Bushcare with Care

A field guide for bush regenerators

Protecting and conserving Aboriginal landscapes

NSW GOVERNMENT | Local Land Services Greater Sydney

Australian Government

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Greater Sydney Local Land Services provides agricultural advice, pest control, biosecurity and emergency management services and natural resource management. Greater Sydney Local Land Services is one of eleven regionally-based, publically funded Local Land Services, governed by locally elected and skills-based Board members to tailor regional service delivery.

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NSW GOVERNMENT | Local Land Services Greater Sydney

Introduction

Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GS LLS) respects and acknowledges all Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal community members within the Greater Sydney region. We work closely with local Aboriginal groups and consult widely with the Aboriginal community. We have established an Aboriginal Advisory Group that provide us with advice on our progams.

There are many aspects of the landscape within Greater Sydney's bushland areas which have Aboriginal cultural heritage values. In the past, many non-Aboriginal people have viewed Aboriginal cultural heritage as identifying archaeological sites that needed to be protected.

However Aboriginal cultural heritage concerns are far broader. Traditional Aboriginal society had cultural obligations to care for the country and these obligations are maintained by contemporary Aboriginal people today.

Many features in the natural landscape including flora and fauna, rivers, creeks, rock formations, rockholes, hills and forests are of the utmost cultural significance to Aboriginal people. These places can be associated with Aboriginal lore and legend of the dreaming or creation time. Dreaming trails or songlines usually interconnect at features on the landscape. Aboriginal people passed that knowledge and lore along these pathways as part of their spiritual responsibility. The health of land and the maintenance of the biodiversity continue to be linked to the well being of Aboriginal people both physically and spiritually[1].

This field guide has been developed to assist today's bushland managers and regenerators who have a responsibility to protect and conserve the culturally significant values and features of the landscape.

[1]Courtesy of former Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority Catchment Action Plan

The purpose of this field guide

The need for this field guide was identified at workshops with the community. This guide has been compiled in a way that is simple to read, user-friendly and durable for use in the field.

The purpose of this guide is to improve the capacity of professional bush regenerators, biodiversity managers and Bushcare volunteers to protect and conserve Aboriginal landscapes. This guide contains information about:

- The types of local Aboriginal places, objects and values that can be found at bushland sites.
- The legal obligations and requirements of bushland managers, their volunteers, professional contractors and staff to initiate the protection and ongoing care of Aboriginal places and objects.
- What to do if you suspect there is an Aboriginal site, object or cultural value at your bush regeneration site.
- The site planning process and how to determine priorities whilst considering areas of cultural value.
- How and where to find additional information about Aboriginal objects, places and values.

A number of different organisations have a responsibility for managing Aboriginal heritage in the landscape, and include the Department of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (which includes the National Parks and Wildlife Service), Local Aboriginal Land Council, local councils, other government departments and other Aboriginal organisations. The contact details of these organisations are listed in the Section Seven - Contacts.

Note: This field guide has been designed to assist you. Its does not cover every aspect of the various topics, however it will assist and provide guidance for planning and managing bushland projects.

The information in this guide is subject to clarification or amendment, especially since legislation, agencies and organisations may change over time. It is the responsibility of users of this guide to ensure they address compliance with state and federal legislation.

Parramatta Lake, 2003
Photo by Tabatha Cann

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Section one

Aboriginal places, objects and the law

What is an Aboriginal site?

An Aboriginal site is part of the Aboriginal landscape. The Aboriginal landscape is everything in a place, including the interconnectedness of the plants, rocks, creek/water, animals and landforms. Aboriginal landscapes have cultural importance - some places within the landscape context will be of higher importance than others, but the whole landscape is just as important as all places are interconnected not simply isolated sites.

The presence of Aboriginal landscapes and sites should be considered by all bush regenerators, as they are part of Greater Sydney's remnant natural areas.

The Aboriginal perspective that the landscape is important as a whole contrasts with earlier archaeological viewpoints, where Aboriginal sites were usually defined as a distinct place that contained physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation and use of an area. Most current legislation still reflects this earlier viewpoint.

Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW

Some of the NSW legislation that protects Aboriginal cultural heritage, places and objects include the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act), the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009, and the due diligence code of practice for Aboriginal objects in NSW. All available on the Office of Environment and Heritage website.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The NPW Act protects all Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal Places in NSW. Aboriginal objects are things produced by Aboriginal people. The places where Aboriginal objects are found are commonly called Aboriginal 'sites'. Aboriginal objects include:

- physical items that can be moved or transported (such as stone tools, bone and shell food remains, and the ancestral remains of Aboriginal people)
- 'immovable' objects (such as rock engravings, paintings and scarred trees)
- earth features, such as hearths, mounds and ceremonial bora rings. Aboriginal objects are given 'blanket protection' in NSW which means they are protected by the NPW Act regardless of whether they have been found and registered or not, or whether they are of particular significance to Aboriginal people or not.
- Aboriginal places are areas that are or were of special significance to Aboriginal culture. The Minister for the Environment can declare an area to be an Aboriginal Place because of its spiritual, social, historical, educational, natural resource usage or other type of cultural importance.

National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009

This regulation refers to changes made to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

- Exclusion from meaning of "harm" objects and places
- Regulation of conduct to Cultural Heritage
- Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places
- Defence of compliance with codes of practice or other prescribed documents
- Defence of carrying out certain low impact activities
- The consultation process to be undertaken before applying for an Aboriginal heritage impact permit
- Application for Aboriginal heritage impact permit to be accompanied by cultural heritage assessment report
- Consultation process to be undertaken before applying for a variation of Aboriginal heritage impact permit
- Transfer of Aboriginal objects
- Notification of sites of Aboriginal objects

Fish engraving

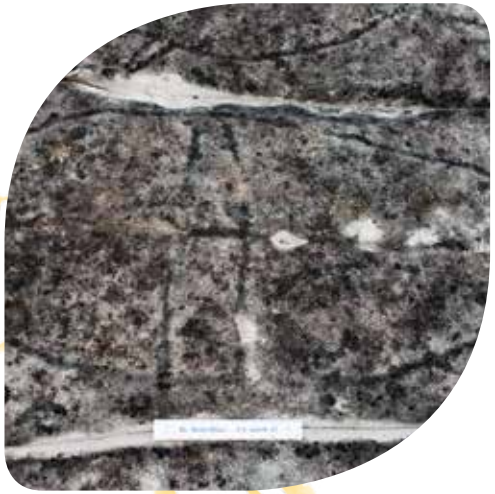
The due diligence code of practice for Aboriginal objects in NSW

This code of practice is to assist individuals and organisations to exercise due diligence when carrying out activities that may harm Aboriginal objects and to determine whether they should apply for consent in the form of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act) provides that a person who exercises due diligence in determining that their actions will not harm Aboriginal objects has a defence against prosecution for the strict liability offence if they later unknowingly harm an object without an AHIP.

The NPW Act allows for a generic code of practice to explain what due diligence means. Carefully following this code of practice, which is adopted by the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009 (NPW Regulation) made under the NPW Act, would be regarded as 'due diligence'. This code of practice can be used for all activities across all environments.

NOTE: This information is adapted from the Office of Environment and Heritage website.

Shield engraving



Section two

Common archaeological terms and descriptions applied to Aboriginal places and objects

Here is a selection of some of the Aboriginal places and objects commonly found within the Greater Sydney area. It should be noted that many more places and objects exist outside of this area or may be rare within this area and so these are not described in this guide. If you would like further information, see the References Section or check the website of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Occupation site

This refers to a place where Aboriginal people lived and used the natural resources. Examples include rock shelters, quarry sites, middens and open camp sites.

Middens

Middens are an occupation site where the remains of meals have been left. Often substantial deposits grew over generations of use of the same area. Oyster and cockle shells are most commonly found in middens, as well as animal bones, artefacts and tools made from stone, bone or shell. Freshwater mussel shells occur in middens further from the coastal or tidal influence. Sometimes burials occurred in middens.

Middens

Natural site of significance

These can be any natural landform, feature or view within a landscape. Examples include the rock platforms, water holes, creeks, and the Three Sisters in the Blue Mountains.

