

# Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area

## Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage

---

### 1 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Bomaderry Creek Weir and associated infrastructure is situated generally west of Nerang Road, Bomaderry on the Bomaderry Creek Regional Park in the County of Camden, Parish of Bunberra. The Regional Park was proclaimed in 2002 and can be found in the NSW Government Gazette No.263 dated 20 December, 2002.



**Figure 01: Bomaderry Creek Weir Location**

Source: Author, October, 2007

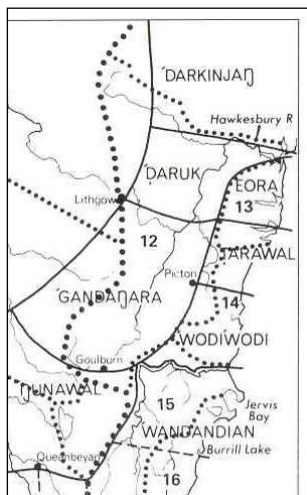


**Figure 02: Bomaderry Creek Weir**

Source: Author, October, 2007

## **2 INDIGENOUS HERITAGE**

The area between the Shoalhaven River and Jervis Bay was the boundary between two major linguistic groups of coastal Aboriginal people. To the north, as far as Botany Bay, were the Wodi-Wodi, speaking Tharawal [also spelt Dharawal]: to the south, down to Wallaga Lake, were the Wandandian, speaking Dhurga.<sup>1</sup>



**Figure 03: Aboriginal Groups in the Shoalhaven**

**Source: Regional Histories of New South Wales, NSW Heritage Office, 1996**

The coastal lands from Seven Mile Beach south to Durras were consistently but not densely populated in the eighteenth century. The local Aboriginal people were first seen by Europeans in 1770 when Cook and Banks saw fire on the Murramarang shore. After settlement, Aborigines and their canoes were first seen at Jervis Bay by the crew of a whaling boat in 1791 and the first contacts [characterised by a mixture of kindness and suspicion] were made after the longboat of the wrecked *Sydney Cove* was itself wrecked near Cape Howe and

the crew walked north.<sup>2</sup>

When Charles Throsby [squatter and explorer] gave evidence to Commissioner Bigge in 1821, he described the coastal part of the Shoalhaven as more densely populated by Aboriginal people than the interior but thought their numbers '... *very insignificant*' and diminishing because of alcohol and diet.<sup>3</sup>

Over the next two decades the Aboriginal camps in Shoalhaven were severely affected by European appropriation of the land, but the Aboriginal population remained very visible through the 1830s and some helped Europeans to explore and to find good grazing or agricultural land. Many Aborigines found sporadic employment on the increasing number of European estates, especially at Coolangatta, where Alexander Berry was a benevolent patron.<sup>4</sup> A few adopted the offer of a settled job in sawmills, as cowherds, as general labourers or in domestic service; and there were several Aboriginal-owned seaworthy boats at Shoalhaven, Jervis Bay and Ulladulla, where fishing remained a major concern throughout the nineteenth century.

---

M. Organ, *A Documentary History of the Illawarra and South Coast Aborigines, 1770-1850*, Wollongong 1990, xxviii [map by D.K. Eades, 1976], xl-xliii.

<sup>2</sup> Organ, op cit. pp.11, 17.

<sup>3</sup> Organ, op cit., p.112.

<sup>4</sup> Organ, op cit., pps229-40 [Alexander Berry's recollections 1838].

**Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area**  
**Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage**

---

The most vivid contact documents which survive are the paintings and drawings by Mickey of Ulladulla, a member of the Dhurga group, who lived at the South Coast. 'Mickey the Cripple', as he was also known, was born c. 1825 and died in 1891. Using European techniques, Mickey conveyed a unique Aboriginal view of the coastal world which he inhabited in the later years of the nineteenth century. As Mickey's work unconsciously showed, traditional life had in fact become impossible.<sup>5</sup>

Today there remains a substantial Aboriginal community living in and around Nowra.

