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Form to assist compliance with Regulation 77 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 Application for Certification of a Preliminary Aboriginal Heritage Test for the purposes of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*

This form specifies the format in which an application should be prepared when a person is seeking certification of a preliminary Aboriginal heritage test under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* ('Act'). Attach additional sheets where further space is required. This form may be used with a TAX INVOICE (if applicable) when fully completed and payment is made. Refer to the [Australian Taxation Office](#) website for information on the requirements of tax invoices. The prescribed fee* for this evaluation is:

PAHT Name: 1120 Thompsons Road Cranbourne West

Prescribed Fee \$706.41

SECTION 1 – Applicant information

Name of applicant: [REDACTED]
Business name: [REDACTED]
Postal address: [REDACTED]
Telephone number: [REDACTED] Fax number: _____
Email address: [REDACTED] ABN (if any): _____

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information supplied in this application is correct and complete. I agree to indemnify the Secretary, the Minister and the Crown against all claims, damages, costs, liabilities or loss including in relation to all actions, claims or demands which may be made in connection with the certification of any preliminary Aboriginal heritage test as a result of this application.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Date: [REDACTED]

OUTCOMES

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

	Yes	No
Is a cultural heritage management plan required by the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is any Aboriginal cultural heritage present in the activity area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is it likely the activity will impact any Aboriginal cultural heritage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is an authorisation to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage needed to allow the activity to proceed in its current form?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CERTIFICATION

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SECRETARY (OR DELEGATE)

	Yes	No
I have considered the preliminary Aboriginal heritage test, and I am satisfied that the preliminary Aboriginal heritage test has been prepared in accordance with the prescribed form for the purposes of section 49B of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> and Schedule 6 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Acting under authority delegated to me by the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and pursuant to section 49C(2) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, I hereby certify / ~~refuse to certify~~ this preliminary Aboriginal heritage test:

Signed: [REDACTED]
Name: [REDACTED]
Title: [REDACTED]
Dated: [REDACTED]

PAHT Number: [REDACTED]

Compliance with this certified Preliminary Aboriginal Heritage Test is mandatory should the proposed activity occur. Officers from the Department of Premier and Cabinet may attend the subject land to monitor compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. It is an offence under section 27 and 28 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* to do an act that harms Aboriginal cultural heritage.

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* refer to regulation 83 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations for details relating to preliminary Aboriginal heritage test prescribed fees.

SECTION 2: Person(s) involved in preparing the test

If the preliminary Aboriginal heritage test was prepared by another person / organisation on behalf of the applicant:

Name of representative(s): _____
Business name: _____
Postal address: _____
Telephone number: _____ Fax number: _____
Email address: _____ ABN (if any): _____

SECTION 3: Land owner or occupant of the activity area

Name of land owner / occupant: _____
Business name: _____
Postal address: _____
Telephone number: _____ Fax number: _____
Email address: _____ ABN (if any): _____

SECTION 4: Description of the activity area

Provide a detailed description of the proposed activity area, including a statement detailing the previous land use and a description of the location and nature of any areas of cultural heritage sensitivity located within the proposed activity area (include additional information in attachments if required). Include as part of the application a:

- map (to scale, and including a north arrow) of the proposed activity area and any associated areas of cultural heritage sensitivity or locations of Aboriginal cultural heritage; and
- shp. file (projected to GDA94) accurately showing the location of the proposed activity area.

The activity area is approximately 1.34 hectares in size and comprises part of the land contained in 1120 Thompsons Road, Cranbourne West. The activity area is bounded by the balance of 1120 Thompsons Road, Cranbourne West to the north, south, east and west (Map 1).

Under Regulation 25 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*, the activity area is located within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity as it is located within 50m of one registered cultural heritage place which is listed on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR), 280 Evans Rd (7921-1521 [VAHR]) (Maps 2 and 3).

Recent satellite imagery indicates that the activity area comprises partially cleared and partially vegetated land with an existing Ausnet transmission facility.

