

Stratford Extension Project Environmental Impact Statement

APPENDIX I

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT





On Thursday 28 June 2012, Yancoal Australia Limited was listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and merged with Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) under a scheme of agreement on the same date. Stratford Coal Pty Ltd is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Yancoal Australia Limited. Any reference to GCL in this Appendix should be read as Yancoal Australia Limited.

STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Gloucester Shire Local Government Area

FEBRUARY 2012

Prepared for Stratford Coal Pty Ltd

By

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------|--|
| ACHA | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment |
| AHIMS | Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System |
| BRNOC | Bowens Road North Open Cut |
| DECCW | Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now OEH, see below) |
| EP&A Act | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979</i> as amended |
| GCL | Gloucester Coal Ltd |
| KAS | Kayandel Archaeological Services |
| NPWS | National Parks and Wildlife Service |
| OEH | Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly DECCW) |
| SCM | Stratford Coal Mine |
| SMC | Stratford Mining Complex |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Stratford Coal Mine and Bowens Road North Open Cut (both mines collectively referred to as the Stratford Mining Complex) are owned and operated by Stratford Coal Pty Ltd. Kayandel Archaeological Services was commissioned by Stratford Coal Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Stratford Extension Project. The Stratford Extension Project is a proposed extension of open cut mining activities at the Stratford Mining Complex.

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was conducted to assess the likely impact of the proposal on Aboriginal heritage, in accordance with legislative requirements.

A review of previous archaeological work and an Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System search was conducted to identify whether any Aboriginal objects or places had previously been recorded in the area. Review of this information revealed models that were valid for the subject area.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community resulted in the registration of seven Aboriginal groups and the formation of a sampling strategy prior to field survey. The field survey was conducted on 10 to 14 October 2011. Twelve previously unrecorded sites, two potential archaeological deposits and a potential cultural site were identified during the surveys. Three previously recorded sites within the subject area have also been considered.

Comments received from the registered Aboriginal parties are provided in this assessment. Also included in this assessment are the impact assessment and recommended management measures for the Stratford Extension Project.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *The Proponent*

The Stratford Coal Mine (SCM) and Bowens Road North Open Cut (BRNOC) (both mines collectively referred to as the Stratford Mining Complex [SMC]) are owned and operated by Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL) a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gloucester Coal Ltd.

1.2 *Purpose and Project Brief*

Kayandel Archaeological Services (KAS) was commissioned by SCPL to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is described in Section 3.

SCPL is seeking a Development Consent from the New South Wales (NSW) Minister for Planning under Division 4.1 of Part 4 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act) for the Project.

1.3 *The Subject Area*

The SMC is located 10 kilometres (km) south of Gloucester and approximately 100 km north of Newcastle, NSW (Figure 1). It is within an area of predominately cleared grazing land located to the east of The Bucketts Way, between the townships of Stratford and Craven. Coal mining has been undertaken at the SMC since 1995.

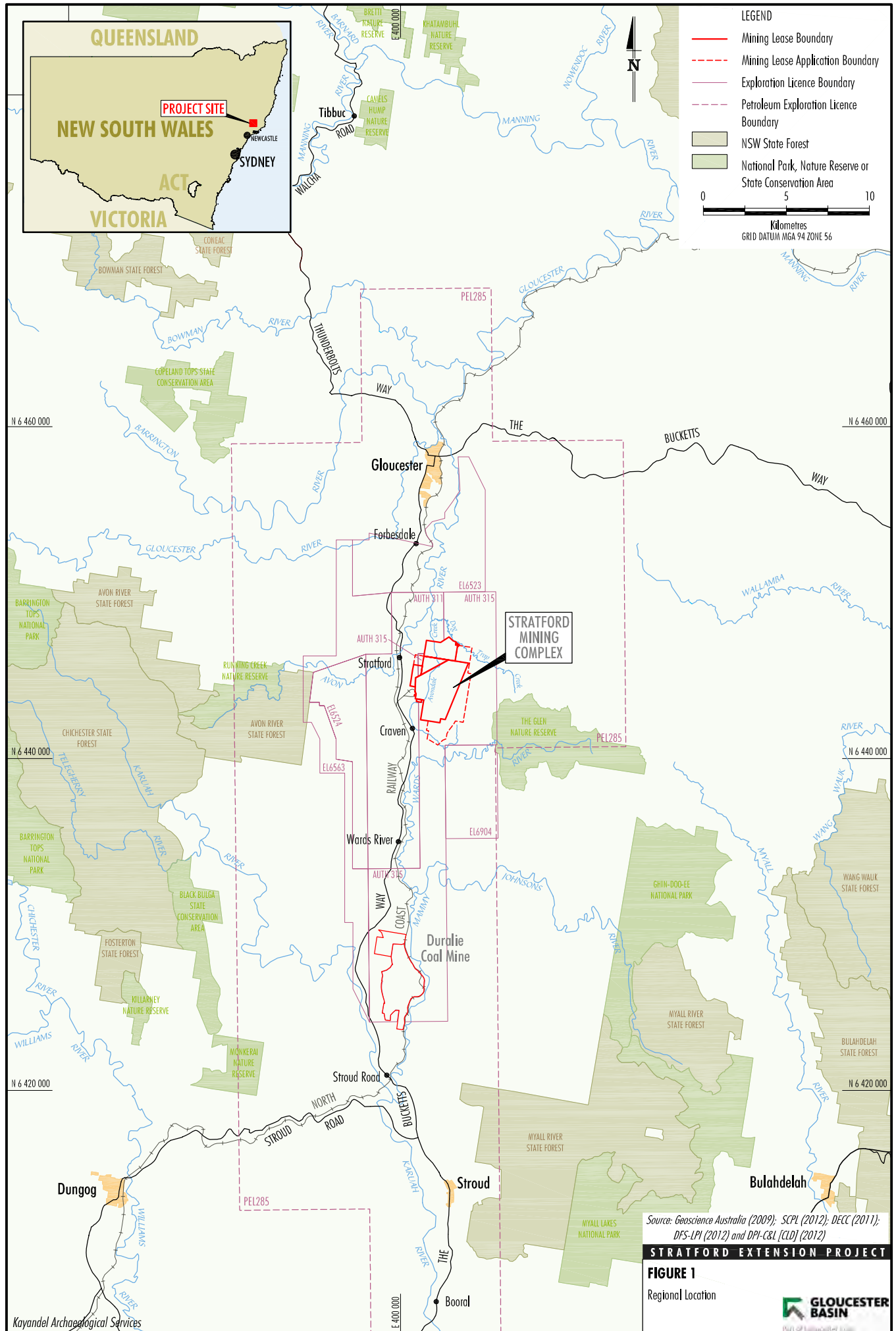
1.4 *Aims and Objectives of the Assessment*

The objective of this assessment is to provide SCPL with an ACHA suitable for inclusion in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of a Project Application under Division 4.1 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act. This study involves a description of the subject area, identification of heritage places and cultural values within the subject area. The assessment also assesses the potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage as a result of the Project and provides recommendations to minimise, manage and mitigate potential impacts.

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant requirements of the various advisory documents and guidelines. These guidelines and documents include:



Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Heritage in New South Wales (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH], 2011a).



-  *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Part 6 of the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974* [NP&W Act]) (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW], 2010a) (now referred to as the OEH).
-  *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (Code of Practice) (DECCW, 2010b).
-  Clause 80C of the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Regulation, 2009*.
-  *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (NSW Department of Environment and Conservation [DEC], 2005).
-  *The Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS, 1999).
-  *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: Standards and Guidelines Kit* (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service [NPWS], 1997).
-  *Ask First; A Guide to Respecting Indigenous Heritage Places and Values* (Australian Heritage Commission, 2002).
-  *NSW Minerals Industry Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects* (NSW Minerals Council, 2010).

1.5 Project Framework (Development Application, Zoning Study, etc.)

The proposed Project will involve an application under Division 4.1 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act. Until approval is granted, all Aboriginal objects within the subject area remain legally protected under the NP&W Act, as amended.

1.6 Study Limitations

Vegetation (including grass in paddocks, regenerating trees and natural forest) covered much of the subject area, impeding inspection of the ground surface. Varying landforms within the subject area resulted in different levels of visibility (see Section 6 for a detailed area description). It is therefore possible that inconspicuous sites (e.g. stone artefacts) may be present in the subject area that have not been identified during the recent surveys. However, it is considered that the survey and literature review identified all site types and significance levels present within the subject area and therefore the assessment provided herein is robust.

1.7 Structure of this Report

This report has been prepared in consideration of the requirements of the Code of Practice (DECCW 2010b), and as such is required to include specific information specified by the Code of Practice (DECCW, 2010b).

- Section 1: Outlines the development proposal area and the objectives and structure of this report.
- Section 2: Lists the investigators and contributors involved with this report.
- Section 3: Provides a detailed description of the development proposal.
- Section 4: Details the consultation and partnership with indigenous communities.
- Section 5: Provides a review of previous archaeological work undertaken in the area.
- Section 6: Outlines the landscape context and includes descriptions of land use history, climate, geology and vegetation within the subject area.
- Section 7: Provides background information relevant to previous archaeological works including relevant ethnohistory, the regional archaeological context and previous predictive models for the subject area.
- Section 8: Describes the regional character of Aboriginal land use and its material traces.
- Section 9: Describes predictions for the subject area, based on information gathered through previous research and the landscape context.
- Section 10: Documents the archaeological survey and data collection and includes information regarding the method of the survey and site recording and a description of the areas surveyed.
- Section 11: Lists the results of the survey.
- Section 12: Provides a discussion and analysis of these results.
- Section 13: Assesses the cultural heritage and archaeological significance of the subject area.
- Section 14: Assesses the impact of the Project on Aboriginal heritage.
- Section 15: Lists the management, mitigation measures and recommendations.
- Section 16: Lists the references cited in this report.

2. INVESTIGATORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

The field survey was conducted by Lance Syme, Melissa Dunk, Caroline Hubschmann and Warwick Wright of KAS.

As per Section 1.6 of the Code of Practice (DECCW, 2010b), the qualifications of the key KAS subject team are outlined and summarised in Table 1 and below.

| Archaeologist | Position | Qualifications | Experience | Tasks |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|------------|---|
| Lance Syme | Principal Archaeologist | BArts (Arch/Paleo), Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. (ACCAI) (Full Member), ICOMOS (Member) | 16 years | Background research, survey, report review and indigenous community consultation. |
| Caroline Hubschmann | Senior Archaeologist | BSc/BA (Hons), PhD. | 6 years | Survey, data collection and report writing. |
| Melissa Dunk | Archaeologist | B.Arch (Hons) | 2 years | Survey, data collection and report writing and GIS mapping. |
| Warwick Wright | Archaeologist | BA (Archaeology and Ancient History) | 10 years | Survey and data collection. |

Table 1: KAS Personnel and their Qualifications

Lance Syme, Principal Archaeologist, KAS

BA (Arch/Paleo), AACAI (Full Member), ICOMOS (Member)

As principal archaeologist and director of KAS, Lance has conducted projects that have included Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community consultation, heritage management liaison, field survey, site recording, archaeological excavation, artefact analysis and interpretation, archival research, and report preparation detailing heritage assessment and recommendations for cultural management plans. Projects undertaken to date have been completed within a full range of statutory contexts ranging from principal roles carried out as part of the Master planning process, conservation management planning, preparation of EISs, locality-specific reviews of environmental factors, and the needs that develop as a consequence of ongoing Development Applications.

Caroline Hubschmann, Senior Archaeologist, KAS

BSc/BA (Hons.), PhD

Caroline has extensive experience conducting field surveys, managing fieldwork teams, writing reports, conducting background research, consulting with local communities and operating global positioning system (GPS), differential GPS (DGPS) and total station equipment.

She has participated in numerous survey projects in diverse environmental contexts including Mudgee, Gunnedah, Mt Hope, Shoalhaven, Tarrawonga and Geelong. Caroline obtained her BA (Hons)/BSc from Monash University, where she also completed her PhD in Archaeology and Ancient History. Prior to joining KAS she gained extensive excavation experience in Egypt working with the Dakhleh Oasis Project and the Amarna Project, during which time she excavated the Roman settlement site of Kellis, and the pharaonic town of Mut el-Kharab.














Melissa Dunk, Archaeologist, KAS



BArch (Hons.)

As a qualified Archaeologist, Melissa completed her Bachelor of Archaeology (Honours) at La Trobe University and specializes in Australian Historical Archaeology. Her thesis examined Chinese ceramics found in Far North Queensland. She has extensive fieldwork experience in Aboriginal heritage assessments at Atherton, Mildura, Mudgee, Gunnedah, among others, as well as participating in the excavation of the World Heritage Listed Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton. Melissa also has technical skills in Geographic Information System mapping which includes operating GPS, DGPS and total stations. She is currently registered through the Victoria Department of Planning and Community Development as a registered cultural heritage advisor as well as memberships in the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology and National Trust.

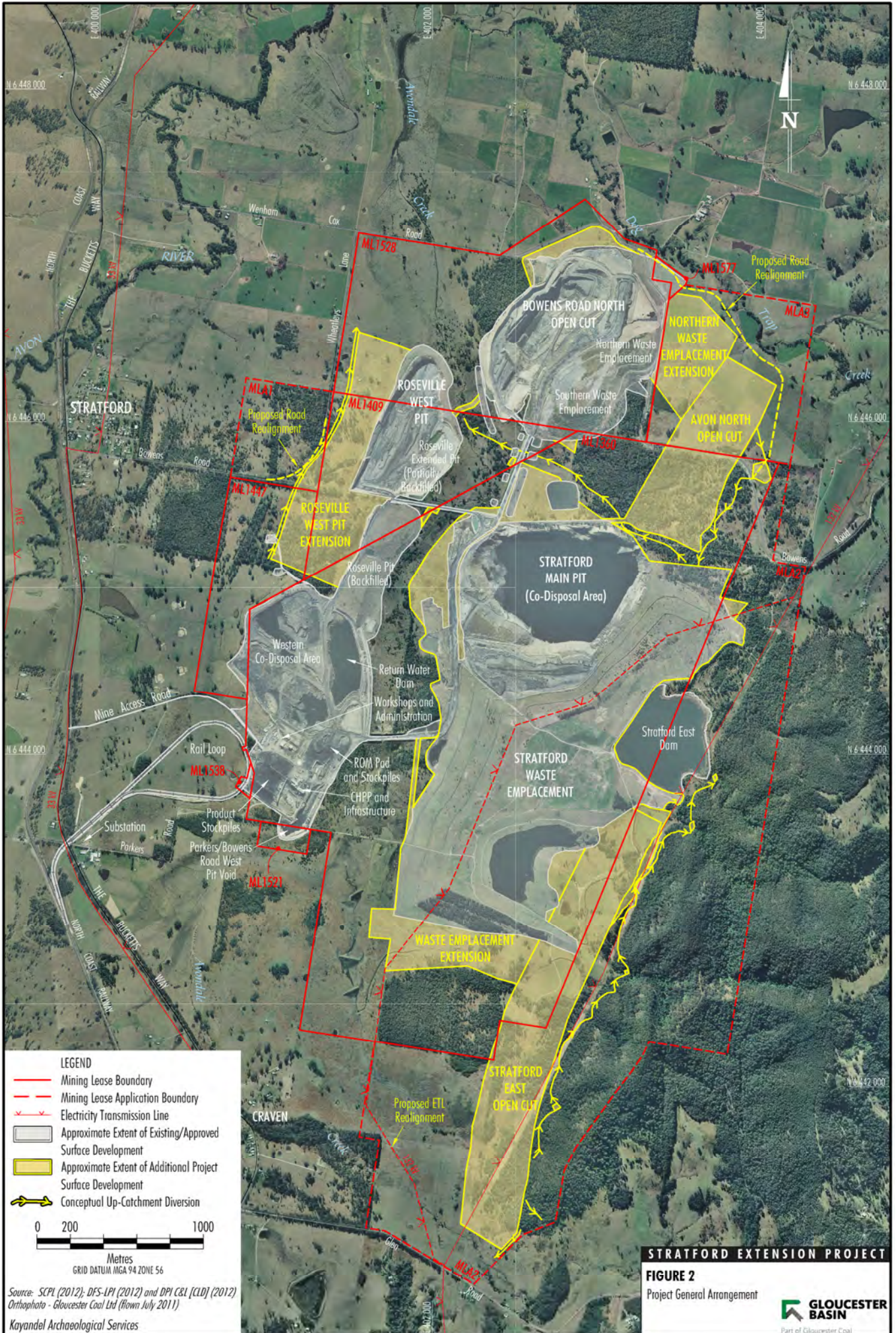
3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A detailed description of the Project is provided in Section 2 of the Main Report of the EIS. The main activities associated with the development of the Project would include:

-  run-of-mine (ROM) coal production up to 2.6 million tonnes per annum for an additional 11 years (commencing 1 July 2013 or upon grant of all required approvals), including mining operations associated with:
 - completion of the BRNOC;
 - extension of the existing Roseville West Pit; and
 - development of the new Avon North and Stratford East Open Cuts;
-  ongoing exploration activities;
-  progressive backfilling of mine voids with waste rock behind the advancing open cut mining operations;
-  continued and expanded placement of mine waste rock in the Stratford Waste Emplacement and Northern Waste Emplacement;
-  progressive development of new haul roads and internal roads;
-  coal processing at the existing coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP) including Project ROM coal, sized ROM coal received and unloaded from the Duralie Coal Mine (DCM) and material recovered periodically from the western co-disposal area;
-  stockpiling and loading of product coal to trains for transport on the North Coast Railway to Newcastle;
-  disposal of CHPP rejects via pipeline to the existing co-disposal area in the Stratford Main Pit and, later in the Project life, the Avon North Open Cut void;
-  realignments of Wheatleys Lane, Bowens Road, and Wenham Cox/Bowens Road;
-  realignment of a 132 kilovolt (kV) power line for the Stratford East Open Cut;
-  continued use of existing contained water storages/dams and progressive development of additional sediment dams, pumps, pipelines, irrigation infrastructure and other water management equipment and structures;
-  development of soil stockpiles, laydown areas and gravel/borrow areas, including minor modifications and alterations to existing infrastructure as required;
-  monitoring and rehabilitation;

-  all activities approved under DA 23-98/99 and DA 39-02-01; and
-  other associated minor infrastructure, plant, equipment and activities, including minor modifications and alterations to existing infrastructure as required.

The layout of the proposed Project is shown on Figure 2.



LEGEND

- Mining Lease Boundary
- - - Mining Lease Application Boundary
- x x x Electricity Transmission Line
- Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
- Approximate Extent of Additional Project Surface Development
- ↔ Conceptual Up-Catchment Diversion

0 200 1000
Metres
GRID DATUM MGA 94 ZONE 56

Source: SCPL (2012); DFS-LPI (2012) and DPI C&I (CLD) (2012)
 Orthophoto - Gloucester Coal Ltd (flown July 2011)
 Kayandel Archaeological Services





STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
FIGURE 2
 Project General Arrangement

GLOUCESTER BASIN
 Part of Gloucester Coal

4. PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The OEH recognises and values Aboriginal cultural heritage. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation are present as objects throughout the NSW landscape, and live in the memories, stories and associations of Aboriginal people in their traditional land or Country. Aboriginal cultural heritage is an essential part of Aboriginal people's cultural identity, connection and sense of belonging to Country. The OEH recognises that Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge should be provided an opportunity to inform the OEH of the cultural significance of objects or places, and have an input into the management of their cultural heritage (DECCW, 2010a).

In recognising the rights and interests of Aboriginal people in their cultural heritage, the OEH acknowledges that Aboriginal people:

-  are the primary source of information about the value of their heritage and how this is best protected and conserved;
-  must have an active role in any Aboriginal cultural heritage planning process;
-  must have early input into the assessment of cultural significance of their heritage and its management so that they can continue to fulfil their obligations towards their heritage; and
-  must control the way in which cultural knowledge and other information relating specifically to their heritage is used, as this may be an integral aspect of its heritage value (DECCW, 2010a).

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a) sets out a process for identifying Aboriginal parties who may have information on the cultural significance of objects or places, and provide Aboriginal people with opportunities to comment on the methods used to identify and assess objects or places, and opportunities to contribute to the development of management options and recommendations.

SCPL also recognises and values Aboriginal cultural heritage and provides opportunities for the Aboriginal community to have input into the identification, assessment and management of cultural heritage at the SMC. Consultation with the Aboriginal community for the current Project was carried out in accordance with the specified requirements outlined in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a).

A summary of the community consultation undertaken for the Project is outlined below and in Appendix 1. All written correspondence sent to and received from the Aboriginal community is provided in Appendices 2 and 3, respectively.

4.1 Notification of Proposed Project

SCPL provided written notification to the organisations listed in Table 2 and requested any Aboriginal person or groups who hold cultural knowledge of, or have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the subject area or surrounds.

| Name of Organisation | Written Notification Date |
|--|---------------------------|
| Coffs Harbour DECCW Environment Protection and Regulation Group Office | 23 June 2011 |
| Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 | 23 June 2011 |
| National Native Title Tribunal | 23 June 2011 |
| Native Title Services Corporation Limited | 23 June 2011 |
| Gloucester Shire Council | 23 June 2011 |
| Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority | 23 June 2011 |
| Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) | 23 June 2011 |
| Forster LALC | 23 June 2011 |

Table 2: Notified Organisations and Date of Notification

SCPL wrote to the Aboriginal parties identified by the organisations listed in Table 2. These parties were invited to register an interest in the process of community consultation with SCPL regarding the ACHA for the proposed Project. In addition to the written notifications, a notice was placed in the Gloucester Advocate, Great Lakes Advocate and Dungog Chronicle (13 July 2011) seeking registrations from any additional interested Aboriginal parties.

The Aboriginal parties listed in Table 3 registered their interest in being involved in the consultation process for the Project.

| Registered Aboriginal Parties | Date of Registration |
|---|----------------------|
| Cultural Consulting Services | 13 July 2011 |
| Karuah LALC | 19 July 2011 |
| Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | 24 July 2011 |
| Do-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys | 02 August 2011 |
| Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners | 08 August 2011 |
| Forster LALC | 25 August 2011 |
| Gloucester Worimi First People | 06 September 2011 |

Table 3: Registered Aboriginal Parties and Date of Registration

4.2 Presentation of Information about the Proposed Project

The registered Aboriginal parties were provided information about the proposed Project and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process in the form of a Proposed Methodology and an on-site information session held at the SCM on 26 September 2011. The purpose of the proposed methodology and information session was to explain the Project and consultation process in detail, define roles of the registered Aboriginal parties and the proponent, identify any protocols for obtaining and using sensitive cultural information and to give the registered Aboriginal parties an opportunity to

comment on the proposed assessment method and provide any relevant information on the cultural significance of the subject area.

Information Session

Representatives from the registered Aboriginal parties listed in Table 4 attended the information session.

| Registered Aboriginal Parties | Representative |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Do-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys | Mick Leon and Barry Bungee |
| Gloucester Worimi First People | Uncle Jim Clarke and Ken Everleigh |
| Forster LALC | Sheree Drylie |
| Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners | Aunty Norma Fisher and Cheryl Johnson |

Table 4: Registered Aboriginal Parties who Attended the Project Information Session

The following comments were received from the Aboriginal parties during the Project Information Session:

Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners:

Comment: A representative from Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners indicated that there were a number of Aboriginal heritage sites that they were aware of occurring to the west of the subject area that are not listed on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). The representative indicated that they would supply documentation of these sites to SCPL.

Gloucester Worimi First People:

Comment: A representative from Gloucester Worimi First People inquired about the current protocol and management procedures implemented at the SMC when an artefact was located during the construction activities.

Response: Tony Dwyer, Manager of Environment and Approvals, explained that mine employees were educated through the site induction process regarding the importance of Aboriginal sites and the protocols to be followed if a previously unrecorded site was identified (i.e. stop work in that area until the site can be confirmed and salvaged in accordance with the Aboriginal communities wishes and relevant legislative requirements). Tony also explained that known sites located outside, but in close proximity to mine disturbance works were demarcated (e.g. with signage or fencing) to avoid accidental damage. To date, only one known site has been salvaged at the SMC (i.e. isolated find AHIMS 38-1-0031), which was salvaged in January 2008 in accordance with Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) #2858.

As outlined in Section 15 and as part of the Project, a Heritage Management Plan would be developed for the SMC in consultation with the Aboriginal community and the OEH and to the satisfaction of NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I). The Heritage Management Plan would formalise and expand on these management and mitigation measures, including the development of a protocol for the event in which a new Aboriginal heritage site is identified during the development of the Project (e.g. during clearing activities). Any Aboriginal heritage sites identified during the development of the Project would be registered with the OEH in consultation with the Aboriginal community and managed in accordance with the approved Heritage Management Plan.

Do-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys:

Comment: A representative from Do-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys inquired about the cultural heritage training that mining employees and contractors undertook during their site inductions. The representative commented that the use of physical examples of Aboriginal artefacts in the training would assist in mining employees and contractors in the recognition of Aboriginal heritage sites.

Response: Tony Dwyer, Manager of Environment and Approvals explained that SCPL employees and contractors undertake training regarding Aboriginal cultural heritage matters as part of their induction programme. The training protocol would be reviewed and further formalised as part of the development of the Heritage Management Plan in consultation with the Aboriginal Community and the OEH and to the satisfaction of the DP&I.

Tony Dwyer also indicated that use of artefactual material salvaged from the site as part of the induction process would be considered during development of the Heritage Management Plan, in consultation with the Aboriginal community and the OEH and to the satisfaction of the DP&I. This recommendation is included in Section 15.

Review of Proposed Methodology

The Aboriginal parties present at the on-site information session (Do-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys, Gloucester Worimi First People, Forster LALC and Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners) agreed with the content of the Proposed Methodology.

Comments on the Proposed Methodology from the Aboriginal parties that were not present at the on-site meeting were sought verbally. The following comments were received:

Cultural Consulting Services:

Comment: Cultural Consulting Services agreed with the content of the Proposed Methodology.

Comment: Cultural Consulting Services commented that they would like to see more investigation of the isolated find (located by Brayshaw [1984]) to the east of the subject area.

Response: Section 11 provides the results of the recent field surveys. The field survey included an investigation of the isolated find referred to by Cultural Consulting Services and located by Brayshaw (1984).

Field Surveys

SCPL invited representatives from all of the registered Aboriginal parties to participate in an Aboriginal cultural heritage field survey of the subject area. Representatives from the registered Aboriginal parties listed in Table 5 participated in the field survey.

| Registered Aboriginal Parties | Attending Representatives |
|---|--|
| Cultural Consulting Services | Robert Yettica, Isaac Paulson and Robbie Paulson |
| Karuah LALC | Ron Tisdell and Ben Feeney |
| Do-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Mick Leon and Barry Bungie |
| Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners | Aunty Norma Fisher and Wayne Giodoe |
| Forster LALC | Sheree Drylie and Russell Cunningham |
| Gloucester Worimi First People | Uncle Jim Clarke |

Table 5: Registered Aboriginal Parties who Participated in the Field Survey

4.3 Gathering Information about Cultural Significance

During the Information Session, as part of the review of the Proposed Methodology and during the field survey, the registered Aboriginal parties were asked to contribute their knowledge (including cultural) on the subject area and the sites that were found. This information contributed to the assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the subject area and is discussed in Section 13.

4.4 Review of Draft Report

The draft report was provided to the registered Aboriginal parties for comment, in accordance with requirement 4.4 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 – Part 6 National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1974* (DECCW 2010a). This section documents the comments received from the Aboriginal parties in response to the draft report and how they have been considered and/or addressed as part of the assessment.

Cultural Consulting Services:

Comment: Cultural Consulting Services indicated that the draft report adequately addressed all required aspects and that they did not have any issues that required discussion or further consultation.

Gloucester Worimi First People:

Comment: Gloucester Worimi First People indicated that they supported the Project and agreed with the content of the report and the proposed management and mitigation measures.

Karuah LALC:

Comment: Karuah LALC indicated that they may provide comments on the draft report but if no comments were received before the closing date then the Karuah LALC had no issues with the report.

Mookibakah Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation:

Comment: Mookibakah Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation indicated that they were happy with the consultation undertaken for the Project and had no issues with assessment process.

Comment: The following is a quoted extract from a letter provided by the Mookibakah Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation following the inspection of CTS-1. The letter is provided in Appendix 3.

“After an extensive assessment of the site [CTS-1] we conclude that the natural springs contained within the site are alongside the walking path of the local traditional peoples and would have been used as a clean water source.

We found no psychological or physical evidence to support the claim that the area was a traditional women’s birthing site or contained any further cultural significance other than that listed above”

As of the 14 January 2012 neither verbal or written comments on the draft report had been received from Do-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys, Forster LALC and Maaiangal Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation.

5. ABORIGINAL ETHNOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

5.1 *Aboriginal Land Use*

European historical accounts of past Aboriginal practice are often subjective and succumb to the prevailing morals and beliefs of the time. For this reason the following information is possibly an embellished reflection of Aboriginal culture in the subject area and best understood as a non-academic record subject to culturally insensitive viewpoints and is potentially variable in nature.

Tribal boundaries with pre-contact Aboriginal groups are indistinct, and subject to temporal variation and variation between sources. For example, Dr David Horton's map (1996) uses major language groups to illustrate the distribution of Aboriginals at the time of European contact (Horton, 1996). Horton's map shows the area as bounded by Forster-Tuncurry in the north, Maitland in the west and Nelson's Bay in the south as belonging to the Worimi language group (National Archives of Australia, undated). Horton, however, adds a disclaimer that the locations are general, and that more precise boundaries should be sought from LALCs (National Archives of Australia, undated).

According to Tindale's (1974) mapping of tribal boundaries based on linguistic divisions, the subject area is located on lands which include the border of the Birpai (or Birripai) tribe and the Worimi tribe. The Birpai tribe occupied the area from the mouth of the Manning River at Taree and inland to near Gloucester (South Australian Museum, undated). They were principally on the south side of the river and also on the Forbes, Upper Hastings and Wilson rivers. The Worimi tribe were located from the Hunter River to Forster near Cape Hawke along the coast, at Port Stephens and inland to near Gresford (South Australian Museum, undated). They also occupied territory around Glendon Brook, Dungog, the head of Myall Creek and south to Maitland.

Wafer and Lissarrague (2008) indicate that the subject area is located within the Lower North Coast Language group (Gadhang) (Figure 3).

ERM Mitchell Cotter Pty Ltd (1995) indicates that the historical literature contains evidence of contact between Aboriginal groups living in the region. Regular gatherings or corroborees were described indicating that songs, dances and stories were exchanged and wives sought (Wafer and Lissarrague, 2008). There was also inter-tribal participation in specific rituals such as food increase rites and initiation ceremonies (Wafer and Lissarrague, 2008).

Leon and Feeney (1998) indicate that the Worimi people had a distinctive way of life and periodically visited the coast, which corresponded with seasonal movements of seafood. The Worimi people also attended various locations for ceremonial purposes. Natural stone material used for manufacturing tools was obtained within the Worimi's area and also through trade with neighbouring tribal groups (Leon and Feeney, 1998).



Source: Wafer and Lissarrague (2008: 161)

Figure 3: Language Groups in Central Coastal NSW

6. LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

An understanding of the context of a landscape is a fundamental tool when analysing the cultural heritage of an area for the natural environment influences the availability of local resources such as food, as well as raw materials for artefacts, rock platforms for engravings and axe sharpening, and shelter-providing rock outcrops. The landscape also provides the sediments which buries objects and archaeological features, and contributes to the erosive processes that might expose or disperse them. Detailing the landscape context is an integral procedure that assists with the modelling of potential past Aboriginal land use practices and/or predicting site distribution patterns within any given landscape (Guilfoyle, 2006).

With respect to Aboriginal archaeology, land formation processes may impact upon the type and frequency of archaeological remains. Climate and environmental factors may also impact upon the location and types of resources available, which in turn would impact upon settlement and mobility patterns of past Aboriginal groups in the area (NPWS, 1997: 16; Mulvaney and Kamminga, 1999: 297-319).

