Gerringong to Bomaderry
Princes Highway Upgrade

Preliminary Contamination Assessment

The Roads and Traffic Authority NSW
August 2007
Quality Information

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Reviewed by Steven Andrew (Maunsell)

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RTA acceptance

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<td>Project No.</td>
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<td>Approving Manager</td>
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<td>Reviewing Officer</td>
<td>Ron de Rooy</td>
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1.0 Background

Maunsell was engaged by the RTA in December 2006 to carry out an Options and Route Selection Study, Concept Development and Environmental Assessment (EA) for upgrading the Princes Highway between 42.6 km to 74.6 km south of Wollongong. Maunsell has engaged a number of prominent sub-consultants to contribute to the delivery of this project.

The work includes development of route options and concept development based on the identified preferred route, environmental assessment, public displays and handover period to allow for finalisation of all activities and reports following the announcement and display of the Preferred Route, the Environmental Assessment and the Conditions of Approval.

The project will provide a bypass of Berry. The northern extremity of the project is in the vicinity of the Mount Pleasant Lookout (north of Gerringong at the termination of the four lane configuration) and the southern extremity of the project is the intersection (roundabout) of the Princes Highway with Cambewarra and Moss Vale Roads at Bomaderry.

Community involvement is a key aspect of this project and will afford the broader community the opportunity to make a demonstrable input to the process and to ensure that the requirements and aspirations of the community will be adequately and appropriately addressed. This is particularly relevant to:

a) Any potential impacts on rural and residential areas within the study area;
b) Social and economic impacts;
c) Accessibility of the road network for local and through traffic;
d) Potential impacts on water quality;
e) Potential impacts on wetlands;
f) Potential impact on flooding;
g) Potential impacts on land uses;
h) Threatened flora and fauna species;
i) Indigenous and non-indigenous heritage;
j) Visual impact;
k) Noise; and
l) Air quality.

Several studies have been undertaken since the early 1990s to identify a preferred route to upgrade sections of the Princes Highway between Kiama and Nowra including a bypass around the town of Berry.

These studies include:

m) The 1991 Gerringong to Berry Route Study;
n) 1998 North Street Berry Bypass Corridor; and
o) 2004/05 Quantm Study from Kiama to Nowra.

Sections of the highway between Gerringong and Bomaderry have a poor accident record and limited safe overtaking opportunities.

Due to the significant changes in traffic, land use and population since 1991, the NSW state government, in March 2006 committed to investigating an area where it is likely a preferred route would be located to upgrade the Princes Highway between Mount Pleasant at Gerringong and Moss Vale/Cambewarra Road at Bomaderry to meet current road standards.
2.0 Objective of report

Coffey Geotechnics Pty Ltd. (Coffey) was commissioned by Maunsell to carry out a Preliminary Contamination Assessment (PCA) for the study area for the upgrade of the Princes Highway from Gerringong to Bomaderry, NSW. This Preliminary Contamination Assessment was carried out concurrently with a geotechnical investigation which is reported separately. This report should be read in conjunction with the Preliminary Geotechnical Report.

The study area for the highway upgrade is approximately 32 km in length and up to 5 km in width.

The objective of the assessment is to provide preliminary information on the potential for areas to be affected by land contamination from past or present activities (based on readily available information) and to make recommendations on the need for further investigations.

It is noted that due to the significant size of the study area, the assessment is preliminary in nature and its main focus is on larger scale contamination issues.
3.0 Scope of work

The following scope of work was carried out to meet the project objectives:

a) A limited site history and desk study to identify potential Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) and Chemicals of Concern (COC) including: a review of Kiama Municipal Council and Shoalhaven City Council zonal planning records, review of current aerial photographs, holding interviews with available people familiar with the history of the site, a brief review of information available on the internet, review of published geological, acid sulphate soil and topographic maps and a review of Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) records for listing of the site;

b) A site drive over to briefly observe the general conditions of the study area and further assess potential AECs and COCs;

c) Review of relevant information from the geotechnical investigation carried out concurrently with this study; and

d) Preparation of this report summarising the site history, assessing the potential AECs and COCs, outlining the major constraints to the proposed development in relation to contamination and making recommendations on the need for further investigation;

It is noted that due to the significant size of the study area an individual assessment of each property was not possible. Not all information sources recommended to be reviewed in the NSW EPA (1997) Guidelines for Consultants Reporting on Contaminated Sites were reviewed, such as individual property files held by councils.
4.0 Site land use and description

4.1 Site location and land use

The study area extends from north of Gerringong to Bomaderry, NSW which is approximately 32 km in length and up to 5 km in width. The study area is shown in Figure 1.

The predominant land use along the study area is rural. Some areas within Gerringong, Berry and Bomaderry have some residential, commercial, industrial, reserves and special use land (e.g. schools, railways, roads etc.). Figures 2 to 5 show the land use of the study area based on planning maps obtained from Kiama Municipal Council and Shoalhaven City Council.

Reference to the Shoalhaven City Council Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 1985 indicates areas encompassed by the study area are generally zoned as either Rural 1(a) Agricultural Production, 1(b) Arterial and Main Road Protection, 1(c) Rural Lifestyle, 1(c1), 1(c2), 1(c3), 1(d) General Rural, 1(f) Forest or 1(g) Flood Liable.

Within the township of Berry multiple zoning conditions are in affect. Generally the township is zoned as Residential 2(a), 2(a1), 2(a3), 2(a4), 2(b1), 2(c). Other zoning conditions in place include Business 3(f) (Village), Industrial 4(a) (General), Special Uses 5(a) (Church or Schools) and Open Space Recreation 6(a) (Existing), 6(b) (Private), 6(c) (Proposed). The sewerage treatment plant on the southern outskirts of the township is zoned Special uses 5(a).

At the southern end of the study area within the suburb of Bomaderry the general zoning conditions in place are Residential 2(a1), 2(a3), 2(d). Other zoning conditions in place include Business 3(b) (Transitional), Special Uses 5(a) School, Open Space Recreation 6(a) (Existing), 6(c) (Proposed) and Environmental Protection 7(d1) (Scenic), 7(d2) (Special Scenic).

Throughout the study area the railway corridor is zoned Special Uses 5(b) Railways.

Reference to the Kiama Municipal Council Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 1996 indicates areas encompassed by the study area are generally zoned 1(a) Rural ‘A’. Areas of the study area east of the Princes Highway near Gerringong are zoned either 2(a) Residential or 4(c) Light Industrial. Areas north of Gerringong are zoned as either 7(b) Rural Environmental Protection (Estuarine Wetlands), 7(d) Rural Environmental Protection (Scenic) and 7(f) Rural Environmental Protection (Foreshore Protection).
4.2 Topography and drainage

The study area, extending from the Mount Pleasant lookout north of Gerringong to the intersection of Cambewarra and Moss Vale Roads at Bomaderry, involves two main regional topographic settings: first, the undulating hills and their associated foothills to the northwest of the railway line; and, second, the Shoalhaven lowland plain which extends southeast beyond Coolangatta towards Seven Mile Beach and the Shoalhaven Bight.

