



Contemporary Heritage

This chapter outlines the contemporary heritage significance of the area subject to the Tillegra Dam project. An assessment of the impacts of the Project on contemporary heritage is provided. Discussion is largely based on the specialist contemporary heritage investigation undertaken for the Project which is documented in Working Paper L *Contemporary Heritage*.

13.1 Introduction

Two stages of contemporary (non-Aboriginal) heritage investigations have been undertaken as part of the preparation of the EA Report for the Tillegra Dam project. The Stage 1 investigations were undertaken by Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions (AHMS) and involved identification of known and potential historic heritage items and places including potential archaeological sites. Preliminary historic research and community consultation was undertaken to assist in the identification process. The Stage 1 investigations identified 73 historic heritage sites within the greater area, 48 of which would be affected by the Project and therefore required further investigation and impact assessment.

The Stage 2 contemporary heritage investigations were undertaken by Environmental Resources Management Australia (ERM). The investigations addressed historic heritage values and an impact assessment, building upon the Stage 1 investigations. The assessment involved detailed historical research and community consultation, inspection of as many of the 48 identified sites in the study area as possible, the identification of two additional sites, heritage values assessments of all items identified, impact analysis and preparation of statements of heritage impacts, and the development of mitigation measures.

The Heritage Council of NSW provides several advisory guidelines for the assessment and management of cultural heritage and within these guidelines, provides advice on how to classify heritage items as either being of Local or State significance. It is noted that there were no state significant sites identified during the heritage assessment work. All heritage items and sites investigated were found to be only of Local significance; however the importance of these locally significant items or sites were assessed in terms of their likely importance to the local community.

13.2 Legislative context

The Project would be assessed under Part 3A of the EP&A Act (refer Chapter 8). Until the development is granted Part 3A approval, the study area and its heritage values remain protected and under the statutory control of the relevant NSW Acts and planning controls.

Contemporary heritage in NSW is protected under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Information on this Act and its obligations is provided as follows. These obligations have been used to devise relevant heritage impact mitigation measures for the Project area.

13.2.1 NSW legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act requires that environmental impacts are considered in land use planning, including impacts on contemporary heritage. Various planning instruments prepared under the Act identify permissible land use and development constraints.

Where a development is approved under Part 3A of the Act, further approvals under the *Heritage Act 1977* are not required. In those instances, management of heritage sites must follow the statement of commitments included in the Part 3A development approval.

The DGRs for the Project have been issued by the Director-General of the Department of Planning under Part 3A of the Act. These requirements, along with the advisory letter to the Director-General from the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning (formerly the Heritage Office) have been used to guide the identification of contemporary heritage impact mitigation measures.

Section 75F(6) of the EP&A Act requires a draft statement of commitments is to be prepared as part of the environmental assessment for the Project. This defines environmental management and mitigation measures the proponent is prepared to make with respect to the proposed development.

Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* protects the natural and cultural history of NSW with emphasis on non-Aboriginal cultural heritage. It provides automatic statutory protection to 'relics'. This Act defines a 'relic' as:

Any deposit or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprises NSW, not being an Aboriginal settlement, which is 50 or more years old.

Sections 139-145 of this Act prevent the excavation or disturbance of land known or likely to contain relics, except in accordance with an excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW (or in accordance with a gazetted exception under Section 139(4) of the Act).

As noted previously, approvals under the *Heritage Act 1977* are not required where a development is approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

13.2.2 NSW planning controls and guidelines

There are a range of planning controls and guidelines that outline issues to be considered in the management and protection of heritage in the Project area. These include:

- *Hunter Regional Environmental Plan 1989 – Heritage* (Hunter REP Heritage)
- *Dungog Local Environmental Plan 2006* (Dungog LEP).

The Hunter REP Heritage aims to conserve the environmental heritage of the Hunter region. It lists 1,300 heritage items divided over a number of categories (State, regional, local), areas requiring archaeological investigation, and heritage precincts or conservation areas. The Hunter REP Heritage also provides a framework for local councils to develop, with the assistance of the DoP, appropriate means for conserving the heritage of their area.

The Dungog LEP 2006 includes a range of heritage protection provisions addressing European heritage sites, items and areas. The heritage objective of the LEP is to protect and conserve archaeological sites and places of Aboriginal or European cultural significance. The LEP includes provisions to conserve the remaining fabric, relics, settings and views, and evidence of the cultural significance of heritage items and the environment of heritage conservation areas.

13.2.3 Commonwealth legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The EPBC Act provides for the protection of NES (national environmental significance) matters and the environment generally on Commonwealth land. A referral to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (formerly the Department of the Environment and Water Resources) is required if an action has the potential to have a significant impact on NES matters or the environment of Commonwealth land.

The Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, or their approved delegate in the Department, determines whether the action is 'controlled' and whether further assessment may be necessary to determine whether it should be approved or refused. If an action is not controlled, further consideration under the EPBC Act is not required.

This Stage 2 assessment has determined that there are no items or areas within the study area with national heritage value, and no other heritage aspects have identified as NES matters. Contemporary heritage values are therefore not a matter that would require further consideration under the EPBC Act.

13.3 Current heritage status

A summary of the current heritage status of sites and items in the study area is provided in Table 13.1.

TABLE 13.1 CURRENT HERITAGE STATUS SUMMARY

HERITAGE LIST / SCHEDULE / REGISTER / INVENTORY	STATUS
World Heritage List	No items or sites within the study area are included on the World Heritage List
National Heritage List	No items or sites within the study area are included on the National Heritage List
Commonwealth Heritage List	No items or sites within the study area are included on the Commonwealth Heritage List
State Heritage Register	No items or sites within the study area are included on the State Heritage Register
Hunter Water Section 170 Heritage Register	Munni House is included as a heritage item on HWC's Section 170 Heritage Register
Hunter REP 1989 (Heritage) – Heritage Schedules	No items or sites within the study area are included on the heritage schedules to the Hunter REP 1989 (Heritage)
Dungog LEP 2006 – Heritage Schedule	Munni House is included as a local heritage item 'General Cemetery' (Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery) is included as a regional heritage item No other items or sites within the study area are included on the heritage schedule to the Dungog LEP 2006
Register of the National Estate (non-statutory)	No items or sites within the study area are included on the Register of the National Estate
National Trust of Australia (NSW) Register (non-statutory)	No items or sites within the study area are included on the National Trust Register

13.3.1 Methodology overview

The contemporary heritage investigations were split into two work components. The first stage of the work aimed to identify known historical heritage items within the study area and identify where further investigation(s) and/or survey were required in the field.

The Stage 2 contemporary heritage assessment investigations comprised:

- additional targeted background research and review
- field investigations
- condition assessment and heritage values analysis for Munni House
- preparation of inventory forms for items and sites
- an Open Day at Munni House to consult with the local community
- heritage values assessments and ranking
- impact analysis of those items identified as having heritage values
- identification of mitigation and management recommendations.

The assessment of heritage values of items and sites within the study area was undertaken in accordance with the guideline *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Dept of Planning 2001). The heritage values assessment of the study area involved the review of historic information, site inspections and analysis of potential values against each of the criteria for the State Heritage Register. These criteria encompass potential historic association with person(s) of historic importance, aesthetic, scientific, social, spiritual, research potential, rarity and representative heritage values. Items and sites have heritage value if they meet one or more of the criteria. The level of overall heritage significance is also considered through the application of a ranking system included in the guideline. The condition and integrity of a place or item is factored into the significance ranking process. Under the NSW heritage system, places can be of Local or State significance.

The preparation of the statement of heritage and archaeological impact was undertaken in accordance with the guideline *Statements of Heritage Impact* (Heritage Office and Dept of Urban Affairs and Planning 1996). The guideline requires that following questions must be addressed when complete loss or removal of a heritage item is proposed:

- Have all options for retention and adaptive re-use been explored?
- Can all of the significant elements of the heritage item be kept and any new development be located elsewhere on the site?
- Is demolition essential at this time or can it be postponed in case future circumstances make its retention and conservation more feasible?
- Has the advice of a heritage consultant been sought? Have the consultant's recommendations been implemented? If not, why not?

The potential heritage impact analysis and statement of impact was prepared on the basis of these questions.