The scope of this Study does not include Aboriginal Heritage. Reference should be made to the Report prepared by Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd, Archaeologists for details of Aboriginal Heritage in the Study area.

---

<sup>5</sup> Mitchell Library and NLA holdings of Mickey of Ulladulla's work.

# Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area

## Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage

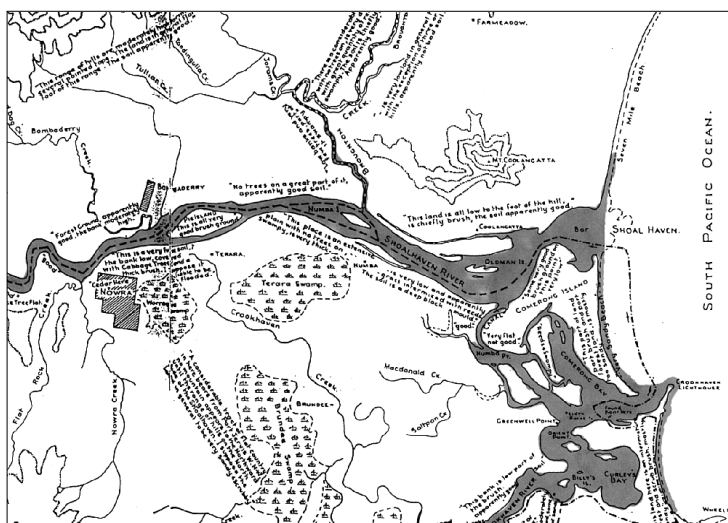
### 3 EUROPEAN DERIVATIVE HISTORY

#### Shoal Haven

George Bass in a whaleboat set out to examine the New South Wales south coast in December 1797. "...he entered the Crookhaven River which he described as thus:- "this place, which deserves no better name than Shoals Haven, for it is not properly a river, is very narrow at the entrance the south side of which is formed by a rocky point, and north side by a breaking spit of sand which runs from sandy point". Bass landed and examined the Shoal Haven River, spending two days and three nights there, arriving on the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> December and leaving on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>."<sup>6</sup>

In 1805 government surveyor, James Meehan, and Lieutenant Kent, sailing to the mouth of the Crookhaven, inspected the Shoalhaven Valley as far west as Burrier. The importance of Meehan's observations was twofold: he drew attention to the cedar in the area, and he discovered the Shoalhaven River ford at Burrier.<sup>7</sup> "...before returning they sailed up Broughton Creek to within a mile of the site of Berry."<sup>8</sup>

Meehan recorded that the river, after leaving the later site of Nowra, crossed alluvial flats comprising grassland and freshwater swamps; and the area was '... covered with rain forest, brush cedar, softwoods, coachwood, blackbutt, sassafras, flame trees, brushes, palms, ferns, vines, orchids, eucalypts and casuarinas'.<sup>9</sup>



**Figure 04: Extract from James Meehan's journal of Shoal Haven River exploration 1805.**

**Source: Pleaden, Coastal Explorers, 1990**

<sup>6</sup> Arthur Cousins, *Garden of New South Wales*, p.20, 1994

<sup>7</sup> A.K. Weatherburn, *The Exploration and Surveys of James Meehan, 1805, 1818, 1819*, JRAHS 64, 1978-9, p.170.

<sup>8</sup> William A. Bayley, *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1975, p.17

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p.18

## Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area

### Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage

---

The first grant was **Cooloomagatta** [later Coolangatta] of 10,000 acres [4,047 ha] to Messrs Alexander Berry and Edward Wollstonecraft in 1822, with a further 2,000 acre [893.8 ha] grant on the south side at **Numbaa**. Berry secured additional grants of two lots each of 4,000 acres north of the first grant and one lot of 4,000 acres west of Broughton Creek.

