



# MOOLARBEN COAL PROJECT

*Stage 2*

## *A P P E N D I X 10*

### *European Heritage Assessment*



Job #08/608  
July 2008; amended September 2008; amended October 2008; amended November 2008



## Stage 2 - Moolarben Coal Project, Ulan, NSW

European Heritage  
Assessment of Identified  
Items within Stage 2 of the  
Moolarben Coal Project

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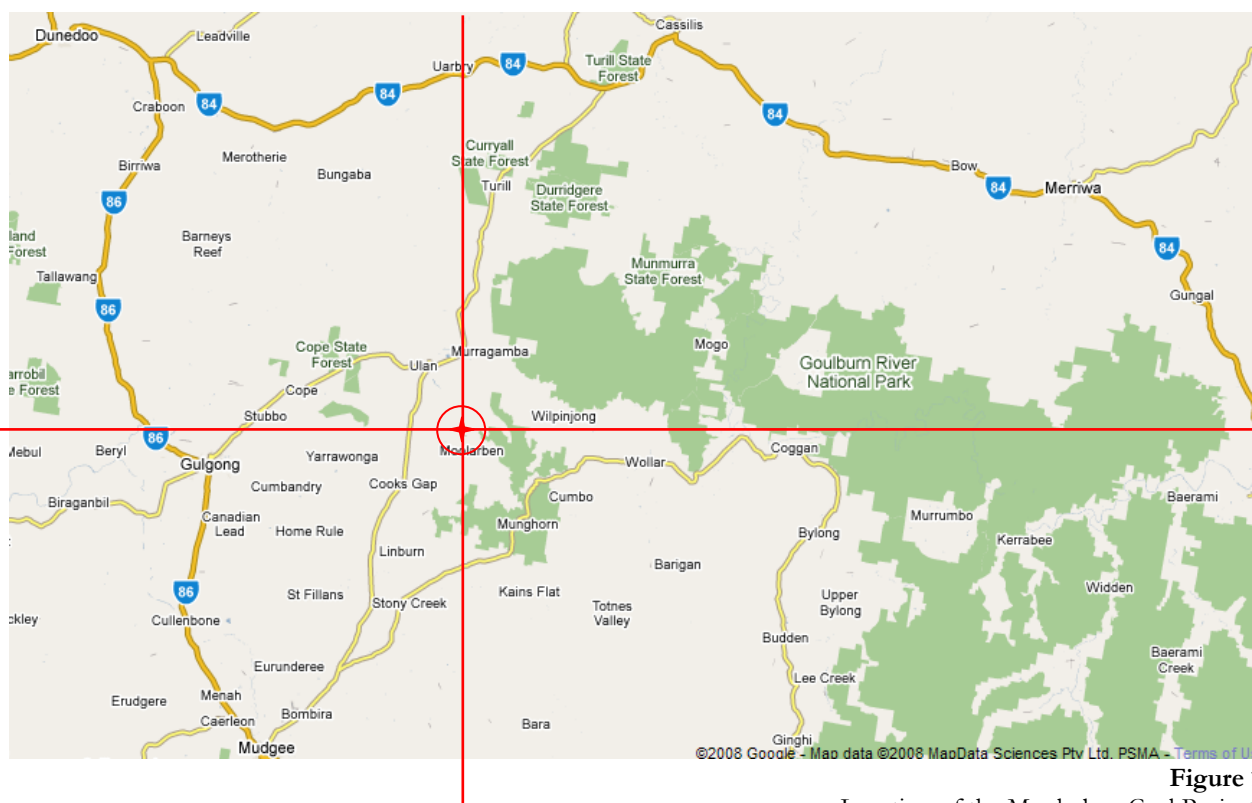
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(Historical Background to Project Area, Non-Aboriginal Heritas Assessment, Stage 1 Report)	

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This report represents an assessment of, and recommendations for heritage items to be impacted by Stage 2 of the Moolarben Coal Project (MCP). The location of the Moolarben Coal Project is shown in Figure 1.

The MCP involves the mining of coal resources within Exploration Licence (EL) 6288. Stage 1 of the MCP was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning on 6 September 2007. Stage 2 works involve the development and operation of an open cut (Open Cut 4) and two underground (Underground #1 & #2) mines with associated infrastructure.

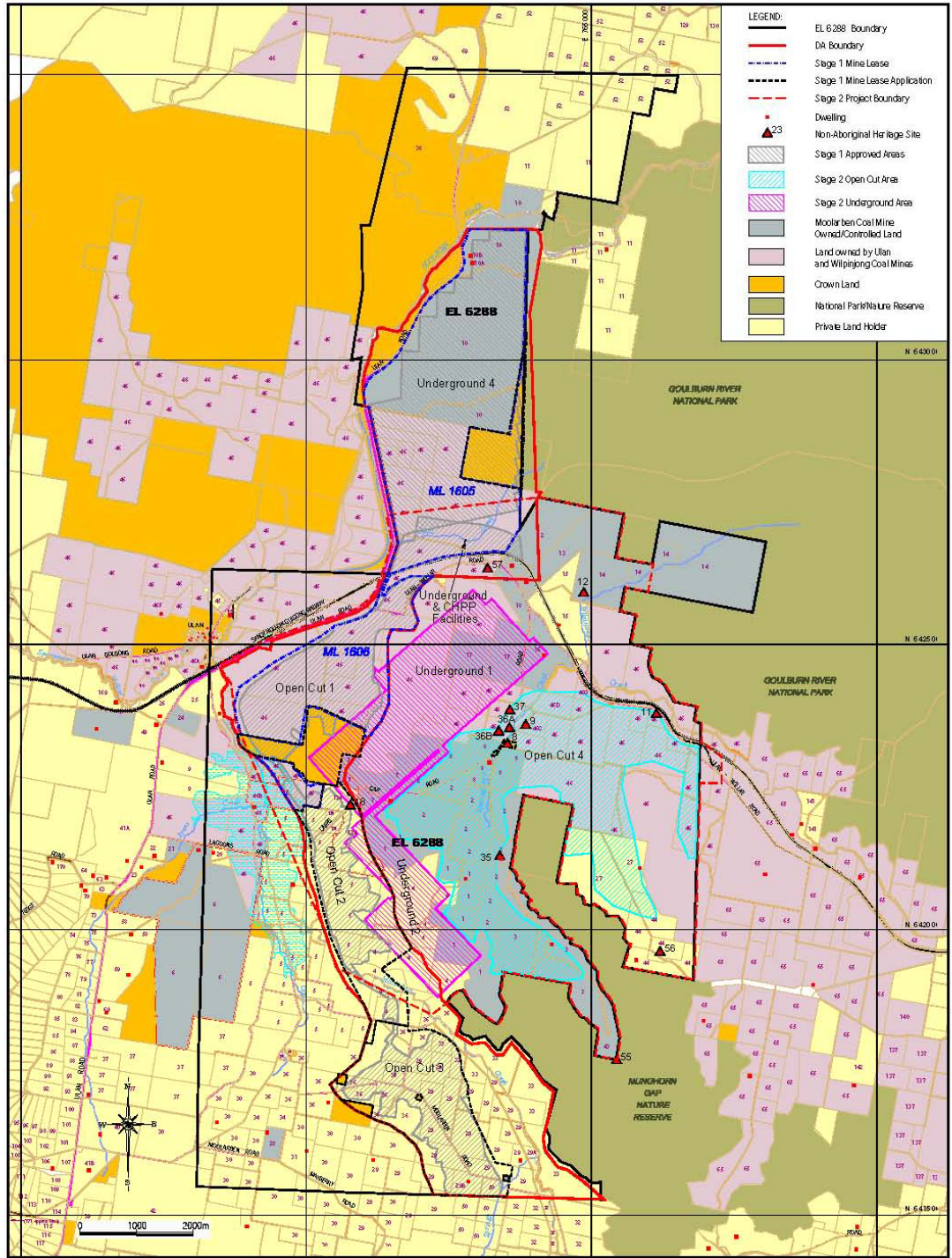


**Figure 1**  
Location of the Moolarben Coal Project.  
*source: Google/Map Data Sciences Pty Ltd*

The potential environmental impacts of the MCP on items within EL 6288 were identified in the Stage 1 Environmental Assessment Report. Potential impacts associated with Stage 2 of the MCP include the following:

- open cut areas where the landscape will be totally impacted;
- overburden dump areas;
- storage areas for topsoil for revegetation;
- underground areas that will have varying degrees of impact;
- infrastructure areas;
- construction areas during mine development;
- haul roads between areas of open cut;
- rail lines and load out areas;
- water management areas and associated piping and pumping equipment;
- public roads within the project area;
- relocation of some existing roads.

The Environmental Assessment Report for Stage 1 works identified a total of 54 potential heritage items within the boundary of EL 6288. Those 54 items are specifically addressed within Appendix 13 of that report. A review of that report identified eight items, being located within the proposed area of impact within Stage 2 of the MCP. Refer to Figure 2.



**Figure 2**  
Location of European heritage items, shown in conjunction with the areas of Stage 2 mining operations.  
*source: Wells Environmental Services 2008*

This report specifically addresses those eight items, along with an additional three items of potential cultural heritage significance identified during the preparation of this Stage 2 report. Thus, the eleven items addressed in this report are as follows.

#### Items identified in Stage 1<sup>1</sup>

- Item #8, Murrugamba School Site
- Item #9, Farm Site
- Item #11, Farm Site
- Item #18, Carr's Gap Road
- Item #35, House site
- Item #36a, House Site
- Item #36b, Grave and/or Burial Site
- Item #37, House Site

#### Items identified in Stage 2

- Item #55, Water Trough and Spring Fed Well
- Item #56, Water Trough and Spring Fed Well
- Item #57, Feed Trough

## 1.2 Methodology

In 2005 Veritas Archaeology & History Service was engaged by Archaeological Risk Assessment Service Pty Ltd (who in turn had been engaged by MCP) to conduct a non-Aboriginal heritage assessment of the exploration leases held by the Moolarben Coal Project. The assessment involved conducting a survey to locate remaining heritage items, make a brief record, evaluate the importance of the evidence and advise on the impacts of the proposed mine on that evidence. The study area was bound by the borders of Exploration Lease 6288 though it was extended in the south to take in the headwaters of Moolarben Creek and to the west to take in all the village of Ulan.

