

" 2 "



13 May, 1999

Mr. Joe Cox
3/14 Esther Road
MOSMAN NSW 2088

NSW
NATIONAL
PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

Our Ref: ASR#6070
Your Ref:

Dear Sir,

**RE: Aboriginal sites search for Proposed Development
20 NARABANG WAY, BELROSE**

Reference is made to your recent enquiry in respect to whether any Aboriginal sites are registered at the above location.

A search of the National Parks and Wildlife Service's (NPWS) Aboriginal Sites Register database has shown that three Aboriginal sites are currently recorded in or near the proposed development area (refer attached Site Register report for details).

The following qualifications apply to the Aboriginal Sites Register database;

- The database only includes recorded sites. Large areas of New South Wales have not been the subject of systematic survey or the recording of Aboriginal history. These areas may contain sites which are not currently listed on the Aboriginal Sites Register.
- Site records come from a variety of sources and are variable in their accuracy. When a database search identifies sites in or near the area it is recommended that the exact location of the sites be determined by relocation on the ground.
- The criteria used to search the database are derived from information provided by the client and assume that this information is correct.

You should be aware that all Aboriginal sites are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, regardless of their inclusion on the Sites Register, and it is an offence to damage or destroy them without the prior permission of the Director-General of the NPWS.

In determining development applications under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, local councils must include matters relating to Aboriginal heritage in the decision making process. As part of this process, the NPWS may be asked for advice on whether an area proposed for development should be subject to Aboriginal heritage assessment. NPWS advice is broadly based on the following criteria;

1) The NPWS would normally recommend an Aboriginal heritage assessment under the following circumstances:

The Sites Register identifies sites in or near the development area, and these could be impacted during or after the development (this includes indirect impacts, such as increased run-off or sedimentation, changes in visitation, etc).

43 Bridge Street
PO Box 1967
Hurstville NSW
2220 Australia

Tel: (02) 9585 6444
Fax: (02) 9585 6555
www.npws.nsw.gov.au

- the proposed development is likely to impact areas of bushland or undisturbed ground.
- the proposed development is likely to impact areas containing sandstone outcrops (greater than 1m²), rock shelters and overhangs, old growth trees, sand bodies, and ground adjacent to creeks, rivers, lakes and swamps.
- the proposed development is likely to impact an area of importance to the Aboriginal community not included in the above (eg. story places, buildings, missions, etc)

X 2) The NPWS would not normally recommend an Aboriginal heritage assessment under the following circumstances:

- the proposed development is within land previously subject to intensive ground disturbance, such as quarrying, repeated market gardening, earthworks for pipelines, roads, sports fields etc. However it should be noted that sites could still occur in these context for example, ploughing generally impacts the top 20cm of ground and there is potential that *undisturbed archaeological deposit may occur* in areas where soil depth exceeds 20cm. *Scarred trees* may be located within road reserves and adjacent sport fields, etc.
- X • the development is within an existing residential or industrial area, or the redevelopment of an existing building is proposed, and the above criteria (listed in section 1) do not apply.

An Aboriginal heritage assessment would provide you with information about the location and significance of sites or sensitive areas, as well as advice on appropriate management options for these areas. It is recommended that an Aboriginal heritage assessment be carried out by a person qualified in undertaking Aboriginal heritage assessments. It is also recommended that the Aboriginal community (Local Aboriginal Land Council, Tribal Council etc) be contacted and its views sought on possible impacts to Aboriginal heritage.

If the proposed development area is found to contain an Aboriginal site, reference should be made to the NPWS requirements for Aboriginal heritage under the Integrated Development Approval Process (*Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment Act 1997*).

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Archaeologist, Phil Hunt, on 02 9585 6677.

Yours faithfully

per W. Engelhorst

Paul Houston

Aboriginal Sites Registrar

Cultural Heritage Services Division