



Appendix D

Non-Aboriginal heritage review



Non-Aboriginal Heritage Technical Note for M5 West Widening Project - Impact Assessment of Variable Message Signs

1.0 Introduction

This technical note considers potential non-Aboriginal heritage impacts of proposed variable message signs to be constructed in association with the M5 West widening project in Liverpool, NSW. The environmental assessment for the project identifies localities in which variable message signs would be sited and locations of listed heritage items. This technical note assesses the potential impacts on these heritage items caused by the introduction of proposed variable message signs within these localities.

This technical note is largely based on the information contained within the environmental assessment and available heritage register information. Schedule 5 'Environmental Heritage' of the *Liverpool Local Environmental Plan 2008* (Liverpool LEP) has been reviewed as well as the Australian Heritage Database for relevant entries on the Register of the National Estate (RNE) and Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL). Readily available sources (primarily reputable online library records and 'On the Frontier - A Social History of Liverpool' by Christopher Keating published by Hale and Iremonger, 1996) have also been referred to.

The environmental assessment (section 9.6.2) states that there may be limited visual impacts on some heritage items within the study area due to the introduction of a number of new variable message signs near to these items and that this could detract from their heritage setting. There are four localities, containing heritage items/places within reasonable proximity to the indicative locations for variable message signs (from directly adjacent up to 500 metres) that warranted a site inspection and further assessment.

This technical note and our impact assessment focus on the four variable message sign localities and the heritage items/places in proximity to them. Our investigations focus on the heritage significance of the heritage items and where the placement of variable message signs would present heritage constraints. Indicative variable message sign localities are identified in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1.

Site survey work was carried out by Joanne McAuley and Laura Materese on 9th September 2010.