13.3.2 Brief historical context

Analysis of the historic phases of settlement and associated themes, including farming, education, religious practices, communication and transportation, assists in identifying the potential importance of an item or place to the heritage of a local area or region. A detailed contextual history for the study area is provided in Working Paper L. A summary of this is provided as follows.

Settlement of the study area

European settlement of the study area commenced during the 1830s. The area now known as Tillegra was originally known as Underbank and Munni. Some of the earliest settlers to this area were:

- John Mann
- John Lord
- Joseph Rooklin
- William Fisher
- Archibald Mosman (or Mossman)
- Henry Carmichael
- John Verge
- Archibald Windeyer.

These settlers played an important role in the European development of the local area during the mid-19th century. John Mann in particular is prominent in the history of the study area.

Services to the settlement during the 1800s

Although land in the area was rapidly being settled, services and transportation infrastructure were slow to develop. Through 1832 there were no official roads, only the grooved lined tracks made by travellers. In the 1850s plans were finally made to improve the road systems within the region which included the construction of various bridges and punt fordings. A tramway between Dungog and Chichester was mooted but was considered to be too expensive.

Use of the Williams River seemed an ideal method of transporting farm goods to the Sydney market and providing services such as mail delivery to the new settlement. In the 1830s the river network began to be used for transportation with the purchase of a river boat *Sophia Jane* from England and the launching of the Australian-built paddle steamer *William IV* (Ford 1995). For some time ships were independently operated and ran regular services to and from Sydney and Newcastle along the Hunter River.

By the mid 1830s the boats had been purchased by John Thomas (JT) Wilson who, realising that he had a monopoly, inflated his freight charges upsetting the settlers on the Hunter River. They responded by forming the Hunter River Steam Packet Association which operated the *Ceres*, and which ran for five months before being wrecked. The early success of the boat enabled the association to quickly relaunch under the new name of the New Hunter River Packet Association buying boats from the insolvent estate of JT Wilson and commissioning a small fleet of new boats to be built. By 1840 the General Steam Navigation Company also had a boat running on the Hunter River and regular services were provided by both companies (Ford 1995).

In the late 1840s, after a spate of murders in the district, the decision was made to introduce police districts to each of the major settlements to increase the capacity of the police force within the area. Plans were also set into action for the conversion of the mounted police barracks at Dungog to a court house and conversion of the present court house to a watch house (Ford 1995).

By the 1840s the reliance on the Sydney and Newcastle markets was beginning to decline with the establishment of settlements at Clarence Town, Dungog and Seaham. Few of the farmers in the area at that time had money and so engaged in a barter system. Many of the shopkeepers were happy to accept produce in lieu of payment. This system worked well, until the financial depression of the mid 1840s resulted in the storekeepers being unable to pay the merchants and they were forced into insolvency, effectively ending the barter system.

Travelling in the local area

Historical research and community consultation revealed that the local area was traversed largely on foot during the 19th and early 20th centuries, including moving stock around. River crossings and dirt tracks formed a network of pathways around the local area. Many of these have been lost or replaced as the location of roads and their features have changed but some still survive today. Research identified a number of timber frame suspension pedestrian bridges constructed in the region in the first decades of the 1900s. However, little evidence of these bridges survives today.

Schools

In 1844 the first education facility in the area was established in the home of Henry Carmichael who offered boarding accommodation for four pupils; this was quickly expanded to 12 pupils. Carmichael's school was to offer the ordinary classes of Classics, literature and mathematic studies as well as a strong focus on agriculture, gardening and 'Chemistry in its application to agriculture and Physiology' (Ford 1995).

By 1847, there were 119 children in the district and plans for a public elementary school were being developed with a public tender calling for builders to construct a school house. The teachers would be appointed from the training college in Sydney. The school was opened in 1849 and Frederick Sinclair was the first teacher to be appointed to the role of schoolmaster (Ford 1995).

In 1867, the region was serviced by 'half time schools' established to cater for children located in scattered rural locations. Attendance was a problem as the children were frequently required to assist with the running of the family farm. The early half time schools required one teacher to visit seven 'stations'. By 1869 this had reduced to two, but 20 children were required to be in attendance for the school to operate. In 1898, 16 children were required and by 1908 there was no fixed attendance requirement.

Munni School house was located next to the Munni Union Church. The bells for both buildings were donated by Mrs Edwin Smith in the late 1890s and they were subsequently returned to Munni House when the school closed down and the church was demolished in the 1950s.

Farming within the district

Dairy farming at the outset of British settlement in Australia did not begin in those areas that have since become the premium dairying regions of NSW. Initially, British settlers tended to bypass the damp and humid coastal forest lands, preferring the drier, more lightly vegetated nearer inland areas. The massive slump in wool prices during the 1890s caused a number of settlers to turn to alternative primary industries (Wilkinson 1999). After 1890 dairying spread rapidly in NSW assisted mainly by changes in technology, land legislation and the development of overseas markets (Karskens 1988). Companies producing butter were soon established to take advantage of the newly opened railway.

As well as refrigerated shipping, other factors which aided the move into dairying were the introduction of electricity and the advent of the motor truck though at this stage, most individual dairy farmers still used horses and carriages (Karskens 1988).

Dungog's prosperity increased. The Dungog Co-op Dairy Company was formed in 1905 but moved to Cooreei in 1913 to take advantage of the railway siding. The 1920s saw considerable growth in the local population of Munni as the dairying industry technology changed allowing longer storage and changes to pasteurisation processes (Dungog Museum display).

Smallholder participation in the NSW dairy industry appears to have reached its zenith just after the recovery of business conditions in the mid-1930s. From the 1940s onwards, the number of smallholders began to decline. Of those that were left, many could only make a modest income. One contributing factor was the emergence of margarine as a competitor to butter (Dungog Museum display).

Although the bulk of milk production in the State was still going into butter production in the 1930s, milk production now began to tend to divide into a northern NSW butter producing zone (where farmers' returns were more meagre) and a southern NSW zone producing milk for householders in the Sydney, Newcastle, Erina, Wollongong and Blue Mountains-Lithgow districts (where farmers were guaranteed, by government, somewhat higher prices for their product; Dungog Museum display). In 1967 the Dungog dairy upgraded and extended so that it could also prepare powdered milk.

During the mid-20th century the Commonwealth and NSW governments implemented a series of reforms of the dairy sector by allowing milk producers in the far south and north of the State access to the Sydney metropolitan markets. During the 1980s, the then Hawke government decided both to continue the reduction of government assistance to the dairy industry and to make the industry even more commercially orientated (Dungog Museum display). In 1990 the Dungog dairy factory closed due to declining numbers of farmers.

Other farming activities have also taken place in the district. After a short period of European settlement, various crops were grown in the area including wheat, corn and tobacco. Over a period of time the Dungog district became known for its timber and dairy products reflecting a Hunter Valley trend towards livestock and fodder production in the late 1800s to early 1900s (Karskens 1988).

Religion

A number of churches were built throughout the local Dungog district during the early 1900s, including Munni and Underbank. These were timber buildings and historic photographs of the churches in the local area indicate that they were a centre of community events and activities. While not recorded as a strongly religious community, the predominant religion in the area was Anglican.

Two photographs have been identified as the 'Munni Church'. However, close examination of these images reveals that the buildings shown are not the same church. It is unknown which is the correct photograph of the church.

The Underbank Church remains in Underbank whereas the Munni Church was relocated to Thalaba a number of years ago (pers. comm. Maureen Kingston).

Munni House

Limited information is available on the history of Munni House. What was available was sourced from Ford (1995), the Land Titles office, the local heritage study, HWC's Section 170 Heritage Register, Dungog Historical Society (DHS), a former property owner (Philippa Smith) and the local community.

Following the establishment of the colony of NSW, the Williams River region was slow to be settled with some absentee landowners taking up selections in the first 50 years of settlement. Permanent residencies were taken up from around 1850 onwards. John Mann was a free settler who arrived in the colony on the *Caroline* in September 1828. He was authorised to take possession of his 1920 acre selection, Munni, on 13 October 1829. Mann was considered experienced in farming as his father owned extensive lands in Devonshire and Plymouth. He reported improvements to the property in late 1829 as three horses, 400 horned cattle, 240 sheep, slab hut, fencing, and a small area of cleared land.

