

Due Diligence Assessment Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

**Part of a
Site Re-development
for the Port of Echuca
Riverboat Access Ramp
Watson Street, Echuca
for
Murray River Council
and
Shire of Campaspe
June 2022**



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Disclaimer

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Executive Summary

This report has been provided as support for a Development Application for a riverboat access ramp and raised walkway to provide improved disabled person access to the riverboats at the Port of Echuca. The Development Application process must proceed through the Murray River Council because the land is owned by NSW below the top bank of the Murray River on the Victorian side of the river.

The study addresses matters relating to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) and provides an information base that will enable planners and stakeholders to understand the local ACH context and assess any impacts of the proposed activity on potential Aboriginal cultural heritage values. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) was previously prepared Rhodes (2018) for the development of the site in 2020.

The archaeological assessment of the proposed walkway within the CHMP area at Watson Street (Figure 2), Echuca was undertaken on 8th June 2022.

The key objectives of the archaeological assessment were to:

1. Locate any existing Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage sites in the area proposed for development and the surrounding lands.
2. Find measures to mitigate any possible damage to potential archaeological finds or cultural heritage sites.
3. Consult representatives of the local Aboriginal community to ascertain their concerns in relation to site heritage issues arising from any proposed works.

The report was prepared following field investigations and updated Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database research, as well as relevant archaeological and environmental information. Aerial imagery and topographic maps relating to the site and surrounding area were also used.

Fieldwork and preparation of the report was undertaken by cultural heritage investigator Peter Clinnick from AES, in liaison with the representative of the Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council – Ms LaToya Morgan.

The key findings are:

- Planned works activities should be approved for Crown Allotment 2084 - Watson Street Echuca without further archaeological investigation.
- The property manager (Campaspe Shire) should keep the Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council apprised of any artefacts unearthed during development and ensure that Aboriginal people have open access to existing sites and any other cultural heritage sites should they be uncovered during the course of any works.
- The recommendations of CHMP Number:15404 must be adhered to.

- The field assessment of the site and the Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council Report indicated that “no artefactual evidence was identified” that had Aboriginal significance and that no further site inspection or monitoring will be required. The presence of the scar tree (VAHR 78250-0506), which is outside the current development activity area should be noted.
- That the archaeological potential of the “development area” (~0.3 ha) is low, because of previous significant ground disturbance and port infrastructure development.

The implementation of the proposed walkway works will have substantial benefits to the local and wider community. Given the extent of previous ground disturbance and infrastructure construction, including concrete walkways, there is an extremely low risk of any impacts relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment Riverboat Ramp Watson Street, Echuca

Introduction

This report has been prepared and is submitted as part of the Murray River Council's Development Approval process for a disabled access river walkway and construction of railings. The report provides information on Aboriginal cultural heritage and recommendations relating to the 2018 Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) No 15404 (Rhodes 2018) that addresses relevant issues at the site of the proposed activity. The report has also been prepared in order to satisfy the requirements of the NSW State National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2001 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984. The Development Application process must proceed through the Murray River Council because the land is owned by NSW below the top bank of the Murray River on the Victorian side of the river.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment of the proposed works area at Watson Street Echuca (~ 0.04 ha) was undertaken by cultural heritage investigator Peter Clinnick from AES in liaison with the representative of the Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council – Ms LaToya Morgan on 8th June 2022.

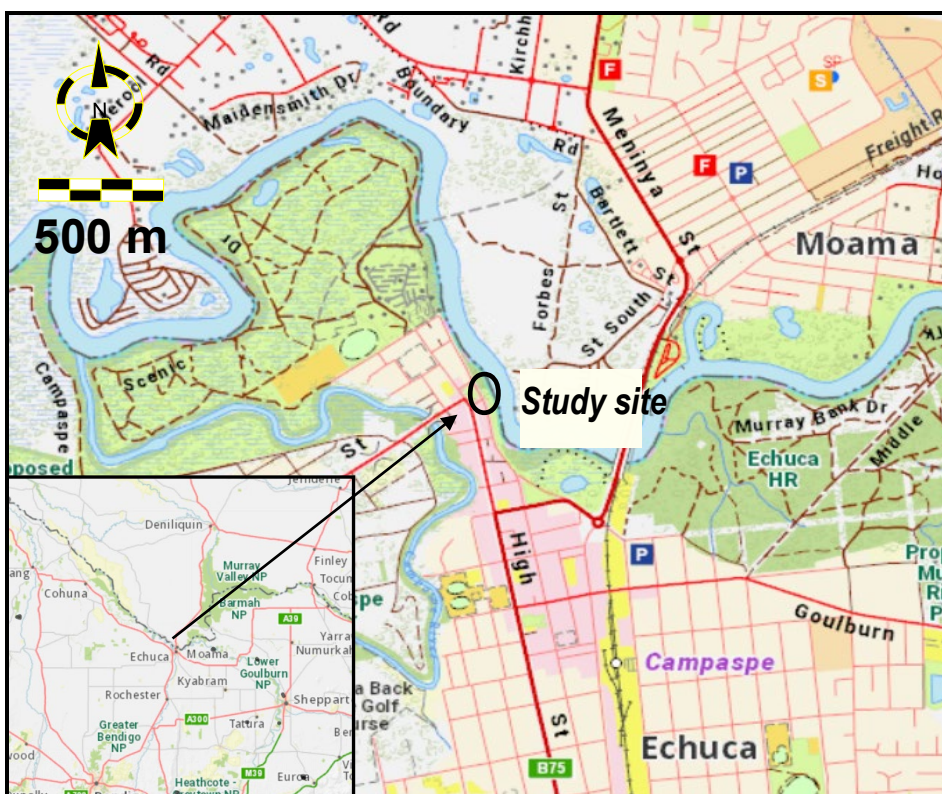


Figure 1. Locality plan



Figure 2. Site overview

The key objectives of the archaeological survey were to:

1. Locate and record any Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage sites in the area proposed for development and surrounding lands;
2. Find measures to mitigate any possible damage to potential archaeological finds or cultural heritage sites;
3. Consult representatives of the local Aboriginal community to ascertain their concerns in relation to any site heritage issues relating to the proposed development.

Table 1. GPS extent of development

Corner	Zone	Easting	Northing
NW	55H	297130	6000640
SW	55H	297120	6000627
NE	55H	297210	6000541
SE	55H	297194	6000530

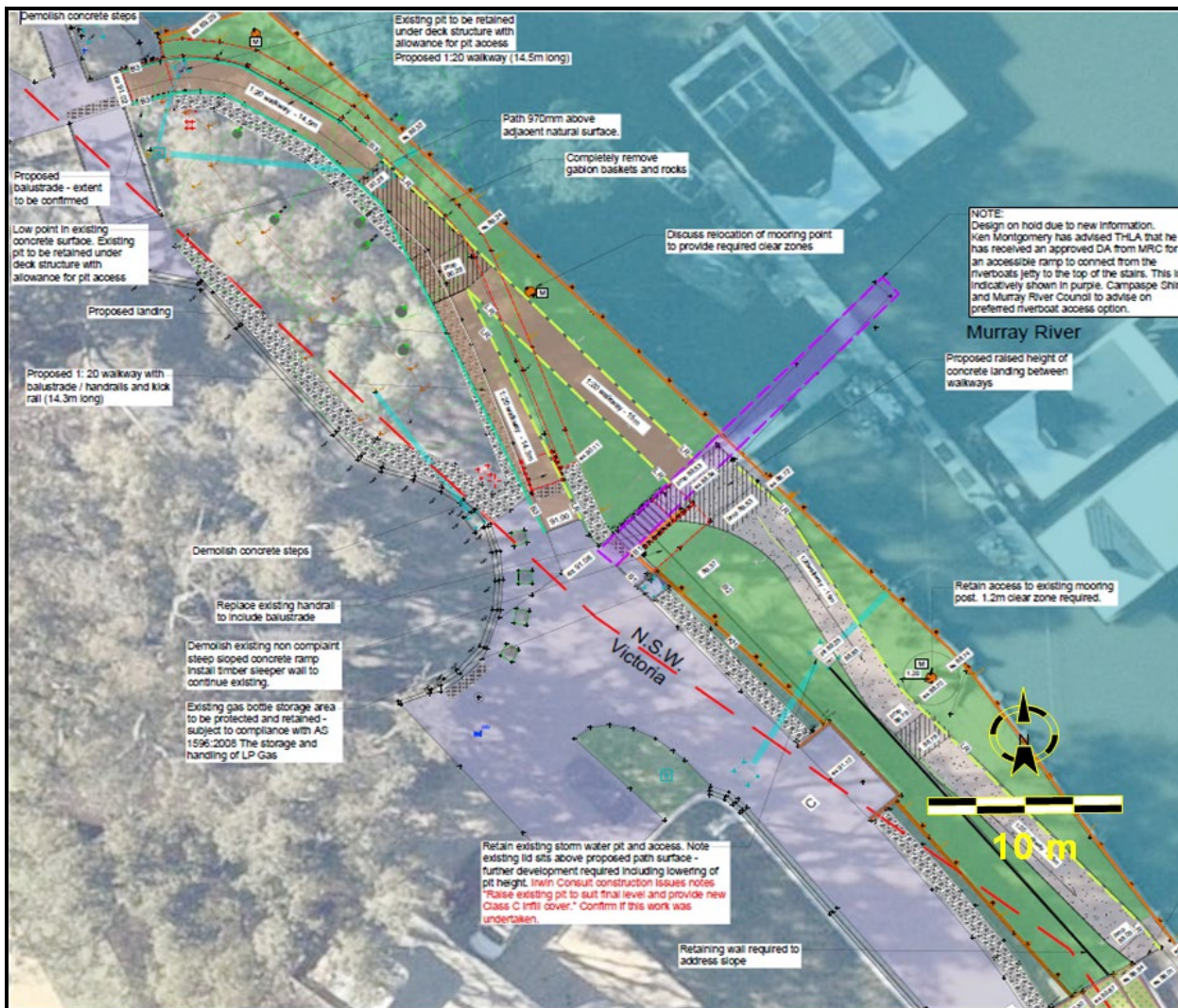


Figure 3. Development area access ramp-walkway plan

The report was prepared following field investigations and Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS 2-03-17) database research relating to the site (Appendix 2).

