

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan MAC-ENC-MTP-042



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Key Contact: Manager Approvals, Land, Access and Heritage

Table of Contents

1	Acknowledgement	3
2	Our Approach at BHP	3
3	Purpose.....	3
4	Project Description	3
5	Statutory Requirements of the AHMP.....	4
6	Roles and Responsibilities	6
7	Consultation.....	7
7.1	Consultation during Environmental Assessments	7
7.2	Consultation for this Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan	7
7.3	Ongoing consultation for the life of the mine	7
7.3.1	Project specific meetings	7
7.3.2	Methodology for Fieldwork.....	7
7.3.3	Engagement of RAPs for Fieldwork.....	8
7.3.4	Previously unidentified cultural values of significance.....	8
7.3.5	Draft reports	8
8	Summary of Previous Assessments and Plans	9
8.1	Archaeological Sites within the approved Mt Arthur Coal project boundary	9
9	Management of onsite Aboriginal cultural heritage	10
9.1	Permit to Disturb approval process	10
9.2	Monitoring of Significant Archaeological Sites	10
9.2.1	Grinding Grooves	10
9.2.2	Scarred Trees	11
9.3	Cultural Salvage Programs.....	12
9.3.1	Overview.....	12
9.3.2	Salvage of surface artefacts.....	12
9.3.3	Verification and subsurface salvage of Potential Archaeological Deposits.....	12
9.3.4	Site Clearance.....	15
9.4	Avoidance and Harm Minimisation.....	15
9.5	Temporary Keeping Place for Cultural Material.....	15
9.6	RAPs and wider Aboriginal Community Access	16
9.7	Procedures for Reporting Previously Unrecorded Sites.....	16
9.8	Discovery of Suspected Human Remains	16
10	Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Biodiversity Offset Areas	17
10.1	Overview	17
10.2	Thomas Mitchell Drive Offsite Biodiversity Offset Area.....	17
10.3	Saddlers Creek Biodiversity Offset Area.....	17
11	Contingency Plan to manage unpredicted impacts	17
12	Incident and Complaint Response	17
13	Reporting	18
14	Review of the AHMP	18
15	References	19

16	Version Management	19
	Appendix 1 – BHP Indigenous Peoples Policy Statement.....	20
	Appendix 2 – Registered Aboriginal Parties.....	22
	Appendix 3 – Examples of consultation records for this AHMP	25
	Appendix 4 – Previous Archaeological Reports and Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits	29
	Appendix 5 – Recorded Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites within the approved project boundary	30

1 Acknowledgement

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (HVEC) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Wonnarua (also spelled Wanaruah, Wonnaruah, but hereafter spelled Wonnarua) people. HVEC pays its respect to all Elders past, present and emerging.

The Mt Arthur Coal (MAC) mine has operated since the 1960s. The cultural knowledge shared by the Wonnarua people for over five decades has assisted in ensuring that Aboriginal cultural heritage values are appropriately captured in approval documents and adequately incorporated in the day-to-day management of the mine.

HVEC wishes to express its gratitude and a deep appreciation to the generations of Wonnarua people who have been involved in the ongoing management of Aboriginal cultural heritage at MAC.

2 Our Approach at BHP

At BHP we respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and acknowledge their right to maintain their culture, identity, traditions and customs. BHP commits to the 2013 International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Position Statement on Indigenous Peoples and Mining. This frames our approach to engaging with Indigenous Peoples with respect to new operations or major capital projects that are located on lands traditionally owned by or under customary use of Indigenous Peoples and which are likely to have significant adverse impacts on Indigenous peoples. This commitment includes:

- Undertaking participatory and inclusive social and environmental impact assessments.
- Seeking to agree on and document engagement and consultation plans with potentially impacted Indigenous Peoples.
- Working to obtain the consent of Indigenous Peoples to BHP activities consistent with the ICMM Position Statement.

This commitment will be satisfied through compliance with domestic laws or completion of host government regulatory processes where they are consistent with the objectives of the ICMM Position Statement as determined by the BHP Chief Legal Counsel. Where the consent of Indigenous Peoples is not forthcoming despite the best efforts of all parties, in balancing the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples with the wider population, governments might determine that a project should proceed and specify the conditions that should apply. In such circumstances, BHP will determine whether it will remain involved with a project.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full BHP Indigenous Peoples Policy Statement.

3 Purpose

This Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP) has been prepared to satisfy HVEC's obligations for the care and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage at MAC.

The AHMP has been prepared in consultation with HVEC's Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and in accordance with requirements set out in Project Approval MP09_0062 (as Modified on 16 April 2025) specifically, condition 45D of Schedule 3, and Project Approval MP06_0091 (granted on 2 December 2008) specifically, condition 11 of Schedule 3.

The objectives of this AHMP are to:

- facilitate the involvement of the Wonnarua people, represented by the RAPs, in the decision-making process for the ongoing monitoring and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage at MAC;
- minimise the impacts of HVEC's operations on Aboriginal cultural heritage;
- achieve cultural heritage management outcomes which RAPs consider acceptable;
- continue effective engagement through collaboration and open and transparent communication with the RAPs, to further enhance the relationship between the RAPs and HVEC; and
- comply with the requirements of the New South Wales (NSW) *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) and the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and HVEC's Planning Approvals.

4 Project Description

HVEC operates MAC, which consists of approved open cut and underground mining operations, coal handling and preparation plant, and a rail loop and associated rail loading facilities. MAC is located approximately 5 kilometres south west of Muswellbrook within the Muswellbrook Shire Local Government Area in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW. The Traditional Custodians of the land on which HVEC operates, are the Wonnarua people.

5 Statutory Requirements of the AHMP

The extent of the area covered by this AHMP is shown in **Appendix 5** and includes all land associated with mining purposes within the 2009 environmental assessment boundary, within approval (MP09_0062) and the Thomas Mitchell Drive and Saddlers Creek Biodiversity Conservation Areas.

In accordance with HVEC's consolidated open cut planning approval (MP09_0062), as modified, and the HVEC Underground Planning approval (MP06_0091), this AHMP includes the items set out in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Project approval conditions relevant to this AHMP

Condition of Approval	AHMP Scope Item	Relevant Section
MP09_0062, condition 45 of Schedule 3	Protection of Aboriginal Heritage	
	45. The Applicant must ensure that the development does not cause any direct or indirect impact on any identified heritage items located outside the approved disturbance area.	Section 9.1
	45A. If any suspected human remains are discovered in, on or under the land:	Section 9.8
	(a) all work at the location must immediately cease;	
	(b) the area must be secured to avoid further harm to the remains;	
	(c) local police and Heritage NSW must be notified as soon as practicable and details of the suspected remains and their locations provided; and	
	(d) work must not recommence at the location unless authorised in writing by the Secretary.	
	45B. Any human remains determined to be a traditional Aboriginal ancestral burial must be managed in consultation with the RAPs and Heritage NSW.	Section 9.8
	45C. The applicant must maintain a database of all Aboriginal objects that have been collected/salvaged. The database must:	Section 9.5
	(a) identify and describe each Aboriginal object that has been collected/salvaged;	
	(b) identify where the Aboriginal objects were originally located; and	
	(c) identify where the Aboriginal objects are stored.	
	<i>Note: The applicant is required to submit a completed Aboriginal site impact recording form to the NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System for each Aboriginal site that has been subject to salvage</i>	
	Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan	
	45D. The Applicant must prepare and implement an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:	
	(a) be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person;	Section 16
	(b) be prepared in consultation with the RAPs;	Section 7.2
	(c) be prepared in consultation with Heritage NSW;	Section 7.2
	(d) include a clear map demarcating the Aboriginal sites that would be protected;	Appendix 5
	(e) include a clear map demarcating the Aboriginal sites that would be disturbed;	Appendix 5
	(f) describe the measures that would be implemented to manage and mitigate the impacts to Aboriginal sites identified to be disturbed, including:	Sections 9 & 10
	(i) the requirements, methodology and procedures for collection of surface artefacts within the approved disturbance area;	Section 9.3
	(ii) the measures that would be implemented to protect, store and manage salvaged Aboriginal objects over the life of the development, including post mining; and	Section 9.5
	(iii) procedures for recording details of any Aboriginal objects that are collected or salvaged;	Section 9.3

Condition of Approval	AHMP Scope Item	Relevant Section
	(g) describe the measures to be implemented on the site to undertake care, control and temporary storage of Aboriginal objects salvaged on the site during the life of the development; (h) describe the measures that would be implemented to manage the discovery of any new Aboriginal objects or suspected human remains during the development; (i) describe the measures to be implemented to ensure ongoing consultation with the RAPs for the long term management of salvaged Aboriginal objects, having regard to the cultural values of the salvaged Aboriginal objects and final landform/post mining landuses. 45E. The Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan, as approved by the Secretary, must be implemented for the development.	Sections 9.3 and 9.5 Section 9.8 Sections 7.3, 9.5 and 9.6 Appendix 3
MP06_0091, condition 11 of Schedule 3	A detailed plan of management for the Saddlers Creek Conservation Area.	Section 10.3
	A program/procedures for: - salvage, subsurface investigation and management of affected highly significant Aboriginal sites (including sites SC01 and QC01); - salvage and management of all other affected Aboriginal sites, based on additional assessment in the case of sites affected by the relocation of the 330/500kV transmission line; and - protecting, monitoring and managing site QC02 (a scarred tree).	Section 9.3 Section 9.3 Section 9.2.2

6 Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Manager Approvals, Land, Access and Heritage	- Implementation of the AHMP. - Ensuring ongoing compliance with AHMP obligations and objectives.
Specialist Indigenous Engagement	Primary contact for RAPs and the wider Aboriginal community in relation to cultural heritage matters at MAC.
Principal Approvals	- Facilitation of engagement with RAPs in relation to survey, salvage and the ongoing management of cultural heritage. - Provision of Cultural Heritage Training package to Training Team. - Review and update of the AHMP in consultation with the RAPs, as required. - Primary contact for restricted site information.
Specialist Land Management and Access	Primary contact for arranging site visits/inspections for RAPs and the wider Aboriginal community.
Superintendent Asset Training	Coordination of cultural awareness training.
Manager Closure Planning	Ensuring compliance with the AHMP via the internal MAC Permit to Disturb process.
General Manager	- Ensure all activities undertaken at MAC take into consideration HVEC's obligations to RAPs and the wider Aboriginal community, as set out within the AHMP. - Ensure notification procedures are implemented as set out in Section 9.8 of this AHMP (Discovery of Human Remains).

7 Consultation

7.1 Consultation during Environmental Assessments

The requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (the Consultation Requirements) (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010a), were applied to ensure that an appropriate level of engagement with the RAPs was undertaken for the open cut and underground Environmental Assessments in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage. Details of the consultation can be found in the 2006 Mt Arthur Underground Environmental Assessment, the 2009 Mt Arthur Coal Consolidation Project Environmental Assessment, the 2013 Mt Arthur Coal Modification Environmental Assessment, and the Mt Arthur Modification 2 Modification Report (HVEC, 2023).

7.2 Consultation for this Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

RAPs and Heritage NSW have been consulted during the revision of this AHMP in accordance with condition 45D of Schedule 3 of MP09_0062 and in accordance with the Consultation Requirements. Draft copies of the AHMP were distributed to all RAPs listed in **Appendix 2** and Heritage NSW on 8 August 2025.

Eight RAPs provided comments on the AHMP and were considered by HVEC. Overall, these RAPs did not provide any specific comments relating to the management of Aboriginal heritage sites at MAC that would require revision of the AHMP. HVEC acknowledged comments received from RAPs.

A comment was received from one RAP requesting consistency in the use of Wonnarua, which has been considered during the preparation of this AHMP.

This AHMP was finalised following the consultation period with RAPs and Heritage NSW and was submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for approval/endorsement on 18 September 2025.

Examples and copies of consultation records for this AHMP revision are provided in **Appendix 3**.

7.3 Ongoing consultation for the life of the mine

HVEC is committed to continue effective engagement with RAPs, through collaboration and open and transparent communication.

To achieve the objectives of this AHMP, a cultural heritage risk assessment will be maintained and updated (where required) as part of ongoing operations. Project specific and operational risk assessments will incorporate an assessment of risk of impact on cultural heritage values. Prior to any planned impact by mining operations to a cultural heritage site under this AHMP, representatives of the RAPs will be invited to participate in any required management and mitigation measures in accordance with Section 7.3.3 and Section 9 below.

As part of HVEC's Pathway to 2030, regular and ongoing consultation and engagement has been scheduled to keep RAPs informed and to maintain positive relationships and open dialogue regarding work opportunities, Cultural matters and to plan for the ongoing management of salvaged artefacts and extant sites post closure.

7.3.1 Project specific meetings

Meetings with RAPs will be held on an as required/requested basis as part of assessment works associated with any future modification applications or for activities triggered by Section 7.3.4 or 9.8. Minutes from these meetings will be made available to RAPs within four weeks of the meeting, where possible.

7.3.2 Methodology for Fieldwork

Where the proposed methodology for fieldwork is not consistent with the AHMP, HVEC will provide a copy of the proposed methodology and provide an opportunity for RAPs to provide feedback on the methodology. Where possible, HVEC will allow at least four weeks for RAPs to review and provide a response. On occasion, it may be necessary for a shorter review period.

HVEC will then consider all responses received and will finalise the methodology. A copy of the final methodology will be provided to RAPs on request.

7.3.3 Engagement of RAPs for Fieldwork

Where the fieldwork methodology is approved by RAPs or consistent with the AHMP, HVEC will engage with RAPs that are able to meet the work health and safety requirements for the proposed fieldwork. Fieldwork may include monitoring of significant archaeological sites, participation in the cultural salvage program, verification and salvage of artefacts and other activities identified by HVEC.

Where possible, HVEC will provide RAPs with a minimum of five business days' notice of the date of commencement of the field investigation. On occasion, shorter notification may be required.

In circumstances where only a small number of RAPs are required for fieldwork at any one time, HVEC will establish a rotating fieldwork roster to ensure that all RAPs get an opportunity to participate in fieldwork at MAC.

7.3.4 Previously unidentified cultural values of significance

Where a risk assessment identifies that there are suspected cultural or archaeological values for heritage sites within the project boundary that are of higher value than what was considered or captured through the assessment process or in the AHMP, HVEC will provide an opportunity for RAPs to provide comment on the cultural values of these sites prior to undertaking management measures.

