A REPORT ON AN ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL AREA ADJACENT TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY, NEAR ONSLOW, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

October 2017

For
Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation

By
Archae-aus Pty Ltd
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WARNING

Please be aware that this report may contain images of deceased persons and the use of their names which in some Aboriginal communities may cause sadness, distress or offence.

DISCLAIMER

The authors are not accountable for omissions and inconsistencies that may result from information which may come to light in the future but was not forthcoming at the time of this research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Archae-aus wish to pay respects to Thalanyji Elders past and present and any Thalanyji people who may view this report. Archae-aus also wish to extend those respects to all Aboriginal peoples across Australia.

CONSULTATION

The archaeological survey work took place within a portion of Western Australia’s Pilbara region that are the traditional lands of the Thalanyji People. The Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation (BTAC) is the Prescribed Body Corporate by whom the interests are held for these lands. As such, the Thalanyji representatives who participated in the archaeological survey, as detailed in this report, were nominated by BTAC.

The October 2017 fieldwork was undertaken collaboratively with BTAC. Their onsite representatives were briefed on the Scope of Works and the nature of the assessment methods throughout the fieldwork period. The Thalanyji representatives participated in all aspects of the survey and assessment.

REPORT FORMAT

The format and contents of this report adhere to those suggested by the Western Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs’ (DAA) ‘Guidelines for preparing Aboriginal Heritage Reports’\(^1\). The report is split into two sections, an Introduction and a Results section. The Introduction provides a background to the project and an outline of the scope of works. The report’s results section details the outcomes of the survey and includes maps and tables providing spatial data for the surveyed corridors and boundaries of Aboriginal archaeological places.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the results of an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of a block area and tracks adjacent to a previously surveyed area of the Onslow Waste Management Facility (OMWF), near Onslow Road. The survey was undertaken for the Shire of Ashburton (the Shire) on behalf of Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation (BTAC).

The fieldwork took place on the 22nd October 2017, with representatives of the Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation participating in all aspects of the archaeological fieldwork.

The objectives of the assessment were to:

- Undertake an archaeological survey of one block area (17 Ha) and several access tracks (1.9 linear km) in cooperation with Thalanyji representatives and locate any Aboriginal archaeological sites; and

- Record all identified Aboriginal archaeological sites to Site Avoidance levels.

The Waste Management Facility is located on the western side of Onslow Road in the northwest Pilbara, with the area to be used by the Shire for waste disposal and recycling purposes.

No Aboriginal archaeological sites were identified during the assessment.
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<tr>
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<th>Meaning / Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal archaeological place or assemblage</td>
<td>A place (or group of physical sites) in which evidence of past activity by Aboriginal people is preserved (either prehistoric or historic or contemporary), and which has been, or may be, investigated using the discipline of archaeology and represents a part of the archaeological record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Site</td>
<td>This term is used only for archaeological sites to which the AHA applies by the operation of Section 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACMC</td>
<td>The Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA</td>
<td>Abbreviation for Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological site</td>
<td>Is a place (or group of physical sites) in which evidence of human past activity is preserved (either prehistoric or historic or contemporary), and which has been, or may be, investigated using the discipline of archaeology and represents a part of the archaeological record. This term is used to refer to a place regardless of whether it has been assessed under section 5 of the AHA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artefact</td>
<td>Any object (article, building, container, device, dwelling, ornament, pottery, tool, weapon, work of art etc.) made, affected, used, or modified in some way by humans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Professional opinion based on information that was forthcoming at the time of consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTAC</td>
<td>The Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural material / archaeological material</td>
<td>Any object (article, building, container, device, dwelling, ornament, pottery, tool, weapon, work of art etc.) made, affected, used, or modified in some way by humans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAA</td>
<td>Department of Aboriginal Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS unit</td>
<td>Handheld device used as a Global Positioning System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage survey</td>
<td>Survey and inspection undertaken in order to investigate and document the archaeological record of a particular area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPA</td>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (the HPA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Title</td>
<td>Recognition of the traditional rights and interests to land and waters of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTA</td>
<td>Native Title Act 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>An artefact - any object made, affected, used, or modified in some way by humans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 16</td>
<td>In the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, that allows for the archaeological investigation/research of an Aboriginal site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 16 Permit</td>
<td>A document from the DAA detailing the conditions attached to the permission granted by the registrar of Aboriginal sites to conduct further investigations at a site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 17 Disturbance</td>
<td>When an Aboriginal site has been damaged by ground disturbance works without Section 18 permission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 18</td>
<td>The section of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 that details the process for permission to disturb the land on which a site is located.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 18 Approval</td>
<td>A letter from the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs providing approval for the disturbance of land on which a site is located.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 39(2) Assessment</td>
<td>Process of the ACMC assessing a reported site's significance and interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>The nature of the work undertaken as requested by the client or proponent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION ONE – INTRODUCTION