Burial sites

Any burial site is very significant. They usually occurred where the ground was soft. Sandy dunes, middens, rock shelters and sometimes specially constructed mounds were used for burials in the Greater Sydney area.

Quarry sites (ochre, stones)

These are places where Aboriginal people actively quarried rock for making tools as well as ochre for body decoration or painting on rock surfaces and objects. An Aboriginal quarry has been identified in Sydney's eastern suburbs.

Rockshelters

These are an occupation site if there is a deposit of archaeological material. Rockshelters are sandstone overhangs were people sheltered or camped, had fire places, produced paintings and/or stencils, used local food resources or conducted burials. Artefacts are commonly found in archaeological digs at these places.

Rockshelter

Open camp sites

These occupation sites are places used by Aboriginal people out in the open, rather than in a rockshelter. These places were used over many generations and were close to useful resources. Although this type of site is not easy to distinguish, there may be remnants of old fireplaces and implements present today.

Ceremonial grounds (also called Bora rings)

These are usually two circles made of stone or moulded earth with an interconnecting pathway where important ceremonies and meetings were held.

Rock engravings

There are many of these over Greater Sydney depicting animals, people, tools/implements and important cultural figures. They were made by pecking out a series of small holes in the sandstone surface and rubbing along the holes in a line to connect them, outlining the figure. Engravings found across Greater Sydney include fish, whales, shields, kangaroos, people, cultural figures and footprints (called mundoes). The Aboriginal engravings around the Greater Sydney area represent one of the largest concentrations of rock engravings in the world.

Open campsite near Parramatta

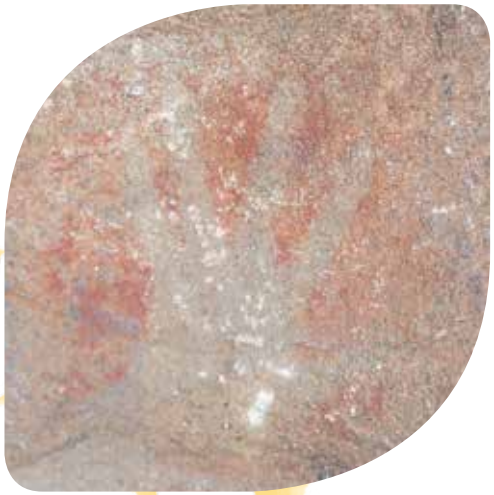
Rock paintings, drawings and stencils

Often found in rock shelters or overhangs, these usually depict animals, implements, people and important cultural figures. Aboriginal people used white pipe clay, red and yellow ochre, gypsum and charcoal for their paintings or stencils. Sometimes drawings and paintings can be found on vertical rock faces. Stencils were commonly made showing hands and tools, using ochre for contrast. These are often found in or near occupation sites.

Artefact scatters

These indicate an occupation site and may be found out in the open landscape or in the topsoil of a rockshelter. Artefacts include stone and bone tools such as skinning/cutting tools, wood-working tools, axes, fish hooks or other implements. These provide valuable information about what people ate.

Hand Stencil



Axe head and handle

Grinding grooves

Axes were made of hard but smooth river stones, firmly fixed to a wooden handle with locally made twine and glue. The axe head stones did not naturally occur in the Greater Sydney area and were traded from other places such as Richmond. When Aboriginal people sharpened their axes, knives or other tools, they rubbed the tool up and back against a wetted softer rock surface like sandstone, until it was sharp. The act of sharpening the tools left the grooves behind. Grinding grooves are often found near water sources or on the lower slopes of hillsides.

Grinding grooves and water hole

Scarred trees

Scarred trees were created when bark or wood was removed to make canoes, shelters, shields or coolamons (ie carrying container). These are found on older trees.

Places of significance to Aboriginal people

La Perouse, Maria Locks land grant in the Liverpool area, the resistance site at Punchbowl, the Parramatta Girl's Home and the Blacktown Native Institute are all examples of places of ongoing significance to Aboriginal people because of the events that occurred there since European settlement. These types of places can be difficult to distinguish as there may be little physical evidence present.

