



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

JULY 2018



Heritage at Wallerberdina Station

Heritage report for Wallerberdina Station completed

In 2017, a Heritage Working Group was formed in consultation with the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) and the Viliwarintha Yura Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC). The purpose of the Group is to guide consultation about Aboriginal heritage generally, and to represent the Adnyamathanha community for the purposes of the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment in relation to the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Wallerberdina Station.

Expert heritage consultants from RPS were engaged by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science to undertake the independent Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment. The assessment report, in consultation with the Heritage Working Group, confirms the strong and ongoing connection of the Adnyamathanha people to Country. RPS' assessment preceded technical assessments undertaken by AECOM at Wallerberdina Station and will inform future works and planning.



This document is part of a series of factsheets providing information on the process to site the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

For more information

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Heritage value areas

Three key areas of Aboriginal heritage value were identified within the 6,300 hectare property, Wallerberdina Station, which include:

- locations in the Eastern portion of Wallerberdina Station that are highly significant culturally and archaeologically;
- a songline that intersects with the southern edge of Wallerberdina Station; and
- Hookina Creek, which is associated with a registered songline and is of ongoing cultural significance.

The selection of 100 hectares of land within Wallerberdina Station was chosen so as to not impact on any sites of known heritage such as those described above.

Should the identified 100 hectare piece of land within Wallerberdina Station be selected as the preferred site for a facility, there are key opportunities to involve the Adnyamathanha community in future stages of the project to help preserve heritage.

“What really excites me is the ability to document the heritage and stories that we know, but are not recorded anywhere. The Australian Government values the heritage of the land here, and we would like to see it preserved and passed down to the future generations. Having the opportunity to teach people about the culture and heritage of the area when they come to visit the facility would allow those who didn’t know about this part of the world to get an insight into our history.”
– Aunty Angelina Stuart

Distance of the proposed Facility site from:	Km (approx)
Lake Torrens Homestead Road	0.8
Nearest creek (dry/ephemeral)	1.6
Hookina Creek (dry/ephemeral)	3.6
Hookina Waterhole	8.1
Hookina Spring	12.3
Hawker (via Yappala Road)	37.3
Quorn (via Yappala Rd and Flinders Ranges Way)	103.7

What does this mean for Wallerberdina Station?

During the Wallerberdina Station fieldwork, more than 30 individual indigenous community members were engaged to ensure that heritage was protected.

If Wallerberdina Station is selected as the site the local Adnyamathanha community would be involved in all future stages of the project. This would involve training and employment opportunities in early construction as well as throughout operation. Local Adnyamathanha artists would also be invited to contribute to the the aesthetic design of the Facility.

Additional opportunities exist to record oral histories and accounts that may not have otherwise been documented, and in consultation with the local Adnyamathanha community, shared as part of the Facility’s information and outreach centre.

“I had a really good experience. At first I didn’t understand what AECOM were doing and before I was involved, I was against the facility. My whole viewpoint on nuclear waste has now changed. The AECOM team were great. They talked us through their testing and demonstrated what they were doing to give us an understanding. They do their research, they undertake testing, they make sure it’s safe – they don’t just rush into it. People don’t understand there is a lot of behind the scenes work unless they go to the site and find this out themselves. I found the fieldwork interesting and I could definitely see myself doing this again.”

– Kahran McKenzie, Heritage Monitor

Continuing to look after cultural heritage

The Australian Government is committed to protecting and promoting Aboriginal culture and heritage. If Wallerberdina Station is selected to host the Facility, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be developed to manage cultural heritage values at and around the site. The plan would be continuously developed during a detailed technical cultural heritage investigation, as well as during the life of the Facility. The Adnyamathanha community will continue to be at the centre of all discussions about culture and heritage at Wallerberdina Station, and will be consulted prior to works to establish the Facility.