

14. Cultural heritage

This section contains information regarding Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage, including a regional perspective of the Port Curtis area and a more localised perspective of the project area. The purpose of reporting on the cultural heritage of the area is to identify existing cultural heritage values that may be potentially sensitive to disturbance resulting from the proposed development activities.

The assessment has been based on a review of existing information and the outcomes of supporting Indigenous cultural heritage survey (undertaken by the relevant Aboriginal group and Archaeo Cultural Heritage Services). Potential impacts of the Project and mitigation measures are also discussed.

14.1 Cultural heritage legislation

To provide effective recognition, protection and conservation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage, the following Commonwealth and State legislation have been introduced:

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protection Act 1984*
- *Native Title Act 1993*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*
- *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (ACH Act)*
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*

Section 3.7 provides details on the above legislation.

14.2 Methodology

A comprehensive desktop study was undertaken to describe the existing Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage environment of the project area.

A preliminary assessment was undertaken of the project area and included a review of existing background data and a preliminary field survey. Commonwealth and State database searches included the following:

- The Australian Heritage database (DEWHA)
- National Heritage List (DEWHA)
- Commonwealth Heritage List (DEWHA)
- Register of the National Estate (DEWHA)
- World Heritage List (DEWHA)
- Queensland Heritage Register (EPA)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Database and Register (DNRW)

Other sources of information consulted (literature review) included:

- Aldoga Aluminium Smelter EIS (Connell Wagner 2002)
- Gladstone Pacific Nickel EIS (URS 2007)
- Comalco EIS (Dames and Moore 1998)
- Lorna McDonald (2001) An Overview of the Historical Cultural Heritage Resources of the Curtis Coast
- Lorna McDonald (1988) Gladstone: city that waited
- Gladstone Area Writers Group (1990) Recollections and Reflections (A personal recollection from people involved within the oral history project which endeavours to preserve, in part, the effects of our changing lifestyles in and around the Gladstone and Calliope Districts) Gladstone
- Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan (2003)

- Gladstone Plan (2006)
- Calliope Shire Council Planning Scheme, Schedule 12

Members of the MLARP EIS team also contacted the following historical groups to obtain further information on non-indigenous culture heritage:

- Royal Historical Society of Queensland
- Mount Larcom Heritage Village
- Calliope District Heritage Group
- Gladstone Library
- Port Curtis Historical Society

Desktop assessments of existing registered Indigenous cultural heritage values were determined through a search of the DNRW's Register of Sites. The results of the search of the Register are contained within Appendix J.

Non-indigenous cultural heritage was concluded through research in a historical context.

14.3 Indigenous cultural heritage assessment

14.3.1 Desktop assessment

No sites of Indigenous value identified under the Calliope Shire Planning Scheme and the Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan were recorded within and/or adjoining the project area.

A search of the DNRW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Cultural Heritage Database and Register identified one culturally significant site (Artefact on Lot 1 RP616273) within the project area and five culturally significant sites in the surrounding areas (refer Figure 14.1). Table 14.1 presents their approximate location (lot/plan number) in relation to the project area.

It is not possible to conclusively guarantee the accuracy of these recordings (in particular the longitude and latitude location description for each site) and extra diligence is required when operating in these locations.

Table 14.1 DNRW recorded Aboriginal sites

Recorded Aboriginal sites (DNRW)	Place ID (DNRW register)	Lot/Plan Number (approximate)
Grindstone	JF:D52	Lot 201 on SP116496
Artefact Scatter	JF:D53	Lot 13 on SP157705
Artefact	JF:D54	Lot 1 on RP616273
Artefact	JF:D62	Lot 2 on SP157677
Artefact	JF:D62	Lot 2 on SP157677
Artefact	JF:D62	Lot 2 on SP157677

There is potential for further or residual Indigenous historical and cultural sites to be discovered during construction within the project area. However, it is expected that there will be little or no impacts to existing sites.

14.3.2 Detailed assessment and CHMP

The Port Curtis Coral Coast (PCCC) Registered Native Title Claimants have been identified as the Aboriginal Party, as defined under the ACH Act, for the study area. Figure 14.2 illustrates the Aboriginal Native Title claim boundary for the Gladstone area.

Pursuant to the ACH Act, notification under Part 7 was given to the Aboriginal Party of the impending EIS and the need to prepare a CHMP. Part 7 notification was given to the Gurang Land Council. The PCCC expressed their interest in being involved as the endorsed Indigenous parties under the Act.

