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ARCHAEOLOGY

2 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE, GLENFIELD

GLENFIELD INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT 1

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY REPORT

Prepared for J.C. & F.W. Kennett Pty Ltd T/as Glenfield Waste Services

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Acknowledgement of Country

We respect and acknowledge the First Nations Peoples of the lands and waterways on which we live and work, their rich cultural heritage, and their deep connection to Country, and we acknowledge their Elders past and present.

Cultural warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this report may contain images or names of First Nations people who have passed away.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared for J.C. & F.W. Kennett Pty Ltd T/as Glenfield Waste Services [the Client] and aims to demonstrate consideration of the Connecting with Country (CwC) framework as published by the Government Architect New South Wales (NSW) (Government Architect NSW 2023). It considers the proposed development of Glenfield Industrial Precinct 1 (GIP) at 2 Cambridge Avenue, Glenfield, NSW (the study area), as defined by the extent of Lots 1-19 DP1256895, Lot 3 DP735524, Lot 51 DP515696, and Lot 52 DP5117310. The study area is a part of the Campbelltown and Liverpool Local Government Areas, the Parish of Minto in the County of Cumberland, and is within the boundaries of both the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council and Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council.

This CwC report has been undertaken to inform design outcomes for a State Significant Development Application (SSD-89673472) being prepared under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Austral is currently completing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the entirety of the proposed GIP. The stakeholder contacts gathered as part of the ACHA process have been contacted and involved as relevant stakeholders during the CwC process.

The aim of the CwC process is to provide direction to developers, with the ultimate goal of facilitating place-led design approaches. Put plainly, this aims to better connect these developments, and subsequently the communities that they serve, to Country. This is achieved through consultation with Aboriginal representatives and stakeholders. This report does not aim to speak on behalf of Aboriginal people but instead to demonstrate the dialogues and discussions created by the CwC process and, where possible, the implementation of these dialogues on design outcomes.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Key characteristics of the CwC framework include (Government Architect NSW 2023:13):

[Depiction of] the authentic voices of Aboriginal people who have contributed to writing this document, [through inclusion of] quotes from Aboriginal community representatives throughout.

Moreover, the report should:

[Lead] with Aboriginal knowledge to encourage a change from business-as-usual working practices [to] better connect with Country in planning and designing our built environment.

In order to meet these outcomes, and avoid consultation fatigue when undertaken alongside other heritage assessments, Austral has engaged a methodology that interfaces with the Heritage NSW guideline *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW 2010). The goal of this was to respectfully and efficiently provide a space for open and productive conversation with Aboriginal stakeholders while also maintaining the Country-centred approach intended under the CwC framework.

Further details of the consultation undertaken for this report, including an overview of meeting minutes from the workshop, are detailed in Section 3 of this CwC report.

OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Austral facilitated a community workshop on 7 August 2025 with registered Aboriginal stakeholder parties to discuss the project, outline key factors, and identify preferred outcomes. During the workshop, 4 key themes were discussed and developed: Flora, Fauna, Landscape, and Community Spaces. The workshop aimed to discuss how these themes could be implemented into the design of the GIP.

These recommendations have been developed in accordance with the consultation and conversations detailed in Section 4. These, by their nature, are not exhaustive. They are instead intended to capture the outcomes sought by the community at this stage of the development works.

1. Planting of vegetation within the study area should consist of plant species endemic to the Glenfield area. As much of the existing vegetation within the study area should be retained as possible.
 - a. Where trees are removed, there should be a focus on retaining and re-using local timbers within the development.
2. Aboriginal traditional land management techniques may be considered where possible, for weed management and vegetation maintenance.
 - a. This would require a suitably qualified Aboriginal contractor.
3. The welfare of fauna that already reside within the study area and of fauna attracted by the future revegetation of the study area should be considered.
 - a. Nesting boxes, possum crossings, and frog tunnels should be considered within biodiversity areas.
 - b. Outdoor ambient lighting should face downward to mimic natural light and mitigate impacts to fauna. Where possible, these should be installed at a height where the light may become more diffuse while still meeting safety standards for residents and visitors.
 - c. Flowering and fruiting trees should be planted in locations that consider the safety of the species likely to inhabit and/or utilise the vegetation.
4. Colours, shapes, and textures incorporated into the design of the proposed works should reflect significant aspects of the natural landscape within the study area.
 - a. Use earthy tones, greens, blues, and other colours that represent the vegetation and Georges River.
 - b. Consider the use of reflecting screening to highlight the river.
 - c. Use of natural shapes and avoiding the use of sharp lines and angles.
5. While it is considered important for community spaces for both workers and visitors of the warehouses to use recreationally, it has been suggested that these should not be referred to as 'Yarning Circles'.
 - a. Further consultation with stakeholders could be undertaken to refine the concept; alternatively, these areas could be referred to as 'Gathering Spaces' as suggested by Pearl Depoma.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Connecting with Country (CwC) report is submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure on behalf of J.C. & F.W. Kennett Pty Ltd T/as Glenfield Waste Services (GWS) in support of a State Significant Development Application (SSD-89673472) for the development of a series of warehouses forming an industrial precinct at 2 Cambridge Avenue, Glenfield. This report specifically focuses on Precinct 1 within the wider Glenfield Industrial Precinct (GIP) development.

1.1. THE SITE

The study area is located at 2 Cambridge Avenue, Glenfield, within the Campbelltown and Liverpool Local Government Areas (LGAs), approximately 29 kilometres south-west of the Sydney central business district. The lots and DPs within the study area are shown in Table 1.1. The location of the study area is shown on Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2.

Table 1.1 Lots and DPs within study area.

