

Statement of Heritage Impact

STADIUM AUSTRALIA REDEVELOPMENT
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK



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FINAL REPORT

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Visualisation of stadium interior after redevelopment (Source: Cox 2019)

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Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd has been commissioned by Infrastructure NSW to prepare a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) for the redevelopment of Stadium Australia, located at 15 Edwin Flack Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park (the subject site).

This report supports a State Significant Development (SSD) Development Application (DA) for the refurbishment of Stadium Australia, which is to be submitted to the Minister for Planning pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Infrastructure NSW is the proponent of the SSD DA.

Stadium Australia opened in 1999 for the 2000 Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games and, at the time, was the largest Olympic Stadium ever built and the second largest stadium in Australia. In March 2018, the NSW Premier announced plans to refurbish Stadium Australia to address deficiencies with the existing infrastructure and ensure that the stadium retains its status as a premier venue within a network of stadia and events infrastructure in NSW.

The NSW Stadia Strategy 2012 provides a vision for the future of stadia within NSW, prioritising investment to achieve the optimal mix of venues to meet community needs and to ensure a vibrant sports and event environment in NSW. A key action of the strategy includes developing Tier 1 stadia and their precincts covering transport, integrated ticketing, spectator experience, facilities for players, media, corporate and restaurant and entertainment provision. Stadium Australia is one of three Tier 1 stadia within NSW, the others being Sydney Football Stadium and the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The refurbishment of Stadium Australia will address deficiencies in the existing infrastructure and improve facilities to be in line with contemporary Australian venue standards. The works ensure the stadium remains a modern, globally competitive venue that achieves the requirements for a Tier 1 stadium.

Given the proximity of the subject site to the fresh water resources of Homebush Bay, it is likely that Aboriginal people living in the area would have moved through the landscape of the subject site, employing a variety of subsistence activities to take advantage of the natural resources available.

An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database, administered by OEH, centred on the subject site, was undertaken on 14 August 2019 and returned 7 results. There were no sites identified directly within the subject site, with the closest registered Aboriginal site located approximately 1.3km from the subject site, which consisted of an artefact site. The 7 results from the current AHIMS search included 3 different main site types, some in combination with each other.

However, regardless of the original environmental context and registered sites in the vicinity of the subject site, the construction of Stadium Australia in the 1990s included bulk excavation for the installation of the existing basement level of the stadium, which (due to the depth of excavation and the relatively shallow nature of Blacktown soils) would have removed all natural soil profiles with the potential to retain an Aboriginal archaeological signature.

Therefore, the subject site is assessed to have no potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present.

The proposed redevelopment of Stadium Australia includes alterations and modifications to the existing stadium only. Stadium Australia is not a heritage item and no longer possesses any archaeological potential (due to bulk excavation for the stadium itself). Therefore, this assessment of heritage impact relates predominantly to potential visual impacts to other heritage items within the vicinity of the subject site, as no heritage fabric will be impacted through the proposed development works.

The proposed redevelopment of Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park poses no physical impact to any statutory listed heritage fabric or heritage item, nor is it located within a Heritage Conservation Area. The proposed redevelopment seeks only to revise the format and functionality of the existing Stadium, retaining the dominant position of the stadium within the Sydney Olympic Park and along the Olympic Boulevard streetscape. The Stadium redevelopment will retain the visual connection to the Olympic Cauldron and its historical association with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Overall, the redevelopment of Stadium Australia is considered to have no visual or physical impact to the surrounding heritage items within the proximity of the Sydney Olympic Park precinct (i.e. Olympic Cauldron, State Abattoir and Newington Armory). The proposed works will retain the existing important view lines through the precinct, with no heritage impact on the setting and character of the precinct and associated heritage values.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Purpose of this Report

Curio Projects Pty Ltd has been commissioned by Infrastructure NSW to prepare a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) for the redevelopment of Stadium Australia, located at 15 Edwin Flack Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park (the subject site).

This report supports a State Significant Development (SSD) Development Application (DA) for the refurbishment of Stadium Australia, which is to be submitted to the Minister for Planning pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Infrastructure NSW is the proponent of the SSD DA.

This report has been prepared with reference to key client and guideline documentation as detailed below (but not limited to):

- NSW OEH, *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. (the Due Diligence Code of Practice);
- NSW Heritage Branch 2009, *Assessing significance for archaeological sites and 'relics'*;
- NSW Heritage Office 1996, *Heritage Curtilages Heritage Council Guideline, Dept. of Urban Affairs & Planning*.
- NSW Heritage Office/RAIA, 2005, *Design in Context – guidelines for infill development in the Historic Environment*;
- *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter, 2013* (Burra Charter); and
- NSW Heritage Office 2001, *Assessing Heritage Significance*.

1.2. Project Background

Stadium Australia opened in 1999 for the 2000 Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games and, at the time, was the largest Olympic Stadium ever built and the second largest stadium in Australia. In March 2018, the NSW Premier announced plans to refurbish Stadium Australia to address deficiencies with the existing infrastructure and ensure that the stadium retains its status as a premier venue within a network of stadia and events infrastructure in NSW.

The NSW Stadia Strategy 2012 provides a vision for the future of stadia within NSW, prioritising investment to achieve the optimal mix of venues to meet community needs and to ensure a vibrant sports and event environment in NSW. A key action of the strategy includes developing Tier 1 stadia and their precincts covering transport, integrated ticketing, spectator experience, facilities for players, media, corporate and restaurant and entertainment provision. Stadium Australia is one of three Tier 1 stadia within NSW, the others being Sydney Football Stadium and the Sydney Cricket Ground.

In order to qualify for Tier 1 status, a stadium is required to include:

- seating capacity greater than 40,000;
- regularly host international sporting events;

- offer extensive corporate facilities, including suites, open-air corporate boxes and other function/dining facilities; and
- be the home ground for sporting teams playing in national competitions.

The refurbishment of Stadium Australia will address deficiencies in the existing infrastructure and improve facilities to be in line with contemporary Australian venue standards. The works ensure the stadium remains a modern, globally competitive venue that achieves the requirements for a Tier 1 stadium. The refurbishment of Stadium Australia addresses the following project objectives:

- transform the stadium into a 'fan favourite' destination for experiencing and enjoying sports and entertainment events;
- maximise the direct and indirect economic, social and cultural benefits to NSW from the project, including securing major, economically beneficial events within NSW to ensure the economic sustainability of the stadium into the future;
- deliver a multi-use contemporary rectangular venue that meets the needs of patrons, hirers and other users for rugby, football, concerts and other new forms of entertainment, and reaffirms the status of the stadium as Australia's largest purpose-built rectangular venue in Australia;
- improve the facility's sensitivity to the environmental conditions of the site by providing a roof which provides cover to 100% of seats (to the drip line);
- provide new and refurbished corporate areas, members areas and general admission areas to enhance the patron experience;
- promote universal accessibility, safety and security such that the stadium is welcoming, inclusive and safe for all stadium users, including persons requiring universal access;
- promote environmental sustainability and embrace a whole of life approach to operations and maintenance; and
- achieve a high standard of design and reinforce the Stadium's status and identity within the NSW stadia network, and more broadly, nationally and internationally.

1.3. Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has issued Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) to the applicant for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed development. This report has been prepared having regard to the relevant SEARs as follows:

SEAR	COMMENT/REFERENCE
<p>10. Heritage and Archaeology</p> <p>The EIS shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI), prepared by a suitably qualified consultant in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual. The SOHI is to address the impacts of the 	<p>This report provides the SOHI required.</p>

SEAR	COMMENT/REFERENCE
proposal on the heritage significance of the site and adjacent areas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> if the SOHI identifies impact on potential historical archaeology, an Historical Archaeological Assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist, in accordance with the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage Guidelines 'Archaeological Assessment' 1996 and 'Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics' 2009. 	See Section 5 of this report. Subject site is assessed to have low-no archaeological potential.

1.4. Site Description

The site is located at 15 Edwin Flack Avenue within the Sydney Olympic Park. It is bound by Edwin Flack Avenue to the west, Dawn Fraser Avenue to the south, Olympic Boulevard to the east and Qudos Bank Arena to the north. The site is located within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area.

The site is legally described as Lot 4000 in DP 1004512 and part of Lot 4001 in DP 1004512. In 2017, the Minister for Sport assigned Venues NSW as the trustee of Stadium Australia under the *Sporting Venues Authorities Act 2008*.

In a broader context, the site forms part of Sydney Olympic Park which is a sporting and economic centre in metropolitan Sydney that covers 680 hectares. Sydney Olympic Park comprises a range of sports and entertainment venues, parklands, and commercial, retail and residential developments. It benefits from convenient access to Homebush Bay Drive, Parramatta Road and the M4 Western Motorway, as well as Olympic Park railway station. The Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 and Sydney Metro West will also significantly increase accessibility.

The locational context of the Site is shown in Figure 1.1, whilst the site boundaries and existing site features are shown in Figure 1.2.



Figure 1.1: Regional Site Context (Source: Ethos Urban 2019)



Figure 1.2: Site area and local context (Source: Ethos Urban 2019)

1.5. Limitations and Constraints

This report has been prepared using the readily available historical data and documentation available for the study area, including relevant Conservation Management Plans, and existing archaeological reports and assessments. No further historical research has been undertaken.

This HIS does not include assessment of any non-heritage related planning controls or requirements.

1.6. Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by Sam Cooling, Senior Archaeologist and Heritage Specialist, and Tatiana Barreto, Architectural Consultant, with review by Natalie Vinton, Heritage Specialist and Director, of Curio Projects Pty Ltd. Mapping and overlays were prepared by Andre Fleury, Archaeologist and Historian, and Kieren Watson, Archaeologist.

2. Statutory Context

2.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment administers the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act), which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments to be made to legislate and guide and the process of development and land use. Local heritage items, including known archaeological items, identified Aboriginal Places and heritage conservation areas are protected through listings on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) or Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). The EP&A Act also requires that potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, in accordance with the requirements of the NPW Act and the Heritage Act.

Part 4, Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act identifies and defines State Significant Development projects (SSD) as those declared under Section 89C of the EP&A Act. The EP&A Act provides for development for 'recreation facility (major)' with a capital investment of more than \$30 million to be designated SSD under State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. As the proposed redevelopment of the Stadium Australia will have a capital investment exceeding \$10 million, an application was made (and approved) for the Stage 1 Concept Plan as SSD for the purposes of the EP&A Act, with the Minister for Planning the consent authority for the project.

As part of the SSD approvals process, applicants are not required to obtain separate heritage statutory approvals, including built heritage and historical archaeology approvals under Section 60 of the NSW Heritage Act (1977) or Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) under Section 90 of the NPW Act.

2.1.1. Auburn LEP 2010

While Sydney Olympic Park is now located within the City of Parramatta LGA, prior to 2016 it was located within the Auburn City Council LGA, and therefore is covered by the Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010 (LEP).

The Auburn LEP 2010 provides local environmental planning provisions for land within the former Auburn LGA. Clause 5.10 sets out objective and planning controls for the conservation of heritage, including the conservation of built heritage and archaeological sites. However, it is also noted that the inclusion of the subject site within the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 24 (see relevant section below) excludes application of the Auburn LEP to the site (Schedule 1 SREP 24).

The current subject site is not listed on the Auburn LEP as an individual heritage item, nor is it located within a heritage conservation area.

2.2. SEPP (Major Development) 2005 – Schedule 3 – Part 23 – Sydney Olympic Park

The primary statutory planning controls for Sydney Olympic Park are provided under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (State Significant Precincts) 2005* (SEPP 2005). The SEPP provides controls for heritage conservation with respect to the Sydney Olympic Park precinct, under Clause 31-*Heritage Conservation*, and includes the requirement for a Heritage Impact Statement to be prepared

'before granting consent to any development on land: (a) on which a heritage item is situated, or (b) within a heritage conservation area, or (c) within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b)'.

SEPP 2005 identifies several heritage items in the vicinity of the Stadium Australia study area, which are addressed further in Section 2.6 below.

2.3. Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 24 (Homebush Bay Area)

The Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 24 (Homebush Bay Area) (SREP 24) includes provisions for the 'protection of the natural environment and heritage items' (Part 4) within the Homebush Bay Area. Of relevance to the subject site, SREP 24 lists the 'State Abattoirs Heritage Conservation Area (Area No 1)',

2.4. Other Relevant Site-Specific Documents

2.4.1. Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030

The Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan describes the wider Sydney Olympic Park area as:

The Town Centre's physical heritage includes historic State Abattoir buildings and plantings, Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues, Sydney Showground venues and the open space setting designed for the Games. This Olympic setting was structured around three key principles:

- *the Olympic Plaza and the Boulevard, as the main organising element of the urban core*
- *the landscape, including the tree lined streets, parks and green fingers (streets and linear parks running east to west that link the town with the parklands), and the Olympic Markers*
- *the water features.*

The town's important physical elements will be preserved and enhanced by:

- *retaining Olympic Boulevard as the grand ceremonial and event axis*
- *maintaining the iconic sports venues, public spaces, light towers and artworks built for the Games*
- *retaining the iconic structures in the Sydney Showground*
- *designing Dawn Fraser Avenue and Murray Rose Avenue to form the primary east-west connection between the parklands and surrounding suburbs*
- *strengthening the green finger connections between the urban core and surrounding parklands with enhanced planting*
- ***conserving heritage items, the State Abattoirs heritage conservation area, Showground Road, the Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park and significant trees***
- *building height and envelope controls that complement these elements.*

The Master Plan divides the Sydney Olympic Park into several precincts with specific development controls applying to each. The subject site is located within the 'Stadia' Precinct (Figure 2.1).