Mann was assigned convicts to work on his property at Munni in 1835. A government notice of 5 September 1835 stated that Thomas Dorrell, who arrived by the *Adrian*, was assigned as a ploughman and Edward Connor, who arrived by the *Henry Porcher*, as a reaper. In 1840 Mann received a spadesman, a farm hand to shear and reap, a shepherd, a labourer, a ploughman and a cabin boy.

In 1835 ownership of Mann's land passed to his brother Samuel Furneaux Mann who, according to local knowledge, purchased the property from John Mann due to bankruptcy. This period was a time of economic hardship across NSW, arising largely from drought (Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions 2007). The brothers are believed to have lived on the property together until the early 1840s. Local knowledge has indicated that a corn barn, stables and slaughter house had been built by this time. (pers. comm. Philippa Smith).

Early dwellings in the local area were often made of timber slabs, and wattle and daub. The early records for the Mann property indicate that the original structures are likely to have been timber slab huts (Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions 2007). An 1829 survey map indicates the location of Mann's hut and stockyards (refer Table 13.2). However, site investigation and consultation with long term local residents suggests there is either no surviving evidence of the hut and stockyards in this location or the original huts and stockyards were in another part of the property.

The property was transferred to the ownership of William Alexander Smith in 1873. The materials and design of Munni House indicate that the original portion of the house was built in the late 1860s or early 1870s, and it is possible that it was constructed by Smith. The rear dining wing was added in 1875 as a wedding present from Smith to his wife (pers. comm. Philippa Smith). The form of the bull-nosed verandah indicates that it is likely to have been added in the 1880s but it could have been added a little earlier when the dining wing was added.

The bull-nosed verandah was removed around 1910 by Philippa Smith's grandmother and widened to its current dimensions when a brick balustrade with rendered curved capping and timber posts was constructed. Evidence of the positioning of timber posts survives along the fascia beam (pers. comm. Philippa Smith).

The kitchen wing was removed in around 1962 when a tennis court was constructed on the eastern side of the house. This also saw the removal of part of the orchard which was in this location. The western and eastern verandahs were closed in around 1965 after Philippa Smith's father secured a Returned Services loan. Cracking is evident in the brickwork of the main section of Munni House, this caused by the Newcastle earthquake in 1989 (pers. comm. Philippa Smith).

The land was still recorded as being owned by Smith when in 1953 it passed to Edwin Fowler Smith. The property remained in ownership of the Smith family until purchased by HWC in recent years.

Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery

The cemetery has previously been known as Munni, Brownmore, Underbank and Quart Pot Cemetery. The environmental assessment has adopted the usage 'Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery' which is understood to reflect the general area that the cemetery services.

According to survey plans from the mid-19th century, the land currently occupied by Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery was granted to a local property holder, John Lord. It was subsequently transferred to George McKenzie and John McLean. Limited information is available about this portion of land for the remainder of the 19th century. However, it is likely that it was part of an agricultural holding during this period. Burials are recorded on private land holdings in the local area, with several properties containing family plots.

Review of the Department of Lands parish maps from the early 20th century indicated that a portion of a smaller property held by Sydney Smith in 1918 was annexed for use by the Church of England on 10 November 1915 and is labelled 'Munni Cemetery'. A small number of what may be burial plots or precincts are also indicated on this map.

The 1918 and 1932 parish maps indicate the same area is occupied by the 'Munni Cemetery', and is surrounded by the same sized property formerly held by James A Moore (1918) and then Sydney Smith (1932).

The earliest marked grave in the cemetery is dated 1923. As the population density increased in the local area in the early 20th century, it is likely that the local community required a more formal area dedicated as consecrated ground and the cemetery was established through arrangements with the Church of England.

There are approximately 80 known burials in 55 graves in the cemetery ranging in date from 1923 to the present day. This includes an Office of War Graves plot dedicated to former Australian Imperial Force member AE Duggan who passed away in 1988. This grave is maintained by the Office of War Graves.

There are also several areas in the cemetery with some potential to contain unmarked and/or earlier graves. It is possible that the area may have been used as a cemetery prior to its formal gazettal in 1915, and early timber grave markers could have deteriorated.

The cemetery and individual plots are very well maintained, reflecting the continued importance of the cemetery to the local community.

13.3.3 Study area overview

The Project area contains two heritage listed sites of Local significance: Munni House and Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery. It also contains a number of other sites with potential heritage values of Local significance.

The Stage 2 investigations considered a total of 50 items and features. In addition to the 48 sites identified during Stage 1 investigations, two other sites were identified through field work and community consultation. In addition to the two listed heritage items, 12 items were found to have heritage significance at a local level. One item could not be accessed during the field investigations and would require further analysis to determine whether it has heritage value.

The sites identified during both Stages 1 and 2 of the contemporary heritage investigations are shown in Figures 13.1 and 13.2. A corresponding list of the items and sites of potential contemporary heritage value that were investigated is provided in Table 13.2.

At the start of the Stage 2 investigations, items 4, 6, 16, 17, 19, 20, 24, 28, 29, 37, 45, 48, 54, 59, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75 were thought to require a Statement of Heritage Impact and the remainder likely to require an archaeological impact assessment. One item, (ID 10–House and burial place of Forster baby) was thought likely to require both a Statement of Heritage Impact and an impact assessment.

Please note that items consequently determined to have Local heritage significance are noted in Table 13.5 and a summary of the impact analysis detailed in Table 13.6 within this chapter. The procedure for the heritage impact assessment and complete impact assessment is detailed fully in Working Paper L *Contemporary Heritage*.

