

Aboriginal Heritage

Introduction

OzArk Environment & Heritage Pty Ltd (OzArk) prepared the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* (ACHAR) for the Project as exhibited. That report, referred to hereafter as OzArk (2024), is presented as Appendix 8 of the EIS and a summary is presented in Section 6.5 of the EIS.

Heritage NSW provided feedback on the ACHAR on 3 June 2024 stating that the Agency agreed with the proposed management measures and recommendations included in OzArk (2024) and provided recommendations in relation to draft conditions of consent.

OzArk have prepared an amended ACHAR for the Amended Project, presented as **Appendix 8a** and referred to hereafter as OzArk (2025). No additional surveys were undertaken, with the scope of the assessment limited to additional consultation with the Aboriginal community and reassessment of those sites that would be disturbed by the Amended Project.

Additionally, OzArk Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd (OzArk) prepared the Historic Heritage Assessment Report (HHAR) for the Project as exhibited. That report is presented as Appendix 13 of the EIS and a summary is presented in Section 6.12 of the EIS. OzArk have prepared an amended HHAR for the Amended Project, presented as **Appendix 8b**. The amended HHAR results in no changes to historic heritage as exhibited in the EIS and will therefore not be discussed further.

The following subsections provide a summary of those aspects of the assessment that have changed as a result of the proposed Amendment. Readers are referred to Sections 6.5.2 to 6.5.4 and 6.5.8 of the EIS for a summary of the existing environment, assessment methodology, assessment results and proposed avoidance, management and mitigation measures which remain unchanged. In addition, the Heritage Survey Area also remains unchanged and extends beyond the boundary of the Mine Site. Information in relation to sites of Aboriginal heritage significance outside the Mine Site is presented for the sake of completeness. The Amended Project would not result in disturbance of areas outside the Mine Site boundary

Amended Assessment of Impacts

Heritage Survey Area

OzArk (2024) identified 143 Aboriginal sites, of which all were identified by the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) as having high social or cultural value. Of these sites, 136 were assessed as having low scientific significance and seven were assessed as having moderate scientific significance. While the Amended Project provides no changes to the scientific significance of the identified sites, there is a reduction in the number of sites that would be disturbed by the Amended Project and therefore a change in management strategy of those sites.

Figures 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 and Table 6.5.1 identify the amended management of identified Aboriginal sites. In summary, OzArk (2024 and 2025) propose five management “groups” as follows.

- Group 1 = These sites are located within the proposed area of disturbance and would be salvaged through targeted surface artefact collection.
- Group 2 = These sites are located within the proposed area of disturbance and would be salvaged through surface artefact collection via walked transect.

- Group 3 = These sites are located within the proposed area of disturbance and would be salvaged through limited archaeological excavation of hearths for dating purposes.
- Group 4 = These sites are not located within or are partially located within the proposed area of disturbance but require management to be conserved in the landscape (e.g. fencing).
- Ungrouped – These sites are located at a distance from the proposed area of disturbance and therefore no further management is warranted.

The Amended Project would disturb 55 sites (reduced from 65 sites) and would avoid 88 sites (increased from 78 sites) (**Figure 6.5.1** and **6.5.2** and **Table 6.5.1**). Of the sites that would be disturbed, 54 would be totally impacted (reduced from 62 sites) and 1 partially impacted (reduced from 3 sites). Additionally, three sites that were previously unharmed but required a Group 4 management strategy no longer require a Group 4 management strategy as they are more than 50m from the Amended Limit of Disturbance.

The sites which would be impacted by the Amended Project consist of 32 isolated finds, 20 artefact scatters and three artefact scatters with hearths. **Table 6.5.1** provides an updated summary of the significance assessment, degree of harm and management strategy of all 143 sites recorded within the Heritage Survey Area. Those sites which would no longer be disturbed, or which require a reduced level of management are shaded grey.

Water Jelly

Finally, Section 6.5.2.4 of the EIS describes an “Aboriginal settlement” within Warwick Station known as “Water Jelly.” Goodfellow (2006) in her history of Nulla Station stated that in 1920, Nulla Nulla Station included Warwick Station. At that time, there was a need for an outstation the northern boundary of the property. A house was purchased and relocated to “the Waltragille Tank”. The Head Stockman, Mr Harry Mitchell, a local Barkindji man, resided in the residence with his wife Alice and 12 children. Goodfellow (2006) states that the Mitchell family lived in “their own tribal ways” and that the areas was known colloquially as “Water Jelly.” The family left the station prior to its sale, with the exact date of departure unclear. Mr Mitchell died in Ivanhoe in 1936 and the station was sold in 1946.

