



Site 2 – Sydney Olympic Park:  
Historical Archaeological Assessment and Statement of  
Heritage Impact

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for Ecove Group

14 August 2019

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## Glossary

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<b>BP</b>	Before present
<b>c.</b>	Circa
<b>CHL</b>	Commonwealth Heritage List
<b>DEE</b>	Department of Environment and Energy
<b>DP</b>	Deposited Plan
<b>EP&amp;A Act</b>	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
<b>Heritage Act</b>	<i>Heritage Act 1977</i>
<b>LEP</b>	Local Environmental Plan
<b>NHL</b>	National Heritage List
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales
<b>OEH</b>	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
<b>SEARS</b>	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
<b>SoHI</b>	Statement of Heritage Impact
<b>SEPP</b>	State Environmental Planning Policy
<b>SHR</b>	State Heritage Register
<b>SSD</b>	State Significant Development
<b>study area</b>	The area of impact for the proposed works

## Summary

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Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by Ecove Group to undertake an historical archaeological assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) of Site 2, Sydney Olympic Park project located at Lot 71 DP 1134933, Olympic Park Sydney, New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1 and Figure 2) (the study area). The study area is located in Sydney Olympic Park, approximately 13 kilometres to the west of Sydney Central Business District. The proposed development will consist of two buildings that will accommodate a hotel, serviced apartments, commercial offices, retail outlets, and basement car parking. There will also be a large outdoor plaza between the two buildings and Australia Avenue.

This assessment has been formulated to support a State Significant Development (SSD) Application under part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) (SSD 9383), Schedule 2 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (State and Regional Development) 2011, and Schedule 3 of the SEPP (State Significant Precincts) 2005. Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued for the project on 6 July 2018. In accordance with requirement 19 of the SEARs, an historical archaeological assessment and SoHI is required in order to assess any potential impacts to potential relics or items of heritage significance within or in the vicinity of the study area.

The historical research undertaken for this report indicates that the study area has been largely used for pastoral purposes associated with the Home Bush estate and also potentially for stock holding paddocks as part of the State Abattoirs. No structures have been identified on historical plans or aerial photographs. This assessment has identified that there may be archaeological material present within the study area related to the historical use and development of the land, such as historical fencing including remnant posts, postholes and associated cuts, and site levelling works, including fill deposits with potential artefact inclusions and archaeological materials. However, these archaeological materials have been assessed as not holding heritage significance.

There are also a number of heritage items located within the vicinity of the study area, which are not immediately adjacent or visible from the study area, nor is the study area visible from those items. Therefore, it has been assessed that the proposed development will not have any visual impacts on the heritage significance of these items, their settings or views to and from the items.

The proposed development is considered acceptable, provided that an unexpected finds policy is implemented to identify and record any archaeological material that may be encountered during the proposed works.

These recommendations have been formulated to respond to client requirements and the significance of the site. They are guided by the ICOMOS *Burra Charter* with the aim of doing as much as necessary to care for the place and make it useable and as little as possible to retain its cultural significance.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Australia ICOMOS 2013

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**Recommendation 1 No further assessment required**

This assessment has not identified any items of heritage significance within the study area and has determined that the study area holds low archaeological potential. Furthermore, there will be no negative impacts to surrounding heritage items. As such, no further assessment is required for the SSD application for the proposed development. However, prior to any ground disturbance occurring within the study area, an unexpected finds procedure should be implemented as outlined in Recommendation 2.

**Recommendation 2 Development of an Unexpected Finds Procedure**

Relics are historical archaeological resources of local or State significance and are protected in NSW under the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act). Should unanticipated relics be discovered during the course of the project, work in the vicinity must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make a preliminary assessment of the find. While SSD projects are not required to obtain an excavation permit as per Section 5.23 (1) (c) of the EP&A Act, the Heritage Office must be notified of the discovery of a relic in writing in accordance with section 146 of the Heritage Act. Depending on the nature of the discovery, additional assessment may be required prior to the commencement of excavation in the affected area.

# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 Project background

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by Ecove Group to undertake a historical archaeological assessment of Site 2, Sydney Olympic Park project located at Lot 71 DP 1134933, Olympic Park Sydney, NSW (Figure 1 and Figure 2), referred to as the study area herein. The proposed development will consist of two buildings that will accommodate a hotel, serviced apartments, commercial offices, retail outlets, and basement car parking. There will also be a large outdoor plaza between the two buildings and Australia Avenue.

The proposed development will be assessed as a SSD under part 5 of the EP&A Act (SSD 9383), Schedule 2 of the State SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2011, and Schedule 3 of the SEPP (State Significant Precincts) 2005. The SEARs for the project were issued on 6 July 2018. Requirement 19 of the SEARs states that an historical archaeological assessment and SoHI is required in order to assess any potential impacts to potential relics or items of heritage significance within or in the vicinity of the study area.

## 1.2 Location of the study area

The study area is located within the suburb of Sydney Olympic Park, Auburn Local Government Area (LGA) (Figure 1). It consists of Lot 71, DP 1134933 and encompasses 0.77 hectares of private land. It is currently zoned B4 – Mixed Use.

## 1.3 Scope of assessment

This report was prepared in accordance with current heritage guidelines including *Assessing Heritage Significance*, *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* and the *Burra Charter*.<sup>2</sup> This report provides a heritage assessment to identify if any heritage items or relics exist within or in the vicinity of the study area. The heritage significance of these heritage items has been investigated and assessed in order to determine the most appropriate management strategy.

The major objectives of the historical heritage assessment are to:

- Identify and assess the heritage values associated with the study area.
- Assess the impact of the proposed works on the cultural heritage significance of the study area.
- Identifying sites and features within the study area which are already recognised for their heritage value through statutory and non-statutory heritage listings.
- Recommend measures to avoid or mitigate any negative impacts on the heritage significance of the study area.

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<sup>2</sup> NSW Heritage Office 2001; NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Planning 2009; Australia ICOMOS 2013

## 1.4 Limitations

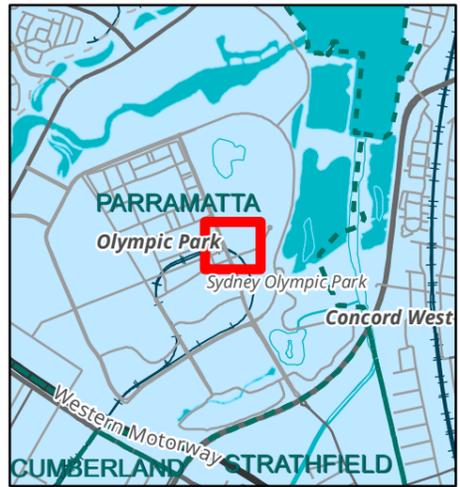
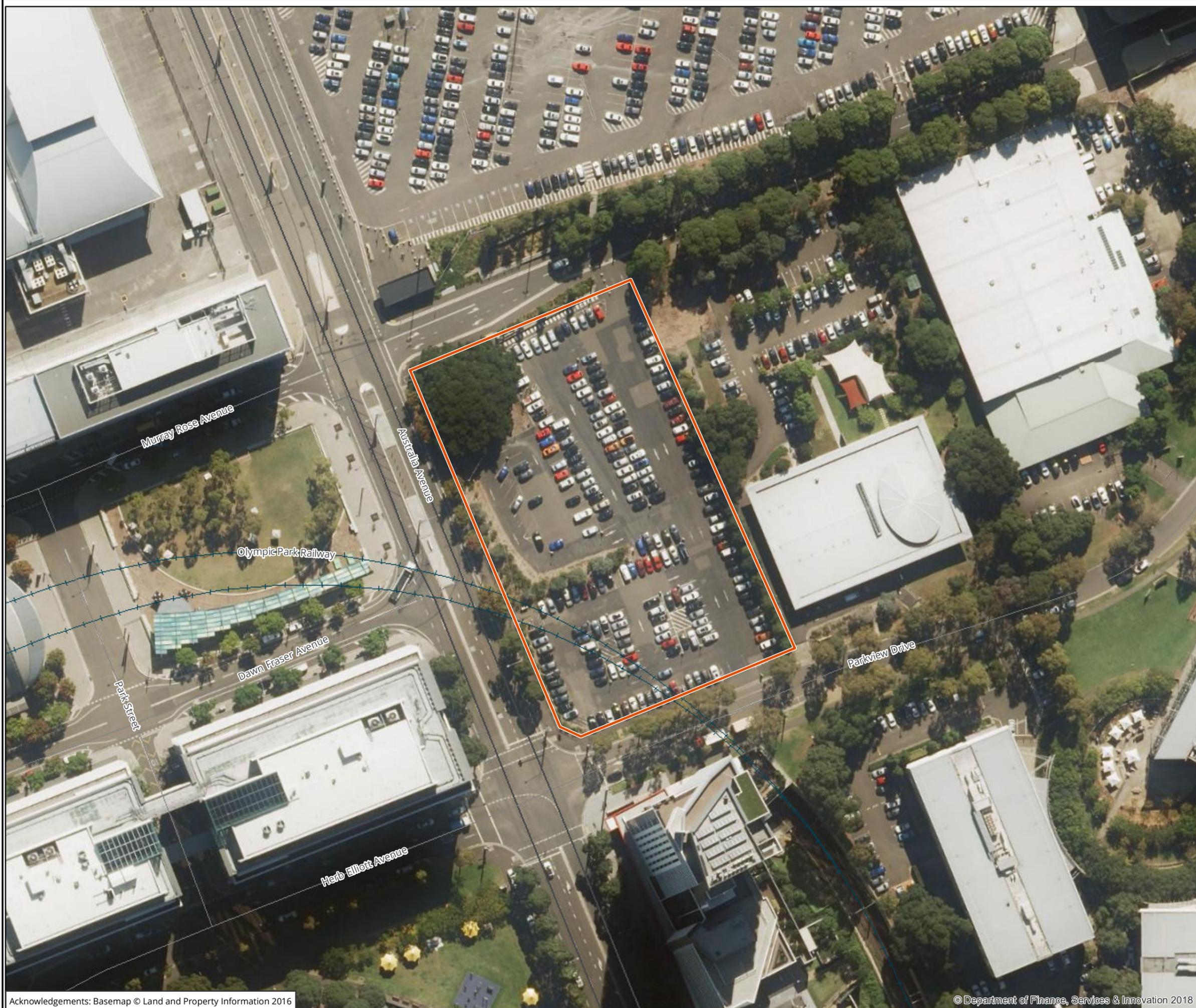
This report is based on historical research and field inspections. It is possible that further historical research or the emergence of new historical sources may support different interpretations of the evidence in this report.

