

# Riverside at Tea Gardens

# **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment**

Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd

March 2018

0406528RP01- FINAL

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# **CONTENTS**

1	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	BACKGROUND	1
1.2	STUDY AREA	2
1.3	Project Description	5
1.4	AUTHORSHIP	5
1.5	REPORT STRUCTURE	6
2	RELEVANT LEGISLATION	
3	COMMUNITY CONSULTATION	
3.1	STAGE 1: NOTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY AND	2
	REGISTRATION OF INTEREST	9
3.2	STAGE 2: PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE	10
2.2	PROPOSED ACTIVITY	10
3.3	STAGE 3: GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT CULTURAL	10
2.4	SIGNIFICANCE STAGE 4: REVIEW OF DRAFT CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT	10
3.4	REPORT	11
4	BACKGROUND	
4.1	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT	12
4.1.1	BIOREGION	12
4.1.2	CLIMATE	13
4.1.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDFORMS	14
4.1.4	GEOLOGY AND SOILS	14
4.1.5	HYDROLOGY	15
4.1.6	LAND USE AND DISTURBANCE	15
4.1.7	FLORA AND FAUNA	15
4.1.8	IMPLICATIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY	15
4.2	Archaeological Context	16
4.2.1	AHIMS RESULTS	16
4.2.2	PREVIOUS LOCAL STUDIES	18
4.2.3	REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT	20
4.2.4	IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STUDY AREA - PREDICTIVE MODEL	21
5	FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS	
5.1	FIELD SURVEY METHODOLOGY	23
5.1.1	FIELDWORK CONSTRAINTS	24
5.2	DISCUSSION OF SURVEY RESULTS	24
5.2.1	LANDFORM	24
5.2.2	RIVERSIDE_02	25
6	SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	
6.1	ASSESSMENT OF ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE	31
6.1.1	PREAMBLE	31

	CONTENTS	
6.1.2	BACKGROUND: SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	32
6.1.3	SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	33
6.1.4	ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	33
6.1.5	SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	34
7	IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
7.1	POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES	35
8	RECOMMENDATIONS	
	ANNEXURES	
ANNEX A	ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION	
ANNEX B	NEWSPAPAER ADVERTISEMENT	
ANNEX C ANNEX D	AHIMS SITE CARDS AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS	
ANNEX D	AHINIS SEARCH RESULTS	
	LIST OF FIGURES	
FIGURE 1.1	LOCALITY PLAN	3
FIGURE 1.2	CONCEPT PLAN	4
FIGURE 4.1	AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS	17
FIGURE 5.1	MIDDEN SITES	29
FIGURE 5.2	Areas Identified During Fieldwork	30
FIGURE 6.1	DIAGRAMMATIC PRESENTATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE	
	ASSESSMENT PROCESS (OEH 2011)	32
	LIST OF TABLES	
TABLE 2.1	KEY LEGISLATION	7
TABLE 4.1	SUMMARY OF ATTRIBUTES FOR THE SOUTH EASTERN HIGHLANDS	
	BIOREGION	13
<i>TABLE</i> <b>4.2</b>	NSW NORTH COAST BIOREGION - CLIMATE VARIABLE	
	Information	13
<i>TABLE</i> <b>4.3</b>	ABORIGINAL SITES RECORDED WITHIN THE STUDY AREA	18
TABLE 4.4	ABORIGINAL SITES KNOWN AND POTENTIALLY FOUND IN THE	
	LOCAL AREA	22

TABLE 5.1	DEFINITIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	23	
<i>TABLE 5.2</i>	FIELDWORK RESULTS	27	
<b>TABLE 6.1</b>	SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT	34	
	LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS		
Рнотодкарн 1.1	SOUTHERN SECTION OF STUDY AREA, VIEW TO WEST (ERM 2017)	2	
Рнотодкарн 5.1	STUDY AREA, SHOWING FILL MATERIAL AND GROUND VISIBILITY, VIEW TO WEST (ERM 2017)	24	
Рното <i>graph</i> 5.2	RIVERSIDE_02, VIEW TO NORTH (ERM 12 SEPTEMBER 2017)	26	
Рното <i>graph</i> 5.3	RIVERSIDE_02, SHELL DEPOSIT (ERM 19 SEPTEMBER 2017)	26	

# **ABBREVIATIONS**

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION	
ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment	
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System	
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit  The provisions of the now repealed Part 3A of the EP&A Act overrule the requirement for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act.	
BP	Before Present	
Burra Charter	Australian best heritage practice reference that provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places)	
DECCW	Department of Environment and Climate Change and Water	
DoE	Department of Environment	
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)	
ERM	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd	
ha	hectares	
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia	
KLALC	Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council	
LEP	Local Environmental Plan	
LES	Local Environment Study	
LGA	Local Government Area	
MCP	Modified Concept Plan - MP 10_0136 MOD 1	
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal	
NPW	National Parks and Wildlife	
NTS Corp	Native Title Services Corporation	
ORALRA	Office of The Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act	
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW)	
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit	
QA	Quality Assurance	
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party	
RNE	Register of the National Estate	
SHI	State Heritage Inventory	
SHR	State Heritage Register	
Tattersall Lander	Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd	

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) were commissioned by Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd (Tattersall Lander) on behalf of SGD 1 Pty Ltd (the Proponent - Sheargold) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support the proposed modification to the Approved Concept Plan for a residential development at Tea Gardens NSW. The Modified Concept Plan (MCP) has been prepared subsequent to the public exhibition of the Concept Application in early 2012 and the Concept Plan Approval on 27th June 2013 (MP 10\_0136).

Following revision of the development boundary, an additional area of 5.83 hectares associated with the proposed commercial precinct in the south west corner of the site that was not included in the Approved Concept Plan or the previous ACHA (ERM 2011) has been added to the MCP and forms the basis of this assessment.

The overall aim of the heritage assessment was to ascertain whether there are any heritage values associated with the study area that could potentially be affected by the proposed development and provide relevant mitigation measures for impacts to these heritage values during any future works.

During the field survey, one highly disturbed shell deposit was located outside of the study area boundary and was reported to be a highly disturbed shell deposit mixed with imported fill. This disturbed site has been recorded as Riverside\_02 and will not be impacted as a result of the modified concept plan, although it will be disturbed by excavation works in the water management area. This site and the recommended mitigation measures will be included in the updated Riverside Cultural Heritage Management Plan (in prep).

There is low archaeological potential for any unidentified sites to be present in the study area although an unexpected finds procedure in accordance within the updated Riverside Riverside Cultural Heritage Management Plan (in prep) will also apply.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) were commissioned by Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd (Tattersall Lander) on behalf of SGD 1 Pty Ltd (the Proponent - Sheargold) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support the proposed modification to the Approved Concept Plan for a residential development at Tea Gardens NSW (refer to Figure 1.1).

The Modified Concept Plan (MCP) has been prepared subsequent to the public exhibition of the Concept Application in early 2012 and the Concept Plan Approval on 27th June 2013 (MP 10\_0136). Following revision of the development boundary, an additional area of 5.83 hectares (ha) associated with the proposed commercial precinct in the south west corner of the site that was not included in the Approved Concept Plan or the previous ACHA (ERM 2011) has been added to the MCP and forms the basis of this assessment (refer to *Figure 1.1*).

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND

This ACHA considers the Aboriginal heritage and archaeology of the additional 5.83 ha associated with the proposed commercial precinct in the south west corner of the Riverside project area. It provides an assessment of potential impacts of the proposed development on the identified heritage values and presents impact mitigation strategies for inclusion in the updated Riverside Cultural Heritage Management Plan (*in prep*).

In 2013 the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure approved a concept application pursuant to Part 3A (now repealed) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979 (EP&A Act) for a residential and tourist subdivision under community title. Approximately 40% of the area included in the original concept plan is proposed to be developed for urban uses and water management, the remaining 114.93 ha (60%) will be set aside for conservation. Recent modifications to the Riverside Tea Gardens Concept Plan have now included an additional 5.83 ha portion of land. In accordance with recommendations from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) ERM has prepared this ACHA for the additional portion of land.

ERM has prepared this ACHA based on the following current legislation, regulation and best practice guidelines:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act* 1974;
- Heritage Act 1977;
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010a) (Consultation Guidelines);

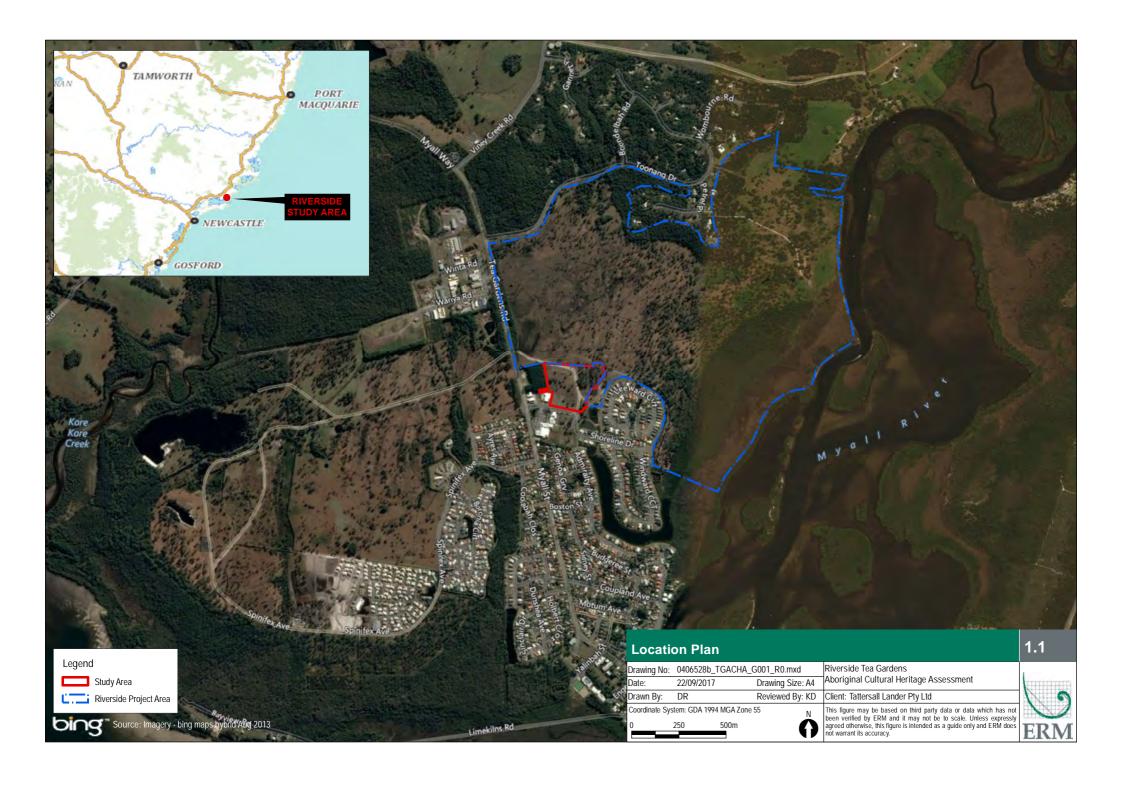
- Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW 2010b);
- Code of practice for archaeological investigation of Aboriginal objects in NSW (DECCW 2010c);
- Guide to investigating, assessing; and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH 2011); and
- the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013 (Burra Charter).

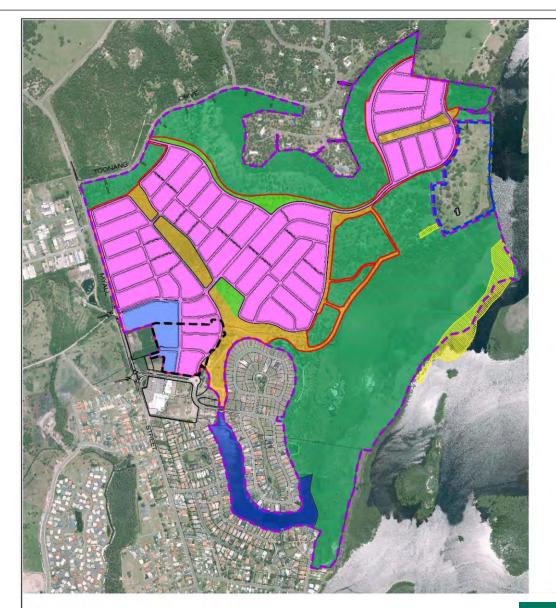
#### 1.2 STUDY AREA

The study area comprises Lot 9 DP 270561 and is approximately 5.83 ha in area associated with the proposed commercial precinct in the south west corner of the Riverside project area (see *Figure 1.2; Photograph 1.1*). The Riverside project area is bounded by the Myall River to the east and Myall Road to the west. The Shearwater Residential Estate lies to the north of the site and residential development of Tea Gardens is to the south.



Photograph 1.1 Southern section of study area, view to west (ERM 2017)





ITEM DESCRIPTION		Ha	%	
	Extent of Site - 'Riverside' concept plan		100%	
-	Development Footprint	96.13Ha	44.1%	
	Area Now Excluded	9.99 Ha		
	Area Now Included	5.83 Ha		
	Conservation	114.93Ha	52.7%	
	Existing Lakes	6.94Ha	3.2%	
	Open Space / Water Management	13.60Ha	6.2%	
	Active Recreation Area	3.78Ha	1.7%	
	Low Density Residential	73.86Ha	33.9%	
	Future Commercial	4.89Ha	2.2%	
	Location of Known Midden			
S	Existing House			

# **Modified Concept Plan**

1.2

Drawing No: 0406528b\_TGACHA\_C001\_R0.cdr Project Riverside Tea Gardens Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment 21/09/2017 Drawing size: A4 Drawn by: DR Reviewed by: KD

Client: Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd

This figure may be based on third party data or data which has not been verified by ERM and it may not be to scale. Unless expressly agreed otherwise, this figure is intended as a guide only and ERM does not warrant its accuracy.



Source:

Ttattersall Lander Pty Ltd - Site Area Plan - Rc03 Concept Plan.dwg



#### 1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The amended Concept Plan proposed is a substantially reduced and revised version of the approved Concept Plan. These works include: -

- 1. Biodiversity Offsets Package with the securing of all Koala credits onsite;
- 2. Amended Stormwater and Groundwater Management Plan including an amended flooding report due to the finalisation of the 2014 Lower Myall River and Myall Lakes Flood Study and the lowering of flood impacts;
- 3. Major reductions in the development footprint with significant increases in important ecological corridor widths;
- 4. Reorganisation of the residential and commercial interface adjoining Myall Street and the Myall Quays Shopping Village. This will result in the addition of a small area of the Commercial Community Title (DP 270561) into the MCP as well as a reduction of land from DP 270100 that will revert to future commercial lands (the subject of this ACHA); and
- 5. The provision for a Riverside Walk as a proactive protection mechanism to control public access through the wetland and biodiversity area.

The existing Approved Concept Plan provides for a development footprint of 108.30 ha. The amended MCP layout plan is proposing 96.14 ha of site area for development with 73.86 ha being used for residential dwellings.

#### 1.4 AUTHORSHIP

Katherine Deverson (ERM Heritage Consultant) conducted the field survey on Tuesday 12 September 2017 and authored this report. Sarah Ward (ERM Principal Cultural Heritage Consultant) undertook an additional survey on Tuesday 19 September 2017 and Joanne Woodhouse (ERM Senior Consultant) undertook a technical review of this report. Paul Douglass (ERM Partner) undertook a quality assurance (QA) review of the report.

#### 1.5 REPORT STRUCTURE

Chapter 2

This report is structured in the following way:

Chapter 3 Aboriginal community consultation undertaken for the

heritage assessment;

Legislative framework;

Chapter 4 Background - Environmental and landscape background,

archaeological context, Aboriginal heritage predictive model

and historical background relating to the study area;

Chapter 5 Survey methodology and results;

Chapter 6 Significance assessment of sites located within the study area;

Chapter 7 Impact assessment; and

Chapter 8 Heritage management and impact mitigation

recommendations.

