



**REPORT OF AN ABORIGINAL HERITAGE
SURVEY OF THE MYALUP-WELLINGTON
(STAGE 1) PROJECT IN THE SHIRE OF
COLLIE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

*A report prepared for Strategen Environmental on
behalf of Collie Water*

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- Mrs Leah Mackie – Brad Goode & Associates Pty Ltd (Research & Mapping Assistant)

Gnaala Karla Booja WC1998/058 Native Title Claim group representatives

- Mrs Shirley Hayward
- Mr Joseph Northover
- Mr Ted Hart
- Mr James Khan
- Ms Lera Bennell
- Mr Les Wallam
- Mr Dennis Jetta
- Mr Peter Michael
- Ms Irene Khan
- Mrs Dorothy Winmar
- Mrs Annette Garlett
- Ms Dawn Alone
- Mr Murray Collard

DISCLAIMER

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Warning: This document may contain names, images or material that relates to deceased Aboriginal persons. Permission was sought and granted by the consulted informants to cite this information.

***Note:** This report, in terms of its assessment under section 5 of the Western Australian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, should be read in conjunction with the archaeological report by Harris (2019).

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MAPPING

Datum Used: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50. Handheld GPS Unit Garmin 64ST (+/- 10m)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The Agent – Strategen Environmental
The Consultant – Brad Goode & Associates Pty Ltd
The Proponent – Collie Water
ACMC – Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee
AHA – *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (Western Australian)
AHIS – Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System
BGA – Brad Goode & Associates Pty Ltd
CHMP – Cultural Heritage Management Plan
DAA – *former* Department of Aboriginal Affairs (now Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)
DPIRD – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DPLH – Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
DWER – Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
GKB – Gnaala Karla Booja
GL – Gigalitres
HIS – Heritage Information Submission
NSHA – Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement
NTC – Native Title Claim
SWALSC – South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Collie Water ('the proponent') is proposing to develop the 'Myalup-Wellington (Stage 1) Project' which is located in the Shire of Collie, Western Australia.

The 'Myalup-Wellington (Stage 1) Project' aims to reduce salinity in the Wellington Dam by extracting saline water from the Collie River East Branch at Buckingham, primarily during winter and spring. Extracted saline water would first be pumped to the Muja 'Z' Pit for storage, before being pumped to a new treatment plant constructed near the Collie Power Station for treatment including desalination. The treated potable (drinking) water will then be pumped to the Harris River Dam for use by the Water Corporation in the Great Southern Towns Water Supply Scheme. Brine from the treatment process is to be pumped to the Collie Power Station for disposal via Synergy's existing pipeline and outfall to the Indian Ocean. The objective of the Stage 1 Project is to alleviate the worsening salinity in Wellington Dam so the dam's water can be used for irrigation for the South-West Region's agricultural industries.

Specifically, the Stage 1 Project includes the following works:

- Collie River saline water extraction at Buckingham. This includes 1m high weir plates on existing concrete culverts and construction of a pump station with an approximate footprint of 90m x 35m;
- Saline water storage and pump station at Muja mine 'Z' pit (existing disused mine void);
- Pump Station at Centaur Road;
- A Water Treatment Plant constructed near the Collie Power Station (approximately 3.7ha footprint, cleared land); and
- The laying of pipelines from:
 - Buckingham pump station to 'Z' Pit
 - 'Z' Pit to the Water Treatment Plant near the Collie Power Station
 - Water Treatment Plant to the Collie Power Station
 - Water Treatment Plant to the Harris River Dam
 - A bubble up pit on the banks of the Collie River for discharge of treated water during commissioning.

As a part of the Stage 1 Project the proponent has requested that the project is assessed in relation to its obligations under the Western Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) - AHA.

A search of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) Aboriginal Sites & Places Register conducted on 25th July 2018 determined **two** previously recorded DPLH registered ethnographic sites, Site ID 16713 Collie River Waugal and Site ID 21905 Harris River, and **one** previously recorded ethnographic DPLH other heritage place, Place ID 31944 Collie Ochre Deposit, will be directly affected by the proposed works and will require approval under section 18 of the AHA to proceed.

Site ID 16713 Collie River Waugal has been extensively documented as a sacred mythological site in relation to the Dreaming creation serpent called the *Ngarngungudditj Walgu* or the Hairy Faced Rainbow Serpent. The DPLH extent of the site encompasses the entire Collie River system, from its headwaters near the Glen Mervyn Dam, and a number of its tributaries, as well as the Preston, Ferguson, Brunswick and Harris Rivers and the Leschenault Estuary. In relation to the Myalup-Wellington (Stage 1) Project the proposed works **will directly impact** upon the values of the Collie River at a number of locations with various activities such as geotechnical investigations for plant and infrastructure design, the construction of a pump station and weir, construction of a bubble up pit, and the installation of the pipelines under the river by various methods such as directional drilling and open trenching. As such the proponent **will be**

required to make application under section 18 of the AHA in order to carry out the proposed works within the DPLH extent of Site ID 16713 Collie River Waugal (see Table 2).

