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APPENDIX P2

Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage
Olympic Dam EIS
Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Report to Ove Arup Pty Ltd

Peter Bell
Historical Research Pty Ltd
Adelaide
October 2008
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Olympic Dam EIS Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Methodology

This assessment of places of Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage significance within the Olympic Dam EIS project area follows a methodology common to most heritage studies. It commences with an overview history of the area to identify the principal events and themes that have characterised the Non-Aboriginal history of the area and its surroundings. The aim of this is to identify the historical forces and processes that may have created significant heritage places.

Another important aspect of a heritage study is to examine any previous heritage assessments of the project area or its surroundings. These may take the form of entries in Commonwealth, State or local heritage registers or databases, or be found in heritage surveys, environmental impact assessments or similar studies.

This phase of the EIS is a desktop study to identify likely places, and no fieldwork has been done to physically inspect places within the project area. Having said that, field observations from ground-truthing surveys and helicopter reconnaissance made by other EIS project scientists have been included in this report. This assessment is concerned only with places of Non-Aboriginal heritage significance. It does not take into account places which may be significant because of their natural environmental values or their indigenous cultural heritage values.

Defining Cultural Heritage Significance

The Macquarie Dictionary defines a Heritage Item as:

a landscape, place, work, building or relic of such significance for past, present or future generations that it is deemed worthy of being preserved.

There are two approaches to identifying places which fit this definition. The first is to see what places in the project area have already been "deemed worthy of being preserved", by the fact of their being included in a heritage register or other list of significant places. The second is to discover any other places not already formally recognised, through documentary research. The most useful sources of information are heritage surveys, which are carried out for precisely this purpose. Most, although not all, of the project area has been covered by surveys of Non-Aboriginal heritage places.

In areas which have not been surveyed, documentary research will help predict the likelihood of any heritage places being within the project area, but cannot actually establish that any are there. The case study of Phillips Ponds is used as an example to suggest procedures that may be followed if places are discovered in the process of surveying for infrastructure works. It is important to understand that not every old place is of heritage significance and needs to be preserved. Throughout the Australian outback there will be found thousands of fencelines, stockyards, hut ruins and windmills which are the legacy of 150 years of pastoral settlement. Most of them are commonplace and of little significance. However, there are also many graves, which society demands be treated with respect.
Project Area

The project area for this heritage assessment forming part of the Olympic Dam EIS extends from the upper reaches of Spencer Gulf over 300km to the southern Lake Eyre Basin, then about 300km to the north-east along three alternative gas pipeline corridors to Moomba. It essentially follows the existing transport and communications corridors running from Point Lowly north of Whyalla overland to the western outskirts of Port Augusta, and from there north and then north-west along the railway corridor to Woomera, then north to Roxby Downs and the Olympic Dam mine, and a short distance east along the road to Andamooka. The routes to Moomba intersect the line of the Birdsville Track and the closed Oodnadatta railway, then mostly travel crosscountry across the Strzelecki Desert to Moomba. Part of one corridor follows the Innamincka road, often called the Strzelecki Track.

The project area is mostly flat, arid and sparsely vegetated. The climate is characteristic of the central Australian desert, with maximum summer temperatures rising to 50°C, and minimum winter temperatures falling to minus 2°C. The average annual rainfall in the northern part of the area is 175mm, or seven inches. Evaporation is of course many times greater than this, so all surface water in the region is ephemeral.

However, average rainfall is almost irrelevant in this region, because the whole period of Non-Aboriginal occupation has been characterised by marked variations in rainfall. These occur in cycles, not regular enough to permit prediction, but frequently following patterns in which there may be from say three to eight consecutive years of abundant rain, followed by a similar period of devastating drought. The pastoral industry in the region has followed a cycle of abandonment and re-settlement, and all forms of Non-Aboriginal settlement are necessarily located beside water sources.

The map of the project area shows a number of lakes, but these are saline and short-lived; they are normally dry expanses of salt. Every few years the lakes hold some water after rain, but are rarely known to fill.

The vegetation has changed since Non-Aboriginal settlement. Once some areas of the region were covered by mulga scrub, but this has been much reduced by a century of rabbit infestation. Large trees, usually eucalypts and acacias, are found only along major creek lines. Over most of the land there are no trees, sparse acacia and other scrubby bushes forming the only vegetation above ankle height. Canegrass and spinifex grow in the sand dune country. For most of the year, large areas of the region have little visible vegetation, although after rain most areas will be covered briefly in opportunistic plants.