During the 2005 assessment sites were located using the following methods:

- database compiled of early electoral rolls to determine which families had been in the area for extended periods. There was high potential for a site to remain if it had personal attachment for the family now living on the property,
- database compiled from early parish maps of Moolarben, Wilpinjong, Lennox and village of Ulan. This allowed the earliest selected areas to be located. It also provided information on which portions remained with the same owner/families for extended periods which tied into the first data base,
- Interviews and discussions were held with residents in the area, or persons who had resided there. This provided valuable information that would not have been available elsewhere. They were able to confirm or dispel possible sites determined from the data bases. A number of other sources, private and government were consulted, and
- the Project area was then traversed by vehicle and foot to physically locate and evaluate items. The Moolarben Coal Project property map and topographical maps for Durridgere, Gulgong, Munghorn and Wollar were utilised.

A total of 54 sites were located in or close to the boundary of the Project area.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that item numbers correspond to those used in the Stage 1 Report identification. The nomenclature of the additional items identified within Stage 2 carry on the Stage 1 numbering system, i.e. commencing at Item #55.

In June 2008, Heritas Architecture undertook a review of the identified items that would potentially be impacted by the proposed Stage 2 works. A site inspection of the items was undertaken in June and July 2008.

The significance of each of the identified heritage items in the Stage 1 report has been accepted. The Stage 1 report was approved by the Minister for Planning in September 2007. The methodology used in the Stage 1 assessments was NSW Department of Planning (Heritage Branch) guidelines, and is the accepted industry standard. These assessments are based on analysis of cultural heritage value under six criteria: historical, social, aesthetic, and research significance, as well as rarity and representativeness. The Stage 1 assessments are therefore considered to be comprehensive.

An outline of the NSW Heritage Branch assessment criteria is show below, however further information is contained in Appendix A of this report.

#### *Historical Significance*

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural history.

Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or work of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural history.

#### *Aesthetic Significance*

Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

#### *Social Significance*

Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

#### *Research/Technical Significance*

Criterion (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural history.

#### *Rarity*

Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural history.

#### *Representativeness*

Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments.

Recommendations for items have been made based on the scope of the Stage 2 works.

This report has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (2000).



### 1.3 Definitions

The terminology used in this report in relation to conservation is generally that defined within the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (2000).

<b>Archival Record</b>	means the recording of a site to specific criteria as set out by the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning
<b>Conservation</b>	means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance
<b>Building</b>	means a part of a building, structure or part of a structure
<b>Burial / Grave</b>	<i>grave</i> means the hole in the ground dug for the body or coffin, and includes the soil used to fill the hole <i>burial</i> means the body or coffin placed in the grave
<b>Ex Situ Conservation</b>	means conservation of an item that includes relocation of that item to another place
<b>Half Time School</b>	means a school where the education of children was shared with another school
<b>In Situ Conservation</b>	means conservation of an item or place in the place which it exists
<b>Item</b>	means a place, building, work, relic, movable object or precinct
<b>Listing</b>	means on a statutory or non-statutory heritage list
<b>Place</b>	means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views
<b>Provisional School</b>	means a school where residents were required to provide the site and building for the school
<b>Relic</b>	means any deposit, object or material evidence: (a) which relates to the settlement of that area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and (b) which is more than 50 years old
<b>Significance</b>	<i>Local Significance</i> means significant within the Local Government Area <i>State Significance</i> means significant to the people of NSW

## **1.4 Authorship**

The report was prepared by Linda Babic (B.A., B.Arch., M.Herit.Cons.) for Wells Environmental Services, in their capacity as environmental project managers for the MCP.

Unless otherwise noted, site inspections of the items identified in this report were undertaken by Linda Babic and Shellie Smith (Heritas Architecture), in the company of Alan Wells (Wells Environmental Services) and Edwina White (Environmental and Community Relations Manager, Moolarben Coal Mines Pty Limited [MCM]). Site inspections of items 55, 56 and 57 were undertaken by Wells Environmental Services independently.

The assessment information for Stage 1 items was undertaken by Veritas Archaeological & History Service, in 2005.

## **1.5 Assumptions**

MCM owns copyright to the Environmental Assessment Report (Stage 1), and authorises Heritas Architecture to use the information contained therein.

## 2 Historical Background to Project Area

### 2.1 Introduction

The history of the project area was researched and written as part of the Stage 1 Environmental Assessment. A summary of that history follows, however a full copy of the history is contained in Appendix A of this report.

The full history was written in a thematic style, linking the MCP area to a national framework of historic themes.<sup>2</sup>

### 2.2 Summary History<sup>3</sup>

Land in the greater project area was settled from the early 1820s, however the earliest land taken up in the Ulan area was by John McDonald and William Robinson in the 1850s. Land selection in the area was generally slow, as most of the region was poor and characterised by lack of stamina and fertility in the light sandy loam. Selectors were very much self-sufficient, evident in the large number of fruit trees that remain on early sites. The 1885 survey of land owners showed that all had horses and cattle, with a few keeping sheep and pigs. As the land became cleared, sheep played a greater role with some crops on better country. There is also evidence of the exploitation of Cypress Pine and Ironbark forests. Most early buildings were of slab or bark, the only stone being in the base of the chimney.

Early transport lines followed exploration tracks, which later developed into main routes with the further development of transport options such as coach travel. From 1884 a Post Office was established in the area, first at Old Ulan and later at Ulan. A telephone service is noted from 1906, first in the Post Office, then later spreading to private properties via subscriber lines.

Within this rather slow development, the village of Ulan was proclaimed in 1897. The development and subsequent decline of the village is evident in the remnant fabric, with the only public buildings remaining being the school and the Post Office Hotel. Former buildings within Ulan included a store, post office, butcher shop, garage, hall and three churches.

Several schools have been known to operate in the district, serving the variable and shifting population. The only remaining school exists at Ulan.

Local formalised sporting activities included shooting (rifle club), tennis, and cricket and football teams.

Although the area contains several known independent burials, there is one dedicated cemetery at Ulan village. It is highly probable that other burial sites exist within the project area.

Mining in the area appears to have commenced slowly, in 1927, but then in earnest in 1942 by the Key family. The mining of coal was sustained by the needs of a local power station from the late 1950s, and when the station closed in 1970 the mine continued under new ownership to supply domestic markets. This was the genesis for mining in the Ulan area that continues today.

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<sup>2</sup> Based on the publication *Australian Historic Themes: A framework for use in heritage assessment and management*, Australian Heritage Commission, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> The summary history has been taken directly from *Moolarben Coal Project Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*, contained within the *Moolarben Coal Project Environmental Assessment Report Volume 5*, 2006 as Appendix 13.

## 3 Impacted Items

### 3.1 Introduction

A review of the identified items in Stage 2 of the MCP is given in two forms: a summary table (Table 3.1), and more detailed datasheets. The datasheets give detailed recommendations for conservation of assessed heritage value.

### 3.2 Impacted Items - Summary<sup>4</sup>

Item #	Item Name	Significance	Impact Status	Recommendation
8	Murrugamba School Site	Local – moderate	High - within Open Cut 4	Archival Record Archaeological Assessment
9	Farm Site	Local – high	High – within Open Cut 4	Historical Research Archival Record
11	Farm Site	Local – moderate	High - on boundary of Open Cut 4	Historical Research Archival Record Archaeological Assessment
18	Carr's Gap Road stone wall	Local – moderate	High - on boundary of Open Cut 4 and Underground 1	Historical Research Archival Record
35	House Site <sup>5</sup>	Local – intrusive	High - on boundary of Open Cut 4	No further action
36a	House Site	Local – high	High - within Open Cut 4	Historical Research Archival Record Archaeological Assessment
36b	Burial	Local – high	High - within Open Cut 4	Historical Research Archival Record Archaeological Assessment
37	House Site	Local – moderate	High - within Open Cut 4	Historical Research Archival Record
55	Water Trough and Spring Fed Well	Not assessed, but noted as an item of interest	Low/nil - outside area of Open Cut 4 – possible indirect impact by draining of water	Archival Record
56	Water Trough and Spring Fed Well	Not assessed, but noted as an item of interest	Low/nil - outside area of Open Cut 4 – possible indirect impact by draining of water	Archival Record
57	Feed Trough	Not assessed, but noted as an item of interest	High – adjacent to road re-alignments	Historical Research Archival Record Ex situ Conservation

**Table 3.1**

Summary of items impacted by Stage 2 works.

Note that item numbers correspond to those used in Stage 1 identification, with the exception of additional items identified within Stage 2 (being items #55, #56, and #57).

<sup>4</sup> The information given is a combination of information previously assessed (Stage 1 report) and new assessments. Recommendations are based on current assessment of all information available.

<sup>5</sup> The Environmental Assessment Stage 1 (European Heritage Assessment, Table 3) notes this site as containing a burial, however this appears to be an editorial error. The site recording form shown later in Appendix 1 does not mention a burial.

### 3.3 Recommendations

Several items identified in Stage 1 as being subject to little or no impact, will now be subject to an increased or absolute impact within the Stage 2 scope of mining operations. Thus, the impact status and recommendations for Stage 2 work have not taken account of the recommendations made in the Stage 1 report.

The following datasheets give more specific detail about each of the identified sites considered to be impacted by mining operations proposed for Stage 2 of the MCP. Much of the base information contained in these datasheets has been taken directly from the Stage 1 report, namely property coordinates, history/description, and significance.

Management recommendations are based on the significance of each item and the projected impact, as follows.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
Historical Research	<p>In some cases further detailed historical research will be required. This research should be carried out by a professional historian (registered with the Professional Historians Association of NSW, or equivalent organisation). The brief for further research should be agreed upon by the heritage architect and historian, in conjunction.</p>
Archival Record	<p>Archival records are made of heritage items as a way of contributing to our understanding and appreciation of our culture. They record for the future the environment, aesthetics, technical skills and customs associated with the creation and use of heritage items before they are lost, either by progressive changes or the ravages of time.</p> <p>The archival record will vary according to the type of heritage item and the reasons for its preparation. The archival record will always include a background history, and additionally will include one or more of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. a photographic record,</li><li>2. measured technical drawings,</li><li>3. identification and recording of significant vegetation and landscape features,</li><li>4. photogrammetry, film or video recording,</li><li>5. collecting of samples of materials and finishes,</li><li>6. cataloguing or inventory of significant items,</li><li>7. oral history,</li><li>8. aerial photography, and</li><li>9. topographic mapping/surveying</li></ol> <p>Recording during work on the heritage item may also be required, for instance during demolition. This often reveals information not necessarily evident beforehand.</p> <p>All recording is to be done in accordance with guidelines published by the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning. Refer specifically to <i>How To Prepare Archival Records of Heritage Items</i> (1998) and <i>Photographic Recording of Heritage Items Using Film or Digital Capture</i> (2006).</p>

**Recommendation**

Archaeological  
Assessment

**Requirements**

Some sites warrant further archaeological investigation to confirm suspected inclusions (such as grave and burial sites), or to provide more definite information on known past uses of the place prior to impact.

