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17 Cultural Heritage

17.1 Indigenous Cultural Heritage

17.1.1 Description of Environmental Values

Early European settlement in the area now known as the Gold Coast displaced many Aborigines from the traditional country. Among the Aborigines that remained on the Gold Coast several became well known to the European community and are recorded in historical documents. It is sometimes difficult to determine the specific region that was the traditional country of people featured in many of the early historical documents, due to the movement of individuals and family. Extensive research has enabled some very detailed accounts of the lives of a few of the Aborigines that lived in the Gold Coast region over 100 years ago.

Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s the traditional Aboriginal people of the region had to adapt to many changes. Their freedom was at the mercy of government officials who would have preferred that no Aborigines lived near European settlement. Employment was a crucial factor that enabled many Aborigines to survive in their traditional lands. Often it was only those who could prove themselves to be of some value as labour for European industries that were allowed to stay.

Several Aboriginal families found employment, sent their children to schools, became Christians and established houses. Yet they still lived with the fear of having their children taken from them and placed under the control of government officials. Aboriginal people had to adapt to the changes that were happening around them to keep their families together and to survive in their traditional lands.

Aborigines have played an important role in the establishment of rural industries such as the timber and pastoral industries, some became established as fishermen and in the oyster industry and others worked in the domestic service and the tourism industry. Many Aboriginal people have contributed to the development of the Gold Coast by working in the sand-mining, dredging, earthmoving, building and many other industries.

A recent census stated that over 3,600 Aborigines live on the Gold Coast. Many of these are descendants of the traditional Aboriginal people of the region, while many others have moved to the Gold Coast from other regions throughout Australia. Ongoing work is being carried out by the local Aboriginal community to document their history and culture and share it with others (Aird, 2001).

In line with the procedures of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* on the 16 March a public advertisement was placed in the Courier Mail and the Gold Coast Bulletin calling for Aboriginal Parties, with an interest in the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

In response to this advertisement, 59 responses were received requesting that the individuals be involved in the development of the CHMP. These parties have been endorsed by the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) as the sponsor of the CHMP.

Of the 59 endorsed parties, there are three indigenous groups that hold a connection to the Gold Coast area. These are (in alphabetical order):

- Eastern Yugambeh;
- Komumerri; and
- Ngarang-Wal.

Consultation has commenced with key members of each of these groups, seeking information on their interests in the Project area and how each group may be involved in the management of cultural heritage that may be affected by the Project.

It is intended that cultural heritage studies be conducted over the Project area and that recommendations for the management of the affected cultural heritage be used as the basis of the CHMP for the Project. This process is underway and will be required to be approved prior to the commencement of construction.

17.1.2 Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The environmental harm to cultural heritage values in the vicinity of the project will be managed under a CHMP developed specifically for the Project. The CHMP will provide a process for the management of cultural heritage places both identified and sub-surface at the project sites. It is usual practice for the CHMP to be based on information contained in archaeological and/or anthropological reports on the survey area and cultural reports and/or information from affiliated traditional owners.

Under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* a CHMP will be an approval requirement prior to the commencement of the Project.

17.2 Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage

17.2.1 Introduction

This section describes the non-indigenous cultural heritage values and history associated with the area surrounding Hinze Dam. Historical descriptions of both the immediate dam area as well as the localities surrounding this area have been provided. Local community cultural heritage values as well as sites/places listed on State and Federal heritage lists are also discussed. Finally, potential impacts which may occur as a result of the Project are discussed and mitigation measures and recommendations provided.

17.2.2 Methodology

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:

- *Resources Inventory of Hinze Dam Catchment, Southeast Queensland 2002* (report prepared by Dr Richard Whitlow on behalf of Gold Coast Water);
- *Gold Coast City Council Corporate Plan 2003-2007*;
- *Numinbah Valley – A Social and Natural History 1840's – 1988* (written by Hall *et al* 1988 on behalf of the Numinbah Valley Bicentennial Committee);
- *Urban Heritage and Character Study* (GCCC, 1997);
- GCCC Heritage Information website;
- discussions with GCCC Cultural Heritage staff;
- anecdotal historical information obtained via discussions with community members; and
- searches of the following heritage agencies' databases:
 - The National Trust;
 - The State Heritage Register; and
 - The Register of National Estate.

