



View northeast across Lot 35 DP878862.

PRELIMINARY ABORIGINAL AND HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN FOR LOT 35 DP878862, MILES FRANKLIN DRIVE

TALBINGO, NSW

APRIL 2023

Report prepared by
OzArk Environment & Heritage
for Kele Group



OzArk Environment & Heritage

145 Wingewarra St
(PO Box 2069)
Dubbo NSW 2830

Phone: (02) 6882 0118

Fax: (02) 6882 0630

enquiry@ozarkehm.com.au

www.ozarkehm.com.au

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Prepared for	Prepared by	
Robert Harwood Harwood Architects rh@harwoodarchitects.com	Stephanie Rusden Senior Archaeologist OzArk Environment & Heritage 145 Wingewarra Street (PO Box 2069) Dubbo NSW 2830 P: 02 6882 0118 stephanie@ozarkehm.com.au	
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Acknowledgement

OzArk acknowledge the traditional custodians of the area on which this assessment took place and pay respect to their beliefs, cultural heritage, and continuing connection with the land. We also acknowledge and pay respect to the post-contact experiences of Aboriginal people with attachment to the area and to the Elders, past and present, as the next generation of role models and vessels for memories, traditions, culture and hopes of local Aboriginal people.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Harwood Architects is developing a masterplan for Ironstone Development Group Pty Ltd and Liberty Homes Pty Ltd as part of the Kele Group for Lot 35 DP878862 located on Miles Franklin Drive at Talbingo, NSW. The study area for the masterplan encompasses 15.25 hectares (ha) of land and is zoned 'RU5 Village' under the Tumut Local Environmental Plan 2012. The masterplan considers a mixed-use development which also incorporates a tourist facility (a spa hotel), medium density mixed use precinct, and a detached dwelling residential area with extensive landscaping (the proposal)

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged to complete a preliminary Aboriginal and historic heritage assessment for the masterplan to inform the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE).

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) returned no records of previously recorded Aboriginal sites located within or near the study area. A search of statutory heritage registers was also undertaken to identify any recorded heritage items within the study area. This shows the study area is located within the curtilage of one item listed on the National Heritage List, the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' (ID #105919) and is 640 metres west of the curtilage of the 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' (ID #105891), also listed on the National Heritage List. No known items with local or state heritage significance are located within or near the study area.

A field inspection was conducted by OzArk Senior Archaeologist, Stephanie Rusden, on 6 March 2023 to verify the modelling predictions and to ground-truth levels of disturbance.

No Aboriginal objects or landforms with potential to contain subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits were identified within the study area.

It is considered unlikely that significant Aboriginal objects will be present across the study area. Therefore, should the proposal progress to a Development Application, an assessment of Aboriginal heritage in accordance with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* should be completed in the first instance.

The historic heritage inspection of the study area recorded multiple concrete slab foundations for potential offices, a workshop, entry checkpoint, and crib rooms buildings used by the workers of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, as well as one standing structure dating to the same period.

The study area is assessed as having moderate archaeological potential for historic archaeological deposits. While information could be gathered from the archaeological deposits related to the day-to-day living conditions during the 1960s, it is unlikely that a test excavation would encounter any deposits of local, state, or national heritage significance.

It is also considered unlikely that the proposal will directly or indirectly impact the values of the 'Snowy Mountain Scheme' and the 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' listings. As

such, it is not considered that the proposal would require a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

However, the proposal will have to ensure that it is sympathetic to the identified values of both listed items and complies with the Snowy Valley Council Development Control Plan (2019).

To ensure that the national heritage values of 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' (ID #105919) and 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' (ID #105891) are considered when finalised plans for the proposal are known, a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) will be prepared at the time of the Development Application. The SOHI will consider both the results of this historic heritage assessment, as well as impacts to identified remnant foundations and the structure within the study area that share an association with the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' listing.

It is recommended that the proposal be designed in a manner that either avoids or incorporates these historical features into its design (such as leaving items in situ in open areas with appropriate interpretation). However, if it is justifiable that all or some of the features be removed, the SOHI will provide a methodology for the archival recording of the features so that a record exists of the former workers' camp.

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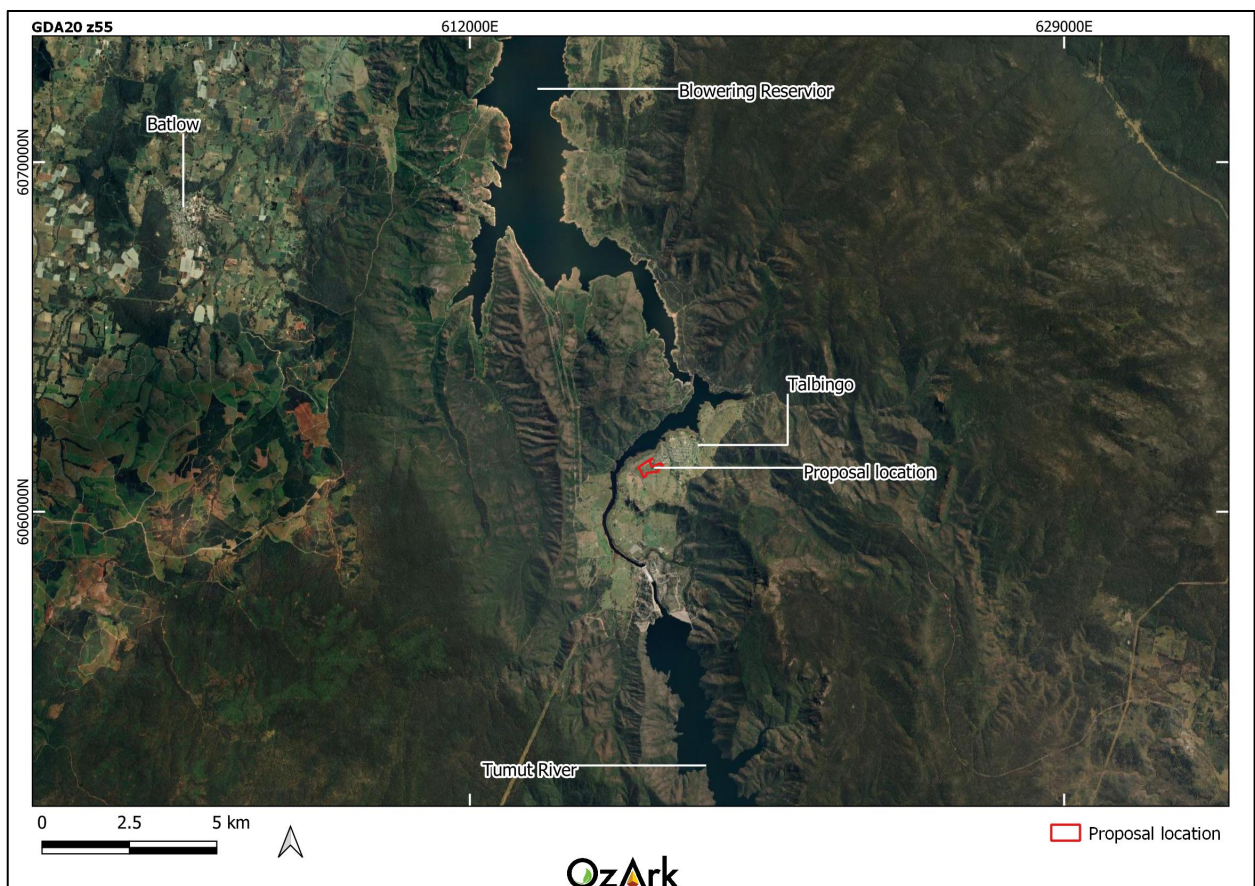
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREAMBLE

Harwood Architects is developing a concept masterplan on behalf of Ironstone Development Group Pty Ltd and Liberty Homes Pty Ltd as part of the Kele Group (the proponent) for Lot 35 DP878862 located on Miles Franklin Drive at Talbingo, NSW (**Figure 1-1**). The masterplan considers a development comprising mixed-use public and residential areas (the proposal). The plans for the proposal are only at a concept stage and the masterplan considers the entire lot where impacts will be located.

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged to complete a preliminary Aboriginal and historic heritage assessment for the masterplan to inform the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE).

Figure 1-1: Map showing the location of the proposal.



1.2 BACKGROUND

A previous “*Preliminary Heritage Assessment for a Development Proposal for the Talbingo Village, Southern New South Wales*” was prepared by Australian Archaeological Survey Consultants Pty Ltd (AASC) in April 2006 for the proposal. However, Snowy Valley Council has requested that an updated report be prepared as part of the SEE.

AASC (2006) completed a field inspection as part of their assessment. No Aboriginal sites were identified; however, the ground surface visibility (GSV) was described low. AASC (2016) concluded that only the western portion of the assessed area contained potential for sub-surface deposits.

The remains of several buildings associated with the Snowy Mountains Scheme were identified by AASC across the assessment area, likely dating to the 1960s when the original township was flooded by Jourama Dam (also referred to as Jourama Pondage).

1.3 PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

The proposal is for a master planned development at Lot 35 DP878862 comprising mixed-use development which also incorporates a tourist facility (a spa hotel), medium density mixed use precinct, and a detached dwelling residential area with extensive landscaping (**Figure 1-2** and **Figure 1-3**). A preliminary concept plan of subdivision is also proposed that aligns with the proposed land uses.

The proposal will be assessed under Division 4.4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act).

Future proposals aligning with the proposed concept masterplan will need to be subject to further detailed Development Applications.

Figure 1-2: Concept masterplan for Lot 35 DP878862.

