



Appendix E2

Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment Appendices 1 to 5

**Bloomfield Colliery Completion of Mining and Rehabilitation
Part 3A Environmental Assessment**

November 2008



APPENDIX 1: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE DATABASE

BLOOMFIELD - ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE DATABASE

Survey Area	Landform Element	Slope	Distance to Water (metres)	Type of Watercourse	Vegetation	Land Surface	Exposure Type (Horizon)	Total Sample Area (m ²)	Surface Visibility (%)	Detection Limiting Factors	Archaeological Visibility %	Ground Disturbance	Effective Survey Coverage (m ²)	# of Artefacts	Artefact Density/m ² of Effective Survey Coverage	Comments
B1	ridge crest	level/very gentle	>50	1st order	1	5	A/B	20,800	70	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	10	high	2,080	0	-	ground surface is predominantly sandstone gravel; all highly disturbed surfaces; recently cleared with machinery (bulldozers); well formed roads; earthmoving continuing during survey; soil and bark chip stock piles; bio-solid stockpiles; very low archaeological potential
B2	simple slope	moderate	>50	1st order	1, 3	5	A/B	10,350	0.5-90	vegetation, leaf litter/gravel	0.5-10	mod-high	350	1	0.003	dry sclerophyll forest with dense leaf litter in lower part; vegetation includes spotted gum, wattle, stringybark, grasses; leaf litter very dense; dozer track to powerlines; water pipeline; cleared track along edge of bush running NW- SE; portion of slope cleared - extensive surface disturbance; low archaeological potential
B3	drainage depression	moderate	<50	1st order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	2,000	5-70	vegetation, leaf litter/gravel	2	high	40	0	-	high disturbance due to recent earthworks, including vegetation removal; steep sided gully; recent sediment and gravel deposit; no exposed bedrock; low archaeological potential for grinding grooves or artefacts
B4	spur crest	moderate	>50	2nd order	1, 3	5	A/B	3,400	50-80	vegetation, leaf litter/gravel, sediment deposition, modified	10	high	340	0	-	vehicle track through cleared area; cleared area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, recent earthworks, vehicle tracks
B5	simple slope	moderate	>50	1st order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	6,800	60-100	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	10-40	high	1,520	0	-	cleared area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, recent earthworks and vehicle tracks; bush bordered by vehicle track; recent dozer scrape along edge of bushland; low archaeological potential
B6	spur crest	moderate	<50	1st order	3	-	A/B	800	1	vegetation, leaf litter/gravel	1	mod	8	0	-	bushland and dry sclerophyll forest; vegetation includes <i>Eucalyptus spp.</i> , <i>Acacia spp.</i> , <i>Cassia spp.</i> , bracken
B7	simple slope	moderate	<50	1st order	1	5	A/B	1,600	5	vegetation, leaf litter/gravel, modified	7	high	120	0	-	area recently cleared in 2004; highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; ground surface consists predominantly of sandstone and minor silt/clay gravel; bush bordered by vehicle track; very low archaeological potential
B8	drainage depression	moderate - steep	<50	1st order	1, 3	5	A/B	480	1-70	vegetation, modified	1	high	5	0	-	cleared; edge of bushland; very low archaeological potential
B9	simple slope	moderate	>50	1st order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	3,000	30-90	vegetation, leaf litter/gravel, modified	50-70	high	900	0	-	vehicle track through cleared area; cleared area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, recent earthworks and vehicle tracks; very low archaeological potential due to high levels of disturbance
B10	drainage depression	moderate	<50	1st order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	4,000	20	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	5	high	200	0	-	area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; tree windrow in drainage; very low archaeological potential
B11	simple slope	moderate	<50	1st order	1, 3	5	A/B	2,400	50	vegetation, modified	10	high	240	0	-	cleared area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, recent earthworks and vehicle tracks; large slabs of sandstone bedrock exposed due to bulldozing activity; low archaeological potential

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Survey Area	Landform Element	Slope	Distance to Water (metres)	Type of Watercourse	Vegetation	Land Surface	Exposure Type (Horizon)	Total Sample Area (m ²)	Surface Visibility (%)	Detection Limiting Factors	Archaeological Visibility %	Ground Disturbance	Effective Survey Coverage (m ²)	# of Artefacts	Artefact Density/m ² of Effective Survey Coverage	Comments
B12	spur crest	moderate	>50	1st order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	3,600	70	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	30	high	1,080	0	-	vehicle tracks; area recently cleared; ground surface consists predominantly of sandstone and minor siltstone gravel
B13	ridge crest	gentle	>50	1st order	1	5	A/B	19,300	50-80	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	10-50	high	3,010	0	-	very broad ridge crest gently sloping in south; area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; multiple areas of high exposure; drill holes present within survey area; very low archaeological potential for <i>in situ</i> deposit or deposits of significance
B14	simple slope	moderate	<50	1st order	1	5	A/B	8,000	60	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	10	high	800	0	-	multiple areas of high exposure; borders existing open-cut area; very low archaeological potential for deposits that are <i>in situ</i> or of significance
B15	ridge crest	level/very gentle	>50	1st order	1	5	A/B	5,700	30-60	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	10-30	high	750	0	-	multiple areas of high exposure; area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; mod-high potential for low density artefact distribution prior to disturbance, but relegated down to very low archaeological potential post land clearing activities
B16	drainage depression	moderate	<50	1st order	1	1, 5	A/B	5,300	20-70	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	1-30	high	200	1	0.005	area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; vehicle tracks follow tree line; very low archaeological potential for <i>in situ</i> deposit or deposits of research value
B17	simple slope	moderate	>50	2nd order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	11,400	1-20	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	1-5	mod-high	450	0	-	area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; dry sclerophyll forest in small portion of area; some larger trees, however very low potential for scarred trees; very low archaeological potential for <i>in situ</i> deposit or deposits of research value
B18	drainage depression	gentle	<50	2nd order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	19,800	1-80	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	1-60	mod-high	1,650	16	0.010	recent dozer activity within survey area; area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; dry sclerophyll forest in small portion of area; creek within forest is approx 2 metres wide with standing water at time of recording;
B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	21,500	40-95	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	15-30	high	4,385	18	0.004	recent dozer activity within survey area; area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; multiple areas of high exposure; cleared areas with higher surface visibility focused on; ground surface predominantly heat shatter gravel with occasional quartz and quartzite types, with ironstone conglomerates with yellow ochre; archaeological potential varies from high near creek to low-mod distant from creek
B20	spur crest	gentle	<50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	2,540	30-95	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	0.5-20	high	450	15	0.033	area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; stockpiles within survey area; ground surface consists predominantly of B unit clay; some areas of high exposure due to clearing activity
B21	drainage depression	gentle	<50	1st order	1	1, 5	A/B	4,480	70-95	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	15-20	high	880	0	-	area highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; multiple areas of high exposure; low archaeological potential for <i>in situ</i> deposit or deposits of research value
B22	spur crest	gentle	<50	1st order	1	5	A/B	1,600	75	vegetation, sediment deposition, modified	20	high	320	2	0.006	area very highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; stockpiles present; low archaeological potential for <i>in situ</i> deposit or deposits of research value

BLOOMFIELD - ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY COVERAGE DATABASE

Survey Area	Landform Element	Slope	Distance to Water (metres)	Type of Watercourse	Vegetation	Land Surface	Exposure Type (Horizon)	Total Sample Area (m ²)	Surface Visibility (%)	Detection Limiting Factors	Archaeological Visibility %	Ground Disturbance	Effective Survey Coverage (m ²)	# of Artefacts	Artefact Density/m ² of Effective Survey Coverage	Comments
B23	drainage depression	gentle	<50	1st order	1	1, 5	A/B	480	90	vegetation, modified	10	high	48	0	-	area extensively disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks; recent dozer activity
B24	simple slope	gentle	>50	1st order	1	1, 5	A/B	1,500	90	vegetation, modified	15	high	225	0	-	cleared area along southern boundary; area very highly disturbed due to vegetation removal, earthworks and vehicle tracks
B25	drainage depression	moderate	<50	2nd order	3	1	A/B	3,600	1-10	vegetation, leaf litter/gravel	1-5	mod-high	135	0	-	dry sclerophyll forest incorporating creek line; creek is approx 5m deep and up to 10m wide; standing water present at time of survey; water present due to damming of creek from open cut mine 'Creek Cut'; ground surface obscured by dense leaf litter; very low visibility; moderate archaeological potential; mod-high recent disturbance in form of new contour drain excavated during time of survey
B26	drainage depression	moderate	<50	1st order	1, 3	1	A/B	2,400	1	vegetation, leaf litter/gravel	1	mod-high	24	0	-	dry sclerophyll forest incorporating creek; ground surface obscured by dense leaf litter; archaeological potential varies from low within the drainage itself to moderate on adjacent slopes; area has been disturbed due to previous clearing of vegetation
Vegetation: 1 = cleared (grass/crop); 3 = regrowth forest. Land Surface: 1 = sheet erosion; 5 = modified (eg. animals/vehicle track).																

