



ARCHAEOLOGY – HERITAGE – MEDIATION – ARBITRATION

Soil Conservation Works

Statement of Heritage Impact

DECEMBER **2022**

Report to: Health Infrastructure NSW

LGA: Eurobodalla Shire LGA

Version: B.2022



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land that we live and work on.

We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal people.

We honour and acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.

A better understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures develops an enriched appreciation of Australia's cultural heritage and can lead to reconciliation. This is essential to the maturity of Australia as a nation and fundamental to the development of an Australian identity.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

PROJECT NO.: NH407 STATUS: FINAL

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The historical research for this report (Section 4) has been prepared by Caroline Plim BA (History & Archaeology), Associate Diploma Local & Applied History, and Graduate Member PHA NSW & ACT.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report supports a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) prepared for Health Infrastructure NSW pursuant to part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) for the undertaking of soil conservation and ancillary construction road at Lot 2, DP 1281576, Princes Highway, Moruya.

To ensure that the historical archaeological significance of the project area is not adversely impacted upon by this proposal and to meet planning requirements, Comber Consultants have been commissioned to undertake this historical archaeological assessment in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001) and the *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Office 2006).

This report makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Interpretation

An interpretation plan and strategy should be prepared and implemented which details the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history of Moruya and the site.

Recommendation 2: Unexpected Finds and Human Remains Procedure

Aboriginal Objects: If any Aboriginal objects or historic relics are unexpectedly uncovered during the soil conservation works all work must cease in the vicinity of the object or relic and an area of at least one metre around the object/relic secured and cordoned off using fencing and/or appropriate barriers. The archaeological consultant must be immediately contacted for further advice. The consultant will assess the object and provide further advice. In addition, the consultant will liaise with the Registered Aboriginal Parties. No-one should enter the secured area and work can only recommence when advised by the consultant.

Human Remains: If any skeletal remains are uncovered during the soil conservation works, all work must cease in the vicinity of the human skeletal remains and an area of at least one metre around the skeletal remains secured and cordoned off using fencing and/or appropriate barriers. The archaeological consultant must be immediately contacted and must attend immediately. The consultant will inspect the skeletal remains to confirm that they are human. If the remains are human, the consultant will contact and liaise with the Police, Heritage NSW and the Registered Aboriginal Parties, all of whom will most likely attend the site. Work will not be able to recommence within the secured area until suitable management procedures are in place. It could take several months to determine an appropriate course.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report supports a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) prepared for Health Infrastructure NSW pursuant to part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) for the undertaking of soil conservation and ancillary construction road at Lot 2, DP 1281576, Princes Highway, Moruya.

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1.2 Site description

The site of the soil conservation works, and ancillary road works is located on the Princes Highway in the NSW south coast town of Moruya. The site is legally described as Lot 2, DP 1281576 and is a large vacant greenfield site (Figure 1). The soil conservation works will facilitate the ongoing management of the greenfield lot. To the west of the site is Moruya TAFE, and to the north is a small residential subdivision called Mynora Estate.



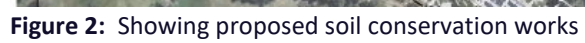
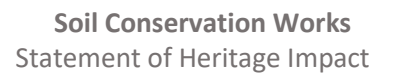
Figure 1: Proposed site location

1.3 Proposed Works

The works proposed under this REF include the following, as shown in Figure 2:

- 2 Construction of three erosion and sediment basins, ranging between 507m² and 990m² in area.
- 3 Construction of an ancillary road into the site to facilitate construction access into the site.

A further detailed description of the proposed works is contained in the Review of Environmental Factors report prepared by Ethos Urban.





2. LEGISLATION

3.1 National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974

The National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act) provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal sites within New South Wales. Heritage NSW is the State Government agency responsible for the implementation and management of this Act.

Part 6 of the National Parks & Wildlife Act states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). An Aboriginal object is defined as:

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

An Aboriginal Place is defined as:

A place that, in the opinion of the Minister, is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture, to be an Aboriginal place for the purposes of this Act.

3.2 Heritage Act 1977

State Heritage Register

s31 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 provides for the establishment and maintenance of the State Heritage Register by the Heritage Council. s32 allows the Minister to direct the listing of an item which is of State heritage significance and sets out the procedure for listing an item. Under s57 of the Heritage Act a person must not “demolish, despoil, excavate, alter, move, damage or destroy” an item listed on the State Heritage Register without a permit under s60 of the Act.

