

# Appendix B

Wanneroo Town Centre Aboriginal Heritage Desktop  
Assessment Report





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**OPEN REPORT**

**Wanneroo Town Centre Aboriginal Heritage Desktop  
Assessment Report**

**October 2018**

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*Horizon Heritage Management acknowledges and pays respect to the Whadjuk Noongar Traditional Owners and community.*

## 1 PROJECT BRIEF

Horizon Heritage Management was engaged to undertake a desktop assessment in order to understand the extent and characteristics of any known and likely Aboriginal heritage values in proximity to the Wanneroo Town Centre.

## 2 DPLH RESEARCH

A search of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) online register of Aboriginal sites; the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS) was conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018. This search was used to provide contextual Aboriginal heritage information for inclusion and evaluation within the Wanneroo Town Centre Planning Framework.

The research determined both the registered ethnographic and archaeological sites and other heritage places within the project area and the nature and frequency of Aboriginal heritage surveys undertaken. In turn, the potential impact of the Wanneroo Town Centre Planning Framework upon these sites and places and the likelihood of identifying additional sites and heritage issues were assessed in preparation of this desktop research.

### 2.1 DPLH Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System Results

There are no (0) registered Aboriginal sites and three (3) Other Heritage Places identified on the DPLH AHIS as being located within the Wanneroo Town Centre project area. These are DPLH 16058 Shaw Road, Wanneroo, DPLH 20054 Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #1 and DPLH 20055 Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #2.

### DPLH Other Heritage Places:

The following are the Other Heritage Places located within the Wanneroo Town Centre project desktop area:

**Table 1: DPLH Other Heritage Places located within the desktop area**

DPLH ID	PLACE NAME	TYPE	STATUS	LOCATION	COMMENTS
16058	Shaw Road, Wanneroo	Modified Tree	Stored Data / Not A Site, No Restrictions	386514mE 6486549mN Zone 50 Reliable	Not the result of Aboriginal activity
20054	Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #1	Modified Tree	Stored Data / Not A Site, No Restrictions	386578mE 6486510mN Zone 50 Reliable	Not the result of Aboriginal activity
20055	Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #2	Modified Tree	Stored Data / Not A Site, No Restrictions	386580mE 6486515mN Zone 50 Reliable	Not the result of Aboriginal activity

**DPLH 16058 Shaw Road, Wanneroo**

This modified tuart tree was recorded in 1999 by Noongar informants and Madge Schwede. It was described as being located in a vacant block at the corner of Shaw Road and Wanneroo Road. It is about 10-15 m from the corner. It is a direct line with the Church Road scarred tree. The block was heavily vegetated with numerous zamia palms and xanthorrea trees.

The scar is located on the eastern side of the tree facing Wanneroo Road. The scar is approximately 2.5-3 m high, rising as a point, from a 0.5 m incision at the bottom. A secondary cut has been made on the southern side of the scar.

It was assessed by the Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee (ACMC) and determined to not be a site within the meaning of section 5 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972)* at ACMC meeting id 404 on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2000.

This tree was removed during land clearing for a mixed business development that had building approval in 2000. Photographic images of the tree and the general area featuring the tree were assessed by Quatermaine Consultant archaeologists post its removal to determine if any other trees displayed scar modifications. Along with examining photographs of the original tree, several still standing trees were assessed with the archaeologists conclusion that although not certain, the scars are likely natural or non-Aboriginal in origin or perhaps a combination of the two. This was deemed highly likely due to the age of the tree (50 – 100 years) and the surrounding European development of the area as firstly a market garden and then as a school site.

**DPLH 20054 Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #1**

This modified marri tree was recorded by Noongar People and Wayne Glendenning in 2003. It is located at the Wanneroo Primary School near to the intersection of Shaw Road and Wanneroo Road. It bears an elliptical scar on the eastern side of the trunk, which may be due to removal of bark for use as a shield. The scar is located 0.35 m above the ground level and is approximately 1.5 m in length. At its widest the scar measures 0.5 m., with scar regrowth of 10 cm indicating a lengthy period of time from when the tree was scarred. The tree is approximately 5 m southwest of Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #2. Another scarred tree (DPLH 16058) several metres to the north of Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #1 it is claimed was destroyed due to development.

This tree and Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #2 were appraised by Dr Barrie Machin for the WA Department of Education and Training in October 2005. It was his conclusion that the wounds were not the results of Aboriginal activity but rather from damage caused by fire. He recommended that the trees be removed from the register of Aboriginal sites.

**DPLH 20054 Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #2**

This modified tuart tree was recorded by Noongar People and Wayne Glendenning in 2003. It is located at the Wanneroo Primary School near to the intersection of Shaw Road and Wanneroo Road. The tree is approximately 5 m northeast of Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #1. The scar is at the base of the tree on the northeastern side of the trunk and

is in general the shape of a triangle. The scar measures approximately 0.8 m wide by 1.5 m high. There is some evidence of old regrowth over the scar.