Description

There is no NSW DP or lot number assigned to the NSW land on the Victorian side of the Murray River. The Victorian Crown Land covering the site is: Allotment:2084; P number: P398900 Parish: Echuca North (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Victorian Crown Land allotment 2084 (Blue boundary) at the study site

1. Natural Features, Land Use and Planning

1.1 Topography, Geomorphology and Land Use

The site topography of the proposed development area is steeply sloping (12%) river bank with a northerly aspect.

The ancestral Murray River originally followed a path along Green gully near Mathoura. Uplift of the Cadell Fault redirected the river down what is now the Edwards River (Harris 1939; Bowler 1978). In more recent geological time the river has taken a course that dissects the floor of a palaeolake (old Lake Kanyapella) and has then followed the ancestral Goulburn River. Stone (2006) conducted a study of the Moira lakes and Murray River – Barmah Choke and concluded that the river in the Echuca – Moama area was only ~550 years old. Moreover, the steep gradient of the river has all but precluded the deposition of sediments in the area of recent avulsion.

The land (Crown Allotment 2084) is located on the north side of the Murray River close to Watson Street, Echuca. The adjacent areas have been previously predominantly used for residential housing, recreation and tourist developments.



Figure 5. Main walkway development area - views east (2) and west (1)

1.2 Zoning

There is no zoning for the land owned by NSW on the west bank of the river, however, the Murray River Council zoning adjacent to the site under consideration is Recreational Waterway (W2). On the Victorian side the land is Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ).

1.3 Murray River Council Development Control Plan

Requirements of the Murray River Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) objectives are set out in Appendix 1. These relate to Visual amenity, Retaining walls and Landscaping.

It should be noted that Murray Development Control Plan 10.3 refers to Pontoons and Walkways that are located on the water, not those on the bank of the river.

In relation to the first two DCP objectives (Visual amenity, Retaining walls), the proposed works will improve visual amenity by facilitating the replanting and regeneration of vegetation. Over the course of several years with vegetation growth and landscaping the development will blend into the riverbank/built landscape.

With regard to the third Objective, the steep vertical bank (>2 m height) necessitates the use of retaining walls in order to stabilise the site and prevent streambank erosion.

In reference to the final objective of the DCP (Landscaping) the access ramp construction will not impact the existing landscape aspects as it is mostly a remodelling of the existing path and retaining walls. The walls that are already in place and the small section that will be installed (Figure 3) will have a positive effect on the river system, by reducing accelerated bank erosion, re-establishing the native vegetation and importantly for aquatic fauna, preventing the degradation of water quality.

The proposed works on the land meet the key objectives of the DCP and will not compromise Aboriginal cultural heritage values in any way.

1.4 Murray Regional Environmental Plan No 2 - Riverine Land

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; Regulation 8 of the Murray Regional Environmental Plan (MREP) No 2 applies when:

- (a) Council prepares any local environmental plan, or
- (b) A consent authority determines a development application, or
- (c) A public authority or person proposes to carry out development which does not require development consent, but which has the potential to adversely affect the riverine environment of the River Murray.

Items (b) and the latter part of (c) are applicable to the land under consideration.

1.5 Statutory Protection and the Burra Charter

All registered and unregistered Aboriginal archaeological sites in New South Wales are protected by the State National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2001 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984. These Acts prohibit the wilful destruction or disturbance of any cultural heritage site, place or object, whether on private or public land. Aboriginal archaeological sites and places are considered to have significance according to the guidelines of the Australian Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter).

Department of Planning and Environment and specifically the Office of Environment and Heritage (Cultural Heritage Branch) are the NSW State Government agencies that administer the following Acts.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2001 In NSW, the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2001 provide legislative protection for all Aboriginal (and historic) cultural heritage sites, places and objects. Section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2001 states:

A person must not destroy, deface, damage or desecrate, or cause or permit the destruction, defacement, damage or desecration of, an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place.

Section 87 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 refers to permits to research, excavate or collect Aboriginal objects or places.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 also recognizes the need to protect the cultural and natural heritage of New South Wales. It compliments the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 in that it provides for planning before development and it obliges the developer to consult persons with relevant expertise or experience. The heritage scope of this legislation is wider than that of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and there is no doubt that sites of significance to contemporary communities are included.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 This Commonwealth Act provides for the blanket protection of all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander archaeological sites, places and objects whether privately or publicly owned. Whereas the State provides legislative protection for all physical evidence of past Aboriginal occupation, the Commonwealth Act also protects Aboriginal cultural property in the wider sense so as to include contemporary and ancient traditions and folklore. Importantly, this Act recognises that the

Aboriginal people of NSW are the prior occupants of this State and the owners of their heritage and heritage sites regardless of public or private land ownership.

The Burra Charter The Australian Burra Charter was adopted at a conference at the historic mining town of Burra, South Australia, in 1979. This charter defines the procedures and basic principles to be followed in the preservation of all types of sites. For example, Aboriginal shell middens, ancient campsites represented by stone artefact scatters, or historic mining shafts. These places are considered to have cultural significance either to Aboriginal people or to Australians in general. Cultural significance is a term used to encompass all the meanings and values that a particular place may have to people, beyond its utilitarian value. It refers to 'aesthetic, historical, scientific or social value for past or present generations, or for its likely value to future generations' (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 1992).

Under the guidelines of The Burra Charter any Aboriginal sites found in the area will have social value. According to the charter, social value is defined as:

... the qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national, or other cultural sentiment to a majority or minority group (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 1992).

The Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council considers all Aboriginal archaeological sites to be significant. The Aboriginal people of the area have a very ancient and unique traditional culture and these sites are important to them because they are a link to their ancestral lands and help to keep their traditional culture alive.

2. Site Assessment Methodology

Preparation of this report involved collation of relevant archaeological and environmental information and the use of aerial imagery and topographic maps to identify areas with archaeological potential. Preliminary field assessment was conducted on 8th June 2022 by Mr Peter Clinnick (AES) liaising with Ms LaToya Morgan representing the Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Survey Strategy

The survey was designed to firstly inspect anywhere in the vicinity of the proposed development area with the potential to contain aboriginal artefacts and secondly to locate any older trees, which may show evidence of Aboriginal scarring.

The proposed development area and surrounding land was surveyed on foot along the existing banks and pathways (Figure 2). Within the survey area there has been considerable site disruption from small machinery

movement, high levels of foot traffic and pedestrian/vehicle access as well as construction of riverboat access infrastructure. Red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) trees surrounding and within the development area for a distance of 100 m were inspected. Aerial photography was assessed for any patterns or signs of historical evidence of occupation or site activities relating to Aboriginal heritage.

Management considerations: These detail the potential threat to the site specifically in terms of the development works. In addition, specific ameliorative measures are recommended if warranted. In some cases the recommendation is simply that no active management is necessary apart from avoiding any established site during the course of the development works.

3. Aboriginal Heritage

A survey of the proposed development area was undertaken to determine the potential impacts in relation to Aboriginal heritage.

Aboriginal setting

The Bangerang Nation covered country from near Shepparton across to Echuca, up to Deniliquin (N.S.W.) back across to Finley, down to Katandra. The Yorta Yorta, Bangerang and Yabula Yabula group of languages are spoken by various groups whose ancestral homelands radiated from the junction of the Murray and the Goulburn extending into New South Wales. The Yorta Yorta Native Title Claim in the 1990s related to the lands of the entire group. The tribes within the Bangerang Nation consisted of the Moirathban, Toolinyagan, Wolithiga, Kailthban, Ngarrimowro, Angootheraban and the Pikkolatpan.

The Yorta Yorta/Bangerang group is comprised of indigenous persons biologically descended from the original occupiers or adopted into and/or otherwise accepted as part of this group. The name 'Yorta Yorta' is preferred by most of the descendants of the original Aboriginal occupiers of the area today, although some prefer to use the word 'Bangerang'. The two names refer to descendants of one and the same group.

The Aboriginal earth mound at Algeboia Aboriginal Place, located approximately 21 km northeast of Echuca, is an indicator of the long-term presence of Aboriginal people in the area. This earth mound is one of many that can be found in the Murray River region. Earth mounds are generally located near rivers, lakes or creeks, and they are often on low sand dunes, as is the case at Algeboia.

Types of Sites

The types of archaeological site which have been recorded previously in southern NSW, which might therefore be expected to occur in the Echuca area are described below.

Digital orthophoto maps of the region produced by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission were examined to determine the geomorphic context of the proposed development area.

Local and regional archaeological studies have shown that most Aboriginal sites in the Echuca region are concentrated on the Murray River, with scarred trees far outnumbering stone artefact scatters and shell middens (e.g. Bonhomme, 1990). The paucity of stone artefact sites is generally believed to be a product of distance from highland stone sources.

Open campsites

Open campsites are one of the most commonly occurring types of archaeological site in the region. These sites are represented by scatters of stone artefacts lying on the ground surface. The remains of fire hearths may also be associated with the artefacts. In rare instances, open campsites which were used over a long period of time may have accumulated sediments and become stratified. That is, there may be several layers of occupation buried one on top of another.

The open campsites are almost invariably located near permanent or semi-permanent water sources. Local topography is also important in that campsites tend to occur on level, well-drained ground elevated above the local water source. In the Echuca area they are most likely to be located on river terraces and along creeks and also around the margins of lakes and wetlands.

Freshwater shell middens

Shell middens are deposits of shell and other food remains accumulated by Aboriginal people as food refuse. In inland SE Australia these middens typically comprise shells of the freshwater mussel (*Velesunio ambiguus*), or the river mussel (*Alathyria jacksoni*). Freshwater middens are most frequently found as thin layers or small patches of shell and often contain stone or bone artefacts and evidence of cooking. Such sites are relatively common along the Murray River and its tributaries.

Earth mounds

Earth mounds may have been used by Aboriginal people as cooking ovens or as campsites. They are common along the Murray River and in the Wakool District further to the north. Originally they appear to have ranged from 3 to 35 metres in diameter and from 0.5 to 2 metres in height. Today, however, they may be difficult to recognise because of the effects of ploughing, grazing and burrowing rabbits. Earth oven material, stone artefacts, food refuse and the remains of hut foundations have been exposed in some excavated earth mounds.

Quarry sites

These are locations where Aboriginal people obtained ochre for their art and decoration. Materials commonly used for making flaked stone tools include chert, silcrete, quartz and quartzite were not freely available in the area and were obtained by trade.