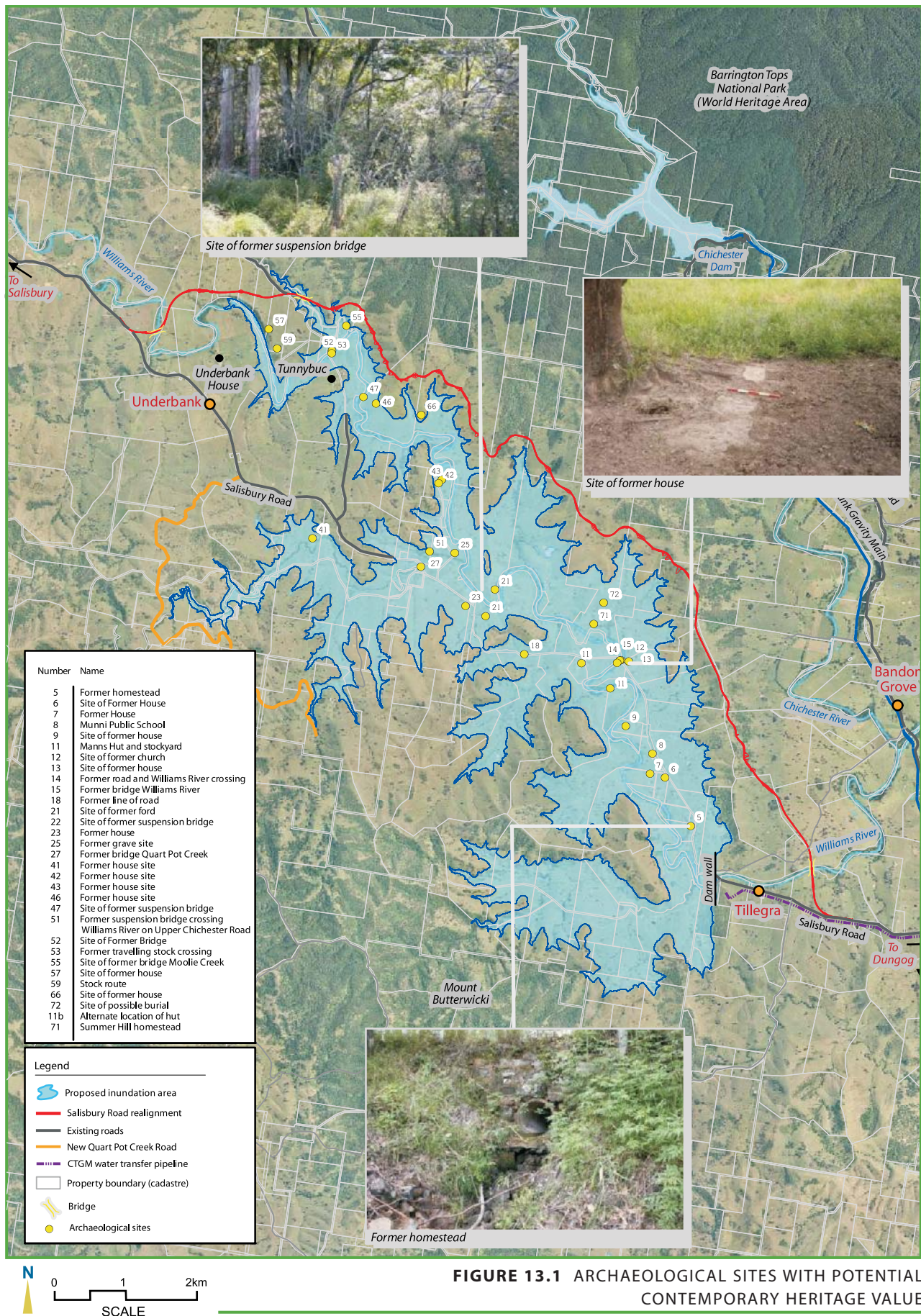


FIGURE 13.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITH POTENTIAL CONTEMPORARY HERITAGE VALUE

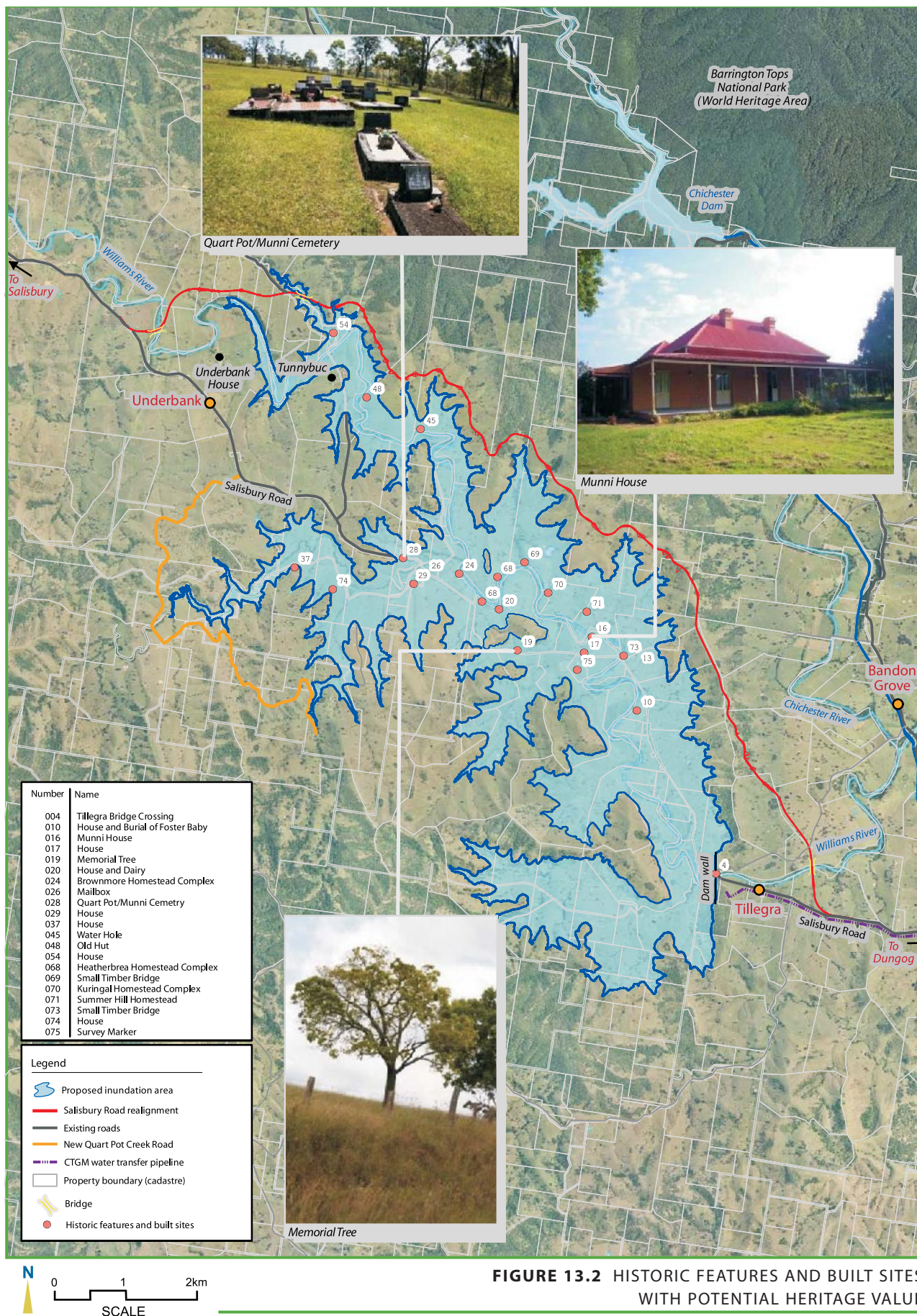


FIGURE 13.2 HISTORIC FEATURES AND BUILT SITES WITH POTENTIAL HERITAGE VALUE

TABLE 13.2 POTENTIAL HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEMS/SITES AND FURTHER ACTION

ITEM ID*	ITEM NAME	HISTORICAL RESEARCH	STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT REQUIRED	ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED
4	Tillegra Bridge	Yes	Yes	No
5	Site of former Homestead Complex	Yes	No	Yes
6	House (not able to be accessed)	Yes	Yes	No
7	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes
8	Site of former Munni Public School	Yes	No	Yes
9	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes
10	House and burial place of Forster baby	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Mann's Hut and Stockyards	Yes	No	Yes
12	Site of former Church	Yes	No	Yes
13	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes
14	Former road and river crossing – Williams River	Yes	No	Yes
15	Former bridge – Williams River	Yes	No	Yes
16	Munni Homestead Complex	Yes	Yes	No
17	House	Yes	Yes	No
18	Former road	Yes	No	Yes
19	Memorial Tree	Yes	Yes	No
20	House and Dairy	Yes	Yes	No
21	Site of former Ford	Yes	No	Yes
22	Site of former suspension bridge	Yes	No	Yes
23	Former house	Yes	No	Yes
24	Brownmore Homestead Complex	Yes	Yes	No
25	Former grave site	Yes	No	Yes
26	Mailbox	Yes	No	No
27	Former bridge – Quart Pot Creek	Yes	No	Yes
28	Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery	Yes	Yes	No
29	House	Yes	Yes	No
37	House	Yes	Yes	No
41	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes
42	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes
43	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes
45	Water Hole	Yes	Yes	No
46	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes
47	Site of former suspension bridge	Yes	No	Yes
48	Old Hut	Yes	Yes	No
51	Site of former suspension bridge – Tunnibuc	Yes	No	Yes
52	Site former bridge	Yes	No	Yes
53	Former travelling stock crossing	Yes	No	Yes
54	House	Yes	Yes	No
55	Site of former bridge – Moolie Creek	Yes	No	Yes
57	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes



ITEM ID*	ITEM NAME	HISTORICAL RESEARCH	STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT REQUIRED	ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED
59	Stock Route	Yes	Yes	No
66	Site of former House	Yes	No	Yes
68	Heatherbrae Homestead Complex	Yes	Yes	No
69	Small Timber Bridge	Yes	Yes	No
70	Kuringal Homestead Complex	Yes	Yes	No
71	Fisher's Summerhill Homestead Complex	Yes	Yes	No
72	Site of possible burial ground	Yes	No	Yes
73	Small timber bridge	Yes	Yes	No
74#	House	Yes	Yes	No
75#	Survey Marker	Yes	Yes	No

* For ease of reference and consistency, the Item ID numbers generated by AHMS have been continued through Stage 2

Items 74 and 75 are additional items identified during the February 2008 field investigations

13.3.4 Consultation

HWC holds weekly open days at Munni House and also obtains community feedback through the TDCRG. Consultation specific to Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery has been conducted through the TDCRG cemetery subcommittee. HWC has also undertaken a variety of other activities to provide the community with information as well as to obtain appropriate feedback.

Consultation with the Dungog Historical Society (DHS) and the local community was conducted during both stages of the contemporary heritage assessment. Local community representatives provided considerable assistance during the Stage 2 site investigations. Informal consultation was conducted through follow up telephone calls and emails with members of the local community and the DHS.