Lot(s)	DP
1-18	DP1256895
3	DP735524
51	DP515696
52	DP5117310

The current study area is located within the southeastern corner of the Glenfield Waste Services Precinct and is referred to as GIP 1. To the east, the study area is bound by the Georges River and is currently inaccessible to the public. The south of the study area is bounded by both residential and undeveloped land. The north and west of the current study area are bounded by other parts of the proposed GIP that are to be developed as later phases of the larger project. Precinct 2 is located to the west, and Precinct 3 is located to the north. The entire Glenfield Waste Services facility is currently used as an active landfill and contains railway lines extending east-to-west through its centre as well as along its north-eastern perimeter.

The location of the study area is shown below in Figure 1.1. The locations of each precinct can be seen in Figure 1.2.

1.2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The project vision for the entire GIP site involves decommissioning the existing operations, rehabilitating the site, and pursuing new industrial and logistical land use. A significant portion of the site is to be set aside for biodiversity conservation and/or public recreation. The proposed works within Precinct 1 consist of the development of two commercial warehouses, site offices and cafés, and associated access roads and facilities, as well as biodiversity areas along the south and east of the precinct.

The study area and proposed development are in an area that will be frequently accessed by those working within and visiting the warehouses. The proposed development includes public spaces such as cafés and sitting areas.

The proposed works can be seen in Figure 1.2.