Carved trees

These are trees on which Aboriginal people have cut designs through the bark onto the wood beneath. They are thought to have once had a wide distribution in SE Australia, but because of age and widespread tree clearance few remain today. Ethnohistoric records indicate that some carved trees were associated with burials whilst others may have been sacred or totemic sites.

Scarred trees

Slabs of bark were cut from trees by Aboriginal people and used for a variety of purposes including roofing shelters and constructing canoes, shields and containers. Scars also resulted from the cutting of toe holds for climbing trees to obtain honey or to capture animals such as possums. The classification of scarred trees as natural or Aboriginal is often problematic; however, if the scar is Aboriginal the tree must now be more than 150 years old.

Burial grounds

Aboriginal burial grounds may consist of a single interment or a suite of burials. In the drier parts of western NSW skeletal material is regularly found in eroding sand deposits, but near the slopes of the Great Dividing Range burial sites are rare because conditions for the preservation of bone are usually poor.

Background archaeology and AHIMS search

An understanding of the Aboriginal archaeology of southern NSW has begun to emerge from studies of the Barmah Forest (Bonhomme, 1990). Aboriginal burial sites along the Murray River are described by Webb (1984) and Pardoe (1988).

Bonhomme's (1990) study of the Aboriginal archaeology of the Barmah Forest provides a detailed account of the regional ethnohistorical record and the different types of Aboriginal site present along the Murray River. Her survey located 182 sites of which 88 were scarred trees, 86 were mounds, five were shell middens, two were stone artefact scatters and one was a burial site. These were distributed across a range of environments with most of the habitation sites closely associated with water sources such as streams and swamps. Most of the scarred trees recorded by Bonhomme were box (78%) with the remainder River Red Gums.

The Assessment for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values, for the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project stated that there is extensive evidence of Aboriginal occupation with scar trees, middens and artefact scatters distributed along the Campaspe and Murray rivers. Sandhills with possible burial sites are also evident on the Victorian side of the Murray River (Rhodes and Long 2015).

According to NSW Heritage Department and the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS 20-06-2022, Appendix 1), five Aboriginal sites (Figure 6) have been recorded previously within 1 km of the proposed development area. These sites are located north of the development site on the other side of the Murray River. The search reports provided by AHIMS indicates that the five sites are scar trees (Appendix 3).

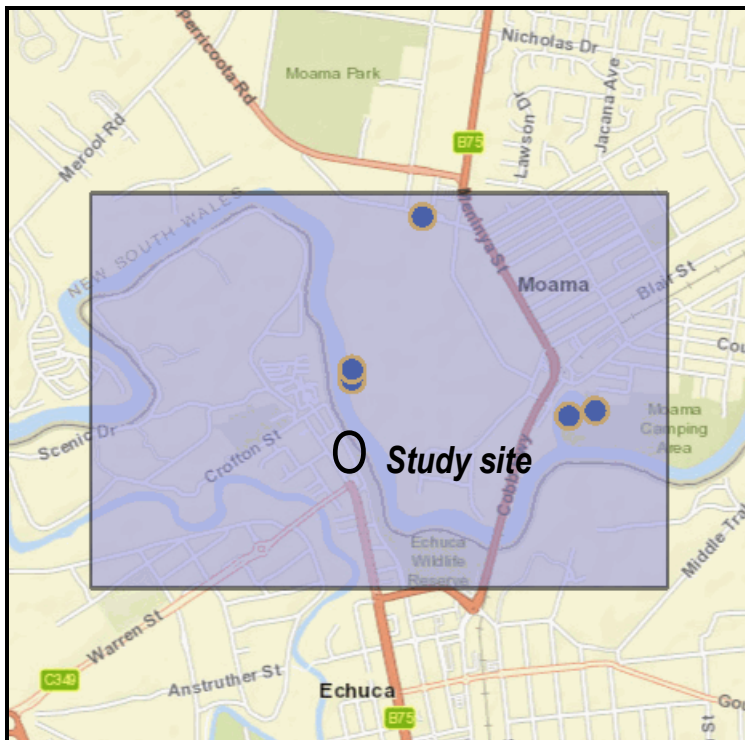


Figure 6. Location of five Aboriginal sites on the NSW side of the Murray River (Blue circles)



Figure 7. Scar tree location (Yellow circle) on the Victorian side of the border

Rhodes (2018) indicated that there is one scar tree site on the Victorian side of the river approximately 50 m south east of the development area (Figure 7).

Results and Discussion

Water courses would have been the foci of Aboriginal occupation in the local area. The development site location on the bank of the Murray River means that it would have attracted Aboriginal occupation and may have been part of a hunting and gathering area. However, this site is situated on uniformly compacted medium clays and consequently has little potential for stratified cultural material at depth. The vast majority of these materials were deposited as part of the Murray River floodplain sequence long before Aboriginal people arrived in Australia (~45,000 years ago). It is only in recent times (<550 years) that the river has dissected this part of the floodplain. Consequently, any archaeological potential is limited to the surface.

Aboriginal concerns

Aboriginal people living in southern NSW are concerned about any development that might impact upon Aboriginal sites in the region. LaToya Morgan of the Echuca Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC), has inspected the proposed development area and adjacent property areas and indicated that “no artefactual evidence was identified” that had Aboriginal significance and that no further site inspection or monitoring will be required (Refer MLALC Report – Appendix 3).