The EIS erroneously stated that the “Water Jelly” house is the present Warwick Homestead and that the Waltragille Tank is the dam close to the homestead. The Applicant has subsequently been advised by a former resident of Warwick Station that the actual location of “Water Jelly” is approximately 2km to the east of the Infrastructure Area. The Applicant has inspected the site which includes the remains of a fireplace and chimney, house yard fence and evidence of past occupation. With the exception of the fireplace, no structures remain standing.

“Water Jelly” is located outside the Heritage Survey Area and the Limit of Disturbance and would not be disturbed by the Project. The Applicant has erected a temporary barrier to protect the site from inadvertent disturbance and will liaise with the descendants of Mr Mitchell in relation to ongoing protection and documentation of the site.

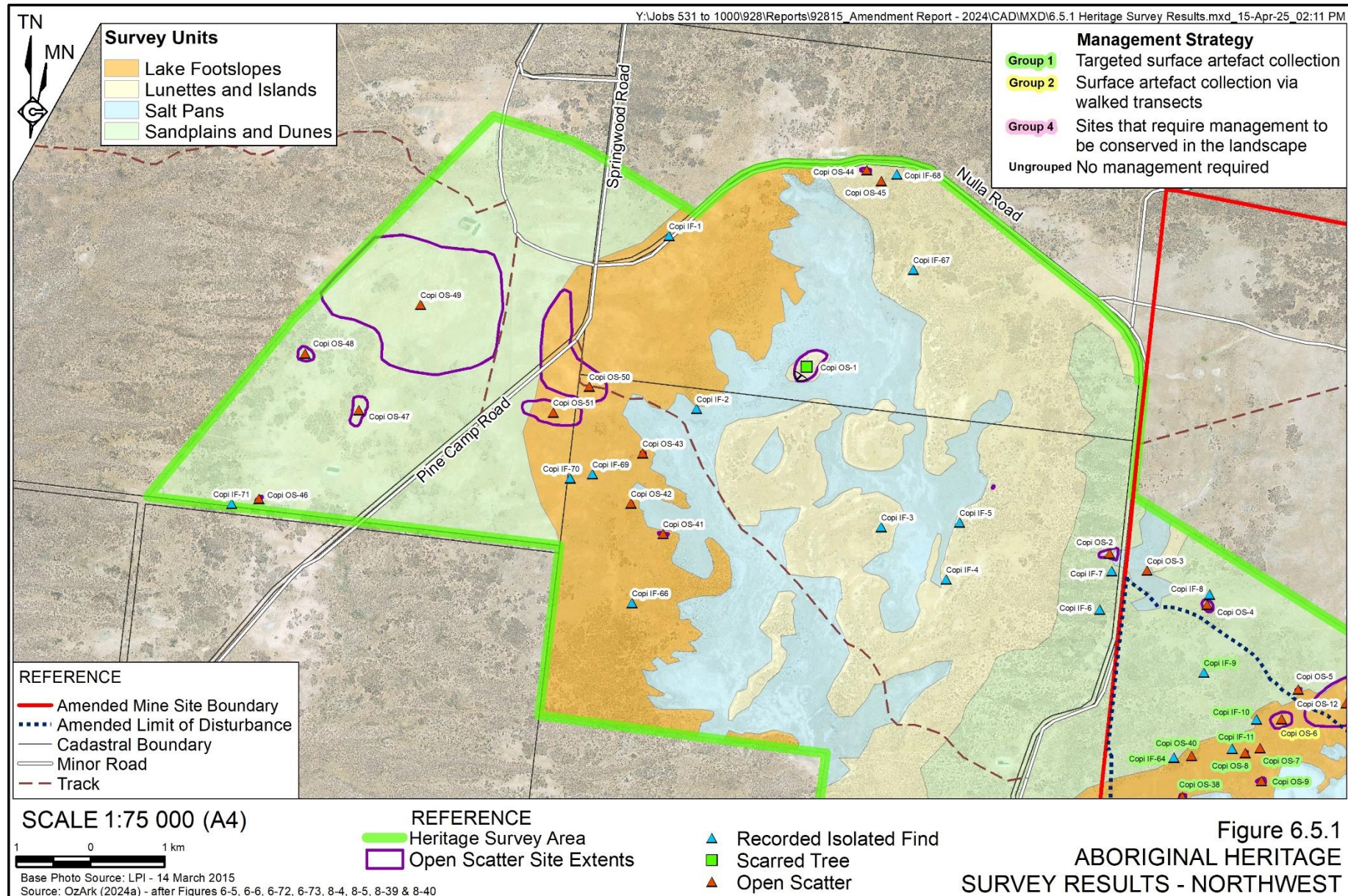




Table 0.1
Significance Assessment, Degree of Harm and Management Strategy
for Identified Aboriginal Sites

