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Identification, Assessment and Protection of National Estate Values in Lower North-Eastern NSW CRA Region

Part B. Cultural Values

ENVIRONMENT AUSTRALIA

A report undertaken for the NSW Regional Forest Agreement Steering Committee as part of the NSW Comprehensive Regional Assessments project numbers NA 02/EH, NA 03/EH, NA 10/EH, NL 11/EH, NA 15/EH, NA 16/EH and NA 29 EH.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared for the joint Commonwealth/State Senior Officials Committee which oversees the Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRA) of forests in New South Wales. It summarises the findings of the projects conducted for the assessment of cultural national estate values conducted as part of the CRA, and identifies indicative areas of national estate value in the region. The findings of the assessment of natural national estate values is contained in "Identification, Assessment and Protection of National Estate Values in Lower North-Eastern NSW CRA Region – Part A Natural Values".

The national estate component of the CRA has greatly enhanced the knowledge of the occurrence of national estate values in the forests of Lower North East New South Wales. Over forty five sites and areas were identified as indicative national estate areas of social, aesthetic and historic value.

The areas identified in this report as having potential national estate value are indicative only and are not necessarily the delineated forest areas that will be listed in the Register of the National Estate. The report documents the cultural values that need to be taken into account in determining national estate places, with the data in the report forming the basis of that determination by the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC). The data layers and areas identified in this report will remain indicative until they have been considered by the AHC.

The CRA provides the scientific basis on which the State and Commonwealth governments will sign Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) for the major forests of New South Wales. These agreements will determine the future of the State's forests, providing a balance between conservation and ecologically sustainable use of forest resources.

It is expected that the RFA between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments will include specifications for a jointly agreed national estate outcome in terms of both the listing of places, including a review of places currently listed or interim-listed in the Register of the National Estate (RNE), and the long-term management of national estate values in forests.

1. INTRODUCTION

There are a number of stages in the development of the Lower North East Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) between the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments. The first stage, which follows the signing of the Scoping Agreement, is the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA). Both Governments, in collaboration with experts, have been involved in a wide range of projects designed to provide the information necessary for the analysis and identification of values and the determination of possible approaches for a RFA. Subsequent stages include the integration of environment, heritage, social and economic values in the region, the development of a public consultation paper, and the drafting of the RFA.

This report presents the results of the assessment of cultural national estate values, carried out as part of the CRA, and identifies indicative areas of national estate value in the Region. The values documented in this report will be taken into account in delineating national estate places. Areas endorsed by the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) will be interim listed in the Register of the National Estate. The interim listing of areas will then be advertised and subject to the statutory period of three months allowed for objections and public comment. It is anticipated that interim listing of areas identified through this process will occur after the New South Wales - Commonwealth Lower North East RFA is signed.

1.1 National Estate

The national estate is defined in the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 as:

those places, being components of the natural environment of Australia, or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community.

The Australian Heritage Commission's responsibility is to identify the national estate and under section 30 of the Act, to advise the Commonwealth Government on the protection of national estate places and the potential impact on national estate values of Commonwealth decision relating to those places. The Act also requires the establishment of the Register of the National Estate. The identification and assessment of places for listing in the Register is guided by the national estate criteria (Appendix A).

When making decisions about the use of forests that contain places of national estate significance, for example decisions on whether to grant woodchip export licences, the Commonwealth must consider any potential adverse effects on the national estate.

In the past, the lack of detailed information in a regional context about the national estate values of forests has made it difficult for the AHC to identify and register places of national estate significance and to provide the Commonwealth Government with detailed advice about the protection of those places. The lack of information has also contributed to uncertainty for forest-based industries and for State governments about which places will be listed in the Register of the National Estate, and what advice the Commission would give on the protection of those places.

In recognition of these problems, the Commission has developed a methodology for the regional assessment of national estate values which focuses on systematic surveys to identify areas of national estate significance coupled with appropriate management to protect identified values, using a regional framework as the basis for decision-making. A systematic regional approach to the assessment of national estate values ensures that information on the distribution and regional protection of values is available to provide an appropriate context for the Commission to develop its advice to the Commonwealth Government, and that all stakeholders and the general community are aware of the places of national estate significance in the Region.

In providing advice on the protection of national estate values identified through CRAs undertaken for the development of RFAs, the Commission has developed a policy which recognises the implementation, through the RFA process, of the nationally agreed criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system for forests (the JANIS criteria). In summary, the Commission's current policy on the listing and protection of national estate values in a CAR reserve system is that where a RFA has substantially met the various attributes and expectations of the Commission, then it is appropriate to list all places identified through the RFA as containing national estate values which are protected by reservation, by reserve management prescription, by site exclusion, by consultation processes or other measures appropriate to the value, or places that are robust and not affected by timber harvesting or other off-reserve management activities.

Some of the areas identified in this assessment occur within places already listed or interim-listed in the Register of the National Estate (Appendix B and Map 1.). In addition to the identification of new indicative areas of national estate significance, some places previously listed in the Register may not have retained their national estate values. Places already listed or interim-listed in the Register of the National Estate will be updated in the light of the information gathered during the CRA.

1.2 The National Estate Assessment

The RFA process is designed to comply with a range of Commonwealth and State statutory obligations in relation to the management of forests, including the identification of and provision of advice on the protection of national estate values required under the *Australian Heritage Commission Act* 1975. A regional assessment model for identifying the National Estate was developed in 1991-92 by the AHC, in cooperation with the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), for the southern forest region of south-west Western Australia (AHC and CALM, 1992). The model was refined in 1993 for regional assessments in Victoria's East Gippsland and Central Highlands forest regions, with similar assessments later completed for Tasmania and Western Australia CRAs.

The Lower North East national estate assessment was undertaken in 1997-1998. The cultural assessments were directed by the Cultural Heritage Working Group (CHWG). The group consisted of New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW NPWS), State Forests New South Wales (SFNSW), New South Wales Heritage Office, New South Wales Resource and Conservation Division, New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs, New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, Environment Australia, and stakeholder representatives (refer Appendix D). The projects were undertaken by Environment Australia (EA) and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in consultation with State Forests New South Wales (SFNSW).

This report has been prepared by the CRA project team including officers of Environment Australia and New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, with the assistance of a number of other agencies, organisations and individuals.

2. NATIONAL ESTATE CULTURAL VALUES

This report presents the results of the assessment of cultural national estate values conducted as part of the CRA, and identifies indicative areas of cultural national estate value in the region. Cultural places of national estate significance can have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social heritage values. These values may be seen in the physical features of a place, but can also be associated with intangible qualities such as people's associations with or feelings for a place.

Documentary and community-centred research has revealed a wide range of cultural places within or related to the forests of the Lower North East NSW CRA region. These places are indicative of the rich and diverse history of human interaction with, and in response to, those forests.

Throughout the CRA process, the following non-Indigenous cultural values were considered:

- places of social or community value;
- places of historic value; and
- places of aesthetic value.

In addition to the assessment of Lower North East cultural heritage values a Statewide project is examining the protection and management of Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage values and places in forests. The aim of this project is to produce a workable set of principles and guidelines for forest land managers to ensure the protection of cultural heritage values through RFAs.

The national estate cultural heritage component of the CRA has considered forest and forest-related cultural places within the study area across all land tenures. Cultural heritage places have mainly been identified on public lands. In the instances where places of indicative national estate heritage value are located on private land, it is the policy of the AHC to undertake detailed consultation with all relevant land owners and other parties to verify the significance of the place prior to any action being taken in relation to its listing in the Register of the National Estate. No action towards national estate listing for any places on private land identified in this report will be taken until such consultation has occurred.

2.1 Assessment criteria for cultural values

In a regional context, the determination of national estate significance is a process which begins in the early stages of place documentation with the application of place groups, categories and themes, and ends with the application of a threshold of significance. Specific criteria are used in the development of significance indicators and the setting of the threshold. These criteria form part of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act* 1975. These criteria are listed in Appendix A.

Each threshold is set in relation to the significance indicators and is specific to each national estate value. For instance, to reach the threshold for a particular national estate value, a place may need to rank highly on three out of five significance indicators. In other cases, a place may, however, be highly ranked on just one significance indicator and still reach the national estate threshold. The point at which the threshold is set depends on the importance or relevance of the significance indicator to the national estate value.

The relationship between significance indicators and the national estate threshold is established through consideration of the quantity and quality of available information, through expert opinion and discussion, and through consideration of previous national estate thresholding and listing decisions. The national estate threshold of significance for each value was jointly agreed by the NSW Cultural Heritage Working Group (CHWG) as the appropriate threshold for the purposes of the CRA.