APPENDIX 2: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITE DATABASE

BLOOMFIELD - LITHIC SITE DATABASE

Site #	Locus	Survey Area	Landform Element	Slope	Distance to Water	Type of Water	Vegetation	Land Surface	Exposure Type	Ground Disturbance	Visible Extent of Surface Exposures: Length (m)	Visible Extent of Surface Exposures: Width (m)	Visible Extent of Evidence: Length (m)	Visible Extent of Evidence: Width (m)	Visible Locus Area (m ²)	Mean Surface Visibility of Locus (%)	Mean Archaeological Visibility of Locus (%)	Effective Locus Area (m ²)	# of Artefacts	# of Artefacts/m ² of Effective Locus Area	Sub-Surface Deposit	Comments	
B2	A	B2	simple slope	moderate	>50	1st	1, 3	5	A/B	mod-high	100+	4	1	1	1	1	80	60	0.6	1	1.67	unlikely	located on vehicle track separating bush and clearing; area highly disturbed
B16	A	B16	drainage depression	moderate	<50	1st	1	1, 5	A/B	high	1	1	1	1	1	1	60	40	0.4	1	2.50	unlikely	site lies 15 m south of tree windrow
B18	A	B18	drainage depression	gentle	<50	2nd order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	mod-high	100+	3	2	1	2	2	90	80	1.6	2	1.25	possible	located on track separating bush and clearing; area highly disturbed
B18	B	B18	drainage depression	gentle	<50	2nd order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	mod-high	100	3	9	2	18	16.2	90	90	16.2	3	0.19	probable	moderate disturbance; located on track separating bush and clearing
B18	C	B18	drainage depression	gentle	<50	2nd order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	mod-high	10	5	1	1	1	1	90	90	0.9	1	1.11	possible	adjacent to site B18/B; located within dozer push off vehicle track
B18	D	B18	drainage depression	gentle	<50	2nd order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	mod-high	50+	10+	50	15	750	70	50	375	8	0.02	possible	located withinin vehicle track on south side of drainage; extends to track adjacent to dry sclerophyll forest; broad yet low density scatter	
B18	E	B18	drainage depression	gentle	<50	2nd order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	mod-high	10+	10+	1	1	1	1	70	50	0.5	1	2.00	possible	located withinin vehicle track within drainage; potential for deposit
B18	F	B18	drainage depression	gentle	<50	2nd order	1, 3	1, 5	A/B	mod-high	10+	10+	1	1	1	1	70	50	0.5	1	2.00	possible	located within erosion scour; area highly disturbed; low potential for deposit
B19	A	B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	8+	5+	8	5	40	32	80	32	3	0.09	unlikely	located within erosion scour; area highly disturbed; low potential for deposit	
B19	B	B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	8+	100+	1	1	1	0.7	70	70	0.7	1	1.43	unlikely	located on edge of slope near dozer push; area highly disturbed though some A unit remains
B19	C	B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	25+	5+	25	5	125	50	40	50	3	0.06	unlikely	located within erosion scour close to creek line	
B19	D	B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	10+	10+	5	2	10	6	60	60	6	3	0.50	possible	located within erosion scour; shallow soil
B19	E	B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	50	8	50	3	150	22.5	15	22.5	3	0.13	unlikely	located on cleared area near dozer push; area highly disturbed; low potential for deposit	
B19	F	B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	30	10	1	1	1	0.2	20	20	0.2	1	5.00	unlikely	located on dozer push; area very highly disturbed
B19	G	B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	10+	10+	5	2	10	1	20	10	1	2	2.00	unlikely	located within erosion scour next to track; low potential for deposit
B19	H	B19	spur crest	gentle	>50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	20+	10+	2	2	4	2	95	50	2	2	1.00	unlikely	located on dozer push; area very highly disturbed; very low potential for deposit
B20	A	B20	spur crest	gentle	<50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	10	5	3	3	9	3.6	40	40	3.6	4	1.11	possible	located within erosion scour near clearing on slope; area very highly disturbed; low potential for deposit
B20	B	B20	spur crest	gentle	<50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	100+	30+	100	60	6000	1200	20	20	11	0.01	possible	area highly disturbed; shallow deposit possible however of low archaeological potential; broad yet low density scatter	
B22	A	B22	spur crest	gentle	<50	2nd order	1	1, 5	A/B	high	20	20	2	2	4	1.2	30	30	1.2	2	1.67	unlikely	adjacent to large soil stockpiles

Vegetation: 1 = cleared (grass/crop); 3 = regrowth forest. Land Surface: 1 = sheet erosion, 5 = modified (eg. animals/vehicle track/earthworks)

APPENDIX 3: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE LITHIC ITEM DATABASE

Item #	Site #	Locus	Artefact #	Colour	Stone Material	Lithic Item Type	Size Class	Cortex Amount (%)	Cortex Type	Comments
1	B2	A	1	grey/red	silcrete	flake - longitudinal	4			
2	B16	A	1	yellow	silcrete	flake	4			2 scars
3	B18	A	1	grey	silcrete	flake - longitudinal	2			
4	B18	A	2	grey	silcrete	flake	3			2 metres south on track from B18 #A1
5	B18	B	1	red	silcrete	microblade - proximal	3			
6	B18	B	2	brown	tuff	flake	6	5	tab	1 m from B18 #B1; large bulb, primary flake
7	B18	B	3	grey	tuff	flake - medial	3			6 m from B18 #B2, on track
8	B18	C	1	grey	tuff	flake	2			
9	B18	D	1	brown	acid volcanic	flake	4	30	ww	
10	B18	D	2	brown	tuff	flake	3	10	ww	5 m south of B18 #D1 in grass
11	B18	D	3	grey/pink	silcrete	flake - longitudinal	5	10	ww	south east of B18 #D2 in grass; shattered flake on impact; partial ring crack remains
12	B18	D	4	grey	silcrete	flake	3			
13	B18	D	5	brown	tuff	core fragment	4			1 scar, 1 platform; next to B18 #D4 on track
14	B18	D	6	grey	silcrete	flake - distal	4			1 m south of B19 #D5 on track
15	B18	D	7	pink	silcrete	lithic fragment	4			6 m south of B18 #D6, clearing adjacent to track
16	B18	D	8	grey	silcrete	flake - proximal	3			7 m south of B18 #D7 clearing east of track
17	B18	E	1	red/brown	tuff	flake	3	10	ww	pebble cortex
18	B18	F	1	grey	silcrete	flake	2			
19	B19	A	1	brown	tuff	flake	3			
20	B19	A	2	grey/red	silcrete	flake	5			
21	B19	A	3	grey	silcrete	lithic fragment	3			
22	B19	B	1	brown	tuff	flake	5			
23	B19	C	1	brown	tuff	flake	4			
24	B19	C	2	brown	tuff	flake	3			15 m south east of B19 #C1
25	B19	C	3	brown	tuff	flake - longitudinal	4			10 m south east of B19 #C2
26	B19	D	1	red	silcrete	flake	6			primary flake
27	B19	D	2	red/brown	tuff	core fragment	5	5	terr	whole cortex
28	B19	D	3	grey	quartzite	flake	2			
29	B19	E	1	brown	tuff	flake	3			found on dozer push
30	B19	E	2	pink	silcrete	lithic fragment	4			60 m west of B19 #E1
31	B19	E	3	red	silcrete	flake	2			33 m west of B19 E2
32	B19	F	1	cream	tuff	flake	3			
33	B19	G	1	cream	tuff	flake - longitudinal	2			
34	B19	G	2	cream	tuff	flake	2			
35	B19	H	1	orange	silcrete	core	5			2 scars, 2 platforms
36	B19	H	2	red	silcrete	flake	5			
37	B20	A	1	red	silcrete	flake - longitudinal	3			
38	B20	A	2	red	silcrete	lithic fragment	5			
39	B20	A	3	grey	tuff	retouched flake	3			minor backing, retouch near butt, 10mm; tip snapped
40	B20	A	4	pink	silcrete	flake	3			
41	B20	B	1	red	silcrete	core	4			5 scars, 2 platforms, possible microblade core
42	B20	B	2	brown	silcrete	flake	3			next to B20 #B1
43	B20	B	3	red	silcrete	core	5			1 scar, 1 platform; heat affected
44	B20	B	4	grey	tuff	core fragment	4			white patination
45	B20	B	5	grey	silcrete	flake - longitudinal	3			
46	B20	B	6	cream	tuff	retouched piece	3			brown cortex; 5 small flake removals along a margin
47	B20	B	7	orange	silcrete	flake	3			
48	B20	B	8	grey/pink	silcrete	lithic fragment	2			
49	B20	B	9	grey	tuff	core	5			2 scars, 1 platform
50	B20	B	10	orange	silcrete	flake	4			on cleared area, 5 m west of stockpiles

Item #	Site #	Locus	Artefact #	Colour	Stone Material	Lithic Item Type	Size Class	Cortex Amount (%)	Cortex Type	Comments
51	B20	B	11	pink	silcrete	flake - medial	4			on cleared area
52	B22	A	1	grey	silcrete	core	4			2 scars, 1 platform
53	B22	A	2	grey	silcrete	flake - distal	2			

APPENDIX 4: PLATES



Plate 1: View southwest of totally modified open-cut workshop area, with negligible heritage potential.



Plate 2: Commencement of haul road in the S-Cut, which leads to the wash plant.