“In 1894 Nowra installed its first water supply, thus carrying out a scheme, somewhat like the one agreed to by the old Shoalhaven Council in 1861, a scheme which brought dissension in the old Council and helped to break it up. The 1894 scheme was a much bigger one than that of 1861, as the need was much greater.”<sup>10</sup>

Bayley reports<sup>11</sup>: “At Nowra the town depended in two wells for water, the people carting it in the hot summer months on carts filled with barrels and tanks. Edward Seccombe the mayor formulated a water supply scheme. In 1887 as water committee sought a dam site in Bomaderry Creek 1 ½ miles above the Nowra Bridge, another ¾ mile farther up near Cambewarra and up the mountain in Allen’s Creek. The following year the water flow at the summits of supply to Cambewarra Creek were examined. The estimate for the work in 1889 was £4945.

In 1891 it was decided to lay the supply from Campbell’s Creek at the foot of Cambewarra Mountain 6 ¾ miles from Nowra at an estimated cost of £9650 to supply the railway terminus also. Pipe laying was carried out over the Shoalhaven Bridge in 1893 and supply carried to the town.”

One of the earliest works of the Shoalhaven Shire Council after its inauguration was the district water scheme at burrier, 18 miles upstream from Nowra to serve Nowra, Bomaderry, Numba, Greenwell Point and Huskisson. It was begun on November 19, 1949...”.<sup>12</sup> The scheme “consisted of a 12 inch delivery main through which water was pumped from Shoalhaven River above tidal influence providing ample water for Nowra. Realising the potential for water supply the English paper manufacturing firm of Wiggins Teape and Nash decided to establish a paper mill at Bomaderry. In 1951 the English rubber manufacturing firm of John Bull Pty Ltd established a factory at Bomaderry near the turn off to Moss Vale.”<sup>13</sup>

“To meet the requirements of industry, the armed services, growth of population and tourist visitors, as well as the appearance of new towns, Shoalhaven Shire Council explored the possibility of augmenting the water supply in the shire. Additional filtration plant was installed in 1969.

---

<sup>10</sup> Arthur Cousins, *Garden of New South Wales*, p.259, 1994

<sup>11</sup> William A. Bayley, *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1975, p.96

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, p.212

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, p.209

## Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area

### Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage

---

To ensure the flow of water at the Burrier pumping station in the driest seasons and to keep faith with the paper industry, Shoalhaven Shire Council in November, 1964 authorized the construction of a dam across Danjera Creek at Yalwal at the site of the former town which had long since disappeared giving place to a forest of gum trees.”<sup>14</sup> The dam was opened in 1972.

“The Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board after extensive surveys with the assistance of the Snowy Mountains Authority in 1968 announced a vast program for expansion to supplement its water supplies to conserve the Shoalhaven River water as the only major possibility of securing a sufficient water supply for the future. The first stage involves building the Tallowa Dam across the Shoalhaven River just below its junction with the Kangaroo River with pumping to the escarpment above Fitzroy Falls to gravitate to the Sydney Supply System.”<sup>15</sup>

#### **Berry Municipality** **(Originally Broughton Creek and Bomaderry)**

“The Municipality was proclaimed on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1868. It included the township of Broughton Creek (then two villages on opposite sides of Broughton Mill Creek) and a considerable part of the Good Dog Ward of the original Shoalhaven Municipality as far as Bomaderry, the present Terminus of the Illawarra Railway.”<sup>16</sup>

#### **Bomaderry Creek Dam Infrastructure**

In 1937 a concrete dam was built on Bomaderry Creek. An associated pumping station and reservoir served the reticulated water needs of Bomaderry and the Bomaderry commercial area by 1938. The structure was built by workers of the Nowra and designed by a municipal staff engineer.<sup>17</sup> “To supply the folk of Bolong with water, and additional pipe head was established at Jasper’s Brush, about 1920, and Bomaderry Creek Dam as built to supply Bomaderry area about 1936”.<sup>18</sup>