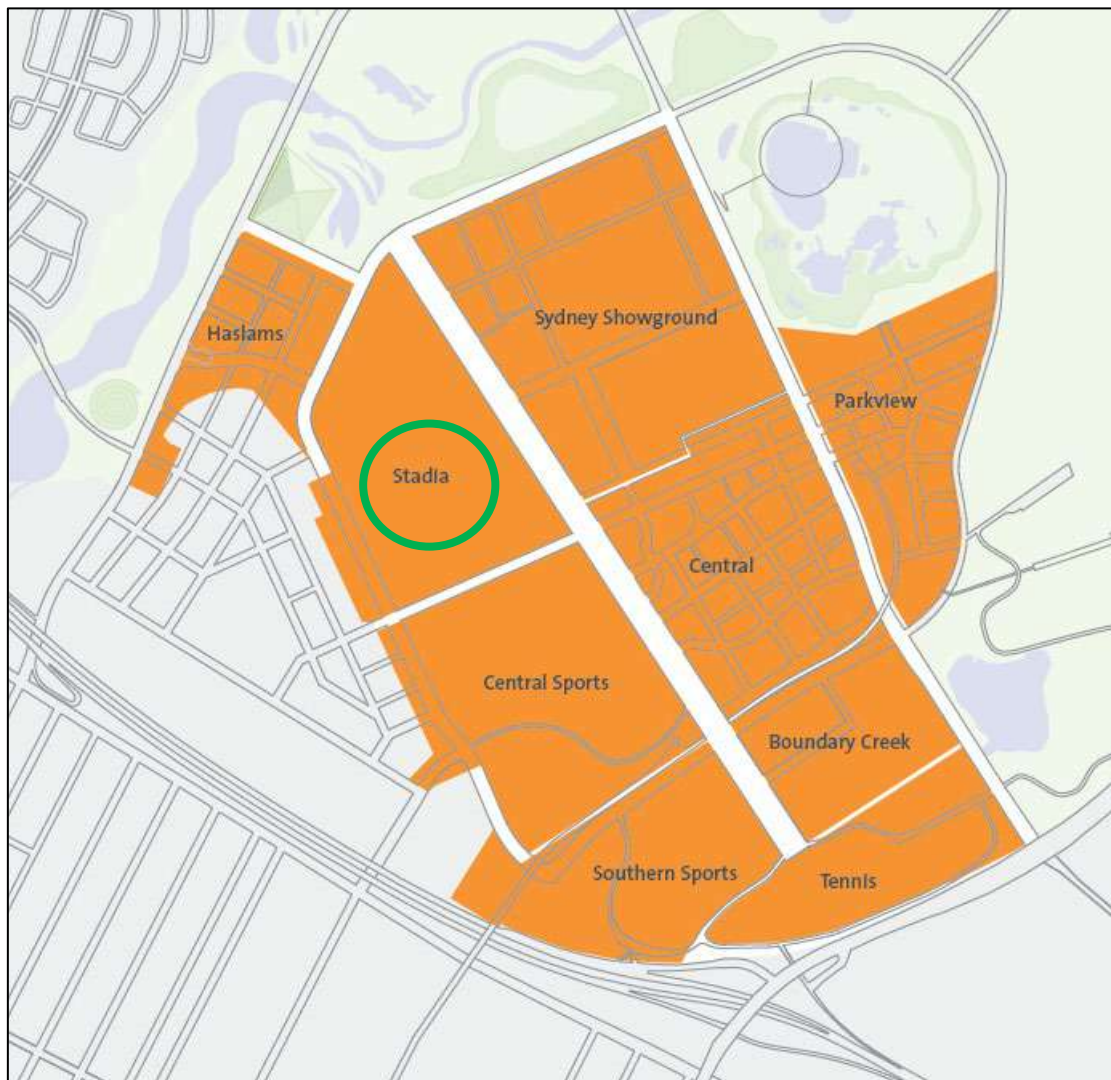


Figure 2.1: Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan Precincts. Subject site marked in green within 'Stadia' Precinct (Source: SOPA 2018 with Curio Additions)

2.5. Heritage Framework

2.5.1. NSW Heritage Act 1977

Heritage places and items of particular importance to the people of New South Wales are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (the Heritage Act) defines a heritage item as a 'place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. The Heritage Act is responsible for the conservation and regulation of impacts to items of State heritage significance, with 'State Heritage Significance' defined as being of 'significance to the state in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item'.

In order to best implement and administer the protection afforded to historical archaeological 'relics' and heritage places as through the Heritage Act, and EP&A Act, the NSW State Government have prepared a series of best practice statutory guidelines with regards to historical archaeology. These guidelines are designed to assist developers, landowners and archaeologists to better understand their statutory obligations with regards to historical archaeology in NSW, and implement best practice

policies into their investigation of historical archaeological heritage values in relation to their land and/or development.

2.5.2. National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (NPW Act)

The *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), administered by the (former) NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), is the primary legislation that provides statutory protection for all 'Aboriginal objects' (Part 6, Section 90) and 'Aboriginal places' (Part 6, Section 84) within NSW.

An Aboriginal object is defined through the NPW Act as:

"any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non- Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains."

The NPW Act provides the definition of 'harm' to Aboriginal objects and places as:

"...any act or omission that:

- (a) destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or*
- (b) in relation to an object-moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or*
- (c) is specified by the regulations, or*
- (d) causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c)," (NPW Act 1974)*

The NPW Act also establishes penalties for 'harm' to Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places, as well as defences and exemptions for harm. One of the main defences against the harming of Aboriginal objects and cultural material is to seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act, under which disturbance to Aboriginal objects could be undertaken, in accordance with the requirements of an approved AHIP.

Where a project is assessed as SSD, the requirement for an AHIP in accordance with Section 90 of the NPW Act is removed (EP&A Act, Section 89J).

In order to best implement and administer the protection afforded to Aboriginal objects and places as through the NPW Act, and EP&A Act, the OEH have prepared a series of best practice statutory guidelines with regards to Aboriginal heritage. These guidelines are designed to assist developers, landowners and archaeologists to better understand their statutory obligations with regards to Aboriginal heritage in NSW, and implement best practice policies into their investigation of Aboriginal heritage values and archaeology in relation to their land and/or development. These guidelines include:

- *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW.*
- *Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW.*
- *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.*

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits, a Guide for Applicants.*

The relevant section of this SoHI report has been prepared in accordance with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice*, to identify whether the proposed development has the potential to impact any potential Aboriginal archaeology (should the study area be determined to have Aboriginal archaeological potential).

2.6. Statutory Heritage Listings

The existing stadium is not heritage listed, nor are any individually listed heritage items or heritage conservation areas (HCAs) located within the Stadium Australia redevelopment study area. However, there are several heritage listings located within the vicinity of the study area which require consideration through this SoHI, including:

- A) State Abattoirs Heritage Conservation Area (Area No. 1) – Flemington (SREP 24)
- B) Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve – Holker Street, Homebush Bay (SHR 01850)
- c) Olympic Cauldron – Cnr Olympic Boulevard & Grand Parade, Sydney Olympic Park (SHR 001839)

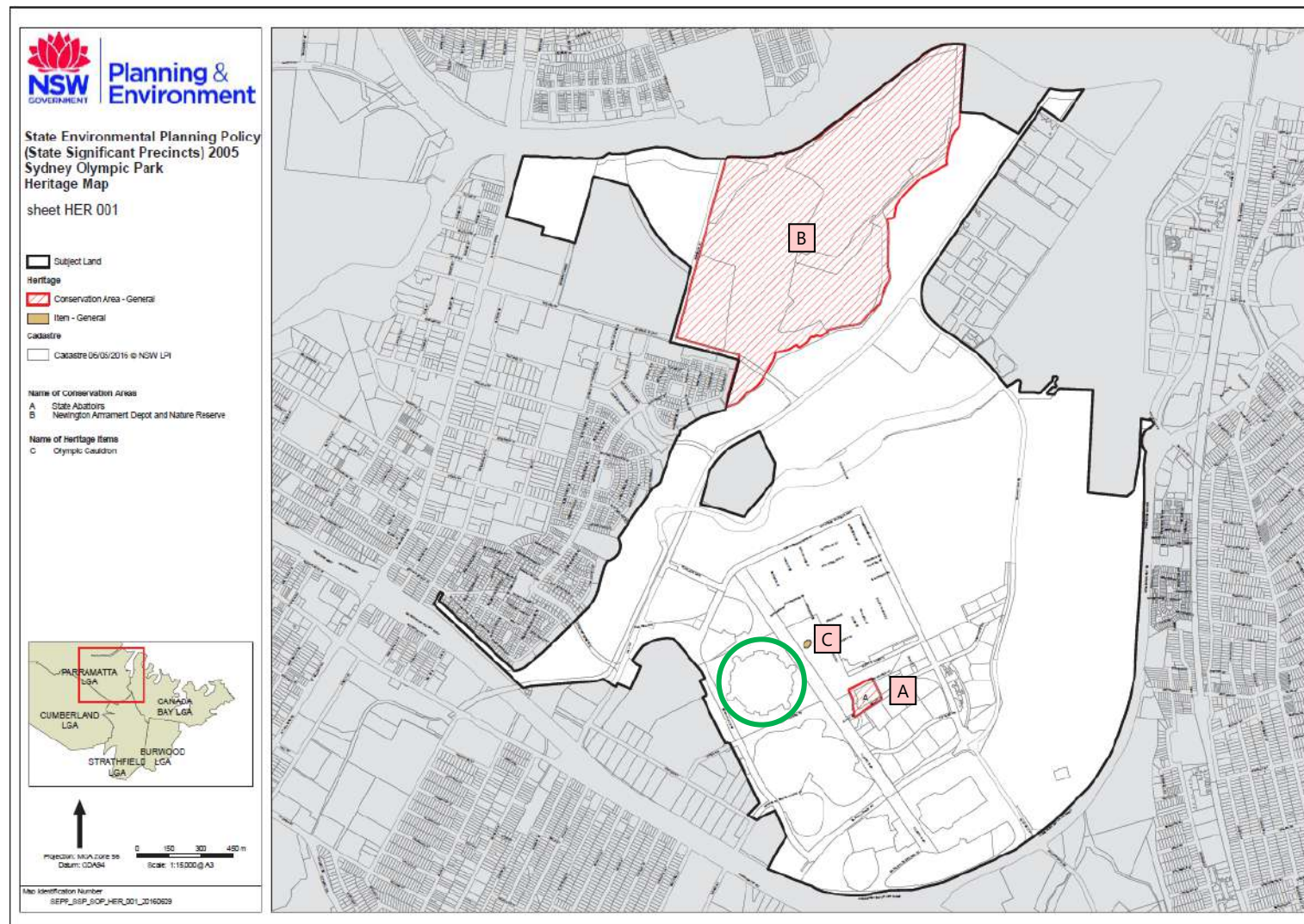


Figure 2.2: SEPP 2005 Heritage Map. Stadium Australia Circled in Green.

3. Historical Summary

The following historical summary is provided for contextual background for the development and history of the subject site. The history of the subject site has been predominantly extracted from readily available secondary sources such as the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) website and fact sheets¹, Dictionary of Sydney, and relevant previous reports. Sources have been referenced below as appropriate, with direct quotes in italics.

3.1. Aboriginal Occupation

Sydney Olympic Park is situated on the traditional lands of the Wann clan, known as the Wann-gal. The lands of the Wann-gal stretched along the southern shore of the Parramatta River between Cockle Bay (Cadi-gal land) and Rose Hill (Burramatta-gal land). Across the river were the Wallumetta-gal.

The Wann-gal and their ancestors have lived in the Homebush Bay area for thousands of years. Physical evidence of the usage of the Homebush Bay area by Aboriginal people has been found in the form of stone artefacts located at the site. In addition, several scarred trees have been found within remnant forest. Aboriginal shell middens (campsites where shellfish and other foods were consumed) were known to have lined Homebush Bay and the Parramatta River but were destroyed in the limekilns in the eighteenth and nineteenth century and subsequent alterations to the shoreline.

The estuarine ecosystems provided the Aboriginal communities with food, clothing and other resources necessary to their lifestyle as well as a means of travelling throughout the region by water. Aboriginal people were still using the Homebush Bay area, even after their lands were granted to Europeans.

Several encounters and conflicts between Europeans and Aboriginal people are documented for the Homebush Bay area throughout the 1790s, and in the early 1800s Aboriginal people were working for and supplying fish to the Blaxlands on their Newington Property but by the 1850s the records become more scarce.

In the early twentieth century, many Aboriginal people migrated into Sydney from elsewhere in New South Wales looking for work, or to join family already here. Some of these people settled close to Homebush Bay and worked in the local industries (e.g. abattoirs and the Naval base).²

3.2. Early Colonial History

When Europeans arrived in 1788, Homebush Bay consisted of extensive tidal wetlands and thick bush. The area was first known as 'The Flats', and was recorded by Captain John Hunter within 10 days of the arrival of the First Fleet.³

¹ Sydney Olympic Park Authority 2015, 'Sydney Olympic Park- Fact Sheet- History'

² Sydney Olympic Park Authority, 'Indigenous History', Accessed on 13.8.19 from <https://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/History-and-Heritage/Indigenous-History>.

³ SOPA 2015: 2

The first land grant in the area was to Thomas Laycock in 1794 (40 hectares) and 1795 (further 40 hectares). By 1803, Laycock's landholdings totalled 318 hectares, occupying the area between Haslams and Powells Creek, and was named Home Bush, from which the area takes its name. Other early land grant recipients in the Homebush area included William Pritchard in 1796 (37 hectares), Henry Waterhouse and John Shortland in 1797 (20 hectares each), and Samuel Haslam in 1806 (20 hectares)- after whom Haslams Creek was named.⁴

3.2.1. Newington Estate

In 1807, John Blaxland acquired 520 hectares, reserving the grants of Waterhouse, Shortland, Archer and Haslam. He named the estate Newington after his family estate in Kent. Blaxland established a series of salt pans on the banks of the Parramatta River and by 1827, was producing 8 tons of salt each week for the Sydney market. Blaxland also established a tweed mill, limekiln and flourmill. Newington House was completed in 1832 and St Augustine's Chapel in 1838. The property, extending from near Holker Street to Carnarvon Street, was sold to John Wetherill in 1877.⁵

Blaxland brought an experienced salt maker with him from England, who laid out salt pans on the edge of the Parramatta River. By 1827, the Newington Estate was sending eight tons of salt to Sydney each week. The Blaxland's were associated with the estate until the 1860s. In that time a tweed mill and flour mill were established in addition to cattle grazing, logging and coal mining exploration.

