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# Heritage Interpretation Strategy

Curio Projects

# Heritage Interpretation Strategy

SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM, REDEVELOPMENT

STAGE 2 SSDA



**MAY 2019**

Prepared by Curio Projects for Infrastructure NSW  
FINAL REPORT

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## Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd (Curio Projects) was commissioned by Infrastructure NSW to prepare a Heritage Interpretation Strategy (Interpretation Strategy; or 'IS') to provide a heritage framework for the redevelopment of Sydney Football Stadium (SFS), located at 40-44 Driver Avenue, Moore Park.

This report supports a State Significant Development (SSD) Development Application (DA) for the redevelopment of the SFS, which is submitted to the Minister for Planning pursuant to the Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessments Act 1979 (EP&A Act). A staged approach to the planning applications is proposed which includes:

- Stage 1—Concept Proposal for the stadium envelope and supporting retail and functional uses as well as development consent for the carrying out of early works, including demolition of the existing facility and associated structures.
- Stage 2—Detailed design, construction and operation of the stadium and supporting businesses, retail and functional uses.

The Stage 1 Concept Plan SSD has been approved and works have commenced. The final Mitigation Measure CP-HER4 from SSD 9249 Concept Approval Development Consent requires that a Heritage Interpretation Strategy is prepared by a qualified person(s) for submission with the Stage 2 Development Application.

While the Sydney Football Stadium itself is not individually listed on any statutory heritage register, the subject site includes part of the State Heritage Register (SHR) listed Busby's Bore (SHR #00568, LEP #I1), is located within the boundaries of the Sydney Cricket Ground Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) (Sydney LEP 2012, HCA C37), and is also located in close proximity to several other heritage items of both State and local significance, and other adjacent HCAs. No individual heritage items (other than the section of Busby's Bore) are located within the subject site. The site retains low to moderate historical archaeological potential for an archaeological resource relating to the Engineers/Military Depot, as well as the potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits.

The significance of the existing Sydney Football Stadium relates to its presence within the surrounding landscape, its distinctive and innovative architectural design (for stadiums of its type at the time) and most importantly for providing a stadium that could continue to facilitate key sporting and recreational events within the wider Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) site. The physical fabric of the extant stadium itself, whilst of architectural merit, and representative of innovation at its time of construction, does not, however, embody or represent, the key intangible values of the site. The SFS redevelopment site's key significance relates to the site's intangible heritage values, which include the documented and verbal accounts of key sporting events, including major sporting milestones/events, outstanding sporting achievements, spectacular failures, sporting controversies, major recreational events and a range of activities where the event, not the stadium was always the key focus of the site's significance. Historically, the subject site has been key in the development of colonial Sydney, with its association to the construction of Busby's Bore, the Sydney Common, use as Military Barracks and the former Sydney Showground and internationally acclaimed motor speedway.

Culturally, the site has and remains, highly significant to the local Aboriginal community.

As part of preparing an appropriate Interpretation Strategy for the subject site that would meet with the NSW Heritage Division requirements and guidelines, the key historical phases of the site's history and significance were assessed by Curio Projects against the NSW State Heritage Themes and local sub-themes were identified for the Sydney Football Stadium. According to Curio Project's research, the local themes exist within an interpretive scenario, in which the intangible heritage of events that happened at the SFS and the development of the site within the context of green, public space, are a crucial part of the site's significance. This report provides information for interpretive elements that could be installed under Stage 2 of the redevelopment, or in future redevelopments.

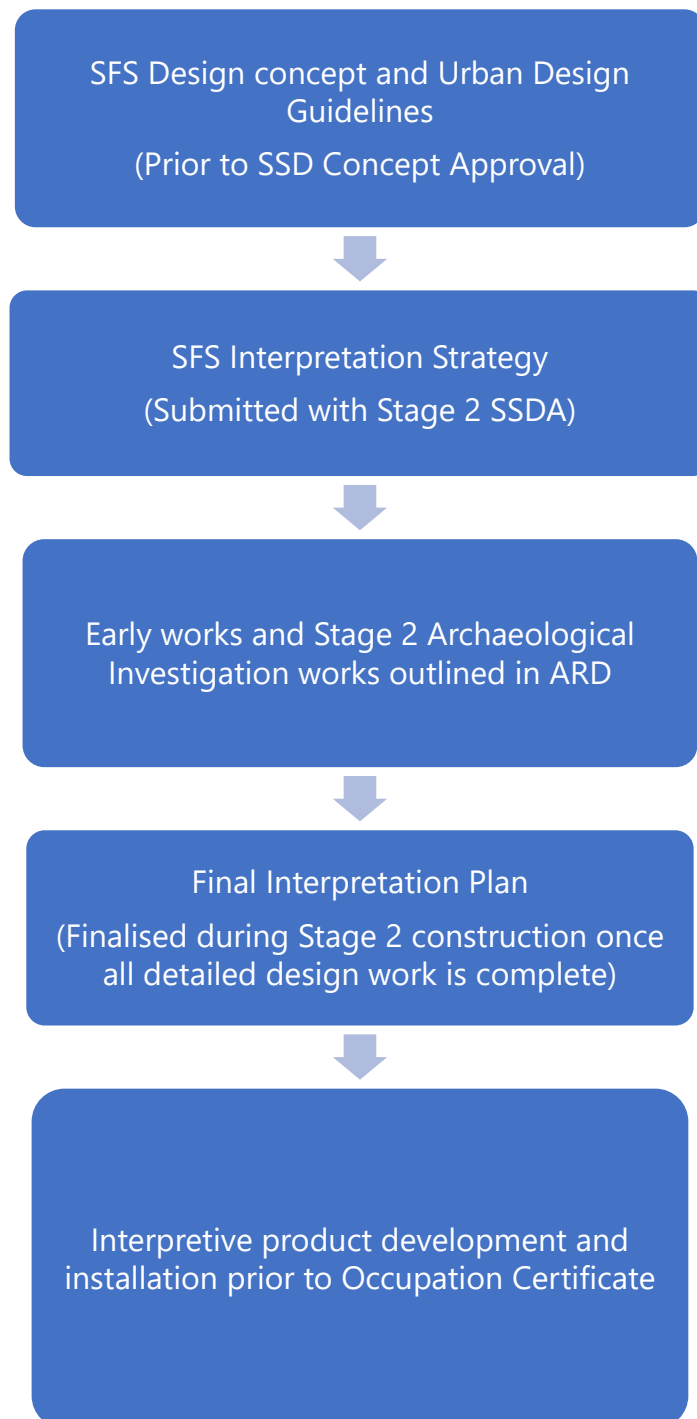
The interpretation elements suggested for the SFS redevelopment include:

- Landscape design
- Fabric selection for public realm and stadium
- Inlays in landscape and text panels
- Site specific artworks
- Projections
- Existing sculptures
- Digital solutions
- Public program of activities/activations

This report does not include a full assessment of the potential Aboriginal Cultural Heritage significance (intangible values) of the site but does include information regarding the process of consultation with key Aboriginal stakeholders, as undertaken as part of the Stage 2 SSDA process. Ongoing and future consultation and engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders will inform the themes and storylines and proposed products outlined in this report related to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. A process of Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) consultation guidelines has been carried out by Curio Projects as part of the Stage 2 application (see Curio Projects 2019a, *SFS Redevelopment Stage 2 SSDA, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report*, prepared for INSW).

The below diagram shows the Interpretation process for the SFS site.





## 1. Introduction

Curio Projects Pty Ltd (Curio Projects) have been commissioned by Infrastructure NSW to prepare a Heritage Interpretation Strategy (Interpretation Strategy; or 'IS') for the redevelopment of the Sydney Football Stadium (SFS), located at 40-44 Driver Avenue, Moore Park (the subject site).

The SFS redevelopment is a State Significant Development (SSD) in accordance with Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). A staged approach to the planning application is proposed which includes:

- Stage 1—Concept Proposal for the stadium envelope and supporting retail and functional uses as well as development consent for the carrying out of early works, including demolition of the existing facility and associated structures.
- Stage 2—Detailed design, construction and operation of the stadium and supporting businesses, retail and functional uses.

Development consent was granted for the Concept Proposal and detailed approval to carry out early works and demolition (SSD 18\_9249) by the Minister for Planning on 6 December 2018. Concept Plan approved works have commenced on site.

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

*Provide a Heritage Interpretation Plan such that the history and significance of the site is interpreted and incorporated as part of the detailed design of the site including the landscaping, public domain areas and new stadium itself.*

This report also fulfils the Mitigation Measure from the SSD 9249 Concept Approval Development Consent that states:

### **CP-HER4**

*A Heritage Interpretation Strategy is to be prepared by a qualified person(s) for submission with the Stage 2 Development Application.*

### 1.1. Objectives of the Interpretation Strategy

The key objective of this Interpretation Strategy is to ensure that the heritage values present within the subject site are adequately integrated – through interpretive elements – into current and future development, upgrade and refurbishment programs at Sydney Football Stadium.

The overarching interpretive framework provided in this report will function as a basis to develop interpretive heritage solutions that are built upon the key historic themes and stories of Sydney Football Stadium, its wider connection to Moore Park and Centennial Parklands and the suburbs of Paddington and Surry Hills, in addition to the multiple groups who use the site daily and for events.

The key objectives of this Interpretation Strategy are to:

- Identify and summarise the key interpretive themes and messages for the subject site;

- Identify relevant key interpretive themes and messages that tie into the wider precinct, including Moore Park and Centennial Parklands, Busby's Bore, Victoria Barracks, Fox Studios and the Entertainment Quarter and the suburbs of Paddington and Surry Hills;
- Identify opportunities and constraints for integrating interpretive elements within the redeveloped site;
- Provide a clear, overarching interpretive framework for future redevelopment being undertaken on the site.

This Interpretation Strategy has been prepared in accordance with current best practice guidelines and methods for the interpretation of heritage in NSW. These include key documents:

- *Heritage Information Series: Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines* (NSW Heritage Office 2005)
- *Heritage Information Series: Heritage Interpretation Policy* (NSW Heritage Council and NSW Government Department of Planning 2005)
- *Australia ICOMOS, 2013 The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (The Burra Charter)

## 1.2. Background

The redevelopment of the SFS site provides a significant opportunity to install heritage interpretation initiatives within the site, relating to the history of the environment, Aboriginal cultural heritage and significance, Busby's Bore, early use of Sydney Common, military use and association, as well as the rich sporting history reaching back to the opening of the Sydney Sports Ground in the late 1880s.

The proposed historical themes and interpretation opportunities have been developed with reference to existing interpretation at the site and in the wider precinct including interpretation initiatives of Centennial Parkland and Moore Park Trust and the City of Sydney. These initiatives are outlined in Section 3 of this report. The proposed interpretation solutions have been developed in reference to Aspect Studios and SJB Architects project documentation: *Sydney Football Stadium, State Significant Development Application, Landscape and Public Domain, Rev.9*, Aspect Studios (2019) and *Urban Design Guidelines*, SJB Architects (2018). The proposed interpretive elements have been developed in collaboration with the SC&SG Trust and with Aboriginal custodians and community associated with the site.

In 2012, Godden Mackay Logan (GML) prepared a draft site wide Interpretation Strategy for the SCG site, including the SFS Redevelopment site. The draft Interpretation Strategy was not finalised and has not been endorsed by the SC&SG Trust or Heritage Council of NSW, however, the strategy has been reviewed in developing this IS and relevant information included in this document.

## 1.3. Limitations and Constraints

This report has been prepared using the historical data and documentation available for the site, and in particular, utilises the historical information contained in previous heritage studies prepared for SFS and its surrounds.

This report does not include a full assessment of the potential Aboriginal Cultural Heritage significance (intangible values) of the site. Details of consultation with the local Aboriginal community are included in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared by Curio Projects for the Stage 2 SSDA. Consultation with the Aboriginal community will be undertaken further through subsequent stages of the Interpretative process, to be integrated into the final content of the IS at a later date (prior to Occupation Certificate, as part of the product implementation stages), specifically in relation to developing the historical themes and storylines with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage content.

## 1.4. Authorship

This report was prepared by Claire Hickson, Senior Heritage Specialist, Curio Projects Pty Ltd. Natalie Vinton, Director, and Sam Cooling, Senior Archaeologist, both of Curio Projects, provided senior review.

## 1.5. Glossary of Abbreviations in this report

<b>CC</b>	Conditions of Consent
<b>CMP</b>	Conservation Management Plan
<b>IP</b>	Heritage Interpretation Plan
<b>REF</b>	Review of Environmental Factors
<b>SCG</b>	Sydney Cricket Ground
<b>SC&amp;SG</b>	Sydney Cricket and Sports Grounds
<b>SFS</b>	Sydney Football Stadium
<b>SHR</b>	State Heritage Register
<b>SSD</b>	State Significant Development

## 2. Site Context

### 2.1. Sydney Football Stadium

The site is located at 40-44 Driver Avenue, Moore Park within the Sydney Cricket Ground Precinct. It is bound by Moore Park Road on the north, Paddington Lane to the east, the existing SCG stadium to the south and Driver Avenue to the west. The site is located within the City of Sydney local government area.

The site is legally described as Lots 1528 and 1530 in Deposited Plan 752011 and Lot 1 in Deposited Plan 205794. This site is Crown Land, with the SCSG Trust designated as the sole trustee under the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Act 1978.

The Sydney Football Stadium itself is not individually listed on any statutory heritage register, but does include part of the State Heritage Listed (SHR) Busby's Bore (SHR #00568, LEP #I1) (approximately along the northern boundary of the site), is located within the boundaries of the Sydney Cricket Ground Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) (Sydney LEP 2010, HCA C37), and also is located in close proximity to several other heritage items of both State and local significance, and other adjacent HCAs. No individual heritage items (other than a section of Busby's Bore) are located within the subject site.

In a broader context, the site is surrounded by Centennial and Moore Parks, the Fox Studios and Entertainment Quarter precincts and the residential suburb of Paddington. Located approximately 3km from the Sydney CBD and approximately 2km from Central Station, the site is connected to Sydney's transport network through existing bus routes and will benefit from a dedicated stop on the soon to be completed Sydney CBD and South East Light Rail.

The locational context of the site is shown in Figure 2.1, whilst the site boundaries and existing site features are shown in Figure 2.2.





