



URBIS

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION PLAN

Western Sydney University,
Bankstown Campus

Prepared for

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urbis has been engaged by Western Sydney University (WSU) to prepare the following Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) for the new WSU Bankstown City Campus, located at 74 Rickard Road and a portion of 375 Chapel Road, Bankstown (the subject site).

The development was previously approved by the Department of Planning Industry and the Environment as State Significant Development Application (SSDA) 9831. As part of the SSDA approval, Urbis previously prepared a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).

The approved development includes the construction of a new Bankstown City Campus at the subject site, which included demolition of former structures; earthworks; and the construction of a new 18 storey-building with associated infrastructure. The subject site is located within the vicinity of one heritage listed item, 'Council Chambers', located at 375 Chapel Road, and listed on the Bankstown Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2015 as I6.

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been prepared to satisfy the Conditions of Consent for SSDA 9831, namely:

D16. Prior to the commencement of operation, the Applicant must consult with Registered Aboriginal Parties about the potential of interpretation of the Aboriginal history and cultural heritage values of the Bankstown area on the site.

D17. The Applicant must submit a Heritage Interpretation Plan based on the above consultation to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The plan must:

- (a) Be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced expert in consultation with Heritage NSW and Council;*
- (b) Include provision for naming elements within the development that acknowledges the site's heritage; and*
- (c) Incorporates interpretative information on the site.*

As part of this HIP, the following key themes and narratives relating to Aboriginal heritage have been identified:

- Bankstown as Dharug country
- Totems, songlines and storylines linked to Bankstown
- Meaning of the flag: Earth, sun, and skin and how this is connected to ongoing activism
- Education of Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal people who have played an important role in education.

Six interpretive elements are proposed within this HIP:

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Landscaping
- Public Art and Murals
- Digital Media
- Public programmes
- Naming Strategy

NEXT STEPS

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been circulated to the project team and relevant community stakeholders including Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for comment. Feedback provided has been incorporated.

This final document should be submitted to Heritage NSW and Canterbury-Bankstown Council (CBC) in accordance with the Conditions of Consent for the project. Following approval of the Plan from Heritage NSW and CBC, implementation, manufacture, and installation of interpretive elements will be undertaken.

As per the consultation undertaken with RAPs, Urbis also recommend that consideration to display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags at each entrance to the subject site is considered.

Urbis also recommend that GLALC are contacted to begin a formal process for a naming strategy throughout the subject site. Western Sydney University will review proposed names based on consultation with internal and external stakeholders.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Urbis has been engaged by Western Sydney University (WSU) to prepare the following Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) for the new WSU Bankstown City Campus, located at 74 Rickard Road and a portion of 375 Chapel Road, Bankstown (the subject site).

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- Education of Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal people who have played an important role in education.

Six interpretive elements are proposed within this HIP:

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Landscaping
- Public Art and Murals
- Digital Media
- Public programmes
- Naming Strategy

1.2. SITE LOCATION

The subject site is located at 74 Rickard Road and a portion of 375 Chapel Road, Bankstown. The subject site is located on the southern side of Rickard Road and is legally described as Lot 5 and Part Lot 6 of

Deposited Plan (DP) 777510. The subject site is located within the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area (LGA).

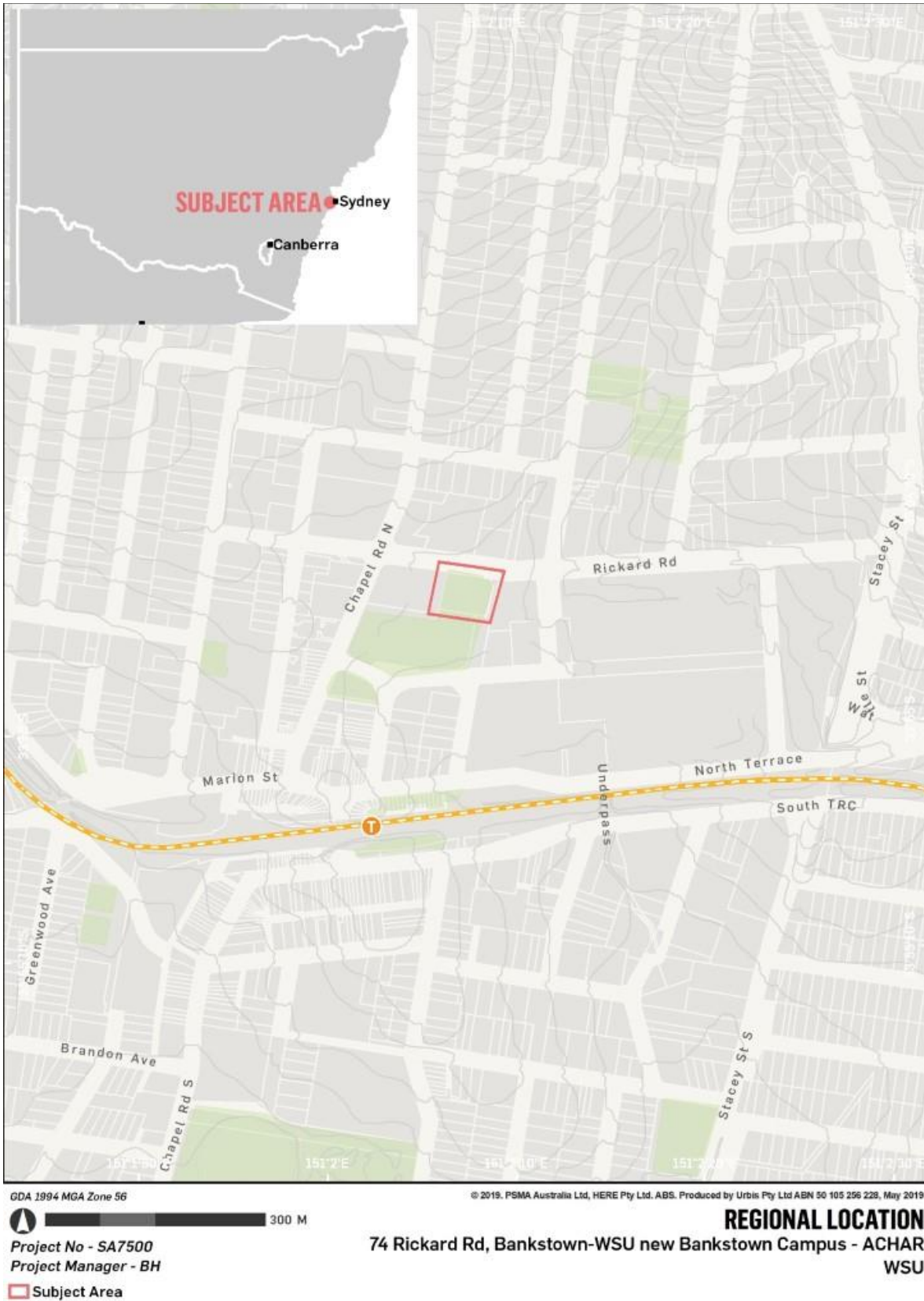


Figure 1 – Location of the subject site.

1.3. THE APPROVED WORKS

The approved development will have various impacts on the existing ground surface. Early works involved the following:

- Tree removal.
- Bulk excavation.
- Shoring, capping and/or diversion of services including a sewer line traversing the site
- The construction of a new layback from Rickard Road into Appian Way.

The construction works under the SSDA will involve:

- Construction of a 19-storey building (maximum height of 83m) with an additional 2 levels of basement.
- Provision of infrastructure to the site.
- Associated public domain and civil works.

1.4. METHODOLOGY

This HIP is intended to inform and guide the heritage interpretation components for the WSU new Bankstown City Campus project.

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been developed in accordance with the relevant principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013 and the Heritage NSW documents *Interpreting Heritage Places and Items: Guidelines* and *Heritage Interpretation Policy*.

Community consultation as an extension of the ACHAR process under the relevant legislation and guidelines, including:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act)
- *National Parks and Wildlife Regulations 2019* (NPW Reg)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), 2010)
- *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 2011)
- *Code of Practice for Aboriginal Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010)

1.5. AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been prepared by Sarah Hawkins (Senior Consultant). Balazs Hansel (Director) has reviewed and endorsed its content. RAP consultation has been led by Meggan Walker (Senior Consultant).

Urbis would like to thank all RAPs who participated in community consultation for this HIP for generously sharing their cultural knowledge.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. ABORIGINAL CULTURE IN THE AREA

The subject site is located within the LGA of Canterbury Bankstown. The traditional Aboriginal people of the region are recognised as being the Bediagal, a linguistic group of the Daruk (or Durag/Dharug) language (Canterbury-Bankstown Council, 2016), particularly one of the coastal dialects (Attenbrow 2010:34). It is thought to have been spoken on the Sydney peninsula, between Port Jackson (to the north) and Botany Bay (to the south), and west to Paramatta. With this large and dynamically changing area, there were numerous clans or tribes that would intermingle and interact with others in the local area rather than strictly confining to 'tribal' borders that were solidified later by European anthropologists (Organ 1990: xlili).

Historical accounts from the late 1700s differ in the estimations of the Aboriginal population of the Sydney region, but most suggest between 3000-5000 occupants (Attenbrow 2010:158). The lack of accurate baseline data poses problems for estimations of the population decrease following the arrival of the British, but it is believed that around half of the traditional inhabitants died within the first few years post-contact, resulting from introduced disease and particularly following a massive outbreak of small pox in 1789 that spread through Sydney region and Cumberland Plain more broadly (accounts of Philip (1790 and 1793) and Fowell (1790) in Attenbrow 2010; Heiss and Gibson 2013).

As Attenbrow (2010) asserts, there was significant and rapid loss of land following the establishment of the British colony from 1788, and within 40 years the pre-colonial life of Sydney had generally disappeared. For decades, many Aboriginal people became afraid to enter Sydney, or other areas with a dominant white population, for fear of violence or death from guns and other weapons (Heiss 2013). However, many people continued to fight alienation from traditional land, and established strong communities at places such as La Perouse, Mulgoa, Emu Plains, Manly, Campbelltown, Sackville, and Camden, comprising people traditionally of the Sydney area and surrounds, and continuing pre-Contact customs and ways of life where possible.

2.1.1. Aboriginal Archaeological Context

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) was undertaken on 14 March 2019 to form part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.¹ This search identified 115 Aboriginal sites within a 12-kilometre radius of the subject site, including artefact scatters (41), scarred trees (10), shelters with deposits (9), Middens (5), grinding grooves (1) and rock engravings (1).² This attests to the ongoing Aboriginal land use within the Bankstown region.

The subject area is located on the edge of the Cumberland Lowlands and situated on the Hawkesbury Sandstone geological formation, which is overlaid by Ashfield and Bringelly Shale. The soils of the subject site consist of the Blacktown residual (REbt) and Glenorie erosional (ERgn) soil landscapes. The Blacktown residual soil landscape consists of shallow to moderately deep red and brown podzolic soils on crests, upper slopes and well-drained areas; and yellow podzolic soils on lower slopes and in areas of poor drainage. The eastern portion of the subject site is situated within an area of Disturbed Terrain (DTxx), likely indicating that there is extensive disturbance throughout the subject site.