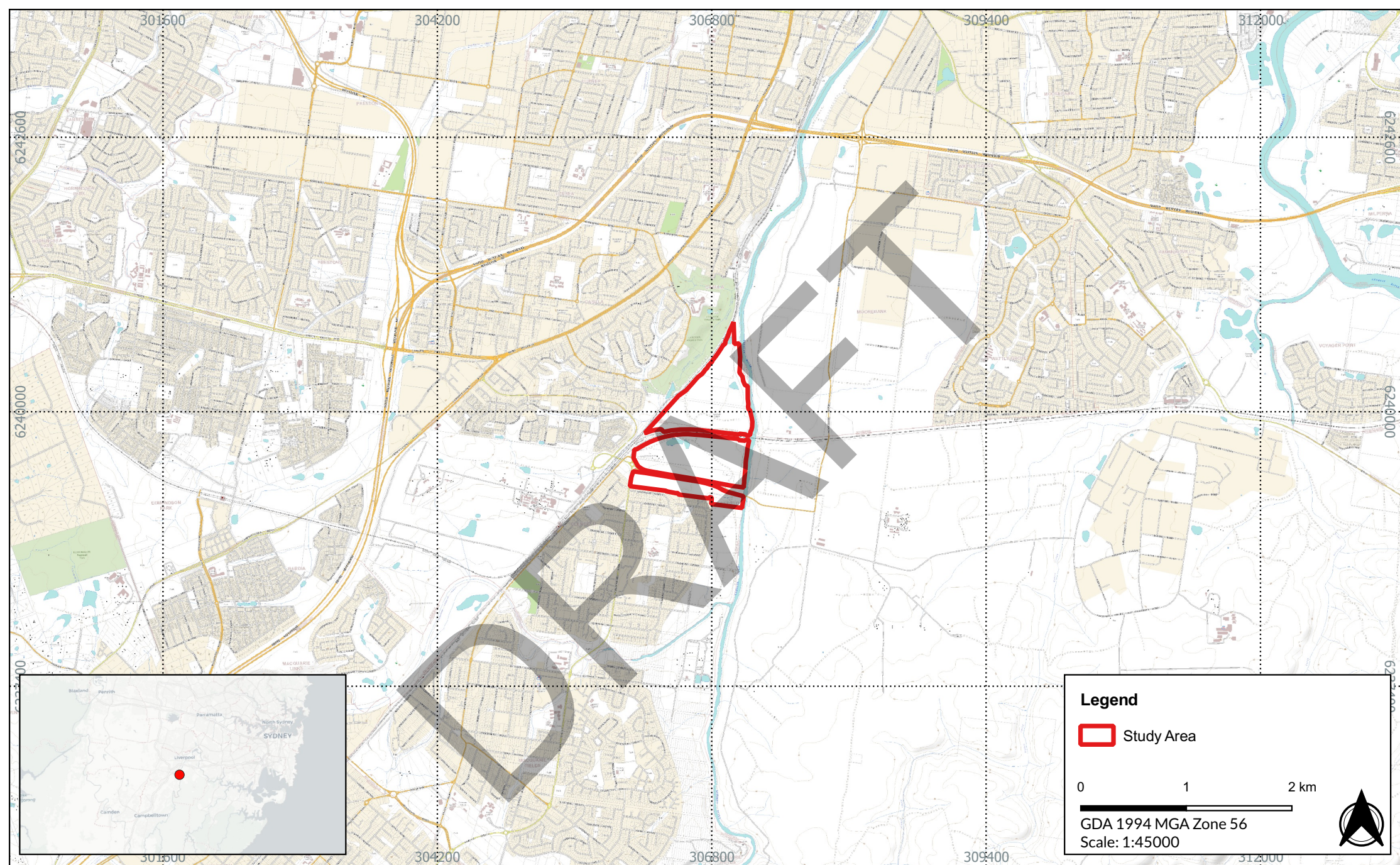


Figure 1.1 - Location of the study area

24041 - 2 Cambridge Avenue, Glenfield NSW - CwC

Source: NSW LPI Basemap, CartoDB Positron

Drawn by: FOT Date: 2024-08-20



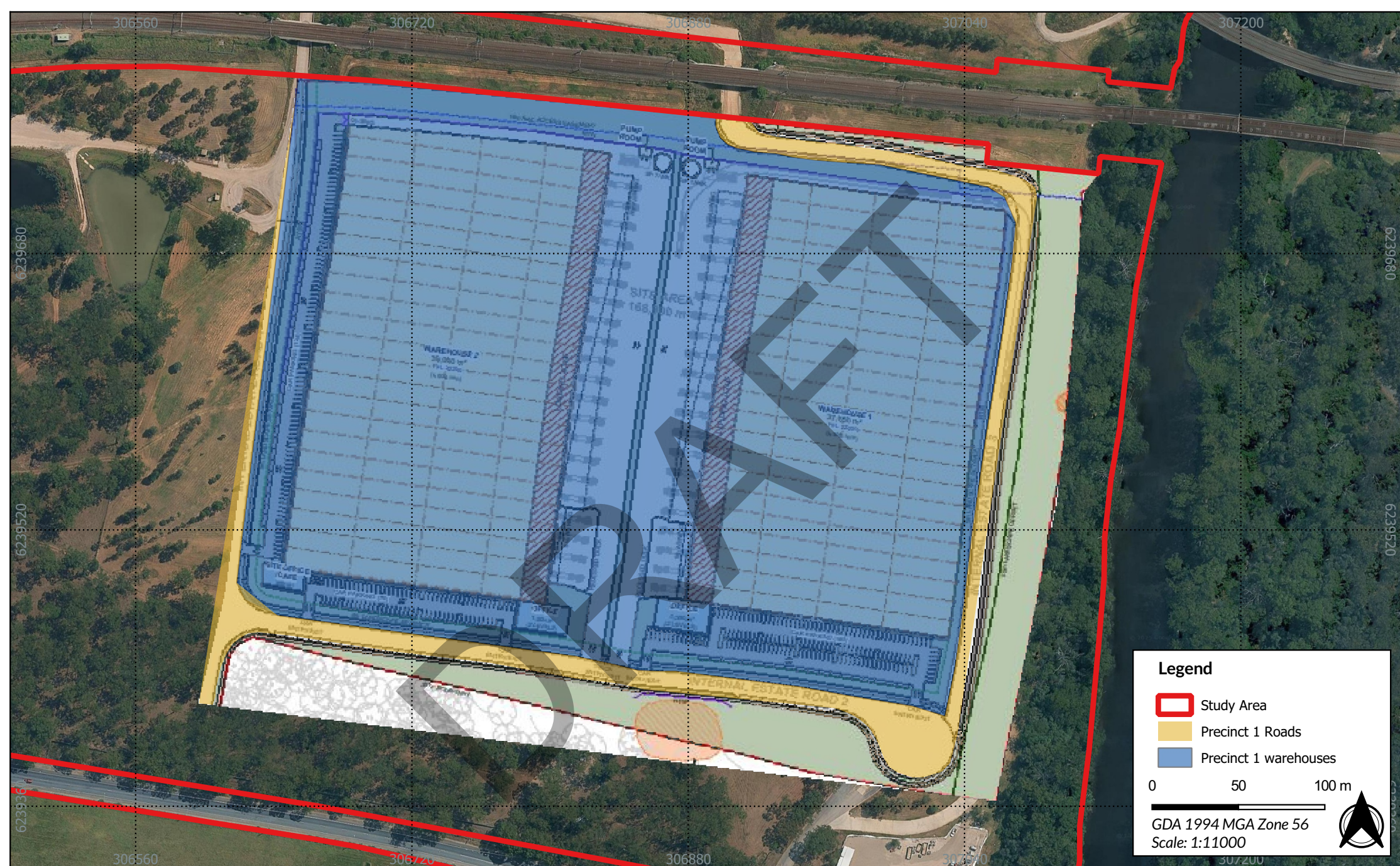


Figure 1.2 - Proposed development

24041 - 2 Cambridge Avenue, Glenfield NSW - CwC

Source: NSW LPI Aerial, Tactical Group (2024)

Drawn by: FOT Date: 2025-08-26

1.3. CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

This document contains information that is, and remains, the cultural property of local Aboriginal peoples and communities. Austral acknowledges that this information is Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP). The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) states that ICIP can be described as (Torsen and Anderson 2010:15):

- handed down from one generation to another, either orally or by imitation;
- reflecting a community's cultural and social identity;
- consisting of characteristic elements of a community's heritage;
- made by "authors unknown" and/or by communities and/or by individuals communally recognized as having the right, responsibility or permission to do so;
- often created for spiritual and religious purposes; and,
- constantly evolving, developing and being recreated within the community.

ICIP specifically recognises Aboriginal people as the custodians and owners of their traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, and expressions. It is dynamic and living, including both elements passed down across generations, and those being cultivated and developed in the present and future. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples enshrines ICIP in international law. The declaration, as endorsed by Australia on 3 April 2009, states:

Indigenous peoples... have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions. (United Nations General Assembly 2007).

The cultural information shared here must not be duplicated or used without the express permission of the relevant communities, Elders, and knowledge keepers.

1.4. DEFINING 'COUNTRY' AND 'CONNECTION'

The relationship between Aboriginal people and the concept of Country is intrinsic to their cultural identity and spirituality. Country encompasses not only the physical land but also the associated cultural landscapes, narratives and spiritual connections.

Country in Aboriginal English is not only a common noun but also a proper noun. People talk about Country in the same way that they would talk about a person: they speak to Country, sing to Country, visit Country, worry about Country, feel sorry for Country, and long for Country. People say that Country knows, hears, smells, takes notice, takes care, is sorry or happy. Country is not a generalised or undifferentiated type of place, such as one might indicate with terms like 'spending a day in the country' or 'going up the country'. Rather, Country is a living entity with a yesterday, today and tomorrow, with a consciousness, and a will toward life. Because of this richness, Country is home, and peace; nourishment for body, mind, and spirit; heart's ease (Rose 1996:7).

