

23 July 2025

Name of heritage item:	Berembed Weir
State Heritage Register	Berembed Weir and Site (ID #00957)
LEP heritage schedule item number and name:	Berembed Weir (ID #1309)
Address and location:	Murrumbidgee River, Narrandera.
Statement of heritage impact for:	Extraction of concrete core samples from two gate piers
Prepared by:	Authored by [REDACTED] Technical review by [REDACTED]
Prepared for:	WaterNSW
Date:	23 July 2025
Issue:	Final

Re: Berembed Weir concrete coring: Statement of heritage impact

Dear Liam,

This statement of heritage impact (SoHI) has been prepared using the SoHI template provided in *Guidelines for preparing a statement of heritage impact* (Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) 2023b). This SoHI has assessed for potential impacts arising from the proposed extraction of concrete coring from Berembed Weir. The coring is proposed to be undertaken to inform the design and optioneering process for new baulks/stoplogs at Berembed Weir.

1 The heritage item

1.1 Site description

The following site description was provided in the *Berembed Weir Conservation Management Plan (CMP)* prepared by Extent Heritage for WaterNSW:

Berembed Weir is an operational diversion weir in the agricultural region of south-western New South Wales that forms a part of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The weir is approximately 65 kilometres west of Wagga Wagga and 18 kilometres southeast of the town of Grong Grong.

It is accessed via an unnamed road that branches south from Old Narrandera Road to the site, and is surrounded by an expansive pastoral landscape. The landscape is a gently undulating landscape characterised by long native grass set atop a sandy dune system. The site is bisected by the Murrumbidgee River to the south of its boundary and Bundidgerry Creek to the west.

The operational built elements associated with the use of the site are clustered in an area north of and along the Murrumbidgee River. There are pockets of dense natural vegetation towards the southern boundary of the site, clustered along the river.

(Extent 2024:58)

1.1.1 Heritage item

The Berembed Weir is identified as an item of State heritage significance on the State Heritage Register (SHR) as Berembed Weir and site (SHR #00957) and surrounding infrastructure Wooden Wicket – Berembed Weir Site (SHR #00968). The site is also listed as a heritage item on Schedule 5 of the *Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010* (Wagga Wagga LEP 2010) as Berembed Weir (#I309) and the WaterNSW s170 as separate items shown in Table 1.1. Proposed works are expected to impact the concrete abutments present in the Main fixed crest structure with concrete base of Berembed Weir and site (ID #4550013).

1.1.2 Heritage listings

A review of relevant historic heritage registers was undertaken in relation to the project area (Table 1.1). The scope of works is not expected to have a wide zone of influence. Proposed works are considered so minor that even though elements of the broader Berembed Weir site are nearby, there will be no expected impacts to these sites. As such there is no need to consider heritage items in the vicinity.

Table 1.1 Heritage register search

Jurisdiction	Heritage Register	Listing	Distance from proposed works
Federal	World Heritage List	-	-
	Commonwealth Heritage Register	-	-
	National Heritage Register	-	-
	Register of the National Estate (non-statutory)	-	-
State	State Heritage Register	Berembed Weir and Site (ID #00957)	In area of works
		Wooden Wicket – Berembed Weir Site (ID #00968)	195 m from works
	Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register (WaterNSW)	Berembed Weir and Site (ID #4550013)	In area of works
		Berembed Offtake Regulator (ID #4550012)	15 m from works
		Berembed Weir House (ID #4550015)	35 m from works
		Berembed Weir House Storage Shed (ID #4550016)	240 m from works

	Berembed Weir House Toilet (ID #4550017)	220 m from works	
	Berembed Weir Picnic Area Storage Shed (ID #4550018)	280 m from works	
	Berembed Weir Picnic Area Toilet (ID #4550019)	220 m from works	
	Berembed Weir Pump Shed (ID #4550020)	160 m from works	
	Berembed Weir Wicket (ID #4580045)	195 m from works	
Local	Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010	Berembed Weir (ID #I309)	In area of works

