

Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment 292 Rosemont Road Boxers Creek NSW Lots 117 & 118 DP126140



Report Prepared for MMJ Wollongong

3 September 2021

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Document Control

Revision	Date	Author	Reviewed
D1	03/09/2021	Georgia Scully	Lyn O'Brien

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides heritage due diligence advice for MMJ Wollongong, in regards to the proposed rural subdivision into five housing lots of 292 Rosemont Road, Boxers Creek NSW. The land is currently used as a rural property located on Lots 117 & 118 DP 126140. The study area is shown on Figure 1 in a regional context with details of the proposed subdivision in Figure 2.

This Due Diligence heritage assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010a).

The proposal would involve the following impacts:

- Construction of housing foundations involving removal of top and subsoils within Building Envelopes
- Connection to infrastructure, such as water, communications and electricity
- Effluent management area
- Installation of boundary fencing around house lot and potential impacts from landscaping
- Construction of access road from Rosemont Road to the Building Envelopes

No Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) were identified within the project area based on a review of previous reports and field survey of the project area. Field survey was undertaken across the project area in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW 2010b*). The field survey covered areas of building envelope, effluent management area and access road. Ground visibility was low at the time of field survey, with no heritage sites or area of PAD being identified.

As a result of the field survey and background research completed for the project, the following recommendations have been developed:

- * There are no known Aboriginal or Historical heritage impacts resulting from the project.
- The development proposal should be able to proceed with no additional archaeological investigations. No areas of potential archaeological deposits or heritage sites have been identified within the development area and the potential for heritage objects within the development area has been assessed as low.
- All Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by NSW Heritage. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works then works must cease and the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist.
- Further archaeological assessment would be required if the proposal activity extends beyond the area of the current investigation.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report provides heritage due diligence advice for MMJ Wollongong, for the proposed rural subdivision into five housing lots of 292 Rosemont Road, Boxers Creek NSW. The land is currently used as a rural property located on Lots 117 & 118 DP 126140. The study area is shown on Figure 1 in a regional context with details of the proposed subdivision in Figure 2.

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These works are limited in their extent, but high impact within the development footprint. The proposed construction works would have a negative impact on any Aboriginal or historical heritage located within the project boundary. Heritage sites may be located on the surface or subsurface in areas of high potential for the preservation of archaeological remains or past usage by Aboriginal groups.

This report, field survey and associated research has been undertaken to assess any potential heritage impacts and has been conducted in accordance to the requirements of the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (OEH 2010).*

1.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The following is a summary of the major objectives of the due diligence assessment:

- Identify Aboriginal objects and places known to exist within the Project Area through a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) maintained by NSW Heritage.
- Review Local and State Heritage Registers for historical heritage that may be present
- Review historical mapping for the region.
- Assessment of Landscape for landforms that may contain potential for unrecorded sites and to determine level of disturbance of landscape features.



- Undertake site visit to visually inspect areas identified for impact, or areas holding potential and to verify levels of disturbance. If registered sites (AHIMS) occur within the project area, record and assess condition.
- Complete due diligence report containing recommendations to minimise potential
- Assess impacts to heritage values within the project area.

1.2 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

Consultation with the Aboriginal community is not a requirement of the Due Diligence Code, however this Due Diligence assessment has been undertaken with consultation of the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) of Pejar. After early consultation with Pejar LALC, it was deemed that the inclusion of Mulawaree Aboriginal Corporation would not be necessary, as in the view of the Pejar LALC adequate consultation had been undertaken. If impacts to Aboriginal heritage are found to occur as a result of the development, then further consultation will be undertaken with the LALC and the wider Aboriginal community as required by NSW Heritage and in line with the consultation guideline (DECCW 2010).

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Figure 1. Location of project area in regional context (Basemap SixMaps NSW)



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2 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT RESULTS

2.1 AHIMS SEARCH

An extensive search of the NSW Heritage Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database was undertaken on the 14/08/2021 covering the surrounding 1kms of the project area which identified five recorded sites. All of the sites consist of isolated finds or low number scatters of stone artefacts. Details of the site types recorded are listed in table 1 and their locations in relation to the project area are shown on Figure 3. The site search is attached for reference in Appendix 1.

