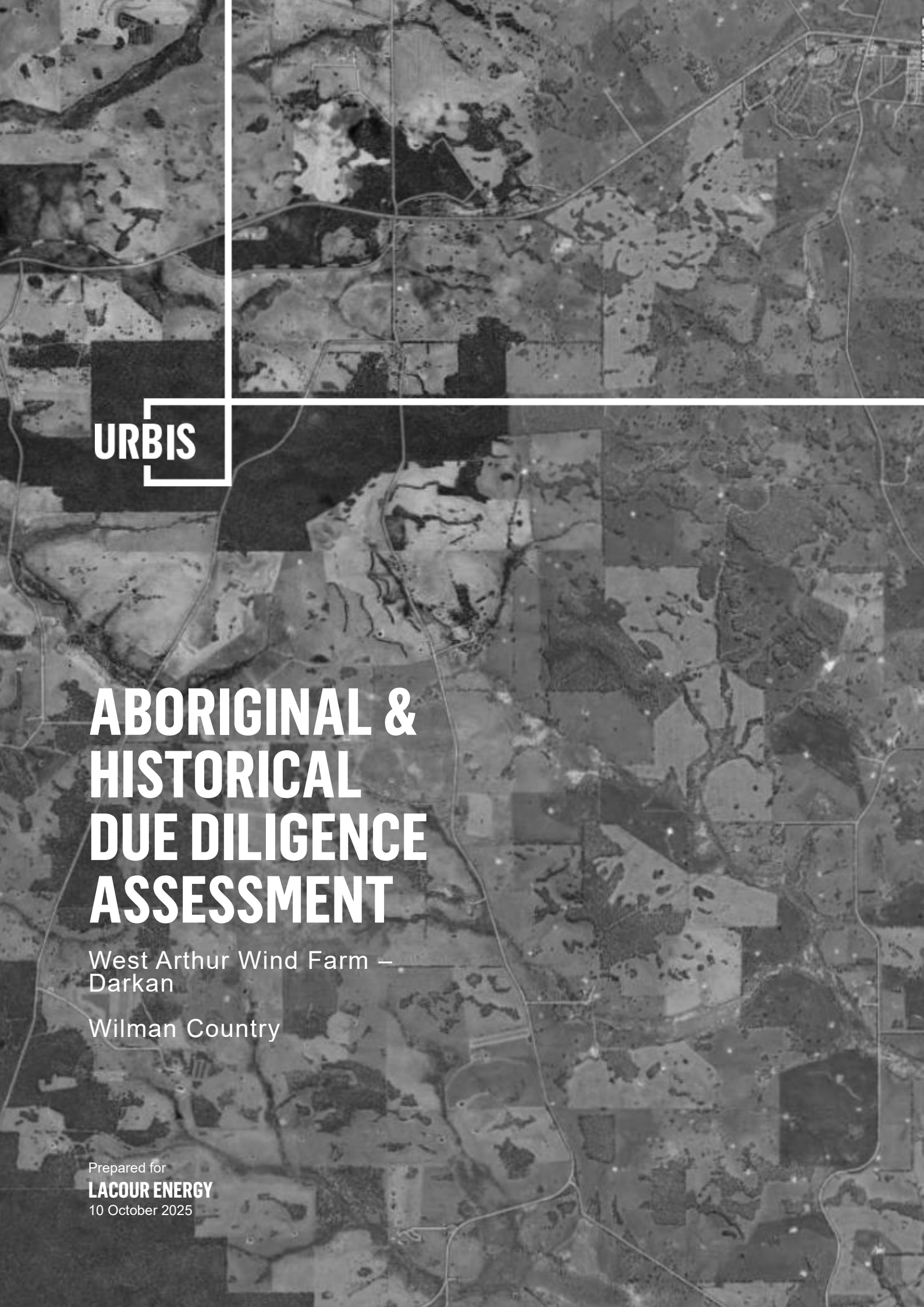




URBIS

ABORIGINAL & HISTORICAL DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT

West Arthur Wind Farm –
Darkan

Wilman Country

Prepared for
LACOUR ENERGY
10 October 2025

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Acknowledgement of Country

Urbis acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands we operate on.

We recognise that First Nations sovereignty was never ceded and respect First Nations peoples continuing connection to these lands, waterways and ecosystems for over 60,000 years.

We pay our respects to First Nations Elders, past and present.

The river is the symbol of the Dreaming and the journey of life. The circles and lines represent people meeting and connections across time and space. When we are working in different places, we can still be connected and work towards the same goal.

Title: Sacred River Dreaming
Artist Hayley Pigram
Darug Nation
Sydney, NSW

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urbis has been engaged by Lacour Energy (LE) to undertake a preliminary Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Due Diligence Assessment to determine the impact of a proposed onshore wind farm and associated powerline.

The Project Area is located within the Shire of West Arthur in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia and consists of a wind farm area (approximately 12,230 ha) and two (2) proposed powerline routes with an associated buffer of approximately 4 km. (24,088 ha). For the purposes of this report, these buffered areas are referred to as the 'buffered powerline routes.'

The Due Diligence Assessment was undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal Due Diligence Guidelines 2013* and *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Code 2021*, which is considered best practice for ensuring compliance with the AHA.

The assessment concluded that:

- The West Arthur Wind Farm Project Area contains one (1) Registered Aboriginal Heritage Site, one (1) Lodged Aboriginal Heritage Site, and one (1) Historic Aboriginal Heritage Site:
 - The Registered Aboriginal Heritage Site, BLACKWOOD RIVER (ACHIS ID# 20434), intersects the buffered powerline route but does not intersect the proposed powerlines specifically. The site is registered for its connection to Creation and Dreaming narratives.
 - The Lodged Aboriginal Heritage Site, BLACK WATTLE (ACHIS ID# 4501), is located within the wind farm area and buffered powerline route. This site is lodged as an artefact scatter.
 - The Historic Aboriginal Heritage Site, CORDERING (ACHIS ID# 15997), is located within the buffered powerline route, immediately adjacent to the South powerline, and is listed as a Hunting Place.
- Several heritage surveys have been conducted in proximity or in relation to the Project Area but without sufficient detail or focus to be conclusive in identifying the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Project Area.
- Large portions of the project Area have been historically cleared and used for agricultural purposes. These areas are determined to have **moderate** potential for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage material. The remaining pockets of remnant vegetation and areas in proximity to natural water sources within the project area are determined to have **high** potential for ACH material. There is also potential for sub-surface ACH material to exist in the Project Area.
- Due to the lack of Aboriginal heritage investigations in the area, there is a high risk of harm to unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage sites/places. Further investigations are therefore recommended to ensure that the project does not breach section 17 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.
- It has been assessed that there are no Heritage Areas and Local Heritage Listed places located within the Project Area. Additionally, there are no State Registered Heritage Places identified within the Project Area.
- Based on the above conclusions, Urbis recommends:

Recommendation 1 – Record Keeping

- This assessment report should be kept as evidence of the Due Diligence Process having been applied to the Project Area.

Recommendation 2 – Submission of Activity Notice

- A copy of this report should be provided to the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKBAC) as part of the Activity Notice submission.
- Prepare and lodge an Activity Notice of the proposed works, to be submitted to SWALSC and GKBAC. Under the NSHA process the Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) will decide if heritage surveys will be required, and if so, to provide names of appropriate Traditional Owner Representatives to be engaged for surveys.

Recommendation 3 – Undertake Site Avoidance Surveys

- Undertake an Ethnographic survey and a Site Avoidance level archaeological survey, to determine the locations of Aboriginal heritage and to inform the final locations of the proposed met mast, wind turbines, tracks and powerline. It is recommended that impacting Aboriginal cultural heritage identified during the surveys is avoided.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE

Urbis has been engaged by Lacour Energy (LE) to undertake a preliminary Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Due Diligence Assessment to determine the impact of a proposed onshore wind farm and associated powerline, located within the Shire of West Arthur, WA. For the purposes of this report, the 'Project Area' will encompass the proposed boundaries of the wind farm, as well as two proposed options for a powerline and an associated buffer zone (Figure 1). This assessment has considered the potential impact and archaeological constraints to the Project Area in view of relevant heritage controls. This assessment includes both Aboriginal and historic (non-Aboriginal) heritage places located within the Project Area and surrounds.

This DDA was undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal Due Diligence Guidelines 2013* and *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Code 2021*, which is considered best practice for ensuring compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AHA).

This DDA includes the following:

- Searches of the statutory and non-statutory heritage listings.
- Search of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Enquiry System (ACHIS) register.
- Analysis of previously conducted archaeological assessments in the vicinity of the Project Area.
- Landscape analysis.
- Analysis of historical land use and ground disturbance.

1.2. PROJECT AREA

The Project Area is located within the Shire of West Arthur in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia (Figure 1). It is located immediately south of Darkan townsite and Collie Lake King Road and Coalfields Road, approximately 9 km east of Bowelling, north of Bowelling-Duranillin Road, and approximately 10 km northwest of Duranillin.

Wind Farm

The wind farm boundary is primarily on land that is zoned rural and encompasses approximately 12,230 ha (Figure 2).

Powerlines

This report also assesses two (2) proposed powerline routes, and an associated buffer of approximately 4 km. The buffered area for the South and West powerlines encompasses approximately 24,088 ha (Figure 2). For the purposes of this report, these buffered areas are referred to as the 'buffered powerline routes.'

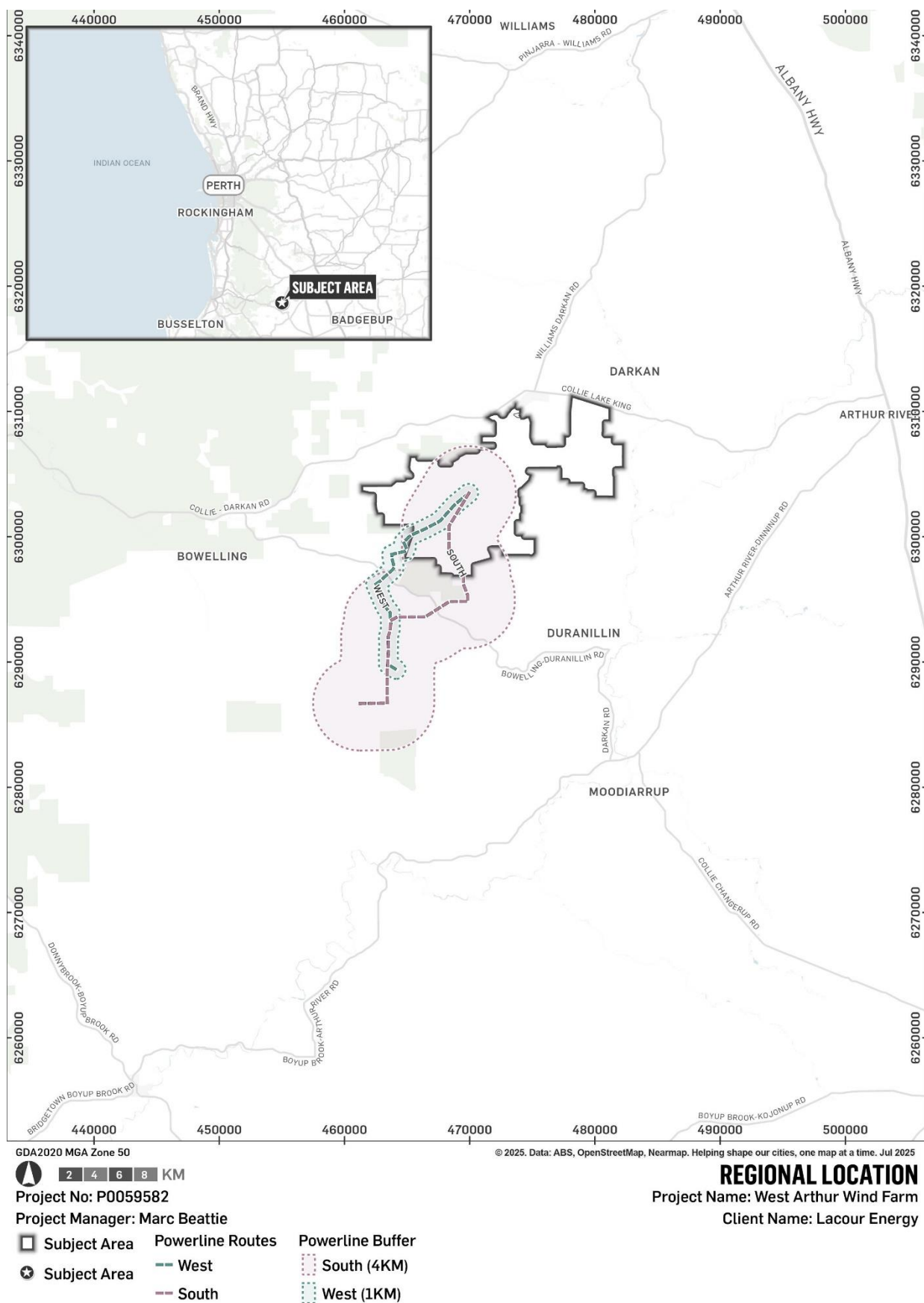


Figure 1 – Regional location.

Source: Urbis, 2025.

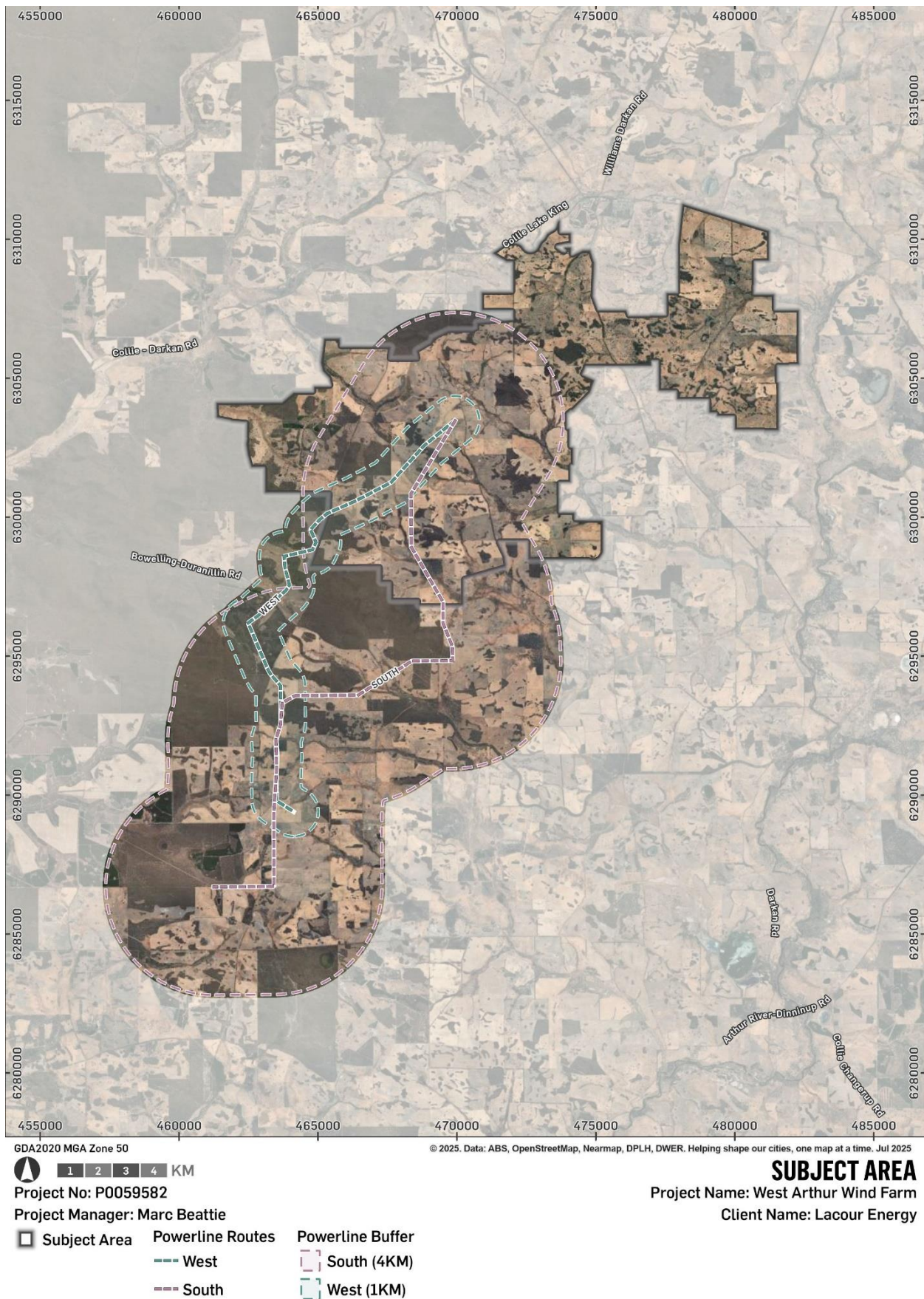


Figure 2 – Location of the Project Area

Source: Urbis, 2025.

