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BETTER BY DEFINITION

Specialising in:

- explosive ordnance assessment
- detection and remediation
- sub surface mapping

26 October 2010

Mr Rob Moore
Project Director – Yarrabilba
Delfin Lend Lease
Level 2, 349 Coronation Drive
MILTON QLD 4064

Dear Rob,

Unexploded Ordnance Study – Yarrabilba Development Area

General

At the request of Delfin Lend Lease, G-tek Australia Pty Limited has conducted a desktop unexploded ordnance (UXO) study for the intended Yarrabilba development area by reviewing UXO documentation relating to the Site, including files currently held by G-tek, Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), the Defence National UXO Office (NUXOO) in Canberra and, the National Archives of Australia (NAA).

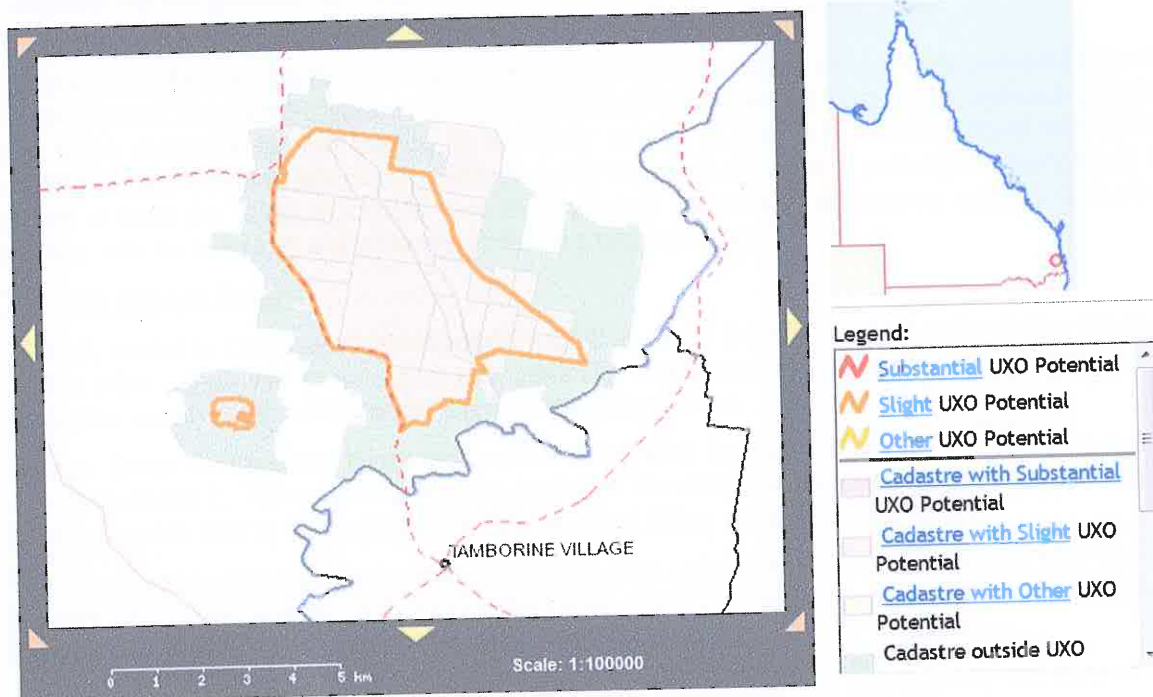


Figure 1 – Defence UXO Website – Camp Cable (Defence)

Website: www.g-tek.biz

Principal Office
Unit 5K, 256 New Line Road
Dural NSW Australia 2158
Tel: +61 (2) 9651 6838
Fax: +61 (2) 9651 6834

The Yarrabilba development area is located with the area defined by the NUXOO as the World War Two (WWII) "Camp Cable" area and has been given an UXO potential categorisation of "Slight".

Defence Policy

Defence currently issues the following UXO warning and advice for areas assessed as having a slight UXO potential:

"Allied Defence Forces used many sites throughout Australia, during and after World War II, for encampments, field training, live firing of weapons and other military activities. This property is on such a site. A **possibility** exists that Dangerous items of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) may still be found on this site. If you should find a suspicious item, that may be a UXO, **do not touch or disturb** it. It has been there for many years, it will not hurt you if you do not disturb it. There are **no** known instances, in Australia, where UXO have caused injuries except when they were deliberately and intentionally disturbed. Contact police – they will arrange for military experts to attend and dispose of it.

Defence recommends that all land usage and development, within these areas, may continue without any further UXO investigation or remediation.'

Defence Categorisation Background

Two UXO studies have been conducted by Defence for this Site.

The 1992 Defence Report

Defence UXO Project personnel from Defence Centre Brisbane conducted an UXO study into the Camp Cable Site and published a report in September 1992, see Attachment 1. This study took the form of a review of documents held by the Defence Centre Brisbane, the Senior Ammunition Technical Officer for 1st Military District, the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives of Australia. Local identities and military personnel who had served in or near Camp Cable were also interviewed. After collection of this information and the plotting of results onto maps, field investigations were undertaken. During these field investigations a shallow burial of 4 hand grenades was uncovered and this UXO find was added to the previously recorded information on this Site. These finds were compared with the gazetted Land Use Proclamations, military maps of the area and unit location statements (units were required to report their locations at regular intervals to higher headquarters).

