



Gilmore Waste Composting Facility: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for Snowy Valleys Council

21 January 2021

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Biosis project no.:	33622
File name:	33622.Gilmore.Composting.ACHA.FIN01.202100121
Citation:	Biosis 2021. Gilmore Waste Composting Facility: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Report for Snowy Valleys Council. Keevers-Eastman, A. Vella, A. Lucas, M., Biosis Pty Ltd. Newcastle, NSW. Project no 33622

Document control

Version	Internal reviewer	Date issued
Draft version 01	Taryn Gooley	17/11/2020
Draft version 02	Amanda Markham	25/11/2020

Acknowledgements

Biosis gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following people and organisations in preparing this report:

- Martin Canteros-Paz (Snowy Valleys Council)
- Brungle-Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council

Biosis staff involved in this project were:

- Sonika Kumar (Biosis), GIS and mapping
- James Shepherd (Biosis), GIS and mapping

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Glossary

ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
ASR	Archaeological Survey Report
Consultation requirements	<i>Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010</i>
DA	Determining Authority
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now Heritage NSW)
DP	Deposited Plan
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSV	Ground Surface Visibility
Heritage NSW	Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly Office of Environment and Heritage)
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
NTSCORP	Native Title Services Corporation
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
Study area	6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW, Lot 1 DP197308

Summary

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed waste and composting facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP197308) (the study area). This ACHA was completed following the results of an Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) previously conducted by Biosis (2020) that identified areas of moderate and high archaeological potential. The study area is located in farmland approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district (CBD).

The project will be assessed as an integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). This ACHA will determine if the proposed development is likely to have any impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Consultation

The Aboriginal community was consulted regarding the heritage management of the project throughout its lifespan. Consultation has been undertaken as per the process outlined in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The appropriate government bodies were notified and advertisements placed in the Tumut and Adelong Times newspaper (4 August 2020), which resulted in the following Aboriginal organisations registering their interest (Table 1):

Table 1 List of registered Aboriginal parties and group contact

No.	Organisation	Contact person
1	Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)	Sue Bulger
2	Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group	Lindsay Connolly
3	Alice Williams	-
4	Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Darlene Johnson
5	Gulgunya Ngungawal Heritage Aboriginal Consultancy	Glen Freeman
6	Merrigarn	Shaun Carroll
7	Jesse Johnson	-
8	Mathew Marlow	-
9	Oak Hill Enterprises	Sonia Shea

A search conducted by the Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* listed no Aboriginal Owners with land within the study area. A search conducted by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) also listed no Registered Native Title Claims, Unregistered Claimant Applications or Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements within the study area.

Upon registration, the Aboriginal parties were invited to provide their knowledge on the study area and on the proposal provided in the Stage 2 and 3 information and methodology pack. A record of consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) is included in Appendix 1, Appendix 2, Appendix 3 and Appendix 4.

Site officers from Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) participated in the field investigation and provided comment on the study area with regard to the proposal. Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives agreed that the southern portion of the study area had potential for Aboriginal camp sites, but stated it was difficult to know for sure as there haven't been many archaeological excavations completed in the local area. Sue Bulger noted that her family lived close by the study area, near Gilmore Creek and that her family would collect milk from the dairy near the study area.

During the test excavation program Biosis also consulted with site officers from Brungle/Tumut LALC about the placement of test pits and the archaeological potential of the study area. Steve Connolly, a representative of Brungle/Tumut LALC, commented on the potential for Aboriginal sites to be located around remnant trees near creek lines and in crest landforms in the local area. Steve requested that a test pit be excavated near by a remnant tree on the gentle slope landform within the southern portion of the study area. Steve also noted that the creek terrace likely had a low potential as camping would have been more likely to occur on raised landforms due to the boggy nature of the creek terrace/flat. This assessment of the archaeological potential of the study area was shared by other site officers who attend the test excavations on behalf of Brungle/Tumut LALC. A test pit was therefore excavated within the proximity of the tree identified by Steve Connolly, and the extent of the slope landform which was to be impacted by the proposed works was targeted as part of Biosis' archaeological assessment. This resulted in the identification of a moderate density sub-surface deposit (Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending).

Lindsay Connolly of the Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group, also provided comment during a visit to the site on 28 August 2020. Lindsay Connolly noted that the crest landform within the southern portion of the study area contained high potential as it is positioned well within the landscape with good view points towards creek lines and the surrounding area. Lindsay also stated that there was low potential for Aboriginal sites to be identified within the creek terrace/flat landform as it would not have been considered suitable for camping. Lindsay Connolly stated that testing upon the crest should be undertaken if the proposed works were to impact this portion of the study area. Biosis has recommended that further investigation be undertaken within this portion of the study area should impacts be proposed.

The outcome of the consultation process was that the RAPs considered the study area to contain cultural significance, although that significance was not clearly defined and specific examples were not provided. The results of the consultation process are included in this document.

The recommendations that resulted from the consultation process are provided below.

Results

The ACHA assessment undertook background research for the study area. Key considerations arising from the background research include:

- There are 103 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites registered with the Aboriginal Heritage Management System (AHIMS) register within a 20 kilometre radius of the study area. None of the registered sites are located within the study area.
- A draft ASR previously conducted by Biosis (2020) identified areas of high and moderate archaeological potential within the study area.
- Artefact scatters and isolated finds are commonly identified within the Munjary Hills and Ranges and the alluvial Tumut Channels and Floodplains landscapes, both present within the study area.
- Sites are considered most likely to be present within raised areas overlooking fresh water sources and are more likely to be of greater density, and intact, than those found in low lying landforms such as creek flats.

- Although no Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) sites are identified within the study area, previous archaeological assessments have identified cultural pathways associated with the Bogong Moth Feasts in the vicinity of the study area.

A field investigation consisting of an archaeological survey of the study area was undertaken on 17 June 2020. The field investigation was attended by Biosis Archaeologist Taryn Gooley, and Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) representatives Sue Bulger, Peter Bulger, and Leanne Williams. Also in attendance was Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer from Snowy Valleys Council. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage.

Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area was assessed as having areas of low, moderate and high archaeological potential.

Following the results of the field investigation a test excavation program was undertaken to determine whether archaeological deposits exist within areas of moderate and high potential identified by the assessment. The extent of the test excavations was limited to the development footprint where impacts were likely to occur. Test excavations were carried out over a period of nine days, spanning between 28 August 2020 and 12 October 2020. The test excavations resulted in the identification of three previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites (Gilmore-AD-01, AHIMS #pending, Gilmore-AD-02, AHIMS #pending, and Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending).

The results of the assessment suggest there is potential for development activities to impact upon Aboriginal sites within the study area. An assessment of significance concluded that Gilmore-AD-01, Gilmore-AD-02 have low archaeological significance, and Gilmore-AD-03 was assessed as having moderate archaeological significance. Through the implementation of mitigation measures, harm to Gilmore-AD-01 can be avoided.

The proposed works will directly impact Gilmore-AD-02 and will partially impact Gilmore-AD-03, resulting in the total or partial loss of these two sites. Biosis' assessment has determined that none of the subsurface deposits in Gilmore-AD-02 or of Gilmore-AD-03 have the potential to provide further information on Aboriginal occupation and land use within the region, therefore further archaeological salvage of these sites is not required. However, the assessment determined that Gilmore-AD-03 may extend into the crest/slope landform to the south-east of the site. The crest/slope landform within the south eastern portion of the study area has therefore been assessed as having high archaeological sensitivity. The creek flats within the south-western portion of the study area have also been assessed as possessing moderate archaeological sensitivity. Should future works be required within areas of moderate and high archaeological sensitivity then further archaeological assessment will be required.

Site specific recommendation are provided in Table 2 below, based upon an assessment of impacts to Gilmore-AD-01, AHIMS #pending, Gilmore-AD-02, AHIMS #pending, and Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending.

Table 2 Site details

Site name	Site type	Significance	Type of harm before mitigated	Consequence of unmitigated harm	Consequence of mitigated harm	Site specific recommendations
Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending)	Isolated artefact	Low	No Harm	No Harm	No Harm	Prior to works commencing, site should be fenced off and secured. It is proposed that should RAPs be in agreeance the reburial of artefacts recovered during this assessment can be undertaken within this site extent.
Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending)	Low density archaeological deposit	Low	Total Harm	Total loss of value	Impact cannot be avoided	AHIP should be obtained prior to impacts occurring. No further archaeological works recommended.
Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending)	Moderate density archaeological deposit	Moderate	Partial Harm	Partial loss of value	Impact cannot be avoided	AHIP should be obtained prior to impacts occurring within portion to be harmed by the proposed works. Prior to works commencing, the portion of the site to be retained should be fenced off and secured. No further archaeological works recommended.

Management recommendations

Prior to any development impacts occurring within the study area, the following is recommended:

Recommendation 1: Application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) to harm Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and part of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending)

Biosis recommends that an application for an AHIP to harm Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and part of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending) covering the entirety of the development footprint be obtained. An AHIP is required for any activities likely to have an impact on Aboriginal objects or Places, or that cause land to be disturbed for the purposes of discovering an Aboriginal object. Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly Office of Environment and Heritage) (Heritage NSW) issues AHIPs under Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act).

AHIPs should be prepared by a qualified archaeologist and lodged with Heritage NSW. Once the application is lodged processing time can take between 8-12 weeks. It should be noted that there will be an application fee levied by the Heritage NSW for the processing of AHIPs, which is dependent on the estimated total cost of the development project.

Recommendation 2: No further archaeological investigations required for Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending)

No further archaeological investigations are recommended for Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending). Works may proceed in these areas following the obtainment of an AHIP for the proposed development, subject to recommendation 3 to 7 below.

Recommendation 3: Fencing of Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending), part of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending) and the southern boundary of proposed works

The proposed works will not impact Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending). Prior to any works taking place, the site should be clearly fenced in order to prevent any unintentional impacts. Fencing must remain in place over the over the lifespan of the proposed development.

The proposed works will partially impact Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending). Prior to any works taking place the portion of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending) which will be retained should therefore be clearly fenced in order to prevent any unintentional impacts to the site. Fencing must remain in place over the over the lifespan of the proposed development.

It is recommended that the southern boundary of the proposed works are securely fenced to ensure the proposed works do not impact on any areas of high or moderate archaeological potential identified within the crest landform. Fencing must remain in place over the over the lifespan of the proposed development.

Recommendation 4: Further archaeological assessment required for areas not tested as part of this assessment

The archaeological test excavations completed as part of this assessment focused on the proposed development impact footprint. Areas of moderate and high archaeological potential outside of this development footprint were not tested as part of this assessment. Should future works within these areas occur, further archaeological assessment will be required.

Recommendation 5: Discovery of Unanticipated Aboriginal Objects

All Aboriginal objects and Places are protected under the NPW Act. It is an offence to knowingly disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by Heritage NSW. Should any Aboriginal objects be

encountered during works associated with this proposal, works must cease in the vicinity and the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an Aboriginal object the archaeologist will provide further recommendations. These may include notifying the Heritage NSW and Aboriginal stakeholders.

Recommendation 6: Discovery of Unanticipated Historical Relics

Relics are historical archaeological resources of local or State significance and are protected in NSW under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Relics cannot be disturbed except with a permit or exception/exemption notification. Should unanticipated relics be discovered during the course of the project, work in the vicinity must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make a preliminary assessment of the find. The Heritage Council will require notification if the find is assessed as a relic.

Recommendation 7: Discovery of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains

Aboriginal ancestral remains may be found in a variety of landscapes in NSW, including middens and sandy or soft sedimentary soils. If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity you must:

1. Immediately cease all work at that location and not further move or disturb the remains.
2. Notify the NSW Police and Heritage NSW Environmental Line on 131 555 as soon as practicable and provide details of the remains and their location.
3. Not recommence work at that location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.

Recommendation 8: Continued consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs)

The proponent should continue to inform these groups about the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the study area throughout the life of the project.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composting facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) (Figure 1). The project will be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an ASR for the study area (Biosis 2020). The ASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut LALC. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. The ASR did identify areas of moderate and high archaeological potential that will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design. Therefore this ACHA has been prepared to investigate area of moderate and high archaeological potential within the proposed impact footprint.

This report details the investigation, and assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage, and Aboriginal community consultation undertaken for the study area. The Archaeological Report (AR) in Appendix 5 details the findings of the archaeological investigations conducted as part of the ACHA. As required under Section 2.3 of the Code, the AR provides evidence about the material traces of Aboriginal land use to support the conclusions and management recommendations in the ACHA.

1.2 Study area

The study area is located approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga CBD (Figure 1). It encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land (Figure 2) and incorporates Lot 1 DP197308.

The study area is within the:

- Snowy Valleys Local Government Area (LGA).
- Parish of Tumut.
- County of Wynyard.

The study area is bounded by the Snowy Mountains Highway to the west, Killarney Road to the north east, private land to the east and road reserve to the south.

1.3 Proposed development

Snowy Valleys Council are proposing to develop a new composting area to the south of the current waste management facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW (Figure 3). The area will actively be used for composting.

1.4 Planning approvals

The proposed development will be assessed against Part 4 of the EP&A Act. Other relevant legislation and planning instruments that will inform this assessment include:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- NPW Act.
- *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010*.
- *Infrastructure State Environmental Planning Policy 2007* (SEPP).
- Tumut LEP 2012.
- *Tumut Development Control Plan 2012*.

1.5 Restricted and confidential information

Appendix 1 in the AR (see Appendix 5) contains AHIMS information which is confidential and is not to be made public. This is clearly marked on the title page for the Attachment.

1.6 Aboriginal cultural heritage

1.6.1 General description

According to Allen and O'Connell (2003), Aboriginal people have inhabited the Australian continent for the last 50,000 years. New evidence out of the Northern Territory has pushed this date back with the Malakanunja II rock shelter dated at around 65,000 years BP (before present) (Clarkson et al. 2017).

In NSW, according to Bowler et al. (2003), Aboriginal people have occupied the land for over 42,000 years. However, preliminary evidence presented by Biosis (2016) from a subsurface testing program in south-western NSW suggests Aboriginal people may have occupied the semi-arid zone of the region for 50,000 years. Thenden-Ringl's (2018) research of Namadgi Ranges rock shelters identified the "high country" in south eastern Australia was intensely occupied from 9,000 to 6,000 BP and again from approximately 2,000 BP.

Without being part of the Aboriginal culture and the productions of this culture, it is not possible for non-Aboriginal people to fully understand the meaning of site, objects and places to Aboriginal people – only to move closer towards understanding this meaning with the help of the Aboriginal community. Similarly, definitions of Aboriginal culture and cultural heritage without this involvement constitute outsider interpretations.

With this preface Aboriginal cultural heritage broadly refers to things that relate to Aboriginal culture and hold cultural meaning and significance to Aboriginal people (DECCW 2010a, p.3). There is an understanding in Aboriginal culture that everything is interconnected. In essence Aboriginal cultural heritage can be viewed as potentially encompassing any part of the physical and/or mental landscape, that is, 'Country' (DECCW 2010a, p.iii).

Aboriginal people's interpretation of cultural value is based on their 'traditions, observance, lore, customs, beliefs and history' (DECCW 2010a, p.3). The things associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage are continually and actively being defined by Aboriginal people (DECCW 2010a, p.3). These things can be associated with traditional, historical or contemporary Aboriginal culture (DECCW 2010a, p.3).

1.6.2 Tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage

Three categories of tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage may be defined:

- Things that have been observably modified by Aboriginal people.
- Things that may have been modified by Aboriginal people but no discernible traces of that activity remain.

- Things never physically modified by Aboriginal people (but associated with Dreamtime Ancestors who shaped those things).

1.6.3 Intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage

Examples of intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage would include memories of stories and 'ways of doing', which would include language and ceremonies (DECCW 2010a, p.3).

1.6.4 Statutory

Currently Aboriginal cultural heritage, as statutorily defined by the NPW Act, consists of objects and places which are protected under Part 6 of the Act.

Aboriginal objects are defined as:

any deposit, object or material evidence...relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains

Aboriginal places are defined as a place that is or was of special Aboriginal cultural significance. Places are declared under section 84 of the NPW Act.

1.6.5 Values

Aboriginal cultural heritage is valued by Aboriginal people as it is used to define their identity as both individuals and as part of a group (DECCW 2010a, p.iii). More specifically it is used:

- To provide a:
 - 'Connection and sense of belonging to Country' (DECCW 2010a, p.iii).
 - Link between the present and the past (DECCW 2010a, p.iii).
- As a learning tool to teach Aboriginal culture to younger Aboriginal generations and the general public (DECCW 2010a, p.3).
- As further evidence of Aboriginal occupation prior to European settlement for people who do not understand the magnitude to which Aboriginal people occupied the continent (DECCW 2010a, p.3).

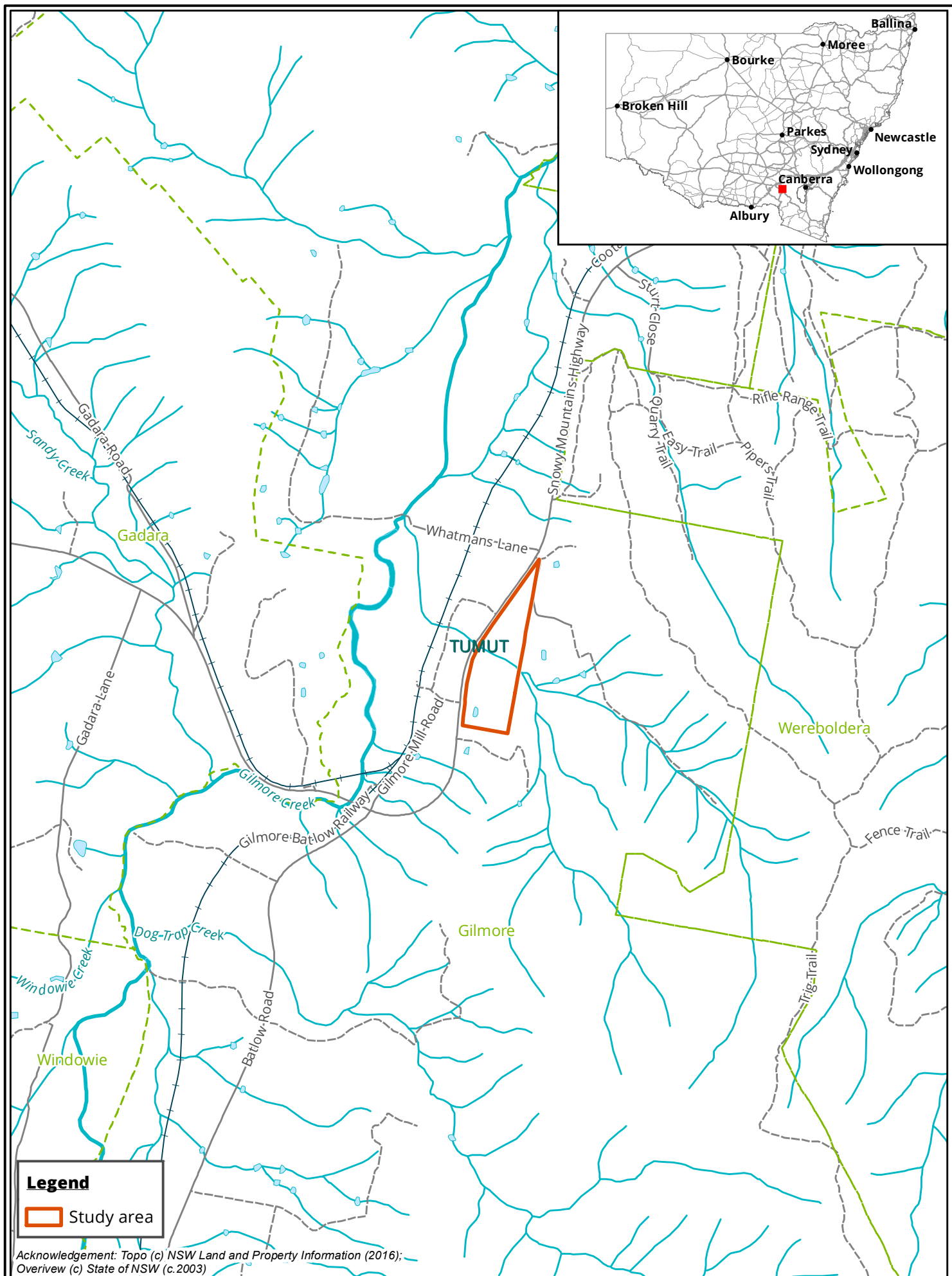


Figure 1 Location of the study area



- Legend**
- Study area
 - Lot

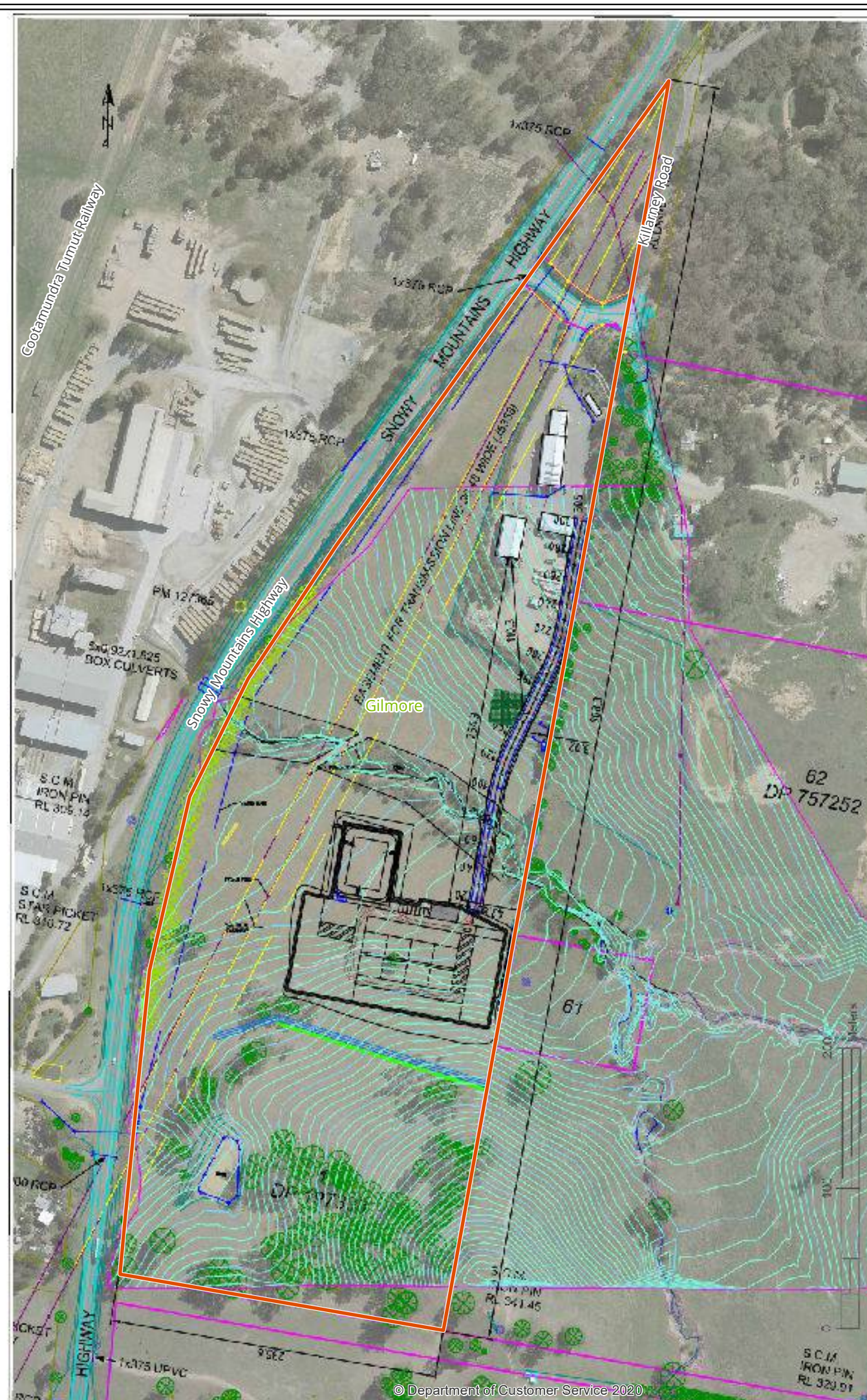
Figure 2 Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

biosis

Matter: 33354,
Date: 16 November 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: jshepherd
Location: P:\33600s\33622\Mapping\33622_F2_StudyArea.mxd



2 Study area context

This section discusses the study area in regards to its landscape, environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage context. This section should be read in conjunction with the AR attached in Appendix 5. The background research has been undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code).

2.1 Topography and hydrology

The study area is located within the boundary of the South West Slopes Bioregion, and South Eastern Highlands. The South West Slopes include the foothills and isolated ranges of the Great Dividing Range's lower inland slopes (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2016). The Australian Alps are also located to the south east of this bioregion. The geology of this region is comprised of Cambrian to early Carboniferous sediments and volcanic rocks, in addition to large scale bodies of granite. The South Eastern Bioregion includes ranges and plateau of the Great Dividing Range. The geology within this region includes metamorphosed Ordovician to Devonian sandstones, shales and volcanic rocks (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2016). The geographic unit that underlies the study area is the Bumbole Creek formation. This formation is a depositional unit described to be a Silurian quartzite rich shale/slate siltstone and fine sandstone (Geoscience Australia 2020).

Landscapes within the vicinity of the study area have a general elevation of 300 to 900 metres with local reliefs of 25 to 400 metres (Mitchell 2002). Topographically, the highest points within the study area are located within the northern most and south eastern corner of the study area. The landscape slopes towards the centre of the study area creating a small gully surrounding a creek line, and westward towards Gilmore Creek located approximately 470 metres west of the study area.

Stream order is recognised as a factor which aids in the development of predictive modelling in Aboriginal archaeology. Predictive models which have been developed have a tendency to favour permanent water courses as the locations of complex sites that have been continuously occupied, as they would have been more likely to provide a stable source of water and by extension other resources which would have been used by Aboriginal groups (Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2015, OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management 2019a, OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management 2019b).

The stream order system used for this assessment was originally developed by Strahler (1952). It functions by adding two streams of equal order at their confluence to form a higher order stream, as shown in Photo 1. As stream order increases, so does the likelihood that the stream would be a perennial source of water.

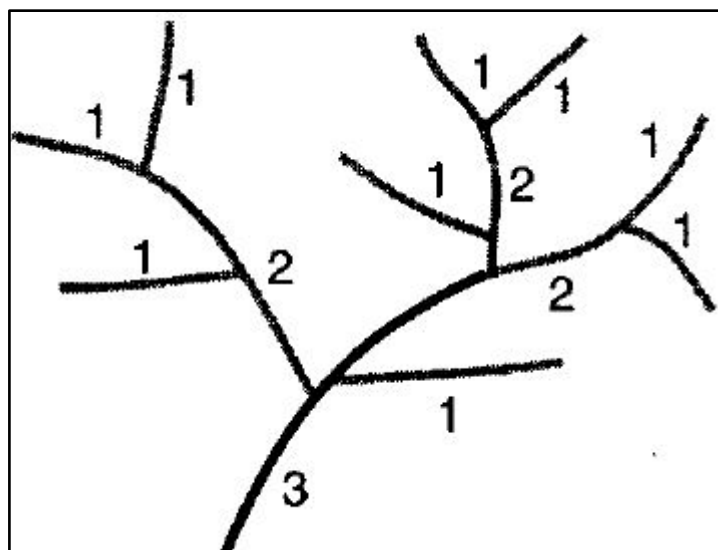


Photo 1 Diagram showing Strahler stream order (Ritter et al. 1995, p.151)

The study area contains a third order non-perennial natural water course that transects the central portion of the study area. This third order water course is a tributary of Gilmore Creek, which is a sixth order perennial watercourse located approximately 470 metres west of the study area and confluent with an unnamed water course approximately 700 metres north west. The location of the study area in proximity to both perennial and non-perennial fresh water sources indicates this area likely provided abundant resources for Aboriginal people to exploit and is therefore a favourable area for Aboriginal occupation.

2.2 Soil landscapes

Soil landscapes within the Tumut Valley region were described by Kelleher Nightingale Consulting (2015) to consist of Kurosols on elevated landforms, Sodosols within drainage channels and alluvial Tenosols along the Gilmore Creek flood plain. Kurosols, contain distinct A and B horizons with highly acidic B horizons. Sodosols are sodic soils that also contain distinct A and B horizons however are not strongly acidic, while Tenosols have weak soil profiles.

The study area comprises of two soil landscapes. While the Minjary Hills and Ranges underlays the majority of the study area, the Tumut Channels and Floodplain soil landscape is present within the south western portion. Minjary Hills and Ranges are described as a Devonian landform that was developed as an open sea floor and is now represented by shales and sandstone. The Tumut Channels and Floodplain is characterised as an alluvial landform (NSW Government 2016). A description of each soil landscape is provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Description of soil landscape characteristics located within the study area (Mitchell 2002)

Soil material	Description
Minjary Hills and Ranges	Steep hills and ranges on lower Silurian sandstone, greywacke, quartzite, dacite, tuff, and phyllite, and Devonian ignimbrite and sandstone, general elevation 300 to 930m, local relief 400m. Rubbly scree with sandy loam matrix on steep slopes, thin red to yellow texture contrast soils on lower slopes.
Tumut Channels and Floodplain	Channel, floodplain and remnant terraces of Quaternary alluvium, general elevation 300 to 350m, local relief 25m. Gravel streambed, uniform dark brown loam on the floodplain, yellow texture-contrast soil and rubbly loams on terraces and valley

Soil material	Description
	margins.

Alluvial soils such as the Tumut Channels and Floodplain are subject to regular flooding. While soil deposits caused by flooding events may preserve archaeological deposits beneath it, soil and water movement can also cause disturbance. This landscape therefore has low to moderate potential for archaeological deposits in areas subject to flooding. However, raised areas within this land from can hold higher archaeological potential.

2.3 Climate and rainfall

Climate data collected from the Adelong weather station (station number 072000), located approximately 15 kilometres west from Tumut, and recorded an average annual rainfall of 788 millimetres. The highest average temperature recorded during summer months was 30.7 degrees Celsius and the lowest was 11 degrees Celsius. The highest average temperature recorded during winter months was 14.3 degrees Celsius and the lowest was 0.9 degrees Celsius (BOM 2020). This suggests that the Tumut Region may have been seasonably occupied in the warmer months, due to lower temperatures within the colder months.

Floods (1973) assessment of sites in the central and lower areas of Tumut has determined that there is a higher concentration sites near the town of Tumut. This was attributed to better climate conditions within these areas, with sites commonly associated with permanent rivers such as the Tumut and the Murrumbidgee Rivers. It was concluded that Aboriginal groups would have likely occupied the Tumut Valley in the colder winter months, before travelling to the Bogong Ranges for the summer.

2.4 Landscape resources

The South Eastern Highlands and South West Slopes Bioregions contain a wide range of flora and fauna that would have provided a number of resources used by Aboriginal inhabitants (NSW Government 2016). An array of floral and faunal species would have been utilised according to seasonal availability. Aboriginal inhabitants of the region would have had access to a wide range of avian, terrestrial and aquatic fauna and repeated firing of the vegetation would have opened up the foliage allowing ease of access through and between different resource zones.

Common plant species within the Tumut Channels and Floodplain landform include River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* along streams, and Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora* on the valley floor (Mitchell 2002, p.99). The Minjary Hills and Ranges supports open forest of Grey Box *Eucalyptus microcarpa*, White Box *Eucalyptus albens*, Apple Box *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*, Red Stringybark *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, Red Ironbark *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*, Tumbledown Gum *Eucalyptus dealbata*, Broad-leaved Peppermint *Eucalyptus dives*, and Black Cypress Pine *Callitris endlicheri* with grasses and shrubs (Mitchell 2002, p.97).

Plant resources were used in a variety of ways. Fibres were twisted into string, which was used for many purposes, including the weaving of nets, baskets and fishing lines. String was also used for personal adornment. Bark was used in the provision of shelter; a large sheet of bark being propped against a stick to form a gunyah (Attenbrow 2002).

Common fauna within the area include the Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*, Common Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*, Common Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*, Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*, Common Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*, and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua (Cacatua) galerita* (Global Biodiversity Information Facility 2019). Fish and Crayfish were collected from rivers in autumn months, while

possum and larger grazing animals were hunted throughout the year (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2016).

As well as being important food sources, animal products were also used for tool making and fashioning a myriad of utilitarian and ceremonial items. For example, tail sinews are known to have been used to make fastening cord, while 'bone points', which would have functioned as awls or piercers, have been identified in the archaeological record. Animals such as Brush-tailed Possums were highly prized for their fur, with possum skin cloaks worn fastened over one shoulder and under the other. Kangaroo teeth were incorporated into decorative items, such as head bands (Attenbrow 2002, Sams 1982). The Bogong moth *Agrotis infusa* is also a significant resource; various Aboriginal groups would travel to the Bogong and Snowy Mountains for the Bogong moth ceremony involving feasting on the roasted moths (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2016).

Raw material resources were also easily accessible for Aboriginal people in the Tumut area. The underlying geology of the region provides a source for lithic raw materials. Quartz is the most commonly occurring material found in Bumbole Creek formation geology, with natural cobble outcroppings found throughout the Tumut area (Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2015). Tuff is also a present resource in the Blowering Formation, located nearby Gilmore Creek.

2.5 European land use history

The Tumut Valley region has been primarily used for pastoral purposes since European settlement (Photo 2). An aerial photograph of the study area dated to 1961 exhibits initial tree clearance has occurred. The Snowy Mountains Highway has been developed to the west of the study area, and Killarney Road in the north east. Mature trees are concentrated towards the southern portion of the study area, with trees scattered throughout the north. The unnamed creek line is also visible within the centre. No structures can be seen within the study area, however ground disturbance can be seen to the south-east of the creek line. This may be indicative of erosion caused by pastoral activities such as land clearance or ploughing. Unfortunately the quality of the photograph causes difficulty in identifying the feature.

An aerial photograph of the study area dated to 1986 shows little change had occurred since 1961 (Photo 3). Mature trees remain within the southern portion of the study area and aspects of the north. A dam has been constructed in the south western corner of the study area, which would have caused localised significant ground disturbance. The Snowy Mountains Highway has been sealed and upgraded with a new alignment exhibiting development within the surrounding area. There are no structures present within the study area at this point in time. The creek line located in the centre of the study area appears to have remained unmodified.

A current aerial photograph of the study area shows development has occurred within the northern portion (Figure 2). A road and three structures in addition to stock piling has occurred. This would have caused significant ground disturbance within this area. Mature trees remain in the south, the creek line remains unmodified and has also been revegetated suggesting that overall little disturbance has occurred throughout the remainder of the study area.



Photo 2 An aerial photograph dated to 1961, with the study area outlined in red (Source: NSW Spatial Services)



Photo 3 An aerial photograph dated to 1986, with the study area outlined in red (Source: NSW Spatial Services)

3 Aboriginal cultural heritage context

3.1 Ethnohistory

It is generally accepted that Aboriginal people have inhabited Australia for the last 65,000 years (Allen & O'Connell 2003, Hamm et al. 2016). The Birrigai rock shelter is the earliest Aboriginal site identified in the Snowy Mountains region dating to 21,000 BP (Flood 1996).

Despite a proliferation of known Aboriginal sites, there is considerable ongoing debate about the nature, territory and range of pre-contact Aboriginal language groups in the region. These debates have arisen largely due to the lack of ethnographic and linguistic information recorded at the time of European contact. By the time colonial diarists, missionaries and proto-anthropologists began making detailed records of Aboriginal people in the late 19th century; pre-European Aboriginal groups had been broken up and reconfigured by European settlement activity.

Tindale (1974) compiled information regarding Aboriginal groups and their boundaries. The study area is located nearby the junction of three boundaries, positioned in the eastern portion of the Wiradjuri area, with Ngunawal to the north-east and Ngarigo to the south-east. The Walgalu are also described to be located along the headwaters of the Tumut River and spent their summers in the Bogong Mountains to the south east (Tindale 1974, p.999).

Tindale talks of an aged Wiradjuri person who described how the Wiradjuri spoke of their country as:

"a 'line' rather than as an enclosed area... the line passes through Brungle, Gobarlong, Jugiong, Harden, Cowra, Orange, Dubbo, Condobolin, Hillston, Hay, Darling Point (south of Griffith), Wagga Wagga, Tarcutta, Adelong, and returning to Brungle. Tumut was on the 'line' of an adjoining tribe for which he gave the name Gurmäl. 'Gurmäl' is the Wiradjuri name for Ngarigo" (Tindale 1974, p.129)

Early European exploration of the area was conducted by Hume and Hovell in 1824 (French 1965). Journals of their expedition describe the area to be abundant with Kangaroo and Emu, frequent encounters of Aboriginal huts and camps, and scarred trees within the Tumut Valley (Navin Officer 1999, Flood 1973). Additionally, (Flood 1973) describes the moving of the Tumut Valley Aboriginal groups from the lower slopes onto the Bogong Mountains for the ceremonial and socially important activity of Bogong moth collecting.