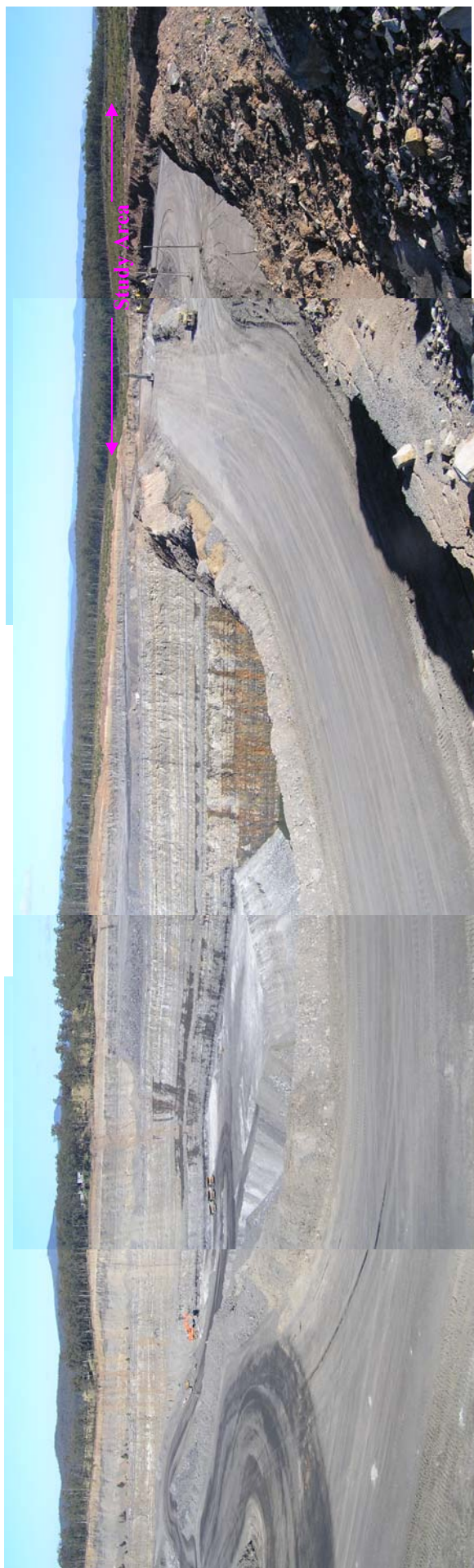


Plate 3: View south and west across the S-Cut and southwest portion of study area.



Plate 4: Panorama west to north across southwestern corner of study area to main ridge crest north of the S-Cut (tree line generally denotes western boundary of study area).



Plate 5: View north across Creek Cut.



Plate 6: View east over site B2/A to first order drainage depression (survey area B3).



Plate 7: View west over survey area B16 (moderate drainage depression) and site locus B16/A.



Plate 8: View south-southwest over site locus B18/A and survey area B18 (gentle drainage depression).



Plate 9: View northeast from locus B18/D to site loci B18/B and B18/C (S-Cut in rear of photo). Inset is artefact #2 from locus B18/B (tuff flake, maximum length 6cm).



Plate 10: View northeast over site locus B18/D.



Plate 11: View southeast over site locus B18/E.



Plate 12: View north over site locus B18/F.



Plate 13: View northeast over site locus B19/A.



Plate 14: View east over site locus B19/B and cleared/graded strip leading to the S-Cut (rear).



Plate 15: View over site locus B19/D on broad gentle spur crest.

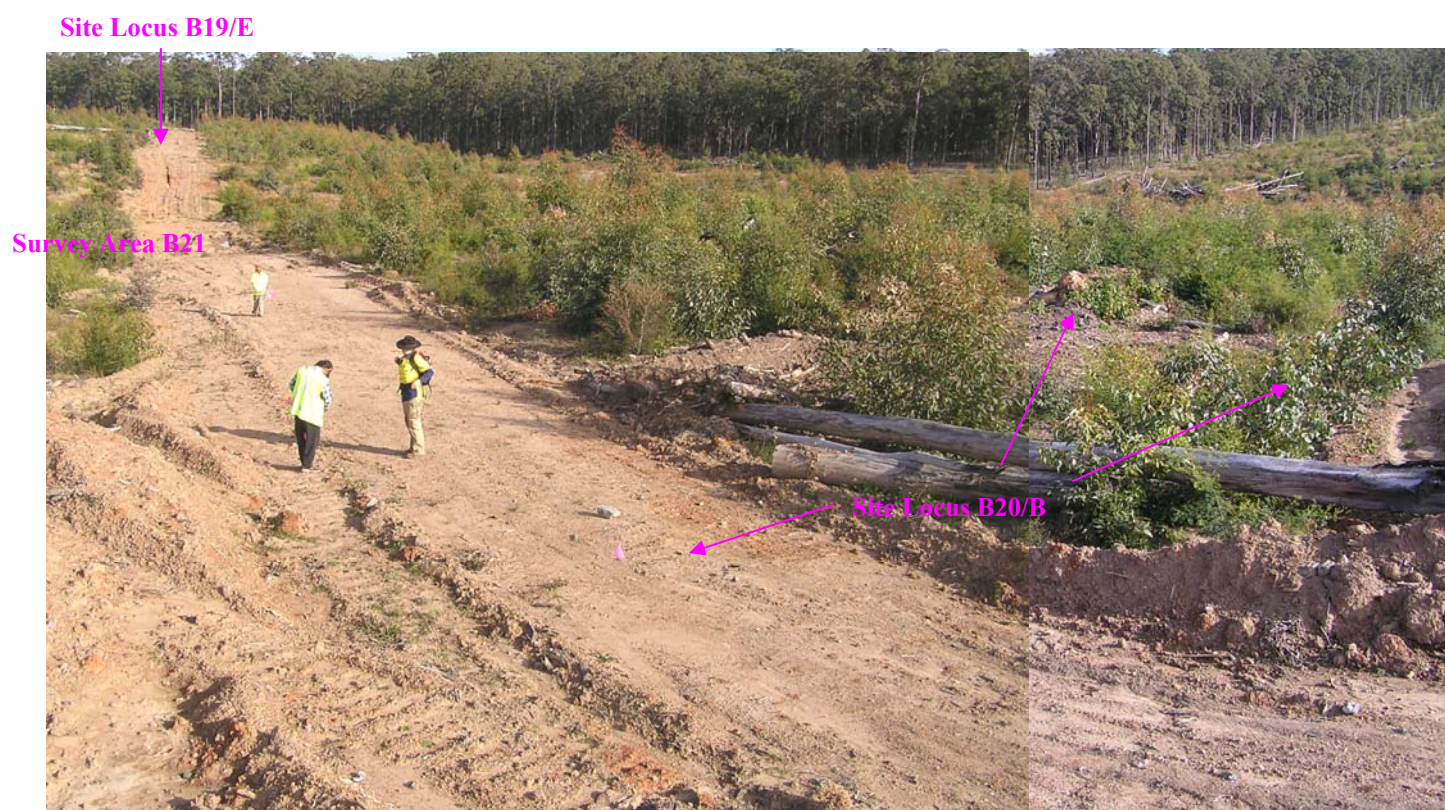


Plate 16: View northwest and west over site locus B20/B on gentle spur crest, survey area B21 (gentle drainage depression) and site locus B19/E on broad gentle spur crest.



Plate 17: View west over site locus B19/F on broad gentle spur crest, to drainage depression (survey area B24) and southwestern corner of study area (at edge of forest).



Plate 18: Site locus B19/G on broad gentle spur crest.



Plate 19: View northwest over site locus B19/H on broad gentle spur crest.



Plate 20: View northwest across site B20 loci A and B.



Plate 21: View southwest across site locus B22/A on gentle spur crest.

APPENDIX 5: ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Consultation Database:

Date	Person Contacted	Organisation	How Contacted	Contacted By	Organisation	Description
9/5/07	Rick Griffiths, Coordinator	Mindaribba LALC	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
9/5/07	Joe Woodward	Exec. Director Operations, DECC	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
9/5/07	Megan Mebberson	Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
9/5/07	General Manager	Cessnock City Council	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
9/5/07	CEO	NSW Native Title Services	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
14/5/07	General Public	-	Advertisement	P. Kuskie	SEA	Advertisement placed in Public Notices section of Maitland Mercury calling for interested Aboriginal persons/groups to register an interest in the project.
14/5/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Fax	Rick Griffiths	Mindaribba LALC	Registered interest in the assessment.
14/5/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Letter	Brendon Diacono	DECC North East Zone	Responded to SEA request of 9/5/07 by advising that 26 Aboriginal groups and/or individuals in addition to the relevant LALC's should be contacted.
21/5/07	Manager	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Aboriginal Native Title Elders Consultants	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Darrel Matthews Heritage & Culture Consultants	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Giwiirr Consultants	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Hunter Valley Cultural Consultants	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Jimmy Woodger	Jimmy Woodger	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Lower Wonnarua Tribal Consultancy Pty Ltd	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy

Date	Person Contacted	Organisation	How Contacted	Contacted By	Organisation	Description
21/5/07	Manager	Mimagen Wajaar Pty Ltd	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Mur-Roo-Ma Inc	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	St Clair Singleton Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Wonnaruah Elders Council	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Valley Culture	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Wanaruah Custodians	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Wattaka Wonnarua C.C. Service	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Wonnarua Culture Heritage	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Wonnarua Nations Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Wonnarua Tribal Council Incorporated/ Wonnaruah Elders Council	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Yamuloong Group Initiatives Ltd	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Yarrowalk Enterprises	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
21/5/07	Manager	Yarnteem Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official request to notify of Aboriginal stakeholders/register interest as per DECC policy
28/5/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Email	Scott Franks	Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Solutions	Registered interest in the assessment.
28/5/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Fax	Gordon Griffiths	Wonnarua Culture Heritage	Registered interest in the assessment.
31/5/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Email	Shane Frost	Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Registered interest in the assessment.
1/6/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Letter	Megan Mebberson	Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act	Responded to SEA request of 9/5/06 by advising that there are no Registered Aboriginal Owners for this area.
1/6/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Letter	Kerry Brauer	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Registered interest in the assessment.
6/6/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Telephone	Ann Hickey	Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Ann left message to say wanted to register an interest, despite being past required date, and would fax registration immediately.
14/6/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Letter	Lea-Anne Ball	Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Registered interest in the assessment.

