

## **Environmental Management Plan – June 2021**

### **Northern Regional Prison – Geotechnical drilling investigations**

#### **Crown Land - Birralee Road, Westbury**

##### Summary

The Department of Justice (DoJ) is undertaking a number of due diligence investigations at the proposed Northern Regional Prison site at Birralee Road, Westbury. As part of this work the DoJ has engaged Geo-Environmental Solutions to undertake exploratory drilling on the site.

The exploratory drilling operations will involve a total of 8 holes at locations spread over the south western part of the Crown Land. See Map 1 for nominal locations. One of these proposed drill hole sites has previously been drilled, in late 2020, so there remains a further 7 drill holes to complete this work

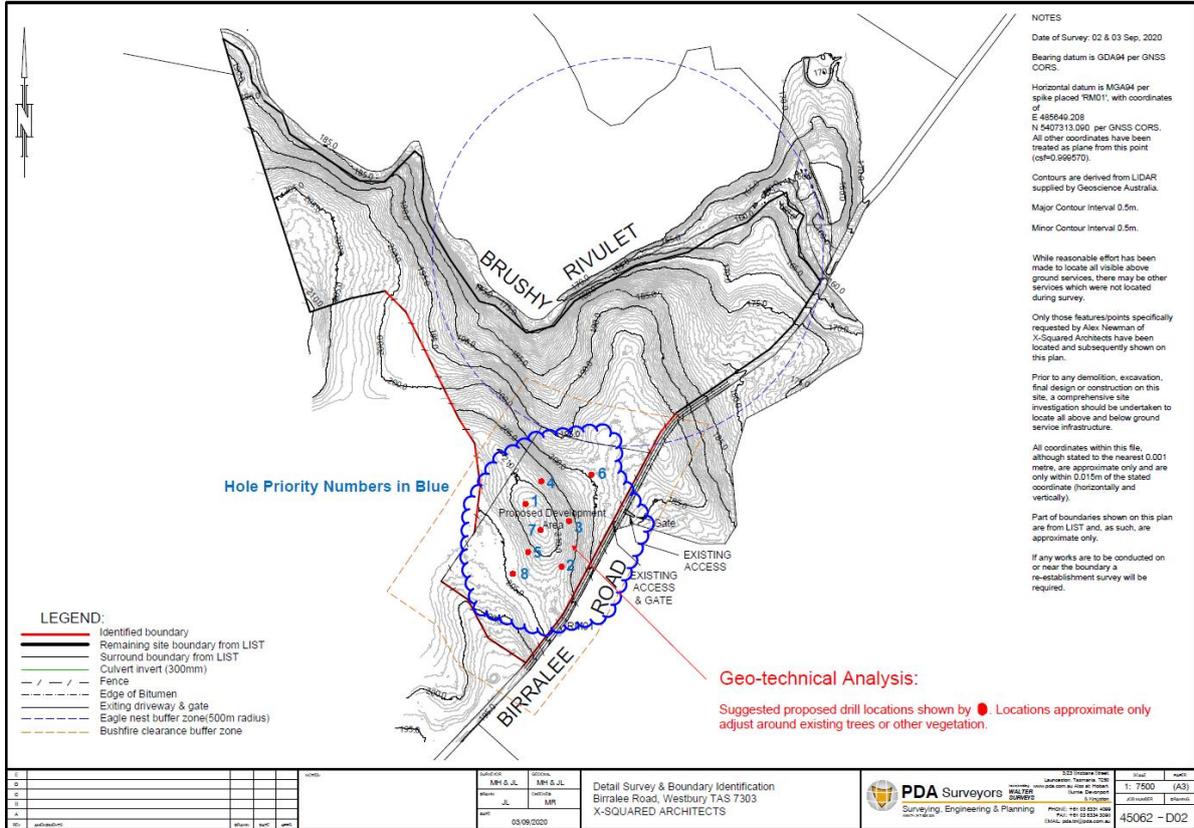
Since the original drilling was conducted, the DoJ has received additional information about the natural and cultural values on the site as part other due diligence investigations that have been or are being undertaken.

As a result of this additional assessment on the natural and cultural values that currently exist, the further 7 exploratory drilling holes will be undertaken subject to the following conditions.