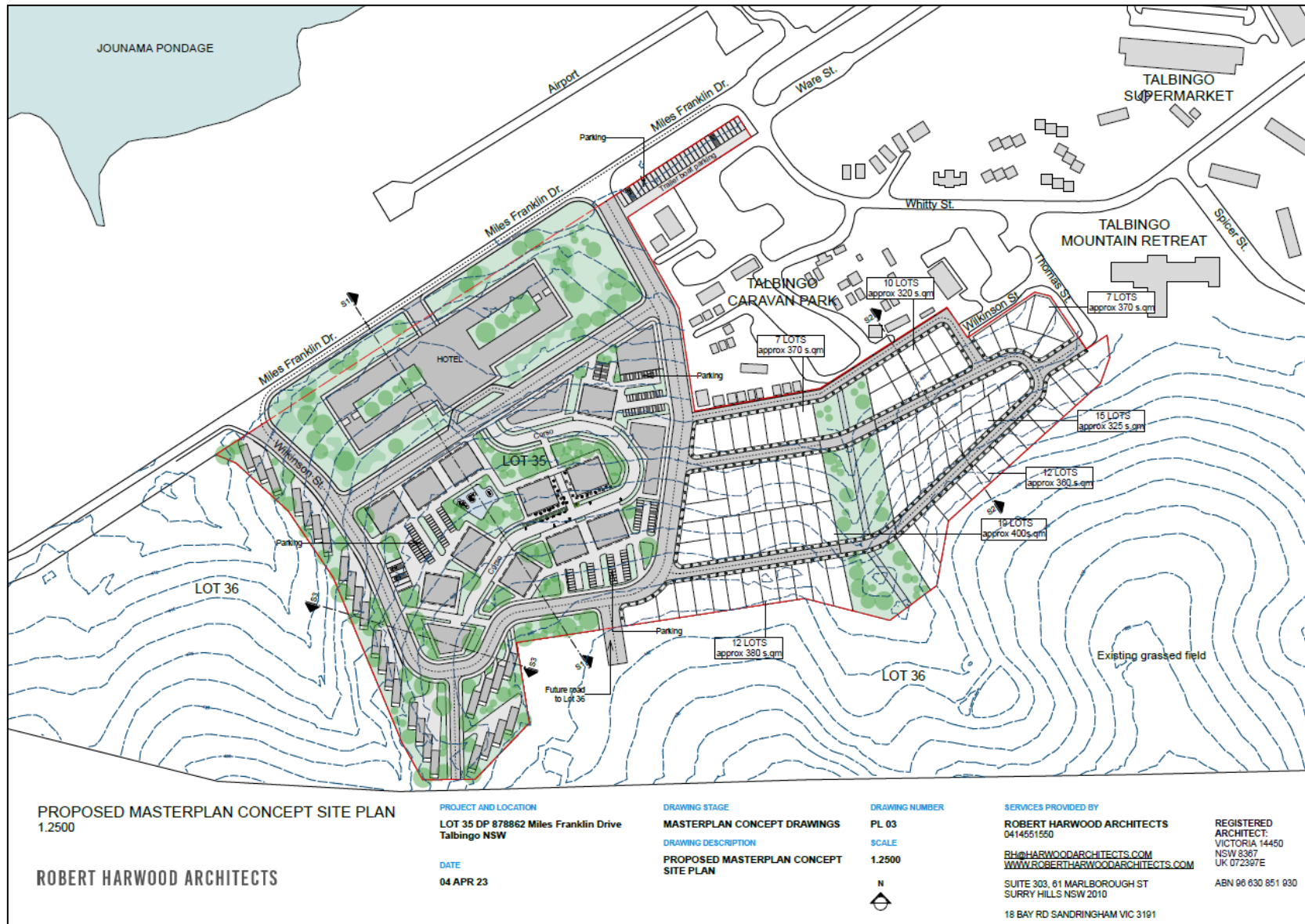
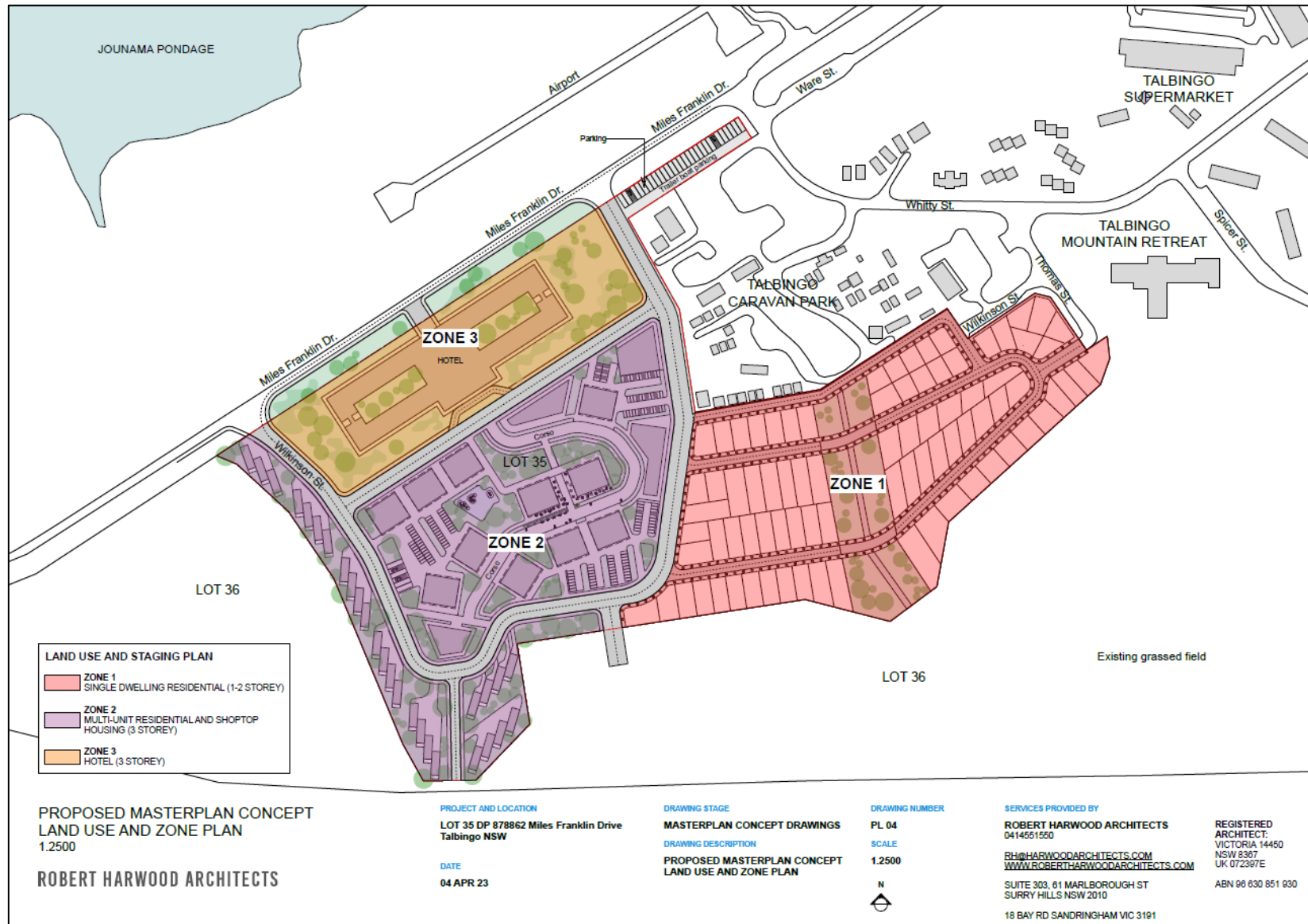


Figure 1-3: Land use and staging plan.

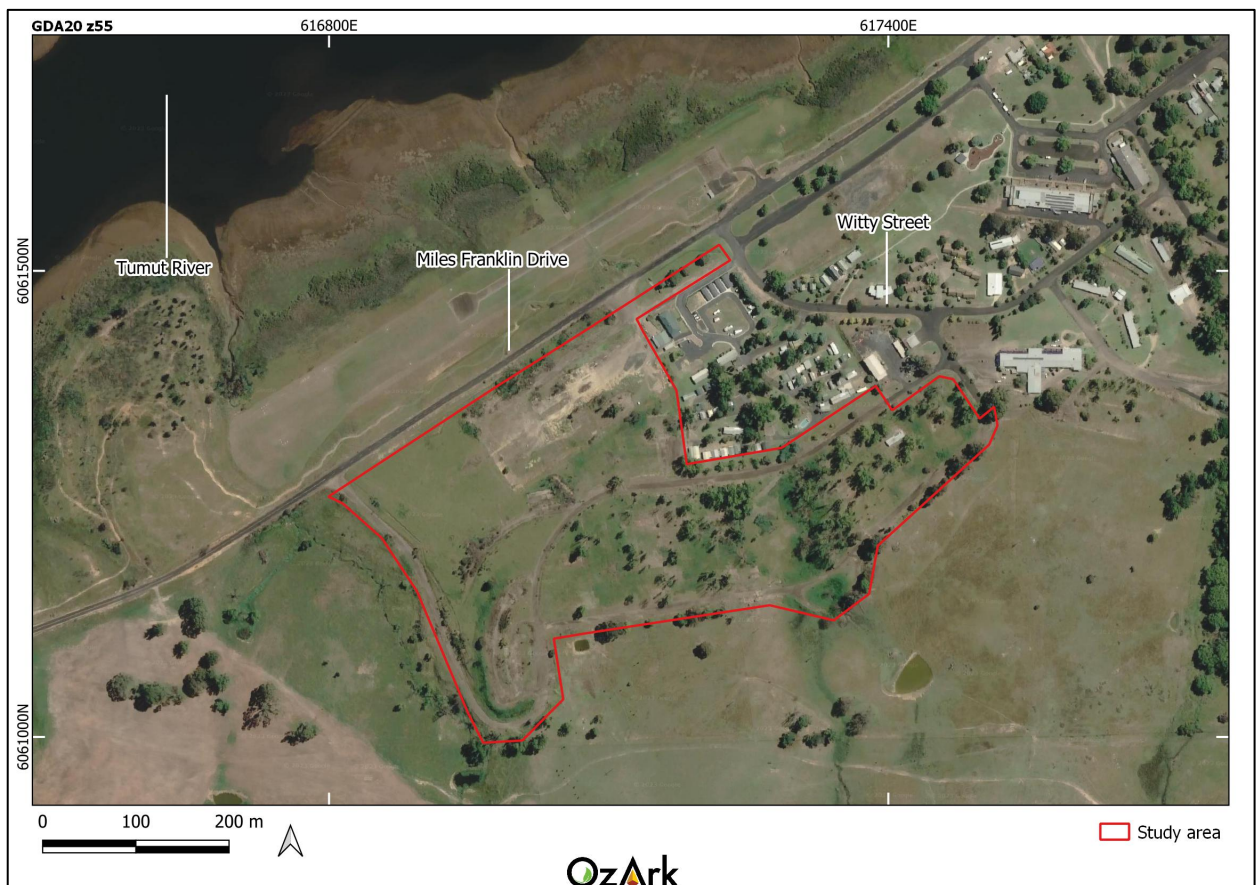


1.4 STUDY AREA

The study area encompasses 15.25 hectares (ha) of land and includes all of Lot 35 DP878862, located on Miles Franklin Drive at Talbingo (**Figure 1-4**). It is zoned 'RU5 Village' under the Tumut Local Environmental Plan 2012 (TLEP 2012) and is located within the Snowy Valleys Council Local Government Area (LGA).

The study area is south of the Talbingo Airstrip and Jounama Pondage/Tumut River and west of the Talbingo Tourist Park. The study area comprises a moderately steep slope which falls to the north towards the Tumut River. It is currently using for grazing purposes (mostly the western portion) and was formerly used for temporary accommodation and workshops during the period of the Snowy Mountains Scheme construction. Scattered remnant native trees and exotic tree species occur across the study area.

Figure 1-4: Aerial showing the study area.



1.5 ASSESSMENT APPROACH

The desktop investigation for the study area used the following approach:

- Undertaking searches of historic and Aboriginal heritage databases
- Mapping the database search results in relation to the study area
- Reviewing the regional and local archaeological context and history of the study area

- Using aerial imagery and existing modelling data to assess distance to water, landforms and levels of disturbance and locate previous structures.

A reconnaissance visit has also been completed to verify the modelling predictions and conclusions of this report.

1.6 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1.6.1 The National Heritage List

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water establishes the National Heritage list.

The EPBC Act enhances the management and protection of Australia's heritage places, including World Heritage properties. It provides for the listing of natural, historic, or Indigenous places that are of outstanding national heritage value to the Australian nation as well as heritage places on Commonwealth lands and waters or under Australian Government control.

Once a heritage place is listed under the EPBC Act, special requirements come into force to ensure that the values of the place will be protected and conserved for future generations. The EPBC Act provides for the preparation of management plans which set out the significant heritage aspects of the place and how the values of the site will be managed.

National heritage listing does not preclude new development, provided it does not have a significant impact on the heritage values of the place. New development may enhance the heritage values of a place or item, especially where the heritage significance of a place derives from its continued use. New development must be carefully planned and assessed on an individual basis.

1.6.2 Heritage Act 1977

Natural, cultural, and built heritage is protected in NSW under the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act). The Act is administered by the Heritage NSW, a state government agency within the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE).

The Act creates the State Heritage Register (SHR) which provides permanent protection for a heritage item or place. Items of state heritage significance are defined as a place, building, work, relic, moveable object, or precinct which is of historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological or natural significance to the state (Section 4A(1) of the Act). The effect of SHR listing is that a person cannot damage, destroy, alter, or move an item, building or land without approval from the Heritage Council of NSW (the Heritage Council).

The Heritage Council, constituted under the Heritage Act, is appointed by the Minister responsible for administering the Heritage Act and is tasked with the protection of historic heritage in NSW.

The Heritage Council reflects a cross-section of community, government and conservation expertise with Heritage NSW being the operational arm of the Heritage Council.

The 2001 *NSW Heritage Manual Update*, published by the NSW Heritage Office (now Heritage NSW) provides guidelines for 'Assessing Heritage Significance'. The manual includes specific criteria for assessing heritage significance.

1.6.2.1 Protection of archaeological deposits

The Heritage Act gives statutory protection to relics that form part of historical archaeological deposits. Amendments to the Heritage Act made in 2009 defined an archaeological 'relic' under the Act as an item with state or local heritage significance. The definition of a 'relic' is not determined by the age of the item.

Sections 139–145 of the Heritage Act prevents the excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of discovering, exposing, or moving a relic, except in accordance with an excavation permit issued by the Council. The level of heritage significance of an item determines the excavation permit necessary for the works. The practical application of this is that is not necessary to apply for exemptions if an item has been assessed as having no heritage significance.

Section 139 prohibits the excavating or disturbing of land leading to a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged, or destroyed. To excavate and disturb land in the context of the Heritage Act is associated with the activity of digging or unearthing. The new definition also indicates that the 'relic' being exposed or disturbed is considered significant (or has the potential to be significant) at the time of its excavation, removal, or destruction.

A S139 (4) exception is for minor works that have minimal impact on relics of local heritage significance or for archaeological testing or monitoring of relics of local heritage significance. Under this scenario, therefore, there are opportunities to assess the presence of relics to ascertain if more detailed excavation is warranted.

If any works is likely to contain archaeological relics of state heritage significance or have a major impact on relics of local heritage significance, a Section 140 excavation permit under the Heritage Act. Any works that require a Section 140 excavation permit will require an archaeological assessment, research design and methodology that details the proposed archaeological work and an archaeologist present during any excavation works.

1.6.3 State Agency Heritage Registers

State agencies and authorities in NSW are required to keep a register of heritage places under their management under Section 170 of the Act. The s170 Heritage and Conservation Registers are held in the Heritage NSW's State Heritage Inventory (SHI), a database of statutory listed heritage items in NSW.

