

# **Upgrades to Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW**

## **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment**

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Prepared for NSW Department of Education

May 2025

# Upgrades to Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

NSW Department of Education

E230572 RP#2

May 2025

Version	Date	Prepared by	Approved by	Comments
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5	1 April 2025	Georgia Burnett	Alan Williams	Addressing client comments
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5 May 2025

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## Executive Summary

The NSW Department of Education (DoE) intends to refurbish and upgrade Melrose Park Public School at 110 Wharf Road, Melrose Park, NSW. The key objectives of the refurbishment are to improve and/or establish new facilities that will cater for a growing school cohort. The proposed project is part of the Melrose Park Precinct Plan, involving the redevelopment of the surrounding area which will include the construction of residential multi-storey dwellings, a town centre and retail village, community village and parklands.

Aboriginal consultation was undertaken for the project in accordance with Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). The consultation process initially identified 81 Aboriginal stakeholder organisations who may have had an interest in the project. Following notification of these organisations, 18 responded as wishing to be registered for subsequent consultation through the project. Two on-site activities were undertaken with participation from representatives of these Aboriginal organisations. This included an archaeological survey and test excavation. Registered Aboriginal parties (RAP) feedback for the project to date has been positive, with no site-specific issues identified.

The desktop review undertaken for the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) demonstrates that the immediate area surrounding the project area is comparable with the wider cultural landscape of the Cumberland Plain. Archaeological evidence suggests that people utilised a wide range of resources across the region, and especially the silcrete raw materials typical of the Blacktown, Riverstone, and Plumpton Ridge areas to the north-west. These materials were traded along the major river systems across much of the Sydney Basin. Foci of occupation also appears to be primarily associated with the major river systems, although a transient use of all environments was known to occur. While a range of archaeological site types are found across the Cumberland Plain reflecting these activities, typically the dominant cultural materials identified are stone artefacts located on the surface and/or in the upper soil profile. Previous investigations both within and near the project area confirm these wider models, which demonstrate a focus of past occupation along these waterways, and especially on elevated land near available resources.

The project area is located on an undulating plateau/gently sloping landform associated with the Parramatta River estuary, and a proportion of the project area (broadly corresponding with the playing fields area) is located within 200 metres (m) of the Parramatta River foreshore. The site contains soil deposits of the Lucas Heights soil landscape, as well as sandier deposits that may be of a fluvial origin. Although no Aboriginal objects or sites were identified during the desktop review within the project area, it had been noted that several artefact scatter sites and shell midden sites had previously been identified in close proximity to the project area - including an unregistered potential archaeological deposit (PAD) (RPS 2022) over the western portion of the project area. A review of the environmental context and historical aerials suggests that the project area has been subject to a limited level of historical disturbance, with the most significant impacts arising from localised building construction and associated underground services, with lesser impacts noted from de-vegetation in the historical period.

The field investigation undertaken of the project area validated the desktop findings. While the survey identified no cultural materials, test excavation of the previously identified PAD recovered seven artefacts within 1 m<sup>2</sup> of the south-western portion of the school. Overall, the field investigations determined that RPS's (2022) identification of a PAD in the western portion of the school site (PLR2 PAD2) can be redefined as a discrete low density artefact scatter (MPPS-AS1) (AHIMS #45-6-4125). Following its identification, the project has been redesigned to avoid the curtilage of the site. It is now proposed to be within an area of Open Active Play, which requires no modification to the upper soil profile within which the cultural deposit was encountered. As no other cultural material was recovered elsewhere on the site, it is therefore considered that there is a low risk of further Aboriginal objects being present within the remaining impact footprint of the proposed works.

Mitigation measures and recommendations that should be integrated into the management of the project are outlined in Table ES1.

**Table ES1 Mitigation measures and recommendations**

Mitigation Number/ Name	When is Mitigation Measure to be complied with	Mitigation Measure	Reason for Mitigation Measure
ACH01	Preconstruction Construction	No ground disturbance activities are permitted within the curtilage of identified Aboriginal site, MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125), or within 10 m of the curtilage, without having first obtained an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) from Heritage NSW. Any activities within this zone will require monitoring by a qualified heritage consultant and/or a registered Aboriginal stakeholder for the duration of any works, including installation and removal.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH02	Preconstruction Construction	Outside of the curtilage +10 m of MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125), the proposed development activities are considered to have low risk of harming Aboriginal objects, and works may proceed with caution and in accordance with the NSW Department of Education's Unexpected Finds Protocol. In the event unexpected Aboriginal objects, sites or places are discovered during the project, appropriate procedures for managing the unexpected discovery must be implemented in consultation with the RAPs and/or the relevant State government agency as appropriate.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH03	Preconstruction Construction	If human skeletal material is discovered, the Coroners Act 2009 requires that all works should cease, and the NSW Police and the NSW Coroner's Office be contacted. Once direction from these organisations has been actioned, where relevant, the proponent should liaise with a heritage professional on subsequent steps.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH04	Preconstruction Construction	To avoid inadvertent impact, the proponent should advise all relevant personnel and contractors involved in the project of the relevant heritage considerations, legislative requirements, and recommendations identified in this assessment.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH05	Preconstruction Construction	Consultation should be maintained with the registered Aboriginal parties, and all Aboriginal objects recovered during the excavations undertaken for this work will be temporarily and securely stored at EMM's Sydney office. All cultural materials would be re-buried within project area. Re-burial would be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Heritage NSW's <i>Code of Practise for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> , and in consultation with the RAPs.	To ensure long term management of the artefacts recovered during excavations, as required by <i>Code of Practise for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW 2010b).
ACH06	Preconstruction	A copy of the ACHA should be lodged with AHIMS and provided to each of the RAPs.	As required by Requirement 4.4.5 of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010</i> (DECCW 2010a).
ACH07	Preconstruction Construction	If any part of the construction footprint is located outside the areas identified in this ACHA, or if any alteration is proposed that could result in additional impact to material culture, further assessment of these area(s) should be undertaken to identify and appropriately manage Aboriginal objects and/or sites that may be present.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The NSW Department of Education (DoE) intends to refurbish and upgrade Melrose Park Public School at 110 Wharf Road, Melrose Park, NSW. The key objectives of the refurbishment are to improve and/or establish new facilities that will cater for a growing school cohort. The proposed project is part of the Melrose Park Precinct Plan which involves the redevelopment of the surrounding area with the construction of residential multi-storey dwellings, a town centre and retail village, community village and parklands.

In October 2023, EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) was engaged by School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) on behalf of the DoE to undertake a preliminary Indigenous heritage assessment and impact statement (PIHA) (also known as an Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment) of Melrose Park Public School to identify Aboriginal objects or places within the school grounds. The assessment identified no surface expressions of cultural materials but the area was considered to contain archaeological sensitivity due to the proximity of several previously registered artefact scatter sites and shell midden sites, which are located to the south of the school site on the Parramatta River foreshore. In addition to these sites, an unregistered potential archaeological deposit (PAD) (RPS 2022) had been previously mapped over the western half of the school during an unrelated assessment.

Subsequently, DoE has engaged EMM to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the project to further identify, characterise and assess any potential Aboriginal heritage sites and values within the project area and develop management measures to avoid and minimise impacts to identified Aboriginal heritage values as a result of the proposed construction. Specifically, the principal objectives of the ACHA were to:

- liaise and consult with key Aboriginal community members and knowledge holders to identify areas and places of cultural value within or in the vicinity of the project area
- compile a review of existing environmental, historical, and archaeological information for the project area, by identifying and summarising known and previously recorded Aboriginal heritage places, cultural values areas and landforms of archaeological interest in its immediate surrounds
- determine if any Aboriginal objects, places, cultural values areas, or areas of archaeological potential are present (or are likely to be present) within the project area, as well as areas of existing disturbance, through ground-truthing
- identify the type, nature, and extent of any Aboriginal sites, objects, archaeological deposits, potential archaeological deposits, and cultural values areas within the project area
- map the locations of known and potential Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits and cultural values areas identified
- assess the archaeological and cultural significance of the project area
- assess and identify heritage constraints and opportunities and the potential impacts of the project
- identify and recommend measures to mitigate any heritage impacts and risks to the project.

The report has been prepared in accordance with:

- *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011)
- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010a)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010b).

Figure 1.1      Regional context



Figure 1.2      Local context

## 1.2 Project area

Melrose Park Public School is located at 110 Wharf Road, Melrose Park and is legally known as Lot 3 in DP 535298 with an approximate site area of 2.5 hectares. The site has a frontage to Wharf Road (east), Mary Street (south), and Waratah Street (west). The site is adjoined by 2–3 storey light industrial development to the north, 1–2 storey industrial and commercial developments to the south, residential dwellings to the east and industrial and commercial development to the west (Figure 1.1; Figure 1.2). The school is comprised of several buildings, gardens and areas of hard stand in the east half of the Lot and a large open oval encompassing the west half of the Lot.

The activity is for upgrades to Melrose Park Public School within a one to three-storey built form, including:

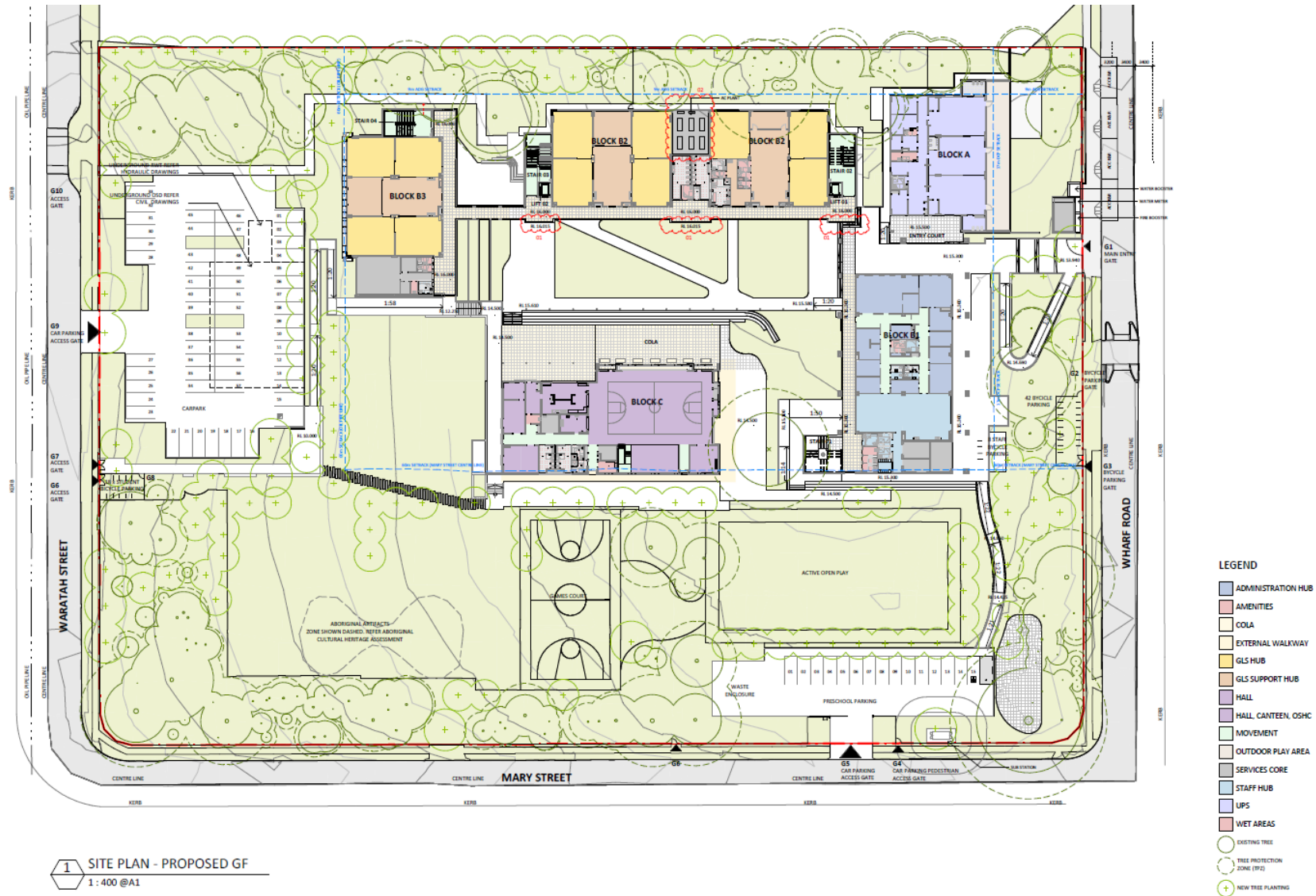
- demolition of existing school buildings
- site preparation works including tree removal
- construction of the following buildings:
  - **Block A:** One (1) storey building comprising:
    - universal pre-school
    - outdoor play area for the UPS
    - detached storeroom
  - **Block B1:** Two (2) storey building comprising:
    - staff and administration areas
    - library
    - 4 special programs rooms
    - Pedestrian bridge to Block B2
  - **Block B2:** Three (3) storey building comprising:
    - 23 classrooms
    - amenities/services cores
    - pedestrian bridge to Block B3
  - **Block B3:** Three (3) storey building comprising:
    - 12 classrooms
    - amenities/services cores

- **Block C:** One (1) storey building comprising:
  - hall
  - amenities
  - canteen
  - OSHC
  - COLA
- construction of two car parking areas
- landscaping works.



**Plate 1.1**      **Aerial photograph**





Source: PTW Architects (2025)

## Plate 1.2 The proposed development

### 1.3 Legislative context

This ACHA has been prepared to accompany a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for an activity proposed by the Department of Education under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (SEPP TI).

This document has been prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments* (the Guidelines) by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

This report examines and takes into account the relevant environmental factors in the Guidelines and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021* under Section 170, Section 171 and Section 171A of the EP&A Regulation as outlined in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Summary of relevant section of the Part 5 Guidelines and EP&A Regulation**

Regulation / Guideline Section	Requirement	Response	Report Section
<u>E1</u>	Impacts on heritage items (local, state and commonwealth), conservation areas and Aboriginal heritage (including intangible cultural significance), draft and interim items. Both at / or near the site		Chapter 9
<u>E3</u>	Direct or indirect impacts on the heritage significance of environmental heritage, impacts to archaeological resources		Chapter 9
<u>E4</u>	Impacts on aesthetic, anthropological, architectural, cultural, historical, community values and identity, scenic values, scientific or social significant items, or items of other special value for present or future generations		Chapter 9

A summary of relevant legislation for the management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is summarised in Table 1.2 and further discussed in Appendix A.

**Table 1.2 Commonwealth and State legislation relevant to the project**

Legislation	Description	Relevant to the project?	Details
<b>Commonwealth</b>			
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Recognises sites with universal value on the World Heritage List (WHL). Protects Indigenous heritage places with outstanding heritage value to the nation on the National Heritage List (NHL), and significant heritage value on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).	No	There are no Indigenous heritage places within the project area that are listed or have the potential to be listed on the WHL, NHL, or the CHL.
<i>Native Title Act 1993</i>	Administers rights and interests over lands and waters by Aboriginal people. Provides for negotiation and registration of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).  Often used in NSW to identify relevant stakeholders for consultation.	No	There are no Native Title determinations or active registered claims listed with the National Native Title Tribunal encompassing the project area.

Legislation	Description	Relevant to the project?	Details
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i>	Preserves and protects areas and objects of particular significance to Aboriginal people that are under threat from injury or desecration.	No	There are no areas or objects within the project area subject to a Declaration under the Act.
<b>State</b>			
<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	Requires environmental impacts, including to Aboriginal heritage, to be considered in land use planning.  Provides for the development of environmental planning instruments, including State Environmental Planning Policies and Local Environmental Plans.	Yes	The proposed project is being assessed under Part 5 of the Act.
<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	Provides blanket protection for all Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places. Includes processes and mechanisms for development where Aboriginal objects are present, or where Aboriginal Places are proposed for harm.	Yes	All Aboriginal sites identified within the study area are protected under the NPW Act. Any actions that may harm cultural material would require approval in the form of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).
<i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i>	Establishes Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs). Allows transfer of ownership of vacant crown land to a LALC.  The Office of the Registrar, <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ORALRA)</i> , registers Aboriginal land claims and maintains the Register of Aboriginal Owners. Often used in NSW to identify relevant stakeholders for consultation.	No	A request to search the Register of Aboriginal Owners was made to the ORALRA on 6 July 2021. The project area does not appear to have Registered Aboriginal Owners pursuant to Division 3 of the Act.

## 1.4 Authorship and acknowledgements

This report was prepared with input from Philipa O'Brien-Pounde (EMM Graduate Archaeologist) and Amber Morgan (EMM Graduate Archaeologist), while Luke Kirkwood (EMM Associate Archaeologist) reviewed the report for quality and consistency. In response to updated design plans, a revised document was prepared by Georgia Burnett (EMM Senior Archaeologist), and reviewed by Dr Alan Williams (EMM Associate Director).

EMM would also like to acknowledge and thank registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) for their involvement in ongoing consultation, knowledge sharing and fieldwork assistance.

## 1.5 Limitations

This report is based on existing publicly available environmental and archaeological information and reports about the project area. The background research did not include any independent verification of the results and interpretations of externally sourced reports.

Information from the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Systems (AHIMS) database was provided to EMM by Heritage NSW. Information in the assessment reflects the accuracy of the AHIMS data, which in some instances is limited. This report does not consider non-Aboriginal (historical) heritage and cannot be used as supporting documentation for any permits or approvals under the *Heritage Act NSW 1977*.

## 2 Aboriginal consultation

### 2.1 Key summary

- The assessment adopted the processes and methods outlined in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a).
- EMM contacted a number of State and Commonwealth government organisations (Table 1.2) to provide information on Aboriginal individuals and organisations known to participate in cultural heritage management in the Parramatta LGA. Once this information was obtained, a process of notifying these individuals and organisations was undertaken. This included distribution of letters advising them of the project, and publication of a project notice in *The Daily Telegraph* (local newspaper) on 29 January 2024.
- Following this notification process, 18 Aboriginal stakeholders have expressed an interest in being involved in the project.
- A field survey was undertaken in conjunction with the test excavation program from 22 April 2024 to 26 April 2024. These included representatives of the locally based organisations. The Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC) was invited to participate in fieldwork but were unable to supply a fieldwork representative during the fieldwork program.

A summary of the consultation process is provided below, and full documentation of the consultation process is provided in Appendix B.

### 2.2 The process

Aboriginal consultation for this project has been undertaken in accordance with procedures set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010). These guidelines identify a five-stage process:

1. **Pre-notification** – identification of the Aboriginal individuals and/or communities relevant to the project area by contacting several state government agencies
1. **Notification** – contacting all Aboriginal individuals and/or communities identified in (1) to determine their interest in being consulted during the project. This includes direct communication and the placement of advertisements in local media seeking further expressions of interest from Aboriginal individuals and/or communities that may have been missed through (1). Those Aboriginal individuals and/or communities that wish to be consulted become a ‘registered’ Aboriginal party (RAP)
2. **Presentation of project information/assessment methodology** – briefing RAPs about the project and scope of any Aboriginal heritage assessment and investigations. This is usually undertaken through written correspondence, but can include meetings, and may undergo several iterations through the project as the nature of the assessment changes (e.g. surface ground-truthing may lead to a requirement for test excavations)
3. **Impacts and mitigation strategies** – discussion of potential impacts to cultural materials and mitigation options with the RAPs prior to developing the ACHA. This is often undertaken either onsite at the end of any field program and/or as part of (5)
4. **Report review** – the RAPs are provided an opportunity to review and comment upon the draft ACHA, to contribute input into the overall findings, significance and management of cultural heritage.

The consultation process for this project had two aims:

1. to comply with the Heritage NSW consultation procedures to obtain input on the ACHA process
2. to identify cultural places and intangible values that may be affected by the proposed activity.

## 2.3 This project

A complete log of actions and correspondence regarding Aboriginal community consultation is included in Appendix B and summarised in Table 2.1.

Overall, the consultation process identified 81 Aboriginal stakeholders in the region (Appendix B.2). Subsequently, following the notification process, 18 groups or individuals registered an interest in the project (Appendix B.4; Table 2.2). These RAPs included several locally based Darug organisations, as well as a number of broader Aboriginal community organisations interested in cultural heritage management.

Four groups participated in the field survey and test excavations component of the project. The Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC) was invited to participate in fieldwork but were unable to supply a fieldwork representative during the fieldwork program.

**Table 2.1 Summary of Aboriginal consultation steps required by Heritage NSW guidelines**

Stage	Description	Date started	Date completed	Notes
1	Government Agency Pre Notification	2 November 2023	16 November 2023	Additional details provided in Appendix B.3
	Advertisement in The Daily Advertiser	29 January 2024	12 February 2024	A tear sheet is provided in Appendix B.4
	Notification and registration of potential Aboriginal stakeholders	29 January 2024	12 February 2024	Additional details are provided in Appendix B.4
2/3	Presentation of information about the proposed project; and gathering information about cultural significance	20 February 2024	20 February 2024	Additional details are provided in Appendix B.5
	Fieldwork – survey and test excavation	22 April 2024	26 April 2024	Additional details provided in Section 6
4	Review of draft report (v1)	10 July 2024	7 August 2024	Additional details are provided in Appendix B.6
	Review of draft report (v2)	26 March 2025	23 April 2025	Additional details are provided in Appendix B.6

**Table 2.2**      **List of registered Aboriginal parties for the project**

Organisation	Date of registration
Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council	-
Long Gully Cultural Services	29 January 2024
Didge Ngunawal Clan	29 January 2024
Wailwan Aboriginal Group	29 January 2024
Wallanbah Aboriginal Site Conveyancing	29 January 2024
Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group	30 January 2024
Muragadi	30 January 2024
Konaggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services	30 January 2024
Pearl Depoma	31 January 2024
Yulay Cultural Services	3 January 2024
Widescope Indigenous Group	3 January 2024
Butucarbin Heritage	3 January 2024
[REDACTED]	3 January 2024
Goobah CHTS	6 February 2024
A1 Indigenous Services	4 February 2024
Amanda Hickey Cultural Services	4 February 2024
Thomas Dahlstrom	15 February 2024
Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	20 February 2024

### 2.3.1      Stage 1 – Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

#### **Government agency – pre notification**

Aboriginal consultation for this project has been undertaken in accordance with procedures set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a). This involved identifying Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places. The following agencies were contacted to compile a list of Aboriginal people who may have interest in the project as required under section 4.1.2 of the consultation requirements for proponents:

1. The relevant DECCW ERPG regional office.
2. The relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council(s).
3. The Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, for a list of Aboriginal Owners.
4. The National Native Title Tribunal for a list of registered native title claimants, native title holders and registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements.
5. Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTSCORP Limited).

6. The relevant local council(s).
7. The relevant catchment management authorities for contact details of any established Aboriginal reference group.

The responses received from these agencies were used to compile a list of Aboriginal people to be contacted. The correspondence log (Appendix B.1) provides details on the dates the agencies were contacted and when responses from the agencies were received. Appendix B.2 provides the list of identified Aboriginal stakeholders in the region identified for the project. Appendix B.3 provides records of the email correspondence to the agencies and their responses.

EMM distributed the Stage 1 pre-notification letters on 3 November 2023. This included information about the proposed project and proponent contact details, and a request to provide contact details for any potential interested parties. A request to search the ORALRA register of Aboriginal Owners and the NNTT Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications, Register of Native Title Claims, Native Title Determinations and Indigenous Land Use Agreements was also made (Appendix B.3). This process identified 81 Aboriginal stakeholders in the region.

#### **Advertisement**

In accordance with section 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements for proponents, a notice was placed in the local newspaper (The Daily Telegraph) on 29 January 2024. The advertisement invited Aboriginal individuals or organisations to register their interest in the project and included the information as required by section 4.1.3. The tear sheet associated with this advertisement is provided in Appendix B.4.

#### **Notification and registration of potential Aboriginal stakeholders**

Overall, the consultation process as described above, identified 81 Aboriginal stakeholders in the region. Each person on the list was notified by letter (via email or mail) notifying them of the project and inviting them to register an interest in a process of community consultation regarding the proposed project. The correspondence log (Appendix B.1) provides details on the dates the notification letter was sent to the Aboriginal stakeholders and the resulting registration of interest received.

Appendix B.4 provides a copy of the letter sent and available email records of the correspondence sent to the Aboriginal stakeholders and their responses. 18 groups/individuals registered an interest in the project. The RAPs for this project are provided in Table 2.2. Heritage NSW and the DLALC were provided with a list of all registered parties on 20 February 2024. Appendix B.4 provides a copy of the correspondence that was provided to Heritage NSW and the DLALC.

### **2.3.2 Stages 2 and 3 – presentation of information and gathering cultural information**

The registered Aboriginal parties for the project are listed in Table 2.2 above. Each registered party was sent a letter presenting information about the proposed project and set out the methods for gathering information about cultural significance (Appendix B.5). The letter invited the RAPs to provide feedback on the project, proposed methodology for archaeological assessment and any information they would like to share about cultural values relevant to the project area and surrounds.

#### **Field Assessment**

A field survey was undertaken in conjunction with the test excavation program from 22 April 2024 to 26 April 2024. These included representatives of locally based organisations:

- Long Gully Cultural Services
- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation



- Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group
- the Wailwan Aboriginal Group.

DLALC was invited to participate in fieldwork but were unable to supply a fieldwork representative during the fieldwork program.

### 2.3.3 Stage 4 – review of draft cultural heritage assessment report

The original draft ACHA (v1) was distributed to the registered Aboriginal parties on 10 July 2024, and 28 days provided for comment. Any comments received are included in Appendix B.6, and summarised in Section 2.4.

In early 2025, designs for the proposed development were revised and a revised document was prepared. The draft ACHA (this report; v2) was distributed to the registered Aboriginal parties on 26 March 2025, and 28 days provided for comment. Any comments received are included in Appendix B.6, and summarised in Section 2.4.

## 2.4 Aboriginal stakeholder feedback

Aboriginal consultation to date has been positive, with specific support provided for the report recommendations by Ethan Trewlynn (Long Gully Cultural Services), [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Justine Coplin (Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation), Lillie Carroll (Didge Ngunawal Clan) and Phil Khan (Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group)(see Appendix B.6).

## 3 Existing environment

### 3.1 Key findings

- The project area is characterised by undulating topography typical of the Cumberland Plain. The underlying geology of the region is characterised by sedimentary shale, laminite and fine to medium grained sandstone of the Mittagong Formation.
- Soil landscape mapping of the region by the Soil Conservation Service of NSW suggests the project area contains soils of the Lucas Heights soil landscape. This soil profile is shallow depth, comprising up to 60 centimetres (cm) of sandy loam or sandy clay loam (within which cultural materials may occur), overlying bedrock or basal clays.
- The project area is located within 200 metres (m) of the main arm of the Parramatta River – a major fourth-order waterway, and its many tributaries. The Parramatta River and its tributaries formed central resources for the Aboriginal people of the region.
- Native vegetation has been historically extensively cleared within the curtilage of the project area. The presence of culturally modified trees on site is considered be unlikely.
- Based on the environmental characteristics of the project area, stone artefact scatters of varying densities are expected to be the main archaeological site type with the potential to be present.
- The project area has been subject to limited levels of historical disturbance due to localised building construction and associated underground services, with lesser impacts noted from de-vegetation in the historical period. No evidence for significant cutting and levelling was observed from the historical aerial imagery.

### 3.2 Environmental context

#### 3.2.1 Rationale

Understanding environmental context assists with predictions of archaeological potential, such as the likelihood of archaeological material being present in the landscape, its spatial distribution and its preservation. Landscape features were an important factor for the choice of camping and transitory and ceremonial areas used by Aboriginal people. Similarly, these landscape features and historical land-use plays a role in the level of preservation and the integrity of archaeological sites.

A landscape consisting of suitable topography, hydrology, geology and soils has strong links with natural resources that would have been available to, and sought after, by Aboriginal people. Flora and fauna would have provided food, tools and ceremony (culturally modified trees); proximity to fresh water was necessary for life and growing crops, as well as gathering fish and eels. Landscape features, such as sandstone overhangs, were useful for shelter; stone artefacts were manufactured from raw stone material that was collected from quarry sites and stone arrangements relied on the landscape.

### 3.3 Landscape overview

Bioregions are relatively large land areas characterised by broad, landscape-scale natural features and environmental processes that capture large-scale geophysical patterns at an ecosystem scale. Subregions delineate significant geomorphic patterns within a bioregion, and are based on finer differences in geology, vegetation and biophysical attributes (NSW NPWS 2003).

The project area is located in the east of the Cumberland subregion (IBRA7 #SYB08), a large geological feature within the Sydney Basin bioregion (IBRA7 #SYB). The Cumberland subregion is characterised by flat to gently undulating Wianamatta shale and sandstone-based landforms with Quaternary alluvium along major streams. Much of the Cumberland region has been subject to extensive land clearing to make way for pastoral activities (i.e. grazing, market gardening, etc.) as well as localised industrial and residential development. Topographically, the project area is situated on a gently undulating plateau, with a level to gently inclined slope gradient of <10% and local relief ranging between 10 to 20 m.

### 3.4 Hydrology

The project area is situated within the Parramatta River catchment area, which comprises of 29 sub-catchments referred to as the Upper and Lower Parramatta River. This catchment is well developed and comprises of high-density drainage networks. Ephemeral and permanent streams were common in the prehistoric landscape, and many still be present today.

The project area is in close proximity to several major watercourses in the region. The project area is less than 100 m from the main arm of the Parramatta River, a major fourth-order mangrove-lined tidal estuary (Figure 3.1). The river originates at Toongabbie Creek and flows eastward, and is fed by numerous creeks from the north and south before eventually flowing into Port Jackson, in Sydney Harbour. Archer Creek, a second order watercourse in the West Ryde area, is situated approximately 400 m to the east of the project area. It is characterised by a defined channel and bed and contains intermittent flow, with semi-permanent pools forming after periods of rain. Other major watercourses in the locality include the Ponds Creek, Subiaco Creek, Clay Cliff Creek, Vineyard Creek and Haslams Creek (formerly Hackings Creek), and these watercourses are all located more than 1 km from the project area.

As well as providing water, these higher order (second order and higher) watercourses would have supported diverse plant and animal resources. The banks of the Parramatta River were reportedly used as a camping location by Aboriginal people in the historical period, and has been demonstrated through archaeological investigation that this was also the case prior to contact (Holt & Crofton 1838, pp147-148; Attenbrow, 2010). The availability of permanent water would have been attractive to Aboriginal people in the past being conducive to repeated or long-term occupation.

### 3.5 Geology, geomorphology, and soils

Geology, geomorphology and soil landscapes classifications and their boundaries provide pre-defined areas that are classified by several geographic features, and which are informative for the archaeological investigation. They provide localised information including landform patterns, soils, geology, rock outcrop percentage, land use and vegetation. This information provides another layer to categorise the landscape for the Aboriginal heritage predictive model, additional to what a topographic description can provide. Soil landscape information builds on underlying geology and describes the depths of residual soils and colluvial soils and identifies areas that are characterised by erosion or skeletal soils and exposed bedrock versus those that may contain a deeper profile where cultural material may be buried.

#### 3.5.1 Geology

The geological substrate of the project area comprises interbedded sedimentary shale, laminite and fine to medium grained sandstone of the Mittagong Formation (Figure 3.2). This formation was laid down in the Triassic period (200 to 250 million years ago) and is considered to be a relatively shallow (10 m thick) unit. The Mittagong Formation overlies a much older geological unit known as Hawkesbury Sandstone, which consists of organic mud, peat, clay, silt, marine sand and fluvial sand.

The south-western corner of the project area is mapped as containing fluvial (water-transported) deposits of the Parramatta River estuary that were laid down in the Quaternary period (<2.58 million years ago). These fluvial deposits consist of silty to peaty quartz sand, silt and clay, and can be occasionally overlain by man-made fill (Herbert 1983).

Lithic materials most common within this unit which are known to be utilised by Aboriginal people for artefact manufacture include silcrete and quartz (and to a lesser extent silicified wood and quartzite) from gravel formations along ridgelines and riverbeds as well as from volcanic diatremes dotted across the Cumberland Plain. Important raw stone material sources were located at Newington and the former Olympic Village located 2.2 km south of the current project area, and further afield at St Marys, Plumpton Ridge and along South, Ropes, Eastern and Bells Creek (Doelman et al. 2015).

### 3.5.2 Soil landscapes

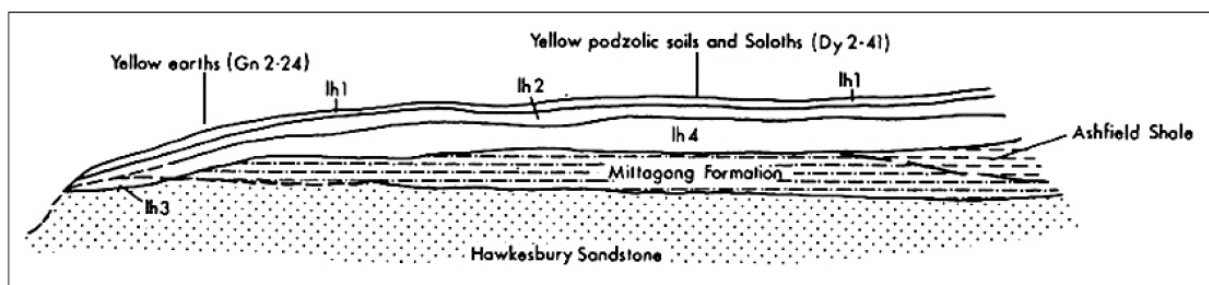
Soil landscape classifications and their boundaries provide pre-defined areas that are classified by several geographic features, and which are informative for the archaeological investigation. They provide localised information including landform patterns, soils, geology, rock outcrop percentage, land use and vegetation. This information provides another layer to categorise the landscape for the predictive model, additional to what a topographic description can provide. Soil landscape information builds on underlying geology and describes the depths of residual soils and colluvial soils and identifies areas that are characterised by erosion or skeletal soils and exposed bedrock versus those that may contain a deeper profile where cultural material may be buried.

The project area is mapped as containing soils of the Lucas Heights soil landscape (see Figure 3.3). Lucas Heights soils are derived from the weathering of the underlying geological substrate, so are inherently sandy (Bannerman & Hazelton, 1990). Lucas Heights soils typically comprise three distinct units as illustrated in Plate 3.1:

1. **A<sub>1</sub> horizon** – ≤30 cm thick topsoil unit of loose, yellowish-brown or very dark brown fine sandy loam (lh1)
2. **A<sub>2</sub> horizon** – 10 to 30 cm thick subsoil unit of bleached, stony, hard-setting sandy clay loam (lh2)
3. **B and C horizon** - up to 100 cm of yellowish-brown, pedal clay (lh4).

The total soil depth is commonly <100 cm, and the sandy loam topsoil unit can occasionally be absent, especially in areas prone to erosion due to vegetation removal. The pedal clay unit is generally considered to pre-date the Aboriginal peopling of Australia, and therefore only the upper A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> horizons have the potential to contain Aboriginal objects.

The shallow depth of Lucas Heights soils has direct implications for the subsurface presence and survivability of Aboriginal archaeological deposits. These soils are rarely deep enough to retain substantial, stratified or deep cultural deposits. In addition, even minor disturbance and/or de-vegetation can often result in the complete removal of the upper parts of the soil profile in which Aboriginal objects may occur.



*Schematic cross-section of Lucas Heights soil landscape illustrating the occurrence and relationship of the dominant soil materials.*

**Plate 3.1** Lucas Heights soil cross section (adapted from eSPADE DPE 2023)

## 3.6 Vegetation

The pre-contact natural vegetation of a landscape is an important consideration when preparing an Aboriginal heritage assessment because it provided Aboriginal people with resources (food, medicine, tools, etc.). Bark from trees such as blackbutt and red gums could have multiple uses including making canoes and shields while spiny headed mat rush and kangaroo grass were utilised for housing and other items. The vegetation itself provided food resources such as edible plants, fruits and seeds, and also provided habitats for animals such as possums and birds and herbivores, which could be hunted or skinned for clothing and other purposes (Turnbull et al. 2019:188, Attenbrow 2010:7–78). Areas containing remnant bush may also contain culturally modified trees and bush tucker.

Today the region is characterised by extensive clearing, farming, industrial and residential development, however prior to modification, the project area was home to two native vegetation communities (DPE 2021):

- **Coastal sandstone gallery rainforest** - warm-temperate tall sclerophyll open forest with dense rainforest sub-canopy that is located along streams on creek and alluvial flats and occasionally sheltered lower slopes in north-east metropolitan Sydney, between Ku-ring-gai Creek and the Parramatta.
- **Coastal sandstone foreshores forest** - characterised as an open forest with an understory comprised of shrub and fern, rush, and grass groundcover located on sheltered sandstone slopes along the foreshores of Sydney's major waterways and coastal escarpments.

Closer to the Parramatta River, the vegetation community would consist of an **estuarine mangrove forest** occur on the mudflats throughout Sydney's harbour, river coves and estuaries. This vegetation community is characterised as sparse to sometimes dense low closed to open forest with occasional saltmarsh groundcover

Common species associated with each community are listed in Table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1 Common plant species in the three vegetation communities identified within the project area (sources: DPE 2021, The City of Ryde)**

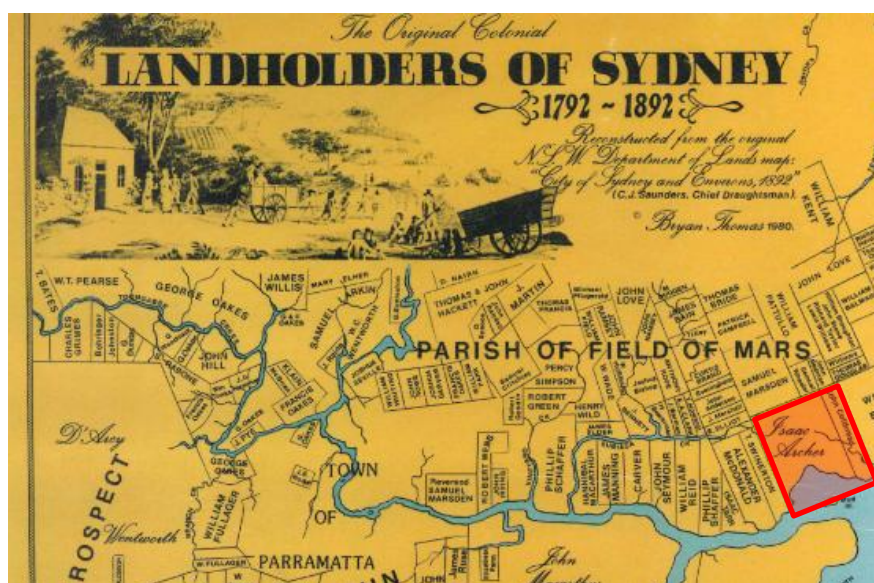
Vegetation Zone	Coastal sandstone gallery rainforest	Coastal sandstone foreshore forest	Estuarine mangrove forest
Canopy	Coachwood ( <i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i> )	Sydney red gum ( <i>Angophora costata</i> )	River mangroves ( <i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i> )
	Black wattle ( <i>Callicoma serratifolia</i> )	Coast banksia ( <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> )	Grey mangroves ( <i>Avicennia marina subsp. australasica</i> )
	Water gum ( <i>Tristania laurina</i> )	Sydney peppermint ( <i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> )	
	Lilly pilly ( <i>Acmena smithii</i> )	Bangalay ( <i>E. botryoides</i> )	
	Sweet pittosporum ( <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> )	Blackbutt ( <i>E. pilularis</i> )	
	Flax-leaved paperbark ( <i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> )		

Vegetation Zone	Coastal sandstone gallery rainforest	Coastal sandstone foreshore forest	Estuarine mangrove forest
Understorey	Sydney golden wattle ( <i>Acacia longifolia</i> ) Parramatta wattle ( <i>Acacia parramattensis</i> ) Lilly pilli ( <i>Acmena smithii</i> ) Narrow leaf myrtle ( <i>Austromyrtus tenuifolia</i> ) Yellow tea tree ( <i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i> subsp. <i>polygalifolium</i> )	Cheese tree ( <i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i> ) Sweet pittosporum ( <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> ) Black she-oak ( <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> ) Sydney golden wattle ( <i>Acacia longifolia</i> ) Coffee bush ( <i>Breynia oblongifolia</i> ) Hop bush ( <i>Dodonaea triquetra</i> ) Blueberry ash ( <i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i> ) Mutton wood ( <i>Myrsine variabilis</i> ) Mock olive ( <i>Notelaea longifolia</i> ) Elderberry panax ( <i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i> )	Parramatta wattle ( <i>Acacia parramattensis</i> ) Swamp oak ( <i>Casuarina glauca</i> ) Flax-leaved paperbark ( <i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> )
Groundcover	False bracken fern ( <i>Calochlaena dubia</i> ) Small rasp fern ( <i>Doodia caudata</i> ) Common rush ( <i>Juncus usitatus</i> ) Spiny-headed matrush ( <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> ) Basket grass ( <i>Oplismenus</i> app, <i>Viola hederacea</i> )	Blue Flax lily ( <i>Dianella caerulea</i> ) Right-angle grass ( <i>Entolasia stricta</i> ) Blady grass ( <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> var. <i>major</i> ) Variable sword-sedge ( <i>Lepidosperma laterale</i> ) Spiny headed mat rush ( <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> ) Weeping meadow grass ( <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var <i>stipoides</i> ) Native tussock grass ( <i>Poa affinis</i> ) White root ( <i>Pratia purpurascens</i> ) Bracken ( <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> ) Kangaroo grass ( <i>Themeda australis</i> ) Broadleaf grass trees ( <i>Xanthorrhoea arborea</i> )	Glasswort ( <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> )

### 3.7 Land use history

This section provides an overview of the historical land use of the project area based on an analysis of historical maps, plans and aerial photographs of the project area from 1930 to 2018.

The suburb of Melrose Park comprises land that was initially granted to two ex-marines of the First Fleet, John Colethread (or Coulthread) and Issac Archer, in the 1790s (Plate 3.2). The two properties were purchased by Major Edmund Lockyer in 1826, who later built a stately two-storey Georgian mansion known as 'Ermington House' on the estate (located 200 m south-east of current project area). The house was surrounded by a garden with tall trees and had a sweeping driveway to a private wharf on the Parramatta River, and another road that connected to the main public road, known as Ermington Wharf Road, later renamed Wharf Road. Wharf Road, which now runs down the eastern side of Melrose Park Public School, led to a public wharf, later known as Ermington Wharf that serviced government sawyers at Pennant Hills and was also used to transport the region's produce to market in Sydney (Plate 3.3).