It is imperative to acknowledge that the concept of Country is deeply interwoven with the social, cultural, and spiritual fabric of Aboriginal people, shaping their laws, belief systems, and practices and serving as the cornerstone of their identity. Understanding Aboriginal perspectives on issues such as land rights, environmental conservation, and cultural heritage preservation is contingent upon recognising the criticality of the connection to Country.

Discussions about Country should be approached with sensitivity and respect, honouring the profound significance of the land to Australia's Aboriginal people. Embracing Aboriginal voices is paramount in attaining a comprehensive understanding of their viewpoints on Country and its cultural, spiritual, and historical importance. It is critical to listen to Elders and Traditional Owners and to develop a mindset that avoids preconceived narratives or intrinsic personal biases. The current framework seeks to provide an approach that is open, collaborative, and avoids dictating outcomes by shifting focus away from the obligatory or legislative.

To connect with Country, and to develop a meaningful CwC process, those involved must be focused not on a goal or an outcome, but on listening and learning and by walking with Aboriginal people.

1.5. DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

All NSW-built environment projects will be developed with a Country-centred approach guided by Aboriginal people, who know that if we care for the Country, the Country will care for us.

The need for change in the current planning and development delivery system has been driven by a multitude of far-reaching and profound factors, including:

- the devastation is associated with large-scale environmental events, including bushfires
- environmental and anthropologically-driven damage to significant Aboriginal cultural sites
- the national priority of closing the gap, and
- the broad support for reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples and populations.

This has necessitated a shift towards a Country-centred approach, a methodology that reframes the way we work with and learn from Aboriginal people and communities. This also serves to highlight the limitations of an entirely human-centered approach to design and the importance of considering natural systems that include people, animals, resources, and plants equally. It is hoped that this shift will contribute to a more sustainable future by recognising the interconnectedness of humans with the built and natural environment, as expressed in Aboriginal language, wisdom, and ideas (Government Architect NSW 2023).

1.6. PROJECT TEAM AND QUALIFICATIONS

The following personnel have been involved in the preparation of this CwC report.

JORDON COLTMAN (B. ARCHAEOLOGY [HUMAN BIOLOGY])

Jordon is an archaeologist with experience in the completion of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments, Due Diligence Advice, and archaeological excavation reporting. She has international experience as an archaeologist and has completed background research, reporting, predictive modelling, analysis, surveys, and a range of excavations for projects throughout the Illawarra and Greater Sydney. For this CwC, Jordon facilitated the community site workshop and completed reporting.

LINDSAY COSTIGAN (BS. IN ANTHRO AND SOC, FOCUS IN ARCH)

Lindsay is a Senior Archaeologist and Illawarra team leader at Austral and has more than 9 years of experience in archaeology. Lindsay began her career in the USA, graduating top of her class from Eastern Oregon University and carrying out numerous projects in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho as a heritage consultant for a civil engineering company. Lindsay has completed projects in coordination with Native American tribes, Aboriginal communities, local councils, and a wide variety of government entities. Lindsay has experience working with both Aboriginal and historic-era cultural resources and assessing archaeological significance under federal and state legislation while assisting clients navigate cultural resource legislation and processes. Lindsay assisted at the site workshop and has reviewed this report for quality assurance.

1.7. ABBREVIATIONS

The following are commonly used abbreviations that are used within this report.

Client, the	J.C. & F.W. Kennett Pty Ltd T/as Glenfield Waste Services
CwC	Connecting with Country
EPA Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
GWS	Glenfield Waste Services
GIP	Glenfield Industrial Precinct
ICIP	Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
NSW	New South Wales
SSDA	State Significant Development Application
Study area, the	2 Cambridge Avenue, Glenfield

2. ABORIGINAL HISTORY

The following seeks to provide context to the report, highlighting the irreversible impact that settlement and development have had on their lives and the broader environment. As this is intended only to provide context, it considers only the known history of the wider area, rather than the study area proper. Further details of tangible elements specific to the study area are outlined in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) [Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2025].

2.1. ABORIGINAL HISTORY OF THE GLENFIELD REGION

The range of environments and landscapes within the Cumberland Plain and the Greater Sydney region, where the study area is located, had a profound influence on the lives of the Aboriginal people who lived there. As hunters and gatherers, Aboriginal people were reliant on their surroundings to provide food. Their transitory lifestyle affected population size, social interactions, and degree of mobility, which can be confirmed in the archaeological record.

While the earliest dates for Aboriginal occupation in Australia reach back to at least 65,000 years (Clarkson et al. 2017), the earliest known occupation site associated with the Cumberland Plain is located north of Pitt Town, on the southern bank of the Hawkesbury River, where cultural deposits were dated by optically stimulated luminescence to 36,000+/-3000 BP (Williams et al. 2012). A Pleistocene date of 14,700 BP has been established from Shaws Creek Rockshelter K2, located to the north of Penrith (Attenbrow 2010), while relatively early dates were also obtained for artefact-bearing deposits at Open Site RS1 (AHIMS 45-5-0982) on Mulgoa Creek, Regentville (McDonald 1995). Most sites in the Sydney region, however, are dated within the last 3,000 years to 5,000 years, as many researchers have proposed that occupation intensity increased from this period (Kohen 1986). While the Aboriginal occupation of the Greater Sydney regions extends well into the Pleistocene, most archaeological sites are expected to date to the Holocene period, coincident with more favourable environmental conditions following the Last Glacial Maximum.

