

4 June 2026

Bryce Skarratt
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Level 18 Raine Square,
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RE: Alinta Energy: Cataby Power Station - Aboriginal Heritage Surveys: Letter of Advice

The following details the results and advice concerning the Aboriginal archaeological and ethnographic heritage surveys of Alinta's proposed Cataby Power Station Project Area.

Yued Aboriginal Corporation engaged Archae-aus to undertake heritage surveys of the Cataby Power Station for Alinta Energy (Proponent). The Project Area is located southwest of Iluka's Cataby Mine Site around the Yandin Terminal Substation (west of Brand Hwy) 3.4 km south of Cataby, in the Shire of Dandaragan. The Scope of Works (SoW) comprised Aboriginal archaeological and ethnographic survey covering 28.33 ha (the Project Area). Full details for methodology, results and interpretation will be provided in a report upon the completion of the works.

The heritage surveys were undertaken across five days from Monday 25 to Friday 29 May 2026, inclusive of travel. Yued Representatives, two archaeologists and one anthropologist participated in the works.

Archae-aus

Tessa Woods

Senior Archaeologist

Lucy Leaper

Archaeologist

Dr Bryan Rochelle

Senior Anthropologist

Yued Representatives

Graham Ryder

Dianne Yappo

Ian Ryder

Maria Yates

Peta Ryder

Eisha Walley

Yued Aboriginal Corporation

Tanya Mead

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Bryce Skarratt

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archae-aus

Archaeological Survey

The archaeological survey of Alinta's proposed Cataby Power Station Project Area is **complete**.

No isolated artefacts or archaeological sites were found within Alinta's proposed Project Area.

One Lodged Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Place is located 400 m south of the Project Area. This comprises a surface scatter of quartz artefacts in a disturbed sand blowout near a wetland. Dog Swamp (basin wetland) is located south of the Project Area within the Native Dog Swamp Nature Reserve. During the archaeological survey, the archaeologists and Yued Representatives discussed how Yued People would have occupied this area, sitting on the low hills around the swamp where there are abundant resources such as plants and animals for food, water, bush medicine, swampy paperbark trees, balga, and other plant materials.

Predictive modelling for ACH on the Swan Coastal Plain based on extensive excavation and research indicates there is high potential for sub-surface cultural material within at least 500 m of basin wetlands such as Native Dog Swamp. As such, the majority of the proposed Cataby Power Station Project Area has high potential for subsurface ACH (see Figure 2). Archae-aus recommends Alinta engage Yued Aboriginal Corporation and a qualified heritage consultant to undertake Shovel Test Pitting (STP) across the Project Area in areas of high potential for sub-surface cultural material. The aim of STP's are to determine the presence / absence of sub-surface cultural heritage material, to determine the extent of any sub-surface material, to provide a guide for any possible amendments or revisions to the proposed disturbance corridors and to mitigate and manage risk to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

A portion of the original wetland associated with Native Dog Swamp intersects the southern 75 m of the proposed transmission line. Water sources are of considerable importance and significance to Yued People, even when the surface presentation has been disturbed. Therefore, Yued Representatives' preference is to avoid any further disturbance to this area specifically through the wetland boundary. Additionally, Yued Representatives discussed the remnant vegetation on the low hill between the Native Dog Swamp Reserve and the Project Area which extends into the Project Area. Yued Representatives stated this vegetation is of importance as it is connected to Native Dog Swamp and is some of the last remaining vegetation in this area, expressing their desire to preserve this landscape (see Figure 1). The Yued Representatives propose the vegetation in the Project Area and immediately south be included in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) boundary for the reserve and have the same flora and fauna conservation protections as a Nature Reserve under section 5(1)(d) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. This recommendation is consistent with Andrew A.E Williams' discussion of the reserve in the *Provisional Report Dandaragan Shire Nature Reserves*¹.

¹ Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions: Library <<https://library.dbca.wa.gov.au/FullTextFiles/004539.pdf>>, accessed 03 June 2026.

Ethnographic Survey

The ethnographic survey of Alinta's proposed Cataby Power Station Project Area is **complete**.

No new ethnographic sites were identified within Alinta's proposed Project Area.

The ethnographic survey team advised that they are not aware of any recorded traditional stories associated with Dog Swamp; however, they acknowledged that other Yued Representatives may hold such knowledge. The area was affirmed as culturally significant as a traditional waterway and landscape used by ancestors.

Yued Elder Dianne Yappo advised of a cultural relationship between DPLH Registered ACH Site *Minyulo Brook (Bilya)* (ID 28326), located approximately 3.5 km from the survey area, and Dog Swamp. This relationship is supported by the presence of the Lodged Place *Iluka Cataby 08* (ID 20230) artefact scatter located immediately south of the swamp.

Archae-*aus* archaeologist Tessa Woods noted that elevated ridgelines north and south of Dog Swamp have a high likelihood of containing sub-surface cultural material.

The ethnographic team also discussed the potential value of undertaking a future combined archaeological and ethnographic cultural mapping program of the Dog Swamp area, including targeted excavation of adjacent ridgelines.



Plate 1. View west of Alinta and Yued Representatives discussing the Project



Plate 2. View north of Cataby Mine Site along gravel access track



Plate 3. View south of gravel track and team surveying



Plate 4. View north-northeast across survey area to Iluka Cataby Mine Pit



Plate 5. View south of team surveying low hill in the south of the Project Area



Plate 6. View east of team surveying

Recommendations

Alinta Energy and Yued Aboriginal Corporation are advised that:

1. The archaeological and ethnographic survey of Alinta's proposed Cataby Power Station is **complete**.
2. No new Aboriginal archaeological or ethnographic sites were found.
3. The majority of the proposed Project Area has high potential for sub-surface cultural material.
4. Alinta Energy should engage Yued Aboriginal Corporation and a suitably qualified heritage consultant to undertake a Shovel Test Pitting programme in areas of high potential for sub-surface cultural material, prior to any vegetation clearing and ground disturbance works.
5. That the remnant vegetation and low hill in the southern end of the Project Area be avoided, and Alinta seek an alternative route for the access track and other infrastructure, preferably to the north where there is an existing gravel access track.
6. Dog Swamp is confirmed as a culturally significant landscape associated with traditional water use (water source) and movement with archaeological evidence at DPLH Lodged Place Iluka Cataby 08 (ID 20230), and potential for sub-surface material in surrounding ridges.
7. The damplands and remnant Banksia bushland contain culturally significant flora and fauna, including threatened species listed under Western Australian conservation legislation; and that the environmental protections applied to Dog Swamp Nature Reserve be extended to the broader surrounding landscape, including damplands, Banksia bushland, and ridgelines north of the reserve extending toward and into the proposed Project Area.
8. Access roads should *not be* constructed through native bushland areas north of Dog Swamp Nature Reserve; and instead, be located north of the bushland area utilising the existing fenceline service track between operational areas.
9. The overhead transmission line infrastructure (with the exception of access roads) be located north of the native bushland area, aligned with the existing fenceline service track; however, alternative alignment over the northern forested area is acknowledged if required.
10. Alinta should engage Yued Heritage Monitors for all future vegetation clearing and ground disturbance works; drawing upon personnel from the existing archaeological–ethnographic survey team (one female and one male representative).

Kind regards,

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Figure 1. Archaeological and Ethnographic Survey Results



Figure 2. Zones of Subsurface ACH Potential

