

Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Barton Highway Road Cut, Nicholls) Notice 2017

Notifiable Instrument NI2017—613

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s40 (Decision about registration)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Registration of Barton Highway Road Cut, Nicholls) Notice 2017*.

2 Decision about registration

On 16 November 2017, the ACT Heritage Council (the **Heritage Council**) decided to register the Barton Highway Road Cut, part Block 1, Section 125, Nicholls (the **Place**).

3 Registration details of the Place

The registration details of the Place are in the schedule.

4 Reasons for the decision

The Heritage Council decided to register the Place because it has heritage significance as it meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria in section 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, as set out in the schedule.

5 Date registration takes effect

The registration of the Place takes effect on the day after this notice is notified.

6 Revocation

The *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the Barton Highway Road Cut, Nicholls) Notice 2017* NI2017—408 is revoked.

Jennifer O'Connell
Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
16 November 2017

Schedule
(See sections 3 and 4)



ACT Heritage Council

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
HERITAGE REGISTER
(Registration)

For the purposes of s. 40 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

Barton Highway Road Cut

part Block 1 Section 125, Nicholls

DATE OF REGISTRATION

16 November 2017 Notifiable Instrument: 2017–

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at ACT Heritage. For further information please contact:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone 13 22 81

This statement refers to the location of the place as required in s. 12 (b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

LOCATION OF THE PLACE

Barton Highway Road Cut, part Block 1 Section 125, Nicholls.

This statement refers to the description of the place as required in s.12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The attributes described in this section form part of the heritage significance of the place. For the purposes of s. 12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the boundary of the place is at Image 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

Barton Highway Road Cut, consisting of the following attributes:

- the exposed vertical face showing Black Mountain Sandstone; and
- 5m back from above the cutting, showing the relationship to the Camp Hill Sandstone.

This statement refers to the heritage significance of the place as required in s.12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Barton Highway Road Cut demonstrates an important part of the underlying geological formation of the Canberra region which was formed in a marine environment that was lowered by tectonic movement and then built up by material eroding off of mountains at the other end of the process. The accessibility of the place and its ability to demonstrate a proximal flysch sequence, variability in the Black Mountain Sandstone and the relationship between the Black Mountain Sandstone and the Camp Hill Sandstone make it important in the course of the ACT's natural history. The place has been used for educational purposes, which also adds to its potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's natural history as further study may lead to a better understanding of the formation process that created the unconformity between the Black Mountain Sandstone and Camp Hill Sandstone or better explain the relationship of these formations to the underlying State Circle Shale or the overlying Canberra Member.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that Barton Highway Road Cut shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance.

The ACT Heritage Council may adopt heritage guidelines applicable to the place under s25 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

For further information on guidelines applicable to the place, or for advice on proposed works or development, please contact ACT Heritage on 13 22 81.

REASON FOR REGISTRATION

The Council has assessed the Barton Highway Road Cut, Nicholls against the heritage significance criteria and is satisfied that the place has heritage significance when assessed against three criteria [(a), (b) and (c)] under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The Council's assessment against the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* is as follows.

In assessing the heritage significance of Barton Highway Road Cut, Nicholls, the Council considered:

- the original nomination and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator;
- the Council's *Heritage Assessment Policy* (February 2015);
- information provided by a site inspection on 13 January 2017 by ACT Heritage; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Barton Highway Road Cut*, July 2017, containing photographs and information on history, description, condition and integrity; and
- information and comments received during the public consultation on the provisional registration of Barton Highway Road Cut.

Pursuant to s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

(a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

The Council has assessed Barton Highway Road Cut against criterion (a) and is satisfied that the place meets this criterion.

The Barton Highway Road Cut is an exposure of Black Mountain Sandstone that demonstrates an important period of natural formation in the Early Silurian to Middle Silurian period and shows regional variation of the type as well as various features of a flysch. The Black Mountain Sandstone is defined by its type locality of Black Mountain, but the Barton Highway Road Cut allows further interpretation of this formation/rock type as it shows regional variation of the Black Mountain Sandstone which has a greater amount of shale to demonstrate variability of flysch formation, particularly towards the top of the formation which is not exposed at the type locality. It is important to the course of the ACT's natural history as it completes our picture of this part of the formation processes of the region and provides further insight in to the flysch sequence by demonstrating the variability of its formation towards the end of the process.

Although currently poorly exposed at this locality, the unconformity between the Black Mountain Sandstone and the Camp Hill Sandstone is evident and is important in demonstrating a break in rock formation during periods of uplift and erosion in a marine environment before shelf sedimentation started rock formation again in an increasingly shallow marine environment. This is the most accessible location in which the unconformity can be seen, which, as a significant period of erosion, is an important part of the formation process of the region's geology.

(b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

The Council has assessed Barton Highway Road Cut against criterion (b) and is satisfied that the place meets this criterion.

The Barton Highway Road Cut displays uncommon aspects of the ACT's natural history where it shows regional variation of the Black Mountain Sandstone and is one of only two places where the unconformity between the Black Mountain Sandstone and the Camp Hill Sandstone can be demonstrated, the other location being in the secure basement levels of Parliament House.

(c) potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

The Council has assessed Barton Highway Road Cut against criterion (c) and is satisfied that the place meets this criterion.

The Barton Highway Road Cut contains a partially exposed unconformity between the Black Mountain Sandstone and the Camp Hill Sandstone. If the cutting was deepened and the face refreshed, it is likely to better expose the unconformity. There is an excellent example of this unconformity in the secure basement levels of Parliament House, but restricted access would hinder any further research that could be attempted. Further research has the potential to better explain what caused the unconformity and what changes in the formation of the rock led to the current and underlying geology of the ACT. The Barton Highway Road Cut, therefore, has the best potential to yield important information about these formations and their relationships that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's natural history.

(d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;

The Council has assessed Barton Highway Road Cut against criterion (d) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

The Barton Highway Road Cut contains Black Mountain Sandstone and its unconformity with the Camp Hill Sandstone. The site cannot be said to be important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of the Black Mountain Sandstone as it shows a regional variation and the important site in demonstrating the principle characteristics is the site type locality of Black Mountain. Likewise, the Camp Hill Sandstone type locality is a cutting on State Circle on the southwest side of Camp Hill. Finally, while the unconformity has potential to be important, as noted in criterion (c), it is currently too poorly exposed to be considered important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of an unconformity.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

The Council has assessed Barton Highway Road Cut against criterion (e) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence to suggest that the Barton Highway Road Cut is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT. The only references to the site come from geological publications referencing the Geological Society of Australia ACT Division's list of Significant Geological Features which only refers to the geological significance of the site. This is in contrast to other geological features from the same list, such as the State Circle Road Cut, which include aesthetic values in their listings.

(f) importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;

The Council has assessed Barton Highway Road Cut against criterion (f) and is satisfied that the place meets this criterion.

As a feature that has formed through natural processes this criterion does not apply.

(g) has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The Council has assessed Barton Highway Road Cut against criterion (g) and is satisfied that the place meets this criterion.

There is no evidence that the Barton Highway Road cut has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT, for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. Geologists may have an association with the place, but they are not considered to be a cultural group or representative of the wider ACT community, and the association they have with the place would be academic or professional and is unlikely to be for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

(h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

The Council has assessed Barton Highway Road Cut against criterion (h) and is satisfied that the place meets this criterion.

There is no evidence that the Barton Highway Road Cut has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT. There is no indication that any of the works leading up to the road cut in 1979 had a special association the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT; nor is there any indication of the same for its recording as a geological feature.

SITE PLAN

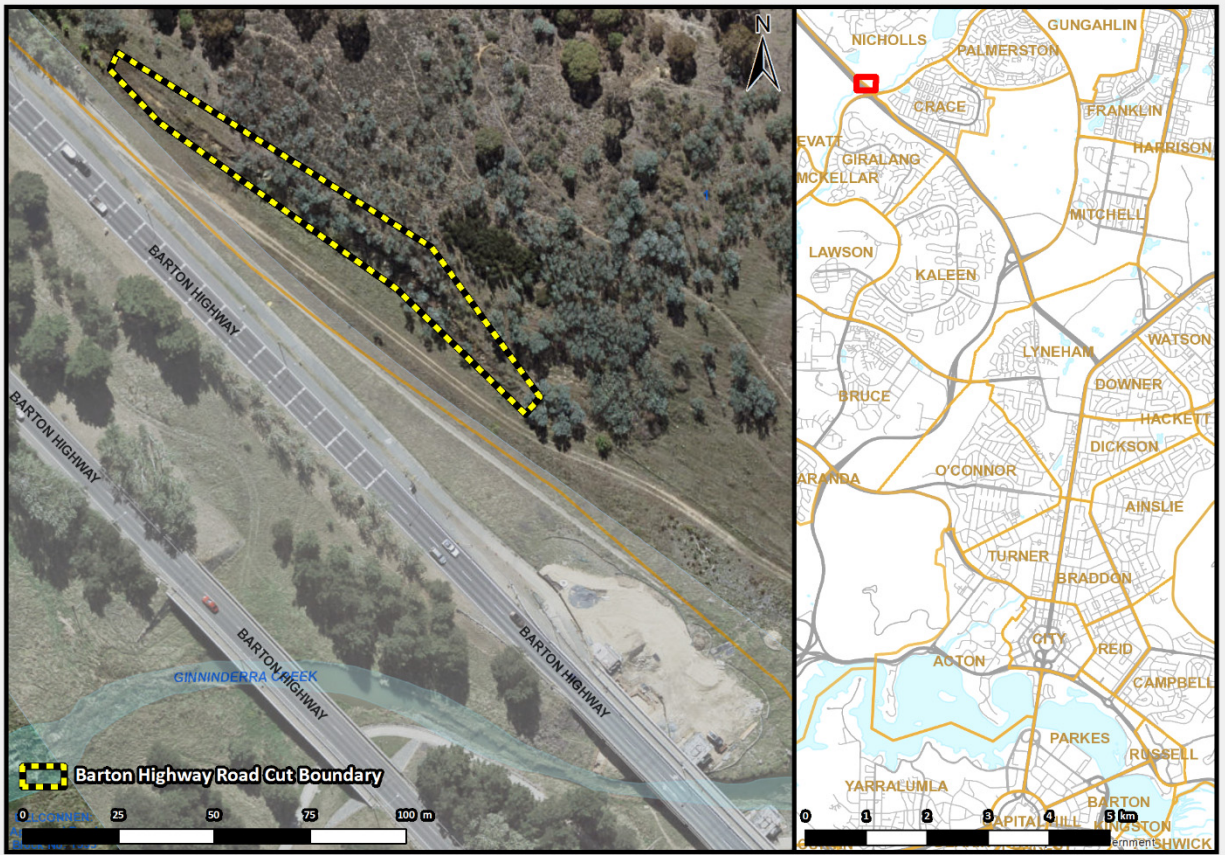


Image 1 Barton Highway Road Cut registration boundary