7.3.5 Draft reports

All reports prepared as part of Section 9 of this AHMP will take into consideration the comments provided by attending RAPs with respect to the significance, values and features of an area. Upon request, HVEC will provide RAPs with a copy of the draft and final versions of reports that are prepared under this AHMP.

8 Summary of Previous Assessments and Plans

The MAC complex has been the subject of some of the most detailed Aboriginal heritage assessments and archaeological salvage projects ever conducted in NSW. A summary of archaeological reports plans and Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits is provided in **Appendix 4**.

8.1 Archaeological Sites within the approved Mt Arthur Coal project boundary

A Geographic Information System (GIS) database of all NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) registered archaeological sites located within the approved project boundary has been developed, maintained and updated over time to assist HVEC with the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Owing to the geographical extent of some artefact scatters, additional data points have been recorded against individual AHIMS records to assist in the management of these sites.

A total of 818 records of archaeological sites are contained within the GIS database recorded as either extant/valid, partially salvaged or subject to future salvage within the EA boundary and within the Conservation Areas (Section 10). These sites are shown in **Appendix 5**.

A summary of archaeological sites by type is provided described in **Table 2**. An up-to-date GIS database is maintained by HVEC to ensure the day-to-day management of the mine takes into consideration any potential impacts on cultural heritage and where appropriate, avoidance or mitigation measures are implemented.

Table 2: Extant Archaeological site types located within Mt Arthur Coal approved project boundary

Site Types	Count of Site Type	% of Total sites
Artefact Scatter	545	66.63%
Artefact with PAD	3	0.37%
Artefact(s) Unspecified	3	0.37%
*Restricted site	1	0.12%
Contact/Historic Site/Artefact Scatter	1	0.12%
Grinding Grooves	3	0.37%
Grinding Grooves with Artefact Scatter	1	0.12%
Isolated Find	249	30.44%
Pointing Stones	1	0.12%
Potential Archaeological Deposit	1	0.12%
Scarred Tree	9	1.10%
Women's Site *Restricted site	1	0.12%
Grand Total	818	100.0%

9 Management of onsite Aboriginal cultural heritage

9.1 Permit to Disturb approval process

HVEC ensures that cultural heritage is taken into consideration early in the planning process. This process includes:

- Consideration of the MAC GIS database and whether there are management requirements under the AHMP;
- Consideration of the AHMP requirements;
- Risk assessment of the likelihood of disturbance to heritage sites adjacent to impact areas and the implementation of further controls including flagging, bunding or fencing; and/or
- Completion of due diligence inspections by a qualified archaeologist.

Additionally all HVEC employees and contractors are made aware of the cultural heritage values across MAC and the Permit to Disturb process via delivery of a Cultural Heritage Training package during compulsory site inductions.

9.2 Monitoring of Significant Archaeological Sites

Annual visual inspections of Grinding Grooves and Scar Trees will be undertaken with a RAP and if there are any concerns raised around the integrity or condition of these sites, an Archaeologist will be engaged to complete an assessment.

Table 3 provides a list of restricted sites, their management status and who to contact to obtain information regarding them.

Table 3: Restricted Sites Features and Contact for Information

AHIMS Site #	AHIMS Site Name	Management Status	Contact for Information
Restricted Site	WCMSS2	Permanently protected and secured	Principal Approvals, Land Access and Heritage
Restricted Site	Women's Site	Permanently protected and secured	Principal Approvals, Land Access and Heritage

9.2.1 Grinding Grooves

Four AHIMS registered grinding groove sites were recorded within the MAC approved Project Boundary (**Table 2**). AHIMS registered grinding groove site, Fairford 1 (AHIMS Site#37-2-0111) was relocated to the Thomas Mitchell Drive (TMD) in February 2019 after extensive consultation with the RAPs subsequent unanimous support from the RAPs and will be monitored annually.

The in situ grinding groove platform AHIMS Site#37-2-0731 (LGH6 known as Saddlers Creek Grinding Grooves) has been fenced and will be managed in situ unless otherwise agreed by the RAPs and following approval from the relevant regulatory authorities (**Table 4**). AHIMS Site #37-2-0110 was recorded as a single grinding groove on a sandstone boulder with two other potential heavily weathered grooves on the same boulder. The site is located on the steep western side of Mt Arthur and will not be impacted by any mining activities.

Table 4: Grinding Groove platforms located within the approved project boundary

AHIMS Site #	AHIMS Site Name	Easting (GDA94/Z56)	Northing (GDA94/Z56)	Management Status
37-2-0731	LGH6 (Saddlers Creek Grinding Groovers)	298618	6415194	Valid – fenced and protected
37-2-0111	Fairford 1	298705	6417889	Relocated to TMD
37-3-0111	37-3-0111	301868	6422649	Valid (in new location)
37-2-0110	Mt Arthur; Saddlers Ck trib grinding groove 1	297987	6417236	Valid

Where a potential threat or impact to in situ grinding grooves is identified, a monitoring program will be implemented for the duration of the identified impact, where it is safe to access the site. As an example, this may include where there is the risk of dust impacts or blasting during open cut mining. This may occur annually or more regularly if deemed necessary. The following steps will be undertaken:

- A scope of works will be developed in consultation with HVEC, a suitably qualified archaeologist and RAPs which identifies the period of monitoring, the objectives of the monitoring and the methodology for the monitoring.
- A visual inspection of the grinding groove site will be undertaken by a HVEC representative, a qualified archaeologist and RAPs to establish a baseline assessment with consideration of the methodology and the aims and objectives of the monitoring program. At a minimum, the baseline assessment will include a detailed site plan and photographic record of each site and its component features. The site plan will include the location of photographic points for comparison with future monitoring inspections.
- Additional visual inspections of the site will be undertaken by a HVEC representative, a qualified archaeologist and RAPs. A photographic record will be taken to document any changes to the condition of the site against baseline recording.
- A short report will be prepared on the monitoring program and provided to RAPs upon request.
- Outcomes of the monitoring program will be reported as part of the Annual Reporting process for HVEC.

9.2.2 Scarred Trees

AHIMS registered scarred trees that exist within the MAC approved project boundary are listed in **Table 5**. Two additional scarred trees were identified within the Offset Areas, outside of the approved project boundary.

For extant scarred trees, appropriate management strategies will be implemented in consultation with the RAPs on a case-by-case basis.

Table 5: Scarred tree platforms located within the approved project boundary

AHIMS Site #	AHIMS Site Name	Easting (GDA94/Z56)	Northing (GDA94/Z56)	Management Status
37-2-0126	Mt Arthur	296109	6417405	Destroyed / Site to be updated*
37-2-0734	LSC1;	298305	6415289	Destroyed / Not a site
37-2-0735	LSC2;	298405	6415289	Destroyed / Not a site
37-2-0736	LSC3;	298405	6415089	Impacted under Permit
37-2-0737	LSC4;	297205	6415489	Destroyed / Not a site
37-2-1432	Saddler's Pit Scarred Tree;	298605	6416739	Valid / Managed / Relocated
37-2-1445	Quarry Creek Scarred Tree;	296605	6417739	Destroyed / Site to be updated**
37-2-1446	Quarry Creek Scarred Tree_2;	296855	6417489	Valid / Managed / Relocated
37-2-2598	qc02	293553	6417211	Valid
Pending	QC_ST_U (east)	293734	6417309	Valid
Pending	RPS ST 1100	293502	6421939	Valid
Pending	QC_ST_U (west)	293790	6417493	Valid / TBC as a site

*The site still appears as valid in AHIMS and needs to be updated. In 2020, Arrow Heritage conducted an assessment of legacy areas and confirmed that the site is not present. There is sufficient evidence to suggest that this site was collected/destroyed under a s90 permit in conjunction with 37-2-0108. The site card will be amended to Site status: Destroyed.

**The site still appears as valid in AHIMS and needs to be updated. In 2014 RPS consultants could not locate the site "there was no evidence of a scarred tree remaining at the recorded site coordinates; the tree was recorded in 1996 and was noted as being heavily infested with termites; it is likely therefore that the tree may not have survived". The site card will be amended to Site status: Destroyed.

9.3 Cultural Salvage Programs

9.3.1 Overview

Cultural salvage programs will allow the recovery of a sample of surface and/or subsurface material of archaeological or cultural significance and provide for long-term curation of salvaged artefacts. The technical requirements of each salvage program will be detailed in a Scope of Works specific to each site, incorporating elements noted in **Sections 7** and **9**. The salvage program will generally incorporate the following components:

- RAP consultation and field work engagement;
- salvage of surface artefacts;
- verification and salvage of subsurface artefact deposits (Potential Archaeological Deposits);
- process for designation of area approved for development; and
- temporary storage of recovered materials in the approved Temporary Keeping Place.

All salvage program work will be led by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

9.3.2 Salvage of surface artefacts

Surface salvage will involve the systematic recovery of evident surface artefacts from all open artefact scatters and isolated finds that are at risk of impact within the proposed disturbance area.

Surface collection of isolated artefacts and open artefact scatter sites will occur prior to the commencement of surface disturbance works, and will involve:

- creation of photographic records detailing the location, condition and general features of each site (or group of nearby sites);
- recording the basic attributes of all cultural materials salvaged at each location;
- capturing site coordinates via GPS to be entered into the MAC GIS database;
- collection of artefacts in accordance with Requirement 26 of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*;
- placing artefacts into suitable plastic storage bag/s along with a permanent tag that includes the unique identifier number of the site and the date salvaged. This information will also be written on the outside of the collection bag in permanent marker ink;
- storage of salvaged artefacts in suitably robust resealable plastic containers, and transfer to the approved Temporary Keeping Place; and
- preparation of a report by the archaeologist detailing the completed salvage works and the locations from which the artefacts were collected.

9.3.3 Verification and subsurface salvage of Potential Archaeological Deposits

Where a Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) has been identified during assessment or salvage activities, a process to verify the attributes and extent of the PAD will be conducted. The verification methodology will be detailed in a Scope of Works and be conducted in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW, 2010b). The outcomes of the verification process will inform the development of a subsurface salvage plan specific to each Verified Archaeological Deposit in consultation with the RAPs participating in the field work.

The following methodology will be undertaken for verification of areas of identified PAD:

Phase 1 – Test Investigations

Test investigations will be undertaken in accordance with Requirement 16 of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010b) and will occur in the following manner:

1. Test excavation units will be placed on a systematic grid appropriate to the scale of the area, for example 10 m intervals, 20 m intervals, or other justifiable and regular spacing to determine the subsurface extent of the site compared to the continuous distribution of material in which it exists (background scatter).
2. Any test excavation point will be separated by at least 5 m.
3. Test excavations units will be excavated using hand tools only.
4. Test excavations will be excavated in 50 cm x 50 cm units or may be combined and excavated as necessary to understand the site characteristics, however:
 - i) the maximum continuous surface area of a combination of test excavation units at any single excavation point conducted in accordance with point 1 above will be no greater than 3m²; and
 - ii) the maximum surface area of all test excavation units will be no greater than 0.5% of the area, either PAD or site, being investigated.
5. Where the 50 cm x 50 cm excavation unit is greater than 0.5% of the area then point 4 (ii) above does not apply.
6. The first excavation unit will be excavated and documented in 5 cm spits at each area – either PAD or site – being investigated. Based on the evidence of the first excavation unit, 10 cm spits or sediment profile/stratigraphic excavation (whichever is smaller) may then be implemented.
7. All material excavated from the test excavation units will be sieved using a 5 mm aperture wire-mesh sieve.
8. Test excavation units will be excavated to at least the base of the identified Aboriginal object-bearing units and must continue to confirm the soils below are culturally sterile.
9. Photographic and scale-drawn records of the stratigraphy/soil profile, features and informative Aboriginal objects will be made for each single excavation point.
10. Test excavations units must be backfilled as soon as practicable.

Following test excavation, if Phase 2 salvage excavations are not required, an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording form will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS Register as soon as practicable, for each AHIMS site that has been the subject of test excavation.

Phase 2 – Open Area / Salvage Excavation

Where test excavation confirms artefact bearing deposits, excavation will be undertaken as follows:

- The central area of the site will be expanded until a statistically valid sample has been retrieved and artefact numbers have diminished to a level that indicates that the main body of the site has been salvaged. Excavation will cease at culturally sterile units (successive sterile spits, b horizon clay or bedrock).
- Excavation units may be expanded in 0.25m² - 1m² units. Each unit will be assigned a unique identifier.
- The deposit will be excavated in arbitrary 100mm spits or in stratigraphic sequence as appropriate.
- Evidence or otherwise of bioturbation and taphonomic processes will be recorded in detail.
- Spoil will be dry sieved in 3mm sieves. Wet sieving will be used in response to damp and or heavy clay soils.
- Excavation of specific features such as potential hearths or stone treatment pits will be excavated in 50mm spits by hand and subject to planning, photography and recording of the discrete feature. Any feature that is particularly rare or of very high significance, as deemed by the archaeologist in consultation with the RAPs, will be subject to a reviewed methodology developed in consultation with the RAPs and Heritage NSW.
- Samples of charcoal in stratified deposits will be retained for dating purposes.
- Artefacts recovered from sieving will be retained in plastic zip-lock bags and labelled with appropriate provenance data (pit number, quadrat (if required) and spit).

- Recording for each 1 m² x 1 m² excavation unit will include (as a minimum) site name, date, recorder, square identifier, number of spits, description of soil and presence of artefacts.
- All excavation units will be backfilled upon conclusion of excavations at the site.

The above requirements may be modified for any particular site based on advice from a suitably qualified archaeologist following assessment of parameters including, but not limited to, the on-ground conditions, nature of the soils and site safety requirements.

Following the above, and as a final salvage mechanism, grader scrapes may be conducted on completion of open area excavations if requested or deemed warranted by RAPs in attendance of field work. Where requested, these works will include:

- Grader scrapes being conducted over identified areas with passes removing 100 mm of soil per pass, dependant on grass cover and terrain.
- Scrapes continuing, aiming at 100 mm per pass where possible until the base of sterile deposits is identified in salvage excavations (typically b-horizon clay).
- Lenses of objects (i.e. > 5 in a specific cluster) being excavated in 1 m² units.
- Any caches, hearths, uncommon knapping, special features uncovered being excavated at finer resolution consistent with best practice. Any feature that is particularly rare or of very high significance, as deemed by the archaeologist in consultation with the RAPs present, will be subject to a reviewed methodology developed in consultation with the RAPs present and Heritage NSW.
- Artefacts being collected and their location recorded by GPS.
- Salvaged artefacts being recorded, collected and relocated to the MAC Temporary Keeping Place for further analysis and the details included in the final archaeological salvage report.
- Following completion of salvage activities, an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording form being completed and submitted to the AHIMS Register as soon as practicable, for each AHIMS site that has been the subject of salvage activities.

