

- **Mason & Crawthorne Land**

The additional study area comprises lot 218 DP 755218, Alton Road Cooranbong (Figure 1.) and also shows study area's relationship with the original study area.

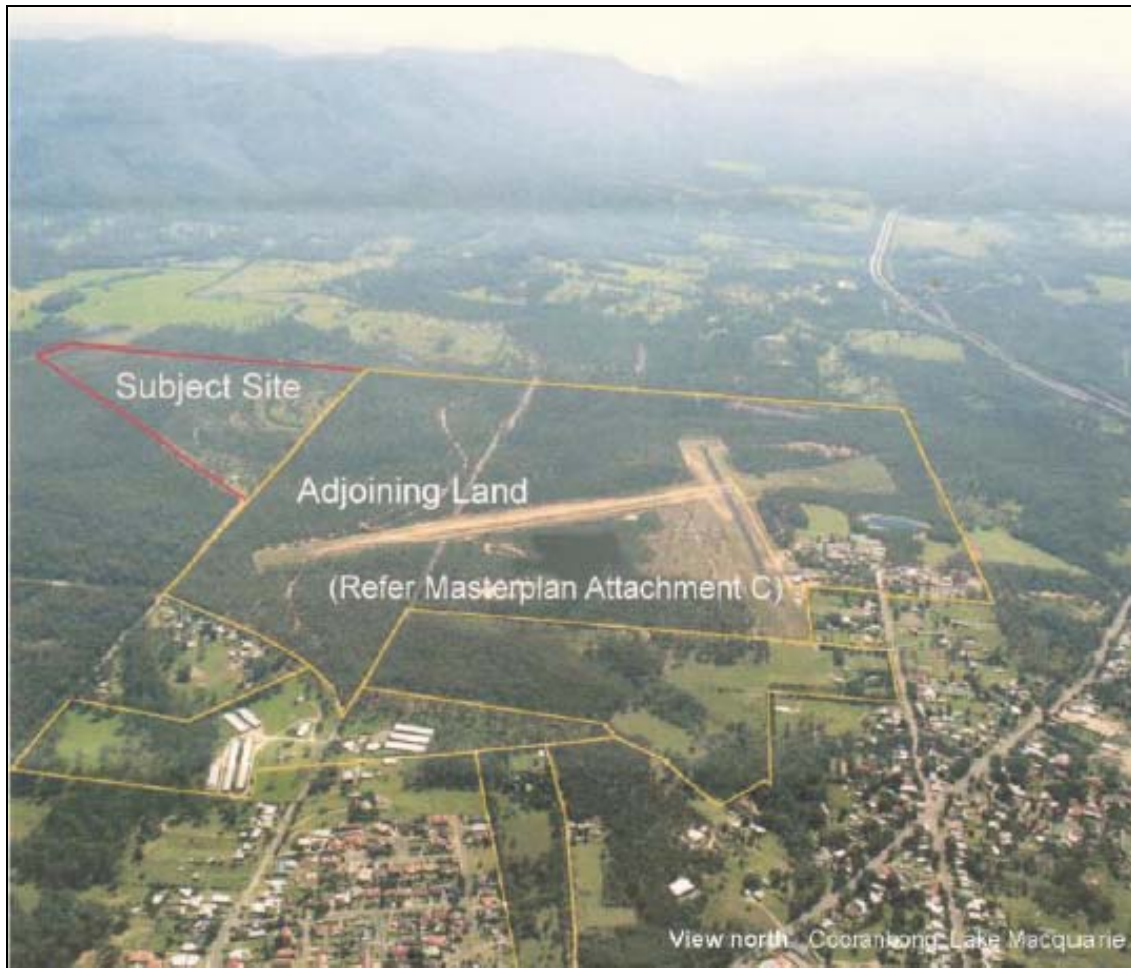


Figure 1 Study Area showing original investigation area

Rural properties border the study area to the north, west and south. To the west, the study area adjoins Cooranbong Airport, which has previously been subject to an Aboriginal heritage study. The southeastern corner of the study area contains an existing dwelling and associated buildings. There are several motorbike tracks and trails throughout the study area as well as internal man made rural vehicle tracks.