1.3. PROPOSED WORKS

The West Arthur Wind Farm is being developed by Lacour Energy (LE) in the Shire of West Arthur. The proposed works include the following:

- The construction of one (1) temporary meteorological mast (met mast) in advance of the wind farm development. The met mast will be supported by three 100 m guy wires anchored into the ground. The depth and diameter of the met mast and guy wire foundations have not been confirmed, nor has the height of the met mast.
- The construction of a single (1) powerline to connect the proposed wind farm to the South West Interconnected System (SWIS). LE has provided two (2) proposed powerline routes, which have been buffered by approximately 4 km to assess the surrounding cultural heritage, as illustrated in Figure 2.
- The construction of a wind farm, which will include the following infrastructure components:
 - Wind turbines and hardstand infrastructure.
 - Temporary wind monitoring towers.
 - Permanent wind monitoring towers.
 - Substations.
 - Site offices, workshops and warehouses.
 - Small office, lunchroom, amenities and ablutions.
 - Gravel capped roads.
 - Permanent site entries.
 - Underground and above ground power and communication cables.
 - Medium/high voltage overhead powerlines.
 - New fencing with grids and gates.
 - Laydown and stockpile areas.
 - Temporary construction compounds.
 - Temporary concrete batching plant and storage facilities.
 - Battery energy storage infrastructure.

1.4. KEY ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDERS

1.4.1. South West Native Title Settlement

The Project Area is located within the Gnaala Karla Booja (GKB) area of the South West native title settlement (Figure 3). The Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKBAC) was established to represent the Noongar people of the Binjareb, Wilman and Ganeang language groups. The South West Native Title Settlement commenced on 25 February 2021 and was reached between the State Government of Western Australia and the six Noongar groups in the form of Indigenous Land Use Agreements with each of the six regional corporations. Proponents undertaking activity within the South West native title settlement area are encouraged to enter an agreement with the corresponding South West native title settlement group, following the Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (NSHA) which sets out the principles under which Aboriginal heritage is managed, or enter an alternative pre-agreement with them. WA Government land users and mining and petroleum companies are required to enter and follow the NSHA. Unlike the WA Government and mining and petroleum companies, other land users are not legally bound but encouraged to enter into a similar agreement. The GKBAC and LE entered and signed an NSHA on the 18th November 2024.

1.4.2. Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation

Due to the nature and extent of the proposed works, this assessment has determined that there is likely to be a high risk for potential harm to unknown Aboriginal heritage. As a result, further on-ground Aboriginal

heritage assessment is required, in the form of archaeological and ethnographic surveys. The results of these investigations will be used to inform the design and layout of the proposed works so that impacts to Aboriginal heritage places can be avoided or minimised.

Aboriginal community consultation is currently being undertaken with the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKBAC). This engagement process complies with the Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) and the Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (NSHA).



Figure 3 – Map showing the six (6) areas of the South West Native Title Settlement. The extend of the Gnaala Karla Booja area is outlined in red.

Source: Noongar.org.au, Map of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) (viewed 30 May 2025)

1.5. HERITAGE CONTROLS

The protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects, within Western Australia, is governed by the relevant Commonwealth and State legislation. These are discussed below in relation to the present Project Area.

1.5.1. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Aboriginal heritage in Western Australia is protected and managed by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AHA). The AHA has been under review since 2016 as it lacks alignment with modern best practice heritage principles. Over the last five years Aboriginal heritage legislation in Western Australia has been in a state of revolving change following the introduction of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACHA) and the subsequent co-design of its regulations and statutory guidelines. However, after only six weeks of being in effect, the ACHA was repealed and amendments to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* were passed through Parliament. The amended AHA became fully operational on 15 November 2023. The amendments include a right of appeal to section 18 approvals for affected Native Title parties, and a requirement for proponents to report to the Minister any new information in relation to Aboriginal heritage places located within an existing section 18 consent. An 'Aboriginal Site' is defined under section 5 as the following:

- a. *any place of importance and significance where persons of Aboriginal descent have, or appear to have, left any object, natural or artificial, used for, or made or adapted for use for, any purpose connected with the traditional cultural life of the Aboriginal people, past or present.*
- b. *any sacred, ritual or ceremonial site, which is of importance and special significance to persons of Aboriginal descent.*
- c. *any place which, in the opinion of the Committee, is or was associated with the Aboriginal people and which is of historical, anthropological, archaeological, or ethnographical interest and should be preserved because of its importance and significance to the cultural heritage of the State.*
- d. *any place where objects to which this Act applies are traditionally stored, or to which, under the provisions of this Act, such objects have been taken or removed.*

All reported Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) places are assessed by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee (ACHC) in accordance with section 5 and 39(2).

In assessing significance under section 39(2) the ACHC must consider:

- a. *any existing use or significance attributed under relevant Aboriginal custom.*
- b. *any former or reputed use or significance which may be attributed upon the basis of tradition, historical association, or Aboriginal sentiment.*
- c. *any potential anthropological, archaeological, or ethnographical interest.*
- d. *aesthetic values.*

The ACHC must also prioritise any “associated sacred beliefs, and ritual or ceremonial usage”, under section 39(3) of the AHA.

Under section 17 of the AHA it is an offence to disturb, damage, alter or conceal an Aboriginal Site without the permission of the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites under section 16 or the consent of the Minister under section 18.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974* have also been updated to complement the restored AHA 1972. To assist proponents in determining if their activities could adversely impact an Aboriginal site, DPLH has created the *Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines 2013*, which have been considered when preparing this report.

1.5.2. State Register of Heritage Places

Western Australia’s historic (non aboriginal specific) heritage legislation is the *Heritage Act 2018* (the Act). This Act ensures that places of cultural heritage significance to the State are included on the State Register of Heritage Places and protected under governance of the Heritage Council of Western Australia (HCWA). The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is responsible for managing the process under the Act. Other points to note include:

- Places included on the State Register of Heritage Places may include values which also relate to Aboriginal cultural significance but must not be exclusively of Aboriginal significance.
- The Act governs the management of historic heritage and archaeological resources and places of significance (historical heritage) included on the State Register of Heritage Places.
- Where development has potential to affect State Registered heritage places a development application is required to be submitted to the determining authority which must be referred to the Heritage Council of Western Australia (HCWA).

1.5.3. Local Heritage List

The *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* (Regulations) are prepared under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. Part 3 of the deemed (obligatory) provisions for local planning schemes of the *Regulations 2015* mandates that a local government must establish and maintain a heritage list to identify places within the planning scheme area that are of cultural heritage significance and worthy of built heritage conservation.

Places included under a local government heritage list are protected under the provisions of the local planning scheme and are likely to require a development application for all changes to the exterior of the place. Where an interior is identified as being significant internal changes may also require development application.

1.5.4. Local Heritage Survey

The *Heritage Act 2018* requires each local government to identify places of cultural heritage significance in a local heritage survey (LHS). The LHS has no direct statutory role in respect of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* and should not be used as the basis of decision making for development or subdivision proposals. This function is served by a heritage list or heritage area. The Act identifies that the purposes of the LHS include:

- a) identifying and recording places that are, or may become, of cultural heritage significance in its district; and
- b) assisting the local government in making and implementing decisions that are in harmony with cultural heritage values; and
- c) providing a cultural and historical record of its district; and
- d) providing an accessible public record of places of cultural heritage significance to its district; and
- e) assisting the local government in preparing a heritage list or list of heritage areas under a local planning scheme.

Local government decisions that could be informed by the LHS might include activities to interpret or promote heritage places or provide material for information or education. Examples are assembling a local history or archive; informing a thematic study of the area; providing educational material for school programs; or developing a heritage trail.

Existing municipal inventories (MIs) are taken for the purposes of the *Heritage Act 2018* to be a local heritage survey. No specific action is required to amend existing MIs for this purpose.

2. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED HERITAGE

This section outlines the heritage which has previously been recorded within the Project Area to understand what risk, if any, the proposed activities may pose to the known Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Historic Heritage in the area.

2.1. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE INQUIRY SYSTEM (ACHIS)

The Register of Aboriginal Heritage Places is maintained by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), through its digital interface the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS). The ACHIS includes Registered ACH, which are places that have been assessed by the ACHC as meeting section 5 of the AHA, Historic ACH (places assessed as not sites), and Lodged ACH (places that have been lodged but not yet assessed). The ACHIS also includes information about previous heritage surveys that have been conducted, and their associated reports. A request can be made to view any unrestricted site files and reports.

It should be noted that the ACHIS is not necessarily a comprehensive record of all Aboriginal Sites or Other Heritage Places (OHP) that exist in an area. It represents what is currently known which is largely dependent on whether any heritage investigations have been conducted within the area and if that information has been submitted to DPLH. For a complete list of search results, see Appendix A.

Wind Farm

As part of this Due Diligence Assessment, Urbis conducted a search of the ACHIS database that encompassed the wind farm area and a 10km buffer from the wind farm boundary to gather information about the types of Aboriginal sites and OHPs that are currently known and recorded in the area. Sites within this 10km buffer contribute to an overall understanding of the presence of ACH within the area. However, this report primarily assesses sites within the actual wind farm area boundaries, which are at risk by the proposed works. A summary of these sites is provided in Table 1.

The ACHIS search indicated the presence of one (1) Lodged site within the actual boundaries of the wind farm area. BLACK WATTLE (ID# 16713) is located within the central south-west portion of the wind farm area and was lodged as an artefact scatter. The site is yet to be approved by DPLH as formally Registered.

Several Registered sites are present within the buffer zone but outside of the proposed wind farm boundaries. These include the Arthur River (ACHIS ID# 37754), which is a significant site that continues to be the Waugal spirit's home. Previous surveys report rituals having been conducted to show respect to the Waugal and avoid sickness within the Noongar community.¹ Other Registered sites within the buffer zone include Duranillin 1, Duranillin 2, and Duranillin Camp, which comprise two artefact scatters and a campsite with ritual and ceremonial significance located 10 km southeast of the wind farm.

The buffer zone also includes the Lodged site 'Bowelling Camping Area' (ACHIS ID #4576), which is located 7.5 km west of the wind farm boundary and described as a traditional camp and hunting site.

No known Historic sites are present within the wind farm boundary. However, the Historic site Capercup (ACHIS ID# 15994), described as a hunting place, is located 7 km south of the wind farm boundary within the 10 km buffer zone.

These presence of Registered and Lodged sites in the surrounding area highlight the potential for ACH, including artefact scatters and ethnographic sites, within un-surveyed portions of the wind farm area.

Powerlines

The same search for ACH sites was conducted for the proposed powerlines and the associated buffer zones. For the purposes of this report, these buffer zones are treated as part of the overall Project Area given the requirement for construction flexibility. Therefore, the sites described below are assessed as being at risk, similar to those within the boundaries of the wind farm.

¹ O'Reilly, T. "Report of an Ethnographic Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Bridges 0437A, 0440, 0441 and 0442 Located on the Collie-Lake King Road in the Shire of Arthur River, Western Australia," 2020

The search indicated the presence of one (1) Registered site within the buffer zones for the powerlines. BLACKWOOD RIVER (ACHID ID# 20434) is located in the southernmost portion of the South powerline. This site is registered for its connection to Creation and Dreaming narratives.

The ACHIS search indicated zero (0) Lodged ACH sites within the powerline buffer zones.

The ACHIS search also indicated the presence of one (1) Historic ACH site within the buffered powerline route. CORDERING (ACHIS ID# 15997) is located immediately adjacent to the South powerline and is listed as a Hunting Place.

Outside the Project Area, in the broader landscape, the presence of Registered ACH combined with the presence of multiple wetlands/waterbodies within the boundary suggests a high potential for unrecorded sites.

Table 1 – ACH sites that are within the Project Area

ID	Place Name	Site Type	Location	Status	Restrictions
20434	BLACKWOOD RIVER	Creation / Dreaming Narratives	Within powerline buffer zone	Registered site	No
4501	BLACK WATTLE	Artefact scatter	Within Project Area	Lodged site	No
15997	CORDERING	Hunting Place	Within powerline buffer zone	Historic site	No

2.1.1. Previous Heritage Surveys

A search of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's (DPLH's) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Information System (ACHIS) shows that eight (8) heritage surveys have been carried out within the Project Area and an additional 10km buffer around the wind farm boundaries (Table 2; see Appendix A).

Table 2 – Aboriginal heritage surveys within the Project Area and an additional 10km buffer around the wind farm boundaries.

Report ID	Title	Authors	Survey Type
102074	Western Australia Regional Forest Agreement Aboriginal Consultation Project Vol.2. Nov. 1997.	Centre for Social Research	Ethnographic
102073	Western Australia Regional Forest Agreement Aboriginal Consultation Project. Vol.1. Nov. 1997.	Centre for Social Research	Ethnographic
17057	Report on the Archaeological Component of the Aboriginal Site Survey of the Perth to Adelaide Optic Fibre Cable Route – Cedune to Eastern Goldfields, Eastern Goldfields to South Coastal and South Coastal to South Western Sections. April 1990.	Quartermaine, G.	Archaeological
22253	Review of Aboriginal Heritage on proposed Muja to Wellstead powerline	Cooper, D.	Ethnographic

Report ID	Title	Authors	Survey Type
106482	Report on an ethnographic survey of the proposed Perth to Adelaide optic fibre cable route	O'Connor, R.	Ethnographic
200536	Report of an Ethnographic Survey of Proposed Coalfields Road Realignment - SLK 64.5 TO SLK 71(BOWELLING) AND SLK 86.3 TO SLK 91(GIBBS SIDING ROAD): Shire of West Arthur, WA	Goode, B & Huxtable, L.	Ethnographic
201244	Report of an Ethnographic Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Bridges 0437A, 0440, 0441 and 0442 Located on the Collie-Lake King Road in the Shire of Arthur River, Western Australia	Preller, G.	Ethnographic
201245	Report on a Site Identification Archaeological Survey of the Bridges 437A, 440, 441 and 442 Project Areas on the Collie Lake King Road in the Shire of West Arthur, Western Australia	O'Reilly, T.	Archaeological

HISTORIC HERITAGE LISTING

The purpose of identifying State Registered and Local Heritage Listed places is to identify potential impact on historical heritage values caused by the proposed works.