Source: City of Parramatta research and collection - Parramatta Heritage Centre Map Collection

Note: John Colethread's (or Coulthread) and Issac Archer's property along the Parramatta River (outlined in red)

#### Plate 3.2 The original colonial landholders of Sydney 1792–1892

By the 1840s, however, Lockyer had run into financial trouble, and although the property was subdivided and auctioned as the 'Village of Ermington', in reality few lots were purchased. Over the course of the next 90 years, the residual lots were sold through a number of short-term owners to the City Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, and the land use underwent minimal changes over this period. Allotments on the western side of Wharf Road were tenanted to small-scale farmers, market gardeners, dairy farmers, nursery gardeners and other pastoralists. A historical aerial photograph of the region from 1930 shows that the surrounding landscape has been cleared and the general street arrangement has already been laid out. A small single-room structure exists in the north-eastern corner of the project area along Wharf Road, and there appear to be no other improvements to the land (Plate 3.4)



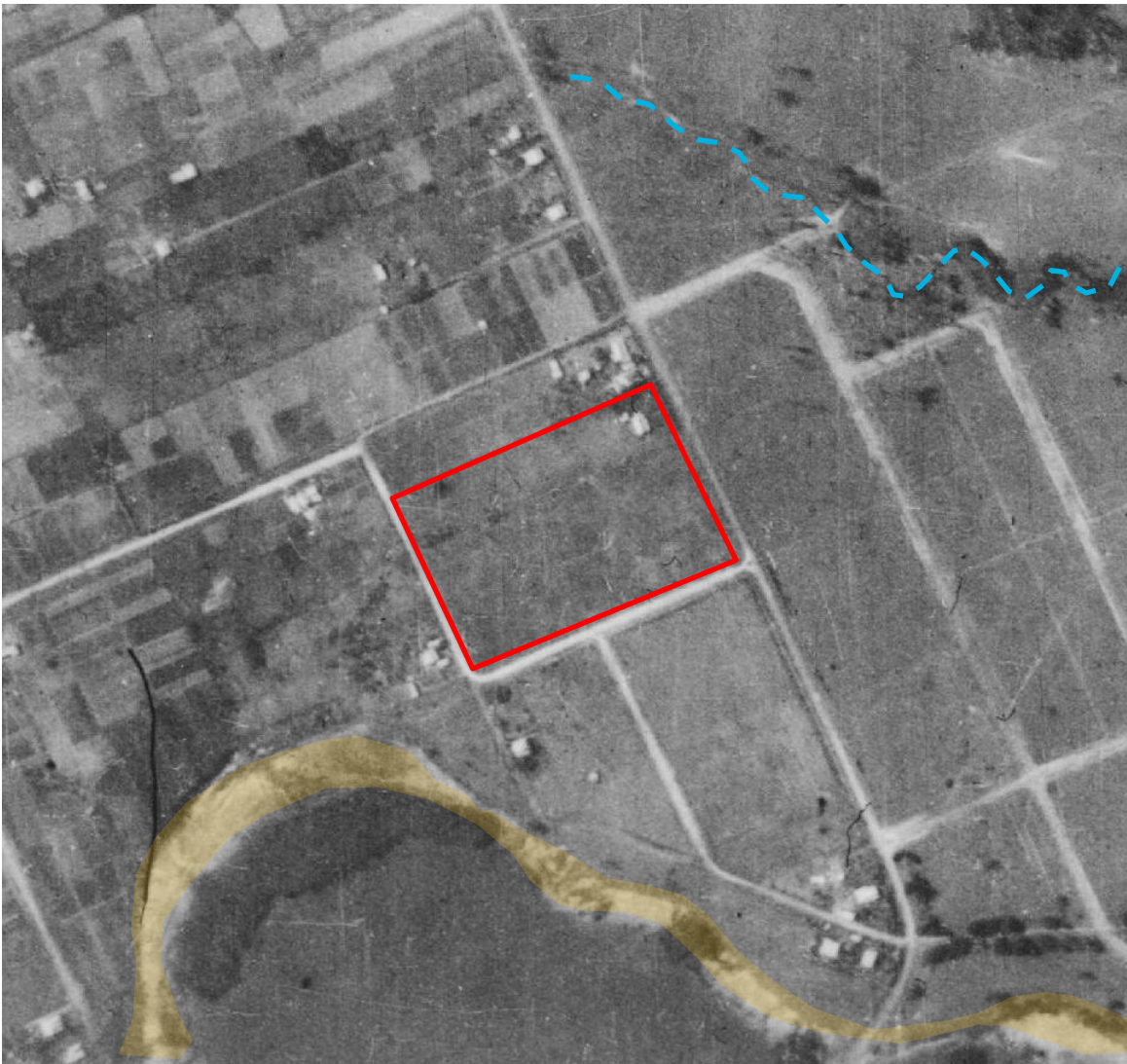
A hand-drawn painted map of the area from 1945, displayed in the current Melrose Park Public School Administration Office, shows a post office, Southeron's Nursery, Dovgan's Poultry Farm, Roders' Riding School, the Walumetta School, Vines Riding School and Lindsay's Dairy, along Wharf Road (Plate 3.5). The Walumetta Infants School was established over part of the project area in 1944 to educate children who were living in the neighbouring residential estates and was named after the local Wallumedegal or Wallumede clan of the Darug people, who were the traditional owners of the area. The school was renamed as the Melrose Park Public School in 1947 and has been operating as a school on this site, since that time.

A review of the available historical aerial imagery suggests that several phases of relatively low-impact development have occurred on-site to cater for an expanding school; and that these activities have been focused in the eastern half of the site along Wharf Road and Mary Street (Plate 3.6 to Plate 3.10). The western half has remained as a grassed playing field area since the 1940s. No evidence for significant cutting and levelling was observed from the historical aerial imagery.



Source: NSW LRS

**Plate 3.3** 1894 Field of Mars Parish map showing the project area (outlined in blue) with Wharf Road (east) extending to Ermington Wharf

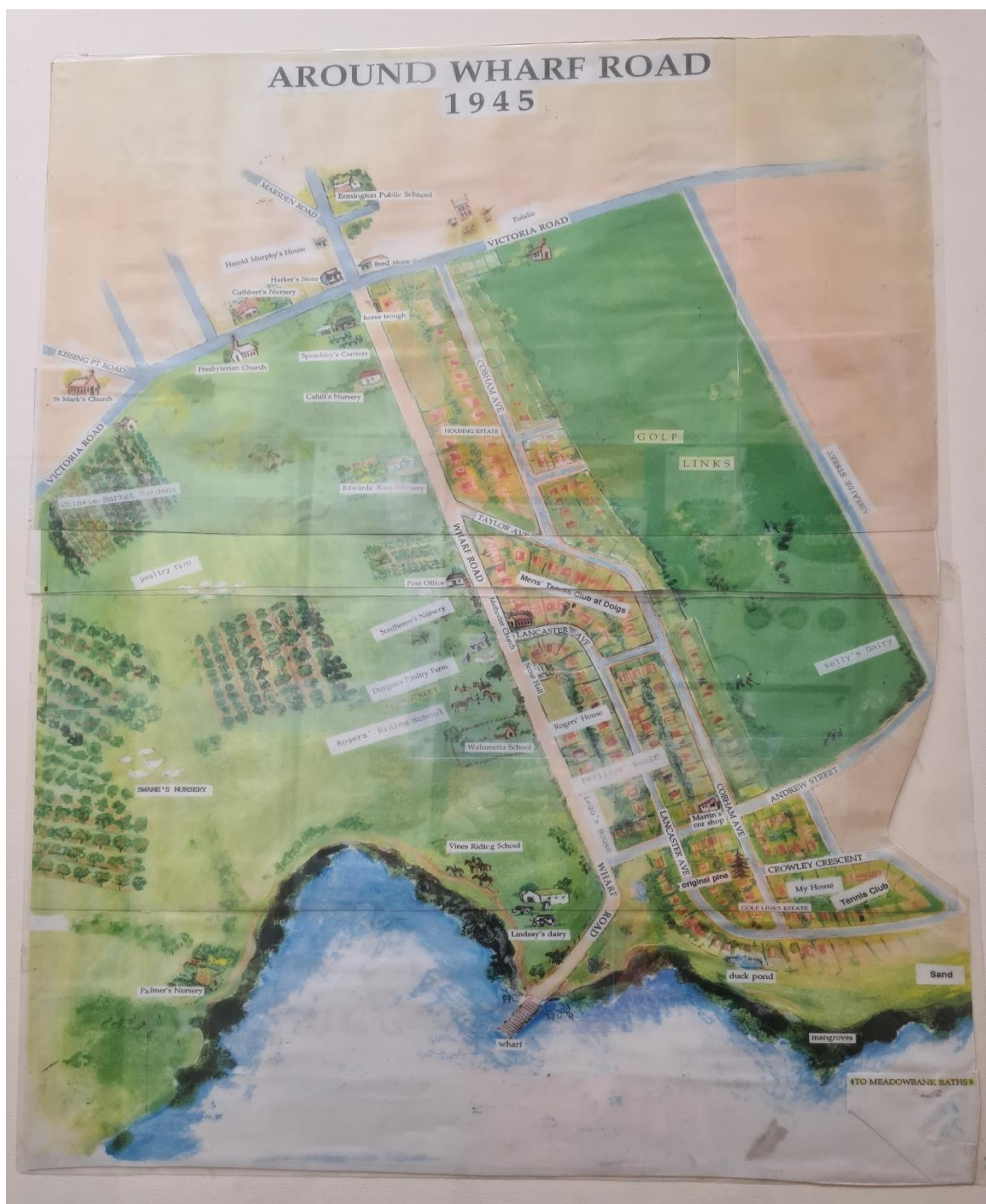


Source: NSW Government Spatial Services 2023, Historical Imagery Viewer, Map 3424 Sydney 6-3-1039 Run R10 Frame 1259

Note: Tributary of Archer Creek, dashed blue line, and sandy dunes along mangrove-lined margins of the Parramatta River, highlighted in yellow

**Plate 3.4**      **1930 historical aerial, showing single structure**





Source: Melrose Park Public School supplied, photographed by Laressa Barry

**Plate 3.5** Unattributed hand-drawn painting of properties along Wharf Road, c.1945



Source: NSW Government Spatial Services 2023, Historical Imagery Viewer

**Plate 3.6** 1943 historical aerial, showing Walumetta Infants School



Source: NSW Government Spatial Services 2023, Historical Imagery Viewer

**Plate 3.7** 1961 historical aerial



Source: NSW Government Spatial Services 2023, Historical Imagery Viewer

**Plate 3.8**      **1971 historical aerial**



Source: NSW Government Spatial Services 2023, Historical Imagery Viewer

**Plate 3.9**      **1998 historical aerial**





Source: NSW Government DCS Spatial Services and Sinclair Knight Merz 2023

**Plate 3.10**      **2018 historical aerial**

**Figure 3.1      Topography and hydrology**





**Figure 3.3      Soil landscapes**

## 4 Ethno-historical context

### 4.1 Key findings

- Aboriginal people of the project area spoke the Darug language, whose territory extended from Parramatta to the Blue Mountains and north from Appin to the Hawkesbury River. While there is debate over the exact territory of Aboriginal groups prior to contact, the lands of the Darug covered most of the western Sydney region (Tindale 1974).
- The project area was occupied by the Wallumedegal or Wallumattagal people of the Darug cultural-linguistic group. Other nearby groups included the Burramattagal peoples who bordered to the west of Wallumedegal territory, and the Bediagal, Gannemegal and Toongagal.
- Historical information provides several observations in relation to the early nineteenth century Aboriginal society, but no site-specific areas of activity within the project area.
- Several RAPs mentioned the importance of the Paramatta River in relation to the site, but no site-specific information was provided by RAPs. It must be noted however, all locales are considered by Aboriginal people to be part of a broader continuous cultural landscape.

### 4.2 Regional context – Sydney Basin

The following section provides a summary of the Aboriginal ethnohistorical record about Aboriginal life on the land prior to, at first contact, and life during the contact period when their land was invaded and occupied by European colonists, and of more recent contemporary connections to this landscape, despite 200 years of dispossession and loss.

#### 4.2.1 Cultural-linguistic groups

Current research suggests Sydney was home to four cultural-linguistic groups in 1788: the Dharawal, Darug, Guringai and Darkinjung (Capell 1970). The territorial boundaries of these groups were not discrete or ‘hard’, but rather were fuzzy in nature, with members of one language group likely able to speak the language and move between neighbouring group territories. Each language group was associated with a broad geographic region and were comprised of smaller clans; clans in turn were made up of 50–250 people and encompassed a number of hearth groups (or bands) of up to 15 people. Membership of clans and language groups was a complex affair, where an individual’s group identification was derived from paternal, maternal and other familial and non-familial associations (this structure is known as a moiety). It appears that the nature of the relationship between clan and Country was religious/ceremonial, whilst that of band to Country was economic (Attenbrow 2010:29). Each group (language group, clan and band) were confined to loosely defined geographical areas, although rivers and major creek lines potentially acted to demarcate certain zones. Ethnohistorical and archaeological data indicates people belonging to different groups often travelled locally and regionally to visit others for various purposes, including to trade, take part in ceremonies and feasts (e.g. Bogong moth feasts; see Flood 1980), share songs (Backhouse 1843) and to engage in conflict (White 1790:288). Indeed, many major roads today follow Aboriginal paths. These paths (called Songlines or Dreaming tracks) were numerous and facilitated interaction between local groups as well as with those in more distant parts of the continent (Fuller 2020:198–203).

#### 4.2.2 Diet and subsistence

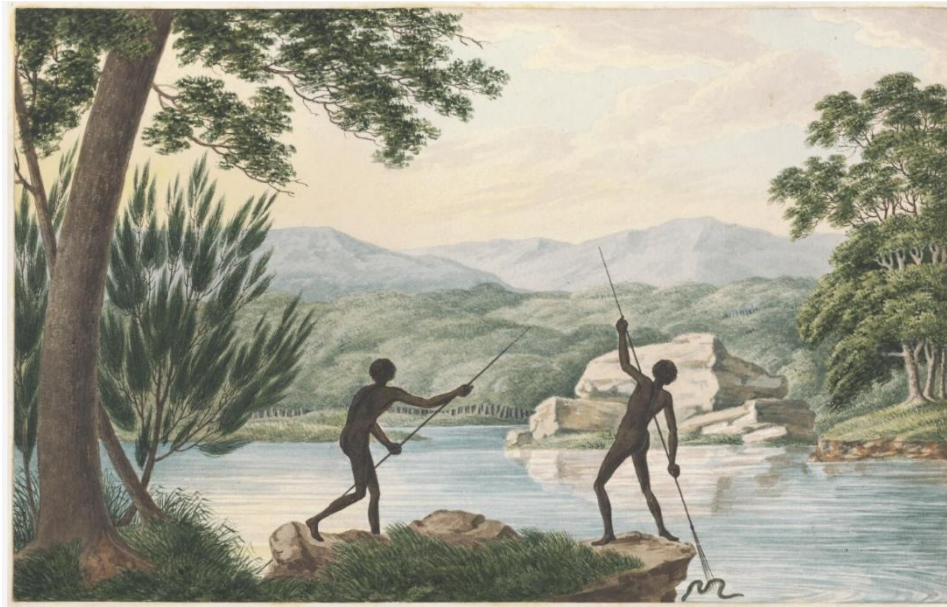
Subsistence strategies appear to have varied between coastal and hinterland Darug people. Paul Irish (2017) has developed the 'affiliated coastal zone' model, based on historical records analysis, wherein coastal and hinterland peoples belonged to different social worlds. A well-known account from First Fleet officer Watkin Tench documents an expedition westward guided by two Aboriginal men, Colebee and Boladeree (or Ballederry). These men were from the coastal Gadigal and Burramattagal clans, respectively, and quickly found themselves in 'country unknown', and described the people living there as 'bad' and untrustworthy. Tench (1793[1979], 225-26) records that when the party reached the Hawkesbury River, '[our] natives had evidently never seen this river before'.

The project area is situated at, to what is normally referred to the 'coastal' area of the Darug nation, notably the main artery of the Parramatta River. As those living east of Parramatta placed much greater emphasis on marine food sources. The change in the Parramatta River from fresh to salt water provided a focus for the exploitation of both freshwater and estuarine species including fish and shellfish, a significant dietary component of Aboriginal groups along the coast (Plate 4.1) (Smith 2005:8). Archaeological evidence from shell middens in the upper estuarine reaches of the Parramatta River indicates that the shellfish procured by Aborigines in this locale included rock oysters and cockles and, to a lesser extent, Hercules whelks, mud oysters, spiny oysters, winks and horn shells (Attenbrow 2010, p.67). While there is little direct evidence of the utilisation of shellfish in the immediate Parramatta area, we know that shellfish middens once existed at various riverside locations along the length of the Parramatta River (Levy 1947).

In addition to collecting shellfish, fishing was an activity of particular economic importance to Aboriginal people living on the Parramatta River (Plate 4.1). Finfish appear to have been a particularly popular species for fishing. Aboriginal fishing methods are known to have been many and varied and included line fishing from bark canoes, spear fishing in the shallow waters and utilising nets, traps and fish poisons. Fish known to have existed in the Upper Parramatta River prior to, and at the time of contact, were much greater in both variety and number than they are today. Lieutenant David Collins noted that Aboriginal people living on the upper reaches of the Parramatta River particularly caught bream and mullet (Collins, 1798). Other fish that are likely to have tolerated the river conditions at Parramatta may have included mulloway, flathead, estuary perch, bass and whiting (Attenbrow 2010, p.69). Eels appear to have constituted another significant riverine resource and were procured with both pronged spears and hollow log eel traps (Kass et al. 1996). Other riverine resources are likely to have included mangrove crabs (in flat muddy areas) and cobra (toredo) worms. Rivers and creeks were also exploited for the procurement of duck meat and feathers (Hunter 1793, p.361).

Trees were also an important source of food. Grubs were procured from trees, with the infected wood probed to remove the larvae (Hunter 1793, p.357; Collins 1798, p.450). In addition, Tench observed animal and bird traps across the landscape. The cone-like ground traps were constructed of reeds or small branches and covered in dirt. Small animals would wander into or be driven towards the large opening of the trap and pass through the body, only to be blocked at the tapered end by a grate of sticks where it was killed (Hunter 1793, pp.449-50).

The first Australians were known to European settlers as 'fire makers' for their use of fire for a wide variety of activities. Fire was used to maintain and create paths, to rejuvenate the land by clearing weeds and germinating hard seeds and legumes, and to create open grassy meadows to attract kangaroo and other game. They also used fire to keep warm at night and carry as a torch the next day, treat wood, melt resin and crack stone for tools – hence, fire was a constant presence in the early Cumberland region. Regular and systematic burning over several generations created perennial grasslands out of forests (Proudfoot 1984). Patchwork landscapes of grasslands, open forest, dense scrub and rainforest enabled efficient travel through the landscape in search of food whilst limiting potential for wildfires and out of control burn offs that had a devastating impact on food sources and resulted in death of humans and animals.



Source: National library of Australia, PIC MSR 12/1/4 #R5679

#### Plate 4.1 Painting by Joseph Lycett, c.1817, of “Two Aborigines Spearing Eels”

##### 4.2.3 Local beliefs and ceremonial practices

Aboriginal people in Sydney had a rich ceremonial life which is continued by many contemporary descendants. Details of local beliefs and ceremonial practices are often scarce due to the secrecy surrounding ceremonial events, and even the most richly described accounts only contain limited information about these ceremonies. Severe social dislocation experienced by Aboriginal people following European invasion also limits our understanding of ceremonial practices. However, some ethnographic information has survived.

The passage from childhood to adulthood was marked by traditional ceremonies that brought about greater spiritual awareness, knowledge and responsibility for men and women. Initiates were put through a series of ordeals or trials, and received instruction from initiated Elders regarding medicine, the healing arts, spiritual beliefs, traditional customs, and totemic responsibilities. People specialised in the knowledge appropriate to their totem, and while all people had responsibility for preserving, enhancing and transmitting some knowledge, there were different levels of knowledge that were accessed through initiations. Members of the opposite sex, and other uninitiated individuals were strictly forbidden from attending these ceremonies.

Initiates had their bodies marked with cuts and filled with ash to create raised scars, had their noses pierced or teeth removed. Tench's guides, Colebee and Boladeree, belonged to coastal clans that practiced tooth-avulsion ceremonies (Tench 1793, p.84).

Medicine men, or Koradji, were important clan members, and several local Koradji, including Yarramundi (referred to by Tench as Yellomundee), and Gomeberri, were documented by Europeans. During their time at the European camp, Yellomundee performed a healing ritual on Colebee who had a barb remaining in his chest from an old wound (Tench 1793, p.85). Hunter (1793, p.360) recorded the ritual:

He began the ceremony by taking a mouthful of water, which he squirted on the part affected, and then applying his mouth, he began to suck as long as he could without taking breath; this seemed to make him sick, and when he rose up, (for his patient was sitting on the ground) he walked about for a few minutes...this was repeated three times... and having picked up a bit of stick or stone, which he did with so little caution that several of the party saw him, he pretended to take something out of his mouth and throw it into the river... Before this business was finished, the doctor felt his patient's back below the shoulder, and seemed to apply his fingers as if he twitched something out; after which, he sat down by the patient, and put his right arm round his back; the old man, at the same time, sat down on the other

side the patient, with his face the contrary way, and clasped him round the breast with his right arm; each of them had hold of one of the patient's hands, in which situation they remained a few minutes; thus ended the ceremony.

Koradji appear to have been a category of person found throughout the Sydney region. Explorer and naturalist George French Angas visited engraving sites around Sydney and spoke with one old Aboriginal woman about them. Angas wrote:

At first the old woman objected, saying that such places were all *koradji* ground, or 'priests' ground', and that she must not visit them; but at length, becoming more communicative, she told us all she knew and all that she had heard her father saying about them ... "black fellow made them [engravings] long ago" ... they agree in stating that the tribes did not reside upon these spots, assigning as a reason - "too much dibble-dibble walk about"; for they greatly fear meeting the "dibble" or some evil spirit in their rambles, and never leave their camp at night. They state that these places were all sacred to the priest, doctor or conjurer - for the one is the other among these tribes.

Anthropologist A.P Elkin wrote in 1949 that Aboriginal groups living further north than Sydney 'definitely had their most important sanctuaries on high places ... and the initiated men of that region ... [were] taken up to such high places ... for the most important revelations and teachings'. More recent research has indicated that elevated places in sandstone country providing impactful vistas may have been sought out for ceremonial practice (Neal 2020).

Two religious figures common to many nations across NSW are Baiame and Daramulan. Based on the available ethnographic data, the relationship between these two figures varied from place to place, with some conceiving of them as variations of the same being or as close relations. In the Sydney Basin it appears that Baiame was commonly thought of as a powerful supernatural being associated with the sky and the creation of the earth, and Daramulan was his son, whose voice was the sound of thunder. Anthropologist RH Mathews wrote in 1905 that:

'Baiaimē...[was]...the principal hero in the mythology of these people...[and] Dhurramulan was a sort of half brother or near relative of Baiaimē's'. His name is made up from *dhurru*, thigh, and *mulan*, one side, the whole name meaning leg-on-one-side, as he is said to possess one leg only... (1905, 138-141)

Mathews further commented that 'Dhurramulan caught a boy and ... caused one of his front upper incisors to fall out. The tooth [became] a sacred stone used in these ceremonies of initiation' (1905, 142). The striking 'culture-hero' motifs found at engraving sites in northern Sydney and the Central Coast are thought to depict Baiame and Daramulan (see McDonald 2008).

Taken together, the information discussed above suggests that Aboriginal people in the Sydney Basin shared common overarching religious beliefs and ceremonial practices, and that some intra-regional variation existed. It appears that Baiame and Daramulan were common supernatural figures to many groups throughout NSW, and that tooth-avulsion ceremonies were practiced in accordance with Dreaming stories regarding Daramulan. Both supernatural beings feature in the engraved rock art of Sydney, and Koradji (medicine men) were associated in some way with these art sites.

#### 4.2.4 Tools, weapons, and apparel

There are few instances where the early European observers recorded the clothing and ornament of the people west of Rose Hill. Hunter (1793, p.356) states that Bereewan's hair was ornamented "with the tails of several small animals" and Collins (1798, pp.449–450) noted the men of the area wore "lines" around their waist. In a later expedition into the Blue Mountains in 1802, Francis Barrallier met two Aboriginal men, Bungin and Wooglemai, in the mountainous area in the vicinity of the Nepean River. Bungin wore a cloak "made of skins of various animals sewed together" (Barrallier 1802, p.749). The cloak was a highly valued winter garment as Bungin refused to trade it to Barrallier.

Recorded material culture indicates use of a wide range of plant and animal resources for fashioning weapons, ornaments, and utensils. As the expeditions travelled into the land west of the Sydney colony the party's traded with the Aboriginal groups and tools and weapons highly prized by the European explorers. Upon meeting Tench's party Bereewan only carried a fire stick but Gombeeree's group presented Governor Phillip with two stone hatchets, two spears and a throwing stick (Tench 1793, pp.80–88; Hunter 1793, p.359). The spears were described as having "a single barb of wood fixed on with gum, the other had two large barbs cut out of the solid wood" and the throwing stick was of particular interest as it "had a piece of hard stone fixed in gum instead of the shell which is commonly used by the natives who live on the sea coast" (Hunter 1793, p.359).

Stone hatchets, as well as ground stone axes, were clearly of importance to the people around the Nepean being used for a variety of subsistence practices. Colebee determined that Gombeeree's group had been travelling to secure stone to make hatchets "from that part of the river near Richmond-Hill" (Dyarubbin) and it is likely that a manufacturing place was also in the vicinity of Richmond Hill (Hunter 1793, p.357). Hatchets were also used in the construction of canoes (Tench 1793, p.25). A well-known source of silcrete from St Marys was flaked to make tools, such as the scraper on the throwing stick given to Governor Phillip – this production occurred well into the post-contact period (Rhodes 1985). The importance of stone tools in the lives of Aboriginal people was acknowledged by Tench's party (Hunter 1793, p.357).

Few other tools were discussed by the early observers but Collins (1798, p.461) records nets and fishing lined that differed in material and/or weave from the coastal groups. More recently, Rhodes noted that the material culture of Darug clans included possum skin rugs, paint on face, arms and thighs, tail and kangaroo incisor adornments, canoes, reeds, barbed spears and hafted ground stone tomahawks (Rhodes 1985).

#### 4.2.5 Contact and post-contact overview

The European settlement at Port Jackson was spiralling to failure within its first few months (Warren 2014, p.69). Failed crops, lost livestock and diminishing supplies pushed the British colonisers to look for better land beyond settlement and to exploit the available natural resources to ensure the survival of the colony. By the middle of 1788, local Aboriginal groups in Sydney began to express their dissatisfaction with the permanence of European settlement and colonial expansion. Numerous letters to England recorded violent encounters between convicts and Aboriginal people, as well as between Aboriginal groups, over access to food and land (Warren 2014, pp.69-70). By November of 1788, animosity between the convicts and Aboriginal people was at an all-time high. Notably, the establishment of a military post located at Rose Hill in November of 1788 subsequently resulted in the displacement and forced migration of a kinship group of the Burramattagal, the family of Maugoran, a Burramattagal elder, into Wallumedegal territory (Smith 2005:12, City of Ryde 2021).

In April of 1789, smallpox spread through the Aboriginal population around the Port Jackson settlement, causing catastrophic social impacts that lasted long after the disease came under control (Mear 2008, p.13). The disease spread quickly through the Sydney basin towards Port Hacking, Broken Bay and west to the Hawkesbury, blazing through the Cadigal, Gamaragal, Gayamagal, Borogegal and Birrabirragal clans (Mear 2008, p.13). European observers noted the horrific impacts of the disease on the coast, for example William Bradley recorded that:

a great number of dead natives found in every part of the harbour [...] scarce any had been seen lately except laying dead in and about their miserable habitations, whence it appears that they are deserted by their companions as soon as the disorder comes out on them, and those who are attacked with this disorder left to shift for themselves. We judge this from their having been found not buried, in every part of the harbour. Some have been found with a child laying dead close to them and some, who have apparently used their utmost exertions to get at water, having been found laying dead between a cave and a run of water. (Bradley, c. 1802, 9 May 1789)



As Aboriginal people fled from areas of known infection, the disease travelled with them. It did, however, take some time for the disease to reach Darug country; as Captain Tench (1793, p. 83) did not observe any signs of sickness or death during his first expedition to the Nepean in June of 1789 but he did note that Gomberee had pox scars in April of 1791. Nevertheless, the epidemic caused irreversible damage and to the structure of family groups, tribes and clans. It is estimated smallpox wiped out around 50% of the adult population and deaths of children under five would have also been high (Mear 2008, p.2). Despite the impacts of European disease, the resistance to British settlement did not cease.

Frontier conflict was another facet of the contact period in the Cumberland Plain. These acts were the result of the continued dispossession of traditional occupation and resource-gathering lands from Aboriginal people. No instances of conflict are recorded near the project area, but numerous records exist of violence on lands granted along the Hawkesbury from 1794. It was here that the first instance of Aboriginal resistance, the Darug retaliation killing of five settlers, was recorded in 1795 (Connor 2002, p.38). Displays of resistance, retaliations attacks and raids were so fierce in the region that Lieutenant Governor William Patterson feared the new settlement would need to be abandoned. Patterson sent the New South Wales Corps into the areas with orders to kill and string up any “of the wood tribe” they came across (Collins 1798, p.347). The Corps did kill a number of Aboriginal people and took others as prisoners to Sydney, but the Darug continued to resist white settlement and so in June of 1795 a permanent garrison was established in the region. The military presence did little to hinder attacks and the Darug developed their own unique tactics in this frontier war (Gapps 2018). Large groups of up to 200 men women and children would raid the corn harvest— collecting enough food to live off— and raid and destroy farmhouses (Connor 2002, p.40–45).

Violence in the region reached its peak in April of 1816 when Macquarie ordered three detachments of soldiers through the colony sent to capture or kill all Aboriginal people they came across (Karskens 2015). Captain Schaw’s Hawkesbury detachment was unsuccessful and Lieutenant Dawe’s Cowpastures detachment killed two warriors and captured a boy on Macarthur’s Estate (Karskens 2015). It is believed further casualties were avoided as the Aboriginal guides steered the detachments away from local camps. The third detachment, led by Captain Wallis, was sent to the Airds and Appin districts (Karskens 2015). At one in the morning on the 17 April Wallis’ detachment ambushed an Aboriginal camp at Appin and the soldiers pushed the fleeing individuals over Cataract Gorge and shot others attempting to escape. The detachment killed 14 and captured two women and three children (Karskens 2015). Macquarie addressed the Appin Massacre as unavoidable and necessary to “strike Terror amongst the surviving Tribes, and deter them from the further Commission of such sanguinary Outrages and Barbarities” (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 4 May 1816, p.1).

In an effort to quell confrontation, Aboriginal people were increasingly marginalised to the edge of colonial society and subject to direct control. In 1816, Governor Macquarie issued a set of regulations controlling free movement of Aboriginal people across NSW, stating that “No Black Native, or body of Black Natives, shall ever appear at or within one mile of any Town, Village or Farm... armed with any warlike or offensive weapon”, and “That no Number of Natives, exceeding in the Whole Six Persons, being entirely unarmed, shall ever come to lurk or loiter about any Farm in the Interior” (*The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, 18 May 1816, p.1). The proclamation also declared that inter-tribe violence and retaliation was “a barbarous Custom, repugnant to the British Laws”, and announced the establishment of the Native institution at Parramatta for “the Purpose of educating the Male and Female Children of those Natives who might be willing to place them in that Seminary” (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 4 May 1816, p.1).

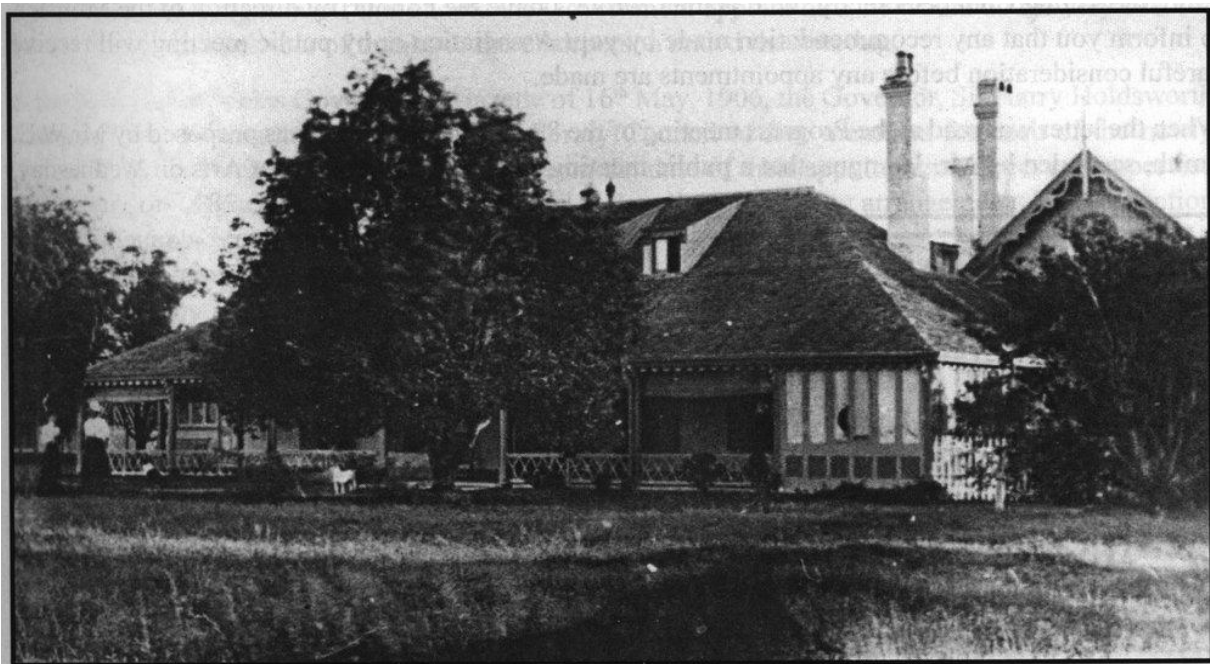
The Native Institution at Parramatta was opened in December of 1814 and a total of 37 children attended the school between 1814 and 1821 (Watson 1919, pp.485-86; Norman 2015a). The Institution aimed to civilise students through a curriculum of reading, writing, Christian religious studies as well as manual labour for boys and needlework for girls (Norman 2015a). Missionary William Shelley was appointed superintendent of the school. Annual conference feasts were held to entice Aboriginal parents to place their children in the institution and despite large numbers of attendees, parents were reluctant to give their children over to the institution. There were growing fears amongst the Aboriginal community that Aboriginal children were being taken. This reluctance and fear was justified, as Macquarie declared:

That no Child, after having been admitted into the Institution, shall be permitted to leave it, or be taken away by any Person whatever (whether Parents or other Relatives) until such time as the Boys shall have attained the Age of Sixteen Years, and the Girls Fourteen Years; at which Ages they shall be respectively discharged (*The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, 17 December 1814, p.1).

The parents whose children were placed in the institution were allowed the privilege to observe their children through an open slat fence from 1815 (Norman 2015a). Maria Locke, of the Boorooberongal clan, daughter of Yarramundi, 'Chief of the Richmond Tribes', was admitted to the Native Institution in 1814. Maria's academic success is thought to have been reported in the results of the 1819 Anniversary School Examination where "a black girl of 14 years of age ... bore away the chief prize" (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 17 April 1819, p.2).

Following several deaths in 1821, many of the children fled the institution and return to their families. In 1823, the Parramatta Institution was transferred to a new institution on the Richmond Road, on the former property of William Bell known as "Black Town" (Karskens 2020; Blacktown Native Institution Project 2015), located approximately 8.5 km north-west of the project area. A large mission house (Plate 4.2), chapel, and six small cottages were established on the lot. This site was immediately opposite the first Aboriginal land grant made in the colony, to Colebee and Nurragingy (Plate 4.2).

In 1824, Governor Brisbane sacked the Native Institution committee and the Children at Black Town were divided among the local missionaries to continue their education, but the children returned later in the same year. In 1825, the Aboriginal population at Black Town numbered 30 children and adults (Norman 2015a). Aboriginal couples, including Betty Fulton and Bobby Nurragingy, Betty Cox and Johnny Warrawandy, and Kitty and Colebee, farmed beside the Native Institution in the 1820s – some others, reportedly camping here to make contact with and watch over their children (Brook 2008; Karskens 2020). The Blacktown Native Institution was decommissioned in 1829 and abandoned in 1833 (Blacktown Native Institution Project 2015).



Source: Blacktown Memories 012071, Blacktown City Council

**Plate 4.2** Blacktown Native Institution mission house c.1906

Relationships between settlers and Aboriginal people were constantly shifting and were not purely marked by outward violence and conflict. An 1816 proclamation by Governor Macquarie invited:

Natives to relinquish their wandering, idle, and predatory Habits of Life, and to become industrious and useful Members of a Community where they will find Protection and Encouragement. To such as do not like to cultivate Farms of their own, but would prefer working as Labourers for those Persons who may be disposed to employ them, there will always be found Masters among the Settlers who will hire them as Servants of this Description [...] And the GOVERNOR desires it to be understood, that he will be happy to grant Lands to the Natives in such Situations as may be agreeable to themselves [...] And whereas His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, from an anxious Wish to civilize the Aborigines of this Country, so as to make them useful to themselves and the Community... (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 4 May 1816, p.1)

Governor Macquarie awarded Colebee and Nurragingy the first Aboriginal land grant in 1816 for their service to the colony (Blacktown Native Institution Project 2015). The grant was originally proposed to be along Eastern Creek, but Nurragingy instead chose a 30-acre grant on the Richmond Road, within his traditional land (Blacktown Native Institution Project 2015). Macquarie also honoured Nurragingy, who was also known as Creek Jemmy, as “Chief of the South Creek Tribe” (Norman 2015b).

Several local Aboriginal families camped on this property ‘Niahlingin’, and the adjacent Black Town site, in the period between 1820 and 1890. In 1843, the land was granted to Maria Lock, where it remained in the family until it was resumed by the Aboriginal Protection Board in 1920 (Kohen 1986, p.27).

Elsewhere in the Cumberland Plain at this time, members of different clans occasionally banded together in mixed groups and were encouraged to seek official gifts in the form of blankets and clothing, iron hatchets and fishhooks, bread, flour, sugar, tea, tobacco and alcohol. Traditional skills were also valued by the European settlers and Aboriginal people were employed as guides and trackers well into the twentieth century. In 1818, local explorer John Jamison, who lived at Regentville on the Hawkesbury River, employed Gilderoy, Millot and Nagga – three local Darug men – as guides on an expedition to trace the Cox’s River. James Backhouse brought Simeon, a South Creek man, along on an expedition from Parramatta to the Blue Mountains, in 1835 (Backhouse 1843). Mrs Barlow, when reminiscing upon life in Penrith as a child, recalled that her father, a constable in the 1830s, was “ably assisted by Woolloboi, an Aboriginal tracker” (*Nepean Times*, 23 May 1914, p.8). Census records from 1828 listed 156 Aboriginal people living in Penrith, including 38 from the Nepean tribe, 15 from the Mulgoa Tribe and 30 from the Boorooberongal Tribe (Godden Mackay Logan 2010).

Several estates in the region were known safe places for Aboriginal people to camp on and practice ceremony, and to find seasonal or permanent work. William Cox was reported to have employed “members of the Mulgowie Tribe” on his Mulgoa estate in the 1830s (Karskens 2010). The Reverend Samuel Marsden’s Mamre Farm at South Creek near Orchard Hills was another such location, where Marsden organised peace talks between settlers and Aboriginal groups in 1805 and allowed Darug clans to camp on his estate, on the riverbank opposite the homestead (Yarwood 1967). Marsden later encouraged those camping on the estate to work in exchange for clothing or food. After a visit to Mamre in 1835, James Backhouse wrote that the “South Creek Natives... often assist in the agricultural operations of the settlers” (Backhouse 1843, p.304).

Despite this perceived reliance on the European community for daily subsistence requirements, at least in some places traditional practices continued on Darug country long after European settlement. Emily MacLaurin, who lived on the Mamre estate with her family after Marsden’s departure, described an Aboriginal meeting place on South Creek at Mamre where ceremonies continued to be held “for some time”, at a point where “the Creek takes in a small stream from the west” (NOHC 2015, p.49). Mrs Barlow of Penrith remembered witnessing “corroborees on the banks of the Nepean” in her youth (*Nepean Times*, 23 May 1914, p.8). Further, Mrs Barlow recalled the presence of a bora ground near “Wilson’s Flat” by the river and the continuation of initiation rites (*Nepean Times*, 23 May 1914, p.8).

Moreover, the Gomerrigal-Tongarra clan, who resided along the banks of South Creek continued to be allowed to source silcrete from the ridges at Plumpton and the gravels of Eastern Creek (Penrith Local History online). Archaeological research at Joseph Pye's Waawaar Awa Estate on Eastern Creek suggests that these safe estates allowed local Aboriginal families to work together on the farms periodically, which permitted them to balance European expectations with traditional ways of life on their traditional lands (Owen 2021).

The oral histories of Nah Doongh, or "Black Nellie", give an insight into the changing nature of Aboriginal life in Western Sydney throughout the nineteenth century. Nah Doongh was born c.1800 on land next to South Creek near Kingswood, at a time when the surrounding Plain was being taken up by European settlers. Grace Karsken's research reveals that Nah Doongh's clan was likely the Mulgoa Tribe, who were named after the "mulgo" or Black Swan of Dyarubbin (Karskens 2018, p.1). She remembered a time before the white men came along where tall, dense forests still covered river flats, and the lagoons were alive with ducks, geese and swans. She remembered "all this place bush long ago, dis place Penrith, blacks call Mooror Moorack, plenty of wallaby, kangaroo, plenty of blacks, not many whites (Karskens 2018, p.1). Shortly after her birth the land she was born on was granted to Mary Putland, who called it the Frogmore Estate; eventually, the land was subdivided and today forms part of the University of Western Sydney Kingswood campus. Nah Doongh's experiences in subsequent years were typical for Aboriginal people in the region; as the large estates were subdivided over the latter half of the nineteenth century and towns were developed, places for Aboriginal people to practice traditional lifeways on country diminished and they were pressured to move to dedicated reserves on the periphery of society or settled on commons.

