

Aussie Skips Recycling – Bellfrog St Site Upgrades

Social Impact Assessment for SSDA

June 2025



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Acknowledgement of Country

4Pillars acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which this site is located, the people of the Eora and Dharug nations. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Disclosure statement

Mr James Hammond, CEO of 4Pillars is engaged, via an EnviroNow services agreement, to provide environmental consulting services to Aussie Skips Recycling Pty Ltd.

This document has been prepared by 4Pillars and Mr Hammond in their capacity as independent environmental professionals. The statements and conclusions of this document are based on an objective evaluation of the available facts and data.

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Document control

Version	Status	Date
1	Draft	14 April 2025
2	Final Draft	21 May 2025
3	Final	24 June 2025

Social Impact Assessment Declarations

- The SIA has prepared this Social Impact Assessment (SIA) in accordance with the *Social Impact Assessment Guideline (2023)* issued by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
- The SIA was completed on the following date(s): 24 June 2025
- The SIA contains all relevant and available information to assess the social impacts of the proposed development.
- The information contained in this report is complete, accurate, and up to date at the time of writing.
- The legal and ethical obligations for preparing this document are understood, and we declare that none of the information included in the SIA is false or misleading.

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See Appendix 1 for qualifications and certifications of authors and certifiers.

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Executive Summary

This Social Impact Assessment (SIA), prepared by 4Pillars Environmental Consulting with Sarah George Consulting, supports the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the Aussie Skips Recycling waste facility at 13 Bellfrog Street, Greenacre, NSW. The proposal includes minor demolition, alterations to existing site components, installation of a fixed waste processing plant and site infrastructure, construction of environmental conservation measures, and the ongoing operation of the MRF.

The SIA evaluates the social impacts of the project on nearby communities and stakeholders, in accordance with the NSW DPIE Social Impact Assessment Guideline (2023) and the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). It considers both potential risks and benefits based on baseline demographics, community feedback, and technical assessments.

Identified Social Impacts

Negative

- **Traffic and access:** Increased truck movements could affect industrial neighbours but are not expected to impact residential communities due to site layout and traffic routing.
- **Noise and air emissions:** Minor to moderate changes expected, but technical assessments concluded impacts are negligible or within acceptable limits.
- **Amenity and perception:** Some concerns from community members regarding odour, noise, and visual changes; however, the facility is situated in an established industrial area and results of corresponding impact assessments were compliant with relevant guidelines.

Positive

- **Increased recycling capacity:** Enhances Sydney's ability to manage construction and demolition waste locally, reducing transport distances and environmental impacts.
- **Local employment:** Modest increase in job opportunities and economic activity.
- **Habitat enhancement:** Conservation measures in part of the Site to support the threatened Green and Golden Bellfrog.
- **Improved resource recovery access:** Supports the transition toward a circular economy and aligns with NSW's strategic sustainability goals.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement was conducted with local residents and stakeholders. This including production of bilingual materials (English and Arabic), multimedia (online material, paper material and face to face sessions) and multiple opportunities for involvement. While response rates from the community were low, feedback from the community and regulators informed several refinements to the proposal, such as reduced maximum waste storage and additional mitigation measures. Ongoing consultation and transparent communication strategies are recommended as part of this project.

Mitigation and Management

A range of mitigation measures have been recommended as part of the impact assessments. Several recommendations such as acoustic treatments have already been incorporated into Site design. Key mitigation that aims to minimise negative impacts to the community and provides continued transparency include real-time air quality monitoring and establishment and management of complaints handling procedures and annual community forums.

Conclusion

The assessment concludes that the proposed upgrades are unlikely to result in significant negative social impacts and are expected to yield some positive benefits to the local and regional community. With the application of best-practice mitigation strategies and continuous community engagement, the project aligns with both regulatory requirements and social sustainability objectives.

1. Introduction

4Pillars Environmental Consulting (4Pillars) with Sarah George Consulting, have prepared this Social Impact Assessment (SIA) report to support Aussie Skips Recycling Pty Ltd (Aussie Recycling), State Significant Development Application (SSDA) to upgrade their existing waste facility Site located at 13 Bellfrog Street, Greenacre NSW 2190 (the Site).

This SIA is required as part of the response to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs state that the EIS must address:

a social impact assessment in accordance with the Department's Social Impact Assessment Guideline.

As such this assessment focuses on the key impacts (positive and negative) of the upgrades at the Site to surrounding receivers, the broader community and the Sydney region. For the purpose of this assessment, social impacts are those that arise from changes to people's way of life, community, access, culture, health and wellbeing, surroundings, personal and property rights and decision-making systems.

1.1 Purpose of this report

This SIA report has been prepared as part of an SSD application under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

This report has been prepared to address the SEARs for the Project, issued by the DPHI on 6 March 2024. The SEARs nominated that social impacts are to be addressed via a SIA undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced person(s).

The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of the social impacts of the proposal. In-line with the requirements set out in the SEARs, this report will:

- Describe the social profile of community and business within the vicinity of the proposal, and define community and social values perceptions and potential concerns.
- Identify and analyse the potential social impacts of the development, from the points of view of the affected communities and other relevant stakeholders.
- Assess the significance of social impacts (positive and negative) considering likelihood, extent, duration, severity / scale, sensitivity/importance, and level of concern / interest.
- Include mitigation measures for likely negative social impacts, and any proposed enhancement measures.
- Detail how social impacts will be adaptively monitored and managed over time.

1.2 Site location

The subject site is 13 Bellfrog Street, Greenacre – Lot 15 DP 1133214 (the Site). The Site is an approved "waste facility" and is located in an area of industrial activity. The Site is bounded on all sides by industrial sites, including warehouses (to the west and east), a 24-hour concrete batching plant (to the north), and factory units to the south.

The nearest residential receivers are to the south and west, approximately 80 m and 105 m distance from the site, respectively. The nearest arterial road (dual carriageway) is Punchbowl Road, approximately 130 m to the east. The nearest main road is Juno Parade, approximately 120 m to the south (Figure 7).

1.3 Relationship to other documents

The SIA has been informed by the outcomes of the Community Engagement Plan (report reference: 20211030AUS-Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Outcomes) and Heritage consultation Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) (report reference: 20211030AUS-B-Heritage Impact Assessment report) completed as part of the EIS.

1.4 Compliance matrix

Review Questions – Appendix C of the SIA Guideline	Assessment
General	
Does the lead author meet the qualification and experience requirements?	Report has been peer reviewed by a suitably qualified person. See Appendix 1.
Has the lead author provided a signed declaration?	Yes
Would a reasonable person judge the SIA report to be impartial, transparent and suitably rigorous given the nature of the project?	Yes
Project's social locality and social baseline	
Does the SIA report identify and describe all the different social groups that may be affected by the project?	Yes
Does the SIA report identify and describe all the built or natural features that have value or importance for people, and explain why people value those features?	Yes
Does the SIA report identify and describe historical, current, and expected social trends or social changes for people in the locality, including their experiences with this project and other major development projects?	Yes
Does the social baseline study include appropriate justification for each element, and provide evidence that the elements reflect both relevant literature and the diversity of views and likely experiences?	Yes
Does the social baseline study demonstrate social-science research methods and explain any significant methodological or data limitations?	Yes
Identification and description of social impacts	
Does the SIA report adequately describe likely social impacts from the perspectives of how people may experience them, and explain the research used to identify them? When undertaken as a part of SIA scoping and initial assessment, has the plan for the SIA report been detailed?	Yes
Does the SIA report apply the precautionary principle to identifying social impacts, and consider how they may be experienced differently by different people and groups?	Yes
Does the SIA report describe how the preliminary analysis influenced project design and EIS engagement strategy?	Yes
Community engagement	
Were the extent and nature of engagement activities appropriate and sufficient to canvass all relevant views, including those of vulnerable or marginalised groups?	Yes
How have the views, concerns and insights of affected and interested people influenced both the project design and each element of the SIA report?	Yes
Predicting and analysing social impacts	
Does the SIA report impartially focus on the most important social impacts to people at all stages of the project, without any omissions or misrepresentations?	Yes
Does the SIA report analyse the distribution of both positive and negative social impacts, and identify who will benefit and who will lose from the project?	Yes
Does the SIA report identify its assumptions, and include sensitivity analysis and alternative scenarios? (including 'worst case' and 'no project' scenarios where relevant)	Yes
Do the evaluations of significance of social impacts impartially represent how people in each identified social group can expect to experience the project, including any cumulative effects?	Yes
Are the evaluations of significance disaggregated to consider the likely different experiences for different people or groups, especially vulnerable groups?	Yes
Responses, monitoring and management	
Does the SIA report propose responses that are tangible, deliverable, likely to be durably effective, directly related to the respective impact(s) and adequately delegated and resourced?	Yes
Does the SIA report demonstrate how people can be confident that social impacts will be monitored and reported in ways that are reliable, effective and trustworthy?	Yes

Does the SIA report demonstrate how the proponent will adaptively manage social impacts and respond to unanticipated events, breaches, grievances and non-compliance?	Yes
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Table 1: Compliance matrix.

2. Existing Site and the Proposed Development

2.1 Existing Site Operation

The Site is currently used for the receipt, storage and export of soils, aggregates, virgin excavated natural material (VENM) and other similar waste materials. The Site is currently permitted to receive an annual combined throughput of waste material of 199,000 tonnes (t) in any 12-month period.

2.2 Summary of the Proposal

Aussie Recycling is proposing to lodge a new State Significant Development (SSD) application (SSD-67497708) seeking approval to construct and operate a materials recovery facility (MRF) on the site. The proposal includes minor demolition, alterations to existing site components, installation of a fixed waste processing plant and site infrastructure, construction of environmental conservation measures, and the ongoing operation of the MRF.

The MRF will have two main buildings, a waste receival building and a processing building. These will be connected by an enclosed conveyor. There will be an open yard between these buildings to allow truck access for delivery of waste and dispatch of recovered products and residual waste.

The MRF will accept and recycle, construction and demolition (C&D) waste, commercial and industrial (C&I) waste and non-putrescible municipal solid waste (MSW), including building and demolition (B&D) wastes such as brick, asphalt, concrete and metals. It is proposed that up to 199,000 t of waste will be accepted and processed in any 12-month period. It is proposed to amend the site's operating hours compared to those currently approved.

MRF operations will include:

- receipt of waste via heavy road vehicles
- storage of waste in the receival building
- handling of waste by the conveyor and mobile plant
- processing of waste, including sifting, picking and screening, using mobile plant and the fixed waste processing plant
- storage of recovered products and residual waste
- dispatch of recovered products and residual waste by heavy road vehicles
- ancillary activities including operation of a workshop, employee parking, overnight truck parking, equipment storage, maintenance, diesel fuel storage in a self-contained fuel tank, water treatment, waste sampling, quality assurance and use of the site's existing facilities.

All waste storage, handling and processing will be within the buildings and conveyor. No waste will be stored, handled or processed outside.

2.3 Current vs proposed operations

Table 2 below outlines the proposed operations and the current operations on Site.

