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## NPWS Ngambaa Rewilding Ngambaa Nature Reserve, NSW

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

Written for National Parks and Wildlife Service

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd



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## Report Reference:

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## Executive Summary

The following is a report detailing the results of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report ('ACHAR') and associated Aboriginal community consultation regarding the proposed Ngambaa Nature Reserve rewilding project (the 'Project'). The lands subject to assessment comprise part of Ngambaa Nature Reserve, located 40 km south of Macksville, New South Wales ('NSW') (the 'Project Area', see Figure 1). The ACHAR has been commissioned by National Parks and Wildlife Service ('NPWS') (the 'Proponent') to address the following internal reporting requirements as provided in the Request for Quotation ('RFQ'):

- The agency requires the preparation of ACHAR, as the proposed works are known or likely to impact on Aboriginal place and/or Aboriginal objects.

The Proposed Works comprises the construction of a 31 km long feral animal fence at a width of 10 to 15 m in the south of Ngambaa Nature Reserve (Figure 2). The aim of the Project is to facilitate repopulation of native flora and fauna while allowing for eradication of pests and invasive species in the Ngambaa Nature Reserve.

As a result of the field inspections and consultation with RAPs it is possible to proceed with the ACHAR based on the following:

- a) The ground surface is significantly disturbed from the following:

**NPWS is proposing to construct a 31 km feral animal exclusion fence in Ngambaa Nature Reserve.**



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- i. Historic forest clearing in Ngambaa Nature Reserve, particularly on the ridgetops and ridgelines including forest stockpiles and snigg tracks.
  - ii. Construction and maintenance of forestry roads through the reserve historically and as upgraded for tourism within Ngambaa National Park.
  - iii. Use of flat ridges and spurs along Stockyard Creek Road as historic Forestry log dumps.
- b) GSV was generally poor due to accumulation of leaf litter, bark and stick fall. GSV is estimated to be at approximately 5% through the Project Area, with exposures confined predominantly to the disturbed road corridors.
- c) Aboriginal objects were identified along Briggs Tower Road during a previous Aboriginal cultural heritage survey. Of these artefacts Briggs Tower Road Core 1 (Figure 32- Figure 35) was positively identified as a stone core/ unifacial chopper at the intersection of Briggs Tower Road and Buds Crossing Road (see also Table 6). This site has been registered on AHIMS.
- d) The remaining artefacts identified in the previous NPWS study were determined not to meet the criteria for stone artefacts, except for Core 5. Core 5 was identified as a stone axe from the provided photos, however, could not be relocated within the forest based on poor GPS accuracy at the time of the original site record.
- e) The previously recorded scarred trees at Cedar Park campground were unable to be reidentified. Mature trees inspected at the campground and on the adjacent road in proximity to the campground did not have cultural scars present. A AHIMS site record form is not available for these scar trees.
- f) Kevin Smith indicated his knowledge of numerous other sites in Ngambaa Nature Reserve not currently recorded on AHIMS. This likely accounts for general gap of recorded sites inside Ngambaa Nature Reserve in comparison to Tambar to the east of the Project Area.



- g) The results of the survey are consistent with the findings of Hall and Lomax and indicate that there is a limited potential for large Aboriginal sites with more than 100 artefacts within the Project Area.

The following recommendations are provided to ameliorate these impacts to the Aboriginal cultural landscape in the vicinity of the Proposed Works and Ngambaa Nature Reserve.

The following recommendations are provided to ameliorate impacts to the Aboriginal cultural landscape in the vicinity of the Proposed Works and Ngambaa Nature Reserve.

### **Recommendation 1: Avoidance of Briggs Tower Road Core 1.**

It is recommended that the registered Aboriginal Site Briggs Tower Road Core 1 is avoided during the works. A two metre exclusion buffer should be used during the works to avoid any inadvertent impact to the site.

### **Recommendation 2: Community involvement.**

As part of the works, six monthly consultation updates to the RAPs should be undertaken to keep everyone informed on how the works are progressing.

It is recommended that monitoring of ground penetrating works located in the vicinity of the sites recorded by Uncle Mark Flanders (see Table 4) is undertaken by a representative from Kempsey or Unkya LALC or Aboriginal site identification trained personnel. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to the employment of local Aboriginal people and/ or organisations to encompass more fully the principal of intergenerational equity.

### **Recommendation 3: Unexpected Aboriginal objects**

Unexpected Aboriginal objects remain protected by the NPW Act. If any such objects, or potential objects, are uncovered during the activity, work in the vicinity must cease, and Heritage NSW, and Kempsey and Unkya LALC be contacted for advice. If the Aboriginal object cannot be avoided as part of the works, then an AHIP is required.

### **Recommendation 4: Aboriginal Human Remains.**

Although it is unlikely that Human Remains will be located at any stage during earthworks within the Project Area, should this event arise it is recommended that all works must halt in the immediate area to prevent any further impacts to the remains. The Site should be cordoned off and the remains themselves

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should be left untouched. The nearest police station (Macksville), the RAPs and the Heritage NSW Regional Office (Coffs Harbour) are all to be notified as soon as possible. If the remains are found to be of Aboriginal origin and the police do not wish to investigate the site for criminal activities, the Aboriginal community and the Heritage NSW should be consulted as to how the remains should be dealt with. Work may only resume after agreement is reached between all notified parties, provided it is in accordance with all parties' statutory obligations.

It is also recommended that in all dealings with Aboriginal human remains, the Proponent should use respectful language, bearing in mind that they are the remains of Aboriginal people rather than scientific specimens.

## DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to the terms used in this report:

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

**Aboriginal Place** means any place declared to be an Aboriginal Place (under s. 84 of the NPW Act) by the Minister administering the NPW Act, by order published in the NSW Government Gazette, because the Minister is of the opinion that the place is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain Aboriginal Objects.

**ACHAR** means Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.

**ACHCRP Guidelines** means the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DEECW 2010).

**AHIMS** means Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System.

**AHIP** means Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.

**CoPAI** means the DPI&E Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation in New South Wales (2010).

**DECCW** means the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, and Water (NSW).

**Due Diligence Code** means the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DEECW 2010).

**km** means kilometres

**LALC** means Local Aboriginal Land Council.

**LEP** means Local Environment Plan.

**m** means metres

**NPW Act** means the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW).

**NSW** means New South Wales.

**Project Area** means the 31 km alignment of fencing at Ngambaa Nature Reserve, NSW.



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**Proposed Works** means the proposed rewilding program comprising a 31 km long and 10 – 15 m wide feral animal fence to be constructed within Ngambaa Nature Reserve.

**Proponent** means National Parks and Wildlife Service ('NPWS') and all associated employees, contractors and subcontractors of the same.

**RAP** means Registered Aboriginal Party.

**REF** means Review of Environmental Factors

**The Consultant** means qualified archaeological staff and/or contractors of Everick Heritage Pty Ltd.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Scope of this Assessment

The following is a report detailing the results of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report ('ACHAR') and associated Aboriginal community consultation regarding the proposed Ngambaa Nature Reserve rewilding project (the 'Project'). The lands subject to assessment comprise part of Ngambaa Nature Reserve, located 40 km south of Macksville, New South Wales ('NSW') (the 'Project Area', see Figure 1). The ACHAR has been commissioned by National Parks and Wildlife Service ('NPWS') (the 'Proponent') to address the following internal reporting requirements as provided in the Request for Quotation ('RFQ'):

- The agency requires the preparation of ACHAR, as the proposed works are known or likely to impact on Aboriginal place and/or Aboriginal objects.

The methods used for this assessment are substantially in compliance with the following:

- Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW 2010) ('CoPAI')
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) ('ACHRCP')
- Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales (DECCW 2010).

### 1.2. Assessment Methodology

The methods used for this assessment follow the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW 2010 (DECCW) ('CoPAI') and all relevant legislation as described in Section 2 of this Report. The following are the broad requirements for compliance with the CoPAI:

- a) consultation with the Registered Aboriginal stakeholders for the Project
- b) searches of applicable heritage registers
- c) review of ethnographic and historic resources relevant to the region
- d) review previous archaeological work and the landscape context
- e) summarise the local and regional character of Aboriginal land use and its material traces



- f) formulate a predictive model
- g) conduct Aboriginal community consultation with respect to management of the site
- h) report on findings and recommended management strategies.

## 1.3. Project Description

The aim of the Project is to facilitate repopulation of native flora and fauna while allowing for eradication of pests and invasive species in the Ngambaa Nature Reserve. The Proposed Works comprises the construction of a 31 km long feral animal fence at a width of 10 to 15 m in the south of Ngambaa Nature Reserve (Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4). The following aspects of the fence design have will result in disturbance of topsoil deposits with the potential to contain Aboriginal objects:

- Construction of a mesh fence using standard agricultural star pickets and 90mm round metal corner posts.
- Removal of above ground vegetation and trees using mobile industrial mulcher including permanent vehicular access along the fence line for maintenance.

## 1.4. Project Area

The Project Area comprises a 31 km footprint of proposed fencing along the southern boundary of Ngambaa Nature Reserve within the Nambucca Valley Council Local Government Area ('LGA') on National Parks owned land.

## 1.5. Report Authorship

The ACHAR was prepared by Principal Consultant (Northern NSW) Tim Hill and Archaeologist Matt Finlayson. The Aboriginal community consultation was conducted by Tim Hill. Client reviews were undertaken by Dr Alyce Cameron (Everick Heritage, Senior Archaeologist) and Caitlin Marsh (Everick Heritage, Project Archaeologist).

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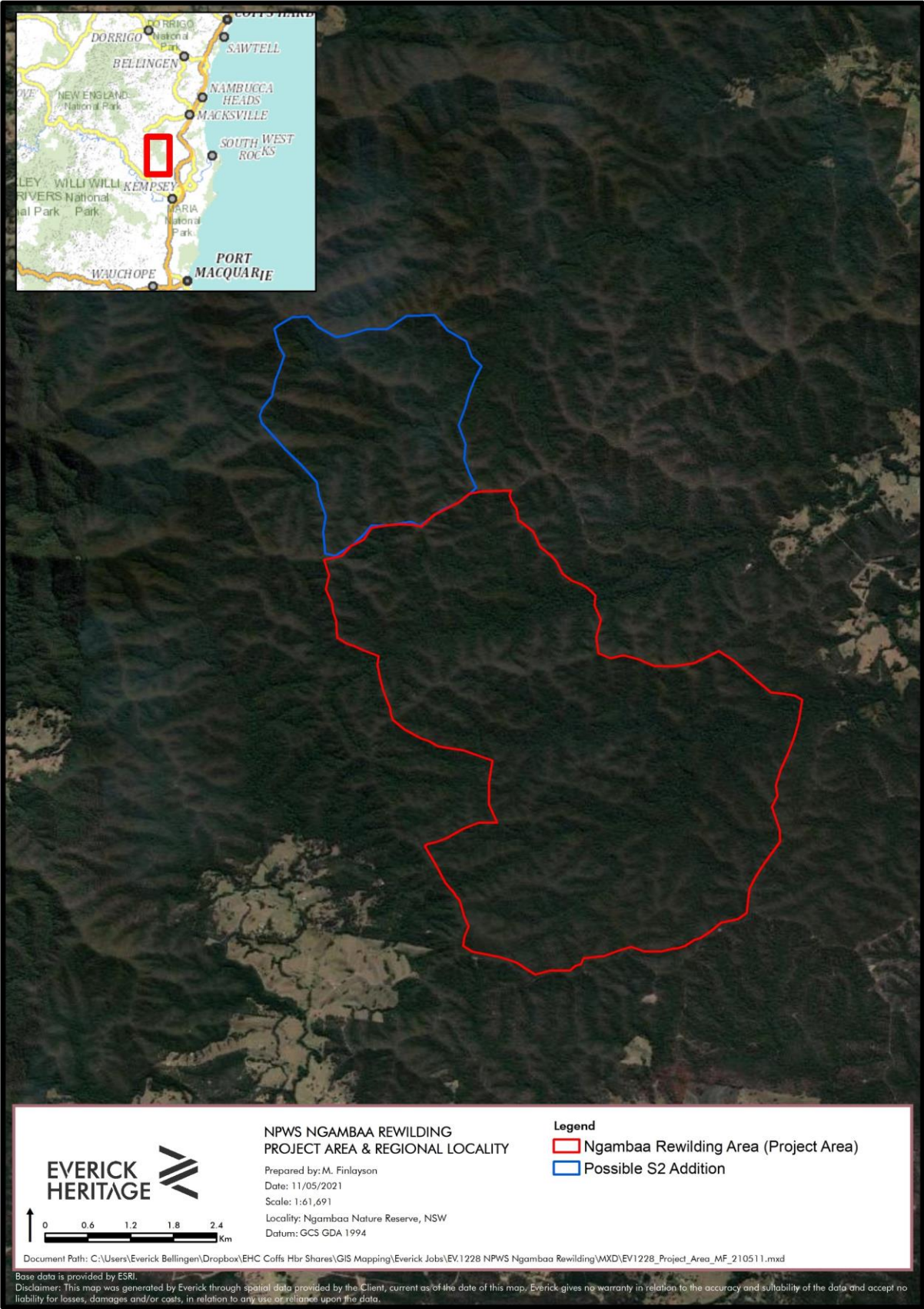


Figure 1: Project Area location.



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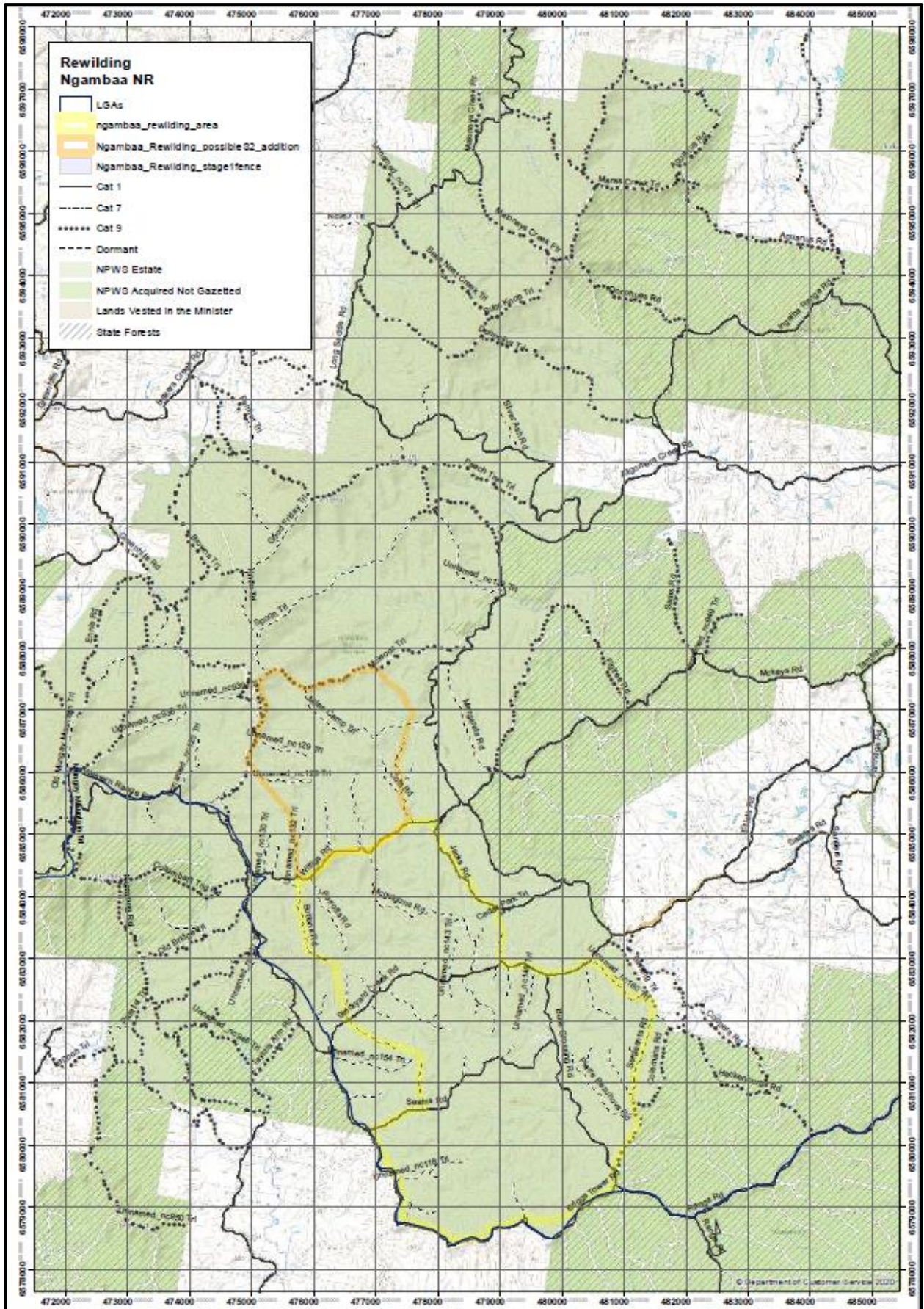


Figure 2: Feral fence footprint (indicative).