Treatment of Recovered Material

All artefacts recovered from salvage activities will be stored in the MAC Temporary Keeping Place. Selected artefacts recovered from salvage activities will be subject to artefact analysis by an archaeologist. Analysis will be consistent with previous archaeological artefact analysis works undertaken at MAC (Kuskie, 2005) to allow for inter site comparisons and landscape analysis and will include the following:

- All excavated artefacts to be bagged by location, date, probe and spit at a minimum.
- All artefact details to be collated into a catalogue in hard copy and electronic format.
- Use wear and residue analysis to be conducted by specialists where appropriate. Artefacts may be transferred off site for specialist use wear/residue analysis. Movement of artefacts for specialist analysis will be recorded in a log book kept in the MAC Temporary Keeping Place.
- All artefacts retrieved from salvage activities to be recorded, at a minimum with database number, GPS location, raw material, characteristics such as type, morphology and material. Morphology recording will include length, width, platform type, termination, negative scars on cores, retouch and use wear.
- Artefacts not subject to residue analysis will be washed prior to analysis. All artefacts will be stored in their excavation units or individually bagged. In the case of special or fragile items (such as tools), artefacts will be double bagged in UV stabilised plastic zip lock bags, in identifiable units back referenced to the catalogue. All bags labelled outside and internally with archive quality recording media.
- Salvaged artefacts will be stored in suitably robust resealable plastic containers and transferred to the approved Temporary Keeping Place.

Following completion of subsurface salvage works the archaeologist will prepare a salvage excavation report which will include details of the salvage activities undertaken at each site, including the analysis and recording of selected salvaged artefacts. The salvage excavation report will be consistent with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* and salvage excavation reports previously prepared for works undertaken at MAC to allow for inter site comparisons.

Artefacts recovered from the subsurface excavations will be recorded and stored as per Section 9.3.2 above.

An Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form will be submitted to Heritage NSW for recording in AHIMS following the completion of subsurface salvage activities at each site.

9.3.4 Site Clearance

The attending archaeologist will provide a letter report at the completion of inspections and salvage for each site. If required, a release form/field completion sheet will be signed by RAPs at the end of the salvage and will include GPS co-ordinates of the approximate boundary of the cleared area.

Areas cleared for site disturbance will be entered into the MAC GIS database in a timely manner for consideration in the ground disturbance permit process.

9.4 Avoidance and Harm Minimisation

As part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Niche, 2023) undertaken for the 2025 modification to MAC consent (MP09_0062 Mod 2), a test excavation program was carried out at the request of Heritage NSW to determine the extent of two PADs identified during the field surveys for the Modification 2 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Niche, 2023).

Following completion of the test excavation program, MAC has committed to implementing the management and mitigation measures in **Table 6** below and shown on Figure 2 within **Appendix 5**.

Table 6: Management and mitigation measures (Niche, 2024)

Site Name	Site Feature	Significance Rating	Type of harm	Management and mitigation measures
MAC-AS-4 (AHIMS ID #33-2-0048)	Artefact Scatter with PAD	Low	Indirect	Avoidance. Temporary fencing is to be installed around the site boundary to avoid any potential impacts. Identify as a no disturbance area in the MAC GIS database and AHMP.
MAC-AS-6 (AHIMS ID #33-2-0052)	Artefact Scatter with PAD (southern extent)	Low-Moderate	Indirect	Avoidance. Temporary fencing is to be installed around the site boundary to avoid any potential impacts. Identify as a no disturbance area in the MAC GIS database and AHMP.
	Artefact Scatter (northern extent)	Low-Moderate	Direct	Community Surface Salvage Collection Program of the Artefact Scatter prior to disturbance as part of the AHMP.

9.5 Temporary Keeping Place for Cultural Material

In consultation with RAPs, HVEC committed to funding and constructing a secure storage facility to house artefacts salvaged from MAC during the life of the mine.

HVEC undertook a series of workshops and meetings with RAPs in 2013 to discuss the location and management of the secure storage facility. In consultation with RAPS, a "Temporary Keeping Place" was established at MAC along with the inclusion of an 'Interpretive Display' within the foyer of the MAC main administrative building.

Part of setting up the Temporary Keeping Place involved the recovery of many boxes of artefacts that were held at universities, the Australian Museum and at numerous Archaeological consultants' offices. The recovered artefacts were then catalogued and stored securely within the Temporary Keeping Place.

The purpose of the Temporary Keeping Place is to:

- securely store artefacts salvaged as part of the mining operation for the life of the mine;
- provide a facility (desk space) for education, research and analysis of archaeological collections; and
- provide opportunities for RAPs and cultural heritage technical advisors to access the collections for valid reasons including cultural, educational and research purposes.

A register of persons requesting access to the Aboriginal heritage material is maintained by HVEC.

Active mining will cease at MAC on 30 June 2030. As such, artefacts will continue to be stored securely for this period. As part of the ensuing rehabilitation, closure and decommissioning processes, the RAPs (and broader Aboriginal community where appropriate) will be consulted and involved in decision making with regard to the ongoing management of cultural heritage sites and artefact placement following cessation of active mining.

9.6 RAPs and wider Aboriginal Community Access

RAPs and other members of the local Aboriginal community are encouraged to access archaeological and cultural sites within the MAC mining lease for cultural and educational purposes. Supervised access is provided upon request to Thomas Mitchell Drive Offsite Biodiversity Offset, Mount Arthur and Saddlers Creek Offset areas, and the Temporary Keeping Place. MAC is a large mining operation, and unrestricted/unsupervised access is not possible due to responsibilities under the relevant mining and work health safety legislation.

Through consultation for this AHMP, RAPs agreed that a minimum of five business days' notice would be required for HVEC to be able to arrange access, vehicle escorts, risk assessments and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

General community access to the Temporary Keeping Place will not be permitted without a RAP present.

No cultural material or reports are to be removed from the Temporary Keeping Place without prior consent from RAPs.

9.7 Procedures for Reporting Previously Unrecorded Sites

Should any previously unrecorded Aboriginal cultural heritage material be uncovered during the construction of surface facilities or mining activities, the material will be recorded and collected in accordance with **Section 9.3.2** of this AHMP, and a new site card will be lodged with Heritage NSW in compliance with section 89A of the NSW NPW Act.

Where cultural values that exceed those described and considered for the approved project and AHMP are suspected, a risk assessment will be undertaken in accordance with HVEC internal procedures. HVEC will undertake consultation with the RAPs and archaeologist to determine the significance of the site and develop a management strategy where required. Management of such sites will be undertaken with prior and informed consent that is freely given by RAPs.

9.8 Discovery of Suspected Human Remains

In the event that human remains (actual or suspected) are discovered in, on or under the land, the steps listed in **Table 7** below will be followed.

Table 7: Protocol for the discovery of human remains

1	Stop work immediately at the location and restrict any further access.
2	Immediately notify the Manager Approvals, Land Access and Heritage , and/or the Manager Closure Planning who will then inform the General Manager .
3	MAC's General Manager will immediately notify NSW Police (Muswellbrook Police Station Ph: 02 6542 6999).
4	The Manager Approvals, Land, Access and Heritage will notify Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or 131 555 as soon as practicable and provide available details of the suspected remains and their location.
5	If the remains are determined to be a traditional Aboriginal ancestral burial, the Manager Approvals, Land, Access and Heritage will notify RAPs.
6	Recording of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains must be undertaken by, or be conducted under the direct supervision of, a specialist physical anthropologist or other suitably qualified person. Representatives of the RAPs will be present during the recording.
7	A plan for the management for the area will be developed in consultation with the RAPs and Heritage NSW.

10 Management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Biodiversity Offset Areas

10.1 Overview

The management of Aboriginal archaeological sites in Offset Areas is determined by whether the sites are within, or outside, the approved project boundary. Those within the approved project boundary are governed by the AHMP, those outside are managed in accordance with the NPW Act, the EP&A Act and the relevant Conservation Agreements (CA).

10.2 Thomas Mitchell Drive Offsite Biodiversity Offset Area

The TMD Offsite Biodiversity Offset Area has been established to offset ecological impacts for MAC. This area is subject to a CA that is legally binding, and operates in perpetuity. The CA acts as a Plan of Management for the Offset. Cultural heritage values are an important consideration in the ongoing management of this CA.

AHIMS registered grinding groove site, Fairford 1 (AHIMS Site ID#37-2-0111) was relocated to the TMD in February 2019 after consultation with the RAPs and will be monitored in accordance with the procedures outlined in **Section 9.2.1**.

While unrestricted/unaccompanied access to the TMD for the RAPs and the wider Aboriginal Community is unachievable due to issues associated with health and safety risks, as set out in **Section 9.6**, access under escort is available with at least five business days' notice.

Any activities required to be carried out to meet the obligations under the CA, including tree planting, fencing, or bushfire management, will be assessed for the potential impact on cultural heritage and if required, RAP and/or a qualified archaeologist will be consulted if the active management of cultural heritage items is required.

10.3 Saddlers Creek Biodiversity Offset Area

Saddlers Creek Biodiversity Offset Area (SC) has been established to offset ecological impacts for the Project. This area is subject to a CA that is legally binding and operates in perpetuity. The CA acts as a Plan of Management for the Offset. Cultural heritage values are an important consideration in the ongoing management of this CA.

While unrestricted/unaccompanied access to the SC for the RAPs and the wider Aboriginal Community is unachievable due to issues associated with health and safety risks, as set out in **Section 9.6**, access under escort is available with at least five business days' notice.

Any activities required to be carried out to meet the obligations under the CA (i.e. tree planting, fencing, or bushfire management), will be assessed for the potential impact on cultural heritage and if required, RAP and/or a qualified archaeologist will be consulted if the active management of cultural heritage items is required.

11 Contingency Plan to manage unpredicted impacts

Section 9 outlines the contingency process for managing any unpredicted impacts to cultural heritage and their consequences. The contingency process includes risk assessments, treatments, protocols and notifications of appropriate stakeholders.

12 Incident and Complaint Response

All complaints received in relation to this AHMP will be responded to in accordance with HVEC's Community and Environmental Incident Response and Reporting. This procedure provides details on how to receive, handle, respond to, record and action any community complaints.

Upon receipt of a complaint from the community, preliminary investigations will commence as soon as practicable to determine the likely causes of the complaint using specific information associated with the complaint. A response will be provided as soon as practicable, which may include the provision of relevant monitoring data.

HVEC will record all community complaints, incidents and non-compliance items into the site event management database. The database is maintained to include reporting, incident/event notification, close out action tracking, inspections, and audits results.

Every effort will be made to ensure that concerns are addressed in a manner that facilitates a mutually acceptable outcome for both the complainant and HVEC.

In the event of an incident or complaint resulting in a non-compliance with this AHMP, the following protocol will be followed:

1. Check and validate the incident or data which indicates a non-compliance with criterion or conditions.
2. Notify the relevant RAPs, Heritage NSW and NSW DPHI as soon as practicable after awareness of the incident.
3. A preliminary investigation will be undertaken to establish the cause(s) and determine whether changes to the AHMP are required. This will involve the consideration of the incident in conjunction with:
 - a) activities being undertaken at the time;
 - b) monitoring results;
 - c) on-going maintenance and/or monitoring of the heritage item if relevant;
 - d) comparison of condition with other comparable heritage items at nearby locations; and
 - e) changes to the land use/activities being undertaken on and surrounding the heritage items.
4. If the preliminary investigation report recommends further detailed investigations these would be conducted in consultation with the RAPs, Heritage NSW and DPHI.
5. Remedial measures will be developed in consultation with the RAPs, Heritage NSW and DPHI and implemented in response to the outcomes of the investigations.
6. Monitoring, where relevant, would be implemented to measure the effectiveness of remedial measures.

13 Reporting

HVEC will report on the performance of the AHMP in the Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR), which will be uploaded on the company website.

14 Review of the AHMP

This AHMP will be reviewed, and if necessary revised to the satisfaction of the Secretary (in consultation with relevant government agencies) in accordance with Condition 4 of Schedule 5 of the Project Approval:

- within 3 months of the submission of an:
 - annual review under Condition 3, Schedule 5 of the Project Approval;
 - incident report under Condition 7, Schedule 5 of the Project Approval;
 - Independent Environmental Audit report under Condition 9, Schedule 5 of the Project Approval; and/or
 - modification to the conditions of the Project Approval.
- when there are changes to project approval or licence conditions relating to cultural heritage;
- following significant incidents at Mt Arthur Coal relating to cultural heritage;
- following the conduct of an Independent Environmental Audit which requires changes to the AHMP; and/or
- if there is a relevant change in technology or legislation.

The AHMP may also be reviewed where the described management is no longer appropriate.

Unless administrative in nature, any updates to this AMHP will be undertaken in consultation with RAPs.

HVEC will provide the RAPs with notification of any planned revision and a minimum four weeks to comment on any proposed amendments to the AHMP.

A copy of the final updated AHMP will be provided to the RAPs upon request and a copy placed on the BHP website.

Subject to agreement by DPHI, HVEC may submit a revised AHMP for approval without undertaking consultation, in instances where the changes proposed to the AHMP are not material/are minor in nature. In the context of this AHMP, changes that would be considered minor/not material in nature may include updates to the project description or updates to the salvage status of known sites and/or the incorporation of additional sites.

Any changes to the AHMP that propose a change in the way RAPs are engaged or to the way cultural heritage is managed, would not constitute a minor amendment.

15 References

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (2006), Mt Arthur Coal Underground Project Environmental Assessment.

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (2009), Mt Arthur Coal Consolidation Project Environmental Assessment

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (2013), Mt Athur Coal Open Cut Modification 1 Environmental Assessment

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (2023), Mt Arthur Coal Modification 2 Modification Report

Niche Environment & Heritage (2023), Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Mt Arthur Coal Mine Modification 2.

Niche Environment & Heritage (2024), Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Mt Arthur Coal Mine Modification 2.

NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2010a), Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.

NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2010b), Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.

16 Version Management

Approval

Name	Role	Date
Darryl Messenger	Acting NSWEC Vice President	16/09/2025
Georgia Manning	Acting Manager Approvals, Land, Access and Heritage	16/09/2025

Date	Version Control		Page(s)	Details
	Major	Minor		
20/08/2012	0		All	Original issue as Approved by NSW DPE.
31/03/2021	1.0		All	First Draft of Major Revision.
13/08/2021	2.0		All	Final of Major Revision.
24/02/2022	2.1		All	Approved by DPE.
15/10/2025	2.2		All	Updated following Determination of Modification 2 in conjunction with Liz Olejnik of Stratum Archaeology.



Call Document Control for help on writing or formatting this procedure: **02 6544 5681**

Appendix 1 – BHP Indigenous Peoples Policy Statement



Indigenous Peoples Policy Statement

Our commitment

BHP's ambition is to create long-term relationships with Indigenous Peoples, based on trust and mutual benefit. Respecting and partnering with Indigenous Peoples aligns with our Company Purpose of bringing people and resources together to build a better world, our focus on delivering long-term social value and our commitment to working with integrity.

Operating on or near Indigenous traditional lands brings with it responsibility and opportunity. This Policy Statement is designed to set an expectation of our conduct and our commitment to respecting Indigenous Peoples, listening to Indigenous voices and perspectives, and working collaboratively with Indigenous stakeholders and partners. It is through this commitment that we aim to support reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and contribute to improved social, economic and environmental outcomes.

While BHP has a long history of partnering with Indigenous Peoples, we know we haven't always got this right. We are determined to do better. By learning from each other we believe we can develop the mutual trust and respect that allows us to plan collaboratively, for the future. It is through reciprocity and partnerships that we can achieve mutually beneficial outcomes that extend long past the life of our operations.

Our approach and principles

This Policy Statement outlines a consistent global approach to engaging and partnering with Indigenous Peoples across the entire lifecycle of our activities including exploration, closure and post closure.

Our approach is founded in a deep respect for the distinct cultures, rights, perspectives and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples. Through this Policy Statement we will be guided by the aims of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as articulated in the Principles below.

Incorporate Indigenous perspectives

We will seek out Indigenous voices, values, knowledge and perspectives in the way we work. We will connect with Indigenous Peoples to better appreciate the historical, legal, social, environmental, cultural and political landscape where we operate or seek to operate, and how to better manage the environment we share.

These voices, values, knowledge and perspectives will contribute to the design and implementation of our rights-based approach to understand and aim to mitigate the potential impacts of our activities and collaboratively define and realise opportunities.

We will establish formal opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to advise on policies and processes to combat racism and prejudice, eliminate discrimination and promote respect and understanding in our workforce.

Engagement, dialogue and co-design

We will engage early and support meaningful dialogue by sharing knowledge and information both ways and ensure our processes allow for active participation in appropriate aspects of the design, implementation and monitoring of plans that impact Indigenous Peoples. This engagement and co-design process will also seek to recognise and incorporate broader stakeholder involvement.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

We respect Indigenous Peoples' right to consultation and recognise FPIC as an important process to safeguard the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We will carry out informed and good faith consultations with potentially affected Indigenous Peoples for proposed new operations or capital projects. We will provide the support necessary to strengthen the capacity of BHP and Indigenous Peoples to participate effectively in consultations.

It is intended that these consultations will be co-designed, culturally appropriate, inclusive and carried out through the procedures and governance structures of potentially affected Indigenous Peoples. In jurisdictions where consultation is carried out by governments, we will seek to implement the appropriate mechanisms to align consultation with this Principle.

BHP will seek to understand how we can avoid and mitigate adverse impacts, acknowledging that potential adverse impacts may extend beyond direct physical impacts and include impacts on intangible cultural heritage or impacts on Indigenous Peoples' culture and way of life.

Our objective will be to obtain consent with the intention of substantially addressing impacted Indigenous Peoples' rights, ambitions and concerns. We recognise, however, that despite the best efforts and intentions of all parties, consent may not be provided, or agreement reached in all circumstances.

BHP's default position will be that a proposed new operation or capital project should not proceed without consent; and where consent has not been provided, BHP will escalate senior management involvement in the process to determine if the new operation or capital project will proceed. As part of BHP's broader investment review and approvals framework, BHP will carefully consider the perspectives shared by Indigenous Peoples throughout the FPIC process, including the extent to which potential adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples' rights and interests have been understood, avoided and/or mitigated.

Where consent has been provided, we will work closely with Indigenous Peoples to maintain the principles of consent over the entire lifecycle of our activities.

Indigenous cultural and intellectual property and data sovereignty

We acknowledge the value and ownership of information related to Indigenous cultural heritage and the rights to information regarding Indigenous Peoples' narratives, traditions and lore. We will take the steps necessary to include Indigenous Peoples in the design of our standards and processes for the collection, access and reuse of cultural information that pertains to Indigenous Peoples.

Governance

BHP's Board oversees our approach to sustainability, including matters in relation to Indigenous Peoples.

The *Our Requirements for Community and Indigenous Peoples Engagement* standard helps to operationalise this Policy Statement. Specific Indigenous Peoples Plans will be co-designed with relevant Indigenous Peoples in each region where we operate and will be collectively reviewed and reported on annually.

We will incorporate Indigenous voices and perspectives in monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of this Policy Statement.

For our non-operated joint ventures, we will actively seek to enhance governance and engagement processes that relate to Indigenous Peoples, and to influence operator companies to adopt standards and practices that align with the intent of this Policy Statement.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with BHP's [2030 Social Value Goals](#), [Human Rights Policy Statement](#) and [Equitable Change and Transition Principles](#).

9 November 2022

Appendix 2 – Registered Aboriginal Parties

RAP Business Name	Contact
A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn Hickey
Aboriginal Native Title Consultants	Christine Paul
AGA Services	Adam, Ashley and Gregory Sampson
Alera French Trading	Aleira French
Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council	CEO
Cacatua General Services/ Cacatua P/L / Cacatua Cultural Consultants	George & Donna Sampson
Culturally Aware	Tracey Skene
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Caroll-Johnson Marilyn
Crimson-Rosie	Jeffrey Matthews
Deslee Talbot Consultant	Deslee Matthews
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Paul Boyd and Lilly Carroll
Gomery Cultural Consultants	David Horton
Gomerai People (c/-NTSCORP Ltd)	NTS Corp
Gilay Consultants	Carol Slater
Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation Muswellbrook	Kylie Pascoe
Hunters & Collectors	Tania Matthews
Indigenous Learning	Craig Archibald
Jumbunna Traffic Management Pty Ltd	Norm Archibald
Jarban & Mugrebea	Les Atkinson
Kauwul/ Wonn1	Arthur Fletcher
Kawul Cultural Services	Vicki Slater
Kevin Duncan	Kevin Duncan
Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services	Lea-Anne Ball
Lower Hunter Aboriginal Inc	David Ahoy and Jillian Green
Myland Cultural & Heritage Group	Warren Schilling
Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation	Admin Office & Allen Paget
Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council	Victor, Rhoda and Georgina Perry

RAP Business Name	Contact
Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council	CEO
Wattaka Wonnarua Cultural Consultancy Services	Des Hickey
Yinarr Cultural Services	Kathie Kinchela
Widescope Indigenous Group	Steven Hickey
Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Ryan Johnson and Darleen Johnson-Carroll
Wonnarua Elders Council	Richard Edwards
Gidawaa Walang & Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc.	Debbie Dacey-Sullivan
DFTV Enterprises	Derrick Vale Snr
Robert Syron	Robert Syron
Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Laurie Perry
Hunter Traditional Owner	Paulette Ryan
Wonnarua Cultural heritage	Gordon Griffiths
Wallagan Cultural Services	Maree Waugh
Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation	Colin Ahoy
Lower Wonnaruah Tribal Consultancy Pty Ltd	Barry Anderson
Bawurra	Kevin Sampson
Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey White
Breeza Plains Cultural Heritage Consultants	Terry Matthews
Bunda Consultants	Tammy Knox
Bullen Bullen Consultants	Lloyd Matthews
Cheryl Moodie Consultants	Cheryl Moodie
Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heritage Consultancy	Annie Hickey
Giwirr Consultants	Rondey Matthews
Hunter Traditional Owner Environmental Management	Rick Coles and Cara Coles
Hunter Valley Cultural Consultants	Christine Matthews
Hunter Valley Cultural Surveying	Luke Hickey
Kayaway Eco Cultural & Heritage Services	Mark Hickey
Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	DeLea-Anne Ball
Mooki Plains Consultants	Stephen Matthews

RAP Business Name	Contact
Roger Noel Matthews	Roger Noel Matthews
Scott Smith	Scott Smith
Steve Talbott	Steve Talbott
T & G Culture Consultants	Tony Griffiths Leigh Griffiths
Ungooroo Cultural & Community Services Inc	Mrs Rhonda Ward
Upper Hunter Heritage Consultants	Darrel Matthews- Melissa Matthews
Valley Culture	Larry Van Villey- Elizabeth Howard
Warragil Cultural Services	Aaron Slater
Wanaruah Aboriginal Custodians Corporation	Maria Stocks
Yarrawalk Enterprises	Barry McTaggart and Scott Franks
Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Phil Khan
Thomas Dahlstrom	Thomas Dahlstrom

Note: Contact the Manager Approvals, Land, Access and Heritage for RAP contact details

Appendix 3 – Examples of consultation records for this AHMP

Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan



Clibborn, Sarah
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Bcc:



Reply

Reply All

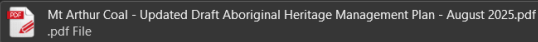
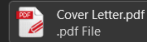
Forward



Fri 8/08/2025 10:30 AM

BHP Internal\Any User (No Protection)

You forwarded this message on 4/09/2025 4:29 PM.



Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Please find enclosed, for the purposes of consultation, a revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine (MAC) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

It would be appreciated if you could please provide comments on the revised AHMP (either verbal or written) via the contact details as described in the attached Cover Letter by **COB Friday 5 September 2025**.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Sarah



Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal
E:

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

REMINDER: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan



Clibborn, Sarah
To:
Bcc:



Reply

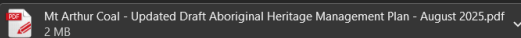
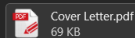
Reply All

Forward



Thu 4/09/2025 4:30 PM

BHP Internal\Any User (No Protection)



Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

As previously communicated, tomorrow is the nominated due date for submission of comments on the updated AHMP.

This is a reminder to please send through your comments by **Close of Business tomorrow, 5 September**.

If you have already responded, please disregard this message.

If you would like to comment, but are unable to meet this deadline, please respond to me with an alternate date (preferably a date prior to the end of next week), as we plan to submit the AHMP to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for assessment by 15 September 2025.

Kind regards,

Sarah



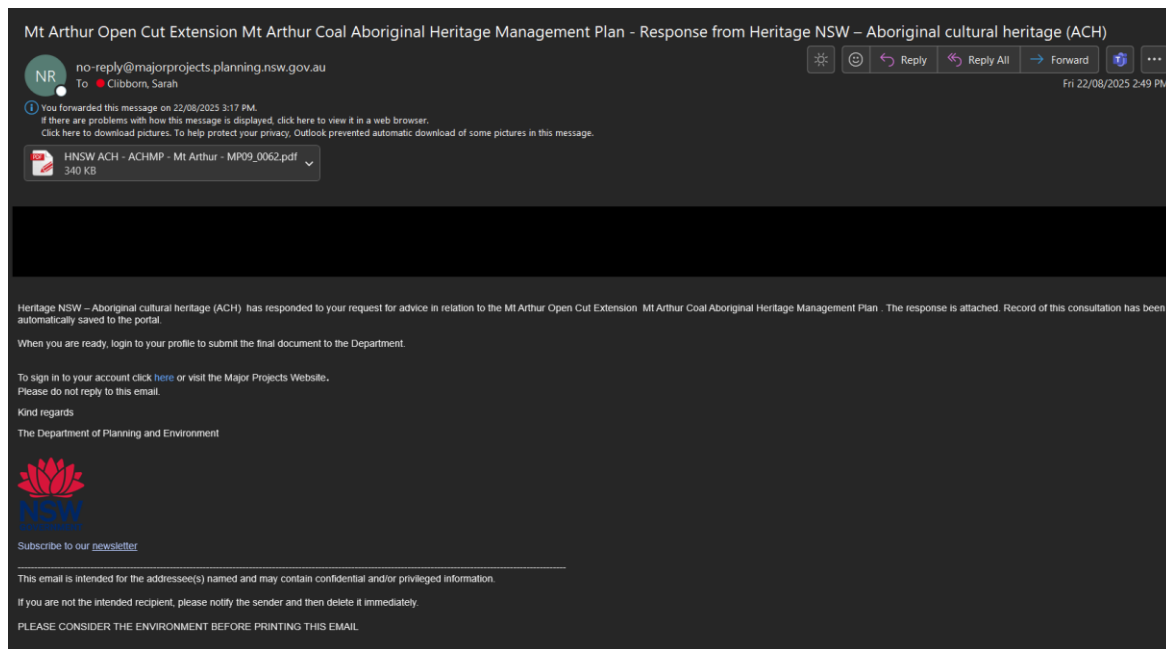
Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal
E:

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

RAP Organisation	RAP Name	Address	Tracking Number
-	Thomas Dahlstrom	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64380 10060 60990
Yarrowalk Enterprises	Barry McTaggart	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64380 60060 60998
Valley Culture	Larry Van Villey - Elizabeth Howard	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64380 70060 60992
Bawurra	Kevin Sampson	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64380 60060 60995
Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey White	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64380 40060 60991
Bullen Bullen Consultants	Lloyd Matthews	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64380 30060 60996
Hunter Traditional Owner Environmental Management	Rick Coles and Cara Coles	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64380 20060 60997
Mooki Plains Consultants	Stephen Matthews	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64377 00060 60999
Michael Green Cultural Heritage Consultant	Michael Green	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 90060 60993
Crimson-Rosie	Jeffery Matthews	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 80060 60996
Wonnarua Cultural heritage	Gordon Griffiths	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 70060 60999

Lower Wonnarua Tribal Consultancy Pty Ltd	Barry Anderson	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 80060 60992
Breeza Plains Cultural Heritage Consultants	Terry Matthews	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 50060 60995
Cheryl Moodie Consultants	Cheryl Moodie	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 10060 60997
Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heritage Consultancy	-	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 30060 60991
-	Roger Noel Matthews	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 20060 60994
T & G Culture Consultants	Tony Griffiths Leigh Griffiths	[REDACTED]	Sender to keep 02 08066 64376 40060 60996



Clibborn, Sarah

From: Norman Archibald <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 8:12 PM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Hi Sarah

It is an intense report but it needs to be because of the cultural significant connected with the whole Mt Arthur project. And reading this report I find it covers all correct guidelines.

