

APPENDIX S

Historic heritage impact assessment





View of the woolshed at Lake Cowal.

HISTORIC HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COWAL GOLD OPERATIONS OPEN PIT CONTINUATION PROJECT (OPCP) (SSD-42917792).

BLAND SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NSW

APRIL 2023

Report prepared by
OzArk Environment & Heritage
for EMM Consulting
on behalf of Evolution Mining Pty Limited



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Acknowledgement

OzArk acknowledge the traditional custodians of the area on which this assessment took place and pay respect to their beliefs, cultural heritage, and continuing connection with the land. We also acknowledge and pay respect to the post-contact experiences of Aboriginal people with attachment to the area and to the Elders, past and present, as the next generation of role models and vessels for memories, traditions, culture and hopes of local Aboriginal people.

ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

Additional disturbance area	Areas that will be disturbed by the Project that are outside of the approved disturbance area.
Approved disturbance area	Areas that are disturbed and/or approved to be disturbed under the current development consents that apply to CGO.
CGO	Cowal Gold Operations
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement. A required document for major projects documenting all potential impacts to the environment, including heritage, that may arise due to the development.
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
Heritage Act	<i>Heritage Act 1977</i> . Provides for the protection and conservation of historical places and objects or cultural heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects.
Heritage Council	The Heritage Council makes decisions about the care and protection of heritage places and items that have been identified as being significant to the people of NSW.
Heritage NSW	Government department tasked with ensuring compliance with the Heritage Act.
HHIA	Historic Heritage Impact Assessment
HMP	Cowal Gold Operations - Heritage Management Plan
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
The Project area	The area that is the subject of the development application as shown on Figure 1 2
Project disturbance area	The area covered by the additional disturbance area and the approved disturbance area.
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements issued by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).
SHR	State Heritage Register. A heritage list of places in NSW that are protected by NSW legislation such as the Heritage Act.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by EMM Consulting (the client) on behalf of Evolution Mining (Cowal) Pty Limited (the Proponent) to complete an *Historic Heritage Impact Assessment* (HHIA) of the Cowal West Homestead Complex to support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The site will be assessed under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*, and the Heritage Council's Historical Archaeology Code of Practice.

The visual inspection of the Project area was undertaken by EMM Consulting with a second inspection completed by OzArk Archaeologist, Harrison Rochford. The results of the EMM Consulting inspection were provided to OzArk to prepare this assessment.

While the surveys identified the relocated woolshed, the shearers' quarters was not able to be located and so is assumed to have been demolished along with other buildings of the Cowal West Homestead Complex. It was confirmed that nothing remains, apart from a storage shed, at the listed location Cowal West Homestead Complex.

Recommendations concerning the historic values within and around Project area are as follows.

1. All land-disturbing activities must be confined within the Project disturbance area. Should Project impacts change such that the area to be impacts is outside of the assessed Project disturbance area, then additional assessment may be required.
2. Procedures for the unexpected discovery of historic items and/or skeletal material during Project activities will follow the *unexpected finds protocol* detailed in Section 6.2 of the *Cowal Gold Operations – Heritage Management Plan*.
3. All personnel working on the Project must be made aware of historical heritage procedures beforehand to minimise potential harm to previously unidentified heritage items.
4. Council may consider removing the Cowal West Homestead Complex (I11) from the LEP in any upcoming LEP revisions as the complex no longer exists.
5. Should the identified storage shed be impact by the Project, the items within the storage shed will be managed in accordance with CGO's approved HMP.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Evolution Mining (Cowal) Pty Limited (Evolution) is the owner and operator of Cowal Gold Operations (CGO), an existing open pit and underground gold mine approximately 38 kilometres (km) northeast of West Wyalong, in the central west region of New South Wales (NSW).

CGO is located on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri People and is immediately adjacent to the western foreshore of Lake Cowal, which is an ephemeral waterbody. The existing CGO mine is shown at a regional scale on **Figure 1-1**.

CGO was first approved in 1999, and open pit mining operations commenced in 2005. Underground mining operations were approved in 2021 and development works to enable underground mining are underway. Evolution is seeking approval for further open pit mining operations at CGO through the Open Pit Continuation Project (the Project) (**Figure 1-1**). The Project primarily seeks to continue the open pit operations by approximately 10 years to 2036 and extend the total mine life by approximately two years to 2042.

This Historic Heritage Impact Assessment (HHIA) forms part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It documents the assessment methods, results, and the initiatives built into the Project design to avoid and minimise historic heritage impacts, and the additional mitigation and management measures proposed to address residual impacts which cannot be avoided.

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by EMM Consulting (the client), on behalf of Evolution Mining (Cowal) Pty Limited (the proponent) to complete a HHIA for the proposed expansion of the CGO.

1.2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Project will involve further development of the existing E42 Pit and the development of open pit mining in three adjacent orebodies, known as the 'E46', 'GR', and 'E41' pits. It is noted that the three adjacent ore bodies are within the existing mining lease (ML 1535). No change to the approved ore processing rate of 9.8 Mt per annum is proposed.

