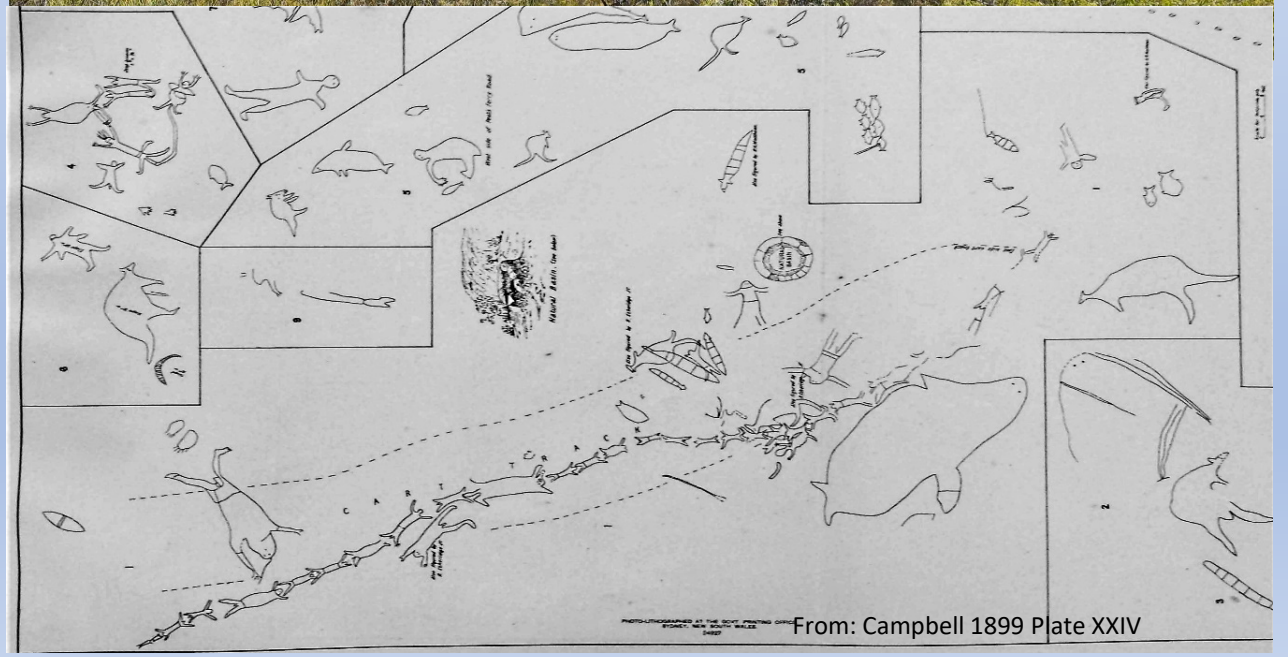
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country

Aboriginal Country – Coal and Candle Creek (‘Kollaan Kandahl’) Catchment

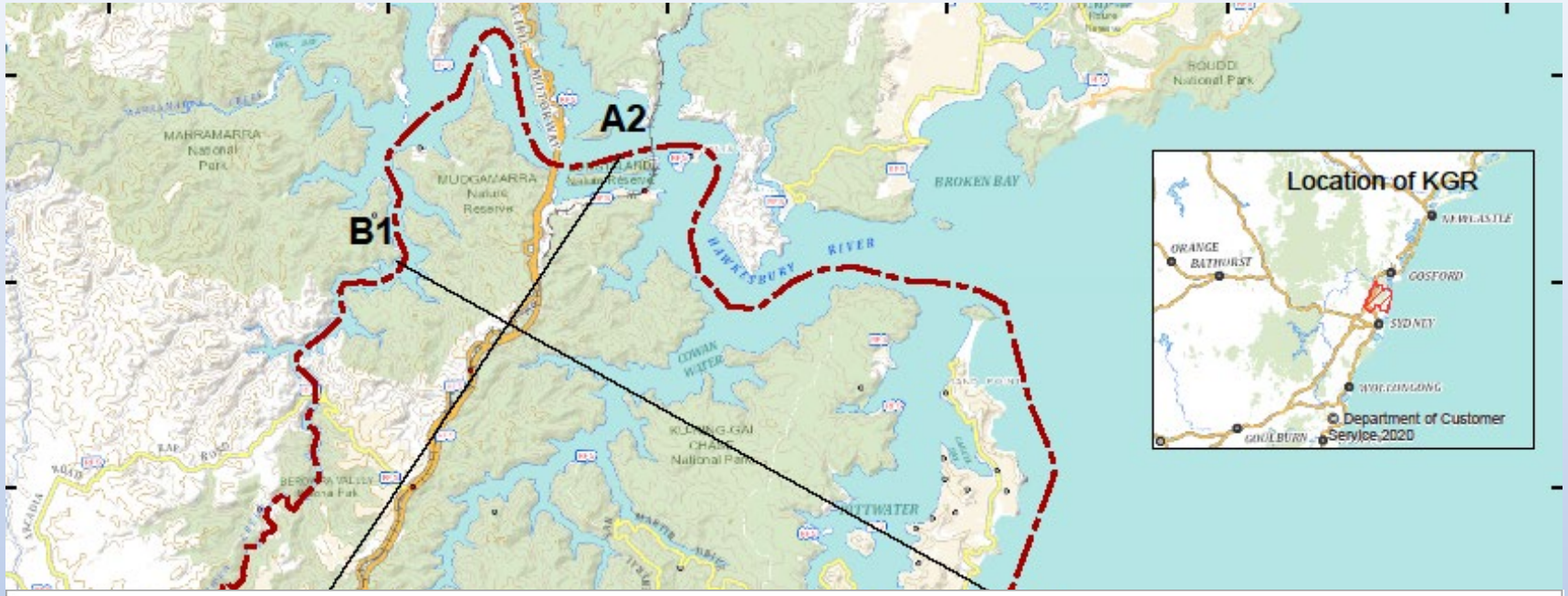
Bob Conroy

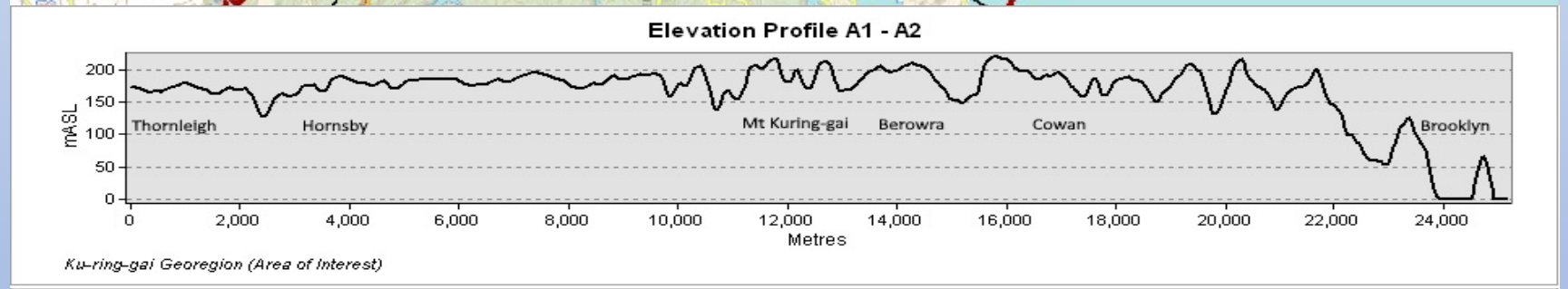
Presentation to the Linnean Society of NSW, Nov 2022

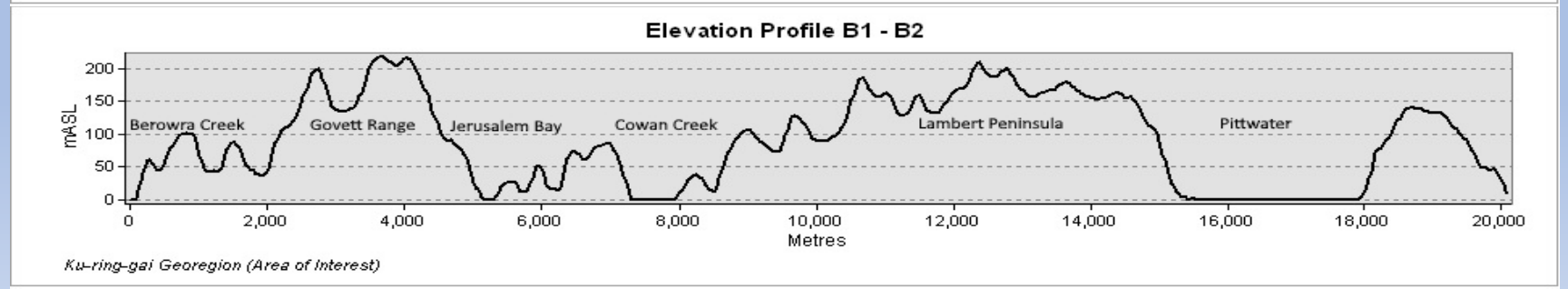
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Introduction