Scar tree

Landscape of Aboriginal places and objects

Section three

Working near Aboriginal places and objects

Step-by-step procedure

Much of Greater Sydney's remaining bushland contains Aboriginal places and objects, which may or may not have been already identified. When developing your site assessment for bush regeneration projects it is vital that you consider all aspects of the landscape that may include Aboriginal places and objects.

The following steps should be used in the initial planning stages of your site assessment for all on-ground works. This process should also be undertaken for existing sites that have not previously considered Aboriginal heritage values in their initial planning for project works.

Step 1: Familiarise yourself and other project members with the current laws that protect Aboriginal places and objects.

- Whether you are a volunteer, student or a paid professional, you **must** become aware of and understand the current NSW legislation that protects Aboriginal places and objects, which is summarised in section one.

Step 2: Investigate if your project area contains Aboriginal places or objects.

- Firstly, discuss with your local Council Bushcare/Biodiversity/Aboriginal Officer if any Aboriginal heritage surveys or studies have been conducted in your area.

  (NOTE: each Council area may have a different title for the appropriate Officer, so contact the Council's customer service/ reception area and ask who would be appropriate to help you).

- Next, arrange for your local Council Officer to check the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Systems (AIHMS) for any recorded places or objects in your work area. If your local Council does not have access to this you will need to contact the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) (refer to Section Four Accessing Aboriginal Heritage Information).
- IMPORTANT NOTE: Not all Aboriginal objects or places are recorded on AIHMS, so check with your local Council Officer for any unrecorded sites.
- If large areas are to be worked on and extensive clearing is to take place, it may be appropriate to consult with Traditional Custodial groups, your local Aboriginal Land Council or your local Aboriginal Community groups at this stage (NB: some local Councils also have their own Aboriginal Advisory Committees).

Are Aboriginal places, objects or values contained within your Bushcare site? **If yes go to Step 3A if no go to step 3B**

Step 3A: Consult and incorporate new strategies before proceeding with on-ground works.

- If your investigation reveals that there are Aboriginal heritage values on your project site you will need to consult with the Aboriginal community
- You must ensure that all necessary precautions are put into place to not disturb or destroy them. Appropriate strategies should be incorporated into your worksite plan to minimise impacts on these areas. Some of these strategies may include the following:
  - Do not touch or disturb an Aboriginal place or object, including any art or stencils.
  - Do not plant anything near or on Aboriginal places or objects without appropriate consultation.
  - Do not remove a weed that would expose a place or object to damage or potential public disturbance.

- Do not dig, probe or remove surface soil, as this will disturb the area.
- Do not apply chemicals near an artworks or engravings, as they may have a corrosive effect.
- Do not light fires on rock surfaces or near a rock shelter, as the smoke and heat can damage surface areas containing rock paintings, stencils or engravings.
- Never publicise any place or object via signage or by leading groups to the area (unless extensive community consultation has occurred and appropriate protocols have been followed that involve your local council, Local Aboriginal Land Council, custodian groups etc).
- Do not attempt to repair a place or object, as you may inadvertently cause more damage. Repairs should be undertaken by qualified staff from the OEH, your local council or your Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Ensure that your strategies for care and protection of Aboriginal places and objects are reviewed by your local council Officer.

Damaged rock surface from intense fire

Step 3B : If Aboriginal places, objects or values are not found during the initial investigation, proceed carefully.

- If no Aboriginal places, objects or values are found during your initial investigations with your local council and AHIMS, it is still possible to come across objects or places at a later time. Therefore, at all times during your on-ground work and planning it is essential to proceed carefully.

CAUTION: Stop work if an Aboriginal place or object is found

- If during the operational phase of your project you find an Aboriginal place or object in or near your work area, **stop work immediately**. We suggest moving away and continuing your work in another area.
- As soon as possible, seek advice from the OEH, Ph: 02 9995 5000 and your local council on how to proceed with your on-ground work.
- Go back to your work site plan and revise it to incorporate protection and conservation measures for the Aboriginal place or object.

NOTE: You are required by law to notify the OEH of the presence of an Aboriginal place or object. Contact the OEH for the prescribed manner of notification.

Step 4: Continue long term maintenance.