The aforementioned methodology was utilised in order to gather 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.

17.2.3 Non-Indigenous History

Whilst the indigenous history of human occupancy within the catchment dates back for at least 6,000 years, the recorded non-indigenous history in the region began in the mid 1800s with the opening up of the Numinbah Valley.

Settlement generally began in this region in the 1860's with government legislation opening up the land for selection or settlement. Like many of the areas in the Gold Coast Hinterland, people originally settled in places such as Advancetown due to good stands of local timber (GCCC, 2006b). Logs harvested in this region had to be dragged to the river and floated down to Nerang, commonly during flood flows, or cut into sections and dragged by bullock teams to Nerang (Whitlow, 2002).

As Brisbane and other regional towns grew in the 19th Century, so did the colonial building industry with small settlement growing around timber mills, hotels and at points where main roads or tracks crossed (GCCC, 2006b). In 1924 a large commercial timber mill, the Nerang Hardwood Company mill, was constructed at Neranwood. Unlike many of the local mills in the region, this mill exported timber away from the immediate area with a tram line making it possible for logs and planks to make it to the coastal railway station (Whitlow, 2002).

The first white farming settler in the Numinbah valley was Frank Nixon who set up his farm blocks in the central part of the valley some time in the 1870s (Whitlow, 2002). Whilst he was the first to attempt dairying in the valley, the dairy industry only really began to gather momentum in the early 1900s (Whitlow, 2002). During the early 1940's the dairy industry in the region was booming with up to 41 dairy farms operating in the Numinbah Valley and a further 18 in Springbrook (Whitlow, 2002). Despite this, due to competition from margarine, many of the smaller dairies were forced out of production such that by the 1970s only 16 farms had survived (Whitlow, 2002).

In the 1930s and 1940s some settlers decided to supplement their farm incomes with guest houses and restaurants, attracting both day and short holiday visitors. So successful were such enterprises that during the 1940s and 1950s, Springbrook promoted itself as "*Queensland's Premier Mountain Resort*" (Hall, 1990). Whilst farming no longer plays a major role in the Springbrook area, the early guest houses were the forerunners of today's local economy based upon crafts, coffee shops, small restaurants and cottage style accommodation (Whitlow, 2002).

Banana plantations have also been a significant part of the agricultural history of the Numinbah Valley and to a lesser degree at Springbrook (Whitlow, 2002). In 1928 the first plantation was established and before long there were banana plantations on the footslopes of the mountains along the eastern and western flanks of the valley (Whitlow, 2002). A combination of disease, poor weather, transport costs and competition from larger producers eventually saw the demise of most of the banana plantations (Whitlow, 2002).

Beef Cattle production also played a role in the opening up of the Hinze Catchment for settlement. Grazing began in the area from as early as the 1850s with the best grazing on the more open, sparsely wooded river terraces in the middle and lower reaches of the valley (Whitlow, 2002). Due to this industry, there was a local butchery in the lower Numinbah Valley by the early 1900s and stockyards in Nerang for marketing the cattle (Whitlow, 2002). As the dairying industry has declined considerably in recent years, more land has been taken over for beef production (Whitlow, 2002).

Farming and timber harvesting have undoubtedly resulted in monumental changes to the natural landscape within the Hinze Dam Catchment. Primarily, changes in the landscape date back to the 1900s when larger numbers of settlers moved in the Numinbah Valley and took up the first selections at Springbrook after (Whitlow, 2002). The contemporary hinterland landscape is a product of 150 years of human activity in the catchment and several of the founding families of this region still remain.

Several of these families have been involved in community consultation activities held to date. Historical information was obtained via discussions held with local families, with local historical events discussed alongside identification of key sites/places of cultural heritage value.

Families such as the Duncan and the Guinea have long been established in the region. Anecdotal evidence suggests that between the two families, either by blood or marriage, most of the old families in the area are related. The Guinea family are believed to have settled in the area around the current location of the western arm of the Dam in the early 1800s. It is thought that the family contributed greatly to the opening up of the Gold Coast. The Duncan family has also been in the region for considerable time with William Thomas being one of the first to settle in the region.

The McKavanagh are another family who have been in the region for considerable time. The family's multi-generational farmlands (over a century) were located along the Western Arm on both sides of the Nerang River. The US Army had camped on portions of their farms during World War II. One area was on the east side of the Nerang River, on the slope below Page's Pinnacle. The other was in the level open field where the model airplane club is currently located.

Other families who have long been associated with the area surrounding the dam include the Hinde, the Steven and the Hinze. Further discussions will occur with these families as the Project progresses.

17.2.4 Significant Site/Places

As a result of this investigative study into the non-indigenous cultural heritage values associated with the area surrounding the Hinze Dam Catchment, numerous sites and places have been identified as being culturally significant. 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 CID boundary will be examined in detail. It is acknowledged that there are numerous other significant cultural heritage sites located within reasonable proximity to the Hinze Dam however the Project is not expected to impact on these areas.

Current Heritage Listings

The listings of recognised places and sites of National and State heritage significance, being those places listed on the Register of National Estate, the National Trust and the Queensland Heritage Register, in the local area have been examined. Previous reports have discussed such listed sites however no specific sites have been located within the CID boundary.

It is recognised that within the area surrounding the study area, there are listed sites and places (in particular several National Parks to the south of the site which are listed on the Register of National Estate and numerous buildings and other infrastructure located in suburbs such as Willowvale, Springbrook and Worongary in the National Trust and the Queensland Heritage Register), however none of these places fall within the study area. Whilst places such as sawmills, dairies, early farms/farm buildings, rural landscapes/views, hinterland views and headlands and estuaries are listed on the Register of National Estate, a search of the register found that there are no specific listings found within the CID.

Other Sites of Cultural Significance

Investigations have identified several sites which have been recognised as having local cultural significance. Importantly, the area's non-indigenous history is represented in two local facilities - the Gold Coast Hinterland Heritage Museum located at Mudgeeraba, and the Mudgeeraba Troop – 14th Light Horse Regiment Museum located at Worongary. In addition to these facilities, many local community members have considerable local historical knowledge. Several of these community members have been consulted regarding establishing sites which are located in close proximity to the Dam which have cultural significance.

There are several sites/places which have been identified as culturally significant to the Duncan family. The first of these is the two Flame Trees (*Brachychiton acerifolius*), located behind the current ranger accommodation block (see **Figure 17-1**). These trees were planted in 1900 by Thomas Duncan next to the hut where he was born. Whilst the hut was removed during an earlier stage of the Dam construction, the pad from the building remains. During the same period, Thomas also planted three Crows Ash trees (*Flindersia australis*) (see **Figure 17-1**).

There are two gravesites within the CID boundary which have been identified as culturally significant. The graves are of members of the Guinea family and are located on the site of the old Guinea property on the western arm of the Dam (see **Figure 17-1**). The graves have been noted at a community level for their historical significance and also have considerable meaning to the surviving ten great grandchildren of the Guinea family who still live in the surrounds.