Population estimates at the time of contact are notoriously problematic, as Aboriginal groups avoided early European settlers and were highly mobile. Another factor that complicates an accurate estimation is the effect of European diseases such as influenza and smallpox, which decimated Aboriginal populations soon after contact. Governor Philip estimated the number of Aboriginal people in coastal Sydney to be in the order of 1,000 individuals before 1792. However, it is unlikely that the early European explorers were able to successfully grasp the traditional population size. More recent estimates of the contact period population of the greater Sydney region place the number between 5,000 and 8,000, although other estimates are much lower (Turbet 2001). For the western Cumberland Plain, some have estimated a pre-contact population of 500 to 1,000 people (Kohen 1986), or a minimum overall density of about 0.5 persons per kilometre (Attenbrow 2010). Early writers recorded several named Aboriginal groups as occupying the Sydney region after the First Fleet arrived in 1788. Many of the colonists' reports included the names of groups that were associated with certain areas of land (Attenbrow 2010).

At the time of European contact, the land surrounding the study area was inhabited by a clan of Darug-speaking people. It was only after the 1870s that names such as 'Darug' came into use to describe Aboriginal language groups (Attenbrow 2010). In the second half of the 19th century, Reverend William Ridley recorded the language that he said was spoken at "George's River, Cow pasture and Appin...from the mouth of the George's River, Botany Bay, and for about 50 miles [80 kilometres] to the south-west" (Attenbrow 2010).

3. CONSULTATION PROCESS

For the purposes of this CwC assessment, Austral used relevant stakeholder contacts collected during the consultation process associated with the ACHA at the GIP facility. The goal of this was to respectfully and efficiently provide a space for an open and productive conversation with Aboriginal stakeholders while also maintaining the Country-centred approach intended under the CwC framework. In order to ensure CwC consultation was undertaken in an inclusive way, all stakeholders who registered interest as a part of the ACHA process were contacted and invited to the community site workshop and site inspection. Table 3.2 Lists all stakeholders invited to attend the workshop.

Table 3.1 Stakeholders invited to community site workshop.

Organisation	Contact Person
Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council	Robyn Straub
Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council	Bronwyn Partell
A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn Hickey
Butucarbin Aboriginal Corporation	Jennifer Beale
Anonymous Stakeholder 1	Anonymous
Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation	Glenda Chalker, Rebecca Chalker
Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Justine Coplin
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Lillie Carroll, Paul Boyd
James Davis	James Davis
Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group	Phil Khan
Mundawari Heritage Consultants	Dean Delponte
Muragadi Heritage Indigenous Corporation	Jesse Johnson
A&K Cultural Heritage	Ali Maher
Thomas Dahlstrom	Thomas Dahlstrom
Wailwan Aboriginal Group	Philip Boney
Woka Aboriginal Corporation	Steven Johnson
Wurrumay Pty Ltd	Kerrie Slater, Vicky Slater
Yulay Cultural Services	Arika Jalomaki
Gali Heritage Consultants	Helen Slater
Waawaar Awaa Aboriginal Corporation	Rodney Gunther
Pearl Depoma	Pearl Depoma

4. COMMUNITY SITE WORKSHOP

A community site workshop was undertaken on 7 August 2025 with representatives from 11 registered Aboriginal stakeholder groups present, as well as representatives from Tactical Group, Kurraba, Reid Campbell Architects, and Arcadia Landscape Architecture. The Client was present at the community site workshop and coordinated logistics on the day. The Community site workshop was facilitated by Jordon Coltman (Archaeologist, Austral) and Lindsay Costigan (Senior Archaeologist, Austral).

The purpose of the community site workshop was to discuss the project, outline key factors, and identify preferred outcomes. Meeting minutes are provided in Appendix A, while an overview of attendees is provided in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1 Record of meeting attendance.

Organisation	Representative
<i>Registered Aboriginal stakeholders</i>	
Butucarbin Aboriginal Corporation	Teagen Pittman
Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation	Glenda Chalker
Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Justine Coplin
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Joeleen Smith
Mundawari Heritage Consultants	Shaya Holmes
A&K Cultural Heritage	Ali Maher
	Elwin Brown
Woka Aboriginal Corporation	Behola Ritson
Wurrumay Pty Ltd	Vicky Slater
Yulay Cultural Services	Arika Jalomaki
Gali Heritage Consultants	Helen Slater
	David Matagia
Pearl Depoma	Pearl Depoma
<i>Facilitators</i>	
Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd	Jordon Coltman
	Lindsay Costigan
Kurraba	Chris Demertze
Tactical Group	Tasgall Rae
The Client	Jacqui Kennett
	Makenzie Kautz
Arcadia Landscape Architecture	Chris Tidswell
	Rudy Midya
Reid Campbell Architects	Andrew McDonald

Attendees were given a printed project information package, which accompanied a verbal explanation of the approach and purpose of the proposal. Austral then prompted the group to consider the development and how it might incorporate stories of Country and, more broadly, how the collective knowledge of those in attendance might be shared to create a design response that is more connected with Country.

Following the presentation of the proposed works and design ideas by Tactical and the design teams, a site inspection was carried out. The Precinct 1 area was traversed on foot so the stakeholders could gain an understanding of the site with the proposed development in mind. Chris Demertz provided direction for the group and explained highlights and locations of the proposed design, answering questions from the stakeholders. Jacqui Kennett provided transportation for stakeholders unable to ambulate around the site comfortably.

Following the site inspection, all stakeholders and facilitators returned to discuss the proposed works, the designs, and the implementation of Connecting with Country feedback into the design. Stakeholders were encouraged to provide input and ideas to contribute to the design and development of the project. The key themes identified during these discussions are identified in section.

4.1. FURTHER FEEDBACK

At the end of the community site workshop, stakeholders were encouraged to provide any additional feedback by email or phone within the following period.

One response was provided by email following the workshop, including colour palettes and ideas to be incorporated into the design. These are summarised below and included in the Volume 2 consultation appendix.

