

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group “Bulga Community Enhancement & Heritage”



A community-based group looking to address Environmental issues affecting Singleton Shire residents

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We seek identification as to what is making our Children and Community Sick so they can be mitigated by OH&S Compliance Orders.

SSHEG Focus on Health

SSHEG is Not Anti Mining or Anti Power Stations

NSW Minister of Planning

Department of Planning and Environment,
Philip St, Sydney NSW 2000

MTW MANAGER of Environment & Community

– Andrew Speechly

NSW Minister Office of Environment & Heritage

“MTW 2015 Approval - Conservation Heritage Advisory Group – Historic Heritage Management Plan”

This SSHEG letter provides our detailed investigation and considered opinion of the Aboriginal, Colonial and Convict State Heritage Significance pertaining to Mt Thorley Warkworth Mine “Conservation Heritage Enhancement” offer dated 4 May 2015 and encompassed in the MTW Mine Approval of 26 Nov 2015.

Fifteen Years of Mining and Governments sharing the Profits since 2002 but no Bulga Village Compensation; and now Five years of “Conservation Heritage Advisory Group” (CHAG) has seen the MTW Mine “lord over” their Mine Lease Land with no compunction to continually watch Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage loss and decay, while their removal seems viewed in terms of how they might have impeded Mining Plans in the last 15 years, rather than their Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage Significance to local Descendant Bulga Residents.

Thus, to address these issues, it was necessary to focus on why actual Heritage Preservation, Stabilisation, Clean up, Termite Protection, and progressive Restoration has been avoided by Mines for so long; and also why NSW Heritage Council has been silent for the last 40 years in this area?

It took the recent Community outrage regarding the proposed destruction of the “Wambo Homestead Estate” – born out of the “Cockfighters Creek Colonial Era”- which awoke the Heritage Council to focus upon Mining Operations and ongoing Mining Proposals today in and around these “Aboriginal, Colonial and Convict Significant Lands”; and the Future use Debate when Mining Ceases.

Much more serious today are the Mine “Stalling Non Compliances” relating to Heritage. Mines are able to prepare Management Plans and fund resources in quick succession to extract Coal, but when it comes to Funds for Heritage work, Approval Deadline Dates are simply extended without any work being carried out; for example, specifically most CHAG MTW Archaeological Reports date around 2014 and yet three years later, and with approval in Nov 2015 these Heritage stabilisation works etc has not been started and completed.

This pattern of delay; delay; delay; by MTW Mine to finalise Community funding is no different to not carrying out timely Biodiversity and Rehabilitation.

The Mining Heritage pattern since 2002 has been to have meetings, Site Inspections and Reports etc but apparently with little intention of committing Heritage Works Funds in the expectation that within 5 – 7 years a new Mine Approval will obviate the need, or as in this case now the Mine can be sold for others to carry the Costs.

SSHEG considers that in the light of the impending sale to Yancoal that three Funding guarantees regarding MTW Mine Approval Nov 2015 need to be conditional in the Sale to Yancoal:-

- (1) Bank Guarantees to the full extent of Aboriginal and Colonial work to be completed over next 20 years of the mine approval, Upwards to \$20 x 10⁶ (Est including 20 year escalation)
- (2) Mortgage over Mine owned land outside the Mine lease area including in Bulga Village - VPA Bulga Village \$6.6 x 10⁶.

- (3) Mortgage over lands on which Heritage Properties for repairs are located such as Springwood Estate, Jarvis Homestead, Newport Dairy, Archerfield Homestead, Bulga RAAF Base etc. upwards to \$5 x 10⁶ (Est).

Such Land linked Guarantees would in part overcome Bulga Milbrodale Residents apprehension regarding the timely implementation of the Nov 2015 MTW Approval “Community Enhancement #” provisions along with the “Mine Voluntary Planning Agreements” involving Singleton Council and NSW Planning.

SSHEG consider that Department of Planning Compliance Officers in Singleton should be monitoring and Auditor of these Funding issues.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

#

15. Within 6 months of the date of this consent, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant shall enter into a VPA with Council in accordance with:
- (a) Division 6 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act; and
 - (b) the terms of Applicant's offer in its letter to the Department dated 4 May 2015.

The VPA shall include provisions for the payment, collection, management and distribution of the contributions under the agreement, with a focus on funding community infrastructure and services in the area surrounding the mine, including Bulga Village.

Note: The Applicant's offer comprises a total contribution of \$11 million over 21 years for both the development and the Mt Thorley Continuation Project (SSD-6465).

What are the issues stopping the Enhancement Initiatives in Bulga Village ?

- A. Decision on long term future of Bulga implemented - not mining.
- B. Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association Master Plans being supported by Council and NSW Planning.
- C. MTW Mining avoiding consultation with Bulga Community.
- D. Bulga Village Master Plans held since 2014 in Draft form.

The Planning Assessment Commissioners (PAC) recommendations extract below clearly identifies that MTW Mining failed in making their Voluntary Planning Offer to take into account the wishes and expectations of the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Associations Bulga Village Vision, but relied upon the Singleton Council to represent them.

c. Requiring the Applicant to develop a Village Enhancement Strategy in consultation with the local community and Council and to fund and implement a program of works or similar via a VPA with the Minister and Council.

The Applicant and Council have informed the Commission that they have reached a preliminary agreement that the VPA will include a total of approximately \$11 million in contributions, including \$5 to \$6 million to be spent on the construction of water and sewage treatment facilities, and associated infrastructure, for Bulga. The VPA would also include provisions to ensure that the water treatment facility is constructed within the first five years.

Again the following Extracts from RIO Tinto GM MTW Mine letter to PAC Chair dated 11 September 2015 just prior to PAC Approval 27th Nov 2015 recognised the PAC Commissioner's requested further consideration, and the Mine response regarding "*Bulga Community Enhancement Projects*".

With respect to ameliorating impacts of the project on the Bulga community, the PAC provided a number of options in recommendation 3 of the Review Report (March 2015). While a response to these recommendations was provided by the applicant in a Response to PAC Review Report (EMM, March 2015), the Commissioner's for the PAC determination requested further consideration of tangible community enhancement initiatives in Bulga village, in particular, water and sewerage reticulation for long term sustainability.

We are pleased to confirm recent advancements on the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Singleton Council that will deliver the PAC's recommendation for long term enhancement initiatives in Bulga Village, as well as supporting the wider Singleton community.

The VPA contribution plan, as outlined in a meeting with the PAC and Singleton Council on 4 September 2015, now provides for:

1. Bulga Water and Sewerage Projects;
2. Bulga Community Enhancement Projects; and
3. Singleton Economic Development Projects

Further details of the contribution plan are provided in a letter to Singleton Council dated 10 September 2015 (refer **Attachment 3**) including an indicative payment schedule, demonstrating our commitment to bring forward expenditure to facilitate community enhancement initiatives in Bulga Village.

SSHEG cannot stress too strongly the Cultural divide that exist between Miners and the Bulga Community, with PAC recommendations squarely aimed at addressing the inequality balance.

At least the GM MTW Mining letter 11 Sept 2015 extract below in part recognises the direct Social Impact of Mining on Bulga Village, however the mine comments failed to recognise that two years earlier in Oct 2013 the World Health Organisation declared “*Air Pollution & Particulate Matter as carcinogens without any threshold*”; and went on to confirm Noise and especially “Noise Sleep Disturbance” as Human Disease Risks and the major concern of Residents. Further, while Miners at Mines use Town Water, “Near Neighbours” and Rural Residents use Rain Tank Water for Drinking, Cooking and Bathing contaminated by Mine Pollution and Dust.

The Honourable Chief Judge Preston’s approach requires a consideration of the experiential evidence from residents and the objective evidence. The experiential evidence identified by the residents of Bulga and other local communities included impacts on the physical environment, health and well-being, economy, infrastructure and services, community engagement, relationships and governance.

However, the dissenting Social Impact Assessment (SIA) submission to PAC on 8 Sept 2015 from the qualified Social and Environmental Researchers addressesproblematic inaccuracies in the final version of the SIA for the Project., and addresses significant shortcomings in the NSW DPE Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Report (2014).

The Researchers conducted the “Stakeholder Research” (including with SSHEG) detailed that the NSW L&E Court decision states:-

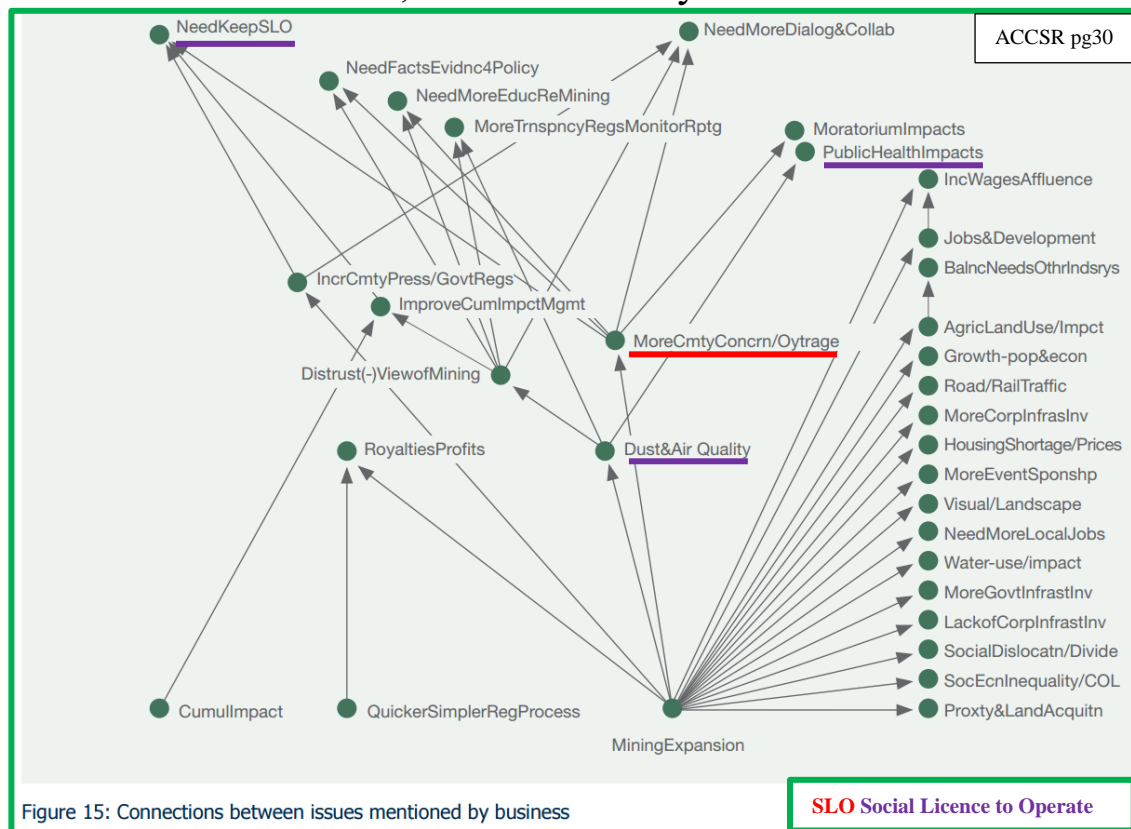
“that SIA should consider ‘both the objective data and broader experiential evidence from residents of impacts at a local level’ – experiential evidence has not been examined or assessed as part of this SIA, but merely presented and then countered”.

The Researchers detailed that “*A refutation and consistent undermining of ‘perceived impacts’ through the use of ‘technical comments’.* This directly undermines the perspectives of local stakeholders about felt experience and perceptions of the future and relegates ‘perceived impacts’ to emotional, psychological states that are devoid of validity”.

By comparison, the **NSW Minerals Council** earlier in 2010 sought guidance from **ACCSR: Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility** to gauge the Hunter Valley Stakeholders Priorities based on methodologies that address Sustainability Risk Management, involving 93 Organisations and with 74 Topics Identified.

#“The Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility (ACCSR) was commissioned to undertake a community survey so that the depth and nature of concerns could be better understood. The survey was conducted by ACCSR between October and November 2010. A total of 93 organisations and individual opinion leaders participated. The results are important for the industry, providing us with a clear indication that there is a high degree of concern that we need to thoroughly understand and respond to”.

“The one concern that keeps raising its head all the time here is health impacts. The extent of open cut mining, the dust and emission that creates, and the prevailing winds and the like is seen to be quite a big concern”. What matters most – Environment, Health & Safety.



“Sense of Place” Enhanced to “A Sense of Pride”

As already outlined, Bulga Enhancement Projects needs to be seen to address the short, medium, and long term viability of a Healthy Community at Bulga Village which depends upon adherence to Stringent Air Pollution Village Mitigation Controls that “Minimise PM2.5 rolling hourly averages”, as well as overcoming the Rain Tank Water Contamination, and especially Mine Noise Sleep Disturbance Issues.

“**Sense of Place-Bulga**” is captured by Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association Inc in 2013 in their publication “*A History of Bulga, Gateway to the Hunter Valley since 1820*” which in its introduction established the Bulga Community Connectivity to these Lands.

“This publication has been made possible through the foresight of our early pioneers in recording history of the Bulga district together with stories handed down from generation to generation and the survival of letters and old photographs, and is complemented with information sourced from official archival records”.

Earlier in 2004 Bulga Historian Stewart Mitchell completed a History of “*The Clarks of Bulga – 150 years on Cockfighter’s Creek*” further highlighting to the February 2015 MTW PAC Hearing “Bulga Community Outrage and antagonism to Mining” as follows:-

“My great-great-great grandfather was the first white settler at Bulga, taking up a land grant in 1825. After almost 200 years of ancestral residency in Bulga I feel obliged to attempt to protect this area from unnecessary destruction.

It is ironic that another line of ancestors left the north of England in 1842 to escape the pollution created by cotton mills, steam locomotives and coal mines. The children were sick and dying from respiratory diseases, so the family moved to Australia and settled at Bulga which is now under threat from mining activities.”

My great-great-grandfather witnessed the last great Bora at Bulga in 1852 and My Father accompanied Etheridge & McCathy of Australian Museum in 1918 when they Photographer and Recorded the Bora Carved Trees and collected Aboriginal Artefacts from the surrounding area.

“A Sense of Pride- Bulga” in recent times surfaced - *“In 1983 the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association was formed and undertook the mammoth task of restoring the Bulga Recreation Ground to its former glory. A master plan for the development was approved by the Shire Council”*. Some Funding from Council, Mining and local Businesses and Grants, mixed with Community Volunteers labour, also needed the BMPA fundraising, a hallmark of gala days and country fairs.

The Bulga Mine **“Our Villages Our Vision 2012”** initiative led to the draft Bulga Village Master Plan 2014 and BMPA further detailing in 2015. Now MTW PAC Approvals in Nov 2015 have introduced Bulga Enhancement Projects, Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA) and Conservation Heritage Advisory Group (CHAG) Funding.

