



17.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE

17.1 NON-INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE

17.1.1 Background and Methodology

The identification and assessment of the region's cultural heritage areas, objects and values (both potential and realised) are fundamental to the successful planning of the proposed development. This section describes the non-indigenous cultural heritage values and history associated with the area study area. 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. 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”. ,

Between 1914 and 1919 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.

17.1.2.1 Significant Sites/Places

As a result of this investigatory study into the non-indigenous cultural heritage values associated with the study area, 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 study alignment. 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 study corridor will be examined in detail. It is acknowledged that there are numerous other significant cultural heritage sites located within reasonable proximity to the study corridor, 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 corridor (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) is located within 17km of the project site. Similarly, the Chinchilla Sands Local Fossil Fauna Site (a highly significant Pliocene fossil site), is located within 21km of the project site (DEWHA, 2009). No Commonwealth or State significant non-indigenous cultural heritage sites exist within Project corridor 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 study corridor.

17.1.3 Potential Impacts

The Project will not directly impact upon areas or objects of social importance or cultural significance. In consideration of the broader context of the area surrounding the Project corridor, 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. Despite this, the likely presence of remnants of cultural heritage has not been dismissed and should be considered during construction and operational activities.

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, the site/location should be avoided 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 G).

17.2 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Aboriginal parties for this project are the Barunggam People. A previous cultural heritage survey of the Kogan to Braemar transmission line in about 2005 identified significant cultural heritage adjacent to the proposed alignment of the Western Downs to QNI. The cultural heritage survey for the Western Downs to QNI easement will ensure these areas are identified and agreed steps taken to manage these areas during the development of this project. The cultural heritage survey with the Barunggam people will be conducted in the second half of 2010.