Assessment of Places of Aesthetic Significance within the forested areas of NSW CRA regions (Statewide) Stage 2 Lower North East Region

A project undertaken as part of the NSW Comprehensive Regional Assessments

November 1998

ASSESSMENT OF THE AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE OF FORESTED AREAS OF NSW CRA REGIONS (STATEWIDE) STAGE 2 LOWER NORTH EAST CRA REGION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper describes a project undertaken as part of the comprehensive regional assessments of forests in New South Wales. The comprehensive regional assessments (CRAs) provide the scientific basis on which the State and Commonwealth Governments will sign regional forest agreements (RFAs) for major forest areas of New South Wales. These agreements will determine the future of these forests, providing a balance between conservation and ecologically sustainable use of forest resources.

Project objective/s

The project sought to identify, assess and document forest related places of aesthetic value to the community in the Upper North East (UNE), Lower North East (LNE) and Southern NSW CRA Regions. This involved consulting with staff of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and State Forests of New South Wales (SFNSW) at Forest Staff Workshops and incorporating data from NSW Community Heritage Workshops. This report refers to the LNE region.

The definition of aesthetic value used in this project was developed for the Australian Heritage Commission:
" Aesthetic value is the response derived from the experience of the environment or of particular cultural and natural attributes within it. This response can be either to 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 thoughts, feelings and attitudes" (1)

Methods

Work was carried out within the Technical Framework for Environment and Heritage Assessments in the NSW CRA/RFA process that was developed by the NSW CRA/RFA Environment and Heritage Technical Committee. (2)

Table **1e** of this framework identified
Assessment of Places of Aesthetic Significance within the forested areas of NSW CRA Regions as linked to other non-indigenous cultural heritage projects:
- *NSW Community Heritage Values Identification and Assessment Project for the Upper and Lower North East Regions Vol. 2, Social Value Assessment* and the
- *NSW Thematic Forest History and Assessment*
  and the projects for
- *National Estate Biodiversity*
- *National Estate Old Growth*
- *National Estate Wilderness*
- *Landscape Scale National Estate Values*

Selection of a representative sample of sites for documentation of aesthetic significance was then carried out. Forest Staff Workshops were held at Casino, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Port Macquarie and Raymond Terrace in April 1998. Places considered to be of aesthetic value within forested areas were identified at these workshops. These workshops and the Community Heritage Workshops were the primary sources of data on places of potential national estate aesthetic and social value. Twenty-seven people attended the five Forest Staff Workshops held in the UNE and LNE CRA Regions, with a further nineteen people forwarding responses after the workshops.

One hundred and eighty eight named sites were identified from the Forest Staff Workshops in the LNE CRA Region. These places were later cross-referenced with Community Heritage Workshop places identified by the community as important to them and as having a component of aesthetic value. Sixty-six of the 188 sites identified at Forest Staff Workshops were also identified at Community Heritage Workshops. Refer to Appendix 1 of this report for a list of these sites.

These sites are considered to be a reasonable representation of the symbolic landmark and outstanding landform components of the study subject. Further work would be required to fully represent the attribute, compositional, meaning and evocative aesthetic components of the study subject.

Refer to the *NSW Community Heritage Values Identification and Assessment Project Vol.2, Social Value Assessment* report for the number of sites identified for aesthetic value at Community Heritage Workshops and for sites that were assessed as being above National Estate Threshold.

Twenty-three sites were initially selected for inspection and assessment against State and National Estate cultural heritage criteria. These sites were selected by applying the 3 triggers developed by the Cultural Heritage Working Group (CHWG) of the NSW Environment and Heritage Technical Committee, as well as incorporating additional criteria. These criteria were applied to obtain a representative sampling of the reasons why sites had been identified as being of aesthetic value at Forest Staff Workshops. After inspection of sites and initial assessment of aesthetic significance had been carried out, the Project Manager reviewed financial and time restraints of the project. As a result, 15 sites in the LNE Region were formally assessed for State and National Estate heritage significance.

The CHWG and a selected panel of experts reviewed the documentation and amendments were incorporated into the final report.

Key results and products

Documentation of the 15 assessed sites is contained in the Heritage Inventory Forms available in Appendix 4 of this report.

The places identified at Forest Staff and Community Heritage Workshops were entered into the NSW NPWS Cultural Heritage Database with assigned Heritage Inventory Numbers.

1. INTRODUCTION

.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Under the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) Commonwealth, State and Territory governments agreed to a framework and process for carrying out comprehensive assessment of the economic, social, environmental and heritage values of forest regions. This includes the assessment of the national estate values of forest regions. Once completed, comprehensive regional assessments (CRAs) will provide governments with the information required to make long term decisions about forest use and management.
Attachment 1 of the Scoping Agreement requires projects within the CRAs to 'identify, assess and document national estate values including natural and cultural heritage in NSW to satisfy Commonwealth obligations under the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*. Criteria used to identify national estate values include National Estate Criteria E1, which defines places of aesthetic value as areas that may be identified as places important:

> '*in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community or a cultural*

> *group. '* (3)

The criterion under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* is

> '*Significant for strong visual, or sensory appeal or cohesion, landmark qualities;*
> *creative and / or technical (including architectural excellence) qualities;'* (4)

.2 PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of the project was to identify and assess places of aesthetic value and to assess the level of aesthetic significance of a selection of those places, within the forested areas of the NSW CRA Regions. Documentation of the level of aesthetic significance was carried out in a format suitable for inclusion in NSW State Heritage Registers, which are maintained by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), and the Register of the National Estate, which is maintained by the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC). Statements of Significance for 15 sites with a range of natural, social, historical and aesthetic values were prepared as part of the Heritage Inventory Form documentation by the Aesthetic Value Consultant. The aesthetic project was one of three cultural heritage projects, which prepared this type of documentation for the CRA process. Some of the sites documented for aesthetic significance were also documented for social significance by the NSW Community Heritage Values Consultant. These two complementary statements of significance help to achieve project purposes of integrating and linking with other components of cultural heritage assessments.