This tree and Wanneroo Primary School Scarred Tree #1 were appraised by Dr Barrie Machin for the WA Department of Education and Training in October 2005. It was his conclusion that the wounds were not the results of Aboriginal activity but rather from damage caused by fire. He recommended that the trees be removed from the register of Aboriginal sites.

### **DPLH Registered Aboriginal Sites:**

\*These two sites have been chosen for inclusion in this desktop to demonstrate that important Aboriginal cultural sites, features and materials are still found within heavily developed and urbanised residential areas.

The following are two significant Whadjuk Aboriginal sites located adjacent to but outside the Wanneroo Town Centre project desktop area:

**Table 2: DPLH Registered Aboriginal sites adjacent to the desktop area**

<b>DPLH SITE ID</b>	<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>SITE TYPE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
3657	*Wanneroo Scarred Tree	Modified Tree	Registered Site	Outside Survey Area
3740	*Lake Joondalup	Mythological, Camp, Hunting Place	Registered Site	Outside Survey Area

#### ***DPLH 3657 Wanneroo Scarred Tree***

This site is a modified tree located on the corner of Church Street and Fredrick Street in Wanneroo, approximately 500m east of Lake Joondalup. It is described as an old Jarrah tree with two scars near its base of which one shows evidence of a metal axe indicating the scars to be relatively modern. This site is located marginally outside the desktop area.

#### ***DPLH 3740 Lake Joondalup***

Lake Joondalup is a permanent lake in the northern suburb of Joondalup in Perth. It is known to have been a favoured Noongar camping area in traditional and more recent times. It was also a resource area where turtle and wildfowl were hunted. The area around Lake Joondalup was called *Joondal* (crayfish) and the area was a significant place mainly because there was plenty of food and covering for winter. A Noongar story is also associated with Malup Island within Lake Joondalup. Lake Joondalup is approximately 500 m west of the desktop area.

## DPLH Heritage Survey Reports:

There are fourteen heritage survey reports lodged with the DPLH which relate to the Other Heritage Places and Registered Sites discussed above. Only \*three (3) heritage survey reports are related to the three modified tree places (DPLH 16058, 20054 & 20055) found within the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area.

**Table 3: DPLH Heritage Survey Reports**

DPLH HSR ID	REPORT TITLE	AUTHOR
*18458	Report on a preliminary archaeological assessment of an Aboriginal scarred tree site Lots 1 and 152, Shaw Road, Wanneroo	Quartermaine, G
21909	Study of groundwater - related Aboriginal Cultural Values on the Gnangara Mound, Western Australia	McDonald, E
21910	Study of groundwater - related Aboriginal Cultural Values on the Gnangara Mound, Western Australia : Volume 1 restricted report	McDonald, E
21911	Study of groundwater - related Aboriginal Cultural Values on the Gnangara Mound, Western Australia : Volume 2 inventory of registered sites restricted report for Department of Environment	McDonald, E
*22144	An ethnographic appraisal of a Tuart and Marri Tree at the junction of Shaw Road and Wanneroo	Machin, B
*22146	Report of an archaeological survey of the Wanneroo Primary School development site	Glendenning, W
22599	Report on an Aboriginal Heritage Investigation under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 to support a public submission on the draft East Wanneroo Land Use and Water Management Strategy	Australian Interaction Consultants
22781	Site Identification survey of the proposed closure of several caves in Yellagonga Regional Park, Joondalup, WA	Australian Interaction Consultants
101370	Final Report: Cultural Significance of Aboriginal Sites in the Wanneroo Area : 1998	Kauler, Lily Bhavna.
104314	Report of an archaeological and ethnographic survey for Aboriginal sites Neerabup Wanneroo	Murphy, A
104512	Report of an archaeological and ethnographic survey for Aboriginal sites on the northern suburbs rail line Ocean Reef Road to Burns Beach Road	Smith, J
104620	Yellagonga Regional Park: city of Wanneroo position paper	Brittain, R
105116	Lake Joondalup regional open space north – west portion: landscape master plan	James, B
106162	A report of an archaeological survey of Beenyp Waste Water Treatment Plant Craigie, Western Australia	Allen, C

## 2.2 Summary Discussion

Very few Aboriginal heritage surveys have been conducted within the Wanneroo town centre desktop area. The increased rate of urbanisation in the Perth area and connected developments has resulted in great disturbance to the original environmental contexts. This directly affects the likelihood of locating further surface Aboriginal cultural material (archaeological). The natural environment has been heavily disturbed with vegetation clearing and the development of the Wanneroo area.

Despite this, an indication of potential Aboriginal heritage within the vicinity of the development may be derived from looking at the local environment and ascertaining what sites have previously been reported from such land units, as well as what previous research conducted in the surrounding area has reported.

Lake Joondalup as a prominent water body, especially as a fresh water source, was of vital importance to Whadjuk Noongar people as it is to all Aboriginal people across Australia. The rivers, pools and wetlands were a consistent source of food and water which also often linked campsites along walking tracks and places of mythological and spiritual significance.

