



**New High School for Medowie**

# Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Prepared for Department of Education

31 January 2025

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- Mathew Smith (assistance in the field)
- Azka Abid (mapping)

*Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work.*

*We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past and present and honour their connection to Country and ongoing contribution to society.*

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## Summary

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) was commissioned by Department of Education (DoE) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed new High School for Medowie (the activity) at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie NSW. The study area is located within Lot 3 DP788451 and is approximately 22.5 kilometres southwest of the Newcastle central business district (CBD).

The activity will involve ground disturbing works that will have the potential to impact known and unknown Aboriginal heritage constraints that may be present within the study area. The proposed works are subject to an approval under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

## Consultation

The Aboriginal community was consulted regarding the heritage management of the project throughout its lifespan. Consultation has been undertaken as per the process outlined in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements) (Appendix 1). The appropriate government bodies were notified, and advertisements placed in the *Newcastle Herald* (21 August 2024), which resulted in the following Aboriginal organisations registering their interest (Table 1):

**Table 1 List of registered Aboriginal parties and group contact**

No.	Organisation	Contact person
1	Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council	Jamie Merrick
2	Mura Gadi Aboriginal Corporation	Tiarna Bird
3	Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd	Lennie Anderson
4	Confidential Party	n/a
5	Didge Ngunawal Clan	Lilly Caroll & Paul Boyd
6	Karuah Indigenous Corporation	Dave Feeney
7	A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn Hickey
8	Amanda Hickey Cultural Services	Amanda Hickey
9	Thomas Dahlstrom	Thomas Dahlstrom
10	Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Darleen Johnson
11	Murrooma Inc	Bec Young & Anthony Anderson

A search conducted by the Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* listed no Aboriginal Owners with land within the study area. A search conducted by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) listed no Registered Native Title Claims, Unregistered Claimant Applications or Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements within the study area.

Upon registration (Appendix 2), the Aboriginal parties were invited to provide their knowledge on the study area and on the proposal provided in the Methodology (Appendix 3). The responses identify the study area as an area of high cultural significance due to its use as a travel route. Responses from the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are included in Appendix 3.

Site officers from elected RAPs participated in the field investigation and provided comment on the study area with regard to the proposal. It was noted during the survey on 15 October 2024 that the western portion of the study area is relatively undisturbed and has some original vegetation existing. During Stage 4 of community consultation it was recommended that Aboriginal Cultural Officers should be engaged if Aboriginal artefacts are identified within the first 30mm.

The outcome of the consultation process was that the RAPs considered the study area to have a high level of cultural significance, this is due to the study area being utilised as a travelling route from Fern Bay to Karuah. The results of the consultation process are included in this document Appendix 4.

The recommendations that resulted from the consultation process are provided below.

## Results

The ACHA assessment undertook background research for the proposed study area. Key considerations arising from the background research include:

- A search of the AHIMS database [REDACTED] identified 106 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 7.5 x 7.5 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these sites were located within the study area, with the closest site located approximately 2 kilometres south of the study area.
- Previous predictive modelling conducted in the Medowie region indicates that Aboriginal artefacts and shell middens are likely to be located within proximity to water sources.
- A review of historical aerials identified that the majority of the study area has been subject to vegetation clearance and utilised previously for market gardening. The western portion of the study area has had minimal impact and still retains some original vegetation.

An archaeological survey of the study area was conducted on the 31 May 2024, 22 July 2024 and 15 October 2024. The surveys did not identify any surface artefact sites or other Aboriginal site types. This may have been attributed to low levels of GSV noted across the extent of the study area. During the survey several oyster shell fragments were observed upon the ground surface within the western portion of the study area. Some of this oyster shell was located around the opening of a rabbit warren with evidence of rubbish dumping present nearby as well indicating it may have been brought on site. It is not possible to determine if it was cultural or not. It is possible that Aboriginal sites could exist within this portion of the study area however, and therefore holds moderate archaeological potential. Although the survey demonstrated that the study area has been subject to disturbance, one area of moderate archaeological potential was identified. This area of potential is located in the western portion of the study area and was identified as they have remained relatively undisturbed and evidence of oyster shell was noted. As the proposed works will not be impacting the western portion of the study area, no further investigation is warranted.

## Management recommendations

The mitigation measures have been outlined in Section 6.4 (Table 4). Prior to any development impacts occurring within the study area, the following is recommended:

### **Recommendation 1: No further assessment or Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit is required**

The proposed activity avoids the area of moderate archaeological potential therefore no further archaeological investigation or works such as an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) are required to be

undertaken for the study area. In the event that unexpected finds, including human remains, are unearthed during any phase of the project please refer to recommendation 3 and 4 below.

### **Recommendation 2: If the project design changes and works impact the area of moderate archaeological potential, further assessment is required**

No further archaeological investigation or works are required to be undertaken for the study area. If the proposed works change to include the area of moderate potential, further assessment is warranted. In the event that unexpected finds, including human remains, are unearthed during any phase of the project please refer to Recommendation 3 and 4 below.

### **Recommendation 3: Stop works provision – Discovery of previously unidentified sites or objects**

All Aboriginal places and objects are protected under the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). This protection extends to Aboriginal objects and places that have not been identified but might be unearthed during the proposed works. Work must cease if Aboriginal objects or places are identified which have not previously been identified as part of this assessment or have not been approved for harm under an AHIP. Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) and the archaeologist must be notified to make an assessment of the find and advise on subsequent management.

### **Recommendation 4: Stop work provision for any potential discovery of human remains**

If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity works, all activity in the vicinity must cease immediately. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. The following contingency plan describes the immediate actions that must be taken in instances where human remains, or suspected human remains are discovered. Any such discovery at the study area must follow these steps:

1. **Discovery:** If suspected human remains are discovered all activity in the vicinity must stop to ensure minimal damage is caused to the remains; and the remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage.
2. **Notification:** Once suspected human skeletal remains have been found, the NSW Police must be notified immediately, and they will subsequently inform the Coroner's Office. Following this, and if the human remains are likely to be Aboriginal in origin, the find will be reported to the Aboriginal parties and Heritage NSW. If the find is likely to be non-Aboriginal in origin and more than 100 years in age, the Heritage Council of NSW will be notified of the find under s.146 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act).

### **Recommendation 5: Heritage induction for all contractors**

Heritage inductions for all site workers and contractors should be undertaken to prevent any unintentional harm to any unexpected Aboriginal objects. The heritage induction should include the following items:

- Relevant legislation.
- Location of identified Aboriginal heritage sites, and areas of archaeological sensitivity within proximity to the study area.
- Basic identification skills for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artefacts, and human remains.
- Procedure to follow in the event of an unexpected heritage item find during construction works.

## Glossary

<b>ACHA</b>	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
<b>ADDA</b>	Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment
<b>AHIMS</b>	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
<b>AHIP</b>	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
<b>AR</b>	Archaeological Report
<b>Biosis</b>	Biosis Pty Ltd
<b>BP</b>	Before Present
<b>Consultation requirements</b>	<i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010</i> (DECCW 2010a)
<b>Cth DCCEEW</b>	Australian Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
<b>DECCW</b>	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now Heritage NSW)
<b>DoE</b>	Department of Education
<b>DP</b>	Deposited Plan
<b>EP&amp;A Act</b>	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
<b>GDA</b>	Geocentric Datum of Australia
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>GSV</b>	Ground Surface Visibility
<b>Heritage NSW</b>	Heritage NSW, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
<b>ICOMOS</b>	International Council on Monuments and Sites
<b>LALC</b>	Local Aboriginal Land Council
<b>LEP</b>	Local Environmental Plan
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>MGA</b>	Map Grid of Australia
<b>NHL</b>	National Heritage List
<b>NNTT</b>	National Native Title Tribunal
<b>NPW Act</b>	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
<b>NPWS</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales
<b>NSW DCCEEW</b>	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
<b>PAD</b>	Potential Archaeological Deposit
<b>RAPs</b>	Registered Aboriginal Parties
<b>REF</b>	Review of Environmental Factors
<b>REP</b>	Regional Environmental Plan
<b>SEPP</b>	State Environmental Planning Policy

<b>The Burra Charter</b>	Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) <i>Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance</i> (Australia ICOMOS 2013)
<b>The Code</b>	<i>Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i>

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# 1 Introduction

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This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) has been prepared to support a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the proposed New High School for Medowie (the activity). The purpose of the REF is to assess the potential environmental impacts of the activity prescribed by *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (T&I SEPP) as 'development permitted without consent' on land carried out by or on behalf of a public authority under Part 5 of the EP&A Act. The activity is to be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 3, Part 3.4, Section 3.37A of the T&I SEPP.

## 1.1 Proponent

The Department of Education (DoE) is the landowner, proponent and determining authority pursuant to Section 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act).

## 1.2 Project background

Biosis was commissioned by DoE to undertake an ACHA of the proposed activity of the new High School for Medowie at 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451), Medowie NSW (study area) (Figure 1).

The activity will be carried out at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie (the site). The purpose of this report details the investigation, consultation and assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage undertaken for the study area. The Archaeological Report (AR) in Appendix 5 details the findings of the archaeological investigations conducted as part of the ACHA. As required under Section 2.3 of the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code), the AR provides evidence about the material traces of Aboriginal land use to support the conclusions and management recommendations in the ACHA.

The activity will involve ground disturbing works that will have the potential to impact known and unknown Aboriginal heritage constraints that may be present within the study area.

## 1.3 Study area

The site has a street address of 6 Abundance Road, Medowie. It is 6.51 hectares in area, and comprises one allotment, legally described as Lot 3 DP 788451 (Figure 1).

A large portion of the site is currently unused and vacant. A small shed structure and caravan are located adjacent to the northern boundary. A cluster of buildings including a single storey dwelling, an outhouse/shed structure and temporary greenhouse are located in the southeast corner.

The site contains a largely vegetated area to the south-west corner. The site is relatively flat with a gradual fall from west to east towards Abundance Road. The site has a primary frontage to Abundance Road to the east and Ferodale Road to the north. Abundance and Ferodale Road are both classified as Local Roads. Medowie Road, approximately 1 kilometre east of the site is a classified Regional Road.

The area surrounding the site mostly consists of industrial, rural residential, educational and agricultural lands. Adjacent to the north-western boundary is a Shell petrol station and mechanic garage. Adjacent to the north-eastern boundary is a medical health clinic. Across Abundance Road along the eastern boundary are a number of warehouse and light industrial developments. Directly north of the site across Ferodale Road are

large lots used for agricultural purposes. Medowie Public School is located on Ferodale Road, to the north-west of the site, opposite the Shell petrol station (Figure 2).

## 1.4 Proposed activity

The proposed activity involves the construction of school facilities on the site for the purpose of the New High School for Medowie. The site contains a densely vegetated area to the southwest corner which is identified as a land with high biodiversity values corresponding to the areas of remnant native vegetation (PCT 3995 – Hunter Coast Paperbark – Swamp Mahogany Forest). The existing dwelling house and other structures on the site will be demolished as part of the works. No other works are proposed within this area.

The proposed new school will accommodate 640 students in 29 permanent teaching spaces including three support teaching spaces across three-storeys of buildings on the site. The proposed activity will be delivered across one stage, and will consist of the following (Figure 3):

- 29 permanent teaching space including three support teaching spaces to accommodate 640 students and a school hall to accommodate 1000 students. Approximately 10,500 square metres of gross floor area is proposed.
- Main vehicular ingress and egress to Ferodale Road to the north, with a new pedestrian and vehicle crossing proposed.
- Main pedestrian access to Abundance Road.
- Kiss and ride, and bus drop and pick up areas to Abundance Road (six parallel spaces).
- New pedestrian wombat crossing to Abundance Road.
- Parking spaces and three accessible car parking spaces.
- Bicycle parking spaces.
- Block A (Admin) consisting of administration and learning spaces.
- Block B (Foodtech/Workshop) consisting of food technology rooms and workshops.
- Block C (Hall) consisting of school hall to accommodate 1000 students.
- Central quad, one playing field and one sports courtyard.

The proposed school activity will include the following spaces: general learning spaces, general support learning spaces, administrative services, staff areas, gym and canteen, library areas for science, wood and metal, food and textiles, health PE, performing arts, additional learning spaces, student amenities, storage, movement (stairs and covered walkways).

## 1.5 Planning approvals

The proposed development will be assessed against Part 5.1 of the EP&A Act. Other relevant legislation and planning instruments that will inform the assessment include:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010 (NSW).*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021.*

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.*
- *Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013.*
- *Port Stephens Development Control Plan 2014.*

## 1.6 Restricted and confidential information

Appendix 5 and Figure 7 in the AR and Figure 4 within this report contains AHIMS information which is confidential and not to be made public. This is clearly marked on the title page for the Attachment.

## 1.7 Aboriginal cultural heritage

### 1.7.1 General description

According to Allen & O'Connell (2003), Aboriginal people have inhabited the Australian continent for the last 50,000 years. New evidence out of the Northern Territory has pushed this date back with the Malakanunja II rock shelter dated at around 65,000 years before present (BP) (Clarkson et al. 2017).

In NSW, according to Bowler et al. (2003), Aboriginal people have occupied the land for over 42,000 years. Without being part of the Aboriginal culture and the productions of this culture, it is not possible for non-Aboriginal people to fully understand the meaning of site, objects and places to Aboriginal people – only to move closer towards understanding this meaning with the help of the Aboriginal community. Similarly, definitions of Aboriginal culture and cultural heritage without this involvement constitute outsider interpretations.

With this preface Aboriginal cultural heritage broadly refers to things that relate to Aboriginal culture and hold cultural meaning and significance to Aboriginal people (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3). There is an understanding in Aboriginal culture that everything is interconnected. In essence Aboriginal cultural heritage can be viewed as potentially encompassing any part of the physical and/or mental landscape, that is, 'Country' (DECCW 2010a, pp. iii).

Aboriginal people's interpretation of cultural value is based on their 'traditions, observance, lore, customs, beliefs and history' (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3). The things associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage are continually and actively being defined by Aboriginal people (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3). These things can be associated with traditional, historical or contemporary Aboriginal culture (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3).

### 1.7.2 Tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage

Three categories of tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage may be defined:

- Things that have been observably modified by Aboriginal people.
- Things that may have been modified by Aboriginal people, but no discernible traces of that activity remain.
- Things never physically modified by Aboriginal people (but associated with Dreamtime Ancestors who shaped those things).

### 1.7.3 Intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage

Examples of intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage would include memories of stories and 'ways of doing', which would include language and ceremonies (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3).

### 1.7.4 Statutory

Currently Aboriginal cultural heritage, as statutorily defined by the NPW Act, consists of objects and places which are protected under Part 6 of the NPW Act.

Aboriginal objects are defined as:

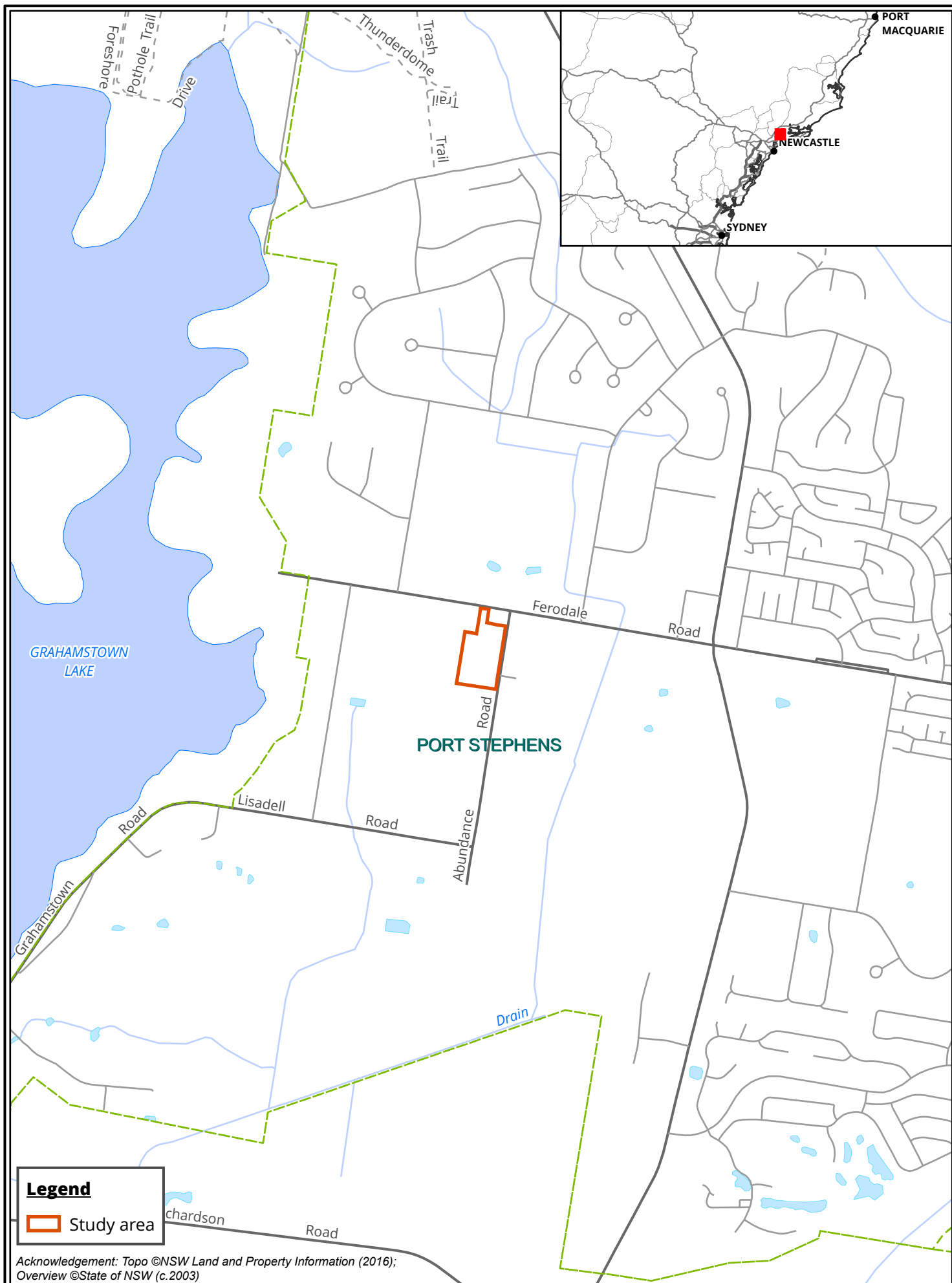
*any deposit, object or material evidence...relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains*

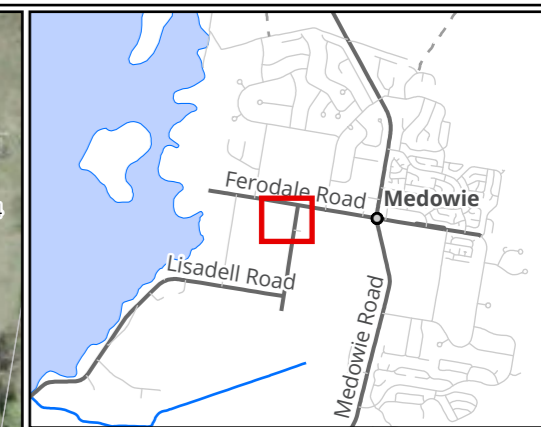
Aboriginal places are defined as a place that is or was of special Aboriginal cultural significance. Places are declared under Section 84 of the NPW Act.

### 1.7.5 Values

Aboriginal cultural heritage is valued by Aboriginal people as it is used to define their identity as both individuals and as part of a group (DECCW 2010a, pp. iii). More specifically it is used:

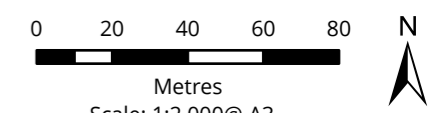
- To provide a:
  - 'Connection and sense of belonging to Country' (DECCW 2010a, pp. iii).
  - Link between the present and the past (DECCW 2010a, pp. iii).
- As a learning tool to teach Aboriginal culture to younger Aboriginal generations and the general public (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3).
- As further evidence of Aboriginal occupation prior to European settlement for people who do not understand the magnitude to which Aboriginal people occupied the continent (DECCW 2010a, p. 3).





**Legend**  
Study area  
Lot

Figure 2 Study area detail



Scale: 1:2,000@ A3  
Coordinate System:  
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56



Matter: 40105, Date: 21 December 2023,  
Prepared for: DB, Prepared by: JB, Last edited by: jbeckius  
Location: P:\40100s\40105\Mapping\  
40105\_PIHAI\_Medowie,  
Layout: 40105\_Medowie\_F2\_StudyArea\_PIHAI



## 2 Study area context

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This section discusses the study area in regard to its landscape, environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage context. This section should be read in conjunction with the AR attached in Appendix 5. The background research has been undertaken in accordance with the Code.

### 2.1 Topography and hydrology

The study area is located on an area of higher ground that sits above the Pleistocene aged transgressive dune field to the south-east (Umwelt 2011, pp. 2.1). The study area consists of a flat plain landform which has a gentle slope towards the western portion of the study area. The gentle sloped portion is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line located approximately 533 metres and 2.2 kilometres each of the study area. The water sources rise to the east of the study area and feed into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area. The sub-surface aquifer associated with the Tomago sandsheet would have provided an abundant supply of water, food and material resources for the Medowie region which would have been exploited by Aboriginal people. The study area is not located in close proximity to those sources however and it is likely that the areas of highest occupation density would have been located closer to the extensive swamp areas. The study area does provide a potential travel route through the area though, consisting of elevated landforms. It is likely that any archaeological material present may reflect lower levels of occupation than the areas closer to resources.

### 2.2 Soil landscapes

The Medowie soil landscape is characterised by gentle, undulating low hills on relict sediments, and broad, flat crests with low incline slopes. Soils within this landscape consist of deep (less than 150 centimetres), well-drained red and yellow structured loams, upon deeply weathered clay deposits and moderately deep to deep (60-200 centimetres), well drained podzolic soils, with shallow well-drained lithosols on sandy/pebbly deposits with clay lenses. Soil changes across the landscape are considered a direct result of the extensive clearing of native vegetation (Matthei 1995, pp. 41). Previous geotechnical investigations occurred in the local area have shown that clay is evident from 40 centimetres onwards. Geotechnical investigations undertaken in November 2024 for the study area concludes that topsoil occurs up to 20 centimetres, with silty clay evident from 20 centimetres onwards (ADE Consulting Group Pty Ltd 2025). It is likely that due to clearing of initial vegetation and the use of the study area for market gardening that these soils have likely been disturbed.

### 2.3 Climate and rainfall

Climate data was provided by the Williamstown RAAF AWS NSW weather station approximately 7.5 kilometres south of the study area, Station No. 061076 (Bureau of Meteorology 2024).

- The mean maximum average temperature is highest in January when it reaches 28.3 degrees.
- The lowest mean maximum temperature is in July at 17.2 degrees.
- The mean minimum temperature is highest in January and February at 18.2 degrees and lowest in July at 6.5 degrees.
- The average rainfall is highest in March at 126.9 millimetres and lowest in September at 60.2 millimetres.