SCOPE OF WORKS

This report details the results of an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of a block area and tracks adjacent to a previously surveyed area (see Archae-aus Pty Ltd 2015) of the Onslow Waste Management Facility (OWMF), near Onslow Road. The survey was undertaken for the Shire of Ashburton (the Shire) on behalf of Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation (BTAC).

The objectives of the assessment were to:
- Undertake an archaeological survey of one block area (17 Ha) and several access tracks (1.9 linear km) in cooperation with Thalanyji representatives and locate any Aboriginal archaeological sites; and
- Record all identified Aboriginal archaeological sites to ‘Site Avoidance’ levels

The fieldwork was conducted on the 22nd October 2017 and Thalanyji representatives participated in all aspects of the archaeological survey and site recording.

LEGISLATION

All important and significant Aboriginal heritage sites and objects, as defined by sections 5 and 6, are protected under Western Australia’s Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (the AHA). Section 17 of the AHA states that it is an offence to: alter an Aboriginal site in any way, including collecting artefacts; conceal a site or artefact; or excavate, destroy or damage in any way an Aboriginal site or artefact; without the authorisation of the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites under section 16 or the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs under section 18 of the AHA.

The AHA protects sites and objects that are significant to living Aboriginal people as well as Aboriginal sites of historical, anthropological, archaeological and ethnographic significance. The AHA is currently under review and is administered by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA).

Aboriginal heritage sites are also protected under the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (the HPA). The HPA complements State / Territory legislation and is intended to be used only as a ‘last resort’ where State / Territory laws and processes prove ineffective. Under the HPA the responsible Minister can make temporary or long-term declarations to protect areas and objects of significance under threat of injury or desecration. The HPA also encourages heritage protection through mediated negotiation and agreement between land users, developers and Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal human remains are protected under the AHA and the HPA. In addition, the discovery of human remains requires that the following people are informed: the State Coroner or local Police under section 17 of the Coroners Act 1996; the State Registrar of Aboriginal Sites under section 15 of the AHA; and the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs under section 20 of the HPA.

The Environmental Protection Authority (2004) has noted that Aboriginal heritage will be assessed as a relevant environmental factor during formal Environmental Impact Assessments.
**PERSONNEL**

The archaeological fieldwork took place on the 22nd October 2017. The following organisations and people participated in the assessments:

**Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation**

*Project Management / Coordination*

Glenys Hayes

**Survey Team**

Stewart Hicks

Charlie Hyland

Fabian Hayes

Douglas Ard

**Archa-e-aus Pty Ltd**

Nigel Bruer

Joshua Davis

**Shire of Ashburton**

Mark Lee

**Reporting**

This report was written by Nigel Bruer [BArch and GradDipCHM, Flinders University] and edited by Fiona Hook [BA Hons, Sydney University; PhD Candidate, University of Western Australia].

The Thalanyji representatives who participated in the survey are acknowledged for their comments and assistance in the identification of the project area’s heritage values.
SECTION TWO – RESULTS

Onslow Waste Management Facility

Location

The Onslow Waste Management Facility (OWMF) is on the south-western side of Onslow Road, 36 km south of Onslow Township. The entire survey area, as per the coordinates provided by the Shire of Ashburton, was assessed by Archae-aus, together with Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation representatives. The coordinates were provided by the Shire in the form of maps or spatial information and are presented in Table 1 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Waypoint</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
<th>Waypoint</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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<td>7575092</td>
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<td>31692</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>7576028</td>
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<td>7575437</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>7575922</td>
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<td>316429</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Track 1</td>
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<td>316331</td>
<td>7576240</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 2</td>
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<td>7575882</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>316404</td>
<td>7575591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 3</td>
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<td>317803</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track 4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>317263</td>
<td>7575782</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>317278</td>
<td>7575804</td>
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</table>