A national estate threshold is not graded: a place will either meet the threshold or not. Places may be significant against more than one national estate criterion, although a place need only be significant against one criterion to warrant listing in the Register of the National Estate.

2.2 Community consultation

Communities provide important information for the identification of cultural heritage places. In addition, community involvement is essential for the assessment of aesthetic and social value significance because the national estate criteria (AHC Criteria E.1 and G.1) used to assess these values specify that they must be of significance to a community or cultural group. For the purpose of this study 'the community' refers to any group of people with a common ground. The cultural heritage assessments undertook consultation with the community as follows:

- workshops with local community groups in regional locations;
- workshops with forest and park officers;
- local community based social value research;

- a community review process of the community derived cultural value data;
 and
- meetings with Indigenous communities.

The community workshops provided a venue to introduce the CRA process, and engage local communities, major Statewide stakeholder and user groups in the identification of places of heritage value in the region. All information gathered from the community sources is to be returned to public repositories in the form of an Inventory of Community Heritage Places.

The meetings with Indigenous communities provided the opportunity both the dissemination of information about the CRA process, and as a means of establishing a process for the gathering and verification of information and protocols.

3. NON-INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE

3.1 Introduction

The CHWG developed a series of projects to identify, assess and document non-Indigenous cultural heritage values in the Upper and Lower North East CRA Region. The projects included:

- a data audit of existing cultural heritage data;
- · an overview thematic forest history;
- · an assessment of historic value;
- a community heritage assessment; and
- an assessment of places with aesthetic value

The data audit was conducted first in order to identify a range of priority historic themes for investigation. These themes were explored in the overview thematic history, and field examples were documented in the assessment of places with historic value. The primary data source for the community heritage, aesthetic assessment and, to a lesser degree, the historic assessment, were community heritage workshops held as part of the community heritage assessment.

3.2 Data audit integration and analysis

A statewide cultural heritage data audit integration and analysis project was undertaken for New South Wales (Pearson and Rosen 1997). The objectives of the project were to investigate and assess available non-Indigenous cultural heritage information across the New South Wales CRA regions and to integrate the available information into datasets for ongoing use throughout the CRA process. A further aim was to identify gaps in information to allow targeting of future cultural heritage investigations.

Method

The methodology involved for undertaking the project incorporated the following:

- Preparation of an annotated bibliography of sources relating to the history and non-Indigenous cultural heritage of the forests of the New South Wales CRA study areas.
- Identification of existing datasets and reports relating to non-Indigenous heritage places within the forests of the New South Wales CRA study areas.

- Development of recommendations for integrating this information into a database for ongoing use throughout the CRA process.
- Integration of information into appropriate databases and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) coverages, focussing initially on Eden CRA area and then the remaining CRA areas including Upper North East.
- Analysis of the resulting datasets to highlight deficiencies and gaps in the data and develop recommendations for a strategic approach to future data collection and management.

The project has developed GIS coverages showing the location of recorded non-Indigenous heritage places within the forests of the New South Wales CRA areas. A computer database bibliography was compiled, with over 6000 entries, of sources relating to the history and non-Indigenous cultural heritage of the forests of the CRA study areas. The report also identifies existing non-Indigenous heritage databases and reports relating to heritage sites and places in the New South Wales CRA study areas.

It was concluded that the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI) database was the best database for integrating CRA place data. The following recommendations were made:

- all land management agencies involved in forest area management adopt the SHI database as a single database for the entry of non-Indigenous place recording and assessment data;
- all participating land management agencies adopt common standards for the recording, assessment and entry of place-related data in the NSW SHI database, and have free access to the SHI database for all forest-related sites;
- all participating land management agencies implement a program of data transfer from existing place records into the NSW SHI database; and
- that State Forests develop strategies to protect significant places from loss of national estate (or SHI) values through harvesting activities.

Gaps in knowledge and information

A number of further studies were recommended in order to address the substantial gaps and limitations identified in the report. These included:

- Forest industry and forest management studies on an area or regional basis across all CRA regions, utilising new and existing information, and targeted field survey to: define the utilisation and management of the forests, identify related places and patterns of interaction, and identify any regionally or temporally distinctive patterns.
- Mining industry studies on an area or regional basis across all CRA
 regions, utilising new and existing information, and targeted field survey
 to: clarify and describe the mining history in the forests, and identify
 related places and patterns of interaction within mining places and
 associated transport and settlement patterns.
- Pastoral and agricultural industry studies on an area or regional basis
 across all CRA regions, utilising new and existing information, and
 targeted field survey to: define and describe the alienation, lease or license
 of forested land for pastoral and agricultural land uses, and the subsequent
 re-absorption into public forest lands; to identify related places and
 patterns of interaction; and to identify any regionally or temporally
 distinctive patterns.

It was further recommended that in carrying out future studies, the already identified places be assessed using the SHI significance criteria.

3.3 Overview thematic forest history

The Overview Thematic Forest History project was undertaken to provide an historical overview as a context for assessing the heritage resource of the Upper and Lower North East CRA region forests (Bickford, Brayshaw and Proudfoot 1998). Historic places relate primarily to the non-Indigenous culture of Australia although some may also have Aboriginal values.

The Statewide non-Indigenous Data Audit project highlighted the deficiencies of the knowledge and recorded data pertaining to places of historic value in the regions forests. Key historical themes identified as requiring further investigation are outlined in section 3.2.

Method

During the first stage of the overview thematic history a review of existing data was undertaken, including the results of the Statewide Cultural Heritage Data Audit, Integration and Analysis (Non-Indigenous) project.

Based on the themes identified in the Data Audit, the project investigated a number of historical themes. The consultants gathered together a large amount of primary and secondary source material relevant to the Upper and Lower North East CRA regions. This material was incorporated for interpretation as a broad historical framework. Place specific information from the historical research was used to guide and prioritise targeted field investigations (refer section 3.4).

The themes which were developed were cross referenced and consistent with the principal Australian historic themes developed by the AHC, and the NSW State Heritage Manual 1997.

Results

The results of the report were identified by seperate key themes. These included:

- state bodies responsible for guardianship of forested areas;
- · forest philosophy;
- landscapes;
- timber-getting;
- people and settlement;
- · Aboriginal contact and continuity; and
- mining.

Products developed from the project include:

- an overview report of thematic forest history (non-Indigenous) in the Upper and Lower North East CRA regions;
- identification of specific historic heritage themes of relevance to the Upper and Lower North East CRA regions; and
- identification of place specific information to be used to be used in targeted field investigations (refer section 3.4).

3.4 Places of historic value

This project assessed places with historic value in the Upper and Lower North East CRA regions (Bickford, Brayshaw and Proudfoot 1998). Places were assessed for national estate significance against the Australian Heritage Commission Criteria A.3, A.4, B.2. C.2, D.2, F, and H (refer Appendix A). Aspects of heritage significance covered by these criteria are:

- richness and diversity of cultural features (A.3)
- important in the course and pattern of history (A.4)
- rarity of features (B.2)

- research potential relating to human history (C.2)
- important example of a type of place (D.2)
- technical or creative achievement (F); and
- association with the life or works of an important person or group (H).

Paces with historic value relate primarily to the non-Indigenous culture of Australia although some may also have Aboriginal values. Among the wide range of places with historic value associated with forests and identified in Lower North East are homesteads, gold mines, trestle bridges and railways, and large and outstanding examples of trees.

A range of themes were identified for further investigation in the Statewide non-Indigenous Data Audit and Gaps Analysis project (see Section 3.2). Resources did not permit detailed field surveys as part of the project to investigate these themes further. Instead, data gathered through the community heritage workshops and overview thematic forest history was used to target sites of potential national estate significance that were representative of the above themes.

Method

The assessment involved preparation of a select list of themes and sites for further historical research and field survey. These were based upon the results of the thematic historical overview (Bickford, Brayshaw and Proudfoot 1998), and the community heritage workshops (Context 1998). The results of the community heritage workshop included places which were nominated for their historic value. Many of these places were also nominated for other values, such as natural or social value. Twelve places from the workshops were recommended for historic value field assessment and documentation.

Targeted research and field investigations of key places of historic significance was then carried out on twenty eight sites. These sites were selected to represent the range of sites which exist in the region.

In light of deficiencies identified in the data audit, sites were selected for field assessment based on the following:

- priority for Aboriginal historic places;
- priority for mining and forestry places, including ephemeral sites;
- consideration of plantation sites; and
- otherwise places from a range of other themes.

Sixteen places were identified as above threshold for historic value (Refer Appendix G and Map 2.). These include outstanding examples of trees such as The Grandis and The Bird Tree, homesteads such as Kunderang East Homestead, mining sites such as Mountain Maid mine and communication routes such as Cut Rock Bullock Track. Other places include Briggsville Village and Mill, Pipers Creek lime kilns and the Trestle Bridge in Wang Wauk State Forest.