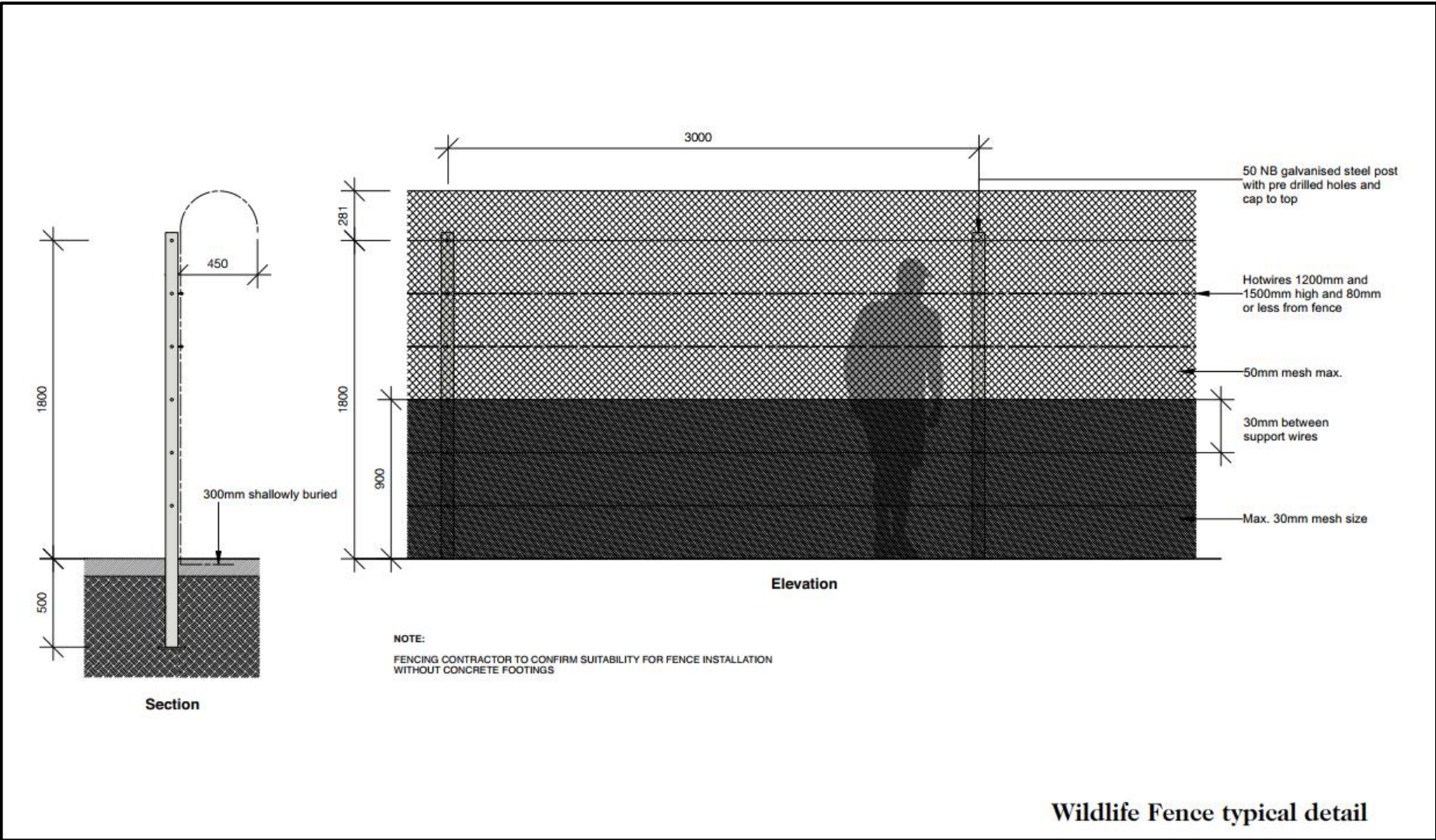


Figure 3: Typical exclusion fence design

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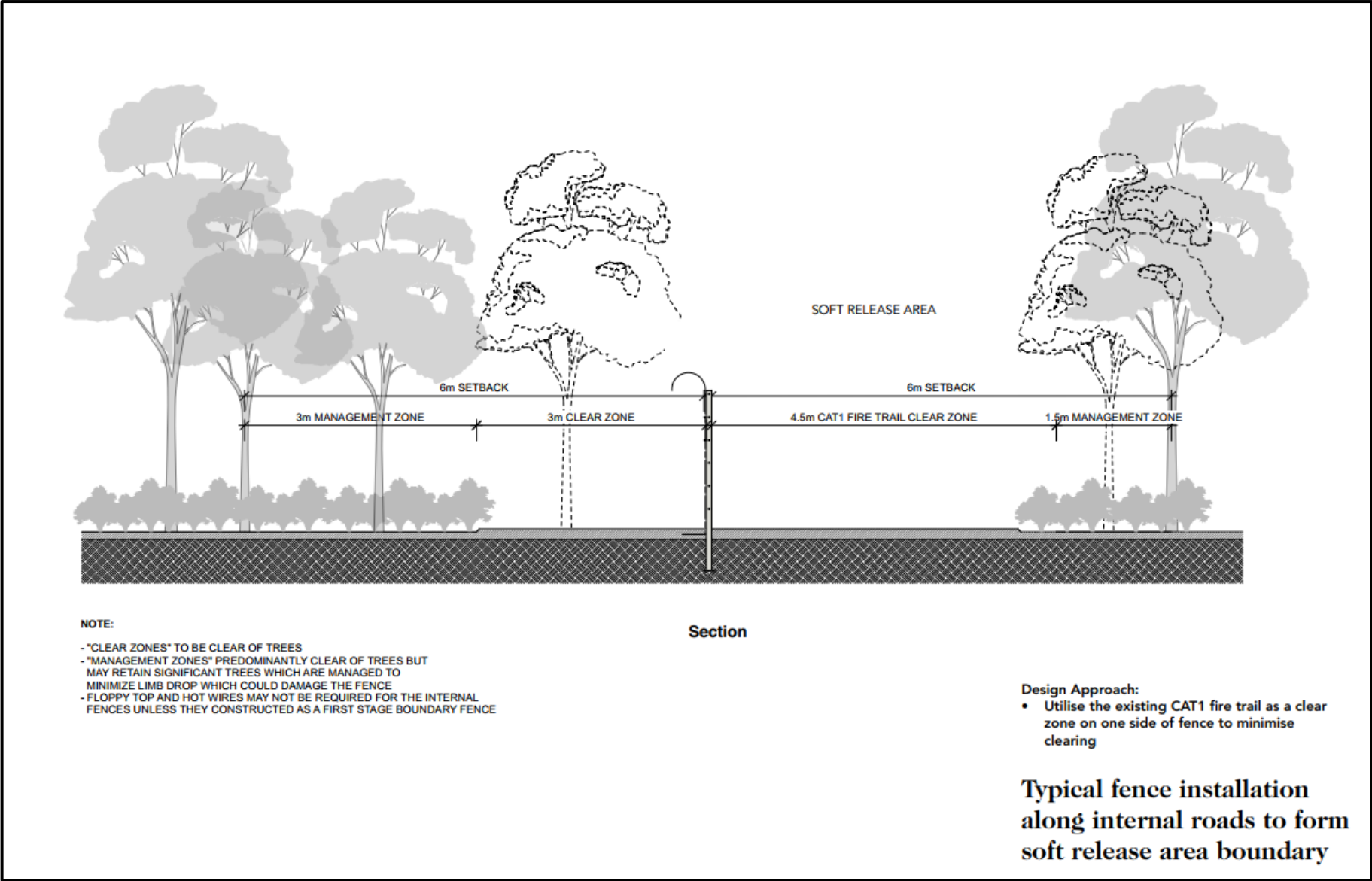


Figure 4: Typical tree clearing requirements in relation to exclusion fencing.

## 2. LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING CONTEXT

The primary State legislation concerning cultural heritage in NSW is the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (NPW Act) and Local Environment Plans ('LEP') made under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (NSW). The Commonwealth also has a role in the protection of nationally significant cultural heritage through the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth), The Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986 (Cth) and the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 (Cth).

For the purposes of this assessment the State and local legislation are most relevant. The consent authority will be Heritage NSW. The information below lists the legislative and policy framework within which this assessment is set.

### 2.1. The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

The NPW Act is the primary legislation concerning the identification and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. It provides for the management of both Aboriginal Objects and Aboriginal Places. Under the NPW Act, an Aboriginal Object is any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area, regardless of whether the evidence of habitation occurred before or after non-Aboriginal settlement of the land. This means that every Aboriginal Object, regardless of its size or seeming isolation from other Objects, is protected under the Act.

An Aboriginal Place is an area of particular significance to Aboriginal people which has been declared an Aboriginal Place by the Minister. The drafting of this legislation reflects the traditional focus on Objects, rather than on areas of significance such as story places and ceremonial grounds. However, a gradual shift in cultural heritage management practices is occurring towards recognising the value of identifying the significance of areas to Indigenous peoples beyond their physical attributes. With the introduction of the National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010 (NSW) the former offence provisions under Section 86 of 'disturbing', 'moving', 'removing' or 'taking possession' of Aboriginal Objects or Places have been replaced by the new offence of 'harming or desecrating'. The definition of 'harm' is 'destroying, defacing or damaging an Object'. Importantly, in the context of the management recommendations in this assessment, harm to an Object that is 'trivial or negligible' will not constitute an offence.

The new amendments also significantly strengthen the penalty provisions. The issue of intent to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage has been formally addressed by separating it from inadvertent harm. The penalty for individuals who inadvertently harm Aboriginal Objects has been set at up to \$55,000, while for corporations it is \$220,000. Also introduced is the concept of 'circumstances of aggravation' which allows for harsher penalties (up to \$110,000) for individuals who inadvertently harm Aboriginal heritage in the course of undertaking a commercial activity or have a record for committing similar offences. For

those who knowingly harm Aboriginal cultural heritage, the penalty will rise substantially. The maximum penalty will be set at \$275,000 or one year imprisonment for individuals, while for corporations it will rise to \$1,100,000.

Where a land user has or is likely to undertake activities that will harm Aboriginal Objects, the Director General (Heritage NSW) has a range of enforcement powers, including stop work orders, interim protection orders and remediation orders. The amended regulations also allow for a number of penalties in support of these provisions. The NPW Act also now includes a range of defence provisions for unintentionally harming Aboriginal Objects:

- a) Undertaking activities that are prescribed as 'Low Impact'.
- b) Acting in accordance with the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DEECW 2010) (the 'Due Diligence Code').
- c) Using a consulting archaeologist who correctly applies the CoPAI.
- d) Acting in accordance with an AHIP.

The new regulations allow for a range of low impact activities to be undertaken without the need to consult the DPI&E or a consulting archaeologist. Generally, those who undertake activities of this nature will not be committing an offence, even if they inadvertently harm Aboriginal Objects. For the purposes of this assessment, it is not considered that the proposed management works are 'low impact activities'.

## 2.2. Due Diligence Code

The Due Diligence Code operates by posing a series of questions for land users before they commence development. These questions are based around assessing the potential for an area of land to contain Aboriginal Objects and previous ground disturbance. An activity will generally be unlikely to harm Aboriginal Objects where it:

- a) will cause no additional ground disturbance; or
- b) is in a developed area; or
- c) in a significantly disturbed area.

Where these criteria are not fulfilled, further assessment for Aboriginal cultural heritage will typically be required prior to commencing the activity.



## 2.3. The ACHCRP Guidelines (2010)

The ACHCRP Guidelines provide an acceptable framework for conducting Aboriginal community consultation in preparation for impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Proponents are required to follow them where a Project is likely to impact on cultural heritage and where required by Council. It is recommended by the DPI&E that all cultural heritage assessments involve this level of consultation, although it is not strictly a requirement unless it meets the above criteria. The ACHCRP Guidelines typically take a minimum of 90 days to complete. However, in complicated Projects this period may need to be extended by several months. The Guidelines require public notice of the assessment, preparation of a proposed methodology, undertaking site meetings and excavations where required, the production of a draft report, which is distributed to the registered Aboriginal parties and the production of a final report.

Although not strictly required, a thorough consultation process will treat the ACHCRP Guidelines as a minimum standard of community consultation. Generally, consultants must go to further effort to identify the significance of a given site to the Aboriginal community. This will likely include undertaking additional site inspections if requested by Aboriginal stakeholders, fully resourcing the community by providing copies of past archaeological and environmental assessments in the region and meeting with community members to seek their opinions of the site.

## 2.4. The Nambucca Local Environmental Plan 2010

The Nambucca LEP 2010 provides statutory protection for items already listed as being of heritage significance. It ensures that essential best practice components of the heritage decision-making process are followed.

As per Part 5 Clause 5.10(2) of the Nambucca LEP 2010, for listed heritage items, a person must have the consent of the Council for:

- a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance):
  - i. a heritage item,
  - ii. an Aboriginal object,
  - iii. a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,
- b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,

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- c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,
- d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal Place of heritage significance,
- e) erecting a building on land:
  - i. on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or
  - ii. on which an Aboriginal Object is located or that is within an Aboriginal Place of heritage significance; and
- f) subdividing land:
  - i. on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or
  - ii. on which an Aboriginal Object is located or that is within an Aboriginal Place of heritage significance.

Consent should only be given once the Council considers the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the area. The Council may also require a heritage management document to be prepared. This document must assess the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the area concerned. After this the Council may also require a heritage conservation management plan for the heritage item that was assessed.

If the proposed development will require the demolition of a nominated State Heritage item, then the Council must notify the Heritage Council of the application and consider any responses received within 28 days. Similarly, if the development is on an archaeological site, the Council must notify the Heritage Council of intentions to grant consent and consider any responses received within 28 days.

Should the development be on an Aboriginal Place of heritage significance, the Council must notify the local Aboriginal communities about the application and consider any responses received within 28 days. Additionally, the Council must consider the effect that the development would have on the heritage significance of the Aboriginal Place and any Aboriginal Objects that are known or likely to be within the development. This must be done by means of an adequate investigation and assessment.

The Council may also grant consent for a development on a heritage item, land, or Aboriginal place that would not otherwise be allowed in this Plan, if the Council is satisfied that:

- a) the conservation of the heritage item or Aboriginal place of heritage significance is facilitated by the granting of consent, and
- b) the proposed development is in accordance with a heritage management document that has been approved by the consent authority, and

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- c) the consent to the proposed development would require that all necessary conservation work identified in the heritage management document is carried out, and
- d) the proposed development would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, including its setting, or the heritage significance of the Aboriginal place of heritage significance, and
- e) the proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area.

## 3. ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The DPI&E have issued consultation requirements (Aboriginal Community Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010), which act as a guide for conducting the community consultation process. It contains the minimum consultation standards, one of which requires the preparation of a methodology for conducting the Cultural Heritage Assessment. This methodology outlines the basic steps that need to be undertaken to determine the nature of the cultural heritage of the site, and the approaches required to manage that heritage.

### 3.1. Community Knowledge

We will work with the Aboriginal community to identify and address their concerns; not only about known sites in the region, but also cultural values such as historic and spiritual significance, and other values relating to flora and fauna of the area. We recognise that there may be Traditional knowledge that would have to be treated in a confidential manner, and we would be seeking advice from Aboriginal Parties as to the appropriate protocols to be adopted, regarding such knowledge.