Operation component	Current operation	Proposed operation
Annual throughput	199,000 t in any 12-month period	199,000 t in any 12-month period.
Authorised amount	8,000 t at any one time.	4,000 t at any one time.

Operation component	Current operation	Proposed operation
Material storage and processing locations	Waste receival area within external (open) yard.	Waste receival and processing areas within buildings.
Waste types received	Waste types received • Soils that meet GSW <CT1 and other limits. • Asphalt waste. • Concrete, including fully cured concrete from a batch plant. • VENM. • Ceramics and bricks. • Grit and Screenings.	Waste types received • Construction and demolition (C&D) waste. • Commercial and industrial (C&I) waste. • Non-putrescible municipal solid waste (MSW), including building and demolition (B&D) wastes.
Activities to occur on Site	Waste storage.	Waste Storage and Resource Recovery.
Processing equipment	None.	Processing of waste material by sifting, picking, and mechanical screening. No shredding or crushing.
Use of workshop	The workshop is to service the proponent's own fleet of trucks and machinery and will not be open for public use.	
Various ancillary activities	Various ancillary activities such as overnight truck parking, general storage of equipment, maintenance, storage of diesel fuel and operation of a self-contained fuel tank, waste sampling and material testing.	
On Site Staff	Approximately 5-10 full-time Site staff.	Estimated between 14-16 staff will be required on Site.

Table 2: Current and proposed operations.

	Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday / Public holidays
Current operation hours			
All activities	6:00 AM - 5:00 PM	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Sunday 7am – 5pm / Public holidays – no operations permitted
Proposed operation hours			
Processing	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	No processing to occur

Transport / handling / tipping / loading	5:00 AM - 10:00 PM	5:00 AM - 10:00 PM	7:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Workshop	24 hr	24 hr	24 hr
Low impact activities	24 hr	24 hr	24 hr

Table 3: Proposed operational hours and activities.

3. Methodology

This Section details the methodology used to define the baseline and undertake the assessment of potential social impacts of the proposed development.

Social impacts are defined to include both the potential positive and negative impacts associated with the proposal.

3.1 Phasing of assessment

The SIA is intrinsically linked to other aspects of the SSDA process specifically the community engagement strategy and outcomes.

As such the SIA is completed in three phases:

- First phase – SIA scoping (completed during Scoping Report).
- Second phase – SIA report (inclusive of above SIA scoping).
- Third phase – Social impact management (post approval).

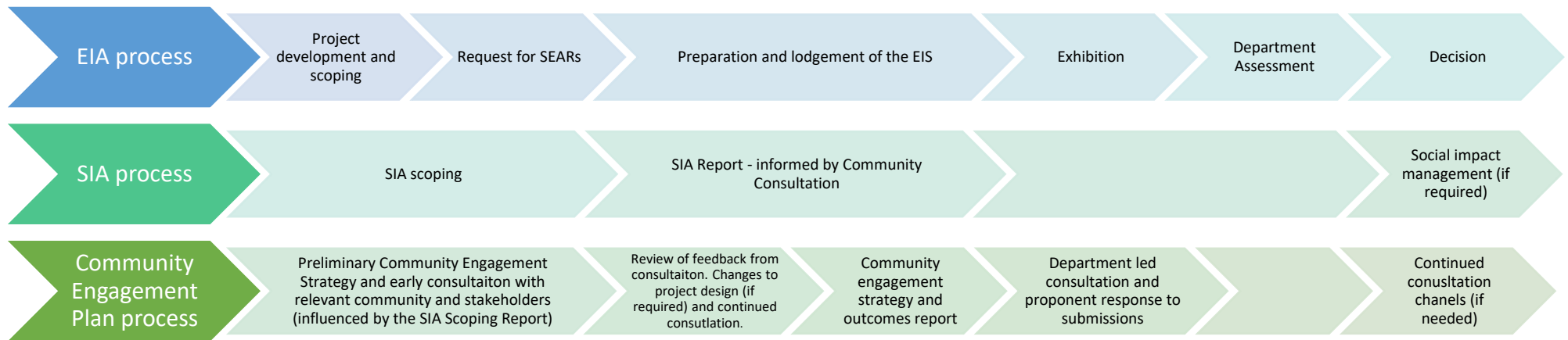


Figure 1: SIA development aligned with the EIA process.

3.1.1 First phase - SIA Scoping

As part of the Scoping Report and application for SEARs the “first phase” of the SIA was completed, which involved:

- Identifying the project’s social locality and study area
- Initial analysis of social baseline and review of surrounding land uses
- Review of social trends and issues impacting the Proposal
- Initial scoping of impacts
- Initial community engagement (done as part of the Community engagement plans and informed by the above desktop information)

This allows for a deep understanding of the Sites surrounding and potential impacts to inform the task required for Community and Stakeholder Consultation Strategy and first phases on consultation.

3.1.2 Second phase - SIA report

This information is then used to guide consultation and further refinement of the project. During the development of the EIS, the “second phase” of the SIA is completed, which includes the finalisation and evaluation of social impacts and responses. This phase utilises the first rounds of consultation to inform decisions on the social impact associated with the proposed development.

- Review of engagement outcomes.
- Considering and articulating project refinement based on initial community engagement.
- Review of site plans and impact areas from technical assessment.
- Further consultation with stakeholders (done as part of the CSESO).
- Assessment of significant impacts considering mitigation measures.
- Provision of recommendations to enhance positive impacts, reduce negative impacts and monitor ongoing impacts.

3.1.3 Third phase - Social impact management

The “third phase” is completed after the EIS is lodged and occurs during the post approval phase it includes social impact management (if required).

3.2 First phase methodology

3.2.1 Study Area definition

The potential area of influence resulting from the Proposed Development is referred to as the “Study Area” and is determined by considering factors such as:

- The Proposed Developments geographical context.
- The Proposed Developments scale, nature, and spectrum of direct and indirect social impacts it may generate over its lifecycle. Including recognising the potential broader impacts at a regional, State, and National level.
- The proximity and attributes of the Proposed Developments and adjacent land uses.
- Significant built and natural features such as the local road network, recreational areas, and open spaces.
- Statistical boundaries delineated by the Suburbs and Localities boundaries.
- Insights obtained from preliminary technical impact assessments, encompassing distance parameters and the potential impact sphere.
- Established radii for community engagement outlined in the CSESO.

3.2.2 Establish the baseline

Following the Study Area identification, a social baseline is developed for the Proposed Development, in line with the SIA Guidelines and includes:

- Review of relevant policies, guidelines, and plans – to identify relevance and directions for the assessment.
- Analysis of aerial photography and land use data to understand existing land uses within the identified study areas.
- Review of key legislation, strategic planning policies and documents, having regard to zoning maps relevant to the study areas, to identify planned future priorities and land uses
- Preparation of a community profile through analysis of population and demographic data such as population size and growth, families and housing, diversity, employment and income, and socio-economic advantage/disadvantage, drawing on sources such as ABS Census, ABS population projects and ABS business data at national, State, LGA and Suburbs and localities levels.
- Identification of local businesses, community facilities, social infrastructure, open space (from desktop review of aerial imagery and publicly available GIS mapping)
- Identification of existing community values through a review of community and stakeholder engagement outcomes obtained from the CSESO to identify direct social impact considerations, and to gain community feedback that addresses concerns, values and needs.
- Review of recent major development and projects (last two years) on DPE's Major Projects Portal to understand forthcoming developments upon which the proposal may impact.

3.2.3 Scoping potential social impacts

Potential social impacts were scoped via a derivative of the NSW "SIA Scoping Worksheet". This outlines the:

- Project activity that can cause impact;
- The social impact category;
- The potential impacts on people In line with the SIA Guideline;
 - Way of life;
 - Community;
 - Access to and use of infrastructure, services, and facilities;
 - Culture;
 - Health and wellbeing;
 - Surroundings;
 - Personal and property rights; and
 - Decision-making systems.
- Previous investigation of impacts;
- Cumulative impacts;
- Elements of impacts (extent, duration, intensity, sensitivity, level of concern); and

The assessment level required for each and methods used to investigate this impact.

3.3 Second phase methodology

3.3.1 Review of engagement outcomes

Review of engagement outcomes and incorporation into the SIA.

3.3.2 Project refinement

Review of above first phase and consideration of additional mitigation or changes to the project.

3.3.3 Consolidation of project impact assessments

Combining of relevant impact assessments reports to determine the direct impacts associated.

3.3.4 Assessment of impacts

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) highlights a risk assessment methodology, whereby the significance of potential impacts is assessed by comparing the consequence of an impact against the likelihood of the impact occurring. This approach is used in the Technical Supplement which supported DPIE's SIA Guideline. The DPIE's risk assessment methodology is outlined below and has been applied in this SIA.

Likelihood and magnitude level characteristics

The likelihood and magnitude levels are determined by subjective and objective components. They consider individual experiences, community perceptions and technical evaluations. The likelihood level assesses the probability of the impact occurring impact. The level of magnitude assesses the likely significance of the impact and considers several characteristics including:

- Extent: the volume of people expected to be affected and their relative location to the proposal
- Duration: the timeframe and frequency of potential impacts
- Severity or scale: the degree of change from the existing condition as a result of the impact
- Intensity or importance: the extent to which people or an environment can adapt to or mitigate the impact, including the value they attach to the matter and their capacity to cope and/or adapt to change
- Level of concern/interest: the level of interest or concern among the people affected.

Likelihood level	Meaning
Almost certain	Definite or almost definitely expected (e.g., has happened on similar projects)
likely	High probability
Possible	Medium probability
Unlikely	Low probability
Very Unlikely	Improbable or remote probability

Table 4: Likelihood of the impact.

Magnitude Level	Meaning
Transformational	Substantial change experienced in community wellbeing, livelihood, infrastructure, services, health, and/or heritage values; permanent displacement or addition of at least 20% of a community
Major	Substantial deterioration/improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an indefinite time, or affecting many people in a widespread area.
Moderate	Noticeable deterioration/improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an extensive time, or affecting a group of people
Minor	Mild deterioration/improvement, for a reasonably short time, for a small number of people who are generally adaptable and not vulnerable.
Minimal	Little noticeable change experienced by people in the locality.

Table 5: Magnitude level of the impacts.

			Magnitude Level				
Likelihood Level			1	2	3	4	5
			Minimal	Minor	Moderate	Major	Transformational
	A	Almost certain	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Very High
	B	Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	C	Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	D	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	E	Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

Table 6: Risk matrix.

3.3.5 Mitigation and residual impacts

In line with Social Impact Assessment Guidelines, for all material impacts, mitigation and/or management actions were considered to reduce or manage the significant of the impact. Material impacts were considered to include impacts evaluated to be high or very high in risk, although consideration was given to all other risk levels. In developing mitigation and management measures, regard was had to the following considerations:

- The potential for the proposal to influence the impact as sole or primary cause of the impact, and therefore the scale of measure(s) required.
- The acceptability of the proposed measure(s) to those expected to be affected by the impact.
- Any potential negative social impacts that might arise as a result of the proposed measure(s).
- The requirement for action by external parties to respond to proposed measure(s).
- The requirement for action by external parties to respond to proposed measure(s).
- The deliverability of proposed measure(s).
- Cost-effectiveness of the proposed measures(s).