The historical research undertaken for this report is based on primary documents including Crown and deposited plans, Certificates of Title and historical parish maps. This information was supplemented by existing studies and sources in order to present a history of the study area. The archaeological survey was constrained by the presence of built fabric and modified ground surface areas in some locations, limiting the observations of ground surface and identification of potential archaeological resources.

The conclusions within this report are based on professional opinion, it does not warrant that there is no possibility that additional archaeological material will be located in subsequent works on the site. This is because limitations in historical documentation and archaeological methods make it difficult to accurately predict what is under the ground.

The significance assessment made in this report is a combination of both facts and interpretation of those facts in accordance with a standard set of assessment criteria. It is possible that another professional may interpret the historical facts and physical evidence in a different way.

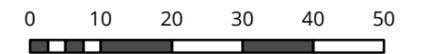




**Legend**

 Study area

**Figure 2: Study area detail**



Metres  
 Scale: 1:1,000 @ A3  
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,  
 Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 28338  
 Date: 27 August 2018,  
 Checked by: AV, Drawn by: LW, Last edited by: IWilson  
 Location: P:\283300s\28338\Mapping\28338\_ACHA\_AR\_F2\_StudyArea

## 2 Statutory framework

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This assessment will support a SSD application under part 5 of the EP&A Act (SSD 9383), Schedule 2 of the State SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2011, and Schedule 3 of the SEPP (State Significant Precincts) 2005. In NSW cultural heritage is managed in a three-tiered system: National, State and local. Certain sites and items may require management under all three systems or only under one or two. The following discussion aims to outline the various levels of protection and approvals required to make changes to cultural heritage in NSW.

### 2.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the Commonwealth legislation protecting the natural and cultural environment. The EPBC Act is administered by the Department of Environment and Energy (DEE). The EPBC Act establishes two heritage lists for the management of the natural and cultural environment:

- The National Heritage List (NHL) contains items listed on the NHL have been assessed to be of outstanding significance and define 'critical moments in our development as a nation'.<sup>3</sup>
- The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) contains items listed on the CHL are natural and cultural heritage places that are on Commonwealth land, in Commonwealth waters or are owned or managed by the Commonwealth. A place or item on the CHL has been assessed as possessing 'significant' heritage value.<sup>4</sup>

A search of the NHL and CHL did not yield any results associated with the study area.

### 2.2 NSW Heritage Act 1977

Heritage in NSW is principally protected by the Heritage Act (as amended) which was passed for the purpose of conserving items of environmental heritage of NSW. Environmental heritage is broadly defined under Section 4 of the Heritage Act as consisting of the following items: 'those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of State or Local heritage significance'. The Heritage Act is administered by the NSW Heritage Council, under delegation by the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). The Heritage Act is designed to protect both known heritage items (such as standing structures) and items that may not be immediately obvious (such as potential archaeological remains or 'relics'). Different parts of the Heritage Act deal with different situations and types of heritage and the Heritage Act provides a number of mechanisms by which items and places of heritage significance may be protected.

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<sup>3</sup> 'About National Heritage' <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/national/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> 'Commonwealth Heritage List Criteria'

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/commonwealth/criteria.html>

### 2.2.1 State Heritage Register

Protection of items of State significance is by nomination and listing on the State Heritage Register (SHR) created under Part 3A of the Heritage Act. The Register came into effect on 2 April 1999. The Register was established under the *Heritage Amendment Act 1998*. It replaces the earlier system of Permanent Conservation Orders as a means for protecting items with State significance.

A permit under Section 60 of the Heritage Act is required for works on a site listed on the SHR, except for that work which complies with the conditions for exemptions to the requirement for obtaining a permit. Details of which minor works are exempted from the requirements to submit a Section 60 Application can be found in the Guideline 'Standard Exemptions for Works requiring Heritage Council Approval'. These exemptions came into force on 5 September 2008 and replace all previous exemptions.

There are several items/conservation areas listed on the SHR in the vicinity of the study area:

- Hall of Champions (collection), (Item No. 01295), Australia Avenue, State Sports Centre, Homebush NSW, Part Lot 2002, DP 1192085. Moveable/collection item of State heritage significance, approximately 823 metres south-west of the study area.
- Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park, (Item No. 01839), Cathy Freeman Park near corner of Olympic Boulevard and the Grand Parade, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW, Part Lot 1000, DP 1127564, Part Lot 161, DP 1155500. Item of State heritage significance, approximately 593 metres west of the study area.

### 2.2.2 Archaeological relics

Section 139 of the Heritage Act protects archaeological 'relics' from being 'exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed' by the disturbance or excavation of land. This protection extends to the situation where a person has 'reasonable cause to suspect' that archaeological remains may be affected by the disturbance or excavation of the land. This section applies to all land in NSW that is not included on the SHR.

Amendments to the Heritage Act made in 2009 changed the definition of an archaeological 'relic' under the Act. A 'relic' is defined by the Heritage Act as:

*Any deposit, object or material evidence:*

- (a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and*
- (b) which is of State or Local significance.*

It should be noted that not all remains that would be considered archaeological are relics under the NSW Heritage Act. Advice given in the Archaeological Significance Assessment Guidelines is that a 'relic' would be viewed as a chattel and it is stated that,

*In practice, an important historical archaeological site will be likely to contain a range of different elements as vestiges and remnants of the past. Such sites will include 'relics' of significance in the form of deposits,*

*artefacts, objects and usually also other material evidence from demolished buildings, works or former structures which provide evidence of prior occupations but may not be 'relics'.<sup>5</sup>*

*If a relic, including shipwrecks in NSW waters (that is rivers, harbours, lakes and enclosed bays) is located, the discoverer is required to notify the NSW Heritage Council.*

Section 139 of the Heritage Act requires any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that their proposed works will expose or disturb a 'relic' to first obtain an Excavation Permit from the Heritage Council of NSW (pursuant to Section 140 of the Heritage Act), unless there is an applicable exception (pursuant to Section 139(4)). Excavation permits are issued by the Heritage Council of NSW in accordance with sections 60 or 140 of the Heritage Act. It is an offence to disturb or excavate land to discover, expose or move a relic without obtaining a permit. Excavation permits are usually issued subject to a range of conditions. These conditions will relate to matters such as reporting requirements and artefact cataloguing, storage and curation. SSD projects are not required to obtain an excavation permit under Section 139 of the Heritage Act, as per Section 5.23 (1) (c) of the EP&A Act.

If during the course of the development, substantial intact archaeological relics of state or local significance not identified in the archaeological assessment are unexpectedly discovered during excavation, work must cease in the affected area and the Heritage Office must be notified in writing in accordance with section 146 of the Heritage Act. Depending on the nature of the discovery, additional assessment may be required prior to the recommencement of excavation in the affected area.

### **2.2.3 Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers**

Section 170 of the Heritage Act requires that culturally significant items or places managed or owned by Government agencies are listed on departmental Heritage and Conservation Register. Information on these registers has been prepared in accordance with Heritage Division guidelines.

Statutory obligations for archaeological sites that are listed on a Section 170 Register include notification to the Heritage Council in addition to relic's provision obligations. There are no items within or adjacent to the study area that are entered on a State government instrumentality Section 170 Register.

## **2.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979**

### **2.3.1 Local Environmental Plan**

The *Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010* (LEP) contains schedules of heritage items that are managed by the controls in the instrument. There are no items of local heritage significance located within or in the vicinity of the study area.

### **2.3.2 Auburn Development Control Plan 2010**

The *Auburn Development Control Plan 2010* (DCP) outlines built form controls to guide development. The DCP supplements the provisions of the LEP.

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<sup>5</sup> NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Planning 2009, 7

Where a development application relates to a heritage item or conservation area, a heritage impact statement should be prepared which will address why the site is of heritage significance, what impacts the proposed development will have on the item's or conservation area's heritage significance, and the measures proposed to mitigate any negative impacts to the heritage item or conservation area.

