

EVERICK HERITAGE

09 March 2022

Our Ref. EV.878

Andrew Turnbull
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METServe
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Dear Andrew,

**RE: VITRINITE VULCAN SOUTH, DYSART QLD CULTURAL
HERITAGE STRATEGIC ADVICE**

This Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Letter of Advice was commissioned by METServe on behalf of Vitrinite Pty. Ltd., owner of Qld Coal Aust No.1 Pty. Ltd. and Queensland Coking Coal Pty. Ltd. (Vitrinite) (the 'Proponent') for the Vulcan South coal mine in the Bowen Basin, Qld (the 'Project'). The lands subject to this assessment include Lots 2SP296877, 59SP235297, and 72SP137467, as well as part of Saraji Road (the 'Project Area') (Figure 1). Please find **enclosed**:

- a) Attachment A: Plans including Project Area Regional Locality (Figure 1); and
- b) Attachment B: Historic aerial imagery of the Project Area from 1966 (Figure 2).

In accordance with the brief for this assessment, this letter includes:

- a historic (non-Indigenous) heritage desktop assessment, including:
 - a search of the Local, State, National and Commonwealth heritage registers;
 - a brief literature review; and
 - georeferencing and review of historic aerial photography in order to determine the past disturbance history for the Project Area (Attachment B).
- a letter of advice, including:
 - the results of the desktop assessment; and
 - recommendations for future required management if applicable, in compliance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

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Legislative Context: *Queensland Heritage Act 1992 (Qld) (QHA)*. The purpose of the QHA is 'to provide for the conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations' (Section 2.1). The QHA provides the statutory framework for the management of known and newly discovered artefacts. Part 9 of the QHA relates to the discovery of archaeological artefacts that are potentially an important source of information about an aspect of Queensland's history. In such an instance, Section 89 of the QHA requires the notification to the Chief Executive (DES).

Section 89 mandates that:

- (1) A person who discovers a thing the person knows or ought reasonably to know is an archaeological artefact ... that is an important source of information about an aspect of Queensland's history must give the chief executive a notice under this section.
- (2) The notice must-
 - a. Be in the approved form;
 - b. Be given to the chief executive as soon as practicable after the person discovers the thing;
 - c. State where the thing was discovered; and
 - d. Include a description or photograph of the thing.

Section 90 states how it is an offence to interfere with an archaeological artefact.

- (1) This section applies to an archaeological artefact for which a person has, under Section 89, given the chief executive a notice.
- (2) A person who knows that the notice has been given must not, without the chief executive's written consent or unless the person has a reasonable excuse, interfere with the archaeological artefact until at least 20 business days after the giving of notice.

Project Area: The Project Area is located north of Dysart and is approximately 35 km southeast of Moranbah in the Bowen Basin of Central Queensland, along the eastern foothills of the Harrow Range (Figure 1). The Vulcan South involves Lots 2SP296877, 59SP235297, and 72SP137467, as well as part of Saraji Road (the 'Project Area').

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Local, State and National Heritage Registers: The following heritage registers were accessed on 24 February 2022 for historic places within the Isaac Regional LGA:

- **The World Heritage List:** contains no places within close proximity to the Project Area.
- **Commonwealth Heritage List:** contains no places within close proximity to the Project Area.
- **The National Heritage List:** contains no places within close proximity to the Project Area.
- **Register of the National Estate:** contains no places within close proximity to the Project Area.
- **The State Heritage Register (QLD Heritage Office):** contains no places within close proximity to the Project Area.
- **Isaac Regional Planning Scheme:** contains no places within close proximity to the Project Area.

Literature Review: The following literature review details the historic, non-Indigenous literature for the area from Moranbah to Dysart. This review has been separated into three themes—**pastoralism, mining, and law**—with the types of indicative evidence found for each. The earliest reports from this area come from German-born explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt (1847) as he made his way from the Darling Downs to Port Essington. Leichhardt reported on lands favourable for pastoralism, with a promise of mining coal and ore, which opened up the basin for European settlers and miners from New South Wales. The potential evidence for each theme is based on the results from previous heritage reports from neighbouring mines of Peak Downs, Saraji, Norwich Park, Olive Downs, Eagle Downs, Caval Ridge, Daunia, Millenium, and Poitrel, which surround the Vulcan South on the north, south, and east.