The Commons were areas of reserved land for flood refuges and to support the economic activities of small farm holders, Aboriginal people often established settlements on these parcels of land (Karskens 2018, p.1). The Castlereagh Common was one such area where Aboriginal people on the fringes of society chose to settle; Nah Doongh moved between Camden Park, the Liverpool area and Penrith, before settling in to a "very shaky habitation" on the Castlereagh Common with her husband, Johnny Budbury, in the 1880s (Karskens 2018). At that time, Aboriginal people were also living at Yarramundi, the Black Town and up in The Gully in Katoomba. A parcel of land reserved from sale "for the use of Aborigines" along The Northern Road in Llandilo may also have been used to house Aboriginal people, though little else is known about the site. Today, it is owned by the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Aboriginal movements between these fringe areas were not restricted, and in many instances Aboriginal people adapted their traditional practices for a new life amongst European society. An anonymous reminiscence from "Old Penrith" recalls the Aboriginal people from Castlereagh would visit Penrith fortnightly and go house to house collecting goods, trading and selling seasonal foods such as "native currants" (likely, *Leptomeria acida*) (*Nepean Times*, 25 October 1924, p.3). Traditional knowledge holder Phil Khan recalled that Aboriginal people kept fishing along the rivers until the 1950s, when the land was broken up and subdivided for European settlement.

### 4.3 Local context

Information about the socio-cultural structure of Aboriginal society prior to European contact largely comes from ethno-historical accounts made by colonial settlers. These accounts and observations were often made after significant social disruption due to disease and displacement. As a result, this information is often contentious, particularly in relation to language group boundaries. Therefore, it is likely that language group boundaries were far more diffuse than the arbitrary demarcations drawn by colonial observers.

Based on the available data, it appears the project area is situated the boundaries of three language groups (noting that territorial boundaries were not discrete). These groups are the Darug, Guringai and the Eora (or Coastal Darug; some consider the Darug and Eora to be a single linguistic group). Darug country extends from around Parramatta through to the Blue Mountains and from the Hawkesbury River in the north to Appin in the south. Guringai lands extend from Sydney's North Shore to the lower Central Coast, with the Coastal Darug situated along the south side of Sydney Harbour, west to Parramatta and south to Botany Bay. Each language group was comprised of multiple smaller groups, each with their own Country, practices, diets, dress, and dialects.



According to research carried out by Smith (2005), the traditional owners of the project area were likely the Wallumedegal or Wallumattagal people of the Darug cultural-linguistic group, whose lands included the northern bank of the Parramatta River, spanning from Lane Cove River to west Parramatta (City of Ryde 2011.). The word 'Wallumedegal' is likely to have derived from 'wallumai' meaning 'snapper fish', combined with 'matta' used to describe a place, often a water place in the Darug language (Smith 2005: 6). The Burramattagal people, (named after 'Burramutta'), translated as either 'the head of the river' or 'the place where eels lie down', with the term 'Burramattagal' (with the masculine suffix 'gal') referring to the people, specifically the men, who lived in the Parramatta area (for whom Parramatta is named), bordered the Wallumedegal people to the west. (Kass et al. 1996, Smith 2005:4). It is likely that these peoples also had ties to the project area, as their territorial centre has been mapped near the Parramatta CBD (located only 5 km to the west of the project area) (e.g. see Macquarie, 1816). Members of these clans would have interacted with each other (and other clans) to trade, hunt, fight, feast, arrange marriages, conduct ceremonies, resolve disputes, and share information. Historical accounts record instances of gatherings between three clans on their way to Camden to learn a new song (Backhouse 1843), Burramattagal people venturing out to Manly to feast on a beached whale (Tench, 1793), and groups of hunters near Carabeely co-operating on a large-scale kangaroo hunt (Barrallier 1802).

#### 4.4 Information provided by RAPs

In response to the methodology letter provided to all RAPs involved in this project, two responses were received that provided cultural information regarding the area and its significance to the Aboriginal community:

On 20 February 2024, Ethan Trewyln from long Gully Cultural services wrote:

Not far from the subject area there was fishing of the Parramatta River which we could possibly find evidence of that if there hasn't been too much disturbance.

On 13 March 2024, Phil Khan, from Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group wrote:

The study area is highly significant to us Aboriginal people & close to water ways that are utilised by aboriginal people.

The whole of Parramatta is of significance and sensitivity to us Aboriginal peoples, the area was utilised for tens of thousands of years by our peoples. Water ways are of highly significant to us as without them there would not be life, we are deeply connected to them spiritually. Our dreaming stories reference them and express the creation of them. An example would be the Rainbow Serpent, he slithered across the land creating the valleys and the water ways as he went along.

It's the intangible as well as tangible aspects we must consider when it comes to protecting cultural heritage. For incense sky knowledge is also of importance it was used to navigate through the night, it also suggests when resources are available, the sky reflects what's here on the land. Before we were on mother earth we were up in the sky, a lot of our creation story's come from the sky. Land, us, and the sky world are all interconnected. Its these types of stories that shape our culture and understanding of how the land was created.

The flora and fauna would have been thriving and Aboriginal people utilised their environment to its full potential. Aboriginal people carried out their daily activities in this area, hence why it's so important to us. Aboriginal people have walked this land for tens of thousands of years and continue to do so today. They strategically look after the land, plant flora in a way that coexisted with the environment around them.

The study area is close to the Parramatta River this suggest that the area is has potential for Archaeological deposits. The Parramatta River were the fresh water meets the salt water, and area that is a resource rich environment. The study area is also close to a swampy wetland which can be utilised by Aboriginal Peoples for food, medicine, and a fresh water source. The area is also significant due to how long Aboriginal peoples occupied the land; we are connected to it.

## 5 Archaeological context

### 5.1 Key findings

- NSW has been inhabited by Aboriginal people for over 40,000 years, with the earliest evidence for occupation in Sydney dating to around 35,000 years ago. Populations at this time were focused around major riverine systems such as the Hawkesbury-Nepean (Dyarubbin), Parramatta, Hunter and Georges Rivers, which formed key ecological refugia during times of environmental stress. Aboriginal populations were present throughout the terminal Pleistocene/early Holocene, a time of significant environmental change, population growth and reorganisation of territorial boundaries.
- The earliest archaeological evidence of occupation in Western Sydney comes from Cranebrook Terrace on the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, where gravel in sand deposits associated with stone artefacts was dated to 40,000 to 45,000 BP. This river system continued to form an important economic and social zone for Aboriginal people, as did nearby Parramatta River. Sites along these creek corridors attest to the continued presence of Aboriginal populations in the area over the last 5,000 years, and indicate that land use was primarily focused on elevated areas around major river and creek lines.
- Sites along major watercourses usually indicate a range of knapping and occupational activities and exhibit higher densities of stone artefacts. Conversely, sites near minor watercourses or at distance to water sources tend to contain less varied evidence of activity and are often interpreted as demonstrating transient or occasional use of an area. Sites in both contexts in Western Sydney are predominantly characterised by surface and subsurface stone artefact scatters, with some culturally modified trees also scattered across the landscape. In the case of the project area, it is <200 m from the Parramatta River, which is the nearest major waterway documented in the locale.
- The results of the AHIMS search are congruent with regional archaeological models and show the local archaeological context is dominated by stone artefact scatters and middens, with sites clustering around major watercourses. A sampling bias towards areas subject to compliance-based heritage investigations is also evident.

### 5.2 Regional context

EMM acknowledges that many contemporary Aboriginal cultures note their custodianship of the landscape since time immemorial. From an archaeological perspective, the earliest evidence of Aboriginal people in NSW are human remains recovered from the lunette in Lake Mungo which date to ~42 ka (Bowler et al. 2003; O'Connell et al. 2018). The presence of red ochre covering the remains represents a society with significant cultural and symbolic complexity (Langley et al. 2011). Near the coastal edge, the earliest populations were found at Cranebrook Terrace, near Penrith. Here a handful of rudimentary stone tools were found in an alluvial unit, some 8 m below the current surface, which were dated to ~40 to 45 ka (Williams et al. 2017). However, it is not until ~35 ka, that regional populations appear to have become established in the Sydney Basin, and which appeared to consist of small bands of people focused mainly along major river systems, including the Hawkesbury-Nepean, Parramatta, Georges and Hunter Rivers (Hughes et al. 2014; Williams et al. 2012; 2014).

These rivers formed key ecological refuges that hunter-gatherer groups used to survive major climatic events such as the Last Glacial Maximum (21±3 ka) – a cool and arid climatic period. Well-established archaeological models suggest populations experienced a major reduction in size (by as much as 60%), and settlement contraction and abandonment across much of the continent during this time (Veth 1993; Williams et al. 2013). Although, recent research suggests that the story may be more complex than this (e.g. Tobler et al. 2017).

The terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene (~18 to 8 ka) was characterized by significant environmental change, notably the rapid inundation of much of the coastal shelf, resulting in the reduction of the continent by ~21% (~2 million km<sup>2</sup>) (Williams et al. 2018), in tandem with improving climatic conditions – the Holocene climatic optimum (Williams et al. 2015a; 2015b). More broadly, these conditions resulted in increasing population growth, expansion of ranging territories, increasing sedentism (longer patch residence time) and the beginnings of low-level food production (e.g. aquaculture), and ultimately the initiation of social and cultural groupings observed in the late Holocene (Williams et al. 2015b). Within the Sydney Basin, a large number of sites are first initiated during this time, including Burrill Lake (~20 ka), Bass Point (~17 ka), and Loggers Shelter in Mangrove Creek (~11 ka) (Bowdler 1970; Lampert 1971; Attenbrow 2004; AMBS 2006, p.87). More generally, we see a much broader range of archaeological site types occurring, such as the Roonka Flat burial ground on the banks of the Murray River within which some 147 individuals were interred through the Holocene (Pate et al. 1998), and the increasing use of marine resources. Many of the previous refuges were subject to abandonment or a re-structuring of land use (Dortch 1979; Fitzsimmons et al. 2019). These activities suggest the ability to undertake large-scale movements to mitigate environmental distress was becoming increasingly difficult and was addressed through diversification of hunter-gathering behaviours and, at least in part, technological advances and investment (Williams et al. 2015b).

The late Holocene saw significant population increase, with hunter-gatherers reaching their zenith of ~1.2 million at 0.5 ka, a tenfold increase on Pleistocene levels (Williams, 2013). Data suggests that the highest populations during this time were in the south-east of Australia. Williams et al. (2015b) suggest that this increase was likely a result of intensification of earlier technological advancements, including hafting-technology, plant and seed processing, and localised landscape management (using fire), allowing climatic downturns to be successfully weathered. These included strong arid El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions between 4 to 2 ka, and increasingly turbulent climatic conditions during the Medieval Climatic Anomaly (1.3 to 1 ka) (generally wetter) and Little Ice Age (0.3 to 0.5 ka) (generally drier) (Williams et al. 2010; 2015a). A result of these denser populations was decreasing freedom of movement and the formation of strong classificatory kinship systems, complex cultural and symbolic landscapes based on geographic totemism (the 'Dreaming'), distinctive graphic art systems, land rights in the form of ritual property, and formalized exchange networks (Williams et al. 2015a). For the Sydney Basin, these conditions resulted in a significant increase in the archaeological visibility of past Aboriginal populations, with sites occurring in a much wider range of locations, and generally indicative of a more intensive use of the landscape.

### 5.3 Overview of research in Western Sydney

Overview of research in Western Sydney the Cumberland Plain has been subject to extensive archaeological investigation since the 1940s, first as the basis for academic research and more recently for development-focussed compliance-based Cultural Resource Management projects. Despite some perceived gaps in the regional data<sup>1</sup>, we have developed a clear understanding of the local archaeological site patterning and general trends in Western Sydney.

Notably, the banks of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River formed a key focus of Aboriginal occupation in the region, and some of the earliest evidence for occupation in the Sydney region is preserved within deep sand deposits of the Cranebrook terrace. This sand unit was first investigated archaeologically by Stockton and Holland (1974) during a quarrying operation at Castlereagh (now part of the Penrith Lakes area).

<sup>1</sup> The spatial data has been supplied by Heritage NSW to EMM in May 2021. Please note that this reflects only those investigations that have been reported to Heritage NSW, and there are likely several other investigations completed that have been omitted from Heritage NSW's database (e.g. some assessments undertaken under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and assessments for Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI), State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) and State Significant Development (SSD) projects under Division 4.7 and 5.2 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.



There, they alluded to the recovery of a 'dozen' core and pebble tools at the base of the terrace in a gravel bed dating to >31,800 Before Present (BP) (Gak-3445), and in stratigraphic association with an embedded wooden log dated to 26,700+1,700/-1,500 BP (35,432–27,767 calibrated BP; Gak-2014). The terrace gained greater archaeological attention when Nanson et al. (1987) re-dated the gravel bed using a large number of radiocarbon and thermo-luminescence samples (n=20), which ultimately indicated deposition of the gravels between ~40 to 45 ka. However, the artefactual status of the pebbles, their provenance (several were in an eroded context rather than in situ) and the association between the dates (which ranged from 10 to 42 ka) and the artefacts have been sources of controversy ever since.

Archaeological investigations also demonstrate that the Hawkesbury-Nepean River was a focus of Aboriginal activity during the LGM and continued to be utilised throughout the terminal Pleistocene and Holocene periods. Archaeological excavation at Peach Tree Creek in Penrith recovered six artefacts at a depth of 3.5 to 3.9 m below ground surface dating to 9.4 ka (Williams et al. 2017), and excavations of a site at Regentville between Mulgoa Creek and the Nepean River contained artefacts that were dated to 3 to 12 ka (McDonald 1995). Frederick McCarthy (1978) also identified several 'surface workshops' along the banks of the river between Castlereagh and Emu Plains. These were large surface artefact scatters that were dominated by early reduction of pebbles derived from the Hawkesbury River. The sites were dominated by uniface pebble blanks, edge-ground implements, and percussions stones, with minor representations of microliths, and were considered to be of late Holocene age. During these times, people were using the abundant resources of the river, which included the exploitation of exposed alluvial gravel beds for lithic raw materials, and the seasonal freshwater flowing out of the Blue Mountains from summer ice melt (Williams et al. 2013).

As well as utilising the resources of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, archaeological investigations have demonstrated that Aboriginal populations focused on the resources available along the banks of South Creek, Ropes Creek, Bells Creek and Eastern Creek, and that the majority of sites in the region were occupied within the last 5,000 years (Kohen 1986; Smith 1986; McDonald et al. 1994; JMCHM 1999; 2002; 2005; McDonald 2008; White & McDonald 2010; AHMS 2015; Extent Heritage 2020b). Overall, proximity to water has been an important factor in Aboriginal site patterning, and that open artefact scatters are larger, more complex and more densely clustered along permanent creek and river lines than ephemeral drainage lines (Kohen 1986). Flood inundation also played a factor in site patterning, with there being a preference for occupation sites being located on slightly elevated terraces and slopes within ~100 m of water, but above the flood zone (Extent Heritage 2020b). Building upon several decades of research, Beth White and Jo McDonald (2010, p.29) summarised that:

Topographic and stream order variables correlate with artefact density and distribution. High artefact density concentrations may have resulted from large number of artefact discard activities and/or from intensive stone flaking. Highest artefact densities occur on terraces and lower slopes associated with 4th and 2nd order streams, especially 50–100 metres from 4th order streams. Upper slopes have sparse discontinuous artefact distributions but artefacts are still found in these landscape settings.

The archaeology of the western Cumberland Plain therefore is characterised by a cultural landscape consisting of foci of activity on slightly elevated terraces along major watercourses, against which a background low density spread of Aboriginal objects found in all undisturbed locations. This background of cultural material is generally in the order of <6/m<sup>2</sup>. Areas of extensive occupation or repeated use contained densities >45/m<sup>2</sup> and frequently higher, with densities of >150/m<sup>2</sup> being not uncommon for the largest sites (JMCHM 1999, 2002). The cultural assemblages recovered from sites in proximity to higher order streams and drainage lines tend to show evidence of both a variety of tool types and repeated occupation over time. Some of these high-density sites show evidence of knapping activities, which occur during the manufacture of stone tools. In contrast, the cultural assemblages from sites near low order drainage lines are less varied (as well as fewer in number) and appear to indicate more transient and casual occupation. However, low-density artefact scatters have been found on the surface of all landforms, including creek banks, creek terraces, flats, elevated spurs, crests ridge tops and lower and upper slopes. These results are indicative of a 'background scatter' of occupation occurring across the region with sporadic areas of intensive or repeat usage.

Finally, local availability of stone raw materials is also a key factor in Aboriginal occupation and site distribution in the region. Silcrete is irregularly distributed along ridgelines within gravel patches that represent paleochannel remnants. Thus, parts of the landscape, dictated by the geological history, were more likely to be targeted for stone procurement. The quality of silcrete differs between and within the sources due to variations in grain-size, degree of silicification, and presence of inclusions/fractures, as well as the destructive influence of bush fires on exposed cobbles, resulting in an overall low abundance of high-quality silcrete across the Cumberland Plain. Furthermore, a rind or chalky weathering cortex on many cobbles means that testing was required to assess the internal raw material quality. The difficulty in locating suitable raw material for artefact manufacture meant that when good silcrete sources were found, they were heavily targeted (Doelman et al. 2015, p.495). This contextual information provides an essential backdrop in which to understand the archaeology of the Cumberland Plain and broader patterns of landscape use – whereby the Plumpton Ridge, St Marys Formation and Rickabys Creek Gravel outcrops were heavily utilised.

Sites range from a handful of artefacts on disturbed surfaces to buried occupation sites containing hundreds and thousands of artefacts, such as in the Colebee Release Area, former Australian Defence Industries (ADI) site at Jordan Springs/Wianamatta Regional Park, and the Grange residential development west of Bells Creek (JMCHM 1997a; 1997b; 1997c; 2006a; AECOM 2015). The majority of the silcrete is thought to originate from the upper/middle slopes of Plumpton Ridge, and from major boulder and cobble outcrops along the margins of Ropes Creek. At one particular silcrete outcrop (site ADI-57) within the Wianamatta Regional Park, there is extensive evidence that this material was tested and flaked on-site (JMCHM 2006a). In addition to Aboriginal objects, there is a large quantity of natural silcrete gravels and angular fragments within and adjacent to the GPEC area. Some caution is required in the identification of silcrete artefacts due to the large quantity of naturally occurring silcrete (e.g. *Histollo Pty Ltd vs Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife Service 1997*). Other raw materials that are present in lesser quantities in artefact assemblages from the vicinity of the GPEC area are silicified tuff, chert, fine-grained volcanic, sandstone, fine grained siliceous, silicified wood and quartzite.

## 5.4 Local context

### 5.4.1 AMBS (2008) Rosehill Recycled Water Scheme – Preliminary Cultural heritage Assessment

Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS) prepared a Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment (PCHA) addressing potential Aboriginal heritage considerations for the proposed Rosehill Recycled Water Scheme. The area addressed by the report was a linear alignment traversing the Parramatta, Bankstown, Fairfield and Holroyd LGAs. At its closest point, the alignment ran approximately 8 km south-west of the project area, at Camellia (east of Parramatta). On the basis of existing site patterns, the ACHA predicted that open camp sites (i.e. artefact scatters) are the most common site types recorded in the area; these sites are most likely to be found within 200 m of freshwater sources.

The ACHA found that rockshelters and grinding grooves are also fairly common in the area, although the occurrence of these site types largely depends on the presence of sandstone geology and moderate to steep relief. Finally, the ACHA observed that most sites were located in proximity to freshwater creeks, thereby indicating that undisturbed creek corridors are likely to be archaeologically sensitive. Indeed, Duck Creek between Shirley and Deniehy Streets, Rosehill (approximately 4.5 km south-west of the project area), was found to be archaeologically sensitive due to low levels of disturbance and the presence of fresh water.

#### 5.4.2 Comber Consultants Pty Ltd (2009) Sydney Metro Network Stage 2 (Central – Westmead) – Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment

In 2009, Comber Consultants Pty Ltd (Comber) undertook an ACHA for Stage 2 of the Sydney Metro Network project, stretching from Central Station in the CBD (approximately 14.5 km south-east of the project area) to Westmead Station in Western Sydney (8 km south-west of the project area). The ACHA involved a desktop assessment and targeted archaeological field survey of areas proposed for impacts caused by the establishment of stabling yards, work sites, etc. The desktop review found that a high number of Aboriginal sites had been recorded at Westmead and Parramatta (to the west and south-west of the project area), and that the location of these sites conformed to established archaeological patterns in Sydney; that is, most sites are expected to be on elevated ground in proximity to reliable sources of fresh water. Site locations along the broader alignment from Westmead to Central stations also followed this pattern.

The archaeological survey found that, across the proposed metro alignment between Broadway and Homebush (including much of the Inner West area), modern development had likely destroyed any previously existing archaeological material. In contrast, areas within Rosehill and Parramatta proposed for use in the Sydney Metro Network were found to retain Aboriginal sites and areas with the potential for them to occur.

This conclusion was reached largely on the identification of undisturbed areas as well as the results of previous test excavations carried out by Jo McDonald in 2005, who recovered 198 stone artefacts in the Parramatta CBD during an archaeological test excavation program. Comber does not refer to Westmead (the station closest to the current project area) in their discussion of archaeological patterning.

#### 5.4.3 The City of Ryde Council (2011) City of Ryde Aboriginal Site Management Report

The City of Ryde Council completed a management plan addressing all registered Aboriginal sites within the LGA boundary in 2011. This study is immediately adjacent to the current study area. Wharf Road is the divisional boundary between The City of Ryde LGA (eastern side of Wharf Road) and The City of Parramatta LGA (western side of Wharf Road). This report aimed to document, re-identify, and plan for the conservation of all known Aboriginal sites within the LGA. Excluding sites in national parks, as of 2011, a total of 56 Aboriginal heritage sites had been registered in the LGA. Fieldwork carried out as part of this study aimed to re-identify and monitor the condition of these sites. The study divided the LGA into three discrete areas: Area 1, corresponding to the Lane Cove River corridor in the north; Area 2, corresponding to the central plateau; and Area 3, which is immediately adjacent to current project area and comprises the southern edge of the LGA along the Parramatta River. Areas 1 and 3 were dominated by sandstone geology and contained site types commonly associated with this environmental feature (including rockshelters, rock art and grinding grooves); Area 3 was also found to contain a higher frequency of shell midden sites. In contrast, Area 2 exhibited mostly shale geology, and only a single isolated stone artefact was registered in this area. The presence of shale geology as well as the high level of development in this locale contributed to a weaker degree of archaeological preservation in Area 2.

The report concluded that most sites did not require extensive management measures, although regular monitoring (annually, at minimum) was recommended. This was particularly the case for rockshelters and midden sites located close to residential and recreational spaces, which may be put under increased deterioration pressure as a result.

#### 5.4.4 Curio Projects (2020) 20 Waterview Street Putney –Aboriginal Test Excavation report (AHIP 4643)

In 2022, Curio Projects Pty Ltd undertook an Aboriginal archaeological test excavation for 20 Waterview Street, Putney, NSW (approximately 3 km south-east of the project area). The test excavation followed management recommendations provided in an ACHA completed by Curio in 2020, coupled with the approval of Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) #4644. The test program covered an area of 7.25 m<sup>2</sup> comprising 17 test units (test pits) across two targeted areas located in the north and east of the property. A total of 53 stone artefacts were identified, 49 of which were recovered from Test Unit 8 in the east of the site. The lithic concentration identified from Test Unit 8 revealed a small-scale density of silcrete artefacts interpreted to be a one-off knapping (stone artefact manufacture) event considered to have occurred while moving across the landscape. The presence of these site types, particularly those associated with Test Unit 8 indicated ephemeral evidence of Aboriginal movement across the landscape along the Parramatta River.

#### 5.4.5 EMM Consulting Pty Ltd (2021) Wharf Road subdivision Melrose Park, NSW – Aboriginal due diligence assessment

EMM completed an Aboriginal due diligence assessment in 2021, for proposed development works located at 38–42 and 84 Wharf Road, Melrose Park NSW, located approximately <100 m north of the project area. The investigation involved a desktop assessment combined with a targeted archaeological field survey of the site with the aims of characterising the landscape to further aid predictions of surface and/or subsurface Aboriginal artefactual material that potentially will be impacted by the project. The desktop review found that Aboriginal archaeological sites are expected to be on elevated ground in proximity to reliable sources of fresh water, like that of the Parramatta River. However, the shallow soil landscape coupled with the levels of historical disturbance raises concerns regarding the survivability of Aboriginal cultural materials within the landscape.

The assessment identified that the site did not contain any landforms considered to indicate Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity, and subsequently, no Aboriginal cultural materials were observed. The absence of key landforms of archaeological interest combined with the significant levels of historical disturbance considered the site to be of low archaeological sensitivity.

#### 5.4.6 RPS (2022) Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 Environmental Impact Statement – Preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

RPS undertook a preliminary Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for Stage 2 of the Parramatta Light Rail alignment spanning from Camellia (approximately 4 km south-west of the project area) through Melrose Park to Carter Street precinct (approximately 4 km south of the project area). The study area intersected with the current project area. The preliminary ACHA involved a desktop assessment and targeted archaeological field survey concerning areas of potential archaeological sensitivity that may be impacted due to construction and work sites. The desktop review found that a high number of Aboriginal sites and materials had been recovered following the Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1 test excavations, where suitable substrate (the Parramatta Sand Body) remains intact below surface modern and historical levels of disturbance. On the basis of existing site patterns, the ACHA predicted that open camp sites (i.e. artefact scatters) are the most common site type recorded in the area; these sites are most likely to be found on elevated ground within 200 m of freshwater sources.

The archaeological survey was divided into nine survey units (SUs) comprising Melrose Park – Ermington Boat Ramp (SU1) and, Waratah Street (SU2), Ermington – Ken Newman Park (SU3), Rydalmere – Broadoaks Park and surrounds (SU4) and Rydalmere Wharf (SU5), Camellia – Thackeray Street and mangroves (SU6), Wenworth Point – Hill Road and river walk (SU7), Sydney Olympic Park – Haslams Creek (SU8) and Brickpit (SU9).



The survey identified no Aboriginal cultural materials within the landscape as a result of significant modern and historical disturbance across much of the light rail alignment. However, pockets of undisturbed parklands and nature strips within proximity to a river or creek were observed, thereby indicating eight SUs likely to be archaeologically sensitive. Four SUs (SU1 – the project area, SU2, SU5 and SU8) were identified to be of high archaeological potential, as these locations were within 200 m of freshwater sources and in proximity to a known Aboriginal heritage site. This included the unregistered PAD “PLR2 PAD2 Melrose Park Public School Oval”, which was identified over the western half of the school oval. Over the course of the project, the alignment changed and PLR2 PAD2 was no longer going to be impacted, so the report made no further recommendations that the area be investigated. Despite its identification, the PAD was not registered on the AHIMS database. Under Heritage NSW requirements, this absence of an AHIMS classification is irrelevant and the presence within the site triggers the requirements for further Aboriginal heritage investigation where impacts to the area of PAD are proposed. The remaining four SUs (SU3, SU4, SU7 and SU9) were located at a greater distance from water sources yet were considered to be of moderate archaeological sensitivity due to the interpretation that these areas could potentially contain migration routes inland.

Source: RPS (2022)

#### 5.4.7 Urbis (2022) Ryde Hospital Redevelopment (Concept and Stage 1) – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

In 2022, Urbis completed an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed redevelopment of the Ryde Hospital Campus located at 1 Denistone Road, Denistone NSW located approximately 3 km north-east of the project area comprised of a desktop assessment and a single-day site inspection. The desktop review found that the area has been subjected to varying levels of historical and modern disturbance and vegetation clearance, indicating a high concentration of ground disturbance apparent in the northern portion of the site compared to that of the low level of disturbance noted in the southern portion of the area. Despite the levels of ground disturbance, the deep depth of the West Pennant Hills soil profile mapped in the southern portion of the site, indicate that any remnant Aboriginal cultural materials within the landscape are predicted to have been significantly impacted as a result of modern and historical development.

The archaeological site inspection identified no Aboriginal cultural materials observed within the landscape. Observations of remnant mature vegetation (trees and tree stumps) present in the southern portion of the site indicate the potential for culturally modified trees. However, thorough inspection of the mature trees and tree stumps were not undertaken due to limited visibility provided by a thick non-native undergrowth and climbing vines, thereby, determining the southern portion to be of moderate potential for modified trees. The assessment further identified that the presence of Aboriginal cultural materials within the landscape is considered to be unlikely across both the northern and southern areas of the site.

**Figure 5.1      Previous archaeological studies in the region**



## 5.5 Heritage registers

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database is managed by Heritage NSW and includes a location and description of Aboriginal objects and sites recorded through academic research and cultural resource management (see Appendix C for further explanation of Aboriginal site features). EMM conducted a search of the AHIMS register on 7 June 2023 (ID: 789329). The search covered an area of approximately 49 km<sup>2</sup> centred on the project area and focussed on the northern bank of the Parramatta River (Appendix A). The search identifies Aboriginal sites or places registered within the project area; and aids prediction for the project footprint showing the frequency and distribution of Aboriginal site types in the broader landscape. A copy of the AHIMS search is provided in Appendix B.

The AHIMS search identified 33 Aboriginal sites, which are categorised in Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 and their locations presented in Figure 5.2. Of these, one site has been determined to be destroyed (AHIMS #45-6-3868), one has been deemed partially destroyed (AHIMS #45-6-4076), and two have been determined not to be Aboriginal sites (#45-5-1005 and #45-6-2636). A fifth site has restrictions applied to the site card (#45-6-3022). This recording reflects an Aboriginal burial known as “Bennelong’s Grave”. A request for additional information was sought from Heritage NSW on 7 June 2023, and it was confirmed that the site was not within the current project area. Although the burial location details are withheld, it has been widely reported that the burial site is in Putney (Curio Projects 2020, p.24).

No previously recorded Aboriginal objects or sites were identified in the project area. The closest recorded sites are located approximately 400 m south of the project area and comprise of shell midden sites along the mangrove-lined foreshore of the Parramatta River at the end of Wharf Road, “Ermington SHL1” and “Ermington SHL2” (AHIMS #45-6-4079 and #45-6-4078).

An additional search on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) and the Australian Heritage Database (which includes listings for the WHL, NHL and CHL) was undertaken on the 14 November 2023 for registered Aboriginal places listed in or around the project area. The search identified no previously recorded Aboriginal places listed in the project area.

A range of site types are represented in the search area. The most commonly recorded site type in the region are stone artefact sites (n=15, 50%) and may also be associated with other sites such as potential archaeological deposit/s (PAD), or shell middens. Shell middens are the next most frequent site type in the area (n=6, 20%). Rockshelters and grinding grooves are also a prevalent site type within the search area (n=5, ~17%). The representation of rockshelters within the dataset is reflective of the prevalence of sandstone geology in the wider regional area around the project area. No sandstone outcrops are known to be present within the project area.

Several spatial patterns can be clearly observed in the dataset for the wider regional area. Broadly speaking stone artefact sites are located along riparian corridors of rivers, creeks, and gullies, and a predominance of shell midden, grinding grooves and engravings along the Parramatta River foreshore. This pattern can be attributed to three factors:

- past Aboriginal people are known to have targeted areas close to reliable sources of freshwater for habitation
- modern development in riparian corridors has occurred at much lower levels than in other locales, thereby contributing to the preservation of sites that have been identified by regional or LGA-wide archaeological studies (Section 5.4)
- the higher prevalence of outcropping sandstone geology to the north, which has resulted in landforms requisite for the presence of sites such as rockshelters and rock art.

**Table 5.1** AHIMS site types and frequencies within the search area

Site type	Number of instances	Percentage of the total
Artefact (Isolated find)	2	6.67 %
Artefact (medium density scatter)	1	3.34%
Artefact (undefined)	11	36.67%
Artefact (undefined); Potential archaeological deposit	1	3.34%
Grinding groove	2	6.67%
Midden	5	16.67%
Midden; Artefact (medium density scatter)	1	3.34%
Potential archaeological deposit	1	3.34%
Rock engraving	1	3.34%
Rockshelter with art	1	3.34%
Rockshelter with deposit	3	10.00%
Restricted site (Bennelong's Grave)	1	3.34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 5.2** Condensed summary of main site types and frequencies within the search area

Site type	Number of instances	Percentage
Stone Artefact	15	50.00%
Midden	6	20.00%
Rockshelter	3	10.00%
Grinding Groove	2	6.67%
Potential Archaeological Deposit	1	3.33%
Restricted site (Bennelong's Grave)	1	3.33%
Rock Engraving	1	3.33%
Rockshelter with Art	1	3.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 5.2      AHIMS search result

## 5.6 Predictive model

A predictive model of Aboriginal site location has been devised based on the data presented in the preceding sections. In summary, the model has been formed by an analysis of:

- landscape features in the project area and surrounds (Section 3)
- pre-colonial period ecological conditions (Sections 3 and 5)
- advice from Aboriginal knowledge holders including RAPs (Section 4.4)
- ethno-historical information about Aboriginal life and material culture (Section 4)
- the type and distribution of Aboriginal sites described in previous reports and AHIMS data (Section 5).

Based on the information presented above, repeated occupation of the project area by Aboriginals in the past is considered likely. Of note is that while cultural material is often found in the vicinity of water, it is more commonly located on third and fourth order creeks, and less so on smaller tributaries. As such, cultural material would be more likely found on the edges of the project area in close proximity to Parramatta River rather than the lesser waterways near the project area.

The most common site type in and around the project area are stone artefact sites, both surface and subsurface. These stone artefact sites are frequently found in varying densities, ranging from <5 artefacts/m<sup>2</sup> to >45 artefacts/m<sup>2</sup>, the closer in proximity to a high-order watercourse (such as the Parramatta River to the south of the project area). Several shell midden sites have been identified within the region along the foreshores of the Parramatta River often constrained to sandy areas and rock platforms above the tidal mangrove margins. These Aboriginal sites are likely reflective of past visitation and/or occupation.

Available data also suggests a “background scatter” of such artefactual material is present at low densities across western Sydney, with higher densities found most commonly near higher order watercourses and at the confluence of multiple waterways. Background scatter of stone artefacts is generally considered to be reflective of the ephemeral use of a given locale.

Conversely, sites such as rockshelters, rock art and grinding grooves are not expected to occur in the project area, as the presence of these sites is correlated to outcropping sandstone and moderate to steep relief, neither of which are present in the project area.

In summary, if cultural materials are present in the project area, it is expected to occur in the form of surface and/or subsurface stone artefacts at low densities (<5 artefacts/m<sup>2</sup>) and shell midden sites (Table 5.3).

**Table 5.3 Predictive model of site location**

Site type	Likelihood	Predictions for project area
Open artefact sites and isolated finds	Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will be the most common site type in the project area and may occur in primary and secondary contexts.</li><li>• Will occur in higher concentrations on elevated landforms within 100 m of major waterways. Density expected to drop off between 100-200 m from waterways.</li><li>• Silcrete is expected to dominate any recovered assemblages, and other materials such as chert, quartz or IMTC may also be present.</li></ul>
Hearths	Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These sites generally leave only ephemeral traces in the landscape and are infrequently identified. They would occur in conjunction with any stone artefact scatters also present in the project area.</li></ul>

Site type	Likelihood	Predictions for project area
Middens	Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May occur within the project area in an uneven or highly clustered manner. Middens in the region tend to be associated with waterways, from which shellfish resources would have been obtained. The project area is within 200 m of the main arm of the Parramatta River, in which middens in this part of Sydney have been previously recorded.</li> </ul>
Culturally modified trees	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation clearance has occurred across the site and has resulted in the removal of large, mature native trees suitable for cultural modification.</li> </ul>
Grinding grooves and grind stones	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existence of these sites depends on the presence of sandstone outcrops, which is absent on the topographic landform in which the project area is located.</li> </ul>
Burials	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burials typically occur where deep sandy deposits are present; the project area does not contain this type of soil profile.</li> </ul>
Stone arrangements	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stone arrangements are sensitive to historical disturbances caused by farming, vegetation clearance and development activities. These activities have occurred in the project area, and a previous survey did not identify any stone arrangements. It is unlikely that future field investigations will identify undocumented stone arrangements.</li> </ul>
Quarries (stone or ochre)	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local environmental characteristics identified by the desktop assessment do not suggest sources of suitable stone raw materials are present in the project area.</li> </ul>
Rock art, shelters and engravings	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existence of these sites depends on the presence of sandstone outcrops, which is absent on the topographic landform in which the project area is located.</li> </ul>

## 6 Field investigation

### 6.1 Key findings

- Field observations confirm and validate the desktop assessment that much of the project area has been substantively disturbed by past activities, including cutting and levelling activities, and building construction.
- An archaeological field survey was undertaken as part of the on site investigations, and identified that much of the school exhibited limited natural soil profiles; and no cultural materials were observed. All vegetation on the site is confirmed as being recent, and no cultural modifications were noted or considered probable. The previously identified PAD (PLR22 PAD2) was inspected at the south western boundary of the project area, and evidenced limited disturbance, indicating the possible survival of subsurface cultural material in this location.
- An archaeological test excavation was undertaken between 22 to 26 April 2024 focussing on proposed development areas. The test excavation consisted of 44 test pits (0.25 m<sup>2</sup>), positioned within a ~10 m grid which was altered in some areas to avoid school infrastructure, particularly within the eastern half of the project area. Excavations extended to depths of 60cm below the current surface, and into a B horizon of culturally sterile brown-orange clay with sandstone inclusions.
- Seven stone artefacts were recovered from the excavation, identified at depths of 30 to 40 cm below the current surface. They were dominated by red silcrete and retained characteristics of use in the late Holocene (<5,000 years ago) such as burning the raw material prior to manufacture. Spatially, these were identified within four closely spaced test pits which exhibited disturbed primary contexts.

### 6.2 Archaeological survey

#### 6.2.1 Approach and methods

The survey was undertaken in conjunction with the test excavation program and aimed to:

- identify landforms that may have higher potential to contain burial Aboriginal cultural deposits
- identify evidence of previous disturbance that may have resulted in partial or complete removal of Aboriginal objects that may have been present
- identify and record any previously recorded or newly identified surface Aboriginal objects or sites present in the project area, as well as any cultural values that are associated with the site.

The field investigation was undertaken during designated school holidays and encompassed all areas of the school property including playgrounds, landscaped areas, breezeways and carparking areas. The areas beneath demountable structures were also inspected, but classrooms and other buildings were not entered.

The pedestrian survey was undertaken by Amber Morgan (EMM Archaeologist) with representatives from the Long Gully Cultural Services, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group, and the Wailwan Aboriginal Group (Table 6.1, Figure 6.1). Participants were spaced ~ 5 m apart, and the team targeted ground exposures, mature trees and other features where cultural material may be expected. It must be noted that archaeological surveys are inherently limited by ground surface visibility conditions and therefore any survey, despite the intensity of survey effort and spacing of survey transects, is considered to only *sample* the archaeological landscape. The archaeological survey did not aim to cover the entire ground surface within the project footprint, but rather to characterise the archaeological landscape.

The effectiveness of the survey is determined through recording and analysing survey coverage data. It is evaluated for its effectiveness in identifying the distribution of Aboriginal objects across the landscape, taking into account the potential for archaeological deposits. The percentage of the ground surface exposed in each landform and the visible ground surface within exposures (as ground exposures are often obscured by vegetation, gravels, etc.) influences the survey results. For example, an archaeologically sensitive landform surface that is highly exposed by erosion is likely to reveal Aboriginal objects, whereas a similar landform that is thickly grassed will obscure surface artefacts if they are present. Overall, calculation of effective survey coverage is used to estimate not only how much area was physically surveyed, but also how favourable the survey conditions were for the identification of Aboriginal sites.

Site recording was completed in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010a). Survey transects were recorded as tracks on GPS units and detailed information about each transect recorded in field notebooks.

**Table 6.1**      **Aboriginal representatives involved in the survey**

Organisation	Representative
Long Gully Cultural Services	Ethan Trewlynn
Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Domonic Wilkins
Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Brad Leslie
Wailwan Aboriginal Group	Phil Boney

## 6.2.2 Results

Due to the modified nature of the project area, the survey was divided into two survey units. These survey units are broadly landform based, with Survey Unit A encompassing the gently sloping grassed oval in the western half of the project area; and Survey Unit B encompassing the upper slope and crest in the eastern half of the project area (Figure 6.1). The transects totalled 940 m in length. Overall, ground surface exposure was generally poor with an average visibility of 25%, and an effective coverage of 4.5% (Table 6.2). Both survey unit transects are described below.

Survey Unit A was situated in the western portion of the project area, encompassing an area of approximately 1.13 ha and on a gently inclined slope that slopes down to the west (Plate 6.1). This Survey Unit also includes the entirety of PLR2 PAD2 which was identified by RPS in 2022. This area was characterised by open playing fields, concrete/bitumen pathways, and garden beds and tree-lined boundaries. Isolated and minor areas of disturbance have occurred in this area which aligns with the historical imagery. These include:

- a cricket pitch which has been cut into the centre of the oval alongside the establishment of goal posts at the northern and southern end of the field
- a bitumen footpath that has been established and runs east—west, just north of the oval. A small depression that runs parallel to this path was also noted and was thought to be as a result of earthmoving needed level the adjacent walkway
- several garden beds and landscaping has also been implemented along the perimeter of the site.



The visibility in this survey unit was generally moderate with several exposures and around the tree line providing good visibility while the dense, short grass cover over the entirety of the oval and surrounds provided poor visibility. Several small exposures were observed in the south-west corner of the site, in ring circles around the bases of mature native trees. Though partially obscured by leaf litter, where soils were observed, they were identified as a silty clay with frequent fine gravels. It is unclear whether these soils were truncated subsoils (i.e. natural) or part of imported fill.

Survey Unit B was situated in the eastern portion of the project area, encompassing an area of approximately 1.23 ha and situated within a gently inclined upper slope and crest. This area was characterised by established buildings and associated pathways, demountable classrooms, concrete and bitumen courts and hardstand, and garden beds and tree-lined boundaries (Plate 6.2 to Plate 6.6). This unit has been subject to heavy disturbance and modification as areas of cut and fill were identified across the site. The original contour of the site prior to the construction of the school appears to have been a gentle slope, from the higher point in the east to a natural depression in the west of the school boundary. However, the eastern section of the site appears to have been cut out in order to create a level terrace for the carpark and main school buildings. This trend continues across the survey unit (e.g. Plate 6.3), where the natural topography has been altered in order to create level areas for pathways, buildings and recreation spaces. When comparing the site with recent historical aerials it shows a demountable classroom, located on the western boundary of the survey unit, which has since been removed. The ground where this demountable once stood appeared to have been subject to little to no disturbance with the original slope appearing to have been somewhat maintained. The visibility in Survey Unit B was generally low, with majority of the ground surface covered in hardstand, lawns, and/or building footprints.

