



**Baralaba South Project
Environmental Impact Statement**

CHAPTER 15

Cultural Heritage

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15 Cultural Heritage

This chapter describes the Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage associated with the Project, the potential impacts on cultural heritage and the mitigation and management measures that will be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts.

15.1 Environmental objective

This chapter has been prepared to assist the DES in carrying out the environmental objective assessment in respect of the following environmental objective as stated in the Project TOR:

The construction and operation of the Project should aim to ensure that the nature and scale of the Project does not compromise the cultural heritage significance of a heritage place or heritage area.

15.2 Description of existing values

15.2.1. Indigenous cultural heritage

Under section 23 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) (ACH Act), every person or entity who carries out an activity has a duty of care to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The Project is located wholly within the Gaangalu Nation People (QC2012/009) registered native title claim area (refer to Chapter 2, Project Description, Figure 2.10). As the registered native title claimant, the Gaangalu Nation People are the current 'Aboriginal party' for the Project area under the ACH Act.

In general terms, Gaangalu country is bounded by the Dawson and Fitzroy Rivers in the east, the Mackenzie River in the north and west, the Comet River in the west and Goomally and Mimosa Creek in the south (NNTT Native Title Vision, QC2012/09). According to ethno-historical records, the dialect of the Gaangalu language remains consistent within the defined area bounded by the Mackenzie, Fitzroy and Comet Rivers.

The Proponent acknowledges the Project area and surrounds, in particular Wandoo Mountain (Mount Ramsay), are culturally significant to First Nations people who have a traditional connection to Country.

Searches of the Cultural Heritage Register or Database maintained by the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) indicate that there are no Aboriginal cultural heritage sites recorded within the Project area or immediate surrounds. Importantly, search results are indicative only and the cultural heritage duty of care applies to all Aboriginal cultural heritage, not just recorded sites.

Notwithstanding the above desktop search results, field surveys of the Project area have been conducted ahead of exploration activities on MLA700057. Further field surveys of the Project area will be undertaken ahead of further disturbance works associated with the Project and the move to mineral production activities to verify the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) developed for the Project (see section 15.4.1).

15.2.2. Non-Indigenous cultural heritage

A Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix R) has been undertaken for the Project by Converge Heritage + Community (2023), an appropriately qualified cultural heritage practitioner with extensive experience in cultural heritage assessment and reporting.

The Baralaba and District Historical Group, which was founded in 2003 has collected, recorded, restored and preserved the pictorial, oral and written history of Baralaba and District. A collection of historical photographs

is available for viewing at the Baralaba Community Centre, and further historical information is provided in Baralaba and District Historical Group Inc (2017).

15.2.2.1 Historical overview of the region and Project area

Historical themes identified by Converge Heritage + Community (2019) that are likely to be of relevance to the Project area are:

- exploiting, utilising and transforming the land (e.g. exploring, surveying and mapping the land, pastoral activity and agricultural activities);
- developing secondary and tertiary industries (e.g. struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure); and
- moving goods, people and information (e.g. using rail).

The following historical overview is a summary of the cultural history detailed in Appendix R, Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment.

As with most inland districts of Australia west of the Great Dividing Range, the members of an exploration party were the first non-Indigenous travellers to traverse the landscape of both the Darling Downs and the Dawson River. While Ludwig Leichhardt and his exploration party skirted the region in the vicinity of the Project area in 1844, it was the early pastoralists/squatters who explored the upper reaches of the Dawson Valley in their speculative endeavours to secure the best country for their sheep in the first large pastoral 'runs' in the area. Originally, the area was stocked with sheep; however, cattle began to replace sheep from the mid-1870s.

Mining commenced in the 1890s with the discovery of coal at Callide Creek, with initial mining efforts limited to several small-scale shafts. In 1899, Benjamin Dunstan, an assistant government geologist, further explored the Dawson River area, and in a report released in 1901, he described the coal that had been located at the foot of Mount Ramsay as being of exceptional quality and recommended that the surrounding land be designated a coal reserve. The release of Dunstan's report resulted in a flurry of exploration activity in the region.

