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Study focus: Draft Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Review and Interpretation

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What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study is to provide:

- A consolidated overview of heritage significance and interpretation, archaeological potential and cultural associations within the Study Area, with a focus on the Corridor; and
- An overview of alternate, innovative and best practice strategies for heritage interpretation from around the world that could be considered for implementation within the Corridor.

The study from AHMS to UrbanGrowth NSW attempts to consolidate the large number of existing reports into one location, and provide ideas regarding the conservation and recognition of significant cultural heritage for future generations. When final, the study will inform the urban transformation strategy for the Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation and Transport Program.

How has the study been prepared?

The project was divided into two reports. These are:

- Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Review (Stage 1)
- Opportunities for Interpretation in the Central to Eveleigh Corridor (Stage 2)

Aboriginal and Historic Heritage Review (Stage1)

This is predominantly a desk top review and includes:

- Review of relevant statutory and non-statutory heritage listings, for items within and in close proximity to the study area;
- Search of Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database for registered Aboriginal sites within and in close proximity to the study area;
- Review of previous relevant Aboriginal and historical heritage assessments;
- Review of previous relevant heritage interpretation strategies;
- Gap analysis of existing reports and interpretation strategies.
- Targeted site inspections; and
- Meeting with interested Aboriginal representatives and an Aboriginal Community Values Workshop held in partnership with MLALC.

Heritage Interpretation Opportunities (Stage 2)

This stage builds on research undertaken in stage 1, and existing interpretation strategies.

It includes:

- Examples of heritage interpretation incorporated into new developments, at local, national and international scales, and current best practice;
- The City of Sydney heritage approach through the public art policy, Eora Journey and guidelines for plaques; and

- Identification of options that could address both the Aboriginal and European heritage values of the study area.

What are the key findings?

Aboriginal and Historic Heritage Review

- A number of documentation gaps exist including out of date Conservation Management Plans, and Central Station does not have an Interpretation Plan;
- A set of principles in relation to heritage conservation is recommended;
- A need for an oral history programme focussing on the links between the surrounding urban communities and the heritage places within the Corridor - including but not limited to Aboriginal oral histories from the area. This will in part be addressed by the *Eveleigh Treasures and their Stories* project by ATP);

Heritage Interpretation Opportunities

- There is currently no comprehensive integrated approach to heritage interpretation across the Corridor.
- Interpretation of the history and significance of the Central to Eveleigh development corridor is an integral part of the future planning for the site. Further work to develop and implement interpretation initiatives will be required as the planning process is refined and individual sites are identified for development.
- An interpretation plan for Central Station area is required, to compliment the existing Eveleigh Railway Workshops Interpretation Plan & Implementation Strategy. This will harness the opportunity to capture and interpret larger stories relevant to the corridor as a whole.
- There is an opportunity to link into, and by doing so add to, the City of Sydney's Eora Project.

Draft Principles in relation to Heritage

- Government heritage assets will only be sold or transferred into private ownership with an endorsed Conservation Management Plan completed within the last 10 years in place, or a requirement for a Conservation Management Plan to be completed within 12 months, in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines;
- Prior to the sale of any heritage building:
 - provision will be made for the ongoing conservation of any associated moveable heritage items where relevant;
 - all heritage information relating to the building will be collated and amassed and lodged with an appropriate permanent conservation repository;
- An Archaeological Assessment and associated Archaeological Zoning Plan (covering both Aboriginal and historic heritage) be prepared to inform future management and development decisions;
- An interpretation plan for Central Station to compliment the existing Eveleigh Railway Workshops Interpretation Plan & Implementation Strategy, focussing on both the common themes and the unique characteristics that contribute to the Aboriginal, historic and industrial heritage narratives of the corridor;
- Undertake an oral history programme focussing on the links between the surrounding urban communities and the heritage places within the Corridor (this should include but not be limited to Aboriginal oral histories from the area);
- Demolition will only be considered where the benefits of demolition enhance the viability of more significant heritage buildings, and where demolition includes other tangible community benefits;
- Any demolition or substantial interventions will be preceded with appropriate demolition plans and archival recordings which meet the guidelines specified by the Heritage Branch OEH;
- In designing new buildings and infill development due consideration will be made to the heritage significance of buildings and items as a collection addressing issues such as connectivity and relationships between buildings and site features, as well as public access.