Date	Person Contacted	Organisation	How Contacted	Contacted By	Organisation	Description
14/6/07	Rick Griffiths, Coordinator	Mindaribba LALC	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official notification of and request for comment on proposed investigation methodology as per DECC policy and provision of Bloomfield's Selection Criteria for completion with supporting documentation (eg. insurance) for those registrants wishing to be considered for participation in paid field inspections.
14/6/07	Ann Hickey	Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official notification of and request for comment on proposed investigation methodology as per DECC policy and provision of Bloomfield's Selection Criteria for completion with supporting documentation (eg. insurance) for those registrants wishing to be considered for participation in paid field inspections.
14/6/07	Kerry Brauer	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official notification of and request for comment on proposed investigation methodology as per DECC policy and provision of Bloomfield's Selection Criteria for completion with supporting documentation (eg. insurance) for those registrants wishing to be considered for participation in paid field inspections.
14/6/07	Shane Frost	Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official notification of and request for comment on proposed investigation methodology as per DECC policy and provision of Bloomfield's Selection Criteria for completion with supporting documentation (eg. insurance) for those registrants wishing to be considered for participation in paid field inspections.
14/6/07	Scott Franks	Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Solutions	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official notification of and request for comment on proposed investigation methodology as per DECC policy and provision of Bloomfield's Selection Criteria for completion with supporting documentation (eg. insurance) for those registrants wishing to be considered for participation in paid field inspections.
14/6/07	Gordon Griffiths	Wonnarua Culture Heritage	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official notification of and request for comment on proposed investigation methodology as per DECC policy and provision of Bloomfield's Selection Criteria for completion with supporting documentation (eg. insurance) for those registrants wishing to be considered for participation in paid field inspections.
14/6/07	Lea-Anne Ball	Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Official notification of and request for comment on proposed investigation methodology as per DECC policy and provision of Bloomfield's Selection Criteria for completion with supporting documentation (eg. insurance) for those registrants wishing to be considered for participation in paid field inspections.

Date	Person Contacted	Organisation	How Contacted	Contacted By	Organisation	Description
18/6/07	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Fax	Rick Griffiths, Coordinator	Mindaribba LALC	Sent response to selection criteria and indicated satisfaction with proposed survey methodology, apart from noting that procedures relating to the identification of skeletal material were not covered.
25/6/07	P. Kuskie	SEA	Letter	Kerry Brauer	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Responded to methodology and selection criteria by stating that the methodology appears comprehensive. Noted Awabakal spiritual connection with the land and that the project area is within Awabakal cultural boundaries.
9/7/07	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Fax	Gordon Griffiths	Wonnarua Culture Heritage	Sent response to selection criteria and indicated satisfaction with proposed survey methodology.
9/7/07	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Fax	Lea-Anne Ball	Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Sent response to selection criteria.
10/7/07	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Telephone	Arthur Fletcher		Arthur has only just found out about project, requested that we send relevant information.
10/7/07	Arthur Fletcher	Wonn 1 Sites Officer	Fax	P. Kuskie	SEA	As per request, faxed Arthur proposed investigation methodology and Bloomfield's Selection Criteria.
16/7/07	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Fax	Arthur Fletcher	Wonn 1 Sites Officer	Sent response to selection criteria and methodology, outside of required time-frame and without earlier registration of interest.
16/7/07	Rick Griffiths, Coordinator	Mindaribba LALC	Meeting	John Richards	Bloomfield	Discussed project, arranged LALC involvement in survey.
17/7/07	Rick Griffiths, Coordinator	Mindaribba LALC	Telephone	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Discussed project, arranged LALC involvement in survey.
17/7/07	Rick Griffiths, Coordinator	Mindaribba LALC	Email	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Confirmed survey arrangements.
18/7/07	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Email	Scott Franks	Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Solutions	Enquired re start date of fieldwork.
30/7/07	Jason Brown, Guy Patten	Mindaribba LALC	Fieldwork	Peter Kuskie, Caroline Ingram	SEA	Field survey of Bloomfield Extension area.
31/7/07	Jason Brown, Guy Patten	Mindaribba LALC	Fieldwork	Peter Kuskie, Caroline Ingram	SEA	Field survey of Bloomfield Extension area.
1/8/07	Steven Talbot, Kelly Griffiths	Mindaribba LALC	Fieldwork	Peter Kuskie, Caroline Ingram	SEA	Field survey of Bloomfield Extension area.
2/8/07	Steven Talbot, Kelly Griffiths	Mindaribba LALC	Fieldwork	Peter Kuskie, Caroline Ingram	SEA	Field survey of Bloomfield Extension area.
2/8/07	Rick Griffiths, Coordinator	Mindaribba LALC	Meeting	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Discussed survey results.
23/11/07	Steve Dunn	Bloomfield Colliery	Fax	Lea-Anne Ball	Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Lea-Anne expressed displeasure at not being involved in the field survey and not having received a draft report to provide comment on. Lea-Anne noted significance of the area to Wonnarua people and requested the opportunity to conduct a field survey of the area and develop a management plan for the artefacts found. Lea-Anne noted that until this occurs her organisation would oppose any s90 application.
18/12/07	Rick Griffiths, Coordinator	Mindaribba LALC	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Sent copy of draft report with request for comment by 14 January 2008.

Date	Person Contacted	Organisation	How Contacted	Contacted By	Organisation	Description
18/12/07	Arthur Fletcher	Wonn 1 Sites Officer	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Sent copy of draft report with request for comment by 14 January 2008.
18/12/07	Shane Frost	Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Sent copy of draft report with request for comment by 14 January 2008.
18/12/07	Kerry Brauer	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Sent copy of draft report with request for comment by 14 January 2008.
18/12/07	Ann Hickey	Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Sent copy of draft report with request for comment by 14 January 2008.
18/12/07	Scott Franks	Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Solutions	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Sent copy of draft report with request for comment by 14 January 2008.
18/12/07	Gordon Griffiths	Wonnarua Culture Heritage	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Sent copy of draft report with request for comment by 14 January 2008.
18/12/07	Lea-Anne Ball	Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Letter	P. Kuskie	SEA	Sent copy of draft report with request for comment by 14 January 2008.
14/1/08	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Email	Rick Griffiths	Mindaribba LALC	Asked for time extension for response, only just received report.
14/1/08	Rick Griffiths	Mindaribba LALC	Email	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Time extension granted.
18/1/08	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Telephone	Kerry Brauer	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Enquired re draft report and asked for one week time extension to provide comment. Extension granted.
20/1/08	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Letter	Kerry Brauer	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Commented on draft report. Recognised comprehensive nature of assessment but expressed concern that sites may not have been located during the time allocated for the survey and may still occur within the area. Expressed desire for final say in relocation and storage of any artefacts retrieved and recommended should further objects be identified, work should cease until an assessment and salvage is undertaken. Recommended reference to Threlkeld and disputed Tindale's assessment of tribal boundaries. Asserted that the Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2006 specifies that persons with a cultural association with the land within the area of the LALC concerned must be consulted.
29/1/08	Peter Kuskie	SEA	Letter	Rick Griffiths	Mindaribba LALC	Commented on draft report. Indicated satisfaction with report and survey procedures. Endorsed recommendations of report and requested that scope be provided to review and amend the management plan where necessary, ongoing consultation occurs with the LALC and plant operators and staff are inducted with respect to cultural heritage.

Relevant Correspondence:



Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council

Phone: 49348511

Fax: 49348544

PO Box 401

East Maitland NSW 2323

1A Chelmsford Dr.

Melford NSW 2323

A.B.N 8282 6020 881

Fax Transmission

To: South East Archaeology

From: Rick Griffiths

Fax: 62604439

Re: Bloomfield Colliery

Pages (Pages include cover Sheet)

Comments:

<p>Reply in reply to your letter dated 9.5.07 re. M.L.A.L.C. request to be consulted in paid capacity on this project. We are familiar with the area and have staff who have most knowledge of the area. Please phone me if you require any additional information.</p>
<p><u>Rick Griffiths</u> Rick Griffiths C.E.O M.L.A.L.C</p>

Your reference: : Peter J Kuskie
Our reference: BD:WS.DOC07/17718
Contact: Brendan Diacono
Date: 14 MAY 2007

The Managing Director
South East Archaeology Pty Ltd
24 Bamford Street
HUGHES ACT 2605

Dear Sir

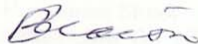
**ISSUE: WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL AS REQUIRED UNDER DECC INTERIM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS – OPEN CUT COAL
MINING OPERATIONS AT BLOOMFIELD COLLIERY**

I refer to your letter dated 9 May 2007 to the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) regarding the above matter.