Figure 2.1: Regional Site Context (Source: Ethos Urban)



Figure 2.2: Site Area and Local Context

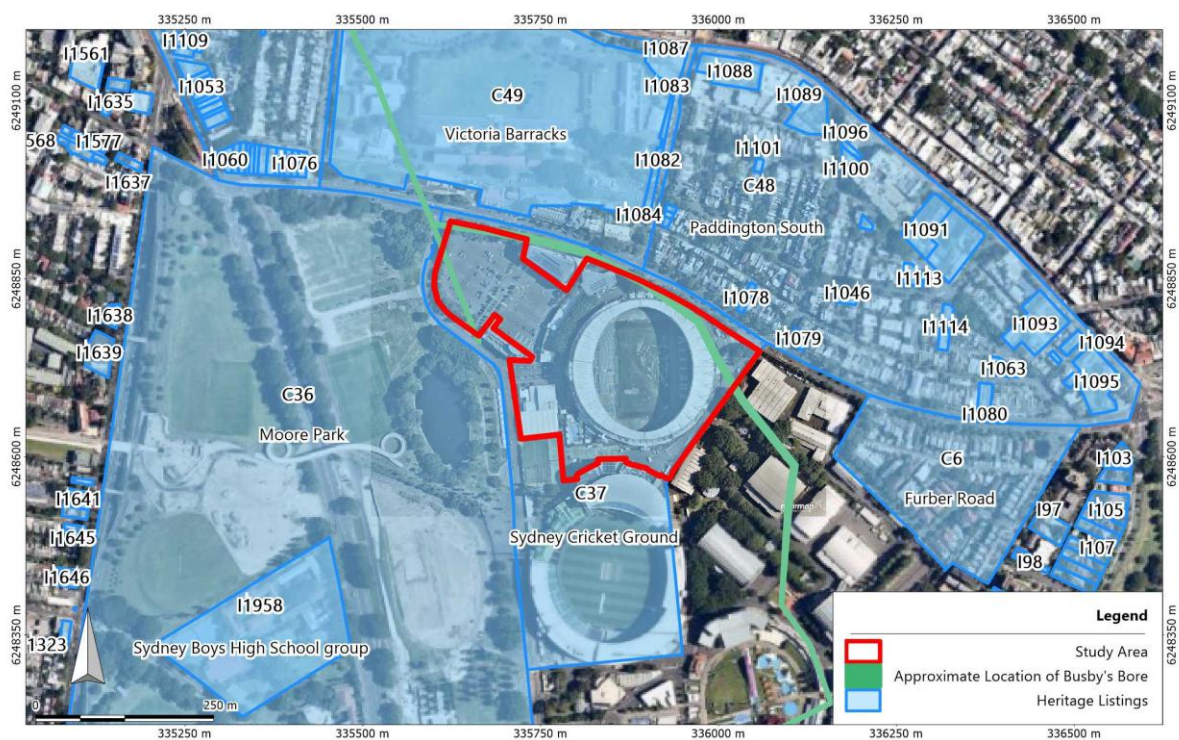


## 2.2. Heritage items in the vicinity

The State heritage listed 'Sydney Cricket Ground Members Stand and Lady Members Stand' (SHR #00353) is located to the south of the subject site. Other adjacent heritage items and HCAs include:

- Victoria Barracks Group—75 Oxford Street/Moore Park Road (LEP Heritage Item #I1086)
- Victoria Barracks HCA (LEP C49)
- Paddington South HCA (LEP C48)
- Moore Park HCA (LEP C36)
- Centennial Park, Moore Park, Queens Park (SHR #01384)
- Terrace house "Verulam" including interior and front face fence—284 Moore Park Road (LEP Heritage Item #I1078)
- Olympic Hotel including interior—308 Moore Park Road (LEP Heritage Item #I1079)

Busby's Bore is also listed on Sydney Water S170 Heritage and Conservation Register, and the Mature Moreton Bay Fig tree on Moore Park Road (adjacent to the Moore Park Road entrance to the SFS) is listed on the City of Sydney Register of Significant Trees.



Project: Sydney Football Stadium  
Client: Infrastructure NSW  
Datum: Australia MGA94 (56)

Drawn By: Kieren Watson  
Date: 2.5.2019

Figure 2.3: Heritage Map (Source: Curio 2019)

## 3. Historical Overview

This chapter provides a brief timeline summary of the historical phases of use that occurred at the SFS Redevelopment site, provided for context and easy reference (Table 3.1). For a full historical overview, reference should be made to the Stage 2 HIS (Curio Projects 2019).

The Moore Park area of Sydney is part of the traditional lands of the Gadigal people, which stretches along the southern side of Sydney Harbour from South Head, west to approximately Darling Harbour, and south towards Botany Bay. The Sydney region has two main language groups: Darug—with two main dialects, one spoken along the coast, and another in the hinterland/Cumberland Plain region of western Sydney; and Tharawal—spoken to the south of Botany Bay. Within the Darug language group, people belonged to smaller family/territorial groups or clans, through which they were connected to, and occupied, different areas of land across Sydney, of which the Gadigal people are one.

At the time of arrival of the First Fleet and Captain Arthur Phillip in January 1788, it is estimated that at least 1500 Aboriginal people would have lived along the coastal region between Broken Bay and Botany Bay. While there is limited ethnographic records of the use of the Moore Park area by Aboriginal people upon arrival of colonists in the late 1700s, the dune and wetlands of the Botany Basin in this area would have provided the local Aboriginal people with a rich and diverse resource zone to utilise. Elders from the La Perouse community have provided personal accounts of the collection of food and camping in Centennial Park in the 1930s, due to the presence of the Lachlan Swamps and the resources this landscape provided.

Table 3.1: General Historical Timeline for SFS Site

PHASE	YEAR	DESCRIPTION
<b>PHASE 1</b>  <i>Sydney Common and Victoria Barracks</i> <i>(1811-1849)</i>	<b>1811</b>	'Sydney Common' was dedicated by Governor Macquarie
	<b>1841</b>	Northern part of Sydney Common allocated for Victoria Military Barracks
	<b>1841-1846</b>	Victoria Military Barracks constructed
<b>PHASE 2</b>  <i>Busby's Bore</i> <i>(1827-1859)</i>	<b>1827</b>	Commencement of construction of Busby's Bore
	<b>1837</b>	Completion of Busby's Bore
	<b>1837-1859</b>	Busby's Bore as Sydney's sole fresh water source
	<b>1859</b>	Busby's Bore supplemented by Botany Swamps scheme, completely superseded by 1890
<b>PHASE 3</b>  <i>Rifle Range</i> <i>(1849-1892)</i>	<b>1849</b>	Additional land from the Sydney Common was set aside for a professional military rifle range, related to the Victoria Barracks.



PHASE	YEAR	DESCRIPTION
	<b>1852</b>	Additional 25 acres from Sydney Common dedicated for a 'military garden and cricket ground' (the location of which eventually became Sydney Cricket Ground)
	<b>1862</b>	Additional seven acres was converted into a rifle range for volunteer forces, adjacent to the professional range
	<b>1866</b>	Establishment of Moore Park
	<b>1892</b>	Closure of Rifle Range
<b>PHASE 4</b>  <i>Engineers and Military Depot (1892-1986)</i>	<b>1892</b>	Former Rifle Range converted to headquarters of NSW Field Engineer Corps
	<b>c1910s</b>	Use as training facility for electrical and signal engineers prior to WW1.
	<b>1914</b>	Use of military reserve/depot by School of Military Engineering during WW1.
	<b>1918</b>	School of Military Engineering disbanded
	<b>1920</b>	Reduction of size of original land area granted to Engineer Corp to 9 acres, eastern part of land transferred to Royal Agricultural Society.  Transfer of Central Training Depot to Casula, transition from Military School to division headquarters of field units.
	<b>1939</b>	Development during WW2, erection of a series of pre-fabricated huts, the establishment of the National Emergency Service and the construction of anti-aircraft trenches in Moore Park and other surrounding parklands.
	<b>1970s</b>	Removal of prefabricated huts and gradual reduction of Military Depot facilities.
	<b>1986</b>	Transfer of Military Depot to NSW Government, all structures demolished for construction of SFS.

PHASE	YEAR	DESCRIPTION
<b>PHASE 5</b>  <i>Sydney Sports Ground</i> <i>(1899-1987)</i>	<b>1899</b>	Part of the former rifle range and military depot (fronting Moore Park Road) was rededicated as an 'Athletic Sports Ground'
	<b>1901</b>	Survey and fencing of the boundaries in 1901, followed by partial filling of the site to level the playing field area, and form an embankment along the Moore Park Road frontage and along the eastern boundary.
	<b>1902</b>	Came to be known as 'Sydney Sports Ground'
	<b>1907</b>	Initial facilities present including, grandstand, cycle track, dressing shed for players, rooms for trustees and office support. Capacity of 20,000
	<b>1908</b>	Second grandstand constructed.
	<b>1914</b>	Frequent use of temporary military encampments and use as a place of enlistment during WW1.
	<b>Early 1930s</b>	Removal of cycle track, construction of new main stand (Turner Stand), press box, scoreboard, floodlight towers, turnstile building, and public bar. Slight enlargement of land and rededication and for 'Athletic Sports and Public Amusements'
	<b>1951</b>	Administrative control of SCG and SSG brought under newly created Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust
	<b>1955</b>	Closure of use of SSG as 'Sydney Speedway'- major racetrack in Australia at the time.
	<b>1970s</b>	Discussions begin about upgrade of sporting facilities at Moore Park
	<b>1987</b>	Sydney Sports Ground closed and demolished for SFS construction

PHASE	YEAR	DESCRIPTION
<b>PHASE 6</b>  <i>Sydney Football Stadium</i> <i>(1988-Present)</i>	<b>1988</b>	Sydney Football Stadium Constructed and Opened
	<b>1997</b>	NSW Cricket Centre Constructed
	<b>2007</b>	Waratahs and Rooster Building constructed
	<b>2008</b>	Sheridan Building constructed
	<b>2019</b>	Former SFS demolished to allow for construction of new stadium

## 4. Interpretive Context

### 4.1. Interpretation within the NSW Heritage Conservation Framework

The conservation of cultural heritage values in NSW is a process which includes a combination of many key initiatives, ranging from the conservation of buildings, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites and moveable heritage objects through to the interpretation of tangible and intangible heritage values, and a combination of both physical conservation and interpretation.

Conservation of fabric alone, whether it is a building, an artefact or a more complex cultural landscape, when not supported by active interpretation, often fails to connect with site users and other community members. Interpretation is an important tool for ensuring that significant places and stories are remembered, understood and appreciated by the people who use and visit these places from day to day.

#### 4.1.1. NSW Heritage Division Interpretation Policy

The NSW Heritage Council Interpretation Policy Statement (2005) notes that:

*The interpretation of New South Wales' heritage connects the communities of New South Wales with their heritage and is a means of protecting and sustaining heritage values.*

*Heritage interpretation is an integral part of the conservation and management of heritage items and is relevant to other aspects of environmental and cultural management and policy. Heritage interpretation incorporates and provides broad access to historical research and analysis.*

*Heritage interpretation provides opportunities to stimulate ideas and debate about Australian life and values, and the meaning of our history, culture and the environment. The Heritage Office, Department of Planning, is committed to encouraging imaginative, inclusive and accurate interpretation of the heritage of New South Wales and to establishing and sustaining best practices in content, methodology, implementation and evaluation of heritage interpretation.*

The Heritage Office aims to:

- Promote the interpretation of the heritage in New South Wales;
- Acknowledge the associations and meanings of heritage to the community;
- Integrate heritage interpretation in environmental and cultural planning;
- Encourage high standards and skills in heritage interpretation.

#### 4.1.2. Burra Charter Principles for Interpretation

In 1999 the Burra Charter was revised in order to emphasise the importance of interpretation to the process of conserving significant cultural heritage sites and places. 'Interpretation' as defined by the Burra Charter means 'all ways of presenting the cultural significance of the place'.

Article 24.1 of the Burra Charter states that:

*'Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.'*

Article 25 also notes that:

*'The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretations should enhance understanding and enjoyment and be culturally appropriate.'*

It also contains Practice Notes to provide guidance on the interpretation of places of cultural significance.<sup>1</sup>

## 4.2. Existing Interpretation at Sydney Football Stadium

The SCG stadium is outside of the subject site for the current SFS redevelopment, however, as the SCG and SFS are managed together by the SC&SG Trust, this report will include a review of all existing interpretation across the SCG and SFS sites, though will only make recommendations for physical interpretive solutions related to the SFS site for the Stage 2 development, as supported by this report. This report does not propose any interpretative works outside of the SFS Redevelopment project boundary. Interpretive solutions that lend themselves to working across both stadiums such as digital solutions will be included for solutions across both stadium sites to allow the potential for integrated future interpretation planning.

A draft Interpretation Strategy prepared by Godden MacKay Logan (GML) in 2012 for the SFS provided an overview of existing interpretation at the site at that time. The Interpretation Strategy was not finalised or endorsed by the SC&SG Trust, nor the Heritage Council of NSW and the SC&SG Trust has since developed interpretive solutions at the site in other ways. Further, the draft Interpretation Strategy did not envisage or make recommendations for the current development (i.e. redevelopment of the SFS), it being unknown at the time, therefore the recommendations of the draft strategy have limited applicability to the current project. Nevertheless, the 2012 GML draft Interpretation Strategy has been reviewed as part of the current project and points that remain relevant and are applicable to the current redevelopment have been considered and incorporated where relevant.

### 4.2.1. The Museum and the Archives Collection

The SCG Museum is located in the ground level of the Ladies Pavilion and is supplemented by an archive located on the mezzanine level of the Members' Pavilion. The Museum holds approximately 2500 items, with the majority of the collection being paper-based, mainly photographs. Other artefacts such as scoreboards, plaques and rollers and turnstiles are kept within the SCG public areas.

The Museum currently welcomes visitors on public tours, from the Sydney Football Club, FOC Tours, School group tours and other group tours. The museum is not currently open to the public except as part of an organised tour.

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<sup>1</sup> Burra Charter Interpretation Practice Notes: [http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/Practice-Note\\_Interpretation.pdf](http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/Practice-Note_Interpretation.pdf)

## 4.2.2. SCG Tour Experience

The SCG Tour experience is a paid, guided tour available three times daily from Monday to Saturday. It is open to the public and group bookings and shows areas of the site not normally open to the public such as backstage areas of the SFS and SCG including players dressing rooms, private suites, the Members' Bar and corporate facilities. The tour also includes the Walk to Honour, Basil Sellers sculptures, movable heritage items, the players ground and the SCG Museum.

These opportunities will be incorporated into the proposed interpretive solutions in Section 8 of this report, along with other interpretive opportunities that could be integrated into the tour post redevelopment of the SFS.

## 4.2.3. Oral History Project

In 2004 the historian Warwick Franks interviewed long-standing members of the SCG Trust, sporting people and other SCG related people such as Trustees to increase SCG historical knowledge.