It has been assessed that there are no Heritage Areas and Local Heritage Listed places located within the Project Area. Additionally, there are no State Registered Heritage Places identified within the Project Area (see Figure 5).

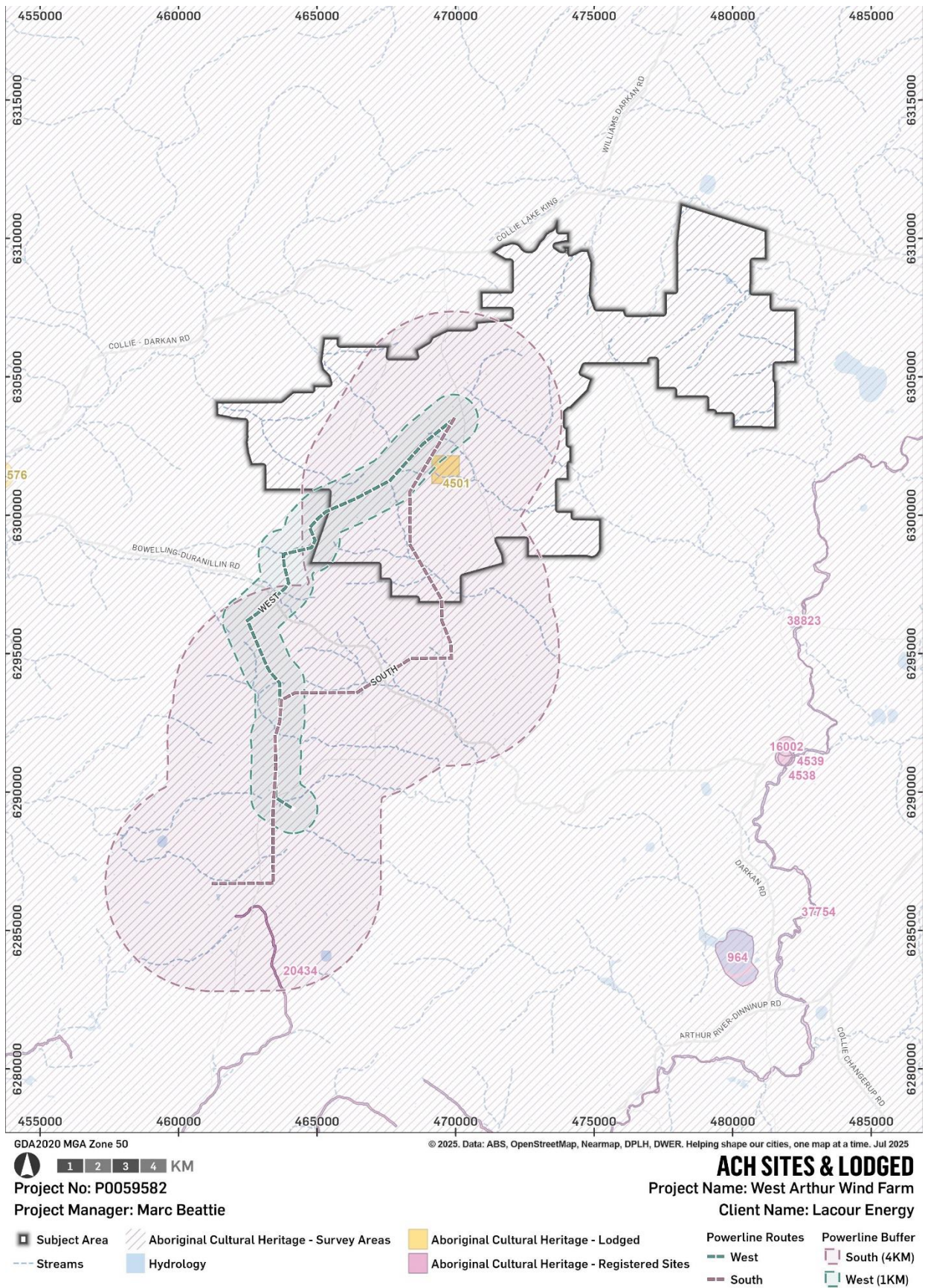


Figure 4 – Aboriginal heritage places in proximity to the area with inserts.

Source: DPLH information, with Urbis overlays.

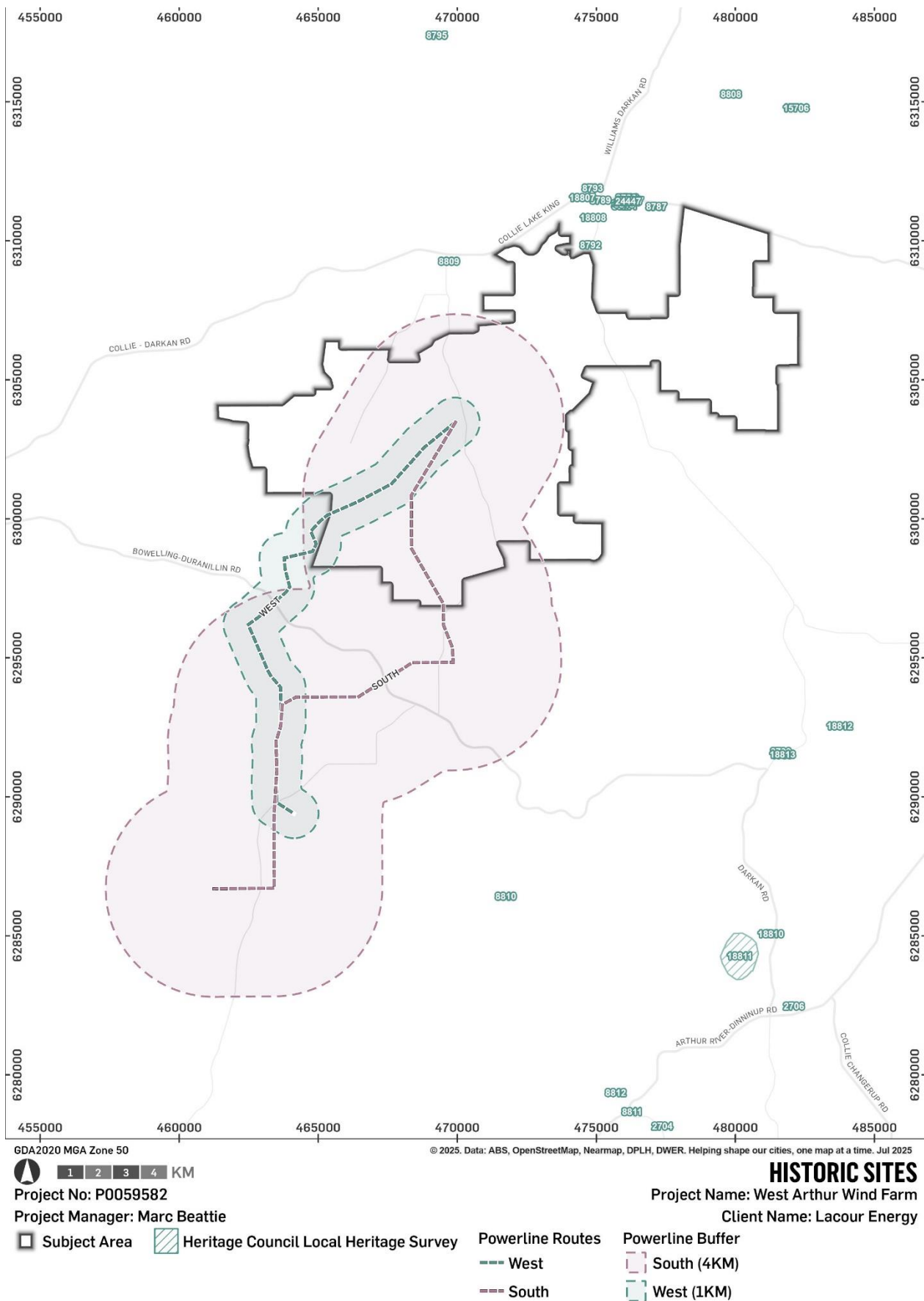


Figure 5 – Historic sites

Source: Urbis, 2025.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION/DESCRIPTION OF PLACE

3.1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION, SETTING AND CONTEXT

The Project area is characterised by its rural setting, surrounded by farmland and natural bushland. The Project Area is part of the Wheatbelt, where agriculture and farming are significant industries, with wheat, barley and sheep farming being common.

Refer to Figure 6 to Figure 9 for the Project Area contact and setting images.

Wind Farm

The wind farm area is located east of the Bennelaking Conservation Park and Muja State Forest. Small to large pockets of native vegetation and plantations remain scattered across the Project Area. Vegetation species are further detailed in Section 4.4.

Much of the road network within the wind farm area consists of dirt roads and tracks, except for a few major asphalt roads. Darkan Road South runs north-south through the centre of the wind farm area, Gibbs Road runs north-south through the west of the area, and Coalfields Road runs east-west across the top of the area.

The elevation above sea level varies across the wind farm area and can extend up to 350 m above sea level. Several ephemeral drainage lines are present within the wind farm area, including a number of artificial drainage channels constructed to assist with agricultural and farming land uses. There are small artificial dams present. These drainage channels link up with the nearby river systems, including the Arthur River and Collie River.

Based on aerial imagery, it's understood that individual properties are divided by physical barriers, including fencing with houses and outbuildings sparsely scattered. Most of the outbuildings are associated with the agricultural/farming operations.

Powerlines

The proposed powerlines and their buffer zones run south-west, with the West powerline running through areas of native vegetation adjacent to Bennelaking Conservation Park and the South powerline running primarily through disturbed farmland.

The elevation above sea level varies across the buffered powerline routes and can extend up to 350 m above sea level. Several drainage lines and watercourses are present within the powerline buffer zones, including the Collie River and tributaries of the Arthur River and Blackwood River.

The buffered powerline routes are intersected by Bowelling-Duranillin Road, Cordering Road South, And Gibbs Road.



Figure 6 – View looking north west from Darkan Road South

Source: Google Earth Imagery, dated 2024



Figure 7 – View looking south from Cordering Road North

Source: Google Earth Imagery, dated 2024



Figure 8 – View looking north east from Cordering Road North

Source: Google Earth Imagery, dated 2024



Figure 9 – View looking south west from Gibbs Road

Source: Google Earth Imagery, dated 2024

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

The environmental context of a Project Area is relevant to its potential for Aboriginal heritage places. Aboriginal Sites can be associated with certain landscape features (e.g., rivers and rock shelters) that played a part in the everyday lives and traditional cultural activities of Aboriginal people. An analysis of the landscape within and near to the Project Area is provided below.

4.1. TOPOGRAPHY

Certain landform elements are associated with greater archaeological potential for Aboriginal sites and places. Areas that are located on a ridge top, ridge line or headland, located within 200m below or above a cliff face or within 20m of or in a cave, rock shelter or cave mouth are considered sensitive areas for Aboriginal objects and places.

The Project Area is located on a slight crest/crest edge, which slopes downwards to the south-west and south-east (Figure 10). The height above sea level ranges from approximately 350 m at the northern extent of the wind farm area and the northern and western extents of the buffered powerline routes, to 250 m within the minor valleys in the southwestern extents of the Project Area. As crests are considered to have high archaeological sensitivity, the topography of the Project Area is therefore indicative of the potential for Aboriginal heritage.

There are multiple landforms in the Project Area, including:

- Drainage divides, slopes and hillcrests.
- Granite-derived soils.
- Low hills on laterite overlying granite.
- Shallow minor valleys with gentle side slopes and swampy floors.
- Broad plains and low rises.
- Poorly drained flats and depressions.

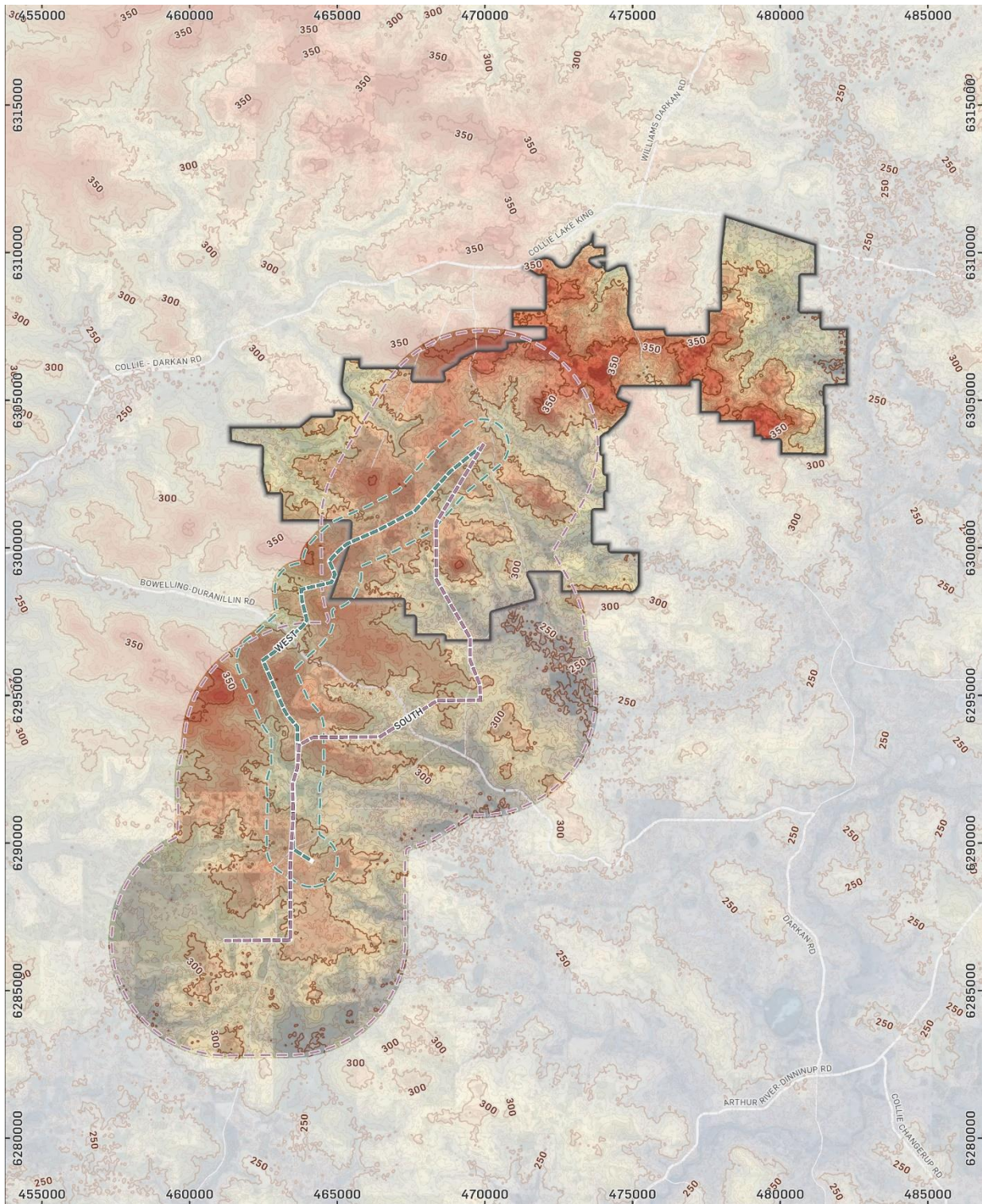


Figure 10 – Topography.