A detailed description of the Project is contained in Chapter 4 of EIS and a conceptual Project layout is shown on **Figure 1-2**. The Project comprises the following key components:

- The continued operation of activities as approved under DA14/98 and SSD 10367
- Development of three new satellite open pits (the 'E46', 'GR', and 'E41' pits) to the north and south of the existing open pit, within the current approved mining lease

- Extending the existing E42 open pit to the east and south via a 'cutback' within the current approved mine lease
- Extending open pit mining operations by approximately 10 years to 2036 and total mine life by approximately 2 years to 2042
- Expansion of the integrated waste landform to accommodate tailings
- Extension of the lake protection bund system to provide continued separation and mutual protection between Lake Cowal and the mine
- Backfilling of one of the new satellite open pits (E46) with waste rock and establishment of a new waste rock emplacement on the backfilled pit to minimise the additional area required for waste rock disposal
- Expansion of the footprint of the existing waste rock emplacement areas to accommodate additional waste rock
- Development of additional topsoil and subsoil stockpiles to accommodate materials from pre-stripping, with materials to be reused during progressive mine rehabilitation
- Upgrades to existing surface water drainage system, to assist with on-site water management and maximise on-site water conservation
- Modification of internal site access and haul roads
- Development of new water storages and relocation of some components of the surface water drainage system
- Modification and relocation of some existing auxiliary mining infrastructure.

The Project will not change existing ore processing rates or methods, tailings disposal methods, main site access, water supply sources or hours of operation. The Project will also retain the existing open pit mining workforce.

Other than the changes to existing approved activities as set out above, all activities that are currently approved under the existing Ministerial development consents are intended to continue. The existing activities approved under the consents are described in Chapter 3 of the EIS

Figure 1-1: Regional setting (source: EMM Consulting).

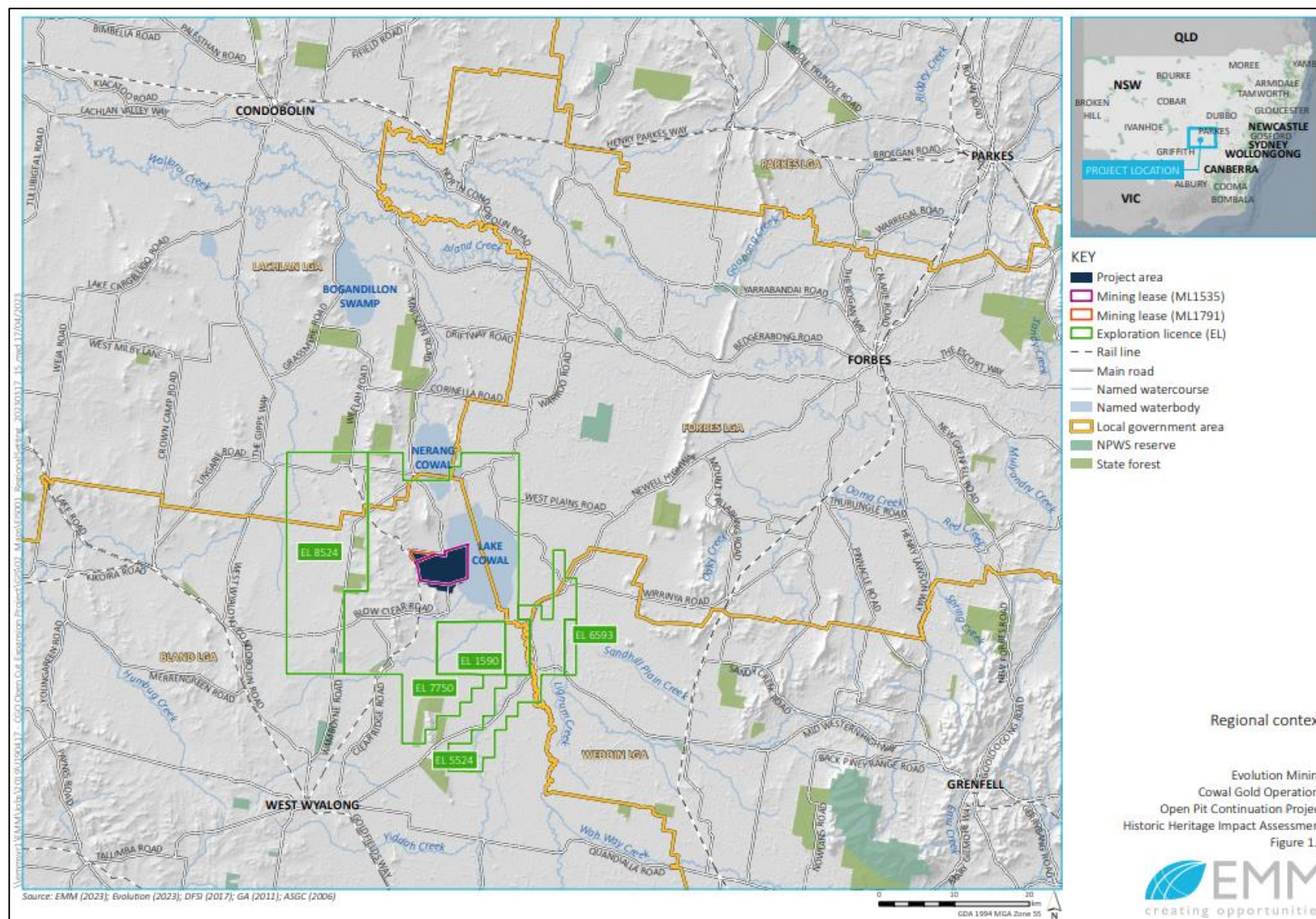
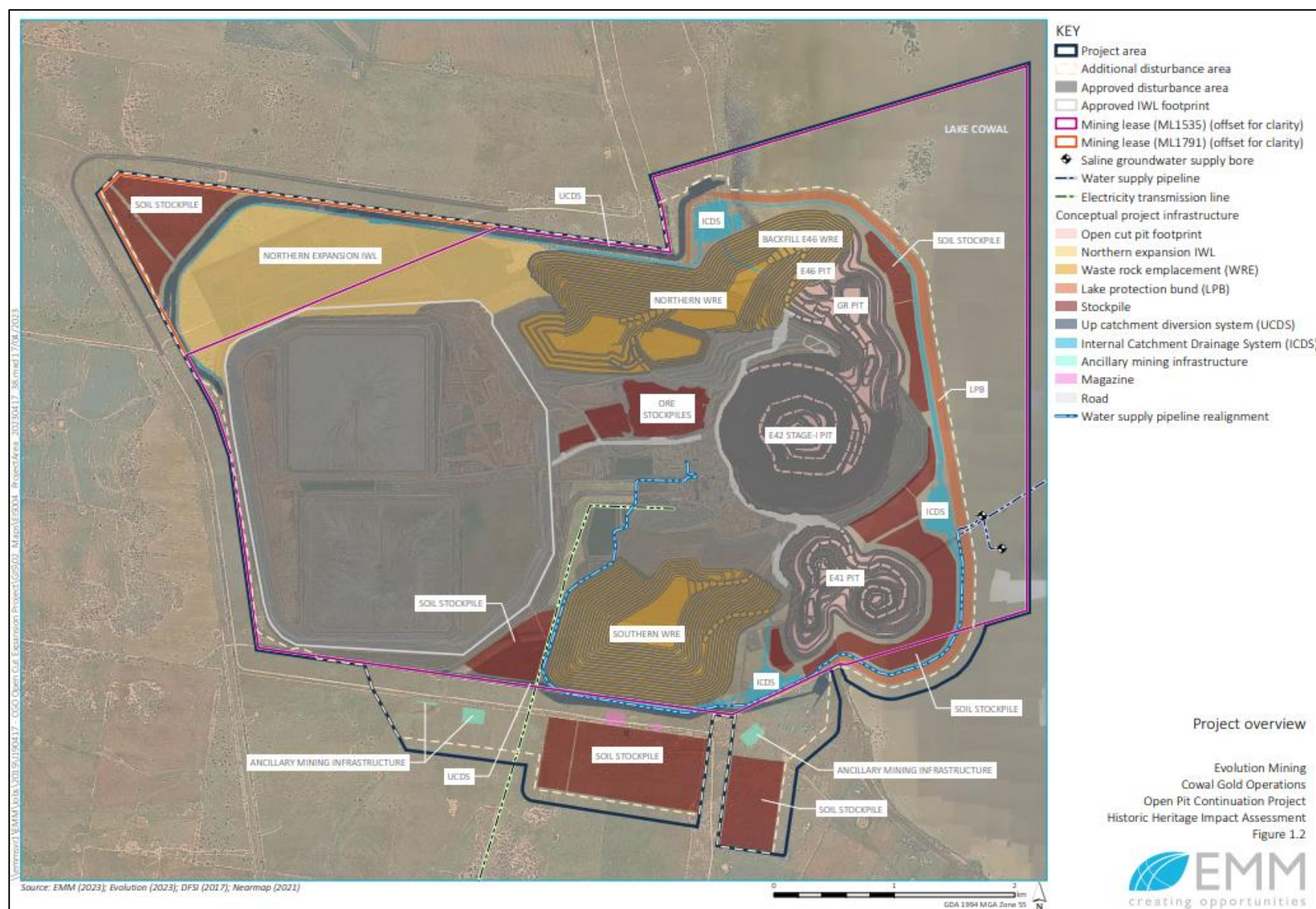


