

# Historical archaeological site card

*Heritage Inventory number and name*

CLOVER DAM CONSTRUCTION CAMP SOUTH  
H8324-0044

*Date received*

Thursday, 12 December 2024

*Date accepted*

21/1/2025

*Hermes Number*

212541

## 1. Place details

Place name: CLOVER DAM CONSTRUCTION CAMP SOUTH

Heritage Inventory Number (if any): H8324-0044

Other or former names:

Municipal Council: ALPINE SHIRE

Address: BOGONG HIGH PLAINS ROAD BOGONG

Geographical coordinates (GDA94 or WGS84)  
expressed in degrees and decimals of a degree:

Mapsheet name and number (1:100,000 only): Bogong 8324

## 2. Cadastral location

County: Bogong

# Historical archaeological site card

Parish: CARRUNO

Township:

Section:

Allotment: 11A / 2001

Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): 11A\PP2361 / 2001\PP2361

## 3. Details of site owner or land manager (where known)

First Name:

Surname:

Business or organisation name: AGL Hydro Partnership Pty Ltd

Position title:

Address: 26 Bogong High Plains Road, Mount Beauty

Email address:

Telephone:

## 4. Details of site occupier (where known)

First Name:

Surname:

Business or organisation name:

Position title:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone:

## 5. Aboriginal cultural values

Site has known Aboriginal values NO

Site is recorded on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register NO

## 6. Current description of site

Please provide description:

Clover Dam Construction Camp South comprises a terraced area between the Bogong High Plains Road and Kiewa River East Branch, formerly occupied by a series of timber buildings for construction workers' accommodation, workshops, offices and stores. The various terraced areas for building sites and tracks can be readily identified, with some areas of concrete slab and hard stand remaining. The operating Clover No 3 Power Station is located across the river on the east bank, connected by a concrete bridge, with a switching yard located on the west bank.

Exotic trees and garden plants are evident, particularly near the river bank, which are believed to be remnant landscaping from when the camp was occupied. Fragments of timber, metal and glass are visible on the surface in several locations.

Clover Dam Camp South consists of a benched area to the west of the Clover Dam Power Station. The benches approximately correlate with what can be seen on the 1940s photograph. There are two layers of benching between the Bogong High Plains Road and the power station, each approximately 1.5 metres high at the southern extent but converge to the same level at the access track to the north. The benches are overgrown with grass, obscuring the ground surface. There is no evidence of erosion or further modification. Concrete steps are present that lead from the lower benched area down to the level of the power plant.

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Date recorded: Wednesday, 14 February 2024

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On Victorian Heritage Register

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On Heritage Overlay

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Associated sites: Clover Dam Construction Camp North H8324-0043

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## 7. Place history

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Please provide a brief history of the place (at least 1 to 2 paragraphs):

The historical land use of the study area is related to the construction of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme. This scheme dramatically changed the region with the construction of the Kiewa scheme for the generation of hydroelectric power, but also the towns, major roads and public infrastructure such as hospitals constructed for the workers and families (Lawrence 2008).

The scheme was first proposed in 1911 (Lawrence 2008), however, construction of the scheme did not commence until 1937. It suffered delays and a reduction of the scope from the original plans due to a recession and resources being limited due to the Second World War (Kiewa catchment 2023).

Work was resumed in the mid-late 1940s after the end of the Second World War, with large numbers of migrant workers taking advantage of employment opportunities offered by the scheme (Lawrence 2008). Large worker camps including Mt Beauty and Bogong Village were constructed during this time, as well as many smaller workers' camps. At its peak, 4000 people were working on the scheme (Museum and History, 2022).

The scheme was completed and commissioned in 1960, though the final system was smaller than what had originally been planned. The final version consisted of four power stations (Lawrence 2008), five aqueducts and five dams which are all still in operation today (Kiewa catchment 2023). The scheme was privatised in the 1990s and was acquired by Southern Hydro during this period. It was then purchased by AGL energy in 2005 who currently retains ownership (Museum and History 2022).

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## 8. Analysis of site (interpretation)

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Include phases in the development of the site, functions and activities represented, as well as current place use:

The positions of the huts, access routes and lay down areas are still visible. Potential rubbish and land fill areas north and south of the camp and along the riverbanks are suggested by filled and leveled areas which are not known to have had buildings. Archaeological features such as footings, post holes, underground water, sewer and drains, discarded domestic and industrial refuse and remnants of building materials are anticipated on the site.

The bench areas at South Camp have been used as silt storage areas – from desilting of the dams to ensure the ongoing operation of the power station.

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## 9. Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Clover Dam Construction Camp South consists of the landscaped remnants of a workers camp constructed and used in the 1930s and 1940s. It is located adjacent to the Clover Power station on the Bogong High Plains Road.

How is it significant?

The Clover Dam Construction Camp South is of historical and scientific (archaeological) significance

Why is it significant?

The Clover Dam Construction Camp South is of historical significance as part of the largest Hydro Electricity Scheme to be constructed in Victoria. Together with Clover Dam Construction Camp North, they were home to hundreds of predominantly migrant workers, who, like the larger Snowy Mountains Scheme, found a new home in Australia and made a major contribution to Australia society.

The Kiewa Hydro-Electric Scheme, built from the 1930s to the 1960s, was the largest civil engineering project of its time in the State. The Kiewa Scheme provided massive employment, new townships and roads to the Shire, and enabled the development of Falls Creek ski field.

The Clover Dam Construction Camp South is of archaeological significance for its capacity to provide information (through archaeological investigation) of the lives of the construction workers, in a context that is currently poorly documented or understood. The relative isolation of the workers, their diverse origins, and their ability to adapt to an unfamiliar environment provide opportunities for important archaeological research. The same isolation and lack of local services also creates a rare context where material objects related to the occupation of the site are highly likely to remain in their original context, or very close to their place of use. As such the site has the potential to preserve a unique archaeological record.

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## 10. Suggested Protection : Heritage Inventory

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## 11. Threat

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Is the place under any threat? If so, what is the threat?

Works are proposed on Cover Dam Camp South, however the ground will be appropriately protected as required to ensure there is no ground disturbance

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## 12. References / Informants

Please list books or other sources that may provide historical information about this place.

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Lawrence R 2008. Mount Beauty and Bogong Heritage Study (Draft), LRGM Services, accessed 22 May 2024, <https://vgls.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/search/asset/1145676#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20Kiewa%20Hydro%2DElectric%20Scheme,with%20a%20small%20farming%20population>.

Museum and History, 2022., Visit Mount Beauty, accessed 22 May 2024, <https://www.visitmountbeauty.com.au/places-to-go/civic-spaces/museum-and-history/#:~:text=The%20Kiewa%20Hydro%20Electric%20Scheme,by%20AGL%20Energy%20in%202005>.

Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s., Victorian Collections (from the collections of the Kiewa Valley Historical Society), accessed 31 May 2024, <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/5a4c6d7b21ea67012008aeca>.

RAAF 1945. FEATHERTOP\_813A, accessed 3 June 2024, <https://spatialapps-prd-mapshare-platform-storage.s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/WebmapMedia/HistoricPhotomap/FEATHERTOP/813A.jpg>.

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## 13. Attachments

- Site card supporting documents AO.pdf
- Spatial Extent files AO.zip
- Application form AO.pdf
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## 14. Recording archaeologist's details

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Business or organisation name:	Biosis Pty Ltd
Position title:	
Business or company address:	38 Bertie St, Port Melbourne Vic 3207
Email address:	
Telephone:	0428526898

## 15. Declaration

I state that the information I have given on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.



# Clover Dam Camps (North and South) Historic Survey Report

Prepared for Heritage Victoria and AGL

28 November 2024



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## Document information

<b>Report to:</b>	AGL
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Daniel Carpenter
<b>Biosis project no.:</b>	40073

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## Document control

Version	Internal reviewer	Date issued
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Biosis acknowledges the contribution of the following people and organisations in undertaking this study:

- AGL: Amanda Clarke
- Biosis staff: Nina Matheis (GIS)

*Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work.*

*We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past and present and honour their connection to Country and ongoing contribution to society.*

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## Executive Summary

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AGL commissioned Biosis to undertake a due diligence assessment to assist them in understanding their legislative obligations in relation to historic heritage, Aboriginal Heritage and environmental matters, prior to upgrades to Clover Power Station and associated infrastructure works. The research, which included information provided by AGL, indicated that two mining camps were present (for the purposes of this report named Clover Dam Camp (North) and Clover Dam Camp (South)). These camps were constructed and used between the late 1930s and 1960 to accommodate workers building the Kiewa Hydro Electric Scheme.