The elevated north western portion of the study area has been influenced by the Cambewarra Mountain range. This mountain range, compared to the Illawarra range (north of Mount Pleasant at Kiama), is a narrow low range that runs roughly parallel with the coastline. The lower slopes of this range extend into the study area along the high points of Berry. Harley Hill and Toolijooa Hill lie disjointed from the Cambewarra towards the eastern part of the study area.

The prominent high points within the study area include Mount Pleasant (RL 200 m), Toolijooa Hill (RL 130 m), Harley Hill (RL 140 m) Foxground (RL 120 m) and Tomlins Hill (RL 136 m). A ridge of moderate elevation from Foxground to Toolijooa Hill and a flatter ridge to the southeast of Toolijooa Hill separates the Broughton Creek floodplain from the Crooked River floodplain.

Many high sinuosity secondary streams and creeks migrate from higher elevations within the Cambewarra range in a dendritic drainage pattern. These secondary creeks and streams generally flow to the southeast where they merge with either Crooked River in the north or Broughton Creek in the south.

The Shoalhaven lowland plain with a surface elevation generally less than RL 5 m includes the Crooked River floodplain and Broughton Creek floodplain.

Broughton Creek floodplain

The Broughton Creek floodplain and tributary valley floor areas occupy a large portion of the study area to the south and southeast of Berry (mainly floodplains) and tributary valleys to the north and northeast of Berry. Broughton Creek is the dominant watercourse in this area extending back to the escarpment slopes to the north and northeast in the areas of Broughton, Broughton Vale, Bundewallah, Jaspers Brush and Meroo Meadow areas to the south and southeast of Berry. Broughton Creek flows across a broad floodplain in a southerly direction, flowing into the Shoalhaven River about 5 km west of Shoalhaven Heads.

Crooked River floodplain

The Crooked River floodplain where it occurs within the study area includes the low lying areas to the southwest of Gerringong, generally between Toolijooa Road or the Princes Highway and the Illawarra Railway. Crooked River originates in the Broughton Vale highlands and flows southeast across the Crooked River floodplain and into Crooked River coastal lagoon.

The general topography south of Berry comprises undulating foot slopes of the coastal escarpment (Cambewarra range) which is mostly occurs to the west of the existing highway with the low lying coastal plain occurring mostly east of the existing highway. Some of the low ridges extend out into the plain in the areas of Jaspers Brush and Meroo Meadow.

Omega Flat

Omega Flat is situated between Gerringong and Mount Pleasant ridge in the northern part of the study area described as a lowland marsh / floodplain which is regularly inundated during periods of high rainfall periods. Fluvial sediments originating from Ooaree Creek and general runoff from the Gerringong township, the Princes Highway and surrounding pavement areas is responsible for its accelerated rate of infilling.
North of Berry township there is a large area of near level land including some low lying areas near the watercourses, with slopes gradually increasing to the north and west. This near level is underlain by alluvial deposits.

The existing highway initially follows a narrow ridge to the northeast of Berry then crosses hills and ridges of moderate elevation to Broughton Creek and Foxground Valley which comprises a large area of near level to gently sloping land over the valley floor. The highway passes through a valley and undulating slopes before crossing another high ridge near the southern side of Gerringong township.

### 4.3 General geology

The project specific geotechnical units delineated for the study are described below. Given the wide spacing between test holes and the various floodplain depositional sequences and the bedrock stratigraphic units, it is anticipated that future investigations for a selected highway alignment will identify a more complex arrangement of geotechnical units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1 Project specific geotechnical units delineated for the study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit symbol</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topsoils and fill</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seven Mile estuarine sediments and Shoalhaven fluvial sediments – quaternary soil units</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coolongatta and Kiama erosional sediments – quaternary soil units</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wattamolla Road depositional sediments</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shoalhaven group – Gerringong volcanics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Shoalhaven group – Berry formation</strong></td>
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4.4 Acid sulphate soil occurrence

According to the Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Maps, published by the Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC), some sections of the study area are noted as being affected by ASS with varying degrees of environmental risk. These areas are typically in the eastern parts of the study area.

Coffey has prepared a draft Preliminary Acid Sulphate Soil Assessment Report which assesses the potential for encountering acid sulphate soils within the study area.
5.0 Site history and site observations

5.1 Summary of site history

Information on the site history was obtained from:

a) Review of current aerial photographs;
b) A search of NSW Department of Environmental and Conservation (DEC) records;
c) Review of land use planning maps available from Kiama Municipal Council and Shoalhaven City Council;
d) A brief review of information available on the internet; and
e) Interviewing available persons with knowledge of the study area.

The site history information is presented in Appendix A and a summary is provided below.

Site history information indicated that the early settlement of townships such as Gerringong and Berry was closely related to the timber industry and various primary industries such as dairying, agriculture and cattle grazing since at least 1814 when the first cedar tree was cut in Gerringong.

Anecdotal information indicates that the majority of the study area has historically been zoned for rural land use and mainly used for grazing cattle and dairying purposes. Some residential, commercial and light industrial land is located in the northern part of the study area near Gerringong, in the central part of the study area within Berry and the southern part of the study area near Bomaderry.

A search of the NSW DEC website did not identify any notices for the study area under the Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act (1985) or the Contaminated Land Management Act (1997). The information reviewed as part of this preliminary assessment including persons interviewed did not identify the presence of major potential contamination issues such as large waste dumps, landfills; chemical manufacturing plants; fuel depots etc. (which are normally associated with larger scale contamination issues). Persons interviewed as part of this study did not know of the current or former presence of any of the following within the study area:

f) Cattle tick dip sites where cattle may have been treated to remove pests;
g) Tanneries;
h) Properties where use of pesticides/chemicals may have been intensive;
i) Night soil depots;
j) Timber treatment;
k) Gasworks;
l) Mining or extractive industries; and
m) Power stations etc.

Anecdotal evidence indicated the presence of a former small quarry north of Berry. This site was identified later as a small quarry on the topographic map for the area and is located about 1.5 km north east of Berry on the eastern side of the Princes Highway.

A review of aerial photograph images from 2007 DigitalGlobe via Google Earth it appeared that the study area was primarily used for rural land use. Sources of potential contamination for individual properties could not be identified due to the image resolution. Rural land use appeared to be for grazing and dairy purposes with some irrigation patterns evident. No evidence of larger scale crop farming was observed from the images. Buildings and houses within residential, business and industrial areas were identified but the specifics of the building materials and use of the structures could not be identified.

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1 www.gerringong-gerroa.com
Information available on the internet suggested that a former tannery was present in Berry near the creek opposite the David Berry Hospital. Details of the tannery were not available.

5.2 Site observations

An environmental scientist made observations of the study area between the 12 and 27 March 2007. A summary of the relevant observations made is described below, with some of the relevant features shown in Figure 2.

The study area generally consists of land used for rural purposes such as dairying and livestock grazing purposes. Apart from areas within the immediate townships of Gerringong, Berry and Bomaderry, the land consists mainly of vacant pastoral lands. Some residential, commercial and light industrial land use is present within portions of Gerringong, Berry and Bomaderry.

The main road corridor within the study area is the Princes Highway. A railway line is also located within the study area to the east of the Princes Highway.