Attached is the list of known Aboriginal parties that DECC feels is likely to have an interest in your development. Please note this list is not necessarily an exhaustive list of all interested Aboriginal parties and receipt of this list does not remove the requirement of a proponent/consultant to advertise in local print media and contact other bodies seeking interested Aboriginal parties, in accordance with the Interim Requirements.

If you wish to discuss any of the above matters further please contact Fiona Hamilton, Senior Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Planning and Aboriginal Heritage Planning Section, on (02) 6659 8272.

Yours sincerely



BRENDAN DIACONO
Manager, Planning and Aboriginal Heritage - North East
Climate Change & Environment Protection

The Department of Environment and Conservation NSW is now known as
the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW

Locked Bag 914, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Federation House Level 7, 24 Moonee Street,
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Tel: (02) 6651 5946 Fax: (02) 6651 6187
ABN 30 841 387 271
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Department of **Environment and Conservation** NSW



ATTACHMENT 1

ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (OTHER THAN LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCILS) ON HUNTER VALLEY AREA THAT THE DEC HAS WRITTEN TO IN REGARD TO THE 'INTERIM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS'.

Aboriginal Native Title Elders Consultants 31 Mitchell Street MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333	St Clair Singleton Aboriginal Corporation PO Box 710 SINGLETON NSW 2330
Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc 76 Lang Street KURRI KURRI NSW 2327	Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation PO Box 3095 SINGLETON NSW 2330
Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation PO Box 168 KURRI KURRI NSW 2328	Wonnaruah Elders Council PO Box 184 SINGLETON NSW 2330
Darrel Matthews Heritage & Culture Consultants 33 Adam Street MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333	Valley Culture 140 Sydney Street MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333
Giwiirr Consultants 8 Fitzgerald Avenue MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333	Wanaruah Custodians PO Box 3066 Singleton Delivery Centre SINGLETON NSW 2330
Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation PO Box 579 MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333	Wattaka Wonnarua C.C. Service 4 Kennedy Street SINGLETON NSW 2330
Hunter Valley Cultural Consultants 40 Humphries Street MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333	Wonnarua Culture Heritage 19 O'Donnell Crescent METFORD NSW 2323
Jimmy Woodger 7 Brougham Avenue FENNELL BAY NSW 2283	Wonnarua Nations Aboriginal Corporation Mr Glen Walker, Administrator Walker Reid PO Box 1379 Toowong, Qld, 4066
Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc. 142 Northcote Street KURRI KURRI NSW 2327	Wonnarua Tribal Council Incorporated/ Wonnaruah Elders Council PO Box 184 SINGLETON NSW 2330
Lower Wonnaruah Tribal Consultancy Pty Ltd 156 The Inlet Road BULGA NSW 2330	Yamuloong Group Initiatives Ltd PO Box 487 CARDIFF NSW 2285

Mimagen Wajaar Pty Ltd 7 Wybalena Close KILABEN BAY NSW 2283	Yarrowalk Enterprises PO Box 906 MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333
Mur-Roo-Ma Inc. 7 Vardon Road, FERN BAY NSW 2295	Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation PO Box 610 CARDIFF NSW 2285
Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation PO Box 253 Jesmond NSW 2299	Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation PO Box 38 Wallabadah, NSW 2343

Via email 28 May 2007.

Scott Franks
Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Solutions

(A subsidiary of Yarrawalk Enterprises)

Po Box 906

Muswellbrook

NSW 2333

P: 02 46773536

F: 02 46772096

M: 0422 175 839

E: yarrawalk@optusnet.com.au

28 May 2007

Peter j Kuskie
24 Bamford street
Hughes
ACT 2605
.

Dear Peter,

Please be advised that AHAS is seeking to be involved in the Open Cut Coal mining operations at Bloomfield Colliery as advised in your letter dated the 21st may 2007.

please find following AHAS's Statement of Capabilities for your information, i am at this stage having a graphic designer put together some promotional packages the one i have are set out for the hunter valley. let me know if this information will do if you require any further information do not hesitate to contact me.

yours Scott.

Statement of Capabilities

Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Solutions (AHAS), a subsidiary of Yarrawalk Enterprises, would like to offer an Aboriginal community liaison and facilitation service during cultural heritage assessments. currently we undertake a very similar process of Aboriginal consultation and facilitation in conjunction with a number of Environmental services providers for a wide range of mining companies and developers in the Hunter Valley with some success.

Through this recent experience of Aboriginal consultation and management in the Hunter Valley, we have well developed organisational skills, knowledge of the relevant stakeholders (both Aboriginal and the Department of Environment and Conservation), and report writing abilities. In addition, to ensure a professional service, we engage sub-consultants for technical expertise beyond our internal abilities. Furthermore, AHAS has a broad range of insurances to undertake this form of work including workers compensation, public liability and professional indemnity.

Through close ties with a number of archaeological and heritage professionals, AHAS can offer a complete package in relation to assessing, facilitating, managing and mitigation of Aboriginal and historic heritage issues during development and environmental planning. Recent examples of this approach, and our partnerships, can be viewed in our projects below. We are familiar with the required planning and assessment approval requirements in relation to heritage, as well as having ongoing knowledge and relationships with many of the State Government personnel involved in heritage regulation.

AHAS, better known as Yarrawalk, is one of the key Aboriginal organisations in the Hunter Valley, we have clear evidence of our relevance to the Valley through Native Title Services genealogy, we are a community based organisation, a registered Aboriginal corporation, and a benefactor to the local community (such as our substantial donations to Muswellbrook Hospital and Muswellbrook High School).

In relation to our experience, we have extensive knowledge of both Aboriginal communities and developers in the Greater Sydney Region and Hunter Valley, having practised cultural heritage management for over 10 years we have also established working relationship with earth moving company's and fencing contractors.

Recent projects that we have project managed (including sub-consultant engagement; stakeholder, State government and client liaison; invoicing; fieldwork; meetings; reporting) and undertaken include:

- United Collieries Pty Limited, Section 90 Application for Proposed Haul Road on United's Warkworth Lease, NSW, 2006
- Yore Contractors Pty Limited, Aboriginal heritage assessment for proposed residential redevelopment, Rowes, Muswellbrook, NSW, 2006
- Yore Contractors Pty Limited, Geomorphological assessment of Woodlands Ridge, Muswellbrook, NSW, 2006
- Cragg, Braye and Thornton Solicitors, Aboriginal heritage assessment of Lookout Estate, Singleton, NSW, 2006.

Other projects that we have been involved in as a fieldworker or site's officer include:

- Macquarie Generation, Antiene, NSW – Aboriginal Assessment and subsequent Cultural Heritage Management Plan of a proposed rail unloader.
- Coal and Allied, Bulga, NSW – Aboriginal survey, excavation and salvage for proposed West pit extension.
- Connell Wagner, Lochinvar, NSW – Aboriginal assessment and artefact collection of proposed sewage system.
- Coal and Allied, Warkworth, NSW – Aboriginal assessment, excavation and collection of a proposed mine extension.
- Coal and Allied, Mt Thorley, NSW - Aboriginal assessment, excavation and collection of a proposed mine extension and rail unloader.
- BHP Billiton, Mt Arthur, NSW - Aboriginal survey, excavation and collection of a proposed mine extension.

- Xtrata Plc, Beltana, NSW – Ongoing Aboriginal management program for impact of Beltana mine on the surrounding landscape.
- Sydney Gas, Bulga to Broke – Aboriginal assessment of 300 well locations across the Hunter Valley.
- Bickam Mine
- Centennial Coal Co. Ltd., Anvil Hill, NSW – Aboriginal assessment of proposed open cut mine.
- Macquarie Generation, Ravensworth, NSW – Aboriginal survey and excavations of proposed rail unloader.
- Department of Defence, Dochra, NSW – Aboriginal assessment of proposed air field extension.
- NewPac Coal Mine, Singleton, NSW – Aboriginal assessment, excavation and salvage of proposed overburden extension.
- Coal and Allied, Liddell, NSW – Aboriginal assessment and salvage of proposed open cut extension.
- Hence, AHAS has the capacity, capabilities and contacts to supervise and manage Aboriginal community consultation and facilitate projects, as well as offer and project manage heritage issues should they be required.

For clarification or further information, please contact me on 0422 175 839

Yours faithfully,

Scott Franks
Managing Director - AHAS

WONNARUA CULTURE HERITAGE

ABN: 50574123352

19 O'Donnell Crescent
Metford NSW 2800
4323

Mob: 0401028807

FAX

To: PETER From: W. CH. GORDON
Fax: 02 62 60 44 39 Pages: 1
Re: BLOOMFIELD COLLIERY Date: 28-5-07

TO PETER

WONNARUA CULTURE HERITAGE WOULD
LIKE TO BE CONSULTED AND INVOLVED
IN THE HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PROCESS
WHICH IS INVOLVED IN THE REHABILITATION
OF THE OPEN CUT MINE AT BLOOMFIELD
IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY MORE INFO
I CAN BE CONTACTED ON MY MOBILE
0401028807 COULD YOU GIVE ME A CALL
PETER.