1. All workers and contractors will be appropriately briefed on the proposed geotechnical drilling works, the extent of the work and conditions contained within this document, prior to the commencement of works.
2. Prior to any drilling equipment being brought onto the site, the area that will be subject to the exploratory drilling will be mapped by a suitably qualified person and all sections containing sensitive natural values (like Blue Pincushion and Handsome Hooksedge) will be clearly marked, with no drilling equipment permitted to enter these sensitive areas.
3. Prior to any drilling equipment being brought onto the site, the proposed access routes for the drilling equipment will be assessed by a suitably qualified person and will be restricted to only routes where sensitive natural values and any unnecessary impact to the ground surface can be avoided, as far as reasonably practicable. Where possible, existing vehicle tracks will be used to gain access to proposed exploratory drill hole locations.
4. As far as practicable, all access routes will be selected to avoid driving over any exposed roots of mature trees on the site.
5. All drilling will be outside of the 500m buffer for identified raptor nests.
6. As far as practicable, access routes to exploratory drill hole locations will be selected to avoid or minimise any disturbance to any standing or fallen vegetation. In the event that any standing or fallen vegetation is needed to be modified or moved to provide access for the drilling equipment, this vegetation will be returned to its original location upon completion of the drilling investigations, as far practicable.
7. Disturbance to vegetation and soil will be kept to a minimum required to undertake the work.
8. No drilling will be allowed within 15m of any potential nesting or roosting trees for masked owls that have been identified by a suitably qualified person.
9. Water used in the drilling operations will be sourced from a clean, local source and only discharged in the vicinity of the exploratory holes.

10. Water for the drilling operations will be transported to the site on a tanker but will only be taken to the drilling rig using smaller vehicles to minimise impact to the ground conditions on the site.
11. All drill holes will be effectively capped as soon as practicable after completion of drilling.
12. All drilling equipment will be cleaned prior to arriving at the site using hygiene procedures consistent with the DPIPW *Weed and Disease Planning Hygiene Guidelines 2015*.
13. In the event of an oil spill, oil spill kits appropriate to the type and size of machinery must be available on site with appropriately trained personnel.
14. Disposal of any contaminated soil will be in accordance with recommendations found in, Information Bulletin 105 – *Classification and Management of Contaminated soil for Disposal, 2012, EPA* and in compliance with relevant authorities.
15. In the event that any European (Historic) or Aboriginal values are suspected of being uncovered during the drilling operations the contractor will immediately cease drilling and instigate the relevant Unanticipated Discovery Protocols that are provided as attachments to this document.
16. The Crown Land must be left in a clean and tidy conditions and in a safe state for anyone who enters the land at the completion of the drilling investigations.
17. The DoJ will install signage warning people of the work site and proposed works and advising them to avoid this area during the geotechnical drilling operations.
18. Drilling operations will be restricted to only daylight hours between 8am-5pm.
19. Any changes to the approved scope of works must be provided to Crown Land Services for approval, prior to any new works commencing.

Map 1. Indicative drill holes locations



# Unanticipated Discovery Plan

Procedure for the management of unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal relics in Tasmania

For the management of unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal relics in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* and the *Coroners Act 1995*. The Unanticipated Discovery Plan is in two sections.

## Discovery of Aboriginal Relics other than Skeletal Material

### Step 1:

Any person who believes they have uncovered Aboriginal relics should notify all employees or contractors working in the immediate area that all earth disturbance works must cease immediately.

### Step 2:

A temporary 'no-go' or buffer zone of at least 10m x 10m should be implemented to protect the suspected Aboriginal relics, where practicable. No unauthorised entry or works will be allowed within this 'no-go' zone until the suspected Aboriginal relics have been assessed by a consulting archaeologist, Aboriginal Heritage Officer or Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania staff member.

### Step 3:

Contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania on 1300 487 045 as soon as possible and inform them of the discovery. Documentation of the find should be emailed to [aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au](mailto:aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au) as soon as possible. Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania will then provide further advice in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

## Discovery of Skeletal Material

### Step 1:

Call the Police immediately. Under no circumstances should the suspected skeletal material be touched or disturbed. The area should be managed as a crime scene. It is a criminal offence to interfere with a crime scene.

### Step 2:

Any person who believes they have uncovered skeletal material should notify all employees or contractors working in the immediate area that all earth disturbance works cease immediately.

### Step 3:

A temporary 'no-go' or buffer zone of at least 50m x 50m should be implemented to protect the suspected skeletal material, where practicable. No unauthorised entry or works will be allowed within this 'no-go' zone until the suspected skeletal remains have been assessed by the Police and/or Coroner.

### Step 4:

If it is suspected that the skeletal material is Aboriginal, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania should be notified.

### Step 5:

Should the skeletal material be determined to be Aboriginal, the Coroner will contact the Aboriginal organisation approved by the Attorney-General, as per the *Coroners Act 1995*.

## Guide to Aboriginal site types

### Stone Artefact Scatters

A stone artefact is any stone or rock fractured or modified by Aboriginal people to produce cutting, scraping or grinding implements. Stone artefacts are indicative of past Aboriginal living spaces, trade and movement throughout Tasmania. Aboriginal people used hornfels, chalcedony, spongelite, quartzite, chert and silcrete depending on stone quality and availability. Stone artefacts are typically recorded as being 'isolated' (single stone artefact) or as an 'artefact scatter' (multiple stone artefacts).

### Shell Middens

Middens are distinct concentrations of discarded shell that have accumulated as a result of past Aboriginal camping and food processing activities. These sites are usually found near waterways and coastal areas, and range in size from large mounds to small scatters. Tasmanian Aboriginal middens commonly contain fragments of mature edible shellfish such as abalone, oyster, mussel, warrener and limpet, however they can also contain stone tools, animal bone and charcoal.

### Rockshelters

An occupied rockshelter is a cave or overhang that contains evidence of past Aboriginal use and occupation, such as stone tools, middens and hearths, and in some cases, rock markings. Rockshelters are usually found in geological formations that are naturally prone to weathering, such as limestone, dolerite and sandstone

### Quarries

An Aboriginal quarry is a place where stone or ochre has been extracted from a natural source by Aboriginal people. Quarries can be recognised by evidence of human manipulation such as battering of an outcrop, stone fracturing debris or ochre pits left behind from processing the raw material. Stone and ochre quarries can vary in terms of size, quality and the frequency of use.

### Rock Marking

Rock marking is the term used in Tasmania to define markings on rocks which are the result of Aboriginal practices. Rock markings come in two forms; engraving and painting. Engravings are made by removing the surface of a rock through pecking, abrading or grinding, whilst paintings are made by adding pigment or ochre to the surface of a rock.

### Burials

Aboriginal burial sites are highly sensitive and may be found in a variety of places, including sand dunes, shell middens and rock shelters. Despite few records of pre-contact practices, cremation appears to have been more common than burial. Family members carried bones or ashes of recently deceased relatives. The Aboriginal community has fought long campaigns for the return of the remains of ancestral Aboriginal people.

*Further information on Aboriginal Heritage is available from:*

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania  
Natural and Cultural Heritage Division  
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment  
GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001

Telephone: **1300 487 045**

Email: **[aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au](mailto:aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au)**

Web: **[www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au)**

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## Unanticipated Discovery Protocol – Historic (European) Heritage

The following text describes the proposed method for dealing with unanticipated discoveries of heritage features or objects during the proposed construction of the Northern Prison and related infrastructure. The plan provides guidance to project personnel so that they may meet their obligations with respect to heritage legislation.

Please Note: There are two different processes presented for the mitigation of these unanticipated discoveries. The first process applies for the discovery of all cultural heritage objects or features, with the exception of skeletal remains (burials). The second process applies exclusively to the discovery of skeletal remains (burials).

### Discovery of Heritage Objects or Features

#### *Step 1*

If any person believes that they have discovered or uncovered a heritage object or feature, the individual should notify any machinery operators that are working in the general vicinity of the area that earth disturbance works should stop immediately.

#### *Step 2*

A buffer protection zone of 5m x 5m should be established around the suspected heritage find. No unauthorised entry or earth disturbance will be allowed within this 'archaeological zone' until such time as the suspected heritage find has been assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been carried out.

#### *Step 3*

A qualified heritage consultant should be engaged to assess the suspected heritage find. As a first step in the process, the heritage consultant should contact Heritage Tasmania, the Heritage Council and the Meander Valley Council and notify them of the find. The heritage consultant will ensure that Heritage Tasmania, the Heritage Council and the Meander Valley Council are consulted throughout the assessment process.

#### *Step 4*

If the heritage find is a movable object, then the find should be recorded, photographed and a decision should be made as to whether the object should be re-located to a designated Keeping Place. If the find is an unmovable heritage object or feature, then the find should be recorded and photographed and a HIA and HMP developed for the feature. This should be then submitted to Heritage Tasmania, the Heritage Council and the Meander Valley Council for review and advice.

Possible outcomes may necessitate:

- a. An amendment to the design of the development
- b. Carrying out of archaeological excavations prior to the re-commencement of works
- c. Archaeological monitoring and recording during works
- d. Preparation (and implementation) of a strategy to ensure communication of the new

information to the community.  
e. A combination of the above.

### **Discovery of Skeletal Material**

#### **Step 1:**

Call the Police immediately. Under no circumstances should the suspected skeletal material be touched or disturbed. The area should be managed as a crime scene. It is a criminal offence to interfere with a crime scene.

#### **Step 2:**

Any person who believes they have uncovered skeletal material should notify all employees or contractors working in the immediate area that all earth disturbance works cease immediately.

#### **Step 3:**

A temporary 'no-go' or buffer zone of at least 50m x 50m should be implemented to protect the suspected skeletal material, where practicable. No unauthorised entry or works will be allowed within this 'no-go' zone until the suspected skeletal remains have been assessed by the Police and/or Coroner.

#### **Step 4:**

If it is suspected that the skeletal material is Aboriginal, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania should be notified.

#### **Step 5:**

Should the skeletal material be determined to be Aboriginal, the Coroner will contact the Aboriginal organisation approved by the Attorney-General, as per the *Coroners Act 1995*.