Source: DPLH, Urbis

4.2. SOIL LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

Certain soil landscapes and geological features have a greater potential for Aboriginal archaeological heritage. For example, sand dune systems are associated with the potential presence of burials, middens, and sub-surface archaeological deposits. The depth of natural soils is also relevant to the potential for archaeological materials to be present, especially in areas where disturbance is high. In general, as disturbance depth increases, the integrity of potential archaeological resources decreases. However, it should be noted that existing ground disturbance does not necessarily mean that there is no archaeological potential, as archaeological deposit can be present tens of meters below the ground surface. Further, heritage values may still exist in a place that has been previously disturbed.

The WA Web Mapping Service (WMS)² provides information on expected soil landscapes within WA. The WMS identifies the Project Area as containing many different soil landscapes (Table 3, Figure 11).

Taking into consideration the soil landscape of the Project Area, there is some potential for Aboriginal heritage, including archaeological surface and sub-surface heritage, to be located within the Project Area.

Table 3 – Soil landscapes and descriptions within the Project Area.

System	Sub-system	Soil Description
Beaufort System	Beaufort 1 subsystem	Broad flats (1.5-6km wide) along the Beaufort and Hillman Rivers with grey deep and shallow duplex soils (mainly with mottled, grey sodic subsoils) and areas of saline wet soils and alkaline grey shallow sandy duplex common
Darkan System	Darkan 1 steep phase	Steeper slopes of the gravelly uplands (Darkan 1) with mainly deep sandy gravels and large areas of shallow to moderately deep sandy gravels
	Darkan 1 subsystem	Gravelly hill crests and upper slopes with mainly yellowish brown sandy and loamy gravels
	Darkan 2 subsystem	Slopes of the Darkan System with mainly moderately deep sandy gravels and grey deep sandy duplex soils
	Darkan 2 gravelly phase	Slopes of the Darkan System with moderately deep to deep sandy gravels, shallow gravels and pale deep sands
	Darkan 3 steep phase	Steeper slopes of the Darkan 3 subsystem with slopes of up to 30%, mainly red loamy and sandy duplex soils associated with rock outcrop
	Darkan 3 subsystem	Slopes with red deep and shallow loamy and sandy duplex soils and grey deep sandy and loamy duplex soils associated with rock outcrops
	Darkan 4 subsystem	Foot slopes with grey deep sandy duplex and moderately deep sandy gravels
	Darkan 5 subsystem	Valley flats and narrow alluvial plans (300 - 1000m wide) with mainly grey deep sandy duplex soils

² Data WA, 2024. National Map, available at <https://nationalmap.gov.au/#hideExplorerPanel=1&share=s-la9tAHdceNth0OuDsbg7db4wp7q>

System	Sub-system	Soil Description
	Darkan 6 footslopes phase	Foot slopes with mainly sandy and loamy gravels formed on Eocene sediments
	Darkan 6 ironstone gravel phase	Very low rises adjacent to alluvial plains with pale sandy gravels and pale sands, formed on Eocene sediments
Darling Plateau System	Dwellingup subsystem	Divides, lower to upper slopes and hillcrests. Duplex sandy gravels and loamy gravels with minor areas of shallow gravels, deep sandy gravels, yellow deep sands and yellow and pale deep sands, often gravelly
	Dwellingup sandy divides phase	Soils formed on Kirup conglomerate and other sandy sediments. Soils are sandy gravels, deep sands and sandy earths
	Mornington Hill subsystem	Low hills on laterite overlying granite, relief 40-80 m, slope 5-20%. Soils are sandy and loamy gravels with some deep sands and loamy earths
	Pindalup downstream valleys phase	Shallow minor valleys (5-10 m) dominated by broad (75-250 m) swampy floors. Soils are loamy gravels, deep sands, with saline and non-saline wet soils on the valley floors
	Pindalup upstream valleys phase	Shallow minor valleys (10-20 m) with gentle sideslopes (3-10%) and swampy floors (50-75 m wide). Soils are loamy gravels, and deep sands, and non-saline wet soils on the valley floors
	Wilga subsystem	Broad gently undulating (1-5%) plains and low rises (2-15 m) with swampy depressions. Lateritic terrain over Eocene sediments. Soils are sandy and loamy gravels, with some deep sands, semi-wet soils and wet soils
Eulin Uplands System	Dalmore ironstone gravel ridges phase	Soil parent material is laterite. Soils are gravels, and sands
	Dalmore subsystem	Undulating ridges and hill crests on laterite and granite. Relief 5-20 m, slopes 5-15%. Soils are gravels, loamy duplex and sandy duplex soils
	Harris subsystem	Broad, poorly drained alluvial flats on the surface of the Darling Plateau
	Lukin subsystem	Shallow (5-40 m) minor valleys with swampy floors incised into lateritic terrain. Soils are sandy and loamy gravels, loamy duplex soils and deep sands
	Lukin upstream valleys phase	Relief 5-20 m, slopes 3-10%

System	Sub-system	Soil Description
	Qualeup sandy flats phase	Broad poorly drained flats between low hills, circular lakes and swampy depressions are common. Soils are deep sands and non-saline wet soils
	Qualeup subsystem	Broad poorly drained flats between low hills, circular lakes and swampy depressions are common. Soils are sandy gravels, deep sands and non-saline wet soils
	Qualeup wet flats phase	Very poorly drained depressions and swamps. Soils are non-saline wet soils and saline wet soils
	Kulikup ironstone gravel flats phase	Moderately well drained to poorly drained gravels
	Sandalwood ironstone gravel hills phase	Lower to upper slopes and hillcrests. Duplex sandy gravels and loamy gravels with minor areas of shallow gravels
	Sandalwood sandy hills phase	Lower to upper slopes and hillcrests. Duplex sandy gravels with minor areas of loamy gravels, yellow and pale deep sands
	Sandalwood subsystem	Low hills (40-80 m) rising above the general landscape, slopes 5-20%. Soils are loamy and sandy gravels

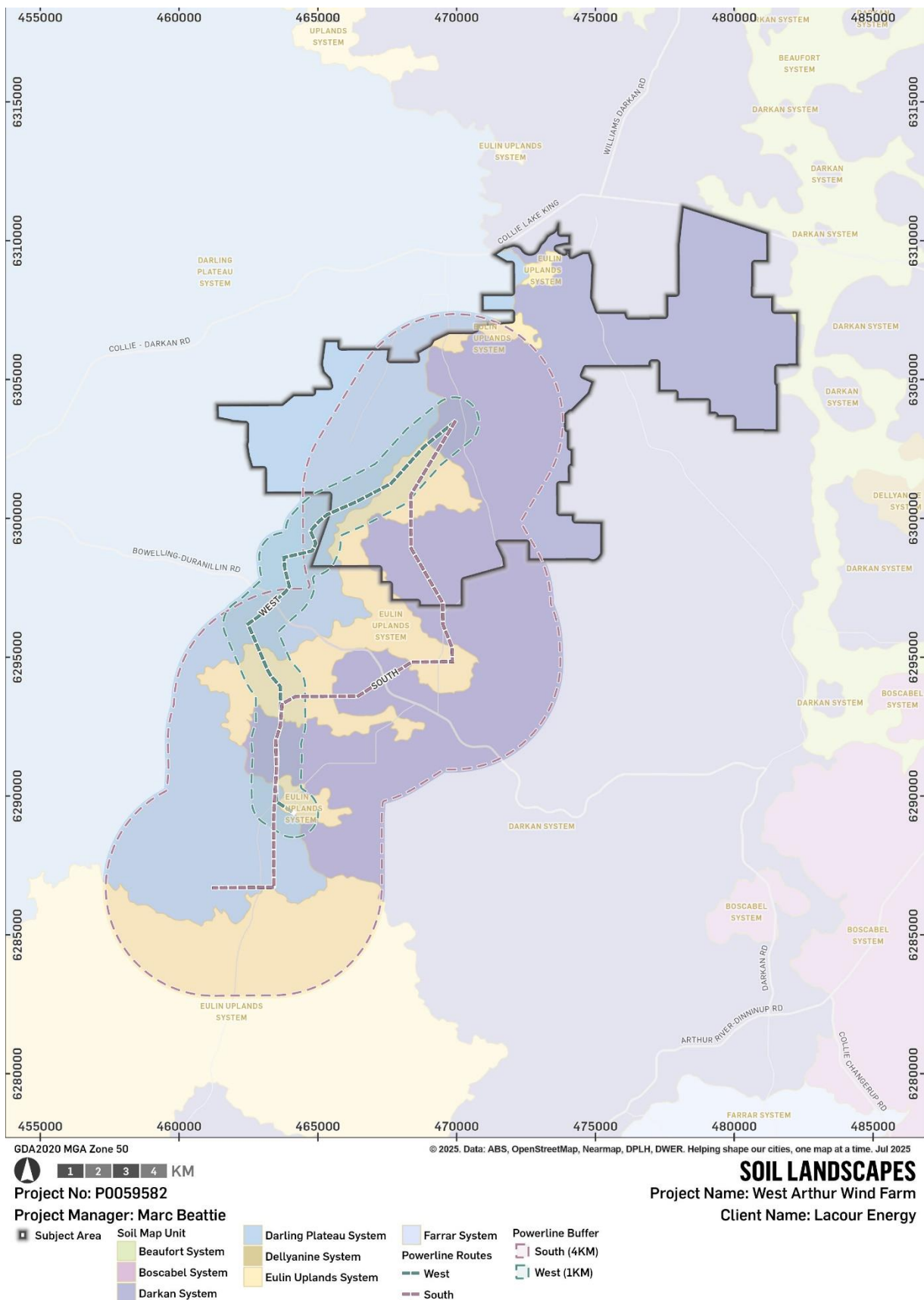


Figure 11 – Soil landscapes.

Source: DPLH, Urbis

4.3. HYDROLOGY

Proximity to a body of water is a significant factor in identifying archaeological potential. Areas within proximity to the whole or any part of a river, stream, lake, lagoon, swamp, wetlands, natural watercourse, or the high-tide mark of shorelines (including the sea) are considered sensitive areas for Aboriginal heritage.

The Project Area overlays the Eastern Darling Range hydrological zone, which consists of a dissected lateritic plateau on granite with eastward-flowing streams in broad shallow valleys, and the Western Darling Range hydrological zone, which consists of a dissected lateritic plateau on granite with deeply incised valleys. See Figure 12.

Wind Farm

The wind farm area intersects the east branch of the Collie River in the northwest section, which flows westward from the Project Area. The wind farm area also intersects Three Mile Gully and Date Creek in the southern section, both of which drain into the Arthur River located 2 km to the southeast. The Arthur River is a Registered ACH site (ACHIS ID# 37754), which is a significance mythological site associated with the ancestral creation serpent, the Waugal.

Considering the area's proximity to the Registered ACH site Arthur River (ACHIS ID# 37754), and its inclusion of watercourses from this site, the hydrology of the wind farm area poses high potential for further Aboriginal heritage.

Powerlines

The southern extent of the buffered powerline route intersects the Blackwood River, a Registered ACH site (ACHIS ID# 20434) with connection to Creation and Dreamtime narratives.

The buffered powerline route also intersects four (4) tributaries of the Collie River, including Camballan Creek. Much of the Collie River is a Registered ACH site (see Collie River Waugal, ACHIS ID# 16713). However, the tributaries intersecting the buffered powerline route are not included in the registration.

Additionally, the buffered powerline route intersects five (5) tributaries of the Arthur River, including Date Creek, Cordering Creek, and Darlinup Gully. These tributaries drain into the Arthur River, which is also a Registered ACH site (ACHIS ID# 37754).

The West proposed powerline itself intersects one (1) tributary of the Collie River and one (1) tributary of the Arthur River, while the South powerline intersects three (3) tributaries of the Arthur River and one (1) tributary of the Collie River.

Considering the buffered powerline route contains several watercourses that drain into the nearby Registered ACH sites, Collie River (ACHIS ID# 16713) and Arthur River (ACHIS ID# 37754), the hydrology of the powerline buffer zones poses high potential for further Aboriginal heritage.

4.4. VEGETATION

The presence of certain types of vegetation within an area can be indicative of the potential for certain types of Aboriginal heritage, such as culturally modified trees, or more generally of the habitability of an area for Aboriginal peoples.

A high-level examination of native vegetation within the Project Area suggests that it predominantly contains Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) forest, Jarrah, Marri and Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) woodland, and a mixed heath with low trees (*Banksia ashbyi*).

Wind Farm

The area within the wind farm boundary is predominately cleared for agricultural use, with pockets of surviving remnant native vegetation (see Figure 12). The wind farm area borders Timer Reserves on the north and south and the large nature reserve Bennelaking Conservation Park to the west. Considering both the cleared and remnant vegetation, the wind farm area has the potential to contain ACH.

Powerlines

The buffered powerline route predominantly consists of cleared agricultural land but intersects several large areas of native vegetation, including Timber Reserve in the north and Haddleton Nature Reserve in the south (see Figure 12). Haddleton Nature Reserve is a Class A Reserve, indicating areas of high conservation or high community value. This reserve contains multiple known occurrences of threatened and priority flora and fauna, increasing the potential to also occur within the Project Area boundary.

The West powerline runs adjacent to Bennelaking Conservation Park and runs primarily through cleared land, intersecting some pockets of native vegetation. The South powerline runs adjacent to the park and almost entirely through cleared land.

The vegetation of the buffered powerline route is therefore indicative of potential for culturally modified trees³, and habitation places for Aboriginal peoples.

³ ENV Australia Pty Ltd. 2009. Wetland Mapping and Classification: Area D, Shire of West Arthur.