A notice of intent to survey was submitted via Heritage Victoria's Heritage Desk as per Section 126A of the *Heritage Act 2017* prior to visiting the sites. The purpose of the survey was to confirm if the historic places identified during the background review had intact features and were likely to contain archaeological deposits.

The survey identified benched areas in both Clover Dam Camps North and South that are consistent with the locations of worker accommodation noted in the background review. Although no structures were present, the benching appeared to be largely intact with no evidence of disturbance from further works or erosion. Concrete foundations were noted in several locations, and it is likely that subsurface features or deposits are still present and remain in undisturbed contexts.

Criteria have been assessed for determining if an archaeological place meets the thresholds to be considered above low significance and therefore should be considered for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Inventory. This has shown that Clover Dam Camps (North and South) are archaeological places, and they would be considered to be above low significance. It is therefore recommended that these be included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI).

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by AGL Pty Ltd to undertake a cultural heritage due diligence assessment for the proposed upgrades to Clover Dam Power Station, Bogong High Plains Road, Bogong 3699 (the study area).

## 1.2 Study area

The study area includes the likely locations of Clover Dam Camps (North and South) as well as an investigation of the auxiliary historic elements in the vicinity of both of the camps. Cadastral information for the study area is detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1 Cadastral information**

Cadastral Information	Description
Address	Bogong High Plains Road, Bogong 3699
Local Government Authority	Alpine Shire
Lot/Plan	11A\PP2361 / 2001\PP2361
Parish	Carruno
Planning Zone	Public Conservation and Resource Zone
Coordinates*	E: 519568.824 N: 5928851.774

\* All geographic coordinates in this study are referenced to the Victorian Government Standard GDA94 MGA (Zone 55).

## 1.3 Activity

AGL is proposing to undertake upgrades to the Clover Dam Power Station. The proposed works are outlined in Table 2 and the locations are shown on Map 1.

**Table 2 Outline of proposed works**

Study Area	Description
Resurfacing Hardstand Area including parking and secure storage area	This section is adjacent to the Clover Power Station. Its purpose is for access requirements associated with the tail bay works and ongoing car parking for the Clover Power Station.
Clover Tail Bay 2	Works will occur within the existing tail bay at the southern side as part of the Clover Power Station's refurbishments. This work will increase the height of the tail bay to maintain suitable tailwater levels and allow for it to function more efficiently with the ongoing upgrades.
River crossing	Work will include placement of additional rock material within the footprint of the existing track to reduce the gradient of the river crossing.

Study Area	Description
Pole replacement and track construction	Four existing poles will be replaced or require maintenance works, one new pole to be installed with the potential for access track upgrades associated with the works.

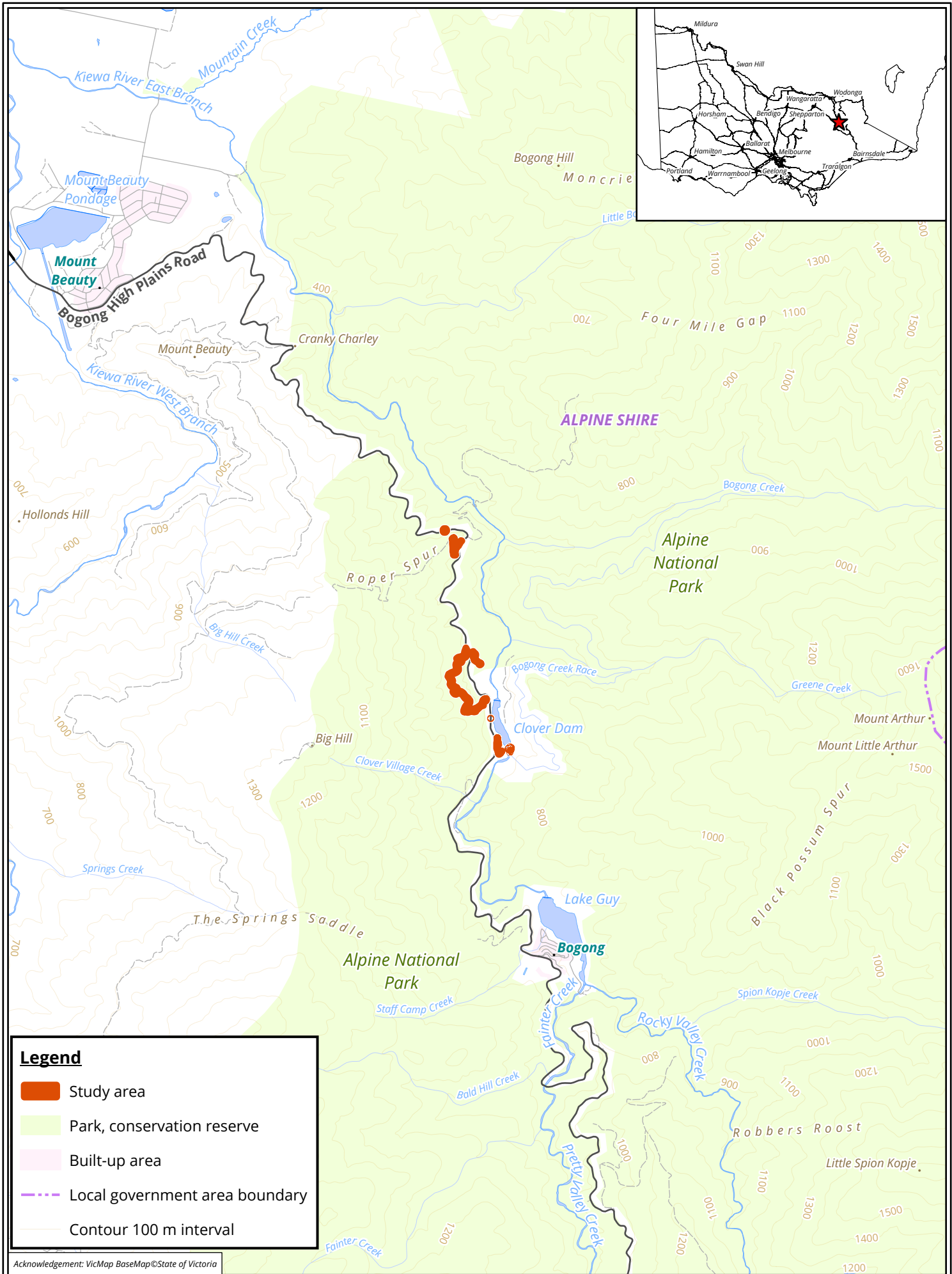
### 1.4 Archaeologist – Daniel Carpenter

An experienced project manager based in North-East Victoria with a sound understanding Victoria’s heritage legislation. Daniel has seven years’ experience working with Aboriginal and historic legislation and has assisted clients in managing their legal obligations for both.

Daniel has experience across a number of sectors, including renewable energy, residential development, infrastructure projects and local government initiatives. He has an understanding of clients’ needs for both the private and public sectors, with a specific focus on regional Victoria. He has experience working in Alpine areas with an understanding the seasonal variability. Daniel has a positive working relationship with the RAP groups and Traditional Owner groups in Victoria’s north-east and around metropolitan Melbourne.

Daniel’s qualifications include a Bachelor of Business from RMIT as well as postgraduate qualifications in heritage management. His archaeological training includes writing cultural management plans, lithic identification and GIS.