The pattern of Non-Aboriginal settlement in the region has been shaped by a harsh arid environment, so that the number of heritage places is likely to be small. Since first Non-Aboriginal settlement of the project area in the 1850s, the principal industry has been sheep grazing, which has supported only a small human population. This created thinly scattered pastoral improvements such as huts, stockyards and stock watering points across the landscape. Apart from station homesteads, which usually appear on maps, most of these will be poorly documented.
Olympic Dam EIS: Chronology of Events

This brief history of non-Aboriginal events in the project area is expressed in terms of a chronology, identifying the principal events of relevance to places in the project area. Events marked with an asterisk* are directly related to a place within the project area.

1802  Flinders charts Spencer Gulf
1836  Colony of South Australia established
1839  Eyre explores the northern outback
1842  First Waste Lands Act (SA) establishes tenure for pastoral industry
1845  Sturt reaches the Cooper and Strzelecki creeks
1851  Second Waste Lands Act establishes 14-year Pastoral Leases for graziers
1854  Oakden takes up land west of Lake Torrens
      Graziers are in the Flinders Ranges
1856  Babbage discovers Blanchewater
1858  Baker takes up Blanchewater run, the first property north of the Flinders*
      Gregory arrives from Queensland through the "horseshoe"
      Lakes Torrens and Gairdner surveyed
      Parry surveys the Marree region*
1859  Davenport and Chambers take up Finniss Springs and Stuart Creek
1860  Goyder surveys and names Lake Eyre
1861  Stuart succeeds in crossing Australia from south to north
1862  Northern Territory annexed to South Australia
1864  Beginning of the Great Drought
1866  Nearly all runs in the region abandoned
      Moravians establish Kopperamanna mission
1867  Lutherans establish Killalpaninna as Hermannsburg mission
1868  Pernatty station taken up
1869  German missions move to Lake Boocaltaninna*
1870  Overland Telegraph construction commenced
1871  German missions abandoned
1872  Overland Telegraph opened to Darwin
1873  Elder takes up Monte Collina*
1874  Phillips Ponds, Arcoona and Chances Swamp (Roxby Downs) taken up*
1875  Area west of Lake Torrens surveyed
1877  Muloorina taken up*
1878  Vogelsang revives Killalpaninna as Bethesda mission
1879  Railway reaches Port Augusta
1882  Government Water Tank built at Phillips Ponds*
1883  Point Lowly lighthouse built*
      Eating house opened at Phillips Ponds*
      Great Northern Railway reaches Farina
      Tarkaninna bore strikes artesian water*
      Marree township surveyed
1884  Great Northern Railway reaches Marree
      Great Northern Railway extended west from Marree toward Oodnadatta
      Survey for Phillips Ponds railway
1885  Phillips Ponds railway bill defeated in parliament
1888  Copper ore found near Finniss Springs*
1890  Blanchewater run incorporated into Mumpowie*
1893 Government Water Reserve created at Phillips Ponds
1896 Clara St Dora mine developed*
1898 Beltana Pastoral Company buys Murnpeowie
  Dulkaninna bore sunk
1900 Muloorina camel depot established*
1908 Clayton bore sunk*
1909 Point Lowly lighthouse raised in height*
1915 Trans-Australia Railway built from Port Augusta to Tarcoola
  Clara St Dora mine closed*
1920 Dulkaninna abandoned
1926 Commonwealth takes over Great Northern Railway
  Alberrie Creek settlers cottages abandoned, house built*
1929 Killalpaninna abandoned
  Government camel depot abandoned*
  Monte Collina abandoned*
1932 Dulkaninna re-occupied
1938 Muloorina re-occupied*
1947 Woomera established*
1954 Central Australian Railway converted to diesel operation
  Alberrie Creek reservoir and water tank redundant*
1955 Cultana Army Training Area established
1956 Clayton subdivided from Mundowdna*
1958 Oil and gas surveys commence in Strzelecki-Cooper region
  Strzelecki Track upgraded for oil and gas survey traffic
1969 Moomba township established
  Gas pipeline to Adelaide opens
1975 Olympic Dam orebody discovered
1980 Central Australian Railway closed
1985 Lake Eyre and Witjara National Parks established
1988 Production commenced at Olympic Dam mine
  Innamincka and Strzelecki Regional Reserves created
1991 Finniss Springs Aboriginal Land established
1993 Point Lowly lighthouse de-commissioned*
1999 Woomera Detention Centre established
2000 Plane Henge built*
2002 Baxter Detention Centre established