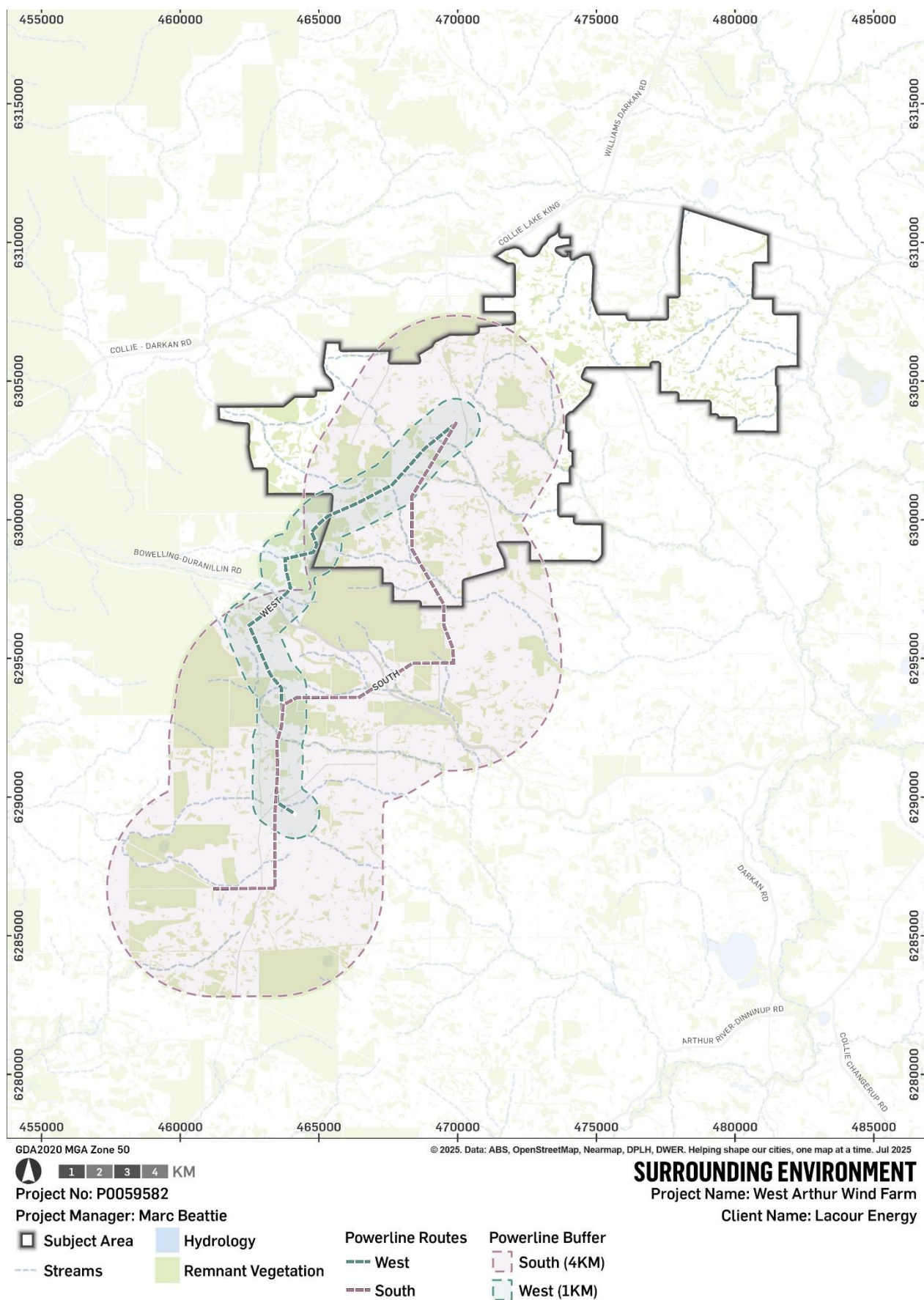


Figure 12 – Hydrology and remnant vegetation

Source: DPLH, Urbis

4.5. HISTORICAL GROUND DISTURBANCE

Historical ground disturbance, either through human activity (e.g. soil ploughing, construction of buildings/structures and clearing of vegetation) or natural processes (e.g. erosion) can potentially reduce the potential for locating surface archaeological materials and may reduce the spatial and physical integrity of surface and/or sub-surface archaeological features of Aboriginal heritage spaces.

The history of ground disturbance within the Project Area is as follows:

- The first European involvement with the West Arthur area came in the late 1830s, when a party led by Captain Bannister explored the hinterland between Albany and the Swan River.⁴
- Colonial settlement in the area began in the 1850s and was aided and encouraged by the construction of the main Perth to Albany Road by convict labour. This development facilitated the formation of the first settlements in the West Arthur Shire along this route, between the Arthur and Beaufort Rivers. The Granting of land leases to pastoralists from 1854 spurred further development in the local area.⁵
- William John Gibbs and his family were among the early settlers in the 1860s. The Gibbs family initially set up camp approximately two and a half miles west of Darkan. After finding a more reliable water source, they moved their camp and decided to settle permanently, applying for a tillage lease of 100 acres in 1867.⁶ This site, named after the local aboriginal term for 'black rock' would later form the nucleus of a growing town.
- Future development of the Collie to Narrogin railway line would encourage growth in the town, and Darkan was officially gazetted on December 7th, 1906. After the initial settlement by only a few farming families, the town soon developed into a bustling centre where farmers grazed sheep and increasing levels of sophistication in essential services were provided. In the years that followed, agriculture became the mainstay industry in the surrounding area, ensuring the nearby towns' survival despite the closure of the railway in the early 1990s. The predominance of agricultural land use in the Project Area has continued to the present day.
- As a result, there have not been any significant changes or developments apart from further land clearing and the construction of new residential/agricultural structures.⁷ Examinations of Aerial imagery taken between 1987 and 2020 demonstrates minimal changes in land use over time (see Figure 13 through Figure 16).

⁴ Shire of West Arthur, "History» Shire of West Arthur," Wa.gov.au, 2025, <https://www.westarthur.wa.gov.au/about/history.aspx>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Landgate WA, "Historical Town Names," Archive.org, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20220314101618/http://www0.landgate.wa.gov.au/maps-and-imagery/wa-geographic-names/name-history/historical-town-names#E>.

⁷ Rural Aid, "Darkan Community Development Action Plan," *Rural Aid*, May 2023, https://www.ruralaid.org.au/Darkan_CAP.pdf.

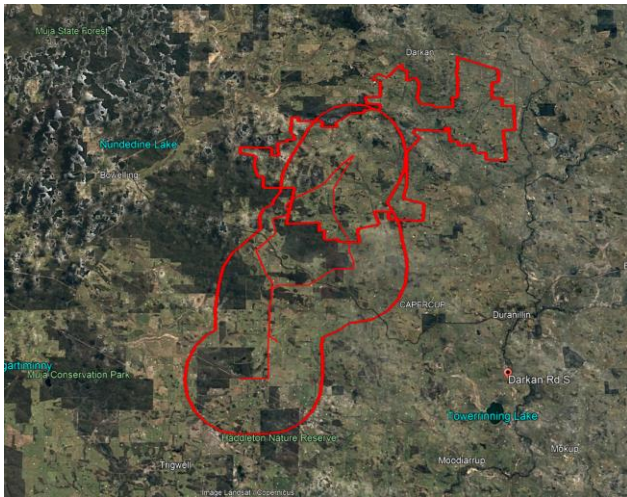


Figure 13 – 1984 aerial photograph

Source: Google Earth Pro with Urbis overlays



Figure 14 – 1994 aerial photograph

Source: Google Earth Pro with Urbis overlays

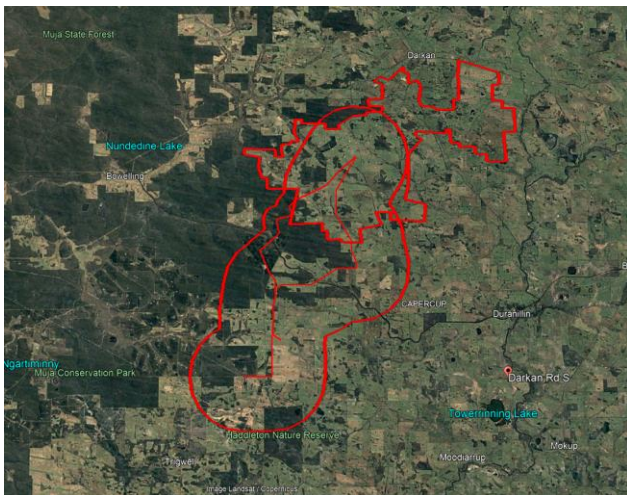


Figure 15 – 2008 aerial photograph

Source: Google Earth Pro with Urbis overlays

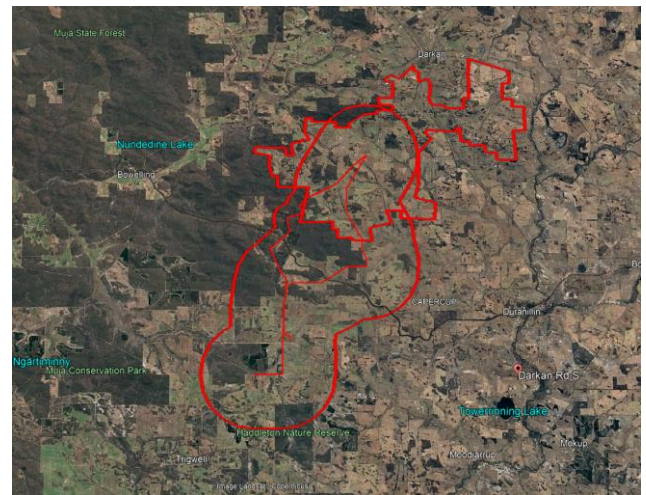


Figure 16 – 2020 aerial photograph

Source: Google Earth Pro with Urbis overlays

5. ETHNOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Due to the absence of written records prior to the arrival of Europeans, much of our understanding of Aboriginal life is informed by the histories documented in the late 18th and early 19th century by European observers. These histories provide an inherently biased interpretation of Aboriginal life both from the perspective of the observer but also through the act of observation. The social functions, activities and rituals recorded by Europeans may have been impacted by the Observer Effect (or Hawthorne Effect), which predicts that individuals will modify their behaviour in response to their awareness of being observed.⁸ With this in mind, by comparing/contrasting these early observations with archaeological evidence, it is possible to establish a general understanding of the customs, social structure, languages, and beliefs of Aboriginal people.⁹

The Southwest of Western Australia is home to 13-14 socio-dialectal groups collectively known as the Noongar. The term Noongar consists of a variety of different spelling variations, i.e. Nyoongar, Nyungar. Noongar translates to mean the local people/warrior of the Southwest of WA. The use of this term became widely used following the period of European colonisation. Prior to this period Noongar people identified as Bibbulmun.¹⁰

The Project Area is located within the Gnaala Karla Booja Native Title Claim Area (WI2015/005), which contains three (3) separate language or dialectal groups, including the Binjareb/Pinjarup, Wilman and Kaniyang.¹¹ The Project Area is located within the land of the Wilman Noongar (also known as Wiilman) (see Figure 17).

The territory of the Wilman is described as follows:

*At Wagin and Narrogin; on Collie, Hotham, and Williams rivers west to Collie; Wuraming north to Gnowing, Dattening, and Pingelly; east to Wickepin, Dudinin, and Lake Grace; south to Nyabing (Nampup), Katanning, Woodanilling, and Duranilling. Southern and western boundaries correspond with the change in place name terminations from [-ing] to [-ap]. The Hassell manuscript as summarized by Davidson includes much Koreng tribe data under the name of this tribe.*¹²

Water sources, particularly fresh water, held immense significance for Aboriginal people throughout Australia. These areas were gathering points for communities, essential for customary practices, and imbued with deep spiritual meaning.¹³ Collie River, registered for its mythological connections, exemplifies this, serving as a vital source of both fresh and salt water. The river was not only a crucial resource for sustenance, providing food such as mullet and cobbler, but it also played a pivotal role in connecting various campsites through established walk tracks. According to Dreamtime, the Ngarrungudditj Walgu made the waterways as he travelled towards the coast. As he came to an end, his body turned around, creating what is today the Eaton estuary.¹⁴

The Blackwood River intersects the southernmost portion of buffered powerline route. It is part of a larger river network, which is a part of a significant Dreamtime story. According to Noongar mythology the Waugal is the Dreaming ancestor who created the entire Blackwood River System and is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the water cycle.¹⁵ To this day, the Waugal still resides within the Blackwood River.¹⁶ The Waugal is the major ancestral being associated with Noongar people and is a representation of the Rainbow serpent, which is the most common ancestral being known across Australia. Additionally, the Blackwood

⁸ EA Spencer and K Mahtani, "Hawthorne Effect," Catalog of Bias, 2017, <https://catalogofbias.org/biases/hawthorne-effect/>.

⁹ Val Attenbrow and Inc Ebrary, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past : Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records* (Sydney: Uncw Press, 2010).

¹⁰ Bates, D. (1985) *The Native Tribes of Western Australia*. Edited by I. White. Canberra: National Library of Australia, p. 46

¹¹ South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council, 2024. About the Gnaala Karla Booja Region. Available at <https://www.noongarculture.org.au/gnaala-karla-booja/>

¹² Tindale, N.B., 1974. *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia*. Australian National University Press: Canberra, p. 260

¹³ Archae-aus. 2023. *Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment for Hillman Nature Reserve*, p.36

¹⁴ Shire of Dardanup. "Collie River Heritage Trail Sign 3", <https://www.dardanup.wa.gov.au/collie-river-heritage-trail-sign-3.aspx>

¹⁵ Brad Goode and Associates, 2018. *Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey for the Talison Lithium Mine Expansion M01/2, M01/3, M01/6, M01/7 & L01/1 Greenbushes, Western Australia*, p. 3

¹⁶ Ibid.

River is a place of significance to Aboriginal people as a cultural boundary between the Pibelman and Wardandi language groups.¹⁷

Songlines are places of significance to Noongar people. Songlines consist of Dreamtime stories that are embedded within natural elements of the landscape, such as prominent granite domes.¹⁸ Gnamma holes are naturally formed waterholes found in granite bedrock and is considered evidence of Creation Ancestors who brought water to the landscape.¹⁹ The town of Darkan is reported to mean 'black rock', in reference to the nearby granite outcrops, though the origins of its name have not been confirmed.²⁰

The Noongar people of the Southwest of WA have a cultural responsibility as traditional custodians of the land to ensure that the Waugal is well looked after and sustained. As part of being a traditional custodian of the land, ceremonies and rituals are often practiced to renew species, and maintain seasons and cycles, that are associated with the Waugal.²¹

Prior to European colonisation, the Wilman Noongar relied on the river systems as travel routes between the coast and the hinterland.²² They followed a seasonal migration pattern, with people moving between family groups for marriage and trade, and larger gatherings assembling on the coast during summertime to take advantage of natural resources and engage in social and ceremonial activities.²³ In wintertime groups dispersed into family clans and migrated inland to the jarrah and marri forests.²⁴ The winter migration was carried out to escape the harsh conditions along the coast and to take advantage of inland resources.

Despite the dispossession of traditional land by European settlers, Noongar people have continued and maintained their cultural practices in general and within the Shire of West Arthur, particularly within designated camps/reserves. One such reserve is located on Coalfields Highway near the town of Darkan in the Shire of West Arthur.²⁵

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Sandra Wooltorton, Len Collard, and Pierre Horwitz, "The Land Still Speaks: Ni, Katitj!," *PAN: Philosophy Activism Nature* 2017, no. 13 (January 1, 2017): 57–67.

¹⁹ Archae-aus.op. cit., p. 39

²⁰ Shire of West Arthur, no date

²¹ Jackson, S. 2006, Aboriginal Cultural Values and Water Resources Management: A Case Study from the Northern Territory, report prepared by CSIRO Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre, p. 15

²² Archae-aus. Op. cit., p. 38.

²³ Wooltorton, S., Horwitz, P. and Collard, op. cit.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Archae-aus.op. cit., p. 41



Figure 17 – Map of the South West of WA showing the Noongar language or dialectal group boundaries identified by Tindale (1974). The Project Area (red outline) is located within the area of the Wilman Noongar.

Source: National Native Title Tribunal, 2005

6. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE CONTEXT

Previous heritage investigations may identify unregistered Aboriginal sites within a Project Area or provide information on the spatial distribution of Aboriginal sites in the region. The 10 km radius ACHIS search resulted in eight (8) previous assessments that are summarised in section 6.1 below. Only five (5) of these surveys intersect the Project Area.