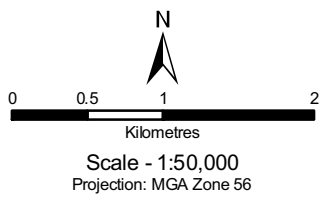
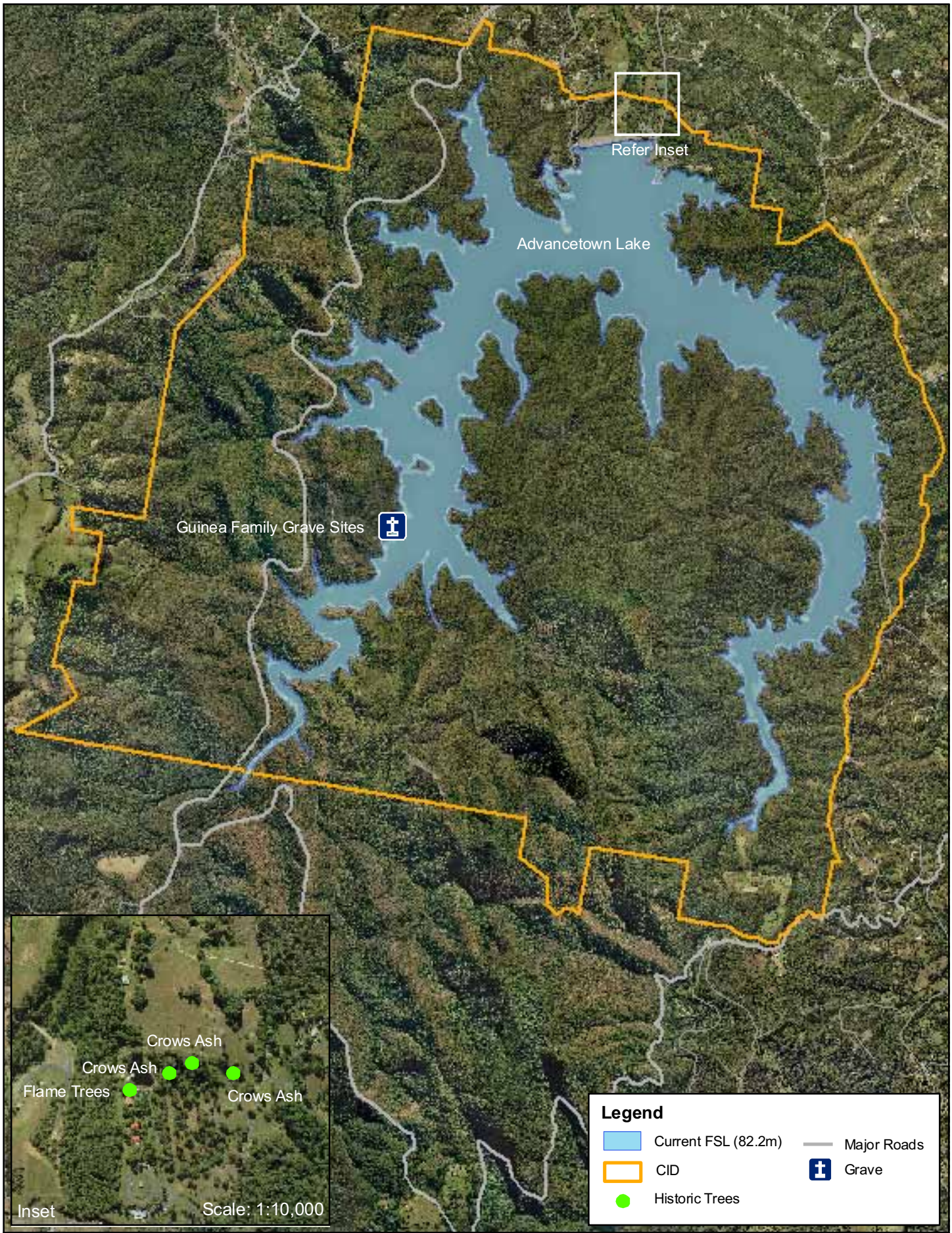


Figure 17-1a
Significant Non-Indigenous
Cultural Heritage Sites
Hinze Dam Stage 3 EIS

This figure is to be read in conjunction with the data disclosure in Appendix H of this document

As stated previously, it is planned that consultation will continue with specific community members regarding sites of cultural significance in the area to ensure such sites are identified and understood.

17.2.5 Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Most of the sites/places which have been identified as being culturally significant will not be impacted either during construction or operation of the Hinze Dam Stage 3 Project. This situation may change subject to refinement of haulage routes however it is expected that such significant sites will be avoided wherever possible. To date, the only culturally significant site which remains an exception to this is the Guinea family gravesites.

At the new Full Supply Level, the gravesites will be inundated. Surviving family members have requested that the contents of the graves be removed from the site so that they will not be inundated. The family have also requested that the graves be relocated to an accessible location so that they can be visited easily. It is proposed that the contents of the graves be relocated up Nerang River closer to the old Pine Creek bridge where there will be a boat ramp and barbeque area. A 300m² landscaped park area will be provided at this location and a plaque supplied commemorating the Guinea family graves. It is recommended that this park be appropriately named.

This process will be carried out with full sensitivity to the nature of the activity and in close consultation with the Guinea family and other interested community members as well as relevant local and State Government agencies who are yet to be determined.

The potential impact on the Duncan Crows Ash Trees in Clay Borrow Area is yet to be determined. This is currently being investigated as technical assessments for the works continue.

In order to protect the sites identified (and others if relevant) significant sites will be mapped and persons working onsite inducted in relation to their existence and the associated management measures required. In addition to this, continuing consultation with community members will occur to ensure that significant sites which may not have been identified to date are recognised and are protected where possible.