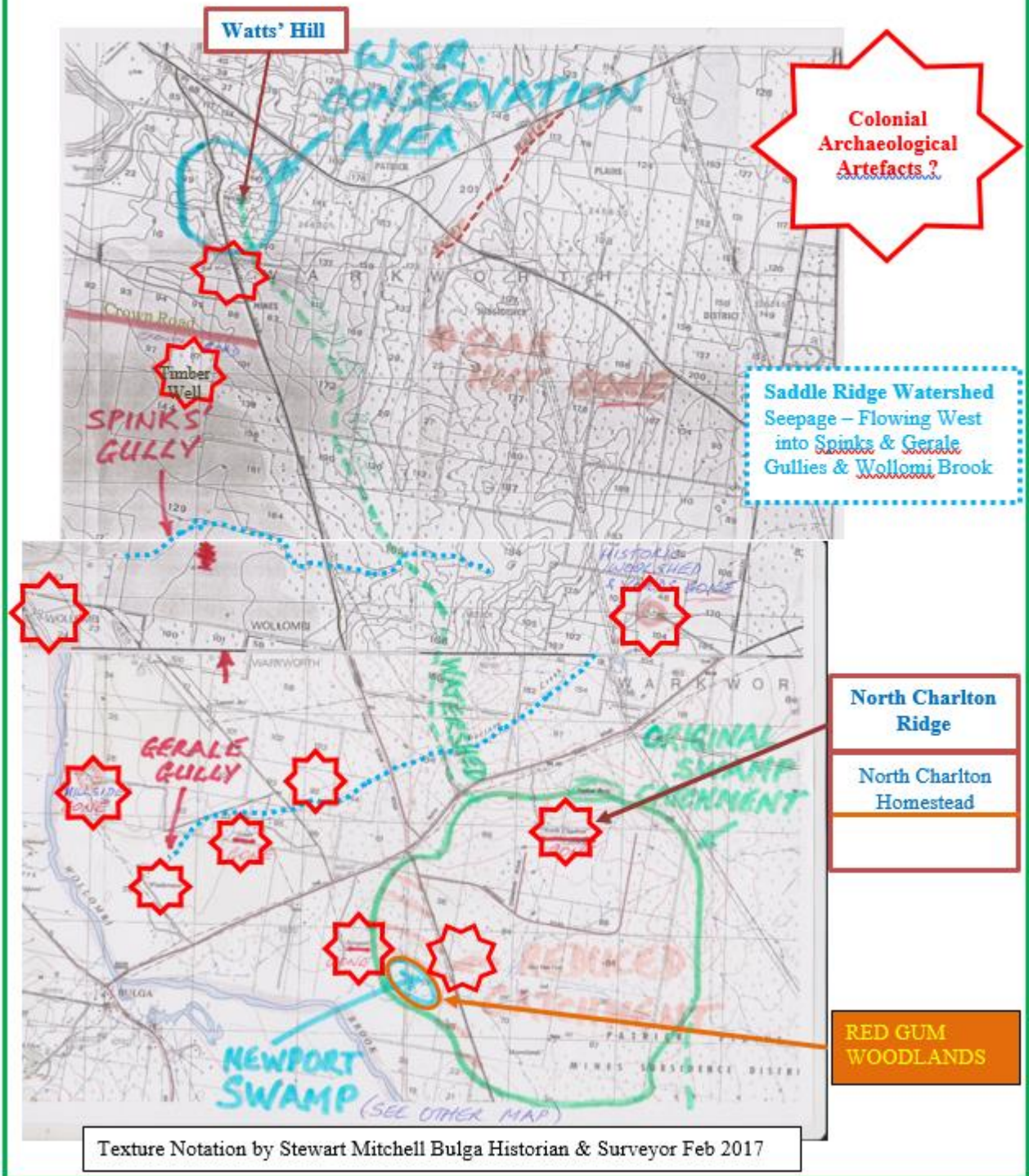
Bulga Residents (Aboriginal and Colonial) with Ancestral lineage back to the Pioneer Settlers times of “Cockfighters Creek”, feel they have been entrusted with the responsibility to protect their Cultural Heritage that has been, for whatever reason, suppressed: and they have watch day by day as yet another Uncle’s Home is destroyed throughout Mine Lease Lands, many not even bothered to be researched by Mines to identify their Bulga Cultural significance during Mining approval processes that oversee their burials. (Refer 1920 Map below of Colonial Homesteads on Mine land).

Many Residents have voiced concerns that our Colonial Heritage and History is being left to deteriorate and then lost by Mining activities in Hunter Valley, and especially Aboriginal Heritage.

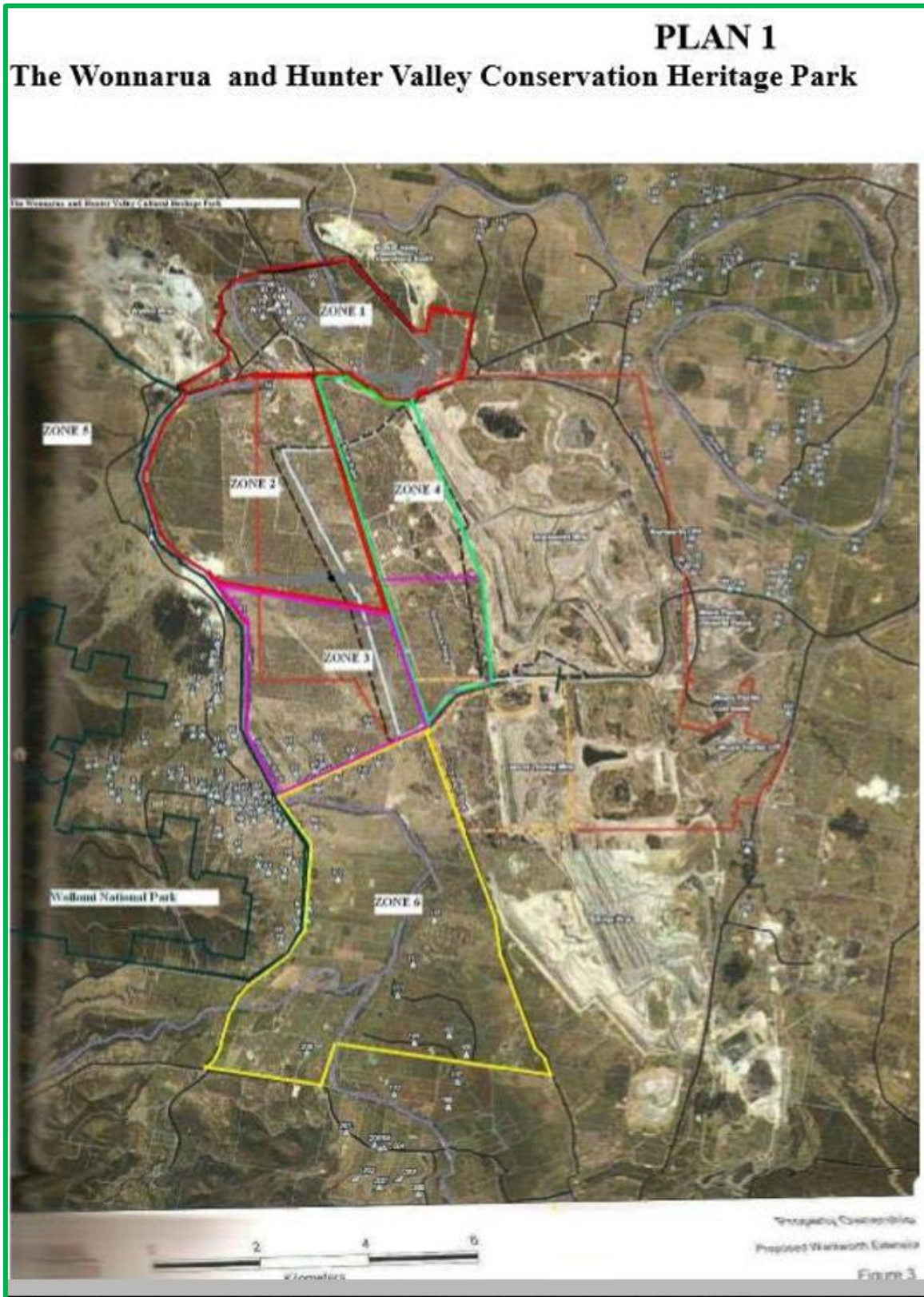
Following the Community and Bulga Residents 2002 Deed of Agreement uproar, the SSHEG submission to 2010 Warkworth Mine EIS sought to establish “The Proposed Aboriginal, Colonial, Flora and Fauna Conservation Heritage Protection Zones” detailed as **“*The Woonarua and Hunter Valley Conservation Heritage Park*”** on MTW Mine Lease Land.

This SSHEG 2010 EIS Submission highlighted the recognition of the Connectivity of these “Cockfighters Valley” and Hunter River grassland to the Yengo and Wollommi National Parks, and their Heritage significance for the UNESCO Greater Blue Mountains National Parks. Within these Valley lands and Mine Leases *“the Great North Road is of National Significance and as part has recently been World Heritage Listed one may argue the whole of the Road is of International Significance”*.

Watts' Hill - Saddle Ridge Watershed - Nth Charlton Ridge across Sandy Hollow to Doctors Creek and "North Charlton Homestead and Shearing Shed



Colonial Homesteads localities on Mine Lease Land in 1950's



Decision on long term future of Bulga

As MTW Open Cut Mining moves towards Bulga Village, the Test for the NSW Governments and MTW Mining are their commitments to the Long term “Future and viability of Bulga Village” now expressed by their actively fostering “Bulga Enhancement Projects” along the lines already formulated by Bulga Milbrodale Residents.

So far the pattern in the Hunter Valley has been for NSW Government Approvals of Open Cut Mines close to Farming Localities and Villages, and then with Acquisition Rights drive out “Near Neighbours” progressively buying up their Village as Mine Dust, Suspect Tank Water, Noise, Glaring Lights and Sleepless Nights and Family Sickness become unbearable and intolerable. Only the foolhardy and Quarantined Householders remain; descending into Ghost towns with abandoned and derelict Homes on Mine owner land: such as Lemington, Warkworth, Maison Deiu, Ravensworth, Camberwell, etc.

Bulga Community has spoken against these “Mine Takeover Outcomes” by taking Land and Environment, Supreme Court and Protest actions, and dismissed the PAC March 2015 Option to “Relocate Bulga out of the way of Mines”.

Instead the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association - “Future of Bulga Village” Vision encaptured below has been reinforced since 2012 with its “Sense of Place” and “Sense of Pride” Culture; now actively promoted:-

Bulga Master Plans in Short, Medium & Long Term 2012 - 2050

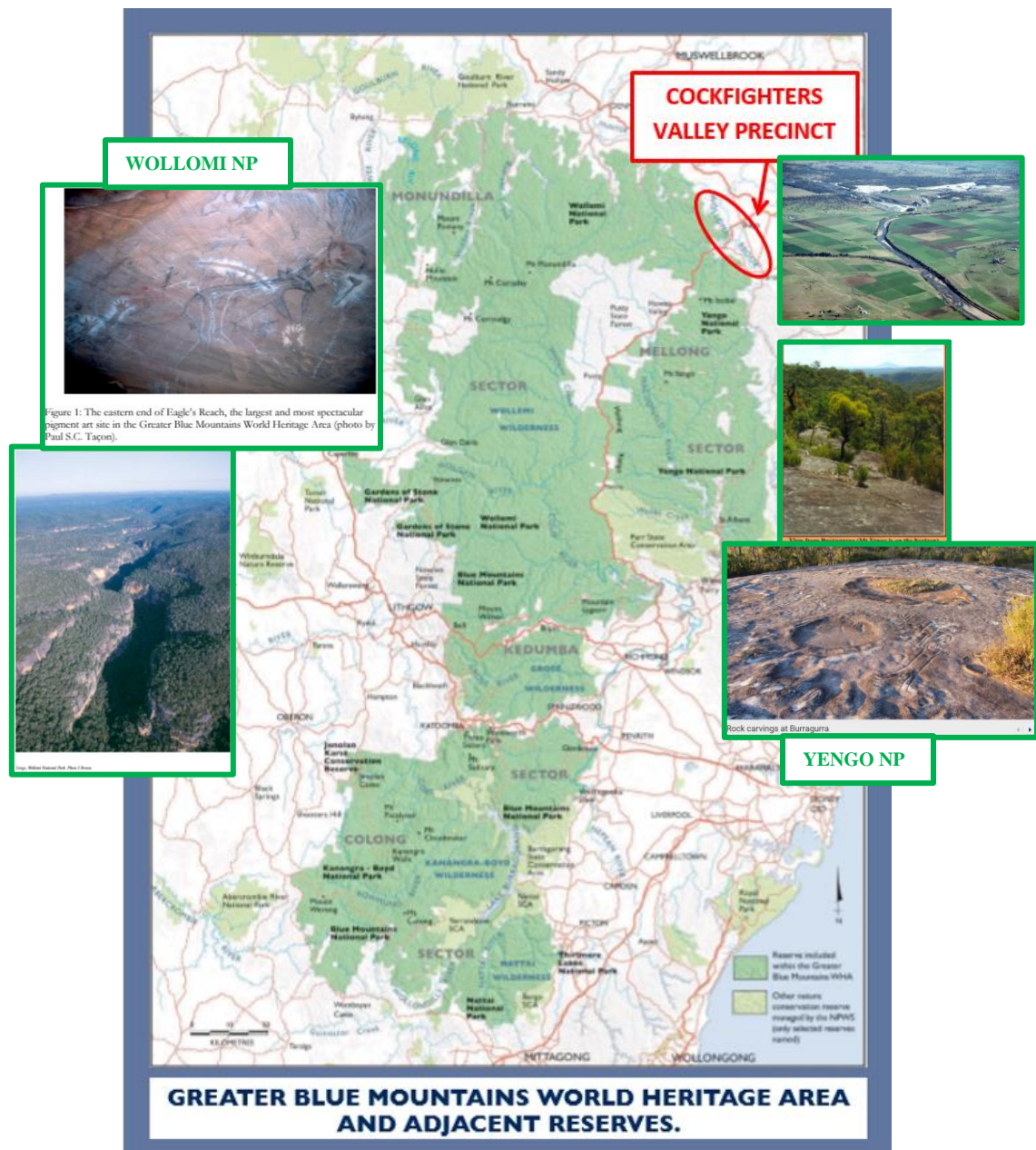
- as Adjunct to Greater Blue Mountains National Parks
- “Cockfighers Valley Precinct” as “**State Significant Area**”
- **Bulga Stock Reserve Heritage Park** (2 Years)
- **Bulga Patricks Plains Zone** (2-5 years)
- **Bulga Village Zone** (2-10 years)
- **Bulga Milbrodale Environs Master Plan** (5-25 Years)

Attm 8

What distinguishes Bulga Milbrodale apart in NSW ?

➤ *Baime International Significant Area*

- ❖ “**Grasslands adjunct**” to the UNESCO Greater Blue Mountains NP with the BAIAME ‘Creator’ Painting and Bora significance also adjoins the Yengo NP Ancestral Aboriginal Rock Art and Myths; and this connectivity further extends to the Wollomi NP recent discovered “Eagle Reach” Cave Paintings in 1995, also with Baime significance.



➤ *International significance Area*

❖ “**Grasslands adjunct**” to the UNESCO Greater Blue Mountains NP

Baiaime Culture for some Millennium before 1788 had already claimed these Lands as their own, with their Bora Legends recognising at least with knowledge of the “Flood Gates of the Sea Ocean ... thrown Open”.

At Milbrodale, the Baiaime Painted Cave Image with exaggerated outstretched arms, are seen as all-embracing of the grasslands of the “Baiaime Valley”; suggesting the protector of these lands. and hence the Bulga Bora ceremonial connectivity.

Significantly, adjoining the North Facing Baiaime Cave is to the South the Forested and “Deep Woody Chasms” of the Greater Blue Mountains NP with its Eagle’s Reach Cave (in Darkness), exemplifying their Physical connectivity as well as their Baiaime Legendary symbolism,

At the Bora Wellington NSW site on the rich green banks of the Macquarie River in 1832 “Chief - Marinbilly, Wizard or Doctor” describes the Baiaime (Piaime) and Eagle Hawk connectivity significance as recorded by Henderson (**Attm 1**):-

Piaime, having initiated one of these in the mysteries of their religion, having directed him likewise to extract a front tooth from each of the young men, and inculcated the concealment of their sacred rites from women and children, proceeded towards the north; but he is again expected to return at some very distant period. The figure before mentioned represents him in a recumbent position, as he is at present considered to be asleep. There is however a tradition, that he once awoke, and having turned himself upon his side, the flood-gates of the salt ocean were immediately thrown open, and the hills and valleys disappeared beneath the rolling waters. It is also reported, that when he next awakes, a similar catastrophe may be expected.

❖ **Module A.** 'Baiaame Cave' Ceremonial Significance

Baiaame Cave is currently of state significance for its association with the main figure depicted in the cave, believed to be Baiaame, who is understood by some Aboriginal people across NSW to be the creator, the 'Father of All', the most important ancestor and law-maker.