Relics Provisions *NSW Heritage Act, 1977*

Division 9: Section 139, 140–146 - Relics Provisions

Under Section 139:

- (1) A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- (2) A person must not disturb or excavate any land on which the person has discovered or exposed a relic except in accordance with an excavation permit.*

A relic is described under the Act as:

Any deposit, object or material evidence –

- (a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement; and*
- (b) is of State or local heritage significance.*

Any item identified as a relic cannot be impacted upon without an excavation permit, under s140 of Act. An excavation permit forms an approval from the Heritage Council for permission to ‘disturb’ a relic.

4 LISTED ITEMS

4.1 The study area

Searches of the following statutory registers were undertaken on 16 May and 7 June 2021. The study area is not listed on any of the statutory registers:

- National List
- State Heritage Register
- Local Environmental Plan

4.2 Eurobodalla Local Environmental Plan 2012

One item within the vicinity of the study area is listed on the Eurobodalla LEP 2012, known as *Site of Braemar Farm, formerly comprising Farmhouse remains and Outbuildings, and Bunya Pine* (LEP Item A11; Lot 50, DP 752151). Figure 4 shows the location of this item hatched in yellow. The lot boundary is edged in red and the study area in orange. The buildings that were within this LEP boundary have since been demolished and residential housing constructed on the site of the former Braemar Farm.



Figure 1: Braemar Farm boundaries shown hatched and edged in red. The approximate boundary of the study area edged in orange.

Braemar Farm is located near the north western boundary of the current study area. Braemar Farm has since been demolished to allow for residential development. The current study area was once part of Braemar Farm, although not included in the LEP listing. It had been used for grazing and agriculture. At the date of the residential subdivision the current study area was subdivided from the home paddock.

The soil conservation works will not impact upon the Braemar Farm listing.

5 HISTORY

5.1 Historical Development of Moruya

The earliest European investigation of land in the vicinity of the study area was a survey of the Deua River (part of the Moruya River catchment to the west of the town of Moruya) led by Surveyor Robert Hoddle in 1827. In 1828 Thomas Florance was directed to investigate the coastline from Port Jackson to the Moruya River (Gibbney 1980:19). News of the results of the surveys led to an application for a grant on the north side of the Moruya River however there is no evidence that the land was settled at that time. Francis Flanagan occupied and farmed the first land grant or lease at a place known as Mullenderree (sometimes recorded as Mogendoura) north east of the later site of the town of Moruya and named Shannon View. Subsequently several grants north of the Moruya River were taken up and actively farmed or grazed. The exact date of the first land grants or leases south of the river is not known. Baker's 1841 map of the grazing districts of New South Wales records the Maneroo District bounded by the Moruya River in the north and Port Phillip District in the south included 133 stations by this time (Gibbney 1980:21-26; Baker 1841, Map F 479 NLA).

Prompted by requests for grazing and agricultural land around Moruya in the newly designated County of Dampier, William Parkinson was directed to conduct a survey of the locality. The survey dated November 1850 shows landholdings of various sizes to be offered for purchase. At the centre of the prospective farms was land reserved for a village and to its south an area set aside for 'grazing town cattle.' Parkinson's 1851 survey provides evidence of Moruya's natural landscape including the topography and watercourses (CP M.1424 & M.1-1424 NSW LRS). Initially the name Gundary, the name of a nearby cattle run, was suggested for the village but was later changed to Moruya, a name derived from an Aboriginal word. The site of the settlement was chosen at a point in the river west of the study area that was 'convenient for navigation' and gazetted on 8 August 1851 (Figure 5) (Turner 1996:20; Gibbney 1980, 49 & 50; CP M.1423 NSW LRS).