.3 APPROACH

Places of aesthetic value to the community were identified at Forest Staff Workshops conducted by the Aesthetic Value Consultant and Community Heritage Workshops conducted by the Community Heritage Values Consultant. The Aesthetic Value, Historical Value and Community Heritage Value Consultants subsequently documented sites that were rated at Community

Heritage Workshops as above National Estate Threshold for assessment. Some sites were assessed by more than one consultant for aesthetic, historical or social significance.

.4 STUDY AREA

The Lower North East (LNE) CRA Region runs from south of Coffs Harbour along the eastern seaboard to Gosford and extends west to include the towns of Armidale and Muswellbrook. Refer to the attached map.

.5 OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STAGES

After review of methods for aesthetic value assessment and development of criteria for site selection by the Cultural Heritage Working Group (CHWG), of the NSW Environment and Heritage Technical Committee, five Forest Staff Workshops were conducted at Casino, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Port Macquarie and Raymond Terrace in April 1998. These workshop venues were chosen to correspond to the locations of regional offices of the State Forests of New South Wales (SFNSW) and NPWS, within the UNE and LNE CRA regions. Twenty-seven participants attended the workshops and nineteen other staff forwarded information after the workshops. Places considered to be of aesthetic value within forested areas were identified at these workshops. These places were later cross-referenced with Community Heritage Workshop places identified by the community as important to them and as having a component of aesthetic value. Selection of a representative sample of sites for documentation of aesthetic significance was then carried out.

A summary of the level of aesthetic significance of these sites is presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1: HERITAGE INVENTORY FORM DOCUMENTATION

Level of aesthetic significance using NSW State Criteria	Place Name
Full Heritage Inventory Form documentation	
State	Bellinger Escarpment from Point Lookout to Glennifer
Regional	Dingo Tops Area
Regional	Griffith Lookout
Local	Jolly Nose Hill
State	McGraths Hump
Local or Regional, depending on which factor is given priority	North Brother Mountain
Regional	Point Lookout
State	Sugar Creek Flora Reserve
Local	The Nellies
Regional	Waitui Falls
State	Wallingat State Forest
State	Wallis – Myall Lakes
State	Whoota Whoota Lookout
Regional	Wollemi National Park
State	Wollomombi Falls

2. METHODOLOGY

.6 2.1   PREPARATION

The nature of aesthetic value requires a multifaceted approach to assessment. Methodologies used in earlier studies, including aesthetic work undertaken as part of the Eden, East Gippsland and Central Highlands RFAs, were reviewed to provide a context for work undertaken in North-Eastern NSW.

The CHWG developed three triggers to be used for site selection. These were:
* Good locational data;
* Good geographic spread of sites; and
* Consideration of sites already listed on the Register of the National Estate.

Triggers helped to avoid problems experienced in the Eden RFA caused by repetition and inadequate locality information.

2.2 SELECTION OF SITES

Sites were identified through a series of workshops conducted across both the UNE and LNE CRA regions. These were:
* Five Forest Staff Workshops attended by officers of the SFNSW and NPWS. Workshops were held at Casino, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Port Macquarie and Raymond Terrace. Places considered by staff to be of aesthetic value were described and mapped; and
* Thirteen Community Heritage Workshops, each attended by representatives of the local community, including community groups. These workshops were held at Dorrigo, Glen Innes, Grafton, Lismore, Murwillumbah, Tenterfield, Woodenbong, Cessnock, Dungog, Kempsey, Taree, Walcha, and Wauchope. These workshops were conducted as part of the concurrent project "*NSW Community Heritage Values Identification and Assessment Project for the Upper and Lower North East Regions*" (Context 1998).

A detailed description of the Community Heritage Workshop process can be found in the CRA report *Community Heritage Values Identification and Assessment Project for the Upper and Lower North East Regions Volume 1 Workshop Overview Report* (Context 1998). In summary, participants at these workshops were asked to individually identify areas of potential cultural and social heritage. Participants were then asked to nominate which of these sites they thought were most important through a voting process. These were the sites prioritised for further consideration. Site descriptions were collected on these sites. Data was gathered on 925 sites in UNE and LNE CRA regions.

The Forest Staff Workshops involved agency staff from NPWS and SFNSW being asked to individually nominate places of aesthetic value. The workshop as a group then reviewed the mapped locations of these sites. Participants then identified gaps and overlaps in their initial lists of places, sieved places to eliminate minor sites, described site values and mapped sites at

1:25 000 scale, as time permitted. Data was gathered on 326 sites in the UNE and LNE CRA regions. This number of sites was later reduced to 295 after completion of checking of site duplication with sites identified at Community Heritage Workshops.

Mapping was conducted following the workshops at 1:25, 000 and 1:100,000 scale as part of the current project by the consultant and NSW NPWS. A comprehensive search for gaps in data place types or location was beyond the scope of the projects involved in the CRA workshop projects.

Additional sites of historical value were identified through a third related consultancy, the Thematic Forest History and Heritage Assessment (Blackford, Brayshaw and Proudfoot 1998), managed by NSW NPWS and overseen by the CHWG. After reviewing this data, the CHWG did not identify sites that required consideration for aesthetic value.

2.3   THRESHOLDING DAT A

Sites identified as having aesthetic value to workshop participants at the Forest Staff Workshops and at the Community Heritage Workshops were reviewed and intersected to provide a list of sites to which the CHWG triggers could be applied. The initial threshold used for selection of sites as potentially significant for aesthetic value was established as:

- Identification at Forest Staff Workshops as being of aesthetic value; and
- Identification at Community Heritage Workshops for aesthetic value. (when identified at community workshops, aesthetic value was usually one of a number of values identified for a place)

These sites were then thresholded using three triggers identified by the CHWG (See 2.1). One hundred and eighty eight sites in LNE were identified through this process. These sites were grid-referenced, mapped and entered digitally on GIS.

Additional thresholding was required to bring the number of sites to be documented for aesthetic value within the scope of available resources. This thresholding occurred in two stages, the first of which 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. These reasons are summarised in Appendix 3 of this report. Twenty-three sites in LNE were selected through this process. Data from the Community Heritage Workshops was not analysed in this way.

