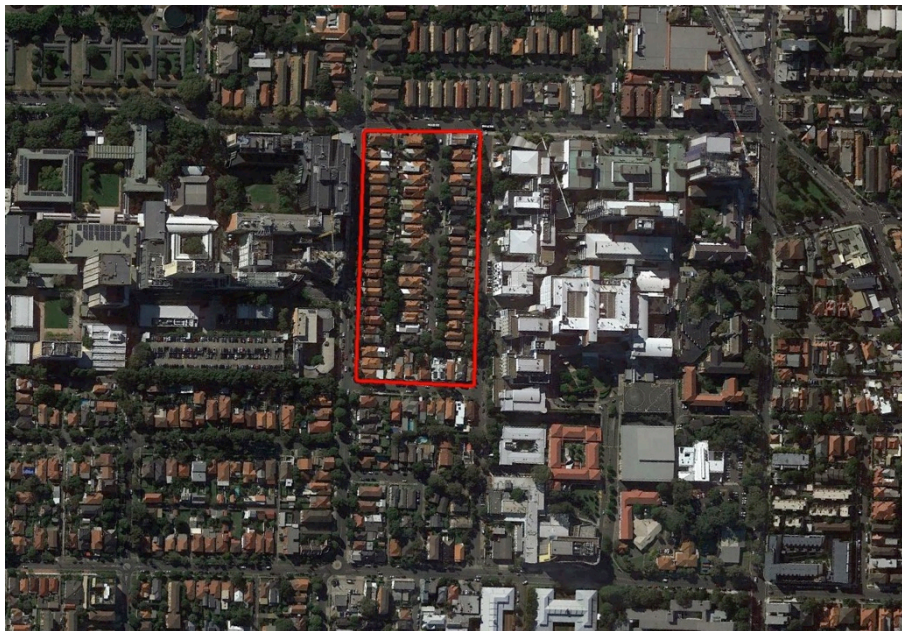


## **PRELIMINARY ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**



PROPOSED NEW ACUTE SERVICES BUILDING  
FOR THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, RANDWICK NSW

Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists

JUNE 2018

Report to Advisian Pty Ltd on behalf of Health Infrastructure NSW



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## 1.0

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background to Project

This report has been prepared by Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists (MDCA) for Advisian Pty Limited on behalf of Health Infrastructure NSW. It presents the preliminary results of an Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment of an area of land to the west of the existing Randwick Hospital Campus at Randwick. The location of the study area in its local and immediate context is shown in **Figures 1 & 2**. It should be understood the current document represents preliminary investigations undertaken prior to the issuing of the SEARs. Since its initial production the SEARs have been issued which outline the requirement for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) Report including Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage 2010 *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents*. At the time of writing the Community Consultation process had been initiated and the ACHA report presently in preparation.

A new Acute Services Building (ASB) is proposed to be built to the immediate west of the existing Randwick Campus as part of Stage 1 of the Randwick Campus Redevelopment. The site is located between the Hospital Campus and the University of New South Wales (UNSW). The Stage 1 development will be the subject of a State Significant Development Application to be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The construction of the ASB represents Stage 1 of a multi-stage redevelopment process.

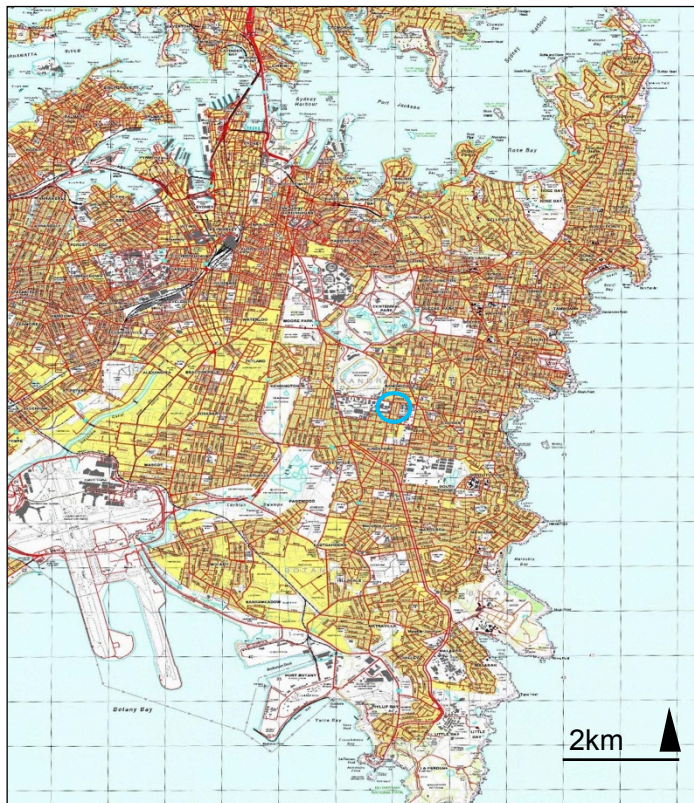
The Randwick Campus is the primary servicing health precinct within the northern sector of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD). The existing Campus has an area of approximately 13.26 hectares (ha) known as Lot 1 DP870720 and sits immediately to the south of Randwick Town Centre. Its extent is defined by High Street to the north, Barker Street to the south, Avoca Street to the east and Hospital Road to the west. The Kensington Campus of UNSW is located on Botany Street, west of the Randwick Campus. It consists of a variety of building types, including original Victorian era buildings, low-rise brick structures and modern multi-storey buildings providing for multi-disciplinary facilities. Four hospitals are currently located on the Campus: Sydney Children's Hospital, Royal Hospital for Women, Prince of Wales Public Hospital (POWH) and the Prince of Wales Private Hospital. Research institutions also utilise the site, including the Black Dog Institute, Neuroscience Research Australia and the Bright Alliance. Project master planning has demonstrated that the existing Campus is too confined and congested to meet the health needs of the community which, coupled with the age, functionality and configuration of the Campus infrastructure, limits the ability of the SESLHD to fully implement its health service plan.

The Project site has an area of some 3.5ha and is bounded by Hospital Road to the east, Botany Street to the west, residential properties and non-residential uses up to High Street to the north, and Magill Street to the south. The boundary of the Stage 1 site has an area of approximately of 2ha. Land to the north of the Stage 1 site would be subject of separate development applications (see **Figure 3**).



Development consent is proposed to be sought for the following<sup>1</sup>:

