area, adjacent to the road house car park near the local high relief point (Figure 14). The tree contained evidence of toe holes cut into the bark and sapwood on the western side of the large yellow gum (Figure 10, Figure 11). The tree has significance regrowth on all four sides, and the main scar is approximately 10 cm deep with a length of 1 m and width of between 10-15 cm. A short report was submitted by ACSS which has been included as Appendix B in this report. This report also indicates that additional scars are present on the lower body of the tree which were not indicated during the site survey.



Figure 4: General photo from the south western corner of the study area showing general landform



Figure 5: Erosion located within the drainage line



Figure 6: General photo north east within the drainage line



Figure 7: Example of friable topsoil to the north of the road house



Figure 8: Photo aspect south west looking at the junction between the road house and the residential development east of the study area. A drainage channel

Figure 9: Example of mounded timber and broken tiles and rubbish to the north of the road house



Figure 10: Whole scar



Figure 11: Close up of a scar showing potential footholds



Figure 12: View north west from adjacent to the scar tree towards the drainage channel. New growth trees surrounding



Figure 13: View from the northern boundary looking south towards the scarred tree

2.6 Impact avoidance assessment

A scarred tree was recorded during the site inspection, this site has been recorded on AHIMS as “Wariadla Highway new Bunnings complex site” (AHIMS ID 11-6-0133). If the proposed development can be adapted to avoid the tree and preserve it in situ, then further heritage assessment and an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit will not be required. It is recommended that the tree be fenced with a suitable buffer to prevent any inadvertent impacts from the proposed development. In addition, it is also recommended that the site be included on any Construction Management Plans and workers should be inducted as to appropriate protection measures.

3. Statutory Requirements

Aboriginal objects and places in NSW are afforded protection under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)* regardless if they are registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register or not. Strict penalties apply for harm to an Aboriginal object or place without a defence under the Act. Under Section 87 of the Act there are five defences to causing harm to an Aboriginal object:

- The harm was authorised under an AHIP.
- By exercising due diligence and be able to demonstrate this.
- The actions complied with a code of practice as described in the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009, for example, undertaking test excavation in accordance with the '*Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*'.
- It was a low-impact activity or omission under the regulation and where you don't know that an Aboriginal object is already present.
- Was an exemption under Section 87A, for example emergency fire-fighting act or bush fire hazard reduction work within the meaning of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*.

If an AHIP application is required, the OEHL necessitate that it is supported by an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) prepared in line with the 'Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEHL 2010)', and a copy an approval for the development or infrastructure under Part 4 or Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The purpose of the Aboriginal heritage due diligence is to identify if there are registered Aboriginal sites and/or sensitive landforms which may indicate the presence of Aboriginal sites and may therefore require further assessment and approval under Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

ELA has undertaken an extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database maintained by the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) which identified 13 sites within 10 km of the study area.

A pedestrian survey of the entire study area was undertaken by ELA Archaeologist Caitlin Marsh with the assistance of Diane Marlow and Vicky Duncan from ACSS. The results of this assessment did not identify any areas of archaeological potential, but a culturally scarred tree was identified during the survey by the Aboriginal Representatives. The site has been recorded on AHIMS by Diane Marlow as “Wariadla Highway new Bunnings complex site” AHIMS ID 11-6-0133.

Recommendation – Scarred Tree

It is recommended that the development be modified so that the scarred tree is avoided by all proposed work on the site. It is also recommended that the tree be fenced with a suitable buffer to prevent any inadvertent impacts from the proposed development. In addition, the site should be included on any Construction Management Plans and workers should be inducted as to appropriate protection measures.



Figure 14: Location of the scarred tree adjacent to the Caltex Roadhouse on Wariadla Road

Recommendation - General measures

- Aboriginal objects are protected under the NPW Act regardless if they are registered on AHIMS or not. If suspected Aboriginal objects, such as stone artefacts are located during future works, works must cease in the affected area and an archaeologist called in to assess the finds. If the finds are found to be Aboriginal objects, OEH must be notified under section 89A of the NPW Act. Appropriate management and avoidance or approval under a section 90 AHIP should then be sought if Aboriginal objects are to be moved or harmed.
- In the event that known or suspected skeletal remains are encountered during construction, the following procedure will be followed:
 - all work in the immediate vicinity will cease and the find will be immediately reported to the work supervisor who will immediately advise the Environment Manager or other nominated senior staff member;
 - the Environment Manager (or other nominated senior staff member) will promptly notify the police and the state coroner (as required for all human remains discoveries) as well as the project archaeologist;
 - the Environment Manager (or other nominated senior staff member) will contact OEH for advice on identification of the skeletal material as Aboriginal and management of the material;
 - if it is determined that the skeletal material is Aboriginal ancestral remains, the Local Aboriginal Land Council will be contacted, and consultative arrangements will be made to discuss ongoing care of the remains; and

