

Please Note: This document dates from the time the 2015 Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach Plan of Management (PoM) was exhibited for public comment. It provides background information relative to that time. It has associations with the development of the 2015 PoM and is on Council's website for that reason.

Wollongong City Council

Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach Supplemental Materials

Should be reviewed in conjunction with the revised Draft Plan of Management during the public exhibition and comment period as background information

Z13/135480 Wollongong City Council

5/1/2014

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Introduction

When Wollongong City Council started developing a Plan of Management (PoM) for the community land at Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach, a majority of the community wanted to talk about the wider Sandon Point area, which is beyond the scope of a PoM. Council acknowledges that the recent history of the wider area has shaped viewpoints relating to how the public foreshore should be managed.

This supplemental information package has been developed to assist the community with considering the revised draft Plan of Management for Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach. It provides a series of maps and other information related to the past history of the wider area. This supplemental information does not form part of the draft PoM.

The Wider Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach Area

The wider Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach area comprises of 60 hectares between Bulli and Thirroul. In the early 1990s, further residential development was proposed in the Sandon Point area which became controversial and resulted in the Sandon Point Commission of Inquiry, various Land and Environment Court appeals, and a declaration of part of the area as a State Significant Site which made the NSW Minister for Planning the consent authority for the more recent residential development. On 16 February 2007, the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place was declared under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The declaration provides more avenues for protection of Aboriginal Culture and Heritage at Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach.

Importantly, surrounding residential development has resulted in more of the foreshore being transferred from private and public authority's ownership to Council ownership. In 1993, Council owned only a small portion of McCauley's Beach. As a result of a recent Council land purchase in December 2010, Council now owns the entire area of McCauley's Beach. The maps in this Supplemental Materials document use the boundaries of the PoM area combined with Ray Hannah's land (northwest of the shared way) and the various disputed residential development applications as the wider Sandon Point area. The wider area is shown as a heavy black outline. The PoM area is shown in red.

History of the area

The Sandon Point area has been used by Aboriginal people for more than 6,000 years. It was and remains an important ceremonial site, burial site and meeting place for Aboriginal people. The point, now known as Sandon Point, has been acknowledged as a traditional leaders meeting place and as a place for ceremonies. The headland is also known as a "story site". The wider area beyond the point is recognised as a more general meeting place where trade would be conducted between groups, as a place for social contact and sharing stories, and an area for camping and fishing and other activities. The area's resource rich environment, providing abundant food and other requirements, supported these large gatherings of Aboriginal groups. Shell middens, stone artefact scatters and burials dating back as far as 6,000 years ago give testament to the Aboriginal community's long history with this land that stretches far beyond the colonial period of Australia.

Colonial occupation of the Sandon Point area began around 1817 and by the late 1800s the area was heavily cultivated as well as supporting brickmaking, coal mining and coking. Despite the alienation and division of these lands for settlers' use, Aboriginal people would still often camp and fish in the area just north of the point.

Coal was first mined at Bulli in 1863 and exported from a long wooden jetty constructed off the northern side of Sandon Point headland (Figures 6 and 7). Horse drawn wagons were replaced in 1867 by Illawarra's first steam train which operated along a rail link between the Bulli Colliery and Sandon Point Jetty. The coal was carried from deep hand dug mines in the escarpment down to waiting sail and steam ships. There are no discernable remains of the tramway/rail; however the history of the tramway is well documented. By 1913 land was being subdivided into residential lots to take advantage of the nearby coastal headland (Figure 5). The existing boatsheds north of the headland relate to both recreational and commercial fishing.

The exposed jetty suffered several collapses during fierce storms. An extensive jetty collapse together with competition from Sydney rail and Port Kembla coal handling facilities led to the jetty being abandoned in 1943. The last remnants of the jetty were removed in 1989 by the Maritime Services Board. Sections of the jetty are preserved nearby as a reminder of Bulli's coal mining heritage.

Wollongong City Council's Local Environmental Plan 2009 lists three heritage items at Sandon Point Headland, including the site of Captain Westmacott's House (however more recent evidence points to this actually being the site of "Sandon Cottage" (Figure 5). The original dwelling of a Mr O'Brien, with Westmacott's House located further to the northwest), the boatsheds and the Norfolk Island Pines. All three items are considered of local heritage significance.

Captain Westmacott (1801-1870) was an amateur artist and draughtsman with a military background, who was very important to the Illawarra region as a pictorial chronicler of the period 1837-47. He was the Aide de Camp of Governor Bourke for 11 years before settling in the Bulli area in 1837. From 1837 until his return to England in 1847, Westmacott was an active member of the local community in the roles of farmer, horse breeder, builder, brick maker, land speculator, magistrate and part-owner of the first local steamship service.

Council has only become a significant land owner at McCauley's Beach in recent years, while Council has owned the Sandon Point Headland (Lot 103 DP 7813) since 1962. During the 1960s and 1970s, the headland functioned as a car park rather than a reserve with associated dirt tracks as shown in photos supplied by the community group The Paul Mason Jones Reserve Committee. Paul Mason Jones or "Jinxy" was the founding president of the Sandon Point Boardriders Association who was accidentally killed in 1979. In response to his death, the community rehabilitated the headland through volunteer labour to give the area its current grassed look and the car park was relocated to its present day location.