The subject site is entirely cleared of native vegetation and throughout historical occupation the subject site has been altered into an artificial urban landscape.

2.2. AREA HISTORY

The following history of Bankstown has been summarised from the Book of Sydney Suburbs.³

The area now known as Bankstown was selected by Governor Hunter who named it in honour of the eminent botanist, Sir Joseph Banks. In 1795 George Bass and Matthew Flinders had explored the Georges River, named after King George III, the reigning monarch. They sailed along what would later be the southern boundary of the Bankstown municipality. The two explorers reported their findings along the

¹ Urbis 2019. *SA7500 WSU Bankstown Campus Redevelopment 74 Rickard Road Bankstown Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report*.

² Please note that AHIMS search results are time-dependant and this is an indication of the results at time of searching only. Results are subject to change.

³ Pollon, F., *The Book of Sydney Suburbs* (1998), p. 19-20.

waterway and received land grants in the Georges Hall area. Bass received the first grant in the area in 1798. His 100 acres lay in the vicinity of the present Hazel and Flinders Street. He did not farm it, and it eventually reverted to the crown. Matthew Flinder's grant was alongside Bass's. He brought more land, until he held 300 acres, but did not farm it. Lieutenant Shortland and Surveyor James Meehan also received grants. By 1799, 1,200 acres on both banks of the river had been granted to marines and ex-convicts.

The area developed slowly, as it was isolated from both Sydney and Parramatta. After Liverpool Road was constructed in 1814 it began to develop rapidly, and settlements grew up along the road.

Bushrangers were a problem along the road, and in Bankstown's early days, two bushrangers, Patrick Sullivan and James Moran, were taken to a set of makeshift gallows on the site of the present Bankstown water tower and hanged. A few days later three of their companions met the same fate. The intention was to discourage any convict from becoming a highway robber; the hangings had the required effect. There is no record of where the victims were buried; they were probably interred in nearby unconsecrated ground. In 1831, Michael Ryan was granted 100 acres in Bankstown, which included the site of the hanging, and for many years the place was called Ryan's paddock.

The Church of England School established in Bankstown in 1862 became the first public school in 1868 but was moved to North Bankstown in 1813. The first post office opened in 1863 but closed in 1918. Bankstown now has two post offices, one in Restwell Street and one in Bankstown Square.

Greenacre Park Estate was one of the first subdivisions in the Bankstown area. Subdivision began in about 1909 when the total population of Bankstown was less than 2,000. It was handled by a famous estate agent and land developer Sir Arthur Rickard, who invented the scheme of £1 deposit down and the balance paid at 10 shillings a week, which gave many young couples the chance to own their home. One hundred and seventy-four blocks were sold by this method. Rickard built a statue at the entrance to the estate, calling it the Statue of Liberty.

When Bankstown railway station opened in 1909, when the railway line was extended from Belmore to Bankstown, it was known as Chapel Road. In 1926 the electrification of the railway took place and Bankstown became an easily accessible residential area. After the coming of the railway, a new business was opened. Three years later the Bankstown Shopping Square was completed, and the Bankstown Town Hall opened in 1973. The suburb today has transferred from its rural past, with many migrants now calling the suburb home.

2.3. SITE HISTORY

The subject site once formed part of the original land grant to James Marshall on 8 March 1831. By the early 1900s, the land on which the subject site is situated is identified as being located within a lot owned by George Morris (Figure 19). The land of the subject site appears to have been slow to develop. Rickard Road first appears in the Sands Directory in 1910. Subdivision plans from 1911 indicate the subdivision of the northern portion of the block bound by Chapel Road to the west, Rickard Road to the north, The Appian Way to the east and Bankstown Railway to the south. The Appian Way and Rickard Road appear to have been constructed around 1910 at the same time the water main was extended along both roads.⁴ The very western portion of the subject site forms part of the northern portion of The Appian Way.

The earliest development in the northern portion of the block in which the site is located was the Capitol Theatre, constructed in 1922 with a frontage onto Chapel Road. The Capitol Theatre served as a pseudo Town Hall and Civic Centre for Bankstown during the mid-twentieth century.

⁴ The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, 12 March 1910, p. 11, accessed via <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page8973371>



Figure 2 – 1904 map with the approximate location of the subject site circled in red, indicated to be located within George Morris’s grant.

Source: NSW LRS Historical Lands Records Viewer

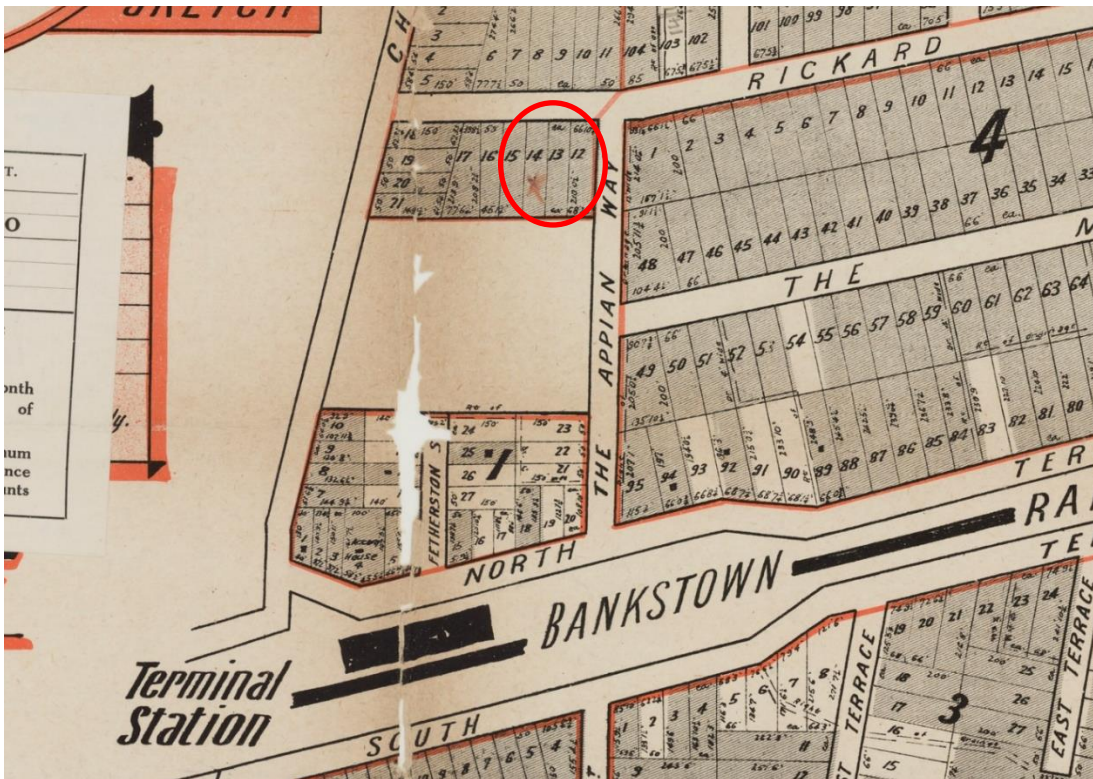


Figure 3 – 1911 subdivision plan of Greenacre Park Bankstown White’s Estate, Bankstown. The location of the subject site is circled in red.

Source: SLNSW, Z/SP/B6/80

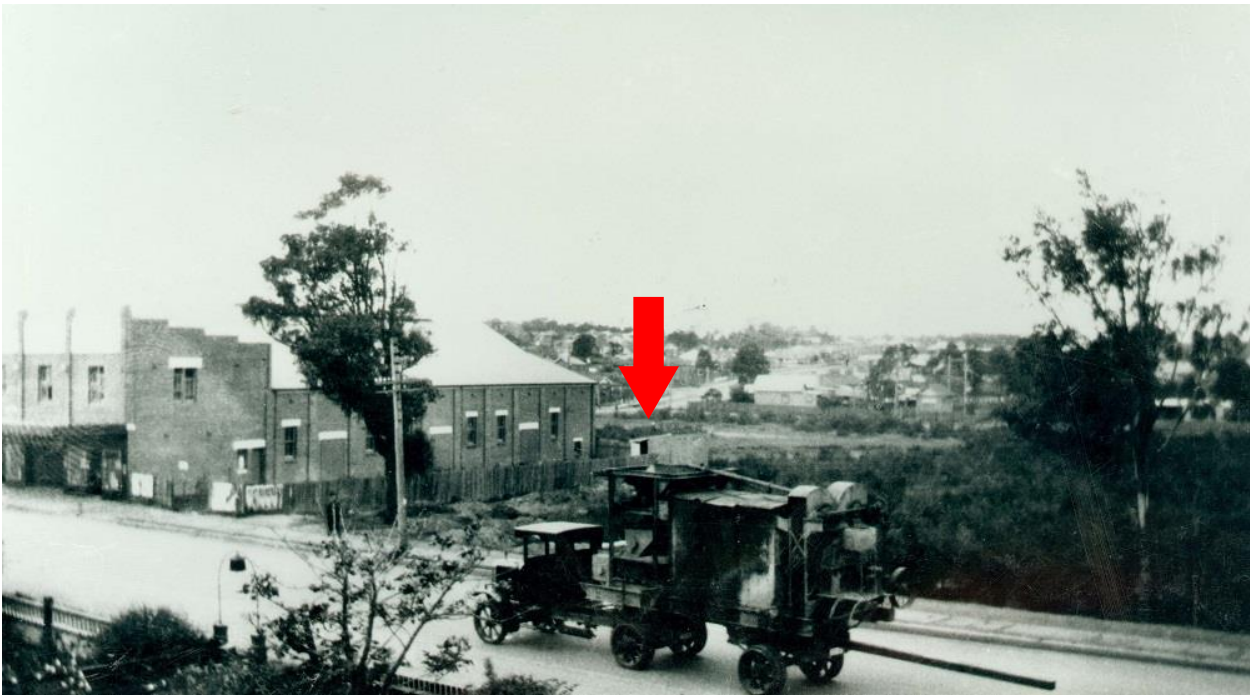


Figure 4 – 1928 photograph of the Capitol Theatre (featured left) in the vicinity of the subject site which is identified by the red arrow.

Source: *Canterbury Bankstown Libraries, PH-0000142*



Figure 5 – 1930 aerial photograph, with the approximate location of the subject site outlined in red. The subject site was undeveloped at this time, with the only development within the block being the Capitol Theatre.

Source: *NSW LPI, CAC_18_879, 1930*

The block on which the site is located remained in relatively the same condition throughout the 1930s and 1950s. By the early 1960s, the block had been substantially improved. The second Canterbury-Bankstown District ambulance station was constructed on the subject site, consisting of a brick structure with gabled roof clad with terracotta tiles. A skillion roof structure was located at the rear of the building where the ambulances would have been parked. Elsewhere on the block, a single storey library had been constructed at the corner of the Appian Way and The Mall. Two other small structures had been erected to the east of the subject site, in the location of the existing Blacktown Library.