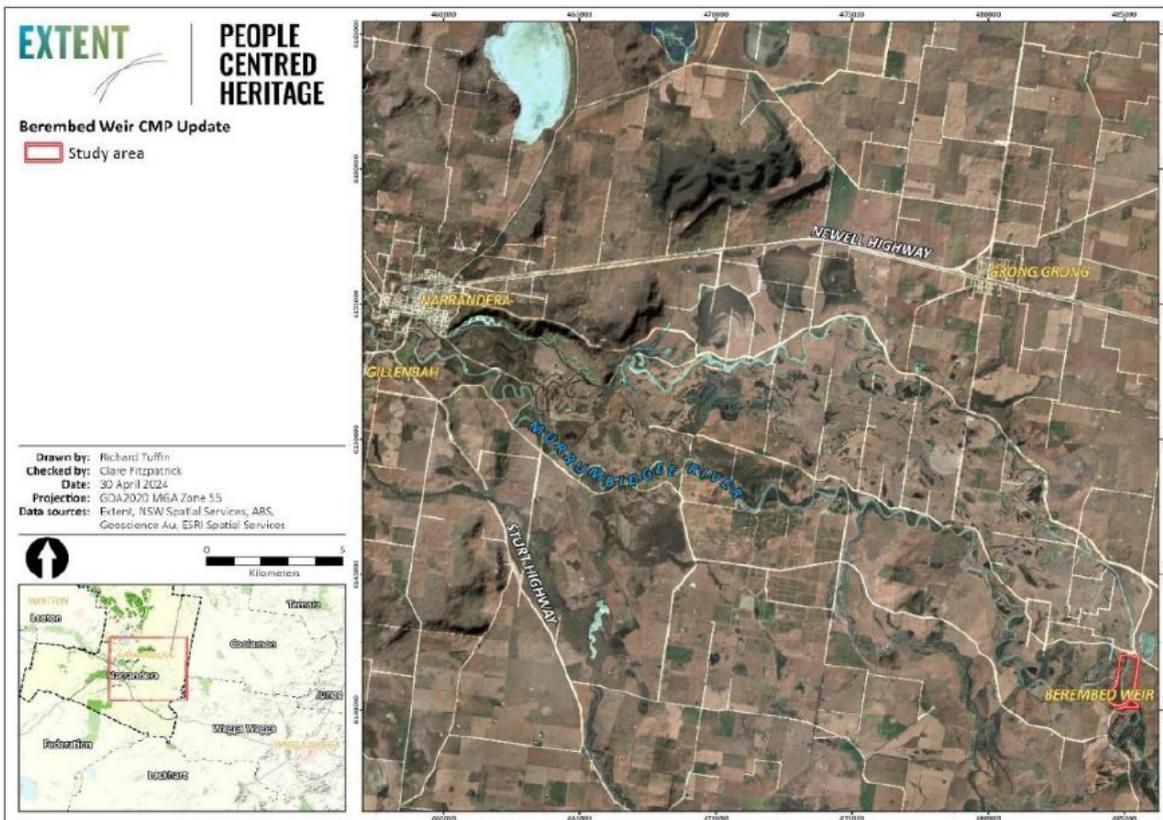
1.1.3 Site and its context

The following site context was provided by the Berembed Weir CMP:

Berembed Weir is located on the Murrumbidgee River at Matong in the City of Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA). It is located approximately 18 kilometres southeast of the town of Grong Grong, and accessed via an unnamed road off Old Narrandera Road, Matong. The site comprises land legally defined as Lot 1, DP 750854 and Lot 1 in the DP 970794. It is intersected by the Murrumbidgee River to the south and surrounded by expansive farmland. A channelised portion of Bundidgerry Creek bisects the western portion of the site on a north-south axis.

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The local context of the heritage item is shown in Plate 1.1. The State heritage curtilage of the heritage item is shown below in Plate 1.2.



Source: (Extent 2024)

Plate 1.1 Local context of Berembed Weir

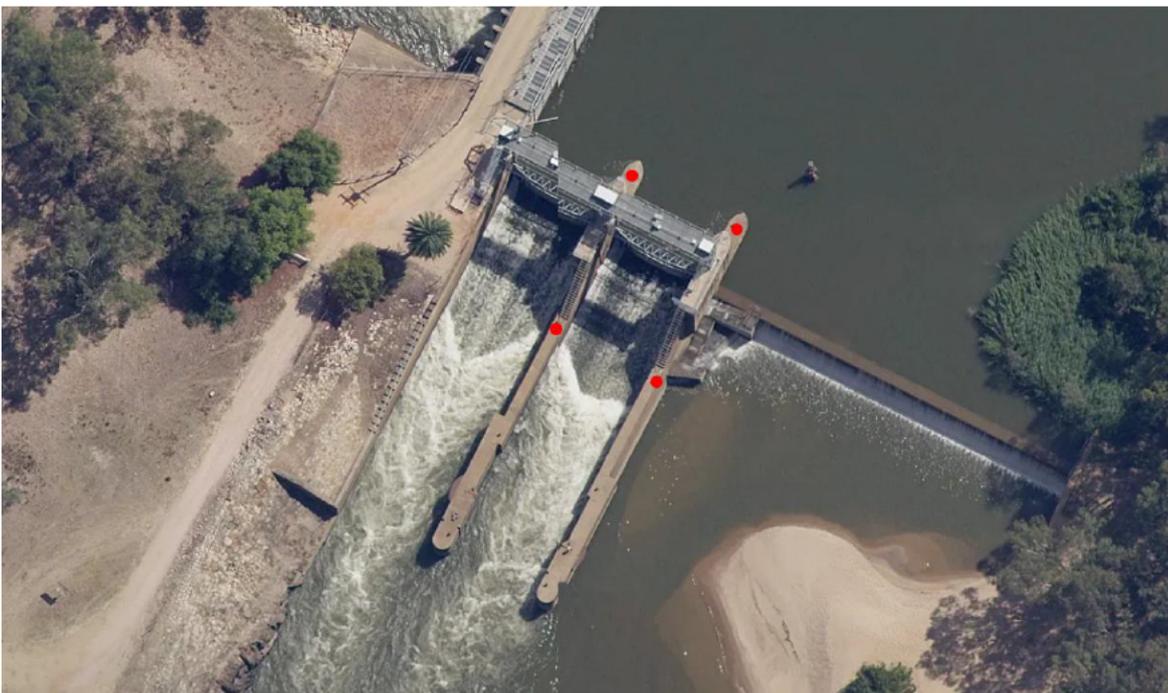


Source: NSW Planning Portal Spatial Viewer

Plate 1.2 Berembed Weir's State heritage curtilage

1.1.4 The proposed works area

The proposed works will involve the extraction of cement cores from the two gate piers. The areas of impact are indicated by the red circles in Plate 1.3.