In addition, there are three annexes, including:

Annex A Log of the Stakeholder consultation undertaken for the

project;

Annex B Newspaper Advertisement

Annex C Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System

(AHIMS) Site Cards

Annex D Relevant and new Aboriginal Heritage Information

Management System (AHIMS) data.

#### 2 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW is protected by the *National Parks and Wildlife (NPW) Act 1974*. Land managers are required to consider the effects of their activities or proposed development on the environment under several pieces of legislation, principally the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*. Cultural heritage, which includes indigenous heritage, is subsumed within the definition of "environment". Commonwealth legislation protecting indigenous heritage may also apply to indigenous heritage places in NSW in certain circumstances. Key legislation is summarised in *Table 2.1* below.

# Table 2.1 Key Legislation

#### State Legislation

#### National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

All Indigenous objects within the State of New South Wales are protected under Part 6, and particularly Section 90, of the NPW Act.

Under section 5 of the Act, "Aboriginal Object" means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Indigenous habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.

Sites of traditional significance that do not necessarily contain archaeological materials may be gazetted as 'Aboriginal places' and are protected under section 84 of the Act. This protection applies to all sites, regardless of their significance or land tenure.

Under section 90, a person who, without first obtaining the consent of the Director-General, knowingly destroys, defaces or damages, or knowingly causes or permits the destruction or defacement of or damage to, an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place is guilty of an offence.

The provisions of the now repealed Part 3A of the EP&A Act overrule the requirement for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act, however all other provisions remain applicable to this project. This includes Sections 85A and 89A of the NPW Act which details the recording and management of any Aboriginal cultural heritage values located within the area likely to be impacted by development activity.

#### Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 establishes the NSW Heritage Council and the SHR. The aim of the Act is to conserve the heritage of New South Wales. The aim of heritage management is not to prevent change and development, but to ensure that the heritage significance of recognised heritage items is not harmed by changes.

The SHR is a separate listing to the State Heritage Inventory and includes items which are accorded SHR listing through gazettal in the NSW Government Gazette. Nominated items are considered by the NSW Heritage Council which then makes a recommendation to the Minister for Heritage. The Minister is empowered to place Interim Heritage Orders (IHO) on an item of potential State significance on the basis of advice received from the Heritage Council. :

- **a.** An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history.
- **b.** An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history.
- **c.** An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.
- **d.** An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- **e.** An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history.

#### **State Legislation**

- **f.** An item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered, aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history.
- **g.** An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's a) cultural or natural places: or b) cultural or natural environments.

#### Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (EP&A Regulation) provide the statutory framework for the assessment of the activity. Section 79C of the EP&A Act requires the consent authority to take into consideration a range of matters when undertaking an assessment of a DA. The EP&A Act requires that environmental impacts are considered in land use planning, including impacts on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage. Various planning instruments prepared under the Act identify permissible land use and development constraints.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) provide guidelines for Aboriginal heritage assessment, including those conducted under the EP&A Act.

#### **Commonwealth Legislation**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Commonwealth)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 protects areas and/or objects which are of significance to Aboriginal people and which are under threat of destruction. The Act can, in certain circumstances override state and territory provisions, or it can be implemented in circumstances where state or territory provisions are lacking or are not enforced. A significant area or object is defined as one that is of particular importance to Aboriginal people according to Aboriginal tradition. The Act must be invoked by or on behalf of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or organisation.

#### 3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This chapter contains details of the Aboriginal community consultation undertaken in regard to the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the study area.

In accordance with the guideline *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* 2010 (DECCW 2010a), consultation with Aboriginal people is an essential part of the heritage assessment process to determine potential harm on Aboriginal cultural heritage from proposed activities; and to inform decision making if it is determined that harm cannot be avoided.

The guideline also sets out four stages of consultation requirements. Fulfilment of these requirements is outlined below.

# 3.1 STAGE 1: NOTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY AND REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

ERM has actively sought to identify stakeholder groups or people wishing to be consulted with about the modified concept plan. A consultation log was started at this time, and updated during the various stages of the project. The consultation log is presented in *Annex A*. The proposed activity was advertised in the Myall Coast News of the Area, requesting the participation of interested Aboriginal groups. The advertisement is presented in *Annex B*.

To identify relevant stakeholders, letters about the proposed activity (dated 19 June 2017) were supplied to the following bodies:

- Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council (KLALC);
- NSW OEH (Hunter Region);
- Local Land Services, Hunter Region;
- National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT);
- Native Title Services Corporation (NTS Corp);
- Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1983); and
- Mid-Coast Council.

Four Aboriginal parties registered an interest in being consulted:

- KLALC;
- Karuah Indigenous Corporation;
- Nur Run Gee; and
- Mur Roo Ma Inc.

#### 3.2 STAGE 2: PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

A project notification letter was sent to each of the registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) (dated 5 July 2017). The letter included:

- an outline of the proposed works;
- the proposed methodology and dates for pedestrian survey;
- a request to nominate one person for attendance on one day of the survey;
   and
- a request for Aboriginal parties to identify any particular areas of interest within the study area to survey, to inform the preparation of a roster.

KLALC also requested a face to face meeting to discuss the project and proposed assessment. This meeting was undertaken on 6 July 2017.

No comments were received from other RAPs in relation to the proposed methodology.

As outlined within the consultation log (*Annex A*), KLALC voiced concerns that the other RAPS, while welcome to register an interest, should not be invited to attend the field survey as it was located within the Karuah LALC boundaries. ERM considered the advice and consulted with both OEH and the RAPS over a period of eight weeks to ensure that the views of all RAPs could be duly considered.

A search by ORALRA (Office of The Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act) has confirmed that no Traditional Owners have been registered over this property and there are always some questions around interpretation of the consultation guidelines although it is generally accepted that consultation does not mean that all RAPs have to attend every site visit, consultation is merely being involved in the project and being provided the opportunity to review and comment. Based on advice from OEH, providing equal opportunity in this project was the preferred option in this instance as all groups indicated their interest in being involved in the site visit and they confirmed (verbal only) that they are traditional owners of the Worimi Nation. One of the RAPS was also involved in the recording of the midden sites in the immediate locality.

#### 3.3 STAGE 3: GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Based on the responses received during Stage 2 consultation and ongoing consultation with OEH and the RAPs as outline above, ERM issued invitations for participation of Aboriginal parties in field surveys on 12 September or 19 September 2017. Emails and telephone calls were made to each party that had expressed interest in the survey to confirm attendance and clarify any potential questions or issues about the methodology, and to determine meeting locations and times for each survey day.

During telephone calls and the face to face meeting with the KLALC, the known heritage sites in the area (derived from results of AHIMS searches and previous surveys) were discussed, to provide Aboriginal parties with information about the types of recorded sites in the area. Information was also sought regarding cultural knowledge of the study area. All groups expressed that the study area, although heavily disturbed, held potential cultural sensitivity. KLALC provided further comment in regards to the importation of fill from Limekilns (a substantial cultural area) for the making of roads and confirmed that the areas of swamp were not intensively occupied by Aboriginal people in the local area.

#### 3.4 STAGE 4: REVIEW OF DRAFT CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

A draft copy of this ACHA report was provided to all registered Aboriginal parties on 13 October 2017, for the purposes of receiving written or oral general comments and comments on the cultural significance of the study area. Responses were received from Karuah Indigenous Corporation on 6 November 2017 and Nur Run Gee on 3 November 2017 indicating their support of the management recommendations. Additional recommendations presented by these RAPS include:

- any turf stripping in the project should be monitored by a representative from each of the registered stakeholders with connection to Worimi Country;
- artefacts that are impacted by construction of the project should be salvaged by a representative from each of the registered stakeholders with connection to Worimi Country; and
- a request that OEH treat the oral history parts of the assessment with the utmost of 'confidentiality'.

Responses were also received from KLALC dated 18 January 2018 indicating that they do not support the ACHA report in its draft format. Consideration was given to the recommendations of the KLAC and a revised draft was provided to all registered Aboriginal parties on 9 February 2018. Specifically, based on the advice of KLALC, the potential hearth site has now being confirmed as a modern fire pit and is not identified as a PAD. Responses were received from Karuah Indigenous Corporation on 15 February 2018 and Nur Run Gee on 10 February 2018 indicating their continued support of the management recommendations.

An email response received from KLALC dated 12 February 2018 indicates that they do not agree that salvage and test excavation is warranted at Riverside\_02. KLALC also remain disrespected that other RAPs participated in the field survey.

Copies of their correspondence are provided in *Annex A*.

#### 4 BACKGROUND

#### 4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Interactions between people and their surroundings are of integral importance in both the initial formation and the subsequent preservation of the archaeological record. The nature and availability of resources, including water, flora, fauna, and stone materials had (and continues to have) a significant influence over the way in which people use the landscape.

Alterations to the natural environment also impact upon the preservation and integrity of cultural materials within that environment. Current vegetation and erosional regimes also affect the visibility and detectability of Aboriginal sites and objects. For these reasons, it is essential to consider environmental factors as a component in any heritage assessment.

# 4.1.1 Bioregion

Bioregions and sub-bioregions are large, geographically distinct areas of land with common characteristics such as geology, landform patterns, climate, ecological features and plant and animal communities. The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA; Department of the Environment (DoE) 2014) provides a regional and national planning framework for the systematic development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative National Reserve System. Bioregions delineate salient environmental characteristics, which can highlight patterns in Aboriginal site patterning.

NSW has 17 identified bioregions. The study area is located at the southernmost point of the NSW North Coast, which extends along the coast from Tea Gardens north to just over the Queensland border. It is bordered by the Sydney Basin bioregion to the south, and the New England Tableland bioregion to the west. The total area of this bioregion is 5,924,130 ha, and the NSW portion is 5,692,351.6 ha; it occupies 7.11% of NSW (OEH 2016). A summary of the main attributes of the bioregion are provided in *Table 4.1*.

Table 4.1 Summary of Attributes for the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion

Characteristic	Description
Geology	The North Coast Bioregion is one of the most diverse in NSW. It has Devonian and Permian bedrocks that are part of the New England Fold Belt and have been closely faulted as they were thrust over the northern margin of the Sydney Basin. Small bodies of granite and granodiorite have intruded the sedimentary rocks and there are three centres of Tertiary basalt eruption.
Landforms	The region overlies dissected ranges and plateau of the Great Dividing Range, extending to the Great Escarpment in the east and the western slopes of inland drainage basins. The region covers a variety of landforms such as steep to gentle slopes, ridges and valley floors.
Soils	The soil and vegetation patterns in the bioregion are very complex because of the different substrates, the topographic variation and the climatic differences encountered across and along the bioregion. In general, only the most fertile soils (normally from basalts) support rainforests, but exceptions to this are found in numerous protected pockets where plant nutrients have accumulated through organic cycling in litter.
	On the basalts the soils are typically red, friable loams or clay loams with high fertility, good structure and excellent water-holding capacity. On granites and most of the quartz rich sedimentary rocks, shallow yellow earths are found on hillcrests, yellow and brown texture contrast profiles are found on the slopes, and organic loams or sandy loams are found on the alluvial plains. In the coastal dunes, deep siliceous sands and very well developed podsols can be found.
Vegetation	The region contains a diverse range of vegetation communities such as yellow box, red box, Blakely's red gum, white box and white gum to the west of the region, brown barrel to the east, river oak along streams, grey gum and Blaxland's Stringybark in lower areas and brown barrel, mountain gum, narrow-leaved peppermint and ribbon gum on elevated areas.
Source: OEH 2016	

# 4.1.2 Climate

The sub-tropical climate of the coastal portion of the NSW North Coast bioregion is characterised by hot summers. A breakdown of climatic variables for the bioregion is given in *Table 4.2* (OEH 2016).

Table 4.2 NSW North Coast bioregion - Climate Variable Information

Climate Information	Variable
Mean annual temperature	8-20°C
Minimum average monthly temperature	-2.8-9.8°C
Maximum average monthly temperature	20.3-30.9°C
Mean annual rainfall	607-2912mm
Minimum average monthly rainfall	30-99mm
Maximum average monthly rainfall	76-499mm

# 4.1.3 Topography and Landforms

Speight (1990) describes categories of landform divisions, including ten morphological types of landform element units. For archaeological investigations they divide the landscape into standardised elements that can be used for comparative purposes and predictive modelling. A number of landform units were identified within the surrounding area, being slopes, ridges, flats, dunes and gullies/creeks. Site types most likely to occur on these landforms are shell middens and stone artefact sites (scatters and isolated finds). The study area is predominantly flat and low-lying. The landscape drains down to the south and to the Myall River estuary at its east.

# 4.1.4 Geology and Soils

The area surrounding the study area predominantly overlies Quaternary sands comprising gravel, sand, silt and clay, with a small section in the north west overlying Carboniferous bedrock of the Wooton Beds, including sandstone, siltstone, claystone, shale, limestone and lavas (Newcastle 1:250,000 geological series). No stone outcrops appear to occur in the study area. Axe grinding grooves are often located on sandstone where it occurs in association with water, but the lack of such outcrops indicates that this type of site will not occur in the study area. Stone art/engraving sites and shelter sites will also not occur, given the lack of outcrops.

Stone from the Nerong Volcanics group outcrops in the area surrounding Port Stephens. The Nerong Volcanics include a range of stone types that are not typically used to manufacture artefacts but have been reported as being utilised and have been found in archaeological sites some distance from their source (Dean-Jones 1990:116; Umwelt 2000:7.8; Dyall 2004:144). To the northwest of Port Stephens, outcrops of various igneous and sedimentary rocks suitable for stone tool manufacture (including tuff) are present (Dean-Jones 1990:18). No cobbles of suitable raw material for stone artefact manufacture appear to occur naturally within the study area. As such, stone quarry sites are not expected to occur.

The soils identified in the surrounding area were alluvium, siliceous sand, leached sand, structured plastic clay, salt marsh/heath sands, sand podzols, brown and yellow podzolics and organic sands/muds (Gardner Browne *et. al.* 1991:30). Field observation of soil horizons indicated that the study area was covered by a silty clay deposit and imported sands used as fill. Advice from the KLALC suggests that the fill has been imported from Limekilns (a substantial cultural area) for the making of roads.

#### 4.1.5 Hydrology

The availability of water has significant implications for the range of resources present and the suitability of an area for human occupation. The study area is located in the Port Stephens catchment, and is bounded to the east by the Myall River estuary. Although the estuary is unsuitable for drinking it would have attracted a wide variety of animals and supported a range of plant species and shellfish/marine species, which are likely to have been used by Aboriginal people in the past.

A small intermittent creek is present north-east of the study area, draining into the Myall River. Several ephemeral intermittent drainage lines are present to the north, draining down the slope to the low-lying part of the study area.

The location of the estuary indicates that shell middens are likely to be present in and near the study area. Stone artefacts are most likely to occur in the context of middens, being scattered in very low numbers throughout the remainder of the study area.

#### 4.1.6 Land Use and Disturbance

The broader Riverside project area was cleared in 1932 for a pine plantation, which has heavily disturbed the area. Large areas of the plantation were burned out in 1979 and it was not maintained after this time. The study area subject to this assessment is highly disturbed having been subject to the importation of fill material and continually slashed.

#### 4.1.7 Flora and Fauna

The study area is located near the Myall River estuary, which supports an extensive environment of seagrass and mangroves which would provide shellfish such as cockles and oysters. In this regard it is likely that shell middens may be present within the study area.

# 4.1.8 Implications for Archaeology

The environmental context outlined above has a number of implications for archaeology in the study area. Previous disturbance caused by clearing and ongoing slashing indicates that no stone arrangements or ceremonial grounds will be found. Further, scarred or carved trees will not be located in the study area. A lack of stone outcrops indicates that shelter sites, quarrying sites, stone engraving/art sites and axe grinding grooves will not occur.