Site ID	Site name	Site features	Recorders
51-6-0420	RRAS4	Artefact: 2	Saunders,T (2006)
51-6-0417	RRAS1	Artefact: 3	Saunders, T (2006)
51-6-0418	RRAS2	Artefact: 1	Saunders, T (2006)
51-6-0419	RRAS3	Artefact: 1	Saunders, T (2006)
51-6-0415	RRA1	Artefact: 1	Saunders, T (2006)

Table 1. AHIMS Site Details

The sites located in the search area (consisting of Artefact Scatters and Isolated Finds) conform to the wider site predictive model for the Goulburn region (Fuller 1989) which has been refined and proven by numerous studies that have been completed for the Goulburn Area. This model predicts a site location model of small sites located on level ground or terrace features in proximity to water sources, with larger sites with subsurface deposits being present in proximity to water features such as a creek confluence or major water sources. This predictive model is directly applicable to the project area.

2.2 NSW HERITAGE AND LEP HERITAGE REGISTER SEARCHES

A search of the NSW Heritage Inventory was undertaken on the 19/7/2021 which resulted in the identification of one item on the Goulburn Mulwaree LEP (2009). Item 004 "Nooga" (formerly Shamrock Lodge) consists of the 1856 homestead, outbuildings gardens of the Gooley family. The Goulburn Mulwaree LEP statement of significance states that the property reflects the cultural values held by early Irish settlers on the Gundary Plains and the often thwarted efforts of commercial enterprise due to changes in road location, outbuildings that all add to the significance of the item in a rural setting, and despite the substantial home appearing to have had a number of alterations in an attempt to modernise the façade, the property provides a good and intact example of the local area's history and heritage.

This item is located adjacent to but outside of the current project area. No impacts to the heritage listing will result from the proposed subdivision.



Figure 3: AHIMS





Imagery: © Nearmap

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2.3 ABORIGINAL GROUPS WITHIN THE PROJECT AREAS

The two major language group identified in the Goulburn region by Norman Tindale in his seminal work on Aboriginal tribal boundaries are the Gundungurra (Gandangara) to the north of Goulburn and the Ngunnawal people, also known as the Yass tribe, Lake George Blacks or Molonglo tribe to the south. The boundaries of the Ngunawal ran to the southeast where they met the Ngarigo at the Molonglo and the Wiradjuri in the Yass region (Tindale 1974). This distribution with minor amendments is still accepted and the review of tribal boundaries undertaken in the 1990s (Horton 1996) confirmed these earlier linguistic divisions.

One of the best sources for observations of the Indigenous inhabitants of the Goulburn region is Charles MacAlister (1907) and William Govett (1844) who lived in the district from the 1830s and noted many features and traditions of Aboriginal life. Their observations must be viewed as from a white perspective and filtered through his cultural traditions as with all cross cultural ethnography but despite these limitations their work is a valuable reference for the region. Their reflections on the Aboriginal life of the region provide a glimpse of a functioning hunter and gatherer lifestyle with a cycle of repeated visits to areas at times of seasonable resource availability and a ceremonial life that imposed duties and responsibilities on members of the group.

The flat, rolling topography of the region and the lack of natural physical barriers (such as impassable gorges or rivers) would have facilitated contact and movement through the region. Broad ridgelines were often used for travelling distances through country, avoiding steep valleys and river gorges to reach resource areas. An early recorder of Aboriginal life, Govett, recorded that the Wollondilly River frontage was a focus of activity with eels, swans, ducks and other water birds being staples along with kangaroos, wallabies, possums, bandicoots, and emus (Govett 1977:29). Govett also described the practice of fire stick farming to herd the kangaroos for hunting – this also has the benefit of encouraging new growth and attracting kangaroos to specific areas. (Govett 1977:23). These observations on Aboriginal life and the role of the Wollondilly are consistent with the later remembering's of MacAlister (1907:88).

Disease followed the settlement of the area and may have preceded it with the smallpox epidemic originating in Sydney in 1789 possibly spreading throughout the region (Flood 1980:32). This disease would have decimated the Aboriginal population and was followed by Influenza in 1846. The notable decline of the number of the Aboriginal people was noted in 1845 at Bungonia and in 1848 at Goulburn by the Bench of Magistrates (Tazewell 1991:244).

2.4 PREVIOUS HERITAGE STUDIES

The region of the project area has been extensively studied due to the high prevalence of developments near and within Goulburn. Of these reports the most relevant are summarised below to provide an understanding of site location model and site formation processes in this area, though all are distant to the current study area.



Koettig in 1983 undertook an assessment including field survey of the proposed Goulburn By-Pass (Hume Highway) covering a length of approximately 11km. This study was the first in the direct area and located 22 artefact scatters and 17 isolated finds. The sites were located within the undulating slopes all within 200 m of a water course. 54% of sites were located on slopes, 23% on ridges and 23% along creek or river flats. Only one site (G17) was large, consisting of stratified deposits of artefacts. This site was located on the eastern bank of the Mulwaree River near the junction with Gundary Creek. A model of larger sites in association with major water courses, with smaller sites near smaller creeks was formulated.