Assessment of the UXO contamination was plotted by zones on the maps and it was recommended that the Camp Cable area was considered suitable for development/redevelopment without prior search/clearance operation (s). It was further recommended that warning be issued for workers to treat any suspicious object with caution. This warning should incorporate advice on procedures being adopted in the event of such object/s being found, ie "do not disturb or touch the object; if possible, note its dimensions and general appearance; safely and clearly mark its location; note the route to it; and advise the Police as soon as possible".

The 1996 Defence Report

NUXOO, located in Canberra, were contacted by G-tek as part of this UXO study to gather further information held by that office. G-tek was given access to a previously unpublished UXO report for the Camp Cable Site. The publication and distribution of this report is covered by written caveat.

Defence Centre Brisbane staff conducted a review of the 1992 Defence UXO report and published their results in 1996, Attachment 2. This review revisited the Australian War Memorial, National Archives and Explosive Ordnance Incidence reports held by the Senior Ammunition Technical Officer within 1st Military District.

The use of graphical information systems (GIS) became more widespread in the period between 1992 and 1996. The Defence UXO Project and the newly formed UXO section of Queensland EPA (now located within DERM) adopted MapInfo as a standard GIS to facilitate efficient transfer of data between the two organisations.

During this study Defence personnel conducted ground reconnaissance over approximately 400 acres of land in the residential areas adjoining the pine forest and the Birnham Artillery Practice Range. This reconnaissance did not discover any live items of military ammunition.

Details of UXO finds in addition to those reported in 1992 were recorded as a result of the 1996 study.

The 1996 Defence UXO study categorised the Site as having a "slight possibility of UXO contamination".

Queensland DERM

The Queensland DERM UXO Project officer was interviewed by G-tek as part of this Study in order to gather any additional information held by DERM and to determine their view point on the current UXO status of the Site.

DERM have plotted UXO finds by the public since the 1996 Defence report and the results of searched conducted by UXO contractors. No further UXO have been discovered in Camp Cable and the current DERM UXO map is at Attachment 3.

Queensland DERM has received the Defence conclusions concerning potential UXO contamination and has implemented Defences' recommendations.

Queensland DERM has provided advice to Delfin Lend Lease in August 2005 and February 2007, see Attachment 4, which advised that there was a slight potential for UXO within Camp Cable. This was due primarily to littering and unauthorized disposal of small quantities of ammunition including grenades. Field works have shown that there is no logic to where these items may be located and hence, should remediation of areas be considered, such remediation would require 100% search to be conducted.

DERM have adopted Defences' recommendation that development can proceed provided a warning, background and procedure on finding suspect item, is issued to all contractors employed on development work as a safety precaution and to maximize the likelihood of UXO or related material being treated appropriately and reported in a timely manner.

This advice has also been provided to the Queensland Government Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) vide Attachment 5, for the Yarrabilba, Ripley Valley and Flagstone areas.

The UXO Project Officer Queensland DERM advised that it is highly unlikely that the UXO classification for this Site would be reduced from "Slight" without UXO search or major earthworks being undertaken without UXO discoveries. He warned that in the unlikely event that further UXO be discovered on Site that the UXO classification could be increased to "Substantial".

National Archives of Australia

G-tek has conducted a review of documents held by National Archives of Australia (NAA) and although they found information of historical interest such as plans for Camp Cables' airstrip, land gazettal's and claims for repairs of damages to properties no information was found that supports a reduction in the UXO categorization of the Site. To date all relevant information found has been documented within the Defence reports.

NAA records have been included in Attachment 6 for possible historical interest.

Local Community and Historical Groups

Information was gathered from the Logan Village Historical Society Inc and the Logan City Council for the Camp Cable area. This information is rich in historical interest for the area however did not contain UXO contamination evidence. This information is contained within Attachment 7.

Oz at War Web Site

The Oz at War Web Site is an excellent resource for World War II activities, particularly in Queensland, and documents the history of Camp Cable. This information is in Attachment 8 and contains no record of UXO activities within the camp area.

Summary

The Yarrabilba Development area falls within the boundaries of the former military training area referred to as "Camp Cable".

As a result of two (2) document reviews and physical investigations, the Department of Defence has categorised a defined area of "Camp Cable" as having an UXO contamination potential of "Slight".

The Department of Defence issues specific recommendations on action to be taken when conducting development on areas categorised as "Slight".

Queensland DERM has adopted Defence's recommendations in relation to actions to be taken on areas of UXO contamination and have provided the information to ULDA.

No additional information has been identified during this Study which would cause NUXOO to change the categorisation of the area from "Slight" or which would cause DERM to not adopt Defence's recommendations.

Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss any matters further, please do not hesitate to contact either Max or myself.

Kind Regards,
G-tek Australia Pty Limited



Greg Guthrie
Chief Operating Officer
+61 (0) 418 977424
gguthrie@g-tek.biz

Attachments:

1. Report on the Tamborine/Logan Village/Jimboomba Area: Land Affected by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).
2. UXO Site Assessment report on Tamborine / Jimboomba Area South East Queensland.
3. Current Qld DERM UXO Finds Map.
4. Qld DERM Advice to Delfin Lend Lease.
5. Qld DERM Advice to ULDA for the Yarrabilba, Ripley Valley and Flagstone areas.
6. National Archives of Australia Information.
7. Information from Local Community and Historical Groups.
8. Oz at War Web Site.

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