For each mitigation and management measure, consideration is also given to how impacts can be adaptively monitored and managed over time. The proposal was then re-evaluated taking into account the proposed mitigation and management measures, to describe the expected residual impact of the proposal.

3.4 Limitations and assumptions

Assumptions applied to complete this social impact assessment include:

- The key findings of the background studies and technical reports are accurate.
- Socio-economic data available for each study area accurately reflects the community demographic profile.
- Outcomes of the community consultation and engagement undertaken to date accurately reflects community views.

4. Legislation and social policy context

A review of relevant state and local policies was undertaken to understand the strategic context of the proposed development and any potential impacts. This included the following documents: Legislation

4.1 *Legislative Framework*

4.1.1 *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

The EP&A Act provides the overarching framework for environmental assessments in NSW. Key objectives of the EP&A Act relevant to SIA are:

- promote the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management, development and conservation of the state's natural and other resources;
- facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment;
- promote the orderly and economic use and development of land;
- promote good design and amenity of the built environment;
- provide increased opportunity for community participation in environmental planning and assessment.

4.1.2 *Project SEARs*

The SEARs are issued under the provisions of the EP&A Act and set legislative requirements that this SIA must accommodate. The SEARs state that the EIS must address:

a social impact assessment in accordance with the Department's Social Impact Assessment Guideline.

4.1.3 *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*

Social impacts such as noise, odour, and traffic must be considered as part of the facility's environmental assessment.

4.2 *Guidelines and policies*

4.2.1 *NSW DPE – Social Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects*

NSW DPE *Social Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects* provides a framework for identifying, assessing, and mitigating social impacts of large developments. It emphasises the need for consultation, equity, and transparency in assessing impacts on community well-being, cohesion, and infrastructure. It focuses on seven key impact areas: way of life, health and well-being, culture, community, environment, personal/property rights, and decision-making system.

4.2.2 *Strathfield 2035-Community Strategic Plan.*

Strathfield Council has a responsibility to formulate and pursue the community's visions and ideas, provide civic leadership, deliver key services, and express local ideas and concerns about important issues to other levels of government. The Strathfield 2035 Community Strategic Plan sets out the long-term goals and strategies for the Strathfield community until 2035.

This document provides an overview of the community aspirations and needs and is therefore important in developing a baseline to understand what the community particularly.

4.2.3 *Strathfield 2040, Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)*

This plan priorities:

- P1. Collaboration ensures growth is sustained by well-planned and accessible infrastructure.
- P10. Industrial land and precincts deliver District and local urban services and provide activated spaces with minimal impact on neighbourhoods.
- P18. Our community is involved in designing Strathfield's future.

This strategic planning documents from the LGA provide useful detail for information the social baseline. This document provides an overview of the community aspirations and needs in the local study area, and is important in developing a baseline to understand what the community particularly values.

4.2.4 *Other policies referenced*

- NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good To Waste.
- NSW 2021: A Plan to make NSW number one.
- Greater Sydney Regional Plan - A Metropolis of Three Cities.
- NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014
- Our Greater Sydney 2056 – Eastern City District Plan & Southern District Plan
- Cleaning Up Our Act: The Future for Waste and Resource Recovery in NSW – Issues Paper (NSW Government 2020)
- National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources (Australian Government, 2018).

4.3 *International Standards (Optional Best Practices)*

- *International Principles for Social Impact Assessment* by Frank Vanclay 2003 (sourced from the International Association for Impact Assessment)
- United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Principles
 - IAIA offers global best practices in conducting SIAs, emphasizing transparency, participatory approaches, and sustainable development.

5. Study Area definition

The social impact study area was guided by the impact areas of other technical assessments completed as part of the EIS, namely, the air quality impact assessment, traffic impact assessment and noise impact assessment.

The primary study area includes the host community within immediate proximity of the facility and transport routes, while the secondary study area considers broader regional impacts such as employment, supply chain engagement, and regional waste management capacity. This approach ensures that both localised and regional social impacts are captured in the assessment. These were defined as:

- Primary study area - Within 500 m of the Site, and
- Secondary Study area – Greeancre suburb (Figure 3), Strathfield LGA, Canterbury Bankstown LGA, Greater Sydney Region (Figure 4).

6. Social baseline

6.1 Key community characteristics

A summary of the local resident and worker population within the Greenacre is outlined in this section. For the purposes of this analysis, demographic data has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016 and 2021 Census of Population and Housing.

6.1.1 Community profile

The below is listed in order of proximity radius from the Site (closest to furthest).

Project Site

The Site is located in the suburb of Greenacre and the Strathfield Municipality. The Site is in an area of industrial activity and is bounded on all sides by industrial land users, including warehouses (to the west and east), a 24-hour concrete batching plant (to the north), and factory units to the site. The nearest residential receivers are to the south and west, approximately 80 m and 105 m distance from the site, respectively (Figure 7).

Greenacre

The suburb of Greenacre falls under both Canterbury Bankstown City and Strathfield local government areas (LGAs). The footprint of the proposed development falls under the Strathfield LGA.

Greenacre is a suburb that comprises both industrial areas and residential areas. The Socio-Demographic baseline data provided from ABS for the suburb is considered typical of the community surrounding the proposed development. Greenacre's demographic data has been used for the initial SIA during the scoping report.

Strathfield LGA

Strathfield Council is located in Sydney's Inner West and comprises approximately 14 square kilometres. This local government area comprises of Belfield, Flemington, Greenacre, Homebush, Homebush West, Strathfield, and Strathfield South.

Strathfield Community Strategic Plan 2035 sets out a vision and priorities for the area and was developed with substantial input from the community. The plan sets out take on the challenges related with environment and emission reductions by improved recycling and support of circular economy (Strathfield Community Strategic Plan, 2022).

Greater Sydney

Greater Sydney is Australia's most populous urban region, home to over 5 million people, and is characterised by its cultural diversity, economic significance, and extensive urban development. The region includes a mix of established metropolitan centres, growing suburban areas, and semi-rural communities. Key characteristics include a diverse population in terms of age, culture, and income, with strong representation from migrant communities.

The region faces ongoing challenges related to housing affordability, transport congestion, insufficient waste management services¹, and access to services, particularly in outer metropolitan and growth areas. Community values often centre around liveability, environmental protection, and access to local amenities and employment. These factors are important when considering social impacts associated with infrastructure and waste management developments.

6.1.2 Resident profile

A detailed assessment of the key community characteristics is provided in and is based on results from the 2016 and 2021 ABS Census of Population and Housing. The following key demographic characteristics of local residents in the vicinity of the proposed development are identified in **Table 7** below.

Social aspect	Demographic of people surrounding the facility	Explanation
Population	26,316 people in Greenacre 49.83% M : 50.17% F	In 2021, Greenacre had an estimated residential population of 26,316. Moderately equal proportion of males to females within the area.

¹ <https://hdp-au-prod-app-nswepa-yoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/6217/4925/1672/25p4590-draft-waste-infrastructure-plan.pdf>

Age	24,368 persons surveyed				In 2021, Greenacre was seen to have a large share of young persons aged 5-14 years old and middled aged persons 25-54 years old. As a result, Greenacre is likely to comprise of a large proportion of family households. Persons aged 14 years or younger account for 23% of the population. Persons aged 65 years old account for 13.92% of the population. Hence, approximately 36.92% of the population of Greenacre is considered vulnerable.
	Age groups:		Percentage		
	0-4 years		7.06%		
	5-14 years		16.83%		
	15-19 years		8.06%		
	20-24 years		7.02%		
	25-34 years		12.19%		
	35-44 years		12.72%		
	45-54 years		11.62%		
	55-64 years		10.58%		
	65-74 years		7.75%		
	75-84 years		4.31%		
	85 years and over		1.86%		
	Household composition				
Household composition		Percentage (%)			
Family household		79.7%			
Single person households		18.7%			
Group house holds		1.5%			
Total respondents		6,762			
Family composition	Family composition		Percentage (%)		Of the families in Greenacre, 59.4% were couple families with children, 19.7% were couple families without children and 19.0% were one parent families.
	Couple family without children		19.7		
	Couple family with children		59.4		
	One parent family		19.0		
	Other family		1.9		
	Total respondents		5,759		
Resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (no.)	193 people				Of the 199 individuals who are Indigenous living in the Strathfield LGA, 144 reside in the suburb of Greenacre. It is noted that in Greenacre and the broader Straathfield LGA less indigenous individuals reside in the area when compared to NSW.
		Greenacre	Strathfield	NSW	
	Resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (no.)	144	199	278,043	
	Percentage	0.5%	0.4%	3.4%	

Income	20,028 persons surveyed in Greenacre 60.17% of persons earn <\$799 74.03% of persons earn <\$1250 16.71% of persons earn >\$1250		Greenacre residents are typically lower income households. Hence, approximately 74.03% of the population is considered vulnerable.	
Occupation	8,031 persons surveyed 1. Professional 2. Technicians and trade workers 3. Managers 4. Clerical and administration workers 5. Sales workers		The most common occupations in Greenacre included Professionals 17.6%, Technicians and Trades Workers 15.3%, Clerical and Administrative Workers 15.1%, Sales Workers 11.2%, Labourers 9.9%, Managers 9.8%, Community and Personal Service Workers 9.6% and Machinery Operators and Drivers 9.2%.	
Health	26,319 persons surveyed 1. No long term health conditions 64% 2. Not stated 10.5% 3. Diabetes 6.4% 4. Arthritis 6.2% 5. Asthma 5.7%		Generally, the population of Greenacre are considered in good health, with 64% of persons stating they have no long term health conditions. 39.7% of persons were seen to have long term health conditions with diabetes, arthritis and asthma the leading health conditions.	
Education	18,811 persons surveyed 1. Year 12 or equivalent 58% 2. Year 10 or equivalent 14.9% 3. <Year 9 or equivalent 10.28% 4. Did not go to school 3.98%		Generally, most people in the area are well educated. Only a small proportion of Greenacre did not go to go school 3.98% or have a education level of less than year 9 or equivalent 10.28%.	
Housing	7,104 persons surveyed 1. Separate housing 63.1% 2. Semi detached, row or townhouse 29.3% 3. Flat or apartment 7%		Separate houses are the primary housing typology within Greenacre, accounting for 63.1% of all households. Semi-detached, row or townhouses make up 29.3% of all dwellings and only 7% are apartments or flats. The high share of separate dwellings reflects the local context of the Greenacre being an established residential area and suburban area.	
Tenure	7,121 persons surveyed 1. Owned outright 30% 2. Owned with a mortgage 33.1% 3. Rented 32.4%		Approximately 2/3 of persons in Greenacre own their own home and approximately 1/3 rent within the area. Impacts from the proposed development need to be assessed to ensure the property market is not negatively impacted	
Employment	Employment	Percentage	There were 9,027 people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in Greenacre. Of these 53.1% were employed full time, 31.7% were employed part-time and 8.8% were unemployed.	
	Worked full time	53.1%		
	Worked part time	31.7%		
	Away from work	6.4%		
	Unemployed	8.8%		
	Total persons surveyed	9,027		
Linguistic		Language	Percentage	Arabic is the preferred language spoken at home, followed by English. Most people in the area are considered to speak at a level greater than well
	1	Arabic	38.7%	