3.5 Social value assessment

The community heritage values identification and assessment project sought to identify and assess forest-related places of potential community heritage value (Context 1998).

The identification and assessment of National Estate values was based on the National Estate criterion G.1, which recognises places that are highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations (see Appendix A).

The primary source of data for identifying and assessing places of indicative National Estate social value during the CRA were the communities of Upper North East New South Wales.

Method

Community workshops were held across the region. Workshop locations were selected on the basis of a wide range of demographic, geographic, industry and social information as well as time and budgetary consideration.

Seven workshop locations were chosen: Kempsey, Wauchope, Walcha, Taree, Dungog, Cessnock and Dorrigo. Dorrigo is on the boundary of the Upper North and Lower North regions, and data from that workshop was obtained for both regions.

The workshops were planned with the assistance of local community coordinators in each location. A wide range of community groups and individuals representative of local communities were invited to participate. The Regional Forest Forum members also suggested some possible invitees for the workshops.

A total of one hundred and nineteen people participated in the seven workshops.

The workshops involved participants working in small groups and through individual reflection to list places, discuss priorities and record key information about each place. This was followed by voting to help identify the places with the most significant community values.

Information obtained through the community workshop process was also used as a source of data in the identification and assessment of places of aesthetic value in the region.

Establishing the threshold

Since not all places are equally valued by the community, a sorting process was used to identify those places of indicative national estate social significance. Many places had multiple values, and many had another cultural value as the primary value. Those places which demonstrated no evidence of social value were excluded from further assessment.

Community research was then conducted to validate the indication of G1 value.

Data from the workshops and community research was then assessed to determine whether or not a place would satisfy one or more of the three significance indicators:

- important to the community as a landmark, marker or signature;
- important as a reference point in a community's identity or sense of itself;
- strong or special community attachment developed from use and/or association.

To determine whether sufficient information had been collected for each place that had qualified for further assessment against the national estate social value criterion, a second sort was done using three questions:

- Is there an identifiable community that is associated with the place?
- Is there sufficient data to determine the location and boundary of the place?
- Is there sufficient data available to assess its significance?

Where sufficient information was available, the national estate social value of the place was assessed. To determine whether a place met the national estate threshold for social value, four significance indicators were used:

- the extent of the associated community;
- strength of association;
- length of association; and
- relative importance of the identified community.

The community heritage project collected and analysed a vast amount of data, with the following results:

• 594 places were identified at the workshops.

- 251 of these demonstrated evidence of social value.
- 50 places were selected for social value assessment.

30 places were assessed as being above threshold for national estate significance (refer Appendix H and Map 3.). There were nine sites which had inadequate information available to complete their assessment. These places are listed in Appendix J, and are a high priority for full assessment of their social value.

The range of places assessed as above threshold reflects the types of places to which the communities are attached. These include areas of State Forest such as Barrington Tops and Escarpment, and entire mountains such as Middle Brother Mountain and Watagan Mountains. Other places represented include waterfalls such as Ellenborough Falls/Gorge and Wollomombi Gorge/Falls, and communication routes such as the Bicentennial Trail and the Great North Road.

3.6 Places of aesthetic value

The identification and assessment of forest places of aesthetic value were based on National Estate criterion E.1, which recognises places 'exhibiting particular aesthetic qualities valued by a community or cultural group' as having heritage significance (see Appendix I).

The working definition of 'aesthetic value' developed for regional assessments in Victoria was also used:

'Aesthetic value is the response derived from the experience of the environment or particular natural and cultural attributes within it. This response can be to either visual or non-visual elements and can embrace emotional response, sense of place, sound, smell and any other factors having a strong impact on human thought, feelings and attitudes.'

(Australian Heritage Commission & Department of Conservation and Natural Resources 1994, p. 5).

Method

Stage 1 of this project consisted of an expert workshop which reviewed data sources and methods used in the forest assessments elsewhere and established a preliminary method for the New South Wales CRAs.

At the expert workshop, there was broad agreement that the definition of aesthetic significance called for a wide range of community and expert data sources to be used in heritage assessments. These sources include art and literature, tourism information, applied landscape research, community perception studies and information held by land and natural resource managers. Past studies have also shown that local communities are a rich source of information.

The following data sources were used in the Lower North East assessment (Stage 2):

- data from regional NPWS and SFNSW staff who participated in forest staff workshops;
- data of potentially significant aesthetic places and values identified and documented at the seven Lower North East CRA Region Community heritage workshops (see section 3.5);
- documents held by SFNSW and NPWS.

Forest staff workshops for the Upper and Lower North East Regions were held at: Casino, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Port Macquarie and Raymond Terrace in April 1998. The workshop venues were chosen to correspond with the locations of regional offices of SFNSW and NPWS, within the Upper and Lower North East regions. The workshops were attended by twenty six participants. Information was forwarded by six other staff after the workshops.

The workshops involved staff from NPWS and SFNSW. The officers were asked to individually nominate places of aesthetic value. The workshop as a group reviewed the mapped locations of these sites. Participants were then asked to identify gaps and overlaps in their initial lists of places, and places were sieved to eliminate minor sites. Site values were then described and mapped by the participants.

Place details and documentation were also obtained from the community heritage values workshops. A detailed description of the workshop process is provided in section 3.5. The community workshops involved members of the local community, including community groups. Attendees were asked to identify and record details of places of potential cultural significance. Many of these places were identified as having multiple values, such as social, natural and aesthetic values.

Sites identified as having potential aesthetic value to workshop participants at the forest staff workshops and at the community heritage workshops were reviewed and intersected to provide an initial list of sites. The initial threshold used to identify sites as potentially significant for aesthetic value were:

- Identified at forest staff workshops as being of aesthetic value; and
- Identified at community heritage workshops for aesthetic value. These
 places were commonly identified as also other values, such as natural
 values and social value.

One hundred and eighty eight places of aesthetic value were identified in the Upper North East Region at the forest staff workshops. Sixty six of these 188 places were also identified at Community Heritage Workshops.

Places with the potential to be above threshold for heritage significance and which were able be documented in detail after the workshop were selected based on three triggers developed by the Cultural Heritage Working Group. The triggers were applied to the initial thresholded list.

These three triggers were:

- Good locational data for sites
- Good geographical spread of sites
- Sites already on the Register of the National Estate would receive some recognition because of this status. This would also allow existing information on places already in the Register of the National Estate to be updated.

Available resources were limited to undertake field assessments. Therefore additional thresholding was undertaken to reduce the number of sites for field assessment. This thresholding was based on the qualitative data on site description sheets, analysed according to the reasons given by staff workshop participants for identifying places as being of aesthetic value. Twenty three sites were selected for assessment through this process

Results

Fifteen places were assessed for aesthetic value. Some of these places were also assessed as having other cultural values by other projects. Eight of the fifteen were assessed as being above threshold. These indicative areas of aesthetic value are outlined in Appendix I and Map 4.

There was insufficient information to determine whether the remaining seven places were above threshold. These places are a high priority for full assessment of their aesthetic value, and are listed in Appendix J. Places which were inspected but not documented are also listed in Appendix J.

The assessed places ranged from waterfalls such as Wollomombi Falls and Gorge to areas of National Park and reserves such as Wollemi National Park and Sugar Creek Flora Reserve. Other places included Wallis - Myall Lakes, Bellinger Escarpment and the Dingo Tops Area.

4. INDIGENOUS HERITAGE ASSESSMENTS

The Indigenous heritage assessment did not document and identify specific sites and areas. Instead, the projects were designed to ensure that the needs and concerns of Aboriginal people in the region are met by focusing on the development of preferred options as to how communities want to be involved in forested land management processes and cultural heritage management. The Indigenous cultural heritage assessment in Lower North East were guided by the Lower North East (Mingaletta) Aboriginal Management Committee.

Aboriginal national estate values usually refer to attachment to land, based on a wide range of traditional and contemporary land uses. Aboriginal heritage places are often assessed against the national estate Criterion G, which recognises strong or special association with a particular community or community group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (see Appendix A).

Aboriginal interests in the Lower North East CRA Region are diverse, and include not only areas of cultural significance but also areas of social and economic importance. The projects undertaken as part of the assessment of Indigenous heritage values in Lower North East included: a statewide Indigenous consultation process, a statewide archaeological overview and an consultative project with the Aboriginal Management Committee.

4.1 Consultation process

A statewide project has been established to ensure a coordinated approach across the New South Wales CRA/RFA regions for consultation with Indigenous peoples and the preparation of assessment projects relating to Indigenous communities' values within forested areas.

