

Appendix 1: Visual Assessment

Appendix 1: Visual Analysis – Culturally Significant Views and Vistas

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1.0 Introduction

The setting, including the visual relationship between individual components of a place, is a key contributor to a “place’s special character”.¹ While all built environments have their own character, only some are considered to be historically and culturally significant. Places which are valued for their historic character are able to “convey a sense of continuity” with the past. The way a place is viewed and its setting, is important to this sense of continuity and sense of place.

Properly managing the setting of a culturally significant place is therefore essential to maintaining the significance of the place. The setting of a place is variously defined as:

1.12 Setting means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment” (Australia ICOMOS, Burra Charter); or

The area around a heritage place or item that contributes to its heritage significance. It may include views to and from the heritage item. The listing boundary of a heritage item does not always include the whole of its setting.

(Heritage Branch and RAIA, 2005: 5).

In order to develop an understanding of which views or vistas of Thompson Square, Windsor Bridge and its surroundings are of cultural heritage significance, the following analysis concentrates on two aspects of visual representation. The first is a survey of representative historic images of this precinct collected from key pictorial sources and publications spanning the period 1809 to 1959. The second is an appreciation of the current visual setting of Thompson Square and the Windsor Bridge, focussing on views from the public domain in within Thompson Square and in close proximity to it.

For the purpose of this report, a distinction is made between a “view” and a “vista”. A view is taken to have the following meaning as given in the Oxford English Dictionary:

A sight or prospect of some landscape or extended scene; an extent or area covered by the eye from one point.

A vista on the other hand is here restricted to a specific view which is in some manner constructed, for example a view from one point towards another which is framed (intentionally or otherwise) by buildings, trees, or other elements of the landscape. The Oxford English Dictionary for example defines a vista as:

A view or prospect, especially one seen through an avenue of trees or other long and narrow opening; and

A long narrow opening (esp. one made on purpose) in a wood, etc., through which a view may be obtained, or which in itself affords a pleasant prospect; an avenue or glade

A view is therefore general in its application whereas a vista implies a framed view from one point to another.

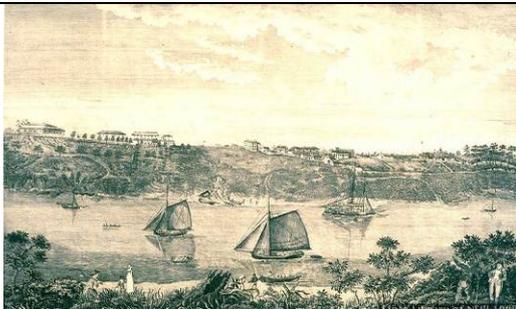
¹ Heritage Branch and RAIA 2005: 2)

2.0 Views and vistas over time

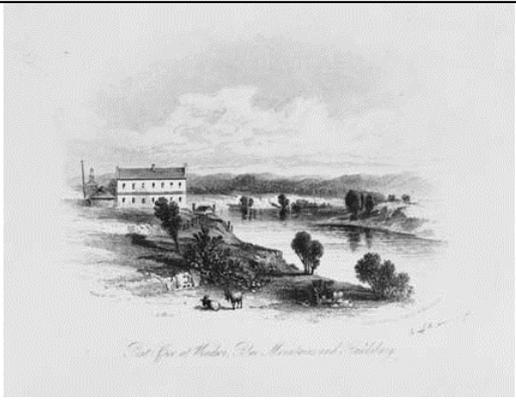
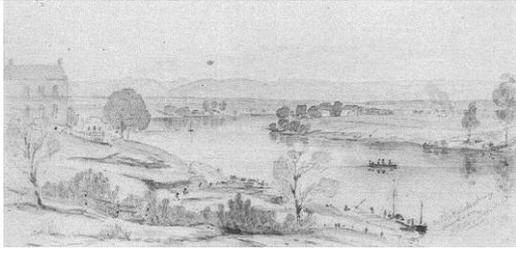
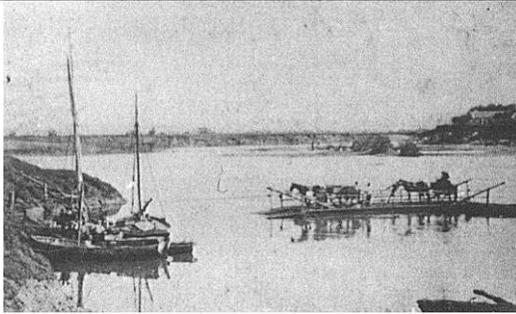
2.1 Historic images of Windsor

Table 1 below presents a series of fifty-seven images of the study area comprising both illustrations and photographs from 1809 to 1959. Comparing these images can provide an appreciation of which views and which elements within them were favoured as subjects for illustration or photography, and how this changed over time. Views or elements which frequently appear to be the subject of pictorial representations of the study area may be regarded as important contributors to Windsor’s “sense of place”, and consequently, key contributors to the cultural significance of the place.

Table 1: Views of Thompson Square and Windsor Bridge over time

Image Number	Date	Description	Image
101	c.1809	<i>The Settlement on the Green Hills</i> ² attrib. George W. Evans (SL NSW: PXD 388 v.3 f.7). Panoramic view looking from the north bank of the river towards Thompson Square.	
102	c.1810 – 1811	<i>Head of navigation, Hawkesbury River, Windsor</i> attrib. George W. Evans (SL NSW: SV1B/Wind/6). Panoramic view from the north bank of the river south towards Thompson Square.	
103	1813	<i>A view of part of the town of Windsor in New South Wales, taken from the banks of the River Hawkesbury</i> by Philip Slaeger (NLA: an6016537). Panoramic view from the north bank of the river south towards Thompson Square.	

² Titles in italics indicate the original title of the image where one exists however it is not always clear from catalogue details whether the title was given by the original artist or photographer. Non-italicised titles indicate that the original image is untitled and the title has been given to it in the cataloguing process or when reproduced in a publication.

Image Number	Date	Description	Image
104	1855	<i>Post Office at Windsor</i> by F.C Terry (SL NSW: DSM/Q981/22A3). View west from near the old Government House on the south bank towards the Doctors House (c.1840) and the river.	
105	1863	<i>On the Hawkesbury, Windsor</i> by Henry Grant Lloyd (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/NSW/1863). Similar view to Image 004.	
106	1870	Hawkesbury River flood at Thompson Square, Windsor 1870 (Hawkesbury Images ³ : Digital Image No.000700). View looking northwest from Thompson Square towards the flooded river. Doctor's House prominent at left.	
107	c.1870	Ferry across the Hawkesbury River, Windsor to Wilberforce (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.007297). View looking west from the wharf on the south bank of the river towards the punt site.	

³ "Hawkesbury Images" is the digitised version of Hawkesbury City Council Library's Local Studies Photographic Collection. Not all images in this collection have a catalogue number and therefore the digital image number in Hawkesbury Images has been referenced instead.

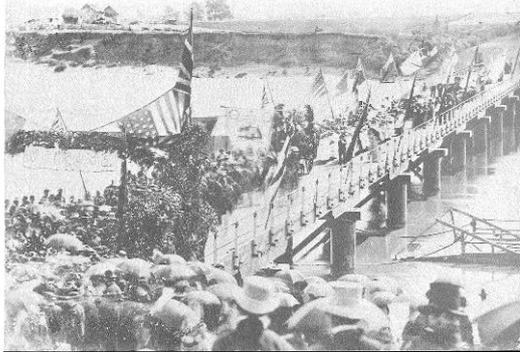
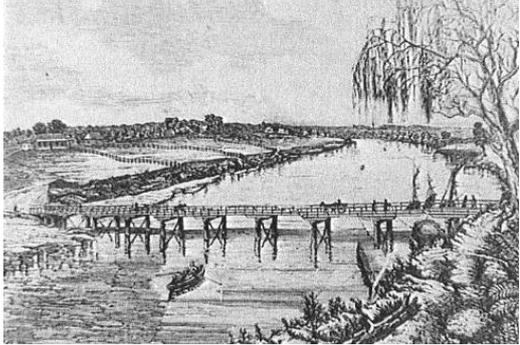
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
108	1874	<p>Opening of the Windsor Bridge August 20th, 1874 (from Bowd, 1979: 15).</p> <p>Looking northwest from Thompson Square focusing on the newly opened bridge.</p>	
109	c.1874	<p>Drawing of new bridge over the Hawkesbury River at Windsor (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.000924).</p> <p>View looking northeast from the south bank west of the bridge and focusing on the bridge.</p>	
110	c.1875	<p>Untitled photograph (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/NSW/Bridges).</p> <p>View north west from Thompson Square focussing on the bridge.</p>	
111	c.1879	<p><i>Windsor Bridge, Windsor</i> (SL NSW: GPO 1-06263).</p> <p>View south towards Thompson Square from the north bank of the river. The bridge is a central element.</p>	