The 23 selected sites were inspected in the field and preliminary assessments of aesthetic significance were completed for each site. At approximately the same time, data from the workshop series in UNE and LNE were cross-referenced by the CHWG. In conjunction with project consultants and NSW NPWS, this eliminated a large number of site duplicates that arose in workshops through the use of different terms for the same or similar places. This process also resulted in a negligible proportion of sites being excluded from listing in the data because of inadequate locational data. Once duplications were removed, a final selection of 15 sites in LNE was made. These were documented on Heritage Inventory Forms with details of aesthetic significance included. These sites possessed a range of social, natural, historical and aesthetic values.

These sites were mapped.

3. RESULTS

3.1 PROJECT RESULTS

One hundred and eighty eight forested places of aesthetic value in the LNE CRA Region were identified at Forest Staff Workshops. Refer to Appendix 1 of this report. Sixty-six of these 188 places were also identified at Community Heritage Workshops. Additional sites that were regarded for aesthetic value were identified at the Community Heritage Workshops. Refer to the *NSW Community Heritage Values Identification and Assessment Project for the Upper and Lower North East Regions Vol.2, Social Value Assessment* report.

The type of sites identified at Forest Staff Workshops included places such as
- waterfalls, creeks, rainforests,
- wildflower patches, lookouts, walking tracks through the forest and picnic spots
- places appreciated for the opportunities they offer to drive through the forest
- forested escarpments or hills that form backdrops to cleared valleys or lakes

Further analysis of these results is beyond the scope of this report. The type of sites identified at Community Heritage Workshops had many features in common with those identified at Forest Staff Workshops. The development of linkages between this project and other CRA projects, such as those dealing with Old Growth and Wilderness, has yet to be carried out.

The original project methodology proposed by this consultancy included the preparation of a statement relating the aesthetic significance of the forest resource of particular places to the aesthetic significance of the landscape unit in which they were located. This step was proposed as a means of facilitating the preparation of relevant management guidelines for each site, in its local and regional context. Project resources for this work were limited but where relevant, the results of this stage of the methodology are included in the Recommendations Section of the Heritage Inventory Forms prepared for selected sites. Further development of this component of the originally proposed methodology would require further work.

Limited project resources meant that detailed documentation of aesthetic significance was prepared for 15 sites in the LNE CRA Region. Refer to Appendix 4.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This report presents the outcomes of the National Estate and State Heritage assessment of the places of aesthetic value in the LNE CRA Region of New South Wales, Australia. This report was prepared within the time and resource constraints applied after Forest Staff Workshops had been conducted and subsequent data compilation and mapping had been carried out.

This assessment contributes to meeting the Scoping Agreement requirements in relation to the National Estate and contributes to the development of options for a Comprehensive Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system and RFA for the UNE CRA region.

4.1 REVIEW OF RESULTS

The project was focused on the identification and assessment of aesthetic values, one element of the cultural heritage assessment in the CRA assessment for the LNE Region of NSW.

In review of the objectives outlined in this report, this project has:

1. Identified and assessed aesthetic values and places within forested areas of the NSW LNE CRA region.

- The range of places of aesthetic value that were identified at Community Heritage Workshops and Forest Staff Workshops well represented the study subject, in terms of well known landmarks, prominent landforms, lookouts, popular destinations such as well known waterfalls and sites that the community considered under controversy in relation to forestry practice. The study subject is not as well represented in terms of lesser known or smaller scale places of aesthetic value.

- Assessment of the aesthetic significance of 15 places was carried out in the LNE CRA region. One hundred and eighty eight places were identified at Forest Staff Workshops.

- The findings of the Forest Staff Workshops included more detail on the reasons why places were identified as being of aesthetic value than the findings of the Community Heritage Workshops. This meant that the assessment of aesthetic value process drew more information from the data available from Forest Staff Workshops than the Community Heritage Workshops. The value of the data from the Community Heritage Workshops as the source of information regarding community values is acknowledged.

- Assessment of aesthetic values identified at Forest Staff Workshops was carried out in part during the sieving process in this project. Refer to Appendices 2 and 3 of this report.

2. Documented such places and values to a level suitable for the State and National Estate databases including digitised boundaries.

- All places identified at Forest Staff Workshops and Community Heritage Workshops were documented in terms of listing relevant values. Of these places, most could be documented for locational data comprising eastings and northings. This level of documentation was acceptable for inclusion in the State Cultural Heritage Database.

- Fifteen of the 188 places identified at Forest Staff Workshops in the LNE CRA Region were documented in additional detail for aesthetic value and aesthetic significance, in a form suitable for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate Database. These 15 sites were also documented by mapping at 1:25 000 scale in the specified State database

format for digitisation of boundaries. Due to time constraints and limited project resources, there was insufficient time to complete checking the boundaries of the 188 sites, as mapped at 1:25 000 scale during or after Forest Staff Workshops. However most of the 188 sites identified at Forest Staff Workshops were mapped at 1:25 000 scale in the required format for digitisation of boundaries.

3. Assessed the sensitivity of values and places to forest based activities such as recreational use and timber harvesting and developed brief recommendations for conservation principles.

- Brief recommendations regarding the sensitivity of values and places, plus associated conservation principles were included in the Recommendations Section of the Heritage Inventory Form documentation, prepared for 15 sites in the LNE CRA region.

4. Assessed a selection of places identified at Cultural Heritage Workshops for aesthetic value.

- Fifteen places were assessed for aesthetic significance and value

5. Effectively linked to other Cultural Heritage Projects relating to the assessment of social and historic values, so the identification and documentation of heritage places were coordinated across projects.

- Identification and documentation of heritage places were coordinated through the Project Manager and CHWG. The CHWG developed a Heritage Inventory Form template with data fields for both State and National Estate assessments. Assessment of aesthetic, social and historic values was carried out in three concurrent Cultural Heritage Projects, using the consistent format of the Heritage Inventory Form template. The use of this form allowed the documentation prepared in this project to link effectively with other Cultural Heritage Projects.