The location of different site-types (such as middens, open artefact scatters, axe grinding grooves, petroglyphs [engravings], etc.) are strongly influenced by these factors and are such associated with features of differing land systems and bedrock geology (Mulvaney and Kamminga, 1999: 297-319).

The Code of Practice (DECCW, 2010b) requires a review of landscape context to assist in the determination and prediction of the potential to accumulate or preserve objects to reflect Aboriginal occupation in the past. Identifiable resources or focal points for activities, and the likely distribution of these material traces assist in determining how Aboriginal people utilised the landscape.

6.1 Land Use History

The subject area landscape appears to have undergone significant changes since European settlement. European settlement in the Stroud/Gloucester district commenced from the late 1820s as an expansion of the Australian Agricultural Company (A.A. Co.) which ran sheep and timber operations. Early mining activity commenced in the 1850s, when a mineralogical survey of the A.A. Co. was undertaken and coal deposits were identified in the Johnsons Creek area (Heritage Management Consultants Pty Ltd, 2011). Thirty years of intermittent commercial gold mining was also undertaken on the upper Karuah River from 1900.

The changes/impacts observed have occurred primarily as a consequence of European land management strategies. It is sufficient to say that the survey area landscape is far removed from earlier Aboriginal occupation. Due to the past land use and disturbances, this would ultimately affect the context of any potential archaeological sites. The removal of the vegetation and modification of the soils, through agricultural practices, and erosion in the past has reduced the potential for any archaeological remains to survive. The land in and around the Gloucester Shire has traditionally been utilised for the agriculture and timber industry. Cleared agricultural land within the subject area as well as past disturbance within the subject area are shown on Plates 1 and 2, respectively.

Plate 1: Cleared Agricultural Land in Subject Area



Plate 2: Previous Disturbance in the Subject Area



6.2 Climate

The climate in the vicinity of Gloucester is warm temperate, with warm to hot summers and mild to cool winters. Average daily maximum temperatures are highest in January (34 degrees Celsius [°C]) and lowest in July (0.3 °C) (Bureau of Meteorology, 2011). Weather data collected at the SMC meteorological station and meteorological records for the period from 1996 to 2011 indicate that the average annual rainfall is 913.6 millimetres (mm) with maximum monthly rainfall typically occurring during the warmer months from November to March.

6.3 Landscape Description and Recording

The basis of describing and recording the landscape will provide information when contributing to material traces from past Aboriginal activity. This will also help with assessing the archaeological potential of the subject area with a focus on defining site variability and patterning.

From the information gathered in this section, the landscape in the subject area can be characterised into the following five landscape units:

-  Plain (Plate 3);
-  Lower Slope (Plate 4);
-  Middle Slope (Plate 5);
-  Upper Slope (Plate 6); and
-  Ridge-top (Plate 7).

The dominant landform in the subject area is lower slope which covers the western side of the subject area. There are two areas of plain, one is situated adjacent to Dog Trap Creek and the other in the south-west of the subject area. The mid to upper slope landforms increase in gradient towards the east of the subject area. A ridge-top area is situated to the east of the subject area.

These varying landscapes are found across the subject area, and knowledge of them aid in determining the predictive model for any potential archaeological deposit (PAD).

Plate 3: Plain Landscape



Plate 4: Lower Slope Landscape



Plate 5: Middle Slope Landscape



Plate 6: Upper Slope Landscape



Plate 7: Ridge-top Landscape



6.4 Hydrology

The subject area is situated in the Avon River Valley, east of Stratford, approximately 10 km south of Gloucester. The subject area comprises of a number of drainage lines and creeks (including Dog Trap Creek) flowing west and north-west towards the Avon River. The Avon River, located to the north of the subject area, extends from Craven and flows in a northerly direction for approximately 25 km and then drains into the Gloucester River.

6.5 Vegetation

Past modification of the vegetation is evident in the landscape of the subject area, with large areas cleared to assist in agricultural practices. The vegetation of an area is also dependent upon local soil landscapes and the geology of the area, both of which impact soil fertility and vegetation cover. Knowledge of this provides information on the type and locations of resources available to Aboriginal groups in the past.

The majority of the subject area has been cleared for grazing and consists of grassland communities. Flora surveys have been undertaken across the subject area as part of the Project and are described in detail in the Stratford Extension Project Flora Assessment (FloraSearch, 2012). FloraSearch (2012) recorded and mapped 14 vegetation types considered to occur within the subject area and immediate surrounds from six vegetation formations (FloraSearch, 2012.):

-  cleared land;
-  rainforest;
-  riparian forest;
-  wet sclerophyll forests;
-  coastal valley grassy woodlands; and
-  dry sclerophyll forests.

No threatened flora species or communities have been recorded within the subject area despite extensive and targeted surveys between 1994 and 2011 (FloraSearch, 2012). Despite much of the area and surrounds being cleared or semi-cleared farmland used for grazing livestock, the percentage of introduced species (20 percent [%]) is considered low to moderate. The highest proportion of introduced species (approximately 50%) was found in the more intensively grazed improved pasture paddocks. Although none were recorded as abundant, several of the recorded introduced species are regarded as noxious weeds in the Greater Taree Council area, including Blackberry, Crofton Weed, Giant Parramatta Grass, Lantana and Basket Willow (FloraSearch, 2012).

6.6 Fauna

A range of faunal resources within the subject area were potentially seasonally exploited by Aboriginal communities. Modern land uses, however, have altered the distribution of vegetation and the amount of water available, which in turn influences the distribution of plants and animals.

6.7 Palaeo-environmental History

The North Coast Bioregion, in which the SMC is located within, is one of the most geologically diverse bioregions in NSW. It has Devonian and Permian bedrocks which are closely faulted where the New England Fold belt overthrusts the Sydney Basin. There are also three centres of Tertiary basalt eruption and small bodies of granite have intruded the sedimentary rocks. Rapid erosion by river systems 80 to 100 million years ago cut deep gorges back into the adjacent New England Tablelands Bioregion and formed the Great Escarpment. The Great Escarpment is very prominent in this bioregion (OEH, 2011b).

6.8 Soils

The dominant soils are derived from the Permian sediments of the Gloucester Coal Measures that underlie much of the subject area (Henderson, 2000). However, the eastern margin of the subject area has colluvial soils on steep terrain derived from the Alum Mountain Volcanics and, further east, from Carboniferous sediments (Henderson, 2000).

Floodplains occur only outside the northern extremities of the subject area on the Avon River and Dog Trap Creek. These floodplains are no longer considered to be active owing to declines in water volumes over geological time, and are designated as part of the Gloucester Stagnant Alluvial Soil Landscape (Henderson, 2000).

The Gloucester soil landscape is comprised of undulating low hills on sedimentary rocks with relief less than 50 metres (m) and slopes less than 10%. The soils are moderately well drained and vary in depth with location in the landform. Gravels are common and the soils are classed as Sodosols, Kurosols and Tenosols within the Australian Soil Classification.

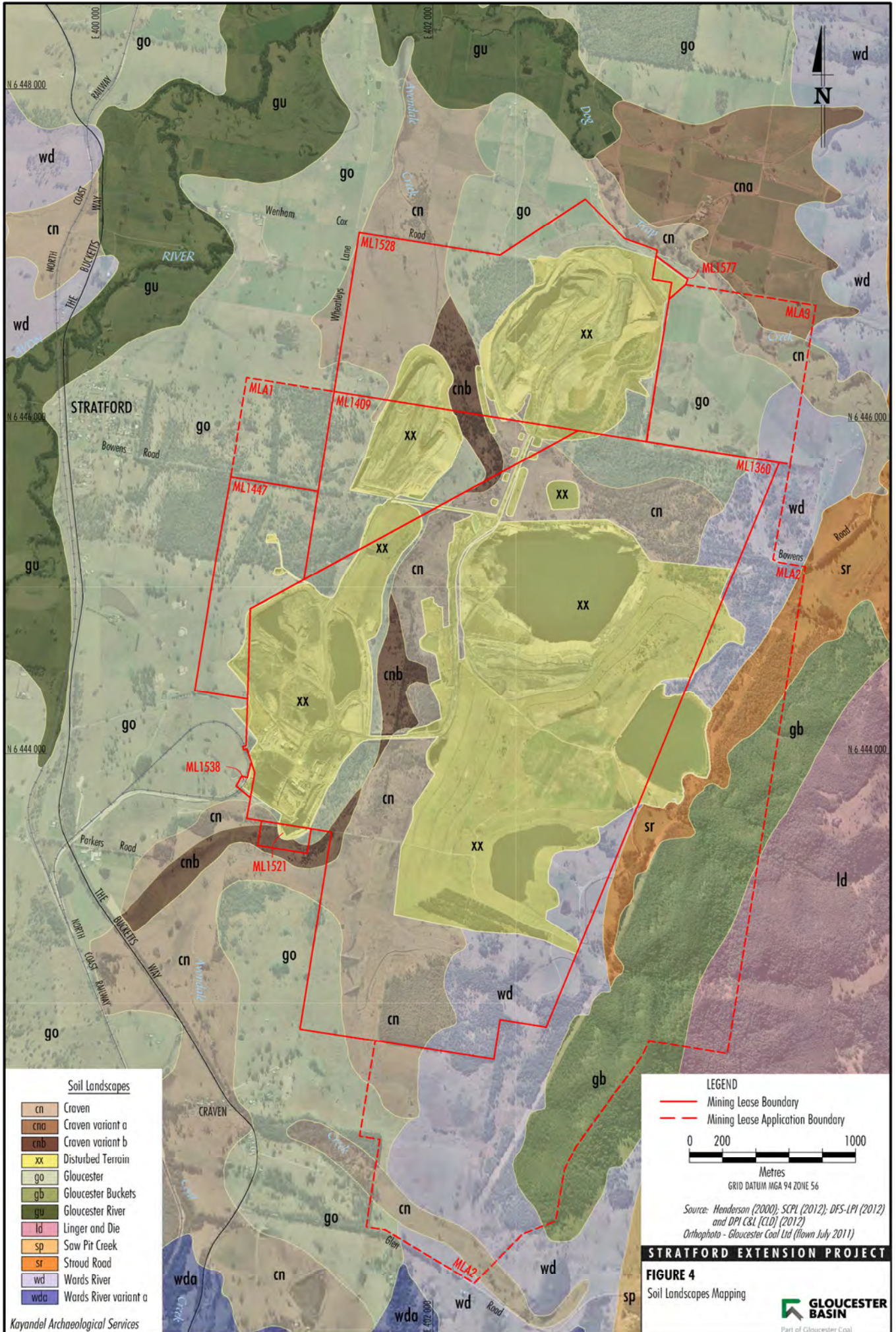
The two main soil landscapes in the subject area are the Gloucester and Craven soil landscapes (Figure 4).

The Gloucester soil landscape comprises broad level alluvial plains, occasional small swamps and swampy oxbows. The soils are shallow (usually less than 120 centimetres [cm]), imperfectly drained and subject to seasonal waterlogging. Soil texture varies from silty loams at the surface to clays at depth and in the swampy areas the topsoils are basically peats. These soils are classed as Chromosols (on the main floodplain areas and Hydrosols in the swampy areas) within the Australian Soil Classification.

The Craven soil landscape comprises low wide drainage depressions with relief less than 2 m and deep eroded gullies and long swamps. Soils are very deep with loam and clay loam textures in the upper layers grading to clays at depth. Field pH levels range from 6.0 to 6.5. These soils are classed as Kurosols within the Australian Soil Classification.

Other soil landscapes in the subject area include the Wards River, Stroud Road soil landscapes and a variant of the Craven soil landscape (Figure 4).

The majority of soil landscape deposits within the subject area are erosional. There are colluvial deposits within the ridge-top along with transferral deposits in the surrounding lowlands of lower and middle slope.

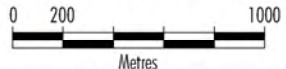


Soil Landscapes

- cn Craven
- cna Craven variant a
- cnb Craven variant b
- xx Disturbed Terrain
- go Gloucester
- gb Gloucester Buckets
- gu Gloucester River
- ld Linger and Die
- sp Saw Pit Creek
- sr Stroud Road
- wd Wards River
- wda Wards River variant a

LEGEND

- Mining Lease Boundary
- Mining Lease Application Boundary



Metres

GRID DATUM MGA 94 ZONE 56

Source: Henderson (2000); SCPL (2012); DFS-LPI (2012) and DPI C&L (CLD) (2012)

Orthophoto - Gloucester Coal Ltd (flown July 2011)

STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT

FIGURE 4

Soil Landscapes Mapping



6.9 Geology

The Project exploits Permian Coal Measures that developed in the axis of the Stroud-Gloucester Syncline, a trough resulting from folding of the underlying Carboniferous sediments. The Stroud-Gloucester Syncline is a long shallow formation flanked on both sides by rugged outcropping of erosion-resistant early Permian Alum Mountain Volcanics, comprising tuffs, mudstones and acid volcanics. To the east of the Alum Mountain Volcanics, the dominant rocks of the Karuah Mountains are carboniferous sediments including lithic sandstone, conglomerates and mudstone, and some porphyritic rhyolites and volcanic breccias (Henderson, 2000).

The subject area geology consists of conglomerate, sandstone, mudstone, arkose and coal deposits. There are quaternary alluvial deposits within the plains of the subject area and rock outcrops along the west facing slopes to the east of the subject area (Figure 5).

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The following section aims to describe, analyse and synthesise previous archaeological information, to contribute to what is known about Aboriginal cultural heritage in the subject area. This research is suitable to the size and scale of the proposed activity in the subject area as previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity may mirror the results discovered in this assessment.

7.1 Regional Archaeological Context

It would appear that the initial occupation of the eastern seaboard region was sporadic, and with low population densities. From around 5,000 years ago, an increased and continued use of many sites appears to have ensued. Evidence of the use and occupation of the eastern seaboard region from this period is far more 'archaeologically visible' than for the previous periods.

Brayshaw (1984) conducted a large survey from Craven to Dog Trap Creek for the Stratford Coal EIS and identified one open site (consisting of four artefacts) which was eroding out of the upper soil over an extent 30 x 15 m (referred to OS-5 in this report). One isolated find was also discovered 300 m to the south on a slope (referred to as IF-5 in this report). An amended Archaeological Assessment was conducted following the 1984 assessment and determined the high potential for sub-surface archaeology on five landform units (swampland, watercourses, ridge-tops and slopes) across the subject area (Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd, 1994). One open artefact scatter (Stratford 2 Open Site) was recorded during the survey.

Heritage Search conducted an archaeological survey in November 2000 of the proposed Bowens Road North Project (part of the SMC) (Heritage Search, 2000). One stone artefact was located during the survey along a short ephemeral watercourse and was subsequently salvaged prior to disturbance.

A number of Aboriginal heritage surveys have also been conducted at the DCM site (located approximately 20 km south of the Project) (KAS, 2009; ERM Mitchell McCotter Pty Ltd, 1995; Brayshaw, 1981). No Aboriginal heritage sites were located during the surveys by Brayshaw (1981) and ERM Mitchell McCotter Pty Ltd (1995). KAS conducted a survey of the proposed extension of the DCM and identified nine Aboriginal heritage sites including three isolated artefacts, four scarred trees, one open artefact scatter and one scarred "Honey Tree" (KAS, 2009).

Kuskie (1993a) conducted a survey for the proposed route of fibre optic cable between Wyong and Gloucester. The survey identified one artefact scatter and one isolated artefact located along the proposed cable route. The recommendations from the Kuskie report indicated that the proposed fibre optic cable route would not affect the recorded sites.

An archaeological survey was conducted at a gravel quarry within the Gloucester Tops (Dallas, 1998). The results of the survey revealed no Aboriginal artefacts although an unregistered isolated artefact (comprised of a mudstone core) was discovered outside of the quarry area.

A field survey of Lucas Energy’s Gloucester Coal Seam Gas Project area and pipeline corridor from Stratford to Hexham was conducted by ENSR Australia Pty Ltd (2008). Nine Aboriginal heritage sites (two possible scarred trees, four artefact scatters and three isolated finds), and 14 PADs were discovered during the survey of the Project area.

Preliminary inspections for Aboriginal sites and archaeological material were undertaken in 1992 along proposed optic fibre cable routes from Gloucester to Barrington (Griffith, 1992a) and Stratford to Gloucester (Griffith, 1992b). No Aboriginal heritage sites were recorded during the inspections (Griffith, 1992a, 1992b).

7.2 Local Archaeology

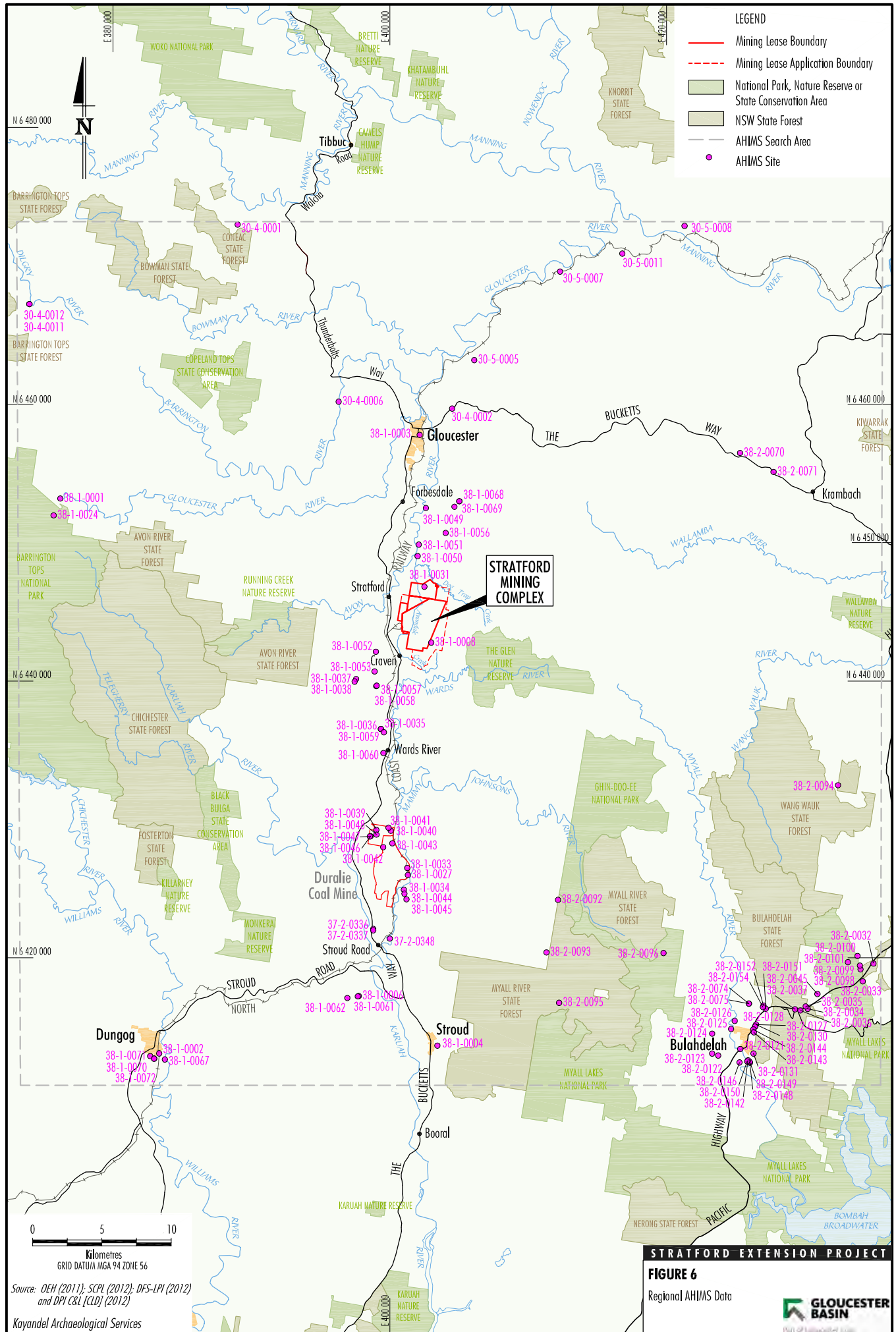
7.2.1 AHIMS Database Search

A search of the AHIMS database was conducted on 18 October 2011. The search was conducted using the co-ordinates set out in Table 6 (GDA 94, Zone 56). The size of the search area (60 km x 60 km search area centred on the Project area) was sufficient to allow adequate landscape interpretation and to provide a sufficient number of registered Aboriginal sites surrounding the subject area. The search results are included in Appendix 4. It should be noted that the distribution of sites in the AHIMS database is a reflection of where site surveys have been previously carried out, as well as the locations of the sites themselves. Other sites are likely to be present, but in areas which have not been searched and/or obscured by thick grass or buried below the ground surface. The definition for site types can be found in Appendix 5.

| | Easting | Northing |
|---------|---------|----------|
| Minimum | 374100 | 6413165 |
| Maximum | 434100 | 6473165 |

Table 6: AHIMS Database Search Criteria

The results of the AHIMS search are summarised in Table 7 and are shown on Figure 6. A total of 99 sites have been previously recorded within the search area with the most common being artefacts and PADs. The summary of registered sites in the region of the subject area provides insight into forming predictive models for the subject area.



| Site Type | Number of sites | % |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Artefacts | 54 | 55 |
| PAD | 17 | 17 |
| Modified Tree | 13 | 13 |
| Ceremonial | 4 | 4 |
| Burial | 3 | 3 |
| Restricted | 3 | 3 |
| Grinding Grooves | 2 | 2 |
| Stone Arrangement | 2 | 2 |
| Corroboree Ground | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 99 | 100 |

Table 7: Site Types as Available from the AHIMS Search

7.2.2 NSW State Heritage Inventory

A search of the NSW State Heritage Inventory was completed on 14 November 2011, yielding no Statutory Listed Heritage Items in the subject area.

7.2.3 The Australian Heritage Database

A search of the Australian Heritage Database was completed on 14 November 2011 and no sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage were returned from the search.

7.2.4 Report Search

A search for reports on prior archaeological studies in the local area included AHIMS, reference lists in previous reports, the internet and a list of known studies was compiled (Table 8). Several of these reports did not locate any Aboriginal objects. For the previous surveys that identified Aboriginal sites, these consisted of open camp sites and isolated artefacts (Table 8).

7.3 Previous Predictive Models

Previous predictive models highlight the potential occurrence of a certain site type based on previous archaeological investigations in the wider area. A plausible predictive model can help focus archaeological reconnaissance, and direct research to areas within a region that holds archaeological potential (although predictions need to be ground-truthed and tested). Using predictive models can be a highly effective means of stratifying conventional random sample surveys over large areas.

Two predictive models have been developed for the subject area, namely Brayshaw (1984) and Heritage Search (2000).

| Reference | Locality | Results |
|---|--|--|
| Brayshaw (1981) | Stroud | Archaeological survey of the DCM site. No Aboriginal heritage sites were recorded during the surveys. |
| Brayshaw (1984) | Stratford | Archaeological survey of the SCM site. The survey found an isolated artefact site and an open site (referred to in this report as IF-5 and OS-5, respectively) on the eastern perimeter of the study area. The artefacts consisted of two broken blades; one resembling a backed blade and the other resembling a flake. The artefacts are within an old farm gravel pit. The isolated artefact was found 300 m to the south of the artefact site. |
| Griffith (1992a) | Gloucester to Barrington | Preliminary inspection for Aboriginal heritage sites along a proposed optic fibre cable route from Gloucester to Barrington. No Aboriginal heritage sites were recorded during the inspection. |
| Griffith (1992b) | Stratford to Gloucester | Preliminary inspection for Aboriginal heritage sites along a proposed optic fibre cable route from Stratford to Gloucester. No Aboriginal heritage sites were recorded during the inspection. |
| Kuskie (1993a) | Wyong and Gloucester | Archaeological survey of an optic cable route of between Gloucester and Wyong. One artefact scatter was located along the route. |
| Kuskie (1993b) | Gloucester and the Maria River near Port Macquarie | Archaeological survey of an optic cable route between Gloucester and Maria River near Port Macquarie. The survey identified one artefact scatter and one isolated artefact located along the proposed route. |
| Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd (1994) | Stratford | Updated archaeological assessment of the SCM study area surveyed by Brayshaw (1984). One artefact scatter consisting of two artefacts was recorded during the surveys (Stratford 2 Open Site). |
| ERM Mitchell McCotter (1995) | Stroud | Archaeological survey of the area surrounding the DCM. The survey did not identify any Aboriginal heritage sites and, based on the results of the field survey, the study area is not considered to be archaeologically significant. |
| Leon and Feeney (1998) | Stroud | Archaeological survey conducted by representatives of the Forster and Karuah LALC. No sites considered to be Aboriginal heritage sites were identified during the pedestrian survey; however, comment was sought from Dr Mike Morwood of the Department of Archaeology & Paleoanthropology, University of New England, who indicated that the "Honey Tree" identified during the survey was of Aboriginal origin. |
| Leon (1998), Dallas (1998) | Gloucester Tops | Aboriginal heritage survey of the Gloucester Tops Quarry site undertaken by NPWS archaeologists and the Forster LALC. No Aboriginal heritage sites were recorded within the study area. The survey found one mudstone core located outside of the study area. |
| Heritage Search (2000) | Stratford | Archaeological survey of the proposed BRNOC Mine. The survey found an isolated artefact site on the wall of a dam along the short ephemeral watercourse running east to west in the study area. The artefact was a broken flake and the artefact was salvaged in January 2008 in accordance with AHIP # 2858. The survey also recorded a PAD along Dog Trap Creek although no location is provided and excavation was not considered warranted. |
| McCardle Cultural Heritage Pty Limited (2008) | Stroud | Archaeological survey of the area to the north and west of the approved DCM. One isolated stone artefact was recorded during the survey. |
| ENSR Australia Pty Ltd (2008) | Gloucester to Hexham | Archaeological survey of the proposed Gloucester Coal Seam Gas Project area and pipeline from Gloucester to Hexham. The survey identified nine Aboriginal heritage sites (two possible scarred trees, four artefact scatters and three isolated finds, and eight PADs). |
| McCardle Cultural Heritage Pty Limited (2009) | Gloucester | Archaeological assessment of five proposed core hole sites and three stratigraphic sites as part of the Gloucester Coal Seam Gas Project. One isolated artefact (grey silcrete flake) was situated in a large erosion scar next to a drainage line and in close proximity to a dam. One PAD was also identified at Wards River 2. |
| KAS (2009) | Duralie | Archaeological assessment for the Duralie Mine Expansion Project. Resulted in nine Aboriginal heritage sites being identified within the study area including three isolated artefacts, four scarred trees, one open artefact scatter and one scarred "Honey Tree". |
| Yettica (2010) | Gloucester | This survey resulted in the discovery of two lithic sites. |

Table 8: Previous Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Studies in the Regional Area

From Brayshaw's (1984) findings, open sites can be expected where the ground surface had been exposed. Low density artefact scatters and isolated finds were likely to occur within the subject area. Ceremonial grounds are likely to be visible after a fire or during drought. Axe grinding grooves are predicted to be adjacent to creek or river beds on flat areas of sandstone. Burials are only likely to be visible by exposure or disturbance, generally in soft sediments such as sand or in caves. Brayshaw (1984) also predicted that scarred trees were not expected in areas with trees less than 100 years old, which includes most of the subject area.

Heritage Search's (2000) report concluded that open camp sites and PADs are most likely to occur within the subject area. She believes that burials are unlikely to be present due to the acidic soils within the subject area and this would hinder in bone preservation. The lack of suitable rock within the local landscape makes quarries less likely to be present. Heritage Search (2000) also mentions that modified trees are less likely to be present due to past vegetation clearance and the lack of remnant woodland.

In conclusion, the likely site types to be found within the subject area are small density artefact scatters and isolated artefacts. Scars or carvings on trees older than 100 to 150 years could be present in the area, particularly on the slopes in the east. The past predictive models in association with the landscape context for the subject area enable current predictions to be made, which are discussed in Section 9.

8. REGIONAL CHARACTER

The purpose of describing the regional character is to effectively synthesise the previous archaeological work and landscape context within the subject area.

The region surrounding the subject area can be characterised by a range of low, middle and upper slopes. Larger streams are present within the region although the subject area is drained by smaller, more ephemeral streams. Small streams are associated with plain landforms that are responsible for forming waterholes and billabongs.

The predominant archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the region exists as isolated finds and small density artefact scatters eroding from shallow soils. Large complex sites appear to be less frequent. Occasionally, other types of material traces can be found, such as culturally modified trees. However, the presence of these trees will be restricted to areas where vegetation clearing and the impact of bushfires have been minimal or when large old trees have been retained.





The subsistence behaviours of the local Aboriginal population indicate that they visited the coast periodically to benefit from the seasonal movements of the marine life (Leon and Feeney, 1998). Locations important for ceremonial purposes were also visited frequently, with natural stone material used for manufacturing tools obtained from within Worimi territory and also through trade with neighbouring tribal groups.

The registered AHIMS sites in the regional area define open camp sites outside of the subject area and these sites would be more likely to produce large dense archaeological materials. To obtain food and other resources for these camps, logistical trips would have been made into the now remnant woodland and closest water bodies, resulting in the disposal of small numbers of tools and debris during individual activities. Over time, these logistical trips could result in an accumulation of numerous small sites and isolated finds across the landscape.

9. PREDICTIONS

A revised site distribution model for the subject area can be made, taking into account the details of previous archaeological research (Section 7), the landscape context of the subject area (Section 6) and the regional context (Section 8).

The types of archaeological evidence that may be expected to occur within the subject area are:







-  Aboriginal objects could be expected on ridge-tops, the saddle and upper slopes which were possible vantage points for the landscape below and travelling routes.
-  Sites could be expected to occur near permanent and ephemeral streams and creeks, especially if swamps or billabongs are or used to be present.
-  Scarred trees could occur where mature trees have survived bushfires, land clearing and forestry harvesting.
-  Site types such as shelters with art and/or deposit, axe grinding grooves, and engravings are possible where granitic and sandstone outcrops are present.

10. COLLECTION OF FIELD DATA

10.1 Methodology of Archaeological Survey

The objective of the survey was to identify places of Aboriginal cultural significance in the subject area. An assessment of the subject area was made based on the level of disturbance from previous land use, survey variables (ground visibility and archaeological visibility) and the potential archaeological sensitivity of the area.

Considerations of the field survey included:








-  a focus on areas with a high probability of containing Aboriginal artefacts, example areas include creek beds and banks, eroded tracks and ridgelines;
-  the beginning and end points of transects were determined by roads, fire tracks, fences, and/or the boundaries of the subject area;
-  a focus on landforms and areas of potential archaeological sensitivity;
-  transects along the steep slopes to the east were contour based and aimed to survey rock outcrops/exposures;
-  the numerical ordering of survey units based on the location of the area and the team planned to survey it; and
-  representative coverage of all survey units, including those with low probability.

10.2 Conduct of Archaeological Survey

The archaeological field survey was conducted based on the sampling strategy developed in accordance with Requirement 5a of the Code of Practice (DECCW, 2010b).

The survey was conducted by two teams from 10 October 2011 until 14 October 2011 (inclusive). The participants of the field survey were Lance Syme, Melissa Dunk, Caroline Hubschmann and Warwick Wright of KAS, together with Robert Yettica, Isaac Paulson and Robbie Paulson (Cultural Consulting Services), Mick Leon and Barry Bungie (Do-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys), Uncle Jim Clarke (Gloucester Worimi First People), Ron Tisdell and Ben Feeney (Karuah LALC), Sheree Drylie and Russell Cunningham (Forster LALC) and Aunty Norma Fisher and Wayne Hodge (Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation) representing the Aboriginal community. The participants were divided into two teams of approximately six to eight people. Each team consisted of two archaeologists with three or four representatives from the community. The survey was completed in mild weather conditions, with intermittent sun and shade at times, where one day was overcast.

