

## **APPENDIX L – CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

*Urbis*



# TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL SPORTS PRECINCT

Cultural Heritage Assessment  
Report

Prepared for  
**RMA ENGINEERS**  
9 June 2022



**URBIS STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS REPORT WERE:**

Associate Director	Tina King
Senior Consultant	Holly Maclean
Consultant	Narelle Lont
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urbis Pty Ltd (Urbis) has been engaged by RMA Engineers (RMA) to prepare a Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (CHAR), incorporating Aboriginal and historical archaeological assessment, for the proposed development of the Toowoomba Regional Sports Precinct (TRSP) at Charlton, Queensland (the Project Area).

A search of the DSDSATSIP database was undertaken in October 2021 and included a search from a central point of Lot 24 on SP214746, with a 10 km buffer of the Project Area. Of these results, no sites are registered within the boundary of the Project Area. However, 107 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded in the DSDSATSIP cultural heritage database within the 10km search area. This included 11 scarred / carved trees, 26 artefact scatters, six earth features, 63 object collections, and one stone feature. It is likely that the Project Area itself has not been previously investigated, and therefore no sites have been registered with the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Partnerships (DDATSIP).

The Project Area has been classified in accordance with the Duty of Care categories as comprising areas of Category 4 and Category 5.

The following Lots are assessed as being Category 4 – areas subject to significant ground disturbance due to historical agricultural activities understood to have occurred in these Lots:

- 112 on A345;
- 110 on SP272107;
- 111 on SP272107; and
- 276 on SP 268921.

These areas are assessed as having low potential to harm intact, in situ Aboriginal cultural heritage however, a Chance Finds Procedure should be in place in the event any residual artefacts are discovered.

Lot 24 on SP214746 is assessed as being Category 5 – ‘Activities causing additional surface disturbance’- due to minimal historical ground disturbance that suggests potential for the presence of archaeological material. This means that due to the combination of minimal historic ground disturbance, landscape features that suggest potential for cultural heritage material, and the presence of surface archaeological material identified during site survey, future ground breaking works within this lot have high potential to harm sub-surface cultural heritage.

The Project Area (Lots 110SP272107, 111SP272107, 112A345, 276 SP268921, 24SP214746) is located to the north of the Warrego Highway, and east of the Gore Highway, with Gowrie Mountain situated to the west. Charlton is marked by the western railway line at its northern boundary and roughly follows Dry Creek at the southern boundary. The former Southern Railway Line marks the eastern boundary of the current Project Area. The overall Project Area includes a larger area, however only the above Lots are assessed as part of this report. The balance of the Lots comprising the total Project Area will be assessed at a later stage.

The preparation of this CHAR has involved both desktop assessment and site inspection in conjunction with Traditional Custodians, the Western Wakka Wakka People, and has included searches of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) database, historical aerial imagery, and assessment against the Duty of Care Guidelines (DSDATSIP 2004).

Inspection of the Project Area has documented the presence of Aboriginal archaeological material. In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACHA) and the associated Duty of Care Guidelines (DSDATSIP 2004), this CHAR is being prepared to identify and understand potential opportunities and constraints associated with the Project Area that may affect its future use.

Overall, recommendations for management of potential Aboriginal Heritage values within the Project Area include the following:

- **Respect Indigenous heritage places and values and ‘Ask First’;**
- **Preparation of an Archaeological Test Pitting program for Aboriginal cultural material in consultation with Western Wakka Wakka;**
- **Preparation of an Archaeological Chance Finds Procedure in the event that any unexpected Aboriginal cultural material is located during works;**



- **Preparation and presentation of cultural heritage induction materials by Western Wakka Wakka People;**
- **Ongoing consultation with the Western Wakka Wakka People throughout the duration of the project; and**
- **Incorporate interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values into the overall TRSP development.**

The historical archaeological assessment did not identify any archaeological constraints for the Project Area however, low to moderate potential for historical archaeological deposits has been identified within the Project Area.

Recommendations for the archaeological potential of non- Indigenous cultural heritage (NICH) include the following:

- **Archaeological Chance Finds Procedure in the event unexpected historical archaeological material is located during works; and**
- **Preparation of cultural heritage induction materials for potential historical cultural heritage.**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Urbis Pty Ltd (Urbis) has been engaged by RMA Engineers (RMA), acting for Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) to prepare a Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (CHAR) for the proposed TRSP (the Project Area). This report includes an assessment of Aboriginal archaeological and historical archaeological potential.

## 1.1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Charlton is located within the TRC Local Government Area (LGA). TRC is proposing the development of the TRSP at Charlton, next to the Toowoomba Bypass and fronting the Toowoomba Connection Road. The TRSP is proposed to comprise several Lots and provide a highly functional sports facility for Toowoomba and the Darling Downs Region.

A master plan was released by TRC in 2016 and has proceeded to the detailed design stage. The project is currently seeking a Local Government Infrastructure Designation for the development.

A masterplan was developed for the site in 2016, with the purpose of “providing the region with a premier sporting and cultural venue for the Toowoomba region residents and visitors” (TRC 2016). However, the entirety of the proposed TRSP site is not currently owned by TRC. Five Lots were surveyed as part of this report, however survey of the remainder of the proposed site is subject to obtaining ownership and future investigation.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (ACHA) and the associated Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships (DSDSATSIP) (formerly DATSIP) Duty of Care Guidelines (2004), this CHAR is being prepared to identify and understand potential opportunities and constraints associated with the Project Area that may affect future use. This report also includes a Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) of the archaeological potential for Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage (NICH) in order to comply with Part 9 of the QHA- ‘Discovery and protection of archaeological artefacts and underwater cultural heritage’

### 1.1.1. Proposal

The TRSP is proposed to meet the demand for such facility whereby there are currently shortages of sports facilities in the Toowoomba Region. The TRSP is proposed to provide a combination of fields and amenities for outdoor sporting activities and a district-level recreation park will provide the opportunity for the development of future indoor and outdoor courts and athletics facility.

The master plan provides for a staged development of the TRSP over a 20-year period, commencing with early works comprising construction of an access road and utilities provision. Stage one is proposed to entail construction of sports field and a clubhouse, parking facilities and an access road.

The proposed TRSP will comprise the following elements:

- Sports fields;
- Field amenities including sports house, gym, licensed club, clubhouse;
- Indoor infrastructure - multi sport indoor facility;
- Maintenance compound;
- Clubhouses;
- Amenities including change rooms, public toilets, and canteen;
- Future sport and recreational areas including parklands and sports fields;
- Lakes;
- Tree lined boulevard; and
- Car and bus parking

Figure 3 to Figure 5 below show the overall proposed plans from the master plan for the TRSP. Note that the below plans encompass the entirety of the proposed TRSP, for which only five lots are assessed as part of this report.

- 1 Main Access from Gowrie Junction Road
- 2 Toowoomba Connection Rd Highway Entry - Left In / Left Out
- 3 Tree Lined Avenue Entry Road
- 4 Future Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports Centre
- 5 Premier Hub
- 6 Premier Oval
- 7 Premier Rectangular Field
- 8 Rectangular Field Precinct 1
- 9 Future Hardcourts Precinct
- 10 Athletics Precinct
- 11 Oval Field 1
- 12 Oval Field 2
- 13 Diamond Fields Precinct
- 14 Rectangular Field Precinct 2
- 15 Rectangular Field Precinct 3
- 16 Shooting and Archery Precinct
- 17 Oval Field 3
- 18 District Park
- 19 Boundary Planting Screen Buffers
- 20 Future Sports and Recreational Use
- 21 Upgrade of Gowrie Junction Road between new Site Access and the Toowoomba Connection Road. Upgrade to include 2.5m on-road cycle lanes in each direction.



70-80% (64%); *E. coli* No. C12 4376 7, 07 5195 5677 / 07 5195 1221; *E. coli* 9667001 (<http://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/ohrt010402.htm>).