6. Prepared appropriate Project Outcomes for integration and options development and improvement of the extent and quality of existing information.

- The project outcomes of the Heritage Inventory Form documentation contribute to the existing quantity and quality of information held in State and National Estate cultural heritage registers. To the extent that these registers are useful in developing project outcomes for integration and options development, the project results are appropriate.

- The CHWG considered the documentation prepared in this project at a workshop where integration of data into the forest management process was considered.

7. Enhanced the protection of places of aesthetic value in forested areas.

- The workshop data stating reasons why places were considered to be of aesthetic value was incorporated into the site sieving process for this project. Enhanced protection of places of aesthetic value would be facilitated if this data were analysed further and appropriate management recommendations prepared after consideration of all social, historic, natural and aesthetic values for these sites.

.7 4.2   DATA ISSUES

The assessment process could be improved by addressing data quality issues. Difficult data issues, which impacted on the project methodology, were experienced in this project. These issues arose primarily due to poor data exchange between the social cultural heritage and aesthetic cultural heritage consultancies. These issues may be addressed by implementing an agreed process directed by the Project Manager, which recognises the necessity for an appropriate and timely information exchange. Without this timely flow of information, the selection of sites for documentation of aesthetic significance cannot have parity with the selection of sites documented for social significance. This information exchange was also influenced by the site duplication data issue, which is described in the following paragraphs.

Although the three triggers developed by the CHWG were applied to the workshop data, it was necessary for the NPWS Database Manager, in conjunction with cultural heritage consultants, to devote substantially more time than anticipated to the process of defining the places identified. This was due to similar sites being identified by slightly different names, or by different grid references, at different workshops and to the need for the consultant to refer to 1:25 000 maps and workshop forms to check the accuracy and extent of information provided at workshops before data could be confirmed.

It was necessary to continue with the mapping and site description process in the months after the workshops had been conducted and this work was not complete by the time the Database Manager required confirmation of potential site duplicates. This occurred because the timetable for completion of the project had been brought forward and the availability of funding for the data checking and mapping work required after the workshops had not been confirmed.

The quantity of data that was handled in the limited time available for this process of eliminating potential site duplication, was also a major contributing factor to difficulties that were experienced in meeting project deadlines. Site locational data from workshops conducted in the UNE and LNE CRA regions overlapped, so it was combined at this stage of the project. 926 sites from Community Heritage Workshops and 326 sites from Forest Staff Workshops were handled.

Difficulties were experienced in completing the mapping and descriptions of identified sites in the available time at Forest Staff Workshops. This was due to mapping requirements that were additional to those in earlier CRA projects. Data from the Forest Staff Workshops for the LNE CRA region was required to be mapped at 1:25 000 scale as well as 1:100 000 scale. Workshop participants were also required to prepare written site information. Previous CRA projects had required the 1:100 000 scale mapping and the written information but not the 1:25 000 scale mapping. However, staff were cooperative and supplied the required locational data either during or after the workshops.

After the process of elimination of site duplicates had been completed, limitations of project time and resources did not allow for a process of review of all sites identified at Forest Staff Workshops with regional or district staff of the SFNSW or NPWS. A review process of this type had been included in the earlier NSW Eden CRA project, but the Eden project had not included the same three CHWG triggers for the quality of workshop data. Regional or district staffs of SFNSW and NPWS were contacted to review available information in relation to sites documented on Heritage Inventory Forms in the UNE and LNE CRA projects. Heritage Inventory Form documentation was also prepared after reference to the Preferred Management Priority Zoning System used by SFNSW to manage forest areas, including visual protection zones.

APPENDIX 1

.8 LIST OF SITES THAT WERE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING AESTHETIC VALUE BY FOREST STAFF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Participants were from regional offices of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the State Forests of New South Wales. This is the list of sites identified in the Lower North East CRA Region of NSW.

Heritage Item I.D.	Item Name	Item Description	Map ID Number.
3913416	Adamstown Defence Lands	'forest backdrop…unique to walk through…not been subjected to repeated burning and supports Themeda spp…	1
3913417	Allyn River Rain Forest	'rainforest...picnic and camping....high population pressures	2
3912789	Andersons Sugarloaf Mountain	forest backdrop	3
3913418	Angophra stands	'like a forest from a storybook...interesting shapely trees	4
3912891	Antarctic Beech Forest, Barrington Tops	'Ancient, ethereal cool temperate rainforest with open understorey…ground carpeted with gold leaves…'	5
3913099	Barrington Plateau	'imposing landform visible from population centres & roads	6
3912886	Barrington Tops And Escarpment	'Snow gums…old ancient feelings, high altitude cold & icy	7
3913421	Barrington Tops Forest Drives	'Scenic drives through a range of landscapes	8
3913042	Barrington Tops National Park	'World heritage listed rainforests…old growth,,.lookouts	9
3913422	Barrington Tops SF camping and picnic areas	' easily accessible…mostly adjacent clear rivers…some of these sites are occasionally snow covered	10
3913048	Barrington Tops State Forest	forest managed for timber production among many values	11
3913423	Barrington Tops Waterfalls	'Very scenic cascades and waterfalls on clear rivers…	12
3913424	Barrington Wilderness area	Includes subalpine swamps and wetlands	13
3913427	Bellinger Escarpment From Point Lookout To Glennifer	'the whole escarpment forms a visual and sensory pleasure …steep slopes… visible from highway / Bellinger Valley	14
3913428	Berrico Trig	'prominent landscape feature visible from main.…roads..	15
3913429	Big Fella Flora Reserve with Big Fella Gum	'feeling overpowered by the size of the trees…big gutsy awesome gums and blackbutts…rainforest elements	16
3913430	Big Run Creek	'pleasant area beside Big Run Creek	17
3913431	Big Smokey Mountain	'spectacular backdrop to a natural coastal strip	18
3913163	Bobbin Creek Gorge	'Narrow deep gorge with Rainforest gullies and waterfall	19
3913436	Boot Hill Forestry Camp	'European heritage site previously used as a	20