Rainfall was highest throughout Autumn with temperatures on average highest in January, although this is still a relatively mild average temperature, and it is likely the study area would have supported a number of plant and animal resources at this time. Spring displays the lowest rainfall with lower temperatures occurring during winter months may have resulted in limited activity at this time. It is notable that there have been dramatic climate variations over the past 65,000 years, although recent climate data suggests overall the area was temperate, indicating resources were likely available in some capacity year round.

## 2.4 Landscape resources

The study area and wider region contains geology, flora and fauna that would have provided useful resources to the Worimi people who inhabited the area. Sokoloffnov (1977, pp. 230) notes that the exploitation of land resources by the Worimi people would have been directly relatable to the seasonal availability and relative abundance of certain food sources. Terrestrial resources would have been utilised in the winter months by Worimi tribes, whilst coastal resources would have been more readily available in the warmer seasons.

A range of flora species have been recorded in the Medowie soil landscape. Species known to occur include the smooth-barked apple *Angophora costata*, red bloodwood *Eucalyptus gummifera*, grey box *E. Sydney* peppermint *moluccana*, *E. piperita*, white stringybark *E. globoidea* and black she-oak *Allocasuarina littoralis*. Understorey species include the grass trees *Xanthorrhoea spp.*, mountain devil *Lambertia formosa*, bracken *Pteridium esculentum* and blady grass *Imperata cylindrica*. Occasional blackbutt *E. pilularis* and scribbly gum *E. signata* (Matthei 1995, pp. 41).

Poorly drained swales and deflation basins contain wet heath or wet heath forest community. Common species of the wet heath include fern-leaved banksia *Banksia oblongifolia*, prickly-leaved paperbark *Melaleuca nodosa*, flax-leaved paperbark *M. linariifolia* ssp. *Linariifolia*, prickly-leaved tea-tree *M. styphelioides*, grass tree *Xanthorrhoea fulva*, red bottlebrush *Callistemon citrinus*, dagger hakea *Hakea teretifolia*, yellow tea-tree *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, dog rose *Bauera rubioides*, woosia *Woodsia pungens*, geebung *Persoonia spp.*, prickly conesticks *Petrophile sessilis*, broad-leaf drumsticks *Isopogon anemonifolius*, thyme Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca thymifolia*, swamp boronia *Boronia parviflora* and heath *Epacris spp.* (Matthei 1995, pp. 212).

Kangaroo, wallaby, possum, flying fox, koala, kangaroo-rat and the echidna were also abundant traditional terrestrial food sources for the Worimi and would have been valuable sources of fat and protein during the colder months. As well as being important food sources, animal products were also used for tool making and fashioning a myriad of utilitarian and ceremonial items. For example, tail sinews are known to have been used to make fastening cord, while 'bone points', which would have functioned as awls or piercers, are often an abundant part of the archaeological record (Attenbrow 2002, pp. 117).

## 2.5 European land use history

The non-Indigenous cultural heritage of this area is defined mostly by the Hunter region's economic development in terms of pastoral, agriculture and mining industries. In 1804 a penal settlement had been

established in Newcastle, and its primary source of industry was coal production (Australian Museum Business Service 2005).

A historic Parish map dating to 1922 shows the area incorporating the study area as a Trust Area gazetted on 15 July 1908 and proclaimed by 28 January 1909. Areas to the immediate north and east of the study area were low lying areas that were left largely vacant and marked as Grahamstown and Campvale Swamp Drainage in 1922 but had been formalised as the Campvale-Medowie Drainage Union by 1959.

Historic aerial imagery suggests the waterways and landforms within the vicinity of the study area have been subject to disturbances ranging from minor to major vegetation clearance. A 1954 aerial photograph shows the alignment of Abundance and Ferodale Roads have existed since at least 1954. A diagonally aligned electricity easement also appears to have been cleared in the vicinity. From 1967 to 1994, besides the clearing of the land during this time, the cultivation of orchards and cropping has occurred across much of the study area which would have caused disturbances to the upper layers of soil whereas dense vegetation still exists in the southern portion of the study area (although it is unclear how much of this vegetation is regrowth).

## 3 Aboriginal cultural heritage context

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### 3.1 Ethnohistory

Aboriginal people have occupied the Hunter Valley for at least 20,000 years (Keotigg 1987). Medowie is part of the Port Stephens Local Government Area (LGA) and is the traditional home of the Worimi people.

Ethnographic writers have noted that Worimi territory extends from north of the Hunter River to Forster near Cape Hawke, along the coastline, encompassing Port Stephens and stretching inland close to Gresford, and as far south as Maitland (Tindale 1974, pp. 201).

According to Sokoloffnov (1977, pp. 16), the territories of the Worimi were established to include a variety of habitats rich in raw materials and food resources. Trade, intermarriage, and the sharing of ceremonial places were central to the Worimi nation's interaction with neighbouring tribal groups, such as the Awabakal, Kamilaroi, Guringai, Wanaruah and other tribes within the region.

Little is known about the size of the population of the Worimi tribe within Port Stephens before European settlement. However, it is agreed that numbers declined rapidly after contact (Dean-Jones 1990, pp. 68). Sources from the early 1800s to the 1840s vary in their estimates, from 120 within a single camp, to 500 Worimi individuals within the Port Stephens area in 1837 (Dean-Jones 1990, pp. 68). Threlkeld (cited by Dean-Jones 1990, pp. 68) reports that by 1839, the population of the Awabakal people around the Lake Macquarie area, to the south of Worimi territory had declined to as low as 20. Exposure to diseases introduced by European settlers, the destruction of food resources, and instances of hostile relations between Europeans and the Worimi and Awabakal people would have contributed significantly to this decline.

The earliest account of contact between Europeans and the Worimi regards five convicts who had escaped from Parramatta in 1790 who were shipwrecked at Port Stephens. The convicts lived among the Worimi for five years until they were recaptured (Bramble 1981). Following this, a small garrison of soldiers was established in the 1820s at a place now known as Soldiers Point, located 20.1 kilometres north-east of the study area, to aid in the recapture of convicts who had escaped from Port Macquarie.

Bramble recounts that relations between escaped convicts and local tribes were good natured and signified the introduction of products of European culture. Colonel Paterson, upon exploring the Hunter region in 1801, commented upon the possible use of European axes by Aboriginal tribes, and perhaps convicts who lived among them, to cut down trees (Bramble 1981). This introduction to European resources would have led to the establishment of more fruitful relations between the Aboriginal people of the Hunter region and European penal authorities, in aiding in the recapture of escaped convicts.

Hostile relations between Europeans and the Worimi tribes of Port Stephens seemed to have originated from early interactions with timber-getters exploiting good quality cedar along the coastal regions of NSW. Accounts of hostilities between timber-getters and the Aboriginal people in the region are recorded from as early as 1804. Dawson, having arrived in Newcastle in 1825 after free-settlement was made available in the Hunter region in 1820, comments upon the hostile relations which existed between European timber-getters and the Worimi Tribe of Port Stephens. This consequently set a precursor to relations between Europeans or white settlers and local tribes within the Port Stephens Area (Dawson R 1830 cited by Bramble 1981):

*The timber-cutting parties... were the first people who came in contact with the natives in the neighbourhood of the sea; and as they were composed of convicts and other people not remarkable either for humanity or honesty, the communication was not at all to the advantage of the poor natives, or subsequently to the settlers who succeeded those parties. The consequence of the behaviour of the cedar getters was, that the natives inflicted*

*vengeance upon almost every white man they came in contact with, and as convicts were frequently running away from the penal settlement of Port Macquarie to Port Stephens ...numbers of them were intercepted by the natives and sometimes detained whilst those who fell into their hands and escaped with life, were uniformly stripped of their clothes.*

### 3.2 Aboriginal heritage located in the study area

The archaeological assessment of the study area did not identify any Aboriginal sites within the study area. The assessment identified one area of moderate archaeological potential in the south-western portion of the study area. The proposed activity will not impact the area of moderate archaeological potential. Consultation has identified cultural heritage values (Section 1.6) that are important to the Aboriginal community.

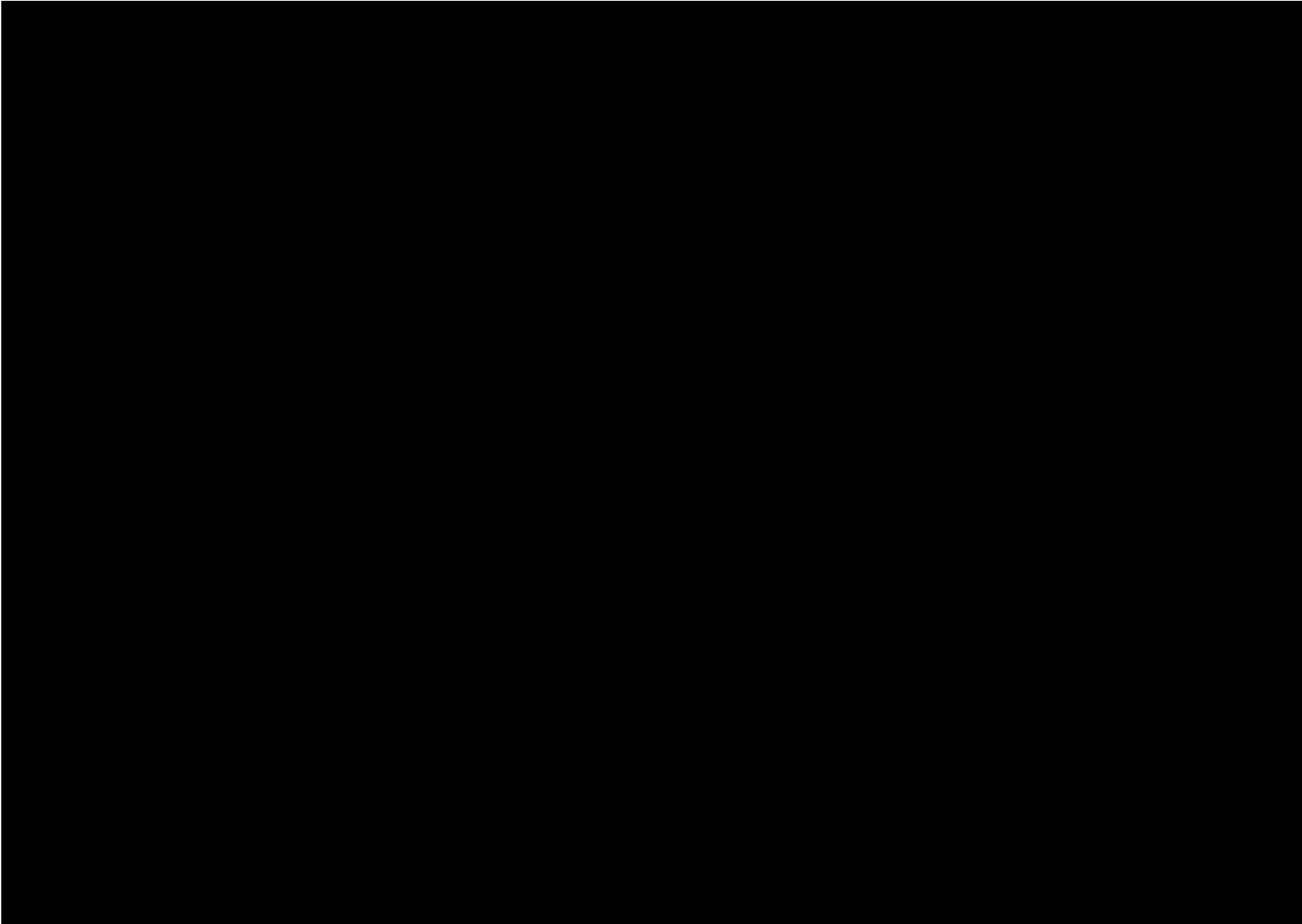
### 3.3 Interpretation of past Aboriginal land use

The study area is located on an undulating flat landform underlain by the Tomago Coal Measures. No water sources are present within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line located approximately 533 metres and 2.2 kilometres each of the study area. The water sources rise to the east of the study area and feed into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. The location of the study area and information gathered from consultation with RAPs suggest that this area was utilised as a transitional route for travel from Fern Bay to Karuah. Due to the lack of water sources present in the study area, and the distance to water sources and the complex of swamps in the Medowie region, the study area would not have been utilised for intensive occupation.

Historic aerial imagery suggests the waterways and landforms within the vicinity of the study area have been subject to disturbances ranging from minor to major vegetation clearance. From 1967 to 1994, besides the clearing of the land during this time, the cultivation of orchards and cropping has occurred across much of the study area which would have caused disturbances to the upper layers of soil whereas dense vegetation still exists in the southern portion of the study area (although it is unclear how much of this vegetation is regrowth).

Previous archaeological assessments identified that regionally, Aboriginal sites frequently occur on the margins of wetlands or estuaries, within dune systems, and within creek flat and alluvial terrace landforms (AMBS Ecology & Heritage 2005, Dean-Jones 1990, Umwelt 2010). The site type, and site density within any given area will depend on the landforms present (AMBS Ecology & Heritage 2005). Middens are a common site type identified within the Stockton Bight formation; however, they are most frequently found along coastal and estuarine margins (Dean-Jones 1990). Open campsites or artefact scatters are also frequently identified within the Stockton Bight formation and are the most frequently recorded site type within a 1 kilometre radius of the study area. Scarred trees are most frequently identified in areas of remnant, old growth vegetation. Large portions of the study area have been cleared of vegetation with remnant vegetation present only within the western section.

The results of the archaeological surveys identified that the majority of the study area has undergone moderate to high levels of disturbance. This is due to historical vegetation clearance, historical market gardening and the current use of the study area for a residential dwelling and the storing of livestock. The western portion of the study area is heavily vegetated and through the imagery was less disturbed. The western portion was identified as holding moderate archaeological potential due to the lack of disturbance.



## 4 Aboriginal community consultation

Consultation with the Aboriginal community has been undertaken in compliance with the consultation requirements as detailed below. A consultation log of all communications with RAPs is provided in Appendix 1.

### 4.1 Stage 1: Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

#### 4.1.1 Identification of relevant Aboriginal stakeholders

In accordance with the consultation guidelines, Biosis notified the following bodies regarding the proposal:

- Port Stephens Council
- Heritage NSW.
- NSW Native Title Services Corporation Limited.
- Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* of Aboriginal Owners.
- National Native Title Tribunal.
- Hunter Local Land Services.
- Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council (Worimi LALC).

A list of known Aboriginal stakeholders in the Port Stephens region was provided by Heritage NSW (copies of these responses are provided in Appendix 2 and include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • A1 Indigenous Services                 | • A&K Cultural Heritage  |
| • AGA Services                           | • Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd  |
| • Cacatua Culture Consultants            | • [REDACTED]   |
| • [REDACTED]                             | • [REDACTED]   |
| • Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation      | • [REDACTED]   |
| • [REDACTED]                             | • Thomas Dahlstrom Offers ACH value by using 3D Laser and Drone technology |
| • Didge Ngunawal Clan                    | • WATTAKA Pty Ltd  |
| • Didge Ngunawal Clan                    | • Widescope Indigenous Group. Widescope Indigenous Group                   |
| • Gomery Cultural Consultants            | • Wonnarua Elders Council  |
| • Hunters & Collectors                   | • Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council                                     |
| • Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group | • Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation                         |
| • Karuah Indigenous Corporation          | • Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation                                  |
| • Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council   | • Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation                                    |
| • Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites   |  |
| • Lakkari NTCG                           |  |

- Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated
- Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services
- Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation
- Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation
- Mur-Roo-Ma Inc.
- Guthers Aboriginal Corporation
- Mura Gadi Aboriginal Corporation

A search conducted by the Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) listed no Aboriginal Owners with land within the study area. A search conducted by the NNTT listed no Registered Native Title Claims, Unregistered Claimant Applications or Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements within the study area.

#### 4.1.2 Public notice

In accordance with the consultation guidelines, a public notification was placed in the following newspaper:

- *The Newcastle Herald* (21 August 2024)

The advertisement invited Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge to register their interest in a process of community consultation to provide assistance in determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the vicinity of the study area. A copy of the public notice is provided in Appendix 2.

#### 4.1.3 Registration of Aboriginal parties

Aboriginal groups identified in Section 4.1.1 were sent a letter inviting them to register their interest in a process of community consultation to provide assistance in determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the vicinity of the study area. In response to the letters and public notice, a total of 11 groups registered their interest in the project. Responses to registration from Aboriginal parties are provided in Appendix 3. A full list of Aboriginal parties who registered for consultation is provided below:

**Table 2 List of registered Aboriginal parties**

No.	Organisation	Contact person
1	Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council	[REDACTED]
2	Mura Gadi Aboriginal Corporation	[REDACTED]
3	Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd	[REDACTED]
4	Confidential Party	n/a
5	Didge Ngunawal Clan	[REDACTED]
6	Karuah Indigenous Corporation	[REDACTED]
7	A1 Indigenous Services	[REDACTED]
8	Amanda Hickey Cultural Services	[REDACTED]
9	Thomas Dahlstrom	[REDACTED]
10	Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	[REDACTED]

No.	Organisation	Contact person
11	Murrooma Inc	

## 4.2 Stage 2: Presentation of information about the proposed project

On 5 September 2024, Biosis provided RAPs with details about the proposed activity works (project information pack). A copy of the project information pack is provided in Appendix 3.

## 4.3 Stage 3: Gathering information about cultural significance

### 4.3.1 Archaeological assessment methodology information pack

On 5 September 2024, Biosis provided each RAP with a copy of the project methodology pack outlining the proposed ACHA process and methodology for this project. RAPs were given 28 days to review and prepare feedback on the proposed methodology. A copy of the project methodology pack is provided in Appendix 3.

Bec Young from Murrooma Inc [11] responded on 2 October 2024, stating:

*Murrooma have read and fully understands the draft assessment methodology report for the proposed project- New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation, 6 Abundance Road, Medowie – Project Information and Methodology.*

*We agree with the Assessment methodology recommendations for this area- especially as Biosis are aware of the rich cultural significance within the Medowie area having worked on the Catholic College project where thousands of artefacts were uncovered during excavation. We are aware this project is further north and into the red dirt however still no less an area of transect for our people travelling from Maiangal to Gamipingal (Fern Bay to Karuah). We agree with the methodology of full pedestrian survey and concentration of PAD's and landforms our Worimi people would have used.*

*I have previously worked on country close to this project and have knowledge of surrounding areas- I have also been advised from my elders that the Medowie area is of great significance and some of those areas have been highlighted within your report- Moffat's Swamp.*

*All recommendations and phases within this report meet our requirements and responsibilities as Traditional Owners of this land.*

Darleen Johnson [10] responded on 10 October 2024, stating:

*I have read the project information ACHA and methodology for the above project, I endorse the recommendations.*

No additional feedback was received.

### 4.3.2 Information gathered during fieldwork

During the investigation, Bec Young from Murrooma Inc [11] noted that the heavily vegetated western portion of the study area has remained less disturbed than the cleared portions of the study area. Bec Young identified several fragments of oyster shell on the ground surface which were noted as an unusual occurrence. Bec Young expressed the need for test excavations within the study area if impacts are unable to be avoided due to the limited nature of test excavations in this part of Medowie and a general lack of information on archaeology of the area. She also noted a preference for the preservation of native fauna and flora were possible in the vegetation part of the study area.

#### 4.4 Stage 4: Review of draft ACHA report

A copy of the draft ACHA was provided to the RAPs on 22 November 2024 in accordance with consultation requirements. RAPs were provided 28 days to respond with comments. Responses were received from Darleen Johnson from Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation and David Feeney from Indigenous Karuah Corporation.

Darleen Johnson [10] responded on 25 November 2024, stating:

*I have read the project information ACHA and AR report for the above project, I endorse the recommendations.*

David Feeney [6] responded on 17 December 2024, stating:

*Karuah Indigenous Company Pty Ltd will be able to continue to discuss cultural values and collection of information further onsite and include any recommendations that the Aboriginal Cultural Officers believe is best to protect our Worimi Culture.*

*Should any more works or excavation works or clearing works commence over the survey area, Aboriginal Cultural Officers would need to be engaged. "Why", because if excavation works turn over any Aboriginal artefact, within the first 30mm, then the Aboriginal Cultural Officers can identify the significance of that site and make some recommendation right away for the next step. (Ring the Worimi LALC & NPWS or Police).*

*Aboriginal Heritage is identified as Intellectual knowledge.*

*Some reports are based on above ground surveying and any disturbs of soil ground you will need to have Aboriginal Culture Officers on site until the works are completed.*

No additional feedback was received.

## 5 Aboriginal cultural significance assessment

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The two main values addressed when assessing the significance of Aboriginal sites are cultural values to the Aboriginal community and archaeological (scientific) values. This report will assess the cultural values of Aboriginal sites in the study area. Details of the scientific significance assessment of Aboriginal sites in the study area are provided in Appendix 5.

### 5.1 Introduction to the assessment process

Heritage assessment criteria in NSW falls broadly within the significance values outlined in the Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Australia ICOMOS 2013) (the Burra Charter). This approach to heritage has been adopted by cultural heritage managers and government agencies as the set of guidelines for best practice heritage management in Australia. These values are provided as background and include:

- **Historical significance** (evolution and association) refers to historic values and encompasses the history of aesthetics, science and society, and therefore to a large extent underlies all of the terms set out in this section. A place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, a historic figure, event, phase or activity. It may also have historic value as the site of an important event. For any given place the significance will be greater where evidence of the association or event survives in situ, or where the settings are substantially intact, than where it has been changed or evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the place retains significance regardless of subsequent treatment.
- **Aesthetic significance** (Scenic/architectural qualities, creative accomplishment) refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place. It is often closely linked with social values and may include consideration of form, scale, colour, texture, and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use.
- **Social significance** (contemporary community esteem) refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachment that the place or area has for the present-day community. Places of social significance have associations with contemporary community identity. These places can have associations with tragic or warmly remembered experiences, periods or events. Communities can experience a sense of loss should a place of social significance be damaged or destroyed. These aspects of heritage significance can only be determined through consultative processes with local communities.
- **Scientific significance** (Archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values) refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its archaeological and/or other technical aspects. Assessment of scientific value is often based on the likely research potential of the area, place or object and will consider the importance of the data involved, its rarity, quality or representativeness, and the degree to which it may contribute further substantial information.

The cultural and archaeological significance of Aboriginal and historic sites and places is assessed on the basis of the significance values outlined above. As well as the Burra Charter significance values guidelines, various government agencies have developed formal criteria and guidelines that have application when assessing the significance of heritage places within NSW. Of primary interest are guidelines prepared by the Australian Government, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) and the

NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The relevant sections of these guidelines are presented below.

These guidelines state that an area may contain evidence and associations which demonstrate one or any combination of the Burra Charter significance values outlined above in reference to Aboriginal heritage. Reference to each of the values should be made when evaluating archaeological and cultural significance for Aboriginal sites and places.

In addition to the previously outlined heritage values, the Heritage *NSW Guidelines to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011) also specify the importance of considering cultural landscapes when determining and assessing Aboriginal heritage values. The principle behind a cultural landscape is that 'the significance of individual features is derived from their inter-relatedness within the cultural landscape'. This means that sites or places cannot be 'assessed in isolation' but must be considered as parts of the wider cultural landscape. Hence the site or place will possibly have values derived from its association with other sites and places. By investigating the associations between sites, places, and (for example) natural resources in the cultural landscape the stories behind the features can be told. The context of the cultural landscape can unlock 'better understanding of the cultural meaning and importance' of sites and places.

