



Hunter Power Project

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

| Approved Version 5
29 November 2024



Hunter Power Project

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Document history and status

Revision	Date	Description	Author	Checked	Reviewed	Approved
Final	20 December 2021	Final	R Taddeucci	F Scully	M Luger	K Ivanusic
Amended Final	22 December 2021	Amended Final	R Taddeucci	I Smith	M Luger	I Smith
Amended Final	24 February 2022	Amended Final-ER review	I Smith	I Smith	M Luger	I Smith

The initial revisions of this management plan were prepared by Jacobs and Snowy Hydro and approved by the Department for the Hunter Power Project. Details of the review process are detailed in the document history table above. Subsequent versions of the approved management plan have been updated by Snowy Hydro and endorsed by the Department's approved Environmental Representative. The reasons for, and key changes to the management plan are detailed in the table below.

Approved management plan version history

Approved version	Date	Description of changes	Author	Date endorsed by ER
1	24 February 2022	Previously referred to as Amended Final (dated 24 February 2022) and endorsed by the Department and the ER	M Luger	25 February 2022
2	14 September 2022	Document updated in response to findings of shallow and medium depth test excavations. Key changes include not requiring further medium depth test excavations in the vicinity of the turbine foundations and refinements to monitoring of the piles. The document will be issued to the ER for endorsement prior to being sent to RAPs and uploaded to the project website.	M Luger	14 September 2022
3	10 May 2023	Updated Figure 1-1 to include Precinct 3B and Figure 3-2 to update Precinct 3B areas in response to approval of Modification 1 on 1 March 2023.	A van der Kroft	29 May 2023
4	29 December 2023	Updated in response to approval of Modification 2 on 16 November 2023	A van der Kroft	13 February 2024
5	29 November 2024	Updated to include commissioning activities	A van der Kroft	18 December 2024

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Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Department	Same meaning as Department under the EP&A Act
Environmental Representative	Independent person approved by the Secretary to review and where required approve updates and minor amendments to management plans.
Mitigation	Action to reduce the severity of an impact
Project	The Hunter Power Project; formerly referred to as the Kurri Kurri Power Station Project
Project Site	The area of land that is directly impacted on by the development, including access roads, and areas used to store construction materials, as described in the EIS and Infrastructure Approval, including the areas covered by Modification 1 and Modification 2.
Proponent	Snowy Hydro Limited
Secretary	Planning Secretary (of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment) under the EP&A Act, or nominee
Study Area	The Project Site and any other areas surveyed and assessed for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
ACHMP	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
ASIRF	Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms
CEMS	Construction Environmental Management Strategy
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (former) now the
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal)</i>
EWMS	Environmental Work Method Statement
Heritage NSW - ACH	Heritage New South Wales – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
HSE	Health Safety and Environment
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)</i>
OEH	Office of Environmental and Heritage (former)
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure

1. Introduction

1.1 Rational for the update of the approved plan

The purpose of this update of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to provide a summary of findings from the Aboriginal cultural heritage archaeological monitoring and test excavations completed to date; to propose some refinements to the sampling program based on these site investigations and to satisfy commitments made in terms of compliance management. This comprises the following:

- Reviewing and revising this document at intervals of 6 months to ensure the management measures remain applicable. This will also involve providing the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with a project update
- Updating this document with any newly identified and relevant information (the findings of the archaeological investigations, revisions to the proposed works, etc.) as soon as possible
- Issuing of the revised CHMP to all RAPs with a request for input, where appropriate. Note that the nature of the updates are such that Snowy Hydro are issuing this Approved version 2 of the CHMP for information only.

Following the required consultation with RAPs and NSW Heritage, the draft CHMP was finalised and approved by the Planning Secretary on 17 January 2022. Cultural heritage awareness training was conducted prior to the commencement of construction on 10 May 2022.

Snowy Hydro undertook an expression of interest process inviting all RAPs to nominate to participate in test excavation fieldwork. Six groups nominated individuals and they have subsequently been engaged to participate in the fieldwork in association archaeologists from NSW Archaeology. Two rounds of test excavations have been undertaken to date.

The first round of test excavations addressed the potential for heritage artifacts to be present in the shallow (surface to approximately 1.5m depth) material and was conducted in the week ending 29 April 2022. This comprised four test excavations as well as a systematic survey of the surface of the accessible areas of the project site as well as inspection of a large area where the sub-soil was exposed. No artefacts were found as part of the surveys or test excavations. Given the extensive and gross disturbance and the absence of artefacts, NSW Archaeology concluded that the surface and near surface layers of the project site have negligible heritage potential and sensitivity. The RAP representatives on site strongly agreed with these conclusions.

The second round of mid depth test excavations was conducted in the week ending 22 July 2022 and took place in the vicinity of the proposed stormwater basin in the north western portion of the Project Site. The top 1.5m was removed from the surface by means of an excavator. Thereafter, three 1 metre layers were systematically excavated and sampled, reaching depths of 2.5 metres, 3.5 metres and 4.5 metres respectively. Over 300 litres of material from each layer were sieved. No artefacts were found, and the RAPs were unanimously confident that nothing would be found from increasing the sample size. The RAPs and archaeologists agreed that the archaeological potential for the site within the mid depth horizon was negligible.

As a result of these findings, some refinements to the methodology for the proposed final round of test excavation associated with the with turbine footings and piling is proposed. The turbine footings extend some 3.5 metres below the current surface and as a result of the conclusion of the second round of test excavations further testing of this mid depth is not required. Testing of the deep material (from some 4 metres to about 18 metres below the current surface) that may be impacted by the piles will still be the subject of the third round of heritage monitoring/ testing. Paramount to this third round is the safety of contractors undertaking the piling, the archaeologists and the RAPs and based on a risk assessment some refinements to the sampling method to address safety have been made and are described in this report. Primarily this entails removing material from each sampling horizon from the auger with an excavator and placing it in piles, from which the contractor will manually fill the requisite number of buckets and transport them to a remote sieving station for the cultural heritage team.

A compliance report describing all the work undertaken to meet the requirements of the CHMP will then be compiled.

1.2 Background and purpose

Snowy Hydro Limited (Snowy Hydro) (Proponent) is developing a gas fired power station near Kurri Kurri, NSW ('the Project') – see Error! Reference source not found.. The Project involves the construction and operation of an open cycle gas turbine power station and electrical switchyard, together with other associated infrastructure.

The major supporting infrastructure that is part of the Project would be a 132 kilovolt (kV) electrical switchyard located within the Project Site. Other supporting infrastructure elements of the Project include:

- Storage tanks and other water management infrastructure
- Fire water storage and firefighting equipment such as hydrants and pumps
- Maintenance laydown areas
- Diesel fuel storage tank(s) and truck unloading facilities
- Site access roads and car parking
- Office/administration, amenities, workshop/storage areas
- A provisional stormwater basin
- Car parking, site access roads, fabrication and laydown areas located within Precinct 3B, shown on Figure 1-1
- Temporary Worker Accommodation Facility, shown on Figure 1-2

The initial phase of construction to prepare the site and install environmental controls commenced in early 2022. Towards the end of construction, each turbine and all ancillary equipment in turn will be commissioned cold. Following this, will be hot commissioning of each turbine on diesel as well as on natural gas.

This CHMP forms part of the Construction Environmental Management Strategy (CEMS) for the Project. The CHMP has been prepared to implement a process of identifying and managing Aboriginal objects in the post-approval phase of the Project. It further outlines the processes and timeframes associated with Aboriginal consultation, and any heritage measures that may be required as part of the Project.

This CHMP is a requirement of the Infrastructure Approval Condition B43 and has been prepared in consultation with RAPs and Heritage New South Wales – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Heritage NSW-ACH). The CHMP was approved by the Secretary on 17 January 2022 prior to the commencement of construction and endorsed by the Environmental Representative (ER) – see Appendix C - Environmental Representative Endorsements.

This CHMP has been prepared at the post-approval stage and was informed by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHAR) prepared to support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Jacobs, 2021a) for the Project.

Snowy Hydro has undertaken site surveys, consultation, and preparation of this CHMP, including approval from the Department. The Principal Contractor's role is implementation of the CHMP, with Snowy Hydro undertaking reporting obligations to the Department.

1.3 Existing Environment

A detailed description of the vicinity with respect to cultural heritage is provided in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment appended to the Environmental Impact Statement. A summary of the Project Site environment is provided below.

The Project Site is located at Hart Road, Loxford, about one kilometre (km) east of the M15 Hunter Expressway and about three km's north of the town of Kurri Kurri (see Figure 1-2 Project location (local)). The Project is being constructed on the site of the former Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Pty Ltd (Hydro Aluminium) aluminium smelter. The smelter, which operated at the site from 1969 until 2012, was closed in 2014. Since its closure, the former aluminium smelter has undergone a staged demolition and site (soil) remediation process, including the removal of all below ground infrastructure and structures, which is scheduled to be completed by 2023.

Owing to its former use, the Project Site is a highly disturbed industrial landscape, in a relatively isolated location surrounded by forest and rural or semi-rural land uses. The land is generally flat and lies at the edge of the extensive Hunter River floodplain. The Hunter River flows through the town of Maitland approximately nine km northeast of the Project Site. Surrounding land uses consist of scattered rural residential dwellings, light industry, a TAFE college, utilities (wastewater treatment plant, electricity easements and substation), a speedway, and rural land. The nearest dwelling is situated at Loxford, just over one km southeast of the Project Site.