## 4.2.4. Walk of Honour

The Walk of Honour commemorating 47 well known sportspeople associated with the SCG was opened in 1988. It ran between the Members' entrance and the Members' Pavilion and between the Tennis Courts and Practice Wickets. As a result of the current redevelopment, the Walk of Honour has since been truncated and now joins a 'Wall of Honour'. The Wall of Honour is attached to the atrium of the MA Noble Don Bradman Daily Messenger Stand. It contains plaques displaced as part of the works.

## 4.2.5. Moveable Heritage, Fittings and Fixtures

The SCG includes a number of movable heritage items that are currently on display on site or are in use by ground staff. Examples of items include the steel turnstile, the Barford and Perkins Roller and the Boxer's Roller, all items associated with the management of the SCG site. As these items as specific to the SCG stadium site, they will not be elaborated on further here.

## 4.2.6. Basil Sellers Sport Sculptures

Basil Sellers commissioned NSW sculptors Terrance Plowright and Cathy Weizmann to produce life size sculptures of Australia's finest sportspeople to have competed at the SCG and SFS (Figure 4.1 and 3.2). The sculptures are located across the SFS and SCG sites, with four being within the former SFS stadium concourse, which may be incorporated into the redevelopment. Information related to the people portrayed in the sculptures is included on the SC&SCT website at <https://www.scgt.nsw.gov.au/heritage/scg-sports-sculptures/>



Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2: Richie Benaud and Trevor Allen Sculptures (Source: SC&SCT website)

#### 4.2.7. Media Hall of Honour

The Noble Bradman Messenger Stand contains the SCG Media Hall of Honour. It was launched in 2014 with 15 inductees including Ritchie Benaud, Ray Warren and Norman May.

#### 4.2.8. Pre-Visit Information and SC&SGT Website

The SC&SGT website has a section dedicated to the heritage of the site. Content on the following areas is included on the website: SCG Museum, SCG Sports Sculptures, Memorable Moments in sporting history at the SCG/SFS, the SCG Media Hall of Honour, the SCG Grandstands timeline and Cricketing pioneers and an 'On this day' feature, which draws and displays significant moments from the archive of the SCG Museum. As well as heritage content, the website hosts information about the SC&SG Trust, visitor information, event information and a membership area.

#### 4.2.9. iPhone and Android Applications

The SCG app is available for iPhone and Android users and provides information about events, interactive maps, customer service, visitor information and trip planning. This app supports content for the SCG but not the SFS and does not include any heritage content.

#### 4.2.10. Documentary Resources

The State Library of NSW holds photographic material on the SCG/SFS and there are film and television archival resources available at the Australian Sound and Television Archive, National Library of Australia, State Library of NSW, the National Sports Museum and in newspaper archives.

Two documentary interpretive works on the history of the SCG are *The Grand Old Ground*, 1981 and *Grassy Pitches and Glory Years*, 1998 by Philip Derriman.

### 4.3. Council Initiatives

The City of Sydney has several resources for people to explore the history and heritage of Sydney. Currently published on the City of Sydney website pages are thematic and location based history and heritage projects. There are no specific publications relevant to the subject site found on the current site.



The City of Sydney publication and web resource *Barani* provides Sydney's Aboriginal history and lists one site, the Moore Park Campsite, as part of the 'Early Contact' section. At the Moore Park Campsite, stone artefacts were found in 2014 in a layer of fill, providing information about the lifestyle of Aboriginal people who lived in the region for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans.<sup>2</sup> The Moore Park Campsite is not located in the subject site, but within the neighbouring Moore Park grounds.

#### 4.4. Centennial Parklands Trust Initiatives

The Centennial Parklands Trust website includes interpretive information and resources relevant to the SFS site. The website includes a history of the area, which due to the location of the SFS surrounded by Moore Park and Centennial Park, includes many of the stories outlined in the historical overview for the SFS. The history provided includes: A pre-colonial history; Sydney Common; A water source for Sydney; Creation of Moore Park; A grand new park; Parkes' People's Park; Opening of the People's Park; Growing Centennial Park; Birthplace of the nation; Evolution of the Parklands; Threats to the Parklands; Establishment of the Trust; Centenary of Federation.

The Centennial Parklands Trust has a self-guided tour hosted on the 'izi tours' app called 'Centennial Parklands' that features twelve sites/stories with images and audio designed into a self-walking tour of Centennial Park. Content on Lachlan Swamp and Busby's Bore is included. The app can be accessed here: <https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about-us/apps>

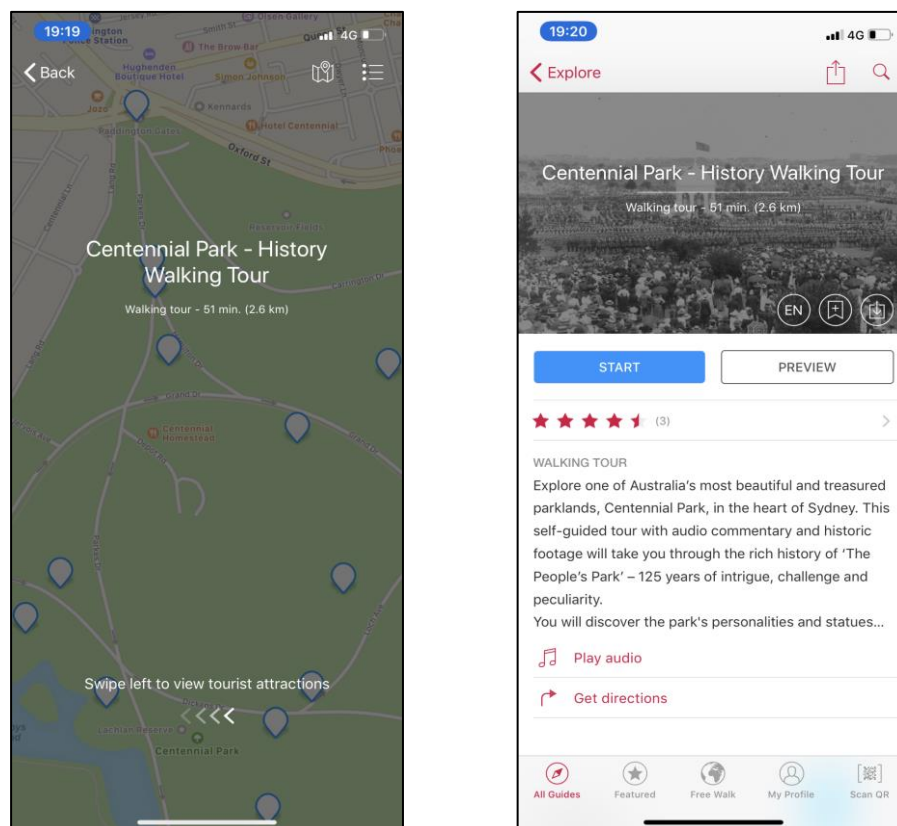


Figure 4.3: Centennial Parklands History Walking Tour, IZI Travel App (Source: IZI Travel App)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sydneybarani.com.au/sites/moore-park-campsite/>



As well as web content and an app based heritage tour; Centennial Parklands run a number of public programs relevant to the heritage at the subject site. Information about public programs is included on their website at <https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/whatson>

Some current program offerings that are relevant to the identified themes of the SFS site are:

- Urban Nature and Mindfulness Retreat
- ParkArts—Tea with an Artist
- Aboriginal Art Class
- Aboriginal Heritage Tour
- Bush Food Picnic

#### 4.5. Key Principles for Interpretation at Sydney Football Stadium

The key principles that underpin the Interpretation Strategy for the Sydney Football Stadium study area include the following as informed by the content of Sections 4.1 to 4.4:

- Highlight the significance of the site, and its surrounds, to the local community and visitors, in consideration of the wider context of the site;
- Recognise the rights of Aboriginal people to interpret their own cultural heritage and ensuring that the development of interpretive products/devices is undertaken in consultation with the local Aboriginal community;
- Ensure that all relevant and significant phases of the site's history are adequately considered and interpreted;
- Acknowledge and consider the ability for interpretation opportunities at the Sydney Football Stadium to link to other interpretation initiatives, public art and strategies, in the surrounding areas (e.g. SCG, City of Sydney area, wider Centennial Parklands and suburbs of Surry Hills and Paddington);
- Ensure that all interpretation is based on thorough historical research that is accurate, has appropriate copyright licenses and able to be accurately cited;
- Ensure that the interpretive products are designed with the end-user and target audience in mind—including the ability to create interest and engage the audience;
- Ensure that the design of the interpretation is able to be well integrated within the final built environment, public domain and landscaping works package for the site, so that it compliments and enhances the overall development and heritage values; and
- Ensure that the ongoing maintenance and care for the interpretation elements has been well considered and able to be implemented, with ease, within cyclical maintenance programs.

## 5. Heritage Significance

### 5.1. Statement of Significance for SFS

A Statement of Significance has been developed for the Sydney Football Stadium site, the assessment process of which is presented in detail within the Stage 2 SSDA HIS (Curio Projects 2019b), as follows:

*Overall, the SFS redevelopment site has historical significance as a key sporting and recreation venue within the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust land (SCG). The subject site includes land that forms part of the SCG Trust land. Its history of land use and development spans from Aboriginal occupation of the site through to acquisition of the land for the Sydney Common; military training and associated recreation grounds (as part of the Victoria Barracks); as well as adaptation from the mid-1880s onwards for use as a formal Sydney sporting and recreation venue.*

*The cultural landscape in which the current SFS sits has a rich, highly significant history, and possible archaeological resource, which relate to the early military training and recreational uses, the first cricket ground, and other now-demolished significant historical sporting venues, such as the Sydney Sports Grounds no. 1 and no. 2.*

*The site's significance is embedded in the history of the site – people's recollections of key events, the memorable stories of great sporting triumphs, the major sporting achievements and the major failures that occurred at that site over many generations. The recorded events at the SFS site, including world record motorbike and speed car races, motor racing deaths, as well as major music and athletic events that were held at the various former and current stadia across the SCG site are the key intangibles values that underpin the SCG site's overall heritage significance.*

*In particular, the high social and cultural significance of the site as a place to watch and celebrate major sporting and recreational events has ensured that the site has continued to evolve and improve since its informal use as a sporting and recreation ground for the military in the mid- 1800s through to the present time.*

*The current c.1988 SFS represents a key phase in the continuous evolution, modification and use of the precinct for major training, sporting and recreational events since the late 1800s.*

*The site has high significance as having been a major source of natural fresh water for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The swampy landscape with natural springs would have been utilised by Aboriginal people prior to the clearing of the site for use as the Sydney Common.*

*The presence of the Lachlan Swamp and natural springs directly led to the construction of Busby's Bore which was Sydney's most significant fresh water supply from the mid 1830s through to the mid-1850s.*

*As a result, the overall SFS Redevelopment site has associative significance related to Busby's Bore, as well as the historical and associative significance of the land as an ongoing place of Australian military training and recreational grounds, sporting endeavours, recreational events and achievement.*

*The site location has high Aboriginal archaeological potential (scientific significance) and is likely to have Aboriginal social and cultural significance as part of a wider Aboriginal cultural landscape (to be further determined and confirmed through ongoing Aboriginal community consultation through the current project).*

*The Sydney Football Stadium has a commanding presence as a landmark Tier 1 Stadium within its surrounding precinct. The stadium was built by prominent architects, Philip Cox and was designed in such a way that it has not directly affected the main ground of the historic, heritage listed SCG.*

*The stadium is historically significant for being one of 4 iconic projects that were designed by Cox for completion as part of the Australian Bicentennial celebrations in 1988. The series of Bicentennial projects were seminal to the development of the Philip Cox and Partners Architectural Practice. Most importantly, the SFS stadium is historically significant for housing key sporting and recreational events from c.1988 – present.*

*The amount of change which has occurred on the SCG site is a noteworthy (and significant) aspect of the precinct's management. It has continued to change and develop with changing technologies and spectator and member expectations with an emphasis on retaining traditional functions on site and commemoration rather than on conservation of built and landscape fabric.*

*In conclusion, the primary significance of the Sydney Football Stadium relates to the subject site's continuity of use for more than 150 years for local, State, National and International sporting and recreational events.*

## 5.2. Other Heritage Listings

The significance of the SFS Redevelopment site is irrevocably linked and interrelated to that of the heritage sites surrounding it. Therefore, it is important that the significance of these neighbouring and adjacent sites is understood, to be able to further understand the context of the SFS site, historically, aesthetically, and socially. The Statements of Significance for associated heritage sites or adjacent sites are detailed below.

### 5.2.1. Sydney Cricket Ground Members Stand and Lady Members Stand (SHR #00353) and HCA (LEP C37)

The subject site is located wholly within the Sydney Cricket Ground HCA, a HCA of local significance under the Sydney LEP. This HCA includes the State heritage listed 'Sydney Cricket Ground Members Stand and Lady Members Stand'. While the HCA includes the SFS and surrounding area as well as the SCG, the statement of significance for the HCA relates mainly to the SCG itself, stating that:

*An outstanding group of two Federation style grandstands which have established the character of Sydney Cricket Ground. Their designs are complementary and consistent in their form and detail.*

*The establishment of the Sydney Cricket Ground dates from 1854 when matches were played there by members of the Military from Victoria Barracks. From 1876 all major cricket matches were played at these grounds. The earliest grandstands date from around*

*the turn of the century when four grandstands were constructed. Of these, only the Members Stand and the Lady Members Stand survive.<sup>3</sup>*

The heritage listing for the individually listed Members Stand and Lady Members Stand states only that:

*The stands have consistency of form and detail and are possibly the finest examples of their type in New South Wales<sup>4</sup>*

The significance of the SFS subject site in its positioning within this HCA, relates mainly to its part as a whole of the SCG Trust lands and interlinked sporting events and historical development over time.

## 5.2.2. Busby's Bore (SHR #00568)

As described in Section 2.3, part of Busby's Bore passes underground through the northern part of the subject site, with several shafts also located within the site. The Statement of Significance for Busby's Bore states that:

*Busby's Bore is a unique engineering achievement, which played a crucial role in the development of urban Sydney. As a product of convict labour and a major factor in the establishment of local administration in NSW (in the form of the Sydney Corporation) the bore is associated with the important steps that changed Sydney from penal colony to colonial trading port. The fabric of the bore and associated archaeological deposits possess research potential relating to substantive historical and scientific questions relating to 19th century work and technology and to changes in the environment. The intactness of the bore and the fact that it is still in use make it a rare survivor from the first half of the 19th century within urban Sydney.<sup>5</sup>*

Busby's Bore has State significance, which has implications for the path of the tunnel and location of shafts within the SFS, as well as providing historical significance of the site as an instrumental part of the path that provided Sydney's sole water source between 1837–1859.