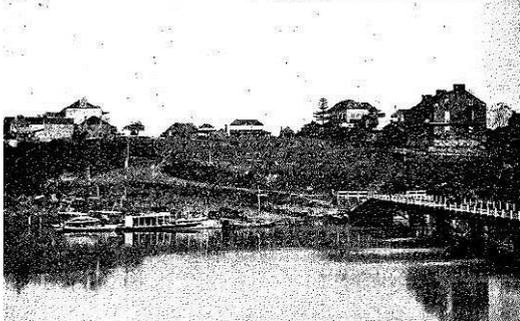
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
112	c.1879	<p><i>Windsor Bridge, Windsor</i> (SL NSW: GPO 1-06274).</p> <p>View southwest towards the bridge from the north bank of the river, the Doctor's House is prominent.</p>	
113	c.1879	<p><i>Portion of Windsor, showing bridge</i> (SL NSW: GPO 1-06257).</p> <p>View northwest from Thompson Square towards the Doctor's House and Howe's House before Thompson Square was landscaped.</p>	
114	1879	<p><i>Windsor Bridge as in 1879 from Steele, 1916: opp.195).</i></p> <p>View south towards Thompson Square from the north bank of the river. The bridge and the Doctor's House are prominent.</p>	
115	1883	<p><i>Windsor Bridge, 1883</i> by William Andrews (SL NSW: SV1B/Wind/7).</p> <p>Looking southeast from the north bank of the river, west of the bridge. The bridge is the central element, the Old Government House in the background.</p>	

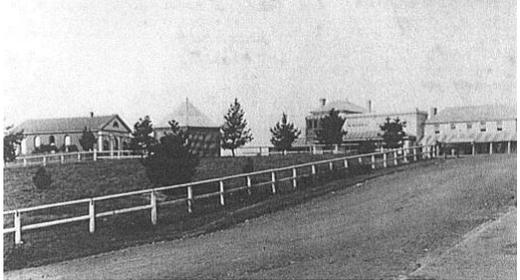
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
116	c.1888	<p><i>Windsor Bridge – Windsor, NSW</i> by James Mills (SL NSW: BCP 04404).</p> <p>View north east from the south bank of the river, focusing on the bridge.</p>	
117	c.1888	<p><i>Windsor, NSW</i> by James Mills (SL NSW: BCP 04405).</p> <p>View south towards the Doctor's House. The bridge is the central element. Thompson Square had been landscaped and trees planted (compare to Image 011, 013 and 014).</p>	
118	1889	<p>The steamer "St Albans" at Windsor wharf ... (from Bowd, 1986: opp.100).</p> <p>View northeast from the south bank of the river, west of the bridge towards the wharf.</p>	
119	1889	<p>Thompson Square – Windsor (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.007299).</p> <p>View southeast from the west side of Thompson Square, across the square and towards the ridgeline.</p>	
120	c.1890	<p>Photo taken about 1890. (from Bowd, 1986: opp.100).</p> <p>View southwest from the north bank of the river towards the bridge.</p>	

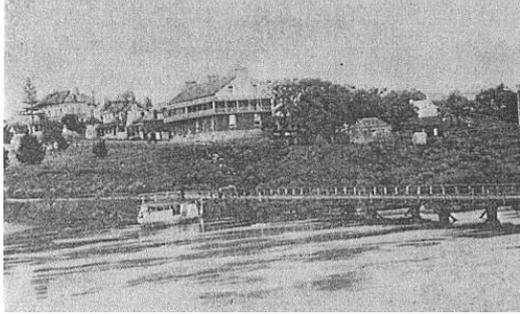
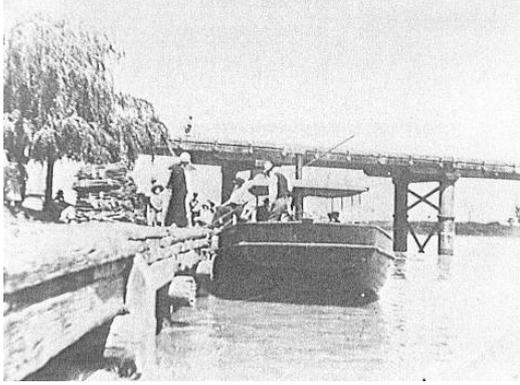
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
121	c.1890	<p>Thompson Square & the Windsor Bridge over the Hawkesbury River (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.006226).</p> <p>View south from the north bank of the river towards the Doctor's House focusing on the bridge at high water level.</p>	
122	c.1890	<p>View of Thompson Square, Windsor (Hawkesbury Images: Image No.001269).</p> <p>Vista southwest along George Street from the corner of George and Bridge Streets. Thompson Square and the Macquarie Arms at right.</p>	
123	c.1900	<p>Wharf at Windsor on the Hawkesbury River near Windsor Bridge (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.005778).</p> <p>View west from the wharf on the south bank of the river towards the ferry. Bridge in background.</p>	

Image Number	Date	Description	Image
124	c.1900	<p>Nepean River at Windsor Bridge (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/NSW)</p> <p>View southwest from the south bank of the river towards the ferry in front of the wharf at low tide. The Doctors House is prominent in the background.</p>	
125	c.1900	<p>Hawkesbury River near Windsor (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.002679).</p> <p>View southwest from the north bank of the river towards the bridge. The Doctors House is also prominent.</p>	
126	c.1900	<p><i>Hawkesbury Bridge</i> (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/Bridges/Hawkesbury River Bridge)</p> <p>View looking southwest from the north bank of the river towards the bridge and the Doctors House.</p>	

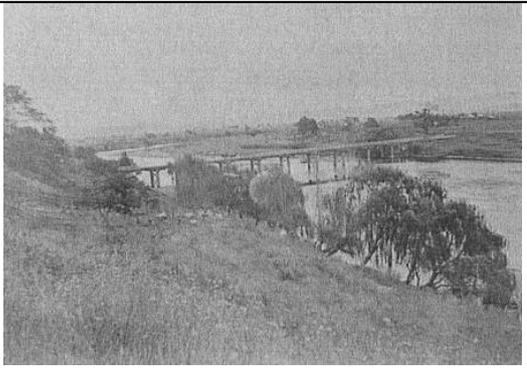
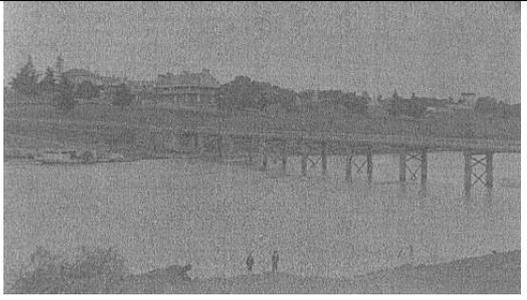
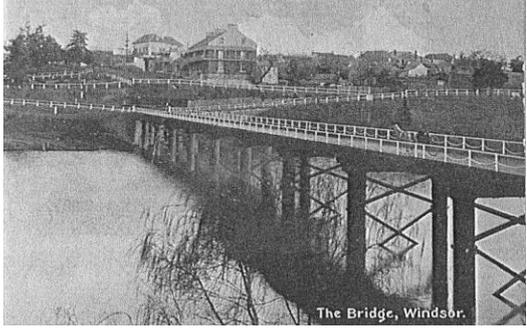
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
127	c.1900	<p>Hawkesbury River showing the bridge at Windsor (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.002245).</p> <p>View looking northwest from the south bank of the river, focusing on the bridge.</p>	
128	c.1900	<p>View of the Hawkesbury River & Windsor Bridge at Windsor from Wilberforce Road (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.018553).</p>	
129	c.1904	<p><i>The Bridge, Windsor</i> by George Edward Woodhill (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.019167).</p> <p>View south from the north bank of the river, focusing on the bridge. The Doctors House is prominent in the background.</p>	
130	c.1905	<p><i>Love from Windsor</i> by R.A Pye (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.000713).</p> <p>View south from the north bank of the river, focusing on the bridge, the Doctor's House prominent in background.</p>	