Koettig and Lance in 1986 undertook the Aboriginal Resources Planning Study for the City of Goulburn. Based on all available data they developed an Aboriginal site location model for Goulburn. Four landscape zones based on topography (major watercourse, undulating hills and plains, hills and residential areas) were assigned archaeological sensitivity ratings. A review of previously identified sites within the Goulburn region found artefact scatters were the predominant site class within the undulating hills and plains zones. The majority of these sites are located on basal slopes close to major waterways and they classified this landform as holding high sensitivity.

Fuller in 1989 was engaged by Goulburn City Council to test Lance and Koettig's 1986 model by undertaking sub surface testing at areas designated high sensitivity by the model. The results of this large excavation program, although supporting the overall model, concluded that all areas apart from level terraces or flats near major watercourses were of low potential and that further subdivisions were necessary in the undulating hills category if it was to be useful for predicting site locations.

South East Archaeology (1996) undertook an assessment of a 47 ha rural residential development on Lots 2-4 DP835933 located 7km to the northwest of the current project area in similar landforms. One small artefact scatter and one isolated find were located 150m east of a minor drainage line.

Navin Officer Heritage Consultants undertook an assessment of the Ducks Lane residential subdivision, located just north of the Hume Hwy, approximately 5km from the current project area in 2006. They identified 3 sites and one area of PAD. These sites were salvaged in 2006.

Biosis in 2016 completed field survey and test excavations for the Ducks Lane proposed previously assessed by Navin Officer. One small artefact scatter was identified but both of the areas of PAD along the creek line did not contain deposits and did not confirm the predictive model of site location developed by Navin Officer and Biosis for the project.

Past Traces in 2019 surveyed two properties adjacent to the northern boundary of the Hume Highway on Tait Street (2019a) and Finlay Place (2019 b). The field survey identified two artefact scatters, both overlooking a 1st order creek line. The area was classified as holding low potential for further unidentified heritage items.

Past Traces in 2020 completed a due diligence assessment for a rural subdivision located at Elm Grove Road at Brisbane Grove. This subdivision is located approximately 5.5kms to the south west of the current project area. Located in undulating landscape, no sites or areas of potential were identified during the field survey in accordance with the landform modelling devised by Fuller for the Goulburn region.

In 2021 Past Traces also produced an Archaeological Report for Land Team Pty Ltd, for the proposed subdivision and development of Lansdowne Park, Lot 1 DP 1235443, located at 33 Bungonia Road in Goulburn NSW. A field survey identified four previously recorded Aboriginal heritage sites within the project area, and six area of PAD also present within the project area. Subsurface testing of these areas of PAD was also conducted, identifying areas of low-density archaeological deposits.

Based on these previous studies in the Goulburn region, the landforms with the most potential for heritage sites would be located overlooking creek lines on lower slopes or level terrace features. These sites would most likely consist of isolated finds or small artefact scatters and may be associated with subsurface deposits in undisturbed areas.

2.4.1 Predictive Model

Based on the previous assessments completed through the region site locations and types can be summarised as follows:

- Most open artefact scatters are located near creek lines, particularly on reasonably level, elevated ground and low gradient basal slopes
- Relatively large artefact scatters occur most frequently within 100-150m of major drainage lines, with a possible preference for creek confluences,
- Artefact scatters occurring away from major creek lines tend to be small and sparse,

The following predictive model has been developed for the project area (Table 2) based on a review of topographic maps and aerial photography.

Probability	Site Type	Definition	Landform		
Low	Isolated finds and surface scatters of stone artefacts	Stone artefacts ranging from single artefact to high numbers	Creek lines and spur crests. Creek lines are present within the study area. A drainage line is present to the northeast of the site.		
Low	Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADS)	Area considered on landform to hold higher potential for unidentified subsurface deposits	Varies, but most frequent on elevated terraces along creek lines and spurlines in undisturbed locations.		

Table 2 Site Prediction Model



Probability	Site Type	Definition	Landform		
Low	Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs)	Trees which have been modified by scarring, marking or branch twining	Old growth trees remain in project area.		
Nil	Rock Engravings	Images engraved on flat rock surfaces	Escarpments, rock platforms or rock shelters - not present.		
Low	Stone arrangements	Arrangements of stones by human intention, including circles lines or patterns.	Crest lines or large ceremonial areas on creek flats.		
Nil	Stone quarries/Ochre sources	Quarry sites where resources have been mined.	Any landform that has not been disturbed – not present.		
Low	Axe grinding grooves	Grooves in stone caused by the grinding of stone axes	Usually in creek lines, as water is used as abrasive with sand.		
Nil	Burials	Burials of Aboriginal persons	Usually requiring deep sandy soils on eastern facing slopes – not present.		