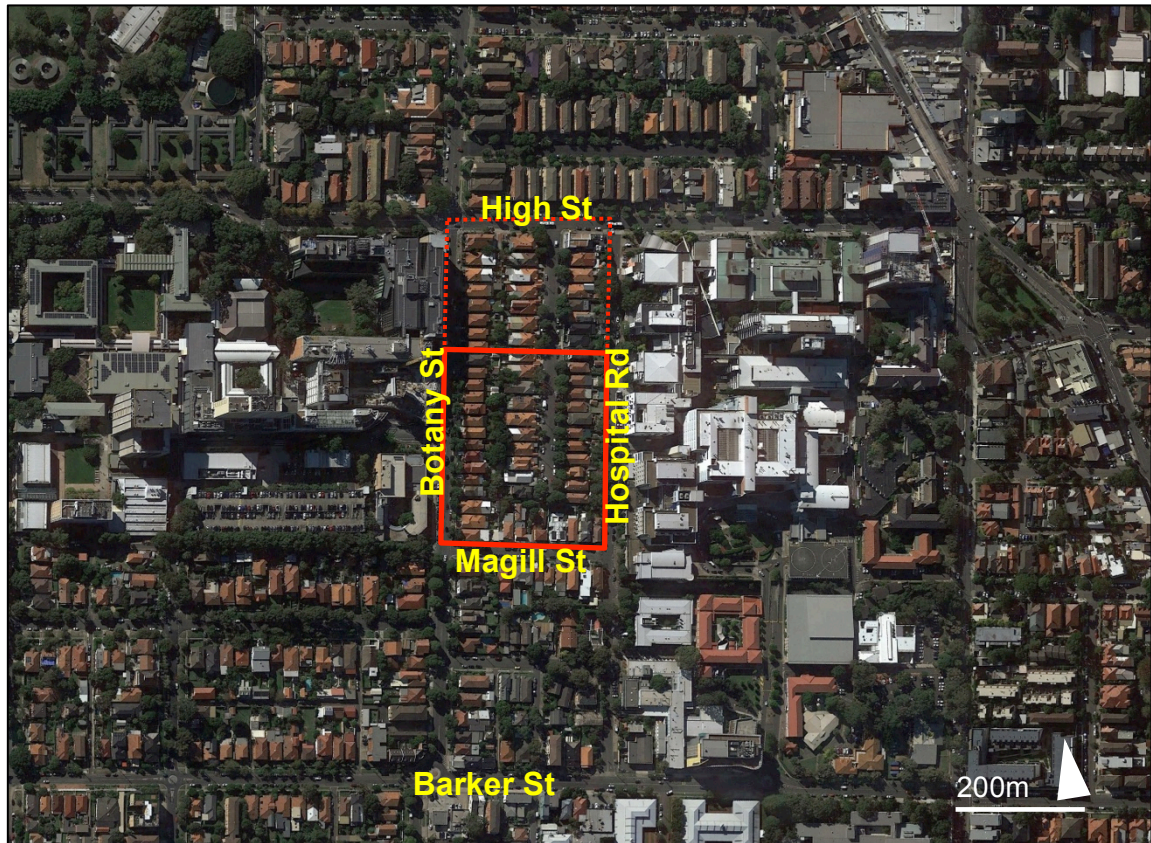
- Bulk excavation.
- Site preparation works including shoring and piling.
- Construction of a 13-level building with an indicative maximum building height of 55m comprising: An Adults' Emergency Department; Operating Theatres; Plant, Central Sterilising Service, Logistics Interchange; Intensive Care Unit & Medical Assessment Unit; Inpatient Units; Helipad
- Loading dock and ambulance bays.
- Three level bridge over Hospital Road for clinical and operational connections to the existing hospital campus.
- One level public bridge over Hospital Road for connection to existing hospital campus.
- Upgraded road infrastructure at Magill Street and Botany Street including potential signalised intersection and pedestrian crossing on Botany Street.
- Capacity for a potential future pedestrian bridge link over Botany Street from the ASB to UNSW.
- New circulation roads to be constructed on the newly excavated grade to the west and south of the new building.
- Capacity for additional internal access road to be constructed to the northern part of the Project site.
- Hospital square with vehicular access and public drop off areas.
- Building services infrastructure and connections to utilities.
- Stormwater drainage infrastructure including on-site detention.
- Site landscaping.



**Figure 1. Prince of Wales  
Hospital complex in the context  
of greater Sydney.**

[Source: Sydney Heads, Parramatta River, Botany Bay and Bondi 1:25,000 topographic maps].

<sup>1</sup> Advisian pers comm. 17.5.18 and updates based on the Request for SEARs dated 15.02.18.



**Figure 2. The study area (red outline) and future development area (dotted line) in their local context.**

[Source: Overlay on 2016 aerial image].

The northern portion of the study area is under consideration for a potential future expansion area.

It could be expected that these works will impact the surface and immediate subsurface of the study area, and considerably deeper in areas where construction of the new building is proposed. These works have the potential to impact Aboriginal cultural material, if present. The current Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment has been prepared to inform both proposals, specifically to identify any possible further investigations that may be required in relation to Aboriginal heritage.

## 1.2 Scope of Works – Aboriginal Archaeology

The current Aboriginal archaeological assessment has involved a review of relevant environmental, historical and archaeological contextual information, a site inspection and an assessment of the Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity of the study area. Specifically, it considers whether the archaeological sensitivity documented to the east within the Prince of Wales Hospital complex, relating to the identification of significant Aboriginal archaeological remains within dune deposits, may also apply to the current study area. The assessment has resulted in the formulation of recommendations for the appropriate management of Aboriginal remains if they are found to occur within the study area.





# Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment Randwick Campus Redevelopment

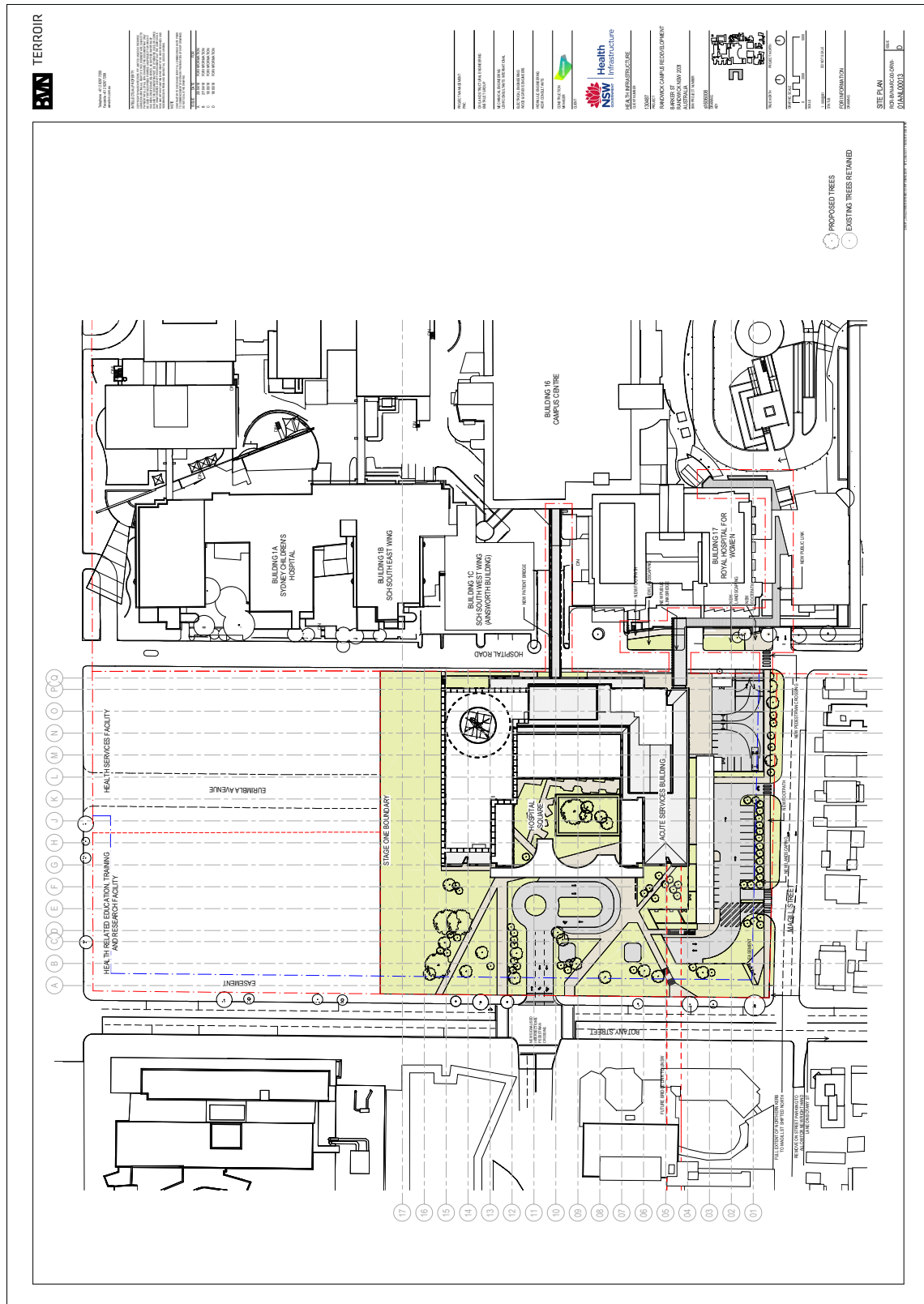


Figure 3. The current proposal showing ASB complex in the south and proposed future expansion area to the north.