Figure 1-2: Project area (source: EMM Consulting).



1.3 ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

This HHIA has been prepared following the appropriate guidelines, policies, and industry requirements, and following consultation with stakeholders including community members and relevant government agencies.

Guidelines and policies references are as follows:

- The International Council on Monuments and Sites' *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Burra Charter 2013).
- Heritage Council's *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Council 2006).
- Heritage Council's *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* (Heritage Council 2009).
- NSW Heritage Office's *Assessing heritage significance* (NSW Heritage Office 2001).

This assessment has been prepared in accordance with requirements set out in the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Project. The SEARs identify matters which must be addressed in the EIS and essentially form its terms of reference. **Table 1-1** lists individual requirements relevant to this HHIA and the section in this report where the requirements are addressed.

The SEARs were issued on 10 June 2022. Compliance with the SEARs has governed the survey and reporting of potential impacts to historic heritage associated with the Project.

Table 1-1: SSD-42917792 Technical assessment related SEARs.

General requirement	Relevant section of the HHIA
Results of any surface surveys (and test excavations, if required) undertaken by a qualified archaeologist to inform the need for targeted test excavation to better assess the integrity, extent, distribution, nature and overall significance of the archaeological record	Survey results details the results of survey conducted by EMM and second inspection by OzArk.
Avoiding and mitigating impacts on cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes, including mitigation measures and procedures for accidental finds at any stage of the development	Section 5 details the general principles for management of identified sites.
An assessment of the potential impacts on historic heritage in accordance with the NSW Heritage Manual, including any heritage conservation areas and State and local historic heritage items within and near the site	Section 4.4 Likely impacts to historical heritage from the proposal describes how the Project has undertaken an extensive pedestrian survey across the Project area as reported in this HHIA. All assessment has followed the applicable codes and guidelines.