Although other values may be considered – such as educational or tourism values – the two principal values that are likely to be addressed in consideration of Aboriginal sites and places are the cultural/social significance to Aboriginal people and their archaeological or scientific significance to archaeologists and the Aboriginal community. The determinations of archaeological and cultural significance for sites and places should then be expressed as statements of significance that preface a concise discussion of the contributing factors to Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

## 5.2 Cultural (social significance) values

Cultural or social significance refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical and/or contemporary associations and values attached to a place or objects by Aboriginal people. Aboriginal cultural heritage is broadly valued by Aboriginal people as it is used to define their identity as both individuals and as part of a group (DECCW 2010a, pp. iii). More specifically it provides:

- A 'connection and sense of belonging to Country' (DECCW 2010a, pp. iii).
- A link between the present and the past (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3).
- A learning tool to teach Aboriginal culture to younger Aboriginal generations and the general public (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3).
- Further evidence of Aboriginal occupation prior to European settlement for people who do not understand the magnitude to which Aboriginal people occupied the continent (DECCW 2010a, pp. 3).

It is acknowledged that Aboriginal people are the primary determiners of the cultural significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage. During consultation the following information was provided by RAPs in regard to the cultural values of the study area.

- Murrooma Inc [11] provided information during the survey. Bec Young from Murrooma Inc noted that the study area holds cultural significance as it may have been a travel route for people travelling from Maiangal to Gamipingal (Fern Bay to Karuah). The Medowie area holds great cultural significance, particularly due to the close proximity to Moffatt's Swamp with a number of high-density sites dating to 6,000 to 25,000 years ago were found which shows potential for continuous occupation from the late Pleistocene to the late Holocene.

### 5.3 Historic values

Historic significance refers to associations a place or object may have with a historically important person, event, phase or activity to the Aboriginal and other communities. Background research, a survey and consultation with the Aboriginal community has concluded that the study area is not known to have any historic associations. Therefore, this assessment has concluded that the study area has low historic significance.

### 5.4 Archaeological (scientific significance) values

An archaeological scientific assessment was undertaken for the study area and is presented in detail as part of the attached Archaeological Report (Appendix 5). Overall, the survey was hindered by low GSV (10%), as a result of extensive grass coverage and dense vegetation. The field investigation did not identify any Aboriginal objects; however, this is mostly likely due to limited visibility, exposure and extensive levels of disturbance identified during the survey, rather than an absence of Aboriginal occupation of the area. Based on the results of the field investigation, an area of moderate archaeological potential was identified within the south-western portion of the study area. The proposed activity will not impact the area of moderate archaeological potential in the western portion of the study area. Due to the existing disturbance throughout the remainder of the study area, the impact area is unlikely to contain any intact Aboriginal sites and has therefore been assessed as holding low archaeological potential. Therefore, it is concluded that the proposed activity is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects to archaeological potential within the study area.

### 5.5 Aesthetic values

There is a diverse yet accessible literature regarding the identification of aesthetic values and determining aesthetic significance (Burke & Smith 2004, pp. 248–249). It is generally agreed that aesthetic values are an important part of cultural heritage significance; however, they are dependent on an individual's sensory response, which means determining aesthetic value is fraught with difficulty, and should be applied on a case-by-case basis as it is not always a value applicable to archaeological sites. When dealing with some types of sites aesthetic values and landscape context are an important consideration. The question 'does the place have a relationship between its parts and the setting which reinforces the quality of both', while originally proposed in an architectural context (Kerr 2013, pp. 15), is relevant also for many sites in a local setting—such as in forests, deserts, or coastlines, where there is often an important relationship between cultural sites and the natural environment, which contribute to the values of a 'sense of place'.

The study area has been disturbed through land clearance of native vegetation. However, the overall landscape is a type of example of gently undulating flats that occur in the region. The landscape of the study area is linked with Aboriginal cultural values and provides context for Aboriginal sites that gives a sense of place. The vegetation clearance and other development surrounding the study area indicates that the aesthetic values have been altered from the original landscape before European settlement. An area of dense vegetation is present in the western portion which may retain some aesthetic values for the study area. Therefore, the study area has been assessed as holding moderate aesthetic value.

### 5.6 Statement of significance

The significance of sites was assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

- Requirements of the Code.
- The Burra Charter.

- *Guide to Investigating and Reporting on Aboriginal Heritage* (OEH 2011).

The combined use of these guidelines is widely considered to represent the best practice for assessments of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The identification and assessment of cultural heritage values includes the four values of the Burra Charter: social, historical, scientific and aesthetic values. The resultant statement of significance has been constructed for the study area based on the significance ranking criteria assessed in Table 5.

### 5.6.1 Statement of significance for moderate potential within the study area

The field investigation identified one area of moderate archaeological potential located within the western portion of the study area. These areas are located where minimal disturbance has occurred and some native vegetation remains intact. The proposed impact area is contained within an area of low archaeological potential and no registered Aboriginal sites or sites containing historical or aesthetic values were identified during the field investigations. If the finalised designs are altered to include any impacts to the area of moderate archaeological potential, further assessment will be required prior to any activity. It should be noted that if unexpected Aboriginal objects are identified during works, or if the scope of works should change to include impacts within an area of moderate potential, further assessment would be required.

**Table 3 Significance assessment criteria**

Site name	Criteria	Ranking
<b>Area of moderate archaeological potential</b>	Cultural – discussions with the local Aboriginal communities reflect that the site is high in value. This is due to the local area being utilised as a travel route from Fern Bay to Karuah. The local region of Medowie is a place of high significance, especially due to the proximity to Moffat's Swamp.	High
	Historical – the site is not connected to any historical event or personage.	Low
	Scientific – the study area possesses some archaeological values with an area of moderate archaeological potential located in the western portion of the study area due to its limited disturbance and potentially intact soils.	Moderate
	Aesthetic – the majority of the study area has been previously disturbed due to historic vegetation clearance. The study area prior to current occupation as utilised as a form of orchard or market gardening which has caused extensive disturbances to the surface and subsurface soils. Therefore, the study area is no longer representative of its original character. However, its place within the regional landscape is closely linked with Aboriginal cultural values and provides a context for Aboriginal sites that gives a strong sense of place. The Aboriginal community strongly identifies with the broader landscape of the study area which provides the study area with aesthetic value. The study area holds moderate aesthetic values.	Moderate

## 6 Development limitations and mitigation measures

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There are no recorded Aboriginal sites that may be subject to harm within the study area. It is expected that the potential of harm to Aboriginal archaeological sites from activity in the study area ranges from negligible to low. Strategies to avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal heritage in the study area are discussed below.

As previously outlined, the proposed activity will be delivered across one stage, and will consist of the following (Figure 3):

- 29 permanent teaching space including three support teaching spaces to accommodate 640 students and a school hall to accommodate 1000 students. Approximately 10,500 square metres of gross floor area is proposed.
- Main vehicular ingress and egress to Ferodale Road to the north, with a new pedestrian and vehicle crossing proposed.
- Main pedestrian access to Abundance Road.
- Kiss and ride, and bus drop and pick up areas to Abundance Road (six parallel spaces).
- New pedestrian wombat crossing to Abundance Road.
- Approximately 55 car parking spaces and three accessible car parking spaces.
- Approximately 70 bicycle parking spaces.
- Block A (Admin) consisting of administration and learning spaces.
- Block B (Foodtech/Workshop) consisting of food technology rooms and workshops.
- Block C (Hall) consisting of school hall to accommodate 1000 students.
- Central quad, one playing field and one sports courtyard.

The proposed school development will include the following spaces: general learning spaces, general support learning spaces, administrative services, staff areas, gym and canteen, library areas for science, wood and metal, food and textiles, health PE, performing arts, additional learning spaces, student amenities, storage, movement (stairs and covered walkways).

### 6.1 Predicted physical impacts

The impacts to the study area consists of the construction of a new small high school predominantly in the northern portion of the study area. The construction of the proposed works will likely impact the ground surfaces and subsurface soils. The results of background research and field investigations and consultation with RAPs have identified an area of moderate archaeological potential in the western portion of the study area, where less visible disturbance was present and some soils may be intact. Due to the layout of the proposed works, the area of moderate archaeological potential will not be impacted by the activity with works proposed to completely avoid this area. As a result, the predicted physical impacts is restricted to areas of low archaeological potential and the potential for these works to impact Aboriginal sites is considered low

## 6.2 Avoiding harm to Aboriginal heritage

The proposed works are located in an area of low archaeological potential only and will completely avoid harm to the area of moderate archaeological potential within the study area. Through discussions with local Aboriginal community groups, it is understood that the study area holds high cultural values. This is due to the local area being utilised as a travel route from Fern Bay to Karuah. The local region of Medowie is a place of high significance, especially due to the proximity to Moffat's Swamp. As a mitigation measure, a heritage induction for all site workers and contractors should be undertaken in order to prevent any unintentional harm to Aboriginal sites located within the study area and its surrounds.

## 6.3 Ecologically Sustainable Development

One of the primary aims of the NPW Act is the 'conservation of objects places and features ... of cultural value within the landscape, including ... places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people ...' ((s.2A(1)(b)(i)). The *Operational Policy: Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Version 2)* (DECC NSW 2011) provides guidance to proponents in term of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD).

ESD has been defined in Part 3, 6. (2) Objective of the Authority of the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act* 1991 (NSW). This outlines that the ESD requires the integration of economic and environmental considerations (including cultural heritage) in the decision-making process. Regarding Aboriginal cultural heritage, ESD can be achieved by applying the principle of intergenerational equity and the precautionary principle.

### ***"Intergenerational equity"***

*The principle of intergenerational equity states that the present generation should make every effort to ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the environment – which includes cultural heritage – for the benefit of future generations.*

*In terms of Aboriginal cultural heritage, intergenerational equity can be considered in terms of the 'cumulative impacts' of any proposal to Aboriginal objects and places. For example, if few Aboriginal objects and places remain in a region (because of harm authorised under previous AHIPs), fewer opportunities remain for future generations of Aboriginal people to enjoy the cultural benefits of those Aboriginal objects and places.*

*Information about the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the Aboriginal objects and places proposed to be harmed will be relevant to the consideration of intergenerational equity and an understanding of the cumulative impacts of a proposal.*

*Where there is uncertainty, the precautionary principle should also be followed (see below).*

### ***The precautionary principle***

*The precautionary principle states that the lack of full scientific certainty about the threat of harm should not be used as a reason for not taking measures to prevent harm from occurring.*

*In applying the precautionary principle, decisions should be guided by:*

- *a careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment (which includes cultural heritage)*
- *an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.*

*The precautionary principle is relevant to Heritage NSW consideration of potential harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage where:*

- *the proposal involves a risk of serious or irreversible harm to Aboriginal objects or places or to the value of those objects or places, and*
- *there is a lot of uncertainty about the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Aboriginal objects or places proposed to be harmed.*

*Where this is the case, a precautionary approach should be taken and all cost-effective measures implemented to prevent or reduce harm to the Aboriginal objects/place (DECC NSW 2011, pp. 26)."*

## 6.4 Management and mitigation measures

Ideally, heritage management involves conservation of sites through the preservation and conservation of fabric and context within a framework of 'doing as much as necessary, as little as possible' (Australia ICOMOS 2013). In cases where conservation is not practical, several options for management are available. For sites, management often involves the salvage of features or artefacts, retrieval of information through excavation or collection (especially where impact cannot be avoided) and interpretation. Avoidance of impact to archaeological and cultural heritage sites through the design of the development is the primary mitigation and management strategy and should be implemented where practicable.

As part of the management and mitigation measures for the proposed works, an ACHA including background research, a field investigation and consultation with the Aboriginal community was undertaken. This was done to determine the presence and nature of any potential Aboriginal sites so that appropriate management could be undertaken in line with the precautionary principles. The field investigation identified areas of low and moderate archaeological potential; however no Aboriginal objects were identified. Avoidance of impact to archaeological and cultural heritage sites through the design of the development is the primary mitigation and management strategy and has been implemented where practicable. The proposed works design illustrate that all impacts are contained to the areas of low potential, with no impacts to areas of moderate potential proposed. This follows the principle of intergenerational Equity, preserving this resource for future generations.

It should be noted that if unexpected Aboriginal objects are identified during works, or if the scope of works should change to include impacts within an area of moderate potential, further assessment would be required (Table 4).

**Table 4 Mitigation measures**

Mitigation Measures	Relevant Section of Report
<b>No further archaeological work required</b> Based upon the observations made during the field investigation and current scope of the proposed works, the works are currently limited to the area of low archaeological potential. Due to this, no further investigation of the study area is warranted. It should be noted that if unexpected Aboriginal objects are identified during works, or if the scope of works should change to include impacts within an area of moderate potential, further assessment would be required.	Refer to Section 5. Refer to Section 3, Section 4, Section 5 and Section 6 within the AR within Appendix 5.
<b>Heritage induction</b> Heritage inductions for all site workers and contractors should be undertaken in order to prevent any unintentional harm to Aboriginal sites located within the study	Refer to Section 4. Refer to Section 5 and Section 6 within the AR in Appendix 5.

Mitigation Measures	Relevant Section of Report
<p>area and its surrounds. This includes the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant legislation.</li> <li>• Location of identified Aboriginal heritage sites, areas of archaeological potential, and areas of archaeological sensitivity.</li> <li>• Basic identification skills for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artefacts and human remains.</li> <li>• Procedure to follow in the event of an unexpected heritage item find during construction works.</li> <li>• Procedure to follow in the event of discovery of human remains during construction works.</li> <li>• Penalties and non-compliance.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Stop works provision – Discovery of previously unidentified sites or objects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Aboriginal places and objects are protected under the NPW Act. This protection extends to Aboriginal objects and places that have not been identified but might be unearthed during the proposed works. Work must cease if Aboriginal objects or places are identified which have not previously been identified as part of this assessment or have not been approved for harm under an AHIP. Heritage NSW and the archaeologist must be notified to make an assessment of the find and advise on subsequent management.</li> </ul>	Refer to Section 4. Refer to Section 5 and Section 6 within the AR in Appendix 5.
<p><b>Stop works provision for any potential discovery of human remains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity works, all activity in the vicinity must cease immediately. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. The following contingency plan describes the immediate actions that must be taken in instances where human remains, or suspected human remains are discovered. Any such discovery at the study area must follow these steps:</li> <li>• <b>Discovery:</b> If suspected human remains are discovered all activity in the vicinity must stop to ensure minimal damage is caused to the remains; and the remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage.</li> <li>• <b>Notification:</b> Once suspected human skeletal remains have been found, the NSW Police must be notified immediately, and they will subsequently inform the Coroner's Office. Following this, and if the human remains are likely to be Aboriginal in origin, the find will be reported to the Aboriginal parties and Heritage NSW. If the find is likely to be non-Aboriginal in origin and more than 100 years in age, the Heritage Council of NSW will be notified of the find under s.146 of the Heritage Act.</li> </ul>	Refer to Section 4. Refer to Section 5 and Section 6 within the AR in Appendix 5.



## 7 Recommendations

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The recommendations below respond specifically to the wishes of the RAPs. Recommendations regarding the archaeological value of the site, and the subsequent management of Aboriginal cultural heritage is provided in the archaeological report (Appendix 5). As the proposed activity will not impact the area of moderate potential and no Aboriginal heritage sites are located within the study area, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit is not required. If the proposed works change to include the area of moderate potential, further assessment is warranted.

### **Recommendation 1: No further assessment or Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit is required**

The proposed activity avoids the area of moderate archaeological potential therefore no further archaeological investigation or works such as an AHIP are required to be undertaken for the study area. In the event that unexpected finds, including human remains, are unearthed during any phase of the project please refer to recommendation 3 and 4 below.

### **Recommendation 2: If the project design changes and works impact the area of moderate archaeological potential, further assessment is required**

No further archaeological investigation or works are required to be undertaken for the study area. If the proposed works change to include the area of moderate potential, further assessment is warranted. In the event that unexpected finds, including human remains, are unearthed during any phase of the project please refer to Recommendation 3 and 4 below.

### **Recommendation 3: Stop works provision – Discovery of previously unidentified sites or objects**

All Aboriginal places and objects are protected under the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). This protection extends to Aboriginal objects and places that have not been identified but might be unearthed during the proposed works. Work must cease if Aboriginal objects or places are identified which have not previously been identified as part of this assessment or have not been approved for harm under an AHIP. Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) and the archaeologist must be notified to make an assessment of the find and advise on subsequent management.

### **Recommendation 4: Stop work provision for any potential discovery of human remains**

If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity works, all activity in the vicinity must cease immediately. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. The following contingency plan describes the immediate actions that must be taken in instances where human remains, or suspected human remains are discovered. Any such discovery at the study area must follow these steps:

1. **Discovery:** If suspected human remains are discovered all activity in the vicinity must stop to ensure minimal damage is caused to the remains; and the remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage.
2. **Notification:** Once suspected human skeletal remains have been found, the NSW Police must be notified immediately, and they will subsequently inform the Coroner's Office. Following this, and if the human remains are likely to be Aboriginal in origin, the find will be reported to the Aboriginal parties and Heritage NSW. If the find is likely to be non-Aboriginal in origin and more than 100 years in age, the Heritage Council of NSW will be notified of the find under s.146 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act).

### **Recommendation 5: Heritage induction for all contractors**

Heritage inductions for all site workers and contractors should be undertaken to prevent any unintentional harm to any unexpected Aboriginal objects. The heritage induction should include the following items:

- Relevant legislation.
- Location of identified Aboriginal heritage sites, and areas of archaeological sensitivity within proximity to the study area.
- Basic identification skills for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artefacts, and human remains.
- Procedure to follow in the event of an unexpected heritage item find during construction works.

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# Appendices

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## Appendix 1 Consultation log

### Stage 1: Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

#### Step 1: Identification of Aboriginal people/parties with an interest in the proposed study area.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
National Native Title Tribunal	31/07/2024 – Email	01/08/2024 – Email	Confirmed no Native Title overlap with study area.
Native Title Services Corporation	1/08/2024 – Email	-	-
Office of the Registrar Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983	31/07/2024 – Email	5/08/2024 – Email	Provided contact details for suggested stakeholders.
Heritage NSW	31/07/2024 – Email	8/08/2024 – Email	Provided the Heritage NSW stakeholder list for the Port Stephens LGA.
Hunter Local Land Services	31/07/2024 – Email	-	-
Port Stephens Council	31/07/2024 – Email	-	-
Worimi LALC	31/07/2024 – Email	1/08/2024 – Email	Registered their interest and provided contact information of other RAP groups with cultural knowledge.

#### Step 2: Public advertisement

The public notice was published in the *Newcastle Herald* on 21 August 2024. A copy of the advertisement is provided in [Appendix 2](#).

#### Step 3: Registration of interest.

The registration period ran from the 19 August 2024 to 2 October 2024. Leeway was given to Aboriginal parties/groups who provided responses shortly after the close of this period and they have been registered as Aboriginal parties for consultation.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
Worimi LALC	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
Murrooma Inc	19/08/2024 - Email	26/08/2024 – Email	Registered for the project.
Nur-run-gee Pty Ltd	19/08/2024 - Email	19/08/2024 – Email	Registered for the project.
A1 Indigenous	19/08/2024 - Email	23/08/2024 Email	Registered for the project.
AGA Services	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Cacatua Culture Consultants</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
[REDACTED]	19/08/2024 - Registered post	-	-
<b>Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
[REDACTED]	19/08/2024 - Registered post	-	-
<b>Didge Ngunawal Clan</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	19/08/2024 - Email	Registered for the project.
<b>Gomery Cultural Consultants</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Hunters &amp; Collectors</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Karuah Indigenous Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	20/08/2024 - Email	Registered for the project.
<b>Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
[REDACTED]	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
[REDACTED]	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Lakkari NTCG</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	3/09/2024- Email	Registered for the project.
<b>Mur-Roo-Ma Inc.</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>A&amp;K Cultural Heritage</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	23/08/2024 - Email	Registered for the project.
<b>Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
[REDACTED]	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
[REDACTED]t	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
[REDACTED]	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Thomas Dahlstrom Offers ACH value by using 3D</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	23/08/2024 - Email	Registered for the project.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Laser and Drone technology</b>			
<b>WATTAKA Pty Ltd</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Widescope Indigenous Group</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Wonnarua Elders Council</b>	19/08/2024 – Registered post	-	-
<b>Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Worimi Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Girragirra Murun Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Wingarra Wilay Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Guthers Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-
<b>Mura Gadi Aboriginal Corporation</b>	19/08/2024 - Email	-	-

## Stage 2: Presentation of information about the proposed project

### Step 1: Provision of project information pack

A copy of the information pack is provided in [Appendix 3](#) and a copy of the covering email is provided following.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Mura Gadi Aboriginal Corporation</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Confidential Party</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Didge Ngunawal Clan</b>	5/09/2024- Email	5/09/2024 – Email	Read and agrees with the methodology.
<b>Karuah Indigenous Corporation</b>	5/09/2024- Email	16/09/2024 – Email	Reconfirming registration.
<b>A1 Indigenous Services</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Amanda Hickey Cultural Services</b>	5/09/2024- Email	16/09/2024 – Email	Reconfirming registration.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
[REDACTED]	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation</b>	5/09/2024- Email	10/09/2024- Email	Read and agrees with the methodology.
<b>Murrooma Inc</b>	5/09/2024- Email	2/10/2024 – Email	Read and agrees with the methodology. Provided information on the cultural significance of the study area.

## Stage 3: Gathering information about cultural significance

### Step 1: Provision of project methodology pack and consultation meeting

A copy of the methodology pack is provided in Appendix 3 and a copy of the covering email is provided following.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Mura Gadi Aboriginal Corporation</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Confidential Party</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Didge Ngunawal Clan</b>	5/09/2024- Email	5/09/2024 – Email	Read and agrees with the methodology.
<b>Karuah Indigenous Corporation</b>	5/09/2024- Email	16/09/2024 – Email	Reconfirming registration.
<b>A1 Indigenous Services</b>	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Amanda Hickey Cultural Services</b>	5/09/2024- Email	16/09/2024 – Email	Reconfirming registration.
[REDACTED]	5/09/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation</b>	5/09/2024- Email	10/09/2024- Email	Read and agrees with the methodology.
<b>Murrooma Inc</b>	5/09/2024- Email	2/10/2024 – Email	Read and agrees with the methodology. Provided information on the cultural significance of the study area.

## Step 2: Field survey

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council [1]</b>	11/10/2024 – Email and phone call	11/10/2024 – Email and phone call	Organising the survey, Worimi LALC not available.
<b>Murrooma Inc [11]</b>	11/10/2024 – Email and phone call	11/10/2024 – Email and phone call	Organising the survey, Bec is available to attend. Providing contract agreement letter and survey information.
<b>Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd [3]</b>	14/10/2024 – Email and phone call	14/10/2024 – Email and phone call	Organising the survey, Lennie cannot attend however can organise someone. Providing contract agreement letter and survey information.