Pastoralism: In 1844, Leichhardt and his team travelled northwest across the Dawson and Mackenzie River valleys and upstream along the Isaac River. Leichhardt recorded the physical and cultural landscapes of the Bowen Basin in his journal (1847) and included landforms, geology, soils, flora, and fauna along the Isaac River, as well as numerous encounters with Aboriginal people and/or observations of their material culture. Leichhardt's reports of the pastoral possibilities for the area resulted in land being tendered for and runs first leased in 1854. The *New South Wales Land Act* allowed hundreds of square miles to be taken up on a single tender and left unoccupied and unstocked. This Act operated in Queensland until April 1863 when the new Queensland Government made it compulsory for anyone taking up land to stock and occupy it. The region around the present township of Moranbah

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has been devoted to pastoralism from the earliest days of European arrival, about 140 years ago. The earliest European land use in this area, as in other parts of Central Queensland, was sheep grazing that started in the early 1860s with the first pastoralist settlers but was soon replaced with cattle grazing. The continuing use of this area for cattle grazing indicates that any identified old European places, which may have heritage significance, would most likely be related to the pastoral industry. Apart from the more obvious old homesteads and surrounds, physical evidence which might be encountered in the study area might include old fences and huts, stock camps, stockyards, and station tracks.

Mining: Leichhardt also noted in his journals the presence of coal beds around the Blackwater area that were indistinguishable from those in the Hunter or Newcastle. The further discovery of gold and copper at Peak Downs in 1862 led to the construction of an ore mine by 1864 that employed 2,000-3,000 workers. The ore was transported by horse and wagon teams to the nearby town of St Lawrence, from which it was shipped from the port at St Lawrence to Sydney via Rockhampton. The mine at Peak Downs stimulated the growth of many small towns in Central Queensland at a greater rate than pastoralism. Evidence of mining activities in the area may include worker's camps which are denoted by bottle and trash dumps, as well as other early mining paraphernalia.

Law: As was customary in newly settled districts, units of Native Mounted Police were installed in strategic locations to 'protect' White settlements by 'dispersing' (i.e. shooting) Aborigines who resisted the invasion. Native police troopers were brought into this area with George Elphinstone Dalrymple in June 1862. By the mid-1860s, a police barracks had been established at Fort Cooper station north of Nebo as a protective force for Europeans, at North Creek and according to oral accounts, on the Isaac River within the present Goonyella/Riverside mine lease. It is recorded that in four months in mid-1865, there were nine separate clashes between Native Troopers and Aboriginal people and 'dispersals' of the latter. Evidence of this nature include campsites along the banks of creeks and rivers and may include shackles and irons, as well as other indicators of European occupation, such as bottles.

Historical Aerial Photographs: Historic aerial photographs of the Project Area were reviewed to assist in ascertaining the potential for historic sites and buildings. This information is used to assist in developing a predictive model. Historic aerial photograph from 1966 covers the Project Area from the northwest to southeast (Attachment B; Figure 2) and demonstrates no potential for

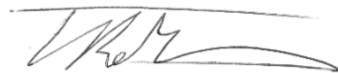
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historical heritage.

Conclusions: Based on the desktop assessment and inspection of the historic aerials, Everick has identified no historic (non-Indigenous) cultural heritage constraints to the Project. With regards to historic cultural heritage, the Proponent can proceed with Project Activities, subject to the usual new finds procedures, in compliance with Part 9 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Qld).

Recommendations: In the event that suspected significant historic archaeological evidence is uncovered, work should stop immediately, and a suitably qualified archaeologist should be consulted. Should the archaeological discovery be of potential importance to the State of Queensland, the DES should be notified immediately in the prescribed form. Works should only recommence in the immediate area following approval of the DES. This information should be included in the generic site induction for the Project.