1.6.4 TLEP 2012

The TLEP 2012 (still current although the former Tumut Shire Council is now merged with the Snowy Valleys Council) has been prepared in accordance with the State Government's Standard Instrument LEP and generally transfers the provisions in the current LEPs into the Standard Instrument LEP template.

The LEP identifies and protects heritage conservation areas and listed buildings/items, identifies environmentally sensitive land, and prescribes land use practices. Heritage items (if any) are listed and described in Schedule 5. Heritage conservation areas are shown on the Heritage Map as well as being described in Schedule 5.

Clause 5.10 of the TLEP provides stipulations how heritage is to be conserved. The objectives of Clause 1 are particularly pertinent to this report and are as follows:

- a) To conserve the environmental heritage of Snowy River
- b) To conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings, and views
- c) To conserve archaeological sites
- d) To conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development on the following land, require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned:

- a) On land on which a heritage item is located, or
- b) On land that is within a heritage conservation area, or
- c) On land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

Section 5.10 of the TLEP also sets out instances where development consent is not required:

- (a) the applicant has notified the consent authority of the proposed development and the consent authority has advised the applicant in writing before any work is carried out that it is satisfied that the proposed development:
 - (i) is of a minor nature or is for the maintenance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place of heritage significance or archaeological site or a building, work, relic, tree, or place within the heritage conservation area, and
 - (ii) would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place, archaeological site or heritage conservation area.

1.6.5 Snowy Valleys Council Development Control Plans

The Development Control Plans (DCPs) contain guidelines affecting development proposals within the Snowy Valleys Council LGA. The aim of the DCP is to encourage and facilitate a high standard of design, minimise land use conflicts and clearly set out the processes, procedures and responsibilities of applicants and Council. It also seeks to protect heritage significance, encourage innovative design, and ensure developments are economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

2.1 TOPOGRAPHY

The study area is in the South Western Slopes Bioregion. The overall topography of the bioregion includes a large area of foothills and ranges comprising the western fall of the Great Dividing Range to the edge of the neighbouring bioregion (NPWS 2003). According to Mitchell landscapes (2002) the entirety of the study area is situated within the Pinbeyan – Ravine landscape unit, characterised by ranges with prominent bluffs to 120 metres (m) and plateau tops. Elevation ranges from 500 to 1400 m with local relief of 700 m.

In general, the study area consists of moderately steep slope which recedes north towards the Tumut River (**Figure 2-1**). The elevation ranges from 435 m in the south, down to 400 m in the north.

Figure 2-1: Topography of the study area.



2.2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

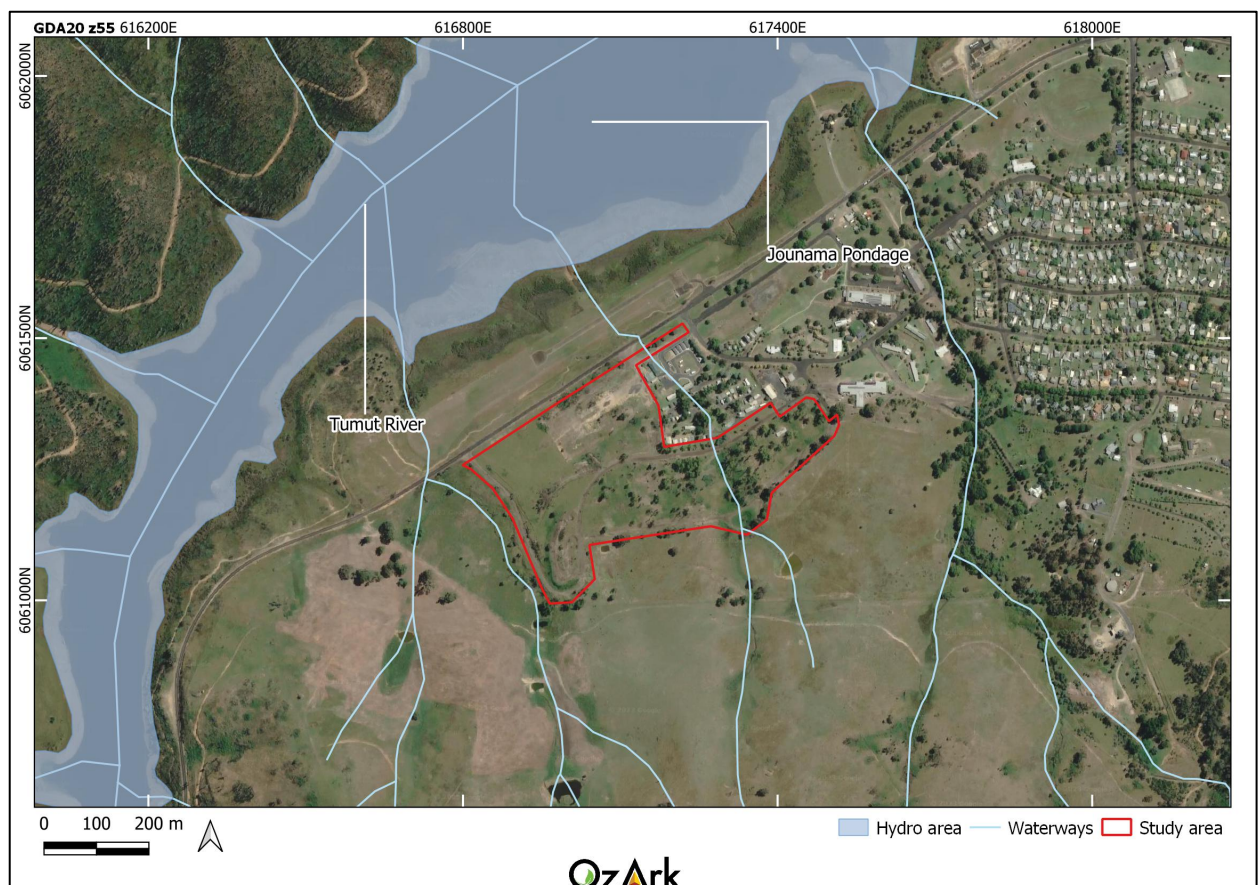
The geology of the Pinbeyan – Ravine landscape unit consists of Upper Devonian rhyolite, andesitic basalt, tuff, sandstone, conglomerate, and siltstone (Mitchell 2022:85).

Soils across lower and moderate slopes of the Pinbeyan – Ravine landscape unit consist of rubbly brown sandy loam grading to red-brown texture-contrast soils (Mitchell 2022:85). Based on the nature of the landform within the study area, soils are expected to be highly eroded.

2.3 HYDROLOGY

There are no named waterways within the study area (**Figure 2-2**). One unnamed drainage line intersects the eastern portion of the study area and drains north into the Tumut River. The portion of Tumut River located to the north of the study area now forms part of the Jounama Pondage which was completed in 1968 as part of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The original alignment of the Tumut River was 630 m north of the study area.

Figure 2-2: Hydrology of the study area.



2.4 HISTORICAL LAND USE AND DISTURBANCES

The study area was formerly a temporary accommodation facility and office/workshop area for the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Historical aerial imagery from 1979 shows the extent of buildings and facilities formerly present within the study area and the widespread nature of the disturbance

the construction of these features caused (**Figure 2-3**). The preliminary assessment completed by AASC in 2006 records that the foundations of several of these buildings and roads are still extant across the study area.

Figure 2-3: 1979 aerial overlay of the study area.



3 ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1 ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THE STUDY AREA

The major Aboriginal groups that traditionally occupied the region were the Walbanga in the centre, Ngarigo in the centre and southern parts of the bioregion, and Ngunawal and Gandangara in the north of the bioregion (NSW HO and DUAP 1996). Other groups were the Walgal towards the west of the bioregion near the northern part of Kosciuszko National Park, and the Bidawal, a coastal group whose homeland extended inland to the south of Bombala. These inland groups were more nomadic than the coastal groups, perhaps because of the less plentiful food supply away from the coast. They relied on the continuous supply of vegetables available in the tablelands. Spring, summer, and autumn yielded the tubers of the yam daisy, wattle-seeds were plentiful in July and August, and orchid tubers were consumed in August and September (NSW HO and DUAP 1996). Fish and crayfish were taken from the rivers from September to May, while possums and larger grazing animals were hunted throughout the year.

Journals from early European exploration of the Tumut Valley provides a small number of references to fleeting observations of Aboriginal groups and their camps (Flood 1980:288–9). Sturt's observations led him to suggest that the Tumut Valley was 'better peopled' than those of the Murrumbidgee (Sturt 1833 in Flood 1980:309). Hume and Hovel mention frequently encountering Aboriginal huts and camps within the Tumut Valley (Bland 1831:22 in Flood 1980:57).

The Aboriginal groups around the centre of the bioregion made an annual pilgrimage in December and January to the Bogong Mountains and Snowy Mountains where the men of various groups participated in feasts of roasted bogong moths (*Agrotis infusa*) high on the rocky granite outcrops of the mountains.

The nomadic lifestyle of the Aboriginal people, so dependent on the land of the region, was disrupted by the arrival British settlers in the 1820s. From this time on, there were reports of diminishing water, fish, and native animals so important to the Aboriginal diet (NSW HO and DUAP 1996). Some Aboriginal people adapted to the change by taking on work for the new settlers such as washing sheep, cutting bark, and picking potatoes; while others chose to remain on the land and continue hunting.

The new settlers not only changed the lifestyle of Aboriginal people, but also their health which was affected by exotic diseases which devastated many populations. The bogong moth ceremonies eased, and intertribal meetings and corroborees also came to an end. Traditional Aboriginal life in the bioregion is considered to have ended by 1850 (NSW HO and DUAP 1996).

3.2 REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The mainland of Australia has been occupied by Aboriginal people for over 50,000 years. It is suggested that almost all areas of the continent were occupied by the Pleistocene period more than 12,000 years ago. However, it can be difficult to pinpoint when the occupation of the Snowy Mountains region by Aboriginal people began due to a range of environmental and behavioural factors such as low population densities and poor preservation of archaeological material, however, Pleistocene dates are known from the high country. Despite the difficulties of establishing reliable dating methods, this suite of dated sites has gradually established a relative continuity in the presence of people in and along routes into the high country beginning in the terminal Pleistocene, continuing through the early to mid-Holocene, and into the recent past.

To date very little archaeological survey or assessment has been undertaken in the Tumut region. Flood (1980) made some tentative conclusions regarding areas of seasonal occupation based on limited field data. Flood (1980:179) noted the existence of Aboriginal camp sites near the town of Tumut, at Lacmalac on the Lower Goobarragandra River, and a very large site on Yallowin Creek, now covered by the Blowering Reservoir. Based on the mild climate and riverine resources of the Tumut Valley, and the ethnohistoric references to the Aboriginal population, Flood presumed that Aboriginal occupation in this area would be dense (1980:179). She made the initial observation, based on limited site data, that most sites in the valley occurred below about 400 m above sea level and speculated that the relatively frost-free lower valley may have been the 'winter quarters' of the Walgalu tribe, a tribal grouping that included the Ngarigo (1980:193–4).

Geering (1982) examined the distribution patterns of Aboriginal archaeological sites within the Snowy Mountain region (particularly the Snowy Valley) of Kosciuszko National Park. Fifty-eight Aboriginal sites were recorded, all artefact scatters. Geering found that Aboriginal occupation was concentrated along permanent, semi-permanent and intermittent water sources, but site concentrations fell rapidly with distance to water sources (Geering 1982:51). Most sites were located on well-drained, generally slightly sloping, or flat ground, with natural shelter from the prevailing winds. Geering suggests that larger sites represent base camps where people gathered for several days at a time, venturing out daily to hunt and forage for food. For the smaller, low-density sites, she argues they represent transient camps where tool maintenance took place whilst travelling at distance from the base camp. Little difference was found between the stone assemblages recorded to those documented by Flood and Chapman (these consisting predominately of flaked quartz, hornfels and silcrete, and basalt and sandstone ground-edge axes (Geering 1982:49).

Sams (1988:38) compiled information about Tumut Valley recordings of Aboriginal sites and found that the distribution of archaeological, historic, and sacred sites indicated 'full valley utilisation' meaning that occupation was not restricted to the valley floor.

Johnson (1992) compiled a range of archaeological data relating to Kosciuszko National Park. His aim was to identify a distribution pattern for sites and recognise areas lacking archaeological information. The survey recorded 80 previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites, all artefact scatters. Johnson concluded that approximately 85% of Aboriginal sites within Kosciuszko National Park are open sites, associated with stone artefact scatters on flat or gently sloping ground, positioned close to water, in sheltered areas to avoid winds and cold air drainage. Sites of higher density were identified at lower altitudes and become progressively sparse as altitude and terrain ruggedness increases (Johnson 1992:45). The most common materials were quartz, fine grained black chert, other chert, silcrete and coarse-grained volcanic materials.