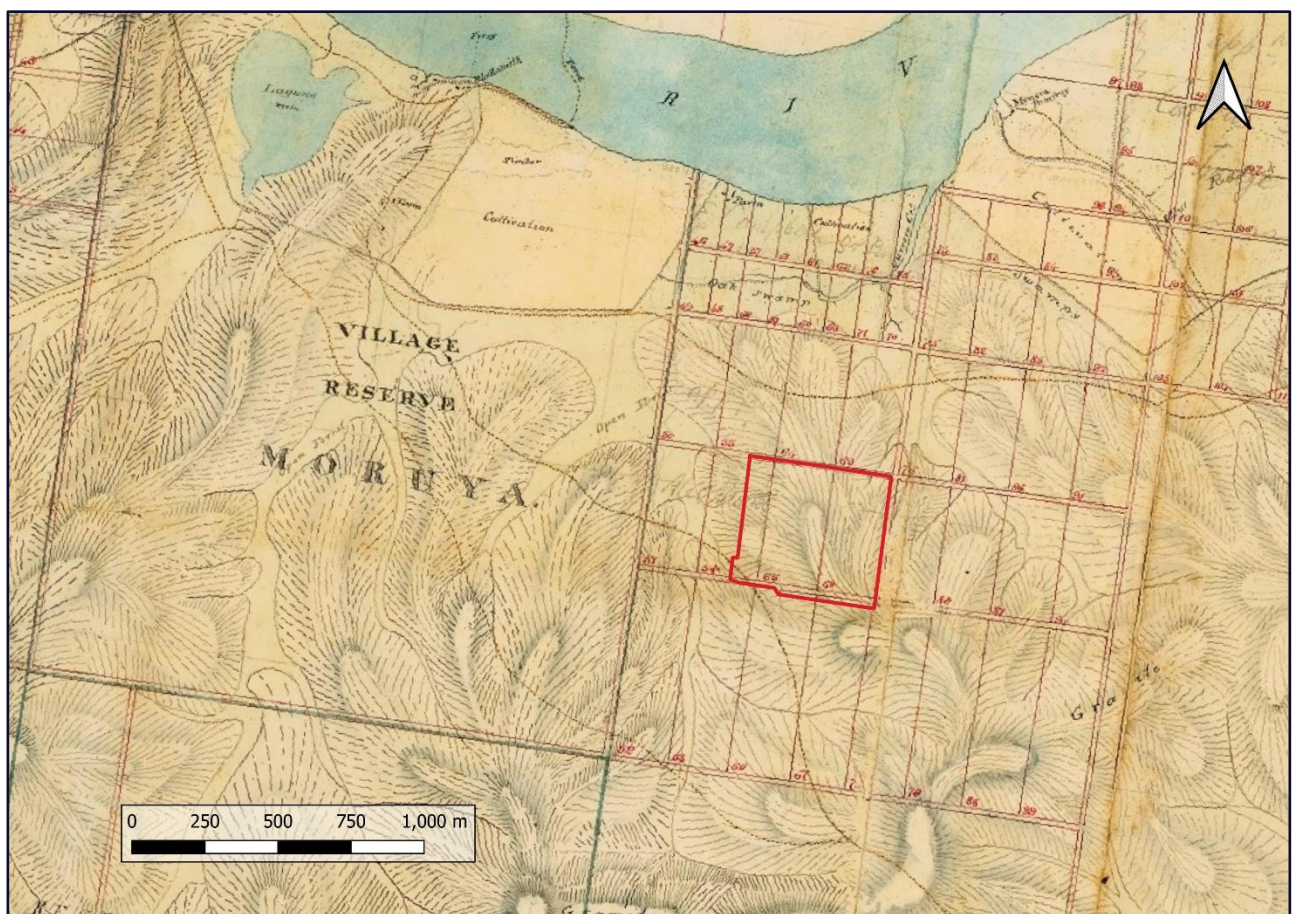


Figure 2: Detail of Crown Plan showing a survey made by Samuel Parkinson of 'Moruya Reserve' and dated 1850. Allotments or portions linked to the study area, in whole or in part, are outlined in red. A roadway from the river south to other towns traverses the study area (CP M.1424 NSW LRS).

Spencer Bransby's survey titled 'Plan of Suburban Allotments at Moruya in the County of Dampier' transmitted to the Surveyor General in 1854 records portions that had been applied to the Crown for purchase. Land was advertised for sale in the NSW Government Gazette from 7 January 1853. Described as 'Suburban allotments,' the portions of land to the east of Moruya township ranged in size from five to 30 acres (2.02 to 12.14 ha) and were bounded on the north by Moruya River (NSW Government Gazette 7 Jan 1853, 17; CP M.11.1459 NSW LRS; Gibbney 1980:50). A considerable number of the allotments, especially those in prime locations, were reserved pending options by squatting lease holders such as William Campbell of Gundary. Other allotments were purchased by agricultural workers, often former tenant farmers already resident in the area. (Gibbney 1980:50). The main part of the study area relates to Portions 54, 65 and 68 (each of 21 acres or 8.5 ha) purchased by William Thomas over several years. The first was purchased in 1858 and the latter two in 1861. A small part of the study area extends into the northeast corner of Portion 51 also of 21 acres (8.5 ha) to the west of Thomas' land purchased by Alexander Munro of the Bergalia cattle run in 1856 (Figure 6) (CP M.11.1459 NSW LRS; DUAP NSW 1996, 171).



Figure 3: Detail of a Plan of Suburban Allotments at Moruya showing the portions purchased by William Thomas and Alexander Munro between 1856 and 1861. The plan shows a track contemporary with the 1855 survey and that traverses Portions 51 and 54. Allotments linked to the study area are outlined (CP M.11.1459 NSW LRS).