6.1. PREVIOUS HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Summaries of heritage surveys within the Project Area and an additional 10km buffer around the wind farm boundaries are provided below.

Centre for Social Research ECU, 1997. Western Australia Regional Forest Agreement – Aboriginal Consultation Project.

This regional survey intersects the proposed wind farm and powerline buffer zone.

This report was commissioned by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to undertake Comprehensive Regional Assessments of the economic, social, environmental and heritage values of forest regions in order to provide the frameworks for the future management of Australia's forest regions and develop the Regional Forest Arrangements.

This report documents the results of the Noongar heritage values and places assessment project, and the potential for these places to be listed in the Register of the National Estate. This report also documents Noongar community views of the management of the forests in the South-West Forest region and develops appropriate related recommendations for consideration by the RFA Steering Committee.

Consultative workshops held across seven (7) locations including Busselton, Pinjarra, Northam, Narrogin, Mt Barker, Collie and Manjimup.

The consultation with Noongar communities found that:

- The high value that Noongar people place upon the South-West Forest region of WA was made clear in the community consultation process conducted for this study. The types of places identified at the workshops were similar and reflected a consistency of Aboriginal values throughout the South-West of WA. Places of importance ranged from previous habitation places, areas of mythological or ceremonial importance, places where historical events such as massacres took place, to areas containing cultural (archaeological) material.
- The places of heritage value that were identified were not restricted to places used in the past, rather, many these places are of contemporary significance and value. Many of the places identified are still being used today, for example, as hunting and camping places. They provide a means of maintaining and continuing traditional practices, Noongar culture and identity, whilst at the same time providing a connection back to the past and a sense of place.
- Whilst some places were singled out as being of greater importance than others, the value that the landscape had in general was made apparent at every workshop. This point was borne out by the fact that at every workshop one of the primary concerns of the Noongar participants was access to country. Noongar people speak passionately of their need to access the forest generally and specific heritage places within it.
- The heritage value of the South-West Forest region needs to be examined from a holistic perspective rather than by dividing it up into numerous discrete places of heritage value. Whilst it is true that certain places have Aboriginal heritage value, it must be kept in mind that the South-West Forest region in its entirety is valued by the Noongar community. The focus upon certain places of heritage value should not occur at the expense of an understanding of the Aboriginal heritage value of the landscape as a whole.

Cooper, D., & J. Mattner, 2006. Review of Aboriginal Heritage on Proposed Muja to Wellstead Transmission Line.

- This survey transects the proposed powerlines and associated buffer zone.

- An Aboriginal heritage desktop study was commissioned by Western Power to assist in planning for the possible construction of a high voltage transmission line from Muja power station, near Collie, to the proposed Southdown Mine, at Wellstead, located northeast of Albany. For the investigation, registered sites and surveys of land within 2km of the project area were studied.
- The objectives of the desktop study were to identify any registered Aboriginal heritage sites which may be affected by construction of the transmission line, to review reports of previous surveys and provide analysis of the issues raised by the research.
- The report concluded that there was a low risk of impact on known Aboriginal heritage from the proposed construction of a high voltage transmission line from Muja power station to the planned Southdown mine, near Wellstead.
- The report stated that the scarcity of known sites may be misleading because there have been very few surveys or investigations in most of the districts covered by the proposed route, and that consequently, there is only an incomplete understanding of the distribution of Aboriginal sites in the region covered by the project area, and the patterning of archaeological sites.
- It is only the area around Collie where sufficient site surveys have been conducted to provide a clear picture of the archaeological site patterning. Sites will generally consist of a small number of artefacts, produced predominantly of quartz and be small to very small in size. Sites will be located near water sources such as soaks and rivers.
- It was noted that ethnographic surveys in the region show that many of the cultural sites are still significant to the current generation of Aboriginal families. These sites are typically ethno-historic sites, such as camps, water sources or burials, or are traditional sites associated with noongar mythology. The association of ethnographic sites with rivers, creeks, wetlands, lakes, or soaks is common throughout the Southwest and likely will be consistent across the entire length of the project area.
- Research found there to be little threat to known Aboriginal heritage sites.

Quartermaine, G., 1999. Report on the Archaeological Component of the Aboriginal Site Survey of the Perth to Adelaide Optic Fibre Cable Route.

- This survey transects the proposed powerlines and associated buffer zone.
- A site survey for Aboriginal heritage significance was commissioned by Telecom Australia for the Western Australian section of the route of the proposed Perth-Adelaide Fibre Optic Cable. The archaeological survey involved a sample survey of the proposed route, and the assembly of data from previous work in the region.
- Fourteen newly recorded archaeological sites and eighteen isolated finds were located as a result of this field survey. Three previously recorded sites were also located near the proposed route. The newly recorded sites included eleven artefact scatters, one quarry site, and two rock holes with artefacts. The eighteen isolated finds were located mainly on creek, river, saltpan, and lake margins.
- The artefact scatters are mostly small, low-density sites with quartz in the west and chalcedony in the east, as the main lithic material.
- The distribution of the sites discovered fit the predictive model of the survey, with the most likely site locations being nearby bodies of water.

O'Connor, R., 1990. Report of an ethnographic survey of the proposed Perth to Adelaide Optic Fibre Cable Route.

- This survey transects the proposed powerlines and associated buffer zone.
- It is an ethnographic survey of a proposed optic fibre cable route that was commissioned in 1990 by Telecom Australia to identify Aboriginal people with cultural links to the regions and ensure that proposed works avoid impact on areas of significance.
- This report complemented surveys of aboriginal sites along the proposed route, which was Collie to Ongerup, Jerramungup to Balladonia, and Cocklebidy to Eucla.
- The Aboriginal people consulted gave clearance for the project on the grounds that previously identified sites of significance are not impacted.

- Previously recorded sites are not located within or in proximity to the Project Area.
- Recommendations included amending the proposed optic fibre cable route to avoid a previously recorded ethnographic site and that contractors working in the vicinity of the site are notified of its proximity.

O'Reilly, T., 2020. Report on a Site Identification Archaeological Survey of the Bridges 437A, 440, 441 and 442 Project Areas on the Collie Lake King Road in the Shire of West Arthur, Western Australia

- This survey targets small sections on Collie Lake King Road adjacent (north) of the wind farm area.
- The report is a site identification archaeological survey of four bridges commissioned by Main Roads Western Australia in August 2020 which aimed to record and report any Aboriginal archaeological sites located within or extending over the bridges.
- An archaeological survey of the bridges was undertaken and reported that no Aboriginal archaeological sites or material were identified.
- The report noted that sites can be exposed or concealed as a result of both wind and water erosion, and that archaeological material may lie below the surface and be exposed during works.
- It also noted that the absence of Aboriginal cultural material within the bridge project areas may be due to historic and contemporary land use practices, and that sites within the survey area may have been concealed, disturbed or destroyed.
- It recommended that if artefactual material is uncovered in the future during works, that work stops while DPLH undertakes an investigation.

O'Reilly, T., 2020. Report of an Ethnographic Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Bridges 0437A, 0440, 0441 and 0442 Located on the Collie-Lake King Road in the Shire of Arthur River, Western Australia

- This survey targets small sections on Collie Lake King Road adjacent (north) of the wind farm area.
- The report is a site identification ethnographic survey of four bridges commissioned by Main Roads Western Australia in August 2020 which aimed to record and report any Aboriginal ethnographic sites located within or extending over the bridges.
- The report notes that the GKB site informants believe that the nearby Registered ACH site, Arthur River (ACHIS ID# 37754), and its tributaries were created by the Waugal and that the river continues to be the Waugal spirit's home. Additionally, previous surveys have reported that rituals are conducted to show respect to the Waugal and avoid sickness within the Noongar community.
- The report noted that no new ethnographic sites, as defined under section 5 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, were reported in the target areas.
- The report recommended that a section 18 approval is sought for proposed works within the extent of the Registered ACH site, Arthur River (ACHIS ID# 37754). Additionally, Noongar cultural monitors should be present during all ground disturbing works in order to observe any uncovered archaeological material and ensure that no spiritual problems arise as a result of the works.
- Finally, the GKB representatives advised that they fully supported the proposed bridge replacement and repair works.

Goode, B. and L. Huxtable, 2014. Report of an Ethnographic Survey of Proposed Coalfields Road Realignment – SLK 64.5 TO SLK 71 (BOWELLING) AND SKL 86.3 TO SLK 91 (GIBBS SIDING ROAD): Shire of West Arthur, Western Australia

- This survey targets sections of the Coalfields Road adjacent (north) of the wind farm area.
- An ethnographic survey was commissioned by Main Roads Western Australia for a proposed realignment of sections of the Coalfields Road, targeting 15-40 m corridors along the existing and new road alignment edges.

- The report underscored the significance of the Collie River (the tributaries of which intersect the Project Area) to the local Noongar people. In particular, recommendations were made for Main Roads to avoid impact to the Collie River Waugal, a registered ethnographic site which overlays much of the Collie River to the west of the Project Area.
- The report noted that no new ethnographic sites, as defined under section 5 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, were reported in the target areas.
- However, the report recorded a new ethnographic site beyond the survey area (10 km west of the Project Area), just north of the Coalfields Road, named 'Lover's Hill,' which includes the remains of two dead trees, representing the spirits of two Aboriginal lovers from the wrong skin groups who ran away to be together despite cultural restrictions surrounding Aboriginal law and marriage systems.
- Recommendations were made for archaeological monitoring for ground or waterway disturbances and an archaeological finds procedure to be implemented, involving contacting an archaeologist to record material, which should then be salvaged and relocated in line with the wishes of the traditional owners.

6.2. CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are drawn from the review of the archaeological background information and relevant regional archaeological investigations:

- Archaeological sites tend to be located near drainage features such as creek lines and rivers.
- Noongar communities express a high regard for the South-West Forest region. Consultation undertaken has emphasised the significance of various places such as previous habitation areas, areas of mythological or ceremonial importance, places where historical events such as massacres took place, to areas containing cultural (archaeological) material.
- The findings from previous ethnographic surveys confirm the continued significance of cultural sites, particularly those associated with rivers, creeks, wetlands, and soaks, which are essential features to the Southwest region. In particular, the report highlights the significance of the entire Collie River, tributaries of which intersect the Project Area.
- Recommendations from previous surveys include the implementation of stop work procedures in the event that artefactual or human remains are uncovered during development works as well as the presence of monitors for ground disturbing works.
- The reports also noted the effects of wind and water erosion, as well as historic or contemporary land use activities, in the potential concealment or disturbance of ACH sites in the area, highlighting that archaeological material may be present below the surface.

7. PREDICTIVE MODEL

A predictive model is a useful tool to assist with archaeological survey planning, by estimating the nature and distribution of evidence of Aboriginal land use in a Project Area.

A predictive model should consider variables that may influence the location, distribution and density of sites, features or artefacts within a Project Area. Variables typically relate to the environment and topography, such as soils, landscape features, slope, landform, and cultural resources.

The likelihood of any particular site type, such as artefact scatter, shelter, midden etc., occurring within a given Project Area requires the synthesis of information on the general distribution of archaeological sites within the wider region including:

- Detailed analysis of previous archaeological investigations within the same region.
- Presence or absence of landscape features that present potential for archaeological resources (human occupation, use) such as raised terraces adjacent to permanent water.
- Analysis of the geology and soil landscape within the Project Area which allows for a determination to be made of the type of raw material that would have been available for artefact production (silcrete, tuff, quartz etc) and the potential for the accumulation of archaeological resource within the Project Area.
- Investigation of and determination of the level of disturbance/historical land use within the Project Area which may impact on or remove entirely any potential archaeological material.
- Investigations of cultural landscape and identify cultural information where it's available, such as song lines, trails/tracks and pathways, mythological places, ceremonial places and other intangible elements.

An indicative process of determining the likelihood of a given site occurring within a Project Area is provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Indicative process for determining the potential presence of ACH.

Likelihood	Indicative Project Area context	Indicative action
High	Low level of ground disturbance in combination with at least one archaeologically sensitive landscape feature or Aboriginal object (either registered or newly identified) within the Project Area.	Detailed archaeological investigation including but not limited to survey, shovel testing, test excavation and potentially (depending on density and/or significance of archaeological deposit) salvage excavation.
Moderate	Moderate level of ground disturbance in combination with at least one archaeologically sensitive landscape feature or Aboriginal object (either registered or newly identified) within the Project Area.	Detailed archaeological investigation including but not limited to survey, shovel testing, test excavation.
Low	High level of ground disturbance in combination with at least one archaeologically sensitive landscape feature or Aboriginal object (either registered or newly identified) within the Project Area.	Sub-surface testing via shovel testing or test excavation, depending on the particular type and depth of disturbance.
Nil	Complete ground disturbance (i.e. complete removal of natural soil landscape); or no archaeologically sensitive landscape features and no archaeological sites within Project Area.	Employ chance finds procedure, and/or monitoring, and works can continue without further archaeological investigation.

7.1. TYPICAL SITE TYPES

A range of Aboriginal site types are known to occur within Western Australia. Site types that are typically encountered in the southwest region of WA are described below.

Artefact Scatters are indicative of past Aboriginal habitation, characterised by the presence of concentrations of artefacts such as stone tools, grinding material and shell middens. Found in both surface and sub-surface contexts across many different landforms, including along creek lines, gravel flats, plains and rock shelters. Water sources and soil types are typically associated with artefact scatters and sub-surface deposits on the Swan Coastal Plain.²⁶

Culturally Modified Trees are trees that have been modified through the removal of bark or other markings or modifications made by Aboriginal people for various reasons, including tool making, ceremonial practices, water capture and storage, or as landmarks. They are typically found in forested areas and serve as tangible reminders of Aboriginal cultural practices and interactions with the environment.

Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD) are subsurface deposits with a high likelihood of containing buried artefacts or other evidence relating to past human occupation at that location, even when little or nothing is visible on the ground surface.²⁷ PADs could possibly be dated if sediment, charcoal or other dateable organics are present. Preservation of any organic material may vary depending on the soil type. These types of sites are generally found in sand dunes or alluvial settings in the South West of WA.

Rock Art may be in the form of engravings, including incised, pecked, grooved and abrasion. Rock art sites hold significant cultural and spiritual value for Aboriginal communities, serving as repositories of traditional knowledge and stories. This site type is found on bedrock outcrops of different sizes and formations. The surface is mainly flat. Paintings are mostly found in sheltered contexts such as rock shelters or overhangs providing good conditions for the preservation of the pigment used in the art. Engravings can be found in both open and closed contexts.

Quarries consist of stone sources, either in the form of bedrock or large nodules that are in their primary context. Quarries may be classed as stone procurement sites that usually have an associated artefact scatter containing stone reduction/knapping areas. They are located in areas where there are suitable outcrops of stone.

Burials are where Indigenous people laid their deceased to rest, often marked by burial mounds, stone arrangements, or other culturally significant features. Burials may include isolated bone fragment or could include complete individuals or multiple burials. Skeletal material generally occurs in areas where the ground is softer such as along creeks banks or in dunes.

Rock Shelters are natural caves or overhangs that were used for shelter and other purposes by Aboriginal people. They may have conducted certain activities while in a shelter, such as making stone tools, grinding, or caching items. Rock shelters often have an associated archaeological sub-surface deposit.