This chronology is based principally on the historical overviews in two heritage surveys of the Oodnadatta, Birdsville and Strzelecki Tracks regions: see Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd (2001) and Historical Research Pty Ltd (2002).
Previous Assessments

The assessment commenced by checking whether any places in the project area for the Olympic Dam EIS are recorded on existing Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage databases. There are seven types of areas, registers, schedules or databases which might potentially contain places within the project area which are of some level of heritage significance. Briefly, these are:

**Commonwealth Heritage Places:**
- National Heritage Places
- Commonwealth Heritage Places
- Register of the National Estate

**State Heritage Places:**
- State Heritage Areas
- South Australian Heritage Register

**Local Heritage Places:**
- Local Heritage Places
- Historic Conservation Zones

**National Heritage Places**

National Heritage Places are created by the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999. They can be identified by searching the Australian Heritage Database. There are only 76 National Heritage Places in existence, only three of which are in South Australia. There are none within the project area.

**Commonwealth Heritage Places**

Commonwealth Heritage Places are created by the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999, and are all in Commonwealth ownership. They can be identified by searching the Australian Heritage Database. There are 7 Commonwealth Heritage Places in South Australia, none of which is within the project area.

**Register of the National Estate**

The Register of the National Estate was created by the Commonwealth *Australian Heritage Commission Act* 1975, which was repealed by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999. The Register of the National Estate remains in existence as an administrative document, although it no longer has any statutory force. The Register includes places of Natural, Indigenous and European cultural significance. They can be identified by searching the Australian Heritage Database.
A search of the Australian Heritage Database for places entered in the Register of the National Estate in the geographical area between 136°30’ to 138° E longitude and 30° to 33° S latitude (the Olympic Dam infrastructure corridor) identified 25 registered places, some of which are partly within the project area. These places are:

Andamooka Heritage Area Lot 186
8 & 9 Main St Andamooka, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Coralbignie Rocks Uno - Houlderoo Dam Rd
Uno via Iron Knob, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Corunna Range Geological Area Iron Knob - Corunna Rd
Corunna via Iron Knob, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Dick Clarks Residence Lot 174 Rd
Andamooka, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Drinking Fountain Marryatt St
Gladstone Square, Port Augusta, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Institute (former) 52 Commercial Rd
Port Augusta, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Lake Gilles - Northern Section Hean Dam - New Dam Rd
Uno via Iron Knob, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Lake Gilles Conservation Park Eyre Highway
Kimba, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Lattice Girder Rail Bridge Port Augusta - Quorn Rwy
Woolshed Flat via Quorn, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Lowly Point Lighthouse Complex Point Lowly Rd
Point Lowly via Whyalla, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Mount Remarkable National Park (as at 21/10/1980)
Melrose, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Pichi Richi Railway Railway Tce
Quorn, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Port Augusta Courthouse 1 Jervois St
Port Augusta, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Rotunda Marryatt St
Gladstone Square, Port Augusta, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Saltia Creek Siltstones Quorn - Port Augusta Rd
Pichi Richi Pass via Quorn, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate
Senecio Megaglossus Site
Quorn, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Smokers Bridge Port Augusta - Quorn Rwy
Stirling North, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

St Augustines Anglican Church and Hall 9 Church St
Port Augusta, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Town Hall 54 Commercial Rd
Port Augusta, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Water Tower Mitchell Tce
Port Augusta West, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Waterworks Building (former) Beauchamp Ln
Port Augusta, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Whyalla - Iron Knob - Iron Baron Area Lincoln Hwy
Whyalla, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Whyalla Conservation Park Lincoln Hwy
Whyalla, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Willalinchina Sandstone Fossil Flora site
Woomera, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Woolshed Flat Rail Bridge Port Augusta - Quorn Rwy
Woolshed Flat via Quorn, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Of these, the majority are in the Register for their Natural or Indigenous heritage values. Some of the Non-Aboriginal heritage places picked up within the geographical coordinates are in the Quorn, Pichi Richi or Mount Remarkable areas, east of the gulf and well outside the project area.