The study area includes a relatively thin strip along the western side of the Gerringong township. This part of the study area was observed as primarily consisting of residential properties and the railway corridor. A service station was also noted at the intersection of Belinda Road with the Princes Highway, bounded by the South Coast railway line.

Within the township of Berry, various land uses were observed with the primary land use being residential. Queen Street (Princes Highway) is the main road through the town centre of Berry and consists primarily of retail stores including grocery store, pharmacies, newsagent, bakeries, pubs and other art / furnishing stores. Two service stations were also noted near the intersection of Queen Street and Alexandra Street at the centre of the town.

Other land uses included various sports playing fields, schools and churches. Approximately 400 m south of the town centre along the Coolangatta Road on the southern side of the railway line, is the Old Creamery Lane Complex. This area is zoned as Industrial 4(a) (General) under the Shoalhaven City Council LEP (1985), consists of 14 private business’s including a Co-op, a saddlery, automotive repairs workshop, treat factory, bakery, joinery and builders workshop. A further 300 m south along Coolangatta Road is the Berry Sewerage Treatment Plant. Approximately 1.2 km east of Berry along Beach Road is David Berry Memorial Hospital.

The northern parts of Bomaderry (in the southern part of the study area) were observed to be primarily used for residential purposes with sporadic retail stores. A service station was also observed on the eastern side of the Princes Highway. Other land uses observed included Bomaderry High School, sports playing fields and a public pool facility on Cambewarra Road at the southeast corner of the study area.

In general, areas east of the Princes Highway are relatively flat consisting of alluvial floodplains associated with Broughton Creek which runs approximately northeast to southwest. Areas west of the Princes Highway and northwest of Berry, is mostly near level and low lying before becoming undulating over the foot slopes of the Illawarra and Cambewarra Mountain ranges and associated creek tributaries to the west, and the hilly areas of Broughton and Toolijooa. Areas to the southwest, west and northwest of Gerringong mainly consist of flat low lying alluvial floodplains associated with Crooked River, Rose Valley Gully and Ooaree Creek, and undulating topography heading north towards Mount Pleasant. Land use through these areas is primarily dairying and livestock grazing.

Vineyards / wineries were also observed to be operating within rural areas of the study area such as the Crooked River Estate, west of Gerringong, and the Silos Estate located near Jaspers Creek.

Turf growing / cutting businesses were also observed along the Princes Highway approximately 1 km northeast of Berry and areas between Jaspers Creek and Wileys Creek.
The site is predominantly well vegetated with dense grass vegetation. Trees are sporadic in flat low lying areas but become low to moderately dense in the undulated and mountain areas previously mentioned.

There was little obvious evidence of significant land filling or fill stockpiling in areas of rural land use based on the observations made.
6.0 Potential areas of environmental concern and chemicals of concern