姓名: 王强  
 学号: 123456789  
 性别: 男  
 年龄: 20



LEAD CONSULTANT  
**Otium** SPORT + LEISURE  
marketing group  
**open**



Source: Toowoomba Regional Council

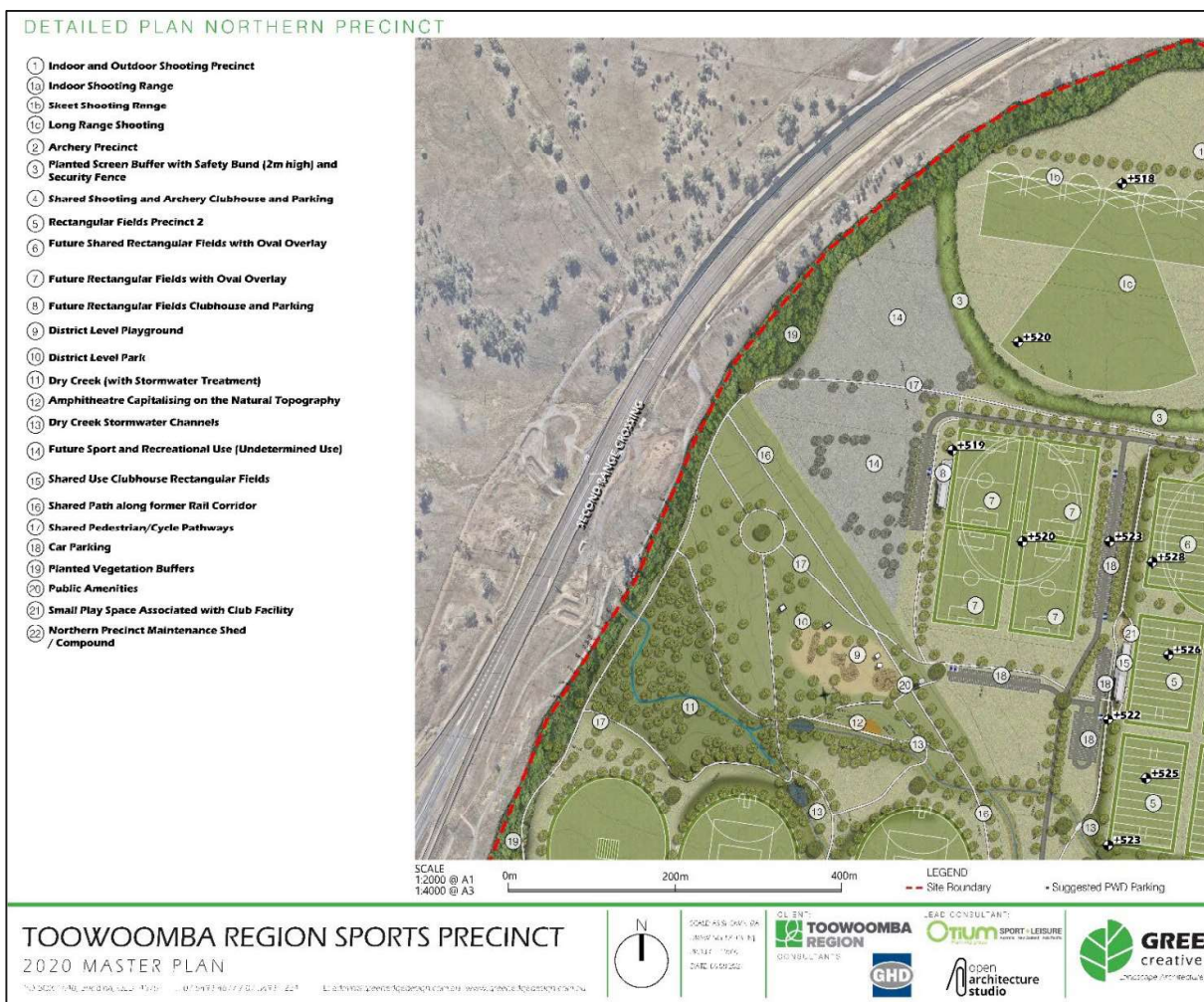


Figure 2 Detailed plan showing the northern precinct of the TRSP

Source: Toowoomba Regional Council



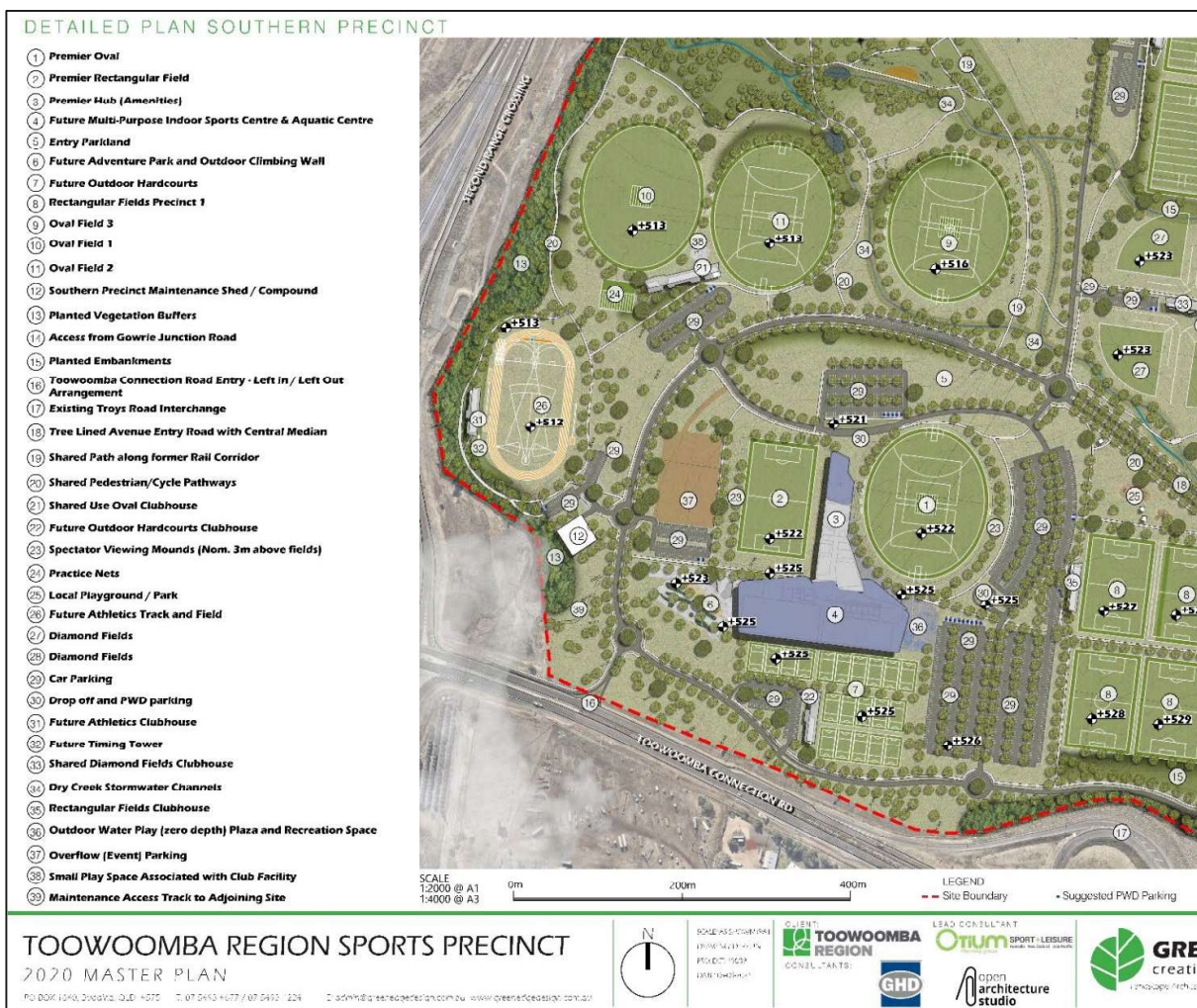


Figure 3 Detailed plan of the southern precinct of the TRSP

Source: Toowoomba Regional Council

## 1.2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project Area is located at Charlton, 13 kilometres north west from the Toowoomba city centre, and 138 kilometres west of Brisbane. The Project Area is situated at the north of the Warrego Highway, and east of the Gore Highway, with Gowrie Mountain situated to the west. Charlton is marked by the western railway line at its northern boundary and roughly follows Dry Creek at the southern boundary.



Figure 4 Location of Charlton, north west of Toowoomba

Source: Google Earth

The Toowoomba Clay Target Club, built in 1966, is located within the south west of the Project Area. Access to the Project Area is via the access road to the Clay Target Club located off the eastbound lane of the Warrego Highway. The Clay Target Club has five trap layouts, four skeet layouts, tower, and room to set up for sporting shoots.

This report assesses five lots only, however the overall proposed development will encompass a much greater area. The remaining lots for the project are to be assessed at a later stage. The land parcels comprising the Project Area are shown at Table 1 and Figure 5 below.

Table 1 Land parcels comprising the proposed TRSP

Lot/ Plan	Current Status
Lot 110 on SP272107	Owned by Toowoomba Regional Council
Lot 111 on SP272107	Owned by Toowoomba Regional Council
Lot 112 on A345	Owned by Toowoomba Regional Council
Lot 276 on SP268921	Privately owned
Lot 24 on SP214746	Privately owned



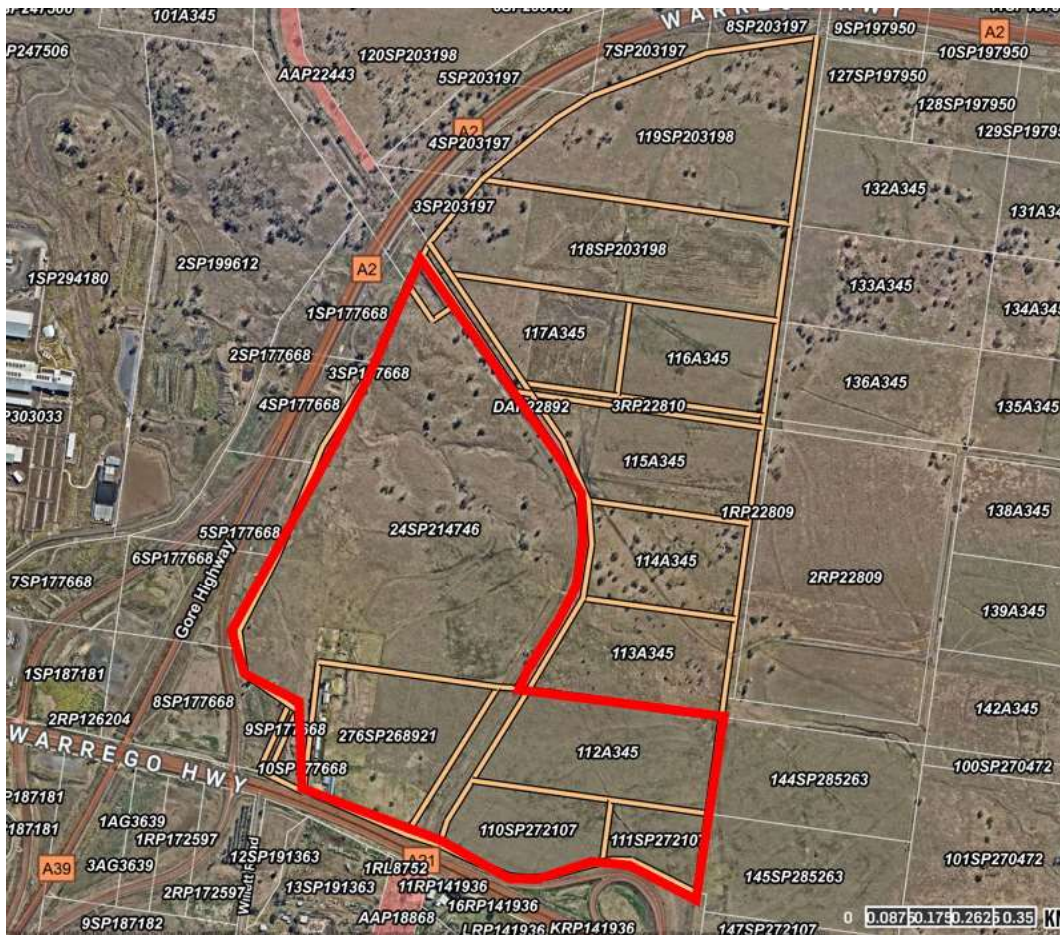


Figure 5 Lots subject of this CHAR (outlined in red)

Source: Provided by Toowoomba Regional Council (2021), updated by Urbis

### 1.3. METHODOLOGY

The preparation of this CHAR has included the following:

#### Indigenous heritage

- Brief background review of the Aboriginal history of the Project Area;
- Searches of the DSDSATSIP database and mapping of registered Aboriginal heritage sites;
- Review of Toowoomba Regional Planning Scheme ;
- Assessment against the Duty of Care Guidelines;
- Site inspections on 18 November 2021 and 23 November with Western Wakka Wakka People representatives to survey the Project Area for surface finds and assessment of the landscape for disturbance and potential for sub-surface archaeology;
- Provision of the recorded cultural heritage finds identified during the two days field investigation;
- Assessment and recommendations for mitigating potential impacts on cultural heritage from the proposed works;
- Recommendations for further archaeological investigation in areas where cultural material has been located and / or where there is the potential for harm to subsurface cultural material; and
- Provision of a report that presents the results of the desktop and field investigation and assessment outcomes.

## NICH

Research conducted to inform the assessment of potential non-Indigenous heritage included:

- World Heritage List
- National Heritage List
- Commonwealth Heritage List
- Register of the National Estate (non-statutory archive)
- Queensland Heritage Register
- Queensland Rail Heritage Register
- Toowoomba Regional Council Planning Scheme - Heritage Overlay; and
- Review of historical imagery from QImagery.

The Western Wakka Wakka People are the cultural heritage party for the Project Area under the ACHA. Law firm Hopgood Ganim, legal representatives of the Western Wakka Wakka People, were contacted by Urbis 6 October 2021 to request a one-day preliminary cultural heritage site walkover of the Project Area on 18th November 2021. On account of severe storms that survey was cut short and consequently a further site walkover was also requested to complete the assessment of the Project Area and was undertaken 23 November 2021. The results of two inspections of the Project Area indicated the presence of Aboriginal archaeological material and also the presence of non-Indigenous cultural heritage (NICH) was noted.

## 1.4. LIMITATIONS

This report is limited to the five lots shown in Figure 2. The remainder of the proposed TRSP site has not been inspected or assessed and does not form part of this report. Future assessment of the remainder of the lots proposed for the TRSP site will be required.

Site inspections and photography of the five lots were undertaken by Urbis and those results inform this CHAR. No archaeological excavation or sub-surface testing has been undertaken for the purposes of this report.

Drawings of the proposed TRSP provided for assessment in this CHAR are from the master plan drawings only, and at this stage, no bulk excavation is anticipated. Specifics for any future excavation of structural elements has not yet been determined. The full scope of construction and specific excavation details and methodologies are not at this stage determined or finalised and are subject to preparation by the future appointed contractor for the works.

## 1.5. REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT

This CHAR has been reviewed and endorsed by Tracey Macleod, representative of the Western Wakka Wakka People. This endorsement is attached at **Appendix A**.



## 2. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The proposed development of the Project Area triggers a number of statutory controls for the management of cultural heritage and potential archaeological resources in the Project Area. The following section provides an overview of the requirements under each as they apply to the Project Area.

### 2.1. NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993

The *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA) was passed after the landmark *Mabo v Queensland* decision (1992) and provides a national system for the recognition and protection of native title and for its co-existence with the national land management system. Native title is the legal recognition of the individual or communal rights and interests which Aboriginal people have in land and water, where Aboriginal people have continued to exercise their rights and interests in accordance with traditional law and custom since before the British asserted sovereignty over Australia. In order for native title rights and interests to be formally recognised under that NTA, it must be established that:

- The native title claim group have rights and interests that are possessed under traditional laws acknowledged and traditional customs observed;
- The native title claim group by those laws and customs, have a connection with the land or water; and
- That those rights and interests are capable of being recognised by Australian law.

Native title can be claimed on vacant crown land; some state forests, national parks, and public reserves; oceans, seas, reefs, lakes and inland waters; some leases, such as non-exclusive pastoral and agricultural leases; and some land held for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Native title cannot be claimed on areas where it has been extinguished, including privately owned land (residential freehold and privately-owned freehold farms); land under residential, commercial or community purpose leases; public work areas such as schools, roads, or hospitals; and pastoral or agricultural leases that grant exclusive possessions.

The NTA also establishes the future act provisions which apply to future land users that may affect native title rights and interests, such as the grant of a mining tenement or the compulsory acquisition of land. The future act processes establish the rights of native title claim group to comment, be consulted, object or negotiate those future land uses.

### 2.2. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT 2003

Aboriginal cultural heritage in Queensland is protected and managed under the ACHA. The ACHA establishes a duty of care on all landholders and developers to take reasonable and practicable measure to ensure that their activities do not adversely harm Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Under the ACHA, a person must not:

- Harm Aboriginal cultural heritage; or
- Excavate, relocate, or remove Aboriginal cultural heritage; or
- Have in the person's possession an object that is Aboriginal cultural heritage if the person knows or ought to reasonably know that it is Aboriginal cultural heritage.

It is an offence to do any of the above unless done so under the exempting provisions of the ACHA, such as under an authority under the provision of the ACHA, under an approved Cultural Heritage Plan or in compliance with the cultural heritage duty of care guidelines.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the ACHA can lead to fines for both individuals and corporations, and potential stop work orders for project activities.