The location of the estuary and the presence of salt marsh soils in the wetlands indicate that shell middens may be present. The presence of small creeks indicates that stone artefacts may occur in very low numbers; however such artefacts are most likely to occur in the context of middens.

#### 4.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

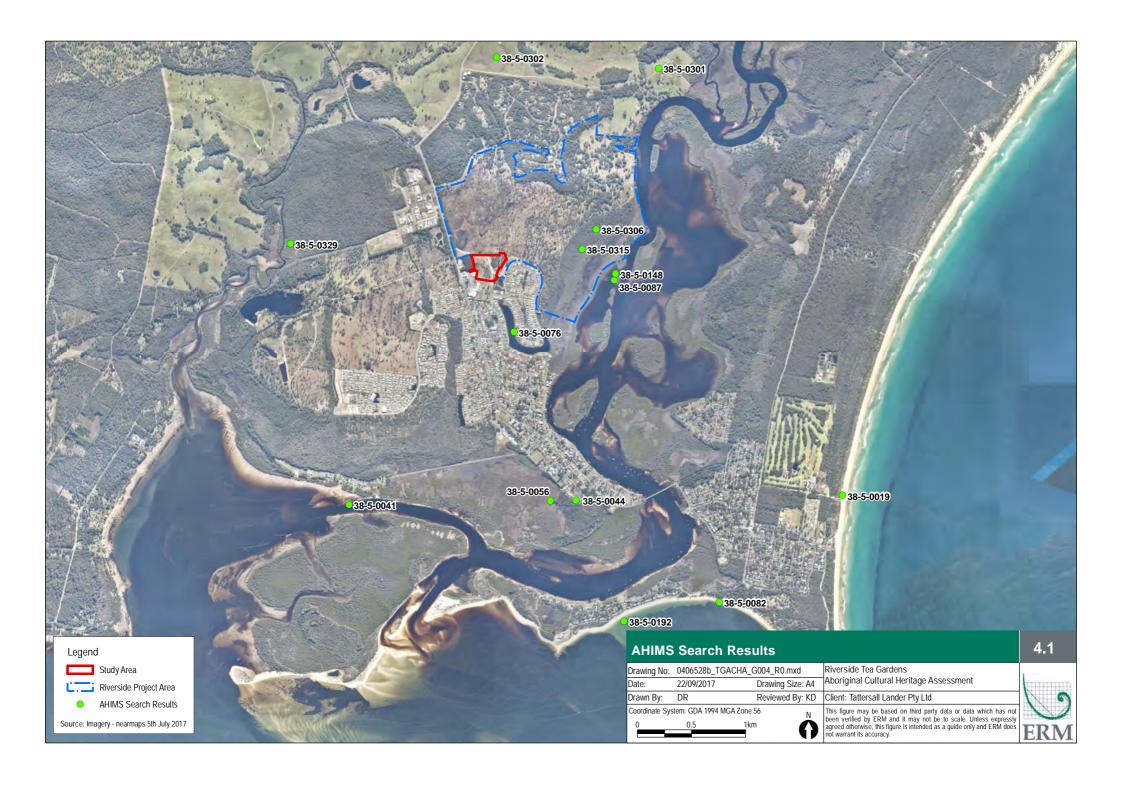
The purpose of this section is to provide archaeological background information for use in developing a predictive model of Aboriginal site location for the study area.

## 4.2.1 AHIMS Results

A search of the AHIMS Aboriginal Sites Database was undertaken on 13 September 2017, the search covered the entire Riverside project area with a 1000 m buffer. A total of 15 recorded sites were identified within this search area (see *Figure 4.1; Annex D*), which comprised nine middens, one stone artefact scatter, one burial, and three Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs).

This search of the local area shows that middens are the main Aboriginal site type recorded in the area, and these are predominantly located on the beach and bays of Port Stephens, and along the estuaries and rivers of the area (including the Myall River).

Two midden sites (38-5-0148 and 38-5-0306) have been recorded to the north of the current study area and will be protected within the proposed Conservation Area. The sites are managed as part of the updated Riverside Cultural Heritage Management Plan (in prep). No other sites are located within 1.5 km of the study area.



#### 4.2.2 Previous Local Studies

A brief literature review was undertaken to understand the local region's archaeological patterning. This review was targeted to those reports relevant to the study area.

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken within and adjacent to the Riverside at Tea Gardens site. These are outlined below, to establish a basis on which the predictive model for the study area may be formulated.

#### ERM (2011)

ERM conducted field surveys in 2008 and 2009 within the broader Riverside project area. The surveys covered the current study area (no archaeological site recorded) however the area was later removed from the concept plan and the surveys were not formerly reported in the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (ERM 2011).

The surveys were undertaken in consultation with the KLALC and focused on identifying Aboriginal cultural sites and PADs throughout the area. Ground visibility was reported to be a limiting factor and exposed areas with higher visibility were targeted. Two midden sites and one PAD were identified during the surveys. These sites had been recorded previously and were relocated during the 2009 fieldwork. All sites are located in an area set aside for conservation and will not be impact as a result of the MCP. A summary of the results of the 2008 and 2009 surveys (site name, content and context) is provided in *Table 4.3*, the location of the sites is shown in *Figure 5.1*.

Table 4.3 Aboriginal sites recorded within the study area

Site	Content	Location	Archaeological potential <sup>1</sup>	
38-5-0306 (Riverside_01)	Midden	Sand Dune in east of project area. Approx. 100 m west of coastline	Moderate potential	
38-5-0148	Midden	Sand Dune at eastern limit of project area on coastline.	Moderate potential	
1 – Criteria for the assessment of archaeological potential is provided in Table 5.1				

#### Brayshaw (1988)

The Riverside project area (including the current study area) has been previously surveyed by Brayshaw (1988), who traversed the entire area on foot, focussing on areas of ground surface exposure, mature trees, and environmental features which may have formed a focus for Aboriginal occupation. During this survey, Brayshaw located one site, a shell midden comprising four exposures within a 220 m x 40 m strip along the bank of the Myall River opposite the southern part of Dredge Island (AHIMS site 38-5-0148; see *Figure 4.1*).

A number of factors including increasing population pressure on the North Coast has impacted many sites including shell middens, meaning that all remaining shell middens have become more significant, especially those that by their nature or location mean they are likely to continue to survive. Given the lack of disturbance to this midden, the potential depth of deposit and the range of shell species represented (cockle, oyster, whelk and pipi), Brayshaw assessed the site as having high archaeological significance, and recommended that it be preserved.

# Previous Archaeological Work to the South of the Study Area

The area immediately south of the study area was surveyed by Dallas (1982), who located a disturbed shell midden (AHIMS site 38-5-0076; see *Figure 4.1*) on a sandy elevation above a swamp adjoining the Myall River. The shell species represented were whelk, cockle and oyster, and flaked stone artefacts were also present. Given the shallow deposit and high level of disturbance, the site was assessed as having low archaeological significance. A Consent to Destroy (S.90) permit for this site was issued in 1982, however this permit lapsed without impact to the midden, the site was destroyed in 1994.

The site was reinvestigated by Kinhill Engineers (1994), at which time a new midden exposure was recorded approximately 100 m to the south west (AHIMS site 38-5-0147; see Figure 4.1). Kinhill Engineers conducted a program of test excavation (under a S.87 permit) on this new site, and assessed the site as being of moderate to low archaeological significance, with further excavation work unlikely to add to an understanding of the site. Whelk, oyster and some cockle were recovered at this site, as were stone artefacts.

A small area proposed for a caravan park on the southern edge of Tea Gardens was surveyed by Dean-Jones (1989), and no archaeological evidence was found.

Land at the mouth of the Myall River, on the southern edge of Hawks Nest, was surveyed by Byrne (1985). Four occurrences of oyster were located over several hundred metres along a vehicle track on the edge of a mangrove swamp, and one stone artefact was located. The site was identified as a short-stay camp with limited extent, depth and shell species, and had been heavily disturbed by the vehicle track. It was assessed as being of low archaeological significance.

Previous Archaeological Work to the West of the Study Area

The area immediately to the west of the study area was surveyed by Silcox (1998). One stone artefact scatter (comprising two artefacts) and one isolated find were located during the survey, and these were both assessed as having low archaeological significance.

The area immediately west and south-west of the study area was surveyed by RPS Harper Somers O'Sullivan in 2008. The surveys located midden sites originally recorded by Silcox in 1999 and determined that these sites were highly disturbed by previous land uses, such as grazing.

Previous Archaeological Work to the North of the Study Area

An area proposed for residential development at Monkey Jacket was surveyed by Rich and Brayshaw (1983), and no archaeological evidence was found.

#### Summary

The local heritage studies demonstrate that the study area and its immediate surroundings have been previously surveyed for archaeology. The methodologies for these surveys appear to have been adequate, and no sites have been located within the current study area.

# 4.2.3 Regional Archaeological Context

By far the bulk of the archaeological investigations in the Port Stephens catchment have been carried out in relation to development projects. Consequently, the locations of previous studies are generally linked to the primary areas of development, rather than reflecting a cohesive research design. Shell middens are the most common site type along the coast, and tend to occur most frequently in association with beach dunes or estuaries, and to a lesser extent with rock platforms/headlands, particularly in close proximity to fresh water (Sullivan 1982). While shell middens are the most common type of site on the coast, other sites recorded include stone artefact scatters, scarred trees and axe grinding grooves, and burials may be located in soft dune sand either alone or in association with middens.

Sites on the NSW North Coast have been dated predominantly to the last 6,000 years, which corresponds to the time when sea levels rose to their present level (Lampert and Hughes 1974). During the period of lower sea level, the NSW coast would have been located a great distance to the east. Archaeological sites on that ancient coastline would have been submerged below the rising sea levels following the last glacial maximum when sea levels were at their lowest (approximately 18,000 BP).

Most middens on the NSW North Coast date to the last 1,000 years, with many dating to from 300-500 years Before Present (BP) and later (Sullivan 1982:124). However, much earlier evidence of late Pleistocene occupation in the nearby Hunter region has been identified at a number of sites, namely Warkworth West, Fal Brook and Lemington (AMBS 2002; ERM 2004:15; Koettig 1987; Kuskie 2000). Whilst the representation of Pleistocene sites in the region is limited, it should not be assumed that this apparent paucity of dated sites reflects a lack of human activity. Based on the current models for the peopling of Australia and the evidence from surrounding regions, it seems likely that the Hunter region was initially occupied at some time between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago (ERM 2004:68).

# 4.2.4 Implications for the Study Area - Predictive Model

Based on the archaeological and environmental context outlined above, it is predicted that shell middens are the type of site most likely to be found in the study area. Stone artefacts are more likely to be found in association with middens, rather than being represented by individual sites. The disturbance that has occurred over the majority of the study area (and the broader Riverside project area) indicates that no stone arrangements or ceremonial grounds will be found, and a lack of stone outcrops and cobbles within the study area indicates that stone quarry sites, shelter sites, rock art/engravings and axe grinding grooves will not occur. Evidence of intensive usage or occupation is unlikely.

It is unlikely but possible that burials may occur within the study area, most likely in association with midden material; however recorded burials in the vicinity indicate that burials are more likely to occur in middens in the soft sand of the beach and the bays of Port Stephens, rather than in or near the estuaries. There is no indication that burials are more likely to occur in the study area than in any of the surrounding localities. Site types that may potentially be found in or near the study area are described in *Table 4.3* below.

Table 4.4 Aboriginal sites known and potentially found in the local area

Site Types	Definitions
Shell middens	Middens predominantly consist of accumulations of shell that represent the exploitation and consumption of shellfish by Aboriginal people. Shell species may be marine, estuarine or freshwater depending on the environmental context. Middens frequently also include faunal remains, stone artefacts, hearths and charcoal.
Stone artefact scatters	Stone artefact scatter sites, also known as open campsites, are usually indicated by surface scatters of stone artefacts and sometimes fire blackened stones and charcoal. Where such sites are buried by sediment they may not be noticeable unless exposed by erosion or disturbed by modern activities. The term 'campsite' is used as a label which, in the case of open sites, does not necessarily imply that Aboriginal people actually camped at the site; rather it indicates only that some type of activity was carried out there.
Isolated Finds	Sites consisting of only one identified stone artefact, isolated from any other artefacts or archaeological evidence (and defined by an arbitrary separation distance of 50 m). They are generally indicative of sporadic past Aboriginal use of a location.
Grinding grooves	Grooves resulting from the grinding of stone axes or other implements are found on flat areas of suitable sandstone. They are often located near waterholes or creek beds as water is necessary in the sharpening process. In areas where suitable outcrops of rock were not available, transportable pieces of sandstone were used.
Scarred trees	Scarred trees bear the marks of bark and wood removal for utilisation as canoes, shields, boomerangs or containers. It is commonly very difficult to confidently distinguish between Aboriginal scars and natural scars or those made by Europeans. Scars may also originate as 'foot-marks', small pockets cut into the bark of a tree enabling the tree to be climbed.
Burial sites	Burials may be of isolated individuals, or they may form complex burial grounds. Often associated with other site types such as middens, or mounds.

#### 5 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

This section provides an overview of the surveys of the study area undertaken to determine the presence of Aboriginal heritage sites.

#### 5.1 FIELD SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The study area was surveyed by the ERM Heritage Consultant, Katherine Deverson, and Aboriginal representatives from Karuah Indigenous Corporation and Nur Run Gee on 12 September 2017, and again on 19 September 2017 by ERM Principal Cultural Heritage Consultant, Sarah Ward and representatives from KLALC. The survey attempted to look at areas of exposure within the study area.

When potential heritage sites or items were identified they were recorded by the survey team for content, GPS location and digitally photographed. Notes were made of soil conditions, evidence of disturbance and possible extent of sites. Areas with archaeological potential were identified upon the definitions in *Table 5.1*. Specific methodologies are described below.

Table 5.1 Definitions of Archaeological Potential

Rank	Definition	Example
No potential	Artefacts cannot occur in situ.	Eroded landforms, reconstructed landscapes, hazardous landscape, developed areas.
Low potential	Artefacts are not normally found in comparable contexts but could occur in low densities making detection unlikely.	Landforms with no specific focus for use, i.e. with water sources or undifferentiated slopes.
Moderate potential	Artefacts are known to occur in comparable landforms in detectable densities (~1artefact/m²) and there is an unknown possibility for detection.	Landforms with an environmental focus which may have seen seasonal visitation.
High potential	Artefacts are consistently found in comparable landforms or similar environmental contexts and thus will certainly be found in any ground breaking works.	Landforms with known environmental focus encouraging repeat visitation to specific locale, i.e. margins of swamp or near high order creeks.

The survey was conducted according to the methodology discussed with all Aboriginal stakeholders. Participants walked in transects approximately 2-3 m apart covering the entire 5.83 ha area.

The survey focused on the identification of Aboriginal heritage values relating to archaeological sites, although discussion also included Aboriginal intangible values and the importance of Aboriginal sites to the local community. Field survey methods were adopted to pursue the discovery of new archaeological sites, ensure their accurate recording and provide sufficient background information to provide an assessment of cultural (and social) significance to the extent that surface survey allowed.

## 5.1.1 Fieldwork Constraints

The majority of the study area appears to have been used as agricultural grazing land and has been recently slashed, is largely covered in grass and fill material and has low ground surface visibility.

Given that the study area was relatively small the survey comprehensively covered the entire area, however it focused on areas of higher ground visibility.

## 5.2 DISCUSSION OF SURVEY RESULTS

A summary of the results is presented in *Table 5.2* and described below.