With any land use there is always a potential for some form of land contamination from past or present activities. Based on the site history information and site observations we have identified general potential Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) and associated potential Chemicals of Concern (COCs) that are typically associated with the identified land use / activity. These are summarised in the following table along with a description of each potential AEC and likelihood of contamination. Given that each individual property was not assessed as part of this study, these AECs and COCs should be regarded as generic for the land uses / activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potentially contaminating land use / activity (see Figure 2)</th>
<th>Sub component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Potential areas of environmental concern</th>
<th>Likelihood of contamination*</th>
<th>Potential chemicals of concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RURAL</td>
<td>Potential weathering of hazardous building materials and demolition of former site structures.</td>
<td>Weathering of hazardous building materials such as lead paint, fibre cement (containing asbestos) and galvanised iron. Potentially present from former or current site structures. Also includes possible use of pesticides near buildings.</td>
<td>Typically localised areas near current and former farm houses / sheds in the rural areas. <em>(Soil media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low to moderate likelihood of soil contamination if former structures contained hazardous building materials, which weathered into surrounding surface soils. Alternatively, incorrect demolition procedures may have resulted in possible soil contamination with fragments of weathered / friable building materials.</td>
<td>Lead, zinc, asbestos and OCP.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Fill of unknown origin and quality.</td>
<td>Fill soils potentially imported to alter site levels and for construction purposes or filling of land.</td>
<td>Typically localised areas near farm houses / sheds in the rural areas. Could apply to other areas such as lower lying areas that may have been filled. <em>(Generally soil media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low likelihood of contamination. Based on the information reviewed, extensive filling activities have not been identified.</td>
<td>TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, OPP, PCB, heavy metals and asbestos.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disposal of wastes.</td>
<td>Localised dumping of wastes on sites such as farm / household wastes on rural properties.</td>
<td>In general, it would not be uncommon for some rural properties to have small disposal areas for farm / household wastes. On some occasions former ponds, dams or drainage lines could also have been used for dumping of waste. Contamination could also be present within the sediments of dams and nearby surrounding soils. <em>(Soil and groundwater media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally moderate likelihood of contamination. These activities have currently not been explicitly identified although they cannot be discounted. Sediments within dams / ponds could accumulate contaminants if used on site. Associated drainage lines may also be affected.</td>
<td>TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, OPP, PCB, heavy metals, herbicides, fungicides and asbestos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentially contaminating land use / activity (see Figure 2)</td>
<td>Sub component</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td><strong>RURAL cont’d</strong></td>
<td>Storage of miscellaneous materials and equipment.</td>
<td>May include vehicles / plant or materials that may have been used in previous or current agricultural style practices. Equipment such as leaking or deteriorating tractors / harvesters, or materials that may contain possible sources of contamination (e.g. fibre cemented sheeting or copper arsenic treated pine timber).</td>
<td>Typically localised areas within or near farm houses / sheds in the rural areas. Contamination (if present) would typically be present in near surface soils in areas where the equipment or materials were stored. <em>(Soil media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low to moderate likelihood of contamination. A large variety of materials could typically be expected for the properties encompassed by the study area. Materials or equipment may include car bodies, old fuel storage tanks, steel scrap, treated timber, fibre cement sheeting etc. The exact variety of materials / items for each property and their previous or current use is not known.</td>
<td>TPD, BTEX, PAH, OCP, PCB, heavy metals and asbestos.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Possible application of pesticides and / or other agricultural chemicals.</td>
<td>May include application of pesticides to crops or livestock, application of herbicides to weed species or fungicides to crops.</td>
<td>Could apply to selected area of the rural areas. Several wineries were noted within the study area and two turf growing businesses were also noted. <em>(Soil and groundwater media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low to moderate likelihood of contamination. Currently we do not have evidence that such chemicals have been used but this cannot be precluded. Vineyard and areas used for turf growing may have a higher likelihood of using such chemicals and therefore a higher likelihood of contamination.</td>
<td>OCP, OPP, herbicides and fungicides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentially contaminating land use / activity (see Figure 2)</td>
<td>Sub component</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Potential areas of environmental concern</td>
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<td>RURAL cont’d</td>
<td>Potential leaks or seepage from septic tanks.</td>
<td>Effluent discharges from septic tanks and potential disposal of other wastes into the septic system.</td>
<td>Areas near and down slope of the septic tank from potential leaks within those properties containing a septic tank. <em>(Soil and groundwater media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Low to moderate likelihood of contamination.</td>
<td>Typically nutrients and pathogens. (May also include others such as TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, OPP, heavy metals etc. if wastes inappropriately disposed).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RURAL cont’d</td>
<td>Use and storage of fuels / chemicals in farm buildings or sheds.</td>
<td>May include fuels such as petrol, diesel and kerosene for use in farming related vehicles / plant: lubricants, oils and grease used for the servicing, cleaning and repairing of vehicles / plant and other chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. These could have been stored in drums, cans bottles or above ground or below ground tanks.</td>
<td>Typically localised areas near farm houses / sheds in the areas. Possibly larger areas if leakages occurred from underground fuel tanks. <em>(Soil and groundwater media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low to moderate likelihood of contamination. If present, would typically be expected to be localised in the vicinity of the area where they stored containers. Would typically be present in near surface soils in areas where the chemicals were stored. Potentially deeper soil and groundwater contamination may be possible if fuels etc. stored in underground storage tanks.</td>
<td>Fuels – TPH, BTEX, PAH, VHC. Others – OCP, herbicides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentially contaminating land use / activity (see Figure 2)</td>
<td>Sub component</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RURAL cont’d</strong></td>
<td>Treatment of livestock with pesticides.</td>
<td>Cattle tic dips could have been located in rural areas.</td>
<td>Localised areas near the former cattle tic dips. We note that these have not been formally identified. <em>(Soil and groundwater media potentially affected).</em></td>
<td>High likelihood of contamination if dip sites were located within the study area.</td>
<td>OCP and arsenic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESIDENTIAL</strong></td>
<td>Potential weathering of hazardous building materials and demolition of former site structures.</td>
<td>Weathering of hazardous building materials such as lead paint, fibre cement (containing asbestos) and galvanised iron. Potentially present from former or current site structures. Also includes possible use of pesticides near buildings.</td>
<td>Typically localised areas near houses / garages / sheds in the residential areas. <em>(Soil media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low to moderate likelihood of soil contamination if former structures contained hazardous building materials, which weathered into surrounding surface soils. Alternatively, incorrect demolition procedures may have resulted in possible soil contamination with fragments of weathered / friable building materials.</td>
<td>Lead, zinc, asbestos and OCP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>****</td>
<td>Fill of unknown origin and quality.</td>
<td>Fill soils potentially imported to alter site levels and for construction purposes or filling of land.</td>
<td>Could affect various portions of the residential properties (if any). <em>(Generally soil media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low likelihood of contamination. Based on the information reviewed, extensive filling activities have not been identified.</td>
<td>TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, OPP, PCB, heavy metals and asbestos.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Description</td>
<td>Potential areas of environmental concern</td>
<td>Likelihood of contamination*</td>
<td>Potential chemicals of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESIDENTIAL Cont’d</td>
<td>Potential leaks or seepage from septic tanks.</td>
<td>Effluent discharges from septic tanks and potential disposal of other wastes into the septic system.</td>
<td>Areas near and down slope of the septic tank from potential leaks within those properties containing a septic tank. <em>(Soil and groundwater media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Low to moderate likelihood of contamination.</td>
<td>Typically nutrients and pathogens. <em>(May also include others such as TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, OPP, heavy metals etc. if wastes inappropriately disposed).</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMERCIAL / BUSINESS / INDUSTRIAL AND SPECIAL USES</td>
<td>Potential weathering of hazardous building materials and demolition of former site structures.</td>
<td>Weathering of hazardous building materials such as lead paint, fibre cement (containing asbestos) and galvanised iron. Potentially present from former or current site structures. Also includes possible use of pesticides near buildings.</td>
<td>Typically localised areas near current and former structures in the industrial areas. <em>(Soil media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low to moderate likelihood of soil contamination if former structures contained hazardous building materials, which weathered into surrounding surface soils. Alternatively, incorrect demolition procedures may have resulted in possible soil contamination with fragments of weathered / friable building materials.</td>
<td>Lead, zinc, asbestos and OCP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fill of unknown origin and quality.</td>
<td>Fill soils potentially imported to alter site levels and for construction purposes or filling of land.</td>
<td>Could affect various portions of the residential properties (if any). <em>(Generally soil media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally low likelihood of contamination. Based on the information reviewed, extensive filling activities have not been identified.</td>
<td>TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, OPP, PCB, heavy metals and asbestos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentially contaminating land use / activity (see Figure 2)</td>
<td>Sub component</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Potential areas of environmental concern</td>
<td>Likelihood of contamination*</td>
<td>Potential chemicals of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMERCIAL / BUSINESS / INDUSTRIAL AND SPECIAL USES</td>
<td>Use and storage of fuels / chemicals.</td>
<td>May include fuels such as petrol, diesel and kerosene for use in vehicles / plant; lubricants, oils and grease used for the servicing, cleaning and repairing of vehicles / plant and other industrial chemicals (if any). These could have been stored in drums, cans, bottles or above ground or below ground tanks.</td>
<td>Typically localised areas in areas where these were stored or used. Possibly larger areas if leakages occurred from underground fuel tanks. Four petrol service station sites were identified within the study area and these are shown in Figure 2. <em>(Soil and groundwater media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally moderate to high likelihood of contamination. If present, would typically be expected to be localised in the vicinity of the area where they stored containers. Would typically be present in near surface soils in areas where the chemicals were stored. Potentially deeper soil and groundwater contamination may be possible if fuels etc. stored in underground storage tanks.</td>
<td>Fuels – TPH, BTEX, PAH, VHC. Other – OCP, herbicides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effluent leaks from sewage treatment plant.</td>
<td>Effluent discharges from the plant and potential leaks from site infrastructure.</td>
<td>One sewage treatment plant was identified within the study area and is located south-east of the township of Berry. <em>(Soil and groundwater media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Moderate to high likelihood of contamination around site infrastructure from leakages (if they occurred) and disposal practices.</td>
<td>Typically nutrients and pathogens. <em>(May also include others such as TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, OPP, heavy metals etc. if wastes inappropriately disposed).</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main roads and railways.</td>
<td>Spillages of fuel, oils and illegal dumping of materials.</td>
<td>The Princes Highway and the main rail line. <em>(Soil media potentially affected)</em></td>
<td>Generally moderate likelihood of contamination.</td>
<td>TPH, BTEX, PAH, heavy metals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentially contaminating land use / activity (see Figure 2)</td>
<td>Sub component</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Potential areas of environmental concern</td>
<td>Likelihood of contamination*</td>
<td>Potential chemicals of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>Former tannery site.</td>
<td>Would have been used for treatment and tanning of animal hides.</td>
<td>The tannery identified was apparently located near the creek opposite the David Berry Hospital off Beach Road in Berry. The exact property is not known. (Soil and groundwater media potentially affected)</td>
<td>High likelihood of contamination from treatment.</td>
<td>Chromium, cyanide, salinity, OCP, OPP, arsenic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Possible former quarry site.</td>
<td>Anecdotal evidence noted the presence of a former relatively small quarry site that may have been filled and used for road works materials. Could contain fill of unknown origin and quality.</td>
<td>The site is located about 1.5 km north-east of Berry on the eastern side of the Princes Highway. See Figure 2.</td>
<td>Moderate to high likelihood if the quarry was filled with poor quality materials. Information regarding the fill quality was not available.</td>
<td>TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, OPP, PCB, heavy metals and asbestos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other unknown site activities</td>
<td>Other unknown activities which may have been carried out that had the potential to cause contamination</td>
<td>All areas from unknown potentially contaminating activities</td>
<td>Moderate likelihood of contamination due to the number of private properties within the study area.</td>
<td>TPH, BTEX, PAH, OCP, PCB, heavy metals and asbestos and others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
* It is important to note that this is not an assessment of financial risk associated with the AEC in the event contamination is detected, but a qualitative assessment of probability of contamination being detected at the potential AEC, based on the site history study and site observations.
TPH = total petroleum hydrocarbons, BTEX = benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, PAH = polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals = arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, mercury, zinc, OCP = organochlorine pesticides, OPP = organophosphate pesticides, PCB = polychlorinated biphenyls
7.0 Conclusions and recommendations