## 5.2.3. Victoria Barracks Group (LEP #11086) and Victoria Barracks HCA (LEP C49)

The Victoria Barracks Group is a locally listed heritage item on the Sydney LEP 2012. The Victoria Barracks HCA is listed as C49 on the Sydney LEP 2012. While the Victoria Barracks Group individual item inventory sheet does not provide a statement of significance, the statement of significance for the Victoria Barracks HCA can be said to apply for both the individual item, as well as the HCA. The HCA SoS states that:

*The Victoria Barracks precinct is the finest complex of colonial barracks (pre-1850) in Australia and is still in military use. It contains one of the most important groups of Edwardian military buildings in Australia. It is a good and intact example of nineteenth century military barracks planning, evidencing contemporary attitudes to planning, defence, the role of the military and the daily life and operation of the British military. It*

<sup>3</sup> Sydney Cricket Ground HCA, State Heritage Inventory Listing, Available from: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2421500>

<sup>4</sup> Sydney Cricket Ground- Members Stand and Lady Members Stand, Available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045563>

<sup>5</sup> Busby's Bore, State Heritage Register Listing, Available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045164>

*contains a substantial number of buildings, groups of buildings and other features and vegetation of high individual significance. It is the principal physical evidence in New South Wales (NSW) of many of the phases of the State's military history throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The precinct contains one of the best groups of colonial sandstone buildings in NSW and is a very fine example of colonial buildings in the Greek Revival style. The Barracks Precinct provides a strong townscape link between the high-density development of nineteenth century Paddington and the open space of Moore Park. With Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, it is one of the most architecturally imposing nineteenth century military establishments in Australia. It is a precinct in Sydney containing a rare consistency of periods, materials and styles, a section of which has an evocative Edwardian character. The precinct is a potentially valuable site for future archaeological investigation of past methods of construction and ways of life. The locations of the original buildings both extant and removed are of particular interest. It survives as the only substantial military barracks complex built in Australia in the early Victorian period. With Anglesea Barracks, Hobart and Lancer Barracks, Parramatta, it is one of the few surviving sites evidencing the British military presence in Australia in the colonial period. The Barracks has the only surviving perimeter wall in NSW which was constructed as a defensive system around the barrack complex.<sup>6</sup>*

Following the establishment of the Victoria Barracks in 1841, the military very quickly took occupation of additional land on the southern side of what is now Moore Park Road, within the subject site, to form first the rifle range in 1849, and then the Engineers Depot in 1892, which functioned until resumption of the land in 1986 for the construction of the SFS. Therefore, the subject site land has historical association and significance for its long-term association with military endeavours due to its land positioning across the road from the Victoria Barracks.

#### 5.2.4. Centennial Park, Moore Park, Queens Park (SHR #01384) and Moore Park HCA (LEP C36)

Two relevant heritage listings encompass Moore Park, immediately adjacent to the west of the subject site: Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park state heritage register listing, and the Moore Park HCA (Sydney LEP). The Statement of Significance for the overall Centennial Parklands (including Centennial Park and Queens Park, as well as Moore Park) states that:

*Centennial Parklands is a unique place of exceptional National, State and Local heritage significance. It is a grand, linked open space of largely nineteenth-century landscape design intended for social and physical activity.*

*The Parklands has developed at the head of the Botany Bay catchment in an area originally part of the territory of the Gadi people on lands designated in 1811 as the Sydney Common.*

*The Parklands retains evidence of the original landforms and plays a vital role in sustaining natural processes and biological diversity on a scale that is rare in the inner urban environment.*

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<sup>6</sup> Victoria Barracks HCA, State Heritage Inventory Listing, Available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2421504>

*The Parklands has national significance as the place of the inauguration of the nation, the creation of a People's Park, events, persons and monuments of national importance. The place also has strong associations with convict heritage, pathways and transportation routes, water supply, horticultural and agricultural experimentation, nature conservation, military use, and a diversity of sport, recreation and cultures.<sup>7</sup>*

The Statement of Significance specific to the Moore Park HCA states that:

*The Conservation Area, which comprises Moore Park, Sydney Boys High School and Sydney Girls High School, has state historic, aesthetic and social significance.*

*The area is of historic significance for being part of the Sydney Common which was reserved by Governor Macquarie 1811 and for having evolved over time from being essentially grazing land to being a public park with passive and active recreation, as well as the location of two high schools.*

*The parklands are representative of a mid - nineteenth century trend which established large landscaped parks for healthy recreation of all social classes and as a relic from cramped living conditions and industrial centres. They also have historical associations with Charles Moore, Mayor of Sydney (1867-1869) and Charles Moore, Director of Sydney's Botanic Gardens.*

*Moore Park is of aesthetic significance for its large expanse of open space and important tree plantings, as well as numerous elements including the entry gates and five memorial fountains. The majestic fig trees, which are set off the expansive fields, or line the main roadways including Anzac Parade, Federation Way, Cleveland Street, Lang Road, Dacey Avenue, South Dowling Street and Moore Park Road, are significant landscape elements.*

*Sydney Boys High School and Sydney Girls High School are significant for their inter-war buildings, their educational role and their association with past and present students, teachers and parents. The schools are also the site of the Bear Pits which are rare surviving remains of what was Sydney's first zoo that was established on land granted by Sydney City Council in 1879 and occupied by the Zoo until 1916 when it moved to its second and current home at Taronga Zoo.*

*The area also has a Toll House, at the corner of Lang Road and Anzac Parade, which is exceptionally significant for its rarity as the only surviving metropolitan tollhouse and the only two -storey toll house in New South Wales.*

*The parklands, with its high level of recreational usage are held in high esteem by the local and wider community.<sup>8</sup>*

The significance of Moore Park, as it relates to the SFS is mainly the aesthetic and historical significance as continuing parkland, originally part of the wider Sydney Common.

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<sup>7</sup> Centennial Park, Moore Park, Queens Park, State Heritage Inventory Listing, Available from: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045397>

<sup>8</sup> Moore Park HCA, State Heritage Inventory Listing, Available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2421489>



## 5.2.5. Paddington South Heritage Conservation Area (LEP C48)

The Statement of Significance for the Paddington South HCA states that:

*The Paddington South Heritage Conservation Area has historic significance as an area of early grants including Gordon's Grant which developed to service the Victoria Barracks and as an 1860-1880 residential subdivision of the Sydney Common. On part of an early grant to Charles Gordon is the site of an early wind driven flour mill in the vicinity of Stewart Place.*

*The area is significant for the high concentration of Victorian institutional and religious establishments resulting from the original dedication of the land as Sydney Common. The area has aesthetic values for its fine highly consistent streetscapes comprising rows of middle and working class terrace housing, overlaying undulating topography.<sup>9</sup>*

The significance of the Paddington South HCA as it relates to the SFS subject site, refers to the adjacent urban development of the Paddington South area, in conjunction with the presence of the Sydney Commons and Victoria Barracks. More importantly, any significant views and vistas to and from the Paddington South HCA should be considered for the current SFS redevelopment project.

## 5.3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance

The following Statement of Significance with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage significance for the SFS Redevelopment site has been drawn from the Stage 2 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) (Curio Projects 2019a). For more detailed assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the site, direct reference to the Stage 2 ACHAR should be made.

*Project RAPs [Registered Aboriginal Parties] have indicated that the SFS Redevelopment site/Moore Park area itself, as well as the study areas a wider component of the southeastern Sydney peninsula, has high social significance. The study area and surrounds are particularly noted as having high social (cultural) and spiritual significance to the La Perouse Aboriginal community, who maintain an unbroken connection to the land, whose ancestors lived in study area and surrounds (the wider southeastern peninsula region) right up until forced removal to La Perouse mission in the 1880s due to the establishment of the Aborigines Protection Board.*

*The site also holds moderate historical significance for its landscape positioning within the eastern Sydney peninsula as part of a wider significant Aboriginal landscape, as well as more contemporary significance to the Aboriginal community for its significant Aboriginal sporting history.*

*While it is not yet possible to determine the nature and extent of any Aboriginal archaeological deposit at the study area without investigating the site physically, should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be present, it would potentially be of moderate research potential (high research potential should post-contact sites be present), with low to moderate education potential, and potentially moderate significance as part of the wider Aboriginal landscape of Sydney's southeastern peninsula.*

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<sup>9</sup> Paddington South HCA, State Heritage Inventory Listing, Available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2421492>

*The cultural significance of the study area and surrounds is likely to be more related to the intangible values over the aesthetic values of the SFS site. However, landscape features outside of, but in close proximity to the study area, such as Moore Park and the wider Centennial Parklands, still contribute to the aesthetic values of the SFS site in its wider landscape positioning. Therefore, the study area is considered to have moderate aesthetic significance related to its general landscape positioning in the continuing location of public recreation and sporting activities, with parklands retained (albeit highly modified) in areas of traditional Aboriginal resource zones.*



## 6. Thematic Framework—Historic Themes

### 6.1. The National and State Historic Theme Frameworks

In order to place the history and significance of a place within a broader Australian context, it is important to be able to use an established and widely-recognised framework of historic themes as the basis for determining what are the key historic events at a site that would be considered significant at a local, and then possibly State and National level.

In order to provide a consistent framework for determining appropriate historic themes for a place of cultural significance, the Australian Heritage Commission published a national framework of historic themes in 2001. Nine national key theme groups were identified, with a subset of 84 national subthemes and a further sub-sub set of 116 themes. The NSW Heritage Council developed a series of NSW State-specific themes that are linked to the Australian National Historical Themes (NSW Heritage Council 2001), considering the intent of the national sub-themes. The 36 State historic themes provide the overarching framework for a sub-set of local themes, which are generally relevant to Local Government Area boundaries, and smaller subgroups that have social or local community boundaries. The key National historic themes, from which the NSW State themes flow, are identified as:

1. Australian Historical Theme: Tracing the Natural Evolution of the Australian Environment
2. Australian Historical Theme: Peopling Australia
3. Australian Historical Theme: Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
4. Australian Historical Theme: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities
5. Australian Historical Theme: Working
6. Australian Historical Theme: Educating
7. Australian Historical Theme: Governing
8. Australian Historical Theme: Australia's Cultural Life
9. Australian Historical Theme: Marking the Phases of Life

### 6.2. Discussion of GML 2012 Draft Interpretation Strategy for SC&SG

In 2012 Godden Mackay Logan (GML) prepared a draft Interpretation Strategy for the Sydney Cricket Ground site on behalf of the Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust (SCGT) to support Stage 2 of a development process that involved construction of a new stand replacing the MA Noble and Bradman Stands within the SCG stadium. The draft Interpretation Strategy was oriented towards the SCG and focused on the SFS in terms of its relationship in the broader sporting precinct. It did not envisage the redevelopment of the SFS, nor investigate opportunities for interpretation of the SFS site in detail, and therefore has limited applicability to the SFS redevelopment.

As the SFS does not have the same level of material significance as the SCG, the significance of this site is in the events that happened there and the context of the parkland precinct. Therefore, the historical associations, themes and storylines from the SCG draft Interpretation Strategy will be utilised in this report where applicable, otherwise a broader view that is more focused on the significance of activity at the SFS site itself and surrounding areas has been developed.

## 6.3. Key Historic Themes and Associations for Sydney Football Stadium

It is essential to understand and communicate the meaning of the SFS/SC&SG precinct in the context of its geographic and historical context. The SCG draft Interpretation Strategy provides a useful overview of the context of the SCG and SFS sites and linkages to National and State themes, stating that:

*There is a strong relationship between the establishment of the SCG and the historic phases and processes that preceded it; primarily associated with the dedication of the land for public use for different purposes, but each associated with the development of Sydney as a whole. The Sydney Common dedication was aimed at allowing the orderly development of inner city and Hyde Park in particular. The creation of the Busby's Bore reservation within this land is a testament to the incredible importance this water supply system was to the new colony following the pollution of the Tank Stream and, therefore, of its heritage values. The national historic themes of 'Developing Local, Regional and National Economies' and Building Settlements, Towns and Cities are most strongly associated with this aspect.*

*The broader public use of the lands established as the Sydney Common for sporting and other recreation activities are a very important part of the development of Sydney. The connection between the SCG and the broader recreation landscapes of Moore Park and Centennial Park are also very important, as is the history of public access to these recreations via tram and bus.*

*The key point here is that even before addressing the cultural landscape value of the SCG for cricket and other sporting events, the high cultural landscape values of the SCG precinct's links to early Sydney need to be interpreted.*

*The establishment of the SCG precinct is also strongly associated with the history of the military occupation of Victoria Barracks and nearby lands. Not only did the military rifle range become part of the SCG precinct, but the actual reservation of these lands as a cricket oval was by the military. This underscores the historic connection between sport and colonial/military processes. The theme of 'Governing' and subthemes of 'Defence' are important here.*

*The national themes of 'Developing Australia's Cultural Life' and subthemes of 'Organising Recreation' and 'Playing and Watching Organised Sports' are key ones in relation to the development of the SCG and activities there. Key aspects are the changes in the range of sporting activities that reflect changes in society interests and attitudes, changes within sports themselves, the relationship between the sports administrators and the administrators of the land, as well as the associated aspects of members (relating the land) and other spectators (relating the use of the land for various sports). Underlying all these aspects are the physical changes to the land and the range of buildings and facilities that reflect these themes.*

Based on the historical overview and heritage significance of the SFS presented in this report, and national and state themes noted above, the local themes specific to the SFS subject site identified by Curio Projects are:

- Ever-changing Landscapes

- Country as Provider
- Urban Life and Public Spaces
- From Colony to City
- Recreation, Entertainment and Leisure

The themes developed by Curio Projects are presented below in Sections 6.3.1 to 6.3.5, accompanied by a summary of the theme, links and associations with other themes, connection to the National and State historic themes and options for storylines.

The proposed themes for the site are broad and inclusive of differing perspectives of historical events and the development of Sydney and Australia. The thematic approach is to present holistic themes and include many of the intangible values associated with the site described in Section 5.