In 1850-51 Moruya was surrounded by ranges and consisted of 'light soil, well timbered and grassy.' 'Rich land' was found in the 'gullies and flats' and water could be 'easily procured by sinking.' Land to the east of the township in the vicinity of the study area consisted of areas of open, flat land interspersed with areas of stringy bark and gums, with an occasional oak (swamp oak). The flats lay to the south of Currere or Racecourse Creek and the flats shown on the survey thought to correspond to areas prone to flood after heavy rain (CP M.11.1459 NSW LRS).

The fertile land at Moruya was not the only attraction of the locality and in 1851 gold was found along the Moruya River to the west (Gibbney 1980:52). Gold was found in 1856 at Wamban Creek with the main mine close to Moruya on Dwyers Creek. A stamp battery was set up south of the township in 1859 and ores containing gold, silver and arsenic were exploited in the 1860s. Mining continued intermittently in the district into the twentieth-century (DUAP NSW 1996:171). The district's distinctive granite outcrops contributed to the success of several quarries including that of Joseph Zeigler

between the town of Moruya and Moruya Heads. The enormous pillars of the General Post Office in Sydney came from Moruya quarries, as were the pylons of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Quarries were located on the north and south sides of the Moruya River (ATCJ 22 Mar 1905, 23; DUAP 1996:172-173). Joseph Louttit was also involved in quarrying, and his descendants are linked in the twentieth-century to the study area however there is no documentary evidence of a link to quarrying there (Gibbney 1980:91).



Figure 4: Overlay of the study area over a 1893 map of the Parish of Moruya, County Dampier showing the late 19th century subdivision of Braemer Farm and the Munro, William, Thomas and Addison properties over which the current study area is situated.

5.2 William Thomas' Portions 54, 65 and 68, Parish of Moruya, County of Dampier

William Thomas (c.1809-1882) finalised the purchase of Portion 54 on 18 August 1858, purchasing Portion 65 on 24 July 1861, and Portion 68 on 13 December 1861. The three portions constitute most of the study area. Thomas paid £21 for each 21 acre (8.5 ha) allotment (NSW Government Gazette, 5 Jun 1868). Registration of a livestock brand in 1868 provides evidence of Thomas grazing cattle in the Parish of Moruya but cannot be precisely connected to the study area. Greville's Directory of 1872 describes William Thomas and his son-in-law John Green as farmers of Pleasant View, Moruya (Greville's Directory 1875). Many settlers owned or occupied several landholdings at or near Moruya and it is not known if Thomas and his family lived in the study area or on other land at Moruya.

In 1867 Moruya was relatively isolated and a directory of the time records a population of about 500. Few travellers passed through except during the 'one or two short goldrush periods,' or when visitors or crew arrived on the small coastal ships that visited the river port. Despite isolation, by 1870 the key institutions essential to ongoing growth and management were established in Moruya and the development of a distinctive 'civic ethos' (Gibbney 1980:79)

William Thomas' wife Ellen died in 1862 and, at the time of his death in February 1882, Portions 54, 65 and 68 were inherited by Sarah Ann Green née Thomas, their daughter (NSW BDM Reg No 7989/1882; NSW Govt Gaz 28 Feb 1882, 1180; No 6756 NSW Will Book). The sometimes-unpredictable Moruya River and the low elevation of the surrounding land often made farming in Moruya precarious at times. Moruya was close to the coast and the Moruya River was subject to the tidal influences. It was also bordered on the west by steep mountain country, heightening the risk of flooding on farms after heavy rain. There is ample documentary evidence of flooding on the Moruya River from 1841, with particularly



damaging inundations several times in 1860. The financial and emotional toll on the Moruya community due to the regular loss of stock and crops from floods was considerable (Gibbney 1980:88).

In 1882 Sarah Green took out a mortgage on Portions 54, 65 and 68 with respected local surgeon and landholder Edward Boot. It is not known how Sarah Green and her husband John Green, a sawyer and labourer used Portions 54, 65 and 68. A remnant of a tree in the study area shows evidence of notched steps cut in the trunk typical of traditional methods used by sawyers to fell trees. Although the technique was continued well into the twentieth century, it would also have been used by Sarah Green's husband, sawyer John Green (Figure 4).

John Green died in January 1885 in an accident at a saw bench at Wagonga to the south, near Narooma. Forty-one-year-old Green lived in the Moruya District for most of his life and it was where, at the time of his death, he was living with wife Sarah Green née Thomas and their seven children (SMH 16 Jan 1885, 8; Coroners' Inquests, SARNSW). Sarah Green paid off the mortgage with Boot in 1893 and then mortgaged Portions 54, 65 and 68 to farmer Phillip Jeffery of Moruya. Jeffery purchased the property in November 1894. Jeffery came to the district around 1850 to work for John Hawdon an early grazier in the district (SMH 21 Jul 1900:9).

