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# **APPENDIX 8**

## **Aboriginal Heritage Assessment**

**An Aboriginal Heritage Assessment of the Poultry Litter  
Fired Power Project (PLFPP), Muchea, Western Australia,  
April 2000.**

**Prepared for Blair Fox Generation WA,**

**By**

**Paul Greenfeld**



**Deep Woods Surveys (WA) Pty Ltd**

## *Acknowledgments*

I would like to thank the following people, whose useful advice, assistance and cooperation made the heritage assessment possible.

Mr Matthew Rosser	Blair Fox Generation WA
Mr Peter Randolph	Aboriginal Affairs Department Perth
Sue Curry	Tiwest (Rutile Processing Plant)
William Warrell	Yued People (WC97/071)
Jenny Mogridge	Yued People (WC97/071)
Malcolm Ryder	Yued People (WC97/071)
Edna Ryder	Yued People (WC97/071)

## *Executive Summary*

This report documents the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (AHA) of the proposed location for the PLFPP (see figure 1-page 6). Mr Paul Greenfeld (heritage consultant) and Mr Matthew Rosser (Blair Fox) undertook an archaeological inspection of the block on 14 April 2000. A further anthropological assessment was carried out by the above (on site) with representatives of the Yued People (WC97/071) (WC97/071) on 20 April 2000.

The area proposed for the PLFPP is approximately 200m long by 100m wide and is to be located approximately 5km north of Muchea, situated west of the Brand Highway, in the southwest corner of a cleared block - Location 1809 (see figure 1 & plate 1). The block is covered with little or no vegetation, apart from where several small drainage areas (soaks) occur.

No aboriginal sites were located on the block, with no past cultural material (archaeological remains) noted during the course of the inspection. The area proposed for the PLFPP is clear of any trees, drainage areas and aboriginal sites (see plate 1).

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## ***Background***

### **Introduction**

The area proposed for the PLFPP is approximately 200m long by 100m wide and is to be located approximately 5km north of Muchea, situated west of the Brand Highway, in the southwest corner of a cleared block - Location 1809 (see figure 1 & plate 1). The block is covered with little or no vegetation, apart from where several small drainage areas (soaks) occur.

No aboriginal sites were located on the block, with no past cultural material (archaeological remains) noted during the course of the inspection. The area proposed for the PLFPP is clear of any trees, drainage areas and aboriginal sites (see plate 1).

### **Vegetation**

While located within the Perth Region (Drummond Botanical Subdistrict) at Muchea, the PLFPP is located close to the boundary of the Dandaragan Plateau and Swan Coastal Plain regions (Beard 1981:46). The boundary of the two regions is according to Beard (1981:46) formed by the Gingin Scarp trending northwest from Bullsbrook to the Caren Brook, then by the Dandaragan Scarp running due north through Mt Misery (278m) west of Dandaragan, to die out north of Dinner Hill. The eastern boundary according to Beard (1981:46) is formed by the Darling Fault marking the change to Precambrian rocks.

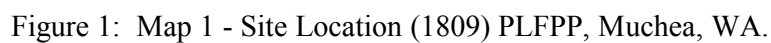
According to Beard (1981: 180) the vegetation of the Drummond Subdistrict is characterised by *Banksia* low woodland on leached sands with *Melaleuca* swamps where ill-drained; woodlands of tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), jarrah (*E. marginata*) and marri (*E. calophylla*) on less leached soils.

### **Soils**

Soils on the plateau are mostly sandy acidic yellow mottled soils, where the vegetation is heath and scrub heath, but beneath marri woodlands are red earthy sands and beneath banksia woodlands are yellow earthy sands (Beard 1981:46).

### **Climate**

The area experiences a dry mediterranean climate, with approximately 5-6 dry months a year. The average precipitation for the area is between 600-1000mm, occurring during the winter months (Beard 1981:181).



