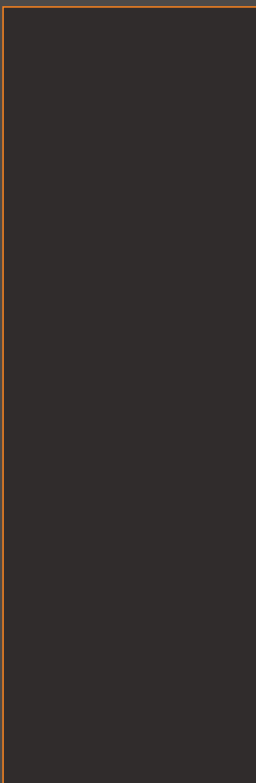




WILPINJONG COAL PROJECT

APPENDIX G

Non-Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment



APPENDIX G

WILPINJONG COAL PROJECT NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PREPARED BY

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December 2004

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G1. INTRODUCTION

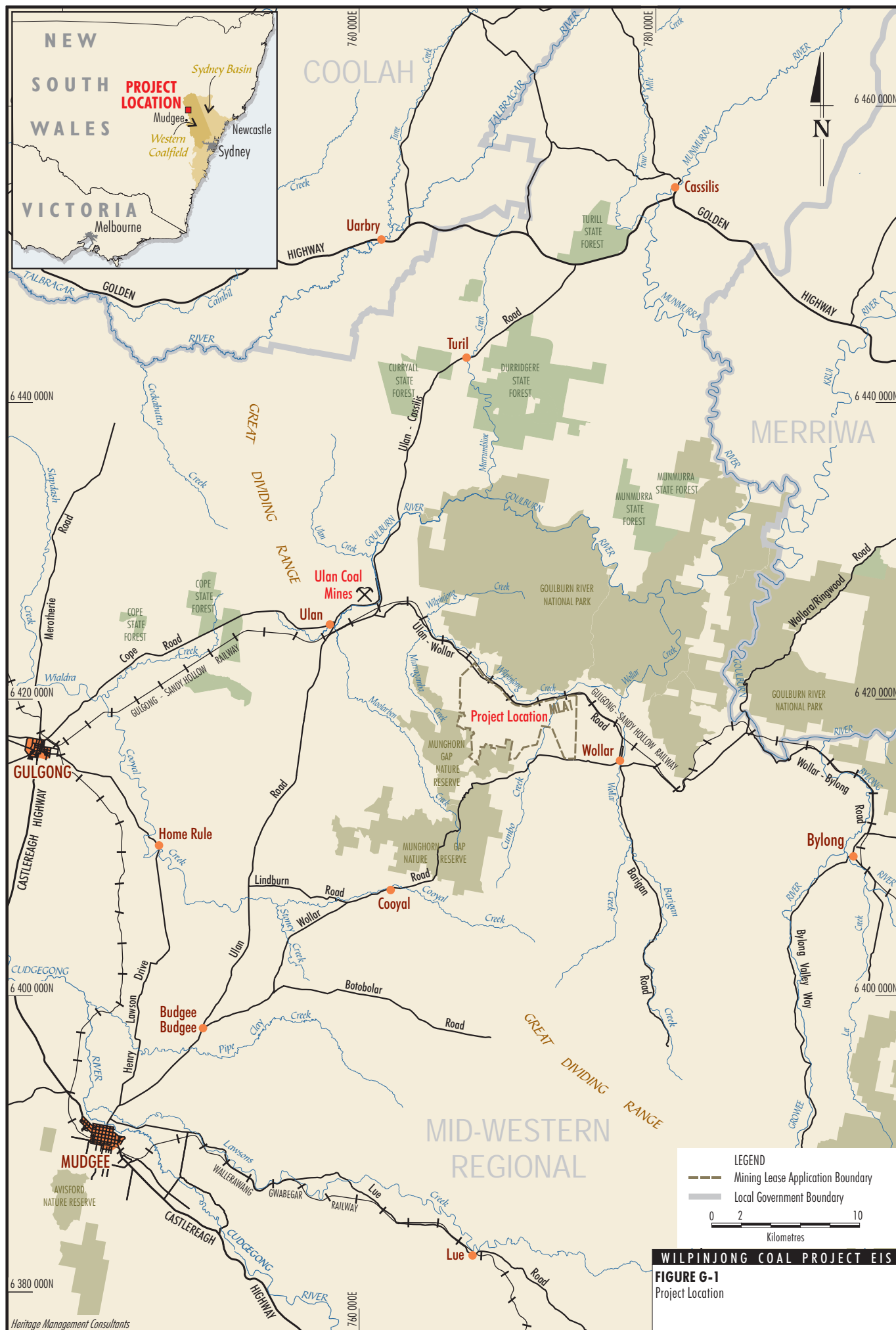
G1.1 BACKGROUND

Resource Strategies Pty Ltd has been commissioned by Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd (WCPL) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Wilpinjong Coal Project (the Project), located west of the village of Wollar in central western NSW (Figures G-1 and G-2). Heritage Management Consultants were engaged by WCPL to undertake a survey and assessment of the non-Aboriginal heritage significance of buildings and sites within the Project area, and advise on the potential impacts of the Project on them.

The Project area comprises the broad valley of the Wilpinjong and Cumbo Creeks which is largely bounded by an escarpment that rises steeply to 100-150 metres (m) above the valley floor (Figure G-2). The escarpment land is timbered and is largely part of Goulburn River National Park to the north or Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve to the south. The valley floor has been settled by Europeans since the mid-nineteenth century, and has been largely cleared for grazing and cropping. The settlement pattern was one of relatively small holdings, so there were a considerable number of residences and pastoral buildings constructed within the area, and this has been added to by some rural subdivision and the construction of weekenders and other residences on relatively small blocks.

A large part of the valley floor within the Project area will be disturbed by the Project (Figure G-2), which would include the following:

- development and operation of an open cut mine within the Mining Lease Application (MLA 1) area to produce coal for domestic electricity generation and export markets;
- selective highwall mining of the Ulan Seam within the MLA 1 area;
- a Coal Handling and Preparation Plant and mine facilities area;
- water management infrastructure including the relocation of Cumbo Creek;
- water supply bores and associated pump and pipeline system;
- placement of mine waste rock (i.e. overburden, interburden/partings and coarse rejects) predominantly within mined-out voids;
- placement of tailings within a combination of out-of-pit and in-pit tailings storages;
- development and rehabilitation of final mine landforms and establishment of woodland vegetation in areas adjacent to the Project;
- a mine access road, temporary construction camp access road, internal access roads and haul roads;



- closure of Wilpinjong Road and Bungulla Road;
- realignment of two sections of Ulan-Wollar Road (including the relocation of two road-rail crossings);
- relocation of the existing 11 kilovolt electricity transmission line;
- an on-site temporary construction camp to accommodate up to 100 people during the construction phase;
- a rail spur and rail loop;
- coal handling and train loading infrastructure;
- transportation of product coal to market via train; and
- Enhancement and Conservation Areas.

G1.2 REPORT OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the report are to:

- determine the presence and significance of non-Aboriginal heritage items within and adjacent to the Project area;
- assess the likely impact of the Project on those items of significance; and
- make recommendations for mitigating negative impacts.

G1.3 REPORT STRUCTURE

The report is structured to provide information in the following order:

- an understanding of the current heritage listings and constraints (Section G2);
- an overview of the non-Aboriginal historical context of the area (Section G3);
- a description of the survey of potential heritage items within the Project area, together with a summary of items identified as having heritage significance (Section G4); and
- an assessment of the potential heritage impacts of the Project on identified heritage items, together with proposed mitigation actions (Section G5).

G1.4 AUTHORSHIP

This report and the survey and assessment work supporting it were all undertaken by Dr Michael Pearson, of Heritage Management Consultants Pty Ltd, 84 Ballarat Street, Fisher, ACT.

G1.5 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The assistance of the following people is gratefully acknowledged:

- Lyn, Jack and Eric Robinson, ‘Castle View’, Wollar.
- Rob and Margaret Reid, ‘Mittaville’, Wollar.
- Kevin and Libby Dorahy, ‘Pine Park’ Wollar.
- Bill and Vera Langshaw, ‘Hillview’, Wollar.
- Richard and Sally Nagel, ‘Wyangle’, Wollar.
- Peter Power, ‘Spring Flat’, Wollar.
- Shirley Close, ‘Wilpin Farm’, Wollar.
- Christoe Aitken, Heritage Advisor, Mid-Western Regional Council.
- Catherine Van Laeren, Senior Town Planner, Mid-Western Regional Council.
- John Broadley, Heritage Committee, Mudgee, Mid-Western Regional Council, and Mudgee and District Historical Society.
- James Knowles, Project Geologist and Community Liaison Officer, WCPL.

G2. STATUTORY HERITAGE LISTS

G2.1 HERITAGE LISTINGS

No place within the Project area is entered in any of the following heritage registers:

- Local Environment Plan (LEP).
- NSW State Heritage Register.
- Register of the National Estate (Commonwealth).
- National Heritage List (Commonwealth).
- National Trust of Australia (NSW) Classified List.

Hence, no statutory constraint at this time applies to any of the places described in this report. The adjacent Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and Goulburn River National Park are entered in the register of the National Estate, but are not impacted by the Project. The listings for these reserves primarily note inherent flora and fauna values, however, possible cultural values (indigenous and non-indigenous) are noted for Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and significant indigenous values have been determined for Goulburn River National Park (DEH, 2005).

The Mid-Western Regional Council (incorporating the former Mudgee Shire) is currently undertaking Community Heritage Studies, including one for the Wollar area, to support future revision of the LEP.

G3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Aboriginal History

The Wilpinjong area appears to have been on the edge of Wiradjuri country, and a number of archaeological sites have been identified in the district, including rock art sites and occupation sites. Excavation of an archaeological site at Botobolar, south of the Project area, indicates occupation of the local region by at least 5,500 years ago, while occupation at Capertee, further south again, is at least 7,000 years old.¹

Aboriginal families worked on local farms in the Wilpinjong area in the nineteenth century. However, most Aboriginal families based at Wollar were forcibly removed to Brewarrina Mission Reserve in 1900, because of the fears expressed by European settlers following the series of murders carried out by Jimmy and Joe Governor, and Jacky Underwood in that year.² Members of the Governor family lived at the Wollar Reserve, and Jimmy went to school for a period at Wollar. Further information on Aboriginal history and contemporary social values is provided in a separate EIS study of Aboriginal heritage conducted by Navin Officer Heritage Consultants.