The Australian Town and Country Journal provides a valuable description of the development of the district in 1897 at the time that Jeffery purchased the land. The town of Moruya stood,

... in the centre of wide, expansive, fertile, alluvial flats, which produce abundant crops of maize, etc. It has splendid pastures, and cheesemaking is a lucrative business among the farmers. Large quantities of bacon and live pigs are also sent away. It has an Agricultural Society, which is among the most flourishing on the South Coast. The farm homesteads are neat, the farmers busy and enterprising, and the dairy herds are up to the average of those of other parts of the colony... The Moruya River has many possibilities as a highway for commerce; but it requires improving. Light draught ocean steamers can now come to within about a mile of the town. A dredge is now at work on the river, and a training wall is being constructed close to the town, with a view of bringing the steamers up to the town. While I have spoken of the Moruya flats as rich and fertile, and this is true of the river flats up and down the river for a considerable distance... (ATCJ 13 Nov 1897, 14).

Yewen's Directory of Landholders of New South Wales records dairy farmer and grazier Phillip Jeffery as living at a property named Summer Hill in the Moruya District where he cultivated maize, oats and other crops. Other family members farming in the district included John Jeffery of Greenwood and William J Jeffery of Wamban. The family held significant landholdings in the town of Moruya and surrounding district (CP M.11.1459 NSW LRS; CP M.1.1423 NSW LRS). Phillip Jeffery is identified in the Thematic History of Eurobodalla Shire as a historically significant person in the locality (Turner 1996). After his death in 1900 Portions 54, 65 and 68 were transferred to sons John Jeffery and Alfred Leggo Jeffery, both farmers of Moruya. In 1902 it was transferred to Alfred Leggo Jeffery and James Jeffery.

In 1905 an article on Moruya provided a picture of the small south coast farming district contemporary with the Jeffery family's ownership of land in the study area. The population of the town had grown and was described as,

... a municipal town, with a population of 990 souls, and about 240 dwellings, offices, etc. (It is) 200 miles south of Sydney, and is the shipping port of the surrounding district, which sends a large quantity of cheese, maize, and other products away to Sydney every month (ATCJ 22 Mar 1905, 23).

Significant to the land in the study area, the article described the 'low-lying land on the south bank of the river, ... (as) liable to floods; but for some years past it has suffered more from drought than from a superabundance of water.'

In 1941 Noel Llewellyn Jeffery, farmer of Moruya inherited Portions 54, 65 and 68. The Jeffery family are said to have used the land for the grazing of beef cattle (Braemar Homesteads History webpage, nd:1). A map commissioned by the Australian Army in 1943 during the Second World War provides evidence of the study area at this time. The map records a structure on or near the eastern boundary of Portion 50 identified in the legend as a 'house.' The map also provides evidence of a creek and telegraph line traversing the study area from northwest to southeast (Figure 8).