A 'Heritage Open Day' was held at Munni House on 5 March 2008 and incorporated both contemporary and Aboriginal heritage. Representatives from HWC, DHS and heritage consultants facilitated the open day. Notices about the open day were included in the monthly community newsletter, the Dungog Chronicle and on community noticeboards in Dungog. Information was also provided through an interview with a HWC representative on local radio.

Around 15 people attended the open day providing the heritage consultants with the opportunity to hear first hand a range of stories about people and places in the area. A number of local community members provided access to historic photographs, plans, maps and associated records for inclusion in the historical analysis of the Project.

13.4 Significance assessment and Statements of Significance

The listed and potential contemporary heritage items and sites were assessed against the criteria for the NSW State Heritage Register. Items with identified heritage values were also ranked in accordance with the Heritage Branch guidelines for assessing heritage values in NSW. The summary heritage values assessment and significance information for the items identified as having heritage value is provided as follows.

13.4.1 Munni homestead complex

Table 13.3 provides a summary of heritage values for Munni House and the associated outbuildings. A summary of significance value is provided after the table.

TABLE 13.3 ASSESSMENT AGAINST STATE HERITAGE REGISTER CRITERIA FOR MUNNI HOUSE

CRITERION	ASSESSMENT
a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (Historical Significance)	Munni House and its outbuildings demonstrate the early settlement pattern of the area, economic hardship and the growth of the pastoral industry in the Dungog area
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 (Associative Significance)	Munni House has early associations with the Mann family and remained in the Smith family's ownership for 140 years. The place has strong local associations
c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (Aesthetic Significance)	Munni House itself had aesthetic value as an intact grouping of rural homestead buildings in a commanding setting, however this has been diminished through subsequent removal of outbuildings and changes to the house itself. The two remaining timber slab outbuildings demonstrate a rural construction technology which is becoming increasingly rare
d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Social Significance)	The open day revealed a strong community interest in the history of the property and its future. This is supported by community consultation conducted by HWC over the previous 18 months. Munni homestead complex is an important place for the community of Dungog Shire for its ability to demonstrate the 19th century history of the local area
e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (Research Potential)	Munni House and its outbuildings have the potential to contribute to an understanding of rural homestead and timber slab construction techniques
f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (Rarity)	While Munni House is not a rare building, the timber slab outbuildings are becoming increasingly rare in NSW
g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (Representativeness)	At a local level Munni House and its outbuildings demonstrate a class of cultural place as mid to late 19th century farmstead buildings

Statement of Significance

The Munni House property is significant in the context of Australian pastoral activities in regional NSW demonstrating early settlement patterns. It has early association with the Mann family followed by the Smith family who owned the property for 140 years and who influenced the development of the region.

The house, although demonstrating a sequence of changes to its verandahs, retains its earliest sections substantially intact.

The two surviving slab outbuildings are also substantially intact and becoming increasingly rare in rural NSW, and make a strong contribution to the Munni homestead complex.

Munni House is of Local heritage significance, but considered to be highly valued by the local community which validates its inclusion in the Dungog LEP and HWC's Section 170 Heritage Register.

13.4.2 Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery

Table 13.4 provides a summary of heritage values for Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery and is followed by a summary of significance value.

TABLE 13.4 ASSESSMENT AGAINST STATE HERITAGE REGISTER CRITERIA FOR QUART POT/MUNNI CEMETERY

CRITERION	ASSESSMENT
a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (Historical Significance)	Use of the cemetery dates from the 1920s, which was a period of marked population growth arising from changes in the dairy industry in the local area
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 (Associative Significance)	While the cemetery is associated with several families that have resided in the local area for a number of generations, it does not meet this criterion
c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (Aesthetic Significance);	While the rural setting of the cemetery is an important aspect of its sense of place, it does not meet this criterion
d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Social Significance)	The open day revealed a strong community interest in the importance of the cemetery. This is supported by community consultation conducted by HWC over the previous 18 months. The cemetery is a highly significant place to the local community for spiritual and cultural reasons
e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (Research Potential)	The cemetery provides some insight into the population patterns, religious practices and health of the local community
f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (Rarity)	The cemetery does not meet this criterion
g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's - cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (Representativeness)	The cemetery is typical of many rural community cemeteries. Its condition and level of maintenance demonstrate the importance of the place to the local community

Statement of Significance

Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery is significant to the local community for historical, cultural and spiritual reasons. The cemetery provides an insight into the historical development of the local area, its population, religious beliefs and practices and the health of the local community.

The cemetery is of Local heritage significance but considered to be highly valued by the local community which validates its inclusion in the Dungog LEP.

13.4.3 Non-heritage listed items and features

The study area contains a range of items and features with some degree of historic and archaeological value. Along with Munni House and Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery, several provide an insight into the development and pattern of settlement of the local area. Table 13.5 lists items and features identified during the Stage 2 investigations as having Local heritage significance.

TABLE 13.5 ITEMS OF LOCAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

ITEM ID	ITEM NAME	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING
8	Site of former Munni Public School	Local significance(Mod)
11	Mann's Hut and stockyards	Local significance(High)
22	Site of former suspension bridge	Local significance(Mod)
24	Brownmore Homestead Complex	Local significance(Mod)
25	Former grave site	Local significance(Mod)
26	Mailbox	Local significance(Mod)
45	Water hole	Local significance(Mod)
48	Old Hut	Local significance(Mod)
53	Former travelling stock crossing	Local significance(Mod)
72	Site of possible burial ground	Local significance(Mod)
74	House	Local significance(Mod)
75	Survey marker	Local significance(Mod)

13.5 Impact analysis

The Stage 2 contemporary heritage impact analysis indicated that the Project would have a negative impact on the historic heritage values of a number of individual items and features within the Project area, as inundation would result in the removal of all tangible evidence of these heritage values. However, a range of mitigation activities are available that would reduce these impacts on listed and non-listed heritage items.

HWC has made a commitment to conserve Munni House and manage the impact on Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery. As such, these items are considered separately to the other historic heritage items and features.

Twelve items were identified as having Local heritage significance. The analysis of heritage impacts therefore focuses on those items identified as having historic heritage value. A number of the items and features investigated were found to have little or no historic heritage value. However, the collective potential archaeological resource of the former house and homestead sites is also considered.

Any impacts on heritage would be restricted to items located within the Project area. The Project would not have an adverse impact on heritage items in areas surrounding the Project.

13.5.1 Heritage impact analysis–Munni House

As previously noted, Munni House is located within the proposed inundation area and would therefore be lost should no management action be undertaken. This section discusses current conservation philosophy relative to the moving of heritage items and the four options available to HWC for the management of the heritage values of the Munni homestead complex buildings.

The Burra Charter

In Australia, the conservation of heritage places is guided by the Australian International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Burra Charter. The Burra Charter has been widely adopted as the standard for heritage conservation practice in Australia, providing a guiding philosophy for the care of places of cultural heritage significance in Australia.

The Burra Charter advocates a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained.

The Burra Charter provides 34 Articles divided into Definitions, Conservation Principles and Conservation Processes. Article 9 (ICOMOS 1999) restated as follows addresses the conservation principles associated with the location of a place.

Article 9 – Location:

- 9.1 The physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.
- 9.2 Some buildings, works or other components of places were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.
- 9.3 If any building, work or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate use. Such action should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.

Guidelines

There are no published guidelines in Australia for the moving of heritage places as this practice is inconsistent with the conservation principles promoted by the Burra Charter. However, the following publications provide an outline of the issues to consider when analysing the feasibility of moving a heritage building in the Australian context:

- *Moved Buildings for Museums: not an easy solution* (Australian Heritage Commission brochure)
- *Moving Buildings: A study of issues surrounding moving buildings of heritage value for use in outdoor museums in Queensland Museums Australia Queensland.*

Both publications highlight the adverse heritage impacts arising from the loss of historical context and original fabric when moving a heritage building.

Management options

The four options are:

- Option 1: Leave as is
- Option 2: Retain masonry only
- Option 3: Removal
- Option 4: Relocation.

These options are described as follows.

Option 1: Leave as is

Under this option the entire complex would be left as vacated and would eventually be submerged as the storage filled. This option would result in the loss of access to the site and of the ability to appreciate its heritage values. A prerequisite to the selection of this option should be the archival recording of the complex and its future interpretation.