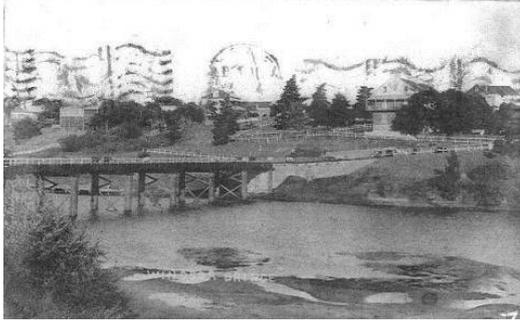
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
131	1906	<p>[Untitled postcard] (SL NSW: SPF/Windsor/NSW).</p> <p>View southeast from the north bank of the river towards Thompson Square. The bridge is a central element and the Doctor's House is prominent, but partially obscured by trees from this direction.</p>	
132	c.1910	<p>Windsor Bridge by Kerry & Co (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.003006).</p> <p>View southwest from the north bank of the river focusing on the bridge.</p>	
133	c.1910	<p>Thompson Square from the Windsor Bridge (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.003017).</p> <p>View south from the north bank of the river and focusing on the bridge. The Doctor's House is prominent in the background.</p>	
134	c.1910	<p><i>Approach to Windsor Bridge</i> by Kerry & Co (SL VIC: H18483).</p> <p>Vista south along the deck of the bridge from the north side of the river towards Thompson Square.</p>	

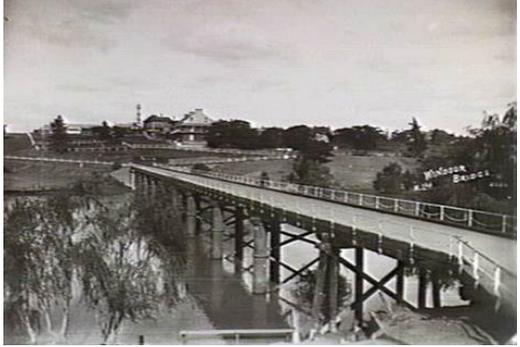
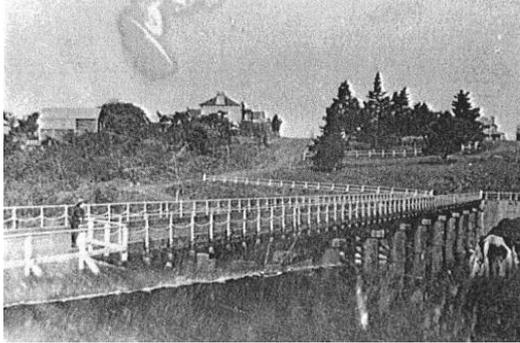
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
135	c.1910	<p><i>Windsor Bridge</i> by Kerry & Co (SL VIC: H18481).</p> <p>View south from the north bank of the river, focusing on the bridge. The Doctor's House is prominent.</p>	
136	c.1911	<p><i>Bridge over Hawkesbury River Windsor</i> by Kerry & Co (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/Bridges/Hawkesbury River Bridge/c.1911).</p> <p>View northwest from the east side of Thompson Square focusing on the bridge.</p>	
137	c.1915	<p><i>Windsor Bridge on the Hawkesbury</i> (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/Bridges).</p> <p>View northwest from the east side of Thompson Square and focusing on the bridge.</p>	
138	c.1915	<p><i>Windsor Bridge & Thompson Square</i> (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.000714).</p> <p>View south east from the north bank of the river towards Thompson Square and Bridge Street, and focusing on the bridge.</p>	

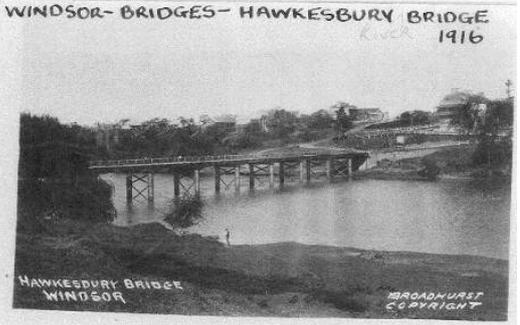
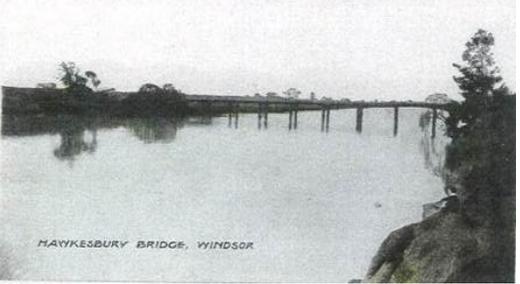
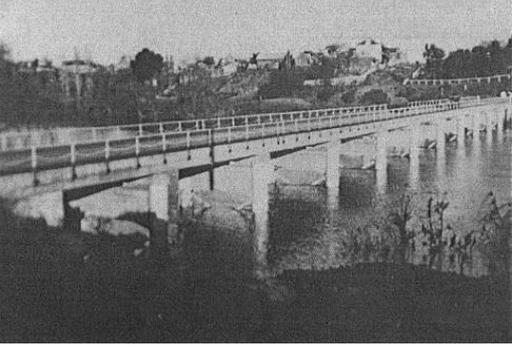
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
139	1916	<p><i>Hawkesbury Bridge Windsor</i> by William Henry Broadhurst (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/Bridges/Hawkesbury Bridge/1916).</p> <p>View southeast from the north bank of the river towards Thompson Square and focusing on the bridge.</p>	
140	c.1920	<p><i>Hawkesbury Bridge, Windsor</i> (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/Bridges/Hawkesbury River Bridge)</p> <p>View northeast from the south bank of the river, east of the bridge and focusing on the latter.</p>	
141	c.1925	<p><i>Windsor Bridge & Thompson Square</i> (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.017516).</p> <p>View southeast from the south bank of the river and focusing on the bridge.</p>	
142	1928	<p><i>Windsor, Hawkesbury River</i> (SL NSW: GPO 1-02392).</p> <p>Vista east along The Terrace towards the entry to the bridge on the south bank. Framed by the retaining wall north of the Doctors House to right and by fencing and plantings along the river bank to the left.</p>	

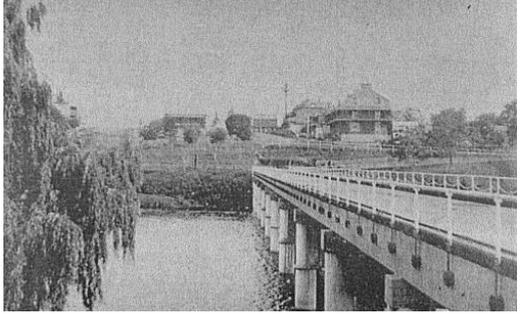
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
143	1930	<p>Untitled photograph (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/NSW)</p> <p>View southeast from the north bank of the river towards Thompson Square and focusing on the bridge.</p>	
144	c.1930	<p>Windsor Bridge (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.002678).</p> <p>Vista south towards Thompson Square from the north bank of the river, framed by the bridge to the right and a willow tree to the left. The bridge and the Doctors House are prominent elements.</p>	
145	c.1930	<p><i>Approach to Windsor Bridge</i> (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.005578).</p> <p>Similar vista to Image 142.</p>	
146	c.1931	<p><i>Houses of Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW</i> by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4653913).</p> <p>Vista along the west side of Thompson Square towards the Doctors House from in front of the Macquarie Arms. Framed by trees on the right and left.</p> <p>This image appears to have been the basis for the watercolour below.</p>	

Image Number	Date	Description	Image
147	1931	<p>Watercolour by Matthew James MacNally (May 1931). Appears to be a romanticised version of the photograph above (SL V1B/Wind/2).</p> <p>Note the level of the landscape behind the buildings and the fence line and vegetation. The thick climber covering the verandah and lower storey of Howe's House (Museum) has been removed. The amount of vegetation depicted in this image does not appear in the photograph but perhaps it's an indication of the preferred aesthetic of the period.</p>	
148	c.1935	<p><i>Bridge across the Hawkesbury River, Windsor, NSW</i> by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4654889).</p> <p>View from the south side of the river looking northeast towards the bridge and framed by vegetation.</p>	
149	c.1935	<p><i>Bridge across the Hawkesbury River, Windsor, NSW</i> by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4655529).</p> <p>View north from the south bank of the river and framed by vegetation.</p>	