Everick makes a commitment to the Aboriginal community to document the consultation process as fully as possible. We will include all written comments we receive from the Aboriginal community in our final report to the DPI&E. This is regardless of whether they are critical of the process we have undertaken or our final recommendations. In doing so, we hope to make an informed and accurate assessment of the significance of any cultural heritage within the Project Area.

### 3.2. Consultation with the Aboriginal Community

The following summarises consultation with the Aboriginal community in substantial compliance with the ACHRCP (DECCW 2010) (Table 1):

- The Project Area generally is located on the Gumbayngirr language area to the north, however the southern section of the Project Area comprises part of the Dhungutti language area. The RAPs for the project are primarily from the southern Dhungutti side of the Project Area. Opportunities for involvement in the assessment were not taken up from the northern Gumbayngirr side of the Project Area.
- The RAPs are familiar with archaeological sites within forest environments and cultural pathways from the western ranges down to the coastline at Stuarts Point/ Golden Hole. The presence of isolated artefacts and low-density Aboriginal stone artefact scatters along the ridge crests was expected and contribute to the cultural landscape of the Macleay and Nambucca Valleys.

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- The primary management strategy proposed by RAPS was the employment of Aboriginal sites officers after the fence alignment was opened by a mulcher and prior to construction of the fencing.
- The RAPS were supportive of extending an AHIP for isolated artefacts and low-density artefact scatters should they be located during the works. The preference from the group was relocation of artefacts to the side of the fence line but retaining them within the immediate landscape.

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**Table 1: Consultation log.**

Stakeholder	Out/In	Date	Method	Outcome
Heritage NSW	Out	05.05.21	Mail / Email	Request for potential Aboriginal stakeholders.
The Office of the Registrar	Out	05.05.21	Mail	Request for potential Aboriginal stakeholders.
Native Title Services Corporation	Out	05.05.21	Mail	Request for potential Aboriginal stakeholders.
Native Title Registrar	Out	05.05.21	Mail	Request for potential Aboriginal stakeholders.
North Coast Local Land Services	Out	05.05.21	Mail	Request for potential Aboriginal stakeholders.
Nambucca Valley Council	Out	05.05.21	Mail	Request for potential Aboriginal stakeholders.
Kempsey Shire Council	Out	05.05.21	Mail	Request for potential Aboriginal stakeholders.
Heritage NSW	In	10.05.21	Email	Provision of list of Aboriginal stakeholders in the Nambucca and Kempsey LGAs.
Nambucca Valley Council	In	13.05.21	Email	Response to request for potential Aboriginal stakeholders.
Macleay Argus	Out	14.05.21	Online	Public notice seeking registration from potential Aboriginal stakeholders for the ACHAR.
Anthony Dootson (Garby Elders);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Garlambirla Guuyu-girrwa Aboriginal Corporation (Richard Widders);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Mudjay Elders;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Susan Hoskins;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.

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Stakeholder	Out/In	Date	Method	Outcome
Gurehlgam Corporation Ltd T/A Yarrowarra	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Mimi Mothers Aboriginal Corporation;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Murrumbidgee Aboriginal Language and Cultural Co-operative Ltd	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Gumbaynggirr Native Title Group;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Gumbaynggirr Elders;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
DFTV Enterprises (Derrick Vale Sr);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Aaron Talbott;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Natalene Mercy;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Jagun Elders (Uncle Tony Perkins);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Norm Archibald;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Yanggaay (Danial Carriage);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Yurrandgi (Marcelle and Anthony Tonkin);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Merrigarn Indigenous Corporation (Shaun Carroll);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Murri Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation (Darleen Johnson);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.



# EVERICK HERITAGE

Stakeholder	Out/In	Date	Method	Outcome
Gumbaynggirr Wenonah Head Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Christian Lugnan);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Murrumbidgee Bundani Aboriginal Corporation (Brett and Li Tibbett)	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Richard Jarrett;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Leon Petrou;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation (Colin Ahoy);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation (Garry Morris);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Dunghutti Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Goori Galbans Aboriginal Corporation (Madeline Donovan);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Guri-wa Ngundagar Aboriginal Corporation (Noel Lockwood);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Mirriwinni Gardens Aboriginal Academy (Fay Oliver);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Ngarramang-Kuri Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Group (Abie Wright);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.

# EVERICK HERITAGE

Stakeholder	Out/In	Date	Method	Outcome
Nulla Nulla Boongutti Aboriginal Corporation (Mervyn Cohen);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Pandanus People Inc (Shirley Doyle);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
HSB Heritage Consultants (Patricia Hampton);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
South Kempsey Aboriginal Men's Group Aboriginal Corporation (Raymond Donovan);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
South West Rocks Aboriginal Corporation (Edward Moran);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Thawan Heritage Consultant (Jennifer Hampton);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Three Ducks Dreaming Surveying and Consulting (Leonard Wright);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Aaron Broad;	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Maruung Ballijin (Michael Donovan);	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Aliera French Trading; and	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation (Steve Ahoy).	Out	14.05.21	Mail	Introduction of Project and opportunity to register.
Unkya Local Aboriginal Land Council	In	17.05.21	Text	Registration for the Project.
South West Rocks Aboriginal Corporation	In	23.05.21	Email	Registration for the Project.

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Stakeholder	Out/In	Date	Method	Outcome
Dunghutti Elders Council	In	24.05.21	Email	Registration for the Project
Uncle Fred Kelly	In	1 June 21	Phone	Registration for the Project
Dunghutti Elders Council Unkya LALC Edward Moran Kempsey LALC Uncle Fred Kelly	Out	1 June	Email	Invitation to attend site inspection
Kempsey LALC South West Rocks Aboriginal Corporation (Eddie Moran) Uncle Fred Kelly	In	16 June 21	Meeting/ site inspection	Site Inspection and meeting with RAPs/ NPWS.
Dunghutti Elders Council Unkya LALC Edward Moran Kempsey LALC Uncle Fred Kelly	Out	17 September 21	Email	Invitation to attend site meeting and discussion of management strategies.
Kempsey LALC South West Rocks Aboriginal Corporation (Eddie Moran) Uncle Fred Kelly	In	21 September 21		Site inspection of sites along Briggs Tower Road Discussion of AHIP options, including management strategies during construction. Discussion of site training, induction and employment for Aboriginal sites officers.

## 4. DESKTOP ASSESSMENT: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 4.1. Environmental Context

The Project Area is located within Ngaamba Nature Reserve, approximately 40 km south of Macksville, NSW. Three (3) freshwater creeks run east to west through the Project Area, Warrell Creek in the north, Stockyard Creek in the centre and Eungai Creek in the south (Figure 5). The Project Area sits between 83 m above sea level (ASL) at the eastern boundary towards Tamban with higher points at the ridge comprising the interface of the S2 addition and the southern section, being at 200 – 230 m ASL. At the northern boundary of the Project Area, the high point is noted as being at 311 m ASL.

The Project Area falls within the Aldavilla, Tamban, Tamban Variant B, Thumb Creek and Roses Knob soil landscapes (Eddie 2000) (Figure 6). The geological makeup of the landscape generally comprises Kudosols and Kandosols on sandstone ridges and escarpments support tall, open Eucalypt forest and pockets of wet sclerophyll forest.

**Table 2: Soil landscapes and vegetation modelling of the Project Area (Eddie 2000).**

Landscape	Description	Vegetation
Aldavilla (Eddie 2000:144)	<p><b>Landscape</b>— Level elevated terraces to the Macleay River and valley flats to streams draining the Kempsey Beds (CPkx) on late Pleistocene alluvium. Slopes &lt;5%; elevation 30 - 80 m; relief up to 10 m on the Macleay River and up to 5 m on smaller valleys. Open-forests and woodlands, mostly cleared.</p> <p><b>Soils</b>— 100 - 180 cm imperfectly drained Brown or Red Kurosols (Yellow or Red Podzolic Soils and Soloths) and Brown, Red or Yellow Kandosols (Red or Yellow Earths).</p>	<p>Much of the original vegetation was cleared several decades ago for agriculture. Tall open-forests of the Eucalyptus tereticornis alliance are widespread. E. ancophila, E. eugenioides, Angophora floribunda and Corymbia intermedia also occur. Acacia maidenii and Acacia floribunda are common in the understorey, with Themeda triandra and Imperata cylindrica at ground level. Themeda triandra, Imperata cylindrica and Pteridium esculentum may replace understoreys when repeatedly burned. Exotic species include Cinnamomum camphora and Lantana camara. Pasture weeds include fireweed (Senecio lautus), scotch thistle (Cirsium vulgare) and purple-top (Verbena bonariensis).</p> <p>Along smaller valleys streams, the Eucalyptus grandis and E. tereticornis alliances predominate, with Tristaniopsis laurina, Commersonia fraseri and Guioa semiglauca.</p>
Roses Knob (Eddie 2000:117)	<p><b>Landscape</b>— Steep to very steep hills as upper slopes and escarpments with narrow crests, steep slopes and occasional</p>	<p>Uncleared open-forests (dry sclerophyll forests) of the Eucalyptus pilularis - Corymbia intermedia - E. siderophloia sub-alliance, E. acmenoides - E. propinqua</p>

# EVERICK HERITAGE

Landscape	Description	Vegetation
	<p>colluvial footslopes on the Kempsey Beds (CPkx). Relief 90 - 300 m; elevation 100 - 300 m; slopes 33 - 65%. Tall open dry sclerophyll forests, uncleared.</p> <p><b>Soils</b>— &lt;70cm Leptic Rudosols with 80 cm imperfectly drained Yellow Kandosols and Yellow Kurosols on steep ridges and slopes, and 120 cm moderately well-drained Brown Kandosols on mudstones.</p>	<p>alliance and <i>C. maculata</i> alliance are widespread. <i>E. placita</i> and <i>E. carnea</i> also occur. <i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>, <i>Acacia falcata</i>, <i>Xanthorrhoea johnsonii</i> and <i>Jacksonia scoparia</i> are typically found in the understoreys, which may be partly replaced by <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>, <i>Themeda triandra</i> and <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> when repeatedly burned.</p> <p>Sheltered sites support wet sclerophyll forests of the <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> - <i>E. microcorys</i> sub-alliance with <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>, or <i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i> - <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> - <i>Tristaniopsis</i> dry rainforests (Sub-alliance 29, Floyd 1990).</p>
Thumb Creek (Eddie 2000:160)	<p><b>Landscape</b>— Narrow, discontinuous valley flats below steep hills and mountains. Elevation 100 - 200 m; gradients 5 - 10%. Partly cleared riverine rainforests.</p> <p><b>Soils</b>— Shallow to moderately deep (20 - 100 cm), stony Brown Kandosols (Prairie Soils) with shallow (10 - 20 cm) Clasti</p>	<p>Much has been cleared for agriculture in accessible areas. Riverine or "gully" rainforests, commonly <i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>/<i>Schizomeria ovata</i> - <i>Argyrodendron actinophyllum</i>/ <i>Sloanea woollsii</i> (sub-alliance 33). <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> has re-grown in areas of prior clearing. Canopy associates include <i>Diploglottis australis</i>, <i>Melia azedarach</i>, <i>Cryptocarya obovata</i> and <i>Archontophoenix cunninghamii</i>. Common small trees include <i>Callicoma serratifolia</i>, <i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>, <i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i> and <i>Ficus coronata</i>, with <i>Lomandra hystrix</i>, <i>Oplismenus aemulus</i> and <i>Culcita dubia</i> sparsely distributed at ground level. Riparian vegetation is reported in more detail in Raine (1994 a; b).</p>
Tamban and Tamban Variant B (Eddie 2000:102)	<p><b>Landscape</b>— Rolling to steep hills. Low dissected plateaux with broad crests and occasional steep sideslopes on lithic sandstones with interbedded mudstones of the Kempsey Beds (CPkx). Slopes 20 - 33% (up to 50% on sideslopes); relief 50 - 100 m; elevation 50 - 200 m. Open-forests, partly cleared.</p> <p><b>Landscape Variant tbb</b>— Mappable areas that have steep lower sideslopes with gradients 33 - 50%.</p> <p><b>Soils</b>— 50 - 100 cm moderately well-drained Brown Kurosols (Red Podzolic Soils) and Kandosols (Yellow Earths), with 70 cm Leptic</p>	<p>Partly cleared open-forests of the <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> - <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> - <i>E. siderophloia</i> sub-alliance, <i>E. acmenoides</i> - <i>E. propinqua</i> alliance and <i>Corymbia maculate</i> alliance are widespread. <i>C. maculata</i> is associated with sandstone substrates (Boland et al. 1984), and its presence distinguishes this soil landscape from the Euroka (eu) soil landscape. <i>E. placita</i> and <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> also occur. <i>E. carnea</i> occurs on exposed, less favourable sites. West of Temagog in a rain-shadow (tba landscape variant), a woodland of the <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> - <i>Angophora floribunda</i> sub-alliance occurs, with <i>E. acmenoides</i> and <i>E. siderophloia</i>. <i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>, <i>Acacia falcata</i>, <i>Notelaea ovata</i> and <i>Jacksonia scoparia</i> typically comprise the understoreys, which</p>

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Landscape	Description	Vegetation
	Tenosols and Leptic Rudosols (Lithosols) on steeper slopes and ridges.	may be replaced by <i>Dodonaea triquetra</i> , <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> and <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> when repeatedly burned.  Sheltered valleys (tbb landscape variant) support tall open-forests of <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> - <i>E. microcorys</i> sub alliance grading to the <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> sub-alliance, or <i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i> - <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> – <i>Tristaniopsis</i> dry rainforest (Sub-alliance 29). Understoreys include <i>Alphitonia excelsa</i> , <i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i> , <i>Acacia irrorata</i> and <i>Commersonia fraseri</i> .

It is noted that original vegetation communities have been predominantly removed from the Project Area as a result of historic forestry practices, particularly focused around the former forestry tracks that now comprise the current tracks through Ngambaa Nature Reserve.



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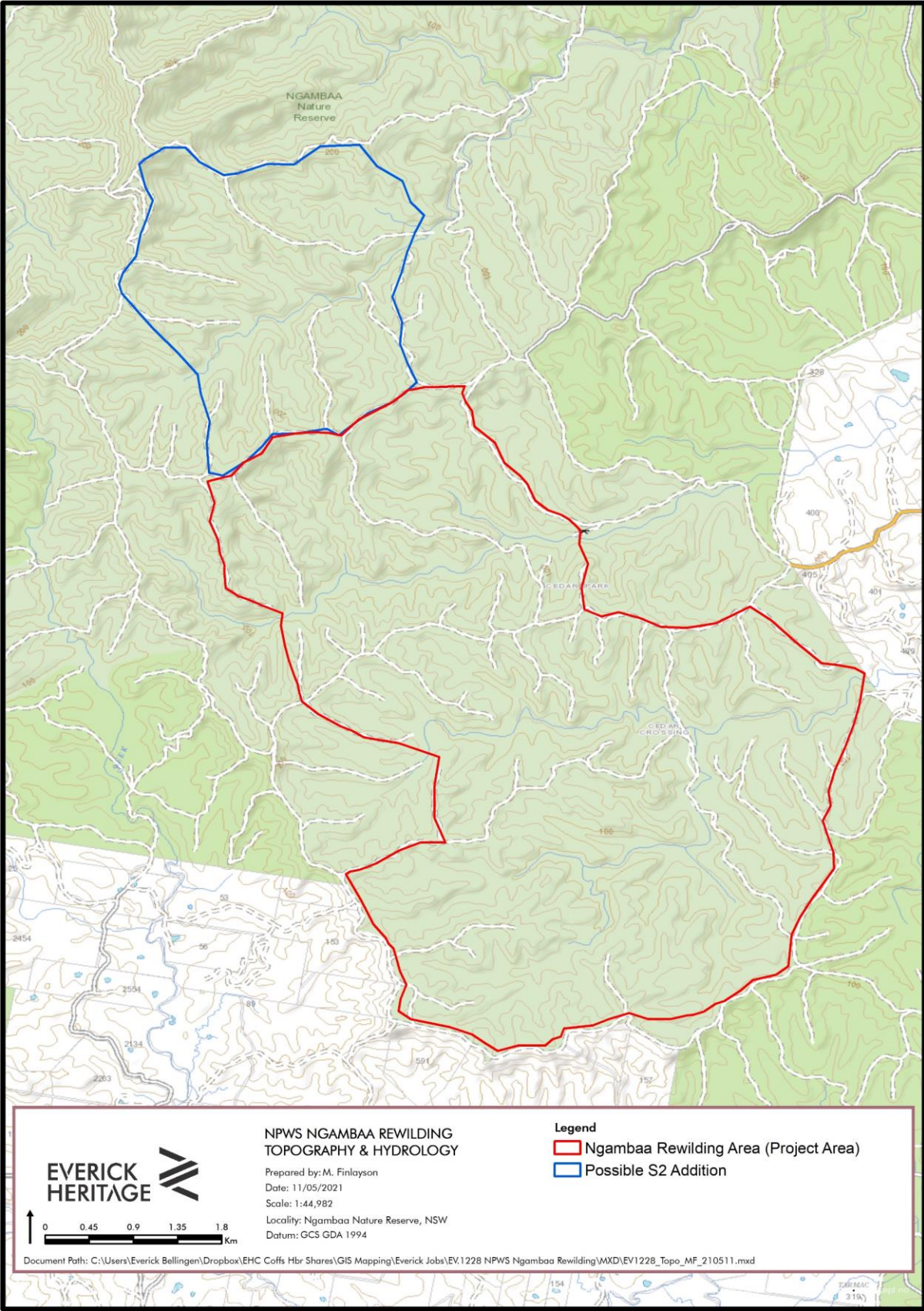


Figure 5: Topography of the Project Area.