The assessment has generally identified that the predominant land use over the study area is rural. Smaller proportions of lands zoned as residential, commercial, business, industrial and special uses have also been identified closer to Gerringong, Berry and Bomaderry.

The information reviewed as part of this preliminary assessment, including persons interviewed, did not identify the presence of ‘major’ potential contamination issues such as large waste dumps, landfills, chemical manufacturing plants; fuel depots etc. With any land use there is always a potential for some form of land contamination from past or present activities. Based on the site history information and site observations several general potential Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) and associated potential Chemicals of Concern (COCs) that are typically associated with the each land use / activity have been identified.

Overall the majority of the study area is considered to have a low likelihood of being affected by contamination that would preclude redevelopment for road purposes. Areas that may be more problematic with respect to the management of contamination issues (if any) may include:

a) Rural areas near former structures, storage and filled areas;
b) Areas near the sewage treatment plant at Berry;
c) The former quarry site located about 1.5 km northeast of Berry on the eastern side of the Princes Highway; and
d) Developed areas such as residential, commercial, industrial etc.

The holding of interviews with local residents was not part of this study. Local residents are generally a valuable source of local historical information for a broader scale study such as this. Given the nature of the local area it is likely that industries such as tanneries, saw mills and local landfills may have existed that have not been able to be identified in this study.

It is recommended that a contamination assessment is carried out of the actual land / properties proposed to be used for the final selected route alignment. The assessment should be carried out in accordance with guidelines endorsed by the NSW DEC which would include a more comprehensive site history study and sampling and testing of soil and/or groundwater (as appropriate).

It is noted that small parcels of land that may be contaminated may have a high cost and time consequence to the project and therefore it would be prudent to adequately assess for land contamination as part of the final route selection.
8.0 Limitations

The findings contained in this report are based on a limited site history study and site drive-over. To the best of our knowledge, they represent a reasonable interpretation of the general condition of the study area at the time the investigations were carried out.

Only a limited number of sources were used to collate a brief history for the site. Under no circumstances, however, can it be considered that these findings represent the actual state of the site at all points.
Appendix A  Site history
Site history

Review of current aerial photographs

A review of aerial photography images from 2007 DigitalGlobe via Google Earth indicated the study area was primarily used for rural land use. Sources of potential contamination for individual properties were not identified due to the image resolution. Rural land use appeared to be for grazing and dairy purposes with irrigation patterns evident. No evidence of large scale crop farming was observed from images. Buildings and houses within residential, business and industrial areas were identified but the specifics of the building materials and use of the structures could not be identified.

DEC records

There are no NSW DEC notices for the properties within the study area under the Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985 or the Contaminated Land Management Act 1987.

Discussions with local councils

Council records were not examined for this site history study due to the size of the study area and the number of individual properties encompassed by it. Shoalhaven City Council and Kiama Municipal Council employees had indicated that due to the sensitive nature of the information required, they were unable to supply sufficient information about previous land use of the study area to assess whether the land has potential for contamination. Discussions with a Shoalhaven City Council employees indicated a list of possibly contaminated properties based on ‘prescribed former land use’ does not exist for the area. Specific properties within the study area were not supplied, however, generally speaking properties zoned as either rural land use or within the railway corridor may be classified as possibly being contaminated. The employee was also able to confirm that no nightsoil facilities or sheep / cattle dips were known to the area in question.

Interviews

Long term resident from Nowra

There was no recollection of any major industrial activities between Bomaderry and Berry. The land in that area was always predominantly rural as long as they could remember.

Cattle and dairying were the main activities. There were no cattle tic dips that they could ever recall. They also specifically mentioned that there were no abattoirs, tanneries, fuel depots or landfills that they could recall.

The resident indicated that there may have been an old quarry off Cedar Road in Meroo Meadow that my have been filled but was not certain.

RTA personnel

Two RTA personnel with knowledge of the area (15 to 20 years) were contacted. In general they indicated that the areas of the study site that they knew about had generally been similar to their current use and generally comprised rural grazing / dairying land.

One staff member indicated that they thought a former small quarry was located north of Berry near the Princes Highway.

Information available on the Internet

Historical information available from the internet that was considered relevant to the study follows.
This section is all about History.

This section is all about the Shoalhaven's History. At the start we have a few interesting facts about the Shoalhaven's history, and then we have gathered all of the Shoalhaven's history into a Time Line of Events.

**Nowra's History**

- Lived without electric lighting until 1928, when it was officially switched on, on Wednesday 16 May at Manildra plant at Bomaderry.
- If you were sick in Norway before 1951 there were not many places to go. The Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital didn't open until Saturday, May 19.
- No ambulance service before 1938
- Local paper started 1885 (South Coast Register)
- Easier to cross the Shoalhaven River in 1881, when the first bridge over the river was opened. 99 years later the second bridge was built over the river.

**Time Line Of Events**

- Shoalhaven's History Time Line

**Survey Of People Who Have Lived In The Community all their Lives.**

- The Surveys.
Time Line Of Events.

Time Line Of The History Of The Shoalhaven.

1840 Transportation of convicts ends.  
   Many families move to the Shoalhaven.
1870 Nowra gets flooded.  
   more info >>  
   The first part or the Nowra bridge was built
1881 across the Shoalhaven river.  
   more info >>  
1885 Local paper started, "The South Coast Register".  
1901 Nowra police station opened.  
   Nowra milk factory opened.  
   more info >>  
1904 Nowra showground built.  
1908 First telephone in Nowra.  
1910 HMAS "Cresswell" opened- as Naval Officer  
   Training College.  
1920 The opening of Princess Highway.  
1928 First electric lighting in Nowra.  
   more info >>  
   Manildra plant opened.
1931 Nowra's World War 1 memorial gates opened.
1938 Ambulance service opened.  
   more info >>  
1939 Fire Station opened.  
   Black Friday- Bad bush fires throughout the  
   shoalhaven.
1941 Naval base "HMAS Albratross" opened by British  
   Navy.
1951 The Shoalhaven Hospital officialing opened.
1955 Nowra High School opened.  
   more info >>  
1963 Nurseing homes built in the Shoalhaven.
1970 53,000 calculated in people in the Nowra area.
1980 .  
   Shoalhaven High School opened.