## 5.2.1 Landform

The study area comprises flat landform that had low ground visibility. Most of this landform has been cleared in the recent past for agricultural purposes and the trees are predominantly young, and therefore could not be scarred or carved. The areas of vegetation were also checked for scarred or carved trees but none were observed. Much of the study area appeared to be covered in or mixed with imported off-site fill as shown in *Photograph 5.1*.



Photograph 5.1 Study area, showing fill material and ground visibility, view to west (ERM 2017)

#### 5.2.2 *Riverside\_02*

During the field survey on 12 September 2017, one highly disturbed shell deposit was located outside of the study area boundary (refer to *Figures 5.1 and 5.2*). The midden deposit was not dense and most of what can be seen showed a sparse scattering of mature shell on the surface. Some unworked chert material was located in this area; however no Aboriginal stone artefacts or animal bone were noted in the midden material. *Figure 5.1* shows the extent of the midden, the main deposit appears to be located on the slightly raised area beneath a remnant patch of trees covering approximately 30 m x 20 m and is mixed with imported fill.

The shell species present included cockle, whelk, and pipi, all species commonly reported to have been utilised and found within middens in the local area (Brayshaw 1988 and Dallas 1982). The site is in poor condition and is surrounded by largely disturbed areas. Evidence for the midden was also found in a group of trees 70 m to the south of the main deposit, the ground between these areas is highly disturbed and is covered by/mixed with imported off-site fill. It is considered likely that the two deposits were originally part of one site however confirmation of the site extent is difficult from surface survey only as it is obscured by the imported fill. KLALC have indicated that this fill has been sourced from Limekilns (a substantial cultural site) which would also contain shell deposit and midden material.

As confirmed by KLALC in their review of the draft report, a shell deposit is not necessarily a midden, and many shell deposits are incorrectly recorded as Aboriginal middens. Natural shell deposits can be differentiated from middens because they consist of mature and immature, edible and inedible shellfish and would contain no (or limited) charcoal or stone tools.

In this instance, the deposit is noted to be characterised by mature shell of species known to be utilised as a food resource. While no Aboriginal stone artefacts or animal bone were noted, the surface expression is obscured by the imported fill and this disturbed site has been recorded as Riverside\_02. This newly recorded midden site is located within the Riverside development open area (water management) and will be included in the updated Riverside Cultural Heritage Management Plan (*in prep*).

The AHIMS card for the site is included in *Annex C*.



Photograph 5.2 Riverside\_02, view to north (ERM 12 September 2017)



Photograph 5.3 Riverside\_02, shell deposit (ERM 19 September 2017)

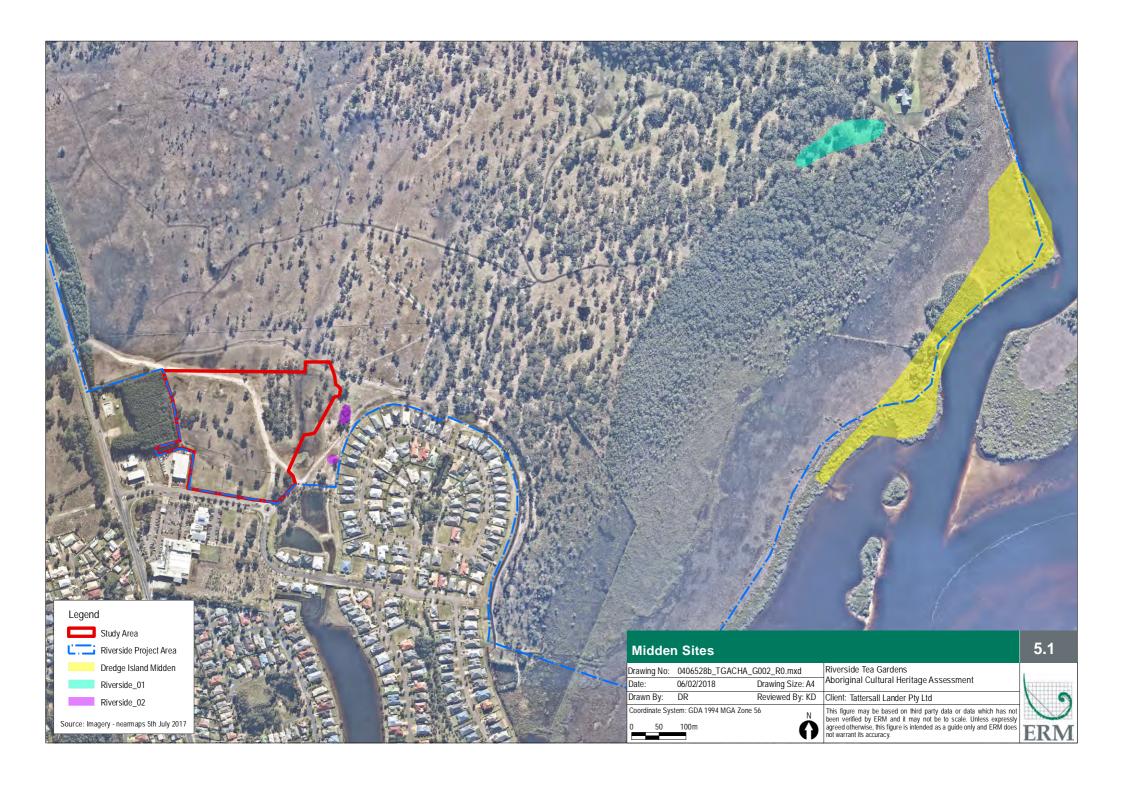
Table 5.2 Fieldwork Results

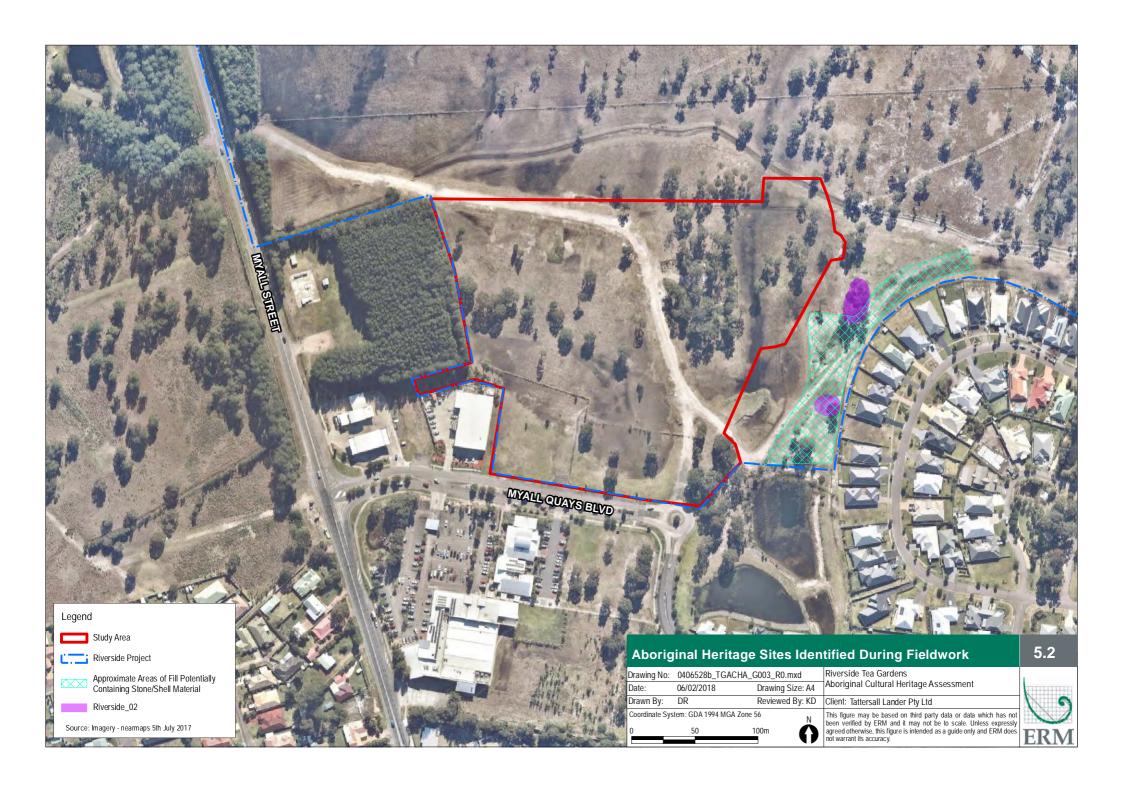
Site	Previously Recorded	Description	Location <sup>1</sup>	Description	Archaeological potential <sup>2</sup>
Riverside_02	No	Highly disturbed shell deposit was located outside of the study area boundary. The shell species present included cockle, whelk, and pipi, all species commonly reported to have been utilised and found within middens in the local area (Brayshaw 1988 and Dallas 1982). The site is in poor condition and is surrounded by largely disturbed areas.  Confirmation of the site extent is difficult from surface survey only as it is obscured by the imported fill. KLALC have indicated that this fill has been sourced from Limekilns (a substantial cultural site) which would also contain shell deposit and midden material.	<5m <u>outside</u> eastern boundary of study area.		Moderate Potential
Potential Hearth	No	A small deposit of heat fractured rock and animal bone (identified as kangaroo) was located during the 19 September 2017 survey by ERM archaeologist and KLAC. Based on the density and compaction of the deposit and that it appeared to extend further below the surface it was identified in the field as a potential hearth site, however it could not be confirmed as a cultural deposit based on its surface expression only. The item is located in an area that has been highly disturbed and is mixed with imported fill material Based on further advice from KLALC this site has been confirmed as a modern fire pit and not a cultural site.	South-west portion of study area. Not confirmed as a cultural deposit.		No Potential. No further assessment has been undertaken.

Site	Previously Recorded	Description	Location <sup>1</sup>	Description		Archaeological potential <sup>2</sup>
Isolated pieces of imported stone material	No	Three isolated pieces of imported stone material (i.e. not naturally occurring within the study area and of a type commonly used in stone tool manufacture) were also located during the 19 September 2017 survey in areas that have been identified as containing imported fill (sand).	western portion of the study area. They were not confirmed as being culturally modified and are		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	No Potential.  No further assessment has been undertaken.

<sup>1 -</sup> Refer to Figures 5.1 and 5.2

<sup>2 –</sup> Criteria for the assessment of archaeological potential is provided in Table 5.1





#### 6 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

The heritage values significance assessment for the study area has been assessed in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011) and encompasses the four values outlined in the *Burra Charter* (social, historical, scientific and aesthetic) (Australian ICOMOS 2013).

#### 6.1 ASSESSMENT OF ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

## 6.1.1 Preamble

Aboriginal heritage sites, objects and places hold value for communities in many different ways. The nature of those heritage values is an important consideration when deciding how to manage a heritage site, object or place and balance competing land-use options.

Assessing the cultural significance of a place means identifying the reasons why a place is culturally important.

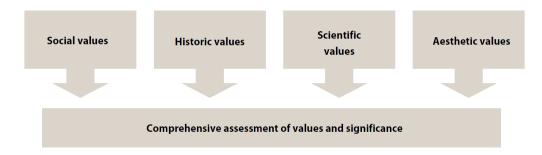
The NPWS Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit (1997) states:

While Aboriginal sites and places may have educational, tourism, and other values to groups in society, their two principal values are their cultural/social significance to Aboriginal people and their scientific significance to archaeologists. It is thus possible to identify two main streams in the overall significance assessment process: the assessment of cultural/social significance to Aboriginal people and the assessment of scientific significance to archaeologists... (1997: 92)

The OEH *Guideline for investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (2011) states that analysing cultural heritage significance involves two main steps:

- identifying the range of values present, including social, historic, scientific and aesthetic values; and
- assessing why they are important.

In addition to identifying the scientific and cultural (social) values of Aboriginal places, the OEH Guideline (2011:7) draws on the Burra Charter (2013) and adds that historic and aesthetic values should also be considered. The assessment process is shown diagrammatically in *Figure 6.1*.



## Figure 6.1 Diagrammatic presentation of the significance assessment process (OEH 2011)

The assessment in *Section 6.1.3* focuses upon the scientific significance of the sites recorded during the survey. The cultural significance assessment is provided in *Section 6.1.4* of this report. Aboriginal groups who participated in the survey will be afforded the opportunity to comment on this draft report for a cultural and social significance assessment of the sites recorded.

## 6.1.2 Background: Scientific Significance Assessment

This assessment has sought to identify Aboriginal heritage objects and sites within the study area and obtain sufficient information to allow the scientific values of those objects and sites to be determined. NPWS (1997:93) have stated that 'while various criteria for archaeological significance assessment have been advanced over the years, most of them fall under the heading of archaeological research potential'. As such, seven key criteria may be used to examine the scientific value/significance of a site. These are:

- Rarity: whether any or all aspects of a site (type, location, integrity, content and archaeological potential) can be considered common or rare within a local, regional or national context;
- Representativeness: the comparative rarity of the site when considered and contrasted against other similar sites conserved at the local and/or regional level;
- Archaeological landscapes: the study of the cultural sites relating to Aboriginal peoples within the context of their interactions in the wider social and natural environment they inhabited. Landscapes can be large or small depending upon specific contexts (i.e. local or regional conditions); they may also may be influenced by Aboriginal social and demographic factors (which may no longer be apparent);
- Connectedness: whether the site can be connected to other sites at the local
  or regional level through aspects such as type, chronology, content (i.e.
  materials present, manufacturing processes), spatial patterning or ethnohistorical information;

- Integrity & condition: integrity refers to the level of modification a site has been subject to (the cultural and natural formation process) and whether the site could yield intact archaeological deposits, which could be spatially meaningful. Condition takes into account the state of the material, which is especially relevant for organic materials;
- Complexity: the demonstrated or potential ability of a site to yield a complex assemblage (stone, bone and/or shell) and/or features (hearths, fire pits, activity areas); and
- Archaeological potential: the potential to yield information (from subsurface materials which retain integrity, stratigraphical or not) that will contribute to an understanding of contemporary archaeological interest, or which could be saved for future research potential.

## 6.1.3 Scientific Significance Assessment

The midden site identified to the east of the study area is a common site type within the region. Occupational sites are not found locally in areas of flat landforms, or areas of swamp; however the site is near wetlands and estuaries, where middens and artefact scatters are common. The highly disturbed midden site (Riverside\_02) has been identified as having moderate to no potential for containing intact archaeological deposits, primarily based on their landform type and the low-density surface scatters.

The midden site is considered to have a low level of archaeological/scientific significance. Its commonness within the regional landscape both in terms of material, density, and site type is not considered to warrant a 'high' level of scientific significance and the site is in poor condition, mixed with imported fill and is not intact.

## 6.1.4 Aboriginal Cultural Significance Assessment

Cultural/social significance concerns the values of a place, feature or site to particular community groups, in this case the local Aboriginal communities. The primary guide to management of heritage places is the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013. The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as:

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Aspects of cultural or social significance are relevant to sites, objects and landscapes that are important or have become important to local Aboriginal communities. This importance involves both traditional links with specific areas as well as an overall concern by Aboriginal people for sites generally and their continued protection.

Aboriginal communities have provided input into the archaeological survey methodology and the archaeological and cultural significance assessment of the study area. They will also be provided the opportunity to comment on the cultural and social significance assessment of the study area.

Landscapes or locations within a landscape may hold special significance to Aboriginal communities as places where traditional lifestyles have occurred and where sacred or symbolic significance places exist. The evidence of Aboriginal heritage sites (including but not limited to artefact scatters, middens, scarred trees, burials) are direct evidence of past Aboriginal people, and reflect traditional ways of life including subsistence practices, ceremonial practices and aspects of cultural life. Therefore, it can be inferred that any identified site holds significance to Aboriginal people however; the level of significance may vary according to site type.