KIND REGARDS

B Griffiths

Peter Kuskie

From: Shane Frost [awabakal_to@bigpond.com]
Sent: Thursday, 31 May 2007 6:59 PM
To: peter@southeastarchaeology.com.au
Subject: [Norton AntiSpam] Registration of interest in Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment for Bloomfield Collieries
Importance: High



ALLA (Hello in Awabakal) Peter,

I am writing to you to register our interest in the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment being conducted on land for Bloomfield Collieries.

We are as our name suggests the descendants of the traditional people that have called this area home for thousands of years, the Awabakal People. Our family was recorded by the Rev. L.E. Threlkeld when he made the first list/record ever made of the Aboriginal people of this Awabakal area in and around Newcastle and Lake Macquarie in 1828.

We are also an Aboriginal organisation registered within Australia by the Federal Government and are on the Department of Environment and Conservations (DEC's) list of Aboriginal contacts and organisations located within the Hunter region for this specific reason.

Among the many functions and activities that we are involved with also include attending many Aboriginal archaeological site surveys and cultural heritage assessments located within our traditional tribal country. We have much experience and take great pride in being involved to bring the knowledge that has been passed onto us from generation to generation about our traditional country and culture and also as an integral part of a team which brings a greater understanding of how our people lived and by the preservation of our culture and bringing recognition to Awabakal people by giving us our rightful place and voice in the community.

We would therefore register our interest with you and offer our services to participate in this Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of the study area at Bloomfield Collieries.

Peter my contact details - phone/fax/email are listed at the end of this email. Looking forward to your reply.

NGI NOA (Farewell in Awabakal)

Shane Frost

Chairman: Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

Email: awabakal_to@bigpond.com **Phone:** 49964325 **Fax:** 49964325 **Mobile:** 0428320671

This information is intended for the addressee only. The use, copying or distribution of this message or any information it contains, is prohibited by the sender.



CENTENNIAL PLAZA, TOWER B
LEVEL 13, 280 ELIZABETH STREET
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
P. 02 9219 0700 F. 02 9219 0770

Peter Kuskie
South East Archaeology Pty Ltd
24 Bamford Street
Hughes ACT 2605

Dear Peter

Re: **Request - Search for Registered Aboriginal Owners**

I refer to your letter dated 9 May 2007 advising of your intention to engage in a consultation process with Aboriginal stakeholders as part of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed completion and rehabilitation of open cut coal mining operations at Bloomfield Collieries in the lower Hunter Valley, NSW.

I apologise for the delay in responding.

I have searched the Register of Aboriginal Owners and the subject land does not have Registered Aboriginal Owners pursuant to Division 3 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW).

Regards

Megan Mebberson
Senior Project Officer (Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983)
Land Claims and Aboriginal Owners Register

1 June 2007

Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

P.O.Box Jesmond NSW 2299
Phone: (02) 49156947
Email: klbrauer@bigpond.com

RE: Expression of Interest for the Completion and Rehabilitation of the Open Cut Mining Operations at Bloomfield Colliery.

28 May 2007

Peter J. Kuskie
Managing Director
South East Archaeology Pty Ltd
24 Bamford Street
Hughes ACT 2605

Dear Peter,

As Traditional descendants of the land concerned, the Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation wishes to register our interest in the proposed Aboriginal Heritage Assessment as stake holders for the proposed archaeological investigation for the: Completion and Rehabilitation of the Open Cut Mining Operations at Bloomfield Colliery project.

We wish to comment on the cultural heritage being undertaken as participates in the assessment and consultation process of the proposed project.

For any further information please do not hesitate to call me on (02) 49156947 or 0412866357.

Yours sincerely,

Kerrie Brauer
Secretary and Public Officer

Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Incorporated

142 Northcote Street, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327

Ph: 0418626377 Fax: 0249372425

ABN: 14 937 663 303

14/06/2007

RE: INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Bloomfield Mining Extension

To Whom It May Concern:

Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council would like to register our interests for the above mentioned assessment.

As the Traditional Owners and Registered Native Title claimants for this area we are traditionally the only people in this area that has any rights to speak for this country. We have been conducting Archaeological work in our country for the past 14 years, we have been involved in investigations from Blackhill to Murrurundi and out as far as Sandy Hollow. All our employee's are Aboriginal and are experienced in field work.

The above mentioned area is a sensitive area to the Wonnarua people due to its spiritual and physical significance.

If further information or clarification is needed I can be contacted on the number above or you can contact Thomas Miller on 49372694 or 0402636521.

Yours truly,



Lea-Anne Ball (Miller)
Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc.



Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council

Phone: 49348511

Fax: 49348544

PO Box 401
East Maitland NSW 2323

1A Chelmsford Dr.
Metford NSW 2323

A.B.N 8282 6020 881

Peter Kuskie
South East Archaeology
24 Bamford Street
Hughes ACT 2605

Re: Bloomfield Colliery

Dear Peter,

In reply to your Aboriginal Impact Heritage Assessment on the above project, and the proposed Investigation Methodology you have submitted for comment.

In reading this report you have covered everything except should burials or skeletal remains are uncovered, but I am sure this can be easily addressed.

We're in total agreement with the rest of your methods.

Should you wish to discuss this please phone me on the number provided.

Yours faithfully

Rick Griffiths
C.E.O.
18.6.07

BLOOMFIELD MINE EXTENSION - ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd will engage a suitable number of Aboriginal representatives (based on the scale and nature of the project), to assist with any field investigation for this project. If you wish to be considered for participation in any field investigation, please address the following selection criteria.

The following selection criteria will be used to assess proposals.

1. NETWORKS WITHIN THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY AND ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

eg: LALC, Registered Native Title Claimant, recognised Community Elder/Leader (provide details)

Yindjibarndi LALC has and does represent many broad sections of Aboriginal communities within Maitland & Beaumont LGA.

We have 460 members from within those areas.

2. KNOWLEDGE, RELATIONSHIP AND ASSOCIATION TO THE LOCAL COUNTRY: (provide details)

~~We~~ We have traditional dancers who have vast knowledge of the country. M. LALC has been involved extensively with nearly all projects we have very good understanding of the area and long standing association with the area. Many of our people are considered knowledge holders of the area.

3. EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING CULTURAL HERITAGE ADVICE – Nominate key individuals who may participate in any field investigation and their relevant experience.	
Name	Stephen Talbot.
Experience	Has 20 years experience in Culture & Heritage work. Has provided advice to consulting Archaeologists over long period of time
Name	Pete Griffiths
Experience	Has work in this area for many years and been involved with major site work. Has provided advice to Arch & Geot Dept
4. PRICE (per person)	Full Day \$ 660 incl GST Hourly Rate incl GST
5. INSURANCE	Provide copies of current insurance policies (Public Liability, Worker Compensation)

Please note the following:

- If all information is not supplied then the proposal may not be accepted.
- Please attach additional information and details as required.
- Participants are required to comply with all Bloomfield Colliery management, mine plan and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. The following safety equipment will generally be required for field inspections (participants without the appropriate safety equipment will not be permitted on-site):
 - ☐ Steel capped boots;
 - ☐ Sun protection and appropriate clothing;
 - ☐ Safety vest;
 - ☐ Eye protection;
 - ☐ Hard hat;
- Copies of all insurances, certificates, licences, etc will need to be provided and accepted by Bloomfield Collieries prior to participating in any site inspection.

Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

P.O.Box 253 Jesmond NSW 2299

Phone: (02) 49156 947

Mobile: 0412866357

Email: klbrauer@bigpond.com

ABN: 90 203 408 309

25 June 2007

Attention: Peter J. Kuskie
Managing Director,
South East Archaeology Pty Ltd.
24 Bamford Street
Hughes ACT 2605

**Re: Completion and Rehabilitation of Open Cut Coal Mining Operations at
Bloomfield Colliery - Aboriginal Heritage Assessment - Notification of and
Request for Comment on Proposed Investigation Methodology.**

Dear Peter,

The proposed investigation Methodology appears comprehensive.

The Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation members are descendants of the Awabakal People and accordingly have a spiritual connection and association with our cultural boundary. The Open Cut Coal Mining Operations at Bloomfield Colliery is situated within the Awabakal Cultural Boundary.

- The Awabakal Descendants are recognised as the Traditional Owners within the Aboriginal and wider communities and adjoining Indigenous Nations
- We are a registered Aboriginal Corporation
- We are registered with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)

The principal vision and aims of the Awabakal people is to protect the cultural heritage of our ancestors. Therefore the residual evidence of our people is held in high degree and is regarded as a cultural reminder that unites us with our country and spirituality.

This cultural environment is a holistic one that interconnects our spirituality and land to our peoples past, present and future. Today, the descendants of the Awabakal People believe now more than ever, that it is essential to nurture new visions that are inspired by the cultural integrity of their ancestral family.

Our history has been a well-documented one, with the most reliable information relayed by our peoples first hand, and also supplemented by non-Indigenous observation and interpretation. This region is full of meaningful cultural reminders that speak to the present day through the Awabakal Creation Stories, Language and Art. The principles of traditional culture are there to keep intact the moral and spiritual fibre of Aboriginal People to survive in the land of their Ancestors.

We reserve the right and reluctance to share our cultural heritage with others in respect to aspects of the cultural significance that connects us to our country. It is believed by our people that those who shouldn't be privy to this cultural knowledge have no rights or entitlements to it.