1.4 TERMINOLOGY

A summary of the key terminology used throughout this assessment includes:

- Cowal Gold Operations (CGO) – comprises both the existing open pit mine, underground mine, processing facility, IWL, waste rock emplacement areas, ore stockpiles and ancillary infrastructure.

- The Project area – outlines the area at the CGO mine site which is subject to the development application as shown on **Figure 1-2**.
- Approved disturbance area – areas that are disturbed and/or approved to be disturbed under the current development consents that apply to CGO.
- Additional disturbance area – the areas that will be disturbed by the Project that are outside of the approved disturbance area.
- Project disturbance area – this area is a combination of the additional disturbance area and the approved disturbance area.

1.5 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

1.5.1 Local legislation

Local Environmental Plans (LEP)

The Project area is located within areas governed by the Bland Local Shire Council 2011 LEP.

The LEPs include a schedule of heritage conservation areas and items that require either development consent or exemptions for projects that may impact conservation outcomes (Section 5.10). The objectives set out in Section 5.10 of the LEP states:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Bland,
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings, and views,
- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,
- (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

Section 5.10(2)(a) sets out the circumstances when Development consent is required when (i) a heritage item is demolished or moved.

Section 5.10(3)(a) (i) and (ii) set out the circumstances when a Development Application is not required when there is an impact to heritage items. Exemptions to consent are related to works that are of a minor nature or works that will not adversely impact the heritage values of a place.

Applicability to the Project

The Cowal West Group (I11) is a heritage listed item on the Bland LEP, comprising a homestead, shearers' quarters, a woolshed, and stables (**Table 3-1**). This place was located within the Project area before its removal. Further details are provided in **Section 3.2.1.2** of this report.

1.5.2 State legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) established requirements relating to land use and planning. The main parts of the EP&A Act that relate to development assessment and approval are Part 4 (development assessment) and Part 5 (environmental assessment). The Minister responsible for the Act is the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

The EP&A Act currently provides the primary legislative basis for planning and environmental assessment in NSW. The objects of the EP&A Act include encouragement of:

- The proper management, development, and conservation of natural resources
- The provision and coordination of the orderly and economic use and development of land
- Protection of the environment, including the protection and conservation of native animals and plants, including threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and their habitats
- Ecologically sustainable development.

The objects also provide for increased opportunity for public involvement and participation in environmental planning and assessment.

The EP&A Act includes provisions to ensure that the potential environmental impacts of a development or activity are rigorously assessed and considered in the decision-making process.

The framework governing environmental and heritage assessment in NSW is contained within the following parts of the EP&A Act:

- Part 4: Local government development assessments, including heritage. May include schedules of heritage items
 - Section 4.7: Approvals process for state significant development.

Applicability to the Project

As the Project is a State Significant Development (SSD), Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act applies and provides a defence for any investigative or other activities that are required to be carried out for the purpose of complying with any environmental assessment requirements (i.e. the SEARs).

Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act also notes that an approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under Section 139, of the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) are not required. It is normally a condition of approval for SSD projects that historic heritage be managed under an Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP).

Heritage Act 1977

The Heritage Act is applicable to the current assessment. This Act established the Heritage Council of NSW. The Heritage Council's role is to advise the government on the protection of heritage assets, make listing recommendations to the Minister in relation to the State Heritage Register (SHR), and assess/approve/decline proposals involving modification to heritage items or places listed on the SHR. Most proposals involving modification are assessed under Section 60 of the Heritage Act.

Automatic protection is afforded to 'relics', defined as 'any deposit or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprised New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and which holds state or local significance' (note: formerly the Act protected any 'relic' that was more than 50 years old. Now the age determination has been dropped from the Act and relics are protected according to their heritage significance assessment rather than purely on their age). Excavation of land on which it is known or where there is reasonable cause to suspect that 'relics' will be exposed, moved, destroyed, discovered, or damaged is prohibited unless approved under an excavation permit.

Applicability to the Project

There are no SHR listed items within or near the Project area (**Table 3-1**). Items of local heritage significance that are normally listed in LEPs are also protected under the Heritage Act.

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

The SEARs were issued for SSD-42917792 on 10 June 2022.

Compliance with the SEARs has governed the survey and reporting of potential impacts to historic heritage associated with the Project.

1.5.3 Commonwealth legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water provides a framework to protect nationally significant flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places. The EPBC Act establishes both a National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List of protected places. These lists may include Aboriginal cultural sites or sites in which Aboriginal people have interests. The assessment and permitting processes of the EPBC Act are triggered when a proposed activity or development could potentially have an impact on one of the matters of national environment significance listed by the Act. Ministerial approval is required under the EPBC Act for proposals involving significant impacts to National/Commonwealth heritage places.

Applicability to the Project

There are no nationally listed items within or near the Project area and the heritage provisions of the EPBC Act are not applicable to the Project area.

1.5.4 Conclusion

The proposal will be assessed under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act.

Any items of local or state historical heritage significance within the Project area are afforded legislative protection under the Heritage Act.

There are no Commonwealth or National heritage listed places within the Project area, and as such, the heritage provisions of the EPBC Act do not apply.

2 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: INTRODUCTION

2.1 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The current assessment will apply the Heritage Council's *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Council 2006) in the completion of a historical heritage assessment, including field investigations, to meet the following objectives:

Objective One: To identify whether historical heritage items or areas are, or are likely to be, present within the Project area.