## Stage 4: Review of draft report

### Step 1: Provision of draft report for review

A copy of the draft report was provided on 22 November 2024 to all registered parties. A copy of this correspondence is provided in Appendix 4.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
<b>Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Mura Gadi Aboriginal Corporation</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Nur-Run-Gee Pty Ltd</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Confidential Party</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Didge Ngunawal Clan</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Karuah Indigenous Corporation</b>	22/11/2024- Email	17/12/2024 – Email	<p>Karuah Indigenous Company Pty Ltd will be able to continue to discuss cultural values and collection of information further onsite and include any recommendations that the Aboriginal Cultural Officers believe is best to protect our Worimi Culture.</p> <p>Should any more works or excavation works or</p>

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
			<p>clearing works commence over the survey area, Aboriginal Cultural Officers would need to be engaged. "Why", because if excavation works turn over any Aboriginal artefact, within the first 30mm, then the Aboriginal Cultural Officers can identify the significance of that site and make some recommendation right away for the next step. (Ring the Worimi LALC &amp; NPWS or Police).</p> <p>Aboriginal Heritage is identified as Intellectual knowledge.</p> <p>Some reports are based on above ground surveying and any disturbs of soil ground you will need to have Aboriginal Culture Officers on site until the works are completed</p>
<b>A1 Indigenous Services</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Amanda Hickey Cultural Services</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-
<b>[REDACTED]</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-
<b>Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation</b>	22/11/2024- Email	25/11/2024- Email	I have read the project information ACHA and AR report for the above project, I endorse the recommendations.
<b>Murrooma Inc</b>	22/11/2024- Email	-	-

## Appendix 2      Stage 1: Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

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## Rhiannon Whitton

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**From:** Rhiannon Whitton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 4:06 PM  
**To:** GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au; enquiries@nntt.gov.au  
**Subject:** 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Notifications.to.Agencies.FIN01.20240731111.pdf;  
40105.Medowie.HS.Geospatial.Search.20240628.pdf

Good afternoon,

Biosis is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales. We would be grateful if you could undertake a geospatial search of the National Native Title Tribunal Database for this location (please see attached Geospatial search request form). If you could locate this information for us, could you please respond with the results either to this email or via the contact details in the attached PDF by 15 August 2024.

Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,  
Rhiannon.

**Rhiannon Whitton** She/Her  
Graduate Heritage Consultant

📞 0400 537 626  
✉️ RWhitton@biosis.com.au  
🌐 www.biosis.com.au



### Leaders in Ecology, Heritage and Environmental Approvals

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## Rhiannon Whitton

---

**From:** Rhiannon Whitton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 3:28 PM  
**To:** heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Notification.to.Agencies.FIN01.20240731..pdf

Good afternoon,

Biosis is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales. We would like to invite you to register your interest in assisting us on this project to determine significance of Aboriginal objects/places in the vicinity of the study area. If you would like to register please respond to this email or to the contact details in the attached PDF by 15 August 2024.

Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,  
Rhiannon.

## Rhiannon Whitton

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**From:** Rhiannon Whitton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 3:28 PM  
**To:** admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Notification.to.Agencies.FIN01.20240731..pdf

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Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,  
Rhiannon.

**Rhiannon Whitton** She/Her  
Graduate Heritage Consultant

☎ 0400 537 626  
✉ RWhitton@biosis.com.au  
🌐 www.biosis.com.au



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## Rhiannon Whitton

---

**From:** Rhiannon Whitton  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 August 2024 11:25 AM  
**To:** information@ntscorp.com.au  
**Cc:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Notification.to.Agencies.FIN01.20240801.pdf

Good morning,

Biosis is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales. We are seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Medowie area. If you are aware of any such Aboriginal people or organisations, could you please provide their contact details by responding to this email or via the contact details in the attached PDF by 16 August 2024.

Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,  
Rhiannon.

**Rhiannon Whitton** She/Her  
Graduate Heritage Consultant

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✉ RWhitton@biosis.com.au  
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## Rhiannon Whitton

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**From:** Rhiannon Whitton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 3:28 PM  
**To:** adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Notification.to.Agencies.FIN01.20240731..pdf

Good afternoon,

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Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,  
Rhiannon.

**From:** [Rhiannon Whitton](#)  
**To:** [council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au)  
**Subject:** 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment  
**Date:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 4:23:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [image841943.png](#)  
[image076609.png](#)  
[image104025.png](#)  
[40105\\_Medowie\\_HS\\_Notification\\_to\\_Agencies\\_FIN01\\_20240731\\_265.pdf](#)

---

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Biosis is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales.

We are seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Medowie area.

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Best regards,

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## Rhiannon Whitton

---

**From:** Rhiannon Whitton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 3:52 PM  
**To:** sites@worimi.org.au  
**Subject:** 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Notification.to.Agencies.LALC.FIN01.20240731.pdf

Good afternoon,

Biosis is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales. We are seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Medowie area. If you are aware of any such Aboriginal people or organisations, or are interested in registering interest in the project yourself, could you please respond to this email or use the contact details in the attached PDF by 15 August 2024.

Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,

Rhiannon.

**Rhiannon Whitton** She/Her  
Graduate Heritage Consultant

📞 0400 537 626  
✉️ RWhitton@biosis.com.au  
🌐 www.biosis.com.au



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31 July 2024

Native Title Services Corporation  
PO Box 2105  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Dear

## **New high school in Medowie Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment — Notification to Agencies**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451), Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the project). The project is located within Port Stephens Local Government Area. The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

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As per Section 4.1 of the consultation requirements, Biosis is seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Medowie area. If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations by **5pm 15 August 2024** it would be greatly appreciated.

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

ABN :65 006 175 097

Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



In accordance with Section 4.1.3 (a) of the consultation requirements, please note that the relevant client contact for this project is:

Colliers  
Tia Cutrupi  
Project Manager  
(02) 9770 3119  
tia.cutrupi@colliers.com

All correspondence regarding provision of names and contact details of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to the study area should be provided in writing by **5pm 15 August 2024** to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293  
Mcrissell@biosis.com.au

If you have any queries regarding the project, please don't hesitate to contact me on the details above, or alternatively the main office number on (02) 4911 4040.

Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

31 July 2024

Office of the Registrar Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983  
PO Box 5068  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear

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**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

31 July 2024

Heritage NSW  
PO Box 644  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

31 July 2024

Hunter Local Land Services  
816 Tocal Road  
Paterson NSW 2421

Dear

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Biosis Pty Ltd  
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Mcrissell@biosis.com.au

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

31 July 2024

Port Stephens Council  
PO Box 42  
Raymond Terrace, NSW, 2324

Dear

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

1 August 2024

Native Title Services Corporation  
PO Box 2105  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Dear

## **New high school in Medowie Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment — Notification to Agencies**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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As per Section 4.1 of the consultation requirements, Biosis is seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Medowie area. If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations by **5pm 16 August 2024** it would be greatly appreciated.

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Newcastle  
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Wickham NSW 2293

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ABN :65 006 175 097

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

31 July 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **New high school in Medowie Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment — Notification to Agencies**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to provide sufficient information for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values, and to assist the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

As per Section 4.1 of the consultation requirements, Biosis wish to invite Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council to register an interest in the project. Biosis is also seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Medowie area. If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations by **5pm 15 August 2024** it would be greatly appreciated.

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

31 July 2024

National Native Title Tribunal  
GPO Box 9973  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear

## **New high school in Medowie Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment — Notification to Agencies**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451), Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the project). The project is located within Port Stephens Local Government Area. The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Biosis is assisting Colliers International Group Inc. on behalf of SINSW with consultation with the Aboriginal community to inform the ACHA. Consultation with the Aboriginal community for this assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010) (consultation requirements).

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to provide sufficient information for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values, and to assist the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

As per Section 4.1 of the consultation requirements, Biosis is seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Medowie area. If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations by **5pm 15 August 2024** it would be greatly appreciated.

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

ABN :65 006 175 097

Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



In accordance with Section 4.1.3 (a) of the consultation requirements, please note that the relevant client contact for this project is:

Colliers  
Tia Cutrupi  
Project Manager  
(02) 9770 3119  
tia.cutrupi@colliers.com

All correspondence regarding provision of names and contact details of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to the study area should be provided in writing by **5pm 15 August 2024** to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293  
Mcrissell@biosis.com.au

If you have any queries regarding the project, please don't hesitate to contact me on the details above, or alternatively the main office number on (02) 4911 4040.

Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** Barry Gunther <Barry.Gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 August 2024 2:33 PM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for New high school - 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451), Medowie.  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Notification.to.Agencies.FIN01.20240731..pdf; Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for Port Stephens LGA.docx  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Molly,

Please find attached the Heritage NSW Aboriginal stakeholder list for New high school - 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451), Medowie.

regards

Barry Gunther  
Aboriginal Senior Assessment Officer  
Heritage NSW  
Department of Climate Change,  
Energy, the Environment and Water

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage)

Locked bag 5020  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Working days Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm

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.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately. Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the NSW Office of Environment, Energy and Science.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

## Bronte Baonza

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**From:** Aboriginal Owners <aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 August 2024 11:45 AM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** Reply: 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Notification.to.Agencies.FIN01.20240731..pdf; 20240805\_AO Search ACHA\_Biosis\_6 Abundance Road Medowie NSW\_Worimi LALC & AO Worimi.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

OFFICIAL

Good morning Molly

Please find attached the response from the Office of the Registrar, ALRA to your email and letter of 31 July 2024 regarding the proposed development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451) Medowie NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

**Please note**, we have an Aboriginal Owners email mailbox to which such requests can be sent in future. Please email your ACHA requests to [aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aboriginalowners@oralra.nsw.gov.au)

Kind regards

### The Aboriginal Owners team

Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983  
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.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

---

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

**From:** Rhiannon Whitton <[RWhitton@biosis.com.au](mailto:RWhitton@biosis.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:28 PM  
**To:** Admin Officer <[adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:adminofficer@oralra.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

You don't often get email from [rwhitton@biosis.com.au](mailto:rwhitton@biosis.com.au). [Learn why this is important](#)

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.]

Good afternoon,

Biosis is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales.

We would like to invite you to register your interest in assisting us on this project to determine significance of Aboriginal objects/places in the vicinity of the study area.

If you would like to register please respond to this email or to the contact details in the attached PDF by 15 August 2024.

Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,

Rhiannon.

**Rhiannon Whitton** She/Her  
Graduate Heritage Consultant

📞 0400 537 626  
✉ [RWhitton@biosis.com.au](mailto:RWhitton@biosis.com.au)  
🌐 [www.biosis.com.au](http://www.biosis.com.au)



### Leaders in Ecology, Heritage and Environmental Approvals

**Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future, and honour their connection to the land and on**

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## Bronte Baonza

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 August 2024 1:25 PM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** Medowie High School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Molly

Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council would like to register our interest for the Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment at 6 Abundance Road Medowie NSW.

Other RAP groups with cultural knowledge are as below

.Bec Young: [murroomainc1@gmail.com](mailto:murroomainc1@gmail.com)

.Lennie Anderson: [lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com](mailto:lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com)

.Dave Feeney: [indigenousskaruah@outlook.com](mailto:indigenousskaruah@outlook.com)

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council**

[REDACTED]

*The Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council respects the privacy of individuals and strives to comply with all areas of the Privacy Act. The contents of this email are intended for the purpose of the person or persons named in either the "To" or "CC" boxes of the email. Any person not named in these boxes in receipt of this email should immediately delete this email and advise the sender accordingly.*



 Think before you print.

## Bronte Baonza

**From:** Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 5:46 PM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Cc:** Rhiannon Whitton  
**Subject:** RE: SR24/1273 - 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

**Your ref:** *Matter no.40105*    **Our ref:** *SR24/1273*

Dear Molly Crissell

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 N	
				NNTT File Number	Name
3//DP788451	FREEHOLD	8/03/2024	0.0658	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:** Rhiannon Whitton <[RWhitton@biosis.com.au](mailto:RWhitton@biosis.com.au)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 2:06 PM

**To:** Geospatial Search Requests <[GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au)>; Enquiries <[Enquiries@nntt.gov.au](mailto:Enquiries@nntt.gov.au)>

**Subject:** SR24/1273 - 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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Good afternoon,

Biosis is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales.

We would be grateful if you could undertake a geospatial search of the National Native Title Tribunal Database for this location (please see attached Geospatial search request form).

If you could locate this information for us, could you please respond with the results either to this email or via the contact details in the attached PDF by 15 August 2024.

Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,

Rhiannon.

**Rhiannon Whitton** She/Her  
Graduate Heritage Consultant

☎ 0400 537 626

✉ [RWhitton@biosis.com.au](mailto:RWhitton@biosis.com.au)

🌐 [www.biosis.com.au](http://www.biosis.com.au)



## **Leaders in Ecology, Heritage and Environmental Approvals**

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## Rhiannon Whitton

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Regards,

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National Native Title Tribunal | Perth

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

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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 2:06 PM

**To:** Geospatial Search Requests <[GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au](mailto:GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au)>; Enquiries <[Enquiries@nntt.gov.au](mailto:Enquiries@nntt.gov.au)>

**Subject:** SR24/1273 - 40105 | Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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If you could locate this information for us, could you please respond with the results either to this email or via the contact details in the attached PDF by 15 August 2024.

Please see the attached PDF File for further information.

Best regards,

Rhiannon.

**Rhiannon Whitton** She/Her  
Graduate Heritage Consultant

📞 0400 537 626

✉️ [RWhitton@biosis.com.au](mailto:RWhitton@biosis.com.au)

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5 August 2024

By email: [mcrissell@biosis.com.au](mailto:mcrissell@biosis.com.au)

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
WICKHAM NSW 2293

Dear Molly

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Proposed development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451) Medowie NSW: request for list of potential Aboriginal stakeholders**

We refer to your email and letter to this Office dated 31 July 2024 requesting contact information for Aboriginal organisations, stakeholders and/or people who may have cultural knowledge relevant to the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451) Medowie 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. The works you are proposing, and location are in proximity to an area for which there are Registered Aboriginal Owners: Worimi Conservation Lands.

We suggest you contact the Joint Management Coordinator for the Worimi Conservation Lands Nadine Russell on 02 4984 8208 or [Nadine.russell@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Nadine.russell@environment.nsw.gov.au) to ascertain whether the Board of Management are interested in the project.

We also suggest you contact Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council on the details provided below, as they may wish to participate or contribute.

Yours sincerely



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

Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council  
PO Box 56  
TANILBA BAY NSW 2319  
(02) 4033 8800

Address: 10 Darcy Street PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Post: P.O Box 787 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Phone: 02 8575 1160

**LIST OF ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (DPE) HELD BY DPE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE OEH  
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPONENTS 2010**

The purpose of this letter is to assist you as the proposed applicant in undertaking Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidelines.

The consultation process involves getting the views of, and information from, Aboriginal people and reporting on these. It is not to be confused with other field assessment processes involved in preparing a proposal and an application. Consultation does not include the employment of Aboriginal people to assist in field assessment and/or site monitoring. Aboriginal people may provide services to proponents through a contractual arrangement however, this is separate from consultation. The proponent is not obliged to employ those Aboriginal people registered for consultation. Consultation as per these requirements will continue irrespective of potential or actual employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

In accordance with Clause 60 (10) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019, where an agreement of the kind listed below specifies or identifies a modified or alternative consultation process for the purposes of Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, the applicant is to undertake consultation in accordance with the modified or alternative process. The applicable agreements are:

- a) a registered Indigenous Land Use Agreement under the Native Title Act 1993 of the Commonwealth entered into between an Aboriginal community and the State,
- b) a lease entered into under Part 4A of the Act,
- c) an agreement entered into by the Secretary and a board of management reserved under Part 4A of the Act that has the consent of Aboriginal owner board members for the land concerned,
- d) an agreement entered into between an Aboriginal community and the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment.

Where you believe your application is wholly or partially located within an area subject to any of the above agreements, please provide further correspondence (including mapping, if required) detailing the applicable agreement and its relationship to the application area to [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au). Heritage NSW will respond with further advice.

Where the above does not apply, please proceed with consultation in accordance with the Clause 60 (1-9) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (the "Consultation Requirements"). A copy of the Consultation Requirements can be found on the OEH website at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/commconsultation/09781ACHconsultreq.pdf>.

Under the Consultation Requirements, a proponent is required to provide Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places as relevant to the proposed project area, with an opportunity to be involved in consultation. Section 3.3.1 of the Consultation Requirements states that Aboriginal people who can provide this information are, based on Aboriginal lore and custom, the traditional owners or custodians of the land that is the subject of the proposed project.

The Consultation Requirements also state that:

Traditional owners or custodians with appropriate cultural heritage knowledge to inform decision making who seek to register their interest as an Aboriginal party are those people who:

- continue to maintain a deep respect for their ancestral belief system, traditional lore and custom

- recognise their responsibilities and obligations to protect and conserve their culture and heritage and care for their traditional lands or Country
- have the trust of their community, knowledge and understanding of their culture, and permission to speak about it.

This list is provided to proponents in accordance with Clause 60(2)(a)(i) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and section 4.1.2 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.

The stakeholders identified on this list may have an interest in the proposed project area and may hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places.

#### **How to use this list**

- Contact the organisations/individuals who have indicated an interest in the relevant LGA/s and invite them to register an interest in your project.
- Do not reproduce the attached list in publicly available reports and other documents. Your report should only contain the names of the organisations and individuals who you have invited to register an interest in your project and those who have registered as stakeholders for your project.
- Note that the provision of this Aboriginal stakeholder list does not override a proponent's requirement to also advertise in the local newspaper and to seek from other sources the names of any other Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge as required under clause 60 (2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019.
- Please refer to Clause 60 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 for further information on the requirements of the consultation process.
- If contact details of stakeholders are found to be incorrect or outdated, please contact [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au).

**Last updated August 2024**

Our reference: Doc24/623331

New high school - 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451), Medowie

Aboriginal Stakeholders – Port Stephens Local Government Area.

[REDACTED]							
						[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]				[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
	[REDACTED]			[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
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	[REDACTED]			[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
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Guthers Aboriginal	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Stage.1.2.20240819.pdf

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Bronte Baonza  
Heritage Consultant  
bbaonza@biosis.com.au

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**From:** Bronte Baonza  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 August 2024 9:00 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation  
**Attachments:** 40105.Medowie.HS.Stage.1.2.20240819.pdf

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19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
Worimi LALC

Dear [REDACTED]

## **New high school in Medowie: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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Murrooma Inc

Dear ██████████

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[REDACTED]  
A1 Indigenous Services  
[REDACTED]

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Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

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



Wickham NSW 2293  
Mcrissell@biosis.com.au

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**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
AGA Services  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **New high school in Medowie: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation**

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19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
Cacatua Culture Consultants  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
Gomery Cultural Consultants  
[REDACTED]

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19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
Hunters & Collectors  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Karuah Indigenous Corporation  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

19 August 2024

CEO  
Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council  
[REDACTED]

Dear CEO

## **New high school in Medowie: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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19 August 2024

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[REDACTED]  
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Dear [REDACTED]

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On behalf of SINSW, Biosis therefore invites Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s)/and or Places in the vicinity of the study area, to register their interest in the project outlined above.

If you wish to register your interest, please provide your contact details in writing via post or email by **5:00PM 2 September 2024** to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

ABN :65 006 175 097

Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



Wickham NSW 2293  
Mcrissell@biosis.com.au

In accordance with Section 4.1.3(a) of the consultation requirements, please note that the relevant client contact for this project is:

Colliers  
Tia Cutrupi  
Project Manager  
(02) 9770 3119  
tia.cutrupi@colliers.com

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **New high school in Medowie: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
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19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

19 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **New high school in Medowie: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation**

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

19 August 2024

██████████  
Mura Gadi Aboriginal Corporation  
-

Dear ██████████

## **New high school in Medowie: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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Yours sincerely



**Molly Crissell**  
**Heritage Consultant**

## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 September 2024 8:02 AM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation  
**Attachments:** insurance 2024.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Molly

Sorry for the late response my emails have been down AHCS would like to Formally register a interest in this project  
AHCS Holds strong cultural knowledge to the land and holds Cultural knowledge to determine Aboriginal heritage  
My insurances are attached

If you need anything else please let me know

Have a great day

[REDACTED] AHCS

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 August 2024 10:09 AM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** Medowie High School EOI  
**Attachments:** EOI- Biosis Medowie High School.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Molly  
I hope your well- Please find attached Murrooma Inc EOI for Medowie High school  
Thanks

--  
[REDACTED]

## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 August 2024 7:28 PM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Hi

Thank you for your invitation. Can you please register me as an Individual RAP for this project? Look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 19 Aug 2024, at 9:01 am, Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au> wrote:

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Yours sincerely,

Bronte Baonza  
Heritage Consultant  
bbaonza@biosis.com.au

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

----- 0438 191 025  
----- BBaonza@biosis.com.au  
----- www.biosis.com.au

---

### **Leaders in Ecology, Heritage and Environmental Approvals**

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<40105.Medowie.HS.Stage.1.2.20240819.pdf>

## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 August 2024 9:08 AM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation  
**Attachments:** insurance 2024.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi BronteAHCS would like to Formally register a interest in this project AHCS Holds strong cultural knowledge to the land and holds Cultural knowledge to determine Aboriginal heritage and artefacts

Attached is my current insurance

If you need anything else please let me know

Have a great weekend

[REDACTED] AHCS

## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 August 2024 9:06 AM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza; Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation  
**Attachments:** A1.PL.2025.pdf; A1.WC.2025.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged



**Contact:** [REDACTED]  
**Mobile:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**Address:** [REDACTED]  
**ABN:** : [REDACTED]

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.

[REDACTED]  
I am a traditional custodian with over 20 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, Represents over 100 Indigenous Locals](#)

### 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.

I agree to my details being supplied to OEH and the LALC  
Please feel free to contact me on details supplied

Kind Regards,

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

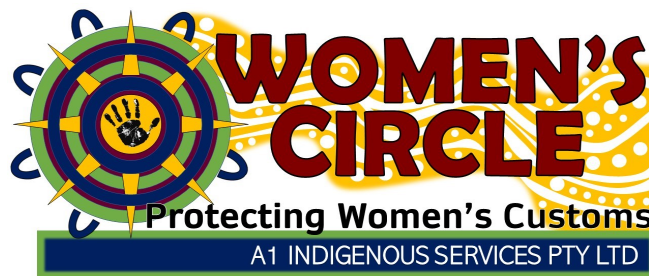
A business or enterprise carrying the NSWICC Assured logo has met National Policy requirements as upheld by the First Australians Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI) for being identified as a First Nations Business Owner or Entrepreneur and the business must demonstrate compliance with Government 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 a 100% 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:** Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au>

**Sent:** Monday, 19 August 2024 9:00 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

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Yours sincerely,

Bronte Baonza  
Heritage Consultant  
bbaonza@biosis.com.au

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

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✉ BBAonza@biosis.com.au  
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## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 August 2024 5:09 PM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** RE: 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Bronte;

Karuah Indigenous Company Pty Ltd, would like to registrar our interest in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage survey at the Medowie High School Lot 3 DP 788451.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 9:00 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

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Yours sincerely,

Bronte Baonza  
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[bbaonza@biosis.com.au](mailto:bbaonza@biosis.com.au)

**Bronte Baonza**  
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## Bronte Baonza

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 August 2024 1:22 PM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Molly

Can u plz register DNC into Medowie High School

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Directors DNC  
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Monday, August 19, 2024, 9:00 AM, Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au> wrote:

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Yours sincerely,

Bronte Baonza  
Heritage Consultant  
bbaonza@biosis.com.au

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

☎ 0438 191 025  
✉ BBAonza@biosis.com.au  
🌐 www.biosis.com.au



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## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 August 2024 10:42 AM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** RE: 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Molly;

This is not in my area

Thanks



**Karuah**  
**Local Aboriginal  
Land Council**

**“Please consider the environment before printing this email”**

*Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council respects the privacy of individuals and strives to comply with all areas of the Privacy Act. The contents of this email are intended for the purpose of the person or persons named in either the “to” or “CC” boxes of the email. Any person not named in these boxes in receipt of this email should immediately delete this email and advise the sender accordingly.*

---

**From:** Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 9:00 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at 6 Abundance Road (Lot 3 DP 788451), Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the project). The project is located within Port Stephens Local Government Area. The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

On behalf of SINSW, Biosis therefore invites Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s)/and or Places in the vicinity of the study area, to register their interest in the project outlined above.

