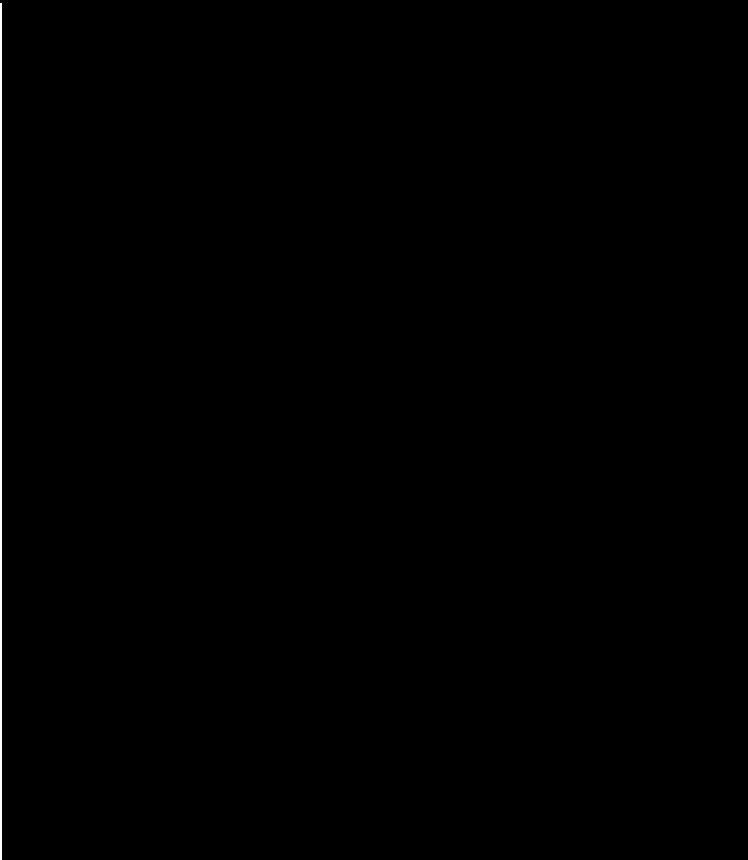# Assessment of Places of Aesthetic Significance within the forested areas of NSW CRA regions (Statewide) Stage 2 Upper North East Region

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 UPPER NORTH EAST CRA REGION

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CONTENTS

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 UNE 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 seven named sites were identified from the Forest Staff Workshops in the UNE 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. Fifty-five of the 107 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 three 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, 11 sites in the UNE 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 11 assessed sites is contained in the Heritage Inventory Forms available in Appendices 4 and 5 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

1.1 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, which 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)

1.2 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 11 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.

1.3 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.

1.4 STUDY AREA

The Upper North East (UNE) CRA Region runs from south of Coffs Harbour along the eastern seaboard north to the Queensland and NSW State border and extends west to include the towns of Tenterfield and Glen Innes. Refer to the attached map.

1.5 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	Blackbutt Plateau
Regional	Bundjalung National Park
Regional	Gibraltar Range National Park
State	Stotts Island
Documentation of aesthetic significance	
Regional	Bald Rock
State	Minyon Falls
State	Mount Warning National Park
State	Mount Warning Caldera
Regional	Raspberry Lookout
Local	The Pinnacle
Local	Tooloom Lookout

2. METHODOLOGY

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. They 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 locations 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 seven sites in UNE 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 UNE 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 11 sites in UNE was made. These were documented on Heritage Inventory Forms:

- Four sites documented for aesthetic significance; and
- Seven sites documented for aesthetic value but also possessing other cultural, social or natural values with details of aesthetic significance included.

These sites were mapped.