Under the ACHA a person who carries out an activity must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. This is referred to as the "cultural heritage duty of care". The Minister under the ACHA, currently known as the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, notified (by gazette notice) the Duty of Care Guidelines 2004, which identify reasonable and practicable measures for ensuring activities are managed to avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Accordingly, in order to demonstrate that due diligence and reasonable precaution is being taken prior to commencing an activity that may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage, a DDA in accordance with the Duty of Care Guidelines should be prepared.

## **2.3. DUTY OF CARE GUIDELINES 2004**

The Guidelines recognise that it is unlikely that Aboriginal cultural heritage will be harmed where:

- The current or proposed activity is on an area previously subject to significant ground disturbance and the activity will impact only on the area subject to the previous disturbance; or
- The impact of the current or proposed activity is unlikely to cause any additional harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage than that which has already occurred.<sup>1</sup>

The Guidelines have been developed to assist land users in assessing reasonable and practicable measures for meeting the cultural heritage duty of care. They include five categories under which land users can assess proposed activities, and the potential to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. They are:

### **Category 1: Activities involving no surface disturbance**

- Walking;
- Driving on existing roads;
- Aerial surveys; and
- Photography.

These activities are unlikely to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Guidelines provide that it is reasonable and practicable to proceed with these activities without further cultural heritage assessment.

### **Category 2: Activities causing no additional surface disturbance**

- Cultivation of areas where cultivation is already taking place;
- Use and maintenance of existing roads, tracks, and power lines within the existing infrastructure alignment, or other infrastructure footprint; and
- Tourism and visitation activities on an area where such activities are already taking place.

These activities are considered unlikely to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage or cause additional harm beyond what has already occurred. The Guidelines provide that it is reasonable and practicable to proceed with these activities without further cultural heritage assessment.

However, if in the course of the activity it is necessary to excavate, relocate, remove or harm a Cultural Heritage Find, the activity should cease immediately, the Aboriginal parties notified, and an agreement reached regarding how best to manage the activity to avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

### **Category 3: Developed areas**

- Use and maintenance of existing roads, tracks, and power lines within the existing footprint; and
- Use and maintenance of services and utilities.

Works in such areas is generally unlikely to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage, therefore activities in these areas can proceed without the need for any further cultural heritage assessment or consultation with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Party for the area.

However, if in the course of the activity it is necessary to excavate, relocate, remove or harm a Cultural Heritage Find, the activity should cease immediately and the Aboriginal parties notified, and an agreement is reached regarding how best to manage the activity to avoid or minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage.

### **Category 4: Areas which have been subject to previous significant ground disturbance**

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<sup>1</sup> Section 2.2 of the Duty of Care Guidelines

Where an activity is proposed in a Category 4 area, which has previously been subject to significant ground disturbance, it is generally unlikely that the activity will harm Aboriginal cultural heritage.

However, in some instances, activities proposed in a Category 4 area will require further assessment and consultation with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Party. Such consultation would occur where the activity may result in additional ground disturbance beyond that which has already occurred, and where there is potential for residual cultural heritage to occur.

An example of such a case may be the development of a housing estate in an area previously used for agriculture. Although the area has been subject to significant ground disturbance through clearing, cultivating, and maintaining the soil, the proposed activity will result in new ground disturbance beyond that which has already occurred. In this case, further assessment, and consultation with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Party is highly recommended.

Where a DDA determines an activity is to be undertaken in a Category 4 areas, it is also necessary to consider any landscape or cultural features that may be present in the project area, and which may continue to hold cultural heritage significance, such as:

Areas with potential archaeological deposits, such as rock shelters, caves, dune deposits or other geomorphological features;

- Foreshores;
- Waterholes and springs;
- Quarries;
- Ridge tops; and
- Hills or mound formations.

If a project area does contain these features, there is a reasonable likelihood that the area may contain Aboriginal cultural heritage. If the project area does not contain features and is located in an area that has been subject to development and significant ground disturbing activities, there is a low likelihood that the area will contain Aboriginal cultural heritage.

However, if in the course of the activity it is necessary to excavate, relocate, remove or harm a Cultural Heritage Find, the activity should cease immediately and the Aboriginal parties notified, and an agreement is reached regarding how best to manage the activity to avoid or minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage.

### **Category 5: Activities causing additional surface disturbance**

A Category 5 activity is any activity, or activity in an area, that does not fall within the other four categories.

If a project area contains any features that are potentially items of Aboriginal cultural heritage, extra care must be taken prior to proceeding with any activity that may cause additional surface disturbance of the feature, or area immediately surrounding the feature.

Where an activity is proposed in a Category 5 area, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Party must be notified, and:

- Advice sought as to whether the feature constitutes Aboriginal cultural heritage; and
- If it does, agreement as to how best the activity may be managed to avoid or minimise harm to any Aboriginal cultural heritage.

## **2.4. QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992**

Administered by the Department of Environment and Science (DES), the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (QHA) makes provision for the conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage by protecting all places and areas listed on the Queensland Heritage Register (QHR). The QHR is a list of all places which are important for their rarity or representativeness or for their aesthetic, architectural, archaeological, social, and historical contributions to the development of Queensland.

The QHA protects archaeological places. Places with archaeological potential are identified in the QHR register as satisfying criterion 'C' and have a statement of significance relating to their potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Queensland's history (Queensland Government 2020).

A place that only satisfies criterion 'C' is known as an archaeological State heritage place. Places **not** listed on the QHR still have potential to contain archaeological artefacts. Under the QHA, it is a requirement that any archaeological discoveries are reported to DES.

## **2.5. TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING SCHEME**

The TRC Planning Scheme (2012) includes a Heritage Overlay Code (Part 8.3.1) to provide for the assessment of the suitability of development on land in the Heritage Overlay. The Code applies to local heritage places, State heritage places, and areas adjoining heritage places. The Heritage Overlay Code contains the TRC List of Heritage Places (Schedule 6) and is primarily concerned with the process required for the assessment for heritage places.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

An understanding of environmental context is important for the predictive modelling of Aboriginal sites, as well as for their interpretation. Environmental factors such as landforms, bedrock geology, soils, vegetation, and climate influenced the availability of plant and animal foods, raw materials, water, suitable locations for campsites, and the ease with which people could travel between land zones. These environmental factors are also important as they can affect the degree to which sites have survived in the face of ongoing natural and human agents. These factors also affect the likelihood of sites being detected in ground survey.<sup>2</sup>

#### 3.1. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The subject area lies within the Lamington Basalt Province. South-east Queensland volcanic activity of the Lamington Basalt Province dates from the Tertiary although minor more recent eruptions have occurred, for example, the Coulstoun Lakes volcanic activity, the most recent in south-east Queensland, whose age is estimated at about 600 000 years (Geological Society of Australia Queensland Division 1976).

Charlton lies within the Northern Inland Catchments bioregion. This bioregion is located to the west of the Great Dividing Range and includes parts of the northern Murray-Darling Basin in both New South Wales and Queensland. Charlton falls within the Maranoa-Balonne-Condamine subregion. The largest basin in this subregion is the Surat Basin. The area is underlain by the southern Bowen Basin and the north-western section of the Clarence-Moreton Basin. These basins are part of the Great Artesian Basin.<sup>3</sup>

The oldest coal basin in the subregion is the Bowen Basin. Black coal is mined extensively from the Bowen Basin's main coal reserves in the Blackwater Group and Bandanna Formation. The Walloon Coal Measures occur in both the Surat and Clarence-Moreton basins and are the main coal seams developed for coal and coal seam gas in these basins.<sup>4</sup>

The Lamington Basalt Province is composed of sedimentary rocks, such as shales, siltstones, and sandstones. The subject area is within Land Zone 8, being Cainozoic igneous rock, which predominantly comprises flood basalts forming extensive plains and occasional low scarps.

Land cover in the subregion has undergone significant modification, with approximately 75% of the subregion used for agriculture, predominantly grazing.<sup>5</sup> Soils across the Project Area include Black Vertosols, Red Ferrosols and shallow Dermosols. Basaltic soils have been extensively developed for cropping and introduced pastures due to their high fertility and generally high soil moisture availability.<sup>6</sup>

#### 3.2. HYDROLOGY

The Maranoa-Balonne-Condamine subregion lies within the Murray-Darling Basin. Average annual rainfall in the region is 585 millimetres. The climate varies from temperate conditions in the upland areas to a hot, persistently dry climate in the west. The largest public water storage in the region is Coolmunda Dam with a storage capacity of 69 gigalitres.

Groundwater is widely extracted for stock and domestic purposes and, to a lesser extent, for town water supply and intensive agriculture. The Project Area is 2.4 kilometres south of Gowrie Creek, an extensive waterway that is prone to flooding.<sup>7</sup>

Within the Project Area there are two small creeks that disperse from Gowrie Creek (Stream Order 1). The site is generally flat, albeit with relatively deep creek beds. During rain events, the site is inundated and therefore has potential to be a floodplain in wetter weather events.

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<sup>2</sup> Hughes, P.J. and M.E. Sullivan, 1984 Environmental approaches to assessing significance. In S. Sullivan and S. Bowdler (eds), *Site Surveys and Significance Assessment in Australian Archaeology*. Pp.34-37. Canberra: Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University.

<sup>3</sup> Australian Government 2018 *Context statement for the Maranoa-Balonne-Condamine subregion*

<https://www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au/assessments/11-context-statement-maranoa-balonne-condamine-subregion>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Queensland Government 2016 *Regional Ecosystems: Regional Ecosystem Definitions: Land Zone Definitions*.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/descriptions/land-zones>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

### 3.3. FLORA AND FAUNA

The Maranoa-Balonne-Condamine subregion spans the high country of the Condamine catchment to the wide alluvial western plains.

The subregion is ecologically significant because it comprises a large range of landforms and associated ecosystems. Approximately 4000 square kilometres of the subregion's wetlands are listed in the Australian Wetlands Database and three are listed nationally. The subregion contains seven endangered or critically endangered ecological communities that are protected under Commonwealth legislation and 85 species that are protected under state or Commonwealth legislation.<sup>8</sup>

Pre-clearance vegetation mapping indicates that vegetation was consistent throughout the Project Area. Regional ecosystem mapping from Queensland Globe, in conjunction with the Queensland Herbarium (2017) identifies that vegetation throughout the subject area comprised moist to dry open forests to woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus orgadophila* (mountain coolibah). Some areas dominated by *E. tereticornis* (blue gum), *E. melliodora* (yellow box), *E. albens* (white box), *E. crebra* (narrow-leaved red ironbark) or *E. melanophloia* (silver-leaved ironbark).

The flora associated with these vegetation communities would have provided habitats for a variety of animals, which in turn would have acted as potential food and raw material sources (for medicine, clothing ornamentation and tool production) for Aboriginal people. These would have included likely faunal species.

Figure 6 below shows there is a small section at the northeast of the Project Area that has remnant vegetation, however the remainder of the site has been cleared.



Figure 6 Map showing remnant vegetation (highlighted in yellow) in the northeast of the Project Area

Source: Queensland Globe

<sup>8</sup> Australian Government 2018 Context statement for the Maranoa-Balonne-Condamine subregion

<https://www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au/assessments/11-context-statement-maranoa-balonne-condamine-subregion>

## 4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### 4.1. ETHNOHISTORICAL SUMMARY – ABORIGINAL BACKGROUND

A review of previous archaeological studies and cultural heritage assessment undertaken in the surrounding regions were reviewed to understand the archaeological potential of the subject site. There is limited to no recent archaeological work in this area available online, but an understanding of the Aboriginal history of the area can be understood through online information as provided below.

Aboriginal groups inhabited the Darling Downs for at least 40,000 years prior to European settlement. The two main groups of the Darling Downs included the Giabal and Jarowair people. The Jagera people were of the foothills and escarpment, Giabal were of the Toowoomba area and the Jarowair were of the northern areas towards and including the Bunya Mountains (Toowoomba Regional Council n.d.). The Indigenous population is estimated to have been from 1500 to 2500 people pre-European settlement.

Originally known as the 'upland area', the Indigenous people of the Darling Downs would burn the grasslands and hunted as the new, green sprouts attracted animals. This practice of hunting by the coastal tribes earned them the name "Gooneburra", or "the ones who hunt with fire" (Toowoomba Regional Council n.d.).

The Bunya nut festival, held on Jarowair land when the bunya nuts were abundant or every two to three years, was an important gathering in the region. It is estimated that at least 14 different Aboriginal groups would have travelled to the festival from as far north as Maryborough and Tweed River in the south and drew people from all over the Darling Downs.

The Darling Downs area is noted as containing a number of ceremonial sites, including a 4000-year-old Bora Ring (ceremonial site) known as the Gummingurru stone arrangement, which is located at Meringandan, approximately 7km northeast of Charlton. The Bora is understood to have been used as a men's initiation site until about 1890 (Toowoomba Regional Council n.d.).