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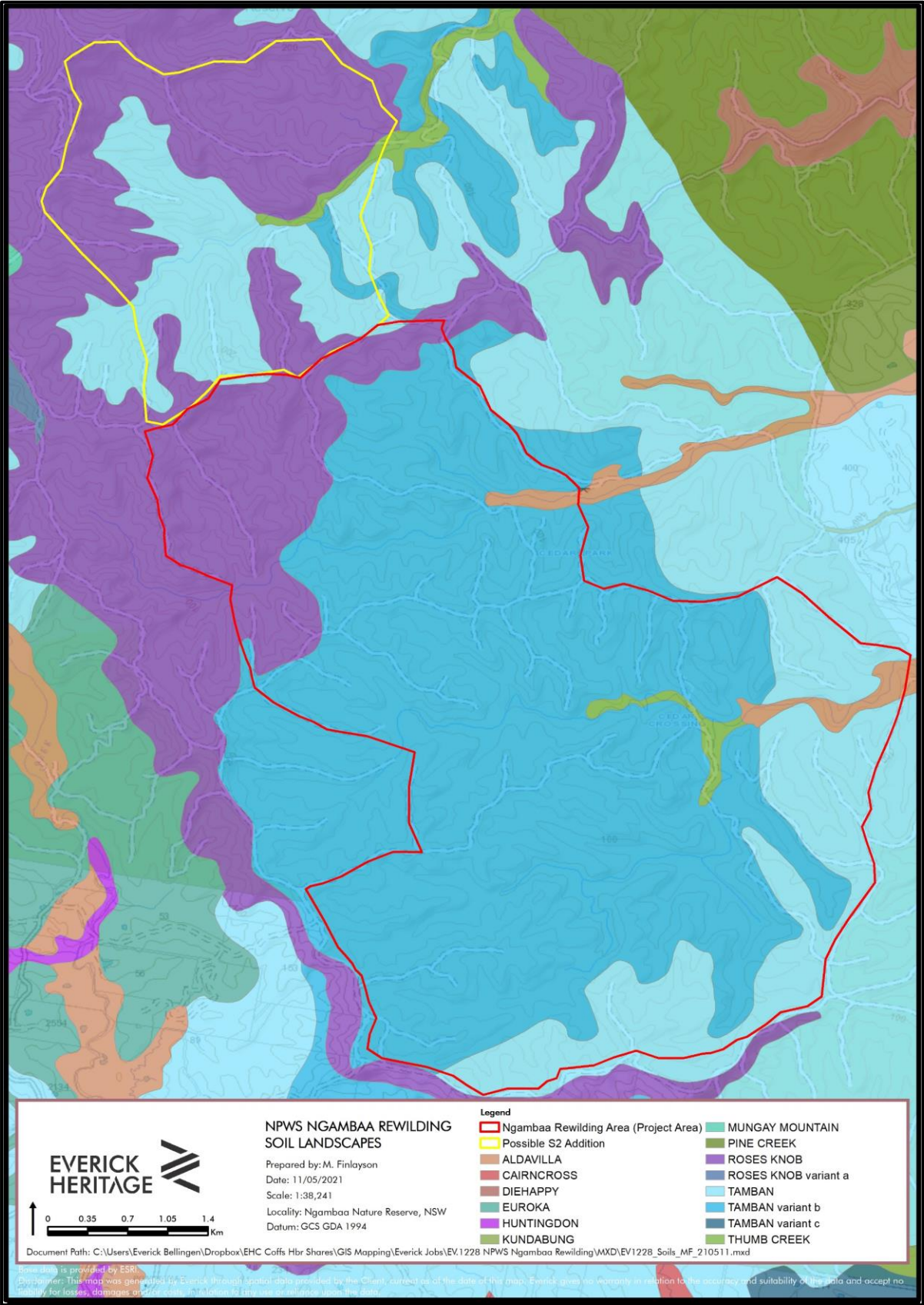


Figure 6: Soils of the Project Area.

## 4.2. The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)

Care should be taken when using the AHIMS database to reach conclusions about site prevalence or distribution. For example, a lack of sites in a given area should not be seen as evidence that the area was not occupied by Aboriginal people. It may simply be an indication that it has not been surveyed, or that the survey was undertaken in areas of poor surface visibility. Further, care needs to be taken when looking at the classification of sites. For example, the decision to classify a site as an Open Campsite containing shell, rather than a midden, can be a highly subjective exercise, the threshold for which may vary between archaeologists. There can also be errors with the data once it is entered onto the AHIMS database, including datum conversion errors.

An 'Extensive' search was conducted on 03 June 2021 of the AHIMS for Lat, Long -30.9387, 152.6762 to -30.8196, 152.865 with a 1000 metre buffer (Service ID 596348), which returned 41 known Aboriginal Sites (Table 3 and Figure 7). Of the registered sites, a majority have been recorded in AGD and therefore can be considered to be potentially inaccurate to as many as 214 m. Additionally, several have been recorded on topographic maps using the northeast corner of the map grid as indicated by coordinates ending in three (3) zeros, compounding further the inaccuracy of the mapping. In general, most of the sites in the search area are located within the Tamban State Forest and there is a discernible gap in AHIMS registered sites within Ngambaa Nature Reserve. Three (3) scarred trees however are noted to be at Cedar Park, being Nambucca Scar Tree 1, Nambucca, Canoe Tree 2 and Nambucca, Canoe Tree 4. These sites however have been recorded in the AGD format.

Additionally, in April 2021 Uncle Mark Flanders had recorded several artefacts present along Briggs Tower Road, noted to be predominantly cores as well as a 'broken scraper'. These sites have not been lodged with AHIMS by NPWS as they cannot be located again to be formally recorded.

**Table 3: AHIMS Extensive search results (Service ID: 596348).**

Site ID	Name	Easting	Northing	Feature
21-6-0175	Fig Tree #1	480400	6588000	Artefact : -
30-3-0265	Pole Bridge #1	485200	6582500	Artefact : -
21-6-0169	TAMBAN 3	486800	6580450	Artefact : -
21-6-0173	TAMBAN 3	486800	6580450	Artefact : -
21-6-0148	Tanban 5-1;	486500	6577250	Artefact : -
21-6-0149	Tanban 6-1;	487000	6578200	Artefact : -
21-6-0197	61-1 TRAIL #2	487010	6578093	Artefact : -

# EVERICK HERITAGE

Site ID	Name	Easting	Northing	Feature
21-6-0198	61-1 TRAIL #1	486715	6578733	Artefact : -
21-6-0185	Brentons road #1	483828	6578514	Artefact : -
21-6-0186	Brentons road #2	484037	6578310	Artefact : -
21-6-0199	Coopers Road #2	483023	6581307	Artefact : -
21-6-0200	Hackenburs Road #1	483615	6580405	Artefact : -
21-6-0201	Johnstones Road #3	483910	6581843	Artefact : -
21-6-0240	CR#1	482169	6576828	Artefact : 1
21-6-0241	48-1 TR#1	482100	6577300	Artefact : 3
21-6-0242	CR#2	481310	6577660	Artefact : 6
21-6-0237	Shield Tree 1	480981	6583062	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1
21-6-0243	Nambucca, Scar Tree 1	478870	6583641	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1
21-6-0244	Nambucca, Shield Tree 1	477548	6586691	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1
21-6-0246	Nambucca, Canoe Tree 2	478860	6583665	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1
21-6-0247	Nambucca, Shield Tree 3	477548	6586691	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1
21-6-0248	Nambucca, Shield Tree 4	477548	6586691	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1
21-6-0249	Nambucca, Canoe Tree 4	478982	6583653	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1
21-6-0277	Smails # 1-4	485195	6576420	Artefact : 1
21-6-0261	KE21	484290	6576700	Artefact : -
21-6-0262	KE22	485031	6576977	Artefact : -
21-6-0278	TB65-1	486624	6583840	Artefact : 1
21-6-0271	KE32	485210	6578770	Artefact : -
21-6-0350	TB58-2 (Clybucca)	485198	6577938	Artefact : 3
21-6-0351	TB57-1 (Clybucca)	486057	6580288	Artefact : -
21-6-0352	TB54-4 (Clybucca)	485087	6577956	Artefact : 4
21-6-0353	TB61-3 (Clybucca)	487387	6579736	Artefact : 4

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Site ID	Name	Easting	Northing	Feature
21-6-0354	TB61-4 (Clybucca)	486954	6580190	Artefact : -
21-6-0349	61-1 Trail #3	487000	6578200	Artefact : 3
21-6-0442	TB48-03	480744	6578423	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1
21-6-0449	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.			
21-6-0450	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.			
21-6-0451	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.			
21-6-0452	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.			
21-6-0453	tam-47-2	484033	6580216	Artefact : -
21-6-0454	Tam51-01	482569	6577971	Artefact : -

**Table 4: Sites recorded by Uncle Mark Flanders.**

Name	Easting (GDA94 Zone 56)	Northing (GDA94 Zone 56)
Briggs Tower Road Core 1	476882	6580232
Briggs Tower Road – Core 2	477313	6578845
Briggs Tower Road – Core 3	477572	6578727
Briggs Tower Road – Core 4	478425	6578495
Briggs Tower Road – Core 5	478505	6578526
Briggs Tower Road – Core 6	478860	6578628
Briggs Tower Road – Core 7	480907	6579377
Briggs Tower Road – Broken Scraper	478521	6578529



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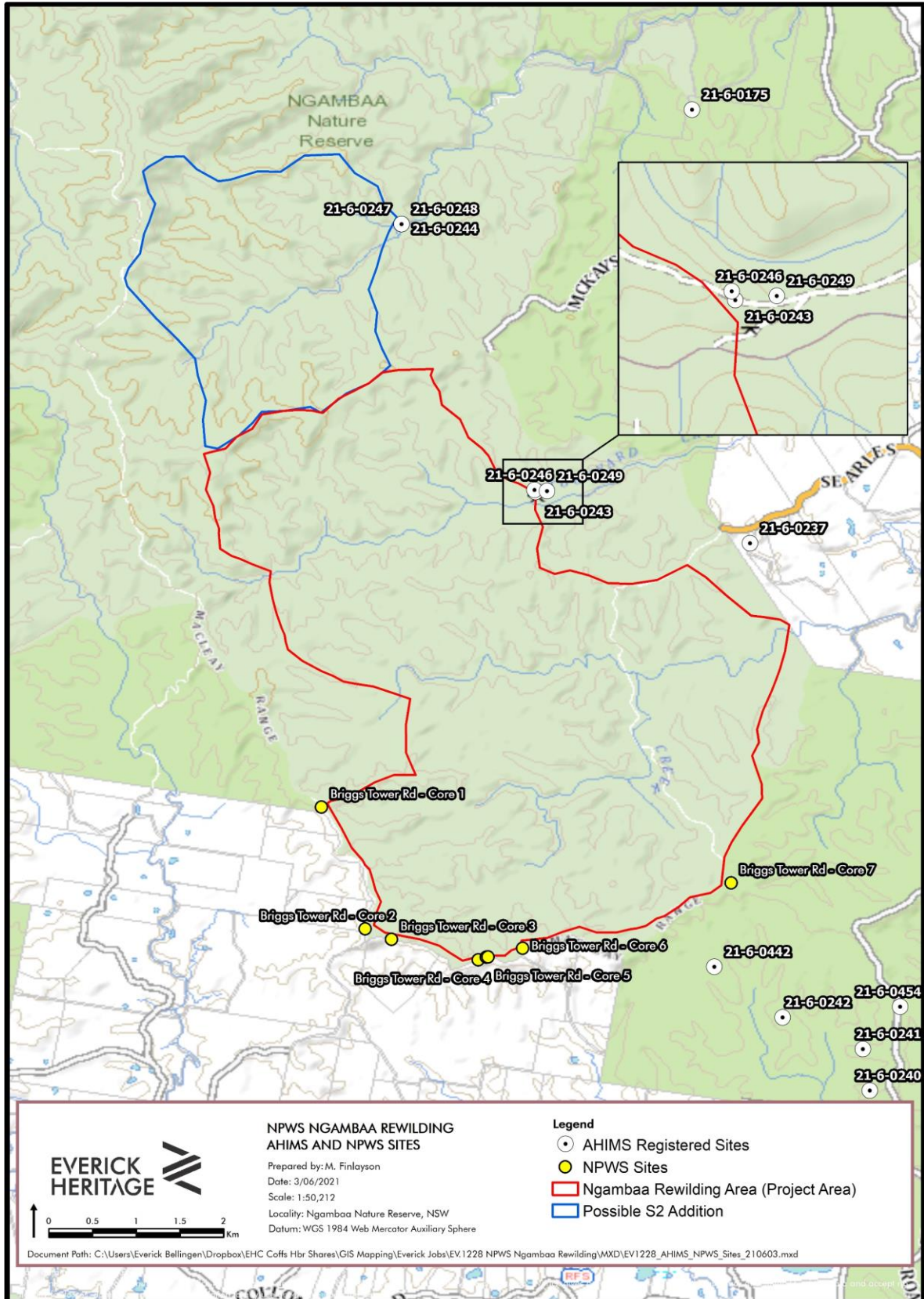


Figure 7: AHIMS Registered Sites 1000 m buffer (#596348).



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Figure 8: Briggs Tower Rd - Core 1.



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Figure 9: Briggs Tower Rd - Core 2.



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Figure 10: Briggs Tower Rd - Core 3.



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Figure 11: Briggs Tower Rd - Core 4.

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Figure 12: Briggs Tower Rd - Core 5.



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Figure 13: Briggs Tower Rd - Broken scraper.



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Figure 14: Briggs Tower Rd - Core 6.



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## 5. SELECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SYNTHESIS AND PREDICTIONS

### 5.1. European History.

The first historical documents relating to the Mid North Coast region were the naming of the 'Solitary Islands' and 'Smoky Cape' by James Cook in May 1770. The next sighting of these lands took place in 1820 by John Oxley and Captain Allman, sent to survey Port Macquarie and make statements as to the suitability of lands nearby for convict settlement. Oxley continued further north, exploring some of the Macleay River inlet including original swamps, marshes and generally infertile sandy soils.

In 1826, Captain A.C. Innes established a cedar party north of Euroka Creek on the bank of what was finally named the "Macleay" River in honour of the Hon. Alexander Macleay, the Colonial Secretary of the colony and Innes's father-in-law (Kempsey Shire Council 2005).

In the 1830s, the Macleay River catchment was bordered by original scrub forest / rainforest, with prolific cedar, rosewood and eucalypt trees surrounding the river and beyond (Kempsey Shire Council 2005). Via the Macleay River, access was easily facilitated to the most attractive pockets of resources for cedar getting and forestry enterprises. With the initial focus of forestry on the surrounds of the river, log-getters were forced to expand further inland. Prolific forestry and logging continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the Macleay Valley and by 1957 it was determined that the amount of private mills in the area outnumbered those owned by the Crown (Kempsey Shire Council 2005:23).