Newington House, the Blaxland family's home and the Chapel of St Augustine, the family's chapel, survive from this period. Built in 1832, Newington House still stands today within Silverwater Correctional Complex. The house is an excellent example of an early colonial, Regency-style villa.⁶

⁴ Sydney Olympic Park Authority, 'Colonial History', Accessed on 13.8.19 from <https://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/History-and-Heritage/Colonial-History>

⁵ ibid

⁶ SOPA 2015: 2



Figure 3.1: Parish of St John, Newington Estate (Source: NSW HLRV, AO Map No. 278)



Figure 3.2: Newington House, c.1894

3.2.2. Home Bush Estate

D'Arcy Wentworth was granted 370 hectares, including Thomas Laycock's estate, in 1810. In 1811, he established a horse stud and subsequently became one of the most noted breeders in the colony. In 1819, Wentworth acquired more land so that his estate comprised 394 hectares. It was at this time that he constructed Homebush House, positioned near to the corner of Figtree Drive and Australia Avenue.

The Home Bush estate was bounded by Homebush Bay in the north, Powell's Creek in the east, Haslam Creek in the west, and Parramatta Road to the south (Figure 3.3).

Accounts from 1840 describe Home Bush house as consisting of two large and five smaller rooms, with a flagged verandah along the front and sides of the house, affording views over the cleared lands of the property across to the Parramatta River in the north.⁷

In 1825, a horseracing track was developed on the [the south-east corner of the] estate, and between 1841 and 1860 the track was used as the headquarters of the Australian Jockey Club. D'Arcy had died in 1827 and left his property to his son Charles Wentworth (who had been a member of the first European exploration party to find a route through the Blue Mountains). The property was tenanted throughout Charles' ownership. By 1881, the estate consisted of 440 hectares (with the addition of areas drained and reclaimed from around Powells and Haslams Creek commencing from 1826).

Subdivision of the Home Bush Estate (referred to as the Homebush Park Estate) was first proposed in 1881, however this appears to have led to little development on the land, with the first lot only sold in 1883, remaining relatively unpopulated until at least 1890- with allotments closer to Parramatta Road appearing to be favoured over others.⁸

⁷ GAO 2013: 114

⁸ Godden Mackay 1990: 5



Figure 3.3: Pre-1850s Concord parish map showing Wentworth land grant. Approximate location of study area outlined in red. (Source: NSW HLRV, AO Map No. 208 with Artefact additions)

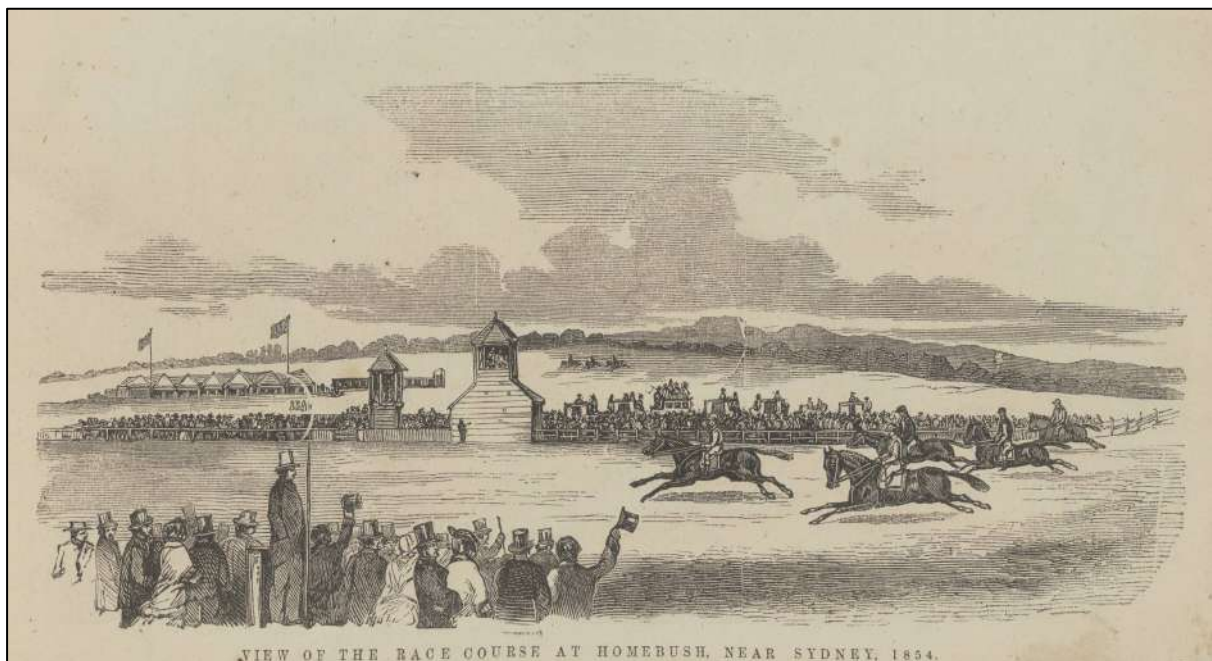


Figure 3.4: Racecourse on Homebush Estate, 1854 (Source: SOPA Website)

3.3. Abattoir, Armament and Brickworks

3.3.1. Newington Armament

From 1879, parts of the Newington Estate were gradually purchased or resumed by the NSW Government for various uses including a gunpowder magazine. Newington House has served a variety of uses since the Blaxland era, including use as a boys' boarding school (Newington College), a Benevolent Asylum for Aged Women, a State Hospital and, since the late 1960s, an administration block within the Silverwater Correctional Complex.

In 1882, land to the east of Newington House was resumed for the establishment of a powder magazine. Operations started in 1897, with the magazine being manned by the NSW Military Forces. It was later taken over by the Australian Navy and became known as the Royal Australian Naval Armament Depot (RANAD) Newington.

During World War II, the site underwent major expansion. Until the mid 1990s, the depot covered more than 250 hectares and featured 185 buildings, a wharf and a narrow gauge electric railway. Many of the buildings and facilities are historically significant.

In early 1997, the armament depot became an armament transfer station and was consolidated to the north of the site to allow for the development of the Athletes Village. Today, this area is known as Newington Armory and Blaxland Riverside Park. Newington Armory is now heritage listed and has a Conservation Management Plan.⁹

3.3.2. State Abattoir (1907-1988)

At the beginning of the 1900s, concerns that the public abattoir at Glebe Island was endangering the health of the general public were heightened following the outbreak of the plague in Sydney. A Parliamentary Standing Committee was appointed in 1902 to inquire into the proposal for a new abattoir. In 1906 the Committee recommended the establishment of an abattoir at Homebush. In March 1907, the Government resumed 367 hectares of the Homebush Estate, mainly for the establishment of the new State Abattoir. Construction began in 1910 and comprised the erection of 44 slaughterhouses, administration buildings, stabling, by-products treatment buildings, latrines, drafting yards and roadways.¹⁰

The Homebush Abattoir was the major supplier of meat for domestic and overseas markets for many years. At its peak, the abattoir employed 1,600 people and had the capacity to slaughter more than 20,000 animals daily.

By-products of abattoir works including dumping of waste material from carcasses into Homebush Bay lead to an abundance of algal blooms in the Bay by the 1930s, contributing substantially to the impact to the natural environment of the area.

Maintenance of the facility was a constant problem for the Abattoir administrators and following the Second World War, the State opted to decentralise slaughterhouses and a number of new abattoirs were established in country areas. In the 1960s at the

⁹ Fact Sheet 'History' Accessed 12.8.19 from: <https://www.sydneypark.com.au/education/resource-centre>

¹⁰ SOPA 'Industrial History', Accessed 12.8.19 from: <https://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/History-and-Heritage/Industrial-History>

commencement of meat exports, the facilities were modernised. This modernisation program between 1965 and 1976 saw the fitting of new machinery into old buildings and the patching and repair of degraded structures. In 1979, the facilities were assessed and found to be near the end of their economic life and all renovation work was ceased. The constant repair of aged buildings was stopped and export licenses were relinquished in 1980. The economic viability of the Abattoir declined until it was inevitable that it should close. A review of the operations of the Abattoir was undertaken in the early 1980s and it was decided to redevelop surplus land for industrial use.¹¹

In June 1988, the Abattoir closed. Many of the old buildings have now been demolished to make way for new facilities. Constructed in 1920, the original Administration Building is a fine example of a Federation style commercial brick building which has been restored.¹²

Stadium Australia was constructed on the former abattoir saleyards. (Figure 3.5)

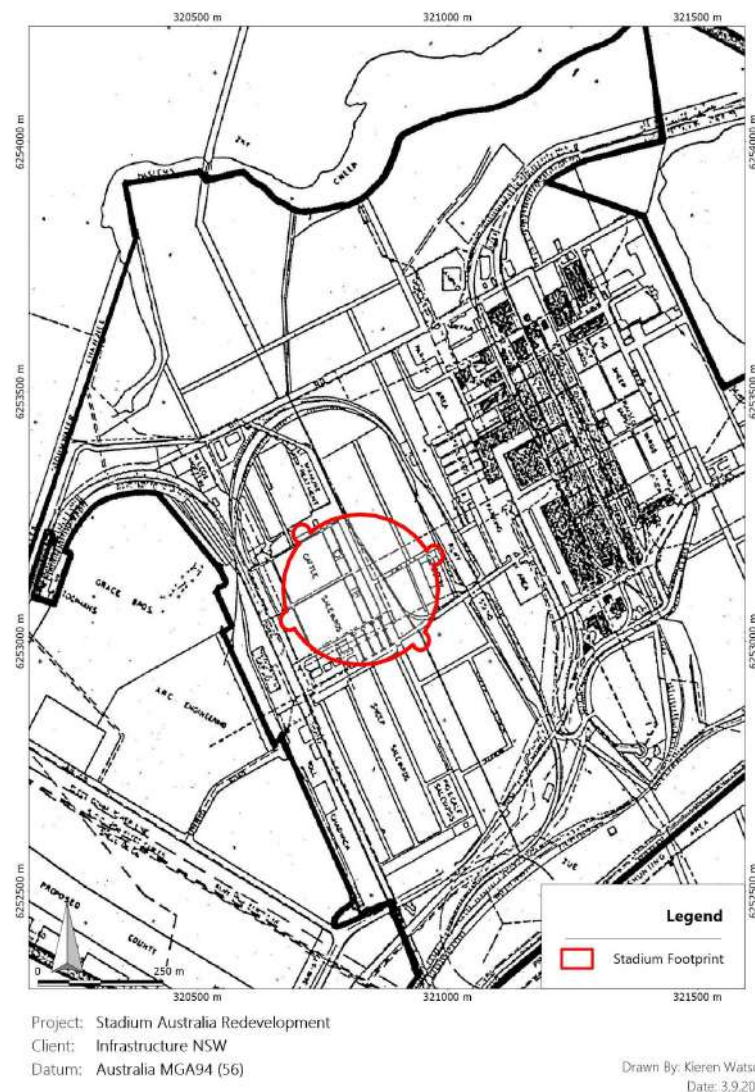


Figure 3.5: State Abattoir Area Plan. Focus of Abattoir facilities concentrated to the north of the current subject site (approximate location indicated in red)- coinciding with the location of the saleyards (Source: Don Godden 1986: 20)

¹¹ ibid

¹² SOPA 2015: 2



*Figure 3.6: Homebush Abattoir Administration Block 1914
(Source: GAO 2013: 120, from Department of Public Works Annual Report 1913-1914)*



Figure 3.7: Main Entry to Abattoir Administration Building (Source: GAO 2013: 82)

3.3.3. State Brickworks

Early last century, increased building activity caused the price of building materials to rise. In order to control the price of bricks, the Government established the State Brickworks at the head of Homebush Bay in 1911. During the economic depression of the 1930s, the

brickworks operated at a significant loss. In 1936, they were sold to private enterprise and closed in 1940.

After World War II, the Government re-established the State Brickworks due to a shortage of bricks. Two large pits were created to provide the clay to make the bricks. The first pit was closed and filled in during the 1960s. Work in the second pit ceased with the closure of the brickworks in 1988.



Figure 3.8: 1943 Aerial. Approximate location of subject site indicated by red circle in Abattoir saleyards (Source: NSW LPI Six Maps)

3.4. Development of Sydney Olympic Park (1990s)

Historical activities in Homebush Bay since the 1800s were consistently accompanied by reclamation and landfilling of the Bay, with over half the existing land area in Homebush Bay consisting of reclaimed land by the 1950s. By this time, the environmental impact of the reclamation of the wetlands was substantial, only made worse in the 1960s and 1970s when Homebush Bay became the 'dumping site for much of Sydney's household and industrial waste'.¹³

By the early 1980s Homebush Bay had become a large tract of neglected land, which was bypassed as Sydney sprawled westward. The area, now in the demographic heart of Sydney, was earmarked as a major urban renewal project, which began with the establishment of the Sports Centre, the Australia Centre and the opening of Bicentennial Park.

¹³ SOPA 2015: 3

Sydney's successful bid for the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games provided the impetus for one of the largest remediation projects ever undertaken in Australia. The restoration of this unique site and the construction of world-class facilities created a legacy of sporting and recreational infrastructure for the next century and beyond.¹⁴

The development of Sydney Olympic Park created several major zones across the site: an urban core of sporting venues and associated facilities (including Stadium Australia); the 'Newington Urban District' (aka Olympic Village); and parklands. The construction works undertaken within the Precinct in preparation for the Olympic Games included major road realignments, such as the entrance road to the remnant State Abattoir buildings, forming Herb Elliot Avenue.¹⁵ Construction of Stadium Australia included bulk excavation for the installation of the existing basement level of the stadium.