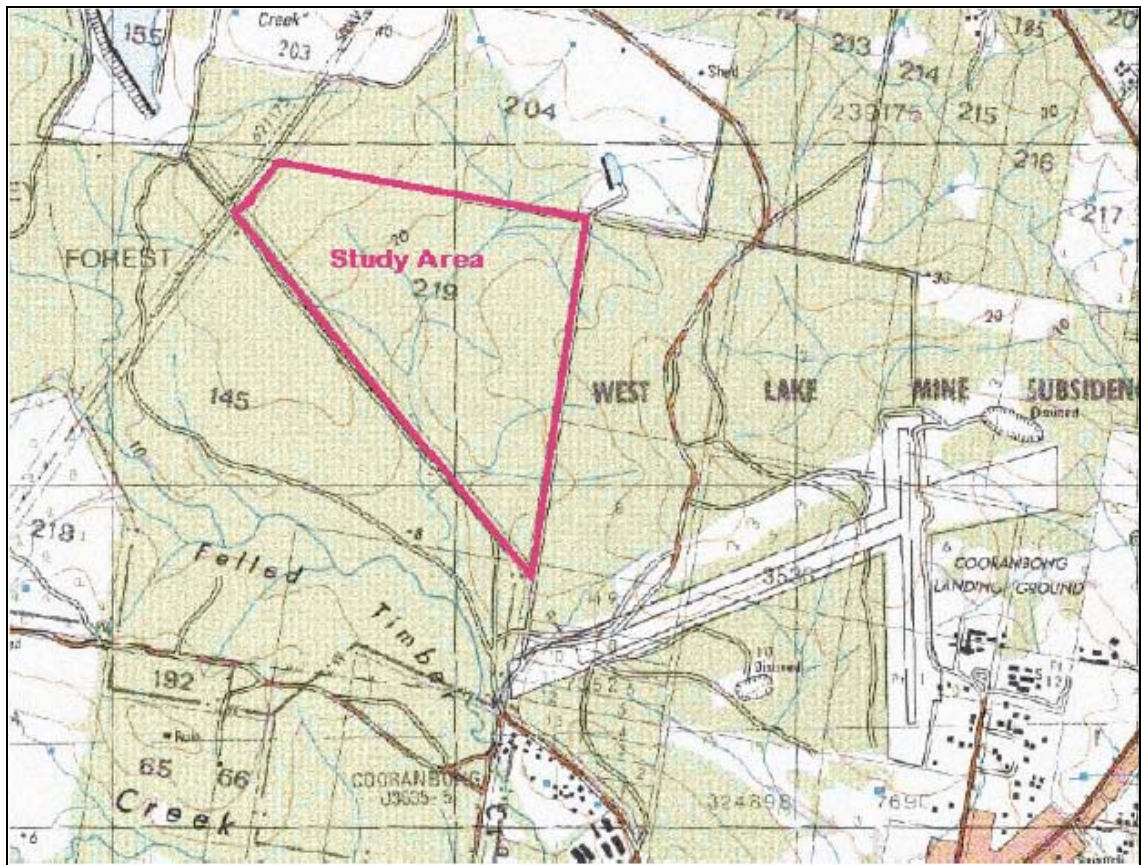


Figure 2 Study Area

The proposal involves rezoning to allow redevelopment of the site for residential and conservation uses with associated roads and open space. The structure or concept plan is shown as Figure 3.



Figure 3 Structure Plan

Surface conditions

A tributary of felled Timber Creek, flowing north - south bisects the subject site. This tributary commences on adjoining property to the north and expands into a very wet and poorly drained swampy area covering approximately the middle third of the site and generally follows the 20m contour line.

Vegetation

The vegetation on the site is regrowth, which has been influenced by past land practices. The site has been disturbed by past anthropogenic activities including fire and clearing.