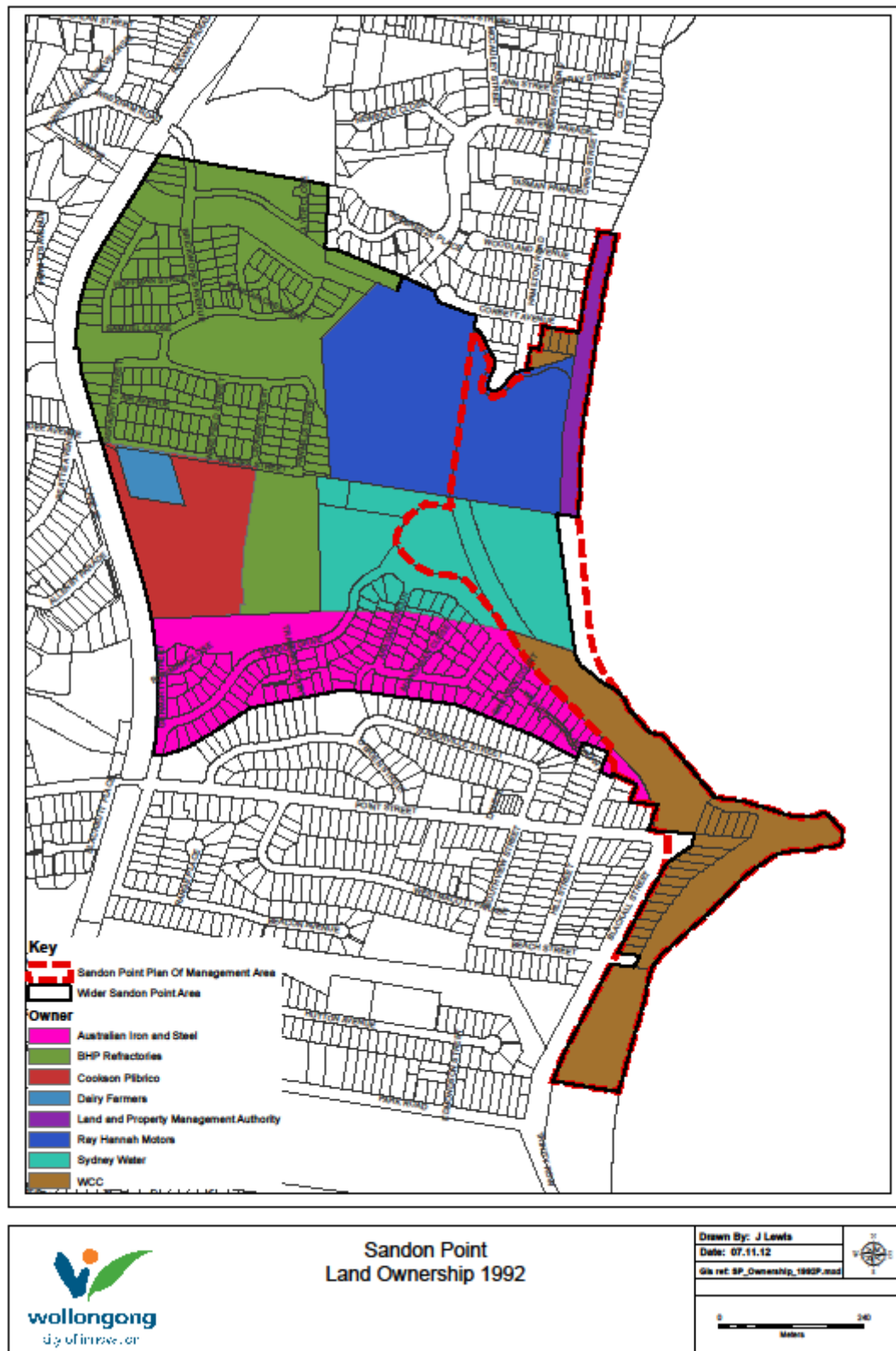
In 1993, Council only owned a small amount of land at the northern end of McCauley's Beach. The land ownership status as it was in 1993 for the McCauley's Beach and the northern portion of Sandon Point is shown in Figure 1.

In 2002, Council purchased the northern part of McCauley's Beach foreshore from Ray Hannah Motors Pty Ltd using Section 94 development contributions.

In 2010, Council purchased the southern half of McCauley's Beach and acquired Lot 517 DP 1156416, located to the west of the Sydney Water land, from Stockland WA