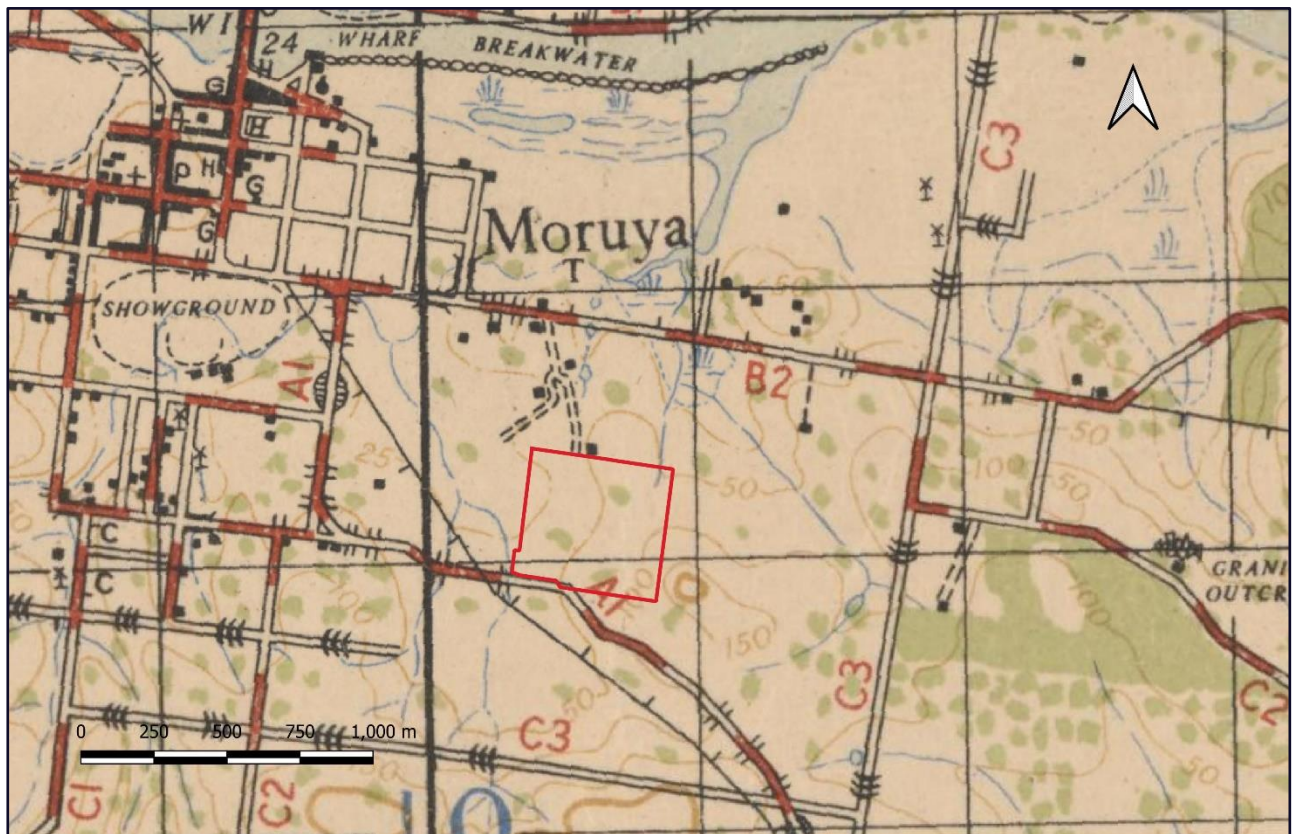


Figure 5: Detail of a map of Moruya, NSW, prepared by Australian Section Imperial General Staff in 1943 (NLA).

Noel Jeffery also acquired Portions 50 (Braemar), 51 (part of the study area), 55 and 64 to the north and west of the study area in 1950. It is thought to have operated as a dairy farm in conjunction with land in the study area (SHI Item Id 1550136; Braemar Homesteads History webpage, nd:1). Unformed roads to the south and east of Portions 65 and 68 were granted to Jeffery in 1959 and incorporated into the landholding (Vol 7745 Fol 39 NSW LRS). Portions 50, 51, 54, 65 and 68 and adjacent land were purchased by Patent Development Pty Ltd in 1971.

5.3 Alexander Munro's Portion 51, Parish of Moruya, County of Dampier

Alexander Munro of Bergalia purchased Lot 51 in the Parish of Moruya on 29 September 1856 paying £69/6/- for the 21 acres (8.5 ha). A small part of Lot 51 at the northeast corner is included in the study area. Deeds record the landholding as 'Lot 51' in contrast to the land to the east recorded as 'Portions.' For consistency the descriptor 'Portion' rather than 'Lot' is used in this history to describe land associated with the study area or adjoining it. At the time of purchase Munro was based at Bergalia, a lease or run originally occupied by John Hawdon and later acquired by William Campbell and consolidated with the Gundry Run. Henry Clarke purchased the prime parts of Bergalia and Gundry as freehold, employing Alexander Munro as 'managing partner' providing him with opportunities for further advancement in the growing pastoral industry (Gibbney 1980:82).

Along with Portion 51, Munro was able to purchase several other allotments in Moruya including Portions 50 to the north, and Lots 57 and 58 adjacent to the Moruya River. Munro's landholdings were flanked by those purchased by squatter William Campbell, and others by William Munro (thought to be a relative of Alexander Munro). The land purchased by Campbell, a squatter with pre-emptive rights, and those by Alexander and William Munro were in prime locations near the river or areas of fertile land suitable for grazing or agriculture (Gibbney 1980:50). Portion 51 (a small part of which is included in the study area) was located near the eastern boundary of the Town of Moruya and to the west of William Thomas' Lot 54, 65 and 68 also associated with the study area. Munro's Portion 50 to the north of the study area was later part of a property known from circa 1887 as Braemar and included on the Local Heritage Inventory (SMH 10 Nov 1887, 1; State Heritage Inventory Item Id 1550136).

In 1860 Munro imported a Durham Shorthorn bull, thought to be superior to the standard of local cattle and that would improve local herds. He then established a successful business droving cattle to nearby markets (Gibbney 1980:87-88).