	2	English	26.7%	(77.11%). Approximately 22% of people in the area do not speak English or do not speak English well. <u>Hence, approximately 22% of people in the area are considered vulnerable.</u>																								
	3	Urdu	2.6%																									
	4	Vietnamese	2.8%																									
	5	Greek	2.7%																									
	6	Bengali	2.6%																									
	Persons surveyed		13,113																									
	<table><tr><td>Proficiency in spoken English</td><td>Number of Individuals</td><td>Percentage (%)</td></tr><tr><td>Speaks English only</td><td>2104</td><td>10.03%</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Uses other language and speaks English:</td></tr><tr><td>Very well or well</td><td>14072</td><td>67.08%</td></tr><tr><td>Not well or not at all</td><td>4656</td><td>22.19%</td></tr><tr><td>Proficiency in English not stated</td><td>25</td><td>0.12%</td></tr><tr><td>Language and proficiency in English not stated</td><td>121</td><td>0.58%</td></tr><tr><td>Total persons surveyed</td><td>20978</td><td></td></tr></table>				Proficiency in spoken English	Number of Individuals	Percentage (%)	Speaks English only	2104	10.03%	Uses other language and speaks English:			Very well or well	14072	67.08%	Not well or not at all	4656	22.19%	Proficiency in English not stated	25	0.12%	Language and proficiency in English not stated	121	0.58%	Total persons surveyed	20978	
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	Proficiency in English not stated	25	0.12%																									
	Language and proficiency in English not stated	121	0.58%																									
Total persons surveyed	20978																											
Travel to work				Approximately, 74.3% of people in Greenacre were seen to travel to work via car. Traffic increases caused by the proposed development will need to be adequately assessed, noting that project-related vehicles will not use local residential streets.																								
	<table><tr><td>Mode of transportation</td><td>Percentage (%)</td></tr><tr><td>People who travel to work by public transport</td><td>12.2%</td></tr><tr><td>People who travelled to work by car as driver or passenger</td><td>74.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Total persons surveyed</td><td>7,119</td></tr></table>				Mode of transportation	Percentage (%)	People who travel to work by public transport	12.2%	People who travelled to work by car as driver or passenger	74.3%	Total persons surveyed	7,119																
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	People who travelled to work by car as driver or passenger	74.3%																										
Total persons surveyed	7,119																											

Table 7: Demographic of Greenacre statistics. All statistical information obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics ².

6.1.3 Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA)

The 2021 Census of population and housing provides information on a range of social and economic characteristics of Australia's population. SEIFA combines Census data such as income, education, employment, occupation, housing and family structure to summarise the socio-economic characteristics of an area.

Each area receives a SEIFA score indicating how relatively advantaged or disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas.

- the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) focuses on both advantage and disadvantage
- the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) focuses on relative socio-economic disadvantage
- the Index of Education and Occupation (IEO) focuses on relative Education and Occupation advantage and disadvantage

² <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2016/SSC11757>

- the Index of Economic Resources (IER) focuses on Economic advantage and disadvantage.

The same area may score differently for each index due to their constituent variables.

SEIFA 2021 is published on the following geographies:

- Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)
- Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2)
- Local Government Areas (LGA)
- Suburbs and Localities (SAL) (replacing State Suburbs (SSCs))
- Postal Areas (POA)

For the purpose of this review – suburbs and localities were the chosen geography.

	Greenacre
IRSAD	2 – Moderate disadvantage
IRSD	1 – Most disadvantaged
IER	1 – Most disadvantaged
IEO	3 - Neutral

Table 8: SEIFA information for Greenacre.

The local study area of Greenacre was generally disadvantaged. This generally reflects an area with many households with low incomes, or many people in unskilled occupations or many people unemployed or many households paying low rent, and a few households with high incomes, or few people in skilled occupations or few people owning their own home. This is generally reflective of the ABS statistics obtained.

Typically, socio-economically disadvantaged communities may be more vulnerable to change and impact.

6.1.4 Vulnerable groups

There are numerous vulnerable groups within the study area community including the young, elderly, persons with a disability (need for assistance), socio-economically disadvantage groups, and people with language barriers.

6.1.5 Indigenous groups

Heritage consultation has been completed as part of the AHIA for brevity only key conclusions have been incorporated into this report.

6.1.6 English proficiency

Language and linguistics diversity can influence social cohesion and capital in a community. Those with low levels of English proficiency can suffer from poor communication and isolation. Approximately 22% of people in the area “do not speak English well or not at all”, it was seen that Arabic was the dominant language in the area and hence consultation materials must consider this.

6.2 Land use

This section provides a summary of land use context within the local study area.

6.2.1 Land use within area

Land zoning within 1 km of the Site was determined to achieve an overview of the area, these are provided in Table 9 and Figure 5. Residential areas were seen to make up approximately 56% of the area, industrial and infrastructure areas account for 38% of the area and public recreation areas were only 4% of area located within 1 km of the Site.

Land zone	Code	% of area within 1 km
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Neighbourhood centre	B1	0.06
Local centre	B2	0.09
Enterprise Corridor	B6	0.40
Environmental Conservation	C2	0.61
Local Centre	E1	0.15
General Industrial	E4	22.16
Ligh Industrial	IN2	5.67
Low Density Residential	R2	25.62
Medium density residential	R3	18.47
High Density Residential	R4	11.97
Public Recreation	RE1	4.03
Private Recreation	RE2	0.83
Infrastructure	SP2	9.96

Table 9: Land zoned within 1 km of the Site

6.2.2 Social infrastructure

There was only one site identified within 500 m of the Site. This was the “Wentworth Reserve”. The search was then expanded to 1 km to ensure an adequate overview of the wider area was obtained.

There are number of community facilities and social infrastructure with in the 1 km of the facility, social infrastructure potentially impacted by the proposal may include those in proximity to the proposal Site, these are listed in Table 10 and Figure 6. There were no health services or facilities located within 1 km of the Site.

Infrastructure type	Name
Place Of Worship	UNITING CHURCH
Place Of Worship	CATHOLIC CHURCH
Nursing Home	BELMORE PLACE CARE COMMUNITY
Place Of Worship	ISLAMIC
Primary School	HAMPDEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL
Special School	CANTERBURY VALE SCHOOL
Combined Primary-Secondary School	RISSALAH COLLEGE
Sports Court	TENNIS COURTS
Park	PARRY PARK

Sports Field	BEGNELL PARK
Park	ECCLES RESERVE
Sports Field	BOWLING GREENS
Club	GREENACRE BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB
Park	NORM NEILSON RESERVE
Park	ETHEL PYERS RESERVE
Park	HAMPDEN ROAD RESERVE
Park	COXS CREEK RESERVE
Park	DREW STREET PLAYGROUND
Park	WENTWORTH RESERVE
Club	BELFIELD SUB-BRANCH RSL CLUB
Picnic Area	PLAYGROUND
Park	ECCLES RESERVE

Table 10: Social infrastructure within 1 km of the Site.

6.3 Social trends and issues impacting the Proposal

This section provides an overview of key social trends and issues – both contextual and local – of relevance to the Proposal.

6.3.1 The future for waste and resource recovery

The waste and resource recovery sector is facing many complex challenges. These challenges present great opportunities for the sector to adapt towards a circular economy, where we maximise reuse, recycling and recovery, and minimise waste to landfill.

Increasing industry capacity

In early 2018, China introduced restrictions on the type and quality of recyclable material it imports, which has had significant implications for Australia's recycling sector. These restrictions have substantially increased the cost for sorting recycling locally.

In addition to this, it is projected that Sydney's population will exceed six million by 2040, waste generation is anticipated to increase proportionally, necessitating the need for advanced infrastructure to sustainably manage waste streams. Existing landfill capacity in the Sydney Basin is expected to be exhausted by 2028, and without intervention, reliance on landfill disposal will escalate, contradicting state and federal waste reduction targets highlighting an urgent need for advanced infrastructure to divert waste from landfill and support the circular economy³.

This trend underlines the need for advanced resource recovery facilities capable of efficiently managing waste while minimising adverse environmental impacts.

All levels of government have responded to this challenge by identifying opportunities to improve the efficiency and productivity of the domestic sector. Without viable local processing facilities, significant volumes of recyclable material will be stockpiled or sent to landfill. C&D waste remains one of the largest waste streams in New South Wales, producing

³ <https://hdp-au-prod-app-nswepa-yoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/6217/4925/1672/25p4590-draft-waste-infrastructure-plan.pdf>

12,674,000 T in 2022-23 financial years (56% of total waste generated). This material includes concrete, bricks, asphalt, timber, and excavated soils. 78% of this material was able to be recycled, which meant that 2,828,000 T went to landfill.

Industry, market demands the push regulatory authorities to utilise sustainable products as part of new developments and the circular economy are reshaping waste management priorities. Consumers, businesses, and governments are demanding greater accountability in resource use and waste reduction. This is reflected in the current construction market in Sydney that has seen the demand for the limited virgin products such as aggregates, metals, soils, timbers etc cost almost double the rate of its recycled counterpart. It is to be noted that virgin products are rarely produced in the Sydney region anymore, hence further compounding the demand for limited products. The table below outlines approximate prices of recycled and virgin materials.

Material	Recycled price	Virgin price
Concrete/Brick	\$15–30/t	\$50–70/t
Soil (ENM)	\$10–25/t	\$30–60/t
Scrap Metal	Market rate	~\$1,200–1,500/t
Timber	\$5–30/m	\$15–70/m

Table 11: Approximate costs of virgin and recycled products (based on industry knowledge and experience).

This facility is designed to address these concerns by recovering valuable materials, reducing waste to landfill, and supporting the development of secondary markets for recycled products. The proposal will see approximately 199,000 T per annum of C&D waste recycled, this would decrease the quantity of waste sent to landfill from the C&D industry by approximately 7%. Proposals such as this, that aim to increase the efficiency and scale of an existing waste facility while being compliant with relevant guidelines would alleviate pressure on existing systems while advancing NSW's strategic vision for a circular economy, as outlined in the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041* and *NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2027*.

Changing community attitudes to waste recycling

The need for waste recycling facilities to reduce emissions from waste is critical to help deliver the NSW Government's goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Opportunities to use waste to create energy or new products have also been identified as useful methods to result in lower economy wide emissions. There is presently broad community awareness of the environmental value of increasing waste recycling to reduce carbon emissions. This has resulted in changing social behaviours and cultural attitudes towards waste management and energy use. The community has an understanding that changing behaviour to using energy and materials more efficiently and limiting waste to landfill, will also help to address climate change, protect biodiversity and natural resources.