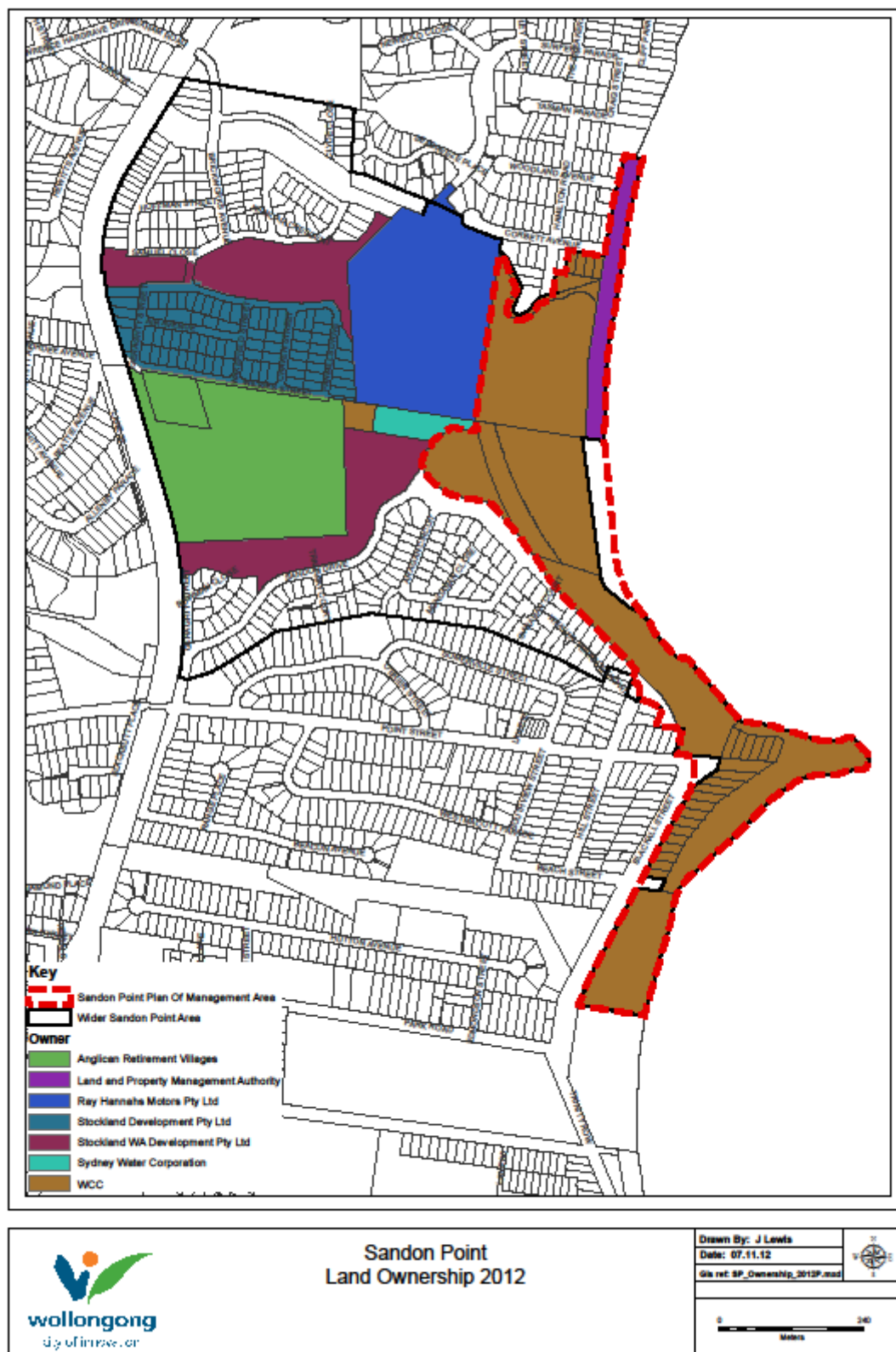
Development Pty Ltd. Lot 2003 DP 1047366 at the end of Hill Street was dedicated as Public Open Space by Stockland WA Development Pty Ltd. The current ownership pattern of the area in 2012 is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Land Ownership of Wider Sandon Point Area in 1992



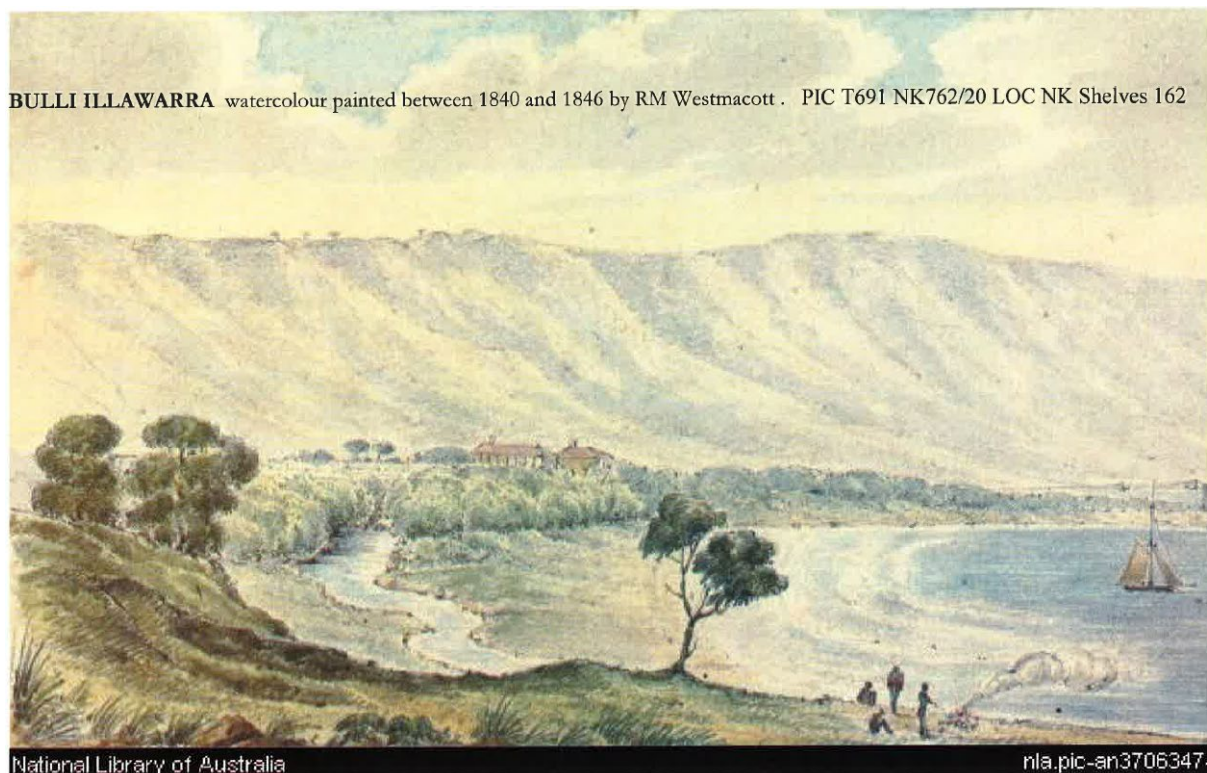
Note: Landownership is fairly consolidated in 1992 with eight owner entities across wider outlined area.