Method

The consultation method established incorporates:

- the formation of Aboriginal Management Committees in each region;
- dissemination of information to Indigenous communities on the CRA process in each CRA region; and
- the development of projects associated with the assessment of Indigenous forest values in consultation with Aboriginal communities and relevant CRA/RFA technical committees/working groups.

A comprehensive consultation process in the Lower North East CRA Region was implemented through:

- formation and operation of the Lower North East Aboriginal Forest Management Committee;
- Indigenous community involvement in the development and undertaking of assessment projects in the Lower North East region;
- participation of Indigenous representatives during the development of RFA scenarios; and
- indigenous community involvement in the implementation of the Social Assessment conducted by the Economic and Social Technical Committee.

4.2 Mingaletta Consultative Project with the Aboriginal Management Committee

The Mingaletta Consultative Project is currently in progress. The principle objective of the project is to ensure that the needs and concerns of Aboriginal people in the region are met via an equitable negotiation scheme.

Method

A series of meetings will be held by the Mingaletta Aboriginal Committee (MAC). The following tasks will be undertaken at the meetings:

- development of negotiating protocols. The development of an agreement to negotiate will be undertaken with the assistance of legal staff from the NSW Aboriginal Land Council. Once agreed, the agreement to negotiate will be widely circulated in the Aboriginal communities in the region;
- an internal protocol will be prepared to govern the operation of the MAC and outline the responsibilities of its members. This will also be undertaken with the assistance of legal staff from the NSW Aboriginal Land Council; and
- the development, finalisation and release of a number of policies and positions on a range of issues associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage protection and management.

The project is expected to produce the following:

- a finalised agreement to negotiate;
- an internal protocol for the operation and responsibilities of MAC for the Lower North East region;
- the addressing of key issues of concern to MAC related to cultural heritage management and land rights issues, for the purpose of negotiations;
- policy statements/positions from MAC in relation to cultural heritage matters and land rights issues and commencement of negotiations with the Governments on these issues; and
- facilitation of ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities in the Lower North East region.

4.3 Statewide archaeological overview

The two main aims of the Overview of Archaeological Resource on Forests Project for Lower North East were to give a clear indication of the nature of the forest archaeological resource and to stimulate discussion between natural resource and cultural heritage managers on archaeological identification and management issues for the CRA/Regional Forest Agreements (Lomax 1997).

The project dealt with the scientific values of the resource as opposed to the aesthetic, social or historic values held by Aboriginal people, which must be also be assessed for management purposes.

Method

A report was produced which collated and synthesised existing archaeological forest studies. Qualitative assessment of methods and outcomes was undertaken. Issues discussed include:

- the nature and extent of research undertaken;
- possible future data requirements;
- the analytical potential of the resource and its implications for management;
- technical issues pertaining specifically to defining the empirical nature of the resource;

- the range of natural and cultural impacts on the resource and implications for the management of minimally disturbed areas;
- different models of management in terms of their operational viability and effectiveness to maintain a 'representative' sample of the resource; and
- options for the management of archaeological values in New South Wales forests.

The project resulted in the following:

- a report providing an overview of the extent and nature of forest archaeological research and implications for future data and research requirements; and
- increased awareness of management issues based on adequate understanding of the empirical nature of the resource.

The report provides background information to be used as a basis for technical discussions during the 'Protecting Cultural Heritage Values and Places in the New South Wales Forest Estate CRA Project' and to assist the Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM) project management group in their assessment of management issues regarding the archaeological resource in forests.

PROTECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES AND PLACES IN NEW SOUTH WALES FORESTS

The protecting cultural heritage values and places in New South Wales forests project is currently in progress. The objectives of the project are as follows:

- to provide a comprehensive overview of current protective mechanisms and management practices for the conservation of cultural heritage values and places (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) in New South Wales forests.
- to assess the adequacy and efficiencies of current protective mechanisms and management practices, and identify issues associated with the management and protection of cultural heritage values and places in New South Wales forests.
- to establish conservation principles relating to the identification, conservation and management of cultural heritage values in forests, and to develop clear and practicable guidelines to assist in ensuring the conservation of those values through the NSW Regional Forest Agreements
- to provide advice and input into the ESFM assessment process.

Method

The project is being undertaken in a series of stages as follows:

- Stage One overview and analysis of current framework (legislative and non-legislative) for the protection and management of cultural heritage values and places in New South Wales forests.
- Stage Two broad consultative and site inspection process in each CRA
 region to examine the application of current protective mechanisms and
 identify further issues associated with the management of cultural
 heritage values and places in the New South Wales forests.
- Stage Three development of a set of workable conservation principles and guidelines for the protection and management of cultural heritage values and places that address land resource managers, Indigenous communities, and other relevant stakeholders needs and requirements, including State and Commonwealth legislative requirements.

6. NATIONAL ESTATE OUTCOMES

6.1 National Estate outcomes: cultural values

The national estate assessment of the cultural values of the forests of the Lower North East region was designed to achieve the best practicable understanding of the range and distribution of forest places of cultural significance within the timeframe of the CRA.

The non-Indigenous cultural assessments were based on a study of social, aesthetic, and historic values. The heritage outcomes for Indigenous values were based on establishing an agreed consultation process and preferred options as to how communities want to be involved in forested land management processes and cultural heritage management. Indicative places of Indigenous significance were not identified.

Indicative places of potential national estate cultural value were identified through a heritage data audit, thematic studies, and through input of the communities of the Lower North East. The outcomes of the assessments of these values helped to fill major gaps in the understanding of national estate forest cultural values.

The following are among the main outcomes from the assessment of these values:

- identification of over 45 indicative national estate forest places in the Lower North East;
- identification of a wide range of places, including lookouts, waterfalls, communication routes, mountains and outstanding trees, which provide the community with a sense of identity and attachment to forests;
- a greater understanding of which places are valued by the community and why. This will be used to inform the development of conservation strategies for places of social significance to ensure this value is considered in forest management; and
- establishment of a consultation process with Indigenous communities and development of protocols and ethics which aim to ensure that parties are included in all cultural assessments and land management processes for the life of the RFA and beyond.

6.2 Future research: cultural values

The principal factors constraining the identification of cultural forest places of potential national estate significance were the standard of existing documentation for individual places and the extent to which new data could be gathered within the time frame of the CRA. As a result, the national estate studies of historic, aesthetic, and social forest places have identified and documented only a small portion of the potential national estate forest places of cultural value.

Historic value

Many historic places of potential national estate significance in the forests of the Lower North East region could not be documented and assessed in the time available. A number of gaps were identified in the Data Audit. Some of these themes were investigated in the Thematic Forest History and Heritage Assessment, but further research focusing on forest industry and forest management, the mining industry, and pastoral and agricultural studies would enhance the understanding of some of the places already documented.

Social value

The community heritage workshops were an invaluable source of information about forest places of importance to the communities of the Lower North East region, and information from the workshops was used in the assessment of community heritage, aesthetic and historic values. The time and resources available, however, limited the number and location of workshops and the scale at which the workshops could be conducted. There will be many other places of social value to various community groups that were not represented at the workshops. These places can be identified in the future only through a community-based consultation process.

The community consultation process of returning information for comment resulted in a number of places being identified by the community which were not researched as part of the project. These were noted in the Inventory of Community Heritage Sites (Context 1998). It is anticipated that the Inventory will be used as a base to encourage further research and conservation of heritage places.

Aesthetic value

There are a number of potential national estate places of aesthetic value for which there was insufficient information to make a final assessment. Further community consultation is necessary to clearly delineate and assess those areas that are of particular significance to the communities of Lower North East.

6.3 Conservation of National Estate values

An objective on the Lower North East Regional Forest Agreement is to provide for the conservation of environment and heritage values through the development of a framework of comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve systems, and ecologically sustainable forest management. Fundamental to the environment and heritage objectives for the RFA is ensuring that national estate values are adequately protected within this framework.

While some national estate values, particularly extensive values such as old growth forests and natural landscapes, may be best protected by formal reservation, the protection of other values, particularly site values such as historic or archaeological features, may be best achieved through other mechanisms such as management prescription.

A component of the CRA has been the assessment by an independent expert advisory group of the systems and processes for ecologically sustainable forest management. Included in this assessment was an examination of the information, policy, planning, implementation and review mechanisms for conserving heritage values.

The results of this assessment process will contribute to the development of the Lower North East Regional Forest Agreement between New South Wales and the Commonwealth.

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GLOSSARY

Aerial Photo Interpretation (API)

the delineation and identification of landscape features using photos taken from the air that are viewed in pairs using a steroscope to create a threedimensional image.