Communities are increasingly informed and vocal about the environmental implications of waste management practices. The demand for transparency, minimal environmental impacts, and adherence to stringent regulations has grown. Proponents of the facility must engage actively with local communities to address concerns related to noise, odour, and traffic while demonstrating the facility's capacity to deliver tangible environmental benefits, such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced material recovery rates.

6.4 Key aspects for consideration identified from social baseline

Social baseline key points	Potential impacts summary / hypothesized concerns or key points
Approximately 22% of people in the area "do not speak English well or not at all", it was seen that Arabic was the dominant language in the area	Consultation material must be in multiple languages (including English and Arabic) to ensure people are able to be informed on the project

Estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is 193 individuals.	Specific Aboriginal consultation is to be undertaken. Consideration is to be given to not only the tangible but the intangible connection to the land on which the Site is located.
Majority of the area consists of families (couple with children).	- Potential concerns for family health - Consultation material must consider medium (eg online or paper) and meeting times are considered to ensure a variety of age groups are reached and are able to provide feedback
Generally, the population of Greenacre are considered in good health.	Potential concerns for family health
Population of Greenacre is generally considered a lower income population	Provision of local employment.
Majority of travel to work is mostly completed by car	Potential for traffic increase from proposed development to impact travel to work times
Social infrastructure	There were no observed impacts to access to social infrastructure based on desktop review of locations and likely travel routes.

Table 12: Social baseline key points for consideration.

7. Scoping potential social Impacts of the Proposed Development

Project activities	Social impact category	Potential impact description	Positive or negative impact	Elements of impact					Relevant technical assessments	Potential for cumulative impacts (if yes identify which other impacts and/ or projects)	Initial risk assessment (without mitigation measures)		
				Extent	Duration	Intensity	Sensitivity or importance	Level of concern / interest			Likelihood	Magnitude	Impact rating
Increase in truck movements	- Access - way of life	Increase in traffic along Bellfrog street and other road networks	Negative	Industrial neighbours on Bellfrog Street (BFS).	Operation phase	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Traffic impact assessment	Yes - Other neighbouring industrial facilities	Likely	Moderate	High
Construction of plant equipment and associated infrastructure	- Health and well - Access	Potential increase to noise, air and traffic	Negative	Industrial neighbours on BFS, residential neighbours	Construction phase	Minor	Minor	Minor	Traffic impact assessment Noise impact assessment	Yes - Other neighbouring industrial facilities normal operations	Likely	Minimal	Low
Addition of processing plant equipment / increase in scale of processing activities (including traffic noise)	- Surroundings - way of life - Health and well being	Increase in noise emissions from processing activities, truck movements and	Negative	Industrial neighbours, Residential neighbours	Operation phase	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Noise impact assessment	Yes - Other neighbouring industrial facilities	Likely	Moderate	High
Addition of processing plant equipment / increase in scale of processing activities	- Surroundings - way of life - Health and well being	Increase in dust and particulate matter emissions	Negative	Industrial neighbours, Residential neighbours	Operation phase	Minor	Minor	Minor	Air quality impact assessment	Yes - Other neighbouring industrial facilities	Likely	Moderate	High
Increase local employment opportunities	Livelihood	Increase employment in the local area	Positive	Local area	Operation phase	Minor	Moderate	To be determined	NA	Yes - Other neighbouring industrial facilities	Possible	Minor	Medium
Increase to recycling capacity in the Sydney Region	- Surroundings - Livelihoods	Increase ability for soil recycling in the Sydney region	Positive	Sydney region	Operation phase	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	NA	Yes – will cumulatively increase the recycling capacity of the Sydney region	Likely	Major	High
Use of the Site as an industrial facility	Culture	Use of the Site as an industrial area potentially impacting Aboriginal Cultural sites	Negative	Local area	Lifetime	Minor	pending results of ACHAR	pending results of ACHAR	ACHAR with specific consultation	Yes - Other established industrial and residential use of the area	Unlikely	Minor / moderate	Low – medium
Use of the Site as a waste facility	Community	Potential impacts to character of the area and subsequent land values	Negative	Local area	Operation phase	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	NA	Cumulative impacts relating to Site operation discussed above	Unlikely	Minimal	Low
Increased access to resource recovery facilities	Access	Increased access to resource recovery facilities	Positive	Sydney region	Operation phase	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	NA		Likely	Moderate	High
Frog sanctuary	Surroundings	Improved habitat in an area that is highly degraded	Positive	Local area	Operation phase	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Preliminary biodiversity assessment and		Possible	Moderate	Medium

									management plan				
Use of the Site as a waste facility	• Surroundings	Potential negative visual amenity as a result	Negative	Local area	Operation phase	Minor	Minor	Minor	VIA section of EIS	No	Very unlikely	Minimal	Low
Increase to operational hours	• Health and well being • Surroundings	Potential impacts associated with extended operation hours (increased noise) and light nuisance to surrounding residents	Negative	Industrial neighbours, Residential neighbours	Operation phase	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Noise impact assessment Visual Impact Assessment	No	Possible	Moderate	Medium
Commitment to recycling education for schools and tours of the facility for community groups	• Community	Increase awareness to the recycling industry and increase transparency in recycling operations occurring in the community	Positive	Strathfield / Canterbury-Bankstown LGA	Operation phase	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Schedule of commitments	No	Likely	Moderate	High

Table 13: Scoping potential social Impacts of the Proposed Development

8. Community and stakeholder engagement outcomes

Refer to Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy for further details – only key outcomes relating to the local communities and stakeholders are summarised here.

8.1.1 Consultation with the community

Based on review of the demographics of the area several rounds of letter notifications were distributed to the local neighbours in English and Arabic, and community consultation sessions were completed. Very few responses were obtained during this time. Based on the responses, there were concerns in the residential community regarding the air and noise impacts and within the industrial neighbours there were concerns regarding the traffic increase.

The community response to the proposed development was notably limited. Some people provided comments or questions which were answered by 4Pillars. Some residents provided an objection with no further explanation, further attempts were made to consult with these parties however no response was obtained, and no further feedback was obtained. Only one resident attended a consultation session in 2023. The insights gained from this resident's feedback and the workshop are detailed in Section 5.1 of the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

A summary of the Project and its potential impacts were provided to all community members that had previously provided comments or registered their interest in the proposed development. The summary was provided with a link to the final community information session. The Strata Collective Pty Ltd on behalf of tenants of 31 Wentworth St, Greenacre responded with and interest in attending the session.

The community session was held on the 14/4/24 with 4Pillars representatives Sophia Burke and James Hammond as well as a Strata Collective representative on behalf of 31 Wentworth St, Greenacre. 4Pillars presented a summary of the proposed development and associated impacts. During this session, questions were answered about the proposed development and community concerns were noted. Generally, the representative thought that the proposed was an improvement to current Site operations. The representative was provided a copy of the presentation and a copy of the draft traffic impact assessments to distribute to other tenants of 31 Wentworth St. No further feedback was received.

9. Project refinement

Community and stakeholder feedback has been completed over several years for this project and has played an integral role in determination of the final project design.

Feedback was sought from stakeholders through the consultation activities listed in this report. 4Pillars sought feedback and notified:

- 4Pillars sought feedback from the government agencies and Council during preparation of the project.
- 4Pillars notified residents of Greenacre through a letterbox notification and presented to community members in webinars.
- 4Pillars updated and maintained website material.

Key changes in project design based on feedback from stakeholders and Proponent consideration from initial conception include:

- Reduction in the maximum amount of waste stored on the Site from 8,000 t to 4,000 t at any one time.
- Maintaining the existing level of waste throughput (199,000 tonnes per year).
- Additional waste type - mixed building and demolition waste (skip bin waste).
- Installation of a material recycling plant for mixed waste processing within the waste processing building.
- Extension to the existing awning and inclusion of a wall on its eastern side to create a processing building and modification to storage bay layouts.
- Extension of operating hours for specific activities.
- Installation of on-site water control valve, to prevent discharge from the Site.

10. Review of project impact assessments

Aspect area	Summary of impacts
Noise impact assessment	Negligible impacts
Air quality impact assessment	Negligible impacts
Traffic and transport impact assessment	Negligible impacts
Soils and water quality impact assessment	Negligible impacts
Heritage impact assessment	Negligible impacts
Visual impact assessment	Negligible – low impacts

Table 14: Summary of EIA completed as part of the SSDA.

11. Social Impact Assessment

11.1 Overview

This section analyses potential impacts which may occur as result of the Project. This identifies and evaluates the potential social impact of the proposal. The SIA has been undertaken in line with the methodology introduced in Section 2. It covers impacts for the local study area, drawing on assessment of the impacts at the regional, State and national levels as appropriate and relevant.

11.2 Low – medium impact assessment

11.2.1 Way of life

The proposal is expected to have minimal impact on people's way of life. The Site is situated in an existing industrial area, with no interaction of access roads with the residential roads. Construction and operational activities will not impede the community's ability to access services or move around freely. The TIA also suggests the increase in trucks during the construction and operational phases will also not increase peoples travel times.

Way of life impacts are limited the cumulative impact associate with the noise and air emissions from the Site and other industries impacting residential communities experience of peace and quiet enjoyment. The specialists' reports have determined that these are impacts are within relevant criteria limits / will cause negligible increase on existing environment.

11.2.2 Community

Positive impacts

Aussie Recycling has previously delivered educational incursions at day care centres during National Recycling Week. As part of the proposed development, Aussie Recycling is committed to continuing to deliver and expand upon this commitment to include:

- Annual school incursion during National Recycling Week, delivering age-appropriate workshops and resources to local primary schools.
- Distribution of recycling activity packs to local schools and early learning centres during Recycling Week, including mini hi-vis vests, activity books, and stickers.
- Offering guided tours of the Greenacre site to local community groups and schools to showcase how recycling is done at the facility.

Negative impacts

The proposed is expected to have minimal impacts to the character of the community due to being sited in a well-established industrial area and the proposed being only for upgrades to an existing facility.

11.2.3 Access to and use of infrastructure, services and facilities

The Site is located in an existing and well-established industrial area. Roads that access the Site are also located in the industrial area and are not shared by residents. Residents in the local community will not be impeded by traffic associated with the proposal. The Sites location / access route does not impede any of the local community's ability to access services and facilities. This is important as most people in the area utilise their personal car to get to work or appointments.

There will be a positive impact resulting from the proposal as it will improve access to recycling services within the Sydney region.

11.2.4 Culture

The Site is in a current and well-established industrial area. There will be no zoning or use changes associated with the proposal.

It is important to consider the potential for intangible harm through cultural or spiritual loss, hence, consultation with relevant indigenous groups has been undertaken as part of the AHIA. Further details on the consultation can be found in the AHIA and the EIS, a summary is provided here.

69 organisations /individuals were contacted as part of the consultation, with 15 registering their interest in the Site. No specific cultural connection to the Site was identified by the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). Of the respondents, 3 of the 4 RAPs supported the proposed development and the methods completed. The fourth respondent responded with a maybe, however after the Site visit and further discussion with 4Pillars they confirmed that they had no concerns or objection to the proposed development. They also confirmed they did not have a desire to receive information about the project in the future.