Option 2: Leave masonry fabric only

This option would involve the removal of the timber outbuildings along with all framing timbers, metal and shingle roofs, windows, doors, joinery, fittings and electrical, plumbing and drainage reticulation from Munni House. This would leave just the brick walls which would be submerged as the storage filled. This option would result in the loss of access to the site and of the ability to appreciate its heritage values. A prerequisite to the selection of this option would be the archival recording of the complex and its future interpretation.

Option 3: Removal

This option would involve the demolition and removal of all buildings from the site without retention of any historic fabric. This option would result in the loss of access to the site and of the ability to appreciate its heritage values. A prerequisite would be the archival recording of the complex and ultimately its interpretation.

Option 4: Relocation*(a) dismantle and reassemble*

This option would result in the relocation of the high significance sections of Munni House and one of the two timber slab outbuildings. A possible relocation site has been identified adjacent to the Tillegra cricket ground on Salisbury Road below the dam wall.

This option would require the detailed recording of all buildings on the site through accurate measured drawing and photographic recording. This would include the itemisation and scheduling of all significant building elements followed by careful dismantling, tagging and packaging for transportation to the new site. Relocation would focus on those elements of moderate and high significance as the first priority for conservation.

This option is feasible in terms of the load bearing capacity of the local road system and vehicle access logistics, and the availability of suitable new sites on HWC-owned land within the locality.

While Munni House would be preserved, the complete heritage values of the house could not be replicated as only the high value sections of the house would be moved and its original setting in the landscape would be irretrievably altered. It should also be noted that this option would incur considerable cost due to the detailed recording, specification and oversight required during the dismantling and reconstruction stages.

(b) move whole buildings

A preliminary investigation into the feasibility of relocating both the timber outbuildings and Munni House as intact elements or intact sections to a new site has been conducted. Moving timber buildings is a common practice in Australia. Consultation with an experienced house mover in NSW confirmed that the timber slab buildings could be relocated but they would need to be divided into discreet sections due to width and weight restrictions on local roads. This aspect of this option would require careful investigation to determine road and bridge weight, width and height limits.

This relocation option would also result in the timber buildings having localised superficial strengthening installed to ensure their structural integrity. A prerequisite would be the archival recording of the buildings prior to division into sections followed by the recording of the division into sections allowing for accurate reassembly. Making a record of the buildings current location and their relocation would provide information for the future interpretation of these buildings.

The relocation of masonry buildings is common practice in the USA and Canada. A detailed account of the practice is provided within Working Paper L. While it would be possible to import the expertise and technology to Australia, the cost is expected to be prohibitive. In addition road and bridge weight limits prevent this option being realistically considered further.

All options would result in the loss of the historic layout and setting of the Munni homestead complex.

13.5.2 Statement of Heritage Impact – Munni House

The 'demolition' and 'leave as is' options are not desirable as they would result in the loss of a significant part of the heritage of the local area. These options would have the greatest heritage impact and are not preferred given the feasibility of the alternatives.

Of the four options considered and discussed, the relocation of intact sections of Munni House and timber slab outbuildings would have the least impact on their respective cultural heritage values. Investigation suggests that while it is feasible to relocate either of the two timber slab buildings, the technology or experience in Australia to move the significant brick sections of Munni House intact is currently unavailable and would involve a high cost.

Option 4(a) for Munni House (dismantle and relocate) and either option 4(a) or 4(b) for the timber slab outbuildings (disassemble and move or move intact sections) represent the most practical options that would have the least impact on cultural heritage significance.

13.5.3 Heritage impact analysis–Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery

Proposed activities and options considered

As previously indicated, the cemetery is located within the inundation area and once the storage reaches FSL (full supply level), access to the site would obviously not be possible. An alternative site would be required for use by the local community and a plan has been prepared to manage the issues associated with the relocation of the cemetery (refer Working Paper H *Proposed Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery Relocation Plan*).

The plan outlines the process to be followed should the Project be approved. The plan also details the communication and consultation that would be undertaken with next of kin, community stakeholders and the relevant statutory authorities.

The options identified for managing the cemetery relocation include:

- leaving the cemetery (and gravesites) as is
- relocating either the entire gravesites or only the headstones to an alternative existing cemetery
- establishing a new working cemetery and relocating either the entire gravesites or the headstones only.

HWC has worked closely with the TDCRG cemetery subcommittee to identify suitable alternative cemetery sites and has conferred further with affected families. The cemetery relocation plan provides further information on the preferred location of the new cemetery site. A memorial overlooking the old cemetery site would also be established.

While principally concerned with managing the social issues, the plan also addresses the heritage considerations associated with the cemetery relocation. Section 4 of the plan discusses matters related to management of heritage issues addressing:

- archaeology
- preparation of statements of heritage significance
- archival recording.

It is not anticipated that the work at the cemetery (or other burials) would require any physical anthropological investigation of remains for two reasons:

- the buried 'population' is not considered likely to represent a biologically discrete group which, if it was the subject of anthropological work, would yield significant data relevant to current research
- it is considered unlikely that the contemporary community and relatives of those interred in the cemetery would consent to anthropological examination of the burials beyond basic biological identification of age and sex.

Consequently, archaeological examination of burials within the cemetery would not occur. Basic archaeological techniques would, however, be used simply to assist with the complete recovery of the burial proper (the part of the grave between the lowest point of excavation and the top of the coffin, ie the area occupied by the coffin).

Impact analysis

The proposed relocation of the cemetery (and the inundation of the existing location) would result in the removal of an important local heritage place including the loss of the historic setting of the cemetery. The key heritage values impacted are the history of the site and its insight into the development of the local community. The site has a high social value as it is a place of remembrance and connection with forebears.

There is also some potential for unmarked graves in the cemetery. The possible location of unmarked graves would need to be investigated. If additional graves are identified, these would need to be managed as part of the relocation process in accordance with the proposed cemetery relocation plan. Research and consultation about the identity of those buried in such graves would be required as part of this process.

Relocation of gravesites (including both headstones and grave surrounds where practicable) to a new cemetery that is laid out in a similar manner to the existing cemetery would reduce these heritage impacts. The new cemetery has been designed to incorporate these features. The community consultation conducted throughout the relocation planning to date is a key component of respecting the social heritage values of the cemetery.

The cemetery relocation plan (Working Paper H) specifically includes some of the general principles and NSW government requirements for managing grave sites. For example any relocation would be undertaken in accordance with applicable public health guidelines. The Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning has also noted that it would be desirable to apply the Heritage Office skeletal remains guidelines to any management regime applied to the Cemetery. This is not however supported by HWC.

The NSW Heritage Council skeletal remains guidelines include provision for archaeological research to be undertaken on grave sites. While consultation aspects of the guideline and the need to treat grave sites with respect have been considered and incorporated into the cemetery relocation plan, the local community has strongly indicated that they do not approve of, and strongly oppose archaeological investigations being undertaken on deceased family members interred at the cemetery site. Accordingly, these aspects of the Heritage Office skeletal remains guidelines will not be adopted by HWC for the project.

13.5.4 Statement of Heritage Impact–Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery

The relocation of the headstones and grave surrounds to a similarly designed new cemetery is considered an appropriate option that would reduce the heritage impacts of the Project on the site. The involvement of the key stakeholders in the selection of a new location is supported as a measure that recognises the social heritage value of the cemetery.

Confirmation of the presence (or otherwise) of potential unmarked graves would require further investigation using appropriate survey techniques to include all graves in the relocation process. This issue is addressed in the draft cemetery relocation plan.

Archival recording of the site would be a prerequisite of any works at the Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery. The draft cemetery relocation plan indicates that this would be undertaken and that a memorial to the original cemetery would be established above the FSL as close as practicable to the current cemetery location. Interpretive information at the new cemetery would also be provided. These measures would assist in reducing the heritage impacts of the relocation.

13.5.5 Heritage impact analysis–non-heritage listed items

An analysis of heritage impacts for non-heritage listed items identified as having Local significance is provided in Table 13.6. Items are grouped by significance grading to provide a relative ranking of heritage value between all heritage items of Local significance. The significance gradings are taken from the NSW Heritage Office (2001) “*Assessing Heritage Significance*” guidelines.