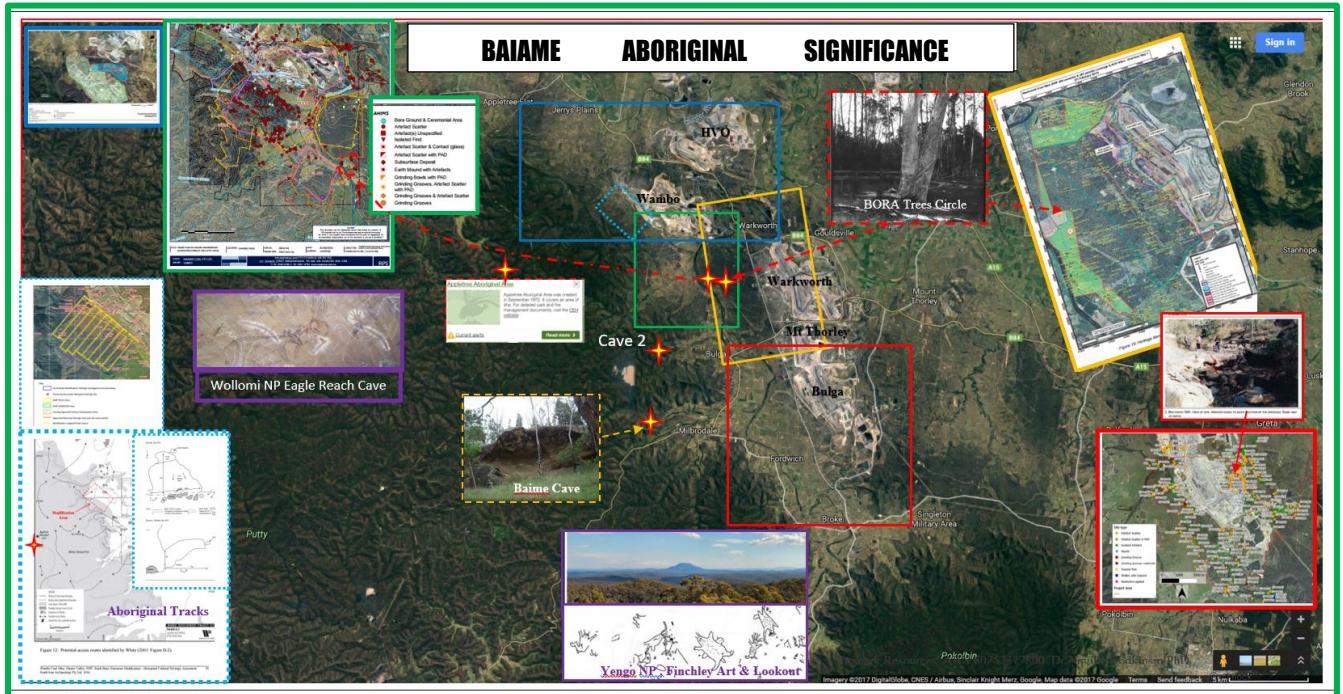
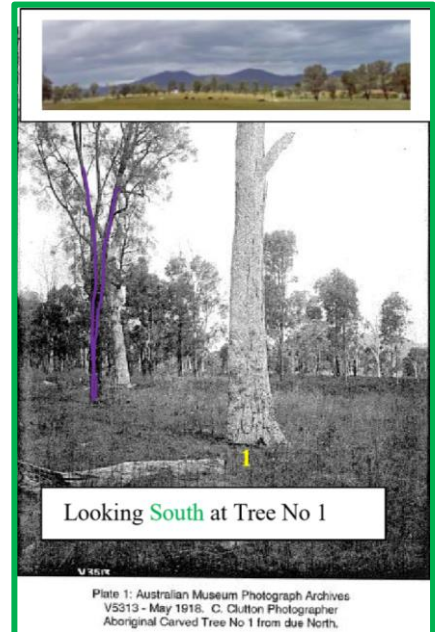
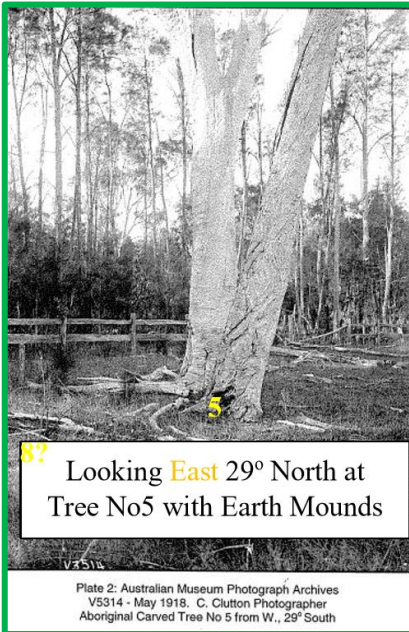
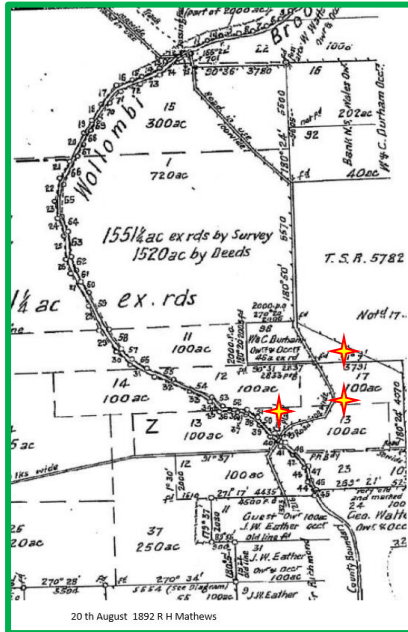
Baiaame Cave (**Attm 2**) is a rare and representative indigenous rock art painting site in NSW. Rock art sites in NSW (**Attm 3**) are more likely to feature smaller-scale engravings of animals or human figures, or painted hand stencils rather than large painted human figures.



❖ ‘Bulga Bora & Ceremonial Grounds’ Significance

Bulga Bora Carved Tree site is recorded to be located just East of the 1830's Stock Route after it crosses the Wollombi Brook 400 m from the Unnamed creek and located beside a Post and Rail Fence present in May 1918 in Photo V5314 as recorded in Australian Museum Archives.

Mathews survey and his 1897 Paper (**Attm 4**) confirms how the three sites are used for the “Baime Tooth Initiation Bora Ceremonies”.



➤ *Great North Road International Significant*

❖ **Module B.** ‘UNESCO Great North Road’ Significance

The UNESCO Greater Blue Mountains National Parks (GBMNP) recognises the Grasslands adjoining these Parklands as “Protected Areas” such as Goulbourn Rivers NP, Coal Mines of Hunter and in so doing recognises the importance of the “Cockfighter’s Creek Precinct”, the Howe’s Track, and Convict built Great North Road (GNR) connectivity.

GBMNP Nomination Section 3 p196 identifies “*The park contains historic relics relating to early attempts by British settlers to establish a transport route north to the Hunter Valley. The ‘Great North Road’, located along the eastern boundary of Yengo National Park, was built by convicts and demonstrates innovative engineering techniques in steep terrain. The ‘Old Settlers Road’ was built by early settlers from Howes Valley on the western boundary, to provide a transport route between their valley and the Wollombi district. Stone embankments and pavements demonstrate early engineering techniques along the road’s route, much of which remains intact*”.

“Old Great North Road” is one of the 11 places that make up the *Australian Convict Sites* World Heritage serial listing that tell a story of exile from one side of the world to the other and how a new nation was formed from hardship, inequality and adversity. Together the sites represent the global phenomenon of convictism - the forced migration of convicts to penal colonies in the 18th and 19th centuries - and global developments in the punishment of crime in modern times.

The *Australian Convict Sites* are the preeminent examples of our rich convict history, with more than 3000 convict sites remaining around Australia. This is unique in the world today.

The Convict Trail - “*the Great North Road is of National Significance and as part has recently been World Heritage Listed one may argue the whole of the Road is of International Significance*”.

The portion of the GNR from Broke to Muswellbrook is the straight line Surveyor General Major Mitchell’s road vision section across the “Cockfighter’s Valley Precinct” and across Mine Lease Lands.

➤ *Convict Era International Significance*

❖ **Module C.** ‘UNESCO Convict’ Significance

In 2008 eleven Australian Convict Sites were nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Significance, each for their “*outstanding universal significance as exceptional examples of the forced migration of convicts, and as extraordinary examples of global ideas and developments associated with the punishment and reform of the criminal elements of humanity during the age of enlightenment and the modern era*”.

In 2007 the importance of the Australian convict memory to all humankind was recognised when some of Australia's convict records were included in *UNESCO's Memory of the World Register*.

The *Australian Convict Sites* have a high level of integrity and authenticity and fully meet the requirements of the *UNESCO Operational Guidelines to the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. A world class management system, entitled the *Australian Convict Sites strategic management framework* (2008), will ensure the full protection and conservation of the property.

From the beginning 1788, the fate of convicts rested on their skills, rather than their crime. Until the late 1810s, convict carpenters, brickmakers, nurses, servants, stockmen, shepherds and farmers worked mostly under government direction on public works and agriculture. Ex-convicts were socially accepted.

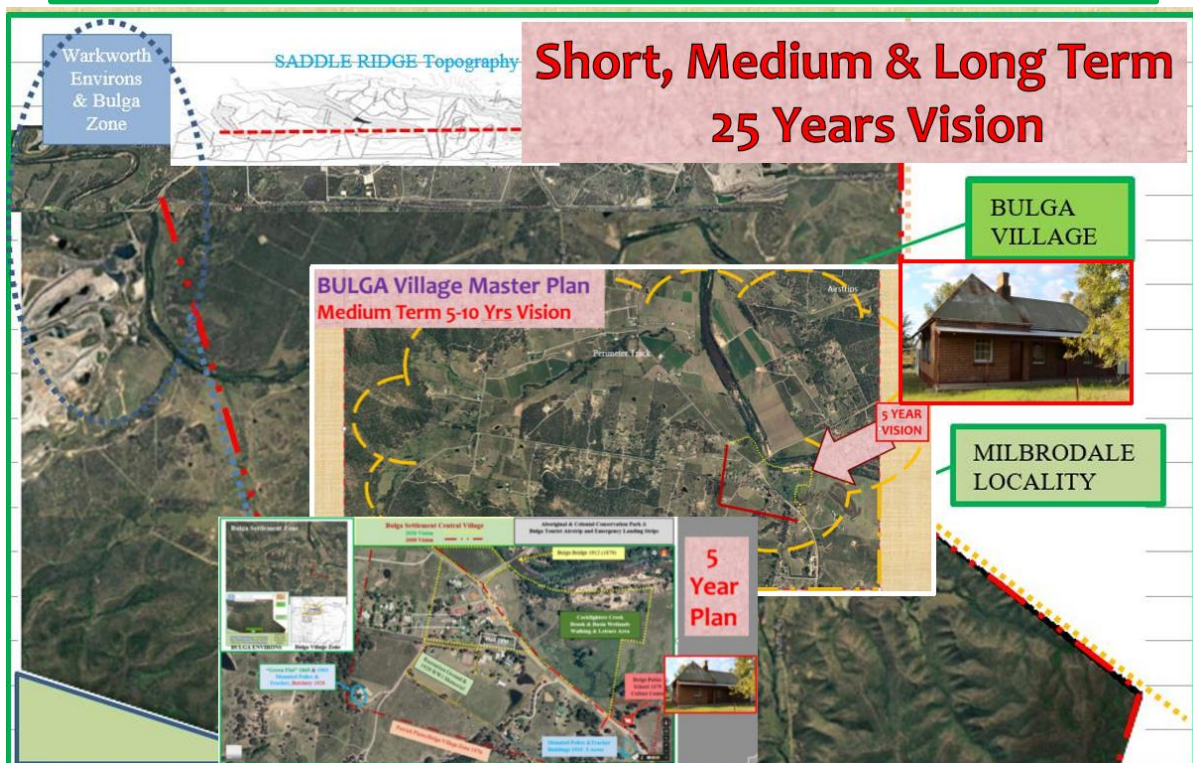
John Howe's 1820 discovery of the rich Grass Plains of the Hunter River, and by 1828 Saint Patricks Plains was dotted with Convict allocated labour building many the variety of Colonial Farming Estates; such as the early Explorers and Free Settlers at “Glendon, Neotsfield & Archerfield”.

By 1826 Convicts were assigned to the landowners in accordance with their ability to feed and clothe them, thus aiding in the process of establishing the Estates and easing the burden on the government. As a result, the valley's population had a high proportion of convicts - 69% of the men in the district were convicts, mainly assignees labouring on Estates too large to be worked otherwise, such as “Ravensworth”.

➤ *Cockfighters Creek Significance*

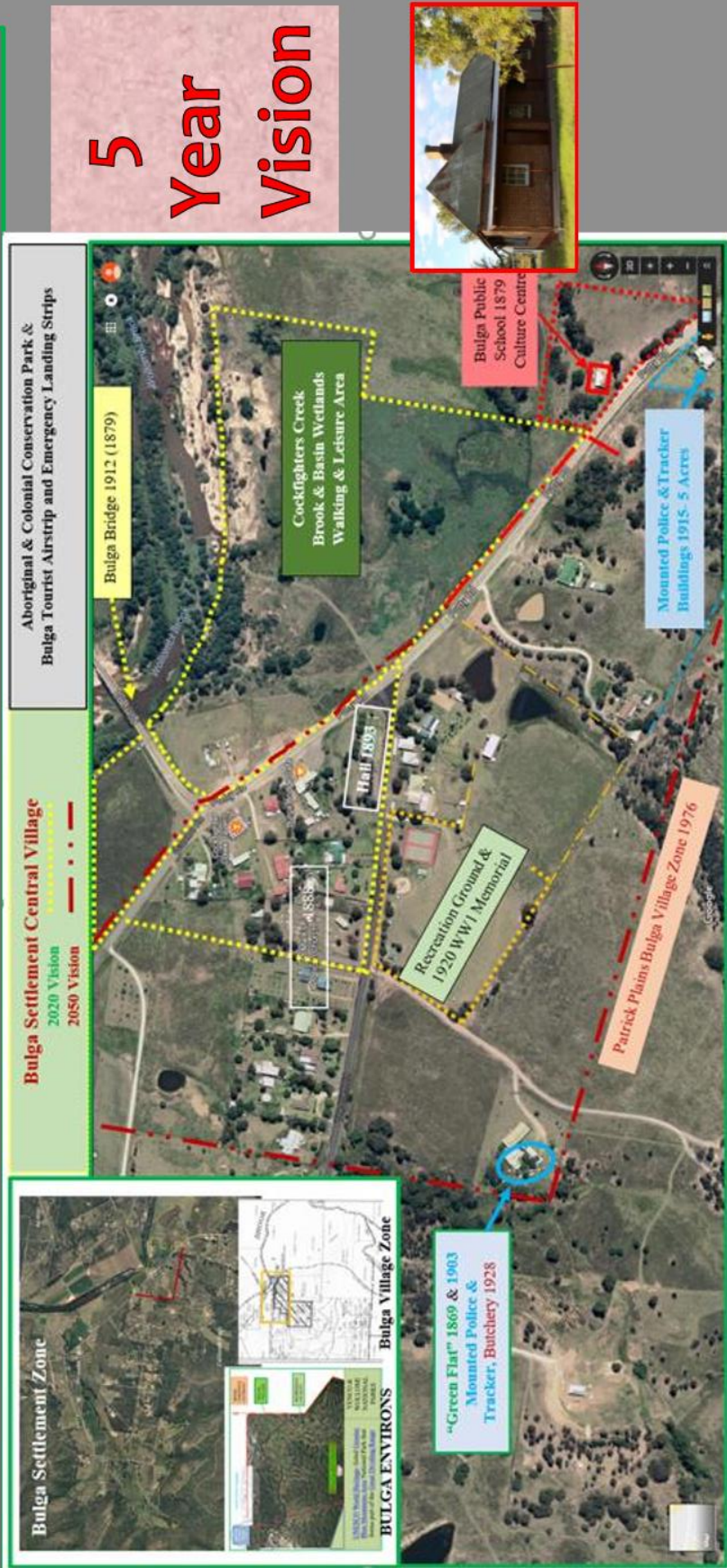
❖ **Module D. “Bulga Heritage Village Tourism Hub” Outline**

Bulga- “Sense of Place” is synonymous with Aboriginal, Colonial and Convict Heritage Traits at Patricks Plains Cockfighters Creek past down in this enclave from the 1800’s and shaped the present day ‘Aussie’ Culture exhibited by the Community struggle for Bulga Village recognition (**Attm 7**)



Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

“MTW Colonial Heritage – CHAG planning - BULGA MASTER PLAN 2017”



5 Year Vision



“Bulga Tourism Hub Implementation Plan”

In June 2016, the SSHEG Bulga Culture Centre document (**Attm 5**) detailed the Tourism plan to operate from the Heritage listed Bulga Public School.