### **1.3 Aboriginal Community Consultation**

The Randwick Campus falls within the administrative boundaries of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (LPLALC), and also has traditional and historical associations to Dharawal people and the wider La Perouse community. For the purpose of the current Aboriginal archaeological assessment, consultation was undertaken with the LPLALC, including a site inspection on Thursday 1st February 2018, which was attended by LPLALC representatives Mr Ron Timbery and Ms Kylie Jones.

### **1.4 Statutory Requirements**

The ASB component of the project is to be assessed as a State Significant Development Application under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act* 1979 (as amended; the EP&A Act). Under Section 89J, of the EP&A Act, Aboriginal heritage impact approvals under s.90 of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act* 1974 (as amended) which would usually be sought for archaeological investigations or proposed impacts to Aboriginal heritage sites, are not required for such projects. However, approval is subject to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's) which require that potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage are considered in the planning process.

The potential impacts of the demolition and service realignment works proposed in the northern area to the site are subject of separate planning approval pathways.

The current report has been prepared in anticipation of these requirements, and to identify any potential impacts to Aboriginal archaeological remains which may require further investigation.

### **1.5 Authorship**

This report has been written by MDCA Principal Heritage Consultants Mary Dallas and Dr Paul Irish.



## 2.0

## Environmental & Historical Context

The following sections briefly outline the environmental context and land use history of the study area. Geology and geography are strong determinants of why and how Aboriginal people may have used the local landscape and what kinds of archaeological evidence may have been created, just as subsequent geomorphological and historical changes will affect how and what of this evidence may survive. It is therefore necessary to consider all of these factors to accurately gauge the type, nature and location of Aboriginal archaeological remains which may be present within the study area.

*Note: The clear majority of environmental information comes from historical records, plans and images which represent the landscape as it was around the time of first European contact. It is not known how far back in time this can be projected, but it is worth considering that the Aboriginal archaeology which has so far been found at Prince of Wales Hospital dates to a period (ca. 8,000 years ago) of great landscape change at the end of the last ice age, prior to the stabilisation of sea levels at around their current level. The landscape as seen by Aboriginal people at that time may have been considerably different to that which we can recreate from historical records, especially with respect to the location of ephemeral freshwater swamps (which would have been important sources of fresh water and other resources). The extent of major topographical change to the dunes is also unclear. Caution should therefore be applied in relating this information to likely Aboriginal use of this changing landscape.*

### 2.1 Landform and Geology

The study area is situated within a broader sand dune system extending across much of eastern Sydney, comprising Quaternary wind-blown sands, locally and elsewhere dated to around 35,000 BP. The topography of the surrounding area is defined by these dunes, broadly aligned southeast to northwest and up to 20-30m in height. A sense of the height and parallel nature of these dune ridges can be gained by travelling along the undulating terrain on Barker or High Streets between Avoca Street and Anzac Parade. Due to their substantial nature, the dunes have survived broadly in their original (i.e. 1788) form, though often with significant impacts to their uppermost units from historical land use.

A range of archaeological and geotechnical investigations have shown that the dunes consist of a common stratigraphic sequence. The thickness and specific composition of the horizons (particularly the 'coffee rock') within these dunes varies, which are described either as the Newport or Tuggerah Soil Landscape according to soil classification mapping for the region (Chapman *et. al.* 1989).

A typical stratigraphic sequence is outlined in **Table 1** and illustrated in **Figure 4**. Typically, the dune profile comprises white or grey sands (A Horizon) above the precipitation zone of hard orange brown to dark brown to black sand (B1 Horizon) and unweathered yellow sands (B2 Horizon) below it and overlying the sandstone bedrock. The dune profile does not contain a weathered bedrock layer (C Horizon) suggesting that the sandstone was exposed at the time of dune formation.

**Table 1. Typical eastern Sydney dune stratigraphy.**

Horizon	Typical Thickness	Description
A1	0 - 0.3/0.4m	Thin upper humic topsoil
A2	1.0 – 1.5m	Leached white Aeolian sands
B1	0.5 – 1m	[Precipitation Zone]. Heavily indurated mottled sands described as Waterloo or Coffee rock
B2	Various	Unweathered yellow sand
Bedrock		Sandstone bedrock



**Figure 4. Typical Eastern Sydney dune profile missing A1 Horizon.**

[Documented in recent excavations by MDCA at Long Bay Correctional Complex (MDCA 2005)].

Ages for the upper dune units in the region have been obtained from sediments within a cross-section of the Banksmeadow area. Here, a date of >35,000 years was obtained on peat beneath coffee rock (from the B2 horizon) and a Holocene date (i.e. within around the last 10,000 years) was obtained for freshwater peat above the coffee rock. The Holocene date is likely to be the result of reworking of the older dune surface during times of revegetation and erosion.

The background radiocarbon ages of >35,000 years for the dune system indicate its initial formation in the Last Glacial Maximum, prior to the formation of Botany Bay and with the ocean edge a number of kilometres further east than at present. Over the last 10,000 years the dune sands above the coffee rock have also been reworked (scoured and added to) by wind. Shifting dunes and associated swales have also lead to the development of ephemeral



swamps in this period, evidenced as peaty layers within the dune above the coffee rock layer.

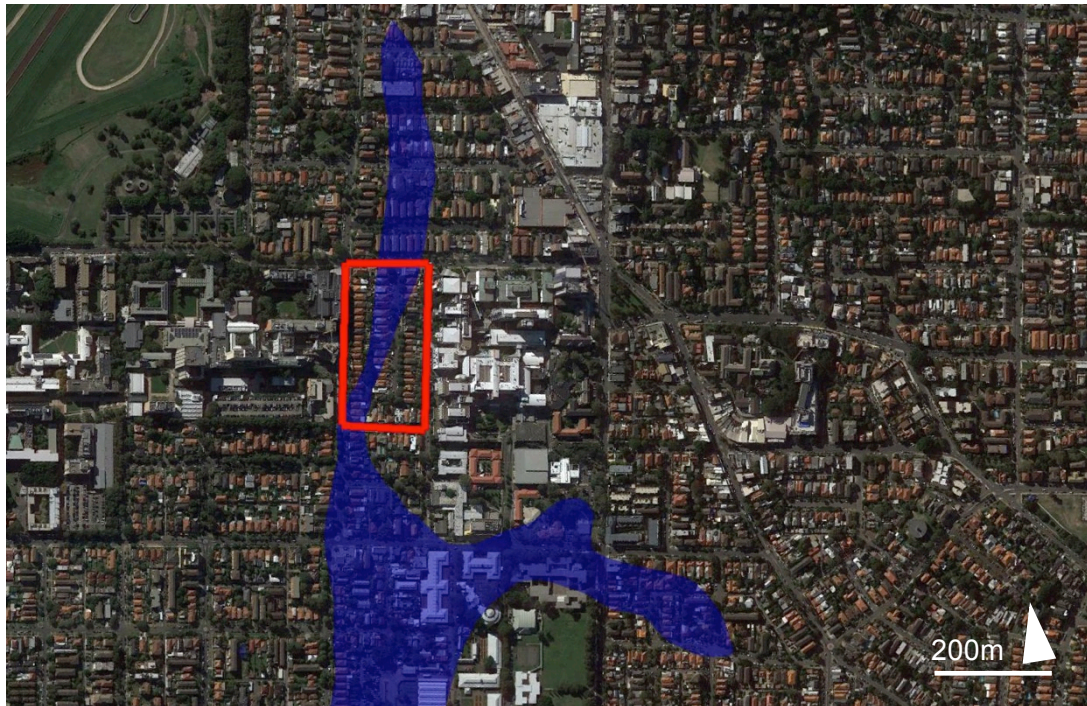
Intact Aboriginal occupation deposits dated at 8,000 years ago have been identified within the A2 horizon [leached fine loose white dune sand] of the dune just over 100m to the south-east of the current study area within the area of the former Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery (Austral/Godden Mackay 1997 Volume 2 Part 3).