Objective Two: To assess the significance of any recorded historical heritage items or areas.

Objective Three: Determine whether the proposal is likely to cause harm to recorded historical heritage items or areas.

Objective Four: Provide management recommendations and options for mitigating impacts.

2.2 DATE OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

The primary field survey was undertaken by Megan Sheppard Brennand and Cameron Neal (EMM Consulting) with a second historic heritage inspection completed on 17 to 18 January 2023 by Harrison Rochford (OzArk).

2.3 OZARK INVOLVEMENT

2.3.1 Field survey

Two field surveys were undertaken as part of this assessment. The first was undertaken by Megan Sheppard Brennand (EMM Senior Archaeologist) and Cameron Neal (EMM Archaeologist) from 8-19 August 2022. This field survey, assessed a larger Project area which has subsequently been refined to the Project area shown in Figure 1.2.

A second field inspection to ascertain whether the relocated historic heritage items were within the Project Area was conducted by OzArk Archaeologist, Harrison Rochford, 17 to 18 January 2023.

2.3.2 Reporting

The reporting component of the heritage assessment was undertaken by:

- Report author: Imogen Crome (Archaeologist, OzArk, BS Biological Anthropology *Australian National University*, BA Archaeology *Australian National University*).
- Contributor and reviewer: Ben Churcher (OzArk Principal Archaeologist, BA, Dip Ed).

3 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: BACKGROUND

3.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF LAKE COWAL REGION

The following is a brief synthesis of relevant sections detailing the early settlement history of the Lake Cowal region from the *Cowal Gold Operations – Heritage Management Plan* (HMP) by Evolution Mining (2022). Further details on the history of the region can be read within this report and the OzArk (2021) *Lake Cowal Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (ACHAR).

An excerpt on the historical overview of the Lake Cowal area in Section 2 of the HMP states (Evolution Mining 2022:13):

...the first settlers arrived in the neighbourhood of Wyalong in 1833 and 1834. Following this occupation, a second wave of pioneers arrived in 1842 to the area bringing their wives and families. Apart from pastoral stations settled within the Wyalong district, very little settlement occurred prior to 1885. Gold mining was prevalent in the Wyalong district and in 1899 it was reported by the government geologist that the Wyalong goldfield was the most productive in the Colony.

3.1.1 Cowal West Homestead Complex

An excerpt from Lake Cowal ACHAR regarding the Cowal West Homestead Complex states (OzArk 2021:37):

The first colonial use of the land around the project area would have been low density grazing as pastoral runs were taken by squatters in the Bland Creek area from 1833. While gold mining was the key industry for the expansion of colonial occupation into the Lake Cowal region from 1893 onwards, centred around the Wyalong goldfields, the project area has remained in pastoral and residential use.

The Lake Cowal station and homestead was constructed by Samuel Wilson in 1888 with the original homestead destroyed by fire in 1927. The Wilson family held the station until it was sold to William Arthur Buttenshaw in 1945. “Lake Cowal” was run as an Estate until 1950, then being purchased by William Robert Buttenshaw (Bill). Bill and family made their home there until 2002 when the property was purchased by Barrick Gold, a Canadian based gold mining company.

The Lake Cowal Homestead Complex is described in Section 2 of the HMP (Evolution Mining 2022):

Prior to 1897 the property named Lake Cowal was owned by Henry Ricketson who died at Caulfield, Victoria in 1900. In 1897 Lake Cowal, then occupying 164,000 acres, was purchased from the Ricketson family by Samuel Wilson Snr. From 1885 Samuel Wilson Jnr. managed the property until his death in 1935.

The Lake Cowal Homestead complex is directly related to the second generation of pastoral runs in the Lake Cowal region, and together with its woolshed and shearing quarters appears to have historical associations and physical remains of potential heritage significance (HMC, 2003).

Lake Cowal homestead was built in 1890 and was partly destroyed by fire in 1928.

Will Buttenshaw and family commenced occupation of “Lake Cowal” in 1945 and constructed a new homestead that incorporated a number of the original buildings not destroyed by the 1928 fire.

Some time later the original Lake Cowal woolshed, employing 48 blade-shears, were converted into a machined six-stand shearing shed, one of the earliest sheds in the area to use shearing machines. The woolshed was almost completely demolished by a windstorm in the 1970’s and a new shed was constructed near the bulk electricity lines (constructed in 1961). The Ronaldson and Tippet engine that powered the shearing stand was given to the West Wyalong Historical Society.

3.2 LOCAL CONTEXT

3.2.1 Desktop database searches conducted

A desktop search was conducted on the following databases to identify any potential previously recorded heritage within the Project area. The results of this search are summarised in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1: Historic heritage: desktop-database search results.

Name of database searched	Date of search	Type of search	Comment
National and Commonwealth Heritage Listings	27 January 2023	Bland Shire local government area	No items are listed within 5 km of the Project area
State Heritage Listings	27 January 2023	NSW	No items are listed within 5 km of the Project area
Local Environmental Plan (LEP)	27 January 2023	Bland Local Environmental Plan 2011	One item is listed within 5 km of the Project area (I11), Cowal West Group. This listing comprises the Cowal West Homestead complex which has since been removed from its original location.

3.2.1.1 SHR

The closest items listed on the SHR to the Project area are the Forbes Post Office (01414) and Ben Hall Sites – Grave of Ben Hall (01827). Both listed items are located approximately 61 km northeast of the Project area.