To facilitate a response from authorities in June 2017, four aspects are under consideration (**Attm 6**); namely

i. Inspection Report and Establishment Requirements as “Not for Profit Organisation”.

- ✓ Lease or Purchase Bulga School Site
- ✓ Clean, Repair & Painting, Site Security systems
- ✓ Electricity, Rates?, Insurances & Licensing?, Vermin protect
- ✓ Rainwater Tanks, plumbing, Roofing
- ✓ Septic Licensing, & Sewerage connection
- ✓ Fencing, Concrete Paths, Handrailing, steps, Signs

ii. Research Facilities

- ✓ Benches – tables, decks, chairs
- ✓ Computers & Web servers – Officeworks Budget
- ✓ Backup Power, power boards, distribution outlet network
- ✓ NBN/satellite Web site – “Bulga Tourism Hub”
- ✓ File Storage, Backup Security Systems + offsite Backup
- ✓ Computer Visualisation Systems- Australian Museum version
- ✓ Licensing & Heritage Archival Retrieval & Storage System

iii. Personnel

- ✓ Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Committee
- ✓ Bulga Tourism Hub Facilitator & Terms of Reference
- ✓ Heritage & Tourism Visualisation Systems Study Planner
- ✓ Colonial Archival Research, Land Titles, Maps, Family record
- ✓ Tourism Marketing & Culture Centre & Events
- ✓ Heritage Grants Coordination & Applications

iv. Financial

- ✓ Federal, State & Local Funding Opportunities
- ✓ Annual Auditing, especially Grants & Mine compensation

❖ **Module E.** "Saint Patricks Plains Bicentenary" Concept

Bringing together Baiame Culture and Colonial with Convict Cultures across the Weekend of **14 & 15th March 2020** to celebrate the "Birthplace of the Hunter Valley at Saint Patricks Plains" as named by Explorer John Howe at what is now designated "Whittingham Howe Monument".

Saturday focuses on the Baiame Culture ceremonies morning at 10 am and the arrival of Howes Explorers for Aboriginal Festive Lunch.

**14 March
2020**

At 3pm Colonial Explorers proceed to Bulga Recreation Grounds for Dinner BBQ and Colonial Entertainment at Night.

Sunday celebrated the 1820's Colonial and Convict Culture of the Colony, at three locations followed by Cuppa Tea & Plate.

**15 March
2020**

- 1) Beginning 9am with Church Services at Bulga Church & Cemetery blessing, then Bicentenary Plaque unveiling by "Bulga Mayor". Morning Tea at Bulga Hall, with Heritage Exhibitions, Bulga Culture Centre. Heritage Tracks.
- 2) Beginning at 9am at Singleton St Patricks Church and Colonial Cemetery blessing, then Unveiling of Centenary and Bicentenary Plaques by Heritage Dignitary. Morning Tea and Sacred Spaces Singleton, Singleton Museum Open, Wittingham Cemetery, Heritage Walks.
- 3) Beginning at 12 Noon at Howe Monument Whittingham, the re-enactment of Howe Explorers arrival and Diary Notes, with unveiling of Bicentenary Plaque by Mayor of Patricks Plains & Singleton Shire. Followed by afternoon Tea at Whittingham Hall with Heritage Exhibitions.
- 4) At 2-7 pm Open day Grounds Inspections - Glendon, Neotsfield, Baroona and Minimbah Homesteads with Heritage Exhibitions.
- 5) At 6 pm at Baroona Windmill, recognition of Castle Forbes uprising and "Convict Lement" and Plaque recognition.

❖ **Module F.** “Bulga Cultural Centre”

“The Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Entity” (Attm 9)

When it comes to Heritage Conservation, “The Bulga Cultural Heritage Group Entity” has moved in early 2016 to operate from the Heritage Listed Bulga Public School 1879 to provide the base for the Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage Work as outlined in the June 2016 document entitled “Bulga Culture Centre – Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley”.

The Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre at this stage is seen to dovetail with the “Our Villages Our Vision 2012” Bulga Stock Reserve by incorporating the Heritage significant Bulga School fronting the Putty road as this would be ideally suited for the Culture Centre outlined.

This is also in line with Bulga Community approaches made to Singleton Council in 2011, and as illustrated below.

Refer SSHEG Strategic Plan Submission May 2017 (Attm 8)

Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre

“Bulga Culture Centre” & “Bulga Stock Reserve Heritage Park”

140 Pages



Bulga Culture Centre
Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Patrick's Plains Culture 1820's

Colonial Heritage Conservation Tourism Visualisation Module

Establishing the first stages of the Hunter Valley of Bulga Ancestral Heritage with Cultural Centre located presently at Heritage Bulga School 1879 on Putty Road overlooking an interactive Cultural Strategy of existing historical and hereditary documents, featuring Bulga Pioneer Legends.

Document prepared also to identify the Short, Medium and Long Term features that would provide the backbone at the Cockfighters, Valley Cultural Cultural Heritage Centre.

"Ancestral Heritage focuses upon the capture of the contributions made by successive Hunter Generations - Our Ancestors in the Hunter Valley, showcased as interactive Tourism Modules"



Bulga Stock Reserve

COCKFIGHTERS CREEK POTLARS BANK RIVER OAKS PUTTY ROAD

SCALE = 1:2200



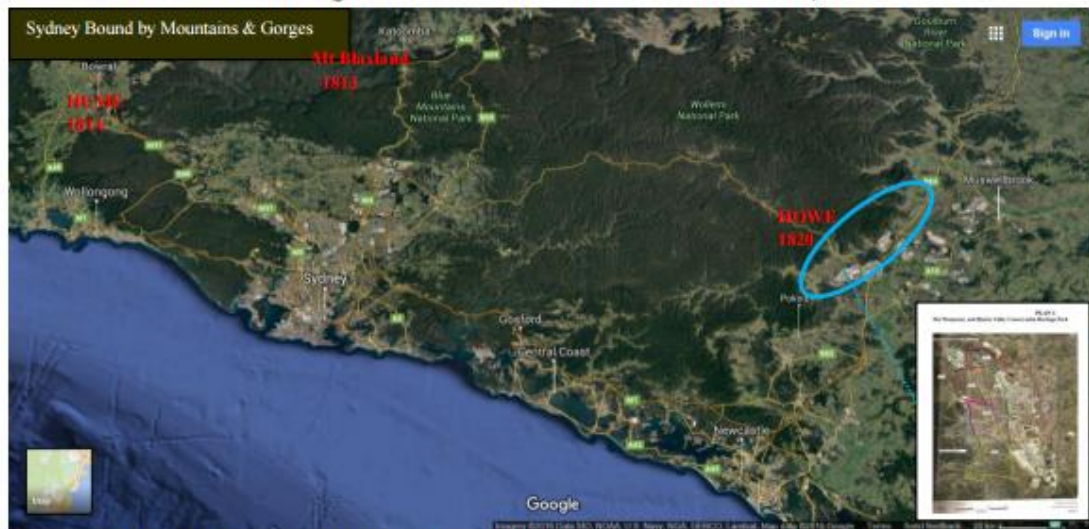
Bulga Culture Centre

Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD ssheg@hotmail.com
May 2017 CHAG

Cockfighters Valley Precinct – Cultural Studies & Heritage 1810-1855 Cohabitation

The Objective of this Study is to capture the early 1800's Archival Cultural Heritage so as to provide lasting Visualisation and Talking Heritage to at least in part compensate for the lost Heritage opportunities that were otherwise hidden or allowed to fall into Rack and Ruin or otherwise lost. The Key aspects are:-

- Incorporate "Cockfighters Valley Precinct" into MTW Heritage Managements Plans
 - Bulga Cultural Centre 20 year Plan (June 2016)
 - Cultural Studies & Heritage 1810 – 1865 within 2 -5 years
 - Holistic Bora gatherings archival recollections Research
 - Chronology of Archival documents 1810 – 1855 Research
- Talking Heritage – Aboriginal & Colonial Surviving Descendants of Bulga area in 1st Year 2017
- Heritage Visualisation – 1810, 1825, 1840, 1865, Pre Mining Lands, Post Mining lands
- Bulga Cultural Centre – Bulga Environs - Heritage Preservation of Bulga Village 2-5 years.
- Warkworth Mine Heritage Conservation Park – SSHEG submission 2010, 2011 & 2014



Up Until 1810 the Sydney Colony was hemmed in on the Eastern Seaboard and encircled by the Blue Mountains , Valleys and Gorges. By 1810 stories were emerging of Convicts having contact with aboriginals living beyond the Blue Mountains to the west.

Following the successful crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson to Mt Blaxland in 1813, others such as the Howes explorations to North West was in search of a more trafficable road route to Bathurst to the West. Howe by 1819 had found a way to Doyles Creek via Howes Valley to what is now Jerrys Plains on the then unrecognised Hunter River. Howe attuned to the Aboriginal presence in these Blue Mountains "got wind of the Grassy Plains further to the East and sent his aboriginal guides to investigate".

By March 1820 Howes Party had established the Bulga Track which descends beside the Aboriginal Baiame Cave into a Grassy Valley and what soon became Cockfighters Creek, and the "Gateway to the Hunter Valley".

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage

The Holistic Vision for the Hunter Valley Heritage Conservation Tourism Centre at Bulga traces the ongoing Cultural ages from the earliest documented times all the way through to current 21st Century and beyond; broadly identified Ancestral Heritage Periods are as follows:-

1. Aboriginal occupancy.
2. NSW Colony exploration 1788 – 1820
3. Colonial Exploration Saint Patricks Plains - early Settlement 1810 -1825
4. Colonial Settlement 1825-1852, Convicts & Bora period.
5. Colonisation of Hunter Valley 1860 – 1900.
6. Hunter Valley Food Bowl 1900 – 1945.
7. Post WW2 Industrialisation 1950 - 2000
8. New Millennium Challenges 2000 – 2020.
9. Coexistence, Health, Environment and developing Tourism. 2020 - 2050
10. Future Rehabilitated Land & Water Environs, Solar Farms, Mountain Wind Farms.

The Concept is to establish a Tourism Centre located in and about the Bulga Village Environs as it had grown to be to provide an ongoing Daily Community Service Activity which captures and puts on as Visualisation Talking Displays of the Cultural Heritage of these Bulga Environs, and especially incorporating the Artefacts, Museum Archives, Talking History of bygone times - “Bulga Pioneer Descents”, and the changing landscape sacrificed along the way.

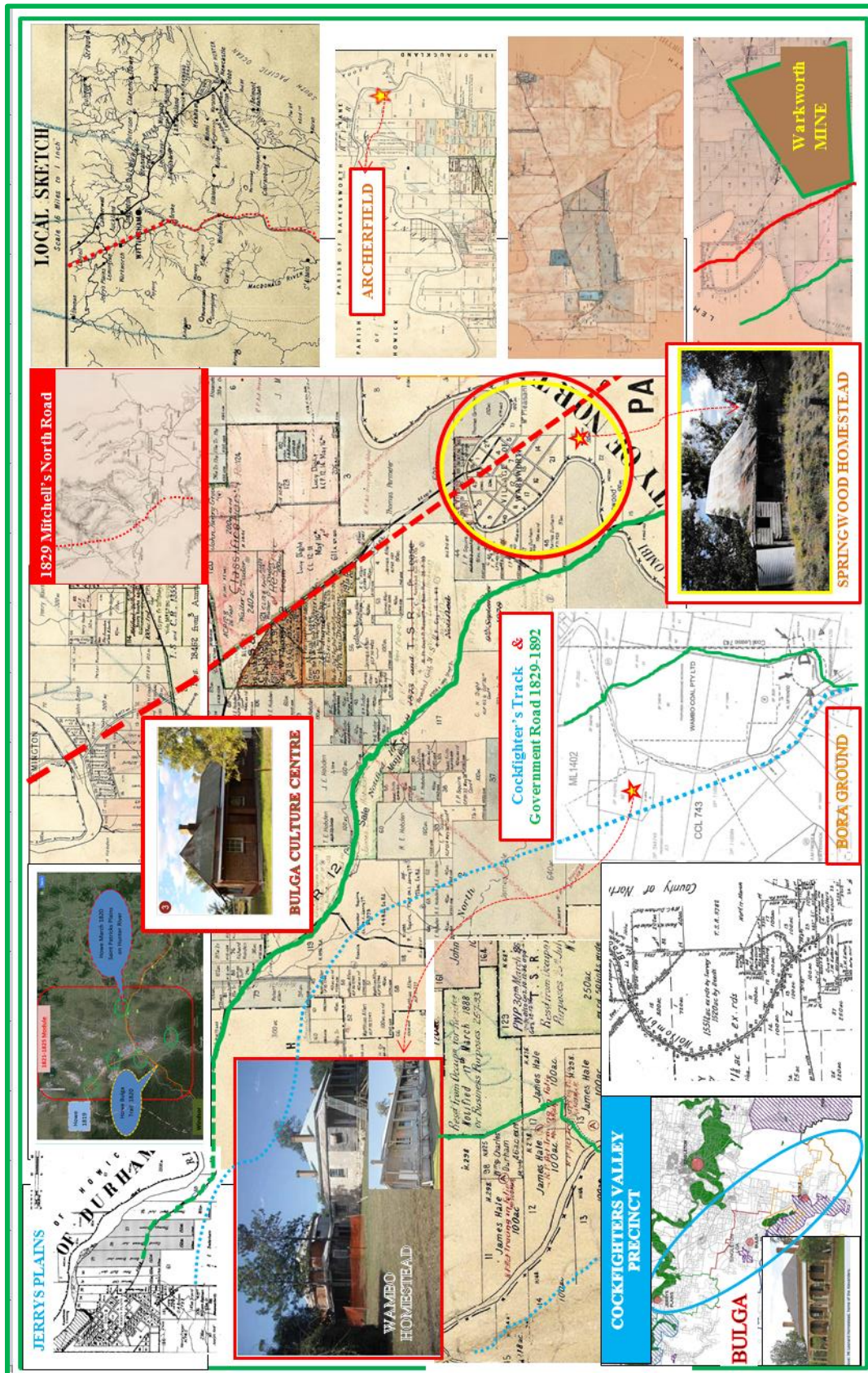
By 1950 before the Industrialisation of the Hunter Valley, Bulga Village Environs had grown to be in and about the Wollombi Brook, providing the Community Hub for the Agricultural endeavours in the region along the Putty Road transport to and from the Upper Hunter Valley and beyond.

The presence of Coal Deposits from the Wollombi Brook all the way to the East to the Hunter River resulted in Coal Mine Leases by 1979 beginning to eat into the Land that progressively hemmed in the Cockfighter’s Valley Residents from Broke, Vere, Milbrodale, Bulga, Warkworth to Jerrys Plains Villages (and Hunter River Residents nearby) as five consecutive Mines: - Bulga, Mt Thorley, Warkworth ~~1980~~, Wambo and Hunter Valley Operations, also developed from Underground to Open Cut Operations.