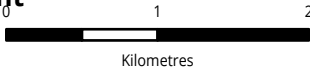
**Legend**

- Study area
- Park, conservation reserve
- Built-up area
- Local government area boundary
- Contour 100 m interval

Acknowledgement: VicMap BaseMap © State of Victoria

**Map 1 Location of the study area, Bogong and Mount Beauty, Victoria**

Matter: 40073,  
 Date: 25 October 2024,  
 Prepared for: DRC, Prepared by: SP, Last edited by: spanter  
 Layout: 40073\_Historic\_survey\_M1\_Location  
 Project: P:\40000s\40073\Mapping\40073\_ECO\_CH\_DD\_Clover.aprx



Scale: 1:50,000 @ A4  
 Coordinate System GDA2020 MGA Zone 55





## 2 Background review

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### 2.1 History of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme

The historical land use of the study area is related to the construction of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme. This scheme dramatically changed the region with the construction of the Kiewa scheme for the generation of hydroelectric power, but also the towns, major roads and public infrastructure such as hospitals constructed for the workers and families (Lawrence 2008).

The scheme was first proposed in 1911 (Lawrence 2008), however, construction of the scheme did not commence until 1937. It suffered delays and a reduction of the scope from the original plans due to a recession and resources being limited due to the Second World War (Kiewa catchment 2023).

Work was resumed in the mid-late 1940s after the end of the Second World War, with large numbers of migrant workers taking advantage of employment opportunities offered by the scheme (Lawrence 2008). Large worker camps including Mt Beauty and Bogong Village were constructed during this time, as well as many smaller workers' camps. At its peak, 4000 people were working on the scheme (Museum and History, 2022).

The scheme was completed and commissioned in 1960, though the final system was smaller than what had originally been planned. The final version consisted of four power stations (Lawrence 2008), five aqueducts and five dams which are all still in operation today (Kiewa catchment 2023). The scheme was privatised in the 1990s and was acquired by Southern Hydro during this period. It was then purchased by AGL energy in 2005 who currently retains ownership (Museum and History 2022).

### 2.2 AGL information

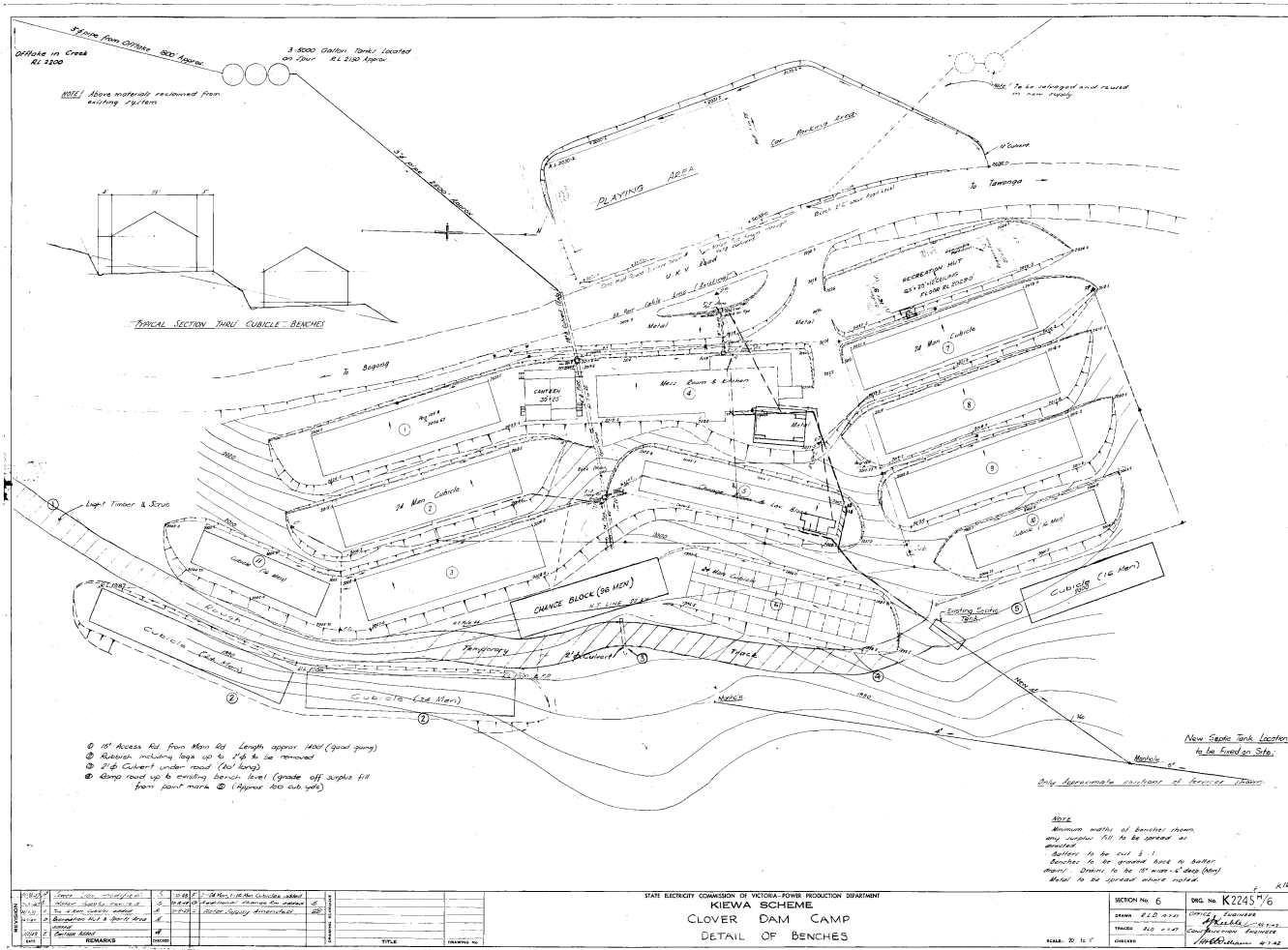
Prior to conducting the site inspection, information was provided by AGL in relation to two workers camps potentially impacted by the proposed works: one immediately to the west of the Clover Dam Power Station and one approximately 600 metres to the north of the Clover Dam.

The documents provided by AGL were:

- Design plans of Clover Dam Camps (North) (Figure 1)
- Contour map for Clover Dam Camps (North) (Figure 2)
- Details of septic tank in Clover Dam Camps (North) (Figure 3)
- Photographs of a small weir in the vicinity of both Clover Dam Camps (x2) (Figure 4 Figure 5)
- Annotated map showing locations of features (Figure 6)

Upon review of the plans of Clover Dam Camp (North) the benched area from the plan appeared to correlate with features visible from the satellite image. A review of photographs from the construction of the Kiewa system also revealed structures to the west of the Clover Dam Power Station (Figure 9).

AGL also provide extracts from their technical archives indicating that in August 1947 the construction of Clover Dam Camp commenced, and Clover Flat camp was enlarged. They further noted that the water systems of Clover Dam Camp (later called Mountain View Park) commenced, and Clover Flat Camp had been left in place for tourism purposes. Water for Clover Flat Camp was obtained from a creek above the camp and supplied through water tanks.