Described in most records as a farmer, in 1863 Munro and his wife Ann mortgaged Portion 51 (part of the study area) and land outside the study area to George Rowley, solicitor of Newtown. The mortgage was linked to a subdivision of Munro's Moruya landholdings. Possibly unable to service the mortgage or complete the subdivision, the properties were sold to John Rayner, a wharfinger of Victoria Wharf in Darling Harbour. Rayner later settled in the Moruya District. Evidence of Munro, Rowley or Rayner's use of Portion 51 has not been located.

Mary Forster, widow of Dudley Hall, Moruya, formerly of Wagonga purchased Portion 51 (and Portion 50 outside the study area) in December 1876. Portion 50 (later known as Braemar) was purchased by Dr Henry Kirwan King, the town's doctor who practiced in Moruya from 1878 until July 1885 (Shoalhaven Telegraph 16 Jun 1920, 6; Shoalhaven Telegraph 1 Dec 1886:2). The name 'Braemar' is linked to Portion 50 at Moruya from 1887 when it was leased by Dr H Kirwan King to other tenants (SMH 10 Nov 1887, 1). William Henry Simpson of Ninderrah purchased Portion 51 in 1878. Simpson was Moruya's first mayor and held a number of positions in farming and civic organisations. He was considered to be '...a good old sturdy type of men who pioneered the district half a century or more back.' As Simpson wealth increased, he devoted his 'spare time to furthering the interests of the town' (ATCJ 22 Mar 1905:23; SMH 11 May 1910:11; Bega Budget 13 Apr 1910:4).

In June 1882 Portion 51 was purchased by Henry Thomson, a butcher of Moruya who was active in the community and a council alderman in 1894 (NSW Govt Gaz 23 Feb 1894:1284). Given the proximity of Portion 51 to the town it is possible that it was used by Thomson for agistment of stock for sale to local abattoirs or transit to Sydney markets. Corresponding to the approximate location of the study area, in 1895 dogs were reported to have 'got amongst a mob of sheep in a paddock near town owned by Henry Thomson, butcher' (Daily Telegraph 3 May 1895:6). In November 1900 Henry Thomson's wife, Eliza Thomson purchased Portion 50 to the north (Braemar outside the study area), adding to the couples' landholding.

Henry Thomson held the title to Portion 51 until his death in 1902. In 1903 and 1906 widow Eliza Thomson, was living at Braemar (Portion 50) to the north of the study area (Shoalhaven News 16 May 1903:2; Queanbeyan Leader 6 Mar 1906, 2). Eliza was the executor of her husband Henry's estate and retained legal ownership of Portion 51 until the settlement of her estate after her death in 1928.

Moruya farmer Sidney Louttit purchased Portions 51 (and Portion 50 known as Braemar) in 1932. Mr and Mrs S Louttit lived at Braemar to the north of the study area from 1929 until at least 1938 (Braidwood Dispatch 8 Mar 1929, 2; Nowra Leader 8 Apr 1938, 3; State Heritage Inventory Item Id 1550136). Sixty-eight year old Louttit was living in Campbell Street, Moruya at the time of his death in 1949. Sidney Louttit was the son of John and Margaret Louttit and lived for most of his life in Moruya except for a short period when he lived at Camden. After a lifetime of farming, he retired to the town, continuing to be active in civic and community organisations (Kiama Independent 2 Nov 1949, 3). In 1950 the beneficiaries of Louttit's estate sold Portion 51 (and other land including Braemar on Portion 50) to farmer Noel Llewellyn Jeffery. The landholding was consolidated with Portions 54, 65 and 68 to the east of Portion 51 purchased by Phillip Jeffery in 1894. A 1961 aerial photograph provides evidence of the study area at the time (Figure 9).

5.4 Lot 51 and Portions 54, 65 and 68, Parish of Moruya, County of Dampier

In August 1971 Patent Development Pty Ltd purchased Portions 51, 54, 65 and 68 linked to the study area in the Parish of Moruya, County of Dampier. The land is reported to have been used for grazing beef cattle together with Portion 50 known as Braemar (Braemar Homesteads History webpage, nd:1).

A 1975 aerial photograph provides evidence of the pastoral characteristics of the study area roughly contemporary with the new ownership in 1971 (Figure 10).

The second instance of a military camp at Moruya was during the Second World War. It relates to plans that were prepared in 1942 to ensure Australia's defensive position in case of a Japanese invasion, specifically in New South Wales. Defence plans included construction of an air base in the Southern Sector north of Moruya River in 1942. At the same time Moruya Showground was used as the base for two military divisions thought to be the 1st and 2nd Motor Divisions who were directed to defend the Moruya Aerodrome and to put into practice orders in case of invasion. Personnel from the 1st Motor Division posted at the showground comprised two officers and 62 men (Gibbney 1980:177; AWM 52 Unit Diaries 1/5/37-0014). Documentary evidence of a connection between the base at the showground to the west of Portion 50 (Braemar) and the study area has not been located.