From: Campbell 1899 Plate XXIV

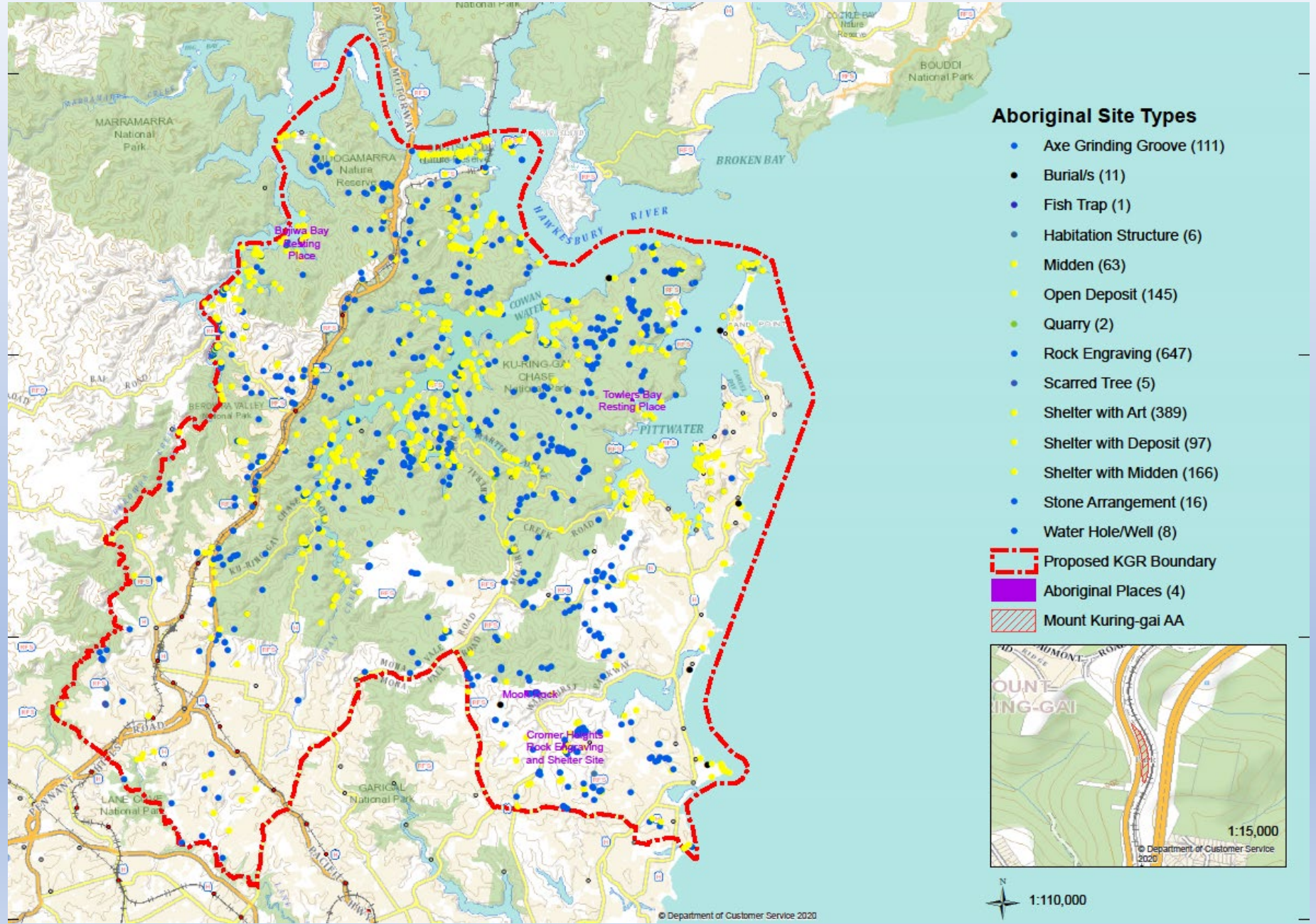
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Topography



