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Bathurst Health Service Redevelopment Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR)

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Executive Summary

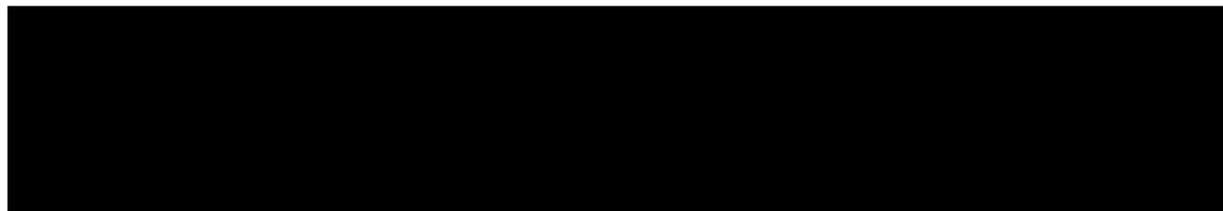
The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services.

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage were engaged by Health Infrastructure NSW to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment. That Aboriginal archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010b) and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011). That archaeological assessment determined that there is no potential for Aboriginal objects to be harmed by the proposed works, the project is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) and the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued on 21st November 2023 require the following in respect of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage:

19. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, identifying, describing and assessing any impacts on any Aboriginal cultural heritage values on the land.

As such, Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage have been engaged by Health Infrastructure NSW to undertake the Aboriginal consultation and prepare this ACHAR. This ACHAR has been prepared in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011) and *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010a) and will assess the impacts of the proposed works on the cultural heritage values of Bathurst Health Service and provide management recommendations. As a result of the consultation, the following nine organisations are the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for this project:



The site inspection was undertaken on 15th June 2023 and the whole of the study area was inspected on foot with particular attention being paid to the historic topography and the disturbance from European development. No Aboriginal objects or sites were recorded during the site inspection. An AHIMS search dated 14th June 2023 (Appendix A: AHIMS Extensive Search – 14th July 2023) indicated that one Aboriginal site has previously been registered within the grounds of the Bathurst Health Service.

That site (AHIMS 44-3-0144) is listed as a PAD and the AHIMS search indicates that a permit in respect of this site has previously been issued. Archaeological test excavations were undertaken in 2006 (AHMS 2006) in respect of the reconfiguration of Bathurst Base Hospital, which included: the demolition of 10 buildings in the northern and north western portions of the site; construction of a new loading dock and access from Howick Street; construction of a new Main Health Service building, car parking and a service area; demolition of 1950s and 1970s additions to the heritage listed old Bathurst Hospital building; and construction of a new access road from Mitre Street and associated car parking. The Aboriginal archaeological test excavations did not uncover any Aboriginal objects or any other evidence of Aboriginal occupation, which appears to be “a direct result of historic modification to the original ground surface, namely the removal of original topsoil that may have contained Aboriginal objects. As a result of their Aboriginal archaeological test excavations, AHMS stated that “the site currently has no Public or Scientific significance with regard to Aboriginal heritage” (AHMS 2006:35).

As a result of discussions with Nicole Davis, Manager Assessments at Heritage NSW, in respect of this project, she updated the site status for AHIMS 44-3-0144 to “Not a Site” on 21st July 2023. A further AHIMS Extensive Search on 3rd November 2023 (Appendix B: AHIMS Extensive Search –3rd November 2023) confirmed that the status had been updated to “Not a Site”.

The study area is comprised of a hospital site. The old Bathurst Hospital heritage listed building is located on the corner of Howick and Mitre Streets at the highest point of the Bathurst Health Service grounds. The site has been subjected to ongoing development and redevelopment since the early 19th century. The present proposal comprises the demolition of portions of the Main Health Services building at the south eastern end on the Mitre Street frontage and on the south western end on the Commonwealth Street frontage. The proposed construction will include new additions to the south eastern end of the Main Services Health building at the Mitre Street frontage and the south western end of the Main Services Health building on the Commonwealth Street frontage, as well as an addition to the north western side of the heritage listed old Bathurst Hospital building.

During a separate Connecting with Country meeting for this project, the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group identified that part of the hospital had been constructed on a women’s site. They acknowledged that any evidence of this site has been destroyed by the ongoing development of the hospital. However, the intangible values of this site are of significance to the Aboriginal community, despite the development and disturbance that has occurred.

Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken in 2006 (AHMS 2006) have demonstrated that any remnant topsoil, Aboriginal objects or other evidence of Aboriginal occupation that may once have been present in the study area have been removed, likely by the ongoing historical development of the study area. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposed works will have any impact on any Aboriginal objects or any evidence of Aboriginal occupation. However, it should be noted that the Bathurst Health Service site is of significance to the Aboriginal community for its use as a women’s site. Despite any evidence of this use of the site being removed by the ongoing development of the site, Bathurst Health Service contains intangible value to the Aboriginal community of the area.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. There is no objection to the proposed redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service on Aboriginal archaeological grounds. No further investigation or excavation in respect of Aboriginal archaeology is required.
2. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will not be required for the proposed redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service.
3. The Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group identified a part of the Bathurst Health Service site as a women’s site that has been completely destroyed due to the ongoing development of the hospital. Investigation into potential interpretation strategies for the women’s site and its intangible values in the proposed redevelopment should be undertaken in consultation with the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group and the RAPs.
4. Consultation with the RAPs will be ongoing throughout the project.
5. If, during the proposed works, any Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

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1.0 Background Information

1.1 Introduction

The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services.

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage were engaged by Health Infrastructure NSW to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment. That Aboriginal archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010b) and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011). That archaeological assessment determined that there is no potential for Aboriginal objects to be harmed by the proposed works, the project is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) and the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued on 21st November 2023 require the following in respect of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage:

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1.2 Study Area Location

Bathurst Health Service is located at 361 Howick Street, West Bathurst. It comprises the entire city block bound by Commonwealth Street to the north west, Durham Street to the north east, Mitre Street to the south east and Howick Street to the south west. It has been/is also known as Bathurst Hospital, Bathurst Base Hospital and Old Bathurst Hospital. It comprises 100//1126063 and is situated within the Bathurst Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA).

Figure 1 below shows the location of Bathurst. Figure 2 shows the location of Bathurst Health Service on the street map. Figure 3 shows Bathurst Health Service on the aerial photograph.

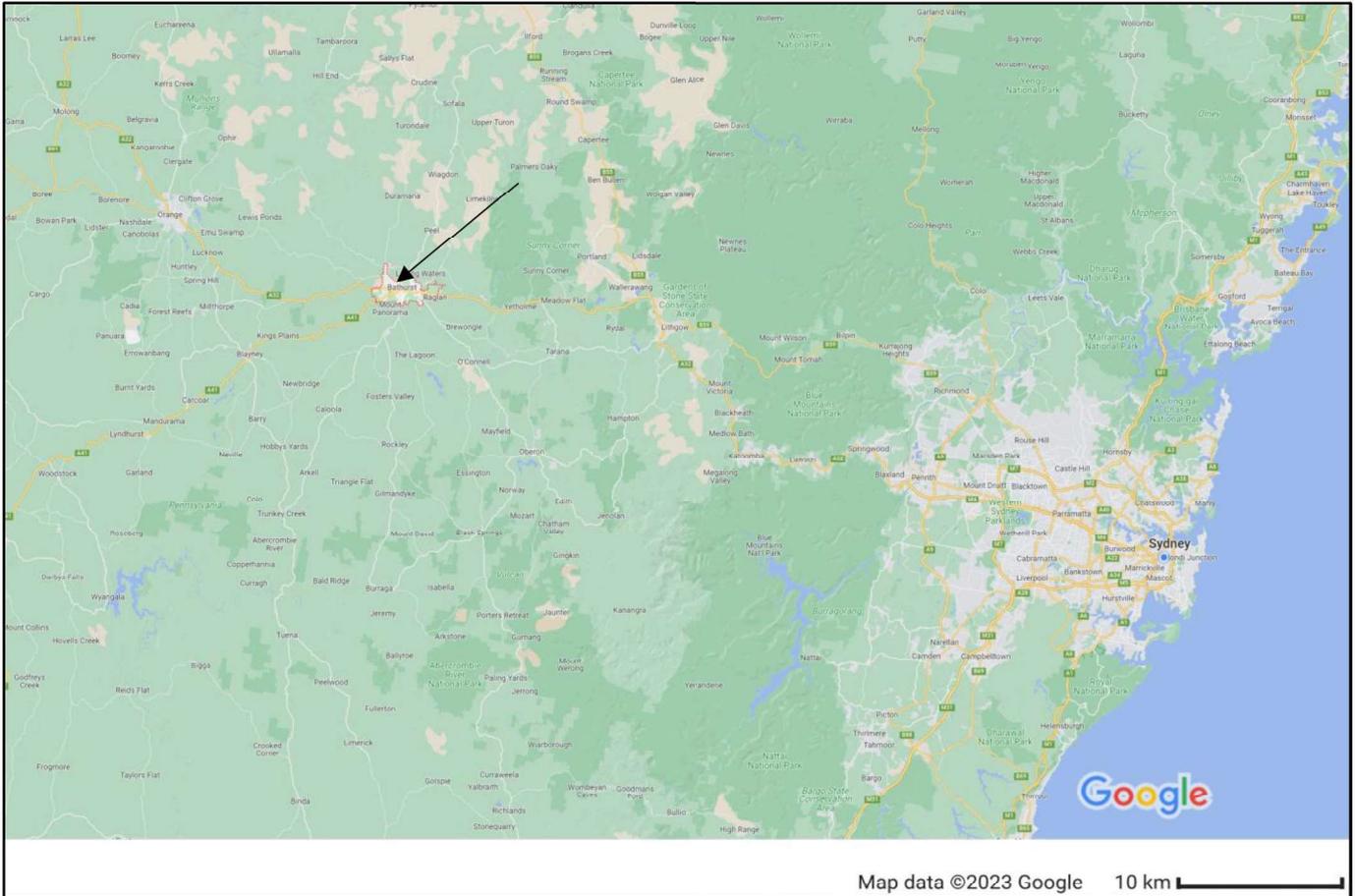


Figure 1: Showing the location of Bathurst outlined in red and indicated by the arrow (map courtesy of Google Maps).

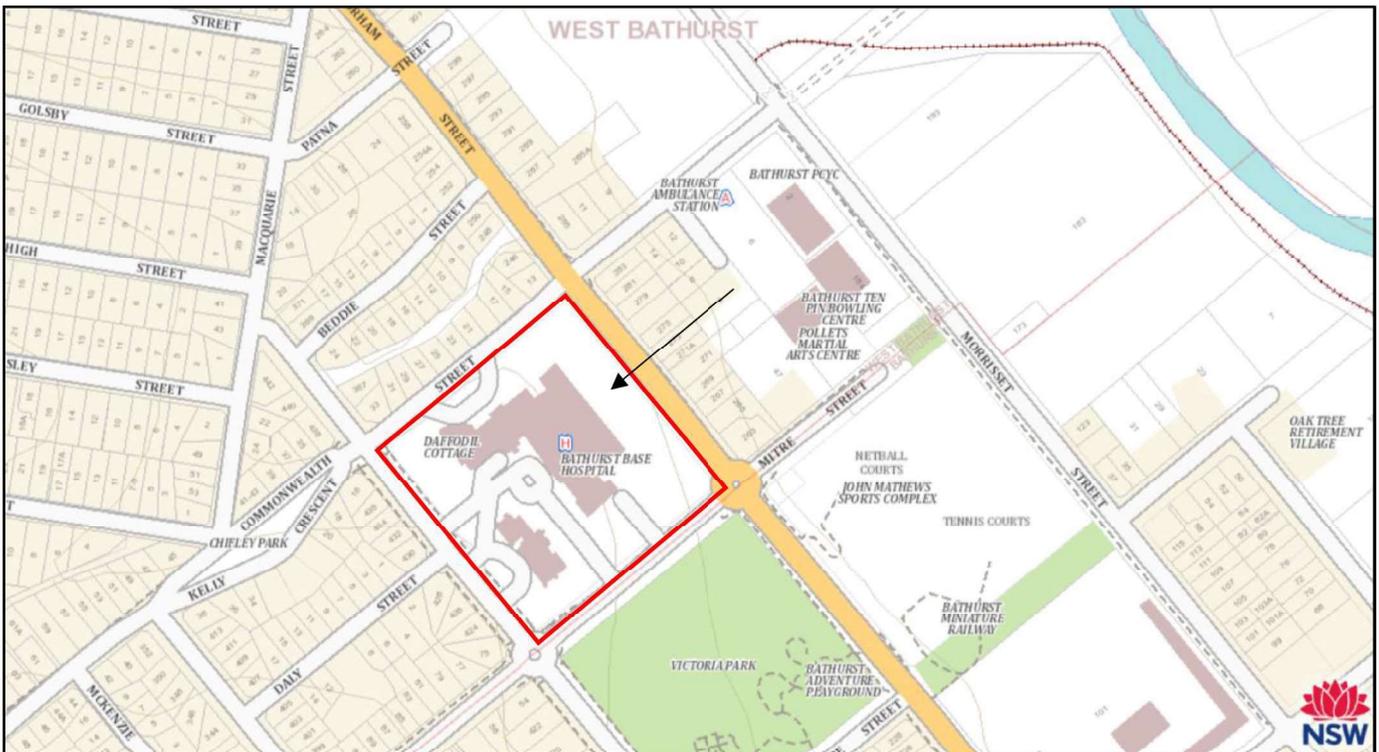


Figure 2: Showing the location of Bathurst Health Service outlined in red and indicated by the arrow (map courtesy of www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au).



Figure 3: Showing Bathurst Health Service on the aerial photograph (aerial courtesy of www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au).

1.3 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places within New South Wales. The Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) is the State Government agency responsible for the implementation and management of this Act.

Part 6 of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act* provides provision for the protection of all Aboriginal “objects” which are defined as “any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains”. Part 6 of the Act states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

An Aboriginal archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* ((Office of Environment & Heritage 2010b)) and *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* ((Office of Environment & Heritage 2011)). Those assessments concluded that it is likely that Aboriginal “objects” exist within the study area and would be harmed during the proposed works.

The *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* states that archaeological test excavations are required “regardless of whether or not there are objects present on the ground surface” if it can be demonstrated that the study area has archaeological potential.

In accordance with Requirement 15a of the *Code of Practice*, it is necessary to undertake Aboriginal consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents*

2010 (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010a). The details and results of the consultation must be presented in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), such as this report which details the consultation undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* for the proposed redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service.

1.4 Areas of Proposed Harm to Aboriginal Objects

Extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations were undertaken in 2006 by AHMS (AHMS 2006). Those test excavations determined that during its ongoing development over more than 150 years, the site has been stripped of nearly all the natural topsoil and no Aboriginal objects were uncovered. Therefore, it is not anticipated that there will be any harm to Aboriginal objects by the proposed development.

2.0 Aboriginal History

2.1 Authorship

The following history is taken directly from the *Bathurst Regional Local Government Area: Aboriginal Heritage Study* (Extent 2017:25–31).

2.2 Wiradjuri People, Wiradjuri Country

When Europeans first ventured over the Blue Mountains onto the Bathurst Plains in 1813, they were entering the country of the Wiradjuri nation. The Wiradjuri lived in extended family groupings – or clans – of around thirty to fifty men, women and children. They moved between different campsites across their traditional lands, occasionally converging with other clans to trade, hunt, fight, feast, arrange marriages, resolve disputes and share information. The interactive map includes details of a gathering of around 150 Wiradjuri people at Brucedale Station in 1826, at which ‘Saturday’ (Windradyne) and ‘Magpie’ (the Mudgee chief) sat with their families ‘round a number of small fires’, singing. On another occasion, in January 1816, a large group of ‘117 men, women, and children came down to Bathurst Plains, on the north side of Macquarie River, opposite the settlement’ to feast (Sydney Gazette, 3 February 1816). Barron Field and George Suttor, writing in 1822 and 1826 respectively, estimated the extent of each clan’s territory to be around ‘thirty to forty miles’ (Field 1825: 432; *The Australian*, 14 October 1826). The immediate vicinity of Bathurst was divided amongst at least three clans each with their own distinct practices, diets, dress and dialects (Pearson 1981).

The Interactive Wiradjuri Heritage Map reveals a landscape criss-crossed with Aboriginal paths, many of which later became roads. The route that Gregory Blaxland, William Wentworth, and William Lawson famously took to cross the Blue Mountains in 1813 probably followed an existing Aboriginal path. Over successive days – on 27, 28, and 29 May – Blaxland wrote in his journal of a ‘camp of natives’ who ‘moved before’ the explorers ‘about three miles’. On 31 May he recorded the ‘traces’ they had left in their wake, in the ‘fires they had left the day before, and in the flowers of the honeysuckle tree scattered around, which had supplied them with food’ (Blaxland 27-31 May 1813). Before picking up this path, on 25 and 26 May, the party progressed at the rate of 3.5 and 2.75 miles a day. After noticing the travelling group of Aboriginal people, they were able to move much faster, covering 5.25 and 5.75 miles on 27 and 28 May. This suggests that the Blue Mountains, far from being an impenetrable barrier until ‘conquered’ by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, were, in fact, quite permeable. Such paths formed part of an intricate network of exchange that reached across the country. Songs and stories preserve these trading routes and Dreaming tracks, while archaeological evidence shows the extent of this network. For example, stone axe heads crafted from stone on the edge of the Oberon plateau are found across the wider Bathurst region (Gemmell-Smith 2004: 14-15).

Through this network of trade and information, stories of Europeans reached the Wiradjuri long before the settlers arrived. When John Oxley surveyed the course of the Lachlan River in 1817 he recorded an encounter near Eugowra ‘with a small tribe of natives, consisting of eight men’, who ‘had either seen or heard of white people before’, despite Oxley’s expedition being the first European foray that far west (Oxley, 1820: 5 May 1817). His party also encountered Aboriginal men and women ‘acquainted with fire-arms’ (Lee, 1925: 25 April 1817). Missionary James Backhouse was amazed by the speed and sophistication of communication along these networks. On 23 October 1835 he encountered Aboriginal people in Richmond who knew of his brief visit to Wellington, over 300 kilometres away: ‘Our persons, costume, and many other particulars, including our manner of communicating religious instruction, had been minutely described’ (Backhouse 1843: 339).

Disease was also carried swiftly throughout this network. George Suttor lamented the impact of European diseases on a people who ‘seem generally to enjoy good health’: ‘among other evils brought upon them by the Colonists, is that horrid v[enereal] disease; and it is to be feared it will entail lasting misery upon them, as they may long suffer without a remedy. I have seen some of these poor creatures shocking objects from it’ (The Australian, 14 October 1826). After the establishment of the township of Bathurst outbreaks of smallpox, tuberculosis, influenza and venereal disease continued to devastate the Wiradjuri population.

The primary sources offer only glimpses of the ceremonial life of these Aboriginal communities. Europeans recorded some Aboriginal customs, such as the avulsion of teeth and ‘scarifications’ of certain initiated men, and the possum skins that women stretched out on their laps to beat out rhythms during ceremonies and dances. However, due to the secrecy surrounding ceremonial events, there are serious limitations to even the most richly described accounts in the ethnographic record. Many of these rituals live on in the contemporary culture of Wiradjuri people.

The Wiradjuri fished from canoes and hunted with spears and nets for ducks, kangaroos, goannas, emus, platypuses, wallabies and tortoises. Their staple foods included plant resources, such as roots and yams, as well as grubs, which the women dug from earth with long wooden tools (Oxley 1820). They collected ants’ eggs and mussels, captured lizards and snakes, and harvested large moths, which, when roasted, tasted to the Europeans ‘not unlike new bread’ (Backhouse 1843: 318–19). They lured and trapped birds with elaborate hides and extracted native honey from the hollow limbs of trees ‘which they drink when mixed with water’ (Backhouse 1843: 318-319). They chased possums up trees ‘by cutting little notches in them, into which they fix their hands or feet’. The possums were clubbed and then ‘expertly’ skinned to ‘make very warm cloaks, or mantles, large enough to cover their whole persons, neatly sewed together with a bone needle and the strings from the tails of the opossums. In the winter season they put the fur side next their bodies – in the summer it is reversed’ (The Australian, 14 October 1826). Aboriginal wells were also scattered across the countryside, often linking rivers and waterholes. These wells ‘evidently dug by the natives’ were readily exploited by the Europeans in their conquest of Wiradjuri country (Oxley 1820: 3 June 1817).

Fire was a constant presence in early Bathurst, from the patches of ‘bare and naked’ country recently ‘fired by natives’ to the columns of campfire smoke ‘arising in every quarter’ on the horizon (Lee 1925: 23 April 1817; Oxley 1820: 6 May 1817). The first Australians became known as the ‘fire-makers’ (Cox 15 September 1814). The Wiradjuri used fire to open paths and to clean country; to drive animals into the paths of hunters and then to cook the kill; to keep warm at night and to carry as a torch the next day; to treat wood, melt resin and crack stone for tools; to gather around and dance and share stories. The interactive map gives us an insight into local Wiradjuri burning regimes, suggesting a connection to the land and an understanding of the seasons that the settlers could not fathom.

2.3 Invasion

The earliest settlers rarely encountered the Wiradjuri people, instead observing their ‘traces’ in the landscape: fires and hearths, bark huts and broken canoes, blackened shells and burial mounds, stone arrangements and notches in trees. Carved trees found at the junction of the Macquarie and Campbell Rivers at O’Connell can now be seen on display in the Bathurst Historical Museum. Bora rings, where initiations and other important ceremonies were held, marked the river valleys and mountain tops, and stone monuments associated with men’s business were encountered across the Bathurst Plains, including at Mount Pleasant where Major Henry Colden Antill observed in 1815 ‘a great quantity of loose stones of a peculiar kind ... thrown into heaps, as if placed there by the hands of men’ (Antill 1978: 85-86).

The British built a road across the Blue Mountains in 1814 and established a settlement at Bathurst the following year. The early relationships between the Wiradjuri and the settlers were relatively peaceful, supported by Governor Macquarie's 'strict injunction to treat [the Wiradjuri] kindly, to put no restraint upon their movements, but to let them come and go when they thought proper' (Antill 1978:83). On his visit to the site of Bathurst in May 1815, Macquarie met and traded with many Wiradjuri men and children. He described them as 'very like those in the Neighbourhood of Sydney, tho' rather better looking and Stronger Made... they Appear perfectly harmless and Inoffensive, and not at all Warlike, few of them Carrying any Weapons Whatever, but merely a Stone Instrument like an Axe' [sic] (Macquarie 1916:609).

Macquarie carefully controlled early settlement in the Bathurst district and reserved most of the fertile plains to run government sheep and cattle. By 1820 the European population of the area was only 114. Most of these settlers, 75, were convicts who worked as shepherds and stockmen, with a few officials and soldiers to oversee them. When Macquarie's term ended in 1821 the new Governor, Thomas Brisbane, issued a spate of land grants and grazing permits that allowed intensive settlement to begin. Settlers poured over the mountains. The population of Bathurst grew to one thousand by 1825 and doubled to two thousand by 1828 (Roberts 2014).

Dispossession was swift. The very nature of the geography helped facilitate European conquest. The settlers used the rich grasslands of the Bathurst Plains for sheep and cattle, with combined numbers of stock increasing from 33,733 in 1821 to 113,973 in 1825 (Connor 2005:55). By 1825, the region accounted for 40% of the colony's sheep (Roberts 2014: 247). The hooves did their damage: the native grasslands were destroyed, while fences and paper boundaries imposed a new order on the bush. As the Sydney Gazette reported on 8 January 1824, in a light-hearted tone, 'the natives urge that the white men have driven away all the kangaroos and opossums, and that black men must now eat beef!' (Sydney Gazette, 8 January 1824). As historian Michael Pearson laments, 'Amusing as this may have appeared to the editors of the day, there was more truth to the claim than the writer knew' (Pearson 1984:74).

The Bathurst Plains could no longer accommodate two cultures without hostility. The Wiradjuri were pushed off their land and denied access to resources and sacred sites. They resisted the invasion by dispersing and hunting herds of sheep and cattle, and occasionally attacking and killing stockmen infringing on their land. Sporadic conflict was recorded on the Cudgegong River in February 1822 and later that year shepherds had abandoned their huts west of Bathurst, due to the 'recent plunder on the part of the native Indians' (Field 1825: 17 October 1822). Soldiers garrisoned remote properties, and absentee landlords distributed guns into the hands of their shepherds. W.H. Suttor, who was a child at the time of the Bathurst War, recalled poisoned flour being 'left purposely exposed in shepherds' huts in order to tempt the blacks to steal and to eat. They did eat, and died in horrible agony. No wonder reprisals took place' (Suttor 1887:65). The major events in what became known as the Bathurst War are plotted on the Interactive Wiradjuri Heritage Map.

One of the Wiradjuri clan leaders, Windradyne, known to the settlers as 'Saturday', led attacks against settlers at Millah Murrrah, Warren Gunyah and The Mill Post, north of Bathurst, in May 1824 (Salisbury and Gresser 1971:22). The settlers responded with violence, rapidly escalating the conflict through random killings of Wiradjuri people. In June 1824 five European men were arrested for killing three Wiradjuri women on the O'Connell Plains and were put on trial for manslaughter. All five were acquitted, but these legal proceedings provide the best picture from the fragmentary historical sources of the extent of the violence on the Bathurst frontier in the months before the declaration on martial law. By August 1824, William Cox concluded that 'the natives may now be called at war with the Europeans' (Sydney Gazette, 12 August 1824).