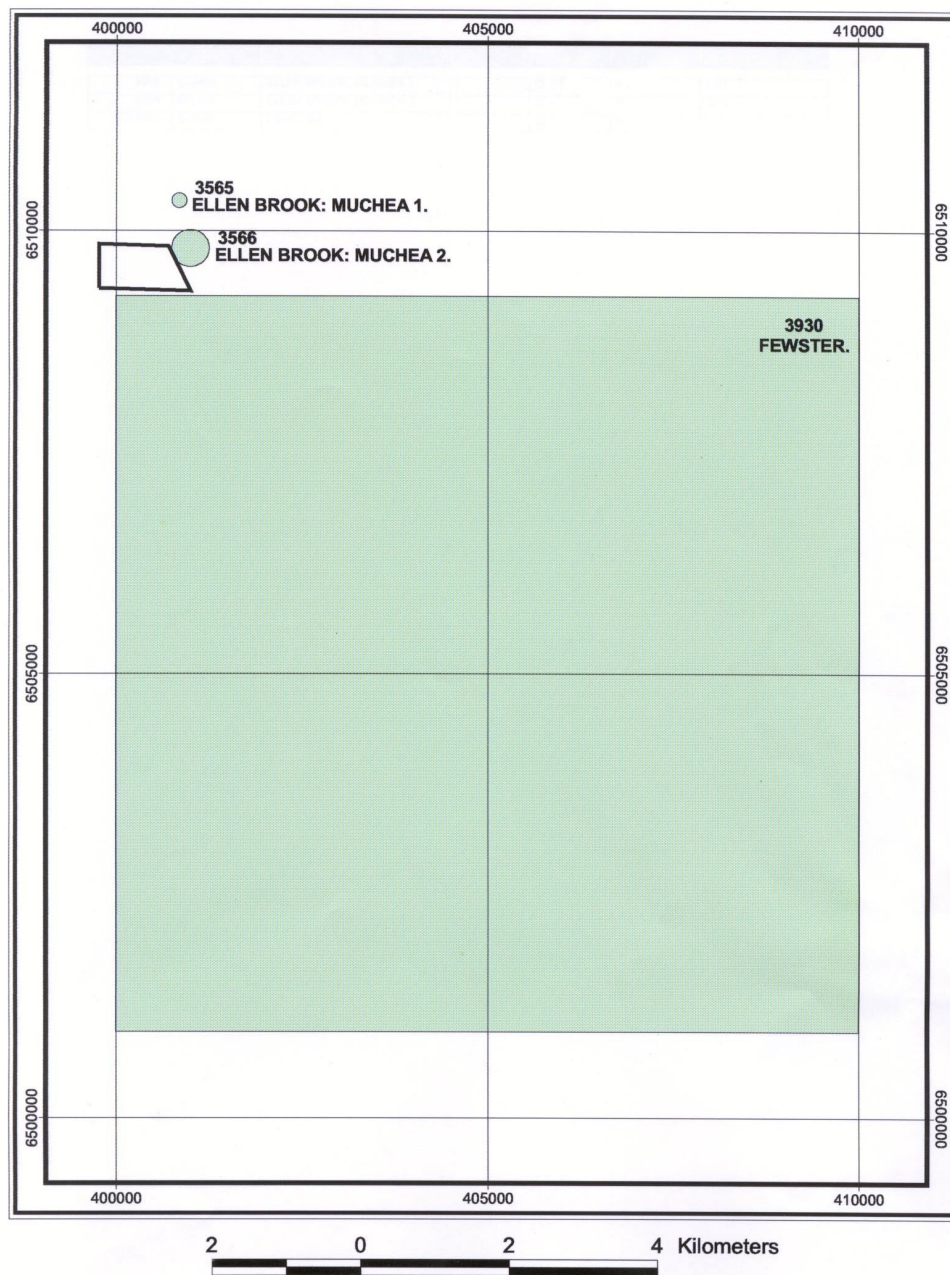


Figure 2: Map 2 – AAD site information, Location 1809



## *Methodology*

Before the AHA was undertaken, an examination of the AAD Site Register was carried out. While no aboriginal sites were located on block (Location 1809), three aboriginal sites (No's. 3565, 3566, 3930, all open status) were located in close proximity. Aboriginal sites 3565 and 3566 (Ellen Brook: Muchea 1 & 2) are both stone artefact scatters, which were located in 1988 during the heritage assessment carried out for the synthetic rutile plant (Tiwest). Aboriginal site 3930 (Fewster) is an account of a past occupation area, close to where "Redheads" is now located (see figure 2).

The archaeological inspection was carried out by walking over the area proposed for the PLFPP, as well as walking several other random transects across the block.

The anthropological assessment consisted of viewing the area proposed for the PLFPP with representatives of the Yued People (WC97/071).

Photographs of the archaeological inspection and anthropological assessment were taken (see plate 1), and where necessary, any Australian Metric Grid (AMG) coordinates were obtained through using a hand-held Garmin GPS.

## *Results*

The AHA resulted in no aboriginal sites being located on block (Location 1809). The area proposed for the PLFPP is clear of any trees, drainage areas and aboriginal sites (see plate 1).



Plate 1: Site Location (1809), PLFPP, Muchea.

## ***Conclusions/Recommendations***

I suggest that the development of the PLFPP be allowed in its preferred location within block (Location 1809), as there are no perceived heritage impediments that have been identified to date which would prevent its establishment.

## *References*

- Beard, J. S. Vegetation Survey of Western Australia – Swan. Map and Explanatory Notes (Sheet 7 – 1:1 000 000 vegetation series). University of Western Australia Press, 1981.