3. RESULTS

One hundred and seven forested places of aesthetic value in the UNE CRA Region were identified at Forest Staff Workshops. Refer to Appendix 1 of this report. Fifty-five of these 107 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,
- granite landscapes, wildflower patches, lookouts and picnic spots in the Australian bush
- landscapes which appear untouched by people
- places where the processes of nature can be experienced or observed

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 11 sites in the UNE CRA Region. Refer to Appendices 4 and 5.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This report presents the outcomes of the National Estate and State Heritage assessment of the places of aesthetic value in the UNE 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 UNE 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 UNE 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 11 places was carried out in the UNE CRA region. One hundred and seven 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 also be documented for locational data comprising eastings and northings. This level of documentation was acceptable for inclusion in the State Cultural Heritage Database. Eleven of the 107 places identified at Forest Staff Workshops in the UNE 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 11 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 107 sites, as mapped at 1:25 000 scale during or after Forest Staff Workshops. However most of the 107 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 Heritage Inventory Form documentation prepared for 11 sites in the UNE CRA region.

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

    - Eleven 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.

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 UNE 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

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 Upper North East CRA Region of NSW.

Heritage Item ID	Item Name	Map ID number	Item Description
3913415	Acacia Plateau	1	plateau with dramatic cliff line
3912101	Bald Rock	2	monolithic granite rock
3911762	Bangalore Creek Falls	3	waterfall
3913425	Basket Swamp and Bark Hut Creeks, Boonoo Boonoo SF	4	The process of mists condensing, creeks forming and flowing across the land
3911884	Big Scrub Flora Reserve	5	rainforest
3913432	Billyrimba Creek	6	"creek meanders peacefully through…"
3913433	Black Bull Flora Reserve	7	unlogged blackbutt
3911886	Blackbutt Plateau	8	"amazing snow lichen & blackbutt "
3913434	Bobo Waterfall	9	waterfall
3911622	Bolivia Hill	10	visually prominent granite monoliths
3912119	Bongil Bongil National Park	11	diverse littoral vegetation, sand dunes
3911885	Boomerang Falls	12	waterfall
3912099	Boonoo Boonoo Falls	13	waterfall
3913435	Boorock State Forest	14	old growth, views, swamps
3913439	Browns Knob	15	ocean views, vegetation
3913440	Bruxner Park Flora Reserve and Orara East Old Growth	16	rainforest, views, old growth, palms
3913442	Bundagen	17	littoral rainforest
3912061	Bundjalung National Park	18	coastal waterway, sweeping heath, dunes
3913443	Bundoozle FR	19	old growth, rainforest,
3911702	Butterleaf State Forest	20	range of geology and vegetation
3912006	Cambridge Plateau	21	rainforest, prominent valley backdrop
3912151	Cathedral Rock	22	granite outcrops, views, flora
	Cedar Creek	23	Swimming hole, rainforest, relaxation
3913452	Chaelundi Bluff	24	view
3913455	Cibum Margul Swamp	25	natural perched dune lake
3911795	Clouds Creek Falls and Gorge	26	waterfall
3913459	Coffs airport heath and wet heath	27	coastal heath
3913462	Couchy Creek	28	"beautiful picnic creek…rainforest"
3911638	Crown Mountain	29	"spectacular granite dome" … walking
3911700	Dandahra Falls	30	waterfall
3911992	Dome Mountain, Edinburgh Castle, Beehive, Obelisk	31	"dramatic cliffs, rainforest…remoteness "