2.4.2 Historical Land Use

A search of historic parish maps and aerial photos show no historic structures located within the project area. A search of NSW Land Registry Services' Historical Land Records Viewer showed 292 Rosemont Road as a part of the Towrang Parish, of the County of Argyle. A section of NSW Historical Parish Map is shown in Figure 4 below, from the map Parish of Towrang, County of Argyle, Land District of Goulburn Eastern Division 1906.

It appears that the paddocks within the current project area were used for grazing with no infrastructure or improvements made to the property. The listed heritage curtilage for the adjacent Nooga property does not extend into the project area.



Figure 4. Section of Parish of Towrang 1906 map, showing study area.

2.5 LANDFORM AND DISTURBANCE LEVEL ASSESSMENT

The landforms within the project area consist of level to gentle lower slopes, considered to hold low potential based on the predictive model for Aboriginal sites. Water sources are present as a creek line running west to east in the centre of the property and along the southern border of proposed subdivision lot 4, approximately 200m from the proposed house lot 4. This creek line diverges into two lines from the western border of the property. It will be a primary aim of the field survey to determine the level of impact, visually assess if any sites are present and assess potential in these areas.

The project area has been impacted by European settlement from the mid nineteenth century. The project area has as a result been under continual grazing and pastoral regimes over a lengthy period of time. These past use impacts are typical for the region and consist of the following:

- Vegetation and tree clearance
- Stock impacts
- Fencing directly and indirectly by concentrating stock impact at gates and corner points
- Vehicle tracks mainly impact trails
- Ploughing of topsoils for pasture improvement or light cropping.

All of these impacts are present throughout the project area and will have reduced the potential for Aboriginal heritage sites to survive within the landscape.

2.6 FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

A site visit and field survey of the project area was undertaken on the 26th of July 2021, by Past Traces and a member of Pejar LALC, to verify the findings of the desktop review of landforms and disturbance. The aim of the investigation was to identify heritage objects or places of potential archaeological Deposit (PAD). Based upon the background research, known Aboriginal site patterning, and current aerial photography, the entire impact areas were inspected (house lots and access roads).

All surveyed areas and items of interest were recorded on a topographic map of the study area (using a GPS and GDA 94 coordinates), along with levels of visibility, erosion, soil conditions, and evidence of land disturbance.

Ground surface visibility (GSV) is the percentage of ground surface that is visible during the field inspection through the grass and vegetation coverage. GSV increases in areas of exposures such as stock impact trails, roads, gates and along areas of erosion such as creek banks and dam walls. As a result, surveys undertaken in areas with high exposure rates result in a more effective survey coverage.

The site visit resulted in the following findings.

2.6.1 Ground Surface Visibility

GSV over most of the study area was low due to consistent levels of grass coverage across the project area with small and infrequent areas of exposures. At the time of the field survey the project area had been slashed previously and grass length was long at around 100cm average. The overall percentage of GSV was estimated at 10%. Bare earth was visible through the grass length, estimated at 5% exposure. GSV was higher in small exposures caused by erosion, fence lines, gate entrances and stock impacts, estimated to be 40%.

The conditions at the time of the field survey are shown in plates 1 to 10.

The areas of the proposed house lots are located on gentle gradient lower slope landform. This landform is not considered to hold high potential for unrecorded sites.





Plate 1: House Lot 1, northwest facing.

Plate 2: House Lot 1 GSV and Exposure.





Plate 3: House Lot 2, southeast facing.

Plate 4: House Lot 2 GSV and Exposure.

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Plate 5: House Lot 3, southeast facing.



Plate 6: House Lot 3 GSV and Exposure.



Plate 7: House Lot 4, north facing.

Plate 8: House Lot 4 GSV and Exposure.

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Plate 9: House Lot 5, northeast facing.

Plate 10: House Lot 5 GSV and Exposure.

2.6.2 Disturbance

The degree of disturbance across the study area was low with landforms having been subject only to moderate impacts. Disturbance across the project area consisted of prior vegetation removal, pasture improvement and impact of stock and erosion across the project area, all of which would affect the preservation of sites.

2.6.3 Results – Aboriginal Heritage Sites

No areas of Aboriginal heritage were identified during the field survey despite the moderate rate of GSV. No known heritage sites will be affected by the proposed development.

2.6.4 Results – Areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)

Areas of PAD are defined as landforms that hold higher potential than their surrounds to contain subsurface deposits of past Aboriginal occupation. Based on a review of previous studies, areas of PAD would be located in association with waterways (1st or 2nd order streams) on raised terrace features of junctions.