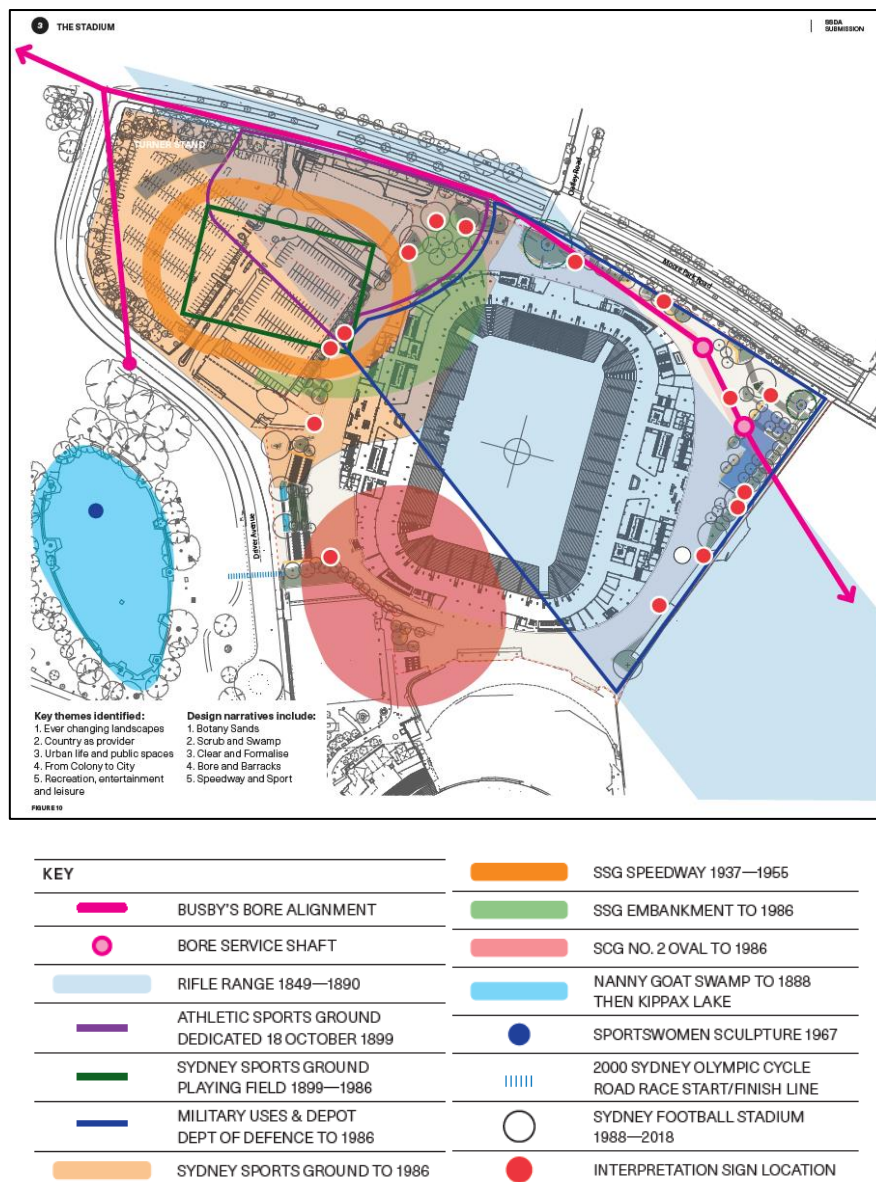
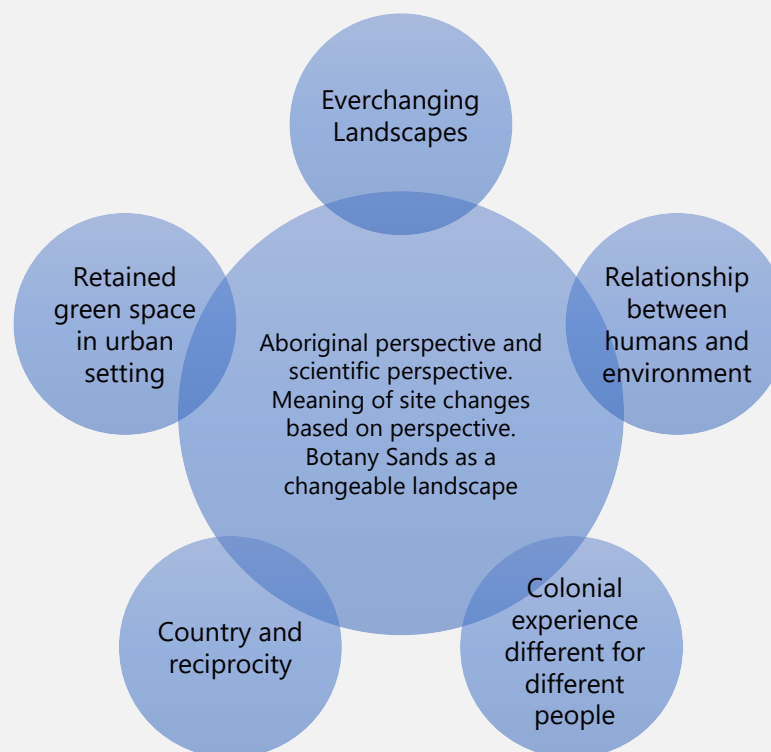


Figure 6.1: Heritage Interpretation Overlay  
(Source: ASPECT 2019, developed by Curio and ASPECT)

## 6.3.1. Ever-changing Landscapes

AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME	NSW STATE THEME	LOCAL THEME IDENTIFIED BY CURIO PROJECTS
1. Tracing the evolution of the Australian environment	Environment – naturally evolved	Ever changing landscape
2.1 Living as Australia's first inhabitants	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	Ever changing landscape



## SUMMARY—Ever-changing Landscapes

\* The proposed theme will be developed in collaboration with Aboriginal project partners/advisors.

The theme 'Ever-changing Landscapes' presents the natural and cultural landscape of the site from Aboriginal and scientific perspectives. The story of how the landscape was created and the meaning of the site and the region to Aboriginal people will be presented. The development of the content and direction for this story will be informed by the ongoing process of engagement and consultation with Aboriginal community process at this site. A significant concept to present within this theme is the changes to Aboriginal life and use of the land in the Sydney region post colonisation and through the 1800s, 1900s and up to current day.

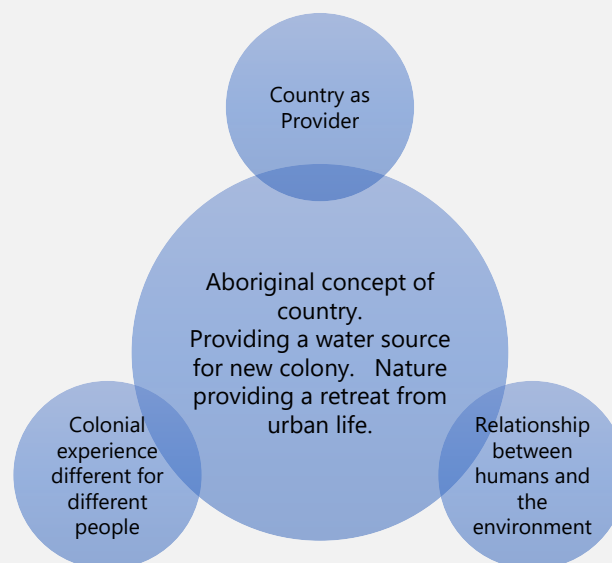
The geological/scientific understanding of the site is also an important concept in this theme. The site is in the geological region of Botany Sands, characterised by wetlands, swamps and sand dunes with an underlying layer of interbedded clays, peats and sands. By nature, sand dune environments are constantly shifting, adjusting and changing, a feature that carries through to the multi-use of the site post occupation.

## STORIES

- The Aboriginal concept of country and scale of countries across the Australian continent.
- Local story of creation of country.
- Oral history /memories of Aboriginal people using the area.
- The changing experience for Aboriginal people as land in Sydney was used for other purposes.
- The story of finding the Moore Park Camp site what it can tell us about Aboriginal lifestyle pre-colonisation.
- The remnant landscapes in Centennial Parklands/Moore Park and how they support biodiversity and cultural learning.

## 6.3.2. Country as Provider

AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME	NSW STATE THEME	LOCAL THEME IDENTIFIED BY CURIO PROJECTS
2.1 Living as Australia's first inhabitants	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	Country as provider
4.2 Supplying urban services	Utilities	Country as provider
8.1 Organising recreation (8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens, 8.1.4 Enjoying the natural environment)	Leisure	Country as provider
8.13 Living in cities and suburbs	Not applicable	Country as provider



## SUMMARY

\* This proposed theme will be developed in collaboration with Aboriginal project partners/advisors to ensure culturally appropriate.

*The current idea for this theme is that the concept of Country will be explored from an Aboriginal perspective, explaining the reciprocal relationship with country and the responsibility to look after country. The idea of country providing for people and using resources sustainably and in the right season could be explored. The concept of country as a provider could lead into the ways that the site has been utilised since colonisation; as a water source for the growing colony and as a place to retreat into a natural landscape in an urban landscape.*

The nature of the site as a place that provides for people influenced the use of the site post colonisation. The area around the site provided a source of water for the colony in Sydney as it grew in the early 1800s. Sydney's second water supply, Busby's Bore, took water from Lachlan Swamps through the common and its alignment is through the northern section of the SFS precinct. Like the reservation of the Sydney Common, this use had a fundamental benefit for Sydney as a whole.

The Sydney Common, proclaimed in 1811 was an important part of Governor Macquarie's planning for Sydney, with one of the planning objectives being to move the pasteurising of cattle outside of central Sydney and Hyde Park in a particular. The Common became the first common pasturage for cattle in NSW.

Much of the area surrounding the site was developed into Centennial Parklands and opened in 1888 as a public park. Sir Henry Parkes' vision was to create a 'People's Park' in which the citizens of Sydney could 'take in the air' away from the Sydney Town centre<sup>10</sup>. The Parklands remain as a green space for recreation and leisure in an increasingly urbanised environment. The site continues provide for people, with a place for physical activity and retreat. Part of this theme could be to ask people how they interact with the environment, what they receive and how they look after the environment.

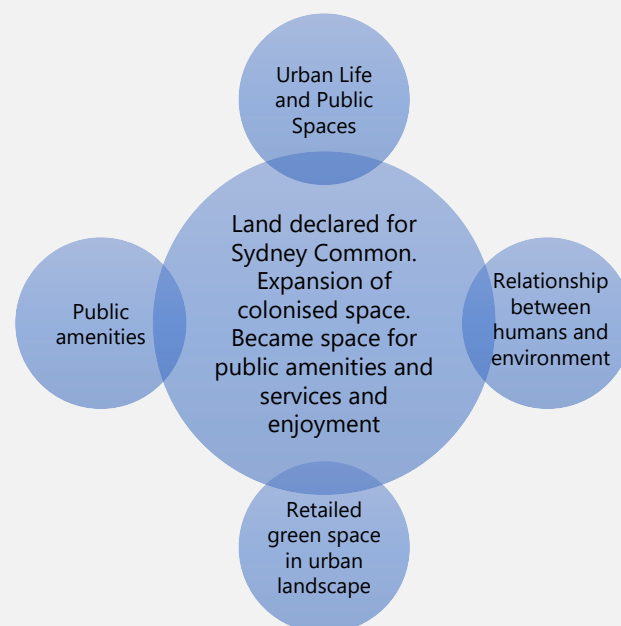
## STORIES

- The reciprocal relationship Aboriginal people have with country.
- The sustainable approach to resource management.
- Difficulties surviving in the early colony for colonists.
- The Tank stream & Busby's Bore water supply.
- Convict labour in the colony.
- Nature / green space as place for retreat from urban life.
- Current retreat/ practices in the Parklands such as Forest Bathing, Art classes and cultural heritage walks.

<sup>10</sup> Centennial Parklands Trust, 2018, accessed <https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/visit/history-and-heritage>

## 6.3.3. Urban Life and Public Spaces

AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME	NSW STATE THEME	LOCAL THEME IDENTIFIED BY CURIO PROJECTS
4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities	Towns, villages and suburbs	Urban Life and Public Spaces
8.1 Organising recreation (8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens, 8.1.4 Enjoying the natural environment)	Leisure	Urban Life and Public Spaces
8.13 Living in cities and suburbs	Not applicable	Urban Life and Public Spaces





## SUMMARY

In the development of the British colony in Sydney from 1788 areas were designated for different uses. The subject site was part of an area that was declared as Sydney Common in 1811. The SFS and SCG site, the Centennial Parklands and surrounding Entertainment Quarter and Fox Studios buildings, now cover the area that was the Sydney Common. Since 1811 the site has been used as public land. The usage has changed over time from a water source for the colony, to an area used by the military for a rifle range; to a military engineer depot, to sporting fields with multiple sports played, but has always remained as a public space.

The creation of village commons, a retained green space in an urban setting, was a trend of the early 19th century to counter the increasingly small living arrangements people experienced in growing cities and create a healthy and natural environment for people to enjoy as a public space.

This theme explores the increasingly urban lifestyles people developed since the 1800s; the increase in city and suburb living, the sedentary lifestyle, lifestyles further removed from the environment and increasingly structured and human modified landscapes. The contrast in design and scale of the buildings in the neighbouring Paddington and Surry Hills demonstrates how the usage and landscape of public and private areas differs greatly.

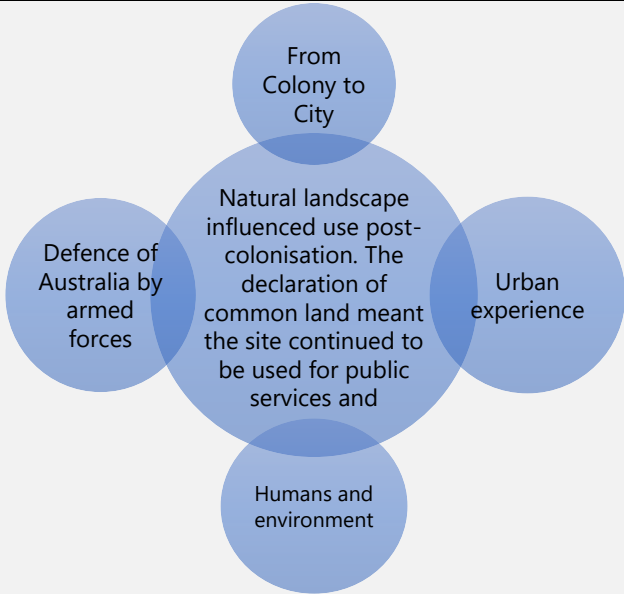
This theme links strongly with the theme 'Recreation, Entertainment and Leisure' because the development of the Common, Parklands and SFS/SCG within the urban landscape created the place for sports fields and stadiums where the significant recreation and leisure activities have played out.

The redevelopment of the SFS site will allow greater public access to the SFS site, with some zones being open to the public all the time, therefore continuing the theme of public spaces creating a retreat from urban life through the new development.