The Point Lowly Lighthouse is within the project area, and may be impacted by development. The Andamooka Heritage Area and Dick Clark's Residence are both in the town of Andamooka, east of the project area.

The Drinking Fountain, Institute, Courthouse, Rotunda, St Augustines Anglican Church and Hall, Town Hall and Waterworks Building are all technically within the project area, but all are within the urban area of Port Augusta, and unlikely to be impacted. Only the Water Tower is west of the river, and even this is within the built up area.

Summing up: there is one place of Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage value identified at Commonwealth level which is within the Olympic Dam infrastructure corridor project area and may be impacted.
A search of the Australian Heritage Database for places entered in the Register of the National Estate in the geographical area between 137°30' to 140° E longitude and 28° 49' to 29° 36' S latitude (the gas pipeline corridors) identified 5 places, only one of which is within the project area. These places are:

Blanchewater Homestead Complex Ruins and St Mary Pool
Murnpeowie via Lyndhurst, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Elliott Price Conservation Park
Marree, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Finniss Springs Mission and Pastoral Station
Finniss Springs via Marree, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Lake Callabonna Reserve
Mount Hopeless via Lyndhurst, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Lake Ngapakaldi to Lake Palankarinna Fossil Area
Murnpeowie via Lyndhurst, SA (Registered) Register of the National Estate

Of these, the Elliott Price Conservation Park, Lake Callabonna Reserve and Lake Ngapakaldi to Lake Palankarinna Fossil Area are well outside the project area. Finniss Springs Mission and Pastoral Station (actually two separate places) are outside the pipeline corridors, but only a short distance away, about 5km and 3km respectively.

The Blanchewater Homestead ruins are within the project area, and may be impacted by development. St Mary Pool is a waterhole in the MacDonnell River southwest of the homestead.

Summing up: there is one place of Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage value identified at Commonwealth level which is within the gas pipeline corridors project area and may potentially be impacted.
State Heritage Areas

State Heritage Areas are created under the State Heritage Places Act 1993 by means of an Amendment to the Development Plan through a process set out in the Development Act 1993. There are 17 State Heritage Areas in existence, mostly in urban areas, although some are in the outback, at Arckaringa Hills, Innamincka/Cooper Creek and Beltana. There are none within the project area.

South Australian Heritage Register

The South Australian Heritage Register is created under the State Heritage Places Act 1993. There are about 2,200 places in the Register. Some of the places in the state register are the same as those in the Register of the National Estate, as both organisations relied on the same heritage surveys in assessing places for the two registers.

The Blanchewater Homestead ruins, Point Lowly Lighthouse and the Andamooka Heritage Precinct are all entered in the register. Dick Clark's Residence at Andamooka is not. There is another place within the project area - Junction Well Hut - which has been recommended for the Register (Austral Archaeology 1995) but not yet acted on.

There are thirteen places in Port Augusta in the register, and eight of these - the Drinking Fountain, Institute, Courthouse, Rotunda, St Augustines Anglican Church, Town Hall, Waterworks Building and Water Tower - all duplicate entries in the Register of the National Estate. There are five others: the first railway station in Commercial Road and second railway station in Stirling Street, the former School of the Air in Flinders Terrace, the former bank of South Australia in Tassie Street and the railway wharf. All of these additional places are within the Port Augusta built up area. Only the Blanchewater Homestead ruins and Point Lowly lighthouse are within the project area and not in an urban area.

Summing up: there are two places of Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage value identified at State level which are within the project area and likely to be impacted. There is a third place within the project area which has been recommended for the Register but not yet acted on.

Local Heritage Places

These are places which a local Council has entered in a Schedule of Local Heritage Places in the Development Plan created under the Development Act 1993. Most of the project area is outside incorporated areas, although parts of it fall within the City of Whyalla, City of Port Augusta and the Municipal Council of Roxby Downs. None of these councils has a Schedule of Local Heritage Places in their Development Plan.

There are four remote places within the project area - Clara St Dora Mine ruins, Dulkainnina Trig Marker, Lake Boocaltaninna Mission ruins and Junction Well Trough and Hut - which have been recommended as local heritage places but not yet acted on.
Historic Conservation Zones

These are areas which a local Council has declared to be Historic Conservation Zones in the Development Plan created under the Development Act 1993. Most of the project area is outside incorporated areas, although parts of it fall within the City of Whyalla, City of Port Augusta and the Municipal Council of Roxby Downs. None of these councils have any Historic Conservation Zones in their Development Plan.

