Dalvui Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Terang

Complex Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd

Reference: 510575

Revision number: V05

CHMP No 17571

Heritage Advisor: Alistair Carr

Authors: Alistair Carr & Laura Cross

Activity size: Medium

14 July 2022

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Eastern Maar
Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 546
Warrnambool VIC 3280

18 July 2022

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN – NOTICE OF APPROVAL

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, trading as Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, acting as the Registered Aboriginal Party, herby approve the Cultural Heritage Management Plan as referred to below:

CHMP Name:	Dalvui Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Terang		
CHMP Number:	17571		
Sponsor:	Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd	**ABN:**	55 613 749 616
Heritage Advisor (s):	Alistair Carr		
Author(s):	Alistair Carr & Laura Cross		
Cover Date:	14 July 2022	**Pages:**	i-vii/1-66

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation is satisfied that the CHMP has been prepared in accordance with the standards prescribed for the purposes of Section 53 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the CHMP adequately addresses the matters set out in Section 61.

Pursuant to Section 64 [1] of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* this Cultural Heritage Management Plan takes effect upon the granting of this approval and once a copy is lodged with the Secretary*.

Yours Sincerely,

Marcus Clarke
CEO Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

*This notice of approval should be inserted after the title page and bound with the body of the cultural heritage management plan.

Document control record

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Assessment size	Medium		**Project number**		510575	
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Authors	Alistair Carr and Laura Cross					
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Approval			
Author signature		Approver signature	
Name	Alistair Carr	Name	Jeff Hill
Title	Manager	Title	Associate

Executive summary

Compliance requirements are set out in Part 1 of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Location

The activity area is located approximately 1.5 kilometres (km) northeast of the Terang township. Terang is 210 km west of the Melbourne CBD in western Victoria. The activity area is east and adjacent to the existing Terang Terminal Station. The activity area covers a total surface area of 57,519 m².

Activity

Tilt Renewables (the Sponsor) are proposing to construct a battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure at the location.

Assessment undertaken

Desktop assessment

The activity area exists on a single landform (volcanic plain) and the most common Aboriginal places expected in the geographic region are low density artefact distributions (LDAD) and artefact scatters followed by earth and stone features. There are no existing Aboriginal places in the activity area. The volcanic plain is considered to have low archaeological potential. European agricultural activities, including vegetation clearance and ploughing are likely to have caused harm to any Aboriginal places within the activity area. Site visibility will tend to be restricted to areas of ground disturbance. Overall, there is a low potential for surface or sub-surface Aboriginal cultural heritage material to be present within the activity area.

Standard assessment

The standard assessment involved a combination of systematic and opportunistic survey across the entirety of the activity area. No new Aboriginal places were identified. Disturbance was noted as a result of ploughing and construction of a transmission line alignment in the northern extent of the activity area. Ground visibility was typically poor due to grass coverage. The survey resulted in a low effective coverage of only one per cent.

Complex assessment

The complex assessment involved excavation of a single 1 x 1 metre (m) test pit (TP) and 14 0.5 x 0.5 m shovel test pits (STPs). No Aboriginal cultural material was identified as a result of the excavations. The maximum excavation depth was 460 mm. Disturbance was noted in the top stratigraphic units as a result of ploughing.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the Activity Area

No Aboriginal places were identified within the activity area. Archaeological sensitive areas which have the potential to contain Aboriginal cultural material have not been identified within the activity area. The volcanic plain landform that exists within the activity area has been confirmed as having low archaeological sensitivity.

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Abbreviations

Aboriginal places	Registered cultural heritage places
ACHRIS	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System
the Act	*Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006
AV	Aboriginal Victoria
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
CHS	Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
DGPS	Differential global positioning system
EMAC	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
GDA94	Geodetic Datum Australia 1994
km	kilometre
m	metre
the Project	Dalvui Battery Energy Storage System
HA	Heritage Advisor
LDAD	low density artefact distribution
LGA	Local Government Area
MGA	Map Grid of Australia
NOI	Notice of Intent to prepare a cultural heritage management plan
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
STP	shovel test pit
TP	test pit
the Regulations	Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018
VAHR	Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

Part 1 – Cultural Heritage Management Conditions

These conditions become compliance requirements once this Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is approved. Failure to comply with a condition is an offence under section 67A of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.

The CHMP must be readily accessible to the sponsor and their employees and contractors when carrying out the activity.

1 Management Conditions

1.1 General Conditions

The following management conditions have been agreed to by the Sponsor, in consultation with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) to manage cultural heritage within the activity area. The Sponsor of this Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is responsible for undertaking all management conditions and contingencies as outlined below.

The Sponsor is responsible for ensuring that the activity undertaken as part of this CHMP adheres to the activity description outlined in Section 4. The Sponsor is responsible for ensuring that no works as part of the activity as outlined in Section 4, are completed outside of the activity area as shown in Figure 4.1. Any changes to the activity area, the activity description or the approved management conditions will require an amendment to the CHMP or the preparation of a new CHMP.

1.1.1 General Management Condition 1: Cultural Heritage Induction– *Prior to the activity*

Prior to the commencement of the activity, a cultural heritage induction must be facilitated by a representative of EMAC and assisted by a Heritage Advisor. EMAC must be provided with at least two (2) weeks' notice of the intended date of the cultural heritage induction. A booking form must be completed to book a cultural heritage induction, which can be found on the EMAC website **www.easternmaar.com.au**. This induction will be organised and paid for by the Sponsor.

Prior to the commencement of the activity (or any works associated with the activity) a cultural heritage induction must be undertaken by all personnel involved in the activity (in particular ground disturbing works), including staff/supervisors working permanently within the activity area, and the Sponsor. An inducted Sponsor or supervisor may subsequently provide an in-house induction for additional contractors and staff after the initial induction. The induction will be conducted by a representative of EMAC and a Heritage Advisor. The induction will take place on site within the activity area.

A cultural heritage induction booklet will be produced by the Heritage Advisor and contain all relevant CHMP information, including a summary of the key conditions and contingencies outlined in Part 1 of the CHMP. The cultural heritage induction booklet must be kept with a hard copy of the CHMP as per General Condition 3 (Section 1.1.3).

The Sponsor/Heritage Advisor will keep a record of induction attendees (e.g. a sign-off sheet) and any induction materials, a copy of which will be made available to EMAC via email, up to no more than two (2) business days after the induction is held.

The induction will include:

- A brief background of the Aboriginal occupation of the activity area and broader region
- A summary of the assessments conducted during the CHMP
- Specific details of all Aboriginal places located during the CHMP
- An explanation of the conditions and contingency plans contained within the CHMP, and
- The obligations of the Sponsor and all personnel under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.

An important focus of the cultural heritage induction is to present personnel with examples of Aboriginal cultural heritage that may occur in the activity area, and to explain the contingency procedures required by the CHMP, should unidentified Aboriginal cultural heritage be found during the conduct of the activity.

1.1.2 General Management Condition 2: Notification to EMAC of commencement/completion of the activity – *prior to the activity/after the activity*

The Sponsor must notify EMAC, via telephone call or email, at least 10 business days prior to the proposed start date of when the activity is expected to commence.

The Sponsor must notify EMAC, via telephone call or email, up to no more than 10 business days after the activity has been completed.

EMAC is to ensure that there is an electronic means of confirmation of notification. A confirmation of telephone notification is to be confirmed by email within one (1) business day of the telephone call.

During business hours the contact details for EMAC are as follows:

RAP Technical Specialist

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

Phone: 0427 271 937

Email: admin@easternmaar.com.au

1.1.3 General Management Condition 3: A copy of the approved CHMP be retained onsite – *Throughout the duration of the activity*

A hard copy of the approved CHMP must always be available and present onsite for the duration of the activity.

The CHMP must be readily available to those undertaking the activity and the hard copy of the CHMP must be able to be provided upon request. The Sponsor is responsible for ensuring that all personnel undertaking the activity are aware of the onsite location of the hard copy of the CHMP.

1.1.4 General Management Condition 4: Protocols for managing and handling sensitive information relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area – *Throughout the duration of the activity*

This CHMP is to be used for the purpose of managing cultural heritage (Section 46 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006) within the activity area defined in this CHMP, and is not to be used by the Sponsor, Contractors or Heritage Advisor for any other purpose.

EMAC reserves the right to have ownership, access, and control of the use of their Aboriginal cultural heritage, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions within this CHMP– including but not limited to artefact descriptions and photos, locations of cultural heritage, oral histories and statements provided, tangible and intangible cultural heritage knowledge and information.

- There shall be no communication, public release, or publishing of information within the CHMP, without the written permission of EMAC - including for academic and commercial use.
- There shall be no communication, public release, or publishing of information concerning Aboriginal cultural heritage, without the written permission of EMAC – including academic and commercial use.

No onsite photographs or information concerning Aboriginal cultural heritage, by a Sponsor, Contractor or Heritage Advisor, is to be circulated to the media or via social media without the written permission of EMAC – including academic and commercial use.

1.1.5 General Management Condition 5: Activity to occur within the Activity Area – Throughout Duration of the Activity

All works associated with the activity must be conducted within the area delineated within this approved CHMP as Figure 4.1 shows.

2 Contingencies

This section of the assessment contains contingency plans to facilitate appropriate heritage management during the proposed activity and to fulfil the requirements set out in Schedule 2 Clause 13 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.

At the time of approval of this CHMP, the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the activity area was the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC). All references to 'the RAP' throughout this section of the CHMP are references to the EMAC.

2.1 Contingency 1: Matters Referred to in Section 61 of the Act

This CHMP contains contingency plans that are specific to the activity and activity area (Part 2) as described within Section 4 (activity area) of this CHMP. If changes are made to the activity and/or activity area that require statutory authorisation, or which require changes to the management conditions, following the approval of the CHMP, the Sponsor will likely be required to undertake and submit a new CHMP or apply to amend the approved CHMP.

If Aboriginal cultural heritage is unexpectedly discovered during the activity, the following contingencies (which consider matters referred to in Section 61 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 with regard to harm avoidance and minimisation) must be implemented by the Sponsor or the relevant delegate.

2.2 Contingency 2: Dispute Resolution

Clause 13 (1) Schedule 2 of the regulations requires that a CHMP must contain a contingency plan for the resolution of any disputes between the Sponsor and RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives, in relation to the implementation of an approved CHMP or the conduct of the activity. Disputes may occur at various stages during the activity. Procedures for dispute resolution aim to ensure that all parties are fully aware of their rights and obligations, that full and open communication between parties occurs, and that those parties conduct themselves in good faith.

If a dispute arises that may affect the conduct of the activity, resolution between parties using the following informal dispute resolution guidelines is recommended.

Informal Dispute Guidelines

a. The party raising the dispute will complete a Notice of Dispute Form (Section 2.2.1) and email a copy to all parties listed in the Notification contingency (Section 2.4.4) of this CHMP.

b. All disputes will be jointly investigated and documented by both parties (RAP and Sponsor).

c. Authorised representatives of each party (RAP and Sponsor) will attempt to negotiate a resolution to any dispute related to cultural heritage management of the activity area, within two business days or written notice being received.

d. Where a breach of the CHMP conditions has been identified, authorised representatives of both parties (RAP and Sponsor) must endeavour to agree upon the best method of correction or remediation.

e. If the authorised representatives of both parties (RAP and Sponsor) cannot reach an agreement, then the authorised representatives of both parties (RAP and Sponsor) will negotiate a resolution to an agreed schedule.

f. If the authorised representatives of both parties (RAP and Sponsor) fail to reach an agreement, an independent mediator should be initially sought to assist in resolving the dispute. Both parties (RAP and Sponsor) must agree upon a timeframe for the independent mediator.

g. If an independent mediator cannot be agreed on or fails to resolve the dispute with the allowed timeframe, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council may be approached for their willingness to act in resolving the dispute.

h. If it is deemed that a cultural heritage audit is required, the Heritage Advisor will contact the Secretary of the process. A cultural heritage audit may also be ordered by the Minister under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.

Regardless of the category of dispute, the informal dispute guidelines do not preclude:

a. The parties seeking advice from First-Peoples State Relations (FP-SR) to assist in resolution of the dispute; and

b. Any legal recourse that is open to the parties (RAP and Sponsor) being undertaken, however, the parties must agree that the above resolution mechanism will be implemented before such recourse is made.

2.2.1 Notice of Dispute Form

Notice of Dispute

Notice issued to: _____

Notice issued by: _____

RAP: _____

Sponsor of CHMP: _____

Under contingency _____ of this CHMP, I/we give notice of the following dispute.

Description of the Dispute

[Describe the dispute as you see it.]

_____

_____

Impact of the Dispute

[Describe how the dispute has affected you.]

_____

_____

Proposed Solution as per Dispute Resolution Contingency

To resolve this dispute, I/we would like *[describe what actions/steps you believe would assist to resolve the dispute]*

_____

_____

Who to Contact About This Notice

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Postal Address: _____

Signed by:

(as the authorised representative for the party issuing this notice)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

2.3 Contingency 3: Reviewing Compliance within the CHMP

Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006, the conditions and contingency plans outlined within this approved CHMP must be complied with as written. Breaching the conditions and contingency plans contained within the approved CHMP is an office under s.67A of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 and penalties apply.

To ensure compliance with the conditions and contingency plans outlined within this approved CHMP, the Sponsor should review the compliance checklist (Table 2-1) both prior to and throughout the course of the activity. Any negative responses to the questions in the checklist may indicate that the conditions and contingency plans of the approved CHMP have been breached and remedial actions for non-compliance should be considered.

The RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives may undertake heritage inspections to monitor the progress of the activity and observe whether management conditions and contingency plans outlined within this CHMP have been complied with. A total of three heritage inspections may be undertaken during the activity. The RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives must provide the Sponsor with at least three business days' notice prior to the time they wish to enter the activity area. The Sponsor must ensure that the RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives are aware of any job safety restrictions or protocols. The RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives must comply with any job safety protocols required by the Sponsor and their contractors (if relevant).

2.3.1 Remedying Non-Compliance within the CHMP

The Sponsor is responsible for remedying non-compliance with the conditions and contingency plans outlined within this approved CHMP. A non-compliance may trigger the requirement for a cultural heritage audit under Part 6 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006*.* All reasonable costs arising from the meeting and any agreed remedies must be borne by the Sponsor.

If non-compliance is identified the Sponsor must:

- Cease all works within the activity area.
- Notify the RAP and notify FP-SR at **compliance.aboriginalvictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au**
- Follow the contingency plans within this CHMP for discovery of Aboriginal cultural heritage during the activity.
- Prepare a programme of remedial action in consultation with the RAP or Traditional Owner representatives and a Heritage Advisor.

Table 2-1 Compliance Checklist

Compliance Checklist

Question	Yes *[Date Completed]*	No *[Remedy/Comments]*
Prior to the commencement of the activity		
Has the CHMP been approved?		
Has a Cultural Heritage Induction been completed?		
Has the RAP been notified of the commencement of the activity?		
Have the specific management conditions outlined in this CHMP, which are required to take place prior to the commencement of the activity been undertaken?		
During the course of the activity		
Have the specific management conditions outlined in this CHMP, which are required to take place during the course of the activity been undertaken?		
After the activity has been completed		
Has the RAP been notified of the completion of the activity?		
Have the specific management conditions outlined in this CHMP, which are required to take place after the activity has been completed been undertaken?		
Changes to the activity or activity area		
If required, has the approved CHMP been amended and approved?		
If required, and if the approved CHMP has not been amended and approved, has a new CHMP been prepared and approved?		
Have all relevant statutory approvals been obtained?		
If Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is discovered during the activity		
As per the contingency:		
Has the activity ceased within at least 10 meters of the discovery, and a stop works buffer implemented?		
Has the stop works buffer been fenced off?		
Has the site manager and/or Sponsor, RAP or Traditional Owner representatives and a HA been notified?		
Has HA been engaged within three business days of notification?		
Has the HA fully recorded and documented the Aboriginal cultural heritage?		
Has the Sponsor made all reasonable attempts to avoid or minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage?		
If harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage cannot be avoided or minimised, has an appropriate archaeological salvage been undertaken?		
Has a report detailing the results of the salve been submitted to VAHR and the RAP or Traditional Owner representatives within six months?		