An archaeological survey of the Mount Selwyn Resort area was conducted by Knight in March 2009. During this study, it was predicted that most of the resort area was likely to exhibit low archaeological potential due to the combination of exposed, steep, and rugged terrain and the high levels of disturbance (Knight 2009:5). However, some archaeological potential was seen to remain in certain zones including low gradient, sheltered points along the main ridge top (such as saddles), level, slightly elevated points overlooking the Bullock's Head and Clear Creek corridors (such as shoulders and spur toes) and local well-drained alluvial terraces or creek banks (Knight 2009:5). The prediction was basically supported by the results of the survey. While no archaeological finds were made in the more elevated and steeper resort terrain, an isolated artefact was found in the upper reaches of Pig Gully. The artefact was found on an elevated shoulder overlooking the upper reaches of Bullocks Head Creek (Knight 2009:10). This location appeared to represent a comparatively intact portion of the landscape adjacent to an alluvial valley that had otherwise been heavily impacted by 19th and early 20th century gold mining (Knight 2009: 6, 13-14). This result appeared to lend weight to the argument that lower elevation, lower gradient places overlooking creek valleys were attractive to Aboriginal land use.

3.2.1 Summary

The regional ethnographic and archaeological studies indicate that large groups of Aboriginal people occupied lower elevation landforms in the region all year round, particularly landforms near permanent or semi-permanent watercourses and well protected from prevailing winds. For short periods in summer, smaller groups ventured to the higher elevation mountainous areas, where the archaeological remains are limited to short-term occupation sites. The sites associated with these activities are usually open sites and artefact scatters. The predominant raw materials used for stone artefact manufacture are locally sourced quartz, silcrete and chert.

3.3 LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

A search of the Heritage NSW administered Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) on 6 March 2023 returned 42 results for Aboriginal sites within an approximate eight kilometres (km) (east–west) by 8 km (north–south) area around the study area (GDA Zone

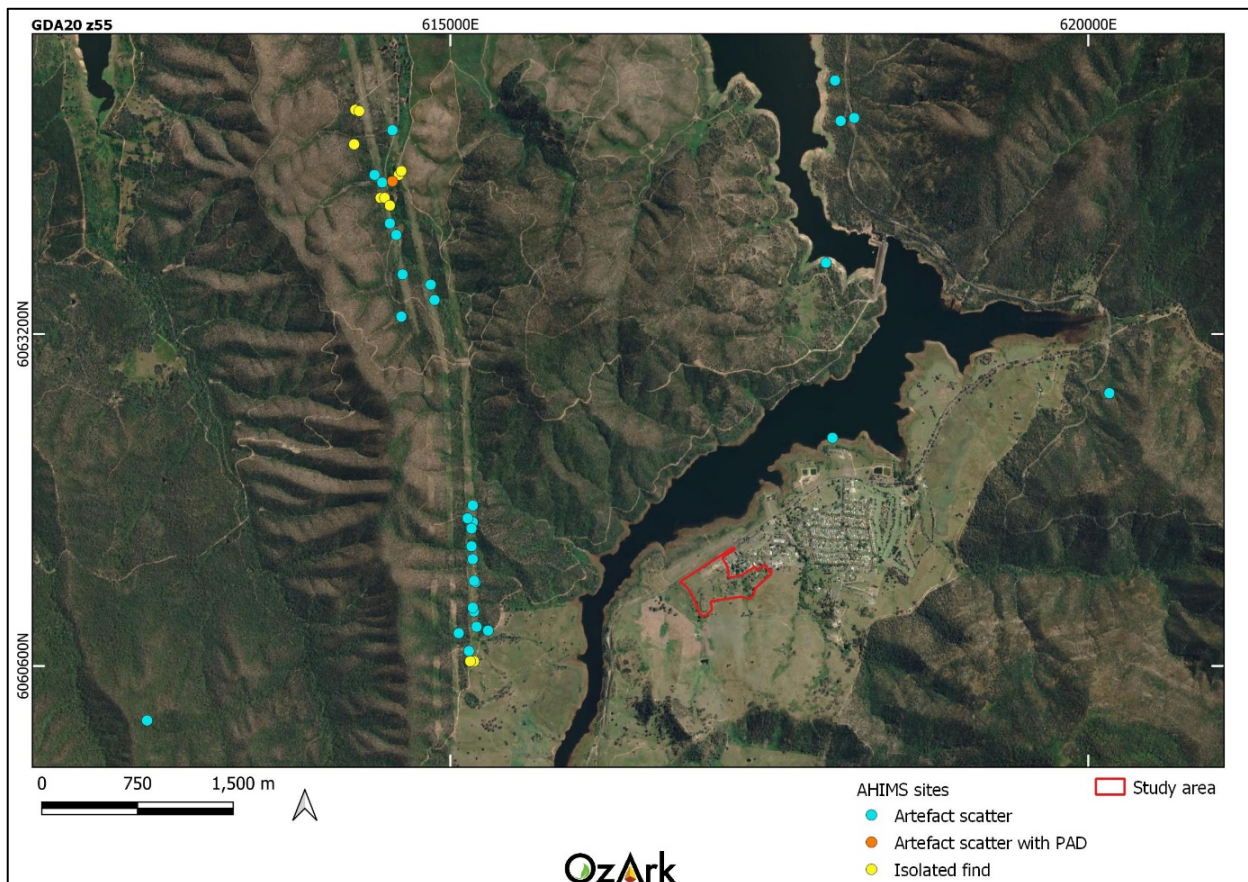
55 Eastings: 612618–620608, Northings: 6057397–6065397) (see **Table 3-1** for site types and frequencies and **Figure 3-1** for site locations).

Figure 3-1 shows there are no previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the study area. The closest recorded site is 56-6-0051 (KNP91-67 Talbingo/Jounama Pondage), an artefact scatter, is located 1.1 km northeast of the study area. A large cluster of sites to the west of the study area have been recorded due to assessments for three electricity transmission line (ETL) easements (**Figure 3-1**). These sites include isolated finds, artefact scatters and one artefact scatter with potential archaeological deposits (PAD) generally located on spurs or benches associated with localised ridgelines.

Table 3-1: AHIMS site types and frequencies

Site Type	Number	% Frequency
Artefact scatter	30	71.4
Isolated find	11	26.2
Artefact scatter with PAD	1	2.4
Total	42	100

Figure 3-1: AHIMS sites in relation to the study area.



3.4 PREDICTIVE MODELLING

Across Australia, numerous archaeological studies in widely varying environmental zones and contexts have demonstrated a high correlation between the permanence of a water source and the permanence and/or complexity of Aboriginal occupation. Site location is also affected by the availability of and/or accessibility to a range of other natural resources including plant and animal foods, stone and ochre resources and rock shelters, as well as by their general proximity to other sites/places of cultural/mythological significance. Consequently, sites tend to be found along permanent and ephemeral water sources, along access or trade routes, or in areas that have good flora/fauna resources and appropriate shelter.

In formulating a predictive model for Aboriginal archaeological site location within any landscape it is also necessary to consider post-depositional influences on Aboriginal material culture. In all but the best preservation conditions very little of the organic material culture remains of ancestral Aboriginal communities survives to the present. Generally, it is the more durable materials such as stone artefacts, stone hearths, shells, and some bones that remain preserved in the current landscape. Even these, however, may not be found in their original depositional context since these may be subject to either (a) the effects of wind and water erosion/transport, both over short- and long-time scales, or (b) the historical impacts associated with the introduction of European farming practices including grazing and cropping, land degradation, and farm related infrastructure. Scarred trees, due to their nature, may survive for up to several hundred years but rarely beyond.

3.4.1 Site types in the region of the study area

The site types listed in **Table 3-2** are present in the region of the study area. The likelihood of these sites being present in the study area is discussed in **Section 3.4.2**.

Table 3-2: Site types recorded in the region of the study area.

Site type	Site description
Isolated finds	May be indicative of random loss or deliberate discard of a single artefact, the remnant of a now dispersed and disturbed artefact scatter, or an otherwise obscured or subsurface artefact scatter. They may occur anywhere within the landscape but are more likely to occur in topographies where open artefact scatters typically occur.
Open artefact scatters	Artefact scatters are defined as two or more artefacts, not located within a rock shelter, and located no more than 50 m away from any other constituent artefact. This site type may occur almost anywhere that Aboriginal people have travelled and may be associated with hunting and gathering activities, short- or long-term camps, and the manufacture and maintenance of stone tools. Artefact scatters typically consist of surface scatters or sub-surface distributions of flaked stone discarded during the manufacture of tools but may also include other artefactual rock types such as hearth and anvil stones. Less commonly, artefact scatters may include archaeological stratigraphic features such as hearths and artefact concentrations which relate to activity areas. Artefact density can vary considerably between and across individual sites. Small ground exposures revealing low density scatters may be indicative of a background scatter rather than a spatially or temporally distinct artefact assemblage. These sites are classed as 'open', that is, occurring on the land surface unprotected by rock overhangs, and are sometimes referred to as 'open camp sites'. Artefact scatters are most likely to occur on level or low gradient contexts, along the crests of ridgelines and spurs, and elevated areas fringing watercourses or wetlands. Larger sites may be expected in association with permanent water sources.

Site type	Site description
	Topographies which afford effective through-access across, and relative to, the surrounding landscape, such as the open basal valley slopes and the valleys of creeks, will tend to contain more and larger sites, mostly camp sites evidenced by open artefact scatters.

3.4.2 Conclusion

Based on knowledge of the environmental contexts of the study area and a desktop review of the known local and regional archaeological record, the following predictions are made concerning the probability of landforms within the study area to contain Aboriginal objects (**Table 3-3**), and what types of sites may be present within the study area (**Table 3-4**).

Table 3-3: Likelihood of landforms within the study area to contain Aboriginal objects.

Survey Unit	Landform type	Likelihood to contain Aboriginal objects
1	Slopes	Slopes are a degrading landform, especially in the study area where vegetation removal, grazing and excavation has accelerated soil loss. As the slopes in the study area are moderate, the landform is unlikely to have been suitable for occupation. The exception is in localised flat benches, if they are present, where occupation may have been possible.

Table 3-4: Likelihood of certain site types being present in the study area.

Site type	Likelihood of being present in the study area
Isolated finds	As isolated finds can occur anywhere, particularly within disturbed contexts, it is predicted that this site type could be recorded within the study area.
Open artefact scatters	As the study area is within sloping landforms distant to permanent water, this site type is not predicted to be common. It is likely that any sites associated with such landforms are likely to have a low artefact density and a low complexity of tool types as the sites are either one-off events or only infrequently used. Sites are also likely to be located in a secondary context due to past land use.

4 HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

4.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS SCHEME

The Snowy Mountains Scheme is widely regarded as one of the engineering wonders of the world. The scheme is the most significant project to be undertaken as part of the post-war reconstruction program and has become an enduring symbol of Australia's identity as a multicultural, independent, and resourceful country.

Constructed over a 25-year period from 1949 to 1974, the Snowy Mountains Scheme is the largest public works undertaken in Australia. The project diverted water from the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Snowy, and Tumut Rivers to produce both hydro-electric power and water for irrigation. The infrastructure was designed to operate on a nearly continuous basis so that both the Electricity Commissions of New South Wales and Victoria could shut down older and less-efficient thermal stations (SMHA 1966). The hydro stations were constructed to require only a small number of personnel.

4.2 BRIEF HISTORY OF TALBINGO

The original settlement of Talbingo was flooded because of the construction of Jounama Dam, one of sixteen dams constructed as part of the Snowy Mountain Scheme. Five families were displaced when the dam was filled in 1968.

The original township of Talbingo consisted of a post office, the Talbingo Hotel, Talbingo Station and the associated Lampe Homestead, and holiday cabins. The Lampe Homestead was the birthplace of Miles Franklin, a writer described as of national importance in the National Heritage Listing of the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves (2007) for her books *Childhood at Brindabella* which reflects life in the Alps and *My Brilliant Career*. Talbingo Station belonged to Franklin's relatives, the Lampes, until the 1940s. The Lampe homestead initially functioned as a very profitable hotel during the Kiandra gold rush in the early 1860s until its end. Numerous bush ranging legends are associated with the homestead which are romanticised in various newspapers from 1895 to 1920 with titles such as "the incriminating stay-lace" (Smith Weekly 1919; The Australian Star 1895). Other newspaper reports advertised the holiday potential of Talbingo as an area with excellent trout fishing.