The following tasks were carried out during the survey:

-  The survey team systematically walked transects covering all available sections of each area.
-  The survey team was spread out horizontally approximately 10 to 20 m from each other.
-  Transects were mapped and recorded using a hand-held GPS.
-  The land surface and vegetation conditions were described, including grass cover, any exposed soils, rocks, and ground visibility.
-  Ground surface exposures were inspected for Aboriginal objects.
-  Exposed rock outcrops were inspected for Aboriginal objects.
-  Trees were examined for traces of marks or scars by traditional Aboriginal people.





Generally the ground surface was covered by vegetation. Visible ground surface within the survey areas was generally associated with vehicle tracks, surface disturbances or stream banks. The survey team walked transects starting at easily accessible areas such as tracks, fence lines or roads and travelled systematically throughout the area. Special attention was focused on exposed higher visibility areas.












A site inspection was undertaken on 31 October 2011 with several female representatives from the Karuah LALC to record the potential cultural site that was located during the initial field surveys. Three representatives from Mookibakah Aboriginal Traditional Owners also inspected the potential cultural site on the 23 November 2011. Further detail regarding this site is provided in Section 11.2.4.

10.3 Survey Units

In accordance with Requirement 5c of the Code of Practice (DECCW, 2010b) archaeological survey units/areas were defined and recorded.

The subject area was divided into the following survey units:

-  Area A– large portion of survey area to the east of the existing power line encompassing Mining Lease Application (MLA) 2 and dense bushland. Ridge/upper slope landform.
-  Area B– large portion of survey area to the west of the existing power line encompassing MLA 2 and the edge of Stratford East Dam. Middle slope landform.
-  Area C– linear survey area from the south boundary of MLA 2, starting at Glen Road and covering the proposed relocation of the Electricity Transmission Line. Lower slope landform.
-  Area D– west of survey areas A and B, covering the waste emplacement extension. Lower slope landform.

-  Area E– west of Stratford Main Open Pit and extends up north to Bowens Road, east of workshop and administration area. Lower slope landform.
-  Area F– north of workshop and administration area, adjacent survey areas K, L and G, located within Mining Lease (ML) 1409 and ML 1447. Lower slope landform.
-  Area G– west on the boundary of ML 1447, located north of workshop and administration area and adjacent areas L and F. Lower slope landform.
-  Area H– survey area to the north of Stratford East Dam, adjacent areas A and B. Lower slope landform.
-  Area I– west of area H and within ML 1360, adjacent Stratford Main Open Pit. Lower slope landform.
-  Area J– small area north of area E, north of Bowens Road. Lower slope landform.
-  Area K– area west of Roseville West Open Pit borders along Wheatleys Lane, located within ML 1409 and ML 1528. Lower slope landform.
-  Area L– area that is entirely within MLA 1, to the west of area K. Lower slope landform.
-  Area M– far north east of subject area, within MLA 3, northern section of Avon North Open Pit. Lower slope/plain landform.
-  Area N– adjacent area M and south of Dog Trap Creek, within Northern Waste Emplacement Extension. Lower slope/plain landform.
-  Area O– triangular area north of Wenham Cox Road, within ML 1528. Plain landform.

10.4 Location Information and Geographic Reporting

In accordance with Requirement 8 of the Code of Practice (DECCW, 2010b), the locations of all survey transects and Aboriginal objects were recorded using GPS (hand-held) set to the Map Grid of Australia 1994 (GDA94).

10.5 Survey Coverage Data



The subject area was divided into separate areas in order to gain a thorough understanding of the area as a whole. All landforms were sampled during the survey. The main areas that were focused upon were the creek lines, exposures on the plains and dense woodland areas in the north of the subject area and exposed rock along the steeper slopes in the east. These areas were more likely to yield a high density of Aboriginal artefacts, due their high visibility and/or relatively undisturbed nature. Aboriginal parties were consulted for their feedback on survey coverage when the survey methodology was explained and formalised in the field (Section 4).

11. RESULTS



11.1 Visibility Variables

The effectiveness of an archaeological field survey is heavily reliant upon the obtrusiveness of the Aboriginal site being looked for and the incidence and quality of ground surface exposure. Visibility variables have been estimated for all areas where a comprehensive survey was undertaken. This data provides a measurement with which to gauge and compare the effectiveness of the survey and the level of sampling conducted. It may also be utilised to determine the numbers and types of sites that may not have been identified by the survey.

Ground surface visibility is a measure of the bare ground visible to the archaeologist during the field survey. There are two variables used to assess ground surface visibility:

-  the frequency of exposures encountered by the archaeologist; and
-  the quality of visibility within those exposures.

The major factors affecting the quality of ground surface visibility within an area of exposure are the extent of vegetation and ground litter, the depth and origin of the exposure, the extent of recent sedimentary deposition and the level of visual interference from surface gravels. Two variables of ground surface visibility were estimated during the survey. These being:

-  A percentage estimate of the total area of ground inspected which contained useable exposures of bare ground.
-  A percentage estimate of the average levels of ground surface visibility within those exposures. This is a net estimate and accounts for all visual and physical variables that have affected the visibility including the archaeological potential of any sediment or rock exposed.

Various Aboriginal site types exhibit different levels of prominence within the landscape. This is an important factor to consider when assessing the impact on visibility levels. Sites present upon or within rock exposures, such as grinding grooves, engravings and rock shelters, are more likely to be encountered than sites which are located on or within sedimentary contexts with little or no ground surface relief.

When comparing the obtrusive nature of a shelter site against the unobtrusive nature of a rock platform, the shelter sites will be located and inspected on all occasions. Alternatively, rock platforms have their gross visual presence affected by factors such as obscuring ground litter, flood debris and sedimentation.

Whilst these visibility factors may not affect the gross visual presence of the shelter site, they can impinge upon the finer visual presence within the rock shelter and inhibit the ability of the recorder to locate smaller artefacts.

The presence of small rocks, pebbles and gravels in the exposure also contributes to levels of visibility. If these raw materials are suitable for stone artefact manufacture they may also make the identification of stone artefacts more difficult.

Due consideration should also be given to the natural occurrence of sandstone platforms suitable for grinding grooves or engravings and the presence of established trees; both of which can aid in the identification of survey effectiveness and site patterning.

Survey area A contained a ridge-top and upper slope landform which has hindered visibility and exposures due to the presence of dense and thick vegetation.

Survey area B is described as a middle slope with generally poor visibility with little exposures throughout.

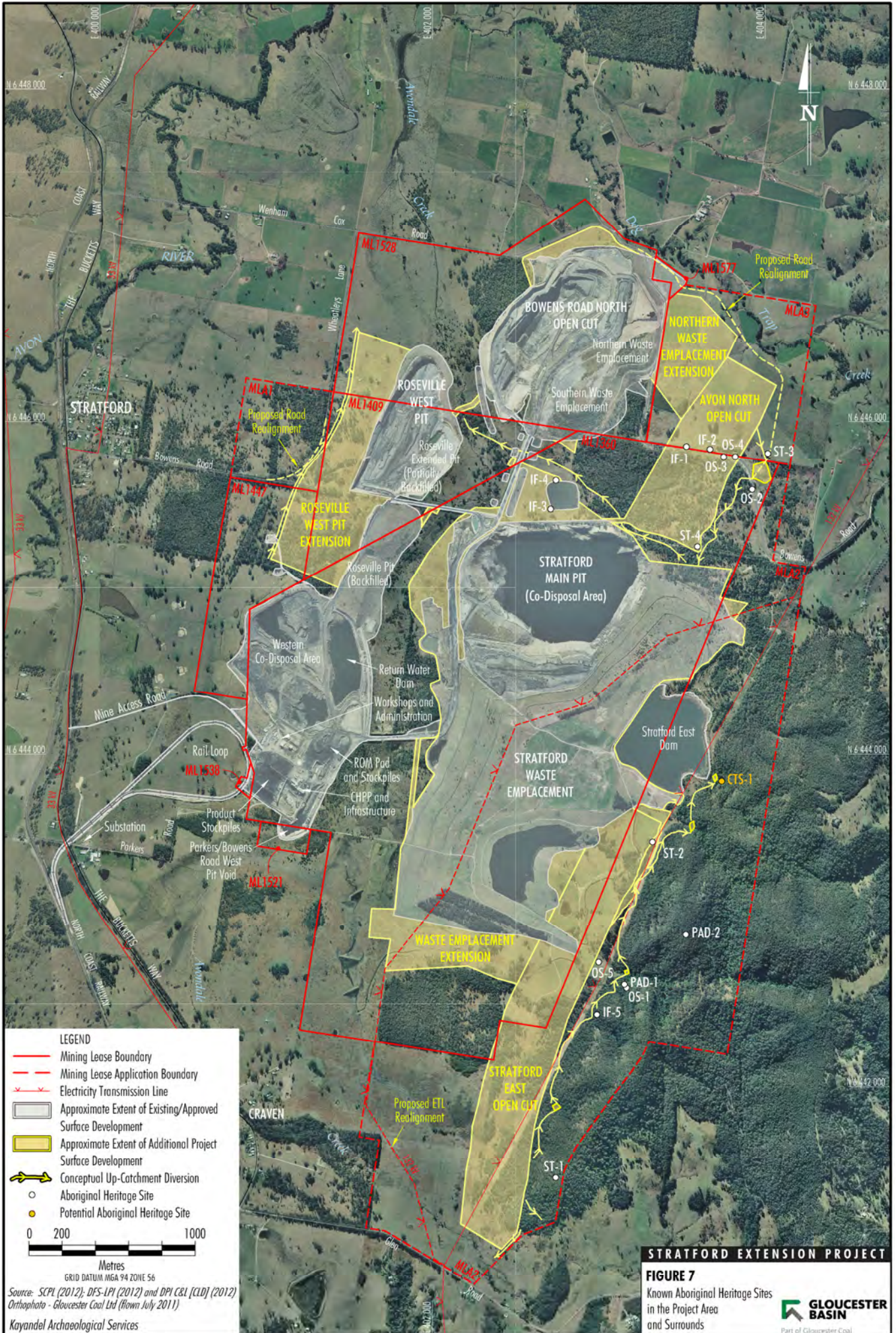
Survey areas C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M and N are described as lower slope landforms with generally poor visibility due to vegetation in these areas. Exposure patches caused by erosion or tracks provided areas of high visibility. Areas G and I contained a higher number of exposures than the other lower slope areas.

Survey area O was a plain landscape and visibility was generally poor with limited exposures throughout the area.

11.2 Survey Results

In accordance with Requirement 7 of the Code of Practice (DECCW, 2010b) sufficient information was recorded to be able to comply with AHIMS site recording guidelines. The definitions for site types referred to in the text are provided in Appendix 5. A summary description of each of the Aboriginal heritage sites identified during the field surveys is provided in Sections 11.2.1 to 11.2.5.

Twelve previously unrecorded sites, two PADs and a potential cultural site were identified by the surveys. Three remaining sites have been previously been recorded within the subject area. Sections 11.2.1 to 11.2.5 provide a description for the 15 sites, two PADs and the potential cultural site within the subject area. A list of the identified Aboriginal heritage sites is provided in Table 9 and their locations are shown on Figure 7. AHIMS site cards for the recorded sites are provided in Appendix 6.



LEGEND

- Mining Lease Boundary
- - - Mining Lease Application Boundary
- x - x - Electricity Transmission Line
- Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
- Approximate Extent of Additional Project Surface Development
- Conceptual Up-Catchment Diversion
- Aboriginal Heritage Site
- Potential Aboriginal Heritage Site

0 200 1000
Metres

GRID DATUM MGA 94 ZONE 56

Source: SCPL (2012); DFS-LPI (2012) and DPI C&I (CLD) (2012)
 Orthophoto - Gloucester Coal Ltd (flown July 2011)
 Kayandel Archaeological Services

STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT

FIGURE 7
 Known Aboriginal Heritage Sites
 in the Project Area
 and Surrounds

GLOUCESTER BASIN
 Part of Gloucester Coal

| Site Code (refer to Figure 7) | Site Type | Landform |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Sites | | |
| OS-1 | Open Scatter | Upper Slope |
| OS-2 | Open Scatter | Lower Slope |
| OS-3 | Open Scatter | Lower Slope |
| OS-4 | Open Scatter | Lower Slope |
| ST-1 | Scarred Tree | Upper Slope |
| ST-2 | Scarred Tree | Mid Slope |
| ST-3 | Scarred Tree | Plain |
| ST-4 | Scarred Tree | Lower Slope |
| IF-1 | Isolated Find | Lower Slope |
| IF-2 | Isolated Find | Lower Slope |
| IF-3 | Isolated Find | Lower Slope |
| IF-4 | Isolated Find | Lower Slope |
| PAD-1 | PAD | Upper Slope |
| PAD-2 | PAD | Ridge-top |
| Potential Sites | | |
| CTS-1 | Cultural/Traditional Site | Upper Slope |

Table 9: Summary of Sites/PADs Identified During Survey

Note: Three previously recorded sites are also located in the subject area. Descriptions for these sites are provided below.

11.2.1 Open Artefact Scatters

OS-1

This previously recorded open artefact scatter is located approximately 50 m east of the eastern Conceptual Upslope Diversion, adjacent to an east-west oriented dirt track that climbs the steep slope. The site is located mid-slope, comprises a length of approximately 40 m, and is positioned approximately 20 m south of a western-running watercourse through low relief. It is located along and adjacent to exposed areas of the dirt track. The site comprises four flaked artefacts, one hammer/grinding stone and one manuport. The area to the south of the artefact scatter is interpreted to be a PAD (PAD-1) and is described below.

The vegetation in the immediate area is dense native bushland that, due to its highly-inaccessible position, is unlikely to have been subjected to clearing other than selective logging in the past.

The artefacts are described as follows:

1. Volcanic flake: 17 x 13 x 5 mm.
2. Volcanic flake: 13 x 7 x 3 mm.
3. Volcanic flake: 82 x 88 x 27 mm.
4. River pebble grinding/hammerstone: 43 x 42 x 22 mm.
5. Quartzite(?) flake: 25 x 23 x 8 mm.
6. River cobble manuport: 52 x 48 x (undetermined due to burial *in situ*).

Photographs of OS-1 are shown on Plates 8 and 9.

Plate 8: OS-1



Plate 9: OS-1



OS-2

This previously unrecorded open artefact scatter is located adjacent to Wenham Cox Road on a flat area of exposure next to the bitumen road. The site comprises two flaked artefacts that are located within 1 m of each other. The area is interpreted to be moderately disturbed, with the exposed areas likely the result of the construction of the road.

The artefacts are described as follows:

1. Mudstone flake: 37 x 20 x 14 mm.
2. Mudstone flake: 8 x 7 x 2 mm.

Photographs of OS-2 are shown on Plates 10 and 11.

Plate 10: OS-2



Plate 11: OS-2



OS-3

This previously unrecorded open artefact scatter is located adjacent to Wenham Cox Road on a flat area of exposure next to the bitumen road. The site comprises two flaked artefacts located approximately 50 cm from each other. The area is interpreted to be moderately disturbed, with the exposed areas likely the result of the construction of the road.

The artefacts are described as follows:

1. Green mudstone flake: 21 x 18 x 5 mm.
2. Grey mudstone flake: 16 x 8 x 13 mm.

Photographs of OS-3 are shown on Plates 12 and 13.

Plate 12: OS-3



Plate 13: OS-3



OS-4

This previously unrecorded open artefact scatter is located adjacent to Wenham Cox Road on a flat area of exposure next to the bitumen road. The area is interpreted to be moderately disturbed, with the exposed areas likely the result of the construction of the road.

The artefacts are described as follows:

1. Fine grained flake: 74 x 53 mm.
2. Fine grained flake: 106 x 59 mm.
3. Chert flake: 36 x 22 mm.
4. Fine grained flaked piece: 34 x 15 mm.

Photographs of OS-4 are shown on Plates 14 and 15.

Plate 14: OS-4



Plate 15: OS-4



OS-5

This site was previously recorded by Brayshaw (1984) and is listed on the AHIMS database as Cravens Parkers Road (Site ID 38-1-0008). For the purposes of this report (including mapping) it is referred to as OS-5 (Figure 7). The site is located in an exposure near a gully on the eastern edge of the subject area over an area of approximately 30 m x 15 m. The site consists of four artefacts, two broken blades, one backed blade and one flake. Three of the artefacts were made of grey silicified mudstone and one was made of silcrete (Brayshaw, 1984). A photograph of OS-5 is shown on Plate 16.

Plate 16: OS-5



Stratford 2 Open Site

The site was previously recorded by Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd (1994). The site is reported to be located in an exposure approximately 80 x 12 m. The site consists of two artefacts, approximately 5 m apart (Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd, 1994).

The artefacts are as described as follows:

1. Yellow chert flake: 60 x 41 x 28 mm.
2. Flake (heavily weathered basic material): 42 x 52 x 14 mm.

Incomplete co-ordinates for the site are included in Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd (1994) and the site is not listed on the AHIMS database. Despite research undertaken during this study, the exact location of the site could not be determined. A targeted survey was undertaken for the Stratford 2 Open Site during the October survey with the registered Aboriginal parties in the approximate location of the site (using co-ordinates and the description provided in Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd [1994]). The site could not be located during the targeted surveys and consequently, its location is not shown on Figure 7. Management measures for this site are provided in Section 15.

11.2.2 Scarred Trees

ST-1

ST-1 is a previously unrecorded scarred tree that is located approximately 10 m west of the apex of the escarpment ridge site in the south east corner of MLA 2. Photographs of ST-1 are shown on Plates 17 and 18.

The site is located on the steep, western-facing slope of the escarpment. The vegetation is dense native bushland that, due to its highly-inaccessible position, is unlikely to have been subjected to clearing in the past. Ground visibility in the vicinity of the scarred tree is extremely low and this inhibited the possibility of finding additional artefacts in the area.

Plate 17: ST-1



Plate 18: ST-1



The scar is located approximately 58 cm from the base of the tree, which is approximately 260 cm in diameter at the height of 120 cm. The scar is 143 cm in length, 9 cm wide at its maximum width and has a maximum depth of 16 cm. The scar is symmetrical and oriented to the east. It is contained within a healthy, alive Stringybark Eucalyptus which is approximately 30 m in height. There are no axe marks present.

ST-2

ST-2 is a previously unrecorded scarred tree that is located approximately 10 m west of the north-south oriented powerline alignment and approximately 400 m south of the Stratford East Dam. Photographs of ST-2 are shown on Plates 19 and 20.

The site is located within a small group of trees in a grassed paddock. The original vegetation was likely woodland.

Plate 19: ST-2



Plate 20: ST-2



The tree is dead, lying on its side, without a visible trunk base so it is not possible to determine the scar orientation or height from the base of the tree. The circumference of the remaining trunk section was measured as 165 cm at the maximum width of the scar. The scar is 90 cm in length, 16 cm wide at its maximum width. Depth and approximate regrowth is not possible to determine. The scar is symmetrical and ovoid and contained within a dead, undetermined Eucalyptus species. There are no axe marks present.

ST-3

ST-3 is a previously unrecorded scarred tree located in the north-east area of the SMC, within MLA 3, approximately 100 m north-east of Wenham Cox Road. Photographs of ST-3 are shown on Plates 21 and 22.

The site is located on a flat, grassed paddock which would likely have been originally open woodland. Ground visibility in the vicinity of the scarred tree is moderate.

Plate 21: ST-3



Plate 22: ST-3



The scar is located approximately 48 cm from the base of the tree, which is approximately 357 cm in diameter at the height of 120 cm. The scar is 240 cm in length, 32 cm wide at its maximum width and has a maximum depth of 7 cm. The scar is symmetrical and ovoid and oriented to the north-east. It is contained within a healthy, alive Eucalyptus which is approximately 30 m in height. There is one scar present but no axe marks. There is extensive bark regrowth that overhangs a large portion of the scarred area.

ST-4

ST-4 is a previously unrecorded scarred tree that is located adjacent to the dirt track south and west of Wenham Cox Road. The site is located on flat landform. The vegetation is dense native bushland. Ground visibility in the vicinity of the scarred tree is low and this inhibited the likelihood of finding additional artefacts in the area. Photographs of ST-4 are shown on Plates 23 and 24.

Plate 23: ST-4



Plate 24: ST-4



The tree has fallen or been cut down and is dead. As such it is not possible to determine the scar's height above ground or orientation. Part of the extent of the original scar is hidden under the trunk of the tree and it is not possible to determine its exact width (although it is estimated at 15 cm). The tree is approximately 210 cm in circumference at the maximum width of the scar, which is 123 cm in length and 8 cm deep. The scar is symmetrical and ovoid and contained within a Eucalyptus of indeterminate height.

11.2.3 Isolated Finds

IF-1

This previously unrecorded artefact is located adjacent to Wenham Cox Road on a flat area of exposure next to the bitumen road and comprises of a single flake. The flake dimensions are 4.3 x 3.4 x 1.1 cm. The area is interpreted to be moderately disturbed, with the exposed areas likely the result of the construction of the road. Photographs of IF-1 are shown on Plates 25 and 26.

Plate 25: IF-1



Plate 26: IF-1



IF-2

This previously unrecorded artefact is located adjacent to Wenham Cox Road on a flat area of exposure next to the bitumen road and comprises of a single flake. The flake dimensions are 1.8 x 2.4 x 0.4 cm. The area is interpreted to be moderately disturbed, with the exposed areas likely the result of the construction of the road. Photographs of IF-2 are shown on Plates 27 and 28.

Plate 27: IF-2



Plate 28: IF-2



IF-3

Located adjacent to a dam, north of Stratford main open pit, this previously unrecorded isolated find comprises a single core, possibly mudstone. The isolated find is positioned on a lower slope landform, on the south-west edge of the dam, sloping gently to the south. The context of the site is assessed to be disturbed due to the dam's construction.

The core was identified within an area of exposure, one of many that surround the dam. The original vegetation structure would likely have been open woodland. The core dimensions are: 6 x 6 x 5 cm and was not located *in situ*. A photograph of IF-3 is shown on Plate 29.

Plate 29: IF-3



IF-4

Located adjacent a dam, north of Stratford main open pit, this previously unrecorded isolated find comprises a single grey flake, potentially mudstone. The isolated find is positioned on a lower slope landform, on the north-west edge of the dam. The context of the site is assessed to be disturbed due to the dam's construction.

The flake dimensions are: 3.5 x 2.8 x 0.7 cm, with a wide platform surface, a distal outrepasse and low/weak cross-section. The flake exhibited weathering on the ventral surface and was not located *in situ*. A photograph of IF-4 is shown on Plate 30.

Plate 30: IF-4



IF-5

This site was recorded by Brayshaw (1984) as “Isolated Find”. The site is reported to be a grey mudstone blade with a use fracture on one lateral edge (Brayshaw, 1984). Brayshaw (1984) reported that the site was located on a slope 300 m to the south of OS-5. For the purposes of this report the site is referred to and labelled on Figure 7 as IF-5.

No co-ordinates for the site are included in Brayshaw (1984) and the site is not listed on the AHIMS database. Despite research undertaken during this study, the exact location of the site could not be determined. A targeted survey was undertaken for the isolated find during the October survey with the registered Aboriginal parties in the approximate location of the site (using the description provided in Brayshaw [1984]). Whilst the site could not be located during the targeted surveys a description within Brayshaw (1984) (i.e. *on a slope 300 m to the south of the open site, the open site being OS-5*) allows it to be mapped with some accuracy on Figure 7.

11.2.4 Potential Archaeological Deposits

PAD-1

This previously unrecorded PAD is located south of open artefact scatter OS-1. It is located approximately 50 m east of the Conceptual Upslope Diversion, adjacent to an east-west oriented dirt track that climbs the steep slope east in the subject area. The site is located mid-slope and approximately 20 m south of a western-running watercourse through low relief. It is located south of the dirt track, in moderate but open bushland with poor visibility. The vegetation is native bushland that, due to its highly-inaccessible position, is unlikely to have been subjected to clearing in the past. The PAD is approximately 10 m by 10 m in size. A photograph of PAD-1 is shown on Plate 31.

Plate 31: PAD-1



PAD-2

This previously unrecorded PAD is located approximately 350 m east of the north-south oriented power line, atop the north/south ridgeline and comprises of an area approximately 100 m long and 10 m wide. The PAD is surrounded by thick, dense bushland but the PAD itself is comparatively clear, comprising grasses and small bushes. Ground visibility in its vicinity is low, however, several large river pebbles were identified in this area. Several of the Aboriginal community representatives present on the surveys suggested that this area would likely have been used as part of a travelling route and therefore would likely have artefacts scattered along it. A photograph of PAD-2 is shown on Plate 32.

Plate 32: PAD-2



11.2.5 Potential Sites

CTS-1

One potential cultural site was identified by some of the attending Aboriginal representatives during the field surveys. This area comprises a waterfall and rocky outcrop area, located east of the north-south oriented power line, approximately 80 m east of the Stratford East Dam (Figure 7). The area was recorded for its interpretation by members of the Aboriginal community as a potential culturally significant location. In the middle of the area there is a rock located above the level of the standing water at the time of the survey. There are three pools on the rocky shelf. The water flows into a larger pool immediately downstream of the area. The exposed rock continues upslope along the drainage line. Photographs of CTS-1 are shown on Plates 33 and 34.

During the field surveys this site was identified by several male representatives as a potential women's site. Subsequent to the field surveys and based on recommendations from the registered Aboriginal parties, female representatives of various Aboriginal parties were invited to undertake an inspection of the site. Female representatives from the Karuah LALC inspected the area on the 31 October 2011 and verbally indicated the area contained cultural significance as a women's site. No written comment regarding the area was provided by the Karuah LALC.

Representatives from other local registered Aboriginal parties were also invited to inspect the site. Three representatives from Mookibakah Aboriginal Traditional Owners inspected the area on the 23 November 2011. The attending representatives from Mookibakah Aboriginal Traditional Owners concluded that (Appendix 3):

“...the natural springs contained within the site are alongside the walking path of the local traditional peoples and would have been used as a clean water source.

We found no psychological or physical evidence to support the claim that the area was a traditional women’s birthing site or contained any further cultural significance other than that listed above.”

Plate 33: CTS-1



Plate 34: CTS-1



11.3 Survey Summary

A total of 15 Aboriginal heritage sites, two PADs and a potential cultural area were identified across the subject area. The survey surroundings were diverse and characterised by the landscape description in Section 6.3. Generally the ground surface was covered by vegetation which reduced visibility. The exposure range varied across the subject area and averaged from 15 to 20% per surveyed area. These exposures were characterised by open gravel surfaces. The lower slope where OS-3 and OS-4 were located contained a larger amount of exposure. The relationship between the extents of the exposure at sites was based on how frequently or recently erosive processes had occurred.

The most effective coverage was in survey unit areas G and I, located on the lower slope (Table 10). The majority of sites identified during the survey were located within survey unit area I. Only one ridgetop was identified within the subject area and this was situated to the east of the Project. There were several mature trees present within the subject area, with four identified as modified scarred trees. The survey team walked transects starting at easily accessible areas such as tracks, fence lines or roads and travelled systematically throughout the area. Special attention was focused on the exposures caused by tracks as this was a higher visibility area.

| Survey Area/Unit | Landform | Survey Unit Area (m ²) | Visibility (%) | Exposure (%) | Effective coverage area (m ²) | Effective coverage (%) |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---|------------------------|
| A | Ridge/Upper Slope | 1,899,751 | 10% | 2% | 3,800 | 0.2% |
| B | Mid Slope | 1,318,076 | 10% | 10% | 13,181 | 1.0% |
| C | Lower Slope | 231,512 | 10% | 2% | 463 | 0.2% |
| D | Lower Slope | 345,517 | 10% | 5% | 1,728 | 0.5% |
| E | Lower Slope | 455,491 | 10% | 5% | 2,277 | 0.5% |
| F | Lower Slope | 263,358 | 10% | 5% | 1,317 | 0.5% |
| G | Lower Slope | 426,257 | 10% | 15% | 6,394 | 1.5% |
| H | Lower Slope | 349,744 | 10% | 5% | 1,749 | 0.5% |
| I | Lower Slope | 821,557 | 10% | 15% | 12,323 | 1.5% |
| J | Lower Slope | 116,125 | 10% | 5% | 581 | 0.5% |
| K | Lower Slope | 342,701 | 10% | 5% | 1,714 | 0.5% |
| L | Lower Slope | 317,460 | 10% | 10% | 3,175 | 1.0% |
| M | Lower Slope/Plain | 467,425 | 10% | 5% | 2,337 | 0.5% |
| N | Lower Slope/Plain | 761,743 | 10% | 5% | 3,809 | 0.5% |
| O | Plain | 74,466 | 10% | 5% | 372 | 0.5% |

Table 10: Survey Coverage Data

Notes:

m² = square metres.



Effective coverage = survey unit area x visibility % x exposure %.



Effective coverage % = effective coverage area/survey unit area x 100.



Area effectively surveyed = effective coverage area.

Based on analysis of previous archaeological investigations undertaken within and surrounding the subject area and survey results of the subject area from this study, it was determined that the effective coverage was sufficient for the assessment of Aboriginal objects. It was also determined the probability of sub-surface Aboriginal objects being present with conservation value was insufficient to warrant test excavation.

Relevantly, Heritage Search (2000) states that Dog Trap Creek contained the greatest potential (compared to other parts of the BRNOC subject area) for the presence of subsurface material, although concluded:

“It is assessed that test excavation of this area [Dog Trap Creek] is not necessary. The potential scientific significance of material which might be recovered from this area is not considered high enough to warrant test excavation.”

Notwithstanding, Section 15.2 describes a recommendation to consider monitoring topsoil stripping activities (for archaeological material) in the vicinity of Dog Trap Creek associated with the proposed road realignment.

12. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Fifteen sites comprising open scatters, isolated finds, scarred trees and a potential cultural site have been identified within the subject area. Two PADs were also identified within the subject area. The findings of the survey are similar to previous archaeological surveys in the region which have recorded a number of open scatters, isolated finds and scarred trees (Section 7.2.4). A number of cultural sites have also previously been recorded in the wider region (Figure 6 and Appendix 4).

The findings of the survey enable refinement of the predictive model outlined in Section 9.

No sites were located near streams or creeks in the present survey although a number of open scatters and isolated finds were located on the lower slope/plains landscape. Four scar trees (two of which were dead and lying on their side) were recorded in the subject area during the surveys. These trees appear to have survived historical land clearing and forestry as well as bushfires. A PAD was recorded along a ridgetop located to the east of the subject area because several of the Aboriginal community representatives present on the surveys suggested that this area would have likely been used as part of a travelling route. A second PAD was located on an upper slope to the east of the subject area. Exposed rock outcrops are present to the east of the subject area. These were inspected for art, deposits, grinding grooves and engravings although no evidence of occupation or potential for occupation was present.

The findings of this survey as well as the findings of past archaeological/cultural investigations in and around the subject area provide detailed information on land use and past Aboriginal activities. The results contribute towards a risk based impact assessment and development of management and mitigation measures for the Project.





13. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

13.1 Background

All Aboriginal objects are afforded protection under the NPWS Act; however, decisions about appropriate management of individual cultural heritage items or sites are based on their assessed significance, the likely impact of a proposed development and the need for the development. OEH requires significance assessment in accordance with the processes set out in the Burra Charter (DECCW, 2010b).

Australia ICOMOS (1999) adopted the Guidelines to the Burra Charter, whereby *cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is a concept which helps in estimating the value of places and objects. Those which help to enrich our understanding of the past and present and may be of value to future generations are of high cultural significance.

The following definitions are present in the Guidelines to the Burra Charter:

-  Aesthetic value includes aspects of sensory perception for which criteria can and should be stated. Such criteria may include consideration of the form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric; the smells and sounds associated with the place; and its use.
-  A place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, an historic figure, event, phase or activity. It may also have historic value as the site of an important event. For any given place the significance will be greater where evidence of the association or event survives *in situ*, or where the settings are substantially intact, than where it has been changed or evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the place retains significance regardless of subsequent treatment.
-  The scientific or research value of a place will depend on the importance of the data involved, on its rarity, quality or representativeness, and on the degree to which the place may contribute further substantial information.
-  Social value embraces the qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment to a majority or minority group.