Pearl Depoma sent an email follow-up on Friday 11 August 2025 to agree with the design suggestions discussed at the community site workshop and to provide further suggestions relating to the development design. Pearl also requested a further meeting to see how stakeholder suggestions have been implemented. The design suggestions included:

- Adding greens into the colour scheme to represent the colours of Country (land, trees, and plants).
- Adding colours as features rather than plain greys. She suggests blues for the sky and/or dark colours for the night sky.
- Repositioning of fruit trees along the Georges Riverbank.
- Replacing the term 'Yarning Circles' with 'gathering spaces'. Pearl explained the tradition of sitting around campfires and other spaces to speak and connect. Pearl emphasised the benefit of future warehouse workers and visitors having this opportunity.
- Representing native animals in art, sculptures, or etching into sandstone and sheet metal. Pearl suggests animals such as koalas, fish found in the Georges River, and lizards.
- Acknowledging that the study area is on country shared by the Gandangara and Tharawal. Suggests contacting both land councils before preparing acknowledgments for the site.
- Pearl expressed the importance of representing the land and sharing knowledge to Aboriginal people.

4.2. KEY THEMES

This section outlines the key themes related to Connecting with Country that were identified by stakeholders during the community site workshop and details the design ideas suggested to manifest these themes. The workshop was an open discussion, and as such, there was extreme variance in the discussion. For the purposes of this report, topics have been categorised into key themes. For a more comprehensive overview of the discussion and greater context, meeting minutes have been provided as Appendix A to this document.

During the workshop, 4 key themes were discussed and developed: Flora, Fauna, Landscape, and Community.

4.2.1. FLORA

Throughout the community site workshop and during the site inspection, the importance of retaining and rehabilitating the endemic flora within the study area was emphasised by stakeholders. Multiple stakeholders supported the retention of existing vegetation within biodiversity areas that are part of the existing plans for the south of Precinct 1 and in the east along the Georges River. The importance of understanding the difference between endemic and native species was emphasised. Stakeholders wanted to ensure that plant species local to the study area were considered for revegetation activities.

"With endemic trees, you're putting back what was here on Country originally."

Glenda Chalker, Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation

Justine Coplin of Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation suggested implementing practices of cool burning to maintain revegetation areas and as a weed treatment.

"For the developments that are going to keep a growth space, do it the natural way instead of putting poisons in the ground."

Justine Coplin, Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation

The use of vegetation to screen the sides of buildings and retaining walls was also discussed. Stakeholders supported the use of tall gum species along the sides of warehouses and walls to soften the look of harsh lines and structures within the landscape. A representative image of the current vegetation in the south of the study area, and that which the stakeholders emphasised the protection of, can be seen in Figure 4.1.

The design team proposed the re-use of natural materials, such as timbers from any trees felled as a part of the proposed works, within design elements. The stakeholders supported this suggestion and agreed with the following examples of ways in which local timbers could be used;

- Signage posts
- Seating
- Pylons
- Within the design of offices and café spaces.

In her feedback following the community site workshop, Pearl Depoma suggested that colours reflecting the native vegetation be included to represent Country in the design of buildings. She suggested greens be used to represent land, trees, and plants.



Figure 4.1 Representative image of existing vegetation within the study area.

4.2.2. FAUNA

The importance of endemic fauna within the study area was also discussed at length during both the community site workshop and site inspection.

Justine Coplin noted the presence of many bird and lizard species currently inhabiting the vegetated parts of the study area during the site inspection. Justine urged the design team to consider these animals while designing the extent of green spaces and to consider options for their rehabilitation should trees and habitats be impacted by the development. Ideas to support the well-being of fauna within the study area as a part of the development suggested by both stakeholders and the design team included:

- Bird boxes located within trees in biodiversity areas, which were suggested by multiple individuals during the site inspection and community site workshop.
- Possum crossings over roadways to allow safe access to and between habitats without impacts from vehicles, as suggested by Joeleen of Didge Ngunawal Clan.
- Soft, downward-facing lights at night, rather than bright spotlights. Justine Coplin emphasised the importance of natural light sources in the life cycles of animals and insects. Soft, downward-facing lights mimic the natural moonlight at night, while also providing adequate lighting for people to navigate the site after dark.
- Frog tunnels under roads for safe passage of smaller animals such as frogs, lizards, and snakes.

Many of the other stakeholders present agreed with these points raised.

In her feedback following the meeting, Pearl Depoma suggested that the representation of fauna within the development through art, such as sculpture or etching on sandstone or metal surfaces, would be a great addition to the design. She suggested animals such as koalas, lizards, and fish found in the Georges River. Local Aboriginal artists should be consulted for any artworks that present Aboriginal motifs, ideas, or stories.

The design team suggested the placement of native fruit trees in areas along roads and pathways. The overall consensus among stakeholders was in support of the use of native vegetation, however, Justine Coplin advised about the risks that roadside locations may pose for the native fauna that will be attracted by the habitat, shade, and fruits of such trees.

“All the birds, they're going to come and get the nectar and they're gonna eat fruit. Then we're gonna have the fruit bats, possums. Whatever's in the area will come and eat them. So, try to avoid putting plants like that along roadways.”

Justine Coplin, Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation

Pearl Depoma suggested in her follow-up feedback that these fruit trees be re-located to other areas, such as along the banks of the Georges River.

4.2.3. LANDSCAPE

The reference to the natural landscape was a recurring theme throughout the discussions at the community site workshop, site inspection, and in follow-up feedback. This key theme refers to the importance of reflecting the landscape of Country in the design of proposed works and ensuring the proposed development blends into the existing landscape as seamlessly as possible.