Figure 6 – 1943 aerial photograph, with the approximate location of the subject site outlined in red.

Source: SIX Maps, 2019

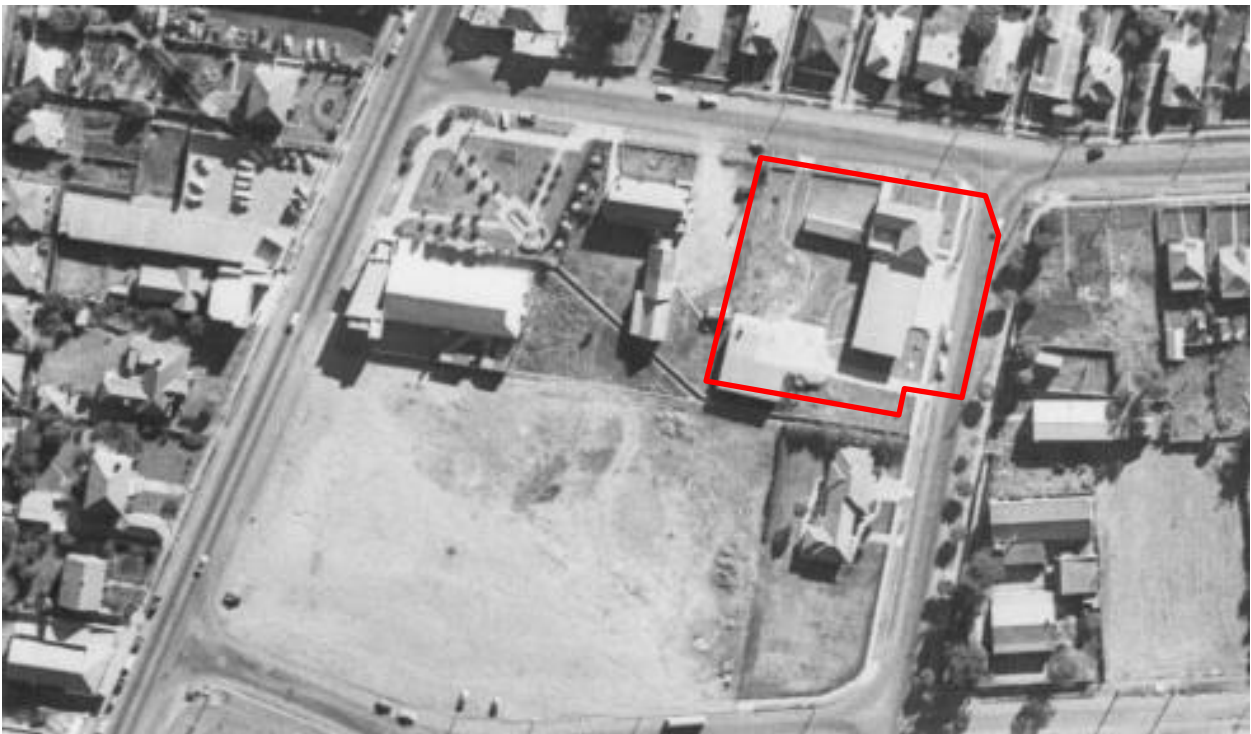


Figure 7 – 1960 aerial photograph, with the approximate location of the subject site outlined in red.

Source: NSW LPI, CAC_18_879, 1930

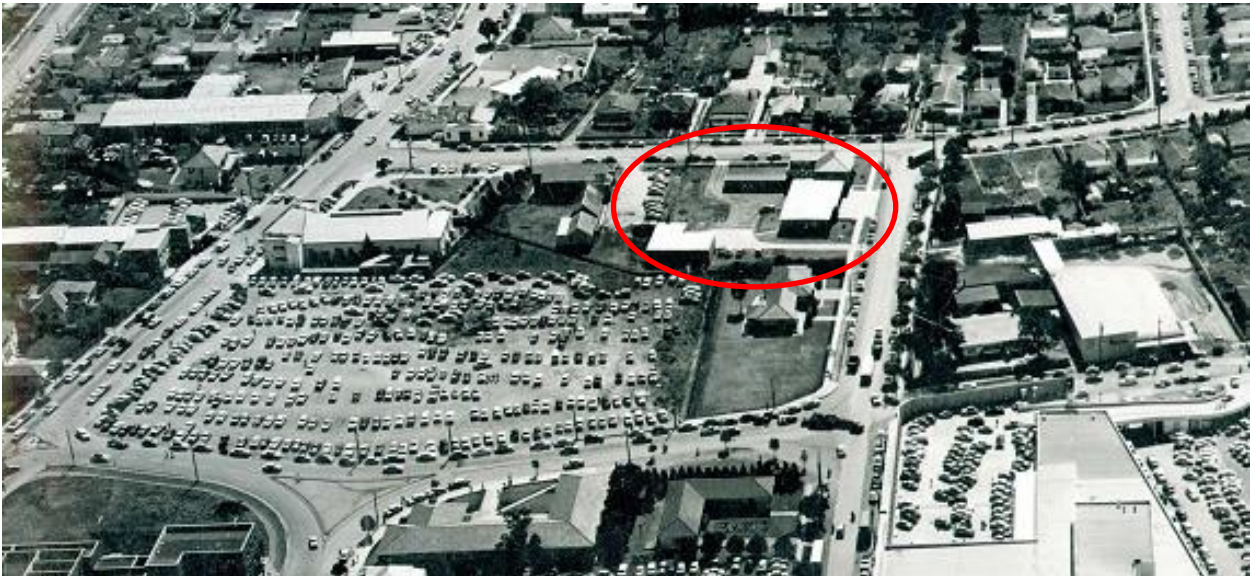


Figure 8 – Early 1960s oblique aerial photograph, with the approximate location of the subject site circled in red. The Ambulance station had been constructed on the site by this time.

Source: Canterbury Bankstown Libraries, 2019

By 1964, the block had been substantially more developed. Bankstown Council relocated its premises to the corner of Chapel Road and The Mall. In 1963 the Council Chambers 'Roundhouse', designed by Kevin Curtin, was constructed. The Round House formed Stage 1 of the formal arrangement of buildings completed in 1963 in the creation of the Bankstown Civic Centre.

The block was continually developed over the next decade with the erection of the Administrative Offices and Town Hall which opened in 1973. ⁵ The subject site continued to be the location of the Ambulance Station throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Ownership of the subject site, however, transferred from the Health Administration Corporation in 1984 to Bankstown City Council in 1985. ⁶

⁵ Bankstown Historical Society, *Historical Tour of the Bankstown District, 6th Edition* (1997) P. 34

⁶ Vol. 12565 Fol. 241

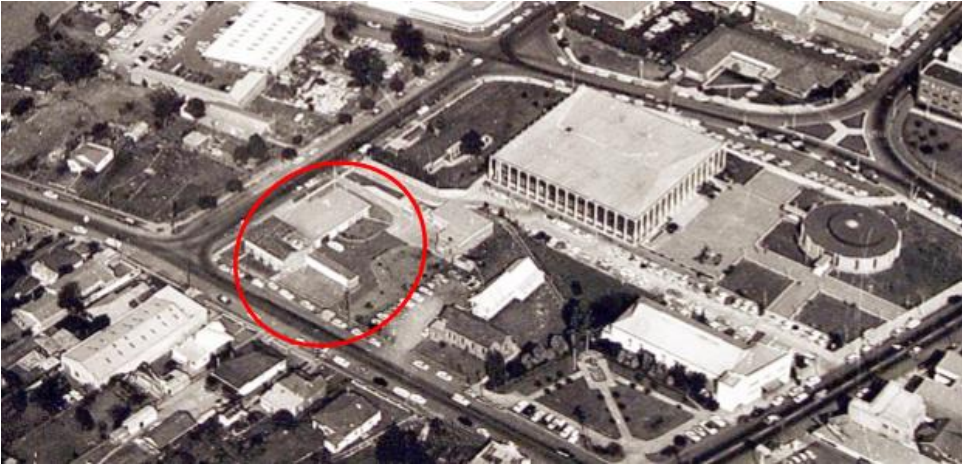


Figure 9 – 1964 oblique aerial photograph with the subject site circled in red.
Source: Canterbury Bankstown Libraries, Local Studies display, PH-0001872



Figure 10 – c1970s oblique aerial photograph with the subject site circled in red.
Source: Canterbury Bankstown Libraries, Local Studies display, PH-0002149



Figure 11 – Bankstown Ambulance Station Office, c1970-1979, located at the corner of Rickard Road and the Appian Way.
Source: Canterbury Bankstown Libraries, PH-0000502



Figure 12 – Bankstown Ambulance Station Office, 1984, located at the corner of Rickard Road and the Appian Way.

Source: Canterbury Bankstown Libraries, PH-0001718

The civic centre of Bankstown continued to grow at the end of the 1980s with the construction of the Civic Tower at the corner of Rickard Road and the Appian Way, located directly to the east of the subject site. With the Ambulance Station no longer in the ownership of the Health Administration Corporation, the building was demolished by 1994 and replaced with a Council carpark. The northern end of The Appian Way was modified to accommodate the new carpark and Civic Tower and remains in the same configuration today.

In 1997, the Council Administration building, located directly to the south of the subject site burnt in a fire, leading to its eventual demolition in 1999. The small library located at the corner of The Appian Way and The Mall too was demolished. Paul Keating Park was constructed in its place and declared in 2000.

The subject site remained in the same configuration throughout the 1990s and through the 2000s. In 2012, the Bankstown Town Hall, located the west of the subject site, was partially demolished for the construction of the new Bankstown Library. Works were completed by 2014 along with new landscaping and carparking area on the subject site.



Figure 13 – Ambulance Station, with the construction of the Civic Tower and cinema complex, 1989

Source: Canterbury Bankstown Libraries, PH-000486



Figure 14 – 1994 oblique aerial photograph with the subject site circled in red.

Source: Canterbury Bankstown Libraries, PH-0002166



Figure 15 – 1998 aerial photograph with the subject site outlined in red.

Source: NSW LPI, 4452_12_103, 1998



Figure 16 – 2007 aerial photograph with the subject site outlined in red.

Source: Google Earth Pro



Figure 17 – 2014 aerial photograph with the subject site outlined in red. Works are underway on the subject site for new landscaping and carparking area.

Source: Google Earth Pro

3. HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

3.1. WHAT IS HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE?

Before making decisions to change a heritage item, an item within a heritage conservation area, or an item located in proximity to a heritage listed item, it is important to understand its values and the values of its context. This leads to decisions that will retain these values in the future. Statements of heritage significance summarise the heritage values of a place – why it is important and why a statutory listing was made to protect these values.

3.2. HERITAGE CONTEXT

The subject site is located within the vicinity of one heritage listed item, 'Council Chambers', located at 375 Chapel Road, and listed on the Bankstown Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2015 as I6.