Between the dunes were swales sometimes filled with small freshwater swamps. The current study area is situated in such a swale, sloping gently to moderately down from north to south and with more elevated dunes to the east and west. Historical plans indicate that in recent centuries, the central portion of the study area contained a freshwater sedge swamp known as 'Bird's Gully', which drained southwest into the Lachlan Swamp system and into Botany Bay (**Figures 3 & 4**). The nearest outcropping sandstone in the area is located about 300m east of the study area on elevated ground immediately west of Avoca Street, although geotechnical and archaeological investigations demonstrate that sandstone is very shallow under the current surface in the north-eastern corner of the study area along High Street, and may therefore have been exposed prior to the arrival of Europeans (Douglas Partners 2018).



**Figure 5. The study area in relation to the nineteenth century landscape.**

[Overlay of 1866 Water Board plan as adapted and reproduced in Benson & Howell 1995:91 on current aerial imagery].



**Figure 6. Approximate location of the upper reaches of the freshwater Bird's Gully swamps (blue) in relation to the study area (red).**

[Note implied form of dune within Prince of Wales Hospital in the centre of the two arms of the swamp. Created based on undated Alexandria parish map (Department of Lands Parish Map Preservation Project), 1866 Water Board plan as adapted and reproduced in Benson & Howell 1995:91 and other historical plans reproduced in Casey & Lowe DRAFT 2018].

The environmental history of the study area has important implications for its Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity. The adjacent dune deposits [on either side of the Bird's Gully] retain the potential to contain significant Aboriginal archaeological remains where they have survived relatively intact. Furthermore, these remains may be located considerably below the current ground surface, increasing their likelihood of survival. Recent geotechnical testing has demonstrated that the archaeologically sensitive A2 horizon has survived across much of the study area, under varying quantities of historical fill, except for areas of shallow (or possibly formerly exposed) sandstone bedrock around the corner of High Street and Hospital Road (Douglas Partners 2018). Borelogs and inferred cross-sections of the subject land based on geotechnical testing suggest that the A2 horizon is generally 0.5-1m below the current ground level and around 1.4 to 2m in thickness in the central and southern portions of the subject land, though it is not always possible to establish the depth of the underlying B Horizon Coffee Rock from geotechnical borelogs. It is also not possible to confirm the presence and nature/thickness of deposits relating to the swamp from this testing.

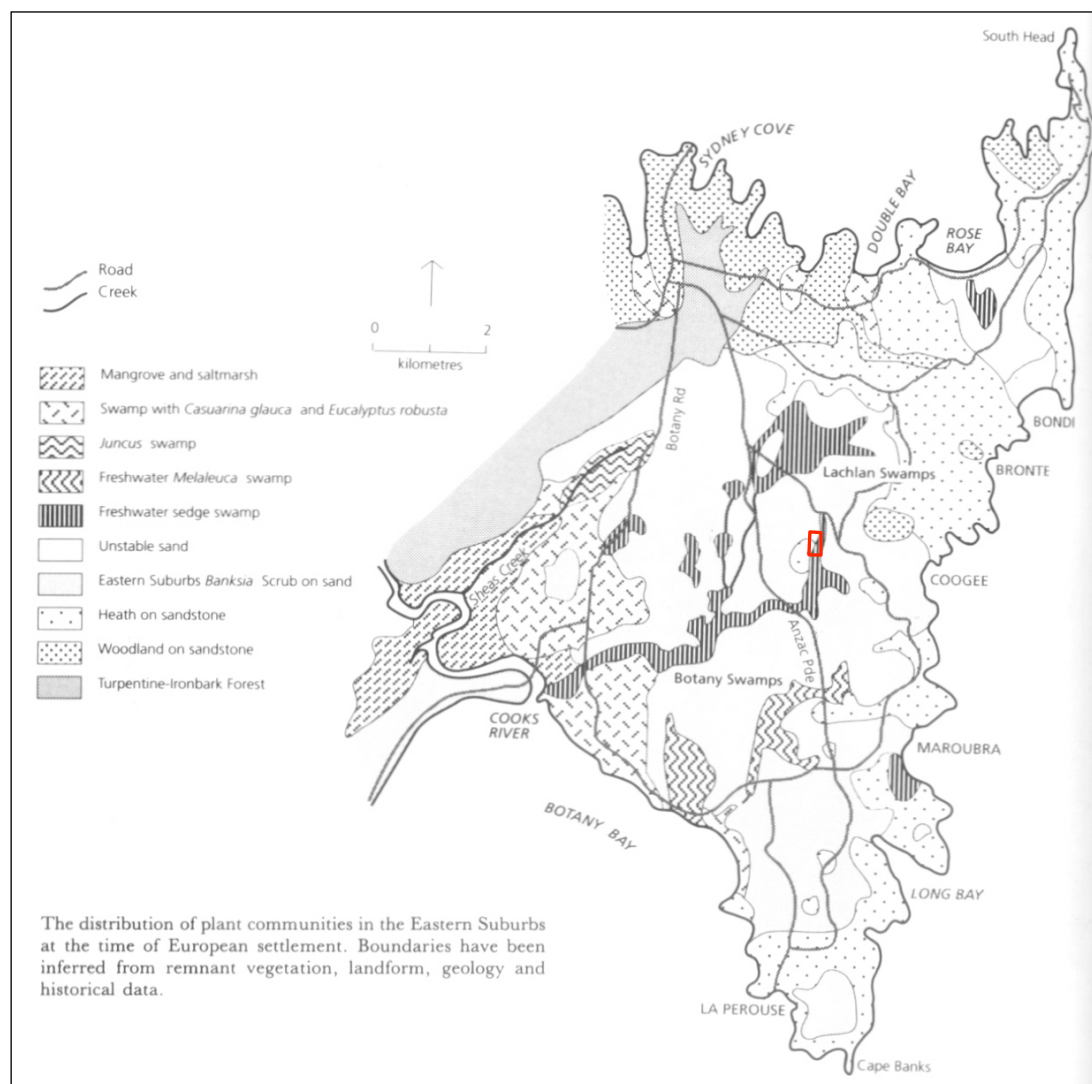
For the purpose of archaeological assessment, we need to exercise caution in extrapolating this landscape too far back in time. We do not know for example, if Bird's Gully existed a thousand years ago, let alone 8,000 years ago when the nearby hearth was being used by Aboriginal people. It is therefore also possible that dune horizons extending below the layer



of swamp deposit from Bird's Gully may also retain archaeological sensitivity, perhaps once comprised dune sands above or adjacent to more ancient swamps.

## 2.2 Vegetation and Resources

The vegetation present on the dune in early historic times was a mixture of 'heath, scrub and low forest vegetation with a rich variety of shrubs' including banksias and grass trees (Benson & Howell 1995:90-91), known collectively as Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. The dune drained into the freshwater sedge swamplands of Bird's Gully. The interplay of swamp, dune and vegetation at the time Europeans first arrived in Sydney can be seen in **Figure 7**.



**Figure 7. Study area (red) in relation to the recreated contact era vegetation and dune/swamp systems of the eastern suburbs.**

[Source: Adapted from Benson & Howell 1995:90].

Swamps would have supplied fresh water and a range of valuable plant resources for food and equipment (e.g. fibres) as well as being a magnet for local fauna and birds. The dunes



themselves would also have provided an array of plant foods including fruits, nectar, tubers and roots (Benson & Howell 1995:12ff) and probably also freshwater fish, eels and freshwater mussels. Freshwater was also available from rock holes in the general area, as Cook found in 1770 (Navin Officer 2003:11).

The extent to which these resources (or others) were available (and exploited) in the more distant past is not known, though lipid analysis of one of the hearth stones excavated to the south-east of the study area from the dune underneath the Asylum cemetery, indicated that freshwater fish were cooked on the fire (Austral/Godden Mackay 1997 Volume 2 Part 3:30). As the rich resources of the ocean shore and Botany Bay were always at least several kilometres away from the study area, and even further away during the Pleistocene, they are unlikely to have been exploited by Aboriginal people based at a campsite here, within the dune system. These factors, and the low densities of stone artefact evidence from the site, suggest that Aboriginal occupation was of relatively short duration and focussed on the exploitation of local resources. However, the nature of Aboriginal occupation in this period is poorly understood due to a lack of archaeological data.