European Settlement History

William Lawson explored the upper Goulburn River in November 1822, and in the late 1820s or 1830s William Lee occupied land at Bylong, south-east of Wollar. Probably by the late 1830s, and certainly by the 1840s graziers had pushed into the Wollar area from both the west and east. In the early 1840s, George Bloodsworth, William Lee's brother-in-law, took up 'Woollara' run, south east of the Project area and the property was purchased by John McDonald in the 1850s. Robert Fitzgerald also took up large blocks of land around the later village of Wollar in the 1840s, and at the same time John Terry Hughes acquired a 760 acre block at Wilpinjong (Portion 100, Pa. Wilpinjong, now *Mittaville*) (Figure G-3), though it doesn't appear to have been occupied at that time.³

In the Wilpinjong area the 760 acre block granted to John Terry Hughes at what is now *Mittaville* was the only large landholding. The remaining settlement of the valley was based on small-holdings taken up under Sir John Robertson's *Crown Lands Alienation Act* of 1861—better known as the 'Selection' act. This legislation and its subsequent amendments opened up significant areas of land in the colony for free selection before survey, and was ultimately successful in settling, on their own holdings, large numbers of farmers and pastoralists who would otherwise have been unable to purchase rural property. This process resulted in a large number of land parcels being taken up in the Project area, many of them changing hands regularly. The successful settlers acquired the blocks of their less-successful neighbours to build up larger holdings. The recent purchases by Excel Coal (through its subsidiary Cumbo Land Pty Ltd) represent the largest amalgamation under single ownership in the European history of the valley.

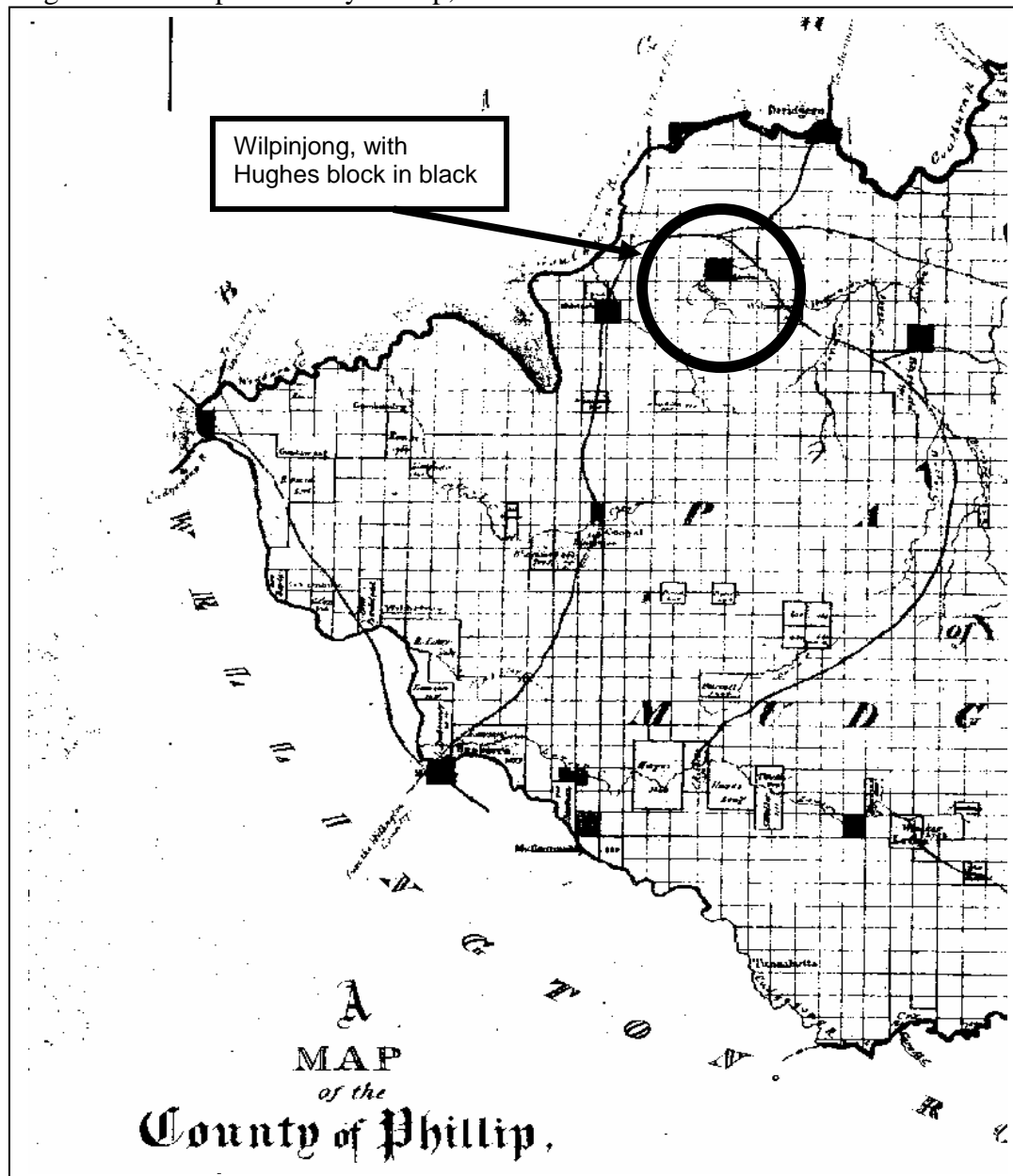
¹ Pearson, M. 1981. 'Seen through different eyes: Changing land use and settlement patterns in the upper Macquarie River region of NSW from prehistoric times to 1860'. Unpublished PhD thesis, Department of Prehistory and Archaeology, Australian National University; McCarthy, F.D. 1964. 'The archaeology of the Capertee Valley, NSW', *Records of the Australian Museum*, Vol 26: 197-245.

² See Moore, L. & Williams, S. 2001. *The true story of Jimmy Governor*. Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest.

³ *Bakers Australian County Atlas...* 1843-46, Hibernia Press, Sydney. Wollar Centenary Publications Committee, 1985. *Wollar 1885-1985: The sleeping village*, Wollar Centenary Publications Committee, Sydney.

George and Harriet Marskell settled at Wilpinjong in the early 1860s, selecting land at *Hillside* (Site 2) about 1866, and Patrick and Susan Mara occupied what is now *Castle View* in the same year. James Power purchased land at *Spring Flat* in 1867, and he and his wife Rose may have taken up residence there at that time. Rose was buried at Spring Flat, though her grave site has not been identified. *Hillview* (Site 14) was acquired in 1865 by Emanuel Timbrill, but does not appear to have been occupied until John and Mary Barton bought it in 1879. James and Elizabeth Halpin selected portion 40, Cumbo (later *Laurath*, Site 15), in 1872.

Figure G-3: Map of County Phillip, *Baker's Atlas 1846*



A large number of purchases of small blocks were made in the Project area in the 1870s to 1890s, the most notable residences from that period being *Keylah* (1896) and Loy's cottage (c.1894). Several more substantial buildings were constructed in the early twentieth century, particularly by the Marskell family, as they became established pastoralists. The stone buildings at *Cumby Creek* (1912) and *Keylah* (1922) are the most substantial in the valley.

Early residences and other structures known to have been built in the Project area are described in Section G4.

The initial landuse in the Wilpinjong valley was the grazing of cattle, with sheep being introduced as settlement took hold. Dairying also became a principle income for the local small farmers later in the nineteenth century. A butter factory opened at Wollar in 1894, owned by the Foley brothers of Sydney, and cream was brought in from the local farms to central collection points for transporting to the Wollar factory. One such collection point was 'Cream Stand Corner', opposite *Castle View*, at the junction of Wilpinjong Road and Wollar Road. A timber shelter survived there for many years, but is now gone. Many of the properties have single bail dairies among their sheds. About twenty three farms supplied the butter factory, which gathered about 400 gallons daily in a good season. The butter was packed in paper and put in timber boxes for transportation to the rail head for shipping to the Sydney market.⁴

Transportation

The early routes into the Wollar area came both from the upper Hunter and Merriwa directions. A track to Ulan led on to Mudgee (through the Project area), and another ran via Barrigan, Dry Creek and Bara to Mudgee. A road also led to Rylstone via Bylong and Dabee. Later in the century a track was constructed along the line of the current road through Munghorn Gap (Wollar Road). The only notable road construction feature found within the Project area is a stone retaining wall on which a local road climbs out of Cumby Creek between Portions 26 and 151, parish Cumby (Site 9) (Figure G-2).

Proposals for the construction of a railway to link Mary Vale and Sandy Hollow were considered in a Royal commission which reported in 1911, but no action to commence the railway was made until 1936, when unemployment relief funds were allocated for the construction of track formation works along the route of the railway. This work was intermittent and ended in 1951, without the railway being completed. The proposal was revived in 1976 for the transport of coal from the Ulan Coal Project to the Hunter Valley power stations. Work was approved in 1980, and completed by 1982, utilising or replacing the earlier formation works.⁵

⁴ Robinson, L. & McDermott, G. 2004. 'Area 6 Wollar, 22 May 2004—Community Heritage study', unpublished report for Mudgee Shire Council (copy held by Mudgee and District Historical Society).

⁵ Robinson, L. & McDermott, G. 2004. 'Area 6 Wollar, 22 May 2004—Community Heritage study', unpublished report for Mudgee Shire Council (copy held by Mudgee and District Historical Society): 7-8.

Schools

A Provisional School operated at Wilpinjong from January 1881, becoming a Public School in July the same year, indicating that the number of school-age children able to access the school had exceeded 20 (the minimum number needed to have a Public School). The number of local children fell below 20 a decade later, when in 1893 the Wilpinjong school was downgraded to a Half-Time School with Wandoona (Combo, three kilometres south of the Project area). It again became a Public School in 1907, and remained so until it was closed in 1921.⁶ Wollar school possibly serviced the eastern end of the valley, operating as a Provisions School from 1873 to 1881, then as a public school to the present day.

After the Wilpinjong Public School closed in 1921 it became a subsidised school—that is a school too small to attract direct government support, and where the parents were responsible for providing the school building (in this case the existing government school building) and teacher, with a government subsidy for each pupil. The subsidised school continued to operate until about 1931.⁷ The school was said to have had a fine garden, and bulbs continued to flower there until recent years.⁸

The Wilpinjong School was located on Portion 126, Cumbo, within the Project area (Site 20). When the subsidised school closed about 1931, the building was purchased by William Marskell, who used the material to build a shearing shed at *Keylah*.⁹ The site seems to have been largely buried beneath the formation work for the Ulan railway in 1985, and no evidence of the school was identified during the present survey.

Another subsidised school operated at one stage (years not known) on the Loy property, where Miss Theresa Loy was the teacher. This seems to have been at or near the surviving ruin of the Loy cottage on Portion 13, Wilpinjong, within the Project area (Site 6).

G4. SURVEY OF THE PROJECT AREA

The Project area was surveyed on foot and by vehicle, following leads provided by local informants, and suggested by early maps. The Project area has been subjected to substantial construction of weekend and rural residential houses since the 1970s. Forty-one structures and sites were identified, of which 21 were of some historical interest and nine of local heritage significance (Figure G-2). No sites of higher heritage significance (regional or state) were identified. Table G-1 provides a summary of the survey findings.

