

# Gloucester Coal Seam Gas Project

Community  
information  
fact sheet

Number 4  
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## Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage

The Project is required to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage values under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. **Nobody may affect (or knowingly allow another person to affect) an item, object or place of Aboriginal cultural heritage.**

This Act is supported by various guidelines, particularly **Protecting Aboriginal objects and places - interim guidelines for community consultation** (January 2005). In accordance with these guidelines, ads were placed in local newspapers: the Gloucester Advocate, Dungog Chronicle and Maitland Mercury, in July 2008 seeking registrations of interest. We will continue to consult in accordance with these guidelines to ensure the heritage assessment is appropriate.

### Cultural heritage management plans

The heritage assessment will include:

- A broad review of available records, including the Australian Heritage Information Management Systems (AHIMS) register;
- Developing a model based on the frequency of certain types of sites on certain landforms or areas;
- A site inspection of areas identified by the model, accompanied by local Aboriginal representatives; and
- Preparing an impact assessment and draft mitigation and management plan.

The plans will be supplied to the local Aboriginal representatives for their comment before being finalised.

This will be the basis for a cultural heritage management plan which will be part of the environmental management plan guiding the construction of the project.

### Managing cultural heritage during construction

The principal approach in managing cultural heritage is to avoid, wherever possible, affecting sites of heritage significance. The assessment process also helps develop guidelines to include in the plan:

- Training to ensure all construction staff are aware of the heritage issues;
- An archaeology management plan including a response plan for unexpected discovery of sub-surface items;
- Location and management of any exclusion zones to protect known heritage items near construction sites; and
- Communication and reporting.

## Cultural Heritage

### Want to know more?

For further information, please contact your community relations representative on **1800 810 680 (free call) or [info@gloucestergas.com.au](mailto:info@gloucestergas.com.au).**

### Existing cultural heritage places and items

A preliminary review by GHD Pty Ltd earlier in 2008 found six known sites within the 10km buffer of the study area. Two were close to the concept plan area.

They also found several heritage items listed on the Register of the National Estate, the NSW State Heritage Register and Heritage Inventory.

The assessment will look at these known items as well as other potential items ("archaeological potential"). This information will be used in the project planning to minimise any effects on known heritage items. This will be supported by the detailed management planning to guide responsible behaviour and appropriate responses during construction.

This community information fact sheet has been produced by the Gloucester Coal Seam Gas Project:  
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