Site ID 21905 Harris River is recorded as a mythological site which was also created by the Ngarngungudditj Walgu during the Dreaming. The DPLH extent of the Harris River site begins in the south where it connects with the Collie River and stretches to Yourdamung Lake in the north, encompassing the Harris Dam and Lake Ballingall. In relation to the Myalup-Wellington (Stage 1) Project the proposed works **will directly impact** upon the Harris River through the installation of the pipelines across the river and the installation of a diffuser outfall within Lake Ballingall. As such the proponent **will be required** to make application under section 18 of the AHA in order to carry out the proposed works within the DPLH extent of Site ID 21905 Harris River.

Place ID 31944 Collie Ochre Deposit was recorded as an ochre deposit associated with ritual use located on the Collie River East Branch. The DPLH extent of the place covers approximately 0.8 hectares along Collie River East Branch located immediately east of the bridge on Griggs Road at Buckingham. In relation to the Myalup-Wellington (Stage 1) Project the proposed works **will directly impact** upon the Collie Ochre Deposit through the construction of a saline water extraction point which entails the construction of a pump station at Buckingham and the installation of weir plates on the existing bridge (concrete culverts) on Griggs Road over the Collie River East Branch. As such the proponent **will be required** to make application under section 18 of the AHA in order to carry out the proposed works within the DPLH extent of Place ID 31944 Collie Ochre Deposit.

As a result of ethnographic consultations held with thirteen representatives from the Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB) Native Title Claim (NTC) group on the 9th August and 7th December 2018, **no new** ethnographic sites of significance, as defined by section 5 of the AHA, were identified to be located within the Myalup-Wellington (Stage 1) Project survey area.

During the ethnographic consultations the GKB NTC group representatives confirmed the significance of the Collie River and Harris River as sacred sites associated with the Ngarngungudditj Walgu. During the consultations The GKB NTC advised that the prescribed activities impacting upon the rivers would adversely affect upon the spirit of the Walgu and subsequently could have spiritual consequences upon the traditional custodians of the waterways. Due to the significant cultural beliefs associated with the waterways the GKB representatives advised that they would prefer the proposed pipelines to span across the waterways wherever possible. Where this is not possible the GKB representatives advised that directional drilling underneath the waterways is a more culturally appropriate method than trenching.

In relation to the proposed directional drilling underneath the Collie River at GPS coordinates 423533mE 6315352mN, the GKB representatives advised that they find the proposed works acceptable on the provision that no drill pads are located within 30m of the high water mark of the river; that prior to drilling that geotechnical investigations are conducted on the Collie River bed to ensure that there will be no collapsing or fracturing of the riverbed; that prior to the work occurring that a propitiatory ritual and cultural monitoring is conducted at the river to ameliorate spiritual problems for the GKB, and that inductions are given to all contractors and personnel to ensure that they understand the significance of the waterways to the GKB NTC group.

Where the water pipeline is proposed to be constructed between the Collie Power Station and Harris River Dam at GPS coordinates 430100mE 6310462mN the GKB representatives advised that the wetland intersected holds the same cultural heritage values as site DPLH Site ID 16713 Collie River Waugal, As such the GKB have requested that directional drilling was the preferred crossing option. As this wetland is not currently a part of the site no approval under the AHA is required, however the proponent may wish to consider alternative paths for the

pipeline; if not further consultation has been requested by the GKB to agree upon the method to impact this area.

During the consultations the GKB representatives also expressed their concerns about the impact that the proposed pump station at Buckingham could have upon DPLH Place ID 31944 Collie Ochre Deposit. The GKB representatives advised that ochre was traditionally and historically gathered at this site for use in medicine, art, law and ceremony. It was reported that the local Nyungar community continues to gather ochre from the deposit for cultural purposes and, as such, they requested continued access to the site. The GKB representatives advised that they find the proposed pump station acceptable as it was appropriately located not to impact upon the main deposit at the quarry (see Appendix 4). In terms of management the GKB requested that temporary fencing be erected around the main ochre deposit during construction and that Nyungar monitors be present during the works to ensure that it is not impacted upon; inductions be given for all contractors and personnel to ensure that they understand the significance of the site; and built up silt along the creek be removed with the previously disturbed embankments in the area to be reshaped and rehabilitated.