Have the removal, custody, curation, and management of the Aboriginal cultural heritage been undertaken in accordance with the relevant contingency plan?		
Have the Sponsor, Heritage Advisor and relevant RAP or Traditional Owner representatives have agreed that no further action is warranted?		
If Aboriginal Ancestral Remains are discovered during the activity		
As per the contingency:		
Has the activity within at least 30 meters ceased of the discovery?		
Have the human remains been left in place and protected from harm?		
Have the State Coroner's Office and the Victorian Police been notified?		
If the human remains are confirmed to be Aboriginal Ancestral remains, has the VAHC and RAP been notified?		
Has the appropriate impact mitigation or salvage strategy been implemented?		
Have the Aboriginal Ancestral remains been treated in accordance with the directions of the VAHC?		
Has a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist fully documented and clearly marked the reburial site(s) and provided all details to VAHR?		
Has this been done in consultation with the RAP?		
Have appropriate management measures been implemented to ensure that the remains are not disturbed in the future?		

2.4 Contingencies in Relation to the Discovery of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage During the Activity

2.4.1 Contingency 4: Unexpected discovery of Aboriginal cultural heritage (excluding human remains)

Secret/Sacred Objects

As per Section 4 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 a Secret or sacred object includes an Aboriginal object directly associated with a traditional Aboriginal burial.

I. Any suspected Secret / Sacred Objects must be reported to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, as per Part 2, Division 3 (Sections 21-2) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.

II. All works must stop within at least 10 metres of the objects

III. The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council will transfer the object/s to an Aboriginal person that the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council is satisfied is entitled to and willing to take possession, custody, or control of the object/s, or otherwise deals with the object/s as the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council thinks appropriate, as per section 21B of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

If suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage (excluding Aboriginal Ancestral Remains) is uncovered or identified during the activity, the following contingency plan must be followed:

Discovery

I. The activity must cease within at least 10 metres of the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage, and a stop works buffer must be implemented. Works may continue in the remainder of the activity area.

II. The stop works area around the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage must be fenced off using appropriate temporary fencing (chain wire fence panels with concentre base feet) to protect the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage from further disturbance. No-go zone signage must be attached to the fencing and be clearly visible.

III. The suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage must not be picked up or removed from the stop works area.

Notification

I. The individual who uncovered or identified the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage must notify the site manager and/or Sponsor of the discovery immediately.

II. The Sponsor must notify the relevant RAP or Traditional Owner representatives and a Heritage Advisor within one business day of the discovery of the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Assessment

I. An appropriately qualified Heritage Advisor must be engaged to inspect the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage within three business days of notification.

II. Relevant RAP or Traditional Owner representatives must be provided the opportunity to participate in the inspection.

III. The Heritage Advisor will consult with the relevant RAP or Traditional Owner representatives regarding the management, collecting and recording of the cultural material. The Heritage Advisor will notify the Secretary of the discovery and any agreements.

IV. If the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage is assessed by the Heritage Advisor to be Aboriginal cultural heritage, then the Heritage Advisor must fully record and document the Aboriginal cultural heritage, and the following site protection, impact mitigations or salvage conditions must be completed.

Impact Mitigation or Salvage

I. It is the obligation of the Sponsor to ensure that all reasonable attempts to avoid or minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage have been undertaken, in consultation with the RAP or Traditional Owner representatives.

II. If the Aboriginal cultural heritage is determined to be significant (for example, an intact cultural deposit), site protection or impact mitigation conditions may be required. If site protection or impact mitigation measures are not possible, a salvage excavation of part or all of the Aboriginal place may be required prior to the activity proceeding.

III. In the situation where a salvage excavation is required the following process must be adhered to:

a) The extent and methodology of the salvage program will be determined by the RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives, in consultation with the Heritage Advisor and Sponsor.

b) Any salvage program must be undertaken in accordance with Aboriginal Victoria's Practice Note: Salvage Excavations, by a suitably qualified archaeologist/Heritage Advisor with assistance from the RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives

c) The Heritage Advisor must update or complete the relevant Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) place and component forms, including the object collection form, and submit the documentation to the VAHR within three (3) weeks of the assessment. The Heritage Advisor must notify the RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives, via email, once the VAHR has been updated.

d) An archaeological report meeting the Secretary standards and detailing the methods, analysis and results of the salvage program must be submitted to the VAHR, the Sponsor and the RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives no later than six (6) months after the salvage excavation has been completed.

e) At the completion of analysis, any Aboriginal cultural heritage collected during the salvage program must be managed as outlined in the removal, custody, curation, and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage contingency in this CHMP.

Recommencement of the activity

The activity may recommence in the stop works area once:

I. The Aboriginal cultural heritage material has been identified, fully documented, and assessed, including the collection and analysis of any artefacts by a Heritage Advisor.

II. All reasonable attempts to avoid harm and appropriately protect the Aboriginal cultural heritage has been made by the Sponsor in consultation with the RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives.

III. If harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage cannot be avoided, then an appropriate archaeological salvage program, meeting the minimum standards as outlined above, has taken place.

IV. The Heritage Advisor has updated or completed VAHR place and component form(s), submitted the forms to the VAHR within 14 business days of the assessment, and the forms have been approved.

V. The Sponsor, Heritage Advisor and the RAP have agreed that no further action is warranted.

Dispute Resolution

If all parties fail to reach an agreement under this contingency plan, this will be classified as a dispute. Any dispute that may arise from this process must be dealt with under the Dispute Resolution contingency as outlined in this CHMP.

2.4.2 Contingency 5: Unexpected Discovery of Human and Aboriginal Ancestral Remains

If suspected human remains are discovered, you must contact the Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted on 1300 888 544.

Any such discovery at the activity area must follow these steps.

1. **Discovery**

- If suspected human remains are discovered, all activity within at least 30 metres must cease immediately.
- The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage.
- Do not contact the media; do not take any photographs of the remains other than those requested by the relevant authorities below.

2. **Notification**

- If suspected human remains have been found, the State Coroner's Office (**1300 888 544)** and the Victoria Police **(000)** must be notified immediately.
- If there are reasonable grounds to believe the remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be immediately notified on **1300 888 544.**
- If the human remains are confirmed by State Coroner's Office to be Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the person responsible for the activity must report the existence of them to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council in accordance with section 17 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 (https://www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/report-ancestral-remains-submit).
- If the remains are confirmed to be Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the RAP must be notified immediately as listed in the Notification contingency in this CHMP.
- All details of the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the relevant authorities.

3. **Impact Mitigation or Salvage**

- The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, after taking reasonable steps to consult the RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives, will determine the appropriate course of action as required by section 18(2)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.

- An appropriate impact mitigation or salvage strategy as determined by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council must be implemented by the Sponsor. All costs associated with this will be the responsibility of the Sponsor.

4. Curation and Further Analysis

- The treatment of salvaged Aboriginal Ancestral Remains must be in accordance with the direction of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council.

5. Reburial

- Reburial to occur in consultation with the relevant RAP or relevant Traditional Owner representatives.

- Any reburial site(s) must be fully documented by an experienced and qualified archaeologist and all relevant details provided to FP-SR.

- Appropriate management measures must be implemented to ensure the Aboriginal Ancestral Remains are not disturbed in the future.

2.4.3 Contingency 6: Removal, Custody, Curation, and Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

This contingency relates to the removal, custody, curation, and management of unexpected Aboriginal cultural heritage (excluding Human and Aboriginal Ancestral Remains) discovered during the activity. For management of known Aboriginal cultural heritage see the relevant condition as outlined within this approved CHMP.

Removal

No Aboriginal cultural heritage must be picked up or removed from the activity area, except by a Heritage Advisor during salvage.

Custody

Aboriginal cultural heritage collected during the salvage program can be temporarily stored by the Heritage Advisor until the scientific analysis has been completed. Once the salvage and scientific analysis of the Aboriginal cultural heritage has been completed, the Aboriginal cultural heritage must be repatriated to the RAP (no later than six (6) months after the salvage excavation has been completed).

The custody of Aboriginal cultural heritage (excluding Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, or Secret or Sacred Objects) discovered during or after an activity must comply with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 and be assigned according to the following order of priority, as appropriate:

a) any relevant Registered Aboriginal Party for the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged *(as outlined above and in the relevant contingency plans).*

Where there is no Registered Aboriginal Party:

b) any relevant registered native title holder for the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged.

c) any relevant native title party (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006) for the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged.

d) any relevant Traditional Owner or Owners of the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged.

e) any relevant Aboriginal body or organisation which has historical or contemporary interests in Aboriginal cultural heritage relating to the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged.

f) the owner of the land from which the Aboriginal cultural heritage is salvaged.

g) Museum Victoria.

Curation and Management (Reburial)

The RAP will be the caretakers of the Aboriginal cultural heritage and may choose to rebury the artefacts within an agreed location, safe from future development and disturbance. The reburial of the Aboriginal cultural heritage will be organised and paid for by the Sponsor. Sponsors must consider the willingness and the capacity of the proposed custodian to adequately, and appropriately, manage salvaged Aboriginal cultural heritage material.

Access to Activity Area

If the RAP wishes to enter the activity area at any stage during the activity, this must be facilitated by the Sponsor. The RAP must provide the Sponsor with at least 3 business days' notice prior to the time they wish to enter the activity area. The Sponsor must ensure that the RAP is aware of any job safety restrictions or protocols. The RAP must comply with any job safety protocols required by the Sponsor and their contractors (if relevant). The RAP reserves the right to inspect the location of reburied Aboriginal cultural heritage, once the activity has been completed.

2.4.4 Contingency 7: Notification

The Sponsor is to ensure that sufficient time is given for written correspondence to reach parties and for a response to be composed and sent (see Table 2-2 for contact details). Notification in email form must be provided in accordance with the timeframes outlined within the relevant contingency plan/s. Email and telephone is the preferred method of communication and notification. Written correspondence in letter/mail form is not preferred, but if this is required, then sufficient time for delivery needs to be considered and a phone call should made to notify of the posting of the letter/mail.

Response to communication must occur by either party (RAP and Sponsor) within three (3) business days or receipt of the communication, unless otherwise agreed by all parties.

Table 2-2 Key contact details

ROLE	NAME	ORGANISATION	CONTACT
CHMP Contacts			
Registered Aboriginal Party	RAP Technical Specialist	EMAC	admin@easternmaar.com.au 0452 350 728
Registered Aboriginal Party	Cultural Heritage and NRM Manager	EMAC	craig.edwards@easternmaar.com.au 0475 310 509
Sponsor	Eliza Budd	Tilt Renewables	info@tiltrenewables.com +61 434 903 635
Emergency Contacts			
State Coroner's Office	Coronial Admissions and Enquiries Line		1300 309 519
Victorian Police			000 (Triple 0)
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council	Report Ancestral Remains		Ancestral.Remains.Unit@dpc.vic.gov.au
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register			VAHR@dpc.vic.gov.au
Compliance			compliance.aboriginalvictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au

Part 2 – Assessment

3 Introduction

3.1 Background

Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd (Aurecon) has been engaged by Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd (Tilt Renewables) to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the Dalvui Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project). Tilt Renewables are proposing to install a BESS adjacent to the Terang Terminal Station, Victoria. The Project is strongly aligned with Victoria's Renewable Energy Action Plan which encourages investment in the energy sector to ensure Victorians continue to benefit from a renewable, affordable and reliable energy system into the future.

3.2 Reason for preparing a CHMP

A mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is required under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006 (Act) for the proposed works, because the activity is a high impact activity occurring within an area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity as per the following regulations listed in the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018:

- r 46 (1): The construction of the following is a high impact activity if the construction would result in significant ground disturbance –
  - (xxvii) a utility installation, other than a telecommunications facility, if—
  - (D) the works affect an area exceeding 25 square metres.
- r 37 (1): Subject to sub-regulation (2), the volcanic cones of western Victoria are areas of cultural heritage sensitivity.

3.3 Notice of Intention to Prepare a CHMP

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a CHMP was lodged with Aboriginal Victoria (AV) on 16 November 2020 (Appendix A). An automated response was received from the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) allocating CHMP number 17571 to this assessment.

Corangamite Shire was notified by email from Alistair Carr (Heritage Advisor, Aurecon) on 16 November 2020 that a CHMP was being prepared within their municipality, and a map of the activity area was provided.

3.4 The Sponsor

The Sponsor of this CHMP is Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 55 613 749 616). Eliza Budd (Environmental Planner) is the Sponsor's representative.

3.5 The Heritage Advisor

Alistair Carr (Senior Archaeologist, Aurecon) is the heritage advisor (HA) for the assessment detailed in this CHMP. Alistair is a qualified archaeologist with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours - Archaeology) from La Trobe University and the University of Sydney with over ten years consulting experience. He has experience working in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia on Indigenous and historical heritage and research projects.

Alistair has specialised experience in Australian Indigenous stone artefact identification and analysis and has authored and co-authored a range of heritage reports including CHMPs, Due Diligence Reports, and Cultural

Heritage Assessment Reports (NSW). Alistair has been responsible for the planning and execution of survey and subsurface testing for a variety of projects. Alistair is listed on AV's heritage advisor list.

3.6 Location of the activity area

The activity area is located approximately 1.5 kilometres (km) northeast of the Terang township. Terang is 210 km west of the Melbourne CBD in western Victoria. And is located within the Corangamite Shire's local government area (LGA). The activity area is east and adjacent to the existing Terang Terminal Station on McCrae Street, Terang.

3.7 The Owners and Occupiers of the Land

The property owner/managers of all land within the extent of the activity area were notified by the Sponsor of the preparation of this CHMP (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Details of property owners/ managers within the activity area

Owner/Land Manager	Property address	Parcel details
Chris O'Connor	500 Dalvui Lane, Terang, 3264	Lot 2 PS543673

3.8 Registered Aboriginal Party

The Registered Aboriginal Party for the activity area is Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC).

The RAP provided written notice to the Sponsor on 23 November 2020 confirming receipt of the NOI and giving notice of their intention to evaluate the CHMP, in accordance with s.55 of the Act. A copy of this notice and the response is included in Appendix A and Appendix B.

3.9 Report Authorship

The report is authored by Alistair Carr and Laura Cross (Archaeologists, Aurecon). Jeff Hill (Principal Archaeologist, Aurecon) provided a quality review of the report.

Figure 3.1: Location of the activity area

4 Activity Description

4.1 Proposed activity

The proposed activity involves the construction of a new battery energy storage system in Terang, Western Victoria. The BESS will require the following key components to be constructed or installed, noting that these dimensions are indicative at this stage of design:

- Battery Pack Containers with indicative dimensions of 1830 mm in width, 10940 mm in length and 2600 mm in height
- 3.5 MW inverters with indicative dimensions of 9300 mm in width, 2620 mm in length and 2600 mm in height
- 33 kV transformers with indicative dimensions of 2820 mm in width, 2960 mm in length and 2900 mm in height
- 66 kV transformer with indicative dimensions of 14800 mm in width, 11100 mm in length and 8000 mm in heigh.
- 33kV capacitor bank with indicative dimensions of 15830mm in length, 1440mm in width and 4000mm in height
- Boundary security fencing installed around the site will be fixed into the ground approximately 3.3 m apart. Post holes will measure approximately 250 mm in diameter and 600 mm in depth.
- An internal access road will be constructed to access the site and carpark to accommodate staff, visitors and contractors. Works will comprise the removal of topsoil to a depth of approximately 50 mm to 60 mm and include the laying down of crushed rock which will be compacted by a roller.
- Transmission connection to be via an underground cable connection along Littles Lane and McCrae Street measuring approximately 450 mm wide and 1,000 mm in depth.
- The BESS will also involve installation of a concrete slab to a depth of 600 mm
- Road upgrades / road works on McCrae Street to facilitate Project construction and ongoing operation.