Sincerely,



Tim Robins
Director
Everick Heritage



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ATTACHMENT A: PLANS

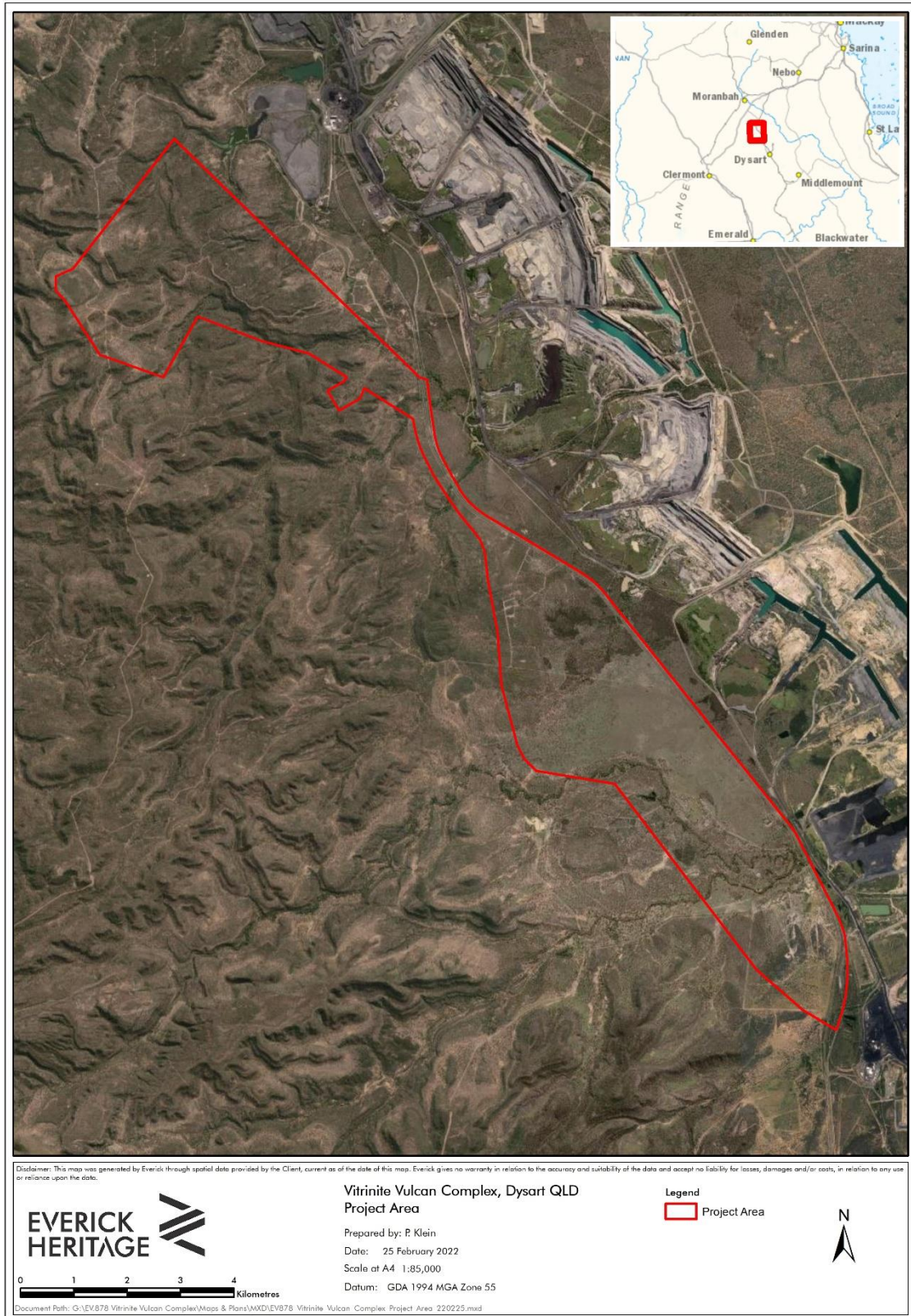


Figure 1: Project Area and Regional Locality.