(Datum GDA 94; Zone 50K; Accuracy ± 20 m)

Environment

The main part of the block survey area extends across a northwest-southeast oriented red sand paleo-dune, with an area extending southwest off the dune and onto an extensive flat plain. The access tracks generally run along the flat extensive plain south and west of the dune. The ground surface is covered by fine red silt and sand, with occasional patches of gravel.

Vegetation is generally a low scrub of varying density, with the understorey dominated by Triodia spp., hummocks, seasonal grasses (Eragrostis spp.), Ptilotus spp. and other flowering plants. This understorey is particularly dense near the base of the dune and at the south-western edge of the survey area. Trees and shrubs were generally sparsely distributed, with several varieties of Hakea spp., Acacia spp. and Eucalyptus spp. noted. Trees were generally limited to the flat plains, with only shrubs occurring on the dune. Occasional large termite mounds were observed on the flat plain. Ground surface visibility was estimated to average 75% although visibility was <20% in some areas.

While no major signs of disturbance were noted, the area does appear to be subject to occasional inundation with evidence of water worn rocks and gravel occurring in patches throughout.
Report of an Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment of an Additional Area Adjacent to the Waste Management Facility, Near Onslow, Western Australia

Survey Methods
The entirety of the OWMF block survey area was inspected for surface Aboriginal archaeological material via pedestrian transects spaced at no greater than 35 m apart. Access tracks were inspected via pedestrian transects spaced no greater than 15 m apart, providing a minimum 30 m wide track.
Results

No Aboriginal archaeological sites were identified within the OWMF block survey area or access tracks.
Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in consultation with representatives of the Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation (BTAC).

1) It is **recommended** that the Shire of Ashburton ensures its employees and contractors are **advised** that:
   a) The Onslow Waste Management Facility block survey area and access tracks (as per the coordinates in Table 1) have been assessed for Aboriginal archaeological material and that this assessment is considered to be **complete**.
   b) No Aboriginal archaeological sites were identified in the Onslow Waste Management Facility survey area or Access Tracks.

2) It is further **recommended** that the Shire of Ashburton consults with BTAC prior to works commencing and engages BTAC representatives to monitor any ground disturbing work within the Onslow Waste Management Facility survey area.
REFERENCES CITED
APPENDIX ONE: DAA SEARCH
Search Criteria

8 Heritage Surveys containing 8 Survey Areas in Shapefile - DAA SEARCH AREA

Disclaimer

Heritage Surveys have been mapped using information from the reports and / or other relevant data sources. Heritage Surveys consisting of small discrete areas may not be visible except at large scales. Reports shown may not be held at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). Please consult report holder for more information. Refer to www.daa.wa.gov.au/heritage for information on requesting reports held by DPLH.

The information provided is made available in good faith and is predominately based on the information provided to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage by third parties. The information is provided solely on the basis that readers will be responsible for making their own assessment as to the accuracy of the information. If you find any errors or omissions in our records, including our maps, it would be appreciated if you email the details to the Department at heritageenquiries@daa.wa.gov.au and we will make every effort to rectify it as soon as possible.

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Access

Some reports are restricted.

Spatial Accuracy

The following legend strictly applies to the spatial accuracy of heritage survey boundaries as captured by DAA.

Very Good    Boundaries captured from surveyed titles, GPS (2001 onwards) submitted maps georeferenced to within 20m accuracy.
Good / Moderate    Boundaries captured from GPS (pre 2001) submitted maps georeferenced to within 250m accuracy.
Unreliable    Boundaries captured from submitted maps georeferenced to an accuracy exceeding 250m.
Indeterminate    Surveys submitted with insufficient information to allow boundary capture.