The vegetation within the study area is predominantly Open Forest (dominated by various species), containing scribbly gum, red bloodwood and smoothed bark apple. The understorey is generally various banksias and tea tree. The area west of the tributary has a greater concentration of vegetation than the rest of the area and contains stands of swamp mahogany.

The current vegetation does not give a good indication of the archaeological potential as it is basically regrowth and may not be indicative of what was there over 100 years ago, although the poor fertility does indicate a continuation of similar vegetation.

The variety of vegetation that was probably on the subject site at European contact would also have leant itself to the fostering of animal food resource. Many of the current animal and bird species found on the subject site most probably existed on the site at European occupation although as to the abundance is speculative.

Landscape/survey Units

The site can be generally divided into 3 landscape and survey units

- The western section is basically a gentle modal slope around 20m.
- The middle section is the landing ground that has been cut and filled and has a constant relief of about 15m.
- The eastern section which is a gently undulating modal slope ranging from 20m to 10m

As the site predominantly consists of drainage tributary and 2 modal slopes, the obvious survey / landscape units are therefore;

- Western slope
- Wetland
- Eastern Slope

Figure 4 shows the landscape units.



Figure 4 Landscape survey Units

Coverage Data

There was no exposed rock. The possibility of the area containing axe-grinding grooves was negligible. Artwork possibility was non-existent. The trees on the property were either not old enough, or the appropriate type for scar trees, such as stringy bark. The area does appear to have been suitable for camping, as there is a water source on site. However more appropriate locations for camping seem to be nearby on land to the north and west. The study area was probably more conducive as an occasional camping area (overnight) and probable food source.

The driveway and vehicular tracks were man made and built up with gravel.

Although the total amount of exposure was extremely limited, it is believed there was sufficient landform type to indicate any potential archaeological material that may be present. In summary, the study area had no visibility due to extensive clearing and grass or vegetation. The land has been disturbed through past anthropogenic practices.

The eastern unit has been used for residential amenity. Vegetation was relatively sparse. The general clearing allowed for greater visibility, but the area has obviously been disturbed over a long period of time.

The wetland is an intermittent drainage gully with scattered waterholes. The waterholes appear to be modified natural water holding bodies. They do not appear permanent. The area was poorly drained with water lying on top of the surface.

The western unit had a greater concentration of and variety of vegetation. The vegetation restricted the survey in this unit. Although no apparent signs of permanent water were obvious, there were several more pronounced drainage gullies and the type of vegetation indicated the possibility of a wetter area. This unit had the potential of a greater attraction to fauna and could possibly have some archaeological significance. A summary of the effective survey coverage follows.

Landscape unit	Topography	Surface slopes	Visibility	Area available for detection	Findings	Archaeological Survey constraints
Eastern Slope	Burnt out, south facing slope, Scattered tree coverage. Leaf litter. Highly disturbed. Contained effluent disposal ponds and flats	<10%	<75% overall	75%	nil	Leaf litter but good surface visibility
Wetland	Well vegetated low lying poorly drained area. Scattered waterholes	<10%	Extremely poor <25% overall	<25%	Nil	Well vegetated
Western Slope	Well-grassed, highly disturbed with earthworks and buildings.	<10%	Extremely poor nil overall	nil	Nil	little exposure due to dense vegetation cover

Table I Survey coverage data – Mason and Crawthorn Land

Findings

No artefacts or Aboriginal object of any kind was found. Plants that were used in the past as food source were observed. The vegetation would have been conducive to attracting fauna. However the landscape of the tributary suggests an Aboriginal Resource area. The Aboriginal Community expresses significance to the wetland area.

Recommendations

As there will not be knowingly any impact on Aboriginal Objects, there is no impediment to the proposal provided:

- Cultural significance of the wetland area is respected. The wetland area is indicative only and needs to be determined by survey.
- Consideration is given to enhancing Aboriginal culture of the area. This can be achieved through consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council with respect to naming of roads, parks etc or interpretive signage within conservation areas of how the land was previously used.