Built Structures include structures made from stone, wood, fibre, metal, sediment or other materials, for a wide variety of purposes. Includes habitation structures or stone arrangements, such as semi-circular rings of stacked stone, lizard traps, cairns, hunting hides, walled niches, and sanding stones.

Ethnographic sites, including Mythological / Aboriginal Ceremony and Songlines are places of cultural significance to Aboriginal people and may be connected to ceremonial activities and/or spiritual stories. In addition, there may be ethnographic information related to the historic use of the area by Aboriginal people. These may be present across a range of different landscapes. Certain natural features may be considered a part of these types of sites, including specific landforms, rock formations, water sources, and plant or animal concentrations.

Water Sources include rock holes, natural springs, creeks, pools, gnamma holes, and soaks that were an important source of water for Aboriginal people and, later on, the early settlers. These are mostly located in low-lying areas where water collects among creeks and in soaks, or they may be associated with rock formations.

Historic Sites may or may not have a shared history between Aboriginal people and early settlers. Historic sites may include homesteads, stockyards, building ruins, stone walls, wells, fences, bridges, small camps,

²⁶ Archae-aus. 2023. Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment for Hillman Nature Reserve, p. 45

²⁷ Burke, H., Morrison, M., & C., 2017. The Archaeologist's Field Handbook Smith. Crows Nest: Allen & Unwin p. 145

old tracks, blazed trees, and other farm infrastructure. Historic Sites can also be places of association with Aboriginal historical figures or events.

7.2. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The likelihood of the site types described in Section 7.1 above occurring within the present Project Area is assessed in Table 5 below. The likelihood of impact to such site types is also included in this table.

Table 5 – Predictive Model of the Project Area

Site type	Assessment	Potential
Artefact Scatters	Artefact scatters, comprising of locally quarried dolerite and quartz flakes, are the most common site type found across the broader Wheatbelt region. ²⁸ The many different landforms and hydrology across the Project Area indicate a high likelihood of artefact scatters. This includes along the ground surface as well as in a sub-surface capacity.	High
Culturally Modified Trees	Examples of culturally modified trees have been found elsewhere in the region and blazed trees are known to be present throughout the Southwest. Based on the level of remnant vegetation, there is a high chance that this type of site will be encountered in areas of pocketed natural vegetation in the Project Area.	High
Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD)	The Project Area contains a variety of different soil landscapes with varying depths. Sandy deposits are more likely to retain subsurface cultural material. There is therefore a moderate to high potential for PADs to occur.	Moderate-High
Rock Art	There is a moderate chance of finding rock art paintings given the presence of this site type lodged within the Project Area. There is a low chance of finding engravings in the Project Area.	Low-Moderate
Quarries	Dolerite quarries are known to exist in the broader landscape and typically associated with rocky outcrops. Given the hydrology of the Project Area there is a moderate chance that this site type could be found in the Project Area.	Moderate
Burials	The soil profile of the area suggests there is limited potential for burials to be encountered as the soils are hard and shallow. Softer areas along the river lines, however, could have been used for burials.	Low
Rock Shelters	There are no major rock formations in the area, therefore there is a low chance that rock shelters would be found in the Project Area.	Low
Built Structures	There is some chance that built structures (i.e., lizard traps) will be found in the Project Area, except for potentially along the river tributaries.	Low-Moderate
Ethnographic sites, including Mythological /	Given the presence of the Arthur River and Collie River tributaries near the site boundaries, there is a high chance that this type of heritage is located within the Project Area.	High

²⁸ Archae-aus, 2023. Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment for Hillman Nature Reserve, p. 42

Site type	Assessment	Potential
Aboriginal Ceremony and Songlines		
Water Sources	Given the presence of the Arthur River, Collie River and Blackwood River tributaries within and surrounding the site boundaries, there is a moderate to high chance that this type of heritage is located within the Project Area.	Moderate - High
Historic Sites	There is a high chance that there are historic features that are related to the early phases of settlement in the Project Area.	High

7.3. PREDICTIVE HEAT MAP

Considering the results from this Desktop Assessment, the assessment of archaeological potential, and risk assessment, a predictive map highlighting areas with potential for finding new ACH is presented in Figure 18. The predictive map was developed by overlaying various spatial layers, each assigned a weighting from 1 to 3, to reflect the potential of each landscape feature to contain ACH material. The resulting heat map visually represents this potential, with higher values indicating areas of greater likelihood, shown in red. The specific landscape characteristics and their respective weightings are detailed in Table 6 – Predictive map landscape characteristics and associated weighting.

Table 6 – Predictive map landscape characteristics and associated weighting

Characteristic	Weighting	Explanation
Land containing rocky outcrops	1	Generalised layer. Associated with quarries, rock shelters, and artefact scatters.
Land containing sandy soils	1	Generalised layer. Associated with PADs and burials.
Native vegetation	2	Indicates minimal disturbance. Potential to contain CMTs and other site types.
Streams (buffered 200 m)	2	Generally associated with human activity in the past, as well as ethnographic significance.
Water polygons	2	Generally associated with human activity in the past, as well as ethnographic significance.

Source: Urbis, 2025

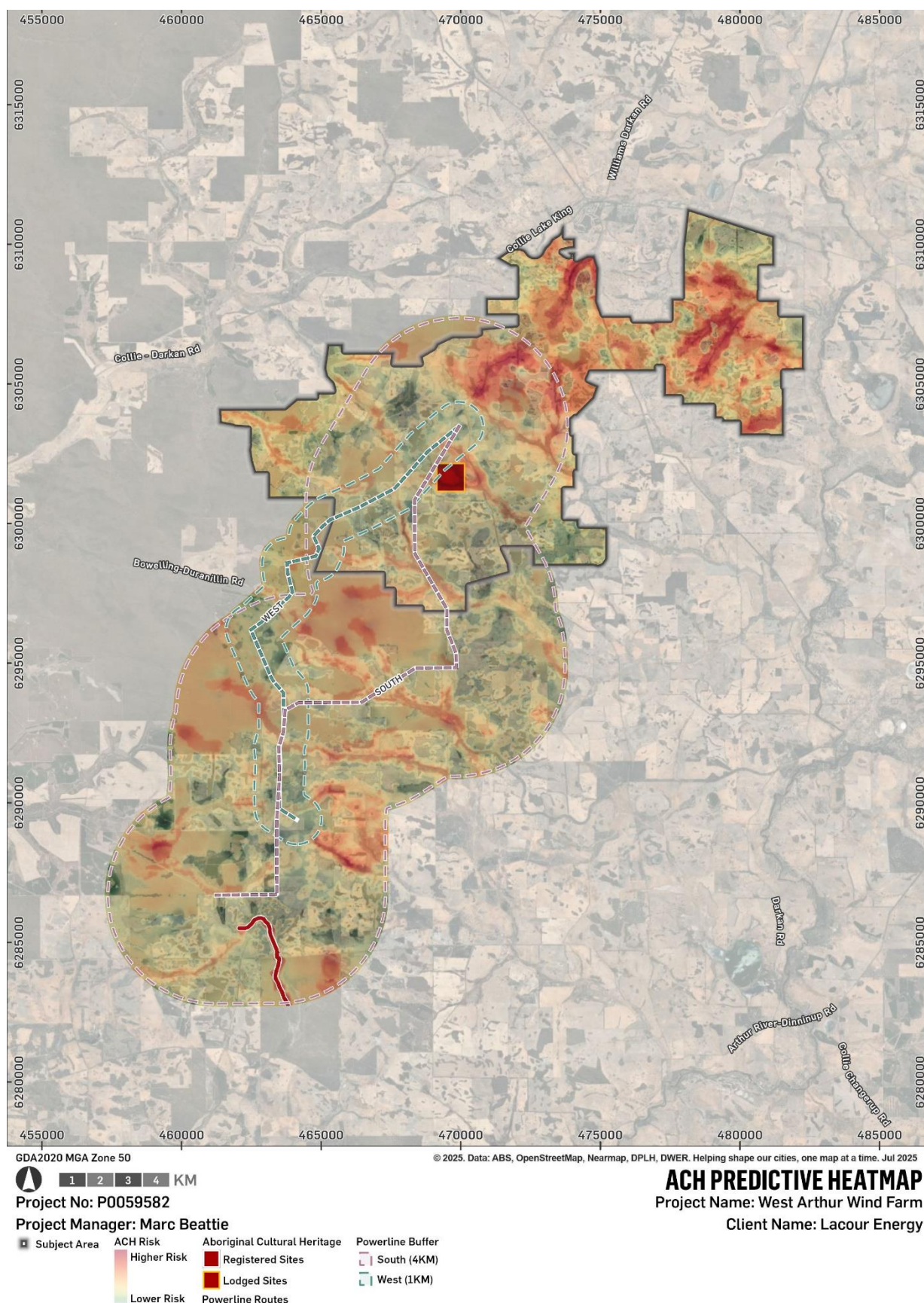


Figure 18 – ACH Predictive Heat Map.

Source: Urbis, with DPLH information.

8. HERITAGE CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The archaeological opportunities and constraints, both Aboriginal and European, are outlined below and are based on the archaeological potential of the Project Area.

8.1. ABORIGINAL HERITAGE CONSTRAINTS

- Large portions of the project Area have been historically cleared and used for agricultural purposes. These areas are determined to have moderate potential for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage material. The remaining pockets of remnant vegetation and areas in proximity to natural water sources within the project area are determined to have high potential for ACH material. There is also potential for sub-surface ACH material to exist in the Project Area.
- Due to the lack of Aboriginal heritage investigations in the area, there is a high risk of harm to unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage sites/places. Further investigations are therefore recommended to ensure that the project does not breach section 17 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.
- The use of the heritage risk matrix from the *Aboriginal Due Diligence Guidelines (2013)* was conducted by Urbis in accordance with the NSHA process to ensure compliance and respectful consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage (Figure 19). The assessment identified that the proposed development has a high risk of impacting Aboriginal heritage where the proposed works constitute major disturbance in a significantly altered environment. Despite the convenience of a risk matrix, it suffers some theoretical flaws, such as the oversimplification of the characteristics of the Project Area and of proposed works, therefore making application of this matrix difficult for areas that have complex histories or are extremely large, such as the Project Area. Additionally, this matrix is over ten years old, and was created before the advent of the South West Native Title Settlement. The risk matrix is therefore used only as a guide.

SCHEDULE 2 – THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE RISK MATRIX

Previous Land Use	LAND ACTIVITIES – CATEGORIES 1-5					
		1. Negligible disturbance	2. Minimal disturbance	3. Moderate disturbance	4. Significant disturbance	5. Major disturbance
	Built Environment - e.g. urban environment, towns, metropolitan region.	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
	Significantly Altered Environment - e.g. cultivated and cleared land.	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
	Moderately Altered Environment - e.g. partially cleared lands, re-vegetated landscape.	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Minimally Altered Environment - e.g. urban bush land, regrowth areas	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	Unaltered Environment - e.g. protected areas or pristine environment.	Low	Medium	High	High	High
Risk Assessment		Actions				
Low Risk (Review)		Review the landscape and proposed activity (see sections 2.4 - 2.8 - assessing the landscape and the activity). Refer to the AHIS.				
Medium Risk (Review /Exercise Caution)		Review the landscape and proposed activity (as above). The precautionary principle (see page 2) applies. Refer to the AHIS and contact the DAA. A range of actions may be recommended, including: no action, consultation with the relevant Aboriginal people, an Aboriginal heritage survey or modification of the proposed activity to avoid or minimise site impact.				
High Risk (Consult / Survey / Approvals)		Refer to the AHIS. Consult with the DAA and the relevant Aboriginal people. Dependent on consultation outcomes you may need to include: an Aboriginal heritage survey, modification of the proposed activity to avoid or minimise (see sections 2.24 - 2.28) impact to the site and/or other heritage management strategies. The land user may also need to apply for approval or consent (see section 2.26) to the activity.				
For major development projects refer to sections 2.10 - 2.12 for further advice.						

Figure 19 – DPLH Aboriginal Heritage Risk Matrix. The red outline indicates the level of risk relevant to the Project Area.

Source: *Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Department of the Premier and Cabinet, 2013, p. 258.*

8.2. ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities exist for meaningful engagement with Aboriginal community members through consultation as part of the Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (NSHA), ensuring Gnaala Karla Booja voices and perspectives inform the development of the Project Area. This engagement is guided by the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), which is crucial for respecting the rights and autonomy of Traditional Owners.
- FPIC, rooted in the right to self-determination, ensures Indigenous communities have control over decisions affecting their lands and resources. Activities proposed on Indigenous lands must be preceded by voluntary, informed, and timely consent from the community, which can be withdrawn at any stage. This process allows the community to negotiate the conditions under which projects are designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated, ensuring socially sustainable development.
- As part of this engagement, ethnographic and archaeological surveys will likely be required. These surveys are essential for identifying and preserving Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) sites. The necessity and scope of any ACH investigations can be determined through consultation with the Gnaala Karla Booja Corporation, as outlined in the NSHA.
- Engaging in consultation and conducting surveys with Traditional Owners not only fulfils regulatory requirements but also strengthens the relationship between LE and local Aboriginal peoples. This collaborative approach fosters mutual respect and understanding, contributing to positive experiences in post-contact Australia. Additionally, it provides opportunities for Traditional Owners to continue their cultural practices and share traditional knowledge, ensuring cultural heritage is respected and integrated into contemporary land use planning.

8.3. HISTORICAL HERITAGE

- There are no recorded historical heritage places within the Project Boundary. There is a low potential for harm to potentially unknown historical archaeological places.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1. ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The West Arthur Wind Farm Project Area contains one Registered Aboriginal Heritage Site, BLACKWOOD RIVER (ACHIS ID# 20434), one Lodged Aboriginal Heritage Site, BLACK WATTLE (ACHIS ID# 4501), and one Historic Aboriginal Heritage Site, CORDERING (ACHIS ID# 15997).

The Lodged Aboriginal Heritage Site, BLACK WATTLE (ACHIS ID# 4501), is located within the wind farm area and buffered powerline route. This site is lodged as an artefact scatter.

The Registered Aboriginal Heritage Site, BLACKWOOD RIVER (ACHIS ID# 20434), intersects the buffered powerline route but does not intersect the proposed powerlines specifically. The Historic Aboriginal Heritage Site, CORDERING (ACHIS ID# 15997), is located within the buffered powerline route, immediately adjacent to the South powerline, and is listed as a Hunting Place.

Several surveys have been conducted in proximity or in relation to the Project Area but without sufficient detail or focus to be conclusive in identifying the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Project Area.

Due to the lack of Aboriginal heritage investigations in the Project Area, there is a high risk of harm to unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage sites/places. Further investigations are therefore recommended to ensure that the project does not breach section 17 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

Recommendation 1 – Record Keeping

- This assessment report should be kept as evidence of the Due Diligence Process having been applied to the Project Area.

Recommendation 2 – Submission of Activity Notice

- A copy of this report should be provided to the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKBAC) as part of the Activity Notice submission.
- Prepare and lodge an Activity Notice of the proposed works, to be submitted to SWALSC and GKBAC. Under the NSHA process the Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) will decide if heritage surveys will be required, and if so, to provide names of appropriate Traditional Owner Representatives to be engaged for surveys.

Recommendation 3 – Undertake Site Avoidance Surveys

- Undertake an Ethnographic survey and a Site Avoidance level archaeological survey, to determine the locations of Aboriginal heritage and to inform the final locations of the proposed met mast, wind turbines, tracks and powerline. It is recommended that impacting Aboriginal cultural heritage identified during the surveys is avoided.

