

It is likely that some Indigenous Heritage sites will be located within the surface infrastructure area. Preliminary results from the studies to date indicates that there are no sites of heritage conservation value however this will need to be confirmed during subsurface testing.

As is current best practice, all identified sites are fully investigated to determine potential significance prior to disturbance by the development. This investigation process often involves subsurface testing in the presence of Indigenous representatives. All cultural material found is recovered, catalogued and then managed in accordance with traditional landowners requirements. This can include management in-situ, recovery and relocation to the care and control of a nominated group or relocated on site to area outside the disturbance zone.

The closest known site to the project area, an open artefact scatter (NPWS 45-3-1312) is located approximately 1km south west on Hue Hue Road.

A preliminary impact assessment of the surface infrastructure sites at Tooheys Rd has been undertaken by ERM Australia to establish the likely possibilities and constraints to the development of the site in terms of Indigenous archaeological potential. This work will be further advanced by OzArk EHM.

The first area targeted for full pedestrian survey is that of the proposed rail easement over land owned by Darkinjung LALC. This site inspection was undertaken in partnership with the Darkinjung LALC Sites Officer and did not identify any surface Indigenous archaeological or cultural sites over any of the low slopes, ridge top and drainage lines inspected.

Further systematic survey is to be undertaken in early November to assess the remaining direct impact areas of Tooheys Road, Buttonderry and the western air ventilation shaft as well as the potential conservation areas. Desktop overview and review of previous reports indicates that some landforms within these areas are archaeologically sensitive and may yield artefact scatters/campsites, isolated finds and/or grinding grooves. These are primarily the immediate areas surrounding Wallarah Creek and its associated tributaries to the south of the site.

The entire Indigenous heritage assessment is being undertaken in accordance with the DEC guidelines *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants*. A preliminary assessment of non-indigenous heritage issues has been undertaken for the Project and 23 features were identified of potential value.

Further Indigenous heritage survey and assessment work will be carried out by OzArk EHM.