Although much Mine compensation has been paid to the Hunter Valley Communities, over the last 35 years, (except those that sold to Mines) the most affected Residents at Bulga have little to show for their sacrifices in the face of Mine Blasting damaging Homes, Cracked Community Buildings, Cemeteries; Choking Mine Dust and Fumes, Noise Night and Day, Bright Glaring Lights, and the Disease Impact especially on School Children at Bulga, Milbrodale and Broke Schools over the years, and Homes vacated when classified as unfit “mine affected landholdings” due to Government assessed Disease Risk from nearby Mining Operation.

This Bulga Culture Centre Vision aims to balance the Mine Compensation debt overdue for Cockfighter’s Valley Residents and is planned to be developed over the next 30 Years.

“Ancestral Heritage focuses upon the capture of the contributions made by successive Human Generations – Our Ancestors to the Environ Domain, showcased as Interactive



Holistic Vision of Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley

The Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre Implementation Plan has its initial focus on Colonial Cultural Heritage as past down to Descendants of the Early Colonial Settler Families, some who retain a family lineage to this Cockfighter Valley area.

This is envisaged to be visually collated as Talking Heritage Modules to capture the Oral Heritage recollections of long standing Bulga Community Residents, Siblings, etc. past and present. These Modules to be prepared for direct Tourism Interactive Visualisation (TIV) use.

The Need for Professionals Historians to establish Primary Archival Heritage facts and Visualised Extracts is fundamental to Authenticate the information, such as: that is supported by writings and Diaries of Explorers, Accounts of events recorded at the time, Photos, Paintings, searches back through Documents based on previous publications with rewritten History, etc.

Tracing the "Migration paths of Early Colonial Settlements", collate and prepare TIV's related by periods of Pioneer Exploits, Farming Family Enterprises, Characters, Homesteads, Lifestyle Cultures, Social interactions, Community Impacts, and the like, etc.

Bulga Culture Centre Implementation Plan Vision

Anniversary Tourism Vision (2 Years 2016-2018)

Aboriginal occupancy.

NSW Colony exploration 1788 – 1820

Colonial Exploration Saint Patricks Plains - early Settlement 1810 -1825

Short Term Tourism Vision (5 Years Target 1825 - 1852)

Colonial Settlement 1825-1852 & Bora period.

Convict's role in Settlements

Medium Term Tourism Vision (10 Years Target 1860- 1945)

Colonisation of Hunter Valley 1860 – 1900.

Hunter Valley Food Bowl 1900 – 1945.

Long Term Tourism Vision (15 Years Target 1942 - 2050)

Post WW2 Industrialisation 1950 - 2000

New Millennium Challenges 2000 – 2020.

Coexistence, Health, Environment and developing Tourism. 2020 – 2050

Futuristic Tourism Vision (15 Years Target 2050 – 2100.

Future Rehabilitated Land & Water Environs, Solar Farms, Mountain Wind Farms.

Hunter River Transportation with Locks

Cities on Mine Moonscape land, Recreation and Water Storage Dams.

“Bulga Tourism Hub” an International attraction. (Attm 10)

It only took the Community three months of archival investigation in conjunction with Bulga Historian and Bulga Heritage Group by June 2016 (Attm 5) to understand and document the findings of the Heritage Neglect that Mining has been allowed to get away with regarding Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage of Coal & Allied Mine Lease sites. Six years earlier the SSHEG 2010 MTW Submission that alerted MTW Mining of their EIS Omissions and detailed the creation of “Wonnarua and Hunter Valley Heritage Park” on Warkworth Mine land.

In contrast to Mining silence on Heritage, in a short few weeks in 2016 Composite Ancestral Heritage was found to relate to many of these Mine Lease areas as foreshowed by SSHEG in 2010.

Below is the set of documents that provides the Aboriginal and Colonial starting point Research Outline, together with the 20 year three stage Community implementation “*Bulga Culture Centre*” Plans utilising the facilities already earmarked at the Heritage listed Bulga School :-

- i. “The History of Bulga 1820 -1921”, Alexander Eather 1874-1959.
- ii. R.H. Mathews (1880-1918) collection of R. H. Mathews Papers, held by the National Library of Australia, Elkin Collection of rare books at the University of Sydney’s Fisher Library, and Mitchell Library Sydney.
- iii. “Bulga Public School – Centenary Celebrations” Sat 19 Oct 1968.
- iv. “The Clarks of Bulga –150 years on Cockfighter’s Creek”, Stewart Mitchell (2004).
- v. “A History of Bulga – Gateway to the Hunter Valley since 1820” Bulga Milbrodale Progress Associations Inc (2013).
- vi. Unpublished manuscript Bill Greenhalgh (2014) “Cockfighter Creek – Warkworth Village” Singleton Library.
- vii. “Somewhat Perilous” - The journeys of Singleton, Parr, Howe, Myles & Blaxland in the Northern Blue Mountains, (2004).
- viii. “Bulga Culture Centre ” June 2016 SSHEG
Little of this Heritage is either acknowledged or investigated in Mine

Environmental European Heritage Impact documents, and even less Heritage has been protected or restored in the last 40 years by MTW Mining, but instead left vacant to deteriorate while studies and reports are compiled.

SSHEG involvement in the RIO Coal & Allied Conservation Heritage initiative in 17 April 2012 has focused on responding to the opportunity that MTW Mine CHAG has provided to present further detailing of

What has been prepared by SSHEG and Bulga Heritage Group Members should already have been funded by the MTW funds

Having presented a somewhat detailed Bulga Culture Centre 140 page document which outlined the 20 year development Plan, (att 1)

Planning changing the basis and CHAG being excluded from these documents it was necessary in Feb 2017 for Minister of Planning (att 2) to be briefed along with further detailing of ancillary issues that involved the “No Action” Bulga fleshing out Bulga Master Plans and spelling out the Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage significance again without CHAG or Mine funding

By May 2017 it became clear that Singleton Council had little intention of finalising the Draft Bulga Master Plan and had been shown as not incorporating the detailed descriptions and Drawing from Community Consultations in 2015 and with ongoing discussions with Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association.

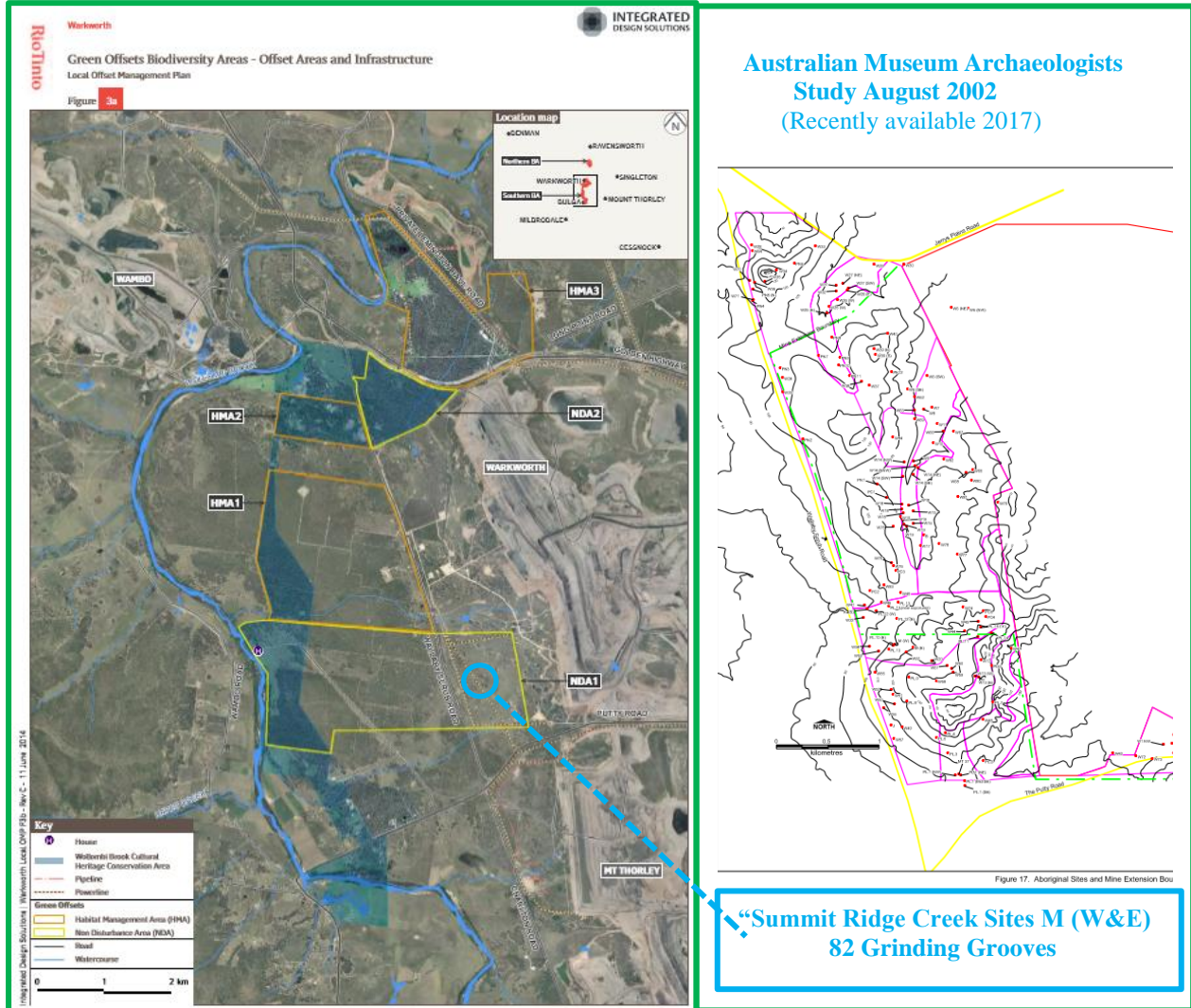
NSW Government has an ongoing Water and Sewerage Scheme as an essential Health measure for Councils where Rural Towns and Villages experience Population Growth. While the Bulga Milbrodale Community see Reticulated Water as an advantage, the expense associated with a Sewerage System and the location and discharge other than on Rehabilitated Mine Lease Land is not supported.

However, a Sewerage and Water Supply System that obtained Water from the Hunter River and distributed for the “*Cockfighters Valley Precinct of Jerrys Plains, Warkworth, Bulga-Milbrodale, Broke-Fordwich*”, and an associated Sewerage Treatment Plant on Mine Lease Land with Discharge used for Agricultural Purposes on Rehabilitated Mine Land is preferred.

Such a Centralised Scheme would concentrate any Health issues into a controlled area and would benefit the Bulga Tourism Hub in the future.

SSHEG Submissions focus upon “Aboriginal and Colonial Heritage Conservation” since 2010.

NSW Planning Mining Approvals that rely on “Supportive Aboriginal Clans involvement” may be complying with Aboriginal Legislative Acts but this is questionable since the Regulations and accepted Practices used do not actually comply when the dissenting Aboriginal Clans views and their Oral Histories relating to these lands are neither independently sought or considered; hoping time will lessen the impact. It is against this Community dynamics that the Warkworth 2002 Approval was viewed by SSHEG as an effective balance that captured the essential priorities for Aboriginal Conservation, Flora & Fauna significance NDA & HBMA's, Employment related to NSW Coal Resources and Mining Lease opportunities.



Subsequently for seven years Warkworth Mine gained the advantage of increased Coal Mining Rates from the 2002 Approvals and avoided scrutiny from the full timely implementation of the terms and conditions of that approval until the 2010 Warkworth Mine Redesign.

However, upon review now this Coal & Allied Mine appears to have operated in breach of the Heritage Act 1977 at least since 2002 Approval. Many Homesteads have been removed without consideration.

The Heritage Act, 1977 provides for the making of a variety of orders and permits to protect items of environmental heritage, including items classified as ‘relics’. The definition of a European relic under the Heritage Act, 1977 states that a European relic:

“... means any deposit, object or material evidence:

- (a) which relates to settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being aboriginal settlement; and*
- (b) which is 50 or more years old.”*

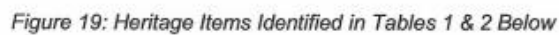
If any European relic is disturbed, an excavation permit is required under Section 140 of the Heritage Act, 1977. (MWL EA 2002 p56)

Subsequently, the Region wide Community outrage to the 2010 Warkworth Mine Redesign, from Bulga Communities, Environmental Groups and especially Aboriginal outrage from Descendent Aboriginal Clans, was complemented by the SSHEG 2010 Heritage Submission which highlighted not only the Colonial Significance but went on to detail “The Woonarua and Hunter Valley Heritage Conservation Park” on the Mine Lease Land. (Plan1)

SSHEG posed these Questions:-

“How significant are these Aboriginal lands, and have the Community already compromised their Aboriginal and European Heritage by accepting the 2002 Mining Approvals” ????

“How will the Colonial recordings at the time 1820’s to 1900’s shed light on the significance of the site. Should not these Colonial recordings be Researched ... before any further destruction of these lands occur” ?



Coal & Allied Australian Museum Archaeologists Oct 2001- Aug 2002

Previous SSHEG submissions and investigations related to 2002 Warkworth Mine Approvals questioned the overall basis for the NDA1 Preserved area; and now the apparently recently released 2002 C&A Archaeological Investigations (**attm 6**) begins to better explain the significance of this NDA1 area. Three aspects are now better understood:

-

- 1) The Role of the “Summit Ridge (Survey Area 6)” provides in sustaining the Land to the west all the way to the Wollombi Brook as the Watershed “Seepage” that becomes the “Unnamed Tributary to Wollombi Brook (Survey Area 3)”. The significance of this Summit Ridge Watershed was previously outlined in SSHEG Letter dated February 2017: -

SSHEG in Feb 2017 sought the Entomological (should now read Hydrogeology) study of the surface groundwater flow impact on the vegetation etc of lands west of the Great North Road from the impact of the Mining of North Charlton Ridges and Saddle Ridge, especially the Lichen “blanket” over areas of these RAAF lands.

- a This surface water and seepage has for centuries from the Saddle Ridge Watershed to the west, continues down the sloping lands into the Bora Ground area and served the associated Bora Campsites throughout these lands and can be traced to flowing in the Unnamed creek within 400 metres of the Sacred Tree Bora Circle near the Wollombi Brook.
- b. The surface water from around 500Ha around North Charlton Ridge now reduced to 75Ha has had devastating effect on the ‘Newport Swamp’ 5 Ha Red Gum perimeter Trees whose age is well in excess of 200 years old; possibly 300 to 400 years old.

- 2) The “Unnamed Tributary” being a Watercourse is a subsistence Track for Aboriginals that typifies the connectivity between the Wollombi Brook and Baiame Bora Initiation Site and Ceremonial Grounds and the Summit Ridge area Campsites, and beyond this to the East Aboriginal subsistence Track following Doctors Creek to the Terrace Sites along the Hunter River.

- 3) Loders Creek and the Bulga Mine Aboriginal Conservation Area exhibits a further subsistence Track between Hunter Hiver and Wollombi Brook; with the representative Aboriginal groups also reporting the connectivity with the Baiame Cave, as follows:-

It is the belief of some RAPs associated with the Project that this site distribution indicates pathways, possibly in connection to Biamie Cave (see **Section 5.1**) or other ceremonial destinations. It has been said at RAP meetings, for example, that these site recordings represent areas where neighbouring tribes would wait before gaining permission to approach Biamie Cave and other areas/features of ceremonial use.

It is accepted here that most creek systems probably formed pathways in ancient Australia as this was often a way through country while keeping water, and the resources that water afforded, in touch. As this pattern is repeated across NSW it is difficult to see the distribution of sites within the Project Area as any different to many other creek systems across NSW that also show the same correlation of site size to drainage line size.

The archaeological data indicates that the distribution of sites within the Project Area is probably a result of foraging and hunting activities along the drainage lines within the Project Area. It is also possible that the recorded distribution of sites indicates that some areas were used more for occupation (such as Loders Creek²³) and others as managed hunting areas where the principal activity was management and hunting rather than occupation. In this scenario, the clusters of artefacts recorded at sites such as BOP SC-1 with PAD (northeast drainage) could be the result of a one-off hunting/collecting episode rather than the remnants of an overnight foraging camp.