TABLE 13.6 ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS FOR ITEMS OF LOCAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

HERITAGE ITEM	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	IMPACT ANALYSIS
Item ID 11 – Site of Mann’s Hut and stockyards	High	<p>The extent of and location of the former Mann’s Hut and stockyards has not been determined during the Stage 2 investigations. The extent of disturbance of the two likely locations of Mann’s Hut and stockyards also significantly limits the potential for subsurface evidence to have survived.</p> <p>The Project could result in the loss of rare evidence of the first phase of European settlement in the local community. This has the potential to have a significant impact on this potential heritage place.</p> <p>This potential heritage impact can be reduced through archaeological investigations of the two locations, and the archival recording of any evidence found. The area around the coordinates for the two sites should be mown and the ground surface visually inspected.</p> <p>If evidence is found that indicates the location of the hut and stockyards, subsurface investigation should follow in accordance with a simple archaeological research design. Subsurface investigation should be undertaken at the location that exhibits the evidence, and only if adequate evidence is identified by an archaeologist during the visual survey.</p> <p>Artefacts located during any subsurface excavation could be salvaged for future interpretation.</p>

HERITAGE ITEM	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	IMPACT ANALYSIS
Item ID 8 – Site of former Munni Public School	Moderate	<p>The site of the former Munni Public School contains a range of evidence at surface level that provides an insight into the layout of the site. The site also has potential to contain subsurface evidence from earlier phases of use of the site. This evidence could provide valuable insight into the history of the site and local community.</p> <p>The Project would result in the loss of this historic evidence. This potential impact could be reduced by archaeological investigations, archival recording of the excavated site and salvage of artefacts located for future interpretation. This excavation also presents an opportunity to engage the community through a public archaeology activity on the site.</p>
Item ID 22 – Site of former suspension bridge	Moderate	<p>This site is a reasonably intact suspension bridge and is the only remaining pedestrian suspension bridge in the study area. The bridge holds significance as it shows the development of the area, use of the landscape and is an indication of old pathway and road systems.</p> <p>The Project would result in the loss of this historic evidence of this aspect of the local area.</p> <p>This potential impact could be reduced through archival recording of the remaining materials and structure. This item has the potential to be partially or completely salvaged and illustrates community infrastructure and use of the landscape.</p>
Item ID 24 – Brownmore homestead complex	Moderate	<p>Brownmore homestead complex provides some insight into the early 20th century history of the local area. The Project would result in the loss of this heritage value. An archival record of this item would ensure information about the property is available to the community.</p>
Item ID 25 – Former grave site	Moderate	<p>The identity of the individual within this grave and the absolute location of the grave site are not known. The item has social heritage value for the information it may hold about the individual interred separately from others in the study area.</p> <p>The Project would result in the loss of this historic evidence. This impact could be reduced if the site is managed in accordance with the Cemetery Relocation Plan's procedures for other burials.</p>
Item ID 26 – Mailbox	Moderate	<p>The Mailbox has social heritage value. The Project would result in the loss of this item. This potential impact could be mitigated through the salvage of the Mailbox for future interpretation.</p>
Item ID 45 – Water hole	Moderate	<p>This item has historic and social heritage values at a local level. The Project would result in the loss of access to this heritage place. A photographic record of this item would ensure information about the property is available to the community. Oral history interviews could include questions about the use of this place by the local community for future interpretation.</p>

HERITAGE ITEM	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	IMPACT ANALYSIS
Item ID 48 – Old hut	Moderate	This item is part of the historic development of the local area. The Project would result in the loss of this historic evidence. An archival record of this item would ensure information about the property is available to the community.
Item ID 53 – Former travelling stock crossing	Moderate	The former travelling stock route holds local heritage values. This stock route shows historic use of the landscape and indicates a dimension of the local history that is now lost, the movement of stock within and through the study area. As the heritage values of this item are intangible, loss of this place can be mitigated through a photographic recording and accurate GPS recording of the site.
Item ID 72 – Site of possible burial ground	Moderate	This site holds the oldest recorded European burials in the study area. The item has social heritage value for the information it may hold about the individual interred separately from others in the study area. The Project would result in the loss of this historic evidence and community connection with forebears. While at this stage, community consultation indicates that these burials should be left undisturbed (with a plaque at the new cemetery erected to commemorate them), HWC would endeavour to identify all interested parties and discuss this matter further with them in accordance with the procedures detailed in the cemetery relocation plan in case there are additional views on how burials should be managed at this site.
Item ID 74 – House	Moderate	This house dates from the 1920s, a period that saw a number of changes in the local community both in terms of dairying activity and its intensity along with the associated increased population growth. While the house has undergone refurbishment, it retains some original features and is the best example of houses from this period remaining in the local area. The Project would result in the loss of this historic fabric. An archival record of this item would ensure information about the property is available to the community.
Item ID 75 – Survey marker	Moderate	The survey marker is part of the 19th century history of settlement in the local area. The Project would result in a loss of this historic evidence. While this marker could be salvaged, it is noted that its historic context would be lost in the process. However, this could be interpreted provided a photographic record is made including its setting and location in the landscape.

*Significance gradings are as per the NSW Heritage Office (2001) Assessing Heritage Significance guidelines and have been used to provide a relative ranking of heritage value for identified heritage items of Local heritage significance.

13.5.6 Statement of Heritage Impact–non-heritage listed items

Several non-heritage listed items with moderate and high local heritage significance would be impacted by the Project. These items can be archived or photographically recorded, some can be salvaged, and others can be archaeologically investigated. Provided these mitigation activities are undertaken, the overall heritage impact on these items would be reduced.

13.5.7 Heritage impact analysis of former house and homestead sites

A number of items listed (5, 7, 13, 23, 41, 42, 43, 46, 57 and 66) are houses or homesteads that are no longer standing and have been assessed as having limited heritage significance. Assessed individually, these items do not meet the threshold for heritage significance but assessed as a group, there is significance due to their collectively contributing an insight into the historical development and activities in the local community.

As all the homesteads and houses in the area would be impacted by the Project, the information they can provide as a group would be lost. Together, these items indicate the growth and changes to the area experienced by local families.

These places therefore have the potential to provide an insight into periods of growth as well as when people were adding on or building new homes and other farm infrastructure. These places can also hold personal items that provide some insight into the lives of the individuals within the study area if artefacts and other relics can be found in sub-floor deposits.

As the Project would result in the loss of all these items, there is an opportunity to mitigate the potential impact of this loss of historic evidence by undertaking a sample archaeological investigation of a selection of the buildings that have some structural remains. The items that would be the best candidates for this type of investigation would be 13, 23 and 46 as there is a high level of certainty on their location.

13.5.8 Unassessed item

One item (a house, Item ID 6) was not accessed during the investigations. Historical research and community consultation has not revealed information indicating that this site is an important part of the history of the local area. However, a site investigation would be required to confirm the date of the property. The land titles for this property do not indicate a date for the current building on the site. A site investigation will be undertaken by HWC if the project is approved and the land purchased.

13.5.9 Summary

All heritage items and sites investigated were found to be of Local significance only. Of these locally significant items and sites, Table 13.7 provides a summary of the heritage values that would be impacted by the Project and the items that are recommended for mitigation. Items were allocated a significance grading to provide a relative ranking of heritage value at the Local level. The significance gradings are taken from the NSW Heritage Office (2001) *Assessing Heritage Significance* guidelines. Ranking assisted the Consultant in making a recommendation as to whether mitigative action should be considered. While some sites such as Munni House and Quart Pot Cemetery were considered to be important to the local community, as shown in table 13.7, a fair proportion of sites or items of Local significance were found to have little or no value from a broader conservation perspective. The reference to 'historic criteria met' refers to the assessment criteria for the NSW State Heritage Register (refer Tables 13.3 and 13.4 for example).