The explorer and botanist, Allan Cunningham, documented the Darling Downs in 1827. Thirteen years later, Patrick Leslie and his party began the first wave of colonisation. Aboriginal people in the region were aware of the existence of Europeans because of an escaped convict that lived with the Jagera people from 1826 to 1844. European colonisation had disastrous consequences for the original inhabitants of the Darling Downs. The Europeans introduced disease including smallpox, influenza and measles. In addition to disease, social disruption, relocation, and murder came with colonisation, all which ravaged the Darling Downs' Indigenous population.

### 4.2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Charlton is located in the cadastral division of the County of Aubigny, which encompasses the Toowoomba region and Dalby region of the Western Downs.

Charlton was historically located within the Parish of Gowrie. The name 'Gowrie' originated from the Gowrie pastoral station operated by Henry Hughes and Frederick Isaac who used the name from 1847. 'Gowrie' is thought to have been associated with the Aboriginal word 'cowarie' which might refer either to Gowrie Creek or mean freshwater mussel. Charlton is approximately 4km south west of Gowrie Junction and was named after the Gowrie Junction railway station which was the junction between the southern and western railway lines from 1871 to 1915.

The surveyor General of New South Wales named Charlton in 1850, possibly to honour the Earl of Arundel who had a long association with the name Aubigny. An 1864 squatting map shows that much of the Crown land in the area was taken up by squatters in order to graze livestock (Figure 7)

Gowrie Estate Provisional School No.823 opened on 4 July 1898 and became Gowrie Estate State School on 1 January 1909. It was renamed Charlton State School in November 1915 and eventually closed in 2013 (Queensland State Archives).

The area was officially named and bounded by the Governor in Council on 7 March 1901 under the *Land Act 1897*. By 1945, the area was divided into lots and land used for agricultural purposes (Figure 8). A historical photo from 1949 suggests the area was also used to grow wheat (Picture 1).

Charlton remains a rural area, with dairying, grazing, and crops and vegetables grown throughout the locale.





Figure 7 Squatting map of the Darling Downs District, 1864 showing crown land in the area of Charlton taken up by squatters

Source: National Library of Australia



Figure 8 Parish of Gowrie cadastral map, 1941

Source: National Library of Australia





Picture 1 Wheatfields at Charlton, 1949

Source: University of Queensland 2018

#### **4.2.1. Southern Railway Line**

The following information is extracted from the 1993 Queensland Rail heritage report (J.D Kerr).

The original line of the Southern Railway extended from Toowoomba to Warwick. The line commenced from Gowrie Junction running through Westbrook, Cambooya and Clifton. To avoid heavy earthworks, several curves were made in the line. Construction of the Gowrie to Hendon section (then known as Allora) was delayed by the financial crisis and opened in March 1869. The remaining section of line to Warwick was opened in January 1871 and the line was later extended to Stanthorpe in 1881 to service the tin industry.

The Gowrie Junction to Wyreema Section closed in December 1959 after little use for a number of years.

#### **4.2.2. Toowoomba Clay Target Club**

The origins of the clay target club began when the club was formed at the Imperial Hotel in Toowoomba in 1898 (Darling Downs Gazette, p.7). The club was established at 10648 Warrego Highway Charlton in 1966 and can be seen in the below map in the area marked as 'Park and Recreation' (Figure 9). Currently the site is leased by TRC with the land being owned by the Queensland Government.

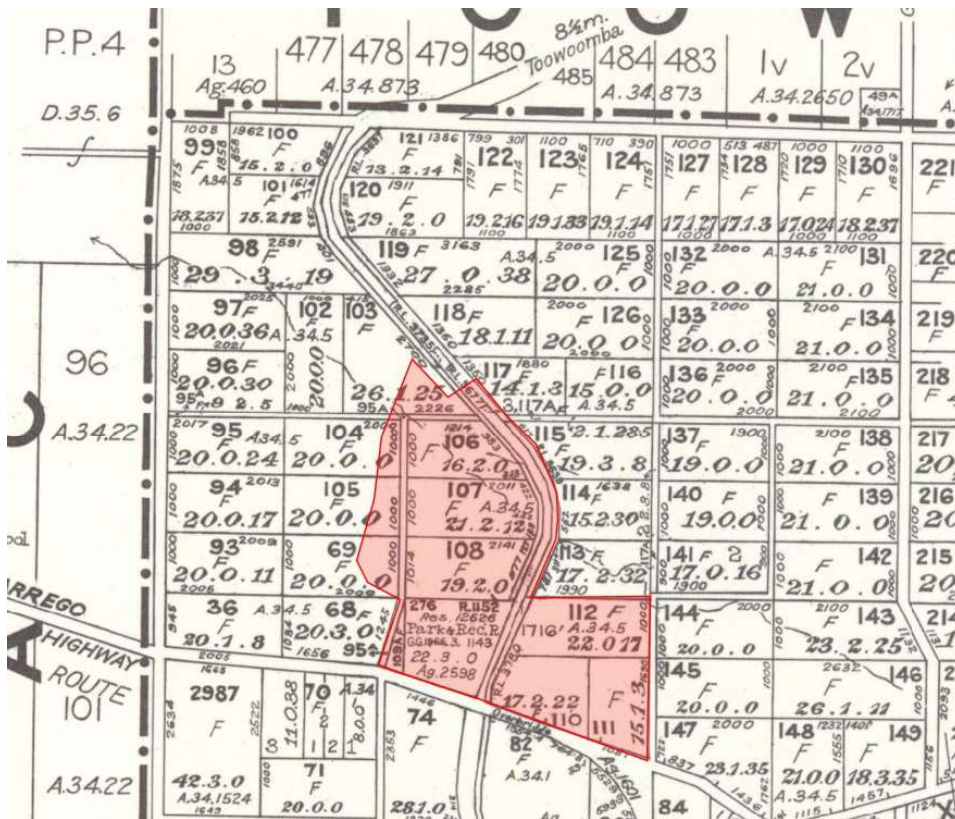


Figure 9 Parish of Gowrie, County of Aubigny 1971 showing the project area marked in red and location of the clay target club

Source: National Library of Australia, object no.1886976286

### 4.3. LAND USE AND DISTURBANCE

The earliest available (online) aerial imagery of the Project Area dates to 1955. The aerial photograph (Picture 2) shows the Project Area is largely undisturbed, with the exception of some sheds/ buildings or structures, likely used for agricultural purposes in the south east of the site (Lot 276SP268921). At this time, it appears 112A345, 110SP272107 were disturbed as part of agricultural activities.





Picture 2 1955 aerial photograph showing the site largely undisturbed with remnant trees. Some sheds/ buildings/ structures, fences and Southern Railway Line are visible

Source: QImagery QAP483 Frame 13

By 1965, the land used for agricultural purposes had expanded, encompassing all of the Lots - 112A345, 110SP272107 and 111SP272107, in the far south east corner of the site (Picture 3). Buildings/ structures and fences are still visible at the south eastern side of Lot 276SP268921. The alignments of the Gowrie Creek offshoots are clearly visible, as is the alignment of the Southern Railway. One single shed sized structure is visible in the location of the current clay target club in 1965.



Picture 3 1965 aerial photograph showing land at the south east of the Project Area had been used for agriculture and structures and fences remain at the south east of Lot 276SP268921

Source: QImagery QAP 1485 Frame 34

Land disturbance for agricultural use appears to have occurred between 1965 and 1975, with trees removed adjacent to the railway line at the south east of Lot 24SP21476 (Picture 3). Some structures noted in 1965 adjacent to the railway line in the south east of Lot 276SP268921 appear to have been removed by 1975.

The Clay Target Club was built in 1966 and can be seen in the 1975 aerial (north west section of Lot 276SP26892).

By 1988, further areas had been used for agriculture at the northwest section of the site (within Lot 24SP214746) and appears some land modification- possibly channels- in the former agricultural areas had occurred. Additional buildings had been constructed and further localised land disturbance undertaken for the clay target club.



Picture 4 Aerial photograph taken in 1975 showing further agricultural land use, tree clearance, the clay target club building and removal of structures at the south east of Lot 276SP268921

Source: QImagery QAP 2838 Frame 8



Picture 5 The 1988 aerial photograph shows further land clearance had occurred for agricultural use within Lot 24SP214746. An additional building was constructed, and further land modification had occurred for the clay target club.

Source: QImagery QAP4771 Frame 240

The aerial imagery from 1992 shows that some trees had been cleared over the previous decade. Two new, small structures can be seen at the centre of the site and at the south east (Picture 5).

Aerial imagery shows that by 2001, the small structures visible in the 1992 aerial had been removed. Further tree clearing is also evident in the 2001 aerial photograph.



Picture 6 1992 aerial image showing new structures (circled in red)

Source: QImagery QAP5031 Frame 49

Between 2001 and 2020 most of the trees in the Project Area disappeared, with only some remnant vegetation remaining at the northern extent of the site (Picture 7). The landscape surrounding the Project Area dramatically changed with the construction of the Toowoomba Bypass at the west and Troys Road overpass at the south east in 2016.



Picture 7 2001 aerial photography shows that the site was developed with a number of buildings at the southern area of the site

Source: QImagery QAP5898 Frame 155



Between 2001 and 2020 further tree clearance appears to have taken place with only a few trees left remaining in the south, and some around waterways at the north of the Project Area (Picture 8). Outside of the Project Area, at the west and south east, the Toowoomba Bypass and Troys Road overpass is visible which was constructed in 2016.



Picture 8 2020 aerial photograph that shows significant tree clearing and the construction of the Toowoomba bypass and Troys Road overpass outside the Project Area in 2016

Source: Nearmap, annotated by Urbis

A summary of the above historic aerial photograph assessment is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Historic aerial photograph analysis

Year	Analysis
1955	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 1955 aerial shows the site largely undisturbed, with some remnant trees and land use for agriculture.</li> <li>Some sheds/ buildings or structures and fencing are evident in the south east (Lot 276 SP268921) and south east of the site (Lot 111 SP272107)</li> <li>Apparent agricultural land use- Lots 112A345 and 110SP272107</li> <li>Southern railway line evident at the eastern perimeter of the Project Area</li> </ul>
1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southern Railway closed</li> </ul>
1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agricultural expansion within Lots 112A345, 110SP272107 and 111SP272107</li> <li>No further tree clearance to Lots 24SP21476 and 276SP268921</li> <li>Sheds/ buildings or structures and fences still extant at south east of Lot 276SP268921</li> </ul>
1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further agricultural use and tree removal at the south east of Lot 24SP21476</li> <li>Structures adjacent to the railway line in the south east of Lot 276SP268921 appear to have been removed</li> <li>Construction of a building/ buildings for the clay target club and associated land disturbance at the north west of Lot 276SP268921</li> </ul>
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further land clearance for agricultural use within Lot 24SP21476.</li> <li>Some land modification (possibly channels) in the former agricultural areas</li> </ul>

Year	Analysis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional building constructed, and further land modification had occurred for the clay target club.</li> </ul>
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree clearance over past decade.</li> <li>Two new, small structures can be seen at the centre of the site (24SP214746) and at the south east (112A345)</li> </ul>
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small structures visible in 1992 since removed.</li> <li>Tree clearance</li> </ul>
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree removal</li> <li>Outside the Project Area, construction of the Toowoomba Bypass and Troys Road overpass was undertaken in 2016</li> </ul>

## 4.4. QUEENSLAND THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Historical themes can assist in understanding a wider pattern of development in Queensland. Historical themes encompass historical events, phases, movements, processes, or ways of life that have had substantial influence on the evolution, development, and the environment of Queensland's places (Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) 2013).

Based on the area's historical context and identified potential cultural heritage sites, the Project Area demonstrates a number of key historic themes which can be used to interpret the history and development of the area. These include:

### Peopling Places

- Migration from outside and within.

### Exploiting, utilising, and transforming the land

- Agricultural activities.

### Developing secondary and tertiary industries

- Struggling with remoteness, hardship, and failure.

## 5. ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

This section outlines the historical and archaeological context, along with results of previous archaeological work undertaken in the surrounding region. The results of searches of the DSDSATSIP database are provided to understand the archaeological potential of the Project Area.

### 5.1. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

A review of previous archaeological studies and cultural heritage assessment undertaken in the surrounding regions were reviewed to understand the archaeological potential for the subject site/area/Lots. Relevant studies are outlined below.

#### Gummingurru Stone Arrangement Site Complex, Thomas, and Ross 2013

The Gummingurru stone arrangement site located at Meringandan, 25 kilometres north west of Toowoomba was mapped and recorded by archaeologists in 2010. A total of 9368 rocks were plotted and recorded, many of which make up over 20 motifs. The significance of the site encompasses a large cultural landscape which includes neighbouring sites, resource tree plantings, scarred trees, story places and memoryscapes.

#### Inland Rail- Gowrie to Helidon Project-Draft EIS

A cultural heritage assessment was undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Gowrie to Helidon section of Inland Rail's Project. The heritage assessment focussed on Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage of that region proposed within the disturbance footprint of the Project Area plus a buffer area of 50 metres. The assessment was undertaken via desktop and field assessment. The Indigenous cultural heritage impacted by the project is managed under Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs), for which the outcomes of the assessment have not been published online.