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Topographic basemap sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCan, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.
## List of Heritage Surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Report ID</th>
<th>Report Title</th>
<th>Report Authors</th>
<th>Area Number</th>
<th>Survey Type</th>
<th>Area Description</th>
<th>Spatial Accuracy</th>
<th>Field / Desktop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17410</td>
<td>Report of the Survey for Aboriginal Sites. Onslow-Mt Stuart Road, West Pilbara, W.A.</td>
<td>Kee, S</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Archaeological</td>
<td>Onslow-Mt Stuart Road, West Pilbara. A corridor of land following Mt Stuart Road from the North West Coastal Highway turnoff, and a proposed crushing site (site 10388) near Barradale as shown in Figure 1.</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Field and Desktop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27894</td>
<td>Report on the Ethnographic Survey of Wheatstone MUIC &amp; DoM Gas Pipeline, Onslow, Western Australia; November 2012 [TBD]</td>
<td>Greenfeld, Paul</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ethnographic</td>
<td>MUIC survey area consists of two block survey areas (MUIC A and MUIC B) that follow and encompass part of BHP's Macedon Gas Pipeline. It is approximately 16.5km south-south-west of the town of Onslow. The DoM Gas Pipeline survey area consists of a corridor starting from the Old Onslow turn-off and finishing at the Dampier to Bunbury Gas Pipeline, roughly 50km to the southeast.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Field and Desktop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27930</td>
<td>Report of an Indigenous Archaeological Assessment of Chevron’s Domestic Gas Corridor, South of Onslow, Coastal Pilbara</td>
<td>Craig, Todd</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Archaeological</td>
<td>The Project Artea is a proposed gas pipeline corridor that measures approximately 25.5km in length and 280m in width. It generally runs parallel to and immediately west of the Onslow Road, It is 20.5km south of the Onslow township.</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Field and Desktop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28009</td>
<td>Report of an Indigenous Assessment of the Macedon Gas Pipeline and Infrastructure Areas Within Onslow Coastal Pilbara : Volume 1</td>
<td>Di Lello, Adrian.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Archaeological</td>
<td>Survey rea is approximately 90km x 50-200 m and covers 90,000 m².</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Field and Desktop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28010</td>
<td>Report of an Indigenous Assessment of the Macedon Gas Pipeline and Infrastructure Areas Within Onslow Coastal Pilbara : Volume 2</td>
<td>Di Lello, Adrian.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Archaeological</td>
<td>Survey rea is approximately 90km x 50-200 m and covers 90,000 m².</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Field and Desktop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28011</td>
<td>Report of an Ethnographic Survey (Stages 1 &amp; 2) of the Macedon Terrestrial Gas Project Onslow Pilbara Western Australia</td>
<td>Coldrick, Bryn</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ethnographic</td>
<td>The survey area includes a pipeline route and proposed Accomodation and Construction Camp to be located to the southeast of Old Onslow.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Field only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28012</td>
<td>Addendum to Report of an Ethnographic Survey (Stages 1 &amp;2) of the Macedon Terrestrial Gas Project Onslow Pilbara Western Australia</td>
<td>McDonald, Edward M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ethnographic</td>
<td>The survey area includes a pipeline route and proposed Accomodation and Construction Camp to be located to the southeast of Old Onslow.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Field and Desktop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search Criteria

No Registered Aboriginal Sites in Shapefile - DAA SEARCH AREA

Disclaimer

The Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 preserves all Aboriginal sites in Western Australia whether or not they are registered. Aboriginal sites exist that are not recorded on the Register of Aboriginal Sites, and some registered sites may no longer exist.

The information provided is made available in good faith and is predominately based on the information provided to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage by third parties. The information is provided solely on the basis that readers will be responsible for making their own assessment as to the accuracy of the information. If you find any errors or omissions in our records, including our maps, it would be appreciated if you email the details to the Department at heritageenquiries@daa.wa.gov.au and we will make every effort to rectify it as soon as possible.

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Coordinate Accuracy

Coordinates (Easting/Northing metres) are based on the GDA 94 Datum. Accuracy is shown as a code in brackets following the coordinates.
Search Criteria

No Other Heritage Places in Shapefile - DAA SEARCH AREA

Disclaimer

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Coordinate Accuracy

Coordinates (Easting/Northing metres) are based on the GDA 94 Datum. Accuracy is shown as a code in brackets following the coordinates.
Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System
List of Other Heritage Places

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