No Aboriginal objects were observed during the pedestrian survey. All trees were inspected, and none exhibited cultural modifications. However, due to a portion of the site being in close proximity to the Paramatta River (<200 m) and the low visibility over majority of the eastern half of the site, a test excavation program was recommended to further characterise both PLR2 PAD2 and the eastern portion of the site to determine the potential for subsurface Aboriginal objects (Figure 6.2).

**Table 6.2**      **Transect data for the survey**

Transect	Length (m)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Landform	Exposure (%)	Visibility (%)	Effective Coverage (m <sup>2</sup> )	Effective Coverage (%)	Aboriginal sites identified
Survey Unit A	455	11,375	Modified moderate slope	20	40	910	8.0	0
Survey Unit B	484	12,100	Modified gentle slope and crest	10	10	121	1.0	0
<b>Average</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>11,375</b>	-	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>515.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>23,475</b>	-	<b>10-20</b>	<b>10-40-</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>0</b>



**Plate 6.1** SU A and PLR2 PAD 2, view north showing playing field and the gentle slope



**Plate 6.2** SU B showing basketball court and developed school buildings dominating the eastern portion of the site, view south-east



**Plate 6.3** SU B showing bitumen covered playing courts, view east



**Plate 6.4** Example of garden area and undercover area, view north-west



**Plate 6.5** Example of gardens and shrubbery in the eastern portion of the school, view south



**Plate 6.6** SU B showing bitumen staff parking on south-east corner of project area, view east

Figure 6.1      Survey transects

## 6.3 Test excavations

### 6.3.1 Approach and methods

EMM conducted archaeological test excavations in the project area with the assistance of Aboriginal participants over four days between 22 April 2024- 26 April 2024. These works were undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010) and consisted of small manually dug test pits in a systematic grid. The excavation was directed by Georgia Burnett (EMM Senior Archaeologist), with the archaeological team consisting of Amber Morgan, Otto Dicpetris, Greg Ho Sing and Samuel Elias (EMM Archaeologists). Aboriginal participants from the following groups, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group, Long Gully Cultural Services and Wailwan Aboriginal Group participated in the field program (Table 6.3). Deerubbin LALC was also invited to participate, but were not able to provide a field representative for the field program timing.

The primary aims of the excavation were to:

- identify the existence and assess the extent of any subsurface archaeological deposits associated with PLR2 PAD2
- identify, map and characterise the nature, age, extent, integrity and significance of the Aboriginal cultural material within the project area
- collect data to answer the following research questions:
  - What are the environmental characteristics associated with the distribution of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the project area?
  - What are the cultural, social and public values associated with the Aboriginal archaeological resource within the project area?
  - How should the Aboriginal sites in the region be conserved and managed in future?
- better assess the significance and historical meaning of the cultural materials that exist within the project area so that future archaeological investigation can advance our understanding of past Aboriginal cultural behaviour and environmental adaptation
- direct future heritage activities and mitigation measures (if required) for the project footprint
- allow for regular functioning of the school with minimum disruption to the children near the excavations. This was developed in consultation with Savills, SINSW, and CWPS personnel.

Archaeological test excavations were implemented in accordance with Requirements 16 and 17 of the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010). In summary, the following methods were adopted for the excavation:

- all test excavation pits were spatially located using digital site recording forms created by EMM on the Survey123 application for ArcGIS (ESRI)
- manual excavation of 50 cm x 50 cm test pits (0.25 m<sup>2</sup>) in a systematic grid (at 10 m spacing) across areas of archaeological interest within the impact footprint
- excavation of units in 10 cm spits



- manual excavation continued to either:
  - i) the base of the cultural deposits
  - ii) the depth of the underlying geology, or
  - iii) the maximum depth possible via hand excavation (~80 cm)
- wet sieving of all manually excavated material through a 5 mm sieve
- soil profiles were recorded in accordance with the Code of Practice, including scaled drawings, photographs, and written descriptions.

**Table 6.3 Aboriginal representatives involved in the test excavation**

Organisation	Representative
Long Gully Cultural Services	Ethan Trewlynn
Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Domonik Wilkins
Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Brad Leslie
Wailwan Aboriginal Group	Phil Boney

### 6.3.2 Results

Forty seven test pits (TPs) were originally set out on linear transects at 10 m spacing over three discrete locations, and adjusted as necessary at the discretion of the field team due to existing disturbances, trees, buildings, etc. (Plate 6.7 to Plate 6.16). Three proposed test pits, TPs 10, 17, and 32 were in locations with nearby services and had to be omitted from the test excavation program. The remaining excavated 44 test pits totalled coverage of 11 m<sup>2</sup> to an average depth of 30 cm.

Of these three discrete locations, two of these were situated within the PAD (PLR2 PAD2). These include TPs 1 to 7, located in the northern half of the PAD, and TPs 34 to 47 located in the middle to southern portion of the PAD (Figure 6.2). The third discrete location encompasses the whole eastern portion of the site and contained TPs 8 to 32. TPs 22, 23 and 30 were placed atop the school's basketball court, with the concrete being cut to provide access to the soil below.

The excavations indicate that while there are pockets of in situ duplex soil profiles, much of the eastern portion of the project area has been previously disturbed and/or truncated. Generally, the soil profile observed across the project area consisted of the following units.

1. **Brown sandy loam (A<sub>1</sub> horizon):** a humic layer of weakly compacted fine-grained sandy loam, exhibiting varying quantities of organic material that impact the gradient of pigmentation. Inclusions within this layer include rootlets. This layer is potentially historic in nature, having possibly been imported during the schools construction/landscaping.
2. **Historic fill (A<sub>2</sub> horizon):** a historic fill layer characterised by a diffused combination horizon, which exhibits characteristics of both A<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>1</sub> horizons. Inclusions include brick, pottery, glass, concrete, asphalt, and white masonry sand. The latter inclusion having been identified in proximity to school infrastructure.
3. **Brown sandy clay loam (B<sub>1</sub> horizon):** a firm organic layer of sandy loam with a vertically diffused quantity of clay, measuring roughly 10 to 30 cm in depth. Inclusions within this layer include rootlets, moderate roots, and small sub-rounded ironstone pockets.

4. **Brown-orange clay (B<sub>2</sub> horizon):** a culturally sterile layer of brown-orange clay, sporadically exhibiting sandstone colluvium. Identified at depths of ~40 cm, with a lighter colour differentiation identified within higher gradients in less saturated deposits. Inclusions include moderate roots, small sub-rounded ironstone pockets, and sandstone cobbles.

Introduced fill was evident in shallower deposits, mainly within test pits in the eastern portion of the site (Plate 6.8, Plate 6.11, Plate 6.15). Additionally, three pieces of ceramic and five pieces of glass were identified below the introduced fill. Further research is being undertaken by EMM heritage specialists to determine their possible age, however there is no evidence to suggest these objects are associated with Aboriginal land use across the study area. Less fill was noted in the western portion of the site, with deposits exhibiting dark brown loam and diffused quantities of clay (Plate 6.9). A largely saturated deposit of clay-loam was identified in lower gradients in the north-western portion of the site, this area is believed to be subject to run off (Plate 6.7).

Excavations within PLR2 PAD2 revealed minimal disturbance. While inclusions of glass and ceramic fragments were identified in these areas, the A<sub>2</sub> horizon of historic fill was not clearly evident. This area consisted largely of a B<sub>2</sub> horizon to the north, identified within topsoils to depths of 40 cm, and a B<sub>1</sub> horizon to the south, also identified within topsoils to depths of 40 cm. The A<sub>2</sub> horizon of fill was largely identified in the eastern portion of the project area in proximity to school infrastructure, identified in topsoils to depths of 30 cm. The A<sub>2</sub> horizon was identified in test pits located in the eastern portion of the school and beneath the schools concreted courts, this included TPs 22, 23, and 30. Therefore, this A<sub>2</sub> horizon of fill has likely been utilised to create a level foundation for school infrastructure.

A total of seven stone artefacts were recovered from four test pits (TPs 40, 42, 43 and 45) (Figure 6.2). All seven artefacts were located in test pits that were within 200 m of the Paramatta River (TPs 40, 42, 43, 45). Cultural material was recovered from depths between 0 to 30 cm below surface. A majority of the artefacts were found in Spit 2 (n=3, 42.8%), followed by Spit 3 (n=2, 28.6%) and Spit 1 (n=2, 28.6%).

The assemblage consists of broken flakes (n=4) and cores (n=3) (Plate 6.17 to Plate 6.18). Five of the seven artefacts were manufactured from silcrete (fine-grained silcrete n=4, matrix silcrete n=1) while quartz and basalt make up the remainder. The fine-grained silcrete also has evidence of being burnt prior to flaking, a common practice during the mid- late Holocene period. The presence of cores in the assemblage was interpreted as the use of raw material rationing and the need to extend the use-life of the core (Doleman 2024). The closest known exposures of silcrete within the region is at Plumpton Ridge, ~20 km west of the project area. Overall, the assemblage presents the common characteristic of raw materials found within the Cumberland Plain and stone artefact technologies of the late-mid Holocene.

Based on these findings, part of the PAD can be redefined as discrete low density artefact scatter, MPPS-AS1.



**Table 6.4      Test excavation data**

Test Pit #	Easting (GDA2020 Z56)	Northing (GDA2020 Z56)	Area of excavation (m <sup>2</sup> )	Depth excavated (cm)	Number of spits (n)	Number of artefacts (n)	Extrapolated artefact density per m <sup>2</sup> (n)
TP1	321452	6256702	0.25	40	4	-	0
TP2	321472	6256705	0.25	40	4	-	0
TP3	321484	6256706	0.25	40	4	-	0
TP4	321493	6256711	0.25	40	4	-	0
TP5	321506	6256709	0.25	45	5	-	0
TP6	321518	6256717	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP7	321542	6256718	0.25	35	4	-	0
TP8	321550	6256752	0.25	40	4	-	0
TP9	321551	6256728	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP 10	NOT EXCAVATED						
TP11	321566	6256703	0.25	45	5	-	0
TP12	321567	6256754	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP13	321571	6256744	0.25	15	2	-	0
TP14	321583	6256739	0.25	10	1	-	0
TP15	321592	6256761	0.25	20	2	-	0
TP16	321593	6256745	0.25	10	1	-	0
TP17	NOT EXCAVATED						
TP18	321612	6256780	0.25	20	2	-	0
TP19	321606	6256758	0.25	15	2	-	0
TP20	321620	6256747	0.25	25	3	-	0
TP21	321616	6256734	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP22	321603	6256721	0.25	15	2	-	0
TP23	321595	6256714	0.25	20	2	-	0
TP24	321620	6256704	0.25	25	3	-	0
TP25	321636	6256703	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP26	321630	6256694	0.25	35	4	-	0
TP27	321625	6256689	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP28	321636	6256675	0.25	55	6	-	0
TP29	321597	6256663	0.25	25	3	-	0
TP30	321593	6256685	0.25	20	2	-	0

Test Pit #	Easting (GDA2020 Z56)	Northing (GDA2020 Z56)	Area of excavation (m <sup>2</sup> )	Depth excavated (cm)	Number of spits (n)	Number of artefacts (n)	Extrapolated artefact density per m <sup>2</sup> (n)
TP31	321575	6256686	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP33	NOT EXCAVATED						
TP32	321572	6256652	0.25	10	1	-	0
TP34	321550	6256701	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP35	321562	6256687	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP36	321547	6256682	0.25	20	2	-	0
TP37	321536	6256690	0.25	35	4	-	0
TP38	321551	6256659	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP39	321545	6256659	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP40	321531	6256654	0.25	35	4	2	8
TP41	321525	6256655	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP42	321512	6256651	0.25	30	3	2	8
TP43	321516	6256645	0.25	30	3	1	4
TP44	321528	6256646	0.25	30	3	-	0
TP45	321538	6256652	0.25	40	4	2	8
TP46	321543	6256646	0.25	20	2	-	0
TP47	321539	6256640	0.25	8	1	-	0
<b>Average</b>	-	-	-	<b>0.29</b>	<b>3</b>	-	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>12.84</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>28-</b>



**Plate 6.7** TP 2, north section. Relatively undisturbed soil profile that is becoming wetter with depth. Situated on the lower slope



**Plate 6.8** TP 29, north section. Disturbed soil profile with modern brick and concrete broken slabs at base of pit



**Plate 6.9** TP 41, north section. Showing natural soil profile where artefacts were recovered. Same as TP 40-45



**Plate 6.10** TP 41, view north towards TP 1-7. Showing gentle incline of playing field



**Plate 6.11** TP 30, north section. Showing a highly disturbed soil profile, with mixed fill and gravel to level out the above surface



**Plate 6.12** TP 30, view north towards TP 22 and 22 (to the east and indicated by orange bollards)





**Plate 6.13** TP 31, north section. Showing introduced fill, including yellow sand and asphalt and brick inclusions within below the sandy clay loam



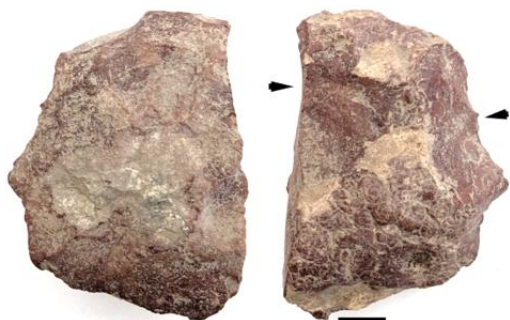
**Plate 6.14** TP 31, view north. Showing proximity to playground and hard stand



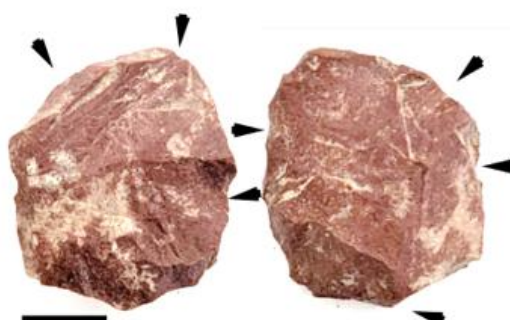
**Plate 6.15** TP 14, north section. Showing thin topsoils overlaying introduced fill of mottled clay with porcelain and brick fragments



**Plate 6.16** TP 14, view north towards school buildings



**Plate 6.17** Bi-directional core showing heat shattered surface (left) and flaked surface with water-rolled cortex on right. Scale=1 cm (Doleman 2024)



**Plate 6.18** Radial-bifacial core. Arrows indicates platforms. Scale=1 cm (Doleman 2024)

Figure 6.2      Test pit locations

**Figure 6.3      Excavation results**



## 7 The archaeological resource

Previous archaeological studies and documented Aboriginal cultural heritage sites of the Cumberland Plain have all provided a consistent and good understanding of the past peopling, visitation and occupation of the project area and surrounds. A combination of academic and cultural heritage management (CHM) studies all demonstrate that the region was initially peopled at least 35,000 years ago, with established populations moving along the fertile river and major creek systems (including the Paramatta River, Eastern and South Creeks). The vast majority of cultural materials recovered, however, show that use of the region was increasingly common only in the last 5,000 years as climatic conditions stabilised. Patterns of visitation across western Sydney appear to have remained seasonal and/or infrequent, likely reflecting the management of natural resources and cultural obligations to Country. Archaeological evidence suggests that people utilised a wide range of resources across the region, and especially the silcrete raw materials from the Blacktown, Riverstone and Plumpton Ridge areas. These materials were moved along the major river systems across much of the Sydney Basin.

A review of past CHM investigations and the AHIMS database indicate that cultural materials demonstrating this past behaviour are overwhelmingly in the form of surface and/or shallowly buried stone artefacts. These are typically found adjacent to reliable sources of water, and/or on elevated areas. These cultural materials are scattered throughout the landscape at varying concentrations, and sites consisting of single or <10 stone artefacts are frequently identified, reflecting the transitory/seasonal nature of activities in the region. There are occasional discoveries of deeper and/or older buried cultural material associated with major alluvial environments adjacent to major river systems. Culturally modified trees are also present in the region, although the implementation of European land-clearing practices has resulted in the loss of large swathes of mature native forest. As such, these sites are not as common as stone artefact scatters, which may still be found in disturbed contexts.

Against the potential for cultural materials, past land use and historical development activities have caused considerable disturbance to the upper soil profile (within which cultural materials may occur) across large parts of the project area. Significantly, cutting and levelling activities associated with building construction has resulted in the probable removal of several metres of material. These actions would have resulted in the wholesale removal of any characteristically shallow (<30 cm depth) topsoil deposits and cultural material (if present). Given this, areas of moderate and high disturbance, particularly in the eastern half of the project area, are considered to have a low likelihood of any cultural material being preserved in-situ.

The due diligence assessment for the site, undertaken by EMM in 2023, concluded that the project area has moderate archaeological sensitivity. The project area is located on an undulating plateau/gently sloping landform associated with the Parramatta River estuary, and a significant proportion of the project area (broadly corresponding with the playing fields area) is located within 200 m of the Parramatta River foreshore. The site contains soil deposits of the Lucas Heights soil landscape, as well as sandier deposits that may be of a fluvial origin. Although no Aboriginal objects or sites were identified within the project area during the survey, it was noted that several artefact scatter sites and shell midden sites previously been identified in close proximity to the project area - including the unregistered PAD (RPS 2022) over the western portion of the project area. A review of the environmental context and historical aeriels suggests that the project area has been subject to a limited level of historical disturbance, with the most significant impacts arising from localised building construction and associated underground services, with lesser impacts noted from de-vegetation in the historical period. It was determined that Aboriginal objects could be present in the project area, but in an uneven or highly clustered manner, with a higher likelihood of material within the PAD extent, and as such further investigation was recommended.

The findings of the test excavation demonstrated that subsurface artefact distribution across the project area is limited to within 200 m of a major watercourse, where historical disturbance is less prevalent. It has also determined that RPS's (2022) identification of a PAD in the western portion of the school site (PLR2 PAD2) can be redefined as a discrete low density artefact scatter (MPPS-AS1) (AHIMS #45-6-4125). This scatter is generally considered to be reflective of the ephemeral use of the site, which is common for this site type across most of the Cumberland Plain. Test pits in the eastern half of the school, located more than 200 m from Parramatta River, contained no artefacts which aligns with the predictive modelling outlined in Section 5.6 as there has been high levels of disturbance arising from the localised building construction and associated underground services across this portion of the site.

No culturally modified trees were identified during the investigations and no site-specific intangible cultural values were identified by the RAPs.

**Figure 7.1      Archaeological resource**

## 8 Significance assessment

### 8.1 Assessment criteria

All Aboriginal objects in NSW are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. It is recognised that the destruction of sites may be necessary to allow other activities or developments to occur. In order for the consent authority to make informed decisions on such matters, an important element of cultural resource management is determining the significance of cultural heritage places and objects to understand what may be lost; and how best it can be mitigated. However, it is highlighted that something can be of little or no significance and still be protected under the Act.

Cultural significance is outlined in Article 1.2 of the Burra Charter – the best practise document for managing cultural heritage – as ‘aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations’ (Australia ICOMOS 2013). These values are reiterated in the NSW guidelines, which determines that the cultural significance of a place can be assessed by identifying the values that are present across the subject area and assessing what is important and why (OEH 2011). In assessing the scientific significance of sites, aspects such as rarity and representativeness and the integrity must be considered. Generally speaking, a site or object that is rare will have a heightened significance, although a site that is suitable of conservation as ‘representative’ of its type will also be significant. Conversely, an extremely rare site may no longer be significant if its integrity has been sufficiently compromised.

The criteria adopted for this report are defined in Table 8.1.

**Table 8.1** A summary of criteria used to assess the significance of the Aboriginal archaeological and cultural resource (after OEH 2012: 8-10)

Criterion	Definition
<b>Social value</b> —Does the place have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons?	Social (or cultural) value refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments the place or area has for Aboriginal people. Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them.  Social or cultural value can only be identified through consultation with Aboriginal people.
<b>Historic value</b> —Is the place important to the cultural or natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state?	Historic value refers to the association of a place with a historically important person, event, phase or activity. Historic places do not always have physical evidence of their historical importance (such as structures, planted vegetation or landscape modifications). They may have ‘shared’ historic values with other (non-Aboriginal) communities.
<b>Scientific (archaeological) value</b> —Does the place have potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state?	Scientific (archaeological) value refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information.  Information about scientific values is gathered through archaeological investigation undertaken in this report.
<b>Aesthetic value</b> —Is the place important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics in the local, regional, and/or State environment?	Aesthetic value refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place. It is often linked with social value, and can consider form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use. This value is only relevant to archaeological sites on only rare occasions, such as rockshelters that contain art, or culturally modified trees in prominent positions, etc.

## 8.2 Statement of significance

Overall, investigations across the project area have provided an understanding of the archaeological and cultural resource and its significance.

From an archaeological and scientific perspective, a low-density artefact scatter, MPPS-AS1, has been identified within the project area. This site, consisting of five silcrete artefacts, one quartz artefact and one basalt artefact, was recovered from 4 test pits within an area of 1 m<sup>2</sup> in the southern section of the site. While important in demonstrating the longevity and continued use of the region by Aboriginal people in the past, it is considered that little further information can be obtained from additional investigation of this site. Low density artefact scatters are extremely common in the region, is representative of ephemeral use, and found elsewhere across the Cumberland Plain. As such the site is considered to have low scientific significance.

There are no known historical associations or historical values associated with the project area. The project area is not associated with any historically important person, event, phase or activity, and there are no documented instances of contact between early settlers and Aboriginal people on site. Further, there is no evidence to suggest that there is a direct connection to the section of the Parramatta River that is located nearby, but as there is an absence of any historical records or journal recollections from the time, such associations may have existed.

Due to the heavily urbanised environment, the project area retains no native vegetation that would have typically characterised the heavily vegetated slopes of this landscape, and much of the central and eastern parts of the project area have been levelled (terraced) or cut back during the historical period to create appropriate school spaces. The project is therefore not considered to retain any aesthetic values relevant to Aboriginal heritage.

No project specific cultural values have been vocalised for the project area to date. Discussions with RAPs have not identified any important ecological or cultural areas within the project area, and no connection between important sites elsewhere in the region and the project area. Table 8.2 presents a summary of the assessed significance values.

**Table 8.2** Significance of Aboriginal sites and objects identified

AHIMS ID	Site name	Site type	Social/ cultural value	Historical value	Scientific/ archaeological value	Aesthetic value	Overall significance
45-6-4125	MPPS-AS1	Low density artefact scatter	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

## 9 Impact assessment

### 9.1 Project impacts

As outlined in Section 1.2, the project will provide new learning facilities, outdoor spaces and amenities for the school community in a refurbishment program. This includes:

- demolition of existing school buildings
- site preparation works including tree removal
- construction of the following buildings:
  - **Block A:** one (1) storey building comprising:
    - universal pre-school
    - outdoor play area for the UPS
    - detached storeroom
  - **Block B1:** two (2) storey building comprising:
    - staff and administration areas
    - library
    - four (4) special programs rooms
    - Pedestrian bridge to Block B2
  - **Block B2:** three (3) storey building comprising:
    - 23 classrooms
    - amenities/services cores
    - pedestrian bridge to Block B3
  - **Block B3:** three (3) storey building comprising:
    - 12 classrooms
    - amenities/services cores
  - **Block C:** one (1) storey building comprising:
    - hall
    - amenities
    - canteen
    - OSHC



- COLA

- construction of two (2) car parking areas
- landscaping works.

We understand that impacts to the ground surface can be expected in the following circumstances:

- Where excavation is required to remove portions of the existing areas of hardstand (i.e. carpark) surface and underlying deposits (approximate depth of ~40 cm below ground surface).
- Where excavation is required to level an existing slope, and/or to create foundations for the construction of new school buildings. This may include shallow (<1 m depth) strip footings, and may also involve much deeper excavation for piling supports, trenching for upgraded service infrastructure and lift-wells (localised impacts to >1 m in depth).
- Where landscaping works require excavation to create terraced gardens, or to plant vegetation with significant root-ball structures (<1 m in depth).

In addition, indirect impacts to the ground surface and underlying deposits can occur from the movement of heavy machinery and storage of materials, equipment and vehicles, especially where these movements or storage activities occur in areas that do not have existing hardstand installed. These activities can cause compaction and downward movement of the upper portions of the soil profile, which may affect cultural material if present.

## 9.2 Potential Aboriginal heritage impact

Following project re-design, it is considered that there would be no impact to identified cultural materials within the project area. One artefact scatter (MPPS-AS1) would be avoided by the proposed works (Plate 9.1 and Plate 9.2). It is proposed to be within an area of Open Active Play, which is not expected to impact the upper soil profile within which cultural materials are located. No other cultural material was identified or considered probable within the remaining portions of the project area.

It is understood that temporary structures are proposed in close proximity (<10 m) to MPPS-AS1. Mitigation measures outlined in Section 10 provide further guidance to facilitate the installation of these structures, and it is understood that this would result in no ground disturbance activities within this zone. Mitigation measures include monitoring by a qualified heritage consultant and/or registered Aboriginal stakeholder during the installation and removal to ensure no inadvertent impacts to the site.

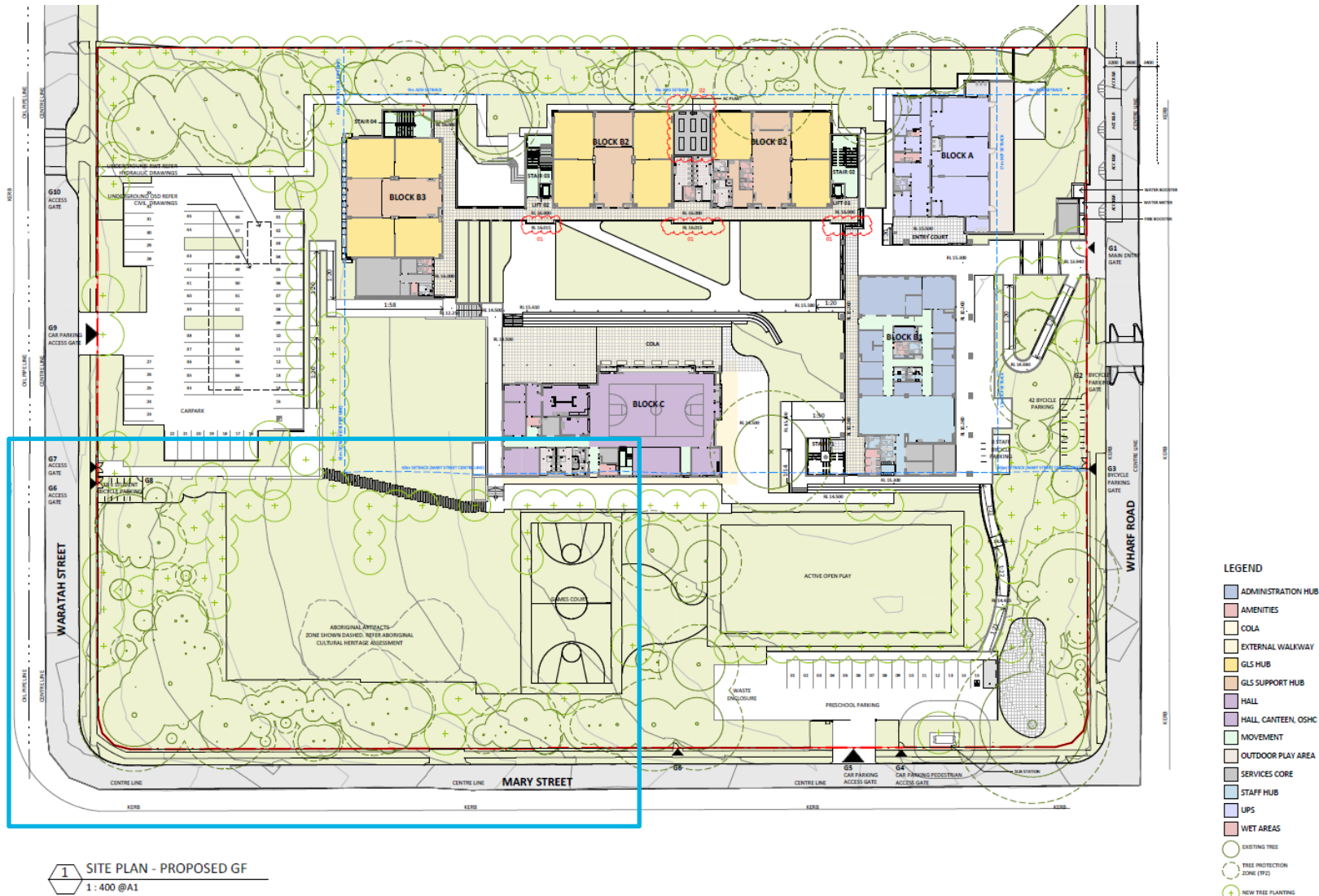
**Table 9.1 Summary of potential impacts to Aboriginal objects and/or sites from future development activities**

Site name	AHIMS #	Significance	Type of harm	Activity causing harm	Degree of harm	Consequence of harm
MPPS-AS1	45-6-4125	Low	None	NA	None	No loss of value

### 9.3 Inter-generational equity

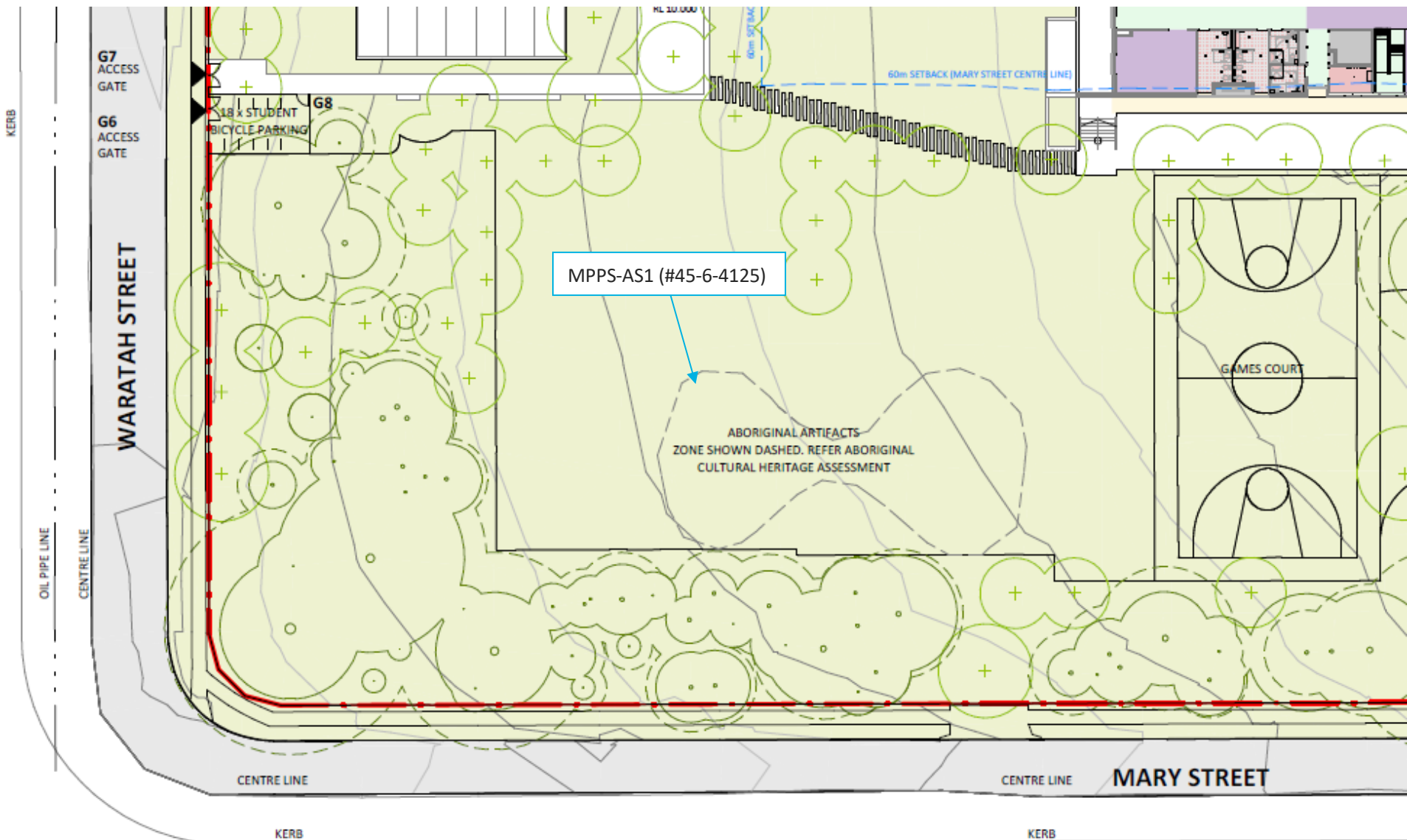
Intergenerational equity is the principle whereby the current generation should ensure the health, diversity and longevity of the environment for the benefit of future society. For Aboriginal heritage management, intergenerational equity can be considered primarily in terms of the cumulative impacts to Aboriginal objects, sites and/or places in a region. If few Aboriginal objects and places remain in a region (e.g. due to development impacts), there are fewer opportunities for future generations of Aboriginal people and the broader community to enjoy the cultural benefits. Information about the integrity, rarity and representativeness of the Aboriginal objects, sites and places that may be impacted, and how they inform the past visitation and occupation of land by Aboriginal people, are relevant to the consideration of intergenerational equity and the understanding of the cumulative impacts of a project.

As outlined in Section 9.1, the proposed works are at least partially or entirely within areas of existing disturbance and/or past impacts where there is a low likelihood of significant cultural material being present. The only Aboriginal heritage site identified in the project, MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125), is being avoided by the project and will be retained into the future. Based on this, it is considered that the project would have negligible intergenerational loss to the Aboriginal objects and/or areas of cultural value.



Source: PTW Architects (2025)

**Plate 9.1** Site plan, blue box denotes detail provided in Plate 9.2



**Plate 9.2** Site plan detail, showing MPPS-AS1 in relation to the proposed works. The line adjacent to the site denotes an area of Open Active Play

## 10 Management and mitigation strategy

### 10.1 Key findings

- The ACHA concludes that one Aboriginal site, MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125), is within the project area, and that through project redesign the proposed development activities will avoid this site. As such impacts to cultural materials are not expected by the project (Section 0).
- With the exception of MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125), the remaining project area is considered to have low risk of significant or in situ cultural materials being present. These areas either are not considered as retaining archaeological sensitivity and/or have been subject to heavy disturbance from agricultural and/or education activities.
- Recommendations are proposed for inclusion in the project Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to guide further management requirements for Aboriginal heritage (Section 10.3). These include the need to obtain an AHIP if ground disturbance activities are within 10 m of MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125); and establishment of unexpected finds protocols for the project area.

### 10.2 Management strategy

The assessment outlined in the preceding sections and including Aboriginal consultation with 18 individuals and/or organisations, included a range of desktop and on-site field investigations to identify and characterise cultural materials of the project area. These activities identified a single Aboriginal site MPPS-AS1. This consisted of consisting of five silcrete artefacts, one quartz artefact and one basalt artefact, was recovered from four test pits within an area of 1 m<sup>2</sup> in the southern section of the project area. The site was considered a low-density scatter, which is common within the Cumberland Plain and as such was assessed as of low significance. The presence of further cultural material in the form of isolated and/or low-density stone artefacts is considered unlikely, with no archaeological deposits identified in the vicinity of MPPS-AS1 through test excavations. Additional significant sites or deposits are also considered unlikely as the remainder and majority of the project area is >200 m from the nearest water course, and is dominated by shallow soil profiles adversely affected by historical and more recent development activities.

In NSW, Aboriginal objects are provided with statutory protection by the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. In general, where a proposed activity will result in harm to an Aboriginal object, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is required. MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125) is currently being avoided by the project, and no harm is proposed to the site at this time. As no other cultural material was recovered elsewhere on the site, it is therefore considered that there is a low risk of further Aboriginal objects being present within the remaining impact footprint of the proposed works. Therefore, no AHIP is required for the project to proceed at this time.

## 10.3 Recommendations

Mitigation measures and recommendations that should be integrated into the management of the project are outlined in Table 10.1.

**Table 10.1 Mitigation measures and recommendations**

Mitigation Number/ Name	When is Mitigation Measure to be complied with	Mitigation Measure	Reason for Mitigation Measure
ACH01	Preconstruction Construction	No ground disturbance activities are permitted within the curtilage of identified Aboriginal site, MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125), or within 10 m of the curtilage, without having first obtained an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) from Heritage NSW. Any activities within this zone will require monitoring by a qualified heritage consultant and/or a registered Aboriginal stakeholder for the duration of any works, including installation and removal.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH02	Preconstruction Construction	Outside of the curtilage +10 m of MPPS-AS1 (AHIMS #45-6-4125), the proposed development activities are considered to have low risk of harming Aboriginal objects, and works may proceed with caution and in accordance with the NSW Department of Education's Unexpected Finds Protocol. In the event unexpected Aboriginal objects, sites or places are discovered during the project, appropriate procedures for managing the unexpected discovery must be implemented in consultation with the RAPs and/or the relevant State government agency as appropriate.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH03	Preconstruction Construction	If human skeletal material is discovered, the <i>Coroners Act 2009</i> requires that all works should cease, and the NSW Police and the NSW Coroner's Office be contacted. Once direction from these organisations has been actioned, where relevant, the proponent should liaise with a heritage professional on subsequent steps.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH04	Preconstruction Construction	To avoid inadvertent impact, the proponent should advise all relevant personnel and contractors involved in the project of the relevant heritage considerations, legislative requirements, and recommendations identified in this assessment.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH05	Preconstruction Construction	Consultation should be maintained with the registered Aboriginal parties, and all Aboriginal objects recovered during the excavations undertaken for this work will be temporarily and securely stored at EMM's Sydney office. All cultural materials would be re-buried within project area. Re-burial would be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Heritage NSW's <i>Code of Practise for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> , and in consultation with the RAPs.	To ensure long term management of the artefacts recovered during excavations, as required by <i>Code of Practise for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW 2010b).
ACH06	Preconstruction	A copy of the ACHA should be lodged with AHIMS and provided to each of the RAPs.	As required by Requirement 4.4.5 of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010</i> (DECCW 2010a).



Mitigation Number/ Name	When is Mitigation Measure to be complied with	Mitigation Measure	Reason for Mitigation Measure
ACH07	Preconstruction Construction	If any part of the construction footprint is located outside the areas identified in this ACHA, or if any alteration is proposed that could result in additional impact to material culture, further assessment of these area(s) should be undertaken to identify and appropriately manage Aboriginal objects and/or sites that may be present.	To ensure protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
ACH08	Preconstruction	Where the heritage consultant changes through the project, suitable hand over should be undertaken.	To ensure no loss or mistranslation of the intent of the information, findings and future steps in heritage management occur.

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## Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AHD	Australian Height Datum
ACHA/ACHAR	Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
ACHMP	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
BP	Years before present
c.	circa
cm	Centimetres
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, now Heritage NSW
DECCW	Department of Environment Climate Change and Water, now Heritage NSW
DoE	Department of Education
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment, now DPIE
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMM	EMM Consulting Pty Ltd
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
ESD	Ecologically sustainable development
FGS	Fine grained siliceous
g	grams
GIS	geographical information system
GPS	global positioning system
ha	hectare
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IMTC	Indurated mudstone/tuff/chert
km	kilometres
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
m	metres
m <sup>2</sup>	square metres
mm	millimetres

Abbreviation	Description
n	Number
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage, now Heritage NSW
PAD	Potential archaeological deposit
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
t	Tonne
TP	Test pit

## Glossary

Many of these definitions have been taken from the *Code of Practice for archaeological investigation of Aboriginal objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010).

**Aboriginal object:** A physical manifestation of past Aboriginal activity. The legal term is defined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* section 5 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.

Typical examples include stone artefacts, grinding grooves, Aboriginal rock shelters which by definition include physical evidence of occupation, midden shell, hearths, stone arrangements and other landscape features which derive from past Aboriginal activity.

**Archaeological survey:** A method of data collection for Aboriginal heritage assessment. It involved a survey team walking over the land in a systematic way, recording information. Activities are not invasive or destructive.

**Aboriginal culturally modified tree:** A tree of sufficient age to have been mature at the time of traditional Aboriginal hunter-gatherer life and therefore generally of more than 220 years ago with evidence of bark or cambium wood removal for the purpose of implement manufacture, footholds, bark sheet removal for shelter, or extraction of animals or other food. Care must be taken to distinguish Aboriginal scars from the much more common natural causes of branch tear, insect attack, animal impact, lightning strike and dieback. Culturally modified tree recognition guidelines exist to distinguish these features. Naturally scarred trees are often misidentified as Aboriginal culturally modified trees.

**Aboriginal site:** The location where a person in the present day can observe one or more Aboriginal objects. The boundaries of a site are limited to the extent of the observed evidence. In the context of this report a 'site' does not include the assumed extent of unobserved Aboriginal objects (such as archaeological deposit). Different archaeologists can have varying definitions of a 'site' and may use the term to reflect the assumed extent of past Aboriginal activity beyond visible Aboriginal objects. Such use of the term risks defining all of Australia as a single 'site'.

**Aboriginal stone artefact:** A stone object with morphological features derived from past Aboriginal activity such as intentional fracture, abrasion or impact. Artefacts are distinguished by morphology and context. Typically flaked stone artefacts are distinguished from naturally broken stone by recognition of clear marginal fracture initiation (typically herzian/conchoidal or wedging initiation) on highly siliceous stone types which can often be exotic to the area. Care must be taken to distinguish modern broken stone in machine impacted contexts and therefore context must be carefully considered as well as morphology.

**AHIMS:** Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System — a computer software system employed by the Office of Environment and Heritage to manage many aspects of Aboriginal site recording and permitting. AHIMS includes an Aboriginal sites database which can be accessed via an internet portal.

**Archaeological deposit:** Aboriginal objects occurring in one or more soil strata. The most common form of archaeological deposit relates to the presence of a single conflated layer of Aboriginal stone artefacts worked into the topsoil through **bioturbation**.

**Exposure:** estimates the area with a likelihood of revealing buried artefacts or deposits, not just an observation of the amount of bare ground.

**Grinding grooves:** Grinding grooves typically derive from the sharpening of stone hatchet heads on sandstone rock. Grooves appear as elliptical depressions of around 25 cm length with smooth bases. Although mostly occurring in association with water to wash the abraded stone dust away from the groove, such sites have been recorded away from water. Narrow grooves or broad abraded areas may occur less commonly and may be derived from spear sharpening or other grinding activities.