The colours of the landscape have thus far been considered within the design of exterior facades of warehouses within the proposed GIP. The design team suggests natural colours that mimic those within the landscape should be implemented on surfaces within the development. Examples such as ‘ochre’, ‘gully’, and ‘bluegum’ were presented to reference the existing colours of the landscape. While stakeholders agreed with this concept, additional suggestions for colours arose during the community site workshop discussions. Justine Coplin emphasised the significance of the Georges River within the landscape. Justine suggested that colour schemes include blues and greens along the sides of warehouses adjacent to the river to reflect this landscape element appropriately (Figure 4.2).

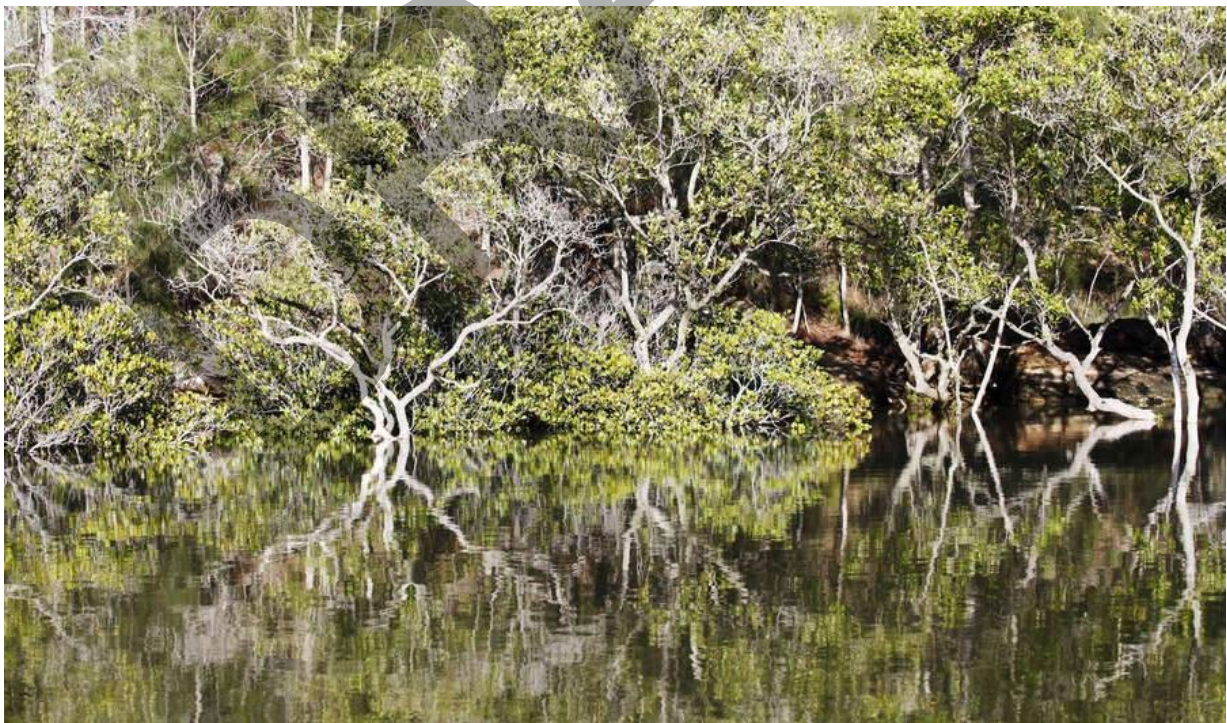


Figure 4.2 Representative image of the Georges River Landscape.

Source: Georges River Keeper Website (Georges Riverkeeper 2025).

The re-use of natural elements of the landscape was again discussed, in relation to sandstone excavated from within the study area. Multiple stakeholders agreed that the design team should work towards using local sandstone materials, preferably from within the study area, rather than imported sandstone.

4.2.4. COMMUNITY SPACES

Another key theme raised throughout discussions was in relation to the community spaces that would be available across the development for those working in or visiting the warehouse complex or café.

The proposed design already includes areas to accommodate public and community interaction and recreation. The design team proposed that multiple 'Yarning Circles' be placed in the public parts of the GIP. Varying responses were received from stakeholders present at the community site workshop. Glenda Chalker suggested that the Yarning Circles may not be the most appropriate inclusion within the study area. She suggested that further consultation be undertaken before the use of this term to describe public meeting spaces.

In Pearl Depoma's follow-up feedback, she suggested the use of the term 'gathering spaces' instead of 'Yarning Circle'. Pearl commented on the significance of the Aboriginal tradition of sitting around campfires as a community. Pearl suggested that having a place that reflects this practice would be beneficial to future warehouse workers and visitors.

"In our culture we gather around campfires and all different spaces to speak and connect. Having this opportunity for future warehouse staff and visitors would be beneficial."

Pearl Depoma, Individual Registration

The discussion also moved towards the interaction between the community and nature. Justine Coplin emphasised the importance of workers having access to the biodiversity areas and possibly the Georges River during their breaks within the workday. The design team confirmed that eventual sitting spaces within the southern biodiversity areas, and along the Georges River, were definitely an option already being considered for the future of the development. Further assessment of the densely vegetated Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) land along the Georges River in the east of the study area will be assessed by Liverpool City Council at a later date, and does not form part of this assessment.

4.3. INCORPORATING FEEDBACK

Owing to the current status of the project and the recency of the workshop, no tangible outcomes have been developed from the workshop to date. Over the life of the project, summaries detailing how this feedback has been implemented will be provided as appendices to this document.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The CwC framework allows for open, honest, and collaborative discussions between local Aboriginal people and developers to promote the importance of, and create a deeper understanding of, Country. This should not be in isolation, and communication should continue through to construction for the best outcomes for the community.