### 5.2. NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE REGISTER SEARCHES

The National Native Title Register is established under s.192 of the NTA. A search of the National Native Title Tribunal's (NNTT) Native Title Vision (NTV) mapping tool shows that the Project Area is not covered by a Native Title claim. A search of the Register of Native Title Claims (RNTC) shows the following claimant applications that have been registered in nearby regions:

Table 3 Registered claimant applications

Application name	Dated filed	Tribunal file no	Federal Court file no	Date claim entered on register
Githabul People	24/03/2021	QC2021/001	QUD87/2021	14/05/2021
Yuggera Ugarapul People	07/04/2017	QC2017/005	QUD213/2017	04/08/2017
Wakka Wakka People #3	29/04/2016	QC2016	QUD276/2019	02/06/2016

The map below shows the Toowoomba Region/ Project Area is not covered by a Native Title claim.



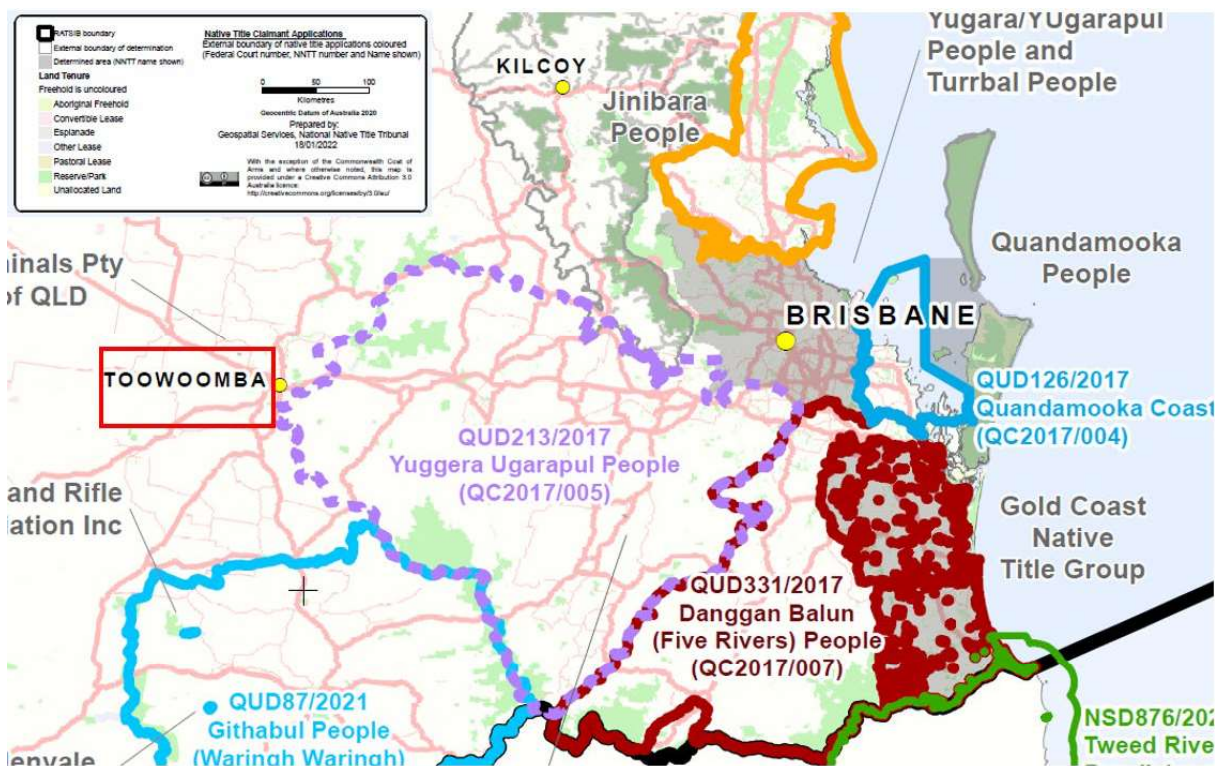


Figure 10 Map showing the absence of native title determination for the Toowoomba Region, 2021

Source: National Native Title Tribunal

### 5.3. DSDSATSIP REGISTER SEARCHES

DSDSATSIP maintains a database and register of all reported places of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural significance. The information on this database is available only to Aboriginal Parties and cultural heritage professionals fulfilling Duty of Care requirements through a formal application. Detailed information on individual sites cannot be obtained without permission of the relevant cultural heritage party for that site.

A search of the DSDSATSIP database was undertaken in October 2021 and included a search from a central point of Lot 24 on SP214746, with a 10 km buffer of the Project Area

The search identified that 107 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded in the DSDSATSIP cultural heritage database with a 10km search area from the centre of the Project Area. This includes 11 scarred/ carved trees, 26 artefact scatters, six earth features, 63 object collections and one stone feature. Of these results, no sites are registered within the boundary of the Project Area (Figure 11). It is however important to note that an absence of recorded sites is not a firm indicator of the absence of cultural sites. Often, it reflects a lack of survey in an area for the purposes of investigating cultural heritage.

The breakdown of registered sites is provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4 DSDSATSIP registered Aboriginal heritage sites 10km from the centre of the Project Area

Artefact Type	Site ID
Scarred/Carved Tree	KB:E95
Artefact Scatter	KB:G17
Scarred/Carved Tree	KB:G91
Scarred/Carved Tree	KB:G92

Artefact Type	Site ID
Artefact Scatter	KB:K47
Artefact Scatter	KB-0165-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0166-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0167-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0168-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0169-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0170-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0173-1
Scarred Tree	KB-0174-1
Scarred Tree	KB-0175-1
Scarred Tree	KB-0176-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0177-1
Scarred Tree	KB-0178-1
Scarred Tree	KB-0179-1
Scarred Tree	KB-0180-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0181-1
Scarred Tree	KB-0182-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0183-1
Earth Feature	KB-0213-1
Earth Feature	KB-0214-1
Earth Feature	KB-0215-1
Stone Feature	KB-0216-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0250-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0251-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0252-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0253-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0254-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0255-1

<b>Artefact Type</b>	<b>Site ID</b>
Artefact Scatter	KB-0256-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0257-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0431-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0432-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0433-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0438-1
Earth Feature	KB-0439-1
Earth Feature	KB-0439-2
Earth Feature	KB-0439-3
Artefact Scatter	KB-0442-1
Scarred Tree	KB-0485-1
Object Collection	KB-0497-001
Object Collection	KB-0501-001
Object Collection	KB-0502-001
Object Collection	KB-0503-001
Object Collection	KB-0505-001
Object Collection	KB-0587-001
Object Collection	KB-0588-001
Object Collection	KB-0659-001
Object Collection	KB-0660-001
Object Collection	KB-0661-001
Object Collection	KB-0803-001
Object Collection	KB-0804-001
Object Collection	KB-0807-001
Object Collection	KB-0830-001
Object Collection	KB-0831-001
Object Collection	KB-0832-001
Object Collection	KB-0833-001

Artefact Type	Site ID
Object Collection	KB-0834-001
Object Collection	KB-0835-001
Object Collection	KB-0836-001
Object Collection	KB-0837-001
Object Collection	KB-0838-001
Object Collection	KB-0839-001
Object Collection	KB-0840-001
Object Collection	KB-0841-001
Object Collection	KB-0842-001
Object Collection	KB-0843-001
Object Collection	KB-0844-001
Object Collection	KB-0845-001
Object Collection	KB-0846-001
Object Collection	KB-0847-001
Object Collection	KB-0848-001
Object Collection	KB-0849-001
Object Collection	KB-0850-001
Object Collection	KB-0851-001
Object Collection	KB-0852-001
Object Collection	KB-0853-001
Object Collection	KB-0854-001
Object Collection	KB-0855-001
Object Collection	KB-0856-001
Object Collection	KB-0857-001
Object Collection	KB-0858-001
Object Collection	KB-0859-001
Object Collection	KB-0860-001
Object Collection	KB-0861-001

<b>Artefact Type</b>	<b>Site ID</b>
Object Collection	KB-0862-001
Object Collection	KB-0863-001
Object Collection	KB-0864-001
Object Collection	KB-0865-001
Object Collection	KB-0866-001
Object Collection	KB-0867-001
Object Collection	KB-0868-001
Object Collection	KB-0869-001
Object Collection	KB-0870-001
Object Collection	KB-0871-001
Object Collection	KB-0884-001
Object Collection	KB-0885-001
Object Collection	KB-0886-001
Object Collection	KB-0887-001
Object Collection	KB-0888-001
Object Collection	KB-0895-001
Object Collection	KB-0901-001
Object Collection	KB-0902-1
Artefact Scatter	KB-0912-1

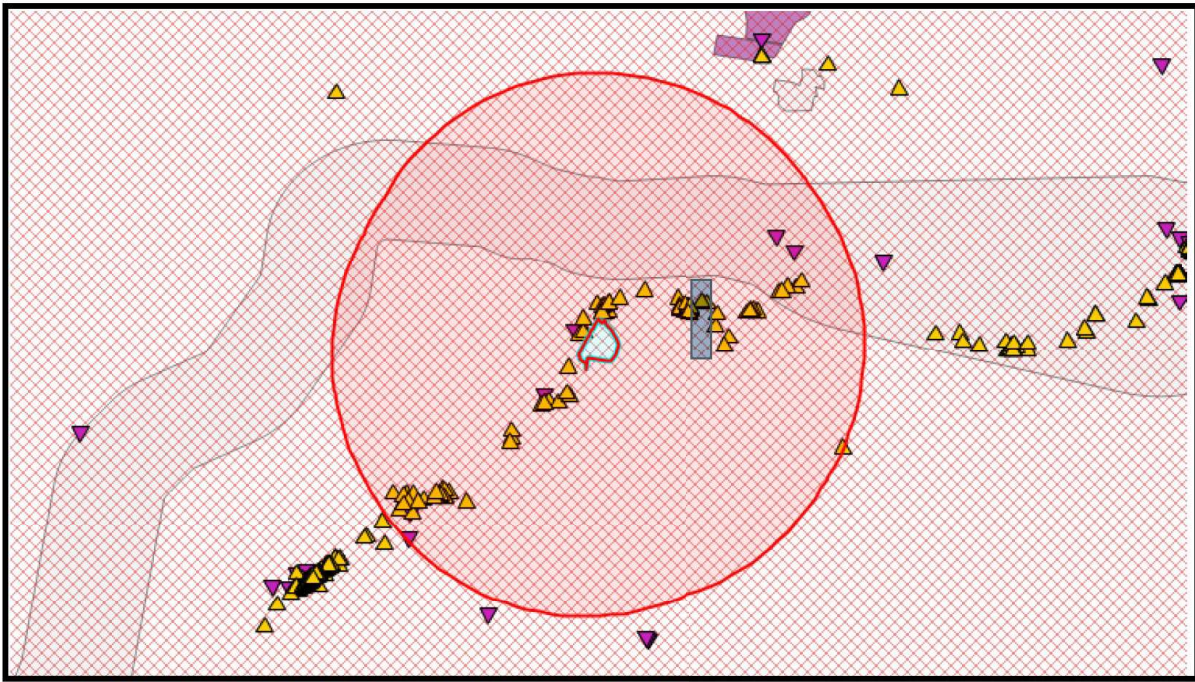


Figure 11 Distribution of registered Aboriginal heritage places across the 10km radius search area, showing no registered places within the Project Area (centre)

Source: DSDSATSIP

## 5.4. PREDICTIVE MODEL

The following presents a listing of types of sites that may be present within the subject site and their likelihood, based on the environmental and archaeological background, results of the register search, and understanding of land use and disturbance.

### Artefact Scatters

These are defined by the collection of two or more stone artefacts in close association with one another. They may represent camp sites (including permanent or transient occupation), hunting and gathering activities and/or stone tool manufacturing sites. The detection of these sites is dependent on-site factors such as vegetation cover, sedimentation, and/or leaf litter, and topography, as surface expressions are highly susceptible to movement due to environmental factors such as erosion or the action of water. Conversely, these environmental actions may expose previously concealed sub-surface finds. Additionally, the presence of in-situ sub-surface deposits is also dependent on land use and disturbance history, including soil disturbance, laying of fill, and development of structures on the site.

The underlying geology of the Project Area produces fine grained basic rocks like basalt or rhyolite. In the right conditions, this also produces interbedded sedimentary rocks such as siltstone and sandstone. Siltstone is known to be suitable to produce stone tools and sandstone for grinding stones. Due to general minimal disturbance across the project area, there is high potential for the presence of intact, in situ artefact scatters or isolated finds, and high potential for isolated artefacts throughout the Project Area.