3911897	Doon Doon and Environs	32	prominent local landforms
3913470	Doon Doon Saddle	33	"excellent views, winds belt up the valley
3913471	Dry Stone Walls - Silky Rd.	34	aesthetic feeling associated with old site
3913480	Fortis Creek NP	35	wildflowers, sandstone, plants
3911758	Gibraltar Range National Park	36	"wildflowers…fantastic rock sculptures"
3913483	Glassy Mountain	37	"cliffs, vegetation, remote…dome "
3911597	Glenugie Peak	38	"prominent feature..dry rainforest …"
3913486	Goanna Headland	39	wildflowers, views, headland
3913492	Guy Fawkes Lookout	40	lookout over gorge for non walkers
3911891	Hidden Valley	41	"a basin of rainforest…in good condition
3913499	Koreelah Creek	42	"pretty creek… boulders…old bridge"
3913504	Levers Plateau	43	"very well developed rainforest "
3913505	Liberation Fire Trail	44	"scenic 4WD track - good views "
3911763	Little Nymboida Falls	45	"excellent swimming pool…granite rock"
3913509	London Bridge forest plateau	46	"unique lush plateau…precipitous cliffs"
3913512	Lower Tweed Estuary	47	canoe in mangroves cf urban nearby
3911685	Mann River Reserve	48	"wild and scenic rivers…views…plants"
3913515	McLeod's Shoot	49	"just love that feeling at reaching this point and seeing across Byron Bay area…
3911890	Minyon Falls Flora Reserve	50	"highly scenic…palms…walks…picnic "
3911792	Mobong Falls and Flora Reserve	51	waterfall, rainforest & wet sclerophyll
3913520	Moonee Reserve	52	"beach and headlands"
3913528	Mount Doughboy & Mt Tarrauyra	53	prominent local landforms
3913529	Mount Glennie	54	"cliff lined plateau - isolated from valley
3913531	Mount Hyland and eastern slopes	55	prominent feature, rainforest
3911876	Mount Jerusalem	56	"excellent views to the west…forest"
3913533	Mount Matheson	57	rainforest, views to Mt Warning, rock
3911973	Mount Nothafagus and Antarctic Beech Tree	58	"rainforest clad valley.. undisturbed
3913538	Mount Topper SF & Crown Reserve	59	"good quality open forest…good view"
3911904	Mount Warning Caldera (Whole Caldera)	60	"panoramic scenic views..forest…creeks"
3911903	Mount Warning	61	"prominent peak, views
3911990	Mount Lindesay	62	dramatic cliffs, forest
3911967	Nightcap Mountain	63	views
	Nimbin Rocks	64	Prominent rocks with speculative characterisation
3911771	Norman Jolly Reserve	65	"genuine moist hardwood old growth"
3913546	North Creek	66	"forest…canoe…to experience solitude"
3913547	North Obelisk Mountain / Conto Crown	67	one of several dramatic local mountains

3904578	Nymboida Bridge	68	"view, water and historical association
3913548	Nymboida Gorge	69	"wild and scenic river"
3911701	Peregrine Point	70	"spectacular views from wild gorge"
3913556	Pillar Creek / Head of Calico Creek	71	quality forest
3912121	Pine Creek Canoe Trip	72	canoe trip along creek with epiphytes
3911696	Raspberry Lookout	73	"stunning outlook to Mann wilderness"
3913564	Raspberry Road, Styx River SF-gorges	74	forest road with views at the end
3913567	Richmond Range National Park	75	"Cambridge Plateau rainforest "
3913568	Rocky Creek and Rainforest	76	"well developed ..rainforest..creek"
3913569	Rocky Creek Falls	77	waterfall
3913570	Sandstone escarpment between Coffs Harbour and Grafton	78	"scenic…when driving through to Grafton
3912124	Sealy Lookout and Sealy Park Flora Reserve	79	views and vegetation
3912140	Sherwood Cliffs	80	views, vegetation
3913572	Sherwood Lookout	81	views
3913573	Sherwood Rest Area	82	views
3913577	Sphinx Rock	83	"cardboard cutout rock" prominent rock
3911926	Stott's Island Nature Reserve	84	lowland rainforest, visually appealing
3913587	Sydney Heads	85	"massive sandstone cliffs…flora …"
	Terania Creek Basin	86	Protestors Falls, rainforest, walking, swimming
3913597	The Granites Lookout	87	"views over rainforest …great sunsets"
3913600	The Pinnacle	88	"prominent ridge…very dramatic… view"
3911723	Timbarra Plateau	89	views, interesting and diverse vegetation
3913603	Tin Swamp	90	"swamp with elevated rocky islands"
3912001	Tooloom Falls	91	waterfall and creek
3911713	Tooloom Lookout	92	views
3913605	Tooloom Trig	93	views
3913606	Toonumbar Fire Tower	94	views
3913612	Tuckers Nob	95	natural, aesthetic
3913615	Tyagrah - Tea Tree Lake	96	"beautiful place to float on a tea tree lake
3913616	Urbenville Volcanic Feature	97	dramatic landform
3913617	Urumbilum Waterfalls	98	waterfalls, rainforest
3913618	Victoria Park	99	rainforest
3913620	Vista Point	100	views
3912116	Wallaby Creek	101	"one undisturbed catchment", forested
3911840	Wanganui Gorge And Escarpments	102	"impressive gorge ..waterfalls...rainforest
3913347	Waratah Trig	103	views, plants
3911727	Washpool National Park	104	"rainforest…beautiful streams"
3911807	Wild Cattle Creek State Forest	105	rainforest, river, antarctic beech,
3911614	Yuraygir National Park	106	coastal heath, freshwater lakes
3913594	The Coastal Range - northern NSW	107	backdrop to coast, forests,