11.2.5 Health and well being

The potential health and wellbeing impact of the proposed waste facility were carefully assessed, with a focus on air quality, noise and amenity—key factors influencing community health. Modelling and impact assessments concluded that the facility's operations would not result in any material effects on nearby residential receptors.

As a result, the project is not expected to have any negative impacts on the health or wellbeing of local residents, and compliance with best practice mitigation measures further supports the protection of community amenity and quality of life.

11.2.6 Surroundings

Generally, the Site's locality within an industrial area is likely to create a negative amenity value for the surrounding community. It is to be noted that the industrial area is well established, and these impacts are likely well understood within the community. The proposal is extremely unlikely to affect the values of properties in the area as the industrial area is well established.

The commitment to using part of the Site to create usable habitat for the threatened Green and Golden Bellfrog, will improve the natural environment within the area.

Visual amenity

The proposed project may give rise to some minor social impacts related to alterations in visual aesthetics. However, it is crucial to note that the proposal aligns well with the prevailing industrial character of its immediate vicinity, which largely lacks recreational and scenic attributes. Moreover, a significant addition to the project, the processing equipment, will be effectively shielded by the facility's walls. Consequently, it can be inferred that the overall visual amenity in the area will remain largely unaltered.

11.2.7 Livelihoods

The proposal will create opportunities for employment on Site (5-10 new jobs) and will likely create employment opportunities at other businesses that can utilise Aussie Recycling services.

Operation of the proposal is likely to have sustained, minor positive social impacts throughout its life. In particular, reduced waste disposal, combined with reduced emissions associated with traditional landfill may increase appeal of living in Sydney region.

However, there are perceptions regarding the impacts of living near a waste facility, and the community engagement activities identified the following comments which highlight people's concern about living near the proposal such as air quality, noise, traffic and potential for hazardous materials, such as asbestos, to enter the Site. Through the impact assessments it was determined that impacts to air quality, noise and traffic would result in a negligible change from current levels. Regarding the potential for asbestos, Aussie Recycling currently has and will continue to implement strict screening and material inspection procedures. Any material that looks suspicious, will not be accepted on Site. Minimising the risk of the potentially hazardous material.

11.2.8 Decision making systems

As part of the proposed development, the local community was given multiple opportunities to provide feedback and commentary on the proposed. Effort was taken to ensure that material produced to the public was in layman's terms and produced multiple languages.

Complaints procedures are to be established and maintained as part of the proposal and it is suggested that in addition to "complaints hotline" a regular (annual) community workshops / forums are held to gauge the communities' views on the Site. This will allow for feedback and review of mitigation measures effectiveness.

Once the SSD application is lodged with the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure, the project and all reports will be placed on "public exhibition". At this stage the community will have another opportunity to comment and provide a submission directly to DPHI for consideration.

11.2.9 Fears and aspirations

According to the guideline, the final social impact category assessed during the SIA was 'fears and aspirations'. The category relates to one or more of the social impact categories discussed previously, or fears about the future of the communities surrounding the project. This category did not emerge as one likely to be influenced by the Proposal and was disqualified from the SIA.

11.3 Key areas of concerns

This section identifies and evaluates the key areas of concerns base on the community consultation and specialist reports in relation to both construction and operation phase.

11.3.1 Operational Activities

Increase in truck movement associated with the operation			
Impact description	Potentially impacted groups	Social impact category	Initial impact rating
Increase in traffic along Bellfrog street and other road networks (Wentworth St, Norfolk Rd and Roberts Rd)	Industrial neighbours on BFS	Access Way of life	HIGH – negative
Current environment			
The Site is located within the Greenacre industrial where there are existing heavy vehicle movements. Most workers typically travel to and from this area by car. Current access to the Site is via Bellfrog Street, Wentworth St and Norfolk Rd, which connects to Roberts Rd. Consultation with the local area indicated there is some concern regarding the existing congestion in the area.			
Impact assessment summary			
It is noted that increased traffic movements can negatively impact on a person’s way of life by contributing to longer travel times and restricting the ability to access key services in a timely manner. Considering the current industrial area conditions, the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) has determined there would be 4-5 trips per peak hour. The TIA considers the cumulative traffic generation will result in no detrimental impact to the performance of the intersections as a result of the proposal. The Site's yard has adequate turning space for trucks and no trucks will be permitted to reverse onto Bellfrog Street from the Site. As the trucks will not utilise residential roads, there will be no impact to the community ability to travel and access services.			
Mitigation and recommendations:			
• Driver training and rules establishment • Revision of existing Operational Management Plans • Monitor the need and worker appetite for bicycle parking on Site. Measures should be undertaken to help encourage the use of active transport if demand arises.			
Residual impact (considering mitigation measures)			
Likelihood: Unlikely	Magnitude: Minimal	Residual impact: LOW	
Based on the TIA, the proposal is unlikely to increase traffic congestion on the surrounding road network, with all key intersections expected to operate at the same level of service with remaining capacity. Additional traffic on the local road network is unlikely to create a significant impact on the community’s ability to travel and access services			

Table 15: Social impact assessment for the increase in truck movement associated with the operation.

Addition of processing plant equipment / increase in scale of processing activities – causing noise impact			
Impact description	Potentially impacted groups	Social impact category	Initial impact rating
Increase in the noise environmental from site operations	Industrial neighbours Surrounding residents	• Surroundings • way of life • Health and well being	HIGH – negative
Current environment			
• The Site is located in an existing and well-established industrial area. • Currently noise levels are predicted below the project noise trigger levels.			
Impact assessment summary			
• Construction Noise: Predicted noise levels (LAeq,15min) from construction activities are below Noise Management Levels (NMLs) at all locations, with no receivers identified as highly affected. • Operational Noise: ○ Proposed operations: Noise levels remain below PNTLs at most locations, except at location R23 (54 Wentworth Street, Greenacre) during the day, where there's a minor exceedance of 2 dB. This is considered negligible under the Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI) and doesn't require further mitigation. • Sleep Disturbance: Predicted maximum noise levels (LAmax) meet sleep disturbance screening criteria at all residential locations. • Traffic Noise: Both construction and operational traffic noise comply with NSW Road Noise Policy (EPA 2011) at all times and locations.			
Mitigation and recommendations:			
• Noise wall (approximately 4.5m in height) constructed alongside the eastern and southern boundary of Site. • All conveyors are enclosed • New processing building to be internally lined with acoustically absorptive material such (such as Stratocell Whisper or perforated foil facing building blanket). It is recommended that where feasible, upper portions of the processing walls be lined also.			
Residual impact (considering mitigation measures)			
Likelihood: Likely	Magnitude: Minimal	Residual impact: LOW	
Based on the NIA, the proposed development is not expected to cause a significant increase to the noise environment for neighbouring residents. Additional noise is expected to be negligible at all receivers.			

Table 16: Social impact assessment for the addition of processing plant equipment / increase in scale of processing activities – causing noise impact

Addition of processing plant equipment / increase in scale of processing activities – causing air quality impact			
Impact description	Potentially impacted groups	Social impact category	Initial impact rating
Increase in dust due change of waste types and processing activities.	Industrial neighbours Surrounding residents	• Surroundings • Way of life • Health and well being	HIGH - negative
Current environment			
The site is located in south-western Sydney, predominantly surrounded by industrial and residential properties. Existing neighboring sources include the Heidelberg Materials CBP Greenacre, immediately north of the site, D & M Excavations and Asphaltting, approximately 80 m north of the site, Sydney Ports Enfield Intermodal Terminal, approximately 500 m north of the site, and Bingo Greenacre recycling facility, approximately 700 m north of the site. Other sources that contribute to particulate matter concentrations in the vicinity of the site include: • dust entrainment and tyre break wear due to vehicle movements along public roads. • petrol and diesel emissions from vehicle movements along public roads • diesel emissions from goods delivery trains. • wind generated dust from exposed areas within the surrounding region. Other remote sources which contribute episodically to suspend particulate in the region include dust storms and bushfires.			
Impact assessment summary			
• Predicted pollutant concentrations were below regulatory criteria at all assessment locations. • Cumulative impacts, including emissions from neighboring sources, also complied with NSW EPA criteria—except during specific high background pollution events, primarily due to backburning smoke.			
Mitigation and recommendations:			
• All tipping of incoming waste material and loading of processing circuit hopper will be within an enclosed building. • All processing equipment and waste storage bays will be within a building. • All conveyors will be covered. • No waste will be stored, handled or processed outside. • Dust suppression sprays in receival building, and misters on building openings. • Water suppression will be installed on the fixed processing plant within the processing building. • Dust extraction will be installed on the fixed processing plant within the processing building, with extracted air directed to a baghouse. • Water will be used for dust suppression in the concrete yard. • The concrete yard will be routinely cleaned to minimise dust build up.			
Residual impact (considering mitigation measures)			
Likelihood: Unlikely	Magnitude: Minimal	Residual impact: LOW	

Based on the AQIA, the proposed development is not expected to cause a significant increase to the dust environment for neighbouring residents. Additional dust is expected to be negligible at all receivers.

Table 17: Social impact assessment for the addition of processing plant equipment / increase in scale of processing activities – causing air quality impact

Increase to recycling capacity in the Sydney Region & Increased access to resource recovery facilities			
Impact description	Potentially impacted groups	Social impact category	Initial impact rating
Increased access to resource recovery facilities and increase capacity	Sydney Region	Access	High - positive
Impact assessment summary			
The Site will see approximately 199,000 T per year of C&D, C&I and MSW (non-putrescible) waste processed and recycled. Due to the Site's central location this will decrease the travel of waste to recycling facilities and prevent the waste from leaving the Sydney region to be recycled in other facilities. The facility will provide a feedstock of separated materials to other local businesses, hence supporting local businesses that rely on these secondary materials, while also reducing the carbon footprint from trucks travelling extensive distances. Bolstering the economic resilience of the broader waste and recycling sector in Sydney. The development is expected to generate 5–10 new on-site jobs, providing local residents with access to stable, ongoing employment. The new roles may provide training and upskilling opportunities, particularly in waste processing, environmental compliance, and equipment handling. The increase in employees on Site and increasing economic activity in the supply chain may also support other local business such as cafes and shops. The proposed upgrades to modernise infrastructure and enhance regulatory compliance will support the long-term operational viability of the facility, providing increased stability for both existing and future employees. In addition, the infrastructure improvements and implementation of recommended mitigation measures are expected to deliver improved environmental outcomes, contributing to more sustainable waste management practices. This point was raised on the final engagement session, where the attendee generally thought the proposed development would be an improvement when compared to existing operations.			

12. Conclusion

This Social Impact Assessment has identified and evaluated the potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed project on the surrounding community and stakeholders. While the project is anticipated to bring economic and social benefits—such as job creation and enhanced local services—it also presents challenges that require careful management, including potential disruptions to local amenity or other way of life aspects.