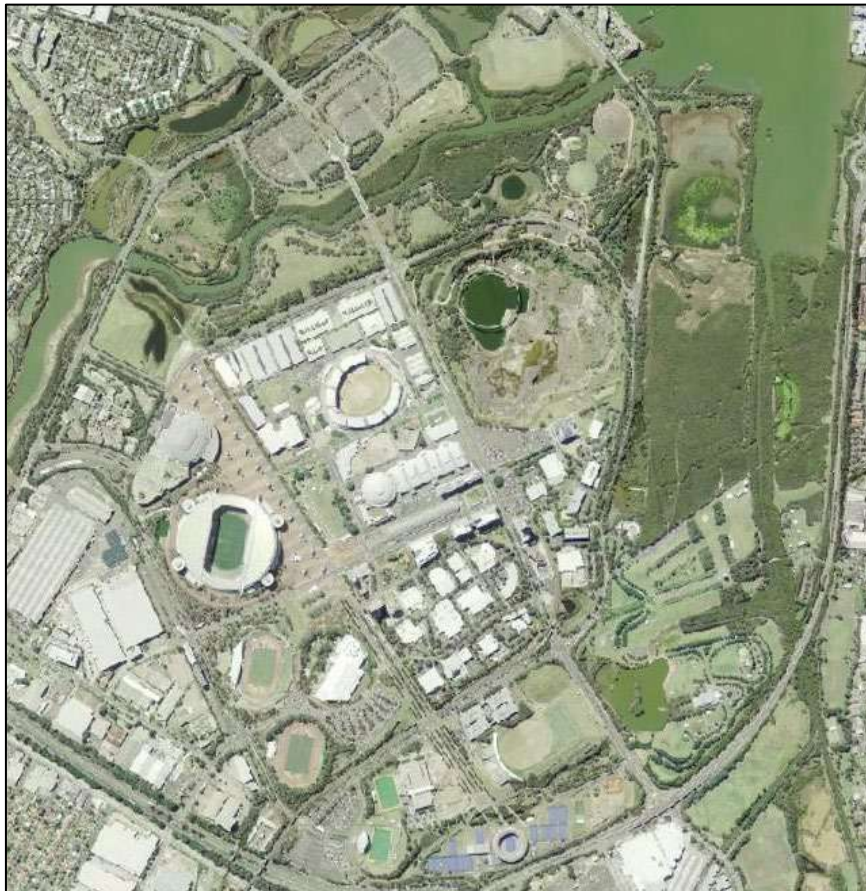


Figure 3.9: Sydney Olympic Park (Source: NSW LPI Six Maps)

¹⁴ Ibid: 3

¹⁵ SOPA 'Olympic History', Accessed 12.8.19 from <https://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/History-and-Heritage/Olympic-History>



Figure 3.10: Sydney Olympic Park and Surrounds in 2016 (Source: SOP Master Plan 2018)

4. Site Description

A site inspection was undertaken by Curio Projects in July 2019 in order to gain a better understanding of physical context of the subject site. Stadium Australia is located on the block bounded by Edwin Flack Avenue, Dawn Fraser Avenue, and Olympic Boulevard (Figure 4.1). The Qudos Bank Arena and associated car park (P1) are located to the immediate northwest of the Stadium.

Originally designed to facilitate crowds for the Sydney 2000 Olympics, the surrounding precinct of Stadium Australia is very spacious, with wide open public concourse areas surrounding the Stadium on all sides (Figure 4.2 to Figure 4.4). The heritage listed Olympic Cauldron is located east across Olympic Boulevard from the Stadium, although it is currently partially obscured from the Stadium itself by a row of trees (Figure 4.7).



Figure 4.1: Existing Site Elements (Source: SOPA 2018: 35)



Figure 4.2: View from north western side of Stadium, towards Arena (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 4.3: Existing Stadium southwestern concourse (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 4.4: Main Entrance Concourse, view south, commemorative pole display visible (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 4.5: Existing Stadium Main Entrance from Olympic Boulevard (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 4.6: Existing Stadium Interior (Source: Curio 2019)



Figure 4.7: View from Existing Stadium southeast across Olympic Blvd, Olympic Cauldron in left of image partially obscured by trees (Source: Curio 2019)

The Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan also identifies important existing views through the Sydney Olympic Park site (Figure 4.8), influenced by and including:

- *Fig Grove to mark the high point of the urban core and of Olympic Boulevard*
- *the vista to the Northern Water Feature and Newington Village along Olympic Boulevard*
- *the vista to the Tennis Centre along Olympic Boulevard*
- *views to the surrounding parklands*
- *eastern views to Sydney CBD and Chatswood*
- *local views to the former Olympic stadium (currently The Stadium) across the Yulang from the station and down Murray Rose Avenue.*
- *sun access and visual connection will be secured for Central Park and new buildings by creating a vista across Central Park to the Abattoir Gardens. Buildings fronting Central Park will have a view towards the station and Showground buildings.*¹⁶

These key views are illustrated below in Figure 4.8.

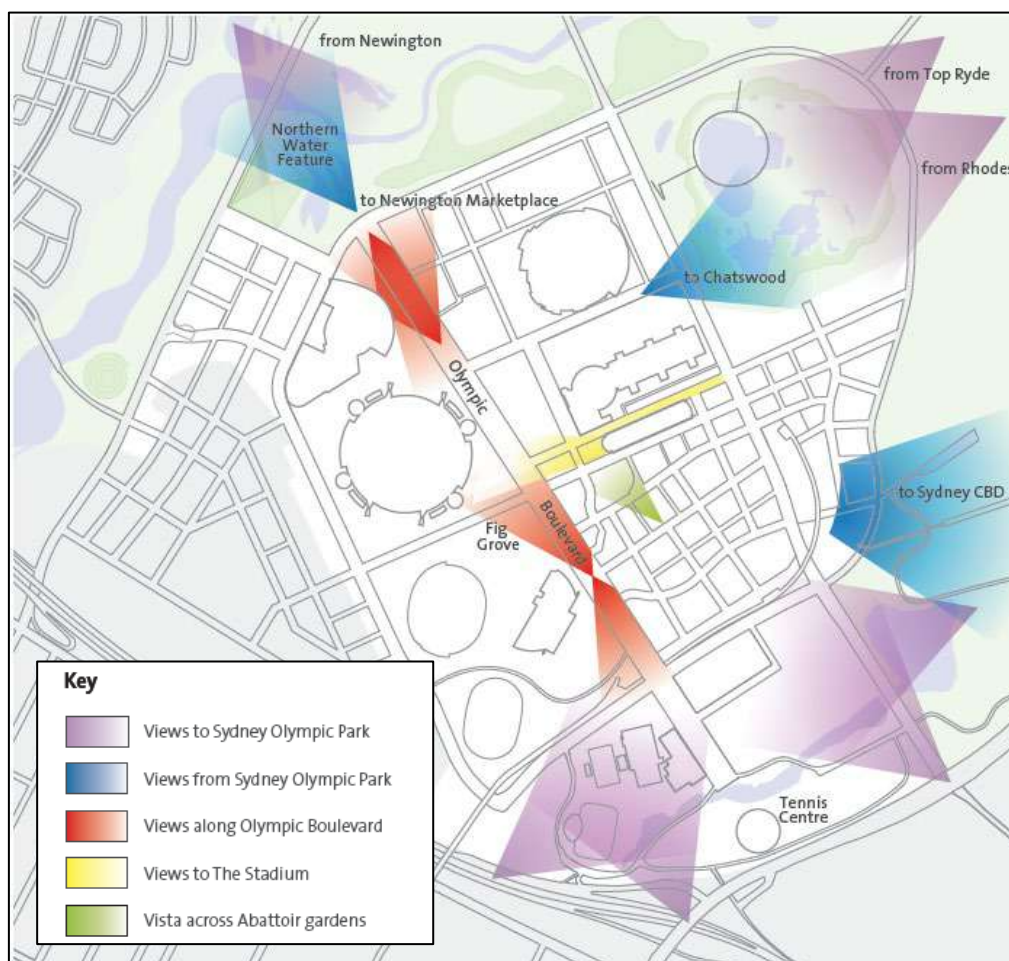


Figure 4.8: Views identified in SOP Master Plan, Figure 3.2, p. 37 (Source: SOPA 2018)

¹⁶ SOPA 2018: 36

5. Archaeological Assessment

5.1. Aboriginal Archaeology

The environmental context of an area is important when it comes to understanding formation processes and landform patterning that may provide information regarding the way in which an area was utilised by Aboriginal people pre-contact.

According to the Archaeological Assessment (Artefact, 2016), the Sydney Olympic Park area is mapped as being located on the Blacktown Soil Landscape, characterised by shallow (<100mm) hard setting red and brown soils over clay, underlain by the Wianamatta Shale Group. The landform of the Blacktown soil landscape is generally characterised by gentle undulating rises, with landform varying slightly depending on its positioning in relation to the Parramatta River (as opposed to the part of this soil landscape that covers the Cumberland Plain in locations further from the River).

Given the proximity of the subject site to the fresh water resources of Homebush Bay, it is likely that Aboriginal people living in the area would have moved through the landscape of the subject site, employing a variety of subsistence activities to take advantage of the natural resources available.

An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database, administered by OEH, centred on the subject site, was undertaken on 14 August 2019 and returned 7 results. There were no sites identified directly within the subject site, with the closest registered Aboriginal site located approximately 1.3km from the subject site, which consisted of an artefact site. The 7 results from the current AHIMS search included 3 different main site types, some in combination with each other. These sites are summarised in Table 5.1.

However, regardless of the original environmental context and registered sites in the vicinity of the subject site, the construction of Stadium Australia in the 1990s included bulk excavation for the installation of the existing basement level of the stadium, which (due to the depth of excavation and the relatively shallow nature of Blacktown soils) would have removed all natural soil profiles with the potential to retain an Aboriginal archaeological signature.

Therefore, the subject site is assessed to have no potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present.

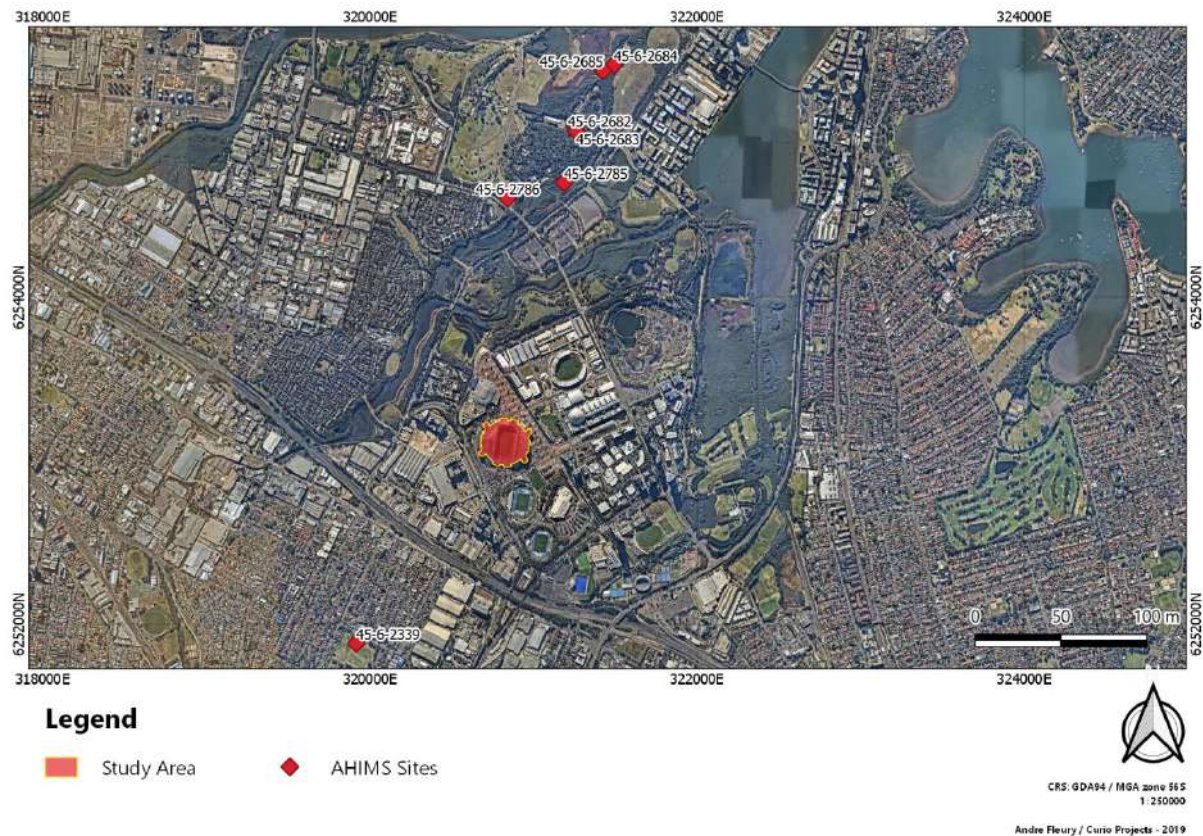


Figure 5.1: AHIMS Extensive Search (1km) of Registered Sites (Source: AHIMS Web Services with Curio additions)

Table 5.1: AHIMS Sites in the Vicinity of the Subject Site

SITE ID	SITE NAME	SITE TYPES	PERCENTAGE OF SITES (%)
45-6-2339	Haslams Ck 1	Artefact: -	14.3
45-6-2682	Wanngal Woodland Axe-Marked Tree	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred): -	14.3
45-6-2683	Wanngal Woodland IF1	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD): -	71.4
45-6-2684	Wanngal Woodland IF2	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD): -	
45-6-2685	Wanngal Woodland IF3	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD): -	
45-6-2785	Wanngal Woodland PAD2	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD): 1	
45-6-2786	Wanngal Woodland PAD1	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD): 1	100%
TOTAL		7	

5.2. Historical Archaeology

The history of the Sydney Olympic Park, specifically with reference to the location of the Stadium Australia subject site and immediate surrounds, has been divided into four main historical phases with reference to historical activities that would leave different archaeological signatures. These phases are defined as:

Phase 1 (1799-1810) – Early Land Grants

Phase 2 (1810-1907) - Home Bush Estate

Phase 3 (1907-1988) - State Abattoir

Phase 4 (1988-Present) – Sydney Olympic Park

5.2.1. Phase 1 – Early Land Grants

Historical land use associated with Phase 1 occupation of the subject site and surrounds would have been characterised mainly by land clearance and cattle grazing, with no known records of any structures being built within the subject site. Therefore, this phase is unlikely to have left any remnant archaeological signature within the subject site and surrounds and is assessed to have no archaeological potential¹⁷.

5.2.2. Phase 2 – Home Bush Estate

Phase 2 historical use of the subject site is associated with Wentworth's occupation of the site as 'Home Bush Estate'. While Home Bush House, including associated gardens, outbuildings, roads etc were constructed on the property at this time, all these features were located further to the northwest of the subject site, with no evidence for structures within the subject site itself. While an 1854 sketch of the horse racing track known to be present within the Home Bush Estate from c.1825-1869 depicts a timber structure associated with the track, this feature too was not located within the current subject site.

Therefore, there is no archaeological potential relating to Phase 2 of historical occupation within the subject site.¹⁸

5.2.1. Phase 3 – State Abattoir

Potential archaeological evidence associated with Phase 3 use of the subject site would be unlikely to include any substantial structures or buildings, considering the location of the Stadium within the former saleyards of the Abattoir, rather than associated with the main building complex.

