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MP2W Historic Heritage Site Condition Monitoring

Baseline Recording – Pre-construction

1 INTRODUCTION

This memorandum documents the initial (baseline) recording of heritage items relevant to the Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project (the Project). The baseline recording has been undertaken in accordance with measures outlined in Section 5.4 of the Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP, the Plan) for the Project.

The purpose of this document is to record the current condition of the heritage items to allow for adequate assessment of the performance of management measures in the Plan that aim to ensure the avoidance of impact to the heritage fabric and values of the relevant items. Although comment on the apparent structural condition of the items is made, it is noted that this document is not an engineer's structural integrity assessment. The details of the three heritage items are provided in **Table 1-1**.

The inspection of the items was undertaken during the pre-construction phase of the Project by OzArk Senior Archaeologist Harrison Rochford on 6 October 2026.

Table 1-1: Historic heritage listed items relevant to the Plan

Item name	Location and proximity to the Project footprint	Listing ID	Coordinates (GDA Zone 56) East	Coordinates (GDA Zone 56) North	Assessed condition in October 2026
Wallerawang Rail Bridges over Coxs River	**Within the Project footprint**. Located across the Coxs River.	SHR #01064 (also listed on LEP)	228736	6299964	Good
Old Wallerawang School House (former National School)	**Within the Project footprint**. Located on the corner of Main Street and Castlereagh Highway, Wallerawang. The curtilage of the item is within the Project footprint. The schoolhouse building itself is located outside the Project footprint, about 185 m south-west of the proposed Project footprint.	LEP #I113	228349	6300713	Good
St John the Evangelist Church	Approximately 30 m west of the Project footprint. Located on Main Street, Wallerawang.	SHR #01702 (also listed on LEP)	228221	6300455	Fair

1.1 WALLERAWANG RAIL BRIDGES OVER COXS RIVER (SHR #01064)

1.1.1 Condition overview

A visual inspection of the Wallerawang Rail Bridges over Coxs River indicates that the heritage item is in good condition overall. The 1870 bridge (southern, sandstone block construction) and the 1912 bridge (northern, brick) retain a high degree of fabric integrity, with the principal structural elements appearing intact and sound. The bridges continue to clearly demonstrate their historic form and function, with no obvious evidence of significant structural deterioration or deformation.

The 1870 bridge superstructure, including the principal spans, abutments and piers, appears to be in sound structural condition. Structural elements generally exhibit limited weathering, and cracking appears to be mionr and superficial. Displacement, corrosion, or other defects that would indicate compromised structural integrity were not identified. Vegetation growth does not appear to be adversely affecting the structures.

The 1912 bridge also appears to be in sound structural condition, although some mortar deterioration is observable. Some unsympathetic structural reinforcement has been installed on the 1912 bridge, not related to the Project.

No major conservation issues were observed during the monitoring inspection. Any weathering present appears minor and consistent with the age, materials, and operational use of the bridges. There are a series of gouges in under the spans of both bridges that pass over a concrete access track, caused by overheight vehicles. Both bridges have intrusive, non-original height restriction signs affixed to them (not related to the Project).

Overall, the Wallerawang Rail Bridges over Coxs River are assessed as being in good condition as the significant elements and heritage values of the item of the item remain readily interpretable. The structural elements of the item appear to be in sound condition.

1.1.2 Monitoring actions

- Photographic record of the signage denoting light vehicle use only (per Section 5.1.1.1 of the Plan) should be appended to this memo, once installed.

1.1.3 Images of item

A sample selection of images of the item is presented in **Figure 1-1** for the 1870 bridge and on **Figure 1-2** for the 1912 bridge. A full contact sheet of the photographs taken during the inspection is presented in **Appendix 1**.

Figure 1-1: Views of 1870 bridge (Wallerawang Rail Bridges over Coxs River,SHR #01064)

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>1. View north showing the track beneath the second span of the 1870s bridge</td><td>2. View west from the bank of the Coxs River showing the 1870s bridge spans.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>3. Detail of gouges and scrapes to the 1870s arches spanning the track.</td><td>4. View south from between the pair of bridges showing the largest chip to the arch (left of frame). Gouges shown in image three visible at the right of frame.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>5. View west showing ground-level scraps the to western archway piers.</td><td>6. Detail of the chip shown in image four, view east.</td></tr>
</table>

Figure 1-2: Views of 1912 bridge (Wallerawang Rail Bridges over Coxs River,SHR #01064)

	
1. View south showing the track beneath the first span of the 1912 bridge	2. View east from the abutment of the bridge the spans and intrusive support fixtures (steel beams secured into spandrels/deck.
	