In 1886, the borough of Kempsey was first proclaimed, until the establishment in 1908 of the Macleay Shire and the Municipality of Kempsey, now Kempsey Shire Council (Kempsey Shire Council 2021).

### 5.2. Ethnohistory

The Project Area is located approximately between the Dunghutti and Gumbayngirr Nations/Language Areas. The Dungutti language area is broadly known to include the lands north of Wilsons River and south of the Nambucca River, and west up to the Great Dividing Range whereas the Gumbayngirr language area is generally noted as being spoken north of Nambucca Heads to Grafton (Figure 16). While Dunghutti is the official name of the language group, in the west of Kempsey Shire towards Bellbrook and higher ground outside of the valley, Aboriginal people prefer the name 'Thungutti' or 'Thunggutti' (Kempsey Shire Council 2005:vii). Dunghutti / Thunghutti country generally borders Gumbayngirr country to the north, and the Biripi to the south at the Hastings River. The



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Of the relevant language groups, Eades (1979) places the Ngagu and Ngamba on the southern and northern sides of Kempsey respectively. Ngaku is inferred to be a dialect of Dhan-gadi (Djangadi) that was spoken over a vast area west of Kempsey. In contrast, the Ngamba north of Kempsey was concluded to be similar to the Gumbaynggirr (Eades 1979). The extent of Ngamba territory however is somewhat uncertain, while being described as being to the north of Kempsey by Eades (1979). Much of the language recording in the 1960's and 1970's defaulted back to either Dungutti or Gumbaynggirr and as such much of the detail of the Ngamba, Ngaku and Southern Gumbaynggirr dialects has been lost from the historical and written records.



Figure 16: Boundaries of Dunghutti Country (Kempsey Shire Council 2005).

Early explorer and ethnographer Clement Hodgkinson asked two (2) Ngamba men during the early contact period what the name of the present-day Nambucca area was and they responded 'Nyambagabaga', being the bend in the river where a 'Ngamba giant' was speared in the Dreaming (Hodgkinson 1845). The name Nambucca itself comes from 'ngambugka', translated generally as being 'winding or crooked river' and as 'entrance to the waters' (Townsend 1993). Hodgkinson settled in the Clybucca area and the accounts for the Ngamba are likely correct. The Plan of Management for Nambucca Nature Reserve quotes Clement Hodgkinson as mapping the area Mungay Mountain within



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the area of the 'Munga' tribe (NPWS 2004). Hodgkinson also refers to the 'Tanban tribe' on his expedition north of the watershed between the Macleay and the Nambucca (Briggs Tower Road).

Having left our cattle station, at Yarra-Bandini, late in the day, we did not get further, before dusk, than twenty miles from it. We stopped for the night at a brushy water-course, a few miles on the other side of the main range, dividing the basin of the MacLeay river, from that of the Nambucca river, to the north of it. The country thus far was grassy forest land, thickly timbered with gigantic black-butt gums, and other eucalypti, and abundantly watered with numerous permanent chains of water-holes, and gravelly water-courses in brushy hollows. Having unloaded the pack-horse, tethered out our horses, and lit a fire, we suddenly heard the loud shrill couis[11] of the natives, who turned out to be some old friends of mine belonging to the Tanban tribe. (Hodgkinson 1845)

The following statement on the tribes adjacent to the Macleay River indicates that the Tanban tribe were to the north and did not adjoin the Macleay. This would correctly place the Munga tribe to the west of the Tanban tribe and west of the Yarri-abini and Clybucca tribes.

Thus on the immediate banks of the MacLeay river alone, there are six distinct tribes; viz. the Yarra-Hapinni, and Clybucca tribe, the Calliteeni or Kempsey tribe, the Yarra-Bandini, Munga, Wabro, and Conderang tribes, besides several others near the sources of the river among the mountains.



Figure 17: Dance of the Yarra-bandini tribe (Hodgkinson 1842).

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Campbell (1978) provides the most comprehensive review of ethnohistorical information on Aboriginal diet and economy in the Macleay Valley. Whilst much of this review describes an economy and material culture that was typically along the North Coast, this study did provide accounts of the environment, being 'brush' and swamp, and the extent to which the early forestry and agriculture industries changed the landscape. The plentiful nature of food resources in the lower Macleay Valley provided for seasonally based transitory movements from the highlands in the winter into the warmer climate of the coastal valley floor (Kempsey Shire Council 2005). Material culture comprised of stone implements, spears, boomerangs, shields, digging sticks, water / food carriers and clothing such as possum skin cloaks are said to have been used by Aboriginal people inhabiting the western mountainous areas (Kempsey Shire Council 2005).

In the Nambucca Valley ethnographic accounts recollect a wide faunal resource range, with fish, shellfish, pademelon, snakes, lizards, flying foxes and a wide variety of birds. Of snakes, Henderson (1854:134) refers to the carpet, black and 'diamond' snake as being particular delicacies (Lane 1970). Of flora foodstuffs, 'Cabbage palm', figs, 'file trees,' 'cunjevoi' and native grape are referenced as being part of the general diet of Aboriginal people of the Nambucca Valley (Lane 1970).

Augustus Rudder in 1902 made the following observations on the appearance of Aboriginal men and women in the Macleay Valley:

For the headgear of the men a good handful of sword grass, about a foot long, was made us of, by placing it on top of the head, on end, when the hair, usually thick and long, was brought up and around it at the base and bound round with a winding cord made of opossum hair, the whole, when finished being of conical shape, cut square on the top, over the forehead was usually worn a small cord net, coloured with red ochre, and fastened behind, while through the cartilage of the nose, below the nostrils, was thrust, horizontally a piece of short, pithy rush, about three or four inches long and as thick as a man's little finger.

For the body, which was often marked with peculiar highly raised ridge-like swellings down the back and over the shoulders and often across the chest, produced by some process of their own; round the muscles of the right arm was usually a thick winding of 'possum hair cord, and a similar winding round the waist, to which, in front, was suspended strips of wallaby skin, about 18in. long, with the hair on, and a similar appendant, also attached to the girdle, behind, in which (the girdle) was usually thrust a couple of boomerangs and a nulla (club), or it might be a short battle-axe instead, and with a shield and spear, and wommara (sic), with which to throw the spear, all carried in the left hand, our warrior's equipment was complete ...

... The Women were usually wrapped round with a 'possum-skin cloak, falling a little below the knees, the hair side out; around the neck, and falling over the cloak on the back, was carried a

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capacious dill-bag, made of a netting of strong, hand-twisted cord ... many of the young men and women, would also go about quite naked, without any compensation (A. Rudder 1902 in Kempsey Shire Council 2005).



**Figure 18: Photo of Aboriginal people on the upper Macleay River (source Steven Ahoy).**

The Aboriginal Place 'Burrel Bulai' is located approximately 10 km to the west of the Project Area. Burrel Bulai (Mount Anderson) is determined to be one of the most sacred sites in Dhungutti Country, holding special significance to local Aboriginal people as a place of specialized initiation for 'clever-people' (Heritage NSW 2020). The Aboriginal Place at Burrel Bulai comprises a variety of tangible features including stone arrangements, stone tools and a men's pathway.

The following statements are extracted from the original Site recording card for Burrel Bulai regarding the significance of mountainous landforms in the Macleay Valley:

...Most mountains along the coast and in the Macleay valley in particular were held in deep esteem by the tribesmen. Most mountains were named for particular incidents which took place on them. In the case of Mount Anderson a hunting party working their way towards the summit suddenly happened on a pool of water in which was a large eel. This was at once captured and prepared for cooking. A large hole was scraped in the ground and a fire kindled therein and when this had burned to embers a frame of green sticks was built over the hole and the eel was

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grilled. This was the favourite method of cooking fish. Because this method was used only along river and creek beds, the fact of having also to use it up on the heights of the mountain put the incident in a very special category. Aboriginal lore called for a naming of the mountain and so 'burrel bulai' was chosen which when translated roughly means 'gridiron' mountain. The illustration (p.6) shows how the griddle was constructed...(Victor Shepherd, April 1975)

Another example of significant landforms is within Willi Willi National Park to the southwest of Kempsey. The 'Kemps Pinnacle' site is another significant natural landform with a mythological creation story attached to it, identified as follows:

Significant in the mythology of Thungetti (sic) people. A giant, killed in battle, was stood upright on his feet by Burruga, the giant bandicoot and so formed the pinnacle (Byrne 1987: IV).

Hodgkinson (1845) makes the following comment on the relative size of the tribes he observed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century:

Each of them contains on an average from eighty to a hundred men and women, exclusive of children, but the whole body of a tribe is never united on the same spot, unless on some important occasion, such as to deliberate on making war with some adjacent tribe, to dance a Corroberree, perform the Cawarra ceremonies, or join in a fight. They are more generally divided into small parties of eight or ten men, with their women and children, for the greater convenience of hunting, and these detached companies roam over any part of the country within the prescribed limits of the main tribe to which they belong (Hodgkinson 1845 Vol IV)

A major review of historic records relevant to the Gumbaynggirr people of the Nambucca River was undertaken in 1970 by K.H. Lane (Lane 1970). This review provides some of the most comprehensive information about adaptation to rainforest- or Brush as it was referred to by early settlers- along the NSW North Coast. This review is directly relevant to the Project Area- which would have been rainforest prior to land clearing. The rainforest in particular was a significant resource for faunal resource- such as brush kangaroos:

As we entered the brush we heard the loud shouts of the blacks who were busily engaged in hunting. The plan adopted in this pursuit, was somewhat similar, on a small scale, to the mode of hunting pursued by some of the Indian princes. The blacks (sic) first of all dispersed, and formed in the brush a circle of a quarter of a mile in diameter and then, on a given signal, they all commenced shouting and advancing towards the centre, gradually lessening the circle. The brush-kangaroos or pademellas were thus gradually enclosed, and driven into a small space, where, being surrounded on all sides, they were dispatched by the natives, who carried for this purpose a short cylindrical piece of wood (Hodgkinson in Lane 1970:III:2)



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Of note from the numerous accounts of hunting and general use of the rainforest was the absence of references to large camps and the numerous accounts of utilisation of wooden implements. The other main resource areas within the Nambucca are the river and creek estuaries- and based on historical accounts these provide the main source of nutrition and were the focus of the Nambucca economy.

Estimations of population density was attempted within the historic period- however such estimates are considered inaccurate for a number of reasons- the significant change in socio-economic structure during the early forestry period being the main. Lane provides the following assessment (Lane 1970:V:9):

A population of almost two hundred is conceivable for the Nambucca, in the light of Hodgkinson's information that the hordes contained from eighty to one hundred men and women, exclusive of children, and that a horde's territory was about 150 square miles, and usually extended along a river frontage of about twelve to fifteen miles. This would allow at least two hordes for the Nambucca Valley, and perhaps three...

## 5.3. Previous Archaeological Assessments

It is important to review the results of previous studies in proximity to the Project Area as they provide insights and contextual information to inform any assessments of significance and future management decisions. Several archaeological studies have been undertaken in the surrounding Macleay Valley region and represent similar landscapes to that of the Project Area.

### 5.3.1. Lower Creek and Armidale Road Upgrades (Everick 2020/2021)

In 2020 and 2021, Everick Heritage undertook Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the proposed road upgrades to Armidale Road and Lower Creek Road, to the west of the Project Area and Bellbrook, NSW. The assessment involved survey of segments of the roads subject to the upgrades as well as optional areas for plant and site laydowns adjacent to the road. The forest environments are broadly analogous to the Tambarlopa State Forest.

The survey identified no new Aboriginal sites predominantly as a result of the landform which was generally side slope. The lack of Aboriginal objects was also a result of the method of construction of the road, cut into the side slope and backfilled with road base and aggregate. It was determined with consideration of the close proximity of the road to the Macleay River, that Aboriginal objects would be more likely to be found on elevated ridges and flats adjacent to watercourses as opposed to being located on steep side slope (Everick 2020).

## 5.3.2. Kempsey to Eungai Pacific Highway Upgrade (Navin and Officer 2007)

The archaeological investigation for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Kempsey and Eungai was undertaken as part of the environmental impact statement to the east of Tamboon (Navin and Officer 2007), and concluded:

- Four archaeological sites and 12 potential archaeological sites were identified during the survey. An additional 2 sites were identified within 100 metres of the proposed highway alignment.
- The survey was constrained by low survey visibility. The potential archaeological deposits typically comprised low spurs and ridges in close proximity to wetlands and water bodies on the estuarine, riparian and coastal margins.
- The alignment in the vicinity of the Project Area included a number of forestry and railway camps which were used by Aboriginal people employed within the Tamboon Forests.

The report makes the following broad prediction on the archaeological potential of the “Fringing Coastal Ranges”:

Most of the ranges fringing the lower Macleay valley have formed from metamorphosed sedimentary rocks belonging to the Kempsey Beds. These are Lower Permian in age and consist of greywacke, sandstone, mudstone, siltstone, and conglomerate. Conglomerate beds have been mapped and quarried just north of Frederickton. The high terrain forming the watershed to the south of the study area has formed from more resistant greywackes. The ranges in the far north of the study area, extending to Tamboon, (but excluding the southern portion of the Clybucca peninsula), have also formed from lower Permian rocks, but display a higher degree of regional metamorphism of the greywacke, sandstone and conglomerate beds. Rock types include slate, phyllite and schist (Dorrigo – Coffs Harbour 1:250,000 geological map 1st Ed 1971). Some of these rock types may potentially have been quarried and used by Aborigines in the manufacture of stone tools. These include metamorphic rocks such as greywacke and chert, and hard siliceous rocks found in the conglomerates such as quartz, quartzite and chalcedony (Navin and Officer 2007:14).

The predictive model proposed for the upgrade includes the following general predictions:

- Archaeological sites would typically be located on spurs and ridgelines.
- The density and size of artefacts decreased with distance from the riparian/ marine fringe environments.

- Open artefact scatters were the most common artefact type within forest environments. There is limited potential for middens within the sub-coastal zone.
- The potential for scarred trees exists in areas which have not been subject to logging.

### 5.3.3. Clybuca Middens (Vale 2004)

An archaeological analysis of excavations on the Clybuca 3 and Stuarts Point 1 shell middens was undertaken to provide a regional perspective on the relationship between coastal and sub-coastal archaeological sites in response to sea-level change (Vale 2004). This study focussed on understanding the nature of the 'mid-Holocene high stand' whereby the sea levels rose by approximately 2 metres between the period of 5000-3000 years ago.

The re-analysis of the archaeological marine faunal assemblages from the Stuarts Point 1 site has shown a pronounced change in the shellfish fauna represented over time, and an increasing dependence on terrestrial fauna after 3,700 BP. The Clybuca 3 site showed a use of terrestrial fauna throughout the time of occupation, with an increased use of fish in the time period circa 4,300 – 2,900 BP. The shellfish assemblage was dominated by oyster throughout the time of occupation (Vale 2004:308-9)

The implication of this research is that the distance between the coastline and Tamban State Forests would have been significantly less for a short period of time in the mid- Holocene. However, it is reasonable to proceed on the basis that the Tamban Forest and Ngambaa Nature Reserve has always been a sub-coastal forest which fluctuated between being wet and dry rainforest or closed forest. As such, it is expected that the focus of Aboriginal groups on marine resources would have meant that the Tamban Forest was never an area of high occupation density. This would account for the overall low density of archaeological sites within the subcoastal forests.

### 5.3.4. North East Forests (Hall and Lomax 1996)

Hall and Lomax (1996) undertook a review of regional archaeological assessment of major investigations of State Forests in New South Wales. While the paper specifically aimed to address the methodological and statistical challenges of archaeological investigations in forest environments it does provide base line information which demonstrates a clear pattern of use within subcoastal areas which are dominated by forestry. The study demonstrated that the majority (66%) of sites identified within the Kempsey/ Wauchope management area contained less than 4 artefacts. Very few sites (2%) have more than 100 artefacts. The paper qualifies this by identifying the problems of sampling strategies that rely on surface investigation of forest trails. It is likely that sub-surface archaeological investigation would change our understanding of the distribution of artefacts within forest environments. However, the paper does demonstrate an increase



in artefact density within the ranges when compared to the lowland hills which can be taken to reflect the nature of occupation and use of stone resources away from the coast and a focus of occupation on coastal resources in close proximity to the floodplains and river valleys.

