

Environmental Sub Plan

Heritage Management Sub plan
(Indigenous and Non-Indigenous)
Appendix 7 to the O-EMP

10 YEAR MAINTENANCE PERIOD

**PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE
BRUNSWICK HEADS TO YELGUN**

Release 23 May 07

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1. Background

There are two known indigenous heritage sites and one non-indigenous heritage site remaining in or beside the project alignment following construction.

The two indigenous heritage sites that were identified during the early planning phase of the project that have been protected throughout the construction phase are:

- the “Scar tree” on the Brunswick Bypass median, and
- a potential “middens” site located outside the road reserve (but close to the boundary with) the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve.

Seven potential archaeological deposits (PADs) were impacted with “Consent to Destroy” approvals from the DEC during the construction phase. Sub-surface monitoring was undertaken at each of these sites by representatives of the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council during construction.

The non-indigenous heritage sites identified during the pre-project planning were all assessed as having low heritage significance. The only non-indigenous heritage site that remains in situ is the old Brunswick River Ferry Crossing point to the west of the Brunswick River Bridge.

The site of the Hainsville township in the Coolamon Scenic Drive area is still archeologically intact but covered with the placement of the embankment.

Two indigenous items that were discovered during the construction phase will be replaced close to their point of discovery at the request of the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and RTA. Once replaced the sites will be clearly identified (refer to section 3 for more detail).

2. Objectives

The objectives of this Heritage management sub plan are:

- To document management procedures for the management of heritage items remaining on the upgrade alignment,
- To identify the management requirements contained in the Project Approval and environmental documents.

3. Environmental Aspects and Impacts

The aspects of maintenance that have the potential to impact on remaining heritage items are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Aspects and impacts

Remaining heritage site	Potential Impacts of maintenance activity	Proposed monitoring action
“Scar tree” on the Brunswick Bypass median.	Direct disturbance as a result of uncontrolled excavation beside the tree, severing the roots. Tree trimming or removal of the tree for traffic safety reasons, without the knowledge of the significance of the tree.	No stockpiling, parking of equipment or plant or bulk excavation works will be permitted within 30m of Scar Tree. Consult an arborist and the RTA prior to trimming branches of the Scar Tree if required for traffic safety reasons.
Potential “middens” site located inside (but close to the boundary with) the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve	Unlikely to be disturbed as a result of maintenance activity, because there is no vehicular access beyond Retaining Wall 1. Very small risk that maintenance works at the	This site is located beyond the road reserve boundary, and will not be accessible by vehicular means from the upgrade in the operational phase.

	creek at Stn 45300 (west side) will affect heritage site.	A note is included in the SOP for Maintenance of Waterways to be aware of the heritage site next to this drainage line.
Old Brunswick River Ferry Crossing point to the west of the Brunswick River Bridge.	Unlikely to be disturbed as a result of maintenance activity, because there is no vehicular access beyond retaining Wall 1.	The site will not be accessible by vehicular means from the upgrade in the operational phase. No action.
The Hainsville township in the Coolamon Scenic Drive area	Unlikely to be disturbed as the site is covered with the placement of the Fill 6A embankment.	The site is buried and will not be accessible from the upgrade in the operational phase. No action.
Indigenous items discovered during the construction phase and returned to site.	Although unlikely to be disturbed, maintenance of landscaping or any new installations are a low risk.	A note to take care during the landscape maintenance activities, noted in the OEMP. Note exact location of the items once replaced and positioned by the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and RTA.

4. General Environmental Procedures

The following environmental procedures will be adopted:

1. There are no known potential archeological deposits (PAD sites) remaining on the alignment that require ongoing protection.
2. The location of heritage items are shown on the Sensitive Area Plans, and/or listed in Table 1.
3. Two indigenous items that were discovered during the construction phase will be replaced close to their point of discovery. This will be undertaken with the assistance of, and at the request of the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and RTA.
4. Annually monitor the status/health of the heritage items and report to RTA.

5. Discovery of Previously Undetected Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Material

There is a possibility that previously undetected Aboriginal cultural heritage material may be uncovered during maintenance activities. The following steps will be followed in the event of uncovering previously undetected indigenous material.

1. If suspected cultural heritage material is uncovered, work in the vicinity will cease immediately and Maintenance Manager will contact RTA, DEC and TBLALC to inspect the area so that the appropriate actions and management recommendations can be formulated and implemented.
2. Work causing any potential destruction of those heritage items shall not recommence until appropriate DEC approvals are held.
3. Work may recommence at an agreed distance further along the road corridor in consultation with TBLALC and RTA.
4. Work can recommence only if the TBLALC monitoring person is available and present to monitor the resumed work.
5. If such a resumption of work occurs and cultural material is still being encountered, subject to consultations with TBLALC and DEC, the equipment operator will repeat the

procedure (as referenced in point 3 above) along the road easement or an agreed distance until no further material is encountered.

6. Discovery of Previously Undetected Non-Indigenous Heritage Material

There is a possibility that previously undetected non-indigenous heritage items may be uncovered during maintenance activities outside areas that are deemed to exhibit heritage significance. The following steps will be followed in the event of uncovering previously undetected non-indigenous items.

1. If a suspected non-indigenous heritage item is uncovered during unmonitored activities, work in the vicinity will cease immediately and the RTA notified in accordance with the RTA Heritage Guidelines. The RTA will notify the NSW Heritage Council in accordance with Section 146 of the Heritage Act 1977. Contact must be made with a qualified historical archaeologist for assessment of the item or site. Representatives may visit the site so that the appropriate actions and management recommendations can be formulated and implemented.
2. Depending on the nature and extent of the items recovered, this may also involve liaison with a qualified Archaeologist and their involvement in an on-site inspection. If the area is outside that of an area already subject to a Heritage related approval, then work causing any potential destruction of those items will not recommence until appropriate Heritage Council of NSW approvals are held
3. Work may recommence at an agreed distance further along the road easement or elsewhere as agreed by the Heritage Council of NSW or their delegate
4. If such a resumption of work occurs and further non-indigenous heritage items are encountered, subject to consultations with the NSW Heritage Council, the equipment operator will repeat the procedure (that is, recommence the work 50m further along the road easement or an agreed distance) until no further material is encountered.

7. Evaluation and Review

This management subplan will be assessed and reviewed based on:

- the outcome of inspections and audits
- the completion of annual reports.