3. Detail of a brick pier showing some mortar deterioration.	4. View south from showing the largest chip to the arch (centre of frame).
	
5. View south showing long gouges along arch surface.	6. View north from between the bridges shown less damage to the south-facing arch and spandrel.

1.2 ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH (SHR #01702, LEP # I112)

1.2.1 Condition overview

A visual inspection of St John the Evangelist Church determined that the item is generally in good condition. The principal sandstone walls, tower, buttresses, roof forms, window openings, and Gothic Revival architectural detailing exhibiting no observable signs of significant structural failure or instability. It is noted that substantial remediation and repair works have been undertaken on the church, specifically the bell tower, to address concerns raised in 2001 (see OzArk 2025). The repair works were completed in 2005. The interior of the church was not inspected.

The sandstone masonry displays moderate age-related weathering, including localised surface cracking, biological staining, mortar deterioration, and minor cracking. Detailed photographs of the lower courses and buttresses indicate isolated instances of stone spalling, joint erosion, and surface exfoliation, particularly in areas subject to prolonged moisture exposure and weathering. These conditions appear consistent with the age and material characteristics of the structure and do not appear to represent widespread fabric failure. It is also likely that the visible defects pre-date the 2005 repair works, which may have addressed structural issues leading to the defects.

Overall, St John the Evangelist Church is assessed as being in good condition. The heritage item retains its key architectural characteristics and continues to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and with minimal intrusive additions.

1.2.2 Images of item

A sample selection of images of the item is presented in **Figure 1-2** and views of observable item deterioration are shown in **Figure 1-3**. A full contact sheet of the photographs taken during the inspection is presented in **Appendix 2**.

Figure 1-3: Views of St. John the Evangelist Church (SHR #01702, LEP # I112)



1. View east to the main church entrance.



2. View of the southern façade of the bell tower.



3. View of the northern exterior and main stained-glass window.



4. View west to the eastern exterior of the church.

Figure 1-4: Views of deterioration at St. John the Evangelist Church (SHR #01702, LEP # I112)



1. View showing 2005-era repairs on the southeastern corner of the belltower. Discolouration visible on the south-facing wall in the background.



2. View of cracking on sandstone base block.



3. View of mortar deterioration on a buttress column at the northeastern corner.



4. View of a linear crack along the south-facing surface of a buttress column at the southeastern corner of the church..

1.3 OLD WALLERAWANG SCHOOL HOUSE (LEP #I113)

1.3.1 Condition overview

A visual inspection of the Old Wallerawang School House indicates that the heritage item is in fair condition overall, retaining its principal form, scale, and key architectural characteristics. The building appears structurally sound, although there are more visible defects than the other heritage items inspected. The interior of the building was not inspected.

The building exhibits evidence of age-related deterioration and deferred maintenance. Observed impacts include weathering of masonry surfaces, deterioration of mortar joints, localised cracking, staining, and areas of material decay. The visible defects are more apparent on the southern annex section of the schoolhouse, which was likely a post-1882 addition to the main northern section. The annex is bult from porous, coarse-cut stone blocks that are exhibiting the expected weathering. Exposed timber elements, some of which are intrusive elements, are also showing the effects of exposure to moisture and long-term environmental wear.

Windowpanes, the roof and barge boards appear to have been recently replaced and are in good condition.

A wombat has dug a burrow beneath the southern end of the east-facing exterior wall (original section). Although this is not related to the Project, this has been passed on to the current ownership/management of the Old Wallerawang School House to facilitate the issue being addressed.

Overall, the Old Wallerawang School House is assessed as being in fair condition. The observed impacts do not appear to indicate imminent structural instability. The rating of 'fair' indicates that the heritage conservation outcomes for the item would benefit from preventative maintenance.

1.3.2 Images of item

A sample selection of images of the item is presented in **Figure 1-4** and views of observable item deterioration are shown in **Figure 1-5.** A full contact sheet of the photographs taken during the inspection is presented in **Appendix 3**.