## 5.4. Predictive Model

The Project Area is surrounded by known and registered Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, and within the wider catchment of Eungai, Warrell and Stockyard Creek would have provided ample locations for transitory and seasonal campsites. The Project Area is known to have a high degree of disturbance associated with historic forestry; however, there remains a potential for the following site types within the Project Area:

- isolated artefacts,
- low density stone artefact scatters,
- ceremonial sites; and
- scarred trees in pockets of rainforest which had not been subject to logging.

The overall potential for sites is considered to be low- moderate on ridge crest and spurs and low on side slopes and within gullies/ creek lines. This model acknowledges that Ngambaa was primarily utilised as hunting grounds and as an access route from the up-river areas of the Nambucca and Macleay Valley down to Golden Hole/ Stuarts Point. Larger campsites would have been located on lower ground along the edge of the river valleys as the elevated forests have relatively low ecological productivity.

## 6. FIELD SURVEY: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 6.1. Constraints to Site Detection

An assessment of the constraints to site detection is made to assist in formulating a view as to the effectiveness of the field inspection to find Aboriginal sites and cultural heritage materials. It also assists in forming a view of the likelihood of concealed sites, keeping in mind a site-specific knowledge of the disturbance impacts that European land uses and natural processes may have had on the 'survivability' of Aboriginal sites in a Project Area.

The constraints to site detection are almost always most influenced by post European settlement land uses and seldom by natural erosion processes. The area of surface exposure and the degree of surface visibility within exposed surfaces are usually the product of 'recent' land uses for example land clearing, ploughing, road construction, natural erosion and accelerated (manmade) erosion (McDonald et .al. 1990:92). In this case the major 'manmade' constraints to Aboriginal site survivability and detection include historic forestry and cedar getting and the construction and maintenance of forestry / national parks trails and assets through Ngambaa Nature Reserve.

### 6.2. Site Inspection

A site inspection of the Project Area was conducted on 16 June 2021. The following were in attendance:

- Uncle Fred Kelly (Jagun Elders).
- Kevin Smith (Kempsey LALC).
- Edward Moran (South West Rocks Aboriginal Corporation).
- Scott Filmer (NPWS).
- Tim Hill (Principal, Everick Heritage).
- Matt Finlayson (Archaeologist, Everick Heritage).

Based on the nature of the Project it was agreed that the archaeological component of the assessment would be undertaken by Tim Hill and primarily focus on providing a sample survey of the fence line in areas with a higher potential for Aboriginal objects to inform the assessment. The assessment primarily aimed to consider potential impacts on the cultural landscape and 'intangible' cultural heritage sites. The below summarises the sites inspections in relation to the effectiveness of the archaeological survey to identify Aboriginal objects, should they exist within the Project Area.

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The survey was conducted primarily by vehicle across the Project Area as reconnaissance, with opportunistic survey samples undertaken on landforms more likely to contain Aboriginal objects. As identified within the archaeological predictive model, the highest potential for large density aboriginal sites is within the edge of the river valleys. Generally, areas sampled had been historically disturbed by logging, log dumps and the creation and maintenance of Forestry Corp snig tracks on spurs and ridges. Ground Surface Visibility ('GSV') was generally poor across the entire Project Area boundary due to leaf fall and accumulation of forest debris. Exposures of soil were limited predominantly to areas of existing disturbance such as the existing trails, snig tracks and cuttings for the roads.

**Table 5: Survey coverage**

Survey Unit	Landform	Survey Unit Area (m2)	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Coverage Area (m2)	Effective Coverage (%)
Cedar Park	Spur	2400	20	20	96	4
Stockyard Creek Road Spur 1	Spur	1050	20	20	42	4
Spur 2	Spur	1350	40	20	108	8
Wittigs Road 1	Ridge	2400	20	20	96	4
Briggs Tower Road – Core 7	Elevated Flat	660	10	10	6.6	1
Briggs Tower Road – Core 5	Elevated Flat	600	10	10	6	1
Briggs Tower Road – Core 3	Elevated Flat	750	10	10	7.5	1
Briggs Tower Road – Core 1	Elevated Flat	1200	10	10	12	1
Site Laydown	Ridge	2550	20	20	102	4



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Figure 19: Survey and ground coverage at the proposed Site Laydown area.



Figure 20: Disturbed soil at Site Laydown, former log dump, facing south.



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Figure 21: Cedar Park alignment, facing north.



Figure 22: Cleared and maintained snig track, Cedar Park alignment of fence, facing south.



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Figure 23: GSV and survey, Cedar Park fence alignment.



Figure 24: Stockyard Creek Road Spur 1 snig track, facing north.



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Figure 25: Stockyard Creek Road Spur 1 GSV and ground surface at former log dump, facing northwest.



Figure 26: Spur 2 GSV and vegetation, facing north.



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**Figure 27: Spur 2 GSV along former snig track, facing north.**



**Figure 28: Spur 2 GSV, tall grass and spots of lantana, facing northeast.**



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Figure 29: Wittigs Road, facing east with cut and fill road construction visible on slope.



Figure 30: Wittigs Road former Forestry quarry for road base adjacent to roadside, facing northeast.



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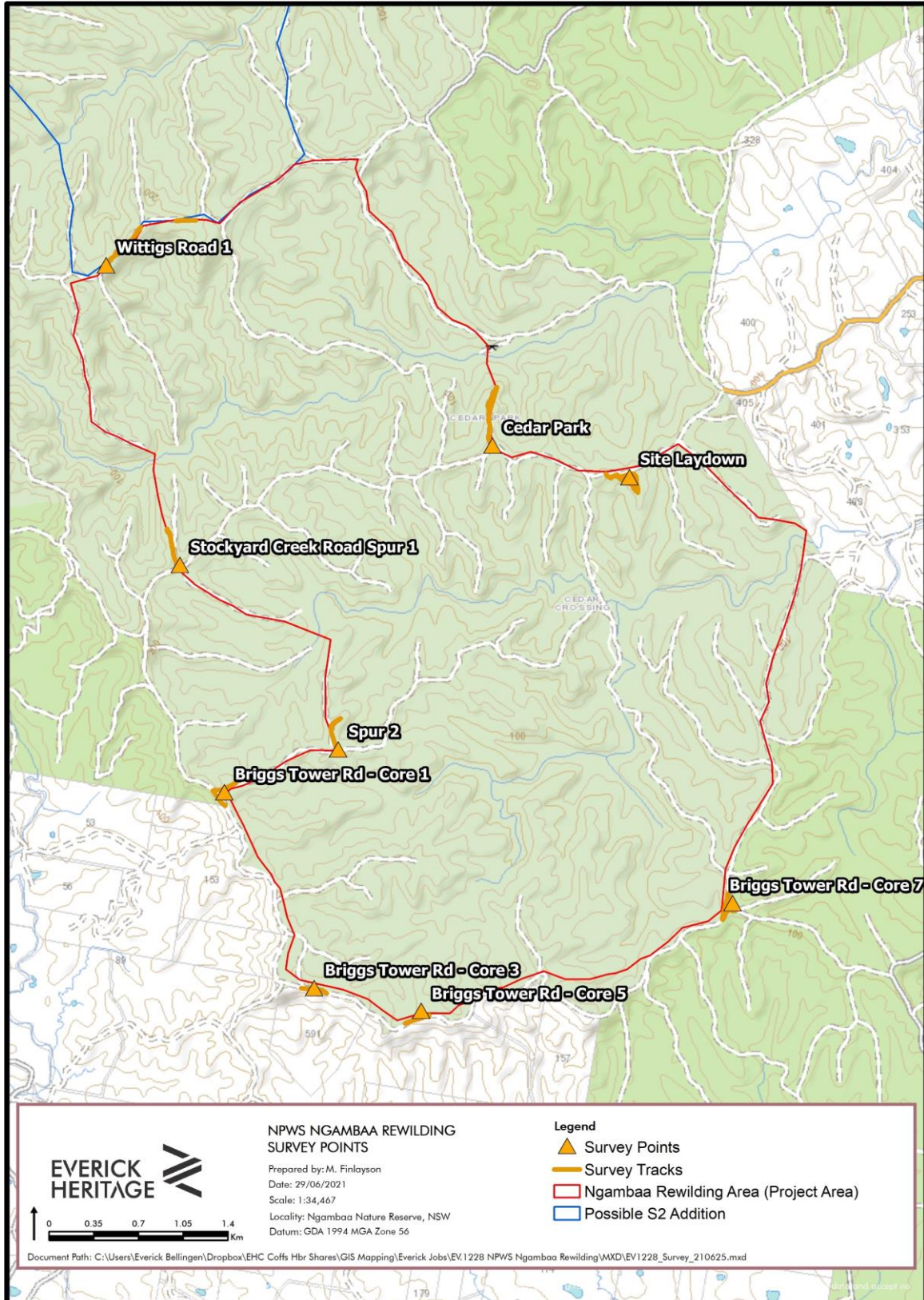


Figure 31: Survey coverage.



## 7. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

### 7.1. Assessment outcomes

As a result of the field inspections and consultation with RAPs it is possible to proceed with the ACHAR based on the following:

- a) The ground surface is significantly disturbed from the following:
  - i. Historic forest clearing in Ngambaa Nature Reserve, particularly on the ridgetops and ridgelines including forest stockpiles and snigg tracks.
  - ii. Construction and maintenance of forestry roads through the reserve historically and as upgraded for tourism within Ngambaa National Park.
  - iii. Use of flat ridges and spurs along Stockyard Creek Road as historic Forestry log dumps.
- b) GSV was generally poor due to accumulation of leaf litter, bark and stick fall. GSV is estimated to be at approximately 5% through the Project Area, with exposures confined predominantly to the disturbed road corridors.
- c) Aboriginal objects were identified along Briggs Tower Road during a previous Aboriginal cultural heritage survey. Of these artefacts Briggs Tower Road Core 1 (Figure 32- Figure 35) was positively identified as a stone core/ unifacial chopper at the intersection of Briggs Tower Road and Buds Crossing Road (see also Table 6) and has been registered on AHIMS.
- d) The remaining artefacts identified in the previous NPWS study were determined not to meet the criteria for stone artefacts, except for Core 5. Core 5 was identified as a stone axe from the provided photos, however, could not be relocated within the forest based on poor GPS accuracy at the time of the original site record.
- e) The previously recorded scarred trees at Cedar Park campground were unable to be reidentified. Mature trees inspected at the campground and on the adjacent road in proximity to the campground did not have cultural scars present. A AHIMS site record form is not available for these scar trees.
- f) Kevin Smith indicated his knowledge of numerous other sites in Ngambaa Nature Reserve not currently recorded on AHIMS. This likely accounts for general gap of recorded sites inside Ngambaa Nature Reserve in comparison to Tambaroona to the east of the Project Area.
- g) The results of the survey are consistent with the findings of Hall and Lomax and indicate that there is a limited potential for large Aboriginal sites with more than 100 artefacts within the Project Area.

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Figure 32: Original location of Briggs Tower Road Core 1 at Briggs Tower Road intersection.



Figure 33: Briggs Tower Road Core 1 Dorsal surface



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Figure 34: Briggs Tower Road Core 1 ventral surface.



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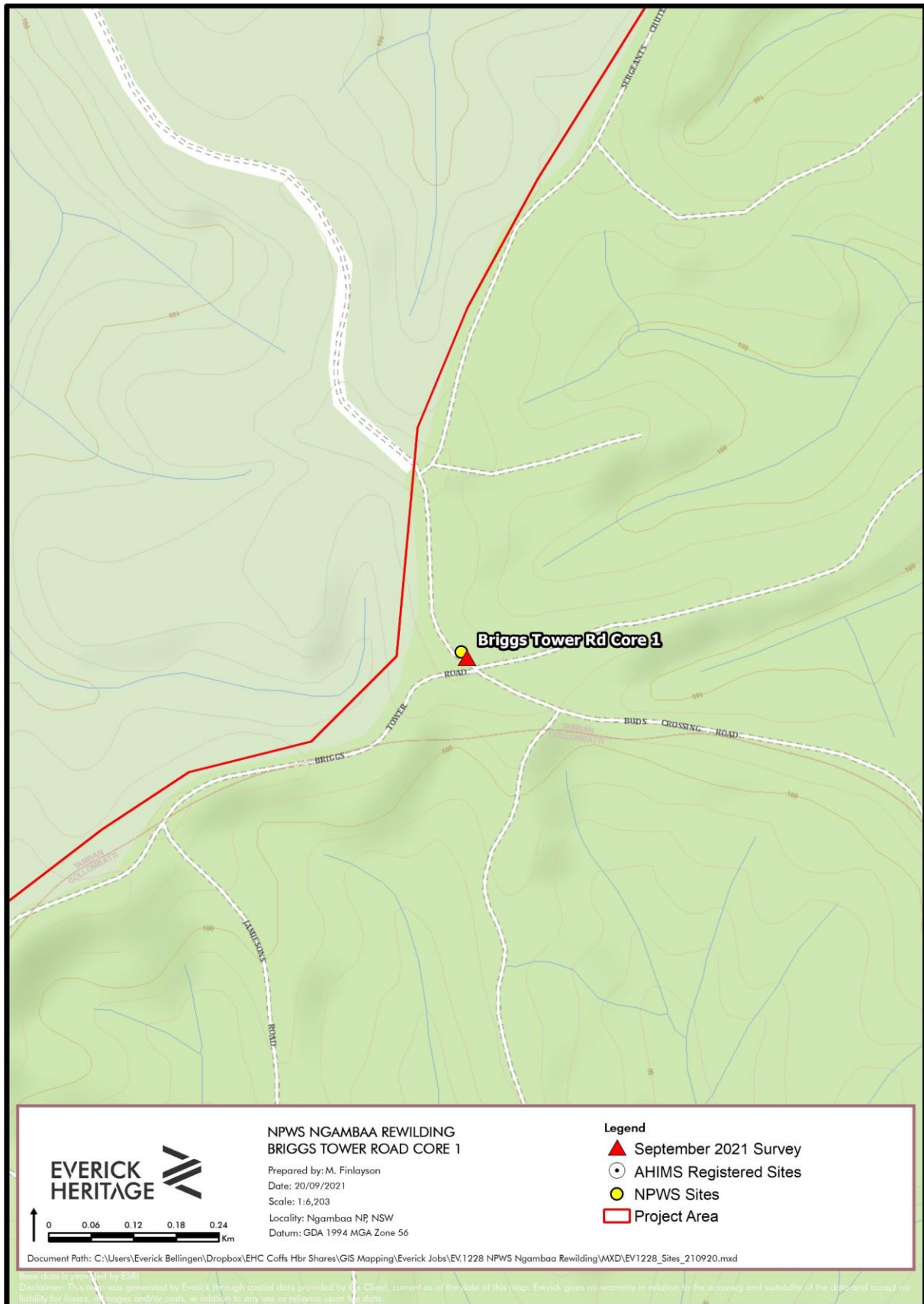


Figure 35: Location of Briggs Tower Road Core 1.

Details of the Briggs Tower Road Core 1 site are provided in Table 6. This site has been registered on AHIMS, and an AHIMS ID is pending.

**Table 6: Archaeological site summary.**

Site name	Location (GDA)	Description	L x W x T (mm)	% Cortex	Retouch
Briggs Tower Road Core 1	E480912 N6579366	Argillite core/ unifacial chopper	103x 61x 46	40	Along 1 edge only.

## 7.2. Values assessment

### 7.2.1. Social or Cultural Value

The Project Area contains several previously recorded isolated artefacts which are consistent in distribution with the findings of the regional state forest investigations (Hall and Lomax 1996). Previous investigations by NPWS have concluded that the potential for low density scatters of artefacts exists on all spurs and ridge crests where soils have not been significantly disturbed. These sites provide tangible evidence of the occupation of the sub-coastal lowland forests along the NSW east coast by Aboriginal people.

### 7.2.2. Historic value

The Project Area does not have any demonstrable historic value. Uncle Fred Kelly indicated that his family spent time working in the Tamban Forests and travelled through the forest roads as a child when he travelled with his father and mother.

### 7.2.3. Scientific (Archaeological) and Educational Value

The following table is provided to understand the scientific values of the artefacts within Ngambaa Nature Reserve (Table 7).