As an outcome of the consultations the GKB representatives also requested cultural and archaeological monitors be present during any ground disturbing works which will impact upon the Collie River, the Harris River or their tributaries, or for any works within a 30m from the high water mark for all waterways and wetlands affected by the project.

During the site inspection it was advised by the GKB that the pipeline as it is currently planned will not affect the actual burial site for works within the DPLH extent of Site ID 15331 Shotts Graves. However to manage the significance of the area the GKB NTC group requested that archaeological monitors be present for any ground disturbing work in the vicinity of the site to ensure that proper procedures are followed in case the works uncover any skeletal remains that may be present outside of the known burial site (see Harris 2019).

As an outcome of the consultations the GKB NTC group representatives also advised that a portion of the treated water should be put back into the Collie River for environmental flows and to improve the overall health of the river that has been diminished by human activities.

As a final outcome of the consultations the GKB NTC group representatives requested that any future changes to the current design plans are provided to the working party at SWALSC for comment before approvals are sought and given to proceed with the construction of the project.

As a result of the survey the following recommendations are made in relation to the AHA:

It is recommended that the proponent seek consent under Section 18 of the AHA in order to carry out the proposed works located within the actual extents of Site ID 16713 Collie River, Site ID 21905 Harris River and Place ID 31944 Collie Ochre Deposit for the Myalup-Wellington (Stage 1) Project. This consent is necessary in order for the proponent to avoid potentially breaching section 17 of the AHA in relation to activities within land which contains Aboriginal heritage sites.

It recommended that the ACMC grants consent in consideration of the management requests made by the GKB NTC during the survey.

It is recommended that the proponent gives due consideration to the implementation of the Gnaala Karla Booja WC1998/058 Native Title Claim group requests in order to mitigate impacts upon heritage values:

- The proposed pipeline span across all water crossings wherever possible;

- The required directional drilling underneath the Collie River not have drill pads situated within 30m of the high water mark of the river;
- Geotechnical investigations be conducted on the Collie River with the results provided to the GKB NTC group representatives;
- A propitiatory ritual be conducted at the Collie River prior to any ground disturbing works occurring;
- Inductions be given for all contractors and personnel in relation to the significance and extent of the DPLH ethnographic sites;
- Cultural monitors be present during any ground disturbing works within the DPLH extent of the Collie River, Harris River or the Collie Ochre Deposit;
- Temporary fencing be erected around the main ochre deposit within DPLH Place ID 31944 Collie Ochre Deposit during the pump station construction period;
- Access to the Collie Ochre Deposit site be retained for the local Nyungar community;
- Built up silt along the Collie River at the ochre site be removed and the previously disturbed embankments in the area reshaped;
- The GKB NTC group representatives be re-consulted with once the design plans for the pipeline to cross a swampy tributary of the Collie River near the Collie Power Station has been finalised;
- Archaeological monitors be present for any ground disturbing works within the DPLH extent of Site ID 15331 Shotts Graves;
- Clean and treated water be put back into the Collie River to improve its health; and
- Any changes to the current design plans are provided to the GKB NTC group representatives for comment.

It is recommended that the proponent seek advice from DPLH in regards to any sites or places such as Site ID 15331 Shotts Graves where the pipeline, infrastructure or activities associated with the project intersects the DPLH extent of any registered site or place but does not impact the actual site or place boundary. This contact and consultation would reduce all risk of an administrative breach of section 17 of the AHA occurring (see Appendix 4).

**REPORT OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE SURVEY OF
PROPOSED MYALUP WELLINGTON (STAGE 1) PROJECT
INFRASTRUCTURE & PIPELINE ROUTE, SHIRE OF COLLIE,
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



Figure 18: On Roney Road looking NW at proposed pipeline route through a transmission line corridor within farmland.

A report prepared for Strategen Environmental on behalf of Collie Water

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February 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological investigation for Aboriginal heritage sites was commissioned by Strategen Environmental on behalf of Collie Water on a proposed Myalup Wellington Project Stage 1 infrastructure and pipeline route from Muja Mine Z to Harris Dam in Collie with proposed key infrastructure points along the route.

The proposed pipeline connecting the infrastructure extends approximately 36km in a mostly NW/SE direction from Muja to Harris Dam crossing Premier and Griffin mining leases, private farmland, road reserve, state forest, Collie Power and Bluewaters Power plants. A large portion falls within Western Power transmission line easement. The corridor of the pipeline survey extends 30m that includes a buffer zone.

An online search of the site register at Heritage and Culture Division, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), was undertaken on 23rd July 2018 which defined that there were four registered archaeological sites, two lodged heritage places and 12 'stored data/not a site' places that overlaid the project area.