If you wish to register your interest, please provide your contact details in writing via post or email by 5:00PM 2 September 2024 to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293  
[Mcrissell@biosis.com.au](mailto:Mcrissell@biosis.com.au)

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## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 August 2024 9:36 AM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** RE: 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Bronte,  
Nurt-Run-Gee Pty Ltd, and Myself are extremely interested in the proposed project

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

**Mobile:** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 9:01 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

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## Bronte Baonza

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 August 2024 9:23 AM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - Medowie High School: Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Goodmorning. I would like to register interest.  
Thank you

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, 19 Aug 2024 at 09:01, Bronte Baonza <[BBaonza@biosis.com.au](mailto:BBaonza@biosis.com.au)> wrote:

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure New South Wales (SINSW) to inform the development of a high school at [6 Abundance Road \(Lot 3](#) DP 788451), Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the project). The project is located within Port Stephens Local Government Area. The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

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# bios

## APEM G

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## Appendix 3      Stage 2 and 3: Presentation of information about the proposed project and gathering information about cultural significance

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## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** Bronte Baonza  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 September 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 40105 - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation  
**Attachments:** PDFMailer.pdf

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Heritage Consultant  
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5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation 6 Abundance Road, Medowie**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist School Infrastructure NSW in developing their plans in order to minimise the impacts the works will have on Aboriginal heritage values.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5:00PM 3 October 2024** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

ABN :65 006 175 097

Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



mcrissell@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronte', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

## Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the Stage 2 document is to provide Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

### The project

SINSW are in the process of preparing planning reports that include:

- Masterplan for a small high school to deliver 30 to 36 teaching spaces and core facilities in Stage 1 (50 teaching spaces for 1,000 students in total).
- New administration, staff facilities, library, hall/gymnasium and canteen for a small high school.

There is currently no public high school in Medowie so a new public high school is proposed for the community in a location of significant growth.

Biosis has been engaged by SINSW to undertake the ACHA to support the SSD application for the high school and to inform the proposed works design for the study area. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform School Infrastructure NSW of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

### Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, NSW (Lot 3 DP788451). It is within the Port Stephens local government area and is approximately 21.2 kilometers north of the Newcastle central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 6.58 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

### Background

Biosis conducted an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment for the study area on 1 August 2024. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database ( ) identified 105 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 5 by 5 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these registered sites are located within the study area (Figure 3). The nearest AHIMS site is , which consisted of an artefact and open camp site approximately 2.1 kilometres south of the study area.

The background research for the study area identified that the study area is situated 2 kilometres north of Campvale Swamp and approximately 2 kilometres west of Moffats Swamp. A low swampy area now

occupied by the artificial Grahamstown Dam is 800 metres to the west. There are no watercourses located within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line which rises to the east of the study area and feeds into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area.

The study area consists of a gently undulating flat parcel of land with a slightly higher knoll occupying the south-western corner. This knoll is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

Previous predictive modelling based on the archaeological sensitivity of five landforms (Sandstone Ranges of the Sydney Basin, Central Lowlands of the Hunter Valley, Cumberland Plain, the Coastal Margin and Plain, Western Rangelands) were assessed, and a predicted site location criteria was provided for each landform (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24). The following locations were determined to be archaeologically sensitive areas:

- “Level ground on the elevated margins around wetlands and soaks: including estuaries, perched or upland swamps and floodplain wetlands,
- Elevated flat ground adjacent to floodplains and riparian zones,
- The well drained banks of creeks, major streams and rivers, especially in valley floor and lowland contexts,
- Low spurs, ridgelines and low gradient basal slopes adjacent to tributary streams situated above main valley cold air drainage and flood levels within upland plateau and rangeland contexts,
- Areas of old forest growth,
- Rock shelters wherever they occur, but especially on basal valley slopes and upper ridgetop slopes,
- Sandstone platforms i.e. flat, continuous expanses of exposes, homogenous, sandstone bedrock. The platforms have the potential to contain rock engravings and/or grinding grooves when associated with a local water source,
- Sand deposits adjacent to wetlands, fluvial corridors and marine shorelines,
- Elevated ground adjacent to coastal rock platforms and/or freshwater sources at or near sandy shores and embayments (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24).”

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
<b>Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders</b>	Completed	Project advertised in the The Newcastle Herald on 21 August 2024.
<b>Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties</b>	31 July 2024	N/A
<b>Aboriginal stakeholder registration period</b>	19 August 2024 to 2 September 2024	Registration period expired on 2 September 2024
<b>Field investigation</b>	TBC	From previous ADDA – Another survey will be required
<b>Archaeological test excavations (if required)</b>	TBC	TBC
<b>Information gathering</b>	Continuous	N/A
<b>Review of draft report</b>	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
<b>Final report</b>	TBC	TBC

## Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs will be provided the opportunity to offer input into regulatory processes, contribute to decision making by proponents and government authorities, respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate. This will be undertaken in accordance with their role specified in Section 5 of the consultation requirements.

Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under Section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by:

- Displaying a meaningful appreciation, understanding and respect for the belief system, spiritual connection and sense of belonging that Aboriginal people have to their land, people and environment, which includes plants, animals, waterways, sacred sites and other places of cultural significance and importance.
- Upholding and respecting the traditional rights, obligations and responsibilities of Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in accordance with traditional lore and custom, particularly as these relate to the cultural business of men and women.
- Encouraging active participation of culturally experienced and appropriate Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in the consultation process.
- Encouraging opportunities for the effective transfer of cultural knowledge from older to younger generations in accordance with traditional lore and custom through the consultation process.

- Have an awareness and understanding of how colonisation has impacted the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- Supply suitable project information and provide the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process (DECCW 2010a).

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**



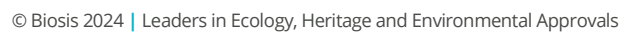
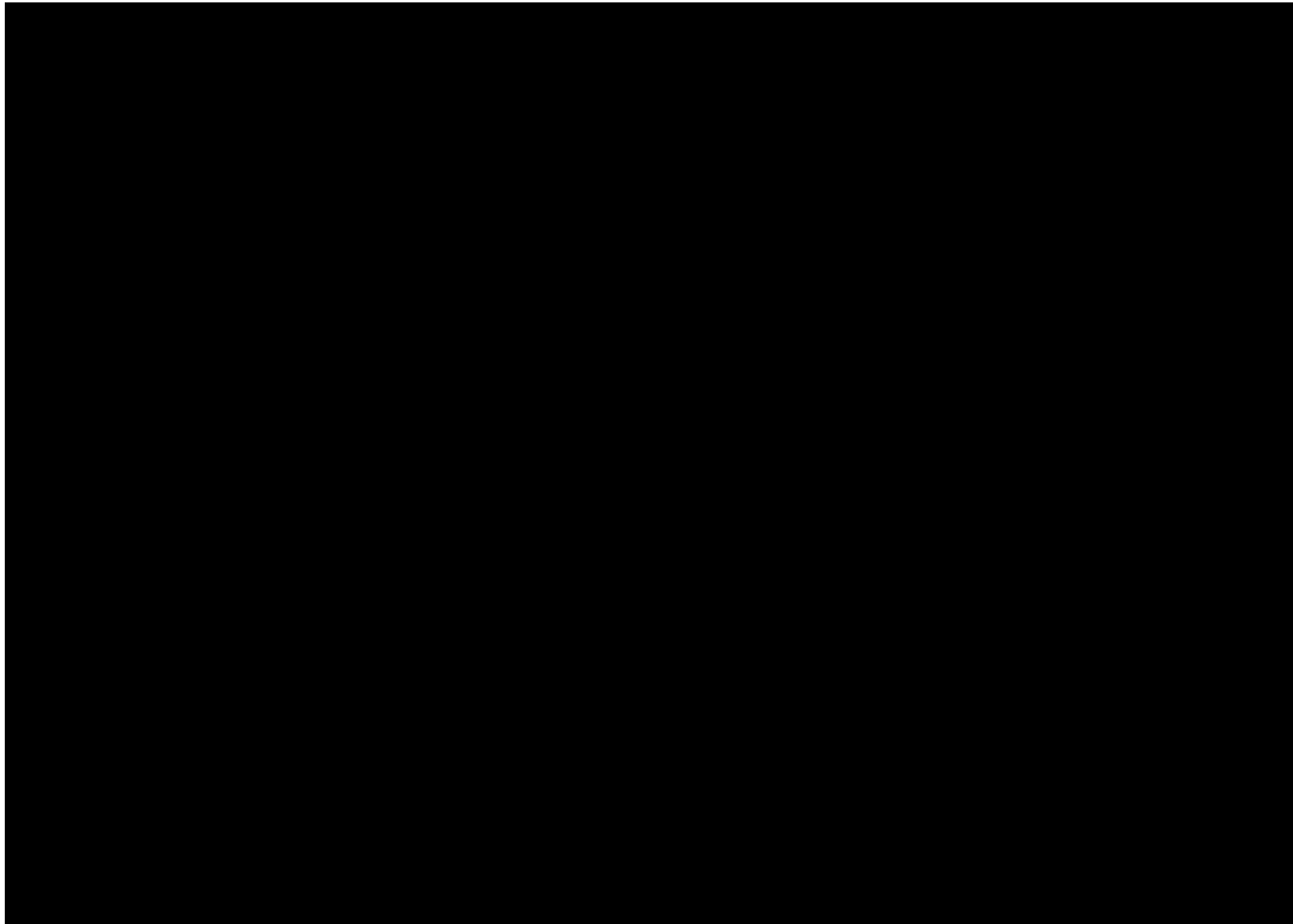


Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of Stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p. 12).

The purpose of the Stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area.

The assessment methodology includes the following tasks:

### Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the study area. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A search of the AHIMS database will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
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- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area will be developed.

### Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 19 August 2024 via Biosis on behalf of SINSW and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.

- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The draft ACHA and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

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An additional survey of the study area will be undertaken with participation of Aboriginal representatives.

Recording during the field investigation will follow Requirements 5 to 10 of the Code and industry best practice. Information recorded will include:

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- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility will be undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA and AR.

## Archaeological test excavations (if required)

Any areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

### Aims

The principal objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

### Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than 5 metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in 5 centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m<sup>2</sup>).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.

- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Newcastle Biosis office for analysis (at 8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
  - Unique test pit identification number.
  - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
  - Munsell soil colour and texture.
  - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
  - Nature of disturbance where present.
  - Stratigraphy.
  - Archaeological features (if present).
  - Photographic records.
  - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information\* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*\*Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p. 28).*

### **Storage of cultural material**

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

**Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.**

## Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology RAPs will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

## References

AMBS Ecology & Heritage 2006. *Volume 1: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan: West Dapto Release Area*, An unpublished report to Wollongong City Council.

Artefact Heritage 2018. *Rezoning and subdivision of 109 Darkes Road, Kembla Grange*, Report to NewQuest Property Pty Ltd.

Biosis 2015. *Lot 1, DP 825516, Farmborough Heights NSW. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Proposed Rezoning*, Report prepared for Plannex Environmental Planning. Author: Flannery. L, Biosis Pty Ltd. Project no. 19844.

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change., Sydney, NSW.

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011. 'Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW', Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW.

Sefton C 1980. *Aboriginal Cultural Resources Study Illawarra Region*, Illawarra Regional Planning Committee. Wollongong, NSW.

5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
-

Dear [REDACTED]

**New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation  
6 Abundance Road, Medowie**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area).

The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist School Infrastructure NSW in developing their plans in order to minimise the impacts the works will have on Aboriginal heritage values.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5:00PM 3 October 2024** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

ABN :65 006 175 097

Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



mcrissell@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronte', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

## Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the Stage 2 document is to provide Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

### The project

SINSW are in the process of preparing planning reports that include:

- Masterplan for a small high school to deliver 30 to 36 teaching spaces and core facilities in Stage 1 (50 teaching spaces for 1,000 students in total).
- New administration, staff facilities, library, hall/gymnasium and canteen for a small high school.

There is currently no public high school in Medowie so a new public high school is proposed for the community in a location of significant growth.

Biosis has been engaged by SINSW to undertake the ACHA to support the SSD application for the high school and to inform the proposed works design for the study area. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform School Infrastructure NSW of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

### Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, NSW (Lot 3 DP788451). It is within the Port Stephens local government area and is approximately 21.2 kilometers north of the Newcastle central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 6.58 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

### Background

Biosis conducted an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment for the study area on 1 August 2024. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database ( ) identified 105 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 5 by 5 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these registered sites are located within the study area (Figure 3). The nearest AHIMS site is , which consisted of an artefact and open camp site approximately 2.1 kilometres south of the study area.

The background research for the study area identified that the study area is situated 2 kilometres north of Campvale Swamp and approximately 2 kilometres west of Moffats Swamp. A low swampy area now

occupied by the artificial Grahamstown Dam is 800 metres to the west. There are no watercourses located within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line which rises to the east of the study area and feeds into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area.

The study area consists of a gently undulating flat parcel of land with a slightly higher knoll occupying the south-western corner. This knoll is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

Previous predictive modelling based on the archaeological sensitivity of five landforms (Sandstone Ranges of the Sydney Basin, Central Lowlands of the Hunter Valley, Cumberland Plain, the Coastal Margin and Plain, Western Rangelands) were assessed, and a predicted site location criteria was provided for each landform (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24). The following locations were determined to be archaeologically sensitive areas:

- “Level ground on the elevated margins around wetlands and soaks: including estuaries, perched or upland swamps and floodplain wetlands,
- Elevated flat ground adjacent to floodplains and riparian zones,
- The well drained banks of creeks, major streams and rivers, especially in valley floor and lowland contexts,
- Low spurs, ridgelines and low gradient basal slopes adjacent to tributary streams situated above main valley cold air drainage and flood levels within upland plateau and rangeland contexts,
- Areas of old forest growth,
- Rock shelters wherever they occur, but especially on basal valley slopes and upper ridgetop slopes,
- Sandstone platforms i.e. flat, continuous expanses of exposes, homogenous, sandstone bedrock. The platforms have the potential to contain rock engravings and/or grinding grooves when associated with a local water source,
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## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
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## Responsibilities and roles

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**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**



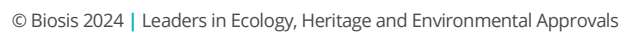
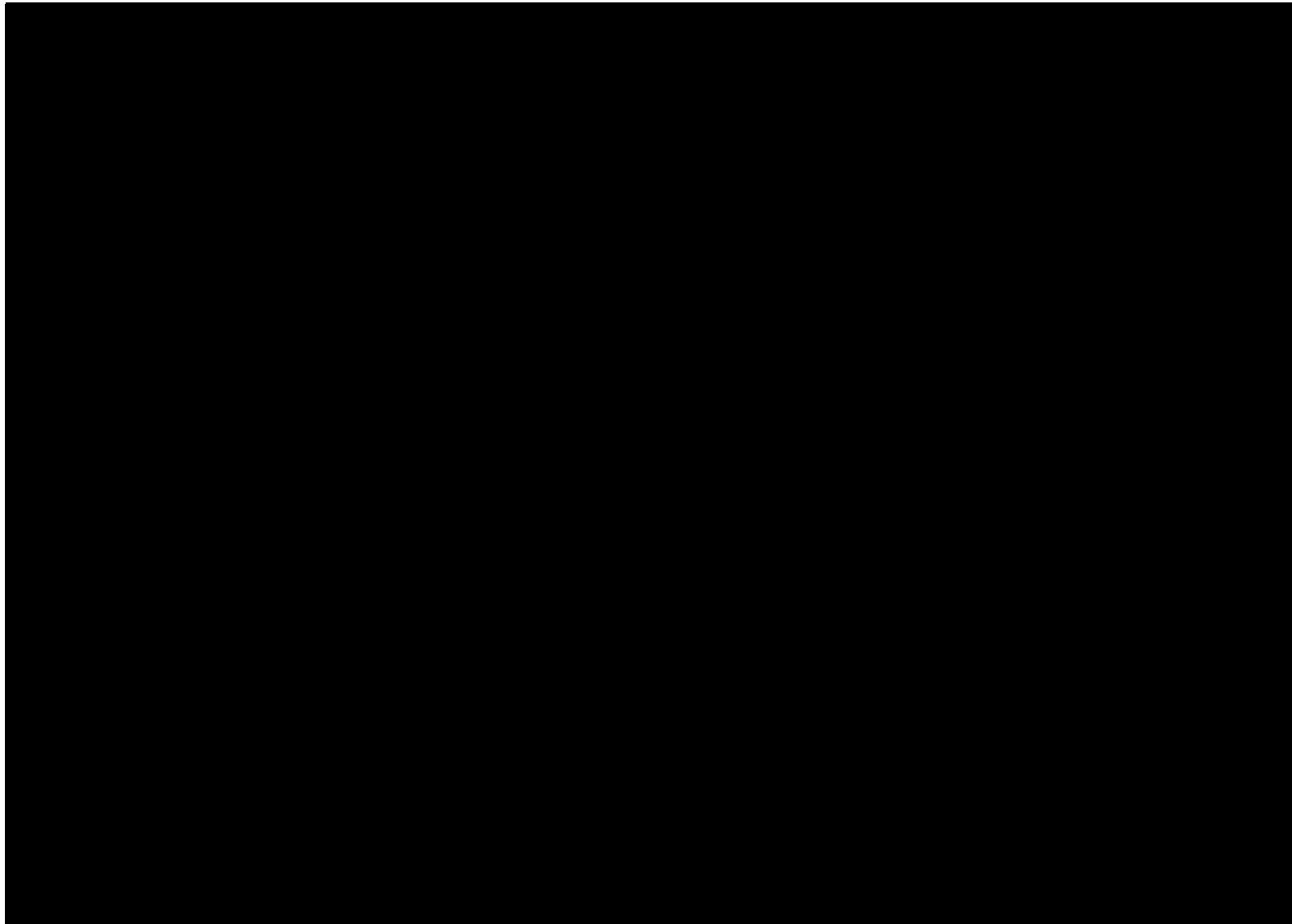


Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

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- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m<sup>2</sup>).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.

- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Newcastle Biosis office for analysis (at 8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
  - Unique test pit identification number.
  - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
  - Munsell soil colour and texture.
  - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
  - Nature of disturbance where present.
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  - Archaeological features (if present).
  - Photographic records.
  - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information\* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*\*Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p. 28).*

### **Storage of cultural material**

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

**Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.**

## Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology RAPs will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

## References

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5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation  
6 Abundance Road, Medowie**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area).

The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist School Infrastructure NSW in developing their plans in order to minimise the impacts the works will have on Aboriginal heritage values.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5:00PM 3 October 2024** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
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[biosis.com.au](http://biosis.com.au)



mcrissell@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronte', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

## Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the Stage 2 document is to provide Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

### The project

SINSW are in the process of preparing planning reports that include:

- Masterplan for a small high school to deliver 30 to 36 teaching spaces and core facilities in Stage 1 (50 teaching spaces for 1,000 students in total).
- New administration, staff facilities, library, hall/gymnasium and canteen for a small high school.

There is currently no public high school in Medowie so a new public high school is proposed for the community in a location of significant growth.

Biosis has been engaged by SINSW to undertake the ACHA to support the SSD application for the high school and to inform the proposed works design for the study area. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform School Infrastructure NSW of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

### Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, NSW (Lot 3 DP788451). It is within the Port Stephens local government area and is approximately 21.2 kilometers north of the Newcastle central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 6.58 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

### Background

Biosis conducted an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment for the study area on 1 August 2024. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database ( ) identified 105 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 5 by 5 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these registered sites are located within the study area (Figure 3). The nearest AHIMS site is , which consisted of an artefact and open camp site approximately 2.1 kilometres south of the study area.

The background research for the study area identified that the study area is situated 2 kilometres north of Campvale Swamp and approximately 2 kilometres west of Moffats Swamp. A low swampy area now

occupied by the artificial Grahamstown Dam is 800 metres to the west. There are no watercourses located within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line which rises to the east of the study area and feeds into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area.

The study area consists of a gently undulating flat parcel of land with a slightly higher knoll occupying the south-western corner. This knoll is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

Previous predictive modelling based on the archaeological sensitivity of five landforms (Sandstone Ranges of the Sydney Basin, Central Lowlands of the Hunter Valley, Cumberland Plain, the Coastal Margin and Plain, Western Rangelands) were assessed, and a predicted site location criteria was provided for each landform (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24). The following locations were determined to be archaeologically sensitive areas:

- “Level ground on the elevated margins around wetlands and soaks: including estuaries, perched or upland swamps and floodplain wetlands,
- Elevated flat ground adjacent to floodplains and riparian zones,
- The well drained banks of creeks, major streams and rivers, especially in valley floor and lowland contexts,
- Low spurs, ridgelines and low gradient basal slopes adjacent to tributary streams situated above main valley cold air drainage and flood levels within upland plateau and rangeland contexts,
- Areas of old forest growth,
- Rock shelters wherever they occur, but especially on basal valley slopes and upper ridgetop slopes,
- Sandstone platforms i.e. flat, continuous expanses of exposes, homogenous, sandstone bedrock. The platforms have the potential to contain rock engravings and/or grinding grooves when associated with a local water source,
- Sand deposits adjacent to wetlands, fluvial corridors and marine shorelines,
- Elevated ground adjacent to coastal rock platforms and/or freshwater sources at or near sandy shores and embayments (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24).”

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
<b>Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders</b>	Completed	Project advertised in the The Newcastle Herald on 21 August 2024.
<b>Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties</b>	31 July 2024	N/A
<b>Aboriginal stakeholder registration period</b>	19 August 2024 to 2 September 2024	Registration period expired on 2 September 2024
<b>Field investigation</b>	TBC	From previous ADDA – Another survey will be required
<b>Archaeological test excavations (if required)</b>	TBC	TBC
<b>Information gathering</b>	Continuous	N/A
<b>Review of draft report</b>	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
<b>Final report</b>	TBC	TBC

## Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs will be provided the opportunity to offer input into regulatory processes, contribute to decision making by proponents and government authorities, respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate. This will be undertaken in accordance with their role specified in Section 5 of the consultation requirements.

Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under Section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by:

- Displaying a meaningful appreciation, understanding and respect for the belief system, spiritual connection and sense of belonging that Aboriginal people have to their land, people and environment, which includes plants, animals, waterways, sacred sites and other places of cultural significance and importance.
- Upholding and respecting the traditional rights, obligations and responsibilities of Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in accordance with traditional lore and custom, particularly as these relate to the cultural business of men and women.
- Encouraging active participation of culturally experienced and appropriate Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in the consultation process.
- Encouraging opportunities for the effective transfer of cultural knowledge from older to younger generations in accordance with traditional lore and custom through the consultation process.

- Have an awareness and understanding of how colonisation has impacted the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- Supply suitable project information and provide the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process (DECCW 2010a).

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**



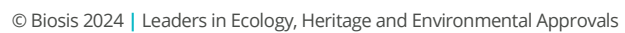
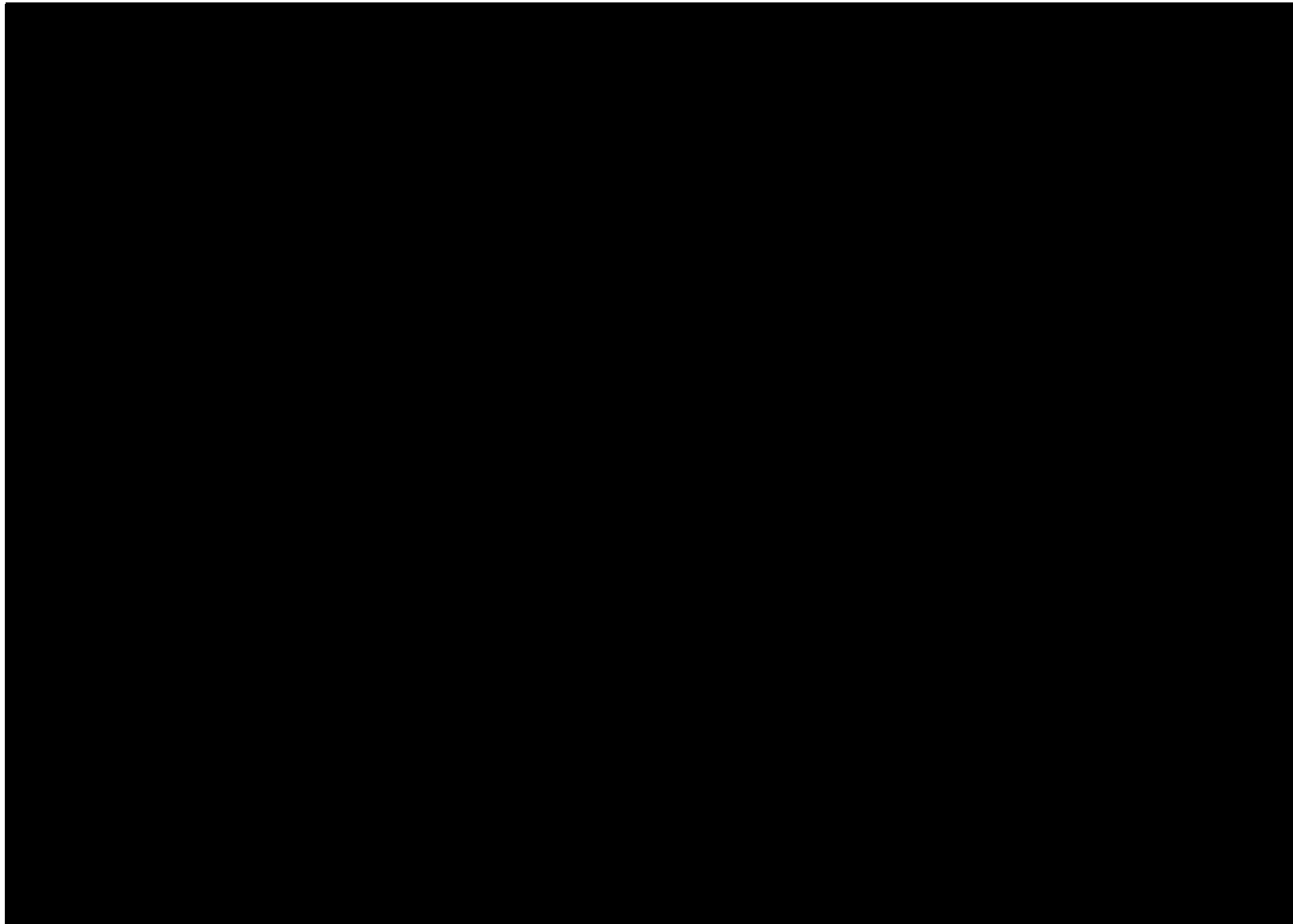


Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of Stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p. 12).

The purpose of the Stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area.

The assessment methodology includes the following tasks:

### Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the study area. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A search of the AHIMS database will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area will be developed.

### Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 19 August 2024 via Biosis on behalf of SINSW and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.

- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The draft ACHA and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

## Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

## Field investigation

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

An additional survey of the study area will be undertaken with participation of Aboriginal representatives.

Recording during the field investigation will follow Requirements 5 to 10 of the Code and industry best practice. Information recorded will include:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility will be undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA and AR.

## Archaeological test excavations (if required)

Any areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

### Aims

The principal objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

### Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than 5 metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in 5 centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
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- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
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5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
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Dear [REDACTED]

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**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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Yours sincerely

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**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

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The background research for the study area identified that the study area is situated 2 kilometres north of Campvale Swamp and approximately 2 kilometres west of Moffats Swamp. A low swampy area now

occupied by the artificial Grahamstown Dam is 800 metres to the west. There are no watercourses located within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line which rises to the east of the study area and feeds into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area.

The study area consists of a gently undulating flat parcel of land with a slightly higher knoll occupying the south-western corner. This knoll is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

Previous predictive modelling based on the archaeological sensitivity of five landforms (Sandstone Ranges of the Sydney Basin, Central Lowlands of the Hunter Valley, Cumberland Plain, the Coastal Margin and Plain, Western Rangelands) were assessed, and a predicted site location criteria was provided for each landform (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24). The following locations were determined to be archaeologically sensitive areas:

- “Level ground on the elevated margins around wetlands and soaks: including estuaries, perched or upland swamps and floodplain wetlands,
- Elevated flat ground adjacent to floodplains and riparian zones,
- The well drained banks of creeks, major streams and rivers, especially in valley floor and lowland contexts,
- Low spurs, ridgelines and low gradient basal slopes adjacent to tributary streams situated above main valley cold air drainage and flood levels within upland plateau and rangeland contexts,
- Areas of old forest growth,
- Rock shelters wherever they occur, but especially on basal valley slopes and upper ridgetop slopes,
- Sandstone platforms i.e. flat, continuous expanses of exposes, homogenous, sandstone bedrock. The platforms have the potential to contain rock engravings and/or grinding grooves when associated with a local water source,
- Sand deposits adjacent to wetlands, fluvial corridors and marine shorelines,
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A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
<b>Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders</b>	Completed	Project advertised in the The Newcastle Herald on 21 August 2024.
<b>Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties</b>	31 July 2024	N/A
<b>Aboriginal stakeholder registration period</b>	19 August 2024 to 2 September 2024	Registration period expired on 2 September 2024
<b>Field investigation</b>	TBC	From previous ADDA – Another survey will be required
<b>Archaeological test excavations (if required)</b>	TBC	TBC
<b>Information gathering</b>	Continuous	N/A
<b>Review of draft report</b>	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
<b>Final report</b>	TBC	TBC

## Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs will be provided the opportunity to offer input into regulatory processes, contribute to decision making by proponents and government authorities, respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate. This will be undertaken in accordance with their role specified in Section 5 of the consultation requirements.

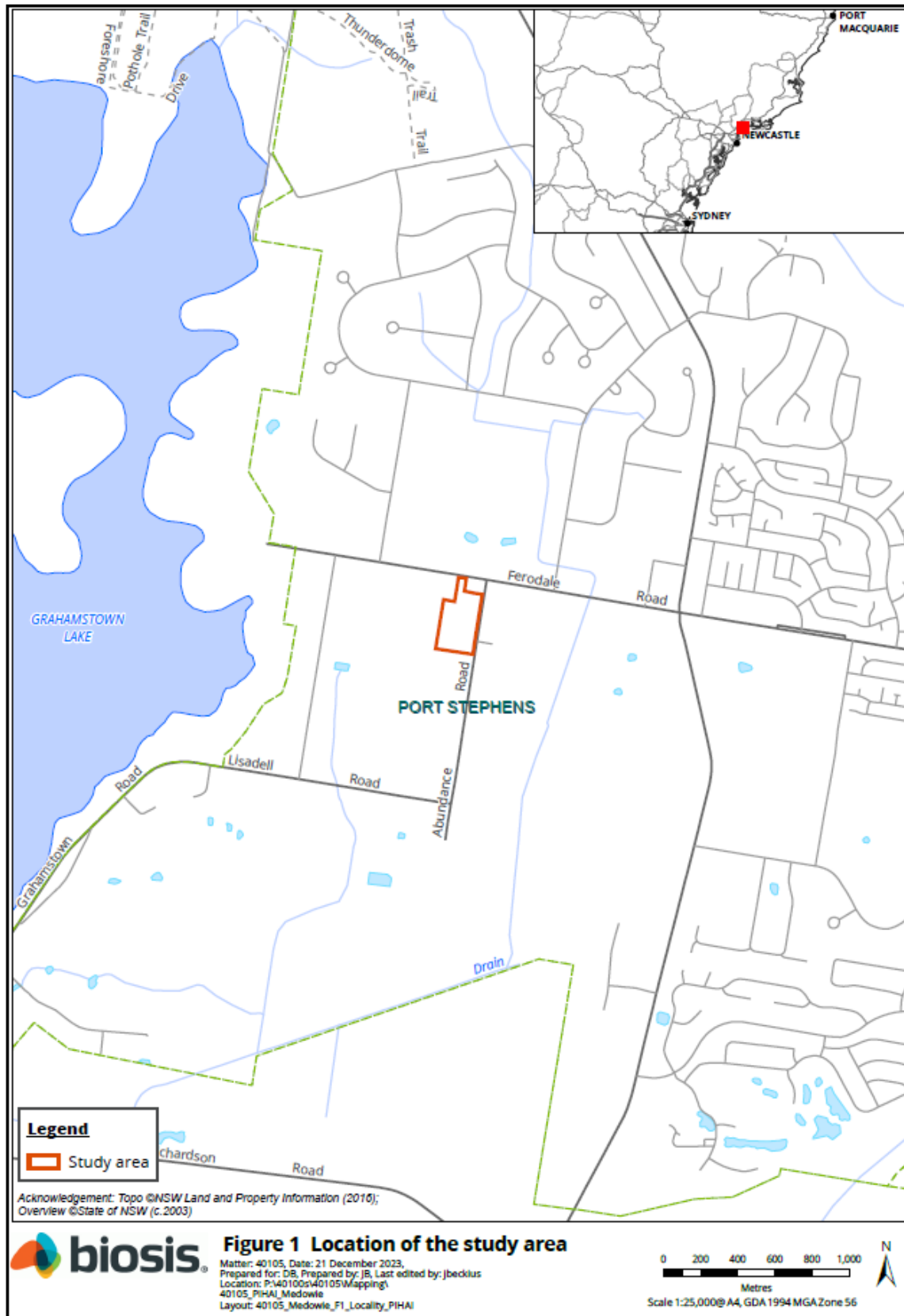
Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under Section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by:

- Displaying a meaningful appreciation, understanding and respect for the belief system, spiritual connection and sense of belonging that Aboriginal people have to their land, people and environment, which includes plants, animals, waterways, sacred sites and other places of cultural significance and importance.
- Upholding and respecting the traditional rights, obligations and responsibilities of Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in accordance with traditional lore and custom, particularly as these relate to the cultural business of men and women.
- Encouraging active participation of culturally experienced and appropriate Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in the consultation process.
- Encouraging opportunities for the effective transfer of cultural knowledge from older to younger generations in accordance with traditional lore and custom through the consultation process.

- Have an awareness and understanding of how colonisation has impacted the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- Supply suitable project information and provide the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process (DECCW 2010a).

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**



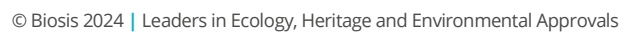


Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of Stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p. 12).

The purpose of the Stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area.

The assessment methodology includes the following tasks:

### Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the study area. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A search of the AHIMS database will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area will be developed.

### Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 19 August 2024 via Biosis on behalf of SINSW and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.

- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The draft ACHA and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

## Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

## Field investigation

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

An additional survey of the study area will be undertaken with participation of Aboriginal representatives.

Recording during the field investigation will follow Requirements 5 to 10 of the Code and industry best practice. Information recorded will include:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility will be undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA and AR.

## Archaeological test excavations (if required)

Any areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

### Aims

The principal objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

### Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than 5 metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in 5 centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m<sup>2</sup>).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.

- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Newcastle Biosis office for analysis (at 8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
  - Unique test pit identification number.
  - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
  - Munsell soil colour and texture.
  - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
  - Nature of disturbance where present.
  - Stratigraphy.
  - Archaeological features (if present).
  - Photographic records.
  - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information\* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*\*Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p. 28).*

### **Storage of cultural material**

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

**Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.**

## Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology RAPs will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

## References

AMBS Ecology & Heritage 2006. *Volume 1: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan: West Dapto Release Area*, An unpublished report to Wollongong City Council.

Artefact Heritage 2018. *Rezoning and subdivision of 109 Darkes Road, Kembla Grange*, Report to NewQuest Property Pty Ltd.

Biosis 2015. *Lot 1, DP 825516, Farmborough Heights NSW. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Proposed Rezoning*, Report prepared for Plannex Environmental Planning. Author: Flannery. L, Biosis Pty Ltd. Project no. 19844.

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change., Sydney, NSW.

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011. 'Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW', Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW.

Sefton C 1980. *Aboriginal Cultural Resources Study Illawarra Region*, Illawarra Regional Planning Committee. Wollongong, NSW.

5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation 6 Abundance Road, Medowie**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area).

The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist School Infrastructure NSW in developing their plans in order to minimise the impacts the works will have on Aboriginal heritage values.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5:00PM 3 October 2024** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

ABN :65 006 175 097

Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



mcrissell@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronte', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

## Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the Stage 2 document is to provide Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

### The project

SINSW are in the process of preparing planning reports that include:

- Masterplan for a small high school to deliver 30 to 36 teaching spaces and core facilities in Stage 1 (50 teaching spaces for 1,000 students in total).
- New administration, staff facilities, library, hall/gymnasium and canteen for a small high school.

There is currently no public high school in Medowie so a new public high school is proposed for the community in a location of significant growth.

Biosis has been engaged by SINSW to undertake the ACHA to support the SSD application for the high school and to inform the proposed works design for the study area. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform School Infrastructure NSW of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

### Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, NSW (Lot 3 DP788451). It is within the Port Stephens local government area and is approximately 21.2 kilometers north of the Newcastle central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 6.58 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

### Background

Biosis conducted an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment for the study area on 1 August 2024. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database ( ) identified 105 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 5 by 5 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these registered sites are located within the study area (Figure 3). The nearest AHIMS site is , which consisted of an artefact and open camp site approximately 2.1 kilometres south of the study area.

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occupied by the artificial Grahamstown Dam is 800 metres to the west. There are no watercourses located within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line which rises to the east of the study area and feeds into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area.

The study area consists of a gently undulating flat parcel of land with a slightly higher knoll occupying the south-western corner. This knoll is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

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## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

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<b>Final report</b>	TBC	TBC

## Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs will be provided the opportunity to offer input into regulatory processes, contribute to decision making by proponents and government authorities, respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate. This will be undertaken in accordance with their role specified in Section 5 of the consultation requirements.

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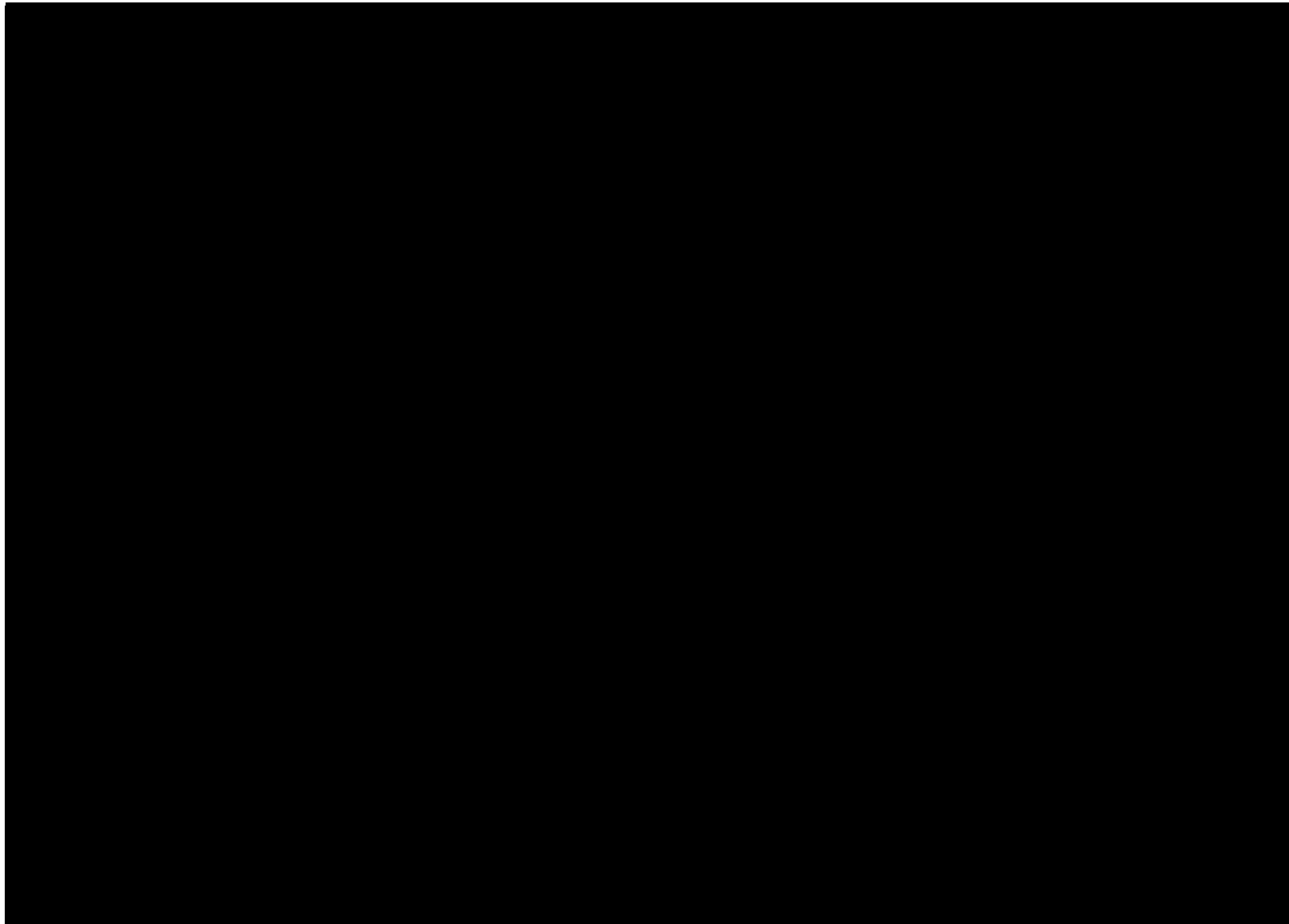
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**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**





Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of Stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
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Any areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

### Aims

The principal objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

### Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than 5 metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in 5 centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m<sup>2</sup>).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.

- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Newcastle Biosis office for analysis (at 8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
  - Unique test pit identification number.
  - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
  - Munsell soil colour and texture.
  - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
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  - Archaeological features (if present).
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  - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information\* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*\*Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p. 28).*

### **Storage of cultural material**

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

**Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.**

## Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology RAPs will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

## References

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Sefton C 1980. *Aboriginal Cultural Resources Study Illawarra Region*, Illawarra Regional Planning Committee. Wollongong, NSW.

5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation 6 Abundance Road, Medowie**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area).

The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist School Infrastructure NSW in developing their plans in order to minimise the impacts the works will have on Aboriginal heritage values.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5:00PM 3 October 2024** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
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[biosis.com.au](http://biosis.com.au)



mcrissell@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronte', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

## Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the Stage 2 document is to provide Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

### The project

SINSW are in the process of preparing planning reports that include:

- Masterplan for a small high school to deliver 30 to 36 teaching spaces and core facilities in Stage 1 (50 teaching spaces for 1,000 students in total).
- New administration, staff facilities, library, hall/gymnasium and canteen for a small high school.

There is currently no public high school in Medowie so a new public high school is proposed for the community in a location of significant growth.

Biosis has been engaged by SINSW to undertake the ACHA to support the SSD application for the high school and to inform the proposed works design for the study area. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform School Infrastructure NSW of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

### Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, NSW (Lot 3 DP788451). It is within the Port Stephens local government area and is approximately 21.2 kilometers north of the Newcastle central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 6.58 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

### Background

Biosis conducted an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment for the study area on 1 August 2024. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database ( ) identified 105 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 5 by 5 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these registered sites are located within the study area (Figure 3). The nearest AHIMS site is , which consisted of an artefact and open camp site approximately 2.1 kilometres south of the study area.

The background research for the study area identified that the study area is situated 2 kilometres north of Campvale Swamp and approximately 2 kilometres west of Moffats Swamp. A low swampy area now

occupied by the artificial Grahamstown Dam is 800 metres to the west. There are no watercourses located within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line which rises to the east of the study area and feeds into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area.

The study area consists of a gently undulating flat parcel of land with a slightly higher knoll occupying the south-western corner. This knoll is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

Previous predictive modelling based on the archaeological sensitivity of five landforms (Sandstone Ranges of the Sydney Basin, Central Lowlands of the Hunter Valley, Cumberland Plain, the Coastal Margin and Plain, Western Rangelands) were assessed, and a predicted site location criteria was provided for each landform (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24). The following locations were determined to be archaeologically sensitive areas:

- “Level ground on the elevated margins around wetlands and soaks: including estuaries, perched or upland swamps and floodplain wetlands,
- Elevated flat ground adjacent to floodplains and riparian zones,
- The well drained banks of creeks, major streams and rivers, especially in valley floor and lowland contexts,
- Low spurs, ridgelines and low gradient basal slopes adjacent to tributary streams situated above main valley cold air drainage and flood levels within upland plateau and rangeland contexts,
- Areas of old forest growth,
- Rock shelters wherever they occur, but especially on basal valley slopes and upper ridgetop slopes,
- Sandstone platforms i.e. flat, continuous expanses of exposes, homogenous, sandstone bedrock. The platforms have the potential to contain rock engravings and/or grinding grooves when associated with a local water source,
- Sand deposits adjacent to wetlands, fluvial corridors and marine shorelines,
- Elevated ground adjacent to coastal rock platforms and/or freshwater sources at or near sandy shores and embayments (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24).”

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
<b>Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders</b>	Completed	Project advertised in the The Newcastle Herald on 21 August 2024.
<b>Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties</b>	31 July 2024	N/A
<b>Aboriginal stakeholder registration period</b>	19 August 2024 to 2 September 2024	Registration period expired on 2 September 2024
<b>Field investigation</b>	TBC	From previous ADDA – Another survey will be required
<b>Archaeological test excavations (if required)</b>	TBC	TBC
<b>Information gathering</b>	Continuous	N/A
<b>Review of draft report</b>	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
<b>Final report</b>	TBC	TBC

## Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs will be provided the opportunity to offer input into regulatory processes, contribute to decision making by proponents and government authorities, respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate. This will be undertaken in accordance with their role specified in Section 5 of the consultation requirements.

Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under Section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by:

- Displaying a meaningful appreciation, understanding and respect for the belief system, spiritual connection and sense of belonging that Aboriginal people have to their land, people and environment, which includes plants, animals, waterways, sacred sites and other places of cultural significance and importance.
- Upholding and respecting the traditional rights, obligations and responsibilities of Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in accordance with traditional lore and custom, particularly as these relate to the cultural business of men and women.
- Encouraging active participation of culturally experienced and appropriate Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in the consultation process.
- Encouraging opportunities for the effective transfer of cultural knowledge from older to younger generations in accordance with traditional lore and custom through the consultation process.

- Have an awareness and understanding of how colonisation has impacted the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- Supply suitable project information and provide the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process (DECCW 2010a).

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**



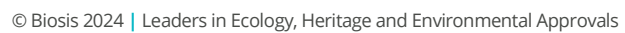
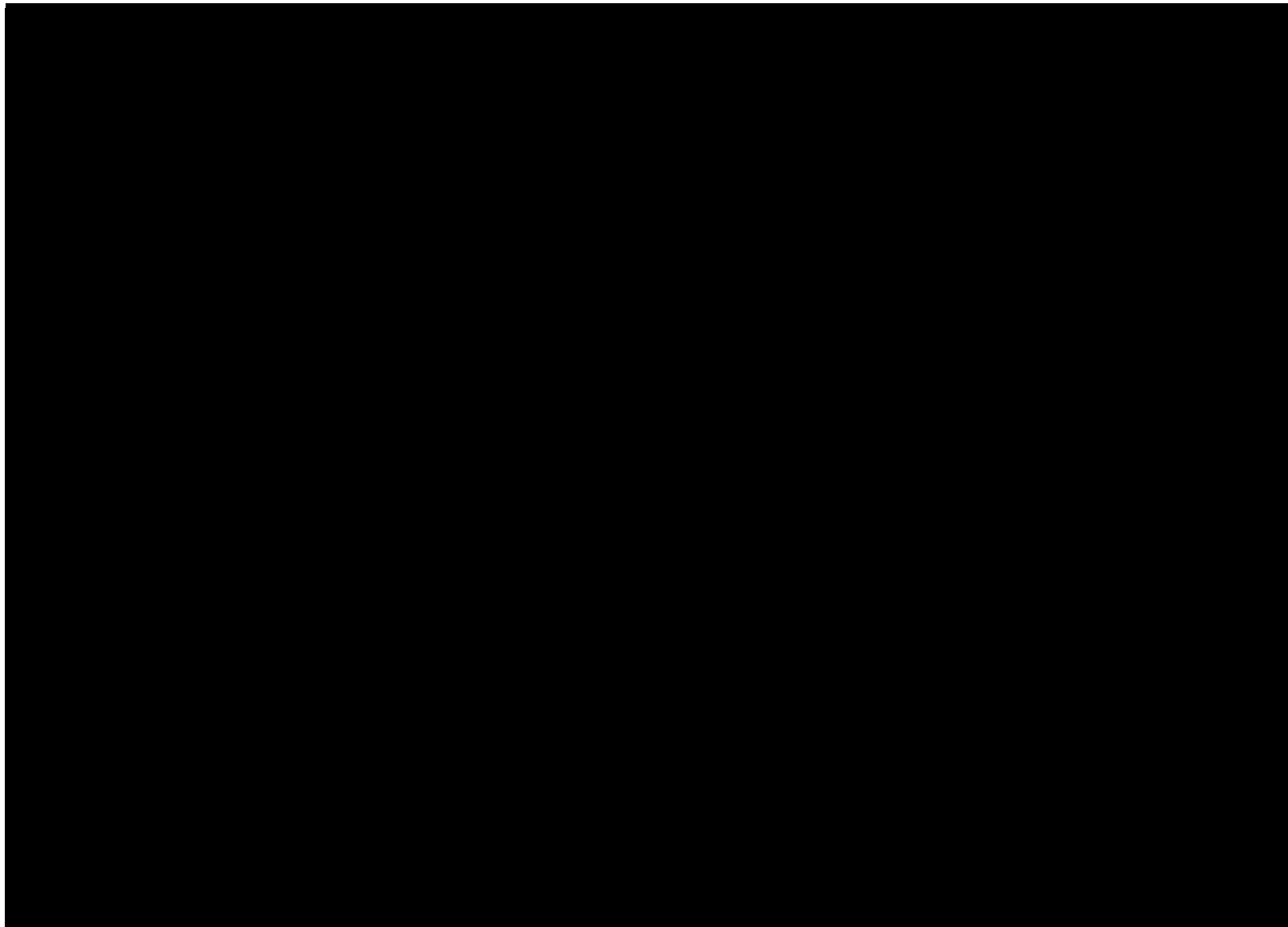


Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of Stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p. 12).

The purpose of the Stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area.

The assessment methodology includes the following tasks:

### Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the study area. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A search of the AHIMS database will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area will be developed.

### Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 19 August 2024 via Biosis on behalf of SINSW and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.

- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The draft ACHA and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

## Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

## Field investigation

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

An additional survey of the study area will be undertaken with participation of Aboriginal representatives.

Recording during the field investigation will follow Requirements 5 to 10 of the Code and industry best practice. Information recorded will include:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility will be undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA and AR.

## Archaeological test excavations (if required)

Any areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

### Aims

The principal objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

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5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

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Please address feedback to:

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Wickham NSW 2293

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

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**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

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- New administration, staff facilities, library, hall/gymnasium and canteen for a small high school.

There is currently no public high school in Medowie so a new public high school is proposed for the community in a location of significant growth.

Biosis has been engaged by SINSW to undertake the ACHA to support the SSD application for the high school and to inform the proposed works design for the study area. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform School Infrastructure NSW of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

### Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, NSW (Lot 3 DP788451). It is within the Port Stephens local government area and is approximately 21.2 kilometers north of the Newcastle central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 6.58 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

### Background

Biosis conducted an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment for the study area on 1 August 2024. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database ( ) identified 105 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 5 by 5 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these registered sites are located within the study area (Figure 3). The nearest AHIMS site is , which consisted of an artefact and open camp site approximately 2.1 kilometres south of the study area.

The background research for the study area identified that the study area is situated 2 kilometres north of Campvale Swamp and approximately 2 kilometres west of Moffats Swamp. A low swampy area now

occupied by the artificial Grahamstown Dam is 800 metres to the west. There are no watercourses located within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line which rises to the east of the study area and feeds into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area.

The study area consists of a gently undulating flat parcel of land with a slightly higher knoll occupying the south-western corner. This knoll is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

Previous predictive modelling based on the archaeological sensitivity of five landforms (Sandstone Ranges of the Sydney Basin, Central Lowlands of the Hunter Valley, Cumberland Plain, the Coastal Margin and Plain, Western Rangelands) were assessed, and a predicted site location criteria was provided for each landform (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24). The following locations were determined to be archaeologically sensitive areas:

- “Level ground on the elevated margins around wetlands and soaks: including estuaries, perched or upland swamps and floodplain wetlands,
- Elevated flat ground adjacent to floodplains and riparian zones,
- The well drained banks of creeks, major streams and rivers, especially in valley floor and lowland contexts,
- Low spurs, ridgelines and low gradient basal slopes adjacent to tributary streams situated above main valley cold air drainage and flood levels within upland plateau and rangeland contexts,
- Areas of old forest growth,
- Rock shelters wherever they occur, but especially on basal valley slopes and upper ridgetop slopes,
- Sandstone platforms i.e. flat, continuous expanses of exposes, homogenous, sandstone bedrock. The platforms have the potential to contain rock engravings and/or grinding grooves when associated with a local water source,
- Sand deposits adjacent to wetlands, fluvial corridors and marine shorelines,
- Elevated ground adjacent to coastal rock platforms and/or freshwater sources at or near sandy shores and embayments (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24).”

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
<b>Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders</b>	Completed	Project advertised in the The Newcastle Herald on 21 August 2024.
<b>Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties</b>	31 July 2024	N/A
<b>Aboriginal stakeholder registration period</b>	19 August 2024 to 2 September 2024	Registration period expired on 2 September 2024
<b>Field investigation</b>	TBC	From previous ADDA – Another survey will be required
<b>Archaeological test excavations (if required)</b>	TBC	TBC
<b>Information gathering</b>	Continuous	N/A
<b>Review of draft report</b>	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
<b>Final report</b>	TBC	TBC

## Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs will be provided the opportunity to offer input into regulatory processes, contribute to decision making by proponents and government authorities, respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate. This will be undertaken in accordance with their role specified in Section 5 of the consultation requirements.

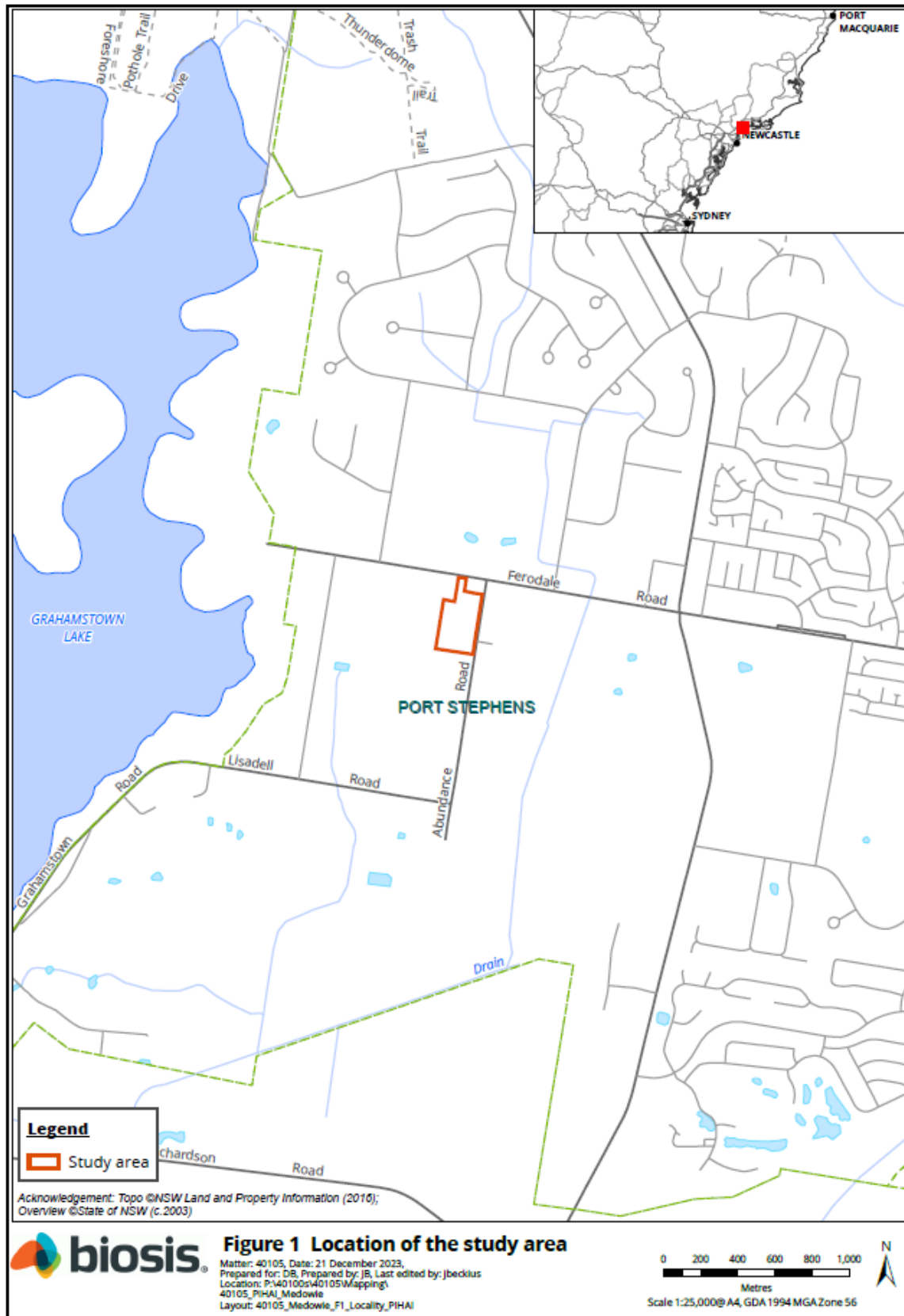
Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under Section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by:

- Displaying a meaningful appreciation, understanding and respect for the belief system, spiritual connection and sense of belonging that Aboriginal people have to their land, people and environment, which includes plants, animals, waterways, sacred sites and other places of cultural significance and importance.
- Upholding and respecting the traditional rights, obligations and responsibilities of Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in accordance with traditional lore and custom, particularly as these relate to the cultural business of men and women.
- Encouraging active participation of culturally experienced and appropriate Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in the consultation process.
- Encouraging opportunities for the effective transfer of cultural knowledge from older to younger generations in accordance with traditional lore and custom through the consultation process.

- Have an awareness and understanding of how colonisation has impacted the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- Supply suitable project information and provide the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process (DECCW 2010a).

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**



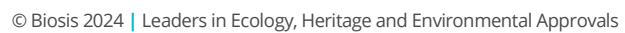
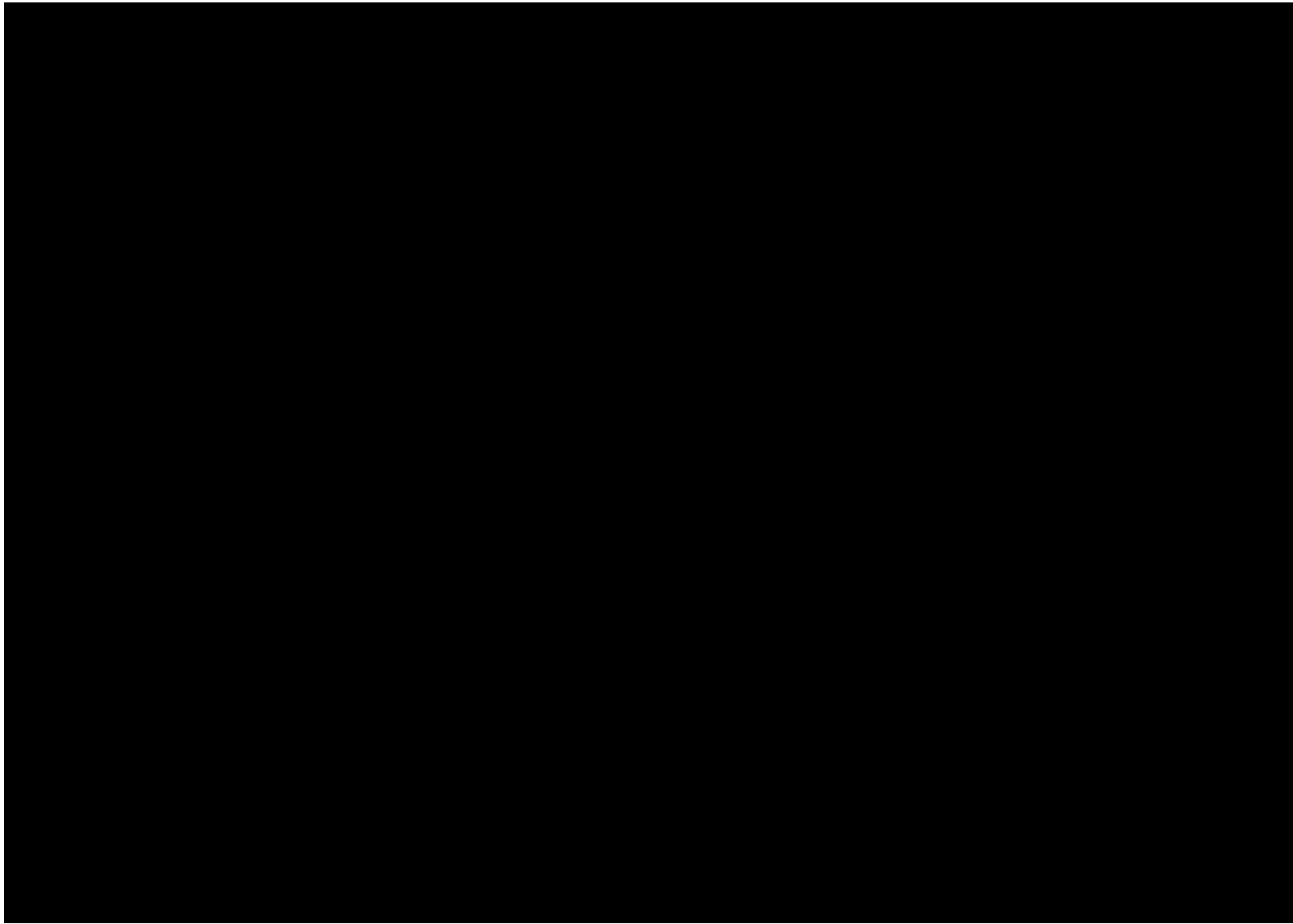


Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of Stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p. 12).

The purpose of the Stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area.

The assessment methodology includes the following tasks:

### Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the study area. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A search of the AHIMS database will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area will be developed.

### Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 19 August 2024 via Biosis on behalf of SINSW and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.

- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The draft ACHA and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

## Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

## Field investigation

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

An additional survey of the study area will be undertaken with participation of Aboriginal representatives.

Recording during the field investigation will follow Requirements 5 to 10 of the Code and industry best practice. Information recorded will include:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility will be undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA and AR.

## Archaeological test excavations (if required)

Any areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

### Aims

The principal objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

### Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than 5 metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in 5 centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m<sup>2</sup>).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.

- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Newcastle Biosis office for analysis (at 8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
  - Unique test pit identification number.
  - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
  - Munsell soil colour and texture.
  - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
  - Nature of disturbance where present.
  - Stratigraphy.
  - Archaeological features (if present).
  - Photographic records.
  - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information\* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

*\*Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p. 28).*

### **Storage of cultural material**

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

**Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.**

## Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology RAPs will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

## References

AMBS Ecology & Heritage 2006. *Volume 1: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan: West Dapto Release Area*, An unpublished report to Wollongong City Council.

Artefact Heritage 2018. *Rezoning and subdivision of 109 Darkes Road, Kembla Grange*, Report to NewQuest Property Pty Ltd.

Biosis 2015. *Lot 1, DP 825516, Farmborough Heights NSW. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for Proposed Rezoning*, Report prepared for Plannex Environmental Planning. Author: Flannery. L, Biosis Pty Ltd. Project no. 19844.

DECCW 2010a. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change., Sydney, NSW.

DECCW 2010b. *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011. 'Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW', Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW.

Sefton C 1980. *Aboriginal Cultural Resources Study Illawarra Region*, Illawarra Regional Planning Committee. Wollongong, NSW.

5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation  
6 Abundance Road, Medowie**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area).

The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist School Infrastructure NSW in developing their plans in order to minimise the impacts the works will have on Aboriginal heritage values.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5:00PM 3 October 2024** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

ABN :65 006 175 097

Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



mcrissell@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronte', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

## Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the Stage 2 document is to provide Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

### The project

SINSW are in the process of preparing planning reports that include:

- Masterplan for a small high school to deliver 30 to 36 teaching spaces and core facilities in Stage 1 (50 teaching spaces for 1,000 students in total).
- New administration, staff facilities, library, hall/gymnasium and canteen for a small high school.

There is currently no public high school in Medowie so a new public high school is proposed for the community in a location of significant growth.

Biosis has been engaged by SINSW to undertake the ACHA to support the SSD application for the high school and to inform the proposed works design for the study area. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform School Infrastructure NSW of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

### Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, NSW (Lot 3 DP788451). It is within the Port Stephens local government area and is approximately 21.2 kilometers north of the Newcastle central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 6.58 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

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## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

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<b>Final report</b>	TBC	TBC

## Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs will be provided the opportunity to offer input into regulatory processes, contribute to decision making by proponents and government authorities, respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate. This will be undertaken in accordance with their role specified in Section 5 of the consultation requirements.

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- Supply suitable project information and provide the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process (DECCW 2010a).

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**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**



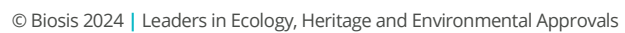
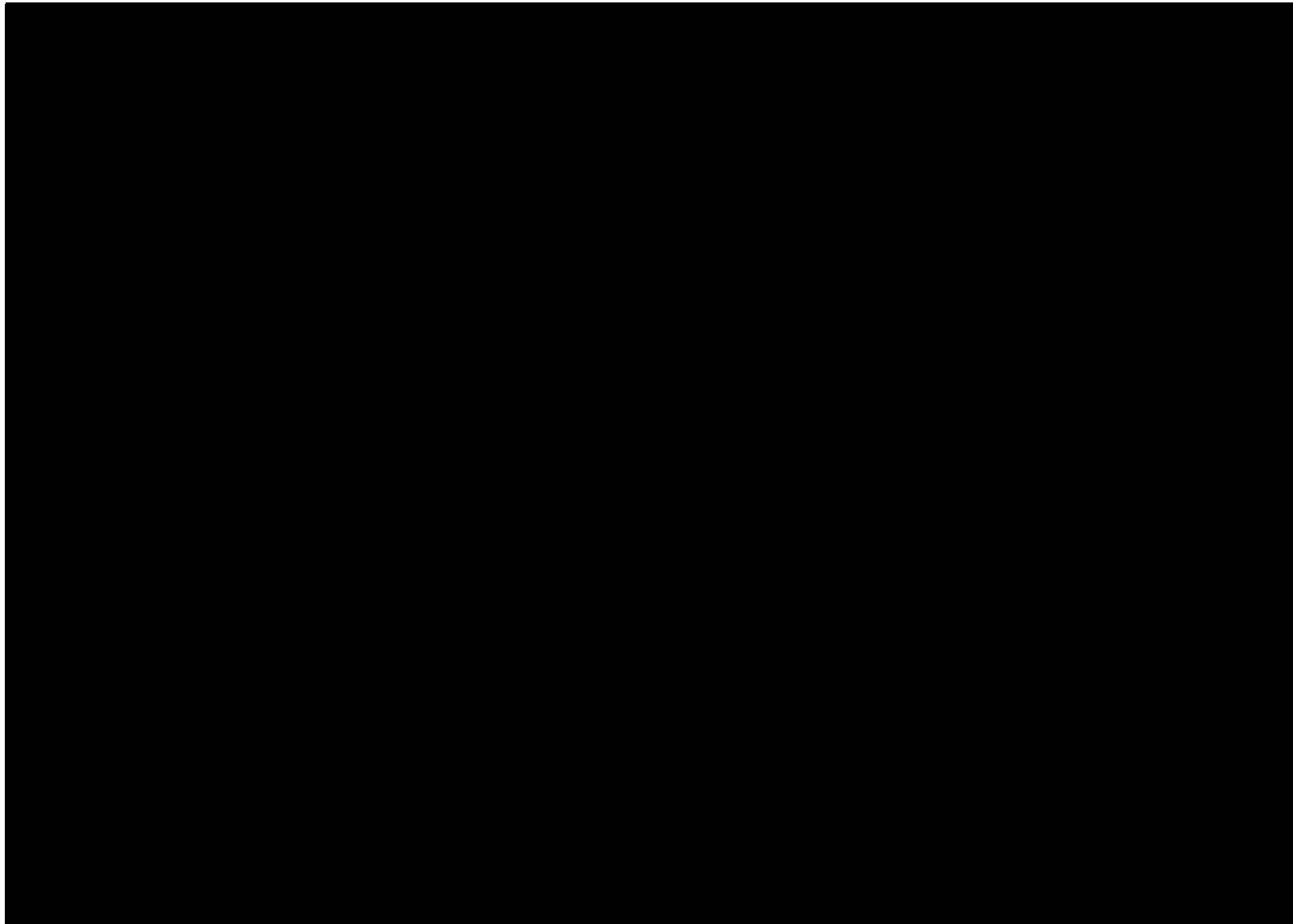


Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of Stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
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Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

## Field investigation

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

An additional survey of the study area will be undertaken with participation of Aboriginal representatives.