European settlement of the area can be identified as early as 1828, when Captain Charles Stuart recorded during exploration of the Murrumbidgee River that a station named Darbalara and was located on the Tumut River (French 1965). Pastoral runs continued to develop throughout the region, with some employing Aboriginal people. Although little records are available of the impact this settlement had on the Aboriginal community at the time, it is known that a massacre occurred in the hills to the east of Brungle known as Murder Creek, where many people were killed (Navin Officer 1999, Sams 1982).

With the establishment of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines (Aboriginal Protection Board) in 1883, many reserves and missions were developed (Go Green Services 2002). Large reserves were set up throughout Wiradjuri country, including an existing camp that was attached to a station at Brungle, located approximately 20 kilometres north of the study area, since 1840 (Navin Officer 1999, Go Green Services 2002). By 1887, Brungle had the second largest Aboriginal Reserve community in NSW, with 40 adults (Go Green Services 2002). In 1890 and 1900, two reserves were formally set up. A fringe camp was also said to have existed on the edge of Tumut township in the 1920s (Navin Officer 1999). According to Main, Brungle Station accommodated over 100 Aboriginal people on occasion, with other family groups camping on the Tumut River near the Station (Main 2005, pp.112–113). The majority of the Aboriginal people residing in the Station were Wiradjuri, who came to the Station from all over Wiradjuri country as a result of being displaced by

European colonisation (Main 2005, pp.112–113). Traditional customs continued to be practiced by Aboriginal people residing at Brungle Station, with oral histories providing evidence that initiation ceremonies were undertaken until the 1920s at *Mudjarn*, a mountain overlooking Brungle Station (Main 2005, pp.112–113). Sue Bulger of Brungle/Tumut LALC has also stated that traditional customs are still being practiced today with young people being taken out onto Country for learning, and the reclaiming of the Wiradjuri language by the local community being undertaken, with elders passing on their knowledge of the language onto younger generations and other community members.

3.2 Aboriginal heritage located in the study area

A search of the AHIMS database (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area. None of these registered sites are located within the study area (Figure 4).

The archaeological assessment of the study area identified the following Aboriginal sites in the study area (Figure 5):

- Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #Pending)
- Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #Pending)
- Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #Pending)

The AR attached in Appendix 5 provides details for Aboriginal sites identified during the archaeological assessment and shown in Figure 5. A brief description of each site is provided below.

3.2.1 Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #Pending)

Site location

Gilmore-AD-01 is located approximately 160 metres east of the Snowy Monaro Highway, Gilmore, NSW, and approximately 100 metres north of a third order tributary of Gilmore Creek within Lot 1 DP 197308 (Table 4 and Figure 5).

Table 4 Grid reference site Gilmore-AD-01 (GDA94/MGA55) (approximate centre point of site)

Easting (mE)	Northing (mN)
607366	6089946

Site environment

Gilmore-AD-01 is located on a crest landform within the northern portion of the study area overlooking a third order tributary of Gilmore Creek. Gilmore-AD-01 site extent covers a two metre buffer around Test Pit 2 within Transect 11, which measures 50 by 50 centimetres. Soils within Test Pit 2 Transect 11 were shallow at 200 millimetres in depth and ranged from dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) moderately compacted loamy clay topsoil in Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres), to olive brown (2.5Y4/4) loamy clay with gravel inclusions finishing on light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) clay (100-200 millimetres). Soil deposits did not appear to have been heavily disturbed by pastoral or industrial land use, and low levels of bioturbation were noted. Soils within the greater landform did however vary in consistency, colour and depth from the deposit excavated within Test Pit 2 Transect 11, suggesting erosion and post-depositional processes may have occurred across the broader landform. Based upon this assumption the artefact found within Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres) may have been deposited onto the site by colluvial processes, and therefore is not considered an *in-situ*.

Site description

Gilmore-AD-01 consists of a subsurface archaeological deposit consisting of one crystal quartz proximal flake located within Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres) of Test Pit 2 Transect 11. The proximal flake possesses a flaked platform which measure 23.7 millimetres in width, and 3.26 millimetres in depth. No cortex was noted on the flake's surface and it measures 20.09 millimetres in length, 27.27 millimetres in width, and 5.5 millimetres in thickness.

3.2.2 Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #Pending)

Site location

Gilmore-AD-02 is located approximately 155 metres east of the Snowy Monaro Highway, Gilmore, NSW, and approximately 53 metres south of a third order tributary of Gilmore Creek within Lot 1 DP 197308 (Table 5 and Figure 5).

Table 5 Grid reference site Gilmore-AD-02 (GDA94/MGA55) (approximate centre point of site)

Easting (mE)	Northing (mN)
607303	6089802

Site environment

Gilmore-AD-02 is located within a creek terrace/flat landform within the southern portion of the study area adjacent to the southern bank of a third order tributary of Gilmore Creek. Gilmore-AD-02 site extends across an area of 44 by four metres and covers Test Pit 3 within Transect 1 and Test Pit 3 Transect 10, with each test pit measuring 50 by 50 centimetres. Soils within Test Pit 3 Transect 1 were moderately deep at 600 millimetres and ranged from very dark brown clayey loam (7.5YR 3/2) between 0-400 millimetres, to olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) clayey loam with gradual increasing clay content finishing bedrock. Soils varied in depth in Test Pit 3 Transect 10, finishing on gravel at 300 millimetres however, soil consistency and colour only varied slightly, and pH levels did vary from pit to pit between 5-6. This suggests that fluvial activities within the site extent may have impacted the integrity of the deposit. Otherwise soil deposits did not appear to have been heavily disturbed by pastoral or industrial land use, with impacts from vegetation clearing and ploughing limited to the upper spits. The site is therefore assessed as being in a poor and disturbed condition due to the impact of fluvial activities upon the integrity of the site.

Site description

Gilmore-AD-02 consists of a low density subsurface archaeological deposit consisting of three artefacts. Within Test Pit 3 Transect 1 a single complete quartz flake was located within Spit 4 (300-400 millimetres) within very dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) clay loam soils. The complete flake measures 33.46 millimetres in length, 17.81 millimetres in width, and 9.04 millimetres in thickness with a crushed termination. The flake possesses a flaked platform which measures 15.27 millimetres in length, and 5.96 millimetres in width. No cortex was noted on the flake surface. No other artefacts were identified within Test Pit 3 Transect 1, Transect 1.

Within Test Pit 3 of Transect 10, two artefacts were recovered. One artefact came from Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres) and the other from Spit 2 (100-200 millimetres) within very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) clayey loam. The artefact recovered from Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres) consisted of a chert angular fragment, with 40% cortex remaining, and measured 28.33 in maximum length. The artefact located in Spit 2 (100-200 millimetres) was a quartz proximal flake, with 0% cortex. The proximal flake measured 10.74 millimetres in length, 12.61 millimetres in width, and 2.98 millimetres in thickness. The proximal flake had a flaked platform which measured 8.69 millimetres in length and 2.27 millimetres in width.

3.2.3 Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #Pending)

Site location

Gilmore-AD-03 is located approximately 175 metres east of the Snowy Monaro Highway, Gilmore, NSW, and approximately 146 metres south of a third order tributary of Gilmore Creek within Lot 1 DP 197308 (Table 6 and Figure 5).

Table 6 Grid reference site Gilmore-AD-03 (GDA94/MGA55) (approximate centre point of site)

Easting (mE)	Northing (mN)
607351	6089700

Site environment

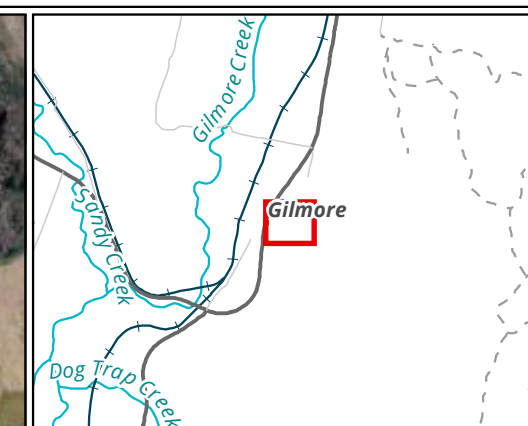
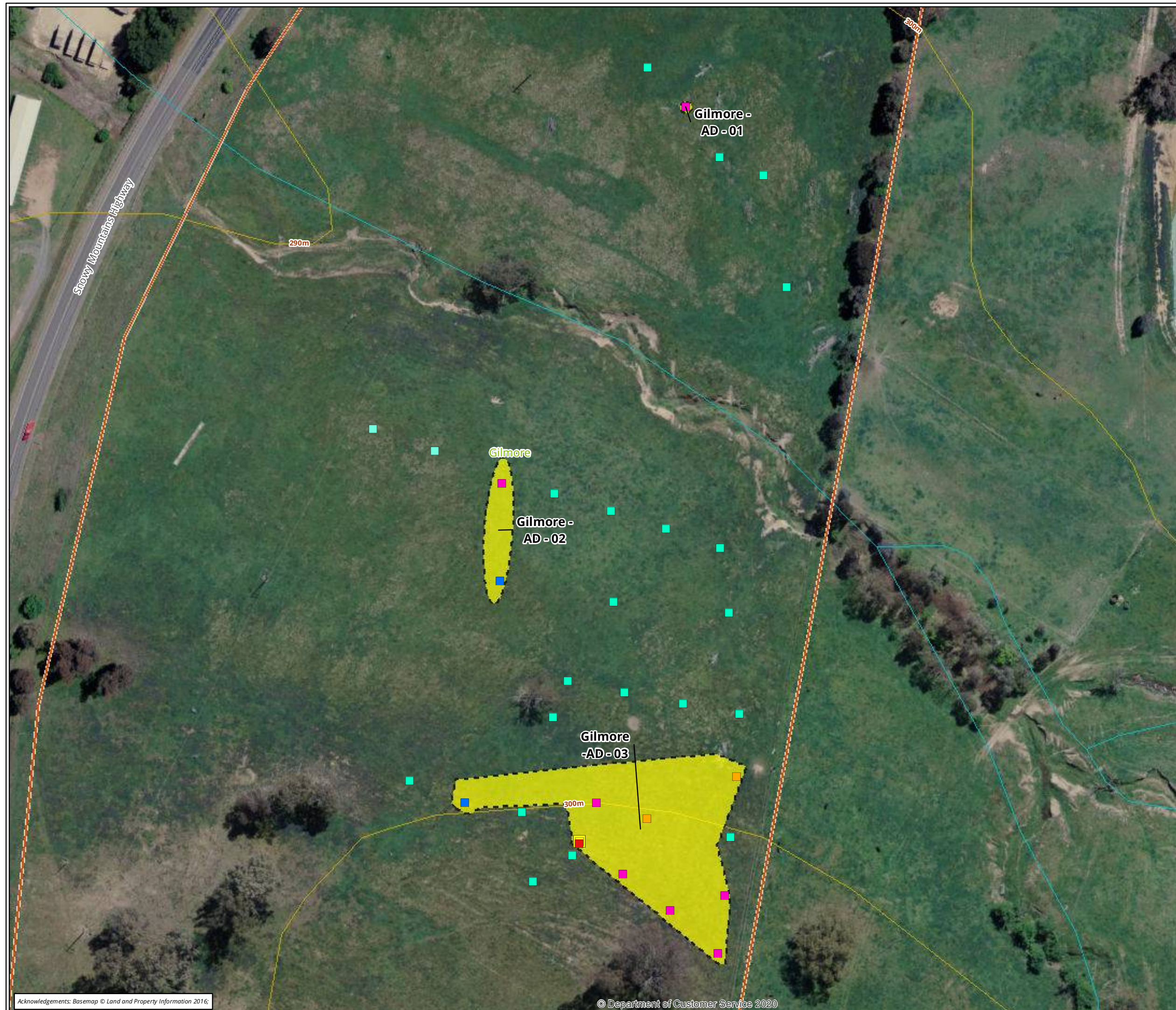
Gilmore-AD-03 is located in a crest/slope landform within the southern portion of the study area. Gilmore-AD-03 extends across an area of approximately 62 by 100 metres. It is likely this site extends into the crest landform located to the south west.

A total of 38 artefacts were recovered from 10 test pits, each measuring 50 by 50 centimetres, averaging 15.2 artefacts per metre squared. Soils across the site extent varied in depth from between 90-790 millimetres. While stratigraphy within this landform remains generally consistent, variations between the upper and lower slopes of the landform were noted. Upper to mid slope test pits contained very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) to brown (10YR 4/3) top soils and dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) clayey loam to strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) loamy clay B horizon soils. High gravel content (up to 40%) was frequently identified at a depth of approximately 300 to 500 millimetres within test pits in the mid to upper slopes. Lower slope test pits to the west ended on a clay basal layer at a depth of 300 to 400 millimetres, and midslope test pits ended on bedrock at 400 to 500 millimetres. Test pits on upper slopes contained an additional reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) sandy loamy clay soil context which included gravel inclusions (10%) before ending on bedrock. Very shallow soils of up to 200 millimetres in depth were identified within test pits in the eastern boundary of the site, comprising of a brown (10YR 4/3) loamy clay with gravel ending on bedrock. pH within this landform remained consistent, with slightly acidic topsoils (pH 5) decreasing in acidity (pH 6) at 300 to 400 millimetres. The majority of artefacts identified within this site were located in the upper slope landform within Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres) to Spit 3 (200-300 millimetres) with artefact density decreasing by each spit. Soil context horizons were predominantly diffused across the landform suggesting some movement of artefacts may have occurred between Spit 2 and Spit 3 (100-300 millimetres). This is suggested by the results of the artefact analysis which identified a 5-4.4 millimetre decrease in artefact size, which may suggest some size sorting has occurred. It is considered likely that artefacts contained within the mid to lower slope have eroded down from the upper slope/crest as a result of colluvial processes. Gilmore-AD-03 is therefore considered to be partially intact.

Site description

Gilmore-AD-03 is a moderate density subsurface archaeological deposit consisting of 38 artefacts. Of the 38 artefacts recovered from within the site extent, 25 came from a high density concentration excavated in Test Pits 1 and 1a within Transect 3. Artefact densities across the remainder of the site did not exceed three artefacts per square metre. Artefact types included complete flakes, proximal flakes, distal flakes, cores, angular fragments, and a medial flake fragment. Proximal flakes were the most common artefact type within Gilmore-AD-03. Quartz was the dominant raw material type, followed by chalcedony. Other raw material types included basalt, crystal quartz, and chert. One distal flake fragment within Transect 9 Pit 1, Spit 2 (100-200 millimetres) was noted to have backing along the distal end, suggesting that the deposit likely dates to the

Holocene period (Holdaway & Stern 2004, p.260). One chalcedony bladelette was also identified within the assemblage in Transect 5 Test Pit 1 Spit 3 (200-300 millimetres), however no signs of use wear were visible upon either of its lateral margins. Of the five cores identified four were multi-directional cores, and one was unidirectional. Core size ranged from between 18-35 millimetres in maximum length, and few complete negative flake scars were noted, with remaining cortex ranging from 0-50%. An analysis of cortex remaining across the assemblage was suggestive of a highly reduced assemblage. The assemblage is considered to be partially intact with most artefacts identified within Spits 1 and 2 (0-200 millimetres), and it is hypothesised that some size sorting has occurred between Spit 2 and 3 (200-300 millimetres).



Legend

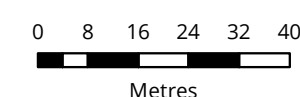
Study area

Site extent

Artefact density

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 10
- 14

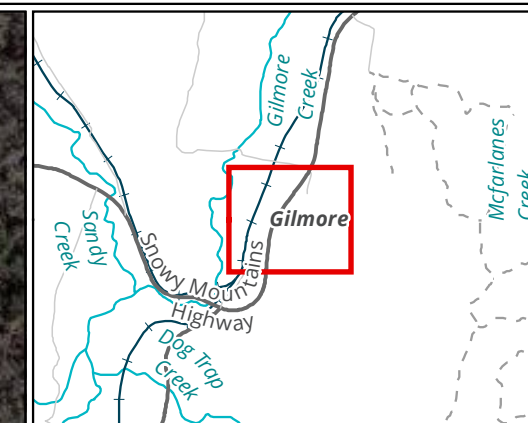
Figure 5 Aboriginal sites identified by the assessment



Scale: 1:1,200 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 26 November 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: Iharley
Location: P:\33600s\33622\Mapping\33622_F26_AboriginalSiteExtents.mxd



Legend

Study area

Archaeological sensitivity

High sensitivity

Moderate sensitivity

Low sensitivity

Impact footprint

Figure 6 Updated archaeological sensitivity

0 25 50 75 100 125
Metres

Scale: 1:3,500 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 26 November 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: Iharley
Location: P:\33600s\33622\Mapping\33622_F27_Sensitivity.mxd

3.3 Interpretation of past Aboriginal land use

A review of the landscape context of the study area and the results of Biosis' assessment has determined that Aboriginal people would have likely utilised the landscape for resource gathering and intermittent occupation prior to European settlement, with artefact sites and scarred trees being the most common Aboriginal site types within the local region. The study area is located within the interface of the South Western Slopes and South Eastern Highlands Bioregion, characterised as the foothills, ranges and plateaus of the Great Dividing Range, with the Australian Alps to the south east. This environment provides a wide range of available resources which rely on climatic conditions. Permanent water sources such as the Tumut and Murrumbidgee Rivers, and Gilmore Creek likely provided abundant resources for Aboriginal people to exploit. Aboriginal groups would have likely occupied the Tumut Valley within the colder winter months, before travelling to the Bogong Ranges for the summer (Flood 1973).

Test excavations within the study area resulted in the identification of three subsurface archaeological deposits consisting of artefact sites of varying density (Gilmore-AD-01, AHIMS #pending, Gilmore-AD-02, AHIMS #pending, and Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending). An analysis of these sites, their location within the landscape, and their representativeness of Aboriginal site types within the local region has been completed in order to contribute to our understanding of Aboriginal occupation within the local region.

A review of AHIMS sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre radius of the study area determined that artefact scatters and isolated finds are commonly associated with both the Minjary Hills and Ranges and Tumut Channels and Floodplain soil landscapes upon which the study area is situated, particularly when within the vicinity of fresh water sources. Gilmore-AD-01, Gilmore-AD-02, and Gilmore-AD-03 were all identified within the Minjary Hills and Ranges soil landscape within 175 metres of the third order unnamed tributary of Gilmore Creek, located within the central portion of the study area. These sites are also located within 600 metres of Gilmore Creek, a permanent water source. The results of the test excavations therefore support the conclusions of previous assessments which have stated that proximity to fresh water sources (particularly permanent fresh water sources) is a positive indicator for the presence of Aboriginal sites; particularly where landforms which will support the preservation of subsurface deposits or are considered suitable for occupation are present (Sams 1982, NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd 2018, Navin Officer 1999).

Background research determined that landforms located within the study area which have been commonly associated with the presence of Aboriginal site types within the region included creek flats and raised landforms such as crests (Flood 1973, NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd 2018, Navin Officer 1999). Crests are considered more likely to contain Aboriginal sites than creek flats. This is due to creek flats within the local region being commonly subject to frequent inundation, resulting in poor site preservation. Areas frequently inundated were also considered ill-suited for occupation, however a wealth of resource would have been available. Steep slopes within the region have been also been assessed as containing low archaeological potential.

A survey of the study area resulted in the identification of areas of moderate and high archaeological potential in crest and creek flat/terrace landforms which did not appear to have undergone significant levels of disturbance. Test excavations within these areas and across the extent of the development foot print identified three subsurface archaeological deposits within the study area, which were considered to be representative of short-term occupation or resource gathering within the local area due to the proximity of natural resources, and the contribution of local knowledge which has identified that the Gilmore River would have been utilised by Aboriginal as a pathway to the Bogong ranges (Kelleher Nightingale Consulting 2015), with Aboriginal groups occupying the Tumut Valley in the colder winter months, before travelling to the Bogong Ranges for the summer as suggested by Flood (Flood 1973).

Gilmore-AD-01 was located within a crest landform in the northern portion of the study area and consists of an isolated find. Testing within the broader landform did not result in the recovery of any additional artefacts,

and an analysis of the soil contexts suggests that colluvial activities within the study area may have resulted in the isolated find being deposited onto this site. Gilmore-AD-01 does not support predictive modelling for the local area which has identified that crest landforms are generally associated with higher density deposits and *in-situ* deposits (Navin Officer 1999, NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd 2018).

Gilmore-AD-02 is a low density subsurface archaeological deposit consisting of three artefacts recovered from two test pits. This site is situated within 53 metres of the southern bank of a third order tributary of Gilmore Creek upon a creek terrace/flat, with artefacts found within Spits 1-3 (0-300 millimetres). Based on an analysis of the soils within the landform which identified a number of variations in depth, colour and pH, the site has likely undergone disturbance from fluvial activities, with the landform being subject to frequent inundation. This is considered consistent with the results of previous assessment within the region.

Gilmore-AD-03 is a moderate density subsurface archaeological deposit located within a crest/slope landform in the southern portion of the study area. The site contains 38 artefacts. Artefact types included complete flakes, proximal flakes, distal flakes, cores, angular fragments, and a medial flake fragment. One backed artefact was also identified within the small assemblage suggesting the deposit likely dates to the mid-Holocene period (Holdaway & Stern 2004). Backed artefacts are generally considered to belong to the Australian small tool tradition and are commonly featured in mid-Holocene (7,000 - 4,000 BP) sites in the southern portions of Australia (Holdaway & Stern 2004, p.17, Flood 2004, p.224, Hiscock 1994, p.268). Attempts to further refine the date of appearance and disappearance of backed artefacts in the archaeological record in Australia have been made (Hiscock 1994). Hiscock (1994) however states that the only surety relating to the occurrence of backed artefacts is that they are early or mid-Holocene in age, and that they are widespread by 4,000 BP.

A majority of the artefacts from Gilmore-AD-03 were identified upon the upper slope/crest, with a concentration of artefacts in Test Pits 1 and 1a, Transect 3, between Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres) and Spit 3 (200-300 millimetres) with artefact density decreasing with depth. Artefact density was significantly lower across the remaining extent of the site at no more than 0.75 artefacts per 1 metre squared. Soils within the upper and lower site extent varied in colour, texture, and depth. Soil context horizons were predominantly diffused across the landform suggesting some movement of artefacts may have occurred between Spit 2 and Spit 3 (100-300 millimetres). This is supported by the results of the artefact analysis which identified a 5-4.4 millimetre decrease in artefact size, which may suggest some size sorting has occurred as a result of post deposition processes. It is considered likely that artefacts contained within the mid to lower slope have eroded down from the upper slope/crest as a result of colluvial processes. Gilmore-AD-03 is therefore considered to be partially intact.

The upper extent of Gilmore-AD-03 site has not been fully determined as test excavations targeted areas which would be impacted by the proposed development. Archaeological deposits associated with Gilmore-AD-03 are likely to extend further south into the crest landform. The results of previous archaeological assessments in the region also suggest that the crest landform may also contain additional higher density deposits, with higher archaeological significance than Gilmore-AD-03.

The results of the test excavation program support predictive modelling for the region which states that crests are more likely to contain higher density intact deposits as opposed to creek flat/terrace landforms due to their frequent inundation. The results of the assessment also determined that low gradient slopes within close proximity to fresh water sources also have the potential to contain low density archaeological deposits which have washed down from the upper slope/crest. This may be due to the increased preservation of displaced soil deposits from the crest of the slope within the gentle slope landform which would have been subject to lower levels of erosion than steep inclined slopes within the region.

An assessment of archaeological potential for the study area has therefore been updated based on the results of this assessment (Figure 6). Areas of disturbance within the north-west of the study area and in

proximity to the dam within the south west of the study area have been assessed to contain low archaeological potential. Creek flats within the study area have been assessed to contain moderate potential as artefacts sites still have the potential to occur upon creek flat/terrace landforms, though they are likely to be low density deposits associated with resource gathering along the creek line, and will have likely undergone some level of fluvial disturbance.

Crests and raised areas within the study area have been assessed to contain high potential, and are likely associated with Gilmore-AD-03 which is present within this landform. The artefacts present within the crest and raised areas within the study area indicate that occupation activities occurred on this landform. There is also potential for upper slope and crest areas in the south-east of the study area to contain higher densities of artefacts, with sheet erosion causing artefacts to wash down the hill slope.

4 Aboriginal community consultation

Consultation with the Aboriginal community has been undertaken in compliance with the consultation requirements as detailed below. A consultation log of all communications with RAPs is provided in Appendix 1.

4.1 Stage 1: Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

4.1.1 Identification of relevant Aboriginal stakeholders

In accordance with the consultation guidelines, Biosis notified the following bodies regarding the proposal:

- Snowy Valleys Council.
- Heritage NSW
- NSW Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTSCORP Limited).
- Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 of Aboriginal Owners.
- National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT).
- Riverina Local Land Services.
- Brungle/Tumut LALC.

A list of known Aboriginal stakeholders in the Snowy Valleys region was provided by Heritage NSW (a copy of this response is provided in Appendix 2 and include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders | • Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation |
| • Alice Williams | • Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation |
| • Matilda House | • Ngunnawal Elders Corporation |
| • Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Corporation | • Koomurri Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation |
| • Colleen Dixon | • Gulgunya Ngungawal Heritage Aboriginal Consultancy |
| • Thunderstone Cultural and Land Management Services Aboriginal Corporation | • Merrigarn |
| • Oak Hill Enterprises | |

A search conducted by the Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) listed no Aboriginal Owners with land within the study area. A search conducted by the NNTT listed no Registered Native Title Claims, Unregistered Claimant Applications or Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements within the study area.

4.1.2 Public notice

In accordance with the consultation guidelines, a public notification was placed in the following newspaper:

- Adelong and Tumut Times (4 August 2020)

The advertisement invited Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge to register their interest in a process of community consultation to provide assistance in determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the vicinity of the study area. Mathew Marlow responded to the Public Notice and registered for the project on 18 August 2020 (Table 7). A copy of the public notice is provided in Appendix 2.

4.1.3 Registration of Aboriginal parties

Aboriginal groups identified in Section 4.1.1 were sent a letter inviting them to register their interest in a process of community consultation to provide assistance in determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the vicinity of the study area. In response to the letters and public notice, a total of 9 groups registered their interest in the project. Responses to registrations of interest from Aboriginal parties are provided in Appendix 2. A full list of Aboriginal parties who registered for consultation is provided below:

Table 7 List of registered Aboriginal parties

No.	Organisation	Contact person
1	Brungle/Tumut LALC	Sue Bulger
2	Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group	Lindsay Connolly
3	Alice Williams	-
4	Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Darlene Johnson
5	Gulgunya Ngungawal Heritage Aboriginal Consultancy	Glen Freeman
6	Merrigarn	Shaun Carroll
7	Jesse Johnson	-
8	Mathew Marlow	-
9	Oak Hill Enterprises	Sonia Shea

4.2 Stage 2: Presentation of information about the proposed project

On 28 August 2020 Biosis provided RAPs with details about the proposed development works (project information pack). A copy of the project information pack is provided in Appendix 3.

4.3 Stage 3: Gathering information about cultural significance

4.3.1 Archaeological assessment methodology information pack

On 27 August 2020, Biosis provided each RAP with a copy of the project methodology pack outlining the proposed ACHA process and methodology for this project. RAPs were given 28 days to review and prepare feedback on the proposed methodology. A copy of the project methodology pack is provided in Appendix 3.

Jesse Johnson and Darleen Johnson of Murra Bidgee Mullangari responded on 28 August 2020 stating that they had both read and agreed with the methodology outlined in the Stage 2 and 3 consultation documents.

No further comments were received in response to the Stage 2 and 3 methodology.

4.3.2 Information gathered during fieldwork

During the field investigation carried out 17 June 2020, site officers from Brungle/Tumut LALC provided comment on the study area with regard to the proposal. Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives agreed that the southern portion of the study area had potential for Aboriginal camp sites, but stated it was difficult to know for sure as there haven't been many archaeological excavations completed in the local area. Sue Bulger also noted that her family had lived close by the study area, near Gilmore Creek and that her family would collect milk from the dairy near the study area.

During the test excavation program (28 August 2020 to 12 October 2020) Biosis also consulted with site officers from Brungle/Tumut LALC about the placement of test pits and the archaeological potential of the study area. Steve Connolly, a representative of Brungle/Tumut LALC, commented on the potential for Aboriginal sites to be located around remnant trees near creek lines and in crest landforms in the local area. Steve requested that a test pit be excavated near by a remnant tree on the gentle slope landform within the southern portion of the study area. Steve also noted that the creek terrace likely had a low potential as camping would have been more likely to occur on raised landforms due to the boggy nature of the creek terrace/flat. This assessment of the archaeological potential of the study area was shared by other site officers who attend the test excavations on behalf of Brungle/Tumut LALC.

Lindsay Connolly of the Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group, also provided comment during a visit to the site on 28 August 2020. Lindsay Connolly noted that the crest landform within the southern portion of the study area contained high potential as it is positioned well within the landscape with good view points towards creek lines and the surrounding area. Lindsay also stated that there was low potential for Aboriginal sites to be identified within the creek terrace/flat landform as it would not have been considered suitable for camping. Lindsay Connolly stated that testing upon the crest should be undertaken if the proposed works were to impact this portion of the study area.

4.4 Stage 4: Review of draft ACHA report

On 1 December 2020 Biosis provided each RAP with a copy of the draft ACHA and AR for this project. RAPs were given 28 days to review and prepare feedback in response to Biosis' findings and recommendations. A copy of correspondence to RAPS is provided in Appendix 4.

No comments were received in response to the Stage 4 notification.

5 Aboriginal cultural significance assessment

The two main values addressed when assessing the significance of Aboriginal sites are cultural values to the Aboriginal community and archaeological (scientific) values. This report will assess the cultural values of Aboriginal sites in the study area. Details of the scientific significance assessment of Aboriginal sites in the study area are provided in Appendix 5.

5.1 Introduction to the assessment process

Heritage assessment criteria in NSW fall broadly within the significance values outlined in the Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Australia ICOMOS 2013) (the Burra Charter). This approach to heritage has been adopted by cultural heritage managers and government agencies as the set of guidelines for best practice heritage management in Australia. These values are provided as background and include:

- **Historical significance** (evolution and association) refers to historic values and encompasses the history of aesthetics, science and society, and therefore to a large extent underlies all of the terms set out in this section. A place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, a historic figure, event, phase or activity. It may also have historic value as the site of an important event. For any given place the significance will be greater where evidence of the association or event survives *in situ*, or where the settings are substantially intact, than where it has been changed or evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the place retains significance regardless of subsequent treatment.
- **Aesthetic significance** (Scenic/architectural qualities, creative accomplishment) refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place. It is often closely linked with social values and may include consideration of form, scale, colour, texture, and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use.
- **Social significance** (contemporary community esteem) refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachment that the place or area has for the present-day community. Places of social significance have associations with contemporary community identity. These places can have associations with tragic or warmly remembered experiences, periods or events. Communities can experience a sense of loss should a place of social significance be damaged or destroyed. These aspects of heritage significance can only be determined through consultative processes with local communities.
- **Scientific significance** (Archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values) refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its archaeological and/or other technical aspects. Assessment of scientific value is often based on the likely research potential of the area, place or object and will consider the importance of the data involved, its rarity, quality or representativeness, and the degree to which it may contribute further substantial information.

The cultural and archaeological significance of Aboriginal and historic sites and places is assessed on the basis of the significance values outlined above. As well as the Burra Charter significance values guidelines, various government agencies have developed formal criteria and guidelines that have application when assessing the significance of heritage places within NSW. Of primary interest are guidelines prepared by the Australian

Government, Heritage NSW and the Heritage Branch, and the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The relevant sections of these guidelines are presented below.

These guidelines state that an area may contain evidence and associations which demonstrate one or any combination of the Burra Charter significance values outlined above in reference to Aboriginal heritage. Reference to each of the values should be made when evaluating archaeological and cultural significance for Aboriginal sites and places.

In addition to the previously outlined heritage values, the Heritage NSW *Guidelines to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011) also specify the importance of considering cultural landscapes when determining and assessing Aboriginal heritage values. The principle behind a cultural landscape is that 'the significance of individual features is derived from their inter-relatedness within the cultural landscape'. This means that sites or places cannot be 'assessed in isolation' but must be considered as parts of the wider cultural landscape. Hence the site or place will possibly have values derived from its association with other sites and places. By investigating the associations between sites, places, and (for example) natural resources in the cultural landscape the stories behind the features can be told. The context of the cultural landscape can unlock 'better understanding of the cultural meaning and importance' of sites and places.

Although other values may be considered – such as educational or tourism values – the two principal values that are likely to be addressed in consideration of Aboriginal sites and places are the cultural/social significance to Aboriginal people and their archaeological or scientific significance to archaeologists and the Aboriginal community. The determinations of archaeological and cultural significance for sites and places should then be expressed as statements of significance that preface a concise discussion of the contributing factors to Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

5.2 Cultural (social significance) values

Cultural or social significance refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical and/or contemporary associations and values attached to a place or objects by Aboriginal people. Aboriginal cultural heritage is broadly valued by Aboriginal people as it is used to define their identity as both individuals and as part of a group (DECCW 2010a, p.iii). More specifically it provides:

- A 'connection and sense of belonging to Country' (DECCW 2010a, p.iii).
- A link between the present and the past (DECCW 2010a, p.3).
- A learning tool to teach Aboriginal culture to younger Aboriginal generations and the general public (DECCW 2010a, p.3).
- Further evidence of Aboriginal occupation prior to European settlement for people who do not understand the magnitude to which Aboriginal people occupied the continent (DECCW 2010a, p.3).

It is acknowledged that Aboriginal people are the primary determiners of the cultural significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage. A copy of this report was provided to RAPs for review and comment in accordance with consultation requirements. This provided RAPs with the opportunity to share cultural knowledge relevant to the study area and the wider landscape to inform Biosis' assessment of cultural significance. No comments were received in response to the Stage 4 notification, however, the outcome of the consultation process was that the RAPs considered the study area to contain cultural significance, although that significance was not clearly defined and specific examples were not provided. The cultural significance of the study area is therefore considered moderate.

5.3 Historic values

Historic significance refers to associations a place or object may have with a historically important person, event, phase or activity to the Aboriginal and other communities. Background research, a field investigation and consultation with the Aboriginal community has concluded that the study area is not known to have any historic associations. Therefore this assessment has concluded that the study area has low historic significance.

5.4 Archaeological (scientific significance) values

An archaeological scientific assessment was undertaken for the study area and is presented in detail as part of the attached AR (Appendix 5). Test excavations within the study area identified three subsurface archaeological deposits (Gilmore-AD-01, AHIMS #pending, Gilmore-AD-02, AHIMS #pending, and Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending). Gilmore-AD-01 was an isolated artefact. The site is considered a common site type within the local region. The site has low potential to contribute to our understanding of Aboriginal occupation of the Tumut region and is not considered to be *in-situ*. The site has therefore been assessed as possessing low archaeological significance.

Gilmore-AD-02 is a low density subsurface archaeological deposit consisting of three artefacts. No evidence of intact stratigraphical deposits was noted within the site extent. The site has undergone disturbances as a result of natural and human induced erosional processes, and is not considered *in-situ*. It is a common site type within the local region. The site therefore has limited ability to contribute to our understanding of Aboriginal occupation of the Tumut region. The site was therefore assessed as possessing low archaeological significance.

Gilmore-AD-03 is a moderate density subsurface archaeological deposit located within a crest/slope landform. The site contains 38 artefacts which is considered representative of a highly reduced deposit, potentially dating to the Holocene period. A majority of the artefacts were identified upon the upper slope/crest, with a concentration of artefacts within a pair of adjacent test pits excavated as part of the assessment. The assemblage is considered partially intact with some size sorting identified within the lower spits, and artefacts identified in test pits excavated within the mid to lower slopes likely having been deposited from colluvial forces and erosion of the upper crest/slope. The site possesses limited research potential, however, testing within the upper reaches of the crest landform may identify further deposits of a similar or higher density. Gilmore-AD-03 is not considered a common site type due to lack of archaeological test excavations having been undertaken within the local region. The scientific significance of the site is assessed as moderate.

5.5 Aesthetic values

The aesthetic value of the study area has been disturbed by historical land clearing, and pastoral and industrial land use which has impacted upon natural elements such as native vegetation, and the creek line which would have provided a link with Aboriginal cultural values as a context for Aboriginal sites that gives a strong sense of place. Due to the partially disturbed nature of the study area, the aesthetic significance of the study area has been assessed as moderate. A copy of this report will be provided to RAPs for review and comment in accordance with consultation requirements. This will provide RAPs with the opportunity to share cultural knowledge relevant to the study area and the wider landscape to inform Biosis' assessment of aesthetic significance.