Two of the sites identified during the survey as being of local significance (Site 1 - “Cumbo Creek” and Site 3 - “Keylah”) are to be demolished in accordance with a separate development approval from the Mid-Western Regional Council. The buildings have been photographically recorded in accordance with Heritage Office guidelines and materials from the buildings will be salvaged by local landholders for re-use.

⁶ Department of School Education Library (NSW), 1993. *Government Schools of New South Wales 1848-1993*, NSW Board of School Education, Parramatta: 151; Wollar Centenary Publications Committee, 1985: n.p.

⁷ Wollar Centenary Publications Committee, 1985: n.p.

⁸ Robinson & McDermott 2004; Pers Comm. Lyn Robinson 26/6/04.

⁹ Wollar Centenary Publications Committee, 1985: n.p.

As these two buildings are planned to be demolished under a separate council approval, they are excluded from the discussion in this report. The detailed documentation of the other seven places of local heritage significance in the Project area is provided in Attachment GA.

Table G-1 Places Identified in the Survey of the Project Area

	Place Name	History and Description	Significance of Surviving Fabric	Summary Recommendation
Early Sites				
1.	<i>Cumbo Creek</i>	Built 1912, stone cottage with later additions, now in poor condition.	High local significance	N/A – To be demolished under a separate Development Approval.
2.	<i>Hillside</i>	First building possibly built 1866, and added to over time. Key early slab buildings intact, but in poor condition.	High local significance	Conserve or record before demolition.
3.	<i>Keylah</i>	Slab building built 1896, stone section 1922. Intact and in good condition.	High local significance	N/A – To be demolished under a separate Development Approval.
4.	<i>Warrawong</i>	Slab cottage, originally built near the junction of Wilpinjong and Cumbo Creek, moved to present site 1912.	High local significance	Conserve or record before demolition.
5.	Atcheson's cottage, Wyangle Portion 19 Wilpinjong	Concrete structure, probably built 1930s, now in poor condition.	Moderate local significance	Conserve or record before demolition.
6.	Loy's cottage	Slab cottage, built c.1894, and possibly used for a time as a school room. Now in ruin.	Moderate local significance	Conserve or record before demolition.
7.	<i>Pine Park</i> woolshed	Slab woolshed built in 1930s. In good condition.	Moderate local significance	Conserve or record before demolition.
8.	Post and rail fence, Portion 106 Cumbo	Long section of post and rail fence, unknown date and in poor condition.	Moderate local significance	Conserve or record before demolition.
9.	Wilpinjong Road stone embankment, Portion 26 Cumbo	43m long stone road embankment, possibly from 19 th century. Intact.	Moderate local significance	Conserve or record before demolition.
10.	Archers Cottage site, Portion 31 Wilpinjong	Possibly built as early as 1891, cottage now removed and foundations only remain.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
11.	<i>Bungulla</i> old cottage	Cottage c. 1930s-1940s in date.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
12.	Cottage Portion 26 Cumbo	Cottage built from materials recycled from Police Station, Wollar. Lived in by Lynn and Jack Robinson until 1969. Now in ruinous condition.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
13.	Cream Stand Corner, Wilpinjong Road and Wollar Road, Portion 5 Cumbo	Location of stand for collection of cream tins. Now removed.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
14.	<i>Hillview</i> (Wollar Road)	House built 1879, much modified and now in ruins. Current house and most sheds date to 1960s.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
15.	<i>Laurath</i> (site only)	Cottage built c. 1872. Now totally removed.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
16.	<i>Old Mittaville</i>	Possibly Built by Val Glew, bought by Archie Robinson in the 1930s. Heavily modified by later work.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
17.	Sandy Hollow Railway	Earthworks built 1936-1952, railway built 1982.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
18.	<i>Spring Flat</i> cottage site	House possibly built late 1860s, few fragments remain.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
19.	Possible survey marker tree	Tree with a blaze, but no carved inscription, near corner of portions. Possible survey tree only.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
20.	Wilpinjong school site	Opened 1881, closed and building recycled as woolshed at <i>Keylah</i> 1931. No evidence left at site.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.

Table G-1 Places Identified in the Survey of the Project Area (Continued)

	Place Name	History and Description	Significance of Surviving Fabric	Summary Recommendation
Early Sites (Cont.)				
21.	<i>Wyangle</i> woolshed	Much-modified and extended iron woolshed.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
22.	<i>Castle View</i>	First homestead c.1866, demolished. current house possibly dates from the 1960s.	Low local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
Post-1960s sites				
23.	<i>Bungulla</i> cottages and sheds	Four cottages and a number of sheds and a woolshed of c. 1970s vintage, apparently developed as a rural subdivision.	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
24.	Cottage (Berry DP 583255)	Post-1960s cottage.	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
25.	<i>Emoh Rou</i> , Portion 195 Cumbo	Post-1960s cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
26.	<i>Glenbar</i> , Portion 57 Wollar	Post-1960s cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
27.	<i>Hillview</i> (Ulan Road, DP 703223)	Post-1960s cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
28.	<i>Keylah Cottage</i> Portion 93 Cumbo	1980s cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
29.	<i>Mittaville</i>	House built 1981.	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
30.	'Olive grove' cottage DP 703225	Cottage on subdivision of Bungulla, c. 1970s.	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
31.	<i>Pine Park</i> cottage	House built 1988.	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
32.	<i>The Retreat</i> , Portion 59 Wollar	Post-1960s cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
33.	<i>Spring Flat</i> sheds	c. 1980s sheds	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
34.	Structure Portion 12 Cumbo	Post 1980s makeshift cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
35.	Structure Portion 93 Cumbo	Post 1980s makeshift cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
36.	Structure Portion 94 Cumbo	Post 1980s makeshift cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
37.	Structure Portion 95 Cumbo	Post 1980s makeshift cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
38.	Structure Portion 122 Cumbo	Post 1980s makeshift cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
39.	<i>Wilpin Farm</i>	House built 1977.	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
40.	<i>Wyangle</i>	1980s cement block house and sheds.	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.
41.	<i>Yawanna</i> , Portion 50 Wollar	Post-1960s cottage	Below local significance	No requirement to retain or record.

G5. POTENTIAL HERITAGE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

The proposed open cut extraction of coal will have a major impact on the landscape and identified heritage items in the Project area. All but two of the places assessed as having local heritage significance (*Pine Park* woolshed and Wilpinjong Road embankment) would be directly destroyed by excavation or infrastructure development (Figure G-2). The Wilpinjong Road embankment could potentially be retained by a slight diversion of the proposed mine access road. The one place of local significance not directly impacted by the excavation and works may be adversely impacted by changed landuse (*Pine Park* woolshed).

G5.1 ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT THAT WILL ENHANCE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

There are no aspects of the Project that will enhance the identified heritage values within the Project area. However, by undertaking this heritage assessment a better understanding of the local heritage has been obtained. In addition, WCPL has funded the archival recording and photography of sites of local heritage significance for submission to the Mudgee Historical Society.

G5.2 ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT THAT COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE AFFECT ON HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Project would involve, through the development of the open cut mine and the construction of mine infrastructure, the direct destruction of five of the seven identified heritage items of local significance (Figure G-2). The Project would diminish the landuse context and ongoing use of one other (*Pine Park* woolshed). The Wilpinjong Road embankment could potentially be retained by a slight re-alignment of part of the proposed mine access road. However, the embankment would lose the continuity of use, as it is unlikely that it would remain part of a trafficable roadway.

A number of the places to potentially be destroyed or adversely impacted are in such a poor condition that conservation is not feasible or economically justifiable — this includes the *Hillside* group (Site 2), Atcheson cottage (Site 5), Loy's cottage (Site 6), and the post and rail fence (Site 8) (Figure G-2) — so the impact of the Project probably only accelerates their inevitable loss by decay. Even in these cases, however, the Project would destroy the value of the places as reference points in the landscape, and in some cases as potential archaeological sites of some interest.

G5.3 MEASURES PROPOSED TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Given the extent of proposed works, measures to mitigate the impact on heritage within the Project disturbance area are limited.

In general, buildings should only be demolished if their destruction for mining or infrastructure construction is required.

Recommendations for specific places of local heritage significance are provided in Attachment GA, and are summarised below:

Pine Park woolshed (Site 7)

The possible removal and reconstruction of the shed for ongoing shearing use has been proposed by the current lessee, and while the removal of buildings is not normally a preferred conservation action, in this case it may be a reasonable compromise to ensure compatible ongoing use of the building, albeit in an adjacent valley. In addition, this reflects the re-use of materials that were involved in the woolshed's original construction (Attachment GA).

Wilpinjong Road stone embankment (Site 9)

The stone embankment is on the line of the proposed Mine Access Road. Major road improvements or heavy traffic would very likely lead to the destruction or destabilisation of the embankment. It is recommended that the alignment of the Mine Access Road be reconsidered to see if the stone embankment can be avoided. As the stone embankment is close to where the proposed new alignment meets the existing Wilpinjong Road alignment (Figure G-2), it may be possible to slightly angle the new road from the Wollar Road, and join the existing Wilpinjong Road alignment north of the embankment.

Re-use of materials

Re-use of stone and slabs in the conservation of other places by local landholders or the Mudgee Historical Society should be considered for materials from *Hillside* and *Warrawong*, should they be demolished.

Photographic recording

The places identified as having local heritage significance in this assessment have been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance. The archival record will be forwarded to the Mudgee Historical Society.

Assistance to community heritage conservation

The opportunity exists for Wilpinjong Coal to assist in the conservation of heritage buildings and sites in Wollar village, helping conserve the community's heritage in recognition of the loss of heritage items caused through the Project.

G5.4 STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

A survey of the land affected by the Project has been undertaken, and the potential impacts of the proposed open cut mining and mine infrastructure works considered. The survey identified nine places with varying degrees of local heritage significance, though as two places are to be demolished in accordance with existing demolition approvals, only seven places are discussed in detail in this report (refer to Table G-1, Figure G-2 and Attachment GA).

The Project will involve, through open cut development and the construction of mine infrastructure, the destruction of five of the seven identified heritage items. It is recommended that while demolition is considered in the Project planning phase, it should only be undertaken when action threatening the place is actually about to proceed.

Mitigation measures are recommended for the other two locally significant places:

- The removal and reconstruction of the *Pine Park* woolshed should be considered.
- The realignment of the Mine Access Road should be considered to allow the retention of the Wilpinjong Road stone embankment.

The places identified as having local heritage significance have been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance.

Re-use of stone and slabs in the conservation of other places by local landholders or the Mudgee Historical Society should be considered for materials from *Hillside* and *Warrawong*, should they be demolished.