**Holocene:** A period of time generally 10,000 years, which marks the end of the last ice age, to the present.

**Knapping:** The process of manufacturing stone tools by lithic reduction.

**Midden:** A collection of shells and associated economic remains resulting from Aboriginal food gathering and processing activity. Middens comprise shellfish remains of consistent size in a rich dark earth matrix commonly associated with stone artefacts, fish bone and animal bone although shells are commonly the most obtrusive element.

**Lithosols:** Soils that have little or no profile development. They occur on steep slopes and are usually shallow and are left mainly as uncleared native bushland.

**Open stone artefact site/stone artefact site:** An unenclosed area where Aboriginal stone artefacts occur – typically exposed from a topsoil archaeological deposit by erosion. Typically the term is used to refer to two or more artefacts although this is an arbitrary distinction. A general ‘rule of thumb’ boundary definition employed by archaeologists is that artefacts or features more than 50 m apart are regarded as separate sites, however there is no theoretical imperative dictating such a rule. (The 50 m separation rule is used for the most part in EMM’s work).

**Pleistocene:** A period of time 2.6 million years ago to 10,000 years ago. Reference to ‘Pleistocene sites’ generally means reference to sites older than 10,000 years.

**Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD):** An area where there is an inferred presence of Aboriginal objects in the soil based on the environmental context which is typically associated with discovery of Aboriginal objects in analogous areas. This is not strictly a ‘site’ type, although AHIMS records it as such for the purpose of associating Aboriginal heritage Impact Permits with geographical areas.

**Visibility:** The amount of bare ground on exposures which might reveal artefacts or other archaeological materials.

**Yellow earths:** predominantly sandy-textured soils with earthy porous fabric, weak profile differentiation and gradual or diffuse boundaries except for the darker A1 horizon.

**Yellow podosols:** Podosols which typically occur on the upper slopes of steep landscapes and on the mid to lower slopes of others. The A2 soil horizon is present in most profiles and the boundary change to the B horizon is generally clear. The B horizon is typically sandy clay to heavy clay.

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# Appendix A

## Legislation

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## A.1 Commonwealth

### A.1.1 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* preserves and protect areas (especially sacred or intangible sites) and places of particular significance to Aboriginal people from damage or destruction. Steps necessary for the protection of a threatened place are outlined in a gazetted Ministerial Declaration (Sections 9 and 10); and which can result in a cessation of any development activity.

In addition, the Act also protects objects by Declaration, notably Aboriginal skeletal remains (Section 12). This can be applied at a State level where a State is unwilling or unable to provide such protection.

### A.1.2 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* provides for protection of natural and cultural heritage places. The Act establishes a National Heritage List (NHL) and a Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) upon which places of natural or cultural significance can be listed. Sites at a national level and can be in public or private ownership. The CHL is limited to places owned by the Commonwealth, and most frequently encompass Department of Defence sites. Sites and places listed on the NHL are considered to be of State and local heritage value, even if they are not listed or documented as such at a State level.

The values of sites and places on the NHL/ CHL are protected under the EPBC Act. The Act requires that the Minister administering the Act assess any action which has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the heritage values. Where relevant, a referral is made to the relevant Commonwealth Department, and either approval, approval with controls, or rejection of the proposed action is determined.

### A.1.3 *Native Title Act 1993*

The *Native Title Act 1993* provides recognition and protection for native title. The Act establishes the managing body, National Native Title Tribunal, who administers native title claims to rights and interests over lands and waters by Aboriginal people. It also administers the future act processes that allow proponents to identify and manage potential native title issues for a given activity on a site where a claim has yet to be made or finalised.

In addition, the Act provides for Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA), which is an agreement between a native title group and others about the use and management of land and waters. ILUAs were introduced as a result of amendments to the Act in 1998. They allow people to negotiate flexible and bipartisan agreements to suit their particular circumstances often circumventing lengthy timeframes associated with the native title process. An ILUA can be negotiated over areas where native title has, or has not yet, been determined. They can be part of a broader determination or settled separately.

## A.2 State

### A.2.1 *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) is the over-arching Act that dictates the nature of assessment and management of the environment during a development project, and within which heritage forms a component. requires that environmental and heritage impacts are considered by consent authorities prior to granting development approvals.

The Act has two main approval pathways within which heritage needs to be considered. Generally for smaller scale (either financially or spatially), Parts 4 (Division 4.1) and 5 (Division 5.1) of the Act are implemented. Part 4 requires that a proponent submits a Development Application (DA) to local council for a given development, and within this document a consideration of Aboriginal and historical heritage is required. The specific nature of the

assessment is usually determined at a pre-DA meeting with the council, and in relation to the relevant heritage Acts. Where Aboriginal heritage is identified as an issue, the DA may become Integrated Development, whereby the State government is also required to review and provide comments on the DA prior to its issue. Part 5 of the Act is a similar process, but only relates to approvals developed and issued by State government departments. Each State government department has their own internal approach to considering environmental issues, but ultimately must develop a Review of Environmental Factors (REF), which is comparable to a DA, and which requires consideration and management of heritage. Similarly where heritage is identified as an issue, liaison with relevant State consent authorities and approvals under other Acts may still be required.

The other approval pathway relates to State Significant Development and/or Infrastructure (Parts 4.7 and 5.2, respectively). These processes require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be developed for a project and assessed currently by the Heritage NSW (formerly the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment). Importantly, the SSD and SSI processes turns off a number of pieces of other legislation, including parts of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. In the case of Aboriginal heritage, both the assessment and approval for harm are dictated by the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) outlining the contents and scope of the EIS, and the Project Approval that dictates controls on how a development should proceed.

### **A.2.2    *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974***

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides protection for Aboriginal objects and places across NSW:

- 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:
  - any place declared to be an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the NPW Act. This is a very specific piece of legislation that provides process and management of Aboriginal sites of cultural, but not necessarily scientific, values. They are commonly, but not always associated with intangible values.
  - any place declared to be an Aboriginal place by the Minister for the Environment, under Section 84 of the NPW Act.

It is an offence to disturb Aboriginal objects or places without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP), which is outlined in Section 90 of the Act. Currently, such permits can be sought from Heritage NSW.

To obtain an AHIP, certain assessment and documentation (outlined in this report) must be provided to DPC for their consideration. Once satisfied, they may endorse an AHIP to harm cultural heritage either conditionally or unconditionally. They can also refuse an application as outlined in Section 90C of the Act, and which can be appealed in accordance with Section 90L.

### **A.2.3    *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983***

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* provides process and protocols for the transfer of vacant Crown land ownership to a Local Aboriginal Land Council, where the land is not for an essential purpose or for residential land. These lands are then managed and maintained by the Local Aboriginal Land Council.

For the purposes of this report, the Act is primarily important to inform relevant Aboriginal communities for consultation; and where Crown land forms part of the development area may require additional liaison with the LALC as a potential, or existing, landowner.

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# Appendix B

Aboriginal community consultation

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B.1 Consultation log

**Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010)\***
**ABORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS LOG**
**Project Name:** Melrose Park Public School

**Project #:** E230572

DATE	OUTGOING / INCOMING	ORGANISATION	CONTACT MADE BY	CONTACT TO	CONTACT TYPE	COMMENTS
3-Nov-23	Outgoing	DPIE BCD (Heritage Branch)	Mikhaila Chaplin	DPIE BCD (Heritage Branch)	Email	Sought information on the Aboriginal communities in the region
3-Nov-23	Outgoing	Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council	Mikhaila Chaplin	Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council	Email	Sought information on the Aboriginal communities in the region
3-Nov-23	Outgoing	The Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983	Mikhaila Chaplin	The Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983	Email	Sought information on the Aboriginal communities in the region
3-Nov-23	Outgoing	National Native Title Tribunal	Mikhaila Chaplin	National Native Title Tribunal	Email	Sought information on the Aboriginal communities in the region
3-Nov-23	Outgoing	Native Title Services NTSCORP	Mikhaila Chaplin	Native Title Services NTSCORP	Email	Sought information on the Aboriginal communities in the region
3-Nov-23	Outgoing	Parramatta City Council	Mikhaila Chaplin	Parramatta City Council	Email	Sought information on the Aboriginal communities in the region
3-Nov-23	Outgoing	Greater Sydney Local Land Service (former CMA)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Greater Sydney Local Land Service (former CMA)	Email	Sought information on the Aboriginal communities in the region
3-Nov-23	Incoming	National Native Title Tribunal		Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Confirmed no overlap.
6-Nov-23	Incoming	HNSW	Barry Gunther	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	List of potential stakeholders
7-Nov-23	Incoming	LLS	Gail McCall	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Recommended contacting HNSW
8-Nov-23	Incoming	ORALRA	ORALRA	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Recommended contacting Metropolitan LALC
14-Nov-23	Incoming	Parramatta City Council	Rodrigo Gutierrez	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	List of recommended organisations
<b>STAGE 1- INVITATION TO REGISTER INTEREST</b>						
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	A1 Indigenous Services	Mikhaila Chaplin	Carolyn Hickey	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Amanda Hickey Cultural Services	Mikhaila Chaplin	Amanda Hickey	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Anthony Williams	Mikhaila Chaplin	Anthony Williams	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Ararung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Assessments	Mikhaila Chaplin	Jamie Eastwood	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	B.H. Heritage Consultants	Mikhaila Chaplin	Ralph and Nola Hampton	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Badu (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Karia Lea Bond	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Barraby Cultural Services	Mikhaila Chaplin	Lee Field (Manager)	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Biamanga (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Seli Storer	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Bidjowong Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	James Carroll	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Bilinga (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Simalene Carriage	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Butucarbin Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Jennifer Beale	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Clive Freeman	Mikhaila Chaplin	Clive Freeman	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing		Mikhaila Chaplin		Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Cullendulla (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Corey Smith	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Darug Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments	Mikhaila Chaplin	Gordon Morton	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Darug Aboriginal Land Care	Mikhaila Chaplin	Mark Dyer	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Darug Boorooberongal Elders Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Paul Hand	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Justine Coplin	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Darug Land Observations	Mikhaila Chaplin	Jamie Workman; Anna Workman; Anna O'Hara	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council	Mikhaila Chaplin	Kevin Cavanagh	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Dharug (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Andrew Bond	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Dharug Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Dirk Schmitt	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Dhinawan Culture & Heritage Pty Ltd	Mikhaila Chaplin	Stephen Fields	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Didge Ngunawal Clan	Mikhaila Chaplin	Lillie Carroll and Paul Boyd	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	DJMD Consultancy	Mikhaila Chaplin	Darren Duncan	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Galamaay Cultural Consultants (GCC)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Robert Slater	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council	Mikhaila Chaplin	Melissa Williams CEO	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Gilay Consultants	Mikhaila Chaplin	Carol Slater	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Ginninderra Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Steven Johnson; Krystle Carroll	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Goobah Development PTY LTD (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Basil Smith	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Goodradigbee Cultural & Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Caine Carroll	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Gulaga	Mikhaila Chaplin	Wendy Smith	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Shayne Dickson	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Gunyu (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Kylie Ann Bell	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Holroyd City Council Advisory Committee	Mikhaila Chaplin	Holroyd City Council	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	HSB Consultants; HSB Heritage Consultants	Mikhaila Chaplin	Patricia Hampton	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Jerrington (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Joanne Anne Stewart	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Julia Narayan	Mikhaila Chaplin	Julia Narayan	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Mikhaila Chaplin	Phil Khan	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services	Mikhaila Chaplin	Robert Young	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Koori Digs Services	Mikhaila Chaplin	Korri Currell	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Minnamunnung	Mikhaila Chaplin	Aaron Broad	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Munyunga (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Kaya Dawn Bell	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Mura Indigenous Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Phillip Carroll	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Muragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Jesse Johnson	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Darleen and Ryan Johnson	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Murramarang (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Roxanne Smith	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Murrumbul (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Mark Henry	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Ngambaa Cultural Connections	Mikhaila Chaplin	Karina Slater	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Nundagurri (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Newton Carriage	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Parramatta City Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee	Mikhaila Chaplin	Parramatta City Council	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Pemulwuy (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Pemulwuy Johnson	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Rane Consulting	Mikhaila Chaplin	Tony Williams	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Thauaira	Mikhaila Chaplin	Shane Carriage	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024

29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Thomas Dahlstrom Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology	Mikhaila Chaplin	Thomas Dahlstrom	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Thoorga Nura	Mikhaila Chaplin	John Carriage	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Scott Franks on the behalf of the Wonnarua PBC Yarrawalk Pty Ltd	Mikhaila Chaplin	Scott Franks	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Waawaar Awaab Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Rodney and Barry Gunther	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Wailwan Aboriginal Group	Mikhaila Chaplin	Philip Boney	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Walbunja (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Hika Te Kowhai	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Walgalu (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Ronald Stewart	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Warragil Cultural Services	Mikhaila Chaplin	Aaron Slater	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Widescope Indigenous Group	Mikhaila Chaplin	Steven and Donna Hickey	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Wingikara (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Hayley Bell	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Woka Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Steven Johnson	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Wori Woilywa	Mikhaila Chaplin	Daniel Chalker	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Wullung (Murrin Clan/Peoples)	Mikhaila Chaplin	Lee-Roy James Boota	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Wurrumay Pty Ltd	Mikhaila Chaplin	Kerrie Slater; Vicky Slater	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Yerramurra (Murrin Clan/Peoples) and Taste of Tradition Native Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Robert Parson	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Yulay Cultural Services	Mikhaila Chaplin	Arika Jalomaki	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Yurrandaali	Mikhaila Chaplin	Bo Field	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Bariyan Cultural Connections	Mikhaila Chaplin	Kayelene Terry	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Wallanbah Aboriginal Site Conveyancing	Mikhaila Chaplin	Kelvin Boney	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	RAW Cultural Healing	Mikhaila Chaplin	Raymond Weatherall	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Dharramalin	Mikhaila Chaplin	Gary Dunn	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Ninnum	Mikhaila Chaplin	Kevin Campbell & Marnya Donovan	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Long Gully Cultural Services	Mikhaila Chaplin	Ethan Trewhlynn	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Guthers Aboriginal Corporation	Mikhaila Chaplin	Trystan Treloar	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Damo digs	Mikhaila Chaplin	Damien Morrison	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Gadu chts	Mikhaila Chaplin	Colin Walker	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Outgoing	Pearl Depoma	Mikhaila Chaplin	Pearl Depoma	Email	Inquired about registering for the project. Requested responses by 12 Feb 2024
29-Jan-24	Incoming	Long Gully Cultural Services	Ethan Trewhlynn	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
29-Jan-24	Incoming	Didge Ngunawal Clan	Lillie Carroll and Paul Boyd	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
29-Jan-24	Incoming	Wailwan Aboriginal Group	Philip Boney	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
29-Jan-24	Incoming	Kelvin Boney	Kelvin Boney	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
30-Jan-24	Incoming	Waawaar Awaab Aboriginal Corporation	Rodney Gunther	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
30-Jan-24	Incoming	Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Phil Khan	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
30-Jan-24	Incoming	Muragadi	Jesse Johnson	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
30-Jan-24	Incoming	Konaggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services	Robert Young	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
31-Jan-24	Incoming	Pearl Depoma	Pearl Depoma	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
3-Feb-24	Incoming	Yulay Cultural Services	Arika Jalomaki	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
3-Feb-24	Incoming	Widescope Indigenous Group	Steven Hickey	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
3-Feb-24	Incoming	Butucabin Heritage	Jenny Gibson	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
3-Feb-24	Incoming			Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
6-Feb-24	Incoming	Goobah CHTS		Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
4-Feb-24	Incoming	A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn Hickey	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
4-Feb-24	Incoming	Amanda Hickey Cultural Services	Amanda Hickey	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
15/Feb/24	Incoming	Thomas Dahlstrom	Thomas Dahlstrom	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
20-Feb-24	Incoming	Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Justine Coplin	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Registered for the project
STAGE 1 - ADVERT						
29/Jan/24	Outgoing	Daily Telegraph	Mikhaila Chaplin	Daily Telegraph	Newspaper	Advert published in Daily Telegraph to inquire about registering for the project.
STAGE 1 - PROVISION OF RAP LIST TO HNSW/LALC						
20/Feb/24	Outgoing	Heritage NSW	Mikhaila Chaplin	Heritage NSW	Email	List of project RAPs
20/Feb/24	Outgoing	Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council	Mikhaila Chaplin	Derrubin LALC	Email	List of project RAPs
STAGE 2/3 - PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION AND PROPOSED ASSESSMENT METHODS						
20/Feb/24	Outgoing	All RAPs	Mikhaila Chaplin	All RAPs	Email	Copy of methodology letter for RAP review
20/Feb/24	Incoming	Waawaar Awaab Aboriginal Corporation	Rodney Gunther	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Noted that they support the methodology (further details in letter) and requests to participate in all fieldwork.
20/Feb/24	Incoming	Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Justine Coplin	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Noted they received methodology and would like to participate in all fieldwork.
20/Feb/24	Incoming	Long Gully Cultural Services	Ethan Trewhlynn	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Ethan commented that there were fishing activities along the Parramatta river not far from the project area and likely to find evidence of this in areas of low disturbance. Supported the methodology and requested all items to be reburied in a safe manner. Ethan commented that any test pit expansions should be filled in then fenced off for protection.
20/Feb/24	Incoming	Didgengunawal Clan	Paul and Lilly Carroll	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Agreed and supports the proposed methodology
21/Feb/24	Incoming	Muragadi	Jesse Johnson	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Agreed and supports the proposed methodology
11/Mar/24	Incoming	Thomas Dahlstrom	Thomas Dahlstrom	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Agreed and supports the proposed methodology. Requested for any material found during fieldwork to be analysed by an expert.
12/Mar/24	Incoming	Pearl Depoma	Pearl Depoma	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Provided feedback on our methodology (further details attached)
15/Mar/24	Incoming	Yulay Cultural Services	Arika Jalomaki	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Agreed and supports the methodology and would like to participate in all fieldwork.
19/Mar/24	Incoming	Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Phil Khan	Mikhaila Chaplin	Email	Agreed and supports the proposed methodology. Provided further detail and context into the area the project area is located (email attached).
9/Apr/24	Outgoing	Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Samuel Elias	Phil Khan	Email	Place-holder email for proposed test excavation dates.
9/Apr/24	Outgoing	Wailwan Aboriginal Group	Samuel Elias	Philip Boney	Email	Place-holder email for proposed test excavation dates.
9/Apr/24	Outgoing	Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Samuel Elias	Justine Coplin	Email	Place-holder email for proposed test excavation dates.
9/Apr/24	Outgoing	Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council	Samuel Elias	Kevin Cavanagh	Email	Place-holder email for proposed test excavation dates.
9/Apr/24	Incoming	Wailwan Aboriginal Group	Philip Boney	Samuel Elias	Email	Acknowledgment of place-holder email, and proposed dates.
9/Apr/24	Incoming	Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Justine Coplin	Samuel Elias	Email	Acknowledgment of place-holder email, and proposed dates.



[illegible]

## B.2 Identified Aboriginal stakeholders

- A1 Indigenous Services
- Amanda Hickey Cultural Services
- Anthony Williams
- Aragung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Assessments
- B.H. Heritage Consultants
- Badu (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Barraby Cultural Services
- Biamanga (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Bidjawong Aboriginal Corporation
- Bilinga (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Butucarbin Aboriginal Corporation
- Clive Freeman
- [REDACTED]
- Cullendulla (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Darug Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments
- Darug Aboriginal Land Care
- Darug Boorooberongal Elders Aboriginal Corporation
- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation
- Darug Land Observations
- Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Dharug (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Dharug Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation
- Dhinawan Culture & Heritage Pty Ltd
- Didge Ngunawal Clan
- DJMD Consultancy
- Galamaay Cultural Consultants (GCC)
- Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council

- Gilay Consultants
- Ginninderra Aboriginal Corporation
- Goobah Development PTY LTD (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Goodradigbee Cultural & Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Gulaga
- Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Gunyuu (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Holroyd City Council Advisory Committee
- HSB Consultants; HSB Heritage Consultants
- Jerringong (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Julia Narayan
- Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group
- Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
- Koori Digs Services
- Minnamunnung
- Munyunga (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Mura Indigenous Corporation
- Muragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation
- Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation
- Murramarang (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Murrumbul (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Ngambaa Cultural Connections
- Nundagurri (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Parramatta City Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Pemulwuy (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Rane Consulting
- Thauaira
- Thomas Dahlstrom Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology

- Thoorga Nura
- Scott Franks on the behalf of the Wonnarua PBC Yarrawalk Pty Ltd
- Waawaar Awaa Aboriginal Corporation
- Wailwan Aboriginal Group
- Walbunja (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Walgalu (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Warragil Cultural Services
- Widescope Indigenous Group
- Wingikara (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Woka Aboriginal Corporation
- Wori Woilywa
- Wullung (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- Wurrumay Pty Ltd
- Yerramurra (Murrin Clan/Peoples) and Taste of Tradition Native Aboriginal Corporation
- Yulay Cultural Services
- Yurrandaali
- Bariyan Cultural Connections
- Wallanbah Aboriginal Site Conveyancing
- RAW Cultural Healing
- Dharramalin
- Ninum
- Long Gully Cultural Services
- Guthers Aboriginal Corporation
- Damo digs
- Gadu chts
- Pearl Depoma

B.3      Pre-notification documentation


## Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Fri 3/11/2023 12:54 PM

Cc:Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

Bcc:information@ntscorp.com.au <information@ntscorp.com.au>; OEH HD Heritage Mailbox <heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au>; council@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au <council@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au>; gs.service@lls.nsw.gov.au <gs.service@lls.nsw.gov.au>; metrolalc@metrolalc.org.au <metrolalc@metrolalc.org.au>

 1 attachments (155 KB)

E230572\_AgencyRequest\_v0.3.pdf;

Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged by Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, we are contacting your organisation to seek information on any Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations that you are aware of in the region; and who may have an interest to be consulted on the project.

Please find a letter attached with further information.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mikhaila

### Mikhaila Chaplin

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500



LI [Connect on LinkedIn](#)

[emmconsulting.com.au](http://emmconsulting.com.au)

**SYDNEY | Gamaraigal Country, Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



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3 November 2023

**Re: Melrose Public School Redevelopment, West Ryde, NSW: Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment - Request for information on local Aboriginal stakeholders**

To whom it may concern,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) has been commissioned by School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School. The proponent contact is Frank Princi, Project Director, Infrastructure Planning School Infrastructure NSW ([frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au)). The site is located at 110 Wharf Road West Ryde, NSW 2114 (Lot 3 DP 535298), bound by surrounding Mary and Waratah Street within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA). Detailed design plans are still being prepared; however, we understand that the business case might include options for refurbishment of existing school buildings or the establishment of new facilities, and construction of a new car park and ancillary services.

The aim of the ACHA is to inform the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage in relation to the project and to develop suitable avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and/or management measures to facilitate the approval process.

In accordance with NSW State government's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, I am writing to you to seek information on relevant Aboriginal individuals and/or communities that you are aware of in the region, and who may hold cultural knowledge and/or information about Aboriginal objects and sites in the vicinity of the site. I kindly request you please provide me with this information as soon as possible at the Sydney address above, or:

E: [lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au)

P: [02 9493 9500](tel:0294939500).

If you have any questions or enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Laressa Barry**  
[LBarry@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:LBarry@emmconsulting.com.au)

## Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Fri 3/11/2023 1:01 PM

To: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>

 2 attachments (466 KB)

E230572\_AgencyRequest\_v0.3.pdf; GeospatialSearch2023\_MPPS.pdf;

Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged by Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, we are contacting your organisation to seek information on any Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations that you are aware of in the region; and who may have an interest to be consulted on the project.

Please find a letter attached with further information.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



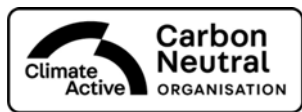
**T** 02 9493 9500



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[emmconsulting.com.au](http://emmconsulting.com.au)

**SYDNEY | Gamaraigal Country, Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



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# Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers



Your assistance in providing information in the correct format will ensure that your search request is dealt with as efficiently as possible. **The completed form must accompany your emailed request.**

It may take up to three working days to provide you with your search results when you submit conventional search criteria (tenement or land parcel identifiers). It may take up to five working days for more complex or larger searches. The Tribunal will contact you if a result cannot be provided within this timeframe.

## Parcel Identifiers

The NNTT uses the terminology and formatting of unique identifiers used in each state to uniquely identify a land parcel. Please identify land parcels using the formats below:

1. **Western Australia and Queensland** – use Lot on plan details (e.g. WA - 124/P098764 or QLD - 124DP98764).
2. **New South Wales** – use Lot/Section/Plan details (e.g. 124/7/DP258456 or 124//DP568954).
3. **Northern Territory** - use LAISKEY details (e.g. 695 1256 or 000 2568). The laiskey is a unique identifier for each parcel comprised of the location code, LTO code (derived from the survey plan) where applicable and the parcel number
4. **South Australia** – use Plan/Parcel ID (e.g. H529687AL125). Concatenation of Plan Type, Plan, Parcel Type and Parcel.
5. **Victoria** - use SPI (Standard Parcel Identifier) details (e.g. 1\PP2870 or 9E~\PP3306).

## The Search Form

1. Specify only **one jurisdiction** (e.g. Queensland) and **one type of tenure** (e.g. mining tenement) per form.
2. You can add up to 20 separate tenements or parcels per search request. Enter one parcel identifier per form field. Do not use ranges such as lots 5 to 15 on Plan DP1486.
3. **For more than 20 parcels or tenements, please submit additional search requests or alternatively attach an Excel spreadsheet along with your completed search form.** List the parcel identifiers in the correct unique format (see above).
4. If your area of interest cannot be clearly identified from the search form, or is not held in NNTT datasets, we may instead provide search results for a surrounding local government area, or other suitable regional area

Disclaimers and additional notes in relation to timeframes, freehold land and cultural heritage in NSW are addressed on the [Geospatial Searches](#) homepage and these should be referred to prior to lodging your request.

If you have any further queries please contact [GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au) to discuss.

# Request for Spatial Search of Tribunal Registers



National  
Native Title  
Tribunal

## 1: Your details

Your name:	Mikhaila Chaplin		
Your company:	EMM Consulting Pty Ltd		
E-mail address:	mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au	Phone:	
Your reference:	Melrose Park Public School	Your state:	New South Wales
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I have read and acknowledge the terms and conditions on the previous page.		

## 2: Areas to be searched

Jurisdiction to be searched:	New South Wales	Tenure to be searched:	Land Parcel
------------------------------	-----------------	------------------------	-------------

Parcel or tenement identifiers (add up to 20 separate identifiers). **Please see previous page for parcel identifiers.**

Parcel 1:	3//535298	Parcel 2:	
Parcel 3:		Parcel 4:	
Parcel 5:		Parcel 6:	
Parcel 7:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 8:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 9:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 10:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 11:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 12:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 13:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 14:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 15:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 16:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 17:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 18:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Parcel 19:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Parcel 20:	Click or tap here to enter text.

If your search area is not a parcel or mining or petroleum tenement, you can enter other tenure or administrative regions here (e.g. local government area, townsite or county). Please provide as much detail as you can.

Parramatta LGA

E-mail the completed form to [GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au)

## Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Fri 3/11/2023 12:59 PM

To:Aboriginal Owners <aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au>

 2 attachments (642 KB)

Request-for-Search-of-Land-Claim-Register-2020\_VBL.pdf; E230572\_AgencyRequest\_v0.3.pdf;

Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged by Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, we are contacting your organisation to seek information on any Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations that you are aware of in the region; and who may have an interest to be consulted on the project.

Please find a letter attached with further information.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



**T** 02 9493 9500



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**SYDNEY | Gamaraigal Country, Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



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# REQUEST FOR SEARCH OF LAND CLAIM REGISTER



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR  
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT 1983 (NSW)

Level 3, 2-10 Wentworth Street  
Parramatta NSW 2124  
02 8633 1266  
PO Box 5068  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Please print all details clearly using block letters

## 1. Contact details

Full name: Mikhaila Chaplin

Name of company: EMM Consulting Pty Limited

Postal address: Ground floor, 20 Chandos St, St Leonards NSW 2065

Email address: mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au

Telephone number:

## 2. Real Property Details (if more than one parcel please attach separate table)

Lot / Section /  
Deposited Plan: 3//535298

Parish: St John

County: Cumberland

Attached is a copy of the current title search(es), please tick ( ✓ ):

## 3. To assist our office in assigning priorities please provide:

a. The purpose for which information is required:

To identify Aboriginal stakeholders as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed development on the site. Searching the register is a requirement of the process.

b. The reason for urgency (when urgent consideration is required):

## Please note:

- Searches will only be performed on Crown Land.
- In order to process a search we require a copy of a current title search for the relevant land.
- Subject to demand, searches are normally completed within 10 working days.  
Complex searches may take longer.
- If your search is urgent, please indicate why at point 3b above.
- Please send the completed form together with current relevant title search(es) via email to: [ALC@oraltra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ALC@oraltra.nsw.gov.au)

4 Signature and date: MChaplin 3/11/2023

## Mikhaila Chaplin

---

**From:** Rodrigo Gutierrez <RGutierrez@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 November 2023 2:06 PM  
**To:** Mikhaila Chaplin  
**Subject:** RE: Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

Thank you for your email. I have sent the letter to our First Nations Advisory Committee members to see if anyone was interested in sharing their contact details with you and I await their response. Also, here is a list of Dharug organisations that you may want to contact:

**Dharug Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation**

[REDACTED]

**Dharug Strategic Management Group**

[REDACTED]

**Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation**

[REDACTED]

**Muru Mittigar**

[REDACTED]

**Baramadagal Dharug Tribal Governing Council Aboriginal Corporation**

[REDACTED]

**Rodrigo Gutierrez**

Community Capacity Building Manager | Social & Community Services

(02) 9806 5111 | [REDACTED]

City of Parramatta  
126 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150





I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land I work on, the Dharug Peoples, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

[Click here](#) to sign up to our local e-newsletter, *CommunityConnective*, for sector news and opportunities.  
*Non-profit organisations can submit content for free.*



---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 November 2023 12:55 PM  
**Cc:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

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Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged by Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, we are contacting your organisation to seek information on any Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations that you are aware of in the region; and who may have an interest to be consulted on the project.

Please find a letter attached with further information.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

**SYDNEY | Gamaraigal Country, Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



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## Mikhaila Chaplin

**From:** Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 November 2023 4:17 PM  
**To:** Mikhaila Chaplin  
**Subject:** RE: SR23/1799 - Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information - SR23/1799 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

### OFFICIAL

**Your ref:** *Melrose Park Public School*    **Our ref:** *SR23/1799*

Dear Mikhaila Chaplin,

Thank you for your search request, please find your results below.

#### Search Results

The results provided are based on the information you supplied and are derived from a search of the following Tribunal databases:

- Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications
- Register of Native Title Claims
- Native Title Determinations
- Indigenous Land Use Agreements (Registered and notified)

#### Results for overlapping native title matters in NSW:

Feature ID	Tenure	Cadastre Data As At	Feature Area SqKm	Overlapping Native Title Matters	
3//DP535298	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	0.0249	NNTT File Number	Name
				No overlap	

For more information about the Tribunal's registers or to search the registers yourself and obtain copies of relevant register extracts, please visit our [website](#).

Information on native title claims and freehold land can also be found on the Tribunal's website here: [Native title claims and freehold land](#).

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

The search results are based on analysis against external boundaries of applications only. Native title applications commonly contain exclusions clauses which remove areas from within the external boundary. To determine whether

the areas described are in fact subject to claim, you need to refer to the “Area covered by claim” section of the relevant Register Extract or Schedule Extract and any maps attached.

#### **Search results and the existence of native title**

Please note that the enclosed information from the Register of Native Title Claims and/or the Schedule of Applications is **not** confirmation of the existence of native title in this area. This cannot be confirmed until the Federal Court makes a determination that native title does or does not exist in relation to the area. Such determinations are registered on the National Native Title Register.

#### **The Tribunal accepts no liability for reliance placed on enclosed information**

The enclosed information has been provided in good faith. Use of this information is at your sole risk. The National Native Title Tribunal makes no representation, either express or implied, as to the accuracy or suitability of the information enclosed for any particular purpose and accepts no liability for use of the information or reliance placed on it.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au)

Regards,

#### **Geospatial Searches**

**National Native Title Tribunal | Perth**

Email: [GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au) | [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au)

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>  
**Subject:** SR23/1799 - Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

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Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged by Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, we are contacting your organisation to seek information on any Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations that you are aware of in the region; and who may have an interest to be consulted on the project.

Please find a letter attached with further information.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

**SYDNEY | Gamaraigal Country, Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



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## Mikhaila Chaplin

---

**From:** Gail McCall <gail.mccall@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 November 2023 12:28 PM  
**To:** Mikhaila Chaplin  
**Cc:** Laressa Barry  
**Subject:** Fw: Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information  
**Attachments:** E230572\_AgencyRequest\_v0.3.pdf

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---

Hi Mikhaila

Thank you for your recent letter seeking assistance to identify Aboriginal stakeholder organisations and persons who may hold an interest in Country at the project area designated in your correspondence.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GS LLS) acknowledges that Local Land Services (formerly as Catchment Management Authorities) has been listed in Section 4.1.3.(g) of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation requirements for proponents 2010, to support Part 6, of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 as a source of information to obtain the 'names of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places'.

GS LLS understands and respects the significant role and values that tangible and intangible Aboriginal Cultural Heritage holds for First Nations/Aboriginal people with Country. GS LLS also partners with many First Nations communities on Caring for Country projects that aim to protect and enhance those tangible and intangible values in Country including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. GS LLS considers Aboriginal Cultural Heritage matters in relation to its role in land management and considers cultural heritage issues in the context of Natural Resource Management.

However, GS LLS feels that it is not a primary source of contact for First Nations (Aboriginal) communities or persons that may inform or provide comment on development or planning issues.

GS LLS strongly recommends you contact Heritage NSW to seek their advice on all-inclusive contact lists of persons and organisations who 'speak for Country' and that may assist with your investigation.

Kind regards

**Gail McCall**

Customer Service Officer  
Greater Sydney  
**Local Land Services**

**T:** 02 4724 2100 [REDACTED] **E:** [gail.mccall@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gail.mccall@lls.nsw.gov.au)

[lls.nsw.gov.au](https://lls.nsw.gov.au)

Penrith: Level 4, 2- 6 Station St Penrith NSW 2750  
Mon, Wed - Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Camden Saleyards: 30 Edward St Camden  
Tue 8am-11am



## Local Land Services

How would you rate our service today?



Your opinion is valuable and will help us improve our service

*Greater Sydney Local Land Services acknowledges we operate in and deliver services throughout Country of First Nations people in the Greater Sydney Region.  
We recognise and respect Elders and cultural knowledge holders, past and present, while acknowledging the unique and diverse enduring cultures and histories of all First Nations people.  
Always was and always will be Aboriginal land.*



---

**From:** LLS GS Service Mailbox <gs.service@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 November 2023 11:42 AM  
**To:** Gail McCall <gail.mccall@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fw: Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

Regards

**Customer Service Team**  
Local Land Services | Greater Sydney  
**Department of Regional NSW**

**Telephone 02 4724 2100**

Level 4, 2-6 Station Street Penrith  
PO Box 4515 PENRITH

**Office Hours:** 8.30am - 4.30pm

**E:** [gs.service@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gs.service@lls.nsw.gov.au) | **W:** [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)





## Department of Regional NSW

You can also get in touch with us is through our [online enquiry form](#)

### How would you rate our service today?



Your opinion is valuable and will help us improve our service

Greater Sydney Local Land Services acknowledges we operate in and deliver services throughout Country of First Nations people in the Greater Sydney Region.

We recognise and respect Elders and cultural knowledge holders, past and present, while acknowledging the unique and diverse enduring cultures and histories of all First Nations people.

Always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Sent:** Friday, 3 November 2023 12:55 PM

**Cc:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged by Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, we are contacting your organisation to seek information on any Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations that you are aware of in the region; and who may have an interest to be consulted on the project.

Please find a letter attached with further information.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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## Mikhaila Chaplin

---

**From:** Aboriginal Owners <aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 November 2023 10:03 AM  
**To:** Mikhaila Chaplin  
**Cc:** Laressa Barry  
**Subject:** FW: Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information  
**Attachments:** Request-for-Search-of-Land-Claim-Register-2020\_VBL.pdf; E230572\_AgencyRequest\_v0.3.pdf; 20231108\_AO Search ACHA\_L.Barry\_EMM\_Melrose Public School West Ryde NSW\_ Metropolitan LALC.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

OFFICIAL

Good morning Mikhaila

Please find attached the response from the Office of the Registrar, ALRA to your email and letter of 3 November 2023 regarding the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, 110 Wharf Road (Lot 3 DP 535298) West Ryde NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

Kind regards

The Aboriginal Owners team  
Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983  
**Premier's Department**  
T (02) 8575 1160 E [aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.oralra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.oralra.nsw.gov.au)

PO Box 787  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124  
**Working days** Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present. I also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working with NSW Government at this time.

The Office of the Registrar stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to supporting the return of land to Aboriginal people as compensation for past dispossession; and to support self-determination through participation and representation in the land council network.

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---

OFFICIAL

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 November 2023 1:00 PM  
**To:** Aboriginal Owners <aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

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Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged by Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, we are contacting your organisation to seek information on any Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations that you are aware of in the region; and who may have an interest to be consulted on the project.

Please find a letter attached with further information.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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8 November 2023

By email: [lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au)

Laressa Barry  
EMM Consulting  
Ground Floor, 20 Chandos Street  
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

Dear Laressa

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, 110 Wharf Road (Lot 3 DP 535298) West Ryde NSW: request for list of potential Aboriginal stakeholders**

We refer to your email and letter to this Office, dated 3 November 2023, requesting contact information for Aboriginal organisations, stakeholders and/or people who may have cultural knowledge relevant to the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, 110 Wharf Road (Lot 3 DP 535298) West Ryde NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

Under Section 170 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)*, the Office of the Registrar is required to maintain the Register of Aboriginal Owners (RAO) for New South Wales. A search of the RAO has shown that there are currently no Registered Aboriginal Owners in the project area.

The proposed development and study area falls within the boundaries of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). We suggest you contact Metropolitan LALC (contact details provided below), as they may wish to participate or contribute.

Yours sincerely

*Karen Carter*

Karen Carter  
Project Officer  
Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

Metropolitan LALC  
PO Box 1103  
STRAWBERRY NSW 2012  
(02) 8394 9666

## Mikhaila Chaplin

---

**From:** Barry Gunther <Barry.Gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 November 2023 1:28 PM  
**To:** Mikhaila Chaplin  
**Subject:** DPE Aboriginal stakeholder list for Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).  
**Attachments:** E230572\_AgencyRequest\_v0.3.pdf; Aboriginal Stakeholder List- Parramatta Local Government Area - LIST OF ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT of PLANNING and ENVIRONMENT.docx

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

Please find attached the DPE Aboriginal stakeholder list for Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

regards

Barry Gunther, Aboriginal Senior Assessment Officer  
Environment and Heritage – Heritage NSW  
Department of Planning and Environment  
T: 02 9995 6830 | [barry.gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:barry.gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
[Heritage.nse.gov.au](http://Heritage.nse.gov.au) and [dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://dpie.nsw.gov.au)  
Locked Bag 5020  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Please lodge all Applications to [Heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Website Facebook Instagram LinkedIn

The Heritage Management System is live from 31 May. More information is available [here](#)

I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and ancestors of the lands I work across.

Heritage NSW and coronavirus (COVID-19)

Heritage NSW has taken steps to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff, communities and customers. Whilst our offices remain open, we have put in place flexible working arrangements for our teams across NSW and continue to adapt our working arrangements as necessary. Face-to-face meetings and field work/site visits with our customers are subject to rules on gatherings and social distancing measures. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 November 2023 12:55 PM

Cc: Laressa Barry <[lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au)>

Subject: Melrose Park Public School - ACH - request for information

Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Limited has been engaged by Schools Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School, NSW (Parramatta LGA).

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, we are contacting your organisation to seek information on any Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations that you are aware of in the region; and who may have an interest to be consulted on the project.

Please find a letter attached with further information.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500



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## INVITATION FOR REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST

29/1/2024



**Invitation for Registrations of Interest**  
**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment**

## Melrose Park Public School Redevelopment, City of Parramatta LGA

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) is proposing to redevelop Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298), in the City of Parramatta LGA. Detailed design plans are still being prepared; however, we understand that the business case might include options for refurbishment of existing school buildings or the establishment of new facilities, and construction of a new car park and ancillary services.

The proponent contact is: Frank Princi, Project Director, Infrastructure Planning, Schools Infrastructure NSW. E: [frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au)

EMM, on behalf of SINSW, invites Aboriginal individuals and organisations who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area, and who wish to be involved in the consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment to register their interests.

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to assist the proponent in:

- 1) assessing the Aboriginal heritage values of the area;
- 2) to assist NSW Government in the assessment of Aboriginal heritage reports prepared for this project; and
- 3) to support any future applications or approvals for the project sought under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and/or the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

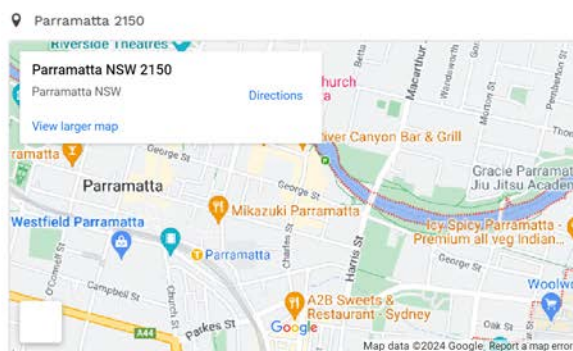
Registrations of interest are to be provided by no later than **12 February 2024** to:

Mikhaila Chaplin

E: [mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)

A: EMM Consulting Pty Ltd, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065

T: 02 9493 ... .



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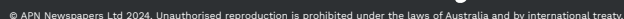
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## Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Mon 29/1/2024 4:10 PM

Cc: Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

📎 1 attachments (2 MB)

E230572\_Notification\_v1.0.pdf;

Hi all,

On behalf of School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), EMM is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for proposed re-development of Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298). The project is located at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, Parramatta LGA. An attached letter provides more information and a location map.

As part of the process, we are following the Heritage NSW community consultation requirements. At this stage, I am enquiring to see if you would like to be involved in the project. I would appreciate a response by COB **Monday 12 February 2024**.