## STORIES

- The declaration of Sydney Common and early uses
- The early land grants in Sydney and around the site
- The movement to create Village Commons to balance the urban lifestyle
- The development of suburbs as Sydney grew
- The amenity offered to people by green, public spaces
- The passion of the people of Sydney for outdoor activities and sports

## 6.3.4. From Colony to City

AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME	NSW STATE THEME	LOCAL THEME IDENTIFIED BY CURIO PROJECTS
2.3 Coming to Australia as a punishment	Convict	From Colony to City
3.11 Altering the waterways & 3.11.5 Establishing water supplies	Not applicable	From Colony to City
7.7 Defending Australia	Defence	From Colony to City
8.1 Organising recreation (8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sports)	Sport	From Colony to City
		

## SUMMARY

This theme explores the changing usage of the site through the decades as a place that governing bodies used to provide services to the public of Sydney and NSW. In the movement from a British penal colony to the global city that Sydney is today, the site had witnessed many transformations and hosted many different people and organisations. The theme will provide an overview of the different activities and uses carried out on the site and in the area since 1788. Below is a summary of points:

- Sydney's second water supply, Busby's Bore, took water from Lachlan Swamps through the Sydney Common (and through the northern side of the subject site). As a product of convict labour and a major factor in the establishment of local administration in NSW the bore is associated with the important steps that changed Sydney from penal colony to colonial trading port. The bore was Sydney's sole fresh water source from 1837 to 1859, at which time the growth of the city required additional water options to be investigated.
- In 1849, land from the Sydney Common was set aside for a professional military rifle range, followed in 1852 by an additional 25 acres for a 'military garden and cricket ground' for use by the Victoria Barracks, situated to the north of the subject site.
- In 1861, all of Sydney Common came under control of Sydney Council, who in turn established Moore Park in 1866.
- The Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) was formally established and constructed in 1882, around which time it was identified too dangerous to have a rifle range in such close proximity to public recreation.
- Upon closure of the rifle range, the former range was converted to the headquarters for the NSW Field Engineer Corps (relocated from within the Victoria Barracks itself).
- In 1899, part of the former rifle range and military depot (fronting Moore Park Road) was rededicated as an 'Athletic Sports Ground' which came to be known as the Sydney Sports Ground (SSG) by 1902. The Sydney Sports Ground was once located approximately where the car park of the SFS is currently.
- By the early 1920s, only approximately 9 acres of the original 1899 land dedicated to the Engineer Corp remained in use as military land, as after the end of WW1, the eastern part of the land was transferred to the Royal Agricultural Society. This 9-acre area is approximately consistent with the location of the extant SFS.
- The military depot was finally transferred to the NSW Government in 1986, and all structures were demolished to make room for the construction of the SFS.

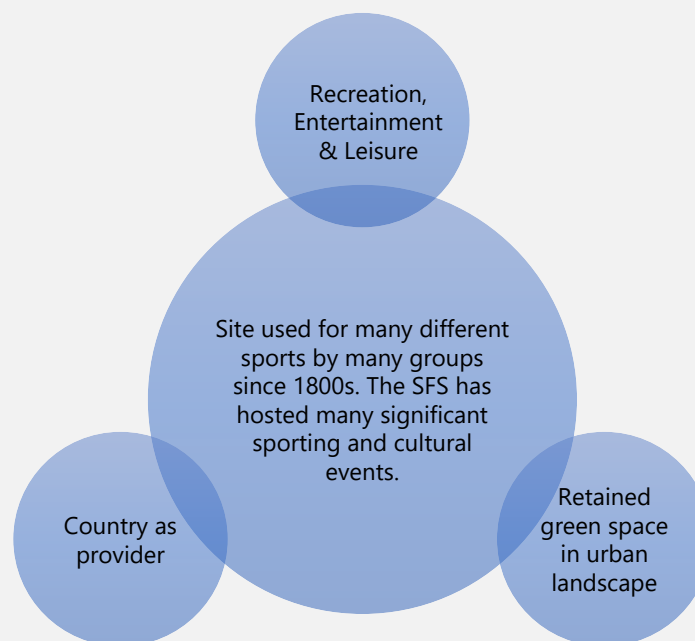
## STORIES

- Convict labour in the colony
- The haphazard approach to constructing the bore under Busby's supervision
- Other convict built structures in the Sydney area/Australia

- The current condition of the Bore and the difficulty locating it exactly
- The associations with Victoria Barracks and the military use of the site
- The site as a place for enlistment and defence during WW2
- The creation of the Sydney Cricket Ground and the sports hosted there
- The early Sydney Sports Ground and the different activities that happened there.

## 6.3.5. Recreation, Entertainment and Leisure

AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME	NSW STATE THEME	LOCAL THEME IDENTIFIED BY CURIO PROJECTS
8.1 Organising recreation (8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sports)	Sport	Recreation, Entertainment & Leisure
8.7 Honouring achievement	Sport	Recreation, Entertainment & Leisure



## SUMMARY

This theme looks at the development of the SC&SG site from the early beginnings as a cricket pitch for the military, to the world-class sporting precinct of today. The many sports, people and groups associated with the site are explored, to understand and present the 'Home of Sports'. Below some of the historical phases of the site are explored.

In 1899, part of the former rifle range and military depot was rededicated as an 'Athletic Sports Ground' which came to be known as the Sydney Sports Ground (SSG) by 1902. The SSG was once located approximately where the car park of the SFS is currently. The impetus behind the creation of this sports field came from the need for a sporting ground facility that could be used consistently for sports and recreational activities other than cricket (while the SCG was occasionally used for other sports, cricket was also prioritised).

The SSG was used for a wide range of sports including cricket, cycling, athletics, football and rugby, as well as for events such as scout rallies, brass band contests, dog shows, and dirt track racing. However, it was mainly the rugby union that early on facilitated the ongoing financial success of the ground. Although the first motorcycle race had taken place at the ground in 1907, dirt track racing was only properly introduced to the SSG in the late 1930s. The motorcycle events were promoted by Empire Speedway, with the speedway officially opened on 30th October 1937, and the first midget car race held in November 1937. The speedway was eventually closed on 25th March 1955.

In 1951, administrative control of the SCG/ SSG were brought under the same entity, with the creation of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust. Discussions began in the early 1970s about the upgrading of sporting facilities at Moore Park, which eventually lead to the decision to construct the Sydney Football Stadium. The SSG was closed and demolished in c1987, following the acquisition of the military depot in c1986, which was also demolished at this time to prepare the site for the construction of the SFS.

The SC&SC site has been the venue for Test matches (cricket and rugby league) and has hosted many visiting overseas sporting teams. It was the venue for the Empire Games in 1938. Other notable sporting events include the 1st International rugby game with New Zealand in 1884, the 1st touring Sydney Cricket Ground Site, British rugby union team's game versus NSW in 1888, the Sydney Thousand cycling events and the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 (Women's football). SFS has hosted increasing one-off music concerts (e.g. WaveAid 2005, Robbie Williams 2006, Live Earth 2007) and other non-sporting events such as Edinburgh Tattoos.'

## STORIES

- The SC&SG is the 'home of sport' in Sydney
- Difference between the SSG and SCG and the Trusts
- Political patronage and influence from all sides of politics
- Specific memorable events at the SFS
- Milestones in sports and sporting careers
- Celebrating sportspeople





## 6.4. Key Stories for Interpretation at Sydney Football Stadium

The key stories relevant to the subject site from the 2012 draft SCG Interpretation Strategy have been included below in italics. All others have been created by Curio Projects to support the identified five key themes as presented in the section above. Stories related to themes as noted above have been integrated into these points.

1. The modern city of Sydney is built on Aboriginal land, and the subject site is on Gadigal Country. The Aboriginal concept of 'country', with reciprocity between people and country, allows exploration of the ideas of country providing for people and people's responsibility to look after country. This message can be explored in relation to peoples' contemporary connection to and use of the site and surrounding areas.
2. The subject site and much of the surrounding area has been public land since colonisation. It has been used to deliver a variety of services and amenities from fresh water, to defence, to leisure and recreation to the public of Sydney and NSW. The fact that this area has remained as public land has meant that it has remained a public space for people to use and enjoy, contrasted with the many private, urban spaces surrounding the site. Though the environment of the site has been adapted and urbanised, it is still possible to use the site as a retreat to the environment from an urban lifestyle.
3. *The SC&SC precinct is a key part of an evolving broader cultural landscape that begins with the reservation of Sydney Common, was at the heart of the creation of Sydney's second water supply by James Busby, and became part of the broader recreation landscape that today includes Moore Park and Centennial Parks.*
4. *The historical impetus for the creation of the SC&SG precinct has a direct connection with the colonial military occupation in Sydney and military ideas of the values of organised sport including cricket to military life. The transfer from military to civil use of the cricket ground reflects a similar transfer that occurred between the British colonial and the local representatives at the time. The use of parts of the SCG precinct for uses directly associated with Victoria Barracks, such as the Rifle Range and Engineers Depot, underpins this relationship.*
5. *The key role of the SCG/SFS in the historical development of a number of sports in Australia, including, but not limited to, cricket, rugby, rugby league, cycling, tennis and baseball.*
6. *The evolution of the sports themselves, for example, cricket and the different form of the games that have developed. The broader cultural relationship between these changes and spectators, advertising and media.*
7. *Associations with particular people, sportspeople, administrators and spectators.*
8. *Associations with particular sporting and other events that happened generally in the precinct or happened at exact places within the precinct.*
9. *Associations with particular sporting clubs such as the Sydney Swans*
10. *The role of the SCG in shaping a national psyche.*

## 7. Interpretive Context

### 7.1. Introduction

It is important to understand the current context of the place and how it can be utilised by its local and regional communities in order to develop an appropriate set of interpretive options for a site. The statutory, physical and general opportunities and constraints of the place must be understood to ensure that a pragmatic, yet creative approach to the addition of interpretive elements within the site can be undertaken.

### 7.2. Opportunities

The SFS site borders the high-density residential suburbs of Paddington and Surry Hills. It provides an excellent range of opportunities for heritage interpretation that are engaging and relevant to contemporary society. These opportunities include:

- The redevelopment of the site will create new public spaces for socialising, leisure and recreation. The new spaces will be permanently open to the public, opposed to the previous arrangement of public having no access to the SFS grounds except during events.
- The new public spaces surrounding the stadium will open up a pathway through from Moore Park to Paddington that will assist ease of navigating the area as well as bring in a new local audience to the site;
- The site as a major sporting and cultural event space has a diverse and captive audience for many different relevant historic and cultural themes;
- Several sporting associations use the buildings surrounding the site and it is located next to the Entertainment Quarter and Fox Studios so will have workers from these buildings traversing the site day to day;
- The redevelopment presents the opportunity to provide consistency in way finding and signage to assist patrons in accessing the site and surrounding SCG/Moore Park and EQ precinct;
- As a total redevelopment, it presents a unique opportunity to highlight several different stories through many different mediums, which facilitates the engagement of people from different age groups and interests;
- It presents the opportunity to do innovative and creative heritage interpretation solutions/products;
- Opportunities to use any information gathered from the knowledge of traditional Aboriginal land custodians and the staff at the SC&SG Trust.

### 7.3. Constraints

Although a unique site with a captive audience of event attendees, the SFS site also presents some practical constraints that should not be ignored if aiming to achieve relevant historic interpretation solutions for the site.

The constraints are related to:

- Gaining an understanding of future operational requirements and how these will impact use of public spaces/stadium interior;
- Travel routes to and around the stadium may impact access and use of the site;
- Heritage requirements as determined by the NSW Heritage Division and Heritage Council of NSW;
- Available budget for heritage interpretation will direct solutions adopted;
- The site is surrounded by a series of different stakeholders and land users with varying signage style guides that create difficulties in supporting simple and legible access to the stadium.
- The site is in close proximity to residential areas that will be impacted by increased noise, traffic, sound etc. at the site and their needs must be considered.

## 7.4. Available Interpretive Material

The interpretive material relates to all primary and secondary sources, stakeholder inputs and multimedia material that can be incorporated in the development of different interpretation products applied at the SFS site.

Apart from such sources, previous heritage assessments can also be considered important materials for such matters as they represent some of the most relevant and detailed historic works for the site. A complete list of all relevant sources pointed out in this report can be found in the Bibliography, however some key relevant materials discovered to date include:

- Aspect Studios, 'Sydney Football Stadium, Public Realm Workshop', January 2019.
- Attenbrow, V. 2002, 'Pre-colonial Aboriginal land and resource use in Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks – assessment of historical and archaeological evidence for Centennial Parklands Conservation Management Plan', prepared for Australian Museum.
- Godden MacKay Logan, 2012, *Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground - Heritage Interpretation Strategy (DRAFT)*, prepared for Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust.
- GML, 2013, *Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground—Conservation Management Plan (DRAFT)*, prepared for Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust.
- Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust Museum and Archives.
- Sydney Water Corporation, 2004, *Busby's Bore, Sydney—Draft Conservation Management Plan*.
- SJB Architects, 2018, *Moore Park Stadium Urban Design Guidelines*, prepared for Infrastructure NSW (8 May 2018).

## 7.5. Target Audience

The target audience for SFS is as variable as anyone visiting the precinct for sporting or cultural events. Different sports and cultural events have different audiences, from different demographics of the Australian population as well as international visitors. While attendees of sports and cultural events are visiting the site specifically for events, there is an opportunity through heritage interpretation to share and communicate the heritage values of the site.

One specific audience group of the site are members of the SCG/SFS. There are different levels of membership available that allow different levels of access to amenities at the site, such as the Members Stand in the SCG and the fitness Centre.

The draft SCG Interpretation Strategy identified the following associated people/audiences:

*Aboriginal people – The Cadigal people are the traditional custodians of the land now known as Centennial Parklands. Many Aboriginal athletes have participated and continue to participate in the sporting contests at the SCG, notably Australian Rules.*

*Family Associations – Families associated with athletes, current and former SCG staff, SCG members and the audiences for various sports have long-standing associations with the site.*

*Local Associations – This SCG is the home ground for the Sydney Swans, and the NSW Speedbiz Blues play most of their games at this venue.*

*Interest groups – SCG members and audience groups associated with various sports have active interests in the SCG and its activities. For example, the Sydney Lawn Tennis Club members have a lengthy association with the site.*

*Public Agencies – The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust has direct associations with the SC&SGT through ownership and management of the lands surrounding the two stadia.*

*Other Associated People – The SCG has a distant association with the Australian Defence Forces through the nearby Victoria Barracks, Paddington, and the garrison's early use of the area for gardening and cricket games, as well as for defence purposes.<sup>11</sup>*

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<sup>11</sup> GML, 2012: 67

## 8. Potential Interpretative Products

### 8.1. Introduction

There are a large range of interpretive products and initiatives available to ensure that the key stories at a site are told in the most effective and engaging manner possible. In terms of this specific site, there is the opportunity to provide a wide range of interpretive products in: the newly designed public spaces surrounding the new SFS stadium; on any interactive facades of the new building; in the choice of fabric in redevelopment; in the proposed landscape design of the public spaces; in site specific way-finding and digital content; and in site specific art installations etc. Such products should aim to establish a dialogue between the local themes and stories as well as its broader NSW context, in which the significance and relevance of the SFS site exists.