Through project design, engagement, and the implementation of mitigation strategies, it is expected that the adverse impacts can be minimised, and benefits maximised. Ongoing monitoring and collaboration with affected communities will be essential to ensuring the project progresses in a socially responsible and sustainable manner.

13. Appendices

Appendix 1. Experience and Qualifications of authors and certifiers

14. Figures



Figure 2: Site locality.

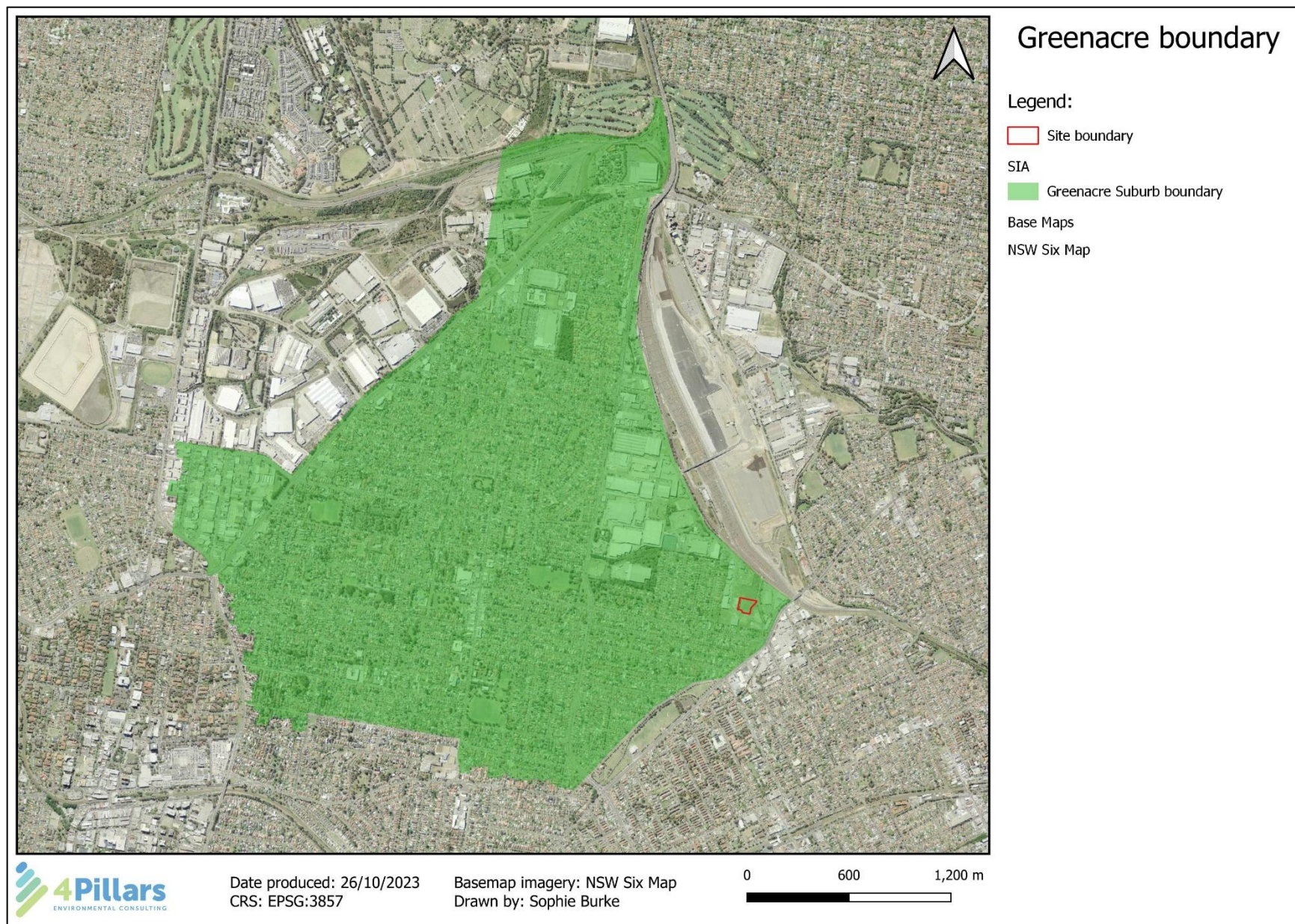


Figure 3: Greenacre suburb boundary.

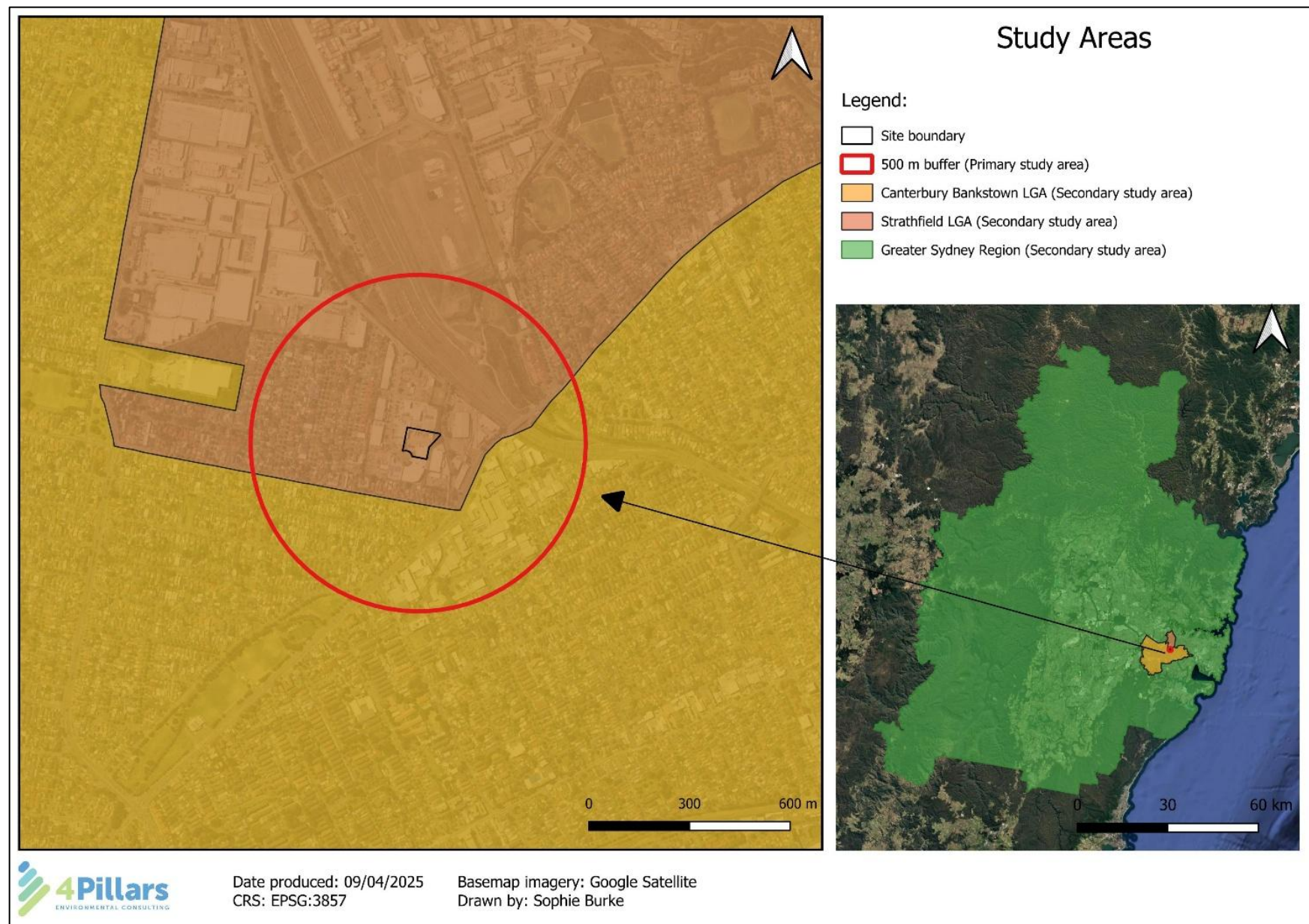


Figure 4: Study area

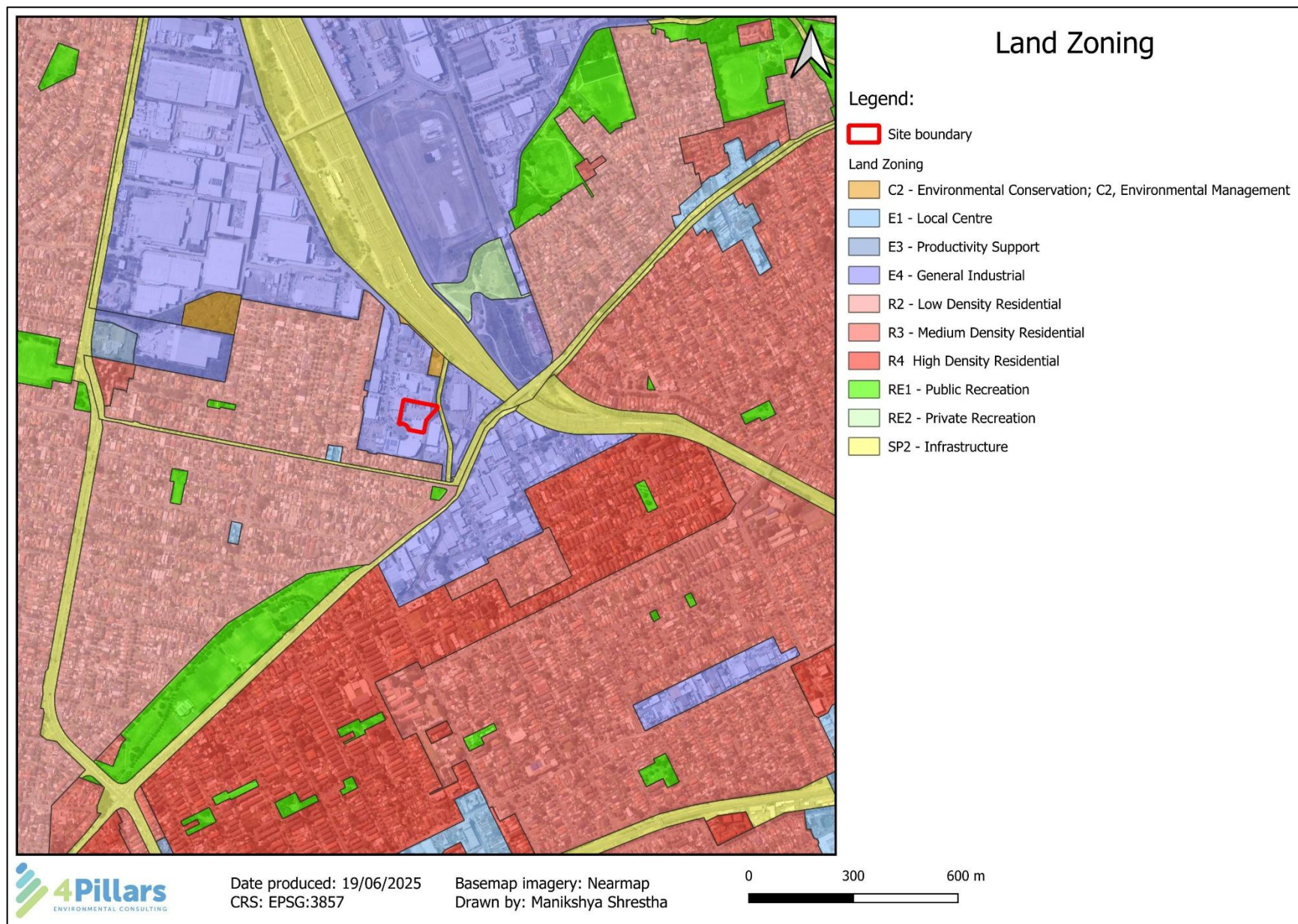


Figure 5: Land zoning.