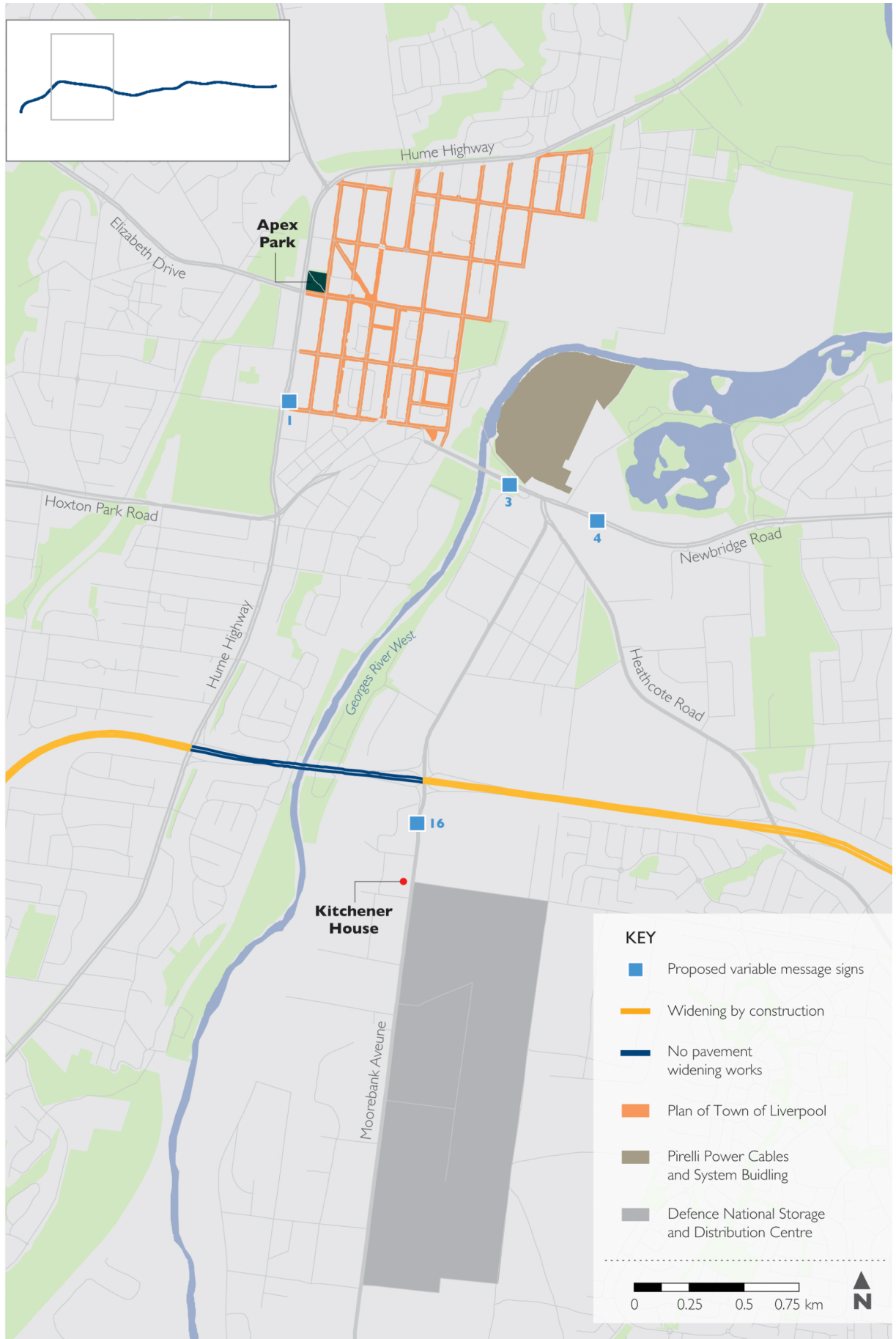


Figure 1 Non-Aboriginal heritage items relative to proposed variable message sign localities

Table 1: Identification of Indicative VMS locations and heritage items for assessment

Locality	Heritage Item/Place	Relevant VMS
Hume Highway, southbound between Memorial Avenue and Macquarie Street	Plan of Town of Liverpool & Apex Park (both LEP listings)	VMS 1
Newbridge Road, eastbound approaching Moorebank Avenue	Pirelli Power Cables and Systems Building (LEP listing)	VMS 3
Newbridge Road, westbound approaching Moorebank Avenue	Pirelli Power Cables and Systems Building	VMS 4
Moorebank Avenue, northbound approaching the M5 South West Motorway	Kitchener House (LEP & RNE listings) & the Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre (RNE and CHL listing)	VMS 16

2.0 Significance Assessment

The heritage significance of each of the heritage items in proximity to the indicative variable message sign locations is summarised below with a brief discussion about the items and their values and setting based on site inspection.

2.1 Hoddle’s Plan of Town of Liverpool (LEP Heritage Listing)

The ‘Plan of Town of Liverpool (early town centre street layout - Hoddle 1827)’ is listed as being an item of local heritage significance on Schedule 5 ‘Environmental Heritage’ of the Liverpool LEP 2008. This listing encompasses the grid layout of streets laid out by Robert Hoddle in 1827 when he was Assistant Surveyor (as appointed by Governor Brisbane in 1823) and is defined by the ‘streets in the area bounded by the Hume Highway, Copeland Street, Memorial Avenue, Scott Street, Georges River and Main Southern Railway Line (excluding Tindall Avenue and service ways)’.

The current building stock found within the grid of streets dates largely from the latter part of the 20th Century onwards (certainly within a 300 metre radius of the indicative variable message sign locality). Typical building typologies are mid-rise apartment buildings and mixed use commercial buildings with ground floor shopfronts.

The significance of this item is therefore limited to the street layout itself rather than built form/streetscape or extant physical fabric. It recognises the important historical association of the town’s development with Robert Hoddle, a surveyor who had an illustrious career with many achievements not least in surveying vast sections of unexplored territory in NSW. Hoddle Street in central Melbourne is named after

Robert Hoddle, who was also the architect of Melbourne's distinctive 'Hoddle Grid' street layout.

Although discernible when viewed on plan, the Hoddle plan of Liverpool is not readily appreciable at a street context or site-specific level and is not embodied or expressed in a visual setting, built form or landscape. The locality is a bustling town centre with high levels of traffic moving throughout it. Its' value is limited to the retained street grids which would not be impacted by the proposed variable message sign, its design or characteristics.

2.2 Apex Park - Site of the First Liverpool Cemetery (LEP Heritage Listing)

Apex Park is listed as an item of State heritage significance in Schedule 5 of the Liverpool LEP and is noted as the site of the first Liverpool Cemetery. The NSW Heritage Branch database notes that it is described as an 'Archaeological-Terrestrial Item'. Its heritage significance is summarised below.

- Historical Significance - the site demonstrates the history of the expansion of the Colony and the early planning and pioneer settlement of Liverpool;
- Associative Significance - the site is associated with key colonial figures including Governor Macquarie and Rev. Samuel Marsden, Principal Chaplain to the Colony, who consecrated the ground as well as the 120 early pioneers buried at the cemetery during its use from 1811 to 1821;
- Aesthetic Significance - Although now a completely modified landscape with no visible evidence of the earlier cemetery, it is considered to be an aesthetically-pleasing, well-maintained green space within a highly urbanised location;
- Research Potential - there is considered to be potential to gain more information through 'further architectural, archaeological and documentary research';
- Rarity - the site is the first cemetery used to bury pioneer settlers in Liverpool during 10 years in the early 19th Century.

The site's significance is therefore largely derived from its historical and associative importance. It is a pleasing green space within a very built up area with aesthetic values, but the highly modified nature of this landscape means that it does not read as a former Cemetery and its historical importance is not embodied in extant fabric or landscape features.