Within a week of the acquittal of the five men, on August 14 1824, Governor Brisbane issued a proclamation of martial law:

WHEREAS THE ABORIGINAL NATIVES of the Districts near Bathurst have for many Weeks past carried on a Series of indiscriminate Attacks on the Stock Station there, putting some of the Keepers to cruel Deaths, wounding others, and dispersing and plundering the Flocks and Herds; themselves not escaping sanguinary Retaliations. AND WHEREAS the ordinary Powers of the CIVIL MAGISTRATES (although most anxiously exerted) have failed to protect the Lives of HIS MAJESTY'S Subjects; and every conciliatory Measure has been pursued in vain; and the Slaughter of Black Women and Children and Unoffending White Men, as well as of the lawless Objects of Terror, continue to threaten the before mentioned Districts; AND WHEREAS by Experience, it hath been found that mutual Bloodshed may be stopped by the Use of Arms against the Natives beyond the ordinary Rule of Law in Time of Peace, and for this End Resort to summary Justice has become necessary: NOW THEREFORE, by Virtue of the Authority in me vested by His Majesty's Royal Commission, I do declare, in Order to restore Tranquillity, MARTIAL LAW TO BE IN ALL THE COUNTRY WESTWARD OF MOUNT YORK...

(Salisbury and Gresser, 1971: Appendix C).

With civil law thus suspended and violence officially sanctioned, the death toll rose dramatically. Brisbane despatched 75 soldiers to systematically roam the Bathurst region with orders to keep the Wiradjuri 'in a constant state of alarm' (Salisbury and Gresser 1971: 31). On 14 September 1824, the Reverend William Walker estimated in a letter that 'not fewer than a hundred blacks, men, women and children, have been butchered' (Salisbury and Gresser 1971: 32). The Sydney Gazette described the conflict as 'an exterminating war' (14 October 1824). Throughout October and November, the Wiradjuri gradually surrendered to the Bathurst settlement in groups of up to 60 (Sydney Gazette, 28 October 1824). Martial law was repealed on 11 December 1824.

On 28 December 1824, Windradyne made his first public appearance in many months to attend the Governor's Annual Conference in Parramatta. He 'wore a straw hat, on which was affixed a label with the word 'PEACE' inserted, besides a little branch representing the olive' (Sydney Gazette, 20 December 1824). The Sydney Gazette described him as:

... one of the finest looking natives we have seen in this part of the country. He is not particularly tall but much stouter and more proportionable limbed than the majority of his countrymen; which combined with a noble looking countenance and piercing eye, are calculated to impress the beholder with other than disagreeable feelings towards a character who has been so much dreaded by the Bathurst settler. Saturday is, without doubt, the most manly native we have ever beheld (Sydney Gazette, 20 December 1824).

The details of the Bathurst war remain hazy, but W.H. Suttor recalled that under martial law 'blacks were shot down without any respect ... When martial law had run its course extermination is the word that most aptly describes the result' (Suttor 1887:65).



Figure 4: John Lewin 'Native Chief at Bathurst', (sketched while Macquarie was in Bathurst in 1815), appears in John Oxley, Journals of two expeditions into the interior of New South Wales (London: John Murray 1820). This painting depicts the great Wiradjuri leader, Windradyne.

2.4 Surviving Between Two Worlds

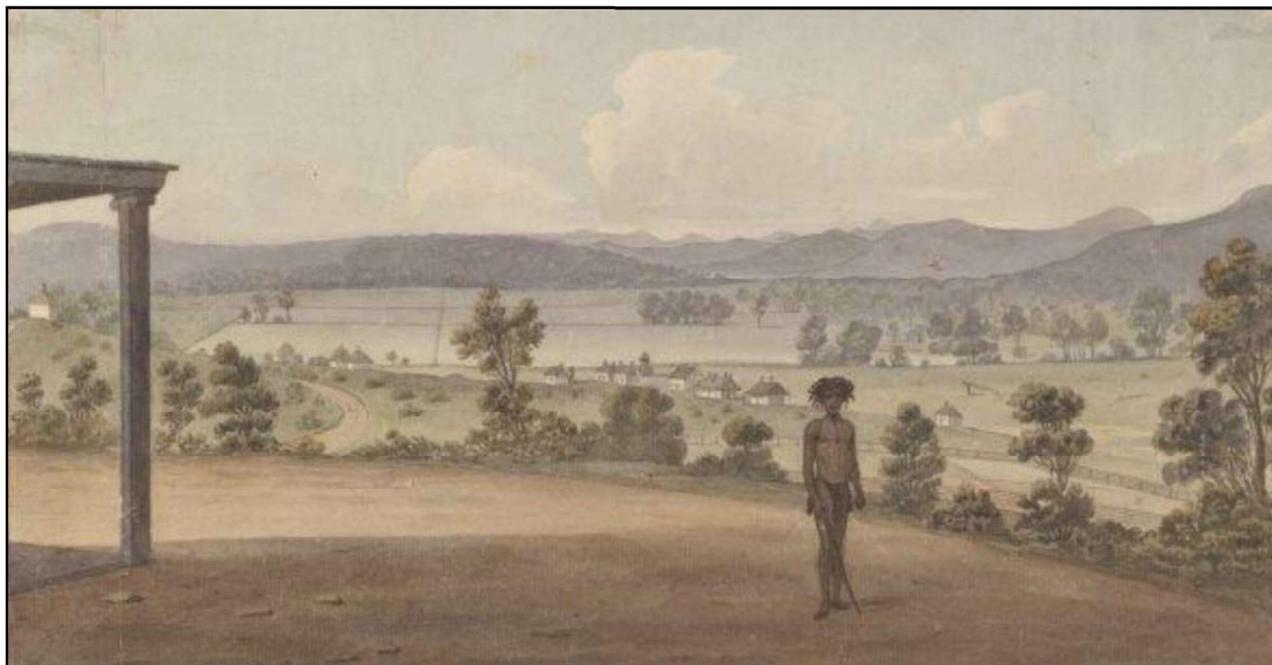


Figure 5: Augustus Earle, *Wellington Valley, New South Wales, looking east from Government House, 1826*, watercolour, Rex Nan Kivell Collection; NK12/24. ANL.

With the loss of access to their hunting grounds and sacred sites, and with a significantly diminished population, the Wiradjuri were no longer able to live independently of the growing settler society. The clans dispersed, with some staying in the Bathurst area while others moved between settlements along the rivers living in camps on the fringes of stations and towns, where disease and alcohol took their toll. Jane Piper recalled a large camp near 'Westbourne' on the outskirts of Bathurst in the 1830s:

Their shelters consisted of two sheets of bark, under which a black and his woman slept at night. The men provided the food consisting of opossum, lizard, snake, and other delicacies. The women cooked it by throwing it on red-hot coals, skinned but not disembowelled. When cooked it was laid on a piece of bark and the man sat down to it on the ground, his woman seated at his back. He tore the food to pieces with his fingers, and threw the bones over his shoulder to his woman (Piper 2015).

During the 1830s and 1840s many Wiradjuri lived on and around the Wellington Mission north-west of Bathurst. Here missionary James Günther compiled an extensive grammar and vocabulary of Wiradjuri language, which has since become an invaluable source for cultural revival (Read 1988: 18).

Wiradjuri men, women and children made significant contributions to the new settler economy. The Bathurst War was followed by another violent period in the region's history, and free settlers were left to rue the number of firearms that had been distributed to their convict servants. Many of these armed convicts became bushrangers, and, ironically, the Government sought out the skills and expertise of Aboriginal trackers to hunt them down (Lowe 2000:17).

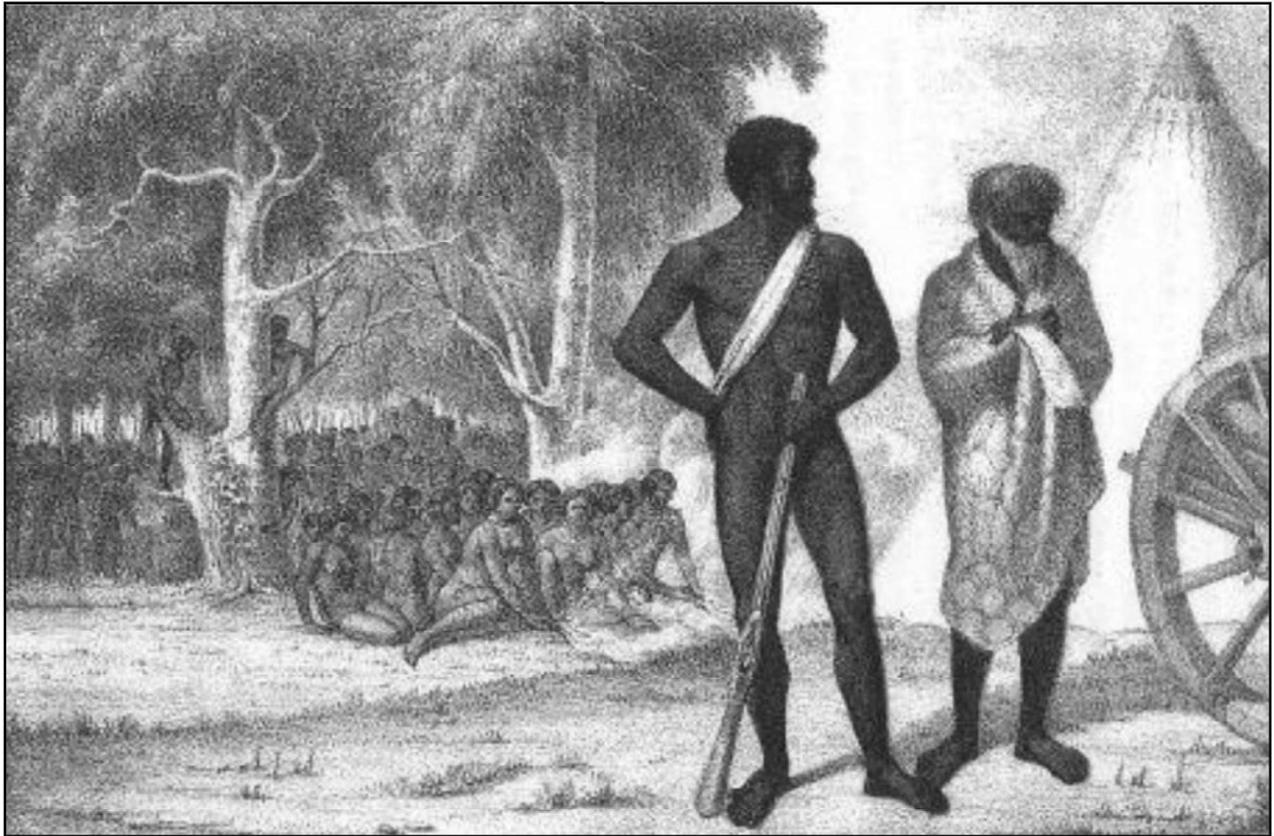


Figure 6: *Piper Watching the Cart at Benaree*, Major T.L. Mitchell del. Waldeck Lith J. Graf Printer to Her Majesty. Published by T. and W. Boone, London.

Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General of NSW, relied heavily on a Bathurst Wiradjuri man, John Piper, as a guide, interpreter and adviser during his 2,700km journey to Victoria in 1836. Piper and five other Wiradjuri people found water throughout the expedition, made and used canoes to ferry provisions, caught fish and hunted possums and guided the party through remote and unfamiliar country. Mitchell was constantly impressed by his companion's energy and ingenuity, reflecting on 19 June 1836: 'the intelligence and skill of our [Wiradjuri] friends made the "white-fellow" appear rather stupid' (Mitchell 1965: 19 June 1836).

Aboriginal labour also played an understated role on the goldfields, after the gold-rush in the mid nineteenth century brought thousands of new settlers onto the Bathurst Plains (Cahir 2012). The discovery of Kerr's nugget and the Tambaroora gold field, for example, are attributed to the efforts of individual Wiradjuri (NSW Department of Primary Industries, 2007:1). Local Wiradjuri were also a part of everyday life on the Ophir gold fields, selling bark for huts, looking after horses and guiding prospectors across the land (Jones and Cook 2007:1).

From 1883 onwards 'protection' policies were implemented which aimed to break up fringe camps and segregate Aboriginal people across New South Wales (Read 1988:29). The new Aboriginal Protection Board had the power to forcibly remove people from their traditional lands onto state reserves. While no reserves were established in the Bathurst LGA itself, Wiradjuri people were likely sent to reserves in nearby Eugowra (AR 9386, from 1889), Forbes (AR 43462/3, 1909-1915), Wellington (AR 45426/7 and AR 87975, from 1910), or Spring Flat (AR 80144, 1957-1964) (Thinee and Bradford 1998:353362). Across NSW, the reserves had few services and poor sanitation. White administrators controlled the movement, income, property, education and even marriages of the Wiradjuri who lived on these reserves. Until 1972, government policies allowed for the forcible removal of children from their families, dislocating several generations from their culture and traditions.

Historian Peter Read in *A Hundred Years War* writes of the gradual revival of Wiradjuri culture from a low point of the 1920s. He identifies a turning point in the 1930s and 1940s ‘when sufficient Aborigines ceased to think their Aboriginality was inferior, even shameful, and soon to become extinct, and came to believe instead that Aboriginality should and would survive’ (Read 1988: xiv-xv). He writes of the early Aboriginal rights activists of the 1930s and 1940s who published in the *Abo Call*, and who organised a national day of mourning on 26 January 1938. But the significance of the words and actions of these Indigenous leaders did not mature until the 1960s.

In 1965 an Aboriginal university student, Charles Perkins, led a bus of Sydney University students around country New South Wales to protest the widespread discrimination against Indigenous Australians. It became known as the Freedom Ride. The bus passed through Bathurst on 12 February 1965 on its way to Wellington, where the Freedom Riders saw firsthand the poor conditions endured by Wiradjuri people. Ann Curthoys wrote of the experience in her diary on 13 February:

Houses of tin, mud floors, very overcrowded, kids had eye diseases, had to cart water (very unhealthy) from river. People fairly easy to talk to, kids quite friendly. General picture of extreme poverty but not a great deal of social discrimination. General picture of scarcity, of jobs. Mainly garden work, which is very seasonal. Average of three months for year out of work. Some working on a dam nearby. Some did shearing jobs. Did not encounter or hear of any women with jobs at all. Did not seem to know much about social services etc (1965).

The Freedom Rides were part of a massive social and political awakening to discrimination against Aboriginal people throughout Australia. The 1967 referendum, which was held to determine whether two references in the Australian Constitution, which discriminated against Aboriginal people, should be removed, received the highest ‘yes’ vote ever recorded in Australian history (90.77%). Since the 1970s, and the breakdown of the reserve system, the Aboriginal population on the Bathurst Plains has grown significantly, and the Wiradjuri have become actively involved in efforts towards cultural revival. According to the 2011 census, 1,638 people – or approximately 3% of the Bathurst Regional Council population – identify as Aboriginal (ABS 2015).

3.0 Landscape and Environmental Context

3.1 Topography

Bathurst is located within the South-Eastern Highlands bioregion which extends from the Great Escarpment in the east to the western slopes of the inland drainage basins (Dunn, Sahukar, and New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service 2002:203). The South Eastern Highlands bioregion encompasses the towns of Orange, Bathurst and Lithgow in the north; Goulbourn, Queanbeyan and Yass in the centre; and Cooma, Jindabyne and Bombala in the south (Dunn et al. 2002:203). The South Eastern Highlands bioregion is comprised of the dissected ranges and plateau of the Great Dividing Range.

Bathurst Health Service is situated on the gently undulating midslope overlooking the Macquarie River. The Bathurst Health Service site is located approximately 520m to the south east of the Macquarie River. The highest point of the site of the Bathurst Health Service is approximately 30m above the height of the Macquarie River. The lowest side of the Bathurst Health Service site, it is approximately 9m above the Macquarie River.

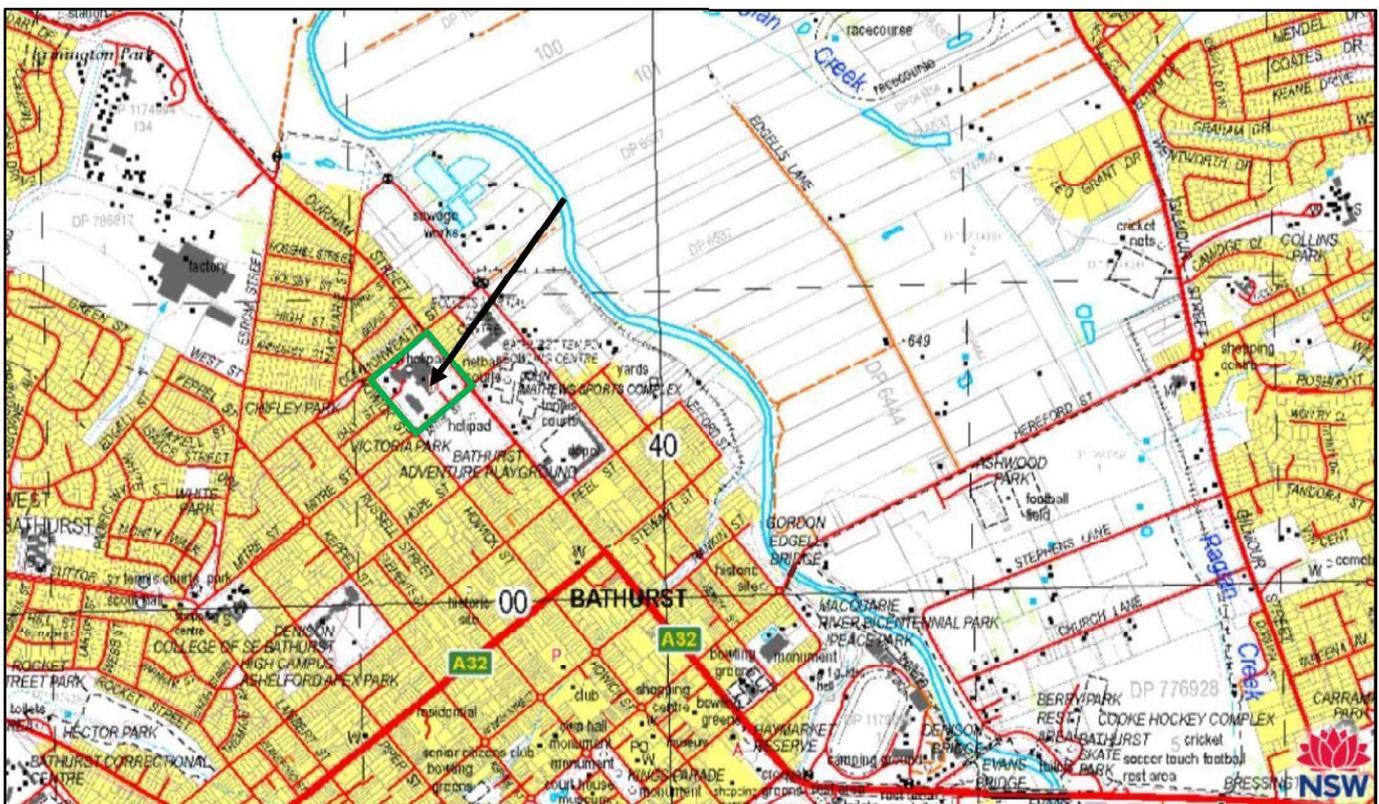


Figure 7: Showing the location of Bathurst Health Service on the topographic map outlined in green and indicated by the arrow (top courtesy of www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au).

3.2 Geology

The geology of Bathurst is characterised by the Bathurst Granite formation with a band of Quaternary alluvium along the flood zone of the Macquarie River.

Bathurst Health Service is located on the Bathurst Granite which is comprised of a coarse grained porphyritic quartz-plagioclase-biotite granite with dykes of fine grained graphic granite and pegmatite (Pogson and Watkins 1998:249). The Bathurst Granite formation does not provide suitable raw materials for the manufacture of small tools

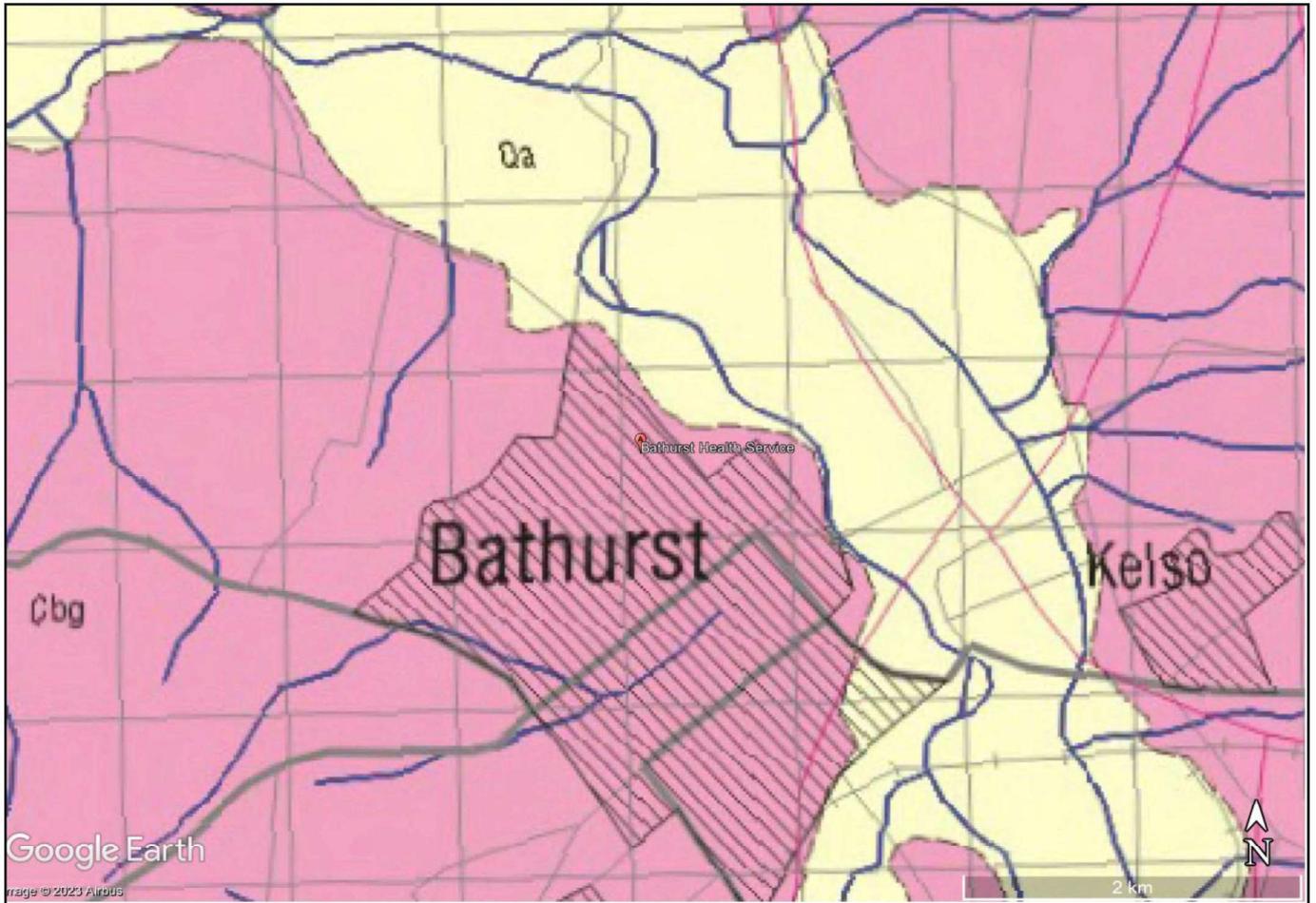


Figure 8: Showing Bathurst Health Service on the geological map (map courtesy of Google Earth Pro).

3.3 Soils

Bathurst Health Service is located on the Bathurst residual soil landscape (SI5508ba). The midslope soils within the Bathurst residual soil landscape are expected to be non-calcic brown soils, which are characterised by the following soil profile:

Topsoil (A1 horizon): dark reddish to greyish yellow sandy loam with weak structure.

A2 horizon: can be present – bleached dry dull reddish brown or orange loamy sand to sandy loam.

Subsoil (B horizon): reddish brown to brown sandy clay loam, or sandy to heavy clay with moderate to strong structure.

(Kovac, Murphy, and Lawrie 2010:100–101)

The two closest soil profiles shown on eSpade are located on the northern side of the Macquarie River. These soil profiles are almost identical and indicate the following about the soils in proximity to the River:

Site Location: Alluvial plain/flat off Edgell's Road

Physiography: Levee used for cropping, aspect south west.