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ATTACHMENT GA

**DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE
WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA**

The following citations are for the seven places assessed as having moderate to high local significance. In terms of the NSW Heritage Office guidelines, local heritage items are those of significance to the local government area. No places of higher (regional or state) significance were identified. The places documented are:

2. *Hillside*
4. *Warrawong*
5. Atcheson's cottage, *Wyangle* Portion 19, Pa. Wilpinjong
6. Loy's cottage
7. *Pine Park* woolshed
8. Post and rail fence, Portion 106, Pa. Cumbo
9. Road embankment, Portion 26, Pa. Cumbo

As discussed in Section G4, Sites 1 and 3 ("Cumbo Creek" and "Keylah") are to be demolished in accordance with a separate Mid-Western Regional Council approval and are not discussed in this attachment. Information describing these places is included in the archival recordings to be lodged with the Mudgee Historical Society.

SITE 2— *HILLSIDE* HOMESTEAD

2.1 History

Family oral history indicates that *Hillside* was built by George and Harriet Marskell, who settled at Wilpinjong in the early 1860s. George Marskell purchased the adjacent portion 20 in 1866, and probably also held the *Hillside* block from the same time, though on the Lands Department's office copy of the first edition of the Parish map the *Hillside* portion is annotated in the name of Elijah Marskell, 1889.¹⁰ It is believed that the Marskells built and lived in the middle slab section of the current complex at *Hillside*, the section with the cellar beneath.¹¹ The property was transferred from the Marskell family to the Abrahams in 1969.¹²

2.2 Physical Description

The *Hillside* cottage group consists of three buildings (Plans GA-1 and GA-2). The northernmost building, facing the Ulan-Wollar Road, is a three-room cottage with a mixture of round and milled timber framing and vertical sawn plank walls with battens over the joints between the planks. The internal timber board wall and ceiling lining is covered with fibro sheeting. The verandah roof has been removed, as has the timber flooring, revealing a timber verandah floor frame packed with stone. Additions have been made on the eastern end of the verandah (possibly a laundry), on the eastern side (possibly a bedroom), and the angle of the 'L' shaped building has been infilled and a small bathroom erected. The iron roofing is removed, exposing the building to the weather (Plate GA-1).

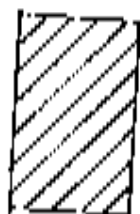
¹⁰ Parish Cumbo, County Phillip, 1884. at Land and Property Information NSW website, Maps and Aerial Photos, Parish map Preservation Project. <http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/maps/pmap/mrsid/show.pl>

¹¹ Wollar Centenary Publications Committee, 1985. *Wollar 1885-1985: The sleeping village*, Wollar Centenary Publications Committee, Sydney; Pers Comm. Lyn Robinson 26/6/04.

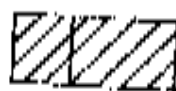
¹² Pers Comm. Lyn Robinson 26/6/04.

HILLSIDE AND SHEDS

machinery shed



woolshed



water shed

garage



dairy site



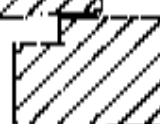
0
10m

10
m

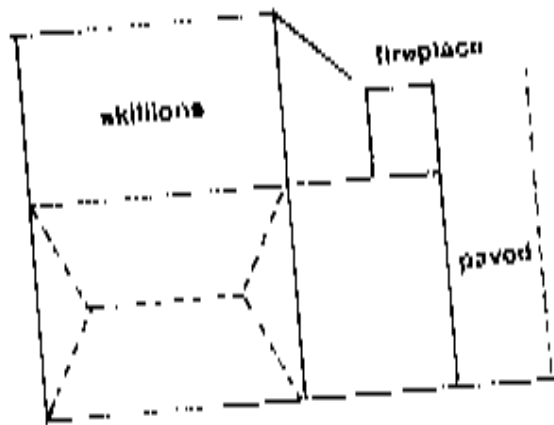
20m



cottage group



HILLSIDE COTTAGE



0 1 2 3 4m

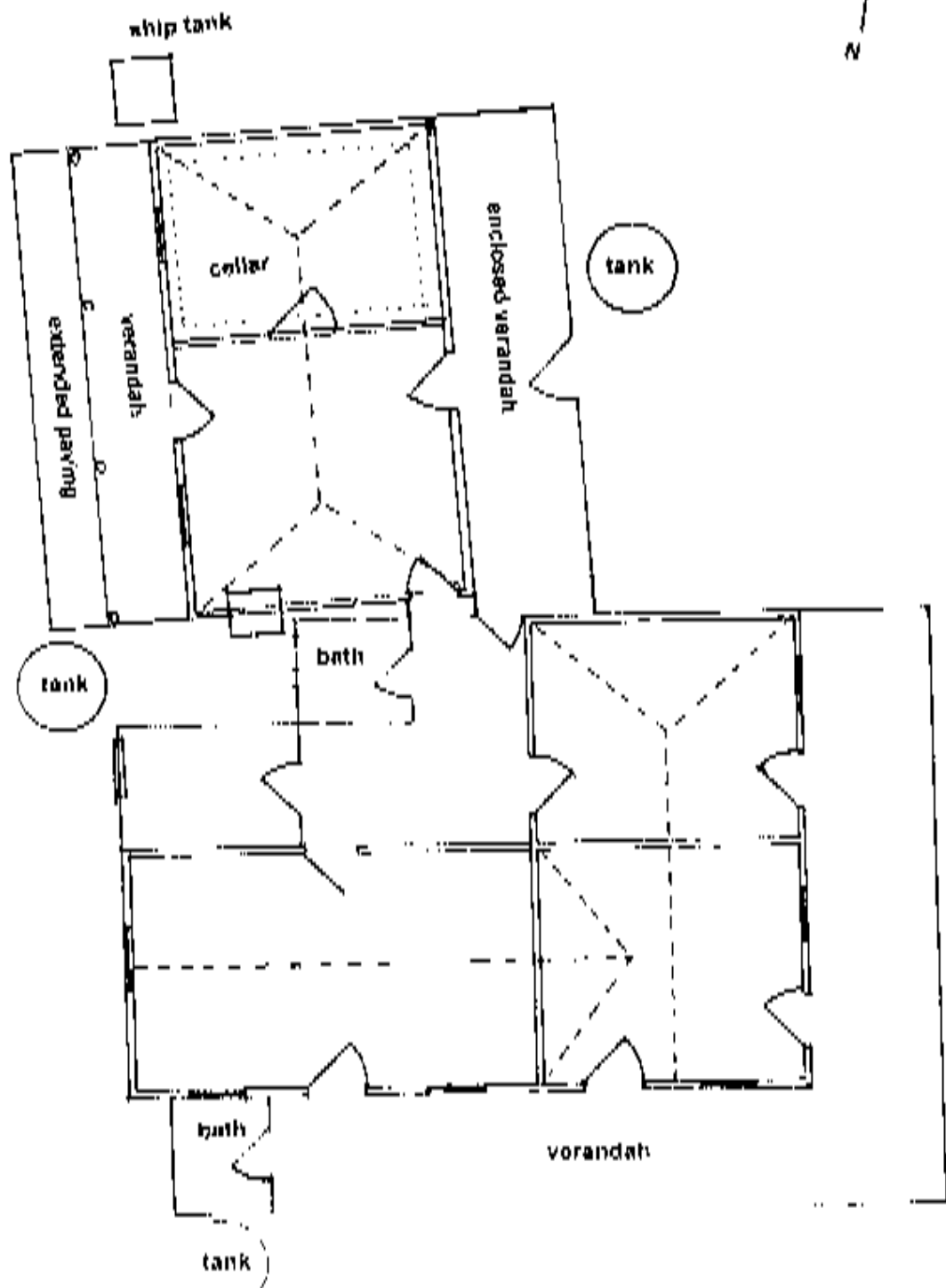
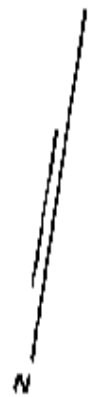




Plate GA-1: Hillside View 1

The middle building is the original two-room slab cottage (Plate GA-2). This abuts the infilled 'L' of the northern building at an angle of about 4°-5°, the resulting gap being infilled with makeshift walls and roofing. The slab walls sit on timber plates, retained in place by nailed timber battens.



Plate GA-2: Hillside Slab Cottage

The wall plates rest on stone foundation walls that have been constructed to deal with the sloping block. The slabs are cut from the outside of the log, with rounded exterior faces. The internal wall and ceiling lining is white-ant eaten, and covered with fibro sheet. The southern wall has fallen out, and the floor covering the cellar beneath the southern room has rotted and is covered with plywood sheet. The stone-walled cellar extends the full dimensions of the southern room (3 x 4m), and is 2m deep, and is clear and accessible (Plate GA-3). The corrugated iron roof on a round timber frame is intact. A flagged and partly-cemented verandah extends along the eastern side, and the verandah along the western side has been enclosed and extended to join the northern building. A ship-tank water tanks sits south of the building, and a cylindrical corrugated iron tank to the north.



Plate GA-3: Hillside Cellar

The southern building is separated from the slab cottage, and is a single-roomed slab building, originally with a timber board lining, flagged floor, no ceiling, and a corrugated iron roof. Skillion additions extend from the southern and western walls, with a fireplace constructed of stone in the angle where the skillions meet.

Fruit trees are planted around the buildings on the eastern and northern sides.

The woolshed group consists of a corrugated galvanised iron 'L'-shaped 2-stand woolshed, a slab shed raised on timber stumps, and a corrugated iron shed and skillion in semi-collapsing condition (Plate GA-4).



Plate GA-4: Hillside Woolshed

A concrete foundation south-west of the cottage group was originally the dairy, later converted to a garage and shed, and now only the foundations remain. A galvanised iron garage is located south of the cottage group.

2.3 Location

The *Hillside* group is located south of the Ulan railway and road, on portion 66, Parish Cumbo, County Phillip. The AMG map reference by GPS (AUS 66 to match current 1:25,000 map series) for the cottage group is Zone 55H 771831E 6419566N.

2.4 Physical Condition

The *Hillside* cottage group is in poor condition, with the roof on one building removed, several collapsed walls, rotten flooring, and white-ant eaten wall and roof members and cladding. The wool shed is in good condition, the slab shed in fair condition, and the corrugated iron shed in poor condition.

2.5 Heritage Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The *Hillside* cottage group is of local importance, together with several of its close neighbours, in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. The slab cottage may be the oldest surviving building in the valley. The woolshed group does not share the same level of significance.

Criterion B: an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;

The place is closely associated with the Marskell family, one of the pioneer families of the local area.

Criterion C: an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

The buildings do not exhibit high aesthetic or technical importance.

Criterion D: an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The cottage group is valued for its strong associations with a number of the early settler families, descendants of whom still reside in the area.

Criterion E: an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The cottage group has a minor potential for providing new information of local interest through archaeological investigation of the structure and sub-floor areas.