The extent of archaeological investigations should be confirmed on a site-by-site basis, by an archaeologist experienced in the relevant area of work.

Examples of further work include:

1. research design, including excavation permit(s)
2. management plans
3. community consultation and/or public advertising
4. zoning plans
5. test excavations, which can lead to a modelling of the site, for instance locating grave cuts.

In situ Conservation

Where items are not proposed to be impacted in situ conservation may be warranted, depending on the assessed heritage significance of the item. Work to the item or relic may extend to all components of the definition of conservation, and should be developed within a secondary management framework for each particular site.

Ex situ Conservation

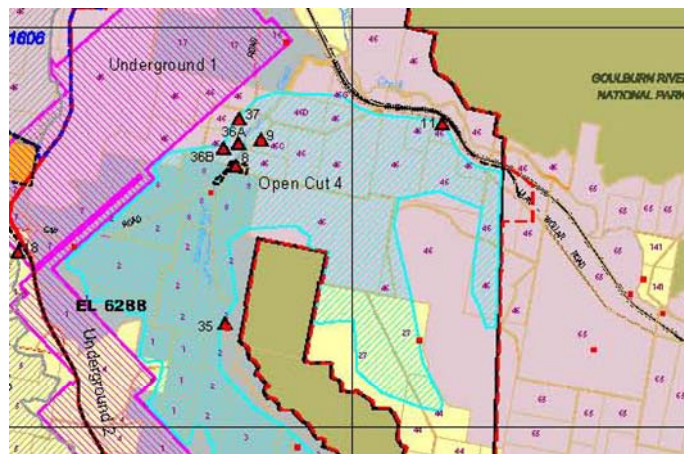
Where items are proposed to be completely impacted (destroyed) relocation may be warranted, depending on the assessed heritage significance of the item. Work to the item or relic may extend to all components of the definition of conservation, and should be developed within a secondary management framework for each particular site.

# Moolarben Coal Project Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 8 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name Murrugamba School Site

location map



photograph

Heritas, 30 June 2008



statement of significance

Sites of small bush schools are common in NSW, therefore this site is of importance to the local region. The site has been altered, but there is sufficient material remaining to provide information on the location of features such as school, toilets and water tank. Items such as bed logs, posts, tank, down-piping, bricks and plaster provide evidence of material used in construction. The undisturbed pit toilet has potential to provide further evidence of period of use from objects discarded. The evidence from the toilet may show that the building had other functions when not being used as a school, such as district hall or meeting place. It is considered that the site is significant in categories Criterion D and E of the NSW Heritage Office guidelines. Criterion D: Small bush schools were the focal point of an isolated rural community. In this case the school was built by the local residents with minimal financial assistance from the NSW Department of Education, and shows their determination to ensure their children received a rudimentary education. This was the only public building in the valley. Criterion E: The site has the potential to yield archaeological information and evidence of the culture that would not be available from other sites in this valley.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

<b>site #</b>	8 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	Murrugamba School Site		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E0763529 N6423250	<b>inspection date</b>	30 June 2008
<b>original owner</b>	Crown (Dept of Education)	<b>present owner</b>	Crown
<b>history/description</b>	<p>The Murrugamba School operated half time from February 1885 to December 1892, then as a provisional school January 1893 to January 1895, then half time from February 1895 to June 1913 then provisional until June 1922.<sup>6</sup> The original school was constructed by the parents approximately <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> mile from Portion 44. This building was of slab walls and bark roof. As the residents were poor the Education Department granted them £7 to assist in the erection. By 1900 the old school was not central and a new school was erected on Portion 44. Again it was erected by the residents and the Department granted them £20. It was on log foundations, sawn slab walls and corrugated iron roof. Families attending the school were Archer, Bailey and Carr.</p> <p>The site contains the remains of bed logs, an adzed post, render from a galvanised tank and a few bricks. There is a depression in the ground approximately 50 metres south that may have been the site of a pit toilet.</p>		
<b>physical condition</b>	The site is in a very poor condition.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, with moderate value.		
<b>impact status</b>	High – within Open Cut 4.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Archival Record<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- photographic</li><li>- site plan to scale based on survey</li></ul></li><li>2. Archaeological Assessment</li></ol>		

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<sup>6</sup> Refer to definitions, section 1.3.



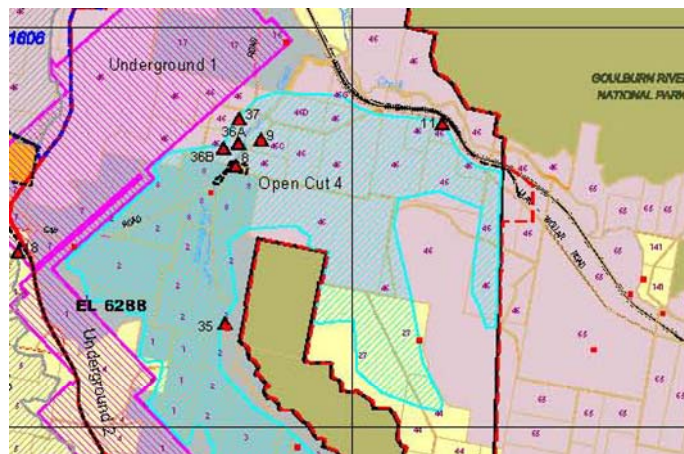
# Moolarben Coal Project

## Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 9 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name Farm Site

location map



photograph

Heritas, 30 June 2008



statement of significance

Homestead sites are common in NSW so this site is of local importance. It is of high importance as the site is reasonably intact and it is possible to see how the various buildings functioned and related to each other. The house has had a number of additions that have joined the living and kitchen areas together, but it is possible to determine the stages of construction. The house is constructed of hand-squared timber and undressed logs with sawn slab walls. Kitchen is of round timber and corrugated iron. Chimneys are constructed partly of brick in the base and corrugated iron top. There is an intact orchard, sheds, yards and saw bench. It is considered that the site is significant in categories Criterion C and E of the NSW Heritage Office guidelines. Criterion C: The building provides evidence of the technical ability of the original owner to construct a comfortable homestead using local material. It also shows that it was constructed on a limited budget. The method of construction is no longer practised. Criterion E: The site has the potential to yield archaeological evidence of diet and affluence. There is the opportunity to study the layout of homestead and other buildings to determine how the site functioned, as they are reasonably intact and this is not the case on many other homestead sites.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

<b>site #</b>	9 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	Farm Site		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E0763849 N6423578	<b>inspection date</b>	30 June 2008
<b>original owner</b>	George Carr	<b>present owner</b>	Ulan Coal Mines Pty Limited
<b>history/description</b>	<p>Taken up by George Carr as a Conditional Lease in 1906. He converted this to an Additional Conditional Purchase in 1909. By 1933 the property was owned by W G Maskell.</p> <p>The site contains a house that was originally built in two sections. Front living area built of sawn slab walls, round timber used for posts and bearers. They have been adzed flat where required. The rear kitchen section is of round timber and corrugated iron. After the building was erected there have been a number of additions which included joining the two original sections together. Around the house are a number of outbuildings including a pit toilet, stock yards, and three sheds including one of concrete. There is a timber frame of a saw bench and possibly another saw bench west of the house across Murragamba Road. Site contains white cedar (<i>Melia azedarach</i>), tree of heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>), pepper trees and poplars. Fruit trees consist of peach, pear and plum.</p>		
<b>physical condition</b>	The site has been unoccupied for some time and most of the buildings are in a poor condition.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of high value. There is high potential at this site to gain understanding of construction methods and the development of the farm.		
<b>impact status</b>	High – within Open Cut 4.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical Research</li><li>2. Archival Record<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- photographic</li><li>- site plan to scale based on survey</li><li>- measured drawing</li><li>- identification and recording of landscape elements</li></ul></li></ol>		

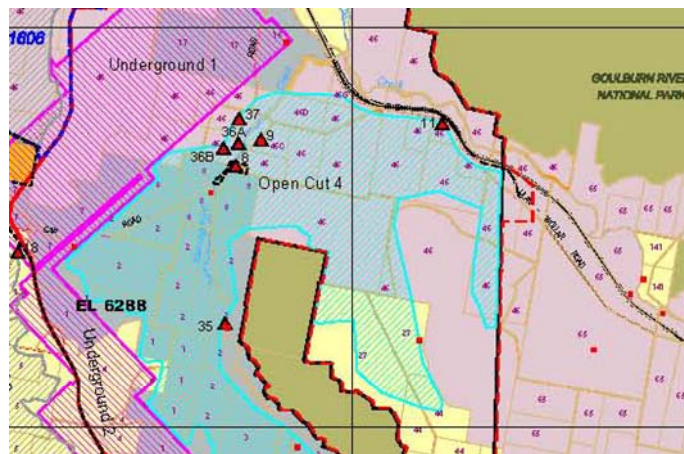
# Moolarben Coal Project

## Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 11 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name Farm Site

location map



photograph

Heritas, 30 June 2008



statement of significance

Homestead sites are common in NSW so this site is of local importance. It is of moderate value as some elements of the site have been modified and others have little heritage value, but as a whole is part of the significance of the site. The site retains the original vertical slab house along with a later fibro clad dwelling. The fibro dwelling was occupied at time of inspection and it was not possible to determine method of construction. The size and type of buildings provide evidence of the economic status of the owners.

It is considered that the site is significant in categories Criterion C and E of the NSW Heritage Office guidelines.

Criterion C: The building provides evidence of the technical ability of the original owner to construct a homestead using local material. It also shows that it was constructed on a limited budget. The method of construction using vertical slabs is no longer practised.

