



# Enclosure 17

Copy of Aboriginal Cultural  
Heritage Site Assessment  
prepared by Ron Heron  
dated July-August 2009

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**  
**Site Assessment**

**Prepared for Harrison Shepherd Pty Ltd**  
**Professional Surveyors, Consultants and Town Planners**  
**Incorporating Mr. Peter Williamson**  
**PO Box 397**  
**Yamba NSW 2463**

**Re: Rezoning application from Rural to Residential**  
**DP 751388**  
**Lot 104, James Creek Road NSW 2463**

**July-August**  
**2009**

**By Ron Heron**

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### Appendix:-MAPS.

*Figure 1* An aerial photograph of the subject land.

*Figure 2* A topographical map showing the location of the land.

*Figure 3* A map showing the location of the site and surrounding area.

## **1. Introduction.**

In late May 2009, I was requested to conduct an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Assessment for Harrison Shepherd Pty Ltd .

The purpose of this Aboriginal cultural heritage site assessment is to ascertain if there were any Aboriginal sites of significance present, to record them, and to recommend ways to avoid destruction of these sites and to consult with Yeagl Aboriginal Land Council about the Aboriginal cultural heritage site assessment and to see if there is any knowledge of sacred sites that exists within the study area.

## **2. Description of the Study Area.**

The Study Area is a large portion of land that is designated for sub divisions and has had extensive land clearing. Some of the flora that would have previously been present would have been (Stringy Bark, Bloodwood, Eucalyptus tetradonta, Wiggly Gums, Apple Gums, Wattles)/Grasses (Kooch kikuyu Blade grass Cane grass Barbed wire grass) and other small native flora and introduced noxious weeds. The land is sloped on a small gradient of approximately 5-10 degrees on the northern side of the property.

### *Previous Land use.*

The property was used for small crop growing and we did find evidence of land clearing.

## **3.) Location of the site.**

The proposed development site is located within the Clarence Valley Council LGA also within the Yeagl Country boundary. South of Maclean along James Creek Road Lot 104 James Creek 2463, Development proposal No# 751388. (See map figure 1,2,3)

## **TRIBAL BOUNDARIES**

### **THE YAYGIR BOUNDARY**

The tribal areas and the nature of differences among the dialects spoken within the area being studied are very complex. Defining tribal boundaries within the study area is therefore a continuous issue. Crowley (1978), for example, disputes the description by Smythe (1978) of the Yaygir area, suggesting that it is too small. 'The actual Yaygir area extended from the coast inland as far as Cowper on the Clarence River rather than just Maclean, south to Coffs Harbour rather than to just Wooli and north to Evan's Head rather than to just the mouth of the Clarence. This data comes from my own fieldwork on Yaygir (Crowley 1978:254).

My understanding is that the Yaygir area extends from the coast inland as far as Ulmarra , which is further than either Smythe or Crowley claim. Crowley's southern boundary of Coffs Harbour is too far south and the northern boundary of Evan's Head is too far north. However, Smythe describes the area as extending from the mouth of the Clarence River in the north to Maclean in the west and Wooli in the south. I was able to establish from my interviews with some of the Yaygir people that their tribal area extended from the small town of Corindi Beach in the south to Black Rocks in the north which is in between the towns of Evan's Head and Iluka, north of the Clarence River.

#### **4. Proposed Development.**

The proposed development is to become urban development by sub dividing the land and implementing all that urban development entails e.g (Roads, Electricity Sewage etc.)..

#### **5. Description of Impact.**

After conducting the field site survey I observed the ground and sandy found that the clayish soil would have been to hard and unsuitable and it would be very unlikely any burials would been present. After research and consultation with Yeagl Land Council and after the site assessment I have come to the conclusion that other sites of significance such as Dreamtime story affiliation Bora rings middens and Campsites have not been recorded or known by modern local Yeagl Aboriginals or seem to have any knowledge of previous occupation within the study area with this in mind there should be no impact on Aboriginal Sites of Significance.

#### **6. Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment.**

After conducting literature review and researching through my personal records and with consultation with the Yeagl community no evidence of any sites of significance such as Campsites, Middens, Burials, Bora rings and Stoneaxe factories or quarries could be located. The proposed development site holds no Aboriginal cultural value to the local Aboriginal people of today.

#### **7. Aboriginal Community Consultation.**

Aboriginal Community Consultation with Yeagl Local Aboriginal Land Council was conducted by verbal discussions about the site assessment and location of the site and if anyone knew of any Aboriginal sites of significance existed on or in close proximity to the site, none were known. Everyone was pleased to be consulted on such matters and have no objections to the development going ahead.

#### **8. Methodology.**

Firstly a review of Aboriginal Archaeological reports from National Parks and Wildlife Services was conducted of the area and surrounding area. A Heritage Study by D. Byrne (1986) "Aboriginal Archaeological Sites in the Shire of Maclean" was the only report that could be located and yielded useful information. I researched through my own personal files searching for any information containing cultural knowledge of the study area.

A field survey was conducted on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, This was carried out on foot, Walking in West to East transects, from South to North, The purpose of the field survey was to search all over the ground surface to ascertain if there were any Aboriginal sites of significance present and to record them.

The location of the study area the terrain, the soil consistency and the flora and fauna was also taken into consideration to determine if there were any Aboriginal sites of significance present.

The field survey was conducted to also search for artefacts such as stone implements by keeping a keen trained eye on the ground and collecting samples especially any foreign stones as the stones that are naturally from the site were not used in the making of stone implements.

## **9. Results.**

My findings after and researching through my personal records and a conducting literature review and with consultation with the Yeagl community no evidence of any sites of significance such as Campsites, Middens, Burials, Bora rings, and Stoneaxe factories or quarries could be located.

No Human Burials or bones were found because I don't think this site would be suitable for a Traditional Aboriginal Burial due to location and the hardness of the soil. So after Researching and Yeagl consultation and fieldwork no evidence could be found of any large Aboriginal Sites of Significance. .

## **10. Conclusion.**

I was asked to do a Aboriginal cultural heritage site assessment of Lot 104 James Creek road NSW 2463 to ascertain if there were any Aboriginal sites of significance present, to record them, and to recommend ways to avoid destruction of these sites and to consult with Yeagl Aboriginal Land Council about the Aboriginal cultural heritage site assessment and to see if there is any knowledge of sacred sites that exists within the study area. Upon completion of the field study and research and consultation, no other evidence could be found of sites of significance and I don't see any reason that the development can not go ahead.

## **11. Recommendations**

The proposed development has had extensive land clearing therefore it is expected that the proposed development would not impact on Aboriginal Heritage or Cultural values, However if any material of Aboriginal origin be located whilst excavation or ground disturbance is taking place, work should cease and the Project manager and the Aboriginal cultural officer should be notified immediately.

## References

- Byrne. D., 1986 Aboriginal Archaeological Sites in the Shire of Maclean: *A Heritage Study. A Report prepared for Maclean Shire Council.*
- Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) 2004/5 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974: Part 6 Approvals *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for NSW.*
- Heron. R., 1990 My People, My Culture, A study of the Aboriginal People on the Lower Clarence River.
- Smith. J. and Crowley. B., 1978 Tribal Boundaries of New South Wales.
- NSW Dept of lands