Criterion F: an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The slab cottage is uncommon as a slab residence possibly dating to the 1860s.

Criterion G: an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

The cottage group is the most intact collection of early residential buildings in the local area. It is locally significant in demonstrating the growth and evolution of such small-scale houses. The woolshed group is not considered an important example of its class.

2.6 Statement of Significance

Hillside homestead is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. The slab cottage may be the oldest surviving building in the valley.

The place is closely associated with the Marskell family, one of the pioneer families of the local area and is valued for its strong associations with a number of the early settler families, descendants of whom still reside in the area.

The slab cottage is uncommon as a slab residence possibly dating to the 1860s. The cottage group is the most intact collection of early residential buildings in the local area. The cottage group is locally significant in demonstrating the growth and evolution of such small-scale houses, and has some small potential for providing new information through archaeological investigation of the structure and sub-floor areas.

2.7 Mitigation and Management

The *Hillside* cottage group is located on the edge of proposed Pit 4, while the woolshed group is located further within the pit area. The poor condition of the cottage group is such that conservation would be difficult technically and is not justifiable economically. The likely impact of the closely adjacent pit (eg. through blasting vibration) would also be a risk to any buildings if they were to be conserved in this location. There is no immediate requirement to demolish the group, but if demolition does occur, there is a potential for the re-use of the timber slabs, which might be offered to local owners to the Council and Mudgee Museum for conservation work elsewhere.

The *Hillside* cottage group has been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance as a precaution before further deterioration occurs.

SITE 4—WARRAWONG COTTAGE

4.1 History

The *Warrawong* block (portion 46 Parish Cumbo) was purchased in 1874 by Andrew Barton, brother of John Barton of *Hillview*. However, Barton does not appear to have lived on the property. John Marskell held the adjacent Portions 182 and 184 from 1893, and EJ Marskell bought Barton's block by the 1930s.¹³

The slab cottage is believed to have been built at the junction of Cumbo Creek and Wilpinjong Creek, on the Marskell's *Cumbo Creek* block (on Portion 3, Parish Cumbo), and moved by John and Catherine Marskell to the *Warrawong* block in 1912, when the *Cumbo Creek* cottage was built. This suggests Marskell controlled the *Warrawong* block by that date. The Marskell family remained in residence at Warrawong until 1968, the last occupants being Ted Marskell, and then his widow. Jack and Lyn Robinson bought this block in 1972, and have used it as a weekender since¹⁴ (Plate GA-5).



Plate GA-5: Warrawong

¹³ Maps, Parish Cumbo, County Phillip, 1884, 1918, 1932

¹⁴ Pers Comm. Lyn Robinson 26/6/04.

4.2 Physical Description

The Warrawong cottage is a three-room slab cottage with a slab skillion bath/laundry extension (Plate GA-6 and Plans GA-3 and GA-4). The vertical slabs are up to 400mm wide, skew-nailed to squared-timber bottom and top plates without battens, clearly indicating the relocation of the structure. The squared corner posts are 230mm square. Internal walls and ceilings are fibro clad (presumably relacing white-ant eaten timber cladding), and the floor is timber boards. The roof is corrugated galvanised iron. A skillion-roofed verandah is located on the northern and eastern sides, the eastern side enclosed with fibro sheeting. A rear (southern) verandah has a concrete slab floor.



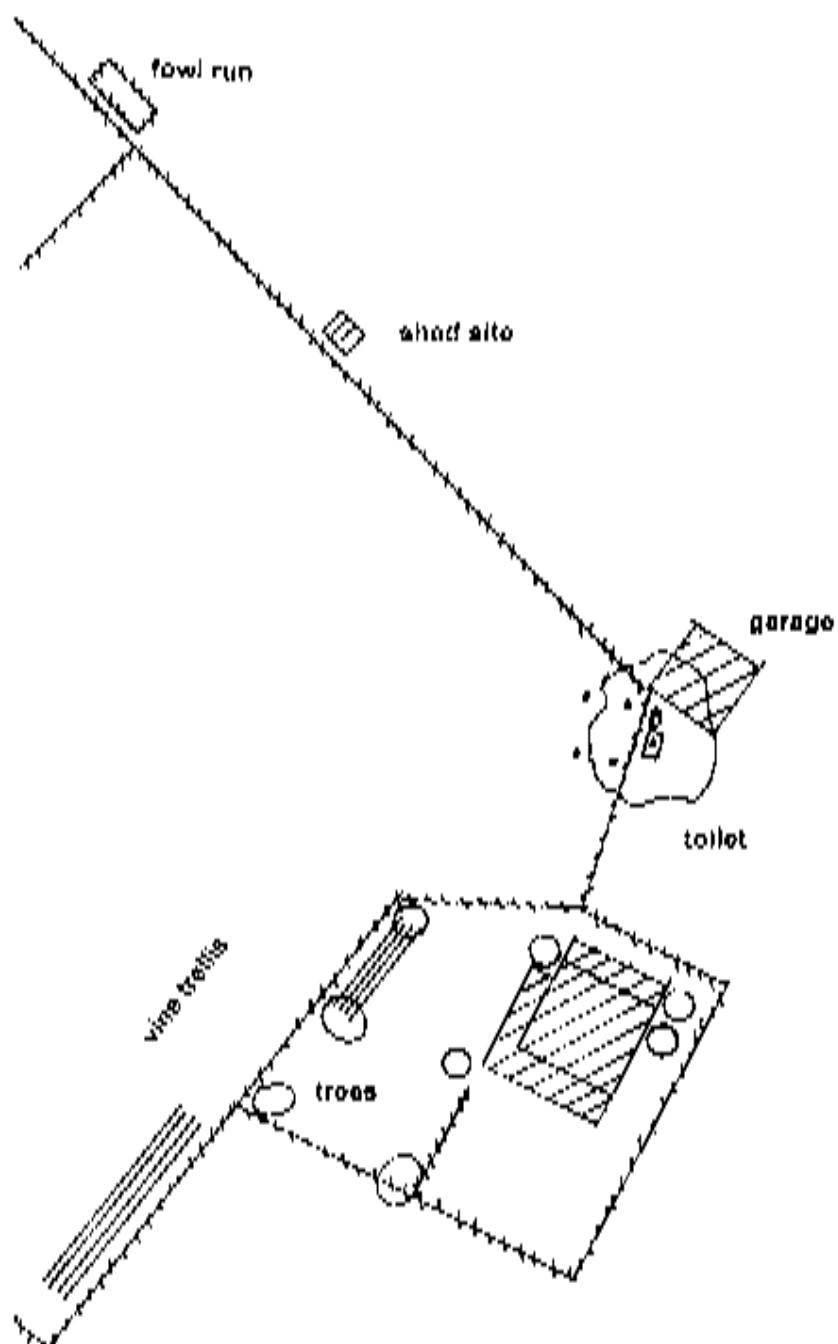
Plate GA-6: Warrawong

A shed, probably used as a garage, is located south of the cottage (Plan GA-3), and all but one of its slab walls have collapsed, though its corrugated iron roof survives supported on large squared posts. Four adjacent posts indicate another shed location. A pan toilet sits next to a large tree adjacent to the shed, the former enclosing structure completely collapsed and removed. 50m further south another collapsed shed is marked by round posts and substantial floor plates.

An orange orchard and two vine trellises are located east and north of the cottage. Fowl sheds and yards are in a collapsed condition along a fenceline south of the cottage. To the north west of the cottage is a set of post and rail yards with a cow bail and killing crane. A 5-disc 'Sunshine' stump-jump plough lies in the paddock to the north of the cottage (Plan GA-3).

 shed site

WARRAWONG AND YARDS



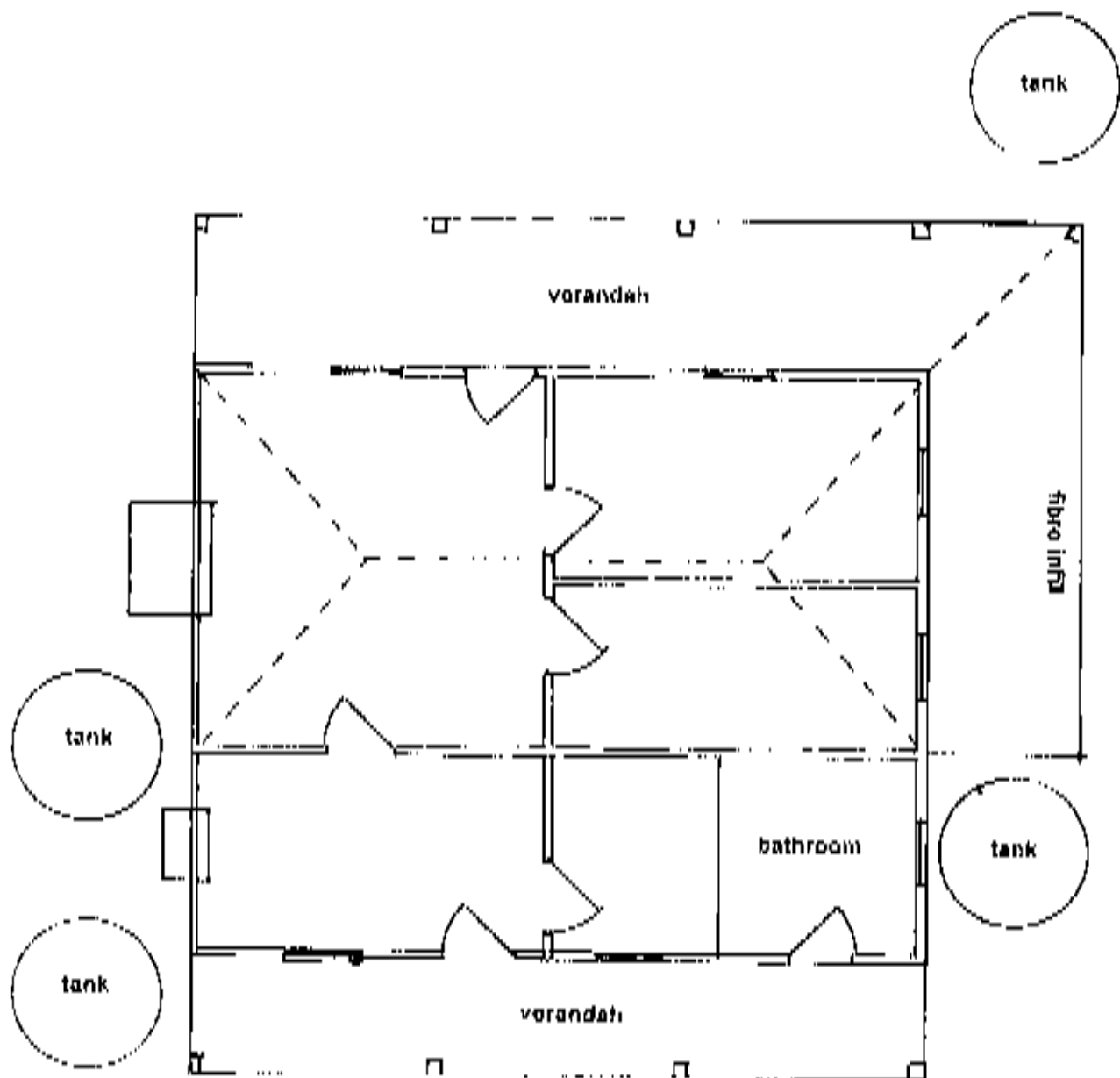
N

0 5 10 15m

yards



WARRAWONG COTTAGE



0 1 2 3 4m





Plate GA-7: Warrawong Yards

4.3 Location

Warrawong is located on Portion 46, Parish Cumbo, County Phillip. The AMG map reference by GPS (AUS 66 to match current 1:25,000 map series) for the cottage group is Zone 55H 770503E 6416599N. It is owned by Jack and Lyn Robinson.