Soil Type: Incomplete

Soil Description:

Layer 1 (0 – 0.05m):

Horizon: A11

Texture: light clay

Colour: very dark grey (10YR 3/1) or grey (2.5YR 5/1 or 10YR5/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 0 – 5cm sampled very dark grey massive and earthy light clay

Layer 2 (0.05 – 0.2m):

Horizon: A12

Texture: medium clay

Colour: very dark grey (10YR 3/1) or dark grey (2.5YR 4/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 5 – 20cm (sampled) very dark grey massive and earthy clay

Layer 3 (0.2 – 0.42m):

Horizon: B21

Texture: medium clay

Colour: very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) or dark grey (2.5YR 4/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 20 - 42cm (sampled) dark brown structured medium clay

Layer 4 (0.42 – 0.8m):

Horizon: B22

Texture: medium clay

Colour: very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) or very dark grey (10YR 3/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 42 – 80cm (sampled) dark brown structured medium clay

Layer 5 (0.8 – 0.95m):

Horizon: B23

Texture: medium heavy clay

Colour: very dark grey (2.5YR 3/1) or dark grey (10YR 4/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 80 – 95cm (not sampled) very dark grey medium heavy clay

It is considered that Aboriginal objects, if present, would be expected within the A horizons (Extent 2017:11).

Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken across the Bathurst Health Service site (AHMS 2006) indicated that no A1 horizon topsoil was recorded anywhere within the study area and that A2 horizon soil was only recorded in six of fifteen test trenches. The location of the test trenches and the nature of the soil profile is shown in Figure 10 of this report. The following soil profiles were recorded during the Aboriginal test excavations:

A2 horizon: 0 – 50cm of bleached light brown fine-grained compact silty sand. Occasional roots and charcoal flecks. Generally clean although glass, metal and gravels were introduced from overlying fill in highly disturbed areas.

B horizon: >100mmm bright yellowish-brown compact weathered granite. Occasional ironstone, roots and compact clay at transition with A2 horizon. Increasingly compact with depth. Often truncated in areas where thick historic fills have been introduced.

(AHMS 2006:26)

3.4 Vegetation

Historically the study area would have been vegetated by open savannah woodland comprised of open canopied eucalypts including *Eucalyptus blakelyi* (Blakeys red gum), *E. microcarpa* (grey box), *E. elaeophloia* (bastard box), *E. bridgesiana* (apple box) and *E. dives* (broad leaved peppermint); with a understorey of sparse shrubs and a continuous grassy ground cover (Extent 2017:12).

John Oxley wrote the following description of the landscape around Wellington in 1817 as follows:

From several of the hills over which our route led us, we had the most extensive and beautiful prospects; from thirty to forty miles round, from the north to south, the country was broken in irregular low hills thinly studded with small timber, and covered with grass: the whole landscape within the compass of our view was clear and open, resembling diversified pleasure grounds irregularly laid out and planted. The animation of the whole scenery was greatly increased by the smoke of the natives' fires arising in every quarter, distinctly marking that we were in a country which afforded them ample means of subsistence; far different from the low deserts and morasses to the south-west.

(Oxley 1817)

Flowers of the many eucalypt species provide a rich nectar that was eaten by Aboriginal people and the wide variety of vegetation provided a food source for animal species, such as marsupials and birds, which are associated with the Aboriginal diet. The large trees provided bark and wood for coolamons (a shallow carrying vessel for food or water), shields, spears and canoes (Low 1989). Freshwater sources, such as the Macquarie River, would have provided drinking water and fresh water animals for consumption, as well as attracting other animals.

3.5 Land Use History and Current Land Use

A wooden hospital building was constructed within the study area in 1824 and was destroyed by fire in 1878. The old Bathurst Hospital building was constructed in 1880 and is still standing on the site. The site has been occupied and operating as a hospital since 1880 and has undergone the expected ongoing development that would be expected on a hospital site.

Table 1 below summarises the post colonial historical development of the Bathurst Health Service between 1824 and 1932:

Date	Activity	Buildings, Additions, Alterations
1824	Opening of Convict/Military Hospital corner of Howick and Bentick Streets.	Wooden building provided.
1878	Convict/Military Hospital building destroyed by fire.	
1880	Opening of new building on Howick Street between Mitre and Commonwealth Streets.	
C.1880		Boundary fence built by contractor J.McDonald.
1882	Additions.	Laundry (£500), windmill and Swag Room.
1886	Replacement	New laundry (£1,000).
1880s	Replaced hardwood floors.	New floors.
1890	Telephone connection.	Hospital to honorary surgeons.
1890	Landscaping, Arbor Day.	Several trees planted by Mr Taylor and his son.
1893	Replacement	New roof for operating theatre.
1896	Telephone connection.	Hospital to local exchange.
1896	Inspection of grounds by Council Gardener.	Additional trees and shrubs planted at front and rear.
1904	Addition.	New operating theatre.
1906	Installation.	Hand powered lift designed by R.G. Edgell.

1921	Additions.	Isolation Building with four wards, day room and verandah.
1922	Addition.	Emergency midwifery.
1926	Installation.	Electric power and lighting throughout the hospital.
1929	Alterations.	Convert male ward in main block to Children's Ward. Build new kitchen.
1931	Alterations.	Build additional Nurses' Quarters.
1931	Additions.	Mortuary.
1932	Alterations.	Remodel first floor for paying patients.
2006	Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken by AHMS across the entire Bathurst Hospital site.	
Post 2006	Opening of large new hospital building.	

Table 1: Showing the historical development of Bathurst Health Service.

4.0 Archaeological Context

4.1 Authorship

Section 4.2 of this report is taken directly from the *Bathurst Regional Local Government Area: Aboriginal Heritage Study* (Extent 2017:32–34). Section 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 were written by Tory Stening, the author of this report.

4.2 Bathurst Regional Archaeological Context

4.2.1 Early Occupation of NSW

Aboriginal occupation of NSW spans at least 40,000 years (Stockton and Holland 1974; Nanson et al. 1987; JMcDCHM 2005:107-125), although dates of more than 40,000 years have been claimed for artefacts and human remains found in barrier sands of Lake Mungo, in the Willandra Lakes Region (Shawcross 1998; Bowler et al. 2003). The dates of these sites fall at about the beginning of the Last Glacial Maximum, a period from about 30,000 to 18,000 BP, when temperatures were between 6 °C and 10 °C cooler than they are today and rainfall was lower. At the height of the Last Glacial Period, about 21,000 BP, areas of rainforest and tall open forest contracted and areas of woodland became more extensive than in the periods before 44,000 BP and after 11,000 BP (Attenbrow 2010:37).

After this time, the climate gradually became warmer and wetter, and sea levels rose. From this period onwards, there is a more continuous archaeological record. Late Pleistocene occupation sites have been identified at Shaws Creek in the Blue Mountain foothills (14,700 BP) (Kohen et al. 1984), at the Noola rock shelter in the Capertee Valley (12,550 BP) (Tindale 1961), at Mangrove Creek and Loggers Shelter in the Sydney Basin (c.11,000 BP) (Attenbrow 1981, 2004), and at Burrill Lake on the South Coast (c.20,000 BP) (Lampert 1971).

Aboriginal occupation of the Central West region dates back at least 7,150 years, according to radiocarbon dates obtained from basal occupation deposits during archaeological excavations of the Granites 1 rock shelter, located near Bathurst (Pearson 1981:56-57).

4.2.2 Intensification During the Holocene

The Holocene spans the period from 10,000 BP through to the present. The last significant rise in sea level occurred approximately 7,000 years ago, and the level stabilised after about 6,500 years ago. Bays and estuaries formed in previous low-lying valleys and flats, and the groups living along the coast were forced inland (McDonald 2008:40). Later in the Holocene, about 3,000 years ago, the onset of an ENSO dominated climate started a trend to a drier and more variable rainfall (McDonald 2008:37).

Archaeological evidence indicates that significant and widespread changes occurred during the Holocene. Changes in lithic technology included a decline in the use of silicified tuff as the preferred raw material, and a greater use of local materials; a substantial growth, then decline, in the production and use of backed artefacts; and the introduction of ground-edged implements (with the peak period being approximately 4,000–1,000 BP). Correlations appear with respect to the archaeology of the Central West Region, however. Preliminary field observations of the lithic assemblage recovered during archaeological excavations of the Abercrombie shelter, approximately 58 km south-west of Bathurst, revealed an assemblage dominated by locally-sourced quartz with lesser (<5%) proportions of fine-grained volcanics, chert, silcrete and river pebbles. Though undated the assemblage fit broadly with the Australian Small Tool Tradition, and was

characterised by retouched flakes, bladelets, burin, notches, scrapers and fabricators (Johnson 1977:36-38). Based on a review of the archaeological evidence, J. Kelton notes that stone artefact assemblages found across the region are often consistent with pre-Bondaian technology of the terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene (Kelton 2000a:18).

There is also a considerable increase in archaeological evidence of occupation. McDonald notes a spike in artefact accumulation rates in the 9th and 8th millennia. From about 6,000 BP there was a steady increase in the number of sites being used. For instance, almost 80% of the Sydney region's radiocarbon ages date to the last 5,000 years, the number of dated sites peaks in the second millennium, and 28% of regional dates (including Bathurst) fall between 2,000 and 1,000 BP (McDonald 2008:36).

It has been argued that this is a result of increased populations and 'intensification' of cultural activity during this period. Smith et al. (2008) and Williams et al. (2010), both suggest that populations were in fact larger in the last 2,000 years than any preceding period. Using radiocarbon data and regional studies, they demonstrate that there is an increasing use of sites in all locations at this time, which cannot be explained by movement of people across the landscape, but rather points to increasing numbers of people using more of the landscape.

It is likely that the technological changes and possible population increase were accompanied by broad social changes. Hiscock and Attenbrow have suggested that the changed climate conditions after c3,000 years ago stimulated a change in foraging practice, perhaps incorporating a shift to higher mobility (McDonald 2008: 37). McDonald suggests instead that by about 4,000 BP, people occupied smaller territories and on a more permanent basis. People used residential bases and defined foraging ranges on annual and extended cycles (McDonald 2008:40).

4.2.3 Regional Site Patterns

Prior to 1979, no systematic, regional based archaeological studies had been undertaken in the Bathurst area. The only sites recorded within the region were generally done so by interested locals or amateurs. In the 1960s, Gresser, an amateur site recorder noted that the hilly land from Bathurst to the north was covered with camp sites, all of which were located on the low ridges that led down to the creeks and springs. He also noted that although sites are usually close to the creeks, they can also, albeit rarely, be found in other locations such as elevated ridge tops (OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management 2011:22).

During a pilot survey of the Lewis Ponds and Browns Creek valleys between Lucknow and Bathurst, Pearson recorded forty-two Aboriginal sites, including both isolated finds and open artefact scatters (Pearson 1979:8). Further intensive research of the Upper Macquarie Region, focusing on changes in land use and settlement patterns, was published by Pearson in 1981. The study made a number of findings about site location patterns in the Bathurst region. Pearson found that the most common Aboriginal sites type was open sites with stone artefact scatters. These were most likely to occur in places that had access to water, good drainage and views over watercourses or river flats, and level ground, and were frequently found on low ridge tops, creek banks, gently undulating hills and river flats and open woodland vegetation (Pearson 1981:101).

The study also demonstrated that access and proximity to water was an important factor in site patterning, and that site density decreased with distance from water. Pearson found that the average site was located 98 m from a water source and 9m above the water source. Pearson also observed that tributaries, creek lines and the upper Macquarie River would also have provided important resources for food as well as forming movement corridors. Interestingly, Pearson's model appears to be in accord with observations of

Wiradjuri settlement patterning made by the explorer John Oxley during his expedition in 1817. Oxley repeatedly noted an association between Wiradjuri activity and water sources (Oxley 1817).

In general, the more recent development driven studies (Truscott & Lance 1987:18; Barber & Williams 1993; OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management 2011:36) have conformed to the site prediction model outlined by Pearson for the Bathurst area. The highest density of open sites was found in areas with gently undulating topography (Barber 1990). Barber found that larger sites were usually found on elevated spurs and terraces adjacent to high order streams and rivers. Very few smaller sites tended to be found on ridges away from water sources. Open sites in the region range from ‘workshops’, which show discernible spatial patterns (i.e. knapping floors), to low density scatters and isolated stone artefacts.

Archaeological investigations are often limited by a reliance on surface evidence and existing settlement models. However, extensive excavation across the Cumberland Plain in the Sydney Basin has shown that areas with no surface evidence often contain sub-surface deposits buried beneath current ground surfaces. This is a critical consideration in aggrading soil landscapes. In a 1997 study of the aggrading soils of shale landscapes on the Cumberland Plain, McDonald (1997) found that:

- There were no surface artefacts prior to excavation in 17 out of 61 excavated sites.
- The ratio of recorded surface to excavated material was 1:25.
- None of the excavated sites could be properly characterised on the basis of surface evidence. In short, surface evidence (or the absence of surface evidence) does not necessarily indicate the potential, nature or density of sub-surface material.

The results of McDonald's study clearly highlight the limitations of surface survey in identifying archaeological deposits. The study also shows the importance of test excavation in establishing the nature and density of archaeological material, particularly in aggrading soils. This point is particularly relevant to the Bathurst Regional LGA where previous investigations have been limited in number.

Following in Table 2 below shows the registered Aboriginal site types and their distribution within the Bathurst LGA as at 2017.

Site Type	Number	Percentage of Total (%)
Artefact Scatter	102	45.95
Isolated Find	20	9.01
Stone Arrangement	17	7.66
Modified Tree	16	7.21
Carved Tree	11	4.95
Scarred Tree	7	3.15

Artefact Scatter, Potential Archaeological Deposit	6	2.7
Rock Shelter with Deposit	6	2.7
Bora/Ceremonial	5	2.25
Contact, Mission, Artefact Scatter	5	2.25
Quarry, Artefact Scatter	4	1.8
Burial	3	1.35
Potential Archaeological Deposit	3	1.35
Stone Arrangement, Artefact Scatter	3	1.35
Massacre, Artefact Scatter	2	0.9
Aboriginal Resource and Gathering, Aboriginal Ceremonial and Dreaming, Water Hole, Grinding Grooves, Artefact Scatter	1	0.45
Bora/Ceremonial, Natural Mythological (Ritual), Artefact Scatter	1	0.45
Engraving	1	0.45
Stone Arrangement, Hearth	1	0.45
Stone Arrangement, Mound (Oven), Artefact Scatter	1	0.45

Stone Arrangement, Quarry, Artefact Scatter	1	0.45
Stone Arrangement, Scarred Tree, Artefact Scatter	1	0.45
TOTAL	222	100

Table 2: Showing the registered Aboriginal site types as at 2017.

4.3 Bathurst Town

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) on 14th July 2023 indicates that there are five registered Aboriginal sites located within 1km of Bathurst Health Service. Table 3 below shows details of those five registered sites. Figure 9 shows the location of the registered Aboriginal sites within the vicinity of the Bathurst Health Service.

AHIMS No.	Site Name and Location	Description
44-3-0255	"BSP AS3". Located on eastern creek flat adjacent to Macquarie River.	Comprises five artefacts excavated from three test trenches during Aboriginal archaeological investigations. The artefacts were located in the upper 30cm of the soil profile and comprise three cores, one broken flake, two complete flakes and one angular fragment made of milky quartz, quartzite and a fine grained siliceous material.
44-3-0256	"BSP AS2". Located in a test trench adjacent to the Macquarie River.	Comprises four artefacts excavated from a single test trench during Aboriginal archaeological investigations. the artefacts were located in the upper 10cm of the soil profile above a thin charcoal lens. The artefacts comprise a cores and complete and distal flakes made of a fine grained siliceous material.

44-3-0247	<p>“Wyndradyne’s family camp site”. Located on the north eastern side of Kefford Street between the corner of Kefford Street and Stewart Street and the Macquarie River.</p>	<p>The knowledge that Windradyne and his family camped at this location has been passed down through oral tradition within the local Aboriginal community.</p>
44-3-0259	<p>“BSP IF1”. Located on a lower slope.</p>	<p>Comprises a single quartz core excavated from a test trench and located within the upper 10cm of the soil profile which is described as silty loam topsoil.</p>
44-3-0257	<p>“BSP AS1”. Located on a lower slope.</p>	<p>Comprises two artefacts excavated from a single test trench during Aboriginal archaeological investigations. The artefacts comprise a quartzite core and a quartz angular fragment located within the upper 20cm of the soil profile which is described as silty loam topsoil.</p>

Table 3: Showing the details of registered AHIMS sites within 1km of Bathurst Health Service.



Figure 9: Showing the location of registered Aboriginal sites indicated by the Aboriginal flags and the Bathurst Health Service outlined in red (map courtesy of Google Earth Pro).

4.4 Bathurst Health Service

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) on 14th July 2023 indicates that there is a registered Aboriginal site within the grounds of Bathurst Health Service. The site (AHIMS 44-3-0144) is named “Bathurst Base Hospital PAD” and the AHIMS search indicates that a permit was issued for this site. A copy of the site card is not available from AHIMS, however a copy of the test excavation report was obtained.

The *Bathurst Base Hospital: Aboriginal Test Excavation Report* (AHMS 2006) shows that 15 Aboriginal test trenches of varying sizes were excavated across the Bathurst Hospital site in 2006. Excavation of each trench was undertaken by machine to remove overlying historic fills and where natural topsoils, i.e. A horizon soils, were encountered, a 1 x 1m test trench was excavated by hand in 10cm spits. Excavation was ceased when compact weathered granite soils were encountered (AHMS 2006:22). The report demonstrates that natural topsoil was encountered in six of the 15 trenches (40%) and the topsoil was between 5 and 10cm thick where present. Figure 10 below shows the location of these Aboriginal test trenches and the nature of the soil profile in each. The Aboriginal test excavations revealed no Aboriginal objects.

Following discussions with Heritage NSW in 2023, AHIMS 44-3-0144 was deregistered as a site.

During discussions with the Bathurst Wiradyuri Aboriginal Community Elders at a meeting on 15th June 2023, the elders stated that there is a women's site at the hospital where the morgue/mortuary had been built.

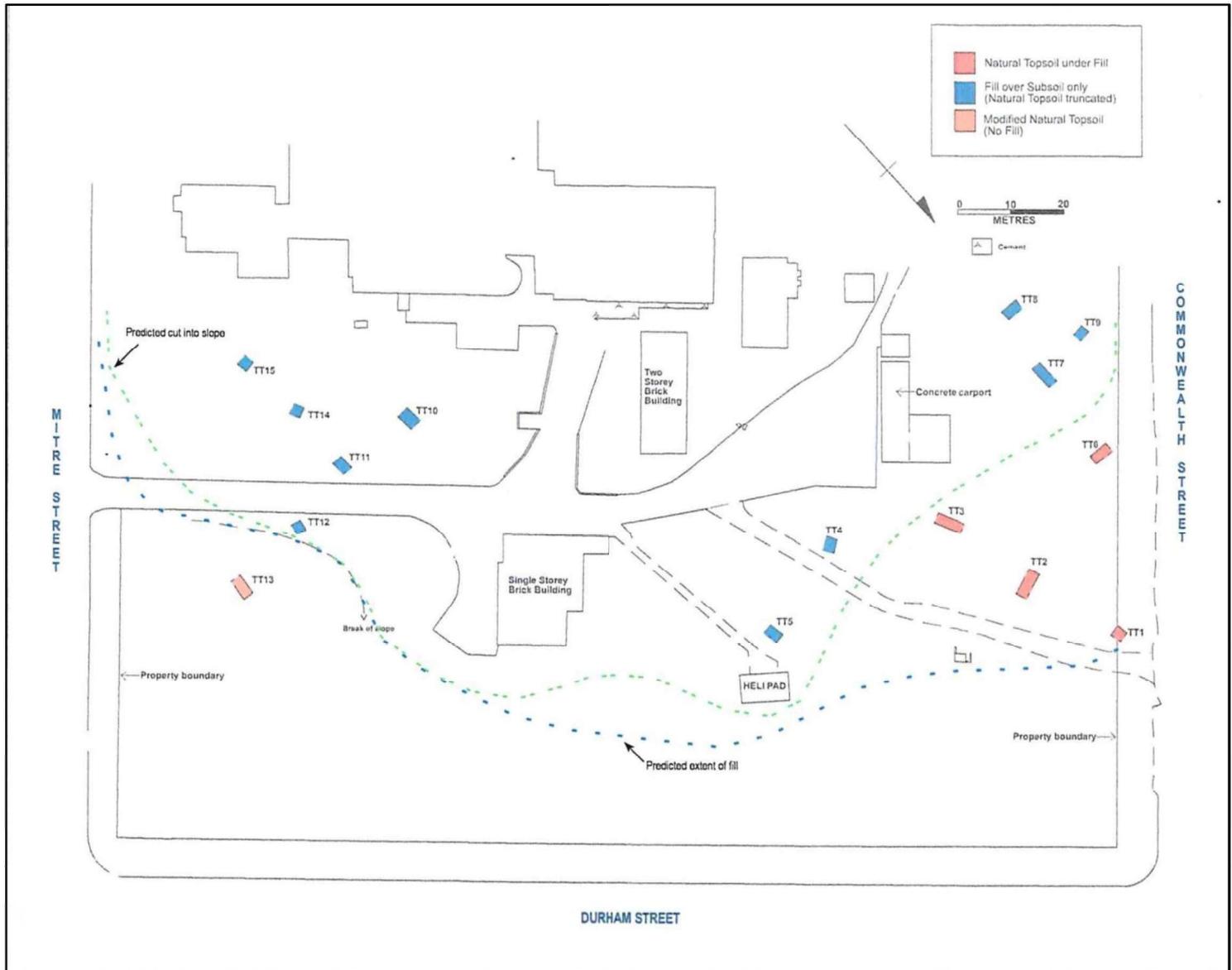


Figure 10: Showing the location of Aboriginal test trenches excavated by AHMS across the Bathurst Health Service site in 2006 and the nature of the soil profile in each trench (plan courtesy of AHMS 2006:28).

4.5 Predictive Model

The above environmental and archaeological research indicates that despite a paucity of registered sites, the Bathurst region was a significant landscape for Aboriginal people.

The archaeological research undertaken to date indicates that camp sites, in the form of artefact scatters, workshops, potential archaeological deposits (PADs) and hearths, could be expected on low ridges leading down to water sources with site density decreasing with distance from water. Camp sites could be expected an average distance of 98m from and 9m above a water source on low ridge tops, creek banks, gently undulating hills, river flats and open woodland vegetation with access to water, good drainage and views over watercourses or river flats and level ground (Pearson 1981:101). Larger sites could be expected on

Unearthed

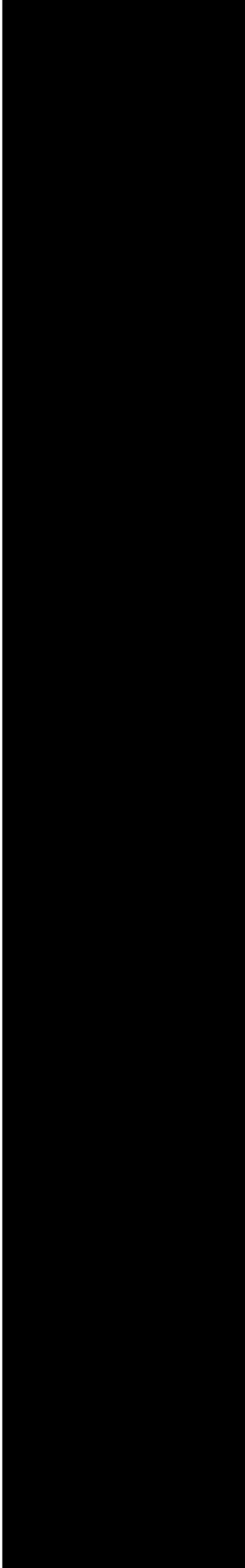
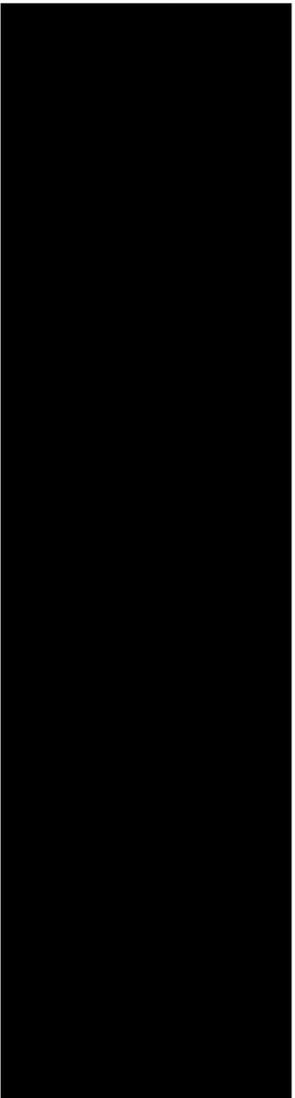
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elevated spurs and terraces adjacent to high order streams and rivers (Barber 1990). Evidence of these sites could be expected to be found subsurface despite a lack of visible archaeological material on the surface (McDonald 1997).

5.0 Consultation Process

Table 4 below summarises the consultation undertaken in accordance with *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Copies of the letters, notifications, advertisement and emails are attached at Appendix B.