Therefore, there is low to no potential for an archaeological resource to be present within the subject site relating to Phase 3 historical use of the site.¹⁹

5.2.2. Phase 4 – Sydney Olympic Park

The construction of Stadium Australia in the 1990s included bulk excavation for the installation of the existing basement level of the stadium, requiring a substantial depth of excavation and installation of a basement retaining wall.

5.2.3. Summary of Historical Archaeological Potential

The earliest known non-Aboriginal occupation of the area is D'Arcy Wentworth's 1810 land grant, with the associated house (Home Bush House) located on a ridge on the highest part of the estate, in the

¹⁷ Artefact Heritage 2016, *Site 9, Sydney Olympic Park, Archaeological Assessment*, p.29

¹⁸ Artefact Heritage 2016, p.30

¹⁹ Artefact Heritage 2016, p.30

vicinity of what is now the intersection of Figtree Drive and Australia Avenue. There was no known development within the Stadium Australia subject site until the establishment of the State Abattoir in 1907, and even then, the future stadium site was located in the saleyards, with minimal built items.

Further, the construction of Stadium Australia in the 1990s included bulk excavation for the existing basement level of the stadium, and therefore would have removed any potential remnant archaeological signature (should one have been present)

Therefore, the subject site is considered to have no potential for historical archaeological resources to be present within the footprint of the stadium itself, and low to no potential in the surrounding public domain/concourse areas.²⁰

²⁰ Artefact Heritage 2016, p.31

6. Overview of Proposed Development

In March 2018 the NSW Government announced its commitment to refurbish the existing Stadium Australia and retain its status as a premier venue within a network of stadia and events infrastructure in NSW. This comprises the following:

- Reconfiguring the field of play to a permanent rectangular configuration.
- Redeveloping the lower and middle seating bowl to locate seating closer to the field and increase the pitch (steepness) of the seating bowl, which has the effect of reducing the capacity to approximately 70,000 seats (plus an additional 20,000 persons on the field during concerts).
- Providing 100% drip-line roof coverage to all permanent seats by replacing the northern and southern sections of the roof and extending the existing eastern and western sections of the roof.
- Providing a new northern and southern public stadium entrance, including a new stadium facade and double-height concourse.
- Renewing the food and beverage concessions, bathrooms, team facilities including new gender neutral changerooms, members and corporate facilities, press and broadcast facilities, and back of house areas.
- Providing new signage, high-definition video replay screens, LED lighting, and other functional improvements.
- Retaining the public domain areas surrounding the stadium that deliver a range of publicly accessible, event and operational areas, with minor works for tree removal.

Part of the existing stadium forecourt will be used as a construction compound during the construction phase and reinstated following the completion of works and prior to commencement of stadium operations.



Figure 6.1: Indicative photomontage of proposed stadium (Source: Cox, 2019)

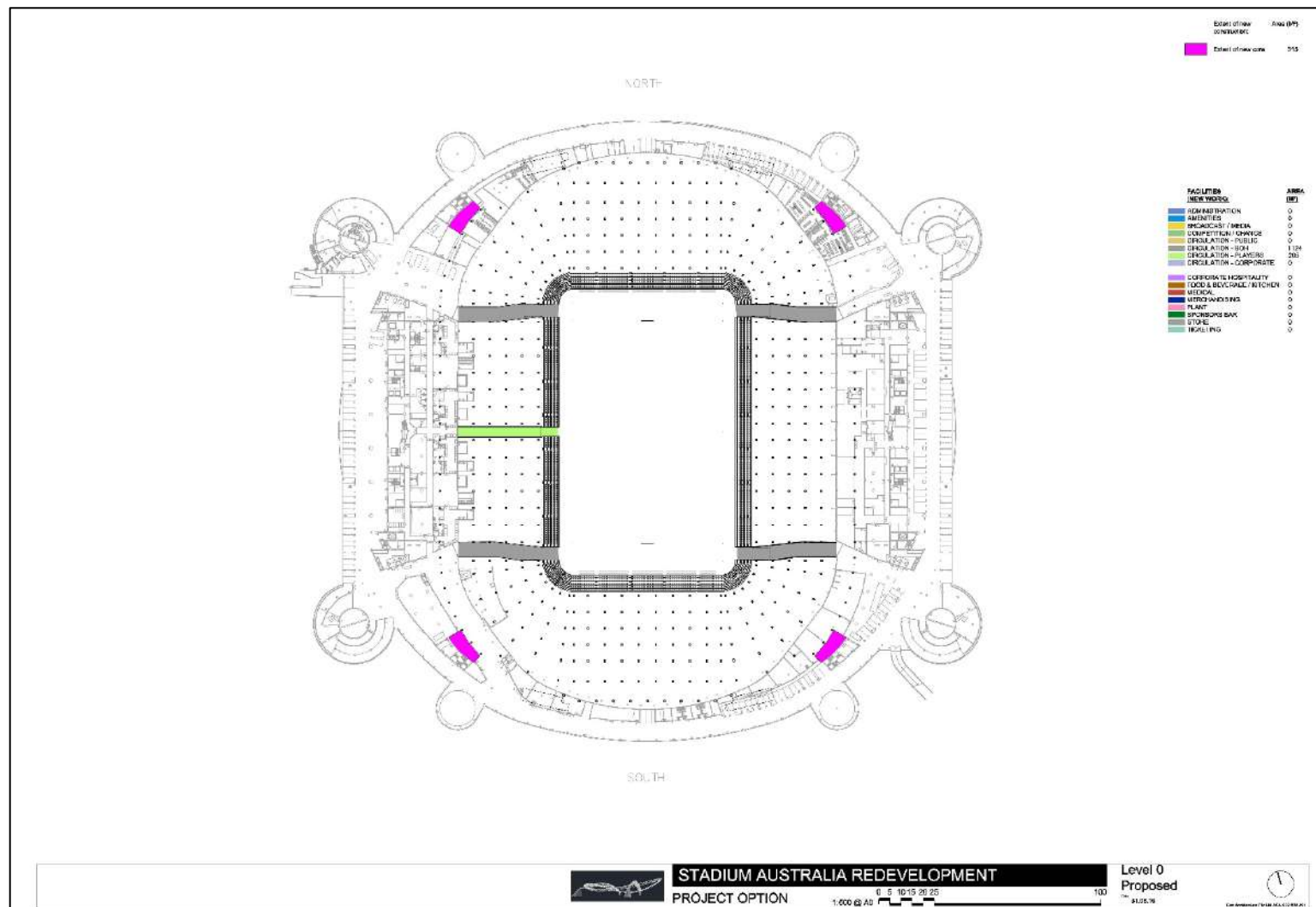


Figure 6.2: Proposed Level 0 Plan (Source: Cox, 2019)

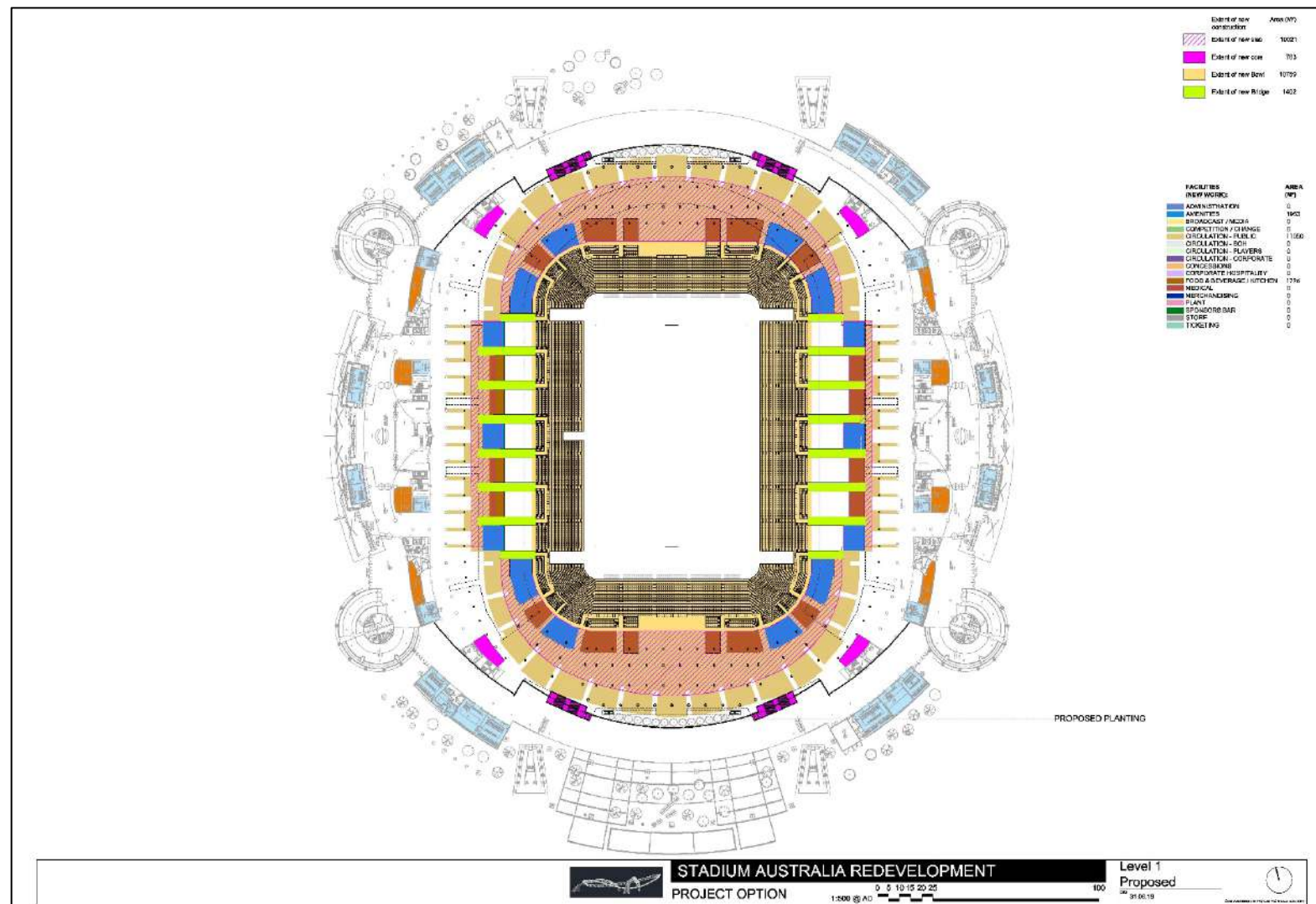


Figure 6.3: Proposed Level 1 Plan (Source: Cox, 2019)

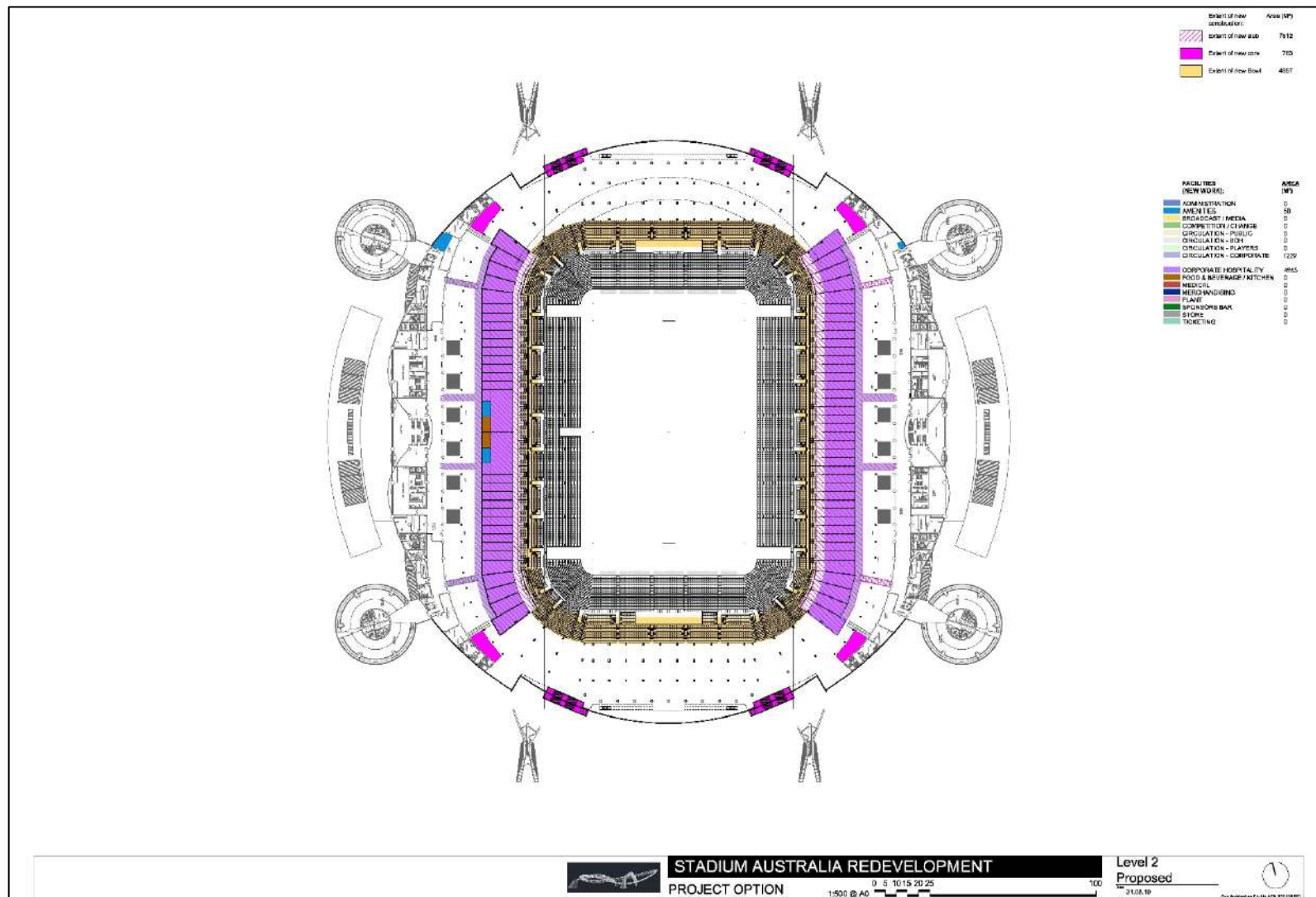


Figure 6.4: Proposed Level 2 (Source: Cox, 2019)