Recording during the field investigation will follow Requirements 5 to 10 of the Code and industry best practice. Information recorded will include:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area will be undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility will be undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA and AR.

## Archaeological test excavations (if required)

Any areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

### Aims

The principal objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

### Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than 5 metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in 5 centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m<sup>2</sup>).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.

- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Newcastle Biosis office for analysis (at 8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
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- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.
- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW) will be notified.
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*\*Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p. 28).*

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Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office for analysis (8/27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293).

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

**Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.**

## Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology RAPs will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

## References

AMBS Ecology & Heritage 2006. *Volume 1: Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan: West Dapto Release Area*, An unpublished report to Wollongong City Council.

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OEH 2011. 'Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW', Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW.

Sefton C 1980. *Aboriginal Cultural Resources Study Illawarra Region*, Illawarra Regional Planning Committee. Wollongong, NSW.

5 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation  
6 Abundance Road, Medowie**

**Our Ref: Matter: 40105**

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area).

The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist School Infrastructure NSW in developing their plans in order to minimise the impacts the works will have on Aboriginal heritage values.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5:00PM 3 October 2024** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293

Biosis Pty Ltd  
Newcastle  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street  
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN: 006 175 097

ABN :65 006 175 097

Email: [newcastle@biosis.com.au](mailto:newcastle@biosis.com.au)

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



mcrissell@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronte', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

## Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the Stage 2 document is to provide Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

### The project

SINSW are in the process of preparing planning reports that include:

- Masterplan for a small high school to deliver 30 to 36 teaching spaces and core facilities in Stage 1 (50 teaching spaces for 1,000 students in total).
- New administration, staff facilities, library, hall/gymnasium and canteen for a small high school.

There is currently no public high school in Medowie so a new public high school is proposed for the community in a location of significant growth.

Biosis has been engaged by SINSW to undertake the ACHA to support the SSD application for the high school and to inform the proposed works design for the study area. The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform School Infrastructure NSW of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

### Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, NSW (Lot 3 DP788451). It is within the Port Stephens local government area and is approximately 21.2 kilometers north of the Newcastle central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 6.58 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

### Background

Biosis conducted an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment for the study area on 1 August 2024. A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database ( ) identified 105 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 5 by 5 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these registered sites are located within the study area (Figure 3). The nearest AHIMS site is , which consisted of an artefact and open camp site approximately 2.1 kilometres south of the study area.

The background research for the study area identified that the study area is situated 2 kilometres north of Campvale Swamp and approximately 2 kilometres west of Moffats Swamp. A low swampy area now

occupied by the artificial Grahamstown Dam is 800 metres to the west. There are no watercourses located within the study area. The closest water sources are two small unnamed first order tributaries of an unnamed second order drainage line which rises to the east of the study area and feeds into Moffatts Swamp 2 kilometres to the west. A large complex of swamps occurs to the south of Medowie with the nearest named watercourse the third order Pipeclay Creek approximately 4.5 kilometres north of the study area which feeds into 12 Mile Creek approximately 7 kilometres to the north-east of the study area.

The study area consists of a gently undulating flat parcel of land with a slightly higher knoll occupying the south-western corner. This knoll is occupied by a dense cover of vegetation. One geological unit is present within the study area. The Tomago Coal Measures (*Pto*) consisting of siltstone, sandstone, coal, tuff, claystone, conglomerate and minor clay (Fairbridge 1953). Of those elements tuffs have been known to have been utilised by Aboriginal people for the manufacture of tools.

Previous predictive modelling based on the archaeological sensitivity of five landforms (Sandstone Ranges of the Sydney Basin, Central Lowlands of the Hunter Valley, Cumberland Plain, the Coastal Margin and Plain, Western Rangelands) were assessed, and a predicted site location criteria was provided for each landform (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24). The following locations were determined to be archaeologically sensitive areas:

- “Level ground on the elevated margins around wetlands and soaks: including estuaries, perched or upland swamps and floodplain wetlands,
- Elevated flat ground adjacent to floodplains and riparian zones,
- The well drained banks of creeks, major streams and rivers, especially in valley floor and lowland contexts,
- Low spurs, ridgelines and low gradient basal slopes adjacent to tributary streams situated above main valley cold air drainage and flood levels within upland plateau and rangeland contexts,
- Areas of old forest growth,
- Rock shelters wherever they occur, but especially on basal valley slopes and upper ridgetop slopes,
- Sandstone platforms i.e. flat, continuous expanses of exposes, homogenous, sandstone bedrock. The platforms have the potential to contain rock engravings and/or grinding grooves when associated with a local water source,
- Sand deposits adjacent to wetlands, fluvial corridors and marine shorelines,
- Elevated ground adjacent to coastal rock platforms and/or freshwater sources at or near sandy shores and embayments (Navin & Officer 1994, pp.23–24).”

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 31 May 2024 and 22 July 2024 to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. During the field investigation no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or objects were identified. Due to the moderate levels of previous ground disturbance present which included initial vegetation clearance, historic market gardening and the use of the land to house livestock which would have likely resulted in poor preservation of archaeological material and would have destroyed any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the study area. This determined that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites to be located within the study area.

## Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarised below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
<b>Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders</b>	Completed	Project advertised in the The Newcastle Herald on 21 August 2024.
<b>Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties</b>	31 July 2024	N/A
<b>Aboriginal stakeholder registration period</b>	19 August 2024 to 2 September 2024	Registration period expired on 2 September 2024
<b>Field investigation</b>	TBC	From previous ADDA – Another survey will be required
<b>Archaeological test excavations (if required)</b>	TBC	TBC
<b>Information gathering</b>	Continuous	N/A
<b>Review of draft report</b>	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
<b>Final report</b>	TBC	TBC

## Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs will be provided the opportunity to offer input into regulatory processes, contribute to decision making by proponents and government authorities, respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate. This will be undertaken in accordance with their role specified in Section 5 of the consultation requirements.

Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under Section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by:

- Displaying a meaningful appreciation, understanding and respect for the belief system, spiritual connection and sense of belonging that Aboriginal people have to their land, people and environment, which includes plants, animals, waterways, sacred sites and other places of cultural significance and importance.
- Upholding and respecting the traditional rights, obligations and responsibilities of Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in accordance with traditional lore and custom, particularly as these relate to the cultural business of men and women.
- Encouraging active participation of culturally experienced and appropriate Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in the consultation process.
- Encouraging opportunities for the effective transfer of cultural knowledge from older to younger generations in accordance with traditional lore and custom through the consultation process.

- Have an awareness and understanding of how colonisation has impacted the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- Supply suitable project information and provide the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process (DECCW 2010a).

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

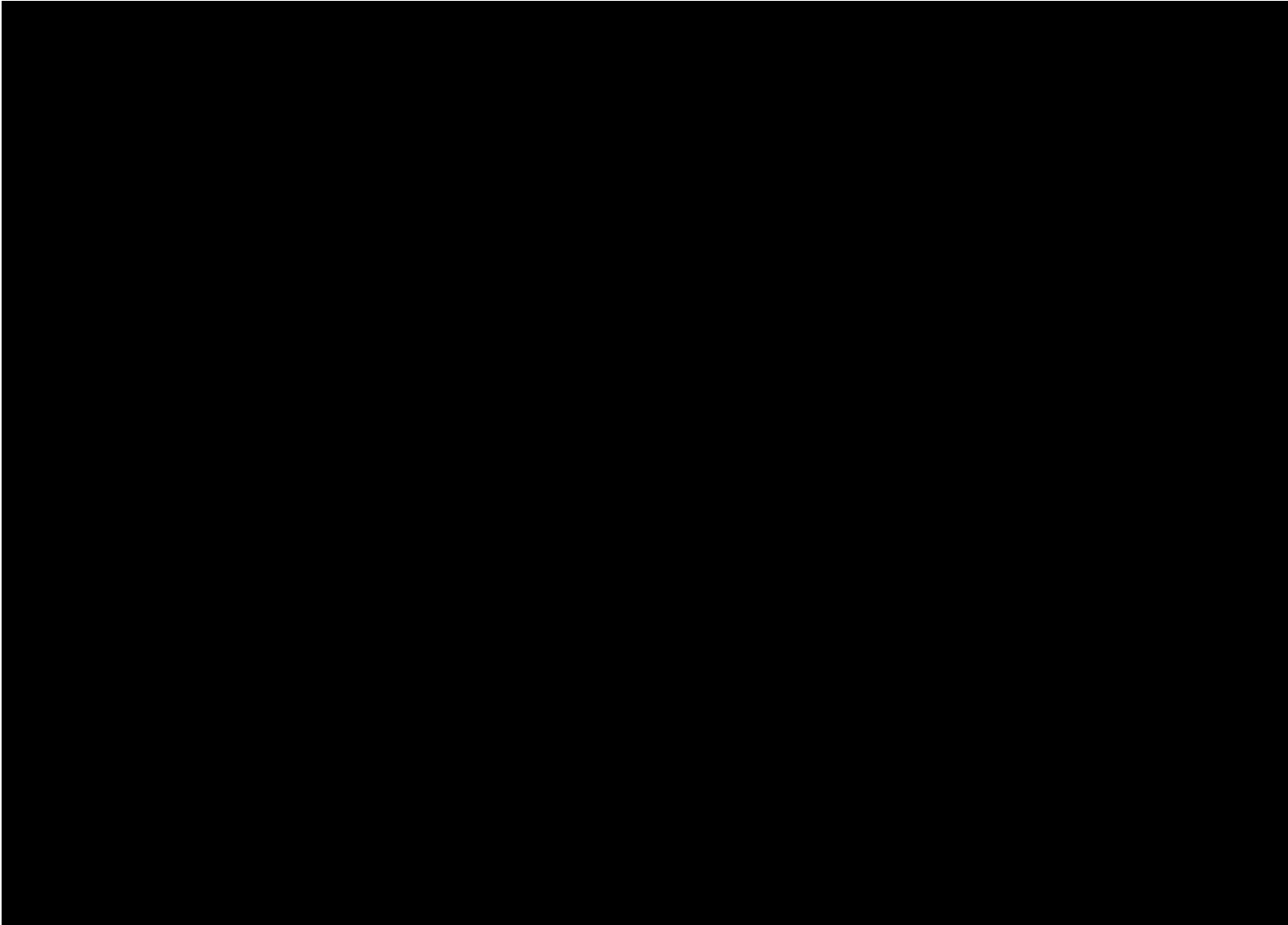
**Figure 1**                      **Location of the study area**



**Figure 2** Study area detail



Figure 3



## Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of Stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p. 12).

The purpose of the Stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area.

The assessment methodology includes the following tasks:

### Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the study area. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A search of the AHIMS database will be completed to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area will be developed.

### Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 19 August 2024 via Biosis on behalf of SINSW and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.

- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The draft ACHA and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

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As part of this methodology RAPs will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

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Sefton C 1980. *Aboriginal Cultural Resources Study Illawarra Region*, Illawarra Regional Planning Committee. Wollongong, NSW.

**Bronte Baonza**

---

**From:** Anthony Anderson <murroomainc1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 October 2024 10:18 AM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** New High School- Medowie  
**Attachments:** Response ACHA - Medowie High School .pdf

Hi Molly  
Please find attached Murrooma Response for ACHA methodology.  
Thanks

--

Bec Young  
Murrooma Operations Manager  
0421078695

# MURROOMA



# INCORPORATED

9 Vardon Road Fern Bay 2295 NSW  
0421078695  
Murroomainc1@gmail.com

ABN: 97 807 719 484

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2024  
Biosis

To Molly,

Murrooma have read and fully understands the draft assessment methodology report for the proposed project - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation, 6 Abundance Road, Medowie- Project Information and Methodology.

We agree with the Assessment methodology recommendations for this area- especially as Biosis are aware of the rich cultural significance within the Medowie area having worked on the Catholic College project where thousands of artefacts were uncovered during excavation. We are aware this project is further north and into the red dirt however still no less an area of transect for our people travelling from Maiangal to Gamipingal (Fern Bay to Karuah). We agree with the methodology of full pedestrian survey and concentration of the PAD's and landforms our Worimi people would have used.

I have previously worked on country close to this project and have knowledge of surrounding areas- I have also been advised from my elders that the Medowie area is of great significance and some of those areas have been highlighted within your report- Moffatt's Swamp.

All recommendations and phases within this report meet our requirements and responsibilities as Traditional Owners of this land.

Thank You

Bec Young- Operations Manager

Anthony Anderson - CEO

## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** David Feeney <indigenouskaruah@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 September 2024 6:45 PM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** RE: 40105 - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Bronte;

Karuah Indigenous Company Pty Ltd, would like to registrar our interest for the project  
. 40105 - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation

Thanks

David J Feeney  
Chief Executive Officer  
Snr Aboriginal Cultural Officer  
Karuah Indigenous Company Pty.Ltd  
0421114853

---

**From:** Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 September 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** indigenouskaruah@outlook.com  
**Subject:** 40105 - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation

Good morning,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area).

The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by 5:00PM 3 October 2024 either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Molly Crissell  
Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293  
[mcrissell@biosis.com.au](mailto:mcrissell@biosis.com.au)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the

methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely,

Bronte Baonza  
Heritage Consultant  
[bbaonza@biosis.com.au](mailto:bbaonza@biosis.com.au)

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

☎ 0438 191 025  
✉ [BBaonza@biosis.com.au](mailto:BBaonza@biosis.com.au)  
🌐 [www.biosis.com.au](http://www.biosis.com.au)



### **Leaders in Ecology, Heritage and Environmental Approvals**

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## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** Amanda De Zwart <amandahickey@live.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 September 2024 8:38 AM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation  
**Attachments:** insurance 2024.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Bronte

Thank you so much for your email AHCS would like to Formally register a interest in this project AHCS Holds strong cultural knowledge to the land and holds Cultural knowledge to determine Aboriginal heritage and artefacts

Attached is my current insurance

If you need anything else please don't hesitate to contact me

Have a great day

Amanda Hickey AHCS

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

---

**From:** Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 9:28:23 AM  
**To:** amandahickey@live.com.au <amandahickey@live.com.au>  
**Subject:** 40105 - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation

Good morning,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area). The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

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mcrissell@biosis.com.au

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Yours sincerely,

Bronte Baonza

Heritage Consultant  
bbaonza@biosis.com.au

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

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✉ BBaonza@biosis.com.au  
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## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** Darleen Johnson <murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 September 2024 10:30 PM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Bronte,  
I have read the project information ACHA and methodology for the above project; I endorse the recommendations.  
Kind regards  
Darleen  
0490051102

On Thursday 5 September 2024 at 09:28:49 am AEST, Bronte Baonza <bbaonza@biosis.com.au> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area). The project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

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Biosis Pty Ltd  
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street,  
Wickham NSW 2293  
mcrissell@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely,

Bronte Baonza  
Heritage Consultant  
bbaonza@biosis.com.au

**Bronte Baonza**  
Heritage Consultant

☎ 0438 191 025  
✉ Bbaonza@biosis.com.au  
🌐 www.biosis.com.au



# bios

## APEM G

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## Bronte Baonza

---

**From:** lilly carroll <didgengunawalclan@yahoo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 September 2024 10:08 AM  
**To:** Bronte Baonza  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - New high school in Medowie: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Bronte

DNC has read the methodology and is happy with everything but when it comes to Fieldwork, we always get overlooked. When can we have an opportunity?

Kind regards  
Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll  
Directors DNC  
0426823944  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Thursday, September 5, 2024, 9:28 AM, Bronte Baonza <BBaonza@biosis.com.au> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for registering your interest in the Medowie High School Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to inform the proposed Medowie High School at 6 Abundance Road, Medowie, New South Wales (NSW) (the study area).

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mcrissell@biosis.com.au

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Yours sincerely,

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Heritage Consultant  
bbaonza@biosis.com.au

**Bronte Baonza**

Heritage Consultant

☎ 0438 191 025  
✉ BBAonza@biosis.com.au  
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## Appendix 4    Stage 4: Review of draft cultural heritage report

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## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Amanda De Zwart  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued registration on the New Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) project.

Please find the ACHA and AR report in the link below:

<https://we.tl/t-U8aMwL90RP>

If you could please review the documents and provide any comments via return email by **5pm 20 December 2024**, that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any issues accessing the reports through the link provided, please let me know.

Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Carolyn .H  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

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**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:35 PM  
**To:** Darleen Johnson  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

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**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** David Feeney  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:37 PM  
**To:** lilly carroll  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

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**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:35 PM  
**To:** Anthony Anderson  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:37 PM  
**To:** lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:35 PM  
**To:** Thomas Dahlstrom  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:38 PM  
**To:** Tiarna Bird  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:38 PM  
**To:** Jamie Merrick  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued registration on the New Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) project.

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Kind regards,  
Molly

**From:** [David Feeney](#)  
**To:** [Molly Crissell](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, 17 December 2024 5:13:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Hi Molly;

Karuah Indigenous Company Pty Ltd will be able to continue to discuss cultural values and collection of information further onsite and include any recommendations that the Aboriginal Cultural Officers believe is best to protect our Worimi Culture.

Should any more works or excavation works or clearing works commence over the survey area, Aboriginal Cultural Officers would need to be engaged. "Why", because if excavation works turn over any Aboriginal artefact, within the first 30mm, then the Aboriginal Cultural Officers can identify the significance of that site and make some recommendation right away for the next step. (Ring the Worimi LALC & NPWS or Police).

Aboriginal Heritage is identified as Intellectual knowledge.

Some reports are based on above ground surveying and any disturbs of soil ground you will need to have Aboriginal Culture Officers on site until the works are completed

Thanks

David J Feeney  
Chief Executive Officer  
Snr Aboriginal Cultural Officer  
Karuah Indigenous Company Pty.Ltd  
0421114853

---

**From:** Molly Crissell <MCrissell@biosis.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** David Feeney <indigenousskaruah@outlook.com>  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

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Kind regards,  
Molly

**Molly Crissell** She/Her  
Heritage Consultant

☎ 0438 390 129  
✉ [MCrissell@biosis.com.au](mailto:MCrissell@biosis.com.au)  
🌐 [www.biosis.com.au](http://www.biosis.com.au)



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## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Darleen Johnson <murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 3:32 AM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Molly  
I have read the project information ACHA and AR report for the above project, I endorse the recommendations.  
Kind regards  
Darleen  
0490051102

On Friday 22 November 2024 at 03:35:11 pm AEDT, Molly Crissell <mcrissell@biosis.com.au> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued registration on the New Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) project.

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Kind regards,

Molly

**Molly Crissell** She/Her

Heritage Consultant

☎ 0438 390 129  
✉ MCrissell@biosis.com.au  
🌐 www.biosis.com.au



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## APEM G

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## Appendix 4      Stage 4: Review of draft cultural heritage report

---

## Molly Crissell

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**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Amanda De Zwart  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

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**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Carolyn .H  
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**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:37 PM  
**To:** lilly carroll  
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**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:35 PM  
**To:** Anthony Anderson  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

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**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:37 PM  
**To:** lennie.anderson011@bigpond.com  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

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If you could please review the documents and provide any comments via return email by **5pm 20 December 2024**, that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any issues accessing the reports through the link provided, please let me know.

Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:38 PM  
**To:** Tiarna Bird  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued registration on the New Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) project.

Please find the ACHA and AR report in the link below:

<https://we.tl/t-U8aMwL90RP>

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Kind regards,  
Molly

## Molly Crissell

---

**From:** Molly Crissell  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:38 PM  
**To:** Jamie Merrick  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued registration on the New Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) project.

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If you have any issues accessing the reports through the link provided, please let me know.

Kind regards,  
Molly

**From:** [David Feeney](#)  
**To:** [Molly Crissell](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, 17 December 2024 5:13:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi Molly;

Karuah Indigenous Company Pty Ltd will be able to continue to discuss cultural values and collection of information further onsite and include any recommendations that the Aboriginal Cultural Officers believe is best to protect our Worimi Culture.

Should any more works or excavation works or clearing works commence over the survey area, Aboriginal Cultural Officers would need to be engaged. "Why", because if excavation works turn over any Aboriginal artefact, within the first 30mm, then the Aboriginal Cultural Officers can identify the significance of that site and make some recommendation right away for the next step. (Ring the Worimi LALC & NPWS or Police).

Aboriginal Heritage is identified as Intellectual knowledge.

Some reports are based on above ground surveying and any disturbs of soil ground you will need to have Aboriginal Culture Officers on site until the works are completed

Thanks

David J Feeney  
Chief Executive Officer  
Snr Aboriginal Cultural Officer  
Karuah Indigenous Company Pty.Ltd  
0421114853

---

**From:** Molly Crissell <MCrissell@biosis.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** David Feeney <indigenousskaruah@outlook.com>  
**Subject:** 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued registration on the New Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) project.

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If you could please review the documents and provide any comments via return email by **5pm 20 December 2024**, that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any issues accessing the reports through the link provided, please let me know.

Kind regards,  
Molly

**Molly Crissell** She/Her  
Heritage Consultant

☎ 0438 390 129  
✉ [MCrissell@biosis.com.au](mailto:MCrissell@biosis.com.au)  
🌐 [www.biosis.com.au](http://www.biosis.com.au)



**Leaders in Ecology, Heritage and Environmental Approvals**

Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the country on which we live and work.

**We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future, and honour their connection to the land and ongoing contribution to society.**

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## Molly Crissell

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**From:** Darleen Johnson <murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 3:32 AM  
**To:** Molly Crissell  
**Subject:** Re: 40105 - New Medowie High School ACHA - Stage 4 Community Consultation - Draft Report

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Molly  
I have read the project information ACHA and AR report for the above project, I endorse the recommendations.  
Kind regards  
Darleen  
0490051102

On Friday 22 November 2024 at 03:35:11 pm AEDT, Molly Crissell <mcrissell@biosis.com.au> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued registration on the New Medowie High School Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) project.

Please find the ACHA and AR report in the link below:

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If you could please review the documents and provide any comments via return email by **5pm 20 December 2024**, that would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any issues accessing the reports through the link provided, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Molly

**Molly Crissell** She/Her

Heritage Consultant

☎ 0438 390 129  
✉ MCrissell@biosis.com.au  
🌐 www.biosis.com.au



# bios

## APEM G

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# Appendix 5    Archaeological report

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