

17.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE

17.1 NON-INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE

17.1.1 Background and Methodology

The assessment of the region's significant cultural heritage areas, objects and values (both potential and realised) are fundamental to the successful planning of proposed development. This section describes the non-indigenous cultural heritage values and history associated with the area surrounding the Project site. Historical descriptions of Project locale have been provided. Community cultural heritage values as well as sites/places listed on State and Federal heritage lists are discussed. Finally, potential impacts which may occur as a result of the Project are discussed and mitigation measures and recommendations provided.

An assessment has been conducted into the non-indigenous cultural heritage values of the study area. The following resources were used in the preparation of this section:

- Searches of the following heritages agencies' databases:
 - The National Trust;
 - The State Heritage Register; and
 - The Register of National Estate.
- Consultation with local Warra resident, and Secretary of the Warra Progress & Heritage Society, Lyn Taylor; and
- Consultation with former long-time Kogan resident and previous owner of the Kogan Hotel – Berryl Dwyer.

The aforementioned methodology was utilised in order to gather information on a wide array of cultural heritage values for the region ranging from those places and sites listed on State and National heritage registers, to places/sites which hold particular significance to specific community members.

17.1.2 Existing Environment

Discussions with Lyn Taylor (Secretary of the Warra Progress & Heritage Society) and Berryl Dwyer (previous owner of the Kogan Hotel), has resulted in the following account of historical events within the region:

On October 1st, 1844, German explorer Ludwig Leichhardt led his first expedition from Jimbour (approximately 15km north-west of Warra) to Port Essington in the Northern Territory. By following the Condamine River, Leichhardt and his expedition team arrived in Warra on the fourth day of the journey, and set up camp along the river bank. A memorial entitled "Leichhardt's Legacy" has been erected at the apparent campsite, and exhibits his journal entry for the event.

The Warra region was settled in the 1840s by Henry Dennis, and the town subsequently flourished with the establishment of coal mining operations. After five years of operation, the Warra coal mining industry ceased, and the population declined as result of the migration of miners to alternative locations. Mining has since been replaced by grain and cotton growing, which has resulted in the successful establishment of a rich agricultural heritage.

In 1877, the western railway line was extended from Dalby to Warra, and was used to transport passengers and produce between Brisbane and Charleville. The restored Warra Railway Station is now located within the Richard Best Memorial Park, which accommodates the Progress & Heritage Society Museum. According to Lyn Taylor, the Progress & Heritage Society Museum frequently exhibits historical photographs taken within the Warra region, entitled “Warra Remembers”.

17.1.2.1 Significant Sites/Places

As a result of this investigatory study into the non-indigenous cultural heritage values associated with the area surrounding the Project Site, it has been identified that whilst the region surrounding Warra has numerous sites and places of cultural heritage significance, there is an absence of significant sites in the vicinity of the substation. For the purposes of this Section, the term “culturally significant” describes those areas which are deemed culturally significant either by State and Federal heritage agencies, by industry professionals and by interested community members. Distinctions are made between site/places of these varying significance levels.

For the purposes of this section, only those sites and places located in the direct vicinity of the Project site will be examined in detail. It is acknowledged that there are numerous other significant cultural heritage sites located within reasonable proximity to the Project site, however the Project is not expected to impact on these areas.

17.1.2.2 Cultural Heritage Listings

Review of the Queensland Heritage Register (European) indicates an absence of non-indigenous cultural heritage sites within the immediate vicinity of the Project site (DERM, 2009). Australian Heritage Database searches for the suburbs of Warra, Kogan, Dalby and Chinchilla, have identified the Boonarga Cactoblastis Memorial Hall (for its association with the defeat of the prickly pear plague; a major event in Australia’s agricultural history), and the Chinchilla Sands Local Fossil Fauna Site (a highly significant Pliocene fossil site), neither of which are located within the vicinity of the Project site (DEWHA, 2009). No Commonwealth or State significant non-indigenous cultural heritage sites exist within Project site locale.

17.1.2.3 Other Sites of Cultural Significance

Consultation with the Warra Progress & Heritage Society secretary (Lyn Taylor) and former owner of the Kogan Hotel (Berryl Dwyer), has resulted in identification of areas/objects within the region that are considered socially important by local and regional stakeholders. Areas/objects of social significance, important in maintaining the community’s integrity, include:

- Warra Memorial Hall;
- Richard Best Memorial Park (Warra);
- Campsite of Ludwig Leichhardt (Warra);
- Warra Cemetery;
- Police Station (est. 1908) (Warra);
- Post Office (est. 1908) (Warra);
- Warra Pub (est. 1908);
- Church (est. 1907) (Warra);
- Railway (est. 1877) (Warra);

- Memorial site for first Government owned coal mine in Queensland (Silhouettes and skip replica made of original railway platform board) (Warra); and
- Historical subway (Warra).

None of the above mentioned significant places/objects are within the vicinity of the Project footprint.

17.1.3 Potential Impacts

The Project is not expected to impact upon areas or objects of social importance or cultural significance. With consideration of the broader context of the area surrounding the Project site (i.e. Kogan Creek Powerstation), the proposed development is not expected to have a negative impact on the lifestyle of local residents, or on the appeal of places frequently visited within the region. The likely presence of remnants of cultural heritage has not been dismissed, however.

17.1.4 Mitigation Measures

The impact of the proposed development on matters of cultural significance is expected to be negligible. However, if during construction, historic relics are discovered, work should cease until an appropriately qualified heritage assessor has been afforded the opportunity to assess any objects of possible heritage value, *in situ* in accordance with the EMP (see **Appendix E**).

17.2 INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE

All significant Aboriginal cultural heritage in Queensland is protected under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, and penalty provisions apply for any unauthorized harm. Under the legislation a person carrying out an activity must take all reasonable and practical measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

The construction activities that are proposed for the substation site is subject to both Category 4 and Category 5 activities of the Duty of Care Guidelines. For example:

Where an activity is proposed under category 5 there is generally a high risk that it could harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. In these circumstances, the activity should not proceed without cultural heritage assessment.

Where an activity is proposed under category 5, it is necessary to notify the Aboriginal Party and seek:
 (a) Advice as to whether the feature constitutes Aboriginal cultural heritage; and
 (b) If it does, agreement as to how best the activity may be managed to avoid or minimise harm to any Aboriginal cultural heritage.

A search of the Cultural Heritage Database and Register completed on the 5th of November 2008 shows significant Aboriginal cultural heritage areas and objects in the vicinity of the Kogan Creek Power Station and surrounding area. These include scarred trees, artefact scatters, artefacts, shell material and a stone well. It is worth noting that significant cultural heritage is likely to be found in those areas that have not been previously subjected to a cultural heritage survey.

There are two previously known Aboriginal parties for the area. However, recent native title activity now poses some initial constraints to the project. Note, further investigations are required by Powerlink to identify who is the Aboriginal party(s) for this project.

Aboriginal cultural heritage, which may occur on the substation site, is protected under the terms of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* even if there are no records are recorded in an official register and whether or not they are located in, on or under private land.

Powerlink Queensland will be required to obtain a registered cultural heritage management plan (CHMP) with the identified Aboriginal Party(s) for this project. The approved CHMP will include a cultural heritage survey of the areas identified as being subject to Category 5 activities and a final report proposing how Powerlink Queensland should avoid harm to cultural heritage during construction.