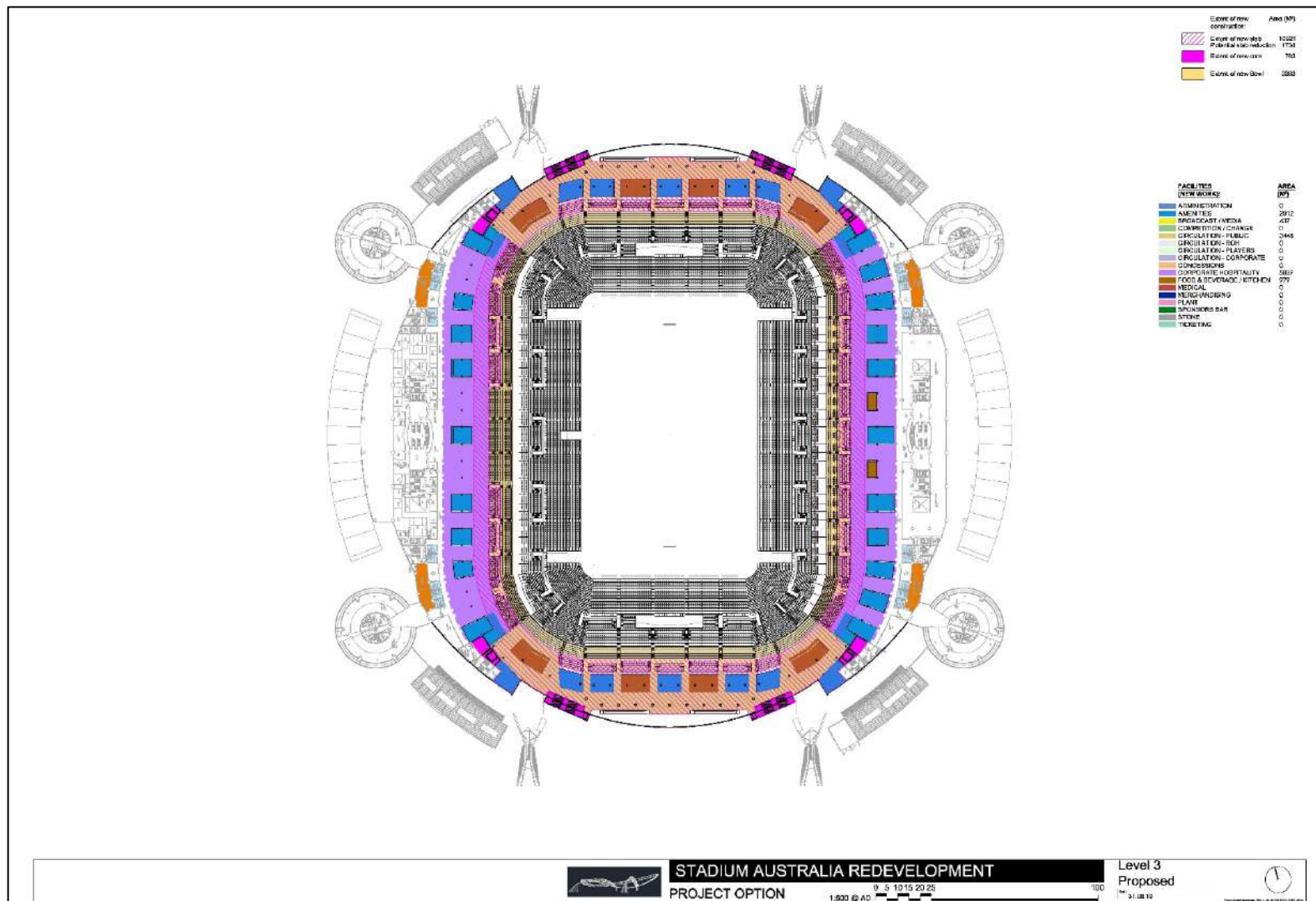


Figure 6.5: Proposed Level 3 Plan (Source: Cox, 2019)

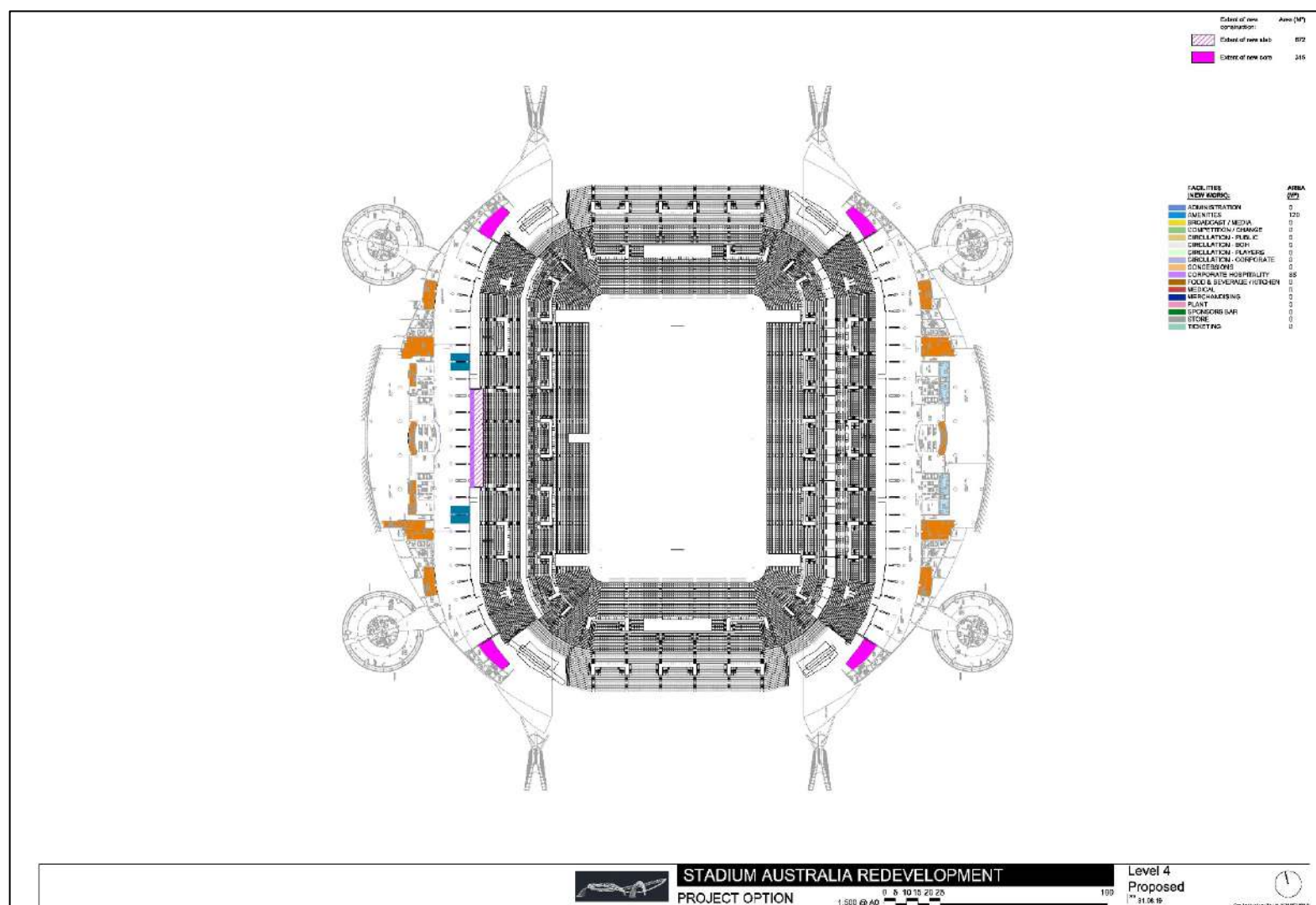


Figure 6.6: Proposed Level 4 Plan (Source: Cox, 2019)

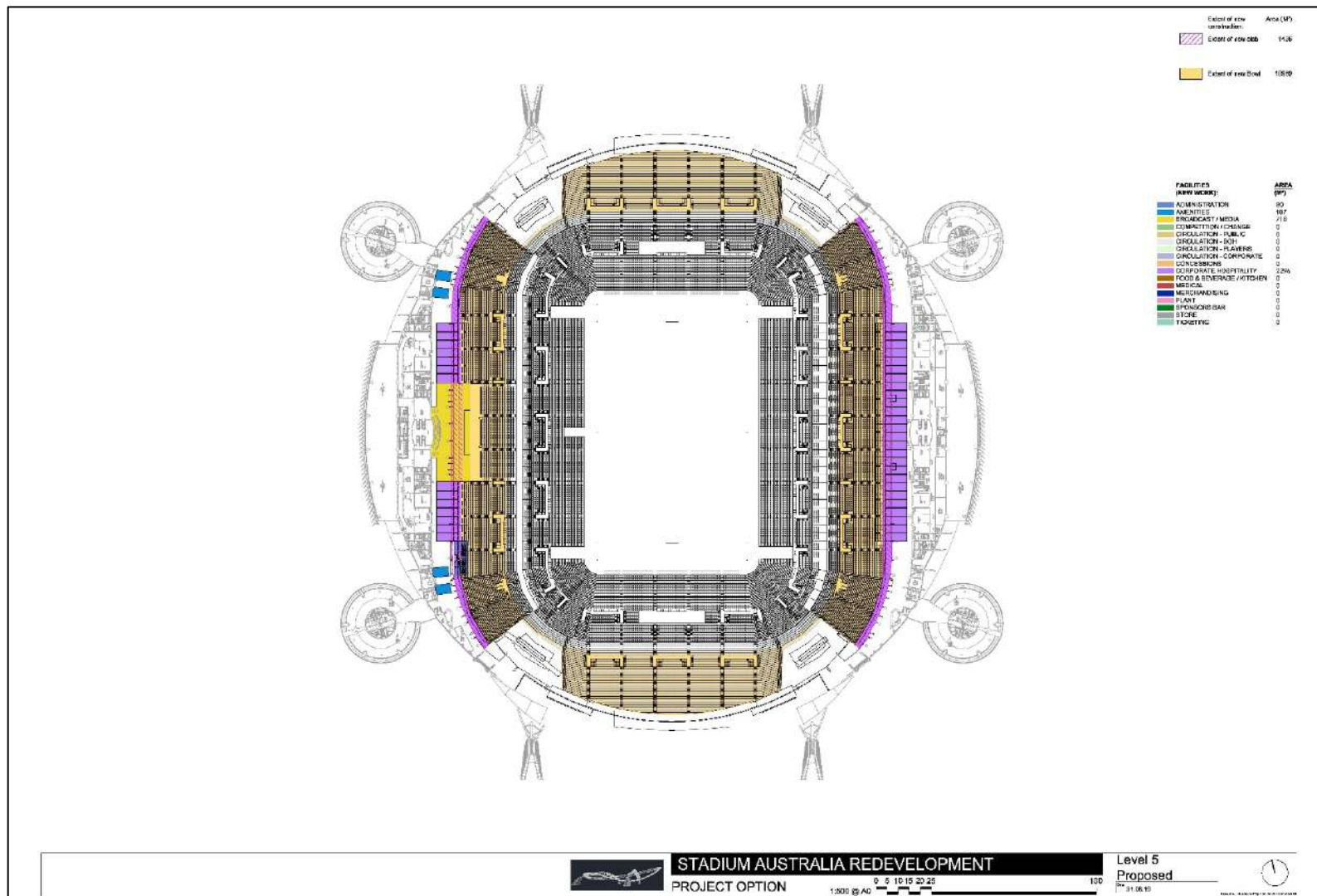


Figure 6.7: Proposed Level 5 Plan (Source: Cox, 2019)

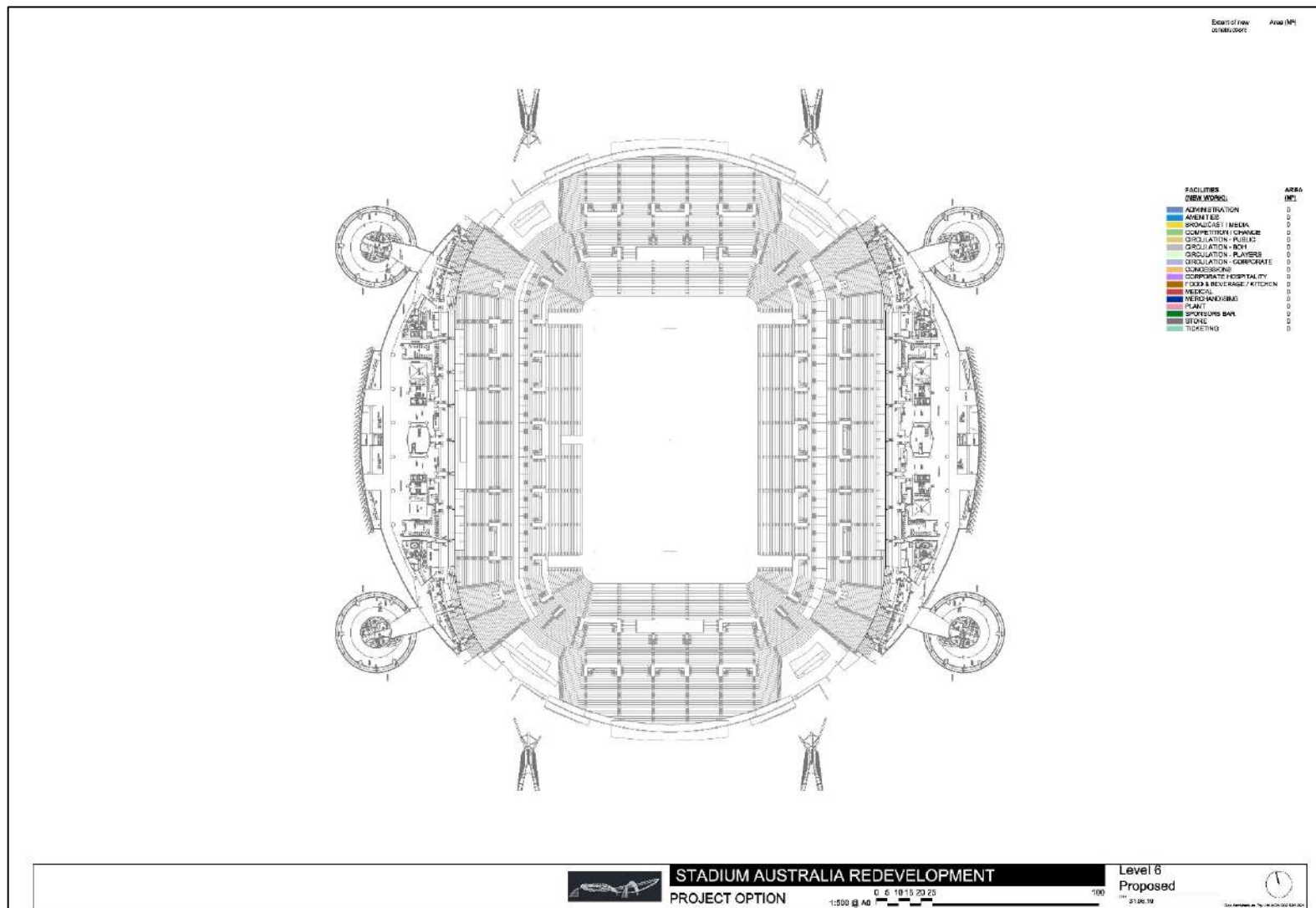


Figure 6.8: Proposed Level 6 Plan (Source: Cox, 2019)