1.4 Construction activities

The key construction activities for the Project are summarised in **Error! Reference source not found.**, and are covered under the CEMS unless noted otherwise. Potential impacts associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage are provided in Section 3. In addition to the construction activities outlined in **Error! Reference**

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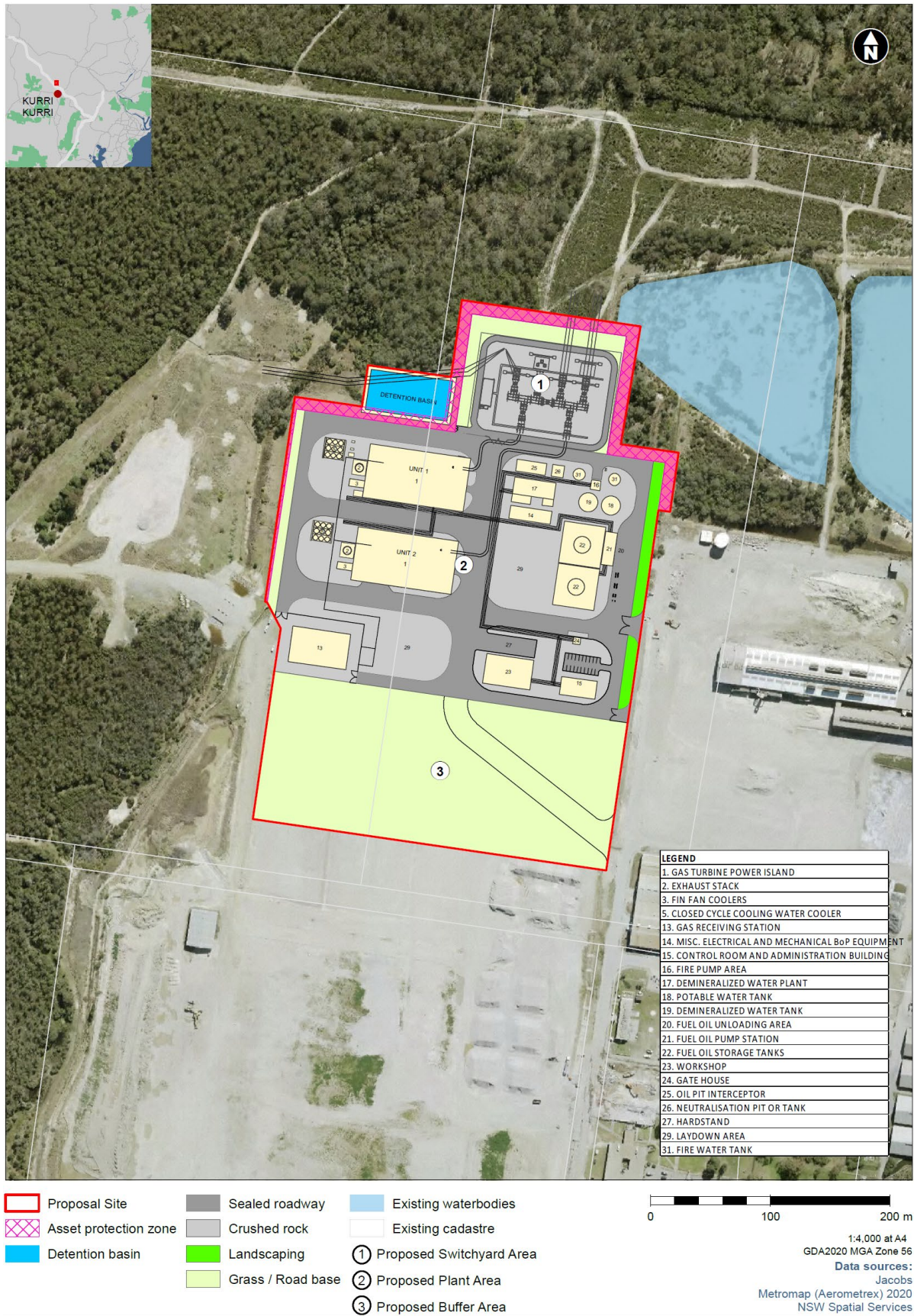


Figure 1-3 Site layout

Table 1-1 Construction stages and activities

, the pre-construction and site earthworks stages are largely associated with vegetation clearance, site preparation and establishment of site erosion and sediment controls. Tasks specific to these stages include:

- Installation of exclusion fencing, noting that that the fencing would be equal to or smaller than the Project Site
- Cutting/ tree removal and brush cutting of vegetation
- Chipping of woody material and stockpiling for reuse or removal off the Project Site
- Stripping of topsoil within the northern areas of the Project Site and stockpiling for reuse
- Earthworks to grade the site towards the northwest corner of the Project Site
- As part of the earthworks, the Principal Contractor may also excavate the provisional sediment/ stormwater basin and associated discharge/overflow to the creek with suitable scour protection. The latter would require an Environmental Work Method Statement (EWMS) to be compiled by the Principal Contractor for endorsement by the Environmental Representative (ER).

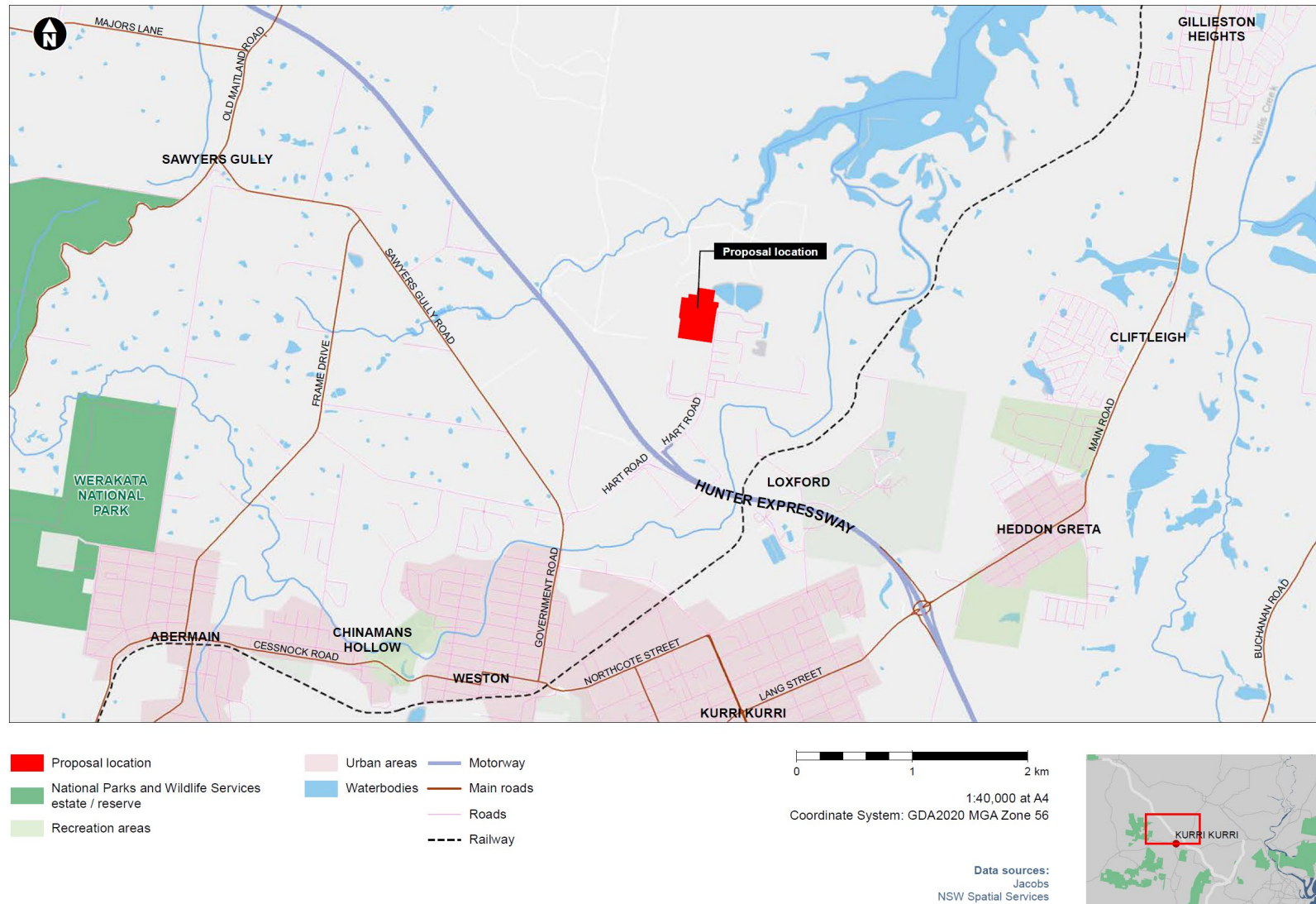


Figure 1-1 Project location (regional)