- Devise a maintenance plan for your work site by reviewing your original long term maintenance plan.
- Have the plan checked by a qualified officer/s to ensure best practices are adopted both in bushland maintenance as well as Aboriginal heritage management.
- Go back and talk to the Aboriginal community about the long term maintenance plan before it is finalised and adopted.

Case Study

Mulgoa

By Lisa Harrold, Mulgoa Landcare

Mulgoa Landcare have worked for 19 years along the riparian corridor of Mulgoa Creek. They were advised last year that their activities had the potential to impact upon Aboriginal objects or places. Worksite inspections were undertaken which confirmed that the group's activities would not impact upon specific Aboriginal objects or places.

One worksite required further investigation and funding was successfully sought so that an Elder of the local Custodian Group could meet with the volunteers, contractors and Green Corp team. This meeting satisfied the Custodial Group that the people working on the site were sufficiently informed to continue works at a potentially significant site and bush regeneration works were able to proceed. The Elder spoke about the objects and places and the group's responsibility to leave these in-situ and to report findings appropriately.

Whilst there was no rigid advice or guidelines of what to look for, or where, the group learnt that they need to remember the possible presence of Aboriginal objects and places, to be sensitive and accepting of the possibility of "feeling" their presence and to simply be mindful and respectful of where they tread. People are sometimes so caught up in their own world that they need reminding of the presence of these places and objects by simply stopping, looking and appreciating and allowing the feelings to be recognised.

Case Study

Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group

By Margaret Bottrell, Greater Sydney Local Land Services

The Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group was formed in 2003 after the members, who were all employees of the Western Sydney Aboriginal Corporation under the Community Development and Employment Program were approached by the then Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources and asked if they were interested in forming a Landcare group. They were also asked to undertake a Technical And Further Education (TAFE) course studying Land Management, Conservation, and Natural Area Restoration.

A number of stakeholders were then gathered together including Greening Australia, Blacktown City Council, Penrith City Council, TAFE NSW, Western Area Health and Western Sydney Aboriginal Corporation as a steering committee for the Landcare group project.

The group then chose a 500m section on Ropes Creek at Minchinbury as their project site for work and training as it contained the Endangered Ecological Community of Sydney Coastal Riverflat Forest. With expert help, an Aboriginal site assessment was undertaken and a midden composed of fresh water mussels and crustaceans was identified at the site.

With this knowledge the group were able to carry out their on-ground works without disturbance to the midden and are now much more aware of the possibility of the presence of Aboriginal places and objects.

With ongoing support from the Greater Sydney Local Land Services, the group is still active and has won multiple awards for their projects.

Photo: Ropes Creek Mural Minchinbury Western Sydney by Tabatha Cann 2006

Case Study

Holsworthy Army Base - Cultural heritage considerations for Holsworthy Army Barracks revegetation