Construction will occur over an approximate 18 month period. It is anticipated that the construction activities will occur in the following stages:

- Site mobilisation
- Site clearing, fencing and establishment of laydown area
- Construction of batteries and inverters and associated infrastructure
- Construction of transmission connection
- Testing and commencing

The exact location of batteries and associated infrastructure will be confirmed in more detail as the project moves to the detailed design stage.

4.2 Impact on the land surface and buried former land surfaces

The proposed activity will have a significant impact on the land surface and any buried former land surfaces within the activity area. Construction of the Project will involve major earthworks, including stripping of topsoil at locations across the construction area. These works are likely to impact on any Aboriginal cultural material that may be located on or below the ground surface, where ground disturbance will occur.

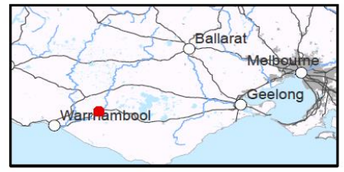
4.3 Extent of the Activity Area

The activity area for this CHMP is located in Terang, within the Corangamite Shire. Terang is 210 km west of the Melbourne CBD in western Victoria.

The most prominent natural feature located within close proximity to the activity area is Lake Ondit, located approximately 1.5 km west of the activity area. The activity area is located on a geomorphic land system known as ‘plains with poorly developed drainage and regolith’.

The extent of the activity area is shown in Figure 4.1. It covers a total surface area of 57,519 m². The activity area is located immediately east to the existing Terang terminal station and is accessed from McCrae Road, Terang. It includes a small portion of road reserve on McCrae Road and Littles Lane as shown in Figure 4.1.

aurecon



Legend

- Activity Area
- LGA
- Locality

Basemap: Esri
Data Source: VicMap (2021)

Date: 14/07/2022 Version: 1

Dalvui Battery Energy Storage Project

Extent of the activity area

Figure 4.1: Extent of the activity area

5 Document of Consultation

5.1 Consultation in relation to the assessment

5.1.1 Project commencement

A CHMP inception meeting was held virtually on 1 December 2020. In attendance were Samantha Fidge (RAP Technical Specialist/Heritage Advisor, EMAC), John Clarke (General Manager Cultural Landscapes, EMAC), Eliza Budd (Environment and Development Planner, Tilt Renewables), Maja Barnett (Development Portfolio Manager, Tilt Renewables) and Alistair Carr (Senior Archaeologist, Aurecon).

The Sponsor (Tilt Renewables) provided background information on the project and outlined why the BESS was required in relation to Victoria's renewable energy targets. The Sponsor provided detail on the proposed activity, specifically around the proposed ground disturbance. The Sponsor also detailed other projects in proximity to the current activity area, including the BESS project adjacent. EMAC raised some initial concerns around the cumulative impact of multiple projects at the one location. Concerns were noted by all and the Sponsor confirmed that not all of the activity area will be used. The Sponsor also agreed to further consider harm minimisation strategies as the design stages proceeded.

Aurecon then provided a summary of the desktop assessment results which included discussion of the physical, environmental and archaeological context of the activity area, including the activity area's geomorphology. Aurecon displayed a map showing the location of known Aboriginal places in proximity to the activity area and the geomorphology that is present. There are no Aboriginal places within the activity area and the activity area exists entirely on a volcanic plain landform. Aurecon confirmed that the desktop assessment finding was that the activity area has low archaeological sensitivity due to its location on the volcanic plain. EMAC mentioned that visibility will be poor in the area due to pasture grasses and that this will provide challenges for identifying any low density artefact distributions that may be present on the ground surface.

EMAC suggested that a combined standard and complex assessment was the most appropriate path forward for the CHMP and that both assessments could occur during the one field trip. It was agreed that survey should be a combination of systematic and opportunistic techniques dependent on ground visibility and disturbance. It was requested that Aurecon provide a methodology for complex assessment for EMAC to review prior to any fieldwork.

5.1.2 Post fieldwork

At completion of the field assessment, a second meeting was held virtually on 17 February 2021. In attendance were Samantha Fidge (RAP Technical Specialist/Heritage Advisor, EMAC), Craig Edwards (On Country Operations Manager, EMAC), Eliza Budd (Environmental Planner, Tilt Renewables) and Alistair Carr (Senior Archaeologist, Aurecon).

Aurecon presented the standard and complex assessment results. During the standard assessment ground surface visibility was generally poor due to grass coverage. It was also noted that the entirety of the activity area has been ploughed and that disturbance has occurred at the access road location as a result of the road construction and use. The northern extent of the activity area was also disturbed as a result of a transmission line being constructed. No Aboriginal places were located during the standard assessment. During the complex assessment 14 shovel test pits and a single 1 x 1 m test pit were excavated to a maximum depth of 460 mm. Again, no Aboriginal cultural material was located. The activity area was confirmed as having low archaeological sensitivity as a result of the assessment. EMAC were satisfied with the assessment findings and requested that a management condition for a cultural heritage induction be included in the CHMP.

5.2 Participation in the conduct of the assessment

EMAC indicated its intention to participate in the conduct of the assessment on 23 November 2020, in response to the NOI. RAP participation was undertaken via phone, email, meetings and participation in the fieldwork. The RAP field representatives were closely involved in all aspects of the fieldwork, and provided input into the methodologies employed, and decisions made e.g. the positions of test pits. The names and roles of individuals who participated in the field assessment are listed in Table 5.1

Table 5.1 : Personnel and timing of the assessment

Name	Organisation	Function/Role	Scope	Date
Phillip Chatfield	EMAC	Field Representative	Standard, Complex Assessment	3-4 February 2021
Tylah Merriman	EMAC	Field Representative	Standard, Complex Assessment	3-4 February 2021

5.3 Consultation in relation to the conditions

Consultation regarding the cultural heritage management conditions took place before, during and after the field investigations. Potential harm minimisation conditions were initially discussed with the RAP and Sponsor during the inception meeting, on 1 December 2020 (see Section 5.1.1). Discussion about potential conditions also took place between the HA and the RAP representatives during the field assessment. This discussion related to the inclusion of a cultural heritage induction in the CHMP.

At the results meeting held on 17 February 2021, the findings from the standard and complex assessment were presented. The low archaeological sensitivity of the volcanic plain and lack of Aboriginal places identified were discussed (see Section 5.1.2). It was agreed that the only management condition required was for a cultural heritage induction to be provided by EMAC to contractors prior to construction works commencing on site.

5.4 Summary of the outcomes of consultation

Consultation between the Sponsor, the RAP and Heritage Advisor was ongoing throughout the preparation of the CHMP, before, during and after the field assessment. Two formal meetings were held between the Sponsor, Heritage Advisor and the RAP, which took place on 1 December 2020 and 17 February 2021. The RAP was kept informed of the progress of the project, and a presentation was given on the results of the standard and complex assessment.

The RAP was closely involved in the field assessment, including formulation of the survey and subsurface testing methodology, and decisions made about the positioning of test pits and extent of the testing. The RAP was closely consulted regarding management conditions to be included in the CHMP. The close consultation between the Sponsor, HA and RAP resulted in an open and transparent process regarding the project and proposed management conditions. All decisions regarding the assessment of cultural heritage developed throughout this process have been included as part of this CHMP.

6 Desktop Assessment

For the purposes of s 53(2) of the Act, a desktop assessment must be undertaken as part of a CHMP and in accordance with r 61 of the Regulations, must comprise the following activities:

- A search of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) for information related to the activity area
- The identification and determination of the geographic region in which the activity area is situated and that is relevant to any Aboriginal cultural heritage that may be present in the activity area
- A review of reports and published works about Aboriginal cultural heritage relating to the geographic region identified above
- A review of historical and ethno-historical accounts of Aboriginal occupation relating to the geographic region identified above
- A review of the landforms or geomorphology of the activity area, and
- A review of the land use history of the activity area.

6.1 Environmental context

Environmental factors affect how the landscape was used in the past; they also influence where and how past Aboriginal populations undertook their activities and hence where registered cultural heritage places (Aboriginal places) may be found. Reviewing these factors can provide insights into where Aboriginal places may occur within the landscape and thus provide a basis for Aboriginal place prediction models.

6.1.1 The Geographic region

For the purposes of this desktop assessment, a geographic region has been defined to inform the physical and environmental context of the activity area and its surrounds as well as use of the landscape by Aboriginal people in the past. The geographic region for this CHMP is defined by an arbitrary five kilometres from the activity area (Figure 6.1).

This region has been defined specifically for the purposes of this desktop assessment. The defined region includes the geomorphology, geology and landforms characteristic of the region, as well as various water features. Importantly it provides a suitable region to study the nature and context of Aboriginal archaeological sites that may be present within the activity area and assists in the development of a predictive statement for the activity area's potential for archaeological sites.

6.2 Aboriginal places in the Geographic Region

A search of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS), the online tool used to access the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR), was carried out on 15 January 2021, and updated on 10 May 2022. A five kilometre buffer from the activity area was searched as a sample of the geographic region. There are no Aboriginal places within the activity area. The search revealed that there is a total of six Aboriginal places, comprising 13 components, located within the geographic region. The closest Aboriginal place to the activity area is a low density artefact distribution (LDAD) (70 Littles Lane Terang LDAD 1, VAHR 7421-0245). It consists of a single flaked artefact of an indeterminate raw material. Details of the Aboriginal places located within the geographic region are included in Table 6.1.

Table 6-1 : Aboriginal Places recorded within the geographic region

VAHR number	Aboriginal place name	Aboriginal place type	Distance to activity area (m)	Geomorphological unit
7421-0193-1	Terang Fish Trap	Stone feature	1,750	Eruption points: maars, scoria cones and lava shields
7421-0239-1	Pejark Marsh LDAD 2	Low density artefact distribution (1 x quartzite flake)	140	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0240-9	Pejark Marsh AS 1	Artefact scatter (142 stone artefacts consisting of quartz, silcrete, chert, crystal quartz, quartzite)	300	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0241-1	Pejark Marsh LDAD	Low density artefact distribution (6 x quartz and silcrete artefacts)	1,200	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0241-2	Pejark Marsh LDAD	Low density artefact distribution (6 x quartz and silcrete artefacts)	60	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0241-3	Pejark Marsh LDAD	Low density artefact distribution (6 x quartz and silcrete artefacts)	60	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0241-4	Pejark Marsh LDAD	Low density artefact distribution (6 x quartz and silcrete artefacts)	60	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0241-5	Pejark Marsh LDAD	Low density artefact distribution (6 x quartz and silcrete artefacts)	60	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0241-6	Pejark Marsh LDAD	Low density artefact distribution (6 x quartz and silcrete artefacts)	60	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0242-1	Pejark Marsh Historical Finds	Aboriginal Ancestral Remains (Burial)	1,200	Plains and plains with low rises
7421-0242-2	Pejark Marsh Historical Finds	Artefact scatter (millstone, stone axe, grindstone)	1,200	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0242-3	Pejark Marsh Historical Finds	Earth feature	1,200	Terraces, floodplains and lakes, swamps and lunettes and their deposits
7421-0245-1	70 Littles Lane Terang LDAD 1	Low density artefact distribution (1 x flake, indeterminate material)	60	Plains with poorly developed drainage and shallow regolith

Table 6.2 : Summary of Aboriginal places recorded within the geographic region

Aboriginal place type	Number	Per cent (%)
Low density artefact distributions (LDADs)	8	62
Artefact scatter	2	15
Aboriginal ancestral remains (burial)	1	8
Earth feature	1	8
Stone feature	1	8
Total	**13**	**100**

The majority of the places in the search area are low density artefact distributions (LDADs) (62 %, n=8); the remainder include artefact scatters (15 %, n=2), one Aboriginal ancestral remain (burial) (8 %, n=1), one earth feature (8 %, n=1) and one stone feature (8 %, n=1). Information relating to these places, including their contents and landscape contexts is important to consider, as they provide an indication of the nature of any undiscovered archaeological sites that might be present within the activity area.

Figure 6.1: Aboriginal places within the geographic region

6.3 Previous work in the Geographic Region

There have been no previous cultural heritage assessments within the immediate activity area. However, there have been several CHMPs undertaken in the wider geographic region which can assist with understanding the type, extent and distribution of Aboriginal cultural heritage likely to occur within the activity area. These reports are summarised below.

Rymer (2020) - Archaeology at Tardis were commissioned by ACEnergy to prepare a CHMP (17073) for the proposed battery energy storage facility at Terang. The proposed work includes the development of an access track, installation of energy storage facilities, security fencing and drainage. The activity area is situated immediately north west of the current activity area, covering approximately 11.3 hectares adjacent to Littles Lane, Terang.

A standard assessment was conducted via pedestrian survey across two survey units. The survey unit immediately adjacent to the current activity area was assessed to be of low archaeological potential. One tachylyte complete flake, 70 Littles Lane Terang LDAD (VAHR 7421-0245), was identified on the ground surface under an exotic windrow during the standard assessment. Complex testing was undertaken, comprising one 1 x 1 m test pit which was manually excavated by hand. The test pit was located at the proposed turning circle of the access track. The soil profile consisted of firm brown to greyish brown clayey silt (0 - 420 mm) above firm brown clay (420 – 450 mm). No Aboriginal cultural heritage material was identified during the complex assessment. The Aboriginal place identified during the standard assessment, 70 Littles Lane Terang LDAD (VAHR 7421-0245) was not collected as the proposed works will not impact the Aboriginal place.

Ford and Macklin (2019) - GHD were commissioned by ACCIONA Energy Australia Global to prepare a CHMP (16306) for the proposed Mortlake South Wind Farm Transmission Line located between Mortlake and Terang. The proposed work comprises the construction and installation of an underground electrical transmission line between the Mortlake South Wind Farm and the Terang Terminal Station. The activity area is a narrow linear corridor which terminates immediately west of the current activity area and extends for 15 km in a north westerly direction from the current activity area.

The standard assessment comprised a targeted pedestrian survey of the activity area. One existing Aboriginal place, Pejark Marsh (VAHR 7421-0004) was reinspected as part of the standard assessment and the place information has been updated as Pejark Marsh Historical Finds (VAHR 7421-0242). Areas of archaeological potential were identified on the maar rims and associated landforms of Pejark Marsh and Lake Keilambete. In addition, three flaked stone artefacts were identified on the ground surface during the standard assessment within proximity to Pejark Marsh maar rim.

Complex testing was undertaken, including one 1 x 1 m test pit and 17 1.2 x 3 m mechanical trenches excavated across the landforms at Pejark Marsh and Lake Keilambete. A total of 138 artefacts were identified during the standard and complex testing and have been incorporated into one Aboriginal place registration as an artefact scatter, Pejark Marsh AS1 (VAHR 7421-0240). The Aboriginal place was located predominantly on the upper and lower slopes of the Pejark Marsh maar rim and partially extending in lower densities onto the base of the maar and the crest of the rim. In addition, two LDADs, Pejark Marsh LDAD 2 (VAHR 7421-0239) and Pejark Marsh LDAD (VAHR 7421-0241), were identified on Pejark Marsh maar base and maar crest, away from the main artefact scatter. Artefacts were recorded at depths between 0 - 700 mm in cracking silty clays located on the Pejark Marsh maar rim, with the bulk of artefacts being recorded at depths of less than 400 mm. The majority of artefacts comprised quartz and silcrete, with smaller amounts of chert, quartzite and crystal quartz identified. The artefacts largely consisted of angular fragments, complete flakes, a few cores and one thumbnail scraper. All cultural material was collected and is currently held at the offices of GHD.