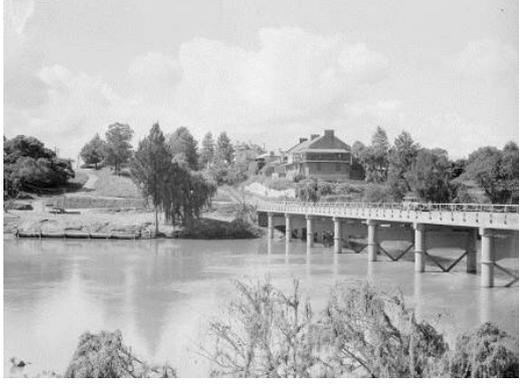
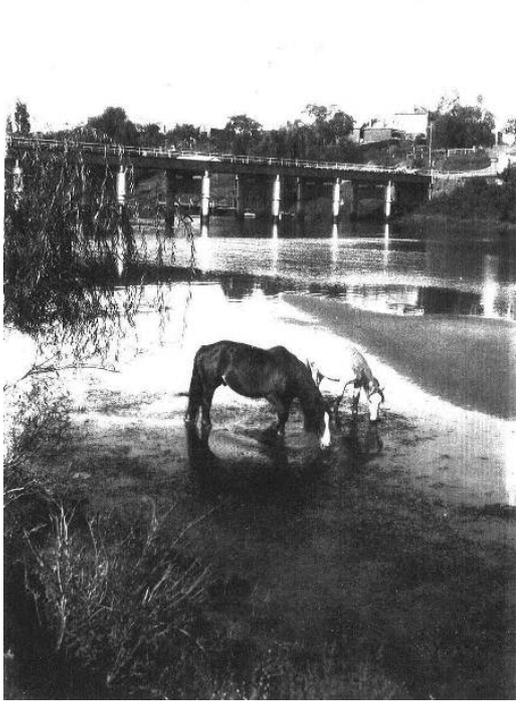
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
150	c.1935	<p><i>Bridge across the Hawkesbury River, Windsor, NSW by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4655530).</i></p> <p>View south from the north bank of the river towards the bridge and the Doctors House.</p>	
151	1936	<p>Untitled photograph (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/NSW)</p> <p>View southeast from the north bank of the river and focusing on the bridge.</p>	
152	1938	<p><i>Bridge at Windsor over Nepean River (SL NSW: GPO 1-33004).</i></p> <p>View northeast from the south bank of the river and focusing on the bridge.</p>	

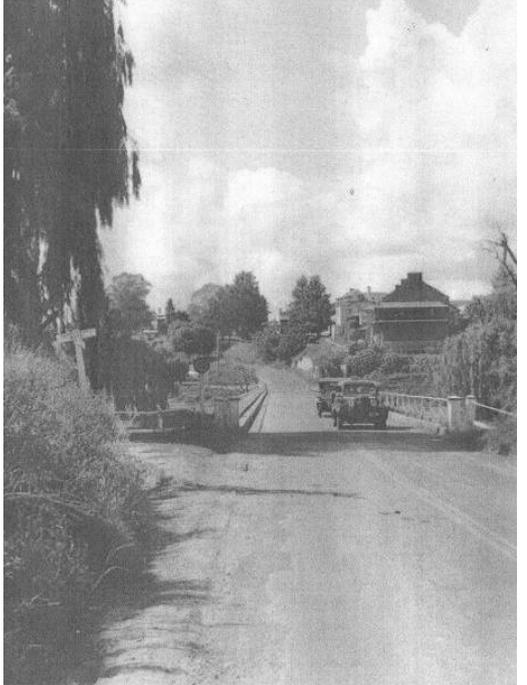
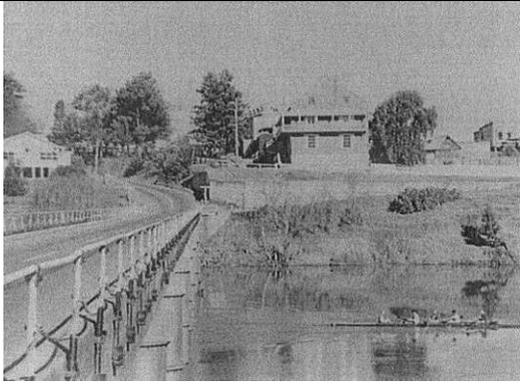
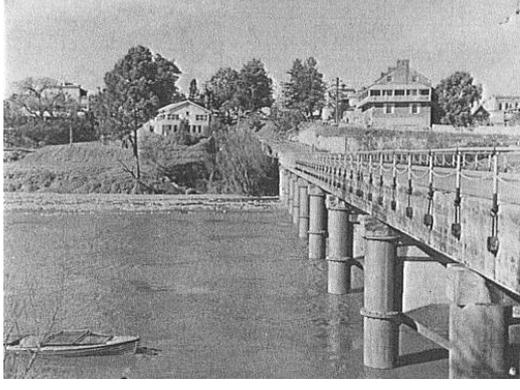
Image Number	Date	Description	Image
153	c.1945	<p><i>Bridge across the Hawkesbury River, Windsor, NSW</i> by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4655531).</p> <p>Vista south from the north bank of the river along the deck of the bridge towards Thompson Square. Framed by vegetation. The Doctor's House is a prominent element.</p>	
154	1947	<p><i>Hawkesbury River, Windsor</i> (SL NSW: GPO 1-40927).</p> <p>View northeast from the south bank of the river (in front of the Doctor's House) and focusing on the river.</p>	
155	1949	<p><i>Motor boat regatta, Windsor, Hawkesbury River, New South Wales, 1949</i> by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4654152).</p> <p>Similar view to Image 155.</p>	

Image Number	Date	Description	Image
156	1949	<p><i>Flood damage after motor boat regatta, Windsor, Hawkesbury River, New South Wales, 1949</i> by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4654154).</p> <p>Similar view to Images 154.</p>	
157	1959	<p>Thompson Square from the Windsor Bridge over the Hawkesbury River (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.002777).</p> <p>View south from the north bank of the river focusing on the Doctors House and framed by the bridge to the left.</p>	
158	1959	<p>Windsor Bridge towards Thompson Square in 1959 (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.014998).</p> <p>View south towards Thompson Square from the north bank of the river and framed by the bridge to the right. The Doctors House is prominent.</p>	
159	c. 1920	<p>Windsor Bridge from the embankment in front of the Doctors House. The view is to the north and Bridgeview is visible behind the large tree to the right of the northern bridge abutment. Note that the foreshore in this photograph has not been filled and levelled to the extent that it is today.</p>	

2.2 Discussion

The distribution of images through time represents in part the availability of cameras suitable for landscape photography. From 1800-1870 the maximum per decade is 3 images, whereas after that the average more than doubles. This coincides with the construction of the bridge, which means that more than two-thirds of the images feature the bridge, whether as central subject, framing the image or incidentally within the frame.

Views from the north side of the river looking towards Windsor predominate. Thirty of the images (51%) in Table 1 look from the north side of the river either towards Thompson Square, the bridge, or both. In contrast, 22 (38%) of the remaining images are from Windsor towards the river. Views from the river looking back towards the town appear to be quite significant and begin with the earliest illustrations of Windsor.

Views from Windsor across the river flats towards Wilberforce, Freemans Reach and the line of mountains beyond feature to a lesser degree in the historical images. Views from the country looking towards the town would seem to have been favoured over views from the town looking out towards the country. This would appear to reflect a sense of the picturesque nature of the settlement at Windsor, sited on the ridgeline above the river, and this seems to have been appreciated from the earliest illustrations onwards. In aesthetic terms it is consistent with the prevailing images of Australian landscape art in the nineteenth century, where the focus is on a well-established and settled European presence in a picturesque landscape. It lacks the implied menace of an untamed bush or unpredictable river levels. Because such images reflect the palimpsest of growth of townships they often feature church spires, grand mansions and other 'important' buildings on their high points, cascading down the hill through a band of residential accommodation to a controlled natural setting, such as a river bank containing boats and jetties, or farmed riverflats.

Another pattern which can be observed is the role which the bridge has played as a key visual element in views of Windsor. Whether from the north or the south side of the river, the bridge is frequently the most prominent visual element from 1874 onwards. The bridge features prominently in 40 (70%) of the images. Some of these (8 images) are postcard images. In most of the images in which the bridge appears the bridge itself is the key subject. The frequency with which images of the bridge have been produced suggests that since its construction in 1874 the bridge has contributed significantly to Windsor's "sense of place".

Another key landmark is the Doctors House. Since the 1840s it has occupied a prominent, elevated position above the river and it frames the terminal end of Thompson Square on its west side. It appears prominently in 25 (42%) of the images including views from both sides of the river and views from within Thompson Square. While the bridge may be the central focus point for many images, the Doctors House is a key part of the townscape and of the visual background to the bridge and the river. Other buildings, such as the Macquarie Arms Hotel and Hawkesbury Museum are readily visible and help to characterise the townscape. But owing to its scale and commanding position, the Doctors House is pre-eminent.