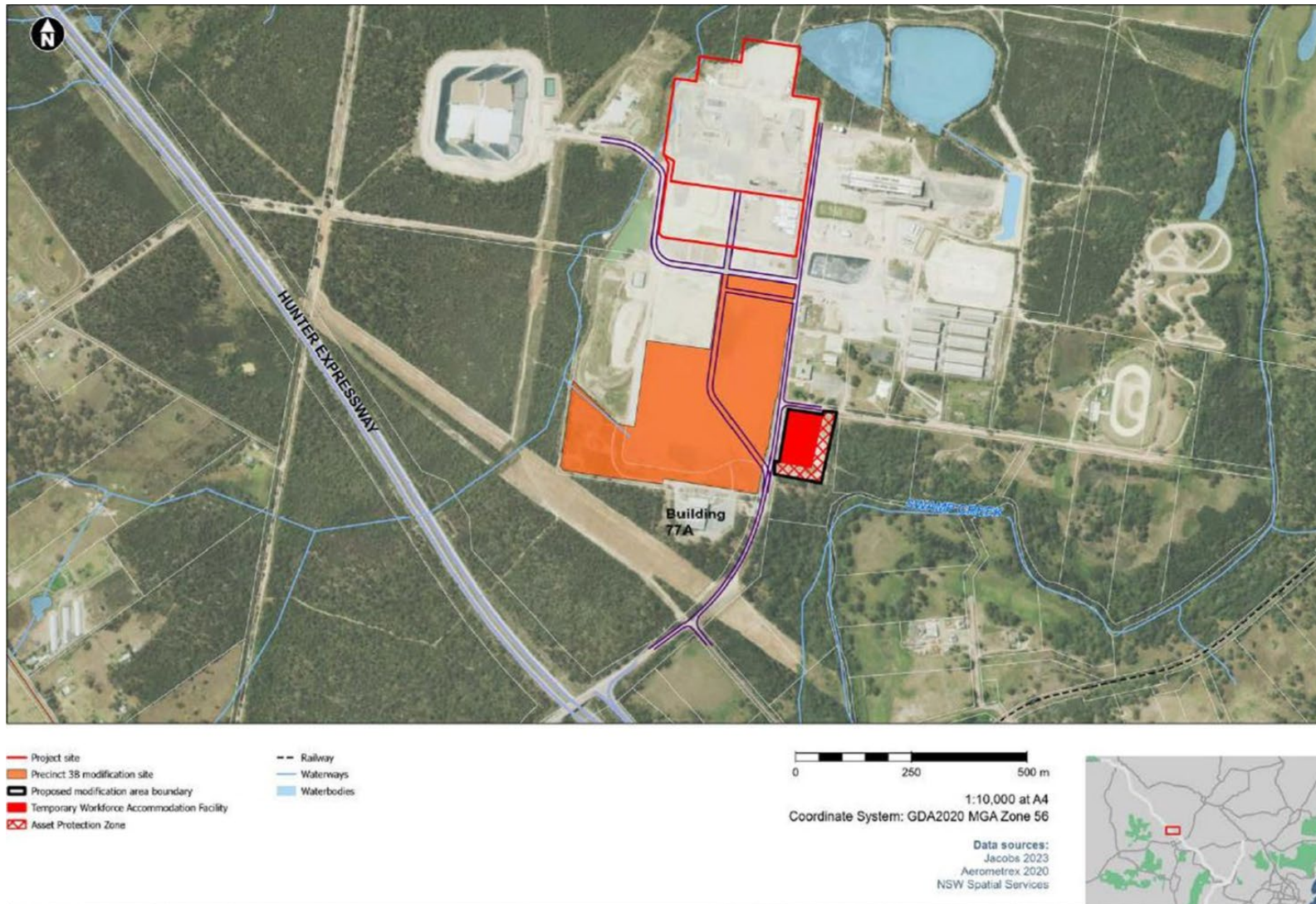


Figure 1-2 Project location (local)

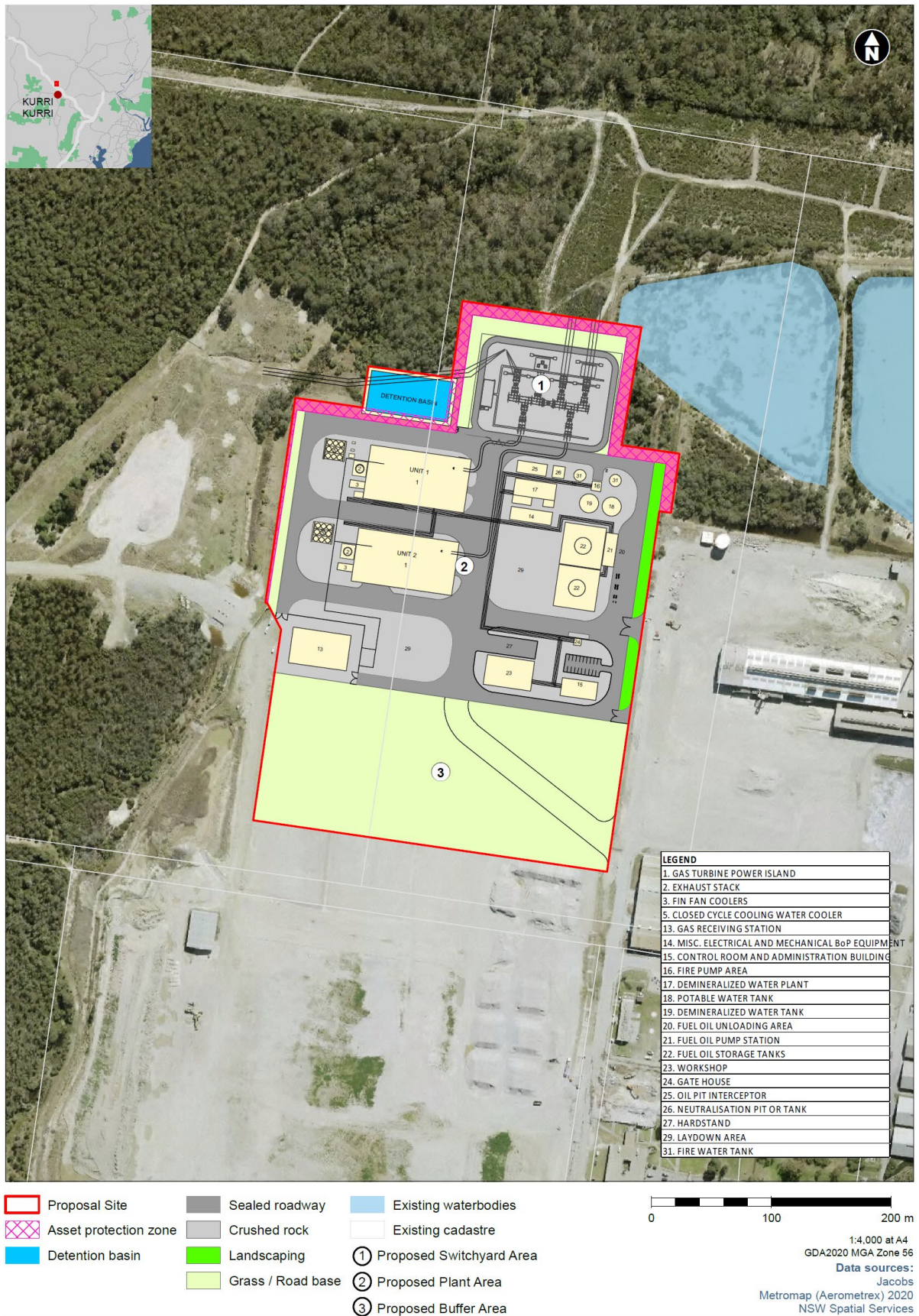



Figure 1-3 Site layout

Table 1-1 Construction stages and activities

Construction stage	Construction activity program	Activity details
Pre-construction/ site establishment	Site access, civil works, and road construction to establish site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Installation of environmental controls, which includes temporary sheds, amenities, fencing, erosion and sediment controls, laydown/stockpiling areas, site surveys ▪ Construction of reinforced concrete pavement to support heavy vehicles (up to B-double size) ▪ Initial internal road building and internal road layout design to account for turning paths of large vehicles, cranes, and articulated vehicles, so that movements in and out can be made in a forward direction ▪ Roadworks and hardstand areas to be constructed for car parking, delivery/laydown areas ▪ Where required, bunded areas for delivery, handling, and storage of fuel and other hazardous material will be constructed.
Construction	Switchyard site preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clearing of vegetation
Site establishment and construction	Earthworks to prepare the Project Site and construction areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial site clearing and grading works. Earthworks involve small amounts of cut and fill to achieve the necessary design levels across the site ▪ Trenching for underground utilities and services will be installed such as stormwater, water and sewer reticulation, electrical cables, and (internal) gas pipes between the gas receiving station and the gas turbine locations ▪ Preparation and construction of foundations. Deep piling is expected to support the heaviest infrastructure. Final numbers and depth of foundation piles will be subject to detailed design, as is the piling method (bored, driven, vibration piling) ▪ Reinforced concrete slabs will be constructed in certain pavement areas, with other areas being surfaced with crushed rock or other suitable materials.
Construction	Balance of plant, switchyard construction, and turbine installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Installation of major plant items associated with the gas turbines including all above ground civil, mechanical, electrical plant equipment ▪ Installation of electrical switchyard
Commissioning	Commissioning and testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program of testing and certification of all Project components, systems, and processes to demonstrate the Project can operate to the required standards before commencing operation. This includes two stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cold commissioning stage: comprised of standard construction type activities ▪ Hot commissioning stage: comprised of burning fuel to set up the operational plant and test it
Post-construction / demobilisation	Demobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal of construction equipment, site fencing and construction compounds ▪ Installation and establishment of landscaping.

1.5 Objectives

Snowy Hydro commits to the implementation of the approved CHMP.

The objective of this CHMP is to provide guidance on the process of identifying and managing Aboriginal objects in the post-approval phase of the Project through:

- Ongoing consultation with RAPs and Heritage NSW – ACH to ensure the conservation and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage on the Project Site
- Provide information to ensure workers receive suitable Aboriginal cultural heritage inductions
- Develop long term strategies to protect, monitor and/or manage, and store identified Aboriginal objects
- Implement an unexpected finds protocol.
- Construct the project in accordance with the Project EIS mitigation measures and Infrastructure Approval conditions, as modified 1 March 2023.

1.6 Associated management plans

Other plans that provide associated information relevant to the management of cultural heritage include:

- CEMS – demonstrates systems and procedures to ensure that controls are established and maintained to manage potential environmental impacts, compliance, and performance throughout construction and commissioning of the Project in accordance with applicable legislative requirements, and the Infrastructure Approval conditions. This plan uses information gathered during planning through to operation to allow information continuity and transfer between the Proponent, Principal Contractor/s, and all teams working on each phase of the Project. Legislation and regulations related to the Project are also referenced within the CEMS.

1.7 Infrastructure Approval conditions

The cultural heritage management requirements identified in the Infrastructure Approval conditions, as modified 1 March 2023, provided by the Department for the CHMP are listed in Table 1-2. A cross reference is also included to indicate where the conditions and requirements are addressed in this CHMP.