Proposed development should not adversely affect the significance of heritage items, heritage groups and archaeological sites as well as their settings, distinctive streetscape, landscape and architectural styles. All developments adjacent to and/or adjoining a heritage items shall be responsive in terms of the curtilage and design, accompanied by a Heritage Impact Statement and respectful of the building's heritage significance in terms of the form, massing, roof shapes, pitch, height and setbacks.

### **2.3.3 State Environmental Planning Policy (State Significant Precincts) 2005**

The SEPP (State Significant Precincts) 2005 contains schedules of heritage items and conservation areas under State Significant Precincts. There is one heritage conservation area of State heritage significance listed under this instrument which is located in the vicinity of the study area:

- State Abattoirs (Area A), the area bounded by Herb Elliot Avenue, Showground Road, Dawn Fraser Avenue and the Railway Garden. Located 418 metres west of the study area.

### **2.3.4 State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005**

The SEPP (Major Development) 2005 contains schedules of heritage items and conservation areas under areas of major development. There is one heritage conservation area of State heritage significance listed under this instrument which is located in the vicinity of the study area:

- State Abattoirs (Area A), the area bounded by Herb Elliot Avenue, Showground Road, Dawn Fraser Avenue and the Railway Garden. Located 418 metres west of the study area.

### **2.3.5 Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 24 – Homebush Bay Area**

The Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 24 – Homebush Bay Area contains schedules of heritage conservation areas, heritage items and potential historical archaeological sites that are managed by controls in the instrument. This Plan was deemed a SEPP on 1 July 2009. There are several items of State heritage significance located in the vicinity of the study area:

- State Abattoir locality (Item 1 and Item 2), area bounded by Herb Elliot Avenue, Showground Road, Dawn Fraser Avenue and the Railway Garden and the Avenue of Palms. Located 418 metres west of the study area.
- Millennium Parklands Heritage Precinct (Item A), located approximately 166 metres north-east of the study area.

There is one conservation area of heritage significance listed under this instrument which is located in the vicinity of the study area:

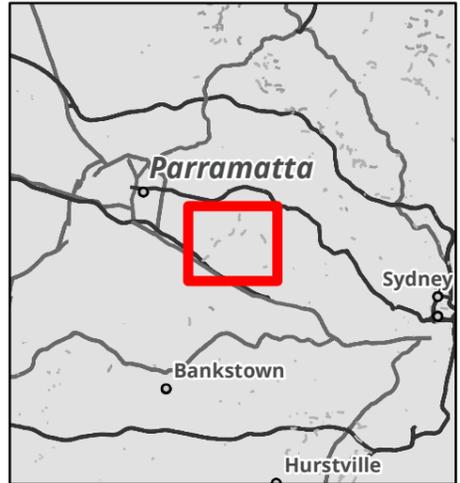
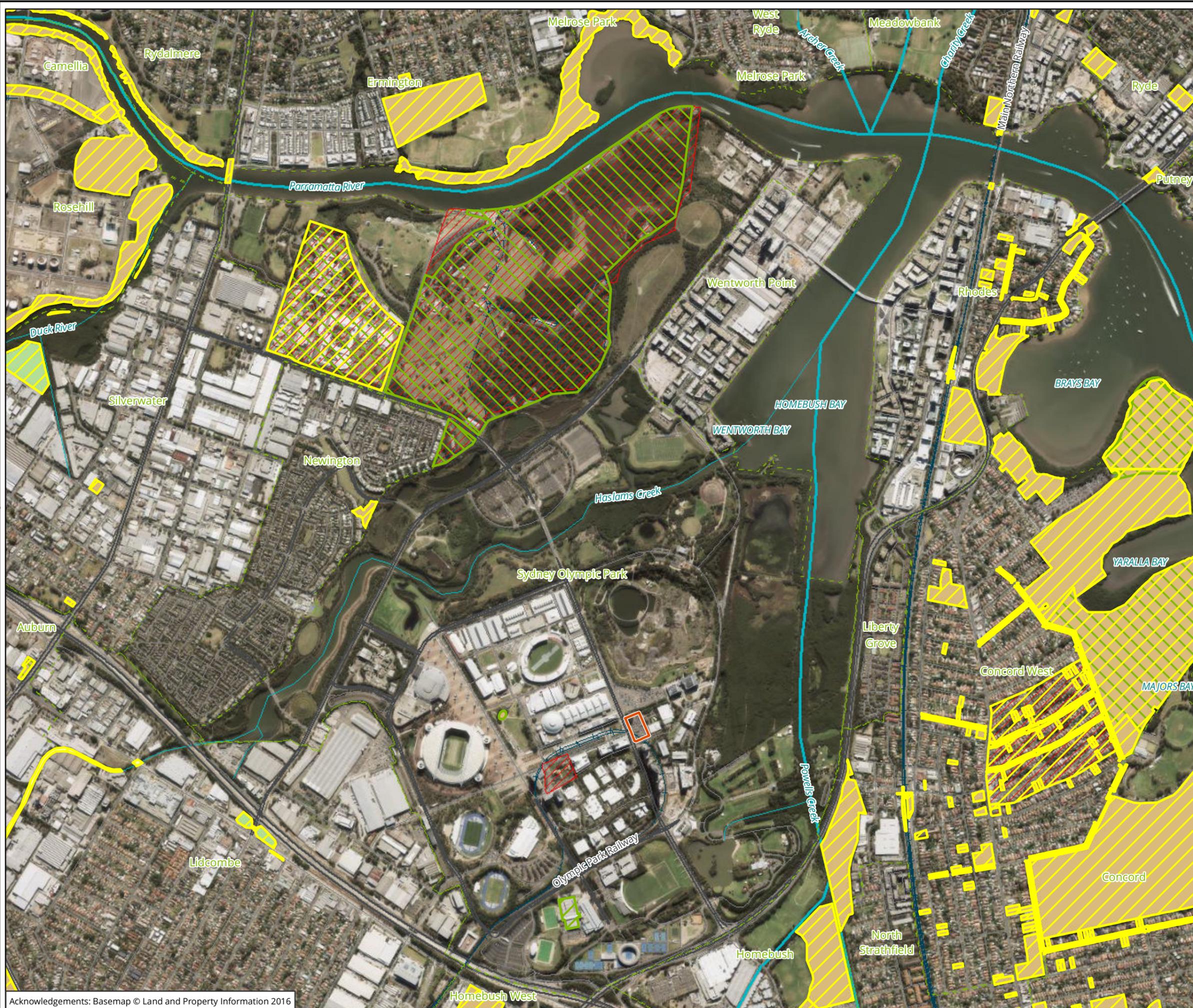
- State Abattoirs heritage conservation area (Area No 1), the area bounded by Herb Elliot Avenue, Showground Road, Dawn Fraser Avenue and the Railway Garden. Located 418 metres west of the study area.

## **2.4 Summary of heritage listings**

A summary of heritage listings within and in the vicinity of the study area is presented in Table 1 and Figure 3.

**Table 1 Summary of heritage listings within and adjacent to the study area**

Site number	Site name	Address / Property description	Listings		Significance
			Individual item	As a Conservation Area	
<b>01295</b>	Hall of Champions (collection)	Australia Avenue, State Sports Centre, Homebush NSW	State Heritage Register	-	State
<b>01839</b>	Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park	Cathy Freeman Park near corner of Olympic Boulevard and the Grand Parade, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW	State Heritage Register	-	State
<b>Area A</b>	State Abattoirs	The area bounded by Herb Elliot Avenue, Showground Road, Dawn Fraser Avenue and the Railway Garden	-	State Environmental Planning Policy (State Significant Precincts) 2005	State
<b>Item 1, Item 2</b>			Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 24 – Homebush Bay Area	-	State
<b>Area No. 1</b>			-	Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 24 – Homebush Bay Area	State
<b>Item A</b>	Millennium Parklands Heritage Precinct	Located approximately 166 metres north-east of the study area	-	Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 24 – Homebush Bay Area	State



- Legend**
- Study area
  - Local heritage items
  - State heritage items
  - State Heritage Act
  - Conservation Area - General
  - Conservation Area - Aboriginal
  - Conservation Area - Landscape
  - Item - General
  - Item - Aboriginal
  - Item - Archaeological
  - Item - Landscape

Figure 3: Location of heritage items within the study area and in the vicinity

0 160 320 480 640 800  
Meters

Scale: 1:16,000 @ A3  
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert



Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne, Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 28338  
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## 3 Historical context

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Historical research has been undertaken to identify the land use history of the study area, to isolate key phases in its history and to identify the location of any built heritage or archaeological resources which may be associated with the study area. The historical research places the history of the study area into the broader context of Homebush Bay.