A65

Figure 1 Plans of Clover Dam Camp (North) - supplied by AGL

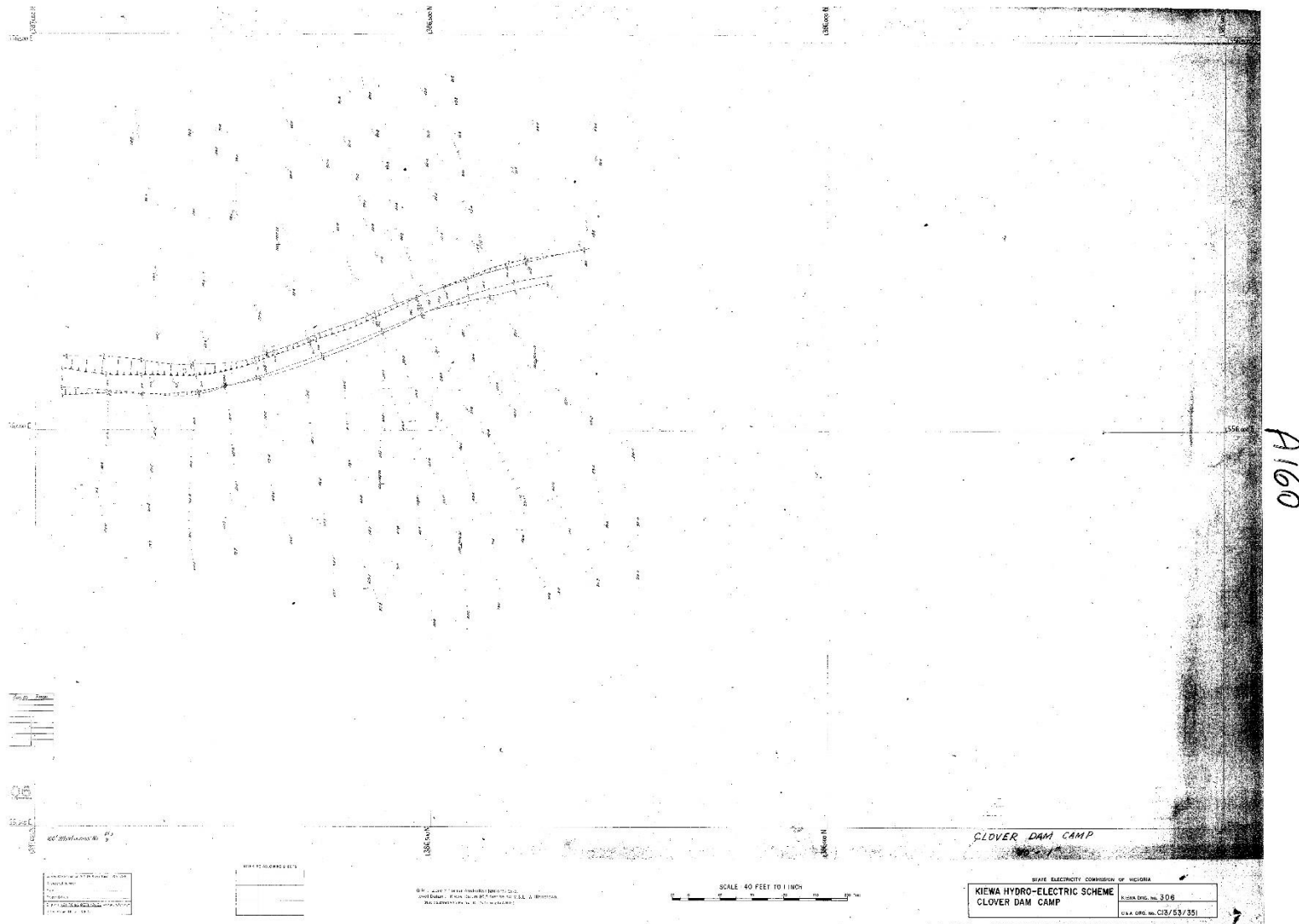


Figure 2 Contour map of Clover Dam Camp (North) – supplied by AGL

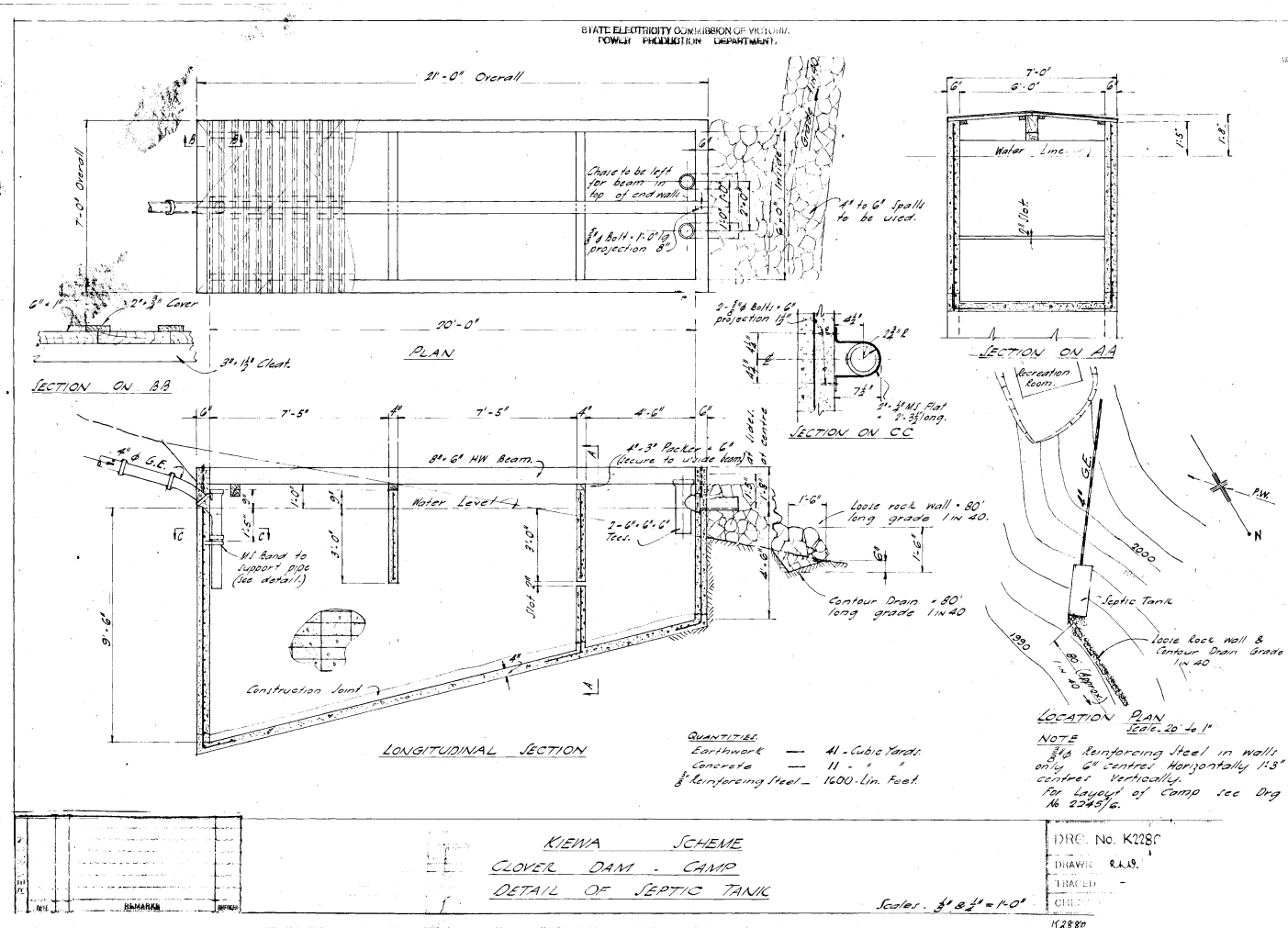


Figure 3 Plans of septic tank at Clover Dam Camp (north) – supplied by AGL

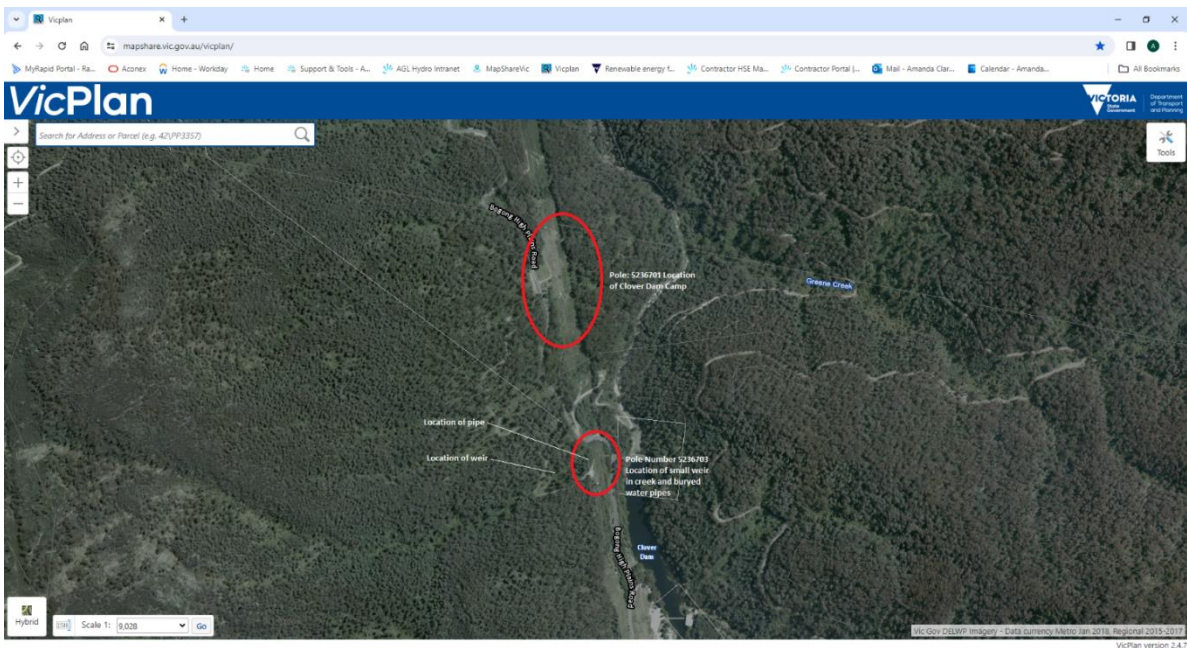




**Figure 4 Photograph of small weir (supplied by AGL)**



**Figure 5 Photograph of pipe associated with small weir (supplied by AGL)**



**Figure 6 Locations of historic features- supplied by AGL**

## 2.3 Review of historical photographs and aerial images

A review of the available photographs taken during the construction of the Clover Dam Power Station and associated worker camp (Clover Dam Camp South) from the 1940s has been undertaken to better understand the historical land use.

Figure 7 and Figure 8 show early stages of the power station construction, with the piles for the existing bridge being in place but the bridge decking not yet laid. These images also show a temporary bridge that would have provided access for workers and material to the power station site, which lies on the opposite side of the river to the worker accommodation.

Figure 9 was taken from an elevated point to the east of the location of the power station looking west towards the construction site and worker's accommodation (location of hardstand area with proposed resurfacing). Progress on the bridge can be seen with scaffolding around the bridge piles and piers. Scaffolding and framework for the power station can also be seen in the foreground.

Figure 10 and Figure 11 show the power station almost complete, with the scaffolding and access track still visible. Figure 12 is a photograph taken from approximately the same location as Figure 9 and shows a view of what appears to be a completed Clover Dam Power Station with the temporary bridge removed and the riverbank landscaped. The workers' accommodation area has been expanded and the tents seen in Figure 9 no longer present.