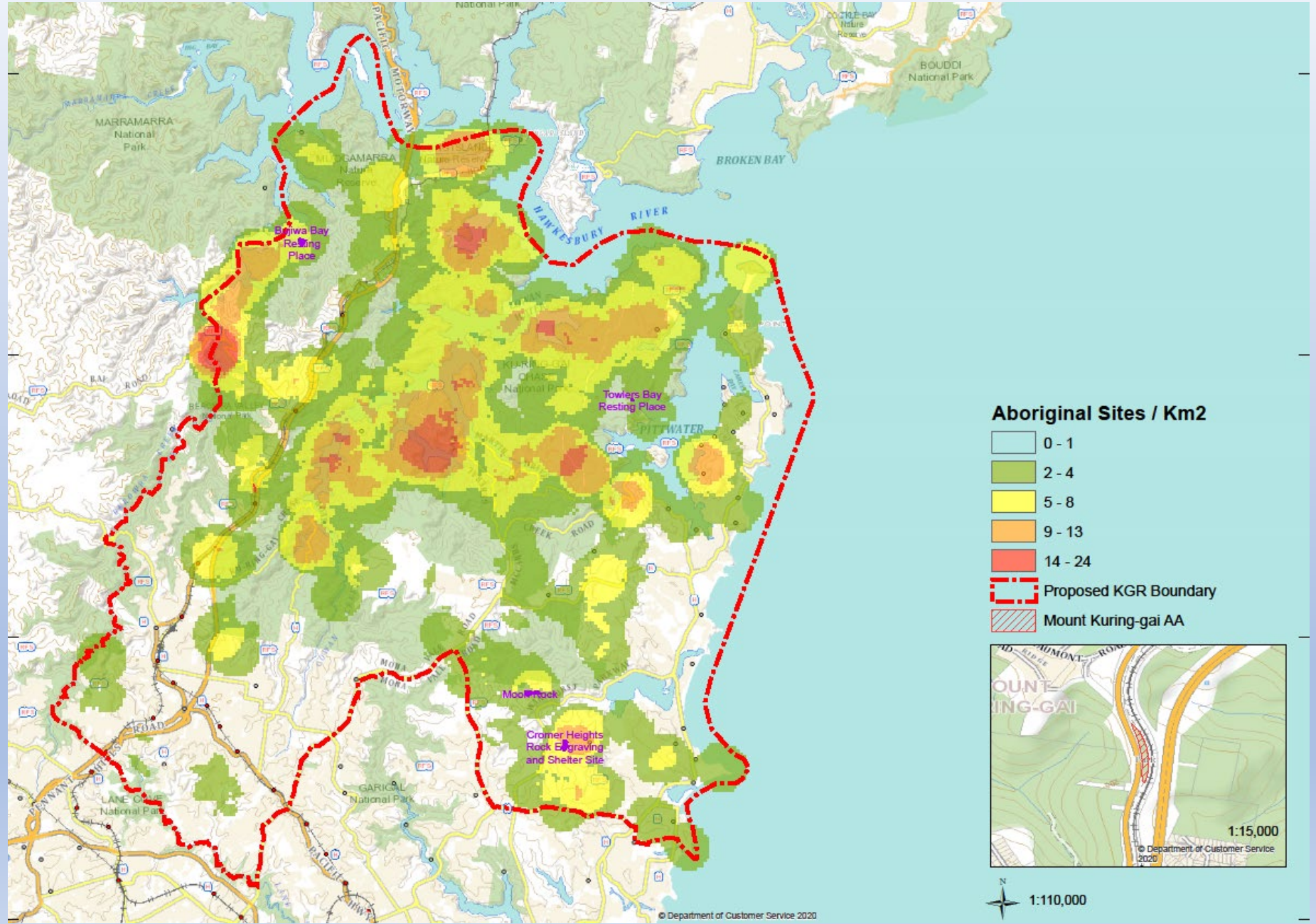




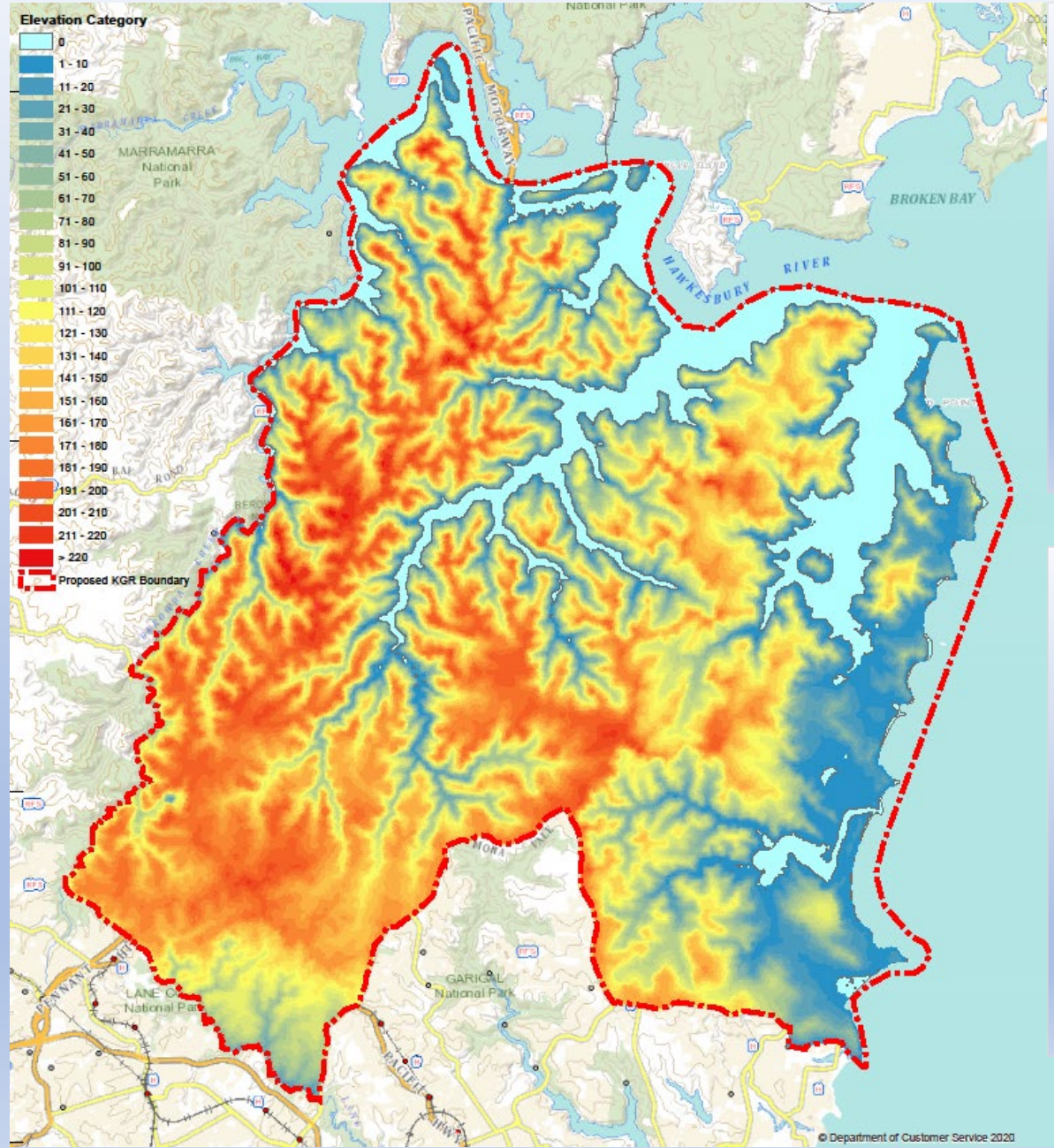
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country – AHIMS Records

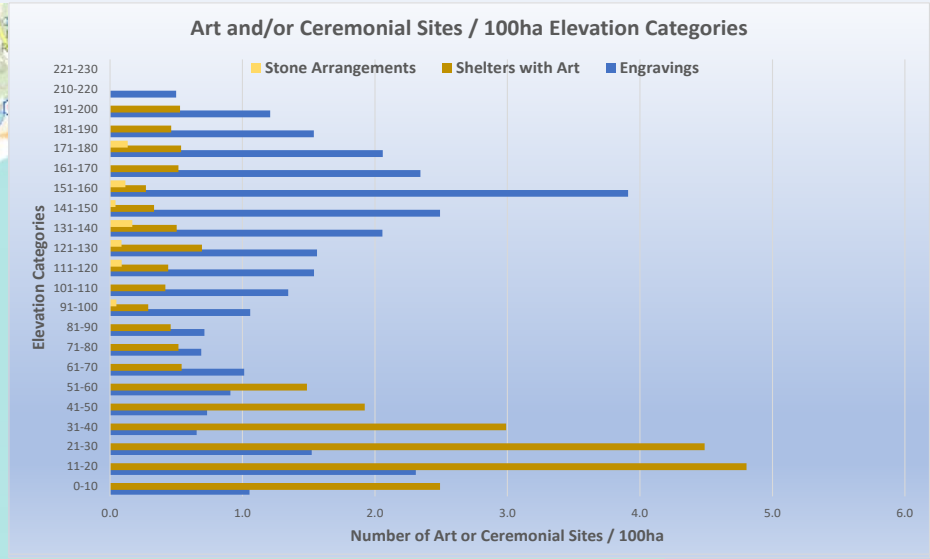


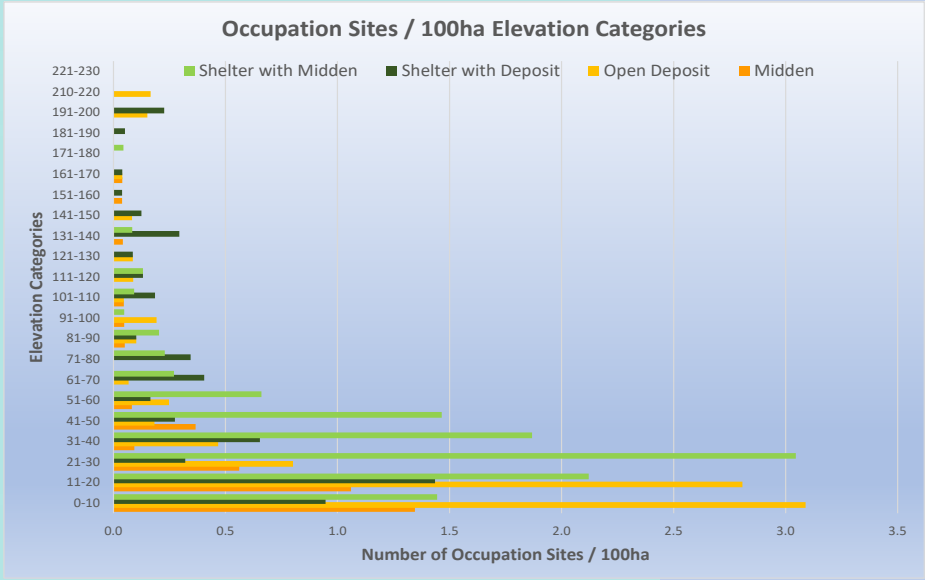
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country – Site Density