Figure 18 – Location of the subject site within nearby heritage context, subject site outlined in red.

Source: Bankstown Local Environmental Plan 2015_ Heritage Map HER_005

3.3. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

The Heritage Council of NSW has developed a set of seven criteria for assessing heritage significance, which can be used to make decisions about the heritage value of a place or item. There are two levels of heritage significance used in NSW: state and local. The following assessment of heritage significance has been prepared in accordance with the 'Assessing Heritage Significance' guides.

Table 1 – Assessment of heritage significance

Criteria	Significance Assessment
<p>A – Historical Significance <i>An item is important in the course or pattern of the local area’s cultural or natural history.</i></p>	<p>The subject block has been historically linked with civic purposes. Development on the block included a library, administrative offices and a Town Hall. The subject site however was the location of the second Canterbury-Bankstown District Ambulance Station. While performing a public service, the nature of its links with the community and local government function differs from other buildings which have existed on the site. It did not constitute one of the three buildings (Council Chambers, Administration Building and Town Hall) which Kevin Curtain and Partners were commissioned to design in the delivery of the Civic Precinct.</p> <p>Further to the above, there is no evidence remnant of the former ambulance station which was demolished in 1994. The subject site comprises a carpark and grassed area which have no historic significance.</p>
<p><u>Guidelines for Inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows evidence of a significant human activity <input type="checkbox"/> • is associated with a significant activity or historical phase <input type="checkbox"/> • maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p><u>Guidelines for Exclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>B – Associative Significance <i>An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the local area’s cultural or natural history.</i></p>	<p>There is no evidence which suggests the place has any connections with any person/s of importance to the local area’s cultural or natural history.</p>
<p><u>Guidelines for Inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows evidence of a significant human occupation <input type="checkbox"/> • is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p><u>Guidelines for Exclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Criteria	Significance Assessment
<p>C – Aesthetic Significance</p> <p><i>An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area.</i></p>	<p>The subject site comprises a carpark and a small grassed area. The site does not demonstrate any important aesthetic characteristics.</p> <p>The subject site does not make any important aesthetic contribution to the setting of the heritage listed Council Chambers. There is no fabric comprised within the site which has any connection with the significant building. Further, although the open space allows a visual curtilage around the Council Chambers, the centre was built at a time where the subject site, and the site immediately to the south were occupied by substantial buildings. The aesthetic significance of the Council Chambers is therefore not historically vested in the open space to its east (including the subject site).</p> <p>The subject site therefore has no aesthetic significance and makes no contribution to the aesthetic significance of the heritage listed Council Chambers.</p>
<p><u>Guidelines for Inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement <input type="checkbox"/> • is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement <input type="checkbox"/> • is aesthetically distinctive <input type="checkbox"/> • has landmark qualities <input type="checkbox"/> • exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p><u>Guidelines for Exclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is not a major work by an important designer or artist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • has lost its design or technical integrity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>D – Social Significance</p> <p><i>An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i></p>	<p>The subject site comprises a carpark and a small grassed area. As discussed above it further historically did not comprise the same typology of community buildings as the remainder of the block including the Council Chambers. There is no evidence which suggests that the subject site has importance in the local community.</p>
<p><u>Guidelines for Inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is important for its associations with an identifiable group <input type="checkbox"/> • is important to a community's sense of place <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p><u>Guidelines for Exclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is only important to the community for amenity reasons <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>E – Research Potential</p> <p><i>An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local area's cultural or natural history.</i></p>	<p>It is beyond the scope of this assessment to assess archaeological potential.</p>

Criteria <u>Guidelines for Inclusion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information <input type="checkbox"/> • is an important benchmark or reference site or type <input type="checkbox"/> • provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere <input type="checkbox"/> 	Significance Assessment <u>Guidelines for Exclusion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • has little archaeological or research potential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F – Rarity <i>An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the local area’s cultural or natural history.</i>	The subject site is not rare in Bankstown or NSW.
<u>Guidelines for Inclusion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process <input type="checkbox"/> • demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost <input type="checkbox"/> • shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity <input type="checkbox"/> • is the only example of its type <input type="checkbox"/> • demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest <input type="checkbox"/> • shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community <input type="checkbox"/> 	<u>Guidelines for Exclusion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is not rare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • is numerous but under threat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
G – Representative <i>An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSWs (or the local area’s):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>cultural or natural places; or</i> • <i>cultural or natural environments.</i> 	The subject site has no representative value.

Criteria	Significance Assessment
<p><u>Guidelines for Inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a fine example of its type <input type="checkbox"/> • has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items <input type="checkbox"/> • has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity <input type="checkbox"/> • is a significant variation to a class of items <input type="checkbox"/> • is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type <input type="checkbox"/> • is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size <input type="checkbox"/> • is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p><u>Guidelines for Exclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a poor example of its type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.4. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – THE SUBJECT SITE

The subject site has no heritage significance on a local or state level. It further makes no contribution to the identified significant values of the heritage listed Council Chambers located to the south west.

The subject block has been historically linked with civic purposes. Development on the block included a library, administrative offices and a Town Hall. The subject site however was the location of the second Canterbury-Bankstown District Ambulance Station. Albeit the building performed a public service, the nature of its links with the community and local government function differs from other buildings which have existed on the site. It did not constitute one of the three buildings (Council Chambers, Administration Building and Town Hall) which Kevin Curtain and Partners were commissioned to design in the delivery of the Civic Precinct.

The subject site does not make any important aesthetic contribution to the setting of the heritage listed Council Chambers. There is no fabric comprised within the site which has any connection with the significant building. Further, although the open space allows a visual curtilage around the Council Chambers, the centre was built at a time where the subject site, and the site immediately to the south were occupied by substantial buildings. The aesthetic significance of the Council Chambers is therefore not historically vested in the open space to its east (including the subject site).

3.5. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The following statement of significance for the heritage item in the vicinity of the subject site, 'Council Chambers' has been provided by Bankstown Council.

The Bankstown Council Chambers is of a local level of historical significance for its association with the activities of the Council over the last 45 years. This significance is enhanced by the fact that the item has maintained a continuity of use over that period, which continues today. The Council Chambers are also important as a component of the 1962 – 1976 Civic Centre development and for representing the aesthetic characteristics of that development, which is regarded as a competent design by a noted architect.

The Chambers is aesthetically distinctive and occupies a prominent place within the Bankstown Civic Centre and can be seen to have landmark qualities. The item is of aesthetic significance at a local level.

The Council Chambers is likely to be important to the local community's sense of place and to be of a local level of social significance as the visible representation of the local Council. It is likely that many members of the community have attended Council meetings or interacted directly with the site.

The Council Chambers also has representative values at a local level as a component of the 1962 – 1976 Civic Centre development. The Bankstown Civic Centre was one of a group of ambitious modernist Civic Centre developments that were undertaken in suburban centres throughout NSW in the 1960s. However, the loss of the Administration Building has reduced the overall significance of the Civic Centre group.

3.6. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES

3.6.1. Methods of assessing heritage significance

Heritage significance is assessed by considering each cultural or archaeological site, against the significance criteria set out in the Assessment Guidelines. In all cases, the assessment of significance detailed below is informed by the Aboriginal community, which is documented in this report and based on the results of the ACHAR for the project. If any culturally sensitive values were identified they would not be specifically included in the report or made publicly available, but would be documented and lodged with the knowledge holder providing the information.

3.6.2. Assessment Framework

The Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 1999) defines the basic principles and procedure to be observed in the conservation of important places. It provided the primary framework within which decisions about the management of heritage sites should be made. The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as being derived from the following values:

- Social or cultural value
- Historic value
- Scientific (Archaeological) value
- Aesthetic value

The above values are identified through historical research, review of background information, and through consultation with Aboriginal people.

Values are assessed during consultation with Aboriginal people to prepare a statement of significance. The assessment of values is a discussion of what is significant and why. An assessment of values is more than simply restating the evidence collected during the background research stages of the ACHAR. Rather, the assessment should lead to a statement of significance that sets out a succinct summary of the salient values that have been identified.

3.6.3. Identified Values

There have been no tangible or intangible cultural heritage values identified for the subject site either by the RAPs or the evaluation of the background information during the ACHA process. Consequently, the assessment of values was not warranted for the subject site.

4. HERITAGE INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

4.1. INTRODUCTION

This report forms part of the overall heritage strategy for the WSU Bankstown Campus redevelopment. The following heritage interpretation plan draws on the information outlined in Section 2 and Section 3, with specific reference to stakeholder engagement, the intended audience profile, and suitable interpretive media based on the overall proposed works for the WSU Bankstown Campus.

4.2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Urbis will liaise with the following stakeholders to inform development of the future Heritage Interpretation Plan:

- City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council
- Western Sydney University
- Badanami Centre, Western Sydney University
- Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council.

4.2.1. Community Engagement and Consultation Program

As part of this Heritage Interpretation Plan, community consultation and engagement was undertaken with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) as part of the consultation requirements. The RAPs included:

- A1 Indigenous Services (A1)
- Amanda Hickey Cultural Services (AHCS)
- Barraby Cultural Services (BCS)
- Barking Owl Aboriginal Corporation (BOAC)
- Darug Land Observations (DLO)
- Didge Ngunawal Clan (DNC)
- Ginninderra Aboriginal Corporation (GAC)
- Goobah Developments (GD)
- Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC)
- Tocomwall
- Wailwan Aboriginal Group (WAG).

The above RAPs were invited to a workshop with Urbis staff which was held on 26 July 2022. Participants included:

- Paul Boyd, DNC
- Trudy Healey, GLALC
- Mark Spithill, GLALC.

Urbis would like to thank Paul, Trudy and Mark for generously sharing their cultural knowledge and guidance on appropriate and suitable interpretive elements and narratives.

Key discussion points from the workshop are as follows:

- Opportunity to reuse brickwork from the Education Wall at the old campus that had the handprints of Aboriginal students and Elders. Previous consultation noted that the wall should be re-established at the new campus.

- Preference to include QR codes on signage, linking to a webpage that would discuss past occupancy of the site and culture in the Bankstown area.
- Include a native garden with significant plant species around the proposed Yarning Circle.
- Preference for use of colours, notably red, black and yellow. Note that colour represents Aboriginal culture and symbolises key elements, significance and pride.
- Note that Torres Strait Islander people have also contributed to the area and should be acknowledged and respected in addition to Aboriginal people.
- Determine the totem of the Bankstown area and find ways to incorporate the totem into the subject site through interpretation.
- Connect with Elders to find the storyline for the Bankstown area and campus.
- Importance of storylines and songlines as interpretation keeps these stories alive, helps people connect to their heritage. This is of paramount importance at an Educational facility.
- Artwork displays would benefit by interpretive captions which discuss key points in time in Aboriginal history which can elaborate on the historical context behind the art.
- Preference that the Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag should be flown at entrances. Preference that the Australian Flag should not be flown in vicinity of the Yarning Circle.
- Acknowledgement of Country signs or interpretive signs near the Flags should discuss the history and symbology of the Flags as this is largely unknown. Key focus on Earth, Sun, and Skin.
- May be an option to name buildings or key spaces such as conference rooms or lecture theatres after significant Aboriginal people and Elders. GLALC can be contacted through a formal process to provide suggestions for naming.
- Acknowledgement of Country text should be consistent with other WSU campuses.
- Public programming and events (i.e. NAIDOC week, Sorry Day etc.) should be consistent with other WSU campuses.