Nowra’s drinking water was originally sourced from springs in the area. The first reticulated supply commenced after the completion of the Flatrock Creek dam and water treatment plant in 1933. The Dam and filtration plant was decommissioned in 1984 in favour of a much larger scheme fed from water stored in Danjera Dam. The old dam now acts as an emergency source of water for the town.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> William A. Bayley, *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra,, p.235

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, pp.234,235, 1975

<sup>16</sup> Arthur Cousins, *Garden of New South Wales*, p.264, 1994

<sup>17</sup> Oral history, Robyn Florance Historian, Nowra, October 2007

<sup>18</sup> Arthur Cousins, *Garden of New South Wales*, p.267, 1994

<sup>19</sup> *Creating Place – Draft Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan*, Shoalhaven City Council, p.B234, January 2006



## Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area

### Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage

---

The dam was partially demolished forming a weir to allow the bass (or estuary perch) to migrate upstream. After decommissioning as public water supply, the stored water was used in the mixing of concrete at the concrete plant that existed before the Nerang Road tennis courts.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Present Bomaderry Creek Regional Park**

The dam now stands as shown in Figure 02, and acts as a weir. Remnant associated extant features are the foundations of the pumping station, part of the pipeline with concrete pedestals and scattered artefacts.

**Figure 05 (right): Concrete foundations and remnants of the pumping station**  
Source: Author, October 2007



**Figure 06 (below): Concrete pedestal and pipeline**  
Source: Author, October 2007



**Figure 07 (above): Artefacts associated with the dam system**  
Source: Author, October 2007

---

<sup>20</sup>

Oral history, Mr Des. Beveridge, Shoalhaven City Council, November 2007



## Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area

### Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage

---



**Figure 08: Dilapidated fence**  
Source: Author, October 2007



An above ground power line and a 600mm diameter steel trunk line linking North Nowra with Bomaderry traverses the Bomaderry Creek Regional Park area close to the weir. Other morphological features of interest are remnant fences.

**Figure 09: Concrete foundations and remnants of the pumping station**  
Source: Author, October 2007

**Figure 10: Walking Trails**  
Source: Author, October 2007

#### **Recent Developments**

The area has been developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for public recreation with the development of





## Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area

### Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage

---

walking trails including fences, seats, steps and handrails. There have been many reports of anti social behaviour and the built facilities in this area have been the subject of some seriously damaging vandalism.



**Figure 11: Steps in the area close to the Bomaderry Creek Weir**

**Source: Author, October 2007**

#### **4 USE OF THE REGIONAL PARK**

The definition of a Regional Park is found in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Act 1974 as follows:

##### **“30H Regional parks**

- (1) The purpose of reserving land as a regional park is to identify, protect and conserve areas in a natural or modified landscape that are suitable for public recreation and enjoyment so as to enable those areas to be managed in accordance with subsection (2).
- (2) A regional park is to be managed in accordance with the following principles:
  - (a) the provision of opportunities, in an outdoor setting, for recreation and enjoyment in natural or modified landscapes,
  - (b) the identification, interpretation, management and conservation of the park so as to maintain and enhance significant landscape values,
  - (c) the conservation of natural and cultural values,
  - (d) the promotion of public appreciation and understanding of the regional park's natural and cultural values,
  - (e) provision for sustainable visitor use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the regional park's natural and cultural values,
  - (f) provision for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to the conservation of the regional park's natural and cultural values,
  - (g) provision for the carrying out of development in any part of a special area (within the meaning of the *Hunter Water Act 1991*) in the regional park that is permitted under section 185A having regard to the conservation of the regional park's natural and cultural values.”

**Figure 12: Viewing Platform and Fence on the top of the rock formation in the area close to the Bomaderry Creek Weir**

**Source: Author, October 2007**



## **5 HERITAGE IDENTIFICATION**

The scope of work is built fabric in the study area. The only *Item* or *Place* identified as having heritage significance is the Bomaderry Creek Weir and associated relics.