Source: MetroMaps

Plate 1.3 The proposed works areas in Berembed Weir

1.2 Site summary history

1.2.1 Documentary history

Construction of Berembled Weir began in 1908 and was finalised in 1911. For an extensive documentary history please refer to the CMP prepared for the site by Extent Heritage in 2024 (Extent 2024).

1.2.2 Previous physical changes

A list of the relevant areas maintenance and physical changes to the weir itself since the early 2000s has been taken verbatim from the CMP (Extent 2024) and provided below in Table 1.2:

Table 1.2 Previous physical changes to the site

Year	Event
1911	Works on Berembled Weir are completed
1950s	Sluice gates electrified
1976/77	Wooden wickets removed and replaced with concrete mass gravity section
2006-2007	Steel maintenance walkway and access stairs installed to top of concrete base of weir
2017	Under shot gates repainted
2018	Maintenance and WHS works, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supply and install concrete plinth, bunding, fencing and services• Modify or upgrade abutment footings• WHS• 3 new stairs to Weir structure to allow for safe movement around structure

Source: (Extent 2024)

1.3 Physical analysis

Berembled Weir's structure is composed of a combination of both an overshoot and undershot weir, with bottom release gates and a fixed crest structure. The fixed crest is composed of mass concrete. A concrete sluiceway is connected to the main crest structure with mass concrete abutments and two Stoney roller gates which are electronically operated. The chain hoists controlling the roller gates are driven by an electric geared motor and function with a counterweight system (Extent 2024:65)

Due to the minor nature of proposed works and little to no anticipated impacts, no site visit has been undertaken or scheduled. However, a detailed physical analysis of the site was carried out for the preparation of the CMP in 2024 by Extent Heritage (Extent 2024).

2 Significance assessment

2.1 Statement of significance

The following revised statement of significance has been taken from the CMP prepared by Extent in 2024 (Extent 2024):

The site has cultural significance at the State level for its historical, associative, aesthetic, social and representative values. Constructed between 1907 and 1911, the item provides evidence of the early development of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The item contributes to our understanding of the water supply and management practices employed by the government at the turn of the century in an effort to 'drought-proof' and provide a reliable source of water to irrigate agricultural land. This in turn facilitated development in the wider region and continues to play a vital role in the management and supply of water today.

The aesthetic values of the item are embodied in the engineering and construction techniques. The massed concrete structures and wooden wicket are impressive features set within a picturesque landscape, enhanced by the remnant ornamental plantings and naturally occurring bushland.

The comparative analysis has established that while the item is not an uncommon water asset, it is an excellent representative example of an intact early twentieth century weir within the Murrumbidgee catchment area and represents early government responses to water management.

The site is likely to hold social values to the local community as a popular picnic and camping destination.

Extent 2024

2.2 Significance of the proposed work area

Table 2.1 assesses the significance of the proposed work area against the NSW heritage significance criteria (Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) 2023a). The significance assessment was prepared by Extent Heritage for the Berembled Weir CMP (Extent 2024). Berembled Weir meets the threshold for Criterion (a) Historical Significance, Criterion (b) Associative Significance, Criterion (c) Aesthetic Significance, Criterion (e) Research Significance and Criterion (g) Representativeness. Berembled Weir is further likely to meet the threshold of Criterion (d) Social Significance, however a detailed social values assessment would be needed to adequately assess against this criterion.

Table 2.1 Significance assessment

Criterion	Assessment
a) An item is important in the course or pattern of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural history (Historical Significance).	Berembled Weir and its setting are important in demonstrating the history of the development of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. Berembled Weir, in conjunction with Burrinjuck Dam, retains a high degree of historical significance as was one of the first elements constructed under the Barren Jack and Murrumbidgee Canals Construction Act 1906. It remains as one of the earliest key components in the development of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The construction of Berembled Weir represents a major public works initiative championed by the Wade NSW Government in the early twentieth century for the control and flow of water from the Murrumbidgee River to irrigate agricultural land. The development of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area facilitated the pattern of

