



# **Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council**

## ***Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment***

### ***The Ruins Way***

### ***Port Macquarie***

### ***Prepared by***

### ***Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council***

### ***In response to a***

### ***Request for Charlie Brothers Pty Ltd***

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# 1. Introduction

The subject land is located at The Ruins Way Road Port Macquarie (Lot 245 DP 1227796 and Lot 299 DP 1234443). While the land is over 60ha in size, the study area is only around 4ha. The land is located approximately 5km southwest of the Port Macquarie CBD and is made up of three areas known as South Lindfield, Ruins Way West and Ruins Way East.

The aboriginal cultural heritage assessment focuses on the northern edge of the property adjoining the existing residential land to the South and East that is planned to be rezoned as residential land.

The remainder of the property was not investigated with vegetation generally comprising wetland and swamp forest areas.

The objectives of the Cultural Heritage Assessment are:

- To identify whether the subject land contains objects or is a place of importance or a part of the wider cultural landscape pertaining to local aboriginal people and the area.
- To determine if any potential harm on identified Aboriginal Cultural heritage would be likely to occur from the proposed rezoning and future development of the southern fringe of the land for residential uses.
- To determine the significance of potential harm to any identified Aboriginal objects, places or wider cultural heritage that may be associated with the subject land, should that be the case.

This report has been prepared for Charley Brothers Pty Ltd for their proposed rezoning. It is not to be used for any other purpose

## 2. Investigator and Contributors

The Site Investigations have been undertaken by:

Mr. Jason Holten, Sites Officer of the Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council

The site investigator has significant local experience in carrying out site survey investigations and regularly undertakes Sites works in the Port Macquarie area. Mr. Holten has a wealth of knowledge of Aboriginal Culture and Heritage in the local area.

## 3. Previous Archaeological work

Search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) – Basic search conducted 27 April 2018 using Longitude and Latitude coordinates with a buffer of 50 m.

- Basic search identified no Aboriginal Places and no Aboriginal Site in the vicinity of the 50 m buffer.
- Cultural Heritage records held with Birpai Land Council include:

The Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council holds no records of any items of cultural significance in the vicinity of the land in question.

Of the above resources, references to this area and the Birpai Aboriginal People were the primary search focus. Information relevant to the site or its immediate surrounds was identified as follows:

There are no known aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the subject land. Especially in the area of the proposed residential land.

## 4. Landscape context

### General Coastal character & predictive model

The results of reviews of archaeological investigations to date indicate that rocky shore, sandy beach, estuarine and hinterland environments were typically utilised by Aboriginal groups. The densest and most diverse archaeological remains are generally found along the coast where food resources were richer. Reliance on estuarine and adjacent hinterland areas was probably sporadic, possibly using freshwater swamps as a primary resource.

A large proportion of recorded sites indicate they have been found on flat terrain, predominantly in coastal heath, along estuarine stream banks, some woodland and dry sclerophyll eucalypt forest and in subtropical rainforest. Less commonly, sites are also found in undulating to hilly terrain either in dry sclerophyll eucalypt forest. Even less so in steep rugged terrain.

There is a greater likelihood of the existence and discovery of Aboriginal sites into the coastal plain. Particularly the crests and basal slopes of low spurlines that extend into and are situated adjacent to flood prone valley floors.

Stone artefacts may occur as open artefact scatters and isolated finds. Midden deposits may occur subsurface on former beach ridges and other alluvial or colluvial deposits which fringe valley floors. Including the former shoreline of the marine embayment and subsequent estuary which formed following the last sea level rise at around 6000 years BP.

Open artefact scatters (or campsites) are considered more likely to occur on relatively flat terrain, well-drained and not too distant from sources of freshwater or along the crests of low ridgelines.

Scarred trees may occur wherever old-growth trees remain. Potential locations include road reserves, remnant riparian vegetation on farmlands, and isolated trees within the state forests.

Prehistoric burial sites are most likely to be found in locally elevated landforms with a relatively deep profile of soft sediments of in the deposits of midden sites.



## Local Aboriginal History

Before European settlement, Aboriginal people roamed the area and used the land to hunt and gather food. Aboriginal ties to the land can be identified with the significant sites in and around the Port Macquarie area with some sites recorded, including burial sites at the Town Green in the CBD.

## Location of the site

The subject land is located approximately 5km southwest of the Port Macquarie CBD. The site is generally surrounded by residential land to the North, South and East with generally forested land to the West.

On site, forest vegetation occurs throughout the site with cleared fringes along road frontages.

# 6 Site Survey & Results

## Sampling Strategy

The sampling strategy is to attend the property by vehicle and undertake intensive walking inspection of the part of the site likely to be impacted upon by the proposed rezoning and future residential lots.

In a landscape context, this area is consistent with the landscape unit “crests and basal slopes of low spurlines that extend into and are situated adjacent to flood prone valley floors”. In this context intensive walking survey of the area is considered the most appropriate survey strategy.

The site survey was undertaken on 19 March 2018 by Mr Jason Holten, Senior Site Officer of Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council.

## Survey Coverage

On 19 March 2018 exposure and visibility across the site is described as generally good.

No test excavations were considered necessary and were not undertaken.

## 7. Results of Survey of 19 March 2018

After a lot of walking over the proposed rezoning area the senior site officer, Mr Jason Holten noted that there had been a lot of disturbance over the years, with the removal of trees and stumps from the site and movement of topsoil. Any sign of Aboriginal activity in the area is believed to have been lost or destroyed.

Mr Holten, Senior Sites Officer who attended the property and undertook the survey concluded that no evidence of Aboriginal activity was located on the site areas, being the Northern part of lot 245 DP 1227796 and Lot 299 DP 1234443.

### Analysis & Discussion

Consultation with local Aboriginal peoples with a relationship to the area revealed no knowledge of occupation or cultural heritage associations with the subject land.

No site recording is required as there are no material traces, evidence or expressed knowledge of Aboriginal land use of the site.

The proposed development is not considered likely to impact upon or have any significance for the local Aboriginal community and their cultural heritage.

The assessing site officers can see no reason why the proposal cannot continue.

### Recommendation

At such time as development site works start, should any artefacts be turned up or located, Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council are to be contacted immediately and work on site stopped pending further assessment.

Signed

 27/4/18

Mr David Carroll

CEO - Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council