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ATTACHMENT B: HISTORICAL AERIAL IMAGERY

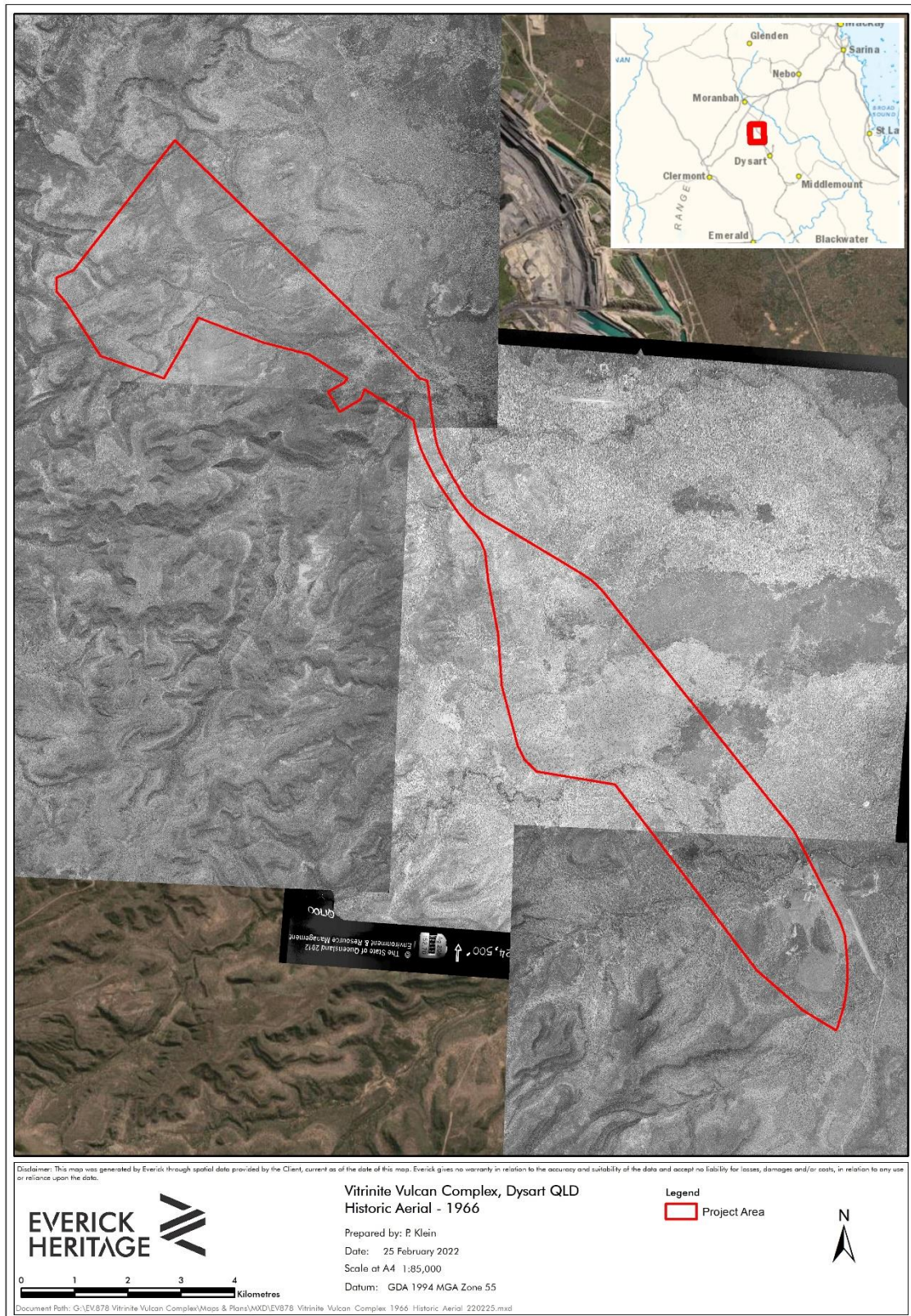


Figure 2: 1966 Historical Aerial Image.