



INSITE HERITAGE
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**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment
251 Adelaide Ave
Raymond Terrace, NSW**

Prepared For
DeWitt Consulting

June 2016

Introduction

Insite Heritage Pty Ltd were commissioned by DeWitt Consulting on behalf of Phoenix Builders to provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of potential impact on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage by the proposed rezoning of the site to allow for the establishment of residential and villa allotments.

The property, 251 Adelaide St Raymond Terrace (Lot 232 DP 593512), is a former quarry site. The north western portion of the lot is the subject of the proposed rezoning. The area of the rezoning proposal is approximately 7ha of the total approximately 43 ha block. The area of development relative to the total Lot is shown in Figure 1.

An AHIMS search for the study located two isolated finds located to the south of the site associated with road upgrades. An inspection of the study area was carried out with a representative of Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) on the 15th May 2016. No Aboriginal objects, or areas of potential archaeological deposit, were located. The survey was done in the northern section of the site and subsequently the study area was enlarged. An additional survey was not considered necessary as the additional area contained the quarry infrastructure and areas of low lying ground with dense vegetation. The initial survey results were extrapolated over the remainder of the site.

The history of quarrying on the site has reduced the archaeological potential of the site significantly. The site has been used for quarrying purposes since 1974 and this was reflected in the poorly developed soil profile on the site. The site is not considered to have archaeological potential.

The cultural heritage values assessment will be provided by the Worimi LALC and included in this report upon receipt.

PROPERTY REFERENCE :

PROPOSED REZONING
LOT 232 D.P.593512
251 ADELAIDE STREET, RAYMOND TERRACE

DRAFT



Figure 1 Location 251 Adelaide Ave Raymond Terrace

1. Introduction

DeWitt Consulting have been commissioned to prepare a rezoning application on behalf of Pheonix Builders. The rezoning of 251 Adelaide Ave Raymond Terrace, will be determined by Port Stephens Shire Council. Currently zoned RU2 (rural) the rezoning would allow the development of medium density housing. This assessment is intended to identify any potential impacts as a result of the rezoning, on Aboriginal cultural heritage and to provide recommendations regarding mitigation measures.

2. Environmental Landscape

The site is identified as flood prone land, and two tributaries to Windeyers Creek passed through the area prior to the impact of mining. Historically the site has been used for quarrying since the mid-1960's while information on the title of the land shows quarrying since at least 1974¹ the void acts as a storage area for flood waters from the Hunter River that then drains in to Windeyer Creek. The area of the rezoning has been historically quarried since the mid 1960's and is now revegetated predominately with Radiata Pine and remnant Swamp Oak forest.

The flora and fauna assessment identified a paucity of hollow bearing trees which is consistent with the size of the trees observed in the site inspection. In general the trees on site did not appear to be of sufficient age for Aboriginal modification and no evidence of cultural modification was observed. The 2004 Google Earth image clearly shows the straight line character of the planted Radiata in the north west portion of the site (Figure 2).



Figure 2 The subject area 2004 - Google Earth

The soil landscape map for the area also shows the area as disturbed (Figure 3). The soil landscape is Shoal Bay - Aeolian Pleistocene sand sheets with slope gradients generally <5% but on slopes of rolling dunes up to 15%, with local relieve generally <5m². This particular soil landscape can be

¹ 2011 ERM 251 Adelaide Street Raymond Terrace, Ecological Due Diligence and BioBanking Assessment. Report to Rocla Quarry Products (p14)

² Murphy, C.L 1995 Soil Landscapes of the Port Stephens 1:100,000 Sheet. Published Soil Conservation Service of NSW,

The southern boundary of the proposed rezoning area is bounded by the Grahamstown drain, an artificial drain constructed to take over flows upstream (Figure 4).



Figure 4 The subject site circa 2007 (Google Earth) – note the Grahamstown drain at the base of the area.

3. Archaeological Context

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) was undertaken with a 200m buffer in order to identify any previously recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites which may be impacted by the proposed works.

The search located two sites south of the site (refer Appendix A). The sites 38-4-0238 and 38-4-0320. The sites were located in the course of the Raymond Terrace Bypass archaeological assessment in 1990. 38-4-0320 comprised 7 artefacts located in two concentrations in disturbed areas. A total of 7 artefacts were recorded made from silcrete and indurated mudstone. Six of the artefacts were flakes and the other a large core. The sites are located 40m from Windeyers Creek on intact creek terraces. 38-4-0238 comprises 14 artefacts of a variety of raw material located 5m from Windeyers Creek on a terrace.

The subject area has been subject to the excavation of a large void that would have incorporated the two arms of Windeyers Creek and the associated terraces. The Grahamstown drain has also been excavated on the southern boundary of the proposed rezoning to relieve flooding. At the time of closure the site support a floating dredge, sand wash, mooring and pontoons, office/weighbridge and staff amenities and earthmoving operations. The historical infrastructure associated with the mining of the site from the mid 1960's is not known. There is negligible potential for creek terrace to remain on the site.