Cultural significance defines the importance of a site or feature to Aboriginal communities. This category may include sites, items and landscapes that people may have traditional ties with, as well as areas that may have contemporary importance to Aboriginal communities. Places of cultural value may have social significance to Aboriginal communities, and may have historic value through association with historic themes, or they may take on value due to their rarity. Places may have aesthetic significance, being natural features with symbolic values, dramatic presence or tranquil qualities. Cultural significance, however, may not be in accord with the interpretations made by archaeologists – a site may have low archaeological significance but high Aboriginal significance, or vice versa.

Scientific or archaeological significance may be assessed by placing a site, feature or landscape in a broader regional context and by assessing its individual merits in the context of current archaeological discourse. This type of significance relates to the ability of a site to answer current and future research questions, which may be influenced by physical condition (integrity), information potential, rarity and/or representativeness.

13.2 Assessment of Archaeological Significance

Rarity and Representativeness is an assessment of how rare or common a site or landscape is. In theory, heritage items may be determined to be significant because they are rare forms, or they may be considered to be very good typical forms. Whether items are of rare or common forms will depend to some extent on the variables used to distinguish them. Open sites, for example, may be distinguished from grinding grooves or scarred trees according to the general type of evidence present (e.g. stone artefacts distinguishable from trees with marks or grooves on rock platforms). To assess rarity and representativeness, site type can be used initially, then this category subdivided until a satisfactory level of (dis)similarity is achieved. Within the general group “open artefact scatters”, sites may be distinguished according to other variables, such as their content, or their landscape setting. Technically, an assessment of representativeness should identify both what is typical or common as well as what is rare.

Research potential is an assessment of the ability of a site or landscape to provide information to answer questions about the past. Several criteria may be considered:



Physical condition. Sites and landscapes in good physical condition are generally able to provide information on spatial relationships between, for example, stone artefacts, other remains, chronological units (if present) and landscape settings.



The connectedness of individual sites or landscapes: is the content, site or landscape part of a complex of related sites or landscapes?



The potential of a site or landscape to provide a relative or absolute chronology extending back into the past (i.e. stratified sequences of cultural materials and/or dateable materials such as organic remains [radiocarbon dating], or sealed or cultural deposits [optical or thermo luminescence]).



The ability of the site or landscape to provide a large sample size (large numbers of stone artefacts, art motifs, grinding grooves, etc.) about which statistically significant statements can be made.

13.3 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

Due to the extent of sites and the features found, it is possible to provide some guidance towards the archaeological significance of the subject area. There are three site types found within the subject area, namely artefact scatters and isolated finds, modified trees and mythological/traditional sites. No rock outcrops were present in the subject area that contained grinding grooves, petroglyphs or pictograms.

Rarity and Representativeness. Open artefact scatters are previously found throughout the region and therefore are a relatively common site type. Open artefact scatters have been found in various landscape settings throughout the subject area. This is also true of modified trees.

Physical condition. Certain areas of the subject area have been disturbed (i.e. cleared of trees and other vegetation). However, archaeological deposits may not have been completely disturbed by these processes.

Connectedness. The physical connectedness of the survey areas within the subject area depends on the type of landscape and its overall characteristics. In terms of connectedness on a wider level, the area as a whole remains connected.

Potential for a Chronological Sequence. The potential for a chronological sequence depends on the extent of intact deposits within the subject area. The sequence along drainage lines is expected to be inconsistent due to flooding. Other areas are expected to have more consistent sequences although the potential for substantial subsurface deposits is expected to be low, except along Dog Trap Creek, as discussed in Section 11.3.

Ability to produce statistically useful samples of artefacts. It would not be accurate to estimate the number of objects which might be present, due to the scale and landform complexity of the subject area. If the survey areas retained a statistically useful numbers of objects this would increase the research significance and potential. Such numbers of objects were not recorded within the subject area.

13.4 Statement of Archaeological Significance and Potential

In addition to the value criteria, the preservation, conservation and general condition of the site is a key factor in any significance assessment. As such, significance changes over the life of a place, as do, in correlation with the awareness of the visitor or user of the place, the associated values (Marquis-Kyle and Walker, 2004).

The following significance assessment is based on the scientific or research value and is not based on the insight of Aboriginal people for their cultural significance assessment of these sites. The subject area has the potential to provide archaeological information as it contains open artefact scatters, isolated finds, modified trees and a potential cultural site. The overall subject area is assessed as containing low to moderate significance due to the number of sites present and the way in which this information contributes to the nature of Aboriginal land use in the region. Table 11 provides significance ratings for known Aboriginal sites within the subject area. PADs and the potential cultural site are discussed below the table.

| Site Code (refer to Figure 7) | AHIMS No. | Significance Rating for Individual Criterion | | | Overall Archaeological Significance Rating |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|----------|---|
| | | Scientific | Aesthetic | Social | |
| OS-1 | - | Low | Low | Moderate | Low |
| OS-2 | - | Low | Low | Moderate | Low |
| OS-3 | - | Low | Low | Moderate | Low |
| OS-4 | - | Low | Low | Moderate | Low |
| OS-5 | 38-1-0008 | Low | Low | Moderate | Low |
| Stratford 2 Open Site | - | Low | Low | Moderate | Low |
| ST-1 | - | Low | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| ST-2 | - | Low | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| ST-3 | - | Low | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| ST-4 | - | Low | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |
| IF-1 | - | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| IF-2 | - | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| IF-3 | - | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| IF-4 | - | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| IF-5 | - | Low | Low | Low | Low |

Table 11: Significance Rating of Each Site






Subject to the presence and nature of artefactual material (and assuming a similar artefact distribution, density and type to the recorded scatters), the PADs would be assessed as having low to moderate archaeological significance.

CTS-1 has been identified by some members of the Aboriginal community as having cultural significance. There is insufficient evidence present to undertake an archaeological significance assessment and therefore it is not included in Table 11, rather discussed in Section 13.5.

13.5 Cultural Significance

As cultural significance is a criterion that only Aboriginal people can assess, consultation with representatives of the Aboriginal community regarding the cultural significance of the subject area has been undertaken throughout the cultural heritage assessment process.



The registered parties were requested throughout the consultation and assessment process to provide comments regarding the cultural significance of each individual site and the landscape as a whole. The following provides a summary of all cultural comments received either verbally or in writing from the registered Aboriginal parties throughout the consultation process.

-  A number of the registered Aboriginal parties during the surveys indicated that the ridgeline located to the east of the subject area would likely have been used as a travelling route for Aboriginal people moving through the area. As a consequence of these comments, an area of the ridgeline has been designated as PAD (Section 11.2.4).
-  Mick Leon (from Do-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys) noted that the wide saddle to the east of the subject area along the ridgeline would have been good temporary camp site for Aboriginal people moving through the area.
-  Barry Bungee (from Do-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys) noted that there were a number of plants growing in the subject area including “geebung fruit” and “pudding vine” that would have been traditionally gathered and utilised as bush tucker.
-  Aunty Norma Fisher (from Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation) indicated that there are a number of culturally significant sites located in the wider region including burials, initiation sites, bora grounds and a corroboree ground. A number of these sites have been recorded on the AHIMS register (Section 7.2.1 and Appendix 4).
-  A number of representatives from the Aboriginal community identified a location within the subject area as containing cultural significance as a women’s site. Other representatives of the Aboriginal community concluded that the location had no cultural significance. This location is shown on Figure 7 as a potential Aboriginal cultural heritage site (CTS-1) and more detail regarding this location is provided in Section 11.2.5.

Comments received regarding the cultural significance of the subject area from the registered Aboriginal parties are documented in the Aboriginal consultation log (Appendix 1), provided in full in the written correspondence received from the Aboriginal parties (Appendix 3), and quoted in Section 4.

14. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Fifteen sites comprising open scatters, isolated finds and scarred trees have been identified within the subject area along with two PADs and a potential cultural site. The impact of the Project on these sites/PADs/area is determined by the future expansion and development of the SMC and the degree of harm this would cause. The types of harm defined in this assessment are direct and indirect. The Project would result in a partial loss of value for nine known sites (Table 12). The remaining five known sites (except for Stratford 2 Open Site as the degree and consequence of harm is unknown), the two PADs and the potential cultural site would not be directly impacted by the Project, although have the potential to be indirectly impacted (Table 12). Possible indirect impacts include:

-  accidental damage during construction of Project components (e.g. road realignments and the upslope diversion); and
-  damage due to blast vibration.

| Site Code | AHIMS Number | Type of Harm | Degree and Consequence of Harm |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sites/PADs | | | |
| OS-1 | - | Nil | No loss of value |
| OS-2 | - | Nil | No loss of value |
| OS-3 | - | Direct | Partial loss of value ¹ |
| OS-4 | - | Direct | Partial loss of value |
| OS-5 | 38-1-0008 | Direct | Partial loss of value |
| Stratford 2 Open Site | - | NA* | NA* |
| ST-1 | - | Nil | No loss of value |
| ST-2 | - | Direct | Partial loss of value |
| ST-3 | - | Nil | No loss of value |
| ST-4 | - | Direct | Partial loss of value |
| IF-1 | - | Direct | Partial loss of value |
| IF-2 | - | Direct | Partial loss of value |
| IF-3 | - | Direct | Partial loss of value |
| IF-4 | - | Direct | Partial loss of value |
| IF-5 | - | Nil | No loss of value |
| PAD-1 | - | Nil | No loss of value |
| PAD-2 | - | Nil | No loss of value |
| Potential Sites | | | |
| CTS-1 | - | Possible indirect – vibration | Possible partial loss of value |

Table 12: Summary of the Impact Assessments

¹ Partial loss of value relates to removal from the landscape and disturbance of possible unrecorded artefacts within artefact scatters. Individual artefacts and scar trees would retain some value following salvage.

* Site location cannot be determined. Refer to discussion in Section 11.2.1.

Stone artefacts (as recorded at artefact scatters and isolated finds), PADs and scarred trees are not particularly susceptible to blast vibration, dust or noise impacts. Therefore, impacts assessed in Table 12 for artefact scatters, isolated finds, PADs and scarred trees are based on direct disturbance.

The potential cultural site, CTS-1 contains physical attributes (i.e. rock features) which may potentially be susceptible to damage from blast vibration. SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd has undertaken a blast impact assessment for the Project (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2012). In the absence of a regulatory criteria in Australia for assessing vibration impacts to archaeological/geological features, SLR Consulting Pty Ltd has used the German Standard DIN 4150-3 *Structural Vibration Part 3: Effects of Vibration on Structures* which nominates a criteria of less than 80mm/second for evaluating the effects of vibration, as follows (SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd, 2012):

“There are no regulatory criteria nominated in Australia for the assessment of damage to archaeological/geological structures from vibration. Research however has been undertaken by the US Army Corps of Engineers into the effects of large surface blasts on the dynamic stability of nearby unlined tunnels of various diameters in sandstone and granite (Blast Vibration Monitoring and Control [Dowding, 1985]). The results of the research indicated that intermittent rock fall or observable damage was not observed until vibration levels exceeded 460 mm/s.

The German Standard DIN 4150-3 Structural Vibration Part 3: Effects of Vibration on Structures dated February 1999 does not specifically include criteria for assessing the “short-term” (ie blasting) effects of vibration on geological structures. However the DIN 4150-3 does include guideline vibration velocity of 80 mm/s for evaluating the effects of “short-term” vibration on buried clay and concrete pipework. The application of this criterion to geological structures is considered conservative and introduces a five-fold safety factor by comparison to the observable damage value of 460 mm/s (as described above)”.

As part of the blast assessment for the Project, SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd has calculated the maximum vibration level that would be experienced at CTS-1 during the Project as less than 80mm/second. Notwithstanding, blast monitoring is recommended to be undertaken at this location (Section 15.2).

Considering the nature and scale of historic and ongoing land disturbance processes in the region, predominantly due to agricultural activities; the nature and extent of identified and likely Aboriginal sites in the subject area; and the nature and scale of impacts associated with the Project; it is considered that the Project would not substantially increase cumulative impacts to Aboriginal heritage in the region.

15. MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the known and predicted Aboriginal heritage values within the subject area, it is concluded that impacts to Aboriginal heritage as a result of the Project can be effectively managed or mitigated through the following actions and strategies. It is recommended that a Heritage Management Plan be developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community and OEH (to the satisfaction of DP&I) to define, develop and formalise the management and mitigation measures. The Heritage Management Plan should be developed prior to any works which would harm Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the subject area.

The measures presented below are considered best practice in the mining industry. Their effectiveness and reliability is demonstrated by their continued use and inclusion in management plans and strategies developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community and to the satisfaction of government departments.

15.1 Surface Disturbance

It is recommended that the following measures be undertaken to manage the impact of surface disturbance on Aboriginal heritage sites within the subject area:



Where practicable, known Aboriginal heritage sites be avoided during Project construction and operation works. Sites/PADs located outside of Project disturbance areas include: OS-1, OS-2, ST-1, IF-5, PAD-1 and PAD-2. CTS-1 is also located outside of the Project disturbance areas.




Site ST-3 is located in close proximity to the proposed road realignment and upslope diversion. The design of the road will be such that the tree will not be directly impacted.



Where avoidance of known Aboriginal heritage sites is not practicable (e.g. sites OS-3, OS-4, OS-5, ST-2, ST-4, IF-1, IF-2, IF-3 and IF-4), site(s) should be subject to salvage for safekeeping in consultation with the Aboriginal community. Salvage of sites would include completing an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form (or its equivalent) and submitting it to the AHIMS Register.









Sites located outside (but in close proximity) of Project disturbance areas should be suitably demarcated (e.g. signage and/or fencing) to reduce the risk of accidental damage.






-  Consideration of pre-clearance surveys in areas of greater archaeological potential be undertaken prior to surface disturbance or the installation/construction of ancillary infrastructure (e.g. water management structures, electricity powerlines, monitoring equipment, etc.).

It is anticipated that, during development of the Heritage Management Plan, the Aboriginal community would provide advice on the storage of collected artefacts, management of artefacts at the completion of Project activities (e.g. artefact replacement onto the post-mining landscape) and the implementation of management measures for salvaged scarred trees.

15.2 General Management Measures

The following general measures are recommended to be undertaken throughout the life of the Project and detailed in the Heritage Management Plan:

-  Ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal community and appropriate Aboriginal representation during archaeological fieldwork (e.g. collection of artefacts prior to disturbance).
-  SCPL to facilitate access for Aboriginal community to known Aboriginal sites located on SMC-owned land (e.g. for cultural reasons or as part of scheduled field activities).
-  Monitoring (vibration and photographic) at CTS-1 be conducted when blasting is undertaken within 1 km of CTS-1.
-  Erosion and sediment control works be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Development Consent and in consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and management measures.
-  Any new Aboriginal heritage sites identified during development of the Project be registered with the OEH in consultation with the Aboriginal community.
-  Any new Aboriginal heritage sites identified during development of the Project be managed consistent with the measures detailed in the Heritage Management Plan.

-  As part of the induction programme, provision of guidance on Aboriginal cultural heritage matters to mining employees and contractors who, as a consequence of their roles at site, have the potential to disturb surface and near surface soils.
-  Consideration of using artefactual material, in consultation with the Aboriginal community and OEH, salvaged on-site to aid in the education and induction of mine employees and contractors.
-  Access to known Aboriginal sites be restricted to those undertaking specific authorised activities.
-  Access to CTS-1 be restricted in accordance with the wishes of the Aboriginal community and in agreement with SCPL.
-  Consideration (in consultation with the Aboriginal community as part of the development of the Heritage Management Plan) of inspecting topsoil stripping activities (for archaeological material) undertaken as part of the construction of the new road realignment adjacent to Dog Trap Creek.

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APPENDIX 1. CONSULTATION LOG

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 23/06/2011 | - | Coffs Harbour New South Wales (NSW) Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Environment Protection and Regulation Group (EPRG) Office | Letter | Tony Dwyer | Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL) | Official request for names of Aboriginal parties or groups that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Stratford Extension Project (the Project). |
| 23/06/2011 | Megan Mebberson | Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for names of Aboriginal parties or groups that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 23/06/2011 | - | National Native Title Tribunal | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for names of Aboriginal parties or groups that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 23/06/2011 | - | Native Title Services Corporation Limited | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for names of Aboriginal parties or groups that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 23/06/2011 | - | Gloucester Shire Council | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for names of Aboriginal parties or groups that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 23/06/2011 | - | Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for names of Aboriginal parties or groups that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 23/06/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for names of Aboriginal parties or groups that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Project. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|---|--|-----------------|---|--|---|
| 23/06/2011 | Tim Kelly | Forster LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for names of Aboriginal parties or groups that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 30/06/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Letter | Kimberly Wilson (Senior Case Officer) | National Native Title Tribunal | Response received from National Native Title Tribunal. Advised that there were no native title claims in the Project area. |
| 01/07/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Letter | Tabatha Dantoine (Administration Officer) | Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 | Response received from Office of the Registrar. Advised that there were no Registered Aboriginal Owners in the Project area. |
| 01/07/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Letter | Rosalie Neve (Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer) | Coffs Harbour OEH EPRG Office | Response received from Dubbo Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water EPRG Office. Advised of ten Aboriginal organisations/individuals that may have had an interest in registering in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | Tabatha Dantoine (Administration Officer) | Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm the status of Berrico Traditional Owners on the Register of Aboriginal Owners. Tabatha Dantoine confirmed that Berrico Traditional Owners were not on the Register of Aboriginal Owners for NSW. |
| 12/07/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | Tim Kelly | Forster LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | - | Saltwater Tribal Consultancy | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | - | Ghinni Ghinni Youth and Culture Aboriginal Corporation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | - | Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|---|---|
| 12/07/2011 | - | Bindi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre Inc. | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | Carol Ridgeway-Bissett | Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | Anthony Anderson | Mur-Roo-Ma Inc. | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | Lea Anderson | Nur-Run-Gee Inc. | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | Cheryl Hendry | Wormi Aboriginal Community Co-operative | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | Del Arnold | Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc. | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 12/07/2011 | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Official request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 13/07/2011 | General Public | - | Public Notice | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Notice published in the Gloucester Advocate seeking registrations of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 13/07/2011 | General Public | - | Public Notice | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Notice published in the Great Lakes Advocate seeking registrations of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 13/07/2011 | General Public | - | Public Notice | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Notice published in the Dungog Chronicle seeking registrations of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 13/07/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Phone Call | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services – Forster LALC | Registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|------------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 19/07/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Email | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 24/07/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Letter | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaingal Group Worimi Nation | Registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 25/07/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Phone Call | Ken Everleigh | Worimi Traditional Owners | Registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. Intended to also submit a letter registering an interest in the Project. |
| 29/07/2011 | - | Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm postal address after letter requesting registration of interest was returned. Phone disconnected. |
| 29/07/2011 | John Martindale | Coffs Harbour OEH EPRG Office | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Confirmation of the contact details of Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association. Rosalie Neve (Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer) was not available. Spoke to John Martindale (Senior Planning Officer) who said he had no further contact details on record for the group but would inquire with Rosalie Neve (Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer). |
| 1/08/2011 | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Email | Rosalie Neve (Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer) | Coffs Harbour DECCW EPRG Office | Confirmed that OEH had no further contact details for Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association and the returned mail from the registered address was evidence that every effort had been made to contact this group. |
| 1/08/2011 | - | Forster LALC | Phone Call | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Verification sought as to whether Robert Yettica was registering on behalf of the Forster LALC or Cultural Consulting Services. No answer, message left. |
| 2/8/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Phone Call | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| 2/8/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Berrico Traditional Owners | Phone Call | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to register an interest in the consultation process for the Project based on previous verbal correspondence with SCPL that they are registered traditional owners in the Gloucester area. Message left on message bank. |
| 8/8/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Phone Call | Aunty Norma Fisher (Chairperson), Michael Burns (Secretary) | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. Aunty Norma Fisher confirmed she was registering on behalf of Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation. |
| 25/08/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Letter | Sheree Drylie (CEO) | Forster LALC | Confirmed that Robert Yettica had submitted a registration of interest on the Forster LALC'S behalf but all further correspondence to the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council should be directed to Sheree Drylie (CEO). |
| 26/08/2011 | Ken Everleigh | Worimi Traditional Owners | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for postal address. Ken Everleigh confirmed the correct postal address. Also recommended that Uncle Jim Clarke from the Gloucester Worimi First People be involved in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 26/08/2011 | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi First People | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. No answer. |
| 29/08/2011 | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi First People | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. Uncle Jim Clarke was provided with contact details for Tony Dwyer to register his interest in the Project. Uncle Jim Clarke said he would provide his registration of interest to Tony Dwyer. |
| 29/08/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of Proposed Methodology. |
| 29/08/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of Proposed Methodology. |
| 29/08/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of Proposed Methodology. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 29/08/2011 | Ken Everleigh | Worimi Traditional Owners | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of Proposed Methodology. |
| 29/08/2011 | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of Proposed Methodology. |
| 29/08/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of Proposed Methodology. |
| 5/09/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Forster LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of Proposed Methodology. |
| 5/09/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Phone Call | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi First People | Registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. Raised concerns about validity of registered parties. Meeting with Tony Dwyer from SCPL scheduled for 7/09/2011. |
| 5/09/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend Project information session at Stratford Coal Mine on 26/09/2011. |
| 5/09/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Forster LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend Project information session at Stratford Coal Mine on 26/09/2011. |
| 5/09/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend Project information session at Stratford Coal Mine on 26/09/2011. |
| 5/09/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaingal Group Worimi Nation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend Project information session at Stratford Coal Mine on 26/09/2011. |
| 5/09/2011 | Ken Everleigh | Worimi Traditional Owners | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend Project information session at Stratford Coal Mine on 26/09/2011. |
| 5/09/2011 | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend Project information session at Stratford Coal Mine on 26/09/2011. |
| 5/09/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend Project information session at Stratford Coal Mine on 26/09/2011. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|--|
| 6/09/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Letter | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi First People | Registration of interest in the consultation process for the Project. |
| 7/09/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Meeting | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi First People | Meeting held between Tony Dwyer and Uncle Jim Clarke from Gloucester Worimi First People. Uncle Jim Clarke provided two letters dated 25/07/2011 and 28/08/2011 registering Gloucester Worimi First People's interest in the consultation process. Uncle Jim Clarke also advised that Gloucester Worimi First People also encompasses Worimi Traditional Owners. Tony Dwyer provided Uncle Jim Clarke with a copy of the proposed methodology and the invitation to Project Information Session. |
| 13/09/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Email | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Confirmation that Mick Leon and Barry Bungie will be attending the Project Information Session. Indicated that they would like to raise some points on the eastern margins of the proposed Project. |
| 13/09/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Phone Call | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Confirmation that three representatives from Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation will be attending the Project Information Session. |
| 16/09/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. Robert Yettica confirmed he would be attending. |
| 16/09/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. No answer. |
| 16/09/2011 | Ken Everleigh | Worimi Traditional Owners | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. Ken Everleigh confirmed he and Uncle Jim Clarke would be attending. |
| 16/09/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Forster LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. Sheree Drylie was in a meeting and would call back. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|--|
| 16/09/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. No answer. |
| 16/09/2011 | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi First People | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. Uncle Jim Clarke confirmed he and Ken Everleigh would be attending. |
| 20/09/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Forster LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. Sheree Drylie was unavailable. |
| 20/09/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. No answer. |
| 20/09/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. No answer. |
| 21/09/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Forster LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. Sheree Drylie confirmed she would be attending. |
| 21/09/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made to confirm attendance at Project Information Session. No answer. Message left on voicemail. |
| 21/09/2011 | Ken Everleigh | Worimi Traditional Owners | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. Ken said he hadn't had the chance to look at it yet but will have done so by the Project information session. |
| 21/09/2011 | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. Mick said he would like to discuss the methodology with the other registered Aboriginal parties at the Project information session before giving comments. |
| 21/09/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. No answer. |
| 21/09/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. No answer. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|---|--|-----------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 16/09/2011 | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi First People | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. No answer. |
| 16/09/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. No answer. |
| 26/09/2011 | Mick Leon and Barry Bungee Sheree Drylie Uncle Jim Clarke and Ken Everleigh Aunty Norma Fisher and Cheryl Johnston | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys Forster LALC Gloucester Worimi First People Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Meeting | Tony Dwyer Lance Syme | SCPL Kayandel Archaeological Services | Project Information Session. Registered Aboriginal parties in attendance agreed with the content of the proposed methodology. |
| 26/09/2011 | Ken Everleigh and Uncle Jim Clarke | Worimi Traditional Owners and Gloucester Worimi First People | Meeting | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Discussion with Ken Everleigh and Uncle Jim Clarke as to whether they were registered under the same group. Ken Everleigh confirmed that he was registered under Uncle Jim Clarke's group, Gloucester Worimi First People and all correspondence should be sent to Uncle Jim Clarke. |
| 27/09/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. No answer. |
| 27/09/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. No answer. |
| 27/09/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the proposed methodology. Robert said he would like to see more investigation of the isolated find to the east of the subject area. Robert agreed with the content of the proposed methodology. |
| 27/09/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend field surveys and provision of minutes from the Project Information Session. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 27/09/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Forster LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend field surveys and provision of minutes from the Project Information Session. |
| 27/09/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend field surveys and provision of minutes from the Project Information Session. |
| 27/09/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend field surveys and provision of minutes from the Project Information Session. |
| 27/09/2011 | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend field surveys and provision of minutes from the Project Information Session. |
| 27/09/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend field surveys and provision of minutes from the Project Information Session. |
| 27/09/2011 | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi First People | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Invitation to attend field surveys and provision of minutes from the Project Information Session. |
| 5/10/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Email | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Confirmation of attendance at field surveys. Benjamin Feeny and Ronald Tisdell to attend. |
| 5/10/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Email | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Confirmation of attendance at field surveys. Mick Leon and Barry Bungee to attend. |
| 5/10/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Confirmation of attendance at field surveys. Robert Yettica confirmed that he would be attending. |
| 5/10/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Confirmation of attendance at field surveys. Message left with Dale Stephenson. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|-------------------------|--|---|-----------------|--------------|--|--|
| 10/10/2011 – 14/10/2011 | Robert Yettica, Isaac Paulson and Robbie Paulson Mick Leon and Barry Bungee Sheree Drylee and Russell Cunningham Uncle Jim Clarke Ron Tisdell and Ben Feeney Aunty Norma Fisher and Wayne Hodge | Cultural Consulting Services Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys Forster LALC Gloucester Worimi First People Karuah LALC Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Survey | | SCPL Kayandel Archaeological Services | Field survey. |
| 18/10/2011 | David Feeney | Karuah LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made by Meghan Farr to request for Colleen Perry's contact details regarding the inspection of potential women's site. David confirmed Colleen was a traditional owner in the area. He also requested that Fiona and Beverly Manton and Priscilla Mason be involved in the inspection. David Feeney requested that details of the inspection be emailed to him and he would be in contact with the women. |
| 18/10/2011 | Aunty May Simon | Traditional Owner | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Call made by Meghan Farr to request inspection of the potential women's site. Aunty May Simon was unsure if she would be able to undertake survey. |
| 28/10/2011 | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Email | David Feeney | Karuah LALC | David Feeney confirmed that that 31/10/2011 was suitable for the inspection of the potential women's site and that Colleen Perry, Fiona Manton, Beverly Manton and Priscilla Mason would attend. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|---|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 31/10/2011 | Colleen Perry, Fiona Manton, Beverly Manton and Priscilla Mason | Traditional Owners | Site inspection | Tony Dwyer Jen Streatfield | SCPL Kayandel Archaeological Services | Site inspection of CTS-1. Attendees indicated that the area contained cultural significance as a women's site. |
| 4/11/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Tony Dwyer called to identify a suitable date for inspection of CTS-1. Aunty Norma indicated she was not available until the 9/11/2011 and would call to confirm a date. |
| 14/11/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Phone Call | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Aunty Norma Fisher confirmed she was available to inspect CTS-1 on 21/11/ 2011. |
| 18/11/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). |
| 18/11/2011 | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of draft ACHA. |
| 18/11/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Forster LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of draft ACHA. |
| 18/11/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of draft ACHA. |
| 18/11/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of draft ACHA. |
| 18/11/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of draft ACHA. |
| 18/11/2011 | Uncle Jim Clarke | Worimi Traditional Owners | Letter | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Provision of draft ACHA. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|---|---|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|
| 23/11/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher, Sheree Drylie and Wayne Hodge | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Site inspection | Alarna Pain | SCPL | Site inspection of CTS-1. Aunty Norma Fisher advised that the site did not constitute a culturally significant women's site. Sheree Drylie advised that she had left the Forster LALC and was now working for Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation. |
| 11/12/2011 | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Robert Yettica said he hadn't had a chance to read the draft ACHA and he would provide comments once he had read it. |
| 11/12/2011 | Mick Leon | Doo-Wa-Kee Culture & Heritage Surveys | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Mick Leon said he would provide comments via email in the next few days. |
| 11/12/2011 | - | Forster LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. No answer. |
| 11/12/2011 | David Feeny | Karuah LALC | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. David Feeney said he may provide comments in writing but if no comments were received before the closing date then he had no comments on the draft ACHA. |
| 11/12/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaingal Group Worimi Nation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. No answer. |
| 11/12/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Aunty Norma Fisher said she hadn't had a chance to look at the draft ACHA but would discuss with her son Michael Fisher and Sheree Drylie and provide comments by the closing date. |
| 11/12/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. No answer. A message was left on message bank. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 11/12/2011 | Uncle Jim Clarke | Gloucester Worimi Traditional Owners | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Uncle Jim Clarke said that he supported the Project and was satisfied with the work that had been undertaken and the management measures and recommendations proposed. |
| 13/12/2011 | Tony Dwyer | SCPL | Phone Call | Robert Yettica | Cultural Consulting Services | Robert Yettica indicated that the draft ACHA adequately addressed all required aspects and that he did not have any issues that required further discussion/consultation. |
| 14/12/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Sheree Drylie said her copy of the draft ACHA had been mailed to Aunty Norma Fisher (Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation) and she hadn't had the chance to look at it. She said she would provide comments once she had read the draft ACHA and discussed with Aunty Norma Fisher. |
| 16/12/2011 | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. A message was left with Dale Stephenson. |
| 16/12/2011 | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Phone Call | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson | Maaiangal Group Worimi Nation | Di "Nurpula" Stephenson said she would look at the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and provide comments in writing in the next few days. |
| 16/12/2011 | Aunty Norma Fisher | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Aunty Norma Fisher said she had not looked at the draft ACHA and to call back in a few days. |
| 16/12/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. No answer. |
| 19/12/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. No answer. |

| Date | Person Contacted | Organisation Represented | Form of Contact | Contacted By | Organisation Represented | Nature of consultation |
|------------|------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|---|---|
| 20/12/2011 | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Fax | Sheree Drylie | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Provision of site inspection report. |
| 20/12/2011 | Sheree Drylie | Mookibakh Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation | Phone Call | Meghan Farr | SCPL | Request for comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Sheree Drylie could not provide any specific comments on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment as she had not read it but said she was happy with the consultation undertaken and had no issues with the assessment process for the Project. |

APPENDIX 2. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE – PROPONENT TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY



LETTERS TO ADMINISTRATORS, REGULATORS AND LOCAL COUNCILS



23 June 2011

North East
Office of Environment and Heritage
Planning and Aboriginal Heritage Section
Locked Bag 914
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

For the purposes of meeting its consultation requirements as set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (previously Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), GCL hereby notifies that it would like to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the "Area of Interest".

Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the process described above, could you please provide their details by the 11 July 2011 (inclusive) to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd
ABN 66 008 881 712
Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and yourself, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

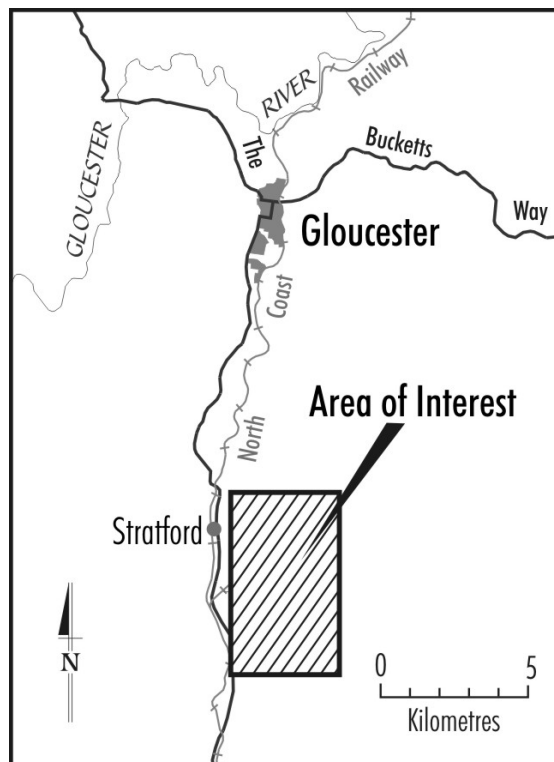
Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DYWER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au



23 June 2011

Native Title Services Corporation Limited
PO Box 2105
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

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Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the process described above, could you please provide their details by the 11 July 2011 (inclusive) to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd
ABN 66 008 881 712
Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the OEH, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

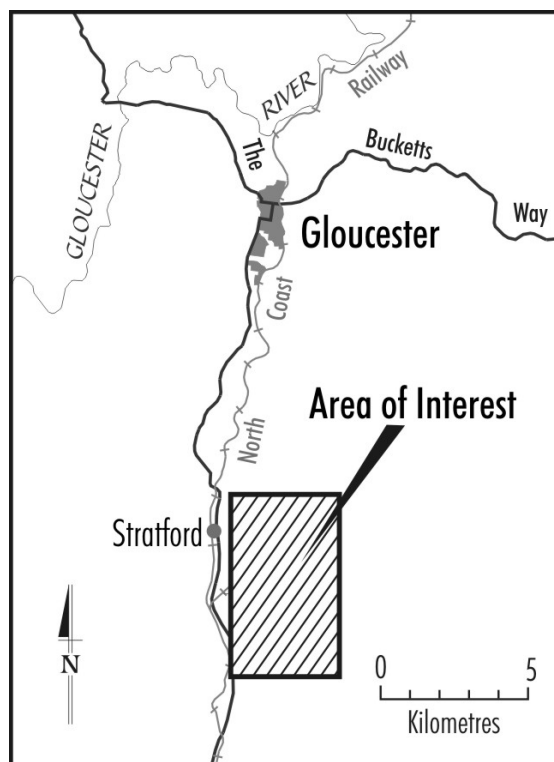
Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DYWER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au



23 June 2011

National Native Title Tribunal
NSW & ACT Registry
GPO Box 9973
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

For the purposes of meeting its consultation requirements as set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (previously Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), GCL hereby notifies that it would like to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the "Area of Interest".

Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the process described above, could you please provide their details by the 11 July 2011 (inclusive) to GCL via the contact details provided below. Specifically, GCL require a list of native title claimants, native title holders and registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements within the "Area of Interest" that the National Native Title Tribunal may be aware of.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd
ABN 66 008 881 712
Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the OEH, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

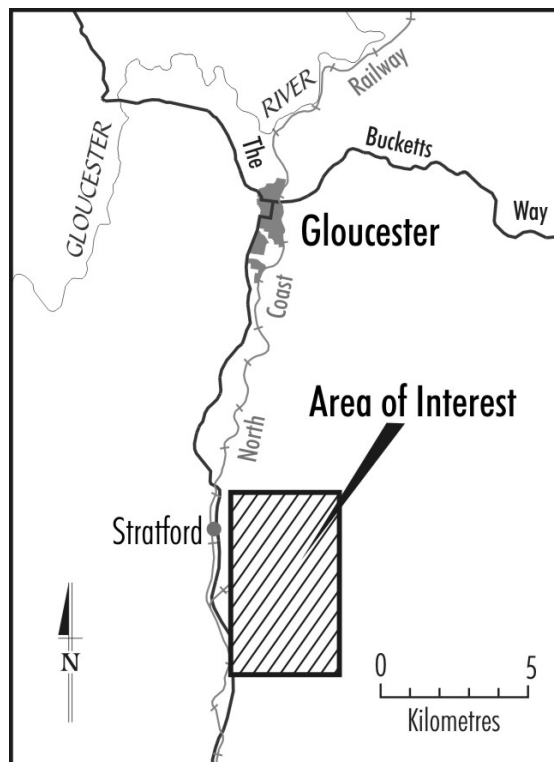
Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DYWER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au



23 June 2011

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

For the purposes of meeting its consultation requirements as set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (previously Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), GCL hereby notifies that it would like to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the "Area of Interest".

Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the process described above, could you please provide their details by the 11 July 2011 (inclusive) to GCL via the contact details provided below. Specifically, GCL require a list of Aboriginal owners within the "Area of Interest" that the Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 may be aware of.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd
ABN 66 008 881 712
Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



23 June 2011

Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 384
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Tim Kelly

Dear Tim,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

For the purposes of meeting its consultation requirements as set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (previously Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), GCL hereby notifies that it would like to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the "Area of Interest".

Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the process described above, could you please provide their details by the 11 July 2011 (inclusive) to GCL via the contact details provided below. GCL is also writing to extend an invitation to the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council to register an interest in the consultation process for the Project, where Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council represent Aboriginal people who have an interest in the "Area of Interest" and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of any Aboriginal objects or places within it.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422

Telephone: 02 6538 4204

Facsimile: 02 6558 8207

Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

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Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

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GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the OEH, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and yourself, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

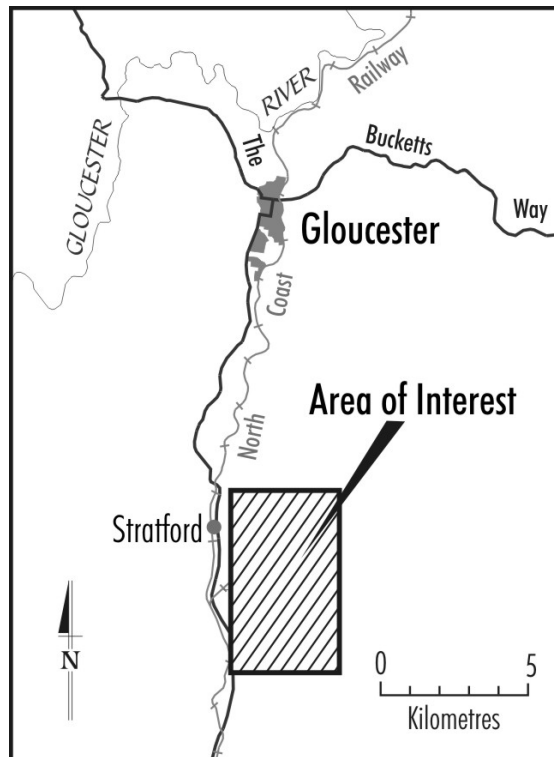
Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DYWER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

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23 June 2011

Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 30
KARUAH NSW 2324

Attention: David Feeny

Dear David,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

For the purposes of meeting its consultation requirements as set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (previously Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), GCL hereby notifies that it would like to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the "Area of Interest".

Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the process described above, could you please provide their details by the 11 July 2011 (inclusive) to GCL via the contact details provided below. GCL is also writing to extend an invitation to the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council to register an interest in the consultation process for the Project, where Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council represent Aboriginal people who have an interest in the "Area of Interest" and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of any Aboriginal objects or places within it.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422

Telephone: 02 6538 4204

Facsimile: 02 6558 8207

Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

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GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the OEH, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council and yourself, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

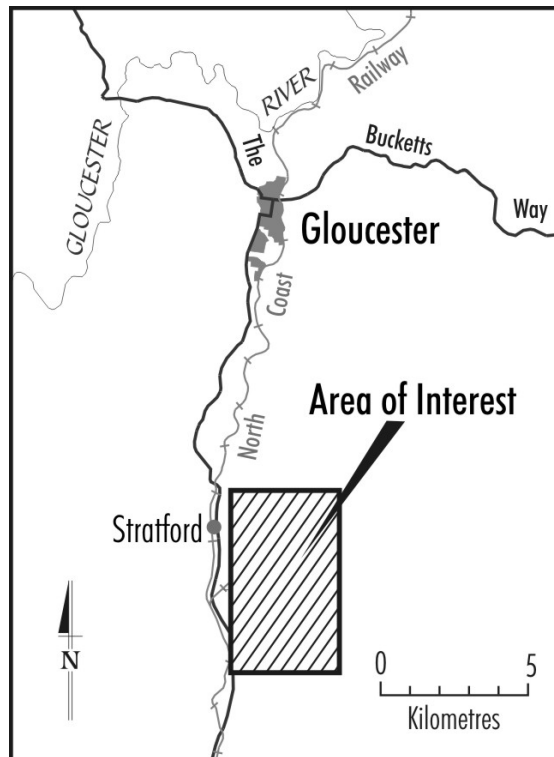
Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DYWER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



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23 June 2011

Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
Private Bag 2010
PATERSON NSW 2421

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

For the purposes of meeting its consultation requirements as set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (previously Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), GCL hereby notifies that it would like to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the "Area of Interest".

Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the process described above, could you please provide their details by the 11 July 2011 (inclusive) to GCL via the contact details provided below. Specifically, GCL require the contact details of any established Aboriginal reference group within the "Area of Interest" that the Hunter-Rivers Catchment Management Authority may be aware of.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

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ABN 66 008 881 712
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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
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GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the OEH, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

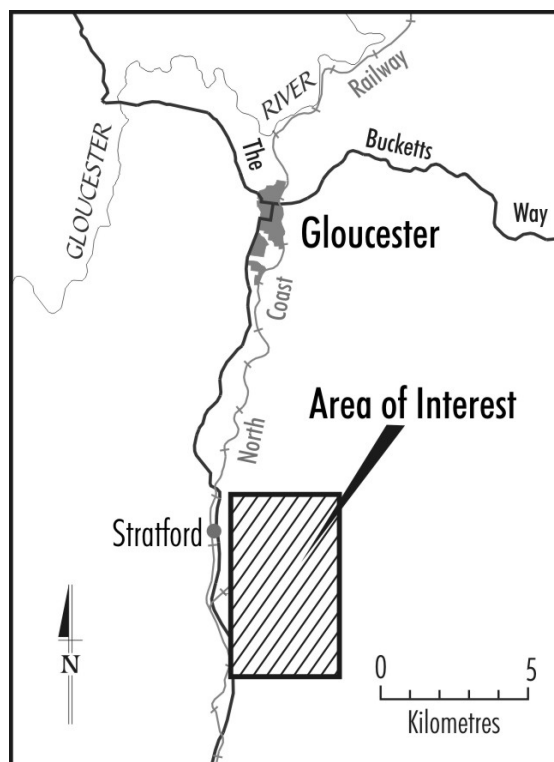
Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DYWER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



Gloucester Coal Ltd

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

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23 June 2011

Gloucester Shire Council
PO Box 11
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

For the purposes of meeting its consultation requirements as set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (previously Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), GCL hereby notifies that it would like to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the "Area of Interest".

Should you know of any Aboriginal person or group who may wish to be consulted in relation to the process described above, could you please provide their details by the 11 July 2011 (inclusive) to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the OEH, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

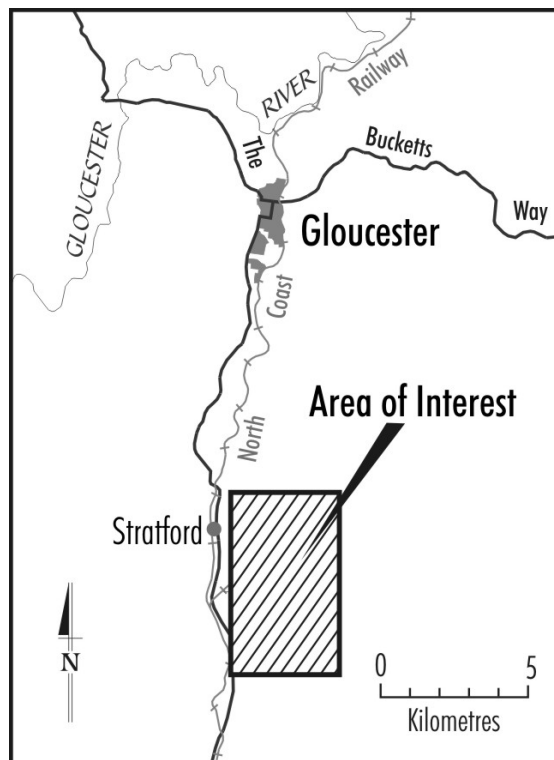
Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DYWER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



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LETTERS TO ABORIGINAL PARTIES



12 July 2011

Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
Post Office Box 30
KARUAH NSW 2324

Attention: David Feeny

Dear David,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

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GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to yourself, the Office of Environment and Heritage and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

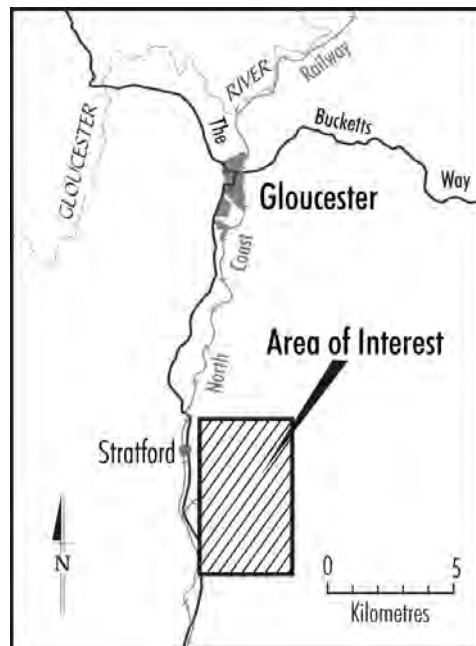
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Saltwater Tribal Council
18 Rondald Road
TAREE NSW 2430

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Saltwater Tribal Council is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Saltwater Tribal Council wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

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GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Saltwater Tribal Council intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

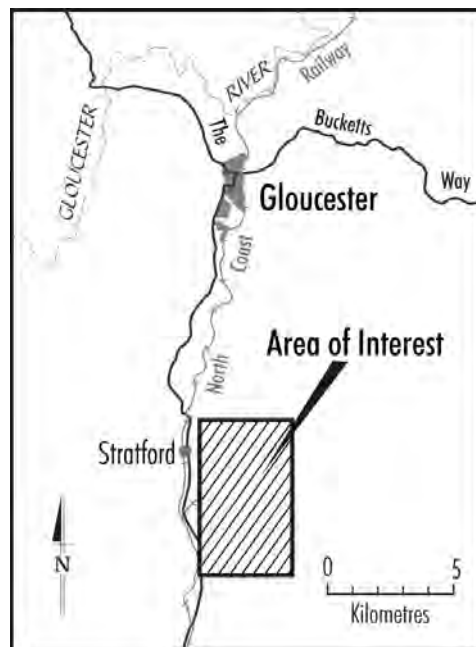
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



12 July 2011

Ghinni Ghinni Youth and Culture Aboriginal Corporation
Post Office Box 641
TAREE NSW 2430

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Ghinni Ghinni Youth and Culture Aboriginal Corporation is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Ghinni Ghinni Youth and Culture Aboriginal Corporation wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

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GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Ghinni Ghinni Youth and Culture Aboriginal Corporation intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

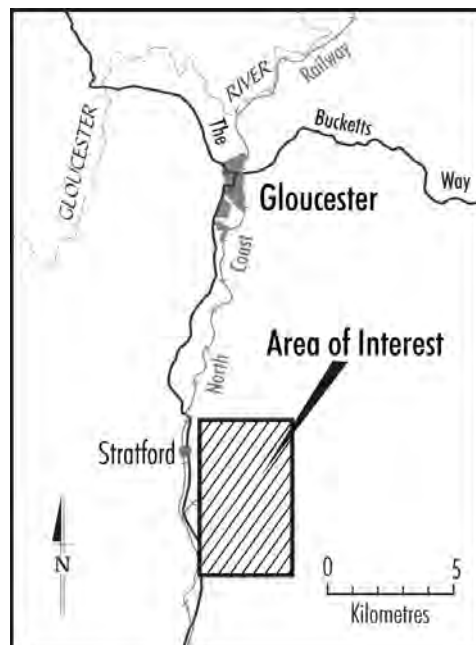
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association
Post Office Box 332
TAREE NSW 2430

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

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GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

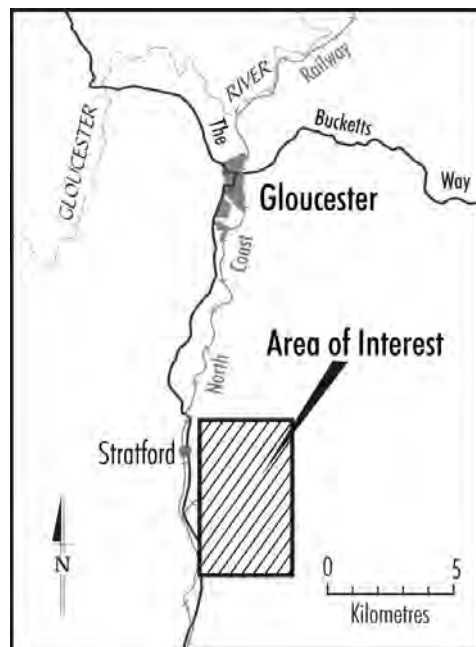
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Bindi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre Inc.
187 Beechwood Road
WAUCHOPE NSW 2446

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Bindi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre Inc. is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Bindi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre Inc. wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

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GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Bindi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre Inc. intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

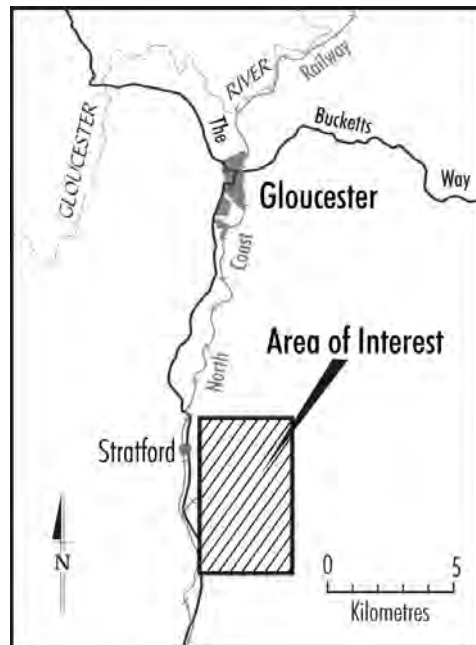
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage
5 Ondine Close
NELSONS BAY NSW 2315

Attention: Carol Ridgeway-Bissett

Dear Carol,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

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Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Maaingal Aboriginal Heritage intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

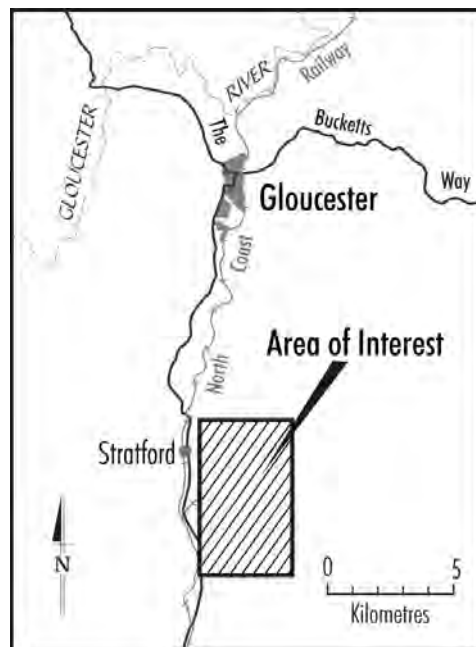
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Mur-Roo-Ma Inc.
7 Vardon Road
FERN BAY NSW 2295

Attention: Anthony Anderson

Dear Anthony,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Mur-Roo-Ma Inc. is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Mur-Roo-Ma Inc. wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Mur-Roo-Ma Inc. intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

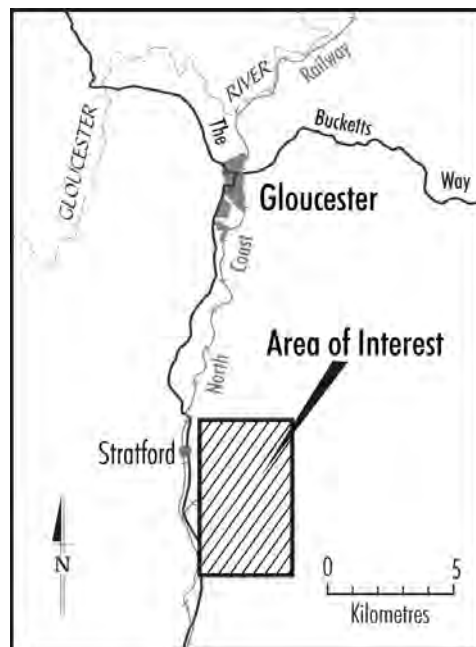
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd
22 Popplewell Road
FERN BAY NSW 2295

Attention: Lea Anderson

Dear Lea,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

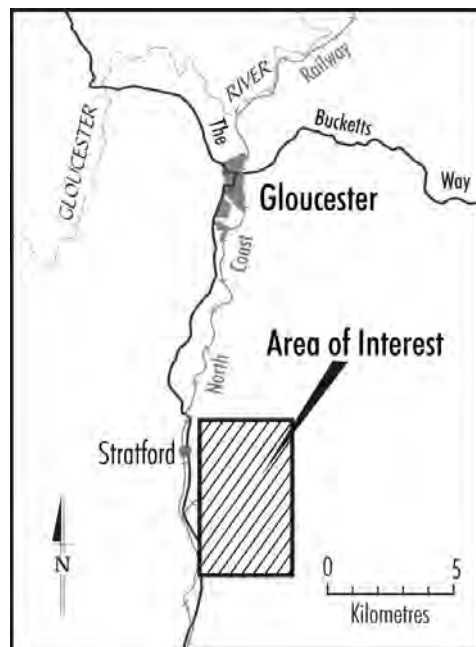
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative
17a Wahgunyah Road
NELSON BAY NSW 2315

Attention: Cheryl Hendry

Dear Cheryl,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

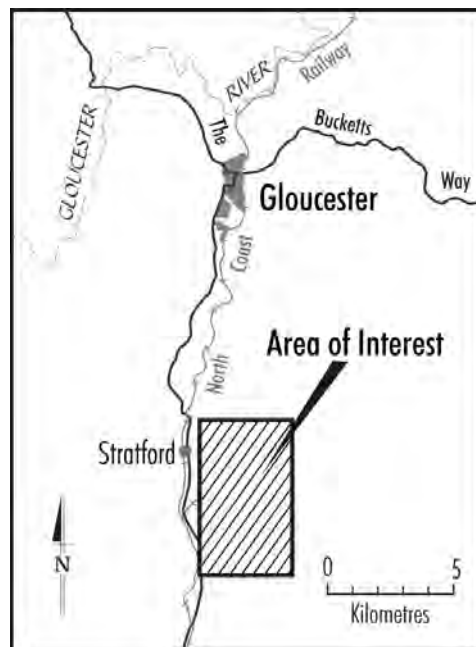
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc.
Post Office Box 182
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

Attention: Del Arnold

Dear Del,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc. is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc. wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc. intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

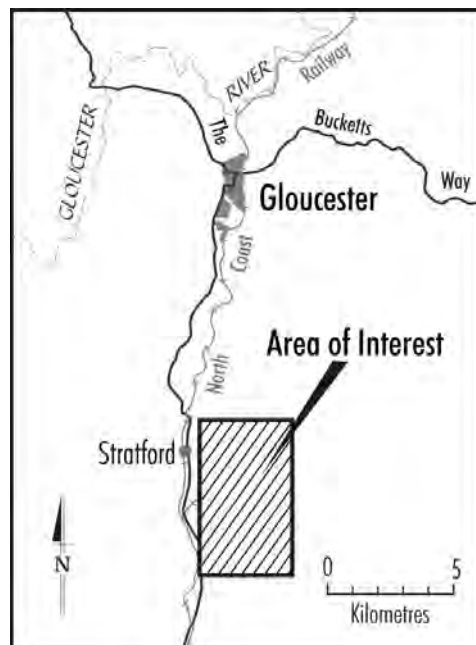
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Do-Wa-Kee
Post Office Box 22
TAREE NSW 2430

Attention: Mick Leon

Dear Mick,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Do-Wa-Kee is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Do-Wa-Kee wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Do-Wa-Kee intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

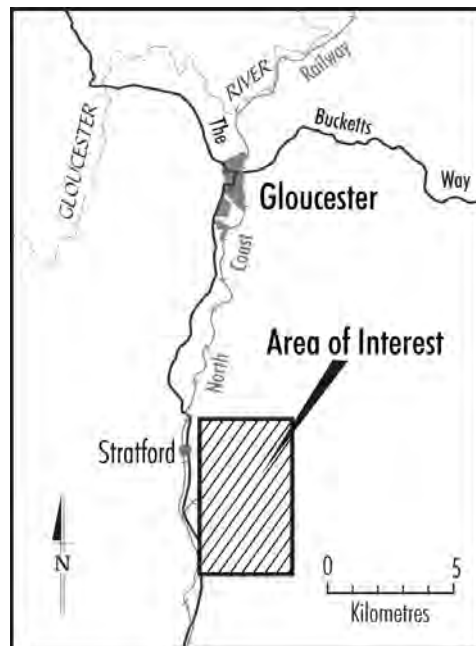
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"





12 July 2011

Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council
Post Office Box 384
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Tim Kelly

Dear Tim,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the enclosed plan.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council is hereby invited to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project.

Should Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council wish to register an interest in the community consultation process described above could you please reply by 5:00 pm 27 July 2011 to GCL via the contact details provided below.

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137

Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project described above will be forwarded to yourself, the Office of Environment and Heritage and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council. If Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council intend to register an interest and do not want their details released, could you please specify accordingly at registration.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

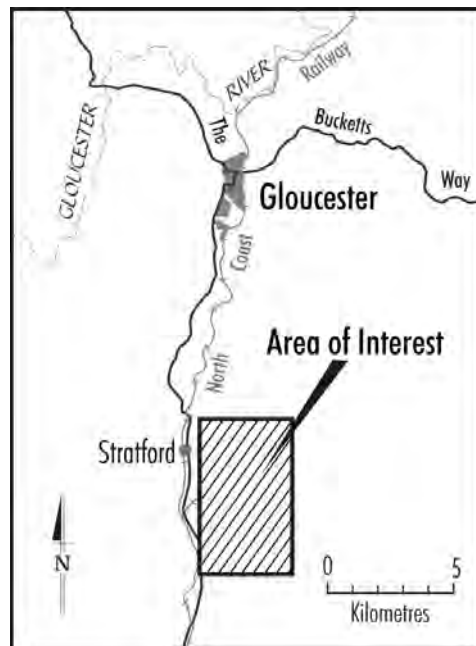
GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER

APPROVALS MANAGER

Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



PUBLIC NOTICES (PUBLISHED 13 JULY 2011)

Births

SHAW
 Danny and Jane wish to announce the birth of their first born child **Elliot James** who arrived safely on the 8/7/11. Grandson for Bill & Maria Shaw and Chris & Joanne Hancock all of Clarence Town. Congratulations sent from both families

Funerals

LEE KEVIN LESLIE
 Passed away peacefully on the 11th July 2011 Aged 74 years

Dearly loved husband of JUDY. Much loved father, father-in-law and poppy to KERRIE & JEFF PECK, VICKIE SHEARS, KYM LEE-KRAMER, KATE HINTON, MICHELE & TREVOR MCKENNA, CHERYL & DERRICK EUBE and their families. Much loved brother, brother-in-law & uncle of the LEE & MATTIE W S FAMILIES.

Relatives and friends of **KEVIN** are respectfully invited to attend his Funeral Service to be held in **The Uniting Church, Dungog this FRIDAY afternoon at 2 o'clock.** Following this Service a Private Cremation will be held.

A memory box will be at the Church for those wishing to place cards, stories or photos of Kevin.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to **Bowel Cancer Research** in Kevin's name.

J & E HAWLEY FUNERALS
 Dungog 02 4992 1572
 FDA of NSW

In Memoriam

HINTON, Alan
 12 months have gone. Sadly missed and never forgotten. Graham, Chris & family, Trish & Shawn, Julie, John & family

ANDREW DILLON
 15.7.2008
 Loved with a love beyond all telling, Missed with a grief beyond all tears. Dad, Mum, Brad and Luke.

Anniversary

Happy Anniversary
Joe & Wendy HOWARD (Mum & Dad)
 Congratulations on your 40th Wedding Anniversary
 Love always your kids and grandkids xxoo

Dungog Chronicle
 Phone 4992 1721
 Fax 4992 2000

Return Thanks

JOAN COLLISON
 Doug, Laurie, Penny, Wayne, Leigh and families would like to express their sincere thanks to extended family, friends and all who attended Joan's funeral. For all the cards, phone calls, flowers, gifts, food and comforts, support. Whatever you did so generously, we thank you all.

Dungog Chronicle
 Phone 4992 1721
 Fax 4992 2000

Motor Vehicles

VP COMMODORE '92 reg'd Oct, good condition. UBX-254 \$2,500 ono Ph 0408 684 611

Livestock

Dorper/Damara Sheep/Pigs
 Sheep easy care, no shearing, ewes fr. \$160. Ewes lambs at foot \$220. Piglets fr. \$70. Cheap eating/Lawn mowers!!! 0407 307800

For Sale

3MT Coro sheet NU \$21 ea. NU (3/4") 20 x 20 PTD RHS \$12 ea. F62 UTE mesh \$34 ea. Good used 2nds Galv. 4" \$39/6.5. Limited stock. Must mention ad for prices. Delivery and EFT-POS. Your Metal Mates 4991 1009. Freecall 1800 304 304.

LAZYBOY luxury lift power recliner, brown velour. 3 months old Cost \$1400 Sell \$700 Ph 4938 9718

Finance

BAD CREDIT?
 Home loans, personal loans, car loans, Refinance. Find your lost superannuation, Superannuation consolidation. 0412 804 248
 www.loansforyou.com.au

Notices

BOWEN INSURANCE BROKERS PTY LIMITED
 Established in 1958
 AFS No 230083
 For Personalised Service and Advice on General and Life Insurance and Superannuation Investments.
PH 4994 5102
 73 Cowper St, Stroud
 Email: insure@bowsure.com

DUNGOG SHIRE PALLIATIVE CARE VOLUNTEERS INC.
 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday August 16, 2011, at 7pm
 at
Dungog Hospital Day Care Centre
 Nomination forms from Co-ordinator: 4992 1644 or Cheryl Maher, Secretary: 4992 1589
 Nominations close on **9 August 2011**

Notices

Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
 Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).

GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the plan below.

As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).

The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, GCL hereby invites any Aboriginal persons or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places(s) in the "Area of Interest" to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project by 5:00pm 27 July 2011.

GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in accordance with this notice will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless they specify at registration that they do not want their details released.

Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.

Contact details for registration are as follows:

Tony Dwyer
 Approvals Manager
 Gloucester Coal Ltd
 PO Box 168
 Gloucester NSW 2422
 Telephone: 02 6538 4204
 Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
 Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au
Plan Showing "Area of Interest"



POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE Free Call 131 444

If you see something you think needs Police attention that is NOT life threatening, call NSW Police P.A.L

All calls to the PAL call centre are answered by Police Employees, in NSW. All calls are automatically logged into the Police computer system, where they remain for ever.