Interpretive elements identified through consultation included:

- Public Art
- Landscaping including native gardens and Yarning Circle
- Interpretive Signage with artworks and acknowledgement of country
- Digital Media: Website and QR Code
- Acknowledgement of Country
- Public Programs
- Naming Strategy

4.3. AUDIENCE PROFILE

Interpretation aims to reveal meaningful connections between the past and present. To effectively achieve this, interpretation is predicated on identifying audiences and using appropriate media. It is important to identify specific audiences so that interpretation responds to audience needs and motivations. Interpretation should also consider literacy levels, equitable access for varied abilities, genders, ethnicities, and ages. Accessible interpretation of heritage themes and values of the subject site is key if these values are to be appreciated by the broader community.

The subject site will include student-centred and research-led facilities as part of the Bankstown Western Sydney University Campus. As the largest educational provider in Western Sydney, WSU is a key driver of the region's social and economic development. As the region changes, WSU will deliver education to meet the needs and expectations of current and future students and teachers.

The Bankstown Campus will expand upon the public services and facilities in Bankstown's Civic Precinct and the wider CBD, providing a new education facility and enhanced public domain to complement the existing cultural and civic facilities of the Knowledge Hub, Bryan Brown Theatre, Council administrative facilities, and public open space of Paul Keating Park.

The proposed building will include:

- Ground Floor: reception and retail
- Level 1: Student Services
- Level 2: Specialist Research
- Level 3: Student Hub
- Level 4: Library
- Level 5-7: Workplace, HDR and Shared Learning Spaces
- Level 8: Conference and Function Spaces
- Level 9: Staff Workspaces

As notable from the above uses within the subject site, the development will largely cater to University students, staff, researchers, in addition to other professional businesses which may lease space in Levels 5-12. As detailed in the EIS "the building will host an academic community with a diversity of occupants."⁷ The assumed building population is approximately 2,000 people.⁸ This entails that the audience will be highly educated at a tertiary level, presumably with excellent English speaking skills and generally in an age bracket of 18-24. Additional groups including University staff will like range from 18 through to 65 and above.

As Western Sydney University is the largest tertiary educational provider in Western Sydney, it is anticipated that the ethnic demographics of the students and staff will be varied and highly diverse, reflecting the demographic of Western Sydney and Bankstown more broadly. While it is anticipated that large numbers of students will commute to the University and therefore not necessarily be local to the Bankstown suburb, the 2016 Census results for the suburb of Bankstown include the following ethnographic statistics:

- Ancestry top responses in Bankstown included Vietnamese (16.3%); Lebanese (12.7%); Chinese (9.5%); Australian (6.8%); and English (5.6%). Therefore, stories must reflect and interpret the diverse stories of the Bankstown area
- 78.3% of the Bankstown suburb had both parents born overseas
- 28.9% of the suburb identified as Islamic, followed by Catholic at 17.7%
- 21.1% speak Arabic and 19% speak Vietnamese
- 0.4% of the suburb identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.⁹

Within Western Sydney University itself, demographics are highly varied. In 2021, over 6,300 International Students studied at Western Sydney University.¹⁰ The following key statistics were detailed within the 2015 University Profile:¹¹

- 54% female students
- 80% Undergraduate students
- 67% of students aged under 25

⁷ Urbis, 2019. *EIS Western Sydney University Bankstown City Campus*, 55.

⁸ Urbis 2019. *EIS Western Sydney University Bankstown City Campus*, 61.

⁹ Australia Bureau of Statistics, 2016. *Bankstown 2016 Census All persons QuickStats*. Accessed online 15/8/2022 at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2016/SSC10180>

¹⁰ Western Sydney University, 2022. *Facts about Western Sydney University*. Accessed online 15/8/2022 at: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/contact_international/contact/agents/facts_about_western_sydney_university

¹¹ Western Sydney University, 2015. *University Profile*. Accessed online 15/8/2022 at: [/https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/822514/STRA0039_Uni_Profile_2015_9.pdf](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/822514/STRA0039_Uni_Profile_2015_9.pdf)

Additionally, Western Sydney University has a strong focus on Aboriginal education. This includes the Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education, the offices of which will be located on Level 3 of the new Bankstown City Campus building. Scholarships, Pathway Programs, and learning support are policies implemented to encourage Aboriginal students to study at Western Sydney University and receive adequate support. This coincides with the University's 2020-2025 Indigenous Strategy.

4.3.1. 2020-2025 Indigenous Strategy

Western Sydney University is guided by the 2020-2025 Indigenous Strategy, which outlines the following University wide guidelines:

- Strategic Objective 1 Position WSU as a place of choice for Indigenous Australians to work in an environment that supports and nurtures their careers
- Strategic Objective 2 Provide opportunities for Indigenous Students to learn and succeed in an environment that promotes Indigenous excellence
- Strategic Objective 3 Develop the breadth and depth of Indigenous Research with a vision to promote research that empowers Indigenous Australians
- Strategic Objective 4 Ensure all students develop understanding and knowledge about Indigenous Australians through the Graduate Attribute
- Strategic Objective 5 Promote WSU as a place that works with and for the Indigenous Australian community
- Strategic Objective 6 Promote leadership opportunities for Indigenous Australians throughout the University
- Strategic Objective 7 Build Indigenous Cultural Viability and Knowledge across the University

4.4. MOVEMENT NETWORK

Vehicular access to the subject site is typically along The Appian Way and Rickard Road. There may be opportunities for bolder artistic interpretive elements on this portion of the subject site which can be quickly viewed by drivers or public transport users as they pass by the subject site along these roadways.



Figure 19 – Movement Network: Local Road Network

Source: Arup, as included in: EIS WSU Bankstown City Campus, 2019.

As for pedestrian access, footpaths are provided throughout the local area:

- Rickard Road provides a pedestrian connection between the numerous civic and commercial facilities that run throughout the Civic Precinct
- The Appian Way provides a clear pedestrian link between Rickard Road and the area south of Paul Keating Park, including the Bankstown Central Mall and the Bankstown Rail Station
- A shared use driveway associated with the Bankstown Library and Knowledge Hub is located to the west of the subject site
- The paved path at the far southern end of the subject site is lined by fixed road bollards which allows safe pedestrian travel east and west across the south side of the site.
- The overall open nature of the at-grade car park and the surrounding grass fields allows for clear pedestrian thoroughfare between the surrounding developments and roads.

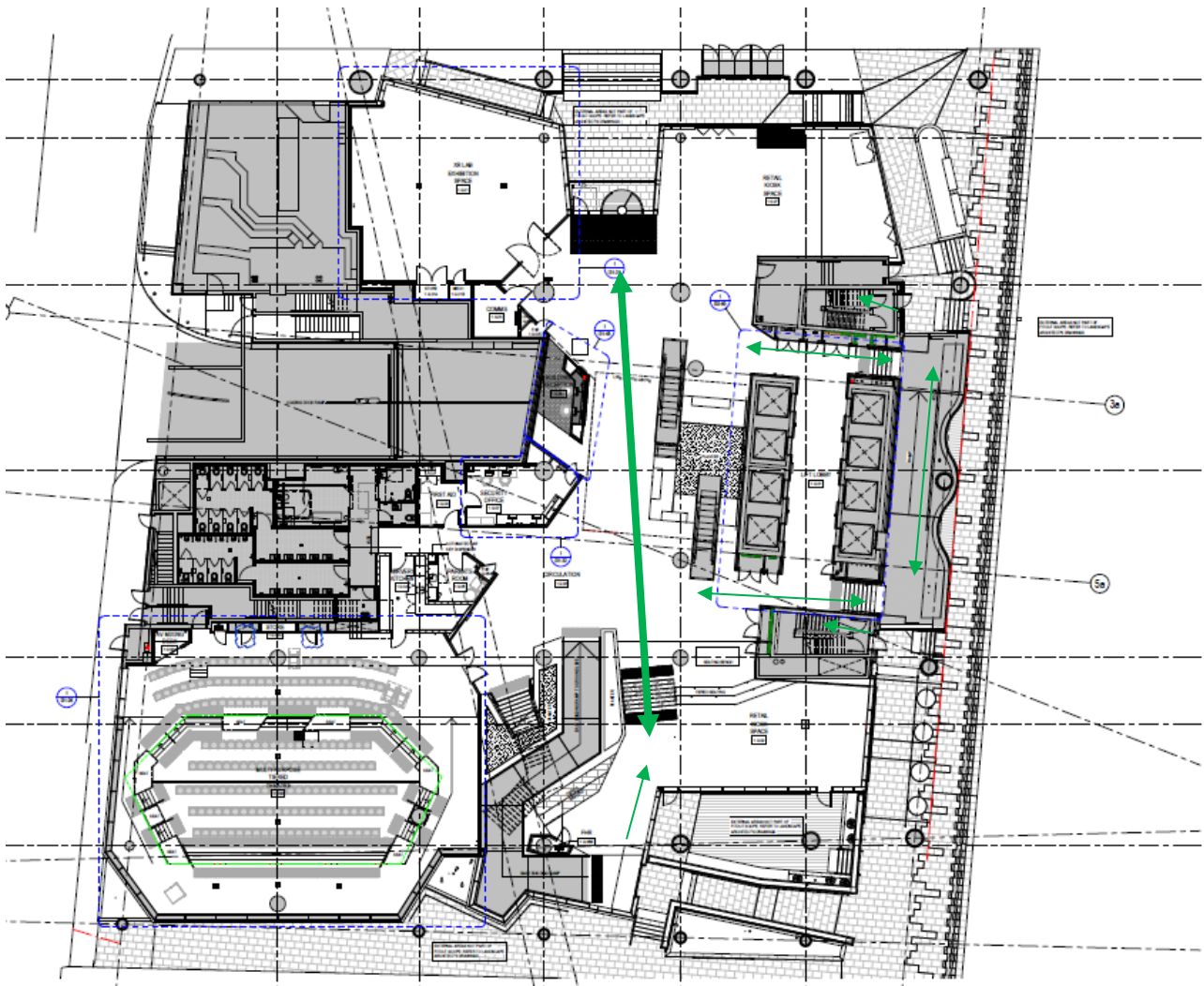


Figure 20 – Pedestrian movement throughout the ground floor of the WSU Bankstown City Campus. Key pedestrian routes outlined in green.