Arboreal

tree-dwelling

ARC/INFO

software used to display and analyse spatially represented data.

assemblages

collections of populations of different species that live in the same area.

biodiversity

see biological diversity.

biogeography

the interaction between the biotic (living), and a-biotic (non-living) elements of the world, including climate, topography, geology etc.

biological diversity

the variety of all life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. Biological diversity is usually considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity, and ecosystem diversity. It is sometimes considered at the level of landscape diversity.

biophysical

a combination of physical features, such as climate, soils, geology and landforms, and biological features, such as flora and fauna.

biophysical naturalness (BN)

An indicator used in the national wilderness inventory related to the intensity and duration of interference with an ecosystems.

bioregion

a region defined by a combination of biological, social and geographic criteria rather than geopolitical criteria; generally, a system of related, interconnected ecosystems.

bryophytes

liverworts, mosses and hornworts: green, non-vascular land plants without seeds, numbering at least 18 000 species. They are among the simplest of the terrestrial plants but occupy a variety of habitats and show considerable diversity.

CAMBA

China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system

a reserve system displaying the features of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness.

comprehensiveness - the degree to which the full range of ecological communities and their biological diversity is incorporated in the reserve system.

adequacy - the reserve system's ability to maintain the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities.

representativeness - the extent to which areas selected for inclusion in the reserve system are capable of reflecting the known biological diversity and ecological patterns and processes of the ecological community or ecosystem concerned.

clear-felling

a logging system that results in the felling of all standing trees.

comprehensive regional assessment

a joint Commonwealth–State assessment of all forest values - environmental, heritage, economic and social - leading to the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system, agreements on forest management, and the signing of a regional forest agreement.

conservation

the protection, maintenance, management, sustainable use, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.

conservation advice and principles

the Australian Heritage Commission has a statutory obligation to provide advice on the protection of the National Estate. The advice is based on conservation principles that are aimed at protecting and maintaining National estate places and values. Advice is available for land management agencies and individuals who own places that have been identified as having National estate value.

context

the position of a feature or area in the landscape relative to the rest of the landscape or topographic features, other vegetation or disturbance. For example, some values such as old-growth forest need to be considered in context; that is, in terms of their relationship to disturbance, other vegetation and the landscape in general.

criteria

used by the Australian Heritage Commission to determine whether places meet the requirements for listing on the Register of the National Estate. The criteria are stipulated in the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975.

disjunct

populations physically separated from one another; that is, there is no or minimal gene flow between the populations. They are formed over time as a result of the appearance of a barrier in a formerly continuous distribution. Disjunct populations often have features that are distinctive in an evolutionary sense from those of the 'parent' population and in time may become separate species.

disturbance

encompasses a range of factors that affect the condition of natural areas. Disturbance may be natural or human induced. Natural disturbance includes wildfires and rainstorms and is part of natural ecological processes. Human-induced, or 'unnatural', disturbance includes timber harvesting, agricultural clearing, mining and grazing. The factors that are important when considering disturbance are the origin, duration and intensity of the disturbance and its impact on the environment.

disturbance data

records of disturbances such as clearing, grazing, fire or timber harvesting that may affect themes, species or assemblages being assessed.

diversity

a measure of the physical or biological complexity of a system. It refers to a range of features, from artifact scatters to species presence.

ecosystem

a set of normally co-occurring and interacting species associated with a particular setting in the physical environment.

the aggregate of plants, animals and other organisms, and the non-living parts of the environment with which these organisms interact.

a dynamic complex of plant, animal, fungal, and micro-organism communities and the associated non-living environment interacting as an ecological unit.

endemic species

species confined to a specific region or locality.

environmental gradient

a description of the proximity of different environments. For example, a steep environmental gradient might describe the changes from coastal sands through heath to tall forest over a comparatively short distance.

forest

in the context of the New South Wales–Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, an area, incorporating all living and non-living components, that is dominated by trees having usually a single stem and a mature or potential mature stand height exceeding 8 metres and with existing or potential projective cover of overstorey strata about equal to or greater than 5 per cent.

forest associations

a method of classifying forest types based on associations of the dominant tree species in the canopy.

forest community

a vegetation classification that subdivides a forest type by either structure or understorey floristic composition.

forest type

a vegetation classification defined by the dominant overstorey species.

genetic diversity

the variety of genetic information contained in all individual plants, animals and micro-organisms. It occurs within and between populations of species as well as between species.

geoconservation

the identification and protective management of geological, geomorphological and soil features, assemblages, systems and processes (geodiversity) for their intrinsic, ecological or heritage values.

geodiversity

the natural range (diversity) of geological (bedrock), geomorphological (landform) and soil features, assemblages, systems and processes. Geodiversity includes evidence for the history of the earth (evidence of past life, ecosystems and environments) and a range of processes (biological, hydrological and atmospheric) currently acting on rocks, landforms and soils.

interim list

the Australian Heritage Commission enters places on the interim National estate list by announcing, in the press and in the Commonwealth Government Gazette, its intention to register those places. Once a place is on the interim list, and before it can be entered on the Register of the National Estate, there is a minimum statutory period of three months during which any person can object to the proposal in writing. If objections are received they must be given due consideration by the Commission, but uppermost consideration must be given to the National estate significance of the place.

isopleth

a line drawn on a map connecting points having the same numerical value of a given variable, analogous to a contour line on a topographic map.

JAMBA

Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement.

JANIS

The national agreed criteria for the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for forests in Australia, prepared by the joint ANZECC/MCFFA national forest policy statement implementation sub-committee.

karst

environments with distinctive landforms and drainage characteristics resulting from the relatively high solubility of some rock types, notably limestones and dolomites, in natural waters.

lithology

the general characteristics of rock formations, such as composition and texture, and the sequence in which the formations were laid down.

macropod

the group of marsupials including kangaroos and wallabies.

maintenance

the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents or setting of a place, as distinct from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction.

metadata

information about the content, quality, condition and other characteristics of datasets.

microclimate

the suite of climatic variables (temperature, humidity etc) associated with a small part of an environment such as a river bank, the base of a tree or under a small stand of trees.

national estate

is a collection of places - components of the natural or cultural environment of Australia - that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations and for the present community.

national estate values

the aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values attributed to places by the Australian Heritage Commission.

national forest policy statement

The statement that outlines the jointly agreed Commonwealth and State objectives and policies for the future of Australia's public and private forests.

old-growth forest

the National Forest Policy Statement defined old-growth forest as 'forest that is ecologically mature and has been subjected to negligible unnatural disturbance such as logging, roading and clearing'. For the purposes of this assessment, the proposed operational interpretation from JANIS (1996) was used; that is, 'old-growth forest is ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbances are now negligible'.

paleoclimatic

The climatic conditions (moist, dry, glacial, etc) considered to be associated with a defined area at any point in prehistory.

phylogenetic

referring to the evolutionary line of descent of an individual taxon or groups of taxa.

Pleistocene

a period (epoch) of geological history covering the period from approximately 1.6 million years before present up to 10,000 years before the present day.

primitiveness

used taxonomically to describe species that have features associated with the evolutionary past of a group. For example, the salamander fish has features rarely found in fish of the southern hemisphere and is regarded as therefore being primitive.

Quaternary

a period of geological history covering the period from approximately 1.6 million years before present up to and including the present day.

RAMSAR

The convention on wetlands of international importance, commonly known as the RAMSAR convention.

rare species

species with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but are at risk.

recovery plan

a comprehensive plan that details, schedules and costs all actions deemed necessary to support the recovery of a threatened species or ecological community.

refugia, refuges

biological communities or geographic entities that, because of their moderating structural characteristics or physical isolation, or both, provide a sanctuary to which species or groups of species have retreated or have been confined in response to threatening processes, including climatic change.

regional forest agreement

an agreement, between the Commonwealth and a State or Territory government, for the long-term management and use of forests in a particular region. The purpose is to reduce uncertainty, duplication and fragmentation in government decision making by establishing a durable agreement on the management and use of forests.

