

5.0 INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Industrial Archaeological Assessments have been produced by HLA-Envirosciences Pty Ltd and Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd for the study site. The results of these reports have been reproduced below and for further reference included within Appendix 2 and 3.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Industrial Archaeological Assessment undertaken by Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd for the Moonee and Wallarah Collieries found that there was no evidence of significant archaeological deposits associated with the sites.

The Historical Archaeological Assessment undertaken by HLA-Envirosciences Pty Ltd for the Coal Preparation Plant, Mine Mangers Residence and Jetty Masters House established that certain elements have a degree of archaeological potential. The results of their assessment are outlined below:

HLA-ENVIROSCIENCES ASSESSMENT

Archaeological Potential is defined by the NSW Heritage Office Archaeological Assessment Guidelines “as the degree of physical evidence present on an archaeological site” (1996:34). It should be noted that archaeology in the *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* is defined as “any physical evidence of past human activity” (1996). This is an extremely broad definition rendering it almost impossible in practice to define an area as having no archaeological remains. The reason for this is that under the provisions of the NSW *Heritage Act* all relics are protected irrespective of their significance although they are managed according to significance. To overcome this problem the definition of low potential has been widened slightly to include areas of minimal archaeological remains.

Assessment is consequently a two-part process. The first is to see whether there is evidence both documentary and physical that an activity occurred on a piece of land that could have created or contributed to the archaeological record. The second is to see whether further archaeological research using the presumed or established archaeological record of a place can help answer relevant research questions (as envisaged under Criterion e of the significance assessment guidelines).

Archaeological potential was sub-divided into the following categories based on the likely occurrence of archaeological material. These are:

- ❑ High Potential – Areas with known archaeological remains.
- ❑ Medium Potential – Areas that may have archaeological remains based on other lines of evidence such as maps or documents.
- ❑ Low Potential – Areas that are likely to have minimal or no archaeological remains.

Areas with known archaeological remains and therefore having **High Potential** are:

- ❑ Remnants of Coastal Railway Line (CPP 1) - The formation of the railway is visible.
- ❑ Washery (CPP 6) - Foundations of the washery are visible on the ground.
- ❑ Office Building (CPP 12) - The Office building foundations are visible on the ground.
- ❑ Jetty (area below) - There are evident remains relating to the jetty observable along the coast and it is likely, there are remains of the piles from the various jetties erected in this area under the floor of Catherine Hill Bay. In a report on excavations under the Fremantle Jetty it was shown that items dropped from the jetty over time were recoverable. But unlike Fremantle, which was a general cargo jetty, the jetty at Catherine Hill Bay was only for loading coal so it seems likely that only coal would be recovered from any archaeological excavations under the jetty.

It is possible that some underfloor archaeological evidence would be located under Mine Managers Residence (CPP 2) and the Jetty Masters House (CPP 3). This is a typical case for any house. These two sites would be considered to have **Medium Potential**.

Ability to Answer Pertinent Research Questions

Archaeological significance has traditionally been seen in terms of Criterion (e) that is “the potential to yield information...”. The Archaeological Assessment Guidelines comment, “the key test that must be applied in understanding the scientific research values of a known or potential archaeological site is the question of whether further studies of the physical evidence may reasonably be expected to help answer research questions” (Archaeological Assessment Guidelines 1996:26). Therefore it is important to consider the sort of questions the study area may be able to answer.

The overall assessment in the CMP (p159) is that “The complex has high technical research significance. Alterations, additions and modifications on the site show the phase of coal mining expansion. Much of the infrastructure, components and occupation of the site represent changes in technology spanning more than a 100 years of coal mining in Australia. In general, the quality of the remaining structures is high, demonstrating technical excellence in both design and construction”.

The items of **High Potential** are discussed below in relation to this overall assessment:

- ❑ Remnants of Coastal Railway Line (CPP 1) -The research potential of the railway formation is low, the nature and

location of the railway is already known as is the nature of the traffic on it.

- ❑ Washery (CPP 6) - The research potential of the washery is low as there are not sufficient remains to investigate and to answer questions about how it operated. A better source of information might be oral history and searching the archival records of Coal and Allied at the University of Newcastle.
- ❑ Office Building (CPP 12) - The research potential of the Office building foundations is low as there are not sufficient remains to investigate and to answer questions about how it operated.
- ❑ Jetty (area below) - While it is likely that there are some remains from earlier jetties under the sand they are likely to be in poor condition due to immersion in salt water. It does not seem likely that these remains will be able to answer research questions about the jetty and its use.

The two sites are considered to have medium potential the Mine Managers Residence (CPP 2) and the Jetty Masters House (CPP 3). There is some research potential to use any subsurface remains to look at contrasting life styles between Management and workers (assuming some workers houses or sites were excavated).

6.0 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE POTENTIAL

Godden Mackay Logan has undertaken a review of The *Wallarah Peninsula Strategic Issues Study- Aboriginal Archaeology* by Navin Officer, 1995 (Refer Appendix 3). The results of this review are as follows:

Assessment of the Navin Officer Study

The Navin Officer report (included in Appendix 6) is a desk top study which identifies areas of disturbance and the known location of sites in their study area as of 1995. We understand that some further Aboriginal site recording and surveys in the study area has been undertaken, and our limited understanding of this work has assisted our review.

A large area of land around Catherine Hill Bay – especially near the Coal Preparation Plant and Moonie Colliery has been identified as disturbed in the Navin Officer Study. One site NPWS 45-7-16, a shell midden, is located on the coast immediately south of the Jetty according to the Navin Officer Study. We were not able to relocate this midden during our site inspection on the 1st March 2005, but confirm that the location is where such sites would be expected to be located.

The western boundary of the CMP study area is within the area of archaeological sensitivity identified in the Navin Officer report. The eastern boundary of the CMP study area, along the sea coast is not identified as being an area of archaeological sensitivity by Navin Officer.

Godden Mackay Logan Assessment

There are large areas in the CMP study area which have been used for coal or waste dumps during the course of mining and these appear to have been remediated by excavating the material and removing it. Given this level of ground disturbance it is likely that surface evidence of Aboriginal sites would have been removed.

Nevertheless there are areas along the sea coast and cliffs (including the registered site NPWS 45-7-016) that are relatively undisturbed and have the potential to contain Aboriginal sites. The shores of Lake Macquarie within the CMP study area are also relatively undisturbed.

We understand that archaeological surveys in the hinterland have not been successful due to extremely poor visibility however this does not mean that there is an absence of Aboriginal sites. It is possible that there are Aboriginal sites in the hinterland.

Conclusions

- ❑ There is potential for Aboriginal sites to occur throughout the study area but some areas are heavily disturbed and

therefore are less likely to contain Aboriginal sites.

- ❑ Areas in the CMP study area have been identified as being of archaeological sensitivity in the Navin Officer report and that the eastern coastline is also of high sensitivity because numerous Aboriginal sites have been found along the coastline in adjacent areas and there is no compelling reason why Aboriginal sites would not have been located along the coastline within the CMP study area.

- ❑ One known site, NPWS 45-7-016, has been identified and registered in the study area at Catherine Hill Bay.