Figure 2: Land Ownership in 2012 within Wider Sandon Point Area



Note: A continuous area of coastline is now in public ownership (WCC – shaded brown). More residential lots are present by 2013.

Figure 3: 1840s Visual Record of Area compared with a 2013 photograph

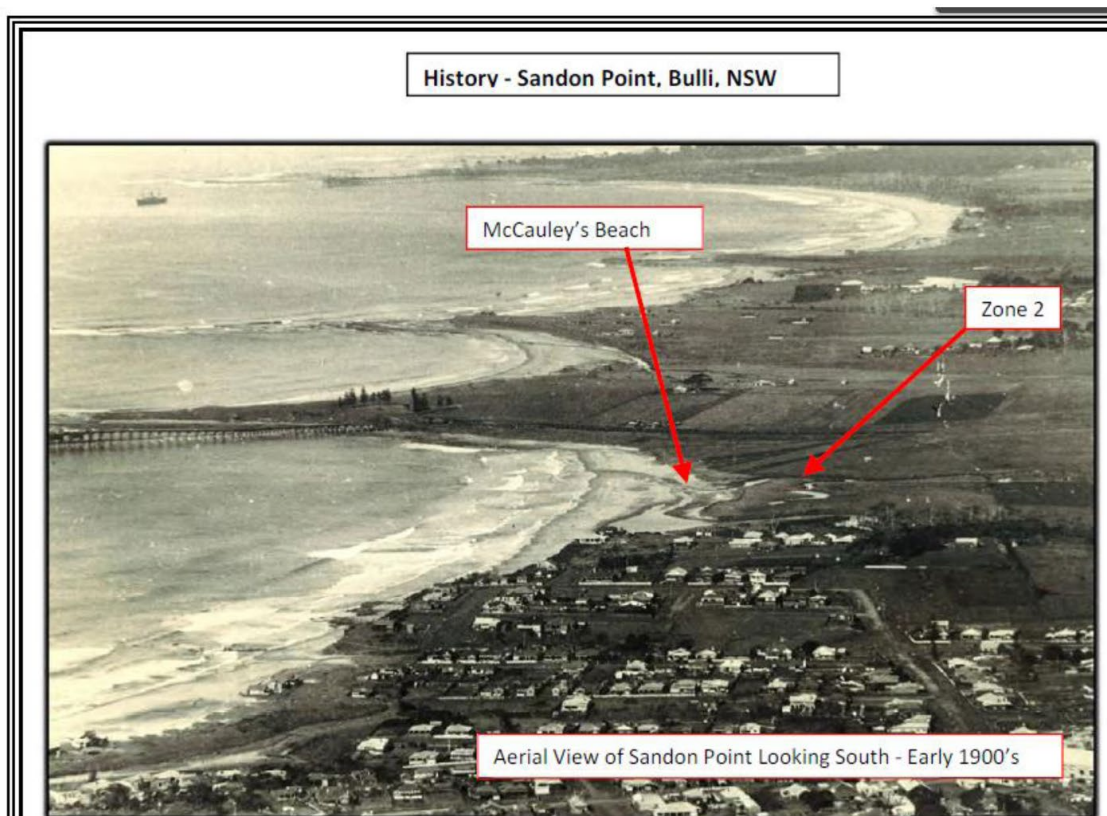


Note: Captain Westmacott (1801-1870) was an amateur artist and draughtsman with a military background, who was very important to the Illawarra region as a pictorial chronicler of the period 1837-47. He was the Aide de Camp of Governor Bourke for 11 years before settling in the Bulli area in 1837. From 1837 until his return to England in 1847, Westmacott was an active member of the local community in the roles of farmer, horse breeder, builder, brick maker, land speculator, magistrate and part-owner of the first local steamship service. Figure 3 above is a copy of one of Westmacott's art works titled Bulli Illawarra, which serves as a record of early settlement homesteads, early landscapes and use of the area by Aboriginal people in the 1840s.