Norman Archibald

[REDACTED]

On Thu, 4 Sep 2025, 4:30 pm Clibborn, Sarah, <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[BHP Internal](#)

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

As previously communicated, tomorrow is the nominated due date for submission of comments on the updated AHMP.

This is a reminder to please send through your comments by **Close of Business tomorrow, 5 September**.

If you have already responded, please disregard this message.

If you would like to comment, but are unable to meet this deadline, please respond to me with an alternate date (preferably a date prior to the end of next week), as we plan to submit the AHMP to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for assessment by 15 September 2025.

Kind regards,

Sarah



Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal

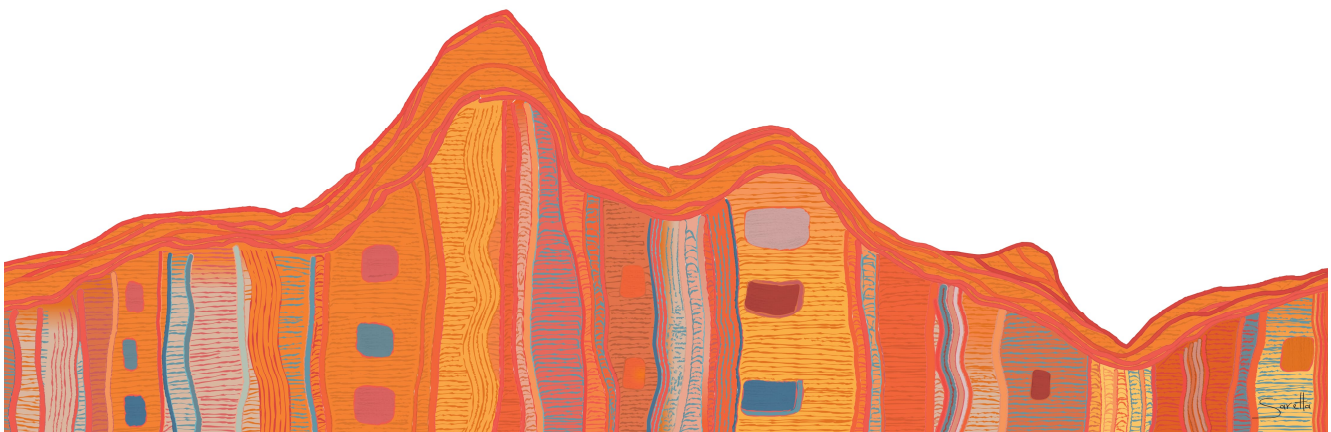
E [REDACTED]

M [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain



Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

From: Clibborn, Sarah
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2025 10:30 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Please find enclosed, for the purposes of consultation, a revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine (MAC) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

It would be appreciated if you could please provide comments on the revised AHMP (either verbal or written) via the contact details as described in the attached Cover Letter by **COB Friday 5 September 2025**.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Sarah

BHP

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal

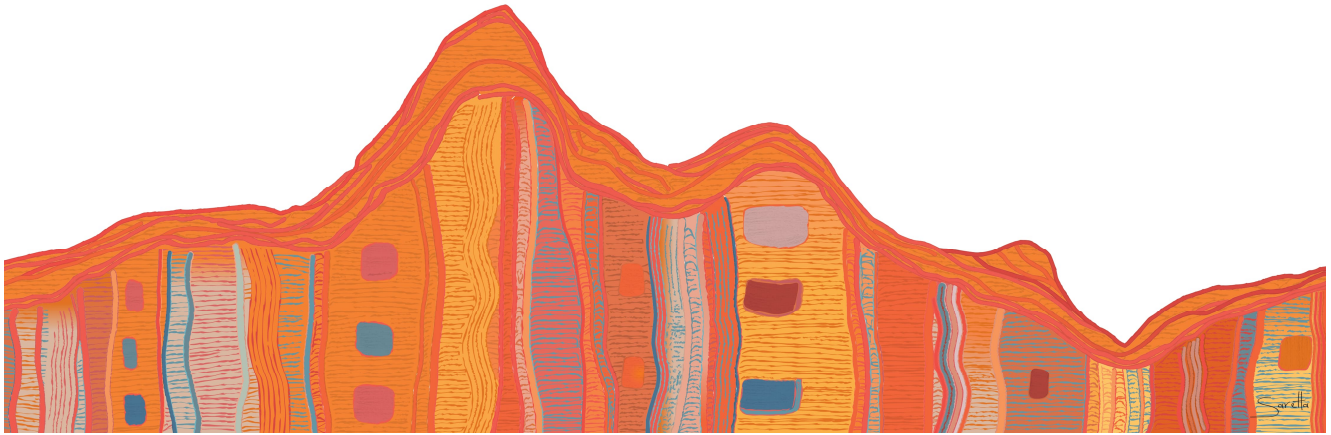
E [REDACTED]

M [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

[bhp.com](https://www.bhp.com)

Balgarr - Mountain



Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

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Clibborn, Sarah

From: Thomas Dahlstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 25 August 2025 12:57 PM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: Re: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Good afternoon

I have had really good thorough read through the document you sent out.
The only worry or concern I have is the water quality and the close proximity to the Hunter river. Everything else seemed straight forward. A lot of RAPs registered, should be no problem with consultation with number of RAPs involved. Look forward to collaborating.

Kind regards

Thomas D

On 8 Aug 2025, at 10:31 am, Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED] wrote:

BHP Internal

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Please find enclosed, for the purposes of consultation, a revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine (MAC) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

It would be appreciated if you could please provide comments on the revised AHMP (either verbal or written) via the contact details as described in the attached Cover Letter by **COB Friday 5 September 2025**.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Sarah

<image001.png>

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal



Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain

<image002.png>

*Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa
We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.*

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<Cover Letter.pdf>

<Mt Arthur Coal - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan - August 2025.pdf>

Clibborn, Sarah

From: Thomas Dahlstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 6:50 PM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

I have read thru the CHMP and I don't have a problem with the modus operandi.

I do apologise for the lateness, I have been away attending Sorry Business.

Regards

Thomas D

Sent from my iPhone

On 4 Sep 2025, at 2:30 pm, Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED]

BHP Internal

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

As previously communicated, tomorrow is the nominated due date for submission of comments on the updated AHMP.

This is a reminder to please send through your comments by **Close of Business tomorrow, 5 September**.

If you have already responded, please disregard this message.

If you would like to comment, but are unable to meet this deadline, please respond to me with an alternate date (preferably a date prior to the end of next week), as we plan to submit the AHMP to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for assessment by 15 September 2025.

Kind regards,

Sarah

<image001.png>

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal



Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain

<image002.png>

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We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

From: Clibborn, Sarah
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2025 10:30 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah 
Subject: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

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Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Sarah

<image001.png>

Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal



Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain

<image002.png>

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<Cover Letter.pdf>

<Mt Arthur Coal - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan - August 2025.pdf>

Clibborn, Sarah

From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@mx0b-00242401.pphosted.com>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 8:32 PM
Subject: Delivery delayed:Warning: could not send message for past 4 hours

** THIS IS A WARNING MESSAGE ONLY **
** YOU DO NOT NEED TO RESEND YOUR MESSAGE **

The original message was received at Thu, 4 Sep 2025 16:29:54 +1000
from m0291408.ppop.s.net [127.0.0.1]

----- Transcript of session follows -----

... while talking to [REDACTED] mail.protection.outlook.com.:
>>> DATA

<<< 451 4.4.4 Mail received as unauthenticated, incoming to a recipient domain configured in a hosted tenant which has no mail-enabled subscriptions. ATTR5 [ML1PEPF00011308.ausprd01.prod.outlook.com 2025-09-04T10:31:41.028Z 08DDE95481010D09]

[REDACTED] ... Deferred: 451 4.4.4 Mail received as unauthenticated, incoming to a recipient domain configured in a hosted tenant which has no mail-enabled subscriptions. ATTR5 [ML1PEPF00011308.ausprd01.prod.outlook.com 2025-09-04T10:31:41.028Z 08DDE95481010D09]

<<< 503 5.5.2 Need rcpt command [ML1PEPF00011308.ausprd01.prod.outlook.com 2025-09-04T10:31:41.028Z 08DDE95481010D09]

Warning: message still undelivered after 4 hours

Will keep trying until message is 5 days old

Clibborn, Sarah

From: Scott Franks [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 September 2025 1:04 PM
To: Clibborn, Sarah; Lawford, Liam
Subject: Re: Mt Arthur Updated Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Mt Arthur Coal Mine
Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd
PO Box 40
Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310

Formal Response to Draft Mt Arthur Coal Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (August 2025) – Recognition of Wonnarua Traditional Owners

Overview

The AHMP in its current form does not meet cultural or legal requirements for proper consultation with Traditional Owners. It fails to identify Wonnarua Traditional Owners, instead relying on a broad “first-come” RAP registration system. This substitutes procedural convenience for cultural legitimacy, and results in the silencing of those with rightful custodianship.

Equally concerning is the ongoing use of the term Wanaruah in place of Wonnarua. This deliberate spelling variation was introduced historically to allow the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council (WLAC) to appear distinct, while still positioning itself as a consent authority over Country. Using Wanaruah in official documents when speaking about the Wonnarua people demonstrates a lack of respect and misrepresents the identity of the true custodians.

I therefore request that all references in the AHMP and related documents use Wonnarua when referring to the people and Traditional Owners of this Country. Continuing to use Wanaruah perpetuates confusion, undermines our authority, and delegitimises the Wonnarua voice.

1. Non-Compliance with Consultation Requirements

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010) require engagement with those who hold cultural authority. Circulating documents to a long list of RAPs without distinguishing Traditional Owners fails to comply with this requirement.

2. Failure to Identify Traditional Owners

Although the AHMP acknowledges the Wonnarua people, it does not provide any mechanism to ensure that Wonnarua Elders and knowledge holders are the decision-makers. Instead, a RAP collective is treated as the authority, which dilutes and disrespects cultural custodianship.

3. Lack of Cultural Respect

I have not been treated with cultural respect in this process. Being placed in the same category as consultants or corporations with no genealogical connection to Country ignores my responsibilities

under lore. This approach also reduces Traditional Owners to “stakeholders” rather than recognising our cultural sovereignty.

4. Consequences

This failure risks:

- Statutory non-compliance with NSW consultation requirements.
- Breach of ICMM Indigenous Peoples standards, which BHP has committed to;
- Delegitimisation of Wonnarua cultural authority through the misuse of the term Wanaruah;
- Exposure to future challenges, as outcomes reached without proper cultural authority cannot be defended.

5. Required Amendments

To remedy these issues, the AHMP must be amended to:

1. Identify and prioritise Wonnarua Traditional Owners.
2. Cease using “Wanaruah” when referring to the Wonnarua people.
3. Embed cultural protocols into consultation and decision-making.
4. Ensure free, prior, and informed consent of Wonnarua Traditional Owners is obtained for all heritage decisions.

Conclusion

The AHMP is not compliant, not culturally legitimate, and not respectful. Unless it is amended to recognise Wonnarua Traditional Owners and cease the misrepresentation of our identity through the use of “Wanaruah,” it cannot be considered valid.

Scott Franks
Chief Executive Officer
Yarrowalk Pty Ltd
Wonnarua Elder & Traditional Owner
Dharawal Country
www.yarrowalk.com.au



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From: Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 8 September 2025 at 11:30 am
To: Scott Franks [REDACTED]
Subject: Mt Arthur Updated Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

BHP Internal

Good morning Scott,

I am writing to you regarding the Draft Updated Mt Arthur Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP). I originally circulated the plan for review last month, and included the email address we had on record for you [REDACTED]. However, I have recently received a notification that it could not be delivered to that address.

I then noticed that a response I received from Bob Syron had copied you in using this email address. I also note that NTS Corp had circulated my request for comment on the AHMP and that they may have reached you via their communication.

I wanted to be certain that you had received the AHMP for review and let you know that if you have not, this was not at all intentional. In case you have not yet seen it, I have attached the draft to this email for you.

I intend to submit the draft to the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure this month, so if you could please confirm receipt and also forward any comments to me at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Also, please note that I have now updated your email address in our contact register to ensure it is correct moving forward.

Kind regards,

Sarah

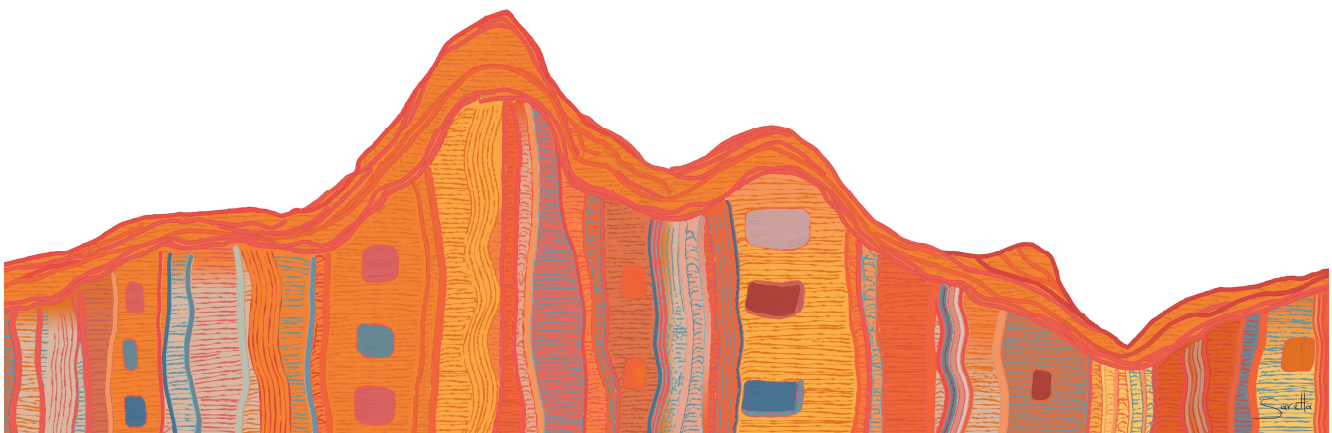
BHP

Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal
[REDACTED]

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain



Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa
We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

Clibborn, Sarah

From: Scott Franks [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 7:33 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Cc: Lawford, Liam
Subject: Mt Arthur Updated Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Sarah,

Thank you for the email. I think it may be lost in translation, but the spelling. *Wanaruah was never accepted as the traditional language that spelling was introduced for the Wanaruah local aboriginal lands Council. Could you please correct your statement and remove it as asserting as an accepted way of spelling our mobs title. I suspect any mobs using that lands council spelling clearly are not from our country and don't know any better.*

Regards
Scott Franks
Yarrowalk PTY Limited
[REDACTED]

Breach of Confidentiality

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. *Although the company has taken reasonable precautions to ensure no viruses are present in this email, the company cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.*

Regards
Scott Franks
Yarrowalk PTY Limited
[REDACTED]

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On 23 Sep 2025, at 11:13 am, Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED] wrote:

BHP Internal

Hi Scott,

Thank you very much for providing comments on the Mt Arthur Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP). HVEC acknowledges your comments and issues raised below.

