

## **SHOALHAVEN STARCHES - PROPOSED FLOUR MILL - ABORIGINAL HERITAGE: ADDENDUM REPORT**

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South East Archaeology Pty Ltd was initially commissioned in 2002 by Cowman Stoddart Pty Ltd, on behalf of the Manildra Group, to undertake an archaeological assessment of Aboriginal heritage within areas to be affected by proposed extensions to the Shoalhaven Starches Environmental Farm. The areas subjected to assessment comprised a proposed employee car park and evaporation plant and other facilities adjacent to the existing Environmental Farm infrastructure, and an extension to an irrigation area on land located approximately 3.5 kilometres to the north-east.

The principal aims of the assessment were to identify and record any Aboriginal heritage evidence within the study area and to formulate recommendations for the conservation and management of any cultural heritage resources present, in consultation with the local Aboriginal community. The assessment was completed in 2002 (Kuskie 2002). The investigation proceeded by recourse to the archaeological and environmental background of the locality, followed by a field survey undertaken with the assistance of the Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Shoalhaven Aboriginal Elders.

No Aboriginal heritage evidence was identified within the study area during the investigation or had previously been reported there. The primary reasons for the absence of evidence include the genuinely low Aboriginal utilisation of the study area and impacts from recent non-indigenous land-use practices. It was concluded that there remains a very low potential for Aboriginal heritage evidence to occur within the study area, particularly evidence that may be *in situ* or of scientific significance (Kuskie 2002).

Shoalhaven Starches is presently seeking approval for minor additions to the factory site, including a flour mill and storage silos, with potentially a minor alteration to the location of one approved silo. These facilities will be located amidst the existing industrial infrastructure. Plans of the proposal and photographs of the locations of the facilities have been examined by South East Archaeology.

The locality of the new flour mill and silos was inspected by South East Archaeology in 2002, with representatives of the local Aboriginal community. This locality has been extensively affected by the construction of existing facilities, along with previous pastoral and agricultural uses. As such the potential for any Aboriginal heritage evidence to survive is virtually negligible.

In view of the minimal extent of the proposed impacts, and the register searches, field survey and consultation with the Aboriginal community conducted to date, along with the extensive impacts from current infrastructure and very low conditions of surface visibility in adjacent pasture grass, further heritage assessment is not considered to be warranted.

However, in the event that Aboriginal objects were to be identified during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of those items must cease promptly and the finds be reported to the Department of Environment and Conservation and advice sought as to the appropriate course of action. Under the terms of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* it is an offence to knowingly destroy, damage or deface an Aboriginal object without obtaining the prior written permission of the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW).

References:

Kuskie, P.J. 2002 *An Aboriginal Heritage Assessment of Proposed Extensions to the Shoalhaven Starches Environmental Farm at Nowra, South Coast of New South Wales*. Unpublished report to Cowman Stoddart Pty Limited.

Disclaimer:

This assessment is limited to the evidence available to the consultant at the time of report preparation as stated above. It has not involved additional register searches, consultation or field inspections beyond those stated. As such South East Archaeology accepts no responsibility for any resultant errors or omissions contained therein and any damage or loss which may follow to any person or party.