		forest depot	
3913129	Breakneck Lookout	'panoramic views of the Manning Valley (360degree)	21
3913437	Broken Back Range	'forested and rocky escarpment..backdrop to Hunter Valley	22
3913438	Broken Bago Mountain	'The cliff face is spectacularly beautiful with surrounding forest in contrast to the cleared rural lands in foreground	23
3913441	Bulahdelah Mountain	'Timbered / rugged rock outcrop backdrop to Bulahdelah	24
3913102	Burraga Swamp	'hanging swamp surrounded by ancient Antarctic Beech	25
3913444	Camels Hump Nature Reserve	'distinctive landform / landscape…rainforest	26
3913445	Cape Hawke Lookout	'Must be one of the most extensive views on coast of NSW	27
3913101	Carey's Peak	'High altitude peak/ lookout giving 270 degree view	28
3913446	Carrai State Forest, VCL	'Natural Arch is popular limestone formation...view from windy gap to Daisy plains and Stockyard Creek	29
3913447	Carrai Tableland	'emerges from the surrounding lowlands with its steep sided slopes…old growth…remote and inaccessible	30
3913449	Causeway - Doyles River	'The river, waterfall and rock pools combined with the surrounding area make this a beautiful and serene site.	31
3913451	Cells River	'River visually pleasing…swimming holes, steep 4WD trails	32
3913454	Christmas Bells patch, Crowdy Bay NP	'Exhilarating feeling of colour - perfect bell shapes of red & yellow...only viewed for a short time…forested backdrop	33
3913456	Coastal strip - Port Macquarie Town Beach to Lighthouse Beach	'being able to walk through this area mostly without seeing the closeby urban… gives it enormous aesthetic appeal	34
3913457	Cobark Park, Lookout & Walking Trail	'large messmate trees in pleasant setting. Lookout over landscape…walking trail through …forest…popular	35
3913458	Cochrane SF and VCL	'4WD drivers love the area, clean streams…unspoiled area	36
3913460	Commission Road	'panoramic views of tertiary dissected sandstone cliffs	37
3912922	Convict Lime Kilns	'Feeling of awe at seeing the kilns - heritage	38
3913461	Coolongolook River Foreshores	'Gives me the impression of remoteness…though it is not	39
3913200	Coopernook Forest Recreation Area	'Visually pleasing grassed area surrounded by tall…Eucalypts	40
3913463	Crawford River Road	'Creek crossings & pools…has beautiful regrowth forest	
3912968	Daisy Patch Flora Fauna Reserve	'the flora and fauna also a rainforest…also good walking	41
3913465	Devil's Hole Lookout	'Panoramic 180 degree view overlooking	42
3913466	Dick's Hut Fire Trail	'views	43
3913467	Dicks Hole, Limeburners Creek NR	'overstorey of scribbly gum…A tranquil area where the flow of nature - the heath birds, the tide, carry on	44

3913468	Digital Delta	'rarely seen in Australia…geological formation..interesting	45
3913143	Dingo Tops And Rowley's Rock Flora Reserve	'visually attractive recreation site with…rainforest…	46
3913469	Dingo Tops Area	'Huge track of contiguous fall forest…skyline..west..Taree	47
3911827	Dorrigo National Park	'Skywalk rainforest	48
3913472	Duck Creek	'good stands of cabbage palms gives "tropical" appearance	49
3913473	Dunn's Swamp (Kandos Weir)	'waterway through dissected sandstone valleys	50
3913474	Eastern high country, Wallingat SF	forest backdrop to lake	51
3913184	Ellenborough Falls and Gorge	'Spectacular drop with good lookout vantage points	52
3913475	Farquhar Inlet	'Whilst in a boat…shoreline…beautiful & unspoilt…birds	53
3913476	Felters Creek Falls	View encompasses 'waterfall into …canyon…valley"	54
3913477	Flat Rock Lookout	'on the edge of …escarpment…panoramic views	55
3912834	Forbes River Valley	Site includes Forbes View, a rock pinnacle with 360 view	56
3913478	Forestry Camp - place ref. no JH28	old forest camp	
3913481	Front Tableland Trig	Alpine grassland, good camping, spectacular views	57
3913482	Gilmores Mountain/ Gilmore Range	'Stoney dominant ridgeline…rugged…flora & fauna..vistas	58
3912888	Giro State Forest	'Pleasant rest area with large eucalypts & shrubby…	59
3911790	Gleniffer Falls	Waterfalls	60
3913484	Gloucester Tops Flora Reserve	'Flora Reserve surrounds the road…scenic drive	61
3913485	Gloucestor Tops	'High altitude sub alpine.snowgum…forest..falls & cascades	62
3913487	Goolawah Palm Jungle	'almost pure palm forest with king ferns…eerie, unusual	63
3913648	Goolwah Lagoon	'huge Ti trees and waterbirds - beach	64
3913488	Goulburn River	'sandy bottomed river running through dissected…gorge	65
3904146	Grandis Camp	'rainforest gullies and large flooded gums…serene, majestic	66
3913489	Granite Ck & escarpment	'Unlogged creek basin, clear stream over granite boulders	67
3913490	Grass Tree Ridges	'Numerous grass trees - viewed from railway …roads	68
3913491	Green Point	'Forested foreshore…last remaining….backdrop to lake	69
3911791	Griffiths Lookout	'180 degree vista of superb forested mountains	70
3904149	Grundy Fire tower	'views…mainly down Cooplacurrzpa River towards coast	71
3913493	Halls Creek - Sandy Hollow area	'…backdrop to the valley…steep sandstone escarpment	72
3912967	Hell Hole Forest Road	'Very pretty in the winter when it snows…the	73