### 3.1 Topography and resources

The study area is located within Cumberland Lowlands physiographic region which consists of low lying, gently undulating plains and low hills atop Wianamatta Group shales and sandstones with a dense drainage net of predominantly northward flowing channels.<sup>6</sup> The study area falls within the Wianamatta geological group which is Middle Triassic in age (245-235 million years ago). The Wianamatta geological group is divided into two formations, the Ashfield Shale and the overlying Bringelly Shale formations. The Ashfield Shale consists of black to dark grey siltstone and laminite and is located on ridgetops. The upper part of Wianamatta Group is Bringelly Shale that occurs extensively throughout the Cumberland Lowlands. It consists of a shale (claystone and siltstone), carbonaceous claystone, laminate and fine to medium-grained lithic sandstone.<sup>7</sup>

The study area is located between two tributaries of the Parramatta River, Haslams Creek and Powells Creek. Haslam's Creek is a perennial watercourse located approximately 800 metres north of the study area, running south-west from Homebush Bay. Powells Creek is located 700 metres east of the study area and is also a perennial creek that drains water from the lower slopes in the study area. Both creeks flow towards the north and eventually drain into Bow Bowing Creek and the Georges River.

### 3.2 Aboriginal past

The study area is located within the traditional lands of the Wann clan, known as the Wann-gal.<sup>8</sup> As noted above the study area likely provided a vast array of resources for the Wann-gal to exploit. The earliest known radiocarbon date for the Aboriginal occupation of the Cumberland Plains is associated with a cultural / archaeological deposit at Parramatta approximately 6 kilometres to the west of the current study area, which was dated to 30,735 ± 407 before present (BP).<sup>9</sup> Archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the Cumberland Plains indicates that the area was intensively occupied from approximately 4000 years BP.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Bannerman et al. 1990, 2

<sup>7</sup> Bannerman et al. 1990, 3

<sup>8</sup> Urbis 2016, 13

<sup>9</sup> Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management. 2005a; Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management. 2005b

<sup>10</sup> Dallas 1982, 7

After the arrival of European settlers in the area, the movement of Aboriginal hunter-gatherers became increasingly restricted. European expansion along the Cumberland Plain was swift and soon there had been considerable loss of land to agriculture. At the same time diseases such as small pox were having a devastating effect on the Aboriginal population. Death, starvation and disease were some of the disrupting factors that led to a reorganisation of the social practices of Aboriginal communities after European contact.

### 3.3 Historical development

#### 3.3.1 Exploration and early land grants (1788 to 1827)

The first European exploration of the Homebush Bay area took place in 1788 within 10 days of the arrival of the First Fleet in search of fertile agricultural land.<sup>11</sup> The Homebush Bay area became known as 'The Flats', named so for the mud flats and mangroves which extended throughout the bay.<sup>12</sup> The first land grants in the area was made during the 1790s to Thomas Laycock for his Liberty Plains property. Laycock was a quartermaster in the NSW Corp and arrived in Sydney in September 1791. Laycock was appointed Deputy-commissioner in late 1794, but resigned his commission and returned to the post of quartermaster in December 1800. Liberty Plains was just one of Laycock's land grants.<sup>13</sup>

In January 1808, land within the Liberty Plains grant which contains the study area was assigned to D'Arcy Wentworth.<sup>14</sup> In 1809, Laycock's mental health was declining, and his sons William and Thomas, son-in-law Nicholas Bayley, William Broughton and D'Arcy Wentworth were appointed to manage his estates and effects; Laycock died in December 1809, and the following year Governor Lachlan Macquarie granted Laycock's land to Wentworth, who renamed it Home Bush and started Australia's first horse stud (Figure 4).<sup>15</sup> Wentworth was a medical practitioner and public servant from Portadown, who arrived in Sydney in June 1790 as an Assistant Surgeon, and commenced his medical career in the colony, being sent to Norfolk Island, Sydney and Parramatta.<sup>16</sup> Wentworth acquired further land for his Home Bush estate in the 1810s and 1820s, and around 1819 he commissioned for Homebush House to be constructed near the current corner of Australia Avenue and Figtree Drive, south of the study area. Wentworth was involved in the beef trade; it is likely that herds of cattle were kept at Home Bush as workers were recruited in 1818 to manage the stock and burn 100,000 bricks on Wentworth's property. A horseracing track was also established at Home Bush in 1825, and Wentworth set about draining wetlands, building retaining walls and embankments to reclaim land. Upon his death in July 1827, he left his property to his son Charles, who had been with the European exploration party that first crossed the Blue Mountains.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Sue Rosen Pty Ltd 1993, 3, Planning Workshop 1993, 18, Sydney Olympic Park 2015, 2, Urbis 2016, 15

<sup>12</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 9

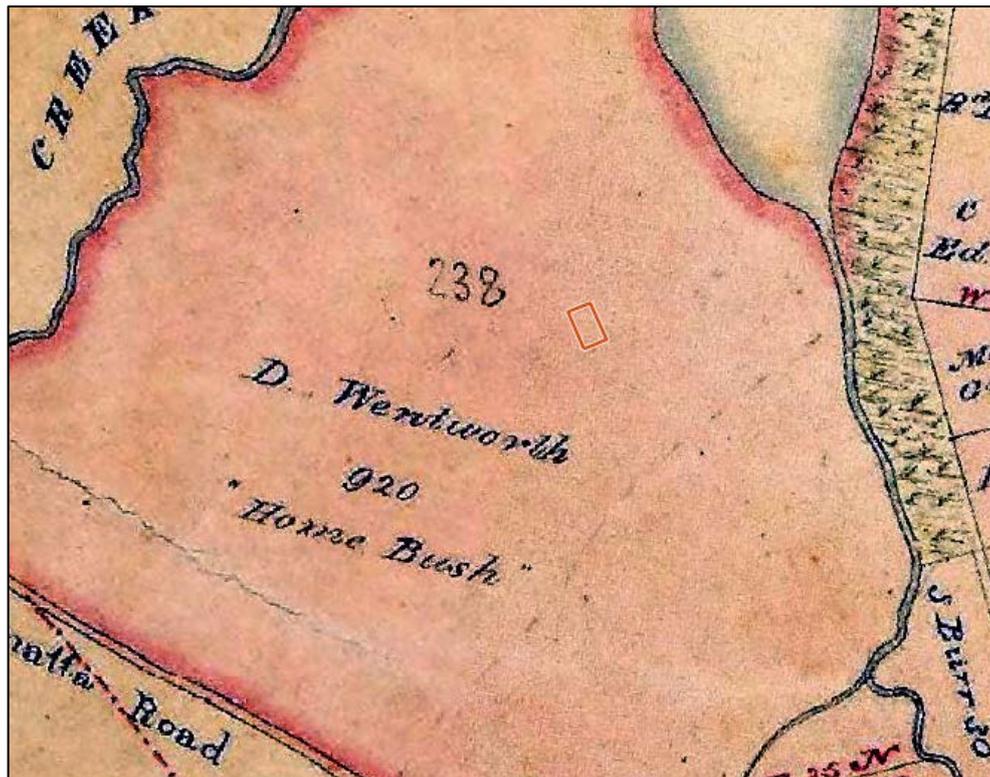
<sup>13</sup> Anon 1967

<sup>14</sup> NSW Land Registry Services, Primary Application 5247

<sup>15</sup> Anon 1967, NSW Land Registry Services, Primary Application 5247, Sydney Olympic Park 2015, 2, Urbis 2016, 16

<sup>16</sup> Auchmuty 1967

<sup>17</sup> NSW Land Registry Services, Primary Application 5247, Auchmuty 1967, Sydney Olympic Park n.d., Urbis 2016, 18



**Figure 4** Extract from an 1818 Concord Parish map, showing D'Arcy Wentworth's grant of Home Bush, with the study area highlighted (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, 1818 Concord Parish Map)

### 3.3.2 Development of the Home Bush Estate and attempts at subdivision (1830s to 1880s)

Charles Wentworth leased Home Bush during his tenure as its owner. By the 1830s, it appears that much of the property had been extensively cleared, but still retained native wildlife, as noted by Louisa Meredith who rented Home Bush during the 1830s. Meredith describes 'Homebush' as a 'desert', having been vacant for a number of years, with the fruit trees near the house neglected and cattle roaming freely through broken fences.<sup>18</sup> This suggests that the cleared land was used as grazing paddocks for stock, with some agricultural areas closer to the house. In 1840, Charles Wentworth constructed a new racecourse adjacent to Parramatta River (currently the Tennis Court, Sports Centre and Hockey Centre), and from 1841 the horseracing track at Homebush was used as the headquarters for the Australian Jockey Club, with public races commencing in the

<sup>18</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 10, Meredith 1844, 129–132; Urbis 2016, 19

same year. The Club left the racecourse in 1859-1860, but racing is said to have continued at the site until around 1871.<sup>19</sup>

Sydney's suburbs were expanding during the late 1870s and 1880s. The location of the Homebush estate between Sydney and Parramatta suggested it would be an ideal place for a residential area.<sup>20</sup> In 1881, the south-eastern portion of the property was planned for subdivision as the Homebush Park Estate. Three acre lots were being advertised for sale in December of that year. However, sales were slow and the first lots did not sell until 1886; by 1890 it remained sparsely populated, with only those lots near Parramatta Road proving attractive to buyers.<sup>21</sup> In 1883, the remainder of the Homebush estate was brought under Torrens Title by Fitzwilliam Wentworth and another portion subdivided, advertised as the Wentworth Estate.<sup>22</sup> The layout of the subdivision included some uniform lots near Parramatta Road, then a series of irregular-shaped lots on a section of the property running north to Parramatta River (Figure 5). The study area is partially located within Lots 2 and 3 of Section R of the subdivision (Figure 6). Similarly, the Wentworth Estate subdivision was not successful.<sup>23</sup> The subdivision of land suggests that these areas had not been subject to development, and were likely used for grazing cattle.