Criterion E: The site has potential to yield archaeological and social information on selection at a lower economic scale than for example, Murrugamba homestead.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

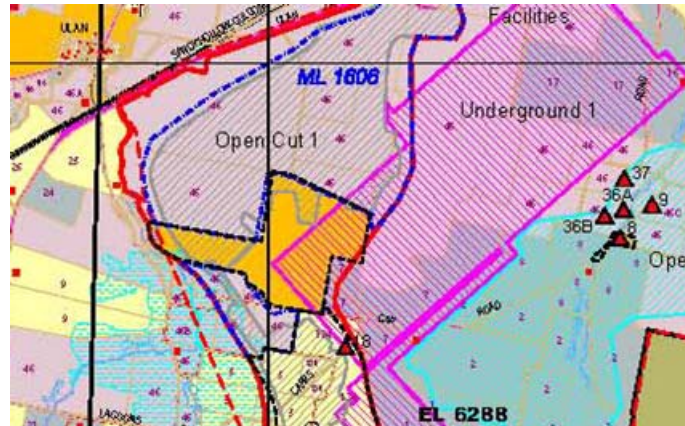
<b>site #</b>	11 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	Farm Site		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E0766030 N6423610	<b>inspection date</b>	30 June 2008
<b>original owner</b>	Thomas Carr	<b>present owner</b>	Ulan Coal Mines Pty Limited
<b>history/description</b>	<p>Selected by Thomas Carr as a Conditional Purchase block in 1883. By 1905 it was held by William Carr as a Conditional Purchase block and by 1933 he held it as freehold land.</p> <p>There are a number of buildings on the site including an early slab structure. The present house is clad in fibro, but was most likely slab also. There are a number of outbuildings including a shearing shed.</p>		
<b>physical condition</b>	The slab structure is in a poor condition, but the other buildings appear sound.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of moderate value.		
<b>impact status</b>	High – on boundary of Open Cut 4.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical Research</li><li>2. Archival Record<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- photographic</li><li>- site plan to scale based on survey.</li></ul></li><li>3. Archaeological Assessment</li></ol>		

# Moolarben Coal Project Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 18 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name Carr's Gap Road stone wall

location map



photograph

Wells Environmental Services, 8 Nov  
2005



statement of significance

Stone retaining walls are common in NSW so this site is of local importance. It is of moderate value as the wall has suffered from neglect and intrusions of trees have altered the fabric. This road was an early communication link between Mudgee, Wollar and hence to the Hunter Valley. This road is known locally as the Maitland Road.

Criterion C: This section of road provides evidence of the technical skills of the early road builder and the method used to retain the road base. Evidence of this type of road construction is rare in this locality. Most evidence of this type is destroyed during road upgrades. In this case the road now takes a different alignment and this section has been abandoned, hence its survival.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

<b>site #</b>	18 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	Carr's Gap Road stone wall		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E760776 N6422170	<b>inspection date</b>	not inspected
<b>original owner</b>	J W Robinson (part)	<b>present owner</b>	M & P Swords
<b>history/description</b>	<p>Part of the portion was taken up as a Conditional Lease by JW Robinson in 1905. Robinson converted this part to an Additional Conditional Purchase in 1945. The rest of the portion was declared available for selection in 1916, but was not taken up by 1948.</p> <p>The road was part of the Mudgee to Wollar Road that ran via Moolarben. The section over the range is called Carr's Gap and passes Murrugamba Trig point. The road is known locally as the Maitland Road. The section of interest is a dry stone wall supporting the road where it has been cut into the side of the hill.</p>		
<b>physical condition</b>	The wall is in a very good condition. <sup>7</sup>		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of moderate value.		
<b>impact status</b>	High - on the boundary of Open Cut 4 and Underground 1.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical Research</li><li>2. Archival Record<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- photographic</li><li>- site plan showing extent of wall</li></ul></li></ol>		

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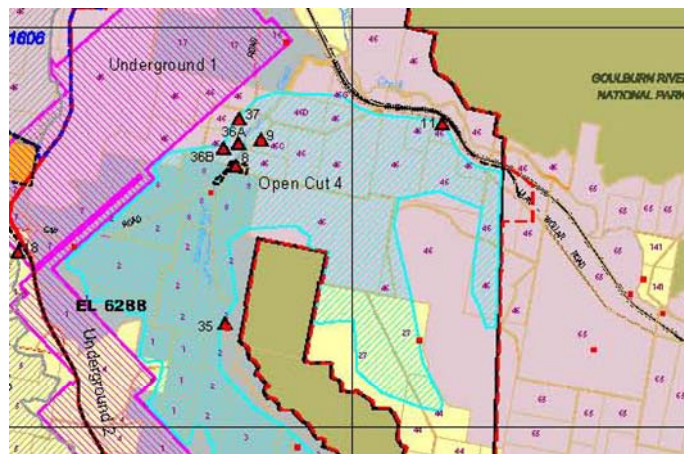
<sup>7</sup> Not inspected by Heritas; condition as per Stage 1 Environmental Assessment report, 2005.

# Moolarben Coal Project Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 35 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name House Site

location map



photograph

Heritas, 30 June 2008



assessed significance

The original house was a small building with hip roof. Round bush timber was used for the roof structure. The building has had alterations and additions in a number of directions which has reduced its value and damaged its heritage significance. For these reasons it does not meet the criteria for listing at local level.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

<b>site #</b>	35 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	House Site		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E0763394 N6421279	<b>inspection date</b>	30 June 2008
<b>original owner</b>	Catherine Berryman	<b>present owner</b>	Moolarben Coal Mines Pty Limited
<b>history/description</b>	<p>In 1891 Catherine Berryman took up two portions, 36 of 40 acres as a Conditional Purchase block and 2 of 40 acres as an additional Conditional Purchase block. By 1918 the land was held by the Government Savings Bank of NSW.</p> <p>The original house had a hip roof, but has been extended in several directions. Round bush timber was used in the ceiling and it had a T&amp;G pine board ceiling. The house has been modified by using the ceiling boards to line some of the walls. There are the remains of an orchard (mulberry, quince and pear trees), along with a well. A shearing shed still exists, and there appears to have been another building on the site as there are the remains of a concrete and stone fireplace further up the creek.</p>		
<b>physical condition</b>	The buildings are in a poor condition.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of intrusive value.		
<b>impact status</b>	High – on boundary of Open Cut 4.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	No further action required.		

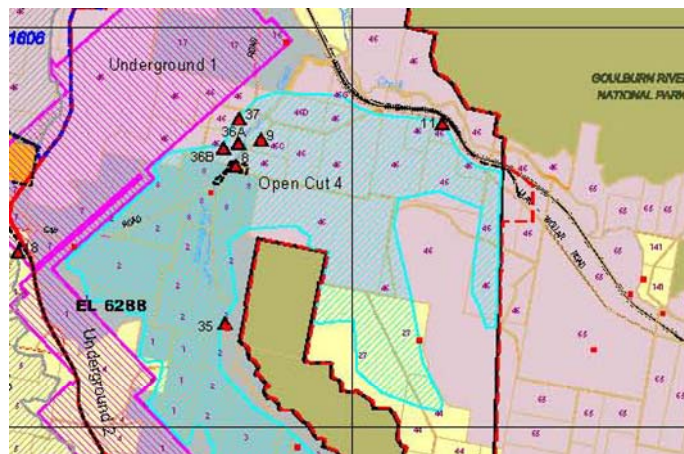


# Moolarben Coal Project Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 36a (sheet 1 of 2)

site name House Site

location map



photograph

Heritas, 30 June 2008



statement of significance

This area was taken up as a conditional purchase block in the 1880s. The only evidence of the homestead is the base of a fireplace, timber-lined well and orchard.

Criterion E: The house site has potential to yield new archaeological information on construction and lifestyle that has not been obtained from other parts of this district hence it is of high local importance.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

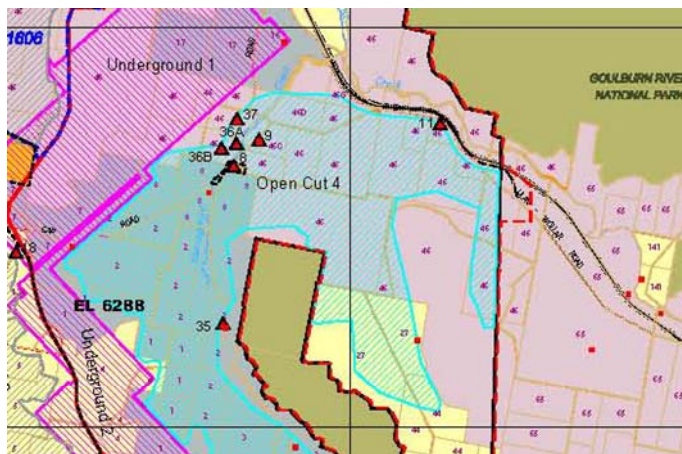
<b>site #</b>	36a (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	House Site		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E0763464 N6423520	<b>inspection date</b>	30 June 2008
<b>original owner</b>	George Carr	<b>present owner</b>	Ulan Coal Mines Pty Limited
<b>history/description</b>	Selected by George Carr in 1883 as a Conditional Purchase block, by 1905 it was held by HS Thomas.  Site contains a well, stone base of a fireplace, partly dressed timber, and exotic trees (white cedar, pear and figs). The site is associated with Site 36b.		
<b>physical condition</b>	Very little remains on the site of the building, but the area does not appear to be disturbed.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of high value.		
<b>impact status</b>	High - on the boundary of Underground 1 and Open Cut 4.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical Research</li><li>2. Archival Record<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- photographic</li><li>- site plan to scale based on survey</li><li>- identification and recording of landscape elements</li></ul></li></ol>		

# Moolarben Coal Project Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 36b (sheet 1 of 2)

site name Grave Site

location map



photograph

Heritas, 30 June 2008



statement of significance

Homestead sites and rural burials outside of designated cemeteries are common in NSW so this site is of local importance. This area was taken up as a conditional purchase block in the 1880s. The burial site is approximately 180 metres east of the house site (see item #36a). The fence had been constructed as a square with squared posts and mortised rails. At some stage the area was extended with round posts. It appears to mark two burials. At the time of inspection bulbs were growing in the enclosed area, though the species could not be identified.