Another pattern which is observable in the historical images is the change from a landscape with relatively little vegetation to one where mature plantings are plentiful. When the bridge was constructed in the 1870s Thompson Square was mostly clear of vegetation and there was sparse vegetation along the river banks. Sometime in the 1880s a landscaping scheme was implemented in Thompson Square which included the erection of aris rail fencing and the planting of pine trees. By the middle of the twentieth century the once open space of Thompson Square was largely filled with mature plantings. The nature of this space has therefore changed over time from a sparse, public square, to a landscaped park setting. The river banks too have re-vegetated several times, and today views which once existed to and from Thompson Square, the river and beyond, have become obscured.

Most of the images may be classified as views, either panoramic or focusing on a particular feature such as the bridge. Images which perhaps could be classified as illustrating a vista are those which use the bridge as a framing element, for example images 034, 150 and 158, which look along the deck of the bridge towards Thompson Square, or images 122, 142, 146, or 145, which look along streets. This situation may be contrasted with that today where the presence of substantial vegetation combined with restricted public access to the foreshore has meant that many of the panoramic views which once existed are now obscured, and vistas between trees or along road corridors are instead more noticeable by the absence of panoramic views (see section 3.0 below).

3.0 Current views and vistas

3.1 Introduction

The views and vistas described below are divided into two parts. The first set of views consists of those which have a substantial external component in regard to Thompson Square (Figure 1). That is, views of Windsor more generally which may also incorporate part or all of Thompson Square, such as views from the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River towards Windsor, and views from the square and its buildings looking outwards, such as across the Hawkesbury. The other set of views consists of those mostly within Thompson Square (Figure 2). These include views from one property to another and which sometimes include views beyond Thompson Square. As Thompson Square sits on a riverbank and terrace with substantial views in a northerly direction, views to and from the square are generally of significance to a broader area than the square itself. Views within Thompson Square are also of significance as they maintain a visual connectivity which has been physically severed by alterations within the square resulting from the changes to Bridge Street in the 1930s and subsequent impediments to pedestrian access from one side of the Square to the other.

3.2 Views to and from Thompson Square

3.2.1 Views towards Thompson Square from the north

These views from the north bank of the river (Table 2), as demonstrated in the survey of historical images above (section 2.0) have been significant since the first illustrations of the settlement at Windsor were made in the early nineteenth century. The view across this part of the river has been identifiable as a gateway to Windsor from these early illustrations onwards. From the northern bank of the river, the earliest part of the settlement can still be seen, represented by the park like setting of Thompson Square running down from the ridgeline to the water, and flanked on the east and west by historic buildings.

Two key factors have however limited the degree to which these views can still be appreciated today, other than as fleeting views when travelling by vehicle into Windsor from the north. The first is the restricted pedestrian access to foreshore areas downstream of the bridge on the northern bank, and the second is the considerable growth of vegetation along the northern bank of the river, thus obscuring views from the public domain towards Thompson Square.

Table 2: Views towards Thompson Square from the north

Image Number	Location	Description	Image
201	From northern end of bridge (pedestrian walkway on east side of bridge). View south-south east	Looking towards Thompson Square along the deck of the bridge. Overgrown river bank vegetation on the opposite bank has obscured elements of Thompson Square.	
202	Approach to bridge, northeast side of bridge. View south	View along the bridge towards Thompson Square. Views are partly obscured by the overgrown vegetation along the river bank.	
203	From footpath on Wilberforce Road opposite the heritage item "Bridgeview". View south-south east	View towards Thompson Square. Similar to historic views from north side of the river, but set further back due to lack of access to river bank, and partly obscured by overgrown river bank vegetation. Also represents the view between the heritage item "Bridgeview" and Thompson Square.	
204	From footpath on Wilberforce Road opposite Freemans Reach Road intersection. View south west	Looking from Wilberforce Road towards the Thompson Square and the Doctor's House. Though partly obscured by vegetation, the prominent location and scale of the Doctor's House make it still the most prominent building visible in views towards Thompson Square from the north.	

3.2.2 Views down Old Bridge Street towards the river and beyond

Views along this corridor have been significant since the founding of the settlement at Windsor. The presence of the wharf at the foot of the hill, and later the bridge, has meant that people over time have experienced this view as they have travelled down to the wharf or the bridge from the ridgeline (marked by George Street). Whilst the principal approach to the bridge has changed, cutting through the middle of Thompson Square, Old Bridge Street has maintained an alternative path down to the river which is more reflective of the way the descent to the river was experienced up until the 1930s. The road corridor of Old Bridge Street has also maintained a visual corridor providing views down to the river and beyond which are not obscured by vegetation to the same degree as views which once existed from within Thompson Square.

Table 3: Views down Old Bridge Street

Image Number	Location	Description	Image
301	South corner of George Street/Bridge Street intersection. View north.	Looking north from the ridgeline. The road corridor of Old Bridge Street provides views to the river, to the heritage item “Bridgeview” on the opposite bank, and beyond.	
302	From outside 4 Old Bridge Street. View north-northwest	Looking down the corridor of Old Bridge Street towards the river, bridge, and opposite bank and beyond. The heritage item “Bridgeview” on the opposite bank is visible.	
303	From outside 6 Old Bridge Street. View northwest.	Looking down corridor of Old Bridge Street towards the old wharf site, bridge, and beyond. “Bridgeview” is visible on the opposite bank.	

3.2.3 Views from Thompson Square to the river and beyond

Views from Thompson Square looking north are also important. Vegetation growth and tree planting has led to the partial obscuring of some of these views. The separation of Thompson Square into upper and lower reserves, and the poor pedestrian access between, has also inhibited the ability to move through the Square and to experience views which once existed. Views across the Hawkesbury may still be glimpsed from certain locations. Panoramic views are still provided from the elevated terrace in front of the Doctors House.

Table 4: Views from Thompson Square towards the river

Image Number	Location	Description	Image
401	Terrace near NE corner of Doctor's House. view north.	View from high point at northwest corner of Thompson Square looking towards the river. The bridge provides a gap in vegetation, allowing views of the opposite bank.	
402	Terrace near NE corner of Doctor's House. View north east	View from the high point at the northwest corner of Thompson Square, looking towards the river. Views of the river and beyond are obscured by vegetation.	
403	West side of Thompson Square (outside Howe's House, 7 Thompson Square). View north east.	Example of a restricted view of the river through gaps in the trees within Thompson Square	

Image Number	Location	Description	Image
404	From upper Thompson Square. View north-northwest.	Vista from Thompson Square through a gap in the trees towards the deck of the bridge.	
405	From upper Thompson Square. View north northwest	In contrast to Image 113 above, views towards the bridge become more obscured by topography and river bank vegetation as one moves higher in Thompson Square towards George Street.	
406	From upper Thompson Square. View north east.	Example of view from upper Thompson Square towards buildings on the east (Bridge Street) side of the square. Distant glimpses towards Wilberforce area through the vegetation.	
407	Upper Thompson Square. View north east.	Views towards the river from the eastern edge of upper Thompson Square. Glimpses of the river are afforded by the road corridor.	

3.2.4 Views from the river bank looking north

The review of historical images indicates that views of the bridge have been especially important, and many of these are from the river bank near the location of the old wharf. While the public domain still extends down to this area, the river bank itself is heavily overgrown, which limits access to the river bank. Nevertheless, important views of the bridge and across the river are still available and may be compared to historical images from a similar location.

Table 5: Views from the river bank looking north

Image Number	Location	Description	Image
501	Near old wharf site, north end of Thompson Square. View north-north east.	View from the edge of the south river bank towards the north river bank, bridge to left. Partly obscured by overgrown vegetation on river bank. Also approximately the location of the proposed bridge. The heritage item "Bridgeview" is visible on the opposite bank of the river.	
502	Near old wharf site, north end of Thompson Square. View north west.	View looking towards the bridge from near the old wharf. Partially obscured by overgrown vegetation on the river bank.	

3.3 Views within Thompson Square

Thompson Square is surrounded on three sides by significant buildings, most of which are listed on the State Heritage Register as part of the Thompson Square Conservation Area or individually such as the Macquarie Arms hotel and 5 Thompson Square. Views to and from these buildings and within the public domain between them are important in order to facilitate an appreciation of these buildings, their relationship to each other, and to the public space which they address. Views across Thompson Square are partly inhibited by vegetation, but glimpses of the buildings on opposite sides of the square are available.

Table 6: Views within Thompson Square

Image Number	Location	Description	Image
601	In front of the Doctors House. View east.	View across Thompson Square from outside the Doctor's House. The park like quality is important to the setting but views to the opposite side of Thompson Square are obscured by vegetation.	
602	From outside 5 Thompson Square. View south east.	Looking from outside 5 Thompson Square towards the buildings on the opposite side of the Square which are visible through gapes in the vegetation.	
603	From outside the Hawkesbury Museum. View east-north east.	View of buildings on opposite side of Thompson Square through gapes in the vegetation.	