Table 1-2 Infrastructure Approval conditions – Cultural heritage requirements

Condition	Requirement(s)	Where addressed
B43	Prior to the commencement of construction, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The plan must:	
	be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons	Document history (and additional information provided to the Department)
	be prepared in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties and Heritage NSW – ACH	Section 1.8, Section 4.1 and Appendix A
	be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval prior to carrying out construction under this approval	Noted
	describe the measures to be implemented on the site to:	
	ensure workers receive suitable Aboriginal cultural heritage inductions prior to carrying out any activities which may cause impacts to Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places, and that suitable records are kept of these inductions	Section 4.2

Condition	Requirement(s)	Where addressed
	protect, monitor and/or manage Aboriginal objects, including an archaeological monitoring program which includes a methodology for test and/or salvage excavations of intact alluvial deposits, and measures for the long-term management of Aboriginal objects if discovered during construction	Section 4.3
	protect Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places located outside the approved disturbance area from impacts of the development	Section 4.2
	manage the discovery of suspected human remains and any new Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places, including provisions for burials, over the life of the development	Section 4.7
	facilitate ongoing consultation and involvement of Registered Aboriginal Parties in the conservation and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage on the site	Section 4.1
	An unexpected finds protocol	Section 4.7
	Include a strategy for the care, control and storage of Aboriginal objects salvaged on the site, both during the life of the development and in the long term.	Section 4.6
	The Proponent must implement the approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.	This CHMP

1.8 Consultation

It is a requirement of Infrastructure Approval Condition B43(b) that the original version of the CHMP was prepared in consultation with RAPs and Heritage NSW-ACH. A draft copy of the draft CHMP was sent to RAPs and Heritage NSW-ACH for comment in November 2021 and a summary of this consultation is provided in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3 Consultation feedback and response

Agency	Feedback	Response and section reference
RAPs	Please see Appendix A for a record of the Aboriginal stakeholder consultation	Appendix 0
Heritage NSW-ACH	"We do not currently have capacity to review the draft ACHMP. If you have any specific questions or issues you would like Heritage NSW-ACH advice on please let me know by return email".	Noted

1.9 Document Review

Document review, endorsement, and the approval process is detailed in the CEMS. This is applicable to this CHMP.

1.10 Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities are outlined in Table 1-4. The procedures and responsibilities for reporting of incidents and compliance are set out in the CEMS.

Table 1-4 Key roles and responsibilities

Group	Role
RAPs	Undertake monitoring of earthworks and advising on cultural heritage values, such as providing input to site inductions regarding cultural heritage, and recovery of unexpected finds should that occur.
Archaeologist	Providing direction of earthworks with respect to monitoring/testing for artefacts, guiding of the RAPs during this process, and providing specific advice to the Principal Contractor and Snowy Hydro.
Principal Contractor Site Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Manager	Undertake construction and commissioning works in accordance with this CHMP, primarily engaging the RAPs and archaeologist to monitor/test earthworks, and implementation of mitigation measures in this CHMP.
Principal Contractor Approvals Manager	Establish the Principal Contractor systems and process to implement site environmental management in accordance with this CHMP and provide ongoing support to the site team.
Snowy Hydro Site HSE Lead	Oversight of the Principal Contractor's implementation of this CHMP and point of contact for reporting obligations. Communicating advice to the site team, and site presence for Contractor implementation of this CHMP and environmental obligations
Snowy Hydro Environment Manager	Preparation of this CHMP and obtaining approval of the plan from the Department in accordance with condition B43(c). Providing advice to the site team, and site presence where required for the Contractor implementation of this CHMP and environmental obligations. Revision of the CHMP as required and informing the RAPs of findings.
Environmental Representative	The ER role is detailed in the CEMS. The ER's principal role with respect to this plan is to review, comment, and endorse the plan and any revisions/ minor amendments in accordance with Infrastructure Approval Condition A23.
The Department	The Department's primary role is to set out the conditions of approval, and to review and approve the CHMP, administer modifications to the approval and significant changes to management plans (which cannot be endorsed by the ER), and oversee compliance of the Project to the Infrastructure Approval.

2. Legislation and policy framework

2.1 Legislation and policy

This CHMP has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements, policies, and procedural guidelines applicable to Aboriginal heritage and its protection in NSW (Table 2-1).

Table 2-1 Summary of relevant legislation

Legislation	Description	Implication for this CHMP
<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (EP&A Act)	The EP&A Act establishes a system of environmental planning and assessment of development proposals for the State.	Infrastructure Approval Condition B43 and obligations have been incorporated into the CHMP.
<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (NPW Act)	The NPW Act provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal places and objects. In order to undertake a proposed activity which is likely to involve harm to an Aboriginal place or object, it is necessary to obtain an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP), to be issued under Section 90 of the Act.	Impact to Aboriginal heritage items have been identified for the project. Impacts consistent with SSI 12590060 do not require approval under Section 90 of the NPW Act. Management of Aboriginal heritage is outlined in Section 3 of this plan.
<i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i>	The <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> is administered by the NSW Department of Human Services -Aboriginal Affairs. This Act established Aboriginal Land Councils (at State and Local levels). These bodies have a statutory obligation under the Act to; (a) take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area, subject to any other law, and (b) promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area. The Project site is within the boundary of the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).	The Project Site is not subject to a claim under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act</i> .
<i>Native Title Act 1994</i> (NSW)	The <i>Native Title Act 1994</i> (NSW) was introduced to work in conjunction with the Commonwealth <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> . Native Title claims, registers and Indigenous Land Use Agreements are administered under the Act.	A search of the National Native Title Tribunal database was completed on 17 August 2021. There are no Native Title claims currently registered in the Project Site.

2.2 Guidelines

Several guidelines and standards relating to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage have been used as part of the assessment process. These include:

- *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010a)
- *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010b)

-
- *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (Office of Environmental and Heritage [OEH] 2011).*

3. Potential impacts

3.1 Physical limit of works

Snowy Hydro commits to ensuring the development does not cause any direct or indirect impacts on cultural heritage or heritage items located outside the approved development footprint, including Aboriginal Places and Aboriginal objects.

As disturbance will occur to the whole of the Project Site, demarcation maps within the Project Site boundary have not been established.

No works will be conducted outside of the Main Power Station Site, Precinct 3B and the Temporary Worker Accommodation Facility identified on Figure 1-2. The Principal Contractor will be required to demarcate the boundary and have a physical barrier so that no excursion outside of the boundary can occur. Should there be an excursion outside the boundary, this will be treated as an incident with the Principal Contractor required to notify Snowy Hydro, and Snowy Hydro will report the incident to the Department accordingly through the Major Projects website.

Note that certain works may occur outside of the Project boundary if approved by following completion of a Consistency Assessment endorsed by the ER, or approval of a Modification by the Department.

The site compounds for the workforce are located in the south eastern corner of the area bounded by the red line shown in Figure 1-3. In addition, the land immediately south of the Project Site known as Precinct 3B (refer to **Error! Reference source not found.**) has been added to the Project Area for use as temporary additional area for certain works (laydown, parking for vehicles, haulage and hard standing area) prior to operation of the development as a result of the approval of Modification 1 on 1 March 2023. Regrowth / Hydro have undertaken surface preparation works on Precinct 3B for the Project consistent with their existing approvals as per the licence (lease) agreement with Snowy Hydro. Similarly, Modification 2 was approved on 16 November 2023 resulting in the addition of a small area of land to house a Temporary Worker Accommodation Facility for the remaining duration of the construction phase of the project for which Regrowth / Hydro completed surface preparation works under the existing licence agreement.

3.2 Piling works

The piling works will impact only the potential deposits within the area of the actual piles, nominally 0.5 metres in diameter and up to 20 metres in length (depth to bedrock) and estimated to be some 80 in number. The surrounding material will be preserved beneath the concrete slab foundations and introduced fill currently present on the Project Site. Testing to determine the nature and extent of any potential subsurface deposits could not be undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the investigation of Aboriginal objects* (DECCW, 2010a), due to the depth.

It is proposed to undertake monitoring of the piling works according to the methodology outlined below. The methodology includes a program for recovery of Aboriginal objects if they are identified.

3.3 Bulk excavation works

In the areas of bulk excavation for the gas turbine footings and for the provisional stormwater basin, test excavation in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the investigation of Aboriginal objects* (DECCW, 2010a) is also not possible due to the depth of fill (potentially under 1.5 metres of fill from the former Kurri Kurri aluminum smelter earthworks) coupled with the depth of the underlying alluvial deposits and due to the presence of the existing live high voltage electrical switchyard.

Monitoring / testing will be undertaken of the bulk excavation of both the turbine footings and provisional stormwater basin according to the methodology outlined below.

In addition to the gas turbine footings and basin excavations, some smaller shallower excavations may also intrude into undisturbed natural ground. Depending on the findings associated with the other bulk excavation, monitoring will extend to these areas as well.

Proposed excavations and proposed piling areas, as well as indicative depths are shown in Figure 3-1 below.

3.4 Fencing and site access

Temporary site fencing will be located on the red line identified in Figure 1-2 Project location (local). Permanent fencing for the operational period of the development is expected to replace the temporary fencing in the same location.

Site access is identified on both Figure 1-2 Project location (local) above and Figure 3-1 below. Access to the location is from Hart Road which runs from the freeway intersection to the Project Site.