The township of Talbingo was relocated to its current location from where it serviced the Snowy Mountains Scheme like other alpine settlements such as Khancoban and Cabramurra. Talbingo contributed to the construction and operation of the Talbingo Dam and the Tumut 3 Power Station to the south, and Jounama Dam and Jounama Hydro Power Station to the north.

Initially scheduled for completion in 1971, the Talbingo Dam was one of the largest designed to contain approximately 14,480,000 cubic meters (m³) with an embankment of 161 m making it the highest dam in Australia and one of the largest in the world at the time. The dam was filled on

Thursday 6 May 1971 and began production at the beginning of 1972 (Canberra Times 1971). Jounama Dam is a much smaller dam in comparison, measuring 43.9 m and 554,500 m³ in volume (SMHA 1966).

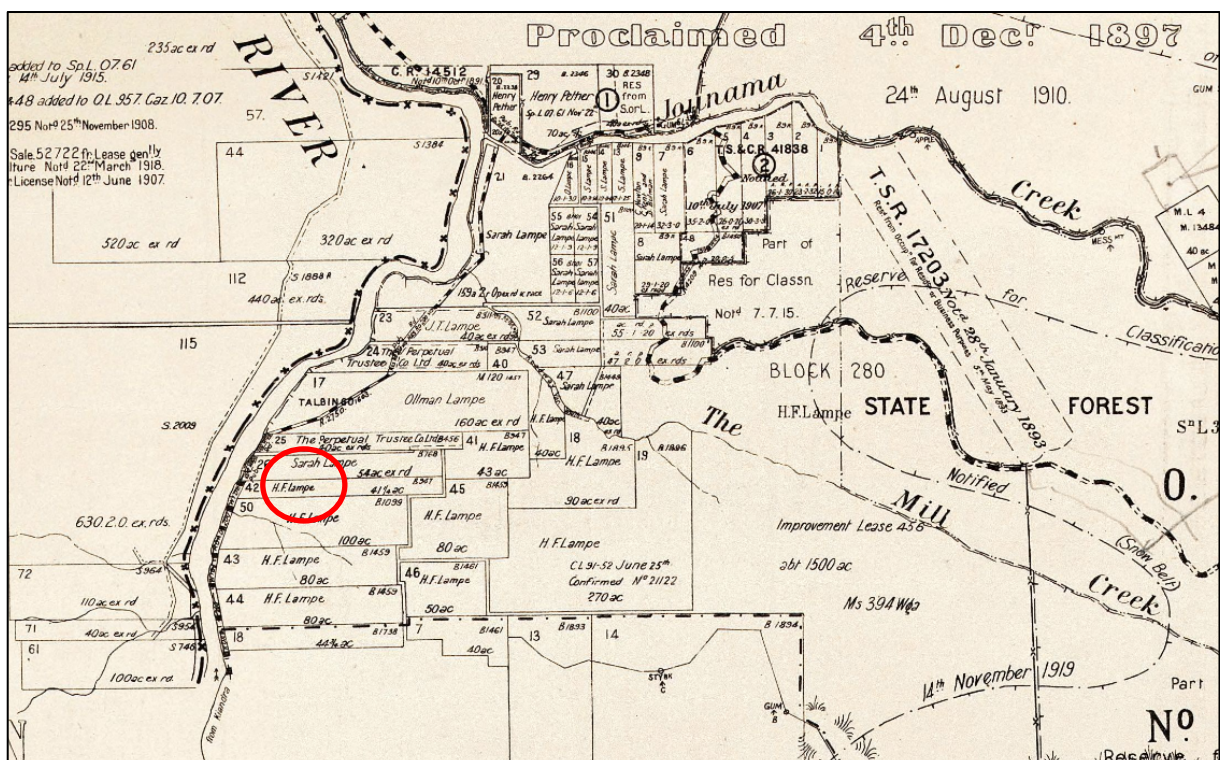
Talbingo grew rapidly while Tumut 3 Power Station was being constructed and now includes a service station, golf course, tourist park, country club, and a general store.

The township has a strong focus on tourism due to its appealing natural landscape as a holiday destination for fishing and outdoor activities including both water and snow skiing.

4.3 HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE STUDY AREA

A parish map dating to the 1920s shows that the study area formed part of the Talbingo Station, owned by the Lampe family (Sarah, Ollman and H.F. Lampe) (**Figure 4-1**). It was sometime after this and before the original town was flooded that the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority purchased the land as part of the Snowy Mountain Scheme. The land comprising the study area is currently vacant and has not been redeveloped since it was utilised for the Snowy Mountain Scheme.

Figure 4-1: 1920 parish map of Talbingo showing the approximate location of the study area (red circle)



4.4 STATUTORY LISTINGS NEAR THE STUDY AREA

A search of statutory heritage registers was undertaken to identify any recorded heritage items within the study area. Heritage databases were searched on 27 February 2023. The searches completed as part of this assessment were as follows:

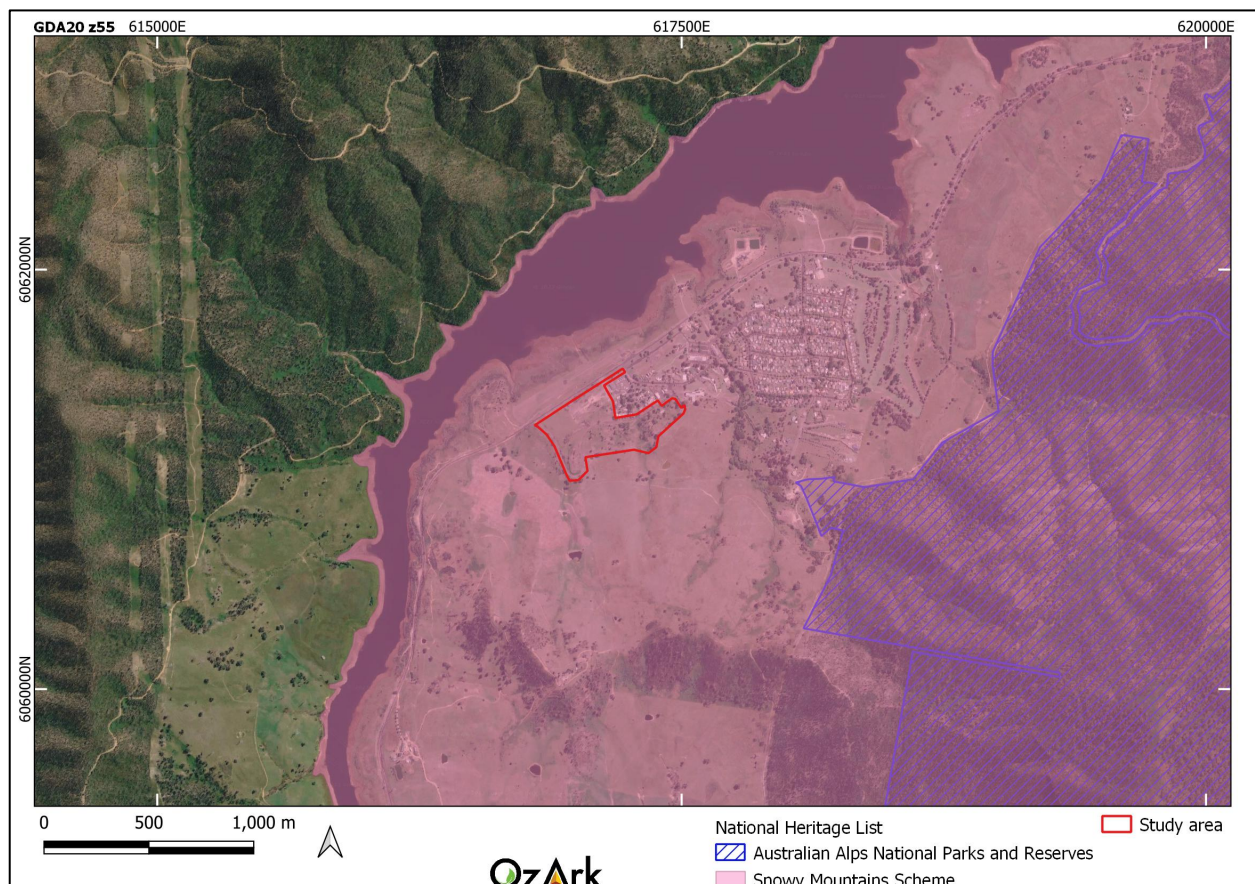
- The Australian Heritage Database administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water includes items on the National and Commonwealth Heritage lists
- The SHI (Heritage NSW) includes items on the SHR, and items listed by state agencies and local government
- Heritage schedule of TLEP for locally listed heritage items
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS).

4.4.1 National and Commonwealth heritage listing

A search of the Commonwealth Heritage List shows there are no items within or immediately adjacent to the study area. The closest item registered on the Commonwealth Heritage List is 'Mount Stromlo Observatory Point' located 70 km northeast of the study area.

The study area is located within the curtilage of one item listed on the National Heritage List, the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' (ID #105919) and is 640 m west of the curtilage of the 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' (ID #105891) (**Figure 4-2**).

Figure 4-2: National Heritage List items in relation to the study area.



4.4.1.1 Snowy Mountains Scheme

‘Snowy Mountains Scheme’ was registered on the National Heritage List on 14 October 2016.

The values of the ‘Snowy Mountains Scheme’ are detailed in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1: Assessed significance of the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Criterion	Assessed significance
a. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history	<p>The Snowy Mountains Scheme is an unprecedented civil engineering project stimulated by the will of the post-World War II Commonwealth Government to build a strong Australian economy. The scheme is the most significant project to be undertaken as part of the Post-war Reconstruction program and has become an enduring symbol of Australia's identity as a multicultural, independent, and resourceful country.</p> <p>The Snowy Mountains Scheme was a major impetus in the development of Australia's engineering expertise and industrial relations environment in the post-war period. The Scheme resulted in the development of innovative engineering technology and features that have been adopted as standard practices world-wide, such as the use of rock bolting to strengthen tunnel roofs.</p> <p>In the post-World War II period Australia was asked by the United Nations to accept 100,000 displaced Europeans. The Snowy Mountains Scheme was central to this process with over 100,000 people employed from thirty different countries, including approximately 60,000 European Displaced Persons and migrants employed directly by the Snowy Mountains Authority.</p> <p>The vast workforce that was required to build the Snowy Mountains Scheme required new management practices and the mechanisms implemented by Sir William Hudson permanently changed the nature of industrial relations and workplace conditions in Australia.</p> <p>The Scheme was hailed as a model of multicultural co-operation and integration and provided the opportunity for thousands of migrants to start a new life after the impacts of the war. The majority of those who came to build the Scheme stayed, becoming Australian citizens. These so-called New Australians, with their energy and enterprise, would change Australia's social and cultural skyline forever.</p> <p>The Snowy Mountains Scheme is a symbol of Australian achievement and is significant to the nation as the most important single development project related to the Commonwealth's post-war reconstruction program and the effort to build a new and strong nation.</p>
b. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history	<p>The Snowy Mountains Scheme is a rare example of an engineering program of enormous complexity and scale. Apart from the sheer scale of the site, the Snowy Mountains Scheme also has rare engineering features, such as underground power stations, very large earth-filled dams, and two examples of pumped storage capacity, using off-peak power to top-up supply reservoirs, which are the only known examples of their type in Australia.</p>
c. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history	<p>The Snowy Mountains Scheme is an exemplar as a currently operating, intact hydro-electric scheme that is the largest and most complex example of such schemes in Australia. The Scheme is comprised of significant and well-maintained components such as dams, power stations, aqueducts, and an extensive tunnel system.</p> <p>The Snowy Mountains Scheme retains all the characteristics of a complex hydro-electric and irrigation scheme with a very high degree of integrity. The technology and features that were used to construct the Snowy Mountains Scheme demonstrate the principal characteristics of a dual hydro-electric and irrigation scheme, with each component an excellent and representative example of its particular type.</p>
d. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or ii. class of Australia's natural or cultural environments; 	<p>The Snowy Mountains Scheme is widely regarded as one of the engineering wonders of the world. The Scheme is a major engineering feat that is recognised for its technical excellence and innovation. Because many techniques, including some that were developed specifically for the Scheme, had not been used in Australia before, the project had enormous impact on the development in Australia of surveying, hydrology, electrical and civil engineering, and construction techniques.</p>
f. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or	<p>The Snowy Mountains Scheme is widely regarded as one of the engineering wonders of the world. The Scheme is a major engineering feat that is recognised for its technical excellence and innovation. Because many techniques, including some that were developed specifically for the Scheme, had not been used in Australia before, the project had enormous impact on the development in Australia of surveying, hydrology, electrical and civil engineering, and construction techniques.</p>

Criterion	Assessed significance
technical achievement at a particular period	
g. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons	The Snowy Mountains Scheme is strongly symbolic for large parts of the Australian community, and is held in special regard, especially by the thousands of former Snowy workers and their families who lived and worked there.
h. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history	<p>The Scheme is significant for the association with Sir William Hudson and Olav Olsen. Hudson, the 'Father of the Snowy', was Commissioner of the Snowy Mountains Authority from 1949-67 and was instrumental in the success of the Scheme as well as the introduction of revolutionary work practices in Australia.</p> <p>Olsen was originally on the Hydro-electric Sub-committee of the Commonwealth-States Technical Committee and was then employed as the Chief Investigating Engineer for the Snowy Mountain Authority. Olsen is credited for the design of many of the innovative practices in engineering that were developed during for the scheme, as well as the general conception of the Snowy Mountains Scheme as a dual irrigation and hydro-electric facility.</p>

4.4.1.2 Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves

'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' was registered on the National Heritage List on 7 November 2008.