### Carved/Scarred Trees

Scars found on large mature trees often indicate the removal of bark by Indigenous people to make material items like canoes, containers, shields and boomerangs. Carved trees generally feature large areas of bark that have been removed, and carved lines deeply etched into the timber. Carvings include geometric or linear patterns, human figures, animals, and birds.

Based on the environmental and archaeological context of the area, there is low- moderate potential for the presence of carved/scarred trees within the Project Area where trees have historically remained along creek lines and in the small remnant vegetation area at the far east of Lot 24SP214746.

### Grinding Grooves



Grinding grooves represent the physical evidence of past tool making or food processing activities. They are generally found near water sources. The presence of long thin grooves may indicate where the edges of stone tools were ground. Food processing activities such as seed grinding can leave shallow circular depression in rock surfaces.

The underlying geology of the subject site comprises extensive plains and potential for expression of sandstones. The presence of water courses and low level of disturbance indicates there is low- moderate potential for grinding grooves within the Project Area.

### **Bora/Ceremonial Sites**

The material remains of past Aboriginal ceremonial activities come in the form of earthen arrangements or bora grounds and their associated connecting pathways, and stone circles, arrangements, and mounds. Indigenous people used these places for ceremonies, including initiation and inter-group gatherings.

There is low potential for tangible evidence of ceremonial sites such as Bora Rings or earthen arrangements within the Project Area. Many such ceremonial sites are intangible and can only be identified through consultation with Aboriginal people.

### **Burials**

Pre-contact Aboriginal burials are commonly found in caves and rock shelters, midden deposits and sand dunes. Burial sites are sensitive places of great significance to Indigenous people.

Based on the environmental context of the area, the high clay vertosol soils, the lack of landscape features such as caves and sand dunes, and low potential for very mature trees, there is low potential for burials.

### **Lithic Quarries**

A lithic quarry is the location of an exploited stone source. Sites will only be located where exposure of a stone type suitable for use in artefact manufacture occur; this includes chert, quartz, mudstone, and silcrete. Reduction sites, where the early stages of stone artefact manufacture occur, are often associated with quarries.

The underlying geology of the subject area being Cainozoic igneous rock, which predominantly comprises flood basalts such as shales, siltstones, and sandstones. The geology of the area would yield stone suitable for stone tool production and grinding stones, there is low potential for lithic quarries, however no suitable rock outcrops were observed during field survey.

### **Fish traps and weirs**

Fish traps and weirs are stone or wooden constructions designed to capture aquatic animals, predominantly fish. Traps are considered as structures made predominantly from stone to form a type of pen or enclosure. Weirs are constructions designed to block the natural flow of water in creeks, streams and other watercourses.

Based on the environmental context of the area, there is low potential for traps and weirs.

### **Rock Shelters with Art/Engraving and/or Occupational Deposits**

Rock shelters include rock overhangs, shelters, or caves, which were used by Aboriginal people for shelter, temporary occupation, and resource processing and/or preparation. Rock shelter sites may contain artefacts, midden deposits and/or rock art/engravings. These sites will only occur where suitable geological formations are present, and the geology and disturbance of the area suggests nil potential for rock shelters in the Project Area.

## **6. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT**

### **6.1. HERITAGE STATUS**

#### **6.1.1. Queensland Heritage Register**

The Project Area is not entered on the QHR, nor any individual site elements or components. No State listed archaeological sites are known within or in the vicinity of the subject site.

#### **6.1.2. Local Listings**

No local listings have been identified in the Toowoomba Regional Planning Scheme list of heritage places (SC6.6.1) in the Project Area, nor any lots within, or surrounding the Project Area.

#### **6.1.3. Non- Statutory Listings**

No listings have been identified within or surrounding the Project Area on National or Commonwealth heritage registers under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Further, the Project Area is not entered on the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) Heritage Register.

#### **6.1.4. Previous Studies**

Desktop searches undertaken did not identify any available online heritage/ archaeological assessments for the immediate Charlton area, however a non-Indigenous cultural heritage assessment was undertaken as part of an EIS in 2021 for Inland Rail which investigated the proposed rail corridor between Gowrie and Helidon.

##### **Gowrie to Helidon Summary of Findings**

An assessment of non-Indigenous heritage values and impacts was undertaken within the Gowrie to Helidon section of Inland Rail's Project Area plus a buffer of 50 metres to assess targeted areas of potential cultural heritage within the Inland Rail disturbance footprint. The key findings from the assessment included:

- There were 17 identified registered heritage places in the Inland Rail Project Area, including five places of state significance and 36 identified areas of interest of within the cultural heritage study area; and
- The assessment determined that six of the areas of interest are of local heritage significance but currently unlisted.

It is noted that the proposed TRSP Project Area is not within, or near to Inland Rail's Project Area that is discussed in the 'previous archaeological work' Section (5.1).



# 7. SITE INSPECTION

## 7.1. SURVEY AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

This CHAR has been prepared to assess whether any unrecorded Indigenous or non-Indigenous cultural heritage is present within the Project Area and to determine the likelihood of subsurface archaeological material that may be impacted on during future development works for the TRSP.

Identification of landforms within the study area and evidence of soil and ground disturbance were assessed to inform Aboriginal archaeological predictive modelling, in addition to understanding the local historical context of the area to determine the potential for subsurface remains.

Field survey was conducted with Traditional Custodians (Western Wakka Wakka people) with a methodology that included surveying, site evaluation, and recording. Field survey included the following activities:

- Pedestrian survey across the Project Area to inspect the site for the presence of artefacts or any other previously unidentified archaeological sites, and to identify any sensitive landscape features that may suggest the presence of sub-surface archaeological sites, and to understand the level of ground coverage that may obscure identification of surface artefacts.
- Field recording methodology included photography, landscape, artefact and feature recording, and GPS locations of any areas of cultural heritage interest using a Garmin handheld GPS. All field data was also recorded in a field notebook.
- The Ground Surface Visibility was recorded across the Project Area using a percentage range between 0-100% and graded as per the below:
  - Zero 0%;
  - Poor 1-25%;
  - Moderate 26-50 %
  - Fair 51-75 %
  - Good 76-85%
  - Excellent 86-100%.

### 7.1.1. Field Survey Program and Outcomes

Pedestrian survey of the Project Area was undertaken on 18 and 23 November 2021. The field survey team included Urbis archaeologists Holly Maclean and Narelle Lont, Leigh Hansen and Lisa Goodman from TRC and the following representatives of the Western Wakka Wakka People:

- Tracey McLeod;
- Adrian Beattie;
- John Beattie;
- Bianca Beattie; and
- Brittini Somerfeld

The Project Area is bordered by Warrego Highway to the south and Toowoomba Bypass to the west. The Project Area ground surface is generally undulating but overall, a flat landscape with deep, dry creek beds that is bounded by the former southern railway line. Soils across the Project Area were black to dark brown, reflecting the basalt geology, and the cracking and clayey composition of the soil observed was also characteristic of the Vertosol soil profile.

The Project Area surveyed is shown in below and included the following five lots (24SP214746, 276SP268921, 112A345, 110SP272107, 111SP272107)

Areas not surveyed include Lots of the overall Master Plan area not yet owned by TRC. The lots not surveyed as part of the overall proposed TRSP site are indicated in Figure 12 below.

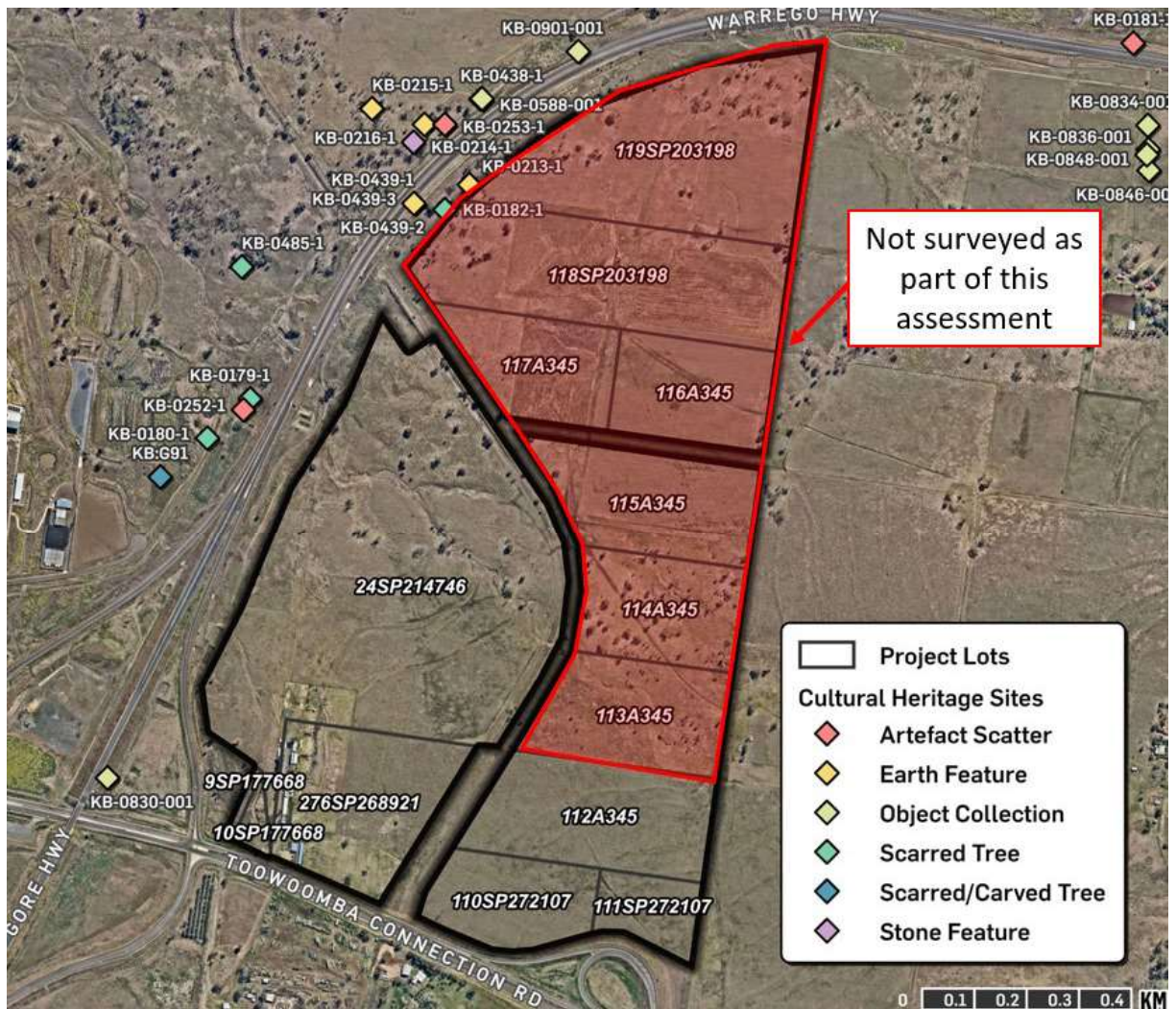


Figure 12 Map showing the five lots surveyed in November 2021 (outlined in black) and the remainder of the proposed TRSP site not surveyed at this stage (shaded in red).

Source: Urbis 2021

Ground Surface Visibility across the Project Area was generally poor with the vast majority of the ground surface obscured by long grasses with the exception of tracks created by the movement of cattle (Picture 9 to Picture 12). Ground Surface Visibility on these animal made tracks was generally excellent.





Picture 9 The Project Area showing poor Ground Surface Visibility due to long grasses

Source: Urbis 2021



Picture 10 Long grasses of the Project Area causing poor Ground Surface Visibility

Source: Urbis 2021



Picture 11 Pedestrian survey of the Project Area with poor Ground Surface Visibility

Source: Urbis 2021



Picture 12 The Project Area with poor Ground Surface Visibility and cattle made tracks through the long grasses

Source: Urbis 2021

During the pedestrian surveys Western Wakka Wakka People representatives discovered twelve (12) surface stone artefacts, all individual finds of various raw materials, and also identified two trees as being cultural trees (scar trees).






With the exception of the potential siltstone flake, the raw materials of the artefact assemblage (generally chert (sedimentary) and quartz (metamorphic) are not considered to be characteristic of the geology of the area or Land Zone 8 (flood basalts). Therefore, the presence of such artefacts indicates transportation or trade.

Table 5 below provides details and photographs of each of the finds and Figure 13 provides a map illustrating the find types and locations within the Project Area.