In the South West of Western Australia the Rainbow Serpent or *Waugal* is central to Noongar cultural beliefs. Noongars believe that the *Waugal* is both a creative force, shaping the landscape during *Nyittiny* (creation times) and a retributive force having the ability to harm, particularly against those who offend it by not carrying out their cultural responsibilities in protecting country, especially water sources. Creation time stories remain in the oral tradition of many Whadjuk Noongar families. It is these set of associations in particular that concern contemporary Whadjuk Noongar people.

Lake Joondalup (DPLH 3740) as a natural feature and mythological associations with the *Waugal* makes it a highly significant place. Its maintenance and protection is vital to help preserve Whadjuk Noongar cultural heritage values. The rivers, pools and wetland areas of the Perth metropolitan area were part of an extensive communication network that linked Aboriginal groups across the Swan Coastal Plain with other Noongar groups to the north (Yued), south (Gnaala Karla Boodja) and east (Ballardong).

The fresh water lake systems and their surrounding land found in the broader Wanneroo Joondalup areas were exploited by the Whadjuk Noongar People in pre-contact times and by both Whadjuk Noongar People and Europeans in the years following contact. Several possible modified trees (DPLH 3657, 16058, 20054 & 20055) have previously been identified within or adjacent to the desktop area. Modified trees (those that display signs of deliberate removal of bark or wood) are associated with natural resource utilisation and it has been suggested are often found near to or linked with traditional Noongar campsites. The lack of any surface expression artefacts or stone tools is not surprising considering the development of the Wanneroo area.

The contentious nature of determining whether a tree has been modified by natural processes (fire, disease or storm) or deliberate human activities has seen the majority of the possible modified trees (16058, 20054 & 20055) found within the Wanneroo Town centre



desktop area deemed to not be of Aboriginal origin. There is an area in the north of the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area that appears to be natural bush vegetation. Due to the previously identified modified trees within the developed area of the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area; examination and assessment of this natural area for mature (Tuart & Marri) trees that could have modifications associated with Whadjuk Noongar cultural practices should be considered as a cultural heritage management strategy.

Whadjuk Noongar people have concerns that their culture cannot continue if the natural environment is destroyed. Natural resources are integral to the maintenance, continuance and transmission of Whadjuk Noongar culture. The Whadjuk Noongar’s close connection with *booja* (country) forms the foundation for much of their culture, spirituality and identity.

### 3 WHADJUK PEOPLE

#### 3.1 Identification of key Aboriginal Stakeholder Group

The existence of a native title claim (NTC) is seen as sufficient to establish an Aboriginal person’s ‘right to speak’ about heritage issues.

#### Identified Stakeholder Group

The table below outlines the Whadjuk (Noongar) people:

**Table 4: Aboriginal group identified as a key stakeholder in the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop**

NTC GROUP	NTC	CONTACT
Whadjuk People	WC2011/009 WAD242/2011	SWALSC

#### Whadjuk People

The Whadjuk People have had a registered Native Title Claim since 2011 which covers the: City Of Armadale, City Of Bayswater, City Of Belmont, City Of Canning, City Of Cockburn, City Of Fremantle, City Of Gosnells, City Of Joondalup, City Of Melville, City Of Nedlands, City Of Perth, City Of South Perth, City Of Stirling, City Of Subiaco, City Of Swan, City Of Vincent, City Of Wanneroo, Shire Of Beverley, Shire Of Chittering, Shire Of Gingin, Shire Of Kalamunda, Shire Of Mundaring, Shire Of Northam, Shire Of Peppermint Grove, Shire Of Toodyay, Shire Of York, Town Of Bassendean, Town Of Cambridge, Town Of Claremont, Town Of Cottesloe, Town Of East Fremantle, Town Of Mosman Park and the Town Of Victoria Park.

## 4 DESKTOP CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Horizon Heritage Management makes the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Limited Aboriginal heritage surveys have been undertaken within the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area.
- No (0) registered Aboriginal sites; afforded protection under the *WA Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972)*, are located within the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area.
- Important landscape features connected with mythological associations are absent within the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area. Lake Joondalup is such a feature and is located outside of the desktop area to the west.
- The majority of the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area has been so highly developed and disturbed from its original natural environment that is unlikely any surface expressions of cultural material (artefacts) would be present. However, potential modified trees could be present as demonstrated by those previously identified near the Wanneroo Primary School within the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area.
- Within the northern portion of the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area a section of remnant native bushland remains which could potentially contain Aboriginal heritage values such as modified trees or surface expressions of cultural material (artefacts).
- The key Aboriginal stakeholder group for the Wanneroo Town Centre desktop area is the Whadjuk People.
- The City of Wanneroo should consider undertaking heritage consultation with the Whadjuk People of the Wanneroo Town Centre structure plan and consider commissioning an Aboriginal heritage archaeological survey of the remnant native bushland identified in the northern portion of the structure plan.

Figure 1: Wanneroo Town Centre Concept Plan Map