Summing up: there are no zones of Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage value identified at local level which are within the project area and likely to be impacted.

Historic Shipwrecks Database

There are believed to be sites in northern Spencer Gulf which have been entered in the South Australian Register of Historic Shipwrecks under the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981. Until late 2007 information on all shipwrecks in Australian waters, either Commonwealth or State, was incorporated into a single searchable database called the Australian Shipwrecks Database at <http://eied.deh.gov.au/nsd/public/welcome.cfm> However, in January and February 2008 attempts to access this database were being diverted to another site at <http://www.anra.gov.au/index.html> which reads: "A new Government was sworn in by the Governor-General on 3 December 2007 .... Content on this web site is being reviewed."

Heritage Surveys

Places can be entered in State and local heritage registers by two pathways: either by nomination by members of the public, or by identification by consultants in the course of a professional heritage survey. The South Australian Heritage Branch depends on a systematic program of heritage surveys to assess places for the South Australian Heritage Register. It maintains a database of places which have been privately nominated, or which are under consideration for the register because they have been identified in a heritage survey, but not yet actioned.

The following heritage surveys have covered parts of outback South Australia:

A survey of selected historic sites in remote areas (Pearce 1980) identified the Lake Boocaltaninna Mission ruins within the project area.

A survey of the township of Andamooka (Brasse & Sanders 1984) identified the heritage precinct and Dick Clark’s residence.

A survey of the Mound Springs region identified a number of Non-Aboriginal heritage places, mostly associated with the Overland Telegraph and Central Australian Railway. (Donovan 1984) None of these are within the project area.

A survey of the Eyre Peninsula identified a number of heritage places within the City of Whyalla. (Danvers 1987) None of these are within the project area.
A survey of railway heritage sites throughout South Australia identified a number of heritage places on both the Transcontinental Railway and the Central Australian Railway. (Donovan 1992) None of these are within the project area.

A survey of the Flinders Ranges identified a number of heritage places on the eastern side of Spencer Gulf. (Austral Archaeology 1995) Of these, only Junction Well and Hut is within the project area.

A survey of the Oodnadatta Track region identified a number of heritage places, mostly railway sites and pastoral homesteads. (Austral Archaeology 2001) Of these, only the Clara St Dora Mine ruins are within the project area.

A survey of the Birdsville and Strzelecki tracks region identified a number of heritage places, mostly pastoral buildings. (Historical Research 2002) Of these, the Dulkaninna Trig marker, Lake Boocaltaninna Mission ruins and Junction Well and Hut are within the project area.

A survey of the Cultana Defence Training Area and the El Alamein camp did not identify any places of heritage significance. (Woodhead 2006)

A heritage assessment of the Woomera area has been undertaken for the Department of Defence. It identifies a number of places in the Woomera-Nurrungar areas as of high heritage significance, including Woomera Village, the Detention Centre, the entire Rocket Range and "Woomera Site as a whole". However, this report is in draft form and its recommendations have not been accepted by either of the Commonwealth departments of Defence or Environment and Heritage. (Environmental Resources Management 2005).

**Environmental Impact Assessments**

There have been two previous major impact assessments for the development of the Olympic Dam mine and Roxby Downs township, which investigated Non-Aboriginal cultural heritage issues in the region. The first EIS in 1982 contained no Non-Aboriginal history of the area except as a brief addendum to recent Aboriginal history and identified no places of Non-Aboriginal heritage value. (Kinhill-Stearns Roger 1982, pp. 5-39-40) No Non-Aboriginal heritage issues were raised in the public submissions responding to the EIS. (Kinhill Stearns 1983)

There was another EIS conducted for the Borefield B pipeline in 1995. Again, no Non-Aboriginal heritage issues were raised during consultation, except for the general comment from the Heritage Branch that the project area crossed the routes of the Overland Telegraph and the Marree-Oodnadatta railway. (Environmental Impact Assessment Branch 1995)
Places Identified in Field Assessments

Field assessments undertaken as part of the EIS process have identified a number of other Non-Aboriginal heritage places, mostly in locations outside the areas previously assessed in heritage surveys. These are:

- Alberrie Creek Siding, including a reservoir, water tank and house, and modern public art works including the sculpture "Plane Henge"
- Muloorina Homestead, a complex of modern buildings
- Clayton Homestead, a complex of modern buildings
- Hayes Hill Trig Marker
- Mount Hopeless Homestead
- Montecollina Homestead ruins
- Carraweena Homestead ruins
- Purple Downs Homestead
- Phillips Ponds Eating House ruin and graves

None of these places has been subject to formal heritage assessment before this project. In most instances their heritage value is considered to be low, that is of local significance at best. However, the broad recommendation for all these places is that infrastructure works in their vicinity should simply be designed to avoid them.
Summary of Findings

Apart from a number of buildings and structures within the Port Augusta urban area, the only places within the project area which are on Commonwealth, State or local heritage registers are the Blanchewater Homestead Ruins and Point Lowly lighthouse.

There are four places within the project area which have been identified as being of local heritage value, but no action has been taken to register these titles. These are the Clara St Dora Mine ruins, Dulkaninja Trig Marker, Lake Boocaltaninja Mission ruins and Junction Well Trough and Hut.

There are nine places within the project area which have not been identified in previous surveys, but which may have some local heritage value. These are Alberrie Creek Siding, Muloorina Homestead, Clayton Homestead, Hayes Hill Trig Marker, Mount Hopeless Homestead, Montecollina Homestead ruins, Carraweena Homestead ruins, Purple Downs Homestead and Phillips Ponds Eating House ruin and graves.

There is one historic site within the project area where no physical evidence remains. Tarkaninna Bore, about 12km east of modern Clayton Homestead, was the first successful artesian bore drilled in South Australia, with water flowing in 1883. In the following decades, this event had dramatic implications for railway construction, pastoral settlement and stock droving throughout the outback. However, no trace of the bore could be recognised during field assessments for this project.
Management Recommendations

All of the fifteen places of Non-Aboriginal heritage significance identified in the project area consist of either a ruin, a single structure, or a small group of structures spread over a relatively small area. Several of them are occupied, or in use as pastoral infrastructure. BHP Billiton has committed to avoiding direct impacts on these places.

There are of course possibilities of indirect or near-miss impacts through the operation of machinery, movement of vehicles or ground vibration in close proximity to some of the more frail structures. As a matter of policy, the greater the distance of separation achieved between historic sites and the location of new infrastructure, the better.

Issues to do with impacts on these places arising from vandalism or insensitive or inappropriate behaviour by members of the construction workforce would be addressed by means of contractual terms of employment.

Two of these sites are on Commonwealth and State heritage registers, so there is a statutory requirement to ensure they suffer no damage. The other thirteen places are not on any heritage register, and so the obligation to conserve them falls short of a statutory requirement. Hence, the management recommendation for such sites is not to disturb them unnecessarily.
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Appendix: Phillips Ponds

As an example of other places that may arise anywhere in the project area, during the EIS process, staff travelling through the area pointed out that there is a building ruin and a grave beside the Roxby Downs road a short distance north of Woomera. This site is not on any heritage register nor identified in any heritage survey before 2005, although it is mentioned in a number of earlier published sources from the 1880s onward.

The place is called Phillips Ponds (also known by variations such as Philips Pond, Phillip Ponds etc). It was first seen by Europeans in 1870 during one of the private exploring expeditions looking for grazing land: "Mr G.B. Richardson, of Yadlamalka, discovered Phillips Ponds and named them after one of his men, Phillip Hiern." (SA Register 20 July 1885) The reasonably reliable waterholes became a stopping place for travellers from early in European settlement during the 1870s. An early pastoral lease called Phillips Ponds was taken up about 1874, and later absorbed into Arcoona. There may have been a homestead established at the site, but the documentary record is vague. (SA Register 20 July 1885; McEwin 1987, p. 1)

By 1882 the route was recognised as a public road, and the government built a substantial underground masonry tank of 60,000 gallons (227 kilolitres) capacity there for stock watering. The site was described as "Phillips' Ponds, on the Coondambo Road" (SAPP No. 203 of 1882) This was a strategic point where the tracks from Coondambo, Andamooka and Mount Eba met, and about 1883 an eating house was built beside the road. A passing journalist described it in 1885 as "a long stone house, substantially built, and was erected about two years ago, the materials being taken from the bed of the creek which it faces." The eating house was unlicensed, offered rough sleeping accommodation on bags of fodder, and fried mutton chops for breakfast. It was run by a retired teamster known only as Hughie. (SA Register 13 August 1885)

In 1884 John Henry Davies died at the eating house, and a handsome marble headstone was erected "by his fellow bushmen living at Mt Eba Station". There appear to be about six graves side-by-side at Phillips Ponds, two marked with crosses, but only Davies' has an inscription. A graveyard is not unusual at a regular outback stopping place such as an accommodation house.