Dungog Chronicle Classifieds
 Phone 4992 1721
 Fax 4992 2000

Notices

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

Residents of Stroud are advised that Bucketts Way, Stroud will be closed between the time of 10am and 11.30am on **Saturday July 16, 2011 between Laman Street and Briton Court Road.**

The purpose of the Road Closure is to conduct a Street Procession in conjunction with the Annual Brick and Rolling Pin Throwing Contest.

R Dickison, Secretary.

Positions Vacant

Telstra
TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINEESHIPS

- Looking for a new challenge?
- Enjoy work freedom and flexibility?
- Earn while you learn from the experts!

For more information on this amazing opportunity call 1300 314 344 or visit skilledgrouptraining.com.au

SKILLED Group Training Services

Liz Johnston, Communications Technician (Former trainee)

To Let - Houses & Units

DUNGOG 2 b/r home, handy location. Suit mature person \$220/wk Ph 4992 1870

Adult Services

FANTASY HOTEL. Cheap! from 99c/min. 1300 722 806 or Fantasy Phone Chat 1902 226313 \$5.45pm mobx
XXX RATED LIVE CHAT
 Ladies ready 24/7 4 U!
 Call on (02) 9884 1223

THANK GOD FOR THE SALVOS

Your Will can help the Salvos change lives

Major Maree Strong and Stuart Diver

By leaving a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army, you'll keep their vital work going beyond your lifetime. To bring hope for the future, make a difference today.

Phone 13 SALVOS (13 72 58) or visit salvos.org.au/wills



Every bequest brings us closer to defeating cancer in her lifetime.

Thanks to medical research cancer survival rates have improved by 29% in the last 30 years. Your bequest to Cancer Council NSW will help fund more research which could help us defeat cancer within this child's lifetime.



The power to save more lives is in your hands.

For more information contact Mella Moore today.
 T: 1300 780 113 • W: cancercouncil.com.au

Gloucester Advocate

Classifieds

Phone 6558 1012
 Fax 6558 2100
 Email: mail.gloucesteradvocate@ruralpress.com

FUNERAL NOTICES

MOORE, Stan
 Late of Wattle Close, Gloucester. Passed away on Monday 11th July, 2011.

AGED 88 YEARS
 Much loved husband of Gwen. Loving father and father in law of Marjie & Rod, Peter & Jancie, Judith (dec) & Chris, Michael & Julie. Proud and adoring grandfather to all his grandchildren & great grandchildren. Survived by his sister Margaret. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Stan's funeral service to be held Thursday 14th July, 2011 commencing at 11am at Uniting Church, Gloucester, prior to interment in the Gloucester Lawn Cemetery. Donations to the Heart Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

WT Howard
 Funerals EST 1922
 5 Flett Street TAREE
 Ph: 65521057

ENGAGEMENTS

Farley/Ekholm
 Diane Ekholm of Sydney and Sten Ekholm of Shanghai, China are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Inga, to Andrew, son of Judy and John Farley of Gloucester.
We wish them many years of happiness

IN MEMORIAM

FERNANCE George (Nobby)
 12.7.92
 A silent thought, a silent tear, always wishing you were here.
We will love you forever
 Hazel and Family

FOR SALE

HAY
 Quality bylong, oaten lucerne, pasture, all sizes avail, cartage arranged, 50% flood rebate ph 0427 157107

SPANLINE now quoting in the Gloucester area. Free estimate on Patio, Glass/Screen Rooms, Carports, Cladding. Ph 6551 6566. BL83737C.

GARAGE SALES

To Visit Visited
4 FORBESDALE CL
 Sat 16/7 8.30-4.30pm
 Assorted H/hold & home workshop items: timber off-cuts, books, tools, house building odds, sewing machines & much more.
Come, take a look & get a bargain! **65582845**

LIVESTOCK

To Visit Visited
SATURDAY 16TH
 Sunday 17, 7am. Cnr Ravenshaw & Margaret Sts. Computer table, ladies clothing, some after 5, electrical tools etc, boat, trailer, fishing gear, car roof basket, camping gear, 2 tents, ovens, stretchers, bedding, single linen & dooners, crockery, camping fridge 55ltr, solar panel 120wt, gas BBQ, small generator. Ph. 65589290.

LIVESTOCK

Dorper/Damara Sheep/Pigs
 Sheep easy care, no shearing, ewes fr. \$160. Ewes lambs at foot \$220. Piglets fr. \$70. Cheap eating/Lawn mowers!!! 0407 307800

FOR SALE

ATTENTION TRADESMEN
 Promote your services everyday with **VINYL SIGNS**
 On your car, truck, van or trailer Limited offer - Vehicle sign & 4 x t shirts With your business logo, name & phone No.
FROM ONLY \$200 (conditions apply)
GLOUCESTER SCREENPRINTS & SIGNS
 88 King Street, Gloucester
 Phone Today - 65589031 or 0438 589482

TO LET - HOUSE & UNITS

2 BEDROOM HOUSE
 and studio, neat, newly renovated, lge yard, must have good references \$280 per week ph 0439 492084 after 6pm

Forster
 3 bed house \$230pw
 3 bed house \$395pw
 3 bed house \$390pw
Diamond Beach
 4 bed house \$400pw
Tuncurry
 3 bed town house \$360pw
 2 bed apartment \$180pw
 2 bed apartment \$265pw
LJ Hooker Forster-Tuncurry
 7 Wharf Street
FORSTER NSW 2428
 P: 65916401
www.ljforster.com.au
 Supporting Cystic Fibrosis Research
LJ Hooker

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES SYDNEY REGISTRY EQUITY DIVISION: After 14 days from publication of this notice an application for probate of the will dated 3rd April 2007 of EDITH ADELAIDE MARY LOUISE BARNETT late of Hillcrest Nursing Home, Church Street Gloucester NSW 2422 pensioner will be made by Sandra Elaine Barnett. Creditors are required to send particulars of their claims upon her estate to Ray Martin, Solicitor, Unit 3, 4 Queen Street Gloucester NSW 2422, PO Box 145 Gloucester NSW 2422 or DX 7052 Gloucester NSW 2422, tel 02 65582200, fax 02 65582383.

LIVESTOCK

Thursday, July 21
GLOUCESTER STORE CATTLE SALE
 Commencing 11am
GLOUCESTER SALEYARDS
 J MacLennan 20 Santa Steers 3 years (GA)
 G Hamberger 12 Angus x Steers 2 1/2 years (GA)
 Mickaza P/L 12 Angus heifers 12 months
 4 Angus Steers 12 months (GA)
 B McKinley 20 Angus x Weaners mixed sex (GA)
 R Redman 15 Angus Weaners mixed sex (GA)
 S Betts 16 Murray Grey Cows joined to Charolais bull 14 Charolais Weaners mixed sex 1 Charolais Bull (GA)
 K Connolly 15 Angus/Hereford Weaners mixed sex (GA)
 J Fisher 12 Angus Heifer Weaners (GA)
 J Ireland 12 Hereford Steer Weaners (GA)
 Woko Station 100 mixed sex Angus weaners (WB)
 Bill Murray 10 Angus X steers 2 years (WB)

GOOCH AGENCIES
 Real Estate & Livestock
65581205

Webb Bros
 Property & Livestock
65581507

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR GRANT
 After 14 days from today an application for a grant of letters of administration on intestacy of PETER EDEN late of St George Hospital, St George in the State of Queensland formerly of 32 Hay Street, Gloucester in the State of New South Wales, deceased, will be made by Trudy Maree Eden to the Supreme Court at Brisbane. You may object to the grant by lodging a caveat in that registry. Lodged by: Pattisons Solicitors, Suite 3, 107 Dandenong Road, Mt Ommaney, Q 4074.

POSITIONS VACANT

DRIFTA CAMPING KITCHENS APPRENTICE CABINET MAKER
 Junior preferred. Call in & see Luke or Mark
7 Lowe St, Gloucester
 or call **02 65582328**

LEGAL SECRETARY

Required for local legal practice. Please submit resume to:
 Office Administration
 PO Box 9,
 Gloucester,
 NSW 2422
 or email to
btb@barlow.com.au
 by 22 July, 2011

FINANCE

BAD CREDIT?
 Home loans, personal loans, car loans, Refinance. Find your lost superannuation, Superannuation consolidation. 0412 804 248
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PUBLIC NOTICES

2011 PHONE BOOK CORRECTIONS
 Please amend the phone numbers for:
RC & AL Murray - 1011 Bucketts Way East 6550 2518
Roadies Cafe - 77 Church Street, 6558 2772
Accommodation Management Services - Trudy Schultz 0427 589 075

PUBLIC NOTICES

EFTPOS
 Now available ...
Gloucester Advocate
 Now available for payment of all accounts, classified ads, paper subscriptions & photo orders.

PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP FUNDING 2011-12
 MidCoast Water is calling for applications from community organisations in the Greater Taree, Great Lakes and Gloucester Shire council areas for consideration under our annual community sponsorship policy. The policy aims to provide support for non-profit community organisations in staging events, festivities and undertaking projects that are of benefit to the general public and align with MidCoast Water's core values. Funds are limited and priority will be given to organisations that can demonstrate the sponsorship is for the benefit of the community. Application forms and guidelines can be obtained by contacting MidCoast Water on 1300 133 455 or by downloading from the website:
www.midcoastwater.com.au
Applications close on Wednesday August 3, 2011
 Enquiries may be directed to Public Relations Manager Marcelle Boyling on 65924803.

COURSES & CAREERS

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julie.hyde1@tafensw.edu.au
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 \$300
 Phone Donna Demaria 65816308
Creative Cutting Forster/Gloucester
 Tuesday night
 5 weeks
 \$500
 Phone Donna Demaria 65816308
donna.demaira@tafensw.edu.au
131 601
northcoast.tafensw.edu.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

MIDCOAST WATER
 The next Ordinary Meeting of the **MidCoast County Council** to be held on **Tuesday 19th July 2011** will take place at **Gloucester Council Chambers 89 King Street, Gloucester** commencing at 9.30am.
 M Nix
 Acting General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICES

Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
 Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW). GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979 (NSW)* for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the plan below. As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*. The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW, 2010)* (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, GCL hereby invites any Aboriginal persons or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places(s) in the "Area of Interest" to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project by 5:00pm 27 July 2011. GCL advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in accordance with this notice will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council and Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless they specify at registration that they do not want their details released. Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process. Contact details for registration are as follows:
 Tony Dwyer
 Approvals Manager
 Gloucester Coal Ltd
 PO Box 168
 Gloucester NSW 2422
 Telephone: 02 6538 4204
 Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
 Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au
Plan Showing "Area of Interest"

Area of Interest
 Stratford
 Gloucester
 Bucketts Way
 Gloucester
 Kilometres

PERSONAL

WAGTAILS
 Charlie: Blonde Playmate
 Tahlia: Petite Italian
 Ashley: Mature Bombshell
 To name a few
PH 65514444
MOB 0487 914444
Lic 0024/2008D

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CLEAN FILL
 wanted Diamond Beach area. Ph. 0457 504289.

MVKC AGM
 14th July 2011 7.30pm
 Taree Leagues Club.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TAXATION RETURNS \$110 (inc GST)
 Electronic Lodgement Service
14 DAY REFUND
 Have your tax return prepared in the comfort of your own home by a qualified accountant
 Appointments available day or night
 Accounting and taxation services available for business, partnerships and companies
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6555 2778

PRIVACY POLICY
 Rural Press Limited and its associated entities (Rural Press) collect personal information to assist in providing goods and services that have been requested, and to improve products and services. Rural Press may contact you from time to time to let you know about goods, services and promotions that may be of interest. If you receive such information, please inform us if you do not wish to be contacted further. You can do this by contacting the Privacy Officer in writing by the following methods:
 Mail:
Privacy Officer
Rural Press Limited
159 Bells Line of Road
North Richmond NSW 2754
 Email:
privacy@ruralpress.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice under Section 5.5 Industry Code C564:2004 for the Deployment of Mobile Phone Network Infrastructure
 Vodafone Hutchison Australia (Vodafone) is one of Australia's licensed mobile telecommunications carriers. To improve coverage and the quality of telecommunications services in the area, Vodafone is proposing to install mobile telecommunications equipment at a new telecommunications facility at 5 Dee Crescent, Tuncurry NSW 2428.
 The proposed activity consists of the following:
 • the installation of a 30 metre monopole;
 • the installation of six new panel antennas;
 • the installation of two radiocommunications dishes;
 • the installation of a new equipment shelter; and
 • undertaking associated ancillary works such as the installation of antenna mounts, cables, feeders etc.
 The proposed works at the location mentioned above are part of the overall upgrades to the Vodafone network.
 Vodafone regards the proposed installation as Complying and Exempt Development under the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Infrastructure) 2007.
 Further information can be obtained from:
 Laura Holt
 Environmental Planner
 Ph: 02 9478 9999
 Written submissions should be directed to:
 Laura Holt
 Post: PO Box 125
 ST LEONARDS NSW 1590
 Fax: 02 9478 9900
 Electronic submissions or requests for information can be made via the following web link <http://community.tcipl.com.au/>.
 Written correspondence should be submitted by 27th July 2011.

PUBLIC NOTICES

HARVEY
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SCENIC TOURS
CANADA & ALASKA 2012
 Film Presentation & Information Session at 10.30am Wednesday 20th July.
 Join us for morning tea & special offers only available at the event.
RSVP 6554 7711

MIDCOAST WATER
 The next Ordinary Meeting of the MidCoast County Council to be held on **Tuesday 19th July 2011** will take place at **Gloucester Council Chambers 89 King Street, Gloucester** commencing at 9.30am.
 M Nix
 Acting General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE HUB THIS SATURDAY
 Don't miss this GREAT MARKET
TAREE NORTH ROTARY BOOK FAIR
 Next Hub: 20th August 2011 Manning River Lions Club...0429 192 149
NOW AT... TAREE SHOWGROUND (Muldoon Street) 8am - 12:00pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

GREAT LAKES COUNCIL

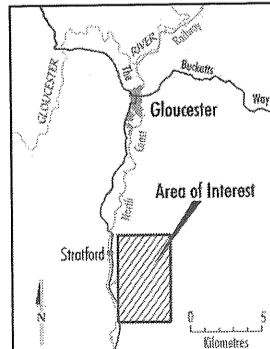
CULTURAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN
 Nominations are invited under 7 categories:
Visual Arts: Organisation, Individual & Youth (under 18)
Performing Arts: Organisation, Individual & Youth (under 18)
Enlightened Support: Individual, group or organisation that has made a significant contribution to any creative discipline either by endowment or by creative practice.
 Awards Night with live entertainment & food, **3 September 2011 Tuncurry Bowling Club.**
 Further information or to request an information pack; contact Community Services Ph 6591 7298.

DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS ISSUED

In accordance with the provisions of Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, notification is hereby given that the undermentioned developments have recently been granted consent. A copy of the consent, together with any conditions attached thereto, may be inspected at Council's Customer Service Centre during office hours.
Development consents advertised 13th July 2011
 DA-236/2009, 4 Riverview Place, DARAWANK, Swimming pool
 DA-158/2011, 10 Cliff Road, FORSTER, First floor addition
 DA-193/2011, 143-147 Korie Street, PINDIMAR, Dwelling
 DA-264/2011, 9775 Pacific Highway, BULAHDELAH, Construction of a kitchen/recreation room to an existing motel
 DA-296/2011, 33 Dunshea Avenue, TEA GARDENS, Two storey dwelling with garage and pool
 DA-335/2011, 17 Seaview Street, FORSTER, Concrete swimming pool
 DA-337/2011, 98 Windward Circuit, TEA GARDENS, Construction of single storey dwelling
 DA-379/2011, 135 Promontory Way, NORTH ARM COVE, Private jetty & slipway
 DA-394/2011, 46 Belbourie Crescent, BOOMERANG BEACH, Single

dwelling & swimming pool
 DA-402/2011, 411 The Bucketts Way, STROUD ROAD, Construction of new home, including inground pool - existing transportable home to remain until new construction completed, then removed
 DA-416/2011, 289 Mungo Brush Road, HAWKS NEST, Dwelling
 DA-425/2011, 14 Peel Street, TUNCURRY, Garage for boat, caravan & vehicles
 DA-429/2011, 138 Cove Boulevard, NORTH ARM COVE, Construction of cabana & pool/bush fire water storage & stairs at rear of house as per plans
 DA-433/2011, Lot 5 Shoreline Drive, TEA GARDENS, One into 5 lot community title subdivision
 DA-435/2011, Lot 1 Sanderling Avenue, HAWKS NEST, One into two lot Torrens Title subdivision & revised car park design
 DA-436/2011, 6 Recreation Lane, TUNCURRY, Use of existing swimming pool
 DA-449/2011, 35 Myall Street, TEA GARDENS, Construction of second dwelling & Torrens Title subdivision
 DA-464/2011, 2/16 Pioneer Drive, FORSTER, Swimming pool
 DA-467/2011, 25 Wharf Street, TUNCURRY, Installation of handicap lift
 CDCALT475/2011, 23 Lake Vista Crescent, FORSTER, Extend existing bedrooms
 DA-478/2011, 11 Wyuna Place, FORSTER, Dwelling additions
 DA-483/2011, 377 Mungo Brush Road, HAWKS NEST, Single dwelling
 DA-491/2011, 30 Prince Street, BULAHDELAH, Demolish old car shed & erect of new shed
 DA-492/2011, 8 Ridgeline Court, ELIZABETH BEACH, Two storey dwelling
 DA-493/2011, 6 Laurina Drive, DARAWANK, Dwelling
 CDCANC496/2011, 12 Beach Street, FORSTER, 2 chinese cooking set, 1 extra sink & 6 head cooking set
 DA-498/2011, 3 Harold Street, BULAHDELAH, New garden shed
 DA-499/2011, 7 Correa Close, TUNCURRY, Single storey brick veneer dwelling
 DA-503/2011, 18 Dee Crescent,

TUNCURRY, Non commercial building for storage purposes
 DA-505/2011, 6 Morantes Street, PINDIMAR, Garage
 DA-508/2011, 54 Werrana Circuit, FORSTER, Single dwelling house & free-standing garage
 DA-509/2011, 58 Markwell Back Road, BULAHDELAH, Elevated single storey residence, metal shed & on-site sewage management system (reed bed), & removal of two trees
 DA-514/2011, 77 Lakeview Crescent, FORSTER, Demolition and removal of two existing timber decks, proposed addition of new timber deck (for entertaining)
 DA-516/2011, 50 Wamara Crescent, FORSTER, Carport
 DA-520/2011, 51A Lakeview Crescent, FORSTER, Patio cover
 DA-522/2011, 13 Werrana Circuit, FORSTER, New single storey dwelling
 DA-527/2011, 27 Stroud Street, BULAHDELAH, Conduct car sales business from home
 DA-528/2011, 96 Windward Circuit, TEA GARDENS, Single storey residential dwelling
 DA-531/2011, 76 Glider Avenue, DARAWANK, Swimming pool
 DA-537/2011, 1166 The Bucketts Way, STROUD ROAD, Bathroom & sanitary facility
 DA-538/2011, 7 Meade Street, BULAHDELAH, Construction of double garage (metal construction), demolition single garage (timber & metal construction)
 DA-539/2011, 5 Sanctuary Close, TEA GARDENS, Inground swimming pool & associated hard & soft landscape works
 DA-551/2011, 46 Binda Street, HAWKS NEST, Deck to rear of existing residence & minor internal alterations to house
 DA-557/2011, 8 Motum Avenue, TEA GARDENS, Demolition
 DA-562/2011, 69 Leeward Circuit, TEA GARDENS, Dwelling
 DA-563/2011, 1050 Lawlers Creek Road, MONKERAI, Burial plot on private property

Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
 Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine, an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 kilometres north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW).
 GCL plans to seek approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* (NSW) for the proposed Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The Project is a proposed extension of open cut coal mining and associated surface infrastructure. As part of the Application Process, GCL will be preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Project. The subject area for the Project is shown as the "Area of Interest" on the plan below.
 As part of the Application Process, GCL may also seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW).
 The Aboriginal community consultation process for the Project will be carried out in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) (ACHC Requirements). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist GCL in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment referred to above. Pursuant to the ACHC Requirements, GCL hereby invites any Aboriginal persons or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places(s) in the "Area of Interest" to register an interest in a process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Project by 5:00pm 27 July 2011.
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 Please note that any opportunities for employment would be separate to the consultation process.
 Contact details for registration are as follows:
 Tony Dwyer
 Approvals Manager
 Gloucester Coal Ltd
 PO Box 168
 Gloucester NSW 2422
 Telephone: 02 6538 4204
 Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
 Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au
Plan Showing "Area of Interest"

 PN2169796

LETTERS TO THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE AND RELEVANT LOCAL
ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCILS

19 August 2011

North East
Office of Environment and Heritage
Planning and Aboriginal Heritage Section
Locked Bag 914
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Dear Sir/Madam,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) below is a list of registered groups involved in the community consultation process with Gloucester Coal Limited for the Stratford Extension Project.

- Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Cultural Consulting Services;
- Do-Wa-Kee;
- Mookibakh Traditional Owners Inc.;
- Maaiangal Group, Worimi Nation; and
- Worimi Traditional Owners.

A copy of the notification letters sent to the registered Aboriginal groups and the public notices published in accordance with section 4.1.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) are provided in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 respectively.

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER



19 August 2011

Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council
Post Office Box 384
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Tim Kelly

Dear Tim,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) below is a list of registered groups involved in the community consultation process with Gloucester Coal Limited for the Stratford Extension Project.

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Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Dwyer", written in a cursive style.

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

19 August 2011

Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
Post Office Box 30
KARUAH NSW 2324

Attention: David Feeney

Dear David,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) below is a list of registered groups involved in the community consultation process with Gloucester Coal Limited for the Stratford Extension Project.

- Cultural Consulting Services;
- Doo-Wa-Kee;
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A copy of the notification letters sent to the registered Aboriginal groups and the public notices published in accordance with section 4.1.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) are provided in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 respectively.

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED



TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
PROPOSED METHODOLOGY
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT



August 2011
Project No. GCL-10-12
Document No: 00403296

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1 INTRODUCTION

Gloucester Coal Ltd (GCL) owns and operates the Stratford Coal Mine (SCM), located approximately 95 kilometres (km) north of Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1).

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (previously the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]) (2010a) defines Aboriginal cultural heritage as consisting of places and items that are of significance to Aboriginal people because of their traditions, observances, lore, customs, beliefs and history. Activities that impact the landscape may affect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

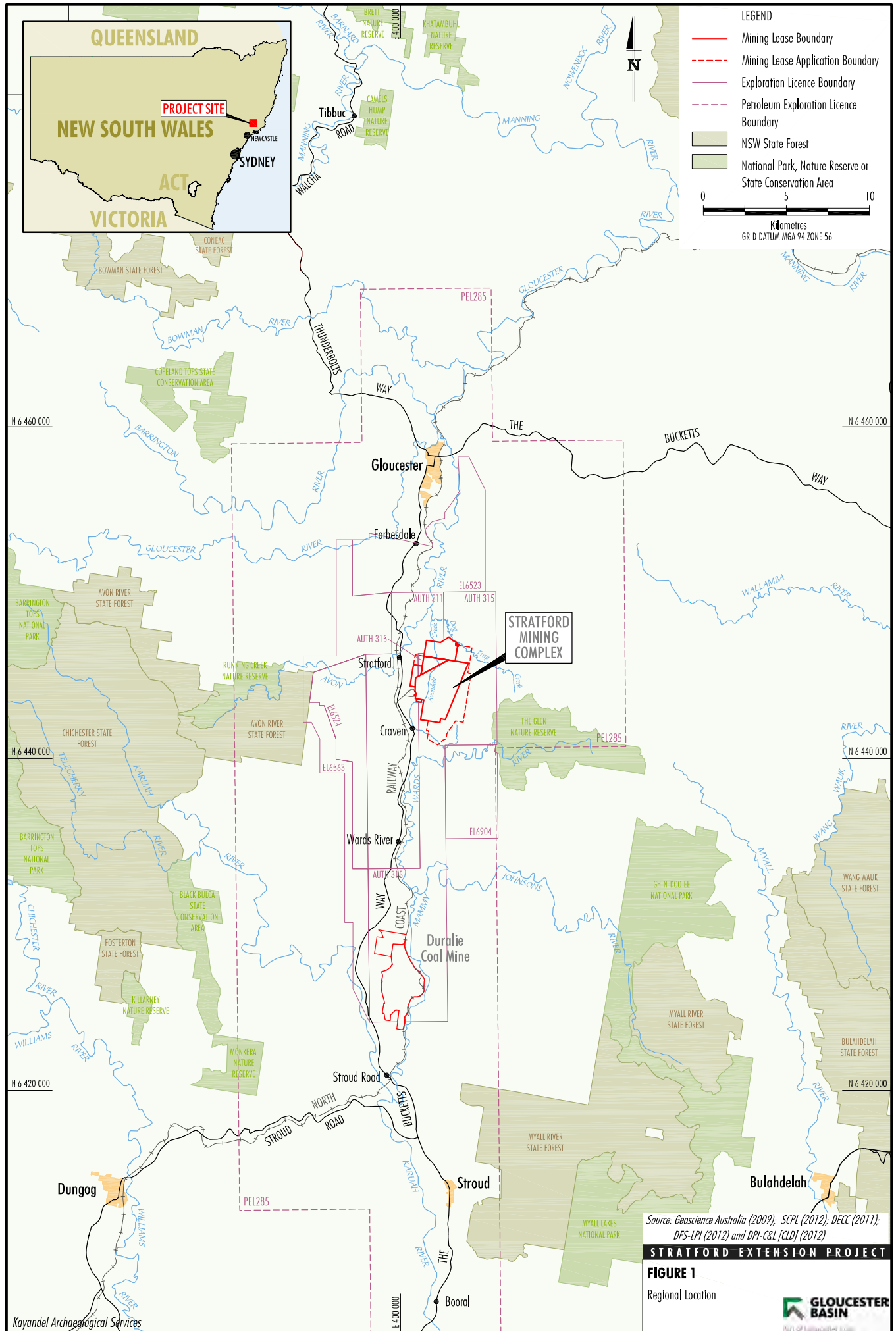
This document presents a Proposed Methodology for the Aboriginal cultural and archaeological assessment of the Stratford Extension Project (the Project). The proposed Project would involve an extension to current open cut mining operations and would extend the life of the mine by approximately 11 years.

This proposed methodology has been designed to conform to the relevant requirements of various advisory documents and guidelines. These guidelines and documents include:

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (Part 6 National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974)* (DECCW, 2010a).
- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010b).
- *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (NSW Department of Environment and Conservation [DEC], 2005).
- *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* (DEC, 2004).
- The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS, 1999).
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit* (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1997).

The remainder of this document is structured as follows:

- Section 2: Provides an overview of the existing Stratford Coal Mine and proposed Project.
- Section 3: Outlines the objectives of Aboriginal community consultation.
- Section 4: Provides an overview of previous archaeological investigations undertaken at the Stratford Coal Mine.
- Section 5: Describes the consultation steps undertaken to date for the Project.
- Section 6: Provides a description of the proposed cultural heritage assessment methodology.
- Section 7: Describes the proposed archaeological assessment methodology.
- Section 8: Provides an overview of the proposed content of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report.
- Section 9: Provides the key Aboriginal community input points in the assessment process.
- Section 10: Provides the critical timelines for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Stratford Extension Project.
- Section 11: Lists the references cited in this report.



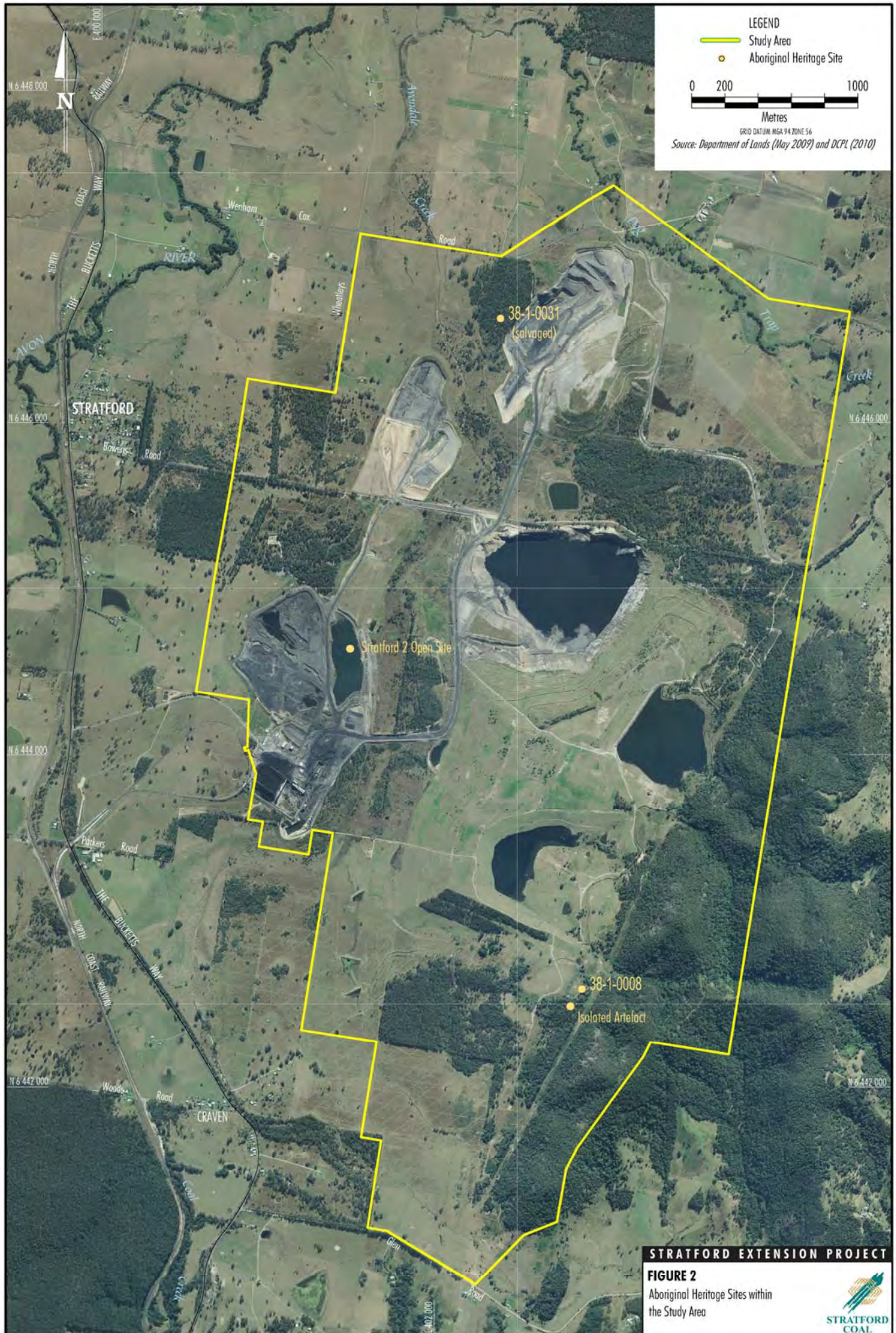
2 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Stratford Coal Mine (SCM) is an open cut coal operation located approximately 95 km north of Newcastle in NSW (Figure 1). The SCM is owned and operated by GCL. GCL is seeking approval from the Minister for Planning for an extension to current open cut mining operations at the SCM under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act).

The main activities associated with the development of the Project would include:

- Continuation of open cut mining, including the extension of current open cut workings and the construction of two additional open cut pits.
- Increase in the total mine life by approximately 11 years (i.e. from the 2013 to 2024).
- Increase in the total life of mine coal production of approximately 21.4 million tonnes.
- Increase in the maximum run-of-mine (ROM) coal production rate to approximately 2.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa).
- Increase in the total waste rock production of approximately 160 million bank cubic metres.
- Processing of up to 5.5 Mtpa of ROM coal at the Stratford Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) (includes processing of ROM coal from the Duralie Coal Mine).
- Construction and use of new soil stockpile areas.
- Continued backfilling of pit void with CHPP rejects and/or waste rock.
- Construction and use of dams, open pits, channels, dewatering bores and other control measures to manage groundwater and surface water within and around the mine site.
- Continued use of Stratford rail loading/unloading facilities.
- Ongoing rail transport of coal to Newcastle.
- Realignment of the 132 kilovolt powerline.
- Realignment of Wenham Cox Road and Bowens/Wheatleys Roads to the east and the north of the mine site respectively.
- Additional 125 employees.