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		ferns…snow	
3913240	Hoppy's Lookout	'rocky outcrop…views over wilderness...feeling of freedom	74
3913494	Jolly Nose Hill	'magnificent view over Queens Lake and …coast	75
3913495	Kippara/ Slippery Rocks	'Nice forest stream…swimming hole large enough …swim	76
3913496	Knappunghat Creek - Picnic Point	'A truly pristine waterway…scenery from a boat is	77
3913497	Knappunghat Creek - Picnic Point	'visually pleasing, peaceful…used by anglers	78
3913498	Koorainghat Creek	'creekside area that is visually pleasing and serene..popular	79
3913500	Korogoro Point Littoral Rainforest	'rainforest creek community…contrasts with open areas	80
3913501	Kullatine Trig	'only view of Kempsey and Macleay from surrounding hills	81
3913502	Lansdowne Escarment	'unique geological formation	82
3913503	Lansdowne Trig	'panoramic views of the surrounding area	83
3913506	Lignite Creek & Brush	'pretty creek and nice rainforest…very nice visually	84
3913507	Little Run Creek & Falls	"visually pleasing…waterfalls and rock pools	85
3913508	Little Smoky	'from the village of Arakoon it clearly separates the natural from the human made…adding texture to …flat coastal	86
3913510	Lookout along Armidale to Kempsey Road	'the views down George's creek onto the Macleay River	87
3913511	Lower Creek Hut	'Good view to the east over rows of hilly ravines…sunrise	88
3913513	Mammy Johnson River - Strike-a -Light	'camping…riverpools…rainforest…historical bridge…view	
3913514	Manning Hill Vista	'rural vista…winding road adjacent to forest…open view	
3912748	Mary's View	'sense of isolation…wilderness…all forested. Only see clearing of Kunderang Homestead	89
3912843	Maxwell's Flat	'river is visually pleasing with some lovely pools	90
3911761	McGrath's Hump	'rises abruptly from coastal flood plain…very beautiful especially in the morning and afternoon sun	91
3913516	Meyers Range	'fine stand of flooded gum that fills the view along' road	92
3913517	Meyers Range - southern end	'highly visible by boating public on Myall Lakes	93
3913189	Middle Brother Mt'n	landmark, prominent landform	94
3913518	Mograni Lookout	'the view looks over Gloucester and farmland to forest	95
3913519	Moonan Outlook	'Magnificent view of upper Hunter Valley farmland	96
3913521	Mooney Ground & surrounding woodlands	'Serpentine outcrops with grasstrees, mallee form eucalypt and tussock grass. Aboriginal significance. Private property	97
3913522	Moppy Lookout, Rest Area and Walking Trail	'messmate trees in pleasant setting…walking trail through eucalypt and Antarctic beech forest…popular with visitors	98
3913103	Mount Allyn	'Access to vehicles and public generally is a	99

		distinguishing feature of this magnificent outlook…360 degree views	
3912852	Mount Banda Banda	'highly visible mountain, distinctive rock face… steep… unmarked track…breathtaking view…Antarctic beech	100
3913100	Mount Cabre Bald	'prominent peak	101
3911777	Mount Campion	'significant geological feature…breathtaking view..	102
3913525	Mount Carson & Front Mountain	'two focal points as part of general vista...prominent	103
3913526	Mount Corricudgy	'wet schlerophyll eucalypt forest with subalpine vegetation	104
3913527	Mount Coxcombe	volcanic plug…views…rainforest	105
3913536	Mount Royal	'prominent peak in timbered landscape	106
3913537	Mount Sugarloaf	'prominent peak…vistas over the Hunter Valley, Newcastle	107
3912909	Mount Sugarloaf And Sugarloaf Range	"a forested buffer…aesthetic backdrop to the urban areas of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	108
3912797	Mount Yarrahappini	'a beautiful…mountain…is a very lush looking place..view	109
3913649	Mount Yarrahappini, SE face	'Prominent landform from Macleay Valley and Pacific Hwy	110
3912962	Mummel Gulf - Enfield State Forest	forest and wildflowers	111
3912965	Mummel River Crossing	"nice river crossing…rocks and minor rapids	112
3913540	Mungton Gap Nature Reserve	forest	113
3913541	Myall Range	forest	114
3913542	Nabiac, near old aerodrome	'the diversity of the flora…the feeling of remoteness	115
3912963	New Yard Creek	'Deeply incised, steep with rainforest	116
3913205	Newby's Creek Basin and Caves	'Conglomerate rock formations with large boulders in creek	117
3913544	Newby's Lookout	'Part of Lansdowne escarpment..panoramic views	118
3913190	North Brother Mountain	landform, views	119
3913113	O'Sullivan's Gap Flora Reserve (Compartments 145, 146 and 163, 164)	forest, trees,	120
3913549	Old Forestry Camp - place ref. no JH22	'forest area visually pleasing…historic hut. European heritage site	121
3913550	Old Forestry Camp - place ref.no JH28	'Site of an old forestry camp. Forest area visually pleasing. Remnants of buildings evident. European heritage site.	122
3913552	Old Forestry Camp - Pole Dump Camp	'forest area visually pleasing…historic hut remains on site	123
3913553	Old Forestry Office Site	'Site of European historical importance. Old..office site	
3912712	Oxley Wild Rivers National Park	'Just gorgeous…any of the waterfalls during flood times	124
3913555	Pee Dee	'Nice combination of hills, valley ranges…no roads, houses	125
3912150	Point Lookout	'major escarpment lookout with panoramic views	126
3913557	Point Perpendicular	'fantastic views to this place and from this	127