### **2.3 Land Use History**

The land use history of the study area has been reviewed in detail for the current project (Casey & Lowe DRAFT 2018) and in general for the surrounding area (GML 2013). The study area currently consists of residential housing and associated subsurface services (sewer, stormwater), and Eurimbla Avenue. It was first divided into two adjacent land portions in the 1850s, with the first house (The Willows) constructed soon after. By the 1880s the southern portion of the study area was in use as a plant nursery, and in the following decades, portions of the low-lying swamp areas through the centre of the study area were used as a rubbish tip. Subdivision of the land in 1911 was followed soon after by construction of many of the houses which currently survive within the study area. The indication is that despite the construction of the mostly single storey cottage and narrow laneways, impacts other than initial tree clearance within the study area have been relatively minimal. The main roads have been sealed and guttered and there is a stormwater drain running down Eurimbla Avenue.

Aboriginal associations with the general area did not cease after the arrival of Europeans. Research by one of the current authors, Dr Paul Irish, into the ongoing use of coastal Sydney by Aboriginal people throughout the nineteenth century, shows that a number of places continued to be used within this area (Irish 2017). Major historical Aboriginal settlements in the area were at La Perouse, Botany and Banksmeadow as well as Bondi, Long Bay and Little Bay. For example, there are records of a major camp near Long Bay for Aboriginal people occupied before and for some time after the arrival of Europeans (MDCA 2005:59). A shelter with midden in Long Bay may also have been used by Aboriginal people in the historic period for smallpox victims (MDCA 2005:46). Although no direct references to the use of the specific study area by Aboriginal people after this time have been located to date, it is likely that, at least until the mid-nineteenth century, Aboriginal people continued to use the resources of the swamp and dunes, though after this time movement became more restricted by advancing European rural and suburban subdivision.



Any Aboriginal consultation or additional archaeological investigations within the study area will provide an opportunity to examine further any possible historical Aboriginal associations with the site, which might be incorporated into site interpretation.



## 3.0

## Archaeological Context

### 3.1 Local Site Distribution and Occupation Patterns

A search of the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) online database of a 1km x 1km area centred on the study area showed that no previously recorded Aboriginal sites are located within the study area (**Appendix 2**).<sup>2</sup> The nearest and only known site within 500m of the study area is a significant open campsite containing a series of deflated hearths and a small number of stone artefacts and manuports. This site [see below] was located in an aeolian sand ridge within and along the western boundary of the former Prince of Wales Destitute Children Asylum Cemetery which lay about 100m east of the current study area.

Most recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites in the local area appear to be middens and rock engravings. This is broadly typical of the eastern Sydney coastline between the harbour and Botany Bay, due to the prevalence of sandstone shelters and platforms, sandy embayments and rocky headlands. Considerable concentrations of sites (rock engravings in particular) occur (and partially survive) at La Perouse, Long Bay, Maroubra, Coogee and Bondi. There are a number of sites containing human burials, whereas open campsites, apart from open shell middens, are not well represented in the local area. The extant sites are mostly located in bushland reserve, national park, golf courses and other lands containing minimally disrupted land surfaces and sub-surfaces.

It was noted above (**Section 2.0**) that caution should be exercised in projecting the early historical landscape too far back in time (especially to the period of environmental change in which archaeological evidence has so far been documented). This applies even more so to the use of early historical and relatively recent archaeological data on how Aboriginal people used the Sydney region. Firstly, we currently know very little about how Aboriginal people used the Sydney area prior to the stabilisation of sea levels to roughly modern levels by the end of the last ice age (around 6,000 years ago), with the Prince of Wales Hospital Aboriginal archaeological site and a handful of others providing the only direct evidence. Secondly, we know that the period in which these sites were used was one of significant environmental change which, amongst, other things, is evidenced by the subsequent burial of the Prince of Wales Aboriginal hearths by drifting, wind-blown sands. Lastly, we know from archaeological evidence that use of stone and other raw materials and the type of finished implements changed markedly over the last 10,000 years, and we have little archaeological evidence of any organic materials for food extraction or implements prior to around 4,000 years ago.

The Prince of Wales Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery Aboriginal archaeological excavations undertaken between 1995 and 1997, concluded that models of Aboriginal movement and subsistence based on historical and recent archaeological records did not adequately explain the nature of the evidence uncovered and suggested alternate explanations (see below). If further archaeological evidence is found within the study area it is likely to greatly advance our understanding of the nature of early Aboriginal occupation of the area.

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<sup>2</sup> AHIMS online search of 13/2/18 of MGA coordinates in Zone 56 336500E-337500E, 6245000N-6246000N.





## 3.2 Aboriginal Site Investigations

The majority of investigations in the local area in recent years have been undertaken in relation to the archaeological sensitivity of the Aeolian dunes rather than the residual soils formed from decomposing sandstone which are located further east. The significance of any extant Aboriginal archaeological remains within the current study area is related to the remains from the dune contexts, and the most relevant studies are reviewed below. These reviews are summarised from previous archaeological studies by MDCA and others who have worked in this area.

### 3.2.1 Prince of Wales Hospital Site Godden Mackay Logan-Austral Investigations 1995-7

The Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery at Prince of Wales Hospital was the subject of a series of investigations prior to the construction of the infectious diseases clinic known as the Kiloh Centre. The focus of the investigations including salvage was the Asylum Children's Cemetery. These followed initial survey and testing investigations, conducted by Bickford (1994a, b, c). The aim of the GML-Austral investigation was to retrieve maximum information concerning the Cemetery, the burials and the Cemetery context. The work is documented in a series of published reports (Austral/GM 1995; June and May 1996; Dec 1997: Final Report 4 Vols.).<sup>3</sup> The investigation was undertaken following the demolition of the WW1 Hospital Huts and on exposure of bone across parts of the post-demolition surfaces. The excavations of the Cemetery were planned and executed as an exhumation of the remaining children's graves for the future re-interment, consecration and commemoration at an appropriate site within the Prince of Wales Hospital grounds.

The northern extent of the site was defined by prior deep excavations through bedrock for the new Hospital car park, under the Capital Works Program. Sands from the dune were removed and sold as bunker sand to local golf courses. Most of the eastern portion of the Cemetery, including its eastern boundary fence, had been removed during the excavation/levelling of the dune for the construction of the WW1 Hospital Huts. The levelling<sup>4</sup> had removed and may have pushed at least some of the original top soils and the upper portion of the A2 Horizon white sands from east to west. These disturbed [but local] sands were then made to form a short steep batter on the western and southern boundary of the site under which was found the remaining truncated dune containing the remaining burials and also the southern and western side slopes of the dune under the batter material (see Austral/Godden Mackay 1997: Vol. 2, Pt 1, Figure 6.36, p.128). The removal of the northern portion and eastern side of the Cemetery during the earlier construction phases described above accounts for the discrepancy between the number of burials identified by the archaeological excavations and the Asylum Cemetery records.

In addition to the exhumation of distinct burials, the broader Cemetery context was also investigated by a series of mechanical trenches through the dune and side slopes. During these investigations, a series of deflated stone hearths (Austral/Godden Mackay 1997 Vol.

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<sup>3</sup> There are also the original records of the investigation including an extensive photographic record and weekly reports made by the Field Supervisor, Peter Douglas pers. comm. 3.12.08 The unpublished field records, reports, site plans and section drawings are the subject of a confidentiality agreement between the consultants and the SEAHs.

<sup>4</sup> Peter Douglas pers. comm. 3.12.08



2, Part 3) of Aboriginal origin were located beneath the children burials and within the Cemetery boundaries towards its western boundary. The hearths were identified within the A2 Horizon below the burials. The hearths had not been disturbed by the graves but showed signs of having been subject to localised displacement by prevailing winds at the time, or a period before being covered by wind-blown sands. The hearths comprised a series of small sandstone cobbles brought into this particular location for the specific purpose of creating fireplaces on which there is firm evidence (Austral/Godden Mackay 1997 Vol. 2, Part 3) that at least one freshwater fish meal was cooked.