The township of Baralaba was established relatively late in the history of Queensland. The original town was populated by drillers for coal and timber cutters in 1915 and was located three miles upriver of the town area which subsequently developed in 1917. The name Baralaba came from an Aboriginal term for 'High Mountain' in 1917.

Early in the exploration phase of coal mining in the Baralaba area, it was understood that the field would not be developed without a railway. Work began on the railway in 1910 and finally reached the Baralaba coalfield in mid-1917. The railway became an important means of communication and transportation for the town (Baralaba and District Historical Group Inc, 2017). A 95 kilometre extension of the line to Moura and then Theodore was approved in 1922 in response to the agricultural potential of the area and the Dawson Valley Irrigation Scheme. Several sidings were established to pick up cream and drop off goods, including stations and sidings such as Harcourt, Bindaree and Mungi located within the Project area.

After further testing by Walter Cameron, a deputy government geologist, a site for the new state mine was identified on the east side of the Dawson River in the railway yard of the newly named township of Baralaba. Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company Limited opened the Dawson Valley Colliery in the early 1920s and was producing approximately 150 tonnes of coal per day by 1924. The historic Dawson Valley Colliery is located on the eastern bank of the Dawson River within the Baralaba township. In 2009, the Queensland Heritage Council listed the Dawson Valley Colliery on the Queensland Heritage Register (Place ID 602723). The history of coal mining to the south of the Project area at Kianga/Moura is considerably more recent with coal leases being acquired in 1957. The Dawson Valley Colliery, the second state mine and Kianga/Moura operations are located outside the Project area.

Further discussion on the early European settlement and pastoral history of relevance to non-Indigenous cultural heritage items within the Project area is provided in Appendix R, Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment.

15.2.2.2 Non-Indigenous heritage values relevant to the Project

Converge Heritage + Community (Appendix R, Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment) completed historical and archival research and a review of heritage registers to determine the existence, extent and probable levels of significance of any places likely to be located within the Project area. Field survey of the Project area was also conducted by Converge Heritage + Community.

The results of the database and register searches indicated that no places were identified on the World Heritage List, National Heritage List, Commonwealth Heritage List, Queensland Heritage Register, Local Heritage Register, former Register of the National Estate or Queensland National Trust Register (Appendix R, Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment). The former Dawson Valley Colliery listed on the Queensland Heritage Register (Place ID. 602723) is situated approximately 11 km north of the Project area.

The field survey undertaken by Converge Heritage + Community identified 13 sites and places of potential non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance in the Project area or immediate surrounds. The sites are shown in Figure 15.1, and comprise seven dams, three turkey nests, two homestead complexes, the Dawson Valley Railway, a telephone line and a survey tree.

The assessment of non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance was undertaken in accordance with 'The Burra Charter of Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites' (The Burra Charter) (Australia ICOMOS, 2013) and the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Heritage Act). Cultural heritage significance relates to people's perspective of place and sense of value within the context of history, environment, aesthetics and social organisation.

The cultural landscape of the Project area reflects the history of the pastoral industry, communications and activities associated with the Dawson Valley Railway. The Project area is considered to have local significance under criteria A and B of the Heritage Act (Table 15.1).

Table 15.1: Significance ratings for the Project area

Criteria	Discussion
A	<p>The Project area contributes to contextual information related to closer settlement in central Queensland since the 1930s. This has resulted in a cultural landscape which is representative of this phase of Queensland's history in the region.</p> <p>The Project area is also closely associated with the establishment of 1920s expansion of the rail network in the central Queensland area. The Dawson Valley Railway and remnant associated features provide tangible evidence of the importance of the rail networks in Queensland prior to the development of road transport.</p> <p>The Project area is considered to be of historic value at a local level within this category.</p>
B	<p>Telephone lines were once a ubiquitous feature of the Queensland landscape but are now becoming uncommon and endangered. Although not standing, the segment of telephone line located in the Project area provides an unusual example of the range of fittings and brackets associated with this type of place.</p> <p>The Project area is considered to be of historic value at a local level within this category.</p>

