



Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Thrumster Business Park

Off John Oxley Drive

Port Macquarie

Prepared by

Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council

As part of investigations by Thrumster Business Park Pty Ltd

for

A Proposed Subdivision

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1. Introduction

The subject land at Thrumster Business Park is part of a series of approved subdivision off John Oxley Drive, approximately 6 km West of the Port Macquarie CBD and just South West of the Port Macquarie Airport.

The Land subject to this investigation is currently predominantly zoned as IN2 Light Industrial and is currently approved for a light industrial subdivision (PMHC ref 10.2014.114.1).

Previous investigations have identified a possible Aboriginal Site located on the property

The objectives of this Inspection and report are:

- To identify whether the possible Aboriginal Site is there
- To identify if subject land contains any other objects or artefacts that are culturally relevant to the Birpai people.
- To determine if any potential harm on Aboriginal Cultural heritage would be likely to occur from the proposed development.
- To make recommendations to guide the proposed development.

This report has been prepared for Thrumster Business Park Pty Ltd for the proposed light industrial subdivision. 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 and is a proud Birpai Elder.

3. 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 6km West of the Port Macquarie CBD.

The site is surrounded by a variety of uses, from approved residential and industrial subdivision, to the airport and other cleared areas.

4. 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 temporary crossing.

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 24 November 2021 by Mr Jason Holten, Senior Site Officer of Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council and Michelle Love, Town Planner representing Thrumster Business Park Pty Ltd.

Survey Coverage

On 24 November 2021 exposure and visibility across the site is described as generally good.

No test excavations were considered necessary and were not undertaken.

5. Results of Survey of 24 November 2021

After a lot of walking over the area the senior site officer, Mr Jason Holten noted that most areas of the proposed work had had extensive disturbance in most areas.

Mr Holten, Senior Sites Officer who attended the property and undertook the survey concluded that no evidence of Aboriginal activity was located in the proposed area and the Aboriginal Site could not be identified. Given the amount of site disturbance any evidence is likely to have already been destroyed.

A Search of the AHIMS database did not find a record of any known Aboriginal Sites on the subject land.

Analysis & Discussion

Consultation with local Aboriginal peoples with a relationship to the area revealed no specific 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 assessing site officers can see no reason why the proposal cannot continue.

6. Recommendations

Based on the Site Inspection and other investigation, there is no reason from an Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage perspective that the proposed light industrial subdivision cannot proceed, subject to the following:

1. An Aboriginal Sites officer be present when excavation or clearing commences in the north-eastern corner of the property
2. At such time as development site works start, should any artefacts be turned up or located, Birpai LALC Aboriginal Site officers are to be contacted immediately and work on site stopped pending further assessment.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Carroll', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Mr David Carroll

CEO - Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council

16 December 2021