Step	Task Requirement	Action	Date of action	Outcome
4.1.1	Identify if native title exists in relation to the project area.	We wrote to National Native Title Tribunal and registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements.	24/07/2023	<p>Response received on 24/07/2023 – by email to state that there are no known Native Title determinations, applications or ILUAs over the study area and that it is freehold land.</p> <p>Copies of the sent form and received response are provided in Appendix B: Consultation.</p>
4.1.2	<p>Ascertain, from reasonable sources of information, the names of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places.</p> <p>Compile a list of Aboriginal people who may have an interest for the proposed project area and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places.</p>	<p>We wrote to the following organisations seeking the names of any Aboriginal people or organisations who may hold cultural knowledge on 24/07/2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathurst Regional Council • Heritage NSW • Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council (BLALC) • Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA) • National Native Title Tribunal • Local Land Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTS Corp 	24/07/2023	<p>Responses were received from the following on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALRA – letter by email 24/07/2023. • Bathurst Regional Council – letter by email 24/07/2023. • Heritage NSW – letter by email 31/07/2023. • BLALC – email 16/08/2023. <p>Copies of the sent letter and received responses are provided in Appendix B: Consultation.</p>
4.1.3	<p>Written notification and advertisement:</p> <p>Write to the Aboriginal people</p>	Letters written to the following Aboriginal organisations and individuals (sent by email and post):	Letters sent 25/08/2023 with a closing date of 08/09/2023.	Responses were received from the following on the dates indicated:

	<p>whose names were obtained in step 4.1.2 and the relevant LALC(s) to notify them of the proposed project.</p> <p>Place a notice in the local newspaper circulating in the general location of the proposed project, explaining the project and its exact location. Notification by letter and newspaper must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the name and contact details of the proponent; (b) a brief overview of the proposed project that may be the subject of an application for an AHIP, including the location of the proposed project; (c) a statement that the purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in the preparation of an application for an AHIP and to assist the Director-General of Heritage NSW in his or her consideration and determination of the application; 		<p>Advertisement placed in the Western Advocate on 23/09/2023 with a closing date of 10/10/2023.</p>	 <p>Copies of the sent letter and received responses are provided in Appendix B: Consultation.</p>
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	<p>(d) an invitation for Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in the area of the proposed project to register an interest in a process of community consultation with the proposed applicant regarding the proposed activity;</p> <p>(e) a closing date for the registration of interests.</p>			
4.1.4	<p>A minimum of 14 days from the date the letter was sent or notice published in the newspaper to register an interest.</p>	<p>Closing date for registration of interest included in the notification letters and notice in the newspaper was at least 14 days from the date the letters were sent and notices appeared in the newspapers.</p> <p>Closing date for registration of interest 08/09/2023 for the letters and 10/10/2023 for the advertisement.</p>	<p>Letters sent 25/08/2023 with a closing date of 08/09/2023.</p> <p>Advertisement placed in the Western Advocate on 23/09/2023 with a closing date of 10/10/2023.</p>	<p>No responses were received as a result of the advertisement.</p> <p>Copy of notification letters and newspaper advertisement in Appendix B: Consultation.</p>
4.1.5	<p>Must advise Aboriginal people who are registering an interest that their details will</p>	<p>RAPs informed in response to registration.</p>	<p>Aug/Sept 2023.</p>	<p>No RAPs advised they wanted their details withheld.</p>

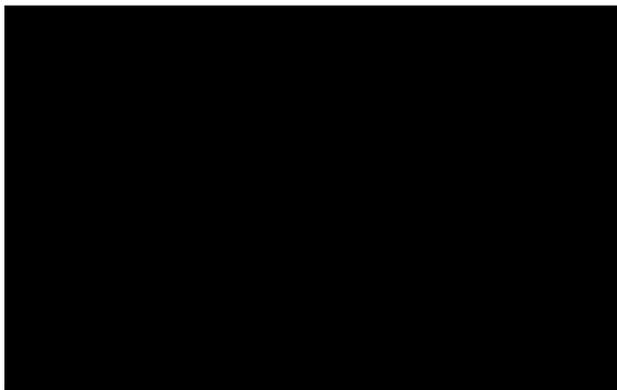
	<p>be forwarded to Heritage NSW and the LALC unless they specify that they do not want their details released.</p>			
4.1.6	<p>Make a record of the names of each Aboriginal person who registered an interest.</p> <p>Provide a copy of that record and copy of the notification from step 4.1.3 to the relevant Heritage NSW EPRG regional office and LALC.</p>	<p>List of RAPs compiled as listed in point 4.1.3</p>	<p>Aug/Sept 2023.</p>	<p>List of RAPs attached in Appendix B: Consultation</p> <p>Letters sent via email to Heritage NSW and BLALC with list of RAPs on 02/11/2023.</p> <p>A copy of this notification is included at Appendix B: Consultation.</p>
4.1.7	<p>LALCs holding cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places in the proposed project area who wish to register an interest to be involved in consultation must register their interest as an Aboriginal organisation rather than individuals.</p>	<p>Bathurst and Cowra LALCs were contacted as a part of the consultation process by letter (4.1.2 and 4.1.3) on 24/07/2023 and 25/08/2023.</p>	<p>24/07/2023 and 25/08/2023</p>	<p>BLALC registered an interest in the project, CLALC did not register an interest in the project.</p>
4.1.8	<p>Where an Aboriginal organisation representing Aboriginal people, who hold cultural knowledge has registered an interest, a contact person for that organisation must be nominated.</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders who have registered an interest may indicate they have appointed a</p>	<p>Responses from organisations and individuals registering interest in the project.</p>		<p>See list of organisations and individuals in point 4.1.6.</p>

	representative to act on their behalf. Where this occurs, the registered Aboriginal party must provide written confirmation and contact details of those individuals to act on their behalf.			
4.2	Presentation of information about the proposed project.	Information regarding the proposed project to be provided to RAPs via a meeting on 25/10/2023.	Meeting held 25/10/2023.	Two RAPs attended the meeting. They were [REDACTED]. The minutes from this meeting are attached at Appendix B: Consultation.
4.3.1 - 4.3.2	Notification of proposed assessment methodology	Copy of the proposed assessment methodology and excavation methodology sent to all RAPs with an invitation to provide comment.	N/A.	Given that there are no management and mitigation measures proposed for the site, no excavation methodology has been prepared.
4.3.3	Gathering information about cultural significance			During a separate Connecting with Country meeting for the same project, the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group expressed that the site of Bathurst Health Service contained a women's site. This site is of significance to the Aboriginal community, despite having been built over and heavily disturbed.
4.4	Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report	Draft Cultural Heritage Assessment Report provided to RAPs for review and comment with a 28 day review period.	Emailed on 03/11/2023.	An email providing the draft ACHAR was sent to the RAPs was sent on 03/11/2023. A copy of

				<p>that email is provided at Appendix B: Consultation.</p> <p>The following written responses to the draft ACHAR were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from [REDACTED] supporting the draft ACHAR on 08/11/2023. • Email from [REDACTED] supporting the draft ACHAR on 7th December 2023. <p>Copies of these responses are attached at Appendix B: Consultation.</p>
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Table 4: Showing the stages of consultation and the outcomes.

As a result of the above consultation, the following nine organisations or individuals are the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for this project:



During a separate Connecting with Country meeting for this project, the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group identified that part of the hospital had been constructed on a women’s site. The acknowledged that the ongoing development of the site had destroyed any evidence of this site and altered the natural landscape. The intangible values of this site are of significance to the Aboriginal community, despite the development and disturbance that has occurred. No other culturally sensitive information was identified.

6.0 Summary and Analysis of Background Information

The site inspection was undertaken on 15th June 2023 and the whole of the study area was inspected on foot with particular attention being paid to the historic topography and the disturbance from European development. No Aboriginal objects or sites were recorded during the site inspection. An AHIMS search dated 14th June 2023 (Appendix A: AHIMS Extensive Search – 14th July 2023) indicates that one Aboriginal site has previously been registered within the grounds of the Bathurst Health Service.

That site (AHIMS 44-3-0144) is listed as a PAD and the AHIMS search indicates that a permit in respect of this site has previously been issued. The site card for AHIMS 44-3-0144 is not available from AHIMS, however a copy of the Aboriginal test excavation report (AHMS 2006) was obtained. That report indicates that the upper layer of the natural topsoil (A1 horizon) was not present anywhere on the site and that (A2 horizon) was encountered in only six of the 15 test trenches dug across the Bathurst Health Service site. Remnant A2 horizon topsoil was only encountered on the “the lower slopes in the north and east corners of the site furthest away from the hospital buildings” (AHMS 2006:32). The Aboriginal test excavation report indicates that approximately “57.1 cubic metres of deposit was removed during the investigation and of this amount only 0.8 cubic metres consisted of soil with potential to contain Aboriginal objects (1.4% of the total amount). The Aboriginal archaeological test excavations did not uncover any Aboriginal objects or any other evidence of Aboriginal occupation, which appears to be “a direct result of historic modification to the original ground surface, namely the removal of original topsoil that may have contained Aboriginal objects. As a result of their Aboriginal archaeological test excavations, AHMS stated that “the site currently has no Public or Scientific significance with regard to Aboriginal heritage” (AHMS 2006:35).

As a result of discussions with Nicole Davis, Manager Assessments at Heritage NSW, in respect of this project, she updated the site status for AHIMS 44-3-0144 to “Not a Site” on 21st July 2023. A further AHIMS Extensive Search on 24th July 2023 (Appendix B: AHIMS Extensive Search –) confirmed that the status had been updated to “Not a Site”.

The study area is comprised of a hospital site. The old Bathurst Hospital heritage listed building is located on the corner of Howick and Mitre Streets at the highest point of the Bathurst Health Service grounds. The site has been subjected to ongoing development and redevelopment since the early 19th century.

The Aboriginal test excavations in 2006 (AHMS 2006) were undertaken in respect of the reconfiguration of Bathurst Base I hospital, which included: the demolition of 10 buildings in the northern and north western portions of the site; construction of a new loading dock and access from Howick Street; construction of a new Main Health Service building, car parking and a service area; demolition of 1950s and 1970s additions to the heritage listed old Bathurst Hospital building; and construction of a new access road from Mitre Street and associated car parking. These works have since been undertaken and the large Main Health Service building now occupies much of the site. These works would likely have removed the small amount of remaining A2 horizon topsoil that remained within the study area.

The present proposal comprises the demolition of portions of the Main Health Services building at the south eastern end on the Mitre Street frontage and on the south western end on the Commonwealth Street frontage. The proposed construction will include new additions to the south eastern end of the Main Services Health building at the Mitre Street frontage and the south western end of the Main Services Health building on the Commonwealth Street frontage, as well as an addition to the north western side of the heritage listed old Bathurst Hospital building.

Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken in 2006 (AHMS 2006) have demonstrated that any remnant topsoil, Aboriginal objects or other evidence of Aboriginal occupation that may once have been

present in the study area have been removed, likely by the ongoing historical development of the study area. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposed works will have any impact on any Aboriginal objects.

The Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group identified part of the hospital site as containing a women's site, which has been completely destroyed by the ongoing development of the hospital throughout its history. While there is not any archaeological evidence associated with this site remains, the intangible values of this site are highly significant to the Aboriginal community and therefore the study area should be treated with respect and dignity. Interpretation options that express that significance in a meaningful and appropriate way should be investigated with the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group and the RAPs for inclusion in the redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service.

Therefore, while the Bathurst Health Service site does not contain any tangible evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the form of Aboriginal objects, it does contain significance for the Aboriginal community in respect of its intangible values.

7.0 Significance Assessment

7.1 Criteria

Significance assessment is the assessment of sites or landscapes to determine their importance or value to the community.

The Burra Charter documents principles and guidelines for the conservation and management of places of cultural heritage significance in Australia. A range of significance assessment criteria have been developed to assist in the determination of significance in accordance with the values of the Burra Charter and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* and *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*.

These documents provide the following criteria for the significance assessment of Aboriginal sites and objects:

Social Value (sometimes termed “Aboriginal value”) which refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments which the place or area has for the present-day Aboriginal community.

Historic Value refers to the associations of a place with a person, event, phase or activity of importance to the history of an Aboriginal community.

Scientific Value refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its archaeological and/or other technical aspects.

Aesthetic Value refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place.

Research Values refers to the potential for the evidence to contribute to an understanding of the area/region/state’s natural and cultural history.

Representative Values refers to how much variability exists, what is already conserved and how much connectivity is there?

Rarity Values refers to how important the area/site is in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, land use etc., no longer practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?

Educational Values refers to whether the site or area contains teaching potential.

7.2 Significance Assessment

Social/Aboriginal Values

This is best assessed by the Aboriginal community. The Wirdajuri Aboriginal Elders Group have stated that the Bathurst Hospital site is of high significance to the Aboriginal community, because it was a women’s site.

Evidence and memories of Aboriginal occupation and cultural heritage provides the Aboriginal community with both tangible and intangible connections with the history of their culture. The presence of a women’s site indicates the traditional and historical association and attachment to the land of the Aboriginal community of the region.

Historic Value

The presence of a women's site within the study area demonstrates the ongoing occupation of the area by Aboriginal people and has the potential to provide information about the lifestyles and technology of the people of the area prior to and following European occupation.

Scientific Values

Subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits have the potential to yield significant information about the Aboriginal people of the study area, however the results of the 2006 Aboriginal test excavations by AHMS (AHMS 2006) demonstrate that any Aboriginal archaeological deposits that may have been present within the Bathurst Health Service site are no longer present and therefore the site is not considered to have scientific values from an Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage perspective.

Aesthetic Values

Aboriginal objects and other evidence of Aboriginal occupation have the potential demonstrate the technological and creative achievements of Aboriginal people, however, given that no Aboriginal objects are present, there are no objects of aesthetic value. The site of the Bathurst Health Service looks over the Macquarie River and floodplains surrounding the river. It offers an expansive view of the landscape from the elevated position and contains aesthetic value in that it provided the Aboriginal women of the area a prominent view of the landscape.

Research Values

From an Aboriginal archaeological perspective, the site does not meet this criteria.

Representative Values

From an Aboriginal archaeological perspective, the site does not meet this criteria.

Rarity Values

From an Aboriginal archaeological perspective, the site does not meet this criteria.

Educational Values

From an Aboriginal archaeological perspective, the site does not meet this criteria.

7.3 Statement of Significance

The Wirdajuri Aboriginal Elders Group have stated that the Bathurst Hospital site is of high significance to the Aboriginal community, because it was a women's site.

Evidence and memories of Aboriginal occupation and cultural heritage provides the Aboriginal community with both tangible and intangible connections with the history of their culture. The presence of a women's site indicates the traditional and historical association and attachment to the land of the Aboriginal community of the region.

The presence of a women's site within the study area demonstrates the ongoing occupation of the area by Aboriginal people and has the potential to provide information about the lifestyles and technology of the people of the area prior to and following European occupation.

Subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits have the potential to yield significant information about the Aboriginal people of the study area, however the results of the 2006 Aboriginal test excavations by AHMS

(AHMS 2006) demonstrate that any Aboriginal archaeological deposits that may have been present within the Bathurst Health Service site are no longer present and therefore the site is not considered to have scientific values from an Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage perspective.

Aboriginal objects and other evidence of Aboriginal occupation have the potential demonstrate the technological and creative achievements of Aboriginal people, however, given that no Aboriginal objects are present, there are no objects of aesthetic value. The site of the Bathurst Health Service looks over the Macquarie River and floodplains surrounding the river. It offers an expansive view of the landscape from the elevated position and contains aesthetic value in that it provided the Aboriginal women of the area a prominent view of the landscape.

8.0 The Proposed Activity

A preferred master planning option has been approved by the Ministry of Health. Figure 11 and Figure 12 below show the proposed expansion zones on the preferred master planning option.

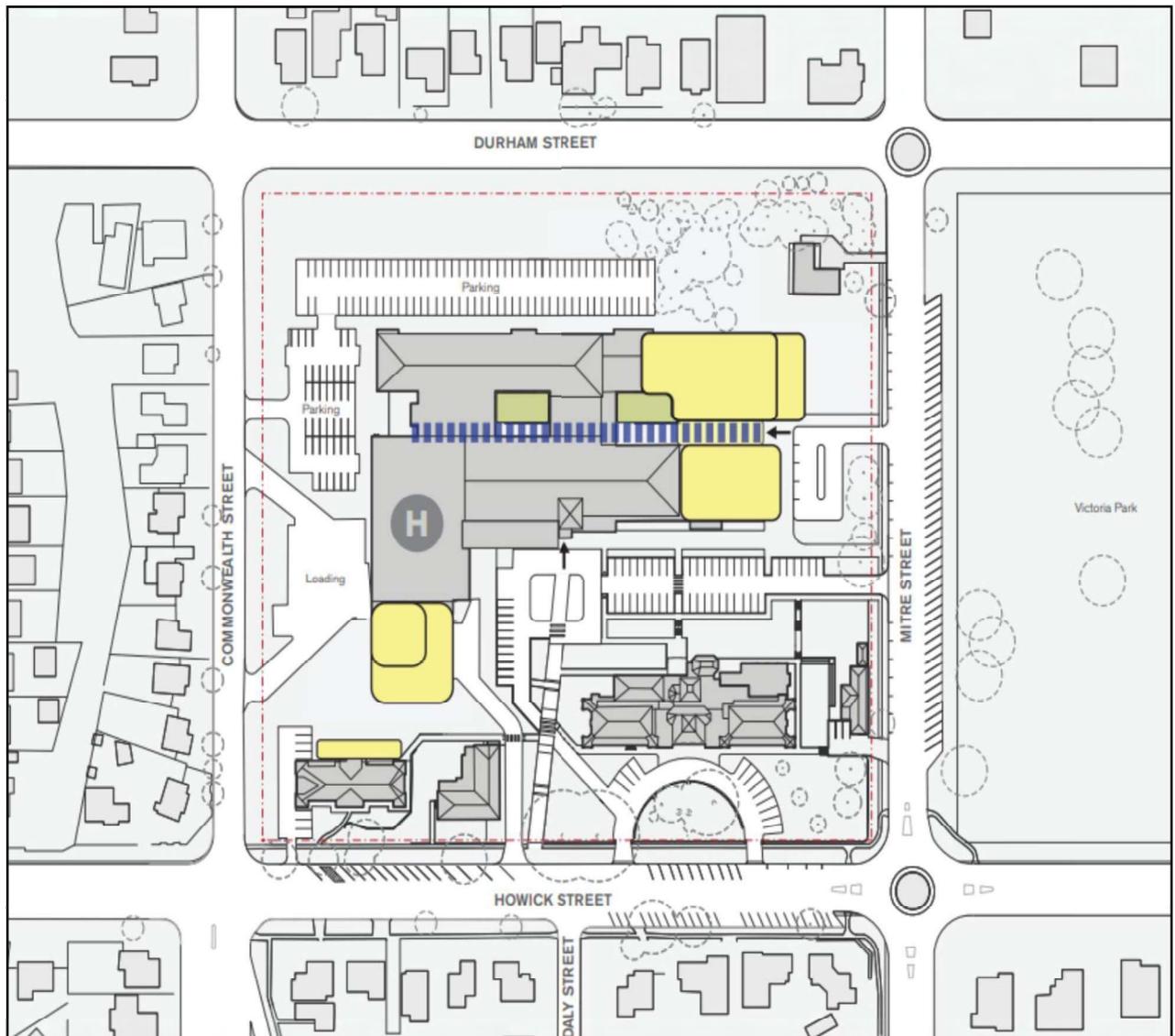


Figure 11: The preferred master planning option approved by the Ministry of Health. The plan shows proposed expansion zones (plan courtesy of Billiard Leece Partnership).

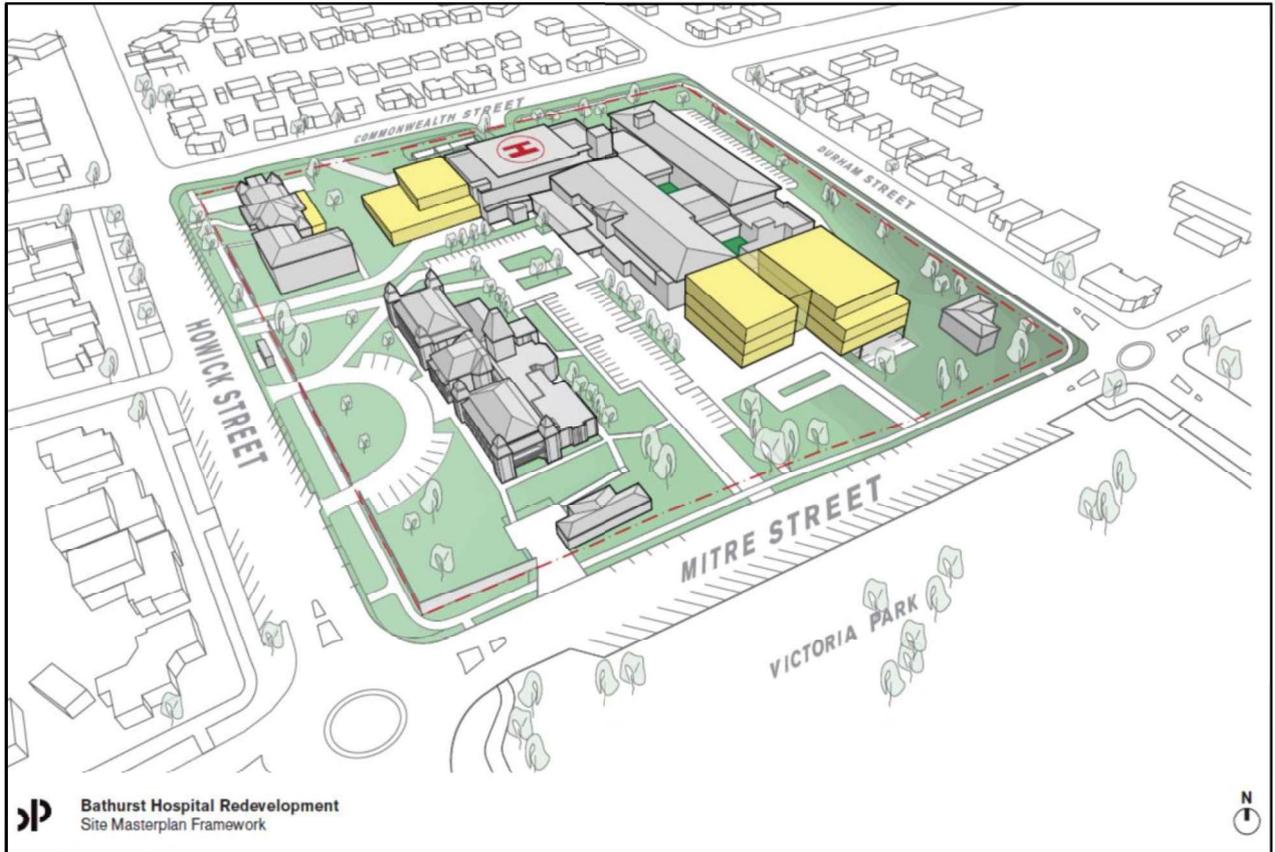


Figure 12: Bathurst Health Service Redevelopment 3D perspective preferred master planning option approved by the Ministry of Health. This plan shows proposed expansion zones (plan courtesy of Billiard Leece Partnership).

9.0 Avoiding and Minimising Harm

9.1 Avoiding and minimising harm

The extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken by AHMS (2006) of the Bathurst Health Service site have demonstrated that any natural topsoils that could be expected to contain Aboriginal objects have been removed from the site. Their excavations revealed very little remnant topsoil and uncovered no Aboriginal objects.

Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed works will impact on any Aboriginal objects, and therefore no harm is expected.

However, a part of the Bathurst Health Service site was identified by the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group as a women's site. Any evidence of the women's site has been completely removed by the ongoing development of the hospital site. Health Infrastructure NSW have stated that they are looking at interpretation of the women's site within the proposed redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service.

9.2 Consideration of the principles of Environmental Sustainability

The proposed works are not expected to impact on any Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal test excavations have previously been undertaken across the Bathurst Health Service site. The results of those excavations have revealed that there are no Aboriginal objects present within the study area.

Consultation with the RAPs has commenced, as detailed in this report, and will continue throughout the entirety of this project.

10.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in accordance with:

- The legal requirements of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (as amended) which states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object without gaining prior consent of the Director General of DPIE.
- Research into the environmental and archaeological record of the study area.
- Consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties as detailed in this Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.
- Research into the environmental and archaeological record of the study area.
- The results of this Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report and the 2006 Aboriginal test excavations (AHMS 2006) which demonstrated that it is highly unlikely that subsurface archaeological deposits or other evidence of Aboriginal occupation exists within the study area.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

1. There is no objection to the proposed redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service on Aboriginal archaeological grounds. No further investigation or excavation in respect of Aboriginal archaeology is required.
2. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will not be required for the proposed redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service.
3. The Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group identified a part of the Bathurst Health Service site as a women's site that has been completely removed due to the ongoing development of the hospital. Investigation into potential appropriate interpretation options of the women's site and its intangible values in the proposed redevelopment should be undertaken in consultation with the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group and the RAPs.
4. Consultation with the RAPs will be ongoing throughout the project.
5. If, during the proposed works, any Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

References

- AHMS. 2006. Bathurst Base Hospital, 361 Howick Street Bathurst NSW: Aboriginal Archaeological Test Excavation Report. Unpublished Report to NSW Department of Commerce.
- Dunn, Irina, Roshan Sahukar, and New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2002. The Bioregions of New South Wales: Their Biodiversity, Conservation and History. Hurstville NSW: National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Extent. 2017. Bathurst Regional Local Government Area: Aboriginal Heritage Study.
- Kovac, M., B. W. Murphy, and J. A. Lawrie. 2010. Soil Landscapes of the Bathurst 1:250,00 Sheet Map. 2nd ed. Sydney: Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.
- Low, T. 1989. Bush Tucker - Australia's Wild Food Harvest. Angus and Robertson.
- Office of Environment & Heritage. 2010a. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010. Sydney: Dept. of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW.
- Office of Environment & Heritage. 2010b. Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales. Sydney, N.S.W.: DECCW.
- Office of Environment & Heritage. 2011. Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW: Part 6 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Sydney South, N.S.W.: Office of Environment and Heritage.
- Pogson, D. J., and J. J. Watkins. 1998. Bathurst 1:250,000 Geological Sheet SI/55-8: Explanatory Notes. Sydney: Geological Survey of New South Wales.