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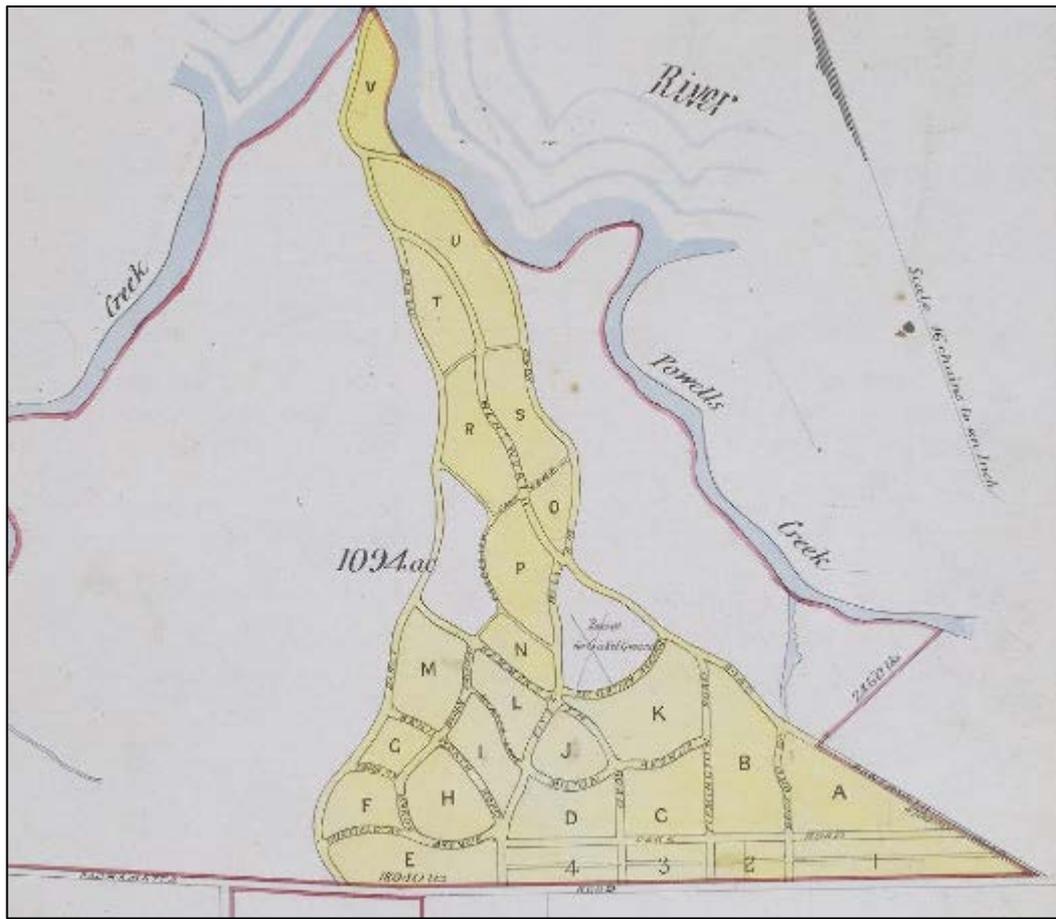
<sup>19</sup> Sydney Olympic Park n.d., 1903 "Annals of the Turf in N.S. Wales. Home Bush." *Sydney Sportsman* (Surry Hills, NSW : 1900 - 1954), 7 October, p. 8, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167240567>, viewed 2 October 2018, Sydney Olympic Park 2015, 2

<sup>20</sup> Urbis 2016, 16

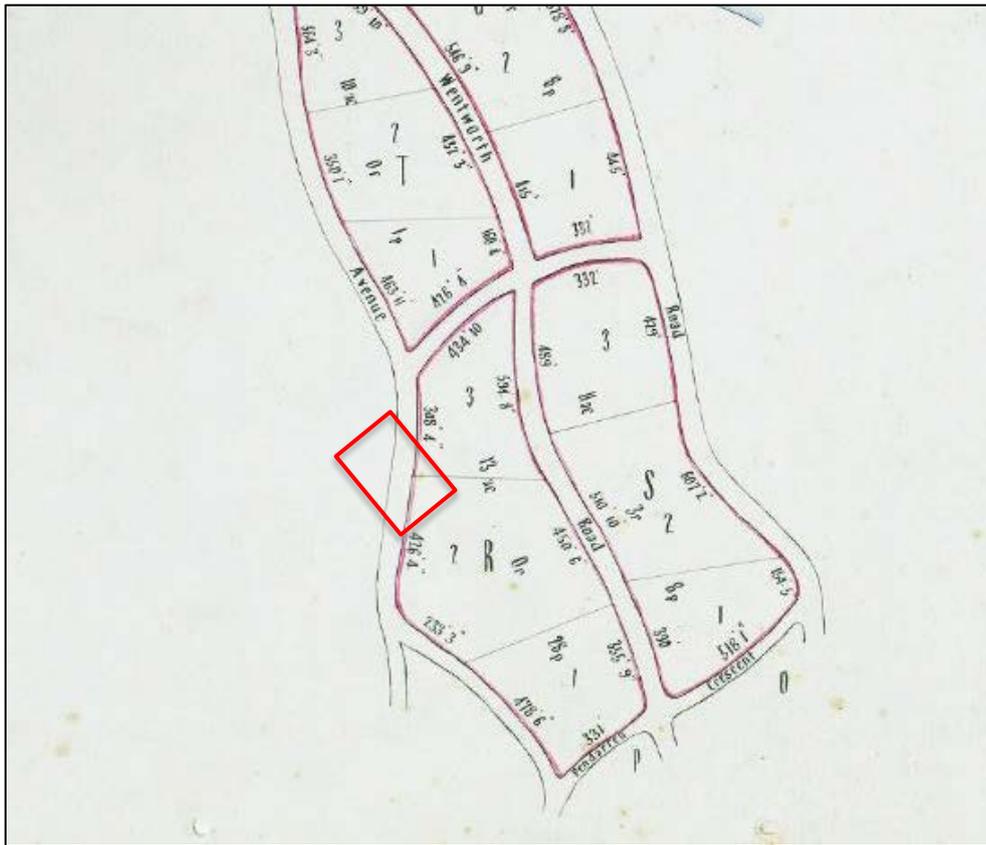
<sup>21</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 11, 1881 "Advertising." *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 15 December, p. 8, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13501216>, viewed 2 October 2018

<sup>22</sup> Sydney Olympic Park n.d., NSW Land Registry Services, Certificate of Title Volume 622 Folio 12,

<sup>23</sup> Sydney Olympic Park n.d.



**Figure 5** Subdivided areas within the former Homebush Estate, 1886 (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Certificate of Title Volume 816 Folio 212)



**Figure 6 Northern section of the Wentworth Estate subdivision, with the location of the study area highlighted in red (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Certificate of Title Volume 1525 Folio 151)**

### **3.3.3 Government resumption and industrial development (1900s to 1980s)**

Due to concerns regarding public health in relation to the Glebe Island public abattoir following the outbreak of plague in Sydney in 1900, a Parliamentary Standing Committee was established in 1902 to identify a new abattoir site. The Committee proposed in 1906 that the new abattoir should be located on the Wentworth lands in Homebush. In 1907, the government resumed the majority of the Wentworth Estate for the purposes of the State Abattoir site (Figure 7). Roads and buildings were constructed for the abattoir site, and the following year a railway line was established to service the site, involving levelling works. The railway line was further developed two years later in 1910, with excavation and additional levelling taking place, while roadways and platforms were also built. In the same year, 44 slaughterhouses, stabling, administration buildings, by-product treatment buildings, roadways, drafting yards and latrines. The State Abattoir opened in

1913, with works fully commencing around a year later. The State Abattoir supplied much of the domestic and overseas markets during its operation.<sup>24</sup> The study area is located east of the main State Abattoir site.<sup>25</sup>



**Figure 7** Extract from the 1907 Crown plan of the resumption of the Wentworth Estate for the State abattoir, with the study area highlighted (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Crown plan 2831.3000)

The Minister for Public Works proposed a state brickworks in 1910 in order to supply the Department of Public Works with materials. At that time, the Metropolitan Brick Company controlled distribution and fixed prices due to its monopoly of the market. In 1911, 9.5 hectares was resumed from the State Abattoir for a State Brickworks, which was established north of the study area. Further roads were constructed, as well as a railway line, to provide access to the site.<sup>26</sup>

By 1923, the State Abattoir employed up to 1,600 men and was the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth. The scale of production was such that it could slaughter 18,000-20,000 sheep, 2,000 pigs, 1,500 cattle and 1,300 calves per day (Plate 1). During the 1930s, Homebush Bay began to be used as a dumping area for

<sup>24</sup> Sydney Olympic Park 2015, 2

<sup>25</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 12, NSW Land Registry Services, Crown Plan 2831.3000, Sydney Olympic Park n.d.