Register of the National Estate

the national inventory of places of natural, historic and Aboriginal heritage significance that have been rigorously assessed by the Australian Heritage Commission and deemed worth conserving for present and future generations. The Register serves to notify all Australians, and particularly planners and decision makers, of places of National estate significance.

relictual

used to describe species associated with former ecosystems that have disappeared or have retracted to small pockets. For example, tingle forest contains a number of relictual species that appear to relictual species from Gondwanic rainforests.

threshold

the level at which a value is considered acceptable for entry on the Register of the National Estate. Thresholds are developed through scientific assessment or expertise and an analysis of data within a regional context.

type specimen (biological/geological)

the original specimen from which a new species (biological or geological) is scientifically described. The type location is the place where the original type specimen was found.

value

refers to the particulars of a place that have worth, merit or significance.

vascular plant

a plant that possesses a vascular system, the conducting tissue that enables the transport of water, minerals and synthesized food materials throughout the plant and provides mechanical support.

vulnerable species or ecosystems

species or ecosystems that are approaching a reduction in range of 70 per cent or are subject to threatening processes that may cause their loss at the bioregional level.

wet sclerophyll forest

open eucalypt forest with tall trees and a relatively complex understorey of ferns, cycads and shrubs. Replaces dry sclerophyll forest in wetter areas with more fertile soils. Generally in areas with annual rainfall greater than 1000 millimeters.

wilderness

land that, together with its plant and animal communities, is in a state that has not been substantially modified by, and is remote from, the influences of European settlement or is capable of being restored to such a state, is of sufficient size to make its maintenance in such a state feasible, and is capable of providing opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation.

wilderness quality

a measure of differing levels of human impact on the natural environment, as part of a continuum of remote and natural conditions varying from pristine to urban. Wilderness quality is measured in terms of four variables: remoteness from settlement, remoteness from access, apparent naturalness, and biophysical naturalness.

woodland

a vegetation type dominated by woody vegetation having a mature or potential mature stand height exceeding 5 metres, with an overstorey canopy cover of less than 20 per cent.

APPENDIX A - AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION CRITERIA FOR THE REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE

Without limiting the generality of subsection (1) of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*, a place that is a component of the natural or cultural environment of Australia is to be taken to be a place included in the national estate if it has significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community because of:

Criterion A

Its importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history

- A.1 Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.
- A.2 Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or national scale.
- A.3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.
- A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

Criterion B

Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history

- B.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.
- B.2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

Criterion C

Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history

C.1 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.

C.2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

Criterion D

Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

- (i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or
- (ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments
 - D.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.
 - D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique).

Criterion E

Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

Criterion F

Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

F.1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

Criterion G

Its strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

Criterion H

Its special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history

H.1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region.

APPENDIX B - FOREST PLACES IN LOWER NORTH EAST NEW SOUTH WALES IN THE REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE

The list of places on the Register of the National Estate in the Lower North East region includes forest places and those linked to forests. It includes registered and interim-listed places.

PLACE NAME	RNEDB No.	AHC File No.	CLASS
Abbey Green Homestead Group	1433	1/9/77/18	Historic
Allandale Area	1272	1/9/62/35	Natural
Alum Mountain Geological Site 1	624	1/9/80/33	Natural
Appletree Aboriginal Area	1425	1/9/77/16	Aboriginal
Apsley Gorge National Park	373	1/2/160/4	Natural
Arakoon State Recreation Area	17097	1/18/142/17	Natural
Arthurs Seat/Bald Nobs Geological Site	14318	1/2/151/18	Historic
Arthurs Seat/Bald Nobs Geological Site	14318	1/2/151/18	Historic
Baerami Homestead	1338	1/9/71/2	Historic
Balala Station Homestead- Outbuildings & Cemetery	355	1/2/159/1	Historic
Baldy Island Nature Reserve	1471	1/9/80/29	Natural
Balmoral	1375	1/9/76/1	Historic
Banda Banda Flora Reserve	17863	1/18/142/18	Natural
Bandicoot Island Nature Reserve	1470	1/9/80/28	Natural
Bandicoot Shelter	13672	1/14/51/18	Aboriginal
Barrington Tops National Park	1348	1/9/72/4	Natural
Beckers Bridge	7139	1/9/77/21	Historic
Bellbrook Conservation Area	3493	1/18/142/14	Historic
Belltrees House	1412	1/9/78/4	Historic
Ben Halls Gap State Forest	17784	1/2/178/5	Natural
Booral House	1455	1/9/80/13	Historic
Boorganna Nature Reserve	3468	1/18/140/2	Natural
Bow Wow Creek Gorge	1224	1/9/60/14	Natural
Bowling Alley Point Geological Site	16236	1/2/178/3	Natural
Bowraville Nature Reserve	3445	1/18/135/1	Natural
Brisbane Water National Park	1474	1/10/52/3	Natural
Camels Hump Nature Reserve	1359	1/9/73/3	Natural
Cape Hawke-coastal Area	1457	1/9/80/15	Natural
Cathedral Rock National Park	303	1/2/151/6	Natural
Cawarra Estate Group	1345	1/9/72/1	Historic
Cedar Brush Nature Reserve	1415	1/9/78/7	Natural
Cemetery	1444	1/9/80/2	Historic
Chain of Ponds Hotel and Outbuildings	1400	1/9/77/6	Historic
Clybucca Aboriginal Area	3484	1/18/142/6	Aboriginal
Clybucca Nature Res. Prop	14007	1/18/142/15	Natural
Coolongolook Nature Reserve	1466	1/9/80/24	Natural
Crowdy Bay National Park	3494	1/18/143/1	Natural
Crowdy Head Lighthouse	3496	1/18/143/5	Historic
Dalwood and Surrounds	14466	1/9/77/13	Historic
Deeargee Woolshed	357	1/2/159/2	Historic
Dharug National Park	1475	1/10/52/4	Natural
Dorrigo National Park	3405	1/18/130/7	Natural
Duninald	1349	1/9/72/5	Historic
Dunmore Bridge	15948	1/9/62/33	Historic
Ebor Proposed Aboriginal Area- Serpentine Nature	301	1/2/151/4	Aboriginal

Reserve	· · · · · ·		
Elderslie Road Bridge	15938	1/9/77/23	Historic
Endeavour Museum Former	1214	1/9/60/4	Historic
Europambela Including Outbuildings & Grounds	368	1/2/160/1	Historic
Finchley Aboriginal Area	1223	1/9/60/13	Aboriginal
Fly Point, Halifax Park Aquatic Reserve	14680	1/9/64/17	Natural
Georges Creek Nature Reserve	300	1/2/151/3	Natural
Glendon Homestead and Sites Of Outbuildings	1403	1/9/77/9	Historic
Gostwyck Elm Avenues	367	1/2/159/10	Historic
Goulburn River National Park	13861	1/9/74/4	Natural
Gundayne & Outbuildings	1443	1/9/80/1	Historic
Hat Head National Park	3480	1/18/142/3	Natural
Howe Aboriginal Area	1479	1/10/52/8	Aboriginal
Invermein	1410	1/9/78/2	Historic
Jasper Nature Reserve	3474	1/18/140/8	Natural
Jerrys Plains Church- School and Police Station	14409	1/9/77/2	Historic
Group	14409	11911112	riistoric
Karuah River Road Bridge	15919	1/9/80/34	Historic
Kattang Nature Reserve	3475	1/18/140/9	Natural
Kelvinside- Outbuildings and Surrounds	14360	1/9/78/11	Historic
Kemps Pinnacle	16029	1/18/142/19	Aboriginal
Kundabung Lime Kiln	3490	1/18/142/11	Historic
Kunderang Proposed Nature Reserve- Kunderang	302	1/2/151/5	Natural
Station	002		, racara
Laguna House and Outbuildings	1218	1/9/60/8	Historic
Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve	3467	1/18/140/1	Natural
Long Gully Area	3488	1/18/142/9	Aboriginal
Macdonald River Rail Bridge	15911	1/2/173/10	Historic
Manobalas Nature Reserve	1341	1/9/71/5	Natural
Megacryst Bearing Lava Site	14268	1/2/150/21	Natural
Merton Cottage	1343	1/9/71/7	Historic
Middle Falbrook Road Bridge	7140	1/9/77/20	Historic
Milbrodale Area	1424	1/9/77/14	Aboriginal
Minimbah House Formerly	1397	1/9/77/3	Historic
Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve	1328	1/9/64/9	Natural
Mooney Mooney Aboriginal Area	15906	1/10/52/19	Aboriginal
Mooney Mooney Creek Site	19187	1/10/52/25	Natural
Mount Anderson Aboriginal Site	3487	1/18/142/8	Aboriginal
Mount Manning Area	1476	1/10/52/5	Aboriginal
Mount Seaview Nature Reserve	376	1/2/160/6	Natural
Mount Wingen Burning Mountain Area	1414	1/9/78/6	Natural
Mount Yarrowyck Area	363	1/2/159/7	Aboriginal
Mulbring Road - Fill Quarry	14200	1/9/60/18	Natural
Muldiva Nature Reserve	3410	1/18/130/12	Natural
Myall Lakes National Park	1453	1/9/80/11	Natural
Nambucca Aboriginal Area	3447	1/18/135/3	Aboriginal
Nambucca Headland	3446	1/18/135/2	Natural
New England National Park	3406	1/18/130/8	Natural
Northern Blue Mountains	14022	1/7/232/13	Natural
Ohio	371	1/2/160/3	Historic
Old North Road	3206	1/14/51/1	Historic
Oven Mountain Area- the Carrai Waterholes	299	1/2/151/2	Aboriginal
Overdene	1394	1/9/76/7	Historic
Overdene	1394	1/9//0//	LISTOLIC