This assessment acknowledges there is built environment such as the North Nowra landfill site and associated leachate pondage and infrastructure, fencing, power lines and a trunk main. There may be others, however, no other European derivative morphological items have been identified as having European cultural heritage significance.

Bomaderry Creek Gorge and Weir are listed in the Shoalhaven Heritage Study as Item NB 126 and assessed as local significance. The listing is also known as Bomaderry Creek Gorge Conservation Area.

The morphological built heritage items are not contained in the Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan (1985) Schedule 7 – Heritage Items.

Similarly, none of the built heritage is listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register.

## **6 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT - BOMADERRY CREEK WEIR & ASSOCIATED RELICS**

### **Assessment Criteria**

Assessing cultural significance has been approached in various ways. In the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter, significance refers to aesthetic, historic, scientific, and social characteristics. According to The Conservation Plan by J S Kerr, produced by the National Trust of Australia (NSW), an assessment of cultural significance should consider the ability of a place to demonstrate a process or event, custom or style, associational historic links for which there may or may not be surviving evidence, and formal or aesthetic qualities. When assessing items for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate, the Australian Heritage Commission considers history, social value, periods and processes, rarity, representativeness and context. These categories parallel those of the Burra Charter.<sup>21</sup>

Today, four criteria in particular are commonly used by heritage consultants and agencies in New South Wales when assessing the significance of an item or place. The criteria are derived from definitions in the Heritage Act 1977, encompass values in the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter, and have been standardised by the NSW Heritage Office and the NSW Department of Infrastructure and Natural Resources.<sup>22</sup> These criteria are: historical (evolution and association), aesthetic (scenic or architectural qualities, technical or creative accomplishment), social (contemporary community esteem) and scientific significance (archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential).

Further refining an assessment of significance, the degree of significance reflects the rarity, representativeness and integrity of an item or site. The level of significance is defined by whether an item or site is held to be significant in a state or local historical, geographical or community context. Some items may also be considered to be of National Significance. The NSW Heritage Office in considering the abovementioned to interpret its own Guidelines provides a detailed prescriptive all-encompassing cultural heritage assessment methodology.

---

<sup>21</sup> Marquis-Kyle, Peter and Walker, Meredith. The Illustrated Burra Charter. Making good decisions about the care of important places. Australia ICOMOS. Australian Heritage Commission, 1996.

Kerr, James Semple. *The Conservation Plan. A guide to the preparation of conservation plans for places of European cultural significance.* The National Trust of Australia (NSW), 1996. p.12.

Australian Heritage Commission, *Criteria for the register of the National Estate. Application Guidelines*, 1990.

<sup>22</sup> NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (now DIPNR). *Assessing heritage significance*, HO/DUAP, Sydney, 2001.



**Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area**  
**Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage**

---

**Table 1. NSW heritage assessment criteria**  
 (Gazetted following amendments to the Heritage Act in April 1999).

<b>Criterion (a) Historical</b>	An item is important in the course, or pattern, of the NSW's cultural or natural history (State significance); OR An item is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history. (local significance).
<b>Criterion (b) Historical</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 (State significance); OR An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance cultural in the cultural and natural history of the local area (local significance).
<b>Criterion (c) Aesthetic</b>	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (State significance); OR An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area (local significance).
<b>Criterion (d) Social</b>	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. (State significance); OR An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. (local significance)
<b>Criterion (e) Scientific</b>	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (State significance); OR An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the area's cultural or natural history (local significance).
<b>Criterion (f) Rarity</b>	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (State significance);  OR

**Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area**  
**Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage**

---

<b>Criterion (f) Rarity (cont.)</b>	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the area's cultural or natural history (local significance).
<b>Criterion (g) Representativeness</b>	<p>An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cultural or natural places; or</li> <li>- cultural or natural environments (State significance);</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <p>An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the area's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cultural or natural places; or</li> <li>- cultural or natural environments (local significance)</li> </ul>

**Table 2. Grades of Significance**

<b>Grading</b>	<b><i>Justification</i></b>	<b><i>Status</i></b>
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to an item's Local and State significance.	Fulfils criterion
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criterion
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Fulfils criterion
Little	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfil criterion
Intrusive	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	Does not fulfil criterion

**Significance of the Subject Site**

The heritage significance of Bomaderry Creek Regional Park Weir Precinct has been considered in brief detail in the Shoalhaven Heritage Study.

**Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area**  
**Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage**

---

The cultural significance is elaborated upon and the item is considered to be significant for the following reasons:

**Historical (a) (course or pattern)**

The Bomaderry Creek Regional Park Weir is a monument to the cultural progress of providing water supply to an urban settlement. The extant structure and associated items were constructed in c.1936. The *Item* is important in the cultural history and development of the Shoalhaven Area. The *Item* forms an integral part of the cultural significance of the Region.

Historical (a): Applicable (local).

Inclusion guidelines satisfied:

- is associated with a significant activity

**Historical (b) (associated)**

Historical significance of Bomaderry Creek Regional Park Weir Precinct also arises from its ongoing special association with the Bomaderry community.

Historical (b): Applicable (local).

Inclusion guidelines satisfied:

- is associated with a group of local persons.
- 

**Aesthetic (c)**

- The preserved visual appearance of the Weir Precinct is a prominent cultural development part of the Bomaderry Creek Regional Park yielding this item aesthetic significance.
- The built structures form a landscape feature set prominently in the landscape against a natural backdrop with reduced views both to and from its site.

Aesthetic (c): Applicable (local).

Inclusion guidelines satisfied:

- is aesthetically distinctive,
- has landmark qualities.

**Social (d)**

- The item is representative a “swimming hole” used by local people in the precinct.

Social (d): Applicable (local).



**Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area**  
**Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage**

---

Inclusion guidelines satisfied:

- is important for its associations with an identifiable group,
- is important to a community's sense of place.

**Scientific (e)**

- The structures have the potential to yield significant information, however, the information could, in all likelihood, be captured by Archival Recording.

Scientific (e): Not Applicable.

Exclusion guidelines satisfied:

- The item has little archaeological or research potential.

**Rarity (f)**

- The item is rare in Bomaderry but representative of many weirs constructed in NSW.

Rarity (f): Applicable (local).

Inclusion guidelines satisfied:

- is the only extant example of its type in the precinct.

Exclusion guidelines satisfied:

- has some rarity to the precinct, however, the Item can be excluded in from rarity in Regional consideration.

**Representative (g)**

- Bomaderry Creek Regional Park Weir Precinct is representative as a general example of dam constructed in the 1930s, reflecting principal features characteristic of this style of construction;
- It is representative as a relatively intact example of 1930s civil works.

Representative (g): Applicable (local).

Inclusion guidelines satisfied:

- is a good example of its type,
- has attributes typical of a particular design,
- is valuable because of its setting and condition,

## Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area

### Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage

---

#### **Integrity (Grades of Significance)**

- The Bomaderry Creek Regional Park Weir is of aesthetic quality (Grade: High).
- The intactness of the physical fabric of the item (its integrity) is an attribute to the community (Grade: High).
- Set within its original 1930s natural landscape, the Item remains in context with its original setting and its continued use (Grade: Exceptional).
- The Item has retained much of its original fabric and character. The deterioration and demolition which occurred in does little to detract the holistic integrity. (Grade: Moderate).
- Changes to the landscape to align with the focus of a Regional Park.. (Grade: Little).

The existing pipeline and power transmission line have been excluded from this assessment. These structures are considered not to have heritage significance.

Option 2 (Southern Route) and Option 3 (Northern Route) were inspected and no item of heritage significance was recorded. Therefore, this Statement of Heritage Impact concentrates on relationship and impacts of Option 1 (Central Route) route with the Bomaderry Creek Regional Park Weir Precinct.