As such, the Aboriginal community can best determine Aboriginal cultural significance. Consultation with Aboriginal people (who can provide information about the local and regional significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage) is therefore required for any archaeological, social or cultural values assessment of Aboriginal heritage (especially where there is the potential for impact or harm to an Aboriginal heritage site or item). The consultation guidelines used for this assessment (see *Chapter 3*) set out a process for identifying and registering Aboriginal parties who wish to be consulted on the proposed development. These processes have been followed and consultation with the registered Aboriginal stakeholder groups has been maintained throughout the assessment including during the field assessment.

## Riverside\_02

This midden is considered to be of low archaeological significance. Middens are the most common site type surrounding the study area. Riverside\_02 is highly disturbed and in poor condition and therefore is not considered rare or intact. Middens have a connectedness with other sites in the area as they show the subsistence strategies in the local area. There is limited potential that sub-surface expression of the midden contains more scientific information about the subsistence strategies exploited in the area.

## 6.1.5 Summary of Significance Assessment

*Table 6.1* provides an overview of the significance assessment.

## Table 6.1 Summary of Significance Assessment

Site	Archaeological potential	Scientific significance	Aboriginal social significance <sup>1</sup>						
Riverside_02	Moderate	Low	Low						
1 - derived from discr	1 – derived from discussion with local Aboriginal community representatives								

## 7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This chapter provides an impact assessment for each of the Aboriginal sites and items identified in *Chapter 5*.

## 7.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES

Riverside\_02 is located outside of the current study area, and will not be impacted as a result of the modified concept plan. This newly recorded highly disturbed midden site is located within the adjacent Riverside development open area (water management). This area will be disturbed by excavation works and a recommended surface collection and possible test excavation procedure (only where subsurface potential is confirmed) will be included in the updated Riverside Cultural Heritage Management Plan (in prep).

#### 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following management and mitigation statements are made in light of the disturbed midden (Riverside\_02) recorded to the east of the current study area, background research, predictive modelling, heritage significance assessment, and relevant NSW legislation protecting Aboriginal heritage.

Riverside\_02 is located outside of the current study area however it will be impacted by excavation works in the water management area. Mitigation recommendations will be included in the updated Riverside Cultural Heritage Management Plan (in prep) as follows:

- surface collection is recommended for Riverside\_02. This will also provide
  the opportunity for the collection of additional surface artefacts and raw
  material that have been imported in fill. Only if evidence of subsurface
  cultural deposit is confirmed, limited test excavation using hand tools may
  be required and will be guided by the management plan;
- the remainder of the study area has limited potential for additional sites to be present and no specific management measures or monitoring is recommended from an archaeological perspective;
- if during clearing or construction works Aboriginal artefacts are recovered a qualified archaeologist should at this time be contacted and the site recorded and assessed in consultation with the Aboriginal community;
- a suitable area should be set aside for the possible containment of any cultural heritage material that is uncovered during the construction works. This dedicated 'keeping place' would only be required in the event that material is uncovered and would be under the care and control of the local Aboriginal community in accordance with a management plan; and
- in the event of discovery of skeletal material all works should cease, and the police, relevant local Aboriginal community groups and a suitably experienced archaeologist or physical anthropologist should be contacted to assess the material before determining the correct management action. Works should not resume until the Police and/or OEH have given authority in writing and approved a management plan.

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## Annex A

Aboriginal Stakeholder Consultation

RAP	Contact Name	Address	Phone	Email
KLALC.	Len Roberts— CEO	Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council	(02) 4997 5733	admin@karuahaboriginal.com.au
	Site Officer:	16 Mustons Ave		
		Karuah NSW 2324		
		KARUAH NSW 2324		
Karuah Indigenous Corporation	Dave Feeney		0421114853	karuahindigenous@outlook.com
Nur Run Gee	Lennie Anderson	22 Popplewell Rd Fern Bay NSW 2295	0431 334 365	lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com
Mur Roo Ma Inc.	Anthony Anderson/Bec Young	7 Vardon Road Fern Bay, 2295	0402 827 482	murroomainc1@gmail.com

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Evidence of consultation such as copies of letters and emails can be supplied upon request.

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
02/05/2017	KLALC	JW ERM	Phone Call	Consultation log entry	ERM phoned Karuah LALC to inform them that we had been engaged to prepared heritage assessment and updated management plan. KLALC suggested that fieldwork in the week commencing 15 May should be fine and to send details via email.		
08/05/2017	KLALC	JW ERM	Email	Consultation letter	ERM sent email and an attached letter providing additional information on the project and proposing a one day field survey on Tuesday 16 May 2017. The letter also highlights that this is an existing project and that we would be consulting with existing Registered Parties but would also welcome any additional interested persons suggested by the KLAC.		
09/05/2017	KLALC	JW ERM	Phone Call	Consultation log entry and follow up email	ERM phoned Len Roberts (CEO, Karuah LALC) to follow up on the email sent. Len very busy but suggested that they would not be available on Tuesday 16 May for field survey. Len also noted that Jan Webb represented the Land Council and was not an individual RAP as indicated within the existing management plan.  Len requested that information be emailed so that he could take to the board for discussion.	Email and attachment resent 09/05/2017.	
17/05	KLALC	JW ERM	Phone Call	Consultation log	ERM phoned Len Roberts (CEO, Karuah LALC) to follow up on the email sent. Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council have some concerns regarding our consultation approach for	We have currently scoped to undertake the consultation as an existing project and to consult only with the existing project	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Project and would like to see us stick to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (the	Response/Follow up?  RAPs. Given that no ongoing consultation has been undertaken for this project for over two years,	Any Additional Actions Required?
					Guidelines). The Land Council have already spoken to OEH in this regard.	ERM will commence notification of the Project as per the guidelines.	
15 June 2017	-	-	Newspaper Advertisement	Yes	Koori Mail Myall Coast News of the Area (Nota)		
19 June 2017	the Registrar	ERM	Stage 1 Notification letter sent via email and post.	Yes	Letters have been sent to the relevant government agencies to determine the relevant stakeholder groups for contact. Response requested by 3 July 2017.	26/06/2017 - response received via email noting that the project area does not have any Registered Aboriginal Owners pursuant to Division 3 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW). Suggested that we contact KLALC.	
19 June 2017	OEH Hunter Region	ERM	Stage 1 Notification letter sent via email and post.	Yes	Letters have been sent to the relevant government agencies to determine the relevant stakeholder groups for contact. Response requested by 3 July 2017.		
19 June 2017	NTSCorp	ERM	Stage 1 Notification letter sent via email and post.	Yes	Letters have been sent to the relevant government agencies to determine the relevant stakeholder groups for contact. Response requested by 3 July 2017.		
19 June 2017	NNTT	ERM	Stage 1 Notification letter sent via email and post.	Yes	Letters have been sent to the relevant government agencies to determine the relevant stakeholder groups for contact. Response requested by 3 July 2017.	20/06/17 – response email from NNTT, no relevant stakeholders listed	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
19 June 2017	Midcoast Council	ERM	Stage 1 Notification letter sent via email and post.	Yes	Letters have been sent to the relevant government agencies to determine the relevant stakeholder groups for contact. Response requested by 3 July 2017.		
19 June 2017	Hunter LLS	ERM	Stage 1 Notification letter sent via email and post.	Yes	Letters have been sent to the relevant government agencies to determine the relevant stakeholder groups for contact. Response requested by 3 July 2017.	20/06/17 - Email forwarded by Hunter LLS to the Wingham (local) LLS office, ERM was copied in on the forwarded email.	
21 June 2017	Karuah LALC	ERM	Stage 1 Notification letter sent via email and post.	Yes	Letters have been sent to the relevant government agencies to determine the relevant stakeholder groups for contact. Response requested by 3 July 2017.		
21 June 2017	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	KD ERM	Phone	Consultation log	ERM phoned Len Roberts (CEO, Karuah LALC) to follow up on the email sent. Len was unavailable so left message.		Will call again 22/06/17 morning, if call not returned before then.
22 June 2017	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	KD ERM	Phone	Consultation log	ERM phoned Len Roberts, scheduled face to face meeting for 6 July 2017, 10am		
27 June 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corporation	Dave Feeney	Email	Yes	Registration of Interest - Karuah Indigenous Corporation	27/06/2017 - ERM replied to the email to acknowledge that it has been received and that we will be in touch soon with more details.	
29 June 2017	Nur-Run-Gee pty Ltd	Lennie Anderson	Email	Yes	Registration of Interest - Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd and Murrooma Inc	29/06/2017 - ERM replied to the email to acknowledge that it has been received and that we will be in touch soon with more details.	
30 June 2017	Worimi Local Aboriginal	Jackie	Email	Yes	WLAC requested DP & LOT for the development to double check if the project is	KLALC replied to the email stating that the project is within the	3/07/2017 – ERM spoke to Jackie (WLALC) to confirm site

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
	Land Council	Henderson			within the boundaries of Worimi LALC. They also suggested that we contact Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council (.cc into the email).	Karuah boundaries.	location. WLALC happy that it is outside of their boundaries and that consultation should be with KLALC. No further action.
4 July 2017	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	KD ERM	Phone	Consultation log	Called to advise that information pack would be sent in coming days and that ERM consultant KD would be available for meeting face to face on 5 or 6 July. Nur-Run-Gee rep not available for face to face, happy to receive information pack and discuss afterwards via email/phone if required		
4 July 2017	Mur Roo Ma Inc Anthony Anderson	KD ERM	Phone	Consultation log	Called to advise that information pack would be sent in coming days and that ERM consultant KD would be available for meeting face to face on 5 or 6 July. Nur-Run-Gee reps not available for face to face, happy to receive information pack and discuss afterwards via email/phone if required.  Anthony advised that Bec Young would be conducting any site visit.		
4 July 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	KD ERM	Phone	Consultation log	No answer - Left message to advise that information pack would be sent in coming days and that ERM consultant KD would be available for meeting face to face on 5 or 6 July, if required.	No return call to schedule meeting	
5 July	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	KD ERM	Stage 2 Presentation of Project Information letter sent via Email	Yes	Emailed information pack, with letter detailing project and modified concept plan of site, requesting cultural information about site / comments		

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
5 July	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	KD ERM	Stage 2 Presentation of Project Information letter sent via Email	Yes	Emailed information pack, with letter detailing project and modified concept plan of site, requesting cultural information about site / comments		
5 July	Mur Roo Ma Inc Anthony Anderson	KD ERM	Stage 2 Presentation of Project Information letter sent via Email	Yes	Emailed information pack, with letter detailing project and modified concept plan of site, requesting cultural information about site / comments		
5 July	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	KD ERM	Stage 2 Presentation of Project Information letter sent via Email	Yes	Emailed information pack, with letter detailing project and modified concept plan of site, requesting cultural information about site / comments		
6 July 2017	Karuah LALC	KD ERM	Face to face Meeting	Consultation log	KD travelled to KLALC for planned meeting with Len Roberts. Len was unexpectedly unavailable for meeting and meeting was held with other KLALC representatives (Bev Manton and Fiona) who read through project information pack and discussed fieldwork, advising that KLALC prefers to have two representatives on site visits.	Advised to call Len Roberts on Tuesday 11 July as follow up call to meeting	
11 July 2017	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	KD ERM	Phone call	Consultation log	KD called as follow up to meeting, Len was not available, left message.		
25 July 2017	Mur Roo Ma Inc	KD ERM	Email	Yes	Emailed to enquire about best dates for attendance at site visit.	Mur Roo Ma replied by email on 26 July (see below entry).	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
26 July 2017	Mur Roo Ma Inc Bec Young	Mur Roo Ma Inc Bec Young	Email	Yes	Reply email to advise best dates for Bec to attend site visit were between 14 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> August.	ERM replied by email thanking Mur Roo Ma for response and advised that we would confirm a site visit date after consultation with other RAPs.	
27 July 2017	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	KD ERM	Email	Yes	Emailed to enquire about best dates for attendance at site visit. Advised that KD would call later that day to discuss	KLALC called ERM shortly after receipt of email (see below entry).	
27 July	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	Phone	Consultation log	Len Roberts called to advise that KLALC could attend on either of ERM's preferred site visit dates (15 <sup>th</sup> or 16 <sup>th</sup> of August), however he advised that KLALC did not agree with the inclusion of other three RAPs in site visit and that he believed the they only had the right to be consulted with but not to be invited to site, as they were from off-country. Len advised that if the other three RAPs were invited to attend the field survey then the KLALC would pull out of the field survey. ERM offered to undertake the surveys over two separate days. Len declined and noted that we would be in breach of the Act if we did take them on site.	KD followed up by advising ERM project PM JW who would follow up with KLALC and OEH.	
27 July	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	JW ERM	Phone	Consultation log	ERM phoned Len to follow up on previous conversation with KD. Len confirmed that if the other three RAPs were invited to attend the field survey then he would pull out of the field survey. Again, ERM offered to undertake the surveys over two separate days. Len declined and noted that we would be in breach of the ALR Act if we did take	ERM to discuss with the client and we will call Len back to confirm how we are going to proceed as soon as possible.	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
					them on site at all as they are not TOs within Karuah/Tea Gardens. They have registered an interest in the project as companies (not individuals or Aboriginal corporations) and therefore should not be included as RAPs.		
27 July	Mur Roo Ma Inc Bec Young	KD ERM	Phone	Consultation log and email	ERM phoned to explain that the KALC have questioned their involvement in the field survey and that at this stage if advised by the client/OEH, ERM may take only KLALC into the field however there was no answer so left message to return call.	ERM to call again next day 28 July 2017.  Received email later that day advising that Mur Roo Ma are withdrawing from fieldwork citing cultural boundaries.	Mur Roo Ma will continue to be consulted as part of the project and will be provided the opportunity to contribute and provided comment on all draft reports.
27 July	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	JW ERM	Phone	Consultation	ERM phoned to explain that the KALC have questioned their involvement in the field survey and that at this stage ERM may be advised by the client to take only KLALC into the field but would appreciate their continued involvement and support during the reporting and preparation of the management plan. Lennie verbally confirmed that he is in fact a TO within the Karuah area and was involved in the original recording of middens sites within the locality. His involvement would therefore be beneficial in being able to record any changes to the middens over the past 20 years and to inform a robust management plan.  Lennie noted other projects in the area to confirm that he has worked in the local area as a TO including Jimmys Beach Restoration Works, Pindimar Abalone Farm, Bulahdelah Bypass and Tahlee. Lennie also noted that	Discussion with OEH and client continuing. Both indicate a preference to extend equal opportunity to all RAPs.	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
					he was CEO of the KLALC and has a continuing interest and knowledge of the local area.		
					ERM advised that discussions with OEH and are client continuing and we will update him as soon as we can.		
28 July	Peter Saad OEH	JW ERM	Phone/email	Consultation log and email	ERM spoke to Peter Saad (OEH) to confirm that we are in fact working under and bound by the National Parks and Wildlife Act and not the Aboriginal Land Rights Acts. Peter confirmed that to be able to complete a robust cultural assessment including social aspects it is important that all registered Aboriginal parties should be given equal opportunity participate in the entire process. Email included in consultation log.	<b>15/8/2017.</b> Confirmation email received from OEH.	
28 July 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	Phone	Consultation log	Dave Feeney called KD to ask for update on project. KD explained that the KALC have questioned their involvement in the field survey. KD advised that OEH has confirmed that we are in fact working under and bound by the National Parks and Wildlife Act and not the Aboriginal Land Rights Acts. KD also advised that at this stage and based on advice from OEH we would likely be extending equal opportunities to all groups to attend the field survey on 16 August 2017 however this needed to confirmed by the client. Dave Feeney advised that the date would be suitable for him to attend and that he resides within Karuah land and verbally confirmed that he is a TO. KD advised invitation would be sent 31 July or 1 August	Discussion with OEH and client continuing. Both indicate a preference to extend equal opportunity to all RAPs. No confirmation on field survey yet.	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
					via email following consult with client, and would call if there were any further issues.		
1 August 2017	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	JW ERM	Phone	Consultation log	ERM phoned KLALC to recognise KLALC concerns with other RAPs attending the field Survey. Phone call attempted to discuss any options available to extend equal opportunities to all RAPs as based on our conversations with OEH and subsequent conversations with the client to date this was their current preference. Len advised of his disagreement with this approach. No further discussion and call ended.	Discussion with OEH and client continuing. Will wait for formal response from OEH before proceeding further.	
8 August 2017	the Registrar	ERM	Letter	Yes	A second search was requested by ERM to confirm if there are any Registered Aboriginal Owners over the property.	22/08/2017 - response received noting that 'the project area described does have Registered Aboriginal Owners for Worimi Conservation Lands, pursuant to Division 3 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA)'.	
15 August 2017	Peter Saad OEH	JW ERM	Email	Yes	Confirmation email received from OEH confirming that the provisions of the ALR Act, while relevant to the Local Aboriginal Land Council; do not affect the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment requirements for this project. OEH also note that if you are proposing to undertake consultation processes or elicit cultural information from RAPs during the course of conducting the field survey, then this would form part of your consultation process, and OEH would therefore expect that all RAPs are afforded the opportunity to be involved in this	Forwarded to client for consideration.  ERM do expect to discuss cultural significance of the known midden sites during the field survey to inform the updated management plan.	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
					process.		
21 August 2017	Tattersall	ERM	Email	yes	ERM confirmed that the Modification to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment is being undertaken in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation and relevant OEH codes of practice. This is the correct legislation and ERM will continue to undertake the assessment in accordance with this legislation and the DECCW 2010 Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (consultation guidelines). As advised by OEH, the provisions of the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment requirements for this project.  OEH do not have an approval role in this project although they do maintain an advisory role to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) who regulate the EP&A Act. OEH will continue to provide this role.  All ERM heritage consultants agree that consultation does not mean that all RAPs have to attend every site visit; consultation is merely being involved in the project and being provided the opportunity to review and comment. Providing equal opportunity in this project was the original ERM recommended approach as all groups indicated their interest in being involved in	21 August 2017 Confirmation from client that 'we should proceed with the consultation as per the advice from OEH' and all RAP should be invited to attend the survey.	
					the site visit and they confirmed (verbal only) that they are traditional owners of the		