Although no large/major drainage features exist within the Project Area, some systems, such as Loders Creek, contained the resources to enable medium-term occupation; while other areas could not sustain such occupation and were used more sporadically. On some of the minor drainage lines, such as the northeast drainage, occupation may become more frequent towards the headwaters where resources seem to have encouraged slightly longer stays (as evidenced in the increased artefact scatter frequency). It has been noted

²³ The ACHA notes that some RAPS hold that the archaeological manifestation observed along Loders Creek arises from cultural use rather than subsistence use. While the archaeological evidence cannot disprove this observation, no site feature or artefact type recorded in association to Loders Creek indicated that the observed site manifestations are in any way substantially different from sites recorded in comparable environmental areas in other parts of the state that are commonly associated with occupation.

What then is the significance of the Coal & Allied Australian Museum Archaeological study of the Warkworth Mine Western Extension Proposal?

Firstly, the Study provides an insight into the Archaeological priorities investigated; the Review of previous Hunter Valley and Warkworth Mine Studies; and importantly the areas of Aboriginal Cultural protection concern that are not part of these investigations.

Secondly, the study was prepared under the auspicious of the Australian Museum and their archaeologists in conjunction with Dr Philip Hughes of Huonbrook Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd in liaison with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and with Victor Perry 20 year Aboriginal Consultant represented the interests of the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation. Bulga Sought this!

Thirdly, an archaeological investigation was undertaken by the Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS) to locate archaeological sites and assess the impacts of extending mining operations in this area.

Fourthly, the overall objective of this project was to determine whether the land subject to the development proposal contains Aboriginal sites (“Aboriginal objects” under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974), therefore requiring section 90 consent under the Act and triggering the IDA process.

SSHEG first highlighted the significance of the grasslands that stretch from the Wollomi and Yengo Forests, across the Wollombi Brook and the Mine land ridges and onto the Hunter River in 2010 Submission.

In addition the land shape, contours, watering features and rock formations, some of which were naturally occurring, and some arranged for Cultural and Spiritual significance, also suggests that land contours and shapes over the entire area from the Mountain Ridges across the Brook and up to and over the Ridges hold a special Significance that needs further historical research including Colonial recordings relating to these matters so as to better understand what impact their current and proposed destruction will have on the overall sites Heritage value.

Aboriginal Cultural Value Assessments identify “The land and Water running through it are the lifeblood of their Culture. The Hills and Plains, the Forest and Mountains provided people in past generations with the resources needed to survive”. Does this not describe this Unique area at Wollombi Brook.

Further Myths and Legends surrounding this land would be better understood today when the genealogy and ancestry of the various tribes and family groups that occupied this land in the

“Summit Ridge Creek” - 82 Grinding Grooves Sites M (W&E)

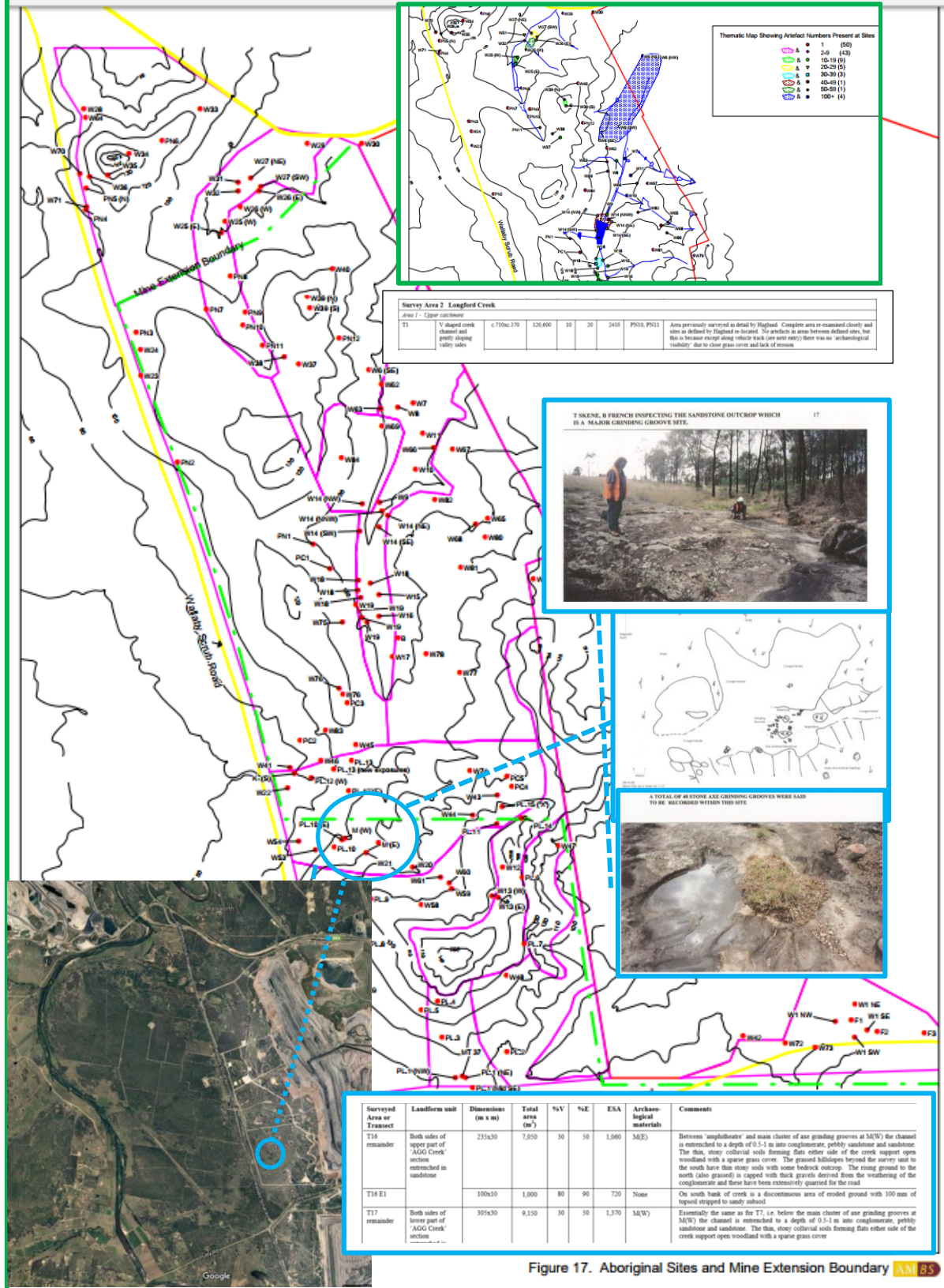


Figure 17. Aboriginal Sites and Mine Extension Boundary **AM 85**

Similarly, Australian Museum study focus is outlined as follows: -

“This study focuses on two current issues: 1) settlement patterns as reflected in differential use of landform units within the study area, and 2) antiquity of occupation via the identification of open sites with stratified deposit.

One of the aims of this study is to attempt to define the nature of occupation over the local landscape. As a consequence, the nature of assemblage sampling has focused upon ‘landform units’ rather than particular ‘sites’ as is traditional in most archaeological consulting projects (site remains the unit of recording archaeological material to comply with current legislation and NPWS recording requirements). The intent of this strategy is to highlight variation between assemblages at a large scale, treating assemblages as a continuous scatter of material across the landscape”.

The extract below from what amounts to as an dissenting Report on Aboriginal Culture in Appendix A of the Australian Museum Study (Attm3); supports the SSHEG NDA1 land significance outlined.

The Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council has prepared a report on the assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage for Warkworth West.(AMBS 2002)

UHC identified the cultural values as:

- Aboriginal sites, stating that “all Sites within their Traditional Homeland are of high importance and are in need of proper care and protection” and also that the archaeological evidence of “camping and tool making sites found today remind people of their forefathers, the original inhabitants of the land” (Perry 2002:8);*
- the physical landscape, saying that “the land and water running through it are the lifeblood of their culture. The hills and plains, the forest and mountains provided people in past generations with the resources needed to survive” (Perry 2002:8); and*
- visual connections to the land, indicating that “local Aboriginal people are attached to the land through physical, spiritual and visual connections” (Perry 2002:9).*

The cultural heritage assessment report states that the two hill top locations (one in the north west of the study area and one at the southern end of the main ridgeline) as well as the deep sand deposits in the central part of the study area are unusual in terms of the environment.

The grinding groove sites have been identified as the most significant physical feature for cultural reasons.

It is clear that it is not only the archaeological sites but the actual physical features of the landscape that are considered in the assessment of cultural heritage values.

“The landscape including the area proposed to be mined has been identified as being important”. The impact of the 2001 development on cultural heritage is significant within the proposed mining area, however, the areas of greatest cultural significance, including the hilltop locations (Watts Hill & Summit Ridge) and southern grinding groove sites [M(W) and M(E) on what needs to be here called “Summit Ridge Creek Sites M”] have been avoided through modifications (NDA1 east of Wallaby Scrub Road) excluded from the original 2001 mine plan. **An Australian Museum’s 2017 Study is thus Sought.**

“The grinding groove sites, PN10 on Longford Creek and Site M on the unnamed Wollombi Brook tributary (can be seen to have some archaeological significance, given they are a relatively rare (although not unexpected) site type. While such sites do not provide much research value, they can be seen to have social, educational and aesthetic values.

In New South Wales, items of Aboriginal heritage are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Sites that will be impacted by the proposed mine extension will require section 90 consent under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974”.

SSHEG find it significant that “Summit Ridge Creek Sites M” has been omitted from the Australian Museum Report Section 90 Consent List, and by 2010 onwards with in excess of 82 Grinding Grooves across this wide area it should now assume its rightful Heritage Place.

Table 6. Site Descriptions

Site Name	NPWS Site No.	Site Type	Landform Zone	AMGE	AMGN	Recorder	Site Contents *	Comments
M (E)	37-6-163	GG + A	3. Unnamed tributary to Wollombi Brook	316800	6388962	Dyall 1979 Haglund 1999 AMBS (survey in 2001)	38 GG's	Dyall recorded 73 GG's. Some of these are probably covered by sediment. Grooves in cluster 7 m x 7 m
M (W)	37-6-163	GG + A	3. Unnamed tributary to Wollombi Brook	316619	6388988	Haglund 1999 AMBS (survey in 2001)	9 GG's	In one cluster on exposed sandstone in creek bed

PN10:

Site PN10 was recorded by Haglund (1999) as three grooves on a sandstone boulder approximately 1.5 metres long set into the bank of Longford Creek. Groove dimensions were given by Haglund (1999:30) as:

1. 300 mm x 75 mm x 15 mm
2. 270 mm x 75 mm x 9 mm
3. 290 mm x 80 mm x 13 mm

During the present survey a rounded indentation was identified on the same boulder (dimensions: 280 mm x 200 mm x 25 mm). It was not certain whether the indentation was the result of natural factors or human modification.

M (W):

Site M (W) was originally recorded by Dyll (1979) as Site M. Dyll recorded a total of 73 grooves at this location. During the present survey 38 grooves were visible. The grooves were located in a section of fine grained sandstone within the bed of the tributary to Wollombi Brook. A coarse conglomerate was located around the fine grained sandstone. Silt and vegetation encroached onto the sandstone creek bed, probably covering grooves recorded by Dyll so that they were not seen during the present survey.

Sketch plans of the grinding grooves at Site M (W) are contained in Appendix B.

M (E):

Site M (E) was recorded by Haglund (1999) as nine grooves in a cluster approximately 250 metres east of M (W). No other details were given. Only two grooves were clearly visible during the current survey, however, part of the sandstone platform in the creek bed was covered with silt and vegetation.

Artefact scatters:

Descriptions of artefacts recorded during the field survey for this project are presented in Appendix C.

A total of 533 artefacts were recorded during the survey (detailed in Table 8). The majority of artefacts recorded are flakes or broken flakes. A variety of other artefact classes were also recorded, including cores, retouched flakes (including a number of backed artefacts), hammerstones, flaked pieces, heat shatters and a single grinding stone. Mudstone and silcrete are the dominant raw material across the study area. Combined, these two raw materials account for 94% of all artefacts. Other raw materials include quartz, petrified wood, igneous material, chert, porcellanite, quartzite and sandstone (detailed in Tables 8 and 9).

The results fit with site prediction models. Stone artefact scatters were the predominant type of site recorded. The largest sites occur along major water courses. The nature of artefacts and raw materials were as expected. The artefacts were of locally derived raw materials. Grinding grooves occur where there are outcrops of sandstone in the creeklines.

8.3 Summary Discussion (Australian Museum August 2002 pg.95)

The results of the survey and excavations fit with site prediction models. The largest sites occur along major water courses. Grinding grooves occur where there are outcrops of sandstone in the creeklines. Stone artefact scatters were the predominant type of site recorded. The nature of artefacts and raw materials were as expected. The artefacts were of locally derived raw materials. The overall artefact assemblage did not contain any attributes that make them unique or rare in the Upper Hunter Valley.

However, this study was able to address two current issues: 1) settlement patterns as reflected in differential use of landforms units within the study area, and 2) antiquity of occupation through the identification of open sites with stratified deposit.

In relation to models of forager settlement patterns, it is difficult to distinguish between or identify residential base sites as opposed to activity locations in the archaeological record at Warkworth West. However, the results have indicated that there was extensive and varied use of the area, particularly along the creeklines, with a continuous archaeological distribution close to creeks. The sand sheet may have been a favoured camping location at which activities similar to those occurring on the opposite side of the creek (on the duplex soils) were carried out.

Two grinding groove sites and a grindstone fragment recovered during excavation suggests a degree of permanence or less mobile occupation in this area (see section 6.2.1.2). Nearby ceremonial sites are also known. It is not clear where the closest stone source was situated, however, the Warkworth West landscape would have provided food and water resources, at least throughout the Holocene. The archaeological evidence also shows a diversity of raw materials and artefact types, indicating that occupation of this area may have included base camps as well as carrying out specific activities. These activities are likely to include the manufacture of formal implements (backed artefacts), manufacture and maintenance of axes, and grinding activities involved in food preparation or the use of ochre.