Source: Lyons with markup by Urbis

4.5. RESOURCES FOR INTERPRETATION

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has drawn on previous reports prepared for the subject site, including:

- Urbis 2019, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Bankstown City Campus Western Sydney University Bankstown NSW*

- Urbis 2019, *Heritage Impact Statement Bankstown City Campus Western Sydney University Bankstown NSW*

4.6. INTERPRETATION THEMES AND NARRATIVES

The following interpretation themes and narratives have been highlighted and developed from the information supplied in sections of this report and the historic themes outlined by the Heritage Council of NSW (now Heritage NSW, Department of Planning Industry and Environment), as shown in Table 1 below. The themes focus on the Aboriginal cultural of the Bankstown area.

Table 2 – Historical Themes relevant to the WSU Bankstown site

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Discussion
2. Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	While no specific cultural heritage was linked to the subject site itself, the Bankstown area is well known for extensive Aboriginal land use and ongoing cultural heritage. This includes the presence of over 100 archaeological sites within the area in addition to cultural values held by the community in the local area. This includes the importance of songlines, storylines in the area, and the Totem of the Bankstown region. The totem of the Boorooberongal people is the flying fox (Wirambi) or Possum (Wuban). Other totems include the Goanna, Cockatoo, and Eagle.

Based on the above, the following key narratives and themes have been identified for the focus of this Heritage Interpretation Plan.

4.6.1. Story 1: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Story 1 would relate to the Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with the subject site and the Bankstown area.

Key content would include:

- Bankstown as Dharug country
- Totems, song lines and storylines linked to Bankstown
- Meaning of the flag: Earth, sun, and skin and how this is connected to ongoing activism
- Education of Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal people who have played an important role in education.

4.7. INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS

4.7.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Bankstown area is the country of the Dharug people and the surrounding area features many culturally significant sites, places, and stories identified by Aboriginal people. An Acknowledgment of Country

coincides with the values of Western Sydney University, including those outlined in the 2020-2025 Indigenous Strategy document.

There is therefore an opportunity to incorporate an Acknowledgement of Country into the development, potentially linked with other interpretive elements such as public art and murals; signage; or digital elements such as QR codes.

It may be appropriate to use Dharug language within the Acknowledgement of Country to further extend welcome to Aboriginal people (including students, staff and visitors) and to celebrate language and culture. The use of Aboriginal languages is linked to objectives of UNESCO and the Australian Parliament.



Figure 21 – Acknowledgement of Country at Marrickville Metro

Source: Deuce Design



Figure 22 – Acknowledgement of Country at Westpac Branches, Northern Territory

Source: Westpac



Figure 23 – Use of Gadigal language in sculptural work at the Museum of Sydney

Source: Sydney Living Museums

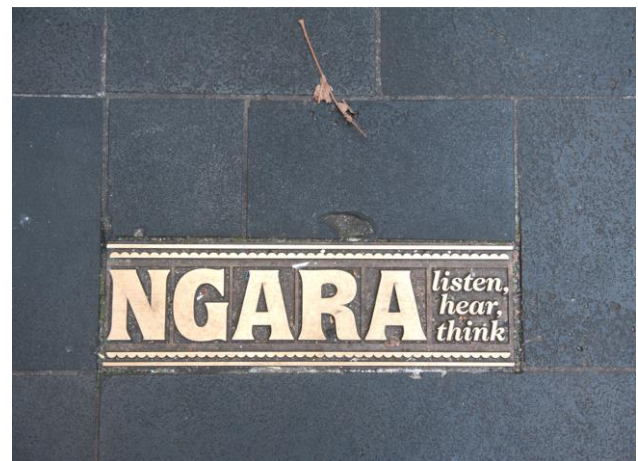


Figure 24 - Use of language at Bulletin Place

Source: Deuce Design

Appropriate locations to include an Acknowledgement of Country would include the key entrances to the subject site, located on the Appian Way, Rickard Road, and the southern entrance from Paul Keating Park, and internally, at key public spaces such as the Reception desk. The proposed location for the Acknowledgement of Country is included in Figure 25.

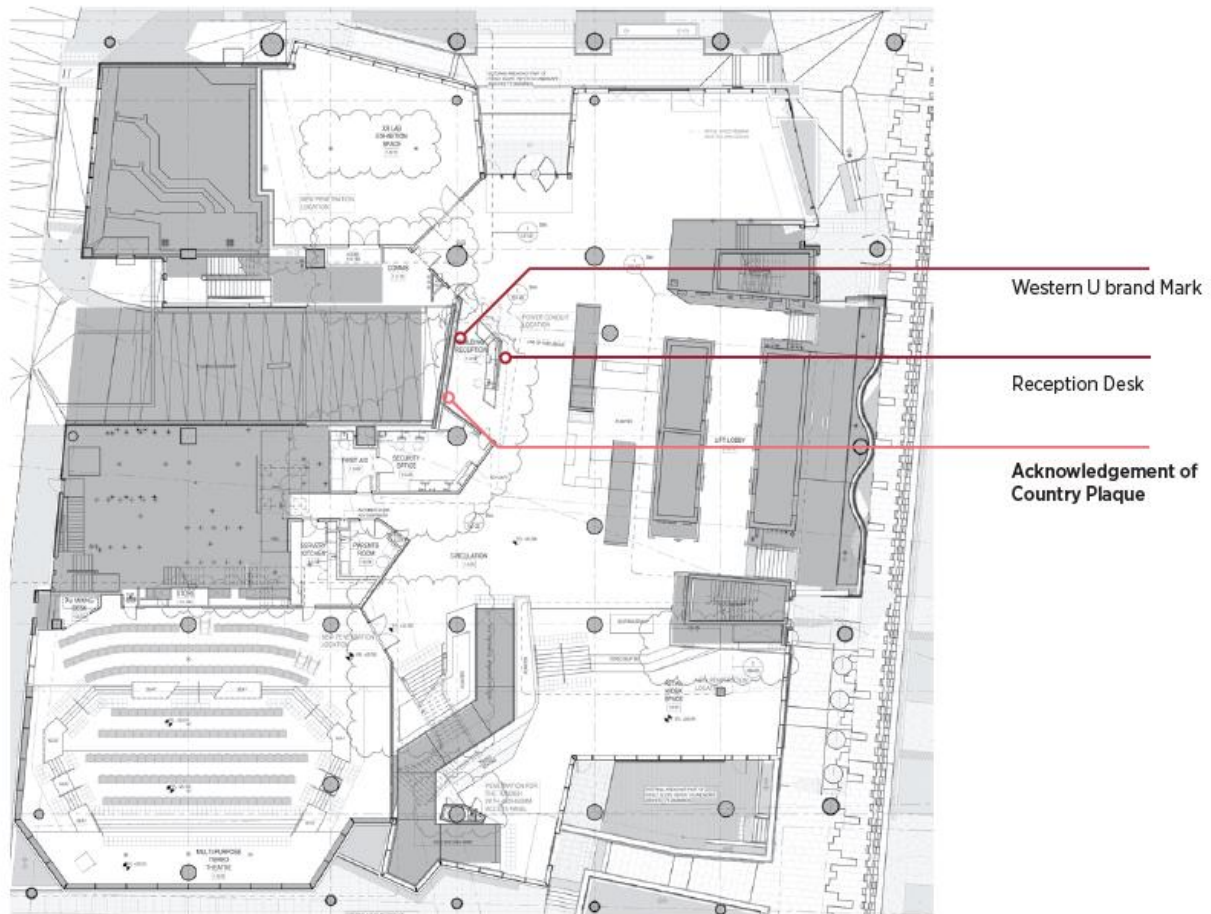


Figure 25 – Proposed location for Acknowledgement of Country elements indicated in green.

Source: Lyons

The Acknowledgement of Country will be located at the Ground Level Reception area. It will comprise a steel shadow box with timber plaque with laser burnt lettering with a size of 1000mm in width and 380mm in height, as indicated below in Figure 26. This design will be consistent with the Acknowledgement of Country spaces at additional Western Sydney University campuses. The Acknowledgement of Country reflects the themes identified by RAPs during consultation, namely ‘Bankstown as Dharug Country’ and the place as a place of education and teaching.

The proposed wording of the Acknowledgement of Country is as follows:

Western Sydney University acknowledges and celebrates the rich and diverse culture, language and knowledges of the people of the Darug Nation.

We also acknowledge this campus stands on their land and continues the tradition of teaching and learning with has occurred here for tens of thousands of years.

We pledge a continued commitment to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands peoples whose connection to country we honour and deeply respect.

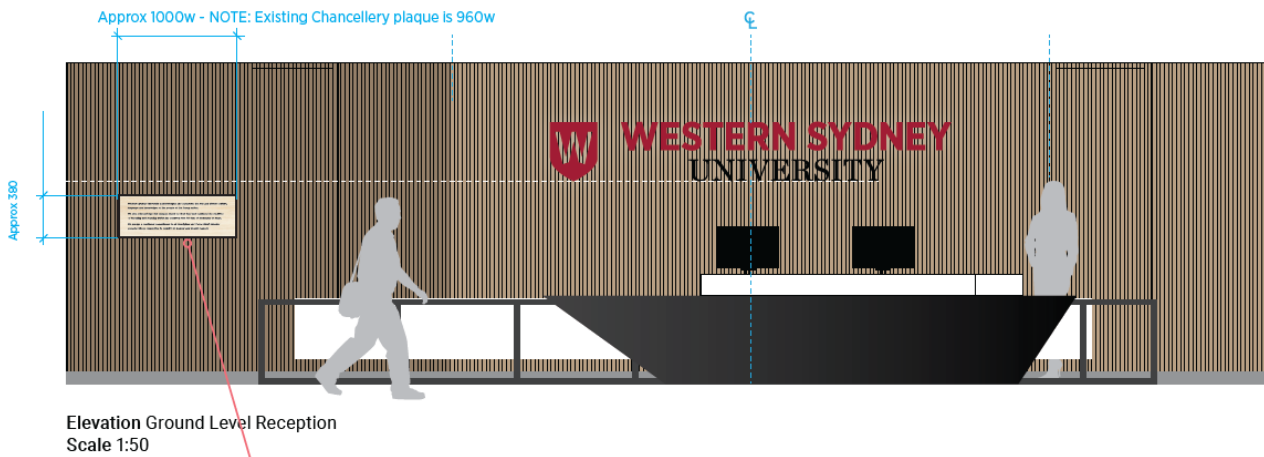


Figure 26 – Elevation of the proposed Acknowledgement of Country location at the Ground Level Reception
 Source: Supplied by Western Sydney University