The bio-banking assessment of the site prepared by ERM reviewed historical photographs of the site and found that the site had been quarried since the mid-1960s. The review found that "the north-west of the site, which has the highest potential for redevelopment to residential use was

historically quarried and now appears vegetated”³. A site visit found that there is evidence of disturbance with a steep un-natural cut along the northern boundary and a similarly steep western margin possibly due to fill under Adelaide proposed rezoning is located on the margins of a sand quarry site. The tree cover is generally introduced (Radiata Pine) with a some remnant Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest.



Plate 1 The north- west corner of the site view east

There are two sites recorded on AHIMS to the south of the study area. The two sites are open sites located on the terrace of Windeyers Creek. There are no other archaeological records relevant to the study area.

³ (ibid) Page 15



Figure 5 AHIMS locations relative to the study area – area in red was surveyed

The desktop assessment did not locate any Aboriginal objects. The site was inspected with Richard Kime of Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council, on the 17th of May 2016. The inspection focused on the area marked in red (Figure 4) as this was the initial rezoning proposal area. The area has been extended to that shown in Figure 1. Additional survey was not considered necessary given the disturbance on the site, and the results of the survey extrapolated over the additional area.

No archaeological objects or areas of potential archaeological deposit.

It was noted that the soil profile appeared poorly developed unlike the top of slope in the adjacent park. The northern margins of the site with a slope of approximately 45% is clearly not natural or consistent with the soil landscape description of typical slopes (Plate 1). In addition the trees within the study area appeared to be no more than approx. 30 years old, which is consistent with the ERM assessment of sandmining in the area in the 1960's – 1970's (Plates 2&3).



Plate 2 The brown A horizon of the sandy soil in the park to the north of the study area.



Plate 3 the soil beneath pine needles, note the poorly developed humic layer

Archaeological visibility was provided by the powerline transect across the block (Plate 4). The easement provided 20% archaeological visibility (260m x 5m of easement inspected) providing 260 sqm of archaeological visibility (Plate 5). No cultural heritage objects were located.

As shown in Plates 1, 3 & 4, surface visibility was very limited by a deep cover of pine needles. Three areas of exposure within the forested areas of the site provided by exposures (total of 5 x 10m with 10% archaeological visibility) totalling 5 sqm of effective exposure (Plate 6). A total of 265 sqm of the 1.8ha included in the survey area provided the opportunity to locate heritage objects. There is no potential for modified trees given the younger age of the trees and the introduction of radiate pine.



Plate 4 The approx 45 degree slope - northern margin



Plate 5 View west across the southern end of the study area along the powerline easement



Plate 6 Surface visibility in an exposure mid section of the site



Plate 7 Typical surface visibility



Plate 8 Access track to the WWTP on the northern boundary of the study area

Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment

Based upon the historic landuse assessment (ERM 2011), and the site inspection the study area has been highly impacted by at least 40 years of sandmining. The potential for items of Aboriginal heritage to remain in- situ is very low.

Recommendations

There were sufficient sample areas of surface visibility at the time of inspection to determine that the subject area has been substantially disturbed. The soil profile was observed to be poorly developed which is consistent with a history of sandmining. Whilst overall the surface visibility was low due to the ground cover of pine needles, there were no objects found in those areas that did present the opportunity for objects to be located.

There are no constraints to the rezoning, given that the likelihood of sites of significance remaining within the study area being low.

References

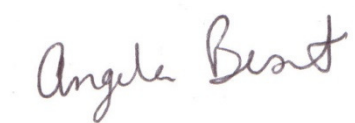
Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales. NSW Office of Environment & Heritage 2010.

ERM 2011 251 Adelaide Street Raymond Terrace, Ecological Due Diligence and BioBanking Assessment. Report to Rocla Quarry Products (p14)

Murphy, C.L 1995 Soil Landscapes of the Port Stephens 1:100,000 Sheet. Published Soil Conservation Service of NSW,

Yours sincerely

Insite Heritage Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Angela Besant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a stylized 'B'.

Angela Besant
Senior Archaeologist
Insite Heritage Pty Ltd

Appendix A– AHIMS Search

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : dewitt raymond terrace

Client Service ID : 223135

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
38-4-0238	RT 3;	AGD	56	381900	6372150	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1916,1983,219 9,102116
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Doctor.Jo McDonald,Elizabeth Rich					<u>Permits</u>		
38-4-0320	RT 5;	AGD	56	382220	6372230	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1983,102116
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Doctor.Jo McDonald					<u>Permits</u>		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 29/04/2016 for Angela Besant for the following area at Lot : 232, DP:DP593512 with a Buffer of 200 meters. Additional Info : to inform and impact assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 2

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

Appendix B Worimi LALC report

(to be included after review)