4.4 Physical Condition

The Warrawong cottage is in fair to good condition, apart from extensive wombat burrows undermining the rear walls and verandah. The sheds and yards are in poor condition.

4.5 Heritage Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The *Warrawong* group is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. The slab cottage has been moved from the banks of Wilpinjong Creek to create a new family home, and is thereby closely associated with the *Cumbo Creek* cottage.

Criterion B: an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;

Warrawong is closely associated with the Marskell family, one of the pioneer families of the local area.

Criterion C: an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

The buildings do not exhibit high aesthetic or technical importance.

Criterion D: an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The Warrawong cottage group is valued for its strong associations with a number of the early settler families, descendants of whom still reside in the area.

Criterion E: an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

Warrawong has little research potential. Any archaeological deposits are likely to be no more important than any other of like age in the district.

Criterion F: an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The slab cottage is uncommon as a slab residence in relatively good condition.

Criterion G: an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

The Warrawong group is a reasonably common example of a small holding, with fewer support buildings than some others. It is not important this criterion.

4.6 Statement of Significance

The *Warrawong* group is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. The slab cottage has been moved from the banks of Wilpinjong Creek to create a new family home, and is thereby closely associated with the *Cumbo Creek* cottage. The place is closely associated with the Marskell family, one of the pioneer families of the local area, and the cottage group is valued for its strong associations with a number of the early settler families, descendants of whom still reside in the area.

4.7 Mitigation and Management

Warrawong is located within the southern limits of the proposed footprint of Pit 2, and is therefore likely to be destroyed. However, as development of this section of Pit 2 may be later in the mine life, there is no urgency in action concerning the cottage. It is recommended that demolition should not be undertaken until a firm and committed plan and timeframe for mining is fixed, in case any changes in-pit footprint allows the building to remain. If demolition is undertaken, the slabs should be offered to the Robinson family and the Mudgee historical society for use in the conservation of other buildings.

Independently of the conservation or demolition of the building, the cottage and shed complex have been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance.

SITE 5— ATCHESON’S COTTAGE

5.1 History

The Portion 19, Parish Wilpinjong, County Phillip, was leased by John J. Phillips in 1891. It was taken by the mortgagees the Commonwealth Banking Company of Sydney, before being subsequently purchased by R.H. Blackman in 1919. Sometime after 1933 the block was acquired by ‘Atcheson’, and became the home of the brothers Raymond George Atcheson (1918-1955) and Colin ‘Boysie’ Atcheson (1916-1960).¹⁵ It is likely that the cement-walled cottage was built by or for the Atchesons in the 1930s. After the death of Boysie (1960) the cottage does not seem to have been occupied.

5.2 Physical Description

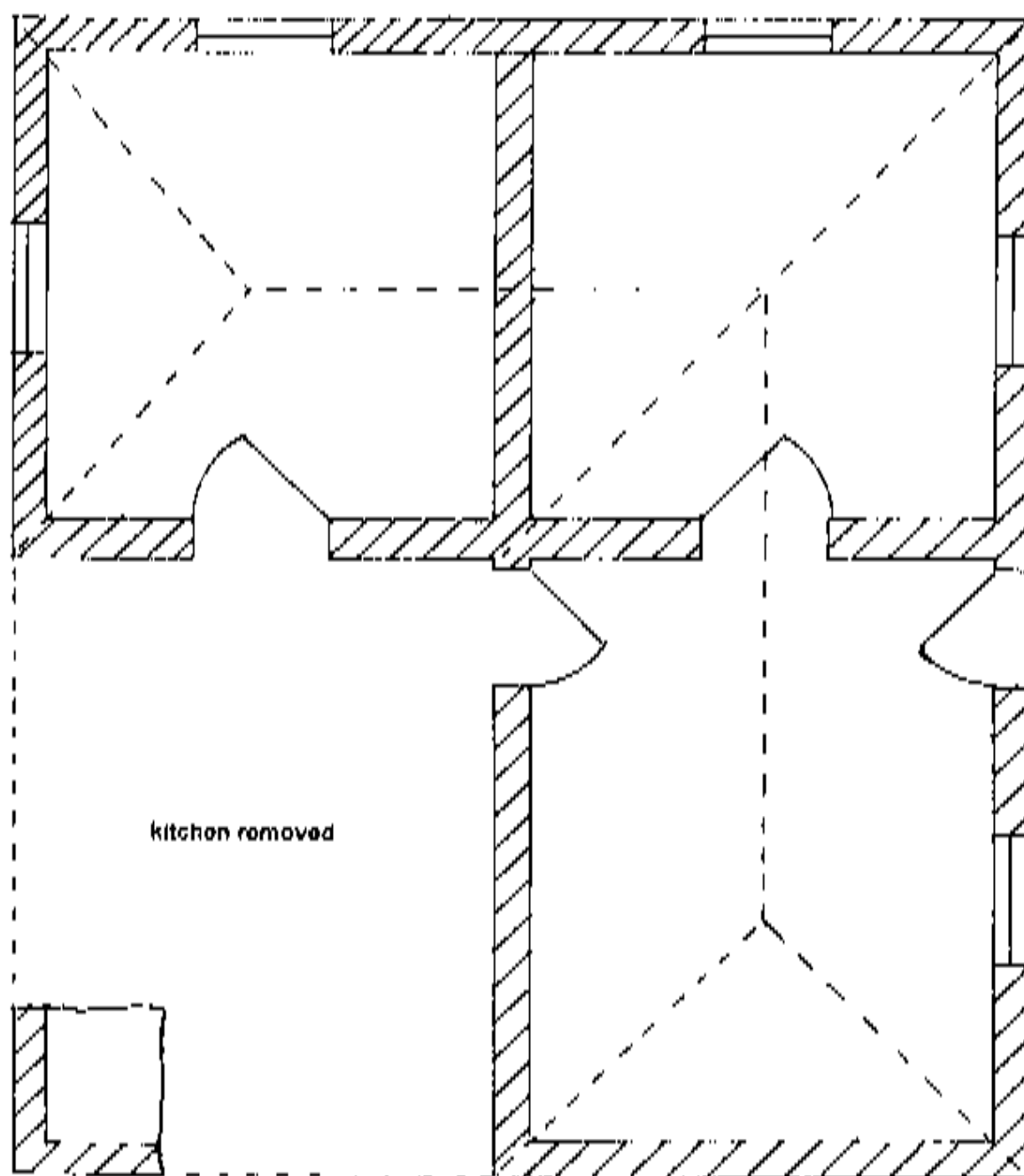
The three-roomed cottage has formwork concrete walls with a collapsed timber skillion kitchen at the rear (Plate GA-8 and Plan GA-5). The cottage has a corrugated galvanised iron roof on a pole frame, and has been stripped of all lining materials and window timbering. Beer bottles dating to 1949-1965 are scattered near the cottage walls. A dead vine over the south-west corner of the building suggests at least some earlier garden plantings, though the building now sits in a cleared paddock.



Plate GA-8: Atchesons Cottage

¹⁵ Maps, Parish Wilpinjong, County Phillip, 1895, 1905, 1918, 1933: Atcheson headstone in Wollar cemetery.

ATCHESON'S COTTAGE



0 1 2 3m
f

----- N

5.3 Location

Acheson's cottage is located on Portion 19, Parish Wilpinjong, County Phillip. The AMG map reference by GPS (AUS 66 to match current 1:25,000 map series) for the cottage group is Zone 55H 767653E 6417275N. It is owned by Richard and Sally Nagel.

5.4 Physical Condition

The cottage is in poor condition. The concrete walls are undermined by wombat burrows at the north-eastern corner, and the corner has subsided causing major cracking on the northern and eastern walls (Plate GA-9). Roofing iron is coming off, and all interior lining has been removed.



Plate GA-9: Achesons Cottage

5.5 Heritage Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The Atcheson cottage is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. It reflects the capacity for small-settler occupation of even the smallest blocks in an area of predominantly small holdings.

Criterion B: an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;

The Atchesons appear to have been minor and somewhat hermit characters in the local area, apparently without other family, and cannot be said to have been important in the local context.

Criterion C: an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

The cottage does not exhibit high aesthetic or technical importance.

Criterion D: an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The cottage does not seem to have strong and special associations, but is a local landmark in a bare paddock.

Criterion E: an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

Atcheson's cottage has little research potential. Any archaeological deposits are likely to be no more important than any other of like age in the district, and the area beneath and around the cottage looks disturbed, limiting archaeological potential.

Criterion F: an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The cottage is uncommon in the local context because of its concrete construction, though this is not uncommon in a broader geographic context.

Criterion G: an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

The poor level of integrity of the cottage and its surroundings makes it a poor example of its type.

5.6 Statement of Significance

The Atcheson Cottage is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. It reflects the capacity for small-settler occupation of even the smallest blocks in an area of predominantly small holdings. The cottage is of unusual construction locally, and is a minor landmark in its valley.

5.7 Mitigation and Management

The Atcheson Cottage is located within the proposed footprint of Pit 5, and is therefore likely to be destroyed. However, as development of this section of Pit 5 may be later in the mine life, there is no urgency in action concerning the cottage. Demolition should not be undertaken until a firm and committed plan and timeframe for mining is fixed, in case any changes in pit footprint allows the building to remain.

Independently of the conservation or demolition of the building, the cottage has been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance.

SITE 6—LOY’S COTTAGE

6.1 History

Henry Archer purchased adjoining portions 13 and 24 in 1887, and portion 14 in 1890, but it is not known if he resided on the blocks. Sometime after 1905 and before 1918, William J. Loy acquired Portions 24 and 13.¹⁶ William and his wife Annie (nee Kane) appear to have settled on portion 13 after their marriage in 1894 and raised five children in their cottage there. Therese, James and Rose all became school teachers, and Therese taught at the portion 13 cottage as a subsidised school.¹⁷ Rob Reid suggests that the Powers family lived at Loy’s cottage before it was converted to a woolshed.¹⁸

6.2 Physical Description

The collapsing ruin of a vertical slab cottage on portion 13 is a two or three-roomed cottage, with a frame of squared timber with vertical slab walls and a verandah on the eastern side (Plate GA-10 and Plan GA-6). Only one small section of an internal slab wall remains standing.