<sup>26</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 12, Sydney Olympic Park n.d.

carcass waste material, creating algal blooms.<sup>27</sup> The State Brickworks saw a decline in production and profit and an increasing deficit during this period due to the economic depression. In 1936 the State Brickworks were sold to Brickworks Limited, but the decline in production continued.<sup>28</sup>



**Plate 1 View of stock holding pens for the State Abattoirs, dating to c.1910-1962 (Source: National Library of Australia)**

In 1940 the State Brickworks closed and was used by the Navy as an armament depot and munitions store during World War II. Part of the State Abattoir lands were also utilised for this purpose. A 1943 aerial photograph shows the study area as being located within a series of cleared uniform paddocks with regular tree plantings, possible for shade or shelter for stock (Plate 2). Following the war, the site reopened as a brickworks and abattoir.<sup>29</sup> The post-war building boom resulted in an increased demand for bricks, reaching a peak in 1969. However, from the 1960s excavation had halted in the clay pit, and became a waste depot for the local municipality. However, sandstone continued to be quarried.<sup>30</sup> By this time, Homebush became a dumping ground for waste from nearby industries and factories within Sydney. By the early 1950s, sharks had become attracted to the area of Parramatta River around Silverwater Bridge due to the waste being deposited into the water. Over time, the natural ecology of the area was considerably damaged and soils became contaminated.<sup>31</sup> A 1963 Concord Parish map provides an indication of the size of the State Abattoirs and State Brickwork sites (Figure 8).

<sup>27</sup> Sydney Olympic Park n.d.

<sup>28</sup> Sydney Olympic Park n.d., Sydney Olympic Park 2015, 2

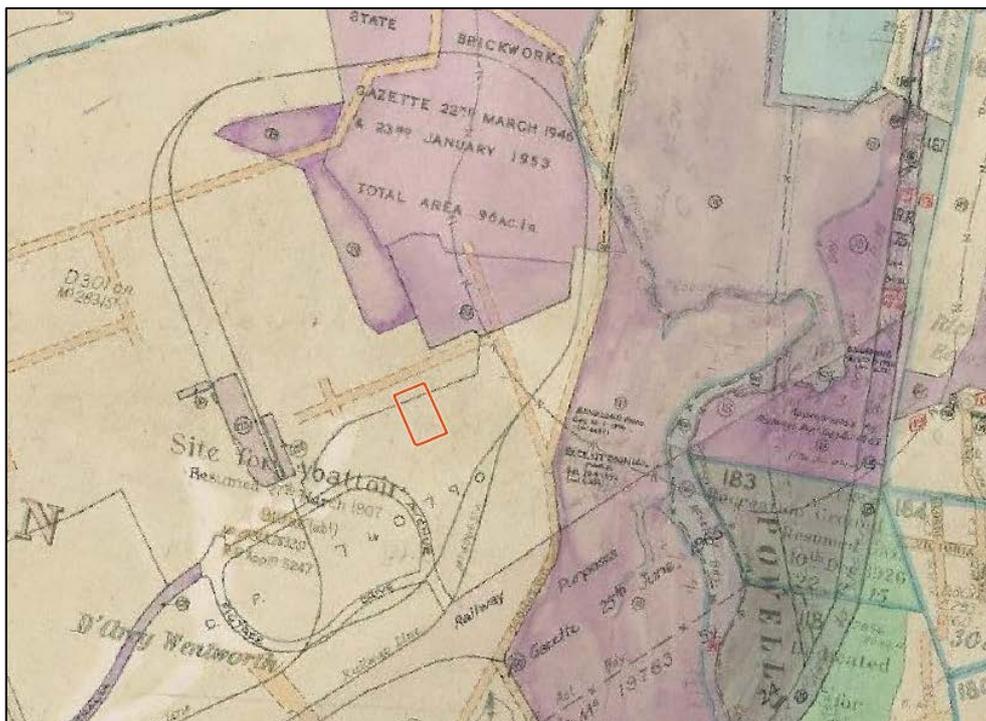
<sup>29</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 13, Sydney Olympic Park n.d.

<sup>30</sup> Sydney Olympic Park n.d.

<sup>31</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 13, Sydney Olympic Park n.d.



**Plate 2** Extract from a 1943 aerial photograph, showing the presence of cleared paddocks with young tree plantings; the study area is highlighted in red (Source: SIX Maps)



**Figure 8** Extract from a 1963 Concord Parish map showing the State Abattoir and State Brickworks sites, with the study area highlighted in red (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, 1963 Concord Parish map)

### 3.3.4 Redevelopment of Homebush (1980s to present)

Over time, the required maintenance of equipment and facilities at the State Abattoirs became unviable, and in the early 1980s a review of the State Abattoir was undertaken. The review determined that the surrounding surplus land should be redeveloped for industrial use, with the area east of the Administration buildings be used as a technology park in 1984; this became the Australia Centre. The State Abattoir closed in 1988.<sup>32</sup> Sandstone quarrying at the former State Brickworks brick pit came to an end in 1992, and the pit developed into a freshwater wetland which became home to the Green and Golden Bell Frog.<sup>33</sup>

In 1993, Sydney won the opportunity to host the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Homebush was chosen as the site for Sydney Olympic Park, and remediation, rehabilitation and stabilisation works were undertaken on the site as part of the preparation for construction of sports, entertainment and public facilities and accommodation. The former brick pit was developed as a frog habitat and water storage facility, while the 1920s State Abattoir Administration buildings were restored and the Olympic Stadium was built on the former saleyards. The Sydney Olympic Park Authority was established in July 2001 as a statutory body of the NSW government; the Authority is responsible for managing, promoting and protecting the Sydney Olympic Park site, which includes the Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve, and the Millennium Parklands.<sup>34</sup>

Today the study area is utilised as a carpark, and consists of an asphalt lot with introduced plantings along the study area boundaries. The Sydney Olympic Park train loop has been constructed immediately below the study area (refer to Figure 2).

## 3.4 Chronology of the study area

Based upon the historical research presented it is possible to summarise the chronology of the study area, this is presented in Table 2. As no structures have been identified within the study area, a general historical chronology has been prepared.

**Table 2 Chronological development of the study area**

Date	Historical development
1788	Exploration of Homebush Bay and 'The Flats'.
1790s	First land grants made to Thomas Laycock.
1810	D'Arcy Wentworth re-granted Laycock's land following his death in 1809, and established Australia's first horse stud.
1825	Horseracing track established at Home Bush, and land reclamation works take place.
1827	D'Arcy Wentworth dies, with his son Charles inheriting his property.

<sup>32</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 12, Sydney Olympic Park n.d.

<sup>33</sup> Sydney Olympic Park n.d.

<sup>34</sup> Artefact Heritage 2016, 13-14; Sydney Olympic Park n.d., Sydney Olympic Park 2015, 2

Date	Historical development
1840	New racecourse constructed at Homebush.
1871	Horse racing ceases at Homebush.
1881	First subdivision of Homebush proposed, named the Homebush Park Estate.
1883	Second subdivision proposed for Homebush, named the Wentworth Estate.
1907-1913	The Wentworth land at Homebush is resumed for the State Abattoirs; construction commences on roads, buildings and railways.
1911	Land resumed from the State Abattoir for the State Brickworks.
1913	The State Abattoir officially opens.
1914	The State Abattoir commences operations.
1930s	Homebush Bay begins to be used a dumping location for carcass waste from the State Abattoir. Production declines and deficit increases for the State Brickworks due to the economic depression.
1936	The State Brickworks are sold to Brickworks Limited.
1940	The Navy commences using the State Brickworks and part of the State Abattoir site for an armament depot and munitions store.
1943	The study area consists of a cleared paddock with a single tree.
1960s	The brick pit becomes a waste depot for the local Council, but sandstone continues to be quarried.
1984	A review determines that the area east of the State Abattoir's administration buildings be used for a technology park (Australia Centre).
1988	The State Abattoir closes.
1992	Sandstone quarrying ceases at the former State Brickworks brick pit; the pit develops into a freshwater wetland.
1993	Sydney wins the competition to host the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
Mid-1990s	Remediation, rehabilitation and stabilisation works take place in preparation for construction of sports, entertainment and public facilities and accommodation. The former brick pit is developed a frog habitat and water storage facility.
2000	The Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games take place.
2001	The Sydney Olympic Park Authority is established to manage, promote and protect the Sydney Olympic Park site, including the Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve, and the Millennium Parklands.

### 3.5 Research themes

Contextual analysis is undertaken to place the history of a particular site within relevant historical contexts in order to gauge how typical or unique the history of a particular site actually is. This is usually ascertained by gaining an understanding of the history of a site in relation to the broad historical themes characterising

Australia at the time. Such themes have been established by the Australian Heritage Commission and the NSW Heritage Office and are outlined in synoptic form in NSW Historical Themes.<sup>35</sup>

There are 38 State Historical Themes, which have been developed for NSW, as well as nine National Historical Themes. These broader themes are usually referred to when developing sub-themes for a local area to ensure they complement the overall thematic framework for the broader region.

A review of the contextual history in conjunction with the local historical thematic history has identified one historical theme which relates to the occupational history of the study area.<sup>36</sup> This is summarised in Table 3.