Palmerston Stables and Grounds	298	1/2/151/1	Historic
Paterson River Road Bridge	15936	1/9/72/17	Historic
Pickering and Outbuildings	1340	1/9/71/4	Historic
Pipers Creek Lime Kilns	3489	1/18/142/10	Historic
Point Plomer Area	3470	1/18/140/4	Aboriginal
Public School	1215	1/9/60/5	Historic
Redbourneberry Bridge	15939	1/9/77/22	Historic
Regatta Island Nature Reserve	1469	1/9/80/27	Natural
Rowleys Creek Gulf Nature Reserve	378	1/2/160/8	Natural
Salisbury Court Garden	359	1/2/159/3	Historic
Saltwater Aboriginal Place	16030	1/18/143/4	Aboriginal
Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve	1257	1/9/62/21	Natural
Seal Rocks Littoral Rainforest	18851	1/9/80/35	Natural
Seal Rocks Nature Reserve	1456	1/9/80/14	Natural
Segenhoe Homestead and Outbuildings	1411	1/9/78/3	Historic
Settlers Arms	3208	1/14/51/2	Historic
Smokey Cape Lighthouse Group	3478	1/18/142/1	Historic
Snapper Island Nature Reserve	1336	1/9/64/15	Natural
South West Rocks Midden Site	18916	1/18/141/5	Aboriginal
St Albans Common Grazing Land	3216	1/14/51/9	Historic
St Albans Old Cemetry	3218	1/14/51/11	Historic
St John the Evangelist Anglican Church	1213	1/9/60/3	Historic
St Josephs Church Ruins	3214	1/14/51/8	Historic
St Michaels Roman Catholic Church	1216	1/9/60/6	Historic
St Nicholas Church of England	360	1/2/159/4	Historic
Stradbroke House and Outbuildings	1326	1/9/64/7	Historic
Strowan	1395	1/9/77/1	Historic
Stuarts Point Area	3486	1/18/142/7	Aboriginal
Sugarloaf Point Lightstation	1467	1/9/80/25	Historic
Tahlee House Group	1445	1/9/80/3	Historic
The Basin Nature Reserve	330	1/2/153/7	Natural
The Castles Flora Reserve No 123	18841	1/18/141/4	Natural
The Hole Nature Reserve	377	1/2/160/7	Natural
Tocal Homestead	1347	1/9/72/3	Historic
Tomaree National Park	16582	1/9/64/18	Natural
Tomaree National Park	16582	1/9/64/18	Natural
	3479	1/18/142/2	Historic
Trial Bay Gaol	305	1/2/151/8	
Upper Dyke River Area	403	1/2/181/4	Aboriginal Natural
Wallabadah Nature Reserve		1/9/80/30	Natural
Wallis Island Nature Reserve	14145		
Warre Warren Aboriginal Place Proposed	15801	1/10/52/18	Aboriginal Natural
Weelah Nature Reserve	3469	1/18/143/3	
Werrikimbe National Park	374	1/2/160/5	Natural
Willi Willi Caves Nature Res	3482	1/18/142/5	Natural
Wingen Maid Nature Reserve	1413	1/9/78/5	Natural
Woko National Park	14461	1/9/73/4	Natural
Wollerni National Park	833	1/7/232/13	Natural
Wollombi Post Office	1217	1/9/60/7	Historic
Woolomin Geological Site	16219	1/2/178/4	Natural
Yahoo Island Nature Reserve	1462	1/9/80/20	Natural
Yarravel Nature Reserve	3481	1/18/142/4	Natural
Yessabah Caves Area	15532	1/18/142/16	Natural

APPENDIX C - LIST OF PROJECTS AND CONSULTANCIES

Bickford, A, Brayshaw H, and Proudfoot H. 1998 *Thematic Forest History and Heritage Assessment (Non-Indigenous) UNE/LNE Regions*. Report undertaken for the NSW CRA/RFA Steering Committee. Canberra.

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New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council 1997 *Statewide Indigenous Consultation Process for the CRA/RFA process*, Environment Forest Taskforce, Canberra.

Pearson M., and Rosen S. and assoc. 1997 Statewide Cultural Heritage Data Audit, Integration and Analysis (Non-Indigenous). Report undertaken for the NSW CRA/RFA Steering Committee. Sydney/Canberra.

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28th Regional Army Cadet Unit - Manning Valley

2nd Taree Sea Scouts

4WD Club

A Total Adventure

ACE Walcha

Apex Club of Taree

Armidale Environment Centre

AS Nicholas & Sons Pty Ltd

Austalian Horse Alliance

Australian Horse Alliance

Awabakal Tribal Committee

Awabakal Tribal Committee

BASS Kempsey

Bellbrook Primary SchooL

Bellimbopinni School

Bellingen Council

Bellingen Environment Centre

Bellingen Environment Centre

Bellingen Rotary Club

Bill Dowling Bush Walks

Birpai Land Council

Black Bolga Resident Group

Blackman's Point Protection Society

Boral Timber

Boral Timber

Boral Timber

Boral Timber

Boral Timber

Bulga/Elands Advisory and Liaison Committee

Bunyah Land Council

Burralong Valley Landcare

Burrell Creek Youth and Community Association

C/- Bellingen Court House

Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce

Carrawarry Log Cabins

Catchment Management Committee

Catchment Management Committee

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Cessnock City Tourist Board

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COX, Rully

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Twomey, Wayne

Lloyd, John

Gibson, Steve

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Leathley, Stephen

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Cessnock Fire Service Cessnock View Club

Coastal Resort Caravan Park Coffs Four Wheel Drive Club

Collombatti Rail School Colonial Leisure Village

Comboyne Bayabarra Landcare Comboyne Byabarra Landcare Comboyne Landcare Group

Commerce and Tourism Coolongolook Mill

Cooper and Sons Pty Ltd

CWA Kendall

CWA Port Macquarie CWA Wauchope

Department of Agriculture

Department of Land & Water Conservation

Dept of Land and Water Conservation Dept of Land and Water Conservation

Development and Environment Hastings Council

Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce

Dorrigo High School Dorrigo National Parks Dorrigo Public School

Dorrigo Scouts

Dundurrabin Public School

Dune Care / NPWS **Dungog Shire Council Dungog Shire Council Dungog Shire Council Dungog Shire Council Ebor Primary School Eggins Comfort Coaches**

Ex NPWS Ex NPWS

Fenning Timbers (Aust)

FOA Armidale

Forest Protection Society Forest Protection Society Forestry Commission of NSW

Four Wheel Drive Club

Friends of the Bicentennial Gardens

Friends of the Earth

G.T.C.C.

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Gloucester Rural Lands Protection Board

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Moorland Recreational Reserve Trust

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North East Forest Alliance

Northern Avicultural

NPA & Tamworth Environment Centre

NPA Armidale

NPA Mid North Coast

NPA NPWS

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Rollando Plains Landcare

Rotary Club of Taree on Manning

Rotary Club of Taree Rotary Club of Wingham Rural Land Protection Board Rural Lands Protection Board Secretary, Farmers Association

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State Forests of NSW - Manning Region

State Forests of NSW State Forests Taree

State Forests
State Forests
State Forests
State Forests
State Forests
State Forests

Stuarts Point School

Sweetman & Son Sawmillers

Taree Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc

Taree Country Women's Association

Taree Fire Brigade Taree Landcare

Taree North Probus Club Taree North Rotary Club

Telegraph Point Community Association

Total Ecco Adventures

Tour operators and bushwalkers

Toxin Action Group
Ulitarra Society
UNE - Archaeology
Upper Manning Landcare

Urunga Forestry Commission NSW

Urunga Museum Walcha Shire Council

Walcha Shire Walcha Shire Wangat Lodge Wangat Lodge Ward Bros Sawmill

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& Pleasure Resort Club Mid North Coast Endurance & Pleasure Riding Club

National Parks and Wildlife Service

National Parks Association National Parks Association

NE Forest Alliance NPA Mid North Coast

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Non-Affiliated

Non-Affiliated

ACE Walcha

Armidale Environment Centre

Fenning Timbers (Aust)

FOA Armidale

Forest Protection Society

Friends of the Earth

National Parks and Wildlife Service

NPA

NPA & Tamworth Environment Centre'

NPA Armidale

NPWS

UNE - Archaeology

Walcha Shire Council

Rond, Mr W Williams, Ms K Smith, Mrs R Sly, Mr P

Brademann, Antje

Hatton, Jan
Aliento, Willow
Jackson, Brad
Smith, Jonathan
Blomfield, Kathie
Halligan, Chris
Smith, Mr R
Webster, Ron
Brooks, Phillip
Hosking, Lynne

Beck, Wendy Woods, Len

Hardiman, Don

Taree

Non-affiliated

Non-affiliated

Non-affiliated

Non-affiliated

Non-affiliated

Boral Timber

G.T.C.C.