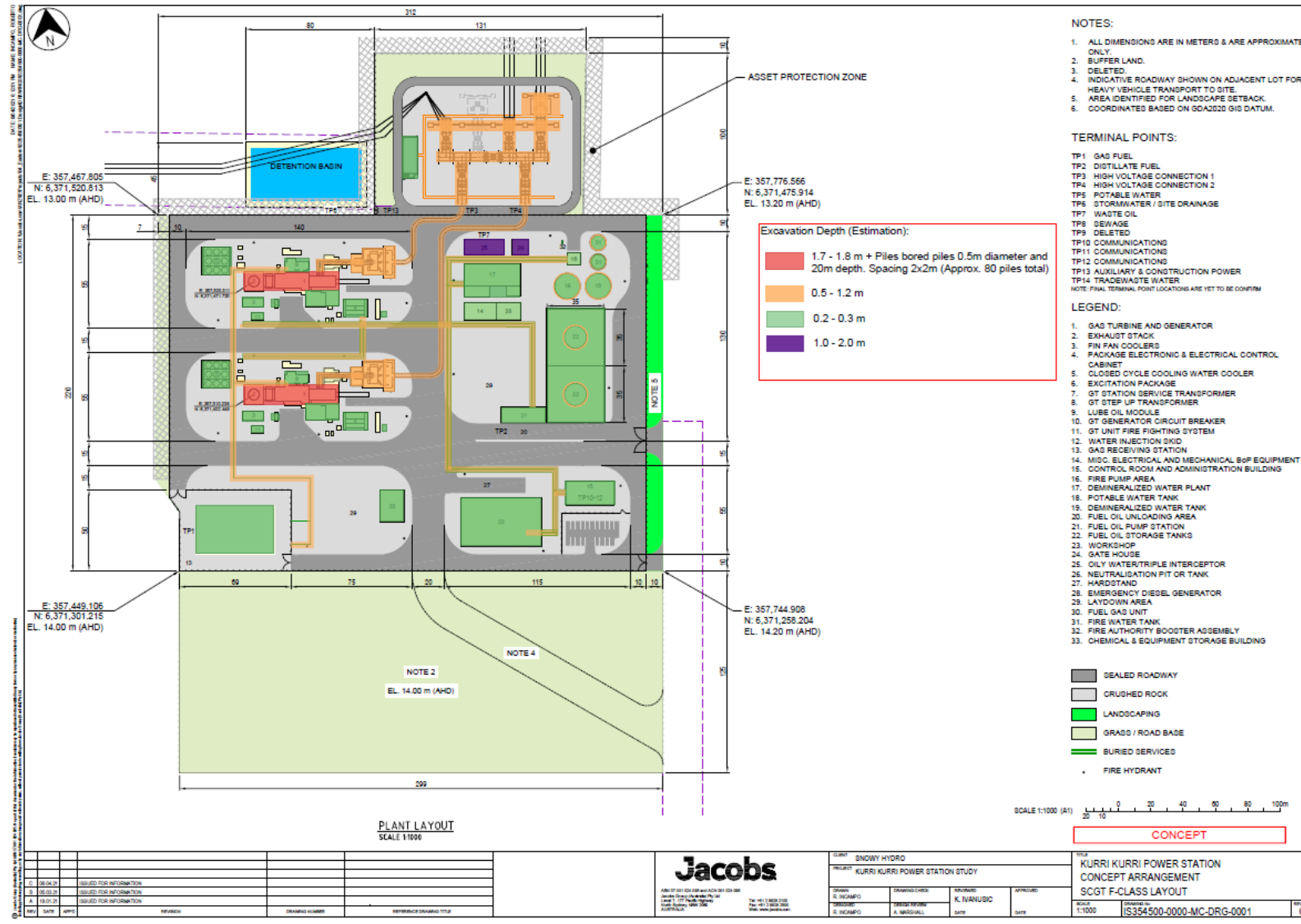


Figure 3-1 Proposed excavation works

4. Mitigation and management measures

CHMP mitigation measures to manage potential impacts to cultural heritage include:

- Continuing Aboriginal community consultation
- Cultural awareness training
- Archaeological monitoring / testing program
- Staged archaeological excavations
- Long term storage procedures of Aboriginal objects
- Unexpected find protocol.

The proposed techniques detailed in the EIS, including the timing, frequency, and responsibility for implementing each measure are outlined in Table 4-1. These measures are to be applied as and when any of these activities are undertaken. Additional detailed mitigation measures are provided in Sections 4.1 through to Section 4.7.

Table 4-1 EIS management and mitigation measures

EIS mitigation measure reference	Proposed mitigation measure	Responsibility	Timing	Section of CHMP
AH1	<p>During site inductions for the Project’s construction, all members of the construction workforce will undergo cultural awareness training. The training, to be coordinated by the Principal Contractor, will incorporate material provided by the RAPs, with the specific aim of raising awareness of the cultural heritage values held by the local Aboriginal community, in respect of the Project Site and surrounding land.</p>	Principal contractor	Construction	Section 4.2
AH2	<p>In the areas where the deep alluvium will be impacted through piling or bulk excavation works for the Project, this will be monitored by an archaeologist and a representative of the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). Any Aboriginal objects uncovered during these activities will be collected and their location recorded on AHIMS, in accordance with s89a of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>The artefact assemblage will be temporarily stored and analysed. Long term management of those objects will be determined by the RAPs.</p>	Principal contractor	Construction	Section 4.3.4, 4.4.4
AH3	<p>If skeletal remains are uncovered during the course of works, all work must stop immediately in the vicinity of the remains and the area secured, so that no further harm occurs.</p> <p>If it is identified that the skeletal remains are likely to be human and are likely to represent a crime scene, the NSW Police must be called in the first instance. The NSW Police will determine the appropriate course of action.</p> <p>If it is identified that the skeletal remains are likely to be human and are likely to represent Aboriginal ancestral remains, or human remains that will require consideration under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal), both the NSW Police and Heritage NSW must be called. Heritage NSW will determine the appropriate course of action.</p> <p>Work may not recommence in this area until either NSW Police or Heritage NSW provide authorisation.</p> <p>If the remains are identified as Aboriginal, discussions and negotiations will need to occur with the relevant Aboriginal communities and Heritage NSW to determine the most appropriate course of action. These discussions will be led by Heritage NSW.</p> <p>If it is identified that the skeletal remains are not human, appropriate recording must take place and works can continue.</p>	Principal contractor	Construction	Section 4.7

4.1 Continued Aboriginal community consultation

4.1.1 ACHAR and CHMP phase

The engagement and involvement of the Aboriginal community is an important part of the heritage management processes of the Project. Formal Aboriginal consultation commenced in November 2020 during the preparation of the ACHAR. The process resulted in the identification of 22 stakeholder groups who registered an interest in the Project:

- 1) A1 Indigenous Service
- 2) AGA Services
- 3) Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.
- 4) Cacatua Culture Consultants
- 5) Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
- 6) Didge Ngunawal Clan
- 7) DFTV Enterprises
- 8) Divine Diggers Aboriginal Cultural Consultants
- 9) Gunjeewong
- 10) Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites
- 11) Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated
- 12) Merrigarn
- 13) Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council
- 14) Muragardi
- 15) Murra Bidgee Muilangari Aboriginal Corporation
- 16) Steven Talbott
- 17) Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation
- 18) Wattaka Wonnarua CC Service
- 19) Widescope Indigenous Group
- 20) Wonnarua Elders Council
- 21) Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- 22) Yarrawalk (A division of Tocomwall Pty Ltd).

The nature and results of the consultation are presented in the ACHAR (Jacobs, 2021a).

RAPs were provided with a draft copy of the CHMP for review in November 2021 and feedback as described in Section 1.8 and Appendix A.

4.1.2 Implementation of CHMP phase

Consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders listed above will continue throughout the course of the Project and will include:

- A representative/s of the RAPs (with appropriate Occupational Health and Safety and insurance) will be involved in a site officer capacity in all archaeological investigations and the implementation of any mitigation measures
- RAPs will be provided with any reports outlining the findings of any archaeological investigations or records of the completion of any mitigation measures, for their records.

Site officers will be engaged by the Principal Contractor or Snowy Hydro as per the expression of interest letter sent to all RAPs on 1 December 2021. The terms of engagement will detail the roles and responsibilities of the site officers. Expressions of interests have been received from some RAPs, and the identification and coordination of the RAPs to be involved in fieldwork monitoring of excavations and the expected roster system will be undertaken prior to any earthworks commencing.

All personal and contractors on the Project will need to abide by a Code of Conduct. Snowy Hydro supports and shares the principles of safety, equality, discrimination, privacy and respect.

A copy of this updated CHMP will be made available to all RAPs for information.

4.2 Aboriginal cultural heritage awareness induction

Two levels of cultural heritage training will be provided during the Project:

- Site inductions for workforce will include high level cultural heritage awareness content; and
- Specific training will be provided to members of the workforce involved in earthworks where there is the potential of disturbance to artefacts. This will include implementation of cultural heritage management measures, and unexpected finds protocols (as outlined in Section 4.7).

Site induction content and training will be provided by the relevant health safety environment manager.

Cultural heritage awareness will be provided by a representative of the Mindaribba LALC. Specific training will incorporate material provided by the Mindaribba LALC and mitigation measures specified in this CHMP. As such, only the personnel completing ground disturbing works (labourers, machine operators, etc,) will be required to undergo this training as other staff are unlikely to encounter Aboriginal objects. Records will be kept by the Principal Contractor for all personnel undertaking the site induction and training, including the contents of the training, date and name of trainer/s.

No impacts beyond the Project Site are anticipated and the controls contained within the CEMS will address the risk of any offsite impacts.

4.3 Archaeological monitoring / test excavation program

4.3.1 General approach

Three separate rounds of archaeological monitoring / test excavations are proposed and include the following:

- Test excavation of the near surface layers (surface to 1.5 metres depth) and site walkover of exposed surface
- Test excavation of mid surface layers (1.5 – 4.5 metre depth)
- Monitoring of the deep piles (4.5 - 18 metre depth) layers

The decision to sieve more material for each stage of the monitoring/ test excavation of surface and sub-surface material will be based on the following triggers:

- Archaeological features such as hearths and/or middens
- High densities of the stone artefacts
- Features indicating the presence of heritage items identified by the heritage practitioner and the Aboriginal stakeholder representatives.

If these triggers are not met, then test excavation and monitoring will cease and the unexpected finds policy outlined in Section 4.7 below will be applicable.