None of the landform impacted by the building envelopes or access road have been assessed as holding high potential for subsurface deposits. As a result, no areas of PAD have been identified within the project area.

2.6.5 Summary

As a result of the assessment, it is considered that the project has low potential to impact on unrecorded Aboriginal or historical heritage sites or areas of PAD. No heritage sites or areas of PAD were recorded or identified as a result of the assessment and no areas of high sensitivity are present in the development area based on previous research and modelling.

The Code provides a flowchart of six questions to identify the presence of and potential harm to Aboriginal heritage. These questions and their applicability to the project are shown in Figure 5. The responses to these questions determine if further heritage investigations are required.

Figure 5. Due Diligence Flow Diagram (OEH 2010:10 - Due Diligence Code of Practice)



3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The impacts from the proposed subdivision would be confined within the 4000m² area of each house lot. These areas have been subject to a Heritage assessment which resulted in no heritage sites or areas of potential identified within the project boundaries. Based on landform and a review of the predictive modelling for the region, the area of the road construction is considered to hold low potential for unrecorded heritage sites or subsurface deposits.

The project area has a moderate degree of disturbance and soils appear to be thin and overlaying base clays and shale. Due to the general lack of depth of topsoils, this area is considered to hold low potential for unrecorded sites or subsurface deposits. The undulating low gradients along most of the route are considered to hold low potential for unrecorded heritage sites or subsurface deposits

Based on the assessment the impacts from the project are as follows:

- No known Aboriginal or historical objects or places will be impacted by the proposed works.
- No areas of high potential to contain unrecorded Aboriginal or historical heritage sites or places are present in the project area.
- There are no known heritage impacts from the project.

3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on this Due Diligence Heritage assessment the following actions are recommended for the project.

Recommendation 1: Works to proceed without further heritage assessment with caution.

The proposed works can proceed without further assessment as no Aboriginal or historical heritage sites (objects or places) have been identified within the project area. The potential for impacting on unrecorded heritage sites within the project area is assessed as low, based on landform analysis and desktop review of heritage registers and reports.

Recommendation 2: Discovery of Unidentified Aboriginal cultural material during works.

Under the *NPW Act 1977* all Aboriginal places and objects are protected from harm, even if they have not been previously identified during the assessment process. If Aboriginal material is discovered during works then the steps as outlined below should be followed:

- All work must cease in the vicinity of the find and project manager notified immediately.
- A buffer zone of 10m should be fenced in all direction of the find and construction personnel made aware of the 'no go' zone.
- NSW Heritage must be notified of the find and advice sought on the proper steps to be undertaken.



 After confirmation with NSW Heritage consultation should be engaged to undertake assessment of the find and provide appropriate management recommendations to the proponent.

Recommendation 3: Discovery of Human Remains

In the highly unlikely event that human remains are discovered during any construction work, than all activity in the vicinity of the find must cease. As a first step the local police must be notified, followed by NSW Heritage and advice sought on appropriate next actions. No work can continue on the site until cleared with police and NSW Heritage.

Recommendation 4: Alteration of impact footprint

Further archaeological assessment would be required if the proposal activity extends beyond the area of the current investigation.

Implementation of the above management recommendations will result in low potential for the project to impact on heritage values or result in damage to heritage sites.

4 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1 – AHIMS Search



AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Client Service ID : 613872

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>		<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	Easting	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	Site Status **	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
51-6-0420	RRAS4		AGD	55	751660	6147272	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 2		
	<u>Contact</u>	T Russell	<u>Recorders</u>	Arch	aeological H	eritage Survey	S		Permits		
51-6-0417	RRAS1		AGD	55	751707	6147828	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 3		
	<u>Contact</u>	T Russell	<u>Recorders</u>	Arch	aeological H	eritage Survey	S		Permits		
51-6-0418	RRAS2		AGD	55	751610	6147588	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	T Russell	<u>Recorders</u>	Arch	aeological H	eritage Survey	S		Permits		
51-6-0419	RRAS3		AGD	55	751658	6147456	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	T Russell	<u>Recorders</u>	Arch	aeological H	eritage Survey	S		Permits		
51-6-0415	RRA1		AGD	55	751649	6147786	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		
	<u>Contact</u>	T Russell	<u>Recorders</u>	Arch	aeological H	eritage Survey	S		<u>Permits</u>		

** 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 Not a 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 14/08/2021 for Lyn O'Brien for the following area at Lot : 117, DP:DP126140, Section : - with a Buffer of 1000 meters. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 5

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