Carbon attached to one of the hearth stones was dated to about 8,000 years ago. A Thermoluminescence date on one of the hearth stones confirmed this date as the time the hearth was last exposed to sunlight, and others throughout the dune profile confirmed this date in terms of its relative positioning in the A2 Horizon. A lipid analysis on one of the hearthstones showed what type of animal had been cooked at the hearth.

The evidence for the early Aboriginal occupation at this place also included a small number of stone artefacts, the paucity of which was thought to represent a reliance on wooden implements, such as digging sticks, fishing nets or lines, boomerangs, spears, coolamons etc, or those of a type commonly associated with resource extraction in swamp or wetland environments which do not rely on stone artefacts. The highly acidic nature of the dune sands had destroyed any such evidence. The rate of decay of the human remains within the Cemetery above this Aboriginal site strongly suggest that animal or fish bone or human remains would not survive beyond about 300 years ago. No shell remains were found in or near the hearth site, or elsewhere throughout the excavated dune. Unless thick shell midden deposits had been laid down by the Aborigines in the past, within which organic remains may also have been deposited and preserved in this highly alkaline context, there is little or no likelihood that organic remains can survive in the acidic sands.

The La Perouse Community was involved in all aspects of the Cemetery and dune investigations and have retained the hearth stones at the La Perouse LALC offices at Yarra Bay. The management outcomes for the Aboriginal site was total salvage and storage until suitable reconstruction and interpretation could be arranged within the La Perouse Community, most likely at the La Perouse LALC offices at Yarra Bay.

### **3.2.2 Prince of Wales Hospital site MDCA Investigations 2008-2010**

MDCA conducted sensitivity mapping exercise and a series of test excavations relating to the construction of the Neuroscience Research Precinct on the northern side of Barker Street Around 200m south-east of the study area, and immediately to the south and west of the Asylum cemetery. These investigations were thought prudent given the Aboriginal archaeological remains described above within the Asylum Cemetery area upslope within the same dune. The investigations involved a detailed review of geotechnical information, aerial photography and other land use information to determine the likely archaeological sensitivity of the area (MDCA 2008). Following this, monitoring was undertaken of an area immediately to the north of Barker Street following demolition of existing structures. This revealed the presence of some original upper dune profiles with the potential to contain Aboriginal archaeological remains. Archaeological test excavation of these however retrieved no Aboriginal archaeological material (MDCA 2010).



### **3.2.3 CBD and South East Light Rail Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (GML 2013, Artefact *in prep.*)**

An Aboriginal and European heritage assessment was carried out along the entire route of the light rail (currently under construction) in 2013. It included a section of the route along the northern end of the current study area on High Street. Due to the presence of the sand dune deposits described above, this area was regarded as archaeologically sensitive (Zone 1 and Zone 2) and requiring further investigation in the form of archaeological monitoring or test excavation.

Test excavations along High Street were undertaken in 2017 by Artefact. Several mechanically excavated pits were dug beneath the existing road pavement between Botany Street and Hospital Road. Towards Hospital Road the pits showed sandstone bedrock within 0.5m of the current ground surface, while further west large quantities of historical fill were found, with the A2 dune horizon present only as a thin and possibly disturbed layer.<sup>5</sup> No Aboriginal archaeological remains were located.

### **3.2.4 Newmarket Complex Archaeological Test Excavations (MDCA and GML Heritage 2017- current)**

Historical and Aboriginal archaeological excavations are currently underway at the Inglis Newmarket Complex immediately to the south of Barker Street and the Prince of Wales Hospital. Initial geotechnical investigations and historical research has revealed the previous locations of several historic features associated with previous land use and the presence of an albeit truncated dune profile known to contain significant Aboriginal landforms and artefacts (MDCA 2017). There is also the possibility that contact period archaeological remains are located at this site. The investigations include test trenching and monitor of post demolition surfaces and sub-surfaces.

The land forms across the site include the probable course of a stream, known to exist at the time of settlement and its side slopes known as Bird's Gully, an attraction for both the Aboriginal occupants and the early farmers and horse entrepreneurs. This project is also being conducted in partnership with the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council.

### **3.2.5 Long Bay Correctional Complex (MDCA 2007)**

The archaeological investigation of the site of a new 85 bed Prison Hospital within the Long Bay Correctional Complex (MDCA 2007) aimed to investigate potentially undisturbed subsurface sand dune deposits following the demolition of prison industry and store buildings and exposure of deposits below the footings and concrete slab foundations. In this respect it was like the investigation proposed for the post demolition investigation of the Neuroscience Research Precinct.

The Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the prison complex found that potentially artefact bearing dune deposits typical of eastern Sydney and similar to those found at the Prince of Wales Hospital site were present. The archaeological investigation focused on a previously identified area of sensitivity (MDCA 2005; Figure 2) on the basis of its locational

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<sup>5</sup> Based on review of test excavation records (photos, sections, pit descriptions) kindly provided by Artefact (28/2/18) from archaeological test excavations undertaken in April 2017 within Fee Zone 26 for the Sydney Light Rail Project.



suitability (on the eastern end of an elevated ridge along the northern portion of the Long Bay Correctional Complex) as an Aboriginal campsite (in contrast to adjacent boggy areas) and the possibility for the sandy deposits underlying existing structures to retain undisturbed evidence of Aboriginal occupation. These investigations took place following the demolition of the existing structures. These demolition works exposed deposits that showed the south eastern half to two thirds of the site were in an area subject to past excavation/levelling to a depth of a metre or more compared to the adjacent area to the northwest. Deposits exposed in this area included basal yellow sands which have been shown to be archaeologically sterile (see **Section 3.2.1**). The foundations and footings and underground services of the existing buildings were found to have disturbed subsurface deposits to varying degrees. Some areas had relatively undisturbed natural soil profiles underlying fill of variable thickness and others had been truncated by past activities. One area, approximately 10m x 15m, appeared to also retain original topsoil under about 10cm of recent sand and rubble. There was also an area of level sandstone platform close to the ground surface identified as a potential engraving site which may have been exposed in the past. The archaeological testing program included manual and mechanical sub-surface excavations which sampled all areas not subject to major disturbance through past and recent activities.

Two stone artefacts were uncovered from both the A2 horizon and from disturbed upper/fill layers. They were not considered indicative of intact or *in situ* archaeological deposit, but rather derived from deposits which have been removed, churned or totally disturbed by the building construction phase. Secure carbon samples suitable for radiocarbon dating were not retrieved and the stone artefacts could not be relatively dated on typological grounds. All bone retrieved was found to be of recent introduced animal species.

The paucity of Aboriginal cultural remains at this site was considered to be a factor of site disturbance coupled with the likely low intensity usage of the area by Aboriginal people, generating low densities of cultural material susceptible to disturbance by natural erosion and historical activities (MDCA 2007:45).

### **3.2.6 Prince of Wales Hospital Conservation Management Plan (GBA 1997)**

The Conservation Management Plan (Graham Brooks & Associates 1997: 7.2.3, p.102) broadly considered the Aboriginal archaeological potential of the hospital campus and noted that subsurface deposits across the campus could potentially contain Aboriginal relics. The Aboriginal archaeological potential or sensitivity of the current study area was not however specifically discussed being just outside the main Hospital area.

## 4.0

### Site Inspection

A site inspection was undertaken by MDCA Principal Heritage Consultants Mary Dallas and Paul Irish on Thursday 1st February 2018 together with Mr Ron Timbery and Ms Kylie Jones of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council. The aim of the inspection was to assist in the assessment of the Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity of the study area. Due to the known lack of exposed original terrain within the study area, it was not anticipated that Aboriginal archaeological remains would be located, and this was confirmed during the site inspection. The following observations of relevance to the current assessment were made:

- Most of the ground surfaces were obscured by tarred roads, laneways and residential dwellings (see **Figures 8, 9 & 10**).
- Sandy dune deposits were observed on the surfaces of some front yards/gardens, indicating the presence of underlying dune deposits.
- Sub-surfaces were observed in the excavated trenches of the Light Rail, along High Street and in a deep stormwater trench at the end of Eurimbla Avenue at the rear of the dwellings fronting Magill Street (**Figures 11 & 12**).
- The rise and fall of the land is not marked but can be observed from the high points along High Street and the northern ends of Hospital Road and Botany Street (see **Figure 13**).
- The lowest points are along the centre of Eurimbla Avenue which carries a deep storm water drain down to the properties along the central portion of Magill Street
- Most of the housing appears to be built on slabs, although a few have below-ground swimming pools.
- Referring to the early map projections of the swales and dune ridges and swamps and watercourses, although difficult to observe by a preliminary visual inspection, it would appear there may be a series of low-rise dune slopes above Bird's Gully or at least the form which it took when Europeans first arrived in Sydney two centuries ago.