		place…feeling of being at the end of the earth…ocean crashing on rocks	
3913558	Point Plomer littoral rainforest	'the native figs and their associated 'strikes'…rainforest	128
3912861	Pol Blue Swamp	'sub-alpine sphagnum moss swamp…camping & picnic	129
3913559	Port Stephens Foreshore	'backdrop…sense of pristine naturalness to the waterway	130
3913560	Pulbah Island Nature Reserve	'visible from many foreshore urban areas…Lake Macquarie	131
3913561	Putty Road	'spectacular scenic drive…sandstone ravines…forest	132
3913216	Queens Lake State Forest	'forest as a backdrop…over a coastal lake; contrast colours	133
3913562	Ralfes Creek Preserve	'unlogged coachwood rainforest….rainforested creek	134
3913565	Rawley's Rock Reserve	lookout point	135
3913571	Seal Rocks Rainforest	'easy access to littoral rainforest …of good quality	136
3913188	South Brother Mountain	'important in the context of middle & north Brother Mtns	137
3913576	Southern end of Koolownk Range	'highly visible to boating public on Myall Lake	138
3913578	Spokes Lookout	'like you are sitting on the edge of the earth…vegetation	139
3913579	Spokes Mountain Trail	'Spectacular variety of forest types & montane heath..view	140
3913580	Starrs Creek	'winding through conglomerate rock walls…rainforest	141
3913581	Steep Drop Falls	'the absolutely sheer drop & face of the falls…untouched	142
3913582	Stockton Beach Forests	'track through…dunes…swamp…forest…wildflowers	143
3913583	Stockyard Creek	'limestone "fluting"…pythonwood tree…mature blue gum	144
3913584	Stoney Creek Road	'winding forest road - overtop canopy…variety forest type	
3913585	Stoney Knob	'vista of forests areas & adjacent views…firetower…grass	145
3913134	Sugar Creek Flora Reserve	'beautiful…forest…flooded gums…cabbage palms…trail	146
3913586	Sugarloaf Range	'backdrop to high population centres of Newcastle and …	147
3913219	Swan's Crossing - Kerewong State Forest	'feeling…going from dense forest …into an opening	148
3913116	Tallowwood Forest Park	'majestic tallowwood with a moist understorey…picnic	149
3913590	Tattersals	'river edge…open forest…vistas…flora.fauna	
3912957	The Blow Hole	permanent creek in limstone cutting, falls & submerged cave	150
3913592	The Bluff	'Awabakal Nature Reserve…coastal views…wildflower	151
3913591	The Bluff	'remoteness & inaccessibility of Bobin Gorge adds..value	152
3913595	The Firs Picnic Area	'Dark, ethereal, secluded picnic area within grove..pines	153

3913596	The Grandis	large tall tree	154
3913598	The Nellies	'Extraordinary views of trachyte plugs standing out	155
3913599	The Pines	'grassed area surrounded by trees…popular….facilities	156
3913601	The Rock	'unusual granodiorite rock outcrop resembling…anatomy	157
3913602	Thunderbolts Way	'scenic drive...views of mountains and scenic rivers	158
3913171	Tirrell Creek Reserve	'crystal clear water running through rainforest	159
3913604	Tobin Trig	'site was previously used by forestry as a fire tower	
3912870	Tomaree Head and Tomaree NP	'360 degree view…Tomaree NP hills as backdrop	160
3913607	Tooses Top	'views	161
3913608	Tramline Bridge	'remains of a timber bridge and tramline	162
3913609	Trestle Bridge	'remains of a timber bridge built for the tramline	
3913610	TSR Temagog and Road reserve	'unlogged dry hardwood..Macleay river base - only one left	163
3913611	Tuckabunyabah / Tinebank Mountain	'spectacular cliffs, waterfalls, orchids	164
3913613	Tuggolo Fire Trail	'views and nice drives through pockets of rainforest	165
3913614	Tuggolo Scenic Plateau & Scarp	'old growth tallowwood … adjoining spectacular gorges	166
3913207	Vincent's Lookout	'panoramic views…rugged cliff face	167
3913619	Violet Hill Lookout	views…previous shacks & farm…camping/ picnic…boat	168
3913622	Waihou Flora Reserve	sandstone escarpments with sandstone vegetation …views	169
3913194	Waitui Falls	waterfalls	170
3913623	Wallaroo Hill	'firetower with lookout platform, vistas…rocky outcrop	171
3913624	Wallingat Forest Drive	'loop road through beautiful …production forest	172
3913625	Wallingat River picnic sites	'Wallingat River… open oak forest…camping, picnic area	173
3913119	Wallingat State Forest	'visual backdrop	174
3913626	Wallis-Myall Lakes	'tall forest meets mosaic of coastal lakeside communities	175
3913628	Wattle Flat Camping & Picnic Area	'nice camping and picnic area on river flats beside…river	176
3913629	Weir - Doyles River	'weir itself is a distinguishing feature	
3913136	Whoota Whoota Lookout	'views…forms backdrop to…lake…access to all vehicles	177
3911807	Wild Cattle Creek State Forest	'rainforest by a river …Antarctic beech & old growth .	178
3913630	Williams River Trail/Riverside Forest Walk	'towering forest giants…moss covered boulders…river	179
3913631	Wilson River Flora Reserve	'water in the river is pristine; beautiful location…rainforest	180
3913632	Wingen Maid Nature Reserve	'sandstone outcrop ridgeline	181
3913633	Wingham Management	forested backdrop ridges	182

	Area		
3912873	Wollemi National Park	'numerous views of tertiary sandstone clifflines & escarp'ts	183
3912745	Wollomombi Falls & Gorge	'deep gorge - easily accessible; good views; nice day trip	184
3904330	Wootton railway and trestle bridge	railway and bridge	185
3913634	Yacabah Head	'isolated forested headland; very prominent…views	186
3913635	Yessabah Nature Reserve	outcrop with limestone caves…'only 15km from Kempsey'	187
3913636	Yuelarbah Track/Flaggy Creek	'remnant littoral rainforest on the doorstep of Newcastle	188

Notes: Places without Map Identification Numbers have not been grid referenced to the required standard for digitisation. Additional places were identified as having aesthetic value at Community Heritage Workshops