Please note, the AHMP includes dual spelling for Wanaruah/Wonnarua, however we have included the following sentence within the AHMP. We have removed further reference to Wanaruah (with the exception of specific RAP group names).

Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd (HVEC) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Wonnarua (also spelled Wanaruah and Wonnaruah. but hereafter spelled Wonnarua) people.

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010) establishes the requirements for consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties and does not include a process to distinguish Traditional Owners.

Accordingly, consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Mt Arthur Coal Mine has been undertaken in consideration of this guideline.

We thank you again for your comments.

Kind regards,

Sarah

<image001.png>

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal

[REDACTED]
Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain

<image002.png>

*Ngayan marrungku paran wiyan Wanarruwa
We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.*

From: Scott Franks [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 September 2025 1:04 PM
To: Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED]; Lawford, Liam [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Mt Arthur Updated Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Mt Arthur Coal Mine

Formal Response to Draft Mt Arthur Coal Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (August 2025) – Recognition of Wonnarua Traditional Owners

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This failure risks:

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Scott Franks
Chief Executive Officer
Yarrowalk Pty Ltd
Wonnarua Elder & Traditional Owner
Dharawal Country
www.yarrowalk.com.au

<image003.png>

<image004.png>

<image005.png>

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From: Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 8 September 2025 at 11:30 am
To: Scott Franks [REDACTED]
Subject: Mt Arthur Updated Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

BHP Internal

Good morning Scott,

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Kind regards,

Sarah

<image001.png>

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal



Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain

<image002.png>

*Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa
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Clibborn, Sarah

From: David Horton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 9:10 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Good morning, Sarah it's Dave horton gomery cultural consultants ,i support the achr methodology ,with the sites already within mac boundaries, is there or should be community collection from harm,is the grinding grooves on offset being looked after,and the scared trees on Mt Arthur. And the keeping place being kept clean and artefacts are safe.thanks again you are doing a wonderful job.

On Thu, 4 Sept 2025, 4:30 pm Clibborn, Sarah, <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[BHP Internal](#)

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

As previously communicated, tomorrow is the nominated due date for submission of comments on the updated AHMP.

This is a reminder to please send through your comments by **Close of Business tomorrow, 5 September.**

If you have already responded, please disregard this message.

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Kind regards,

Sarah

BHP

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal

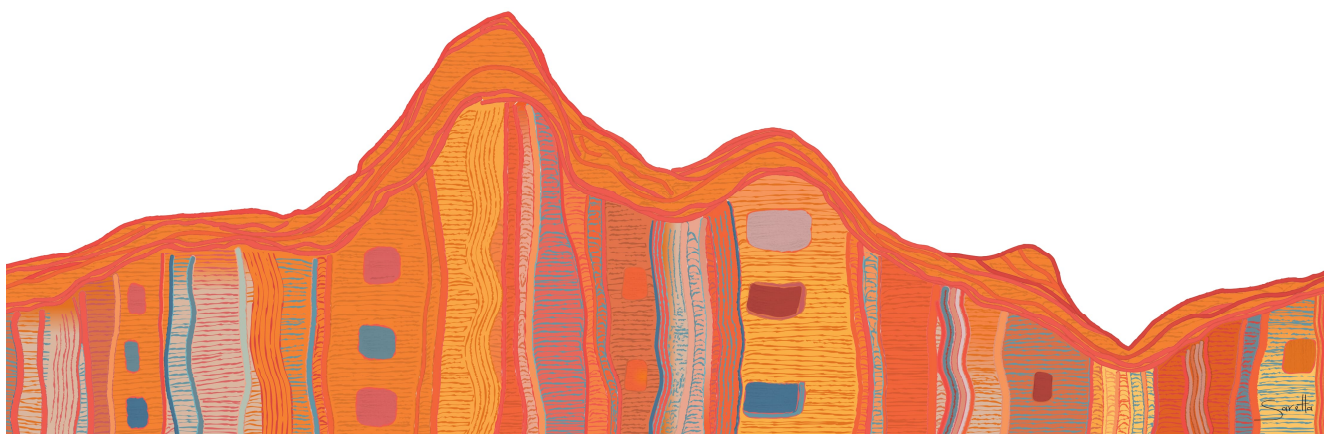
E [REDACTED]

M [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain



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From: Clibborn, Sarah
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2025 10:30 AM

To: Clibborn, Sarah <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

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Sarah

BHP

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal

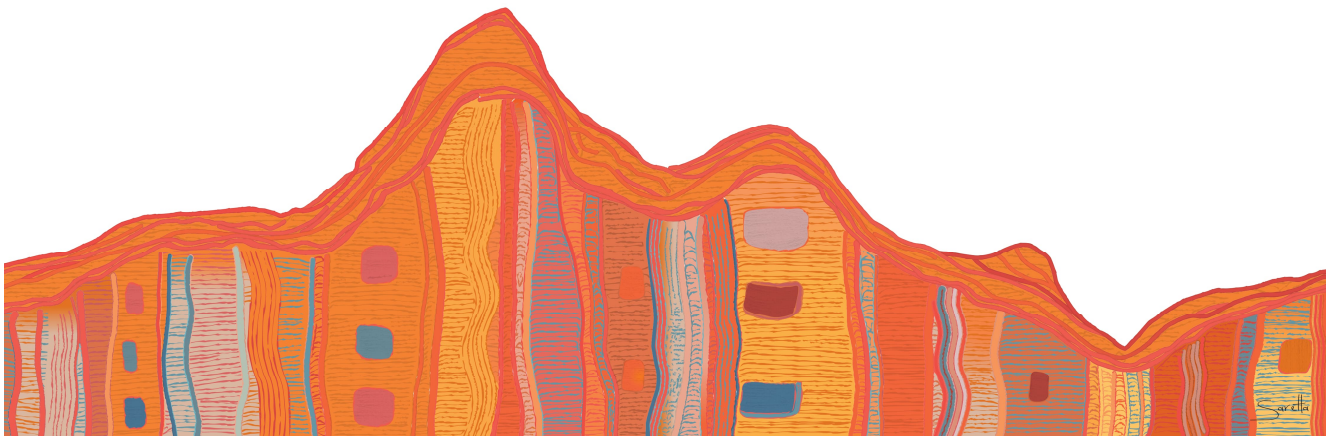
E [REDACTED]

M [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

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Balgarr - Mountain



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Clibborn, Sarah

From: Lawrence Perry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 7:54 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Hi Sarah

Thanks for the reminder

Cheers

Laurie Perry

Chief Executive Officer
Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation

T [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] E [REDACTED]

Ground Floor 254 John St Singleton NSW 2330
PO BOX 3066 Singleton 2330

W www.wonnarua.org.au

E [REDACTED]



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land I work on and pay my respect to Elders both past, present and future.

From: Clibborn, Sarah <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 4:29 PM
Subject: REMINDER: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

BHP Internal

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

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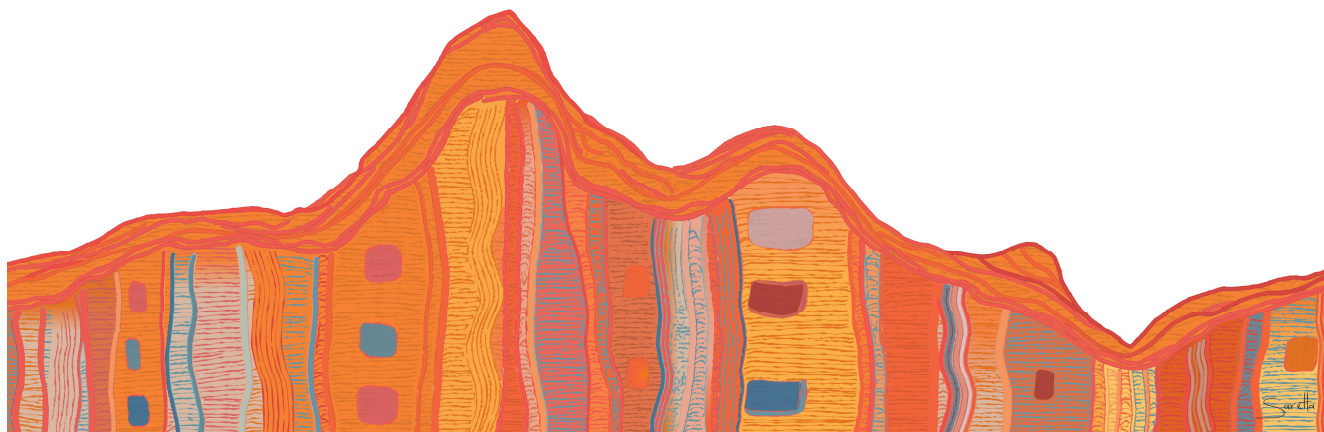
Sarah

BHP

Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal
E [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain



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BHP

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal

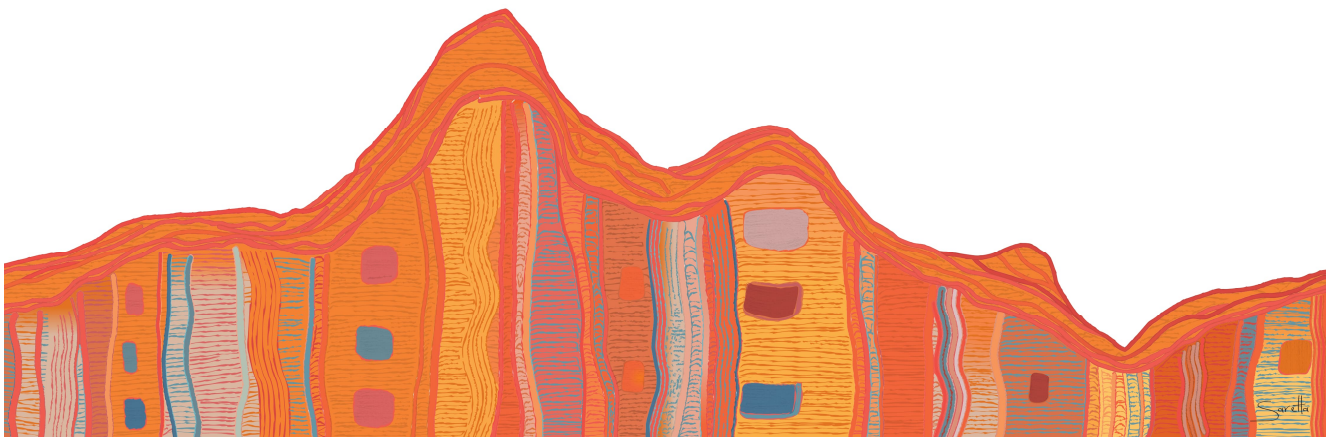
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M [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain



Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

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Clibborn, Sarah

From: Paulette Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 12:42 PM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: Re: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png

Thank you for your email
I have knowledge of the area familiar with the terrain I acknowledge of the sights within that area
knowledge of all artifacts
Kind regards Paulette Ryan HTO
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 8 Aug 2025, 10:30 am Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED] wrote:
[BHP Internal](#)

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Please find enclosed, for the purposes of consultation, a revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine (MAC) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

It would be appreciated if you could please provide comments on the revised AHMP (either verbal or written) via the contact details as described in the attached Cover Letter by **COB Friday 5 September 2025**.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Sarah



Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

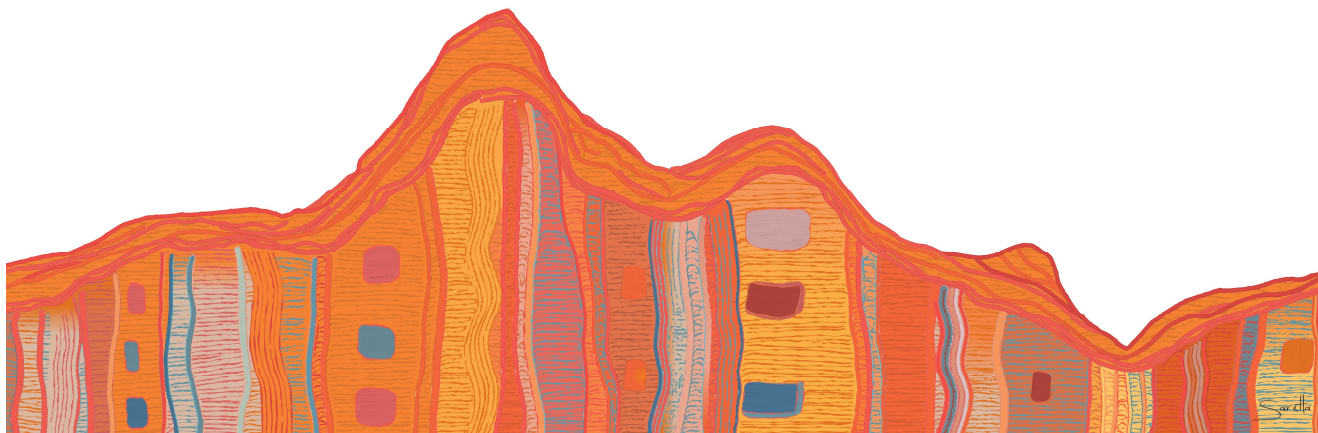
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal



Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

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Balgarr - Mountain



Ngayan marrungku paran wiyan Wanarruwa

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

Clibborn, Sarah

From: Paulette Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 9:47 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: Re: REMINDER: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png

Thank you for your email
I have a comment I like to discuss
I would like to put forward that only a site officer can put a rap of the job and it's to be discussed I think we should also talk about a pay rise as its be the same for awhile now
Kind regards Paulette Ryan HTO

On Thu, 4 Sept 2025, 4:30 pm Clibborn, Sarah, [REDACTED] wrote:

[BHP Internal](#)

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

As previously communicated, tomorrow is the nominated due date for submission of comments on the updated AHMP.