The values of the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' are detailed in **Table 4-2**.

Table 4-2: Assessed significance of the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves.

Criterion	Assessed significance
a. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history	The Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves are part of a unique Australian mountainous region. Human interaction with the region has been distinctive in its response to the challenges and opportunities presented by this unique environment.
b. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history	<p>Landscape and Topography</p> <p>The high altitudes of the plateaus and peaks in the AANP are prominent in a continent with an average elevation of only 330 metres above sea level. The AANP includes most of continental Australia's peaks over 1,700 metres and all of those over 1,900 metres. These high peaks and plateaus contain the vast majority of alpine and sub-alpine environments in Australia. The AANP experiences extensive snow coverage on a seasonal basis, and its glacial lakes are the only wetlands on the Australian mainland covered by ice sheets in winter. The high-altitude landscape of the AANP has outstanding heritage value to the nation for its topographic heights, uncommon alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems and glacial lakes. (AALC 2005; DEC 2006; Geoscience Australia 2007).</p> <p>Glacial and Periglacial Features</p> <p>Continental Australia and its southern territorial islands have experienced periods of historic glaciation, with current snow and ice coverage limited to the highest peaks and altitudes. On mainland Australia, the AANP preserves a concentration of glacial and periglacial features without comparison from the ice ages of the late Quaternary Period. The Kosciuszko Plateau is unique in mainland Australia as the only place irrefutably exhibiting landforms shaped by Late Pleistocene glaciers during a series of glacier advances known as the Late Kosciuszko Glaciation. The active and fossil periglacial landforms of the AANP include blockstreams and solifluction features (solifluction is the gradual movement of waterlogged soil down a slope, especially where percolation is prevented by a frozen substrate). They are the most striking and extensive in mainland Australia and demonstrate the widespread effects of cold climate in the Quaternary, mild climate in the Holocene and the absence of intensive Pleistocene ice modification of the elevated landscape of the Victorian and ACT Alps. Therefore the AANP has outstanding heritage value to the nation for containing uncommon glacial and periglacial features (Percival 1985; Yeates 2001; Barrows et al. 2001).</p> <p>Fossils</p> <p>The Mt Howitt fish fossil site is globally rare because it preserves a diverse array of fossil fish in uncommon detail at all stages of their lives. It is unique nationally in providing a snapshot of a complete freshwater vertebrate community from the past, and for yielding fossils from all stages of growth of a species, from tiny fish larvae to adult fish, and therefore has outstanding</p>

Criterion	Assessed significance
	<p>heritage value to the nation because of its preservation of an uncommon aspect of Australia's natural history (Long 2002; Cook ed. 2007).</p> <p>Alpine and Sub-alpine Ecosystems</p> <p>The AANP has outstanding heritage significance to the nation for possessing extremely uncommon aspects of Australia's natural history. Alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems are uncommon in the generally arid and warm climate of Australia. The distribution of cold-climate species on the mainland retreated to the higher altitudes of the Alps in the Late Pleistocene as conditions began to warm up. The AANP contains most of the alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems on mainland Australia, supporting flora and fauna species that have evolved to the harsh conditions of the high altitudes. Many of these species are endemic to the Alps and are found nowhere else in Australia. The bog and fen groundwater communities are supported by organic soils and contain exceptional water retention properties. These communities play an integral role in ecosystem function by regulating the slow release of water from saturated peatbeds to the surrounding alpine humus soils, streams and other alpine communities (Good 1995; AALC 2006b).</p> <p>Eucalypt Flora Community</p> <p>The AANP provides an outstanding example of the adaptability of a plant genus, the genus Eucalyptus, along a steep topographical transect. The eucalypts dominate the AANP vegetation from the lowlands to as high as the alpine region, where the snow gum (<i>E. pauciflora</i>) defines the treeline. Much of the highest land in Australia occurs within the AANP, which also demonstrates very large topographical variations, which in turn is reflected in the high diversity of eucalypt species replacing each other along the altitudinal and climatic gradient (Costin 1988; Kirkpatrick 1994; ISC 2004; ANHAT 2007).</p>
<p>d. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or ii. class of Australia's natural or cultural environments; 	<p>North-East Kosciuszko Pastoral Landscape</p> <p>The landscape is outstanding for demonstrating the use of mountain resources, namely the summer grasses and herbfields. As a relict landscape of past grazing leases it conveys the principal characteristics of transhumance and permanent pastoralism in a remote environment, these being large areas of open grassy landscapes between timbered ridges and hills, stockman's huts, homestead complexes, stockyards and stock routes. The grasslands with swathes of pioneer shrubs include the Kiandra landscape, Boggy Plain, Nungar Plain, Gulf Plain, Wild Horse Plain, Tantangara Plain, Dairymans Plain, Currango Plain, Long Plain, Cooleman Plain, Kellys Plain, Blanket Plain, Peppercorn and Pockets Saddle (KHA 2008). Homestead buildings include Cooinbil and Old Currango and the modest homestead complexes of Currango and Coolamine with additional features including exotic plantings, sheds, barns, and workers' accommodation. Former stock routes, now fire trails, include the Port Philip Fire and Murrays Gap Fire Trails. Located in the former grazing leases are stockman's huts, Bill Jones Hut, Circuits Hut, Gavels Hut, Hains Hut, Hainsworth Hut, Millers Hut, Oldfields Hut, Pedens Hut, Pockets Hut, Townsends Lodge, Gavels Hut, Long Plain Hut, Gooandra Hut, Schofields Hut, and Witzes Hut (KHA 2008), which in their use and re-use of available materials typify a lifestyle and vernacular bush building technology using hand tools. The array of characteristics relate to over a century of alpine grazing.</p>
<p>e. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group</p>	<p>The AANP is a powerful, spectacular, and distinctive landscape highly valued by the Australian community. The mountain vistas, including distinctive range-upon-range panoramas, snow covered crests, slopes and valleys, alpine streams and rivers, natural and artificial lakes, the snow-clad eucalypts and the high plain grasslands, summer alpine wildflowers, forests and natural sounds evoke strong aesthetic responses. Much of the terrain of the AANP is highly valued for its remoteness, and naturalness, including views to and from the region that capture snow clad ranges and mountain silhouettes against clear skies as well as expansive views of natural landscapes from the high points of the Alps.</p> <p>The upper Snowy River and Snowy Gorge, Mount Buffalo, the Kosciuszko Main Range, Lake Tali Karng, Dandongadale Falls the peaks and ridges between and including Mt Cobbler, Mt Howitt and the Bluff, and other high peaks, ridgelines, granite outcrops and escarpments are examples of dramatic awe-inspiring landscapes. Recreational pursuits in these landscapes are enhanced by aesthetic appreciation of their wild and natural quality.</p> <p>Snow-covered eucalypts, huts in mountain settings and mountain landscapes are distinctive Australian images captured by numerous artists and photographers. The mountain landscapes have inspired poets, painters, writers, musicians, and film makers.</p>
<p>g. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons</p>	<p>The Australian Alps have a special association with the Australian community because of their unique landscapes, the possibility of experiencing remoteness and as the only opportunity for broad-scale snow recreation in Australia. The AANP is widely recognised by Australians as the 'high country' and many community groups have a special association with the AANP for social and cultural reasons.</p> <p>Mount Kosciuszko is an iconic feature for all Australians and visited by over 100,000 people each year. It was named by the explorer Paul Edmund Strzelecki after the Polish freedom fighter, General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, in appreciation of freedom and a free people, an association that is highly valued by Australia's Polish community.</p> <p>The pioneering history of the high country is valued as an important part of the construction of the Australian identity featuring in myths, legends and literature. The ballad of The Man from Snowy River epitomises horsemanship undertaken historically in the rugged landscape. The stories, legends and myths of the mountains and mountain lifestyles have been romanticised in</p>

Criterion	Assessed significance
	<p>books, films, songs, and television series and many such as the Elyne Mitchell's Silver Brumby novels are part of Australia's national identity.</p> <p>The mountain huts of the AANP constructed for grazing, mining and recreation are valued by communities as a physical expression of the cultural history of the region. They have special associations with many groups, such as mountain cattlemen, skiers and bushwalkers but particularly with huts associations that have been maintaining mountain huts and associated vernacular building skills for over 30 years.</p>
h. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history	<p>Baron Ferdinand von Mueller is highly recognised nationally and internationally for his contribution to Australian botany, particularly his extensive and thorough botanical collections of the Australian Alps undertaken in several botanical collecting trips on horseback, each of several weeks' or months' duration (Costin et al. 1979).</p> <p>Eugen von Guerard was a significant nineteenth century artist producing a prolific record of Australian landscapes. His 1863 painting the North-east view from the northern top of Mount Kosciusko is regarded as one of his finest artistically and is in Australia's national collection.</p> <p>Through his ballad The Man from Snowy River, Andrew Barton 'Banjo' Paterson captured the imagination of the Australian people, stimulating a passion for the High Country and the way of life associated with the mountains. His iconic ballad has had a lasting influence on Australians.</p> <p>The writer Elyne Mitchell and poet David Campbell lived near the mountains and their strong association with the place is expressed in much of their nationally important literary works.</p>

4.4.2 State Heritage Inventory

A search of the SHI shows there are no items with state heritage significance within the study area or immediately adjacent or any items listed on the s170 register.

The closest registered item with state heritage significance is SHR #01470 'Tumut Plains Road' located 30 km north of the study area.

4.4.3 TLEP 2012

A search of the TLEP shows there are no items listed within the study area or immediately adjacent to it. The closest items of local heritage significance are located to the northeast of the study area in the centre of Talbingo.

The closest listed sites of local heritage significance are shown on **Figure 4-3** and are itemised in **Table 4-3**.

Table 4-3: Listed local heritage items near the study area.

LEP ID	Site name	Statement of Significance	Distance to study area
I44	Talbingo Shopping Centre	The Talbingo shopping centre is constructed of brick with timber infill panels and is an example of 1950/60's architecture for shopping centres. The centre is significant because of its association with Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme.	190 m to northeast
I45	Orana Lodge	This large two storey accommodation building with scalloped weatherboards and corrugated iron roof is significant in Talbingo and the Tumut region, as it is a good example of the era and due to its association with the Snowy Mountains and skiing.	260 m to northeast
I46	St Paul's Church	This church was built by the Snowy Mountains Authority and duly opened and dedicated on the 23rd of April 1967 as an Interdenominational church. The building has aesthetic appeal and appears to be architect designed with glazed wall, stone buttresses, and metal spire features. The Church of St Paul is significant it was the first Interdenominational church in Australia and today still functions as an Anglican, Catholic and Uniting church for the Talbingo community.	475 m to northeast

Figure 4-3: TLEP listed items in relation to the study area.