**Figure 8. Typical dwelling form, rendered fences and sealed roads of the study area**

MDCA 1.2.18





**Figure 9. The eastern end of Magill Street from Hospital Road showing low point in landform**

MDCA 1.2.18



**Figure 10. View south east along Botany Street from UNSW where the highest point in the study area is found**

MDCA 1.2.18



**Figure 11. Light Rail construction along High Street**

MDCA 1.2.18





**Figure 12. Storm water drain showing depth of trench and width of pipe at the end of Eurimbla Avenue**

MDCA 1.2.18



**Figure 13. View to Eurimbla Ave from Botany Street showing gentle slope down to the centre of study area (and storm water drain) and gentle rise to existing POW buildings along Hospital Road**

MDCA 1.2.18



## 5.0

## Assessment & Management

### 5.1 Assessment of Archaeological Sensitivity

From the above review of contextual information and the results of the site inspection, conclusions can be drawn about the likely nature of Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity within the study area.

As other nearby development projects have shown, the likelihood of identifying intact significant Aboriginal occupational evidence is related to the presence/absence and level of historical disturbance to the original dune profile. The current study area is underlain by aeolian dune deposits which have been demonstrated in the past to contain significant Aboriginal archaeological remains within 100m of the study area. In the recent past, the central portion of the study area appears to have been a swale between two dunes, characterised by the freshwater swamp of Bird's Gully.

Portions of the subject land which may have represented dry land on the margins of the Bird's Gully swamp in recent centuries could contain archaeological evidence of past Aboriginal use, most likely in any remaining original topsoil (A1) Horizons. Geotechnical testing does not provide sufficient resolution to determine whether any such horizons are present, however evidence of historical fill and other activities suggest that they are unlikely to have survived historical impacts such as tree clearance, house and road construction and associated earthworks, and the installation of subsurface services. It seems unlikely then, that evidence of relatively recent Aboriginal use of the study, over the past 500 – 1000 years, will have survived within the study area.

However, as nearby excavations have shown, considerable older Aboriginal archaeological evidence can also survive deeper within the dune profile, namely in surviving white A2 Horizon sands above B Horizon coffee rock. Geotechnical testing has demonstrated the survival of original A2 Horizon sands across most of the subject land, which are regarded as archaeologically sensitive due to their association with Aboriginal archaeological remains of considerable age in the adjacent Prince of Wales Hospital complex. The A2 Horizon is absent in the north-eastern corner, around the intersection of Hospital Road and High Street, where sandstone bedrock is found very close to the surface. However, it appears to be present across the remainder of the study area, usually under 0.5m – 1m of historical fill below the current surface. The thickness of the A2 Horizon varies but broadly increased to the south and west from High Street, and is up to around 2m in thickness.

No physical manifestation of the historically recorded swamp has yet been recorded, so it is not possible to determine its age and relationship to the A2 dune sands. Areas of actual swamp are unlikely to retain Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity, but without knowing how long this swamp has existed, we cannot rule out that Aboriginal archaeological evidence may survive within A2 white dune sands beneath recent swamp horizons. In other words, that these sands may represent dry land in a period before the formation of the swamp, and therefore have been used by Aboriginal people. It is noted that the recent swamp horizon has been assessed as retaining historical archaeological potential due to the historical process of rubbish dumping and filling of the swale (Casey & Lowe DRAFT 2018: Figure 5.15).



It is not clear how far south of High St the shallow sandstone bedrock extends, so for management purposes, the entirety of the study area is to be considered to retain Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity.

## **5.2 Proposed Management of Aboriginal Archaeological Sensitivity**

Although the likelihood that Aboriginal archaeological remains have survived within the study area is difficult to assess, any such surviving remains would be of considerable archaeological significance due to the rarity of archaeological evidence located within the broader dune and swamp landscape of the Eastern Suburbs. The survival of any such remains will be intimately linked to the location of previous historical disturbance, particularly of service infrastructure and cannot be determined accurately without removal of overlying roadways and buildings.

The only definitive means of determining whether Aboriginal archaeological remains are present within the subject land would be through archaeological test excavation. There are a number of remote sensing techniques that are sometimes used in archaeological investigations to try to identify buried features without excavation, but these are not considered to be of practical use in the current study. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) for example, may identify solid historical structures (for example stone foundations, post holes, pits, cisterns or wells), but it is unlikely to identify the more ephemeral or even large Aboriginal archaeological sites without ground-truthing. In addition, the lack of current access to open ground across the highly developed study area would make such an investigation highly limited.

### **5.2.1 Pre-demolition refinement of Aboriginal Archaeological Sensitivity**

The most appropriate means of establishing the survival, or otherwise, of deposits with Aboriginal archaeological potential would be to undertake limited archaeological test excavations in potentially accessible areas such as existing roadways or any accessible front or backyards of residences, if this was possible and appropriate. As noted below however, there are considerable time implications for such excavations, due to required Aboriginal community consultation and reporting pre-conditions. [It is noted that any such excavations would need to be undertaken in accordance with any historical archaeological testing and associated permits/requirement, as discussed further below].

### **5.2.2 Aboriginal Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation**

Whether or not the initial archaeological test excavations outlined above are able to be undertaken, archaeological monitoring of demolition and earthworks that may expose or impact archaeologically sensitive A2 dune horizons will be required. This is most likely in the southern portion of the study area, where the excavation for the ASB is required.

Within this area, where earthworks are proposed that extend below current levels of historical fill/disturbance, the extent of these proposed earthworks is to first be investigated through archaeological test excavation. The aim of the excavation would be to determine, in the first instance by broad scale mechanical testing, whether any surviving Potential Archaeological Deposit (i.e. original dune A Horizon) contains Aboriginal archaeological remains, including within buried former land surfaces. If such remains are present, they would be investigated through detailed manual excavation to fully assess the remains and determine appropriate management or conservation requirements.



It is noted that areas of historical archaeological potential have been identified in association with the historical extent of the swamp, and the Violet Hall property at 4 Magill St (Casey & Lowe DRAFT 2018). Any Aboriginal archaeological excavation methodology will need to be developed jointly with any historical archaeological requirements and mindful of any permit or development consent conditions.

As the ASB proposal will be assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD), these test excavations do not require an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit under s90 of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974*. However, they require a process of investigation and reporting broadly parallel to that under the NPW Act, as generally set out in the (SEARs) for each SSD project. Typically, this would include Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with S80C of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009*, as detailed further in the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010, Part 6 National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (OEH 2010c). This sets out the legislated requirements for Aboriginal community consultation, which must be fully documented in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment reports accompanying any such applications. The consultation process includes placing a public advertisement to seek expressions of interest in the project (or more precisely the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) to be sought, as well as directly notifying Local Aboriginal Land Councils and government agencies dealing with Aboriginal communities in the area. People or organisations can register as “Registered Aboriginal Parties” which provides them with a right to review and comment on aspects of the proposed assessment and investigations, and to provide advice on Aboriginal cultural and historical significance. It should be noted that at the time of writing this consultation process had been initiated.

Should deposits with archaeological potential be identified during archaeological monitoring or test excavation, these would be further investigated in a manner commensurate to their extent and condition. For example, occasional small patches of potential archaeological deposit amongst service trenches may be most appropriately managed through salvage excavation, whereas more extensive and intact deposits would require archaeological test excavation to determine the presence/absence, extent and significance of any Aboriginal archaeological remains as a basis for appropriate further management decisions.

