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A.B.N. 83 082 211 498

## **S.S. *Dicky* Archaeological Management Planning Documentation**



### **Conservation Management Plan**

S.S. *Dicky*

26° 41' 51.37", 153° 08' 21.65" (WGS 84)

Dicky Beach

Caloundra

NSW

May 2015

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) is proposing to preserve key heritage elements of the S.S. (Screw Steamer) *Dicky* wreck as well as reduce safety risks posed by the remains by removing hazardous elements. The wreck is located in the intertidal zone on Dicky Beach, Caloundra. A permit is required from the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) under Section 91 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* to disturb the site. The awarding of a permit would be conditional, in part, on acceptable archaeological mitigation being implemented before, during and after the Main Works proposed for the wreck. This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Wreck Interpretation Plan (WIP) which together are to be considered by the DEHP for a permit to undertake the proposed works.

The proposed 'Cut and No Cover' approach to the project seeks to minimise disturbance to the wreck of the S.S. *Dicky* while reducing the risks posed by the wreck to public safety on the beach. It includes the removal of upper portions of the wreck for conservation, storage and an outdoor display while the majority of the wreck remains buried *in situ* beneath natural beach sand deposits. This CMP addresses the 'Cut and No Cover' approach with archaeological, conservation and interpretation mitigation measures for an acceptable impact to the wreck.

Mitigation measures for this project include archaeological recording before, during and after the proposed Main Works, controlled cutting of hazardous elements and detailed recording of the artefacts removed. It also includes provisions for the conservation of removed elements. Interpretation aspects are detailed in the accompanying WIP report.

The following CMP summary points are of key consideration:

- Archaeological management is essential for controlled and minimised impact upon the cultural heritage significance of a site and for creating a thorough record of how the impact occurred;
- The proposed Pre-Main Works, Main Works, Post-Main Works and Ongoing Site Management for the S.S. *Dicky* shipwreck may be undertaken at any time, as long as all the tasks are undertaken appropriately and in the established sequence;
- Sand level on site is the highest factor when determining the best time for the Main Works as lower sand levels facilitate the cutting away of the lower portions of the wreck down to the floor frames;
- The use of underwater cutting equipment will also facilitate the cutting away of the lower portions of the wreck down to the floor frames;
- An induction should take place before the Main Works and each episode of Ongoing Site Management begins so that the objectives of the cutting process are clear and all participants are aware of what is expected;
- Cutting should only be undertaken on features that have been previously recorded and labelled by an archaeologist;
- Cutting locations shall be determined *ad hoc* once exposed but will not extend deeper than the floor frames of the wreck;
- Cutting has been tested successfully with a thermal lance and circular saw. The circular saw must have a diamond blade of a minimum 10 inches. Other potential cutting equipment include a large capacity air powered right angle grinder, power hacksaw and oxy-acetylene torch;
- Once the Main Works are completed, a conservator will inspect the artefacts recovered, those already in the depot and the propeller and assess the potential for conservation as well as implement any required conservation measures;
- Burial is one method of conserving the artefacts that will not be used in the WIP or conserved for display, however, burial must be carefully recorded and monitored by archaeologists to be effective;



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- Guides will be produced for Ongoing Site Management including removal of loose and recorded intact wreckage by SCC, as well as monitoring protocols if the wreck is exposed in the future;
- Some of the tasks of Ongoing Site Management may be completed without an archaeologist if it is not feasible to have one present, as long as the tasks are performed correctly;
- Should an archaeologist not be present during Ongoing Site Management, protocols and guidelines will be provided so that recording is undertaken to the required standard;
- All elements (artefacts) that are removed from the wreck during Ongoing Site Management must be accompanied by the original feature label, whether this is the original tag or an improvised tag with the label number obtained from the catalogue of features;
- After an episode of Ongoing Site Management, all data is to be reviewed by an archaeologist and the relevant databases and records updated. Advice may be given concerning initial conservation of artefacts; and,
- Artefacts removed during Ongoing Site Management are to be properly recorded by archaeologists at the SCC Depot after cutting. This may happen as soon as possible after an episode of Ongoing Site Management or after a period of time, as deemed appropriate by the archaeologists. All artefacts already stored in the depot will also be recorded.



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## 5 CONCLUSION

This report provides a methodology for acceptable mitigation to be implemented during Pre-Main Works, during Main Works, Post-Main Works and Ongoing Site Management as part of the S.S. Dicky project. It is accompanied by an HIA and WIP to be submitted to DEHP for a permit to undertake the proposed project.

Mitigation measures in this report include archaeological recording before, during and after the Main Works, controlled cutting of hazardous elements and detailed records of the artefacts removed. It also includes provisions for the conservation of removed elements. The following summary points are of key consideration:

- Archaeological management is essential for controlled and minimised impact upon the cultural heritage significance of a site and for creating a thorough record of how the impact occurred;
- The proposed Pre-Main Works, Main Works, Post-Main Works and Ongoing Site Management for the S.S. Dicky shipwreck may be undertaken at any time, as long as all the tasks are undertaken appropriately and in the established sequence;
- Sand level on site is the highest factor when determining the best time for the Main Works as lower sand levels facilitate the cutting away of the lower portions of the wreck down to the floor frames;
- The use of underwater cutting equipment will also facilitate the cutting away of the lower portions of the wreck down to the floor frames;
- An induction should take place before the Main Works and each episode of Ongoing Site Management begins so that the objectives of the cutting process are clear and all participants are aware of what is expected;
- Cutting should only be undertaken on features that have been previously recorded and labelled by an archaeologist;
- Cutting locations shall be determined *ad hoc* once exposed but will not extend deeper than the floor frames of the wreck;
- Cutting has been tested successfully with a thermal lance and circular saw. The circular saw must have a diamond blade of a minimum 10 inches. Other potential cutting equipment include a large capacity air powered right angle grinder, power hacksaw and oxy-acetylene torch;
- Once the Main Works are completed, a conservator will inspect the artefacts recovered, those already in the depot and the propeller and assess the potential for conservation as well as implement any required conservation measures;
- Burial is one method of conserving the artefacts that will not be used in the WIP or conserved for display, however, burial must be carefully recorded and monitored by archaeologists to be effective;
- A guide will be produced for the Ongoing Site Management of the site including removal of loose and recorded intact wreckage by SCC, as well as monitoring protocols if the wreck is exposed in the future;
- Some of the tasks of Ongoing Site Management may be completed without an archaeologist if it is not feasible to have one present, as long as the tasks are performed correctly;
- Should an archaeologist not be present during Ongoing Site Management, protocols and guidelines will be provided so that recording is undertaken to the required standard;
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