It should be noted that this PAHT has been prepared following certification of PAHT 243. All aspects of this PAHT remain unchanged from that contained in PAHT 243 aside from the depth of impact of the proposed activity.

Size of the proposed activity area (medium)*: 1.34 hectares _____
Address: 1120 Thompsons Road, Cranbourne West _____
Volume and folio details: Lot 1 PS823207 _____
Registered Aboriginal parties for the proposed activity area: Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation _____
Local Government Council for the proposed activity area: City of Casey _____

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*Refer to the definitions of large activity, medium-sized activity and small activity in regulation 81 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*.

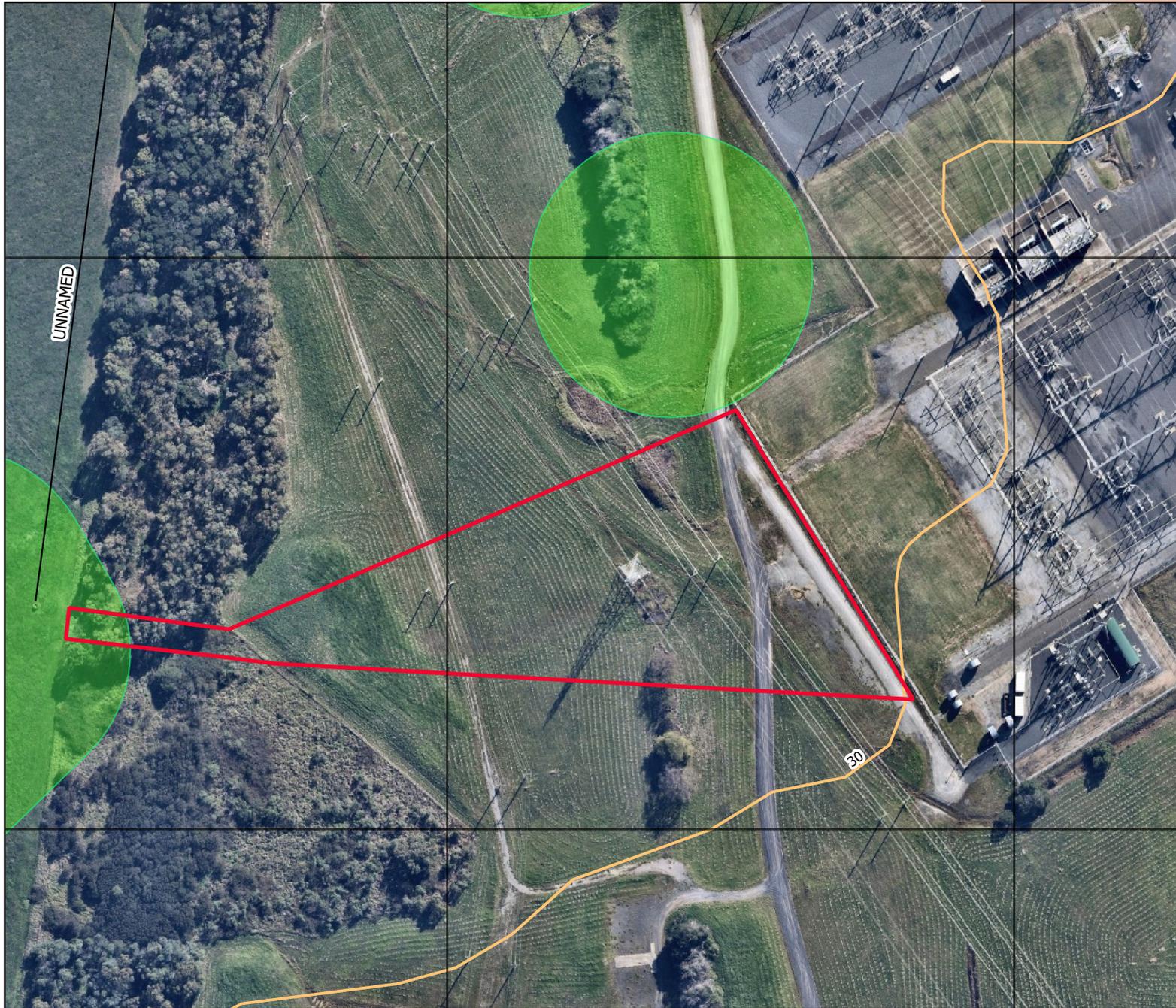
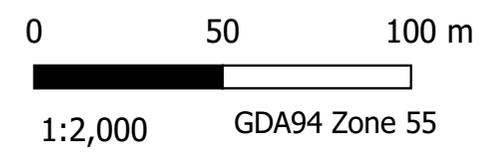
Map 1: Location and Extent of the Activity Area (City of Casey)