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Site ID	Social or Cultural Value	Scientific Value	Aesthetic Value	Historic Value	Degree of Harm	Management Strategy ¹
Copi IF-1	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-2	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-3	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-4	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-5	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-6	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-7	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-8	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-9	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-10	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-11	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-12	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-13	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-14	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-15	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-16	High	Low	Low	None	None	Group 4
Copi IF-17	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-18	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-19	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-20	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-21	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-22	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-23	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-24	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-25	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-26	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-27	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-28	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-29	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-30	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-31	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-32	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-33	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-34	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-35	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-36	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-37	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-38	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-39	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-40	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-41	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-42	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-43	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-44	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-45	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-46	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-47	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil

Table 6.5.1 (Cont'd)
Significance Assessment, Degree of Harm and Management Strategy
for Identified Aboriginal Sites

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Site ID	Social or Cultural Value	Scientific Value	Aesthetic Value	Historic Value	Degree of Harm	Management Strategy ¹
Copi IF-48	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-49	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-50	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-51	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-52	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-53	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-54	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-55	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-56	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-57	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-58	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-59	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-60	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-61	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-62	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-63	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-64	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-65	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-66	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-67	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-68	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-69	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-70	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-71	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-72	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-73	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-74	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-75	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-76	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-77	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-78	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-79	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-80	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-81	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-82	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi IF-83	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi IF-84	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-1	High	Moderate	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-2	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-3	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-4	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-5	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-6	High	Moderate	Low	None	Total	Group 2 & 3
Copi OS-7	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-8	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-9	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-10	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-11	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil

Table 6.5.1 (Cont'd)
Significance Assessment, Degree of Harm and Management Strategy
for Identified Aboriginal Sites

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Site ID	Social or Cultural Value	Scientific Value	Aesthetic Value	Historic Value	Degree of Harm	Management Strategy ¹
Copi OS-12	High	Moderate	Low	None	Partial	Group 2, 3, & 4
Copi OS-13	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-14	High	Low	Low	None	None	Group 4
Copi OS-15	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-16	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-17	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-18	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-19	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-20	High	Moderate	Low	None	Total	Groups 1 & 3
Copi OS-21	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-22	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-23	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-24	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-25	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-26	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-27	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-28	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-29	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-30	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-31	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-32	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-33	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-34	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-35	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-36	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-37	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-38	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-39	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-40	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-41	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-42	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-43	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-44	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-45	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-46	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-47	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-48	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-49	High	Moderate	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-50	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-51	High	Moderate	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-52	High	Moderate	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-53	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-54	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-55	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-56	High	Low	Low	None	None	Nil
Copi OS-57	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-58	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1
Copi OS-59	High	Low	Low	None	Total	Group 1

Note 1: Management groups as detailed above

Source: OzArk (2025) – modified after Table 13-2, 14-1 and 15-1

Aboriginal Stakeholder Consultation since Exhibition

On 26 November 2024, Angela Kirby of Barkindji Maraura Elders Environment Team Limited (BMEET), one of the Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Project, advised OzArk that BMEET were objecting to the Project on the following grounds.

- “Cultural
- Waterways
- Environment
- Lack of communication
- Lack of consultation and understanding of the project”

OzArk sought further information from BMEET and no further correspondence has been received.

A copy of the draft of OzArk (2025) was sent to all RAPs on the 1 May 2025 with a 28-day review period closing 30 May 2025. No comments were received in relation to the draft document from any of the RAPs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Amended Project will reduce the overall impact of disturbance that was described in the EIS. The Amended project will reduce the number of sites that will be disturbed from 65 to 55 and increase the number of sites that will be avoided from 78, to 88. The Amended Project results in changes to 13 Aboriginal Sites in total, with 10 of those sites no longer being harmed, and three sites that were previously unharmed no longer requiring a Group 4 management strategy due to being more than 50m from the Amended Limit of Disturbance.