1983 more info >>
1985 65,000 calculated in people in the Nowra area.
Kiama, New South Wales

Kiama is a picturesque township, 120 kilometres south of Sydney in the Illawarra, Australia in the Municipality of Kiama. The town's population is about 19,500, and the entire district population is about 20,000. The main tourist attraction is the Kiama Blowhole. Kiama is known as a "Tidy town". It features beautiful beaches, numerous caravan parks and numerous cafes and fish and chip shops.

The Kiama library has recently been renovated, and has been reopened to the public.

Geography

The Kiama area includes many beautiful and picturesque attractions, in the foothills of Saddleback Mountain. Ranging from the Minnamurra River in the north and Seven Mile Beach in the south, and spreading from the historic township and green pastures of Jamberoo to the west to the beaches of the coast.

Attractions

Kiama's Beaches are probably the largest attraction around Kiama, offering a large range of surfing conditions. Many surfing competitions are held here every year and this has made Kiama world renowned.

- Jones Beach - Kiama Downs
- Bombo Beach - Bombo
- Surf Beach - Kiama

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiama
Easts Beach and Caravan Park - Kiama Heights
Kendalls Beach - Kiama
Mystics Beach - Minnamurra River.

The name "Kiama" is derived from the Aboriginal word - Kiarama - which means "Place where the sea makes a noise". This is in reference to the famous Kiama Blowhole. Every year thousands of tourists from all over the world come to see the beautiful large fountains of water that the blowhole creates. Blowholes are a rare natural phenomenon.

Seven kilometres southwest of the town is Saddleback Lookout atop the 600 metre high Saddleback Mountain with views over the Illawarra and south to Nowra, Pigeon House Mountain and Coolangatta Mountain.

The Jamberoo Recreation Park is situated 10 minutes inland of Kiama, in the suburb of Jamberoo.

In 2007, the KFHC (Kiama Free Hugs Campaign) was started. Their first hug-a-thon will be on the day of an upcoming Seaside Craft Markets.

History

Before westerners had even arrived in the area, the local indigenous Australians had been using the land for thousands of years. They called the area Kiarama and the blowhole was referred to as Khandarinteree.

The first European to explore the area was George Bass who stopped there on his whaleboat voyage to Bass Strait in 1797/8. He noted the beauty and complexity of the Kiama area and was astounded when he first discovered the blowhole (see that article).

During the colonisation of Australia, the Kiama area was settled by farmers as the land was arable and easy unlike most of Australia. One of the most famous farmers in the Kiama area was Farmer Kendall who owned almost all the surrounding land. His contribution to Kiama is remembered today and his ancestors still live in the area. Many places are devoted to his family including the beautiful Kendall Cemetery in Kiama Heights and Kendalls Beach.

Famous people

Famous people from Kiama include:

- Sir George Fuller
- Rod Wishart
- Ashton Sims
- Orry Kelly
- Ashley Wilson - Well-known Australian ballroom dancer best noted his performance in A Little Less Conversation, the interpretive dance story of Elvis Presley.

See also

- Gerringong
- Shellharbour
- Wollongong
External links

- Satellite image from Google Maps (http://maps.google.com/maps?ll=-34.67167,150.85639&spn=0.015,0.025&t=k), WikiMapia (http://www.wikimapia.org/maps?ll=-34.67167,150.85639&spn=0.11,0.18&t=h) and Terraserver (http://terraserver.com/imagery/image_gx.asp?px=150.85639&cpy=-34.67167&res=8&provider_id=350).
- Kiama Tourism - The official guide to Kiama (http://www.kiama.com.au/)
- Kiama.net Community (http://www.kiama.net/)
- Illawarra Regional Airport (http://www.wollongongairport.com/)
- Kiama Municipal Council website (http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/)
- Visit Kiama website (http://www.visitkiama.com.au/)
- History of the Kiama Lighthouse (http://www.lighthouse.net.au/lGHTS/NSW/Kiama/Kiama.htm)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiama%2C_New_South_Wales"

Category: Towns in New South Wales

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BERRY

This was the name given to the former BROUGHTON CREEK township by an Act of Parliament on 4 December, 1890. It honours the Berry family, which settled the area and contributed so much to the community, and was decided on by members of the public after the death of David Berry.

Bishop & Hitchcock Inc
"Berry Streetscape Study"
unpublished report for Shoalhaven City Council and Heritage Council, 1988

Clark Alan (Ed)
_Wickets & Sixes, The History of the Berry Shoalhaven Heads Cricket Club_
Berry Shoalhaven Heads Cricket Club, Berry, 1995

Higgins J
_Berry A & H Association Centenary 1888-1988_
Berry A & H Association, Nowra, 1988

Lidbetter Mary L
_Historic Sites of Berry_
Berry, various eds since 1979

Contact: Berry & District Historical Society Inc
PO BOX 153
BERRY NSW 2541

The History of Berry - A sense of time and place...

From earliest times the attractive countryside of Berry has encouraged the imagination.

The name Berry dates back to 1825 as part of a rural holding originally known as Broughton. The township takes its name after pioneer settlement in the district 'Coolangatta' with his brother-in-law, Williamstonecraft in 1822. Berry straddles the sprawling county es striking landscape.

Berry has a sound reverence and respect for history. Its heritage is visibly striking. Historic buildings contribute interest and proportion to the streetscape. The architecture influences the direction of current development. Descendants lend a stability to the community.

The character, the charm and the rich diversity of Berry owes much to its matured into a beautiful place where the past melds with the present and

Berry can be divinely romantic, sublimely tranquil, invigoratingly exciting,

There's always something new to enjoy and remember: the crisp, misty dawn, the spring moon rising over the horizon, the warm haze of a late summer afternoon, morning sunshine streaming through the autumn leaves.

The perennial landscape, its striking palette of greens, blues, mauves and seasonal boundaries. Whenever you wander your way to Berry God's own best for you.