The field survey was undertaken on 6th to 9th of August 2018 by Mrs Jacqueline Harris, senior archaeologist. Mr James Khan, a Gnaala Karla Booja native title claim group representative and senior field assistant, accompanied the survey. A further survey was conducted on 4th to 5th December 2018 to complete the middle section of the route after access was gained from Bluewaters Power, Piacentini and Synergy to enter their landholdings.

The sample survey of the project area to identify any archaeological sites incorporated driving along the majority of the total corridor in a 4WD vehicle at a slow pace. Pedestrian transects along the alignment were undertaken over the majority of the proposed corridor where visibility allowed. Predictive intensive transects were conducted at potential areas of interest such as devegetated patches and river and creek lines. It was estimated that the overall percentage coverage of the designated project area was around 45%. Ground visibility within the wholly disturbed area was excellent at around 60% but where dense forest matter littered the track and fields were in pasture visibility reduced to <20%.

The pipeline corridor is generally along transmission line access tracks. Otherwise the corridor follows within the road reserve of roads or 4WD vehicle tracks or cuts across state forest, and farming land along the transmission line easement. As a consequence the corridor previously has been extensively disturbed by total vegetation clearing for installation of tracks and other infrastructure. In the southern portion off Centaur Road the proposed corridor follows areas previously mined and therefore no original surface or substrata remains. Where the forest abuts transmission line tracks the corridor has been selectively cleared but is now exhibiting some vegetation regrowth. At various stages the corridor crosses or lies adjacent to tributaries of Collie River such as Collie River East, Harris River and other less defined and unnamed waterways.

A search was conducted for the location of the 12 stored data places on or in the vicinity of the proposed corridor. These sites are all classified as stored data/not a site either because of their small content containing one or two artefacts or because they have been destroyed through development.

Research established that three previously registered archaeological sites may be impacted by the proposed pipeline being constructed in close proximity to its location. No new archaeological site or heritage place, as defined by section 5 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, was located within or in close proximity to the project area in the course of the survey. One isolated artefact was located at Zone 50 423265mE 6315540mN.

Site ID 4791 Shotts 01 has been previously disturbed by a section 18 granted to Western Collieries, construction of a transmission line and track and subsequently from rehabilitation and removal of a transmission line and it is unlikely this surface site can be relocated. Research suggests it is actually some 50m southwest of the proposed pipeline and therefore, the proposed pipeline may impact upon the corrected position of the site.

If Collie Water seek to disturb the site, **it is recommended** that a section 18 be sought from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, DPLH and permission granted unconditionally.

Site ID 4797 Shotts 07 has been disturbed by a section 18 granted to Western Collieries, sand mining, construction of a transmission line and track and subsequently from rehabilitation. Artefacts however are still present and are considered significant. As the extent of the actual site is within <50m of the proposed pipeline or adjacent to the parameter of pipeline disturbance, it may be impacted.

If Collie Water seeks to disturb the site, **it is recommended** that a section 18 be sought from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, DPLH and permission granted conditional that disturbance is monitored by an Aboriginal traditional owner during the removal of sediment and vegetation.

Site ID 4802 Shotts 12 has been disturbed from road construction, quarrying activities and use as a rubbish dump. Few artefacts have subsequently been recovered and the site retains little integrity. The site is <40m northeast of the proposed pipeline and therefore the site may be impacted by the proposed pipeline. Extreme caution should be taken to stay as close as practicable to Centaur Road to avoid impacting the disturbed site.

If Collie Water seeks to disturb the site, **it is recommended** that a section 18 be sought from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, DPLH and permission granted unconditionally.

Because of the nature of artefact sites being generally located around swamps and creeks and the moderate to high likelihood that subsurface deposits might be present **it is recommended** that any ground disturbance or vegetation clearance to areas surrounding water resource areas such as swamp, creeks and washaways should be monitored by an Aboriginal traditional owner during the removal of sediment and vegetation.

The most likely areas where archaeological sites, in particular, artefact scatters or burials, may occur are banks of creeks and exposed sandy deposits. The removal or excavation of large quantities of sediment increases the risk of disturbing archaeological sites that may lie beneath the ground surface. **It is recommended** that Collie Water inform any project personnel of their obligation to report any archaeological material, should this be encountered during earthmoving, as outlined under section 15 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

If Collie Water locates an archaeological site in the process of survey or ground excavation, **it is recommended** that work cease in the immediate area. Any skeletal material should be reported to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, and the Western Australian Police Service. Any artefactual material should be reported to Heritage and Culture Division, DPLH.