Appendix B: AHIMS Extensive Search – 3rd November 2023



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Bathurst Hospital
Client Service ID : 836209

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
44-3-0255	BSP AS3	GDA	55	740247	6300536	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-		
	Contact									
44-3-0256	BSP AS2	GDA	55	740174	6300664	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-	5154	
	Contact									
44-3-0247	Wyndradyne's family camp site	GDA	55	740259	6300512	Open site	Not a Site	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming :-	5154	
	Contact									
44-3-0144	bathurst base hospital pad	AGD	55	739116	6300641	Open site	Not a Site	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1		
	Contact									
44-3-0259	BSP IF1	GDA	55	739474	6301118	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-	2413	
	Contact									
44-3-0257	BSP AS1	GDA	55	739786	6300958	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-	5154	
	Contact									

** Site Status

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 03/11/2023 for Tory Stening for the following area at Lot : 100, DP:DP1126063, Section : null with a Buffer of 1000 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 6

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

Appendix B: Consultation

Letters to NNTT and Other Government Organisations (4.1.2)

Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage

24th July 2023

NTSCorp

By email: information@ntscorp.com.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Bathurst Health Service, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services. The project is a State Significant Development (SSD) and Health Infrastructure NSW engaged Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the proposed works. That archaeological assessment has determined that extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations were undertaken by AHMS in 2006. Those test excavations revealed that very little remnant topsoil remained within the Bathurst Health Service site and no Aboriginal objects were uncovered. However, consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* and preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) are a condition of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and it is understood that the Bathurst Health Service site may contain intangible Aboriginal values and significance.

I am therefore writing to you, in accordance with 4.1.2 of the consultation requirements, to seek the names and contact details of Aboriginal people or organisations who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the study area.

Please forward your response to:

Ms Tory Stening
Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage
P.O. Box 3132
Redfern NSW 2016
info@uneearthedarchaeology.com.au
Phone: 0410 686 309

Please respond by COB Monday 7th July 2023.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Tory Stening
Archaeologist/Project Manager

Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage



Figure 1: Showing the location of the Bathurst Health Service outlined in red (map courtesy of Google Earth Pro).

Responses to Letter to NNTT and Other Government Organisations (4.1.2)

RE: SR23/1204 - Aboriginal consultation - Bathurst Hospital - SR23/1204 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
 1 message

Geospatial Search Requests <GeospatialSearch@nntt.gov.au>
 To: Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage <info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au> 24 July 2023 at 12:21

OFFICIAL

Your ref: Bathurst Health Service Our ref: SR23/1204

Dear Tory Stening,

Thank you for your search request, please find your results below.

Search Results

The results provided are based on the information you supplied and are derived from a search of the following Tribunal databases:

- Schedule of Native Title Determination Applications
- Register of Native Title Claims
- Native Title Determinations
- Indigenous Land Use Agreements (Registered and notified)

Results for overlapping native title matters in NSW:

Feature ID	Tenure	Cadastral Data As At	Feature Area SqKm	Overlapping Native Title Feature			
				NNTT File Number	Name	Category	% Selected Feature
100//DP1126063	FREEHOLD	4/05/2023	0.0413	No overlap			0.00%

For more information about the Tribunal's registers or to search the registers yourself and obtain copies of relevant register extracts, please visit our [website](#).

Information on native title claims and freehold land can also be found on the Tribunal's website here: [Native title claims and freehold land](#).

Please note: There may be a delay between a native title determination application being lodged in the Federal Court and its transfer to the Tribunal. As a result, some native title determination applications recently filed with the Federal Court may not appear on the Tribunal's databases.

The search results are based on analysis against external boundaries of applications only. Native title applications commonly contain exclusions clauses which remove areas from within the external boundary. To determine whether the areas described are in fact subject to claim, you need to refer to the "Area covered by claim" section of the relevant Register Extract or Schedule Extract and any maps attached.

Search results and the existence of native title

Please note that the enclosed information from the Register of Native Title Claims and/or the Schedule of Applications is **not** confirmation of the existence of native title in this area. This cannot be confirmed until the Federal Court makes a determination that native title does or does not exist in relation to the area. Such determinations are registered on the National Native Title Register.

The Tribunal accepts no liability for reliance placed on enclosed information

The enclosed information has been provided in good faith. Use of this information is at your sole risk. The National Native Title Tribunal makes no representation, either express or implied, as to the accuracy or suitability of the information enclosed for any particular purpose and accepts no liability for use of the information or reliance placed on it.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via GeospatialSearch@NNTT.gov.au

OFFICIAL



24 July 2023

By email: info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au

Ms Tory Stening
Archaeologist/Project Manager
Unearthed Archaeology and Heritage
PO Box 3132
REDFERN NSW 2016

Dear Tory,

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – proposed redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service, Bathurst, NSW: request for list of potential Aboriginal stakeholders

We refer to your letter and email to this Office, dated 24 July 2023, requesting contact information for Aboriginal organisations, stakeholders and/or people who may have cultural knowledge relevant to the proposed redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service, including Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and associated community health services, in Bathurst, NSW, as part of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

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

The proposed development and study area falls within the boundaries of Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council. We suggest you contact Bathurst LALC (contact details provided below), as they may wish to participate or contribute.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Smith
Senior Project Officer
Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 1500
ADDRESS NSW 2795
Ph: (02) 6332 6835
Email: bathlalc2@bigpond.com

Address: Level 3, 2 – 10 Wentworth Street, PARRAMATTA NSW 2150
Post: P.O Box 787, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
Phone: 02 8575 1160

OFFICIAL

Attn: Ms Tory Stening - Bathurst Base Hospital - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

1 message

Fern-Alice Coles <Fern-Alice.Coles@bathurst.nsw.gov.au>
To: "info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au" <info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au>

31 July 2023 at 09:41

Dear Ms Stening

Thank you for your letter dated 24 July 2023 in relation to the redevelopment of the Bathurst Base Hospital site. Please find **attached** the relevant contact details for Local Aboriginal Groups.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 6333 6215, should you have any further queries in relation to this matter.

Thanks,

Fern-Alice Coles
Senior Strategic Planner
Bathurst Regional Council
Wiradjuri Country
158 Russell Street Bathurst 2795
P: 02 6333 6215
W: www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au



DPE Aboriginal stakeholder list for Bathurst Health Service, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst.

2 messages

Barry Gunther <Barry.Gunther@environment.nsw.gov.au>

31 July 2023 at 11:52

To: "info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au" <info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au>

Hi Tory,

Please find attached the DPE Aboriginal stakeholder list for Bathurst Health Service, [361 Howick Street, Bathurst](#).

regards

Barry Gunther, Aboriginal Senior Assessment Officer

Environment and Heritage – Heritage NSW

Department of Planning and Environment

T: 02 9995 6830 | barry.gunther @environment.nsw.gov.au

Heritage.nsw.gov.au and dpie.nsw.gov.au

Locked Bag 5020

Parramatta NSW 2124

Heritage NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Please lodge all Applications to Heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Letters to Aboriginal Organisations and Individuals (4.1.3)

Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage

25th August 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Bathurst Health Service, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services. The project is a State Significant Development (SSD) and Health Infrastructure NSW engaged Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the proposed works. That archaeological assessment has determined that extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations were undertaken by AHMS in 2006. Those test excavations revealed that very little remnant topsoil remained within the Bathurst Health Service site and no Aboriginal objects were uncovered. However, consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* and preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) are a condition of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and it is understood that the Bathurst Health Service site may contain intangible Aboriginal values and significance.

In accordance with 4.1.2 of the consultation requirements, letters seeking the names and contact details of Aboriginal people or organisations who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the study area were sent to government agencies. Heritage NSW provided your details in response to that request. I am therefore writing to you, in accordance with 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements, to notify you of the proposed development and to invite you to register an interest in this community consultation with respect to the proposed development.

If you have any cultural knowledge that will assist in determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the study area or that will add to the story of the Aboriginal history of the school and study area, please provide your name and contact details to:

Ms Tory Stening
Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage
P.O. Box 3132, Redfern NSW 2016
info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au
Phone: 0410 686 309

Please respond by COB Friday 8th September 2023.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please note that it is a requirement to provide the names and contact details of any registered parties to Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council. Please advise on registering your interest if you wish to have your details withheld.

Yours faithfully



Tory Stening
Archaeologist/Project Manager

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Figure 1: Showing the location of the Bathurst Health Service outlined in red (map courtesy of Google Earth Pro).

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

westernadvocate.com.au

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SPORT



FOLLOWING THE FORM

Picks, tips and roughies for a big day at the track

PAGE 55



Juniors to play with intent

RUGBY LEAGUE

Alexander Grant

PANORAMA Platypi might be going into the upcoming Western Women's Rugby League competition as defending champions in the senior division but their junior players are ready to let everyone know they'll be well worth watching closely.

The club has a tough round one battle away to the Castlereagh Cougars this Saturday at Coonabarabran and the under 12s, 14s, 16s, 18s and senior squad are all keen to get themselves off to flying starts.

Numbers have been especially impressive for the Platypi at the under 14s level, where former Western Rams coach Kurt Hancock will be on hand to mentor the team.

Hancock is taking a step back from the Rams program to focus solely on the Platypi, and the former Group 10 premierships-winning coach has loved the experience of bringing through the next generation of women's talent.

"Women's rugby league in general is growing and gaining some real traction. This comp is a perfect pathway for those younger ladies who are looking to go to the next level or just participate in a team sport," he said.

"Some of the 14s, the team I've got, have a successful background in league tag

and a couple have also played rugby union and come across. They've been really good over the last three weeks of training and have really surprised me.

"They're different from the younger men that I coach. They have a real thirst for the technical side of the game and they want to learn, whereas the younger boys just want to bash and barge each other," he laughed.

Panorama has enjoyed recent success at this age group. The club's under 13s team won the delayed 2021 competition, held in March last year, and then came back at the end of 2022 for the spring competition and reached the semi-finals.

Hancock has confidence that trend of strong performances can continue this season.

"We've got great numbers with 25 registered, so there's going to be a little bit of a headache there. It's just unreal for women's rugby league though to have that many players registered," he said.

"I'm really looking forward to the season and we're a team that's got plenty of potential across the park. It's a bit of an unknown for me but I find it quite refreshing, and they're going to be a super competitive team."

The action at Coonabarabran's No 1 Oval begins with the under 12s at 9.30am.



Panorama Platypi's Sienna Clarke, Maleah Hall (12s), Mary Maher, Zoe Lee (18s) and Grace O'Neill (14s) are raring to go. Picture by James Arrow.

Bathurst Health Service, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst, NSW

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage

The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services. The project is a State Significant Development (SSD) and Health Infrastructure NSW engaged Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the proposed works.

That archaeological assessment has determined that extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations were undertaken by AHMS in 2006. Those test excavations revealed that very little remnant topsoil remained within the Bathurst Health Service site and no Aboriginal objects were uncovered. However, consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* and preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) are a condition of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and it is understood that the Bathurst Health Service site may contain intangible Aboriginal values and significance.

If you possess cultural knowledge that will add to the story of the Aboriginal history of the Bathurst area and would like to register an interest, please provide your name and contact details to:

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage

P.O. Box 3132, Redfern NSW 2016 | info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au | Phone: 0410 686 309

Please respond by COB Monday 10th October 2023.

PM6997913

Notification of Names and Contact Details of RAPs to Heritage NSW and LALC (4.1.6)

Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage

2nd November 2023

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Unit
Heritage NSW
By email: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Bathurst Health Service, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage have been engaged by Health Infrastructure NSW (HINSW) to undertake Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010) in respect of redevelopment works proposed at the Bathurst Health Service. In accordance with 4.1.6 of the consultation guidelines, I am writing to provide a copy of the record of each Aboriginal person or organisation that registered an interest in the project. As such, following please find the following documents for your information:

- A copy of notifications forwarded to stakeholders in accordance with 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements.
- A copy of the advertisement in accordance with 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements that was placed in the Western Advocate newspaper on 23rd September 2023.
- A record of the names of stakeholders that have registered an interest. No individuals or organisations requested that their details be withheld.

A record of the same has been forwarded to Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Tory Stening
Archaeologist/Project Manager

Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage

Notification in accordance with 4.1.3:

Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage

25th August 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Bathurst Health Service, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services. The project is a State Significant Development (SSD) and Health Infrastructure NSW engaged Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the proposed works. That archaeological assessment has determined that extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations were undertaken by AHMS in 2006. Those test excavations revealed that very little remnant topsoil remained within the Bathurst Health Service site and no Aboriginal objects were uncovered. However, consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* and preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) are a condition of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and it is understood that the Bathurst Health Service site may contain intangible Aboriginal values and significance.

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Ms Tory Stening
Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage
P.O. Box 3132, Redfern NSW 2016
info@uneearthedarchaeology.com.au
Phone: 0410 686 309

Please respond by COB Friday 8th September 2023.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please note that it is a requirement to provide the names and contact details of any registered parties to Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council. Please advise on registering your interest if you wish to have your details withheld.

Yours faithfully


Tory Stening
Archaeologist/Project Manager

www.uneearthedarchaeology.com.au | 0410 686 309 | P.O. Box 3132, Redfern NSW 2016 | A.B.N: 99 401 014 605 | info@uneearthedarchaeology.com.au

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Figure 1: Showing the location of the Bathurst Health Service outlined in red (map courtesy of Google Earth Pro).

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Advertisement of 23rd September 2023 in the Western Advocate:

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 westernadvocate.com.au

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Picks, tips and roughies for a big day at the track
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Juniors to play with intent

RUGBY LEAGUE
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PANORAMA Platypi might be going into the upcoming Western Women's Rugby League competition as defending champions in the senior division but their junior players are ready to let everyone know they'll be well worth watching closely.

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and a couple have also played rugby union and come across. They've been really good over the last three weeks of training and have really surprised me.

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The action at Coonabarabran's No 1 Oval begins with the under 12s at 9.30am.



Panorama Platypi's Sienna Clarke, Maleah Hall (12s), Mary Maher, Zoe Lee (16s) and Grace O'Neill (14s) are getting ready to go. Picture by James Arrow.

Bathurst Health Service, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst, NSW
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

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The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services. The project is a State Significant Development (SSD) and Health Infrastructure NSW engaged Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the proposed works. That archaeological assessment has determined that extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations were undertaken by AHMS in 2006. Those test excavations revealed that very little remnant topsoil remained within the Bathurst Health Service site and no Aboriginal objects were uncovered. However, consultation in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* and preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) are a condition of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and it is understood that the Bathurst Health Service site may contain intangible Aboriginal values and significance.

If you possess cultural knowledge that will add to the story of the Aboriginal history of the Bathurst area and would like to register an interest, please provide your name and contact details to:

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage
P.O. Box 3132, Redfern NSW 2016 | info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au | Phone: 0410 686 309
Please respond by COB Monday 10th October 2023.

PH0007913

Notification of Consultation Meeting (4.2.1)

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Invitation

Bathurst Health Service Redevelopment, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst.
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation: Presentation of information about the proposed project

In accordance with 4.2 of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, your Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) is invited to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed project. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the presentation of the proposed archaeological methodology and to gather cultural information about the study area. An agenda for the meeting follows.

Date: Wednesday 25th October 2023

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: On site at Bathurst Health Service Heritage Building - Conference Room 2.

Please RSVP by C.O.B. 23rd October 2023 to

Tory Stening
P.O. Box 3132, Redfern NSW 2016
Phone: 0410 686 309
Email: info@unearthedarchaeology.com.au

Yours faithfully



Tory Stening
Director/Archaeologist/Project Manager

Unearthed

Archaeology & Heritage

Agenda

Bathurst Health Service Redevelopment, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation: Presentation of information about the proposed project

Purpose: Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with 4.2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*. The requirements state that community consultation “must be an open and honest two-way communication process between the proponents and Aboriginal people who have cultural heritage knowledge relevant to the proposed project area”. A record of this meeting, including agreed outcomes, will be provided to all Registered Aboriginal Parties.

Date: Wednesday 25th October 2023

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: On site at Bathurst Health Service Heritage Building - Conference Room 2.

AGENDA

1. Welcome to/Acknowledgment of Country, Introduction, and outline of purpose of meeting
2. Outline of project by TPG and Health Infrastructure NSW
3. Aboriginal archaeological assessment findings, including results of 2006 Aboriginal test excavations
4. Presentation of proposed archaeological methodology
5. Open forum to discuss proposed archaeological methodology
6. Discussion of Aboriginal significance of the area, including contemporary significance
7. Artefact management
8. Open forum to discuss any issues of concern
9. Any other business/issues
10. Site Visit
11. Close

Minutes of Meeting (4.2.3)

Minutes of Meeting – Bathurst Health Service Redevelopment Project

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010

Meeting held on site at the Bathurst Health Service, 361 Howick Street, Bathurst, NSW on Wednesday 25th October 2023.

Meeting opened at 3.00pm

Attendees:

- Tory Stening, Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage.
- Andrew Neill, TSA.
- Ashleigh Marsland, Western NSW LHD.
- Annabel Dunlop, Health Infrastructure NSW.
- Amy Wells, Western NSW LHD.



Please note: The requirements state that community consultation “must be an open and honest two-way communication process between the proponents and Aboriginal people who have cultural heritage knowledge relevant to the proposed project area”.

Business:

- Acknowledgement of Country/Introduction
Tory Stening gave an Acknowledgement of Country and outlined the purpose of the meeting.
- Outline of Project
Andrew Neill provided an outline of the reasons for the project, the proposed areas of works and other project information. He explained that a preferred master planning option has been approved by the Ministry of Health and that investigations in respect of the project had commenced and design was ongoing. Health NSW stated that extensive consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders has been undertaken to date for this project and that consultation is ongoing.
- Results of the Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment and AHMS 2006 Aboriginal Test Excavations
Tory explained that she had undertaken an Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment of the proposed redevelopment. During the preparation of the Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment, a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) on 14th July 2023 indicated that there is a registered Aboriginal site within the grounds of Bathurst Health Service. The site (AHIMS 44-3-0144) is named “Bathurst Base Hospital PAD” and the AHIMS search indicates that a permit was issued for this site. A copy of the site card is not available from AHIMS, however a copy of the test excavation report was obtained.

The *Bathurst Base Hospital: Aboriginal Test Excavation Report* (AHMS 2006) shows that 15 Aboriginal test trenches of varying sizes were excavated across the Bathurst Hospital site in 2006. Excavation of each trench

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was undertaken by machine to remove overlying historic fills and where natural topsoils, i.e. A horizon soils, were encountered, a 1 x 1m test trench was excavated by hand in 10cm spits. Excavation was ceased when compact weathered granite soils were encountered (AHMS 2006:22). The report demonstrates that the upper layer of the natural topsoil (A1 horizon) was not present anywhere on the site and that (A2 horizon) was encountered in only six of the 15 test trenches dug across the Bathurst Health Service site. Remnant A2 horizon topsoil was only encountered on the “the lower slopes in the north and east corners of the site furthest away from the hospital buildings” (AHMS 2006:32). The Aboriginal test excavation report indicates that approximately “57.1 cubic metres of deposit was removed during the investigation and of this amount only 0.8 cubic metres consisted of soil with potential to contain Aboriginal objects (1.4% of the total amount). A copy of the test excavation plan showing the location of Aboriginal test trenches was provided to all attendees.

The Aboriginal archaeological test excavations did not uncover any Aboriginal objects or any other evidence of Aboriginal occupation, which appears to be “a direct result of historic modification to the original ground surface, namely the removal of original topsoil that may have contained Aboriginal objects. As a result of their Aboriginal archaeological test excavations, AHMS stated that “the site currently has no Public or Scientific significance with regard to Aboriginal heritage” (AHMS 2006:35). AHIMS 44-3-0144 has since been deregistered as an Aboriginal site by Heritage NSW.

- **Presentation of Proposed Archaeological Management Recommendations**

Tory outlined that in light of the results of the 2006 Aboriginal test excavations, it had been determined that it was highly unlikely that the proposed redevelopment would impact on any Aboriginal objects. Tory explained that archaeological excavation was not being proposed. It was discussed that the project is being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) and therefore it was anticipated that there would be a condition to undertake consultation in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 and to provide the results of that consultation in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).

As such, the present consultation is being undertaken and an ACHAR will be prepared in respect of the proposed works.

- **Open Forum to Discuss Issues**

█ asked if any geotechnical testing had been undertaken and if that testing matched the results of the 2006 Aboriginal archaeological test excavations. Andrew stated that geotechnical testing had been undertaken and that testing did support the results of the 2006 excavations.

█ discussed the need for Connecting with Country (CwC) considerations in a project like this. It was explained by Annabel Dunlop that extensive consultation is being undertaken in respect of this project with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group.

█ expressed that there should be aftercare options that support the needs of different cultures, including Aboriginal people. She stated that she wished, after the birth of her baby, that she had the opportunity to bury the afterbirth on country where the child was born. █ spoke of the importance to Aboriginal people to have your feet touch the dirt. █ expressed that plants used in the landscaping should be native, endemic species, and that a native garden can provide food resources for the underprivileged.

Colours used in the development should be natural, ochre, earth tones and materials used should be local. Stone from outside of the area should not be used in the development.

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█ expressed that due to the displacement and dispossession suffered by the Aboriginal people of Bathurst, that a wide variety of Aboriginal languages could be used in naming and wayfinding to acknowledge the displacement of the people.

█ asked about the percentage of Aboriginal presentations through the hospital. It was explained that since 2021, 17% of patients that have been through Bathurst Health Service have identified as Aboriginal.

- Discussion of Aboriginal significance of the area
The cultural significance of the study area was discussed. It was raised by Health NSW that during their discussions with the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group, a part of the Bathurst Health Service site had been a women's site. The Wiradjuri Aboriginal Elders Group have expressed that despite the heavy disturbance and the removal of any evidence of the women's site during the ongoing development of the hospital, it is of high significance to the Aboriginal community of the area. Health NSW stated that they are working toward some kind of interpretation of the women's site in the redevelopment.

█ stated that all of country is significant to Aboriginal people whether there are Aboriginal objects present or not.

- Other business/issues
The meeting was opened to see if anyone had any other business, issues or questions. No issues or concerns were raised.
- Site visit
As the meeting was held on site, this gave all RAPs the opportunity to inspect the project site. Following the meeting Health NSW and the project team took all attendees around the site to inspect the areas of proposed disturbance. Everyone agreed that the site has been heavily disturbed throughout its history.

Meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Appendix C: Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment Report

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Bathurst Health Service Redevelopment Project

Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment

Prepared by:	Tory Stening
Report to:	Health Infrastructure NSW
LGA:	Bathurst Regional Council
Date:	November 2023
Version:	C.2023.1086
AHIMS No.:	

Version	Project Number: UA/1086.HINSW	
A.1086	Author(s):	Tory Stening
	Date:	13 th July 2023
	Status:	Draft
B.1086	Author(s):	Tory Stening
	Date:	3 rd November 2023
	Status:	Draft
C.1086	Author(s):	Tory Stening
	Date:	23 rd November 2023
	Status:	Final

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Executive Summary

The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services. Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage were engaged by Health Infrastructure NSW to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment. This Aboriginal archaeological assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010) and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011).

The site inspection was undertaken on 15th June 2023 and the whole of the study area was inspected on foot with particular attention being paid to the historic topography and the disturbance from European development. No Aboriginal objects or sites were recorded during the site inspection. An AHIMS search dated 14th June 2023 (Appendix A: AHIMS Extensive Search – 14th July 2023) indicates that one Aboriginal site has previously been registered within the grounds of the Bathurst Health Service.

That site (AHIMS 44-3-0144) is listed as a PAD and the AHIMS search indicates that a permit in respect of this site has previously been issued. Archaeological test excavations were undertaken in 2006 (AHMS 2006) in respect of the reconfiguration of Bathurst Base Hospital, which included: the demolition of 10 buildings in the northern and north western portions of the site; construction of a new loading dock and access from Howick Street; construction of a new Main Health Service building, car parking and a service area; demolition of 1950s and 1970s additions to the heritage listed old Bathurst Hospital building; and construction of a new access road from Mitre Street and associated car parking. The Aboriginal archaeological test excavations did not uncover any Aboriginal objects or any other evidence of Aboriginal occupation, which appears to be “a direct result of historic modification to the original ground surface, namely the removal of original topsoil that may have contained Aboriginal objects. As a result of their Aboriginal archaeological test excavations, AHMS stated that “the site currently has no Public or Scientific significance with regard to Aboriginal heritage” (AHMS 2006:35).

As a result of discussions with Nicole Davis, Manager Assessments at Heritage NSW, in respect of this project, she updated the site status for AHIMS 44-3-0144 to “Not a Site” on 21st July 2023. A further AHIMS Extensive Search on 24th July 2023 (Appendix B: AHIMS Extensive Search –) confirmed that the status had been updated to “Not a Site”.