Figure 3a: 2013 photograph



Figure 4: Photograph of area Early 1900s from a submission during the 1/12/2012 – 15/3/2013 exhibition period

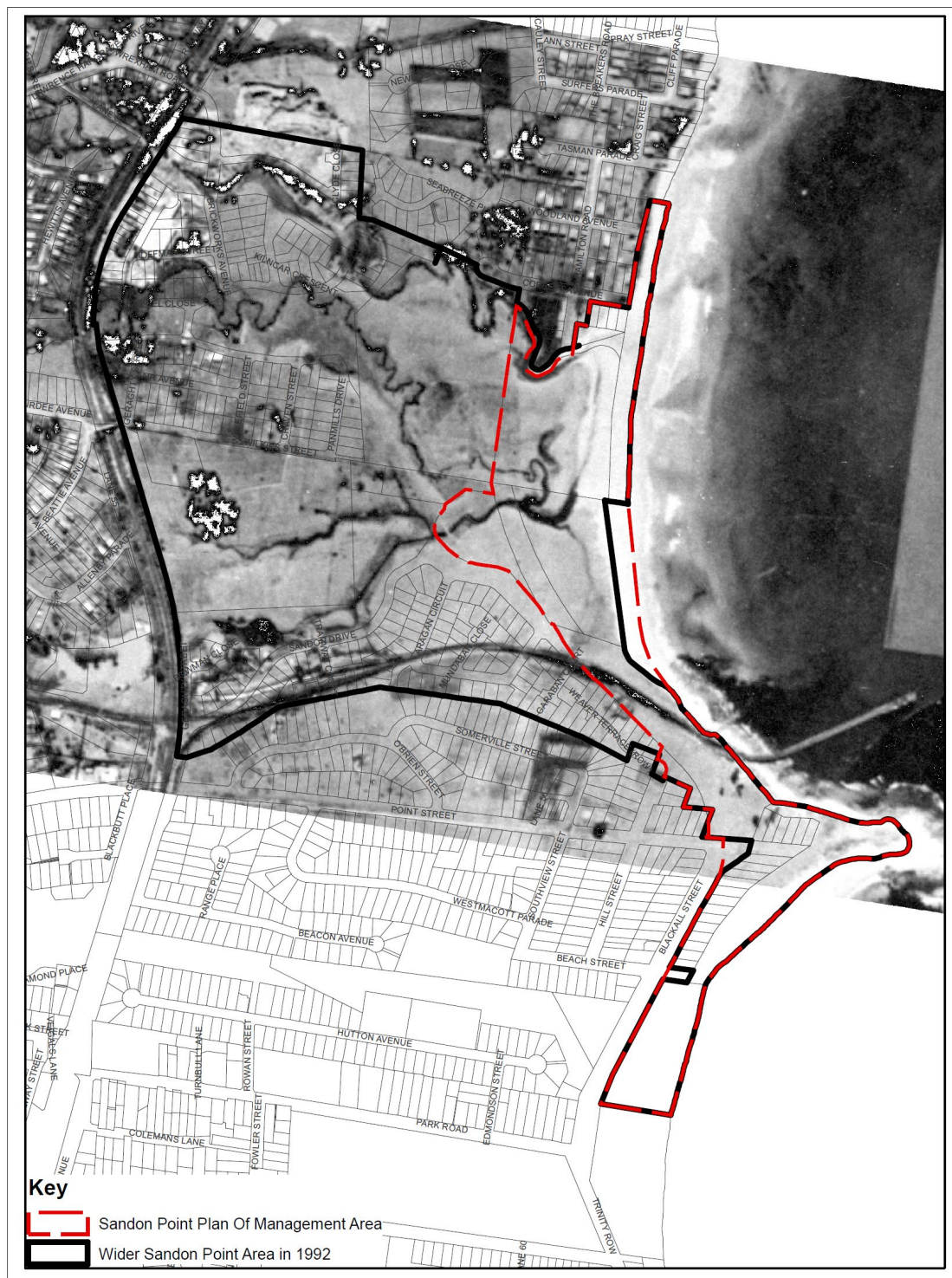


Note 1: This picture was provided by a community member as support for a less vegetated foreshore along the Tramway Creek /McCauley's Beach area. The area had been cleared for other uses by this time, in contrast to the 1840s and the