If Aboriginal objects are identified through monitoring, the location will be recorded on the AHIMS, in accordance with Section 89a of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Snowy Hydro also commits to implement measures for the long-term management of Aboriginal objects if discovered during execution of the Project. The specific measures are not able to be detailed until the values and nature of the objects or artefacts are known. However, Snowy Hydro commits to determine the specific

measures in consultation with the respective Aboriginal owners of the cultural heritage values impacted, and to engage an archaeologist for specific advice.

The specific RAPs involved in the fieldwork will be drawn from the five groups who responded to the Expression of Interest process.

4.3.2 Test excavation program for near surface layers and site survey walkover

A first round of cultural heritage archaeological investigation is proposed and will include test excavation of the near surface soil layers and a site walkover. The upper approximately 1 metre of material underlying the Project Site is understood to be comprised of disturbed/ fill material of low archaeological potential. Two to four test excavations are proposed in areas of the site that appear to have the most intact soils to determine the archaeological potential. In addition, any open excavations or exposed portions of the site between the surface to approximately 1.5 metre deep will be inspected and a site survey/ walkover will be conducted to check for artefacts on recently disturbed ground surfaces.

The intention of the first round of archaeological investigations is to ascertain the potential for heritage artefacts to be present in the shallow (surface to approximately 1.5 metre depth) material and was conducted in the week ending 29 April 2022. This included undertaking test excavations at four locations, a systematic survey of the surface of the accessible areas of the Project Site, as well as an inspection of a large area measuring approximately 150 metres x 300 metres where the sub-soil was exposed.

No artefacts were found as part of the site surface survey or test excavations completed for the first cultural heritage archaeological investigation. Given the extensive and gross disturbance of the Project Site and the absence of artefacts, NSW Archaeology concluded that the surface and near surface layers of the Project Site have negligible heritage potential and sensitivity. The RAP representatives strongly agreed with these conclusions.

4.3.3 Test excavation program for mid depth layers

A second round of cultural heritage archaeological investigation is proposed and includes test excavation of the mid-depth (i.e 1.5 metre to 4.5 metre depth) soil horizon material to test for Aboriginal heritage potential. The second round of cultural heritage archaeological investigation was conducted in the week ending 22 July 2022 and took place in the vicinity of the proposed stormwater basin in the north western portion of the Project Site. The top 1.5m was removed from the surface by means of an excavator. Thereafter, three 1 metre layers were systematically excavated and sampled, reaching depths of 2.5 metre, 3.5 metre and 4.5 metre. Over 300 litres of material from each of the three layers was sieved. No artefacts were found, and the RAPs were unanimously confident that nothing would be found from increasing the sample size. The RAPs agreed that the archaeological potential for the site within the mid depth horizon was negligible.

As a result of the work undertaken near the stormwater basin, the test excavations originally anticipated to be undertaken in the more disturbed area associated with the turbine foundations was not required.

4.3.4 Monitoring of the deep piles

A third round of cultural heritage archaeological investigation is proposed and includes monitoring of the excavation material from the deep piles to test for Aboriginal heritage potential. Based on the findings of the geotechnical report (Jacobs 2021b), it is understood that the alluvium will extend to a maximum depth of 6 metres and that a layer of archaeological sterile material (degraded bedrock) will be present below the alluvium.

Testing of the deep material (from some 4 metres to about 18 metres below the current surface) that may be impacted by the piles will be undertaken and subject to cultural heritage archaeological investigation. Paramount to this third round of archaeological investigation is the safety of contractors undertaking the piling, archaeologists and RAPs. Based on a risk assessment some refinements to the proposed process are required and are described in this revised management plan. Changes proposed, primarily include removing material from each sampling horizon that is accessed by the drilling auger with an excavator and placing the spoil carefully into piles. The contractor will then manually fill the requisite number of buckets (say 30 per horizon per pile site) and transport them to a remote sieving station for the cultural heritage test excavation team to assess.

It is proposed to collect material from the 4-5 metre horizon, 6-7 metre horizon, 9-10 metre horizon and 14-15 metre horizon. It is proposed that material from these same four horizons will be collected for at least two

separate piles or as agreed by the archaeologist and RAPs on site. The decision to sieve more material for each stage of the test excavation of surface and sub-surface material will be based on the triggers described in Section 4.3.1. If these triggers are not met, then monitoring of the piling works will cease and the unexpected finds policy outlined in Section 4.7 below will be applicable.

4.4 Staged archaeological excavations

4.4.1 General approach

A staged approach to archaeological excavations was adopted for the round 1 and round 2 test excavations. NSW Archaeology and the RAPs involved in the fieldwork unanimously agreed that no significant archaeological triggers were identified, and therefore further test excavations or 'salvage trenches' were not required. The need for further test excavation was guided by the following triggers:

- Material associated with Aboriginal objects that could be used for absolute dating
- Relative density of artefacts retrieved during Stage 1 excavations
- Rare or unusual artefact types
- Unusual raw material types and changes in raw material types
- Archaeological features such as hearths and/or middens
- Cultural material with potential for scientific dating
- Any other features identified by the heritage practitioner and the Registered Aboriginal Party representative/s.

As these triggers were not met, further archaeological excavations were not undertaken, but the unexpected finds policy outlined in Section 4.7 continues to be applied.

The same staged archaeological monitoring approach will be adopted for the deep piles.

4.4.2 Excavation procedure

Each test pit was excavated according to soil horizons where practicable or 100 mm arbitrary splits where defined units are absent. The archaeological excavations were completed with hand tools to minimize harm to any Aboriginal objects and to allow documentation of the archaeological context of the object. As the test pits were safe to enter, the test pits were not bulk excavated mechanically.

All excavated test pits were recorded in detail including photographs, level readings, plans and context sheets. Stratigraphic sections detailing the stratigraphy and features within the excavated deposit will also be drawn. All material retrieved from the excavated test pits was hand sieved through a 5mm mesh. While wet sieving is preferred, rounds 1 and 2 successfully utilized dry sieving which was completed on site close to the excavation area.

4.4.3 Artefact attribute recording

Any Aboriginal objects uncovered will be collected and their location recorded on AHIMS, in accordance with Section 89a of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NP&W Act).

It is anticipated that most, if not all, of objects recovered during the monitoring and testing program will be stone artefacts. These will be analyzed by the heritage practitioner. Several standard attributes will be recorded for every artefact (following requirements of DECCW, 2010a):

- Heat damage
- Post-depositional weathering
- Presence/absence of fresh damage
- Material type
- Artefact type
- Platform surface type

- Platform type
- Termination type
- Cross sectional angle (spine angle) of dorsal surface (flakes only)
- Length in mm
- Width in mm
- Thickness in mm.

Several additional attributes beyond those required by Heritage NSW – ACH (previously referred to as Office of Environment and Heritage), will also be recorded for each artefact, including:

- Flake fragment category (complete, proximal fragment, distal fragment etc.)
- Type of cortex and amount of cortex on dorsal surfaces of flakes
- On retouched flakes, various observations of the retouched edges, including retouch type, invasiveness, height of retouch scars
- On cores, various observations including number of core rotations, the orientation of different platforms to one another, whether the core is bipolar or not
- On ground artefacts such as axe/hatchet heads or grindstones, various observations such as size of the ground area, angle of ground edges.

Photographs will be taken of a representative sample of artefacts, to create a visual record of the general types of artefacts within the assemblage. Atypical artefacts or artefacts of high significance will also be photographed. Images will be taken from several orientations, following procedures for archival-quality artefact photography (Fisher, 2009; Prokop, 1985).

Further analytical techniques might be employed on a sub-sample of artefacts if it is judged that these techniques have the potential to yield information. Further techniques might include functional analysis through examination of residues or use-wear, for example. Any such analyses will be carried out by a suitably qualified specialist.

Any Aboriginal artefacts that are not made from stone will be analysed using appropriate techniques. Analysis will conform to the requirements of the *Code of Practice* (DECCW, 2010a). Specific analysis procedures will be decided following excavation and will be made from an assessment of the types of artefacts recovered, the materials from which they are made, their condition of preservation, and the information that could be obtained from them.

No destructive analysis of any artefacts will be carried out. Only measurements and observations that have no effect on an artefact's condition will be undertaken.

4.5 Reporting

Within 12 months of the construction being completed, a report summarising any archaeological excavations and/or monitoring undertaken during the works will be developed. Where Aboriginal objects are identified, the report will be lodged to the AHIMS register. Each area investigated, salvaged and/or mitigated in some way will have a brief interim or compliance report developed. This avoids the need to undertake detailed and time-consuming post excavation analysis during the construction. Post excavation analysis will be ongoing throughout the Project, and at, or nearing, completion of the Project, a detailed report on all archaeological works will be compiled.

The following general approach will apply to all reporting:

- A short summary
- Describe Aboriginal consultation undertaken during the project
- Provide details of the Aboriginal objects which were partially or completely harmed (i.e., recovered through the excavations) during the works
- Provide a description of the methods and results of the excavations
- Comment on the effectiveness of the mitigation measures (i.e., salvage excavations)

- Comment on the effectiveness of any management plan if in place
- The current and proposed long term location of any Aboriginal objects recovered
- Details the results of any analysis of recovered Aboriginal objects
- Ensure the necessary Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Forms (ASIRF) are lodged with AHIMS.

4.6 Long term storage of Aboriginal objects

The long-term storage of any recovered Aboriginal objects will be developed in consultation with the RAPs. It is not feasible to rebury the recovered artefacts within the Project area. Therefore, long term management is likely to include (in preferential order):

- Lodged with a RAP under a Care and Control Agreement
- Deposition with the Australian Museum.

The Australian Museum accession policy includes a strict criterion for artefacts that can be accepted, and the assemblage recovered may not be eligible for accession. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that plans are made for any recovered Aboriginal objects to be managed under a Care and Control Agreement. The RAPs will be invited to nominate an appropriate party to be contacted and ask to be the legal custodian of the artefacts.

The final protocol for the management of Aboriginal objects will be finalized following the completion of the works outlined in Section 4.3 and 4.4 above and an assessment of significance.