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
					Worimi Nation. One of the RAPS also indicated that they were involved in the original recording of the two midden sites located within the conservation area.		
					Whilst there is no dispute that the RAPs identify as traditional owners of the Worimi Nation, a search by ORALRA (Office of The Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act) has confirmed that no Traditional Owners have been registered over this property.  Unfortunately in this case, based on conflicting information presented by the RAPs, it would be difficult to argue who is and is not a TO within the local area and this is a cultural issue separate to this project.		
					The process from this point is still largely undefined and the question around who should be invited to attend the field survey will be a project based decision and not dictated by any of the registered Aboriginal Parties. In the interest of progressing this project, the less inflammatory path may be to take the Karuah LALC into the field and continue to consult with the other RAPS separately (with no site visit offered). ERM will support any decisions made by the proponent and it is important to note that either option will create some tension within the community and the RAPs.		
22 August 2017	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	KD ERM	Phone	Consultation log	KD called to advise that project was still active and confirm Nur-Run-Gee's continuing interest. Advised that decision were being made by PM team (i.e. client etc.) about the	To call again on project progression	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
					site visit team and that ERM would advise when decisions were finalised. Lennie advised continuing interest in project.		
22 August 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	KD ERM	Phone	Consultation log	KD called to advise that project was still active and confirm Karuah Indigenous Corp's continuing interest. Advised that decision were being made by PM team (i.e. client etc.) about the site visit team and that ERM would advise when decisions were finalised. Dave advised continuing interest in project.	To call again on project progression	
24 August 2017	Worimi Conservation Lands Graeme Russell	JW ERM	Phone/email	yes	JW phoned Graeme Russell and confirmed that the Tea Gardens project area is outside of the Worimi Conservation Lands boundary and that they did not need to be consulted further.		No further action
31 August 2017	KLALC	ERM	Email	yes	Email to invite attendance at site survey on Tuesday 12 September 2017 – alternative date of 14 September also offered to KLALC.	RAP to respond by Thursday 7 September	
31 August 2017	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	JW ERM	Email	yes	Email to invite attendance at site survey on Tuesday 12 September 2017 – request insurances etc.	RAP to respond by Thursday 7 September	ERM to provide meeting time and place by Friday 8 September
31 August 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	JW ERM	Email	yes	Email to invite attendance at site survey on Tuesday 12 September 2017 – request insurances etc.	RAP to respond by Thursday 7 September	ERM to provide meeting time and place by Friday 8 September
31 August 2017	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	Lennie Anderson	Email	Yes	Email to confirm attendance at site survey, advised will provide information (insurances etc.) soon	Lennie to provide insurance details	
1 September	Karuah	Karuah	Email	Yes	Email to advise that Karuah Indigenous Corp		

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
2017	Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney			would attend site visit on Friday 8 September		
1 September 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	JW ERM	Email	yes	Email to confirm that site visit is Tuesday 12 September		
3 September 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	Email	Yes	Email to provide details of insurance		
4 September 2017	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	Lennie Anderson	Email	Yes	Email to provide details of insurance, WCL Board Membership and Native Title Services correspondence to support that he is a TO within the Worimi Nation.		
8 September 2017	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	KD ERM	Phone / Email	Yes	Call and follow up email to advise/confirm start time for site survey of 8am Tuesday 12 September, and organise meeting place at look out at the Tea Gardens Road lookout		
8 September 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	KD ERM	Phone	Yes	Call and follow up email to advise/confirm start time for site survey of 8am Tuesday 12 September, and organise meeting place at look out at the Tea Gardens Road lookout		
3 September 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave	Email	Yes	Replied to previous email to confirm attendance of two reps of Karuah Indigenous Corp at 8am Tuesday 12 September at the Tea Gardens Road lookout		

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
		Feeney					
12 September 2017	Karuah Indigenous Corp -Di Feeney & Ray Feeney Nur-Run-Gee - Lennie Anderson ERM - KD		Field Survey Attendance	Consultation Log	Field survey carried out at Riverside_01 and in 5.83 ha additional project area	ERM to provide copy of draft ACHA to RAPs for review	
13 September 2017	KLALC	ERM	Email	Yes	Email to confirm that KLALC will participate in the field survey to be scheduled for Tuesday 19 September.	KLALC replied by email to confirm that two RAPs (and potentially two juniors) will attend the survey.	
19 September 2017	KLALC and OEH	ERM	Email and Letter	Yes	In accordance with the NSW OEH Consultation Guidelines, ERM advised both KLAC and OEH that the registered Aboriginal Parties for the Riverside Tea Gardens Project are:  • Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council; • Karuah Indigenous Corporation; • Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd; • Mur Roo Ma Inc.  Also provided confirmation that Karuah Indigenous Corporation and Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd attended a field survey on 12 September 2017. Joanne Simms, Kylee Beetson and other invited representatives from Karuah LALC will be attending a separate site visit on 19 September 2017 with Principal		

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
					Archaeologist Sarah Ward.		
19 September 2017	KLALC – ERM - SW		Field Survey Attendance	Consultation Log	Field survey carried out at Riverside_01 and in 5.83 ha additional project area	ERM to provide copy of draft ACHA to RAPs for review	
13 October 2017	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	ERM	Email	Yes	Draft report provided for review and comment. Feedback requested by Friday 10 November 2017.  External link provided for download.	2 October 2017. Report resent to the client (Sheargold) to send to the KLALC directly as Len Roberts indicated that he was not able to download the report.	20 November 2017. Follow up phone call to confirm that the reports had been received.
	Mur Roo Ma Inc Bec Young	ERM	Email	Yes	Draft report provided for review and comment. Feedback requested by Friday 10 November 2017.  External link provided for download.	No comment received.	
	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie Anderson	ERM	Email	Yes	Draft report provided for review and comment. Feedback requested by Friday 10 November 2017.  External link provided for download.	3 October 2017. Email comments received and will be appended to the final report.	
	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	ERM	Email	Yes	Draft report provided for review and comment. Feedback requested by Friday 10 November 2017. External link provided for download.	6 October 2017. Email comments received and will be appended to the final report.	
20 November 2017	KLALC	ERM KD	Phone	Consultation log	Called KLALC, spoke to Kelly to confirm that KLALC had received the draft ACHA sent in October as well as the Management Plan emailed on 3/11/17. Kelly advised that they had received the draft report and she would advise Len (CEO) that they had received it and that he would contact us if he had any comments or questions.	18 January 2018. Response received from KLALC indicating that they do not support the ACHA report in its draft format. Consideration was given to the recommendations of the KLAC and a revised draft was provided to all registered Aboriginal parties on 9 February 2018. Specifically, based	

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
						on the advice of KLALC, the potential hearth site has now being confirmed as a modern fire pit and is not identified as a PAD.	
9 February 2018	Mur Roo Ma Inc Bec Young	ERM	Email	Yes	Revised draft report provided for review and comment.  Revised draft report provided for review and comment.	<ul> <li>12 February 2018. Email response from Len Roberts confirming that they still do not support the plan in its present form, noting (summarized): <ul> <li>We do not agree with salvage and there is no need for further test excavation.</li> <li>The identification by you of the RAPs is not sound.</li> <li>There is no definition of unexpected finds.</li> <li>It was wrong to have other parties on site without or knowledge or consent. Until that is rectified KLALC remains disrespected by ERM.</li> </ul> </li> <li>KLALC also note that OEH has initial similar concerns. Len to take this to a meeting and will respond accordingly.</li> <li>No comment received.</li> </ul>	See log entry on 27 February 2018.
	Nur-Run-Gee Lennie	ERM	Email	Yes	Revised draft report provided for review and comment.	12 February 2018. Email response stating that the heath was only	12 February 2018. Follow up phone and verbal confirmation

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
	Anderson					ever potential and easy to rescind. Lennie Anderson questions why if the LALC refused to come onsite the first inspection did ERM take them on the second site inspection - after all we would have had a quicker 'protection' of our Culture? Does that mean any individual RAP can expect ERM to take them out as individuals, doesn't that defeat the purpose?	that Nur-Run-Gee agree with both the Riverside Aboriginal Heritage Assessment and the Updated Management Plan. They are comfortable that the 'potential' hearth recorded in the field is not a cultural site. They support the recording of the disturbed midden site and the recommendation for surface collection and possible test excavation as outlined within the management plan.
	Karuah Indigenous Corp Dave Feeney	ERM	Email	Yes	Revised draft report provided for review and comment.	15 February 2018. Email response stating:  1. The site outside the study area YES we should recover all that we can  2. I agree to the recommendations	
27 February 2018	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	ERM	Email	Yes	Email sent to Len Roberts stating that:  We [ERM] recognise that this project has caused some conflict and on behalf of ERM, we would like to apologise for any action that has offended you or the Karuah LALC members. At no time would we intentionally cause offence or disrespect and we value your ongoing involvement in the project and the long term management of the recorded sites. We respectfully recognise the role that the land council plays in the protection of	5. March 2018. Response received from Len Roberts stating that they are unable to have a relationship with ERM. The response states that unfortunately you do not appear to understand the grief and angst caused by you and your company to Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, nor the disrespect shown toward us. If you did you would not have acted so in the first place. To have taken so	ERM to discuss ongoing reconciliation outside of this project.

Date	RAP/Contact Name	Contact Made By:	Form of Contact:	Evidence of Consultation	Details	Response/Follow up?	Any Additional Actions Required?
					cultural heritage values and would like to continue to work with the land council to try to resolve any outstanding concerns that you have on this project	long to try and resolve the matter is also disrespectful. A more contrite and meaningful apology which shows an understanding of the wrong and hurt caused to us would be a first step in reconciliation.	
5 March 2018	Karuah LALC Len Roberts	ERM	Email	Yes	Email sent. Following on from our previous correspondence and provision of the revised draft cultural heritage assessment and updated management plan on Friday 9 February 2018, we would appreciate receiving any further comments you have by Friday 9 March 2018.	No further responses received.	



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# KLALC Comment on Riverside Cultural Heritage Assessment and Management Plan

## Introduction

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) were commissioned by Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd (Tattersall Lander) on behalf of SGD 1 Pty Ltd (the Proponent - Sheargold) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to support the proposed modification to the Approved Concept Plan for a residential development at Tea Gardens NSW.

In addition (ERM) were engaged to update the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

This report is Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council's (KLALC) response to the draft reports for those assessments.

It must be stated form the outset that KLALC has been alienated and disrespected by the approach and process taken by ERM in this matter and finds the reports deficient in rigour and appreciation of Aboriginal Heritage Cultural Values.

This response adopts a statement and response approach to the information forwarded to KLALC for comment. The original draft is in black with KLALC response in Blue.

#### Consultation

A project notification letter was sent to each of the registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) (dated 5 July 2017). The letter included:

- an outline of the proposed works;
- the proposed methodology and dates for pedestrian survey;
- a request to nominate one person for attendance on one day of the survey;

and

 a request for Aboriginal parties to identify any particular areas of interest within the study area to survey, to inform the preparation of a roster. KLAC also requested a face to face meeting to discuss the project and proposed assessment. This meeting was undertaken on 6 July 2017.

The request for a meeting by KLALC was because the initial approach to KLALC was that a survey was to be conducted and could we send along a representative. Our response was that we had not been given sufficient information and that the proper process had not been followed. We also advised that we needed to be advised of any parties who may express an interest in the project. This did not



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happen until after the fieldwork was undertaken by others without KLALC knowledge. Not only is such a requirement in the consultation process but is part of the Burra Charter that local Aboriginal people be kept informed at all stages.

Based on advice from OEH, providing equal opportunity in this project was the preferred option in this instance as all groups indicated their interest in being involved in the site visit and they confirmed (verbal only) that they are traditional owners of the Worimi Nation. One of the RAPS was also involved in the recording of the midden sites in the immediate locality.

The purpose of advising the LALC of those expressing an interest is to determine who speaks on country. The failure to notify KLALC of the RAPs was a fundamental flaw which allowed non representative persons to speak about local heritage of which they had no knowledge and led to misinformation as to the outcome of the assessment. ERM had already been told that non of the probable RAPs were traditional owners. The fact that ERM took verbal assurance form the RAPs is a testament to poor research and disrespectful to KLALC.

Based on the responses received during Stage 2 consultation and ongoing consultation with OEH and the RAPs as outline above, ERM issued invitations for participation of Aboriginal parties in field surveys on 12 September or 19 September 2017. Emails and telephone calls were made to each party that had expressed interest in the survey to confirm attendance and clarify any potential questions or issues about the methodology, and to determine meeting locations and times for each survey day.

Brief telephone conversations were held with KLALC but no hadanything to do with the methodology as none had been given to KLALC. The log on the 3/5 is incorrect as at no time did KLALc agree that the fieldwork on 15 may should occur. On the contrary it was advised to ERM that they need to provide details about the project and methodology

The 8/5 log was correct and that the registered parties were KLALC and Jan Webb

9/5 log -27 June taken as correct correct

30 Jun correct and confirmed by WLALc that it is a matter for KLALC.

5 July any letter purported to be sent was not received by KLALC. Also doubt letter would have been sent as meeting scheduled for next day.

6 July correct and note information pack presented that day

11 July KLALC has no record of any call on that day from ERM

15 August note that the advice from OEH is regarding involvement in the consultation process not field work. ERM chose to ignore the advice of OEH.



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Comment on process. It must be noted that Len Anderson despite his claims was never involved in the recording of the original middens. His only involvement in the othervsurveys mentioned by him was n because ethey were on the boundary of KLALC and Worimi.