Figure 5: An early land subdivision at Sandon Point



Figure 6: 1938 Photography



Aerial Photography
1938

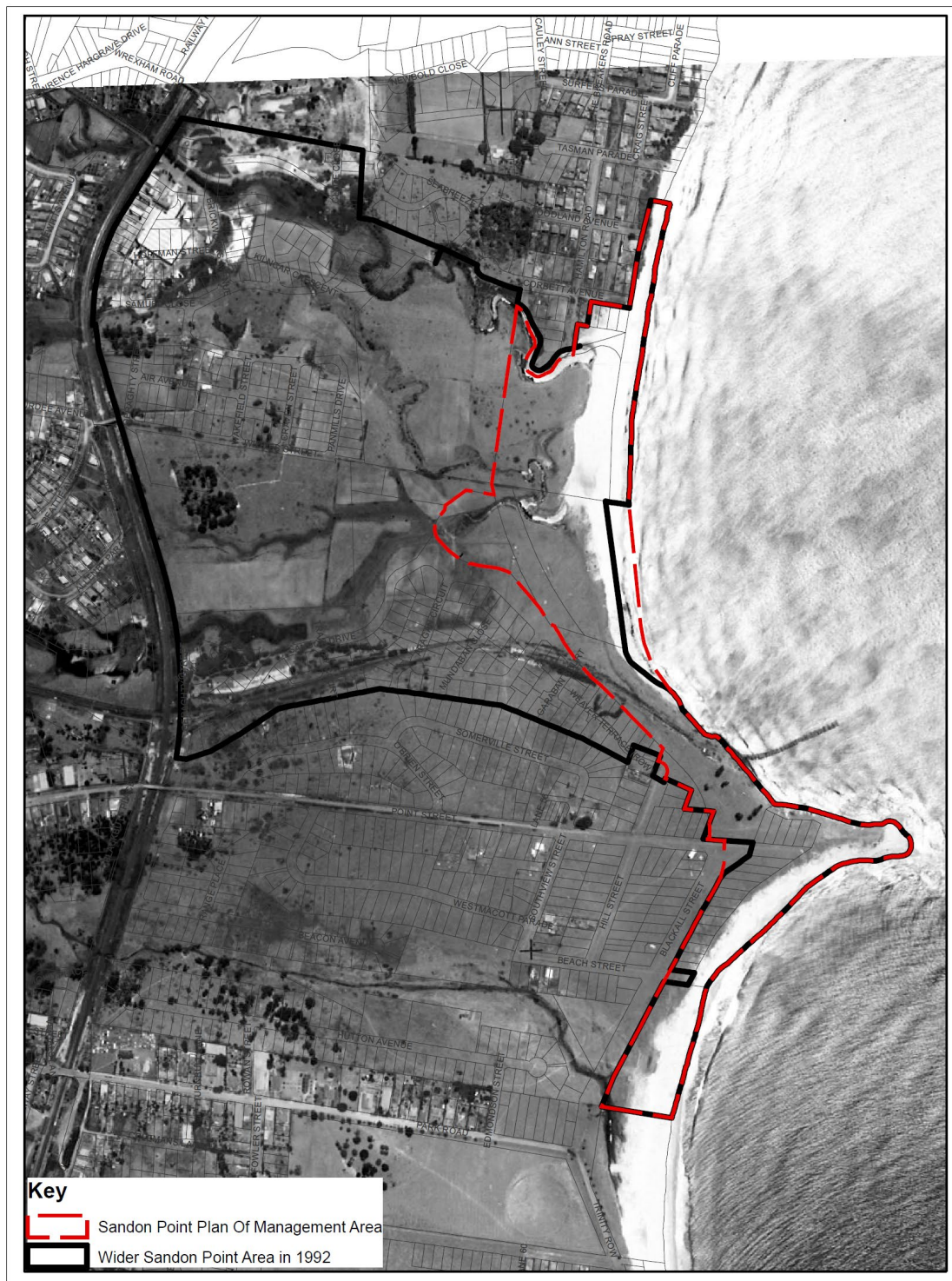
| |
|-------------------|
| Drawn By: J Lewis |
| Date: 07.11.12 |