In your response, to help us with management and communication, please provide all contact details including postal address, phone and e-mail. In additional, any information regarding the following is appreciated:

- preferred communication method (e.g. e-mail) to be used during consultation;
- the level of project involvement you or your organisation wishes, including attendance of meetings, fieldwork participation and/or simply reviewing documentation;
- identification of any procedures, protocols or requirements for the use and reproduction of any cultural information or materials you or your organisation provides EMM as part of this project; and
- identification of any Aboriginal objects, sites and/or areas of cultural value that you are aware of in, or near, the project area.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500

M

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29 January 2024

**Re: Invitation for Registrations of Interest – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Melrose Park Public School**

To whom it may concern,

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) is proposing to redevelop Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298), located at 110 Wharf Road West Ryde, NSW 2114, bound by surrounding Mary and Waratah Street within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA). (Figure 1). Detailed design plans are still being prepared; however, we understand that the business case might include options for refurbishment of existing school buildings or the establishment of new facilities, and construction of a new car park and ancillary services.

SINSW has commissioned EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to identify the presence of any Aboriginal heritage values and to avoid, minimise, mitigate and/or manage impacts to Aboriginal heritage resulting from the project. The ACHA will support assessment under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The proponent contact is:

Frank Princi  
Project Director, Infrastructure Planning  
Schools Infrastructure NSW  
E: [frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au)

This project is being undertaken in accordance with NSW State government's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. As per the first stage of the NSW State government consultation guidelines, I am writing to notify you of the project and seeking you and/or your organisation's interest in being registered for subsequent consultation and involvement. We are interested in Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations who may hold relevant cultural knowledge for determining the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the area, and who wish to be involved in the project.

The purpose of consultation is to assist EMM to:

1. Assess the Aboriginal heritage values of the area.
2. Assist NSW Government in the assessment of Aboriginal heritage reports prepared for this project.
3. Support any future applications or approvals for the project sought under NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and/or NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

If you wish to register your interest as an Aboriginal party in subsequent consultation, please contact Laressa Barry at the below details by **12 February 2024**.

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

E: [mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)

T: 02 9493 9500

A: EMM Consulting Pty Ltd, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065

In your response, please provide the following information:

- Clear identification of the individual and/or organisation registering an interest. Please ensure all contact details and personal, along with relevant phone, address and email (if available) is provided
- Preferred communication method (eg email) during the consultation of this project, along with your organisation's nominated contact person and their details
- The level of project involvement you or your organisation wishes, including attendance of meetings, fieldwork participation and/or simply reviewing documentation
- identification of any procedures, protocols or requirements for the use and reproduction of any cultural information or materials you or your organisation provides EMM as part of this project
- Identification of any Aboriginal objects, sites and/or areas of cultural value that you are aware of in, or near, the project investigation area.

As required by the consultation guidelines, details of people registering as Aboriginal Parties will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council unless you specify otherwise in your response.

If you have any questions or enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

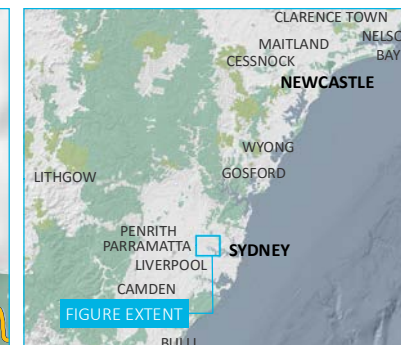
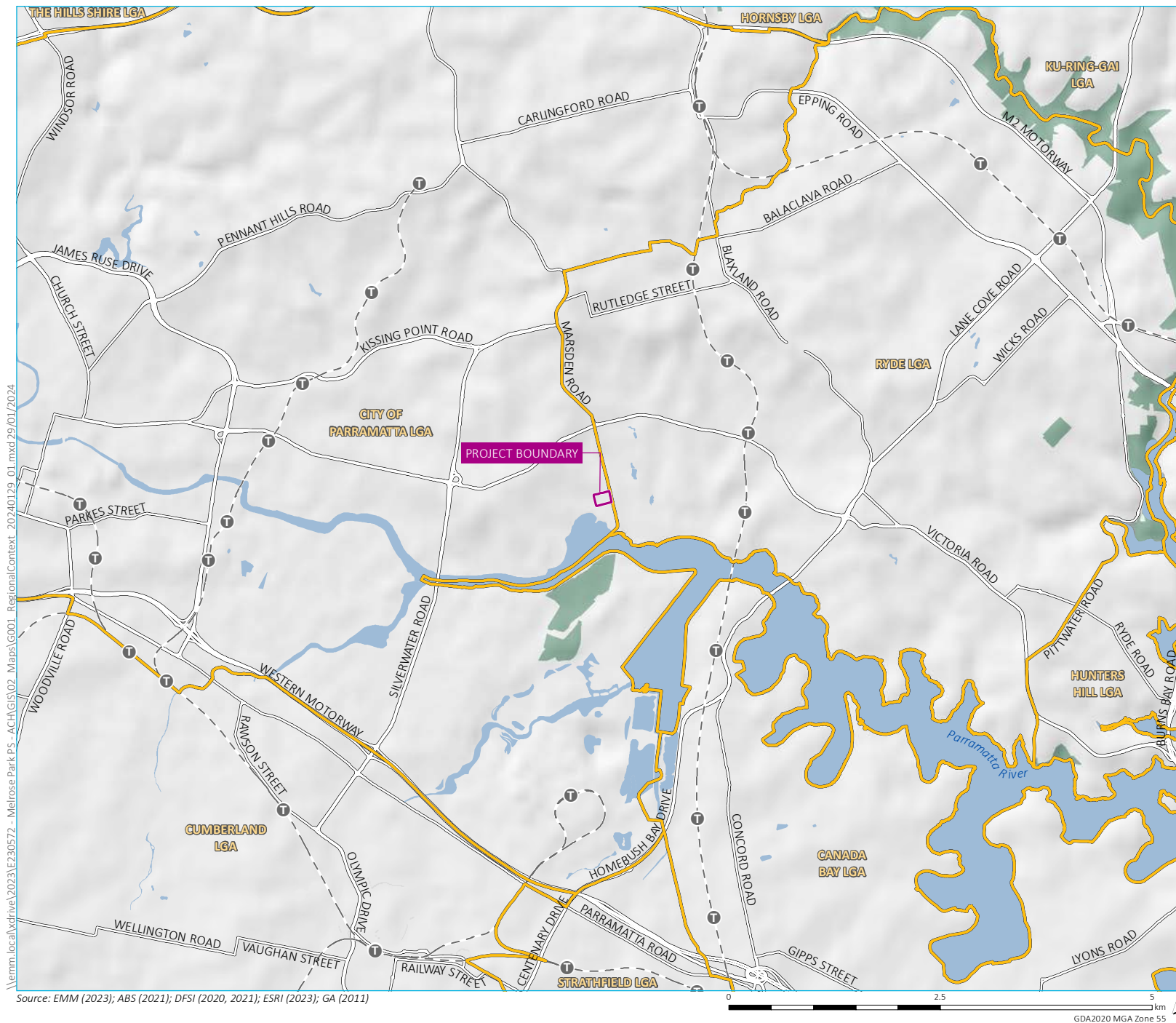


**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist

[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)





- KEY
- Project boundary
  - Train station
  - Local government area
  - Rail line
  - Major road
  - Minor road
  - Vehicular track
  - Named watercourse
  - Named waterbody
  - NPWS reserve
  - State forest

Regional context

Melrose Park PS  
Figure 1

## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

lilly carroll [REDACTED]

Mon 29/1/2024 5:45 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Cc: Laessa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila

DNC would like to register and interest into Melrose Park public school

Kind regards

Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll

Directors DNC  
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Monday, January 29, 2024, 4:10 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

Hi all,

On behalf of School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), EMM is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for proposed re-development of Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298). The project is located at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, Parramatta LGA. An attached letter provides more information and a location map.

As part of the process, we are following the Heritage NSW community consultation requirements. At this stage, I am enquiring to see if you would like to be involved in the project. I would appreciate a response by COB **Monday 12 February 2024**.

In your response, to help us with management and communication, please provide all contact details including postal address, phone and e-mail. In addition, any information regarding the following is appreciated:

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- identification of any Aboriginal objects, sites and/or areas of cultural value that you are aware of in, or near, the project area.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Mikhaila

## Mikhaila Chaplin

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500

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[emmconsulting.com.au](http://emmconsulting.com.au)

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Ethan Trewlynn [REDACTED]

Mon 29/1/2024 4:32 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

📎 3 attachments (24 KB)

image001.png; image002.png; image003.png;

**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Good afternoon Mikhaila,  
Ethan Trewlynn of Long Gully Cultural Services.

I'd like to express my interest in this project as I'd participate in all meetings and on site for fieldwork. I've got a good eye for looking at artefacts, I've been on 2 field schools and have been involved in a lot of projects Digging, sieving, surveys. I'm a proud Gamilaroi man living in Western Sydney. I know quiet a bit about the Parramatta area if you need to ask more.

Here's my contact details:

Organisation: Long Gully Cultural Services

Mobile number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Postal Address: [REDACTED]

You can contact me either by email or calling me.

I'd like with the artefacts and everything else that's been found on project to be fully protected and be further discussed with Local Aboriginal people that have direct connections to the area as I respect there land and they respect my land were my people come from.

I have all the skills required to identifying artefacts, heritage and other findings.  
I've been in this field for about 7 years now.

All the sites along Parramatta are all highly disturbed or destroyed.  
There's also chances of asbestos being found in the areas.

Thanks for the email,  
Kind regards  
Ethan Trewlynn of Long Gully Cultural Services

On Mon, 29 Jan 2024, 4:10 pm Mikhaila Chaplin, <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Hi all,

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Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

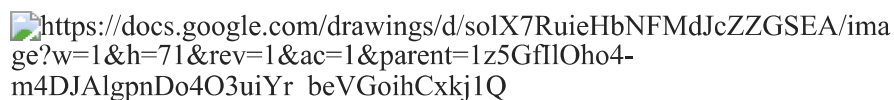
Kind regards,

Mikhaila

### Mikhaila Chaplin

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



 [https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/solX7RuieHbNFMdJcZZGSEA/image?w=1&h=71&rev=1&ac=1&parent=1z5GfIlOho4-m4DJA1gpnDo4O3uiYr\\_beVGoihCxxkj1Q](https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/solX7RuieHbNFMdJcZZGSEA/image?w=1&h=71&rev=1&ac=1&parent=1z5GfIlOho4-m4DJA1gpnDo4O3uiYr_beVGoihCxxkj1Q)

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Kelvin Boney [REDACTED]

Mon 29/1/2024 11:37 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Cc: Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

📎 1 attachments (397 bytes)

image002.png;

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

Yes, we are interested. I Kelvin Boney would like to register for the above ACHA I am highly skilled within this area and would like to be apart of the raps in identifying and protecting this unique and superb traditional lqnd yours truly thanks mate your prompt reply would be appreciated

On Mon, 29 Jan 2024, 4:10 pm Mikhaila Chaplin, <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Hi all,

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- identification of any Aboriginal objects, sites and/or areas of cultural value that you are aware of in, or near, the project area.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,




Mikhaila


## Mikhaila Chaplin

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

 A picture containing graphics, font, graphic design, text Description automatically generated

 [https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/solX7RuieHbNFMdJcZZGSEA/image?w=1&h=71&rev=1&ac=1&parent=1z5GfllOho4-m4DJAlgpnDo4O3uiYr\\_beVGoihCxxkj1Q](https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/solX7RuieHbNFMdJcZZGSEA/image?w=1&h=71&rev=1&ac=1&parent=1z5GfllOho4-m4DJAlgpnDo4O3uiYr_beVGoihCxxkj1Q)

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Phillip Boney [REDACTED]

Mon 29/1/2024 6:39 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Sent from my iPhone

On 29 Jan 2024, at 4:10 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:  
Hey Mikhaila Phil Boney here i would like to register my interest for this project  
please,kind regards

Phil Boney  
Wailwan Aboriginal Group 🇺🇸

Hi all,

On behalf of School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), EMM is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for proposed re-development of Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298). The project is located at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, Parramatta LGA. An attached letter provides more information and a location map.

As part of the process, we are following the Heritage NSW community consultation requirements. At this stage, I am enquiring to see if you would like to be involved in the project. I would appreciate a response by COB **Monday 12 February 2024**.

In your response, to help us with management and communication, please provide all contact details including postal address, phone and e-mail. In additional, any information regarding the following is appreciated:

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Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

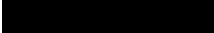
Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

[<image001.png>](#) [<image002.png>](#) 📞 02 9493 9500

  
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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Rodney Gunther [REDACTED]

Tue 30/1/2024 11:19 AM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

 2 attachments (281 KB)

Public liability 2023 to 2024.pdf; Workers comp CERTIFICATE-OF-CURRENCY-196613291.pdf;

**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

Please register Waawaar Awaa Aboriginal Corporation for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Melrose Park Public School,

In order for our members to provide professional cultural responses to the Methodology and ACHAR, we would like to be involved in all aspects of fieldwork to assist our understanding of the cultural values for the project area.

Your understanding is appreciated.

Please find attached relevant insurances for future reference.

- preferred communication method (e.g. e-mail) to be used during consultation- **via email**.
- the level of project involvement you or your organisation wishes, including attendance of meetings, fieldwork participation and/or simply reviewing documentation; - **all aspects of assessment**
- identification of any procedures, protocols or requirements for the use and reproduction of any cultural information or materials you or your organisation provides EMM as part of this project; and
- identification of any Aboriginal objects, sites and/or areas of cultural value that you are aware of in, or near, the project area - **None atm**

regards

Rodney Gunther  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 4:10 PM Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Hi all,

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Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - register interest

Sat 3/2/2024 10:31 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

We are registering our organisation as we at [REDACTED] are identified First Nations people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project area and we wish to register an interest in the process of community consultation. As part of our registering we look forward to the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate information and to comment on the cultural heritage significance of Aboriginal Culture and heritage We are registering [REDACTED] in a full capacity. We have worked on a vast number of projects as Cultural Heritage Officers in the project area. We are currently involved on many projects in the subject area. My family and other family members have lived in the area and family currently reside in the surrounding areas. We are registering in a full capacity. We are Aboriginal people who are culturally & heritage aware. We have the necessary ability, experience, skills, insight and the knowledge to identify artefacts on field work. And as Aboriginal People we connect thru the land, thru our Ancestors and our Heritage. Therefore we are able participate on all levels. We have worked with many archaeologists across a broad landscape. We have consulted with most archeological companies over many years on projects. We have all the relevant insurances and safety gear. We are all fit, capable and adapt to a vast landscape. Contact is preferred via email: [REDACTED] The contact number, email and contact person is also listed in the signature. Please do not disclose any of our details to LALC. We have responded for inclusion, to participate on all levels. Thanks.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which we work and pay our deep respect to Elders past, present and emerging

On 29 Jan 2024, at 4:10 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

**T** 02 9493 9500

[<image001.png>](#) [<image002.png>](#)

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[<image003.png>](#)

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## A1.Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Carolyn .H [REDACTED]

Sun 4/2/2024 2:36 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

📎 2 attachments (402 KB)

A1.WC2024.pdf; A1.PL2024.pdf;

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---



**Contact:** Carolyn Hickey

**Mobile** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**ABN:** : 20 616 970 327

Hi,

Thank you for your email, I would like to register in being involved in all levels of consultation for this project.

Including, Meetings, Reports, Sharing Cultural Information, and available Field Work.

About the founder Carolyn Hickey

I am a traditional owner with over 25 years experience in helping preserve Aboriginal cultural heritage on projects.

I hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and values that exist in the project area.

**I have attached A1 Indigenous Services Insurances**

**[A1 INDIGENOUS SERVICES PTY LTD Represents over 100 Indigenous Locals](#)**

**Kind Regards**

**Carolyn Hickey**

**When Selecting Groups for Engagement:**

Please consider that **A1 INDIGENOUS SERVICES** is a member of the **NSW INDIGENOUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**.

We carry the NSWICC Assured logo showing that **A1 Indigenous Services** has met National Policy requirements as upheld by the First Australians Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI) for being identified as a **100% First Nations Owned Indigenous Business** That has demonstrate compliance with Government and Industry Regulators.

**A1 INDIGENOUS SERVICES is now a member of the NSW INDIGENOUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

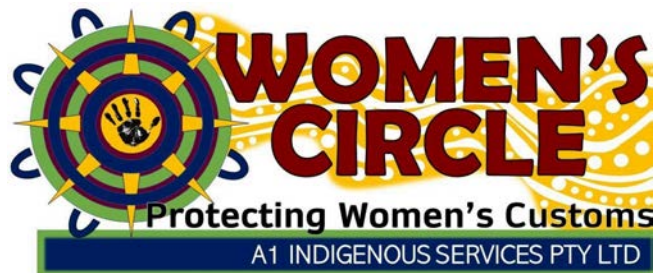
A business or enterprise carrying the NSWICC Assured logo has met National Policy requirements as upheld by the First Australians Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI) for being identified as a First Nations Business Owner or Entrepreneur and the business must demonstrate compliance with Government and Industry Regulators.

**(Certificate attached)** A certificate confirms that the Enterprise listed above has met all requirements of the NSWICC's Assured Program , operating as a100% Aboriginal Owned, Operated and Controlled Business. The NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (NSWICC) is the Peak body for Aboriginal Business in New South Wales and a member of the First Australians Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI).

**A1 Indigenous Services is 100%, Indigenous Owned Australian Company**  
**which offers a range of services to the construction industry.**

**It is our mission to commit to an innovative approach to a better future for Indigenous employment and community.**

**While improving ways to close the gap in Aboriginal participation in the construction Industry.**  
**Building strength in aboriginal communities and our Indigenous labour force.**





---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 4:10:18 PM  
**Cc:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Hi all,

On behalf of School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), EMM is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for proposed re-development of Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298). The project is located at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, Parramatta LGA. An attached letter provides more information and a location map.

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Kind regards,


Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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## AHCS.Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Amanda De Zwart [REDACTED]

Sun 4/2/2024 2:41 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

I would like to register for all consultation levels ( meetings and fieldwork ) for this project.

Thank you

Amanda Hickey

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 4:10:18 PM

**Cc:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Hi all,

On behalf of School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), EMM is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for proposed re-development of Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298). The project is located at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, Parramatta LGA. An attached letter provides more information and a location map.

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Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500

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[emmconsulting.com.au](http://emmconsulting.com.au)

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Butucarbin Heritage [REDACTED]

Sat 3/2/2024 10:50 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Dear Mikhaila,

On behalf of Butucarbin, I would like to register interest in this project.

Kind regards,  
Jenny

On Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 4:10 PM Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

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**Mikhaila Chaplin**

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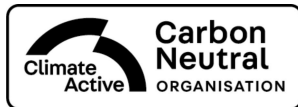
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--

Lowanna Gibson  
Project Manager for Butucarbin Cultural Heritage  
B.A Archaeology/Anthropology USYD  
Juris Doctor UTS

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## RE: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Phil Khan [REDACTED]

Tue 30/1/2024 2:07 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

📎 2 attachments (52 KB)

Public Liability 2024 to 2025.pdf; Icare 2024.pdf;

**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

Thank you for informing us that **EMM** will be involved in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for **Melrose Park Public School** & that you are inviting Aboriginal organisations to register, if they wish too be involved in the community consultation process.

As a senior Aboriginal person for the past 51yrs, I actively participate in the protection of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage throughout the Sydney Basin, & particularly throughout Western Sydney, on behalf of Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group I wish to provide to you my organisation's registration of interest.

I wish to be involved & participate in all levels of consultation/project involvement. I wish to attend all meetings, participate in available field work & receive a copy of the report.

I have attached a copy of Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working group's Public Liability Insurance & Workers Compensation certificate.

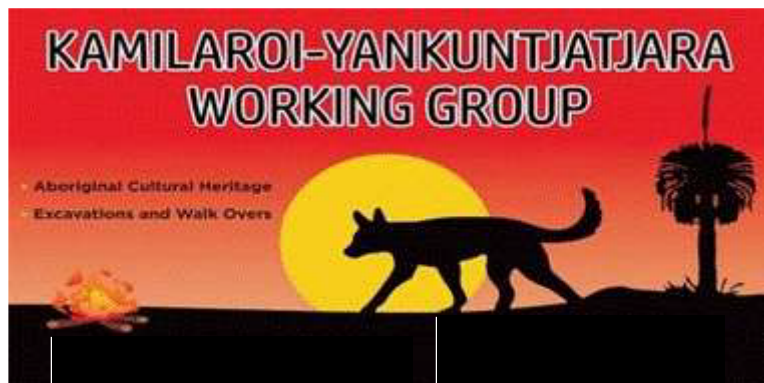
Our RAPS have up to 16yrs Cultural Heritage experience in – field work which involves manual excavation (digging), sieving, identifying artefacts, setting up transits, setting up equipment, packing equipment, site surveys & attending meetings (Focus groups, CwC, interpretation).

Should you wish me to provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or Stefeanie on [REDACTED]

Kind Regards

Phil Khan – Director  
[REDACTED]

ABN 26 637 314 384



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 4:10:18 PM  
**Cc:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

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Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

jesse johnson [REDACTED]

Tue 30/1/2024 4:27 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila

Please register our company for the above project, we would like to be involved in all aspects of the project.i.e. Surveying, mapping, fieldwork etc, we look forward to working with you.

Thanks

Jesse Johnson  
[REDACTED]

On 29 Jan 2024, at 4:10 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

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[<image001.png>](#) [<image002.png>](#)  02 9493 9500

  
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<E230572\_Notification\_v1.0.pdf>



**Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest**

Pearl Depoma [REDACTED]

Wed 31/1/2024 2:17 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Cc: Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hello Mikhaila,

Thank you so much for your email today.

Yes, I would like to register for the upcoming project as detailed in this email.

I am contactable via email or telephone as per my contact details below.

I would be interested in any type of participation in this project as mentioned.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you.

Regards

Pearl Depoma  
(Individual)

[REDACTED]

Proud Kamilaroi and Torres Strait Islander Women.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of country and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and community on which I am grateful to live, work and visit. I pay my respects to them, their cultures, and traditions. I honor our Elders both past and present and encourage our future generations to strive.

It always was and always will be, Aboriginal land. Our Ancestors live on, within us.

The content of this email and its attachments are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. If this email is not for you, please advise and delete as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

On 29 Jan 2024 4:10 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Mikhaila


## Mikhaila Chaplin

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

 A picture containing graphics, font, graphic design, text Description automatically generated

 [https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/solX7RuieHbNFMdJcZZGSEA/image?w=1&h=71&rev=1&ac=1&parent=1z5GfIlOho4-m4DJAlgpnDo4O3uiYr\\_beVGoihCxxkj1Q](https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/solX7RuieHbNFMdJcZZGSEA/image?w=1&h=71&rev=1&ac=1&parent=1z5GfIlOho4-m4DJAlgpnDo4O3uiYr_beVGoihCxxkj1Q)

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Robert Young [REDACTED]

Tue 30/1/2024 6:21 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>; frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au <frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au>

Cc: Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>; Pamela Young [REDACTED]

 4 attachments (4 MB)

E230572\_Notification\_v1.0.pdf; COC 2024.pdf; ICARE 2025.pdf; Biz Cover 2024.pdf;

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hey Mikhaila,

Happy New Year from my family to your family and I hope you had a great holiday break

Thank you for the email and invitation to register by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (KACHS) would like to register an expression of interest for the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298), located at 110 Wharf Road West Ryde, NSW 2114

KACHS will provide Aboriginal RAPS with cultural knowledge and knowledge of the land with years of experience working in mainstream services/agencies.

I have cc'd Pamela within this email who has strong cultural knowledge learning from Elders' all around NSW and N.T

Pamela has worked in NPWS, OEH and Heritage NSW as a Senior Conservation Repatriation Heritage Officer for over 23 years and has connected in communities and countries with respect.

I (Robert) have learnt cultural knowledge from my Men's Elders/Seniors and have worked in mainstream over 14 years in NPWS and OEH as a National Park Ranger/Tour Guide/Visitor Services Guide at Royal NP and Kamay NP, Ku-ring- gai NP, plus working over two decades in culturally supporting Aboriginal communities/countries throughout NSW

KACHS provides cultural heritage knowledge holders with experience from a female/male cultural lenses supporting, connecting and healing country, that is beneficial for the archaeologists and proponents.

Culturally we both have over 20 years of cultural and heritage knowledge working on country with experience in all capacities for field surveys, experience in artefacts, experienced in scarred/ring tree's, wet/dry sieving, test excavations/salvage excavations, burial repatriations (Pamela) and working well in team environment. KACHS has had the privilege and honour working on many projects with archaeologists throughout NSW

KACHS has strong affiliation and connection to the lands of Sydney Basin, living, working in and around Sydney suburbs, West, South, East and North protected significant sites, cultural learning and culturally supporting these sites

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact myself or Pamela that I cc'd in this email, always happy for a yarn

KACHS insurance documents are attached

Looking forward working with EMM

Yours In Culture,

**Robert Young**

Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services



---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Sent:** Monday, 29 January 2024 4:10 PM

**Cc:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

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Kind regards,

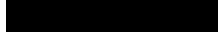
Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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## RE: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

WIDESCOPE . [REDACTED]

Sat 3/2/2024 4:23 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

Thank you, for the project information.

Steven Hickey from Widescope Indigenous Group would like to register his interest in the project.

Steven would like to be contact via Email or Mobile

Steven would like to be involved in any upcoming fieldwork.

Thanks

Regards

**Donna and Steven Hickey**

**Widescope Indigenous Group**

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 4:10:18 PM

**Cc:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

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Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Arika J [REDACTED]

Sat 3/2/2024 8:47 AM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Dear Mikhaila,

Yulay cultural service's would like to register our interest and be involved in up coming fieldwork we would like to be contacted via this email address.

Kind regards

Arika Jalomaki

On Mon, 29 Jan 2024 at 4:10 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

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Mikhaila

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Thomas Dahlstrom [REDACTED]

Thu 15/2/2024 4:16 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila

Thank you for the invitation. I have only just come back from holiday and am just catching up on emails etc

I was hoping you could register me as an individual RAP for this ACHA pls ?

Kind regards

Thomas Dahlstrom  
Cultural Heritage Consultant

On 29 Jan 2024, at 4:10 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

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Mikhaila

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Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

**T** 02 9493 9500

[<image001.png>](#) <image002.png>

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[<image003.png>](#)

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<E230572\_Notification\_v1.0.pdf>

## register a interest Melrose Park Public School

Tue 20/2/2024 2:33 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

📎 1 attachments (182 KB)

register a interest Melrose Park Public School .pdf;

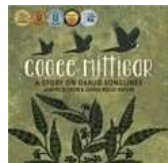
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Didyurigura  
Justine Coplin

Budyari Ngami Darug Nurawa  
Walama Ngyini Bud Bud dali Darug Nura



Explore [Dyarubbin Digital story map](#)

Visit [\[sl.nsw.gov.au\]](https://sl.nsw.gov.au) [Dyarubbin Exhibition](#)

Read [\[dictionaryofsydney.org/au\]](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/au) [Dictionary of Sydney - Dyarubbin project](#)

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - Invitation to register interest

Goobah [REDACTED]

Tue 6/2/2024 11:21 AM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

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---

We wish to register our expression of interest with the following project, Melrose Park Public School, we wish to be kept informed on any further developments.

On Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 4:10 PM Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Hi all,

On behalf of School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), EMM is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for proposed re-development of Melrose Park Public School (Lot 3 DP 535298). The project is located at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, Parramatta LGA. An attached letter provides more information and a location map.

As part of the process, we are following the Heritage NSW community consultation requirements. At this stage, I am enquiring to see if you would like to be involved in the project. I would appreciate a response by COB **Monday 12 February 2024**.

In your response, to help us with management and communication, please provide all contact details including postal address, phone and e-mail. In additional, any information regarding the following is appreciated:

- preferred communication method (e.g. e-mail) to be used during consultation;
- the level of project involvement you or your organisation wishes, including attendance of meetings, fieldwork participation and/or simply reviewing documentation;
- identification of any procedures, protocols or requirements for the use and reproduction of any cultural information or materials you or your organisation provides EMM as part of this project; and
- identification of any Aboriginal objects, sites and/or areas of cultural value that you are aware of in, or near, the project area.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,



Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

**T** 02 9493 9500



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--

**Regards**

**Basil Smith  
Public Officer  
GOOBAH**

**Contact Details:**

**Address:  
32 Sunray Crescent,  
ST CLAIRE  
NSW 2759**



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## Melrose Park Public School - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment - Aboriginal consultation

Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Tue 20/2/2024 3:32 PM

 2 attachments (624 KB)

INVITATION FOR REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST \_ Tenders (Notices) \_ \_ Buy Search Sell.pdf; E230572\_AgencyRequest\_v0.3.pdf;

Hello,

Schools Infrastructure NSW have engaged EMM Consulting to develop a Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Melrose Park Public School. The Department of Education intends to refurbish and upgrade Melrose Park Public School at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, NSW.

We have now undertaken the notification phase of the Aboriginal consultation process for this project. In accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines, please find a list below of the Aboriginal organisations that have registered for the project, and who we will be consulting with for the remainder of the ACHA process.

Attached is the newspaper advert and notification letter sent to each of the identified Aboriginal individuals/organisations to advise them of the project.

- Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Long Gully Cultural Services
- Didge Ngunawal Clan
- Wailwan Aboriginal Group
- Wallanbah Aboriginal Site Conveyancing
- Waawaar Awaa Aboriginal Corporation
- Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group
- Muragadi
- Konaggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
- Pearl Depoma
- Yulay Cultural Services
- Widescope Indigenous Group
- Butucarbin Heritage

- Goobah CHTS
- A1 Indigenous Services
- Amanda Hickey Cultural Services
- Thomas Dahlstrom
- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation

Kind Regards,


Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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## Melrose Park Public School - Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment - Aboriginal consultation

Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Tue 20/2/2024 3:29 PM

To:OEH HD Heritage Mailbox <heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au>

 2 attachments (624 KB)

INVITATION FOR REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST \_ Tenders (Notices) \_ \_ Buy Search Sell.pdf; E230572\_AgencyRequest\_v0.3.pdf;

Hello,

Schools Infrastructure NSW have engaged EMM consulting to develop a Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) for the proposed Melrose Park Public School. The Department of Education intends to refurbish and upgrade Melrose Park Public School at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, NSW.

We have now undertaken the notification phase of the Aboriginal consultation process for this project. In accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines, please find a list below of the Aboriginal organisations that have registered for the project, and who we will be consulting with for the remainder of the ACHA process.

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- Muragadi
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- Pearl Depoma
- Yulay Cultural Services
- Widescope Indigenous Group
- Butucarbin Heritage
- [REDACTED]
- Goobah CHTS
- A1 Indigenous Services
- Amanda Hickey Cultural Services
- Thomas Dahlstrom
- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation

Kind Regards,


Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500

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## Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Tue 20/2/2024 2:37 PM

Cc:Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

 1 attachments (2 MB)

E230572\_MelroseParkPublicSchool\_Methodology\_v1.1.pdf;

Dear All,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) being developed by EMM (on behalf of Schools Infrastructure NSW) for Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW.

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, please find attached a document that provides information on the proposed development at the site, some background on the previous investigations, and our proposed assessment methodology. The document also asks several questions of your organisation in relation to the cultural values of the site.

If you have any inputs/comments/feedback on the methodology, we would greatly appreciate them prior to the 19 March 2024.

Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



**T** 02 9493 9500



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20 February 2024

**Re: Melrose Park Public School- Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment - Methodology**

Dear Sir/Madam

## 1 Background

Thank you for your ongoing involvement in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) and management of the proposed Melrose Park Public School (the project) (Figure 1.1). The Department of Education (DoE) intends to refurbish and upgrade Melrose Park Public School at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, NSW.

DoE has engaged EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the project to further identify, characterise and assess any Aboriginal heritage sites and values within the project area and support the proponent to avoid and minimise impacts to Aboriginal heritage as a result of the proposed construction.

This document forms part of the formal Aboriginal consultation requirements for the project, as described in Sections 4.2 (Stage 2) and 4.3 (Stage 3) of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

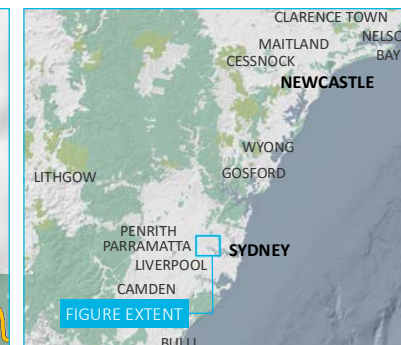
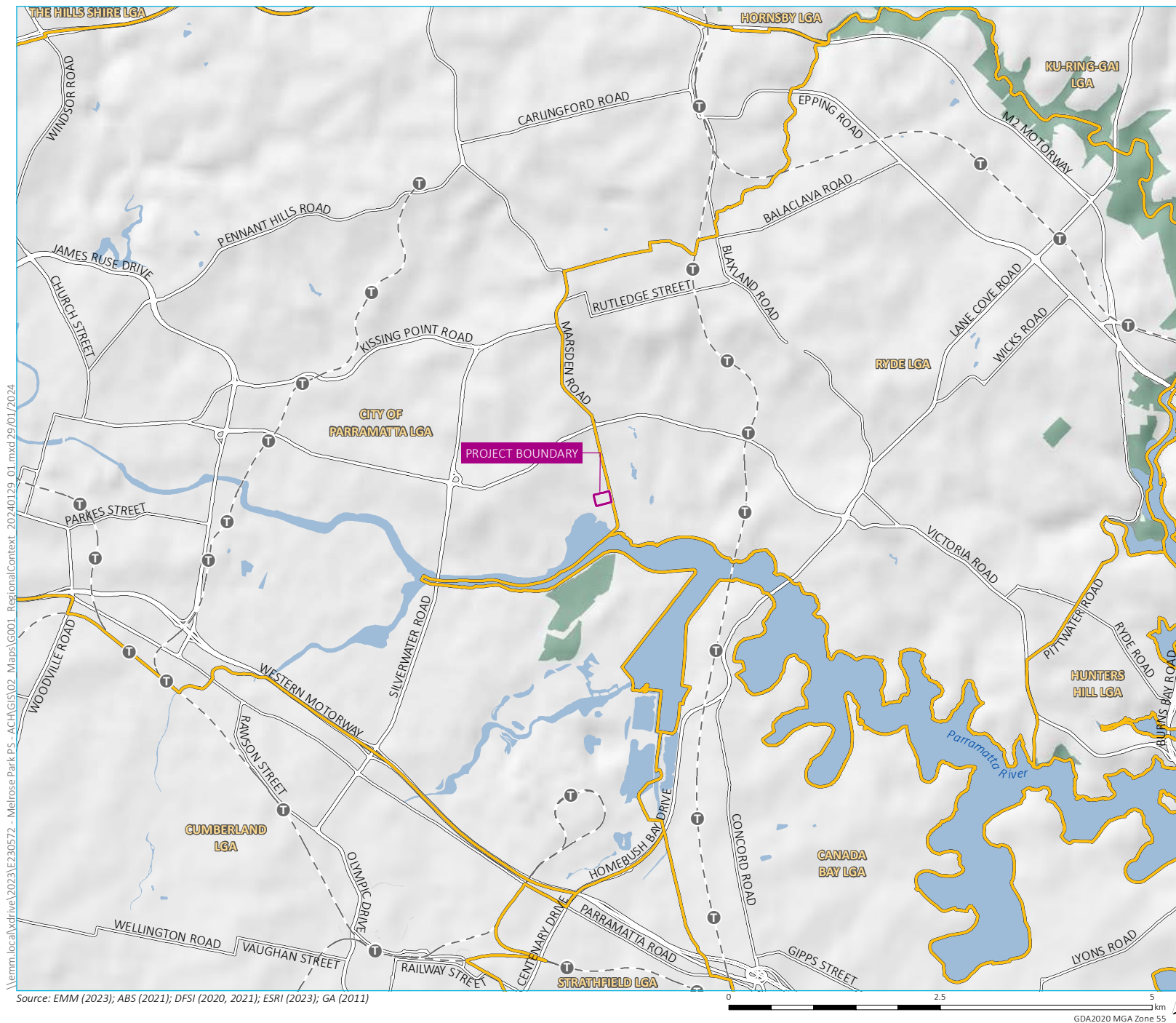
The aims of this letter are to:

- provide an overview of the project and how it will be assessed
- provide background on the project and some of the initial investigations to date
- establish the purpose and aims of the Aboriginal consultation process
- seek information about any Aboriginal cultural heritage values and sensitivities associated with the project and how they may affect, inform or refine the project and/or assessment methods
- seek information on any cultural activities (such as fishing and hunting) that has historically and/or is actively being undertaken in the study area
- identify any culturally appropriate protocols that registered parties wish to be adopted during the information gathering process (e.g., protocols during fieldwork, or handling of culturally sensitive information)
- present a draft of the intended assessment methods for your review and comment.

We welcome your feedback at your earliest convenience. We will be consulting with the registered Aboriginal parties for the duration of the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA), currently proposed to extend to the end of 2023. However, for the purposes of this initial stage of consultation and in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010), we request any written response on the information and process included below by **19 March 2024** (28 days from date of distribution)

For reference, the applicant contact is: Frank Princi, Project Director, Infrastructure Planning School Infrastructure NSW ([frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:frank.princi3@det.nsw.edu.au)).

EMM is working on the applicant's behalf, and all queries should be directed through EMM. Feedback can be provided to Mikhaila Chaplin (A: 1/20 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065; T:02 9493 9500; E: [mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)).



- KEY**
- Project boundary
  - Train station
  - Local government area
  - Rail line
  - Major road
  - Minor road
  - Vehicular track
  - Named watercourse
  - Named waterbody
  - NPWS reserve
  - State forest

Regional context

Melrose Park PS  
Figure 1

## 2 Project information

### 2.1 Overview

Department of Education (DoE) has commissioned EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Melrose Park Public School.

### 2.2 Project elements

The detailed design plans are not yet available; however, we understand that the business case might include options for refurbishment of existing facilities or the establishment of new facilities that will cater for a growing school cohort. The proposed project is part of the Melrose Park Precinct Plan, involving the redevelopment of the area and construction of residential multi-storey dwellings, a town centre and retail village, community village and parklands.

### 2.3 Previous investigations

An Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment was undertaken in October 2022. The assessment identified no cultural materials present. Despite this, the area was considered to contain moderate levels of archaeological sensitivity due to several artefact scatter sites and shell midden sites have previously been identified in close proximity to the project area - including an unregistered potential archaeological deposit (PAD).

## 3 Aboriginal stakeholder engagement

In accordance with the consultation process, EMM contacted a number of State and Commonwealth government organisations to provide information on Aboriginal individuals and organisations known to participate in cultural heritage management in the relevant LGAs. This was undertaken in November 2023. Once this information was obtained, a process of notifying these individuals and organisations was undertaken. This included distribution of letters advising them of the project, and publication of the project in the Daily Telegraph on 29 January 2024.

Following this notification process undertaken between 2 June 2023 and 4 July 2023, the following Aboriginal stakeholders have expressed an interest in being involved in the project:

- Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Long Gully Cultural Services
- Didge Ngunawal Clan
- Wailwan Aboriginal Group
- Wallanbah Aboriginal Site Conveyancing
- Waarwaar Awaa Aboriginal Corporation
- Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group
- Muragadi
- Konaggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services

- Pearl Depoma
- Yulay Cultural Services
- Widescope Indigenous Group
- Butucarbin Heritage



- Goobah Development PTY LTD (Murrin Clan/Peoples)
- A1 Indigenous Services
- Amanda Hickey Cultural Services
- Thomas Dahlstrom

In accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines, these stakeholders are referred to as Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) in subsequent documentation and communication for the project.

The roles, functions and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the consultation process are outlined in Table 3.1

**Table 3.1**      **Roles, functions and responsibilities**

RAPs	<p>Provide cultural perspectives, views, knowledge and advice to EMM.</p> <p>Indicate areas of cultural significance.</p> <p>Provide Aboriginal sites representatives for archaeological fieldwork (if desired, and representatives are suitably qualified and insured).</p> <p>Have an awareness and understanding of the commercial environment and constraints in which the applicant operates.</p> <p>Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the opportunities to provide input into the ACHA and management recommendations for the continued design, construction and operation of the project.</p> <p>Identify, raise, and discuss cultural concerns, perspectives and assessment requirements (if any).</p>
EMM	<p>Undertake the ACHA in accordance with the relevant policies, legislation and guidelines, including coordinating and directing the fieldwork.</p> <p>Facilitate the Aboriginal consultation process.</p> <p>Consider the cultural perspectives, views, knowledge and advice of the RAPs in assessing cultural significance and developing management measures.</p> <p>Provide clear management measures that comply with relevant legislation, guidelines and significance.</p>
All stakeholders	<p>Mutual respect (each person has the right to have a say and be heard).</p> <p>Communicate in a professional manner.</p>

## 4 Assessment methodology

The ACHA will support assessment under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) establishes the framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in the planning and development consent process. The EP&A Act requires that environmental impacts are considered before land development and includes impacts on cultural heritage items and places as well as archaeological sites and deposits. The EP&A Act also requires that local governments prepare planning instruments, such as Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and Development Control Plans (DCPs) to provide guidance at the local level of environmental assessment required, it also includes a range of planning instruments that can include Aboriginal objects, sites and places, although these would still generally be managed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The ACHA will undertake an assessment of impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage items and be prepared for the project in accordance with the Heritage NSW guidelines. These typically include:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (the Code) (DECCW 2010a);
- *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (DECCW 2010b); and
- *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010c).

The purpose of the ACHA is to describe any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and values within the study area, identify the potential impacts that the project may have on these sites and values, and detail mitigation measures for the avoidance, minimisation and management of any impacts to identified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and values. The preparation of the ACHA will involve:

- Consultation with RAPs to identify socio-cultural values of the project study area and places of special significance that should be considered.
- A review of past Aboriginal heritage reports near the project area to further understand the location, nature and survivability of cultural materials in a given area, and how this may extrapolate into the project area.
- A review of the existing environment and environmental characteristics of the project footprint to identify past Aboriginal resources and suitable occupation areas. The presence of certain landforms and landscapes are critical in determining the potential presence of Aboriginal cultural materials (e.g. proximity to water), while the last 200 years of activity often have resulted in disturbance and loss of such materials. This review will provide an understanding of both the current conditions, but also the historical evolution of the project area.
- Archaeological field survey to ground-truth the predictive model, and to identify previously documented and undocumented cultural heritage.
- Archaeological test excavation of areas of potential archaeological deposits (PAD) and based on the findings of the archaeological survey and existing information (Figure 4.1).
- An assessment of significance for Aboriginal cultural heritage sites values in the project area (with input from the registered Aboriginal parties).
- An assessment of the potential impacts that construction and operation of the project may affect Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and values in the project area.
- Development of mitigation measures based on the results of the impact assessment and input from registered Aboriginal parties during the consultation process and particularly from the draft ACHA review

period. The mitigation measures would detail how the project would aim to avoid, minimise and manage the potential impacts of the project on Aboriginal cultural sites and values in the project area.