5.6 Statement of significance

The significance of sites was assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

- Requirements of the Code.
- The Burra Charter.
- *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The combined use of these guidelines is widely considered to represent the best practice for assessments of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The identification and assessment of cultural heritage values includes the four values of the Burra Charter: social, historical, scientific and aesthetic values. The resultant statement of significance has been constructed for the study area based on the significance ranking criteria assessed in Table 8.

Table 8 Significance assessment criteria

Site name	Criteria	Ranking
Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending)	Cultural – discussions with the local Aboriginal communities identified that RAPs considered the study area to contain cultural significance, although that significance was not clearly defined and specific examples were not provided.	Moderate
	Historical – the site is not connected to any historical event or personage.	Low
	Scientific – the site is disturbed and has low research potential.	Low
	Aesthetic – the site is located within a partially disturbed landscape. It has been impacted by the historical clearing, pastoral and industrial land use. Discussions with the local Aboriginal communities will need to be undertaken to complete an assessment of aesthetic significance.	Moderate
Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending)	Cultural – discussions with the local Aboriginal communities identified that RAPs considered the study area to contain cultural significance, although that significance was not clearly defined and specific examples were not provided.	Moderate
	Historical – the site is not connected to any historical event or personage.	Low
	Scientific – the site is disturbed and has low research potential.	Low
	Aesthetic – the site is located within a partially disturbed landscape. It has been impacted by the historical clearing, pastoral and industrial land use. Discussions with the local Aboriginal communities will need to be undertaken to complete an assessment of aesthetic significance.	Moderate
Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending)	Cultural – discussions with the local Aboriginal communities identified that RAPs considered the study area to contain cultural significance, although that significance was not clearly defined and specific examples were not provided.	Moderate

Site name	Criteria	Ranking
	Historical – the site is not connected to any historical event or personage.	Low
	Scientific – the site not a common site type due to lack of archaeological assessment having been undertaken within the local area and is considered partially intact. The site has low research potential; however, there is potential for further archaeological deposits to occur within the upper reaches of the landform in which the site is located.	Moderate
	Aesthetic – the site is located within a partially disturbed landscape. It has been impacted by historical land clearing, pastoral and industrial land use. Discussions with the local Aboriginal communities will need to be undertaken to complete an assessment of aesthetic significance.	Moderate

5.6.1 Statement of significance for Gilmore-AD-01

Gilmore-AD-01 consists of a subsurface archaeological deposit consisting of one crystal quartz proximal flake located upon a crest overlooking a third order tributary of Gilmore Creek. Gilmore-AD-01 site extent covers a two metre buffer around Test Pit 2 within Transect 11, which measures 50 by 50 centimetres. Soil deposits did not appear to have been heavily disturbed by pastoral or industrial land use, and low levels of bioturbation were noted. Soils within the greater landform did however vary in consistency, colour and depth, suggesting erosion and post-depositional processes may have occurred across the broader landform. Based upon this assumption the artefact found within Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres) may have been deposited onto the site by colluvial processes, and therefor is not considered an *in situ* deposit. This site type is a commonly occurring site type within the region. Gilmore-AD-01 is considered to have low scientific research potential as no other subsurface deposits were identified in association with the site. The scientific significance of this site has been assessed as low. Historical land clearing, and pastoral and industrial land use have impacted on the aesthetic value of the landscape in which Gilmore-AD-01 has been identified, therefore the aesthetic significance of the site is moderate. Gilmore-AD-01 is not connected to any historical event or personage and therefore possesses low historical significance. The cultural significance of the site is considered to be moderate as discussions with the local Aboriginal communities identified that RAPs considered the study area to contain cultural significance, although that significance was not clearly defined and specific examples were not provided.

5.6.2 Statement of significance for Gilmore-AD-02

Gilmore-AD-02 consists of a low density subsurface archaeological deposit consisting of three artefacts identified upon a creek flat/terrace. Gilmore-AD-02 extends across an area of 44 by 4 metres and covers Test Pit 3 within Transect 1 and Test Pit 3 Transect 10, with each test pit measuring 50 by 50 centimetres. A review of soils within the creek flat/ terrace landform indicated that fluvial activities associated with the third order creek line adjacent to Gilmore-AD-02 may have impacted upon the integrity of the deposit, with little evidence of stratified deposits present. The site is therefore assessed as being in a poor and disturbed condition. The site is therefore assessed as being in a poor and disturbed condition. This site type is a commonly occurring site type within the region. Gilmore-AD-02 is considered to have low scientific research potential as no other subsurface deposits were identified in association with the site. The scientific significance of this site has been assessed as low. Historical land clearing and pastoral land use have impacted on the aesthetic value of the landscape in which Gilmore-AD-02 has been identified, therefore the aesthetic significance of the site is

moderate. Gilmore-AD-02 is not connected to any historical event or personage and possesses low historical significance. The cultural significance of the site is considered to be moderate as discussions with the local Aboriginal communities identified that RAPs considered the study area to contain cultural significance, although that significance was not clearly defined and specific examples were not provided..

5.6.3 Statement of significance for Gilmore-AD-03

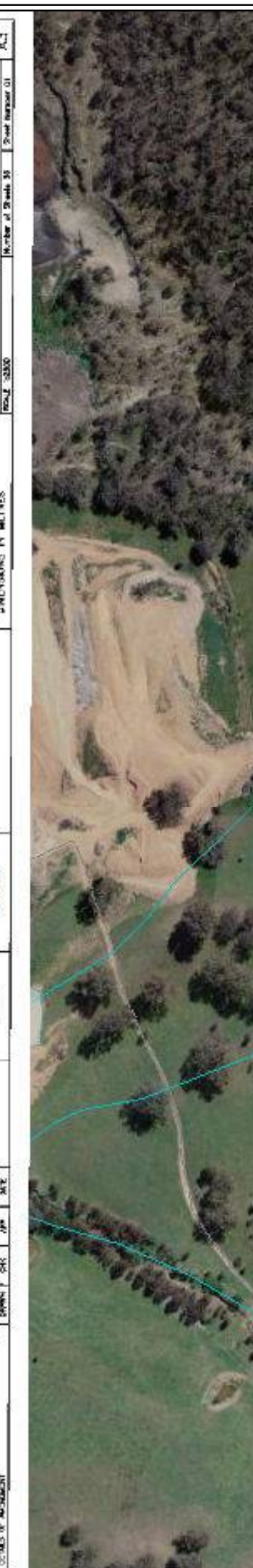
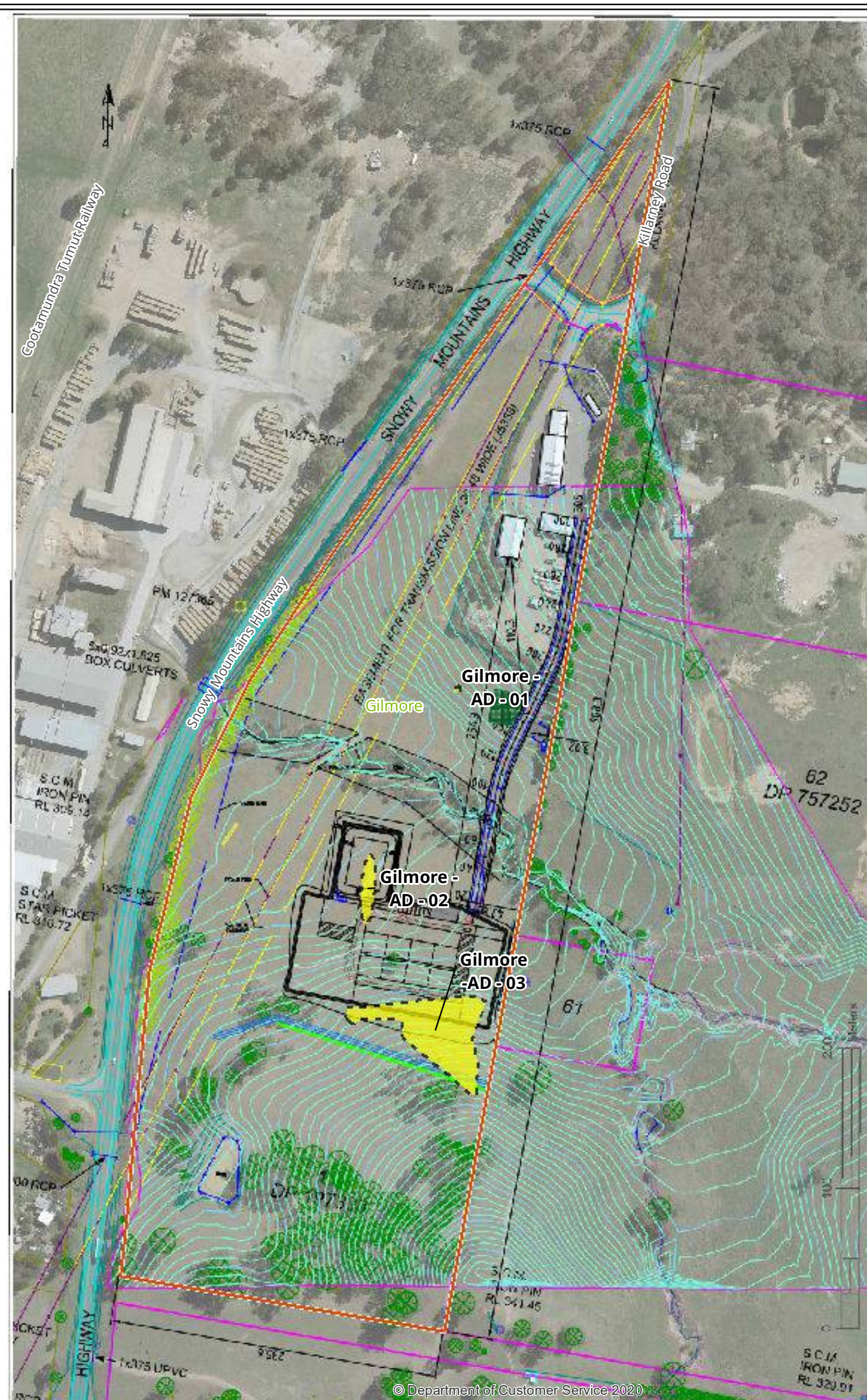
Gilmore-AD-03 is a moderate density subsurface artefact scatter of 38 artefacts located in a crest/slope landform within the southern portion of the study area. Gilmore-AD-03 extends across an area of approximately 62 by 100 metres. The majority of artefacts identified within this site were located in the upper slope landform within Spit 1 (0-100 millimetres) to Spit 3 (200-300 millimetres). The results of the analysis of artefacts within the site extent suggests that some size sorting has occurred as a result of post-depositional processes. It is considered likely that artefacts contained within the mid to lower slope of the site extent have eroded down from the upper slope/crest as a result of colluvial processes. Gilmore-AD-03 is therefore considered to be partially intact. The site is therefore assessed as being in good condition. This site type occurs occasionally in the region, as few previous archaeological assessments have been conducted within the local area. Gilmore-AD-03 is considered to have low scientific research potential, however it is likely this site extends in to the crest landform to the south west of the site. Based on the results of previous archaeological assessments in the region, the crest landform may contain higher density deposits, with higher archaeological significance than Gilmore-AD-03. The scientific significance of this site has been assessed as moderate. Historical land clearing and pastoral land use have impacted on the aesthetic value of the landscape in which Gilmore-AD-03 has been identified, therefore the aesthetic significance of the site is moderate. Gilmore-AD-03 is not connected to any historical event or personage and possesses low historical significance. The cultural significance of the site is considered to be moderate as discussions with the local Aboriginal communities identified that RAPs considered the study area to contain cultural significance, although that significance was not clearly defined and specific examples were not provided.

6 Development limitations and mitigation measures

Within the study area, there are three recorded Aboriginal sites that may be subject to harm (Figure 7). Activities associated with the proposed works will result in total impact to Gilmore-AD-02, AHIMS #pending, and partial impact to Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending. The proposed works will not harm Gilmore-AD-01, AHIMS #pending (Figure 7). A summary of the potential impacts of the proposed works on known Aboriginal sites within the study area is provided in Table 9.

Table 9 Summary of potential archaeological impact

AHIMS site no.	Site name	Significance	Type of harm	Degree of harm	Consequence of harm
AHIMS #pending	Gilmore-AD-01	Low	No Harm	No Harm	No Harm
AHIMS #pending	Gilmore-AD-02	Low	Direct	Total	Total loss of value
AHIMS #pending	Gilmore-AD-03	Moderate	Direct	Partial	Partial loss of value



6.1 Potential risks to Aboriginal cultural heritage

The current proposed works within the study area include activities which could impact Aboriginal heritage sites identified by Biosis' archaeological assessment. If not mitigated activities associated with the proposed works which may cause harm will include:

- The construction of a 6 metre wide road along the eastern boundary of the study area to connect the composting facility to the current waste management facilities.
- Bulk earthworks and site preparation.
- Laying down of batter.
- Construction of a leachate pond and composting pad.
- Construction of a receiving pad, machinery shed, office and toilet block.
- Installation of associated services.

Left unmitigated, these activities have potential to completely remove or disturb archaeological deposits and Aboriginal objects.

6.2 Avoiding harm to Aboriginal heritage

Ideally, heritage management involves conservation of sites through the preservation and conservation of fabric and context within a framework of 'doing as much as necessary, as little as possible' (Australia ICOMOS 2013). In cases where conservation is not practical, several options for management are available. For sites, management often involves the salvage of features or artefacts, retrieval of information through excavation or collection (especially where impact cannot be avoided) and interpretation.

Avoidance of impacts to archaeological and cultural heritage sites through design of the development is the primary mitigation and management strategy, and should be implemented where practicable.

The proposed works will avoid impacts to Gilmore-AD-01, AHIMS #pending and a portion of Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending. Prior to works commencing, it is recommended that Gilmore-AD-01, AHIMS #pending and the portion of Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending to be retained are fenced off to ensure no unintentional impacts occur to these sites during the construction or operation of the proposed composting facility.

Discussions with Snowy Valleys Council have determined that it is not possible to avoid impacts to Gilmore-AD-02, AHIMS #pending and the remaining portion of Gilmore-AD-03, AHIMS #pending. The proposed works are restricted to the area outlined in Figure 3 and Figure 7 as the composting facility must maintain an appropriate distance from the existing power line which transects the study area.

Discussions with Snowy Valleys Council have also determined that areas of moderate and high archaeological sensitivity identified in Figure 6 will not be impacted by the proposed development. Should future development within these areas be required then further archaeological assessment of these areas is recommended. In order to avoid unintentional impacts to these areas of moderate and high archaeological sensitivity during the construction or operation of the proposed composting facility, Biosis has recommended that these areas be fenced off and secured.

6.3 Management and mitigation measures

The following management measures have therefore been developed with consideration to Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) in order to mitigate impacts to Aboriginal cultural values identified within the study area.

No further archaeological assessment required for Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending), Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending)

Archaeological test excavations have determined that Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending), Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending) have limited potential to expand our understanding of the archaeology of the local area or the surrounding region through further investigation. No further investigation of these sites is therefore warranted.

Fencing of archaeological sites and areas of moderate and high archaeological potential that will not be impacted by the proposed development

The proposed works will not impact Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending) and will only partially impact Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending). These sites should therefore be clearly fenced in order to prevent any unintentional impacts to the site over the lifespan of the proposed development. This management strategy will be included within the AHIP recommendations and a no-go-zone should allow for a five metre buffer around the site extent.

The southern boundary of the proposed works should also be appropriately fenced to ensure the proposed works do not impact on any areas of high or moderate archaeological potential identified within the crest landform (Figure 6).

Apply for an AHIP to impact Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending)

Biosis recommends that an AHIP be obtained for the proposed works which extends across the development footprint. The AHIP should allow for direct impacts to Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and part of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending), to occur. The AHIP should be obtained prior to works proceeding. **The AHIP should be for a term of 10 years.** An AHIP is required for any activities likely to have an impact on Aboriginal objects or Places or cause land to be disturbed for the purposes of discovering an Aboriginal object. Heritage NSW issues AHIPs under Part 6 of the NPW Act.

Advice preparing AHIPs

An AHIP is required for any activities likely to have an impact on Aboriginal objects or Places or cause land to be disturbed for the purposes of discovering an Aboriginal object. Heritage NSW issues AHIPs under Part 6 of the NPW Act.

AHIPs should be prepared by a qualified archaeologist and lodged with Heritage NSW. Once the application is lodged processing time can take between 8-12 weeks. It should be noted that there will be an application fee levied by the Heritage NSW for the processing of AHIPs, which is dependent on the estimated total cost of the development project.

Further archaeological assessment required for areas not tested as part of this assessment

The archaeological test excavations completed as part of this assessment focused on the proposed development impact footprint. Areas of moderate and high archaeological potential outside of this development footprint were not tested as part of this assessment. Should future works within these areas occur, further archaeological assessment will be required.

Management of artefacts

Consultation with RAPs will need to be undertaken in order to ensure that artefacts recovered during test excavations are adequately cared for. RAPs will be provided with the opportunity to review the draft report and provide comment on how they would like to see the artefacts cared for as part of stage 4 of the Aboriginal community consultation process. Several management options are possible depending on the wishes of RAPs. Artefacts recovered from the test excavations can be given back to the Aboriginal community through a long term care agreement where they can then be used to teach subsequent generations about Aboriginal culture or can be reburied in a culturally appropriate place. This approach considers the principles of ESD and intergenerational equity, and more importantly, ensures that recovered artefacts are managed according to the wishes of RAPs.

7 Recommendations

The recommendations below respond specifically to the wishes of the RAPs. Recommendations regarding the archaeological value of the site, and the subsequent management of Aboriginal cultural heritage is provided in the AR (Appendix 5).

Recommendation 1: Application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) to harm Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and part of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending)

Biosis recommends that an application for an AHIP to harm Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and part of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending) covering the entirety of the development footprint be obtained. An AHIP is required for any activities likely to have an impact on Aboriginal objects or Places, or that cause land to be disturbed for the purposes of discovering an Aboriginal object. Heritage NSW issues AHIPs under Part 6 of the NPW Act.

AHIPs should be prepared by a qualified archaeologist and lodged with Heritage NSW. Once the application is lodged processing time can take between 8-12 weeks. It should be noted that there will be an application fee levied by the Heritage NSW for the processing of AHIPs, which is dependent on the estimated total cost of the development project.

Recommendation 2: No further archaeological investigations required for Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending)

No further archaeological investigations are recommended for Gilmore-AD-02 (AHIMS #pending), and Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending). Works may proceed in these areas following the obtainment of an AHIP for the proposed development, subject to recommendation 3 to 7 below.

Recommendation 3: Fencing of Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending), part of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending) and the southern boundary of proposed works

The proposed works will not impact Gilmore-AD-01 (AHIMS #pending). Prior to any works taking place, the site should be clearly fenced in order to prevent any unintentional impacts. Fencing must remain in place over the over the lifespan of the proposed development.

The proposed works will partially impact Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending). Prior to any works taking place the portion of Gilmore-AD-03 (AHIMS #pending) which will be retained should therefore be clearly fenced in order to prevent any unintentional impacts to the site. Fencing must remain in place over the over the lifespan of the proposed development.

It is recommended that the southern boundary of the proposed works are securely fenced to ensure the proposed works do not impact on any areas of high or moderate archaeological potential identified within the crest landform. Fencing must remain in place over the over the lifespan of the proposed development.

Recommendation 4: Further archaeological assessment required for areas not tested as part of this assessment

The archaeological test excavations completed as part of this assessment focused on the proposed development impact footprint. Areas of moderate and high archaeological potential outside of this development footprint were not tested as part of this assessment. Should future works within these areas occur, further archaeological assessment will be required.

Recommendation 5: Discovery of Unanticipated Aboriginal Objects

All Aboriginal objects and Places are protected under the NPW Act. It is an offence to knowingly disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by Heritage NSW. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works associated with this proposal, works must cease in the vicinity and the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an Aboriginal object the archaeologist will provide further recommendations. These may include notifying the Heritage NSW and Aboriginal stakeholders.

Recommendation 6: Discovery of Unanticipated Historical Relics

Relics are historical archaeological resources of local or State significance and are protected in NSW under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Relics cannot be disturbed except with a permit or exception/exemption notification. Should unanticipated relics be discovered during the course of the project, work in the vicinity must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make a preliminary assessment of the find. The Heritage Council will require notification if the find is assessed as a relic.

Recommendation 7: Discovery of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains

Aboriginal ancestral remains may be found in a variety of landscapes in NSW, including middens and sandy or soft sedimentary soils. If any suspected human remains are discovered during any activity you must:

1. Immediately cease all work at that location and not further move or disturb the remains.
2. Notify the NSW Police and Heritage NSW Environmental Line on 131 555 as soon as practicable and provide details of the remains and their location.
3. Not recommence work at that location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.

Recommendation 8: Continued consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs)

The proponent should continue to inform these groups about the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the study area throughout the life of the project.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Consultation log

Stage 1 – Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

Step 1- Identification of Aboriginal people/parties with an interest in the proposed study area.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
Heritage NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet	28 July 2020, email	28 July 2020, email	Automated response
Heritage NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet	28 July 2020, email	11 August 2020, email	Received a list of Aboriginal stakeholders whom may hold an interest in the project.
Native Title Services CORP Limited	28 July 2020, email	-	-
Office of the Registrar, Department of Aboriginal Affairs	28 July 2020, email	4 August 2020, email	No registered Aboriginal Owners within the study area
Riverina Local Land Services	28 July 2020, email	2 August 2020, email	Recommended contacting the LALC
National Native Title Tribunal	28 July 2020, email	28 July 2020, email 29 July 2020, email	Automated response No Native Title listed
Snowy Valleys Council	28 July 2020, email	-	-
Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council	28 July 2020, email	11 August 2020, email	Registered an interest

Step 2- Public advertisement

The public notice was published in the Adelong and Tumut Times on 4 August 2020. A copy of the advertisement is provided in Appendix 2.

Mathew Marlow responded to the Public Notice and registered for the project on 18 August 2020.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
Mathew Marlowe	4 August 2020, public notice	18 August 2020, email	Registered an interest

Step 3- Registration of interest

The registration period ran from 12 August 2020 to 26 August 2020. Leeway was given to Aboriginal parties/groups who provided responses shortly after the close of this period and they have been registered as Aboriginal parties for consultation.

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
Snow Mountains Indigenous Elders Group	12 August 2020, mail	26 August 2020, phone	Registered for project
Alice Williams	12 August 2020, mail	26 August 2020, phone/email	Registered for project
Matilda House	12 August 2020, mail	-	-
Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	12 August 2020, email	-	-
Colleen Dixon	12 August 2020, mail	-	-
Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	12 August 2020, email	13 August 2020, email	Registered for project
Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	12 August 2020, mail	-	-
Ngunnawal Elders Corporation	12 August 2020, mail	-	-
Koomurri Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation	12 August 2020, email	-	-
Thunderstone Cultural & Land Management Services Aboriginal Corporation	12 August 2020, email	-	-
Gulgunya Ngungawal Heritage Aboriginal Consultancy	12 August 2020, email	26 August 2020, email	Registered for project
Oak Hill Enterprises	12 August 2020, email	25 August 2020, email	Registered for project
Merrigarn	12 August 2020, email	13 August 2020, email	Registered for project
Jesse Johnson	12 August 2020, email	13 August 2020, email	Registered for project

Stage 2 and 3 – Presentation of information about the proposed project and gathering information about cultural significance

Step 1- Provision of project information and methodology pack

The information and methodology pack was provided to RAPs on 12 August 2020. RAPs were provided with 28 days to review and respond to the information provided in the Stage 2 and 3 information and methodology pack, with the review period closing on 24 September 2020. A copy of the information and methodology pack is provided in Appendix 3 and a copy of the covering email is provided following.

No.	Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
1	Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	27 August 2020, email	28 August 2020, email	Read and agrees with Stage 2 and 3 methodology
2	Mathew Marlowe	27 August 2020, email	-	-
3	Gulgunya Ngungawal Heritage Aboriginal Consultancy	27 August 2020, email	-	-
4	Alice Williams	27 August 2020, email	-	-
5	Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group	28 August 2020, mail	-	-
6	Merrigarn	27 August 2020, email	-	-
7	Jesse Johnson	27 August 2020, email	28 August 2020, email	Read and agrees with the Stage 2 and 3 methodology
8	Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council	28 August 2020, mail	-	-
9	Oakhill Enterprises	3 September 2020, email	-	-

Step 2- Test excavations

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council	17 June 2020, field investigation	17 June 2020	Site officers from Brungle/Tumut LALC provided comment on the study area with regard to the proposal. Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives agreed that the southern portion of the study area had potential for Aboriginal camp sites, but stated it was difficult to know for sure as there haven't been many archaeological excavations

Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
			completed in the local area. Sue Bulger also noted that her family had lived close by the study area, near Gilmore Creek and that her family would collect milk from the dairy near the study area.
Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council	28 August 2020 to 12 October 2020, test excavations	28 August 2020 to 12 October 2020	Steve Connolly, commented on the potential for Aboriginal sites to be located around remnant trees near creek lines and in crest landforms in the local area. Steve requested that a test pit be excavated near by a remnant tree on the gentle slope landform within the southern portion of the study area. Steve also noted that the creek terrace likely had a low potential as camping would have been more likely to occur on raised landforms due to the boggy nature of the creek terrace/flat. This assessment of the archaeological potential of the study area was shared by other site officers who attend the test excavations on behalf of Brungle/Tumut LALC.
Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group	28 August 2020, site visit	28 August 2020	Lindsay Connolly of the Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group, also provided comment during a visit to the site on 28 August 2020. Lindsay Connolly noted that the crest landform within the southern portion of the study area contained high potential as it is positioned well within the landscape with good view points towards creek lines and the surrounding area. Lindsay also stated that there was low potential for Aboriginal sites to be identified within the creek terrace/flat landform as it would not have been considered suitable for camping. Lindsay Connolly stated that testing upon the crest should be undertaken if the proposed works were to impact this portion of the study area.

Stage 4 – Review of draft report

A copy of the draft ACHA and AR for this project was provided to RAPs on 1 December 2020. RAPs were given 28 days to review and prepare feedback in response to Biosis' findings and recommendations.

Step 1- Provision of draft report for review

No.	Organisation contacted	Date and type of contact	Date and type of response	Response details
1	Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	1 December 2020, email	-	-
2	Mathew Marlowe	1 December 2020, email	-	-
3	Gulgunya Ngungawal Heritage Aboriginal Consultancy	1 December 2020, email	-	-
4	Alice Williams	1 December 2020, email	-	-
5	Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group	1 December 2020, mail	-	-
6	Merrigarn	1 December 2020, email	-	-
7	Jesse Johnson	1 December 2020, email	-	-
8	Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council	1 December 2020, email	-	-
9	Oakhill Enterprises	1 December 2020, email	-	-

Appendix 2 Stage 1: Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

From: [Madeleine Lucas](#)
To: ["btlaic@bigpond.net.au"](mailto:btlaic@bigpond.net.au)
Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation
Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:53:40 PM
Attachments: [PDFMailer.pdf](#)
[image3061e4.PNG](#)

Good afternoon,

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). Please see the attached PDF for further information.

If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations that may be registered with your department by 5pm 11 August 2020 it would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Madeleine Lucas

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0437 705 064

D: (02) 4911 4043

E: mlucas@biosis.com.au



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Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation
Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:49:13 PM
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Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:49:12 PM
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Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation
Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:49:12 PM
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Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation
Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:49:12 PM
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Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation
Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:56:40 PM
Attachments: [PDFMailer331.pdf](#)
[33622.NNTT_Search_Request_Form.docx](#)
[imageab3c22.PNG](#)

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Leaders in Ecology and Heritage Consulting

Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future, and honour their connection to the land and ongoing contribution to society.

The information transmitted including attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain copyright material, or information that is confidential or is exempt from disclosure by law. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from your computer. The views expressed in this email are those of the sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of Biosis Pty Ltd. Biosis Pty Ltd does not represent that this email is free of errors, viruses or interference. When using email to communicate with Biosis Pty Ltd, access to that information by Biosis Pty Ltd personnel is strictly limited and controlled.

28 July 2020

Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 6, 10 Valentine Ave
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Gilmore Composting: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment,
Notification to Agencies
Our Ref: Matter 33622**

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Biosis is assisting Snowy Valleys Council with consultation with the Aboriginal community to inform the ACHA. Consultation with the Aboriginal community for this assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010) (consultation requirements).

The purpose of the Aboriginal community consultation is to provide sufficient information for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and to assist the Director General of the Heritage NSW of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) in the consideration and determination of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP), if required. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

As per section 4.1 of the consultation requirements, Biosis is seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Tumut area. If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations that may be registered with your department by **5pm 11 August 2020** it would be greatly appreciated.

In accordance with section 4.1.3 (a) of the consultation requirements, please note that the relevant client contact for this project is:

Snowy Valleys Council
Martin Canteros-Paz
Resource Recovery Officer
Tel: 0429449179
Email: mcanteros-paz@svc.nsw.gov.au

All correspondence regarding provision of names and contact details of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to the study area should be provided in writing by **5pm 11 August 2020** to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

If you have any queries regarding the project please don't hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman on the details above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ML", is positioned above the name Madeleine Lucas.

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



28 July 2020

Riverina Local Land Services
64 Fitzroy Street
Tumut 2720

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Gilmore Composting: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment,
Notification to Agencies
Our Ref: Matter 33622**

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Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

In accordance with section 4.1.3 (a) of the consultation requirements, please note that the relevant client contact for this project is:

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ML", is positioned above the name Madeleine Lucas.

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



28 July 2020

Native Title Services Corporation
PO Box 2105
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Gilmore Composting: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment,
Notification to Agencies
Our Ref: Matter 33622**

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Yours sincerely

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



28 July 2020

Snowy Valleys Council
76 Capper Street
Tumut 2720

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Gilmore Composting: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment,
Notification to Agencies
Our Ref: Matter 33622**

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Yours sincerely

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



28 July 2020

Office of the Registrar Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
PO Box 5068
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Gilmore Composting: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment,
Notification to Agencies
Our Ref: Matter 33622**

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Yours sincerely

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au

28 July 2020

National Native Title Tribunal
GPO Box 9973
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Gilmore Composting: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment,
Notification to Agencies
Our Ref: Matter 33622**

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Email: mcanteros-paz@svc.nsw.gov.au

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akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

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Yours sincerely

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



28 July 2020

Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 64
Tumut 2720

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Gilmore Composting: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment,
Notification to Agencies
Our Ref: Matter 33622**

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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As per section 4.1 of the consultation requirements, Biosis wish to invite Brungle Local Aboriginal Land Council to register an interest in the project. Biosis is also seeking to identify Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the study area and hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Tumut area. If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations by **5pm 11 August 2020** it would be greatly appreciated.

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

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Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

If you have any queries regarding the project please don't hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman on the details above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ML", is positioned above the name Madeleine Lucas.

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au

From: [BTLALC](#)
To: [Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman](#)
Subject: Fwd: Message from KM_C224e
Date: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 12:07:03 PM
Attachments: [SKM_C224e20081112120.pdf](#)

Hello Ashleigh,

Please find attached register of interest of Aboriginal party.

Kind regards

Sue Bulger

CEO Brungle Tumut LALC Ph: 69474518

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Message from KM_C224e
Date: Tue, 11 Aug 2020 12:12:34 +1000
From: btalc@bigpond.net.au
Reply-To: btalc@bigpond.net.au
To: btalc@bigpond.net.au



Virus-free. www.avast.com



Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council

55 Merivale Street Tumut 2720 NSW

TELEPHONE (02) 6947 4518

P.O. Box 684

Email btalc@bigpond.net.au

ABN: 84042249591

10th August 2020

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman

Biosis Pty Ltd

8/27 Annie Street

Wickham N.S.W. 2293

Dear Ashleigh,

Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council would like register an interest in the project

RE: Gilmore Composting: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment,

Notification to Agencies. Ref: Matter 33622

We will have fifteen community members available to do site surveys who will be registered with Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council

Yours Sincerely

Sue Bulger

CEO

Madeleine Lucas

From: OEH HD Heritage Mailbox <HERITAGEMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:50 PM
To: Madeleine Lucas
Subject: Automated Response
Attachments: image002.png

Thank you for your email to Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet. We will respond to your email as soon as possible.

Coronavirus (COVID 19)

Given the rapid spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) Heritage NSW has taken steps to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff, partners and communities. We have implemented a number of safeguards that meet official Australian Government COVID-19 guidelines. Whilst our offices remain open, we have well established flexible working arrangements for our teams across NSW, and we will continue to adapt as necessary as these guidelines continue to evolve. Face-to-face meetings and field work/site visits with our customers are now subject to new rules on gatherings and social distancing measures. There may also be some short delays in processing postage in the coming weeks.

We are committed to supporting our communities during this developing situation and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation is now part of Heritage NSW

From 1 July 2020 Heritage NSW began managing Aboriginal cultural heritage regulatory functions under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Now the government functions for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage is within the one State government agency. All the staff that previously carried out these functions in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment have been welcomed into Heritage NSW.

Applications

If you have submitted an application under the *Heritage Act 1977* or the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, it will first be reviewed for completeness and then allocated to the appropriate assessment team. An officer will contact you if any additional information is required. The completeness check is generally completed within 7-14 business days.

We aim to process applications within the timeframes below:

Application Type	Timeframe (Commences once an application is complete)
Section 57(2) Exemption Notification	14 days
Planning Proposals Section 139 Exceptions Section 140 Permits Section 4.55 Modifications	21 days
Integrated Development Applications	If advertised: 21 days following receipt of submissions, or advice there were no submissions, or If not advertised: 40 days
Section 60 Applications Section 65A Modifications	40 days (or 60 days if advertised)

State Heritage and Aboriginal Place Nominations

Nominations for listing under the *Heritage Act 1977* (State Heritage Register) must accompany a nomination form available on our website (<https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/protecting-our-heritage/nominate-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/>). SHR Nominations are considered by the State Heritage Register Committee who will decide whether the nomination will proceed to the next stage of assessment.

Nominations for Aboriginal Place listings under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, are allocated to the relevant team within 2 business days. An officer will contact you if any additional information is required. The Aboriginal Place proposal form is available on our website: <https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/protecting-our-heritage/nominating-an-aboriginal-place/>

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Conservation and Repatriation

Programs supported by Heritage NSW include the ACH Conservation and Repatriation of Aboriginal ancestors and objects. This work is managed by staff located across NSW. Enquiries into these programs are sent to the relevant team within 2 business days. One of our staff will respond to you directly. Please advise us of any requests to modify our projects or timeframes to better accommodate your needs.

A new Heritage Management System is coming!

We are working to improve our systems to make it easier for you to work with us. Early next year, we will be releasing a new Heritage Management System, which will provide:

- Improved heritage search tools, and
- The ability to submit, pay and track the progress of applications online

Further updates will be provided as work progresses.

Further information is also available at <https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/>

Sincerely



Customer Strategies
Heritage, Department of
Premier and Cabinet.

Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta 2124
T (02) 9873 8500

This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information.

If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately.

Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

From: [Jackie Taylor](#)
To: [Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman](#)
Cc: [Madeleine Lucas](#)
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation
Date: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:27:36 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[HNSW Gilmore Composting Facility ACHA Snowy Valleys LGA August 2020.pdf](#)

Dear Ashleigh,

Attached is a list of Aboriginal people who may have knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Snowy Valleys local government area.

Regards,
Jackie

Jackie Taylor | Senior Team Leader, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - South

Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 3, 11 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
T: 02 6229 7089 | M: 0408 201 239 | Jackie.taylor@environment.nsw.gov.au



**Premier
& Cabinet**

I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and ancestors of the lands I work across.

Heritage NSW and coronavirus (COVID-19)

Heritage NSW has taken steps to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff, communities and customers. Whilst our offices remain open, we have put in place flexible working arrangements for our teams across NSW and continue to adapt our working arrangements as necessary. Face-to-face meetings and field work/site visits with our customers are subject to rules on gatherings and social distancing measures. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

From: Madeleine Lucas <MLucas@biosis.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:49 PM
To: OEH HD Heritage Mailbox <HERITAGEMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation

Good afternoon,

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). Please see the attached PDF for further information.

If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations that may be registered with your department by 5pm 11 August 2020 it would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant - Heritage
M: 0437 705 064
D: (02) 4911 4043
E: mlucas@biosis.com.au



Leaders in Ecology and Heritage Consulting

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PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

Madeleine Lucas

From: Enquiries <Enquiries@nntt.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:58 PM
To: Madeleine Lucas
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation

Thank you for contacting the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT).

This is an automated response – please do not reply.

We acknowledge receipt of your email, which has been forwarded to the responsible team who will be in contact.