A methodology for such investigations would be devised according to the results of the archaeological monitoring of service infrastructure removal and would be developed in conjunction with the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council and according to applicable guidelines and industry best practice.

As noted above, Aboriginal historical associations with the area, for example of Aboriginal children who lived at the Randwick Asylum, are likely to be of ongoing importance to the local Aboriginal community. If there are opportunities for onsite interpretation of the history of the place, consultation should be undertaken with the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council to determine whether recognition of these or other Aboriginal associations with the area would be appropriate to commemorate in some form within the context of the proposed development. This would be consistent with interpretive displays elsewhere within the Prince of Wales Hospital complex.



## 6.0

## Recommendations

The following recommendations are based upon the legal requirements and automatic statutory protection provided under the terms of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act of 1974 (as amended)*, where;

*it is an offence to knowingly damage, deface or destroy Aboriginal sites or relics without the prior consent of the Director General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service,*

in conjunction with;

the results of the preliminary assessment of the study area which is documented in this report and the initial Aboriginal community consultation undertaken for this stage of the project.

It is recommended that:

1. If possible, initial archaeological test excavations should be undertaken prior to SSD approval in accessible portions of the study area, in order to determine the presence/absence of any Aboriginal archaeological remains within surviving archaeologically sensitive dune deposits. These initial test excavations will also provide more specific information about the nature of these deposits to guide more comprehensive investigations to be undertaken as a condition of development consent.
2. As required by the SEARs relating to the proposed SSD application for the Stage 1 ASB, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report is to be prepared that addresses the SEARs requirements (such as in relation to Aboriginal community consultation). This Report should incorporate any further information obtained as a result of initial archaeological test excavations (if undertaken) and develop an appropriate archaeological investigation strategy for consideration in development assessment.
3. Any Aboriginal archaeological monitoring, test or salvage excavations should be designed and developed with reference to any historical archaeological requirements and approvals.
4. One copy of this report is to be forwarded to the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council.
5. One copy of this report is to be forwarded to:

The Manager  
Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System  
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage  
P.O. Box 1967  
Hurstville NSW 2770





## 7.0

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Aboriginal Community Consultation Records**



15 June 2018

Tamika Goward  
Archaeologist  
Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists  
PO Box 6184  
Kangaroo Valley NSW 2577

PO Box 365, Matraville  
New South Wales, 2036

T: (02) 9311 4282  
E: [admin@laperouse.org.au](mailto:admin@laperouse.org.au)  
ABN: 89 136 607 167

**Via Email:** [tamika@mdca.com.au](mailto:tamika@mdca.com.au)

Dear Ms Goward

## **Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment – Randwick Campus Redevelopment**

I write in regards to the above mentioned report dated 22 May 2018. I have reviewed the report provide the following information and recommendations on behalf of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (**La Perouse LALC**).

As you may be aware, the La Perouse LALC was established and operates within the provisions of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) (**ALRA**) and in accordance with section 52 of the ALRA the La Perouse LALC has a statutory function to “*take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the Council’s area*”.

The La Perouse LALC currently represents a membership of 400 Aboriginal persons who reside within or have an association with the La Perouse LALC area. A high majority of our members are descendants of families who have a traditional connection to the Randwick area.

The La Perouse LALC acknowledges and recognises the Gadigal and Bidjigal clan groups who occupied the Coastal Sydney area prior to colonisation.

Following the review of the report, I can provide the following recommendations:

### **Recommendation 1:**

The La Perouse LALC generally agrees with the recommendations 1 – 3 as set out on page 27 of the report.

### **Recommendation 2:**

We advise the proponent to be cautious when considering which Registered Aboriginal Party is engaged for onsite works. A recent state significant infrastructure project has seen the engagement of private for-profit entities who do not have an Aboriginal community based membership, who are not accountable to the Aboriginal community or do not have a cultural association to the project area.

**Recommendation 3:**

The La Perouse LALC advises that if any Aboriginal objects (such as human or animal bone, shell material or stone artifacts) are impacted or unearthed during any activity on the property, the activity must cease and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and La Perouse LALC be contacted immediately.

If you would like to discuss this issue further please don't hesitate to contact the La Perouse LALC office on 9311 4282 during business hours.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Ingrey  
**Chief Executive Officer**





## **Appendix 2**

### **AHIMS Online Search Records**

MDCA

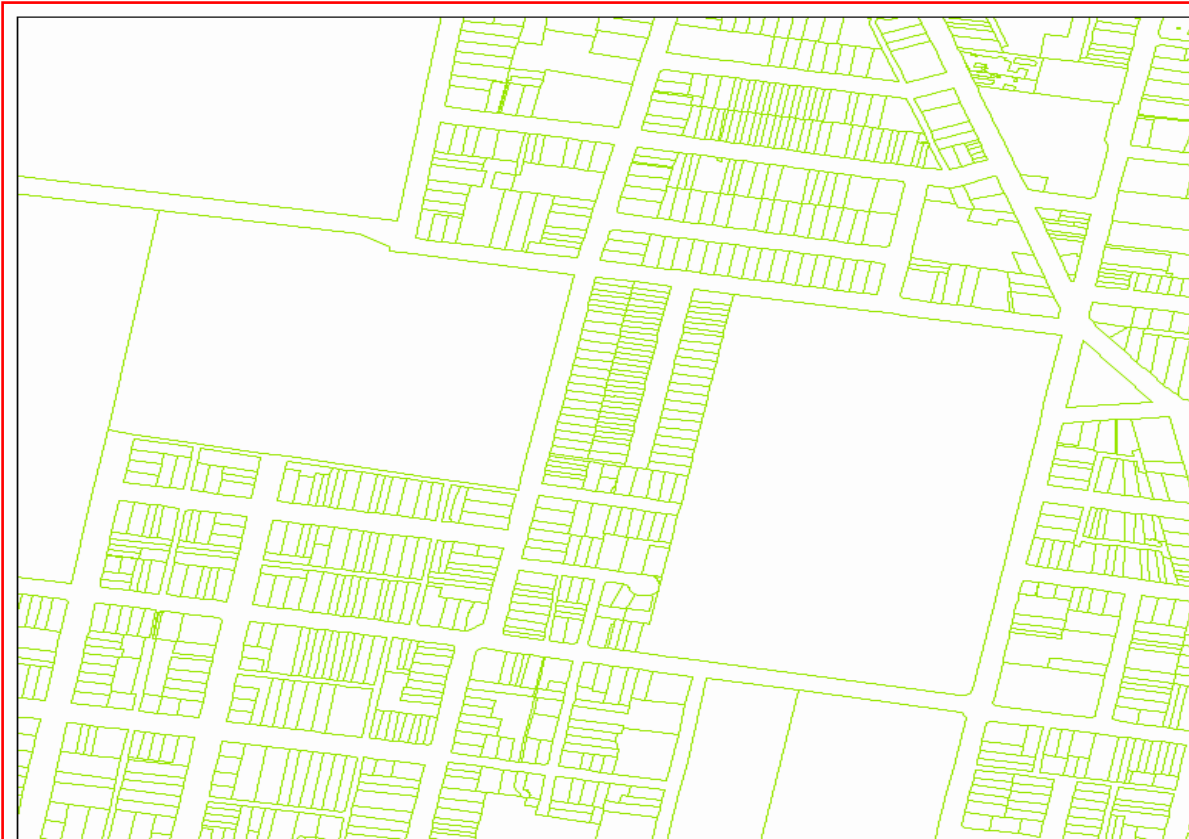
Date: 13 February 2018

PO Box A281  
Arncliffe New South Wales 2205  
Attention: Paul Irish  
Email: paul@mdca.com.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

**AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 336500 - 337500,  
Northings : 6245000 - 6246000 with a Buffer of 0 meters, conducted by Paul Irish on 13 February 2018.**

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of the Office of the Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

<b>1</b>	<b>Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *</b>

**If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?**

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the [NSW Government Gazette \(http://www.nsw.gov.au/gazette\)](http://www.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Office of Environment and Heritage's Aboriginal Heritage Information Unit upon request

**Important information about your AHIMS search**

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Office of Environment and Heritage and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date .Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings,
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.