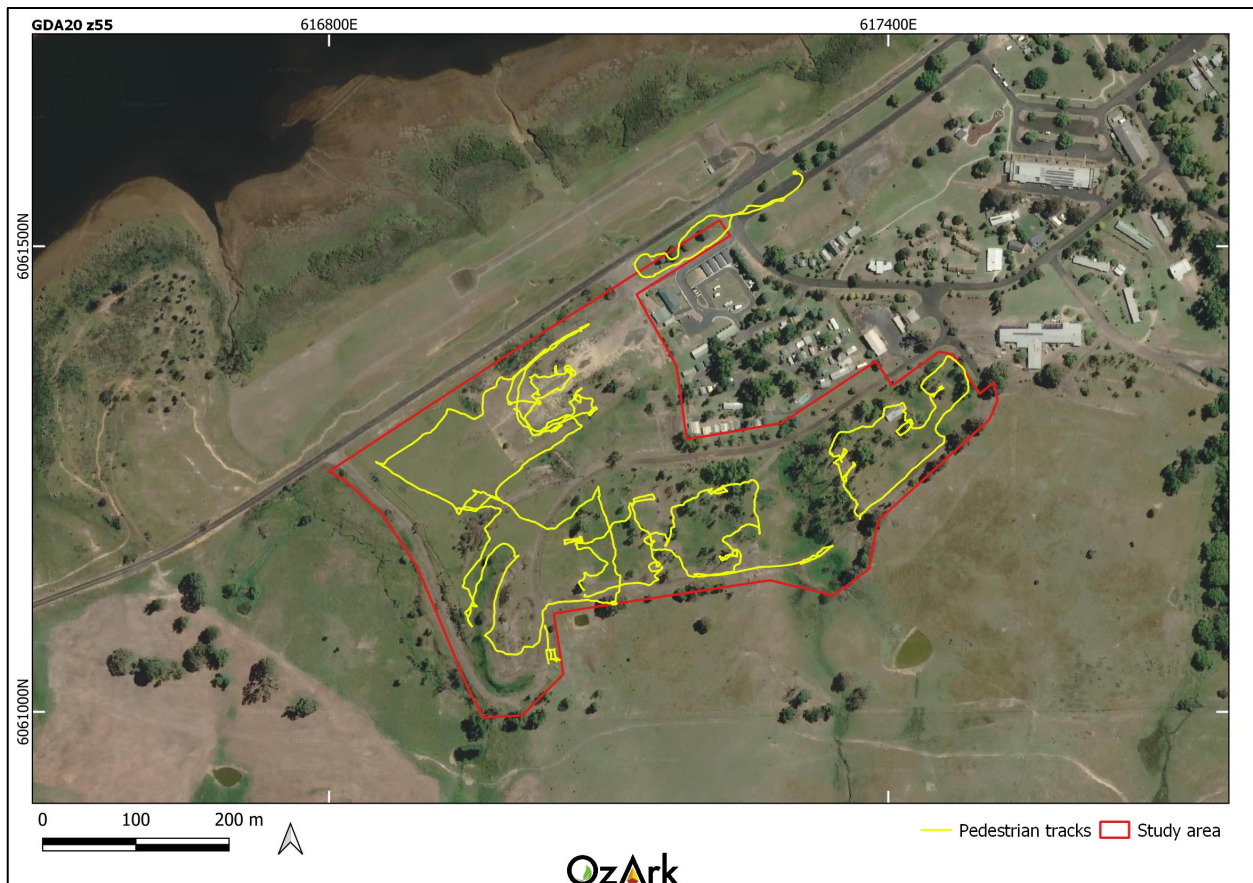
4.4.4 NPWS Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS)

This register includes all items on the NPWS Section 170 Heritage and Conservation register. The closest item on the HHIMS is located 2.9 km south of the study area. The item is the 'Fritz Hut; Ruin' (ID #1793).

5 SITE INSPECTION RESULTS

The study area was subject to a visual inspection by OzArk Senior Archaeologist, Stephanie Rusden, on 6 March 2023. The inspection was completed on foot to understand the archaeological potential of the landform present and record any Aboriginal sites or items of historic heritage (**Figure 5-1**).

Figure 5-1: Pedestrian tracks across the study area.



5.1 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The inspection confirmed variable levels of disturbance across the study area from its use for the Snowy Mountain Scheme (**Figure 2-3**). The northeast of the study area has been subject to the greatest level of disturbance as the landform has been cut and levelled for the construction of a potential office and/or workshop (**Figure 5-2**; image 1 and 2). The southern portions of the study area have been disturbed by the construction of sealed roads, numerous structures (crib rooms[?]), footpaths, and drainage and sewage networks (**Figure 5-2**; image 3 and 4). The northwest portion does not appear to have been disturbed from use for the Snowy Mountain Scheme except for potential vehicle use but has been subject to grazing as the remainder of the study area is likely to have been prior to use for the scheme (**Figure 5-2**; image 5).

The historical land use of the study area and sloping landform present has resulted in erosion across the study area it was clear during the inspection that the north-western portion of the study area retains thin A-horizon soils. As such, OzArk does not agree with the assessment by AASC (2006) which concluded that the north-western portion of the study area has potential for sub-surface deposits (**Section 1.2**).

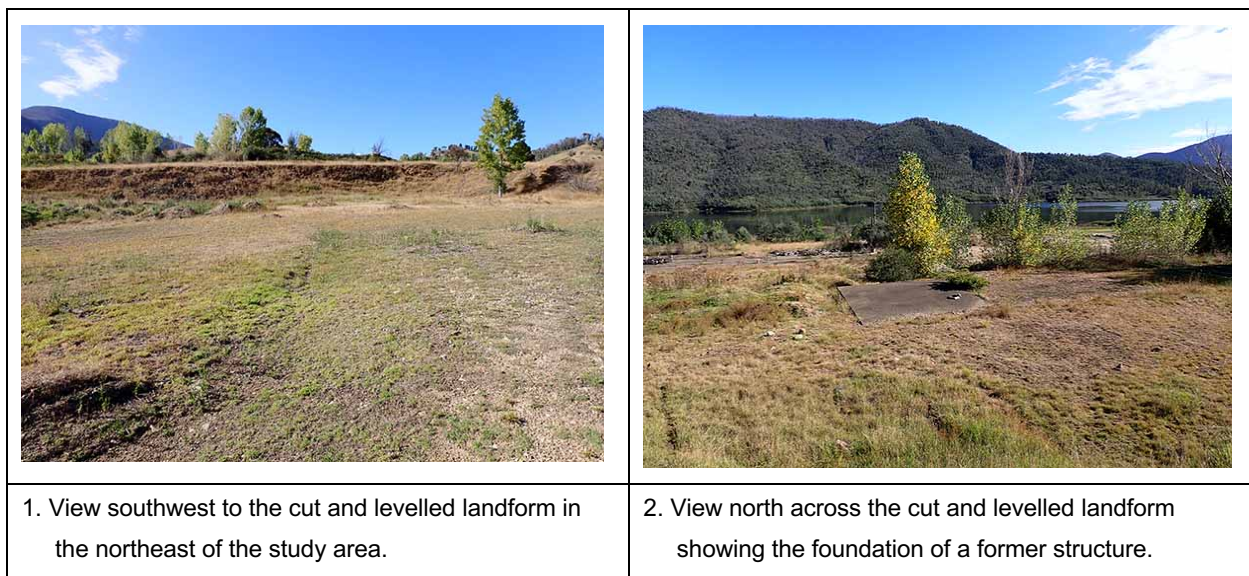
Isolated instances of outcropping rock were present across the study area, particularly in the northwest (**Figure 5-2**; image 6). The raw material present could not be identified, however, it is possible that was suitable for stone tool manufacture.







Few mature trees remain across the study area and are largely located along the southern boundary (**Figure 5-2**; image 7). None of the mature trees contained cultural modification.

The gully intersecting the eastern portion of the study area was confirmed to be more of a V-shaped gully which would not have held water to attract Aboriginal occupation (**Figure 5-2**; image 8).

No Aboriginal objects were recorded during the inspection, and no landforms of archaeological sensitivity were identified. This result is due to the nature of the sloping landform present and its distance to reliable water; thin A-horizon soils, and the levels of previous disturbance (**Figure 5-2**).

Figure 5-2: Views of the study area.



	
<p>3. View south across the southwest of the study area showing the remains of an old road.</p>	<p>4. View west of the cleared landform in the central portion of the study area.</p>
	
<p>5. View west across the sloping landform in the north-western portion of the study area.</p>	<p>6. Area of outcropping rock in the northwest of the study area.</p>
	
<p>7. View east showing remnant native vegetation along the southern boundary.</p>	<p>8. View north across the gully in the east of the study area.</p>

5.2 HISTORIC HERITAGE

Several building foundations were identified across the study area which are remnants of the use of the study area for the Snowy Mountain Scheme (**Figure 5-3**), likely dating to the 1960s.

The largest foundations are in the northeast of the study area which likely comprise a main office building and workshop area (**Figure 5-4**; images 1 and 2). These former structures are in the area where the landform has been significantly cut and levelled. An additional four concrete slabs are present to the south of this area. There is no evidence from the remnant slabs which indicate a use of these former structures. This levelled area is identifiable in the 1979 aerial of the study area (**Figure 2-3**).

Aerial imagery from 1979 shows several structures spread out across the southeast of the study area, and some similar structures to the south outside of the study area. Eight concrete slabs were identified across this area of the study area and one standing structure is present in the very southeast of the study area (**Figure 5-4**; images 3 to 10). The concrete slabs displayed the same layout as the standing structure and are likely to have been crib rooms for workers. The buildings measure approximately 20 m by 5 m and appear to have contained a lounge room, kitchen, dining room, and communal shower and toilet blocks comprising up to eight showers and five toilets per building. The remaining standing structure consists of a living area and communal bathroom facilities, and it appears to have been used for training by the Talbingo Fire-Squad as this is now printed on the front door of the building.

The aerial imagery from 1979 shows footpaths across the study area linking the structures although few footpaths were identified across the study area (**Figure 5-4**; image 11). Sealed roads remain present in the study area. Entry to the former worksite was likely in the north off Miles Franklin Drive and off a road which enters the study area in the southwest off Miles Franklin Drive. In the southwest, a potential check point or a carpark area is present (**Figure 5-4**; image 12).

Few concentrations of rubble are present in the north and south of the study area which contain mostly brick fragments and ceramics from bathroom piping. Two areas of identified rubble appear to be near areas where structures were previously built.

There is no potential for underfloor deposits because of the cement slab foundations. There is also no evidence that wells, cisterns, reservoirs, and cesspits are present. The presence of sewers and water infrastructure indicates that sewer and water lines are likely to be present subsurface across the study area.

As a result, the study area is assessed as having moderate archaeological potential although it is unlikely that any historic deposits present will yield information of significant research value. While information may be gathered in relation to the day-to-day living conditions during the 1960s, it is unlikely that a test excavation would encounter any features of local, state or national heritage

significance. Features that could be identified during a test excavation program would most likely have low research value and be common remains i.e. sewer and water lines. While excavation could locate a number of artefacts that could also potentially contribute knowledge to the socio-economic conditions at the site, these artefacts are unlikely to be located in relation to any features that would provide any context i.e. within a well or under floorboards of a building.

Figure 5-3: Location of recorded items within the study area.



Figure 5-4: Potential heritage items within the study area.





3. East view of the front of the remnant structure.



4. Southwest view of the rear of the remnant structure.



5. Interior of structure: a lounge room.







6. Interior of structure: kitchen.



7. Interior of structure: showers.



8. Interior of structure: bathroom.

	
<p>9. View east across a concrete slab in the central portion of the study area.</p>	<p>10. View north across a concrete slab showing detailing of the former bathroom.</p>
	
<p>11. View south across a footpath in the central portion of the study area.</p>	<p>12. Road present in the southwest of the study area.</p>

5.2.1 Identified historic heritage values

The study area contains a range of tangible values associated with the remains of the workers' camp used during an important period in Australian history. These include varied forms of concrete slabs, portions of roads, piles of rubble, and a poorly preserved original building. While the remains contribute to our understanding of the Snowy Mountains Scheme, the remains are not readily interpretable or manifest in the landscape. However, supplemented by historical aerial photography, the remains convey the location and scale of the workers' camp and allow some appreciation of the living conditions for the people who built the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

The preliminary assessment of the historic archaeological potential of the study area indicates that while there is archaeological potential, the deposits are unlikely to have local, state, or national heritage significance. The undertaking of test excavation is unlikely to alter this assessment.

There are no local or state heritage items located within or near the study area. As such, the proposal will not directly or indirectly impact items of local or state heritage significance.

The study area abuts the township of Talbingo but is separated from the main residential area by the Talbingo Caravan Park and the Talbingo Mountain Retreat. This means that the visual intrusion of the proposal on the portion of the existing township where people live and shop will be minimal.

The existing Talbingo township is an example of building designs associated with the period of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The town is characterised by a detached bungalow style of settlement with small building footprints and larger gardens. The houses generally are very utilitarian and unadorned. Other relevant details include wide, walkable footpaths, grid street planning, and street plantings.

6 HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

6.1 PROPOSED WORKS

Please see **Section 1.3** for details of the works that are proposed at the study area.

There will be ground disturbance works associated with vegetation clearance, grading the study area, and constructing the accommodation, dwellings, and associated infrastructure, i.e. roads.

6.2 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

6.2.1 Likely impacts to Aboriginal heritage

It is unlikely that significant Aboriginal objects will be present across the study area. The most likely landforms where Aboriginal objects may be identified are in areas that have been subject to lower levels of disturbance. However, extensive areas of these landforms have already been inspected and no Aboriginal objects or sensitive archaeological landforms have been identified.