There is an existing agreement between the Traditional Owner Claimants and the Minister for State Development and Innovation for cultural heritage management of the GSDA. As the project site will extend beyond the GSDA border, further cultural heritage studies and liaison with the PCCC has been undertaken, as part of the investigations and studies for this EIS.

To verify and reinforce information gathered during the desktop study and to meet QR's obligation under the ACH Act an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment has been undertaken and will be supplied to relevant State agencies.

The Cultural Heritage Assessment was undertaken within a nominated study area between the 31 March and 30 May 2008 (refer Figure 14.3). Despite the limited ground visibility across the study area, 754 artefacts were located. The artefacts identified were either isolated finds (75) or isolated groups. Isolated groups included 14 locations where a medium to low density (2-5 artefacts/m²) of stone artefacts and 21 locations with a density of $\geq 4/m^2$.

A draft CHMP is being prepared for the Project which will include the outcomes of the survey and approved management measures (ie agreement between QR and the PCCC people). This CHMP is partially executed and expectations are that it will be provided to the State for approval in the third quarter of 2008.

14.4 Non-indigenous cultural heritage assessment

14.4.1 European historical context

Mathew Flinders was the first known European to set foot upon the site of the future city of Gladstone and gave the name of Port Curtis in 1802. Today this is known as the Port of Gladstone.

Surveyor Francis McCabe and party arrived by ship at Port Curtis on 18 June 1853 to begin surveying town allotments and small farms. The town was to be named Gladstone to honour the British statesman who had dreamed of a new life for 'pardoned convicts' in North Australia (McDonald 2001). It was surveyor Francis McCabe who gave the first recorded description of the Calliope River, named by him 'Liffey', for his Irish birthplace. McCabe reported on 12 November 1853:

"I beg leave to suggest that this Inlet should be called the River Liffey and that a reserve should be made for a village at the head of navigation, as the land is very eligible for small farms. I propose to lay out a good many from the head of navigation upwards and extending 3 or 4 miles back from the river...."

A Government Residency was established in Gladstone in 1854 but was closed upon the creation of the separate colony of Queensland in 1859. Settlement at Gladstone was slow, and with the discovery of gold at Canoona near Rockhampton, commerce moved north of Gladstone. While the town itself was slow to develop, the Port Curtis district hosted a series of cattle runs, and after the *Closer Settlement Act 1906*, agricultural areas developed around Mount Larcom and Yarwun. Forests were cleared, to be replaced by dairy herds, banana plantations, and small crops including tomato and pawpaw. Maize, sugar and cotton were also trialed (McDonald 2001).

Further developments opened up in the hinterland of the Curtis Coast like Queensland's first copper mine established at Inveragh in 1860 and reef mining at the Calliope gold fields which were gazetted in 1863 and continued for many years at different locations (Connell Wagner 2002). Around Yarwun a substantial number of Russian refugees settled.

Memories of Yarwun as a small village with only one small corner store and farmers till working with horses in 1952 have been recounted by Emily Dobrinin (Gladstone Writers Group 1990). Mount Larcom was the major town in the district. In 1879 the Calliope Divisional Board was established subsequently becoming the Calliope Shire in 1903. Land settlement had begun with sheep and wool production, but this was doomed to failure and sheep were soon replaced by beef cattle. In the Boyne Valley and Mount Larcom areas in particular, dairy farms were established. Rail services to both areas began between 1903 and 1909. This meant easier access to markets and also boosted other primary industries (Connell Wagner 2002).

The most intense agricultural activity began with the clearing of the softwood scrubs around Mount Larcom, Ambrose, Yarwun and Targinie from 1909. Sugar cane and dryland cotton production were additional driving forces for the area, however these were doomed to failure. Fruit growing commenced at Yarwun in 1913 and in 1924 the Yarwun-Targinie Fruit Growers Association was formed to export the famous Yarwun papaws to southern capitals. By 1960 up to 30,000 cases a year were freighted out of this productive area (Connell Wagner 2002). Other industries carried on for decades within the Calliope Shire, at least intermittently, were timber-getting and saw-milling (Connell Wagner 2002).

From this historical context, development in the project area was largely driven by timber harvesting and grazing. It was not until 1963 when the announcement of Comalco's choice of Gladstone as the site for its major alumina refinery that the town received the economic impetus it required to commence the following decades of rapid growth.

Today, Gladstone is a modern, urbanised city, which supports large scale minerals and metal processing industries. The Gladstone Harbour provides for large trading vessels carrying coal, alumina, bauxite, other minerals and grain crops.