ERM misrepresented the advice from OEG H andthe Registrar. OEH avise dthat it was athat all parties could be consulted but not all need to be involved in fieldwork. ERM acknowledge that in their consultation log. The registrar advised that the only TO's were for Worimi conservation lands and no TO's existed North of Port Stephens. ERM chose to ignore the advice and hence disrespect KLALC.

To state that it would be difficult to argue that it would be difficult beggars belief. The Registrra determines who are TO's.

The decision to deliberately take others on site and lie to KLALC that such action did not occur is tantamount to deception and untrustworthiness. KLALC is profoundly distressed by the actions taken by ERM and is not in a position to support their conclusions as they are based on deception.

19 September finally official advice as to the registerd po parties after the event when it should have been the first advice.

Katherine Deverson (ERM Heritage Consultant) conducted the field survey on Tuesday 12 September 2017 and authored this report. Sarah Ward (ERM Principal Cultural Heritage Consultant) undertook an additional survey on Tuesday 19 September 2017

This comment is in stark contrast to the information that KLALC was told that no other site vists had occurred. Sarah Ward cinfirmed that despite what we had been told the other partie shad been taken out separately. Such behaviour is conduct conducive to corruption. We at KLALC doe not know what transpired at that ite visit. So unable to comment on the findings.

During telephone calls and the face to face meeting with the KLALC, the known heritage sites in the area (derived from results of AHIMS searches and previous surveys) were discussed, to provide Aboriginal parties with information about the types of recorded sites in the area. Information was also sought regarding cultural knowledge of the study area. All groups expressed that the study area held potential cultural sensitivity, through knowledge of the area.

This comment is not correct. KLALC advsed that whilst the area was used by our people in the past the land was disturbed as it had been a pine plantation since 1940 and that any shell deposit would likely be from the making of roads brought in from Limekilns, which was substantial cultural area. The subject land was actually filled swamp and not intensively occupied by our people.

### **5.1.1** Fieldwork Constraints

The majority of the study area appears to have been used as agricultural grazing land and has been recently slashed, is largely covered in grass and fill material and has low ground surface visibility.



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Given that the study area was relatively small the survey comprehensively covered the entire area, however it focused on areas of higher ground visibility.

The greatest fieldwork constraint is that it and been a pine plantation which had been heavily worked, filled and altered.

## Potential Hearth (recorded as Riverside\_03)

During the 19 September 2017 a small deposit of heat fractured rock and animal bone (identified as Kangaroo) was located in the south-west section of the study area. Based on the density and compaction of the deposit and that it appeared to extend further below the surface it was identified as a potential hearth site, however it could not confirmed as a cultural deposit based on its surface expression only. This is due to the highly disturbed nature of the study area and ongoing surface impacts including the importation of fill material and regular slashing. This feature has not been recorded as an Aboriginal/cultural site however if the future development of the study area will require excavation within the vicinity of the potential hearth, it is recommended further investigation may be required to determine if the site is a cultural deposit and to guide the final development design. This site and the recommended AHIP procedure will be included in the updated Riverside Cultural Heritage Management Plan (in prep).

KLALC heavily disagrees with this statement and process. KLALC is of the strong view that it is not a hearth and it should not have been recorded as such without further consultation with KLALC. It was good to flag as such but any reasonable archaeologist would have discussed the possibilities and either discounted it or shown that it was.

It is the considered view is that the hearth is not an Aboriginal object nor is the area a PAD. KLALC cannot endorse its listing as such nor can it endorse any test excavation.

### 5.2.2 Riverside\_02

During the field survey on 12 September 2017, one highly disturbed shell deposit was located outside of the study area boundary (refer to *Figures 5.1 and 5.2*). The midden deposit was not dense and most of what can be seen showed a sparse scattering of shell on the surface.... . The site is in poor condition and is surrounded by largely disturbed areas. Evidence for the midden was also found in a group of trees 70 m to the south of the main deposit, the ground between these areas is highly disturbed and is covered by/mixed with imported off-site fill.

This is the most disturbing aspect of the entire process. At no stage was KLALC advise dof such midden nor shown such midden. MA shell deposit is not necessarily a midden. There is a taxonomical approach to determining middens that competent archaeologists use. Not to have any discussion about the lack of animal bones or understanding of the use of shell deposit s inearly road making is problematic.

Recommendations (avoidance or AHIP) agreed to by following Aboriginal groups: Karuah Indigenous Corporation (on-site 12 September 2017)



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Nur Run Gee (on-site 12 September 2017) (site card)

After analysing the history of the area the basic description in the report KLAC is of the opinion that it is not a midden and should never have been identified as such. KLALC should have been afforded the opportunity to asses h shell deposit. There have been several shell deposits that have been incorrectly recorded as middens and later identified by this author in conjunction with experts from OEH as not being middens. This appears to be a classic case of mistakenly recording shell deposit as a midden.

## Management Plan

## 6.1 Salvage of Aboriginal Objects

KLAC does not support the salvage of objects until they have had the opportunity to assess that they are indeed objects. It si the opinion of KLALC based on the information contained in the ERM report that there has not been any syrface objects identified

7. The management and mitigation statement s have been developed in consultation with relevant Aboriginal parties

False statement. KLALC has not been given any opportunity to be involved in the management mitigation statements and management. To be given a report to comment on is not developmental consultation.

### 7.1 agree

- 7.2 agree but further collaboration with KLALC required
- 7.3 Agree in principal but signage should be undertaken in collaboration with KLALc not merely discussed. 9Example of collaboration is signage at Buladelah Mountain with Forest Corp and KLALC 7.4 whilst the intent is admirable the Bushfire Management plan should be implemented in collaboration with Experts, RFS and KLALC. Some of the proposals are not possible nor desirable form a bushfire management perspective.

## 7.5 Agree in principle

7.6 Any monitoring program should not be prescriptive but in collaboration

## 8 Management of previously unrecorded Aboriginal Heritage Evidence

Whilst the flowcharts are acceptable they are deficient with best practice. Skeletal remains are a matter for police and not OEH until police determine otherwise. Unknown objects need to be defined and distinguished form being unknown and unexpected. It needs to be amended to reflect best practice.



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9.1 Control measures whilst adequate in concept is not adequate in detail and as such does not constitute a management plan but rather a statement of intent an needs to be developed with deinable roles, responsibilities and expectations.

## **Conclusion:**

KLALC has been alienated in this process and many errors have occurred because of that alienation. Decisions have been made without any input from KLALC and errors and incorrect claims have occurred as a result.

KLALC is not able to support the assessment or management plan in its present form. KLALC strongly believe that R2 and R# are not Aboriginal Objects or PAD's

## **Recommendations**

- That the proponent in collaboration with KLALC writes an updated management plan in the light of best practice. There are several examples of workable management plans that have been lodged with the Department of Planning and OEH. One notable example is the plan and protocols developed for Huntlee residential development near Branxton
- That the Proponent enters into an MOU with KL:AC regarding the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the entire project area.

Signed

**Len Roberts** 

(BA, Grad Dip Comp, Dip Sp. Ed,)

CEO

18/1/18

M: 0403071922

From: David Feeney <karuahindigenous@outlook.com>

Sent: Monday, 6 November 2017 11:42 AM

To:

**Subject:** Re: Riverside At Tea Gardens, Draft Management Plan for Review

Hi

## **RECOMMENDATIONS for Tea Gardens**

I Dave Feeney Snr Aboriginal Cultural Officer and Chief executive Officer for Karuah Indigenous Corporation recommends that in the interests of the Worimi people and generally, that any turf stripping in the project should be monitored by a representative from each of the registered stakeholders with connection to Worimi Country.

In addition, I Dave Feeney recommends that the any artefacts that impacted by construction of the project should be salvaged by a representative from each of the registered stakeholders with connection to Worimi Country.

Should any more works or excavation work or clearing works commence in any of the Project areas, you may need to contact the Aboriginal Culture Officers.

"Why", because if excavation works turn over any Aboriginal artefact, within the first 1meter, then the Aboriginal Culture Officers can identify the significance of that site and make some recommendation right away for the next step.

Thank you

Dave Feeney

**CEO** 

Karuah Indigenous Corporation

0421114853

From:

Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 12:03:18 AM

To: David Feeney (karuahindigenous@outlook.com)

Cc:

Subject: Riverside At Tea Gardens, Draft Management Plan for Review

Hi Dave,

Thankyou for your participation in this assessment and your continued interest and support for Riverside Project, Tea Gardens NSW. Please find attached a draft copy of the updated Heritage Management Plan for the Tea Gardens Riverside Project.

We would appreciate any comments or feedback on this draft report by Friday 1 December 2017.





### ERM The business of sustainability

Level 4 Watt Street Commercial Centre 45 Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300 PO Box 803, Newcastle NSW 2300

Email	_	Web:	www.erm.com

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Please visit ERM's web site: <a href="http://www.erm.com">http://www.erm.com</a>

From: Sent:	lennie.anderson011 lennie.anderson011 <lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com> Friday, 3 November 2017 2:12 PM</lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com>
To: Subject:	Re: Riverside At Tea Gardens, Draft Management Plan for Review
•	
Hi <b>■</b> ,	
recommendations that the Oral History part	Riverside at Tea Gardens Report and found it to be accurate in the findings and at occurred on that day of the Site Inspection! I would However request that OEH treat is with the utmost of 'confidentiality' as we have found persons? organisations not he a Project are collecting intelligence from these reports and offering them as their true
Lennie Anderson OA	AM
Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd	d (Director)
Original Messa	ge
Sent: Friday, 3 Nov,	011@bigpond.com" <lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com> 2017 At 9:59 AM t Tea Gardens, Draft Management Plan for Review</lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com>
Hi Lennie,	
	articipation in this assessment and your continued interest and support for Riverside NSW. Please find attached a draft copy of the updated Heritage Management Plan for erside Project.
We would appreciate	e any comments or feedback on this draft report by Friday 1 December 2017.
Regards,	

Environmental Resources Management Australia

From: lennie.anderson011 lennie.anderson011 <lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com>

Sent: Saturday, 10 February 2018 2:30 PM

To:

**Subject:** Re: Riverside Tea Gardens

Hi ,

Thank you for this revised report! However the Hearth was a 'potential' not a definite! It's easy to (as you have) rescind! My question to ERM is, If the LALC refused to come onsite the first inspection why did they take them on the second site inspection after all we would have had a quicker 'protection' of our Culture? does that mean any individual RAP can expect ERM to take them out as individuals, doesn't that defeat the purpose?

Lennie Anderson OAM

Worimi Elder and Custodian (Registered and Recognised)

----- Original Message -----

From:

To: "lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com" <lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com>

Cc:

Sent: Friday, 9 Feb, 2018 At 11:16 AM

Subject: Riverside Tea Gardens

Hi Lennie.

Thank you for your continued involvement in the Riverside project at Tea Gardens. As briefly discussed this morning, ERM have prepared revised reports (final draft version) in response to comments received from the registered Aboriginal stakeholders.

As discussed the most significant change is confirmation that the potential hearth recorded on 19 September 2017 (survey undertaken with KLALC) is a modern fire pit and not a cultural site. The description of the disturbed midden recorded in the field on 12 September 2017 (survey undertaken with Karuah Indigenous Corporation and Nur Run Gee) has been updated and a revised site card appended to the reports. This site has been recommended for surface collection (as per the previous report already reviewed).

We would appreciate your review and comment on these revised draft reports. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

From: David Feeney <karuahindigenous@outlook.com>

Sent: Thursday, 15 February 2018 11:32 AM

To:

**Subject:** Re: Riverside Tea Gardens

Hi

1. The site out side the study area YES we should recover all that we can

2. I agree to the recommendations

Thank you

Dave Feeney CEO Karuah Indigenous Corporation 0421114853

From

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 1:13:41 AM

To: David Feeney (karuahindigenous@outlook.com)

Cc:

**Subject:** Riverside Tea Gardens

Hi Dave,

Thank you for your continued involvement in the Riverside project at Tea Gardens. As briefly discussed this morning, ERM have prepared revised reports (final draft version) in response to comments received from the registered Aboriginal stakeholders.

As discussed the most significant change is confirmation that the potential hearth recorded on 19 September 2017 (survey undertaken with KLALC) is a modern fire pit and not a cultural site. The description of the disturbed midden recorded in the field on 12 September 2017 (survey undertaken with Karuah Indigenous Corporation and Nur Run Gee) has been updated and a revised site card appended to the reports. This site has been recommended for surface collection (as per the previous report already reviewed).

We would appreciate your review and comment on these revised draft reports. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Environmental Resources Management Australia



ERM The business of sustainability

Level 4

From: admin@karuahaboriginal.com.au

Sent: Monday, 12 February 2018 9:37 AM

To: Cc:

**Subject:** RE: Riverside Tea Gardens

I have taken a preliminary look at the plan and your response.

We cannot support the plan in its present form.

- We do not agree with salvage and there is no need for further test excavation. Any test excavation should have been undertaken with respect to the original investigation if believed to be warranted. The Arch Code allows for this.
- The identification by you of the RAPs is not sound. The Legislation clearly defines an Aboriginal Party as being either an Aboriginal individual or an Aboriginal organisation or an Aboriginal Owner. A company is neither an individual or Aboriginal Organisation. You have private companies registered. Further more the parties must have connection to country and not be represented by the land council.
- There is no definition of unexpected finds.
- It was wrong to have other parties on site without or knowledge or consent. How are you going to address this extremely important issue. Until that is rectified KLALC remains disrespected by ERM. You state in the preamble that you acknowledge our importance with respect to culture but trample upon us.

It is interesting to note that OEH has initial similar concerns to us.

I will take this to a meeting and respond accordingly. Having received this on 9/2 I understand we have some time to respond.

All the best Len Roberts CEO

From:

Sent: Friday, 9 February 2018 11:20 AM

To: admin@karuahaboriginal.com.au; karuahaboriginal@bigpond.com

Cc:

**Subject:** Riverside Tea Gardens

Hi Len,

Thank you for your continued involvement in the Riverside project at Tea Gardens and your comments on the draft cultural heritage assessment and updated management plan (dated 18 January 2018). ERM have prepared revised reports (final draft version) in response to the comments received from the registered Aboriginal stakeholders. Copies of these revised reports have been attached to this email.

As suggested within your response, the potential hearth recorded on 19 September 2017 (survey undertaken with KLALC) has been confirmed as a modern fire pit and not a potential cultural site. The description of the disturbed midden recorded in the field on 12 September 2017 (survey undertaken with Karuah Indigenous Corporation and Nur Run Gee) has also been updated.

We would appreciate your review of these revised draft reports. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

#### Annex B

## Newspaper Advertisement

#### **Public Notices**

#### **NOTICE OF ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION - TEA GARDENS**

Environmental Resources Management Pty Ltd, on behalf of Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd, is proposing to undertake an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment associated with a small modification to the approved Riverside Tea Gardens development. This project will also include an updated Cultural Heritage Management Plan to include the revised development footprint. The focus of this heritage assessment will be the additional 5.83 ha of land in the south west of the development footprint, off Myall Quays Boulevard.