Table 2.1 Significance assessment

Criterion	Assessment
	<p>development in the wider region through the control and supply of water to agricultural land. The weir, wooden wicket, and offtake regulator are key elements that contribute to the heritage significance of this place.</p> <p>The site meets the threshold for cultural significance at the State level under this criterion.</p>
<p>b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons of importance in NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural history (Associative Significance).</p>	<p>A number of important local and national figures were closely associated with the development scheme of which Berembled Weir forms a part, including Sir Samuel McCaughey (considered by some to be the father of Murrumbidgee irrigation, but also associated with early scandals overshadowing the project), the then Minister for Works, Mr. C.A. Lee (after whom Leeton is named), L.A.B. Wade (Engineer for Irrigation) and the NSW Wade Government.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">State Heritage Inventory 2024</p>
<p>c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area) (Aesthetic Significance).</p>	<p>Berembled Weir is an engineering work imbued with a high sense of aesthetic value expressed through the massed concrete and steel structures set within the picturesque landscape of Murrumbidgee River. The Weir and Offtake Regulator are impressive structures within this landscape and are key contributors to the technical and aesthetic values of this site. The remnant Wooden Wicket on display in the picnic area also contributes to the technical values of the site. It remains as one of 55 collapsible wickets originally incorporated in the Berembled Weir, later superseded by the fixed concrete weir.</p> <p>The site meets the threshold for cultural significance at the local level under this criterion.</p>
<p>d) An item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Social Significance).</p>	<p>Berembled Weir is likely to hold some social significance to the local community due to its continuous use as a popular picnic and camping location along the Murrumbidgee River. The site has demonstrated social significance to the former and current workers of Berembled Weir, who facilitated the conservation and display of the Wooden Wicket within the picnic area.</p> <p>The site is likely to meet the threshold for local listing under this criterion, however a detailed social values assessment would need to be undertaken with key stakeholders to adequately assess against this criterion.</p>
<p>e) An item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural history (Research Significance).</p>	<p>The archaeology of the workers' camp or village has the potential to represent the day-to-day lives and living conditions of the transient workers who built the weir. The insubstantial remains are unlikely to embody the scale and significance of the undertaking at a State level, but would be significant at a local level for their ability to represent an important phase in the development of the area and the people who passed through and lived there in the process of creating it...</p>

Table 2.1 Significance assessment

Criterion	Assessment
	The site meets the threshold for cultural significance at the local level under this criterion.
f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW’s (or the local area’s) cultural or natural history (Rarity).	The comparative analysis has demonstrated Berembled Weir is not a unique or uncommon built typology along the Murrumbidgee River, however it is unique for its historical associations as one of the first and earliest key elements constructed as part of the MIA. The site does not meet the threshold for cultural significance under this criterion.
g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s (or the local area’s) cultural or natural places or environments (Representativeness).	The comparative analysis established Berembled Weir is an excellent representative example of an intact early twentieth century weir and represents early government responses to water management. The site meets the threshold for cultural significance at the State level under this criterion

Source: (Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) 2023a, p.21)

2.3 Grading of significance for elements associated with Berembled Weir

Table 2.2 provides the grading of significance associated with Berembled Weir taken from the CMP (Extent 2024). The gradings of the larger site complex have not been included as they are not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed works. Proposed works are expected to impact the concrete abutments present in the Main fixed crest structure with concrete base.

Table 2.2 Grading of Berembled Weir

Element	Feature	Operational	Significance rating
Berembled Weir	Main fixed crest structure with concrete base	Yes	Exceptional
	Concrete sluiceway and lock chamber	Yes	Exceptional
	Vertical lift iron-framed sluice gates	Yes	Exceptional
	Chain hoist system	Yes	High
	Other concrete structures and abutments	Yes	Exceptional
	Steel fish way on right hand side of fixed crest	Yes	Little
	Concrete walkway across top of weir walls	No	High
	Contemporary steel access platform, stairway and ladder	Yes	Little
	Timber mooring post	No	High

Source: (Extent 2024:121)

3 Proposed works

3.1 The proposal

The proposed coring is to be undertaken to inform the design and optioneering process for new baulks/stoplogs at Berembed Weir.

The scope of works includes the following:

- The extraction of core samples from the two gate piers marked by red circles in Photograph 3.1 and Photograph 3.2.
- The cores would total four core samples taken from the centre pier and four core samples from the far pier. A total of 8 core samples are proposed to be extracted from the two gate piers.
- The proposed size of each core is 80 mm in diameter and approximately 250 mm in length.
- The concrete will be reinstated following the completion of coring.
- Reinstatement of coring will use a proprietary cementitious patch repair product, such as Fosroc Renderoc Rapid or equivalent.
- Patch repair will be circular and flush with the existing concrete.

The proposed areas of works are shown by the red circles in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Indicated areas for proposed works



Photograph 3.1 Berembed Weir gate pier. View north-east.



Photograph 3.2 Berembed Weir gate pier. View south-east.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 Pre-lodgement consultation

No consultation is required for the works as they are considered 'minor and inconsequential'.

3.2.2 Consideration of alternatives

No consideration of alternatives has currently been undertaken. As the proposed works are considered minor and a requirement in order to investigate what further options can be considered to repair Berembed Weir, no consideration of alternatives are necessary at this stage.

4 Heritage impact assessment

4.1 Impact assessment method

Under the *Material Threshold Policy* (MTP) (Heritage NSW 2020), the impact assessment must assess the proposed works against the listed criteria. The listed criteria are defined as the significance assessment against the heritage significance criteria in the SHR listing. Berembded Weir is listed as a SHR item and meets the threshold for Criterion (a) Historical Significance, Criterion (b) Associative Significance, Criterion (c) Aesthetic Significance, Criterion (e) Research Significance and Criterion (g) Representativeness. Berembded Weir is further likely to meet the threshold of Criterion (d) Social Significance, however a detailed social values assessment would be needed to adequately assess against this criterion. Therefore, the impact assessment needs to determine whether the proposal would erode (or impact) the ability of the item to demonstrate significance under these criteria.