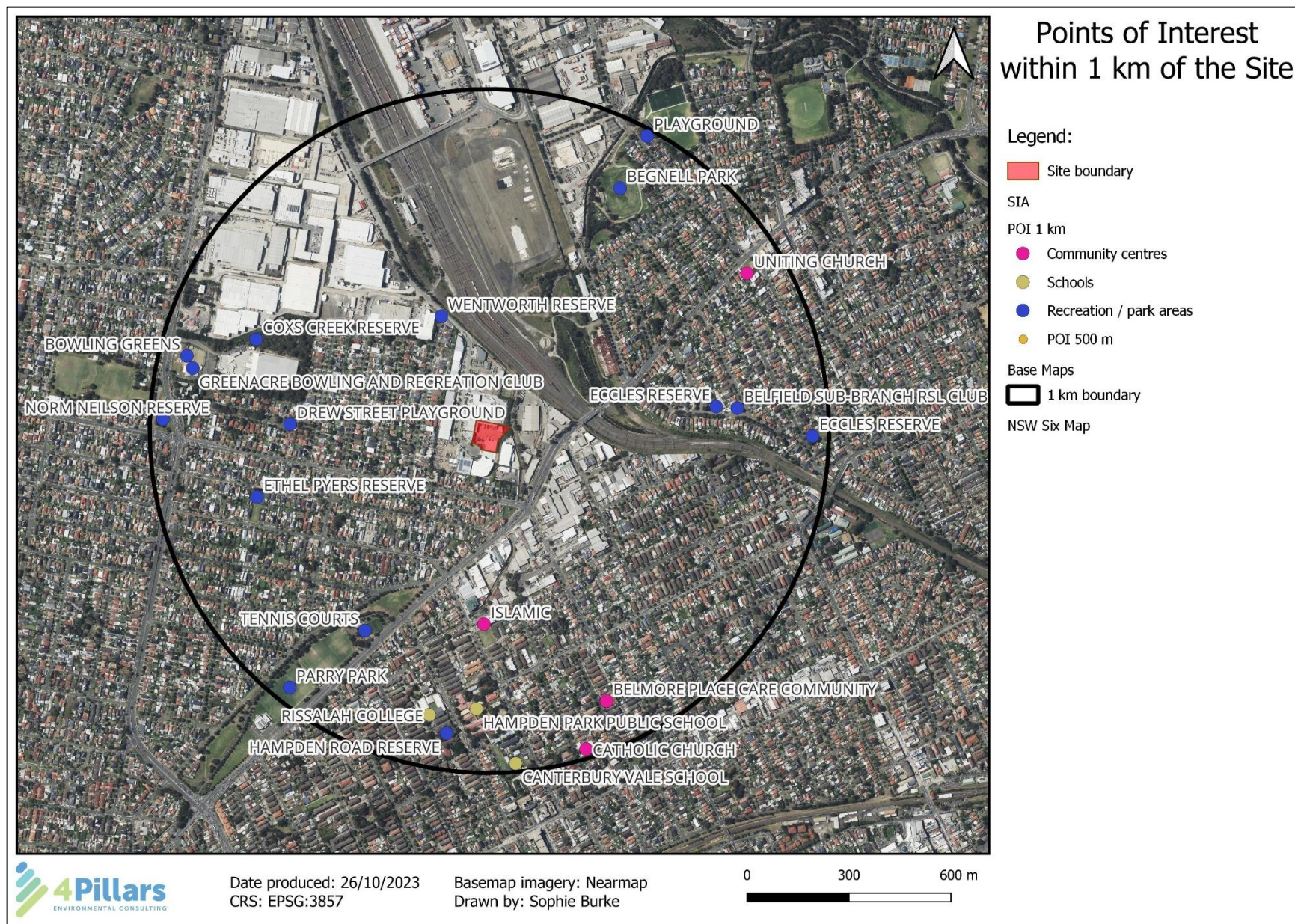


Figure 6: Points of interest.

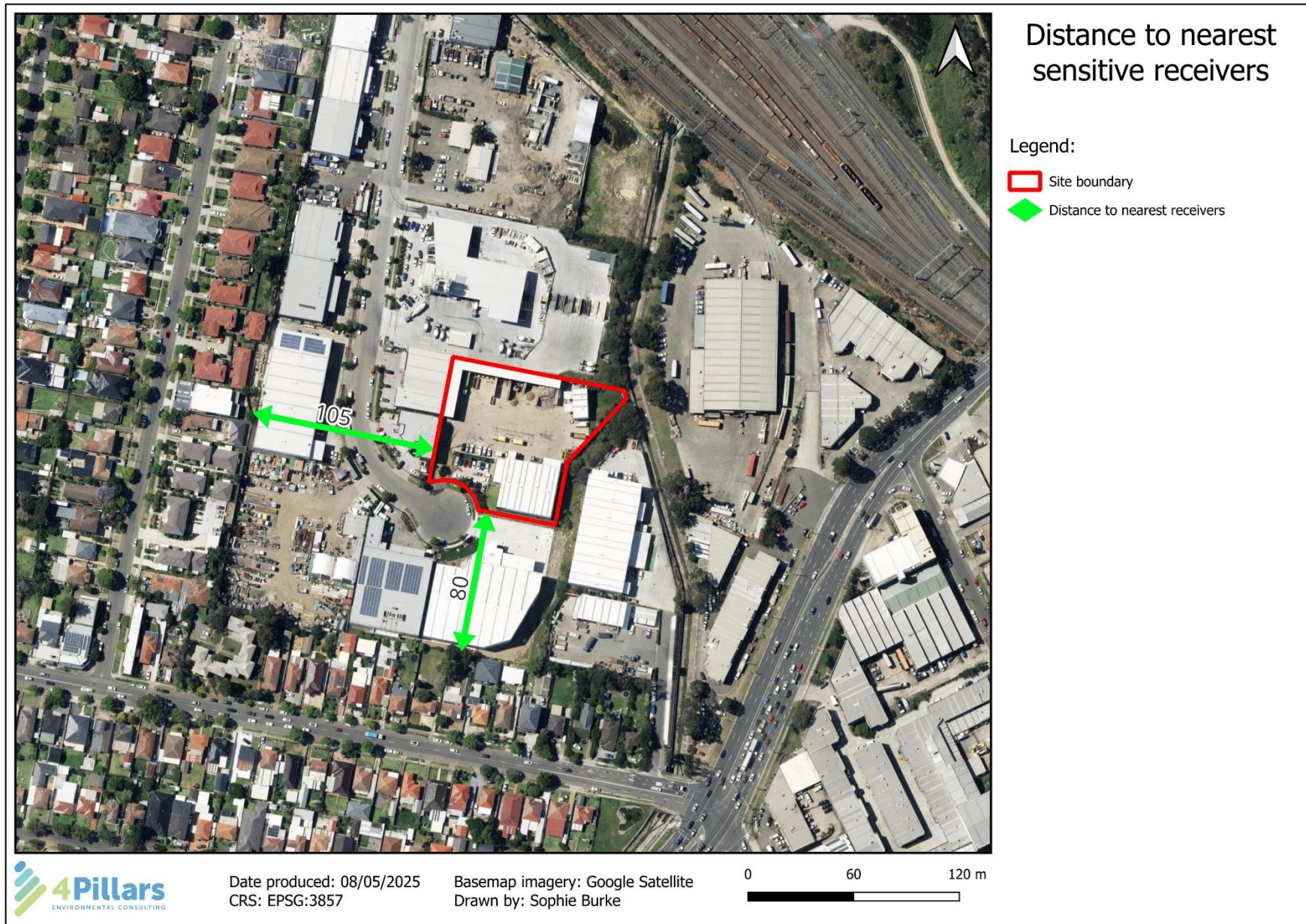


Figure 7: Distance to nearest receivers.

Appendix 1: Experience and Qualifications of authors and certifiers

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Organisation:	4Pillars Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd
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Certification:

I certify that:

- I have prepared this Social Impact Assessment (SIA) in accordance with the *Social Impact Assessment Guideline (2023)* issued by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
- The SIA was completed on the following date(s): 24 June 2025
- The SIA contains all relevant and available information to assess the social impacts of the proposed development.
- The information contained in this report is complete, accurate, and up to date at the time of writing.
- I understand my legal and ethical obligations in preparing this document, and I declare that none of the information included in the SIA is false or misleading.

Declaration:

I declare that:

- I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to the preparation of this SIA; or
- I have disclosed any actual or potential conflict of interest below: None

Signature: 
Date Signed: 24 June 2025

Certified by:

Name:	Sarah George
Position:	Social Planning Consultant
Organisation:	Sarah George Consulting
Qualifications and Experience:	BA Sociology/Psychology (Macquarie University) Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment (Family Planning NSW) Certificate IV Youth Work & Teaching by Distance (TAFE NSW) In practicing as a Social Planning Consultant since 2006, I have completed assignments for of clients in the private, public and government sectors, including: Preparation of Social Impact Assessments (SIA) and Social Impact Comments (SIC) for Development Applications, including State Significant Developments (schools, event sites, mixed use developments, infill affordable housing, mixed use developments, residential flat buildings, Master Plan developments, licensed premises, childcare centres, boarding houses, NDIS/SDA accommodation, and sex services premises); Preparation of Statements of Evidence, Joint Experts Reports and representation as an Expert Witness in the Land and Environment Court of NSW; Representation as an Expert Witness in NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal; Preparation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) reports to accompany SSDAs and DAs for developments including new residential developments, commercial and industrial developments, mixed use developments and schools; Preparation of the City of Sydney Council's Alcohol-Free Zone Policy Review & Guide; Preparation of a draft Local Approvals Policy for the City of Sydney ("Sex on Premises Venues"); Preparation of needs assessments, demand analysis & Plans of Management; Undertaking community consultation processes to inform developments and reports including public meetings; and Preparation of Community Impact Statements for packaged liquor outlets, on-premises licences for submission to the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing.
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Declaration

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- I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to the preparation of this SIA; or
- I have disclosed any actual or potential conflict of interest below:

Signature:  _____
Date Signed: 24 June 2025