

Dr Chris Lovell

Principal Heritage Specialist

Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy, Archaeology, University of Queensland, 2015

Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Anthropology, University of Queensland, 2004

Bachelor of Science, Ecology, University of Queensland, 2001

Bachelor of Science, Chemistry, University of Western Australia, 1996

Affiliations

Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc., Full Member, 2018 – Present

Australian Archaeological Association, Member, 2013 – Present

Career History

Chris is a cultural heritage professional with over 14 years of experience. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Archaeology, a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Anthropology and a Bachelor of Science in Ecology from the University of Queensland.

Chris has a demonstrated history working in Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage management for multinational corporate, government and private consultancy employers. He has worked across various state and territory jurisdictions, Commonwealth Government entities and with numerous Aboriginal stakeholder groups. His project experience ranges from small-scale housing developments to medium-scale linear infrastructure to large-scale energy projects.

Chris is skilled in Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage assessments; Aboriginal stakeholder consultation; archaeological survey and excavation; archaeological, ethnohistorical and historical research; archival recording; report writing, review and editing; cultural heritage management agreement negotiation; project management; and contractor management. He has a professional background in research and teaching at the University of Queensland and the University of Southern Queensland. He is a full member of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists.

Selected Project Experience

- Heritage Advisor, Somerset Dam Improvement Program, Somerset Dam and Esk, Qld, *Seqwater*, 2025
- Heritage Due Diligence Assessment, Mount Spec Pipeline, Crystal Creek, Qld, *Townsville City Council*, 2025
- Heritage Assessment, Leeuwin and Irwin Barracks Divestments, Perth, WA, *Department of Defence*, 2024 - 2025
- Cultural Heritage Assessment, Beetaloo Basin Heritage Scouting, Beetaloo Sub-basin, NT, *Tamboran Resources*, 2024 - 2025
- Cultural Heritage Assessment, Struan Research Facility, Joanna, SA, *Department of Primary Industries and Regions*
- Cultural Heritage Assessment, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 24E Package 1 – 20A Captain Cook Highway, Douglas Shire, Qld, *Department of Transport and Main Roads*, 2024
- Heritage Impact Assessment, Greenvale Three Year Road Maintenance Project, Greenvale Training Area, Qld, *Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd*, 2024
- Cultural Heritage Assessment, Campoona Energy Hub, Cleve, SA, *Vestas Development* 2023 - 2024
- Heritage Impact Assessment, Cultana Training Area Redevelopment – Phase 1.1, Cultana, SA, *Department of Defence*, 2023
- Heritage Impact Assessment, AIR 7000 Phase 2B Additional Facilities, RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA, *Department of Defence*, 2023 - 2024
- Heritage Advisor, Clarke Creek Wind Farm, Clarke Creek, Qld, *Windlab and Squadron Energy*, 2022 - 2024
- Aboriginal Heritage Protection Plan, RAAF Edinburgh FQCC Construction, SA, *Department of Defence*, 2022
- Heritage Impact Assessment, Woomera Golf Course Rehabilitation Strategy, Woomera Prohibited Area, SA, *Ventia Australia Pty Ltd*, 2022
- Cultural Heritage Assessment, National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Project, Kimba, SA, *Australian Radioactive Waste Agency*, 2022 - 2024
- Heritage Impact Assessment, DERMS Solar Farm Project, RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA, *Department of Defence*, 2022
- Heritage Impact Assessment, OSAG P&EE Port Wakefield, SA, *Department of Defence*, 2022
- Aboriginal Heritage Protection Plan, RAAF Edinburgh AFVFP Construction Stage 1, Edinburgh Defence Precinct, SA, *Department of Defence*, 2022
- Inland Rail Border to Gowrie EIS, Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Survey Report, Qld, *Australian Rail Track Corporation*, 2021
- Various transport infrastructure projects; southeast Queensland, *Department of Transport and Main Roads*, 2020 - 2021
- Various oil and gas infrastructure projects; Qld, SA and NT; *Santos Limited*, 2018 - 2019
- Hail Creek Mine Eastern Margin Expansion Project, Senior Heritage Consultant, Hail Creek, Qld, *Glencore Coal Assets Australia*, 2018 - 2019
- Hail Creek Mine and Kestrel Coal Mine, Cultural Heritage Advisor, Hail Creek and Crinum, Qld, *Rio Tinto Coal Australia*, 2017 - 2018
- Albert Priest Channel pipeline replacement, Aboriginal Due Diligence Archaeological Assessment, between Warren and Nyngan, NSW, *NSW Public Works Advisory*, 2017
- Wiradjuri Walking Track upgrade, Aboriginal Due Diligence Archaeological Assessment, Wagga Wagga, NSW, *Wagga Wagga City Council*, 2017
- Newell Highway upgrades between Narrabri and Boggabilla, Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Survey, Northern NSW, *Roads and Maritime Services*, 2017
- Derelict Conrad and King Conrad historic mines, Archival Recording, Howell, NSW, *NSW Department of Industry*, 2017
- Proposed initial seal and realignment of the Silver City Highway near Warratta Creek, Aboriginal Archaeological Survey, Milparinka, NSW, *Roads and Maritime Services*, 2017
- Abercrombie and Darcoola East water efficiency projects, Aboriginal and Historic Cultural Heritage Assessments, Balranald and Hay, NSW, *DPI Water*, 2015 - 2017

- Various TransGrid electricity infrastructure projects, NSW and ACT, 2016 - 2017
- Good Friday Gold Mine, Aboriginal and Historic Cultural Heritage Assessment, Tibooburra, NSW *AusGold Mining Group*, 2016
- Proposed demolition of Old Kapooka Bridge near Kapooka NSW, Statement of Heritage Impact and Archival Recording, *Roads and Maritime Services*, 2016
- Bulga Optimisation Project Salvage, Fieldwork Director, Hunter Valley NSW, *Glencore*, 2015

Detailed Experience

Senior Cultural Heritage Officer Department of Transport and Main Roads (Brisbane, Australia), June 2020 – October 2021

Chris completed cultural heritage assessments and approvals for a large number of TMR infrastructure projects within the Brisbane metropolitan region. Responsibilities included:

- Completing Aboriginal and historical heritage fieldwork, research and reporting.
- GIS data management and mapping.
- Implementation and provision of advice on new and existing cultural heritage management plans, other agreements, procedures and cultural heritage legislation, including Ministerial advice.
- Project management of Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage projects including securing funding, contractor management, reporting and budgeting.

Director Essential Heritage (Brisbane, Australia), September 2018 – October 2021

Chris established and administered Essential Heritage as a new cultural heritage consultancy company, developing core business systems (GIS, project management, finance, employment, contractor management, safety and health, quality assurance) and servicing clients predominantly in the mining, energy and infrastructure sectors.

Chris's key achievement was the completion of large-scale cultural heritage assessments and salvage programs with Widi traditional owners to obtain the necessary cultural heritage approvals, enabling the commencement of a large-scale mine expansion project at Glencore's Hail Creek Mine in Central Queensland.

Access Advisor – Cultural Heritage

Santos (Brisbane, Australia), September 2018 – March 2019

Chris successfully managed up to 30 cultural heritage approvals per month for Santos projects in Queensland, South Australia, and the Northern Territory across different legislative jurisdictions and under approximately 20 cultural heritage management plans. Responsibilities included:

- Representing Santos in Aboriginal cultural heritage meetings with traditional owners to advise, communicate and negotiate all aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage management, including the development of new Aboriginal cultural heritage management plans and agreements.
- Liaising with traditional owners, external authorities and consultants, including lawyers, cultural heritage specialists, service providers, native title applicants, prescribed bodies corporate, land councils and government authorities.
- Reviewing and updating the Santos Cultural Heritage Management System in line with current practice.

Cultural Heritage Advisor Rio Tinto (Brisbane, Australia), December 2017 – September 2018

Chris represented and advised Rio Tinto on all aspects of cultural heritage management at Hail Creek Mine and Kestrel Mine in Central Queensland. Responsibilities included:

- Planning, coordinating, supervising and executing Aboriginal and historical heritage fieldwork programs with Aboriginal traditional owners and their technical advisors.
- Working with Aboriginal traditional owners to avoid, manage and mitigate impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Adhering to and providing advice on new and existing cultural heritage management plans, agreements, procedures and cultural heritage legislation.
- Managing budgets and contracts with Aboriginal service providers, external consultants and other service providers.
- Managing large GIS databases, including field data capture, data management and mapping.
- Participating in Aboriginal cultural heritage meetings and committees with traditional owners to advise, communicate and negotiate all aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage management at the two mine sites.

Senior Archaeologist

OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management (Dubbo, Australia), March 2015 – December 2017

Chris completed more than 50 cultural heritage management projects in New South Wales. Responsibilities included:

- Undertaking Aboriginal and historical heritage fieldwork, research and report writing for Aboriginal due diligence assessments, Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage assessments, archaeological assessments, statements of heritage impact and archival recording of historical heritage assets.
- Working with various clients, including property developers, local governments, state government departments, mining companies and external consultancies to ensure that project objectives were achieved on time and in budget.
- Liaising with clients, community stakeholders, government departments, external authorities and contractors to achieve preferred project outcomes.
- Coordinating fieldwork teams of up to five archaeologists and 20 Aboriginal community representatives to undertake archaeological surveys, cultural values assessments and archaeological test and salvage excavations.
- Writing tenders and quotes to ensure the future viability and profitability of the company.
- Performing WHS inductions and toolbox talks and ensuring safe 4WD operation and remote area work.
- GIS field data capture, data management and mapping.

Training

Remote Area First Aid, *Queensland Ambulance Service*

Operate Vehicles in the Field (4WD training), *The Australian Driving Institute*

ArcGIS II: Essential Workflows, *Esri Australia*

Mining Induction Standard 11 Surface, Coal and Metalliferous Mines, *OHS Occupational Health Services Australia*

Mining Supervisor S123, *OHS Occupational Health Services Australia*

Safely Access the Rail Corridor, Working in Electrified Territory, Apply Fatigue Management Strategies, Operate Under Track Protection Rules, *Centre for Excellence in Rail Training*

Apply Risk Management Processes, *Jim Knowles Group*

Work Safely in the Construction Industry (White Card), *Urban e-Learning*

4WD Operation, Collision Avoidance, Defensive Driver and Vehicle Recovery training program, *SMART-NT*

Professional History

2023 - present
AECOM
Principal Heritage Specialist

2021 - 2023
AECOM
Senior Heritage Specialist

2020 - 2021
Department of Transport and Main Roads
Senior Heritage Officer

2018 - 2024
Essential Heritage
Director

2018 - 2019
Santos
Access Advisor – Cultural Heritage

2017 - 2018
Rio Tinto
Cultural Heritage Advisor

2015 - 2017
OzArk Environment & Heritage
Senior Archaeologist

2007 - 2015
University of Queensland
PhD Candidate

2010 - 2014
University of Queensland (Anthropology Museum)
Museum Assistant

2009 - 2012
University of Queensland
Guest Lecturer and Tutor

2011
University of Southern Queensland
Lecturer