



## PRESERVING HERITAGE

KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO) recognises the significance of Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage and historic heritage in the Bylong Valley, and is committed to minimising potential impacts of the Bylong Coal Project (the Project) to the cultural and historical values of the locality and the region.

### ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

An Aboriginal Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment was completed for the Project to identify archaeological and cultural heritage items and places within the project area. In preparing the impact assessment, KEPCO consulted closely with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and relevant stakeholders through meetings, briefing sessions, site visits and feedback sought on field survey methodologies. The assessment included a detailed desktop review of known information and records such as a search of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). This was done in conjunction with a comprehensive field survey of the study area, again in close consultation with members of the RAPs.

A total of 239 Aboriginal archaeological sites and cultural features were identified, including 21 sites/features previously registered on the AHIMS. The sites included isolated finds, artefact scatters, rock shelters, grinding grooves, modified trees, potential archaeological deposits and an ochre site.

To mitigate and manage potential impacts, KEPCO will develop an *Aboriginal Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (the Plan) in consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage and the RAPs for the Project. The Plan will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for approval.

The Plan will contain detailed salvage methodologies to be implemented / followed, having regard to the progression of the mine development schedule, the selection and management of a 'keeping place' for those artefacts required to be moved, as well as measures to ensure the protection and conservation of archaeological sites that are not proposed to be directly impacted by the Project.

### HISTORIC HERITAGE

KEPCO has designed the Project to avoid and minimise direct impacts to heritage value wherever possible. There are no items listed on either the State or Local Heritage Registers that are within or in the vicinity of the Project area.

The Bylong Valley contains a number of items assessed as having local historical significance. Where these are directly impacted and require removal or relocation, NSW Heritage Council guidelines will be followed to document and archive the sites before removal or relocation.

A number of locally significant buildings are located outside the mining footprint, but in its vicinity, and may be indirectly impacted by the Project. These include the Tarwyn Park (including Iron Tank), former Upper Bylong Catholic Church and cemetery, Bylong Station Farm Complex, Swiss Cottage, Harley Hill Cottage and Chimney Remains.

KEPCO has put in place appropriate conservation management monitoring measures for these properties to ensure their upkeep and avoid or mitigate and remediate any indirect impacts from mining operations.

KEPCO has also developed plans to maintain historically significant properties on KEPCO-owned land that will not be impacted by mining, including proactive maintenance and repair works. Important maintenance and stabilisation works at one property, c1848 'Homestation' (also known as Lee Homestead) have been completed.



Geotechnical Engineer carrying out geotechnical investigations to advise on the stability of Lee Homestead