The impact definitions are reproduced from the policy (Heritage NSW 2020, p.4) in Table 4.1. The following statement of heritage impact identifies the scale of the impact to the listed criteria defined in this assessment in Section 2.

Table 4.1 Scale of impact to State heritage significance

Impact	Definition
Total loss of significance	Major adverse impacts to the extent where the place would no longer meet the criteria for listing on the SHR.
Adverse impact	Major (that is, more than minor or moderate) adverse impacts to State heritage significance.
	Moderate adverse impacts to State heritage significance
	Minor adverse impacts to State heritage significance
Little to no impact*	An alteration to State heritage significance that is so minor that it is considered negligible. * Little to no impact (as opposed to no impact) acknowledges that any change will result in some level of impact/alteration to State heritage significance.
Positive impact	Alterations that enhance the ability to demonstrate the State heritage significance of an SHR listed place.

Source: Heritage NSW 2020, p.4

To assist in determining what is a major, moderate or minor adverse impact, the following has been used as a guide.

- **Major impact** – Change to all or most significant aspects of the place, such that its heritage significance against the listed criteria are substantially reduced or destroyed. In this case, the significance is limited to the Berembded Weir. A major impact is defined as a proposal that would impact over 50% of the fabric of Berembded Weir.
- **Moderate impact** - Change to some significant aspects of the place, such that some of its heritage significance is partially reduced. A moderate impact is defined as a proposal that would impact between 26 and 49% of the fabric of Berembded Weir.
- **Minor impact** - Minor change to significant aspects of the place, such that some of its heritage significance is slightly reduced. A minor impact is defined as a proposal that would impact between 1% and 25% of the fabric of Berembded Weir. By extension, any impact to less than 1% of the fabric would not be considered an adverse impact at any level.

4.2 Matters for consideration

The following heritage impact assessment in Table 4.2 assesses the impacts of the proposed project on the heritage significance of Berembed Weir.

Table 4.2 Matters for consideration – Berembed Weir

Matter	Discussion	Impact assessment
Fabric and spatial arrangement	The proposed works will involve the removal of eight concrete cores from the base of the two gate piers of Berembed Weir. Although the concrete is intended to be reinstated with a cementitious patch repair product, the removal will result in a permanent loss of some of the historic fabric. The proposed works are intended to inform the design and optioneering process for new baulks/stoplogs at Berembed Weir. Ultimately, when installed, the baulks are intended to assist with ongoing maintenance of the site. Therefore, minor impacts to the heritage fabric are considered essential to conserving the enduring heritage significance of the site in future. As this loss would impact less than 1% of the fabric of Berembed Weir, the adverse impacts are considered little to none.	Little to no impact
Settings, views and vistas	The proposed works will have temporary minor visual impacts to the setting and views of the site. However, once coring has been completed, the reinstatement of the concrete will restore the original settings and views. Therefore, there will be little to no impact under this matter for consideration.	Little to no impact.
Landscape	The project is not expected to have any impacts relating to landscape features, trees or gardens. As such, there will be no impact under this matter for consideration.	Little to no impact.
Use	The project will not result in a change in the use of the site, therefore there will be no impact under this matter for consideration.	Little to no impact.
Demolition	There is no demolition being proposed in the project, as such there is no impact under this matter for consideration.	Little to no impact.
Curtilage	The project is not expected to change the listed statutory boundary of the site, therefore there is no impact under this matter for consideration under this definition of a curtilage.	Little to no impact.
Moveable heritage	There are no moveable heritage items associated with Berembed Weir. As no movable heritage has been identified in the subject site, no impact under this matter for consideration.	Little to no impact.
Aboriginal cultural heritage	As the proposed works are occurring wholly within the historic fabric of Berembed Weir, there is no receptor pathway to have impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage. Therefore, there will be no expected impacts under this matter for consideration.	-
Historical archaeology	As the proposed works are occurring wholly within the historic fabric of Berembed Weir, there is no receptor pathway to have impacts on Historical archaeology. Therefore, there will be no expected impacts under this matter for consideration.	Little to no impact.
Natural Heritage	The natural bushlands surrounding Berembed Weir contribute to the aesthetic significance of the site. However, there are no expected impact pathways from the proposed works. As no areas of natural heritage significance are expected to be impacted in the subject site, this consideration is not relevant to the listed criteria.	Little to no impact.
Conservation areas	The site does not sit in a conservation area; therefore, no impact is identified under this consideration.	Little to no impact.

Matter	Discussion	Impact assessment
Cumulative impacts	Future projects could have an additional adverse impact to the fabric of the site. However, as these alterations are currently expected to be essential to the ongoing maintenance of the site they are considered essential to conserving the enduring heritage significance of the heritage item.	Little to no impact.
The conservation management plan	Please refer to Table 4.3 below for an assessment of the proposed works against the policies of the CMP.	Little to no impact.
Other heritage items in the vicinity	<p>Other associated heritage structures in the vicinity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden Wicket – Berembed Weir Site (ID #00968) • Berembed Offtake Regulator (ID #4550012) • Berembed Weir House (ID #4550015) • Berembed Weir House Storage Shed (ID #4550016) • Berembed Weir House Toilet (ID #4550017) • Berembed Weir Picnic Area Storage Shed (ID #4550018) • Berembed Weir Picnic Area Toilet (ID #4550019) • Berembed Weir Pump Shed (ID #4550020) • Berembed Weir Wicket (ID #4580045) <p>However, the scope of works is not expected to have a wide zone of influence. Proposed works are considered so minor that even though elements of the broader Berembed Weir site are nearby, there will be no expected impacts to these sites. As such there is no need to consider heritage items in the vicinity.</p>	Little to no impact.
Commonwealth / National heritage significance	The site does not sit in an area of Commonwealth or National significance; therefore, no impact is identified under this consideration. This matter of consideration is not relevant to the listed criteria.	Not relevant
World heritage significance	The site is not in a World heritage area; therefore, no impact is identified under this consideration. This matter of consideration is not relevant to the listed criteria.	Not relevant