Although not mentioned in the MLALC Report the presence of the scar tree (VAHR 78250-0506), which is outside the current development activity area should be noted.

4. Mitigation measures

Cultural heritage encountered during construction

Previous archaeological studies in the region suggest that scar trees, stone artefact scatters, isolated artefacts and earth features are the only possible Aboriginal cultural heritage items in the proposed development area. In the unlikely event that additional items of Aboriginal cultural heritage are uncovered during the proposed activity, the person who discovers the Aboriginal cultural heritage during the activity will immediately notify the person in charge of the activity. The person in charge of the activity must then suspend works at the location of the find and put in place a buffer zone with a radius of 25 m to temporarily protect the find and ensure that it is not further disturbed.

To ensure compliance with legislation in place to protect Aboriginal sites and objects in NSW the inclusion of the following conditions are recommended to ensure that no additional harm is caused should Aboriginal sites or objects be encountered:–

If any Aboriginal object is discovered and/or harmed in, or under the land, while undertaking the proposed development activities, the proponent must:

1. Not further harm the object;
2. Immediately cease all work at the particular location;
2. Secure the area so as to avoid further harm to the Aboriginal object;

3. Notify OE&H as soon as practical on 131 555, providing any details of the Aboriginal object and its location; and
4. Not recommence any work at the particular location unless authorised in writing by OE&H.

Discovery of human remains

If any suspected human remains are found during any activity, works must cease. The NSW Police and the State Coroner's Office and OE&H should be notified immediately. Below are three basic steps that should be followed in the event that human remains are uncovered:

1. Discovery

- If suspected human remains are discovered, all activity in the vicinity must stop to insure minimal damage is caused to the remains;
- The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage.

2. Notification

- Once suspected human skeletal remains have been found, the Coroner's Office and the NSW Police must be notified immediately;
- All details of the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the relevant authorities;

3. Reburial

- Any reburial site(s) must be fully documented by an experienced and qualified archaeologist, clearly marked and all details provided to National Parks;
- Appropriate management measures must be implemented to ensure that the remains are not disturbed in the future.

Conclusion

Based on the results of this investigation and consultation with the Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council it is recommended that:

1. Planned works activities should be approved for Crown Allotment 2084 - Watson Street Echuca without further archaeological investigation;
2. The property manager (Campaspe Shire) should keep the Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council apprised of any artefacts unearthed during development and ensure that Aboriginal people have open access to existing sites and any other cultural heritage sites should they be uncovered during the course of any works.
3. The recommendations of CHMP Number:15404 must be adhered to.
4. The field assessment of the site revealed no Aboriginal artefacts or other items of cultural importance were observed except for the scar tree (VAHR 78250-0506), which is outside the current development activity area;
5. That the archaeological potential of the "development area" (~0.3 ha) is low, because of previous significant ground disturbance.

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Appendix 1. Murray River Council Development Control Plan

10.1 Visual amenity

Objectives

- To protect the visual amenity created by the natural river environment.
- To avoid works and structures that have a detrimental visual impact.

Controls

- All structures and buildings are to be designed to minimise the visual impact on the natural environment.
- Buildings and structures are to utilise building materials and colours that blend with the natural environment. Bright or reflective colours (unless necessary for safety reasons) and materials will not be supported by Council.
- Landscaping of native riparian vegetation is to be used to soften visual amenity impacts but not used as a substitute for appropriate siting of buildings and structures in the river environment.

10.5 Stairs

Objective

- To allow pedestrian access to the river that is both appropriate and non-destructive to the river bank.

Controls

- If cut into the river bank the stairs are to be at an angle greater than 90 degrees to the downstream flow.
- Steps cut into the bank are only to be approved where no other acceptable method is viable.
- Cut steps are not to be approved on outside bends or eroding banks.
- All works involving soil or vegetation disturbance shall be undertaken with adequate measures to prevent soil erosion and the entry of sediments into the adjacent waterway.

10.8 Landscaping

Objectives

- To restore the riverine vegetation within the Murray Shire.
- To screen buildings and structures from the river.

Controls

All development applications are to include a landscaping plan.

- Landscaping must utilise indigenous species of riparian vegetation.
- Where land is degraded, landscaping shall include measures to rehabilitate these areas.
- Landscaping must be designed to screen or at least soften the appearance of buildings and structures.

Appendix 2. Aboriginal places and sites in the area and AHIMS Search

Aboriginal Place -Algeboia

Item details

Name of item: Algeboia

Type of item: Complex / Group

Group/Collection: Aboriginal

Category: Occupational site

Location: Lat: -35.9637193956 Long: 144.898007209

Primary address: Mathoura, NSW 2710

Local govt. area: Murray

Hectares (approx): 85

There is an Aboriginal earth mound at Algeboia Aboriginal Place.

Why is it important to Aboriginal people?

The Aboriginal earth mound at Algeboia Aboriginal Place is an indicator of the long-term presence of Aboriginal people in the area. This earth mound is one of many that can be found in the Murray River region. Earth mounds are generally located near rivers, lakes or creeks, and they are often on low sand dunes, as is the case at Algeboia.

Earth mounds usually have been created over time where Aboriginal people used an area for cooking and living. Aboriginal people often cooked food in earth ovens that were created by heating stones or lumps of clay and laying them in a pit and then placing the food on top. The pit was then filled in for the food to cook. Once the food was cooked, all the stones, clay and ash were swept away and this debris built up over time to form a mound. These ovens and fires were usually located next to huts or shelters, and the earth mounds show that Aboriginal people lived in the area for thousands of years.

Algeboia Aboriginal Place provides local Aboriginal people with a connection to their culture and their past.

Date significance updated: 04 May 15

Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.

Description

Physical description: What's on the ground?

There is an Aboriginal earth mound on a red sand dune. Remains of freshwater shellfish, burnt clay nodules from oven mounds, pieces of ochre, and human skeletal remains can be found around the eroding dune. There is a scarred tree at the base of the dune.

Nature of the environment

The vegetation comprises low lying rye grass and scattered tussock grasses.

Further information: Located within Murray Valley National Park

Current use: Unknown

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
NPW Act - Aboriginal Place		NSW Government Gazette	26 Oct 90	133	9558

Appendix 3. Echuca Local Aboriginal Land Council Report



Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council

Cultural Heritage Site Survey Report

(SSR 061)

Prepared for: Advanced Environmental
Systems

Name: Mr. Peter Clinnick

Project: Aboriginal Site Survey

Location: Proposed site for Port of Echuca
Echuca Riverboats Access Walkway
Watson Street, Echuca 3564

Prepared by:

Name: Ms. LaToya Morgan

On Behalf of:

Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council

Email: admin@moamalalc.com.au

Phone: 03 5482 6071

ABN: 95 659 710 168

Purpose

The purpose of this site survey report is to provide details on the findings and recommendations relating site surveys conduct at Proposed site for Port of Echuca, Echuca Riverboats Access Walkway, Watson Street, Echuca 3564. This report is intended for the purpose of informing your organization of the site survey findings and recommendations as to what future action that Moama LALC believes should be taken in respect to this project. This report is not intended for the purpose of providing your organization with approval to harm (destroy, deface, or damage) or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, or in relation to an object, move the object from the land on which is has been situated which is an offence under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Background

The Moama LALC was contacted by Advanced Environmental Systems on 24/05/2022 to conduct site survey investigations at Proposed site for Port of Echuca, Echuca Riverboats Access Walkway, Watson Street, Echuca 3564.. The following member/s were involved in the Sites Work Surveys:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title (Position)</u>	<u>Date(s) on Site</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
LaToya Morgan	Senior Cultural Heritage Site Officer	09/06/2022	Proposed site for Port of Echuca, Echuca Riverboats Access Walkway, Watson Street, Echuca 3564.

The total sites work costs for the project(s) is \$360 plus \$500 for this report excluding GST, total cost \$860 plus GST.

Site Work Summary

1. Provide a general description of the landscape and known local history of the area surveyed. Insert maps if available.
2. Provide a general description of the type of investigations conducted (e.g. Walk Overs, Sub Surface Testing, Archeological Survey's, and Research – Knowledge Holders etc.).
3. Provide a description of any issues, limitations or difficulties that were experienced during the project.

Findings

During the sites work investigation the Moama LALC made the following findings:

Finding #1	
Site Discovered	No
Located by	N/A
Inspected by	Ms. LaToya Morgan
Type and Details of Site / Possible Site	N/A
Details of any Disturbance / Action	Area has been disturbed for many years, settled in the town of Echuca and used for recreational purposes...
Site Risks and Required Protective Measures	N/A
Location / GPS	Port of Echuca, Echuca Riverboats Access Walkway, Watson Street, Echuca 3564.
DECCW Notified	N/A
Site Registered	N/A
Picture	Supplied
Further Details	Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council

Recommendation

No Evidence

In terms of this project, **no artefactual evidence** was identified that had Aboriginal significance. Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council will not be required for further site inspection and/or monitoring. In addition, there is nothing at this stage to halt or delay the continuation of your project works.

However, should skeletal material or anything of Aboriginal significance be exposed, during ground disturbance, work within the project area must cease immediately and contact made with the Moama LALC initially who will organize a sites worker to be in contact with your organization. As per the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* it is an offence to destroy or remove anything of Aboriginal significance.

All Aboriginal cultural places in NSW are protected by law. Aboriginal artefacts are also protected. It is illegal to disturb or destroy an Aboriginal place. Artefacts should not be removed from site.

If requested the Moama LALC is willing to provide a brief training session to those who may be working on the site in order to ensure that they have a nominal understanding of potential Aboriginal objects/places.

Victorian Crown Land covering the site is:

Allotment 2084 – P398900 – Parish, Echuca North

Site details- coordinates:

Corner	Zone	Easting	Northing
NE	55H	297130	6000640
SW	55H	197120	6000627
NE	55H	297210	60006541
SE	55H	297194	6000530

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding the context of this report and I will endeavor to answer them for you. On behalf of Moama LALC, I wish you well with your forthcoming project.