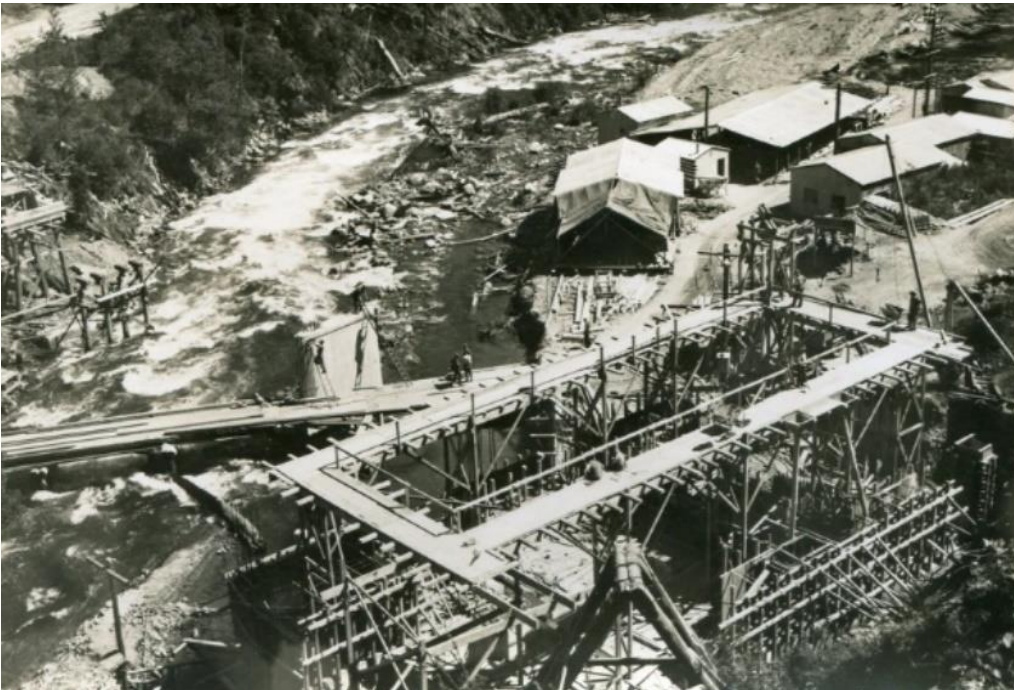
Figure 13 shows works on the tunnel and although does not include the study area has been included to show the use of machinery for excavation works. Given the scale of the work involved, mechanical excavation supported by manual excavation would have been a likely in most parts of the scheme.

The aerial images presented are from 1945 (Figure 14) and 1976 (Figure 15). While neither area of sufficient quality to gain much detail, there is obvious tree clearance in the study area in 1945 and likely ground disturbance also. The 1976 image shows a time where the power station would have been operational for some 30 years and the infrastructure seen in the photograph in Figure 15 can be seen.





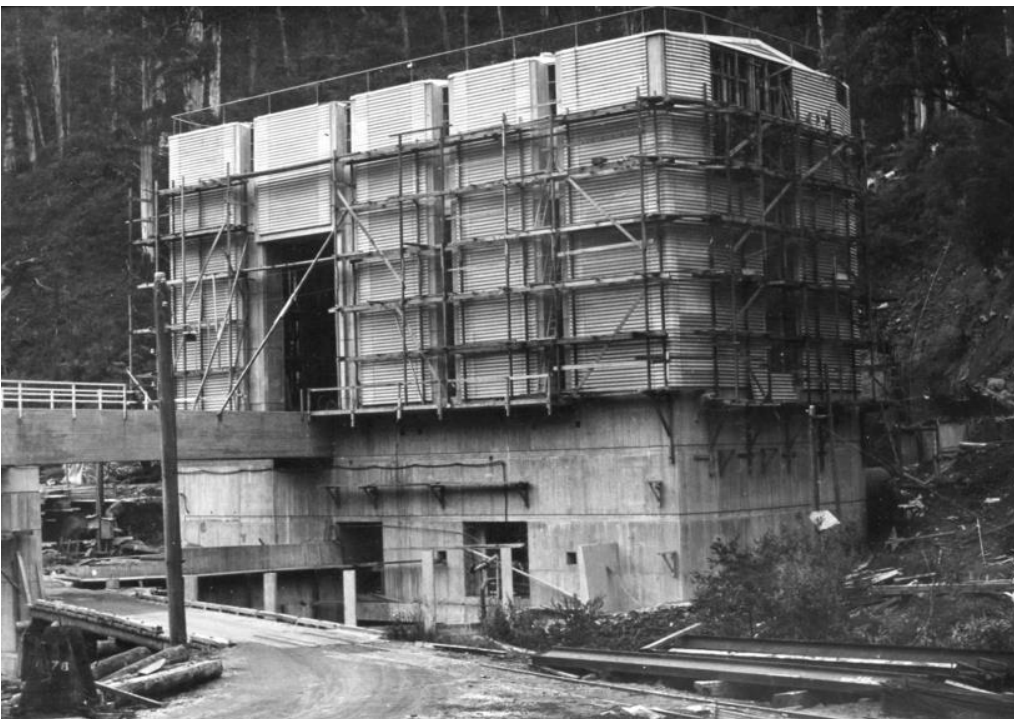
**Figure 7** Construction of Clover Dam Power Station bridge, with the power station site to the right of the photograph and the piles for the bridge under construction (Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s)



**Figure 8** Construction of Clover Dam Power Station and bridge, with the power station site to in the foreground and the piles for the bridge under construction (Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s)



**Figure 9** Construction of Clover Power Station from the early 1940s facing west and overlooking worker accommodation (Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s)



**Figure 10** Clover Dam Power Station nearing completion, with the tail-bay location at the bottom of the photograph (Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s)