Local Aboriginal parties wishing to be consulted for this assessment are invited to register a written expression of their interest by 29 June 2017. Please respond in writing to: Attn: Joanne Woodhouse, Environmental Resources Management Australia. PO Box 803, Newcastle NSW 2300. Or email to joanne.woodhouse@erm.com

Annex C

**AHIMS Site Cards** 



## **Aboriginal Site Recording Form**



AHIMS Registrar PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220

Office Use Only	Site Number	
Date receive	d / / Date entered into system / / Date catalogued / /	
Entered by (I.D.		
Information	Access	Office Use
Gender/ma		Only
For Further	Information Contact:	
Nominate		
Title	Surname First Name Initials	
		Client on system
Organisation Address		
Phone number	Fax Fax	
Knowledg		
Title	Surname First Name Initials	Client on
		system
Organisation		
Address		
Phone number	Fax Fax	
Aboriginal	Heritage Unit or Cultural Heritage Division Contacts	
Geographic	Location	
Site Name	Riverside_02	
Easting	4 2 0 6 0 5 Northing 6 3 8 7 1 9 9 AGD/GDA GDA	
Mapsheet		
Zone		
	Other Registration	
Primary Re	Surname First Name Initials	
	Deverson Katherine	
Organisation	ERM	Client on
Address	1 5 T e n c h S t K i n g s t o n A C T 2 6 0 4	system
Phone number	2 6 2 1 6 5 3 1 1 Fax	
Date recorded	12/09/2017	
Dato recorded		

SW

SE

## NPWS Aboriginal Site Recording Form - Site Information

page 3

Gene	ral Site Information	Features	
Closed Site		Open Site	1. Aboriginal Ceremony & Dreaming
Shelter/Cave Formation R	ock Surface Condition	Site Orientation	2. Aboriginal Resource & Gathering
Boulder	Boulder	V N-S	3. Art
Wind erosion	Sandstone platform	NE-SW	4. Artefact
Water erosion	Silica gloss	E-W	5. Burial
Rock collapse	Tessellated	SE-NW	6. Ceremonial Ring
	Weathered	N/A	7. Conflict
	Other platform		8. Earth Mound
Condition of Ceiling	Shelter Aspect		9. Fish Trap
Boulder	North		10. Grinding Groove
Sandstone platform	North East		11. Habitation Structure
Silica gloss	East		12. Hearth
Tessellated	South East		13. Non Human Bone & Organic Material
Weathered	South		14. Ochre quarry
Other platform	South West		15. Potential Archaeological Deposit
	West		16. Stone Quarry
	North West		✓ 17. Shell
			18. Stone Arrangement
			19. Modified Tree
			20. Water Hole



Site Dimensions Closed Site Dimensions (m)								
	Internal length							
	Internal width							
	Shelter height							
	Shelter floor area							
	offetter floor area							
· — —	Dimensions (m)							
3 0	Total length of visible site							
	Total length of visible site							
20	Average width of visible site							
	Estimated area of visible site							
0.50								
250	Length of assessed site area							

Site plans, drawings Recording tables

Feature inserts-No.

Other

NPWS FEATURE RECORD	ING FORM - ARTEFACT	page 1
Site I.D.  First recorded date  No. of instances  Recorded by  Yes No  Stone artefacts only  Artefacts collected  Permit issued  Feature Context &	Site Name Importance  Percentage of Non-stone Artefacts to Percentage of 0-9% 10-19% 20-29% 30-39% 40-49% 50-59% 60-69% 70-79% Iter No. Easting North	f Stone Artefacts 80-89% 90-100%
(Artefact count per square metre)	Dimensions  Length (m) Width (m) Depth	Yes No  In situ  Stratified
Feature Condition  Very good  Good  Poor  Surface w Fire dama Erosion  Stock dam Exposed a	Boardwalk Fencing Closure to public Continued inspection Fire hazard reduction  Expert assessment	Revegetation Signage Soil erosion control Track closure/re-routing Additional recording
Feature Plan (Indicate scale, locating National	Feature Environme	Land form Land form unit Slope Vegetation Land use  water source  metres  metres
SW	Name of nearest tempor	rary water

NPWS	FEATU	RE RECO	RDING TABL	E - ARTEF	ACT				pa	age 2
				Stone Arter		<b>-</b>	0	<u>ب</u> ب	۲ 🦳	ness n)
stance No.	Recording Date	Artefact Material	Artefact Type	Platform Surface	Platform Type	e Termination	Cross Section	Lengi (mm	Widtl (mm	Thickness (mm)
			Oth	ner Artefac	t Type			ح _		ess ()
stance No.	Recordin			Туре	Des	scription		Length (mm)	/idth nm)	Thickness (mm)
NO.	Date	Mate	eriai						≤ <del>-</del>	F
Materi	ial		Artofact Doco	rintion		Platform Surfa	00 T	erminat	ion	
Basalt	iai	Clear glass	Artefact Desc	Flake tool		Cortex	Fe	eather	.1011	
	nined siliceous		Anvil Axe Backed blade	Flaked piece Hammerstone	9	Flake scar More than one flake	scar S	inge tep		
Granite Quartz		Tin can Wire	Blade Core	Manuport Milling slab		Faceted Ground		utrepasse polar		
Quartzit	ne	Nail Button Shell	Core tool	Mortar Muller		Indeterminate Bipolar				
Silcrete Green g	lass	Bone Wood	Cyclon Distal fragment Eloura	Nuclear tool Pirri		Platform Type		ross Se	ection	
Amber of Amethys		Resin	Flake	Proximal frag	mon.	W Focal	Н	igh/strong igh/weak		
				Other diagnos Modified	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Shattered  Andeterminate	Le	ow/weak regular		
				Unworked		Bipolar	11	regulal		
Comm	nents:									

NPWS FEATURE RECORDING FO	ORM - MODIFIED TREE	page 3
Site I.D.  First recorded date	Site Name Importance	Aboriginal Information Recorded?
No. of instances  Recorded by		
Feature description	Condition Easting Recommended A	Northing
No. of scars	Weathered Fencing	Tree health assessment
No. of carved panels	Ringbarked Closure to pu	
Feature Condition	Fire damage Continued ins	
Very good	Vehicle damage Expert assess	
Good	Insects/termites Fire hazard re	
Poor	Rot Insect remova	al
	Limb fall Meeting with	land manager
	Stock damage Rubbish remo	oval
	Signage	
Feature environment (Complete when feature	ure environment differs to site environment, use attributes from cover car	d, page 2)
Land form	Water	
Land form unit	Distance to permanent water so	purce metres
Slope	Distance to temporary water so	urce metres
Vegetation	Name of nearest permanent wa	ter source
Land use	Name of nearest temporary wat	er
Feature Location P		r/Carved Panel Drawing
IW I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	NE NE	
	N	
w	E	
	4	
SW Indicate and a	SE	
Indicate scale S	Attach additional dra	awings

NPWS FEATURE RECO	ORDING FORM - GRO	OOVE	page 1
Site I.D.  First recorded date //	Site Name Importance	e	Aboriginal Information Recorded?
No. of instances			
Feature Description	Seed Species Present		Recording date
Type of Grinding Feature	Seed Species Present		Treoblaing date
Broad	Groove Function		
Narrow/point			
Hollow	Dimensions		
Profile Shape	Smallest	Largest	
'U' shaped	Length (mm)	Length (mm)	Groove count
'V' shaped	Width (mm)	Width (mm)	Cluster count
Flat	Depth (mm)	Depth (mm)	
Feature Context & Condition	Easting	Northing	
& Condition	Dimensions of Whole	Feature Length (m)	Width (m)
Feature Condition Ge	eneral Condition ctd	Recommended Action	
Very good	Fire damage	Boardwalk	Revegetation
Good	Surface water wash	Cage/barrier/fencing	Rubbish removal
Poor General Condition	Graffiti  Vehicle damage	Closure to public	Signage
Weathered	Erosion	Continued inspection	Erosion control
Vandalised	Stock damage	Expert assessment Graffiti removal	Track closure/re-routing  Additional recording
	_ ctook damago	Meeting with land manager	Additional recording
Feature Plan	N (Indicate scale, location of	f instances)	
		NE Feature Envi	(Complete when feature environment differs to site environment, use attributes from cover card, p. 2)
			l and fame
			Land form  Land form unit
			Slope
			Vegetation
		N	Land use
W	$\times$	Water	
			nanent water source metres
		Distance to temp	orary water source metres
		Name of nearest	permanent water source
		Name of nearest	temporary water
SW		SE	
/ ¥ ¥	S	-	

								۱R																	e 1
Site I.D.  First recorded date  No. of instances	<u> </u>				Sit		ame <b>mp</b>		ınce	•								Ab Re				nfo	rma	atio	n
Recorded by																									
Feature Context & Condition			East			 	Engr	ave	ed	] N	North		positi	oning	<u> </u>										
Artwork Condition	Ge				ition					omi	·		ction		, –										
Very good		W	eath	erec	d					Boa	ardwa	lk					R	ubbi	ish	ren	าดงส	al			
Good		] Va	nda	lise	b					Cag	ge/ba	rrier/f	encin	g			Si	gna	ge						
Poor		Su	ırfac	e w	ater	was	h			Clo	sure	to pul	olic				Eı	osio	on d	con	trol				
		Mi	nera	ılisa	tion					Cor	ntinue	d ins	pection	n			Tr	ack	clo	sur	e/re	e-rc	utir	ıg	
	L	Gr	affiti	j						Drip	oline						A	dditi	ona	al re	cor	din	g		
	H		e da		_					1			ment												
		7	sects osio		mite	S				1		ard re emov	mova al	1											
		ī	osioi ock							1			ai st ren	าดงล											
		7		ole s	truct	ure				1			and n												
Feature Environr	nen	t		(Com	plete wi	nen fe	ature e	nviro	nment	differs	o <i>site</i> er	vironme	nt, use at	ributes	from c	over c	ard, p.	2)							
	Lar	nd fo	orm				٧	Vate	er																
	Lar	nd fo	orm	unit			D	ista	nce	to p	erma	nent	water	sou	rce		L				me	etres	3		
	Slo	•										•	vater								me	tres	3		7
		_	tion										nent			urce	-								]   
	Lar	nd u	se					am	e of	nea	rest t	empo	rary v	vate	•		L								
Aut Olyatak Dian							ıno																	1 1	
Art Sketch Plan	Sketo	ch an	ıd nuı	mber	motif	grou	aps		1	1 1	1 1	1		1 1			1		1	1	1 1	1			+
Art Sketch Plan	Sketo	ch an	ıd nuı	mber	motif	grou	aps																		+
Art Sketch Plan	Sketo	ch an	nd nu	mber	motif	grou	aps																		+
Art Sketch Plan	Sketo	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif	grou	102																		
Art Sketch Plan	Sketi	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif	grou	102																		
Art Sketch Plan	Sketi	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif	grou	100																		
Art Sketch Plan	Sketi	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif	grot	100																		
Art Sketch Plan	Sketi	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif		The state of the s																		
Art Sketch Plan	Skete	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif		The state of the s																		
Art Sketch Plan	Sketu	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif	grou																			
Art Sketch Plan	Sketu	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif	grou																			
Art Sketch Plan	Skete	ch ar	nd nu	mber	motif	grou																			

NPWS FEATURE RECO	ORDING FORM - SHE	LL	page 1
Site I.D.  First recorded date [12/09/20]  No. of instances [>30]  Recorded by [FRM]	Site Name Rive		Aboriginal Information Perpresently determined Recorded?
Feature Context & Condition  Dimensions of Whole Feature Shell Distribution  Surface scatter Stratified deposit Mounded	Lengt	<b>50</b>	g 6 3 8 7 1 9 9  Width (m) Depth (m)  eer mark (m)
Very good Good Poor General Condition Weathered Vandalised Surface water wash Mineralisation	eral Condition ctd  Fire damage Vehicle damage Insects/termites Erosion Stock damage Unstable structure Exposed bone material Exposed archaeological material	Closure to Continued Expert ass Fire hazar Graffiti ren Meeting w	Revegetation  Rubbish removal  Signage  Inspection  Erosion control  Track closure/re-routing  Additional recording
Feature Plan  Approximate Areas of Fill Containing Stone/Shell M  Riverside_02		NE	Feature Environment  (Complete when feature environment differs to site environment, use attributes from cover card, p. 2)  Undulating Plain  Land form  Flat  Land form unit  Slope  Grass and Isolated trees  Vegetation  Pastoral  Land use  Water  Distance to permanent water source 850 metres  Distance to temporary water source  Myall River  Name of nearest temporary water  Name of nearest temporary water

#### NPWS FEATURE RECORDING TABLE - SHELL

Instance No.	Recording Date	Shell Species	% of this species shell to % total of other shell
1	12-09-2017	Anandara	60-69%
2	12-09-2017	Dog Cockle	20-29%
3	12-09-2017	Mud Oyster	0-9%

Species		Percentage of this Species Shell to Percentage Total of other Shell
Anadara	Nerita	0 – 9%
Bimbala	Ocean Snail	10 – 19%
Chiton	Periwinkle	20 – 29%
Cowrie	Р	30 – 39%
Dog Cockle	Ribbed Cockle	40 – 49%
Duck Bill	Rock Oyster	50 – 59%
Limpit	<b>P</b> hiad	60 – 69%
Mud oyster	Triton	70 – 79%
Mutton Fish	Turban (large)	80 – 89%
	, ,	90 – 100%

Comments:	

Annex D

## **AHIMS Search Results**



#### **AHIMS Web Services (AWS)** Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number: 0406528

Client Service ID: 301359

<u>SiteID</u>	SiteName	<b>Datum</b>	Zone	<u>Easting</u>	<b>Northing</b>	<u>Context</u>	Site Status	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<b>Reports</b>
38-5-0044	Tea Gardens.	AGD	56	421236	6385002	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	Contact	Recorders	<u>U</u> r	ıknown Autho				<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0076	Monkey Jacket;Tea Garden;	AGD	56	420660	6386560	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	249
	Contact	Recorders	M:	s.Mary Dallas				<u>Permits</u>	581	
38-5-0082	Hawks Nest	AGD	56	422560	6384060	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1034
	Contact	Recorders	De	enis Byrne				<u>Permits</u>	58	
38-5-0087	Tea Gardens;	AGD	56	421600	6387050	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	Contact	Recorders	. Не	elen Brayshaw,	Mr.David Crev	V		<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0147	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact	Recorders	M:	s.Jillian Combe	r,Glen Morris			<u>Permits</u>	583,613	
38-5-0148	Myall River Midden-1;MRM-1;	AGD	56	5 421600	6387100	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	1373
	Contact	Recorders	. Не	elen Brayshaw				<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0019	Hawks Nest;	AGD	56	423703	6385049	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	Contact	Recorders	<u>Le</u>	n Dyall				<u>Permits</u>		
88-5-0192	Winda Woppa 1 Burial Site	AGD	56	5 421681	6383884	Open site	Valid	Burial : 1		
	Contact	Recorders	M:	s.Jill Ruig				<u>Permits</u>	1340,2015	
88-5-0041	Tea Gardens Limekilns	AGD	56	5 419134	6384962	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	Contact	Recorders	M	r.Steve Brereto	n			<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0056	Tea Gardens	AGD	56	5 421000	6385000	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	719
	Contact	Recorders	Ma	argery Sullivan				<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0301	Shearwater PAD 1	GDA	56	5 422000	6389000	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1		101531,10212 6,102127
	Contact	Recorders	M:	rs.Angela Besa	nt			<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0302	Shearwater PAD 2	GDA	56	5 420500	6389100	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1		101531,10212 6,102127
	Contact	Recorders	M	rs.Angela Besa	nt			<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0306	Riverside 01	AGD	56	5 421423	6387509	Open site	Valid	Shell : -		
	Contact	Recorders	<u>D</u>	octor.Diana Ne	ıweger			<u>Permits</u>		
88-5-0315	Riverside PAD	GDA	56	5 421291	6387326	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	Recorders		octor.Diana Ne	ıweger,ERM -	Thornton		<u>Permits</u>		
38-5-0329	Kore Kore Creek	GDA	56	418592	6387375	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	M	rs.Isabelle Stra	chan,Mid Coas	t Council - Foster		<b>Permits</b>		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 13/09/2017 for Joanne Woodhouse for the following area at Lat, Long From: -32.6682, 152.1264 - Lat, Long To: -32.6304, 152.1862 with a Buffer of 1000 meters. Additional Info: Heritage Assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 15

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.



# AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number: 0406528

Client Service ID: 301359

SiteID SiteName Datum Zone Easting Northing Context Site Status Site Features Site Types Reports

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