All of the activities described that require surface disturbance in addition to that already approved would be undertaken within the study area as shown on Figure 2. It is not known at this early stage in the Project the exact location of all Project components. However, they would all be located within the study area shown on Figure 2 and the field surveys and investigations to be undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment will cover the study area.



3 OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The objective of community consultation is for Aboriginal people to have the opportunity to improve assessment outcomes by:

- providing relevant information about the cultural significance and values of the Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s);
- influencing the design of the method to assess cultural and scientific significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s);
- actively contributing to the development of cultural heritage management options and recommendations for any Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) within the study area; and
- commenting on the draft assessment report before it is submitted to government.

4 PREVIOUS ARCHEAOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

A number of Aboriginal heritage assessments of the Stratford Coal Mine area and surrounds have been previously undertaken and include:

- *Bowens Road North Project: Assessment of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Heritage* (Heritage Search, 2000).
- *Stratford EIS: Updated Archaeological Assessment* (Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd, 1994).
- *Aboriginal Heritage 1984 Report* (Brayshaw, 1984).

In addition to the assessments listed above, a recent search of the OEH Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register was undertaken on 19 July 2011 for a 50 square kilometre grid centered on the study area. Based on the results of the previous investigations and the July 2011 AHIMS search, a total of four Aboriginal heritage sites has been identified within the study area (Table 1 and Figure 2). One site, Isolated Find No. 1 (AHIMS ID 38-1-0031) was salvaged in accordance with Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) #2858 in January 2008.

A copy of the AHIMS site cards for the Craven Parkers Road site (AHIMS ID 38-1-0008) and Isolated Find No. 1 (AHIMS ID 38-1-0031) is provided in Attachment 1. The Stratford 2 Open Site and Isolated Artefact do not appear to have been registered on the AHIMS database and site cards for these sites are not available. However, Attachment 2 includes relevant extracts from Brayshaw (1984) and Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd (1994) that describe these sites and map their recorded location.

Table 1
Aboriginal Heritage Sites within the Study Area

| AHIMS Site ID | Site Name | Site Type | Salvaged |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 38-1-0008 | Craven Parkers Road | Artefact Scatter | - |
| 38-1-0031 | Isolated Find No. 1 | Artefact | Yes, January 2008 |
| - | Stratford 2 Open Site | Artefact Scatter | - |
| - | Isolated Artefact | Artefact | - |

5 CONSULTATION TO DATE

A summary of the consultation undertaken to date in accordance with the Section 4.1 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a) for the Stratford Coal Project is outlined below.

The following organisations were asked for names of Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or have a right or interest in Aboriginal objects, places and/or Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the study area or surrounds:

- OEH Environmental Protection and Regulation Group (Coffs Harbour Regional Office);
- Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- The Register, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983;
- The National Native Title Tribunal;
- Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTSCORP Limited);
- Gloucester Shire Council; and
- Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

GCL then provided written notification of the proposed Project to Aboriginal stakeholders identified by the organisations listed above. These stakeholders were invited to register an interest in the process of community consultation with GCL regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the proposed Project.

In addition to the written notifications, a notice was placed in the Gloucester Advocate, Great Lakes Advocate and Dungog Chronicle (13 July 2011) seeking registrations from any additional interested Aboriginal stakeholders.

6 CULTURAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the consultation process are described in Section 3.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a), GCL requests that registered Aboriginal stakeholders provide, where relevant, during the conduct of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, cultural information regarding:

- whether there are any Aboriginal objects of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the study area or surrounds; and
- whether there are any places of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the study area or surrounds.

This may include places of social, spiritual and cultural value, historic places with cultural significance, and potential places/areas of historic, social, spiritual and/or cultural significance.

The cultural assessment and consultation process will involve the following:

- distribution of this proposed assessment methodology to registered Aboriginal stakeholders;
- review of the proposed assessment methodology by registered Aboriginal stakeholders who may wish to advise any matters such as issues/areas of cultural significance that might affect, inform or refine the assessment methodology;
- consultation with registered Aboriginal stakeholders regarding the cultural context and value of Aboriginal objects and/or places that may be in the study area or surrounds (including appropriate management of any cultural information provided by registered Aboriginal stakeholders that is sensitive or has restricted public access);
- assessment of the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places located in the study area or surrounds based on the context, Aboriginal heritage values and archaeological assessment;
- consultation with registered Aboriginal stakeholders regarding potential management options to avoid or mitigate harm and/or conserve known Aboriginal objects and/or places; and
- documentation of feedback received as part of the cultural assessment from registered Aboriginal stakeholders for presentation in the final cultural heritage assessment report (subject to the sensitivity of the information provided).

Sensitive Cultural Information - Management Protocol

In the event that a registered Aboriginal party has sensitive or restricted public access information that they are willing to provide to GCL, it is proposed that GCL would manage this information in accordance with a sensitive cultural information management protocol. It is anticipated that the protocol will include making note of and managing the material in accordance with the following key limitations/requirements as advised by Aboriginal people at the time of the information being provided:

- any restrictions on access to the material;
- any restrictions on communication of the material;
- any restrictions on the location/storage of the material;
- any cultural recommendations on handling the material;
- any contextual information;
- any names and contact details of persons authorised within the relevant Aboriginal group to make decisions concerning the Aboriginal material and the degree of authorisation;
- any details of any consent given in accordance with customary law;
- the level of confidentiality to be accorded to the material; and
- any access and use by the registered Aboriginal parties, of the cultural information in the material.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The archaeological assessment will involve the following:

- a search of the OEH AHIMS database;
- a search of the National Heritage List, Commonwealth Heritage List and register of the National Estate;
- provision of existing information on Aboriginal heritage within the study area and surrounds to the registered Aboriginal stakeholders, including copies of available AHIMS site cards for registered sites within the study area (Attachment 1);
- literature review of relevant cultural heritage and archaeological reports and publications;
- field survey of the study area (including an inspection of known sites) with the assistance of registered Aboriginal stakeholders;
- archaeological significance assessment based on existing information and additional information collected during the field survey and consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders; and
- preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report.

Information from previous archaeological investigations at the Stratford Coal Mine will inform the field survey of the study area and will also be incorporated into the archaeological significance assessment.

8 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Following consultation on the methodology of the cultural heritage assessment and the undertaking of any required field components, a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report will be prepared. The draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report will be provided to registered Aboriginal stakeholders for review and feedback and will include:

- details of the objects and places identified within the study area and an assessment of potential impacts from the Project;
- records of the Aboriginal stakeholder consultation conducted and how any comments received throughout the assessment process were considered; and
- proposed management and mitigation recommendations drawing on information provided by registered Aboriginal stakeholders and the findings of the cultural and archaeological assessments.

9 KEY ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY INPUT POINTS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Key input points in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment impact assessment process for feedback from the Aboriginal community regarding research methodology, cultural significance and management of potential impacts on heritage sites/values may include:

- written or verbal feedback prior to or during the on-site Project briefing meeting;
- written or verbal feedback on the Proposed Methodology;
- verbal feedback and comments during site inspection/survey of the study area;
- written or verbal feedback following the site inspection/survey and prior to the issue of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to the registered Aboriginal parties for review; and
- verbal or written feedback on the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

In addition to the above, written or verbal feedback can be provided at any stage throughout the consultation process (i.e. until the completion of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment review period)

In the event that a registered Aboriginal party has sensitive or restricted public access information it is proposed that GCL will manage this information in accordance with a sensitive cultural information management protocol outlined in Section 6.

10 CRITICAL TIMELINES

As discussed above, provision of comments on the Proposed Methodology to GCL is required by 27 September 2011.

Critical timelines for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Stratford Extension Project are outlined below. Please note that these timelines are estimates at this early stage in the process and are provided to allow forward planning of personnel and resources. GCL will provide subsequent notification and clarification (i.e. actual dates and approach for field work participation) of the below timelines once greater certainty is available.

1. Information session for Aboriginal stakeholders: September 2011.
2. Provision of comments on Proposed Methodology: 27 September 2011.
3. Collation of cultural significance information: Ongoing throughout process until end of draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage report review period.
4. Site inspection/survey: October 2011.
5. Provision of a draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report (including proposed management and mitigation measures) to registered Aboriginal stakeholders for review: November/December 2011 (following field survey).
6. Provision of comments on draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report: December 2011.
7. Finalisation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report in consideration of comments received: December 2011.

11 REFERENCES

- Australia ICOMOS (1999) *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter)*. Revised edition. Australia ICOMOS, Canberra.
- Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd (1994) *Stratford EIS: Updated Archaeological Assessment*. Report to AGC Woodward-Clyde Pty Ltd.
- Brayshaw, H. (1984) *Archaeological Survey of Coal Lease Area, Stratford, NSW*. Report to Dames & Moore.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (2004) *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants*.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (2005) *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation*.
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2010a) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Community Consultation Requirements for Proponents*.
- Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (2010b) *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.
- Heritage Search (2000) *Bowens Road North Project: Assessment of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Heritage*. Report to Resource Strategies.
- Office of Environment and Heritage (2010) *AHIMS search for the following area: E: 400000-405000; N: 6440000-6450000*. Date accessed: 19 July 2010.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (1997) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit*.

ATTACHMENT 1
ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITE CARDS

AHIMS ID 38-1-0008
Craven Parkers Road

1. Map Name **NEWCASTLE** **CRAVEN** 5. Site No. **38-1-8**

2. Scale **1:250,000** **1:25,000** 6. Site type **Open Site**

3. Grid ref **5003 0244** **0289 4259**

4. Site name(s) **Craven** **Parkers Rd** 7. Classification

8. Air photo ref

9. Cadastral **County of Gloucester**, **Gloucester Shire**, **Avon Parish**

10. Land Status 11.

12. Directions for site relocation

Turn east off Stroud/Gloucester Rd at Parkers Rd, c 2 km north of Craven. Drive to extreme end of homestead. Walk up gully between house & sheds, c 200 m. Gravel borrow pit & site on southern bank, down from power line.

13. Owner **Blue Metal Industries** 14. Tenant/Manager

Address Address

Attitude Attitude



38-1-0008

15. Site Description

Artefacts eroding out of upper soil horizon, on edge of gravel borrow pit; area 30 x 15 metres.

Artefacts found -
2 broken blades,
1 backed blade,
1 flake.

Three of local grey silicified mudstone, & one of silcrete.



16. Reasons for investigation **Arch survey - BML coal site - EIS.**

17. Condition **Removed & partially destroyed by removal of gravel.**

18. Interpretation

19. Visitation

20. Recommendations **No salvage recommended.**



21. Environmental description of site locality

At edge of hills of sclerophyll forest, remnants of closed subtropical rainforest slightly higher up the gully; within area cleared for grazing.

22. Relation to other sites in locality

Ceremonial grounds @ flowerster + Stroud, open site at Stroud; isolated artefact 300 metres to the south at 02804258 (Craven 1:25,000).

23. Details of artifact collections

24. Is plan or diagram of site attached? Yes/No

25. Are annotated photographs attached? Yes/No How many? 1. another = report.

26. Other additions

27. Importance of site to Aborigines

Unable to discover - not likely to be great.

28. Source of this information

29. Oral sources of information

30. Written references Archaeological survey of Blue Metal Industries' Coal Mine sites at Stratford and Wards River. H. Brayshaw.

31. Recorded by Helen Brayshaw

Filed by Faith

Address

28 Bradford St.
Balmain 2041.

Date

Dec. 1981

Date 19.1.83

Site Register Information

Additional Information for Aboriginal
Site Register

Site No. 38-1-8

See Report:- Archeological Survey of Coal Lease
areas at Stratford N.S.W.

Author - Brayshaw and Associates

Origin: Date

R/O _____

D/O _____

H/O 23-5-85

Copies sent to: Date

R/O 23-5-85

D/O 23-5-85

H/O _____

AHIMS ID 38-1-0031
Isolated Find No. 1

open Artefact



Aboriginal Sites Register of NSW

NPWS, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220
Standard Site Recording Form



38-1-0031

New Recording x Additional information

| | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Site name | Isolated find 1 | | NPWS Site Number | 38-1-0031 | |
| Owner/manager | Stratford Coal Pty Ltd. | | | | |
| Owner Address | Stratford Coal Pty Ltd, PO Box 168, GLOUCESTER, NSW 2422. | | | | |
| Location | Isolated find is located on the wall of the easternmost dam (and largest dam) along the short ephemeral watercourse running east to west between the two rises in the study area (see Figure 2 of the archaeologists report on the site recording). | | | | |
| How to get to the site | Access to the site can be gained through gates on North Bowens Road and Wenhams Cox Road, Stratford (permission to access this land is required from the Environmental Manager, Stratford Coal Pty Ltd). | | | | |
| 1:250,000 map name | Newcastle | | NPWS map code | 38 | |
| AMG Zone | 56 | AMG Easting | 402400 | AMG Northing | 64466250 |
| Method for grid reference | Map reading | Map scale (if method = map) | 1:25,000 | Map name | Gloucester |
| NPWS District Name (see map) | N/A | | NPWS Zone (see map) | N/A | |
| Portion no. | 53 | | Parish | Avon | |
| Site type(s) | Isolated find | | Site type code (NPWS use only) | | |
| Description of site and contents CHECKLIST: eg. length, width, depth, height of site, shelter, deposit, structure, element eg. tree scar, grooves in rock. DEPOSIT: colour, texture, estimated depth, stratigraphy, contents-shell, bone, stone, charcoal, density & distribution of these, stone types, artefact types. ART: area of decorated surface, motifs, colours, wet/dry pigment, engraving technique, no. of figures, sizes, patination. BURIALS: number & condition of bone, position, age, sex, associated artefacts. TREES: number, alive, dead, likely age, scar shape, position, size, patterns, axe marks, regrowth. QUARRIES: rock type, debris, recognisable artefacts, percentage quarried | One stone artefact (isolated find 1) was located on the wall of the easternmost dam (and largest dam) along the short ephemeral watercourse running east to west between the two rises in the study area (Figure 2 of the archaeologists report). The artefact is a broken flake (platform missing), 50mm long, 20mm wide and 7mm thick and is made of a fine grained siliceous black stone. No retouch or usewear were evident along the margins. | | | | |
| | The wall of the dam on which the artefact was found is located 400 metres east of Avondale Creek. The eroded area along the top of the dam wall is approximately 50m x 2m in size. The construction of the dam has caused a high degree of disturbance to a 25m long 50m wide section of the creek channel and adjacent flat. Four other dams have been constructed along the 400 metre long watercourse, down stream of this dam. The total area of disturbance caused by these features is estimated to be 3500m ² . Stock tracks and cattle pads provide some ground surface visibility along the creek flat between the dams. No other artefacts were located in these areas despite thorough investigation. | | | | |
| No photos attached. See the archaeologists report for a map of the site location. | | | | | |
| Attach photographs and sketches, eg. plan & section of shelter. Do NOT dig, disturb or damage site or contents. | | | | | |

Version: June 1998

Data entered by:

Date entered:



Aboriginal Sites Register of NSW

NPWS, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220

Standard Site Recording Form

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Land form | creekflat | Aspect | N/A | Slope | Gentle (<5 degrees) |
| Mark position of the site | | | | | |
| Local rock type | Permian Craven Coal Measures forming part of the Stroud-Gloucester Syncline and consist of conglomerate, sandstone, mudstone, arkose and coal. | Land use/effect | Stock dam at the location of the isolated find. General vegetation clearance and stock grazing in the vicinity of the isolated find. | | |
| Distance from drinking water | Isolated find located 0-10 metres from an ephemeral creekline and 400 metres east of Avondale Creek. | Source | Avondale Creek appears to be a permanent water source. | | |
| Resource zone (eg. estuarine, river, forest) | Open forest. | Vegetation | Species typical to dry sclerophyll woodlands and marshy heathland. | | |
| Edible plants | Typical species available in riparian woodland, dry sclerophyll woodland and marshy heathland. | Faunal resources (include shellfish) | Kangaroo, wallaby, possum etc. | | |
| Other exploitable resources (eg. ochre) | White clay in creek cuttings may have been used for paint. No stone outcrops observed other than cobbles in creek beds. | | | | |
| Are there other sites in the locality | Yes | Are they in the Sites Register | Yes | Other site types include | Open camp site located 3km to the south and ceremonial sites located in the hills and mountains east and west of Gloucester. |
| Site condition | Poor | | | | |
| Management recommendations | <p>It is recommended that: Prior to development of the open cut, Stratford Coal Pty Ltd will need to obtain a Consent to Destroy Permit for isolated find 1 (IF1). Stratford Coal should allow a period of four to six weeks, for the NPWS to process the permit application. No construction activities involving ground surface disturbance should commence in the vicinity of IF1 without the issue of a permit.</p> <p>Note: Because the study involved no sub-surface excavation then it is not possible to confirm if Aboriginal stone artefacts are absent from the soil profile. The assessment in this report has concluded that there is only a low potential for the presence of this material, therefore archaeological test excavation or monitoring is not recommended. However, as a precaution, it is recommended that: Should relics be discovered during construction work outside of the section for which the Consent to Destroy Permit applies, work should cease and the NSW NPWS be contacted to assess the situation, in consultation with Forster LALC.</p> | | | | |
| Have artefacts been removed from site | No | When | N/A | | |
| By whom | N/A | Deposited at | N/A | | |
| Consent applied for | <input type="checkbox"/> | Consent issued | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Date of issue | | Consent number | | | |



Aboriginal Sites Register of NSW

NPWS, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220

Standard Site Recording Form

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Reason for investigation | Aboriginal site survey of land which would be affected by the proposed Bowens Road North Open Cut Mine. | | |
| Were local Aborigines contacted or present for the recording | <input type="checkbox"/> Not contacted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contacted and present <input type="checkbox"/> Contacted but not present | Names and addresses | Robert Paulson, Culture and Heritage Officer, Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council. PO Box 384, Forster NSW 2428. (ph. 6555 5411). |
| Is the site important to local Aborigines | No | | |
| Verbal/written reference sources | North Bowens Road Open Cut: Aboriginal and no-Aboriginal heritage assessment. Report to Resource Strategies (November, 2000). | ASR report number(s) (or title) | C- C- X |
| Photographs taken | No photos taken of the site. | No. of Photos attached | 0 |
| Site recorded by | Louise Gay and Robert Paulson. | Date of recording | 9.11.2000 |
| Address/institution | Louise Gay, 6 Waterloo Street, Bulli, NSW 2516. Robert Paulson, Forster LALC, PO Box 384, Forster NSW 2428. | | |

ATTACHMENT 2

EXTRACTS FROM BRAYSHAW 1984 AND BRAYSHAW MCDONALD PTY LTD 1994

Aboriginal Heritage 1984 Report
Brayshaw 1984

3.2

RESULTS

One small open site (38-1-8, refer Figure A9.1-1) and an isolated artefact were found high in the eastern foothills on the periphery of the study area.

- The open site (Craven 1:25,000 0289 4259) consisted of four artefacts - two broken blades, one backed blade and one flake. Three were of local grey silicified mudstone, and one was of silcrete. The artefacts were eroding out of the upper soil horizon, here brownish grey, over an area of 30 x 15 m. The erosion was occurring at the edge of a borrow pit near the upper reaches of a gully, at about 180 m ASL.
- On a slope 300 m to the south (Craven 1:25,000 0280 4258), a blade with a use fracture on one lateral edge and a fragment, both of a similar grey silicified mudstone, were found.

Both artefact locations are on the edge of the study area and unlikely to be affected by mining activities.

3.3

ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

The land falls within the area traditionally owned by the Birrpai tribe. Aboriginal interest in sites of the area is keen. These sites have contemporary significance for local Aborigines in terms of an identifiable connection with prehistoric occupation and as future Aboriginal education resources.

Prior to the survey being undertaken by the Kuruah Local Aboriginal Land Council was informed about the project. It was arranged that they should receive a copy of the archaeological report. They expressed the wish that the Koe-Inba Regional Aboriginal Sites Protection Committee, which represents various Aboriginal communities of the central coast, be consulted on their behalf.

The Committee was therefore commissioned to prepare a report which is included below, on Aboriginal interest in the study area.

KOE-INBA REGIONAL ABORIGINAL SITES PROTECTION COMMITTEE

(Representing Aboriginal Communities from the
Hawkesbury to Taree and the Hunter Valley)
Site Survey Report

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Area: | Stratford |
| Tribal Territory: | Birrpai (Gloucester district clans) |
| Project: | Open Cut Coal Mine |
| Developer: | Blue Metal Industries Limited |
| Consulting Archaeologist: | Dr Helen Brayshaw |
| Client: | Dames & Moore |
| Committee Team: | Tom and Harry Sales, and Percy Haslam |

It is understood that the Craven Coal Measures are to be worked by open-cut mining methods. According to the plan submitted, there are several district areas of mineable deposits. In surface investigation for open cut mining, more than the actual sites of extraction need to be examined, since areas will be needed for dumping of overburden material.

Little is known of Aboriginal activity in this area in the past. Local historical societies - a valuable source of record - have scanty knowledge of past tribal life except limited amounts of information provided by early settler families. There is no residue of history of ceremonial areas, such as Bora grounds; nor is there any record of actual regular camp sites. The journals of the Gloucester Historical Society mention some outstanding Aboriginal personalities, but nothing extensive about tribal activity.

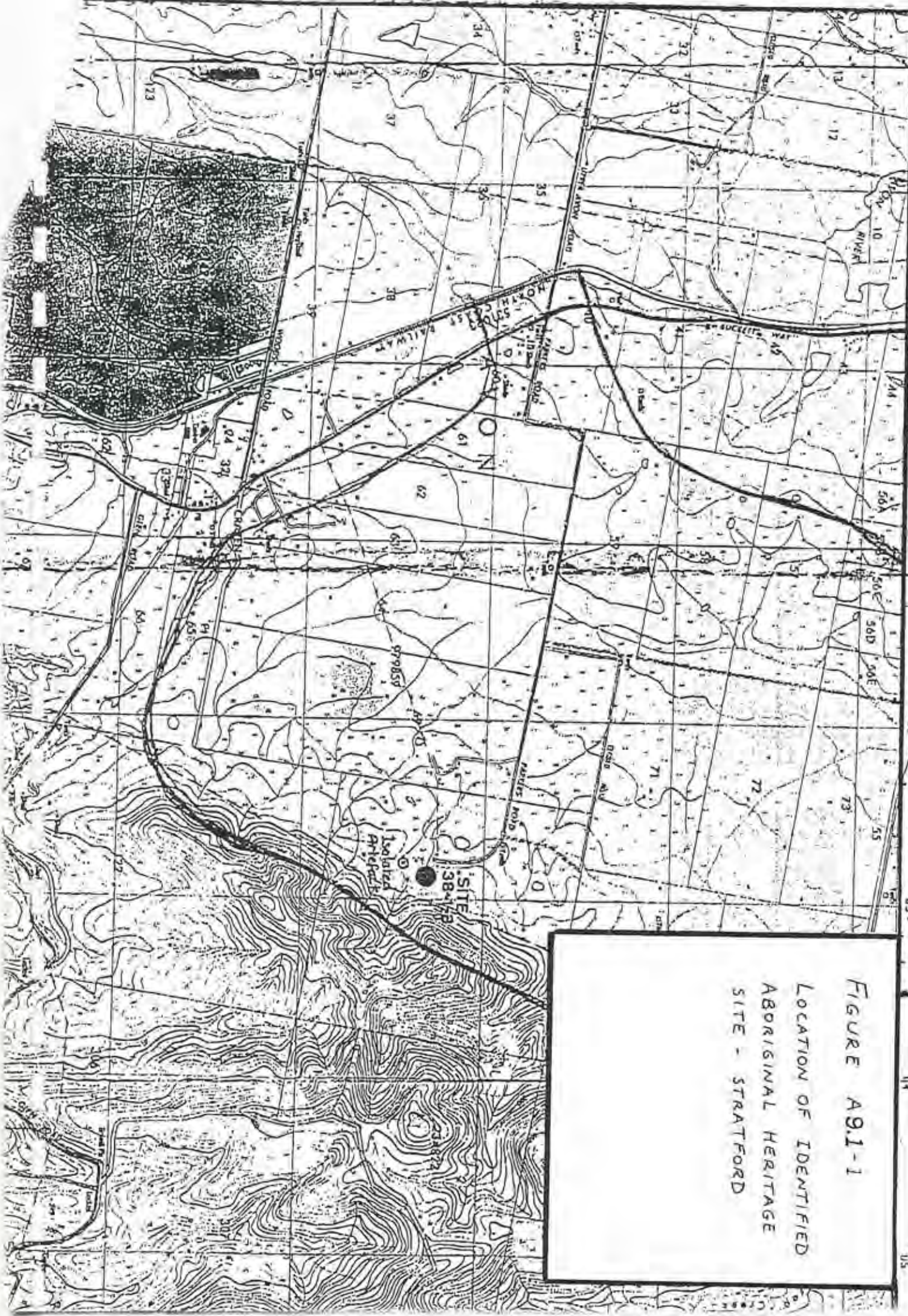


FIGURE A9.1-1
LOCATION OF IDENTIFIED
ABORIGINAL HERITAGE
SITE - STRATTFORD

Stratford EIS: Updated Archaeological Assessment
Brayshaw McDonald Pty Ltd 1994

feasibility of carrying out sub-surface investigations. Mr Manton, Mr Simms and Mr Turnbull were also present on that day.

In the course of the site inspection two Aboriginal stone artefacts were identified. These artefacts were exposed on the eroded ground surface, others may have been present but not visible. The site area was included in the earlier survey - these two artefacts may have been missed or quite possibly exposed by subsequent erosion.

Stratford 2 Open Site

Map Ref: Craven 1:25,000 40142 64444

Description: Two artefacts were identified 5m apart, lying on exposed Unit A₁, on the southern side of a gully. The artefacts were 4-5m from the creek bed and 1m above it. These were the only artefacts observed in an extensive exposure about 80m long and 12m wide, including both banks.

Artefacts: One artefact was a multiplatformed core of yellow chert-like material with no cortex, 60x41x28mm, longest flake scar 22/33mm. The other was a flake of a heavily weathered basic material 42x52x14mm, wider than long, and with a focal platform.

The existence of Aboriginal sites in the area is to be expected, as the location is congenial, and would have offered a variety of resources. To the east is the forested range of hills with volcanic geology which would have provided a source of raw materials for some stone artefacts. Wallabies and other small animals would have been available to hunt in these areas, kangaroos on the open lowlands and fish in the Avon River <2km to the west, and gravels suitable for artefacts may have been present there also. Studies for the draft EIS [Appendix 2A] indicate that subtropical rainforest occurs in steep gullies and riparian forest would have been present to the north of the study area, with wet sclerophyll forest also occurring in gullies and as fringing forest. Dry sclerophyll forest would have covered most of the study area, while swamp sclerophyll and *melaleuca* scrub occur in and adjacent to low lying swamp areas. Amongst the variety of species therefore available to the Aborigines is *Ghania*, a swamp species known to have been exploited elsewhere by Aborigines as a source of carbohydrate.

SUB-SURFACE ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Land Units and their Archaeological Potential

Five land units have been distinguished in the impact area: swampland, watercourses and their margins, ridge tops [including spurs], slopes <2°, slopes >2° [Figure 1].

Ridges and Slopes These are present along the eastern margin of the impact zone in the form of low spurs running down off the high ridges of the forested range bordering the valley. Ridges are also present in the west in the form of a very low ridge running NNE-

FIGURE 1



LETTERS REGARDING PROPOSED METHODOLOGY



29 August 2011

Mookibakh Traditional Owners Inc.
55 Church Street
BRANXTON EAST NSW 2335

Attention: Norma Fisher

Dear Norma,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the Proposed Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Stratford Extension Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (previously the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]), we provide the Proposed Methodology for your review and feedback. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may affect, inform or refine the Proposed Methodology or any protocols that you wish to be adopted into the information gathering process or assessment methodology.

To allow consideration, feedback with respect to the Proposed Methodology is required to be provided by the end of Tuesday 27 September 2011.

Could you please direct all correspondence regarding the Proposed Methodology to:

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Dwyer", written over a light grey background.

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER



29 August 2011

Doo-Wa-Kee
PO Box 22
TAREE NSW 2430

Attention: Mick Leon

Dear Mick,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Dwyer", written over a light grey background.

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER



29 August 2011

Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 22
KARUAH NSW 2424

Attention: David Feeney

Dear David,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the Proposed Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Stratford Extension Project.

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Approvals Manager
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Gloucester NSW 2422
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Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Dwyer", written over a light grey background.

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Gloucester Coal Ltd
ABN 66 008 881 712
Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 **Fax** 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



29 August 2011

Cultural Consulting Services
7 South Street
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Robert Yettica

Dear Robert,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the Proposed Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Stratford Extension Project.

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Approvals Manager
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PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Dwyer", written over a light grey background.

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Gloucester Coal Ltd
ABN 66 008 881 712
Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 **Fax** 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



29 August 2011

Worimi Traditional Owners
PO Box 330
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

Attention: Ken Everleigh

Dear Ken,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the Proposed Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Stratford Extension Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (previously the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]), we provide the Proposed Methodology for your review and feedback. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may affect, inform or refine the Proposed Methodology or any protocols that you wish to be adopted into the information gathering process or assessment methodology.

To allow consideration, feedback with respect to the Proposed Methodology is required to be provided by the end of Tuesday 27 September 2011.

Could you please direct all correspondence regarding the Proposed Methodology to:

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Dwyer", written over a light grey background.

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Gloucester Coal Ltd
ABN 66 008 881 712
Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 **Fax** 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



29 August 2011

Maaingal Group, Worimi Nation
478 Johnson Creek Road
STROUD ROAD NSW 2415

Attention: Di "Nurpula" Stephenson

Dear Di,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the Proposed Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Stratford Extension Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (previously the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]), we provide the Proposed Methodology for your review and feedback. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may affect, inform or refine the Proposed Methodology or any protocols that you wish to be adopted into the information gathering process or assessment methodology.

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Phone 612 9413 2028 **Fax** 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



05 September 2011

Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 384
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Sheree Drylie

Dear Sheree,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the Proposed Methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Stratford Extension Project.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (previously the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW]), we provide the Proposed Methodology for your review and feedback. Your feedback may include the identification of issues or areas of cultural significance that may affect, inform or refine the Proposed Methodology or any protocols that you wish to be adopted into the information gathering process or assessment methodology.

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Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Dwyer", written over a light grey rectangular background.

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

LETTERS REGARDING PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION



5 September 2011

Cultural Consulting Services
7 South Street
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Robert Yettica

Dear Robert,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Limited (GCL) would like to invite Cultural Consulting Services to attend an information session regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Stratford Extension Project (the Project) at 10:00am on Monday 26 September 2011 at the Stratford Coal Mine.

At this information session GCL will provide a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process and discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities of the participants and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information. This information session will also provide registered stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any cultural concerns or comments/perspectives regarding the Project or the proposed assessment methodology.

Could you please indicate whether you will be attending the information session at the Stratford Coal Mine by Wednesday 14 September 2011.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the information session, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Gloucester Coal Ltd
ABN 66 008 881 712
Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 **Fax** 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



5 September 2011

Doo-Wa-Kee
PO Box 22
TAREE NSW 2430

Attention: Mick Leon

Dear Mick,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Limited (GCL) would like to invite Doo-Wa-Kee to attend an information session regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Stratford Extension Project (the Project) at 10:00am on Monday 26 September 2011 at the Stratford Coal Mine.