If it is determined that the skeletal material is not Aboriginal ancestral remains, further investigation will be conducted to determine if the remains represent a historical grave or if further involvement of the police is required

References

Long, A. 2005. Aboriginal Scarred Trees in New South Wales: A Field Manual". Prepared for the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW). Accessed via website:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/ScarredTreeManual.pdf>

National Parks and Wildlife Nandewar Bioregion – 'Landform' webpage:
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bioregions/Nandewar-Landform.htm> [Accessed 12 March 2019]

Wheeler, J. 2008. An Aboriginal Archaeological Study of the Proposed Glen Innes – Inverell 132kV Overhead Electricity Transmission Line (66kV Powerline Replacement). Unpublished report for Perram & Partners for TransGrid.

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

Appendix A AHIMS Search Results



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Inverell 12245 5

Client Service ID : 399344

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
11-6-0043	Dicks Creek; <u>Contact</u>	AGD	56	312500	6697300	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	3516
	<u>Recorders:</u> Tom Griffiths							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0001	Goonoowingall Gilgai Creek <u>Contact</u>	AGD	56	318700	6700800	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -	Shelter with Art	
	<u>Recorders:</u> Glen Morris							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-5-0072	Tingaroo Scarred Tree <u>Contact</u>	AGD	56	304928	6698149	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
	<u>Recorders:</u> Mr.Robert Potter							<u>Permits:</u>	1728	
11-6-0077	NRA5;Red rock <u>Contact</u>	AGD	56	318900	6707150	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	<u>Recorders:</u>							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0080	Sheep Station Ck Site <u>Contact</u>	AGD	56	319050	6700640	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 6		
	<u>Recorders:</u> Miss.Karen Glover							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0095	PAD14 and PAD15 (GLEN INNES) <u>Contact</u>	GDA	56	324586	6703695	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		101915
	<u>Recorders:</u> Jim Wheeler							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0096	PAD16 and PAD17 (GLEN INNES) <u>Contact</u>	GDA	56	322909	6703584	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		101915
	<u>Recorders:</u> Jim Wheeler							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0088	BP-IF-1 (Brodies Plains Associated PAD) <u>Contact</u>	GDA	56	324586	6703695	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		101915
	<u>Recorders:</u> Jim Wheeler							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0100	Goonoowigal Petroglyph 1 <u>Contact</u>	GDA	56	318106	6700080	Open site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : 1		
	<u>Recorders:</u> Barry Cain							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0129	Lake Inverell <u>Contact</u>	GDA	56	320209	6703463	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	<u>Recorders:</u> Mr.Tony Sonter,Artefact and Aspect							<u>Permits:</u>	4387	
11-6-0127	rife range road motorbike track area <u>Contact</u>	GDA	56	319655	6703623	Open site	Valid	Ochre Quarry : -		
	<u>Recorders:</u> Mrs.Diane Marlow							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0109	gilgai bike track <u>Contact</u>	GDA	56	317925	6698275	Open site	Valid	Grinding Groove : -		
	<u>Recorders:</u> Mrs.Diane Marlow							<u>Permits:</u>		
11-6-0110	bike track 2 <u>Contact</u>	GDA	56	317806	6700992	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	<u>Recorders:</u> Mrs.Diane Marlow							<u>Permits:</u>		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 15/02/2019 for Caitlin Marsh for the following area at Lat, Long From : -29.8435, 150.9768 - Lat, Long To : -29.6994, 151.2054 with a Buffer of 50 meters. Additional Info : to assist with a due diligence assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 13

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

Appendix B Aboriginal Cultural Services Report

Report on Scar Tree located Warialda Road Inverell provided by ACSS 2019



Tree Type:

Yellow box (Eucalyptus melliodora)

Identification:

Tree was first identified by Vicky Duncan and reviewed by her co-worker Diane Marlow both Aboriginal Cultural Site Officers.