Image Number	Location	Description	Image
604	From outside rear of Macquarie Arms hotel. View south east.	View across Thompson Square towards the upper end of the square, including buildings on the ridgeline (George Street) and the opposite side of the square.	
605	North end of Thompson Square near old wharf site. View south west.	View towards the Doctors House from near the river bank (old wharf site) looking back across the lower end of Thompsons Square. The Doctors House remains prominent when looking back from the lower end of Thompson Square.	
606	From northern end of lower Thompson Square. View south west.	Glimpses of buildings on the west side of Thompson Square from the lower end of the square.	
607	From Thompson Square lower reserve. View south west.	Glimpses of buildings on the west side of Thompson Square looking back from the middle of lower Thompson Square.	

Image Number	Location	Description	Image
608	From outside 6 Old Bridge Street. View west-south west.	View of buildings on west side of Thompson Square from in front of 6 Old Bridge Street.	
609	From outside 8 Old Bridge Street. View west-south west.	View of Macquarie Arms hotel from outside 8 Old Bridge Street across Thompson Square.	
610	From outside 8 Old Bridge Street. View north west.	View between 8 Old Bridge Street and the Doctor's House across the middle of the square and visual corridor created by the road cutting.	

3.4 Enduring Views

The iconic view of Windsor is focused on the area of Thompson Square from somewhere on the northern bank. The significance of this view was created and confirmed early in the settlement's life as depicted in an 1807 watercolour⁴ attributed to George William Evans and then copied again in 1809 and 1810/11, also probably by Evans. Philip Slaeger's lithograph, printed in 1813, and likely to have been drawn after 1811, captures the same view, of the civic centre of the settlement. All four images focus on what would have been the centre of activity in the settlement until the planned town of Windsor was built and settled. This makes them the earliest views of Green Hills/Windsor and because of Windsor's acknowledged heritage qualities this view is a well known one. After the bridge was built and photography became an accessible way to capture images, Thompson Square remained a highly photographed subject, with the bridge now either a central or framing element. Photography also provided the opportunity to efficiently capture picturesque views to the north, also with the bridge either framing the image or as the subject.

The early views to and from the north side of the river, which are represented in earlier illustrations and photographs, are now constrained by inhibited public accessibility to the foreshore, and the growth of vegetation along the river banks. The northern bank of the river is particularly affected. Whereas on the upstream side of the bridge the northern bank of the river is easily accessible as it forms part of Macquarie Park, on the downstream side views from the public domain towards Windsor are limited to the bridge and its northern approach, and pushed back towards Wilberforce and Freemans Reach roads.

A key change in the visual character of Thompson Square over time has been the growth of plantings within the reserve. As a result, views from the square are limited and glimpses rather than panoramic views of the countryside beyond are afforded. The principal exception is the road corridor along Old Bridge Street which still provides panoramic views to the north and also allows for the experience of moving downhill from the ridgeline towards the river and the old wharf site at the base of the hill. An important visual connection exists through this view corridor between Windsor and the heritage item "Bridgeview" on the northern bank of the river.

Within Thompson Square, views are afforded from the east and west sides of the square towards the buildings opposite. Due to the construction of the road through the middle of the square in the 1930s and subsequent impediments to pedestrian movement, visual connections between both sides of the square have added importance owing to the physical severance of both sides of the square.

Table 7 provides a comparison of historic views and vistas with their modern comparisons. The overriding aspects of this brief comparison are that significant views and vistas are hindered today by three main factors: The uncontrolled growth of vegetation, particularly what appear to be weed species growing on the riverbanks; modified topography which is more obvious on the northern bank and restricted public access to the northern downstream foreshore.

⁴ Not shown in this report but available for viewing in the Small Picture File in the State Library of NSW.

Table 7: External historic views and their modern comparison

Image Number	Description	Current comparable views
101		
	<p><i>c. 1809 The Settlement on the Green Hills</i> attrib. George W. Evans (SL NSW: PXD 388 v.3 f.7).</p> <p>The view is from the northern bank back to the service area that was to become Thompson Square. The structures and topography visible in this representation are not visible today because they have been demolished. The setting has also changed as the town of Windsor has grown around Green Hills.</p> <p>The historic views and vistas are now partially obscured by vegetation growth on the riverbank and the change in topography on the north bank.</p>	<p>The view to the south west from the turf farm directly opposite Thompson Square. Wilberforce Road is behind the photographer. The view is as close as possible to those that Evans is thought to have painted as well as Slaeger's lithograph (Image numbers 101, 102 & 103; Table 1) although his location on the north bank is not known. It is clear from this image that the northern bank is modified from the early nineteenth century images. The assumption has been made that the current situation is an actual modification of the original form of the bank; this assumption is supported by the results of the archaeological monitoring of the geotechnical test pits.</p>
		
	<p><i>c. 1888 Windsor, NSW</i> by James Mills (SL NSW: BCP 04405).</p>	<p>View to the south from the northern approach road to the bridge. All views are obscured by vegetation and it is difficult to make landscape comparisons.</p>

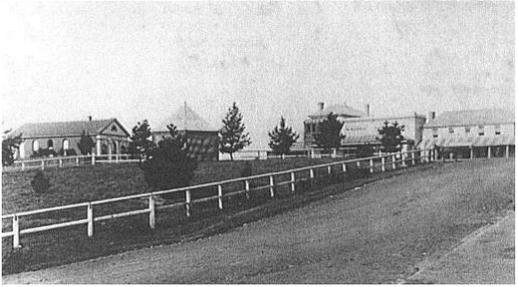
Image Number	Description	Current comparable views
135		
	<p>c. 1910 <i>Windsor Bridge</i> by Kerry & Co (SL VIC: H18481).</p> <p>The view from the north bank in about 1910 is clear of riverbank vegetation, perhaps because even at this time access to the river was more important than it is today. Views to Thompson Square are not impeded but vegetation but young plantings can be seen in Thompson Square.</p>	<p>Another view south west from the north bank. The bridge is visible through the vegetation and erosion gullies. The roofline of the Doctors House is visible in the centre distance. The scene is largely obscured by modern vegetation and mature trees in the upper parkland area are also visible.</p>
144		
	<p>Windsor Bridge (Hawkesbury Images: Digital Image No.002678).</p>	<p>A similar view to image 144, illustrating the proliferation of vegetation on the banks and in Thompson Square. Other than the vegetation and adjustments to the bridge, little has changed with respect to the setting of Thompson Square.</p>
137		