Criterion D: The gravesite would have a strong and special association for a particular group in the community i.e. perhaps the owner of the property. The evidence of squaring posts and mortising rails indicates the community was prepared to expend material and effort to mark the burial site. The planting of bulbs indicates a personal attachment to the burial site. This site is therefore of high local importance.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

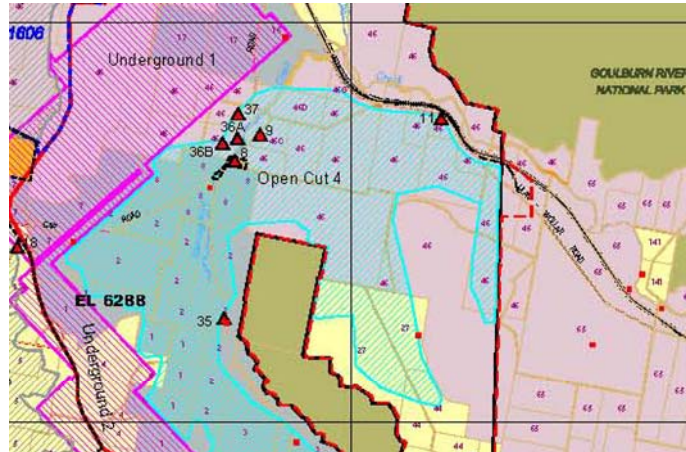
<b>site #</b>	36b (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	Grave Site		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E0763464 N6423520	<b>inspection date</b>	30 June 2008
<b>original owner</b>	George Carr	<b>present owner</b>	Ulan Coal Mines Pty Limited
<b>history/description</b>	Selected by George Carr in 1883 as a Conditional Purchase block, by 1905 it was held by HS Thomas.  Site contains an enclosed area that appears to be a grave or burial site. The enclosure is approximately 2.5m x 5m defined by timber posts and rails, and wire. It appears that the area was extended to the west at some stage. There are bulbs growing at the east end of the enclosure.  The site is associated with Site 36a.		
<b>physical condition</b>	In reasonable condition though two posts have rotted off.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of high value.		
<b>impact status</b>	High - on the boundary of Underground 1 and Open Cut 4.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical Research</li><li>2. Archival Record<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- photographic</li><li>- site plan to scale based on survey</li><li>- identification and recording of landscape elements</li></ul></li><li>3. Archaeological Assessment<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- assessment of grave site, with scope to be confirmed by archaeologist specialising in cemeteries and burials</li><li>- management plan for grave &amp; burial, including possible ex situ conservation</li></ul></li></ol>		

# Moolarben Coal Project Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 37 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name House Site

location map



photograph

Heritas, 30 June 2008



statement of significance

Abandoned homestead sites are common in NSW, so this site is of local importance. This area was another conditional purchase selection from the 1880s. It may have had up to four structures in the area as surface deposits indicate the base of chimneys. The last structure may have had a septic system. Criterion E: The building sites have potential to yield new archaeological information on construction methods, date of construction and possible use of the building. This will provide information on the dynamics of the site and identify the group who occupied the site in a local context. Due to most of the surface material having been removed it is considered to have moderate local value, though its archaeological value would be high.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

<b>site #</b>	37 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	House Site		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E0763570 N6423837	<b>inspection date</b>	30 June 2008
<b>original owner</b>	Henry Carr	<b>present owner</b>	Ulan Coal Mines Pty Limited
<b>history/description</b>	Originally selected in 1889 by Henry Carr, by 1935 it was owned by WG Marskell.  There appears to have been a number of structures over a period of time. The site contains the remains of four chimneys, concrete slab and an area of piers both timber and brick. The last building on the site may have had a septic system. There are oleanders and trees of heaven on the site. There appears to be remains of a well and/or water trough.		
<b>physical condition</b>	Very little remains of the structures, but as the area does not appear to have been cultivated there is potential for sub-surface evidence.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of moderate value.		
<b>impact status</b>	High - within Open Cut 4.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Historical Research</li><li>2. Archival Record<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- photographic</li><li>- site plan to scale based on survey</li><li>- identification and recording of landscape elements</li></ul></li></ol>		

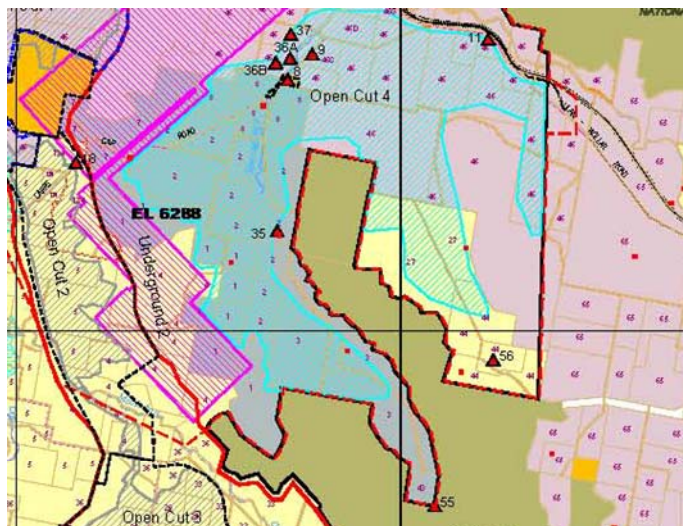
# Moolarben Coal Project

## Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 55 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name Water Trough and Spring Fed Well

location map



photograph

Wells Environmental Services, 23 July  
2008



statement of significance

Although the history of this apparent water trough and spring fed well is unknown, it is a common feature on rural properties in the area. With reference to the NSW Dept of Planning, Heritage Branch guidelines for assessment of heritage items, this item satisfies Criterion E: *an item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the area's cultural or natural history*. The item is currently located on the boundary of the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

<b>site #</b>	55 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	Water Trough and Spring Fed Well		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E765442 N6417706, 560m Elevation	<b>inspection date</b>	23 July 2008 (by Wells Environmental Services)
<b>original owner</b>	John Berryman first owner in 1888, circa 1917 owned by HJ Gudgeon, F Tomlinson and LC Naughton. Unknown who constructed.	<b>present owner</b>	Moolarben Coal Mines Pty Limited
<b>history/description</b>	History unknown.  The site includes a 6ft x 6ft timber lined well, which delivers water via a metal trough to a hollowed timber log water trough. Deteriorated cementitious material in the base suggests the trough was previously lined. The metal trough is supported by timber posts. One side of the well is sandstone conglomerate, and the pit is at least 5ft deep.		
<b>physical condition</b>	Appears to be poor.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of high value.		
<b>impact status</b>	Low/nil - outside area of perceived impact. Possible indirect impact by draining of water.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	1. Archival Record - photographic only 2. In situ Conservation		

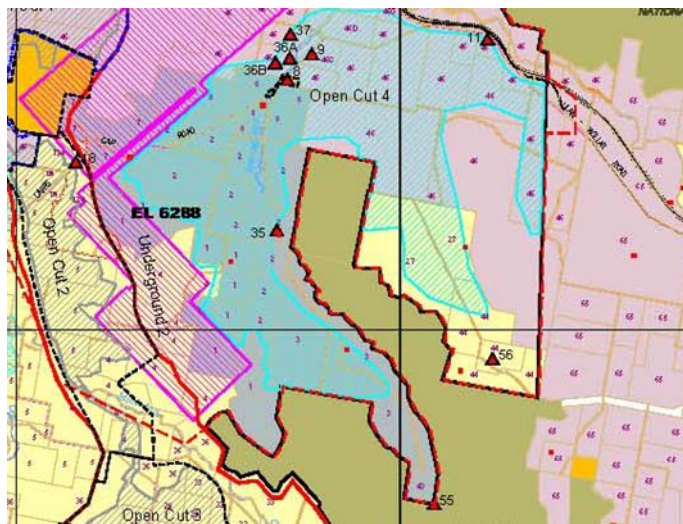


# Moolarben Coal Project Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 56 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name Water Trough and Spring Fed Well

location map



photograph

Wells Environmental Services, 28 Nov  
2007



statement of significance

Although the history of this apparent water trough and spring fed well is unknown, it is a common feature on rural properties in the area. With reference to the NSW Dept of Planning, Heritage Branch guidelines for assessment of heritage items, this item satisfies Criterion E: *an item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the area's cultural or natural history.* The item is currently located on private land near the boundary of the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

<b>site #</b>	56 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	Water Trough and Spring Fed Well		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E766203 N6419606 476mAHD Elevation	<b>inspection date</b>	28 Nov 2007 (by Wells Environmental Services)
<b>original owner</b>	Site appears to have originally been a Classification Reserve. Has been noted as early as 1905 as a watering location or spring, later owned by William Robinson or OJ Power & PH Powers. Constructed by unknown.	<b>present owner</b>	E.D & C Power
<b>history/description</b>	Appears to have been watering location for early stock driving.  The site includes a well, the opening of which is covered over with sheets of corrugated metal. October 2007 photos appear to indicate the well is sandstone lined. The well delivers water to a series of timber troughs.		
<b>physical condition</b>	Appears to be fair.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of high value.		
<b>impact status</b>	Low/nil - outside area of perceived impact. Possible indirect impact by draining of water.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	1. Archival Record - photographic only 2. In situ Conservation		

# Moolarben Coal Project Heritage Item Datasheet

site # 57 (sheet 1 of 2)

site name Feed Trough

location map



photograph

Wells Environmental Services,  
23 July 2008



statement of significance

The history of this apparent feed trough is unknown. However, with reference to the NSW Dept of Planning, Heritage Branch guidelines for assessment of heritage items, this item satisfies Criterion E: *an item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the area's cultural or natural history.*

# *Moolarben* Heritage Item Datasheet *Coal Project*

<b>site #</b>	57 (sheet 2 of 2)		
<b>site name</b>	Feed Trough		
<b>property coordinate</b>	GDA 55 H E763180 N6426332	<b>inspection date</b>	23 July 2008 (by Wells Environmental Services)
<b>original owner</b>	Circa 1924 Alex Campbell(?), later owned by railway authorities. Constructed by unknown.	<b>present owner</b>	Ulan Coal Mines Pty Limited
<b>history/description</b>	History unknown.  A hollowed timber log used as a feed or water trough.		
<b>physical condition</b>	Appears to be fair.		
<b>existing heritage listings</b>	None.		
<b>assessed significance</b>	Local, of moderate value. The unknown history of the item means it may have been moved from another site.		
<b>impact status</b>	High - adjacent to proposed road alignments.		
<b>management recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Archival Record - photographic only</li><li>2. Ex situ Conservation (if not impacted, in situ conservation)</li></ol>		

## **Appendix A**

*Moolarben Coal Project*

*Environmental Assessment Report (Stage 1)*

*Volume 5: Appendix 13, European Heritage Assessment*

**Section 3: Historical Background to Project Area**

by Veritas Archaeology and History Service, November 2005

### 3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO PROJECT AREA

The historical background to the Project area has been compiled with the Australian historic themes in mind. The use of these themes allows a uniform study to be compiled that provides links between other regional stories. They also allow the use of common standards to assist in the identification and evaluation of potential heritage places. The Australian Heritage Commission has developed a framework of nine theme groups which can be broken down into themes and sub-themes. Some sub-themes start to overlap, but they still allow areas to be studied in a uniform methodology. In this study the following sub-themes have been found applicable to the Project area:

#### 3.1 ABORIGINAL CULTURE

The study of Aboriginal culture will be the subject of a separate study undertaken by Archaeological Risk Assessment Services Pty Ltd.