**Table 3 Identified historical themes for the study area**

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Local Theme
<b>Developing local, regional and national economies</b>	Pastoralism	No local theme specified but examples include stud and pastoral landscape
	Industry	No local theme specified but examples include factories

<sup>35</sup> NSW Heritage Council 2001

<sup>36</sup> Kass 2005

## 4 Physical inspection

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A physical inspection of the study area was undertaken on 6 September 2018, attended by James Cole (Consultant Archaeologist – Biosis). The principal aims of the survey were to identify heritage values associated with the study area; this included any heritage items (Heritage items can be buildings, structures, places, relics or other works of historical, aesthetic, social, technical/research or natural heritage significance. ‘Places’ include conservation areas, sites, precincts, gardens, landscapes and areas of archaeological potential).

### 4.1 Site setting

The study area consists of one lot and is bordered on its northern side by Murray Rose Avenue, on its eastern side by Lot 78, DP 875562, on its southern side by Parkview Drive and its western side by Australia Avenue. The study area is situated on a very gentle slope, which descends to the north-north-west, and is surrounded by mid- to high-rise development, car parks, public transport and roads (Plate 3, Plate 4 and Plate 5). The study area consists of an asphalted carpark, with some vegetated earthen embankments and garden beds, as well as electrical and lighting poles, signage, fencing and parking payment facilities (Plate 6, Plate 7 and Plate 8). A large fig tree is also present in the north-western corner; this tree is visible in the 1943 aerial of the study area (Plate 2). The ground level in this location is notably lower than the road surface (Plate 9).



**Plate 3** Typical view towards the study area, facing south-west



**Plate 4** View from study area to the north-east towards an area of parkland



**Plate 5** Typical view from the study area, facing west



**Plate 6** Typical view within the study area, facing north-west



**Plate 7** View of vegetated earthen embankments present within the study area, facing south



**Plate 8** View of electrical and lighting poles, fencing and parking payment facilities, facing south-west



**Plate 9** Large fig tree in the north-western corner of the study area, showing the lower ground surface level in comparison to the road surface level, facing north-west

## 4.2 Archaeological assessment

The potential archaeological resource relates to the predicted level of preservation of archaeological resources within the study area. Archaeological potential is influenced by the geographical and topographical location, the level of development, subsequent impacts, levels of onsite fill and the factors influencing preservation such as soil type. An assessment of archaeological potential has been derived from the historical analysis undertaken during the preparation of this report.

### 4.2.1 Archaeological resource

This section discusses the archaeological resource within the study area. The purpose of the analysis is to outline what archaeological deposits or structures are likely to be present within the study area and how these relate to the history of land use associated with the study area.

The historical context presented in this report indicates that the study area is unlikely to contain any significant archaeological resources. The use of the study area prior to the redevelopment of the site as Sydney Olympic Park appears to have been restricted to grazing or storing stock. As such, it is possible there may be some archaeological features associated with these activities, such as remnant fencing posts, post holes and associated cuts. There may also be fill deposits present associated with the development of the State Abattoir and the levelling works that took place in the early-20th century. While these fill deposits may contain archaeological material or artefacts, they would be part of unstratified deposits of unknown origin, and are unlikely to hold heritage significance.

### 4.2.2 Integrity of sub-surface deposits

The majority of the study area has been sealed with asphalt as part of a car park, with some vegetated areas. The north-western corner which features the fig tree also hints at the original or former ground surface level (Plate 9), suggesting that the surrounding area has been built up around the car park (Plate 10).



**Plate 10** View of different ground surface levels within and outside of the study area

It is possible that the road base foundation and asphalt was laid directly over the historical ground surface with minimal excavation for drainage and other sub-surface services. As a result, should any archaeological materials within the study area be present, such as remnant posts, postholes and associated cuts or levelling deposits, they may be relatively undisturbed.

#### **4.2.3 Research potential**

Archaeological research potential refers to the ability of archaeological evidence to provide information about a site that could not be derived from any other source and which contributes to the archaeological significance of that site. Archaeological research potential differs from archaeological potential in that the presence of an archaeological resource (i.e. archaeological potential) does not mean that it can provide any additional information that increases our understanding of a site or the past (i.e. archaeological research potential).

The research potential of a site is also affected by the integrity of the archaeological resource within a study area. If a site is disturbed, then vital contextual information that links material evidence to a stratigraphic sequence may be missing and it may be impossible to relate material evidence to activities on a site. This is generally held to reduce the ability of an archaeological site to answer research questions.

Assessment of the research potential of a site also relates to the level of existing documentation of a site and of the nature of the research done so far (the research framework), to produce a 'knowledge' pool to which research into archaeological remains can add.

#### **Developing local, regional and national economies – Pastoralism**

The study area is part of the Wentworth estate of Home Bush, originally established by Thomas Laycock but owned by the Wentworth family for almost a century, from 1810 to 1907. D'Arcy Wentworth established Australia's first horse stud within the estate, and cattle are said to have grazed throughout the property. However, there is no evidence to suggest that any potential archaeological material within the study area would contribute to our knowledge of the pastoral activities of the Home Bush estate or wider pastoral activities within Auburn or the wider region.

#### **Developing local, regional and national economies – Industry**

The study area appears to have been contained within an area of cleared land located east of the State Abattoir and south of the State Brickworks. It is possible that the study area was used for holding or grazing stock prior to slaughter at the State Abattoir. While this part of the site may have been subjected to levelling works, there is no evidence that the study area contained any structures or features associated with the Abattoir. The levelling deposits may contain archaeological materials or artefacts, but as these would be considered unstratified deposits of unknown origin, the materials or artefacts are unlikely to hold heritage significance. As such, any potential archaeological material within the study area is unlikely to contribute to our knowledge of the development or operation of the State Abattoir or State Brickworks.

#### **4.2.4 Summary of archaeological potential**

Through an analysis of the above factors a number of assumptions have been made relating to the archaeological potential of the study area, these are presented in Table 4 and Figure 9.

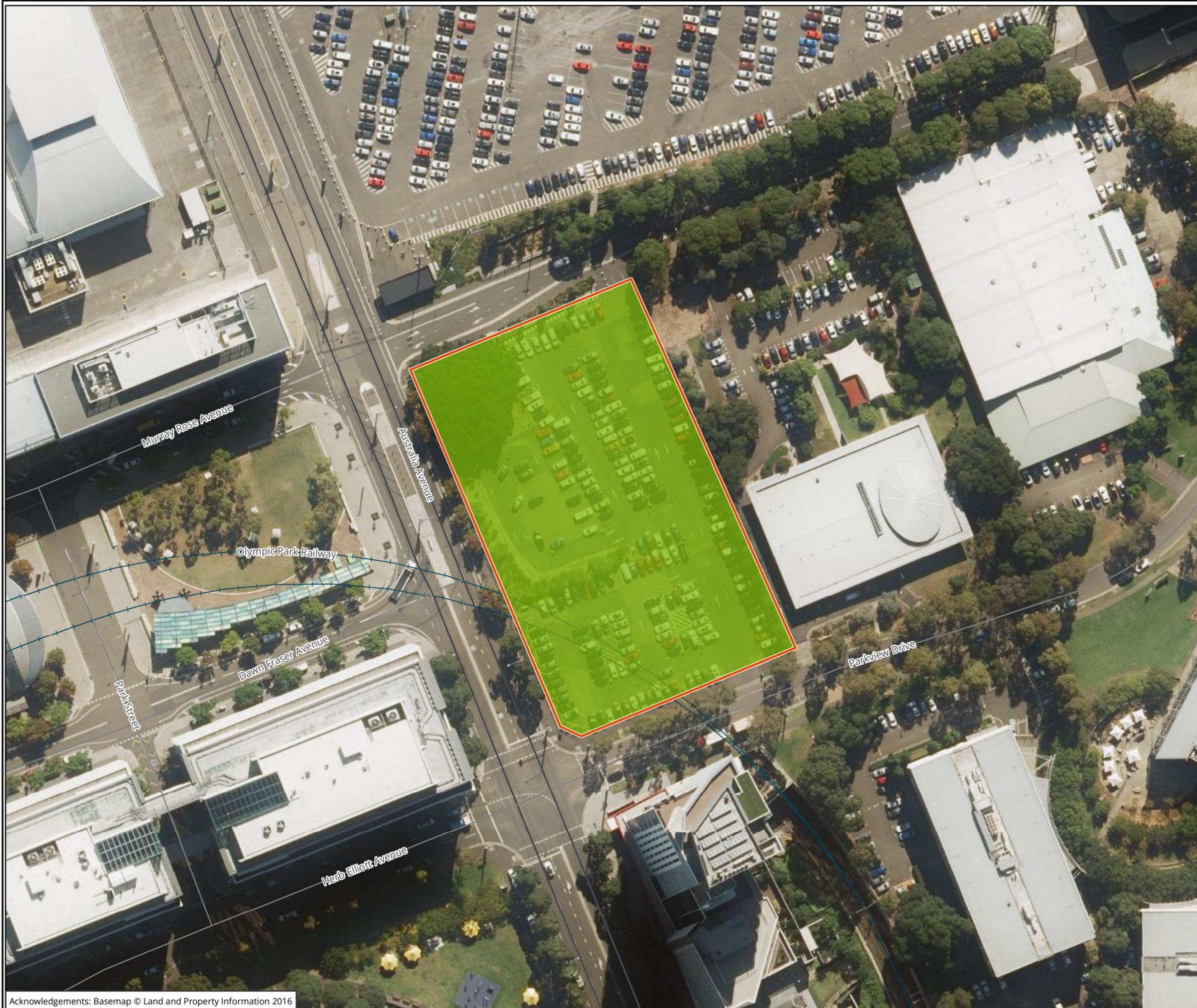
The assessment of archaeological potential has been divided into three categories:

- **High archaeological potential** – based upon the historical context and documentary evidence presented within this report there is a high degree of certainty that archaeologically significant remains relating to this period, theme or event will occur within the study area.