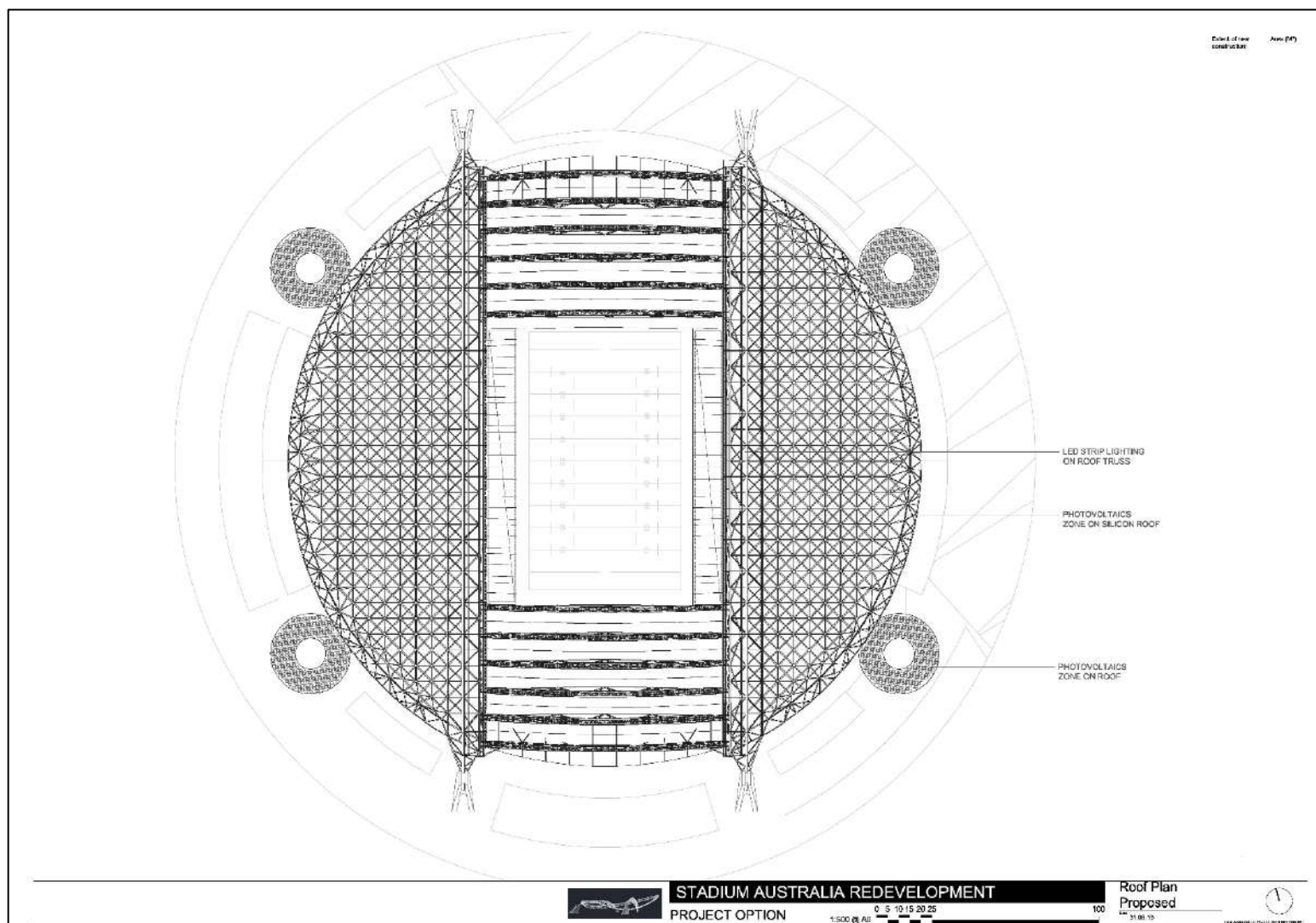


Figure 6.10: Proposed Roof Plan (Source: Cox, 2019)

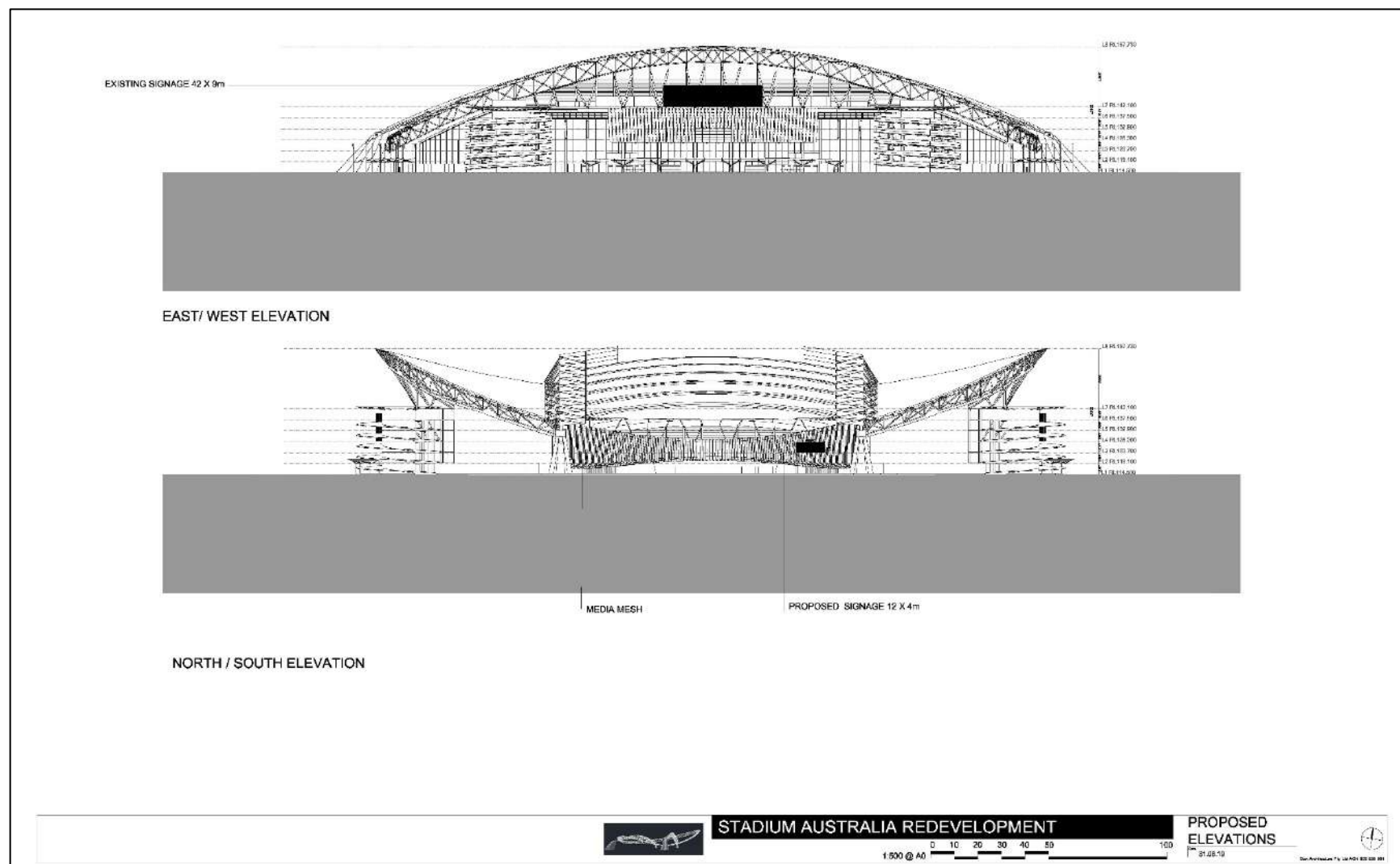


Figure 6.11: Proposed Elevations (Source: Cox, 2019)



7. Heritage Significance

The *NSW Heritage Manual Guideline—Assessing Heritage Significance*, prepared by the NSW Heritage Division, provides a framework for assessing significance of sites and heritage items, with the main aim of producing a succinct statement of significance to summarise an item or site's heritage values. The guidelines are predicated on the five types of cultural heritage value, as presented in The Burra Charter 2013: historical, aesthetic, scientific, social, and spiritual significance. The NSW heritage assessment criteria provides the following criterion for the assessment of heritage significance.

An item will be considered to be of State (or local) heritage significance if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one of more of the following criteria:

- *Criterion (a)—an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (b)—an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (c)—an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);*
- *Criterion (d)—an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*
- *Criterion (e)—an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (f)—an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (g)—an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local areas):*
 - *cultural or natural places; or*
 - *cultural or natural environments.*

7.1. State Abattoir

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the State Abattoir Heritage Precinct provides the following Statement of Significance:

The Abattoir Heritage Precinct at Sydney Olympic Park is of State significance as a rare, intact and extant component of the Homebush State Abattoirs, dating from 1913-1988. The State Abattoirs was Australia's largest and most modern abattoir during this period, responsible for the centralised control of meat slaughtering, sale and distribution in Sydney. The Precinct became an integral part of the activities during the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The complex has local significance for its historical associations with D'Arcy and William Charles Wentworth, Government Architect Walter Liberty Vernon who designed the

buildings and Joseph Maiden, Director of Sydney Botanic Gardens and Government Botanist who designed the gardens. The Precinct is also significant for its association with the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The site has aesthetic significance at a local level as an attractive group of Federation era buildings within landscaped gardens and lawns and as a historic landmark within a contemporary urban landscape. The buildings are representative examples of Federation period architecture, set within a good example of Federation period landscaping, with many elements, materials, plants, layout and details typical of this period.²¹

The Abattoir Heritage Precinct consists of a collection of five buildings within a landscaped garden setting, in the heart of the Sydney Olympic Park. The remnant Abattoir buildings themselves were adapted for use by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and visitor services for the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and are currently used as various sporting administration offices and associated facilities, managed by SOPA.

While the CMP (2013) recommends the Abattoir Precinct for listing on the NSW State Heritage Register, this does not appear to have been progressed.



Figure 7.1: Curtilage of State Abattoir Precinct. Western edge of Stadium Australia visible in left of image. (Source: GAO 2013: 39)

²¹ Government Architects Office 2013, *Abattoir Heritage Precinct, Sydney Olympic Park – Conservation Management Plan*, prepared for the Sydney Olympic Park Authority

7.1.1. Associated Trees

The curtilage of the Abattoir Precinct originally included an avenue of large Canary Island Date Palm trees along the eastern side of Showground Road, however the majority of these trees were removed and replaced during ground level changes in preparation for the Sydney Olympics (the CMP notes difficulty in identifying which – if any – original trees remain), and the avenue of trees has since been removed from the Precinct heritage listing.

The CMP also notes that there are several other trees located across the Sydney Olympic Park that date from the Abattoir period of site use (primarily fig trees planted as shade trees in the stockyards), although most have previously been relocated to non-original locations within the site.

7.2. Newington Armament and Nature Reserve (SHR 01850)

The SHR listing for the Newington Armament and Nature Reserve provides the following Statement of Significance for the listing:

The former Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Armament Depot - Newington known as Newington Armament Depot and including the area now known as the Newington Nature Reserve, is potentially of State heritage significance as a place which demonstrates the historical and technical development of systems and regulations of explosives handling and storage from the 1890s to 1999 and also demonstrates the importance of Sydney as a Navy Port. Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve is historically significant as it contains physical evidence demonstrating the history of European occupation through to the end of the 20th century. The site is a valuable tool for research relating to the early settlement and development of the colony of NSW and the development of defence from colonial times.

*Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve is potentially of State significance as an extensive cultural landscape containing features from all periods of its human occupation as well as regionally rare forest and wetlands. Newington Nature Reserve is reserved under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 because of its significant ecological values; these extend beyond the boundaries of the Reserve into other parts of the site. The site's estuarine wetland and forest communities are rare remnants of ecological communities that once dominated this region. These provide a valuable resource for research and include a number of rare and endangered ecological communities, flora and fauna including Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, Coastal Saltmarsh, the Green and Golden Bell Frog, *Wilsonia backhousei* and the White Fronted Chat. The site supports 144 bird species and ten bat species including the only known maternity roost of the White-striped Freetail bat in the Sydney area. In addition, it supports the only remaining example of a complete zonal succession from eucalypt forest, saltmarsh, mangroves and tidal mudflats on the Parramatta River estuary.²²*

While the location of the Newington Armament in the area contributes to the understanding of the site history, in relation to early land grants and uses and their historical development, it is located over

²² <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5054828>

1km to the northwest of the current subject site (i.e. it does not have direct relevance to the redevelopment of the subject site and any associated heritage significance).