The CwC process has assisted in raising awareness of and providing design concepts that incorporate natural elements of the study area. The key themes of the relevant Aboriginal community have been raised and discussed, allowing their input to advise future design plans and contribute to the development of the GIP. This is a positive outcome for the local community, and through these meaningful processes, additional improvements can continue to occur.

The local Aboriginal community should be consulted regarding the inclusion of important plants, the installation of plaques or artwork, and should be part of the opening of the development on completion, to further highlight the importance of Country.

5.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations have been developed in accordance with the consultation and conversations detailed in Section 4. These, by their nature, are not exhaustive. They are instead intended to capture the outcomes sought by the community at this stage of the development works.

1. Planting of vegetation within the study area should consist of plant species endemic to the Glenfield area. As much of the existing vegetation within the study area should be retained as possible.
 - a. Where trees are removed, there should be a focus on retaining and re-using local timbers within the development.
2. Aboriginal traditional land management techniques may be considered where possible, for weed management and vegetation maintenance.
 - a. This would require a suitably qualified Aboriginal contractor.
3. The welfare of fauna that already reside within the study area and of fauna attracted by the future revegetation of the study area should be considered.
 - a. Nesting boxes, possum crossings, and frog tunnels should be considered within biodiversity areas.
 - b. Outdoor ambient lighting should face downward to mimic natural light and mitigate impacts to fauna. Where possible, these should be installed at a height where the light may become more diffuse while still meeting safety standards for residents and visitors.
 - c. Flowering and fruiting trees should be planted in locations that consider the safety of the species likely to inhabit and/or utilise the vegetation.
4. Colours, shapes, and textures incorporated into the design of the proposed works should reflect significant aspects of the natural landscape within the study area.
 - a. Use earthy tones, greens, blues, and other colours that represent the vegetation and Georges River.
 - b. Consider the use of reflecting screening to highlight the river.
 - c. Use of natural shapes and avoiding the use of sharp lines and angles.

5. While it is considered important for community spaces for both workers and visitors of the warehouses to use recreationally, it has been suggested that these should not be referred to as 'Yarning Circles'.
 - a. Further consultation with stakeholders could be undertaken to refine the concept; alternatively, these areas could be referred to as 'Gathering Spaces' as suggested by Pearl Depoma.

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APPENDIX A: MEETING MINUTES

Project:

24041 CwC Meeting – Precinct 1 (Southeast Precinct) -- 7 August 2025

Attendees:

Aboriginal stakeholders, Austral Archaeology, Tactical Group, Kurraba Group, Jacqui Kennett, Arcadia Landscape Architecture, Reid Campbell Architects

Key Points Discussed:

- **Introductions & Acknowledgement:** Attendees introduced themselves; Community then facilitators.
- **Site Background:**
 - Long history: farm → quarry → landfill.
 - Future use: logistics/industrial estate with warehouses and offices.
 - Complexity due to two LGA jurisdictions (Campbelltown & Liverpool).
- **Design Focus:**
 - Today's session focused on *Precinct 1 (Southeast)*.
 - Intention to retain significant Cumberland Plain woodland and green corridors to Georges River and north.
 - Warehouse design to use natural colors and materials that reflect local landscape.
 - Sustainable materials (recycled sandstone, timber) for signage and informal community spaces (yarning circles).
- **Ecology & Heritage Considerations:**
 - Avoid planting fruit trees along roads (risk to wildlife).
 - Focus on **endemic species**, not just generic natives.
 - Opportunities for koala habitat, nesting boxes, biodiversity corridors.
 - Screening of retaining walls and warehouses with vegetation.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Site walk planned to observe precinct layout and constraints.
 - Further discussion to refine landscape and cultural design elements.
 - Ongoing planning proposal process with two councils and State.
- Development team to continue coordination with councils and State planning processes.

The team then moved onsite for a site inspection before returning to continue the discussion.

Key Themes Discussed:

- **Screening & Barriers:**
 - Retaining walls (1–8m) needed; will be screened with landscaping.
 - Concern for visual and noise impact.
- **Access & Amenities:**
 - Desire for future river access, though limited by vegetation.
 - Workers unlikely to walk far at lunch—importance of on-site breakout spaces.
 - Bicycle parking confirmed (both open and enclosed).
- **Vegetation & Weeds:**
 - Strong call for endemic planting, not generic natives.
 - Weed management plan required (fireweed, invasive species noted).
 - Support for cool burning and Indigenous nurseries.
 - Request for mature tree planting to establish canopy corridors.
 - Suggestion: frog tunnels & wildlife ladders.
- **Cultural Elements:**
 - Yarning circle proposal questioned—needs proper cultural consultation before inclusion.
 - Strong emphasis that cultural design elements must come from Aboriginal voices, not be imposed.
- **Warehouse Design:**
 - Feedback to use colors blending with river (greens/darker tones), not industrial greys/browns.
 - Avoid rigid “straight lines”—prefer natural, flowing forms.
 - Vegetation to screen facades; windows and shutters to reduce glare.
- **Lighting:**
 - Wildlife-sensitive lighting requested (downward-facing, softer, no upward beams).
 - Design team confirmed this aligns with requirements.
- **Soil Disturbance & Heritage Protection:**
 - Concern over depth of excavation and potential loss of artefacts.
 - Request for cultural monitors during all soil disturbance.
 - Team confirmed ACHA process ongoing; reburial planned on-site in agreement with stakeholders.
 - Community stressed: artefacts must be protected, not lost.
- **Community Involvement:**
 - Request for broader Glenfield community consultation beyond current RAPs. Recognition that this will occur during public exhibition stages.

APPENDIX B: CONSULTATION RECORD

Please see Volume 2 to this Connecting with Country Report.

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