Berry & District Historical Society Inc
Local Museum & Historical Society
OPENING HOURS OF BERRY MUSEUM
Saturday 11AM to 2PM
Sunday 11AM to 3PM
Weekdays During School Holidays 11AM to 3PM
Outside these hours by appointment. All reappointment

Phone: (02) 4464 3097
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1814</td>
<td>First recorded cedar cut in Gerringong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>Governor Brisbane instructs that 600 acres be reserved for a town at the present Gerringong township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td>William Smith secures the first land grant in Gerringong - 600 acres at Omega (Renfrew Park). Capt. Thomas Campbell secures a land grant of 1280 acres which he later sold to his brother-in-law James Mackay Grey, who named it Omega Retreat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Michael Hindmarsh secures a land grant of 640 acres. He became the first settler to live and work on a grant in Gerringong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1829</td>
<td>Gerringong is gazetted as a postal town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Robert Miller secures 600 acres, naming the property &quot;Renfrew Park&quot; after his Scottish home. The present house was built in 1866.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>New road cleared from Kiama to Gerringong.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Gerringong Wesleyan Chapel (later Methodist, then Uniting Church), is built in Fern St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Alne Bank home (off Sims Road) is built for Michael Hindmarsh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>A town plan for Gerringong is approved, and on January 17, 1854, the Governor of NSW proclaims the site the &quot;Village of Gerringong&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>Weatherboard Presbyterian Church built.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>First town lots sold - opposite today's Catholic Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>St Georges Church of England is built in Fern St. The original church was destroyed in 1872, and was rebuilt in 1874.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>First post office opens and &quot;Gerringong&quot; becomes the official spelling of the township. Stonewall builder Thomas Newing arrives and begins work on the many historic walls that divide local farms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Kiama Municipality is proclaimed, incorporating Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo. Gerringong folk are not happy about their inclusion and immediately campaign for independence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Omega National School is built (closed in 1941, now a private residence). Rose Valley School follows in 1868.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>First Methodist Church built, replacing the original wattle and daub Chapel. It now operates as Chittick Lodge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Jubilation for Gerringong residents when the township wins its independence from Kiama Municipality, being</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.gerringong-gerroa.com/time-line.htm
incorporated as the Gerringong Municipal District on April 24.
1872 Devastation as a fire razes much of Gerringong business area together with homes and the C of E church.
1875 To overcome their shipping problems, farmers unite to buy their own vessels such as "The Dairymaid".
1876 Gerringong Public School is opened with 60 pupils.
1882 Gerringong Police Station opens in Fern Street (now a private residence).
St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church is built.
1883 School of Arts hall (today's Scout & Guide Hall) is built.
1884 Gerringong Congregational Church is opened.
A jetty is built at Boatharbour greatly assisting the transport of local produce. The first steam boat arrived 1890.
1888 Gerringong Butter Factory (Dairy Co-Op) established.
1891 A great storm smashes the jetty at Boatharbour to pieces.
1893 South Coast railway line is extended to Gerringong, signalling a start of the end of shipping.
1911 Gentlemen's Baths constructed at Boatharbour. By 1942 it had fallen into disrepair. Remnants can be seen south of the present boat ramp.
1913 Telephone comes to Gerringong.
1914 Gerringong Surf Club is formed.
1921 The RSL Soldiers Memorial Hall Is built.
1928 Electricity comes to Gerringong.
1933 Sir Charles Kingsford Smith undertakes his historic flight from Seven Mile Beach to New Zealand.
1936 Sportground Pavilion built.
1936 Tidal swimming pool at South Werri constructed (Ourie Baths)
1948 Gerringong Town Hall officially opened.
1971 Town water supply connected.
1994 New Gerringong Public School opens in Archibald Street.
2004 Sesquicentenary celebrations (1854-2004) and official opening of newly landscaped "Old School Park".

**Brief History | Long History | History Museum | Museum Photos**
Brief History

For a great introduction to our area, visit the Gerringong Heritage Centre in Blackwood Street, opposite Zoobs; it is one of the best small museums in NSW and is open Sat and Sunday, 1pm - 4pm, also in School Holidays Tues & Thurs 1-4pm and at other times for groups by appointment.

Brief History of Gerringong

Situated on the coast, just south of Kiama, lies the township of Gerringong with its accompanying village of Gerroa, on the Crooked River.

Both Gerringong and Kiama were government towns, while Jamberoo started life as a private village. Unlike Kiama, which saw cedar, dairy products and basalt shipped out of its harbour, Gerringong saw only cedar and dairy produce sent from its small Boat Harbour.

The name Gerringong means "fearful place" in the local Aboriginal language, however its beautiful appearance today belies any thought of fear. Surrounding settlements of Rose Valley, Willow Vale, Foxground and Toolijooa, are all areas of extreme beauty.

Like Kiama and Jamberoo, Gerringong has a strong Ulster background to its original families, as well as a reasonable element of Munster folk. However, as years go on, this Irish base is being altered by new families taking up residence in the district, either as domiciled workers or retirees.

Many things have occurred over the years, but the events that held the imagination for many years was the departure from Seven Mile Beach of Charles Kingsford Smith on the first commercial crossing by air, from Australia to New Zealand. This was made in the "Southern Cross" in January 1933. The journey to New Plymouth, New Zealand taking 14 hours and 10 minutes. Today the journey from Australia to the UK does not take much longer.

Seven Mile Beach is a broad stretch of beach connecting Gerringong/Gerroa to the Shoalhaven river mouth, and is a fine fishing area. It was also the place for many tribal fights between the indigenous people of the Shoalhaven River and those of the Kiama district, a bit like the Irish faction fighting of the early 19th century.

A famous soldier from the area, John Dooley, a member of the local half squadron of NSW Lancers, was chosen as one of the NSW contingent to attend Queen Victoria’s Jubilee. Dooley was a tall imposing figure (later a major in World War 1). He was singled out by the diminutive Queen

http://www.gerringong-gerroa.com/history-centre.htm

13/04/2007
who asked, "and pray where are you from?" to which Dooley replied
"Toolijooa, Ma'am, " and where is that?" asked the Queen, "Just south
of Gerringong Ma'am!"

Queen Victoria may have known Sydney, since her favourite son, Alfred,
Duke of Edinburgh, was shot in the back while attending a picnic in his
honour at Clontarf in Sydney Harbour - Toolijooa and Gerringong must
have had her "nonplussed." The attempted assassination of the Duke
triggered much ill feeling and mistrust in the community at the time
(1868) and contributed to the Fenian scare which permeated the Empire
of the day. This was perhaps more pronounced in the Kiama district
because of the make-up of the population. Although some "outrages" did
occur, and the antagonism took many years to settle down, everyone
now gets on well and laughs about the troubles of the past.

Longer History | History Museum | Museum Photos

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http://www.gerringong-gerroa.com/history-centre.htm
Long History of Gerringong area

GERRINGONG HISTORY

Gerringong's origins date back to 1810

The Gerringong district has a proud history all of its own that stems as far back as 1810 for white settlement and, of course, thousands of years for the indigenous community. The following history of Gerringong features work researched by Gerringong and District Historical Society President Margaret Sharpe and an extract published in the Kiama Independent in 1951, written by Gerringong Town Clerk, the late AM Trevillion.

THE early settlement of Gerringong was closely related to the timber industry and various primary industries such as cattle, agriculture and dairying.

As early as 1810 the area was visited by cedar getters, wealthy merchants in Sydney organising the despatch of small vessels to the South Coast where, at various points, timber was loaded, having been brought in by bullock teams.

The clearing carried out by the sawyers encouraged further clearing for occupation and agricultural use. The natural richness of the soil was soon apparent in good crops of corn, maize, barley and, to a lesser degree, tobacco.

The first land grants in the district were made in 1817 including, at Gerringong, William Smith (600 acres at Omega in 1825).

Lieutenant Thomas Campbell secured 1280 acres from Omega to Mount Pleasant in 1825 before transferring it to his brother-in-law, James Mackay Gray in 1834. James became an outstanding citizen throughout the Illawarra.