9.2. HISTORICAL HERITAGE

There are no recorded historical heritage places within the Project Boundary. There is a low potential for harm to potentially unknown historical archaeological places.

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DISCLAIMER

This report is dated 10 October 2025 and incorporates information and events up to that date only and excludes any information arising, or event occurring, after that date which may affect the validity of Urbis Ltd (**Urbis**) opinion in this report. Urbis prepared this report on the instructions, and for the benefit only, of Lacour (**Instructing Party**) for the purpose of Aboriginal & Historical Due Diligence Assessment (**Purpose**) and not for any other purpose or use. To the extent permitted by applicable law, Urbis expressly disclaims all liability, whether direct or indirect, to the Instructing Party which relies or purports to rely on this report for any purpose other than the Purpose, and to any other person which relies or purports to rely on this report for any purpose whatsoever (including the Purpose).

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This report has been prepared with due care and diligence by Urbis and the statements and opinions given by Urbis in this report are given in good faith and in the reasonable belief that they are correct and not misleading, subject to the limitations above.

APPENDIX A

ACHIS SEARCH RESULTS

Search Criteria

1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Register in Shapefile - West Arthur_Combined Boundary and Transmission Line Buffer

Disclaimer

Aboriginal heritage holds significant value to Aboriginal people for their social, spiritual, historical, scientific, or aesthetic importance within Aboriginal traditions, and provides an essential link for Aboriginal people to their past, present and future. In Western Australia Aboriginal heritage is protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

All Aboriginal cultural heritage in Western Australia is protected, whether or not the ACH has been reported or exists on the Register.

The information provided is made available in good faith and is predominately based on the information provided to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage by third parties. The information is provided solely on the basis that readers will be responsible for making their own assessment as to the accuracy of the information. If you find any errors or omissions in our records, including our maps, it would be appreciated if you provide the details to the Department via <https://achknowledge.dph.wa.gov.au/ach-enquiry-form> and we will make every effort to rectify it as soon as possible.

South West Settlement ILUA Disclaimer

Your heritage enquiry is on land **within or adjacent to** the following Indigenous Land Use Agreement(s): Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

On 8 June 2015, six identical Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) were executed across the South West by the Western Australian Government and, respectively, the Yued, Whadjuk People, Gnaala Karla Booja, Ballardong People, South West Bojjarah #2 and Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar groups, and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC).

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Place Type: The type of Aboriginal cultural heritage place. For example an artefact scatter place or engravings place.

Legacy ID: This is the former unique number that the former Department of Aboriginal Sites assigned to the place.

Coordinates

Map coordinates are based on the GDA 2020 Datum.

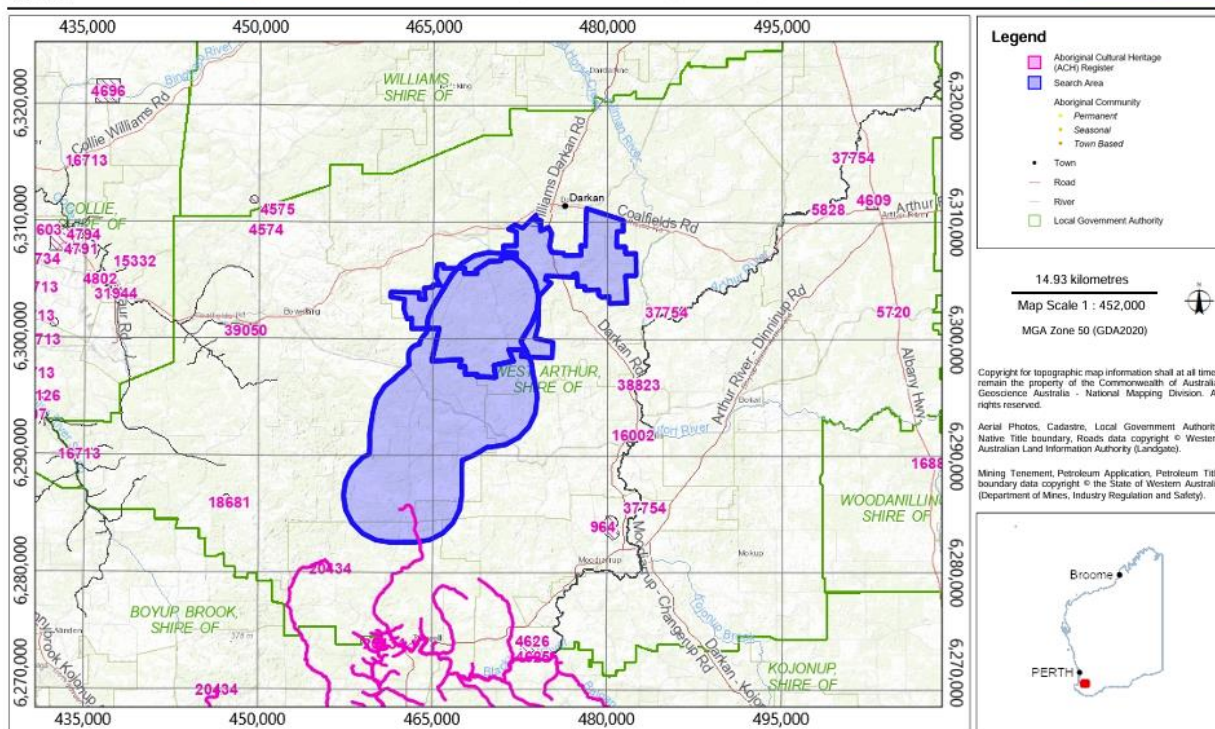
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20434	Blackwood River	No	Yes	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Register	Creation / Dreaming Narrative	*Registered Knowledge Holder names available from DPLH	





Search Criteria

1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Lodged in Shapefile - West Arthur_Combined Boundary and Transmission Line Buffer

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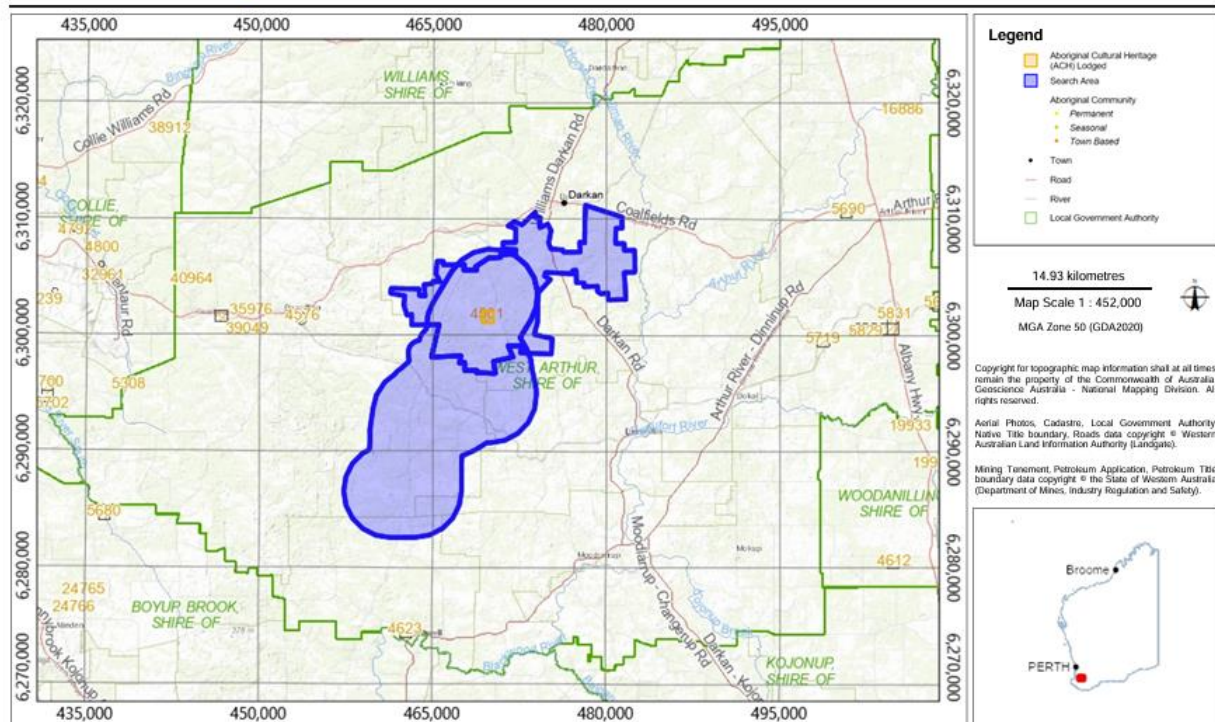
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4501	BLACK WATTLE	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Lodged	Artefacts / Scatter	*Registered Knowledge Holder names available from DPLH	



Search Criteria

1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Historic in Shapefile - West Arthur_Combined Boundary and Transmission Line Buffer

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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System

List of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Historic

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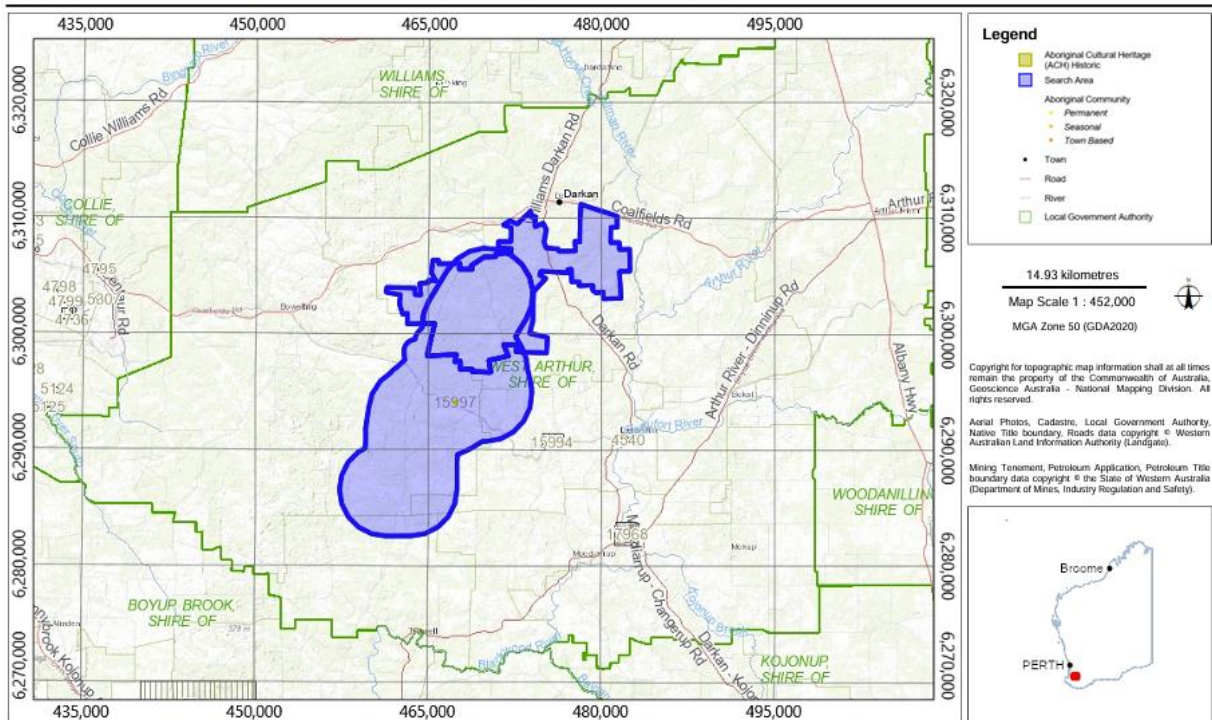
ID	Name	Boundary Restricted	Boundary Reliable	Culturally Sensitive	Culturally Sensitive Nature	Status	Place Type	Knowledge Holders	Legacy ID
15997	CORDERING	No	No	No	No Gender / Initiation Restrictions	Historic	Hunting Place	*Registered Knowledge Holder names available from DPLH	



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Map of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Historic

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Search Criteria

5 Heritage Surveys containing 5 Survey Areas in Shapefile - West Arthur_Combined Boundary and Transmission Line Buffer

Disclaimer

Heritage Surveys have been mapped using information from the reports and / or other relevant data sources. Heritage Surveys consisting of small discrete areas may not be visible except at large scales. Reports shown may not be held at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH). Please consult report holder for more information. Refer to <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/departments-of-planning-lands-and-heritage/aboriginal-heritage> for information on requesting reports held by DPLH.

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Access

Some reports are restricted.

Spatial Accuracy

The following legend strictly applies to the spatial accuracy of heritage survey boundaries as captured by DPLH.

Very Good	Boundaries captured from surveyed titles, GPS (2001 onwards) submitted maps georeferenced to within 20m accuracy.
Good / Moderate	Boundaries captured from GPS (pre 2001) submitted maps georeferenced to within 250m accuracy.
Unreliable	Boundaries captured from submitted maps georeferenced to an accuracy exceeding 250m.
Indeterminate	Surveys submitted with insufficient information to allow boundary capture.

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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System

List of Heritage Surveys

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Survey Report ID	Survey Area ID	Report Title	Report Authors	Year of Publication	Survey Program	Survey Type	Area Description	Spatial Accuracy	Field / Desktop
17057	14947	Report on the Archaeological Component of the Aboriginal Site Survey of the Perth to Adelaide Optic Fibre Cable Route - Ceduna to Eastern Goldfields, Eastern Goldfields to South Coastal Ans South Coastal to South Western Sections. April 1990.	Quartermaine G	2022		Archaeological	Perth to Adelaide Optic Fibre Cable Route - Ceduna to Eastern Goldfields - WA border to Cocklebidy, 280km. Eastern Goldfields to South Coastal - Balladonia to Jerramungup with an alternative route through Norseman, 540km plus 400km. And South Coastal to	Unreliable	Field and Desktop
22253	16446	Review of Aboriginal Heritage on proposed Muja to Wellstead transmission line	Cooper, D			Ethnographic	Transmission Supply Line for electricity from Muja powerstation, south east of Collie, to the proposed Southdown Mine near Wellstead situated north of the South Coas Highway, approximately 90km northeast of Albany and 20km west of Cheyne Bay.	Good	Field and Desktop
102073	14371	Western Australia Regional Forest Agreement Aboriginal Consultation Project. Vol.2. Nov.1997.	Centre for Social Research.	1997		Ethnographic	Regional Forest Agreement Aboriginal Consultation Project as shown in Figure 1.	Unreliable	Field only
102074	14226	Western Australia Regional Forest Agreement Aboriginal Consultation Project. Vol.1. Nov.1997.	Centre for Social Research.	1996		Ethnographic	Regional Forest Agreement Aboriginal Consultation Project as shown in Figure 1.	Unreliable	Field only
106482	14545	Report on an ethnographic survey of the proposed Perth to Adelaide optic fibre cable route	O'Connor, R			Ethnographic	Proposed Perth to Adelaide optic fibre cable route. The proposed route follows the railway reserve from Collie to Duramillin, minor roads to Katanning, railway reserve to Nyabing, roads to Jerramungup, the South Coast Highway to Esperance, roads and tracks	Unreliable	Field and Desktop



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System

Map of Heritage Survey Areas

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