If your enquiry is urgent, please contact NNTT on (07) 3307 5000.

Our Offices are open Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 4.30pm.

For further information, please visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Madeleine Lucas

From: Enquiries <Enquiries@nntt.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 4:26 PM
To: Madeleine Lucas
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation

UNCLASSIFIED

Good Afternoon Madeleine,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding a Register Search for your project area.

To enable us to complete the search appropriately and adequately, please forward your request, along with a Geospatial Search Form, to the following email address: GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

A Geospatial Search Form must accompany your request. Search request forms are available for download from our website at: http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Geospatial/Pages/Geospatial_Searches.aspx

Further information on searching our Registers is available at: <http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Pages/Searches-and-providing-Register-information.aspx>

Please note:

Freehold Land - The National Native Title Tribunal does not hold data sets for freehold tenure. For further information on freehold land and native title claims, please visit our website at:
<http://www.nntt.gov.au/nativetitleclaims/Pages/Native-title-claims-and-freehold-land.aspx>

Cultural Heritage - The existence or otherwise of native title is quite separate to any matters relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage. In NSW, the National Native Title Tribunal has undertaken steps to remove itself from the formal list of sources for information about indigenous groups in development areas.

Kind Regards
Madeline

Enquiries

Public enquiry hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm

National Native Title Tribunal

Email enquiries@nntt.gov.au

Freecall 1800 640 501 | www.nntt.gov.au

From: Madeleine Lucas
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:57 PM
To: Enquiries
Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation

Caution: This is an external email. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). Please see the attached PDF for further information.

If you could please provide contact details for any such Aboriginal people or organisations that may be registered with your department by **5pm 11 August 2020** it would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Madeleine Lucas

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0437 705 064

D: (02) 4911 4043

E: mlucas@biosis.com.au



Leaders in Ecology and Heritage Consulting

Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future, and honour their connection to the land and ongoing contribution to society.

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Madeleine Lucas

From: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 4:41 PM
To: Madeleine Lucas
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation

Your email has been received and is being actioned. For information regarding timeframes and what you will receive in response please refer to our website at this address:

<http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Pages/Searches-and-providing-Register-information.aspx>

Geospatial Searches

National Native Title Tribunal | Perth

Email: GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au | www.nntt.gov.au

Madeleine Lucas

From: Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2020 2:51 PM
To: Madeleine Lucas
Subject: RE: SR20/736 - 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation - SR20/736

UNCLASSIFIED

Native title search – NSW Parcel – Lot 1 on DP197308
Your ref: N/A - Our ref: SR20/736

Dear Madeleine Lucas,

Thank you for your search request received on 28 July 2020 in relation to the above area.

Please note: Records held by the National Native Title Tribunal as at 29 July 2020 indicate that the identified parcel appears to be freehold, and freehold tenure extinguishes native title. The National Native Title Tribunal does not hold data sets for freehold tenure; consequently, we **cannot** conduct searches over freehold. For confirmation of freehold data, please contact the NSW Land and Property Information office or seek independent legal advice.

For further information, please visit our [website](#).

Cultural Heritage Searches in NSW

The National Native Title Tribunal (the Tribunal) has undertaken steps to remove itself from the formal list of sources for information about indigenous groups in development areas. The existence or otherwise of native title is quite separate to any matters relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Information on native title claims, native title determinations and Indigenous Land Use Agreements is available on the Tribunal's website.

Interested parties are invited to use Native Title Vision (NTV) the Tribunal's online mapping system to discover native title matters in their area of interest. Access to NTV is available at <http://www.nntt.gov.au/assistance/Geospatial/Pages/NTV.aspx>

Training and self-help documents are available on the NTV web page under "Training and help documents". For additional assistance or general advice on NTV please contact GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

Additional information can be extracted from the Registers available at <http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on the free call number 1800 640 501.

Regards,

Geospatial Searches

National Native Title Tribunal | Perth

Email: GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au | www.nntt.gov.au

From: Madeleine Lucas
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 2:41 PM
To: Geospatial Search Requests
Subject: SR20/736 - FW: 33622 - Gilmore Composting ACHA - Stage 1 Consultation

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Kind regards,

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant - Heritage
M: 0437 705 064
D: (02) 4911 4043
E: mlucas@biosis.com.au



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From: [Rachel Rewiri](#)
To: [Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman](#)
Subject: RE: Matter 33622
Date: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 10:35:52 AM
Attachments: [Biosis - Reply Letter 04082020.pdf](#)

Good Morning Ashleigh,

Please find attached results as per your ACHA request dated 28/07/2020.

Kind Regards

Rachel Rewiri
Project Officer (Aboriginal Owners)
Office of the Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*

Ph: 8633 1266
www.oralra.nsw.gov.au

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain
privileged information or confidential information or both. If you
are not the intended recipient please delete it and notify the sender.

04 August 2020

By email: akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
WICKHAM NSW 2293

Dear Ashleigh,

Request - Search for Registered Aboriginal Owners

We refer to your email dated 28 July 2020 seeking the identification of Aboriginal organisations and people who may have an interest in the proposed development of a composting facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW.

Under Section 170 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 the Office of the Registrar is required to maintain the Register of Aboriginal Owners (RAO). A search of the RAO has shown that there are currently no Registered Aboriginal Owners in the project area.

We suggest you contact the Brungle-Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council on (02) 6947 4518 or via email – btllalc@bigpond.net.au as they may wish to participate.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Rewiri
Project Officer
Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

Madeleine Lucas

From: Julie Heath <julie.heath@lls.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2020 6:51 AM
To: Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Cc: Greg Packer; Madeleine Lucas; mcanteros-paz@sav.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment - 6 Killarney Rd Gilmore NSW
Attachments: RLLS 20200803 Reply Biosis ACH 6 Killarney Rd Gilmore.pdf

Hi Ashleigh

Please find attached our reply to correspondence from Biosis on 28 July re proposed development (Gilmore Composting) at 6 Killarney Rd Gilmore, seeking contact details for assistance with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessment. (Your ref "Matter 3622").

If you require further assistance please contact Greg Packer (Snr Land Services Officer, Aboriginal Communities) on 02 6923 6347 or 0427 262 470.

Regards

Julie Heath

For Ray Willis, General Manager



Riverina Local Land Services
Building 24, Darnell-Smith Drive
PO Box 513
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Tel: 02 6923 6300
www.lls.nsw.gov.au/riverina

CM9 Ref: DOC20/112025

3 August 2020

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
WICKHAM NSW 2293
E: akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Dear Ashleigh

Re: Proposed development Gilmore Composting – 6 Killarney Road Gilmore: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
(your ref: Matter 3622)

I refer to your correspondence of 28 July 2020 seeking recommendations for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment consultation in regard to the proposed development (Gilmore Composting) at 6 Killarney Road Gilmore NSW. I recommend that you contact the Tumut Local Aboriginal Lands Council. Contact details are as follows:

Sue Bulger
CEO (Brungle Tumut LALC)
PO Box 684
Tumut NSW 2720
T: 02 69474518
E: btllalc@bigpond.net.au

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further with Local Land Services staff, please contact Greg Packer (Snr Land Services Officer, Aboriginal Communities) on 02 6923 6347 or 0427 262 470.

Yours sincerely



Ray Willis
General Manager

Madeleine Lucas

From: info@svc.nsw.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2020 3:49 PM
To: Madeleine Lucas
Subject: Your email has been received

Thank you for contacting Snowy Valleys Council.

We will attend to your enquiry as soon as possible

This is an auto generated response email, please do not reply to this email.

Kind Regards,

Snowy Valleys Council

1300 ASK SVC (1300 275 782)

info@svc.nsw.gov.au

<http://www.svc.nsw.gov.au>

Tumbarumba Office:

Cnr of Bridge & Winston St (PO BOX 61),
Tumbarumba NSW 2653

Tumut Office:

76 Capper St,
Tumut NSW 2720

Classifieds

Phone: 6947 2422

Fax: 6947 2663

Email: ads@tatimes.com.au

Closing time for advertisements is 11am on Monday & Thursday

Public Notice

(Advertisement)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT Racism, Evolution and BLM

Fact: During the late 1800's, thousands of Indigenous Australians were slaughtered to provide specimens of "missing links" for museums in Europe and America.

Fact: In the early 1900's, a young African pygmy named Ota Benga was captured and put on display in the Bronx Zoo, New York, in a cage that he had to share with an orangutan.

Fact: During World War II, Adolph Hitler, in an attempt to produce a master race, had 6 million men, women, and children exterminated in Nazi concentration camps.

What could make people feel justified in committing such atrocities? The answer is simple: Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution. If certain kinds of people are sub-human, why should it be wrong to kill them? Of course, racist attitudes existed prior to the introduction of evolutionary teaching, but it's a fact of history that evolution has been used more than anything else to justify racism.

The idea that different "races" of people "evolved" at different rates (with some being closer to ape-like ancestors than others) is plain racist philosophy. It's also unscientific and unbiblical. So where did the "races" come from? And what can be done to combat the problem of racism in society?

Actually, there's no such thing as different "races" of people. **There's only one human race.** One reason why we can look so different is that we all inherit different amounts of the brown pigment *melanin* in our skin - if we have a little, our skin is fair, if we have a lot, it's dark. There's no such thing as "blacks" or "whites" - people are light brown, dark brown, or anything in between. Similarly, the only difference between "Asian" eyes and "Caucasian" eyes is that the former have more fat in the upper lid. Such differences don't support the idea of different "races" - they simply highlight the wonderful diversity within the human "kind".

The Bible says there's only one human race - we can all trace our ancestry back to Noah and his family (Genesis 6-9) and ultimately all the way back to Adam: **"And He made from one blood every nation of mankind..."** (Act 17: 26).

So is Black Lives Matter (BLM) the answer to the tsunami of anger, heartbreak, tension, and frustration raging around the world right now?

No! BLM is not just a slogan - there's an entire organization behind it. One of the core values of BLM from their website: **"We disrupt the western prescribed nuclear family structure."**

Now hang on a tick. The nuclear family consists of a father, a mother and their children. This isn't something that is "western prescribed". This was established by God and any organization that seeks to disrupt the nuclear family sets itself squarely in opposition against the Creator of the universe.

What's more, BLM co-founder Patrisse Cullors says "We are trained Marxists." Well, Carl Marx was an atheist, an evolutionist and a communist.

Yikes! Not only is this dangerous, but it's not the answer to the problem. In fact, BLM is political activism which does more to *reinforce* racist discrimination than to provide a lasting solution for it.

What is the answer? The ultimate and only lasting solution is simply the truth of God's Word, the true history of humanity, and the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the only answer! Every person is a descendant of Adam and Eve, so every person is a sinner - that's our biggest problem, no matter who we are, where we come from, or what shade of skin we have. Our biggest problem is the sin that separates us from a holy God.

Jesus Christ, God's Son, died on the cross in our place, taking the penalty of death that we deserve because of our sin. When we repent of our sin and trust in Christ alone for salvation, we are forgiven and He remembers our sin no more (Hebrews 8:12).

Not only that, but we're given a new heart, with a new love for others, and we're adopted into His family, the body of Christ. This is our ultimate hope and it's the only ultimate answer to racism, discrimination, prejudice, and the sinful heart behind such things.

Various sources

Submitted by N Yabsley, Ph: 69449153

Snap Ads

FOR Sale: Electric column heater, large, near new, \$50. Phone 0439 776 699.

FOR all your advertising needs, phone 6947 2422 or email ads@tatimes.com.au

Meeting

ADELONG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting

Wednesday,
August 19

at 6.30pm

at the Adelong Services & Citizens Club

Public Notice



Photos taken
by the
**TUMUT AND
ADELONG
TIMES**
are available for
purchase
as colour prints.
Phone
6947 2422
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your copy

Positions Vacant

ORCHARD HAND

Batlow Fruit Company is currently looking for two (2) general hands to assist on its apple orchards. Main tasks will be machinery operation (tractor and sprayer/mulcher/mower, hydra-ladder/edp). Some manual labour may also be required.

Chemical users certificate and experience in operating orchard machinery is essential. Experience in construction and/or maintenance of overhead hail net desirable but not essential.

Applicants must have a current drivers licence, be fit and willing to work in teams and unsupervised.

For more information or to apply for a position:
Contact the Orchard Manager Gavin Williams
on 0447 414 206 gavinw@batlow.com.au



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Bald Hill Quarry - Tumbarumba

An opportunity exists for an Administrative Assistant to join our team at Bald Hill Quarry in Tumbarumba. The position would be initially part time with flexible working hours that can be negotiated with the successful candidate.

Reporting to the Office Manager - Holbrook, the applicant's qualifications would reflect the following criteria, **Key Responsibilities**

- Day-to-day duties of Administration.
- Ensure the highest standards of customer service are met, by effectively managing requests, including telephone and email enquiries in a timely manner.
- Data Entry and checking of daily run sheets.
- Assisting with accounts receivable / payable.

The Candidate

- Minimum of 3 years Administration experience.
- Moderate to advanced Microsoft Office capability.
- Excellent data entry skills and an eye for detail.
- Able to work well within a team and autonomously.
- A commitment to achieving customer service of the highest standard.
- Strong work ethic.
- Excellent time management skills.
- Previous experience within accounts receivable.

Please forward your application to holbrook@baldhillquarry.com.au before the 7th of August 2020, for any enquires please contact Angela on 0428 135 245.

To advertise phone 6947 2422
or email ads@tatimes.com.au

Meeting

VISY COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (VCCC)

Meeting

to be held at Snowy Valleys Council
Riverina Highlands Building
(Tumut Room) located on Level 1

Tuesday August 4, 2020

at 6pm

Bi-monthly meetings are held between Visy and the VCCC to update the community on Visy Tumut's activities and environmental performance. It also provides an opportunity for the community to ask questions in relation to Visy's activities.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. Meetings are run to a formal agenda as directed by the Chairperson with opportunity provided at the end of meeting for questions.

For general enquiries please contact
Matt O'Donovan on 69477900

To assist with seating requirements
please RSVP by 9am Tuesday, August 4.

Public Notice

PET OF THE WEEK



Tully is a six month old female Mastiff x. This girl is sweet and about large lab size atm. She is just a puppy and needs training. She would love to be in a family and having lots of cuddles.

Tully is vet checked, temperament tested, de-sexed, vaccinated, microchipped (900 079 000 548 447) and wormed.

Her adoption fee is \$500.

Please call SMART Animal Sanctuary on 0428 491 492 for more info or go to our facebook page.

Please call SMART Animal Sanctuary on
0428 491 492 for more information
or go to our facebook page

Public Notice

NOTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF ABORIGINAL INTERESTS

Biosis is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and test excavations for the Gilmore Composting project at 6 Killamey Road, Gilmore, NSW, within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area on behalf of the Snowy Valleys Council (Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer, Mobile: 0429 449 179, Email: mcanteros-paz@svc.nsw.gov.au).

Biosis invites Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge in determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the vicinity of the above area to register their interest in a process of community consultation.

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to assist Snowy Valleys Council in preparing an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application (if required) and to assist the Director General of Office of Environment and Heritage in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

To register an interest in this project please contact **Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman** (Email: akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au, Address: 8/27 Annie Street, Wickham, NSW 2293, Mobile: 0428 175 025).

Please note that the name of each group that registers for consultation on this project will be provided to Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless the group specifies that they do not want their details released.

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
BEFORE 5PM, 18 AUGUST 2020

IF YOU HAVE A POSITION VACANT

Advertising in the
Tumut & Adelong Times

will get you results

Phone 6947 2422

Email ads@tatimes.com.au

Madeleine Lucas

From: Matthew Tetlaw
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2020 4:06 PM
To: 'aliceamy@outlook.com'
Subject: 33622 Gilmore composting ACHA
Attachments: 33622.Gilmore.Composting.RAPsConsultation.20200825.pdf

Hi Alice,

Thank you for your call earlier. Please find attached a letter which explains the project a little bit and invites you to register.

We will be sending more detailed project information out tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Matthew
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage
M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["gulgunyaNHAC@hotmail.com"](mailto:gulgunyaNHAC@hotmail.com)
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Aboriginal Consultation Registration
Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:58:23 AM
Attachments: [33622.Gilmore.Composting.ACHA.Stage1.RAPs.20200812.pdf](#)
[image65d318.PNG](#)

Dear Sir or Madame,

Per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010)
Please find an invitation attached to register for the Gilmore Composting ACHA project on behalf of
Snowy Valleys Council.

Please address your interest or comments to either myself or Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman (contact
details can be found in the attached letter).

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["b.mturrise@bigpond.com.au"](mailto:b.mturrise@bigpond.com.au)
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Compositing Aboriginal Consultation Registration
Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:58:22 AM
Attachments: [33622.Gilmore.Composting.ACHA.Stage1.RAPs.20200812.pdf](#)
[image456969.PNG](#)

Dear Sir or Madame,

Per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010)
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Snowy Valleys Council.

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Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["koomurriNAC@hotmail.com"](mailto:koomurriNAC@hotmail.com)
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Aboriginal Consultation Registration
Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:58:22 AM
Attachments: [33622.Gilmore.Composting.ACHA.Stage1.RAPs.20200812.pdf](#)
[image1da40f.PNG](#)

Dear Sir or Madame,

Per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010)
Please find an invitation attached to register for the Gilmore Composting ACHA project on behalf of
Snowy Valleys Council.

Please address your interest or comments to either myself or Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman (contact
details can be found in the attached letter).

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au"](mailto:murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au)
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Aboriginal Consultation Registration
Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:58:21 AM
Attachments: [33622.Gilmore.Composting.ACHA.Stage1.RAPs.20200812.pdf](#)
[imagee27896.PNG](#)

Dear Sir or Madame,

Per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010)
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Snowy Valleys Council.

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Matthew Tetlaw
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655
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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](mailto:Matthew.Tetlaw@ngunawalhac@gmail.com)
To: ["ngunawalhac@gmail.com"](mailto:ngunawalhac@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Aboriginal Consultation Registration
Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:58:21 AM
Attachments: [33622.Gilmore.Composting.ACHA.Stage1.RAPs.20200812.pdf](#)
[imagea9ef89.PNG](#)

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details can be found in the attached letter).

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



Leaders in Ecology and Heritage Consulting

Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future, and honour their connection to the land and ongoing contribution to society.

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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](mailto:Matthew.Tetlaw@ngunawalhac@gmail.com)
To: ["ngunawalhac@gmail.com"](mailto:ngunawalhac@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Aboriginal Consultation Registration
Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:58:21 AM
Attachments: [33622.Gilmore.Composting.ACHA.Stage1.RAPs.20200812.pdf](#)
[imagea9ef89.PNG](#)

Dear Sir or Madame,

Per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010)
Please find an invitation attached to register for the Gilmore Composting ACHA project on behalf of
Snowy Valleys Council.

Please address your interest or comments to either myself or Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman (contact
details can be found in the attached letter).

Kind regards,

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Research Assistant - Heritage

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D: (02) 4201 1062
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Attachments: [33622.Gilmore.Composting.ACHA.Stage1.RAPs.20200812.pdf](#)
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23 July 2020

Snow Mountains Indigenous Elders Group
Ramsay Freeman
48 Bundarra Crescent
Tumut NSW 2720

Dear Ramsay,

RE: Gilmore Composting - Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting area at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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If you wish to register your interest please provide your contact details in writing via post or email by **5pm 26 August 2020 to:**

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

In accordance with section 4.1.3 (a) of the consultation requirements, the proponent details for this project are as follows:

Snowy Valleys Council
Martin Canteros-Paz
Resource Recovery Officer
Tel: 0429449179
Email: mcanteros-paz@svc.nsw.gov.au

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If you have any queries regarding the project please don't hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman on the details above.

Yours sincerely

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Alice Williams
7 Attunga Place
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Alice,

RE: Gilmore Composting – Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

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Yours sincerely

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Matilda House
6 McNamara Street
Pearce ACT 2607

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: Gilmore Composting – Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

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Yours sincerely

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
Cherie Carroll Turrise
1 Bellevue Place
Portland NSW 2847

Dear Cherie Carroll,

RE: Gilmore Composting - Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

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Yours sincerely

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Ngunnawal Elders Corporation
Arnold Williams
13 Fitzgibbon Place
Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Dear Arnold,

RE: Gilmore Composting - Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Formatted

[Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Corporation](#)«Organisation»
[Dorothy](#)«First_name» [Carroll](#)«Last_name»
[245 Ash Road](#)«Address_1»
[Prestons, NSW 2170](#)«Address_2»

[Dear Dorothy](#)«GreetingLine»

RE: Gilmore Composting - Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation«Organisation»

Darlene«First_name» Johnson«Last_name»

«Address_1»

«Address_2»

Dear Darlene,«GreetingLine»

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

[Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation](#)«Organisation»
[Cherie Carroll](#)«First_name» [Turrise](#)«Last_name»
[1 Bellevue Place](#)«Address_1»
[Portland NSW 2847](#)«Address_2»

[Dear Cherie Carroll](#)«GreetingLine»

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Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Koomurri Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation«Organisation»
Geln«First_name» Freeman«Last_name»
16A Progress Street«Address_1»
Goulburn NSW 2580«Address_2»

Dear Geln,«GreetingLine»

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "ML", is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

[Thunderstone Cultural & Land Management Services Aboriginal Corporation](#)«Organisation»
[Tyronne](#)«First_name» [Bell](#)«Last_name»
[PO Box 6900](#)«Address_1»
[Charmwood ACT 2615](#)«Address_2»

[Dear Tyronne](#)«GreetingLine»

RE: Gilmore Composting - Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting area at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Biosis is assisting Snowy Valleys Council with consultation with the Aboriginal community to inform the ACHA. Consultation with the Aboriginal community for this assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010) (consultation requirements).

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to assist Snowy Valleys Council in the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist the Director General of the Heritage NSW of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

On behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, Biosis invites Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s)/and or Places in the vicinity of the study area, to register their interest in the project outlined above.

If you wish to register your interest please provide your contact details in writing via post or email by **TIME DATE YEAR 5pm 26 August 2020** to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au



In accordance with section 4.1.3 (a) of the consultation requirements, the proponent details for this project are as follows:

Snowy Valleys Council
Martin Canteros-Paz
Resource Recovery Officer
Tel: 0429449179
Email: mcanteros-paz@svc.nsw.gov.au

Please note that as per 4.1.5 of the consultation requirements, the contact details of all registered Aboriginal parties for this project will be forwarded through to Heritage NSW and Brungle Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). If you do not want your details forwarded on to the Heritage NSW and LALC please notify Biosis at the time of your registration.

If you have any queries regarding the project please don't hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman on the details above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "ML", is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Gulgunya Ngungawal Heritage Aboriginal Consultancy«Organisation»
Glen«First_name» Freeman«Last_name»
«Address_1»
«Address_2»

Dear Glen,«GreetingLine»

RE: Gilmore Composting - Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting area at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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If you wish to register your interest please provide your contact details in writing via post or email by **TIME DATE YEAR5pm 26 August 2020** to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
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Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

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In accordance with section 4.1.3 (a) of the consultation requirements, the proponent details for this project are as follows:

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Martin Canteros-Paz
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Tel: 0429449179
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "ML", is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au



23 July 2020

Oak Hill Enterprises«Organisation»
Sonia«First_name» Shea«Last_name»
«Address_1»
«Address_2»

Dear Sonia,«GreetingLine»

RE: Gilmore Composting - Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting area at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au



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Martin Canteros-Paz
Resource Recovery Officer
Tel: 0429449179
Email: mcanteros-paz@svc.nsw.gov.au

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If you have any queries regarding the project please don't hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman on the details above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ML", is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au

Formatted: Section start: Continuous



23 July 2020

Alice Williams
7 Attunga Place
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Williams,

RE: Gilmore Composting – Invitation to Register for Aboriginal Community Consultation

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to inform the development of a composting area at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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If you wish to register your interest please provide your contact details in writing via post or email by **5pm 26 August 2020 to:**

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

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Martin Canteros-Paz
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Tel: 0429449179
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If you have any queries regarding the project please don't hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman on the details above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ML", is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Madeleine Lucas
Research Assistant
mlucas@biosis.com.au

From: Darleen Johnson <murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2020 5:56 PM
To: Mahe w Tetlaw
Subject: Re: 33622 - Gilmore Compsing Aboriginal Consult aon R egistraon
Attachments: 33622.Gilmore.Composng. ACHA.Stage1.RAPs.20200812.pdf

Hi Matthew,

Please register our corporation in the above project, my great grandfather was a black tracker and travelled all over country, we have been doing Aboriginal cultural heritage projects for over 26 years.

Kind regards

Ryan Johnson

On Wednesday, 12 August 2020, 09:58:30 am AEST, Matthew Tetlaw wrote:

Dear Sir or Madame,

Per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) Please find an invitation attached to register for the Gilmore Composting ACHA project on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council. Please address your interest or comments to either myself or Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the attached letter).

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage
M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



Leaders in Ecology and Heritage Consulting

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From: Glen Freeman <GulgunyaNHAC@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 August 2020 1:34 PM
To: Mahe w Tetlaw
Subject: Re: 33622 - Gilmore Compsing Aboriginal Consult aon R egistraon

Dear Mahe w,

Thank you for the notific aon f or this project; Gilmore Composng.

As per our conversaon y esterday(26/8/20) I am registering my Consultancy as an interested party for this project.

Kind regards,

Glen
GNHAC

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: Ma hew Tetlaw
Sent: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:58 AM
To: 'gulgunyaNHAC@hotmail.com'
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Compsi ng Aboriginal Consulta on Registra on
Dear Sir or Madame,

Per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) Please find an invitation attached to register for the Gilmore Composting ACHA project on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council. Please address your interest or comments to either myself or Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the attached letter).

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage
M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: jesse johnson <muragadi@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2020 6:00 PM
To: Mahe w Tetlaw
Subject: Snowy Gilmore composng pr oject

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Matthew,

I would like to register our interest in the above project.

Kind regards

Jesse Carroll Johnson

0418970389

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman

From: Shirley Marlowe <smgoanna@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 2:08 PM
To: Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Subject: Re: Expression of Interest
Attachments: matthew resume - site work.doc

Hi Ashleigh,

I would like to register my interest in the Aboriginal Cultural Assessment and test excavations for the Gilmore Composting project at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW, which was advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on the 4th August 2020.

Please find attached my resume which is relevant to site work that I have undertaken in the past.

Yours in Unity,

Matthew Marlowe

From: olivia williams <Wolgaluumbe@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2020 11:28 PM
To: Mahe w Tetlaw
Cc: akeetvers-eastman@biosis.com.au
Subject: Gilmore Composng A CHA Project
Attachments: le er head.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Mathew

please find our re- registraon le er a ached

regard
Alice Williams

0431190127



ABN 53729271656
Email: Wolgaluumbe@outlook.com
Mobile: 0423254962

Wolgalu Umbe Traditional Custodians Corporation

Hi Matthew
Re: Gilmore Composting ACHA Project

Could you please register my interest in the Gilmore Composting ACHA Project through the Wolgalu Umbe Traditional Custodians Corporation. As discussed yesterday the 25th August 2020 could you also send hard copies to the Chairperson Wolgalu Umbe Traditional Custodians Corporation
Ms Olivia Williams 3 Min Eve Drive Brungle 2722

Thanks Matthew looking forward to being involved in this project
Alice Williams

Note: my current address is for correspondence is 8 Clem Mcfawn Place Orange 2800

From: Shaun Carroll <Merrigarn@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2020 5:58 PM
To: Ma hew Tetlaw
Subject: registra on - Gilmore Compos ng

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Ma hew,
Merrigarn would like to register there interest sin the above project.
Kind regards
Shaun Carroll
Ngunnawal

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["HERITAGEMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au"](mailto:HERITAGEMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)
Cc: [Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman](#)
Subject: RE: 33622 Gilmore Composting Consultation List of Registered Aboriginal Parties
Date: Thursday, 3 September 2020 3:23:11 PM
Attachments: [image146a58.PNG](#)

Dear HeritageNSW,

On behalf of Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman, please find below a list of registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPS) for the Gilmore composting ACHA project.

- Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council – Sue Gulger
- Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group – Ramsay Freeman
- Alice Williams
- Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation – Darlene Johnson
- Koomurri Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation – Glen Freeman
- Merrigarn – Shaun Carroll
- Jesse Johnson
- Mathew Marlow
- Lindsay Connolly
- Oakhill Enterprises – Sonia Shea

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655

D: (02) 4201 1062

E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



Leaders in Ecology and Heritage Consulting

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From: [Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman](#)
To: ["HERITAGEMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au"](mailto:HERITAGEMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)
Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project Test Excavations
Date: Thursday, 3 September 2020 2:42:13 PM
Attachments: [PDFMailer111.pdf](#)
[image847c12.PNG](#)

Dear Heritage NSW,

Biosis wishes to notify Heritage NSW of the intention to undertake archaeological test excavations for the Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project, to be assessed under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Test excavations will be undertaken as per the attached test excavation methodology which has been developed in accordance with the Code and consultation requirements.

Please refer to the below details for the project:

Location: 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (Lot 1 DP 197308)

Duration: Between the 28/09/2020 – 7/10/2020 (7 days of testing)

Project Manager:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Project Archaeologist

Address: 8/27 Annie Street

Mobile: 0428 175 065

Email: akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Storage of Cultural Material:

- Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.

If you have any further questions regarding the test excavation methodology and notification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Ashleigh.

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman

Project Archaeologist

M: 0428 175 025

D: (02) 4911 4042

E: akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au



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From: Ma hew Tetlaw
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 4:36 PM
To: 'BTLALC'
Subject: RE: FW: 33622 Gilmore Compos ng Consulta on List of Registered Aboriginal Parties

Hi Sue,

Yes we do, I just removed it from your list. The one sent to HeritageNSW does include the BTLALC.

Thanks,

Ma hew

From: BTLALC
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 4:31 PM
To: Ma hew Tetlaw
Subject: Re: FW: 33622 Gilmore Compos ng Consulta on List of Registered Aboriginal Parties

Hello Ma hew,

Do you also have Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council listed as an Aboriginal party?

Kind regards

Sue Bulger

Regards CEO Brungle Tumut LALC Ph: 69474518
On 3/09/2020 3:22 pm, Ma hew Tetlaw wrote:

Dear Sue,

On behalf of Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman, please find below a list of registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPS) for the Gilmore compos ng ACHA project.

- Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group – Ramsay Freeman
- Alice Williams
- Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation – Darlene Johnson
- Koomurri Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation – Glen Freeman
- Merrigarn – Shaun Carroll
- Jesse Johnson
- Mathew Marlow
- Lindsay Connolly
- Oakhill Enterprises – Sonia Shea

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage
M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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Appendix 3 Stage 2 and Stage 3: Presentation of information about the proposed project and gathering information about cultural significance

From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["Wolgaluumb@outlook.com"](mailto:Wolgaluumb@outlook.com)
Subject: FW: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:14:28 PM
Attachments: [33622.Stage2.AliceWilliams.pdf](#)
[image61fbec.PNG](#)

Dear Alice,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655

D: (02) 4201 1062

E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["koomurriNAC@hotmail.com"](mailto:koomurriNAC@hotmail.com)
Subject: FW: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:22:48 PM
Attachments: [33622.stage2.GlenFreeman.pdf](#)
[image955ebf.PNG](#)

Dear Glen,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655

D: (02) 4201 1062

E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["muragadi@yahoo.com.au"](mailto:muragadi@yahoo.com.au)
Subject: FW: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:24:40 PM
Attachments: [33622.Stage2.JesseJohnson.pdf](#)
[image3bc8e3.PNG](#)

Dear Jesse,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655

D: (02) 4201 1062

E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future, and honour their connection to the land and ongoing contribution to society.

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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["smgoanna@gmail.com"](mailto:smgoanna@gmail.com)
Subject: FW: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:25:36 PM
Attachments: [33622.stage2.mathewmarlow.pdf](#)

Dear Mathew,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au"](mailto:murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au)
Subject: FW: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:18:00 PM
Attachments: [33622.stage2.DarleneJohnson.pdf](#)
[image9f5632.PNG](#)

Dear Darlene,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655

D: (02) 4201 1062

E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: Mahe w Tetlaw
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 3:43 PM
To: 'oakhillenterprises@bigpond.com'
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Compsing Aboriginal Consult aon R egistraon
Attachments: 33622.Stage2.SoniaShea.pdf

Hi Sonia,

Apologies for the delay. Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 letter which provides further detail about the project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Matthew

From: oakhillenterprises@bigpond.com
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2020 11:00 PM
To: Matthew Tetlaw
Subject: Re: 33622 - Gilmore Compsing Aboriginal Consultation Registration

Hi Matthew,
I would like to register for this project please. I will send through my details and cultural authorities in the next few days.
Sonia

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Matthew Tetlaw <MTetlaw@biosis.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:14:40 PM
To: 'oakhillenterprises@bigpond.com' <oakhillenterprises@bigpond.com>
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Compsing Aboriginal Consultation Registration

Hi Sonia,

I'm writing to let you know that the deadline for this project is today. If you'd still like to register for this project please let me know in the next few days.

Kind regards,

Matthew

From: Matthew Tetlaw <MTetlaw@biosis.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 9:58 AM
To: 'oakhillenterprises@bigpond.com' <oakhillenterprises@bigpond.com>
Subject: RE: 33622 - Gilmore Compsing Aboriginal Consultation Registration

Dear Sir or Madame,

Per the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010) Please find an invitation attached to register for the Gilmore Composting ACHA project on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council. Please address your interest or comments to either myself or Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the attached letter).

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Matthew Tetlaw

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655

D: (02) 4201 1062

E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["Merrigarn@hotmail.com"](mailto:Merrigarn@hotmail.com)
Subject: FW: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:23:52 PM
Attachments: [33622.stage2.Shauncarroll.pdf](#)
[imagee46aaa.PNG](#)

Dear Shaun,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655

D: (02) 4201 1062

E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["btalc@bigpond.net.au"](mailto:btalc@bigpond.net.au)
Subject: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020 4:02:36 PM
Attachments: [33622.Stage2.Sue Gulgar.pdf](#)
[imagec5a7cb.PNG](#)

Dear Sue,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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13 August 2020

Alice Williams
7 Attunga Place
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Alice,

Dear Alice,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Thank you for registering your interest in the Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to support a development application for the proposed Waste Composting Facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist Snowy Valleys Council the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5pm 24 September 2020** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matthew Tetlaw', written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the stage 2 document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

The project

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composing facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) (Figure 1). The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform Snowy Valleys Council of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW. It is within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area, and is approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

Background

Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report (AASR) for the study area. The AASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area (Figure 3). None of these registered sites are located within the study area.

The background research found that Aboriginal sites within the region are frequently identified in raised landforms in close proximity to water courses. A third order unnamed creek line transects the study area, while Gilmore creek, a known Aboriginal Pathway is located approximately 470 metres to the west of the study area. The study area is also situated at the foothills of Wereboldara State Conservation Area at the northern end of the Snubba Range in an elevated position above the Gilmore Creek valley. This suggests Aboriginal people likely utilised the study area as a seasonal occupation site.

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020 in order to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. As the study area is surrounded by an assortment of favourable conditions pertaining to

Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits, areas containing minimal disturbances have a greater likelihood of containing intact subsurface deposits. Therefore, these areas have been assessed as containing moderate and high archaeological potential (Figure 4). The remaining areas that have been subject to disturbance have been assessed as containing low potential.

Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarized below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders	Completed	Project advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on 4 August 2020. Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties 12 August 2020.
Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties	12 August 2020	N/A
Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

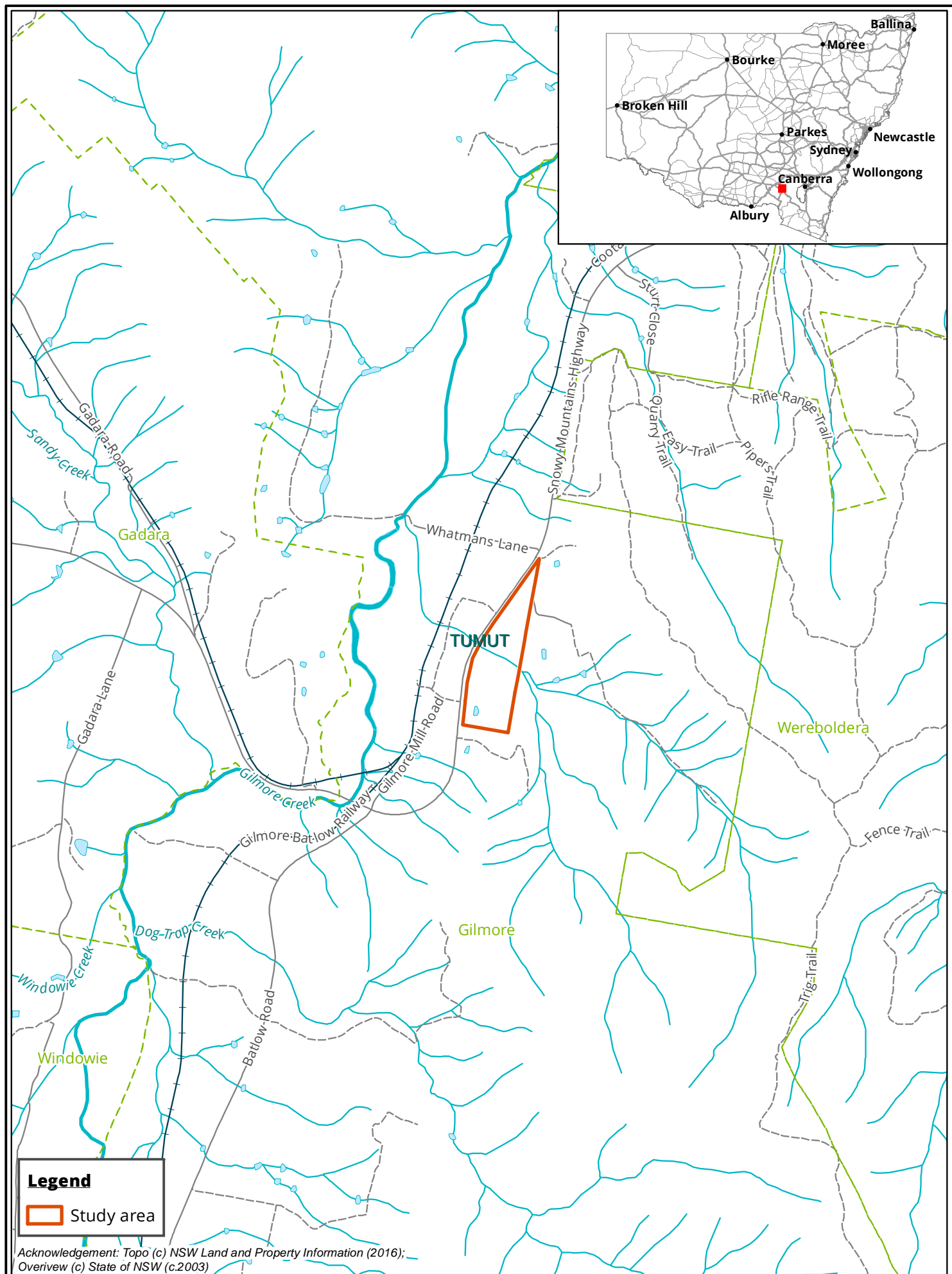


Figure 1 Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

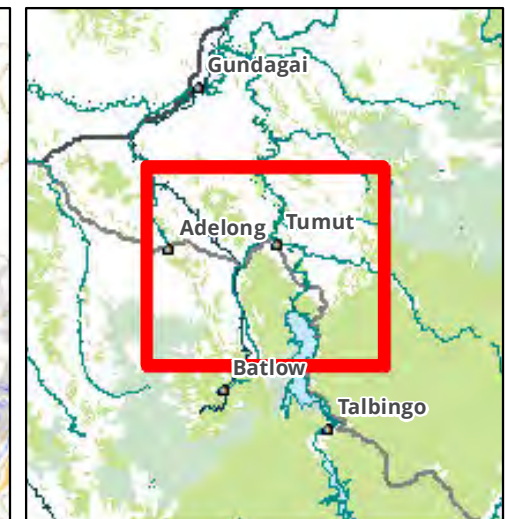
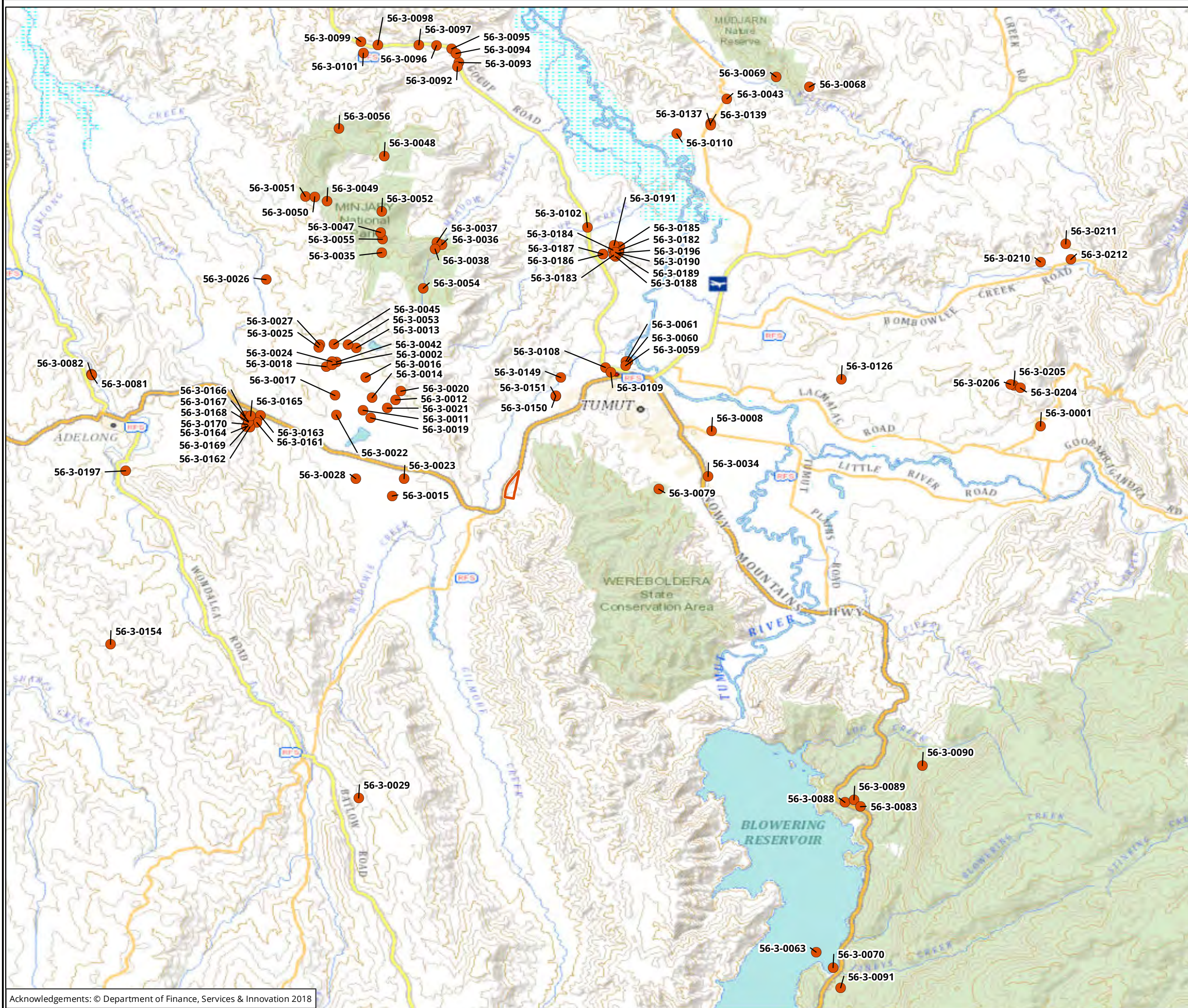
Figure 2 Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F2_StudyArea.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- AHIMS record

Figure 3 AHIMS records in the vicinity of the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

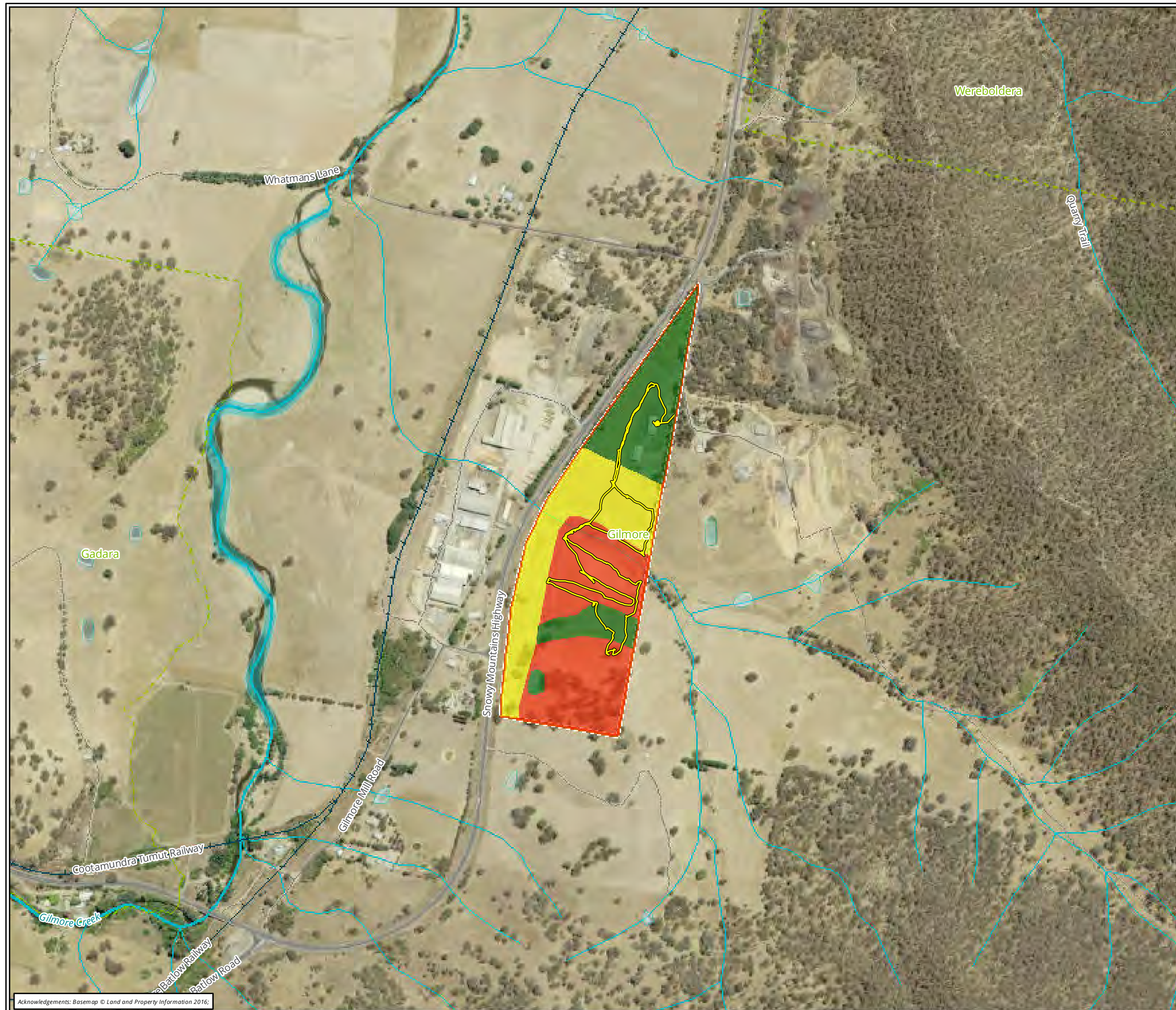
0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000
Metres

Scale: 1:117,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



Biosis Pty Ltd
Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter:
Date: 16 June 2020,
Checked by: Iharley, Generated by: Iharley
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F7_AHIMS.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- Survey tracks

Archaeological Potential

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Figure 4 Survey results

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F8_Survey.mxd

Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p.12).

The purpose of the stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area. The assessment methodology includes the following tasks.

Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the AASR:

- A search of the AHIMS database to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area.

This will be incorporated and built on for the ACHA.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 12 August 2020 via Biosis on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT ACHA report and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

Field investigation

An archaeological survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020. The field investigation was attended by Biosis Archaeologist Taryn Gooley, Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives Sue Bulger, Peter Bulger, and Leanne Williams. Also in attendance was Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer from Snowy Valleys Council. The survey targeted all landforms within the study area. The field investigation did not identify any Aboriginal objects or sites. This is likely due to the extensive grass coverage present across the study area which restricted the surveyor's ability to identify objects on the ground. A number of natural quartz cobbles were identified within the creek terrace/ flat landform suggesting this resource was readily available in the area for stone tool manufacture.

Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area contains areas of moderate and high archaeological potential as shown in Figure 4. These areas of moderate and high archaeological potential will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design.

As impacts to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential cannot be avoided by the proposed works, further archaeological assessment is required in the form of an ACHA and Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Areas that have undergone significant previous disturbance which would have removed sub-surface deposits from their original contexts were assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Recording during the field investigation followed requirements 5 to 10 of the code and industry best practice. Information recorded included:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area was undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility was undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

Archaeological test excavations

Any areas of moderate and high archaeological potential identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.

- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

**Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p.28).*

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office (Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

DECCW 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011, 'Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW', <Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW>.



13 August 2020

Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation
Darlene Johnson

Dear Darlene,

Dear Darlene,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Thank you for registering your interest in the Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to support a development application for the proposed Waste Composting Facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist Snowy Valleys Council the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5pm 24 September 2020** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au



Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the stage 2 document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

The project

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composing facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) (Figure 1). The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform Snowy Valleys Council of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW. It is within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area, and is approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

Background

Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report (AASR) for the study area. The AASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area (Figure 3). None of these registered sites are located within the study area.

The background research found that Aboriginal sites within the region are frequently identified in raised landforms in close proximity to water courses. A third order unnamed creek line transects the study area, while Gilmore creek, a known Aboriginal Pathway is located approximately 470 metres to the west of the study area. The study area is also situated at the foothills of Wereboldara State Conservation Area at the northern end of the Snubba Range in an elevated position above the Gilmore Creek valley. This suggests Aboriginal people likely utilised the study area as a seasonal occupation site.

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020 in order to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. As the study area is surrounded by an assortment of favourable conditions pertaining to

Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits, areas containing minimal disturbances have a greater likelihood of containing intact subsurface deposits. Therefore, these areas have been assessed as containing moderate and high archaeological potential (Figure 4). The remaining areas that have been subject to disturbance have been assessed as containing low potential.

Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarized below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders	Completed	Project advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on 4 August 2020. Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties 12 August 2020.
Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties	12 August 2020	N/A
Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

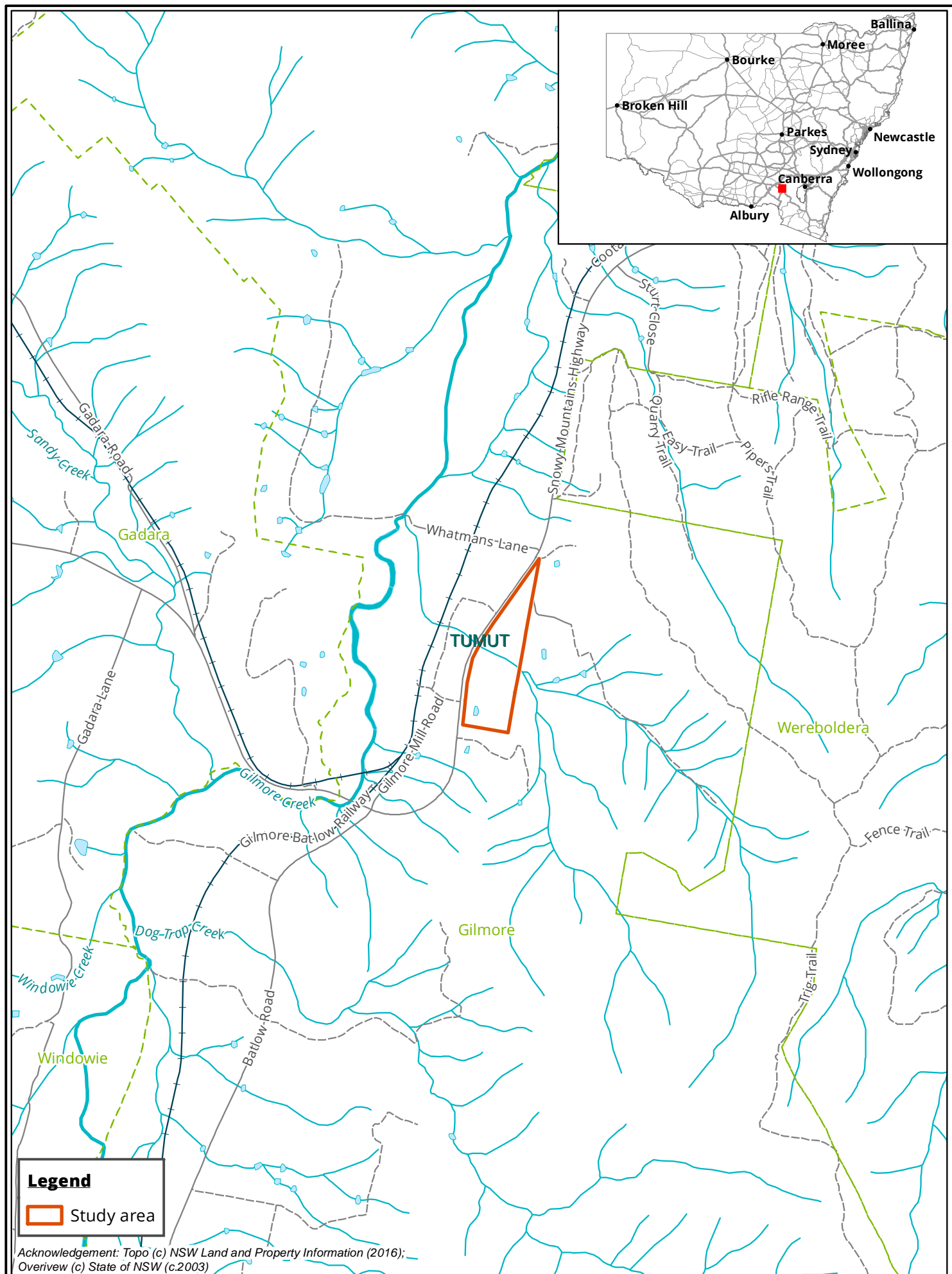


Figure 1 Location of the study area



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Study area

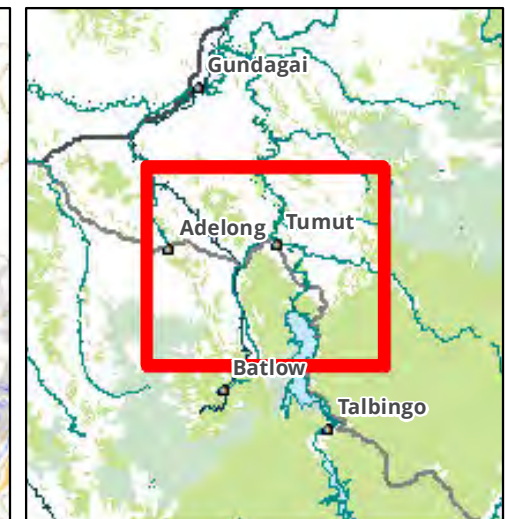
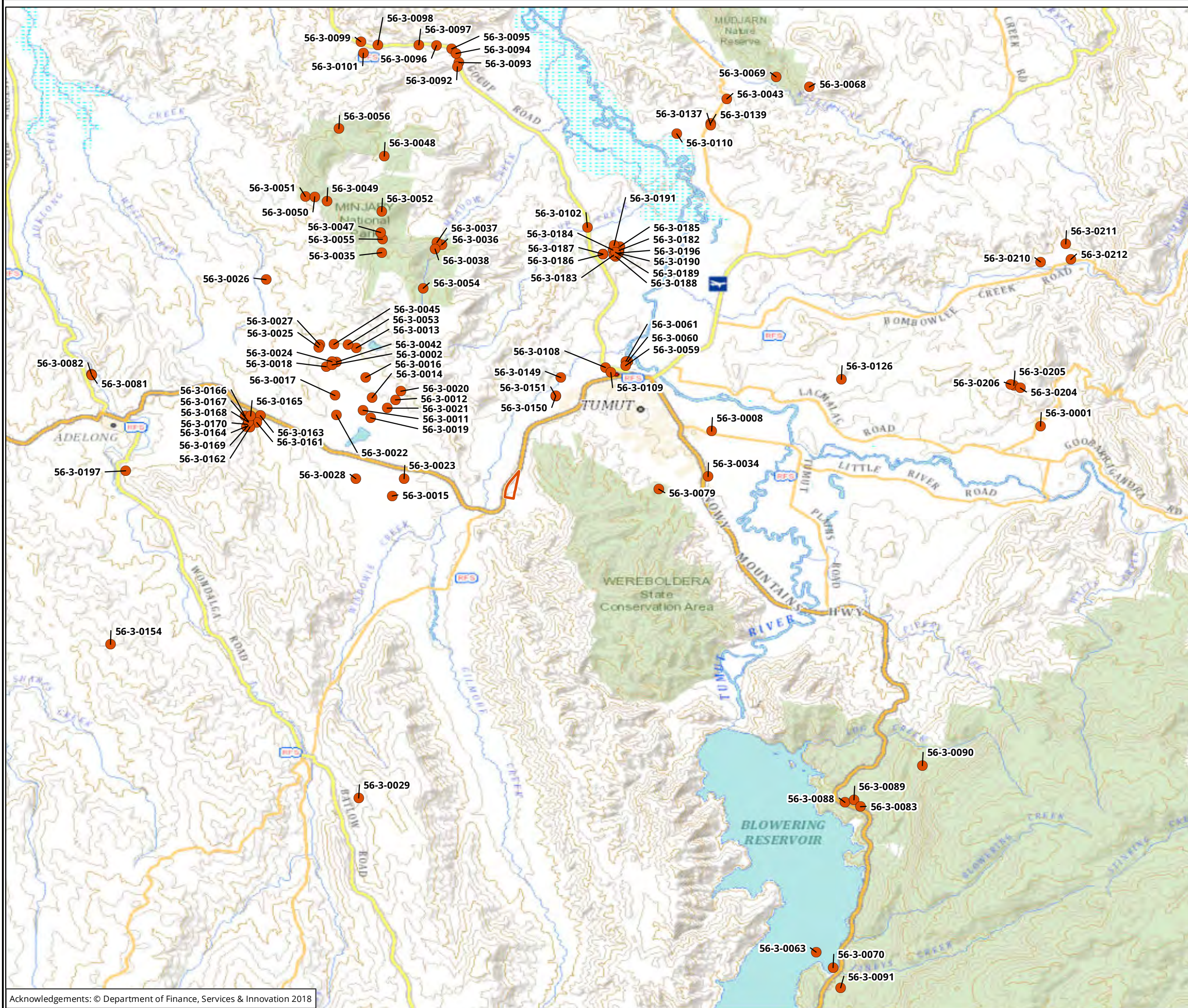
Figure 2 Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F2_StudyArea.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- AHIMS record

Figure 3 AHIMS records in the vicinity of the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

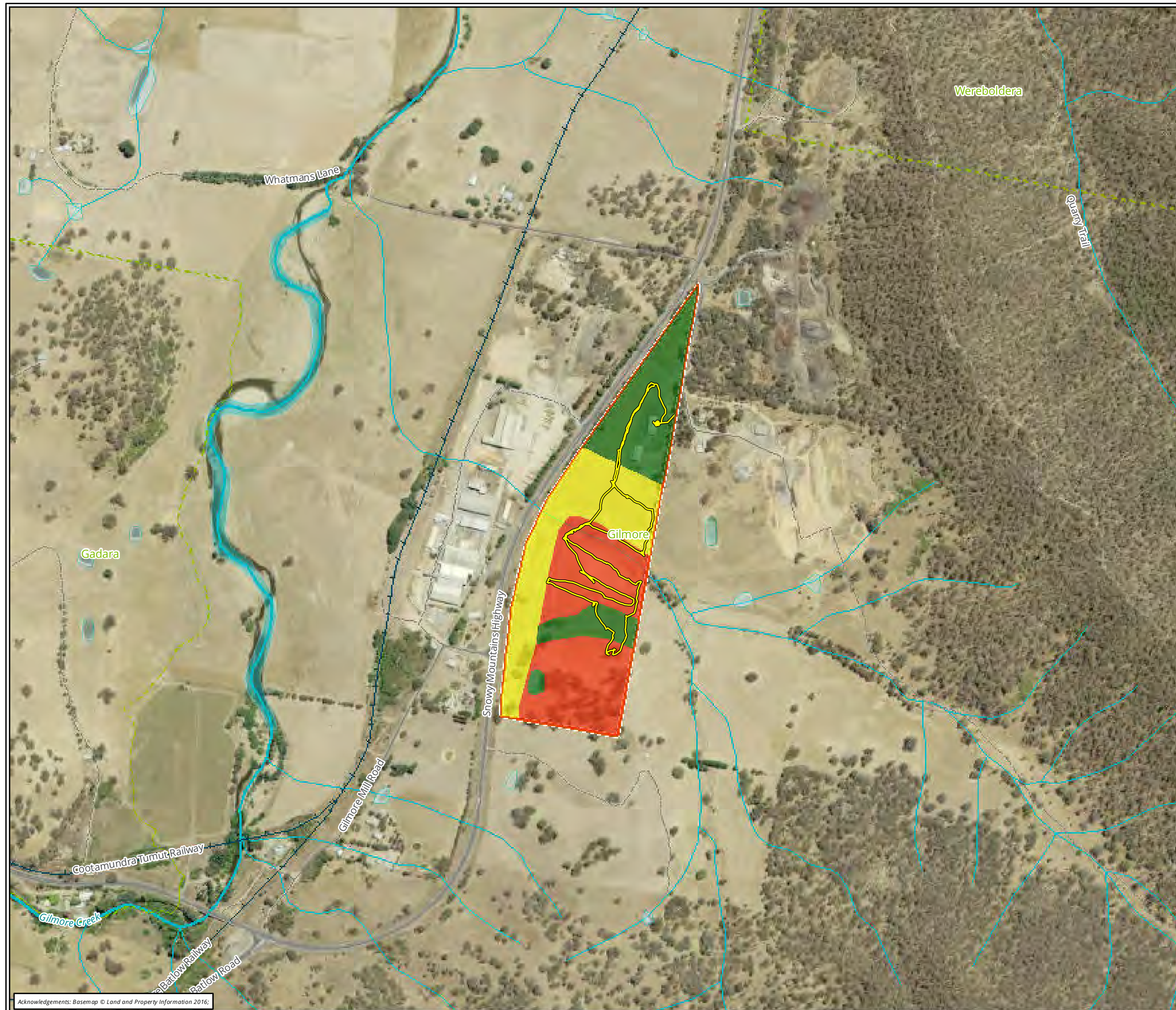
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Metres

Scale: 1:117,000 @ A3
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Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

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Date: 16 June 2020,
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Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F7_AHIMS.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- Survey tracks

Archaeological Potential

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Figure 4 Survey results

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
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Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F8_Survey.mxd

Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p.12).

The purpose of the stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area. The assessment methodology includes the following tasks.

Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the AASR:

- A search of the AHIMS database to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area.

This will be incorporated and built on for the ACHA.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 12 August 2020 via Biosis on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT ACHA report and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

Field investigation

An archaeological survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020. The field investigation was attended by Biosis Archaeologist Taryn Gooley, Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives Sue Bulger, Peter Bulger, and Leanne Williams. Also in attendance was Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer from Snowy Valleys Council. The survey targeted all landforms within the study area. The field investigation did not identify any Aboriginal objects or sites. This is likely due to the extensive grass coverage present across the study area which restricted the surveyor's ability to identify objects on the ground. A number of natural quartz cobbles were identified within the creek terrace/ flat landform suggesting this resource was readily available in the area for stone tool manufacture.

Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area contains areas of moderate and high archaeological potential as shown in Figure 4. These areas of moderate and high archaeological potential will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design.

As impacts to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential cannot be avoided by the proposed works, further archaeological assessment is required in the form of an ACHA and Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Areas that have undergone significant previous disturbance which would have removed sub-surface deposits from their original contexts were assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Recording during the field investigation followed requirements 5 to 10 of the code and industry best practice. Information recorded included:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area was undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility was undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

Archaeological test excavations

Any areas of moderate and high archaeological potential identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.

- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

**Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density; presence of rare or representative objects; presence of archaeological features; or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p.28).*

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office (Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

DECCW 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011, 'Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW', <Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW>.



13 August 2020

Koomurri Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
Glen Freeman
16A Progress Street
Goulburn NSW 2580

Dear Glen,

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RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

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Yours sincerely



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Research Assistant

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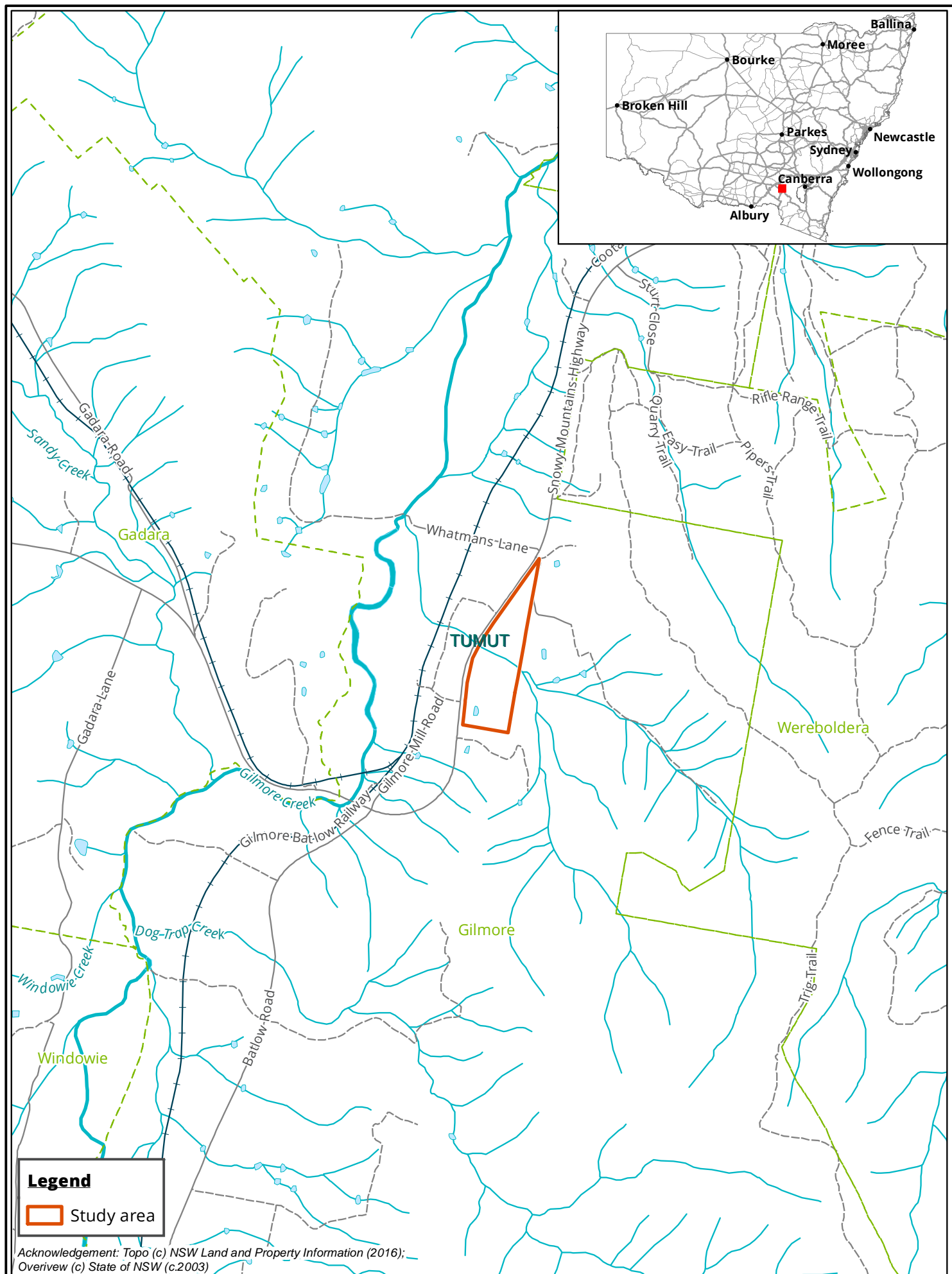


Figure 1 Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

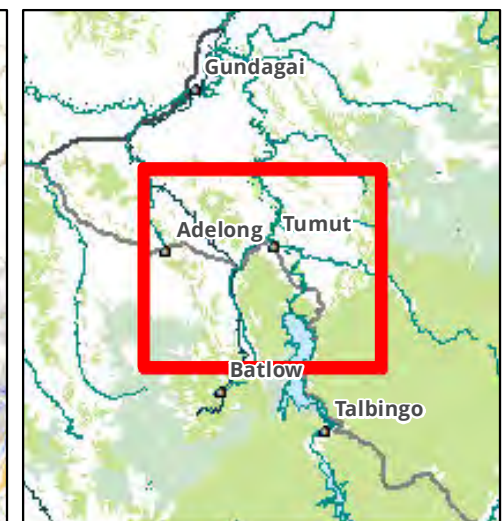
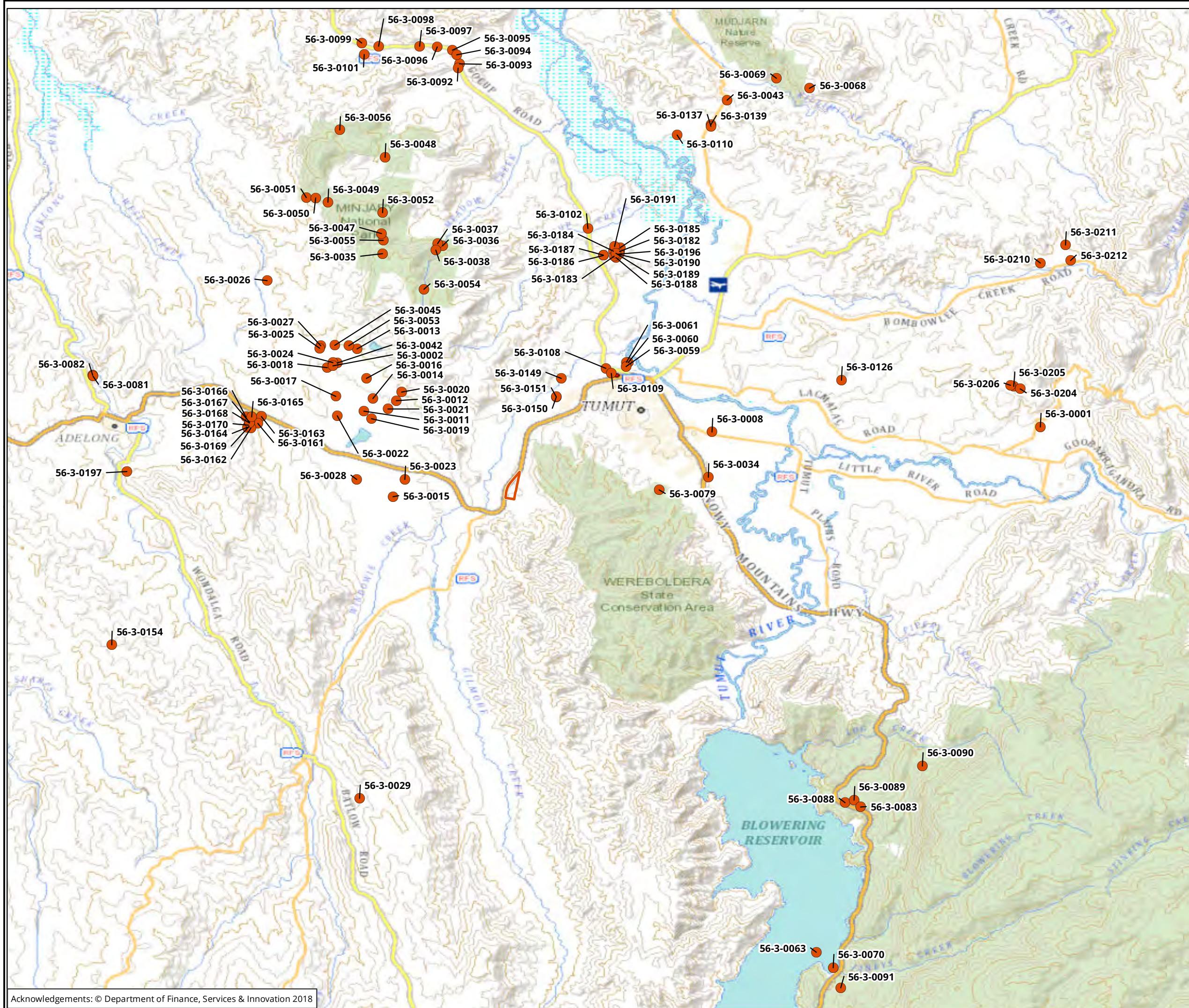
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0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



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Legend

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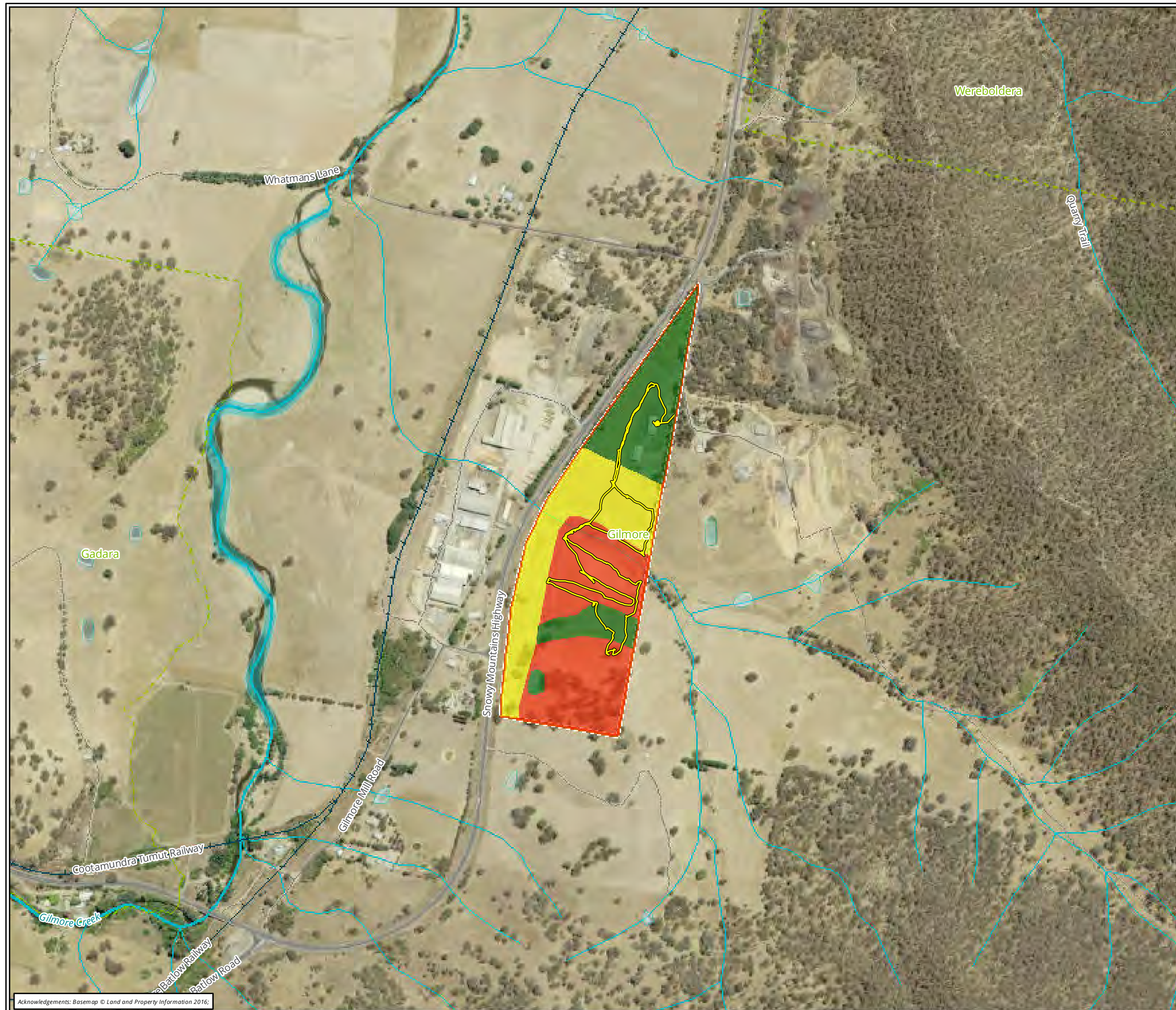
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Biosis Pty Ltd
Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
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Legend

- Study area
- Survey tracks

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- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 12 August 2020 via Biosis on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT ACHA report and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

Field investigation

An archaeological survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020. The field investigation was attended by Biosis Archaeologist Taryn Gooley, Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives Sue Bulger, Peter Bulger, and Leanne Williams. Also in attendance was Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer from Snowy Valleys Council. The survey targeted all landforms within the study area. The field investigation did not identify any Aboriginal objects or sites. This is likely due to the extensive grass coverage present across the study area which restricted the surveyor's ability to identify objects on the ground. A number of natural quartz cobbles were identified within the creek terrace/ flat landform suggesting this resource was readily available in the area for stone tool manufacture.

Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area contains areas of moderate and high archaeological potential as shown in Figure 4. These areas of moderate and high archaeological potential will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design.

As impacts to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential cannot be avoided by the proposed works, further archaeological assessment is required in the form of an ACHA and Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Areas that have undergone significant previous disturbance which would have removed sub-surface deposits from their original contexts were assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Recording during the field investigation followed requirements 5 to 10 of the code and industry best practice. Information recorded included:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area was undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility was undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

Archaeological test excavations

Any areas of moderate and high archaeological potential identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.

- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

**Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p.28).*

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Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office (Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

DECCW 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011, 'Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW', <Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW>.



13 August 2020

Jesse Johnson

Dear Jesse,

Dear Jesse,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Thank you for registering your interest in the Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to support a development application for the proposed Waste Composting Facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist Snowy Valleys Council the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5pm 24 September 2020** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Tetlaw', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the stage 2 document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

The project

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composing facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) (Figure 1). The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform Snowy Valleys Council of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW. It is within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area, and is approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

Background

Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report (AASR) for the study area. The AASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area (Figure 3). None of these registered sites are located within the study area.

The background research found that Aboriginal sites within the region are frequently identified in raised landforms in close proximity to water courses. A third order unnamed creek line transects the study area, while Gilmore creek, a known Aboriginal Pathway is located approximately 470 metres to the west of the study area. The study area is also situated at the foothills of Wereboldara State Conservation Area at the northern end of the Snubba Range in an elevated position above the Gilmore Creek valley. This suggests Aboriginal people likely utilised the study area as a seasonal occupation site.

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020 in order to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. As the study area is surrounded by an assortment of favourable conditions pertaining to

Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits, areas containing minimal disturbances have a greater likelihood of containing intact subsurface deposits. Therefore, these areas have been assessed as containing moderate and high archaeological potential (Figure 4). The remaining areas that have been subject to disturbance have been assessed as containing low potential.

Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarized below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders	Completed	Project advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on 4 August 2020. Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties 12 August 2020.
Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties	12 August 2020	N/A
Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Figure 1 Location of the study area

Figure 2 Study area detail

Figure 3 AHIMS records in the vicinity of the study area

Figure 4 Survey results

Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p.12).

The purpose of the stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area. The assessment methodology includes the following tasks.

Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the AASR:

- A search of the AHIMS database to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area.

This will be incorporated and built on for the ACHA.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 12 August 2020 via Biosis on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT ACHA report and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

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Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area contains areas of moderate and high archaeological potential as shown in Figure 4. These areas of moderate and high archaeological potential will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design.

As impacts to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential cannot be avoided by the proposed works, further archaeological assessment is required in the form of an ACHA and Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Areas that have undergone significant previous disturbance which would have removed sub-surface deposits from their original contexts were assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Recording during the field investigation followed requirements 5 to 10 of the code and industry best practice. Information recorded included:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
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- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area was undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility was undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

Archaeological test excavations

Any areas of moderate and high archaeological potential identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
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Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

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- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
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 - Unique test pit identification number.
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Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

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Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
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- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
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- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
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The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

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13 August 2020

Lindsay Connolly
2 Kindred Street
Tumut 2720

Dear Lindsay,

Dear Lindsay,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

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The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist Snowy Valleys Council the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5pm 24 September 2020** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matthew Tetlaw', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the stage 2 document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

The project

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composing facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) (Figure 1). The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform Snowy Valleys Council of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW. It is within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area, and is approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

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Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report (AASR) for the study area. The AASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area (Figure 3). None of these registered sites are located within the study area.

The background research found that Aboriginal sites within the region are frequently identified in raised landforms in close proximity to water courses. A third order unnamed creek line transects the study area, while Gilmore creek, a known Aboriginal Pathway is located approximately 470 metres to the west of the study area. The study area is also situated at the foothills of Wereboldara State Conservation Area at the northern end of the Snubba Range in an elevated position above the Gilmore Creek valley. This suggests Aboriginal people likely utilised the study area as a seasonal occupation site.

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020 in order to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. As the study area is surrounded by an assortment of favourable conditions pertaining to

Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits, areas containing minimal disturbances have a greater likelihood of containing intact subsurface deposits. Therefore, these areas have been assessed as containing moderate and high archaeological potential (Figure 4). The remaining areas that have been subject to disturbance have been assessed as containing low potential.

Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarized below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders	Completed	Project advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on 4 August 2020. Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties 12 August 2020.
Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties	12 August 2020	N/A
Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

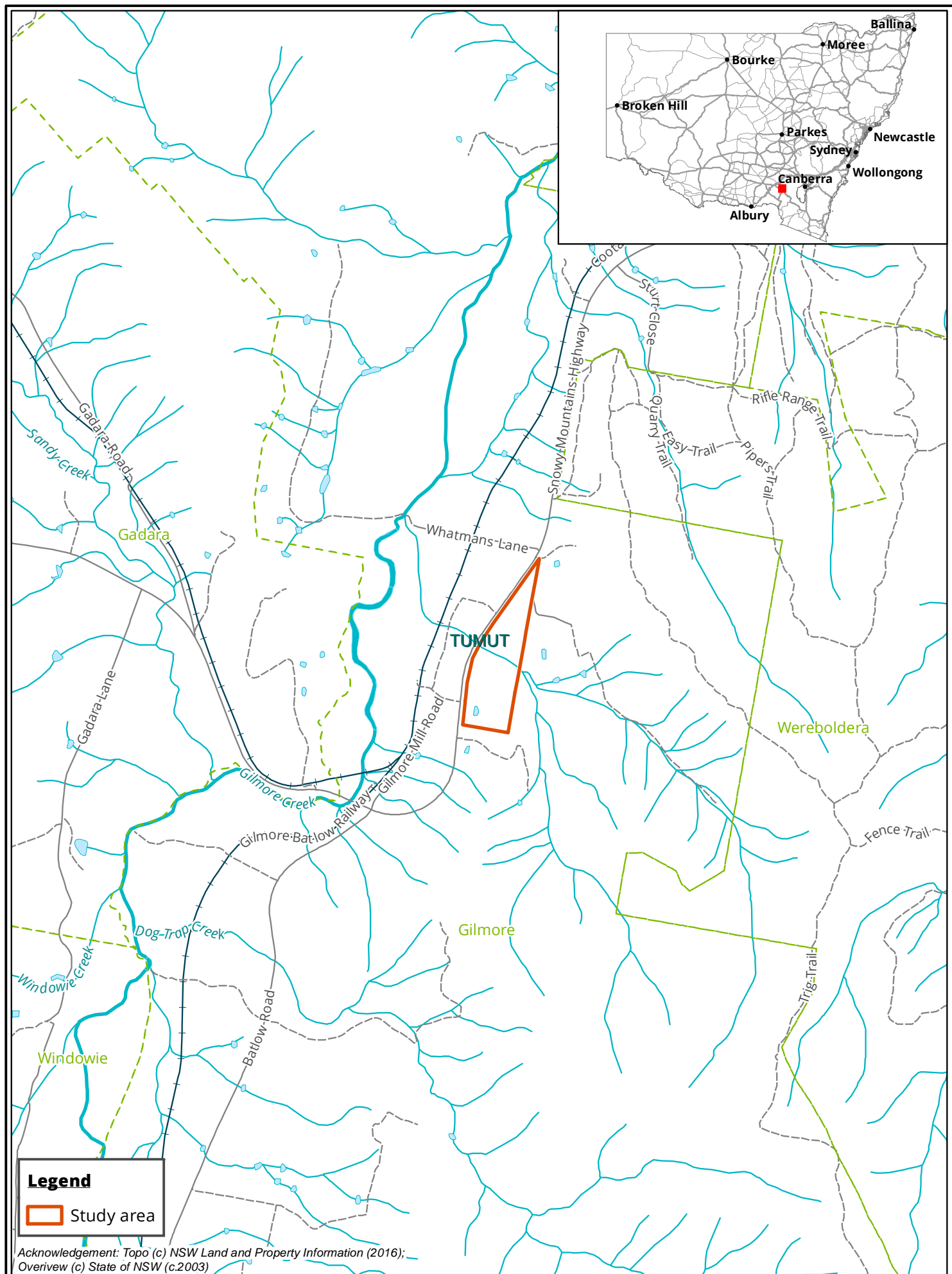


Figure 1 Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

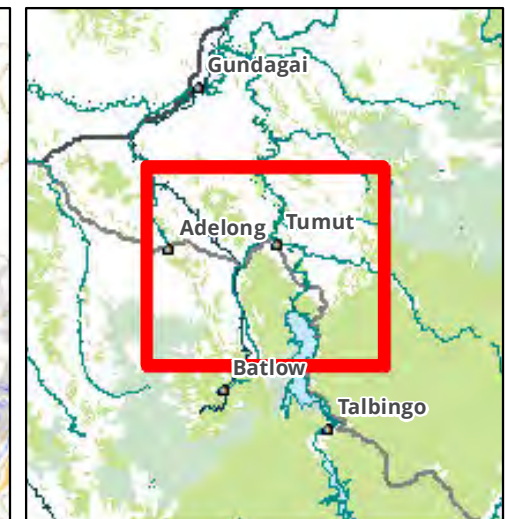
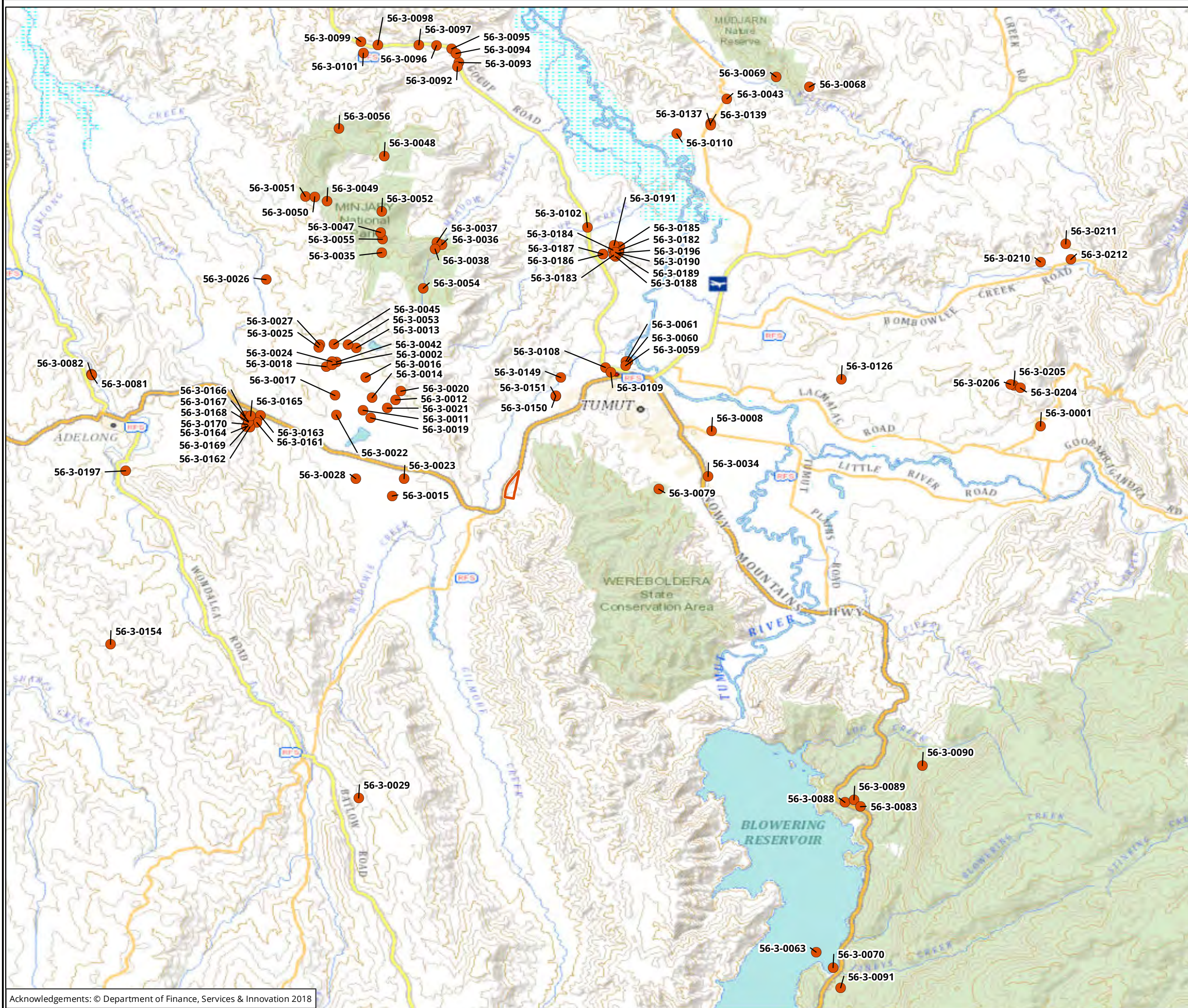
Figure 2 Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F2_StudyArea.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- AHIMS record

Figure 3 AHIMS records in the vicinity of the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

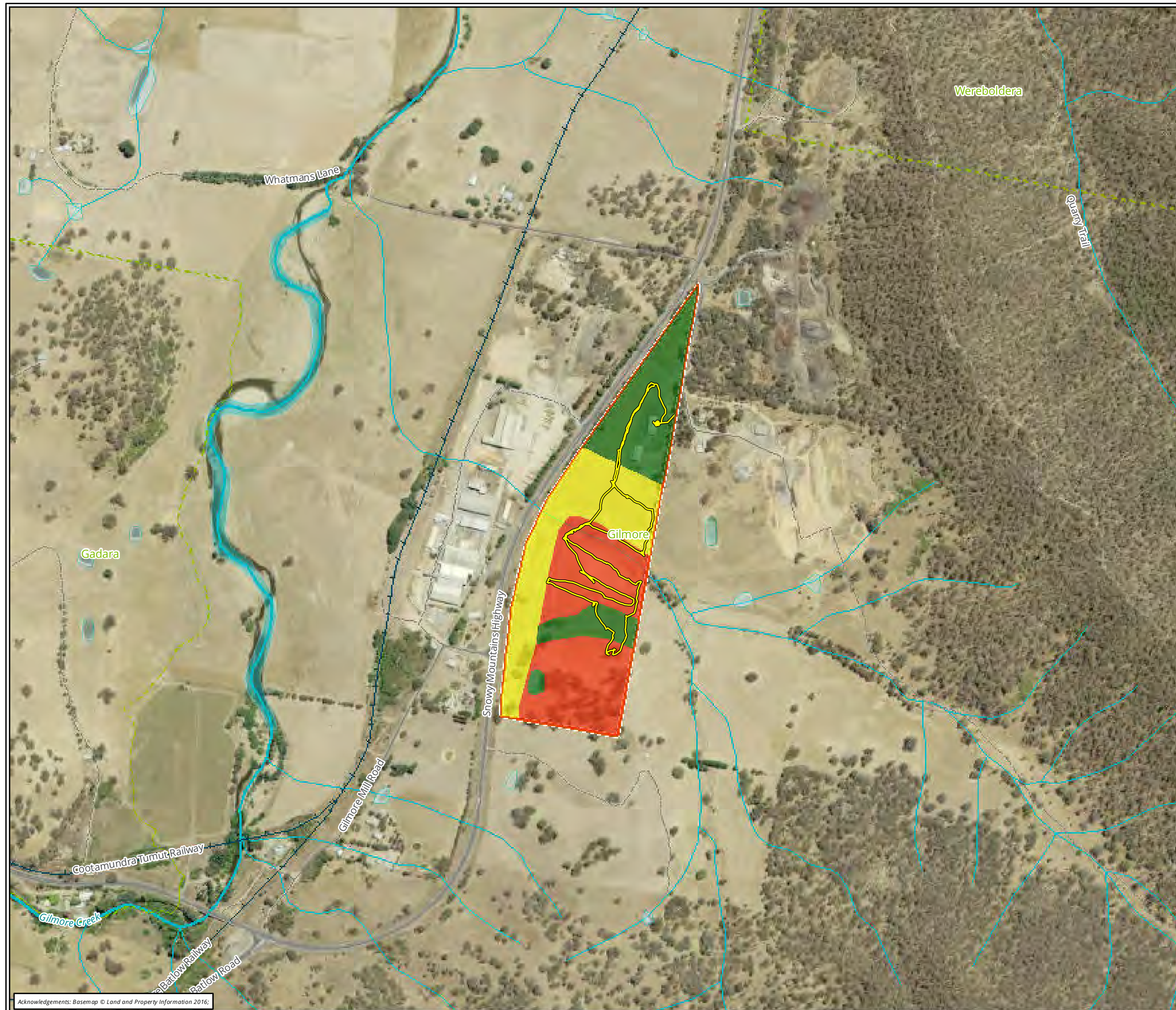
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Metres

Scale: 1:117,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter:
Date: 16 June 2020,
Checked by: Iharley, Generated by: Iharley
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F7_AHIMS.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- Survey tracks

Archaeological Potential

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Figure 4 Survey results

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F8_Survey.mxd

Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p.12).

The purpose of the stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area. The assessment methodology includes the following tasks.

Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the AASR:

- A search of the AHIMS database to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area.

This will be incorporated and built on for the ACHA.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 12 August 2020 via Biosis on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT ACHA report and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

Field investigation

An archaeological survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020. The field investigation was attended by Biosis Archaeologist Taryn Gooley, Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives Sue Bulger, Peter Bulger, and Leanne Williams. Also in attendance was Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer from Snowy Valleys Council. The survey targeted all landforms within the study area. The field investigation did not identify any Aboriginal objects or sites. This is likely due to the extensive grass coverage present across the study area which restricted the surveyor's ability to identify objects on the ground. A number of natural quartz cobbles were identified within the creek terrace/ flat landform suggesting this resource was readily available in the area for stone tool manufacture.

Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area contains areas of moderate and high archaeological potential as shown in Figure 4. These areas of moderate and high archaeological potential will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design.

As impacts to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential cannot be avoided by the proposed works, further archaeological assessment is required in the form of an ACHA and Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Areas that have undergone significant previous disturbance which would have removed sub-surface deposits from their original contexts were assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Recording during the field investigation followed requirements 5 to 10 of the code and industry best practice. Information recorded included:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area was undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility was undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

Archaeological test excavations

Any areas of moderate and high archaeological potential identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.

- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

**Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p.28).*

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office (Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

DECCW 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011, 'Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW', <Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW>.



13 August 2020

Mathew Marlow
152 Simpson Street
Tumut 2720

Dear Mathew,

Dear Mathew,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Thank you for registering your interest in the Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to support a development application for the proposed Waste Composting Facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist Snowy Valleys Council the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5pm 24 September 2020** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matthew Tetlaw', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the stage 2 document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

The project

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composing facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) (Figure 1). The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform Snowy Valleys Council of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW. It is within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area, and is approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

Background

Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report (AASR) for the study area. The AASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area (Figure 3). None of these registered sites are located within the study area.

The background research found that Aboriginal sites within the region are frequently identified in raised landforms in close proximity to water courses. A third order unnamed creek line transects the study area, while Gilmore creek, a known Aboriginal Pathway is located approximately 470 metres to the west of the study area. The study area is also situated at the foothills of Wereboldara State Conservation Area at the northern end of the Snubba Range in an elevated position above the Gilmore Creek valley. This suggests Aboriginal people likely utilised the study area as a seasonal occupation site.

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020 in order to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. As the study area is surrounded by an assortment of favourable conditions pertaining to

Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits, areas containing minimal disturbances have a greater likelihood of containing intact subsurface deposits. Therefore, these areas have been assessed as containing moderate and high archaeological potential (Figure 4). The remaining areas that have been subject to disturbance have been assessed as containing low potential.

Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarized below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders	Completed	Project advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on 4 August 2020. Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties 12 August 2020.
Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties	12 August 2020	N/A
Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

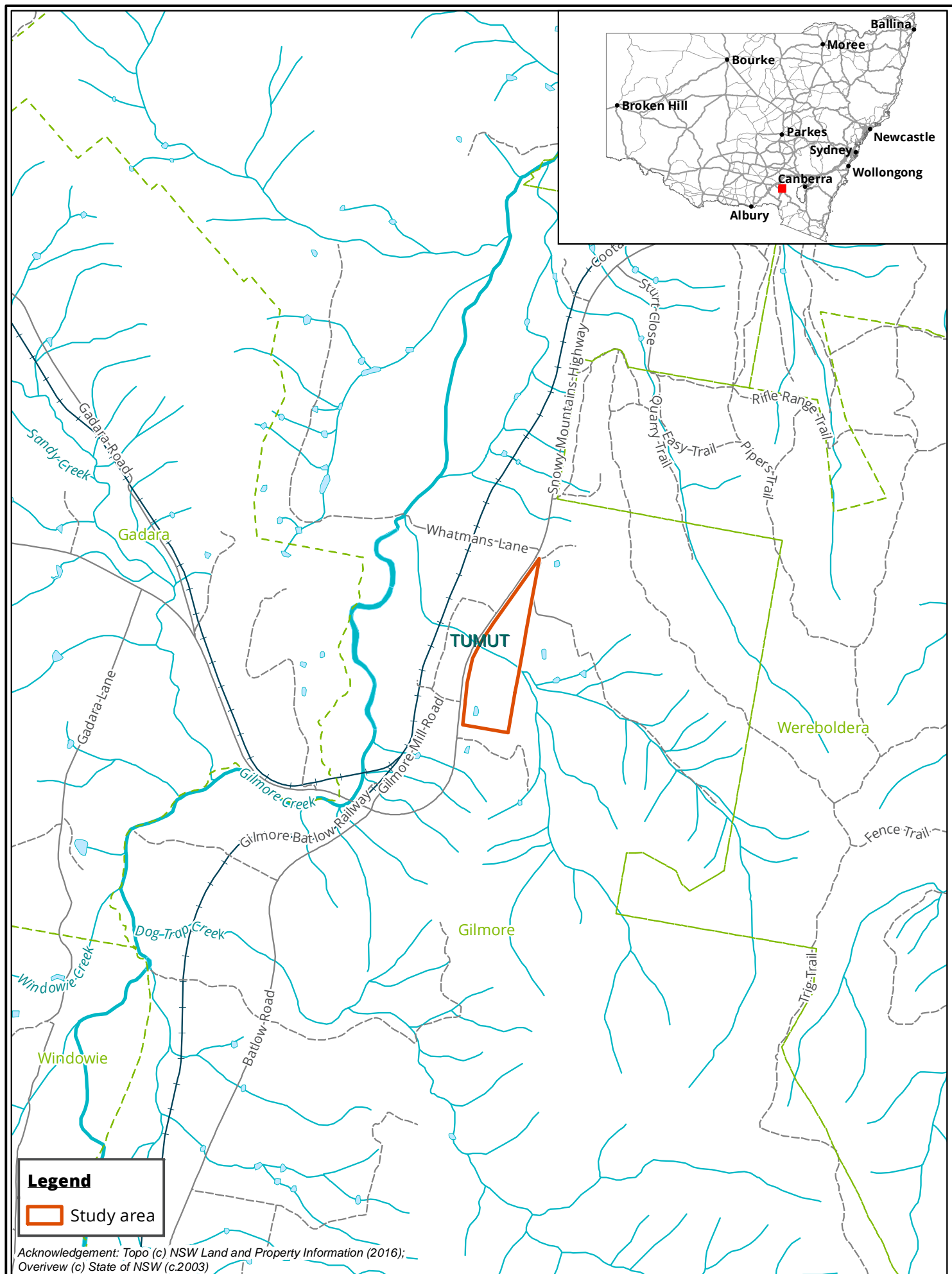


Figure 1 Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

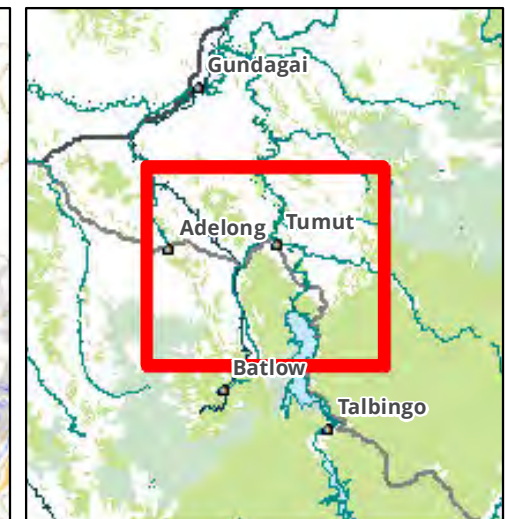
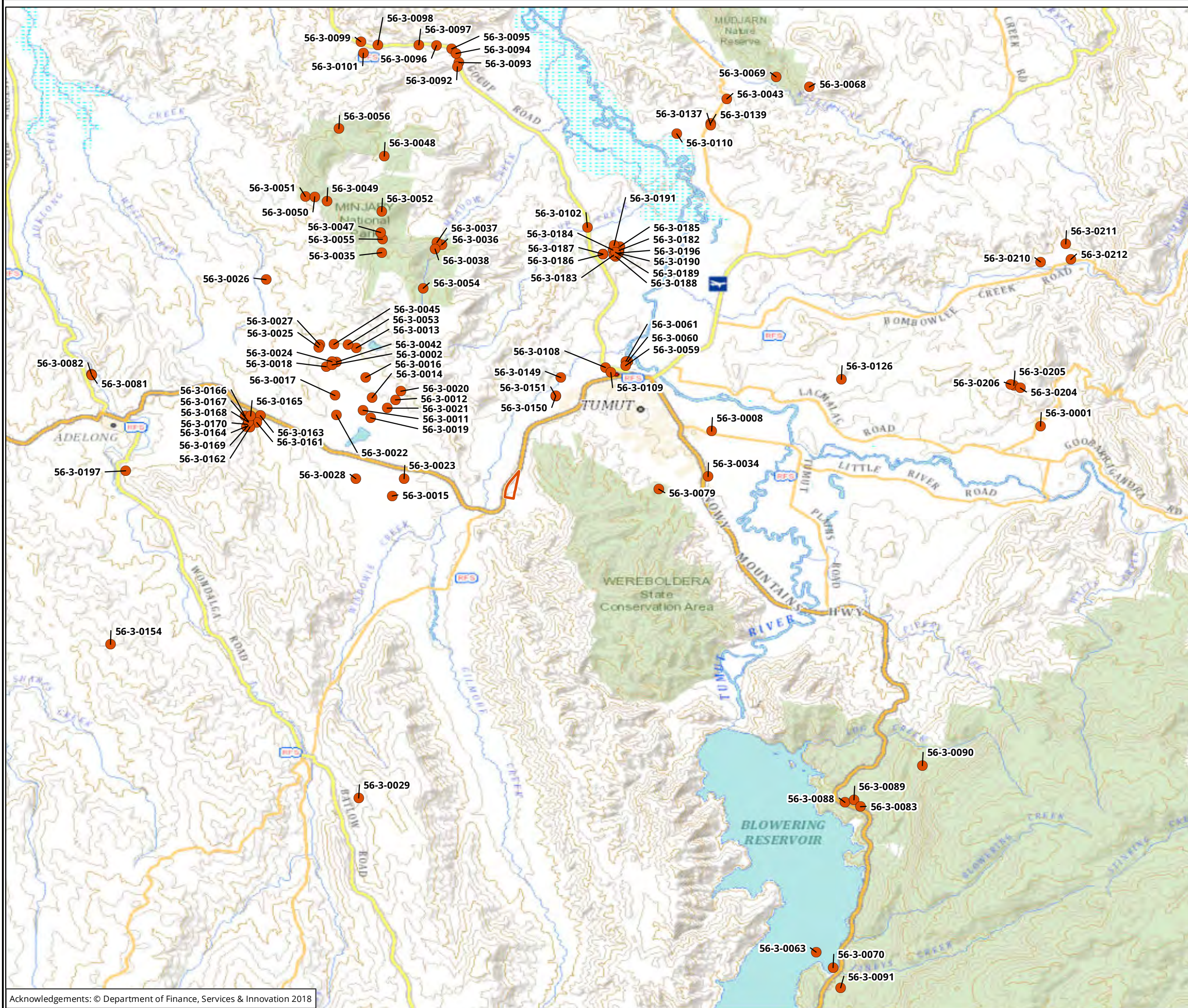
Figure 2 Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F2_StudyArea.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- AHIMS record

Figure 3 AHIMS records in the vicinity of the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

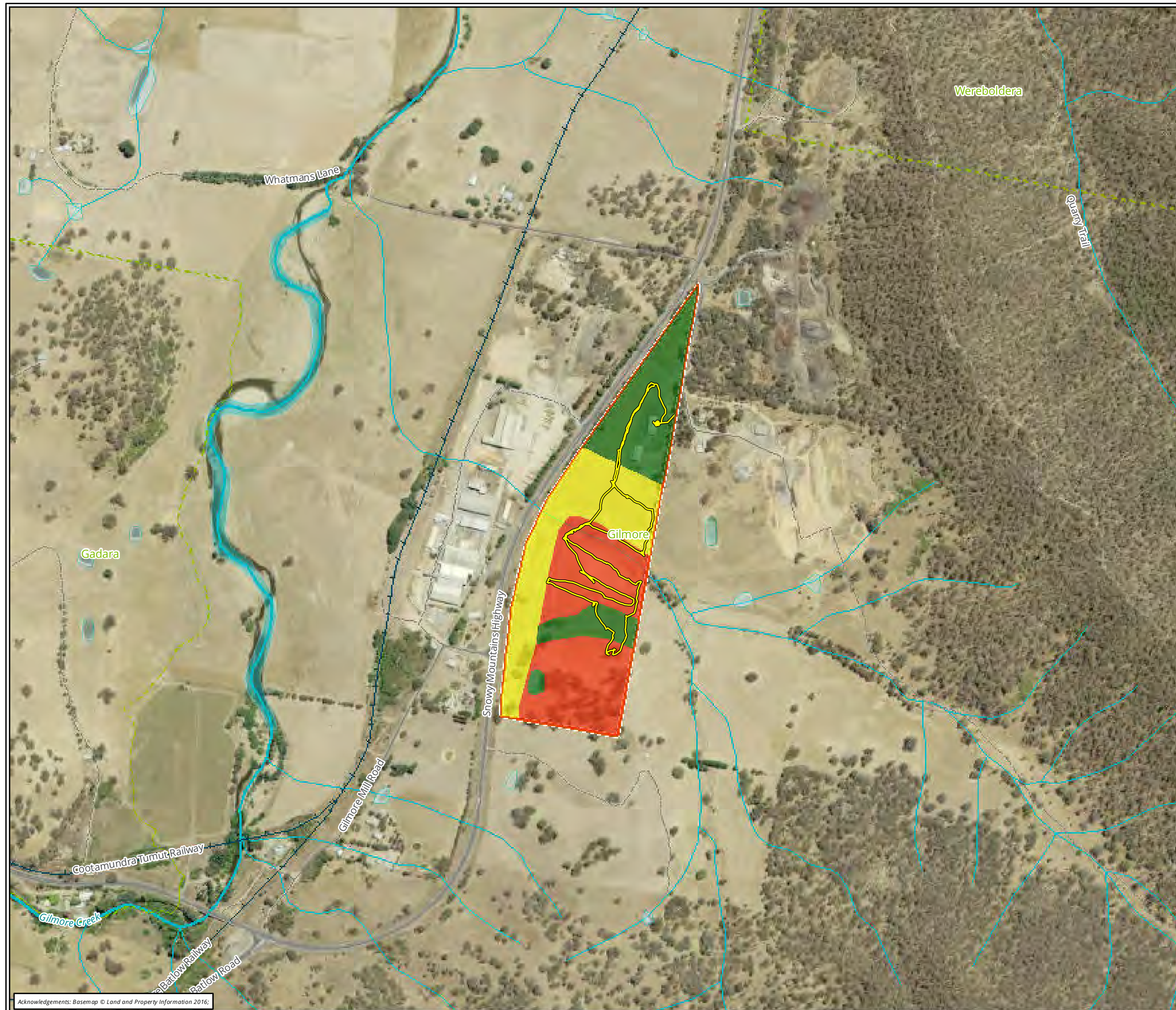
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Biosis Pty Ltd
Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
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Legend

- Study area
- Survey tracks

Archaeological Potential

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Figure 4 Survey results

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Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p.12).

The purpose of the stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area. The assessment methodology includes the following tasks.

Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the AASR:

- A search of the AHIMS database to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
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- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
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- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
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- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

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Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

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The aims of the testing program are to:

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- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.

- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

**Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p.28).*

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office (Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

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13 August 2020

Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group
Ramsay Freeman
48 Bundarra Crescent
Tumut NSW 2720

Dear Ramsay,

Dear Ramsay,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Thank you for registering your interest in the Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to support a development application for the proposed Waste Composting Facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist Snowy Valleys Council the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5pm 24 September 2020** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matthew Tetlaw', written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the stage 2 document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

The project

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composing facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) (Figure 1). The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform Snowy Valleys Council of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW. It is within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area, and is approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

Background

Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report (AASR) for the study area. The AASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area (Figure 3). None of these registered sites are located within the study area.

The background research found that Aboriginal sites within the region are frequently identified in raised landforms in close proximity to water courses. A third order unnamed creek line transects the study area, while Gilmore creek, a known Aboriginal Pathway is located approximately 470 metres to the west of the study area. The study area is also situated at the foothills of Wereboldara State Conservation Area at the northern end of the Snubba Range in an elevated position above the Gilmore Creek valley. This suggests Aboriginal people likely utilised the study area as a seasonal occupation site.

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020 in order to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. As the study area is surrounded by an assortment of favourable conditions pertaining to

Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits, areas containing minimal disturbances have a greater likelihood of containing intact subsurface deposits. Therefore, these areas have been assessed as containing moderate and high archaeological potential (Figure 4). The remaining areas that have been subject to disturbance have been assessed as containing low potential.

Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarized below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders	Completed	Project advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on 4 August 2020. Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties 12 August 2020.
Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties	12 August 2020	N/A
Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

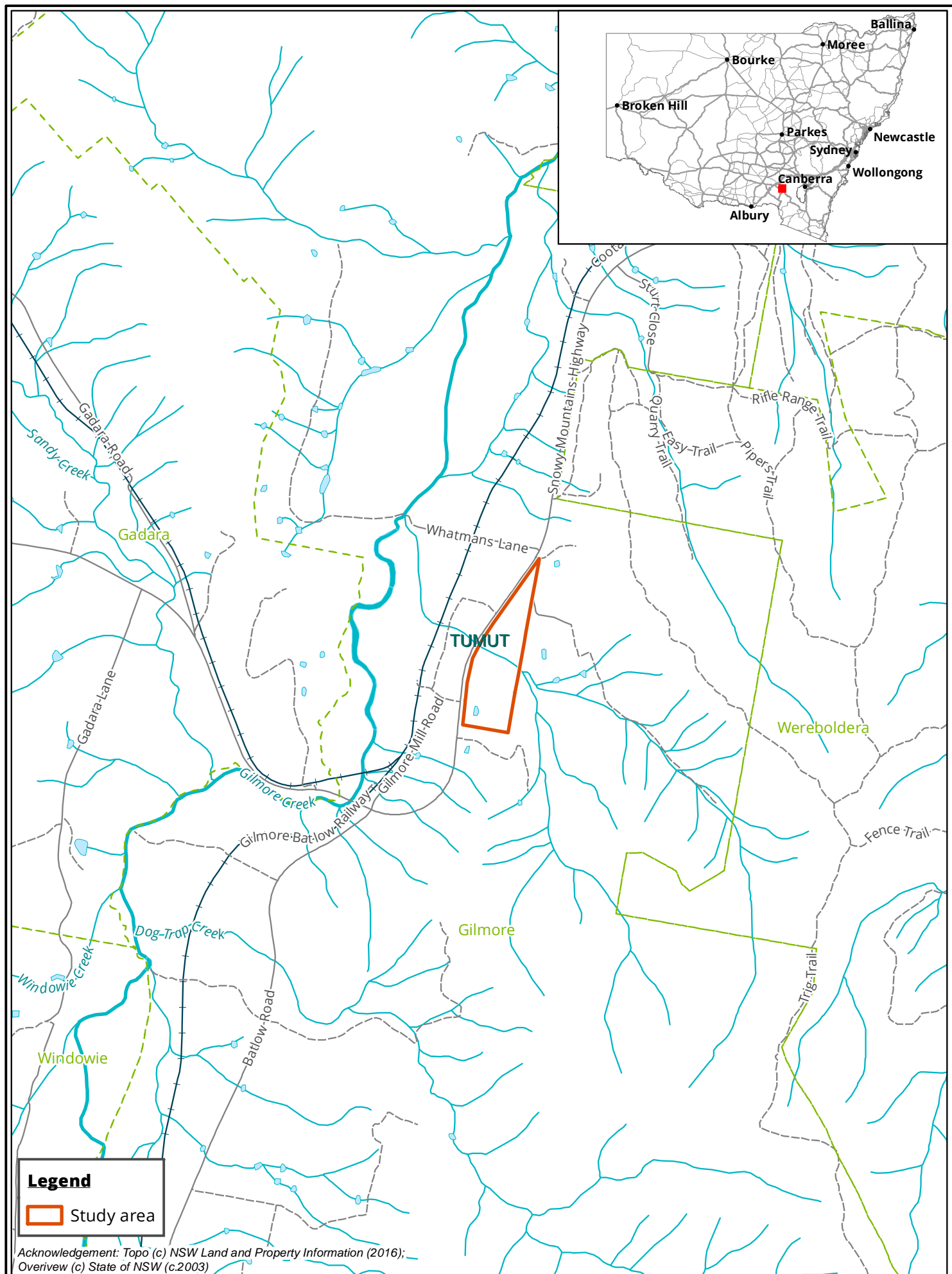


Figure 1 Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

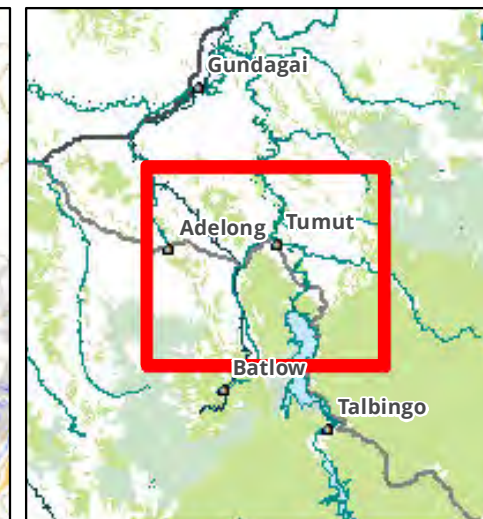
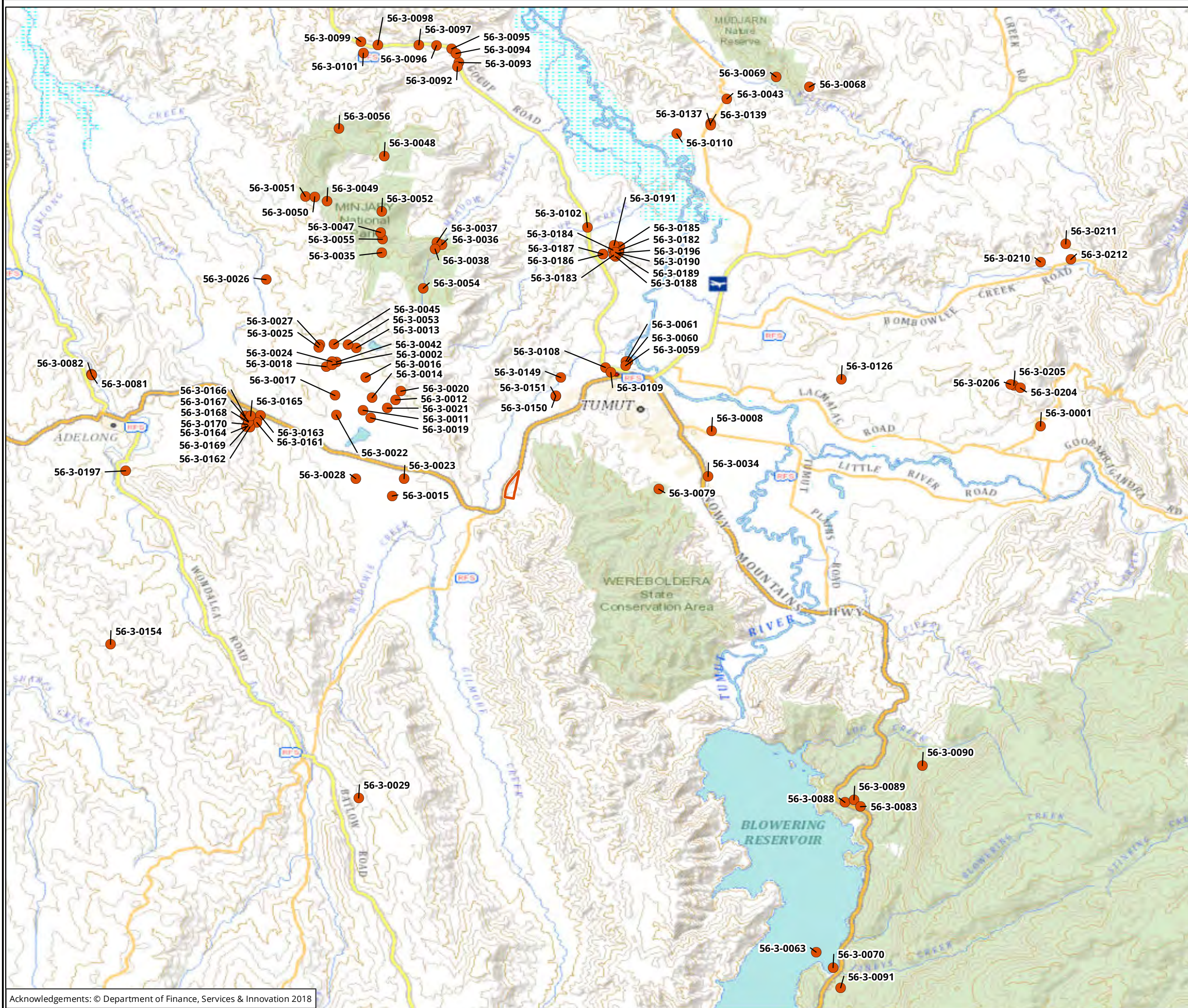
Figure 2 Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F2_StudyArea.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- AHIMS record

Figure 3 AHIMS records in the vicinity of the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

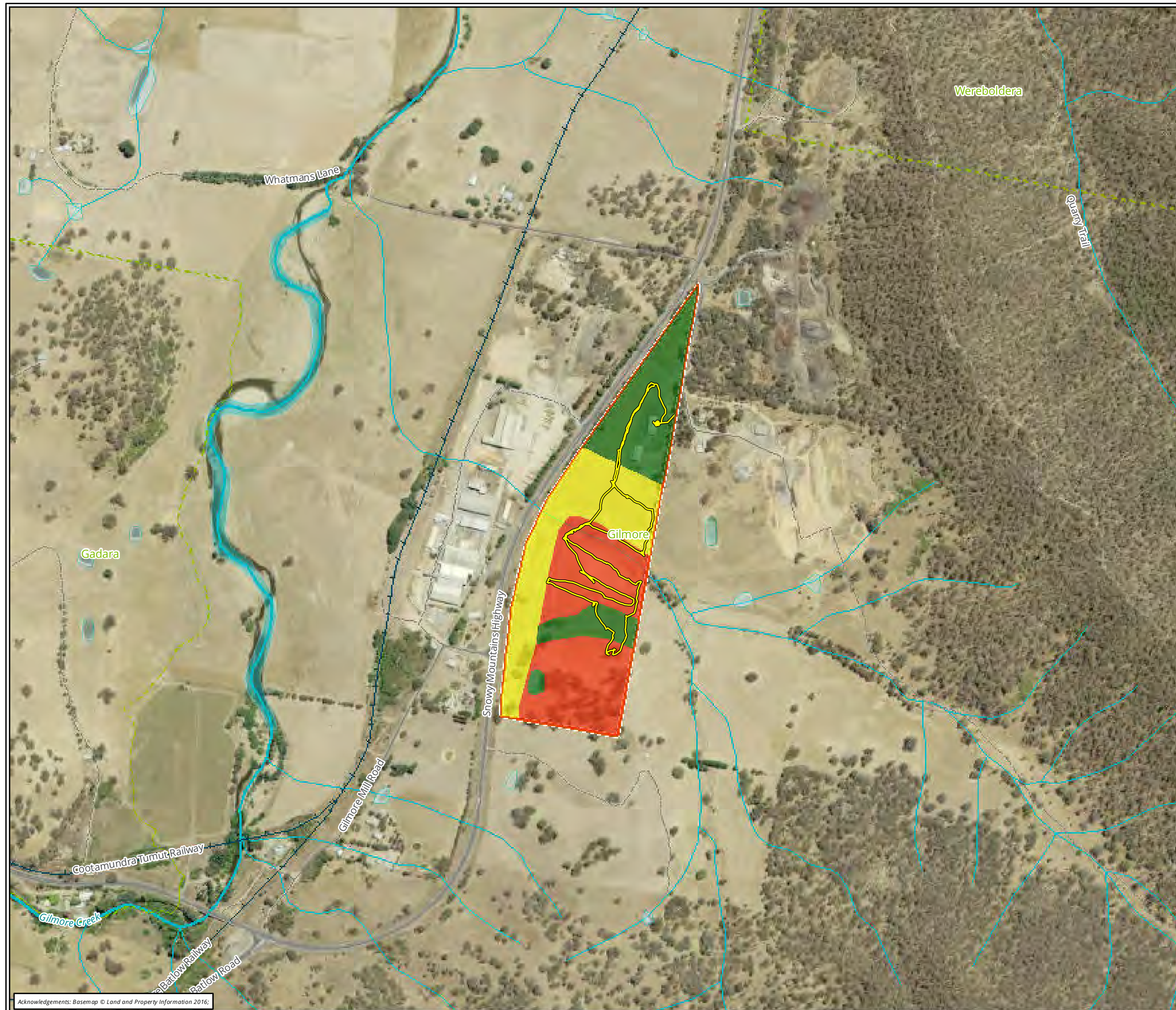
0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000
Metres

Scale: 1:117,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter:
Date: 16 June 2020,
Checked by: Iharley, Generated by: Iharley
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F7_AHIMS.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- Survey tracks

Archaeological Potential

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Figure 4 Survey results

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
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Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p.12).

The purpose of the stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area. The assessment methodology includes the following tasks.

Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the AASR:

- A search of the AHIMS database to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area.

This will be incorporated and built on for the ACHA.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 12 August 2020 via Biosis on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT ACHA report and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

Field investigation

An archaeological survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020. The field investigation was attended by Biosis Archaeologist Taryn Gooley, Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives Sue Bulger, Peter Bulger, and Leanne Williams. Also in attendance was Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer from Snowy Valleys Council. The survey targeted all landforms within the study area. The field investigation did not identify any Aboriginal objects or sites. This is likely due to the extensive grass coverage present across the study area which restricted the surveyor's ability to identify objects on the ground. A number of natural quartz cobbles were identified within the creek terrace/ flat landform suggesting this resource was readily available in the area for stone tool manufacture.

Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area contains areas of moderate and high archaeological potential as shown in Figure 4. These areas of moderate and high archaeological potential will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design.

As impacts to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential cannot be avoided by the proposed works, further archaeological assessment is required in the form of an ACHA and Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Areas that have undergone significant previous disturbance which would have removed sub-surface deposits from their original contexts were assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Recording during the field investigation followed requirements 5 to 10 of the code and industry best practice. Information recorded included:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area was undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility was undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

Archaeological test excavations

Any areas of moderate and high archaeological potential identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

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If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

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As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

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13 August 2020

Merrigarn
Shaun Carroll

Dear Shaun,

Dear Shaun,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

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Yours sincerely

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
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Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

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Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

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Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

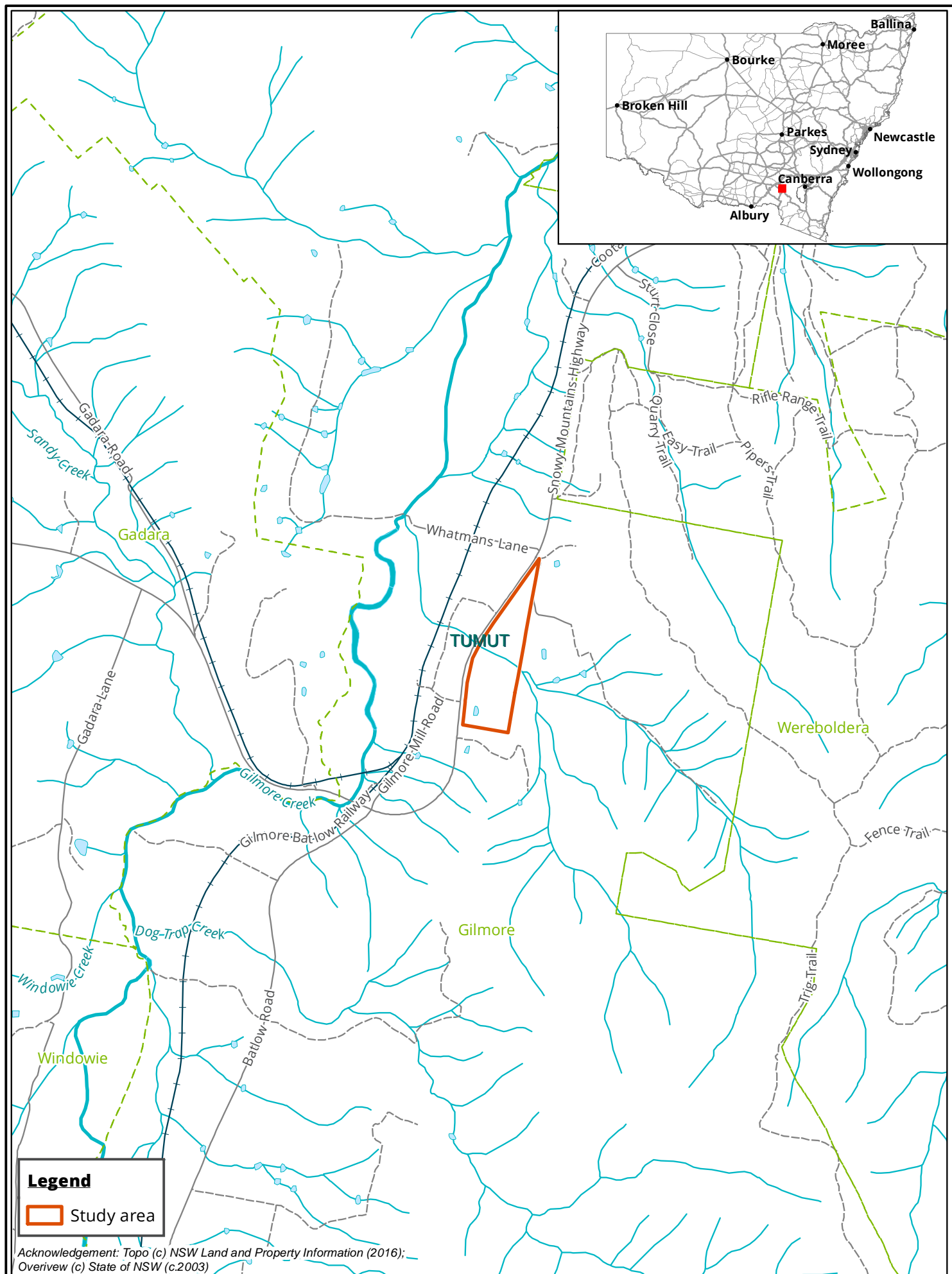


Figure 1 Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

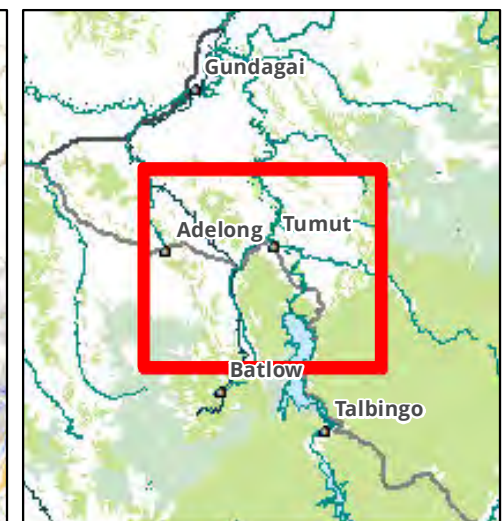
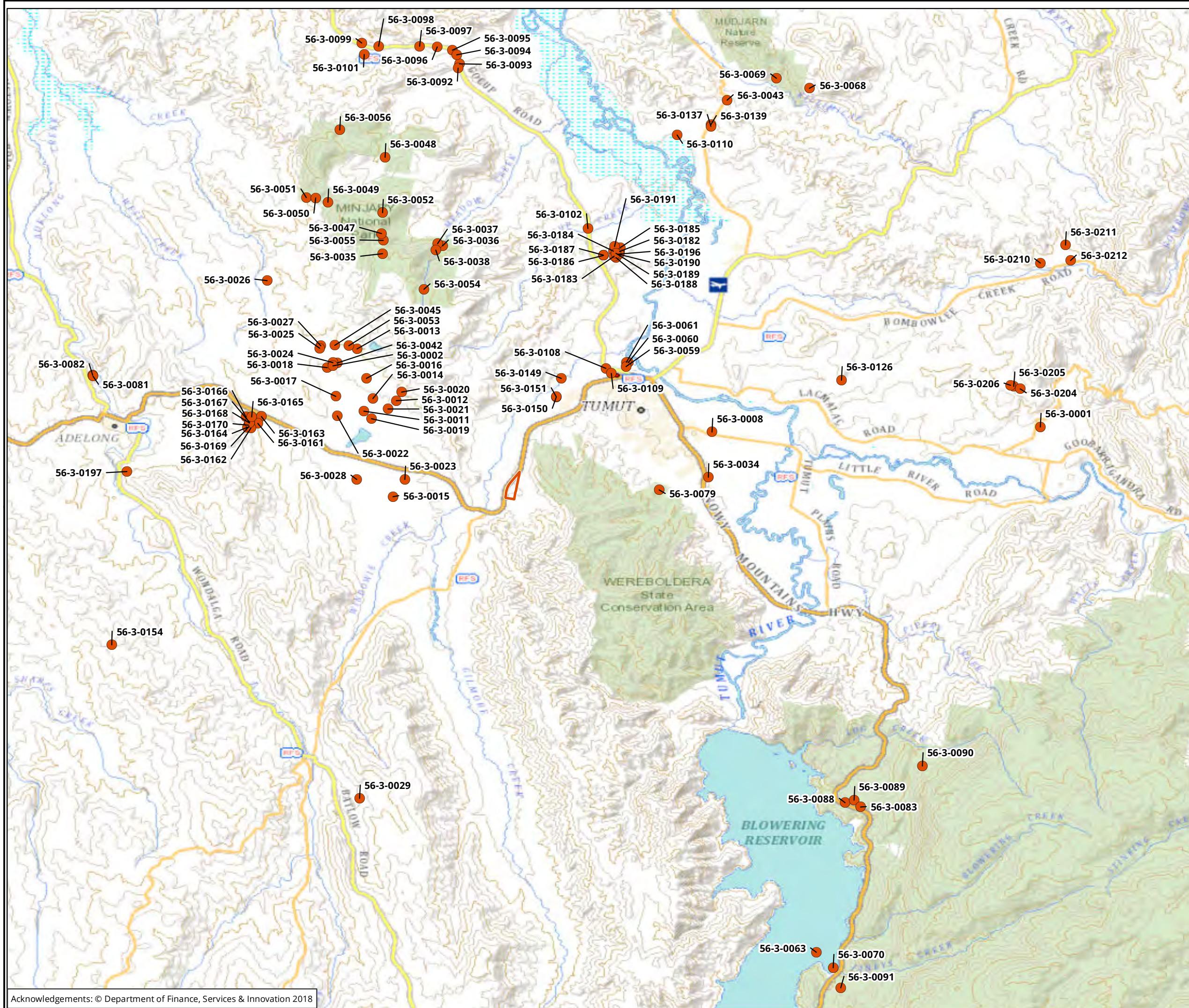
Figure 2 Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F2_StudyArea.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- AHIMS record

Figure 3 AHIMS records in the vicinity of the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

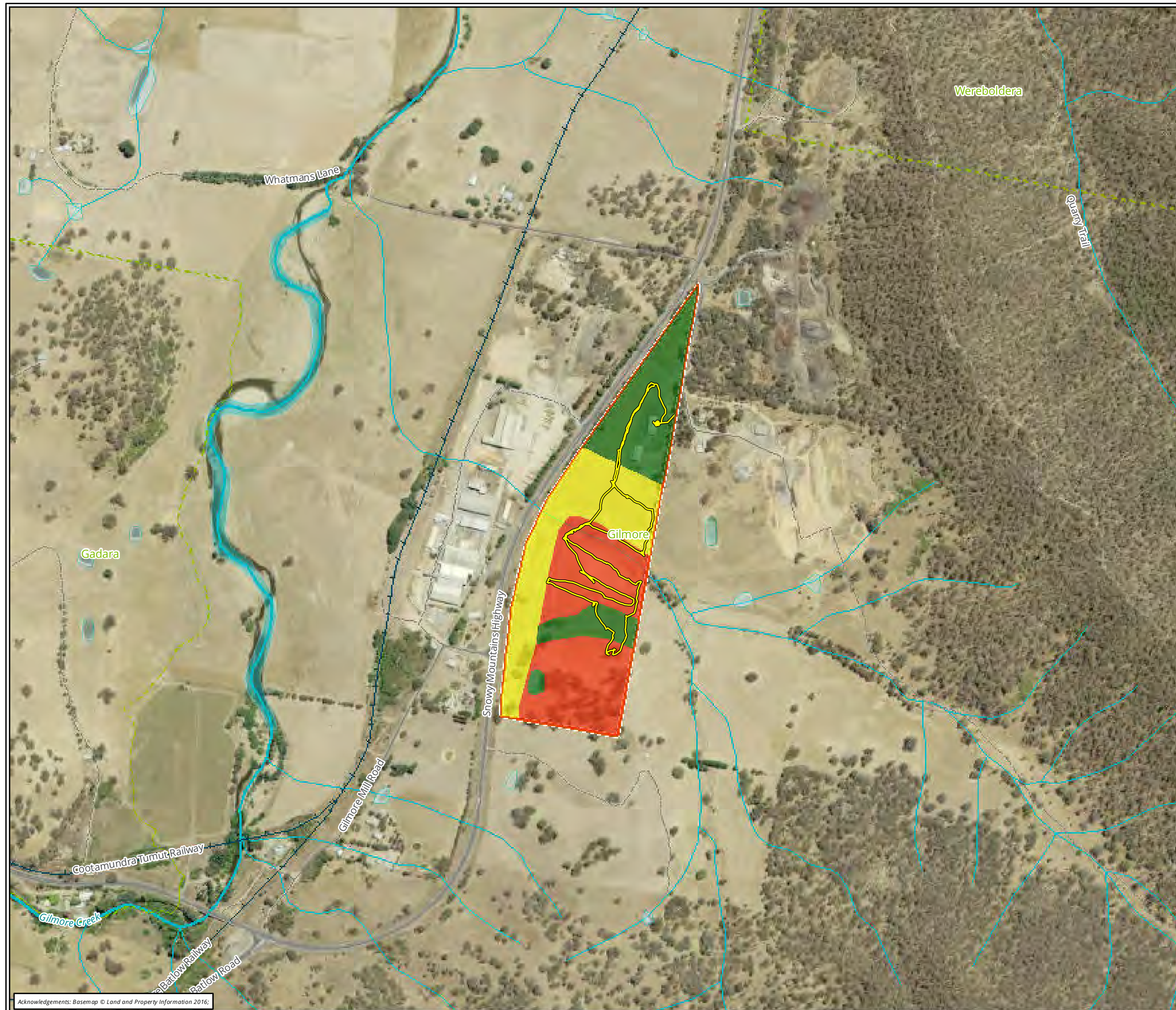
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Metres

Scale: 1:117,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter:
Date: 16 June 2020,
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Legend

- Study area
- Survey tracks

Archaeological Potential

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Figure 4 Survey results

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
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Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p.12).

The purpose of the stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area. The assessment methodology includes the following tasks.

Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the AASR:

- A search of the AHIMS database to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area.

This will be incorporated and built on for the ACHA.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 12 August 2020 via Biosis on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT ACHA report and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

Field investigation

An archaeological survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020. The field investigation was attended by Biosis Archaeologist Taryn Gooley, Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives Sue Bulger, Peter Bulger, and Leanne Williams. Also in attendance was Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer from Snowy Valleys Council. The survey targeted all landforms within the study area. The field investigation did not identify any Aboriginal objects or sites. This is likely due to the extensive grass coverage present across the study area which restricted the surveyor's ability to identify objects on the ground. A number of natural quartz cobbles were identified within the creek terrace/ flat landform suggesting this resource was readily available in the area for stone tool manufacture.

Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area contains areas of moderate and high archaeological potential as shown in Figure 4. These areas of moderate and high archaeological potential will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design.

As impacts to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential cannot be avoided by the proposed works, further archaeological assessment is required in the form of an ACHA and Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Areas that have undergone significant previous disturbance which would have removed sub-surface deposits from their original contexts were assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Recording during the field investigation followed requirements 5 to 10 of the code and industry best practice. Information recorded included:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area was undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility was undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

Archaeological test excavations

Any areas of moderate and high archaeological potential identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.

- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

**Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p.28).*

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office (Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

DECCW 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011, 'Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW', <Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW>.



13 August 2020

Oak Hill Enterprises
Sonia Shea

Dear Sonia,

Dear Sonia,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Thank you for registering your interest in the Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to support a development application for the proposed Waste Composting Facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist Snowy Valleys Council the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5pm 24 September 2020** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Yours sincerely

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Matthew Tetlaw", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the stage 2 document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

The project

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composing facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) ([Figure 1](#)). The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform Snowy Valleys Council of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW. It is within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area, and is approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district ([Figure 1](#)). The study area encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land ([Figure 2](#)).

Background

Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report (AASR) for the study area. The AASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area ([Figure 3](#)). None of these registered sites are located within the study area.

The background research found that Aboriginal sites within the region are frequently identified in raised landforms in close proximity to water courses. A third order unnamed creek line transects the study area, while Gilmore creek, a known Aboriginal Pathway is located approximately 470 metres to the west of the study area. The study area is also situated at the foothills of Wereboldara State Conservation Area at the northern end of the Snubba Range in an elevated position above the Gilmore Creek valley. This suggests Aboriginal people likely utilised the study area as a seasonal occupation site.

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020 in order to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. As the study area is surrounded by an assortment of favourable conditions pertaining to

Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits, areas containing minimal disturbances have a greater likelihood of containing intact subsurface deposits. Therefore, these areas have been assessed as containing moderate and high archaeological potential (Figure 4). The remaining areas that have been subject to disturbance have been assessed as containing low potential.

Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarized below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders	Completed	Project advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on 4 August 2020. Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties 12 August 2020.
Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties	12 August 2020	N/A
Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

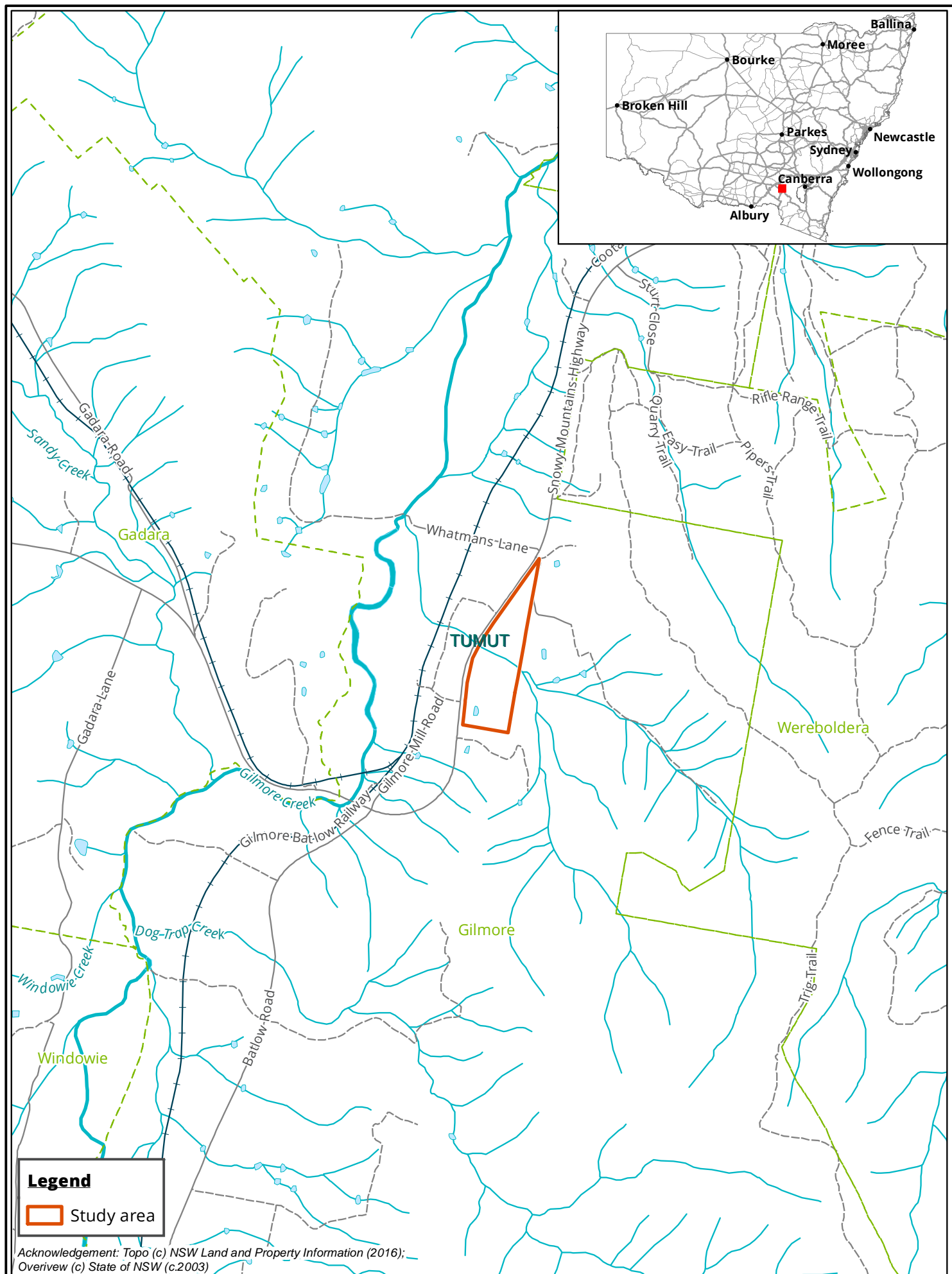


Figure 1 Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

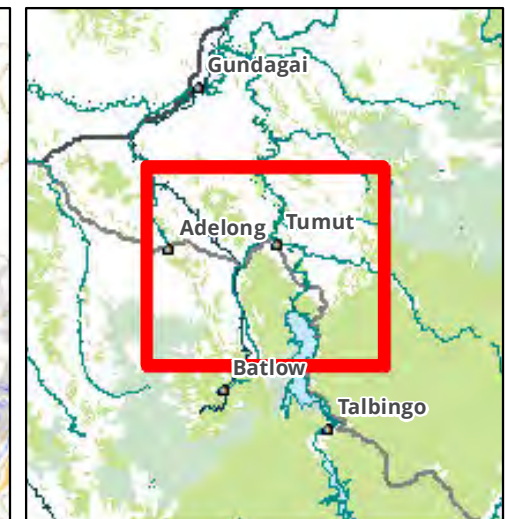
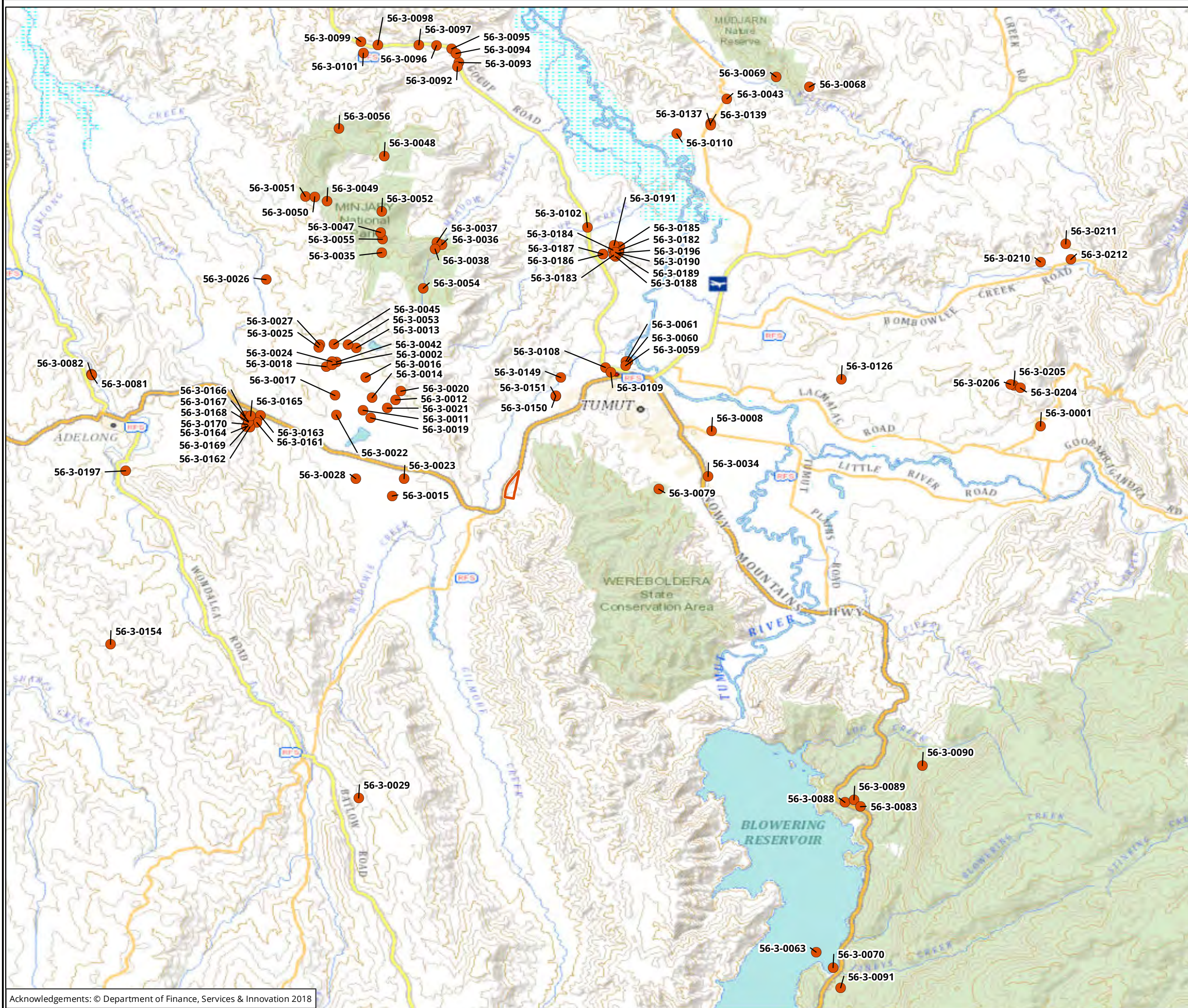
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0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
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Legend