- **Moderate archaeological potential** – based upon the historical context and documentary evidence presented within this assessment it is probable that archaeological significant remains relating to this period, theme or event could be present within the study area.
- **Low archaeological potential** – based upon the historical context and documentary evidence presented within this assessment it is unlikely that archaeological significant remains relating to this period, theme or event will occur within the study area.

**Table 4 Assessment of archaeological potential**

Description	Probable feature(s)	Possible construction date	Archaeological potential
Paddock fence lines	Remnant posts, postholes, associated cuts	Post-1830s	Low
Site levelling deposits	Unstratified fill deposits, potentially containing artefacts or archaeological materials	c.1907	Low



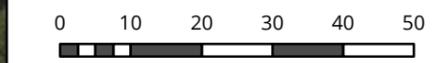
**Legend**

Study area

**Archaeological potential**

Low

Figure 9: Assessment of archaeological potential



Scale: 1:1,000 @ A3  
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert

**biosis**  
 Biosys Pty Ltd  
 Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,  
 Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 28338  
 Date: 04 October 2018,  
 Checked by: CIA, Drawn by: JSP, Last edited by: jprasod  
 Location: P:\28300s\28338\Mapping\28338\_AR\_F9\_ArchPotential

## 5 Significance assessment

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An assessment of heritage significance encompasses a range of heritage criteria and values. The heritage values of a site or place are broadly defined as the 'aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values for past, present or future generations'<sup>37</sup>. This means a place can have different levels of heritage value and significance to different groups of people.

The archaeological significance of a site is commonly assessed in terms of historical and scientific values, particularly by what a site can tell us about past lifestyles and people. There is an accepted procedure for determining the level of significance of an archaeological site.

A detailed set of criteria for assessing the State's cultural heritage was published by the (then) NSW Heritage Office. These criteria are divided into two categories: nature of significance, and comparative significance.

Heritage assessment criteria in NSW fall broadly within the four significance values outlined in the Burra Charter. The Burra Charter has been adopted by State and Commonwealth heritage agencies as the recognised document for guiding best practice for heritage practitioners in Australia. The four significance values are:

- historical significance (evolution and association)
- aesthetic significance (scenic/architectural qualities and creative accomplishment)
- scientific significance (archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values)
- social significance (contemporary community esteem).

The NSW Heritage Office issued a more detailed set of assessment criteria to provide consistency with heritage agencies in other States and to avoid ambiguity and misinterpretation. These criteria are based on the Burra Charter. The following SHR criteria were gazetted following amendments to the Heritage Act that came into effect in April 1999:

- *Criterion (a) - an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*
- *Criterion (b) - an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*
- *Criterion (c) - an item is important in demonstrating the aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).*

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<sup>37</sup> NSW Heritage Office, 2001

- *Criterion (d) - an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*
- *Criterion (e) - an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*
- *Criterion (f) - an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*
- *Criterion (g) - an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments; or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.*

## 5.1 Levels of heritage significance

Items, places, buildings, works, relics, movable objects or precincts can be of either local or State heritage significance, or have both local and State heritage significance. Places can have different values to different people or groups.

### Local heritage items

Local heritage items are those of significance to the local government area. In other words, they contribute to the individuality and streetscape, townscape, landscape or natural character of an area and are irreplaceable parts of its environmental heritage. They may have greater value to members of the local community, who regularly engage with these places and/or consider them to be an important part of their day-to-day life and their identity. Collectively, such items reflect the socio-economic and natural history of a local area. Items of local heritage significance form an integral part of the State's environmental heritage.

### State heritage items

State heritage items, places, buildings, works, relics, movable objects or precincts of State heritage significance include those items of special interest in the State context. They form an irreplaceable part of the environmental heritage of NSW and must have some connection or association with the State in its widest sense.

The following evaluation attempts to identify the cultural significance of the study area. This significance is based on the assumption that the site contains intact or partially intact archaeological deposits.

## 5.2 Statement of significance

Table 5 presents an evaluation and subsequent statements of significance for the possible archaeological material within the study area.

**Table 5 Evaluation and statement of significance for possible archaeological material within the study area**

Item	Significance assessment criteria							Level of significance	Statement of significance
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
<b>Paddock fence lines</b>								Nil	<p>The possible archaeological material associated with the historical pastoral activities within the study area, such remnant posts, postholes and associated cuts, are not considered an important component of the cultural history of NSW, the Auburn district or the Home Bush Estate, and they are not associated with the life or works of a person(s) of importance in local or state cultural history. These possible materials will not yield information that will contribute to a greater understanding of the cultural history of NSW, the Auburn district or the Home Bush Estate, and they unlikely to demonstrate aesthetic characteristics or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the state or local area, They do not hold a strong or special association with a community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons in NSW, the Auburn district or the Home Bush Estate. The possible archaeological materials are not considered to possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural history of NSW, the Auburn district or the Home Bush Estate, nor do they demonstrate the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or environments within the state or local area.</p> <p>The possible archaeological materials associated with the historical paddock fence lines within the study area do not hold heritage significance.</p>

Item	Significance assessment criteria							Level of significance	Statement of significance
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
Site levelling deposits								Nil	<p>The possible archaeological material associated with development of the State Abattoir and State Brickworks within the study area, such unstratified fill deposits with potential artefact inclusions or archaeologist materials, are not considered an important component of the cultural history of NSW, the Auburn district, the State Abattoir or State Brickworks, and they are not associated with the life or works of a person(s) of importance in local or state cultural history. These possible archaeological materials will not yield information that will contribute to a greater understanding of the cultural history of NSW, the Auburn district, the State Abattoir or State Brickworks, and they unlikely to demonstrate aesthetic characteristics or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the state or local area. They do not hold a strong or special association with a community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons in NSW, the Auburn district, the State Abattoir or State Brickworks. The possible archaeological materials are not considered to possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural history of NSW, the Auburn district, the State Abattoir or State Brickworks, nor do they demonstrate the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or environments within the state or local area.</p> <p>The possible archaeological materials associated with site levelling works within the study area do not hold heritage significance.</p>

## 6 Statement of heritage impact

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This historical archaeological assessment and SoHI has been prepared to address impacts resulting from the proposed redevelopment of the study area. The SoHI identifies the level of impact arising from the proposed development and discusses mitigation measures which must be taken to avoid or reduce those impacts. The proposed development will consist of two buildings that will accommodate a hotel, serviced apartments, commercial offices, retail outlets, and basement car parking. There will also be a large outdoor plaza between the two buildings and Australia Avenue.

This assessment has identified that there may be archaeological material present within the study area related to the historical use of the land for pastoral activities, such as paddock fence lines in the form of remnant posts, postholes and associated cuts, and the industrial use of the site for the State Abattoir and State Brickworks, such as site levelling deposits containing unstratified fill deposits with potential artefact inclusions or archaeological material. However, these possible archaeological materials have been assessed as not holding heritage significance.

There are a number of heritage items located within the vicinity of the study area. These items are not immediately adjacent or visible from the study area, nor is the study area visible from those items. As such, the setting of these items will not be impacted by the proposed development. Considering the existing development surrounding the study area, namely high rise accommodation, it is unlikely that the views from the existing heritage items will be impacted by the proposed development. The significance of the surrounding heritage items in the vicinity of the study area will not be impacted by the proposed development.

As there will be no impacts to the heritage significance of existing heritage items in the wider vicinity of the study area that will be impacted by these activities, and there are no items of heritage significance contained within the study area, the proposed development is considered acceptable, provided that an unexpected finds policy is implemented to identify and record any archaeological material that may be encountered during the proposed works.

## 7 Recommendations

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These recommendations have been formulated to respond to client requirements and the significance of the site. They are guided by the ICOMOS *Burra Charter* with the aim of doing as much as necessary to care for the place and make it useable and as little as possible to retain its cultural significance.<sup>38</sup>

### **Recommendation 1 No further assessment required**

This assessment has not identified any items of heritage significance within the study area and has determined that the study area holds low archaeological potential. Furthermore, there will be no negative impacts to surrounding heritage items. As such, no further assessment is required for the SSD application for the proposed development. However, prior to any ground disturbance occurring within the study area, an unexpected finds procedure should be implemented as outlined in Recommendation 2.

### **Recommendation 2 Development of an Unexpected Finds Procedure**

Relics are historical archaeological resources of local or State significance and are protected in NSW under the Heritage Act. Should unanticipated relics be discovered during the course of the project, work in the vicinity must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make a preliminary assessment of the find. While SSD projects are not required to obtain an excavation permit as per Section 5.23 (1) (c) of the EP&A Act, the Heritage Office must be notified of the discovery of a relic in writing in accordance with section 146 of the Heritage Act. Depending on the nature of the discovery, additional assessment may be required prior to the recommencement of excavation in the affected area.

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<sup>38</sup> Australia ICOMOS 2013

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