#### 4.1 Archaeological field survey

Archaeological field survey of the study area will be undertaken to identify any extant Aboriginal objects or sites and cultural values present. Field survey will be completed across the entire study area.

Surface investigation will consist of the survey team being evenly spaced (5-10 m apart) and walking transects across accessible parts of the study area.

The focus of the archaeological field survey will be to both investigate soil exposures for extant Aboriginal objects and identify landforms that have potential for cultural material to be present (either in surface or subsurface deposits). All Aboriginal objects and/or landforms of interest would be mapped and documented using hand-held GPS, photographs, sketches and/or written description.

Where possible, a significant focus of the survey will be to discuss intangible values associated with the project study area, such as connection to other cultural places, stories, view-lines, contemporary values, etc.

The archaeological field survey will be undertaken in accordance with Requirements 5 to 10 of the Code of Practice. In summary, the Code of Practice requires the following general methodology:

- Pedestrian survey of the project study area.
- Recording of beginning and end points of transects or the boundaries of survey units, and the spacing between survey personnel.
- Recording of landform, soil information, land surface, vegetation conditions, visibility and exposure, and survey coverage.
- Recording of any identified Aboriginal sites identified according to Requirements 6-8, and recording of any identified Aboriginal objects in accordance with Requirements 18-24 of the Code of Practice. This would include the spatial location, photographs and sketches, and written description of any identified sites, such as culturally modified trees, artefact sites, etc.
- If any Aboriginal objects and/or sites are identified in the course of the survey, site cards will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS registrar.
- In the event of Aboriginal heritage being identified within the project footprint, undertake discussions on site as to the potential further investigation and/or management of these finds. Where sites are considered of high archaeological and/or cultural value, further characterisation, consideration of avoidance and re-design would be explored with the registered Aboriginal parties. Appropriate mitigation measures would be developed in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties and Heritage NSW for any potential unavoidable impacts.

#### 4.2 Archaeological test excavation

The project has potential to disturb ground that intersects with landform/s where buried cultural material is considered probable (Figure 4.1). Areas which are considered to have potential for Aboriginal heritage that intersect with the proposed development footprint would be subject to test excavations. The test excavations would consist of the following approach and methods:

All test excavations would adopt the Heritage NSW Code of Practice methods, and include the following:



- All test excavation pits would be spatially located using a differential GPS device, which would also provide elevation data.
- Manual excavation of 0.25 m<sup>2</sup> (50 x 50 cm) test pits in a systematic grid across areas of archaeological interest within the impact footprint. The spatial resolution of the grid would be dependent on on-ground conditions but would typically have test pits between 20 m apart, with high resolution in areas of identified cultural materials and/or high potential, with lower resolution in areas of moderate potential. Additional in-filling of this initial grid of test pits and/or the expansion of test pits (up to 3 m<sup>2</sup>) may be undertaken to further resolve any uncertainties about the cultural deposits or where deep deposits are encountered.
- Excavation would use hand tools. Excavation of the first unit would be in 5 cm spits, with subsequent excavation allowed in 10 cm spits or according to stratigraphy (whichever is smallest) depending on the results of the first unit. Manual excavation would continue to either: i) the base of the cultural deposits; ii) to the depth of the underlying geology; or iii) to the maximum depth possible via hand excavation (likely ~50 cm);
- Sieving of all manually excavated material through a 5 mm sieve.
- Reduced levels of the top and bottom of the test pit would be documented using a dumpy level against a known elevation. Other levels may be taken as required.
- Soil profiles would be recorded in accordance with the Code of Practice, including scaled drawings, photographs, and written descriptions.
- Soil samples may be collected for description, sedimentological and chronological analysis where such analysis is considered likely to contribute significant information. Excavation procedures and protocols may be modified at the discretion of the Excavation Director, in consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties and the proponent as the conditions in the field and nature of the excavations develop. This includes the movement of test pits to avoid existing built structures, buried services and disturbances not identified during the desktop phase.

### 4.3 Timeframes

The following indicative timeframes would apply:

- distribution of this document to registered Aboriginal stakeholders: mid-February 2024
- archaeological survey: mid-March 2024
- archaeological test excavation: mid to late March 2024
- post excavation analysis and reporting: late March to late April 2024
- draft ACHA report for Department review: late April 2024 to early May 2024
- RAP review of draft ACAH report: May 2024
- Report finalisation: late May 2024

\\emm.local\ydrive\2023\230572 - Melrose Park PS - ACH\GIS\05 Working\UB working\X001 - Indicative TP locations 20240206 01.mxd 6/02/2024



- KEY
- Indicative test pit locations
  - ▭ Project boundary
  - Orange shaded area Gore Bay pipeline exclusion buffer (10m)
  - Yellow shaded area Land within 200m of water

Indicative test pit locations

Melrose Park Public School ACHA  
Figure 1

## 5 What we need from you

In addition to the archaeological evidence described above, Aboriginal heritage incorporates a wide range of values such as stories, traditions and cultural practices. EMM welcomes advice from the Aboriginal community about cultural values (which might include archaeological sites or other types of values) relevant to the study area and its surrounds. EMM is relying on the Aboriginal community for advice on nonarchaeological and intangible Aboriginal values for the study area. We are happy to discuss any information which you are willing to share and will respect confidentiality where requested.

EMM would appreciate your feedback on the above methodology proposed for the investigation and assessment of the study area. In responding, please also consider the following questions:

- Are there any protocols in relation to community interaction and/or cultural heritage that you would like adopted during the project?
- Are you aware of any Aboriginal objects, places, sites or stories of cultural significance and/or importance that you are aware of within the study area? If so, please advise us how you wish them to be dealt with during the project.
- Are you aware of any past or current fishing and hunting activities within the study area? Do you have any views on how these should be managed into the future?
- Is the information you are providing sensitive, gender specific, etc? If so, how would you like the information you provide to EMM to be managed? Noting that some documentation for the ACHA process will be required.
- Do you require any further information prior to EMM proceeding with the project?
- In your response, can you please also clearly identify who you would like EMM to talk to within your organisation, and provide contact details for these individuals. Please also ensure your preferred method of communication (eg telephone call, e-mail, letter etc) is highlighted for subsequent stages of the project.

## 6 Closing

We look forward to receiving any response your organisation wishes to make about the proposed method by **19 March 2024**. Your response will be documented and considered in the assessment. Most importantly, your cultural information is also welcome within this timeframe; but it can also be submitted up until the completion of the draft ACHA.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Yours sincerely



**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist


[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)

## Re: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Rodney Gunther [REDACTED]

Tue 20/2/2024 3:13 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

 1 attachments (60 KB)

Response to draft Methodology - for Melrose Park Public School at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, NSW.docx;

**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

Please find attached the response to the draft Methodology for Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW.

**Note: We would like to participate in all field work, survey, Testing and salvage (if warranted) as it assists us with responding to the reports in a more culturally professional manner.**

regards

Rodney Gunther  
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 2:37 PM Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Dear All,

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If you have any inputs/comments/feedback on the methodology, we would greatly appreciate them prior to the 19 March 2024.

Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.



Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

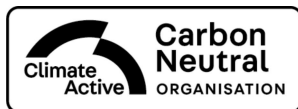


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## ***Waawaar Awaa Aboriginal Corporation***



20 February 2024

Mikhaila Chaplin  
Archaeologist  
EMM Consulting

**RE: Response to draft Methodology cultural heritage assessment for Melrose Park Public School at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, NSW.**

Hi Mikhaila,

Waawaar Awaa Aboriginal Corporation **supports** the draft Methodology for Melrose Park Public School at 110 Wharf Road, West Ryde, NSW for the following factors:

- Minimise or avoid impact to known Aboriginal objects.
- An Archaeological survey to be undertaken.
- Test excavation to occur **within all known areas** of sensitivity (PADs) within the Project area.
- Test excavation to occur **within any new identified** areas of sensitivity (PADs) within the Project area from the survey.
- Salvage to occur if warranted after testing completed.
- Consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to continue in order to identify the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Project area.
- Preparation of an ACHAR for the Project area detailing the assessment results.

regards

**Rodney Gunther**



## RE: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Tue 20/2/2024 3:30 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

Warami Mikhaila

Thanks for the methodology, could you please include us for the site inspection thanks,

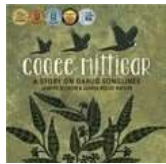


Didyurigura

Justine Coplin

Budyari Ngami Darug Nurawa

Walama Ngyini Bud Bud dali Darug Nura



Explore [Dyarubbin Digital story map](#)

Visit [\[sl.nsw.gov.au\]Dyarubbin Exhibition](#)

Read [\[dictionaryofsydney.org/au\]Dictionary of Sydney - Dyarubbin project](#)

Listen [Yarramundi and the people of Dyarubbin - The History Listen - ABC Radio National](#)

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:56 PM

**To:** justinecoplin@optusnet.com.au

**Subject:** FW: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Hi Justine,

Please find the email for the Melrose Park Public School project below with details regarding the methodology letter attached.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Thanks again,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

**SYDNEY | Gamaraigal Country, Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



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---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:37 PM

**Cc:** Laressa Barry <[lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au)>

**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Dear All,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) being developed by EMM (on behalf of Schools Infrastructure NSW) for Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW.

In accordance with Heritage NSW consultation guidelines, please find attached a document that provides information on the proposed development at the site, some background on the previous investigations, and our proposed assessment methodology. The document also asks several questions of your organisation in relation to the cultural values of the site.

If you have any inputs/comments/feedback on the methodology, we would greatly appreciate them prior to the 19 March 2024.

Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Ethan Trewlynn [REDACTED]

Tue 20/2/2024 3:56 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Good afternoon Mikhaila,

Not far from the the subject area there was fishing of the parramatta river which we could possibly find evidence of that if there hasn't been too much disturbance.

I'm also happy with the protocols but if we find anything I'd like for them to returned back to the site buried in a safe manner.

If there's any holes that have to be expanded I'd like for them to be filled in and than fenced off for protection.

I'm happy with the methodology as it's up to standard protocols.

Thanks for the email,

Kind regards

Ethan Trewlynn of Long Gully Cultural Services.

On Tuesday 20 February 2024, Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Dear All,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) being developed by EMM (on behalf of Schools Infrastructure NSW) for Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW.

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Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mikhaila

## Mikhaila Chaplin

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500



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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

lilly carroll [REDACTED]

Tue 20/2/2024 4:56 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Cc: Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila

We are happy with the proposed methodology for Melrose Park public school

Kind regards

Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll

Directors DNC  
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 2:37 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

Dear All,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) being developed by EMM (on behalf of Schools Infrastructure NSW) for Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW.

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Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

jesse johnson [REDACTED]

Wed 21/2/2024 10:30 AM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila

I have read the project information and methodology for the above project, and I agree with the recommendations made.

Kind regards

Jesse Johnson  
[REDACTED]

On 20 Feb 2024, at 2:37 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

Dear All,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) being developed by EMM (on behalf of Schools Infrastructure NSW) for Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW.

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Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

**T** 02 9493 9500

[<image001.png>](#) [<image002.png>](#) [REDACTED]

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<E230572\_MelroseParkPublicSchool\_Methodology\_v1.1.pdf>

## Re: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Thomas Dahlstrom [REDACTED]

Mon 11/3/2024 12:27 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila

I've had a read and am happy. I did have a question regarding any material found on the survey or test ex, can we have any material located be analysed by an expert and can I also be apart of this process ?

Kind regards

Thomas Dahlstrom

On 20 Feb 2024, at 2:37 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

Dear All,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) being developed by EMM (on behalf of Schools Infrastructure NSW) for Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW.

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Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

**T** 02 9493 9500

[<image001.png>](#) [<image002.png>](#) [REDACTED]

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<E230572\_MelroseParkPublicSchool\_Methodology\_v1.1.pdf>

## RE: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

Thu 14/3/2024 10:53 AM

To: Pearl Depoma [REDACTED]

Cc: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

Hi Pearl,

Thanks so much for forwarding your response through to me as well and thank you for the feedback. We'll be in touch with you further as the project progresses.

Thank you and kind regards,

**Laressa Barry**

Senior Archaeologist | Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader

**T** 02 9493 9500

**M** 0432 830 813

[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

*Note: My work days are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday*

---

**From:** Pearl Depoma [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 8:59 PM

**To:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Subject:** Fw: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

Hello Laressa,

I just sent Mikhaila the email below regarding the Melrose Park Public School project and received an automatic response that she is out onsite until next week, so I thought I'd forward it to you as well as per her original email.

Thank you.

Regards

Pearl Depoma

---

**From:** Pearl Depoma [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 March 2024 8:52 PM

**To:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Subject:** Re: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Hi Mikhaila,

Thank you for your email.

Sorry for my delayed response, I was inundated with emails at the same time requiring review and feedback.

I have had time to look over your email now and am able to provide EMM with some feedback as follows in **BOLD**:

- Are there any protocols in relation to community interaction and/or cultural heritage that you would like adopted during the project?

**I highly suggest involving RAP members in every step of this project on site eg site surveys, test excavations and site work.**

- Are you aware of any Aboriginal objects, places, sites or stories of cultural significance and/or importance that you are aware of within the study area? If so, please advise us how you wish them to be dealt with during the project. **If there any Aboriginal Artefacts found onsite they should to be handle with the upmost respect and care. They need to be reburied onsite or nearby, donated to a museum or given to the LALC. Scared trees and waterways should remain untouched and upholding. Any nature removed should be replaced upon site in the near future. All land and water are sacred to Aboriginal People.**

- Are you aware of any past or current fishing and hunting activities within the study area? Do you have any views on how these should be managed into the future? **If there are any fishing or hunting locations they should be maintained respectfully, especially waterways such as creeks and connections to rivers/seas. If there were hunting activities in the past, we may find these within the artefacts.**

- In your response, can you please also clearly identify who you would like EMM to talk to within your organisation, and provide contact details for these individuals: **Myself, details as per my email signature.** Thank you.

I am happy to continue communicating via email but I am also open to any online meetings or telephone calls if need be in the future.

Regards  
Pearl Depoma

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 February 2024 2:37 PM

**Cc:** Laressa Barry <[lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au)>

**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Dear All,

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investigations, and our proposed assessment methodology. The document also asks several questions of your organisation in relation to the cultural values of the site.

If you have any inputs/comments/feedback on the methodology, we would greatly appreciate them prior to the 19 March 2024.

Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500



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## Re: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Arika J [REDACTED]

Fri 15/3/2024 8:01 AM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

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---

Dear Mikhaila,

On behalf of Yulay cultural service's I have read and agree with the assessment methodology for this project and would like to be involved in upcoming field survey and testing.

Kind regards

Arika Jalomaki

On Tue, 20 Feb 2024 at 2:37 pm, Mikhaila Chaplin <[mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

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Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions

T 02 9493 9500



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## RE: Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Phil Khan [REDACTED]

Tue 19/3/2024 2:24 PM

To: Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>

 2 attachments (52 KB)

Public Liability 2024 to 2025.pdf; Icare 2024.pdf;

**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of the Organisation.

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Hi Mikhaila,

Thank you for your methodology for Melrose Park Public School. Here KYWG we hold 50 years of cultural knowledge of the area. We hold a deep connection to Mother Earth, the sky, and our water ways. Aboriginal people have a spiritual connection to the land, it holds stories, history. It is for this reason we must not destroy the land or pollute it as it will become sick and so will we. Mother Earth gives to us and in return we care for her. KYWG we aim to protect and conserve our sacred sites especially our burial sites and the tangible and intangible and the flora and fauna. The study area is highly significant to us Aboriginal people & close to water ways that are utilised by aboriginal people.

The whole of Parramatta is of significance and sensitivity to us Aboriginal peoples, the area was utilised for tens of thousands of years by our peoples. Water ways are of highly significant to us as without them there would not be life, we are deeply connected to them spiritually. Our dreaming stories reference them and express the creation of them. An example would be the Rainbow Serpent, he slithered across the land creating the valleys and the water ways as he went along.

It's the intangible as well as tangible aspects we must consider when it comes to protecting cultural heritage. For incense sky knowledge is also of importance it was used to navigate through the night, it also suggests when resources are available, the sky reflects what's here on the land. Before we were on mother earth we were up in the sky, a lot of our creation story's come from the sky. Land, us, and the sky world are all interconnected. Its these types of stories that shape our culture and understanding of how the land was created.

The flora and fauna would have been thriving and Aboriginal people utilised their environment to its full potential. Aboriginal people carried out their daily activities in this area, hence why it's so important to us. Aboriginal people have walked this land for tens of thousands of years and continue to do so today. They strategically look after the land, plant flora in a way that coexisted with the environment around them.

The study area is close to the Parramatta River this suggest that the area is has potential for Archaeological deposits. The Parramatta River were the fresh water meets the salt water, and area that is a resource rich environment. The study area is also close to a swampy wetland which can be utilised by Aboriginal Peoples for food, medicine, and a fresh water source. The area is also significant due to how long Aboriginal peoples occupied the land; we are connected to it.

We would like to agree and support your methodology to investigate further and do test excavations. We look forward to working alongside you on this project.

**We would like to express our interest to take part in any fieldwork.**

Kind Regards

Phil Khan – Director  
[REDACTED]



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin <mchaplin@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:37:28 PM  
**Cc:** Laressa Barry <lbarry@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - project information and assessment methodology

Dear All,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) being developed by EMM (on behalf of Schools Infrastructure NSW) for Melrose Park Public School, Melrose Park, NSW.

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Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au>

Wed 10/7/2024 4:02 PM

To:Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au>

Cc:Georgia Burnett <[REDACTED]>;Melanie Thomson <[REDACTED]>

Hi all,

Thank you all for your ongoing involvement in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School in West Ryde, NSW. Please find a link below to the draft ACHA, for your review.

 [E230572\\_Melrose Park PS ACHA\\_v2 Draft for RAPS\\_Redacted.pdf](#)

We are seeking your feedback on the draft ACHA document and in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines, we provide 28 days for the comment on the ACHA. If you wish to provide input or comments, please can you do so by this date: **Wednesday 7 August**. We are happy to send out a hard copy if that’s preferred, please just let us know and provide an up-to-date postal address and we will get it printed and posted to you.

Kind regards,

**Amber Morgan**

Graduate Archaeologist | Ecology and Heritage



creating opportunities

**T** 02 9493 9500  
[REDACTED]

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emmconsulting.com.au

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## Amber Morgan

---

**From:** Ethan Trewlynn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 July 2024 10:45 AM  
**To:** Amber Morgan  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett; Melanie Thomson  
**Subject:** Re: Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment  
**Attachments:** Outlook-A picture .png

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Good morning Amber,

This project area we studied was very low in density with the artefacts being found there wasn't very many at all and the artefacts were found closer to the river.  
There is evidence of people being at site but the density wasn't high.  
I'm happy with everything that happened on site and it was great working with EMM and yourself on-site was a great bunch of people.

Kind regards,  
Ethan

On Wed, 10 July 2024, 4:02 pm Amber Morgan, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi all,

Thank you all for your ongoing involvement in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School in West Ryde, NSW. Please find a link below to the draft ACHA, for your review.



[E230572\\_Melrose Park PS ACHA\\_v2 Draft for RAPS\\_Redacted.pdf](#)

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Kind regards,

**Amber Morgan**

Graduate Archaeologist | Ecology and Heritage



T 02 9493 9500

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[emmconsulting.com.au](http://emmconsulting.com.au)

**SYDNEY | Gamaraigal Country, Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



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## Amber Morgan

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 13 July 2024 11:32 AM  
**To:** Amber Morgan  
**Subject:** Re: Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Amber  
Have reviewed and no issues with review at this time.  
Kind regards

[REDACTED]

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which we work and pay our deep respect to Elders past, present and emerging

On 10 Jul 2024, at 4:03 PM, Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au> wrote:

Hi all,

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Kind regards,


**Amber Morgan**

Graduate Archaeologist | Ecology and Heritage

T 02 9493 9500

[<Outlook-A picture .png>](#)

<Outlook-  
https\_\_\_do.png>

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Re: Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au>

Wed 31/7/2024 9:00 AM

Cc:Georgia Burnett <[REDACTED]>;Melanie Thomson <[REDACTED]>

Hi all,

This is just a friendly reminder that the review period for the Melrose Park Public School ACHA ends next week on Wednesday 7 August 2024. If you wish to provide any comments or input please do so by this date. Below is another link to the ACHA in case you missed it.

 [E230572\\_Melrose Park PS ACHA\\_v2 Draft for RAPS\\_Redacted 4.pdf](#)

Thanks again,

**Amber Morgan**  
Graduate Archaeologist

T 02 9493 9500



[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

---

**From:** Amber Morgan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 July 2024 4:02 PM  
**To:** Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett <gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au>; Melanie Thomson <mthomson@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

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Kind regards,

**Amber Morgan**  
Graduate Archaeologist | Ecology and Heritage  
 T 02 9493 9500  
LI [Connect on LinkedIn](#)  
emmconsulting.com.au

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## Amber Morgan

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 12:08 PM  
**To:** Amber Morgan  
**Subject:** Re: Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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---

Warami Amber  
Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation agree with the recommendations set out in this report.  
Yanu  
Justine

----- Original Message -----

**From:** "Amber Morgan" [REDACTED]  
**To:**  
**Cc:** "Georgia Burnett" <[REDACTED]>, "Melanie Thomson" <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tue, 30 Jul 2024 23:00:00 +0000  
**Subject:** Re: Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

Hi all,

This is just a friendly reminder that the review period for the Melrose Park Public School ACHA ends next week on Wednesday 7 August 2024. If you wish to provide any comments or input please do so by this date. Below is another link to the ACHA in case you missed it.

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Thanks again,

**Amber Morgan**

Graduate Archaeologist

T 02 9493 9500



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---

**From:** Amber Morgan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 July 2024 4:02 PM  
**To:** Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett <gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au>; Melanie Thomson

<mthomson@emmconsulting.com.au>

**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

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**Amber Morgan**

Graduate Archaeologist | Ecology and Heritage

T 02 9493 9500



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## Amber Morgan

---

**From:** lilly carroll [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 August 2024 1:25 PM  
**To:** Amber Morgan  
**Subject:** Re: Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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---

Hi Amber

We are all good from our end

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Wednesday, July 31, 2024, 9:00 AM, Amber Morgan [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi all,

This is just a friendly reminder that the review period for the Melrose Park Public School ACHA ends next week on Wednesday 7 August 2024. If you wish to provide any comments or input please do so by this date. Below is another link to the ACHA in case you missed it.



[E230572 Melrose Park PS ACHA v2 Draft for RAPS Redacted 4.pdf](#)

Thanks again,

**Amber Morgan**

Graduate Archaeologist

T 02 9493 9500



[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

---

**From:** Amber Morgan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 July 2024 4:02 PM  
**To:** Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett <gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au>; Melanie Thomson <mthomson@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

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Kind regards,

**Amber Morgan**

Graduate Archaeologist | Ecology and Heritage



**T** 02 9493 9500



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## Amber Morgan

---

**From:** Phil Khan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 August 2024 1:45 PM  
**To:** Amber Morgan  
**Subject:** RE: Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

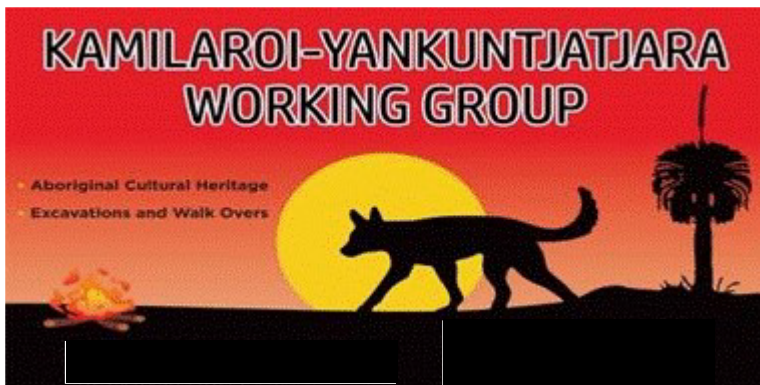
CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Amber,

Thank you for your ACHA re Melrose Park Public School, we have reviewed your report and would like to agree and support your recommendations. We look forward to working alongside you on this project.

Kind Regards  
Phil Khan – Director  
[REDACTED]



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

---

**From:** Amber Morgan [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:02:50 PM  
**To:** Amber Morgan [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett [REDACTED]; Melanie Thomson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - ACHA - for review input and comment

Hi all,

Thank you all for your ongoing involvement in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School in West Ryde, NSW. Please find a link below to the draft ACHA, for your review.



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Kind regards,

**Amber Morgan**

Graduate Archaeologist | Ecology and Heritage



T 02 9493 9500



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**Melrose Park Public School - draft ACHA for review**

---

From Mikhaila Chaplin [REDACTED]

Date Tue 1/4/2025 4:15 PM

Cc Georgia Burnett [REDACTED]

Bcc [REDACTED]

Hi all,

Thank you all for your ongoing involvement in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School in West Ryde, NSW. As you might know from the last update on this project earlier this year, the SINSW project team have been finalising the design for the proposed redevelopment. Ultimately this has resulted in the avoidance of Aboriginal site MPPS-AS1, and we have updated the report to reflect this change. As no other cultural material was recovered elsewhere on the site, it is therefore considered that there is a low risk of further Aboriginal objects being present within the remaining impact footprint of the proposed works. Outside of the curtilage +10 m of MPPS-AS1, the proposed development activities are considered to have low risk of harming Aboriginal objects, and works may proceed with caution and in accordance with the NSW Department of Education's Unexpected Finds Protocol. Please find a link below to the revised ACHA, for your review.

Link to report:  [E230572\\_RP2\\_Melrose Park PS ACHA\\_V5\\_Redacted.pdf](#)

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Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



T 02 9493 9500



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---

**Re: Melrose Park Public School - draft ACHA for review**

---

From Ethan Trewlynn [REDACTED]

Date Tue 1/4/2025 5:42 PM

To Mikhaila Chaplin [REDACTED]

Cc Georgia Burnett [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

After reading the ACHA, I'm happy with everything I have read. It's been great being apart of the project being involved with fieldwork. If anything else happens I would like to be apart of it also.

Kind regards,

Ethan

On Tue, 1 Apr 2025, 4:15 pm Mikhaila Chaplin, <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi all,

Thank you all for your ongoing involvement in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the proposed redevelopment of Melrose Park Public School in West Ryde, NSW. As you might know from the last update on this project earlier this year, the SINSW project team have been finalising the design for the proposed redevelopment. Ultimately this has resulted in the avoidance of Aboriginal site MPPS-AS1, and we have updated the report to reflect this change. As no other cultural material was recovered elsewhere on the site, it is therefore considered that there is a low risk of further Aboriginal objects being present within the remaining impact footprint of the proposed works. Outside of the curtilage +10 m of MPPS-AS1, the proposed development activities are considered to have low risk of harming Aboriginal objects, and works may proceed with caution and in accordance with the NSW Department of Education's Unexpected Finds Protocol. Please find a link below to the revised ACHA, for your review.

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Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



**T** 02 9493 9500



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---

**Re: Melrose Park Public School - draft ACHA for review**

---

From Phil Khan [REDACTED]

Date Tue 29/4/2025 11:34 PM

To Mikhaila Chaplin [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

---

Hi Mikhaila,

Thank you for your Draft ACHAR for Melrose Park Public School, we would like to agree and support your recommendations.

Kind Regards

Phil Khan – Director

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
ABN 26 637 314 384



---

**From:** Mikhaila Chaplin [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 April 2025 4:15 PM

**Cc:** Georgia Burnett [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Melrose Park Public School - draft ACHA for review

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Kind regards,

Mikhaila

**Mikhaila Chaplin**

Archaeologist | Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



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# Appendix C

Archaeological background

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## C.1 Site definitions and recording methods used for this assessment

### C.1.1 Aboriginal sites

In the AHIMS database, Aboriginal sites are defined in several ways. At the simplest level, sites are recorded as 'closed' or 'open'. Closed sites are associated with rockshelters and include other evidence of Aboriginal occupation that may be present, such as areas where subsurface Aboriginal objects may occur within the shelter ('potential archaeological deposit' (PAD)), faunal remains, and art on the shelter walls (paintings/engravings). Open sites are broadly defined and encompass all other types of Aboriginal site features that are located in areas where there is no rockshelter. The most common open site features found generally include artefacts, grinding grooves, art, culturally modified trees, and shell deposits (middens) (OEH 2012). The presence or absence of stone artefacts is often a defining factor in site identification, with almost every site likely to have at least some associated artefacts, as discard or loss of this most ubiquitous and practically indestructible marker of past Aboriginal visitation.

Any one site (or group of linked sites described as a 'complex') can contain several different site features. For example, a shelter may have art on the walls, artefacts on the floor surface or outside the shelter, and be predicted to contain faunal remains and further artefacts in the accumulated deposit inside.

A description of terms used to describe different site features known to occur in the vicinity of the project area is provided in Table C.1 and use definitions provided by OEH and those adopted by EMM in their field investigations to ensure consistency in recording. Similarly, there may be places of contemporary significance to Aboriginal people in the region and that will require consultation with this community to identify.

**Table C.1 Site definitions and recording**

Site feature	Definition and recording methods
Aboriginal ceremony and Dreaming	Previously referred to as mythological sites these are spiritual/story places where no physical evidence of previous use of the place may occur, e.g., natural unmodified landscape features, ceremonial or spiritual areas, men's/women's sites, dreaming (creation) tracks, marriage places etc.
Artefact site (open stone artefact site)	<p>Objects such as stone tools, and associated flaked material, spears, manuports, grindstones, discarded stone flakes, modified glass or shell demonstrating evidence of use of the area by Aboriginal people.</p> <p>Open stone artefact sites were defined by the presence of one (isolated find) or more (artefact scatter) stone artefacts visible on the ground surface. The boundaries of a site are limited to the spatial extent of the visible stone artefacts. The mapped site points and/or 'site areas' do not represent the areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD) that also apply to some sites (refer to the term 'PAD' below).</p> <p>Open stone artefact sites were recorded by marking each artefact location or each cluster of artefacts within a 5 m radius as a separate waypoint in the GPS. Site boundaries were allocated by drawing a line around the cluster waypoints for each site using ArcGIS software. Stone artefacts more than 50 m apart were recorded as separate sites. EMM acknowledges that the 50 m rule applied here is an arbitrary distinction for site boundaries and is used mainly for efficiencies in site management and to establish consistency in site recording methods</p>
Burials	A traditional or contemporary (post-contact) burial of an Aboriginal person, which may occur outside designated cemeteries and may not be marked, e.g., in caves, marked by stone cairns, in sand areas, along creek banks etc.
Fish trap	A modified area on watercourses where fish were trapped for short-term storage and gathering.
Grinding grooves	Grinding grooves were defined as an area of outcropping bedrock containing evidence of one or more grinding grooves where ground-stone hatchets or other grinding practices (i.e. seed grinding) were implemented.

**Table C.1**      **Site definitions and recording**

Site feature	Definition and recording methods
Habitation structure	Structures constructed by Aboriginal people for short- or long-term shelter. More temporary structures are commonly preserved away from the NSW coastline, may include historic camps of contemporary significance. Smaller structures may make use of natural materials such as branches, logs and bark sheets or manufactured materials such as corrugated iron to form shelters. Archaeological remains of a former structure such as chimney/fireplace, raised earth building platform, excavated pits, rubble mounds etc.
Modified tree (carved or scarred)	<p>Trees which show the marks of modification as a result of cutting of bark from the trunk for use in the production of shields, canoes, boomerangs, burials shrouds, for medicinal purposes, foot holds etc., or alternately intentional carving of the heartwood of the tree to form a permanent marker to indicate ceremonial use/significance of a nearby area, again these carvings may also act as territorial or burial markers.</p> <p>Modified trees (either carved or scarred) can be difficult to identify. Scars commonly occur on trees through natural processes such as branch tears, insect damage, storm and fire damage and faunal damage. Scars can also occur from mechanical damage from vehicles or farming equipment.</p> <p>The attributes of potential scarred trees were discussed during the survey amongst archaeologists and RAPs before it was decided if a scar would be recorded or not. A precautionary approach was adopted, whereby some of the more ambiguous examples were recorded anyway. The assessment of scar trees was made from the experience of the survey team and the guideline <i>Aboriginal scarred trees in New South Wales: a field manual</i> (DEC 2005). In some of the more ambiguous examples, it cannot be verified whether some scars recorded during the survey are of natural or Aboriginal origin. In such instances, an expert evaluation by a scar tree expert (arborist or other) would be required to determine the status of certain trees.</p>
Potential archaeological deposit (PAD)	<p>An area where Aboriginal objects may occur below the ground surface.</p> <p>The term 'potential archaeological deposit' was first applied in Sydney regional archaeology in the 1980s, and referred to rockshelters that were large enough and contained enough accumulated deposit to allow archaeologists to predict that subsurface cultural material was likely to be present. Since then the term has come to include open sites where the same prediction can be made.</p> <p>EMM has defined PADs as the predicted extent of concentrated subsurface Aboriginal objects in a particular area. PADs are not technically Aboriginal sites until, and if, subsurface Aboriginal objects are identified, which is typically established through archaeological test excavation. PAD areas have been assigned to landforms that are distinguishable from the surrounding landscape (e.g. elevated areas with good outlook overlooking watercourses) as being likely to retain higher artefact densities than the assumed 'background scatter' of archaeological material in the broader landscape.</p> <p>The identification of PADs associated with Aboriginal open camp sites was partly based on observations in the field and discussions with RAPs, but also related to the predictive model. Although PAD was attributed to areas for a variety of reasons, the main qualifiers were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The presence of surface artefacts or other Aboriginal objects. Ground surface visibility as part of the archaeological survey effort was typically considered high enough in each PAD area to identify at least one or more surface artefacts thereby indicating likelihood of subsurface potential. Notwithstanding, finding no visible surface artefacts in an area would not disqualify an area from being attributed with PAD.</li> <li>• Level to gently inclined ground (&lt;10%) indicating suitable camping or activity areas.</li> <li>• Contours that distinguish the landforms with PAD from the surrounding landscape (e.g. spur crest, hill crest or knoll). Landform boundaries were also interpreted through observations in the field. Notably, rocky crest landforms that were protected from intensive cultivation were often attributed with PAD.</li> <li>• Proximity to water: typically up to 100 m from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order streams and up to 200 m from 3<sup>rd</sup> order streams and above. Elevated landforms at the confluence of higher order streams were also more likely to be attributed with PAD.</li> </ul> <p>EMM acknowledges that all PAD areas have been historically cleared of native vegetation and some have been subject to pasture improvements such as ploughing. As such, the term PAD does not assume high subsurface integrity; instead it is a prediction of potential subsurface artefact concentrations.</p> <p>All stone quarry sites are predicted to have PAD. The assumption is that in most cases the visible surface material at quarries is represented by larger artefacts (such as cores) and that smaller material (e.g. flakes) is likely to be buried.</p>

**Table C.1**      **Site definitions and recording**

Site feature	Definition and recording methods
Restricted	Site information contained in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System is available only to certain authorised groups of people, as requested by the Aboriginal community. Detailed information may not be available in search reports.
Shell	An accumulation or deposit of shellfish from beach, estuarine, lacustrine or riverine species resulting from Aboriginal gathering or consumption. Usually found in deposits previously referred to as shell middens. Must be found in association with other objects like stone tools, fish bones, charcoal, fireplaces/hearths, and burials. Will vary greatly in size and composition.
Stone quarry	<p>Usually a source of good quality stone which is quarried and used for the production of stone tools.</p> <p>Stone quarries represent where Aboriginal people gathered raw stone materials for stone tools and/or manufactured stone tools from the adjacent source material. Quarry sites are found at rock outcrops where the material was of suitable quality to have been used to manufacture stone tools. Stone quarries were defined by the presence of outcropping stone material with nearby evidence of the same material type used in the stone tool manufacture process. This was most commonly indicated by large stone cores or stone flakes distributed amongst the same naturally outcropping material.</p> <p>EMM acknowledges that the 'open stone artefact' site type shares some of the same characteristics as 'stone quarries', such as the presence of stone artefacts. However, they have been distinguished from each other because quarries can not only represent open camping activities, but also a fixed location where Aboriginal people needed to visit to extract a resource. In contrast, the location of typical open camp sites were not fixed, but chosen by Aboriginal people for their favourable conditions.</p>



C.2 AHIMS search results

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
45-6-2573	Turpentine;	AGD	56	319280	6257620	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-3868	86 Chelmsford Avenue	GDA	56	321244	6260447	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-0031	Ryde;Ryde Bridge; RYDE 204	GDA	56	323754	6255920	Open site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -	Rock Engraving	102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2949	M2A1	GDA	56	323895	6262241	Open site	Valid	Grinding Groove : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2313	Subiaco Ck 2;	AGD	56	319690	6256830	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-0534	Charity Point;Meadowbank Park;	GDA	56	322909	6256265	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : 14	Midden,Open Camp Site	1308,2047,102196,102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2557	Waterview Street - RYDE 205	GDA	56	323984	6255730	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2407	Acacia Park;	AGD	56	319270	6258890	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2571	Substation;	AGD	56	319520	6258520	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-4078	Ermington SHL 01	GDA	56	321771	6256298	Open site	Valid	Shell : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-4079	Ermington SHL 02	GDA	56	321720	6256287	Open site	Valid	Shell : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2939	Balgowlah Cave	GDA	56	318280	6258780	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-1156	Epping;Terrys Creek Cave; RYDE 002	GDA	56	323544	6261450	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -	Shelter with Art	102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-3022	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-3050	Charity Point 2 - Ryde 202	GDA	56	322924	6256250	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 14		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							
45-6-3096	Former Channel 7 site Mobbs Ln	GDA	56	321136	6260245	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Permits</u>							

# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

## Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : E230572 - MPPS

Client Service ID : 924174

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
45-6-4093	CWPS-IF1	GDA	56	318189	6260385	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	AHIMS APP Users,EMM Consulting - St Leonards - Individual users,Miss.Rohani (en <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-1961	Ermington 1;	AGD	56	321030	6256060	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-3136	Terrys Creek Shelter PAD1	GDA	56	323515	6261475	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Phil Hunt <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-4076	PLR2 PAD5 Broadoaks Park	GDA	56	319597	6256236	Open site	Partially Destroyed	Artefact : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd - Pitt Street Sydney,RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd - Pitt S <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2309	Ermington PS; RYDE 101	GDA	56	321494	6257820	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196,102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider,Aboriginal Heritage Office <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-1449	Vineyard Creek 1;Telopea;	AGD	56	318070	6258620	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	1809,102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Val Attenbrow,K Cutmore <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-3039	Meadowbank Park Tennis Courts RYDE 203	GDA	56	322539	6256690	Open site	Valid	Grinding Groove : 3		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Aboriginal Heritage Office <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-0977	Epping;Lane Cove River; Little bloodwood stump cave RYDE 001	GDA	56	323964	6262130	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	2047,102489
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Val Attenbrow,Aboriginal Heritage Office,Mr.Rick Bullers <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2636	Ermington PAD	AGD	56	320000	6255700	Open site	Not a Site	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		102142,102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists (MDCA) <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-3746	20Waterview St_ISF1	GDA	56	324218	6255521	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	1365	104349
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Curio Projects Pty Ltd,Curio Projects Pty Ltd,Mx.Sam Cooling,Mx.Sam Cooling <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2312	Subiaco Ck 1;	AGD	56	319790	6256890	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider <u>Permits</u>							
45-5-1005	IFCH1	AGD	56	322415	6262289	Open site	Not a Site	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Geordie Oakes,AECOM Australia Pty Ltd - Sydney,Ms.Tessa Corkill <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2569	Sturt Street	AGD	56	318950	6258300	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-2864	George Kendall Ermington	AGD	56	321020	6255857	Open site	Valid	Shell : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mr.Chris Ingrey <u>Permits</u>							
45-6-4125	MPPS-AS1	GDA	56	321520	6256644	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	EMM Consulting - St Leonards - Individual users,Miss.Amber Morgan <u>Permits</u>							

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 27/08/2024 for Amber Morgan for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 318000.0 - 325000.0, Northings : 6255500.0 - 6262500.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 34

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

# AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

## Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : E230572 - MPPS

Client Service ID : 924174

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status **</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
45-6-1432	Vineyard Creek 2;Teloepa;	AGD	56	318080	6258620	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	1809,102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Val Attenbrow,K Cutmore					<u>Permits</u>		
45-6-2570	Kissing Point Rd	AGD	56	318820	6258140	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider					<u>Permits</u>		
45-6-2572	McKillop Place;	AGD	56	319140	6259320	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	102196
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Michael Guider					<u>Permits</u>		

### **\*\* Site Status**

**Valid** - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

**Destroyed** - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

**Partially Destroyed** - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

**Not a site** - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 27/08/2024 for Amber Morgan for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 318000.0 - 325000.0, Northings : 6255500.0 - 6262500.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 34

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AHIMS site ID: 45-6-4125

Date recorded: 08-08-2024

## Site Location Information

Site name: MPPS-AS1

Easting: 321520

Northing: 6256644

Coordinates must be in GDA94 (MGA)

Horizontal Accuracy (m):

5

Zone: 56

Non-Differential GPS

## Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

Title

Surname

First name

Ms.

