



A SURVEY FOR ABORIGINAL SITES
IN THE CUNDEELEE MINIGWAL AREA

INTERIM REPORT

COMMISSIONED BY PNC EXPLORATION (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD

APRIL 1982

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Location: on Maps SH 51-11 and SH 51-7, Edition 1 Series R502

29°30'S to 30°23'S

123°07' to 124°17'E

Mulga Rock Uranium Project - Public Environmental Review - December 2015
Appendix G - Heritage

G2



This report was reformatted by Vimy Resources Limited
from a scan of the original report

AIM

To make a preliminary survey of the area north of Cundeelee within which PNC Exploration (Australia) Pty Ltd is working to ascertain if there are any Aboriginal sites of current ethnographic significance and to enquire if there is a likelihood of any Aboriginal sites of archaeological significance, and where possible to plot these sites.

FINDINGS

This report is a preliminary statement of findings and is based upon a significant but limited field survey.

Four separate consultations were held at the Cundeelee Aboriginal camp with several elders present on each occasion. Altogether twelve elders were directly consulted but some of these elders also discussed the issues with others not present at the time and reported back at subsequent meetings. Maps of the locality were studied and understood by those present. In addition, sand maps were also drawn. Conversations took place in both Aboriginal and English languages. To ensure that secret-sacred information was not withheld, only men were present during the discussions. The researcher having been initiated into "manhood" within the tribe is certain that a frank open talk took place without reservations.

A consensus agreed to the following:

- (a) No one now living at Cundeelee "belongs to" the "country" under survey.
- (b) No one now living at Cundeelee has been into the target area.
- (c) To their knowledge all the people for whom the target area may have had significance have died.
- (d) There is no way in which the Cundeelee people, or any other Aboriginal group would be able to "take over" the land because the mythology, rituals and ceremonies have been "lost" with the death of the original owners.
- (e) No extant Aboriginal groups have any economic, political or religious claims upon the specified area although the people from Mt Margaret or some others may have an interest in the northwest section.
- (f) There is a strong likelihood that archaeological sites are located within the area. These would include old camps, burial grounds and sacred religious sites. This is speculation as no firm evidence of any kind was presented apart from the statement that people used to live there.

It must be pointed out that the above findings are based entirely upon the reported attitudes and behaviour of the people now resident at Cundeelee. Their own economic, political and religious affiliations lie further east than the target area, north of Rawlinna and Loongana. Although mining exploration is proceeding only 100-200 kilometres north of Cundeelee, these people seem little concerned about it.

There is one aged Aboriginal man Mr Roy Sinclair, who many years ago informed the writer that he "used to walk-about in that country as a naked little boy." Although it is likely that he does not "belong" in the locality with a ritual identity, he would no doubt be able to supply some useful information. Attempts were made to locate him in both Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie but he is at present at Yalata in South Australia.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That enquiries be made at Mt Margaret Mission and elsewhere as required, along lines similar to those made at Cundeelee.
2. That an archaeological survey of the target area be made.