#### 3.2 LAND TENURE, AGRICULTURE, PASTORALISM & FORESTRY

Land settlement in this area was fairly late when compared with some of the surrounding land. In 1821 James Blackman and William Lawson led separate exploration parties to the Mudgee area and the first settlers started to arrive the following year. George and Henry Cox arrived in February 1822 and took up land; many others were soon to follow.<sup>1</sup> The area to the north of the Project area was visited by William Lawson in 1822 and Allan Cunningham in 1823. Cunningham described it as ‘a more delightful and rich country cannot possibly be’. Due to the remoteness of the Cassilis region, land settlement was slower than around Mudgee. By the early 1830s Alexander Bushy, Richard Jones and George Druitt had taken up land and had stock in the area.<sup>2</sup> Some land was taken up in the Wilpinjong and Wollar areas in the 1840s, the largest block being John Terry Hughes’ 760 acres, though most blocks were much smaller.

The earliest land taken up in the Ulan area was that of John McDonald and William Robinson (early records have Robison). William Robinson took up four blocks of 30 to 50 acres each on the Moolarben and Lagoon Creeks and Goulburn River between 4 January and 8 June 1855.<sup>3</sup> There is a strong possibility that he was on the land earlier than those dates. John McDonald was also an early settler, taking up land along Ulan Creek and Goulburn River. It is believed he was there from the early 1850s. He held Portions One, Two and Five in the Parish of Ulan. Portion 5 was one of the earliest Conditional Purchase block in the area being 1861.<sup>4</sup> Robinson and McDonald selected land where there was good water and suitable crossings of the Goulburn River. These selections were the sites of inns and staging posts.<sup>5</sup> In the Moolarben parish area the earliest land was taken up by Thomas Jarman Hawkins, Portion 3, 1861, T A Wall and Nath Barton in 1867; Wilpinjong, James Power 1867 and Lennox, Thomas Nevell 1868. These early selectors chose places that had good water and reasonable soil. Most of the region was poor and characterised by lack of stamina and fertility in the light sandy loam.<sup>6</sup> Land selection was slow except for two periods in 1873-1877 and again in 1889-1892. See Figure 3 below. The first peak may have been a flow-on from the gold rush to Gulgong and district. By December 1872 it is

<sup>1</sup> *Mudgee, A Nest in the Hills*, Mudgee Historical Society, 1996, p.6

<sup>2</sup> F D Hayes, *Cassilis, The Frontier Village*, Merriwa Shire Council, 1984, p.15

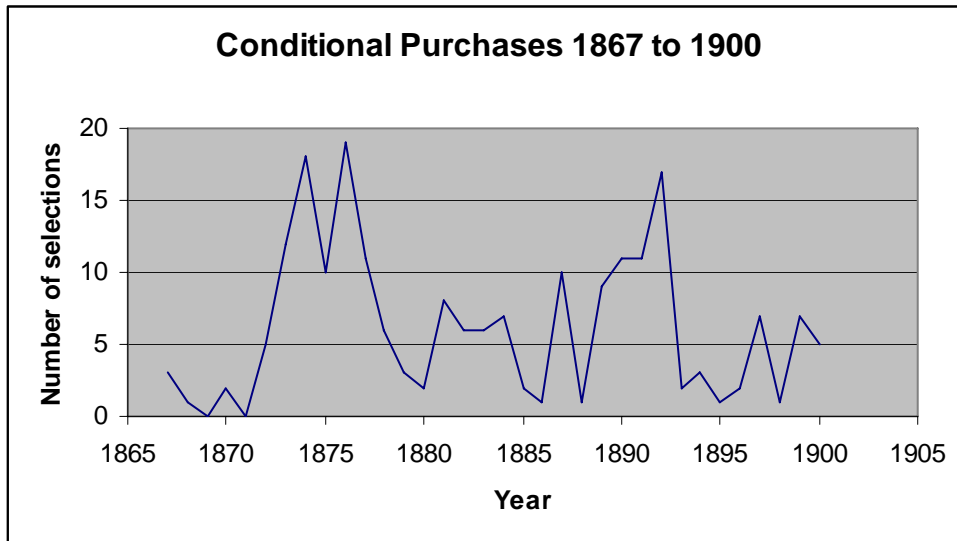
<sup>3</sup> Department of Lands, Old System Land Records, Book 115 No. 763.

<sup>4</sup> NSW Crown Land Administrative Map, Parish Map, Dubbo Office Set CD 3.

<sup>5</sup> E Maxwell, *Written in Gold, The Story of Gulgong*, Private Publication, 1982, p.65.

<sup>6</sup> H Dangar, *Index and Directory to Map of the Country Bordering the Hunter Valley*, London, 1828, p.86

estimated that 20,000 people were in the Gulgong area.<sup>7</sup> Disillusioned miners may have taken up land, or others saw more opportunities supplying food and timber to the mining areas. The 1880s were periods of drought which most likely curtailed land selection.<sup>8</sup> From the 1890s many selectors were taking annual leases rather than selecting the poorer country that remained. The Parishes of Ulan and Lennox had very little suitable land and most land in these Parishes was never selected or was very late, some as late as 1950s and 60s.<sup>9</sup> Figures 4 to 6 show the Parishes of Lennox, Moolarben and Wilpinjong in the 1890s. Very little land had been taken up in Lennox and Wilpinjong. In Moolarben, the selections were along Lagoon and Moolarben Creeks.



**Figure 3.** Conditional purchase land in Parishes of Lennox, Moolarben and Wilpinjong

Some blocks were only held for a few years and were forfeited, which allowed them to be reselected by other persons, or the selections were sold to more successful land owners. Some of the early selectors who were successful were Swords, Robinson, Roberts and Blackman. The selectors were very much self-sufficient and very little goods were brought in. This is evident in the large numbers of fruit trees that remain on early sites.<sup>10</sup> These sites are discussed in Section 6 and Appendix 1. The 1885 survey of land owners showed that all had horses and cattle, with a few keeping sheep and pigs.<sup>11</sup> The arrival of rabbits in the late 1890s provided another food and income source for many. As the land became cleared, sheep played a greater role with some crops on better country. At present the largest land owner is Ulan Coal with the land leased to local farmers.

The exploitation of the cypress pine and iron bark forests played an important part for many early selectors. Railway sleepers, pit props, fence posts and building material were extracted from the surrounding forests. Early timber was pit sawn, but later primitive saw mills were set up at Site 9 and 31. Hester Morgan stated that her father took timber to Constable's mill at Ulan for processing when he was building his house (Site 29).

<sup>7</sup> E Maxwell, *Written in Gold, The Story of Gulgong*, private publication, 1982, p.12

<sup>8</sup> *ibid.*, p.28

<sup>9</sup> NSW Crown Land Administrative Map, Parish Map, Dubbo Office Set CD 3 & 15.

<sup>10</sup> Pers comm. Hester Morgan

<sup>11</sup> Legislative Council of NSW, Volume 39 Part 1, Appendix 2, 1885.

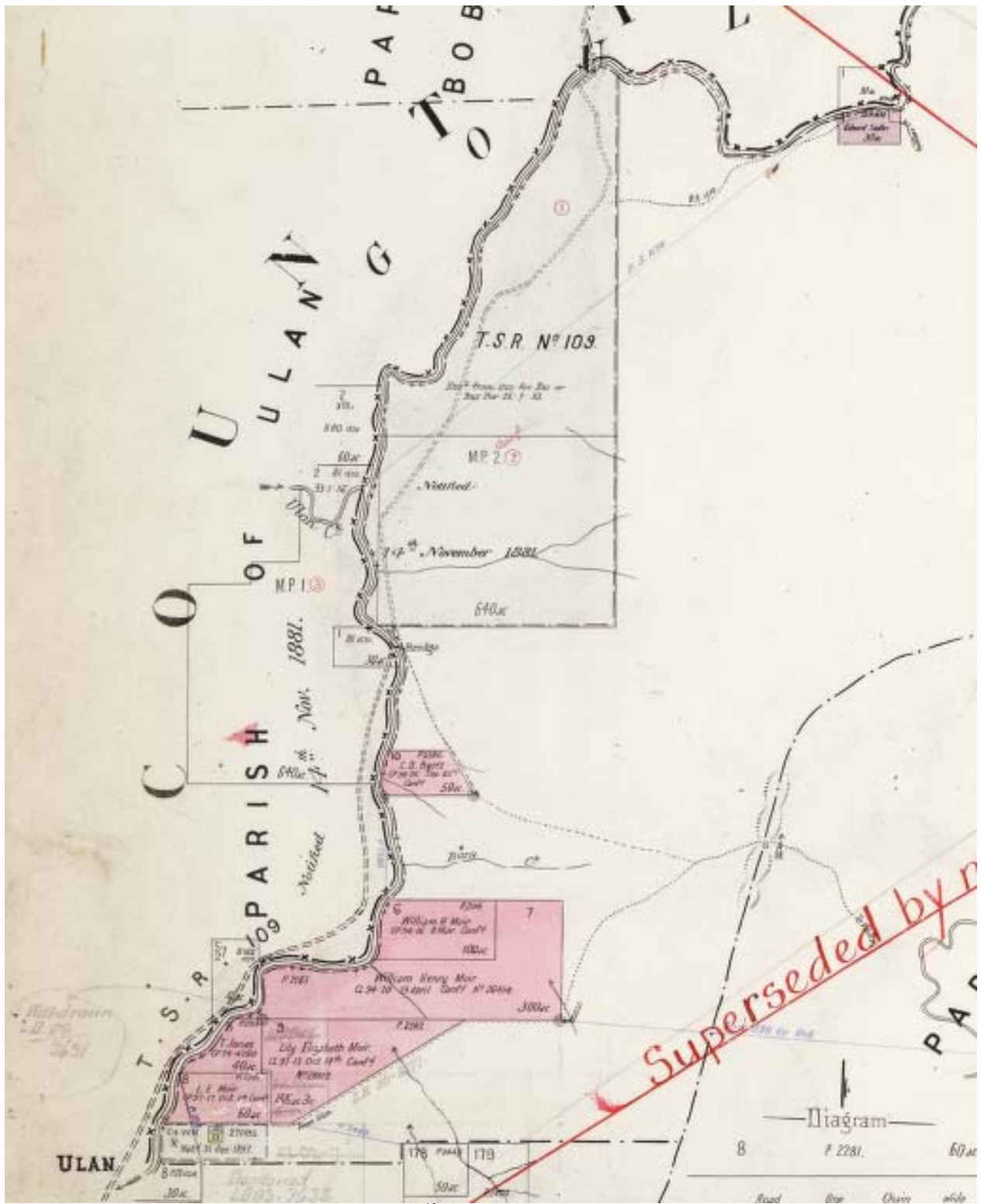


Figure 4 Part of Parish of Lennox 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1884<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> NSW Crown Land Administrative Maps, Dubbo Office Set, CD 15



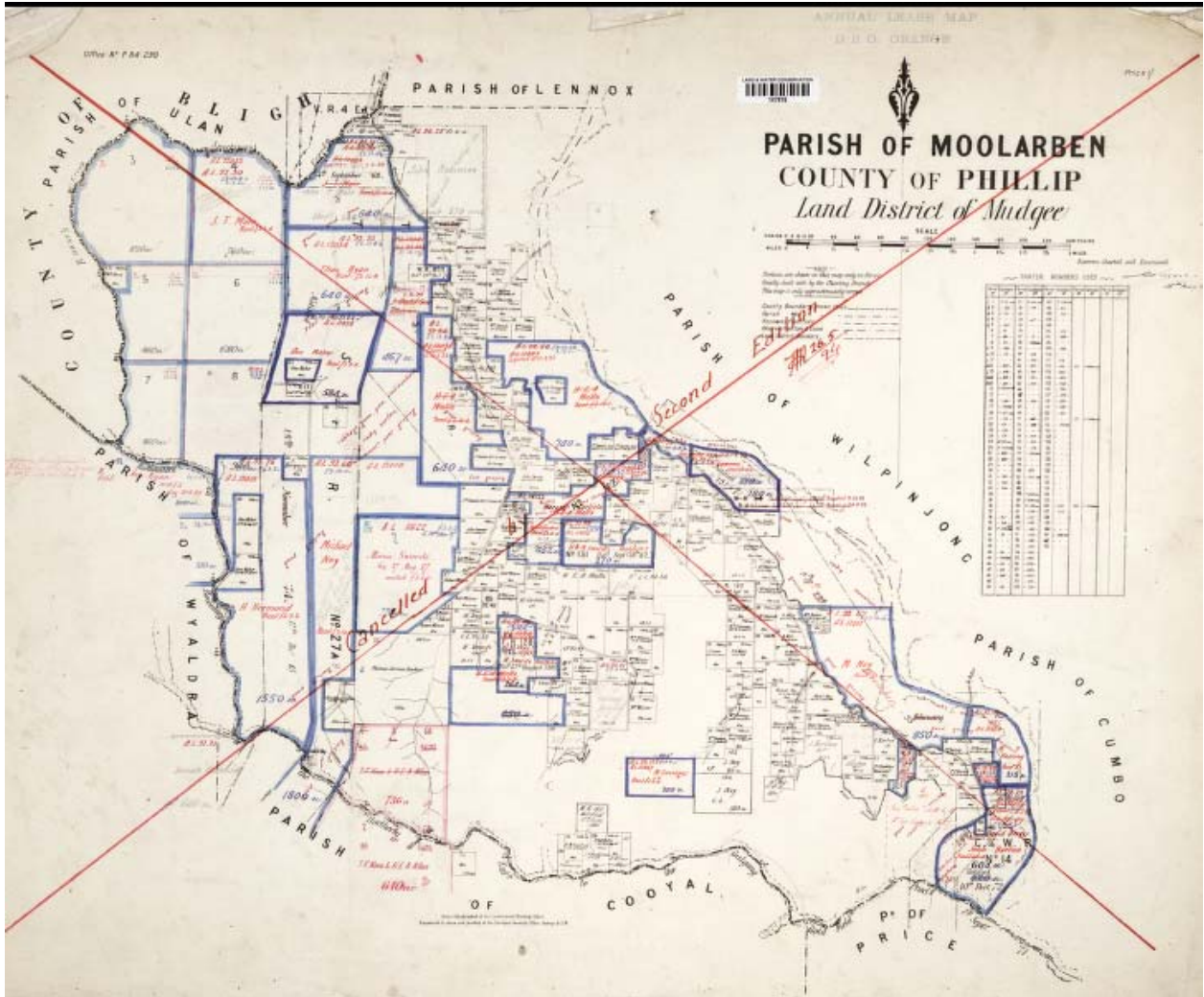


Figure 5 Parish of Moolarben 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1884<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> NSW Crown Land Administrative Maps, Dubbo Office Set, CD 15

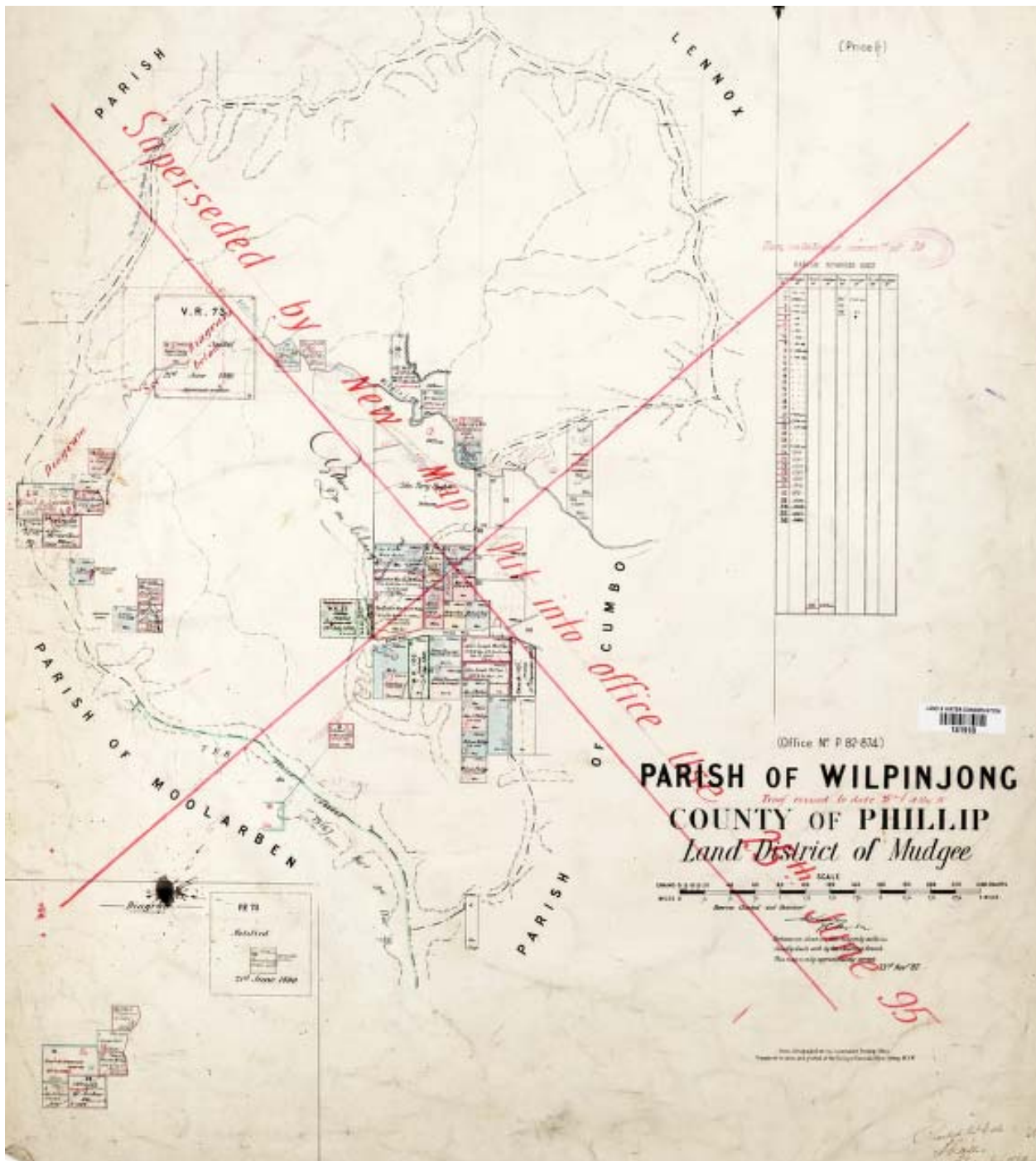


Figure 6 Parish of Wilpinjong, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1884 <sup>14</sup>

### 3.3 ACCOMMODATION

The use of stone as a building material is rare in the Ulan area. The only known stone building was the 'Old Stone House', part of which has been relocated to the grounds of the Gulgong Museum. Originally the building contained four rooms of fieldstone external walls with slab internal walls. At some stage it was extended east with a further four rooms of stone.<sup>15</sup> Most early buildings were of slab or bark and the only stone was in the base of the chimney. These sites leave very little visible evidence unless there are exotic trees in the vicinity (Site 32). One

<sup>14</sup> NSW Crown Land Administrative Maps, Dubbo Office Set, CD 15

<sup>15</sup> Mitchell Library, File PX\*D 48, Ulan Stone House.

school inspector reported that the area was populated by small selectors and persons on miners' rights who lived in rough huts and survived by bush labour, rabbiting and shooting.<sup>16</sup> Later houses followed the pattern of separate sleeping and eating structures with construction of vertical sawn slabs on bed logs (Sites 9 and 19 are good examples). Chimneys were constructed of fieldstone or brick, but only for two metres then the remainder was timber frame with corrugated iron. This continues to the 1950s with the chimneys at Sites 13 and 34 constructed in this manner. Some sites show evidence of recycling; the chimney at Site 2 has bricks with at least five different frogs. Slab buildings were lined with paper, while cloth was used as a liner in the ceiling (Site 31). Early accommodation in this area was primitive with little use of permanent materials. Concrete was used in a couple of buildings. The store at Ulan, a dwelling at 'Hillside' and a shed at 'Murragamba' had walls of concrete. Concrete appears to have been used as flooring in some sites, having replaced the dirt floor (Site 2 and 4) Many of the sites continued to utilise early construction methods until relatively recently.