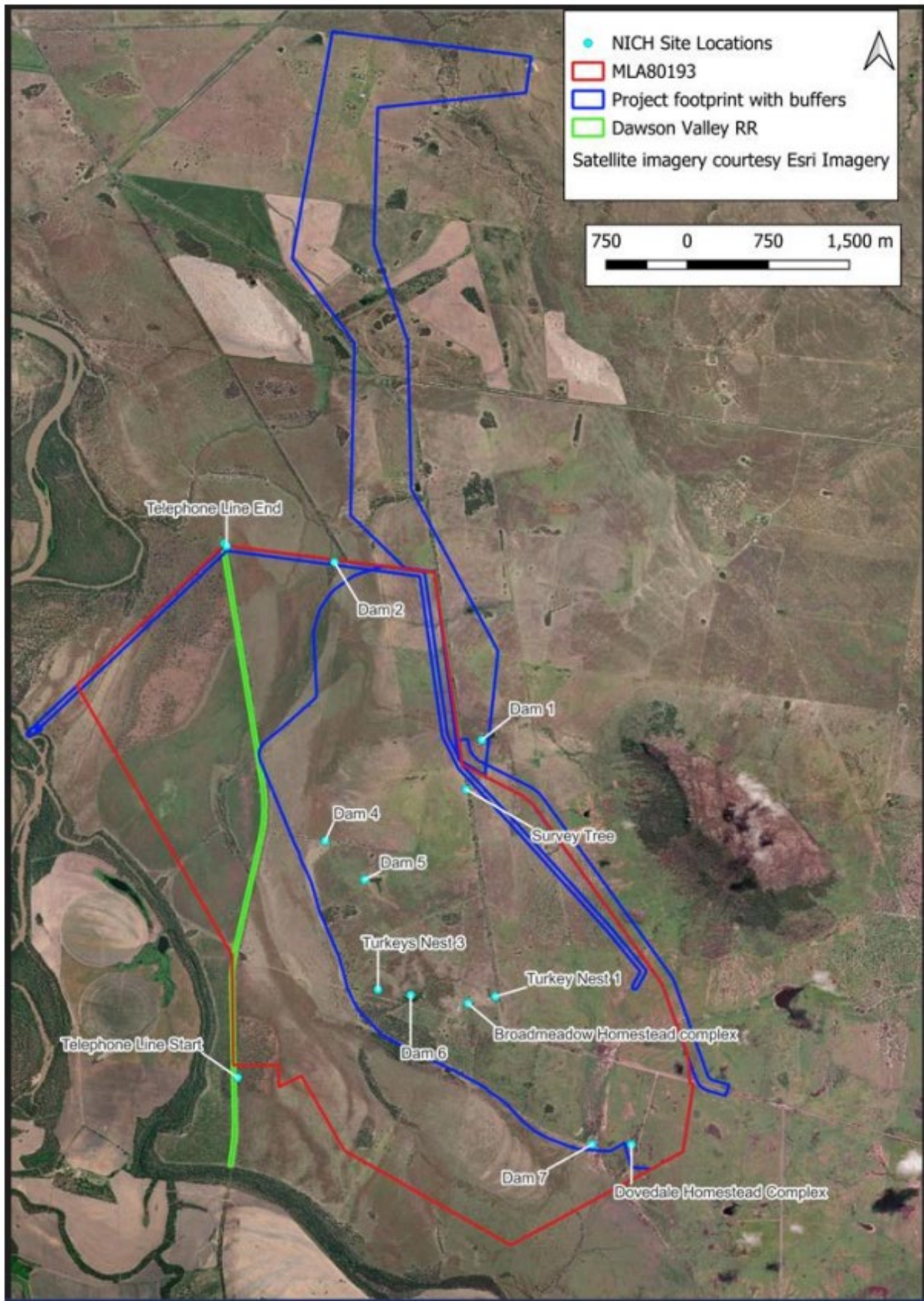


Figure 15.1: Location of non-Indigenous cultural heritage sites (dotted yellow line indicates the Moura-Baralaba Road realignment)