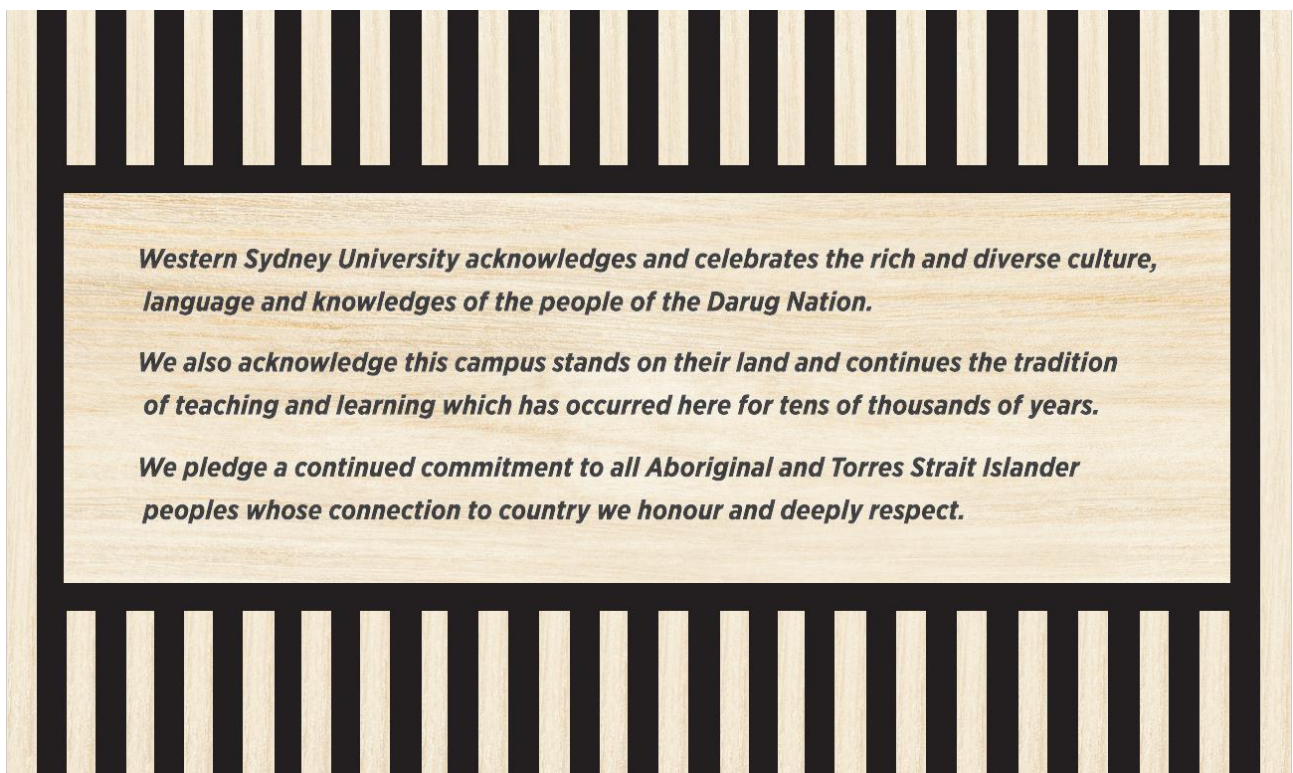


Figure 27 – Design and Wording of the Acknowledgement of Country
 Source: Supplied by Western Sydney University

4.7.2. Landscaping

The Bankstown City Campus redevelopment incorporates relatively little landscaping space, however there are opportunities to incorporate landscaping which connects to Aboriginal culture throughout the subject site. Appropriate landscaping interpretation may include use of native plants which have cultural significance or historically significant uses to Aboriginal people, such as golden wattle, black wattle, lomandras, banksia, lillypilly and various other species.

In addition to use of native and significant plant species, various other elements which celebrate Aboriginal culture may be incorporated into the landscaping plan for the site. Suitable elements may include Yarning Circles, water (such as ponds), or public art (such as sculpture) which reflect Aboriginal elements such as message sticks.



Figure 28 – Barangaroo Parkland landscaping

Source: Barangaroo



Figure 29 – Landscaping sculpture

Source: Glenn Romanis



Figure 30 - Native garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

Source: Royal Botanic Gardens

Appropriate places for native gardens, native plants or additional landscaping elements include:

- Garden beds on the ground floor
- Level 3 Terrace

Placement of a native garden at Level 3 would be particularly positive as it would be situated next to the Badanami Centre. In addition to the native garden it is also proposed to establish a Yarning Circle on the Level 3 terrace outside the Badanami Centre. This would be an opportune location as it would cater to both students and staff recreationally enjoying the Level 3 terrace, in addition to Aboriginal students utilising the resources of the Badanami Centre and providing an opportunity to engage with their culture while at University. The landscaping masterplan prepared by Aspect Studios has outlined the location, size and materials of the Yarning Circle, located at the top left of the terrace. Native gardens and plants are proposed on the Level 3 Terrace, on the Appian Way landscaping, and on the building façade itself, where vertical planting is proposed. Native plant species proposed include:

- *Anigozanthos sp.* - Kangaroo Paw
- *Olearia axillaris* - Coastal Daisybush
- *Corymbia citriodora* - Lemon scented gum
- *Corymbia maculata* – Spotted gum
- *Cissus antarctica* - Kangaroo vine

The proposed landscaping treatment and Yarning Circle represents the themes identified by RAPs during consultation, namely Bankstown as Dharug country; stories, songlines and Totems; the place as a place of education and learning; and while not connected to the Aboriginal flag, it also shows a connection to the Earth through the landscaping materials and the meaning behind the Yarning Circle.



Figure 31 – Landscape plan: General Arrangements of Level 3 with yarning circle location highlighted in orange.

Source: ASPECT Studios

WSU BCC

LEVEL 3 YARNING CIRCLE- PROPOSED

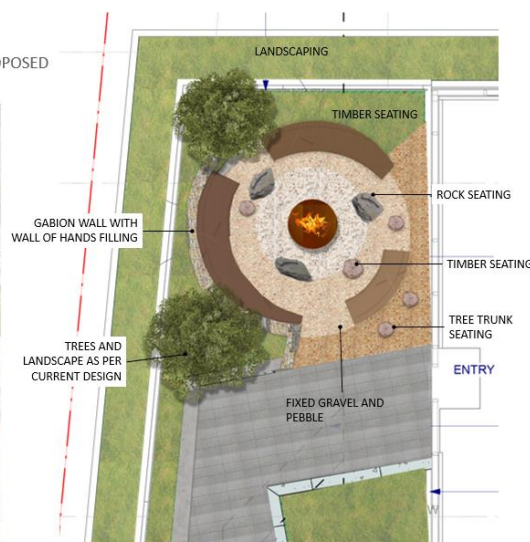


Figure 32 – Design of the Yarning Circle and native gardens on Level 3

Source: HDR



Figure 33 – Design and materials of the Yarning Circle

Source: HDR

4.7.3. Built Form Interpretation – Façade treatment

The design of the WSU campus building itself can be considered to interpret Aboriginal cultural heritage, with the façade treatments and colour schemes influenced by an earthy ochre-like colour palette of reds, yellows, and oranges typically seen to reflect Sydney’s sandstone and earthy environment, as well as the sunrise and sunset which are of significance in some Aboriginal groups around Sydney.¹² The concept of ‘earth, sun and skin’ was also raised during consultation with the RAPS for preparation of this HIP and can be reflected in the colour scheme and materiality of the tower itself.

Partnered with the use of native plantings across the façade, the design of the WSU tower itself is a bold nod to Aboriginal culture and art.



Figure 34 – Render of the Western Sydney University Bankstown city campus tower from Rickard Road.

Source: Lyons

¹² Waters Consultancy Pty Ltd, 2022. *TOGA Cultural Values: Draft Report*.



Figure 35 – Render of view from northwest along Rickard Road

Source: Lyons



Figure 36 – Render of view looking northeast from Paul Keating Park

Source: Lyons

4.7.4. Public Art

Public art and murals can be an eye-catching and bold way to express key themes and narratives relevant to the site without words. Public art can be commissioned by contemporary artists to represent key stories, such as Aboriginal heritage including artistic expressions of significant cultural elements such as totems, storylines and songlines. Public art can incorporate sculptural pieces, landscape elements, functional elements, installation art, murals, or rotating temporary exhibitions. It is a visually striking way for complex feelings and stories to be depicted in a range of media.

In addition to Aboriginal cultural heritage, murals and public art will provide an opportunity for artists of various demographics and may touch on the diversity of Western Sydney more broadly as a result of Post-War migration in particular, which has led to the development and success of multiculturalism in the area. Additionally, murals and art may speak to broader historical themes relevant to Bankstown.

Consultation with the RAPs for the project raised the idea of placing artworks with a sign or caption which connected the artwork and its meaning to historical events which had great significance to Aboriginal people. This may involve placing artworks in their historical context and serve an additional benefit of discussing events such as certain protests and activism, Sorry Day, and responses to colonial events. This could be undertaken through the use of small signs paired with each artwork.



Figure 37 – Art pieces incorporated into wall space

Source: Nicole Monks



Figure 38 - *The Future is Here*, by Dennis Golding

Source: Dennis Golding courtesy of Boomalli



Figure 39 – Mural at Deloitte Offices by Jasmine Sarin

Source: Jasmine Sarin courtesy of Boomalli



Figure 40 – Maningrida Collection at the Museum of Contemporary Arts, Sydney

Source: Mca.com.au



Figure 41 – Large scale banner at Broadway Shopping Centre by Maddison Gibbs

Source: Maddison Gibbs courtesy of Boomalli

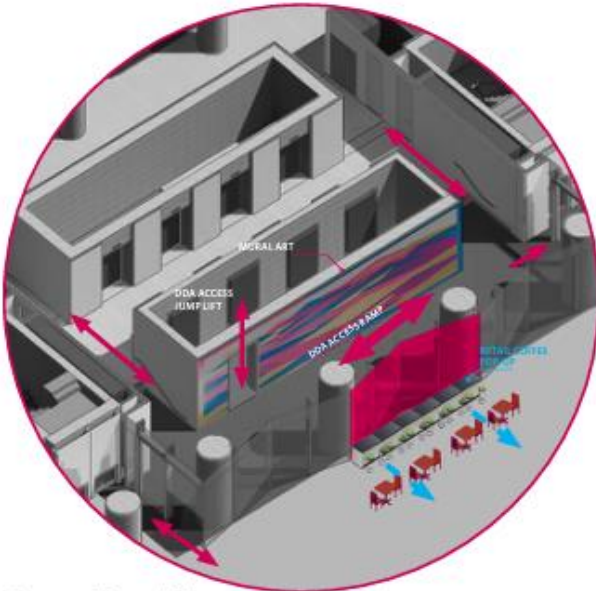


Figure 42 – Mural at Royal North Shore Hospital by Bronwyn Bancroft

Source: Bronwynbancroft.com

4.7.4.1. Murals

The Bankstown City Campus will feature a large-scale mural at the Appian Way entry to the tower. This location is well suited for a bold art piece due to the large vacant wall space, location within a key walkway, and proximity to the entrance and proposed coffee cart. There is also an expansive glazed wall in front of this location, meaning that passers-by on the Appian Way will be able to view the mural without entering the building, increasing the amount of people who may see the art piece.