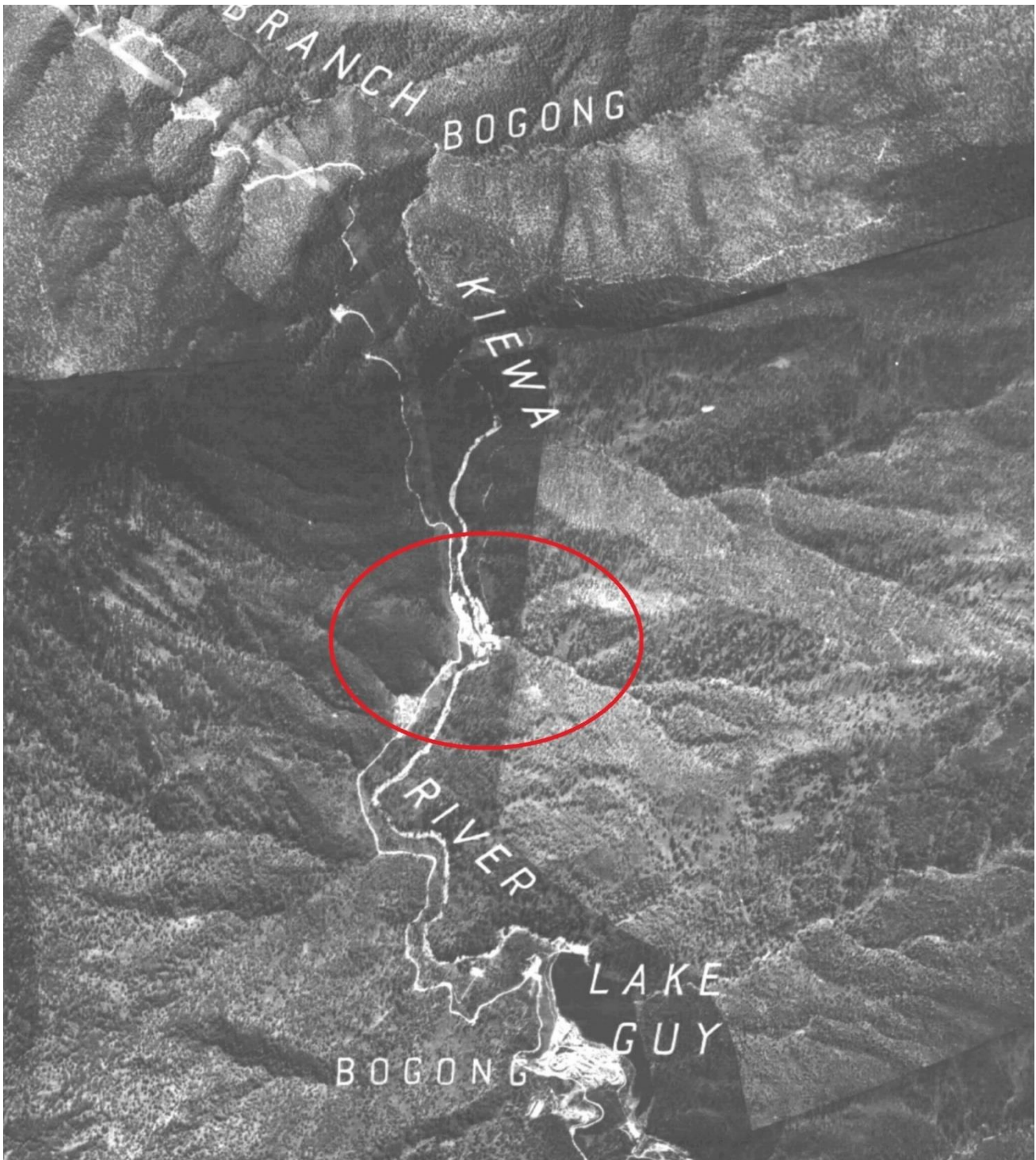
**Figure 11** Clover Dam Power Station nearing completion, with the tail-bay location at the bottom of the photograph (Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s)



**Figure 12** Workers' camp location with the electrical infrastructure installed (Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s)



**Figure 13** Image of combined manual and mechanical excavation occurring during the Kiewa Hydro Scheme construction (Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s)



**Figure 14** 1945 aerial image with the general location of the Clover Dam Power Station and Clover Dam Camp (South) circled in red. Note what appears to be tree clearance on both sides of the Kiewa River at both the study area location and Bogong Village where similar works and worker accommodations were undertaken. Note also that there appears to be no works at the location of Clover Dam Camp (North) (RAAF 1945)





Figure 15 Aerial imagery of Clover Dam with the approximate study areas highlighted in red (Department of Land 1976)

## 2.4 Database searches

A search of the following historic heritage registers, using a 5 kilometre radius, was undertaken by Daniel Carpenter, Biosis Pty Ltd, on 20 May 2024.

- Victorian Heritage Register (VHR)
- Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI)
- Alpine Shire Heritage Overlay (HO)

No registered heritage places are present within the search area.

## 2.5 Previous heritage studies and archaeological investigations

The Alpine Heritage Study Thematic History (Kaufman & Lawrence 2008) includes a detailed discussion of the Kiewa Hydro-electrical Scheme and noting it of state significance. Data collected for the study has been included in the Heritage Victoria HERMES database.

A review was conducted of the Alpine Shire Heritage Study (Alpine Shire Council Heritage Study Place Citations, 2007). This scope of this study was to reassess existing HO places and a small number of previously proposed heritage places that had not been proceeded with in a previous planning scheme amendment. It recommends the Clover Arboretum for inclusion on the Alpine Shire Heritage Overlay. The Clover Arboretum is located along the Bogong-High Plains Road approximately 500 metres to the south-west of Clover Dam Power Station. Prior to its development as an arboretum in the 1970 until the 1980s, it had been a workers' camp for the construction of Keiwa Hydro Scheme, similar to the one immediately adjacent to the Clover Dam Power Station. The families who lived there were migrants from many parts of the world and planted a variety of trees and constructed stone walls. The camp was closed in the 1950s, but the trees and walls remain.

The Heritage Victoria database HERMES notes the Clover Arboretum as being on the Alpine Shire Heritage Overlay (HO89), however this does not appear on either the Alpine Shire Planning Scheme or VicPlan. It is unclear if a decision has been made not to list this as a HO, or if this is an oversight. Despite the official registration being somewhat unclear, the statement of significance notes from the heritage study highlights the significance of the workers camps. The National Heritage List criteria was applied to assess the significance of the Clover Arboretum, the results of which would be similar if applied to the workers camps. This highlights the importance of the camp site, the people who lived there and the potential for the site to yield information about the people who lived there. The relevant criteria are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3 Relevant sections of application of the National Heritage List criteria for the Clover Arboretum (Alpine Shire Council Heritage Study Place Citations, 2007)**

Criteria	Response
<b>Criterion A - Its importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history</b>	Site is associated with the development of the Kiewa Hydro Electric Scheme, one of Victoria's largest infrastructure projects of the era, and one which played a significant role in the conversion of the upper Kiewa Valley from a lightly settled pastoral base to a large vibrant community with a diverse economic base, between the late 1930s and early 1960s.
<b>Criterion B - Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history</b>	Site has importance in demonstrating living conditions experienced by construction workers and their families in major government infrastructure projects of the era, in remote mountain areas.
<b>Criterion C - Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history</b>	Site has archaeological potential to yield information about the lifestyles of diverse migrant groups thrown together in construction camps for major infrastructure projects

## 2.6 Conclusions of the background review

The background review of the historical heritage has built on information gathered during the historical land use review, confirming that workers' camps were present within the study area. It has further shown that these places are deemed to be of historical and archaeological significance due to their association with the development of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme and the people associated with its construction.

## 3 Historic survey

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### 3.1 Methodology

As per Section 126A of the *Heritage Act 2017*, a notice to conduct a survey was submitted through Heritage Victoria's Heritage Desk platform on 12 February 2024. The study area was inspected by Daniel Carpenter of Biosis Pty Ltd, on 14 February 2024. This was conducted in tandem with an ecology assessment conducted by Georgina Zacks of Biosis Pty Ltd. Also present was Amanda Clarke of AGL (client's representative).