The study area is comprised of a hospital site. The old Bathurst Hospital heritage listed building is located on the corner of Howick and Mitre Streets at the highest point of the Bathurst Health Service grounds. The site has been subjected to ongoing development and redevelopment since the early 19th century.

The present proposal comprises the demolition of portions of the Main Health Services building at the south eastern end on the Mitre Street frontage and on the south western end on the Commonwealth Street frontage. The proposed construction will include new additions to the south eastern end of the Main Services Health building at the Mitre Street frontage and the south western end of the Main Services Health building on the Commonwealth Street frontage, as well as an addition to the north western side of the heritage listed old Bathurst Hospital building.

Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken in 2006 (AHMS 2006) have demonstrated that any remnant topsoil, Aboriginal objects or other evidence of Aboriginal occupation that may once have been present in the study area have been removed, likely by the ongoing historical development of the study area. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposed works will have any impact on any Aboriginal objects or any evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

1. There is no objection to the proposed redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service on Aboriginal archaeological grounds.

2. No Aboriginal objects were recorded during the site inspection. Extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken across the study area in 2006 indicate that there is very little remnant topsoil remaining in the study area and no Aboriginal objects were uncovered. Therefore, it is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological deposits exist within the study area or would be impacted upon by the proposed redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service.
3. No further investigation in respect of Aboriginal archaeology is required.
4. If, during the proposed works, any Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

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Appendix A: AHIMS Extensive Search – 14th July 2023 _____ **38**

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1.0 Background Information

1.1 Introduction

The NSW Government and Health Infrastructure NSW are proposing the redevelopment of the Bathurst Health Service (BHS), which includes Bathurst Hospital, Daffodil Cottage and community health services.

Unearthed Archaeology & Heritage were engaged by Health Infrastructure NSW to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment. This Aboriginal archaeological assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010) and the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011).

1.2 Study Area Location

Bathurst Health Service is located at 361 Howick Street, West Bathurst. It comprises the entire city block bound by Commonwealth Street to the north west, Durham Street to the north east, Mitre Street to the south east and Howick Street to the south west. It has been/is also known as Bathurst Hospital, Bathurst Base Hospital and Old Bathurst Hospital. It comprises 100//1126063 and is situated within the Bathurst Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA).

Figure 1 below shows the location of Bathurst. Figure 2 shows the location of Bathurst Health Service on the street map. Figure 3 shows Bathurst Health Service on the aerial photograph.

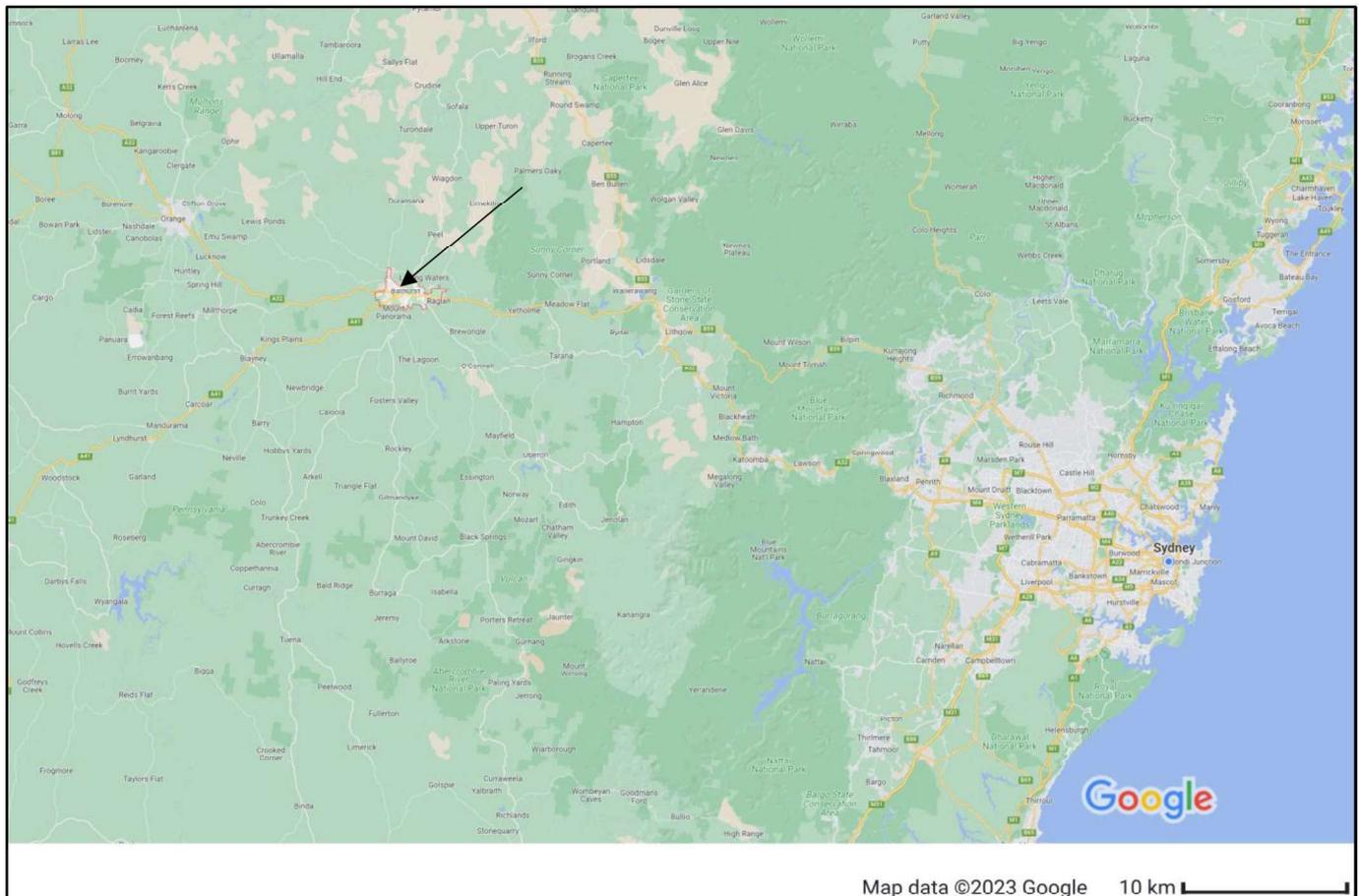


Figure 1: Showing the location of Bathurst outlined in red and indicated by the arrow (map courtesy of Google Maps).

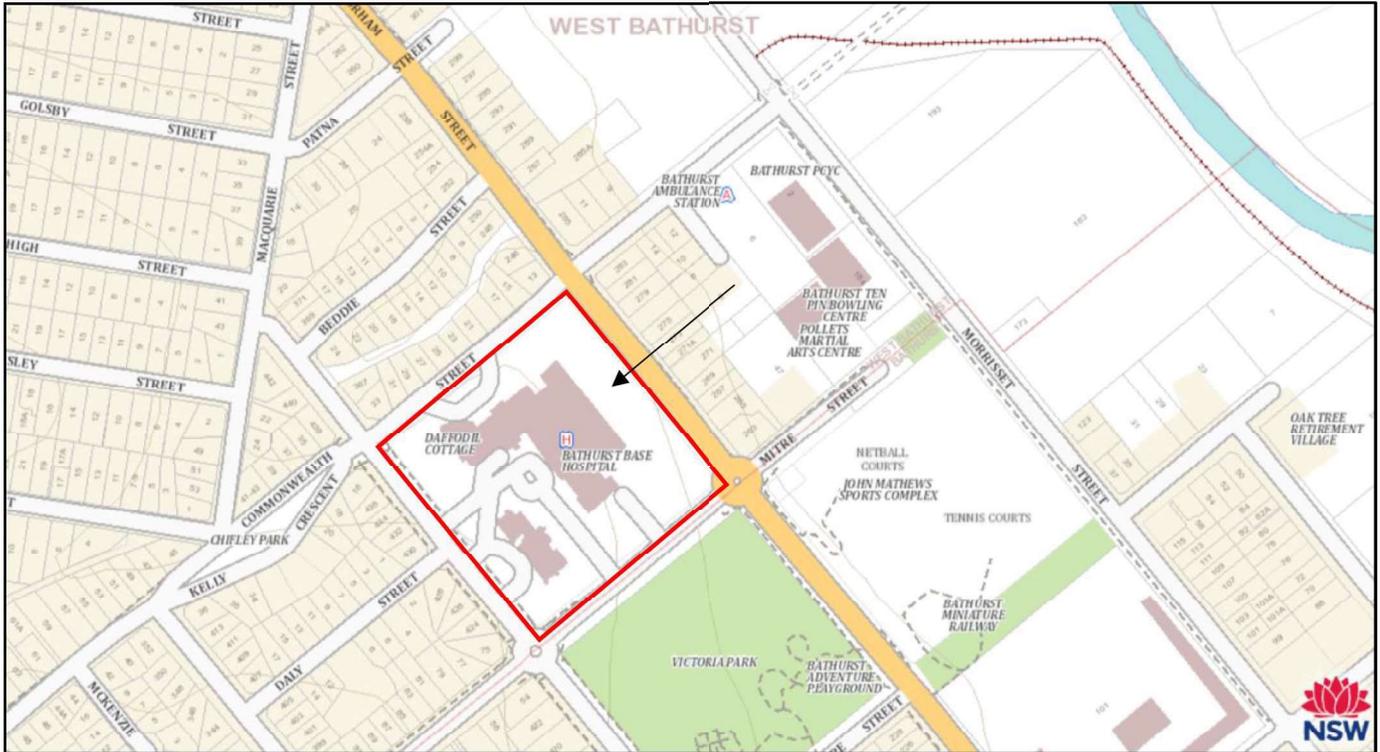


Figure 2: Showing the location of Bathurst Health Service outlined in red and indicated by the arrow (map courtesy of www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au).



Figure 3: Showing Bathurst Health Service on the aerial photograph (aerial courtesy of www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au).

1.3 Proposed Works

A preferred master planning option has been approved by the Ministry of Health. Figure 4 and Figure 5 below show the proposed expansion zones on the preferred master planning option.

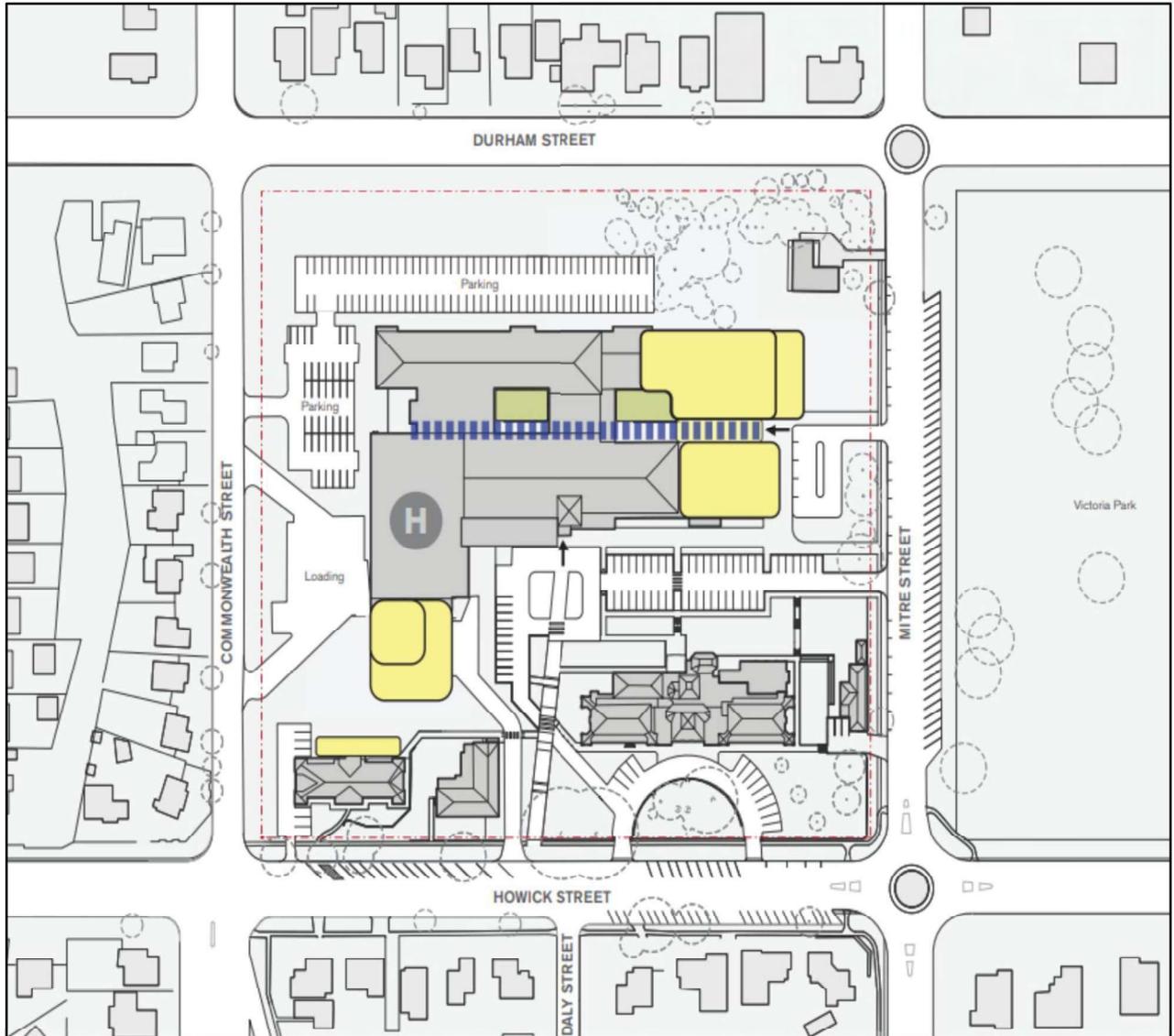


Figure 4: The preferred master planning option approved by the Ministry of Health. The plan shows proposed expansion zones (plan courtesy of Billiard Leece Partnership).

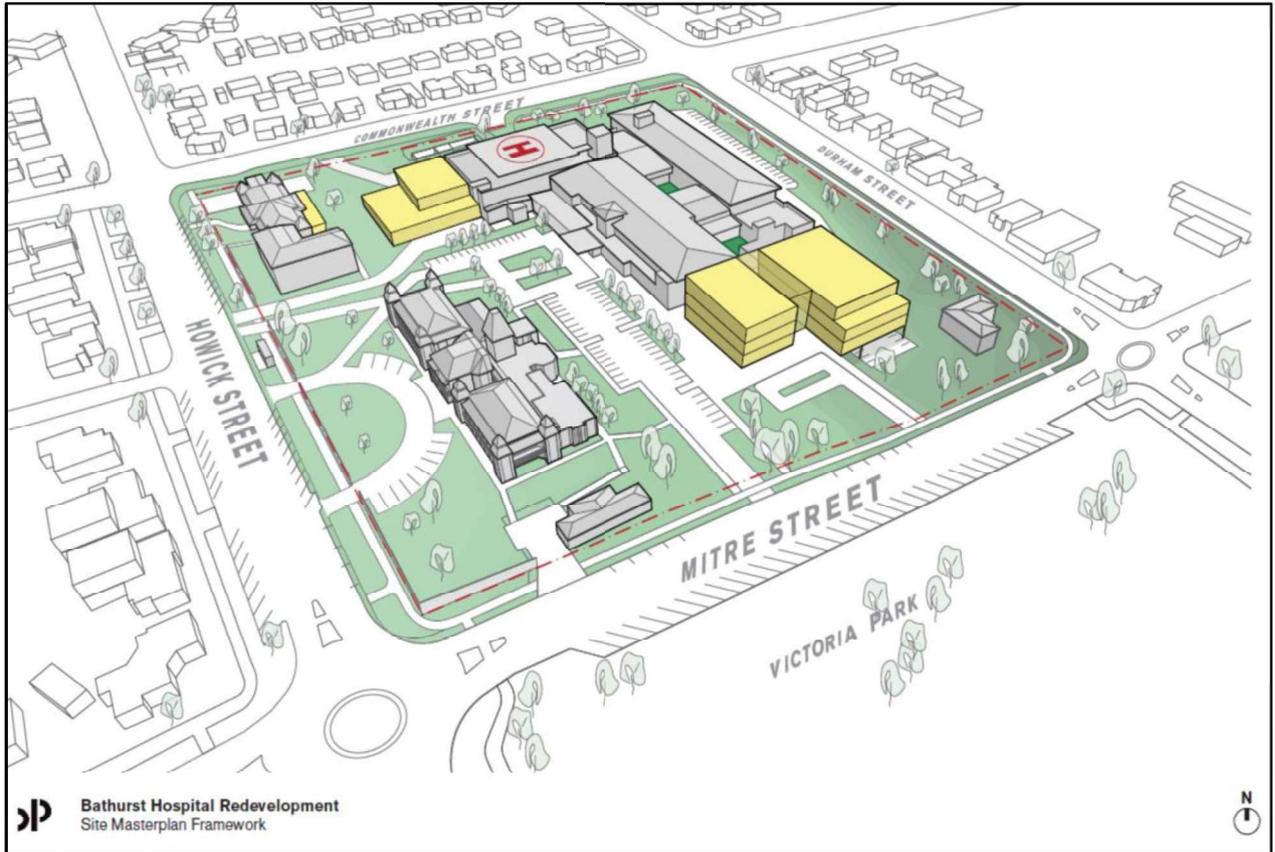


Figure 5: Bathurst Health Service Redevelopment 3D perspective preferred master planning option approved by the Ministry of Health. This plan shows proposed expansion zones (plan courtesy of Billiard Leece Partnership).

2.0 Aboriginal History

2.1 Authorship

The following history is taken directly from the *Bathurst Regional Local Government Area: Aboriginal Heritage Study* (Extent 2017:25–31).

2.2 Wiradjuri People, Wiradjuri Country

When Europeans first ventured over the Blue Mountains onto the Bathurst Plains in 1813, they were entering the country of the Wiradjuri nation. The Wiradjuri lived in extended family groupings – or clans – of around thirty to fifty men, women and children. They moved between different campsites across their traditional lands, occasionally converging with other clans to trade, hunt, fight, feast, arrange marriages, resolve disputes and share information. The interactive map includes details of a gathering of around 150 Wiradjuri people at Brucedale Station in 1826, at which ‘Saturday’ (Windradyne) and ‘Magpie’ (the Mudgee chief) sat with their families ‘round a number of small fires’, singing. On another occasion, in January 1816, a large group of ‘117 men, women, and children came down to Bathurst Plains, on the north side of Macquarie River, opposite the settlement’ to feast (Sydney Gazette, 3 February 1816). Barron Field and George Suttor, writing in 1822 and 1826 respectively, estimated the extent of each clan’s territory to be around ‘thirty to forty miles’ (Field 1825: 432; *The Australian*, 14 October 1826). The immediate vicinity of Bathurst was divided amongst at least three clans each with their own distinct practices, diets, dress and dialects (Pearson 1981).

The Interactive Wiradjuri Heritage Map reveals a landscape criss-crossed with Aboriginal paths, many of which later became roads. The route that Gregory Blaxland, William Wentworth, and William Lawson famously took to cross the Blue Mountains in 1813 probably followed an existing Aboriginal path. Over successive days – on 27, 28, and 29 May – Blaxland wrote in his journal of a ‘camp of natives’ who ‘moved before’ the explorers ‘about three miles’. On 31 May he recorded the ‘traces’ they had left in their wake, in the ‘fires they had left the day before, and in the flowers of the honeysuckle tree scattered around, which had supplied them with food’ (Blaxland 27-31 May 1813). Before picking up this path, on 25 and 26 May, the party progressed at the rate of 3.5 and 2.75 miles a day. After noticing the travelling group of Aboriginal people, they were able to move much faster, covering 5.25 and 5.75 miles on 27 and 28 May. This suggests that the Blue Mountains, far from being an impenetrable barrier until ‘conquered’ by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, were, in fact, quite permeable. Such paths formed part of an intricate network of exchange that reached across the country. Songs and stories preserve these trading routes and Dreaming tracks, while archaeological evidence shows the extent of this network. For example, stone axe heads crafted from stone on the edge of the Oberon plateau are found across the wider Bathurst region (Gemmell-Smith 2004: 14-15).

Through this network of trade and information, stories of Europeans reached the Wiradjuri long before the settlers arrived. When John Oxley surveyed the course of the Lachlan River in 1817 he recorded an encounter near Eugowra ‘with a small tribe of natives, consisting of eight men’, who ‘had either seen or heard of white people before’, despite Oxley’s expedition being the first European foray that far west (Oxley, 1820: 5 May 1817). His party also encountered Aboriginal men and women ‘acquainted with fire-arms’ (Lee, 1925: 25 April 1817). Missionary James Backhouse was amazed by the speed and sophistication of communication along these networks. On 23 October 1835 he encountered Aboriginal people in Richmond who knew of his brief visit to Wellington, over 300 kilometres away: ‘Our persons, costume, and many other particulars, including our manner of communicating religious instruction, had been minutely described’ (Backhouse 1843: 339).

Disease was also carried swiftly throughout this network. George Suttor lamented the impact of European diseases on a people who ‘seem generally to enjoy good health’: ‘among other evils brought upon them by the Colonists, is that horrid v[enereal] disease; and it is to be feared it will entail lasting misery upon them, as they may long suffer without a remedy. I have seen some of these poor creatures shocking objects from it’ (The Australian, 14 October 1826). After the establishment of the township of Bathurst outbreaks of smallpox, tuberculosis, influenza and venereal disease continued to devastate the Wiradjuri population.

The primary sources offer only glimpses of the ceremonial life of these Aboriginal communities. Europeans recorded some Aboriginal customs, such as the avulsion of teeth and ‘scarifications’ of certain initiated men, and the possum skins that women stretched out on their laps to beat out rhythms during ceremonies and dances. However, due to the secrecy surrounding ceremonial events, there are serious limitations to even the most richly described accounts in the ethnographic record. Many of these rituals live on in the contemporary culture of Wiradjuri people.

The Wiradjuri fished from canoes and hunted with spears and nets for ducks, kangaroos, goannas, emus, platypuses, wallabies and tortoises. Their staple foods included plant resources, such as roots and yams, as well as grubs, which the women dug from earth with long wooden tools (Oxley 1820). They collected ants’ eggs and mussels, captured lizards and snakes, and harvested large moths, which, when roasted, tasted to the Europeans ‘not unlike new bread’ (Backhouse 1843: 318–19). They lured and trapped birds with elaborate hides and extracted native honey from the hollow limbs of trees ‘which they drink when mixed with water’ (Backhouse 1843: 318-319). They chased possums up trees ‘by cutting little notches in them, into which they fix their hands or feet’. The possums were clubbed and then ‘expertly’ skinned to ‘make very warm cloaks, or mantles, large enough to cover their whole persons, neatly sewed together with a bone needle and the strings from the tails of the opossums. In the winter season they put the fur side next their bodies – in the summer it is reversed’ (The Australian, 14 October 1826). Aboriginal wells were also scattered across the countryside, often linking rivers and waterholes. These wells ‘evidently dug by the natives’ were readily exploited by the Europeans in their conquest of Wiradjuri country (Oxley 1820: 3 June 1817).

Fire was a constant presence in early Bathurst, from the patches of ‘bare and naked’ country recently ‘fired by natives’ to the columns of campfire smoke ‘arising in every quarter’ on the horizon (Lee 1925: 23 April 1817; Oxley 1820: 6 May 1817). The first Australians became known as the ‘fire-makers’ (Cox 15 September 1814). The Wiradjuri used fire to open paths and to clean country; to drive animals into the paths of hunters and then to cook the kill; to keep warm at night and to carry as a torch the next day; to treat wood, melt resin and crack stone for tools; to gather around and dance and share stories. The interactive map gives us an insight into local Wiradjuri burning regimes, suggesting a connection to the land and an understanding of the seasons that the settlers could not fathom.

2.3 Invasion

The earliest settlers rarely encountered the Wiradjuri people, instead observing their ‘traces’ in the landscape: fires and hearths, bark huts and broken canoes, blackened shells and burial mounds, stone arrangements and notches in trees. Carved trees found at the junction of the Macquarie and Campbell Rivers at O’Connell can now be seen on display in the Bathurst Historical Museum. Bora rings, where initiations and other important ceremonies were held, marked the river valleys and mountain tops, and stone monuments associated with men’s business were encountered across the Bathurst Plains, including at Mount Pleasant where Major Henry Colden Antill observed in 1815 ‘a great quantity of loose stones of a peculiar kind ... thrown into heaps, as if placed there by the hands of men’ (Antill 1978: 85-86).

The British built a road across the Blue Mountains in 1814 and established a settlement at Bathurst the following year. The early relationships between the Wiradjuri and the settlers were relatively peaceful, supported by Governor Macquarie's 'strict injunction to treat [the Wiradjuri] kindly, to put no restraint upon their movements, but to let them come and go when they thought proper' (Antill 1978:83). On his visit to the site of Bathurst in May 1815, Macquarie met and traded with many Wiradjuri men and children. He described them as 'very like those in the Neighbourhood of Sydney, tho' rather better looking and Stronger Made... they Appear perfectly harmless and Inoffensive, and not at all Warlike, few of them Carrying any Weapons Whatever, but merely a Stone Instrument like an Axe' [sic] (Macquarie 1916:609).