## **7 STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Bomaderry Creek Regional Park Weir Precinct is Place of High cultural significance integrity at a local level. The structures are partially intact clearly demonstrating the original early 1930s form.

The built civil and mechanical works remaining have a special relationship with the Bomaderry community, the intactness of the elements demonstrate the 1930s technology of local water supply.

The item in its contextual setting forms part of a landscape of high natural heritage significance, particularly being within the gorge that exhibits exceptional aesthetic qualities. The item is the most prominent morphological structure with heritage significance in this historic setting.

The place should be conserved in accordance with a following Conservation Management Plan to deal with other matters not related to the scope of this Statement of Heritage Impact.

The Bomaderry Creek Regional Park Weir Precinct is a highly valuable form of *Local Heritage Significance*.

## **8 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HERITAGE ITEM - HERITAGE IMPACT**

The proposed works are summarised as:

the construction of a link road proposed by Shoalhaven City Council - Option 1 (Central Route),

the possible demolition of the existing pipeline and overhead power transmission lines and replacement new work integrated into the proposed bridge (refer Figure 13),

the provision of a cycle-walkway path on the bridge to make the item more accessible and compliant with legislation in relation to persons with disability, and,

the possible linking with the indigenous heritage of the area, and the availability to provide interpretive signage on the walkway at the bridge, or near the bridge if the access provided linking the proposed bridge (concept design) with the picnic ground.

### **Disturbance of Fabric**

A surface investigation in October 2007 was undertaken in the vicinity of the three route options. The result of the investigation has provided Council with some fixed and some unfixed items of indigenous heritage significance. It may be possible for Council to amend the design route marginally and the centerline within the road corridor to avoid some sites (with buffer zones), or undertake relocation using Section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Act.

The Act provides that a proponent "...may seek permission to impact or destroy an Aboriginal object by applying for a Heritage Impact Permit (formerly Consent to Destroy) from the Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation."<sup>23</sup>

The demolition and reconstruction of morphological structures without heritage significance would be a positive contribution to the visual impact on the affected area and would promote the opportunity for regenerated vegetation if those services are incorporated into the proposed bridge.

The weir and associated relics should not be disturbed, however conserved under the provisions of a Conservation Management Plan to be drafted.

---

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.aboriginalheritage.org/sites/legislation.php>, November, 2007



**Heritage Study – North Nowra Link Road Study Area**  
**Identifying Bomaderry Creek Weir, Associated Relics and Curtilage**

---

**Direction, Supervision and Implementation**

If works are to proceed for Option 1 (Central Route), the design and implementation should be carried out in accordance with Article 30 of the ICOMOS Burra Charter in respect of an appropriately qualified person is to supervise the works (in respect of heritage conservation).

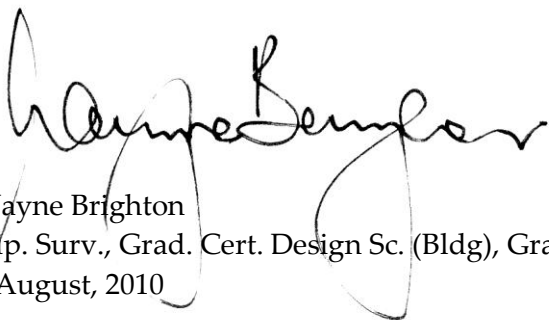
**Retain Cultural Significance**

The proposed actions included in the Environmental Assessment are considered to respect, retain and enhance the cultural significance of Place.

**New Work**

Should Option 1 (Central Route) be approved as the most appropriate route, it will be important to take the view that history is being created. From this viewpoint, the relationship between the new work and the extant items of heritage significance should be considered.

The design of the bridge should be in context with the extant cultural heritage values and care taken not to have the new work in conflict, but new work should clearly demonstrate its period in history (as viewed from the future).



Wayne Brighton  
Dip. Surv., Grad. Cert. Design Sc. (Bldg), Grad Dip. Herit. Cons.  
9 August, 2010