Experience

Kerrie Brauer and Dene Hawken completed an Aboriginal Sites Training Course Certificate from The Department of Environment and Conservation. Our site officers have also obtained their Workcover OHS Construction Induction Training Certification.

Site Rates

The Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation site officer daily rates are \$1,000.00 plus GST; this cost includes 1 or 2 site officers and a written report and or a notice of participation depending on the assessment.

Insurance

Allianz Australia Insurance Ltd - Public Liability Policy No 12A004526COM
QBE Ltd – Workers Compensation Policy No NFE007099GWC

For any further information please do not hesitate to call me on (02) 49156947 or 0412866357.

Yours sincerely,



Kerrie Brauer
Secretary and Public Officer

WONNARUA CULTURE HERITAGE

ABN: 50574123352

19 O'Donnell Crescent
Metford NSW 2330
2323

Mob: 0401028807

FAX

To: PETER KUSKIE From: W.C.H. GORDON

Fax: _____ Pages: _____

Re: _____ Date: _____

PETER

We can only hope that this is enough
information for you. And look forward to
working with you if selected for

this project if you could give me a

call on 0401028807 it would be appreciated

Kind
Lind Regavels

L. Griffiths

YOUR IN STRUGGLE

P.S. W.C.H. also agree fully and solely with
the methodology

BLOOMFIELD MINE EXTENSION - ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd will engage a suitable number of Aboriginal representatives (based on the scale and nature of the project), to assist with any field investigation for this project. If you wish to be considered for participation in any field investigation, please address the following selection criteria.

The following selection criteria will be used to assess proposals.

1. NETWORKS WITHIN THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY AND ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

eg: LALC, Registered Native Title Claimant, recognised Community Elder/Leader (provide details)

Wannarua Culture Heritage has established strong links with other Aboriginal groups over Culture Heritage goes back a long way so I am also recognised in the community. I am also a member of the Local Aboriginal Council known as Mandaribla and have strong ties with the Warrumbidgee LALC. Upper Hunter Heritage if you need any more info I will be only to glad to assist you my phone number is 0491028807

2. KNOWLEDGE, RELATIONSHIP AND ASSOCIATION TO THE LOCAL COUNTRY: (provide details)

My relationship to Wannarua land goes back to my ancestors who were born and bred at Stanford also Beale's Creek at Singleton and Burning Mountain. My association also goes back to Mandaribla LALC and also to have a strong association with Mandaribla Local Aboriginal Council I am one of the founding members of the Council and I was the C.E.O. at one time.

3. EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING CULTURAL HERITAGE ADVICE – Nominate key individuals who may participate in any field investigation and their relevant experience.	
Name	JOSEPH GRIFFITHS
Experience	Joseph has been doing culture and Heritage work a number of years just to name a few. MURIEL, H. L.A. and also South East archaeology. He has done numerous work in the field and is well respected in the community.
Name	Randall Griffiths Shamman Griffiths
Experience	Shamman is a very strong young man who has a strong background in his culture and has done this sort of work for a while now. I think you will be very well as far as your relationship with this country.
4. PRICE (per person)	Full Day 100 \$520 incl GST Hourly Rate 65 incl GST
5. INSURANCE	Provide copies of current insurance policies (Public Liability, Worker Compensation)

Please note the following:

- If all information is not supplied then the proposal may not be accepted.
- Please attach additional information and details as required.
- Participants are required to comply with all Bloomfield Colliery management, mine plan and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. The following safety equipment will generally be required for field inspections (participants without the appropriate safety equipment will not be permitted on-site):
 - ☐ Steel capped boots;
 - ☐ Sun protection and appropriate clothing;
 - ☐ Safety vest;
 - ☐ Eye protection;
 - ☐ Hard hat;
- Copies of all insurances, certificates, licences, etc will need to be provided and accepted by Bloomfield Collieries prior to participating in any site inspection.

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The following selection criteria will be used to assess proposals.

1. NETWORKS WITHIN THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY AND ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

eg: LALC, Registered Native Title Claimant, recognised Community Elder/Leader (provide details)

We are the Lower Hunter
Wonnarua Council Inc. Our
Elder and Chairman Mr Thomas
Miller is only one of two
Registered Native Title Claimants
in the Hunter Valley NC 95/8
and NC 02/7.

2. KNOWLEDGE, RELATIONSHIP AND ASSOCIATION TO THE LOCAL COUNTRY: (provide details)

We are not only the Registered
Native Title Claimants for this area
we are also the Traditional Owners.
We are the only group who have
the right traditionally to speak
about this area, Wonnarua country.
We have been participating in Aboriginal
Archaeology throughout the Hunter Valley
the last 14 years.

3. EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING CULTURAL HERITAGE ADVICE – Nominate key individuals who may participate in any field investigation and their relevant experience.	
Name	Thomas Miller
Experience	Wonnarua Elder and Registered Native Title Claimant. Field Experience in all aspect of Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Knowledge of all Social, Cultural Aspects
Name	Dean Miller
Experience	Wonnarua Desendant Field Experience in Surveys and Archaeological Excavations and Monitoring.
4. PRICE (per person)	Full Day \$605 incl GST Hourly Rate incl GST
5. INSURANCE	Provide copies of current insurance policies (Public Liability, Worker Compensation)

Please note the following:

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- Please attach additional information and details as required.
- Participants are required to comply with all Bloomfield Colliery management, mine plan and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. The following safety equipment will generally be required for field inspections (participants without the appropriate safety equipment will not be permitted on-site):
 - ☐ Steel capped boots;
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 - ☐ Safety vest;
 - ☐ Eye protection;
 - ☐ Hard hat;
- Copies of all insurances, certificates, licences, etc will need to be provided and accepted by Bloomfield Collieries prior to participating in any site inspection.

Wonn 1 Sites Officer
Arthur Fletcher
Fieldworker

619 Main Road Glendale
NSW 2285
Phone: (02) 49173008
Fax: (02) 49547751
Mobile: 0402146193
Wonn1@ozemail.com.au
ABN: 71 525 818 602

July 15, 2007

Attn: Peter Kuskie
South East Archaeology
24 Bramford Street
Hughes ACT 2605

Dear Peter,

RE: Expression of Interest: Bloomfield Mine Extension

I would like to express my interest in the above study as a fieldworker and as an aboriginal consultant for the aforementioned project. I am a local Aboriginal man of Wonnarua decent who has a continued vested cultural interest in the area and would like to participate in any discussion/work/consultation that occurs in connection to the project.

My rates are as follows (Half Day Minimum)

Hourly	\$54.00
Half Day	\$216.00
Full Day	\$432.00
Travel	\$50.00 per day

All prices are **exclusive** of GST

I have all relevant insurances in place, and would appreciate an opportunity to be involved with the fieldwork being conducted in associated with this project.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions associated with the project, and I would appreciate any information you could provide me.

Yours Sincerely,
a.c Fletcher

Arthur Fletcher
Fieldworker Wonn1 Contracting

BLOOMFIELD MINE EXTENSION - ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd will engage a suitable number of Aboriginal representatives (based on the scale and nature of the project), to assist with any field investigation for this project. If you wish to be considered for participation in any field investigation, please address the following selection criteria.

The following selection criteria will be used to assess proposals.

1. NETWORKS WITHIN THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY AND ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

eg: LALC, Registered Native Title Claimant, recognised Community Elder/Leader (provide details)

Member of Wonnarua Nation - Registered
Recognised Descendent of documented
Traditional land owner - Sarah Madoo-Wonnarua
Keppa Keppa Elder
West Lakes Elders

2. KNOWLEDGE, RELATIONSHIP AND ASSOCIATION TO THE LOCAL COUNTRY: (provide details)

Man of Wonnarua Decent
Lived in hunter valley area all life (53 years)
Actively pursuing and living aboriginal culture

3. EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING CULTURAL HERITAGE ADVICE – Nominate key individuals who may participate in any field investigation and their relevant experience.	
Name	Arthur Charles Fletcher *
Experience	Benny Anderson (5 years exp) fieldwork Mindaribla LALC Suzie Worth (Arch) – fieldwork Cites Hamm – Wells Environmental Services – fieldwork ABORIGINAL SITES COURSES (incl TAFE)
Name	N/A
Experience	N/A
4. PRICE (per person)	
Full Day	\$432 + \$50/day travel ^{ex} GST
Hourly Rate	\$54/hr. ^{ex} GST
5. INSURANCE Provide copies of current insurance policies (Public Liability, Worker Compensation) faxed with.	

Please note the following:

- If all information is not supplied then the proposal may not be accepted.
- Please attach additional information and details as required.
- Participants are required to comply with all Bloomfield Colliery management, mine plan and Occupational Health and Safety requirements. The following safety equipment will generally be required for field inspections (participants without the appropriate safety equipment will not be permitted on-site):
 - ☐ Steel capped boots;
 - ☐ Sun protection and appropriate clothing;
 - ☐ Safety vest;
 - ☐ Eye protection;
 - ☐ Hard hat;
- Copies of all insurances, certificates, licences, etc will need to be provided and accepted by Bloomfield Collieries prior to participating in any site inspection.