3.2.1.2 LEP

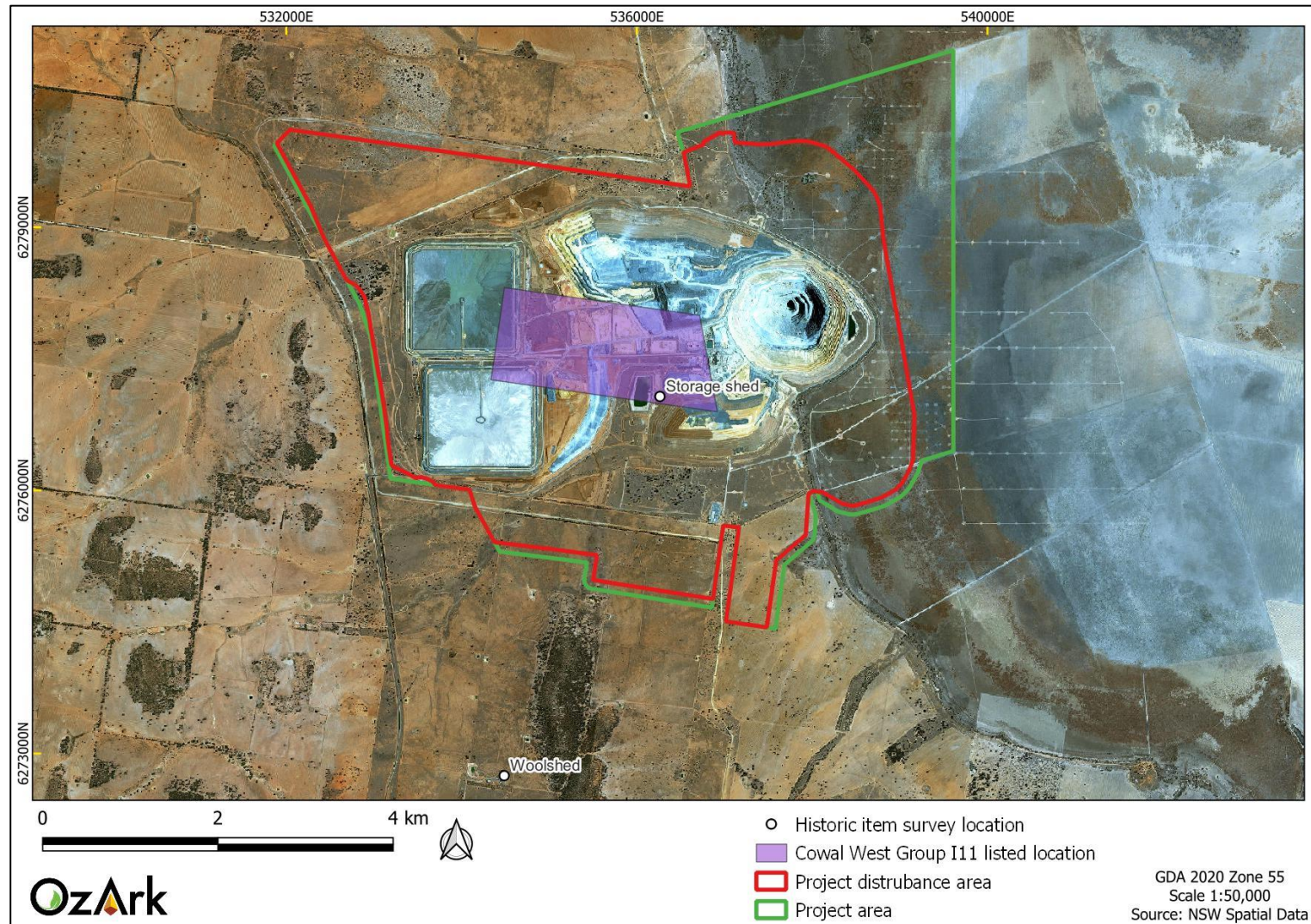
One item first listed on Bland LEP on 9 December 2011 located within the Project area is the Cowal West Group (I11) comprising of the homestead, shearers' quarters, a woolshed, and stables. Limited information is presented in the LEP relating to the complex. It is listed as having local significance in the 2011 LEP.

The *Heritage Management Report* (Evolution Mining 2022) states that Dr Michael Pearson of Heritage Management Consultants (HMC 2003) and the Bland District Historical Society agree that the Cowal West Homestead Complex holds local heritage value, although the local significance is held primarily in the woolshed. The shearers' quarters were also described as holding local significance, although to a lesser degree.

When listed in 2011, the complex was located in the middle of the Project disturbance area (**Figure 3-1**). Under the E42 modification approval, the shearers' quarters and woolshed were approved to be relocated out of the Project disturbance area. The homestead and stables were approved to be demolished as a requirement of the original Development Consent. A photographic record was taken before the partial demolition and residual removal of the structures from the listed location.

According to the HMP, the relocated structures were moved outside the approved disturbance area, and mining leases ML1535 and ML1791.

Figure 3-1: Listed location of the Cowal West Homestead Complex (I11) within the Project disturbance area.