The purpose of the survey was to identify any historic features that may be present and provide advice on management of these under the *Heritage Act 2017*. Clover Dam Camps (North and South) were surveyed on foot, with a focus on the landforms and benched areas as well as the location of the small weir. Photographs of the location were taken on a Samsung S21 FE 5G Smartphone, spatial data was recorded with dGPS and field notes were taken.

### 3.2 Obstacles/Limitations

The survey was conducted as part of a site inspection for a number of places that may be impacted by proposed works and limited time was available to survey Clover Dam Camps (North and South), and therefore only preliminary recording was possible.

Heavy grass cover was present throughout the study area, therefore a limitation of the survey was poor ground surface visibility.

As the scope of the present study is limited to specific impact areas, consideration of the associated places which may relate to the wider Kiewa Hydro Scheme significance was not made.

### 3.3 Historic heritage

#### 3.3.1 Clover Dam Camps (North)

The benched area of Clover Dam Camps (North) appears to have approximate correlation with the original design plans (see Figure 1). The bench height ranges from 300 millimetres high in the northern section to over 1 metre in the southern section. Evidence of concrete foundations are visible in some places as well as stone features around the entry way. The Playing Area noted on historic plans, to the west of the Bogong High Plains Road appears to be used for car or truck parking and has a hard surface typical of vehicle parking areas.

Images of Clover Dam Camps (North) can be found in Photograph 1 to Photograph 8.





**Photograph 1** Carpark to the west of the Bongong High Plains Road in the Clover Dam Camp (North) area (marked as Playing Area in the original designs) (facing north, D.Carpenter 14 February 2024).



**Photograph 2** Northern part of Clover Dam Camp (North) area (marked as Recreation Hut and Hut 7 in the original designs) (facing north, D.Carpenter 14 February 2024).



**Photograph 3** Northern part of Clover Dam Camp (North) area (marked as Huts 1 and 2 in the original designs) (facing north, D.Carpenter 14 February 2024).



**Photograph 4** Northern part of Clover Dam Camp (North) area (marked as Huts 1 and 2 in the original designs) (facing north, D.Carpenter 14 February 2024).





**Photograph 5 Northern part of Clover Dam Camp (North) area (marked as Huts 4 and 5 in the original designs) (facing north, D.Carpenter 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 6 Vehicle entry to Clover Dam Camp (North) area (to the west of Mess Room and Kitchens in the original designs) (facing north, D.Carpenter 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 7 Concrete slab near vehicle entry to Clover Dam Camp (North) area. Possibly the base of the canteen (facing south, D.Carpenter 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 8 Vehicle entry to Clover Dam Camp (North) area (to the west of Mess Room and Kitchens in the original designs) (facing north-west, D.Carpenter 14 February 2024).**

### 3.3.2 Clover Dam Camps (South)

Clover Dam Camps (South) consists of a benched area to the west of the Clover Dam Power Station. The benches approximately correlate with what can be seen on the 1940s photograph (Figure 9).

There are two layers of benching between the Bogong High Plains Road and the power station, each approximately 1.5 metres high at the southern extent but converge to the same level at the access track to the north. The benches are overgrown with grass, obscuring the ground surface. There is no evidence of erosion or further modification. Concrete steps are present that lead from the lower benched area down to the level of the power plant. The location of these steps cannot be seen in Figure 9.

Images of Clover Dam Camps (South) can be found in Photograph 9 to Photograph 15.



**Photograph 9** Benched area of Clover Dam Camp (South) area, taken from the south of the camp area (facing north, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).



**Photograph 10** Benched area of Clover Dam Camp (South) area, taken from the north of the camp area (facing south, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).





**Photograph 11 Benched area of Clover Dam Camp (South) area, taken from the north of the camp area (facing south, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 12 Existing concrete steps leading down from the lower benched area to the level of the power station (facing west, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 13 Benched area of Clover Dam Camp (South) area, taken from the east of the camp area near the power station with existing electricity infrastructure in the foreground (facing west, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 14 Clover Power Station, picture provided for context and reference purposes (facing east, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 15 Clover Power Station, picture provided for context and reference purposes (facing south-east, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**

### **3.3.3 Auxiliary historic elements**

Other historic elements that may have been associated with the Clover Dam Camps were located in an elevated area to the south of Clover Dam Camp (North). These were all features related to small scale collection and transportation of water.

Approximately 750 metres to the south of Clover Dam Camp (North) and below an access track, small weir was located. The weir was made of uncut stones cemented together, with disconnected cast iron or steel pipes protruding from the weir wall. PVC pipes were also protruding from the weir wall and these appear to still be functioning.

Approximately 150 metres to the north-east of the small weir, exposed sections of pipe were noted. The sound of running water could clearly be heard from these pipes indicating that they are still in use. This location is lower than the weir and it is likely this is the source of the water. The exposed pipe location is between the northern extent of the Clover Dam and it is possible that this water contributes to the dam.

It is also possible that this water had been used for supplying water to Clover Dam Camp (North). The Kiewa River East Branch is located in the immediate vicinity of Clover Dam Camp (North), however, this is located downhill and supplying water from a higher elevation may have been a more practical solution than pumping it up from the river.

Images of the auxiliary historic elements can be found in Photograph 16 to Photograph 20.





**Photograph 16** Small weir to the west of Clover Dam Camps (North) (facing south, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).



**Photograph 17** Small weir to the west of Clover Dam Camps (North) (facing south-west, D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).



**Photograph 18** Disused scour valve embedded in small weir to the west of Clover Dam Camps (North) (D.Carpenter, 14 February 2024).





**Photograph 19 Context of location of exposed pipe (facing north, D. Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 20 Exposed pipe (D. Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 21 Exposed pipe (D. Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**