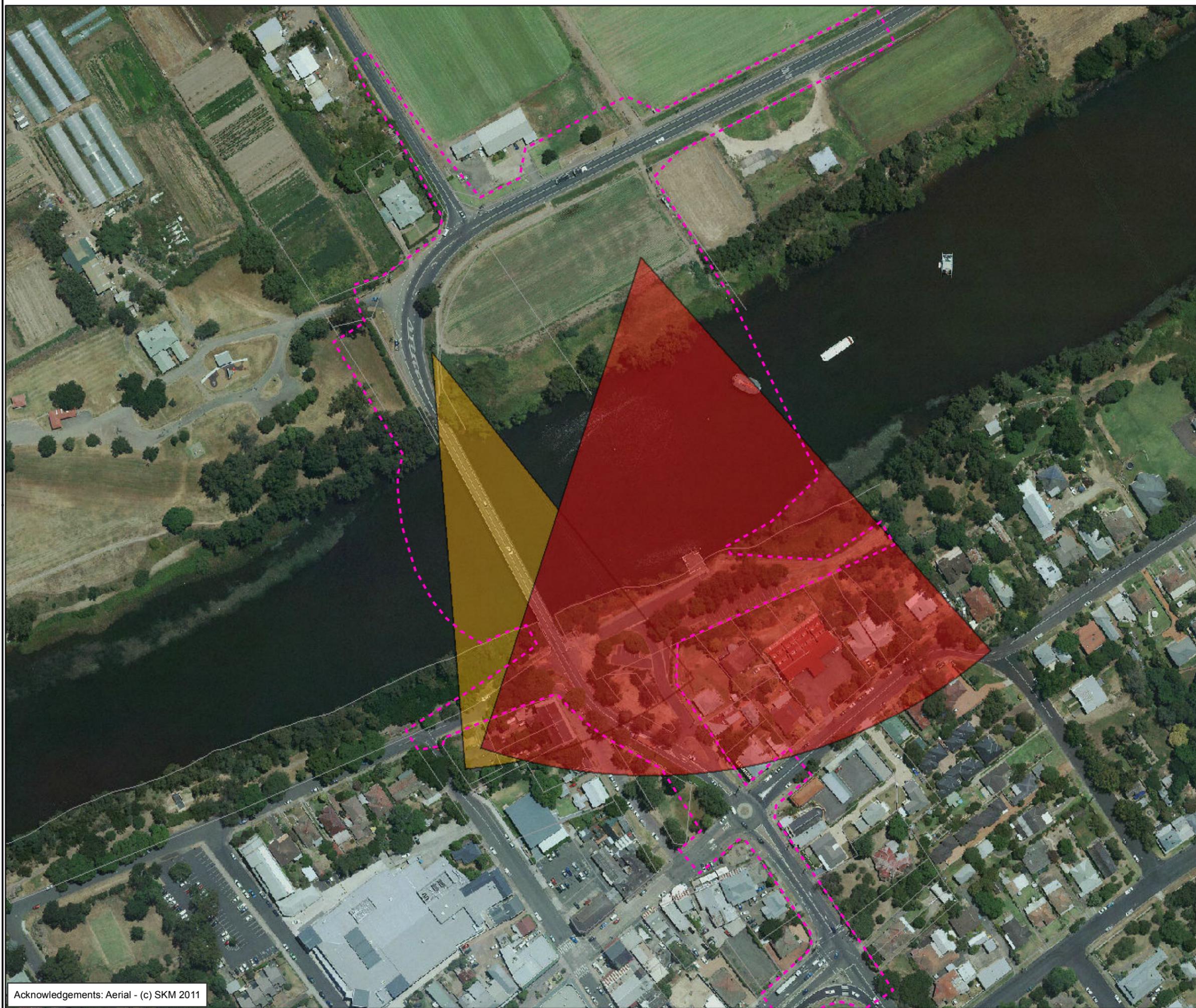
Image Number	Description	Current comparable views
	c. 1915 <i>Windsor Bridge on the Hawkesbury</i> (SL NSW: SPF Windsor/Bridges).	A similar view to image 137 opposite but higher up Old Bridge Street. The bridge would be visible if not for the large number of trees and other vegetation growing on the south bank. The landscape in general is more vegetated, reflecting a modern preference for more trees (excluding uncontrolled riparian vegetation).
147		
	1931 Watercolour (MacNally). A romanticised view of Thompson Square from the south east corner. The road cutting has not been put through, yet the road shown here is more like a country path than the road to the river. It is unclear if the fence line and trees on the right are an artistic technique to focus the view on the Doctors House.	A similar view to image 147. The configuration of the road has since changed with the 1934 re-alignment of Bridge Street and the additional artistic embellishments in the watercolour are not discernible in the recent (June 2012) photograph. The view however, would still be recognisable if not for the vegetation in and on the edges of Thompson Square.
148		
	c. 1835 <i>Bridge across the Hawkesbury River, Windsor, NSW</i> by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4655529).	A similar view to [148]. Vegetation on the river bank appears to be prolific in both photographs but slightly denser currently.

Image Number	Description	Current comparable views
154		
	<p>1949 Motor boat regatta, Windsor, Hawkesbury River, New South Wales, 1949 by Edward William Searle (NLA: vn4654152).</p>	<p>A similar view to [154]. As this photograph was taken from the road in front of the Doctors House, it reasonable to conclude that the photo to the left was also taken from the same location. Although not apparent in this photograph, evidence of late nineteenth/early twentieth century roads to the wharf and the bridge is still visible in the existing landscape.</p>

Table 8: Views within Thompson Square

Image Number	Description	Current comparable views
113		
	<p>c. 1879 view across Thompson Square to Howe's House, no. 5 Thompson Square and the Doctors House. The river and bridge in the background are incidental as the subjects of this picture are the buildings.</p>	<p>A similar view to that shown in photograph 113. It is obvious that changes to the landscape have occurred. Not shown in the modern image is the 1934 road cutting. Views are obscured by tall trees. It appears that the re-vegetation program started in the late nineteenth century (refer image</p>

		119 below).
119		
	<p>1889 view from Thompson Square road to the south east. The School of Arts building is visible in the left top corner. This image shows a pavilion at the top of the square and provides a date for the plantings.</p>	<p>A similar view to image 119 taken in June 2012. The photograph has been taken from further down the slope of Thompson Square road but it can be seen that without the trees that grow in the upper parkland area today, the view is not substantially different from this angle. The pavilion was removed in the early twentieth century.</p>



Legend

Project Area

Historic views from north bank by year

1809-13

Post 1874

Figure 1: Historic view from the north bank to Thomson Square (to the south)

Note: These views are based on existing images accessed for this report

0 20 40 60 80 100

Metres

Scale: 1:2,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

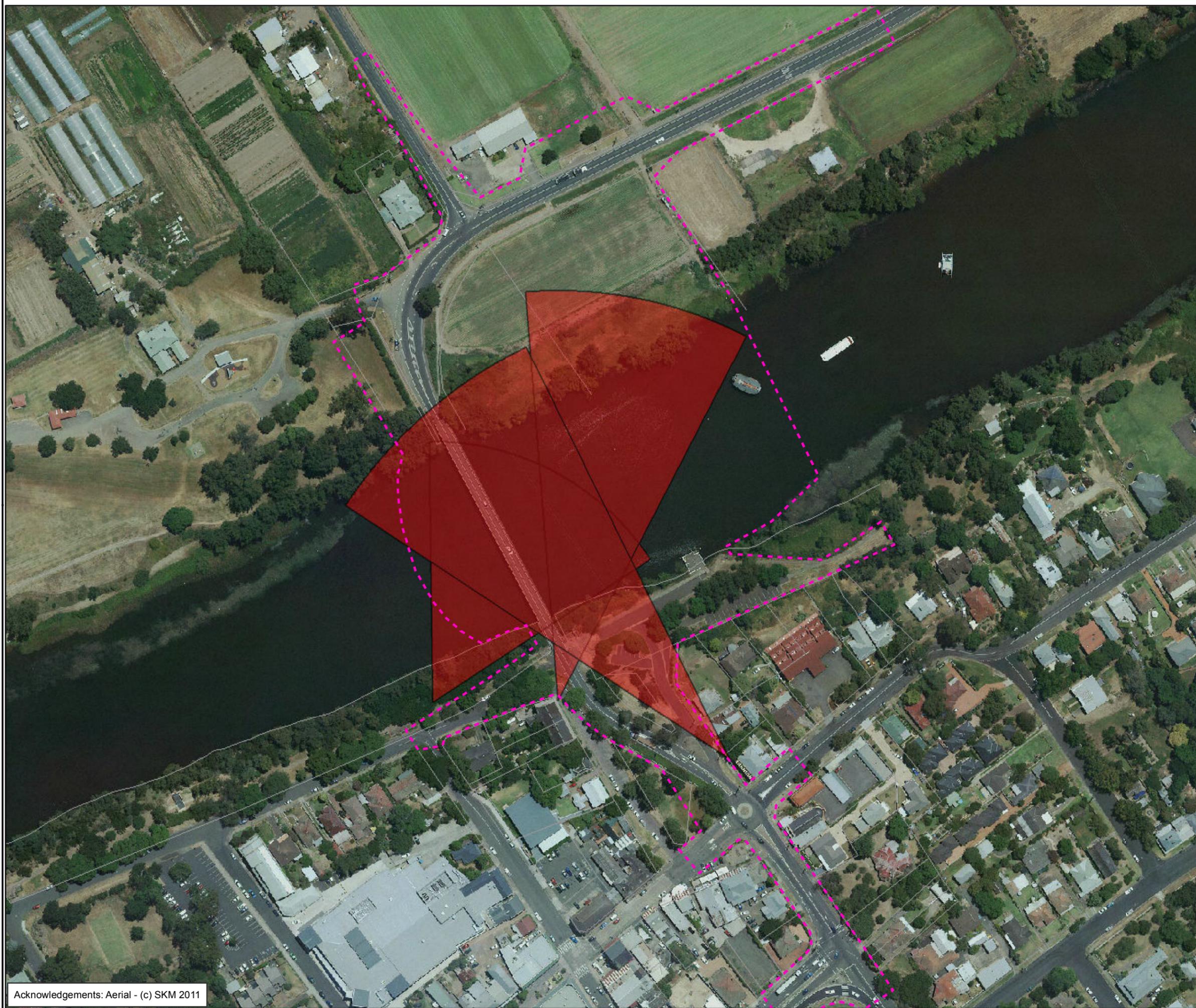
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Date: 04 September 2012, File number: 14020
Checked by: PBK, Drawn by: JMS
Location: P:\14000s\14020\Mapping\14020_VA_F1_HistViewsNth.mxd

Acknowledgements: Aerial - (c) SKM 2011



Legend

-  Project Area
-  Historic views to north

Figure 2: Historic views from Thomson Square to the north

Note: These views are based on existing images accessed for this report

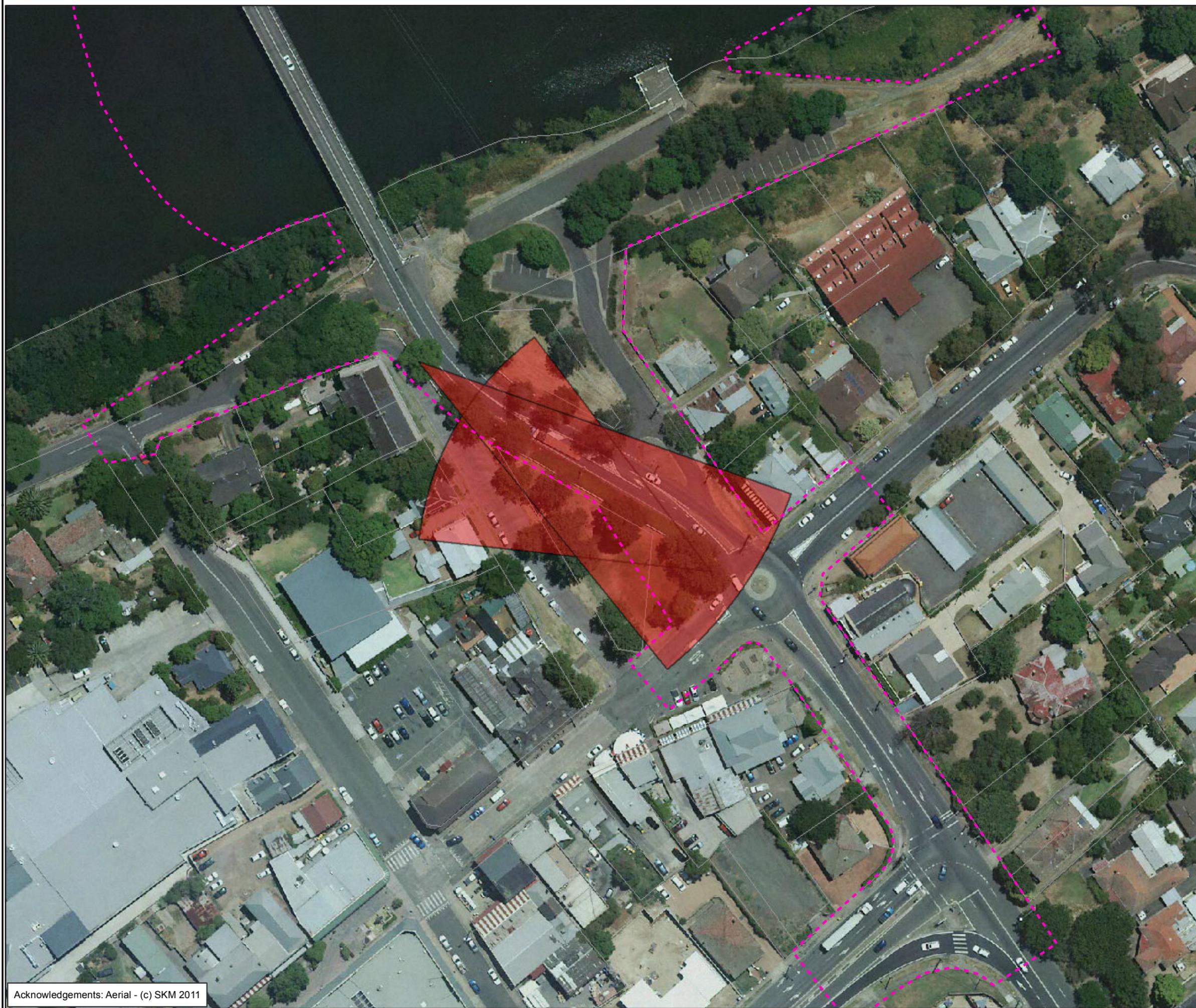
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 Scale: 1:2,000 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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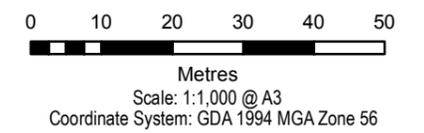


Legend

- Project Area
- Historic views within Thomson Square

Figure 3: Historic views within Thomson Square

Note: These views are based on existing images accessed for this report

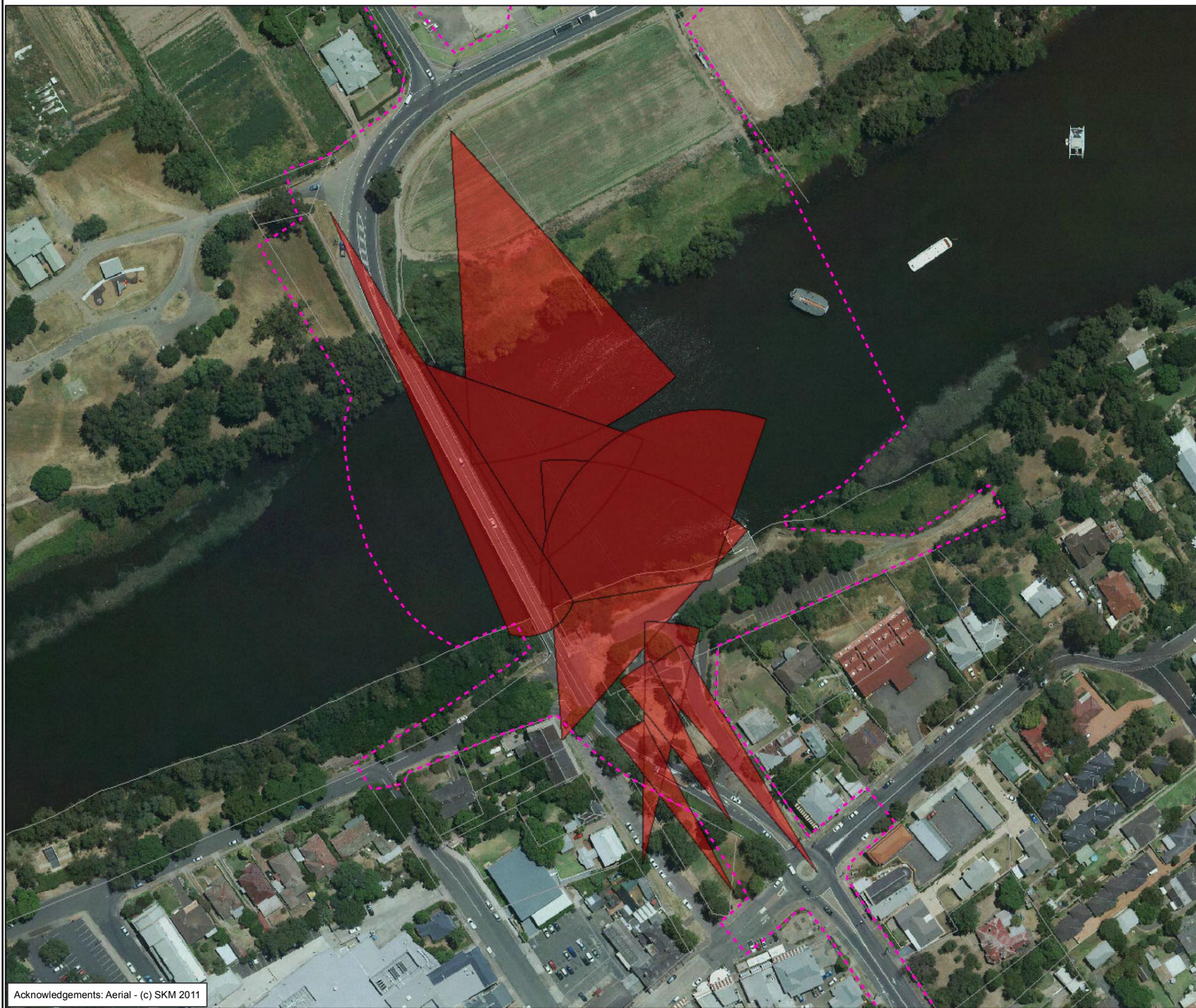



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Legend

-  Project Area
-  View to and from Thomson Square

Figure 4: Current views to and from Thomson Square

0 15 30 45 60 75
 Metres
 Scale: 1:1,500 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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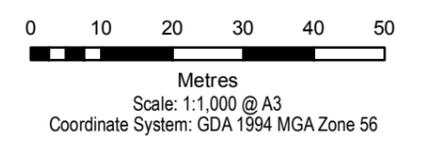
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Legend

- Project Area
- Views within Thomson Square

Figure 5: Current views within Thomson Square



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