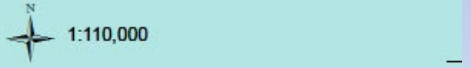


KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Elevation

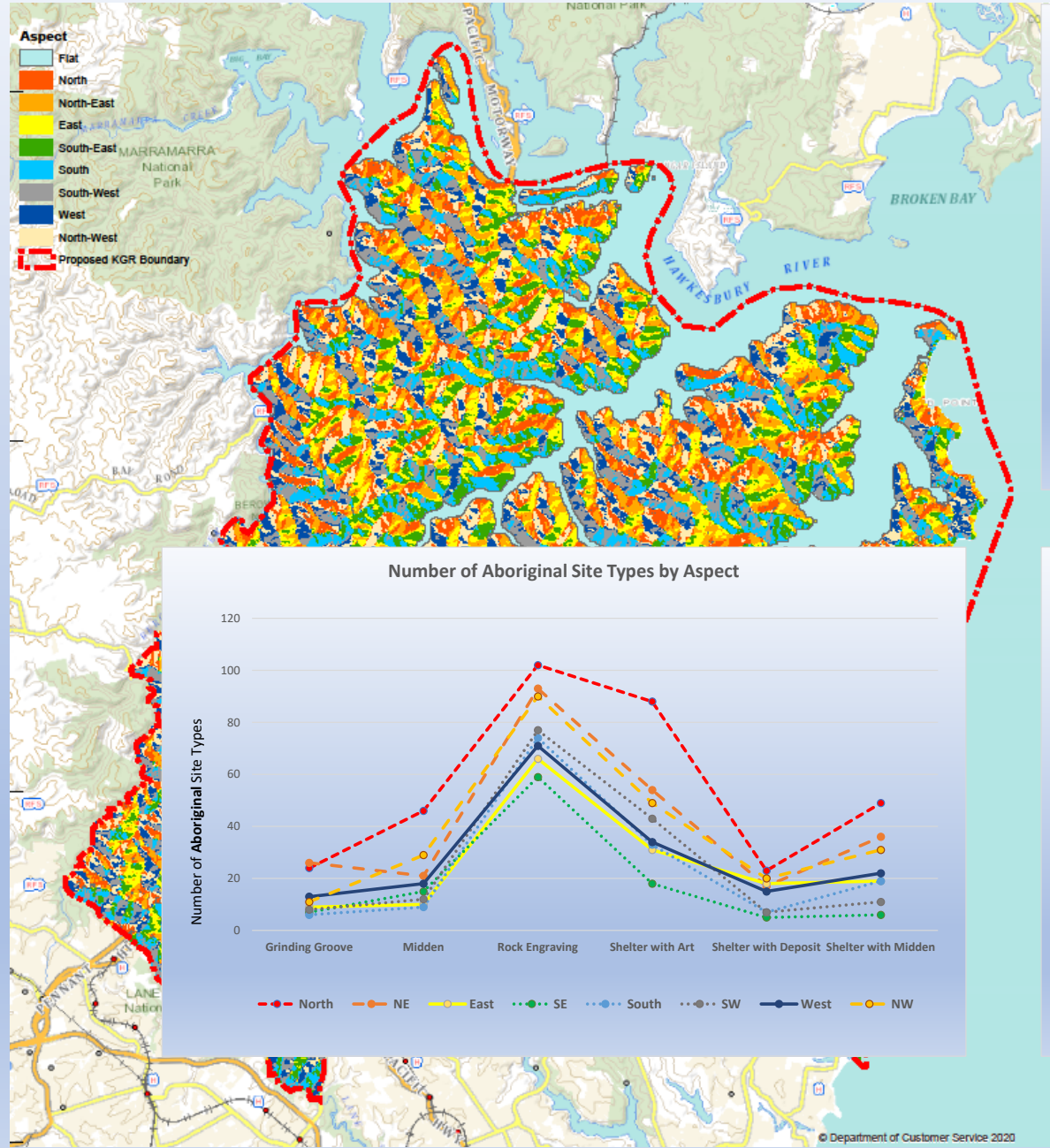


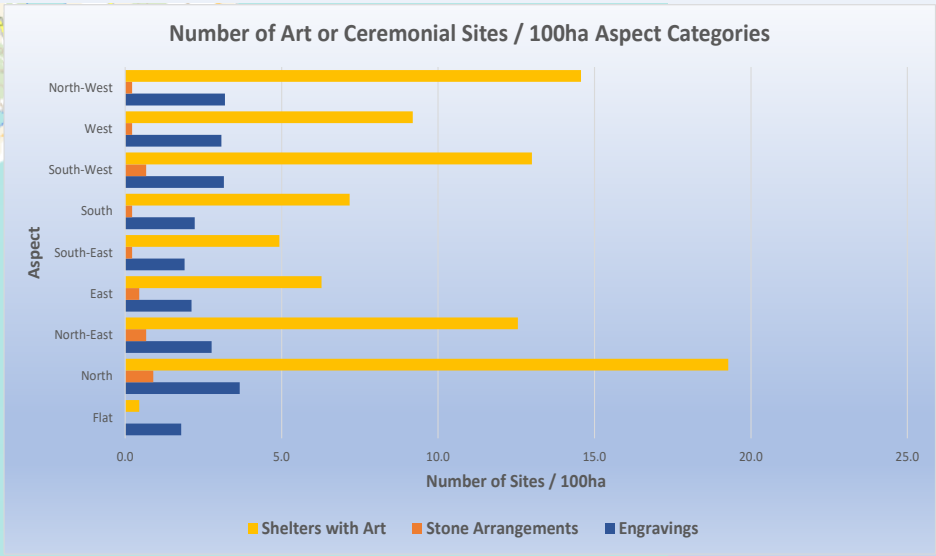


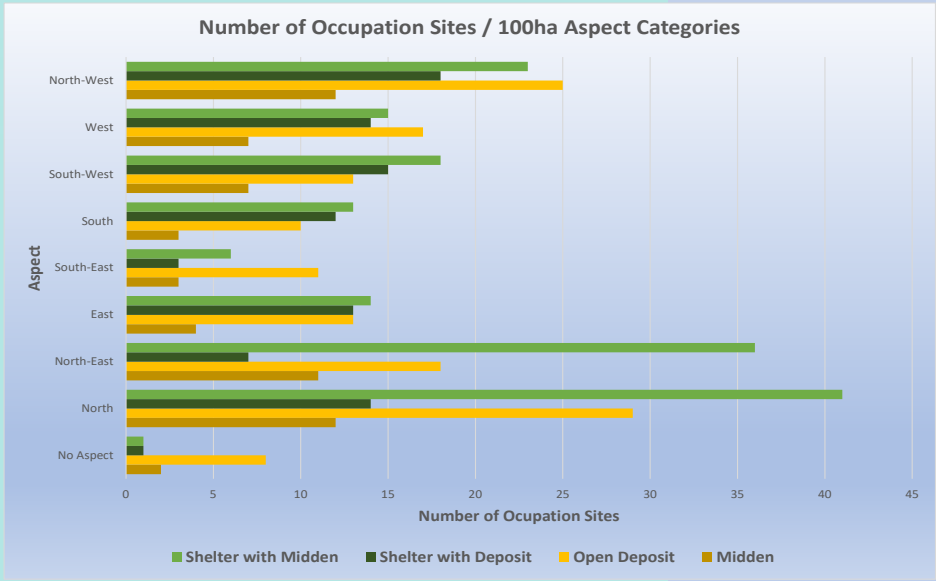


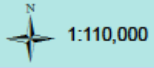


KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Aspect

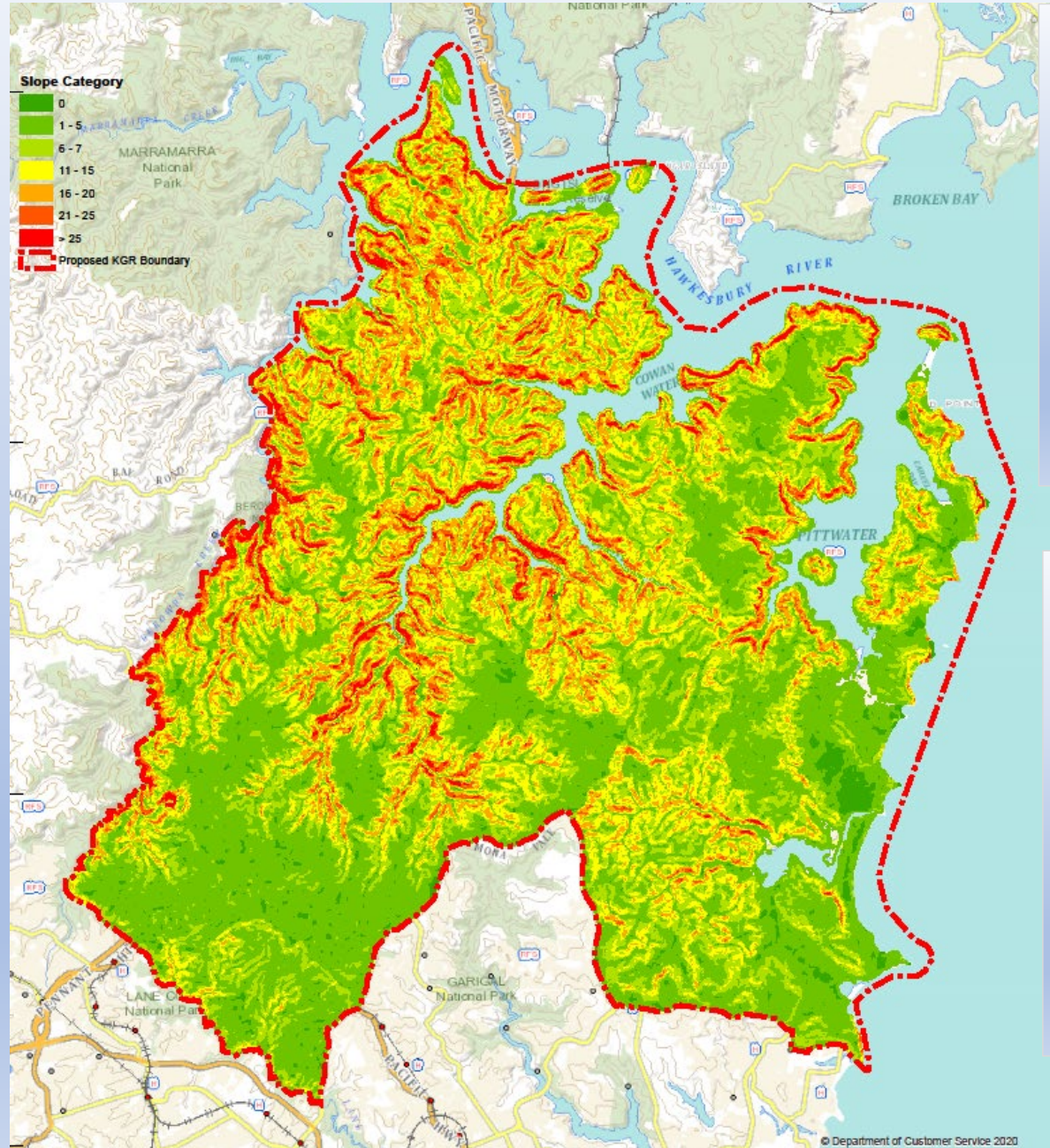


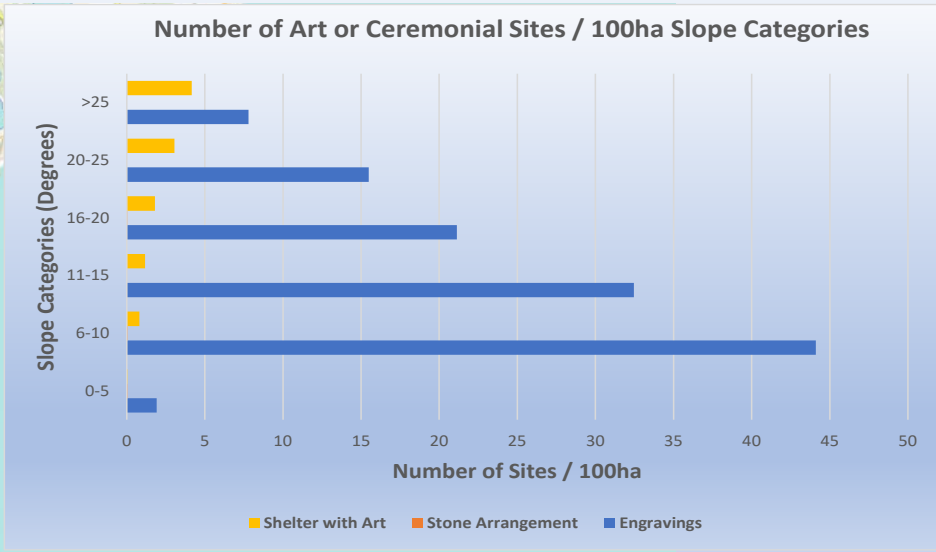


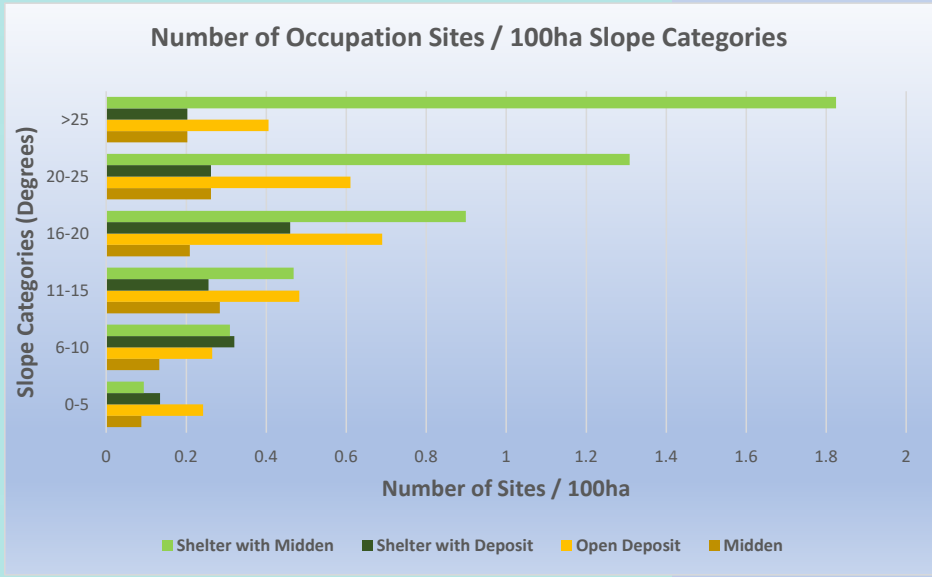




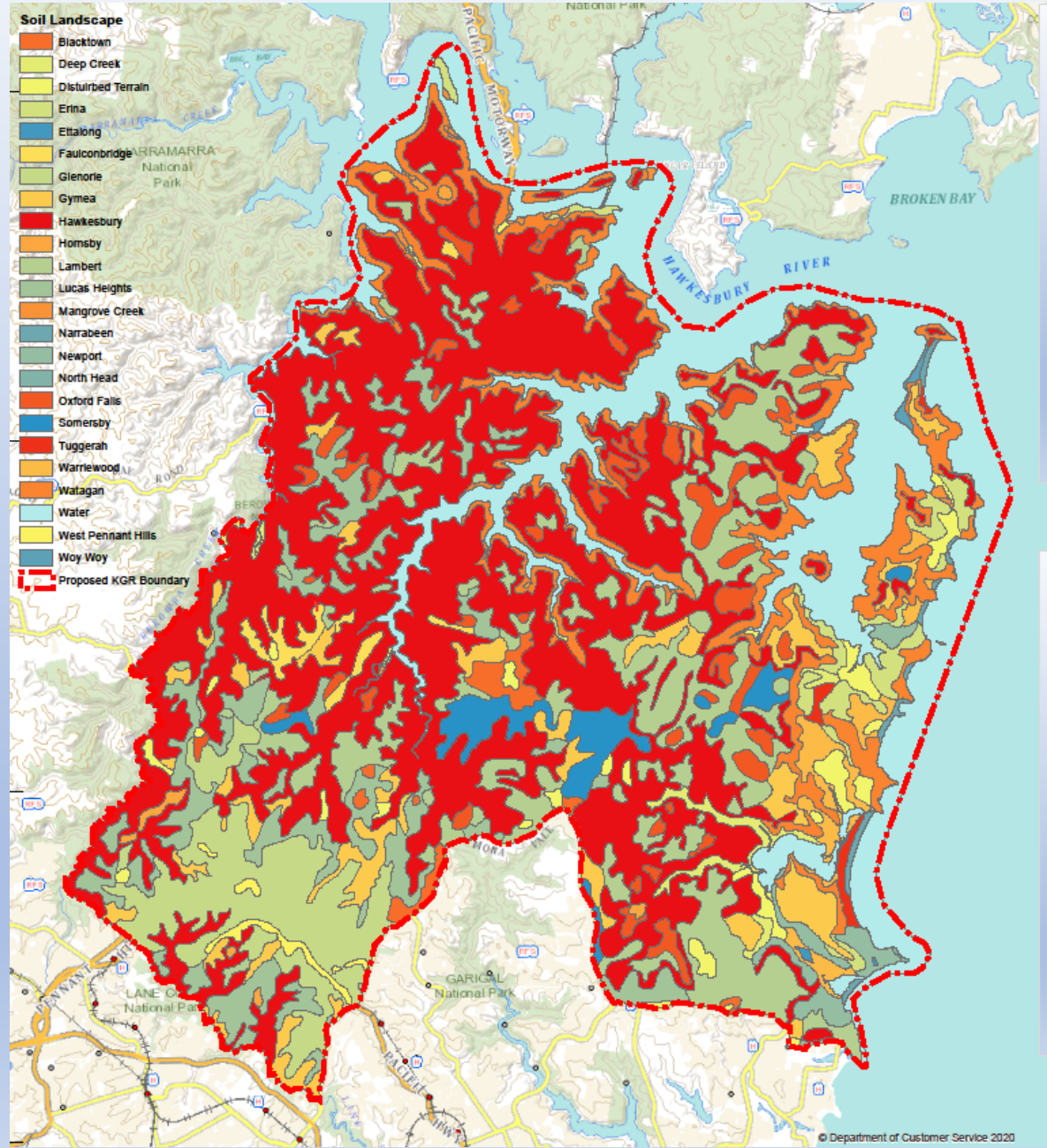
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Slope

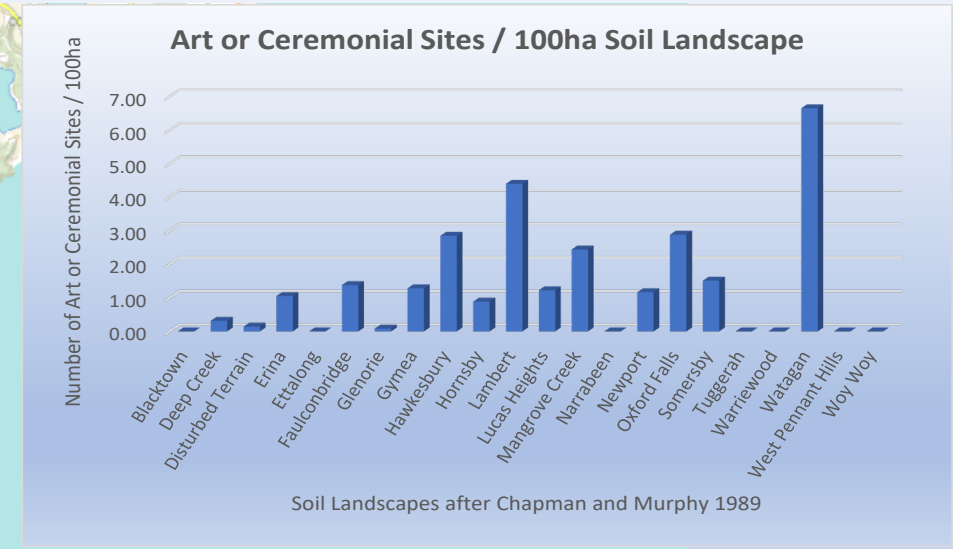


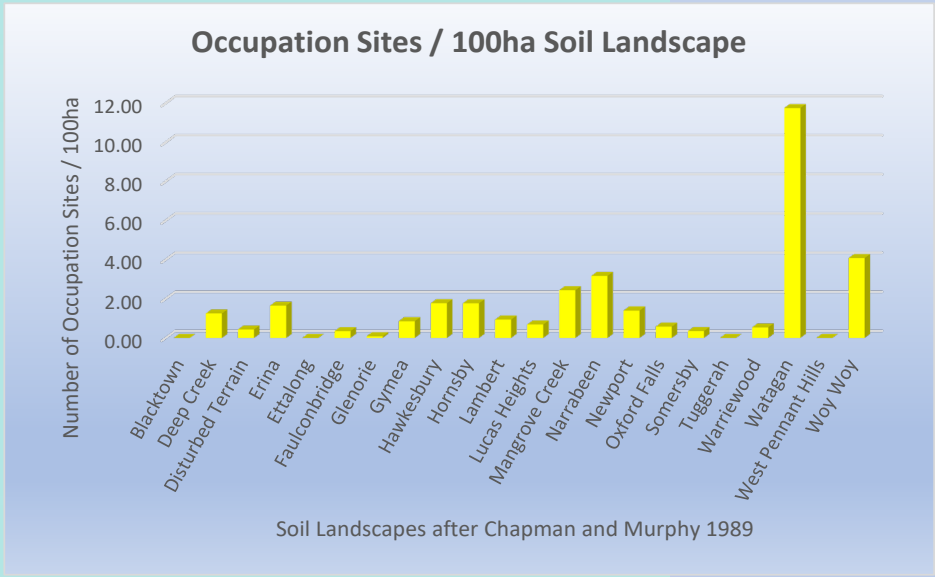




KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country – Soil Landscapes







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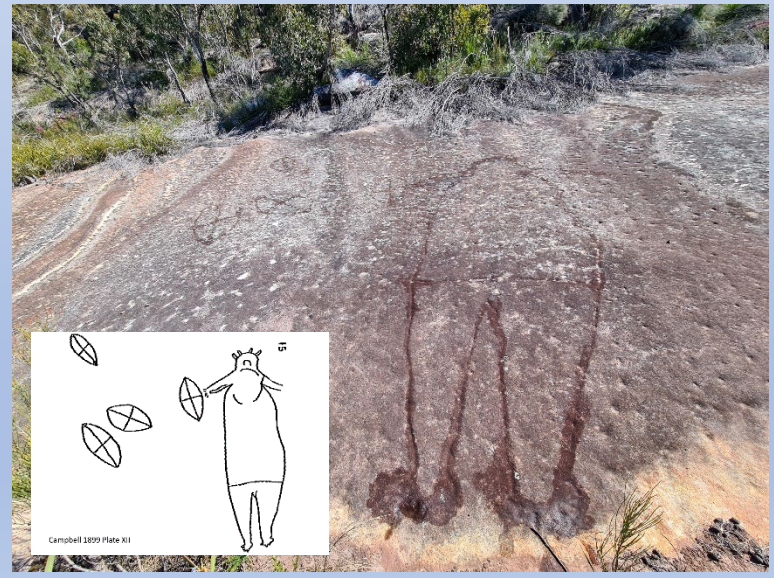
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Engravings

A large engraved motif of Daramulan above Cowan Creek

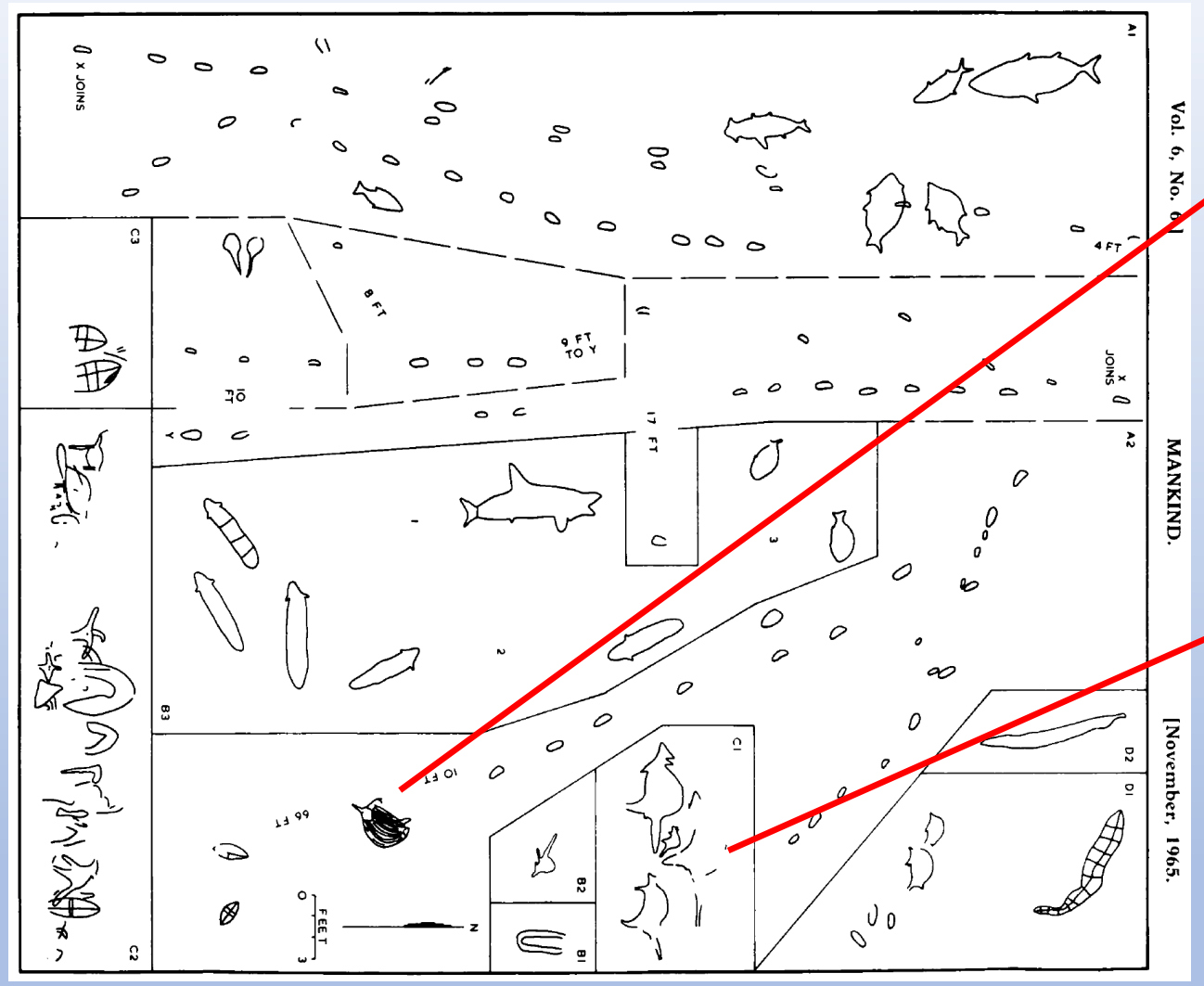
Unusual 4-legged kangaroo engraving, The Basin Catchment

Mt Ku-ring-gai AA – Engraving of Baiame and other figures



Spiritual figure, with shields at Taber Trig, KCNP

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Engravings



Rock engravings. West Head KCNP (from Sim, 1965)

Vertical flounder and wallaby engravings, just north of Yeomans Bay, KCNP (Photo: S. Cohen NPWS, 2014)

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - SWA

Red ochre hand prints, hand stencils and drawings of two ?wombats , two small shelters near McCarrs Creek KCNP

Charcoal drawings Apple Tree Bay, KCNP

Red ochre fish Smiths Creek KCNP

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - SWA

White stencils and charcoal drawings in excavated shelter near Great Mackerel Beach

Red ochre stencils in a small shelter near West Head Beach

Little Emus Shelter near White Horse Beach containing charcoal drawings

White ochre hand stencils in a small shelter near Hallet's Beach

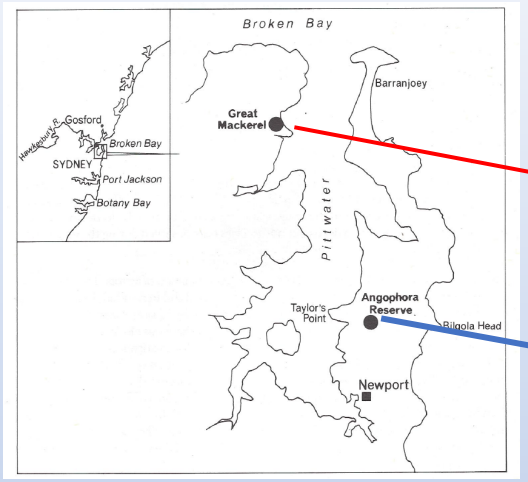
Ku-ring-gai
GeoRegion

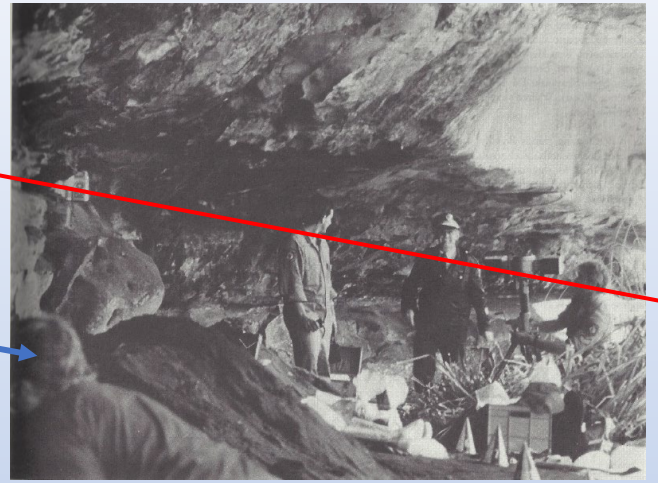
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Middens

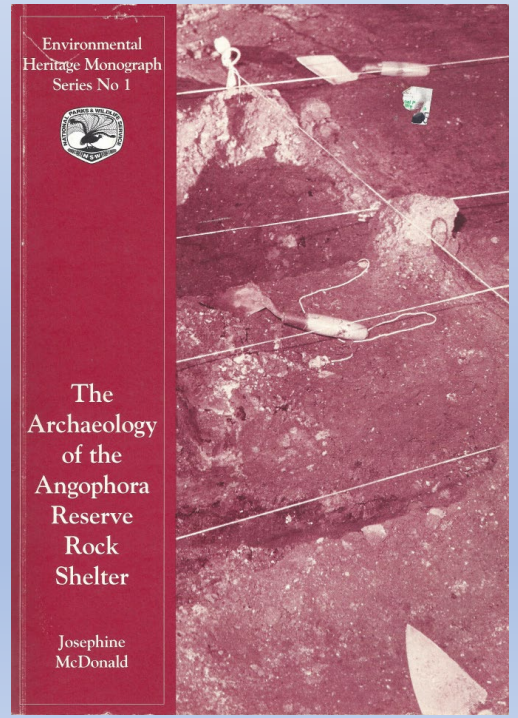
Large midden at Duffys Wharf, KCNP

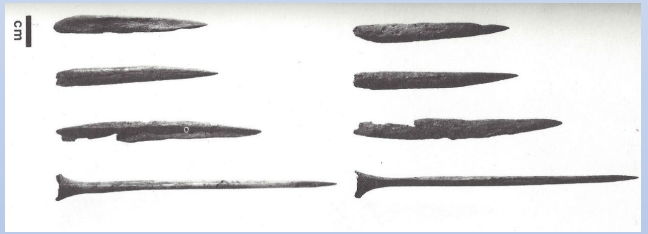
One of several middens on the shores of The Basin Lagoon, KCNP

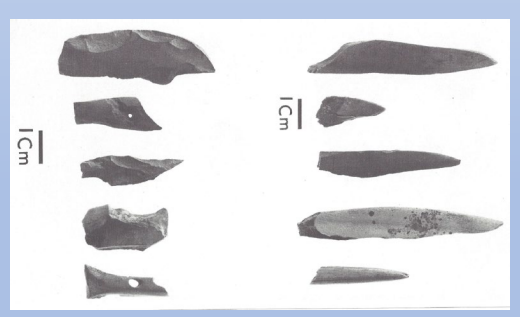
KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Shelters







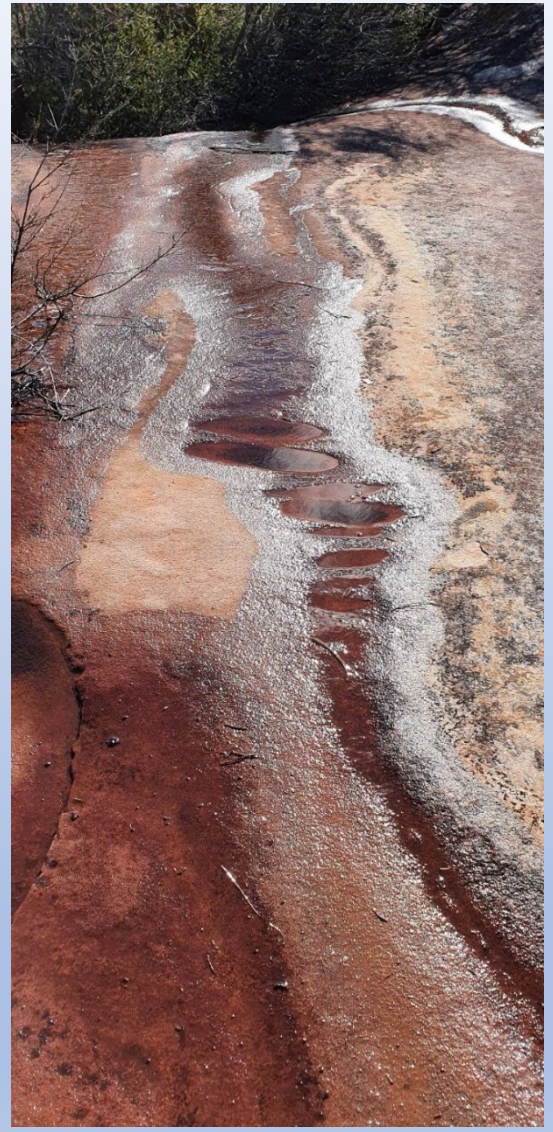




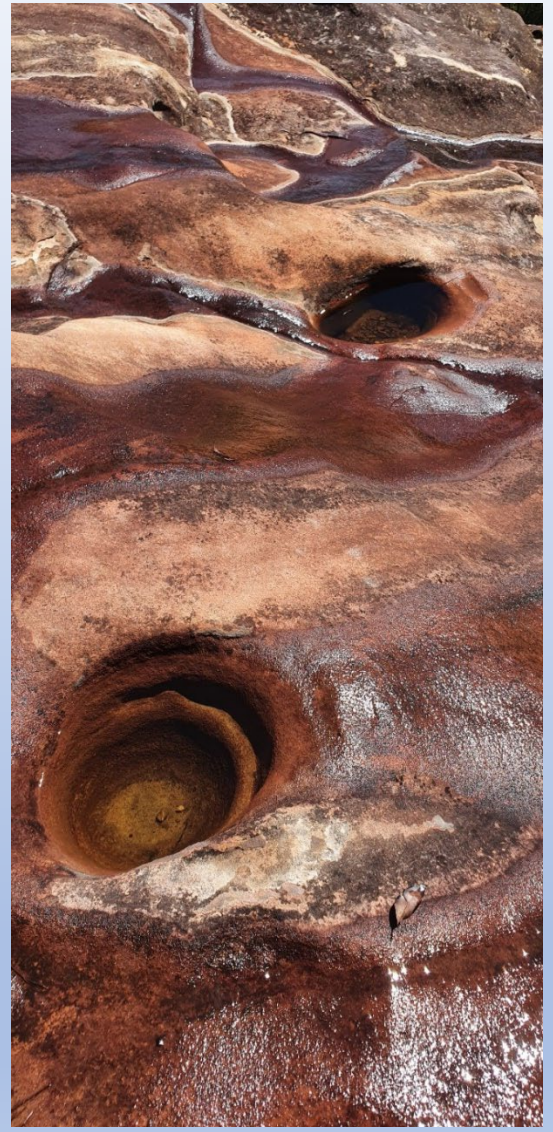
Above images from McDonald 1992.

Above images from McDonald 2008

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country – Grinding Grooves



Grinding grooves, Salvation Creek Catchment KCNP



Gnammas and grinding grooves, Waratah Trail KCNP

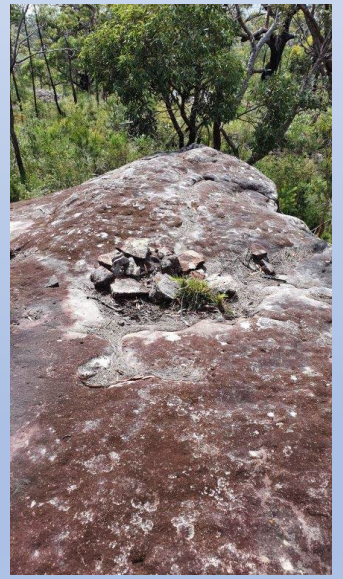
Channel and grinding groove, Salvation Creek Catchment KCNP

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country – Stone Arrangements

Kariong

Moon Rock

Mackerel Trail, Ku-ring-gai Chase NP.



The Basin above Granite Cave

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Burials

Macey, Richard (26 November 2005). "Bus stop an execution site … 1500 years ago". *Sydney Morning Herald*.

BONES FOUND

Skeleton at Narrabeen

A skeleton, with a few bones missing, was found by Reginald Leany, Dalrymple-avenue, Chatswood, on the beach at North Narrabeen on Saturday.

Dr. Richards examined the bones, and they were taken to the Morgue by Constable Hucking, and are probably the remains of an aborigine, about 21 years of age. The teeth are in excellent order. Medical opinion is that the body was buried nearly 50 years ago.

In spite of the fact that bones found at Glebe some weeks ago were connected with the wrists, and that bones are missing from the wrists of the skeleton, there is not the slightest reason to think that there is any connection between the latest find and the Cooper tragedy.

The skeleton is minus the two knee caps and the phalanges of the fingers.

Sun, Monday 24 September 1923, p.9

SKELETON FOUND AT NARRABEEN.

A man named Henry Eaton, while digging on Monday in the sand about 15ft. from high water mark at Long Reef, Narrabeen, discovered part of a skeleton, buried about 2ft. below the surface. It appeared to be the skeleton of a small man, probably of an aboriginal. Some of the bones are missing, and the others are in an advanced state of decay. The place where the skeleton was discovered is thought to be an aboriginal burial ground, and it is said that a stone tomahawk was found there some time ago.

Mitchell's Special Vinegar and Blue Ribbon Coffee Essence are equal to any imported and much cheaper. Mitchell's Myth Meal is the only Breakfast Food free from flour.

Moree Gwydir Examiner and General Advertiser, Friday 12 April 1918, p.4

Bones Unearthed At Long Reef

Two youths unearthed bones on Long Reef headland, Collaroy, yesterday, and Narrabeen police later dug up bone fragments.

That portion of the coast is known to have been an aboriginal burying ground, and it is not uncommon to discover bones after the wind has blown away surface sand.

Daily Telegraph, Monday 3 August 1936, p.1

SKELETON FOUND AT NARRABEEN

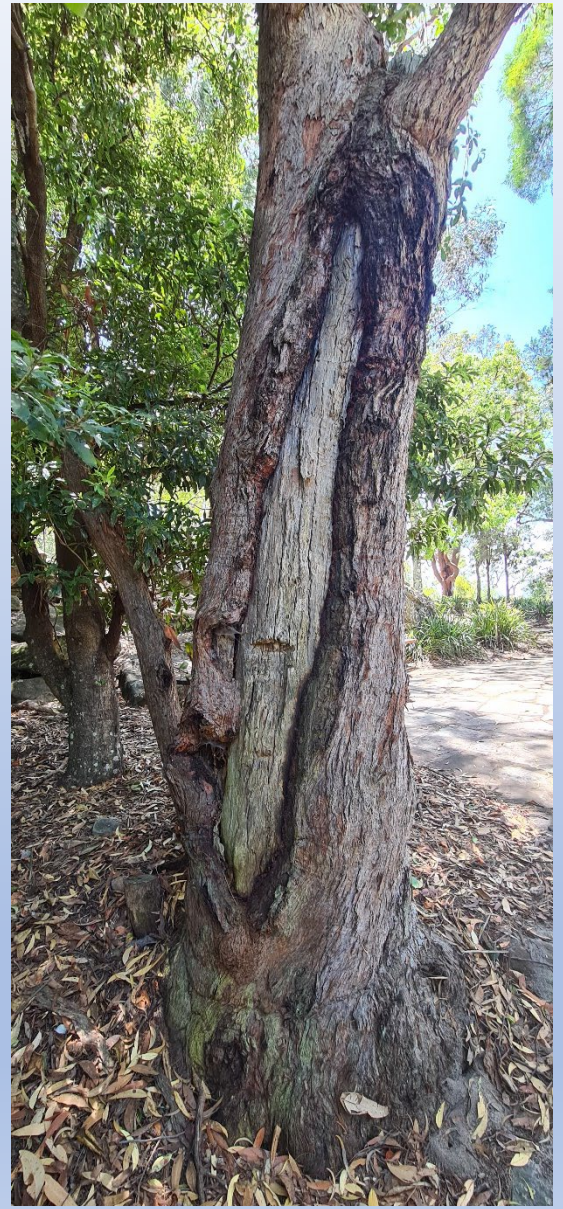
A human skeleton was found in a sand hill at the rear of Ocean Street, Narrabeen, yesterday, but whether the bones were the remains of an aboriginal will not be known until they are examined by the Government Medical Officer, Dr. Percy, at the City Morgue to-day.

Two boys, Stewart Heland, 15, and James W. Welch, 17, of Lindfield, saw a skull protruding from the sand while they were cycling.

Police believe that it was uncovered by the recent rains. A dentist who examined the teeth said the skeleton was that of an aboriginal, aged 35 to 70 years.

Sydney Morning Herald Monday 18 June 1945, p.3

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country – Scarred Trees



Possible scar trees (unrecorded as such) near West Head, KCNP

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Threats

Threats to Sites

- Inappropriate fire regimes
- Vegetation encroachment
- Chemical weathering
- Development
- Recreational activities
- Climate change
- Vandalism

Engraving sites adjacent to Mona Vale Road construction works.

Echidna site, KCNP before and after the Little Pittwater fire in Oct 2007

Vehicle tracks across engraving site, Waratah Trail, KCNP.

Exfoliation of sandstone after fire

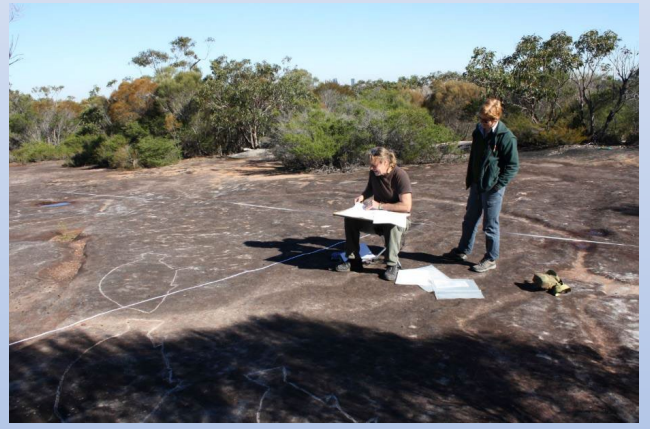
Ingleside Wallaby 2 - MTB Damage

Shelter with art, near Topham Trig KCNP.

KGR - Aboriginal Connection to Country - Conservation

Management Options

- Education and interpretation
- Statutory protection e.g. Aboriginal place declaration, development control, proposed national heritage listing of the 'Sydney Cultural Crescent Rock Art'; Bushfire EA Code
- Interventions such as removing graffiti, litter and overhanging branches, drainage, drip lines and pest control;
- Regulating access, appointing and training site caretakers, adding and updating site information in AHIMS
- Supervised and culturally appropriate highlighting of art sites



Photos: Eric Keidge, NPWS

Thank you

Acknowledgements:

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service – especially Eric Keidge, Tegan Burton, Steve Chapple, Brad Welsh and the AHIMS Team

Aboriginal Heritage Office: https://www.aboriginalheritage.org/

Aboriginal Support Group Manly Warringah Pittwater: https://asgmwp.net/

Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation - PO Box 4061, Wyongah NSW 2259

Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council: https://metrolalc.org.au/

… and the many volunteer site recorders and caretakers.