Table 4.3 Consistency with conservation management plan policies - WaterNSW

Policy 1 – Conserving heritage significance	Assessment of Relevance
<p>1.1 Refer to conservation guidelines and manuals prepared by the NSW heritage authority, including the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Burra Charter. • The NSW Heritage Manual. • The Maintenance of Heritage Assets: A Practical Guide. 	<p>The SoHI has been prepared with reference to these guidelines and manuals.</p> <p>Compliant</p>
<p>1.2 The structures are to be managed and conserved so as to protect and enhance the features and characteristics that define their heritage significance.</p>	<p>Impacts to the heritage significance of the asset are considered little to none. Proposed works are intended to inform the design and optioneering process for the installation of baulks/stoplogs which will ultimately contribute to the ongoing conservation of the asset following installation.</p> <p>Compliant</p>
<p>1.3 The statement of significance and gradings of significance detailed in Part 7 of this report should guide future planning and works proposed.</p>	<p>The CMP has been consulted and has been incorporated into this SoHI to guide the process of planning and proposed works.</p> <p>Compliant</p>
Policy 2 – Legislative requirements	

2.1	The following legislations apply to Berembled Weir: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) • National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 • The Heritage Regulation 2012 • Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan. 	Reference is made to the legislation that is relevant to the project. Compliant
2.2	As the site is on the State Heritage Register, 'Division 3 Applications for approval' under the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) must be considered for obtaining approvals. Specifically, the following sections of the act are relevant to the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • section 57(1) – notification of controlled or minor activities. • section 57(2) – minor or exempt activities. • section 60 – application for major activities. • section 63 – approval for major activities. • section 170 – heritage management by state agencies 	Noted. These sections have been considered when determining the appropriate approval pathway.
2.3	As the site is listed on the State Heritage Register any works not assessed as falling within the Standard Exemptions or the WaterNSW State Agency Exemptions are subject to a statutory approval from Heritage NSW.	An application for approval under section 60 will be required, however due to the minor impact on the heritage significance of the item the works will likely meet the criteria for a fast-track pathway. Compliant
2.4	As the site is listed on the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan, works to the site which are other than 'minor or inconsequential' must be notified to Council in accordance with clause 2.11 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021.	Works are considered 'minor and inconsequential' and therefore do not require the notification of the Council. Compliant

Policy 3 – Statutory approval

3.1	All relevant statutory approvals must be obtained prior to commencing any works, as required by the NSW Heritage Act 1977.	Work will not commence until relevant statutory approvals have been obtained. Compliant
3.2	A statement of heritage impact is required for works affecting significant values and fabric within the site. Such documents must be prepared in accordance with NSW Heritage Council guidelines.	This SoHI fulfils this policy and has been prepared in accordance with <i>Guidelines for preparing a statement of heritage impact</i> (Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) 2023b) Compliant
3.3	Project planning must allow adequate time for required heritage approvals.	Adequate approval time has been factored into the project program. Compliant

Policy 4 – Stakeholder engagement

4.1	Potential stakeholders include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage NSW / Heritage Council of NSW • Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water • Wagga Wagga City Council ▪ National Trust of Australia (NSW) • Engineers Australia Heritage Committee • Narrandera Local Aboriginal Land Council 	Works are considered minor and inconsequential and therefore do not require stakeholder engagement. Compliant
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- Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council

4.2	Consultation should include both internal and external stakeholders.	Works are considered minor and inconsequential and therefore do not require stakeholder engagement. Compliant
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Policy 5 – Ongoing maintenance requirements

5.1	WaterNSW is responsible for the conservation and maintenance of Berembed Weir.	Proposed works will inform the design process for the installation of baulks/stoplogs at Berembed Weir. The installation of the baulks will assist with the ongoing maintenance of the weir when completed. Compliant
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5.2	The management of the place is to ensure its State heritage values as an important water supply, industrial heritage and recreational place are protected and enhanced.	Proposed works ensure the State heritage values of the asset are protected and enhanced by maintaining the structural integrity of the asset. Compliant
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Policy 6 – Document Use

6.1	This CMP must be made available to all relevant people and agencies involved in maintenance, operation, management, and future works to the Berembed Weir.	The CMP was made available to EMM to complete this SoHI. Compliant
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Policy 7 – Conservation activities