APPENDIX 2

**LIST OF 15 PLACES IN THE LOWER NORTH EAST CRA REGION THAT WERE
DOCUMENTED FOR AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Sites Selected And Inspected In The Lower North East CRA Region	Sites for which Full Heritage Inventory Forms were prepared	Reasons for site selection. Refer to Appendix 3 for description of number codes
Bellinger Escarpment	X	18
Dingo Tops Area	X	9
Dorrigo National Park		22
Griffiths Lookout	X	16
Jolly Nose Hill	X	21
McGraths Hump	X	15
Middle Brother Mountain		19
Mt Sugarloaf & Sugarloaf Range		15
North Brother Mountain	X	19
Oxley Wild Rivers National Park		5,7,8,13,14,16,18 26
Point Lookout	X	16
Queen Lake State Forest		12,22,23
Seal Rocks Rainforest		12,22,
South Brother Mountain		19
Sugar Creek Flora Reserve	X	23
Swans Crossing		2
The Nellies	X	21
Waitui Falls	X	26
Wallingat State Forest	X	1,2,9,11,12,15
Wallis - Myall Lakes	X	4,12
Whoota - Whoota Lookout	X	6,11,16
Wollemi National Park	X	5,10,14,18
Wollomombi Falls and Gorge	X	26

Note: Most but not all reasons listed in Appendix 3 are represented in Appendix 2 because sites associated with each reason were selected from the Lower as well as Upper North East CRA Region. Appendix 2 refers only to sites in the Lower North East CRA region.
For example, although a site was sampled in the Upper North East CRA region for ancient or unlogged forests, (Reason 3 in Appendix 3), one was not sampled in the Lower North East CRA Region. This reason was identified for very few sites in the Lower North East CRA region. The Barrington Tops area was identified for this reason and it was originally planned to inspect this site, however storm damage prevented access to the area throughout the period when inspections were carried out in the LNE.

It is beyond the scope of this report to analyse the data further.

APPENDIX 3

.9 SUMMARY OF REASONS GIVEN AT FOREST STAFF WORKSHOPS FOR IDENTIFYING PLACES AS BEING OF AESTHETIC VALUE

Appendix 3 contains a summary of reasons for identifying places as being of aesthetic value, as given by NPWS and SFNSW workshop participants. The workshops were held in Casino, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Port Macquarie and Raymond Terrace in April 1998. These workshop venues were chosen to correspond to the locations of regional offices of the SFNSW and NPWS, within the UNE and LNE CRA Regions of NSW. Information was provided by 27 workshop participants, plus nineteen other staff who forwarded information after the workshops.

After cross-referencing places identified by different people at different workshops, a list of 326 places in the UNE and LNE CRA regions was compiled. Staff participants at any one workshop were able to identify places that they were familiar with in both the UNE and LNE CRA Regions. Many staff had worked in more than one district within these regions. After applying the three triggers developed by the Cultural Heritage Working Group to the list of sites identified at workshops, 295 sites remained for consideration.

The consultant then selected a range of 46 sites for inspection and future documentation across the UNE and LNE CRA Regions of NSW, to give a representative sample of the range of reasons given below.

Twenty-three of these 46 sites were located in the LNE CRA region. This list of 23 sites inspected was further reduced by the application of the threshold criteria derived from the NSW Community Heritage Values Identification and Assessment Project for Upper and Lower North East Regions Vol. 2, Social Value Assessment, as summarised in Appendix 2.

SUMMARY OF REASONS GIVEN AT FOREST STAFF WORKSHOPS FOR IDENTIFYING SITES OF AESTHETIC VALUE IN UPPER AND LOWER NORTH EAST CRA REGIONS

NUMBER	REASON
1	Aesthetic value experienced at a picnic spot
2	Aesthetic value experienced when camping
3	Ancient or unlogged forest specifically mentioned
4	Attractive and accessible place with rocks or sand
5	Cliffs and vegetation in combination
6	Coastal view
7	Crystal clear or otherwise attractive creek in combination with rainforest
8	Diverse forest walking trail
9	Drive through the forest
10	Forest adds interest to a contrasting valley

11	Forest is contrast to nearby urban area
12	Forest/ water / hill combination
13	Gorge or cliffs combined with water or a river
14	Gorges or "deeply incised "country
15	Hills forming a forested backdrop to somewhere
16	Lookout or extensive view
17	Many vantage points in one area
18	Outcrop, ridgeline, cliffs or escarpment above a valley
19	Prominent peak
20	Remoteness feeling experienced at the place, even if the place is not in a physically remote location
21	Rock outcrop and forest combination
22	The feeling that is engendered primarily by the vegetation
23	The trees are the main feature
24	Vegetation attractive with snow on it
25	View
26	Waterfall
27	Wetlands and forest contrast
28	Wildflowers

APPENDIX 4

.10 COMPLETED HERITAGE INVENTORY FORMS

The following 15 sites are documented on the attached Heritage Inventory Forms which incorporate data fields for the NSW State Heritage Inventory and the Commonwealth Register of the National Estate.

■

Place Name
Bellinger Escarpment from Point Lookout to Glennifer
Dingo Tops Area
Griffith Lookout
Jolly Nose Hill
McGraths Hump
North Brother Mountain
Point Lookout
Sugar Creek Flora Reserve
The Nellies
Waitui Falls
Wallingat State Forest
Wallis - Myall Lakes
Whoota Whoota Lookout
Wollemi National Park
Wollomombi Falls

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1.   O'Brien, M. and J. Ramsay, *Assessing Aesthetic Values of Landscapes for the Register of the National Estate: A Discussion Paper.* Prepared for the Australian Heritage Commission, 1991.

2.   NSW CRA/RFA Environment and Heritage Technical Committee for NSW RFA Steering Committee, *Technical framework for environment and heritage assessments in the NSW CRA/RFA process,* 1998.

3.   O'Brien and Ramsay, *loc. cit.*

4.   *Assessment of the Aesthetic Significance of forested areas within the NSW CRA regions, Stage 2,* Project Brief.

5.   Johnston, Chris of CONTEXT PTY LTD, *NSW Community Heritage Values Identification and Assessment Project for the Upper and Lower North East Regions, Vol. 1 Workshop Overview & Volume 2 Social Value Assessment*, 1998.

6.   Bickford A., Brayshaw H. and Proudfoot H., *Thematic Forest History and Heritage Assessment (Non Indigenous) UNE/LNE CRA regions,* for NSW CRA/ RFA Steering Committee, June 1998, p3.