The relatively dense, urban nature of the Park's immediate setting is acknowledged in its registry entry. This setting is characterised by mid to high rise apartment buildings around its north, east and south perimeters and the heavily trafficked Hume Highway to the west. This built up context means that wider views to and from the Park are largely obstructed; however, its aesthetic value is considered such that views from the Park should not be further obstructed by substantial highway signage (refer to recommendations below).

2.3 Pirelli Power Cables and Systems Building (LEP Heritage Listing)

The Pirelli Power Cables and Systems Building ('The Pirelli Building') is included in Schedule 5 of the Liverpool LEP as being of local significance. Former companies on the site are understood to be MM Cables Factory and Cable Makers Australia Factory Pty Ltd. Cable Makers Australia was established in 1941 and historic aerials show the frontage office building was in existence in 1943.

Whilst the factory site was not entered during site inspection, it is clear that the frontage office building which dates from the early 1940's is the principal heritage asset on the site. It is a two-storey red brick building, with pitched tile roof, overhanging eaves, metal windows with a strong horizontal emphasis expressed through the glazing bars and sleek, curved side wings. It exhibits classic Inter-War Functionalist characteristics. With the exception of modern signage on the frontage, the building seems largely unchanged from the 1951 photographs of the building obtained from the National Library of Australia.

The significance of the frontage building derives from its well executed architectural design which exhibits classic inter-war flourishes and as representative of an important post-war industry and employer in Liverpool.

The frontage office building and the rest of the buildings in the factory complex are set well back from the front boundary facing Bridges Road. Bridge Road and the site itself are beneath a built up embankment which forms Newbridge Road. The site's distance from the road and its position below it means that there is a marked visual separation between the two.

2.4 Kitchener House (LEP and RNE Heritage Listing)

Kitchener House is included on the Register of the National Estate (RNE) and in Schedule 5 of the Liverpool LEP as being of local significance. The RNE no longer has any statutory impact or effect except insofar as some Commonwealth agencies are concerned, however, it is being retained for general information purposes.

The Australian Heritage Database indicates that Kitchener House is an 'ineligible item' for the Commonwealth Heritage List which means that at some stage in the assessment process, but prior to its CHL listing, the place ceased to be in a Commonwealth area and is no longer owned or leased by the Commonwealth. Only Commonwealth owned or occupied places can be included on the CHL.

The RNE Statement of Significance for Kitchener House is summarised below:

- Criterion A4: Association with important events, developments or cultural phases - Kitchener House is significance for its long use, over 90 years, by the Army for senior officers and their families.

- Criterion H1: Close association with important individuals - Kitchener House was fitted out for Lord Kitchener's two day visit of 1910 to review the status of the Australian Army.
- Criterion E1: Important for the community for aesthetic characteristics - Kitchener House is an attractive and intact example of a single-storey federation bungalow.

The heritage significance of Kitchener House is therefore based on its strong historical associations with the Australian Army and its architectural and aesthetic merit. The building is constructed of painted brickwork and has a hipped terracotta tiled roof with a pair of ornate gabled dormers. It is surrounded by a landscaped garden and is set back from Moorebank Avenue behind a wire fence which is partially covered on the road side by brushwood panels.

Although largely surrounded by a modern industrial estate complex and bounded to the west by Moorebank Avenue, the building and its immediate setting read as an intact remnant from an earlier period. Longer views of the building from Moorebank Avenue are not available because of the buildings scale, its boundary treatment and surrounding mature trees. The visual setting of the building is relatively closely confined to the site's boundary.

2.5 Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre (CHL and RNE Listing)

The Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre (DNSDC) is included on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) and the Register of the National Estate (RNE). The CHL entry significance information is summarised below:

- Criterion A: Processes - The DNSDC is historically highly significant as a military storage site in operation since 1915 and through its association with Australian military forces prior to and during WWI and WWII;
- Criterion B: Rarity - The remaining (about 15) timber and beam military warehouses of the nine-bay type dating from the 1940s played an important part in the war and have 'substantial rarity value';
- Criterion D: Characteristic Values - A number of building types are considered important in addition to the aforementioned timber and beam warehouses including 20 WWII post and beam warehouses (although re-clad) and three composite steel and timber warehouses understood to be prefabricated in the US;
- Criterion G: Social Value - The centre is of social value to Defence personnel, the Liverpool community and the wider Sydney community through the long-term association of the site with Defence.

The significance of the site is therefore based on its long-term use by the Australian Military, the role it played in both World Wars and is embodied in the site's layout and building types, particularly the rare nine-bay, timber and beam warehouses.

The full extent of the site is not readily appreciable from its Moorebank Avenue boundary; however, this appears to be the main publically accessible viewing point of the site. The buildings visible from Moorebank Avenue read as largely recent constructions, certainly the cladding is modern, with saw-tooth and simple pitched roof forms. Given the robust nature of the buildings and the site generally with its metal wire fence, the visual setting is not considered to be sensitive.