- Study area
- AHIMS record

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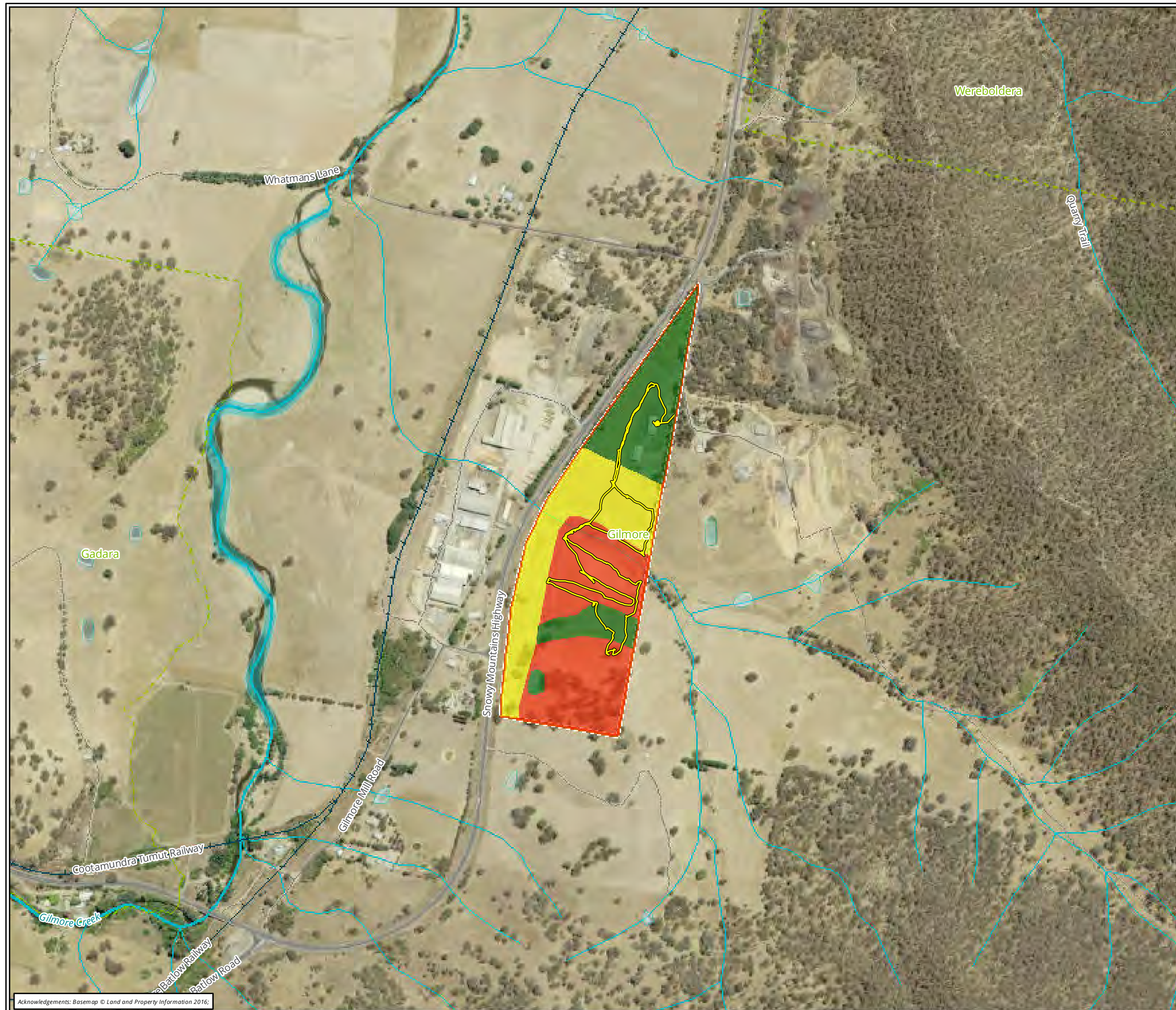
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Legend

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Figure 4 Survey results

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This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

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- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
 - Unique test pit identification number.
 - GPS coordinate of each test pit.
 - Munsell soil colour and texture.
 - Amount and location of cultural material within the deposit.
 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.

- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

**Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p.28).*

Storage of cultural material

Any cultural material identified during test excavations will be temporarily stored in the Biosis, Newcastle office (Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.

Once the cultural material has been analysed, the cultural material can be managed in the following manners:

- Cultural material can be held by the Aboriginal community under a care and control agreement.
- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

The main aim of the report is to document the assessment of potential development related impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and to formulate strategies to manage these impacts. Reporting will follow the guidelines of Heritage NSW, in particular the consultation requirements, the Code, and the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011).

The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

DECCW 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011, 'Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW', <Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW>.



Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au



13 August 2020

Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council
Sue Bulger
PO Box 64
Tumut 2720

Dear Sue,

Dear Sue,

RE: Stage 2 and 3 Aboriginal Community Consultation – Gilmore Waste Composting Facility

Our Ref: Matter 33622

Thank you for registering your interest in the Gilmore Waste Composting Facility Project. Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is currently undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Snowy Valleys Council to support a development application for the proposed Waste Composting Facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 1 DP 197308) (the project). The project is to be assessed as integrated development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The purpose of the ACHA is to determine the impacts the proposed development will have on any Aboriginal heritage values present within the study area. The ACHA will also assist Snowy Valleys Council the application of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) for the project (if required); and to assist Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW) in their consideration and determination of the application. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The following project information and assessment methodology has been provided in accordance with section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a) (consultation requirements). The aim of this letter is to provide you with information about the project, and the proposed ACHA process and to seek your feedback to inform the ACHA.

It would be appreciated if you would provide feedback on the project information and methodology presented in this letter to Biosis by **5pm 24 September 2020** either by email, phone or return mail.

Please address feedback to:

Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman
Biosis Pty Ltd
8/27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293
akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman if you require additional information or have any queries about the methodology or information provided.

Biosis Pty Ltd
Newcastle Resource Group

Suite 8, 27 Annie Street
Wickham NSW 2293

Phone: 02 4911 4040

ACN 006 175 097
ABN 65 006 175 097

Email: newcastle@biosis.com.au

biosis.com.au

Yours sincerely



Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant

Stage 2 – Project information

The aim of the stage 2 document is to provide registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with information about the scope of the project, and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process, and to seek their feedback on the project.

The project

Biosis was commissioned by Snowy Valleys Council to undertake an ACHA of the proposed waste and composing facility at 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore NSW (the study area) (Figure 1). The ACHA will be prepared in accordance with *the Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). It includes an Archaeological Report (AR) prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010b) (the Code) and consultation with Aboriginal community in accordance with the consultation requirements. The ACHA will inform Snowy Valleys Council of any potential for the project to impact on or expose Aboriginal objects or sites. Biosis will provide recommendations based on the outcomes of the ACHA.

Study area

The study area encompasses 6 Killarney Road, Gilmore, NSW. It is within the Snowy Valleys Local Government Area, and is approximately 3.8 kilometres south-west of Tumut and approximately 76 kilometres south-east of Wagga Wagga central business district (Figure 1). The study area encompasses approximately 16 hectares of private land (Figure 2).

Background

Biosis was previously engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report (AASR) for the study area. The AASR consisted of background research and a field investigation with representatives from the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Client Service ID: 512596) identified 103 Aboriginal archaeological sites within a 20 by 20 kilometre search area, centred on the study area (Figure 3). None of these registered sites are located within the study area.

The background research found that Aboriginal sites within the region are frequently identified in raised landforms in close proximity to water courses. A third order unnamed creek line transects the study area, while Gilmore creek, a known Aboriginal Pathway is located approximately 470 metres to the west of the study area. The study area is also situated at the foothills of Wereboldara State Conservation Area at the northern end of the Snubba Range in an elevated position above the Gilmore Creek valley. This suggests Aboriginal people likely utilised the study area as a seasonal occupation site.

A field investigation consisting of a pedestrian survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020 in order to identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects, sites, or areas of potential. The field investigation did not identify any previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects or sites. This was attributed to the very low levels of ground surface visibility throughout the study area as a result of extensive grass coverage. As the study area is surrounded by an assortment of favourable conditions pertaining to

Aboriginal sites, objects and deposits, areas containing minimal disturbances have a greater likelihood of containing intact subsurface deposits. Therefore, these areas have been assessed as containing moderate and high archaeological potential (Figure 4). The remaining areas that have been subject to disturbance have been assessed as containing low potential.

Project schedule

The proposed schedule and time allocations for the consultation stages are summarized below.

Action	Timeframe	Potential constraints and limitations
Commencement of Aboriginal community consultation – advertising of project and notification to stakeholders	Completed	Project advertised in the Tumut and Adelong Times on 4 August 2020. Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties 12 August 2020.
Notices sent to identified Aboriginal parties	12 August 2020	N/A
Aboriginal stakeholder registration period	12 to 26 August 2020	Registration period expired on 26 August 2020
Field investigation	Completed	N/A
Archaeological test excavations (if required)	TBC	TBC
Information gathering	Continuous	N/A
Review of draft report	TBC	28 days review time allowed under the consultation guidelines.
Final report	TBC	TBC

Responsibilities and roles

As part of the consultation process, RAPs are expected to respond to requests for cultural information and comment on draft reporting, as appropriate, in accordance with their role specified in section 5 of the consultation requirements. Biosis and the proponent, in accordance with their role under section 5 of the consultation requirements, will consult with the Aboriginal community by supplying suitable project information and providing the opportunity for Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input into the heritage management process.

Each section of the ACHA methodology will be undertaken in consultation with the RAPs for the project. Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

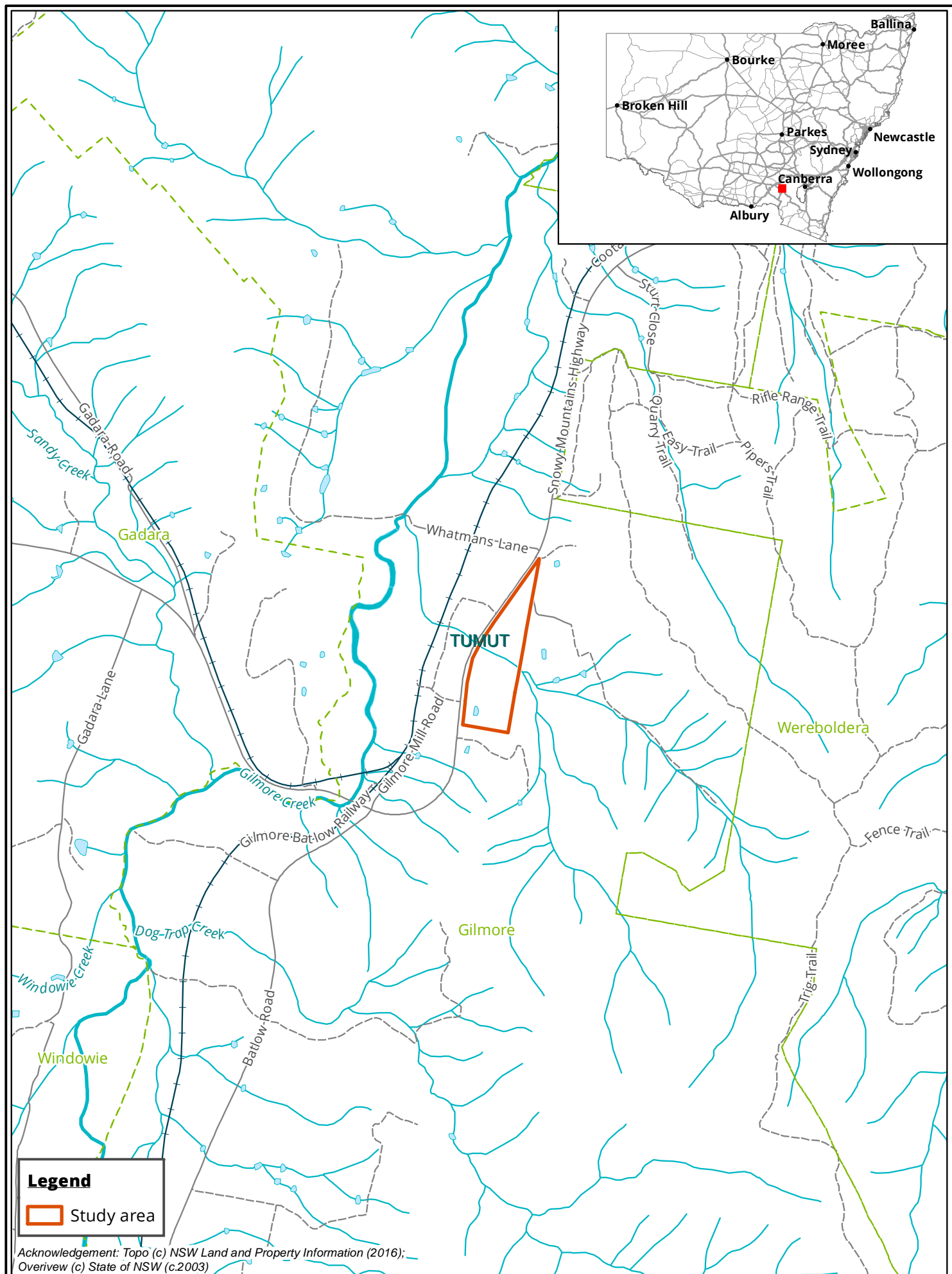


Figure 1 Location of the study area



Legend

Study area

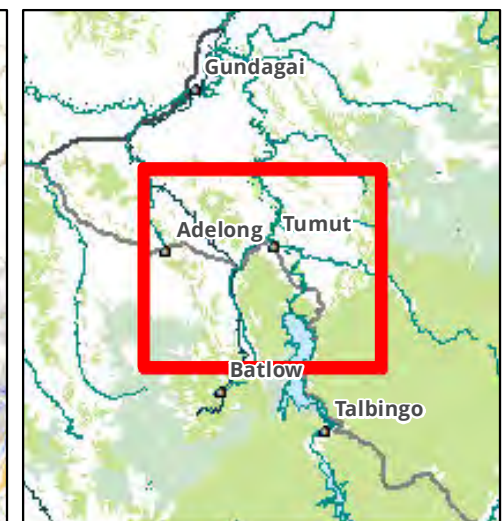
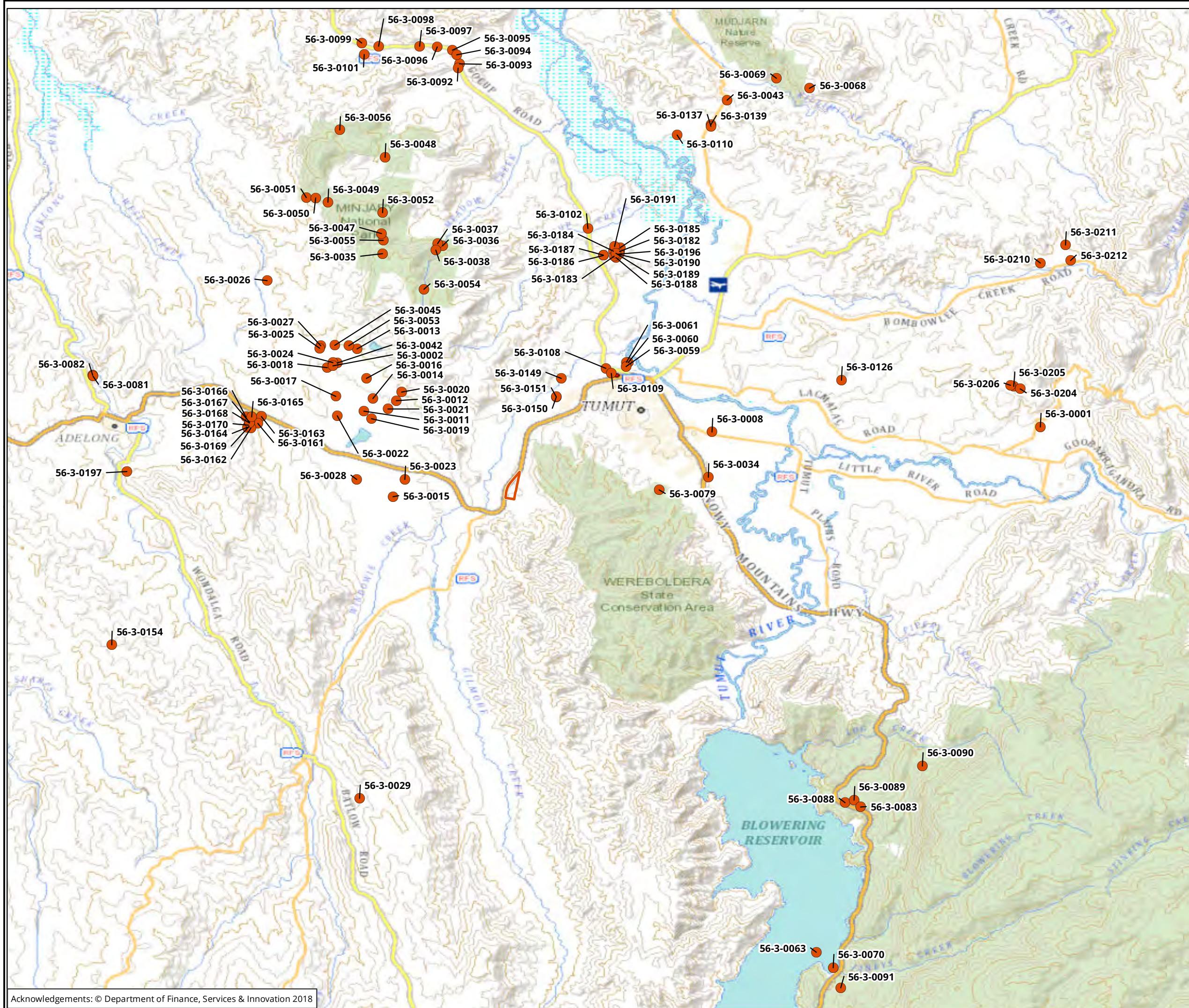
Figure 2 Study area detail

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F2_StudyArea.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- AHIMS record

Figure 3 AHIMS records in the vicinity of the study area

NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC

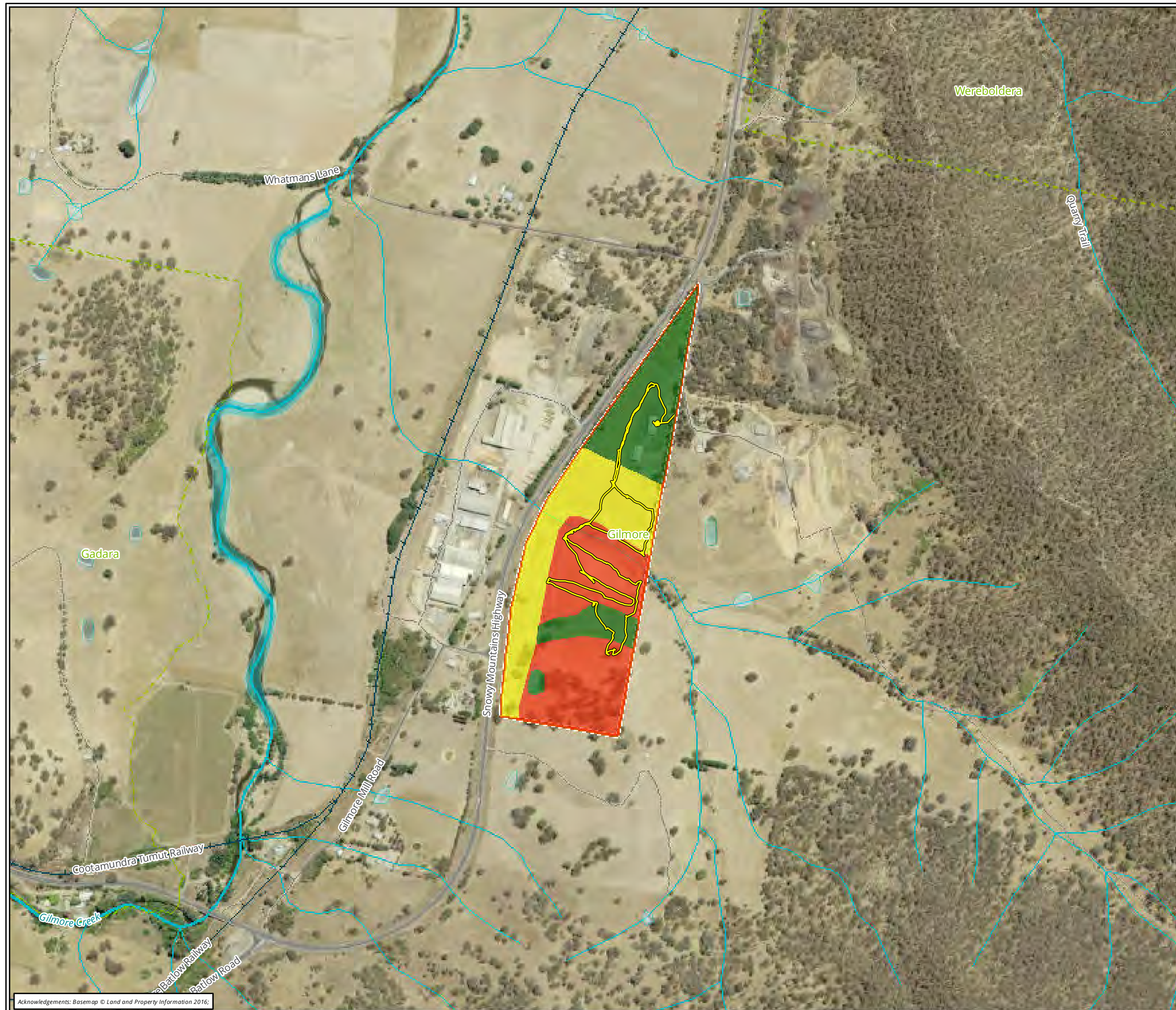
0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000
Metres

Scale: 1:117,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne,
Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter:
Date: 16 June 2020,
Checked by: lharley, Generated by: lharley
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F7_AHIMS.mxd



Legend

- Study area
- Survey tracks

Archaeological Potential

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Figure 4 Survey results

0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 33354,
Date: 01 July 2020,
Checked by: MEL, Drawn by: LH, Last edited by: skumar
Location: P:\33300s\33354\Mapping\33354_F8_Survey.mxd

Stage 3 – Gathering information about cultural significance

The aims of stage 3 of the consultation process is to facilitate a process where RAPs for the project can:

- Contribute to culturally appropriate information gathering and the research methodology.
- Provide information that will enable the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the proposed study area to be determined.
- Have input into the development of any cultural heritage management options (DECCW 2010a, p.12).

The purpose of the stage 3 document below is to provide RAPs with information about the proposed ACHA methodology for the project, including the survey strategy and test excavation (if required) methodology and to seek feedback on the Aboriginal cultural values present within the study area. The assessment methodology includes the following tasks.

Background research

This task will identify known Aboriginal sites, areas of potential archaeological sensitivity and previous disturbance, and inform the predictive modelling for the assessment/study area.

The following steps have been undertaken as part of the AASR:

- A search of the AHIMS database to identify registered sites in the vicinity of the assessment/study area. The results of the AHIMS search will be used to obtain relevant site cards and relevant previously completed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments.
- A review of relevant reports identified through the AHIMS search.
- A review of aerial photographs and other resources to gauge the existing landscape and previous history of land disturbance.
- A review of the historical heritage databases.
- A brief summary of the historical uses of the study area.

This will be incorporated and built on for the ACHA.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community

This task will provide the Aboriginal community with the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their cultural heritage by providing proponents information regarding cultural significance and opportunities to input into management options.

Aboriginal community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the consultation requirements, which includes:

- COMPLETED. Biosis ascertained the names of Aboriginal people or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/ or places within the study area.
- COMPLETED. Aboriginal stakeholders were provided with notification by letter of the project on 12 August 2020 via Biosis on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council, and given the opportunity to be involved in consultation.
- This document outlines the details of the project and proposed archaeological testing methodology. If required. The RAPs must be given an opportunity to review and provide feedback to the proponent within a minimum of 28 days of Biosis providing the methodology document.
- The DRAFT ACHA report and AR will be provided to all RAPs for comment – the proponent must allow 28 days for comment. All comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project will be included in the final report in an appendix.

Culturally sensitive material

Biosis invites RAPs to provide culturally appropriate information via mail, email or phone with regards to this project.

Cultural information provided will be recorded in the Aboriginal consultation log and discussed in the report. If the information is regarded as too sensitive to be made public then RAPs should advise Biosis and identify the nature of the sensitivity. Biosis will then arrange for the recording of the information in accordance with its sensitivity. Documents which hold sensitive information will clearly list, on the front cover, who can have access to the document. These documents will be stored securely.

Field investigation

An archaeological survey of the study area was conducted on 17 June 2020. The field investigation was attended by Biosis Archaeologist Taryn Gooley, Brungle/Tumut LALC representatives Sue Bulger, Peter Bulger, and Leanne Williams. Also in attendance was Martin Canteros-Paz, Resource Recovery Officer from Snowy Valleys Council. The survey targeted all landforms within the study area. The field investigation did not identify any Aboriginal objects or sites. This is likely due to the extensive grass coverage present across the study area which restricted the surveyor's ability to identify objects on the ground. A number of natural quartz cobbles were identified within the creek terrace/ flat landform suggesting this resource was readily available in the area for stone tool manufacture.

Areas of high disturbance were noted within the northern portion of the study area, while the central and southern portions of the study area were noted to have been subject to low levels of previous disturbance. Based on the results of the background research and field investigation, the study area contains areas of moderate and high archaeological potential as shown in Figure 4. These areas of moderate and high archaeological potential will be impacted by the proposed works in their current design.

As impacts to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential cannot be avoided by the proposed works, further archaeological assessment is required in the form of an ACHA and Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Areas that have undergone significant previous disturbance which would have removed sub-surface deposits from their original contexts were assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Recording during the field investigation followed requirements 5 to 10 of the code and industry best practice. Information recorded included:

- Aboriginal objects or sites present in the study area during the investigation.
- Survey coverage.
- Any resources that may have potentially have been exploited by Aboriginal people.
- Landforms.
- Photographs of the site indicating landform.
- Evidence of disturbance.
- Aboriginal artefacts, culturally modified trees or any other Aboriginal sites.

Where possible, Identification of natural soil deposits within the study area was undertaken. Representative photographs of survey units, landform, vegetation coverage, ground surface visibility was undertaken.

Detailed results of the field investigation will be provided in the draft ACHA report and AR.

Archaeological test excavations

Any areas of moderate and high archaeological potential identified during the field investigation which cannot be avoided by the construction works will be subject to archaeological test excavations in line with the Code as outlined below.

Aims

The principle objectives of the test excavations are to identify and understand the nature, extent and significance of any areas of PAD within the study area. This will further our knowledge of Aboriginal archaeological site patterning within the study area and enable the predictive model to be further tested and refined.

The aims of the testing program are to:

- Determine the nature and extent of the sub-surface archaeological deposits in the study area.
- Identify if the archaeological material occurs in an intact, undisturbed context, by examining the soil profile and stratigraphy.
- Analyse and interpret any archaeological finds (such as stone artefacts, hearths, etc.) recovered during the testing program.
- Inform current knowledge of Aboriginal occupation and land use models of the region.
- Provide management and mitigation measures for Aboriginal archaeological objects located during the subsurface testing program.
- Test the predictive model and answer the research questions developed as part of this assessment.

Test excavation methodology

If test excavations are required within the study area they will conform to the following methodology in line with Requirement 16 of the Code:

- Test excavations will be conducted in 50 by 50 centimetre units.
- The test pits will be excavated by hand (inclusive of trowels, spades and other hand tools) along transects at intervals of between 10 and 20 metres or other justifiable and regular spacing (being no smaller than five metres).
- The first test pit within a site or PAD area will be excavated in five centimetre spits; the subsequent test pits conducted within the site or PAD area can then be excavated in either 10 centimetre spits or stratigraphic units (whichever is smaller) to the base of Aboriginal object-bearing units being the removal of the A-horizon soil deposit down to the sterile clay or bedrock layer (B-horizon).
- If the depth of deposit prevents reaching sterile deposits within the 50 by 50 centimetre test pit, additional 50 by 50 centimetre test pits may be excavated adjacent to the original test pit (for example expanding the test pit to 50 by 100 centimetres) to reach the sterile deposits.
- Test pits may be combined and excavated as necessary in 50 by 50 centimetre units for the purposes of further understanding site characteristics. Note that under the Code, the maximum area that can be excavated in any one continuous area is three metres squared (3 m²).
- The Code dictates that the maximum surface area of all test excavation units must be no greater than 0.5% of the PAD or area being investigated.
- All excavated soil will be sieved in 5 millimetre sieves. Dry sieving will be attempted in the first instance, however wet sieving may be used if deposits cannot be dry sieved.
- All cultural material will be collected, bagged and clearly labelled. They will be temporarily stored in the Biosis office (at Suite 8, 27 Annie Street, Wickham NSW 2293) or the Brungle/Tumut LALC office (55 Merivale St Tumut NSW 2720) for analysis.
- For each test pit that is excavated, the following documentation will be taken:
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 - Nature of disturbance where present.
 - Stratigraphy.
 - Archaeological features (if present).
 - Photographic records.
 - Spit records.
- Test excavation units will be backfilled as soon as practicable.
- An AHIMS Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Registrar for any sites impacted during test excavations.

- In the event that suspected human remains are identified works will immediately cease and the NSW Police and Heritage NSW will be notified.
- Test excavations will cease when enough information* has been recovered to adequately characterise the objects present with regard to their nature and significance.

**Enough information is defined by Heritage NSW as meaning “the sample of excavated material clearly and self-evidently demonstrates the deposit’s nature and significance. This may include things like locally or regionally high object density: presence of rare or representative objects: presence of archaeological features: or locally or regionally significant deposits stratified or not.”(DECCW 2010b, p.28).*

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- Cultural material can be returned to country and reburied as soon as practicable in a secure location in accordance with Requirements 16b and 26 of the Code.

Biosis requests any comments regarding the care and control of any cultural material be included as part of the review of this assessment methodology.

Reporting

Biosis will prepare an ACHA and AR for the project. The ACHA will document the findings of the assessment, and detail the consultation process. The AR will be included as an appendix to the ACHA and will document the desktop assessment, field investigation, and test excavation results.

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The ACHA report will contain:

- Details of the Aboriginal consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.
- A review and summary of the environmental context of the study area.
- A review and summary of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area.
- Archaeological test excavation results.
- Aboriginal site significance assessment.
- Impact assessment.
- Management strategies.
- Maps detailing any Aboriginal sites identified during the assessment process.

The RAPs will be provided with the draft ACHA report and AR, and their comments on the report content sought. Comments on the report's content are to be provided to Biosis by the party's respective nominated spokesperson(s). All comments not provided in writing will be recorded in an informal logbook by Biosis. These comments and responses to these comments will be documented in the final ACHA.

As part of this methodology registered Aboriginal parties will be provided with the draft report for comment and allowed **28 days** for review.

The final report will incorporate all comments and will be forwarded on to RAPs once completed.

References

DECCW 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Sydney NSW.

OEH 2011, 'Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW', <Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney NSW>.

From: BTLALC <btlalc@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 4:31 PM
To: Matthew Tetlaw
Subject: Re: FW: 33622 Gilmore Composing Consultation List of Registered Aboriginal Parties

Hello Matthew,

Do you also have Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council listed as an Aboriginal party?

Kind regards

Sue Bulger

Regards CEO Brungle Tumut LALC Ph: 69474518

On 3/09/2020 3:22 pm, Matthew Tetlaw wrote:

Dear Sue,

On behalf of Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman, please find below a list of registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the Gilmore composing ACHA project.

- Snowy Mountains Indigenous Elders Group – Ramsay Freeman
- Alice Williams
- Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation – Darlene Johnson
- Koomurri Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation – Glen Freeman
- Merrigarn – Shaun Carroll
- Jesse Johnson
- Mathew Marlow
- Lindsay Connolly
- Oakhill Enterprises – Sonia Shea

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw

Research Assistant - Heritage

M: 0419 861 655

D: (02) 4201 1062

E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



Leaders in Ecology and Heritage Consulting

Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future, and honour their connection to the land and ongoing contribution to society.

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Madeleine Lucas

From: jesse johnson <muragadi@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 August 2020 4:22 PM
To: Matthew Tetlaw
Subject: Re: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Attachments: 33622.Stage2.JesseJohnson.pdf

Hi Matthew,
I have read the project information and methodology for the above project, I agree with the recommendations.
Kind regards
Jesse Carroll Johnson
0418970389

On Thursday, 27 August 2020, 04:24:47 pm AEST, Matthew Tetlaw wrote:

Dear Jesse,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage
M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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Madeleine Lucas

From: Darleen Johnson <murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 August 2020 3:58 PM
To: Matthew Tetlaw
Subject: Re: 33622 - Gilmore Composting Stage 2 and 3 Consultation
Attachments: 33622.stage2.DarleneJohnson.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Matthew,
I have read the project information and methodology for the above project, I endorse the recommendations made.
Kind regards
Darleen Johnson
0490051102

On Thursday, 27 August 2020, 04:18:10 pm AEST, Matthew Tetlaw wrote:

Dear Darlene,

Please find attached a stage 2 and 3 consultation letter which provides additional information on the methodology for the project and the previous survey.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to either myself or Ashley Keevers-Eastman (contact details can be found in the letter). The deadline for this stage of consultation is 24 September 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage
M: 0419 861 655
D: (02) 4201 1062
E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



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From: [Matthew Tetlaw](#)
To: ["Wolgaluumb@outlook.com"](mailto:Wolgaluumb@outlook.com)
Subject: FW: Re: 33622 Gilmore Composting ACHA Stage 4 consultation
Date: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 12:10:06 PM
Attachments: [imagedc28ac.PNG](#)

Dear Alice,

Thank for your continued consultation on the Gilmore Composting ACHA. In accordance with the Aboriginal consultation requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010), please find the draft ACHA and AR at the link below for your review and comment. This constitutes stage 4 of the consultation process.

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/OjrEbhU0rO>

Please send any questions or comments to Ashleigh Keevers-Eastman (akeevers-eastman@biosis.com.au, Ph: 0428175025).

The link above will expire on 31 December 2020. The consultation deadline is 29 December 2020.

Kind regards,

Matthew
Matthew Tetlaw
Research Assistant - Heritage

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E: mtetlaw@biosis.com.au



Leaders in Ecology and Heritage Consulting

Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past, present and future, and honour their connection to the land and ongoing contribution to society.

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Appendix 5 Archaeological report