Figure 6: Aerial photograph of the study area in 1961 (approximate outline of study area in red; Batemans Bay 1 Aug 1961, 1066_3M_108 Spatial Services NSW LRS).

5.5 Army Exercises at Moruya and the Study Area

At a site visit by Comber Consultants Pty Ltd to the study area in June 2021 a community member present at the time recalled that in the second half of the twentieth century the study area was used for army manoeuvres or training (Pers Comm Dr Jillian Comber 4 Jun 2021). Although the precise location is not stated, it is thought to relate to annual field exercises by the Royal Military College, Duntroon. The exercises in 1973 reportedly took place 'in the bush off the Princes Highway near Moruya.' The Canberra Times and other newspapers stated that more than '350 staff cadets and 200 support troops and staff participated' in the exercise held between 11 November and 30 November 1973 (The Broadcaster Fairfield 11 Dec 1973:9; Canberra Times 28 Nov 1973:1). It is not known if the cadets, support troops and staff camped on the training site or billeted elsewhere.

Moruya has a history as a camp or base for Australian troops at other times during the early twentieth century. The first instance was as a base for the Bega squadron of the 3rd Australian Light Horse and the Ulladulla 'half squadron' of the 2nd Australian Light Horse in April 1905. The troops 'camped under canvas' at Moruya between seventh and 14 April of that year for the annual training under the command of Captain C A Cork, of the 2nd ALH and staff officer Major Hilliard DSO of the instructional staff (Daily Telegraph 7 Apr 1905). Moruya was exempted from the compulsory military training scheme as the population of 'potential trainees' was too small. The Moruya Showground located to the west of Portion 50 is thought to have been the location of the encampment, but the exact location of training sites isn't known (Gibbney 1980:153).



Figure 7: Aerial photograph of the Lot boundary in 1975 (Batemans Bay 10 Sep 1975, 2333_07_114 Spatial Services NSW LRS).



6 IMPACT AND MITIGATION

6.1 Historical Archaeology

An Historical Archaeological Assessment was undertaken which determined that the study area, which has previously been used for grazing and agricultural purposes, does not contain archaeological potential and it is not expected that relics will be located within the property (Comber 2022).

An interpretation plan and strategy should be developed and implemented which documents the history of Braemar Farm and its occupants

6.2 Views and Vistas

There are no significant views and vistas to or from the study area.

6.3 Built Environment

The study area is vacant land. Apart from the archaeological remains of Braemar Farm, there are no structures or items listed on a statutory register within the visual catchment of the study area. The proposed soil conservation works will not adversely impact upon the surrounding area.

6.4 Summary of impact and mitigation

The proposed soil conservation works will not impact upon the surrounding area or on listed heritage items.

An interpretation plan and strategy should be developed and implemented that details the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history of Moruya and the study area.



7 SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary

The study area is not listed on either the State Heritage Register or the Local Environmental Plan and is not within a conservation area. The study area is vacant land and there are no listed structures within the vicinity of the study area. The proposed structure will be a low building and will not adversely impact either physically or visually on the surrounding area.

7.2 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Interpretation

An interpretation plan and strategy should be prepared and implemented which details the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history of Moruya and the site.

Recommendation 2: Unexpected Finds and Human Remains Procedure

Aboriginal Objects: If any Aboriginal objects or historic relics are unexpectedly uncovered during the soil conservation works all work must cease in the vicinity of the object or relic and an area of at least one metre around the object/relic secured and cordoned off using fencing and/or appropriate barriers. The archaeological consultant must be immediately contacted for further advice. The consultant will assess the object and provide further advice. In addition, the consultant will liaise with the Registered Aboriginal Parties. No-one should enter the secured area and work can only recommence when advised by the consultant.

Human Remains: If any skeletal remains are uncovered during the soil conservation works, all work must cease in the vicinity of the human skeletal remains and an area of at least one metre around the skeletal remains secured and cordoned off using fencing and/or appropriate barriers. The archaeological consultant must be immediately contacted and must attend immediately. The consultant will inspect the skeletal remains to confirm that they are human. If the remains are human, the consultant will contact and liaise with the Police, Heritage NSW and the Registered Aboriginal Parties, all of whom will most likely attend the site. Work will not be able to recommence within the secured area until suitable management procedures are in place. It could take several months to determine an appropriate course.



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