**Table 7: Scientific Value Assessment.**

Values	Comment
<b>Research Potential</b>	The research potential is limited as the artefact sites have been substantially disturbed. However, there is the potential to understand broad questions around the movement patterns of Aboriginal people through the sub-coastal forest environments.
<b>Representativeness</b>	The sites are representative of sub-coastal artefact scatters. The distribution of isolated artefacts throughout the ridgelines and spurs of Ngambaa Nature Reserve are consider typical of sub-coastal sites where small groups moved

Values	Comment
	widely through the forest but had more permanent and larger campsites closer to the major rivers.
<b>Rarity</b>	The archaeological sites are not considered to be rare. The sites recorded on spurs with tracks are vulnerable to damage from logging operations, however there are likely numerous undisturbed sites on spurs and ridges which have not been disturbed by track and trail construction.
<b>Educational Value</b>	The archaeological sites have moderate educational value. While the sites are relatively small, they form part of a connected cultural landscape. Additionally, the accessibility to the sites increases the potential for community driven research.

## 7.2.4. Aesthetic Value

The forests of Ngambaa Nature Reserve generally have aesthetic values which contribute to the Aboriginal significance of the site, in that they provide a visual reference for a pre-colonial/ natural landscape of the Macleay Valley.

## 7.2.5. Summary statement of significance

Aboriginal sites within Ngambaa Nature Reserve form part of a connected cultural landscape which includes isolated finds and small-scale artefact scatters which are primarily located on ridges and spurs. The sites represent the use of forest environments by Aboriginal groups which primarily camped close-by to rivers and waterways on the coast and valleys. The artefacts are not considered to be regionally rare, however the sites have an elevated potential for Aboriginal community driven research as they are so accessible to the public.

## 7.3. Impact Assessment

The Proposed Works comprises the construction of a 31 km long feral animal fence at a width of 10 to 15 m in the south of Ngambaa Nature Reserve (Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4). The following aspects of the fence design have will result in disturbance of topsoil deposits:

- Construction of a mesh fence using standard agricultural star pickets and 90 mm round metal corner posts.
- Removal of above ground vegetation and trees using mobile industrial mulcher including permanent vehicular access along the fence line for maintenance.



The Proposed Works will not impact any Aboriginal sites registered on AHIMS. Briggs Tower Road Core 1 is located in proximity to the impact area, however, will be avoided during the proposed works.

It is concluded that there will be no loss of value from these works (Table 8).

**Table 8: Impact Assessment summary.**

Site ID	Name	Type of harm	Degree of harm	Consequence of harm
TBC	Briggs Tower Road Core 1	None	None	No loss of value.

## 7.4. Management and Mitigation Measures

The following management and mitigation options have been considered for archaeological sites known to occur in the immediate vicinity of the propose Ngambaa Nature Reserve Rewilding fence (see Table 8):

- a) complete avoidance
- b) partial avoidance
- c) harm with community collection and repatriation on-site
- d) harm without community collection.

It is concluded that (a) complete avoidance is the most appropriate management response for Briggs Tower Road Core 1 within Ngambaa Nature Reserve. This assessment acknowledges the following:

- the advice and comment from RAPS regarding the engagement of Aboriginal sites officers to assist with the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage during the works
- the degree to the artefacts will have been disturbed by forest operations
- the known distribution of archaeological sites across the forest landscapes of the Macleay and Nambucca Valleys; and
- the conservation principle of managing Aboriginal objects 'on country'.

Additional archaeological investigation has been considered. However, having consideration for the nature and extent of archaeological sites, the scale of the Project Area and the nature of the Proposed Works it is not considered that a test excavation program would inform or alter the management response. This conclusion relies on the knowledge of the assessment team who are familiar with archaeological sites within forest landscapes and have first hand experience with the limitations of standard archaeological investigation methods. The specific constraint identified by the assessment team is the limitation of the archaeological investigation to 0.5% of the identified potential archaeological deposit. In this instance the preference of the RAPS is to have Aboriginal sites officers engaged as part of the construction program to increase effective coverage of community collection to somewhere between 50 and 75%.

## 7.5. Ecological Sustainability Statement

The Proposed feral animal exclusion fence will result in the disturbance of topsoils with the potential to contain low density stone artefact scatters and isolated artefacts, though no registered Aboriginal Sites. These types of sites are common throughout the forest landscapes of the Macleay Valley and are expected to be present on spurs and ridgelines throughout Ngambaa Nature Reserve. The fence design and construction method has been revised to limit the ecological impact of the proposal. This includes a significant reduction of topsoil movement by using star pickets and above mobile mulcher to clear the alignment. As such, the amount of topsoil which will be disturbed during works has substantially reduced and the potential for removal and reinstatement of the original forest will be increased.

## 7.6. Contribution of Aboriginal Parties to the Assessment

The RAPs have been provided an opportunity to comment on the proposal and construction methodology and have been supportive of the objectives of the project. The primary contribution has been to provide support with the construction methodology to ensure that Aboriginal community members are available and trained to participate in the construction team as spotters and to implement the unexpected finds protocol if necessary.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are provided to ameliorate impacts to the Aboriginal cultural landscape in the vicinity of the Proposed Works and Ngambaa Nature Reserve.

### **Recommendation 1: Avoidance of Briggs Tower Road Core 1.**

It is recommended that the registered Aboriginal Site Briggs Tower Road Core 1 is avoided during the works. A two metre exclusion buffer should be used during the works to avoid any inadvertent impact to the site.

### **Recommendation 2: Community involvement.**

As part of the works, six monthly consultation updates to the RAPs should be undertaken to keep everyone informed on how the works are progressing.

It is recommended that monitoring of ground penetrating works located in the vicinity of the sites recorded by Uncle Mark Flanders (see Table 4) is undertaken by a representative from Kempsey or Unkya LALC or Aboriginal site identification trained personnel. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to the employment of local Aboriginal people and/ or organisations to encompass more fully the principal of intergenerational equity.

### **Recommendation 3: Unexpected Aboriginal objects**

Unexpected Aboriginal objects remain protected by the *NPW Act*. If any such objects, or potential objects, are uncovered during the activity, work in the vicinity must cease, and Heritage NSW, and Kempsey and Unkya LALC be contacted for advice. If the Aboriginal object cannot be avoided as part of the works, then an AHIP is required.

### **Recommendation 4: Aboriginal Human Remains.**

Although it is unlikely that Human Remains will be located at any stage during earthworks within the Project Area, should this event arise it is recommended that all works must halt in the immediate area to prevent any further impacts to the remains. The Site should be cordoned off and the remains themselves should be left untouched. The nearest police station (Macksville), the RAPs and the Heritage NSW Regional Office (Coffs Harbour) are all to be notified as soon as possible. If the remains are found to be of Aboriginal origin and the police do not wish to investigate the site for criminal activities, the Aboriginal community and the Heritage NSW should be consulted as to how the remains should be dealt with. Work may only resume after agreement is reached between all notified parties, provided it is in accordance with all parties' statutory obligations.



# EVERICK HERITAGE

It is also recommended that in all dealings with Aboriginal human remains, the Proponent should use respectful language, bearing in mind that they are the remains of Aboriginal people rather than scientific specimens.

# EVERICK HERITAGE

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# EVERICK HERITAGE

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# EVERICK HERITAGE

## APPENDIX A: CORRESPONDENCE WITH RAPS

Notification of site inspection/ consultation meeting (Tuesday 17 August)

From: Tim Hill

Sent: Tuesday, 17 August 2021 2:19 PM

To: Tim Hill; Fred Kelly; Edward Moran; micheledonovan@bigpond.com; klalc\_cf@bigpond.com; generalmanager@decac.com.au; Scott Filmer; Rhys Pacey

Cc: Fred Kelly; Rhys Pacey; Kevin Smith

Subject: Ngambaa Nature Reserve Site Inspection

When: Tuesday, 21 September 2021 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Where: Briggs Tower Road

All

Further to our previous cancellation of our site inspection, we wish to undertake an additional consultation meeting to discuss the proposed Ngamba NP Rewilding project on Tuesday 21 September. Specifically, this meeting will look to cover off on the proposed AHIP/management requirements and identify previously recorded isolated artefacts along Briggs Tower Road.

The meeting point will be the corner of Buds Crossing Road (continues on from Range Road) and Briggs Tower Road at 9am.

Please note- we now have advice that site meetings are exempt from the stay at home orders, so long as we provide a COVID safe work environment. As such, everyone will need to find their own way to the meeting. It's a pretty good road and we will pay mileage at 0.90c/km. Let me know. We will provide masks, sanitiser and a QR check in code.

Ta

Tim Hill

BA (Hons)

Principal (Coffs Harbour)

Ph: (02) 6655 0225

Mob: 0422 309 822

Notification of site inspection (1 June 2021)

From: Tim Hill

Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 11:42 AM

To: generalmanager@decac.com.au; micheledonovan@bigpond.com; Edward Moran  
[swrac@hotmail.com](mailto:swrac@hotmail.com);

# EVERICK HERITAGE

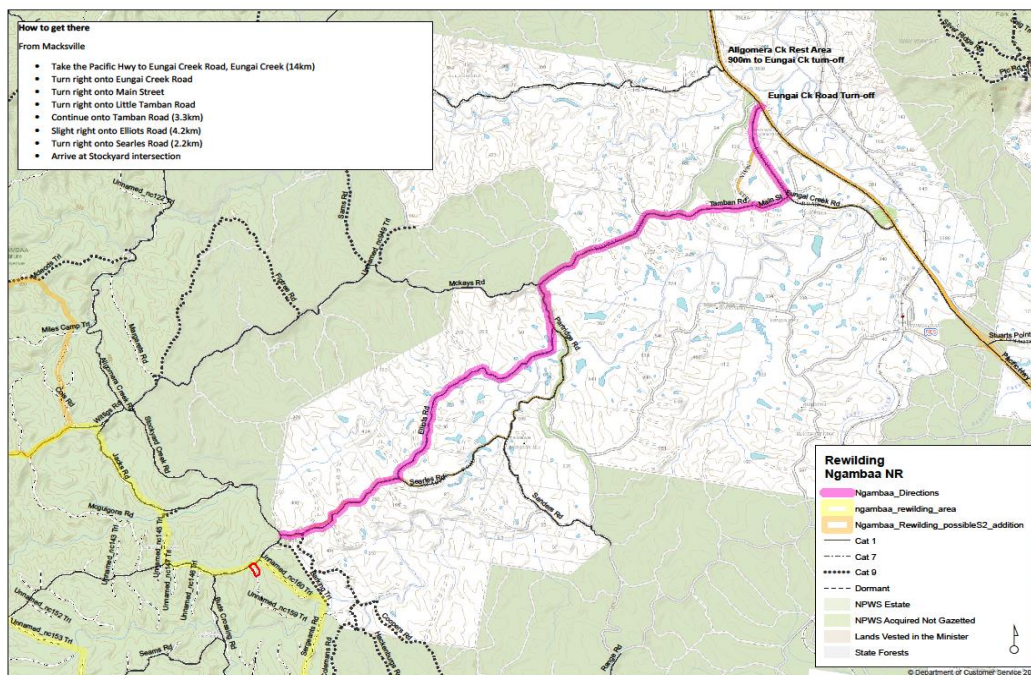
Cc: CEO (klalc\_ceo@bigpond.com) <klalc\_ceo@bigpond.com>; Ben Luffman <Ben.Luffman@ghd.com>; scott.filmer@environment.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Ngambaa Rewilding Project

Hi Ngarie, Michele and Edward.

Thank you for your registration for the Ngambaa NP Rewilding Project ACHA. Please see attached a map of the proposed rewilding fence include the current proposal (red) and potential future extension (blue). We will through the design and construction of the fence on the day.

We are planning a site visit and archaeological inspection on Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 8.30. I hope to be finished by 3pm. The directions from NPWS are provided below, however if it is easier we can meet at 8am at Eungai General Store. If you have any questions in the mean-time please give me a call.



Tim Hill

BA (Hons)

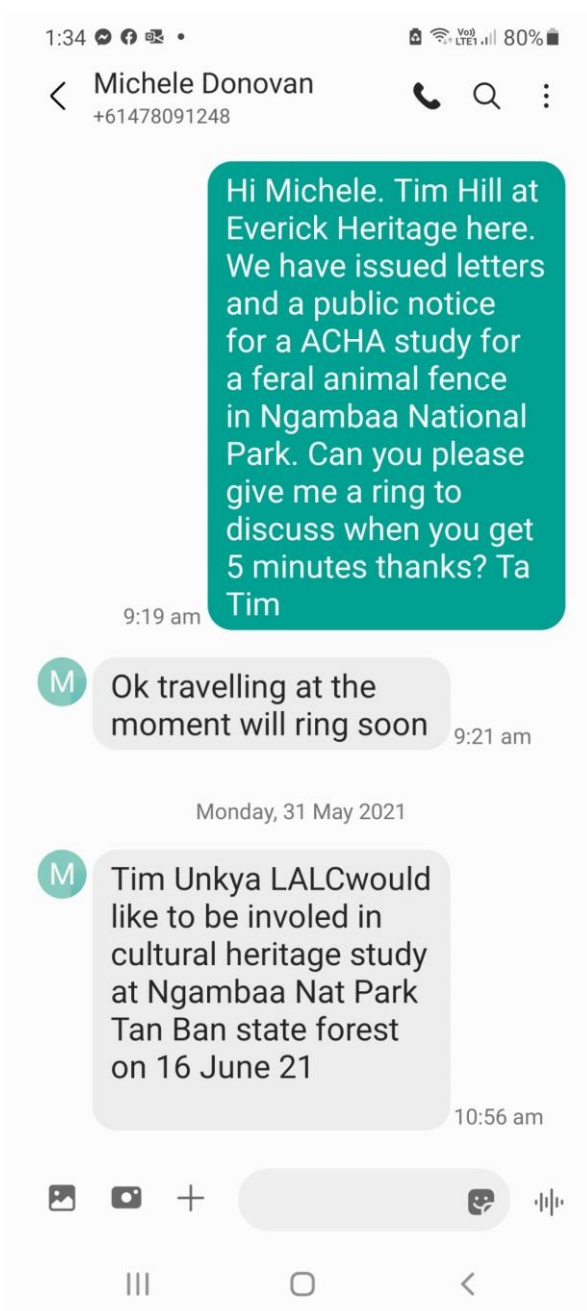
Principal (Coffs Harbour)

Ph: (02) 6655 0225

Mob: 0422 309 822

# EVERICK HERITAGE

Registration from Unkya LALC (31 May 2021)



Registration from South West Rocks Aboriginal Corporation (23 May 2021)

From: Edward Moran <swrac@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2021 1:39:51 PM

To: Tim Hill <t.hill@everick.net.au>

Subject: Re: Registration of interest Ngambaa Nature Reserve

Hi Tim



# EVERICK HERITAGE

Can I register an interest in that the Ngambaa ACHA please.

Regards

Edward

Sent from my iPhone

Dunghutti Elders Council (Aboriginal Corporation) RTNBC (24 May 2021)

From: generalmanager@decac.com.au <generalmanager@decac.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 4:18 PM

To: Tim Hill <t.hill@everick.net.au>

Subject: Please keep Elders updated on both Projects.

Hi Tim,

We have received letters from you pertaining to Projects, Everick heritage is being engaged in to do Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Please keep DEC informed on both projects currently being carried out on Dunghutti Country.

Also please contact the DEC if any assistance is needed in carrying the ACH Assessment

Kind Regards.

Ngairé Matthews

General Manager

Dunghutti Elders Council (Aboriginal Corporation) RNTBC

ICN: 2867

PH: 6562 2346

F: 6562 5742

M: 0448 111 284

E: generalmanager@decac.com.au

I Pay my respect to Elders, Past & Present.

# EVERICK HERITAGE

I Acknowledge that I work & live on Dunghutti Traditional Lands....