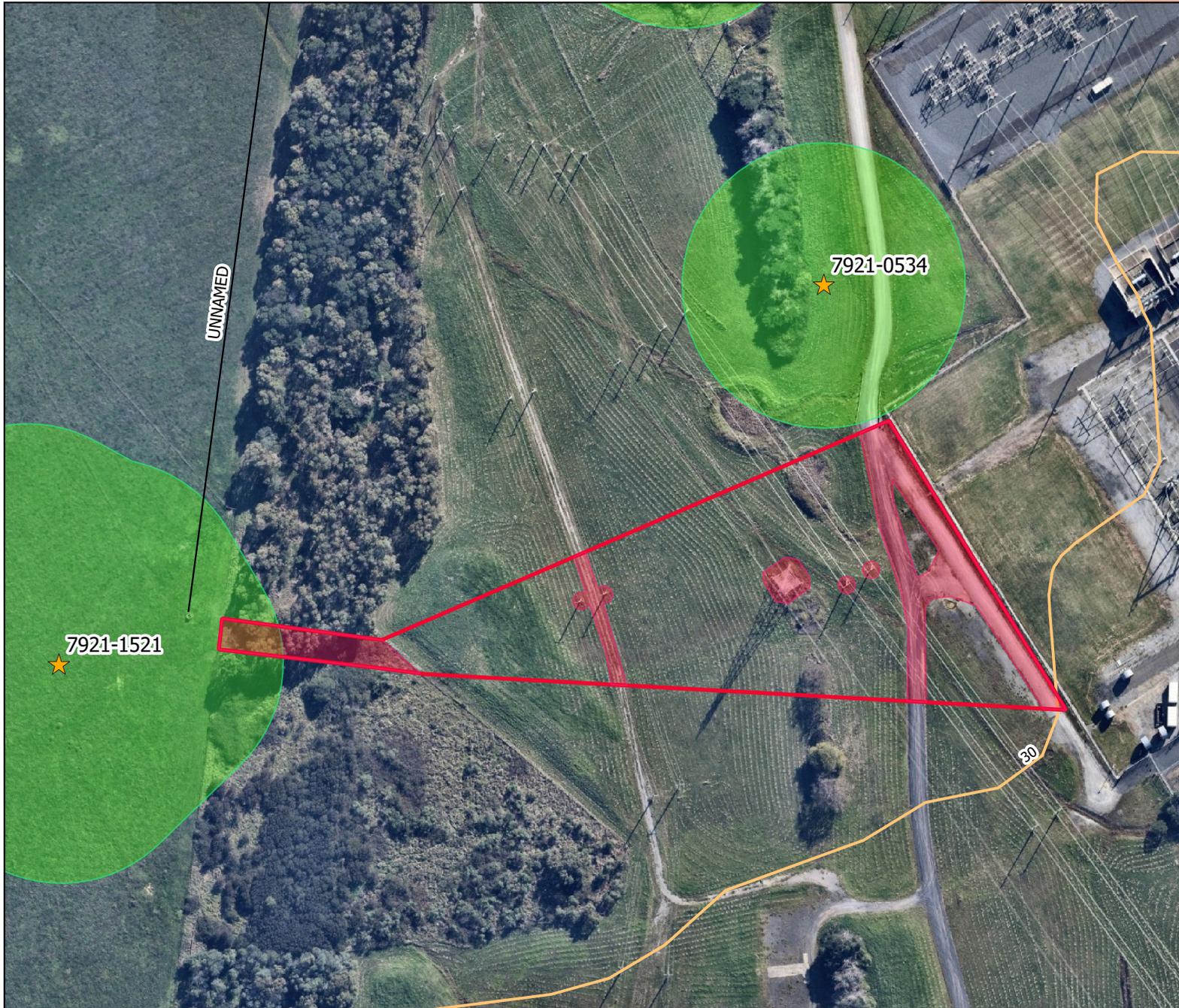
Legend

-  Activity Area
-  Road
-  Contour
-  Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

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Map 2: Areas of Significant Ground Disturbance within the Activity Area



Legend

- Activity Area
- Areas of Significant Ground Disturbance
- VAHR Place**
- Artefact Scatter
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- Road
- Contour

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0 50 100 m



1:2,000

GDA94 Zone 55

Map 3: Aboriginal Places within 200m of the Activity Area

5783500N

5783250N

UNNAMED

UNNAMED

7921-0533

7921-0534

7921-1521

30

347500E

347750E

Legend

 Activity Area

VAHR Place

 Artefact Scatter

 Road

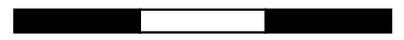
 Contour

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N



0 50 100 150 m



1:3,000

GDA94 Zone 55

SECTION 5 – Description of the activity

Provide a detailed description of the proposed activity, including:

- a description of whether the proposed activity is a listed high impact activity under Division 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018; and
- a description of how the proposed activity will or will not cause significant ground disturbance.

Macquarie Corporate Holdings intends to install electrical cabling as an extension of the existing transmission station within the activity area. This will involve trenching, installation of the cable and connections to a utility (electrical sub station) located within 280 Evans Road, immediately west of the current activity area. This will cause significant ground disturbance to an approximate depth of 1.2m. The cable easement will be approximately 5m wide and 300m long, however the exact alignment within the defined activity area has not yet been defined.

The connection to the utility (electrical sub station) outside the activity is covered by CHMP #12874. Under this CHMP harm can occur to the registered Aboriginal place 280 Evans Rd (7921-1521 [VAHR]) after salvage excavations have been undertaken. These salvage works were undertaken in 2019 by Stammers (salvage report # 4994)