7.1	Ongoing preservation, maintenance, and repair of original and significant fabric must be carried out using appropriate methods and materials, and the assessed significance of the elements affected.	The CMP has been consulted with the consideration of the assessed significance of the elements affected. Compliant
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7.2	Works to significant fabric are to be undertaken by tradespeople and contractors with demonstrated skills and experience in working with historical fabric and construction techniques.	No work is to be undertaken by tradespeople and contractors without demonstrated skills and experience. Compliant
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7.3	All surviving heritage fabric of Berembed Weir is to be managed, protected, maintained, and conserved in accordance with the graded levels of heritage significance identified in this CMP.	The heritage fabric of Berembed Weir has been addressed in accordance with the graded levels of heritage significance identified in the CMP. Compliant
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7.4	Heritage induction should be included in the general site induction prior to commencement of construction works, so that all personnel involved are aware of heritage and archaeological requirements.	This requirement has been added to the management measures. Compliant
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7.5	Seek professional advice and assistance when seeking approvals for any works to the site. It is recommended that proposed works be subject to long-term planning that avoids adverse heritage impacts of incremental change.	This SoHI has been prepared by a heritage professional and constitutes WaterNSW's professional advice and assistance. Compliant
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Policy 8 – Conserving elements of exceptional significance

8.1	Elements and components identified as being of exceptional significance are recommended to be retained and conserved in situ. Any works that affects	The proposed works will only be impacting the concrete base of the gate piers which have been graded as being of exceptional significance. The other elements are not relevant
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	these items in the first instance should consider preservation and restoration as the preferred option as defined by the Burra Charter. If this cannot occur then replacement must be justified on safety, security or operational grounds.	as no impact to the fabric at that level would occur. The proposed works would not remove a whole element or component but will support decision making regarding conservation and maintenance so that the weir can be retained and conserved in situ. Impacts to the fabric are considered little to none. Compliant
8.2	Elements of exceptional significance should not be obstructed by new works, structures, or services unless no operationally feasible alternative exists.	Extraction of the concrete cores will not obstruct views of exceptional significance permanently. Reinstatement of the concrete will restore views to their original state once proposed works have been completed. Compliant
8.3	Where elements of exceptional significance have failed or been damaged, they must be repaired using traditional methods and with sympathetic materials in preference to replacement.	Elements will be repaired with sympathetic materials where reasonable. In the event where repairs are not considered a viable option, like-for-like materials will be used. Compliant
8.4	Where elements of exceptional significance are missing or concealed, effort is to be made to restore them.	Reinstatement of the concrete will restore the element. Concrete
8.5	Maintain the overall siting of elements of exceptional significance as part of the overall site.	The project would result in little to no impact to elements of exceptional significance. Compliant
8.6	Essential changes required to maintain operations at the site will be designed, planned and executed to minimise impacts to fabric of exceptional significance insofar as possible.	The project would result in little to no impact to elements of exceptional significance. Compliant

Policy 13 – Routine and regular maintenance

13.1	Berembed Weir is to be maintained in accordance with the Minimum Standards of Maintenance and Repair as set out in the Heritage Act. Refer to Heritage Regulation 2012 Part 3 'Minimum Standards of Maintenance and Repair' for standards which relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weatherproofing; • fire protection; • security; and • essential maintenance. 	Proposed works are considered to be 'essential maintenance' and will be undertaken to comply with the Minimum Standards of Maintenance and Repair as set out in the Heritage Act. Compliant
13.2	The site must be inspected at least every twelve months to identify maintenance and repair that are needed to comply with the Minimum Standards of Maintenance and Repair.	Proposed works will be undertaken to comply with the Minimum Standards of Maintenance and Repair. Compliant
13.3	In addition to routine and regular maintenance of the site, prompt preventative action and corrective repairs should be undertaken as necessary and executed with a high level of care towards protecting significant fabric.	Proposed works are intended to inform future corrective repairs. Significant fabric will be handled with the appropriate level of care. Compliant
13.4	Future programs of conservation, interpretation, re-use, alterations, and additions are to respond to the relative levels of significance for key site elements.	This policy will be relevant during the planning and design of any subsequent conservation and maintenance, but is not directly relevant to the current scope of works.
13.5	Maintenance and repairs to fabric assessed as having exceptional, high and moderate significance should be based on the Burra Charter principle of a cautious	The Burra Charter has been consulted and incorporated in this SoHI. Works will involve the minimum level of change to the fabric necessary to address repairs and maintenance. Compliant

approach to change: 'do as much as necessary but as little as possible' to preserve its cultural significance.

Policy 14 – Appropriate conservation methods

14.1	Works to significant fabric are to be undertaken in line with the principles set out in the Burra Charter.	The Burra Charter has been consulted and incorporated in this SoHI. Works will involve the minimum level of change to the fabric necessary to address repairs and maintenance. Compliant
14.2	For guides to the conservation of heritage fabric, refer to the NSW Heritage Office 'Maintenance Series'.	Expert contractor and subcontractor advice will be sought prior to the commencement of works. Compliant
14.3	Extant fabric from all periods of construction that contributes to the overall significance of the place are to be appropriately managed, retained and conserved.	Extant fabric will be reinstated and retained where viable. Like-for-like materials will be used in the instances where retention is not viable, conserving the overall significance of the place. Compliant