Carr (2017) - Jacobs were engaged to prepare a CHMP (14295) of behalf of Tilt Renewables for the proposed Salt Creek wind farm transmission line alignment. The proposed work includes the construction of an above ground powerline between Salt Creek Wind Farm, Terang and the proposed substation within the Dundonnell Wind Farm. The linear activity area is situated immediately west of the current activity area and extends in a north westerly direction. A standard assessment was undertaken via pedestrian survey, however low amounts of ground surface exposure and low visibility were encountered throughout the activity area.

Two Aboriginal places were recorded as a result of the standard assessment. One surface artefact scatter, Salt Creek artefact scatter 1 (VAHR 7422-0576) comprised 58 quartz artefacts and one silcrete flake, and one mound (earth feature), Salt Creek mound 1 (VAHR 7422-0575) were identified. Both Aboriginal places were located on an elevated terrace landform within 200 m of Salt Creek. In addition, the standard assessment identified five areas of potential archaeological deposits (PADs) which were further recommended for sub-surface testing. All PADs were located on elevated landforms or within 200 m of water bodies.

Complex testing was carried out and included a total of 88 500 x 500 mm shovel test pits and five 1 x 1 m test pits which were excavated across the five PADs. Two new Aboriginal places were recorded at PAD 3, Salt Creek LDAD 1 (VAHR 742-0232) and PAD 4, Salt Creek LDAD 2 (VAHR 722-0574) which comprised a total of six quartz artefacts in both surface and subsurface contexts across the two PADS. In addition, 14 quartz artefacts were identified as a sub-surface component of Salt Creek artefact scatter 1 (VAHR 7422-0576). Excavation ranged in depth from 30 - 600 mm and the soil profiles varied across the PAD locations. Artefacts were largely identified within a dark brown to very dark brown, silty clay context atop a firm clay base. All artefacts associated with Salt Creek LDAD 1 (VAHR 7422-0232) were collected during the complex assessment.

Barker (2013) - Benchmark Heritage were engaged by PJ & HM Bourke to prepare a CHMP (12769) for the proposed limestone and tuff extraction mine at 386 Racecourse Road, Terang. The proposed work consists of mining limestone and tuff within an 18 hectare area, situated approximately five kilometres north-west of the current activity area. A standard assessment was undertaken via pedestrian survey. Ground surface visibility throughout the activity area was low and the activity area was considered to have low archaeological sensitivity. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the standard assessment.

Complex testing was undertaken, comprising two 1 x 1 m test pits and 80 400 x 400 mm shovel test pits placed at 20 m intervals throughout the activity area. The soil profile largely consisted of dark brown clayey loam atop a firm sticky brown clay base. The maximum depth of excavation was 650 mm. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the complex assessment. It was considered that this area was an undesirable location for past Aboriginal camp sites due to the salinity of Lake Keilambete. No further cultural heritage recommendations were provided.

Gilding (2011) - GHD were engaged to by Wannon Water to prepare a CHMP (11472) for the proposed replacement of water infrastructure within the Terang township. The proposed work includes the replacement of the existing Terang Branch Main through the excavation of a two-metre-deep trench. Three pipeline alignment options were proposed with differing lengths; however, the width of the corridors was limited to the width of the road reserve. The closest proposed alignment option is situated approximately three kilometres south west of the current activity area.

A standard assessment was undertaken, comprising a pedestrian survey and subsurface testing via an auger. The activity area was assessed to be of very low archaeological potential. Subsurface testing via a 75 mm auger probe was undertaken in 32 locations along the length of all three alignment options. The soil profile identified via auger testing consisted of light brown to dark black brown clay terminating at a maximum depth of 580 mm atop a firm clay base. The auger results indicated that significant ground disturbance was confirmed throughout the majority of the alignment. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified as a result of the standard assessment. Due to the level of significant ground disturbance throughout the activity area and the very low levels of Aboriginal archaeological potential, further complex testing was not warranted.

Webb & Marshall (2000) - TerraCulture were engaged to prepare an archaeological survey report on behalf of South West Water Authority for the proposed wastewater treatment reuse project at Terang. The proposed project was planned to be developed on two separate parcels of land, with the most relevant and largest portion being situated south of the Princes Highway, approximately 100 m directly south of the current activity area. The two parcels of land were visually inspected via pedestrian survey, noting the cattle grazing, cropping and the lack of remnant vegetation throughout both properties. Ground surface visibility was highly variable with excellent ground surface exposure in areas of recent ploughing and there were some areas where grass cover impeded ground surface visibility. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the survey and no landforms of high archaeological sensitivity were identified. No further archaeological assessments were recommended.

Wood (1997) - Wood was commissioned to prepare an archaeological survey report for Telstra for the proposed installation of an optical fibre cable between Terang and Ecklin Telephone Exchange for approximately seven kilometres near Terang. The proposed work includes trenching to various depths

between 900 - 1200 mm with the disturbance width approximately 5 – 7 m. The study area is situated 2.5 km south of the current activity area. The study area was visually inspected via a combination of vehicular and pedestrian survey. Further targeted pedestrian survey was undertaken in potential archaeologically sensitive areas such as Mount Emu Creek and other unnamed tributaries. Ground surface visibility was extremely limited due to dense grass cover and crops throughout. No Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the visual inspection. The report determined that this was likely due to ground disturbance throughout associated with land modification works and pastoral activities taking place within the study area. No recommendations for further surface or subsurface investigation were made.

Wood (1994) - Wood was engaged to prepare an archaeological survey report for Telstra for the proposed installation of an optical fibre cable between Mortlake, Caramut, Lismore, Ellerslie and Terang. The proposed work included trenching to various depths between 900 - 1200 mm with the disturbance width approximately 5 – 7 m, spanning a total length of 125 km. One portion of the study area is situated approximately two kilometres west of the current activity area. The study area was visually inspected via a combination of vehicular and pedestrian survey. All watercourses, swamps and lakes were subject to targeted inspection due to the increased archaeological sensitivity within proximity of these landscape features.

A total of eight new Aboriginal places were recorded during the visual inspection. All eight Aboriginal places comprised artefacts scatters, Denholm Green 1 (VAHR 7422-0541), Derrinallum (VAHR 7422-0023), Caramut 2 (VAHR 7422-0542), Caramut 3 (VAHR 7422-0543), Caramut 4 (VAHR 7422-0544), Caramut 5 (VAHR 7422-0545), Mortlake 1 (VAHR 7421-0183) and Mortlake 2 (VAHR 7421-0184). These Aboriginal places largely consist of surface scatters and isolated occurrences of quartz flakes in close proximity to watercourses. However, these Aboriginal places are outside of the current geographic region, situated at distances over 20 km north and north west of the current activity area. In the majority of instances, it was recommended that works proceed with caution as the Aboriginal places will not be directly impacted by the proposed works.

6.4 Historical and Ethno-Historical Accounts in the Geographic Region

It should be noted that the following information has been compiled from a number of written sources based on language research and ethno-historic observations. This information does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Aboriginal community regarding their tribal affiliations and boundaries.

As noted by other researchers, information which relates to the Aboriginal occupation of the activity area is derived from publications and other surviving forms of documentation, which were compiled by early European settlers, missionaries and government officials who went to the region during the mid to late 19th century (Barwick 1984).

6.4.1 Ethno-historic accounts of Aboriginal people

The following information has been compiled from a number of written sources based on language research and ethno-historic observations. This information does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Aboriginal community regarding their tribal affiliations and boundaries.

As noted by other researchers, information which relates to the Aboriginal occupation of the activity area is derived from publications and other surviving forms of documentation which were compiled by early European settlers, missionaries and government officials who went to the region during the mid to late 19th century (Barwick 1984). In Victoria, clans comprised the basic ‘land owning’ group in Aboriginal society with territories defined by ritual and economic responsibilities (Clark 1990, p. 8). Clusters of neighbouring clans, which shared a common dialect and political and economic interests, distinguished themselves from other clusters by the use of a language name (Barwick 1984).

The activity area is within the traditional language boundaries of the *Girai wurrung* who managed the area covering Mount Shadwell, Lake Keilambete, Timboon, Lake Elingamite, Mount Hamilton and Terang (Clark 1990). Mount Emu Creek formed the eastern boundary in the northern half of the territory and the Gellibrand River marked the south eastern boundary. The *Girai wurrung*, meaning blood lip, consisted of 21 independent clans that were each linked spiritually to designated areas of land that were associated with deities. The clans probably adhered to a matrilineal moiety system similar to their eastern neighbours: the

gabadj (black cockatoo) and *grugidj* (white cockatoo), although this is largely undetermined (Clark 1995, p. 103).

There are eight dialects groups that are known to exist within the Girai wurrung language: *Wulu wurrung; Gai wurrung; Gurngubanud; Girai wurrung; Djargurd wurrung; Wirngilgnad dhalinanong*; *Dhauwurd wurrung*; and *Bi:g [sic] wurrung* (Clark 1990, p. 22). The individual clans within closest proximity to the activity area were the *Keilambeetch gundidj*, Mount Noorat Clan and the Lake Terang Clan. The *Keilambeetch gundidj,* Mount Noorat Clan and Lake Terang clan managed land near Lake Keilambete, Mount Noorat and Lake Terang respectively. The Mount Noorat Clan is also associated with Pejark Marsh (Clark 1990, p. 22).

Social organisation

According to Clark, individual clans within a language group were readily distinguished by dialect and cultural characteristics (1990, p. 9). Dawson states that the Aboriginal people of the Western District were divided into five 'classes' to prevent marriage into related kinship groups or *Tow'wil yerr* (1881, p. 26). In 1854, Edward Parker observed clan boundaries and noticed that the extent of neighbouring clan boundaries was known by and respected by contiguous clans, refer Figure 6.2 (cited in Clark 1990, p. 8). *Girai wurrung* shared good relations with the neighbouring *Dhauwurd wurrung*, their immediate neighbours to the west, *Djab wurrung* to the northwest and the *Wada wurrung* clans to the northeast. Periods of seasonal abundance would have allowed greater social interaction with inter-clan and tribal gatherings taking place (Murphy & Amorosi 2004, p. 13). It was believed that these groups had regular gatherings at Lake Bolac and Mirraiwuae Swamp, near Hexham, to harvest eels, hunt and conduct other business (Clark 1990, p. 192).

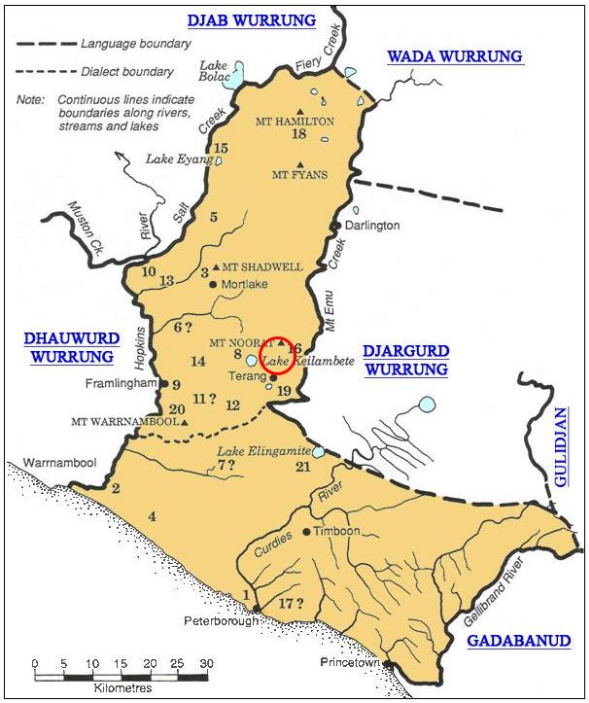


Figure 6.2: Girai wurrung language area and clans (activity area is visible in red) (Clark 1995, p. 126)

Subsistence and occupation

The Aboriginal groups throughout the geographic region would have exploited resources on a seasonal basis. A review of available ethnohistoric records has suggested that the Aboriginal people of the Western District were likely to have been semi-sedentary in their occupation and subsistence strategies with descriptions of substantial dwellings and 'villages' (Dawson 1881). Mitchell provides the following observation where:

> *Two very substantial huts showed that even the natives has been attracted by the beauty of the land…that such huts, with a good fire between them, made comfortable quarters in bad weather* (Mitchell 1836 in Gilding 2011, p. 12).

Further details of these structures is provided by Williams as he notes the presence of huts near Caramut, north of Warrnambool:

> *Some of them capable of holding a dozen people…these buildings were all made in a circular form, closely worked and then covered with mud* (Williams 1984).

However, this sort of stone infrastructure is unlikely to be depicted in the archaeological record as, by 1875, most of these structures had been demolished by settlers seeking building materials for drystone wall fences (Mulvaney 1977, p. 428).

Among the creeks and rivers of the volcanic plains, it is believed that these areas would have provided easy seasonal access and resource routes for pre-Contact Aboriginal people. During the annual eel migration in autumn, it has been noted that large groups of Aboriginal people would gather for up to two months to harvest the eels. Eel traps were made from stones, sticks or reeds and the eels were caught by spearing, fishing and trapping (Smyth 1878, p. 388). In April 1841, the 'Chief Protector of the Aborigines', G.A. Robinson documented the following observations on his journey through the Western District:

> *The natives said it was made by black fellows for catching eels when the big water came and was by them called Yere.roc…this weir was made of stout sticks, from 2-3 inches thick drove in to the ground and vertically fixed, and other sticks interlaced in an horizontal manner. A hole is left in the centre and a long eel pot made of basket or matting is placed before it and into it the eels gather and are thus taken* (in Presland 1977).

Within the broader geographic region, Dawson notes the repeated trade and congregation of Aboriginal groups near Mount Noorat, approximately six kilometres north of the activity area. Particular to this area, Dawson notes that 'the forest kangaroos are plentiful, and the skins of the young ones found there are considered superior to all the others for making rugs' (1881, p. 78). Dawson goes on to detail how the meetings were held periodically, and attendance was considered compulsory for all (1881, p. 78). These gatherings were for the trade in tools, items of clothing, food and ochre with 'exchanges of articles peculiar to distant parts of the country' (1881, p. 78).

6.4.2 Historical accounts of Aboriginal people

European settlement would have significantly impacted Aboriginal occupation within the geographic region. It was estimated that the regional population was in the vicinity of 1,800 Aboriginal people at the time of European contact. The squatting invasion of *Girai wurrung* land began in 1838 when William Hamilton and Thomas Watson started to occupy land southwest of Terang. During the drought years of 1838–39 and throughout the early 1840s, organised groups of *Girai wurrung* people fought a sustained guerrilla war against the pastoralists (Clark 1995, p. 125).

Following permanent settlement by European colonialists', various methods were used to dispossess Aboriginal people from their land. A combination of disease, dispossession of land, depletion of traditional food sources and conflict caused the decline of the Aboriginal population in the wider Western Plains region (Clark 1990, pp. 33-53). In early 1838, Frederick Taylor was involved in the notorious Murdering Gully massacre of people predominately belonging to the *Tarnbeere gunidji* clan of the *Djargurd wurrung* who were almost annihilated at a gully on Mount Emu Creek (Clark 1995, p. 125). Due to Taylor's involvement in this attack, in early 1839, the local non-Aboriginal community demonstrated their disapproval by changing the name of the local creek from Taylors River to Mount Emu Creek (Clark 1995, p. 4).

George McKillop and James Smith establishing a station at Glenorminston in 1839, which adjoined Lake Terang and was later taken over by Neil Black in 1840 (Clark 1995, p. 125). Similarly, in 1840 John Thomson established a 13 000-hectare run on Lake Keilambete, situated approximately six kilometres north-west of Terang. Accounts by Robinson and Black indicate that Lake Keilambete and Lake Terang were frequently visited by Aboriginal people in 1840 and 1841, with Lake Keilambete being a known gathering place (Clark 1995, p. 125).