Elder Sourced:

Respected Elder Jimmy Connors of the Tingha and Inverell with much knowledge of the tribal areas of the Jukkembul and Anaiwan people was asked by Aboriginal Cultural Services to examine the tree.

Elder Jimmy attend the site on Saturday 16th of March 2019 at 8.30am.

Tree had been identified as having more than one scar by Elder Jimmy Connors and that it is a significant tree as has Cultural history and tells a story of how the tree was used.

Tree it self has its own story line to tell making it a significant find for the Aboriginal community.

As requested by Elder Jimmy Connors the tree has been recorded upon AHIMS.

Tree usages as followed:

Used for collection of Native Orchids that grow in the area - these Orchids are used for medicine and to keep hydrated while walking long distance by chewing on the bulb. Ochids is also crushed up with a leaf from the tree it is found from in a bowl to cue head aches and diarrhea.

Burls from the tree stump were used for bowls to mix the medicine in or to collect food or water.

Tree also shows indication of been tapped into for its water resource within its trunk.

Tree also has several scars upon it. First scar could have been made for a shield or coolamon, but this scar has been grown over by the trees natural healing mechanism, there are 3-foot hole scars with in the first scar indicating that the tree was used for other purposes.

There is a scar burl from where there once a bee hive was (native bees) nest or a burl upon a branch this may have been while the foot holes were created to gather another burl for a large bowl or bee hive from the tree branch.

Photos following shows Elder Jimmy Connors indicating Scars

Elder was explaining to Aboriginal Site Cultural Services reasons for collection of the items taken from the tree and why it is important to our culture they tree should be saved.



Indicating were Burls were taken off for use of bowls.



Indicating were a Native Orchid would have been taken for medicine or food source.



Indicating where the foot/toe holes are within the centre scar.



Indicating where a Native Bee hive or Burl would have been removed.

Other photos of scars and Tree:



Showing foot holes within the original scar which could have been a coolamon or shield scar.



The branch shows indication were a bee hive may have been removed or another Burl.



Showing where burl were taken of for use of bowls.



Another closer photo of scar a burl was taken from tree.



Close look at area Native Orchid would have grown and then collected for medicine/food.



In this phot Elder Jimmy Connors was explaining the scar at bottom of the tree as it may have been used for tapping into the main water source within the tree’s trunk.

Traditional use Yellow box (Eucalyptus melliodra):

Like other box trees, yellow box provided fantastic wildlife habitat, providing food and homes for koalas, witchetty grubs, possums, birds and bee hives also food for Aboriginal people. Box was also used for fire wood and coolamons and shields. Leaves provided many types of medicines for the Aboriginal people, mostof which have not been recorded, but they were known as a cure for sore eyes and were chewed and used as a poultice for common wounds and bruises.

Some information upon Burl, foot / toe holes and Native Orchids:



8. Burls

A number of bulbous woody growths occur at the base of the trunk, called lignotubers or 'burls'. The Wurundjeri people sometimes removed the burls and crafted them into water containers called tarnuks.

Burl: A localised surface irregularity on a tree

bole largely composed of *accelerated callus tissue*. The development of these features is a tree's response to sapwood decay or insect infestation. The development of accelerated growth callus is designed to 'compartmentalise' the source of infestation from the healthy areas surrounding the burl. As a result, they are usually partially hollow, and often used for bowl or dish ('coolamon') manufacture by Aboriginal groups.



12. The Resource Tree

Trees were major food sources for the Wurundjeri people. Birds, eggs, honey and possums could all be harvested from trees. This one has an access hole.



Scar Tee identifying Foot holes and over grown scar area where tree in time has nearly fully healed itself.

Toe hold: A small incision into the bark designed to create a hold utilisable in tree climbing. Commonly known as 'toe holds', these shallow cuts could be equally used with the hands. Normally these occur in staggered lines on steep to moderately steeply angled trees resulting from a single tree climbing event. Given the small size of these scars, authentic Aboriginal toe holds are usually only found on dead trees.

Dendrobium speciosum (Rock or King Orchid)

The swollen stems were beaten to break up the fibre and then cooked on hot stones.

NSW, QLD.



Native Orchids were used to cure head aches and diarrhea (would be crashed with a leaf from tree it was collected and crushed into a paste with in a bowl (Burl) or coolamon.

Other uses of native Orchids were that of chewing on the bulbs while walking.

Completion of report:

Completion of report 17th March 2019 completed by Diane Marlow and Vicky Duncan.

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