Morgan

Amber

Organisation: EMM Consulting Pty Limited

Address: Ground Floor, 20 Chandos St, St Leonards NSW 2065

Phone:

E-mail:

amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au

## Site Context Information

Land Form  
Pattern:

Undulating Plain

Land Use:

Established Urban

Land Form  
Unit:

Slope

Vegetation:

Cleared

Distance to  
Water (m):

180

Primary  
Report:

Melrose Park Public ACHA

How to get  
to the site:

Located within Melrose Park Public School within the oval off Mary street, West Ryde, NSW

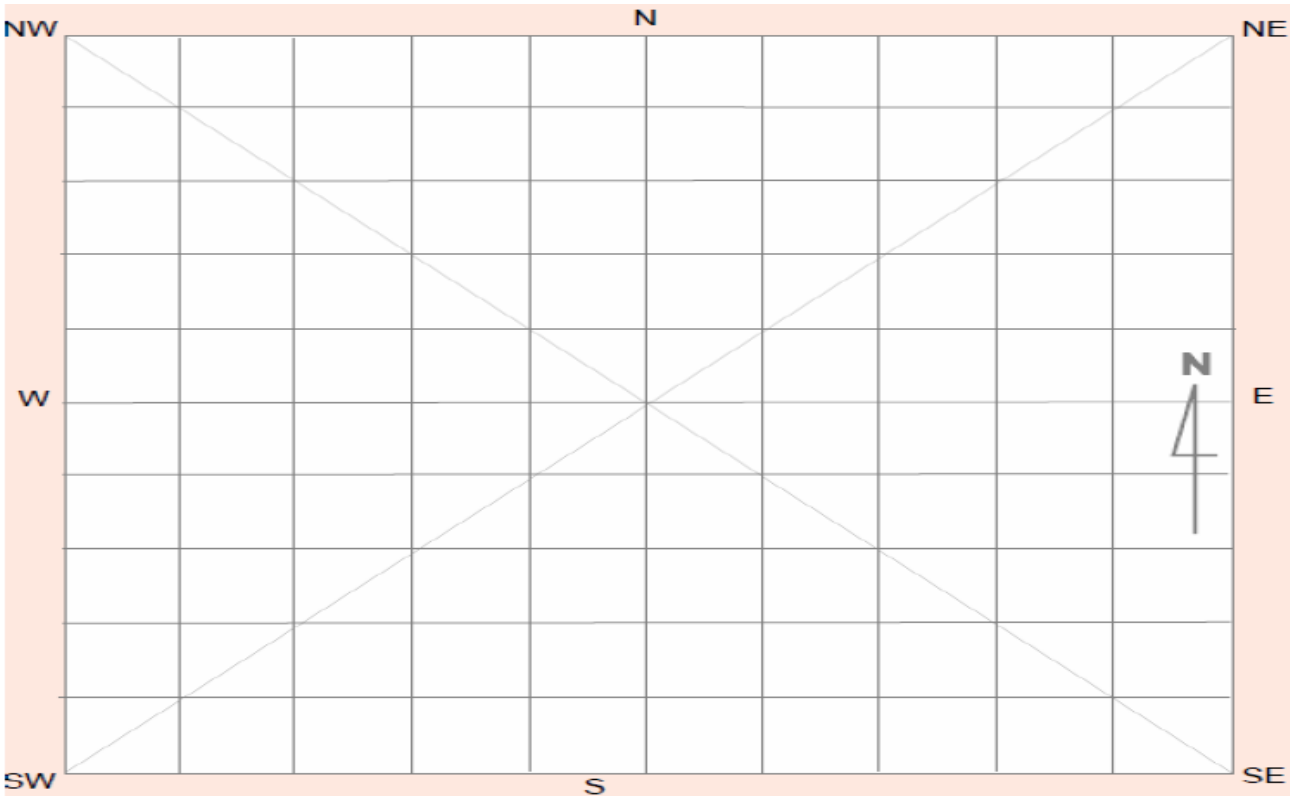
Other site  
information:

-

Site location map



Site plan



Site contents information

open/closed site: 

Open

Site condition: 

Disturbed

Features:

		Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)	Scarred Trees			
					Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
1.	<div>Artefact</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>15</div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Feature condition: 

Disturbed

Description:

Subsurface artefact scatter identified during the test ex for the Melrose Park Public school ACHA. Site is located < 200m northwest of Paramatta River. Scatter includes 5 silcrete artefacts including two cores, one quartz flake and one basalt flake.

Features:

		Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)	Scarred Trees			
					Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
2.	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Feature condition:

Description:

Features:

		Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)	Scarred Trees			
					Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
3.	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Feature condition:

Description:



Features:

Number of  
features

Length of  
feature(s)  
extent (m)

Width of  
feature (s)  
extent (m)

4.

Feature condition:

Description:

#### Scarred Trees

Scar Depth  
(cm)

Regrowth  
(cm)

Scar shape

Tree Species





Features:

Number of  
features

Length of  
feature(s)  
extent (m)

Width of  
feature (s)  
extent (m)

5.

Feature condition:

Description:

#### Scarred Trees

Scar Depth  
(cm)

Regrowth  
(cm)

Scar shape

Tree Species





## Site photographs



Description:

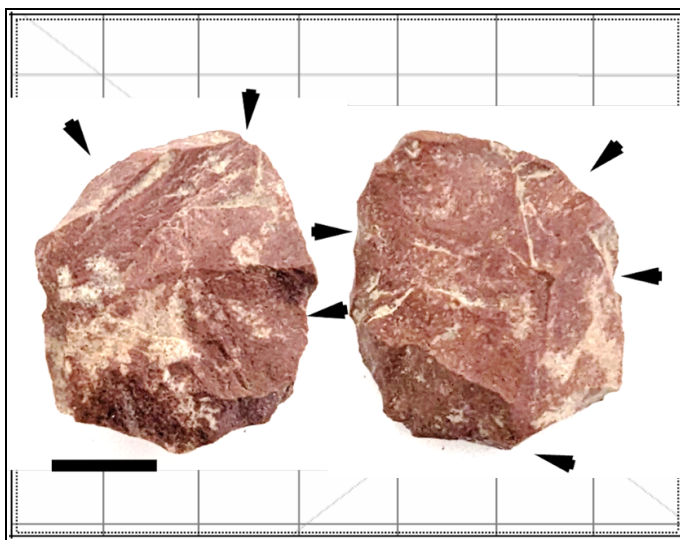
North section from test pit where artefacts were found



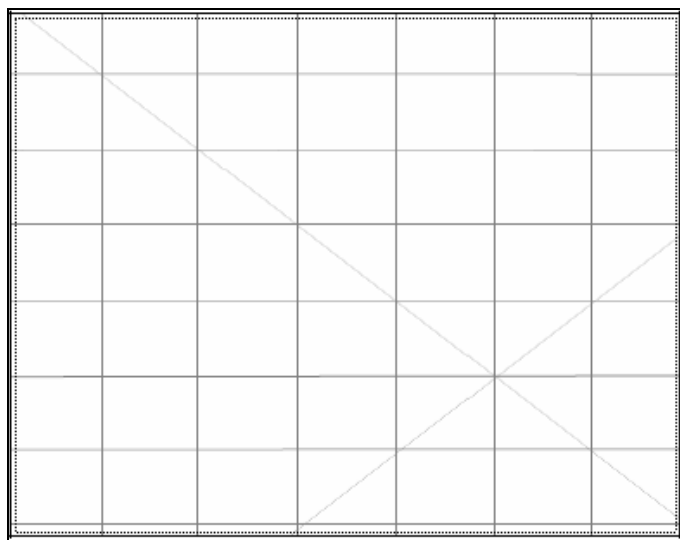
Description:

Test pit, view north, from test pit where artefacts were found





Description:



Description:

## Site restrictions

Do you want to  
Restrict this site?:

Restriction type:

Why is this site restricted?:

## Further information contact

Title  Surname  First name

Organisation:

Address:

Phone:  E-mail:

## Site interpretation and community statement

RE: Restricted AHIMS site #45-6-3022

David Gordon <David.Gordon@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Thu 11/7/2024 7:26 AM

To:Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au>

Cc:Georgia Burnett <gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.

Hi Amber,

I can confirm that restricted Aboriginal site:

- 45-6-3022

WILL NOT BE IMPACTED BY ANY WORKS CONDUCTED IN YOUR STUDY AREA.

Thanks

David Gordon

Senior Systems Information Officer (Aboriginal)

Information Systems,Heritage NSW,

Environment and Heritage Group

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

Let us know your thoughts and fill out this quick [Customer Feedback Survey](#).

Level 14, 4 Parramatta Square, Parramatta | Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta, 2124

T: 02 9585 6467 | [david.gordon@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:david.gordon@environment.nsw.gov.au)



[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

**From:** Amber Morgan <amorgan@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 July 2024 3:40 PM  
**To:** David Gordon <David.Gordon@environment.nsw.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett <gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au>  
**Subject:** Restricted AHIMS site #45-6-3022

Hi David,

We have an extensive search (Service ID: 789329) that has produced one restricted site, with the following details:

45-6-3022	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>	Open site	Valid
	<u>Recorders</u>	Aboriginal Heritage Office	<u>Permits</u>

The study area that I am undertaking an assessment for is located over part of **Lot 3 DP535298**, on the corner of Wharf Road and Mary Street in Melrose Park, NSW.

Can you please confirm whether the restricted site falls in, or within 50 m of the lot in question?

For your reference, the exact study area is outlined in the figure below.



Thank you and kind regards,

**Amber Morgan**  
Graduate Archaeologist | Ecology and Heritage

**SYDNEY | Gamaraigal Country, Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



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# Appendix D

## Field investigation




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Test pit ID: 1




Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
<div></div> <div>image1-20240422-123423.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image2-20240422-123430.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image3-20240422-123438.jpg</div>
East section	South section	West section

Test pit ID: 2



Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
<div></div> <div>image1-20240422-123722.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image2-20240422-123726.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image3-20240422-123735.jpg</div>
East section	South section	West section



Test pit ID: 3

Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
<div></div> <div>image1-20240422-124142.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image2-20240422-124148.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image3-20240422-124156.jpg</div>
East section	South section	West section

Test pit ID: 4




Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
<div></div> <div>image1-20240422-124541.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image2-20240422-124546.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image3-20240422-124551.jpg</div>
East section	South section	West section






Test pit ID: 5




Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
<div></div> <div>image1-20240422-125033.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image2-20240422-125037.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image3-20240422-125042.jpg</div>
East section	South section	West section

Test pit ID: 6




Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
<div></div> <div>image1-20240422-130013.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image2-20240422-130018.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image3-20240422-130023.jpg</div>
East section	South section	West section



Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
<div></div> <div>image1-20240422-142314.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image2-20240422-142321.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image3-20240422-142327.jpg</div>
East section	South section	West section




Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
<div></div> <div>image1-20240422-143216.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image2-20240422-143224.jpg</div>	<div></div> <div>image3-20240422-143230.jpg</div>
East section	South section	West section






Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
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East section	South section	West section

Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
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East section	South section	West section









Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
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East section	South section	West section

Test pit ID: 16




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East section	South section	West section






Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
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East section	South section	West section




Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
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East section	South section	West section






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East section	South section	West section



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East section	South section	West section






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East section	South section	West section






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East section	South section	West section




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East section	South section	West section






Context North	Base of pit - north	North section
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East section	South section	West section




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East section	South section	West section






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East section	South section	West section




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East section	South section	West section






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East section	South section	West section




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East section	South section	West section






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East section	South section	West section




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East section	South section	West section






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East section	South section	West section

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East section	South section	West section






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East section	South section	West section




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East section	South section	West section






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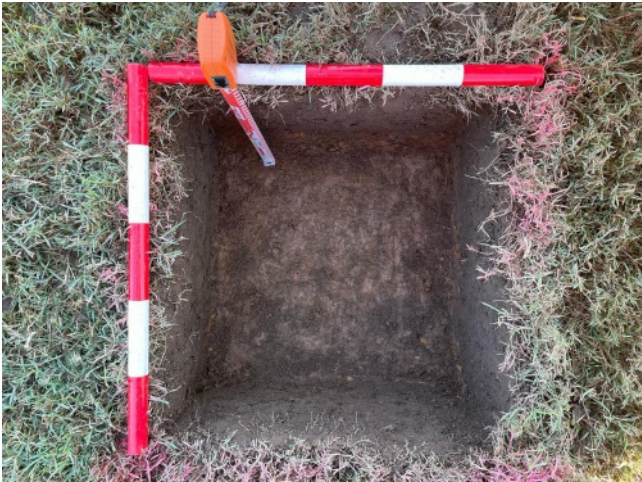

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East section	South section	West section




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East section	South section	West section



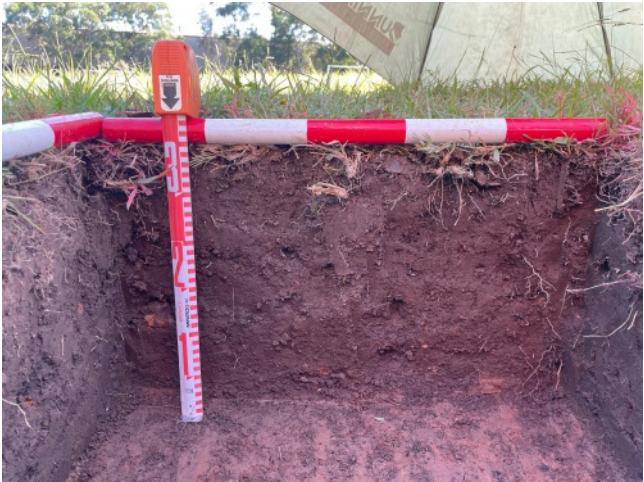


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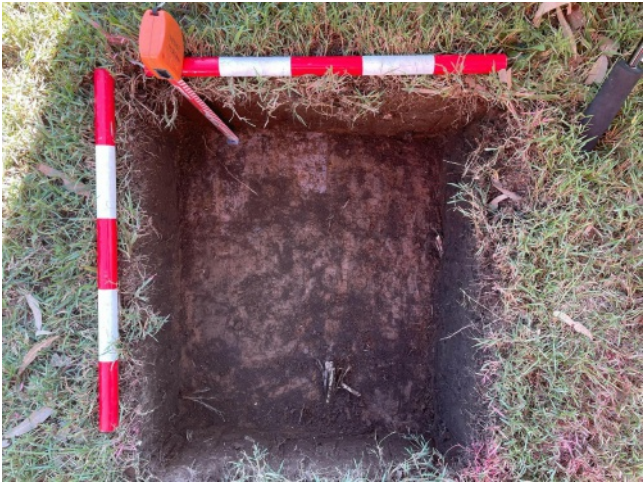
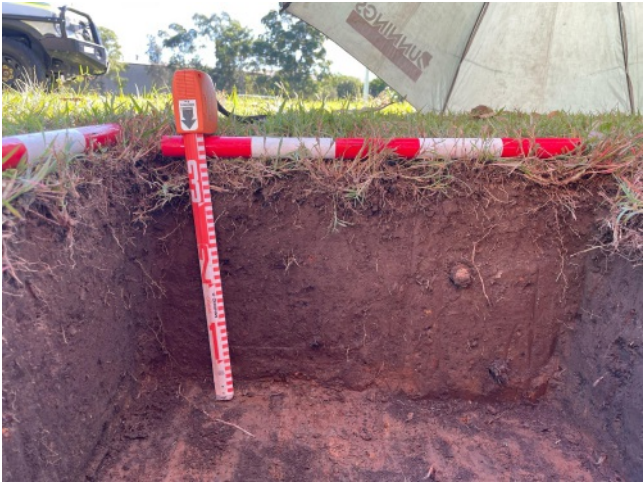


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East section	South section	West section



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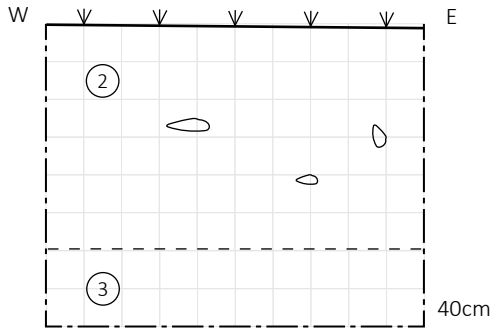
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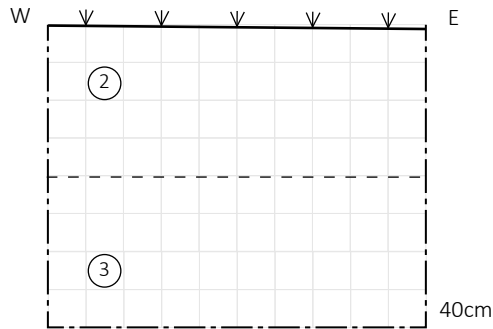
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D.2      Section drawings

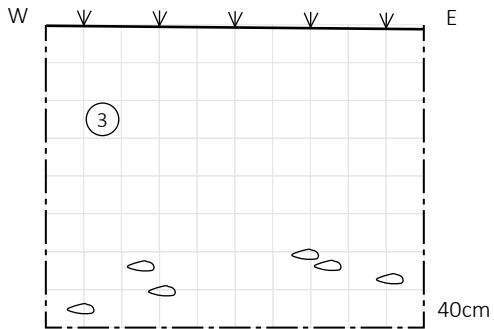
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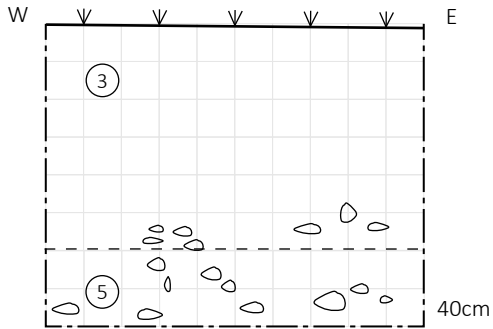
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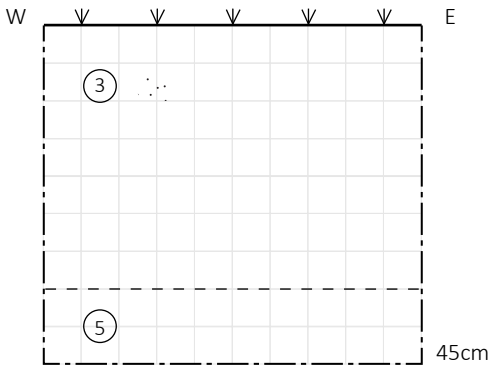
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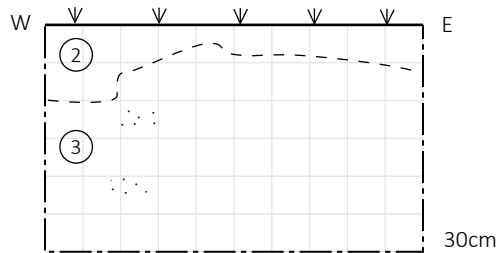
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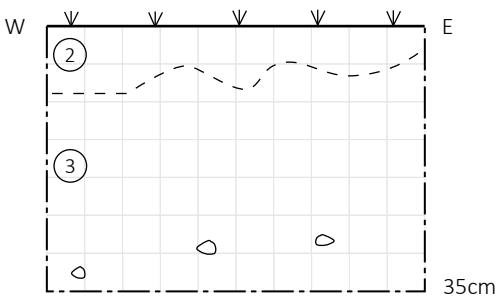
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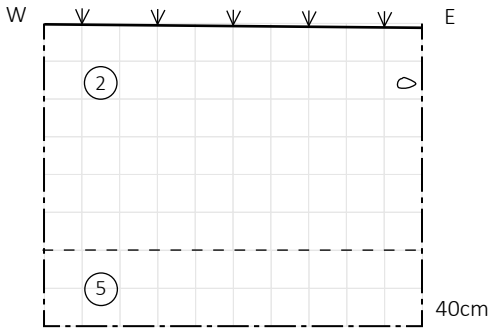
TP 6  
NORTH SECTION



TP 7  
NORTH SECTION



TP 8  
NORTH SECTION



- ① DARK BROWN SANDY LOAM  
② BROWN SANDY CLAY LOAM  
③ BROWN SATURATED CLAY LOAM

- ④ HISTORICAL FILL LAYER  
⑤ BROWN-ORANGE CLAY

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VERSION	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1.0	DRAFT	2/6/2024

LEGEND

- PIT BOUNDARY  
SOIL PROFILE BOUNDARY  
DIFFUSE SOIL PROFILE BOUNDARY  
MED/LARGE ROOTS

- CHARCOAL  
BRICK  
STONE INCLUSIONS

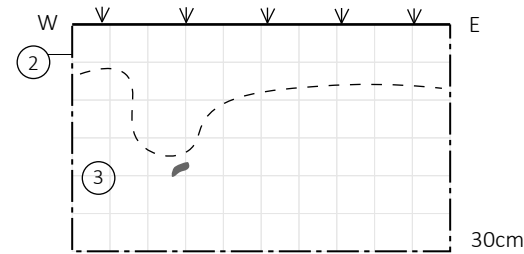
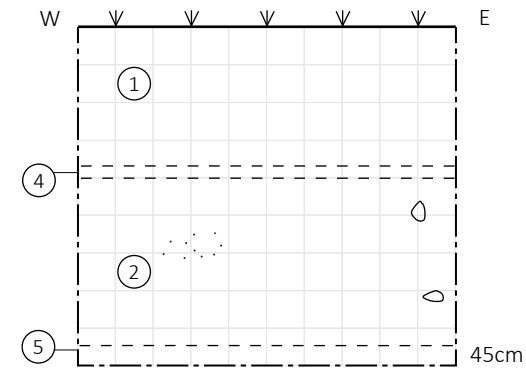
CLIENT  
WSP

PROJECT  
MELROSE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL  
TITLE  
TEST PIT SECTION DRAWINGS

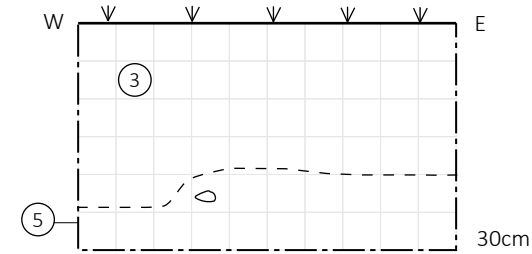
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SCALE	DRAWN/CHECK	DRAWING NO.
1:10	SE/	001
PROJECT NO.	VERSION	
E230572	1.0	

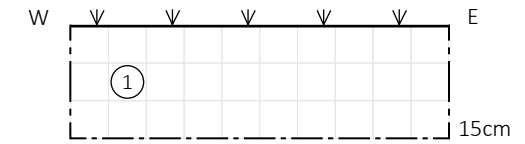
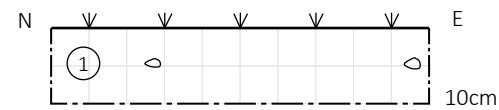
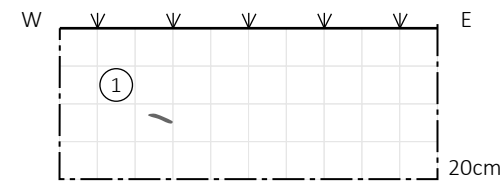
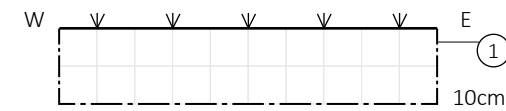
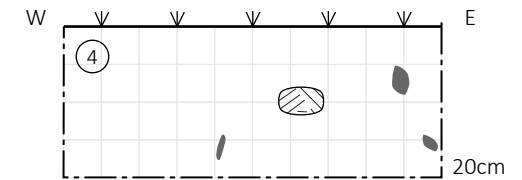
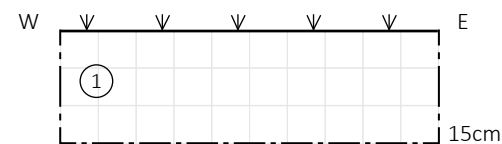
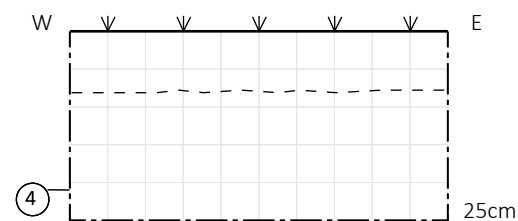
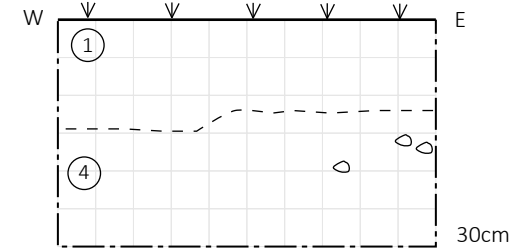
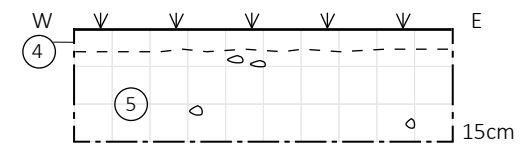
TP 9  
NORTH SECTION

TP 11  
NORTH SECTION

TP 12  
NORTH SECTION



TP 13  
NORTH SECTION

TP 14  
NORTH SECTIONTP 15  
NORTH SECTIONTP 16  
NORTH SECTIONTP 18  
NORTH SECTIONTP 19  
NORTH SECTIONTP 20  
NORTH SECTIONTP 21  
NORTH SECTIONTP 22  
NORTH SECTION





- ① BROWN SANDY LOAM
- ② BROWN SANDY CLAY LOAM
- ③ BROWN SATURATED CLAY LOAM

- ④ HISTORICAL FILL LAYER
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VERSION	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1.0	DRAFT	2/6/2024

**LEGEND**

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-  SOIL PROFILE BOUNDARY
-  DIFFUSE SOIL PROFILE BOUNDARY
-  MED/LARGE ROOTS

CHARCOAL

BRICK

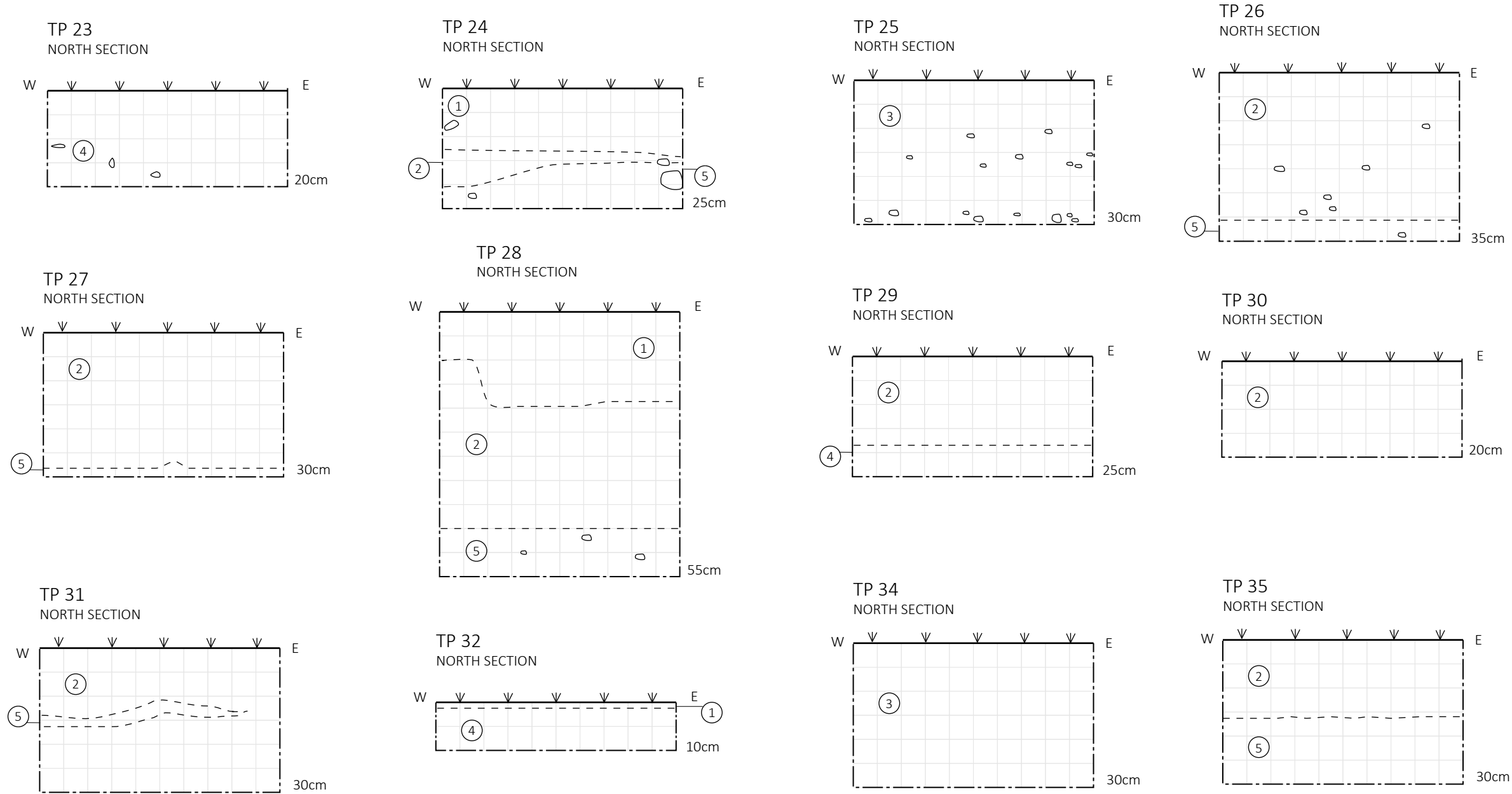
STONE INCLUSIONS

**CLIENT**  
WSP

**PROJECT**  
MELROSE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

**TITLE**  
TEST PIT SECTION DRAWINGS

TP SECTION DRAWINGS		
SCALE 1:10	DRAWN/CHECK SE/	DRAWING NO.  002
PROJECT NO. E230572	VERSION 1.0	



- ①

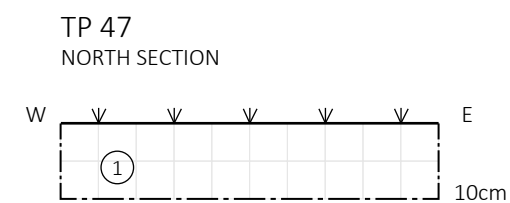
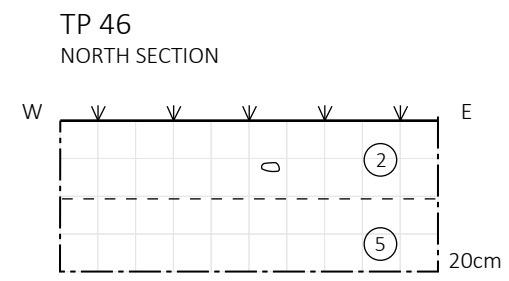
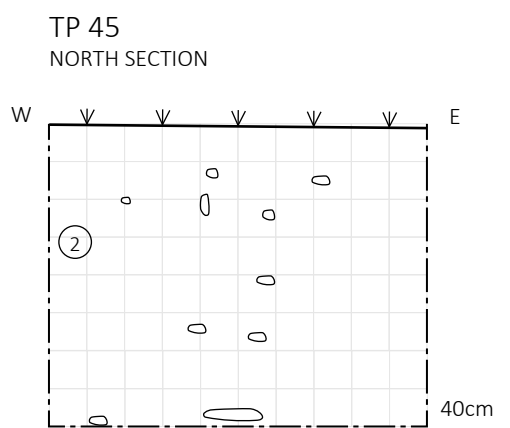
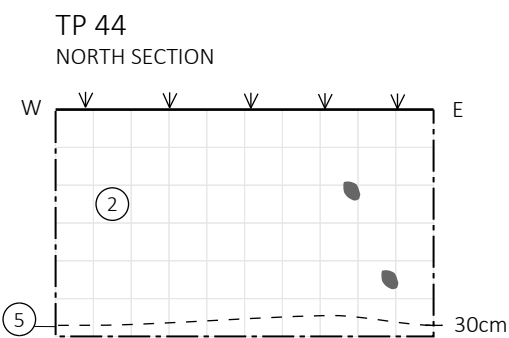
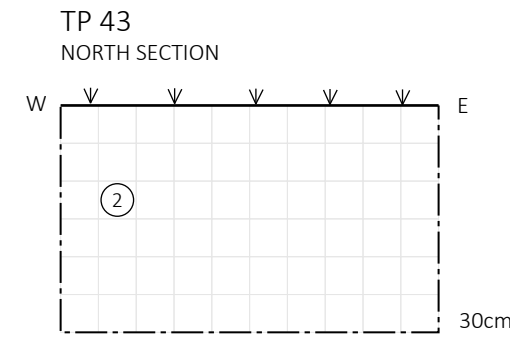
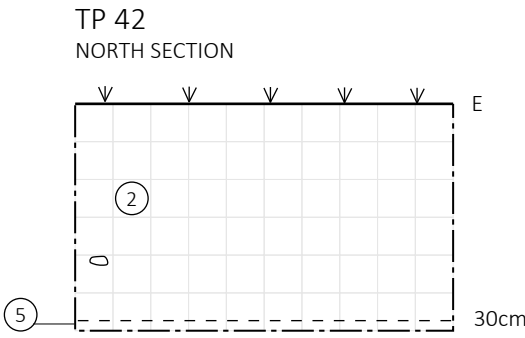
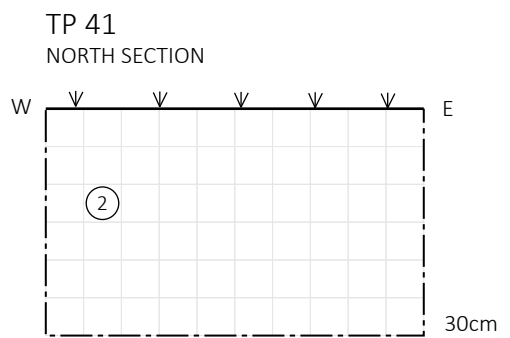
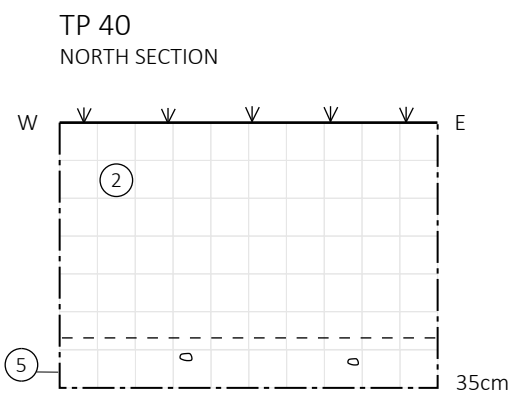
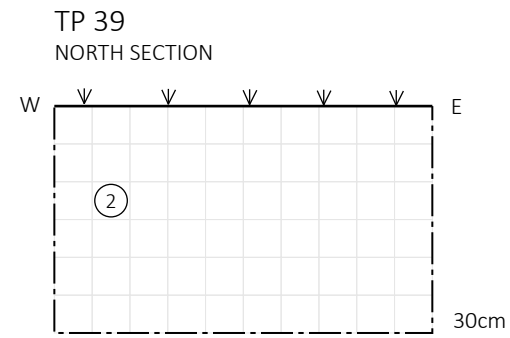
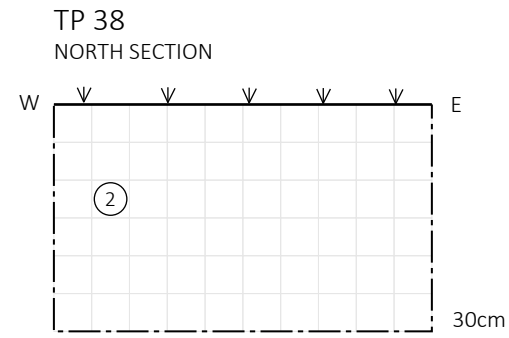
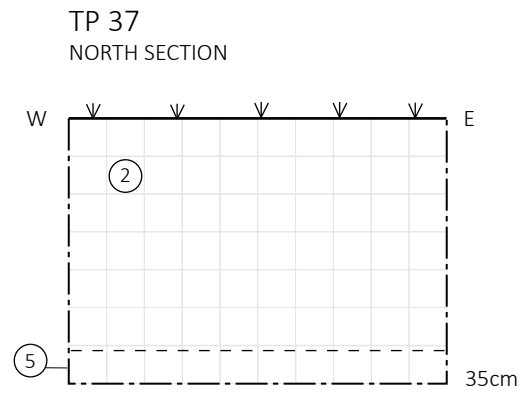
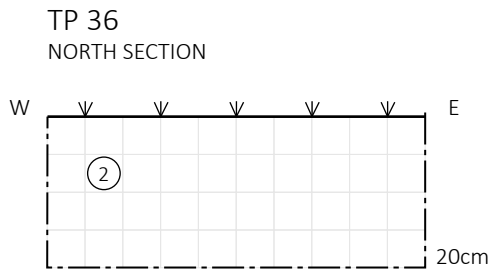
BROWN SANDY LOAM
- ②

BROWN SANDY CLAY LOAM
- ③

BROWN SATURATED CLAY LOAM
- ④

HISTORICAL FILL LAYER
- ⑤

BROWN-ORANGE CLAY



- ① BROWN SANDY LOAM
- ② BROWN SANDY CLAY LOAM
- ③ BROWN SATURATED CLAY LOAM

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VERSION	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1.0	DRAFT	2/6/2024

LEGEND	
	PIT BOUNDARY
	SOIL PROFILE BOUNDARY
	DIFFUSE SOIL PROFILE BOUNDARY
	MED/LARGE ROOTS
	CHARCOAL
	BRICK
	STONE INCLUSIONS

CLIENT  
WSP

PROJECT  
MELROSE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL  
  
TITLE  
TEST PIT SECTION DRAWINGS

TP SECTION DRAWINGS		
SCALE 1:10	DRAWN/CHECK SE/	DRAWING NO. 004
PROJECT NO. E230572	VERSION 1.0	





# **Analysis of Lithic Assemblage from Melrose Park Public School, Sydney**

**May 2024**

Dr Trudy Doelman

### Overview of Assemblage Characteristics

A total of seven artefacts from five test pits were found during the test pitting excavations at Melrose Park Public School, Sydney (Table 1). The artefacts were found in TP40 (n=2), TP42 (n=2) and TP45 (n=2). One artefact was found in TP43. An oyster shell was also found in spit 2 of TP40. Most of the artefacts were found in spit 2 (n=3) and in spit 3 (n=2) (Table 1).

Test Pit	Count	Spit	Weight(g)
40	2	2	51.9
42	1	2	2
42	1	3	6.5
43	1	3	5.0
45	2	1	7.6

Table 1. Distribution of artefacts in the assemblage

Broken flakes, including medial and distal flakes, dominate the assemblage (n=4, 57.2%). However, a surprising number of cores and a core fragment were also found (Table 2). No tools were found in the assemblage (Table 2).

Artefact Type	Count	%
Core	2	28.6
Core fragment	1	14.3
Distal flake	3	42.9
Medial flake	1	14.3

Table 2. Artefact types in the assemblage

The cortex (or weathered exterior of the parent rock) provides information about the type of stone sources used (i.e. a primary or secondary source). Artefacts with a rough cortex were acquired from a primary source (or an *in situ* outcrop). Artefacts with a smooth or water-rolled cortex originate from a secondary source (e.g. a cobble from a waterway). In the Cumberland Plain the identification of cortex is more complex for two reasons. Firstly, silcrete can be derived from both paleo-channel sources (ancient waterways) and flowing waterways (Doelman *et al.* 2015). Paleo-channels sources typically have a smooth rind or a more, rough, weathered rind dependent on the time each cobble was exposed at the surface. Secondly, these paleo-channel sources were affected by bush fires which have created crazed surfaces on the exterior of the cobbles and these have sometimes been subsequently flaked. Post-depositional burning can also influence artefacts and the controlled heat treatment, using fire, is sometimes used to improve the fracture properties of silcrete (Flenniken and White. 1983). A cortex category, crazed, was used to assess whether cobbles/cores were burnt prior to flaking.

Most of the artefacts were made from fine-grained silcrete (n=4) (Table 3). One artefact was made from matrix-dominated silcrete. Both these types of silcrete are considered high quality. Four of the fine-grained silcrete artefacts have a crazed cortex indicating that the cobble was burnt prior to flaking. These silcrete artefacts are typically red in colour. Colour was also analysed to distinguish possible sources of silcrete and establish the presence of heat-treated artefacts or heat-damage. During heating silcrete changes from yellow to red (Corkill 1999; Domanski *et al.* 1994; Flenniken and White 1983). Only one red/yellow silcrete artefact was found in the assemblage. Yellow is more commonly found in and near the paleo-channel sources of the Cumberland Plan (Barry 2005, Doelman *et al.* 2015). The high frequency of red silcrete artefacts and the presence of a crazed cortex indicates

that these artefacts were probably heat-treated prior to manufacture. In addition, one silcrete artefact also has a water-rolled cortex obtained from an active waterway.

Other raw materials include milky quartz and basalt (Table 3). The milky quartz artefact was made from a core obtained from a secondary source/waterway.

Test Pit	Material	Colour	Cortex %	Cortex Type	Length (mm)	Weight (g)
40	basalt	grey	0%		21.8	1.94
40	fine-silcrete	red	50-99%	water-rolled/crazed	59.4	49.95
42	fine-silcrete	red	1-25%	crazed	19.1	2.00
42	fine-silcrete	red	50-99%	crazed	31.1	6.45
43	matrix-silcrete	yellow/red	25-590%	crazed	24.7	4.99
45	fine-silcrete	red	0%		28	7.36
45	quartz	white	50-99%	water-rolled	10.7	0.24

Table 3. Raw Material types in the assemblage

Two cores and a core fragment were found in the assemblage. Both were made from red, fine-grained silcrete. The bi-directional core (id=2) was large and made on a heat shattered fragment which still retained a water-rolled cortex (Figure 1). Id=5 was probably made on a flake body it was rotated multiple times and flaked bifacially (Figure 2). This core was rotated multiple times, anvil rested and flaked using a bipolar technique. The core indicates raw material rationing and the need to extend the uselife of a core. Known exposures of silcrete occur at Plumpton Ridge (~20 km).

Id	Test Pit	Core Type	Core Body	Core Platform No.	Length (mm)	Weight (g)
2	40	Bi-Directional	Heat Shatter	2	59.4	49.95
5	45	Radial-Bifacial	Flake?	5	28.0	7.36

Table 4 Cores in the assemblage



Figure 1. Bi-directional core showing heat shattered surface (left) and flaked surface with water-rolled cortex on right. Arrows show the location of the platforms. Scale=1 cm



Figure 2 Radial-bifacial core. Arrows indicates platforms. Scale=1 cm

Indeterminate flakes dominant the flake assemblage ( $n=2$ ). A further one expanding flake, made from silcrete, and one platform rejuvenation flake were also found (Table 4). The artefacts are all smaller than 25 mm. The presence of a platform rejuvenation flake again shows attempts to extend the use-life of a core.

The raw material types (e.g., silcrete and quartz) and assemblage characteristics are very similar to those seen in the Cumberland Plain (cf. Barry 2005; MacDonald and Rich 1993). The flakes represent limited artefact manufacture on-site coupled with the transportation of cores. Evidence for the selection and transportation of high quality silcrete can be seen in the assemblage. Silcrete was acquired from a secondary source ( $n=1$ ) and then heat treated. The nearest paleo-channel exposure is ~20 km west of Melrose Park Public School. This location may also have been a source and accounts for the need to heavily reduce the radial-bifacial core. The assemblage can be almost certainly dated to the late-mid-Holocene based on the presence of silcrete artefacts and heat treatment.

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