**Photograph 22 Exposed pipe (D. Carpenter, 14 February 2024).**

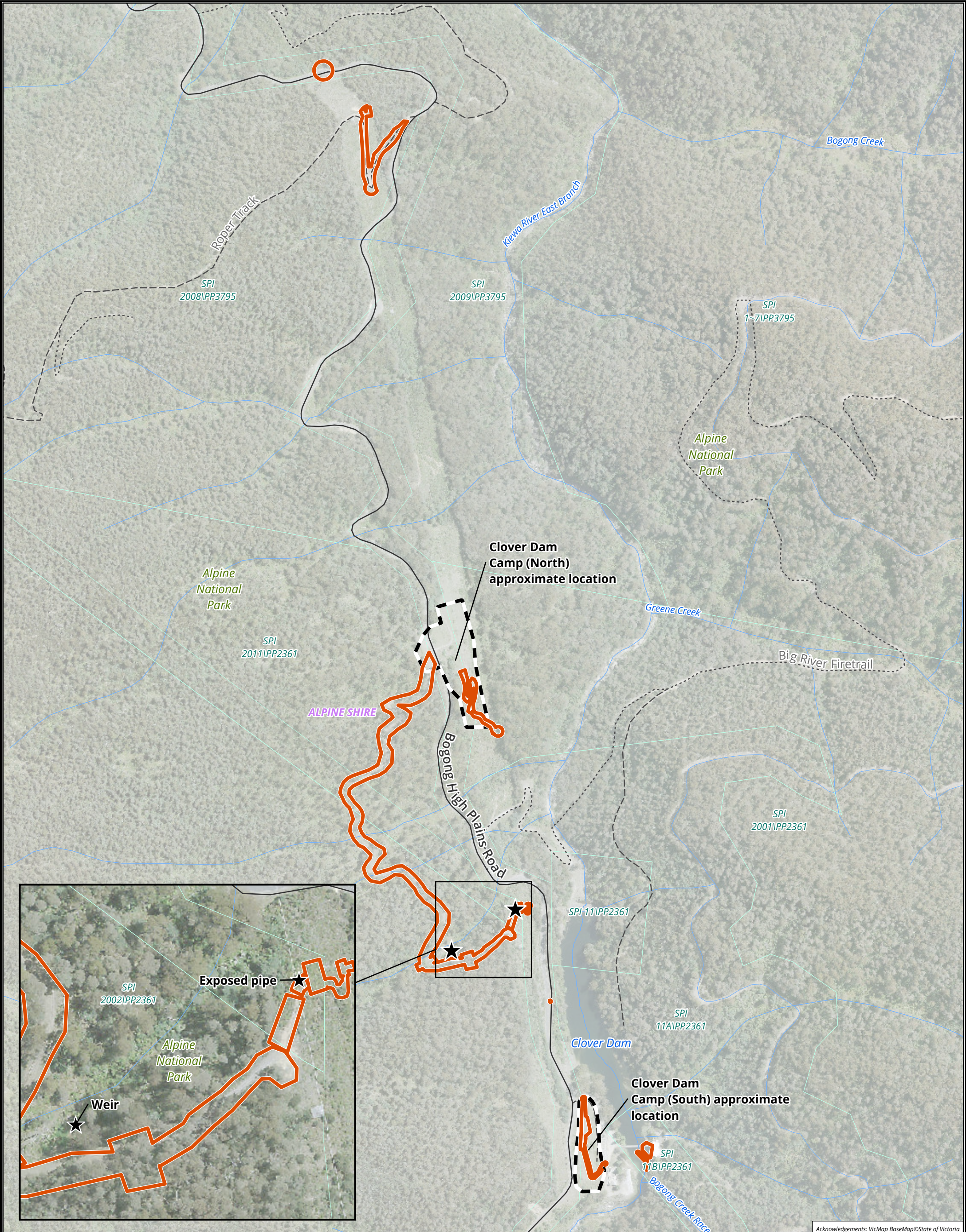
### **3.4 Summary of historic survey**

The survey has shown that significant remnants of earthworks and benching associated with work camps are still present at these locations. These benching features appear to correlate with the historic records shown in the historical photographs. Some concrete foundations were noted at both sites, as well as a staircase in Clover Dam Camp (South) which would have provided pedestrian access between the accommodation and the work site. Contributory features were also noted in the form of a small weir and piping which may have provided water to Cover Dam Camp (North).

Limitations of the survey included a small window in which to survey these locations which limited the amount of recording and investigation that could be carried out. The poor ground surface visibility caused by the grass cover limited what could be seen on the surface and additional features may be present.

The remote nature of the site would have made rubbish removal difficult and it is possible that burial of rubbish was common practice on the site. The intact nature of the sites (apart from the removal of the actual structures) indicates that any subsurface deposits would likely be intact and undisturbed.






Acknowledgements: VicMap BaseMap©State of Victoria

## Map 2 Location and extent of historic features

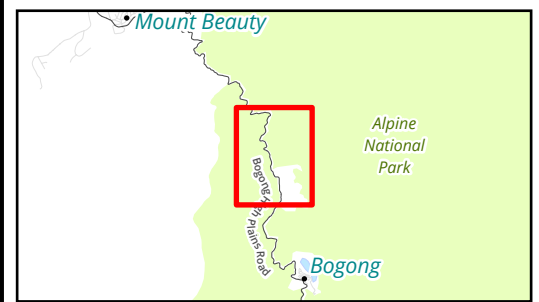
- Legend**
- Study area
  - Current parcel boundary
  - Historic feature place extent
  - ★ Historic feature point

0 50 100 150 200  
Metres  
Scale 1:7,000 @ A3  
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55



APEM Group

Matter: 40073.  
Date: 22 November 2024.  
Prepared for: DRC. Prepared by: SP. Last edited by: spanter  
Layout: 40073\_Historic\_survey\_M2\_Historic\_features  
Project: P:\4000's\40073\Mapping\40073\_ECO\_CH\_DD\_Clover.aprx





## 4 Significance assessment

This section addresses the significance of the Clover Dam Camps in the context of inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) and particularly if Clover Dam Camps (North and South) meet the criteria to be considered of archaeological value under Section 130 of the *Heritage Act 2017*, and secondly if it is above what would be considered to be low archaeological value.

Under Section 130 (1) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, the Executive Director may recommend to the Heritage Council that a place be approved as a site of archaeological value if it meets relevant criteria. These criteria are outlined in Table 4 and show that Clover Dam Camps (North and South) do in fact meet these criteria.

In addition to the review of Section 130(1), the thresholds that Heritage Victoria have developed to determine if the place is of low archaeological value have been applied (Table 5). This has shown that Clover Dam Camps (North and South) do meet these thresholds for be considered above low value.

Clover Dam Camps (North and South) are therefore of sufficient age and value to be included on the Victorian Heritage Inventory. A statement of significance can be found in Table 6.

It must be noted that the Clover Dam Camps (North and South) are components of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme which has been identified in the Alpine Heritage Study as a place of potential state significance (Kaufman & Lawrence 2008).

**Table 4 Application of Section 130 of the *Heritage Act 2017* to Clover Dam Camps (North and South)**

Section 130 of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i>		Application
<b>130(a)</b>	is situated in the State; and	Clover Dam Camps (North and South) are located in the State of Victoria
<b>130(b)</b>	contains an artefact, deposit or feature which is less than 75 years old; and	The evidence shows that they date from the late 1930s and are therefore older than 75 years
<b>130(c)</b>	provides information of past activity in the State; and	The places likely have intact subsurface deposits which are likely to provide information about the construction of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme
<b>130(d)</b>	requires archaeological methods to reveal information about the settlement, development or use of the place; and	Although historical records are in existence, the application of archaeological methods will likely reveal further information.
<b>130(e)</b>	is not associated only with Aboriginal occupation of the place; and	No specific evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the places has been found.
<b>130(f)</b>	has archaeological value.	The places have archaeological value due to their potential to provide an insight into the lives of the

Section 130 of the Heritage Act 2017	Application
	people who constructed the Kiewa Hydro Scheme.

**Table 5 Application of Heritage Victoria Policy For Determining Low Archaeological Value**

Threshold		
<b>Threshold A</b>	The place meets the definition of archaeological site under the Act; and	See Table 4
	it can be demonstrated that the site contains archaeological features, associated artefacts and/or deposits; and/or	The survey has shown that the benching evident from the historical records is largely intact and correlates with historic records.
	documentary evidence and/or oral history, landscape features, visible site fabric or other information indicates a likelihood that the site contains archaeological remains; and	Historical evidence and the survey have shown that landscape features associated with the Clover Dam Camps (North and South) are still present. It is likely that foundations, septic systems and other features are present on the site.
	the archaeological remains are, or are likely to be, in a condition that will allow information to be obtained that will contribute to an understanding of the site;	The sites appear to be in good condition and it is likely that archaeological features would be in sufficiently good condition that information could be gained.
<b>Threshold B</b>	the site evidences (or is likely to evidence) an association with a historical event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, movement, custom or way of life; and	The site is associated with the construction of the Kiewa Hydro Scheme.
	the site history is of significance within a state, regional, local, thematic or other relevant framework	The sites are of regional and local significance.

**Table 6 Statement of significance (applicable to both Clover Dam Camps North and South)**

<p><b>What is significant?</b></p>	<p>The Clover Dam Construction Camps (North and South) consist of the landscaped remnants of two workers' camps constructed and used in the 1930s and 1940s. They are located adjacent to the Clover Power station on the Bogong high Plains Road.</p>
<p><b>How is it significant?</b></p>	<p>The Clover Dam Construction Camps are of historical and scientific (archaeological) significance at the local level.</p>
<p><b>Why is it significant?</b></p>	<p>The Clover Dam Construction Camps are of historical significance as part of the largest Hydro Electricity Scheme to be constructed in Victoria. they were home to hundreds of predominantly migrant workers, who, like the larger Snowy Mountains Scheme, found a new home in Australia and made a major contribution to Australia society.</p> <p>The sites are of archaeological significance for their capacity to provide information (through archaeological investigation) of the lives of the construction workers, in a context that is currently poorly documented or understood. The relative isolation of the workers, their diverse origins, and their ability to adapt to an unfamiliar environment provide opportunities for important archaeological research. The same isolation and lack of local services also creates a rare context where material objects related to the occupation of the site are highly likely to remain in their original context, or very close to their place of use. As such the sites have the potential to preserve a unique archaeological record.</p>

## 5 References

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*Photographs - SECV - Clover Power Station, 1940s.*, *Victorian Collections (from the collections of the Kiewa Valley Historical Society)*, accessed 31 May 2024, <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/5a4c6d7b21ea67012008aeca>.

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