Great Lakes Environment Association

Greater Taree City Council

Koala Preservation Society NSW Inc Taree District

Manning Valley Bird Watchers Manning Valley Bird Watchers

Manning Valley Endurance Trail Riders

Manning Valley Horse Trail &

National Parks and Wildlife Service

North East Forest Alliance

State Forests Taree

Abberley, Maggie Anderson, Lorraine

Calvin, Andy Kinchin, Geoff

Murray, David

Norrie, John

Hannah, Helen

Gill, Linda

Wheeler, Lisa

McLeod, Paul Langdown, Bob

Langtown, Marie

Power, Kieran

Patterson, Jeffrey

Croft, Greg

Gill, Greg Cooper, John

Dungog

Non-affiliated

Non-affiliated Australian Horse Alliance

Black Bolga Resident Group

Boral Timber

Carrawarry Log Cabins

Dungog Shire Council

Hunter Catchment Management Trust

Hunter Regional Council of 4WD Clubs

Landcare - Dungog

Newcastle Wilderness Society

North East Forest Alliance North East Forest Alliance

Rural Land Protection Board

State Forests

State Forests

State Forests NSW

Wangat Lodge

Filson, Rex

Runciman, Ros

Taylor, Robert

Crane, Stephen & Frances

Scobie, Paul

Kelly, Robert J.

Lloyd, Vicki

Thieme, Jack

Rumbel, Bill

Rubeli, Ken

Cessnock

Non-affiliated

Australian Horse Alliance

Awabakal Tribal Committee

Cessnock City Tourist Board

Gosford Wildlife Conservation Society

Greta Land Care

Institute of Foresters of Australia

Mt Vincent Landcare

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Native Animal Trust Fund

State Forests NSW

Wilderness Society

Conley, Ian

Lloyd, John

Uphill, David

McLean, Margaret

Griffiths, Barrie

McDonald, Malcolm

Signor, Anthony

Simmons, Jim

Non-affiliated

Non-affiliated

Awabakal Tribal Committee

Lower Hunter Environment Group

Maitland Rural Land Board

Bignell, Robert

Burgess, Dave

Victor, Ken

Procter, Steve

Seiver, John

Seiver, Stephen

Jackson, Peta

Pointer, Margaret

Gamage, Glen

Syne, Melissa

Harvey, Sarah

Thompson, Rex

Whitelaw, Mary Martin, Neil

Rees, Annette

Simmons, Jim

Klatovsky, Glen

Dorrigo

Australian Horse Alliance

Bellingen Council

Bellingen Environment Centre

Bellingen Environment Centre

Boral Timber

Matters, Malcom

Snodgrass, Susie

Lemke, Leif

Turnbill, Andrew

Fisher, Peter

Boral Timber

Boral Timber

Catchment Management Committee

Catchment Management Committee

Coffs Four Wheel Drive Club

Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce

Dorrigo Chamber of Commerce

Dorrigo National Parks

Dorrigo Scouts

Four Wheel Drive Club

Non-affiliated

Secretary, Farmers Association

State Forests

Toxin Action Group

Ulitarra Society

Ward Bros Sawmill

Redman, Kevin

Redman, Leeann

Gibson, Steve

Knell, Judee

McAlpin, Vern

Aylott, Alison

Johnson, Merv

Dwyer, malcolm

Ainley, Barbara

Anney, barbar

Chapman, Rex

Layton, Janette

Holmes, Ruth

Murray, John

Cranny, Jillian

Went, Alan

Smith, Nev

APPENDIX F - PARTICIPANTS IN THE FOREST STAFF WORKSHOPS

Workshop participants

Organisation	Representative	Workshop
State Forests	Carron, Mark	Casino
NPWS	Moffat, Bob	Casino
NPWS	Charley, David	Casino
State Forests	Rayson, Steve	Coffs Harbour
State Forests	Winter, Ursula	Coffs Harbour
State Forests	Murray, John	Coffs Harbour
NPWS	Moore, Geoff	Coffs Harbour
NPWS	Davey, Gary	Coffs Harbour
NPWS	Metzler, Kerrie	Coffs Harbour

Staff who provided workshop forms

Organisation	Representative
NPWS	Watt, Duncan
NPWS	Collins, Andy
NPWS	Spencer, Jo
NPWS	McCauley, Angela
NPWS	Murphy, Michael
NPWS	Mackay, Dianne
NPWS	Ingarfield, Anton
NPWS	Love, Ashley
NPWS	Anderson, Donella
NPWS	Johnson-Walker, Tessa
NPWS	Cranfield, Glen
NPWS	Lloyd, Alan
NPWS	McIntyre, Andrew
NPWS	Dellries, Robert
NPWS	Andrew, Michael
NPWS	Richards, Peter
NPWS	Sheringham, Paul
NPWS	Creamer, Harry
NPWS	Eggert, Cathy

APPENDIX G - INDICATIVE NATIONAL ESTATE PLACES OF HISTORIC VALUE

Indicative national estate places of historic value: Criteria A3, A4, B2, D2, F1 or H1

Bird Tree and Bendaroon Briggsvale Village, Mill **Cut Rock Track Great North Road Irrawang Pottery** Kunderang East Homestead Lake Innes Ruins Mountain Maid Mine **Mummel Forest Protest Site PGK Post** Pipers Creek Lime Kilns Strickland State Forest Tank Traps The Grandis Trestle Bridge Woy Woy Tunnel Workers Camp

APPENDIX H - INDICATIVE NATIONAL ESTATE PLACES OF SOCIAL VALUE

Indicative national estate places of social value, Criterion G1

Apsley Falls and Gorge

Barrington Tops and Escarpment

Bicentennial Trail

Bird Tree - Middle Brother State Forest

Blow Hole - Boonanghi State Forest

Carey's Peak - Barrington Tops National Park

Dingo Tops and Rowleys Rock Flora and Fauna Reserve

Ellenborough Falls and Gorge

Escarpment between Darkies Point and Majors Point

Great North Road

Killiecrankie Mountain

McGrath's Hump

Middle Brother Mountain

Mount Boss State Forest

Mount Sugarloaf and Sugarloaf Range

Mummel Gulf - Enfield State Forest

Old Growth Forest Areas

Oxygen Farm

Point Plomer Road - Goolawah Reserve

Rainforest

Seal Rocks

Silent Pool, Nymboida River

Swans Crossing - Kerewong State Forest

Watagan Mountains - Watagan State Forest

Wild Cattle Creek: Compartments 579 and 546

Wingham Brush

Wollomombi Gorge / Falls

Yango Creek Koori Carvings

Yarrahappini Mountain

Youdales Hut

APPENDIX I - INDICATIVE NATIONAL ESTATE PLACES OF AESTHETIC VALUE

Indicative national estate places of aesthetic value, Criterion E1

Bellinger Escarpment
Dingo Tops Area
McGraths Hump
Sugar Creek Flora Reserve
Wallis - Myall Lakes
Whoota - Whoota Lookout
Wollemi National Park
Wollomombi Falls and Gorge

APPENDIX J - INDICATIVE NATIONAL ESTATE PLACES REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Potential indicative places of aesthetic significance requiring further investigation

The following places were inspected but Heritage Inventory Forms were not completed:

Dorrigo National Park
Middle Brother Mountain
Mt Sugarloaf & Sugarloaf Range
Oxley Wild Rivers National Park
Queen Lake State Forest
Seal Rocks Rainforest
South Brother Mountain
Swans Crossing

The following places were inspected but there was not sufficient information to determine its aesthetic significance. These places are a high priority for full assessment of their aesthetic value:

Griffiths Lookout
Jolly Nose Hill
North Brother Mountain
Point Lookout
The Nellies
Waitui Falls
Wallingat State Forest

Potential indicative places of social significance requiring further investigation

The following places were assessed for social value. There was, however, inadequate information available to complete the assessment. These places are a high priority for full assessment of their social value.

Great North Walk (Newcastle to Sydney)
Nundle Hanging Rock Area
Rainforest at Timbertown
Nulla Five Day State Forest
Wilson River Primitive Reserve
Cobrabold Recreation Area
Koala Habitat in Taree Urban Area
Big Fella Gum - Middle Brother State Forest
Wilderness Areas