7.3. Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park (SHR 01839)

The SHR listing for the Olympic Cauldron provides the following Statement of Significance for the listing:

The Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park is of State historic significance as the culmination of the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games on 15 September 2000 and a reminder of Sydney's success and honour in having hosted the Millennium Games. The opening ceremony is considered to be a triumph of Australian showmanship which was watched by hundreds of millions of people around the world. The Olympic Cauldron is also of State significance for its associations with the Olympic athletes who participated in the Sydney 2000 Games and particularly with the Aboriginal athlete Cathy Freeman, who was chosen to be the final Australian link in the Olympic Torch relay to light the cauldron, thus marking the commencement of the Games. The image of the lit cauldron flowing with fire and water as it rose around Freeman is one of the most memorable images of the Sydney Olympic Games. The Olympic Cauldron is of State significance for the esteem in which it is held by Australians proud of the success of the Sydney Olympic Games. It is also of social significance to Sydney Olympic Park visitors for its later role as a popular fountain in the Cathy Freeman Park next to the Olympic Stadium. The Olympic Cauldron is of representative and rarity State significance as the only cauldron designed and built to hold an Olympic flame in NSW.²³

The Olympic Cauldron is described in the heritage listing as a:

8.5 tonne cauldron is a perforated, corrugated shell structure fabricated from stainless steel. It has an overall diameter of 10m and tapers from 0.85m thick at centre down to 0.15m thick at the edge... designed to rise out of a circular pond after the flame was lit, and ascend, as though floating, up a waterfall to the top of the northern stand. It was collected by a 50 metre mast rising from behind the stand, and the main burner in the tip of the mast was lit.

The Cauldron was originally located at the northern end of the Stadium during the Sydney 2000 Opening Ceremony and throughout the Games. The Cauldron was lit during the Opening Ceremony by Cathy Freeman, who 'ascended four flights of stairs carrying the torch, then walked across a shallow circular pond to an island in the centre, where she dipped the torch low, then swept it around her to ignite a ring of fire. The pond concealed a submerged cauldron, and the circle of fire consisted of 150 nozzles around the rim of its gas-burner'.

Following the removal of the northern end of Stadium Australia in 2001, Tzannes Associates were commissioned to reinterpret the cauldron, which was relocated at the time to its current location within Cathy Freeman Park. Installation of the Cauldron in its current location included the removal of the stem, and repositioning of the cauldron on top of a group of 24 stainless steel poles at approximately 10m from the ground, operating intermittently as a giant fountain (Figure 7.2). While it

²³ <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5061184>

is located behind a row of trees, within the landscaping of the Cathy Freeman Park, the location retains its visual connection with Stadium Australia as the dominant focus of the Olympic history of the site.



Figure 7.2: Olympic Cauldron in its current context. Stadium Australia visible in the background (Source: Ethos Urban)

8. Assessment of Heritage Impact

The proposed redevelopment of Stadium Australia includes alterations and modifications to the existing stadium only. Stadium Australia is not a heritage item and no longer possesses any archaeological potential (due to bulk excavation for the stadium itself). Therefore, this assessment of heritage impact relates predominantly to potential visual impacts to other heritage items within the vicinity of the subject site, as no heritage fabric will be impacted through the proposed development works.

8.1. Visual Impacts

8.1.1. Bulk and Form

Possible visual impacts posed by the redevelopment of Stadium Australia relate to potential impacts to views and vistas to and from the surrounding heritage items and HCAs, with regards to the design of the stadium (including the realignment to a rectangular field), as well as proposed landscaping and public domain works.

A Visual Impact Analysis (VIA) has been prepared by Ethos Urban. The VIA presents photo montages and renders of the new stadium design from different views surrounding the site. These montages have been used in this section to assist in the assessment of any potential visual impacts that the redevelopment works may have on surrounding heritage items and HCAs.

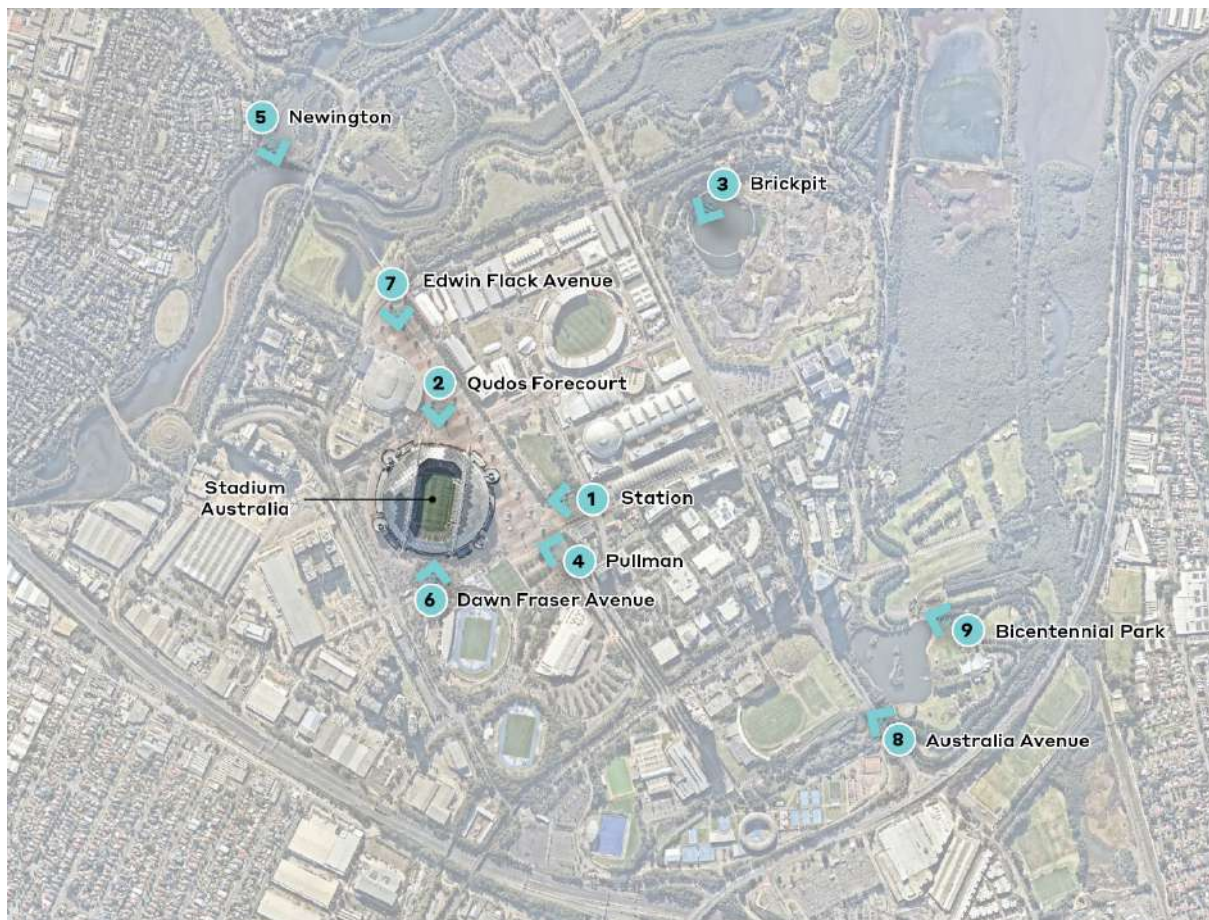


Figure 8.1: Viewpoint Locations (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)



Figure 8.2: Proposed Viewpoint 1 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)



Figure 8.3: Proposed Viewpoint 2 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)



Figure 8.4: Proposed Viewpoint 3 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)



Figure 8.5: Proposed Viewpoint 4 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)



Figure 8.6: Proposed Viewpoint 5 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)



Proposed Viewpoint 6 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)



Figure 8.7: Proposed Viewpoint 7 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)



Figure 8.8: Proposed Viewpoint 8 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)

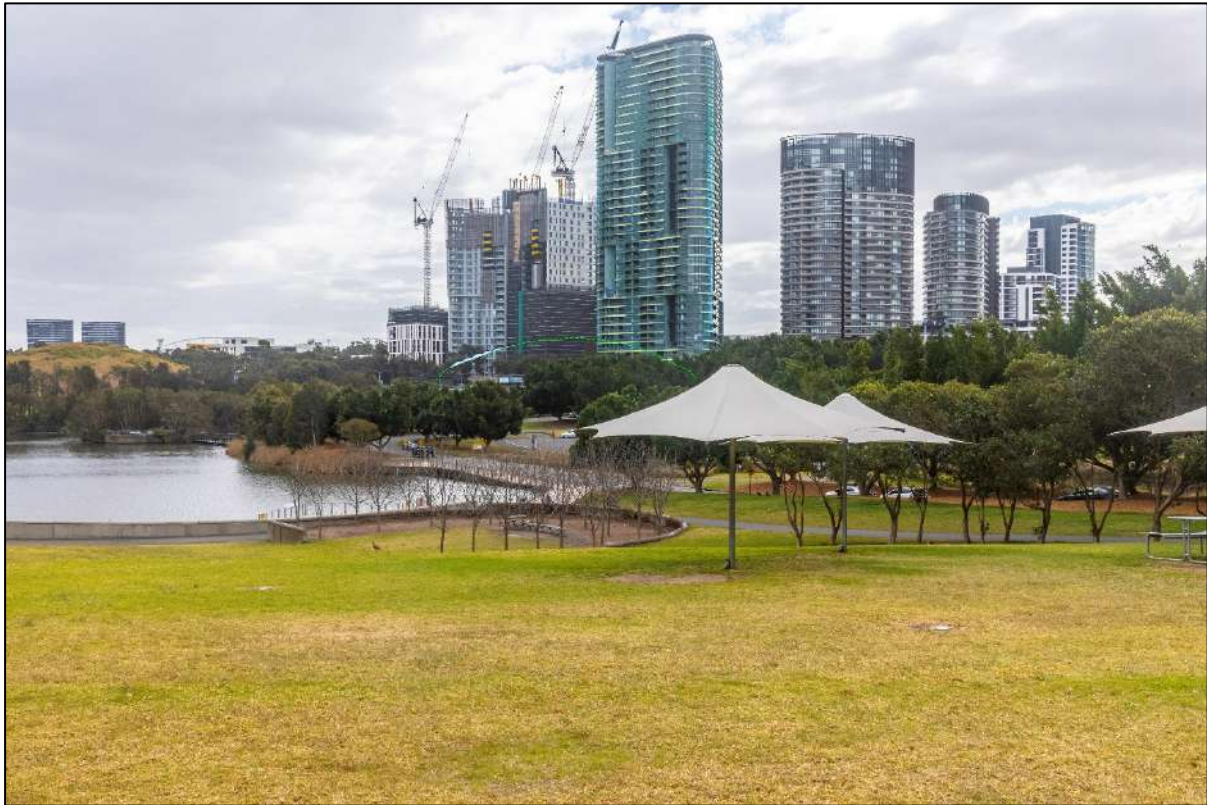


Figure 8.9: Proposed Viewpoint 9 (Source: Ethos Urban, 2019)

The closest heritage items to the Stadium are the Olympic Cauldron and the Abattoir Precinct. Due to level changes and landscaping, neither of these heritage items are visible from the stadium itself, however, as a significant built feature in the landscape, the Stadium is at least partially visible from both items, and therefore potential visual impacts to these two items will be assessed accordingly.

Viewpoint 1 photomontage captures the view between the Abattoir Precinct and the stadium and it demonstrates that the proposed alterations to the stadium will not be visible from the heritage building within Abattoir Precinct. Therefore, the redevelopment will not have any visual impacts on the existing visual relationship between the stadium and the Abattoir Precinct.

The proximity of the Olympic Cauldron to Stadium Australia is softened by the greenery surrounding the monument. The density of trees obstructs the views of the stadium, minimising the visual impact of any revisions to the form and outline of the stadium. Therefore, as the form and bulk of the stadium will not change substantially, the proposed alterations will not cause any new visual impact to views and vistas between the Olympic Cauldron and the stadium.



Figure 8.10: Stadium view from the Olympic Cauldron monument.

The public concourse area surrounding the stadium will be retained within the redevelopment. This will maintain the existing setting and character of the stadium in its context within the Sydney Olympic Park, including views and sight lines through the precinct along Olympic Boulevard.

8.2. Archaeological Impact

The redevelopment of Stadium Australia proposes the realignment and modification to the existing structure only, and as such, at present does not include any major subsurface excavation

The baseline archaeological assessment as presented within Section 5 of this report has also identified that the subject site has no potential for an Aboriginal or Historical archaeological resource to be present due to the bulk excavation of the site in the 1990s for the construction of the existing stadium basement, services and footings.

Therefore, the proposed redevelopment is considered to have no potential to impact any archaeological resource (neither Aboriginal, nor historical).

8.3. Summary of Heritage Impacts

The proposed redevelopment of Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park poses no physical impact to any statutory listed heritage fabric or heritage item, nor is it located within a Heritage Conservation Area. The proposed redevelopment seeks only to revise the format and functionality of the existing Stadium, retaining the dominant position of the stadium within the Sydney Olympic Park and along the Olympic Boulevard streetscape. The Stadium redevelopment will retain the visual connection to the Olympic Cauldron and its historical association with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Overall, the redevelopment of Stadium Australia is considered to have no visual or physical impact to the surrounding heritage items within the proximity of the Sydney Olympic Park precinct (i.e. Olympic Cauldron, State Abattoir and Newington Armory). The proposed works will retain the existing important view lines through the precinct, with no heritage impact on the setting and character of the precinct and associated heritage values.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1. Conclusions

The following conclusions are made regarding heritage for the Stadium Australia Redevelopment project.

- The existing stadium is not heritage listed, nor are any individually listed heritage items or heritage conservation areas (HCAs) located within the Stadium Australia redevelopment study area.
- Several heritage items are located in the vicinity of the subject site which have been considered through this SoHI, including:
 - Olympic Cauldron – Cnr Olympic Boulevard & Grand Parade, Sydney Olympic Park (SHR 001839)
 - Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve – Holker Street, Homebush Bay (SHR 01850)
 - State Abattoirs Heritage Conservation Area (Area No. 1) – Flemington (SREP 24)

The subject site has been assessed to have no potential for historical archaeological resources to be present within the footprint of the stadium itself, and low to no potential in the surrounding public domain/concourse areas.

- There will be no physical impact to any heritage items or significant fabric.
- The redevelopment will have a neutral heritage impact to the surrounding heritage items within or in proximity to the Sydney Olympic Park precinct.

9.2. Recommendations

No mitigations measures from a heritage perspective are required as there are no heritage impacts. Therefore, it is recommended that the present development application be approved.

10. References

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