Table 5 Aboriginal cultural heritage finds during pedestrian surveys of the Project Area in November 2021

Date	Find	Location	Description	Photo
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.51951 151.86732	chert/ siltstone tool	
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.51938 151.86781	chert flake	
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.51941 151.86800	chert flake	
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.51949 151.86824	quartz flake	
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.51950 151.86874	chert flake	



18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.51917 151.86967	chert flake	
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.52095 151.87045	chert flaked core	
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.52111 151.87041	unknown material	
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.52325 151.86678	quartz flake	
18-Nov	Stone artefact	27.52344 151.86691	retouch ceramic flake	

18-Nov	Scarred/ carved tree	27.51961 151.86790			
18-Nov	Scarred/ carved tree	27.51919 151.86816			
23-Nov	Stone artefact	27.52325 151.86679	silcrete flake		
23-Nov	Stone artefact	27.52323 151.86678	quartz flake	N/A	



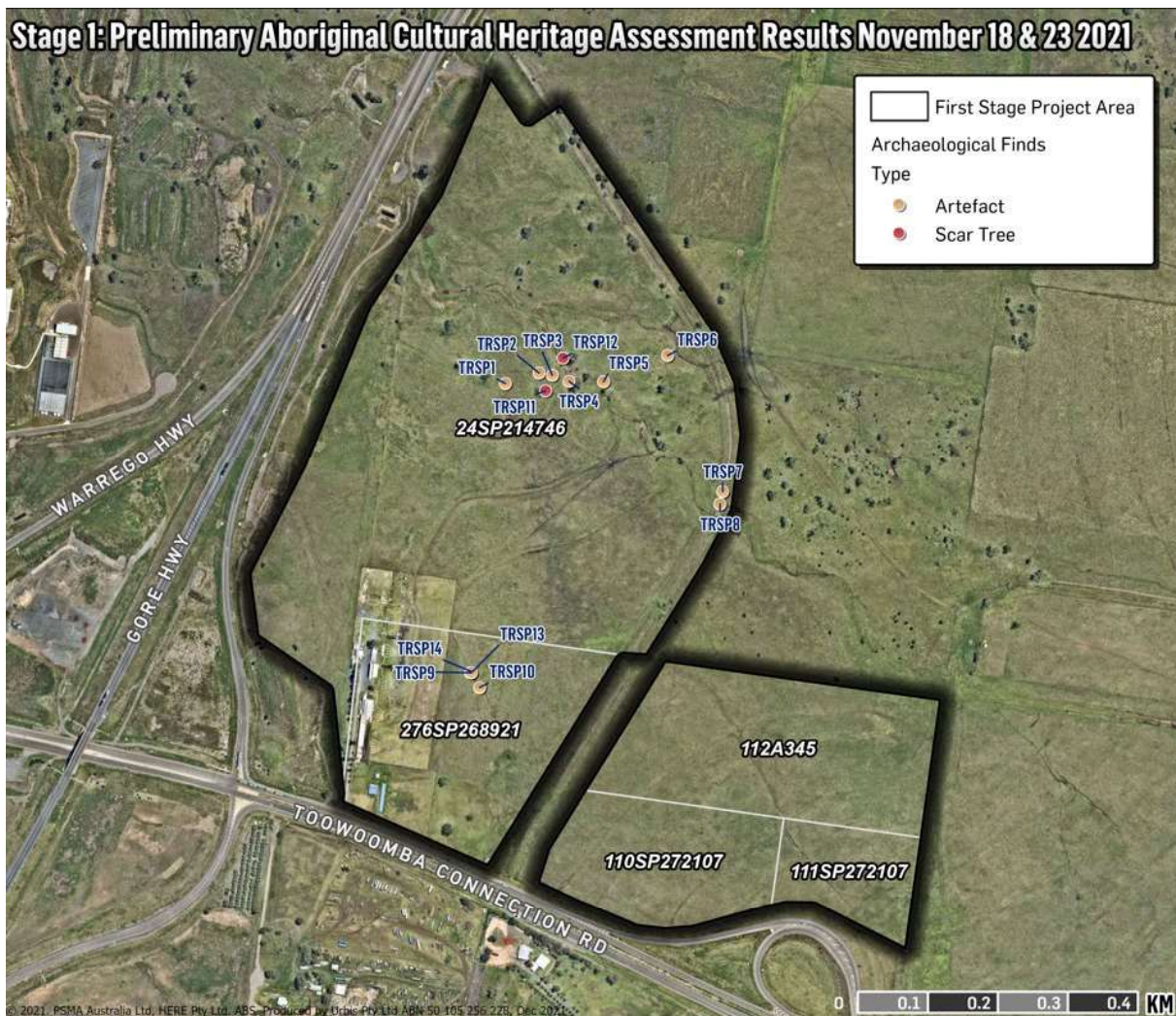



Figure 13 Aboriginal cultural material finds and locations within the Project Area

Source: Urbis 2021

A number of historical cultural heritage items and features were identified during pedestrian surveys of the Project Area. These included a well, possible tank stand, hand hewn fence posts and glass and ceramic sherds. Table 6 and Picture 13 below provides the overall historical finds and locations

Table 6 Archaeological finds located within the Project Area



Date	Find	Location	Description	Photo
18-Nov	Glass and ceramics	beside boundary fence within 24 SP214746	glass, codd's bottle sherd, ginger beer ceramic, pottery with willow transferware	
23-Nov	well	27.52395 151.86737	Well structure	N/A

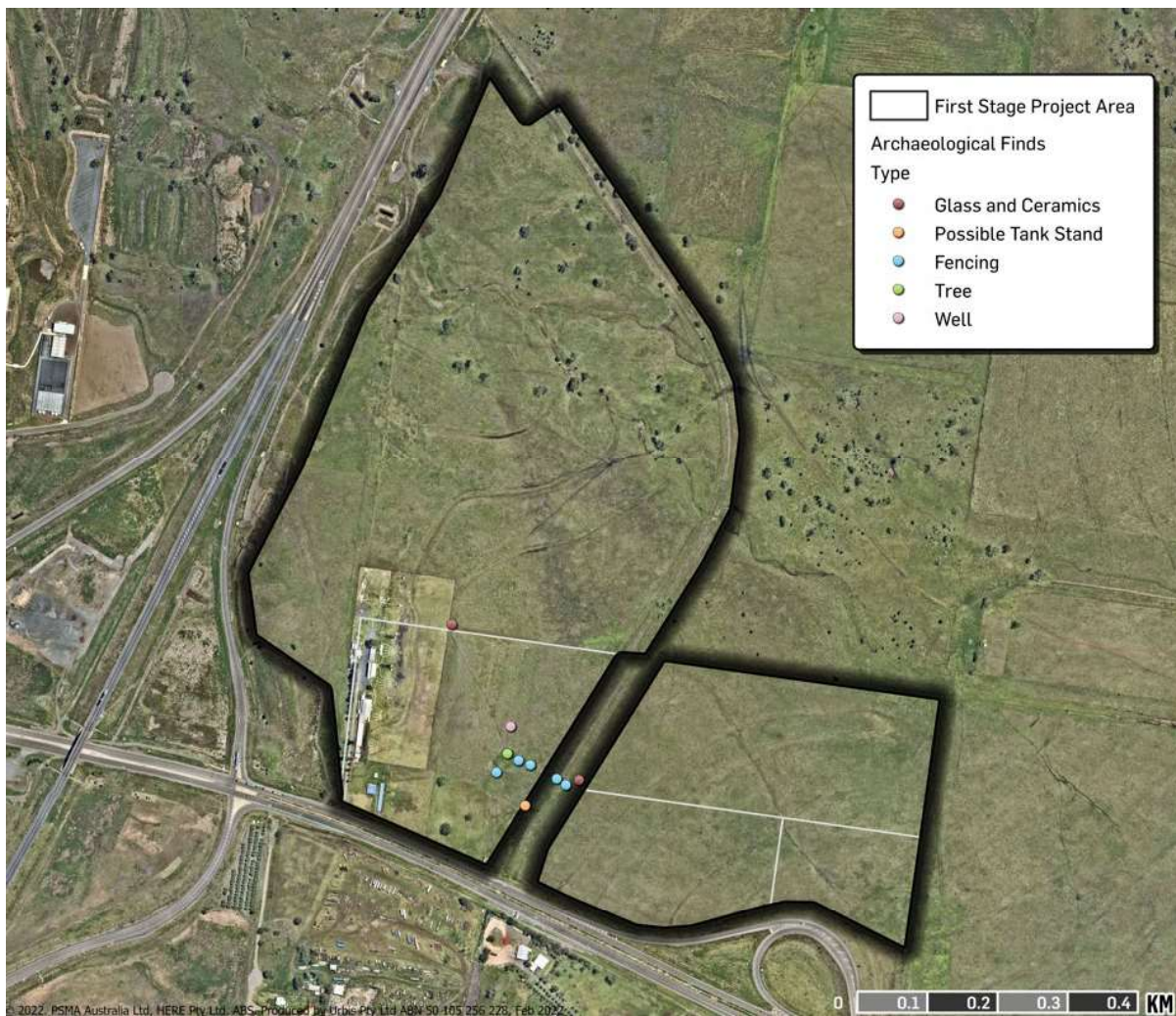
Date	Find	Location	Description	Photo
23-Nov	tree	27.52430 151.86732	Historic pepper tree	
23-Nov	fencing	27.52454 151.86716	Timber, hand hewn fence post	
23-Nov	fencing	27.52439 151.86748	Timber, hand hewn fence post	



Date	Find	Location	Description	Photo
23-Nov	fencing	27.52445 151.86765	Timber, hand hewn fence post	
23-Nov	fencing	27.52463 151.86803	Timber, hand hewn fence post	



Date	Find	Location	Description	Photo
23-Nov	fencing	27.52471 151.86816	Timber, hand hewn fence post	
23-Nov	Glass and ceramics	27.52465 151.86835	Glass and ceramic sherds	N/A
23-Nov	Concrete feature	27.52497 151.86757	Possible concrete tank stand	



Picture 13 Map of the Project Area showing archaeological find types and locations

Source: Urbis 2021

## 8. DUTY OF CARE ASSESSMENT

The following section presents the Duty of Care assessment for the Project Area. This section is framed around the Categories, assigning the Lots to a category, and providing for brief discussion of the archaeological potential of the Project Area, with respect to the environmental and archaeological background presented in Sections 3 and 4 above.

### 8.1. CATEGORY 4 – AREAS PREVIOUSLY SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT GROUND DISTURBANCE

Significant Ground Disturbance is defined in the Duty of Care Guidelines as ‘disturbance by machinery of the topsoil or surface rock layer of the ground, such as by ploughing, drilling or dredging’. Where an activity is proposed in an area which has previously been subject to Significant Ground Disturbance, it is generally unlikely that the activity will harm Aboriginal cultural heritage and the activity will comply with the Duty of Care guidelines.

Historical aerial photography indicates that between the 1950s and c.2000s, Lots 112 on A345, 110 on SP272107 and 111 on SP272107 in the south east of the Project Area have been subject to disturbance due to agricultural land use of the area, which may have included ploughing (Picture 2 - Picture 7) and would have significantly disturbed at least the topsoil of these Lots.

Similarly, Lot 276 on SP 268921 has historically been disturbed since 1966 when the clay target club was constructed and the area has experienced ongoing disturbance relating to soil penetration of lead and steel pellets and the targets comprised of pitch- a viscoelastic polymer, and limestone.

These areas are assessed as having low potential to harm in situ Aboriginal cultural heritage; however, a Chance Finds Procedure should be in place in the event any residual artefacts are discovered.

### 8.2. CATEGORY 5 – ACTIVITIES CAUSING ADDITIONAL SURFACE DISTURBANCE

A review of aerial imagery to 1955 shows that, historically, Lot 24 on SP214746 has been sparsely vegetated and subject to minimal previous ground disturbance. The extent and level of tree clearing that may have occurred pre-1955 cannot be quantified through research undertaken for this CHAR. A small area in the east of the Lot appears to have been used for agricultural purposes in 1975 (Picture 4), and implementation of potential irrigation channels. The use of this area was short lived, as aerial photographs indicates agricultural use had ceased by 1988 (Picture 5).

This Lot comprises water courses and is likely to lie with a floodplain associated with Gowrie Creek to the north. This is consistent with the pre-clearing land zone mapping for the Project Area which is mapped as Zone 8- flood basalts forming extensive plains. The undulating ground surface within the flat floodplain has deep, creek beds which can be easily identified in historical aerial photography. These landscape features compared with the surrounding area DSDSATSIP results indicate the potential for artefacts within the lot.

Artefact scatters are the most prevalent type of site recorded on the DSDSATSIP cultural heritage database.<sup>9</sup> Artefact scatters or isolated finds may occur throughout the lot, reflecting movement through the landscape and seasonal occupation. Relocation of artefacts over this lot is likely to have occurred historically through flooding and fluvial processes, evidenced by onsite observations that ammunition shells and pellets from the Clay Target Club in the south of the Project Area were found in drainage channels and lower lying areas in the middle to north of the Project Area. Scarred or carved trees may be present if species are of sufficient maturity.

Lot 24 on SP 214746 is assessed as having moderate potential for the presence of cultural material, particularly artefact scatters or isolated artefact finds, and cultural trees associated with remnant vegetation.

