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15 April 2018

David Walker  
Geolyse Pty Ltd  
PO Box 1963  
Orange NSW 2800

Dear David

*Re Lot C DP351037 Auckland Street, Bega*

NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd has been engaged by Geolyse to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessment of Lot C DP351037 Auckland Street, Bega.

Lot C DP351037 is in a residential area within the township of Bega, near to the corner of Auckland Street and McKee Drive. The study area measures ~ 0.3 hectares in area and is an undeveloped section of land that forms part of the grounds of the former Bega Hospital. It is vegetated with a consistent ground coverage of grasses and a sparse alignment of established trees along its northern and eastern boundaries.

This letter has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage – OEH (formally NSW DECCW) *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*<sup>1</sup> (NSW DECCW 2010).

For the purposes of this project, due diligence means ‘taking reasonable and practical steps to determine whether a person’s actions will harm an

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<sup>1</sup> Hereafter referred to as the *Due Diligence Code*.

Aboriginal object and, if so, what measures can be taken to avoid that harm' (NSW DECCW 2010: 18).

The *Due Diligence Code* outlines a number of steps to be adhered to in order to exercise due diligence when activities are undertaken that have the potential to cause harm to Aboriginal objects. The code stipulates that these steps should be followed in order to:

- identify whether or not Aboriginal objects are or are likely to be present in an area;
- ascertain whether or not the proposed activities are likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present); and
- determine whether an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application is required.

If Aboriginal objects are present or likely to be present *and* an activity will harm those objects, an AHIP is required.

As a result of the assessment, the following conclusions are made:

- There are no known *previously* recorded Aboriginal objects located in the activity area.
- On the basis of the current assessment, it is concluded that the property has no known heritage values and is determined to be of low to negligible heritage sensitivity.
- No further heritage assessment is required; an AHIP is not required.
- There are no heritage constraints to the proposal.

### *Proposed Impacts*

It is proposed that a new TAFE building be erected on this Lot.

### *AHIMS Site Search Results*

A search of the NSW OEH Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) has been undertaken in respect of this study (Search date: 27 February 2018). The search was for the lot with a buffer of 50 meters (see Appendix 1).

Two Aboriginal sites were listed on AHIMS as being recorded within the broader search area, being located away from the proposed activity area.

The sites are:

- 62-6-465 located a 33 Girrween Crescent Bega. This site is a private collection and outside the subject area.
- 62-6-495 located a 33 Girrween Crescent Bega. This site is a duplicate recording of the above.

### *Survey*

A survey of the study area was undertaken on 2 March 2018 by Andrew Pearce (NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd) wherein the study area was visually inspected and assessed with regard to any Aboriginal cultural heritage potential which may be present.

The study area is a simple slope landform (Plate 1 and 2). It has a gentle to moderate gradient and northerly aspect, falling away to a very minor 1st order drainage line located on the adjacent property to the north. Such landforms with this degree of incline are typically predicted to be of low archaeological sensitivity and potential.

No Aboriginal objects were located during this assessment and no exposed areas of ground surface were present. The site has been cleared and is now totally grassed except for rows of established trees. A line of trees is planted inside the northern boundary of the Lot, which is fenced, and along the frontage to Auckland Street.

Generally, the ground surface of the site has undergone moderate levels of prior disturbance with levels having been modified, smoothed to planate areas to facilitate maintenance.



Photo 1. The study area, looking east towards Auckland Street.



Photo 2. Looking south, Auckland Street to the left, across the drainage depression to the study area beyond the line of trees.

### *Conclusion*

No Aboriginal objects were observed during the field survey. This assessment has concluded that based on an understanding of Aboriginal land use, a visual inspection and the extent of previous impacts, the study area is assessed to be of generally low archaeological potential and sensitivity.

The Due Diligence Code of Practice (NSW DECCW 2010) - Step 4 of the Due Diligence Code of Practice (NSW DECCW 2010) indicates that where the assessment or visual inspection does not indicate that there are (or are likely to be) Aboriginal objects, the proponent can proceed with caution without an AHIP application. Section 5 provides further summary information of the legislative context relating to Aboriginal heritage in development contexts.

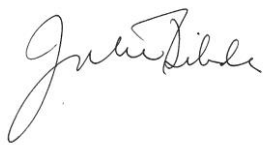
The assessment has concluded that based on an environmental grounds and the extent of previous impacts, the activity area is not likely to be archaeologically sensitive.

Accordingly, further archaeological assessment and an AHIP is not required.

If Aboriginal objects are found while undertaking the activity the proponent must stop work and notify the NSW OEH; an AHIP may need to be sought.

If human skeletal remains are found the proponent must stop work immediately, secure the area to prevent unauthorized access and contact the NSW Police and OEH.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Dibden', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr Julie Dibden  
New South Wales Archaeology Pty Limited