Western Victoria was assigned to C.W. Sievwright (Clark 1990, p. 125) to oversee the district as part of the Port Phillip Protectorate system which was developed in an effort to protect Aboriginal people from acts of cruelty, oppression and injustice. After initially moving to Geelong in 1841, Assistant Protector C.W. Sievwright moved his Protectorate Station to an area near John Thomas's homestead on the Keilambete

run. The Aboriginal reserve was established on the eastern bank of Lake Keilambete, however, he was later ordered by Robinson to move his operations to Lake Terang in the same year (Clark 1990, p. 125).

In 1860, a Central Board was appointed to watch over the interests of the Aboriginal people within the region (Clark 1990). As part of this, several missions were established throughout Victoria's Western District. Located to the northeast of Warrnambool, the Church of England established the Framlingham mission which was occupied from 1865 to 1867. This mission became the home of many of the surviving Djargurd wurrung (Clark 1995, p. 103). In 1867, 80 Aboriginal people were removed from Framlingham mission to Lake Condah where a new station was established. However, many of the Aboriginals from the Framlingham mission refused to move to Lake Condah due to conflict with the residing group of Aboriginals. In response to this, in September 1868 the *Girai wurrung* actively sought the re-establishment of the Framlingham station. After years of battling with the government and alternative ideas for the land on which Framlingham mission was established, the Aboriginal Lands Act of 1970 granted control of this land to the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust (Clark 1995, pp. 127-128).

6.5 Landforms and geomorphology of the activity area

The activity area is located within the Western Plains geomorphic unit of Victoria (Figure 6.3). More specifically, the activity area is situated atop the geological subdivision known as Geomorphological Unit (GMU) 6.1.3 'Plains with poorly developed drainage and shallow regolith (Wingeel)' of the Volcanic plains (Agriculture Victoria 2020). This region is characterised by an extensive basalt plain up to 100 km wide which formed during the Plio-Pleistocene period. The activity area is characterised by poorly developed, shallow drainage lines within the southwestern region of the Western District Volcanic Plains, on moderate relief plains (100 – 140 m above sea level) that have formed on the localised basalt flows around the town of Terang.

The geomorphology of the region is characterised by the many volcanic features such as craters, cones, tumuli, volcanic lakes, and stony rises which were developed on the older lavas that formed about two million year ago and up to one million years ago (Agriculture Victoria 2020) (Robinson *et al*. 2003, 5). Volcanic eruption points in the region include maar's such as Lake Keilambete and Pejark Marsh, which are broad low-relief volcanic craters created by magma contacting water rich sedimentary layers. The formation of maars in the region has been shaped by explosive eruption due to Tertiary Limestone caves likely holding water. The reaction formed Lake Keilambete, the former Lake Terang and Pejark Marsh.

Centrally, the geographic region is characterised by flat sedimentary plains with some alluvial deposits associated with waterways. The activity area is situated on largely flat, low relief landform with a slight slope to the south, situated south of the Pejark Marsh and the associated tuff ring. Soils within the Terang area vary dependant on the age and type of volcanic eruption, subsequent soil erosion and soil formation. The soil profile of the activity area is dominated by an A horizon of grey brown silt overlying a darker grey brown clay B horizon (Agriculture Victoria 2020). Typical of volcanic soils, the soil profile features little or no naturally occurring stone.

6.5.1 Hydrology

There are no watercouses present within the activity area, however, within the geographic region the main hydrological features include Pejark Marsh and Lake Keilambete. Similarly, numerous smaller ephemeral creek lines feed into the larger creeks and rivers present within the broader geographic region.

Pejark Marsh is situated approximately 350 m north of the activity area. The marsh is visible only as a slight depression in the basaltic landscape. Previous investigations have identified lake deposits ranging from a depth of 6.9 m to 3.6 m through extensive soil testing (Wagstaff et al. 2001, p. 215). Pejark Marsh was originally identifiable with poor drainage and the possession of a dense cover of Leptospermum and Eucalyptus (Spencer & Walcott 1911). Pejark Marsh was drained in 1893 to create either pasturage or cropland, with the original tea tree scrub also being cleared (Gill 1953).

The Lake Keilambete maar crater is approximately two kilometres in diameter and is surrounded by a tuff ring (Agriculture Victoria 2019). Lake Keilambete is located approximately five kilometres north west of the activity area. With a maximum depth of 11 m, there is no stream inflow or outflow but a clayey lake floor which prevents seepage loss. Lake Keilambete has had a high salt content for the last 10,000 years and has

only supported small species of shellfish (Bowler & Hamada 1971). On-going investigations of the lake environs and lake floor materials by drilling, pollen analysis and radiocarbon dating have revealed a history of changing lake levels and salinity (Bowler & Hamada 1971). Carbon dating of lake floor sediments indicates a minimum age of 30,000 years for crater formation.

The freshwater resources, whether temporary or permanent were much richer and valuable. Situated approximately three kilometres south east of the activity area, Mount Emu Creek is a meandering perennial creek of the Glenelg Hopkins catchment. As the longest creek in Victoria, Mount Emu Creek connects with six tributaries before reaching its confluence with the Hopkins River, northeast of Warrnambool.

6.5.2 Climate

The geographic region more broadly experiences a temperate climate with moderate rainfall and cooler temperatures. The area of Terang has a mean maximum temperature of 25°C during the summer months and the mean minimum temperature of around 4°C during winter. The area receives a relatively high amount of rainfall averaging approximately 783 mm annually.

The combination of temperate weather conditions, reliable sources of water through the permanent lakes and watercourses allong with the fertile alluvial volcanic soils would have provided an abundant array of resources for Aboriginal people, supporting a wide variety of flora and fauna species.

6.5.3 Flora

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) are the standard unit for classifying vegetation types in Victoria. Determining the EVCs that existed prior to the year 1750 provides an indication the activity area's vegetation prior to non-Aboriginal settlement. Situated in the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion, the activity area supported the Scoria cone woodland (EVC 894). This resulted in large parts of the geographic region originally comprising of a eucalypt dominated woodland to 15 m tall with an understorey of herbs. Within the scoria cone woodland, typical tree species included River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*), Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillate*), and Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis).* Other plant species include Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*), Shady Wood-Sorrel (*Oxalis exilis*), Kidney-weed (*Dichondra repens*) and Austral Bracken (*Pterdidium exculentum*) amongst many others. The vegetation also included Wattles (*Acacia*), Cypress Pine (*Callitris*) and Sheoaks (*Casuarinaceae*) with a tussock grass ground layer (Sullivan 1981, p. 24).

Ethnohistorical records suggest the daisy yam was a staple plant food of the Western Plains Aboriginal people (Gott 1983, p. 6-8). The daisy yam was available year-round, although less palatable in early winter (Gott 1983, p. 10). These plants, along with other floral varieties such as reeds and rushes found along creeks and in swampy areas would have provided both food and fibre, tools, medicine, ceremonial and social uses for past Aboriginal communities (Sullivan 1981, p. 24).

The present vegetation of the activity area and the Western Plains of Victoria more generally consists largely of pasture and grazing formed by introduced sward-forming grasses and legumes. No remnant native vegetation is present within activity area.

6.5.4 Fauna

The geographic region contains a variety of riverine and terrestrial resource zones that would have supported Aboriginal subsistence practices. Resources would have varied according to season, with camp sites chosen according to resource availability and the purpose and duration of the stay. The greatest abundance and diversity of resources would likely have occurred through the summer months (Sullivan 1981, p. 141).

The grasslands of the activity area were the primary habitat of numerous animals that were hunted by Aboriginal people in the area including kangaroos (*Macropus rufus*), wombats (*Vombatidae*), koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), smaller marsupials and reptiles. These animals were used for food, and their skins, feathers, bones and blood were also used for clothing, tools, decoration and shelter. Birds, such as emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) and bustards (*Otidae*), were also eaten, as were bird eggs. Birds were caught with throwing sticks or in traps (Sullivan 1981, p. 141).

Given that seasonal potable water was likely present at Pejark Marsh the fauna would have included several wetland bird species including Australian Shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*). Similarly, Mount Emu Creek and the drainage lines associated with this watercourse would have contained fish, shellfish, crustaceans, eels as well as providing edible rushes and fibrous material for weaving. Fish and eels were important resources and were speared in rivers or caught in nets (Thomas cited in Sullivan 1981, p. 24). Faunal resources would have been plentiful in the activity area and surrounding region.

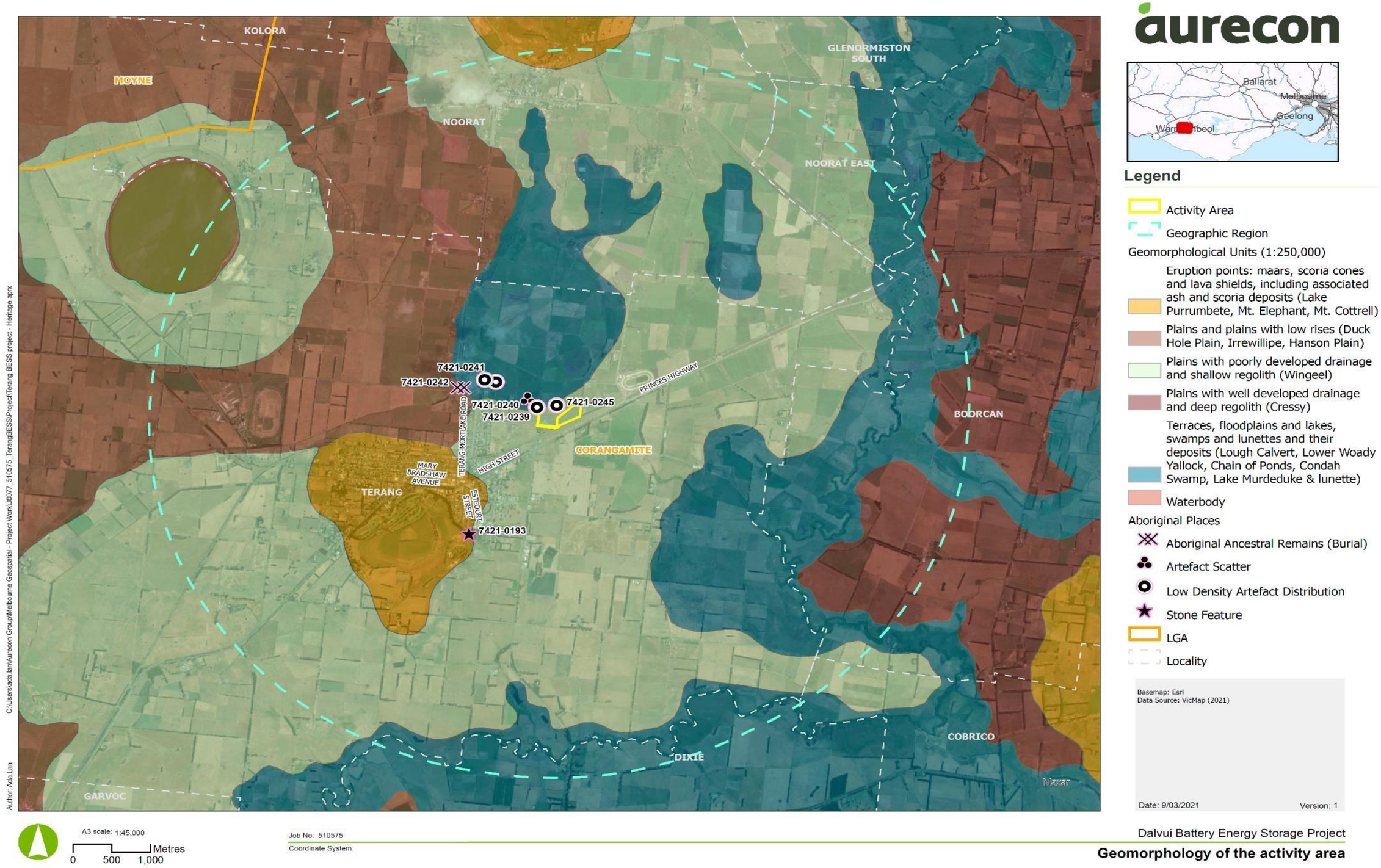


Figure 6.3: Geomorphology of the activity area

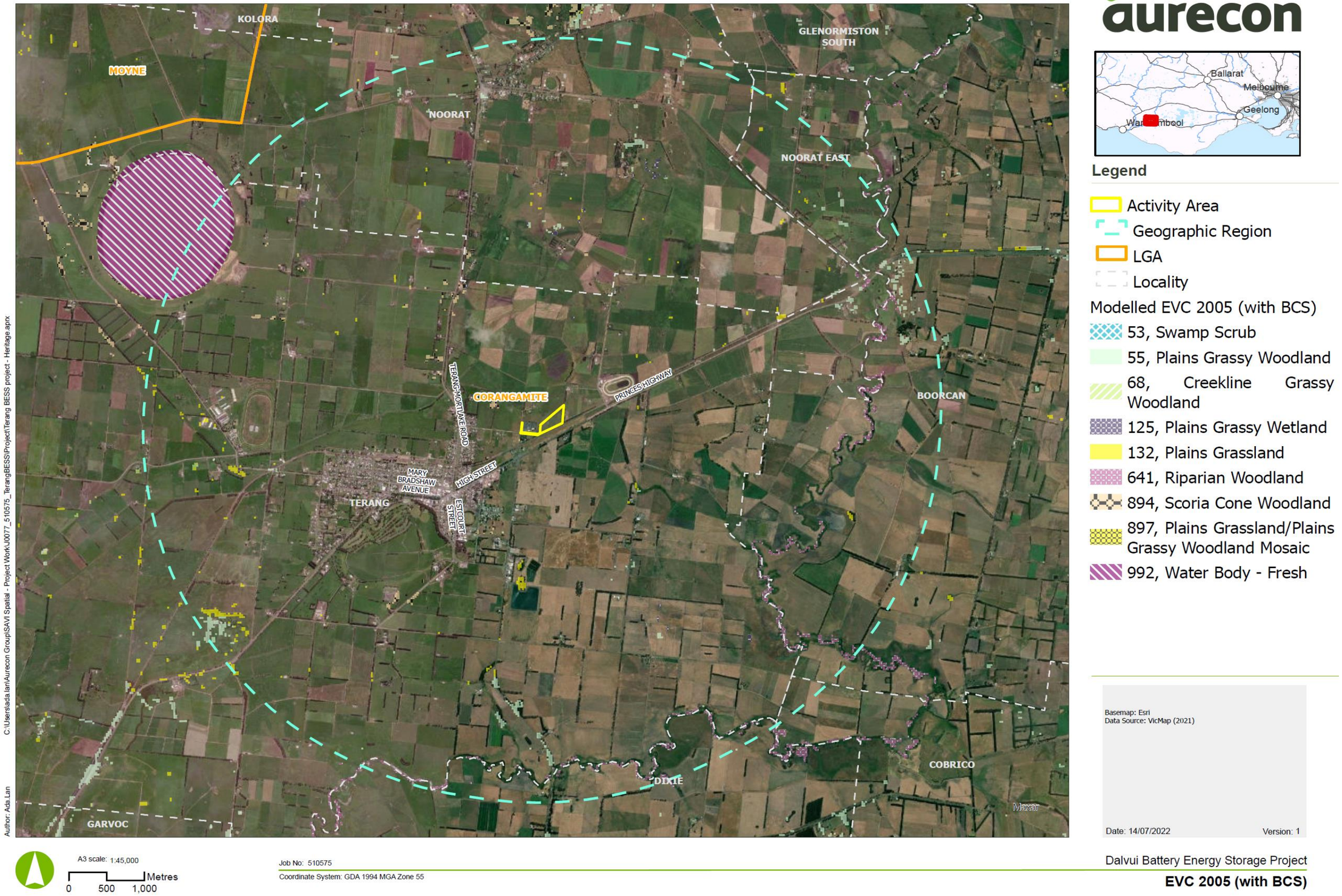


Figure 6.4: Ecological vegetation classes within the geographic region

6.6 Land use history of the activity area

The activity area was once part of the 17,000-hectare Glenormiston pastoral run. Initially known as Strathdownie, the run was taken up by Frederick Taylor in 1839. In 1840, the run was renamed ‘Glenormiston’ upon acquisition by Scottish pastoralist Niel Black on behalf of Scottish property investors, Niel Black & Company (Heritage Victoria 2019). The Glenormiston run included the activity area and the plains situated around Lake Keilambete, approximately four kilometres north-west of the activity area.