# EVERICK HERITAGE

## APPENDIX B: CORRESPONDENCE WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Garby Elders  
Anthony Dootson  
11 Kelly Street  
CORINDI BEACH NSW 2456

Dear Anthony,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

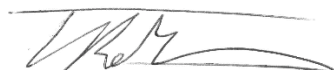
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We are seeking to consult with all Aboriginal persons and organisations that may have knowledge about the history of the Project Area. Consultation will be consistent with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010). If you are interested, or know of persons who may be interested, we request that you contact us by **28 May 2021** to register your interest. Please write to:

Tim Hill  
Principal (Coffs Harbour)  
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd  
Unit 11 / 1 Oak Street  
BELLINGEN NSW 2454/or  
[t.hill@everick.net.au](mailto:t.hill@everick.net.au)

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact Tim Hill on 0422 309 822. If you wish to find out more about our qualifications and experience in this field, please visit our website [www.everick.com.au](http://www.everick.com.au). We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Garlambirla Guuyu-girrwa Aboriginal Corporation  
Richard Widders  
PO Box 6904  
PARK BEACH NSW 2450

Dear Richard,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

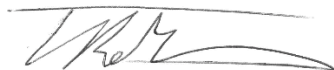
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Mudjay Elders  
Cultural Heritage Officer  
11 Anderton Street  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

We wish to advise that we have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed rewilding program to take place within Ngambaa Nature Reserve, NSW (the 'Project Area'). The assessment will be conducted to support the NPWS proposal for the construction of a 31 km long feral wildlife fence to be installed within the Ngambaa Nature Reserve (see enclosed plan). Accordingly, Everick Heritage is seeking the assistance of the Aboriginal community in assessing potential impacts this project may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Susan Hoskins  
31 Soren Larson Crescent  
BOAMBEE EAST NSW 2452

Dear Susan,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

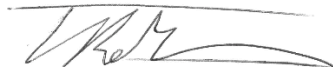
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Gurehlgam Corporation Ltd T/A Yarrowarra  
Kenn Payne  
PO Box 1676  
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Dear Kenn,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

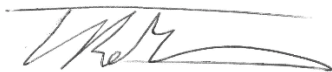
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[t.hill@everick.net.au](mailto:t.hill@everick.net.au)

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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Mimi Mothers Aboriginal Corporation  
Marcia Hillery  
90 High Street  
BOWRAVILLE NSW 2449

Dear Marcia,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

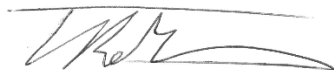
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Cultural Co-operative Ltd  
Gary Williams  
14 Belwood Road  
Via NAMBUCCA HEADS NSW 2448

Dear Gary,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**


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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Gumbaynggirr Native Title Group  
Cultural Heritage Officer  
14 Belwood Road  
NAMBUCCA HEADS NSW 2448

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

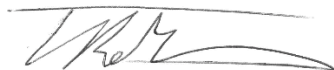
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Gumbaynggirr Elders  
Cultural Heritage Officer  
PO Box 400  
NAMBUCCA HEADS NSW2448

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Merrigarn Indigenous Corporation  
Shaun Carroll  
PO Box 246  
SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147

Dear Shaun,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**


We wish to advise that we have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed rewilding program to take place within Ngambaa Nature Reserve, NSW (the 'Project Area'). The assessment will be conducted to support the NPWS proposal for the construction of a 31 km long feral wildlife fence to be installed within the Ngambaa Nature Reserve (see enclosed plan). Accordingly, Everick Heritage is seeking the assistance of the Aboriginal community in assessing potential impacts this project may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Derick Vale Sr  
DFTV Enterprises  
5 Mountbatten Close  
RUTHERFORD NSW 2320

Dear Derrick,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

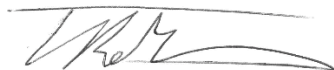
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BELLINGEN NSW 2454/or  
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Aaron Talbott  
6 Bando Street  
GUNNEDAH NSW 2380

Dear Aaron,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

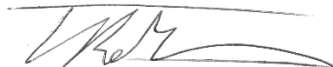
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Tim Hill  
Principal (Coffs Harbour)  
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Natalene Mercy  
6 Bando Street  
GUNNEDAH NSW 2380

Dear Natalene,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

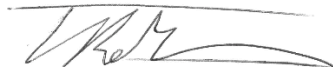
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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Jagun Elders  
Tony Perkins  
PO Box 649  
WOOLGOOLGA NSW 2456

Dear Tony,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**


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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Norm Archibald  
17 Flobern Ave  
WAUCHOPE NSW 2446

Dear Norm,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

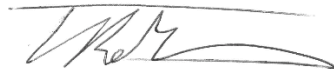
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Daniel Carriage  
369 Old Coast  
KORORA NSW 2450

Dear Daniel,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

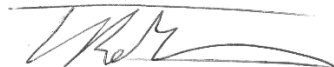
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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Yurrandgi  
Marcelle and Anthony Tonkin  
4 Bream Place  
SEELANDS NSW 2460

Dear Marcelle,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**


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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Murri Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation  
Darleen Johnson  
PO Box 246  
SEVEN HILLS NSW 2147

Dear Darleen,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

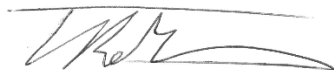
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Gumbaynggirr Wenonah Head Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC  
Christian Lugnan  
35 Apollo Drive  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Dear Christian,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Muurbay Bundani Aboriginal Corporation  
Li Tibbett  
468 Ski Lodge Road  
SEELANDS NSW 2460

Dear Li,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**


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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Richard Jarrett  
101 Palmer Street  
NAMBUCCA HEADS NSW 2448

Dear Richard,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

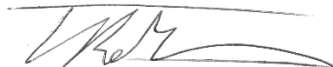
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Director  
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# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Leon Petrou  
17/42 Ramsgate Street  
KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059

Dear Leon,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

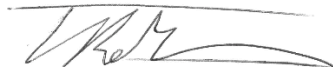
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Director  
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# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation  
Colin Ahoy  
4 Archibald Street  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Dear Colin,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation  
Garry Morris  
Locked Mail Bag 2  
KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Garry,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

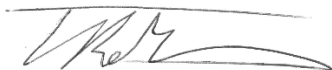
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Director  
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# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Dunghutti Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation  
Board of Directors  
PO Box 179  
KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

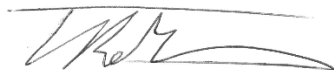
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Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Goori Galbans Aboriginal Corporation  
Madeline Donovan  
3/4 John Street  
KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Madeline,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

14 May 2021

# EVERICK HERITAGE

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Guri Wa Ngundagar Aboriginal Corporation  
Noel Lockwood  
PO Box 115  
KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Noel,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

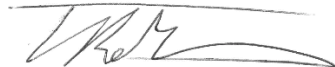
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Tim Hill  
Principal (Coffs Harbour)  
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Unit 11 / 1 Oak Street  
BELLINGEN NSW 2454/or  
[t.hill@everick.net.au](mailto:t.hill@everick.net.au)

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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Mirriwinni Gardens Aboriginal Academy  
Fay Oliver  
Private Mail Bag  
KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Fay,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

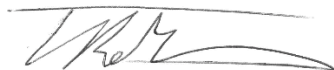
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Ngarramang-Kuri Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Group  
Abie Wright  
21 Bancroft St  
GLENDALE NSW 2285

Dear Abie,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

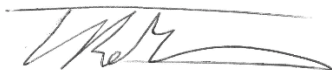
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Nulla Nulla Boongutti Aboriginal Corporation  
Mervyn Cohen  
Willawarren Post Office  
via KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Mervyn,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

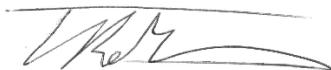
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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Pandanus People Inc  
Shirley Doyle  
1 Mayta Moran Fig Tree Reserve  
SOUTH WEST ROCKS 2431

Dear Shirley,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

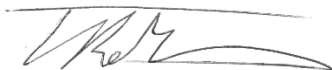
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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

HSB Heritage Consultants  
Patricia Hampton  
81 North Street  
WEST KEMPSEY 2440

Dear Patricia,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

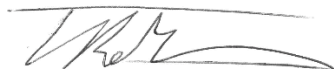
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

South Kempsey Aboriginal Men's Group Aboriginal Corporation  
Raymond Donovan  
76 Middleton Street  
SOUTH KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Raymond,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

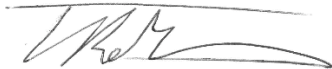
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Yours Sincerely,



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Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

South West Rocks Aboriginal Corporation  
Edward Moran  
4 Crystal Place  
SOUTH WEST ROCKS NSW 2431

Dear Edward,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

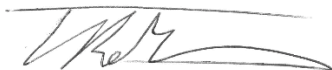
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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Thawan Heritage Consultant  
Jennifer Hampton  
35 Larool Street  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Dear Jennifer,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Three Ducks Dreaming Surveying and Consulting  
Leonard Wright  
40 Tuggareh Circuit  
FLINDERS NSW 2529

Dear Leonard,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

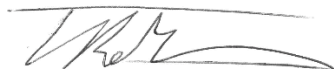
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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Aaron Broad  
1 Waratah Avenue  
ALBION PARK RAIL NSW 2527

Dear Aaron,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

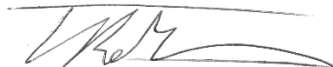
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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Maruung Ballijin  
Michael Donovan  
12 Nineteenth Avenue  
STUARTS POINT NSW 2441

Dear Michael,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

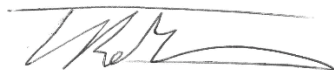
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Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Aliera French Trading  
17 Kalinda Street  
BLACKSMITHS NSW 2281

Dear Sir / Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

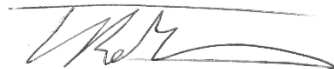
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Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV. 1228

Iwatta Aboriginal Corporation  
Steve Ahoy  
8 Morson Avenue  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Dear Steve,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

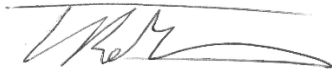
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Tim Robins  
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Everick Heritage

## APPENDIX C: CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Sam Higgs  
Senior Team Leader -Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation- North  
Heritage NSW  
6/110 Valentine Avenue  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Sam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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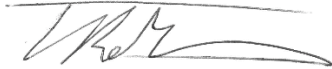
In consideration of the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010), and in order to ensure that they fulfil their legal and ethical obligations to identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, our client has instructed us to undertake the full community consultation process recommended by the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).

We would welcome any input that Heritage NSW wish to have in this process, and we will keep Heritage NSW informed of further developments. In particular, we request that Heritage NSW please forward to us the contact details for Aboriginal persons or organisations that may have an interest in the Project Area and who may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the study area.

If you wish to find out more about our qualifications and experience in this field, please visit our website [www.everick.com.au](http://www.everick.com.au). We look forward to working with you further.

# EVERICK HERITAGE

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd.

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

The Office of the Registrar  
*Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*  
PO Box 112  
GLEBE, NSW 2037

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

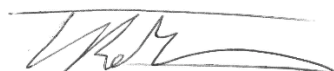
We wish to advise that we have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed rewilding program to take place within Ngambaa Nature Reserve, NSW (the 'Project Area'). The assessment will be conducted to support the NPWS proposal for the construction of a 31 km long feral wildlife fence to be installed within the Ngambaa Nature Reserve (see enclosed plan). Accordingly, Everick Heritage is seeking the assistance of the Aboriginal community in assessing potential impacts this project may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

In consideration of the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010), and in order to ensure that they fulfil their legal and ethical obligations to identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, our client has instructed us to undertake the full community consultation process recommended by the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).

We would welcome any input that the Office of the Registrar wish to have in this process, and we will keep the Office of the Registrar informed of further developments. In particular, we request that the Office of the Registrar please forward to us the contact details for Aboriginal persons or organisations that may have an interest in the Project Area and who may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the study area.

If you wish to find out more about our qualifications and experience in this field, please visit our website [www.everick.com.au](http://www.everick.com.au). We look forward to working with you further.

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd.



# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

NTSCorp Limited  
44-70 Rosehill Street  
REDFERN NSW 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

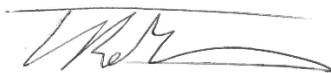
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In consideration of the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010), and in order to ensure that they fulfil their legal and ethical obligations to identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, our client has instructed us to undertake the full community consultation process recommended by the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).

We would welcome any input that NTSCorp wish to have in this process, and we will keep NTSCorp informed of further developments. In particular, we request that NTSCorp please forward to us the contact details for Aboriginal persons or organisations that may have an interest in the Project Area and who may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the study area.

If you wish to find out more about our qualifications and experience in this field, please visit our website [www.everick.com.au](http://www.everick.com.au). We look forward to working with you further.

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd.

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Louise Orr  
North Coast Local Land Services  
24-26 Mulgi Drive  
SOUTH GRAFTON NSW 2460

Dear Louise,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**


We wish to advise that we have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed rewilding program to take place within Ngambaa Nature Reserve, NSW (the 'Project Area'). The assessment will be conducted to support the NPWS proposal for the construction of a 31 km long feral wildlife fence to be installed within the Ngambaa Nature Reserve (see enclosed plan). Accordingly, Everick Heritage is seeking the assistance of the Aboriginal community in assessing potential impacts this project may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

In consideration of the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010), and in order to ensure that they fulfil their legal and ethical obligations to identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, our client has instructed us to undertake the full community consultation process recommended by the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).

We would welcome any input that North Coast LLS wish to have in this process, and we will keep North Coast LLS informed of further developments. In particular, we request that North Coast LLS please forward to us the contact details for Aboriginal persons or organisations that may have an interest in the Project Area and who may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the study area.

If you wish to find out more about our qualifications and experience in this field, please visit our website [www.everick.com.au](http://www.everick.com.au). We look forward to working with you further.

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd.

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

Planning and Development Manager  
Nambucca Valley Council  
PO Box 177  
MACKSVILLE NSW 2447

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**


We wish to advise that we have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed rewilding program to take place within Ngambaa Nature Reserve, NSW (the 'Project Area'). The assessment will be conducted to support the NPWS proposal for the construction of a 31 km long feral wildlife fence to be installed within the Ngambaa Nature Reserve (see enclosed plan). Accordingly, Everick Heritage is seeking the assistance of the Aboriginal community in assessing potential impacts this project may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

In consideration of the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010), and in order to ensure that they fulfil their legal and ethical obligations to identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, our client has instructed us to undertake the full community consultation process recommended by the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).

We would welcome any input that Nambucca Valley Council wish to have in this process, and we will keep Nambucca Valley Council informed of further developments. In particular, we request that Nambucca Valley Council please forward to us the contact details for Aboriginal persons or organisations that may have an interest in the Project Area and who may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the study area.

If you wish to find out more about our qualifications and experience in this field, please visit our website [www.everick.com.au](http://www.everick.com.au). We look forward to working with you further.

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd.

# EVERICK HERITAGE

14 May 2021

Our Ref: EV.1228

The General Manager  
Kempsey Shire Council  
22 Tozer Street  
WEST KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED REWILDING PROGRAM, NGAMBAA NATURE RESERVE, NSW  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

We wish to advise that we have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed rewilding program to take place within Ngambaa Nature Reserve, NSW (the 'Project Area'). The assessment will be conducted to support the NPWS proposal for the construction of a 31 km long feral wildlife fence to be installed within the Ngambaa Nature Reserve (see enclosed plan). Accordingly, Everick Heritage is seeking the assistance of the Aboriginal community in assessing potential impacts this project may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

In consideration of the *Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010), and in order to ensure that they fulfil their legal and ethical obligations to identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, our client has instructed us to undertake the full community consultation process recommended by the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010).

We would welcome any input that Kempsey Shire Council wish to have in this process, and we will keep Kempsey Shire Council informed of further developments. In particular, we request that Kempsey Shire Council please forward to us the contact details for Aboriginal persons or organisations that may have an interest in the Project Area and who may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the study area.

If you wish to find out more about our qualifications and experience in this field, please visit our website [www.everick.com.au](http://www.everick.com.au). We look forward to working with you further.

Yours Sincerely,



Tim Robins  
Director  
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd.



## APPENDIX D: PUBLIC NOTICE

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study

#### Registration of Interest

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd (ABN 78 102 206 1228) is seeking to consult with interested Aboriginal persons in preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed construction of a 31 km long feral wildlife fence to be installed within the Ngambaa Nature Reserve. Accordingly, Everick Heritage is seeking the assistance of the Aboriginal community in assessing potential impacts this project may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

Consultation will be undertaken for archaeological assessment in support of the program and potentially an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.

#### What do you need to do?

Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge of the region are invited to register their interest in writing with:

Tim Hill  
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd  
Unit 11, 1A Oak Street  
BELLINGEN NSW 2455  
or [t.hill@everick.net.au](mailto:t.hill@everick.net.au)

#### When must registration be received?

Registration must be received by **28 May 2021**