The proposed activity is not considered to be a high impact activity under 46(3) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*, as the proposed works are for or associated with a purpose for which the activity area was lawfully used prior to 28 May 2007 (utility installation where the works affect an area exceeding 25 square meters, r.46[1][b][xxviii][D]). Additionally, the works are also considered to comprise minor works associated with an existing high impact activity, (r. 15(2)(c) and therefore are exempt.

Therefore, whilst part of the activity area is located within a mapped area of cultural heritage sensitivity, the activity is not considered to be high impact. As such, there is no requirement under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to be prepared and approved for the proposed cable installation for land within part of 1120 Thompsons Road Cranbourne West.

Yes **No**

Will the proposed activity cause significant ground disturbance?

Is the proposed activity a high impact activity listed under Division 5 of Part 2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018?

Is a statutory authorisation required to use the land for a purpose specified under regulation 46(1) (refer to regulation 58)?

SECTION 6: Background assessment

Provide a description of the geographic region, landforms, and geomorphology of which the proposed activity area forms a part and how they relate to the Aboriginal cultural heritage of this region area (include additional information in attachments if required):

Geographic Region: The geographic region of which the activity area forms a part, and which is relevant to any Aboriginal cultural heritage which may be present within the activity area, is the Cranbourne West region. The geographic region is bounded by Pound Road to the north, Narre Warren-Cranbourne Road and Cameron Street to the east, Sladen Street and Hall Road to the south, and the Western Port Highway and South Gippsland Freeway to the west. This area is considered to be a representational portion of the geology and geomorphology of the activity area as it contains a large sample of the same geomorphology and geology sited in the region.