TABLE 13.7 POTENTIAL HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEMS AND SITES

ITEM ID*	ITEM NAME	HISTORIC CRITERIA MET	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	ITEM IMPACTED	VALUE IMPACTED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDED
4	Tillegra Bridge	None	Little	Yes	Historic	No
5	Site of former homestead complex	E	Little	Yes	Archaeological potential	No
6	House (access not permitted)	N/A	N/A	Yes	Not determined	Yes
7	Site of former house	E	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	No
8	Site of former Munni Public School	A, D and E	Moderate	Yes	Historic, social and some archaeological potential	Yes
9	Site of former house	None	None	Yes	None	No
10	House and burial place of Forster baby	House: None; Burial: E	Little	Yes	Some archaeological potential	Yes
11	Mann's Hut and stockyards	A, B, D and E	High	Yes	Historic, social and moderate archaeological potential	Yes
12	Site of former church	D	Little	Yes	Limited social	No
13	Site of former house	E	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	Yes
14	Former road and river crossing – Williams River	None	None	Yes	None	No
15	Former bridge – Williams River	None	None	Yes	None	No
16	Munni homestead complex	A, D, C, D, E, F and G	High	Yes	Historic, aesthetic, social and some archaeological potential	Yes
17	House		None	Yes	None	No
18	Former road	None	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	No
19	Memorial tree	E	Little	Yes	Limited historic	No
20	House and dairy	A	None	Yes	None	No
21	Site of former ford	None	None	Yes	None	No
22	Site of former suspension bridge	None	Moderate	Yes	Historic	Yes
23	Former house	A	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	Yes
24	Brownmore homestead complex	E	Moderate	Yes	Historic	Yes
25	Former grave site	A A and E	Moderate	Yes	Historic and limited archaeological potential	Yes

ITEM ID*	ITEM NAME	HISTORIC CRITERIA MET	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	ITEM IMPACTED	VALUE IMPACTED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDED
26	Mailbox		Moderate	Yes	Historic and social	Yes
27	Former bridge – Quart Pot Creek	A and D	None	Yes	None	No
28	Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery	None A,C,D,E and G	High	Yes	Historic, social and research potential	Yes
29	House		None	Yes	None	No
37	House	None	Little	Yes	Limited historic	No
41	Site of former house	A	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	No
42	Site of former house	E	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	No
43	Site of former house	E	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	No
45	Water hole	E	Moderate	Yes	Historic and social	Yes
46	Site of former house	A and D	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	Yes
47	Site of former suspension bridge	E	None	Yes	None	No
48	Old hut	None A and E	Moderate	Yes	Historic and archaeological potential	Yes
51	Site of former suspension bridge – Tunnibuc		None	Yes	None	No
52	Site former bridge	None	None	Yes	None	No
53	Former travelling stock crossing	None	Moderate	Yes	Historic	Yes
54	House	A	None	Yes	None	No
55	Site of former bridge – Moolie Creek	None	None	Yes	None	No
57	Site of former house	None	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	No
59	Stock route	E	Little	Yes	Limited historic	No
66	Site of former house	A	Little	Yes	Limited archaeological potential	No
68	Heatherbrae homestead complex	E	Little	Yes	Limited historic	No
69	Small timber bridge	A	None	Yes	None	No
70	Kuringal homestead complex	None	Little	Yes	Limited historic	No
71	Fisher's Summerhill homestead complex	A	None	Yes	None	No
72	Site of possible burial ground	None A, D and E	Moderate	Yes	Historic, social and archaeological potential	Yes

ITEM ID*	ITEM NAME	HISTORIC CRITERIA MET	SIGNIFICANCE GRADING	ITEM IMPACTED	VALUE IMPACTED	MITIGATION RECOMMENDED
73	Small timber bridge		None	Yes	None	No
74	House	None	Moderate	Yes	Historic and aesthetic	Yes
75	Survey marker	A and C	Moderate	Yes	Historic	Yes

13.6 Mitigation and management measures

The Stage 2 contemporary heritage impact assessment identified a range of measures to mitigate impacts. Provided these are implemented, the negative heritage impacts would be reduced to an acceptable level. These mitigation and management measures are listed as follows and have also been incorporated into the Project's draft statement of commitments.

13.6.1 Munni homestead complex

- For Munni House, Option 4(a) (dismantle and relocate, focussing upon the moderate and high significance parts of the house) and for at least one of the two timber slab outbuildings, Option 4(a) or 4(b) (move intact sections) would be undertaken to reduce the heritage impact of the inundation.
- Full archival recording would be undertaken prior to any works on the property. Detailed documentation of all building elements to be relocated would be undertaken to assist the reconstruction process.
- The dismantling, storage and reconstruction of Munni House and timber slab buildings would be directed by a suitably qualified consultant with experience or skills necessary for the successful reconstruction and conservation of heritage buildings.
- The new location of Munni House would, as far as practicable, be similar to the current position and aspect.
- The re-use of Munni House and outbuildings as an interpretive or visitor's centre for the new dam would be considered.
- A summary report on the dismantling, relocation and reconstruction process, including an amendment to the Section 170 listing information, would be submitted to the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning and Dungog Shire Council within three months of the completion of all works.

13.6.2 Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery

- An archival record of the Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery would be undertaken for relevant grave sites prior to any works occurring on the site.
- The cemetery has significant heritage value and its relocation would address the matters identified in Section 4 of the cemetery relocation plan.
- The location of potential unmarked burials at the cemetery would be investigated through suitable non-intrusive means (eg geophysical survey).
- Other burials in the Project area would be managed in accordance with the cemetery relocation plan. Where their location could be determined and with agreement from the next of kin, these burials would be relocated to the new cemetery. Plaques for these relocated burials would be provided in the new cemetery.
- Community consultation about the relocation would continue in accordance with the process outlined in the cemetery relocation plan.
- A summary report on the relocation process, including an amendment to the Dungog LEP heritage schedule listing, would be submitted to the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning and Dungog Shire Council within three months of the completion of all works.

- A memorial for the site of the original cemetery would be erected.
- Interpretive information about the establishment of the new cemetery and the Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery would be provided at the new cemetery.

13.6.3 Non-heritage listed items

- Archival recordings would be prepared for the following items:
 - excavated site of the former Munni Public School (Item ID 8)
 - Mann's hut and stockyard (Item ID 11), if on-ground evidence of the potential site can be found to reveal its location
 - site of former suspension bridge (Item ID 22)
 - Brownmore homestead complex (Item ID 24)
 - old hut (Item ID 48)
 - house (Item ID 74).
- Photographic recordings would be prepared for the following items:
 - water hole (Item ID 45)
 - former travelling stock crossing (Item ID 53)
 - survey marker (Item ID 75).
- Salvage, retention and incorporation into a display at relocated Munni House or the Dungog Museum would be undertaken for the mailbox (Item ID 26) and the survey marker (Item ID 75)
- Partial salvage retention and incorporation into a display at relocated Munni House or the Dungog Museum would be undertaken for the former suspension bridge (Item ID 22)
- The following sites would be managed in accordance with the Cemetery Relocation Plan:
 - former grave site (Item ID 25)
 - site of possible burial ground (Summerhill) (Item ID 72)
- As insufficient evidence is available to locate the Forster baby Burial (Item ID 10), information about this site would be gathered and recorded during the oral history interview process
- Burials and graves in the Project area outside of Quart Pot/Munni Cemetery would be commemorated at the new cemetery
- Archaeological assessments, research designs and excavations would be undertaken, as appropriate, to sample the possible historic archaeological resource from the following sites:
 - site of former Munni Public School (Item ID 8)
 - former house/homestead sites (item IDs 13, 23, 46)
- Artefacts identified during excavation would be salvaged and considered for incorporation into a display at the relocated Munni House or Dungog Museum. Community participation in the excavation of the former Munni Public School site would provide a valuable opportunity to further engage with the community about the history of the local area and would be encouraged
- Assuming the project is approved and HWC obtains title to the property, Item ID 6 (house) would be assessed to determine if it has historic significance to the local community.

13.6.4 Other impact mitigation measures

- Stop work procedures would be incorporated into the construction environmental management plan to address encountering previously undetected skeletal remains during excavations. This would include notification requirements and procedures for obtaining any necessary advice on technical issues.
- An interpretation strategy would be developed in consultation with the Dungog Historical Society. This would consider matters such as an interpretive centre in the relocated Munni House; an interpretive walk around part of the storage that shares the history of the local area and identifies sites in the inundation area; and a 'construction of Tillegra Dam' display at the Dungog Museum.
- Oral history interviews with local residents would be undertaken and would be guided by the historic themes of the study area. The results of the interviews would be compiled and lodged with the Dungog Museum. Information from the interviews would be incorporated into interpretive displays at the Dungog Museum (and/or the interpretive centre that could be established at the relocated Munni House). A working relationship with the DHS to conduct and compile these interviews would be considered.
- Subject to practicality time-lapse photography would be used to capture construction of the dam for inclusion in interpretive material at a visitor's or interpretive centre or at the Dungog Museum.