4.7 Unexpected finds protocol

This protocol is to be followed once all works outlined in Section 4.3 and 4.4 are complete and if a previously unrecorded or unanticipated Aboriginal object (including objects that are suspected to be Aboriginal objects) is encountered during project works. An Aboriginal object is defined by the NP&W Act as:

'any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains.'

This definition includes stone artefacts, midden material, rock art, scarred and carved trees, and burials.

- All ground-disturbing works in the immediate vicinity of the Aboriginal object(s) will cease immediately on discovery of the Aboriginal object. The discoverer of the object will notify machinery operators in the area to ensure work is halted
- The Aboriginal object will not be removed from the area or disturbed in any way and the site supervisor, heritage practitioner and the Principal Contractor will be informed of the discovery
- Heritage practitioner to make a qualified opinion on whether the object is of Aboriginal origin. A swift assessment of the object can preclude further steps in the protocol being carried out, for objects that are identified as not being of Aboriginal origin. If identification of the object cannot be obtained within a short timeframe, or if the object is confirmed to be an Aboriginal object, proceed to the next step
- Notify the following organisations
 - Heritage NSW – ACH, previously referred to as the Office of Environment and Heritage
 - The RAPs associated with the project
- Leave excavations open so that the location where the Aboriginal object was found can be assessed by the heritage practitioner (or another qualified professional)
- Organise the assessment and recording of the find by a suitably qualified heritage professional. This assessment will determine whether the Aboriginal object is from a new or previously recorded site. Following this assessment, site information will be lodged with Heritage NSW – ACH (via registration of the site on the AHIMS database)
- Develop and implement an appropriate management strategy. This will be done in cooperation with the heritage practitioner (or other suitably qualified professional) and the RAPs. Input from Heritage NSW - ACH

may also occur. The strategy developed will depend on variables that include the assessed significance of the Aboriginal object and the assessed likelihood of further Aboriginal objects being present in the area

- The requirements of the management strategy must be complied with prior to the resumption of works in that area.

In the event that possible human skeletal material (remains) is encountered during construction, the following steps will be taken:

- Stop all work in the vicinity of the find (within about 50 metres) and immediately notify the relevant Site Supervisor, who will notify the Principal Contractor and the Project Manager. The Site Supervisor will demarcate the area to protect the possible human skeletal material (remains) and inform all site personnel of restricted access to the area of discovery until further notice
- The Principal Contractor is to record the details, take photos of the find and its context (without causing further excavation or disturbance) and notify the heritage practitioner and the NSW Police
- All directions (including the type and scope of reporting) dictated by the NSW Police, in discussion with the heritage practitioner (where relevant), must be followed
- In the event that the human remains are considered archaeological, and NSW Police release the finds location, the Principal Contractor or heritage practitioner must contact Heritage NSW -ACH on 02 9995 6864. Notification should provide a verbal description of the remains as well as the burial context
- All directions dictated by Heritage NSW - ACH, in discussion with the heritage practitioner (where relevant), must be followed. This may include the need to engage technical specialists (e.g. Forensic Anthropologist), and liaison with the RAPs, to recover the remains
- Work is not to commence in the area unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW – ACH and/or the NSW Police
- Snowy Hydro commits to supporting the provision for reburial and/or support of the respective Aboriginal Owners during this process, and to do so on the direction of the NSW Police and Heritage NSW - ACH.

5. Compliance management

The CEMS is the overarching document outlining compliance management and should be referred to together with this plan. Summary level detail of the requirements of Infrastructure Approval conditions C5 through to C13 (Incident notification and reporting related to non-compliance), C14 (notification of commencements) and C21 (Management Plan reviews) are included in this section so that the reader can operate and manage effectively from a reading of this Plan.

5.1 Monitoring and evaluation of the CHMP

A successful CHMP is one that is appropriate to the cultural heritage present in the Project area and is effective in achieving its aims and objectives. The effectiveness of this CHMP will be monitored regularly to assess its performance and identify opportunities for improvement.

The monitoring and evaluation process will be designed to:

- Identify areas of opportunity for improvement of environmental management which leads to improved environmental performance
- Determine the root cause or causes of non-conformances and deficiencies
- Develop and implement a plan of corrective and preventative action to address non-conformances and deficiencies
- Verify the effectiveness of the corrective and preventative actions
- Document any changes in procedures resulting from process improvement.

The monitoring and evaluation process will comprise the following:

- Reviewing and revising this document at intervals of 6 months to ensure the management measures remain applicable. This will also involve providing the RAPs with a project update
- Update of this document with any newly identified and relevant information (the findings of the archaeological investigations, revisions to the proposed works, etc.) as soon as possible
- Issuing of the revised CHMP to all RAPs with a request for input, where appropriate. *Note that the nature of the updates are such that Snowy Hydro are issuing this Approved version 2 of the CHMP for information only.*

Snowy Hydro will initiate the 6-month review and ensure that this document is appropriately updated in a timely manner. The heritage practitioner will contribute to updating this document with the results of any archaeological investigations.

5.2 Update of the CHMP

This plan will be updated and revised in accordance with the review process set out in the CEMS, until the completion of the ground disturbance phase of the Project. Changes to this plan will be approved by Snowy Hydro and minor amendments to the plan endorsed by the ER in accordance with Condition of Approval A23(c).

A copy of the updated plan and changes will be emailed to all RAPs for their records. The latest version of this plan will be available for all Project personnel and lodged on Snowy Hydro's public website.

6. References

DECCW (2010a). *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water)

DECCW (2010b). *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*

Fisher, L. (2009). Photography for Archaeologists. Part II: Artefact Recording, British Archaeological Jobs Resource.

Jacobs (2021a). *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment*. Prepared for Snowy Hydro Limited. Reference IS354500, Revision 0, 13 April 2021.

Jacobs (2021b) *Hunter Power Project: Hunter Power Project Development Geotechnical Report*. Prepared for Snowy Hydro Limited. Reference IS354500, Revision A, 21 April 2021.

OEH 2011. *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environmental and Heritage)

Prokop, E. (1985). "A method to photograph stone tools." *Journal of Field Archaeology* 12(2): 251 - 255.

Appendix A - Aboriginal stakeholder consultation records

Summary of comments received and responses on the draft CHMP in November – December 2021

Name of organisation	Feedback (verbatim)	Response
Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites	<p>Arthur Fletcher made a phone call in which he stated that he knows most of the groups that are local and can see that there are some groups registered which may not be local. He stated that the local community would be upset if non-local groups were involved in the fieldwork and would like to know how groups will be chosen to participate.</p> <p>Arthur noted that he has worked at the Kurri Kurri smelter and thinks that Aboriginal objects may be present in a disturbed context. He noted that he would speak to the Elders and provided additional comment.</p>	R. Taddeucci noted that an expression of interest document has been drafted and at the time of the phone was awaiting approval from the Proponent. The strategy for engagement of fieldworks will be finalised and issued shortly.
Widescope Indigenous Group	Please check and resend the attachment, not able to open the draft CHMP.	Draft CHMP resent.
	<p>Thank you for the project information. I have reviewed and support the draft.</p> <p>As for any Aboriginal objects uncovered, my preference would be reburial. If this is not possible I support the long term storage of any recovered Aboriginal objects to be stored in the Australian Museum.</p>	Noted
Muragadi	I have read the draft CHMP for the above project, I agree with the recommendations made.	Noted
Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	<p>We have read through the Draft Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the Hunter Power Project, and our Elders agree with the proposed Recommendations, and would like to mention a few recommendations and concerns.</p> <p>The Awabakal people recognise that the land has over 200 years of shared cultural history, overlaid on the traditional culture after European settlement moved into the area, and as the direct Awabakal descendants of the Kuir Kuri region we have attached a Statement of Significance and connection for the document, and would highly recommend that an Acknowledgement of the Awabakal Traditional Owners of the area be included.</p> <p>With regards to Table 2, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, it mentions at the bottom that; ... 'the Project site is within the boundary of the Awabakal LALC', and believe that this information may be incorrect and will need to be clarified, as it is my understanding that the project area is within the Mindaribba LALC boundary.</p> <p>With regards to the continued Aboriginal community consultation within section 4.1 on pages 9-10, we believe that additional information may need to be added to this section as the ACHMP should outline the Registered Aboriginal Party participation and ongoing involvement, as the RAPs are critical for ongoing positive outcomes as they are to be involved in all aspects of the archaeological investigations and the implementation of any mitigation measures. This section doesn't cover the Roles and Responsibilities of the RAPs and believe that as they will be responsible for attending meetings, participating in monitoring, salvage of artefacts and for the</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Table 2 has been updated to reference the Mindaribba LALC.</p> <p>An expression of interest letter was sent to all RAPs on 1 December 2021 to provide further information on the nature of field works and the expectations for site officers representing the RAPs. Further details regarding terms of engagement will be sent</p>