Macquarie carefully controlled early settlement in the Bathurst district and reserved most of the fertile plains to run government sheep and cattle. By 1820 the European population of the area was only 114. Most of these settlers, 75, were convicts who worked as shepherds and stockmen, with a few officials and soldiers to oversee them. When Macquarie's term ended in 1821 the new Governor, Thomas Brisbane, issued a spate of land grants and grazing permits that allowed intensive settlement to begin. Settlers poured over the mountains. The population of Bathurst grew to one thousand by 1825 and doubled to two thousand by 1828 (Roberts 2014).

Dispossession was swift. The very nature of the geography helped facilitate European conquest. The settlers used the rich grasslands of the Bathurst Plains for sheep and cattle, with combined numbers of stock increasing from 33,733 in 1821 to 113,973 in 1825 (Connor 2005:55). By 1825, the region accounted for 40% of the colony's sheep (Roberts 2014: 247). The hooves did their damage: the native grasslands were destroyed, while fences and paper boundaries imposed a new order on the bush. As the Sydney Gazette reported on 8 January 1824, in a light-hearted tone, 'the natives urge that the white men have driven away all the kangaroos and opossums, and that black men must now eat beef!' (Sydney Gazette, 8 January 1824). As historian Michael Pearson laments, 'Amusing as this may have appeared to the editors of the day, there was more truth to the claim than the writer knew' (Pearson 1984:74).

The Bathurst Plains could no longer accommodate two cultures without hostility. The Wiradjuri were pushed off their land and denied access to resources and sacred sites. They resisted the invasion by dispersing and hunting herds of sheep and cattle, and occasionally attacking and killing stockmen infringing on their land. Sporadic conflict was recorded on the Cudgegong River in February 1822 and later that year shepherds had abandoned their huts west of Bathurst, due to the 'recent plunder on the part of the native Indians' (Field 1825: 17 October 1822). Soldiers garrisoned remote properties, and absentee landlords distributed guns into the hands of their shepherds. W.H. Suttor, who was a child at the time of the Bathurst War, recalled poisoned flour being 'left purposely exposed in shepherds' huts in order to tempt the blacks to steal and to eat. They did eat, and died in horrible agony. No wonder reprisals took place' (Suttor 1887:65). The major events in what became known as the Bathurst War are plotted on the Interactive Wiradjuri Heritage Map.

One of the Wiradjuri clan leaders, Windradyne, known to the settlers as 'Saturday', led attacks against settlers at Millah Murrrah, Warren Gunyah and The Mill Post, north of Bathurst, in May 1824 (Salisbury and Gresser 1971:22). The settlers responded with violence, rapidly escalating the conflict through random killings of Wiradjuri people. In June 1824 five European men were arrested for killing three Wiradjuri women on the O'Connell Plains and were put on trial for manslaughter. All five were acquitted, but these legal proceedings provide the best picture from the fragmentary historical sources of the extent of the violence on the Bathurst frontier in the months before the declaration on martial law. By August 1824, William Cox concluded that 'the natives may now be called at war with the Europeans' (Sydney Gazette, 12 August 1824).

Within a week of the acquittal of the five men, on August 14 1824, Governor Brisbane issued a proclamation of martial law:

WHEREAS THE ABORIGINAL NATIVES of the Districts near Bathurst have for many Weeks past carried on a Series of indiscriminate Attacks on the Stock Station there, putting some of the Keepers to cruel Deaths, wounding others, and dispersing and plundering the Flocks and Herds; themselves not escaping sanguinary Retaliations. AND WHEREAS the ordinary Powers of the CIVIL MAGISTRATES (although most anxiously exerted) have failed to protect the Lives of HIS MAJESTY'S Subjects; and every conciliatory Measure has been pursued in vain; and the Slaughter of Black Women and Children and Unoffending White Men, as well as of the lawless Objects of Terror, continue to threaten the before mentioned Districts; AND WHEREAS by Experience, it hath been found that mutual Bloodshed may be stopped by the Use of Arms against the Natives beyond the ordinary Rule of Law in Time of Peace, and for this End Resort to summary Justice has become necessary: NOW THEREFORE, by Virtue of the Authority in me vested by His Majesty's Royal Commission, I do declare, in Order to restore Tranquillity, MARTIAL LAW TO BE IN ALL THE COUNTRY WESTWARD OF MOUNT YORK...

(Salisbury and Gresser, 1971: Appendix C).

With civil law thus suspended and violence officially sanctioned, the death toll rose dramatically. Brisbane despatched 75 soldiers to systematically roam the Bathurst region with orders to keep the Wiradjuri 'in a constant state of alarm' (Salisbury and Gresser 1971: 31). On 14 September 1824, the Reverend William Walker estimated in a letter that 'not fewer than a hundred blacks, men, women and children, have been butchered' (Salisbury and Gresser 1971: 32). The Sydney Gazette described the conflict as 'an exterminating war' (14 October 1824). Throughout October and November, the Wiradjuri gradually surrendered to the Bathurst settlement in groups of up to 60 (Sydney Gazette, 28 October 1824). Martial law was repealed on 11 December 1824.

On 28 December 1824, Windradyne made his first public appearance in many months to attend the Governor's Annual Conference in Parramatta. He 'wore a straw hat, on which was affixed a label with the word 'PEACE' inserted, besides a little branch representing the olive' (Sydney Gazette, 20 December 1824). The Sydney Gazette described him as:

... one of the finest looking natives we have seen in this part of the country. He is not particularly tall but much stouter and more proportionable limbed than the majority of his countrymen; which combined with a noble looking countenance and piercing eye, are calculated to impress the beholder with other than disagreeable feelings towards a character who has been so much dreaded by the Bathurst settler. Saturday is, without doubt, the most manly native we have ever beheld (Sydney Gazette, 20 December 1824).

The details of the Bathurst war remain hazy, but W.H. Suttor recalled that under martial law 'blacks were shot down without any respect ... When martial law had run its course extermination is the word that most aptly describes the result' (Suttor 1887:65).



Figure 6: John Lewin 'Native Chief at Bathurst', (sketched while Macquarie was in Bathurst in 1815), appears in John Oxley, Journals of two expeditions into the interior of New South Wales (London: John Murray 1820). This painting depicts the great Wiradjuri leader, Windradyne.

2.4 Surviving Between Two Worlds

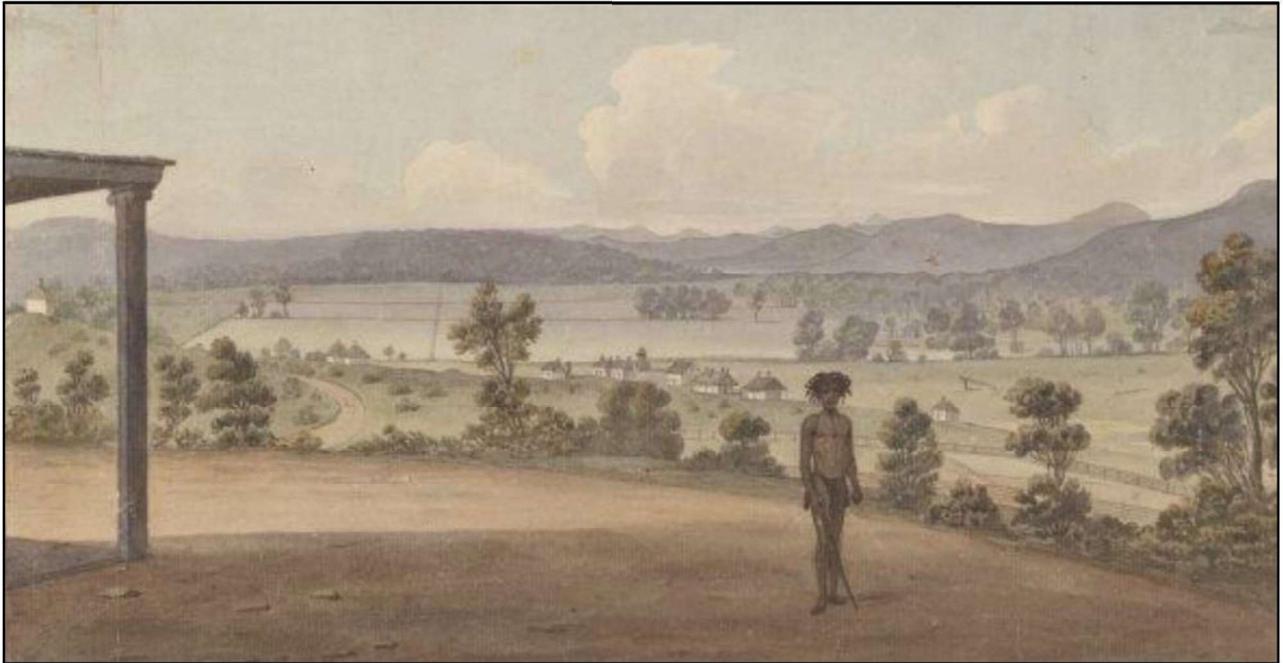


Figure 7: Augustus Earle, *Wellington Valley, New South Wales, looking east from Government House, 1826*, watercolour, Rex Nan Kivell Collection; NK12/24. ANL.

With the loss of access to their hunting grounds and sacred sites, and with a significantly diminished population, the Wiradjuri were no longer able to live independently of the growing settler society. The clans dispersed, with some staying in the Bathurst area while others moved between settlements along the rivers living in camps on the fringes of stations and towns, where disease and alcohol took their toll. Jane Piper recalled a large camp near 'Westbourne' on the outskirts of Bathurst in the 1830s:

Their shelters consisted of two sheets of bark, under which a black and his woman slept at night. The men provided the food consisting of opossum, lizard, snake, and other delicacies. The women cooked it by throwing it on red-hot coals, skinned but not disembowelled. When cooked it was laid on a piece of bark and the man sat down to it on the ground, his woman seated at his back. He tore the food to pieces with his fingers, and threw the bones over his shoulder to his woman (Piper 2015).

During the 1830s and 1840s many Wiradjuri lived on and around the Wellington Mission north-west of Bathurst. Here missionary James Günther compiled an extensive grammar and vocabulary of Wiradjuri language, which has since become an invaluable source for cultural revival (Read 1988: 18).

Wiradjuri men, women and children made significant contributions to the new settler economy. The Bathurst War was followed by another violent period in the region's history, and free settlers were left to rue the number of firearms that had been distributed to their convict servants. Many of these armed convicts became bushrangers, and, ironically, the Government sought out the skills and expertise of Aboriginal trackers to hunt them down (Lowe 2000:17).

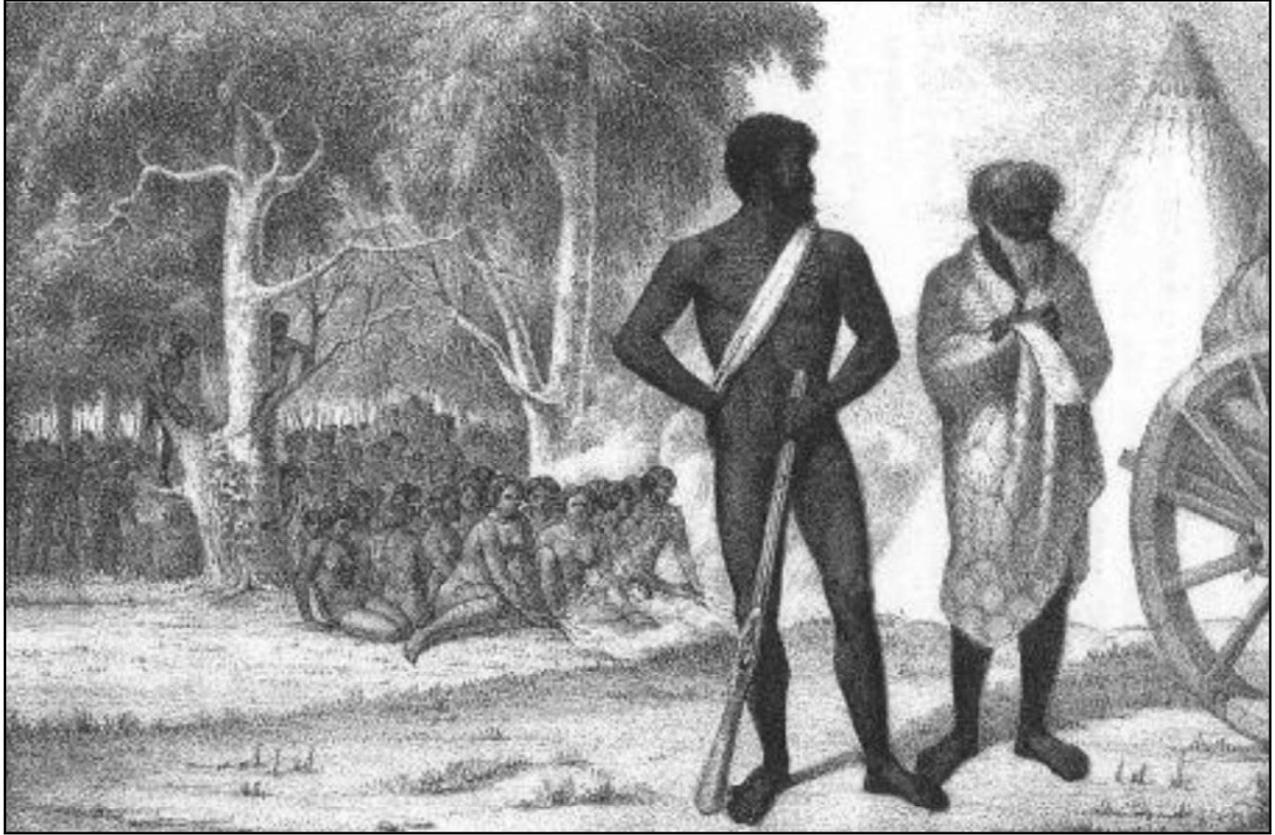


Figure 8: *Piper Watching the Cart at Benaree*, Major T.L. Mitchell del. Waldeck Lith J. Graf Printer to Her Majesty. Published by T. and W. Boone, London.

Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General of NSW, relied heavily on a Bathurst Wiradjuri man, John Piper, as a guide, interpreter and adviser during his 2,700km journey to Victoria in 1836. Piper and five other Wiradjuri people found water throughout the expedition, made and used canoes to ferry provisions, caught fish and hunted possums and guided the party through remote and unfamiliar country. Mitchell was constantly impressed by his companion's energy and ingenuity, reflecting on 19 June 1836: 'the intelligence and skill of our [Wiradjuri] friends made the "white-fellow" appear rather stupid' (Mitchell 1965: 19 June 1836).

Aboriginal labour also played an understated role on the goldfields, after the gold-rush in the mid nineteenth century brought thousands of new settlers onto the Bathurst Plains (Cahir 2012). The discovery of Kerr's nugget and the Tambaroora gold field, for example, are attributed to the efforts of individual Wiradjuri (NSW Department of Primary Industries, 2007:1). Local Wiradjuri were also a part of everyday life on the Ophir gold fields, selling bark for huts, looking after horses and guiding prospectors across the land (Jones and Cook 2007:1).

From 1883 onwards 'protection' policies were implemented which aimed to break up fringe camps and segregate Aboriginal people across New South Wales (Read 1988:29). The new Aboriginal Protection Board had the power to forcibly remove people from their traditional lands onto state reserves. While no reserves were established in the Bathurst LGA itself, Wiradjuri people were likely sent to reserves in nearby Eugowra (AR 9386, from 1889), Forbes (AR 43462/3, 1909-1915), Wellington (AR 45426/7 and AR 87975, from 1910), or Spring Flat (AR 80144, 1957-1964) (Thinee and Bradford 1998:353362). Across NSW, the reserves had few services and poor sanitation. White administrators controlled the movement, income, property, education and even marriages of the Wiradjuri who lived on these reserves. Until 1972, government policies allowed for the forcible removal of children from their families, dislocating several generations from their culture and traditions.

Historian Peter Read in *A Hundred Years War* writes of the gradual revival of Wiradjuri culture from a low point of the 1920s. He identifies a turning point in the 1930s and 1940s ‘when sufficient Aborigines ceased to think their Aboriginality was inferior, even shameful, and soon to become extinct, and came to believe instead that Aboriginality should and would survive’ (Read 1988: xiv-xv). He writes of the early Aboriginal rights activists of the 1930s and 1940s who published in the *Abo Call*, and who organised a national day of mourning on 26 January 1938. But the significance of the words and actions of these Indigenous leaders did not mature until the 1960s.

In 1965 an Aboriginal university student, Charles Perkins, led a bus of Sydney University students around country New South Wales to protest the widespread discrimination against Indigenous Australians. It became known as the Freedom Ride. The bus passed through Bathurst on 12 February 1965 on its way to Wellington, where the Freedom Riders saw firsthand the poor conditions endured by Wiradjuri people. Ann Curthoys wrote of the experience in her diary on 13 February:

Houses of tin, mud floors, very overcrowded, kids had eye diseases, had to cart water (very unhealthy) from river. People fairly easy to talk to, kids quite friendly. General picture of extreme poverty but not a great deal of social discrimination. General picture of scarcity, of jobs. Mainly garden work, which is very seasonal. Average of three months for year out of work. Some working on a dam nearby. Some did shearing jobs. Did not encounter or hear of any women with jobs at all. Did not seem to know much about social services etc (1965).

The Freedom Rides were part of a massive social and political awakening to discrimination against Aboriginal people throughout Australia. The 1967 referendum, which was held to determine whether two references in the Australian Constitution, which discriminated against Aboriginal people, should be removed, received the highest ‘yes’ vote ever recorded in Australian history (90.77%). Since the 1970s, and the breakdown of the reserve system, the Aboriginal population on the Bathurst Plains has grown significantly, and the Wiradjuri have become actively involved in efforts towards cultural revival. According to the 2011 census, 1,638 people – or approximately 3% of the Bathurst Regional Council population – identify as Aboriginal (ABS 2015).

3.0 Landscape and Environmental Context

3.1 Topography

Bathurst is located within the South-Eastern Highlands bioregion which extends from the Great Escarpment in the east to the western slopes of the inland drainage basins (Dunn, Sahukar, and New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service 2002:203). The South Eastern Highlands bioregion encompasses the towns of Orange, Bathurst and Lithgow in the north; Goulbourn, Queanbeyan and Yass in the centre; and Cooma, Jindabyne and Bombala in the south (Dunn et al. 2002:203). The South Eastern Highlands bioregion is comprised of the dissected ranges and plateau of the Great Dividing Range.

Bathurst Health Service is situated on the gently undulating midslope overlooking the Macquarie River. The Bathurst Health Service site is located approximately 520m to the south east of the Macquarie River. The highest point of the site of the Bathurst Health Service is approximately 30m above the height of the Macquarie River. The lowest side of the Bathurst Health Service site, it is approximately 9m above the Macquarie River.



Figure 9: Showing the location of Bathurst Health Service on the topographic map outlined in green and indicated by the arrow (top courtesy of www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au).

3.2 Geology

The geology of Bathurst is characterised by the Bathurst Granite formation with a band of Quaternary alluvium along the flood zone of the Macquarie River.

Bathurst Health Service is located on the Bathurst Granite which is comprised of a coarse grained porphyritic quartz-plagioclase-biotite granite with dykes of fine grained graphic granite and pegmatite (Pogson and Watkins 1998:249). The Bathurst Granite formation does not provide suitable raw materials for the manufacture of small tools.

3.3 Soils

Bathurst Health Service is located on the Bathurst residual soil landscape (SI5508ba). The midslope soils within the Bathurst residual soil landscape are expected to be non-calciic brown soils, which are characterised by the following soil profile:

Topsoil (A1 horizon): dark reddish to greyish yellow sandy loam with weak structure.

A2 horizon: can be present – bleached dry dull reddish brown or orange loamy sand to sandy loam.

Subsoil (B horizon): reddish brown to brown sandy clay loam, or sandy to heavy clay with moderate to strong structure.

(Kovac, Murphy, and Lawrie 2010:100–101)

The two closest soil profiles shown on eSpade are located on the northern side of the Macquarie River. These soil profiles are almost identical and indicate the following about the soils in proximity to the River:

Site Location: Alluvial plain/flat off Edgell's Road

Physiography: Levee used for cropping, aspect south west.

Soil Type: Incomplete

Soil Description:

Layer 1 (0 – 0.05m):

Horizon: A11

Texture: light clay

Colour: very dark grey (10YR 3/1) or grey (2.5YR 5/1 or 10YR5/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 0 – 5cm sampled very dark grey massive and earthy light clay

Layer 2 (0.05 – 0.2m):

Horizon: A12

Texture: medium clay

Colour: very dark grey (10YR 3/1) or dark grey (2.5YR 4/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 5 – 20cm (sampled) very dark grey massive and earthy clay

Layer 3 (0.2 – 0.42m):

Horizon: B21

Texture: medium clay

Colour: very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) or dark grey (2.5YR 4/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 20 - 42cm (sampled) dark brown structured medium clay

Layer 4 (0.42 – 0.8m):

Horizon: B22

Texture: medium clay

Colour: very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) or very dark grey (10YR 3/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 42 – 80cm (sampled) dark brown structured medium clay

Layer 5 (0.8 – 0.95m):

Horizon: B23

Texture: medium heavy clay

Colour: very dark grey (2.5YR 3/1) or dark grey (10YR 4/1)

Soil Fauna: Activity is nil

Layer notes: 80 – 95cm (not sampled) very dark grey medium heavy clay

It is considered that Aboriginal objects, if present, would be expected within the A horizons (Extent 2017:11).

Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken across the Bathurst Health Service site (AHMS 2006) indicated that no A1 horizon topsoil was recorded anywhere within the study area and that A2 horizon soil was only recorded in six of fifteen test trenches. The location of the test trenches and the nature of the soil profile is shown in Figure 11 of this report. The following soil profiles were recorded during the Aboriginal test excavations:

A2 horizon: 0 – 50cm of bleached light brown fine-grained compact silty sand. Occasional roots and charcoal flecks. Generally clean although glass, metal and gravels were introduced from overlying fill in highly disturbed areas.

B horizon: >100mm bright yellowish-brown compact weathered granite. Occasional ironstone, roots and compact clay at transition with A2 horizon. Increasingly compact with depth. Often truncated in areas where thick historic fills have been introduced.

(AHMS 2006:26)

3.4 Vegetation

Historically the study area would have been vegetated by open savannah woodland comprised of open canopied eucalypts including *Eucalyptus blakelyi* (Blakeys red gum), *E. microcarpa* (grey box), *E. elaeophloia* (bastard box), *E. bridgesiana* (apple box) and *E. dives* (broad leaved peppermint); with a understorey of sparse shrubs and a continuous grassy ground cover (Extent 2017:12).

John Oxley wrote the following description of the landscape around Wellington in 1817 as follows:

From several of the hills over which our route led us, we had the most extensive and beautiful prospects; from thirty to forty miles round, from the north to south, the country was broken in irregular low hills thinly studded with small timber, and covered with grass: the whole landscape within the compass of our view was clear and open, resembling diversified pleasure grounds irregularly laid out and planted. The animation of the whole scenery was greatly increased by the smoke of the natives' fires arising in every quarter, distinctly marking that we were in a country which afforded them ample means of subsistence; far different from the low deserts and morasses to the south-west.

(Oxley 1817)

Flowers of the many eucalypt species provide a rich nectar that was eaten by Aboriginal people and the wide variety of vegetation provided a food source for animal species, such as marsupials and birds, which are associated with the Aboriginal diet. The large trees provided bark and wood for coolamons (a shallow

carrying vessel for food or water), shields, spears and canoes (Low 1989). Freshwater sources, such as the Macquarie River, would have provided drinking water and fresh water animals for consumption, as well as attracting other animals.

3.5 Land Use History and Current Land Use

A wooden hospital building was constructed within the study area in 1824 and was destroyed by fire in 1878. The old Bathurst Hospital building was constructed in 1880 and is still standing on the site. The site has been occupied and operating as a hospital since 1880 and has undergone the expected ongoing development that would be expected on a hospital site.

Table 1 below summarises the post colonial historical development of the Bathurst Health Service between 1824 and 1932:

Date	Activity	Buildings, Additions, Alterations
1824	Opening of Convict/Military Hospital corner of Howick and Bentick Streets.	Wooden building provided.
1878	Convict/Military Hospital building destroyed by fire.	
1880	Opening of new building on Howick Street between Mitre and Commonwealth Streets.	
C.1880		Boundary fence built by contractor J.McDonald.
1882	Additions.	Laundry (£500), windmill and Swag Room.
1886	Replacement	New laundry (£1,000).
1880s	Replaced hardwood floors.	New floors.
1890	Telephone connection.	Hospital to honorary surgeons.
1890	Landscaping, Arbor Day.	Several trees planted by Mr Taylor and his son.
1893	Replacement	New roof for operating theatre.
1896	Telephone connection.	Hospital to local exchange.
1896	Inspection of grounds by Council Gardener.	Additional trees and shrubs planted at front and rear.
1904	Addition.	New operating theatre.
1906	Installation.	Hand powered lift designed by R.G. Edgell.