This is a reminder to please send through your comments by **Close of Business tomorrow, 5 September**.

If you have already responded, please disregard this message.

If you would like to comment, but are unable to meet this deadline, please respond to me with an alternate date (preferably a date prior to the end of next week), as we plan to submit the AHMP to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for assessment by 15 September 2025.

Kind regards,

Sarah



Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal



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bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain



Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

From: Clibborn, Sarah
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2025 10:30 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED]
Subject: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

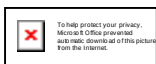
Please find enclosed, for the purposes of consultation, a revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine (MAC) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

It would be appreciated if you could please provide comments on the revised AHMP (either verbal or written) via the contact details as described in the attached Cover Letter by **COB Friday 5 September 2025**.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Sarah



Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal



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Balgarr - Mountain



To help protect your privacy, Microsoft Office prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

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Clibborn, Sarah

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 8:51 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: FW: Newcastle Golf Club, Fern Bay - Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training Document- review
Attachments: Guringaygupa djuyal, barray05-11-2024.pdf; Cook Family of Barrington Aboriginal Corp Letter.pdf; kuringgai Puzzell.pdf; NGC_AboriginalCulturalAwarenessTraining_Draft.pdf; Premier NSW Final Draft MLALC letter Re Guringai claimants 3rd June 2020_.pdf; A5622511 - Letter to Robert Syron.pdf

Dear Sarah

Sorry I've sent this again as the attachment "**Aboriginal awareness training should not have been included**" I cut and pasted the attachments from another email which I have emailed EXTENT to correct the poor research it as it is not accurate.
Regards Bob Syron

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 8:42 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: 'Scott Franks' [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Newcastle Golf Club, Fern Bay - Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training Document- review

Dear Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal

E [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

Ref the revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine (MAC) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).
COB Friday 5 September 2025.

I would like to share some cultural history well recorded from 1826 The Guringay, Gringai, Guringai people are not a sub tribe of Wanaruah / Wonnarua people or any other tribe

My name is Robert Syron Mobile [REDACTED] legally Registered Aboriginal owner of Worimi and Guringay Lands under the Aboriginal land rights Act 1983 Guringay also spelt Gooringgai, Gringai and Guringai
Australian Rwandan War veteran 1994-95, ANZAC Peace Prize 1995, Meritorious Unit Citation

Guringai, Guringay, or spelt Gringai country My family kabook and Watoo people
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/08/15/the-kabook-watoo/>

Government funded web sites- Guringay country <https://creativevalleys.com.au/?s=guringai>

Government web site-[The Sacred Peaks of The Bucketts: A Guringay Cultural Journey | NSW Holidays & Accommodation, Things to Do, Attractions and Events.](#)

Guringai Guringay gringai were recorded 1826 70 years long before any other tribe was mentioned by Charles Boydeell and his brother North of the Hunter River upper Williams and Allyn Rivers including other family's A. Hook, McRay, McKinnon from the Barrington and many more first white settlers from the Barrington, Barrington Tops, Gresford, Dungog, Gloucester, Port Stephens and Carrington regions who had close encounters and formed connections with the Guringai and always has been Guringai, Gringai, Guringay country.

I am writing to formally raise serious concerns regarding the continued and widespread misrepresentation and disrespect for and of Aboriginal identity, in particular fabricated association of the Guringai name with the East Coast from Sydney to Port Stephens. I have a responsibility to correct this ongoing cultural distortion.

Search Guringai fiction on google it's all over the internet now

1. Guringay, Gringai, Guringai are Not from the East Coast (Sydney to Port Stephens)

Historical, linguistic, and anthropological evidence consistently shows that the Guringay people (also historically recorded as Gringai or Guringai) are located north of the Hunter River, with strong affiliations to the Barrington, Gloucester, Allyn, Paterson, and Williams Rivers NSW. **The Guringay, Gringai, Guringai are not a sub tribe of Wanaruah / Wonnarua people or any other tribe.**

- **The attached PDFS "Guringaygupa djuyal, barray" language and country of the Guringay people** Amanda Lissarrague and Robert Syron November 2024 Thanks to Anthropologist Peter Sutton for his comments on earlier drafts Including Kuringgai Puzzell clearly traces the language and country of the Guringay, debunking the notion that "GuriNgai" have any legitimate presence in Sydney, Central Coast, or southern Awabakal/Wonnarua areas.
- This aligns with historical records by **William Scott (1840s)** and **James Boydeell (1826)**, showing Guringay, Gringai, Goringai presence in the mid-north Hunter region—not the Central Coast.

2. Invented Identity of "Guringai" South of the Hunter

The term Kuring-gai now changed to "GuriNgai" was **fabricated** by John Fraser in the late 1892 and **revived erroneously** by Arthur Capell in the 20th century. Their academic misinterpretations were not based on genuine Traditional Custodian testimony or continuous cultural occupation.

- J. Fraser conflated multiple language groups into an imagined "super tribe" stretching from the Illawarra to the Hastings.
- Capell reused the name "Kuringgai" for linguistic convenience—not cultural accuracy—drawing false links between Bungaree's people and language from Port Jackson to Tuggerah he changed the spelling to GuriNgai.
- **Letter to parliament from Darkinjung Aboriginal land council to Parliament NSW**

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/submissions/79745/013a%20Darkinjung%20Local%20Aboriginal%20Land%20Council.pdf>

“Darkinjung aboriginal land council recognises and supports the legitimacy of Native Title, particularly where determinations have been made and the claimants have demonstrated their ongoing connection to country.”

“Darkinjung notes that there are illegitimate people here on the Central Coast now claim to be ‘guringai’ but have never proved their claims, ancestral connections or traditional linkages to this country in accordance with legal requirements. “

3. Statements from Recognised Custodians

The misrepresentation is widely rejected by Aboriginal leaders from across NSW:

- **Kevin Duncan (Awabakal):** Confirms Awaba country lies between the Hunter and Hawkesbury rivers, and “no other Aboriginal groups or tribes existed inside Awaba traditional lands.”
- **Jayson Cooke (Garigal):** Publicly states that the Guringai name has been wrongfully applied to his people, calling it “a modern invention” and “cultural genocide.”
- **Scott Franks (Wonnarua):** Cites independent anthropological evidence showing that the Gringai/Guringay are **nota** sub-clan or related to the Wonnarua.

4. Official Government Rejection of Guringai Claims

- The **Registrar under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act** formally objected to a proposed ILUA involving the “Awabakal and Guringai” people, citing no registered Aboriginal owners, no valid Native Title rights, and no government party participation.
- The **Aboriginal Heritage Office (2015)** concluded in their report *Filling a Void* that the term “Guringai” is historically inaccurate and should **not** be used to refer to Traditional Custodians of the Central Coast and Sydney regions.

5. Requests for Immediate Action

To address this cultural misrepresentation, I respectfully request the following:

- **Circulate Accurate Information:** Please share the attached reports and evidence with your team and any consultants referencing Guringai heritage.
- **Cease Using the Term “Guringai” South of the Hunter River:** This includes on websites, signage, education material, or heritage acknowledgments.
- **Engage with Authentic Custodians:** Ensure that your organisation consults with Guringay Elders and recognised Aboriginal Owners from the Barrington/Gloucester region for matters concerning Guringay culture or history.

Conclusion

This letter is not an attack—it is a truth-telling. The misapplication of Aboriginal identity, whether intentional or not, results in cultural harm, legal confusion, and erasure of real Aboriginal voices. As a war veteran, a cultural custodian, and a direct descendant of Malookut Lightning (Jack Cook) and Jessie Cook, I stand firm in defence of our people's true history.

I am available to meet or provide further clarification as needed. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Kind regards,
Robert Syron

Registered Aboriginal Owner – Worimi Guringay Lands

Kabook and Watoo descendant Guringai
Australian War Veteran – Rwanda 1994–95
ANZAC Peace Prize (1995) | Meritorious Unit Citation
<https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/08/15/the-kabook-watoo/>

Statements from Aboriginal people Kevin Duncan, Jayson Cooke and Scott Franks

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 21 October 2024 12:41 PM
To: BS [REDACTED]
Subject: Re Awaba Country Statement

To Whom it May Concern,

I Kevin Duncan a direct descendant of Uncle Biraban -Wypong and Grandfather Kuttirun William Bird of the Awaba Peoples on the Central Coast of NSW.

The boundary of the Awaba Country goes from the Hunter River to the Hawkesbury River and 60 miles inland the boundary was explained by the Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld who addressed the Colonial Secretary at Parramatta in 1836 he was accompanied by Biraban. He explained his main source of information came from Biraban himself. There were no other Aboriginal groups or tribes that existed inside Awaba traditional lands. My Grandfather Kuttirun and his brother Biraban were employed by the Supreme Court of England and interpreted for their people in the courts.

Kevin Duncan Awaba Peoples.

On Thu, 3 Oct 2024 at 11:47, Jayson Cooke [REDACTED] wrote:

Bungaree and his mob - the Garigal/Carigal.

My name is Jayson (JD) Cooke, proud Marramarra man of the Garigal/Carigal, and confirmed descendant of Bungaree and Matora. I write/speak on behalf of the genuine Aboriginal descendants of our Ancestor.

I am writing to advise that the terms Guringai, Kuringai, GuriNgai and variations on this theme are not in any way connected to our genuine mob, Culturally, historically, or in modern times. We are fortunate that language managed to be passed down to us through family, and that language is what is today referred to as the Sydney Language, spoken from Nora Head to Kamay (Botany Bay).

Although non-Aboriginal sources have sought to apply names to us, our mob, and our language post-invasion, these terms are inauthentic, Culturally harmful, and in many cases represent and compound ignorance and errors.

In the early 1800's we were forced to remain at and around the Marramarra area in order to practise our Culture and survive the encroaching settlement of our Country. There we could source food and medicine traditionally with minimal colonial interference, and we identified ourselves as Marramarra.

We are not biologically or Culturally related to the founders of the group that created Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation, including Mr Warren Whitfield and Ms Tracey Howie, and have publicly declared that they are not who or what they claim to be for some time. We strongly oppose attempts to invent faux-Aboriginal pseudo-Culture, and find the notion of falsely claiming someone else's Ancestors, Country, and stories as nothing short of genocide - another Colonisation by yet another group of non-Aboriginal People.

I am not a linguist or an Anthropologist, but I am a proud Aboriginal man who knows his Culture, history and Ancestors, and who sees through the non-Aboriginal people's attempts to mimic us as easily as most people see through a clear glass window pane.

The name Guringai belongs to the Kabook and Watoo People of the Barrington region, north of the Hunter River - a completely different mob to us and our Ancestors, and this is/was known pre and post 1788 by us.

This name (the property of the Kabook and Watoo People) was first misappropriated and misapplied by John Frederick Mann in the 1800's, then by Rev. John Fraser. In 1970 linguist Arthur Capell considered that 'a language which it is convenient to call Kuringgai (Guringgai) was spoken on the north side of Port Jackson, and extended at least to Tuggerah Lakes, merging then into Awaba [i.e. the language recorded by Missionary Threlkeld at Lake Macquarie]'. Capell claimed that a different language, which he called Darginyung, was spoken in the Upper McDonald Valley, Wollombi and the western part of the Central Coast. As noted by Dr Lawrence Paul Allen in his PHD thesis titled 'A History of the Aboriginal People of the Central Coast of New South Wales to 1874', "it is important to note that Capell was simply seeking to find an appropriate name for a language and was not asserting that this was the name by which Aboriginal people identified themselves".

In 2013 Geoffrey Ford added that the language was almost certainly called Darkiñung, while in 2015 the Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO) published an exhaustive study of the name 'Guringai', which concluded that 'the use of the term Guringai or any of its various spellings such as Kuringgai is not warranted [anywhere] given its origin and previous use'.

The work of Dr Lawrence Paul Allen, and the work of Anthropologist Dr Natalie Kwok both support, and provide insight into some of the past errors made by non-Aboriginal people incorrectly claiming to be descendants of my Ancestors Bungaree and Matora, and compliment the knowledge and understanding of our mob.

The responsibility of academics to listen and learn from us has to include a degree of critical thought in determining if sources are genuine and reliable - failing to do this results in falsehoods and self-serving narratives being amplified, while genuine knowledge is lost or replaced by modern inventions, as has occurred on the Northern Beaches of Sydney, and the Central Coast regions of New South Wales. We have already experienced invasion, germ warfare, genocide and wars as a result of the invasion and ongoing occupation that began in 1788. We have survived all this, retained our knowledge and Culture, and are not content to suffer further genocidal practices by non-Aboriginal 'experts' who whether well-meaning or not, add to the suffering we experience by haphazardly applying their ideas and notions to us, and presenting prima facie nonsense as if it were truthful.

Yours in unity,

JD Cooke.

From: Scott Franks [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2024 3:46 PM
To: Bob Sam [REDACTED]
Subject: Native title research

Dear Robert,

I would like to bring to your attention statements that have been made by individuals within the Hunter Valley that some people have been promoting a position that the Gringai, Guringay are sub clan of our people the Wonarua, this is a made-up and is a delusional position, over the last several years the PCWP have had independent anthropological research conducted by Dr. Lee Sackett in reference to one of our whole country. Native Title claims.

Mr. Sackett in his research, which was also supported by Dr. Draper confirmed that Gringai, Guringay have no affiliation or association with the Wonnarua people and are tribal groups in their own right. It's very clear that some individuals are promoting this position because those people simply have no cultural affiliation, understanding or association without peoples in the Hunter Valley, I authorise you to use this information in this email however, you see fit and share it with whichever parties you deem fit to ensure that this false position from being spread.

Regards

Scott Franks

Native title claimant for the PCWP Wonnarua native title party.