Shop2 145 Lang Street
Kurri Kurri
NSW 2327
Phone: 0249372455
Fax: 0249372455

**Lower Hunter Wonnarua
Council**

Fax

To:	Steve Dunn	From:	Lea-Anne Ball
Fax:	0249338940	Date:	November 23, 2007
Phone:	49372455	Pages:	3
Re:	Aboriginal Heritage Assessment	CC:	

☐ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☒ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

•Comments:

Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council

Shop 2 145 Lang Street Kurri Kurri, NSW 2327

PH/Fax: 0249372455 Mobile: 0447266590

Email: lhwc@Bigpond.com

ABN: 14 937 663 303

Steve Dunn
Bloomfield Coal
Four mile Creek
Ashtonfield NSW 2323
Fax: 49338940

RE: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Dear Steve,

The purpose of this letter is to express our concerns in regards to the above mentioned assessment conducted by Peter Kuskie of Southeast Archaeology and Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council. We are the traditional Owners/ Custodians prior to European Settlement and the establishment of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1983). We are the Registered Native Title Claimants (NC 02/7, Federal Court File No. NSD 008/02) for the Hunter Valley, we are the only body that traditionally has any rights to provide comment on the Social and Cultural values and significance of the area.

To date we have not received any correspondence from Bloomfield Coal in regards to participation or commenting on any reports for the above mentioned investigation.

Due to being excluded from the Filed Survey we will not be able to provide an informed opinion of the Social and Cultural values. However this area is of significance to Wonnarua people which is supported by previously located significant Aboriginal Sites in the close proximity of the assessment area.

Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council are requesting the opportunity to conduct a Field Survey of the above mentioned assessment area, and develop a Management Plan in regards to the Aboriginal Artefacts located during the previous assessment by Southeast Archaeology and Mindaribba Land Council.

Until such time as we are provided with this opportunity we will dispute all Section 90 Consent to Destroy applications to Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

Your urgent response to this matter will be greatly appreciated. For further information I can be contacted on the numbers above or you can contact Thomas Miller on 0402636521.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Ball'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lea-Anne Ball (nee Miller)
Coordinator

Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

P.O.Box 253 Jesmond NSW 2299

Phone: (02) 49156 947

Mobile: 0412866357

Email: klbrauer@bigpond.com

ABN: 90 203 408 309

ICN 4411

17 January 2008

Peter J. Kuskie
South East Archaeology Pty Ltd
24 Bamford Street Hughes ACT 2605

Re: Bloomfield Colliery, Hunter Valley, New South Wales: Completion of Mining and Rehabilitation Project- Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment

Dear Peter,

The principle vision and aims of the Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation is to protect the cultural heritage of our Awabakal ancestral family. Naturally any evidence of our people's presence and lifestyle is held in high regard as a cultural reminder that unites us with our country and spirituality. The Bloomfield Colliery site falls into this category.

With regard to the Draft Report for the Bloomfield Colliery, Hunter Valley, New South Wales: Completion of Mining and Rehabilitation Project - Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment, we recognise the evaluation by South East Archaeology Pty Ltd appears to be reasonably comprehensive.

The evidence found indicates a lifestyle of traditional occupation, and therefore demands the respect of the historical value that this particular area provides. Considering the proximity and number of recorded adjoining sites within the Hunter Valley area in which the Bloomfield Colliery is situated, the region possesses many culturally significant sites.

Although the assessment area has been modified, one would assume that given the thousands of years our people have occupied this area prior to colonisation, we cannot expect that Aboriginal artifacts or culturally significant sites would be located in the brief and limited period of time allocated for this survey.

We have concerns that the "unmodified area" had received considerable disturbance by the removal of the forest by earthmoving works stated in your report. Although

the forest was removed by existing approvals we feel that the Bloomfield Colliery is remiss in trying to assess Aboriginal Heritage by damaging the unmodified area. Although the examined area and environment suffers from the alteration by previous surface modification within the study area, this does not indicate that the area is devoid of any further artifacts that may be concealed beneath the surface.

Accordingly we suggest there are a number of possible strategies that can be implemented in the future that could help avoid adverse impact to the documented and potential Aboriginal cultural heritage as a number of our sites have previously been destroyed. The destruction of our cultural heritage sites can be avoided in the future through a consultation process with the traditional descendants of the Awabakal people to protect these valuable and significant historical imprints. In the event that Aboriginal objects are uncovered, it is recommended that work needs to cease until assessment and recovery is made.

The site activity prompts us to require specific site health 'triggers' that are put in place to monitor and protect the area surrounding the Bloomfield Colliery, Hunter Valley, Completion of Mining and Rehabilitation Project from any negative impact. It is critical that these triggers are agreed upon and positioned before any procedure occurs; and that any negative development requires certain actions to be carried out including immediately ceasing operations, notification to stakeholders and the development of a plan to mitigate, reverse or restore the site to it's current state.

The protection of all artifacts is crucial to the Awabakal descendants, and it is imperative to protect what unites us with our culture both physically and spiritually. Clearly this would require us to have final say in the relocation of any Aboriginal artifacts discovered that are associated with our people for the duration of the project. Any such material retrieved is protected by the NPW Act and is the subject of a separate archeological assessment and permit application. We reserve the right to obtain a collection permit for the artifacts retrieved.

The need for an obligation by Bloomfield Colliery for ongoing protection of the Aboriginal heritage found within the project site and surrounding Awabakal sites by *all* who will be associated with the proposed project. In the event that Aboriginal objects are uncovered, it is recommended that work needs to cease until assessment and recovery is made.

We also strongly suggest that the final report be referenced and supported by Australian Reminiscences & Papers of L.E. Threlkeld who was a missionary to the Aborigines of Lake Macquarie 1824-1859, in whose correspondence and accounts with the Awabakal people of the Hunter region are the earliest recorded.

We regard "Tindale's Tribes of the Hunter" used in the Draft Aboriginal Heritage Assessment of the Bloomfield Colliery as an indication of tribal boundaries is incorrect and a misleading document.

We would also like to bring to your attention that the Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2006 specifies that persons who have a cultural association with the land within the area of the Local Aboriginal Land Council concerned must be consulted. Therefore only receiving the draft report as part of your consultation with the Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation is in our view inappropriate.

Further, it would be remiss of me not to bring to your attention that there are a number of Wanaruah descendants claiming recognition as stakeholders who are positioning themselves within the Awabakal Cultural Boundary. We believe this claim needs critical attention and resolution prior to further developments. Naturally we will make ourselves available to review and discuss any supporting documented evidence of the Wanaruah boundary.

In closing, we reserve the right and reluctance to share our cultural heritage with others in respect to aspects of the cultural significance that connects us to our country. This environment interconnects our spirituality and land to our peoples past, present and future. The descendants of the Awabakal people believe now more than ever that it is essential to protect the cultural landscape of our ancestral family.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Brauer', with a checkmark at the end.

Kerrie Brauer
Secretary/Public Officer



Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council

Phone: 49348511

Fax: 49348544

**PO Box 401
East Maitland NSW 2323**

**1A Chelmsford Dr.
Metford NSW 2323**

A.B.N 8282 6020 881

Mr Peter Kuskie
South East Archaeology
24 Bamford St
Hughes ACT 2605

29.1.08

Dear Peter,

**Re: Draft Report on, Open Cut Coal
Mining Operations
Bloomfield Colliery
Aboriginal Cultural Assessment**

Thank you for the draft report on the above project in which Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council participated in the assessment process. Our representatives were Steve Talbot, Guy Patten, Kelly Griffiths and Jason Brown.

When reading your report it states that Part 3A Major Projects application for this Open Cut and Rehabilitation Works that approval has been granted by the Minister responsible.

Executive summary contain in your report, this section also points out that unmodified area which appears to be the major focus of the survey. This area has been heavily impacted upon and had soil carted in and then spread over the top.

This is largely due to the fact no archaeological materials were located or any other types of assessments have been required to be done since the mine commenced operating many years before most laws were introduced that requires extensive studies to be conducted on a project such as this.

Reading your report all the information on the major sites and large excavations has been conducted within this area. M.L.A.L.C. has been involved with work carried out by the consulting archaeologists or the majority of these projects.

This project is within close proximity to work conducted at Woods Gully, Blackhill, which resulted in a high yield of artefacts and is now used by many as a reference when doing work in this part of the Hunter?

Possibly there were potential for the same type of sites to exist in this location prior to clearing and scrubbing. Mindaribba LALC is happy with your comprehensive draft report and the way in which surface survey was conducted. From reading this draft report you have covered

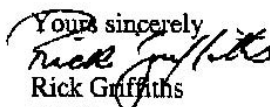
- **All the Statutory obligations required by the Department of Environment and Climate Control.**

In reading Point 9 there are a series of Management Strategies you have submitted which would form a basis for recommendations in your draft report. M.L.A.L.C. would like to support the proposed recommendation that would have the less impact on sites which were located during the survey conducted. Should this not be able to be achieved then our position is material should be collected, analysed then if approval granted retained by M.L.A.L.C.

Recommendations you have submitted are totally endorsed by Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council.

- The Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan is supported, however the scope to review the plan and amend when necessary by M.L.A.L.C. and the consulting Archaeologist.
- Ongoing consultation with M.L.A.L.C. prior to any new work being undertaken on this project is essential.
- Induction on Aboriginal Culture for Plant Operators and staff who are to perform earthworks on mine prior to commencement and during the life of the mine this should be an A.H.M.P. recommendation.

Should you wish to discuss this please contact me on the number provided.

Yours sincerely

Rick Griffiths
C.E.O.
M.L.A.L.C