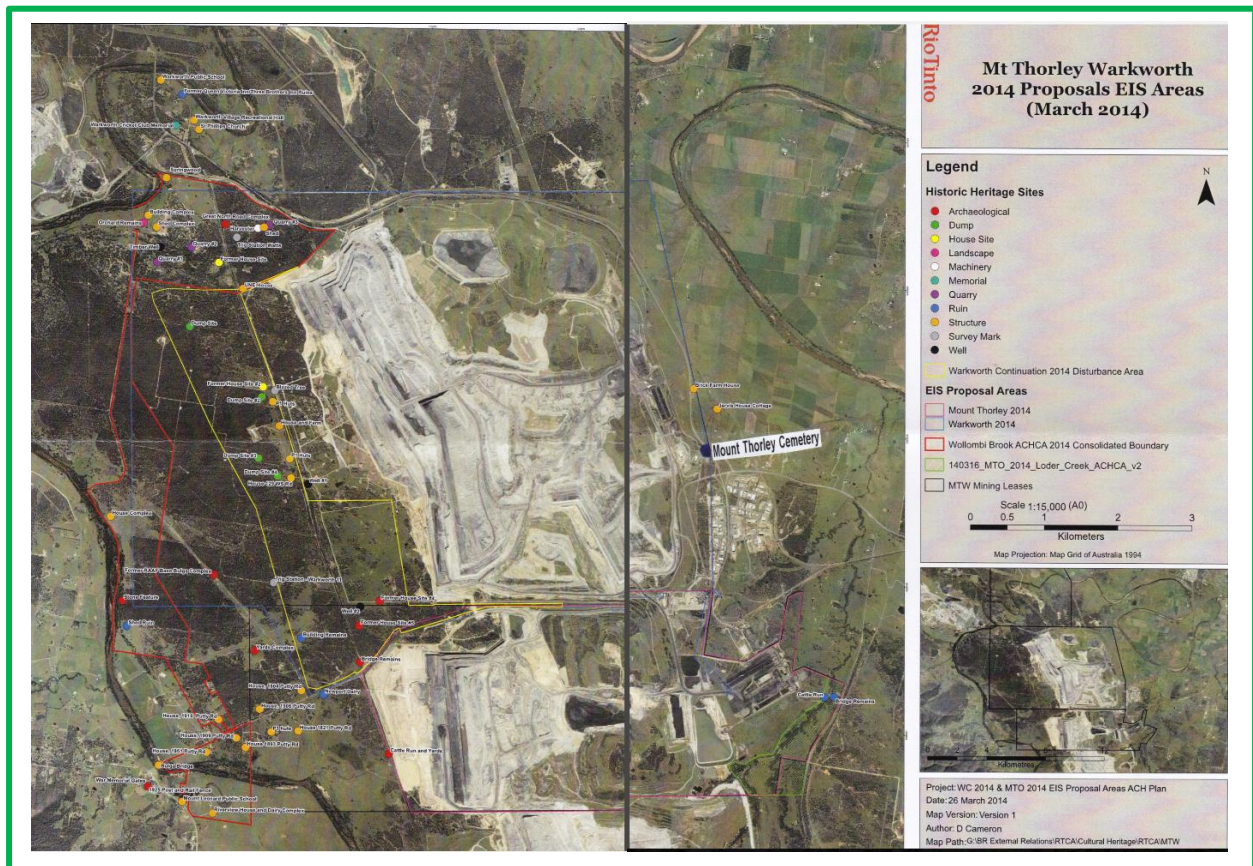
Considering that CHAG- SSHEG has questioned the extent and Significance of this Southern Ridge Grinding Grooves Site, and the CHAG group inspection was told that MTW had laser image Scanned “the localised site” as in Photo below, and that to mine this area, a cut out section of this area would be attempted. At no time during this 2016 inspection, or at any CHAG meetings or any EIS documents after 2009 identified the extent of the 82 Grinding Grooves in this “MicroValley area M” or clearly classified as “Relatively Rare Aboriginal Significance” by the Australian Museum Archaeologists (AMA) in 2002.



Being now aware of the Australian Museum Archaeologists Study in 2002, SSHEG calls for this “Summit Ridge Creek Sites M” (Figure 17 Page 35 above) to remain undisturbed and Heritage Protected, and that an audit to establish, and for the Heritage Council to review, that these details have been known by all during the ongoing Mine Approval Processes since 2009 and that those processes as Recommendations 1 to 9 in the 2002 AMA Study have been implemented, and when so, that copies of reports, Archaeological reports, videos etc be included for community& CHAG review and archival storage.

RTCA Historic Heritage Sites 2014 Proposals EIS Areas (CHAG)

The inclusion of Mt Thorley Mine Lease portion North of Putty Road as part of 2015 Warkworth Mine Lease as outlined to CHAG in 2014 now confirms the Archaeological Sites of “Clark” Colonial Homes that Bulga Residents and Bulga Historian Stewart Mitchell complained to have been expunged from the MTW Mine Leases.



RTCA MTW Wollombi Brook Cultural Heritage Conservation Area

Prior to 1820, Baiame Aboriginal Significance dominated these lands descending from the Bulga Mountains, across the grasslands and the Brook and onto the Hunter River to the East.

After 1820, these same lands remained as Aboriginal Lands and shared with “Colonial and Convict Pursuits” that initially focuses on Brook and River localities.

Two Hundred years later, Historic Evidence, Artefacts and Colonial understanding of all three “Pursuits” remain the focus for the three MTW Heritage Conservation Areas identified so far. The fourth adjoining Wambo Heritage Conservation Area awaits MTW analysis.

Also awaiting MTW recognition is their Hunter River Heritage Properties adjoining the MTW Washery and Office complex and across the Golden Highway awaits detailing.

From the SSHEG Holistic future viewpoint when mining ceases and mine lease lands and in particular Heritage and Conservation Areas become available for Community use, the adjoining Bulga, Wambo and HVO Mine Lands are also a consideration at this time.

- 1) MTW Wollombi Brook Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Area.
- 2) MTW Wollombi Brook Historic Heritage Conservation Area, Springwood Homestead with the Great North Road (GNR) and Charlton Road Signposting and the final land form reinstatement GNR alignment provisions.
- 3) MTW Hunter River Historic Heritage Conservation Area to be added including “Javis Brick House, Dight Family Grave, Great Lodge, Stafford & Clifford Homesteads and Orchard, Tennis Court and Philip Thorley Homestead as “The Windmill Inn” Site and “Thorley relatives Cemetery”.
- 4) MTW Southern Biodiversity Area and Warkworth Sand protection and reinstatement and biodiversity offset provisions at Archerfield, and SSHEG Archerfield Convict & Heritage submission^{##} issues.
- 5) Wambo Mine Aboriginal Ceremonial Lands, Stock Routes, and Wambo Homestead Estate access for Tourism Events.

SSHEG Archerfield Convict & Heritage submission^{##} issues

Phil Jones - HVO South Project Approval Modifications 1 to 5 Application 06-0261

From: SSHEG MEDIA <ssheg@hotmail.com>
To: <phil.jones@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 11/10/2012 9:59 PM
Subject: HVO South Project Approval Modifications 1 to 5 Application 06-0261

Dr Neville Hodkinson
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17th October 2012

NSW Government
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
G.P.O Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001
Phil.Jones@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re HVO South Project Approval Modifications 1 to 5
Applications 06 - 0261 MOD 1 to 5

We all need to be reminded that in the 1820's Homesteads in the Hunter Valley were built close to a reliable water supply. Why then has this Archerfield Homestead Complex water supply been kept secret and ignored for so long; and ignored in all the Environmental Assessments and Offset evaluations over the years at least back to 2002.

The secret is the Geology of the Archerfield Hill some hundred odd metres above the Hunter River and the Alluvial River Flats below.

As I understand it (in the limited time we have to comment) the Hill is an ancient Sand deposit that sits upon a solid Sandstone Basin filled with fresh water that not only provides "Well Water" close to the Hill surface but plays its part in the flourishing Homestead varieties of old trees of overseas origin that are testament to the Colonial significance of this Site.

As you may now realise and appreciate the Secret Water Story now becomes an impediment to both of the HVO South Offset Proposal as well as the Warkworth Archerfield Offset Plans. Now the Colonial and the European Heritage significance also comes into play as this Secret Water Well is in use today as it has been since the early 1820's. It would be expected that the life blood of the Archerfield Homestead Complex would be at Risk by concentrated reforestation of otherwise farm grazing land planned as the Warkworth Archerfield Offset Proposal.

The Colonial and European Heritage significance was outlined in my Warkworth Extension submission application 09-0202 dated 12 June 2010, where details are provided including Colonial Map 2 -entitled Hunter River District 1822 to 1825 of Colonial settlement land parcels along the Hunter River.

Interestingly this detailing has apparently still been ignored by Planning, PAC, and Mining and in this submission the Archerfield Homestead Property is indicated in section "D" of MAP 2. Similarly, the community disgust regarding the Offset proposals are still relevant in this submission.

Interestingly, and perhaps just as applicable here is Henry Danger's description of the Hunter River land.

Similarly, many aspects of the 2002 Approved Warkworth preserved areas now approved in 2012 and now under Court Appeal are outlined in various of the hundred odd submission, and are invoked here to measure the Warkworth loss and Offset swap content. They also outline the extent of the concern at the integrity of the process.

It is interesting to note that "The Archerfield property was identified as having the highest Conservation significance (with a score of 17 from a possible 20) of all the eight areas assessed". Add to this the Colonial and European Heritage significance and mostly devoid of Aboriginal Heritage to date, then a rethink is warranted of the Offset Plans for the Archerfield Property.

Sincerely,

Dr Neville Hodkinson

Historic Heritage initiatives by Rio Tinto Coal & Allied

Historic Heritage initiatives by Coal & Allied surfaced in connection with the original Upper Hunter Mt Pleasant (MTP) development consent 22 Dec 1999 that required the preparation of Environmental Management Plans – Archaeology and Cultural Management Plan – Condition 3.3 – Heritage Assessment and Management – European Heritage. Condition 3.4 Flora and Fauna Assessment and Management is also noteworthy.

European Heritage

4. The Applicant shall engage an appropriately qualified person to prepare an oral history of the DA area before local residents are dispersed. This will include an investigation of all buildings and sites within the DA area and the areas that will be affected by the mine. This will be carried out in consultation with a member of Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Historical Society, who is to be allowed reasonable access to the Applicant's properties for the purpose of assessing European archaeological features. The report shall be made available to the

Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Historical Society, Council and the Director-General.

Flora and Fauna Assessment and Management

1. Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall prepare and implement a Flora and Fauna Management Plan for the management of flora and fauna issues in the DA area during mining operations. The Plan shall be

Oral History

[MTP Notice of Modification 19 Sept 2011](#)

35. By the end of December 2013, the Proponent shall prepare a detailed history of the Mount Pleasant locality to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This history must:
 - (a) be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the Director-General;
 - (b) be prepared in consultation with the OEH, the local history society, local community (including former residents as far as is practicable), and Aboriginal stakeholders;
 - (c) be prepared in accordance with the relevant the relevant Heritage Council of NSW guidelines; and
 - (d) include detailed historical research as well as an oral history.

Guided by the Rio Tinto Communities and Social Performance Standard & Cultural Heritage Management Procedure, the RTCA Cultural Heritage Unit has developed a Cultural Heritage Management System (CHMS) that applies across all RTCA owned projects and operations, including MTP.

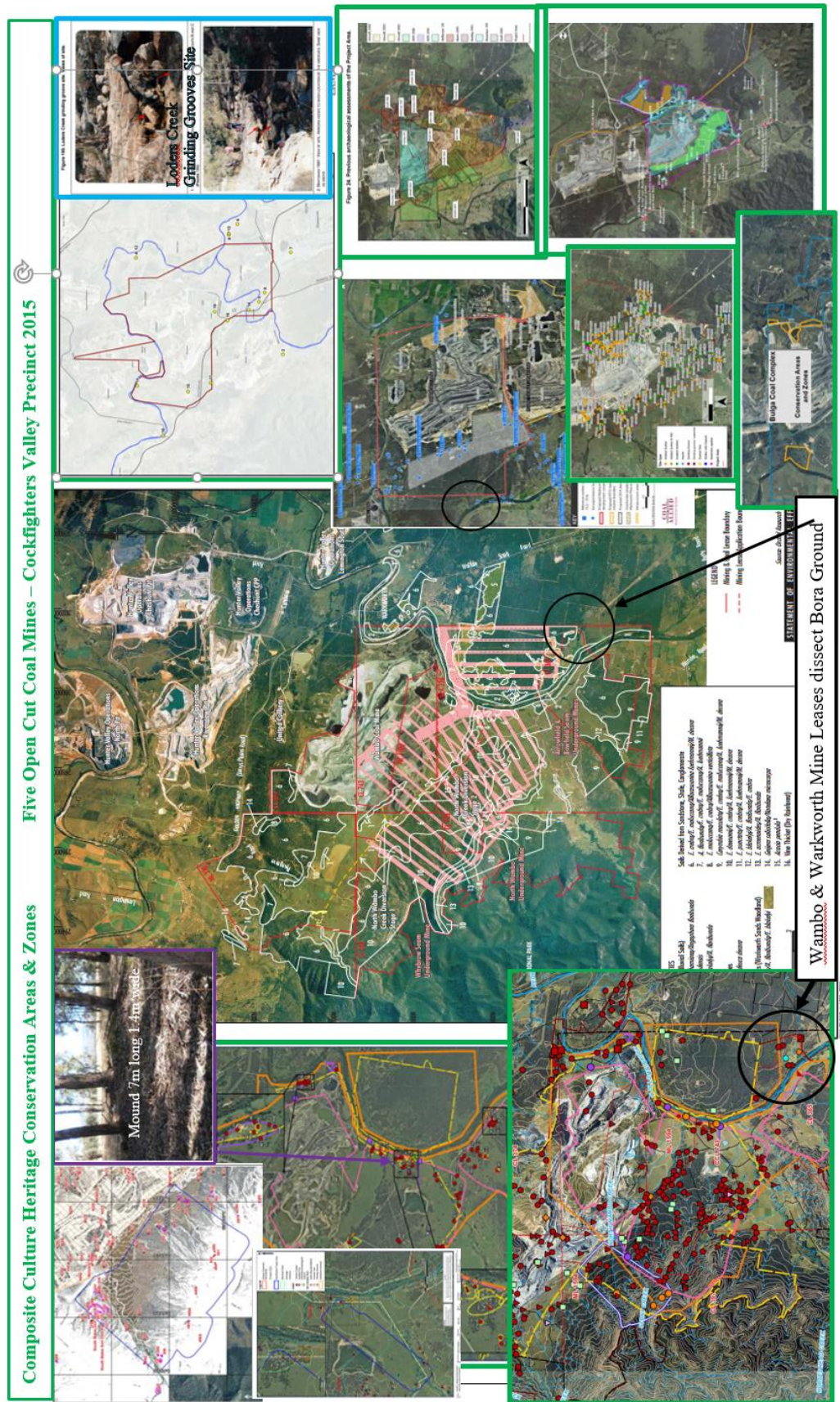
A detailed history (including detailed historical research & oral history) of the Mt Pleasant locality relates to modified consent conditions of 19 Sept 2011. Where appropriate, these works will be conducted with the participation of interested community members, such as representatives from the Muswellbrook Local and Family History Society and the **RTCA Community Heritage Advisory Group (CHAG)**. RTCA established the CHAG in 2012 as a community consultation forum for all matters pertaining to management of historic (non-Indigenous) heritage located on RTCA lands.

SSHEG involvement in CHAG started on 27th June 2012 with an Historic Heritage Site Tour and meeting regarding Hunter Valley Operations and MTW Mines, and when 225 Heritage Reports of HVO, MTW & MTP from late 1960's were revealed; many with "Confidentiality Provisions".

What started out in the MTW CHAG in 2012 as one *Wollombi Brook Heritage Conservation Area* has turned out to be Three Conservation Areas that operate concurrently and overlap across these same Warkworth Mine Lands, embracing the Aboriginal, Colonial and Convict significance of these lands.

These three MTW Conservation Areas also are adjoined to Wambo undeclared Conservation Areas to the West, and HVO Mine to the North West, as well as adjoin with Mt Thorley declared and undeclared Conservation Areas to the South, and adjoining still further South to Bulga Mine declared and undeclared Conservation Areas; establishing a somewhat continuum of Conservation Areas along the Wollombi Brook which extends over five Mine Lease Areas.

SSHEG sees the opportunity for the homogenous Heritage Connectivity across the five Mine Conservation, Biodiversity, Wildlife Corridors and Historic Heritage Areas. As Mining Ceases in the future, the "Tourism Hub potential of the Cockfighters Valley Precinct" with Tourist Guided assess of these Aboriginal, Colonial and Convict Conservation areas will further reinforce the "Bulga Culture Centre" International Tourism appeal. Refer 5 Mine Composite Map.



NSW Heritage Council OEH comments on Warkworth 2014 EIS

Heritage Council has provided comments on this Proposal on several occasions to previous approval pathways in letter to NSW Dept of Planning dated 24th July 2014. Extract Comments include ;-

“Within the proposed 2014 disturbance area there are four non-registered historic features, two with local significance (PIHuts) and two which have been assessed as being of State significance (former RAAF Base Bulga Complex and a section of the Great North Road – Wallaby Scrub Road)”.

The level of impact to RAAF Base Bulga has been assessed as minor, as the proposal is anticipated to affect only a very small portion (approximately 1.75 per cent) of the RAAF Base Bulga complex. The anticipated area of disturbance comprises approximately 4.8ha at the very eastern end of the east-west runway.....