Gis ref: Wider_Sandon_Point_Area_2012.mxd



Figure 7: 1948 Photography



Aerial Photography
1948

| |
|-------------------|
| Drawn By: J Lewis |
| Date: 07.11.12 |



Gis ref: Wider_Sandon_Point_Area_2012.mxd

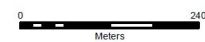


Figure 8: 1966 Photography

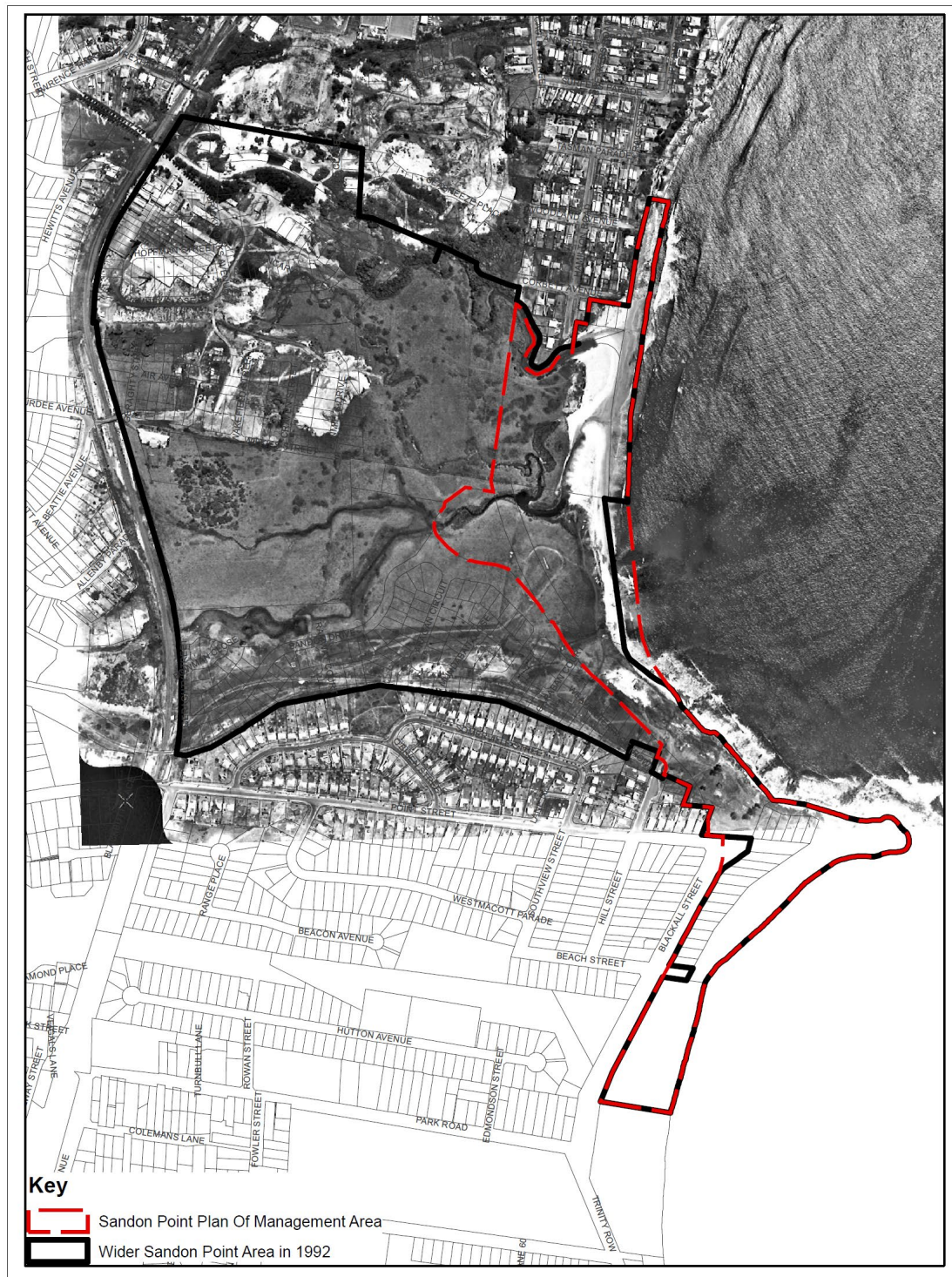


Figure 9: 1993 Photography



Figure 10: 2001 Photography



Figure 11: 2006 Photography



Figure 12: 2009 Photography

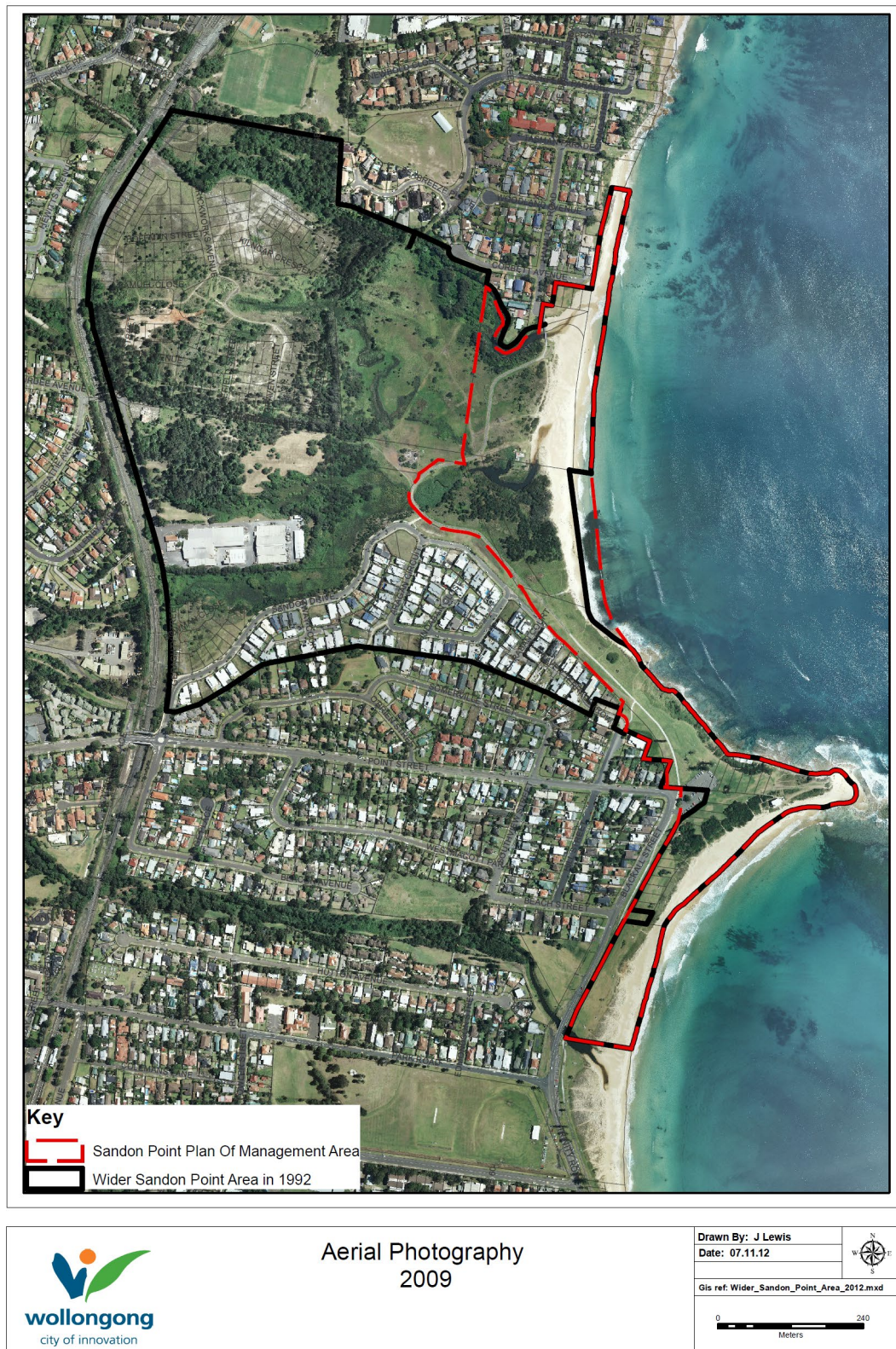


Figure 13: 2011 Photography



Figure 14: Google Map of PoM area in 2013



Figure 15: 1998 Newspaper Article about Burial Site at McCauley's Beach

Erosion threat to burial site

By NALITA FERRAZ

A full human skeleton found buried on a Sandon Point beach earlier this week should be removed and re-buried at a sacred Aboriginal cemetery, a senior sites adviser has recommended.

Jim Davis believes the Macauley Beach site is under threat from erosion by huge seas like those experienced in the region over the past week.

Mr Davis, who is also the spokesperson for the Illawarra's Wadi Wadi tribe, said more storms were predicted for the region which meant the skeleton needed to be removed before Easter.

"The site has been covered over with sand but the huge seas will surely wash that all away and expose the skeleton again," Mr Davis said.

"Our concerns are that if it (the skeleton) stays there too long, it too will be washed away and lost.

"I don't think it will last much past the Easter period, which is traditionally a time for huge seas."

It was last weekend's pounding waves that exposed the skeleton which is believed to have been buried for hundreds of years.

A passerby noticed bones protruding from a sand dune on Tuesday and contacted police who attended the scene.

The beachside area was identified as an Aboriginal burial site and archaeologists and Aboriginal leaders were contacted to inspect the human remains.

Mr Davis yesterday described the find as significant for the Aboriginal community.

He said he had been working closely with archaeologist Dr Richard Fullagar, a research assistant at Wollongong University and the Australian Museum, excavating areas close to the site.

"We have in the past found bone and stone fragments and a lot of artefacts but the skeleton is very significant to the Wadi Wadi tribe," Mr Davis said.

"I've spoken to the elders and they are of the opinion that the skeleton should be removed and re-buried at Windang."

Mr Davis said Wollongong City Council had donated a quarter-hectare parcel of land near Windang Beach for an Aboriginal cemetery.

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| <p>PERMALAST PREMIUM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Permalast Low Sheen or Semi Gloss</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>\$31⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">4 Ltr</p> </div> | <p>Dulux</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NEW DULUX WASH & WEAR 101 ALL FINISHES</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>\$46⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">4 Ltr</p> </div> |