It is still possible, however, for future works to impact unrecorded Aboriginal objects such as low-density artefact scatters and/or isolated finds. It is not expected that any Aboriginal objects within the study area will be of sufficient scientific significance to warrant their conservation.

6.2.2 Investigation of Aboriginal heritage

Should the proposal progress to a Development Application, an assessment of Aboriginal heritage should be completed following the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (Due Diligence, DECCW 2010a).

If the Due Diligence assessment recommends further assessment is required, this will need to follow the *Heritage NSW Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code, DECCW 2010b); the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011) and the *Aboriginal community consultation as per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for proponents* (ACHCRs, DECCW 2010c).

6.3 HISTORIC HERITAGE

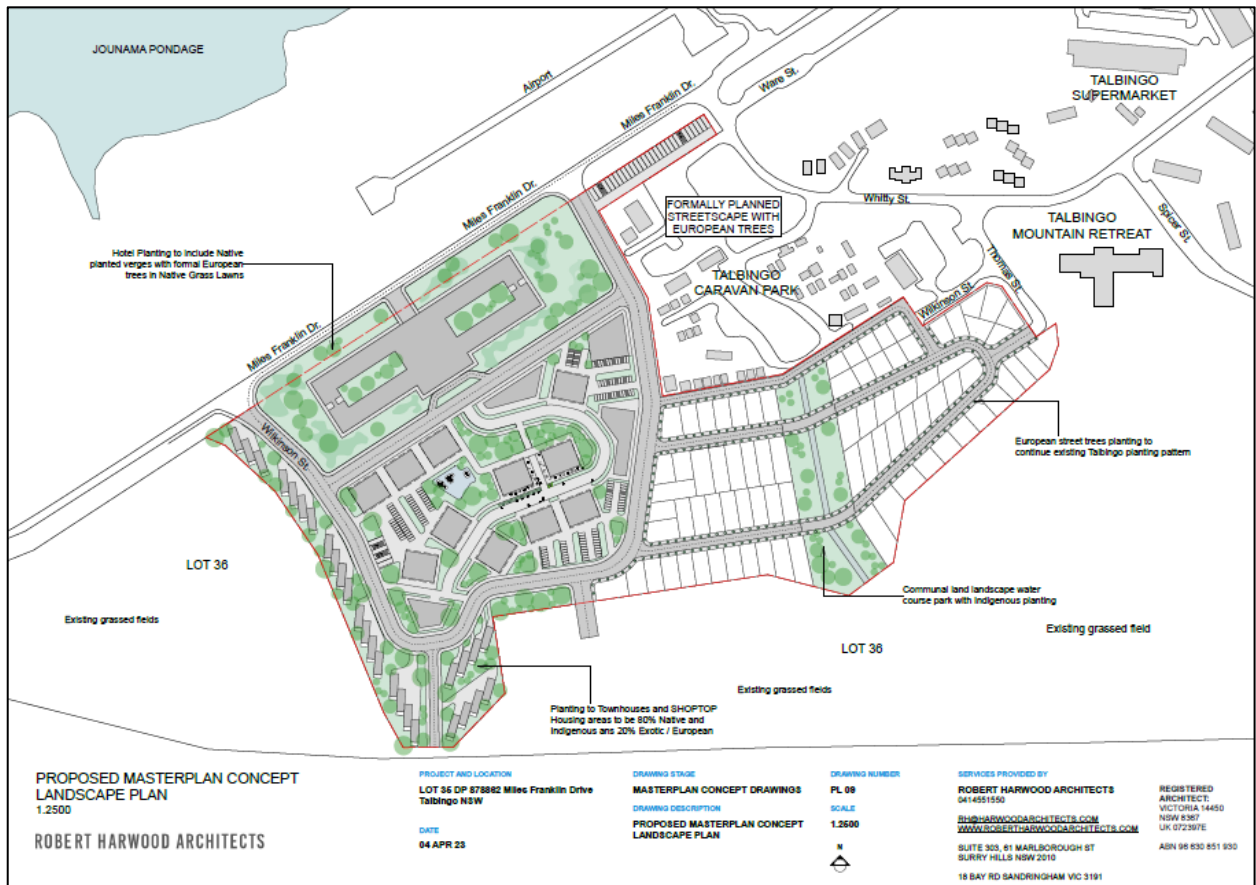
6.3.1 Likely impacts to historic heritage

As noted in **Section 4.4.1**, the study area is located within the curtilage of one item listed on the National Heritage List, the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' (ID #105919) (**Figure 4-2**). The remnant foundations and structure present within the study area are associated with the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' as it was utilised by workers during the construction of the Talbingo and Jounama Dams, and the Tumut 3 and Jounama Hydro Power Stations.

While the remnant foundations and structure present are associated with the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme', the items themselves are not considered likely to have national heritage values. Therefore, while the proposal may result in the removal of these remnant features, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on the values of the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' and it is not considered that the proposal would require a referral under the EPBC Act.

The study area is also located 640 m west of the curtilage of the 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' (ID #105891), listed on the National Heritage List (**Figure 4-2** and **Section 4.4.1**). The 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' are listed for its unique alpine environment and resources. The proposal will not directly impact the values of the 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves', nor is it likely to indirectly impact its associated values. Therefore, the heritage provisions of the EPBC Act and other Commonwealth Acts would again not apply. While the proposal is unlikely to indirectly impact the values of the 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves', the proposal should ensure it is sympathetic to the aesthetic values of the item. To be sympathetic to the aesthetic values of the item, the proposed landscaping will comply with the Snowy Valley DCP (2019), and will aim to incorporate the natural features of the surrounding landscape back into the study area through planting of native species (Error! Reference source not found.).

Figure 6-1: Proposed landscape plan.



6.3.2 Investigation of historic heritage

To ensure that the national heritage values of 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' (ID #105919) and 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' (ID #105891) are considered when finalised plans for the proposal are known, a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) will be prepared at the time of the Development Application.

The investigation for the SOHI will include following steps:

1. Desktop review to develop a predictive model for the location of significant historic items
2. Site survey to identify and plan the remnant foundations and the structure present, as well as identifying any landforms where subsurface archaeological deposits may be present
3. Determine of the significance of the historic items and/or landforms identified during the site survey
4. Assessment of the impact to identified significant heritage values including both tangible and intangible values
5. Development of mitigation measures to minimise impacts to significant historic items.

Further investigations to be undertaken as part of the SOHI should be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Burra Charter 2013 (Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) 2013)
- Part 4 of the EP&A Act
- NSW Heritage Act
- Commonwealth EPBC Act.

A recommendation of the SOHI should be to prepare an archival recording of the features remaining across the study area so that a record exists of the former work site. A copy of the archival recording should be provided to the Snowy Valley Council and Tumut library so that it is available to the public.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

Should the proposal progress to a Development Application, an assessment of Aboriginal heritage should be completed following the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*.

7.2 HISTORICAL CULTURAL VALUES

It is recommended that the proposal be designed in a manner that either avoids or incorporates the identified historical features into its design (such as leaving items in situ in open areas with appropriate interpretation).

A SOHI will be prepared at the time of the Development Application. The SOHI will consider both the results of this heritage assessment, as well as management of impacts to the identified remnant foundations and the structure within the study area that share an association with the 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' listing.

The proposal will have to ensure that it is sympathetic to the identified values of both listed items, 'Snowy Mountains Scheme' (ID #105919) and 'Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves' (ID #105891) and complies with the Snowy Valley Council Development Control Plan (2019). This will include but not be limited to the visual and aesthetic impact of the proposal on the urban character of the existing town of Talbingo.

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APPENDIX 1: AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS

NSW GOVERNMENT		AHIMS Web Services (AWS)				Your Ref/PO Number : Talbingo Client Service ID : 760145				
SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
56-6-0049	KNP91-65;Blowering Reservoir; Contact	AGD	55	617900	6065000	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -	Open Camp Site	1962
	Recorders			P Penbridge				Permits		
56-6-0051	KNP91-67;Talbingo/ Jounama pondage; Contact	AGD	55	617980	6062200	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -	Open Camp Site	1962
	Recorders			Unknown Author				Permits		
56-6-0007	Talbingo; Contact	AGD	55	620050	6062550	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -	Open Camp Site	
	Recorders			P Davies				Permits		
56-6-0110	JP-OS-2/A Contact	AGD	55	615090	6060720	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0111	JP-OS-3/A Contact	AGD	55	615070	6060840	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0112	JP-OS-4/A Contact	AGD	55	615080	6061070	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0113	JP-OS-5/A Contact	AGD	55	615060	6061250	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0083	LB-OS-6 Contact	AGD	55	614290	6064260	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0087	LB-IP-1 Contact	AGD	55	614480	6064260	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0089	LB-IP-3 Contact	AGD	55	614460	6063790	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0090	LB-IP-4 Contact	AGD	55	614337	6064080	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0091	LB-IP-5 Contact	AGD	55	614370	6064080	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0092	LB-IP-6 Contact	AGD	55	614140	6064770	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0093	LB-IP-7 Contact	AGD	55	614130	6064500	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0114	JP-OS-7/A Contact	AGD	55	615060	6061670	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0115	LB-RP-1/A Contact	AGD	55	614430	6064610	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0116	JP-OS-6/A Contact	AGD	55	615060	6061540	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0117	LB-IP-4/5/A LB-OS-5-6/A Contact	AGD	55	614350	6064200	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 06/03/2023 for Stephanie Rusden for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 612618.0 - 620608.0, Northings : 6057397.0 - 6065397.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 42
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NSW GOVERNMENT		AHIMS Web Services (AWS)				Your Ref/PO Number : Talbingo Client Service ID : 760145				
SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
56-6-0102	LB-OS-2/A Contact	AGD	55	614760	6063280	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0070	JP-IP-1 Contact	AGD	55	615070	6060450	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0071	JP-OS-1 Contact	AGD	55	614950	6060670	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0072	JP-OS-2 Contact	AGD	55	615180	6060690	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0073	JP-OS-3 Contact	AGD	55	615060	6060870	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0074	JP-OS-4 Contact	AGD	55	615070	6061080	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0075	JP-OS-5 Contact	AGD	55	615050	6061350	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0077	JP-OS-6 Contact	AGD	55	615050	6061490	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0078	LB-OS-2 Contact	AGD	55	614730	6063400	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0079	JP-SO-7 Contact	AGD	55	615020	6061570	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0080	LB-OS-3 Contact	AGD	55	614500	6063150	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -	Art (Pigment or Engraved) :-	97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0081	LB-OS-4 Contact	AGD	55	614460	6063790	Open site	Destroyed	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0082	LB-OS-5 and LB-PAD-2 Contact	AGD	55	614430	6064210	Open site	Destroyed	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) :-		97490
	Recorders			Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits	1293,1480	
56-6-0103	LB-OS-3/A Contact	AGD	55	614510	6063480	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0104	LB-OS-4/A Contact	AGD	55	614410	6063880	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0108	JP-IP-1/A Contact	AGD	55	615040	6060450	Open site	Valid	Artefact: 1		97490
	Recorders			Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
56-6-0109	JP-OS-1/A Contact	AGD	55	615030	6060530	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		97490

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 06/03/2023 for Stephanie Rusden for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 612618.0 - 620608.0, Northings : 6057397.0 - 6065397.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 42
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AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Talbingo
Client Service ID : 760145

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
56-6-0096	Contact	Recorders		Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
	LB-IF-1/A	AGD	55	614500	6064290	Open site	Valid	Artefact: 1		
56-6-0098	Contact	Recorders		Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
	LB-IF-3/A	AGD	55	614410	6064020	Open site	Valid	Artefact: 1		97490
56-6-0099	Contact	Recorders		Mrs.Robynne Mills				Permits		
	LB-IF-6/A&7/A	AGD	55	614170	6064760	Open site	Valid	Artefact: 2		97490
56-6-0349	Contact	Recorders		Mr.Terry Howard				Permits		
	Blowering / Bago State Forest	AGD	55	612507	6059986	Open site	Valid	Artefact: 3		
56-6-0545	Contact	Recorders		State Forests of NSW - Tumbarumba				Permits		
	Blowering Dam Yolde trail	GDA	55	618059	6064869	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		
56-6-0552	Contact	Recorders		Mr.Shane Herrington				Permits		
	Yallowin Access Talbingo	GDA	55	617944	6063758	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		
56-6-0553	Contact	Recorders		Mr.Shane Herrington				Permits		
	Yallowin Bay Rd	GDA	55	618165	6064892	Open site	Valid	Artefact: -		
	Contact	Recorders		Mr.Shane Herrington				Permits		

** Site Status

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground.

Nota site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 06/03/2023 for Stephanie Rusden for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings: 612618.0 - 620608.0, Northings: 6057397.0 - 6065397.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 42

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