The affected area is to be largely incorporated within a 200m wide infrastructure corridor extending eastwards from the western boundary of the proposed 2014 disturbance area. This infrastructure corridor will not be mined and will be used for provision of services such as an access road, water pipelines, power and drainage and, therefore, the anticipated impacts will be minor.

“Heritage impacts of these two items ‘are likely to be minor’. Furthermore, given that other sections of the Great North Road have also been impacted by mining in this locality, it would appear that the cumulative impacts on the expansion of the Warkworth Mine over Wallaby Scrub Road would be major and this should be discussed in the EIS)”.

“3. Given the cumulative impact which mining has had on sections of the Great North Road alignment in this area, and the significance of the road alignment, the Heritage Council considers that the Warkworth Continuation Project should be redesigned around Wallaby Scrub Road so that the road alignment can be left in situ”.

“5. The proposed archaeologist undertaking any historical archaeological excavations they should be able to meet the Heritage Council’s Excavation Directors Criteria for excavation of state significant sites”.

“9..... The Heritage Division particularly applauds the commitment to continue to engage with Wambo Coal regarding a collaborative management protocol for the area and would be happy to provide comment on this, once the protocol is finalised”.

SSHEG considers that in the light of the impending sale to Yancoal that three Funding guarantees regarding MTW Mine Approval Nov 2015 need to be conditional in the Sale to Yancoal:-

- (1) Bank Guarantees to the full extent of Aboriginal and Colonial work to be completed over next 20 years of the mine approval, Upwards to \$20 x 10⁶ (Est including 20 year escalation).
- (2) Mortgage over Mine owned land outside the Mine lease area including in Bulga Village - VPA Bulga Village \$6.6 x 10⁶.
- (3) Mortgage over lands on which Heritage Properties for repairs are located such as Springwood Estate, Jarvis Homestead, Newport Dairy, Archerfield Homestead, Bulga RAAF Base etc. upwards to \$5 x 10⁶ (Est).
- (4) Being now aware of the Australian Museum Archaeologists Study in 2002, SSHEG calls for this “Summit Ridge Creek Sites M” – (Figure 17 Page 36 above) to remain undisturbed and Heritage Protected, and that an audit to establish, and for the Heritage Council to review, that these details have been known by all during the ongoing Mine Approval Processes since 2009 and that those processes as Recommendations 1 to 9 in the 2002 AMA Study have been implemented and when so, that copies of reports, Archaeological reports, videos etc be included for community and CHAG review and archival storage.

Further to our previous Letter of 19 February 2017 with CD File Copy details (Attachment 8), the Minister may wish to discuss this further in view of the ongoing delays in resolving any of these MTW Mine related Community Funding Issues.

Thanking you in anticipation of your acknowledgement and reply.

Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD
Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group
Email: ssheg@hotmail.com

CD Files: Letter 12 August 2017 and Attachment Files 1 to 8 inclusive

Attachment 1- Wellington NSW Bora Ceremony 1832

“Cursory Observations on Natural History connected with NSW”
Observations on the Colonies of NSW
by John Henderson Calcutta 1832 Pages 145-148.

Attachment 2 – Bulga NSW Baiame Cave Paintings 1893

“Rock Paintings by the Aborigines in Caves on Bulgar Creek,
Near Singleton” by R.H. Mathews Licenced Surveyor 1892
with Plates XVIII-XX pages 353-358

Attachment 3 – NSW Prehistoric Rock Carvings 1910

“Few Prehistoric Rock Carvings and Paintings executed by the
Natives of New South Wales” – Bulletins et Memoires de la
Societe d’Anthropologic de Paris, Vol 11. 1910 pp 531-535
R.H. Mathews.

Attachment 4 - Bulga NSW Bora Ceremony 1897

“The Burbung of the Darkinung Tribes”
– Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria 10,1 (1897) 1-12
by R.H. Mathews Licence Surveyor 11 March 1897 - 12 pages.

Attachment 5 – Bulga Culture Centre

“Bulga Culture Centre” – Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley “
Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD – June 2016 140 pages.

Attachment 6 – Australian Museum Archaeologists MTW Study 2002

“Archaeological Assessment of Aboriginal Heritage” 131 pages
– Extension of Warkworth Coal Mine - Report 2001072
Australian Museum Business Services Management August 2002

Attachment 7 – Bulga Master Plans

“MTW Colonial Heritage – CHAG Implementation Complaint” –
NSW Minister of Planning & Environment Letter 19 Feb 2017
Hodkinson & Mitchell – 22 pages.

Attachment 8 – Bulga Power Point Presentation

“MTW Colonial Heritage – CHAG Planning”
Implementation Plan – Bulga Ancestral Culture Centre.
Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD – May 2017 – 48 Slides.

Attachment 9 - Bulga Heritage Entity

SSHEG “Bulga Colonial Heritage Entity & Centre” Submission
“Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027”
Aboriginal, Colonial & Convict Colony Expansion in 1820’s
Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD – 28 April 2017 – 181 pages.

Attachment 10 – Bulga Tourism Hub

“Bulga Tourism Hub” – Ancestral Heritage in Hunter Valley
Patricks Plains Culture 1820’s -Draft Notes June 2017.
Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD

NSW Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Report Nov 2014

The **Heritage Council of NSW** (*Heritage Council*) raised general concerns about the project's potential impact on nearby heritage sites, including the Wambo Homestead, the Bulga WW2 RAAF Base and the historic Great North Road (the alignment of which lies beneath Wallaby Scrub Road). The agency requested additional information about Warkworth's proposed heritage management measures and Warkworth provided additional information in its RTS. The Heritage Council confirmed that it was satisfied, and the Department has recommended conditions of consent to mitigate and manage the potential impacts on these sites.

Warkworth Continuation 2014, Response to Submissions Nov 2014

The level of impact to RAAF Base Bulga has been assessed as minor, as the proposal is anticipated to affect only a very small portion (approximately 1.75 per cent) of the RAAF Base Bulga complex. The anticipated area of disturbance comprises approximately 4.8ha at the very eastern end of the east-west runway (shown in Figure 2.3 of this report). This is an area of cleared ground situated beyond the end of the constructed runway. The affected area is to be largely incorporated within a 200m wide infrastructure corridor extending eastwards from the western boundary of the proposed 2014 disturbance area. This infrastructure corridor will not be mined and will be used for provision of services such as an access road, water pipelines, power and drainage and, therefore, the anticipated impacts will be minor.

The historic heritage study recognised the alignment of the Great North Road as being a contributory factor in its significance. In consultation with the community stakeholders of the Coal & Allied Community Heritage Advisory Group, including representatives of the Convict Trail Project, Coal & Allied has made the commitment to develop an interpretation programme for the alignment which will include the provision of landscape features marking the original road alignment within the final landform design as an element of the mine rehabilitation plan at the completion of mining activities.

Further, Coal & Allied is unaware of any previous mining related impacts that have resulted in any cumulative impact on the Great North Road alignment in this area.

It is intended and expected that within 12 months of receiving development consent the CMPs would be reviewed and revised in accordance with any conditions of consent for the proposal. The CMPs would be core elements of the heritage management plan required for the development and they, along with all other mitigation and management measures would be developed in consultation with, and to the satisfaction of, the Heritage Division of the OEH, and DP&E.

The Brick Farmhouse (Golden Highway, Mt Thorley) CMP was developed independently of the Warkworth Extension 2010 consent condition requirements as part of Coal & Allied's broader programme for the management of buildings and places of historic heritage value that are on Coal & Allied owned lands. Coal & Allied will provide a copy of the Brick Farmhouse CMP to the Heritage Division of the OEH.

NSW DPE Secretary's Environmental Assessment Report Nov 2014

Although the project is close to a number of historic components in the region, it is not expected to significantly impact these heritage items. However, the closure of Wallaby Scrub Road would have some impact on the heritage values of the Great North Road. The project would also disturb 110 Aboriginal heritage sites. Detailed assessment suggests almost all (106) of these sites are of low to moderate archaeological significance. The remaining four sites are comprised of 3 scarred trees and a site with axe grinding grooves, all of which have high archaeological significance. Warkworth proposes to mitigate the impacts of the project by salvaging and managing all the Aboriginal sites in the disturbance area in consultation with the Aboriginal community. It is also proposing to establish a conservation area covering around 700 hectares on land near the mine which contains a number of highly culturally significant sites. The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and the Department are satisfied with the proposed mitigation measures.

DPE Addendum Recommended Condition of Consent May 2015

Historic Heritage Management Plan

46. The Applicant shall prepare ~~and implement~~ a Historic Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary, and carry out the development in accordance with this plan. This plan must:
- be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary;
 - be prepared in consultation with the Heritage Branch, Council, CHAG and local historical organisations;
 - be submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to carrying out any mining to the west of Wallaby Scrub Road;
 - include the following for the management of historic heritage on site:
 - conservation management plans for the former RAAF Base Bulga, Great North Road (Wallaby Scrub Road portion), Brick House and Springwood Homestead; and
 - a program/procedures for:
 - archaeological investigations of Wallaby Scrub Road, Well 2 and the former RAAF Base Bulga Complex;

NSW Government
Department of Planning and Environment

20

NSW PAC Report 4 March 2015

The Heritage Council's original submission to the Department (dated 24 July 2014) raised concern regarding the closure of Wallaby Scrub Road to allow for the expansion of Warkworth mine. The Heritage Council recommended that due to the cumulative impact of mining on sections of the Great North Road alignment, and the significance of the road alignment, the proposal should be redesigned around the current alignment of Wallaby Scrub Road. However, following the submission of additional information in the RTS report, the Heritage Council advised the Department that it no longer has concerns, largely as a result of the Bulga Optimisation Project not proceeding with plans to disturb a four kilometre section of Charlton Road, which is also part of the Great North Road alignment.

5.10.2 Aboriginal Archaeology

The proposed Warkworth Continuation Project has the potential to result in both positive and negative impacts in terms of Aboriginal archaeology. Key issues raised in relation to this aspect of the proposal in the Public Hearing and submissions include:

- impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage
- the views of the Aboriginal community not fully considered
- the special significance of Saddler's Ridge (or Saddleback Ridge) as a pathway to Baiamai Cave and Yengo Flat Rock sacred sites.

The project includes the conservation in perpetuity of the Wollombi Brook Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Conservation area (WBACHCA) as shown in Figure 8 below. The WBACHCA has an area of 696ha (183ha larger than previously proposed as part of the 2003 Warkworth Extension Project) located within the Southern Biodiversity Area and is proposed to be co-managed in partnership with the Aboriginal community. The WBACHCA includes approximately 265 identified Aboriginal cultural heritage places including significant spiritual and ceremonial places.

DPE Addendum Recommended Condition of Consent May 2015

Historic Heritage Management Plan

46. The Applicant shall prepare ~~and implement~~ a Historic Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary, and carry out the development in accordance with this plan. This plan must:
- (a) be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary;
 - (b) be prepared in consultation with the Heritage Branch, Council, CHAG and local historical organisations;
 - (c) be submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to carrying out any mining to the west of Wallaby Scrub Road;
 - (d) include the following for the management of historic heritage on site:
 - conservation management plans for the former RAAF Base Bulga, Great North Road (Wallaby Scrub Road portion), Brick House and Springwood Homestead; and
 - a program/procedures for:
 - archaeological investigations of Wallaby Scrub Road, Well 2 and the former RAAF Base Bulga Complex;

NSW Government
Department of Planning and Environment

20

- photographic recording of all historic heritage sites within the disturbance areas prior to disturbance;
- relocation and storage of moveable heritage items;
- managing the discovery of any new heritage items during the development;
- ongoing consultation and involvement of the relevant historical groups in the conservation and management of historic heritage on the site;
- developing an interpretation programme of the heritage values of the RAAF Base Bulga Complex and the Great North Road Complex;
- establishing the Mount Thorley Warkworth Historic Heritage Conservation Fund and the Mount Thorley Warkworth Great Northern Road Conservation Fund; and
- protecting the other heritage items outside the disturbance areas.

Note: It is accepted that the conservation management plan for the Springwood Homestead and interpretation programme for the RAAF Base Bulga Complex and the Great North Road Complex will not be submitted with the initial Historic Heritage Management Plan. These should be progressively added to the plan once completed.

Table E.1 Social impacts and opportunities from the proposal – perceived and technical studies

Impact/opportunities	
Perceived	Technical assessment
<p>Heritage</p> <p>Loss of historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage</p> <p>Stakeholders also expressed concern that the proposal would impact on places of community value due to impacts on the Former RAAF Base Bulga Complex, sections of the Great North Road, places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance and Saddleback Ridge. They also associated indirect impacts of the proposal on places of heritage and community value in Bulga through potential impacts of population decline on the management and maintenance of those places.</p>	<p>Loss of historic heritage</p> <p>Small portions of the former RAAF Base Bulga Complex and Great North Road would be impacted by the proposal, and heritage impacts are considered minor. The former RAAF Base Bulga Complex and the Great North Road have been subject to comprehensive assessment, and conservation management plans have been prepared for both. The former RAAF Base Bulga Complex has also been subject to archival recording in accordance with NSW Heritage Office guidelines.</p> <p>No direct or indirect impacts are predicted on heritage items located in and surrounding Bulga village.</p> <p>The study found that with the implementation of the mitigation measures (see Chapter 19 of the EIS), potential heritage impacts within the study area are likely to be low.</p> <p>Coal & Allied would implement the following additional management measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish the MTW Historic Heritage Conservation Fund – the purpose of the fund is to provide resources for local historical research and heritage conservation projects proposed by the local community; and establish the Great North Road Conservation Fund – the purpose of the fund is to provide resources for heritage conservation works on significant surviving elements of the convict built Great North Road within Singleton LGA (and potentially other areas including the Great North Road World Heritage Area). <p>Loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage</p> <p>Places of material Aboriginal cultural heritage have been identified within the proposed 2014 disturbance area. There are 110 places of material cultural heritage within the proposed 2014 disturbance area that would be disturbed or destroyed as a result of the proposal. However, there are no Aboriginal cultural heritage places with scientific values that constitute a constraint on the proposal.</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural heritage at MTW would continue to be managed under the auspices of the CHWG and the ACHMP. In particular, the WBACHCA would be established for the long-term conservation and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage places and values (see Chapter 19 of the EIS).</p>
<p>Assessment of impact</p> <p>Stakeholders expressed concerns in regards to the impacts on places of community value and areas with historic and Aboriginal heritage significance.</p> <p>The historic heritage study concluded that potential impacts on heritage were minor. No direct or indirect impacts are predicted on heritage items in and surrounding Bulga village. Commitments such as the implementation of a MTW Historic Heritage Conservation Fund and Great North Road Conservation Fund will be implemented and potentially enhance heritage in the area.</p> <p>No areas of high sensitivity will be disturbed under the proposal. The Aboriginal community are an integral part of the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage at MTW. Commitments made under the proposal were made in full consultation with the Aboriginal community and include the substantial WBACHCA and the nearby Loders Creek Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Conservation Area (LCACHA).</p> <p>On this basis, and subject to the implementation of all reasonable and feasible mitigation, the potential social impacts from the proposal's interaction with historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage are considered acceptable and meet Government guidelines.</p>	

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The Vision of a Community Heritage Visitors Centre with guided tours of Aboriginal sites, Bulga Mountain Rock Art, Bulga Pioneer Trail, Colonial Homesteads, Mining exhibitions, and RAAF field days would be a worthwhile Tourism venture moving with the development of the area.

Although much Mine compensation has been paid to the Hunter Valley Communities, over the last 35 years, (except those that sold to Mines) the most affected Residents at Bulga have little to show for their sacrifices in the face of Mine Blasting damaging Homes, Cracked Community Buildings, Cemeteries; Choking Mine Dust and Fumes, Noise Night and Day, Bright Glaring Lights, and the Disease Impact especially on School Children at Bulga, Milbrodale and Broke Schools over the years, and Homes vacated when classified as unfit “mine affected landholdings” due to Government assessed Disease Risk from nearby Mining Operation

Without prejudice