The DNSDC is no longer owned by Defence but is subject to a Defence lease-back and as such, remains on the Commonwealth Heritage List. The DNSDC site is likely to be redeveloped in future as a key part of the Moorebank Intermodal Freight Terminal. That development is likely to compromise the heritage values of the place.

3.0 Impact Assessment

During the site inspection, the location of each of the variable message sign localities that were considered to be in reasonably close proximity to heritage items (VMS 1, 3, 4 and 16) were identified (as shown in Figure 1). A distance of approximately 300 metres along each of the relevant roads in either direction from each heritage item was then surveyed. This allowed for an assessment of the relative visual prominence of each item and the identification of important views (to and from each item).

3.1 VMS 1 - Hume Highway, Southbound between Memorial Avenue and Macquarie Street

As discussed above, the Liverpool LEP listing of the Plan of Town of Liverpool reflects the importance of the historic Liverpool town grid pattern established by Robert Hoddle, who drew up similar grid town arrangements across Australia. Its heritage value is not expressed, reflected or embodied in the setting or fabric of the (grid) streets and dense modern development which has been constructed on Hoddle's grid layout. As such, the proposed positioning of a variable message sign (VMS 1) would not have a visible or discernible impact on the significance of this item. The grid pattern is unaffected by the proposed development.

Apex Park is a green 'breathing space' within a dense, urban context. Its visual setting is already compromised by the heavily trafficked and noisy Hume Highway. Nonetheless, it is considered that the positioning of a variable message sign where it could be viewed from the park would have a compounding negative visual effect. It is understood, however, that the indicative sign locality is some 500 metres from Apex Park which means that it would not be visible from the Park.

In summary, the positioning of VMS 1 in the proposed indicative locality would not affect the visual settings or heritage significance of the Plan of Town of Liverpool or Apex Park (as long as the variable message sign is not visible from the park).

3.2 VMS 3 - Newbridge Road, Eastbound approaching Moorebank Avenue & VMS 4 - Newbridge Road, Westbound approaching Moorebank Avenue

The Pirelli Power Cables and Systems Building sits within a much larger industrial site and it is the overall site boundary which defines its immediate heritage and visual setting. The difference in height between Bridges Road and Newbridge Road as well as a separation of about 40 metres means that there is a clear visual separation between the two roads (where the indicative variable message sign locations are). There is also a relatively dense cluster of trees at the top of the embankment adjacent to Newbridge Road which, in part, screens views of the Pirelli building site.

The indicative localities for VMS 3 and 4, within about 40 metres and about 200 metres of the Pirelli Building respectively, are not considered likely to result in a negative heritage impact upon the visual setting or heritage significance of this heritage item.

3.3 VMS 16 - Moorebank Avenue, Northbound approaching the M5 South West Motorway

The indicative locality for VMS 16 appears to be equidistant between Kitchener House and the DNSDC site. As discussed, the utilitarian and robust nature of the wider visual setting of the DNSDC site is not considered to be particularly sensitive to external change.

The wider visual setting to Kitchener House, despite the modern industrial complex that surrounds it, is considered to be sensitive to change. Views of the building can be obtained from its Moorebank Avenue frontage and immediately to the north and south. There is considered to be a stretch of about 100 metres of road frontage centred on Kitchener House that would be adversely affected by the introduction of a variable message sign.

In summary, the visual setting of Kitchener House is considered to be sensitive to change. The DNSDC site, more utilitarian in character and of significance largely for historical and internal structural reasons, is considered less sensitive to change. As noted in the recommendations below, we advise that a 100 metre stretch of frontage along Moorebank Avenue, centred on Kitchener House, should not be visually obstructed by the variable message sign (VMS 16).

4.0 Recommendations

The following measures are recommended to mitigate and avoid any adverse heritage impacts relating to the introduction of variable message signs 1, 3, 4 and 16:

- Apex Park - views from the Hume Highway boundary of Apex Park should not be obstructed by the introduction of a variable message sign. To ensure views are not obstructed, no variable message sign should be closer than about 50 metres to the north and to the south from the southeast and southwest corners of Apex Park; and
- It is recommended that the visual setting of Kitchener House be protected through the delineation of a 100 metre stretch of Moorebank Avenue, centred on Kitchener House, within which the variable message sign should not be located.

5.0 Conclusion

This technical note has reviewed the potential for heritage impacts, focussing predominantly on the potential impacts to the visual sensitivity of the identified heritage items, as a result of the introduction of variable message signs at localities close to known heritage items.

With the application of recommended measures outlined in section 4.0 above, it is concluded that the construction and operation of variable message signs 1,3,4 and 16 are not considered likely to result in a negative heritage impact upon the visual setting or heritage significance of the identified heritage items.