Michael Hindmarsh and his wife Cecilia were the first permanent settlers in the Gerringong district. Michael obtained a grant of 640 acres in 1827 and later built his home Aline Bank, which is still occupied by members of the family today.

Robert Miller arrived in Australia from Scotland in 1834 with his wife and six children and, in 1835, he bought 600 acres from William Smith, naming the property Renfrew Park after his Scottish home.

He immediately set to work on what was considered an impossible task, draining and clearing the swamp lands on his property and transforming it into some of the area's richest pasture lands. (His descendant, Mr JM Miller, later obtained council's permission for the subdivision of part of his farm to include 280 seaside town blocks, which became the nucleus of a separate little community - today's Werri Beach. Not bad for an area that was originally dismissed as valueless swamp!)
Others to follow included the Emery family and Ewan Campbell and his family in 1838.

In 1849 a new road was cleared from Kiama to Gerringong. It was, until that time, only a rough track. As the Omega swamp was difficult to cross, the early road went into Rose Valley and around the hills.

When the swamp was drained the main road came up Fern Street, turned into Belinda Street at the Memorial Hall and down to the present Princes Highway.

PROCLAMATION

In August 1824, Governor Brisbane instructed surveyor James McBrien to survey the land surrounding "Long Nose Point" (Blackhead, Gerroa).

The governor's instructions were to map the area and lay out areas suitable for land grants and a township.

He was also to reserve exclusively for the Crown all lands located near the entrance to harbours, creeks, bays and rivers. The survey resulted in the reservation of 600 acres at the present day site of the Gerringong township.

While Gerringong was first gazetted as a postal town in 1829, it wasn't until January 17, 1854, that the Governor of NSW proclaimed the site of the "Village of Jerringong".

The street names of Jupiter, Belinda, Blackwood, Greta, Fern, Coal and Percy Streets were designated on the village plan. (No information can be found from the Lands Department or Mitchell Library as to why these names were chosen.)

The year after proclamation saw the first town blocks put up for sale the first purchasers being J Emery, G Gray, R Miller, J Miller, A Armstrong, Margaret Campbell, J Blow, C Moffit, T McIntyre, R Boxsell, T Boxsell, W Marks, S Timms, J McLelland, J Sherwood and J Wilson.

Many of the original business premises were built just south of the present township, this being because of the closer proximity to Boatharbour.

Businesses included a blacksmith and the Boat Harbour Store. Later came the Ocean View Inn, which was the place where the horses were changed for the stage coaches going on to Coolangatta and Nowra. Churches were built in the 1850s, the first began in 1850 when the Methodists built a slab and bark church. In 1864 the Presbyterian Church was built of timber, followed by the Church of England in 1856 and the Roman Catholic Church in 1882.

When the first official post office was opened in 1857, Gerringong became the official spelling for the town.

Gerringong was proclaimed a municipality in 1871, however, prior to this it came under the banner of the Kiama Municipality in 1859.
SHIPPING

As the production of the district increased, better methods of transport and marketing were required. In the 1850s small vessels called in at Boatharbour and, although early difficulties were overcome with the fixing of mooring chains in 1863, regular visits were not at first made.

A demonstration of the early difficulties was the fact that, in 1870 a butter wagon was sent from Kiama, travelling as far as Foxground to bring back the kegs of butter and other products to Kiama Harbour where it was loaded onto steamers bound for Sydney and elsewhere.

To overcome their problems somewhat, farmers joined together and bought their own vessels, including the Agenoria and, in 1875, the Dairymaid.

Still, small cargo boats had to be loaded with the produce and taken out to sea some distance before being loaded onto the larger vessels. The process, naturally, was painstaking, and work soon began on the construction of a jetty, which was completed in 1884 with the help of government funding. Extensions were then made by respected council contractor John Britain Taylor.

As the district prospered and production further increased, the need arose for a central depot and, eventually, for the manufacture of butter along co-operative lines (whereby farmers pool their produce).

The Gerringong Cooperative Factory was first worked on September 3, 1888. Today, it is the longest continuing co-op in Australia.

A dairy company was formed at Omega in 1880 and, in 1883, sent its first consignment of condensed milk to Sydney.

From 1880, regular visits by the Peterborough brought added business to the village. But the cessation of shipping following extension of the Illawarra railway line to Gerringong in 1893, saw much of the produce transferred to the railway system and the reliance on shipping for the export and import of produce slowly dwindled.

The official death knell sounded in 1891 after a great storm smashed the jetty to pieces.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

When the municipality of Kiama was established in 1859, it included the townships of Kiama central, Jamberoo, Gerringong and Broughton Vale.

There was much dissatisfaction expressed by Gerringong residents with the arrangement. However. As early as 1859 a meeting was held at Gerringong to discuss the possibility of having the area break away as a separate municipality.

The discontent continued until 1871 when Gerringong property owners were successfully petitioned for independence. The Gerringong Municipal District was incorporated on April 24, 1871, and the first election held on June 2, when nine councillors were elected, led by
mayor ME Robson. The first meeting was held three days later on June 5 in the Lanterrick Hotel, which, in the absence of an official meeting place, served as the council chambers over the ensuing months.

While Jamberoo gained its independence 20 years later, the wheel turned full circle in June 1954, when the three townships were once again amalgamated under the Kiama Municipal banner.

THE GREAT FIRE

One of the most dramatic events in the history of Gerringong was a great fire that burnt out most of the commercial district in 1872, leaving the community devastated.

The disaster occurred in July of 1872 when a grass fire started in Willow Vale and, whipped up by a strong westerly wind, raged across paddocks before destroying a large part of the town including the Church of England, minister's residence and church school, the Lanterrick Hotel, the blacksmith's and other buildings.

As there was no water supply and most buildings were made of timber, the devastation was great.

With the Lanterrick Hotel razed, council held its meetings in the offices of the Gerringong Navigation Company until a council chambers was built in Fern Street in 1877.

EDUCATION

Many outlying schools were built before the Gerringong Public School in the town. Omega School was built in 1860, Rose Valley in 1868, Toolijooa in 1871 and Foxground Public School in 1876.

Gerringong Public School was built in Fern Street and opened with Mr Bousfield as headmaster and 60 pupils in 1876. A student teacher, Miss Catherine Rutledge, was soon appointed.

The school stayed in this location until 1994 when a new school was opened in Archibald Road, Gerringong.

All outlying schools eventually closed as roads and transport became more accessible.

The only high schools for children up until about 1945 were Wollongong and Nowra Intermediate High School.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS

The township's first police station - which exists today as a private residence - was opened in 1882 in Fern Street, It was a handsome brick building with lock-up cells at the back.

The School of Arts was built in 1883 and used for all public functions until the Gerringong Town Hall was opened in 1958.

POINTS OF INTEREST
- The Australian land speed record was set on the beach at Gerroa in 1929 by a bloke called Wizard Smith.
- On January 11, 1933, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith made the historic flight from Gerroa Beach to New Plymouth, New Zealand, in a time of 14 hours and 10 minutes. He was sent off in his plane, the Southern Cross, by great crowds of Gerringong residents who braved the chilly conditions of the 2.50am departure.

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