

How to Read This Document

The following document is a Background Document that was prepared to inform the preparation of the draft Manuka Road Development Plan (the Plan). The document was prepared at a particular point in time prior to the community consultation and may include information that is not represented in the Plan or may conflict with the Plan. Noting this, the background documents have still been deemed suitable to be placed on consultation to support the Plan.

It is intended that all Background Documents are to be updated post community consultation and prior to Council Adoption of the Plan. These updated documents will be made available for public access once completed.

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Randah Jordan
Manager Town Planning
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PO Box 5075
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Dear Randah

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Investigations at 42-52, 54-60, 62-70 and 72-80 Manuka Road, Berwick

I understand that a planning scheme amendment application will shortly be submitted to the City of Casey, requesting that the land at 42-52, 54-60 (Clover Cottage), 62-70 (Minard) and 72-80 Manuka Road, Berwick be rezoned to allow for future residential subdivision.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the investigations that Andrew Long + Associates, recognised Cultural Heritage Advisors under s 189 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic), have undertaken to date on behalf of Parklea Developments and Bosco Jonson strictly concerning Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments of two properties including 42-52 and 62-80 Manuka Road, Berwick. At the request of the client, the activity area defined for the subsequent CHMP 13357 excluded 54-60 Manuka Road, Berwick (Clover Cottage) from these assessments.

Statutory Framework

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic) (the Act) and the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007* (Vic) (the Regulations) require that a cultural heritage plan (CHMP) must be prepared in support of activities that require statutory planning approval if:

- any part of the activity area (the area or areas to be used or developed for an activity) includes land defined as an area of cultural heritage sensitivity; and
- all or part of the activity is defined as a high impact activity.

The portions of the property parcels at 42-52, 54-60, 62-80 Manuka Road, Berwick that will be included in the planning scheme amendment and subsequent application for subdivision include land within 200m of Cardinia Creek and Grasmere Creek. This land is therefore defined as an area of cultural heritage sensitivity under reg 23(1) of the Regulations.

Although a planning scheme amendment requires planning approval, it is not listed in the Regulations as a high impact activity. However, the subdivision of land into three or more lots, of which at least three lots are less than 8ha and at least three lots may be used as dwellings, is defined as a high impact activity under reg 46(1).

On this basis:

- An application for a planning scheme amendment does not require the preparation of a CHMP.
- A future application for a permit to subdivide the properties at 42-52 and 62-80 Manuka Road, Berwick will require the mandatory preparation of a CHMP.

Cultural Heritage Investigations

Andrew Long + Associates was first engaged by Bosco Jonson and Parklea Developments in 2012 to prepare a CHMP covering the component of the proposed subdivision at 42-52 Manuka Road, Berwick. The preparation of a draft CHMP for that property included:

- A desktop assessment of the existing Aboriginal cultural heritage conditions within and in the vicinity the property.
- An archaeological survey of the property sufficient to meet the requirements of a CHMP standard assessment, and designed to identify any surface or aboveground Aboriginal heritage places or objects.
- A subsurface testing program sufficient to meet the requirements of a complex assessment, including manual excavations across the property designed to:
 - ♦ fully define the archaeological sensitivity of the activity area
 - ♦ determine the presence/absence of archaeological subsurface deposits
 - ♦ collect data on the nature and significance of any deposits identified

Although a full draft of the CHMP was completed in December 2012, it could not be submitted for evaluation at that time because the planning scheme amendment was still being prepared, and it would have been premature to submit a CHMP for a residential subdivision in advance of the relevant planning scheme amendment having been considered and approved by council.

In December 2014, Bosco Jonson and Parklea Developments again engaged Andrew Long + Associates to continue with the preparation of a CHMP for the second stage of the proposed subdivision, including the property at 62-80 Manuka Road, Berwick. Given the intervening two-year gap and the potential for conditions at 42-52 Manuka Road Berwick to have changed, it was felt appropriate to commence a new CHMP that included both properties. This CHMP would also include desktop, standard and complex assessments, but where relevant and appropriate would draw on the fieldwork and outcomes of the earlier CHMP.

Fieldwork for the second CHMP was undertaken in December 2014, but was limited at that time to an archaeological survey of both properties. The 2014 survey confirmed that ground surface conditions at 42-52 Manuka Road, Berwick were basically unchanged from the 2012 survey, and on this basis it was felt that the 2012 CHMP complex assessment methodology and outcomes are still relevant.

A draft CHMP for the proposed subdivision of 42-52 and 62-80 Manuka Road, Berwick has now been completed to the desktop and standard assessment stages. The complex assessment of 42-52 Manuka Road, Berwick has been completed, but a complex assessment of 62-80 Manuka Road, Berwick has not yet been commenced.

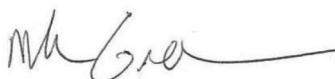
Major Findings

- Ethnographic records indicate that the activity area is located within the traditional Aboriginal language boundary of the *Bun wurrung*, and that the *Ngaruk willam* was most likely the resident clan. It should be noted, however, that the geographic region may also include lands that were recognised as a boundary with their neighbouring group, the *Woi wurrung*.

- Previous archaeological investigations across the general region have noted that Aboriginal cultural heritage places are consistently located in close proximity to freshwater sources.
- Isolated stone artefacts and low or low-medium density artefact scatters are the most common Aboriginal cultural heritage place type across the region. Moderate/high density stone artefact scatters are restricted to rises overlooking Cardinia Creek and/or Grasmere Creek.
- Scarred trees may be located within patches of remnant native vegetation along the creek lines.
- The most likely location for Aboriginal cultural heritage places within the activity area is considered to be on elevated landforms adjacent to Grasmere Creek and Cardinia Creek.
- Land surfaces within the proposed activity area have been subjected to a variety of past human activities which will have impacted to varying degrees on the survival of Aboriginal archaeological deposits. These include vegetation clearance, agriculture, and urban and residential development. However, these processes have not occurred uniformly across the activity area, and the desktop assessment identified a low to moderate potential for the survival of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area.
- The archaeological surveys conducted in 2012 and 2014 did not identify any Aboriginal cultural heritage places within the activity area. However, the surveys did identify a moderate to high potential for the majority of the activity area to contain intact subsurface deposits of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- The complex assessment completed for 42-52 Manuka Road, Berwick in 2012 identified a single Aboriginal cultural heritage place in the north-east corner of 42-52 Manuka Road, Berwick, comprising a low-density artefact scatter in subsurface deposits.

Please let me know if there is any further information you or Council may need in relation to the above summary.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael Green
Senior Project Manager
Andrew Long + Associates