### 3.4 COMMUNICATION & TRANSPORT

Early lines of communication developed along lines blazed by explorers and squatters. Even as early as 1823 William Cox had been moving north of Mudgee and establishing stockyards.(Site 22) As stations became established to the north around Cassilis a line of communication for stock to Sydney was via Bathurst rather than the Hunter Valley. The Government was aware of the need to cater for these stock movements, hence the reserve of watering points and wide corridors for stock routes. The Parishes of Moolarben, Ulan and Bobadeen had one of these stock routes which developed into the present main road corridor. Other tracks developed to connect points of land selection. Early tracks came from Mudgee to Cooyal then up the Moolarben Valley. One track branched off to go via Carr's Gap to Murragamba, Wilpinjong and Wollar (known as the Maitland Road<sup>17</sup>). This section of road contains an interesting engineering feature where a dry stone wall has been constructed to retain the road base (Site 18). The other branch continued via present Ulan, Old Ulan and on to Cassilis. This is the line of road shown on Bakers Australian Atlas in 1843-6<sup>18</sup> As the need for transport increased, especially with the discovery of gold, coach lines started with one line using the Moolarben valley. This was an expensive form of travel and many people remained on their selections, rarely venturing out of the area. The new teacher in 1899 reported that it cost him 7/6 from Mudgee to Moolarben via the coach.<sup>19</sup> In 1915 the mail coach ran three times per week between Mudgee and Cassilis, one of the changing posts was at Ulan.<sup>20</sup>

Even as late as the 1960s and 70s older residents of Ulan may have gone to Mudgee once a year.<sup>21</sup> With the arrival of the motor car the mail truck was one method of travel to larger centres.

One important mode of communication was the postal system. In 1884, 42 residents of the Ulan district signed a petition requesting that a post office be set up at Ulan (Old Ulan) with John Robinson as post master. They stated that the closest post offices were Cassilis or Budgee Budgee. A post office was allowed with John Robinson as post master, even though he could not read or write. When the post office was relocated to present Ulan, John Robinson continued as post master. In 1908 the post mistress at Ulan was paid per annum £13/0/- for postal duties, £2

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<sup>16</sup> State Records, Cook's Gap School File, 5/15483.3

<sup>17</sup> Pers comm. Malcolm Swords

<sup>18</sup> Mitchell Library, Bakers Australian Atlas, X980-11/2

<sup>19</sup> State Records, Moolarben School File, 5/16900.1

<sup>20</sup> Obituary for Charles Robinson held by Mudgee Historical Society.

<sup>21</sup> Pers comm. Malcolm Power

for telephone and £2 for telegram duties. The earliest reference to a telephone service was in 1906 when C M Archer, the telephone mistress, notified the Postal Department that she wished to resign. At this stage the only telephone in the district was at the post office. In 1909 Bobadeen Station was the first private place to be connected with a telephone. It was not until 1912 that other private lines were connected.<sup>22</sup> By 1944 there were four subscriber lines connected to the post office.<sup>23</sup> Early telephones were on a party system with a number of residents using the one line from a manual exchange in Ulan.

There were plans as early as 1900<sup>24</sup> to connect the Western districts to the rail system via Muswellbrook. A serious attempt was made in the 1930, but it was not until the 1980s that White Industries completed the line to connect Ulan Colliery to Newcastle.

### 3.5 VILLAGES

There was only one village to develop within the study area and that was reasonably late. The village of Ulan was proclaimed 21 August 1897 on the west bank of the Goulburn River where Moolarben Creek joins it. It was set out as a small village with four sections of residential land and never progressed beyond that. See Figure 7, which shows the layout of the village. In 1908, the Ulan Post Office was reported as serving a district of 35 families with a total population of 196 persons. In 1912 it was reported that Ulan had a hotel/store, three boarding houses, 23 householders and 20 other persons<sup>25</sup> In 1914 the village had hotel, post office, hall, church, school and eight houses.<sup>26</sup> There were some periods of growth such as when the power station and associated mine opened, but many of the workers came from the surrounding small farms. The village has had a store, post office, butcher shop, garage and hotel; at present only the hotel remains. See Appendix 2 for reminiscences about the village.

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<sup>22</sup> National Archives, Ulan Post Office, SP32/1

<sup>23</sup> National Archives, Ulan Post Office, SP439/3

<sup>24</sup> *Muswellbrook Chronicle*, 13 April 1901

<sup>25</sup> National Archives, Ulan Post Office, Sp32/1

<sup>26</sup> State Records, Cooks Gap School File, 5/15483.3



Figure 7. Plan for the Village of Ulan 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1898<sup>27</sup>

### 3.6 RELIGION

The region has had three churches, Presbyterian, Anglican and Roman Catholic. The Presbyterian Church is reputed to have been financed by Sir Frederick McMaster and built on land donated by him. The present Anglican Church was built in 1908 and named St Cuthbert's. This must have replaced an earlier church as it was reported in 1900 that 43 people were camped in the Ulan Church during the Governor Brothers' reign of terror.<sup>28</sup> For many years the Ulan Roman Catholics did not have a church and utilised private homes or the hall. In 1959 the Catholic Church at Moolarben was relocated to Ulan and renamed St Pius X. This building had been erected on 'Moolarben', the property of Herbert Swords, in 1911.<sup>29</sup>

### 3.7 SPORT

Ulan is reported as having a rifle club and land was set aside for a rifle range in December 1912 south east of the village. By 1924 the land had reverted back to the Crown.<sup>30</sup> Denis Rayner holds a photograph of a rifle club group, but it is not known when or where it was taken. There is a possibility it was the Cooyal Club.

Tennis was popular. Ulan had public courts on the Reserve and there were at least two private courts in the village. Site 31 had a private court and it is possible that Site 2 did too. Moolarben had a Recreation Ground with tennis court (Site 33)

Malcolm Power remembers Ulan having cricket and football teams and Denis Rayner recorded that the Moolarben Recreation ground was used for cricket and football.

<sup>27</sup> NSW Crown Land Administrative Maps, Dubbo Office Set, CD 2

<sup>28</sup> L Moore & S Williams, *The True Story of Jimmy Governor*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2001, p.96

<sup>29</sup> B Roberts, *Chimney in the Forest*, Mudgee Guardian, nd, p.24

<sup>30</sup> NSW Crown Land Administrative Map, Parish Map, Dubbo Office Set CD 15

### 3.8 SCHOOLS

Schools were an important part of the local community and some areas put considerable amount of the scarce resources into trying to ensure that a school was established in their area. Twice the residents of Murrumbidgee erected a school, but had to ask the Education Department for financial assistance to complete the buildings; the amounts being £6 and £20.<sup>31</sup> Schools were often relocated if the population centre shifted, hence Moolarben had two locations, Portions 85 and 176. There were also schools at White Munghorn, Murrumbidgee and Ulan and Old Ulan. The only place where there is extensive evidence of a school is at Moolarben (Site 1). Schools opened at Moolarben 1881, Old Ulan 1885, Murrumbidgee 1885 and White Munghorn 1914.<sup>32</sup> Ulan is the only school still operating in the district.

### 3.9 MINING

It appears that there was an attempt to mine for coal in 1899 as the NSW Department of Mines contacted the Department of Education and asked if they had any objections to a Mr E Brissenden mining under the 2 acre school site (Portion 15, Parish Ulan). This appears to have come to nothing, as the next reference to mining is in 1927 when small amounts of coal were mined. At that time the mine was too far from markets to be a success. The mine was reopened in 1942 by the Key family who also purchased the hotel to provide accommodation for the mine employees.<sup>33</sup> The mine remained in operation until sold to Ulan County Council in 1950. They started to build a new power station, but it was taken over by the NSW Electricity Commission and opened in 1957. A new company was formed by Hogan & Gorman to supply coal to the new power station. The power station closed in 1970, but the coal company continued to supply other domestic markets. The mine was taken over by White Industries in 1975.<sup>34</sup> Other mining activities have been kaolin at Murrumbidgee and deposits of ‘Mudgee or Ulan stone’ at Havelock and Greenbanks. This stone is used as a paver.<sup>35</sup> Leases have also been taken out for molybdenite, silica and fireclay.<sup>36</sup>

### 3.10 PHASES OF LIFE – CEMETERIES

There is one dedicated cemetery and this is on the west boundary of the Project area at the Ulan village. It is in Portion 46, Parish of Ulan. Control of the cemetery is vested in the Mid-Western Regional Council. This cemetery was dedicated in 1900 and although another area was dedicated in 1898 that area does not appear to have been used. There are other areas in the Project area where burials have taken place; Site 3, 4, 16, 17, 20 and 36. Burials are believed to be on Portion 1 Parish Ulan and Portion 10 Parish Lennox, but they are in areas that have been highly disturbed by mining activity. There is a high probability that other burial sites exist within the Project area.

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<sup>31</sup> State Records, Murrumbidgee School File, 5/17011.3

<sup>32</sup> Government Schools of NSW 1848 – 1993, NSW Department of Education, 1993

<sup>33</sup> National Archives, Ulan Post Office Hotel file, SP162/1

<sup>34</sup> Obituary for Ron Gorman held by Mudgee Historical Society.

<sup>35</sup> B Roberts, *Chimney in the Forest*, Mudgee Guardian, Mudgee, p.8

<sup>36</sup> NSW Crown Land Administrative Map, Parish Map, Dubbo Office Set CD 15