Geology: The geology of the activity area comprises Red Bluff Sandstone (Nbr). This geology was laid down between the Miocene epoch (approximately 23.03 million to 5.332 million years ago) and the Pliocene epoch (approximately 5.332 million to 2.588 million years ago) of the Neogene Period. The Red Bluff Sandstone consists of lithostratigraphic (channeled stream flow [fluvial]) deposits including sandstone and conglomerate with local ironstone (DJPR 2019a).

Geomorphology: The activity area is situated within the Coastal plains with ridges and dunefields (Brighton, Cranbourne) geomorphological unit (DPC 2021). This geomorphological unit is a subunit of the Eastern Plains and is characterised by a series of low parallel dunefields running in a northwest direction representing Neogene dune ridges and former coastlines (DJPR 2019b).

Flora: Prior to 1750, vegetation in the activity area consisted of Plains Grassland/Plains Grassy Woodland mosaic (Ecological Vegetation Class [EVC] 897) (DELWP 2020). This EVC consisted of a mosaic of two distinct vegetation classes; Plains Grassland (EVC 132) and Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55). Plains Grassland (EVC 132) is characterised by a treeless vegetation dominated by herbaceous and grassy species, with the occasional presence of trees and shrubbery. Species present would have included small, medium and large herbs, and small to medium graminoid species (DSE 2004).

Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) occurs across a number of geologies and soil types, within poorly drained, fertile soils on flat to gently undulating plains at low elevations. This vegetation class is characterised by a eucalypt woodland up to 15m tall, over an understorey of sparse shrubbery, and a species rich grass and herbaceous ground layer. Species present would have included *Eucalyptus ereticornis* ssp. *mediana* (Gippsland Red-gum), *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red-gum) and small medium and large herbaceous, grass, shrub and graminoid species, and lichen (DSE 2004).

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Eucalypt barks were commonly used by Aboriginal people to make canoes and dishes, with large burls being hollowed out and used to make water containers. Saps were used to make medicinal treatments for injuries and illness and were occasionally mixed to produce flavoured drinks or eaten raw; Eucalypt leaves were also used in medicinal steam baths (Gott and Conran 1998:50; Zola and Gott 1996:14, 55). Specifically, the inner bark of *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Messmate Stringybark) was used by Aboriginal people to make coarse string for fishing nets and bags, whilst the outer bark was used as tinder (Gott and Conran 1998: 56; Zola and Gott 1996: 60). Given the extensive uses of the natural flora associated with the geographic region, the activity area would have contained valuable natural resources that would have been utilised by Aboriginal people.

Land use history:

The activity area comprises relatively unmodified land within part of 1120 Thompsons Road, Cranbourne West. In 1939 the activity area comprised cleared farmland with a homestead complex located to the north (Figure 1). By 1975, a series of trees had been planted along various fence lines close to and within parts of the activity area, with overhead power cables also present (Figure 2). Satellite imagery dating to March 2005 shows that the transmission station was established by this time, with additional works including vehicle access tracks under construction (Figure 3). In 2010, these vehicle tracks continue through the eastern portion of the activity area, with dense vegetation now stretching across the western extent upon an artificial mound/bund that had been constructed by that time (Figure 4). The transmission station associated with the activity area has been in use since at least 2005 (Figure 3).

The construction of this bund would have involved earthworks to level this area followed by the introduction of extensive quantities of imported soil. The construction of the bund at this location would have caused significant ground disturbance to the area of cultural heritage sensitivity within the activity area (Map 2). The construction of vehicle tracks and electrical poles at various locations within the activity area would also have caused significant ground disturbance to these points (Map 2). The balance of the activity area has likely not been subjected to significant ground disturbance (Map 2). Current conditions within the activity area can be seen in Map 1.