1921	Additions.	Isolation Building with four wards, day room and verandah.
1922	Addition.	Emergency midwifery.
1926	Installation.	Electric power and lighting throughout the hospital.
1929	Alterations.	Convert male ward in main block to Children's Ward. Build new kitchen.
1931	Alterations.	Build additional Nurses' Quarters.
1931	Additions.	Mortuary.
1932	Alterations.	Remodel first floor for paying patients.
2006	Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken by AHMS across the entire Bathurst Hospital site.	
Post 2006	Opening of large new hospital building	

Table 1: Showing the historical development of Bathurst Health Service.

4.0 Archaeological Context

4.1 Authorship

Section 4.2 of this report is taken directly from the *Bathurst Regional Local Government Area: Aboriginal Heritage Study* (Extent 2017:32–34). Sections 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 were written by Tory Stening, the author of this report.

4.2 Bathurst Regional Archaeological Context

4.2.1 Early Occupation of NSW

Aboriginal occupation of NSW spans at least 40,000 years (Stockton and Holland 1974; Nanson et al. 1987; JMcdCHM 2005:107-125), although dates of more than 40,000 years have been claimed for artefacts and human remains found in barrier sands of Lake Mungo, in the Willandra Lakes Region (Shawcross 1998; Bowler et al. 2003). The dates of these sites fall at about the beginning of the Last Glacial Maximum, a period from about 30,000 to 18,000 BP, when temperatures were between 6 °C and 10 °C cooler than they are today and rainfall was lower. At the height of the Last Glacial Period, about 21,000 BP, areas of rainforest and tall open forest contracted and areas of woodland became more extensive than in the periods before 44,000 BP and after 11,000 BP (Attenbrow 2010:37).

After this time, the climate gradually became warmer and wetter, and sea levels rose. From this period onwards, there is a more continuous archaeological record. Late Pleistocene occupation sites have been identified at Shaws Creek in the Blue Mountain foothills (14,700 BP) (Kohen et al. 1984), at the Noola rock shelter in the Capertee Valley (12,550 BP) (Tindale 1961), at Mangrove Creek and Loggers Shelter in the Sydney Basin (c.11,000 BP) (Attenbrow 1981, 2004), and at Burrill Lake on the South Coast (c.20,000 BP) (Lampert 1971).

Aboriginal occupation of the Central West region dates back at least 7,150 years, according to radiocarbon dates obtained from basal occupation deposits during archaeological excavations of the Granites 1 rock shelter, located near Bathurst (Pearson 1981:56-57).

4.2.2 Intensification During the Holocene

The Holocene spans the period from 10,000 BP through to the present. The last significant rise in sea level occurred approximately 7,000 years ago, and the level stabilised after about 6,500 years ago. Bays and estuaries formed in previous low-lying valleys and flats, and the groups living along the coast were forced inland (McDonald 2008:40). Later in the Holocene, about 3,000 years ago, the onset of an ENSO dominated climate started a trend to a drier and more variable rainfall (McDonald 2008:37).

Archaeological evidence indicates that significant and widespread changes occurred during the Holocene. Changes in lithic technology included a decline in the use of silicified tuff as the preferred raw material, and a greater use of local materials; a substantial growth, then decline, in the production and use of backed artefacts; and the introduction of ground-edged implements (with the peak period being approximately 4,000–1,000 BP). Correlations appear with respect to the archaeology of the Central West Region, however. Preliminary field observations of the lithic assemblage recovered during archaeological excavations of the Abercrombie shelter, approximately 58 km south-west of Bathurst, revealed an assemblage dominated by locally-sourced quartz with lesser (<5%) proportions of fine-grained volcanics, chert, silcrete and river pebbles. Though undated the assemblage fit broadly with the Australian Small Tool Tradition, and was characterised by retouched flakes, bladelets, burin, notches, scrapers and fabricators (Johnson 1977:36-

38). Based on a review of the archaeological evidence, J. Kelton notes that stone artefact assemblages found across the region are often consistent with pre-Bondaian technology of the terminal Pleistocene and early Holocene (Kelton 2000a:18).

There is also a considerable increase in archaeological evidence of occupation. McDonald notes a spike in artefact accumulation rates in the 9th and 8th millennia. From about 6,000 BP there was a steady increase in the number of sites being used. For instance, almost 80% of the Sydney region's radiocarbon ages date to the last 5,000 years, the number of dated sites peaks in the second millennium, and 28% of regional dates (including Bathurst) fall between 2,000 and 1,000 BP (McDonald 2008:36).

It has been argued that this is a result of increased populations and 'intensification' of cultural activity during this period. Smith et al. (2008) and Williams et al. (2010), both suggest that populations were in fact larger in the last 2,000 years than any preceding period. Using radiocarbon data and regional studies, they demonstrate that there is an increasing use of sites in all locations at this time, which cannot be explained by movement of people across the landscape, but rather points to increasing numbers of people using more of the landscape.

It is likely that the technological changes and possible population increase were accompanied by broad social changes. Hiscock and Attenbrow have suggested that the changed climate conditions after c3,000 years ago stimulated a change in foraging practice, perhaps incorporating a shift to higher mobility (McDonald 2008: 37). McDonald suggests instead that by about 4,000 BP, people occupied smaller territories and on a more permanent basis. People used residential bases and defined foraging ranges on annual and extended cycles (McDonald 2008:40).

4.2.3 Regional Site Patterns

Prior to 1979, no systematic, regional based archaeological studies had been undertaken in the Bathurst area. The only sites recorded within the region were generally done so by interested locals or amateurs. In the 1960s, Gresser, an amateur site recorder noted that the hilly land from Bathurst to the north was covered with camp sites, all of which were located on the low ridges that led down to the creeks and springs. He also noted that although sites are usually close to the creeks, they can also, albeit rarely, be found in other locations such as elevated ridge tops (OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management 2011:22).

During a pilot survey of the Lewis Ponds and Browns Creek valleys between Lucknow and Bathurst, Pearson recorded forty-two Aboriginal sites, including both isolated finds and open artefact scatters (Pearson 1979:8). Further intensive research of the Upper Macquarie Region, focusing on changes in land use and settlement patterns, was published by Pearson in 1981. The study made a number of findings about site location patterns in the Bathurst region. Pearson found that the most common Aboriginal sites type was open sites with stone artefact scatters. These were most likely to occur in places that had access to water, good drainage and views over watercourses or river flats, and level ground, and were frequently found on low ridge tops, creek banks, gently undulating hills and river flats and open woodland vegetation (Pearson 1981:101).

The study also demonstrated that access and proximity to water was an important factor in site patterning, and that site density decreased with distance from water. Pearson found that the average site was located 98 m from a water source and 9m above the water source. Pearson also observed that tributaries, creek lines and the upper Macquarie River would also have provided important resources for food as well as forming movement corridors. Interestingly, Pearson's model appears to be in accord with observations of

Wiradjuri settlement patterning made by the explorer John Oxley during his expedition in 1817. Oxley repeatedly noted an association between Wiradjuri activity and water sources (Oxley 1817).

In general, the more recent development driven studies (Truscott & Lance 1987:18; Barber & Williams 1993; OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management 2011:36) have conformed to the site prediction model outlined by Pearson for the Bathurst area. The highest density of open sites was found in areas with gently undulating topography (Barber 1990). Barber found that larger sites were usually found on elevated spurs and terraces adjacent to high order streams and rivers. Very few smaller sites tended to be found on ridges away from water sources. Open sites in the region range from 'workshops', which show discernible spatial patterns (i.e. knapping floors), to low density scatters and isolated stone artefacts.

Archaeological investigations are often limited by a reliance on surface evidence and existing settlement models. However, extensive excavation across the Cumberland Plain in the Sydney Basin has shown that areas with no surface evidence often contain sub-surface deposits buried beneath current ground surfaces. This is a critical consideration in aggrading soil landscapes. In a 1997 study of the aggrading soils of shale landscapes on the Cumberland Plain, McDonald (1997) found that:

- There were no surface artefacts prior to excavation in 17 out of 61 excavated sites.
- The ratio of recorded surface to excavated material was 1:25.
- None of the excavated sites could be properly characterised on the basis of surface evidence. In short, surface evidence (or the absence of surface evidence) does not necessarily indicate the potential, nature or density of sub-surface material.

The results of McDonald's study clearly highlight the limitations of surface survey in identifying archaeological deposits. The study also shows the importance of test excavation in establishing the nature and density of archaeological material, particularly in aggrading soils. This point is particularly relevant to the Bathurst Regional LGA where previous investigations have been limited in number.

Following in Table 2 below shows the registered Aboriginal site types and their distribution within the Bathurst LGA as at 2017.

Site Type	Number	Percentage of Total (%)
Artefact Scatter	102	45.95
Isolated Find	20	9.01
Stone Arrangement	17	7.66
Modified Tree	16	7.21
Carved Tree	11	4.95
Scarred Tree	7	3.15

Artefact Scatter, Potential Archaeological Deposit	6	2.7
Rock Shelter with Deposit	6	2.7
Bora/Ceremonial	5	2.25
Contact, Mission, Artefact Scatter	5	2.25
Quarry, Artefact Scatter	4	1.8
Burial	3	1.35
Potential Archaeological Deposit	3	1.35
Stone Arrangement, Artefact Scatter	3	1.35
Massacre, Artefact Scatter	2	0.9
Aboriginal Resource and Gathering, Aboriginal Ceremonial and Dreaming, Water Hole, Grinding Grooves, Artefact Scatter	1	0.45
Bora/Ceremonial, Natural Mythological (Ritual), Artefact Scatter	1	0.45
Engraving	1	0.45
Stone Arrangement, Hearth	1	0.45
Stone Arrangement, Mound (Oven), Artefact Scatter	1	0.45

Stone Arrangement, Quarry, Artefact Scatter	1	0.45
Stone Arrangement, Scarred Tree, Artefact Scatter	1	0.45
TOTAL	222	100

Table 2: Showing the registered Aboriginal site types as at 2017.

4.3 Bathurst Town

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) on 14th July 2023 indicates that there are five registered Aboriginal sites located within 1km of Bathurst Health Service. Table 3 below shows details of those five registered sites. Figure 10 shows the location of the registered Aboriginal sites within the vicinity of the Bathurst Health Service.

AHIMS No.	Site Name and Location	Description
44-3-0255	"BSP AS3". Located on eastern creek flat adjacent to Macquarie River.	Comprises five artefacts excavated from three test trenches during Aboriginal archaeological investigations. The artefacts were located in the upper 30cm of the soil profile and comprise three cores, one broken flake, two complete flakes and one angular fragment made of milky quartz, quartzite and a fine grained siliceous material.
44-3-0256	"BSP AS2". Located in a test trench adjacent to the Macquarie River.	Comprises four artefacts excavated from a single test trench during Aboriginal archaeological investigations. the artefacts were located in the upper 10cm of the soil profile above a thin charcoal lens. The artefacts comprise a cores and complete and distal flakes made of a fine grained siliceous material.
44-3-0247		The knowledge that Windradyne and his family camped at this

	<p>“Wyndradyne’s family camp site”. Located on the north eastern side of Kefford Street between the corner of Kefford Street and Stewart Street and the Macquarie River.</p>	<p>location has been passed down through oral tradition within the local Aboriginal community.</p>
44-3-0259	<p>“BSP IF1”. Located on a lower slope.</p>	<p>Comprises a single quartz core excavated from a test trench and located within the upper 10cm of the soil profile which is described as silty loam topsoil.</p>
44-3-0257	<p>“BSP AS1”. Located on a lower slope.</p>	<p>Comprises two artefacts excavated from a single test trench during Aboriginal archaeological investigations. The artefacts comprise a quartzite core and a quartz angular fragment located within the upper 20cm of the soil profile which is described as silty loam topsoil.</p>

Table 3: Showing the details of registered AHIMS sites within 1km of Bathurst Health Service.



Figure 10: Showing the location of registered Aboriginal sites indicated by the Aboriginal flags and the Bathurst Health Service outlined in red (map courtesy of Google Earth Pro).

4.4 Bathurst Health Service

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) on 14th July 2023 indicates that there is a registered Aboriginal site within the grounds of Bathurst Health Service. The site (AHIMS 44-3-0144) is named “Bathurst Base Hospital PAD” and the AHIMS search indicates that a permit was issued for this site. A copy of the site card is not available from AHIMS, however a copy of the test excavation report was obtained. The *Bathurst Base Hospital: Aboriginal Test Excavation Report* (AHMS 2006) shows that 15 Aboriginal test trenches of varying sizes were excavated across the Bathurst Hospital site in 2006. Excavation of each trench was undertaken by machine to remove overlying historic fills and where natural topsoils, i.e. A horizon soils, were encountered, a 1 x 1m test trench was excavated by hand in 10cm spits. Excavation was ceased when compact weathered granite soils were encountered (AHMS 2006:22). The report demonstrates that natural topsoil was encountered in six of the 15 trenches (40%) and the topsoil was between 5 and 10cm thick where present. Figure 11 below shows the location of these Aboriginal test trenches and the nature of the soil profile in each. The Aboriginal test excavations revealed no Aboriginal objects.

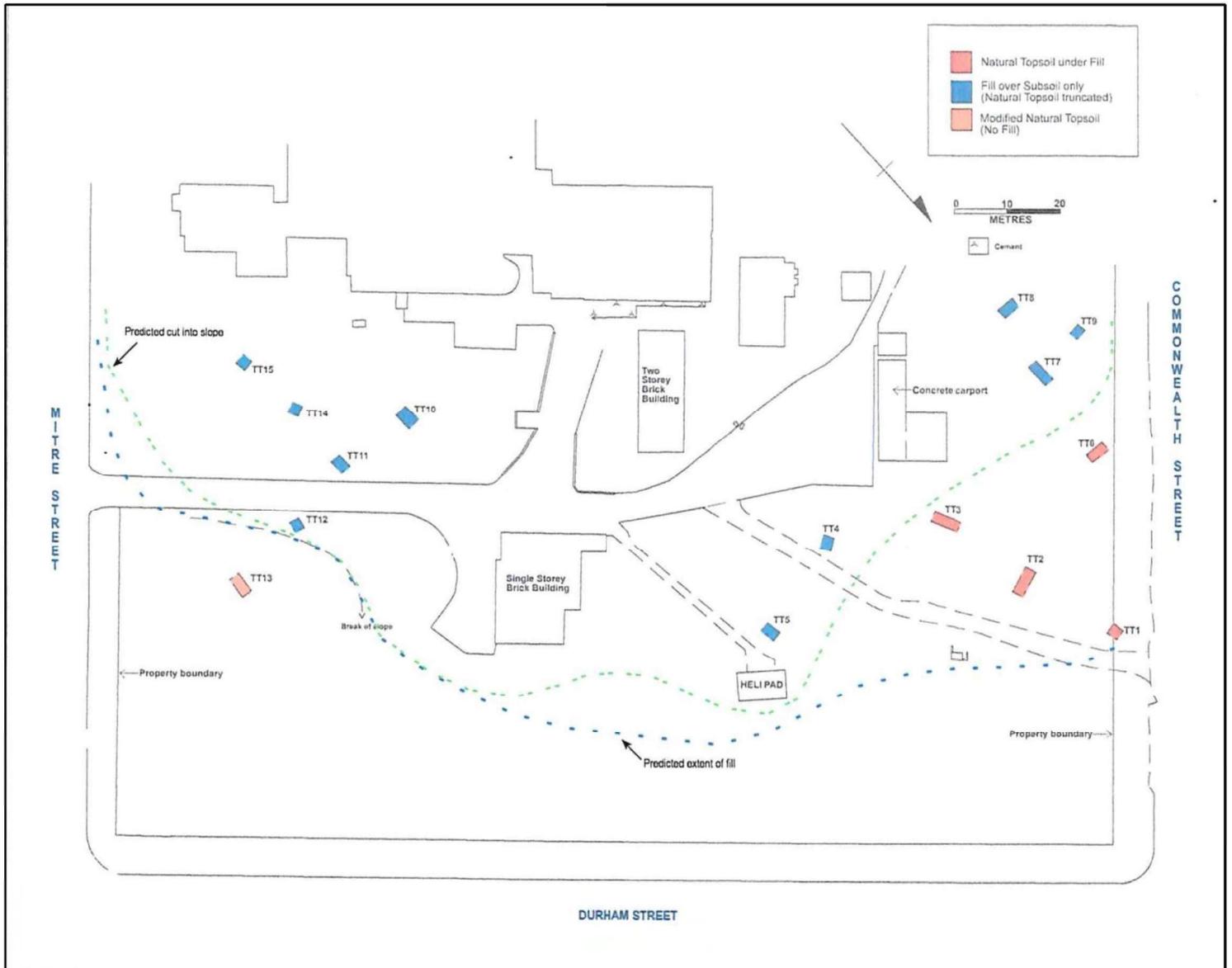


Figure 11: Showing the location of Aboriginal test trenches excavated by AHMS across the Bathurst Health Service site in 2006 and the nature of the soil profile in each trench (plan courtesy of AHMS 2006:28).

4.5 Predictive Model

The above environmental and archaeological research indicates that despite a paucity of registered sites, the Bathurst region was a significant landscape for Aboriginal people.

The archaeological research undertaken to date indicates that camp sites, in the form of artefact scatters, workshops, potential archaeological deposits (PADs) and hearths, could be expected on low ridges leading down to water sources with site density decreasing with distance from water. Camp sites could be expected an average distance of 98m from and 9m above a water source on low ridge tops, creek banks, gently undulating hills, river flats and open woodland vegetation with access to water, good drainage and views over watercourses or river flats and level ground (Pearson 1981:101). Larger sites could be expected on elevated spurs and terraces adjacent to high order streams and rivers (Barber 1990). Evidence of these sites could be expected to be found subsurface despite a lack of visible archaeological material on the surface (McDonald 1997).

5.0 Methodology

5.1 Background Research

A search of the AHIMS database was undertaken on 14th June 2023. Research was undertaken into the environmental background of the study area, outlining the topographic, geological and vegetation context of the study area. An analysis of the archaeological background of the Sydney Basin and East Killara was undertaken. This background research facilitated an understanding of Aboriginal land use patterns within the region and the preparation of a predictive model of occupation.

A review of plans for the proposed development of the study area enabled an understanding of the impact of the proposed works on the potential archaeological deposit.

5.2 Site Inspection

A site inspection was undertaken on 15th June 2023 by Tory Stening. The entire study area was inspected on foot to develop an understanding of the environmental and potential archaeological context and to record any evidence of Aboriginal occupation. The surrounding landscape was also examined to facilitate an understanding of the environmental context of the study area and to attempt to locate previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the vicinity of the study area.

5.3 Effective Survey Coverage

The study area is comprised of a sloping site with buildings and landscaping including asphalted car parking areas and garden beds.

The *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* requires that an assessment of effective survey coverage be presented in a table. However, due to the development of the Bathurst Health Service site and the associated landscaping and asphalted areas of the site for car parking, ground visibility within the Bathurst Health Service site was nil.

5.4 Report

This Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment report was prepared in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2011) and *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (Office of Environment & Heritage 2010).

6.0 Results and Mitigation

6.1 Results

The site inspection was undertaken on 15th June 2023 and the whole of the study area was inspected on foot with particular attention being paid to the historic topography and the disturbance from European development. No Aboriginal objects or sites were recorded during the site inspection. An AHIMS search dated 14th June 2023 (Appendix A: AHIMS Extensive Search – 14th July 2023) indicates that one Aboriginal site has previously been registered within the grounds of the Bathurst Health Service.

That site (AHIMS 44-3-0144) is listed as a PAD and the AHIMS search indicates that a permit in respect of this site has previously been issued. The site card for AHIMS 44-3-0144 is not available from AHIMS, however a copy of the Aboriginal test excavation report (AHMS 2006) was obtained. That report indicates that the upper layer of the natural topsoil (A1 horizon) was not present anywhere on the site and that (A2 horizon) was encountered in only six of the 15 test trenches dug across the Bathurst Health Service site. Remnant A2 horizon topsoil was only encountered on the “the lower slopes in the north and east corners of the site furthest away from the hospital buildings” (AHMS 2006:32). The Aboriginal test excavation report indicates that approximately “57.1 cubic metres of deposit was removed during the investigation and of this amount only 0.8 cubic metres consisted of soil with potential to contain Aboriginal objects (1.4% of the total amount). The Aboriginal archaeological test excavations did not uncover any Aboriginal objects or any other evidence of Aboriginal occupation, which appears to be “a direct result of historic modification to the original ground surface, namely the removal of original topsoil that may have contained Aboriginal objects. As a result of their Aboriginal archaeological test excavations, AHMS stated that “the site currently has no Public or Scientific significance with regard to Aboriginal heritage” (AHMS 2006:35).

As a result of discussions with Nicole Davis, Manager Assessments at Heritage NSW, in respect of this project, she updated the site status for AHIMS 44-3-0144 to “Not a Site” on 21st July 2023. A further AHIMS Extensive Search on 24th July 2023 (Appendix B: AHIMS Extensive Search –) confirmed that the status had been updated to “Not a Site”.

The study area is comprised of a hospital site. The old Bathurst Hospital heritage listed building is located on the corner of Howick and Mitre Streets at the highest point of the Bathurst Health Service grounds. The site has been subjected to ongoing development and redevelopment since the early 19th century.

The Aboriginal test excavations in 2006 (AHMS 2006) were undertaken in respect of the reconfiguration of Bathurst Base Hospital, which included: the demolition of 10 buildings in the northern and north western portions of the site; construction of a new loading dock and access from Howick Street; construction of a new Main Health Service building, car parking and a service area; demolition of 1950s and 1970s additions to the heritage listed old Bathurst Hospital building; and construction of a new access road from Mitre Street and associated car parking. These works have since been undertaken and the large Main Health Service building now occupies much of the site. These works would likely have removed the small amount of remaining A2 horizon topsoil that remained within the study area.

The present proposal comprises the demolition of portions of the Main Health Services building at the south eastern end on the Mitre Street frontage and on the south western end on the Commonwealth Street frontage. The proposed construction will include new additions to the south eastern end of the Main Services Health building at the Mitre Street frontage and the south western end of the Main Services Health building on the Commonwealth Street frontage, as well as an addition to the north western side of the heritage listed old Bathurst Hospital building.

Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken in 2006 (AHMS 2006) have demonstrated that any remnant topsoil, Aboriginal objects or other evidence of Aboriginal occupation that may once have been present in the study area have been removed, likely by the ongoing historical development of the study area. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposed works will have any impact on any Aboriginal objects or any evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

6.2 Impact and Mitigation

As it is not anticipated that any evidence of Aboriginal occupation or any Aboriginal objects will be impacted upon by the proposed subdivision, there will not be any impacts on any Aboriginal cultural heritage. Therefore, no further archaeological investigation in respect of Aboriginal archaeology is required for the proposed redevelopment. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will not be required.

If during the proposed works, any unexpected Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation: such as campsites, midden, stone artefacts, rock engravings; rock shelters or overhangs; is uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified archaeologist.

It is not expected that the study area provides a suitable location for Aboriginal burial, however, in the unlikely event that any skeletal material is uncovered during the proposed works, all work must cease immediately on site and the relevant authorities must be notified.

7.0 Legislation

7.1 The National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 (as amended)

The *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places within New South Wales. Heritage NSW within the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) is the State Government agency responsible for the implementation and management of this Act.

Part 6 of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act* provides provision for the protection of all Aboriginal “objects” which are defined as “any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains”. Part 6 of the Act states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

This assessment was undertaken in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* and *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*. This assessment has concluded that it is highly unlikely that Aboriginal “objects” exist within the study area and therefore would not be harmed during the proposed works.

8.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in accordance with:

- The legal requirements of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (as amended) which states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object without gaining prior consent of the Director General of DPIE;
- Research into the environmental and archaeological record of the study area;
- The results of this Aboriginal archaeological assessment which concludes that it is highly unlikely that subsurface archaeological deposits or other evidence of Aboriginal occupation exists within the study area.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

1. There is no objection to the proposed redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service on Aboriginal archaeological grounds.
2. No Aboriginal objects were recorded during the site inspection. Extensive Aboriginal archaeological test excavations undertaken across the study area in 2006 indicate that there is very little remnant topsoil remaining in the study area and no Aboriginal objects were uncovered. Therefore, it is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological deposits exist within the study area or would be impacted upon by the proposed redevelopment of Bathurst Health Service.
3. No further investigation in respect of Aboriginal archaeology is required.
4. If, during the proposed works, any Aboriginal objects or evidence of Aboriginal occupation are uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of the suspected Aboriginal objects or evidence of occupation, and further advice should be sought from a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

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Appendix A: AHIMS Extensive Search – 14th July 2023



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Bathurst Hospital
Client Service ID : 791196

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
44-3-0255	BSP AS3 Contact	GDA	55	740247	6300536	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
44-3-0256	BSP AS2 Contact	GDA	55	740174	6300664	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
44-3-0247	Wyndradyme's family camp site Contact	GDA	55	740259	6300512	Open site	Not a Site	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -		
44-3-0144	bathurst base hospital pad Contact	AGD	55	739116	6300641	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1		
44-3-0259	BSP IF1 Contact	GDA	55	739474	6301118	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
44-3-0257	BSP AS1 Contact	GDA	55	739786	6300958	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
										2413

** Site Status

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 14/06/2023 for Tory Stening for the following area at Lot : 100, DP:DP1126063, Section : null with a Buffer of 1000 meters., Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 6

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