Yarrawalk PTY Limited



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(Dr) Elizabeth McEntyre

My name is (Dr) Elizabeth McEntyre, proud and sovereign Worimi Guringai Elder, and confirmed descendant of John Jonas, born around 1841-1843 at Coulston on the Paterson River, upstream from Gresford in NSW. I represent and write on behalf of the family members who are the genuine, known and documented Aboriginal descendants of our Ancestor John Jonas, a Guringai/Gringai/Gringay Man.

There is considerable evidence to confirm that Guringai/Gringai/Gringay People are not from the central coast, nor are we a sub clan of the Wonnarua or Worimi Peoples. The late Dr William (Bill) Jonas AM, one of our dearest family members who was acclaimed in the field of geography and

awarded the Australian Institute of Geographers' Professional Service Commendation, authenticated the Guringai to be a large and distinct group covering the lands and waters from the north of the Hunter River to the Manning River, and west to the Barrington Tops and Great Dividing Range. Dr Jonas was recognised by Aboriginal Peoples, governments, and academics, as an expert in Aboriginal studies, education, geography, culture, heritage, environment, social justice, and race relations. Through his remarkable career, Bill held many prominent roles with the NSW Education Commission, Australian Heritage Commission, Immigration Review Tribunal, as well as Director of the Newcastle Awabakal Aboriginal Cooperative, Commissioner on the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia – Maralinga, Director of the National Museum of Australia, Principal Australian Institute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Acting Race Relations Commissioner. The Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle was established by Dr Jonas.

John Jonas had an uninterrupted connection and belonging to Guringai Country and Waterways. In 1869, John lived in Coulston. In 1877, John lived at Howes Creek on the upper Paterson River with his non-Aboriginal wife Blanche and three young children. John was a registered voter on the 1878-1879 electoral roll as living at Vacy. In 1881, John lived in Underbank area, and worked as a sawyer. After the death of Blanche, he married non-Aboriginal woman Anne Cornwall at the Presbyterian Manse in Dungog, NSW.

In 1881 the family lived in Stroud, however in the late 1880s they lived back on the upper Williams River at Salisbury. They remained there until 1899 when John moved the family to Dungog to work as an assistant nightman for the Dungog Municipal Council. In 1901 the family lived at Clarence Town Road, Dungog, where they were recorded in the census. The extract from the census book below shows the listing of John Jonas as the head of a household consisting of three males and two females. They are all identified as being Aboriginal people other than one woman who was John's wife Anne.

John's son with Anne, my Great Grandfather, was William 'Bill' James Albert Jonas, born in Salisbury, on the upper Williams River 1887-1888. Bill Jonas was a buckjumper and roughrider with Martini's Buckjumping Show in the early 1900s. In 1911 Martini's show became part of a show called Wild Australia, which was formed to travel to England for the celebrations around the coronation of King George V. Bill travelled to England, where he was billed as one of the 'Champion Rough Riders' of the show. In 1911, within a few months of landing in London, Bill had married a young English woman, Maud Emily Stephens (also recorded as Stevens). Maud had a young daughter, Lillian, who was around 2 years old when Maud and Bill married and who was raised and recognised as Bill's daughter. Bill and Maud had two children born in England, Cleo Ann Bonita who was born in 1912, and William James Albert who was born in 1913. In March 1913, the family were living in Willesden, London, and Bill was still working as a 'Showman Rough-rider' with the Wild Australia show. In October of that year Maud, along with her three children, Lillian, Cleo, and William, left London for Sydney on the Orama steamship. Bill appears to have travelled separately. Following their return to Australia the family lived at Booral, NSW, on the Karuah River.

In 1916, during the First World War, Bill enlisted in the AIF. At the time of his enlistment in 1916 he was working as a horse-breaker. After training in Maitland, NSW, he embarked for France in August 1916 and served overseas until his return in May 1919. Bill served in the 34th Infantry Battalion. He was mentioned in General Haig's despatches of 16 March 1919 for 'conspicuous services', for which he received a MID emblem of two oak leaves, an award for bravery or distinguished service. Bill died in September 1947 at Allworth where the family had moved not long before; he was buried back at Booral.

Reference: The Jonas Family for the Upper Hunter Valley: Aboriginal Owners Background Research Draft Community Research Report, Volume 3 of 3, pp. 422-429) commissioned by the Office of the Registrar Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NSW).

Relevant Articles and Research Reports

Tracy Howie and family Anthropology report federal Courts Australia 2017

[Anthropological Connection Report: Family history & contemporary connection evidence. – Truth-telling from a neurodiverse perspective.](#)

(It states No evidence to support Tracy Howie is a descendant of king Bungaree)

The historical fiction of the word Guringai that has filled a void in our knowledge of the original inhabitants 2015 Telegraph

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/northern-beaches/misunderstanding-the-historical-fiction-of-the-word-guringai-that-has-filled-a-void-in-our-knowledge-of-the-original-inhabitants/news-story/b1aec152c74220c535883621081a2fd2>

Filling a Void: history of word ‘Guringai’ Tax payer funded report 2015 Aboriginal heritage Office

<https://www.aboriginalheritage.org/history/filling-a-void-history-of-word-guringai/>

Northern Beaches City council Media Statement Tax payer funded report 2015

<https://files-preprod-d9.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/nbc-prod-files/documents/general-information/pittwaters-past/lh-aboriginalpeople.pdf>

A long Con Gone on to long face book <https://www.facebook.com/p/A-long-con-gone-on-too-long-100094522751313/>

The Australian News

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/some-questions-of-identity-are-less-than-welcome/news-story/78b135362f32eb9a78a69deee153744f>

Dark Emu Exposed the fake Aboriginals <https://www.dark-emu-exposed.org/home/category/Fakes>

Guringai.org <https://guringai.org/>

Bungaree.org <https://bungaree.org/>

Laurie Bimson – Truth-telling from a neurodiverse perspective.
<<https://guringai.org/2023/08/28/laurie-bimson/>>

Laurie Bimson Cousin, Neil Evers 9 News

<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/true-stories/row-erupts-over-selfidentifying-aboriginal-man-neil-evans/news-story/84c32e1ac89c029730b6f3a64bb35532>

Lissarrague, A. 2006. A Salvage Grammar of the Language from the Hunter River & Lake Macquarie. Nambucca Heads: Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Cooperative. This book demonstrates how Wanarruwa / Wonnarua is a dialect of HRLM.

Lissarrague, A. 2010. A grammar and dictionary of Gathang, Language of the Birrbay, Guringay and Warrimay. Nambucca Heads: Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Cooperative. This book demonstrates how Guringay is a dialect of Gathang.

Kind regards

Robert Syron

Registered Aboriginal owner of Worimi Guringai Lands

Australian Rwandan War veteran 1994-95, ANZAC Peace Prize 1995, Meritorious Unit Citation

kabook and Watoo people <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/08/15/the-kabook-watoo/>

We acknowledge the Traditional Lands of the Worimi , Guringai or spelt Guringay and Biripi people of the kutthung language the Custodians, spiritual and cultural owners of these lands. We acknowledge our Elders past and present to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Gringai continue to practice Culture and have a strong connection to our lands and secrete sites where our ancestors lay in the Barrington / Gloucester Manning Valley area

From: NTSCORP Notifications [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 August 2025 2:54 PM
Subject: Revised AHMP – Mt Arthur Coal Mine – 8 August 2025

Good afternoon,

Please see attached a revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan.

Key updates to the AHMP include, but are not limited to

- updated requirements for the AHMP consistent with the recently approved modification to the conditions of consent for MP 09_0062 (approved April 2025);
- incorporation of newly identified sites at Mt Arthur Coal Mine since the previous draft AHMP;
- updated management of the newly identified sites proposed for disturbance; and
- current status of extant archaeological sites surrounding Mt Arthur Coal Mine.

Comments on the revised AHMP are requested by **5 September 2025** and may be directed to [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Maggie Lai | Paralegal



NTSCORP proudly acknowledge that our office is situated on the country of the Gadigal People of the Dharug Nation. We also acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

f 02 9310 4177 | t 61 2 9310 3188 |

e [REDACTED] w www.ntscorp.com.au

Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2025 10:30 AM
To: Clibborn, Sarah [REDACTED]
Subject: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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BHP Internal

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Please find enclosed, for the purposes of consultation, a revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine (MAC) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

It would be appreciated if you could please provide comments on the revised AHMP (either verbal or written) via the contact details as described in the attached Cover Letter by **COB Friday 5 September 2025**.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

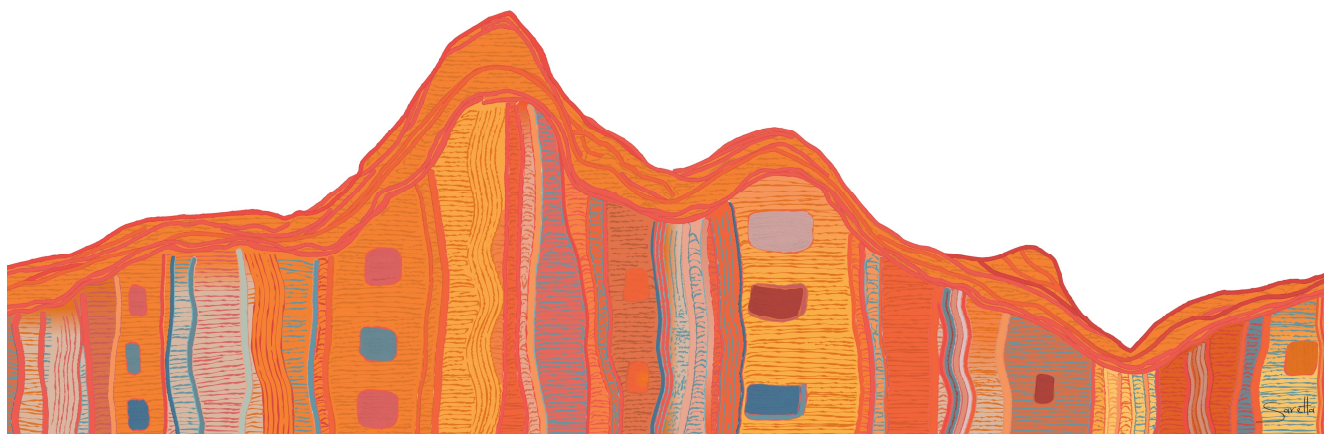
Sarah

BHP

Sarah Clibborn
Principal Approvals
Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal
E [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

Balgarr - Mountain



Ngayan marrungku paran wiyen Wanarruwa
We acknowledge the Wonnarua people.

Clibborn, Sarah

From: Darleen Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 14 August 2025 2:09 PM
To: Clibborn, Sarah
Subject: Re: Mt Arthur Coal Mine - Updated Draft Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

Hi Sarah

I have read the project information and updated draft ACHMP for the above project, I endorse the recommendations.

Kind regards

Darleen
[REDACTED]

On Friday 8 August 2025 at 10:30:28 am AEST, Clibborn, Sarah <[REDACTED]> wrote:

[BHP Internal](#)

Dear Registered Aboriginal Party,

Please find enclosed, for the purposes of consultation, a revision of the Mt Arthur Coal Mine (MAC) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP).

It would be appreciated if you could please provide comments on the revised AHMP (either verbal or written) via the contact details as described in the attached Cover Letter by **COB Friday 5 September 2025**.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Sarah

BHP

Sarah Clibborn

Principal Approvals

Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage | New South Wales Energy Coal

E [REDACTED]

M [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: PO Box 40, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310 Australia

bhp.com

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Appendix 4 – Previous Archaeological Reports and Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits

Report Author and Title	Cultural Information Restrictions in Place
RPS (2017) Grinding Grooves Annual Visual Inspection Mt Arthur Coal, NSW.	
RPS (2016) Grinding Grooves Annual Visual Inspection 2015, Mt Arthur, New South Wales	
RPS (2015) Grinding Grooves Baseline Study and Annual Visual Inspection 2014, Mt Arthur, New South Wales	
RPS (2014b) Re: Summary of Ground Truthing of Scar Trees in Mt Arthur Coal Mine -2 June 2014.	
RPS (2014a) Re: MAC Record of Salvage Undertaken at Mt Arthur Coal. 9 May 2014.	
RPS (2013b) Grinding Grooves Baseline Study, Mt Arthur, New South Wales	
RPS (2013a) Aboriginal and Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment. Mt Arthur Coal Open Cut Modification. Mt Arthur Coal Mine.	
BHP Billiton (2012) Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan	
Global Soil Systems (2011) Scar Tree Assessment Hunter Valley Coal Pty Ltd – Mt Arthur Coal.	
RPS (2011b) Salvage of Aboriginal Artefacts at Mcleans Hill	
BHP Billiton HVEC (2011) Macleans Hill Cultural Heritage Management Plan	
AECOM (2009b) Salvage of Aboriginal Heritage Sites, Mt Arthur Coal, Hunter Valley, NSW.	
AECOM (2009a) Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment, Mt Arthur Coal	
Umwelt (2008b) Mt Arthur Underground Project Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment	
Umwelt (2007) Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment – South Pit Extension Project Mt Arthur Coal.	
AHIP#2275 (12 August 2005)	
South East Archaeology Pty Ltd (2004) Salvage of Aboriginal Heritage Sites in the Mt Arthur North Coal Mine Lease, Hunter Valley, NSW. Report to BHP Billiton.	
Donlon and Kuskie (2003). Traditional Aboriginal Burial at Mount Arthur North, Hunter Valley, New South Wales. Unpublished report to Mount Arthur North Project and Wonnarua Elders.	Yes. Consult Principal Approvals for information.
Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit #SZ353 (17 October 2001)	
NPWS #SZ34A / AHIP 1384 *issued 16 July 2001)	
NPWS #SZ347/ AHIP 147 *issued 16 July 2001)	
Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit #SZ346	
McDonald and Davidson (2000). The Bayswater Archaeological Research Project. Volume 2. University of New England, Armidale.	
MacDonald, K & Davidson, I. N.D. The Bayswater Archaeological Research Project: Volume 1. Unpublished report to Bayswater Colliery Company Pty Ltd	
Niche Environment and Heritage (2023). Mt Arthur Coal Mine Modification 2 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Prepared for Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd.	
Niche Environment and Heritage (2024). Mt Arthur Coal Mine Modification 2 Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Prepared for Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd.	

Appendix 5 – Recorded Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites within the approved project boundary