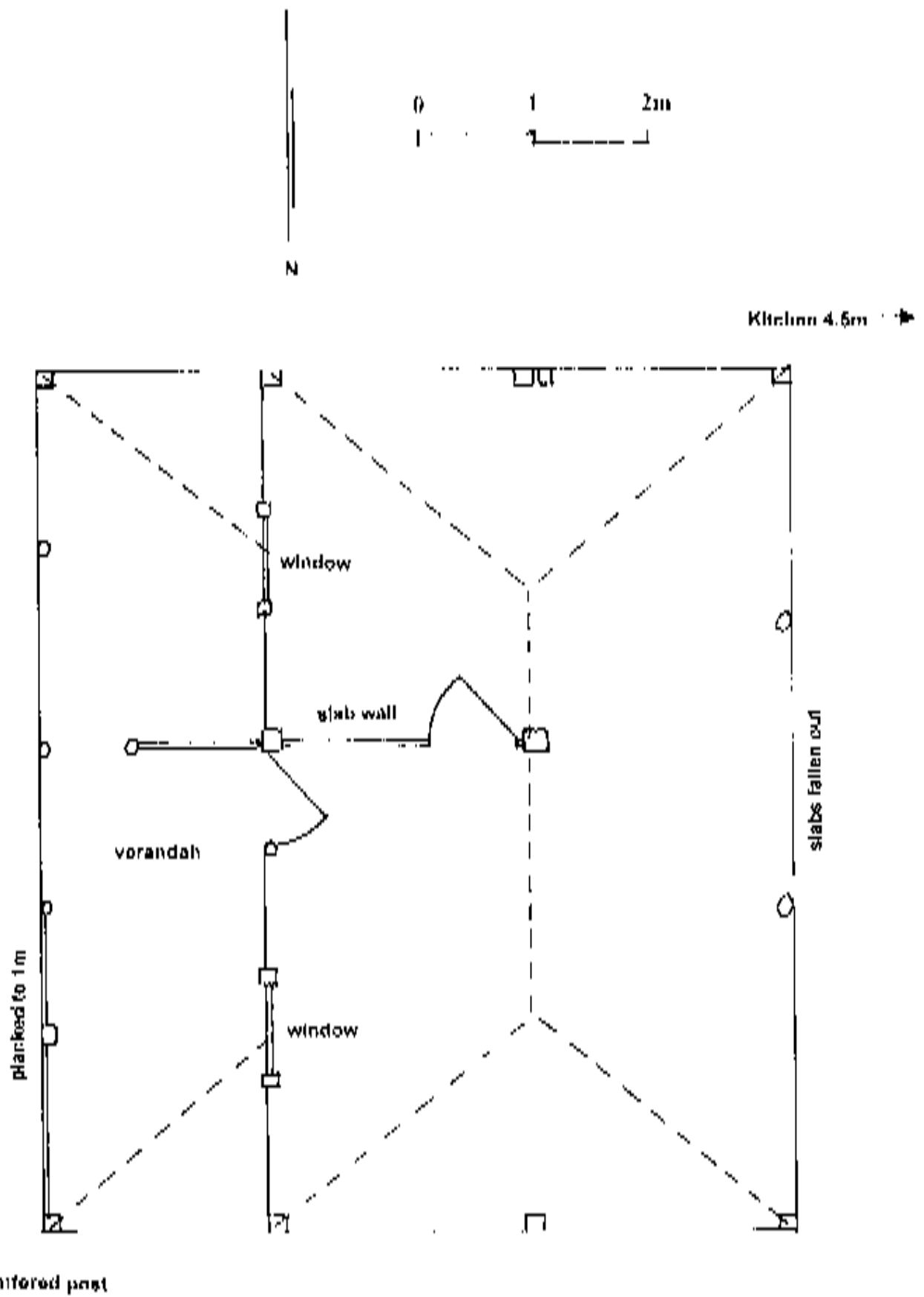
Plate GA-10: Loy’s Cottage

¹⁶ Maps, Parish Wilpinjong, County Phillip, 1895, 1905, 1918

¹⁷ Pers Comm. Lyn Robinson 26/6/04. Wollar Centenary Publications Committee, 1985.

¹⁸ Pers. Comm. Rob Reid 3/7/04

LOY'S COTTAGE



The Corrugated iron roof has almost all blown off, and the timber floor has largely failed. Remnants of nails and cloth along the edge of the top-plate indicate that a ceiling cloth was used in the rooms (Plate GA-11), and the remaining original verandah posts have chamfered profile, indicating a domestic use of the building. Joinery of the remaining window frames utilises tusked mortice and tenon joints. The cottage has subsequently been converted to a small shearing shed, with sections of the wall being converted to gates and chutes. More recently it has been used as a geological core store, with a jumble of core trays and cores across the floors.

To the south-west of the cottage is a low mound, wall plate and stones of a collapsed fire place, marking the likely location of the detached kitchen. Two other shed sites to the south and south-west are indicated by shrub growth (Tree of Heaven) and timber remains. An old truck chassis and cab sit next to the cottage, probably relating to its use as a shed.



Plate GA-11: Loy's Cottage Ceiling Cloth

6.3 Location

Loy's cottage is located on Portion 13, Parish Wilpinjong, County Phillip. The AMG map reference by GPS (AUS 66 to match current 1:25,000 map series) for the cottage group is Zone 55H 767799E 6419389N. It is owned by Rob and Margaret Reid.

6.4 Physical Condition

The cottage is in very poor condition, on the verge of total collapse (Plate GA-10). It is beyond conservation as a building. The group of former building sites is however, an interesting archaeological site.

6.5 Heritage Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The Loy cottage is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. It was the home of a family long associated with the Wollar area, and it appears that the cottage acted as a small subsidised school in the early 20th century.

Criterion B: an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;

Loy's cottage is closely associated with the Loy family, one of the families closely involved with the settlement of the local area.

Criterion C: an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

The buildings do not exhibit high aesthetic or technical importance.

Criterion D: an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The place and its history appears to be little known, and no particular association has been indicated by local families.

Criterion E: an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The group of archaeological sites associated with the cottage site has a moderate potential for providing new information of local interest through archaeological investigation of the structure and sub-floor areas.

Criterion F: an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The place is not considered to have any rare or endangered attributes.

Criterion G: an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

The low integrity and poor condition of the cottage prevents it being a good example of its type.

6.6 Statement of Significance

The Loy cottage is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. It was the home of a family long associated with the Wollar area, and it appears that the cottage acted as a small subsidised school in the early 20th century. The place is associated with the Loy family, one of the families closely involved with the settlement of the local area.

The group of archaeological sites associated with the cottage has a moderate potential for providing new information of local interest through archaeological investigation of the structure and sub-floor areas.

6.7 Mitigation and Management

The Loy cottage and associated sites are within the proposed footprint of Pit 5. However, as development of this section of Pit 5 may be later in the mine life, there is no urgency in action concerning the cottage. Demolition should not be undertaken until a firm and committed plan and timeframe for extraction is fixed, in case any changes in pit footprint allows the archaeological sites to remain untouched.

While the site has moderate local research significance, there are not research questions formulated for the site, and there is probably not a sufficiently high research value to justify archaeological excavation as part of mitigation requirements.

Independently of the eventual or retention of removal of the sites, the cottage remains have been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance.

SITE 7—PINE PARK WOOLSHED

7.1 History

William Lennox purchased Portion 151, parish Cumbo, in 1889, the block being forfeited to the Bank of NSW by 1932. A cottage was built on the block at some stage, being nothing but a ruined site by the 1980s. The two-stand woolshed (Plate GA-12) , believed to date to the 1930s, is said to have been used as ‘depot’ shed by a number of local small-holders who did not have their own shearing sheds.¹⁹



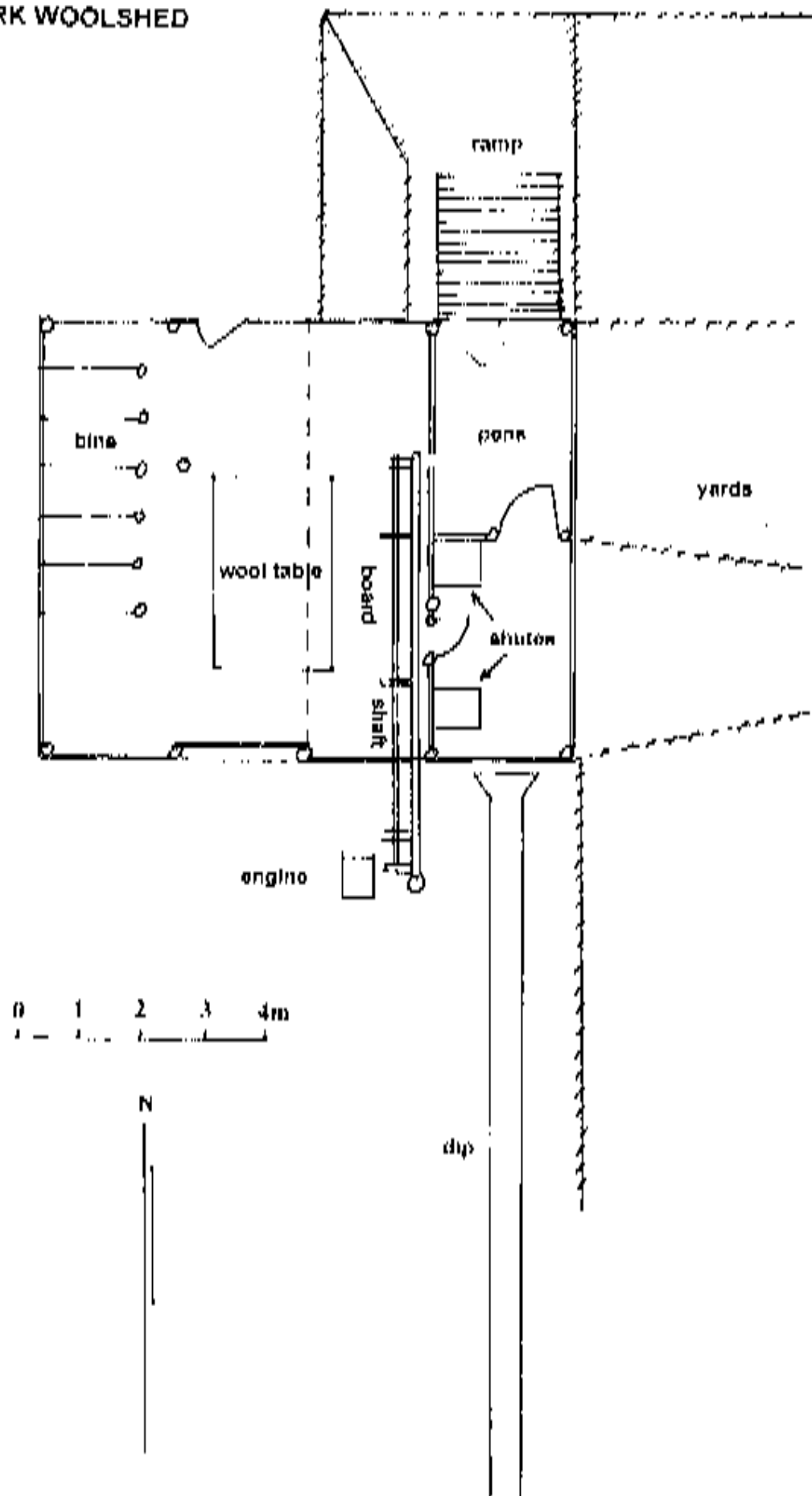
Plate GA-12: Pine Park Woolshed

7.2 Physical Description

The woolshed is a simple slab shed with corrugated galvanised iron roof and end-walls on a round-post frame (Plate GA-12 and Plan GA-7). The slabs are said to have come from the old house on the site. The re-use of the slabs from a more domestic building is confirmed by fragments of newspaper and wall paper adhering to the inside faces of the slabs. The slabs are nailed into the frame, again showing their re-use. The floor and walls are raised about 600 mm above the ground on timber stumps.

¹⁹ Pers. Comm.. Kevin Dorahy, 2/7/04

PINE PARK WOOLSHED



The sheep chutes at each of the two shearing stands is a timber framed and clad angled box penetrating the floor of the centre of the shed (Plate GA-13), ejecting the shorn sheep beneath the raised sheep pens and out into the yards. The pens area within the shed is limited, most of the space of the shed being taken up by the sorting table, board, wool press and wool bins. The engine for the shearing machinery is located outside the shed, driving a line shaft supported by an external post. A concrete sheep dip runs south from the shed, sheep being able to be directed into the dip straight from the shed or the adjacent yards.



Plate GA-13: Pine Park Woolshed – Internal Detail

7.3 Location

The *Pine Park* woolshed is located on Portion 151, Parish Cumbo, County Phillip. The AMG map reference by GPS (AUS 66 to match current 1:25,000 map series) for the woolshed is Zone 55H 772770E 6416730N.

7.4 Physical Condition

The woolshed is in fair condition. The yards are in poor condition.

7.5 Heritage Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The woolshed is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. It is the best preserved older shed in the Project area and illustrates the nature of shearing in a small-holder community.

Criterion B: an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;

The woolshed is not particularly associated with a specific person or group, other than 'the locals'.

Criterion C: an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

The building does not exhibit high aesthetic or technical importance.

Criterion D: an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The place and its history appears to be little known, and no particular association has been indicated by local families.

Criterion E: an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The place has little research potential. Any archaeological deposits are likely to be no more important than any other of like age in the district.

Criterion F: an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The place is not considered to have any rare or endangered attributes.

Criterion G: an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

The woolshed is typical of shearing sheds of small-holdings, and is a good example of its type.

7.6 Statement of Significance

The *Pine Park* woolshed is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. It is the best preserved older woolshed in the Project area and illustrates the nature of shearing in a small-holder community. The woolshed is typical of shearing sheds of small-holdings, and is a good example of its type.

7.7 Mitigation and Management

The *Pine Park* woolshed is not directly impacted by pit development. However, if the *Pine Park* property is to be vacated, as is believed to be the case, the shed is likely to deteriorate without any active use, and even if moth-balled will be separated from its traditional landuse.

The possible removal and reconstruction of the shed for ongoing shearing use has been proposed by the current lessee, and while the removal of buildings is not normally a preferred conservation action, in this case it may be a reasonable compromise to ensure compatible ongoing use of the building, albeit in an adjacent valley.

Independently of the retention or removal of the building, the woolshed has been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance.

SITE 8— POST AND RAIL FENCE, PORTION 106, CUMBO

8.1 History

A section of post and rail fence extends for almost a kilometre separating portions 88 and 106 to the south from portions 94 and 77 to the north (all Parish Cumbo, County Phillip). The best preserved section is a 370m stretch between portions 106 and 77. Portions 94 and 88 were purchased by James Granter in 1892, but he forfeited them in 1906, portion 88 reverting to C.D. Meares, a solicitor for mortgagors, while portion 94 appears to have been taken by Richard Rogan, in whose executor's name it was recorded in 1927, before appearing in the names of G.N. Mason and W.J. Kelman, and then F.G. Rogan by the time of the 1962 map. Portion 106 was purchased by Andrew Barton in 1876, passing to John Marskell between 1908 and 1918 (part of the *Warrawong* property). Portion 77 was a public school reserve from 1881, and though there is no evidence there was ever a school built there, it remained a public reserve until made over to Patience Marskell as a special lease in 1957.²⁰

The line between these portions was a public roadway, the fence marking the southern side of the road reserve (Plate GA-14). However, the exact date of its construction is not known.



Plate GA-14: Post and Rail Fence

²⁰ Maps, Parish Cumbo, County Phillip, 1884, 1895, 1908, 1918, 1932, 1962.

8.2 Physical Description

The fence has timber posts morticed to take two rails (Plate GA-15). Wire has been run along the posts to try to extend the fence's life and make it stock proof. As the fence runs along a public road reserve, a line of trees parallels the fence, adding to the rural landscape aesthetic of the fence.



Plate GA-15: Post and Rail Fence - Detail

8.3 Location

The AMG map references by GPS (AUS 66 to match current 1:25,000 map series) for the fence are as follows; The eastern section in better condition runs from Zone 55H 770994E 6417948N to 770672E 6417948N. The fence extends west to 770070E 6417981N.

8.4 Physical Condition

The fence is in poor condition. Many of the posts are split, and many rails are missing, fallen or sagging. The easternmost 370 m is in the best condition (Plate GA-15), while the remainder has very low integrity, with many sections missing.

8.5 Heritage Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The post and rail fence is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. It is a remnant of a fencing system that was probably much more widespread, but has been replaced by wire fencing over time.

Criterion B: an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;

The fence is not particularly associated with a specific person or group that has been identified.

Criterion C: an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

The fence is of some local aesthetic interest, reflecting a rural landscape now lost.

Criterion D: an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The fence is known to many locals, but the strength of associations with it have not been recorded.

Criterion E: an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The fence has no research potential.

Criterion F: an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

Post and rail fences in such lengths are now uncommon.

Criterion G: an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

The fence illustrates the characteristics of post and rail fencing well, including its proneness to decay. The fence is a locally important example of the type.

8.6 Statement of Significance

The post and rail fence is of local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. It is a remnant of a fencing system that is now uncommon but was previously much more widespread. The fence is of some local aesthetic interest, reflecting a rural landscape now lost, and is a good example of its type.

8.7 Mitigation and Management

The fence is located in the area of the ROM Pad, tailings dam, rail loop and mine facilities area, and would be destroyed by the Project. The fence is so deteriorated as to be beyond conservation, and its timbers are of no value for re-use. The fence has been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance.

SITE 9— WILPINJONG ROAD STONE EMBANKMENT, PORTION 26, PARISH CUMBO

9.1 History

The stone road embankment on Wilpinjong Road in portion 26, Parish Cumbo (Plate GA-16), has not been dated. The roadway existed by the time of the first parish map in 1884, and had become a gazetted public road by the parish map of 1908.²¹ It was built before the memory of anybody interviewed for this report, so was in place by at least the 1930s, and probably much earlier, perhaps being late 19th century in date.



Plate GA-16: Stone Embankment

9.2 Physical Description

The stone road embankment is the down-slope retaining wall of the road as it climbs out of a tributary of Cumbo Creek, up a steep natural bank. The rock has been cut from the up-slope cutting, and the natural cleavage lines of the rock has provided squared stones that have been laid in un-coursed random rubble form to create an embankment 43 m long and 2.5 m high at its highest point. The natural regularity of the stone results in a perception that the stonework is laid better than it actually is. The stone is not coursed, and there are vertical joint lines that are inherently unstable (Plate GA-17). It is not the work of a professional stone mason or even a skilled rural stone worker. Yet it has survived and is an impressive sight.

²¹ Maps, Parish Cumbo, County Phillip, 1884, 1895, 1908,



Plate GA-17: Stone Embankment - Detail

9.3 Location

The stone embankment is on Wilpinjong Road, as it rises out of a tributary of Cumbo Creek immediately south of the *Pine Park* entrance gates. It is on the eastern edge of Portion 26, Parish Cumbo. The AMG map reference by GPS (AUS 66 to match current 1:25,000 map series) for the stone embankment is Zone 55H 772449E 6416897N.

9.4 Physical Condition

The stone embankment is in good condition, with some bulging and other signs of movement at the northern end.

9.5 Heritage Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The stone road embankment on Wilpinjong Road is of moderate local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. There are few engineering works of note in the local area, other than the earth works for the Sandy Hollow railway. The stone road embankment is one of the few probably 19th century notable works of a civil rather than rural landholder origin in the valley.

Criterion B: an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;

It is not known who was responsible for the stone embankment.

Criterion C: an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

While the stone embankment is aesthetically attractive as an engineering work, because it is not visible from the roadway itself, it is little known and appreciated. It is not of high creative achievement, and is not technically sophisticated or notable.

Criterion D: an item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The stone embankment is little known, and not generally highly valued by the community.

Criterion E: an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The stone embankment has little potential to provide new information of value.

Criterion F: an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

The work is locally uncommon, but is not of a high technical standard, and is not uncommon in a broader context in that regard.

Criterion G: an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments.

The stone embankment is not a good example of its type, being poorly executed.

9.6 Statement of Significance

The stone road embankment on Wilpinjong Road is of moderate local importance in the pattern of European settlement of the Wilpinjong area. There are few engineering works of note in the local area, other than the earth works for the Sandy Hollow railway. The stone road embankment is one of the few probably 19th century notable works of a civil rather than rural landholder origin in the valley.

9.7 Mitigation and Management

The stone embankment is on the alignment of the proposed Mine Access Road. Major road improvements or heavy traffic would very likely lead to the destruction or destabilisation of the embankment. It is recommended that the alignment of the Mine Access road be reconsidered to see if the stone embankment can be avoided. As the stone embankment is close to where the proposed new road meets the existing Wilpinjong Road alignment, it may be possible to slightly angle the new road from the Wollar Road, and join the Wilpinjong Road alignment north of the stone embankment.

Independently of the eventual retention or destruction of the stone embankment, the embankment has been recorded photographically and documented to the Heritage Office standard applying to places of local significance.