The most exciting event in the early history of Phillips Ponds came in the 1880s when the South Australian Parliament briefly discussed building a railway there from Port Augusta. In September 1883 the local member, Patrick Coglin, successfully moved that a preliminary survey be made for a railway route to Phillips Ponds. Several members supported the motion, which they saw as benefiting the pastoral lands all the way up to Lake Eyre. It was September the following year before the survey plan was available, with an estimate that the line would cost £2,455 per mile.

Matters rested there for another year, until in October 1885 in reply to a question from Coglin, the Minister replied that the government had no intention of introducing a bill to build the line in that session. The problem was that in the meantime the Great Northern Railway was being extended beyond Marree past Lake Eyre, and depression was beginning to bite at the economy. The government believed that the outback had enough railways.
At the very end of the 1885 session, Thomas Burgoyne, who held the Whittata pastoral lease west of Lake Torrens, introduced a private members bill for "the construction of a light line of railway from Port Augusta towards Phillip's Ponds." (SAPD 9 December 1885, p. 1845; Manning 1990, p. 55) He and Coglin both gave stirring speeches talking up the prosperity of the district, but clearly did not have the numbers. Another member read a letter from a grazier near Lake Gairdner who was crushingly critical of the proposal: "the Phillips Ponds railway people must be mad to think that it will ever pay the working expenses, to say nothing of interest on the construction of plant. It is simply bringing a railway to nowhere, for Phillips Ponds is nowhere at all". (SAPD 9 December 1885, p. 1858) The bill was withdrawn without a vote.

In 1893 a Water Reserve was created around the government tank, and the gazette notice described it as being "adjacent to Phillip's Ponds Accommodation House (formerly pastoral lease 2140)" and also referred to a "necessary reserve for grave." (SAGG 16 February 1893, p. 352) The reserve appears on later pastoral maps as Water Reserve No. 66. (Pastoral Leases Map 1912) In the early twentieth century the stock routes were formalised, and the track from Tarcoola past Phillips Ponds to Port Augusta became known as Travelling Stock Route No. 9. (Stock Routes Plan 1905; Yelland 2002, p. 82)

Traffic on this road and stock route diminished when the Transcontinental Railway a few miles to the south opened in 1917, and the accommodation house probably fell into disuse and became an outstation of Arcoona. The building was still standing when surveyors arrived in the district to lay out the town of Woomera and the rocket range facilities in 1946. Army surveyors camped in tents outside the house, and a photograph shows that it was intact in 1947, although it has fallen into ruin since. (Showers 1999, p. 9)

This first known photograph of the house shows a roof form characteristic of the 1890s or the early twentieth century, although part of the house has a low squat chimney which appears much older. This older wing matches the description of the "long stone house" of 1885, but it must have been rebuilt extensively in later decades.

While the house has been allowed to fall into ruin since the 1940s, the graves have been tended. The earliest known photograph of the graves is in the National Archives, dated 1956, and it shows that the grave surround has been put around the row of graves since that date.

The heritage significance of the ruin and graves at Phillips Ponds is at local level. It is not of national or State significance, but is a prominent local landmark with an interesting history, forming a link with the earliest decades of pastoral settlement. If it was in an incorporated area, it would be appropriate for the local Council to enter the site in a schedule of local heritage places. However, in its isolated location the idea of local heritage significance has no practical implications.

Hence the management recommendation for Phillips Ponds is simply the common sense advice not to disturb either the ruin or the graves unnecessarily. As the site is a prominent landmark which arouses curiosity, it would be appropriate to erect an interpretation sign telling something of its history.
Water Reserve at Phillips Ponds (Pastoral Lease Map 1912)
Ruined house at Phillips Ponds, 2006 (Yvette Mooney)

House at Phillips Ponds, 1947 (Showers 1999)
Graves at Phillips Ponds, 2006 (Yvette Mooney)

Graves at Phillips Ponds, 1956 (National Archives of Australia)
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Photographs provided by Yvette Mooney

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