| <p>Wattyl Solagard Plus</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">White or pre-mix colours</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>\$43⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">4 Ltr</p> </div> | <p>Taubmans Living Proof</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Silk, Satin or Gloss A tough washable finish for interior walls and ceilings.</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>\$43⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">4 Ltr</p> </div> |

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Note: This information is included to demonstrate when discovery of the burial at McCauley's Beach occurred, early March 1998.

Table 1: Grant Funded Vegetation Management Projects

| Table Community Attracted Grant Funding History | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| Year | Grant Provider | Amount | Incorporated Management Agency | Purpose of Grant |
| 1999 | NHT Coastcare | 9,512 | NIRAG | Tramway Creek 1(the area between the sand dune and the south bank of Tramway Creek) |
| 2000 | NHT Coastcare | \$12,186 | Sandon Pt Surf Club | Restoration of headland north of surf club |
| 2000 | NHT Coastcare | \$11,352 | NIRAG | Revegetation works at McCauley Beach |
| 2001 | NHT Coastcare | \$11,660 | Sandon Pt Surf Club | Restoration/maintenance works north of Sandon Point headland |
| 2002 | NHT Coastcare | \$10,655 | Sandon Pt Surf Club | Restoration/ maintenance works north of Sandon Point headland |
| 2003 | NSW Environmental Trust Grant | \$94,754 | NIRAG | Bulli Corridor restoration works at 6 sites including Sandon Pt and an area north of Tramway Creek at McCauley's Beach |
| 2006 | NSW Environmental Trust Grant | \$25,000 | WCC | Hewitt's Creek riparian restoration west of cycleway |
| 2008 | NHT Coastcare | \$13,000 | WCC | Rehabilitation of headland south of Sandon Point Surf Club |
| 2009 | NHT Coastcare | \$41,363 | Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council | Various locations at Sandon Point |
| 2011 | NHT Coastcare | \$200,000 over 3 years | Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council | Various locations at Sandon Point |

Excerpt from Stockland Trust Group NIRAG CoastCare Grant 1999/2000
Funding Agreement Execution Letter. Project Area included Tramway
Creek/McCauley's Beach (Personal Address blocked out)



TRUST GROUP

157 Liverpool Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000.
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20 March, 2000

Mr Max Ackerman
Northern Illawarra Residents Action Group (NIRAG)



Dear Sir

RE: COASTCARE GRANT 1999/00

We refer to the letter from M. Porter of Land & Water Conservation, dated 1 March
2000, and return herewith the Coastcare Funding Agreement, duly executed as required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Duncan".

Nick Duncan
LAND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER