

SUBMISSION TO INDEPENDENT FLOOD INQUIRY MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY

THIS SUBMISSION IS PRESENTED BY . Phone or
email

I have been resident of Byron Shire for 78 years. During this time I have experienced floods, cyclones, bush fires and severe and destructive storms. The first 21 years I lived on my parents farm and experienced most of the above. 2021 from the beginning of spring it started to rain. This rain continued right thru till December. Spring on the north coast was always considered a dry period. This resulted in most spring rainfall coming from electrical storms which can be hit and miss. However 2021 spring was the wettest in my living memory.

Rain continued thru December soil moisture levels were saturated and still it rained. I am sure that rainfall records for this period during this time will confirm my observations. January which usually is the start of the wet season did not let up in rainfall stakes. February came still more rain, creeks running a banker still no flood as such. Long time locals saying that we will need a flood to change the stable weather system. Little did we know what was just around the corner.

The first indication of what was to come was a severe electrical storm.

THIS RESULTED IN THE TELECOM TOWER LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE MULLUMBIMBY POST OFFICE BEING STUCK BY LIGHTNING RESULTING IN LOSS OF SERVICE OVER A LARGE AREA. NO NBN, CASH BECAME KING.

TELSTRA REPLACED THE HEAD UNITS ON THE TOWER WITH A COMPLETE NEW SYSTEM, THIS INCLUDED 5G.

BYRON SHIRE HAD REFUSED TELESTRA PERMISSION TO INSTALL 5G SOME TIME AGO, BEING A GREEN COUNCIL. IT BECAME GENERAL KNOWLEDGE THAT 5G HAD BEEN INSTALLED.

SHORTLY AFTER THE INSTALLATION WAS SUBJECT TO SABOTAGE, RESULTING IN A TOTAL LOSS OF SERVICE.

EVEN 000 COULD NOT BE CONTACTED.

THEN CAME THE RAIN AND MORE RAIN.

THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ARE NOTED.

THE SOIL AND LANDSCAPE WAS WATER LOGGED, HENCE EVERY DROP OF RAIN RAN OFF RESULTING IN RECORD FLOOD.

THE BRUNSWICK RIVER CONSISTS OF A NUMBER OF SHORT TRIBUTARIES. THERE A NUMBER OF RIVER LEVEL WATER GAUGES ON THESE TRIBUTARIES. THE MULLUM CREEK TRIBUTARY HAS TWO. ONE IS ADJACENT TO THE TOWN THE OTHER IS APPROX 5km UP STREAM. ASSUMING THE RATE OF FLOW IS 10kph THE TOWN HAS APPROX 30 MIN. WARNING ON THIS TRIBUTARY.

THE MAIN ARM TRIBUTARY IS THE MAJORY TRIBUTARY FLOWING THROUGH MULLUMBIMBY. THERE IS ONLY ONE UP STREAM GAUGE. THIS LOCATED ON SHERRYS BRIDGE WHICH IS APPROX 8km UP STREAM, ASSUMING THE SAME FLOW RATE OF 10kph THE TOWN HAS ONLY 48 min WARNING. THERE TWO OTHER BRIDGES UP STREAM OF SHERRYS BRIDGE. IF A DEVICE WAS INSTALLED ON UPPER BRIDGE KNOWN AS PALMWOODS BRIDGE THIS WOULD GIVE AN ADDITIONAL 40min WARNING. THE ABOVE TIMES DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATION TIME IN COLLABORATING THIS INFORMATION AND OUT TO SES.

2

ANOTHER FACTOR TO CONSIDER IS DID THE WILLIAMS BRIDGE DAM THE CREEK AND WHEN THE NORTHERN APPROACH WAS WASHED AWAY DID THIS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FLOOD LEVEL.

THE RIVER GAUGE ON THE FEDERATION BRIDGE IS ON THE DOWN STREAM SIDE OF THE BRIDGE. THE EXISTING RIVER GAUGE DOES NOT RECORD LEVELS ABOVE 5m. AT THIS LEVEL THE BRIDGE BECOMES A DAM. I AM IN POSSESSION OF A COPY FLOOD LEVEL GRAPH ON 28/2/22 AND SHOWED A MAX HEIGHT OF 5m RECORDED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE OLD VISUAL GAUGE IS ON THE UP STREAM SIDE OF THE BRIDGE, PERHAPS THE OLD FELLOWS WERE A BIT GLUED UP.

FROM MY OBSERVATIONS THE FEDERATION BECAME A DAM, THUS BLOCKING 1000mm OF WATER WHICH WAS DIVERTED THROUGH THE TOWN. HOWEVER IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE TOWN WOULD HAVE STILL FLOODED.

THE 2017 FLOOD WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS A RECORD HEIGHT WHEN THE BRIDGE DAMMED 600mm AT THAT TIME. HOWEVER THE VOLUME OF WATER WAS MUCH LESS AND FOLLOWED A VERY LONG DRY SPELL.

OWING TO THE SHORT CATCHMENT TIMES LITTLE CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT TIMELY WARNING.

MARSHALLS CREEK FLOWING FROM THE POCKET BILLINUGDEL AREA COMBINES WITH YELGUN AND CRABBS CREEK HAVE RELATIVELY LARGE CATCHMENT AREA BUT LESS FALL. OVER MY LIFETIME I HAVE NOTICED A REDUCTION IN DEPTH OF THIS MAIN CREEK. THE BANKS ARE HEAVILY OVER GROWN WITH MANGROVES. LITTLE CAN BE DONE AS THIS CREEK AND ALL TIDAL AREAS OF THE BRUNSWICK RIVER ARE PART OF CAPE BYRON MARINE PARK.

I WAS ABLE TO WITNESS FLOOD HEIGHTS IN EXCESS OF 1000mm IN THE AREA AROUND RIVER TERRACE IN BRUNSWICK HEADS ADJACENT TO THE FERRY RESERVE CARAVAN PARK.

IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE BRUNSWICK RIVER WALLS HAVE OVER THE YEARS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SILTING OF THE RIVER OVER TIME.

COMMUNICATIONS FAILED. TELEPHONE AND NBN FAILED. POWER FAILED IN MY SECTION OF MULLUMBIMBY ON THE MORNING OF THE FLOOD EFFECTING SOME 2000 CUSTOMERS. THE FOLLOWING DAY I WAS ADVISED BY HTE GRAPE VINE THAT A POLE HAD BEEN WASHED OVER AT SHERRYS CROSSING. HAVING 38 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE POWER SUPPLY INDUSTRY, I TRAVELED TO THE AREA AND NOTED THE ISOLATION POINTS NUMBERS AND POLE NUMBERS. RETURNED TO MULLUMBIMBY LOCATED A SES VEHICLE AND SPOKE TO THE DRIVER. I ASKED IF I GAVE HIM A SPECIFIC MESSAGE FOR ESSENTIAL ENERGY COULD HE GET THROUGH TO THEM. HE STATED THAT HE COULD NOT.

A LARGE NUMBER OF CARS WERE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT WARNING TIME.

ONCE THE RIVER REACHES 4.75m EXCESS INTO AND OUT OF THE TOWN BECOMES QUESTIONABLE. IF VEHICLES ARE TAKEN TO HIGHER GROUND THEY MAY BE UNABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES TO RAISE ITEMS.

SALTWATER CREEK NEEDS TO BE CLEANED AND A FLOODWAY CONSTRUCTED DIRECT TO KINGS CREEK. NOTE AS A CHILD I CAN REMEMBER THE SALT WATER BACKING UP IN THE CREEK ON HIGH TIDE. THIS I BELIEVE IS A COST WHICH IS BEYOND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

SOME 55 YEARS AGO BYRON SHIRE RAISED THE LEVEL OF THE ROAD FROM THE MULLUM GOLF CLUB TO THE TURN OFF TO WILSONS CREEK BY APROX.300mm. THIS HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF SENDING THIS 300mm OF WATER THRU THE TOWN RATHER THAN DIRECTLY TO KINGS CREEK.

ACCESS TO HUONBROOK AREA. TRY TO THE NATIONAL PARKS TAKING OVER THE MINYON FALLS FORESTRY AREA ROAD ACCESS TO AND FROM THIS AREA COULD BE OBTAINED VIA WHAT WAS KNOWN AS NORTH ROCKS ROAD. (see attached maps 1@2) THIS WAS THE WAY TIMBER WAS BROUGHT FROM THE FORESTRY AREA INTO THE MULLUMBIMBY. I ONLY HOPE THAT NATIONAL PARK DID NOT REFUSE ANY APPLICATION TO OPEN THIS ROAD NO MATTER HOW OVER GROWN. I HAVE PERSONALLY SEEN AN INSTANCE WHERE NATIONAL PARKS REFUSED ROADS AND MARINE PERMISSION TO OPEN UP 500m OF OLD ROAD THROUGH HARRYS HILL AT BRUNSWICK HEADS TO CARRY OUT REPAIRS TO THE NORTH WALL. LARGE ROCKS WERE DROPEd JUST SOUTH OF NEW BRIGHTON AND THE PICKED UP ONE A TIME BUY AN EXCAVATOR AND TRUNDLED DOWN THE BEACH AND OUT ALONG THE WALL AND PLACE INTO POSITION. THE EXCAVATOR THEN TRAVELLED BACK UP THE BEACH TO GET ANOTHER LARGE ROCK. TALK ABOUT BLIND LEADING THE BLIND .THIS IS A TOTAL WAST OF OUR MONEY.

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

Most residences did not know the the river had exceeded the 5metre level until the stepped out of bed into water.

I would doubt that BOM did not know the height had exceeded 5m.

A second flood level indicator station should be installed on the bridge west of the main arm village (.See map 5)

A visual manual gauge be installed on the upstream town side of the Federation bridge.

Some form of warning system should be established so early warning is given when the river reaches 4.75 m.

See map (3) suggested flood way to Kings Creek which is the shortest distance to the junction of Kings Creek and the main river. As previously this is an expensive exercise and un likely to occur.

Part of old map showing spillway to ocean north of North Ocean Shores.(See Map 4) What happens when Crabbes Creek and Burringbah Creek are in flood .I think that this should be investigated.

Arial photo of Golden Beach before it became North Ocean Shores before walls at Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores.

Arial photo of drain from CBD of Byron to Belongl. I bet the council does not know it exists let alone clean it out.

N.

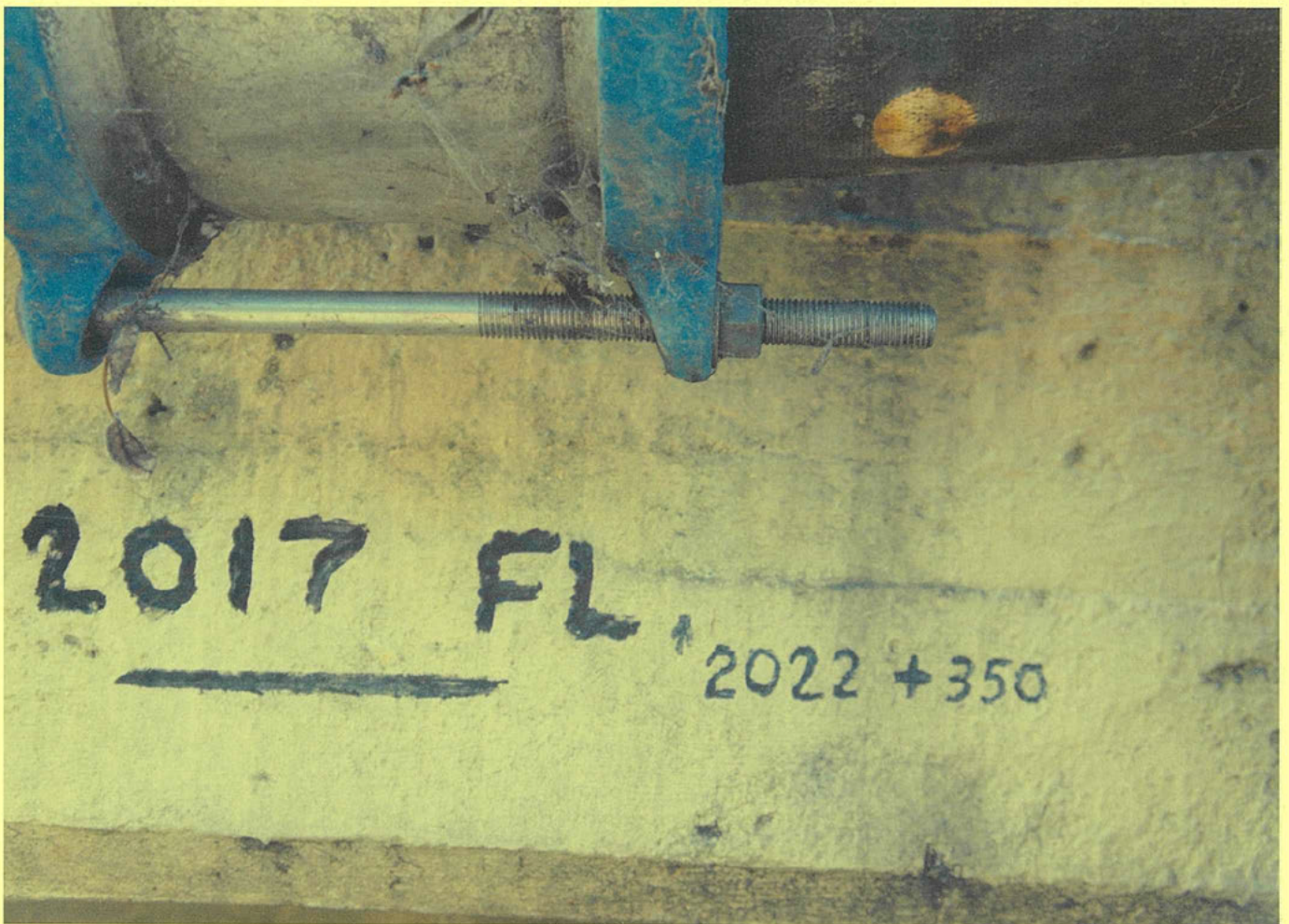
11:48 am Thu 17 Mar

37



- Mullumbimby Floods February 28th

Argyle Street Mullumbimby



Flood height marks on up stream side of
Federation Bridge
Note 2022 350mm higher than 2017



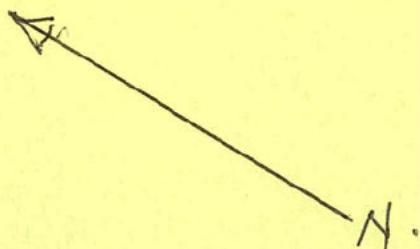
ari 11:48 am Thu 17 Mar 37%



Old Rail Linc

V - Mullumbimby Floods February 28th

Southern Side of Mullumbimby



- Mullumbimby Floods February 28th

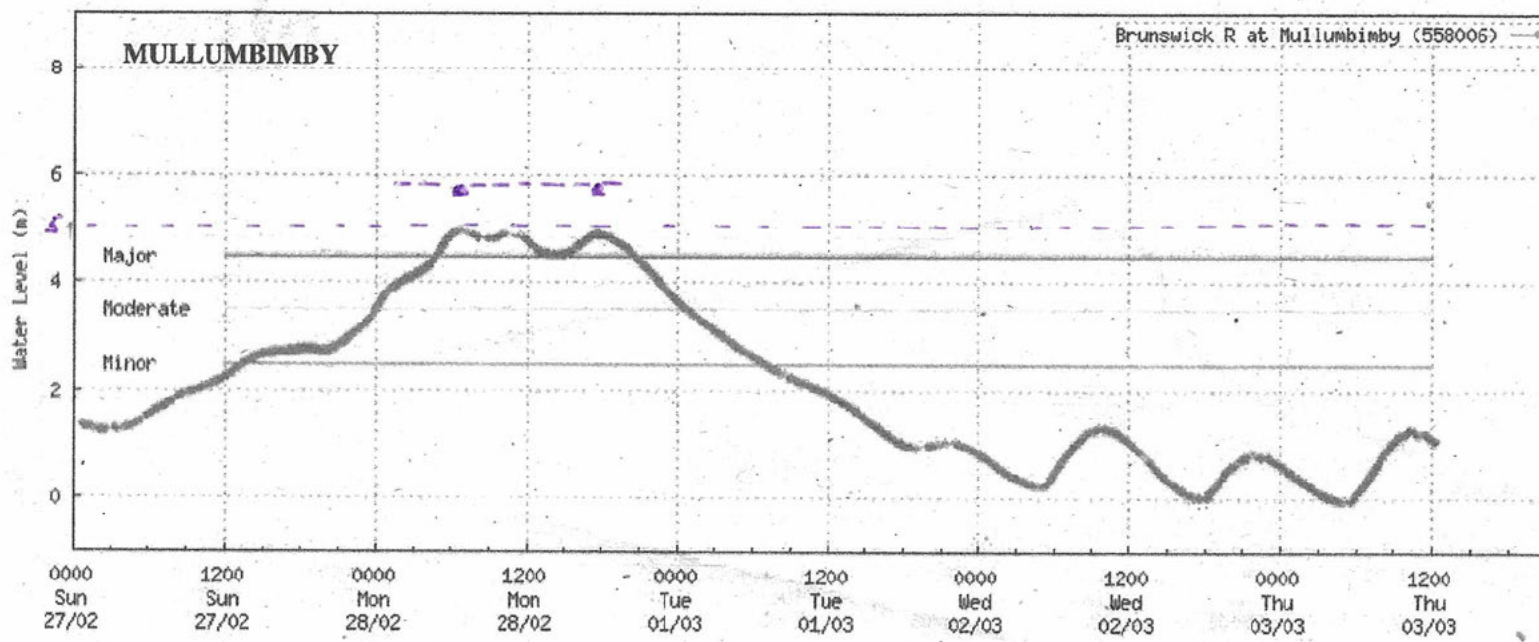


Large Pot Plant on the Move



Old Visual River Gauge, 30m Up Stream
from Federation Bridge &

NEWS



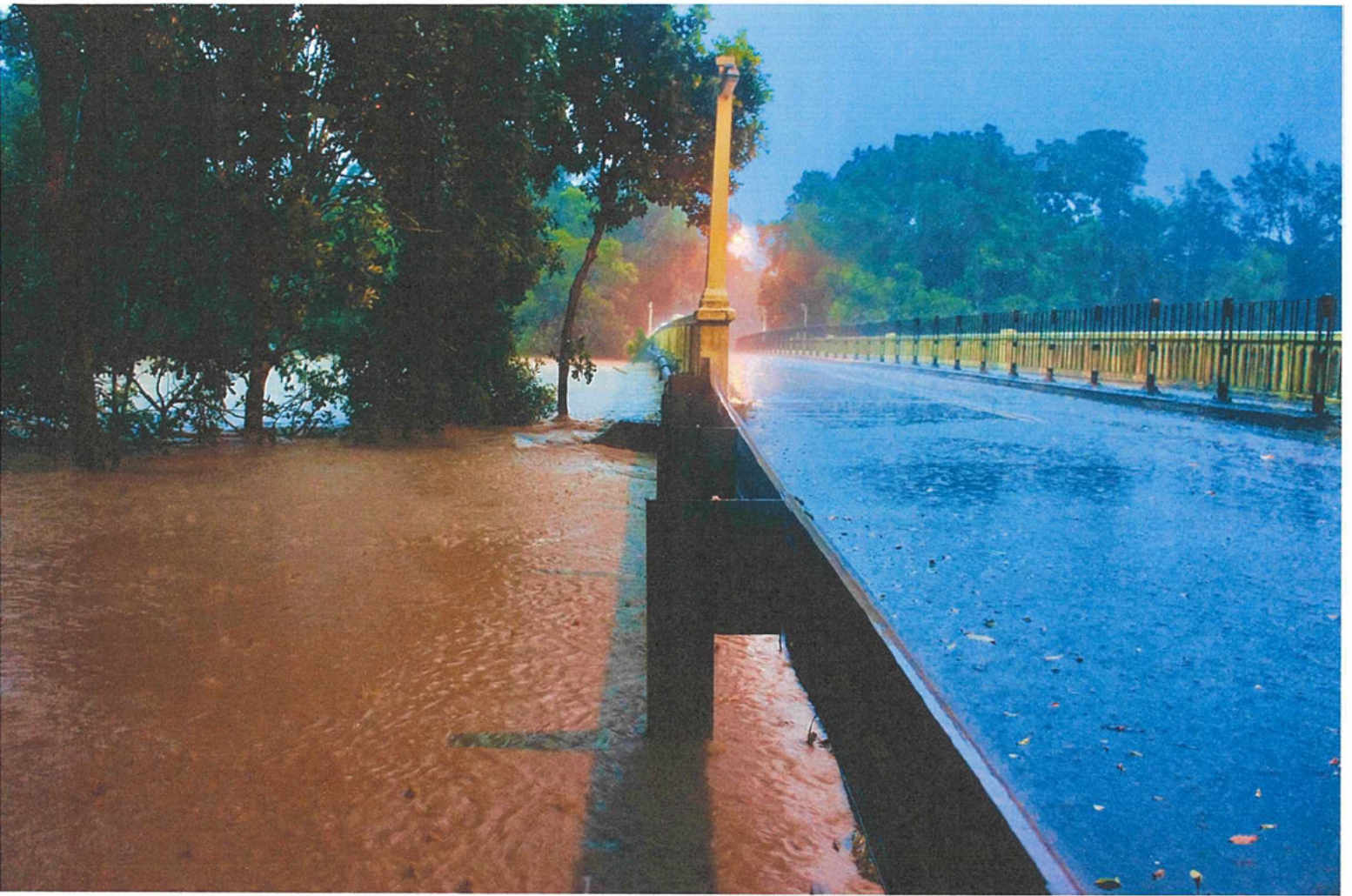
Note. 5m is the bottom of bridge superstructure.
 2017 Flood height was 600mm above superstructure on upstream side
 2022 Flood height was 550mm above superstructure on upstream side
 Prior to electronic, the flood gauge was located above the bridge and is still there.



0630 hrs Water Flowing from Show Ground
down to creek at Main Arm Rd and Murvillumbah Rd
intersection



0700hrs morning of blood



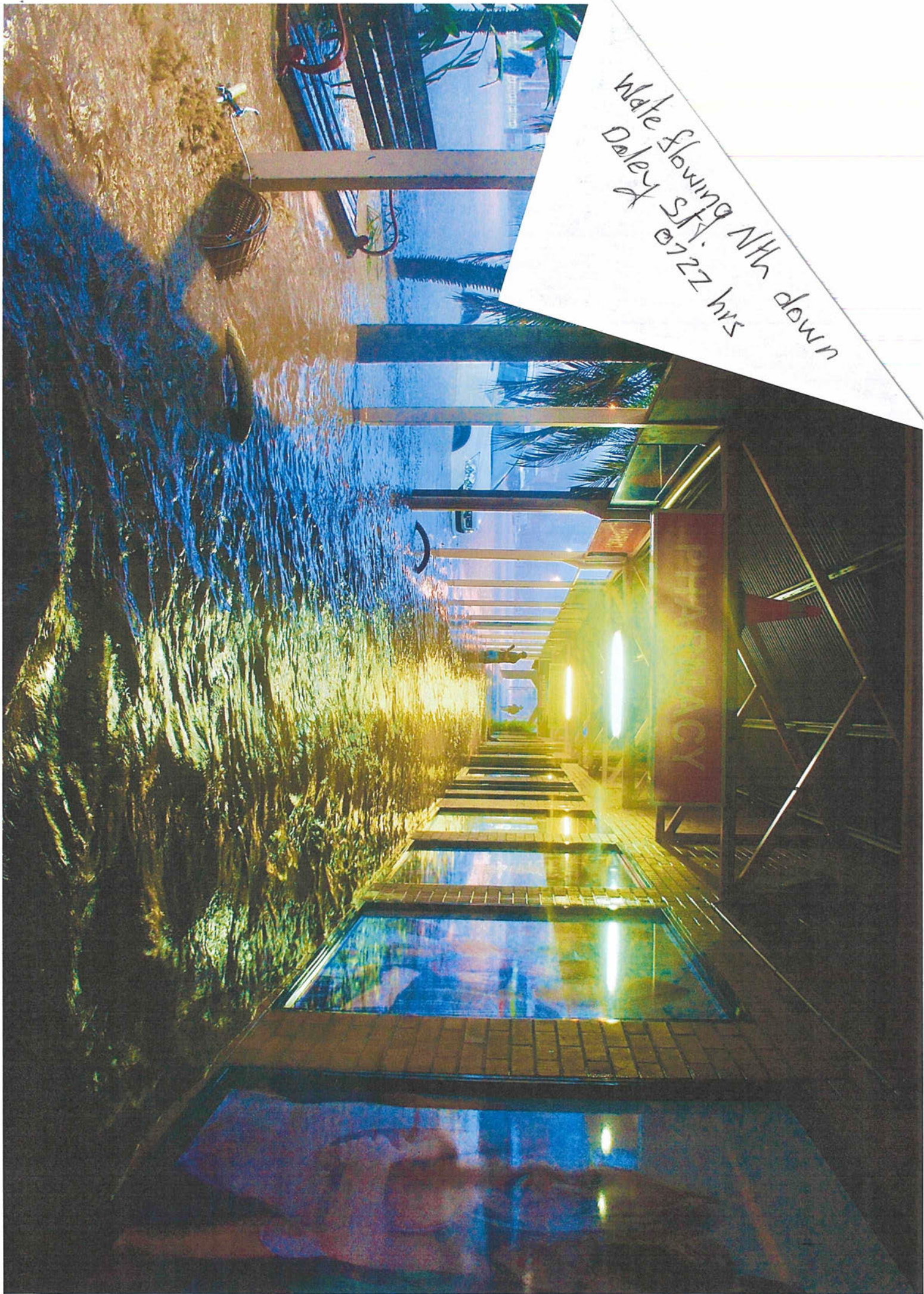
up stream side of Federation Bridge
0705 hrs



0720hrs Water flowing east down
Burringbah St

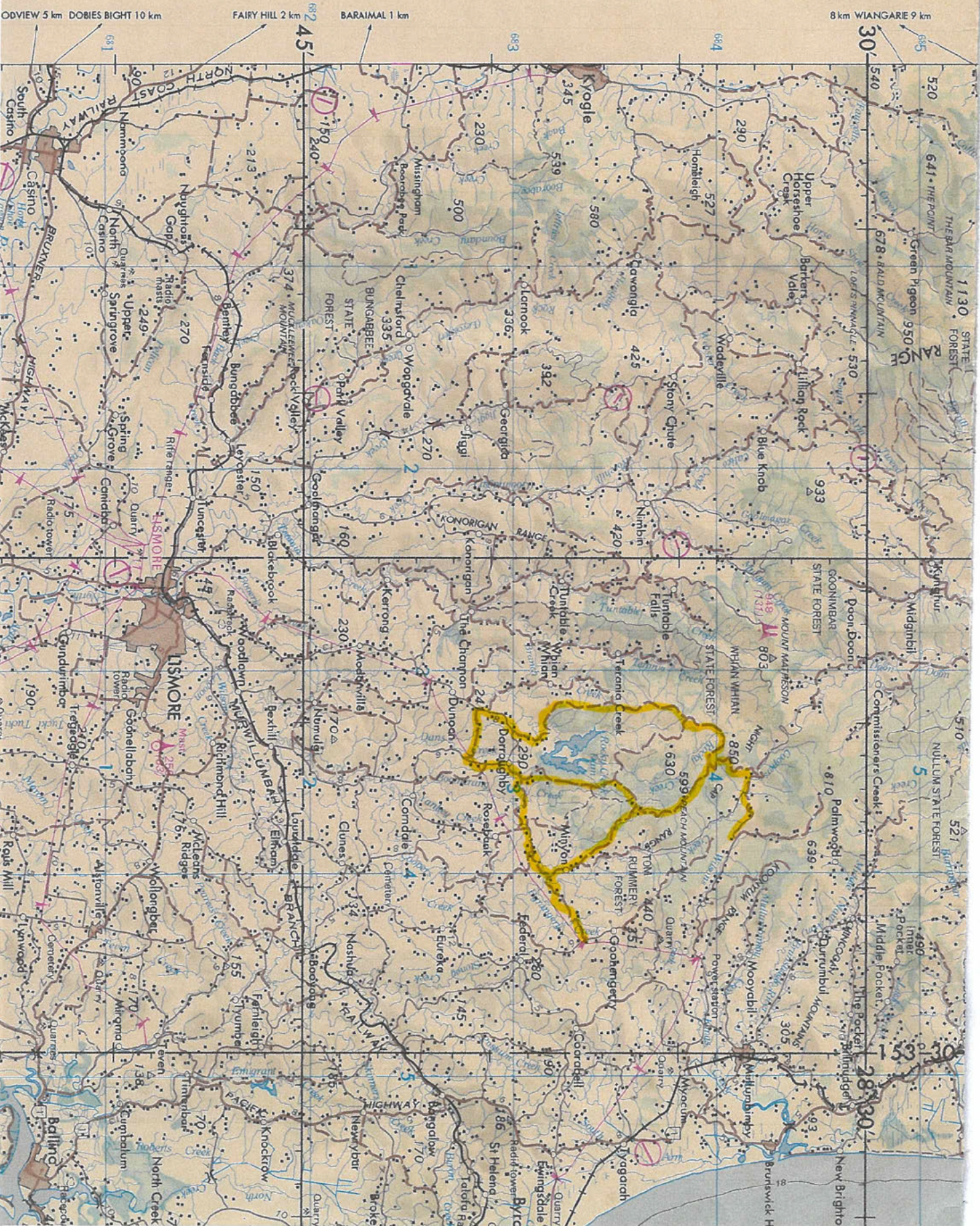
Note Wet brick Line

Water flowing Nth down
Daley St.
@ 7:22 hrs



Maps Land 2

338
(79)

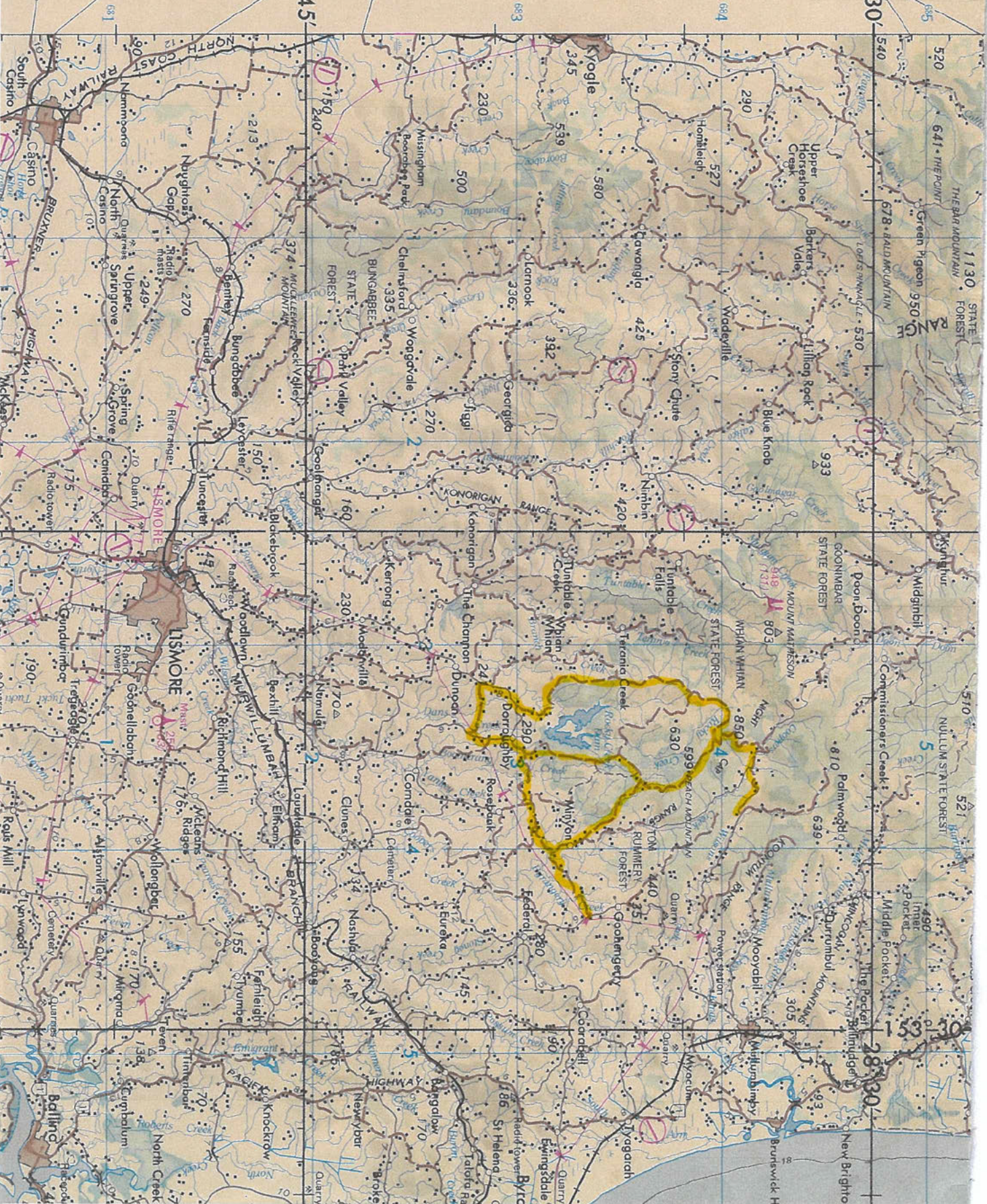


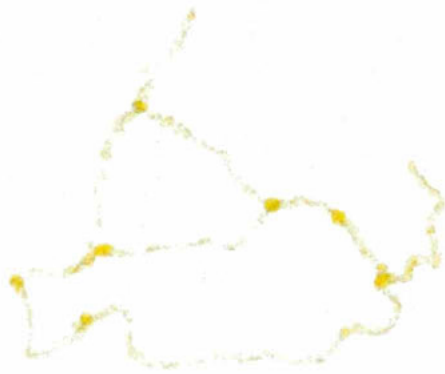
ODVIEW 5 km DOBIES BIGHT 10 km

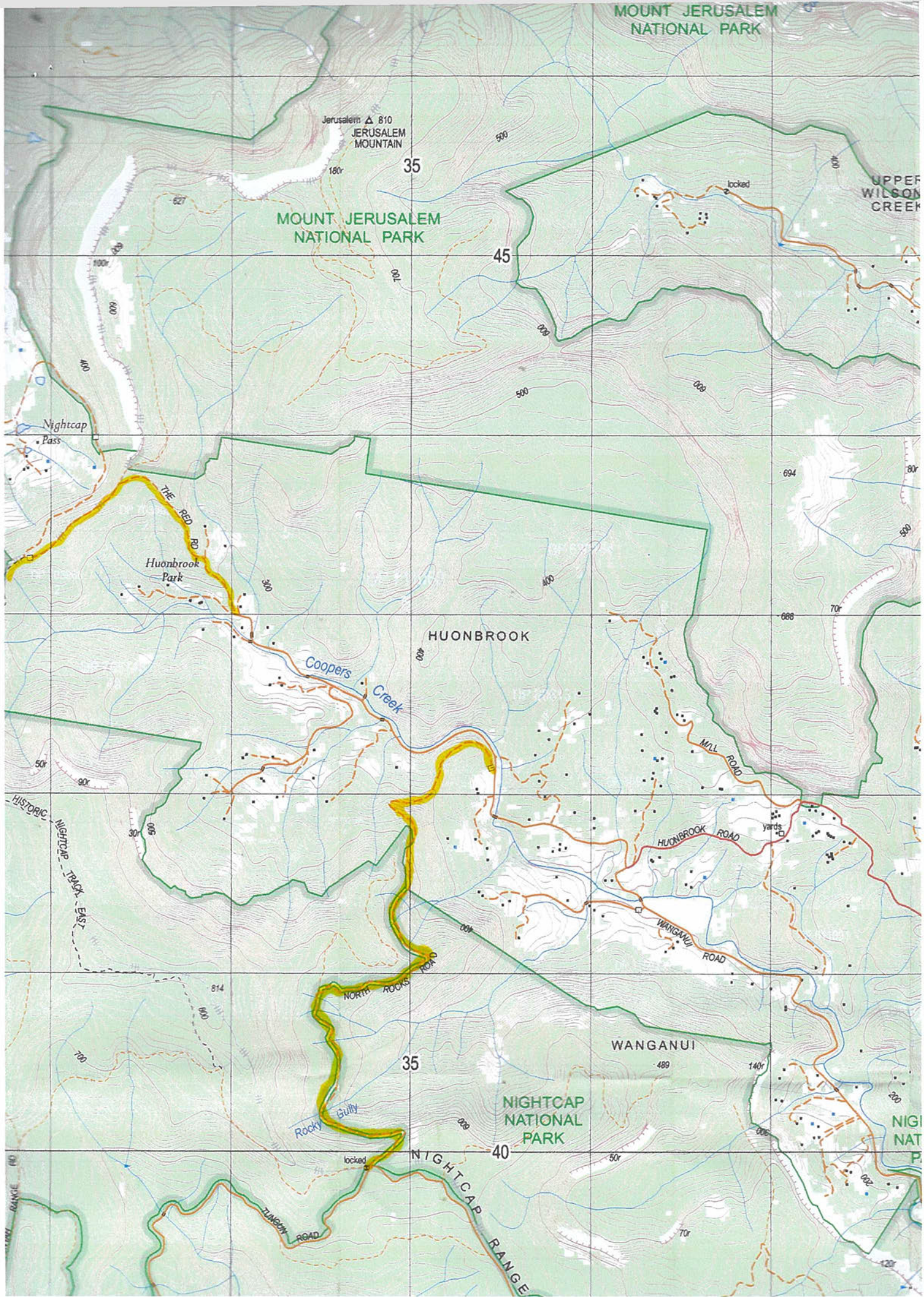
FAIRY HILL 2 km

BARAIMAL 1 km

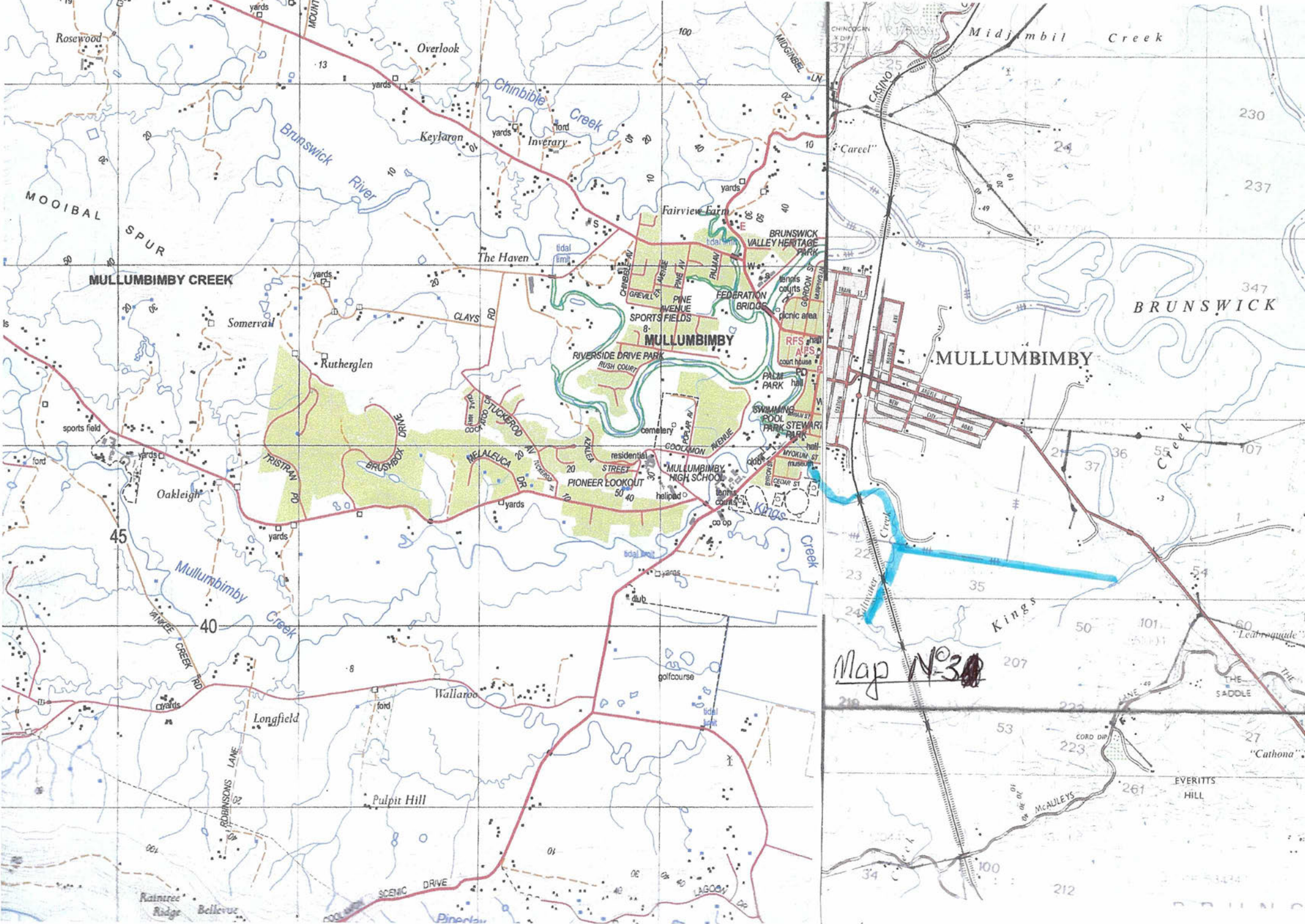
8 km WIANGARIE 9 km



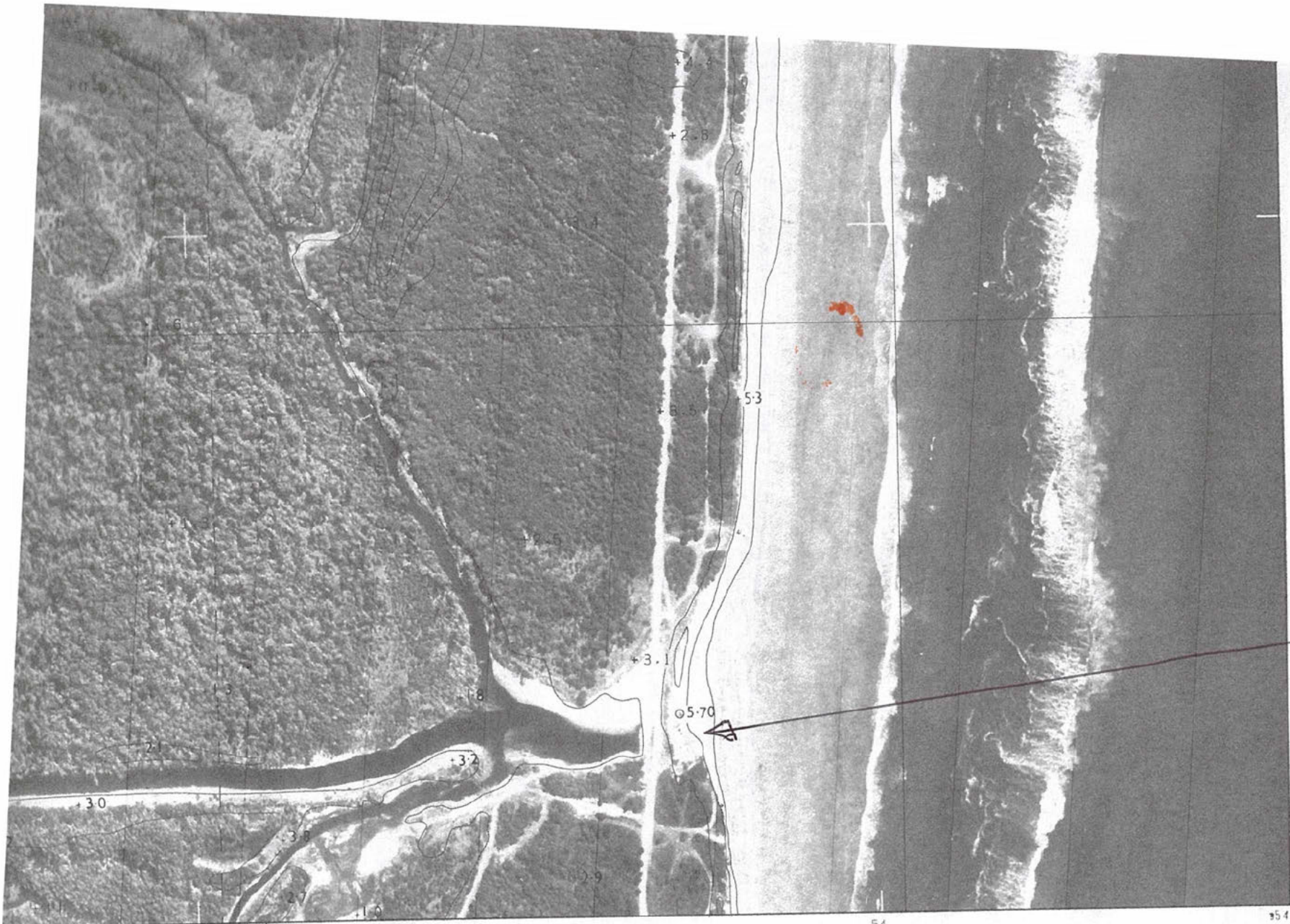








Map N-30



28° 29' 00"

48

6849000N

Map 4

Showing Flood
Outlet between
North Ocean Shs
and Wooyung

153° 33' 00"
CRABBES CREEK X4545-6

WOYUNG BEACH X5445-4

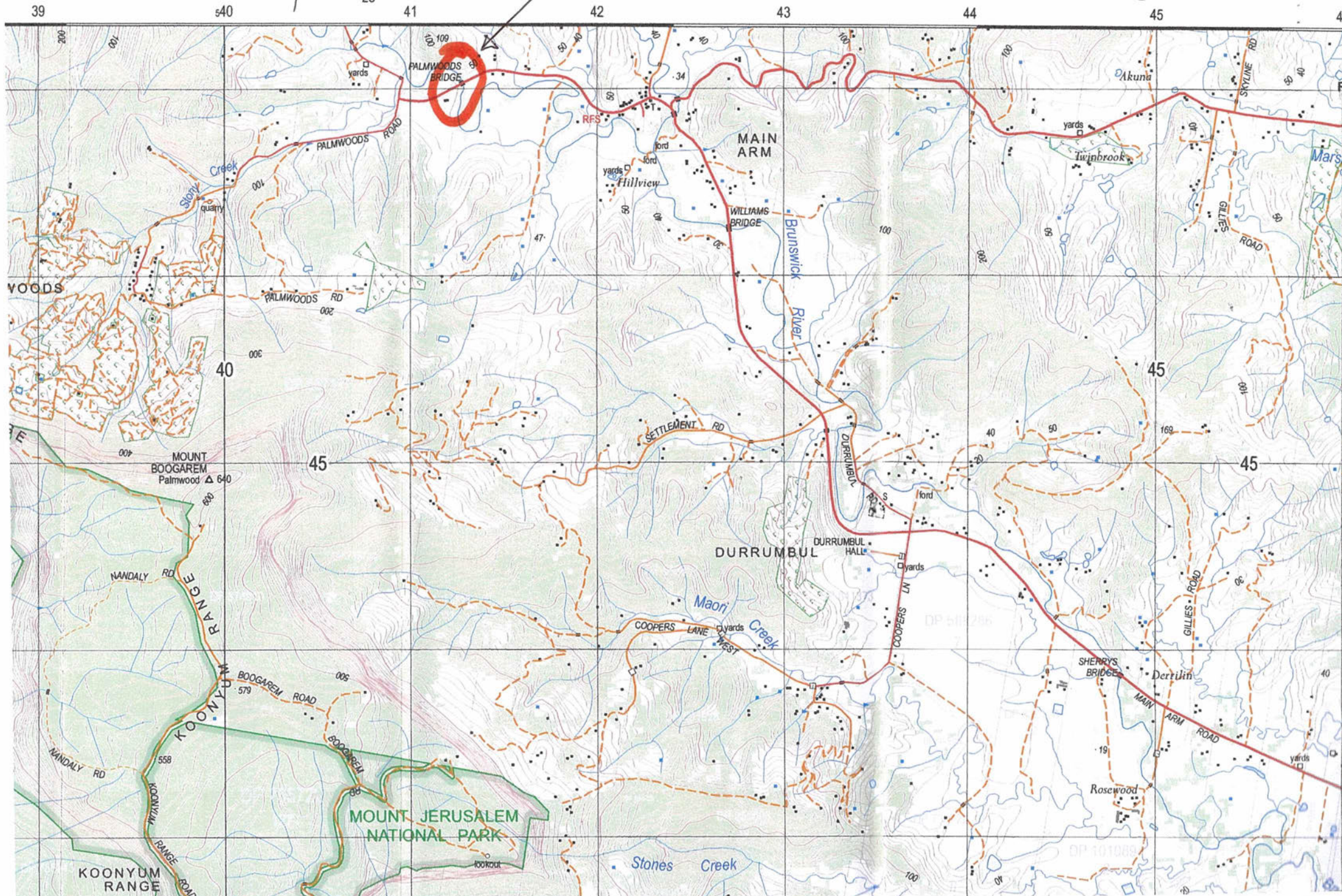
53s

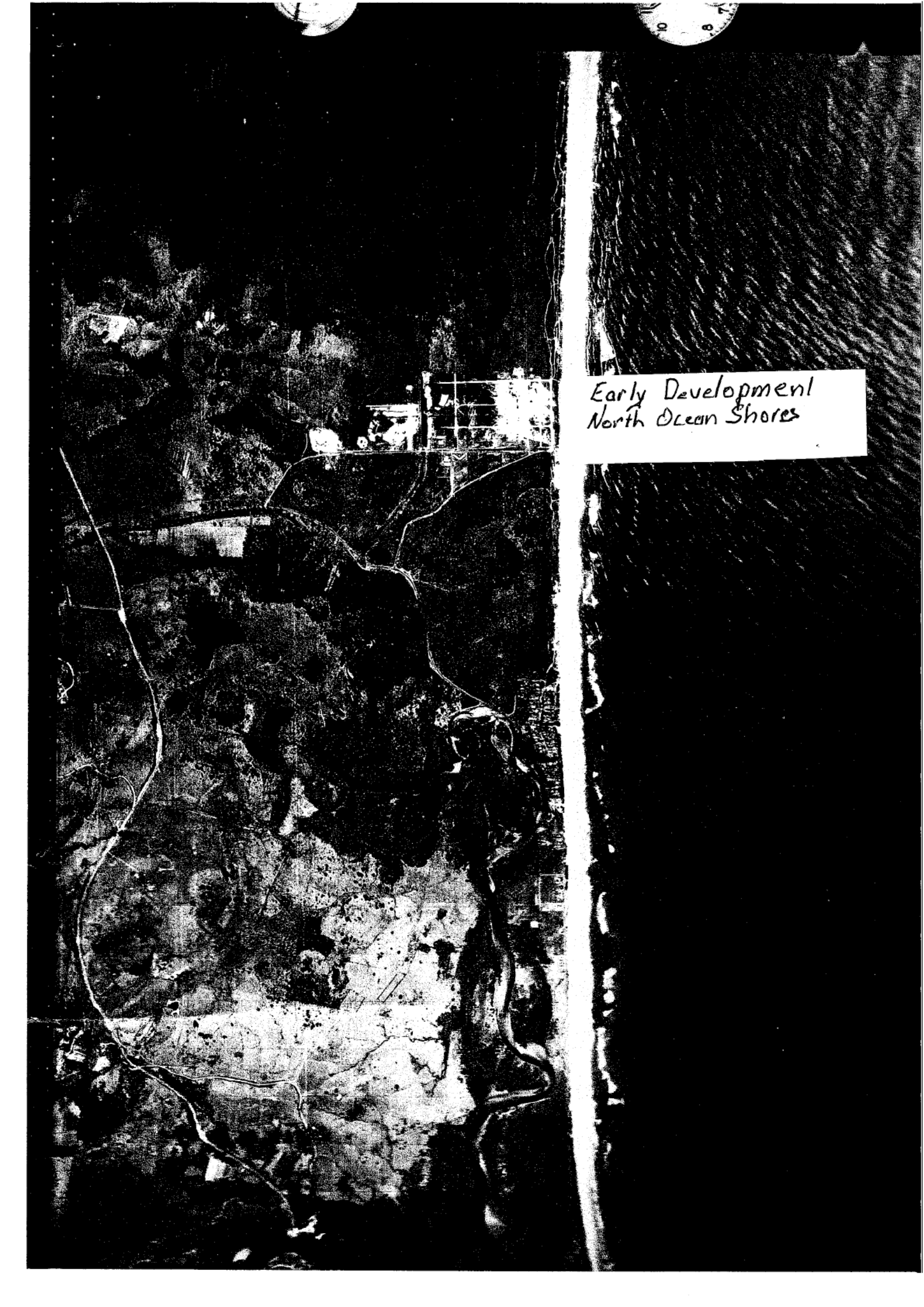
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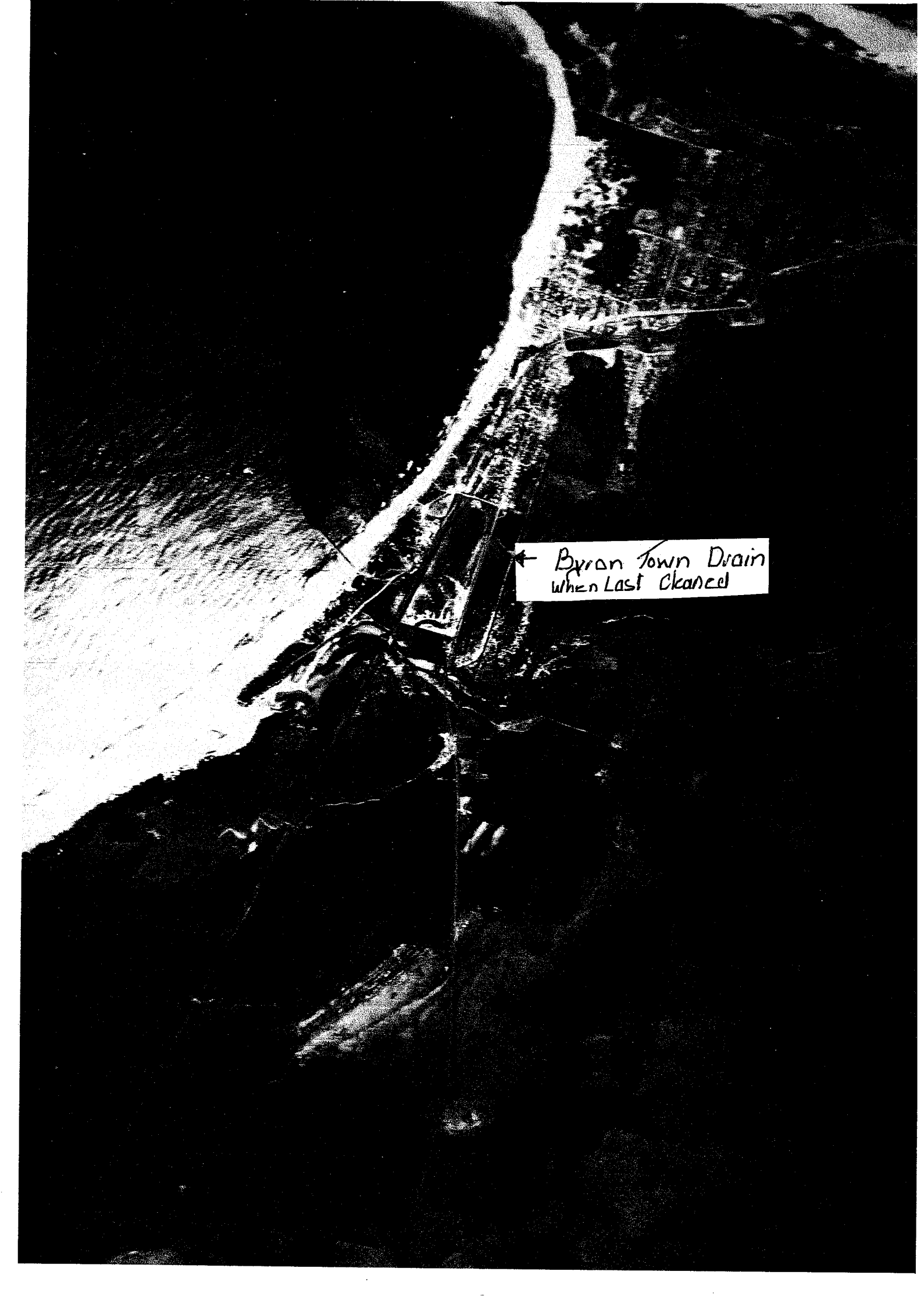
Map 5
UPPER MAIN ARM 1km

Possible site for additional River Gauge



A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a coastal scene. In the center, a building with a balcony or railing is visible. To the right, a boat is partially visible. The foreground is dominated by dark, textured ground, possibly a beach or a rocky shore, with some lighter patches. The background shows a dark, textured surface, likely the ocean or a steep bank. The overall image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

Early Development
North Ocean Shores

An aerial photograph showing a drainage system. A prominent, light-colored, winding line runs diagonally across the frame, representing a drain. The surrounding terrain is dark and textured, possibly indicating vegetation or different soil types. A white rectangular label with handwritten text is placed over the drain, with an arrow pointing to it.

← Byron Town Drain
when last cleaned