Figure 1: Aerial photograph, 1939 (Aerial Survey of Victoria). Location of the activity area shown in red.



Figure 2: Aerial photograph, December 1977 (Aerial Survey of Victoria). Location of the activity area shown in red.

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Figure 3: Satellite image, March 2005 (Aerial Survey of Victoria). Location of the activity area shown in red.



Figure 4: Satellite image, April 2010 (NearMap). Location of the activity area shown in red.

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Provide a description of the results of the search of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register, including the access number, a list of reports and cultural heritage management plans relevant to the proposed activity area (include additional information as attachments if required):

ACHRIS Access Number: 9427. VAHR accessed 9 June 2021.

VAHR Search:

Aboriginal places within 1km of the activity area: 7921-0533, 7921-0534, 7921-0535, 7921-0536, 7921-0698, 7921-1025, 7921-1133, 7921-1521, 7921-1556

There are no Aboriginal places within the activity area, however one Aboriginal place is located within 50m the activity area. 280 Evans Rd (7921-1521 [VAHR]) comprises a sub surface artefact scatter of 155 stone artefacts made primarily on silcrete with some quartz, located on a low sandy rise adjacent to a former swamp.

Previous reports:

20, 10228, 10392, 10623, 10881, 11251, 1320, 232, 2405, 2599, 271, 2865, 2867, 2910, 2990, 3075, 3192, 3267, 3632, 373, 3883, 3973, 4011, 4120, 4164, 4289, 439, 774, 971, 4336, 11367, 11191, 4365, 11728, 4411, 11742, 4630, 13274, 13431, 2884, 13766, 15424, 16612, 13544, 14164, 12874, 14957, 16527. Previous archaeological investigations close to the activity area indicate that Aboriginal places in the region primarily comprise artefact scatters which are generally located on elevated land within deep sandy deposits adjacent to former swamplands. Low lying swales or former swamplands typically do not contain Aboriginal cultural heritage and generally comprises shallow silty clay deposits over shallow clay bases.

Thomson (2002) undertook an archaeological survey of land along Thompsons Road, Cranbourne West. The survey did not identify any new Aboriginal places, however an area of sensitivity was identified including land to the north, northeast and southeast of the current activity area. The current activity area was not identified as an area of sensitivity. Remains of a disused dairy dating to the 1940s to 1950s were also located.

A sub surface testing program was undertaken at the proposed Cranbourne Terminal Station by Muir (2003), covering part of the activity area. The sub surface testing program focused on the three areas of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity defined by Thomson (2002), although these were subsequently revised by Muir (2003). The sub surface testing program involved the excavation of 70 30x30cm shovel test pits. Lower lying land outside the activity area were also tested. Soils close to the current activity area generally comprised dark humic topsoil's over lighter grey sands to depths of approximately 83cm across the rise. Across the lowerlying landforms comprised Four Aboriginal places were identified during the excavations; Cranbourne Terminal 1 (7921-0533 [VAHR]), Cranbourne Terminal 2 (7921-0534 [VAHR]); Cranbourne Terminal 3 (7921-0535 [VAHR]); and Cranbourne Terminal 4 (7921-0536 [VAHR]). These Aboriginal places are all artefact scatters, made on silcrete and quartz and generally identified at depths of between 45cm and 60cm depth. Cranbourne Terminal 2 (7921-0534 [VAHR]) is located approximately 50m from the current activity area comprising four silcrete artefacts, generally located at 50cm depth.