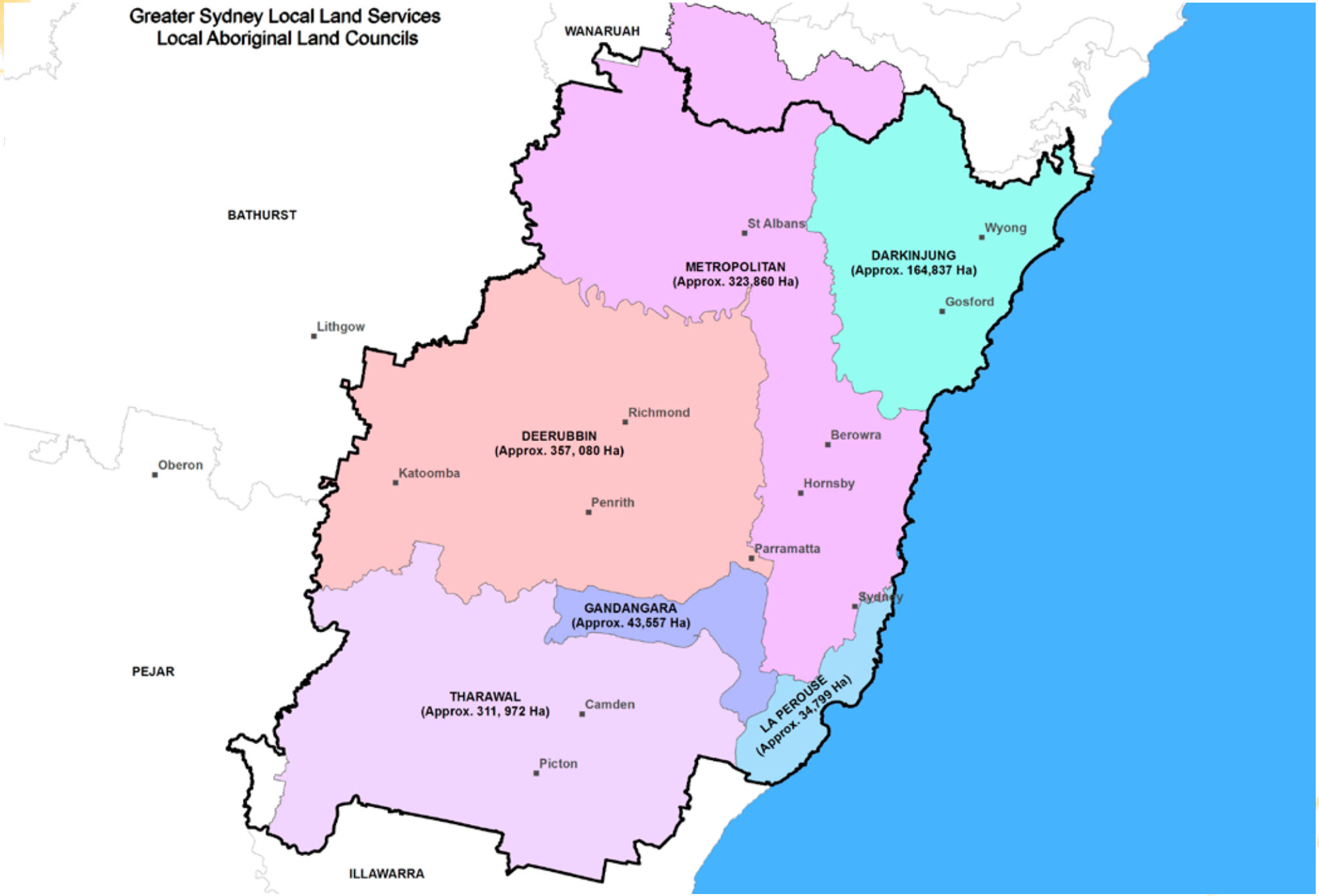
by Hazel Nisbet, Principal-Land Rehabilitation, ENSR Australia (environmental consultancy)

Holsworthy Army Barracks at Holsworthy, near Liverpool, NSW, has cleared native vegetation to enable the construction of buildings and development areas to increase the capability of a number of new Defence facilities in Western Sydney. Recent expansion of Defence facilities has required the clearing of approximately 11 ha of Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) land and approximately 20 ha of cleared land/scattered trees. ENSR Australia (formerly HLA-Envirosciences) was commissioned by Defence to establish a Greening Plan to help offset the loss of EEC and other vegetation communities. 32 ha of land has been selected for revegetation works following soil and vegetation surveys and liaison with Defence to ensure revegetation areas are to be protected from future Defence expansion/activities.

Defence and ENSR Australia consider it appropriate that the local Aboriginal communities be consulted with regard to activities on the site, including revegetation works. The Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Cubbitch Barta Aboriginal Corporation were invited to inspect the rehabilitation areas and discuss the plans for revegetation prior to their implementation. In addition the Cubbitch Barta Aboriginal Corporation was able to supply a person to assist ENSR in the seed collection and revegetation works.

The site inspections were carried out and artifacts were found on two of the 18 sites, both in the vicinity of drainage lines. These finds changed the nature of the works to be carried out at these sites. It had previously been planned that a research trial would be carried out on one of the sites which involved scalping off and removing the topsoil and ripping the subsoil for direct seeding works. This extreme surface preparation was considered too invasive for this site and therefore the trial was moved to a higher site where no artifacts were found. At the second site in the vicinity of the artifacts hand planting was determined as less disturbing than the planned mechanical planting.