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<sup>9</sup> Department of Environment and Science 2017 *Cultural heritage Site Locations* Available Online:

<https://www.stateoftheenvironment.des.qld.gov.au/2015/heritage/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander/cultural-heritage-site-locations>

## 8.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

This assessment has found that no registered Aboriginal heritage sites have been listed with DSDSATSIP within the Project Area, but that the environmental context and outcomes of the site surveys indicates that there is moderate to high archaeological potential for the presence of stone artefacts. The absence of recorded sites is likely a reflection that cultural heritage surveys have not been previously undertaken in the Project Area. Given the density of recorded sites within 10km of the Project Area (107 Aboriginal registered heritage sites) there is moderate potential for artefact scatters or isolated artefact finds. The Project Area is assessed as being Category 4 in the south of the Project Area (Lots 112A345, 110SP272107, 111SP272107 and 276SP268921) due to the level of past disturbance that may have included ploughing and excavation of irrigation channels. Lot 24 SP214746 is assessed as Category 5 due to the nature of minimal ground disturbance over most of the lot. As a result of the assessment, the following management measures are recommended for the Project Area, and these include:

### Respecting Aboriginal heritage places and values

- The principle of 'Ask First' should be applied. A guide to respecting Aboriginal heritage places and values, released by the Australian Heritage Commission, provides a practical guide to consulting and negotiating with Aboriginal Parties regarding their cultural heritage. Consultation should be undertaken with Aboriginal Parties early in the proposed works, to inform the development. Consultation can at times be a lengthy process, however, is an essential component in the identification of intangible values.

### Consultation

- It is recommended that ongoing consultation occurs with the Western Wakka Wakka People (the registered cultural heritage party for the Project Area) throughout the duration of the project. Ongoing consultation between TRC and the Western Wakka Wakka People will guarantee the ongoing sharing of information about the progress of the TRSP project. A clear line of communication will be required in the event of any future archaeological chance finds in the Project Area.

### Archaeological Test Pitting

- Given the identification of the surface expression of artefacts in the Project Area, the density of sites within the broader area, and the consequent assessment of moderate to high potential for sub-surface material, it is recommended that a test pitting program for sub-surface investigation is undertaken for Aboriginal cultural material.
- Consultation with the Western Wakka Wakka People will be required to set out a test-pitting program for sub-surface investigation of targeted areas of the TRSP. Test pitting should be proposed in areas of low previous disturbance and that will be subject to ground breaking works as part of the TRSP development.

### Chance Finds Procedure (CFP)

Pending the results of the test excavation program and recommendations of the Western Wakka Wakka People, a CFP may be considered in the future.

- A CFP sets out a protocol for notifying the relevant individuals or authorities when an unexpected find is made which may be of Aboriginal archaeological significance or have cultural value.
- In the event of a discovery, a CFP stops works in order for TRC's nominated personnel/ group/ authority to assess the find and record if necessary. Works recommence where appropriate assessment and management measures have been undertaken.

### Cultural Heritage Induction

- It is recommended that when works are proposed to start in the future, Cultural Heritage induction materials be prepared for inclusion in any site induction packs/presentations for the TRSP. This should be in the form of 'PowerPoint' slides or handouts (depending on the method of site induction) that provide an overview of Aboriginal archaeological site types and identify individual obligations under the ACHA and the Duty of Care Guidelines.
- Cultural heritage induction materials should in the first instance be prepared and presented by the nominated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Party, or by a suitably qualified archaeologist in the event that the Aboriginal party is not available.

### Interpretation

- The proposed development should incorporate interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values into the overall TRSP development.



## 9. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

This section presents an assessment of the potential for historical archaeological resources to be present within the Project Area. The archaeological resources of any site are finite and have the potential to provide insights into everyday life that are not available from any other resource. The archaeological resources of a site may include artefacts, structural remains including wall footings, wells, cisterns and privies, or deposits laid down as a result of occupational activity on the site.

### 9.1. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The following gradings have been used to assess the archaeological potential of the Project Area (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 2009)

- Nil Potential: the land use history demonstrates that high levels of ground disturbance have occurred that would have completely destroyed any archaeological remains. Alternatively, archaeological excavation has already occurred, and removed any potential resource.
- Low Potential: the land use history suggests limited development or use, or there is likely to be quite high impacts in these areas, however deeper sub-surface features such as wells, cesspits and their artefact-bearing deposits may survive.
- Moderate Potential: the land use history suggests limited phases of low-moderate development intensity, or that there are impacts in this area. A variety of archaeological remains is likely to survive, including building footings and shallower remains, as well as deeper sub-surface features.
- High Potential: substantially intact archaeological deposits could survive in these areas.

The potential for archaeological relics to survive in a particular place is significantly affected by land use activities that may have caused ground disturbance. These processes include the physical development of the site (for example, phases of building construction) and the activities that occurred there. The following definitions are used to consider levels of disturbance:

- Low Disturbance: the area or feature has been subject to activities that may have had a minor effect on the integrity and survival of archaeological remains.
- Moderate Disturbance: the area or feature has been subject to activities that may have affected the integrity and survival of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence may be present; however, it may be disturbed.
- High Disturbance: the area or feature has been subject to activities that would have had a major effect on the integrity and survival of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence may be greatly disturbed or destroyed.

### 9.2. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL

Table 7 below presents a summary of the potential archaeological resource, derived from the known phases of land use established in the historical background, and the likely condition of any remains within the subject site.

Table 7 Assessment of archaeological potential

Land Use Phase	Potential Archaeological Resource	Integrity of Resource	Archaeological potential
19 <sup>th</sup> century squatter occupation of land	Archaeobotanical remains – crops, natural vegetation. Structures and associated boundaries such as remains of fences and post holes.	Generally low due to ongoing land use and deterioration of the material	Low

Land Use Phase	Potential Archaeological Resource	Integrity of Resource	Archaeological potential
	Artefactual deposits (domestic)	Moderate due to sub-surface deposition of material	Moderate
1871-1959	Rail ephemera and rail infrastructure associated with the former Southern Railway Line	Low to Moderate due to the removal of tracks and associated infrastructure	Low to Moderate
c.1955 - present Agricultural/ pastoral use	Early roadways, footpaths, fence foundations, building foundations, demolition and construction fill, artefactual deposits (domestic)	<p>Moderate potential for evidence of early structures, foundations and fencing associated with the agricultural / pastoral use of the Project Area.</p> <p>There is moderate potential for localised sub surface deposits associated with general discard and rubbish dump deposits but may not be of any archaeological significance.</p>	Moderate

### 9.3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The below significance assessment is applicable only in general terms of the Project Area. Specific significance assessments will be needed for any future development application and associated reporting.

Providing a framework for assessment of archaeological research potential, questions posed by Bickford and Sullivan (1984) have been widely used in Australia since the 1980s. This resource and the Guideline - *Archaeological Investigations* (DES 2019) should be used in archaeological investigations. The Bickford and Sullivan questions include:

1. Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?
2. Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can?
3. Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?

The questions are important in forming a basis for understanding the potential significance of an archaeological site. Archaeological significance may be linked to other significance categories, especially where sites have been the location of incidents, events, or occupancies.

The following questions assist to assess the significance of the Project Area.

### **3.3.1. Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?**

Not a lot of information is known about the history of the Project Area. Therefore, any extant archaeological remains such as building foundation or other structural foundations, evidence of roadways or boundary fences would expand knowledge of the place

Should artefactual deposits be present within the Project Area, they may provide some insight into site-specific activities or personal information of former occupants of the land. Information such as cultural identity, socio-economic status or multi-generational occupation may be revealed. The potential for substantial deposits is moderate, as sub-surface refuse pits may be extant.

The specific use of the land comprising the Project Area during the squatter period has not been determined through research to date. Should remains exist that demonstrate the earliest period of European settlement, this would likely be of local significance.

### **3.3.2. Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can?**

Discovery of artefactual deposits could assist in interpreting the ways of life specific to the Project Area and has the potential to provide insight into the squatters/ lessees or landholders of the site. However, the Project Area is more likely to represent assemblages common of early 20th Century domestic sites, given that no activities of note or rarity are known to have occurred within the Project Area.

### **3.3.3. Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?**

Information obtained through archaeological deposits at the subject site is unlikely to be relevant to any questions about human history or contribute to major research questions.

## **9.4. RECOMMENDATIONS- HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

The earliest photographs of the Project Area are date from 1955, and although some apparent domestic occupation is evident but sparse, there is potential for earlier deposits to be extant.

It is considered unlikely that any discoveries of NICH will be discovered beyond local level interest and therefore test pitting is not considered necessary for NICH.

#### **Archaeological Chance Finds Procedure**

Should any archaeological deposits be uncovered during any site works, a chance finds procedure must be implemented. The following steps must be carried out:

1. All works stop in the vicinity of the find. The find must not be moved 'out of the way' without following the steps below.
2. Site supervisor, or another nominated site representative must contact either the project archaeologist (in the case of such an appointment) or a suitably qualified archaeologist to notify them of the type, extent, and location of the find.
3. The nominated archaeologist examines the find, provides a preliminary assessment of significance, records the item, and informs on appropriate management measures. Such measures may include record and salvage, record and discard, no recording warranted, or a potentially significant find that requires formal notification to DES in accordance with s.89 of the QHA.

## 10. CONCLUSION

This CHAR has been prepared to identify potential Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage constraints associated with the proposed TRSP in Charlton, south-east Queensland.

This report has assessed the following Lots as being Category 4:

- 112 on A345;
- 110 on SP272107;
- 111 on SP272107; and
- 276 on SP 268921.

These areas are assessed as having low potential to harm any extant Aboriginal cultural heritage however, a chance finds protocol should be in place in the event any residual artefacts are discovered.

Lot 24 on SP214746 is assessed as being Category 5 due to minimal historical ground disturbance that suggests potential for the presence of archaeological material. As a result, the following management measures are recommended for the Project Area, and these include:

- Respect Indigenous heritage places and values and 'Ask First';
- Ongoing consultation with the Western Wakka Wakka People throughout the duration of the project. And in the event of chance finds during works in the Project Area;
- Preparation of an Archaeological Chance Finds Procedure in the event that any unexpected Aboriginal cultural material is located during works;
- Preparation of cultural heritage induction materials and presentation undertaken by the nominated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Party;
- Preparation of an Archaeological Test Pitting program for Aboriginal cultural material; and
- Consider Interpretation Aboriginal cultural heritage values into the overall TRSP development.

Further, this CHAR did not identify any historical archaeological constraints for Project Area however, low to moderate potential for localised historical archaeological deposits has been identified in some locations within the Project Area associated with past land use. In the event that archaeological deposits remain in-situ, such as artefacts or remains associated with structures, information available from these resources will contribute knowledge about the Project Area, as little is currently known. However, it is considered that any such material would likely be of interest at a local level only.

Recommendations for historical archaeological management include the following:

- Archaeological Chance Finds Procedure in the event unexpected historical archaeological material is located during works, in accordance with Section 9.4; and
- Preparation of cultural heritage induction materials for potential historical cultural heritage.

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This report has been prepared with due care and diligence by Urbis and the statements and opinions given by Urbis in this report are given in good faith and in the reasonable belief that they are correct and not misleading, subject to the limitations above.

## APPENDIX A    **ENDORSEMENT**

**Review of the Toowoomba Regional Sports Precinct Cultural Heritage  
Assessment Report (URBIS 2022)**

**by**

**Tracy McLeod for the Western Wakka Wakka Traditional Owners**

**March 2022**

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this investigation and to review the findings and conclusions.

The report by URBIS is a thorough and an exemplary piece of work. The document covers the background archaeology, the history and the known cultural heritage. The conclusions are therefore based on a sound footing. Moreover, the consultant has made a factual and fair assessment of the proponents Duty of Care.

Based on a thorough reading of the report, the Western Wakka Wakka endorse the recommendations of the report as detailed below.

These areas are assessed as having low potential to harm any extant Aboriginal cultural heritage however, a chance finds protocol should be in place in the event any residual artefacts are discovered. Lot 24 on SP214746 is assessed as being Category 5 due to minimal historical ground disturbance that suggests potential for the presence of archaeological material. As a result, the following management measures are recommended for the Project Area, and these include:

- Respect Indigenous heritage places and values and 'Ask First';
- Ongoing consultation with the Western Wakka Wakka People throughout the duration of the project. And in the event of chance finds during works in the Project Area;
- Preparation of an Archaeological Chance Finds Procedure in the event that any unexpected Aboriginal cultural material is located during works;
- Preparation of cultural heritage induction materials and presentation undertaken by the nominated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Party;
- Preparation of an Archaeological Test Pitting program for Aboriginal cultural material; and
- Consider Interpretation Aboriginal cultural heritage values into the overall TRSP development.

Tracy McLeod  
Western Wakka Wakka

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Tracy McLeod  
Western Wakka Wakka

*Tracy McLeod*  
Elder / Endorsed Party