An initial total of 17 Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage sites and places were identified in the original 2012 report. Of these, only 13 sites are within the revised Project footprint. Three of these are considered to have low local heritage significance (Dawson Valley Railway, Dovedale Homestead Complex and survey tree), and one is considered to have moderate local heritage significance (telephone line) (Figure 15.1). All 13 sites do not meet the threshold criteria for local heritage significance but contribute to the overall historical development of the Project area. No sites are considered to meet the threshold criteria for state heritage listing (Appendix R, Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment).

15.3 Potential impacts

15.3.1. Indigenous cultural heritage

Project activities such as clearing activities, the construction of infrastructure, and the conduct of mining activities, will result in additional surface disturbance and may result in a risk of harm to any surface and subsurface Aboriginal cultural heritage items including residual cultural heritage.

Potential impacts of the Project on Indigenous cultural heritage will be managed pursuant to an approved CHMP for the area. Specific mitigation and management measures are described in section 15.4.1.

15.3.2. Non-Indigenous cultural heritage

The 13 sites located in the revised Project area in 2023 include;

- 11 sites that will be directly impacted by the project as they are within the footprint of waste rock emplacement or project infrastructure areas; and
- two sites that will potentially be impacted by the project and partially within or near mine infrastructure areas.

There is low potential for additional historic places/items to exist within the Project area. Any unidentified sites would likely consist of sites relating to pastoral activity dams, historic survey trees and remnant boundary fence lines.

Mitigation and management measures are described in section 15.4.2.

15.4 Mitigation and management measures

15.4.1. Indigenous cultural heritage

A Cultural Heritage Investigation and Management Agreement (CHIMA) was entered into between the Gangulu People (QUD6144/98) (Gangulu Endorsed Parties) and Cockatoo Coal Limited (a previous manager for the Project) on 10 October 2012. This agreement covers the area of the Project. The CHIMA was approved as a CHMP under Part 7 of the ACH Act by the then Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs (now the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Partnerships) on 16 October 2012.

The Gangulu People claim (QUD6144/98) was dismissed in 2009; however, the applicants were preserved as the Aboriginal party of the “last failed claim”, and therefore the Aboriginal party to negotiate the CHIMA with at this time. The Gaangalu Nation People (GNP) native title claim was registered on 15 November 2012 (QC2012/009). GNP has now replaced the Gangulu People as the Aboriginal party. The two groups are related (Gangulu Endorsed Parties are a sub-group of GNP)

The CHMP applies to the entire Project area, including the realignment of the Moura-Baralaba Road. The CHMP was assigned to Baralaba Coal Company Pty Ltd in 2018. As a wholly owned subsidiary of Baralaba Coal Company Pty Ltd, Baralaba South Pty Ltd intends to implement the CHMP in carrying out the Project.

Acting under an approved CHMP is taken to constitute compliance with the duty of care under the ACH Act for the construction and operation of the Project.

The CHMP is intended to provide an efficient and workable means by which parties to the CHMP can protect and manage the impacts of the Project on Aboriginal cultural heritage in a culturally appropriate manner while complying with all necessary legislative requirements.

The CHMP provides for:

- a Coordinating Committee to be established for the purposes of coordination, implementation, management and future conduct of matters arising in relation to the CHMP;
- the issue of a Works Program Notice prior to any Project works involving ground disturbance;
- the undertaking of an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment in response to the Works Program Notice when deemed necessary by the Coordinating Committee. The primary objectives of the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment include but are not limited to:
 - identifying, collating and documenting information about Aboriginal cultural heritage within a work area, including a statement of the significance of any Aboriginal cultural heritage to the Gaangalu Nation People and the Gangulu Endorsed Parties;
 - identifying the impacts of the work program on Aboriginal cultural heritage in any work area; and
 - developing options to avoid, minimise or mitigate these impacts in a culturally appropriate fashion;
- the reporting of the discovery of any Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Project area as soon as reasonably practical to the Coordinating Committee and also as required by law;
- procedures if human remains (that are or may be those of an Aboriginal person) are discovered within the Project area, including:
 - adhering to provisions of the ACH Act, *Coroner's Act 2003* and the *Criminal Code Act 1899* section 236(2);
 - stopping work in the vicinity of the find immediately until works are authorised to resume;
 - contacting the Coordinating Committee of the CHMP as soon as possible; and
 - adhering to specific management procedures of the CHMP.

In accordance with the terms of the CHMP, the Project will liaise with the Gaangalu Nation People and the Gangulu Endorsed Parties to arrange for the nomination of a technical adviser who will assist in the conduct of cultural heritage assessments for the Project.

In addition, an understanding of Indigenous cultural heritage values and legal obligations will be promoted within the Project workplace through the inclusion of Indigenous cultural heritage awareness information in employee/contractor induction programs.

Together, implementation of the terms of the CHMP and promoting cultural heritage awareness within the workplace provide the practices and procedures to assist in avoiding, mitigating and managing any adverse impacts on Indigenous cultural heritage as a result of the Project.

15.4.2. Non-Indigenous cultural heritage

While contributing to the overall historical development of the Project area, Of the 17 sites that are identified as potentially having non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance within the MLA, 13 are located within the revised mining area and of these, 12 are of nil or low local heritage significance, and 1 of moderate local significance (consisting of a telephone line). The recording of all these 13 sites that will be disturbed by the

Project by Converge Heritage + Community that was undertaken for the Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix R) is considered appropriate management of these sites.

Three of the non-Indigenous cultural heritage sites, the Dawson Valley Railway, Dovedale Homestead Complex and B17 survey tree, are considered to have low local heritage significance. One non-Indigenous cultural heritage site, the telephone line, is considered to have moderate local heritage significance (Figure 15.1).

Given the location of the Dawson Valley Railway and the telephone line in relation to the proposed mining activities, disturbance to these sites cannot be avoided. The recording of these sites by Converge Heritage + Community was undertaken as part of the Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix R). Converge Heritage + Community has advised that this is an appropriate management measure for the level of heritage significance of these sites.

Disturbance to the Dovedale Homestead Complex and the survey tree will be avoided, if practicable. However, if disturbance to these sites is not avoidable, Converge Heritage + Community has advised that the recording of these sites that has already been undertaken as part of the Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix R) is an appropriate heritage management measure in those circumstances.

There is low potential for further historic and archaeological items/places to exist within the Project area. Notwithstanding this, diligence will be practiced during works conducted within the Project area, particularly during the clearing and construction phase associated with initial mine development. An Incidental Finds Procedure, such as that outlined in the Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in Appendix R, will be implemented in the event that a potential site of non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance is identified within the Project area that has not previously been recorded.

In addition, site induction material prepared for Project personnel will include information on the potential occurrence of non-Indigenous cultural heritage sites and the actions that are to be taken if a potential site is found. Personnel or contractors of The Project will be informed of their obligations under section 89 of the Heritage Act to report to the DES any archaeological artefacts (as defined under that Act) that may constitute an important source of information about an aspect of the history of Queensland.

The fabric comprising telephone lines, such as insulators and associated brackets, are becoming a more uncommon feature/object type in the Queensland landscape (Appendix R, Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment). The Project will endeavour to provide a museum, which has an appropriate collection policy for this object type (e.g. the Telstra Museum, Brisbane or the Cardwell Bush Telegraph Heritage Centre), the opportunity to collect a diagnostic sample of the material associated with the telephone line.

Implementation of the above strategies will assist to mitigate and manage any adverse impacts of the Project on non-Indigenous cultural heritage values and enhance any positive impacts that arise.