This report provides information both for interpretation products that could be installed as part of the Stage 2 of the SFS Redevelopment, as well as to establish potential opportunities for any other interpretation products to be installed in future developments of the SFS.

It is important to match the interpretation to the site with the end users (target audience), and for this reason, only interpretive initiatives that are commensurate with the design of the proposed SFS redevelopment, potential stakeholder interests and the subject site's end-users, have been identified.

Any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Interpretation proposed will be undertaken in consultation with the local Aboriginal community as they are the rightful owners and interpreters of their cultural heritage.

At this stage of the interpretation planning process, the purpose is to clearly identify a range of interpretive options and concepts that may be able to be implemented as part of redevelopments to be undertaken at the site as well as key concepts that arise from the current works proposed by the Stage 2 SSD. For such purposes, the potential interpretive options that link to the thematic framework of the SFS (Section 6) is separated in zones as indicated in the Table 8.1 below.

Table 8.1: SFS Interpretative Zones

INTERPRETIVE ZONE	POTENTIAL THEMES/STORIES
<p><b>Interpretive Zone "A"</b></p> <p>This zone comprises the area identified by Aspect Studios as 'Fig Tree Place'</p>	<p><b>From City to Colony</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The associations with Victoria Barracks and the military use of the site</li> <li>The site as a place for enlistment and defence during WW2</li> <li>The creation of the Sydney Cricket Ground and the sports hosted there</li> <li>The early Sydney Sports Ground and the different activities that happened there.</li> </ul> <p><b>Urban Life and Public Spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The declaration of Sydney Common and early uses</li> <li>The early land grants in Sydney and around the site</li> </ul>

INTERPRETIVE ZONE	POTENTIAL THEMES/STORIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The movement to create Village Commons to balance the urban lifestyle</li> <li>The development of suburbs of Paddington and Surry Hills as Sydney grew</li> <li>The amenity offered to people by green, public spaces</li> <li>The passion of the people of Sydney for outdoor activities and sports</li> </ul>
<p>Interpretive Zone "B"</p> <p>This zone comprises the area identified by Aspect Studios as 'Busby's Corner'</p>	<p><b>Country as Provider</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reciprocal relationship Aboriginal people have with country.</li> <li>The sustainable approach to resource management.</li> <li>Difficulties surviving in the early colony for colonists.</li> <li>The Tank stream &amp; Busby's Bore water supply.</li> <li>Convict labour in the colony.</li> <li>Nature / green space as place for retreat from urban life.</li> <li>Current retreat/ practices in the Parklands such as Forest Bathing, Art classes and cultural heritage walks.</li> </ul> <p><b>From Colony to City</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convict labour in the colony</li> <li>The haphazard approach to constructing the bore under Busby's supervision</li> <li>Other convict-built structures in the Sydney area/Australia</li> <li>The current condition of the Bore and the difficulty locating it exactly</li> </ul>
<p>Interpretive Zone "C"</p> <p>This zone comprises the areas identified by Aspect Studios as 'Moore Park Terrace'</p>	<p><b>Ever-changing Landscape</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Aboriginal concept of country and scale of countries across the Australian continent.</li> <li>Local story of creation of country.</li> <li>Oral history /memories of Aboriginal people using the area.</li> <li>The changing experience for Aboriginal people as land in Sydney was used for other purposes.</li> <li>The story of finding the Moore Park Camp site what it can tell us about Aboriginal lifestyle pre-colonisation.</li> <li>The remnant landscapes in Centennial Parklands/Moore Park and how they support biodiversity and cultural learning.</li> </ul>



INTERPRETIVE ZONE	POTENTIAL THEMES/STORIES
	<b>Recreation, Entertainment &amp; Leisure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SC&amp;SG is the 'home of sport' in Sydney</li> <li>Difference between the SSG and SCG and the Trusts</li> <li>Political patronage and influence from all sides of politics</li> <li>Specific memorable events at the SFS</li> <li>Milestones in sports and sporting careers</li> <li>Celebrating sportspeople</li> </ul>
<p>Interpretive Zone "D"</p> <p>This zone is the terrace area between the SFS and the SCG building. The space is not open to the public.</p>	<b>Recreation, Entertainment &amp; Leisure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SC&amp;SG is the 'home of sport' in Sydney</li> <li>Difference between the SSG and SCG and the Trusts</li> <li>Political patronage and influence from all sides of politics</li> <li>Specific memorable events at the SFS</li> <li>Milestones in sports and sporting careers</li> <li>Celebrating sportspeople</li> </ul>
<p>Interpretive Zone "E"</p> <p>This zone is the potential online/digital space including apps</p>	<b>All themes and storylines</b>
<p>Interpretive Zone "F"</p> <p>This includes the exterior fabric of the SFS and exterior surfaces</p>	<b>Ever-changing Landscape</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Aboriginal concept of country and scale of countries across the Australian continent.</li> <li>Local story of creation of country.</li> <li>Oral history /memories of Aboriginal people using the area.</li> <li>The changing experience for Aboriginal people as land in Sydney was used for other purposes.</li> <li>The story of finding the Moore Park Camp site what it can tell us about Aboriginal lifestyle pre-colonisation.</li> <li>The remnant landscapes in Centennial Parklands/Moore Park and how they support biodiversity and cultural learning.</li> </ul> <b>Recreation, Entertainment &amp; Leisure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SC&amp;SG is the 'home of sport' in Sydney</li> <li>Difference between the SSG and SCG and the Trusts</li> <li>Political patronage and influence from all sides of politics</li> <li>Specific memorable events at the SFS</li> </ul>

INTERPRETIVE ZONE	POTENTIAL THEMES/STORIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Milestones in sports and sporting careers</li> <li>▪ Celebrating sportspeople</li> </ul>
<p>Interpretive Zone "G"</p> <p>This includes interior public spaces in the new SFS building</p>	<p><b>Urban Life and Public Spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The declaration of Sydney Common and early uses</li> <li>▪ The early land grants in Sydney and around the site</li> <li>▪ The movement to create Village Commons to balance the urban lifestyle</li> <li>▪ The development of suburbs of Paddington and Surry Hills as Sydney grew</li> <li>▪ The amenity offered to people by green, public spaces</li> <li>▪ The passion of the people of Sydney for outdoor activities and sports</li> </ul> <p><b>From Colony to City</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The creation of the Sydney Cricket Ground and the sports hosted there</li> <li>▪ The early Sydney Sports Ground and the different activities that happened there.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recreation, Entertainment &amp; Leisure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The SC&amp;SG is the 'home of sport' in Sydney</li> <li>▪ Difference between the SSG and SCG and the Trusts</li> <li>▪ Political patronage and influence from all sides of politics</li> <li>▪ Specific memorable events at the SFS</li> <li>▪ Milestones in sports and sporting careers</li> <li>▪ Celebrating sportspeople</li> </ul>

## 8.2. Interpretive Zones Identified by Aspect Studios

The public domain design for the SFS Redevelopment developed by Aspect Studios includes three new public spaces linked by a public concourse. The three zones each have a unique identity and relate to historical themes and storylines as outlined in the sections above. The three zones are 'Fig Tree Place', 'Busby's Corner' and 'Moore Park Terrace'. The below images from the Aspect Studios SSDA 2 Design document (Aspect 2019) illustrate the design opportunities for these zones including heritage interpretation ideas.

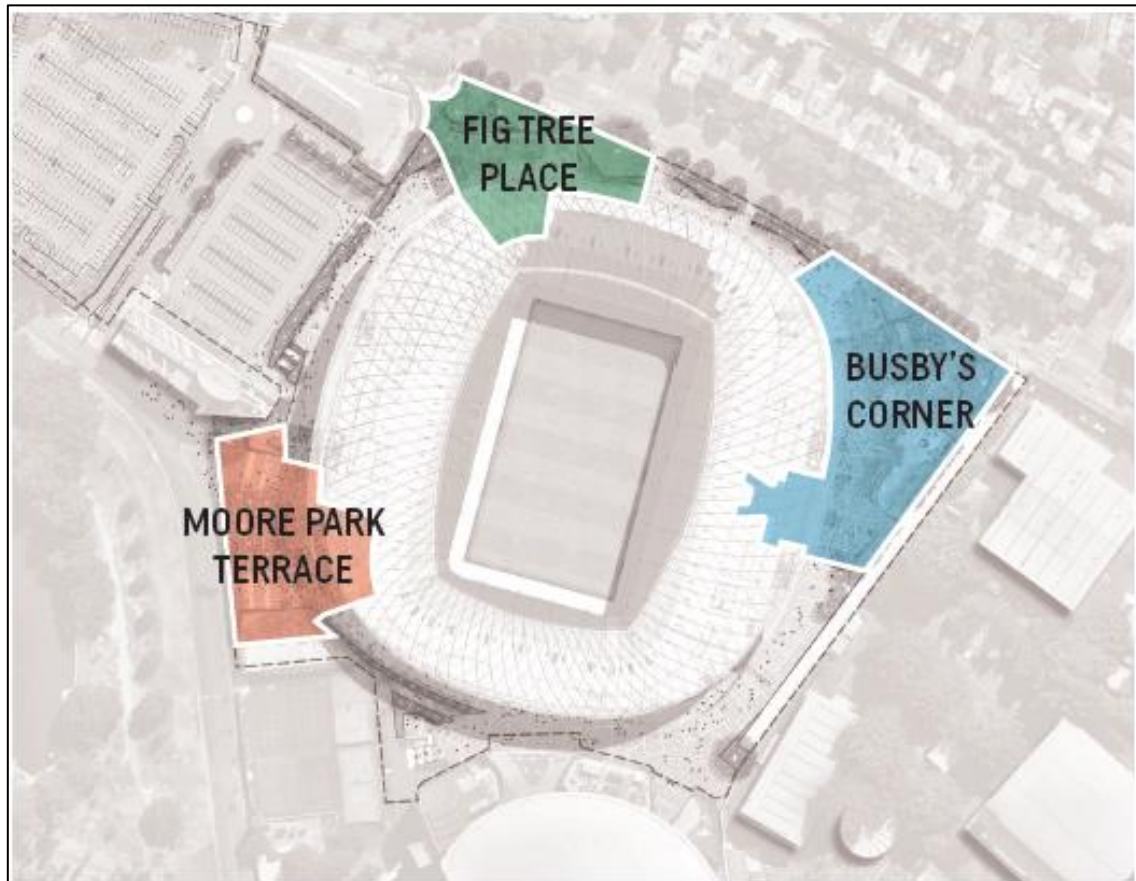


Figure 8.1: Key Plan – Stadium active places (Source: Aspect Studios)

## Fig Tree Place

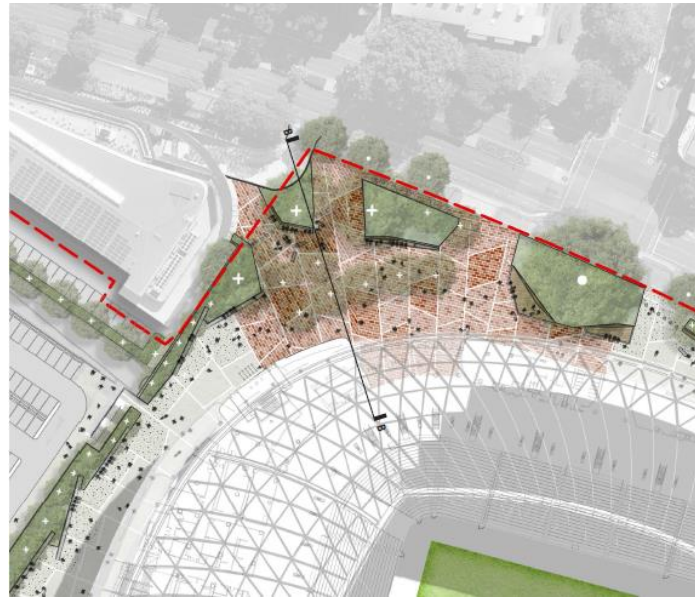


Figure 8.2: Fig Tree Place Zone (Source: Aspect Studios)



67 Sculpture plinth to be utilised for seating and HVM



68 Generous deck under existing fig tree

Figure 8.3 and Figure 8.4: Fig Tree Place design concepts-1 (Source: Aspect Studios 2019)



69 Engineered furniture for amenity and HVM



70 Grove of trees to mark stadium entry

Figure 8.5 and Figure 8.6: Fig Tree Place design concepts-2 (Source: Aspect Studios 2019)



## Busby's Corner

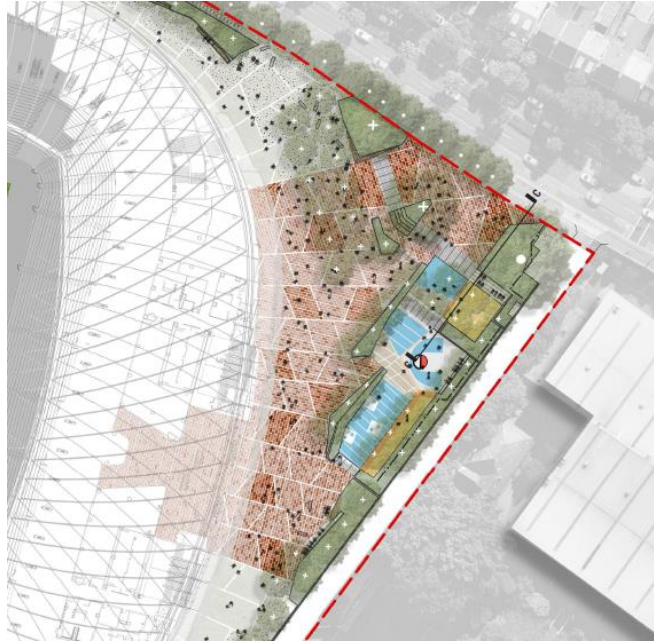


Figure 8.7: Busby's Corner zone (Source: Aspect Studios)



73 Graphic treatment to ground plane



74 Passive recreation opportunities - Ping Pong tables



75 Basketball 'Tree' Sculpture

Figure 8.8: Busby's Corner design concepts-1 (Source: Aspect Studios 2019)