Hawkesbury lookout
Photo by Jodi Cameron


Greater Sydney Local Land Services
Local Aboriginal Land Councils
WANARUAH
BATHURST
St Albans
Wyong
METROPOLITAN
(Approx. 323,860 Ha)
DARKINJUNG
(Approx. 164,837 Ha)
Gosford
Lithgow
Richmond
DEERUBBIN
(Approx. 357, 080 Ha)
Berowra
Oberon
Katoomba
Hornsby
Penrith
Parramatta
Sydney
GANDANGARA
(Approx. 43,557 Ha)
PEJAR
THARAWAL
(Approx. 311, 972 Ha)
Camden
LA PEROUSE
(Approx. 34,799 Ha)
Picton
ILLAWARRA

Section four

Accessing Aboriginal heritage information

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) maintains the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). AHIMS includes:

- A database and recording cards for all Aboriginal objects, Aboriginal places and other Aboriginal heritage values in NSW that have been reported to the NPWS.
- A database index of archaeological reports and a library of these reports.

AHIMS replaces the previous NSW Aboriginal Site Register.

What AHIMS information is available?

Information relating to recorded Aboriginal places and other Aboriginal heritage values in a particular area may be made available upon request.

The information is generally available in the form of a standard report from AHIMS. This report lists all recorded objects, places and values within/or surrounding the area of interest. Each record includes:

- identifying number;
- name;
- feature types;
- Australian map grid co-ordinates identifying the location of the object, place or value;
- date of the recording;
- name of the recorder.

If the area of interest is particularly large (eg. a river catchment or a local government area), or contains data of a sensitive nature (eg. information regarding burials), a Data Licence Agreement may be required. This is an agreement between the NPWS and a named client, and is designed to ensure that any data supplied under the agreement is used appropriately.

How is the data provided?

Site information is generally provided as a standard computer printout, however, digital computer formats on disk may be provided for specific purposes.

Are there any limitations in the data?

It is essential to note that a report from AHIMS does not represent a comprehensive list of all Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places within a specified area. A report lists the recorded site only. In any given area there may be a number of undiscovered and/or unrecorded Aboriginal objects.

As a result of this limitation, and the fact that all Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places are protected under NSW legislation, the NPWS may recommend that a survey for Aboriginal objects is conducted where a development is proposed.

Locational details are recorded as grid references. It is important to note that there may be errors in these recordings. If accurate locations are required it may be necessary to confirm the locations on the ground.

If the information provided is to be used for ongoing purposes, NPWS recommend that you obtain regular updates, as new records are continually being added to the database.

How to obtain a summary report or data licence agreement

To obtain this information you need to send a written report request to the AHIMS Registrar including:

- Your company/organisation name.
- Your contact name, phone number and address details.
- The purpose for which the information is required.
- A copy of a topographic map with the area of interest clearly marked.

- A cheque for the correct search fee per search area, made out to the NPWS, unless other arrangements have been made with the AHIMS Registrar.

Details of fees and costs are available at the website http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au (click on Culture and Heritage, then Heritage, Permits and Registers, then Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)).

You may also contact the AHIMS Registrar by phone 02 9585 6470 or email ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au

NOTE: This information is adapted from the OEH website, http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Other sources of information such as local studies or surveys may be available from your local council.

Scribbly Gum
Photo by Jodi Cameron

Section five

Consultation with Aboriginal people

Effective protocols for consulting with the Aboriginal community

Protocols are a guide to assist you with respectful consultation with your local Aboriginal community. Establishing trust is essential.

To get to know people in your local Aboriginal community, firstly arrange to meet with your local council's Aboriginal Officer and/or Advisory committee. It is also suggested that you meet with one or more of the following: a local custodian group, Local Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Co-ordination Centre staff, an Aboriginal Officer at the Greater Sydney Local Land Services and other relevant Aboriginal community groups (See Contacts Section).

Aboriginal communities are as diverse as any other community, as the people come from diverse cultural backgrounds. The Aboriginal community has varied customs and traditions, different ways of communication, different issues and different Elders.

Therefore it is important to never assume that one Aboriginal person is the knowledge-holder and sole voice for the whole Aboriginal community in your area.

When should consultation occur?

