Targeted Cultural Values Inspection of PSP25.1 Craigieburn Employment Area North and PSP 25.2 English Street

Wurundjeri Tribe Land & Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Inc.

August 2013

This document presents the results of a site inspection at PSP 25.1 Craigieburn Employment Area North and PSP 25.2 English Street, prepared for the Growth Areas Authority by the Wurundjeri Tribe Land & Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Inc.

This report is not a compliance document under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and is not equivalent to a Cultural Heritage Management Plan or Due Diligence assessment. Access to these cultural values must be obtained by written approval from the Wurundjeri Council.
Introduction

This report outlines the targeted cultural values associated with PSP 25.2 English Street and PSP 25.1 Craigieburn Employment Area North, which was assessed during a two hour site inspection on Tuesday 16th July, 2013. Present at the inspection were Ronald Jones (Wurundjeri Elder, representing the Nevin family), Perry Wandin (Wurundjeri Elder, representing the Wandin family), Bobby Mullins (Wurundjeri Elder, representing the Terrick family), Delta Lucille Freedman (Wurundjeri staff anthropologist), Amanda Rose (Wurundjeri staff archaeologist), Fiona McDougall and Bruce Hunter (Growth Areas Authority).

This report additionally examines the proposed bridge crossing alignment locations, in relation to the impact upon cultural and archaeological values, and provides considerations for incorporating these values into the precinct structure plan. It is projected that by through assessing areas of cultural heritage sensitivity along Merri Creek specifically within PSP 25.1 and PSP 25.2, the impact of bridge structures on cultural and archaeological values may be minimised.

Subject Area Description

The Subject Area is known as PSP 25.1 Craigieburn Employment Area North and PSP 25.2 English Street, which are located within the North Growth Corridor, in Hume City Council, and the City of Whittlesea, respectively. The North Growth Corridor Plan identifies PSP 25.1 for Industrial uses and PSP 25.2 for Urban-Land use. The GAA has subsequently designated PSP 25.1 for industrial and commercial, and PSP 25.2 for mixed residential and employment uses.

PSP 25.1 and 25.2 occupy a trapezoidal shaped block of land that is bound to the north by Donnybrook Road, to the west by the Hume Freeway, to the south by Amaroo Business Park, and to the east by the Sydney Melbourne Train Line.

Merri Creek is situated in the north of the precinct, dividing PSP 25.1 from PSP 25.2, with PSP 25.1 to the west and PSP 25.2 to the east. Stretching from its headwaters at Wallan to its confluence at the Yarra River, the name of the creek is derived from the Wurundjeri-willam term ‘Merri Merri’, which means ‘very rocky’ and refers to the volcanic rock formations that exist along the extent of the creek. Kalkallo Creek, a tributary of Merri Creek, runs approximately east-west along the north of PSP 25.1. An un-named watercourse and waterbody, which are not connected with Merri Creek, are located within the northern area of PSP 25.2.
Plate 3 Escarpments overlooking Merri Creek in the vicinity of proposed bridge alignment option 1B

Figure 1 VAHR Search of PSP 25.1 and PSP 25.2, showing indicative area of inspection

ACHRIS accessed 16 July 2013 Aboriginal Places within PSP 25.2 & PSP 25.1
Figure 3 Alternate Bridge Option

ACHRIS accessed 22 July 2013
Figure 4 GGF Conservation Study Area

PSP 25.1 - CRAIGIEBURN EMPLOYMENT AREA NORTH
PSP 25.2 - ENGLISH STREET PRECINCT
Merri Creek - GGF Conservation Study Area

Provided by GAA 21 August 2013
Summary

- The Wurundjeri Council does not endorse the construction of a bridge at proposed bridge location option 1B (Figures 2) or Alignment B (Figure 4).
- The Wurundjeri Council proposes that the construction of a bridge within an eroded area of Merri Creek may have a lower impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage. An eroded area of Merri creek was identified approximately 950.0m to the south of the junction between Donnybrook Road and Dwyer Street (see alignment A, Figure 4).
- Whilst it is not possible to certainly identify the presence, nature, extent, and significance of Aboriginal cultural material within the Subject Area without undertaking a comprehensive archaeological investigation, it is of importance to the Wurundjeri Council that preservation of native vegetation and minimising impact to sensitive landforms be considered when planning the construction of bridge crossings, Growling Grass Frog ponds, and walking paths. This includes flat topped escarpments which overlook Merri Creek, undisturbed river alluvial terraces, rock exposures, and areas that contain native vegetation. These areas frequently contain Aboriginal cultural material within the wider region.
- Anywhere within 200.0 m of Merri Creek is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity as defined by The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations (2007: 14, Reg. 23), and therefore, further archaeological investigations would be required prior to the construction of any bridge crossings, Growling Grass Frog ponds, and walking paths within 200.0 m of Merri Creek.
- Anywhere within 50.0 m of a registered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Place is an area of cultural sensitivity as defined by The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations (2007: 22, Reg. 41), and therefore, further archaeological investigations would be required prior to the construction of any bridge crossings, Growling Grass Frog ponds, and walking paths within 50.0 m of VAHR Aboriginal Place Craigieburn Rail IA 1 (VAHR 7822-1552) and VAHR Aboriginal Place Summerhill Rd Rail Res. 1 (VAHR 7822-1177).
- Incorporation of cultural values into the precinct can be developed through a collaborative approach between the Wurundjeri Council and land managers in a number of ways; for example, by incorporating Wurundjeri land management practices into any retained natural open spaces, or by including interpretive signage and Woi wurrung naming of places and/or plant and animal species along Merri Creek.
- All Woi wurrung language, phrases and words used in naming, interpretations etc. must be approved by the Wurundjeri Council.