76 Fence and screening to tie in to structure and space design



77 Integrated exercise equipment

Figure 8.9: Busby's Corner design concepts-2 (Source: Aspect Studios 2019)

## Moore Park Steps

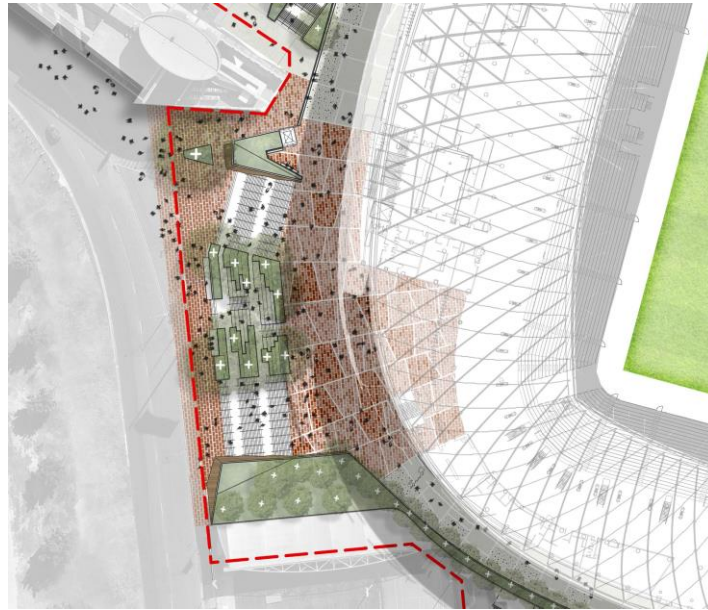


Figure 8.10: Moore Park Steps Zone (Source: Aspect Studios, 2019)



60 Existing brick wall - Driver Avenue



61 Folding brick forms at entry



62 Terraced landscape planting

Figure 8.11: Moore Park Steps design concepts-1 (Source: Aspect Studios, 2019)



63 Seating terraces integrated with stairs



64 Seating terraces integrated with stairs

Figure 8.12: Moore Park Steps design concepts-2 (Source: Aspect Studios, 2019)



## 8.3. Summary of Key Interpretive Products

The strategy will consider different interpretative options, including landscape design and fabric choice, public art, digital opportunities, interpretative inlays, inclusion in heritage trails, as well as other interpretative options that will be most suited to the site's constraints and opportunities.

## 8.4. Potential Interpretive Elements for SFS Redevelopment

### 8.4.1. Landscape design

The redevelopment of the SFS will allow and encourage greater public access and amenity at the site. The public space around the stadium will be open to the public at all times (except perhaps during very large events), therefore the new public space provides an excellent opportunity to integrate heritage interpretation into the design of the space for all visitors to experience.

Opportunities for the integration of heritage storylines into the landscape design includes the choice of plants and landscaping, the inclusion of a water feature area to illustrate the Busby's Bore story and the choice of organic and structured lines to illustrate the natural landscape and the various modifications and uses to the site over time.

Planting to showcase the natural vegetation could be across the whole site and could include plants that were the native vegetation of the area, including banksias and wetland plants. This would be used to discuss storylines in the 'Ever changing Landscape' and 'Country as Provider' themes.



Figure 8.13: Planting Ideas (Source: Gardendrum)



Figure 8.14: Planting Ideas (Source: Gardendrum)





Figure 8.15: Planting Ideas (Source: Gardendrum)



Figure 8.16: Planting Ideas (Source: Service Central)

A water course or water feature in the site would assist in telling the story of country as a provider of water for the growing city of Sydney and of Busby's Bore. It is proposed that this could be installed in Zone B, or perhaps between Zone A and B. Examples of water sources/features in public space design are presented in the figures below.



Figure 8.17: Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, London (Source: Pintrest)





*Figure 8.18: Roombeck Street (Source: Pinterest)*



*Figure 8.19: Cape Royale Hotel Singapore (Source: Pinterest)*



The use of contrasting organic and structured lines in the design of the public space would help to illustrate the themes 'Ever-changing Landscape' and 'Urban Life and Public Spaces'. For example, the ground surface could be alternating organic and manmade form or use a variety of materials to illustrate a contrast between a natural and modified environment. See examples in the figures below.



Figure 8.20: Parterre Redesign (Source: Piccole Architecture)



Figure 8.21: Ground Covering Ideas (Source: Pinterest)



Figure 8.22: Ground Covering Design Ideas (Source: Pinterest)

## 8.4.2. Fabric Selection for Public Realm and Stadium

As mentioned by Aspect Studios in the *Public Realm Design* document (2019), materials for the new stadium and surrounding areas could be used to integrate the stadium into the existing landscape and create continuity with the former SFS stadium. This would minimise negative impacts of the redevelopment by maintaining a similar streetscape and views to and from the stadium and surrounding areas. It would also allow visitors to contrast the qualities of public spaces and private spaces and reflect on the value of green, public space. An example provided by Aspect Studios is using brickwork in the Billy Goat Steps zone to reflect the existing brickwork at Driver Ave.



If the stadium design includes any surfaces that are able to be activated or changed such as LED screens or projection surfaces, these could be used to share heritage storylines by having new content such as artworks created to be displayed via these mediums. An example of this activation is in Allianz Arena in Munich where the exterior surface of the stadium is made up of LED lights and fully customisable to reflect the event colours/brand/theme.



Figure 8.23: Allianz Arena, Munich (Source: Pintrest)

### 8.4.3. Inlays in Landscape and Text Panels

Linked to the opportunity to use ground coverings to demonstrate different environments and uses, inlays and text panel installations can be used both to spark curiosity for viewers, to send short evocative messages and to provide more in-depth, contextual information.

Using map, text and image inlays as in examples below is a useful way to communicate the location and scale of previous developments, information about events that have happened at the site and quotes by people associated with the site etc. The SCG Museum and Archives will be a valuable resource to inform the content for text panels, inlays, maps of the site etc.

Interpretive elements at the site will be strengthened by including an overarching history of the site at a physical location in the site, or digitally. This will support the themes and ensure all interpretive elements work together. The overarching history could potentially be displayed in text on a timeline, and/or by theme, either in inlays on ground and wall surfaces, or through text panels installed on the exterior or interior of the stadium. If installed physically at the site, the content could also be hosted on a digital platform for people to discover more about the stadium site pre and post visit.



Figure 8.24: National Aquarium in Baltimore (Source: Pinterest)

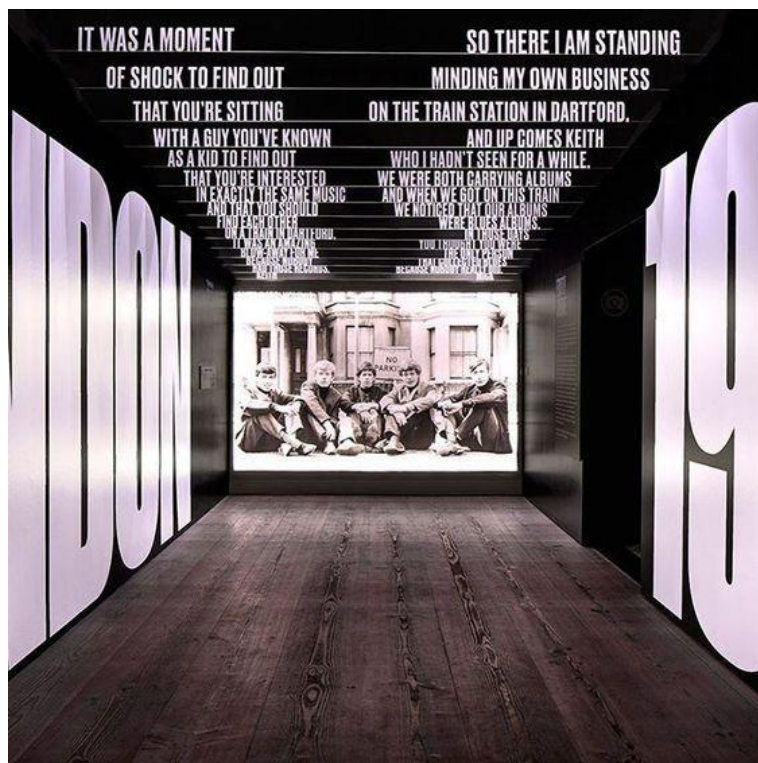


Figure 8.25: Text Design (Source: Pinterest)



Figure 8.26: Museum of Ceramic Art, Denmark (Source: Pinterest)

#### 8.4.4. Site specific artworks

The Urban Design Guidelines produced by SJB Architects for this site include a Public Art Strategy. The Guidelines note that the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, the Sydney Common, Busby's Bore, Sydney Sports Ground, and the Sydney Football stadium are all potential inspiration for the creation of public art at the site. It is noted in the Guidelines that a curator/consultant will be employed to develop the Public Art Strategy and procure artworks for the site. It is recommended that Curio Projects work with the curator/consultant to provide heritage interpretation advice as needed.

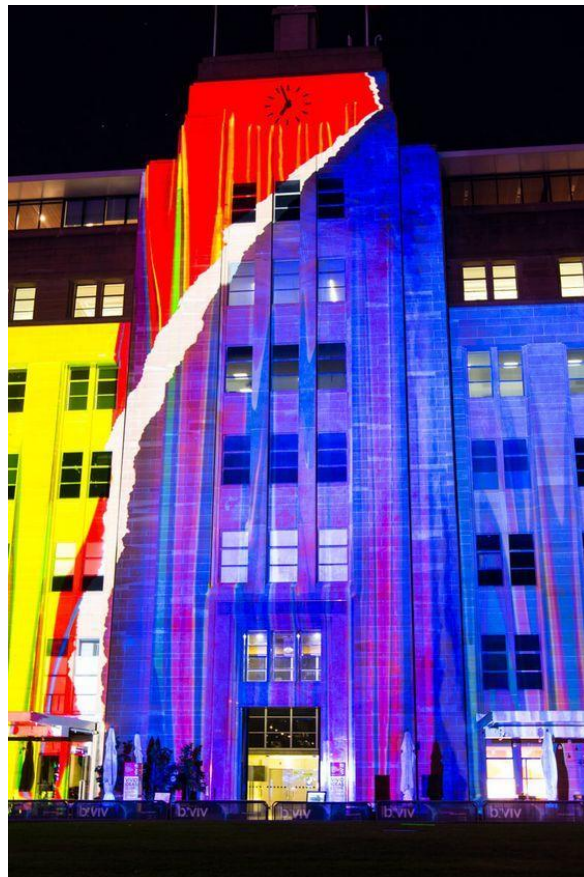
#### 8.4.5. Projections

An effective medium for activating public spaces in a flexible way, without making any physical impacts is light projections. Projections could be developed as part of the Public Art Strategy, or separately. Projections are well suited to showcase historical structures, landscapes, events and people that are associated with the site. Projections could be used on the exterior or interior of the stadium to celebrate the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the area, or to celebrate memorable events at this stadium. Projections can evoke curiosity in viewers and encourage them to seek more information to understand the meaning of the installation. Projections could be used to convey storylines under all themes, depending on the content chosen. Examples of light projections are presented in the images below.





*Figure 8.27: Javier Riera Artwork (Source: Pinterest)*



*Figure 8.28: Vivid Sydney Projections (Source: Pinterest)*

## 8.4.6. Existing sculptures

As noted in Section 4.2.6, there are four existing sculptures at the SFS site that are part of the Basil Sellers sculpture collection. These will need to be reintegrated into the public realm of the new stadium.

## 8.4.7. Digital solutions

As noted in Sections 4.2.8 and 4.2.9, there is existing online content for the SFS/SCG site. This information is primarily for the SCG stadium, though the SCG app platform could potentially be expanded to include information on the redeveloped SFS stadium. Similarly, Centennial Parklands Trust have used the existing cultural heritage tourism platform, *izi.travel*, to present a walking tour of the Parklands including information about ten sites.

There is scope for development of content for the heritage themes identified in this report to be presented in an existing or custom-made digital solution. It is recommended to use existing digital platforms, (websites, social media platforms) if the key function of the platform is to present text and images to users. If the digital content and functionality is more specific, such as a quiz of memorable sporting moments, a custom designed solution could be investigated.

Key to developing useful digital products is determining the content needs and finding a digital platform that is suitable. If content is developed for text panels to be installed at the site, it could readily be adapted for a digital platform and would meet the need of providing and overarching/contextualising story for the whole site or serve a more specific function.

## 8.4.8. Public program of activities/activations

The new public spaces at the redeveloped SFS and the new pathways from Moore Park through to Paddington will invite people into the space. Developing a public program of events/workshops/tours for the site will encourage people to come and explore the site and learn about heritage of the site while engaging in public programs. Another option would be to partner with neighbouring Centennial Parklands on some of the public programs they run as some of the content would also work to highlight the heritage values at the SFS site.

Examples of current public programming at the Centennial Parklands that could also be suitable to the SFS and specifically suitable to the storylines in 'Ever changing landscapes', 'Country and Provider' and 'Urban Life and Public Spaces' are:

- Urban Nature and Mindfulness Retreat
- ParkArts - Tea with an Artist
- Aboriginal Art Class
- Aboriginal Heritage Tour

Further, the existing SCG Tour could be updated to include the new areas created as part of the site redevelopment and utilise the new interpretation products.

## 9. Conclusions and Recommendations

The requirement to prepare an IS as part of the SSD application has provided an opportunity for the whole site interpretation to be considered, both for now and in the future. The key themes and storylines developed as part of this IS process form a strong basis for developing interpretation that is relevant across the whole SFS site.

In particular, there is the opportunity to create meaningful products that not only continue to celebrate the significance of the SFS and its relationship to the surrounding areas, but also the significant role of the retained public space close to the city of Sydney.

The next stages of interpretation will be refined during future development phases at the site, through a process of community consultation and stakeholder engagement to ensure that the final interpretive products proposed are engaging, inspiring and represent the cultural significance of the site. This includes consultation with local residents, the local Aboriginal community, the SCG museum staff and SC&SCT and others that may have a social, historical and/or emotional connection to the site, as required.

### 9.1. Summary of Heritage Interpretation Opportunities

The heritage interpretation of SFS should be intrinsically related to both the sporting and recreation usages of the site as well as the development of the site as a place of amenity and service for the public of NSW and a place of retreat from urban life. As a result, this report has identified themes and interpretation products that related to the overall significance of the site within the wider precinct.

The heritage interpretation solutions proposed to be installed during Stage 2 of the redevelopment include the following options, dependant on the identified project constraints:

- Landscape design
- Fabric selection for public realm and stadium
- Inlays in landscape and text panels
- Site specific artworks
- Projections
- Existing sculptures
- Digital solutions
- Public program of activities/activations

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