14.4.2 Desktop assessment

From the desktop study it was ascertained that no areas of importance for cultural heritage existed within the project area. This includes sites of non-indigenous value identified under the Calliope Shire Planning Scheme and Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan.

Mount Larcom Range which adjoins the project area to the east of the proposed Aldoga Rail Yard is listed in the Register of the National Estate (RNE) as an "indicative place". This area was also identified in Schedule 2 of the Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan as an area of cultural heritage significance in the Curtis Coast Region.

Non-indigenous heritage sites identified in the vicinity of the project area, which are not registered on Commonwealth and State heritage registers, are provided in Table 14.2. This was also confirmed during the cultural heritage assessment and through consultation with State and local historical groups.

Table 14.2 Non-indigenous heritage sites (unregistered)

Non-indigenous heritage sites (unregistered)	Lot/Plan number (approximate)	Comment
Former Mount Larcom Homestead	Lot 2 on SP147877	There is little evidence of Mount Larcom Homestead except for outlines of the foundation and some ornamental species (eg bougainvillea tree)
Massacre Site	Lot 2 on SP147877	This event was associated with the occupants of Mount Larcom Homestead

Non-indigenous heritage sites (unregistered)	Lot/Plan number (approximate)	Comment
Euroa Homestead and associated infrastructure (eg cattle yards)	Lot 200 on SP116496	The homestead is vacant, however it is intact and is regularly maintained by an onsite manager
Hay Barn	Lot 29 on RP894241	The site is relatively intact, however the condition has deteriorated significantly (ie the site is neglected as it is not used)
Milking Yards	Lot 1 on SP147877	The site is relatively intact, however the condition has deteriorated (ie the site is neglected as it is not used)

It is evident from the on the ground survey that construction impacts, such as ground clearing and excavation, are unlikely to affect these sites due to their separation distance with respect to the project area.

The design location of the Moura Link has taken into consideration the cultural heritage value of Lot 2 on SP147877 and Lot 9 on SP200837 with the alignment moved further east to avoid any potential impacts on the sites of cultural value (Mount Larcom Homestead and Massacre Site). It is important to note that these sites, along with the other sites in Table 14.2 are located within the GSDA.

14.5 Potential construction impacts

The potential cultural heritage impacts associated with the proposed rail infrastructure are largely associated with the construction phase and associated construction activities such as clearing, grubbing or excavation works.

Construction activities have the potential to impact on Mount Larcom Homestead and the Massacre Site. The impact is likely to be associated construction workers and equipment accessing the proposed Moura Link east of this area (ie there is an existing track and gas pipeline which adjoins this area (refer Figure 3.5) and this area may be used to access the construction site from the Bruce Highway).

Construction activities also have the potential to impact on the Euroa Homestead located on Lot 200 on SP116496. This will include the likely reconfiguration of Lot 200 on SP116496 and potential impacts on Euroa Homestead due to blasting and pile driving activities (ie the age of the building increases the susceptibility to vibration as a result of construction activities (refer Section 10)).

This site has also been identified as a potential location for a construction accommodation village (refer Section 2.8.3). This will be pursued further during detailed design.

There is also the potential for cultural and archaeological sites to be discovered during the construction phase of the Project.

Management measures (such as accidental find protocols) and implementation of the CHMP will be implemented to appropriately mitigate the potential for damage or unlawful harm to cultural heritage and archaeological sites.

14.6 Potential operational impacts

The potential impacts during the operational phase will be minimal given that excavation works and surface disturbing activities will be undertaken during the construction phase. Any maintenance activities during the operational phase should occur according to relevant provisions as outlined in the approved CHMP for the Project.

Furthermore, the Operational Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the rail infrastructure will include the requirement to comply with the ACH Act and should reflect relevant sections of the CHMP.

14.7 Mitigation measures

The measures proposed to mitigate the potential cultural heritage impacts of the Project are discussed in Section 20.

14.8 Conclusion

A cultural heritage duty of care will be implemented during the Project to minimise or prevent the loss and damage to items of cultural heritage or archaeological significance. A CHMP will be agreed with Traditional Owner groups and approved prior to construction activities commencing.

Protection of all non-indigenous historical sites and/or items identified in close proximity to the project area will be managed through the detailed design phase and in accordance with the appropriate mitigation measures.

14.9 Commitments

The relevant cultural heritage commitment for the Project includes:

- Finalise and implement a CHMP during construction.