4 RESULTS OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

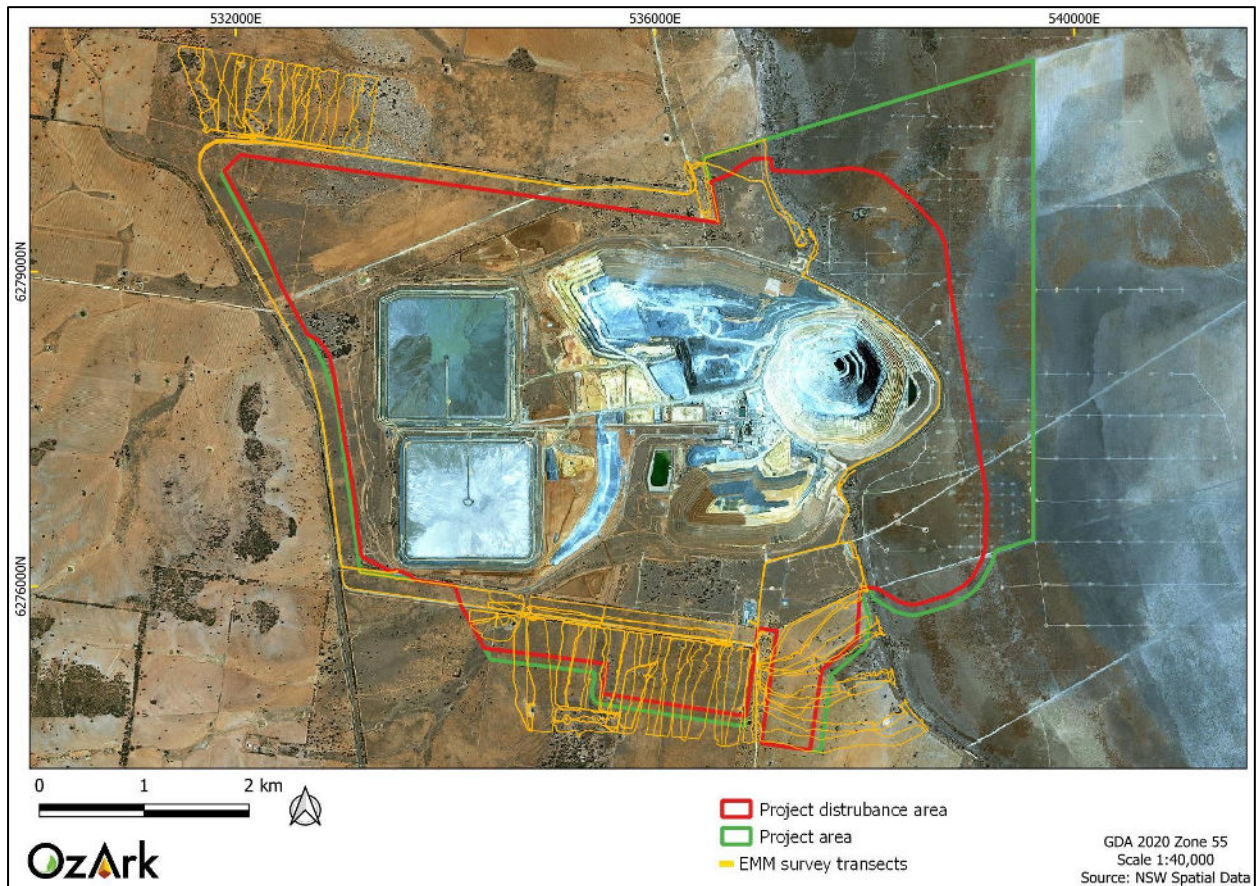
4.1 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The first visual inspection of the Project area was undertaken by Megan Sheppard Brennand (EMM Senior Archaeologist) and Cameron Neal (EMM Archaeologist) with assistance from Linton Howarth (WWLALC) and Jared and Richard Coe (Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation) from 8 to 19 August 2022. This survey was primarily focused on Aboriginal heritage, with incidental recording of potential historical heritage items carried out where necessary. The additional disturbance area was investigated by EMM, with focus given to areas subject to little or no previous archaeological assessment, noting also that land listed within the former homestead complex was not investigated as it was within areas previously assessed in the original EIS and subsequent modification reports. It is noted other areas of the additional disturbance area were also not surveyed due to previously being assessed for Modification 14 (i.e., the additional disturbance area in the southern portion of ML1535). The survey was carried out in linear pedestrian transects, with team members spaced between 30 to 100 m apart depending on visibility levels (

Figure 4-1). Data was collected on digital tablets using site recording forms created by EMM on the Survey123 application for ArcGIS (Esri© software). It is noted an additional area to the north-west of the Project area was also surveyed due to an earlier layout of the Project which has since been refined.

A second visual inspection to reassess any potential changes in the landscape was conducted by OzArk Archaeologist, Harrison Rochford on 17 to 18 January 2023. This second inspection focused solely on the listed location of the homestead complex and was inspected on foot.

Standard archaeological field survey and recording methods were employed across both surveys (Burke & Smith 2004).

Figure 4-1: EMM survey coverage.

4.2 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey carried out by EMM in August 2022 identified a largely undifferentiated landscape in the Project area. The landscape was characterised by broad, flat landforms, with gentle slopes in the north-west and south. Vegetation clearance was widespread, and the Project area generally contained dry long grass with scattered clumps of trees. Vegetation clearance was limited again to the north-west and south, as well as along the lake edge.