Figure 1-5: Views of Old Wallerawang School House (LEP #I113)



1. View east towards the Old Wallerawang School House.



2. View south towards the Old Wallerawang School House.



3. View north towards the Old Wallerawang School House annex entrance.



4. View north towards the Old Wallerawang School House.

Figure 1-6: Views of deterioration at Old Wallerawang School House (LEP #I113)



1. View of cracking on sandstone base blocks on northern wall



2. View of material and mortar deterioration on southern annex wall

	
3. View of mortar deterioration and cracking on eastern annex wall	4. View of cracking and biological growth on eastern annex wall
	
5. View southwest showing the wombat hole.	6. Detail of wombat hole along the eastern wall.

2 REFERENCES

OzArk 2025 — OzArk EHM 2025. *Historic Heritage Assessment Report: Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project*. Report to Transgrid

OzArk 2026 — OzArk EHM 2026. *Historic Heritage Management Plan: Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project*. Report to Transgrid

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wallerawang Rail Bridges over Coxs River (SHR #01064)


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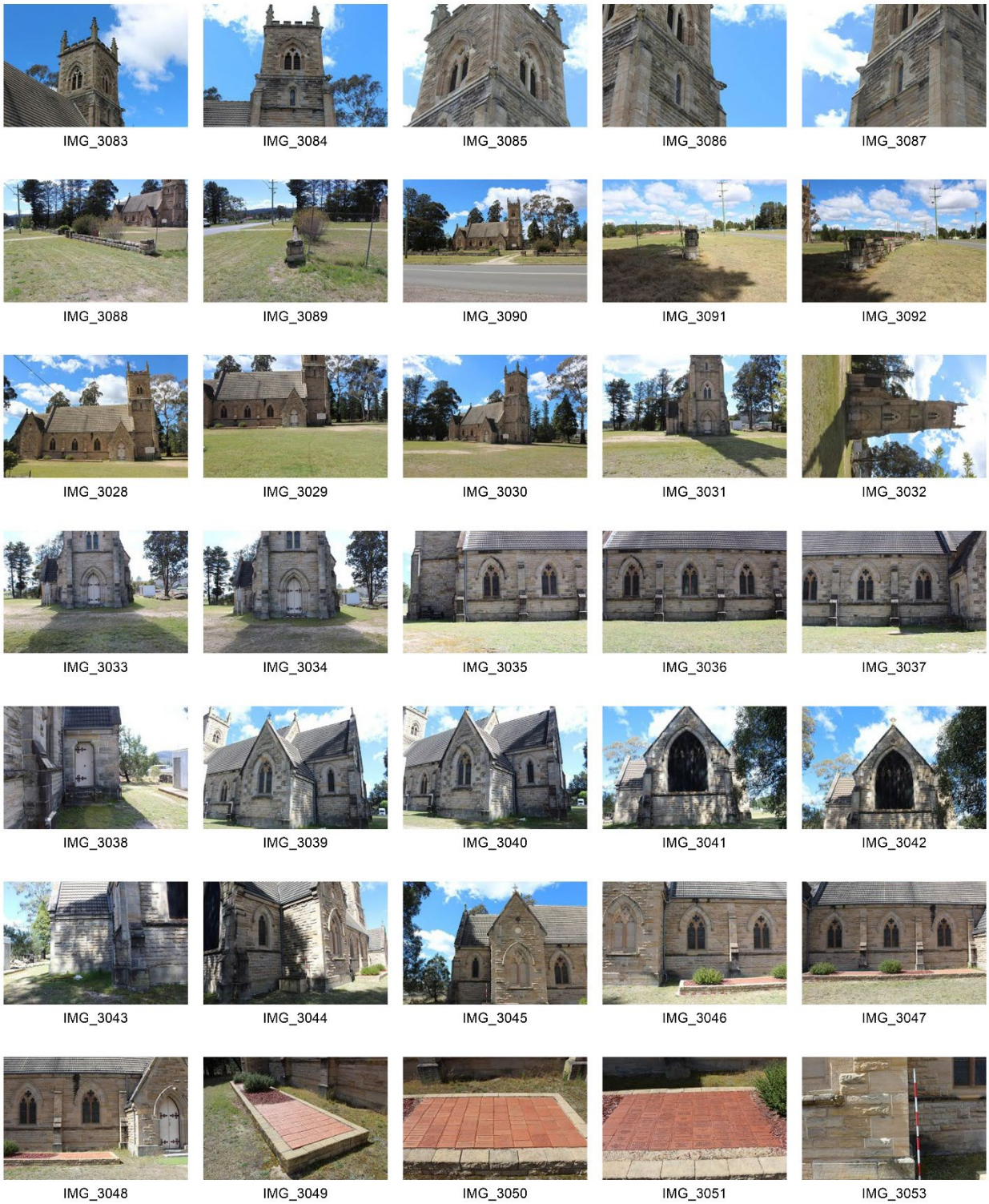

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Appendix 2: Views of St. John the Evangelist Church (SHR #01702, LEP # I112)



Appendix 3: Views of Old Wallerawang School House (LEP #I113)


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