A review of the Glenormiston pastoral run plan dating from 1847-1882 describes the land within proximity of the activity area. The plan provides a description of vegetation, plot tracks, fences and dwellings, and the activity area as ‘open forest of gum and lightwood, soil middling’, see Figure 6.5 where the activity area has been highlighted in red for legibility. Furthermore, a ‘bank of good soil’ is noted immediately north of the activity area which is likely associated with the tuff ring of Pejark Marsh which has been labelled as ‘reedy swamp’ (PROV 2019). The low lying or marshy areas of Pejark Marsh were drained in 1893, to create either pasturage or cropland, with the original scrub also being cleared (Gill 1953).

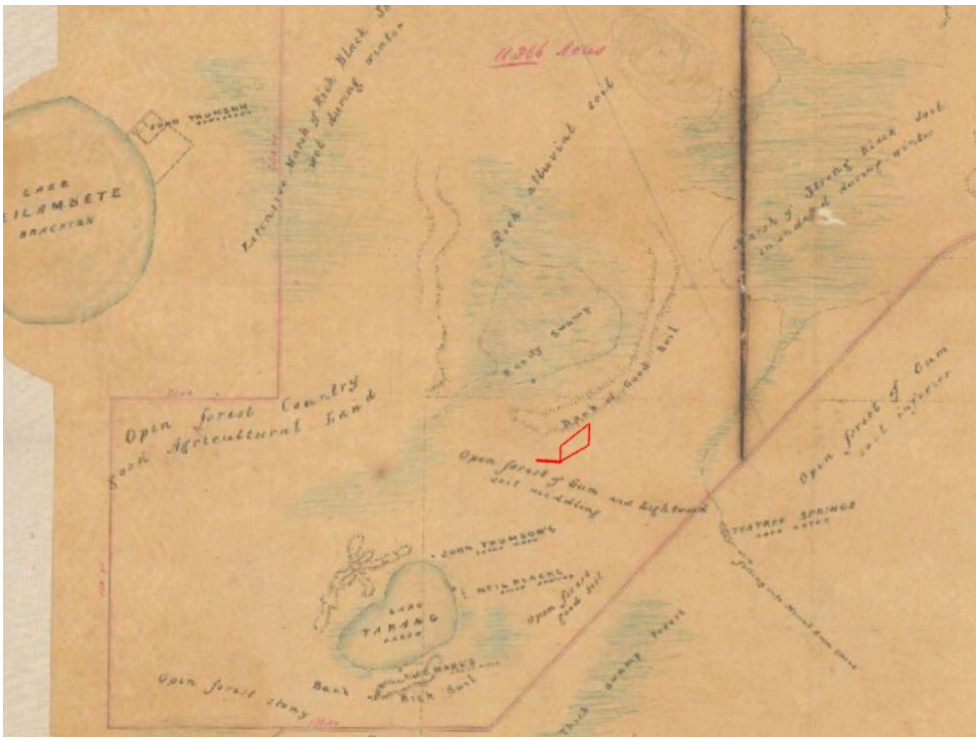


Figure 6.5: Glenormiston run 1847-1882 plan (PROV 2019)

It was originally estimated that the run ‘retained 43,700 acres, in which by 1847 was carrying 2,000 cattle and 14,000 sheep’ (McAlphine 1963, p. 32). The Glenormiston run was bordered by Keilambette run to the west, Yallock run to the southwest and several smaller runs to the south (McAlphine 1963, p. 39). In a diary entry, Black notes that the Glenormiston pastoral run was ‘one of the most wonderful in the colony, situated about halfway between this (Melbourne) and Portland Bay’ (Black in MacKellar 2009). In 1847, Glenormiston prospered and the homestead on the property was built as a five-roomed stone house which was later enlarged into a twenty-roomed house in 1859. The Glenormiston homestead is situated approximately eight kilometres north of the activity area. In 1949 the State Government purchased the property which had already been reduced through subdivision in the late 1880s, for the purpose of agricultural research and education, and in the late 1960s it became the Glenormiston Agricultural College (Heritage Victoria 2016).

Within the broader geographic region, the first dwelling in the township of Terang was built in 1840 by Donald McNicol, an employee of the Black family. This building consisted of a slab hut on the east bank of Lake Terang (McAlpine 1963, p. 69). It has been noted that Terang was named after an Aboriginal word meaning 'a twig with leaves'. The township was developed in the late 1850s, with the first sale of town allotments occurring in 1855. By 1859, there were several buildings, a post office, carpenters shop, bakery and a public hall, school and telegraph system arriving during the 1870s-1880s (Tonkin & Westbrooke 2014, p. 33).

The development of the railway through the town in the late 1880s was a major factor in the growth of the region and it was later extended as part of Victoria's south-western line (Brown 1990). In 1889 the Glenormiston subdivision sale was held, marking the beginning of unlocking the land for smaller farmers. As a result, the southern and eastern portions of the Glenormiston run were subdivided into several smaller farms. Industry and development through the region specialised in dairy farming, with a focus on the manufacture of butter and cheese (Tonkin & Westbrooke 2014, p. 33).

A review of the land use history has indicated that the activity area has remained cleared and used for light cultivation and agricultural practices. Initial vegetation clearance would have occurred across the activity area with localised and superficial areas of disturbance associated with fencing, agricultural activities and livestock movement. However, it is expected that in most areas of disturbance, this would be limited to upper topsoil only. The reduced amount of ground disturbance that has occurred across the majority of the activity area increases the likelihood of any archaeological sites, objects or remains being discovered within their original context.

6.7 General predictive statement for Aboriginal places

Predictive site location models can be defined as an:

> *attempt to predict, at a minimum, the location or archaeological sites or material in a region, based either on a sample of that region or on fundamental notions concerning human behavior (Kohler and Parker 1986:400)*

Following a search of the VAHR and a review of the previous literature and relevant archaeological reports, the following predictive summary statements can be made in relation to the activity area:

- Prior to European contact, the most common Aboriginal places in the geographic region would have been LDADs and artefact scatters followed by earth and stone features in close proximity to freshwater sources.
- The volcanic plain landscape of the activity area is considered to have low archaeological potential. Archaeological sensitivity will increase immediately north of the activity area where there exists a volcanic maar rim and marsh and prior shoreline.
- If present, stone artefact scatters will contain predominantly a range of flaked stone artefacts with fewer occurrences of cores and formal tools. Most artefacts will be manufactured from quartz, followed by lower quantities of silcrete and other raw materials. Stone artefacts will most commonly occur in low numbers i.e. less than 10 (or as low-density artefact distributions as defined by Aboriginal Victoria). The stone artefacts are likely to occur on the ground surface or in sub-surface deposits to a depth of 400 mm.
- Earth features (mounds) will typically comprise stone artefacts, charcoal, burnt clay and possibly faunal material (especially bone fragments) in a matrix of dark soil. They will appear in most instances within 50 m of perennial and ephemeral freshwater sources.
- Scarred trees may have potential to be present where remnant native vegetation is present. However, it is noted that the vast majority of the activity area appears to have been cleared of remnant vegetation.
- There is a low potential for burials, stone arrangements and rock wells to be present within the activity area.
- European agricultural activities, including vegetation clearance, ploughing and livestock husbandry over the past 150 years is likely to have severely damaged or destroyed most Aboriginal places within the activity area.
- Site visibility will tend to be restricted to areas of ground disturbance and bank erosion.
- Overall, there is a low potential for surface or sub-surface Aboriginal cultural heritage material to be present within the activity area.

6.8 Conclusions from the desktop assessment

This desktop assessment has assessed the geographic region and its connection with previously recorded Aboriginal places. A search of the VAHR revealed that there are no previously recorded Aboriginal places within the activity area. The majority of Aboriginal places located within the broader geographic region are low density artefact distributions or artefact scatters typically located in proximity to water sources. As a result of this desktop assessment, it is understood that the activity area contains a single landform, being the volcanic plain. The volcanic plain is suggested to have low archaeological significance. The activity area is located immediately adjacent to landforms in the north that have increased archaeological significance (volcanic maar rim and a marsh and prior shoreline).

Whilst the geographic region and activity area are historically connected to pastoralism and agricultural practises, it is not apparent that significant ground disturbance has occurred within the location of the current assessment. The activity area is also located in close proximity to landforms that have increased archaeological sensitivity. It is therefore considered reasonably possible that Aboriginal cultural heritage is present in the activity area. Accordingly, a standard assessment was determined to be required under r 62(1) of the Regulations.

7 Standard Assessment

For the purposes of s 53(2) of the Act, and in accordance with r 63 of the Regulations, a standard assessment must include a ground survey of all or part of the activity area to detect the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage in or associated with the activity area.

7.1 Aims

The aims of the standard assessment were to:

- Identify and record any previously unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area
- Inspect all indigenous mature trees for evidence of cultural scarring
- Identify areas of archaeological potential that will require subsurface testing as part of a complex assessment
- Document the extent of ground disturbance in the activity area, combining the data from the desktop assessment and the field survey, and
- Undertake consultation with representatives from EMAC.

7.2 Timing and personnel

The standard assessment was completed on 3 February 2021. The survey was directed and supervised by Alistair Carr (Senior Archaeologist, Aurecon). Personnel involved in the standard assessment, including their organisation, role, and dates of participation, are listed in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1 : Personnel involved in the standard assessment

Personnel	Organisation	Function	Dates
Phillip Chatfield	EMAC	Field representative	3 February 2021
Tylah Merriman	EMAC	Field representative	3 February 2021
Laura Cross	Aurecon	Archaeologist	3 February 2021
Alistair Carr	Aurecon	Senior Archaeologist	3 February 2021

7.3 Ground survey methodology

The ground survey involved a combination of systematic and opportunistic pedestrian survey, depending on the ground conditions encountered in different parts of the activity area. Where possible, systematic survey was conducted by the team of four field surveyors spaced evenly apart at distances of 2-3 m, traversing the activity area. Systematic survey was used at locations where pasture grasses were not as dense or where ground disturbance was noted. Generally, ground visibility was improved at these locations. Opportunistic survey was conducted where ground visibility was low due to pasture grasses.

The ground surface was closely inspected for the presence of Aboriginal stone artefacts and other archaeological features such as mounds. The ground surface was inspected for contour, soil colour and vegetation changes that might indicate the presence of existing disturbed land or areas of potential for subsurface archaeological deposits. There was no mature native vegetation present in the activity area to inspect for the presence of cultural scarring.

7.3.1 Survey units

The activity area consisted of a single survey unit associated with the volcanic plain landform present in the activity area. The survey/landform unit is described as follows:

Volcanic plain

The activity area is entirely located on a volcanic plain landform on the geomorphological unit 'plains with poorly developed drainage and regolith'. The volcanic plain is where the battery facility will be constructed and transitions from a gentle elevation in the north, adjacent to a volcanic maar rim, to a lower point in the south.

7.4 Recording and mobile mapping

All pertinent information relating to the environmental and archaeological context of the activity area including landscape features, topography, vegetation and soil types, ground surface visibility, ground disturbance and the likely presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area were recorded during the survey. Landscape features and areas of ground disturbance were also photographed with a digital camera.

The survey was guided by a mobile Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) unit which was pre-loaded with polygons for the CHMP activity area, areas of cultural heritage sensitivity, waterways and roads, and the existing Aboriginal place data within the activity area boundary. Relevant features located during the survey were mapped using the DGPS, using the Victorian Government standard GDA94/MGA54 for Eastings and Northings. The DGPS unit enabled spatial datasets collected in the field to be post-processed to sub-metre level accuracy which is the target level of AV accuracy for Aboriginal places (Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006). The Global Positioning System coordinates required differential correction, and at completion of the field survey, the collected data was transferred to the Aurecon spatial mapping team to collate and produce maps for the purposes of this CHMP.

7.5 Ground surface visibility and survey coverage

The detection of Aboriginal places and cultural material is dependent upon ground surface visibility. Ground surface visibility is also affected by erosional processes and surface vegetation. Effective survey coverage calculations attempt to quantify the efficacy of the survey (Table 7.2). The following formula for quantifying effective survey coverage (Witter 1990) was used to calculate effective coverage for the activity area:

EC = (a) x (e) x (v) x (b), where:

- EC = effective coverage
- a = area surveyed in square metres
- e = erosion
- v = visibility
- b = background effect

It should be noted that the aim of the survey coverage analysis is not to provide an exact percentage of ground or survey area, but a justifiable estimate.

The entirety of the activity area (add size in m²) was accessible and capable of being surveyed during fieldwork. Ground visibility and exposure across the activity area was generally very low (less than approximately 5 to 10 per cent per square metre), and there was low ground surface exposure (less than approximately 5 to 10 per cent per square metre) primarily due to vegetation cover. This resulted in a low overall effective survey coverage of one per cent (Table 7.2 and Table 7.3). The low effective coverage is likely to have had an influence on the detection of Aboriginal places in the landscape, including lithic artefact scatters and isolated lithic artefacts, the most common Aboriginal place type predicted to occur in the activity area.

Table 7.2: Effective coverage rating definitions

Erosion rating (E) (Index of sedimentation)	Visibility rating (V) (Estimation of the percentage of bare ground)	Background effect (B) (Measure of the occurrence of materials that impedes the detection of cultural deposits)
0.1 = aggrading surface 0.5 = stable surface 1.0 = degrading surface	0.1 = negligible visibility 0.2 = (1-25%) 0.3 = (26-50%) 0.4 = (51-75%) 0.5 = (76-99%) 1.0 = (100%)	0.1 = high 0.5 = medium 1.0 = low

Table 7.3: Effective survey coverage calculation of the activity area

Survey unit	Survey unit area (m²)	Ground surface visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Background effect	Effective survey coverage (m²)	Effective survey coverage (%)
Volcanic plain	57,519	10%	10%	1.0	575	1%

7.6 Obstacles

There were no major obstacles encountered during the standard assessment. All parts of the activity area were accessible for survey.

7.7 Results

No new Aboriginal places were located as a result of the survey. No new archaeological features or artefacts were found on the ground surface. There are no mature native trees within the activity area or immediately adjacent to it that feature scars caused by traditional bark removal practises. There are no caves, cave entrances, rock shelters or other notable geological features that might be conducive to the preservation of Aboriginal cultural remains. No rock outcrops were found containing stone axe grinding grooves.

The volcanic plain survey unit consists of an existing access track extending from the southern extent of the terminal station boundary to the main component of the battery facility activity area. The track is being used for vehicle access to paddocks that are currently being used for grazing purposes. A line of non-native mature vegetation extends along the northern margin of the access track (Figure 7.9).

The bulk of the activity area includes paddocks that are used for grazing purposes. Ground surface visibility was generally poor due to grass coverage, however visibility improved at McCrae Street, the access track to the BESS site and at locations of stock trampling. It is evident that the entirety of the activity area within the paddocks has been extensively ploughed. Plough lines across the activity area were still evident at these locations (Figure 7.5 and Figure 7.6). The activity area also includes a section of McCrae Street which turns into a dirt track for access to the existing paddocks. McCrae Street is currently being used as an access road for the Terang Terminal Station and was determined to be disturbed due to the construction of the existing road. There is a transmission line alignment in the northern extent of the proposed BESS location. Some disturbance was noted at the location of transmission line pylons.

The volcanic plain survey unit was generally flat however a slight elevation towards a volcanic maar rim was noted in the north which dropped gradually in elevation to the lower volcanic plain landform in the south of the activity area. The entirety of the volcanic plain landform within the activity area was assessed as having low archaeological potential.

Figure 7.1: Activity area at location of proposed battery facility (view east, photograph by A Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.2: Activity area at location of proposed battery facility (view south towards vehicle track, photograph by A Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.3: Activity area at location of proposed battery facility (view west towards substation, photograph by A Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.4: Activity area at location of proposed battery facility showing slight elevated northern extent and plough lines (view north, photograph by A. Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.5: Activity area at location of proposed battery facility showing plough lines (view north, photograph by A Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.6: Activity area at location of proposed battery facility showing disturbance from ploughing (photograph by A Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.7: Activity area at location of proposed battery facility (view west towards substation, photograph by A Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.8: Activity area at location of proposed battery facility, eastern extent (view north towards substation, photograph by A Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.9: Activity area at location of proposed vehicle access track (view west towards substation, photograph by A. Carr 3 February 2021)

Figure 7.10: Activity area at location of proposed vehicle access track (view east, photograph by A. Carr 3 February 2021)

7.8 Conclusions

During the standard assessment the entirety of the activity area was surveyed. Overall ground surface visibility was very low due to vegetation coverage, resulting in an effective survey coverage of only approximately one per cent. No new Aboriginal cultural heritage was identified during the standard assessment. No new stone artefacts were located, no scarred trees were found, and no stone outcrops containing axe grinding grooves were identified. Sections of the activity area have been subject to a degree of ground disturbance. It was apparent that the entire activity area has been ploughed in the past causing a degree of disturbance to topsoil. Some disturbance was also noted from the construction of a transmission line.

The standard assessment survey results reinforced the desktop assessment predictive model finding that suggested the volcanic plain landform will have low archaeological sensitivity. During consultation with the RAP, concerns were raised around the proximity of known Aboriginal places to the existing activity area which may suggest there is some potential for further Aboriginal cultural material to be present. Concerns were also raised around the intensity of ongoing development at the location, particularly in relation to recent CHMPs that have been approved and surround the Terang terminal station (CHMP 17073, 16306 and 14295). These proposed developments were viewed by the RAP as increasing the cumulative impact to an area (Pejark Marsh) known to have archaeological significance. The intensity of development also reduces future opportunities to conduct archaeological investigation at the location. Visibility was also typically poor throughout the activity area providing further challenges for understanding the archaeological significance of the activity area. For these reasons, complex assessment was agreed upon in accordance with r 64 of the

Regulations, as it is not otherwise possible to adequately determine the extent, nature and significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the activity area.

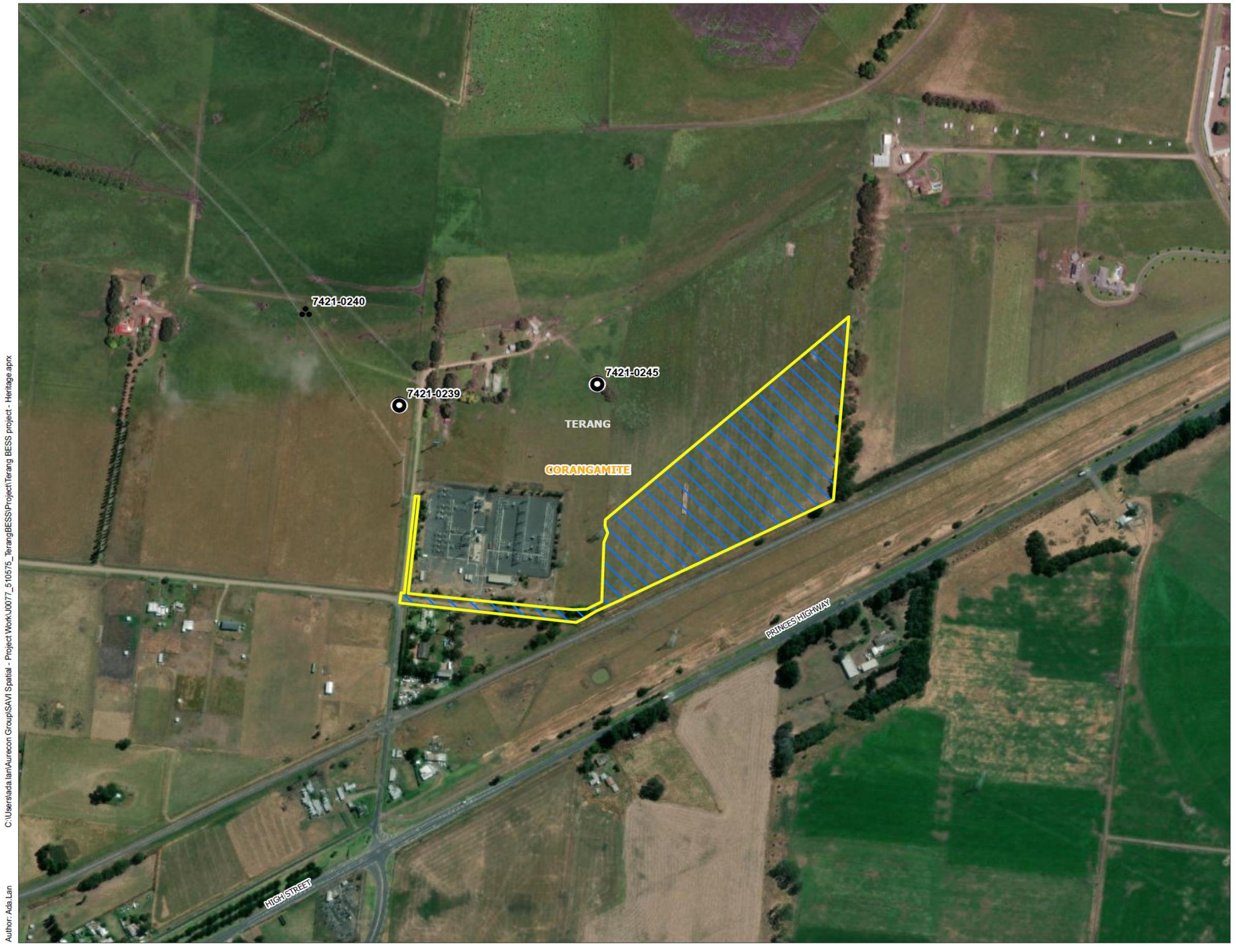


Figure 7.11: Standard assessment results

8 Complex Assessment

For the purposes of s 53(2) of the Act, and in accordance with r 65 of the Regulations, a complex assessment of an activity area is an assessment involving the excavation of part of the activity area to uncover or discover Aboriginal cultural heritage.

8.1 Aims

The aims of the complex assessment were to investigate sub-surface conditions in order to:

- Determine the extent and nature of any sub-surface Aboriginal archaeological deposits
- Investigate areas of archaeological potential identified during the standard assessment
- Investigate stratigraphy and ground conditions within the activity area and how these relate to the presence and preservation of archaeological deposits
- Define the extent of any identified Aboriginal archaeological deposits in order to register them in accordance with the requirements of the VAHR
- Determine whether any Aboriginal places will be impacted by the activity; and
- Allow the Sponsor to adequately consider opportunities to avoid harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area.

8.2 Methodology

The test excavations were conducted manually, according to systematic archaeological methods. Two excavation units were used: 1 x 1 m test pit (TP) and 0.5 x 0.5 m shovel test pits (STPs). The TP was positioned according to the results of the standard assessment and in consultation with EMAC field representatives at a location determined to be subject to less obvious disturbance from prior ploughing activity and the transmission line alignment infrastructure present in the northern extent of the activity area. A single TP was excavated to assist with understanding and documenting the stratigraphy present in the activity area. Further STPs were then excavated in a linear transect extending from the west of the activity area to the east at intervals of 20-25 m, depending on ground disturbance. This strategy enabled the investigation of a representative sample of different parts of the activity area.

8.2.1 Excavation methods

The TP was manually excavated using trowels and other hand-held excavation tools, in arbitrary excavation units or ‘spits’ no greater than 50 mm, following stratigraphy where possible. Shovel test pits were excavated using a flat-edged shovel, enabling soil to be removed in controlled increments, and a test pit to be excavated with straight sides and a level base. All excavated soil was passed through 5 mm mesh on site, at a suitable distance from the test pits, using a free standing 1 m x 1 m table sieve. Excavations ceased when a culturally sterile deposit dating to before human occupation was reached. The TP and representative STPs were recorded photographically using an appropriate scale and a stratigraphic drawing was completed for the hand-excavated TP. Sediments were described and detailed notes kept on stratigraphy using pre-prepared recording forms. Sediment samples from representative stratigraphic units were collected and tested for colour (Munsell) and acidity (pH). At completion of excavation and recording, all test pits were reinstated to as close to pre-excavation conditions as possible.

8.2.2 Mobile mapping

At completion of excavations, coordinates were recorded for the 1 x 1 m TP and STPs. Coordinates were recorded with a DGPS unit (Ipad with receiver used to attain sub-metre accuracy) using the Victoria Government standard GDA94/MGA54 for Eastings and Northings. The DGPS unit enabled spatial datasets collected in the field to be post-processed to sub-metre level accuracy which is the target level of AV accuracy for Aboriginal places (Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria 2013). The Global Positioning System co-

ordinates require differential correction, and following completion of the fieldwork, the data was transferred to the Aurecon spatial mapping team to collate data and to produce maps for the purposes of this CHMP.

8.3 Timing and personnel

The complex assessment was conducted over two days from 3-4 February 2021. Personnel involved in the complex assessment, along with their relevant organisation, function and dates on site are listed in Table 8.1. The test excavations were supervised by Alistair Carr, who is appropriately qualified in archaeology, as per r 65(3) of the Regulations.

Table 8.1: Personnel involved in the complex assessment

Person	Project role	Organisation	Fieldwork participation dates
Alistair Carr	Senior Archaeologist	Aurecon	3-4 February 2021
Laura Cross	Archaeologist	Aurecon	3-4 February 2021
Phillip Chatfield	Field representative	EMAC	3-4 February 2021
Tylah Merriman	Field representative	EMAC	3-4 February 2021

8.4 Obstacles

There were no obstacles encountered during the course of the complex assessment.

8.5 Results of the subsurface excavations

No Aboriginal cultural heritage was found during the complex assessment. Test excavation units were excavated in a total of 15 positions and consisted of one hand excavated 1 x 1 m TP and 14 0.5 x 0.5 m STPs. A total surface area of 4.5 m² was therefore excavated. Coordinates for the locations of all test pits (GDA 94 MGA Zone 54) are included in Table 8.3; their locations are shown in Figure 8.4.

The following sections detail the results of the complex assessment. Information includes descriptions and photographs of these locations and landforms, subsurface conditions, depths of excavations, presence or absence of Aboriginal cultural material, drawings and photographs and descriptions of stratigraphy. Excavation records for all shovel test pits, including descriptions and depths of stratigraphic units are attached as Appendix C.

8.5.1 Establishing stratigraphy

TP1 was positioned to the north of the transect of STPs within the proposed BESS location, at a point determined to be at a distance from any disturbance associated with the transmission line alignment in the northern extent of the activity area (Figure 8.1). A single TP (1) was excavated to document the stratigraphy associated with the volcanic plain landform that the entirety of the activity area is located on.

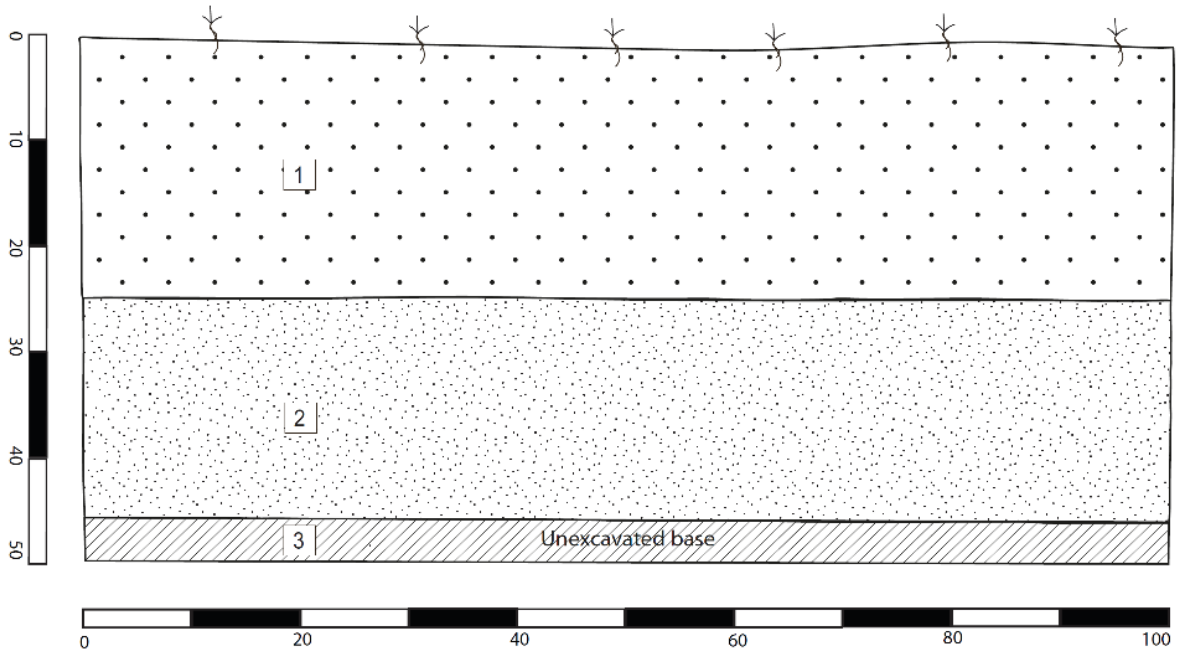
TP1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 460 mm (Figure 8-2). Three stratigraphic units were identified (Table 8.2). The uppermost stratum (SU1) comprises a very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed. SU1 also contained small rootlets and was excavated to a depth of 250 mm (7.5 YR 2/2.5). Below this stratigraphic unit 2 (SU2) was excavated to a depth of 450 mm. SU2 comprises a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth (7.5 YR 3/3). Excavations ceased at TP1 when a strong brown clay stratigraphic unit was reached (SU3) at a depth of 460 mm (7.5YR 5/3). No Aboriginal cultural material was found.

Table 8.2: Sediment descriptions (TP1)

SU	Depth (mm)	Description	Munsell	pH
1	250	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed. Small rootlets present.	7.5 YR 2/2.5	5.5
2	450	Dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth.	7.5 YR 3/3	6
3	460	Strong brown clay base.	7.5YR 5/3	6

Figure 8.1: TP1 end of excavation (Photograph by A Carr 4 February 2021)

MGA Zone: 54 144122E/ 5760506N
Excavation date: 2 February 2021
Drawn by: Laura Cross
Scale: 1 : 1000 mm



Stratigraphic units

1	7.5 YR 2/2.5 (very dark brown), pH 5 1/2. Very dark brown silty loam (0-250 mm).
2	7.5 YR 3/3 (dark brown), pH 6. Dark brown silty clay (250-450 mm) Infrequent ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth.
3	7.5 YR 5/3 (strong brown), pH 6. Strong brown firm clay base (450-460 mm).

Figure 8.2: TP1 stratigraphic illustration of soil profiles

8.5.2 Shovel test pits

Fourteen STPs were excavated at 20-25 m intervals across the proposed BESS activity area. Stratigraphy encountered across these excavation units was comparable to that recorded in TP1, characterised by a silty loam overlying a silt clay with increasing ironstone gravel inclusions to a clay base (see Table 8.3). No Aboriginal cultural material was recovered.

Table 8.3: Descriptions of STPs

STP #	Description	Depth (mm)	Artefacts	Easting	Northing
1	400	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144085.2	5760457.4
2	370	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144107.4	5760474.3
3	385	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144128.9	5760487.6
4	340	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144151.6	5760498.9
5	410	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144174.2	5760514.3
6	400	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144197.2	5760526.9
7	360	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144220.5	5760539.9
8	380	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144242.5	5760554.2
9	380	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144264.2	5760567.6
10	390	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144286.0	5760579.5
11	420	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144307.0	5760592.1
12	440	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144328.6	5760607.4

13	280	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144350.5	5760618.8
14	320	Very dark brown silty loam which has been ploughed with small rootlets present overlying a dark brown silty clay with ironstone gravel inclusions increasing with depth to a clay base.	N	144366.2	5760628.4

Figure 8.3: STP1 end of excavation (Photograph by A Carr 4 February 2021)

8.6 Conclusion

Over two days, the main aims of the complex assessment were met. The testing achieved representative coverage across parts of the activity area that will be impacted by the activity; subsurface conditions and stratigraphy were investigated across the volcanic plain landform and areas of archaeological potential identified during the standard assessment were investigated. In total one 1 x 1 m TP and 14 0.5 x 0.5 m STP were excavated (a total surface area of 4.5 m²). No Aboriginal cultural material was recovered.

A number of predictions made during the desktop assessment were confirmed as a result of the testing, including that prior disturbance to the activity area such as ploughing will have adversely impacted subsurface conditions. The complex assessment also confirmed the prediction that the volcanic plain landform present in the activity area will have low archaeological significance. Overall, the complex assessment has shown that the activity area has been determined to have low archaeological sensitivity, with low potential for subsurface cultural deposits to be present.

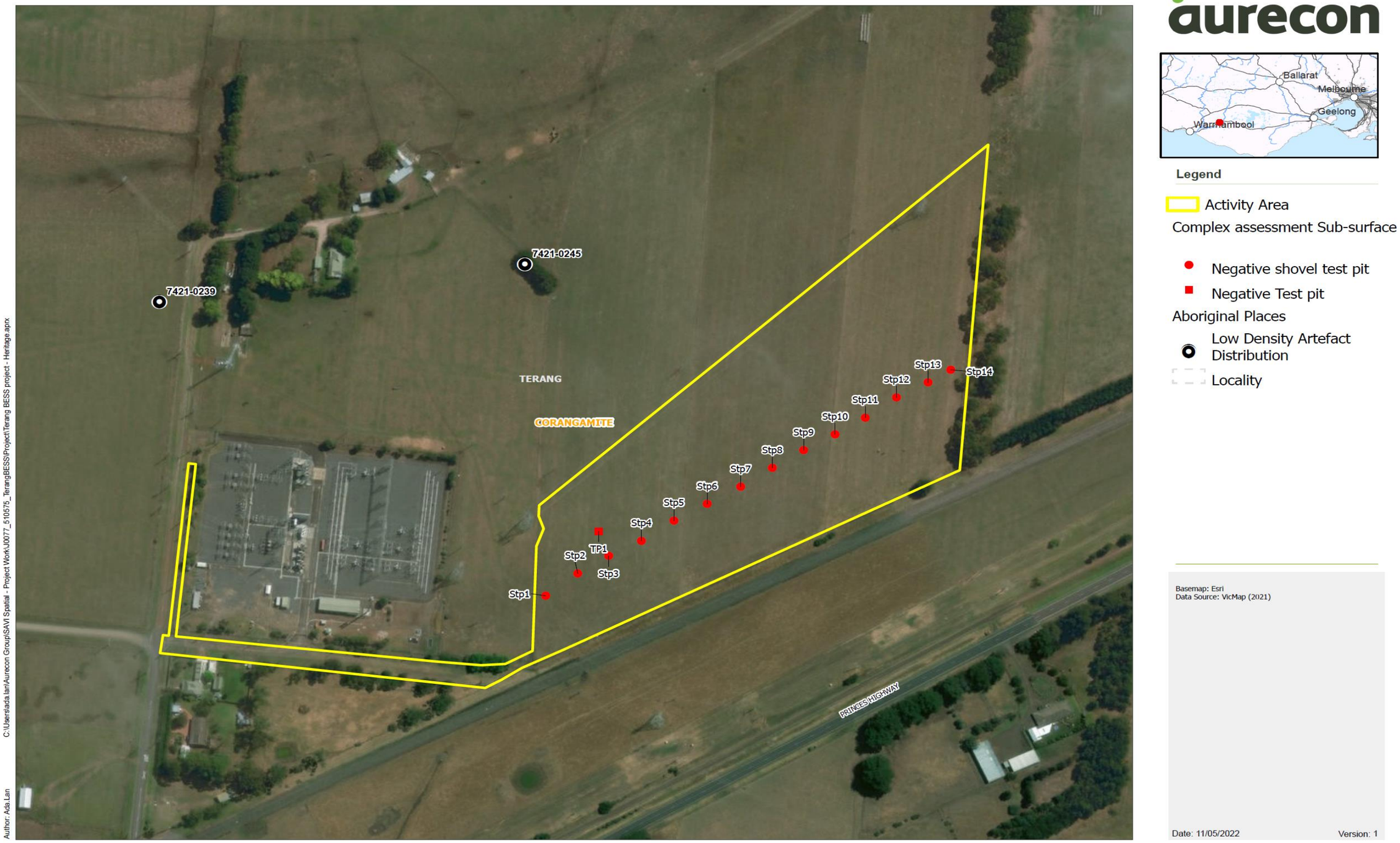


Figure 8.4: Complex assessment results

9 Section 61 Matters – Impact Assessment

It should be noted that it is a mandatory requirement for the Sponsor to comply with the following conditions and contingencies. Section 61 of the Act states that when seeking approval of a CHMP the following conditions need to be considered:

- Whether the activity will be conducted in a way that avoids harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- If it does not appear to be possible to conduct the activity in a way that avoids harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage, whether the activity will be conducted in a way that minimises harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

No Aboriginal cultural heritage was recorded or re-inspected during this assessment therefore the activity will not cause harm to any known Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area. Consideration of Section 61 matters is not necessary for specific Aboriginal places within the activity area as they do not occur.

9.1 Cumulative impact statement

There are no Aboriginal places recorded within the activity area and based on the results of this assessment it is unlikely that there will be any unknown Aboriginal places located within the activity area. The activity area consists of a volcanic plain landform that has low archaeological sensitivity. This assessment also found that large areas of the activity area have been subject to prior ground disturbance further reducing the archaeological potential of the activity area. It is therefore concluded that the cumulative impact of the activity on Aboriginal cultural heritage in the region will be negligible.

9.2 Contingency plans

In accordance with Section 61 of the Act, a CHMP must consider:

1. Any contingency plans required in relation to disputes, delays and other obstacles that may affect the conduct of the activity.

2. Requirements relating to the custody and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage during the course of the activity.

The contingencies below are presented in Section 2 (Part 1) of this CHMP:

- Discovery and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage found during the activity.
- Discovery of human remains
- Custodianship
- Dispute resolution
- Compliance review and non-compliance.

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Appendix A Notice of Intention to Prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Notice of Intent to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the purposes of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

This form can be used by the Sponsor of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to complete the notification provisions pursuant to s.54 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (the "Act").

For clarification on any of the following please contact Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) enquiries on 1800-726-003.

SECTION 1 - Sponsor information

Sponsor:	Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd		
ABN/ACN:	55 613 749 616		
Contact Name:	Eliza Budd		
Postal Address	535 Bourke St. Level 23, Melbourne, Victoria, 8007, Australia		
Business Number:	0434903635	Mobile:	0434903635
Email Address:	eliza.budd@tiltrenewables.com		

Sponsor's agent (if relevant)

Company:			
Contact Name:			
Postal Address			
Business Number:		Mobile:	
Email Address:			

SECTION 2 - Description of proposed activity and location

Project Name:	Terang Battery Energy Storage System
Municipal district:	Corangamite Shire Council

Clearly identify the proposed activity for which the cultural heritage managment plan is to be prepared (ie. Mining, road construction, housing subivision)

Utility installation (not telco)

SECTION 3 - Cultural Heritage Advisor

Name	Company	Email address
Alistair Carr	Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd	alistair.carr@aurecongroup.com

SECTION 4 - Expected start and finish date for the cultural heritage management plan

Start Date:	16-Nov-2020	Finish Date:	16-Nov-2021

Submitted on: 16 Nov 2020

SECTION 5 - Why are you preparing this cultural heritage management plan?

☑ A cultural heritage management plan is required by the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007

What is the high Impact Activity as it is listed in the regulations?

Utility installation (not telco)

Is any part of the activity an area of cultural heritage sensitivity, as listed in the regulations? Yes

☐ Other Reasons (Voluntary)

☐ An Environment Effects Statement is required

☐ A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

☐ An Impact Management Plan or Comprehensive Impact Statement is required for the activity

SECTION 6 - List the relevant registered Aboriginal parties (if any)

This section is to be completed where there are registered Aboriginal parties in relation to the management plan.

EASTERN MAAR Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

SECTION 7A - List the relevant Aboriginal groups or Aboriginal people with whom the Sponsor intends to consult (if any)

*This section is to be completed only if the proposed activity in the management plan is to be carried out in an area where there is **no Registered Aboriginal Party.***

SECTION 7B - Describe the intended consultation process (if any)

*This section is to be completed only if the proposed activity in the management plan is to be carried out in an area where there is **no Registered Aboriginal Party.***

SECTION 8 – State who will be evaluating this plan (mandatory)

The plan is to be evaluated by:

☑ Joint - Registered Aboriginal Party AND The Secretary

☐ A Registered Aboriginal Party

If checked, list the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party Evaluating: EASTERN MAAR Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

☐ The Secretary

☐ Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

SECTION 9 – Preliminary Aboriginal Heritage Tests (PAHTs)

List the Reference Number(s) of any PAHTs conducted in relation to the proposed activity:

SECTION 10 - Notification checklist

Submitted on: 16 Nov 2020

Ensure that any relevant registered Aboriginal party/ies is also notified. A copy of this notice with a map attached may be used for this purpose.
(A registered Aboriginal party is allowed up to 14 days to provide a written response to a notification specifying whether or not it intends to evaluate the management plan.)

In addition to notifying the Deputy Director and any relevant registerd Aboriginal party/ies, a Sponsor must also notify any owner and/or occupier of any land within the area to which the management plan relates. A copy of this notice with a map attached may be used for this purpose.

Ensure any municipal council, whose municipal district includes an area to which the cultural heritage management plan relates, is also notified. A copy of this notice, with a map attached, may also be used for this purpose.

Appendix B Response to Notice of Intention to Prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan

Eastern Maar
Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 546
Warrnambool VIC 3280

23 November 2011

Eliza Budd
Tilt Renewables Australia Pty Ltd
535 Bourke St. Level 23
Melbourne, Victoria, 3007, Australia

Ngattanwarre Eliza,

EASTERN MAAR ELECTS TO EVALUATE CHMP 17571 – TERANG BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (s55).

I refer to your notice of intent to prepare a cultural heritage management plan, received on 16 November 2020, for Terang Battery Energy Storage System.

The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, as the registered Aboriginal party for the area, elects to evaluate the management plan in accordance with s.55 Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (the Act). Please note, that you are required to notify Aboriginal Victoria in accordance with s56 of the Act that Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation will evaluate the cultural heritage management plan.

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation expects that you will consult with us in the relation to the assessment of the proposed activity area for the purposes of the cultural heritage mangement plan and in relation to the conditions for the management of Aboriginal heritage. Please note that Eastern Maar expects a meeting with both the Sponsor and Heritage Advisor to discuss management conditions if Aboriginal heritage is identified in the activity area during the preparation of the management plan. Eastern Maar representatives will participate in the conduct of any required field assessments.

Please contact Sammy Fidge at samantha.fidge@easternmaar.com.au to arrange an initial inception meeting, using the booking form on our website, no sooner than two weeks after providing a copy of the completed desktop assessment and relevant mapping, or if other information is required.
To book field representatives please complete the booking form on our website and forward to Craig.Edwards@easternmaar.com.au with your preferences.
A copy of the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation schedule of fees is attached for your reference.

I look forward to working with you to recognise and protect Aboriginal heritage as an integral part of your project.

Yours sincerely,

Sammy Fidge
RAP Technical Specilaist/ Heritage Advisor, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
Ph. 0428 961 689
samantha.Fidge@easternmaar.com.au

cc Heritage Advisor/VAHR

Appendix C Glossary

Aboriginal Object: Any object within Victoria and its coastal wasters that relates to Aboriginal occupation of any part of Australia (regardless of its age), which is of cultural heritage significance to the Aboriginal people of Victoria. Objects include archaeological finds and materials excavated from Aboriginal places. Objects do not include Aboriginal human remains.

Aboriginal Place (Place): An area within Victoria and its coastal wasters that is of cultural heritage significance to the Aboriginal people of Victoria. A Place may include an area of land, expanse of water, a natural feature, formation or landscape, or an archaeological site, feature or deposit. places may pre-date European contact; can relate to contemporary or historical associations; and may or may not contain archaeological remains.

Activity Area: The area or areas to be used or developed for an activity.

Area of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity: An area designated as an area of cultural heritage sensitivity in Division 3 and Division 4 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.

Australian Small Tool Tradition: A continent-wide shift in tool technology which included small, usually hafted tools comprising adzes, backed blades, pirri points and thumbnail scrapers.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan: The prescribed format of the highest level of reporting Aboriginal heritage assessments in Victoria. under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006. The circumstances in which a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required are prescribed in the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.

Hearths: Also known as ovens these sites are roughly circular features mainly comprising lumps of burnt/baked clay sometimes in an ash and charcoal matrix. Occasionally other cultural material can be found associated with the hearths, such as burnt and unburnt fish, mammal and bird bone, shell and stone artefacts, the former indicating that these features were used as ovens for cooking food. Hearths are often found associated with middens but can be found in isolated occurrences, or in groups, on the floodplain or along the margins of drainage features.

Holocene: The Holocene is the current geological epoch and extends from about 11,650 years ago to the present. The Holocene and the preceding Pleistocene together form the Quaternary period in geology. The Holocene has been identified with the current warm period.

In situ: A description of any cultural material that lies undisturbed in its original point of deposition.

Low Density Artefact Distribution (LDAD): A VAHR Aboriginal Place category defined as single stone artefacts and/or distributions of multiple stone artefacts at concentrations of less than 10 artefacts within a 10 m² area for a surface scatter, and 1 m² for a subsurface excavation unit.

Pleistocene: A geological epoch that lasted from about 2,588,000 to 11,700 years ago. Often referred to as the “Ice Age”. The end of the Pleistocene corresponds with the end of the last glacial period, and the commencement of the Holocene.

Registered Cultural Heritage places: These are Aboriginal archaeological sites, remains or features registered on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

Scarred trees: Scarred trees are trees which have had bark removed by Aboriginal people for the creation of bark canoes, shelters, shields and containers. Aboriginal derived scars are distinct from naturally occurring scars by their oval or symmetrical shape and occasional presence of steel, or more rarely, stone axe marks on the scar's surface. Other types of scarring include toeholds cut in the trunks or branches of trees for climbing purposes and removal of bark to indicate the presence of burials in the area. Size and shape of the scar depended on the use for which the bark was intended.

Shell Midden: Is a distinct concentration of shell material (whole or broken) usually found in association with riverbanks and coastal shores. Shell middens vary widely in size composition and complexity. They are areas where Aboriginal people collected shell resources for processing. Shell middens may also contain stone artefacts, charcoal, hearth material, animal bones and human remains.

Spit: Refers to an arbitrarily defined strata of soil removed during excavation.

Stratigraphy: The interpretation of soil layers in archaeological deposits. In general, the top layer of soil deposits, and associated archaeological material, are younger than the soil layers they overlay.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register: The register holds all the information about known Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects within Victoria, with their location and a detailed description. It is maintained by Aboriginal Victoria in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.

Visibility: The degree to which the surface of the ground can be seen. This may be influenced by natural processes such as wind erosion or the character of the native vegetation, and by land use practices, such as ploughing or grading. It is generally expressed in terms of the percentage of the ground surface visible.

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