At this information session GCL will provide a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process and discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities of the participants and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information. This information session will also provide registered stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any cultural concerns or comments/perspectives regarding the Project or the proposed assessment methodology.

Could you please indicate whether you will be attending the information session at the Stratford Coal Mine by Wednesday 14 September 2011.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the information session, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 **Fax** 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



5 September 2011

Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 22
KARUAH NSW 2424

Attention: David Feeney

Dear David,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Limited (GCL) would like to invite Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council to attend an information session regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Stratford Extension Project (the Project) at 10:00am on Monday 26 September 2011 at the Stratford Coal Mine.

At this information session GCL will provide a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process and discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities of the participants and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information. This information session will also provide registered stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any cultural concerns or comments/perspectives regarding the Project or the proposed assessment methodology.

Could you please indicate whether you will be attending the information session at the Stratford Coal Mine by Wednesday 14 September 2011.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the information session, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 **Fax** 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



5 September 2011

Maaiangal Group, Worimi Nation
478 Johnson Creek Road
STROUD ROAD NSW 2415

Attention: Di "Nurpula" Stephenson

Dear Di,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Limited (GCL) would like to invite Maaiangal Group, Worimi Nation to attend an information session regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Stratford Extension Project (the Project) at 10:00am on Monday 26 September 2011 at the Stratford Coal Mine.

At this information session GCL will provide a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process and discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities of the participants and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information. This information session will also provide registered stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any cultural concerns or comments/perspectives regarding the Project or the proposed assessment methodology.

Could you please indicate whether you will be attending the information session at the Stratford Coal Mine by Wednesday 14 September 2011.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the information session, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

Gloucester Coal Ltd
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Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 **Fax** 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



5 September 2011

Mookibakh Traditional Owners Inc.
55 Church Street
BRANXTON EAST NSW 2335

Attention: Norma Fisher

Dear Norma,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Limited (GCL) would like to invite Mookibakh Traditional Owners Inc. to attend an information session regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Stratford Extension Project (the Project) at 10:00am on Monday 26 September 2011 at the Stratford Coal Mine.

At this information session GCL will provide a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process and discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities of the participants and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information. This information session will also provide registered stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any cultural concerns or comments/perspectives regarding the Project or the proposed assessment methodology.

Could you please indicate whether you will be attending the information session at the Stratford Coal Mine by Wednesday 14 September 2011.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the information session, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

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Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia
Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802
www.gloucestercoal.com.au



5 September 2011

Worimi Traditional Owners
PO Box 330
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422

Attention: Ken Everleigh

Dear Ken,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Gloucester Coal Limited (GCL) would like to invite Worimi Traditional Owners to attend an information session regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Stratford Extension Project (the Project) at 10:00am on Monday 26 September 2011 at the Stratford Coal Mine.

At this information session GCL will provide a presentation on the nature and scale of the Project, an overview of the impact assessment process and discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities of the participants and protocols for the management of any sensitive cultural heritage information. This information session will also provide registered stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any cultural concerns or comments/perspectives regarding the Project or the proposed assessment methodology.

Could you please indicate whether you will be attending the information session at the Stratford Coal Mine by Wednesday 14 September 2011.

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the information session, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED

TONY DWYER
APPROVALS MANAGER

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LETTERS REGARDING OUTCOMES OF PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION AND INVITATION
TO ATTEND FIELD SURVEYS

27 September 2011

Doo-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys
PO Box 22
TAREE NSW 2430

Attention: Mick Leon

Dear Mick,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Record of Project Information Session

On 26 September 2011, Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL) held a project information session at the Stratford Coal Mine. Seven representatives of the various registered Aboriginal parties attended the session.

At the information session:

- SCPL provided an outline of the Stratford Coal Mine and described the nature and scope of the Stratford Extension Project.
- SCPL provided an outline of the impact assessment process, including points where the registered Aboriginal parties are invited to provide input into the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.
- SCPL provided key milestones for the completion of assessment activities and an indicative timeline for the provision of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report to the registered Aboriginal parties for review and comment.
- SCPL and the registered Aboriginal parties' roles, functions and responsibilities were defined.
- The cultural authority of the registered Aboriginal parties was recognised.
- SCPL offered to develop in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties a protocol to manage any sensitive cultural information.
- SCPL encouraged the registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss any relevant cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements.
- The registered Aboriginal parties in attendance agreed with the content of the proposed methodology.
- No issues were raised by SCPL or the registered Aboriginal parties in respect to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment process that required further resolution.
- SCPL advised that letters regarding the field surveys would be sent to the registered Aboriginal parties in the coming week.

Survey – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

At the project information session held on 26 September 2011, SCPL advised that it would be facilitating an Aboriginal heritage field survey as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Stratford Extension Project. The field survey will allow representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties to survey the study area and inspect known Aboriginal heritage sites within the study area.

It is planned to undertake the proposed field survey over a period of five days from the 10 – 14 October 2011.

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To facilitate the involvement of all registered Aboriginal parties, field surveys will be undertaken in two teams on each of the field survey days, with archaeologists and representatives from the registered Aboriginal parties present in each team. Due to logistical and safety constraints, each of the registered Aboriginal parties is invited to send one representative to attend each of the field survey days.

SCPL will pay one representative from Doo-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys at a rate of \$75 per hour (for the first six hours of work per day and \$90 per hour thereafter) for participation in the field survey and to cover reasonable travel/logistic expenses. An invoice including the details of hours worked will need to be provided prior to payment.

To assist in survey planning, could you please advise SCPL if there are any specific areas or sites within the study area that you wish to survey or inspect. Please note that if any sites of particular interest are recorded by the other survey team, SCPL will endeavor to facilitate an inspection of these sites by all attending representatives.

General Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be required by all those participating in the survey work which includes high visibility shirt or vest, long pants, safety boots (preferably steel capped), hard hat, and safety glasses. Please advise SCPL if you require any PPE listed above prior to the commencement of the field surveys. Participants should bring their own food and water for the day.

Please note that the first day of the field survey will commence at 8:30 am at the Stratford Coal Mine site office. A brief site induction and discussion of field safety protocols will be held prior to commencing the field survey.

Could you please advise SCPL whether a representative from Doo-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys will be attending the field surveys from 10 – 14 October 2011. Please note SCPL requires copies of current insurances including public liability and workers compensation prior to involvement in the field surveys. Could this information please be provided to SCPL by Monday, 3 October 2011.

Contact Details

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the field surveys, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Manager – Environment and Approvals
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
MANAGER – ENVIRONMENT AND APPROVALS

27 September 2011

Cultural Consulting Services
7 South Street
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Robert Yettica

Dear Robert,

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Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
MANAGER – ENVIRONMENT AND APPROVALS

27 September 2011

Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
Post Office Box 22
KARUAH NSW 2324

Attention: David Feeney

Dear David,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Contact Details

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Tony Dwyer
Manager – Environment and Approvals
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
MANAGER – ENVIRONMENT AND APPROVALS

27 September 2011

Mookibakh Traditional Owners Inc.
55 Church Street
BRANXTON EAST NSW 2335

Attention: Aunty Norma Fisher

Dear Aunty Norma,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Record of Project Information Session

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- No issues were raised by SCPL or the registered Aboriginal parties in respect to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment process that required further resolution.
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It is planned to undertake the proposed field survey over a period of five days from the 10 – 14 October 2011.

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SCPL will pay one representative from Mookibakh Traditional Owners Inc. at a rate of \$75 per hour (for the first six hours of work per day and \$90 per hour thereafter) for participation in the field survey and to cover reasonable travel/logistic expenses. An invoice including the details of hours worked will need to be provided prior to payment.

To assist in survey planning, could you please advise SCPL if there are any specific areas or sites within the study area that you wish to survey or inspect. Please note that if any sites of particular interest are recorded by the other survey team, SCPL will endeavor to facilitate an inspection of these sites by all attending representatives.

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Could you please advise SCPL whether a representative from Mookibakh Traditional Owners Inc. will be attending the field surveys from 10 – 14 October 2011. Please note SCPL requires copies of current insurances including public liability and workers compensation prior to involvement in the field surveys. Could this information please be provided to SCPL by Monday, 3 October 2011.

Contact Details

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the field surveys, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Manager – Environment and Approvals
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
MANAGER – ENVIRONMENT AND APPROVALS

27 September 2011

Maaiangal Group, Worimi Nation
478 Johnson Creek Road
STROUD ROAD NSW 2415

Attention: Ms Di "Nurpula" Stephenson

Dear Di,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

Record of Project Information Session

On 26 September 2011, Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL) held a project information session at the Stratford Coal Mine. Seven representatives of the various registered Aboriginal parties attended the session.

At the information session:

- SCPL provided an outline of the Stratford Coal Mine and described the nature and scope of the Stratford Extension Project.
- SCPL provided an outline of the impact assessment process, including points where the registered Aboriginal parties are invited to provide input into the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.
- SCPL provided key milestones for the completion of assessment activities and an indicative timeline for the provision of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report to the registered Aboriginal parties for review and comment.
- SCPL and the registered Aboriginal parties' roles, functions and responsibilities were defined.
- The cultural authority of the registered Aboriginal parties was recognised.
- SCPL offered to develop in consultation with registered Aboriginal parties a protocol to manage any sensitive cultural information.
- SCPL encouraged the registered Aboriginal parties to identify, raise and discuss any relevant cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements.
- The registered Aboriginal parties in attendance agreed with the content of the proposed methodology.
- No issues were raised by SCPL or the registered Aboriginal parties in respect to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment process that required further resolution.
- SCPL advised that letters regarding the field surveys would be sent to the registered Aboriginal parties in the coming week.

Survey – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

At the project information session held on 26 September 2011, SCPL advised that it would be facilitating an Aboriginal heritage field survey as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Stratford Extension Project. The field survey will allow representatives of the registered Aboriginal parties to survey the study area and inspect known Aboriginal heritage sites within the study area.

It is planned to undertake the proposed field survey over a period of five days from the 10 – 14 October 2011.

Gloucester Coal Ltd

ABN 66 008 881 712

Level 15, Tower B, 799 Pacific Highway / PO Box 137
Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia

Phone 612 9413 2028 Fax 612 9413 4802

www.gloucestercoal.com.au

To facilitate the involvement of all registered Aboriginal parties, field surveys will be undertaken in two teams on each of the field survey days, with archaeologists and representatives from the registered Aboriginal parties present in each team. Due to logistical and safety constraints, each of the registered Aboriginal parties is invited to send one representative to attend each of the field survey days.

SCPL will pay one representative from Maaingal Group, Worimi Nation at a rate of \$75 per hour (for the first six hours of work per day and \$90 per hour thereafter) for participation in the field survey and to cover reasonable travel/logistic expenses. An invoice including the details of hours worked will need to be provided prior to payment.

To assist in survey planning, could you please advise SCPL if there are any specific areas or sites within the study area that you wish to survey or inspect. Please note that if any sites of particular interest are recorded by the other survey team, SCPL will endeavor to facilitate an inspection of these sites by all attending representatives.

General Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be required by all those participating in the survey work which includes high visibility shirt or vest, long pants, safety boots (preferably steel capped), hard hat, and safety glasses. Please advise SCPL if you require any PPE listed above prior to the commencement of the field surveys. Participants should bring their own food and water for the day.

Please note that the first day of the field survey will commence at 8:30 am at the Stratford Coal Mine site office. A brief site induction and discussion of field safety protocols will be held prior to commencing the field survey.

Could you please advise SCPL whether a representative from Maaingal Group, Worimi Nation will be attending the field surveys from 10 – 14 October 2011. Please note SCPL requires copies of current insurances including public liability and workers compensation prior to involvement in the field surveys. Could this information please be provided to SCPL by Monday, 3 October 2011.

Contact Details

If you have any queries regarding the Project or to confirm your attendance at the field surveys, please contact:

Tony Dwyer
Manager – Environment and Approvals
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
MANAGER – ENVIRONMENT AND APPROVALS

27 September 2011

Gloucester Worimi First People
3103 Bucketts Way
CRAVEN NSW 2422

Attention: Uncle Jim Clarke

Dear Uncle Jim,

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ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
MANAGER – ENVIRONMENT AND APPROVALS

27 September 2011

Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council
Post Office Box 384
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Sheree Drylie

Dear Sheree,

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ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Manager – Environment and Approvals
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4204
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
MANAGER – ENVIRONMENT AND APPROVALS

LETTERS REGARDING DRAFT ACHA

18 November 2011

Cultural Consulting Services
7 South Street
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Robert Yettica

Dear Robert,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), please find enclosed for your review and comment, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Stratford Extension Project.

If you wish to provide comment on the draft ACHA, you are requested to do so (either in writing or verbally) by 19 December 2011 (inclusive). All comments received by that date will be taken into consideration as the ACHA is finalised. The final ACHA will be made available to you after completion.

Could you please direct all correspondence regarding the draft ACHA to:

Tony Dwyer
Manager – Environment and Approvals
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4222
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
Manager – Environment and Approvals

ACHA Letters 18 November 2011 (RES00419062)

18 November 2011

Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
Post Office Box 22
KARUAH NSW 2324

Attention: David Feeney

Dear David,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010) issued by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), please find enclosed for your review and comment, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Stratford Extension Project.

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Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
Manager – Environment and Approvals

ACHA Letters 18 November 2011 (RES00419062)

18 November 2011

Doo-Wa-Kee Cultural & Heritage Surveys
PO Box 22
TAREE NSW 2430

Attention: Mick Leon

Dear Mick,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 02 6538 4222
Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
Manager – Environment and Approvals

ACHA Letters 18 November 2011 (RES00419062)

18 November 2011

Mookibakh Traditional Owners Inc.
55 Church Street
BRANXTON EAST NSW 2335

Attention: Aunty Norma Fisher

Dear Aunty Norma,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Yours sincerely,

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TONY DWYER
Manager – Environment and Approvals

ACHA Letters 18 November 2011 (RES00419062)

18 November 2011

Maaingal Group, Worimi Nation
478 Johnson Creek Road
STROUD ROAD NSW 2415

Attention: Di "Nurpula" Stephenson

Dear Di,

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ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
Manager – Environment and Approvals

ACHA Letters 18 November 2011 (RES00419062)

18 November 2011

Gloucester Worimi First People
3103 Bucketts Way
CRAVEN NSW 2422

Attention: Uncle Jim Clarke

Dear Uncle Jim,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Gloucester NSW 2422
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Facsimile: 02 6558 8207
Email: Tony.Dwyer@stratfordcoal.com.au

Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
Manager – Environment and Approvals

ACHA Letters 18 November 2011 (RES00419062)

18 November 2011

Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 384
FORSTER NSW 2428

Attention: Sheree Drylie

Dear Sheree,

**STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Yours sincerely,

STRATFORD COAL PTY LIMITED



TONY DWYER
Manager – Environment and Approvals

ACHA Letters 18 November 2011 (RES00419062)

APPENDIX 3. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE – ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY TO PROPONENT



RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM ADMINISTRATORS, REGULATORS AND LOCAL COUNCILS

01 JUL 2011



11-13 Mansfield Street
Glebe NSW 2037
PO Box 112, Glebe NSW 2037
T. 02 9562 6327 F. 02 9562 6350

Tony Dwyer
GLOUCESTER COAL LTD
PO Box 168
Stratford NSW 2422

Dear Tony

Re: Request - Search for Registered Aboriginal Owners

I refer to your letter dated 23rd June 2011 regarding an Aboriginal heritage project at Gloucester, NSW.

I have searched the Register of Aboriginal Owners and the project area described does not appear to have Registered Aboriginal Owners pursuant to Division 3 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)*.

I suggest you contact the Foster Local Aboriginal Land Council. They may also be able to assist you in identifying other Aboriginal stakeholders for this project.

Yours sincerely

Tabatha Dantoine
Administration Officer
Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1983)*

27 June 2011



National
Native Title
Tribunal



30 June 2011

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
STRATFORD NSW 2422

**New South Wales and
Australian Capital Territory
Registry**

Level 25, 25 Bligh Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 9973
Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone (02) 9227 4000
Facsimile (02) 9227 4030

Our Reference: 4344/11KW

Your Reference: Stratford Extension Project

Dear Mr Dwyer

Native Title Search Results of Gloucester Local Government Area

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2011.

My search on 30 June 2011 found:

| Register Type | NNTT Reference Numbers |
|--|-------------------------------|
| National Native Title Register | Nil. |
| Register of Native Title Claims | Nil. |
| Unregistered Claimant applications | Nil. |
| Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements | Nil. |

I have included a NNTT Registers fact sheet to help you understand the search result.

Please note that there may be a delay between a native title determination application being lodged in the Federal Court and its transfer to the Tribunal. As a result, some native title determination applications recently filed in the Federal Court may not appear on the Tribunal's databases.

If you need more information please call me on 1800 640 501.

Yours sincerely



Kimberley Wilson
Search Co-ordinator

Telephone (02) 9235 6328

Facsimile (02) 9233 5613

Email Kimberley.wilson@nntt.gov.au

Encl



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Our reference: DOC11/29941
Date: 1 July 2011

COPY

Tony Dwyer
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd
PO Box 168
STRATFORD NSW 2422

Dear Mr Dwyer

RE: PROPOSED STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT.

I refer to your correspondence, dated 23 June 2011, to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) for your project located within Gloucester LGA and described as Stratford Extension Project.

Please find attached a list of known Aboriginal parties that OEH considers is likely to have an interest in your development. I note this is not necessarily an exhaustive list of all interested Aboriginal parties. Receipt of this list does not remove the requirement for a proponent/consultant to advertise the proposal in the local print media and contact other bodies and community groups seeking interested Aboriginal parties, in accordance with *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (CRs)*.

OEH would also like to take this opportunity to remind the proponent and consultant of a number of key issues we have been encountering recently. These include:

- Please ensure the project documents the full consultation process in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report or Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application and to include copies of all correspondence sent or received from all relevant stakeholders (including Aboriginal stakeholders and the agencies listed in section 4.1.2). *Omission of these records in the final report may cause delays in approval or require parts of the consultation process to be repeated if the evidence provided to OEH does not demonstrate that the consultation process has been fair, equitable and transparent.*
- *Unless OEH is provided with evidence that reasonable attempts have been made to contact the relevant parties associated with the CRs, then OEH will deem that the consultation process has not been complied with.*
- OEH considers *evidence of reasonable efforts to contact relevant parties would include, but not be limited to, multiple forms of communication; faxes (with confirmation slips demonstrating successful transmission), an e-mail log, registered post details, copies of letters and a phone call log.*

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water is now known as the
Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Locked Bag 914, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Federation House Level 7, 24 Moonee Street,
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Tel: (02) 6651 5946 Fax: (02) 6651 6187
ABN 30 841 387 271
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

- *Please note Appendix A of the 2010 CRs contains a map illustrating which region of OEH you need to contact according to which local government area your project falls within. Full details of the consultation requirements and the relevant Fact Sheets can be located on our website at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/consultation.htm>.*
- *If you encounter any changes to the contact details of interested Aboriginal parties, or become aware of additional parties, we encourage you to forward this information to OEH so we can update our records.*
- *Consultation must be fair, equitable and transparent. If the Aboriginal parties express concern or are opposed to parts or all of your project, OEH expects that evidence will be provided to demonstrate the efforts made to find common ground between the two perspectives.*

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me on (02) 66598221.

Yours sincerely



Rosalie Neve
Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer
Environment Protection & Regulation Group
Office of Environment and Heritage
Department of Premier and Cabinet

Enclosure:

1. Saltwater Tribal Council
18 Ronald Road
TAREE, NSW 2430,
2. Ghinni Ghinni Youth and Culture Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 641
TAREE, NSW 2430,
3. Purfleet Community Youth Centre Association
PO Box 332
TAREE, NSW 2430
4. Bindi Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre Inc.
187 Beechwood Road
WAUCHOPE, NSW 2446
5. Maaiangal Aboriginal Heritage,
Carol Ridgeway-Bissett
5 Ondine Close
NELSONS BAY NSW 2315
(02) 4984 3113
6. Mur-Roo-Ma Inc.,
Anthony Anderson
7 Vardon Road
FERN BAY NSW 2295
(02) 4928 1910
murroomainc1@gmail.com
7. Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd,
Lea Anderson
22 Popplewell Road
FERN BAY NSW 2295
goodman@kooee.com.au
8. Worimi Aboriginal Community Co-operative,
Cheryl Hendry
17a Wahgunyah Road
NELSON BAY NSW 2315
(02) 4981 4559
9. Garrigal Aboriginal Community Inc.,
Del Arnold
PO Box 182
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422
(02) 6658 8139
(02) 4994 7004
10. Do-Wa-Kee
Mick Leon
PO Box 22

TAREE NSW 2430
(02) 65527856
(02) 65527543
0449213802
m.leon@tide.org.au



Searching the NNTT Registers in New South Wales

Search service

On request the National Native Title Tribunal will search its public registers for you. A search may assist you in finding out whether any native title applications (claims), determinations or agreements exist over a particular area of land or water.

In New South Wales native title cannot exist on privately owned land including family homes or farms.

What information can a search provide?

A search can confirm whether any applications, agreements or determinations are registered in a local government area. Relevant information, including register extracts and application summaries, will be provided.

In NSW because we cannot search the registers in relation to individual parcels of land we search by local government area.

Most native title applications do not identify each parcel of land claimed. They have an external boundary and then identify the areas not claimed within the boundary by reference to types of land tenure e.g., freehold, agricultural leasehold, public works.

What if the search shows no current applications?

If there is no application covering the local government area this only indicates that at the time of the search either the Federal Court had not received any claims in relation to the local government area or the Tribunal had not yet been notified of any new native title claims.

It does not mean that native title does not exist in the area.

Native title may exist over an area of land or waters whether or not a claim for native title has been made.

Where the information is found

The information you are seeking is held in three registers and on an applications database.

National Native Title Register

The National Native Title Register contains determinations of native title by the High Court, Federal Court and other courts.

Register of Native Title Claims

The Register of Native Title Claims contains applications for native title that have passed a registration test.

Registered claims attract rights, including the right to negotiate about some types of proposed developments.

Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements

The Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements contains agreements made with people who hold or assert native title in an area.

The register identifies development activities that have been agreed by the parties.

Application summaries

An application summary contains a description of the location, content and status of a native title claim.

This information may be different to the information on the Register of Native Title Claims, e.g., because an amendment has not yet been tested.

How do you request a search?

A search request form is available on the Tribunal's web site at:
<http://www.nntt.gov.au/registers/search.html>
This form says how much searches cost.
Mail, fax or email your request to the Tribunal's Sydney registry, identifying the local government area/s you want searched.

Email: SydneySearch@nntt.gov.au

Fax: (02) 9233 5613

Address: GPO Box 9973, Sydney NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9235 6300

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM ABORIGINAL PARTIES

GLOUCESTER COAL LIMITED (GCL)

24/7/11

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED STRATFORD EXTENSION.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE IMPACT PERMIT.

APPROVAL MANAGER / TONY DWYER.

Dear Tony,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the area of interest. Is this assessment now going to be carried out by a qualified Archeologist of Aboriginal and European sites or would the Cultural Heritage sites officers with this be the case?

What part of the "area of interest" is located at the southern boundary. How far does this area reach? Is it covered or how far is it going to impact? The map is very general and as usual (GCL) is not showing in detail what it proposes. The information is not transparent and does not show fully where the "area of interest" begins and ends. This does not allow stakeholders to be in a position to properly understand what is about to occur. (GCL) needs to give the correct information regarding its future applications. Is this application made under a PART 3A clause? If this is the case it is very unsettling for the Aboriginal people of this area. I await your correspondence.

WILBURRA Stephenson - MAAJANAL GROUP

WORIMI NATION

(02) 4994 5540

RECEIVED
27 JUL 2011

BY: _____

2nd September

RECEIVED
06 SEP 2011

BY:.....

To Tony Dwyer,
Approvals Manager
Gloucester Coal Ltd.
P.O. Box 168
Gloucester 2422.

Dear Mr Dwyer,

Re the phone call Monday morning on your behalf concerning the project Aboriginal Culture Heritage Assessment.

As I am the Traditional Worimi Elder and custodian for the Gloucester country area, I am very interested in the project and would appreciate it if you could pass on any information regarding past and future projects. It concerns me greatly that considering the amount of other people who are registered with you that my name has never being brought up as I am very well known in the community as the Traditional Elder. If any proof is needed for any reason I can accommodate all concerned. I was born and raised in Crauen and now the only Clarke in this area.

Looking forward to hearing from you and to have a meeting in the very near future.

Yours Truly,

Traditional Worimi Elder.

JIM CLARKE.

Mail of Clark

3103 Bucketts Way
Crauen 2422.

NSW.

FORSTER LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

ABN 42 286 760 787

10 Breckenridge Street, Forster, N.S.W. 2428

P.O. Box 384, Forster, N.S.W. 2428

Phone: (02) 6555 5411 Fax: (02) 6555 6757

email: info@forsterlalc.org.au

website: www.forsterlalc.org.au



Forster
Tuncurry

Dear Tony,

RE Cultural Heritage Officer.

Due to some structural changes within the Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council we will now be supplying cultural heritage officers directly through the lands council.

We hope that by implementing this new system, it will help to clear the confusion many organisations and businesses within our area are currently experiencing in regards to whom they should contact and who is representing the interests of the Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

The new system will streamline responses and requests for cultural heritage assessments, supervision and removal of artefacts; with organisations now able to contact Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council direct to discuss their cultural heritage needs.

We look forward to working with Stratford Mines to ensure the continued protection of our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Please feel free to contact myself should you require any further information on our changes or should Stratford Mines require a Cultural Heritage Officer or Cultural Heritage Assessment at any time.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheree Drylie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheree Drylie

Chief Executive Officer

Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council

Thursday 18th August 2011

RECEIVED
25 AUG 2011

BY:.....

FORSTER LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

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Forster
Tuncurry

Dear Tony,

My apologies for the delay in responding to your phone request for verification of Robert Yettica's Expression of Interest on behalf of Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council but I did not feel I should respond till I had spoken to all parties involved, as there appears to be some confusion over previous authority given or assumed.

To ensure this issue does not occur again, Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council will now be the sole point of contact in regards to cultural heritage officers representing Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council's interest.

Due to the confusion relating to authority over the expression of interest submitted to Stratford Mines; Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council will accept that the expression of interest has been submitted on their behalf, but requests that any further discussion or negotiation relating to the expression of interest be directed to the Chief Executive Officer at Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

I thank you for the time you have taken in regards to this issue to confirm the authenticity of the Expression of Interest, It is welcomed and appreciated.

I look forward to building a mutually rewarding relationship with Stratford Mines .

Best Regards

Sheree Drylie

Chief Executive Officer

Forster Local Aboriginal Lands Council

Thursday 18th August 2011

RECEIVED
25 AUG 2011

BY:

RESPONSES RECEIVED REGARDING DRAFT ACHA



Mookibakah Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation.

ABN 20559953072

Address 7 Carter Close, GLOUCESTER 2428

Phone 02 65501373

Email shereedrylie@y7mail.com

RE Site inspection Stratford Mines Expansion Project; 23rd November 2011

Mookibakah representatives In attendance;

Aunty Norma Fisher; Gloucester Worimi Traditional Owner

Sheree Drylie

Wayne Hodge

Report Conclusion

On the 23rd of November 2011 representatives of Mookibakah Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation inspected a possible women's birthing site at the request of Tony Dwyer.

After an extensive assessment of the site we conclude that the natural springs contained within the site are alongside the walking path of the local traditional peoples and would have been used as a clean water source.

We found no psychological or physical evidence to support the claim that that the area was a traditional women's birthing site or contained any further cultural significance other than that listed above.

Report on behalf of Mookibakah Traditional Owners;

Sheree Drylie

20th December 2012

APPENDIX 4. AHIMS REGISTER SEARCH

Note: This appendix contains culturally sensitive material and is available upon request and subject to approval by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage



APPENDIX 5. SITE TYPES

The following is a brief description of the site types that may occur in the current subject area. Predictions of the type and nature of sites considered likely to occur within the subject area is provided below. Where relevant, these definitions have come directly from the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2010) *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.

Artefact Scatters

Artefact scatters are defined by the presence of two or more stone artefacts in close association (i.e. within 50 metres of each other) (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service [NPWS], 1997). An artefact scatter may consist solely of surface material exposed by erosion, or may contain sub-surface deposit of varying depth. Associated features may include hearths or stone-lined fireplaces, and heat treatment pits.

Bora Grounds

Bora grounds are a ceremonial site associated with initiations. They usually comprise two circular depressions in the earth, and may be edged with stone. Bora grounds generally occur on soft sediments in river valleys, although they may also be located on high, rocky ground in association with stone arrangements.

Burials

The internment of human remains varies considerably throughout NSW and over time. In some cases human remains were placed in hollow trees, caves or sand deposits and may have been marked by carved or scarred trees. Others may be marked through the scattering of shells, glass and other materials or planting of various species. In some cases, markers may have been historically removed (NPWS, 1998). Burials have been identified eroding out of sand deposits or creek banks, or when disturbed by development. Knowledge of the locations of burials is frequently dependent on community awareness and may not be culturally appropriate to disclose (NPWS, 1998).

Culturally Modified Trees

Culturally modified trees include scarred and carved trees and are defined by the process of deliberate removal of bark or wood from a tree. Cultural modification of trees occurred for several reasons including: the manufacture of items such as canoes, containers, shields or shelters; the manufacture of foot or hand holds for tree climbing; the hollowing of trees to collect food; and for carving (Long, 2005). Carved trees are caused by the removal of bark to create a working surface, on which petroglyphs are incised. Carved trees were used as markers for ceremonial and symbolic purposes, including burials.

Scarring from cultural modification is most likely to be present only on mature/old growth trees remaining from original vegetation. While culturally modified trees were more common in the early 20th century; the natural lifespan of tree species, changes in landscape management practices and intense fire events have all reduced the visibility of culturally modified trees in the landscape.

Furthermore, the identification of culturally modified trees is complicated by a range of natural impacts that result in very similar scarring patterns including long-term traumas, storm and fire damage, animal damage, impacts and abrasions and ringbarking (Long, 2005, 36-49).

Isolated Artefacts

Isolated artefacts occur where only one artefact is visible in a survey area. These finds are not found in association with other evidence for prehistoric activity or occupation. Isolated artefacts occur anywhere and may represent loss, deliberate discard or abandonment of an artefact, or may be the remains of a dispersed artefact scatter.

Middens

Shell middens comprise deposits of shell remaining from consumption and are common in coastal regions and along watercourses. Middens vary in size, preservation and content, although they often contain artefacts made from stone, bone or shell, charcoal, and the remains of terrestrial or aquatic fauna that formed an additional component of the Aboriginal diet. Middens can provide significant information on land use patterns, diet, chronology of occupation and environmental conditions.

Mythological/Traditional Sites

Mythological and traditional sites of significance to Aboriginal people may occur in any location, although they are often associated with natural landscape features. They include sites associated with dreaming stories, massacre sites, traditional camp sites and contact sites. Consultation with the local Aboriginal community is essential for identifying these sites.

Stone Arrangements

Stone arrangements include lines, circles, mounds, or other patterns of stone arranged by Aboriginal people. These may be associated with bora grounds, ceremonial sites, mythological or sacred sites. Stone arrangements are more likely to be identified on hill tops and ridge crests that contain stone outcrops or surface stone, where impact from recent land use practices has been minimal.

Stone Quarries

A stone quarry is a place at which stone resource exploitation has occurred. Quarry sites are only located where the exposed stone material is suitable for use either for ceremonial purposes (e.g. ochre) or for artefact manufacture.

References

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water 2010. Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.

Long, A., 2005. Aboriginal Scarred Trees in New South Wales. Department of Conservation NSW: Hurstville.

National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1997. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: Standards and Guidelines Kit.

National Parks and Wildlife Service 2008. In Sad but Loving Memory: Aboriginal Burials and Cemeteries of the Last 200 Years in NSW.

APPENDIX 6: AHIMS SITE CARDS

Note: This appendix contains culturally sensitive material and is available upon request and subject to approval by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

