

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment – Stage 1A Trails Offset Amendment

Introduction

This document has been prepared in response to the NPWS referral comments dated 24 March 2025, requesting the following:

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- The works proposed include the planting of 280 snow gums and 230 shrubs within the proposed offset areas. Given these works will result in ground disturbance, we consider that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage due diligence test is required for the proposed works. The process is outlined in the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, available at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/due-diligence-code-of-practice-for-the-protection-of-aboriginal-objects-in-new-south-wales>. See in particular the flowchart on page 14 of that document.

Due Diligence Assessment

To establish due diligence for the development, an assessment against the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010) is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Process

Due Diligence Process	Comment
1. Will the activity disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees?	The Development involves planting of trees and shrubs within the nominated offset area which will result in new ground disturbance. No culturally modified trees have been identified within the Development site.
2. Are there any: a) relevant confirmed site records or other associated landscape feature information on AHIMS? And/or	A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) was undertaken on 26 March 2025. The search results identified no Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the Development site. A copy of the search results are provided in Appendix A .
b) any other sources of information of which a person is already aware? And/or	Several historical independent assessments have been undertaken within the ski slopes and Valley Terminal base station area by various consultants, including Past Traces Heritage Consultants (2017 and 2018), NGH Environmental (2017), Iron Bark (2013), and URS Australia Pty Ltd (2004; 2005). All studies provide a general indication that the ski slope areas have low archaeological potential due to the level of disturbance associated with construction. The studies also concluded that given the steepness and exposed aspect/lack of sheltering tors, the ski slopes are unlikely to have been favourable campsite locations.

c) landscape features that are likely to indicate presence of Aboriginal objects?	The Development site is located in a highly disturbed environment, which has been subject to previous disturbance for the construction of existing ski slopes and snowmaking infrastructure. Previous disturbance has comprised vegetation clearing, earthworks, and removal and disturbance to top soils and soil profiles, thus removing potential for Aboriginal sites to remain within these areas. As such, it is considered the Development site has low potential for unrecorded sites or Aboriginal objects. There is no requirement to move onto Steps 3 and 4.
3. Can harm to Aboriginal objects listed on AHIMS or identified by other sources of information and/or can the carrying out of the activity at the relevant landscape features be avoided?	Not applicable.
4. Does a desktop assessment and visual inspection confirm that there are Aboriginal objects or that they are likely?	Not applicable.

All reasonable steps have been undertaken to ensure the Development fulfils the requirements of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Process. Potential impacts from the Development on objects or sites of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage significance are considered unlikely. Therefore, an independent impact assessment is not required.

In the unlikely event that Aboriginal objects are discovered, management measures outlined in the SEMP will be implemented.

References

Ironbark Heritage 2013, A Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment for Thredbo Bike Trails Stage 1 Kosciusko National Park. Report to Dabyne Planning Pty Ltd.

Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd 2022, Statement of Environmental Effects, Alpine Coaster.

NGH Environmental 2017, Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment – Thredbo Mountain Bike Trails (Stage 1C).

NSW Government 2025, AHIMS Web Services Search Result, dated 26 March 2025.

Past Traces 2018, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment – Replacement of Merritts Chairlift Thredbo Alpine Resort.

URS Australia Pty Ltd 2004, Statement of Environmental Effects for the Proposed Vegetation Removal, Ski Slopes, Thredbo.

URS Australia Pty Ltd 2005, Statement of Environmental Effects for the Proposed Works on the Tower 10 Ski Run, Thredbo.

Appendices

Appendix A – AHIMS Search Results

Chloe Chalk

Date: 26 March 2025

Thredbo Alpine Resort

Thredbo New South Wales 2625

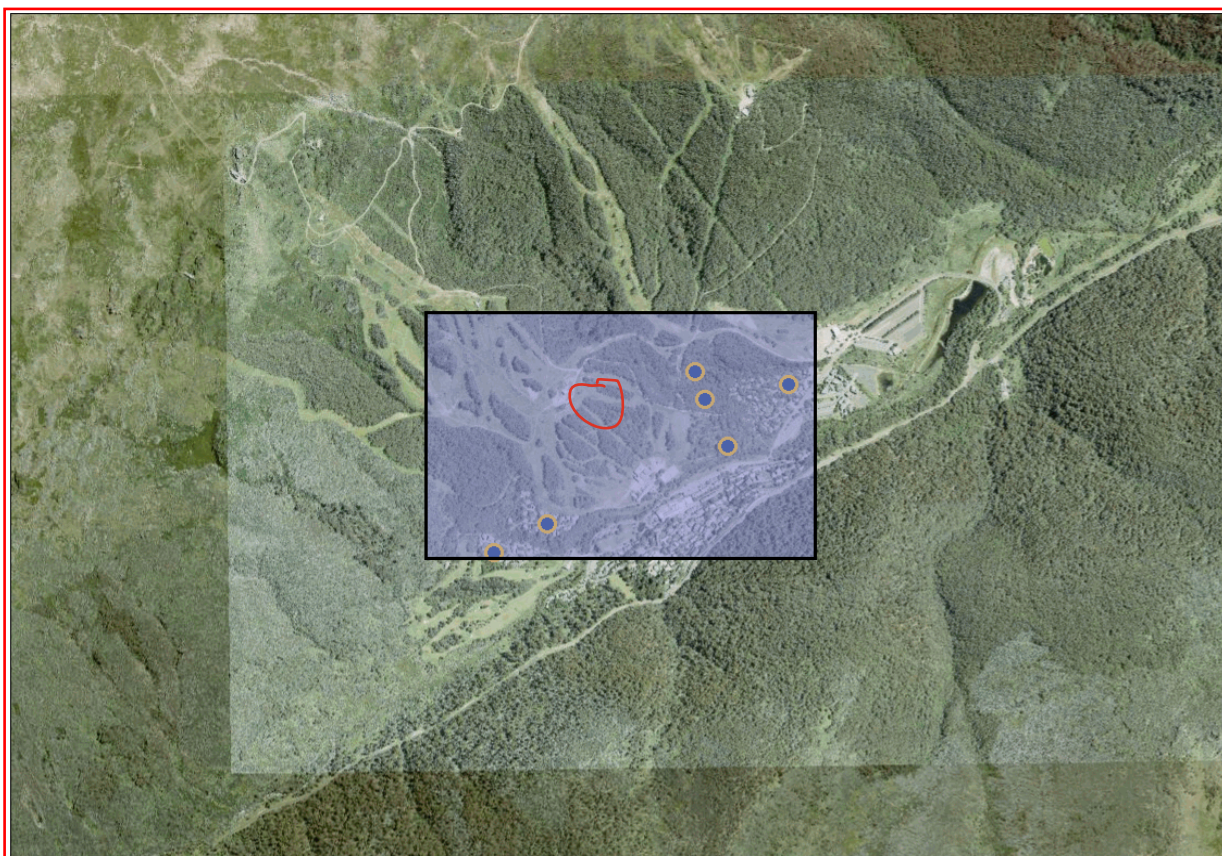
Attention: Chloe Chalk

Email: chloe_chalk@evt.com

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lat, Long From : -36.5062, 148.295 - Lat, Long To : -36.4982, 148.3104, conducted by Chloe Chalk on 26 March 2025.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

6	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the [NSW Government Gazette \(https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette\)](https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

Important information about your AHIMS search

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not to be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Heritage NSW and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date. Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings,
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.