Policy 15 – Prioritise the conservation of significant fabric

15.1	Traditional materials and techniques are preferred when carrying out maintenance and repair work to significant fabric.	Traditional materials and techniques will be utilised where able. Compliant
15.2	Materials such as concrete and metalwork that add to the character of the place must be managed using appropriate approaches and methodologies.	Experts with the appropriate heritage conservation experience and skills will be consulted to manage the handled concrete. Compliant
15.3	Where original materials such as stone pitching can be salvaged after damage, these elements, if sound, should be reinstated. Where materials are not sound and unable to be reused, reinstate like-for-like with compatible materials.	Concrete will be reinstated where material has been found to be in sound condition. Compliant

Policy 16 – Skilled trades and expert conservation advice

16.1	Contractors and subcontractors engaged for maintenance work on these types of materials must be able to demonstrate appropriate skills and experience, prior to engagement, to ensure heritage fabric is appropriately maintained.	Expert contractor and subcontractor advice will be sought prior to the commencement of works. Compliant
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Policy 17 – Traditional methods

17.1	Seek advice from a heritage expert prior to adoption or use of modern products and techniques.	EMM have provided advice to WaterNSW. Compliant
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Policy 22 – Incremental change

22.1	Specialist advice should be sought for all proposals for new work that may impact the site.	EMM have provided advice to WaterNSW. Compliant
22.2	Temporary modifications or alterations to significant elements are to be reversible.	The temporary removal of the core samples will be reversed by their reinstatement. Compliant

22.3	Architectural detailed plans and drawings must form part of the critical project documentation for major projects.	Proposed works are considered minor, and no major projects have been proposed at this time. Compliant
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Policy 35 – General policy for managing change

35.1	<p>Proposed changes that impact on heritage significance should only be considered if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the change is considered necessary to maintain the asset in working order or to meet current safety and operational standards; • the change improves the safety of WaterNSW staff, contractors and visitors; • they allow for the recovery of areas or elements of greater significance; • absolute care is taken to minimise the adverse effect on heritage significance and effort is made to negate the impact and enhance significance in some other way; • the change helps to maintain the security and protection of the significant elements; • there is no other alternative. 	<p>Proposed works have been deemed necessary to maintain the asset’s structural integrity and meet operational standards. Compliant</p>
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Policy 39 – Heritage Induction

39.1	The heritage induction should be prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultant and reviewed by the WaterNSW heritage officer.	This requirement has been added to the management measures. Compliant
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5 Summary and recommendations

The Berembled Weir is identified as an item of State heritage significance on the State Heritage Register as Berembled Weir and site (SHR #00957). The site is also listed as a heritage item on Schedule 5 of the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 (Wagga Wagga LEP 2010) as Berembled Weir (#I309) and the WaterNSW s170 as separate elements.

Proposed works will involve the extraction and reinstatement of core samples from the two gate piers of Berembled Weir. Works are intended to inform the design process for the installation of new baulks/stoplogs at Berembled Weir. The works will ultimately result in the continued maintenance of the heritage site and impacts to the heritage significance of the site arising from the works are expected to be little to none. Furthermore, the proposed works are considered 'minor and inconsequential'.

The following recommendations and management measures have been made:

- The proposed works would have little to no impact on the heritage significance of Berembled Weir.
- WaterNSW will require approval under Section 60 of the Heritage Act. Should the works meet all of the below criteria, the works could be submitted under the section 60 fast track approval pathway:
 - To an item listed on the State Heritage Register or subject to an interim heritage order. This condition is met – Berembled Weir is identified as item #00957 of the SHR.
 - That will have little or no adverse impact on the heritage significance of an item, in the opinion of the Heritage Council (or its delegate). This condition is met – this SoHI recommends that the works would have little to no impact on the significance of the Berembled Weir.
 - That are not listed as a standard exemption or site-specific exemption under the *Heritage Act 1977*. The proposed works do not fit within the Standard Exemptions to the *Heritage Act 1977* as fabric of significant, while minimal, will be removed.
 - That have an estimated cost of up to \$150,000. WaterNSW should identify whether this criteria is met.
 - That accord with relevant guidelines (being a SoHI prepared under the Department of Planning and Environment (NSW) (2023b) guidelines, i.e. this document.
- The patch repair fabric is to be matched to an appropriate colour and texture to the existing concrete to minimise the visibility of the core locations and ensure it blends into the broader landscape.
- Heritage induction should be included in the general site induction prior to commencement of construction works, so that all personnel involved are aware of heritage and archaeological requirements. This is to comply with Policy 7.4 of the Berembled Weir CMP.

I trust that this statement of heritage impact meets your expectations. I can be contacted on 0434 884 876 should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



[Redacted]

Graduate Archaeologist

[Redacted]

6 References

- Department of Planning and Environment (NSW), (2023a) *Assessing Heritage Significance: Guidelines for Assessing Places and Objects against the Heritage Council of NSW Criteria*, Parramatta, NSW, Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment (NSW).
- Department of Planning and Environment (NSW), (2023b) *Guidelines for Preparing a Statement of Heritage Impact*, Parramatta, NSW, Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment (NSW).
- Extent, (2024) *Berembed Weir: Coconservation Management Plan*, Sydney.
- Heritage NSW, (2020) *Material Threshold Policy*, Parramatta, Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet.