
CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

David O'Donnell
Mallesons Stephen Jaques
Governor Phillip Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear David,

**RE: CASUARINA TOWN CENTRE PART 3A MAJOR PROJECT CONCEPT AND
PROJECT APPLICATION - ABORIGINAL AND EUROPEAN HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT**

This letter provides a brief summary on our findings to date on the Aboriginal and European Heritage assessment of the Casuarina Town Centre site. The full and final report will provide detail on the research into the Aboriginal and European historic background, environmental and archaeological context of the site, predictive modeling for the identification of sensitive areas or areas of archaeological potential, significance assessment, impact assessment and provision of management options. The report will be completed by the end of July.

The current assessment was preceded by a process of Public Notification calling for Expressions of Interest from the Aboriginal community, pursuant to the Department of Environment and Climate Change [DECC] 2004 Interim Guidelines on Aboriginal Community Consultation. We received two responses: from the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council [T-BLALC] and Ms Jackie MacDonald. Discussions concerning site condition and land use history were held with both these parties prior to the field survey.

The background research, Aboriginal community consultation and previous interviews with members of the Aboriginal community by the author have shown that the history of local sand mining has had a significant effect on local Aboriginal families. Aboriginal men engaged in the sand extraction process, along the far north coast, were powerless to act (in fear of dismissal) when traditional Aboriginal burials within the fore dunes were exposed and taken out to the processing plants. This remembered history should be commemorated at the Casuarina Town Centre. Appropriate interpretive signage on the past Aboriginal occupation could augment existing public art in the area and provide an important historical dimension to the development site. It is recommended that consultation with members of the Aboriginal community should be continued in regard to signage content and placement.

Preliminary investigations into the land use history of the site show that the sand extraction took place at the site between the mid 1950's in response to demand created by the Korean War until the late 1970's at which time an extensive program of site rehabilitation commenced. The process of sand extraction included deep dredging and removal to nearby processing plants for mineral separation. The aim was to procure and process the mineral rich 'black sands' contained within the coastal foredune and 'back


runs'. Aerial photographic imagery from the 1950's shows a relatively intact coastal landscape but by the 1970's the entire site is heavily modified and near denuded. Efforts were made to rehabilitate Bogangar Beach both during the mining phase and at its conclusion. This included the forming up of the remaining sand body and its planting with indigenous and non-indigenous vegetation. Parts of the margins of the subject lands appear to have been modified for access and drainage purposes at the time of the Casuarina Beach development.

MDCA conducted a fully comprehensive archaeological survey on 18th June 2008 over the entire area proposed for development. The survey was conducted in consultation with the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and Ms Jackie MacDonald. Representatives of the Aboriginal organisations who participated in the field survey were Mr Cyril Scott of the T-BLALC and Ms Jackie MacDonald and Mr Levi MacDonald representing Mrs Joyce Summers, a Native Title claimant and local Elder.

The survey confirmed the disturbed nature of the entire site. No Aboriginal cultural objects or sites were identified on the land. No areas of potential archaeological deposit were identified and the likelihood that the land retains undisturbed substantial or significant Aboriginal cultural remains is negligible. There is no Aboriginal archaeological constraint to the proposed development. There is no requirement for further archaeological investigation under a DECC s.87 Permit or s90 Heritage Impact Permit. Part 6 approval under the National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 is not required.

The European Heritage value of the site is minimal. The landscape is a relatively modern and one resultant of mid-20th century mining and rehabilitation works and more recently adjacent residential development. The site contains no structures or above ground features of European Cultural Heritage significance and is unlikely to contain buried archaeological relics. In addition, neither the site, nor the elements within it, is listed on the NSW Heritage Office's State Heritage Inventory [SHI] or the Register [SHR], or within the heritage provisions of the LEP, or within any other relevant statutory or non-statutory register.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Dallas
Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists

27th June, 2008