Consultation should occur at the beginning of the project once an Aboriginal place or object is known or thought to occur at your project site. Alternatively, consultation may occur if an existing Bushcare group decides they want to consult with the local Aboriginal community.

The publication "Respect, Acknowledge, Listen" notes that Aboriginal communities have identified that in the past consultation has been tokenistic. To avoid this happening it is essential to get permission to engage with the Aboriginal community (See References Section).

This can be initiated by a formal letter, fax, email, or phone call but should be followed up with a face to face meeting.

It is recommended that meetings be as formal as the Aboriginal community would prefer, and be well documented to be able to deal with any issues that may arise. Minutes need to be agreed upon and circulated to all people attending the meeting. Negotiation needs to occur for equal relationships to develop.

The language you use is important too. For more information on the use of language it is suggested you read "Protocols for Consultation and Negotiation with Aboriginal People" (See References Section).

Throughout the life of your project, continue to update the Aboriginal community you originally consulted with about your project outcomes. This will help maintain a positive working relationship and connection with the Aboriginal community, and if further works are undertaken later in the area, this connection will be helpful.

Frasers Creek
Photo by Jodi Cameron

Section six

Contacts in the Greater Sydney Region

Local Government

Please refer to your local council (contact Directory Assistance for current contact details).

Local Government and Shires Associations	02 9242 4000	www.lgsa.org.au

State Government

Office of Environment and Heritage - National Parks and Wildlife Service	1300 072 757	www.environment.nsw.gov.au
Heritage Council of NSW	02 9873 8500	www.heritage.nsw.gov.au
NSW Aboriginal Affairs	02 9219 0700	www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	1300 795 299	www.lls.nsw.gov.au
Education (TAFE) North Sydney Institute GAMARADA Aboriginal education and training unit		
Manager	02 9942 3575	www.tafe.edu.au
Aboriginal Coordinator	02 9942 3629	
Student Support Officer	02 9942 3577	
Ryde TAFE	02 9448 6263	www.tafe.edu.au

Federal Government

Dept of Environment, Water, Heritage, and the Arts	02 6274 2111	www.environment.gov.au
Australian Heritage Council	02 9274 2111	www.environment.gov.au
Indigenous Co-ordination Centre	02 9942 5700	www.indigenous.gov.au/icc
Native Title Tribunal	02 9227 4000	www.nntt.gov.au

Indigenous Institutions

Corporations and community organisations

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)	02 6246 1111	www.aiatsis.gov.au
NSW Aboriginal Land Council Head Office	02 9689 4444	www.alc.org.au
Aboriginal Heritage Office	02 9936 8262	www.aboriginalheritage.org
Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation	02 9280 0060	www.antar.org.au
Murru Mittigar (This organisation offers cultural experiences and tours, a cultural centre, and runs a native provenance Plant nursery)	02 4730 0400	www.murumittigar.com.au

Local Aboriginal Land Councils

Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council	02 4351 2930	PO Box 401, Wyong NSW 2259 www.darkinjung.com.au
Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council	02 4724 5600	PO Box 40, Penrith BC NSW 2751 www.deerubbin.org.au
Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council	02 9602 5280	PO Box 1038, Liverpool NSW 2170 www.glalc.org.au
La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council	02 9311 4282	PO Box 365, Matraville NSW 2036 www.laperouse.org.au
Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council	02 8394 9666	PO Box 1103, Strawberry Hills NSW 2016 www.metrolalc.org.au
Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council	02 4822 3552	PO Box 289, Goulburn NSW 2580
Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council	02 4681 0059	PO Box 20, Buxton NSW 2571 www.tharawal.com.au

Aboriginal Landcare Groups

Landcare Australia	02 9412 1040	www.landcareonline.com
Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group – leave a message at Merana Aboriginal Community for the Hawkesbury	02 4588 5144	Email: paul.glass@environment.nsw.gov.au Phone: 02 4588 2400
Garang Landcare Group	0402 792 447	
Garguree Swampcare Group	02 4739 5665	
Gibbergunyah Bushcare Group	02 4739 5665	
Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group	0415 612 416	

Section seven

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Department of Environment and Heritage
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For more information contact
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