**From:**

**Sent:** Thursday, 8 May 2014 2:52 PM

**To:** Australian Heritage Strategy

**Subject:** Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage

**Categories:** Submission

Hi Australian Heritage Management Committee,

We, the Guyra Local Aboriginal Land Council (Guyra LALC) hereby would like to contribute towards this vital and profound feedback forum to facilitate efficient and effective management of our Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage items notwithstanding the fact of heritage all around us in our beautiful country of Australia. This is to achieve the win-win situation for all parties concern to facilitate maintenance of Aboriginal Culture and Heritage for present and future generations. With that in mind, please find below the feedback as follows:-

1. Issue: Local Government (Guyra Shire Council (GSC)) provided the go-ahead for the extension of Tomato Farm in Guyra (which is good economically for Guyra but we still need to protect our heritage) with just an Architecture firm which carried out the search on AHIMS Web sites which shown no sites recorded. This is not acceptable as AHIMS is not the end of Sites recorded.

As you might have been aware, a few Aboriginal communities still retain some sites on hand without going to the public.

As such, some sites are not officially recorded to protect important sites from harm.

According to the GSC, this land in question used to be a grazing land for more than 100 years and there is no requirement for an Aboriginal site survey.

We disagreed with this statement on the following reason given above.

The second reason being Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Act came into being in 1974. If that is so, then the land in question has never been surveyed at all since the occupation of white settlers with the ongoing grazing land in action till present days. We must conduct survey to facilitate confirmation of cultural and heritage value. For example, in Bowen, Queensland, there was a find of an old shell on a bridge believed to be from 1954 world war two era. So his artefact of world war two surface after so many years. This scenario can happens to Aboriginal sites etc.

Action required: Every and any building, renovation and extension should have Aboriginal Site Officers, a minimum of two, to execute the survey to facilitate the protection of Aboriginal Sites no matter what business has had been carried out previously. The fundamental usage of the AHIMS Web Sites is a guide only and it unequivocally must still requires Aboriginal survey to confirm it and/or to discover new findings.

We trust that you will consider this point to facilitate protection of our Aboriginal culture and heritage values for present and future generations.

If you have any query, please do not hesitate to contact us via this email at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards

Jeffrey Ho

GUYRA LALC