Ford et al. (2009) prepared a complex CHMP (#10881) for a proposed extension of the power supply alignment at Cranbourne, covering 1120 Thompsons Road Cranbourne east. The standard assessment did not identify any new Aboriginal places within the current activity area, with no heritage associated with Cranbourne Terminal 2 (7921-0534 [VAHR]) located. An area of sensitivity was identified to the immediate north and to the southwest of the current activity area. Land comprising the activity area was not considered sensitive as it was located within a lower lying landform. The complex assessment involved the excavation of eight 1x1m test pits and three 50x50cm shovel test pits and a series of transects across the whole activity area, none of which were located within the current activity area. The closest trench to the current activity area, trench 9, revealed a soil profile consisting of a humic brown loamy topsoil to 4cm; over a brown loamy clay with gravel (5%) to 25cm; over a brown clay with 90% gravel content to 35cm, terminating at a light brown clay base. No new sub surface heritage was located in association with Cranbourne Terminal 2 (7921-0534 [VAHR]).

Murphy, Thomson and Morris (2014, amended 2019 by McNeil) prepared a complex CHMP (#12874) for land at 280 Evans Road Cranbourne West, immediately west of the current activity area. There were no previously recorded places located within the activity area. The standard assessment did not locate any new Aboriginal places, however one area of sensitivity was identified; a sandy rise located across the southwest of the activity area and immediately west of the current activity area. The complex assessment involved the excavation of one 1x1m test pit and 53 50x50cm shovel test pits. Soils typically comprised a medium brown silty sand topsoil to 7cm, overlying a dark grey brown silty sand to 47cm, overlying a dark grey brown silty sand with ironstone and coffee rock inclusions to 60cm, over a mottled orange clay base. One new Aboriginal place was located during the complex assessment, 280 Evans Rd (7921-1512 [VAHR]). This Aboriginal place comprised 112 stone artefacts predominantly made on silcrete (n=110) as well as quartz, located at 10 to 40cm depth within a ploughzone.

Stammers (2019) undertook archaeological salvage works within the pace extent of 280 Evans Rd (7921-1512 [VAHR]). A total of 16 1x1m salvage pits were excavated, with an additional 46 artefacts identified across 10 salvage pits, all associated with 280 Evans Rd (7921-1512 [VAHR]). Silcrete was the dominant raw material (n=44), with artefacts located between 25 to 55cm depth.

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SECTION 7: Ground inspection

Provide a statement of the method and conduct of the ground inspection (if any) of the proposed activity area and the names and roles of the persons who participated in the inspection:

A ground inspection was undertaken in March 2021 by Jem Archaeology Archaeologist/HA Jen Burch. Land at 1120 Thompsons Road Cranbourne West was examined. This ground inspection covered land inclusive of the activity area and surrounding the activity area. The activity area comprises relatively cleared land sloping slightly towards the west. This western extent is clearly artificially mounded and is covered with native planted vegetation. This is the location of the bund. The construction of the bund at this location has caused significant ground disturbance to the area of cultural heritage sensitivity within the activity area. Dense grasses are sporadically present throughout the activity area and surrounding land. A series of overhead power cables are present with fencing, vehicle tracks and some historic building materials also present (Photos 1 to 9, Map 1 and Map 2). The construction of these vehicle tracks and electrical poles at various locations within the activity area have caused significant ground disturbance at these points. The balance of the activity area has likely not been subjected to significant ground disturbance.



Photo 1: View of the eastern part of the activity area facing west



Photo 2: View from northeastern corner of activity area facing southwest



Photo 3: Central portion of the activity area facing east



Photo 4: Vegetated bund in the far west of the activity area facing west

If a survey for Aboriginal cultural heritage is undertaken, the results of that survey, and any details required under section 34A of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, must be submitted as part of this application.

SECTION 8: Aboriginal cultural heritage

Provide a detailed description of any Aboriginal cultural heritage in the activity area, including the registration number of the Aboriginal cultural heritage on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (Register):

N/A

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SECTION 9: Consultation

Provide details of any consultation undertaken (if any) with any relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) or Traditional Owner groups, including:

- A summary of the information provided by a relevant RAP or other person about the Aboriginal cultural heritage in the proposed activity area; and
- Any oral information provided by a relevant RAP or other person about the Aboriginal cultural heritage in the proposed activity area, if the person who provided the information consents.

N/A

SECTION 10: Significant ground disturbance

Provide a detailed description (including of the nature and extent) of the evidence of significant ground disturbance (if any) that has occurred within the activity area. Attach any figures, maps, (to scale, and including a north arrow) or aerial photographs as required:

The activity area has undergone disturbance by way of previous clearing, farming and grazing. Significant ground disturbance has occurred to the area of cultural heritage sensitivity in the western portion of the activity area due to the construction of the bund at this location. Significant ground disturbance has also been caused by establishment of the existing access tracks associated with the transmission facility together with overhead power lines and associated power poles. See Figures 1 to 4 above. The balance of the activity area that has not been affected by these activities has not been subjected to significant ground disturbance (Map 2).

SECTION 11: Conclusions

Provide details of:

- whether a cultural heritage management plan is required in relation to the proposed activity;
- whether there has been significant ground disturbance in the proposed activity area and, if so, the nature and extent of the disturbance;
- any other action recommended to protect or preserve any Aboriginal cultural heritage in the proposed activity area, including:
 - whether it is likely there is Aboriginal cultural heritage located in the activity area (other than that included on the Register)
 - what precautions should be undertaken to avoid harming Aboriginal cultural heritage
 - whether it would appear a cultural heritage permit or cultural heritage management plan must be sought to allow harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage before the activity can proceed; and
- any obstacles encountered in preparing the test.

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Satellite imagery dating to 2005 indicates that the activity area was lawfully used as a transmission station at this time. Analysis of aerial photography indicates significant ground disturbance (construction of the bund, access track and power pole construction) has occurred within the activity area (Map 2). Under Regulation 25 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018, the activity area is located within an area of cultural sensitivity as it is within 50m of one Aboriginal place previously registered on the VAHR, 280 Evans Rd (7921-1521 [VAHR]). The activity will cause significant ground disturbance due to trenching and the installation of the cable.

The entirety of the area of cultural sensitivity has been subjected to significant ground disturbance due to the construction of the bund across the western portion of the activity area. Additionally the construction of vehicle tracks and electrical poles have caused significant ground disturbance at these locations (Map 2). A number of archaeological surveys, excavations and Cultural Heritage Management Plans have been prepared for land including the activity area. Areas of potential archaeological sensitivity have previously been identified along raised landforms surrounding the activity area. None of these previous investigations identified land within the activity area has sensitivity for sub surface cultural deposits. It is unlikely that the proposed activity will harm any unidentified Aboriginal places.

Further, the activity is not considered to be high impact under r.46(3) as the works are for or associated with a purpose for which the activity area was lawfully used prior to 28 May 2007, being a utility installation where the works affect an area exceeding 25 square meters, r.46[1][b][xxvii][D]). Additionally, the works are also considered to comprise minor works associated with an existing high impact activity, (r. 15(2)(c) and therefore are exempt.

In this case a mandatory CHMP **is not** required to be prepared and approved prior to the commencement of the proposed activity.

If Aboriginal cultural heritage is identified during the proposed activity, all works within the activity area must immediately cease, the activity area fenced to prevent further disturbance and a Heritage Advisor and a registered Aboriginal party must be contacted and be contacted within one working day.

No obstacles were encountered in the preparation of this PAHT.

Aboriginal party compliance officer is available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

References:

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Muir, S. 2003. Sub-surface Testing at the Proposed Cranbourne Terminal Station, Thompsons Road, Cranbourne Victoria. Unpublished report to TXU Networks United Energy and VENCORP.

Murphy, A., S. Thomson and A. Morris. 2014. 280 Evans Road, Cranbourne West Industrial Subdivision (CHMP #12874). Unpublished report to 2 Bond St Nominees Pty Ltd.

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Zola, N. and B. Gott. 1996. **Koorie Plants, Koorie People: Traditional Aboriginal Food, Fibre and Healing Plants of Victoria**. Koorie Heritage Trust, Melbourne.

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