Name of organisation	Feedback (verbatim)	Response
	<p>provision of guidance to Snowy Hydro in relation to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and these aspects should also be included. The RAPs will also be responsible for providing information back to the broader membership of the Registered Aboriginal Party that they represent, and It is the responsibility of the RAPs to ensure that the representative has the required experience and the delegation to act in this capacity. It is also important that all RAPs members of the ACHMP need to work together in a spirit of partnership and to seek mutual understanding.</p> <p>With regards to Section 4.2 on page 10, stating that the purpose of the ACHMP is to; ... 'ensure all workers receive suitable Aboriginal cultural heritage inductions prior to carrying out any activities which may cause impacts to Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places', our Elders highly recommend that our subsidiary company Wannangini Pty Ltd supply the Induction process activity, as we are best placed to deliver bespoke Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Induction Services within our areas of cultural interest, and have extensive experience in delivering tailored Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Awareness Induction Services to vocational training providers such as work sites, government organisations, schools and private companies. Wannangini Pty Ltd would be happy to supply a Fee Proposal for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Awareness Induction on request.</p> <p>With regards to the proposed Archaeological monitoring program within section 4.3 on page 10, we believe that this section should stipulate who the monitoring team will be, as it seems that more than one RAP would be needed depending on the activities such as Monitoring and Staged Archaeological Excavations. We also highly recommend that the monitoring and excavations should be on a roster system so that all the RAPs are given the opportunity to be fairly involved in the project process for the ACHMP.</p> <p>With regards to the long term storage of Aboriginal objects within section 4.6 on page 16, our Elders are concerned that there is no conservation section for the reburial of Aboriginal objects within the Hunter power Project area, and believe that this aspect may need further discussion.</p> <p>We prefer that Aboriginal artefacts remain on country in a protected conservation area to avoid further and/or future impacts. However if this is not possible we would prefer to have the care and control of our Cultural material as recent experiences where Awabakal people are denied access to materials or artefacts sent to areas off country. These artefacts are held in high regard as they are not made overnight, which indicates a significant habitation and continuing revisit by our Ancestors within our Traditional Cultural Boundary.</p> <p>With regards to section 5.1 on page 17, we believe that this section needs to specify who is to implement the ongoing Management of the ACHMP and the Management responsibilities of the review and updates of the document, as this aspect needs to be clear and how it is to be implemented.</p>	<p>following receipt of expressions of interest.</p> <p>It is noted that Wannangini Pty Ltd is available to provide assistance with cultural heritage inductions. This information has been passed on to the proponent for consideration.</p> <p>The expression of interest letter sent to all RAPs on 1 December 2021 explains the proposed selection criteria, and explains that the number of site officers required will be determined by the amount of test excavations and nature of the findings and works.</p> <p>It is understood that there is a preference for all recovered Aboriginal objects to be reburied on site. Work plans have not been finalised and the option for reburial will be considered where possible. Currently it is not considered feasible to rebury Aboriginal objects on site and ensure protection from future harm.</p> <p>As noted in Section 6.1, the Principal Contractor (who will also engage the heritage practitioner) will</p>

Name of organisation	Feedback (verbatim)	Response
	<p>We have a number of concerns that have not been addressed within the Draft ACHMP and believe transparency can bring clarity to the document as these aspects are important.</p> <p>We believe that it is imperative that a section needs to be included outlining the RAPs Contractual Arrangements and Terms of Engagement. This section should provide clear contractual arrangements and Terms of Engagement for the ongoing participation of the Registered Aboriginal Parties, and the details of the contracts and terms to set out the roles and responsibilities of each of the RAPs and be subject to consultation between the Registered Aboriginal Parties and Hunter Power.</p> <p>We also believe that it is imperative that a section regarding Dispute Resolution should be included within the ACHMP, which reflects Hunter Power’s commitment to genuine partnerships and ethical standards of practice, integrity and respect for cultural diversity. All personnel and contractors working for Hunter Power are responsible for acting in accordance with their Code of Conduct and the Principles of a Code of Conduct may need to include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safe, injury free and fatality free workplace that enhances the wellbeing of employees, contractors and communities; fair treatment and equality; commitment to addressing any form of workplace discrimination, bullying, harassment or physical assault; open and two-way engagement and communication; personal information and privacy; and promoting respect and recognition for the value of Aboriginal cultural heritage amongst all its employees. <p>We also recommend that it is imperative that a section regarding Confidentiality, as it has been our experience that occasionally it becomes necessary for Registered Aboriginal Parties to provide information in relation to an artefact, site or area that is of a culturally sensitive nature. This type of information is generally only shared when it becomes necessary to do so to ensure appropriate management of the artefact, site or area. Information of this nature should not be for public disclosure.</p> <p>The Kuri area is part of our Traditional Awabakal Country and is considered by our People to be of great importance within our Cultural Heritage. This area has not just a physical presence within the Cultural Heritage of the Awabakal People, but it is part of our oral history and a place of spiritual significance. The landforms and resources of this locale fulfilled not just the basic needs that underpinned our Peoples subsistence but also satisfied the many other aspects that made up what can be described here as being part of the Cultural foundations of our People. As already previously stated, this area is of high significance to our People and therefore it would be expected that after the many generations of our People that have walked the pathways of their Ancestors, it is obvious that there would be many areas that contain evidence of this connection, resulting from occupation on varying levels.</p>	<p>be responsible for updating the CHMP where required.</p> <p>Noted and agreed. The Principal Contractor or Snowy Hydro will engage the site officers. The terms of engagement will detail the roles and responsibilities of the site officers.</p> <p>All personal and contractors on the Project will need to abide by a Code of Conduct. Snowy Hydro supports and shares the principles of safety, equality, discrimination, privacy and respect.</p> <p>Noted and agreed. The CHMP acknowledges the need for respect and confidentiality.</p>

Name of organisation	Feedback (verbatim)	Response
	<p>There are physical reminders left by our Ancestors which provide us as Descendants of the Awabakal People an opportunity to make a physical connection through time with our Ancestors. This connection is one of those avenues that produce in us the sense of perception, appreciation, familiarity and recognition of who we are and where we belong as Awabakal People, which is our birthright. Therefore the Cultural Value and Significance remains high, which is attributed to our Cultural Heritage understanding of the connectivity and aspects of the regions holistic perspectives, thus emphasizing the importance of the whole, instead of a Scientific/Archaeological Value aspect of the independence of its site specific parts.</p>	
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Didge Ngunawal Clan is happy with everything towards the Hunter Power project.	Noted
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	We agree with the draft.	Noted
Murra Bidgee Muilangari Aboriginal Corporation	I have read the project information and draft CHMP for the above project, I endorse the recommendations made.	Noted
Yarrawalk (A division of Tocomwall Pty Ltd),	<p>Thank you for sending the Draft, Tocomwall is unable to support this draft and this project. As one of the Applicants for the Native Title Party the Plains Clans of the Wonnarua People (PCWP) it has been brought to our attention that this project will in fact impact on and use land that will trigger a non claimant application or Section 29 application under native title.</p> <p>The PCWP claimants are currently preparing a native title claim application that will impact on this project. Could you please advise your client of our position and please confirm you have advised your client of our position.</p>	<p>Noted, a revised search of the National Native Title Tribunal database was completed to confirm that this application is yet to be lodged. No applications are currently registered which overlap with the Project Area.</p> <p>Comments received were sent to the proponent.</p>

Consultation log

Date	To	From	Medium	Brief description
11-November-2021	Muragadi	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Merrigarn	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Gunjeewong	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
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11-November-2021	Cacatua Culture Consultants	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	DFTV Enterprises	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Didge Ngunawal Clan	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Divine Diggers Aboriginal Cultural Consultants	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Murra Bidgee Muilangari Aboriginal Corporation	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021

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11-November-2021	Wattaka Wonnarua CC Service	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Widescope Indigenous Group	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
11-November-2021	Wonnarua Elders Council	Jacobs	email	Draft CHMP for review and comment requesting response by 30-November-2021
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11-November-2021	Jacobs	Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council	email	Out of office auto response
11-November-2021	Jacobs	Muragadi	email	Agree with recommendations
12-November-2021	Jacobs	Widescope Indigenous Group	email	Please check and resend the attachment, not able to open the draft CHMP.
17-November-2021	Jacobs	Murra Bidgee Muilangari Aboriginal Corporation	email	Agree with recommendations
19-November-2021	Jacobs	Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	email	Agree with recommendations
21-November-2021	Jacobs	Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	email	Agree with recommendations
23-November-2021	Jacobs	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	email	Agree with recommendations and would like to suggest additional recommendations and concerns

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24-November-2021	Merrigarn	Jacobs	email	Reminder to provide comment by 30-November-2021
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24-November-2021	Yarrowalk (A division of Tocomwall Pty Ltd),	Jacobs	email	Acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, also noting that comments have been forwarded to the client
25-November-2021	Jacobs	Widescope Indigenous Group	email	Agree with recommendations
25-November-2021	Widescope Indigenous Group	Jacobs	email	Acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, also noting that comments will be recorded in a revised version of the CHMP to be submitted to the Department
25-November-2021	Jacobs	Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites	Phone	Concerned non-local groups being engaged for fieldwork and ratio of RAPs to archaeologists. Notes that most RAPs will not be able to attend online meetings. Notes that the site may be disturbed but artefacts may still be present.
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Appendix B - Expression of Interest letter



1 December 2021



Subject: Hunter Power Project - Expression of interest to undertake fieldwork

Dear 

Further to our previous correspondence regarding review of the draft Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) associated with Development Consent SSI 12590060, the CHMP has been updated and is being submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for approval.

It is anticipated that construction of the project will commence in early February 2022 following the approval of the CHMP. During the construction phase a fieldwork program will be undertaken to satisfy the approval conditions and commitments contained within the CHMP, including engaging an archaeologist and persons from the Registered Aboriginal Parties.

If you are interested in being considered to provide the services outlined in the CHMP in the fieldwork program, please submit an application to ryan.taddeucci@jacobs.com by 15 December 2021.

All applicants for these services must provide a CV which demonstrates that they have satisfactorily participated in previous archaeological fieldwork, and nominate the name of an archaeologist who can be contacted as a referee. Review of the applications will consider an individual's capability, availability, experience and cultural knowledge. In addition to the above selection criteria, preference will be given to applicants who live locally.

Depending on the timing of the project and Main Works Contractor selected to construct the power station, it may be Snowy Hydro or the Main Works Contractor who engages persons for the CHMP fieldwork program.

It will be endeavoured to engage both male and female Aboriginal people to address any gender-specific cultural issues associated with the project site. In order to maintain a consistent standard of work, and the small area and localised nature of the project, the number of persons engaged in the fieldwork program needs to be limited. As a result, it may not be possible to engage persons from all applying groups.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and involvement in the project. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0409 840 165 or ian.smith@snowyhydro.com.au

Yours sincerely

Ian Smith

Approvals Manger

Appendix C - Environmental Representative Endorsements