Kind Regards



Ms. LaToya Morgan
 Senior Cultural Heritage Site Officer
Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council
 52 Chanter Street Moama NSW 2731
 PO Box 354 Moama NSW 2731
 e: admin@moamalalc.com.au
 p: 0354 826 071

Appendix 1: Area Photo of area

Appendix 2: Site Plan

Appendix 3: Option B Plan

AHIMS Search:

Zone 55 Eastings: 297120 – 297130 Northings: 6000627 – 6000640

Zone 55 Eastings: 297194 – 297210 Northings: 6000530 – 6000541

Nearby Aboriginal Sites (AHIMS Database)



AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : Port 1
Client Service ID : 693534

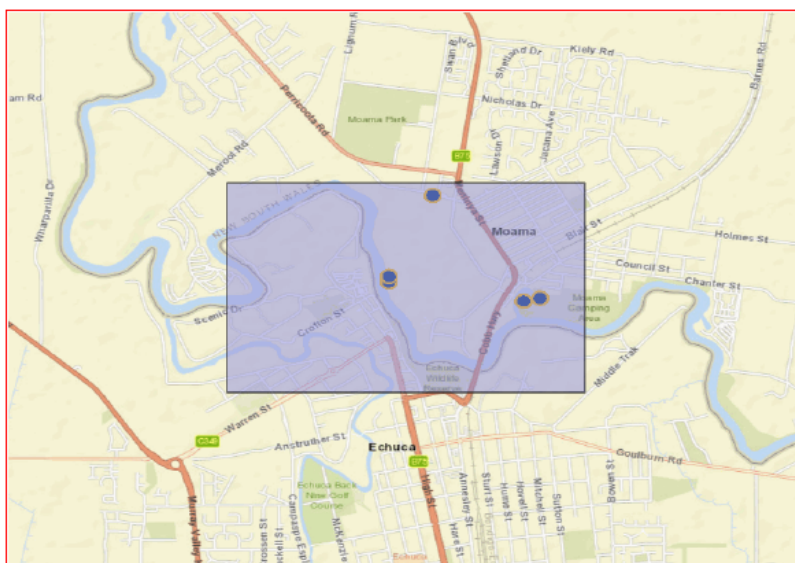
AES Consulting - Echuca
443 High Street
Echuca Victoria 3564
Attention: Peter Clinnick
Email: pc@environmentalsystems.com.au

Date: 20 June 2022

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lat. Long From : -36.1241, 144.7318 - Lat. Long To : -36.107, 144.7627, conducted by Peter Clinnick on 20 June 2022.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

5 Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0 Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

Appendix 4. Glossary

Archaeological site

A place with evidence of past human activity. This evidence may include Aboriginal and/or historic artefacts, features, structures or organic traces.

Artefact scatter

A surface scatter of Aboriginal or historic cultural material. Scatters of stone artefacts are a common archaeological site type. These scatters may also contain charcoal, discarded animal bones, shell and ochre.

Assemblage

A collection of artefacts from a single archaeological site.

Blade

An elongated flake, usually twice as long as it is wide.

Burial site

A place with a concentration of human remains. Ochre, stone tools, charcoal and grave goods may be associated with burials. Most burial sites are found in sand dunes but dead trees, caves and rockshelters were also used.

Chert

A fine-grained opaline rock ranging in color from white to black, but most often grey, brown, grayish brown and light green to rusty red.

Core

A piece of stone from which flakes have been removed. They usually have negative flake scars that have resulted from the removal of flakes.

Cortex

The original, weathered surface of a rock or mineral.

Cultural material

Any material remains or objects resulting from human activity.

Flake

A piece of stone detached from a core that typically displays a striking platform, bulb of percussion and flake scars on the ventral surface.

Flaked piece

Small fragments of stone resulting from the manufacture of stone tools. A striking platform or bulb of percussion may not be evident.

Formalized tools

An artefact that has been deliberately shaped by flaking, retouch or grinding to produce a predetermined tool type. Examples include scrapers, backed artefacts and axe heads.

Ground surface visibility

The amount of bare ground exposed, usually expressed as a percentage.

in situ

An artefact or other feature that has not been disturbed from its original position.

Isolated artefact

An isolated artefact is defined as five or less artefacts in a ~100m² area.

Microblade

Small blade more than twice as long as it is wide.

Microlith

A symmetrical tool backed along a thick margin and pointed at both ends. It is a component of the Australian Small Tool Tradition.

Quarry

An outcrop of stone or ochre where Aboriginal people have extracted the raw material for use or trade. Stone quarries are identifiable by a dense scatter of broken stone and flakes or consist of pits or hollows where material has been dug out of the ground.

Quartz

Quartz is a silica mineral resistant to weathering because of its hardness. It is commonplace in the landscape as a consequence.

Quartzite

A metamorphic rock formed by the re-crystallization of quartz.

Retouch

A stone artefact with fine, secondary flaking along one or more edges.

Scarred tree

A tree with a scar on its trunk caused by bark removal. A scar may have been produced by Aboriginal people but more often by natural processes.

Scraper

A flake, flaked piece or core with retouch on one or more edges. Scraper types include steep edge, thumbnail and side.

Shell midden

A surface scatter or heap of discarded shell often with charcoal, animal bones and stone artefacts. Middens may be found near coastlines, rivers, creeks, swamps and ancient lakes.

Silcrete

A hard, fine-grained rock composed of silica cement.

Stratified deposit

Material that has been laid down over time forming a sequence of events.

Subsurface testing

A method of excavation used for detecting cultural material below the ground surface. Testing is commonly by shovel, trowel or hand auger.

Survey

An inspection of land either by foot or vehicle for the purpose of identifying archaeological sites.

Transect

A predetermined area or a path that directs the course of a survey.