Two items of potential historical significance were investigated by EMM. The first was a Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR; Crown Reserve Number R17085). This TSR envelops the current mine footprint, and the western and northern sections have been subject to previous investigations. As such, the southern stretch formed the focus of the current investigation. The TSR was found to be undifferentiated from the surrounding landscape, with no defining features that suggest tangible historical values or items of significance are present. The TSR was characterised by a flat landform that had been almost entirely cleared of vegetation. No remnant vegetation was observed, the lack of which suggests the landscape does not retain continuous historical values consistent with past land use activities. Likewise, structures commonly present in TSRs such as water tanks and livestock fencing, were not present in this reserve (**Figure 4-2**).

The second item inspected by EMM was a set of abandoned industrial equipment located to the north-west of the Project area (**Figure 4-2**). Objects present in this location included several upright timber posts, miscellaneous pieces of mining equipment, including several Stamper Batteries, and dismantled timber framing used to house the batteries. The equipment was found in a rusted and dismantled state. Based on a preliminary investigation of these objects, they appear to have been used to crush gold-bearing ore and likely date to the early to mid-20th century.

This survey resulted in the evaluation that additional consideration of the Lake Cowal Homestead Complex was required due to the items heritage listing and archaeological recording of the woolshed would preserve evidence of its local and regional significance and due to its original position adjacent to the shearers' quarters, residual archaeological evidence may remain. The work completed by EMM did not identify any areas of potential historical heritage significance within the Project area and therefore within the additional disturbance area. The identified mining equipment with potential for local significance was located outside the Project area and is beyond the scope of this assessment.


The woolshed was relocated to the southeast of the Project area, however, the storage shed containing the remaining demolished structural materials of the homestead is located within ML1535 (**Figure 3-1**) and within the approved disturbance area. Inspection of the woolshed found the structure had been well-restored at its new location with some of the building's features, such as the press, wool table and sheering machinery, remaining in situ (**Figure 4-2**).

The second visual inspection of the listed location of the former homestead confirmed that the location is currently under the southern waste rock emplacement (**Figure 4-2**).

The shearers' quarters was unable to be located within the Lake Cowal area and so it must be assumed that it was also demolished despite the structure recorded as having been relocated within the HMP (Evolution Mining 2022).

Both survey inspections found no previously unidentified historical heritage items within the Project area and significant historical heritage values are not likely to be present. The confirmed new location of the woolshed is approximately 2.5 km from the Project disturbance area and the construction and operation of the Project will not have any indirect impact on the woolshed (**Figure 3-1**).

Figure 4-2: Survey images of Cowal West Homestead Complex (I11).

	
<p>1. View facing southeast towards reported location of Cowal West Homestead Complex, the current location of existing southern waste rock emplacement.</p>	<p>2. Demolished homestead materials and cooking stove located within the storage shed.</p>
	
<p>3. Exterior of the relocated and rebuilt woolshed.</p>	<p>4. Interior of the woolshed with a wool press.</p>
	
<p>5. View north-east across TSR showing cleared landscape and grassy vegetation.</p>	<p>6. View north across TSR showing cleared landscape and grassy vegetation. Tree line indicates boundary of ML.</p>



7. Stamper Batteries located to the north-west of the Project area.



8. Stamper Batteries, dismantled timber framing, and other pieces of abandoned mining equipment observed to the north-west of the Project area.

4.3 PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

There were no issues with access to the Project area, however, because of approvals for demolition and removal given in the original Development Consent and the subsequent E42 modification, the Cowal West Homestead Complex is no longer located in its LEP listed location.

4.4 LIKELY IMPACTS TO HISTORICAL HERITAGE FROM THE PROPOSAL

No heritage items including the Cowal West Homestead complex are located within the Project disturbance area, so there are no likely impacts to historic heritage.

5 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION: HISTORICAL HERITAGE

5.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HISTORICAL SITES

Appropriate management of heritage items is primarily determined based on their assessed significance as well as the likely impacts of the proposed development.

In terms of best practice and desired outcomes, avoiding impact to any historical item is a preferred outcome, however, where a historical site has been assessed as having no heritage value, impacts to these items does not require any legislated mitigation.

As this is a State Significant Development project, future management should strictly follow the Historic Heritage Management Plan which will be updated as required following Project approval.

5.2 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION OF RECORDED HISTORICAL SITES

Current heritage management plans of the Project area should continue with appropriate updates.

No heritage items are in the Project disturbance area and impact to historical heritage values is unlikely.

The Project will follow the unanticipated find protocol outlined within the HMP (Evolution Mining 2022). There are no further requirements to conserve historic heritage values within the Project disturbance area.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made based on the impacts associated with the Project and regarding:

- Legal requirements under the terms of the Heritage Act.
- Guidelines presented in the *Burra Charter*.
- The findings of the current assessment.
- The interests of the local community.

Recommendations concerning the historic values within and around the Project area are as follows.

1. All land-disturbing activities must be confined within the Project disturbance area. Should Project impacts change such that the area to be impacts is outside of the assessed Project disturbance area, then additional assessment may be required.
2. Procedures for the unexpected discovery of historic items and/or skeletal material during Project activities will follow the *unexpected finds protocol* detailed in Section 6.2 of the *Cowal Gold Operations – Heritage Management Plan*.
3. All personnel working on the Project must be made aware of Historical Heritage procedures beforehand to minimise potential harm to previously unidentified heritage items.
4. Council may consider removing the Cowal West Homestead Complex (I11) from the LEP in any upcoming LEP revisions as the complex no longer exists.
5. Should the identified storage shed be impacted by the Project, the items within the storage shed will be managed in accordance with CGO's approved HMP.

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- | | |
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