Note: Additional places were identified as having aesthetic value at Community Heritage Workshops. Refer to the report "*NSW Community Heritage Values Identification and Assessment Project for the Upper and Lower North East Regions, Vol. 2, Social Value Assessment*" (Context 1998).

APPENDIX 2

Sites Selected And Inspected In The Upper North East CRA Region	Sites Assessed For Aesthetic Significance Only	Sites For Which Full Heritage Inventory Forms Were Prepared	Reasons for site selection. Refer to appendix 3 for description of number codes
Bald Rock	X		19,
Basket Swamp and Bark Hut Creeks, Boonoo Boonoo State Forest			10,
Blackbutt Plateau		X	22,20,25
Bruxner Park and Orara East Old Growth			1,3,
Bundjalung National Park		X	2,4,6,27,28
Bundoozle Flora Reserve			7
Cedar Creek			7, 4
Couchy Creek			7,4
Dandahra Crags area			28
Doon Doon Saddle			25
Doughboy			19
Gibraltar Range National Park		X	28
Hidden Valley			7,5
Minyon Falls	X		26
Mount Warning	X		19
Mount Warning Caldera	X		17,18,10
Raspberry Lookout	X		16,14
Sealy Lookout and Flora Reserve			11
Sphinx Rock			5, 19
Stotts Island		X	10,22
The coastal range, northern NSW			12
The Pinnacle	X		8,25
Tooloom Lookout	X		25

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 Upper North East CRA region. For example, although forest drives exist in the Upper North East CRA Region, the Appendix 3 Item "Drive through the forest" was not given as a reason for identification of places as being of aesthetic value, but it was in the Lower North East CRA Region. It is beyond the scope of this report to analyse the data further in this manner

APPENDIX 3

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 Twenty-seven workshop participants and 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, 296 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 UNE 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

COMPLETED HERITAGE INVENTORY FORMS

The following four 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.

- Blackbutt Plateau

- Bundjalung National Park

- Gibraltar Range National Park

- Stotts Island Nature Reserve

APPENDIX 5

SITES DOCUMENTED FOR AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE. THESE SITES ALSO POSSESS OTHER SOCIAL OR HISTORIC VALUES.

The aesthetic significance assessment components of Heritage Inventory Form documentation for seven sites are attached. This data will be incorporated into Heritage Inventory Forms completed for social or historic significance in the UNE CRA region.

- Bald Rock
- Minyon Falls
- Mount Warning National Park
- Mount Warning Caldera
- Raspberry Lookout
- The Pinnacle
- Tooloom Lookout

November 1998
Assessment of Places of
Aesthetic Significance within the forested areas of the NSW CRA regions (Statewide) Stage 2

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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.

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