Ground Level Plan

Figure 43 – Render of mural area at Appian Way entrance

Source: Lyons Architectural Design Report

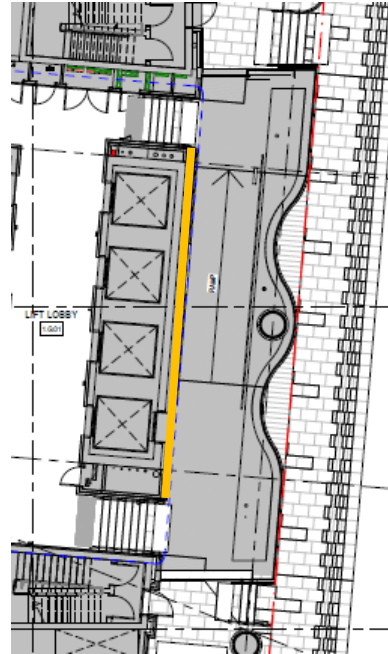


Figure 44 – Proposed location of the mural in orange

Source: Lyons Architectural Design Report

In addition to the Appian Way entrance, it is also proposed to establish a mural by an Aboriginal artist at the Paul Keating Park entrance. The artist and artwork are yet to be determined by Western Sydney University. There may be an opportunity for additional works (including murals) to include the Totems of the area, namely the possum and flying fox.



Figure 45 – Proposed location of Paul Keating Park elevation outlined in orange.

Source: Lyons Architectural Design Report

Furthermore, it is also proposed to relocate a significant mural known as the 'Wall of Hands' from the previous campus at Milperra. The Wall of Hands comprises the handprints of Aboriginal Elders, students and other community members and was identified as significance to the RAPs during consultation, with a strong preference that the Wall of Hands should be reinstated within the new campus.

The Wall of Hands will be installed at the entrance wall to the Badanami Centre on Level 3, which will be an appropriate location for the Mural to be reinstated, celebrating the previous students and Elders. Elevations of the Wall of Hands are outlined below in Figure 46 to Figure 48. The location of the Wall of Hands is demonstrated in Figure 49. The reinstatement of the Wall of Hands links to several themes identified by RAPs during consultation, namely Bankstown as the country of the Dharug people; and the history of the place as a place of teaching and education. While not directly reflecting the Aboriginal flag, it is also connected to the identified theme of 'Earth, sun and skin', with the hand impressions celebrating the skin of Elders and community members on an ochre coloured background which represents the Earth and sun.

WALL OF HANDS – BADANAMI CENTRE



Figure 46 – Elevation of the Wall of Hands to be reinstated at the Badanami Centre

Source: Supplied by Western Sydney University

WALL OF HANDS – BADANAMI CENTRE

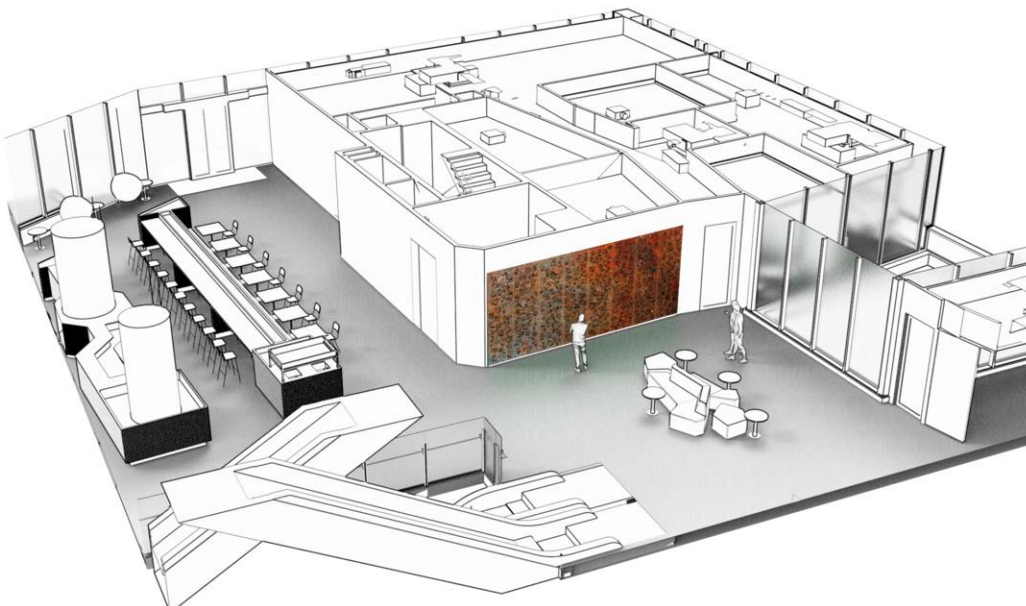


Figure 47 – Elevation within the Badanami Centre

Source: Supplied by Western Sydney University

WALL OF HANDS – BADANAMI CENTRE

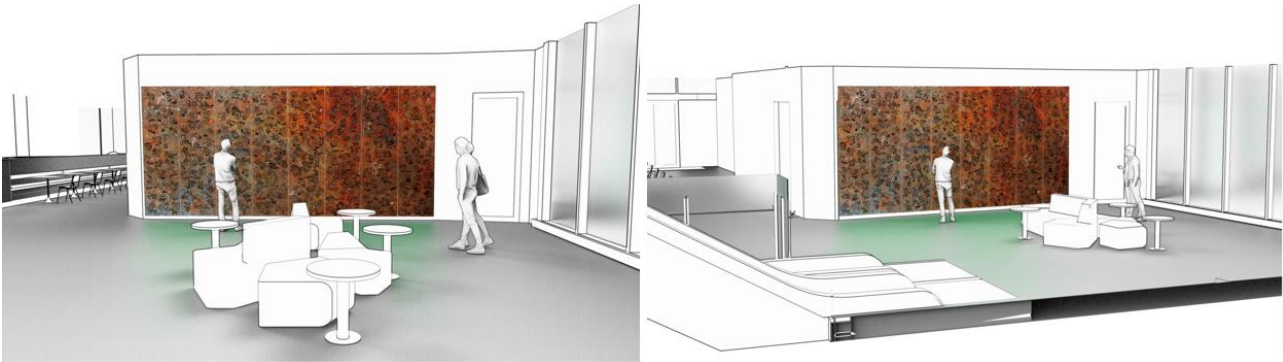


Figure 48 – Elevation of the Wall of Hands within the Badanami Centre

Source: Supplied by Western Sydney University

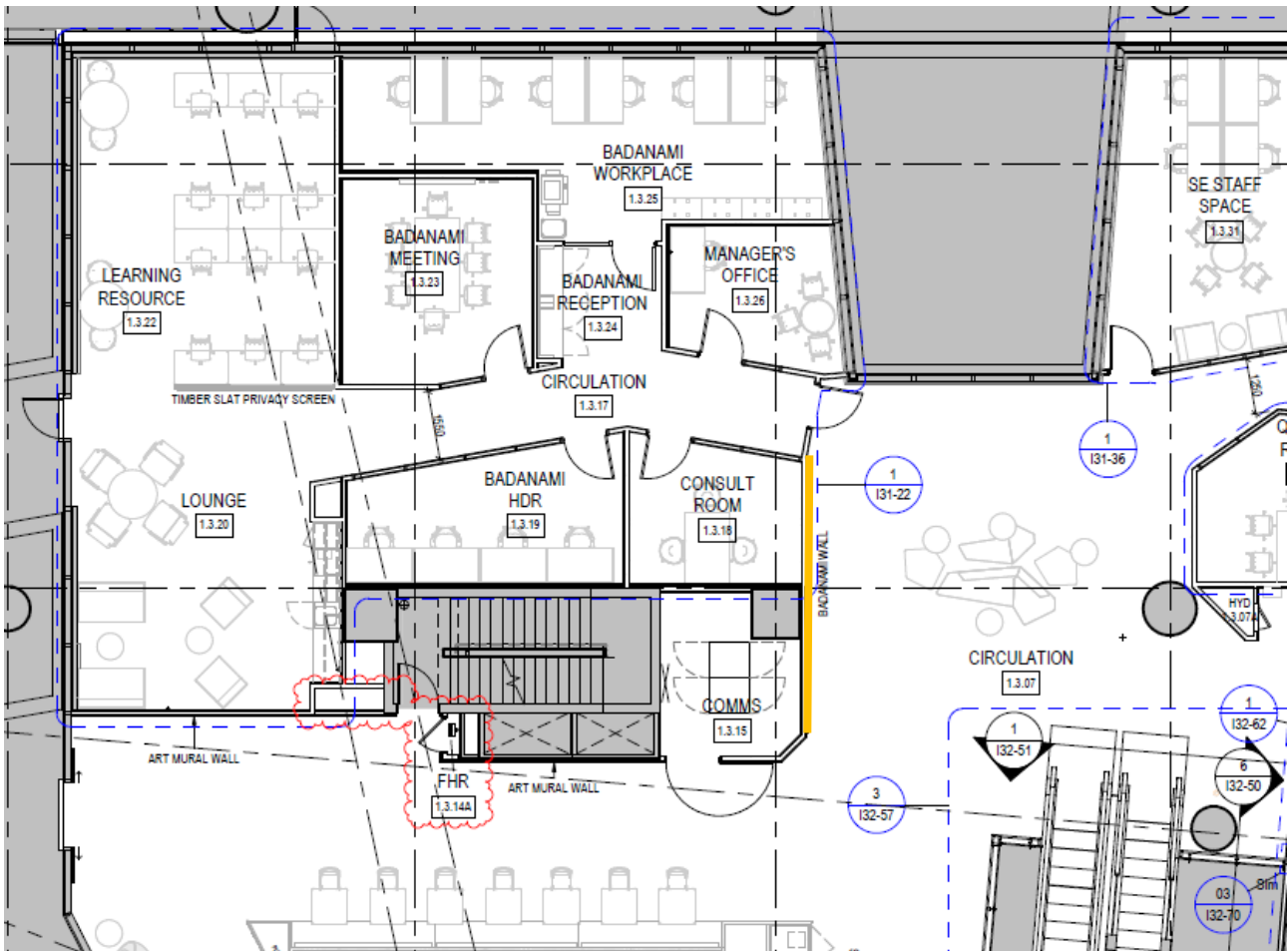


Figure 49 - Proposed location of the Wall of Hands Mural within the Badanami Centre on Level 3 in orange

Source: HDR with markup by Urbis

4.7.4.2. Art displays and exhibition spaces

In addition to the mural locations across the campus and the Wall of Hands at the entrance to the Badanami Centre, Western Sydney University is proposing to establish temporary art gallery spaces and exhibitions throughout the building. It is proposed to include a rotating exhibition of Indigenous art from the Western

Sydney University collection to be installed within the Badanami Centre located on Level 3, with potential to purchase additional artworks however this is still to be determined by Western Sydney University. This would create a comfortable environment for Aboriginal students and staff in which Aboriginal culture is celebrated. It is recommended that in addition to the Badanami Centre, Aboriginal artworks are regularly on display throughout the remainder of the building in more publicly accessible and trafficable areas.

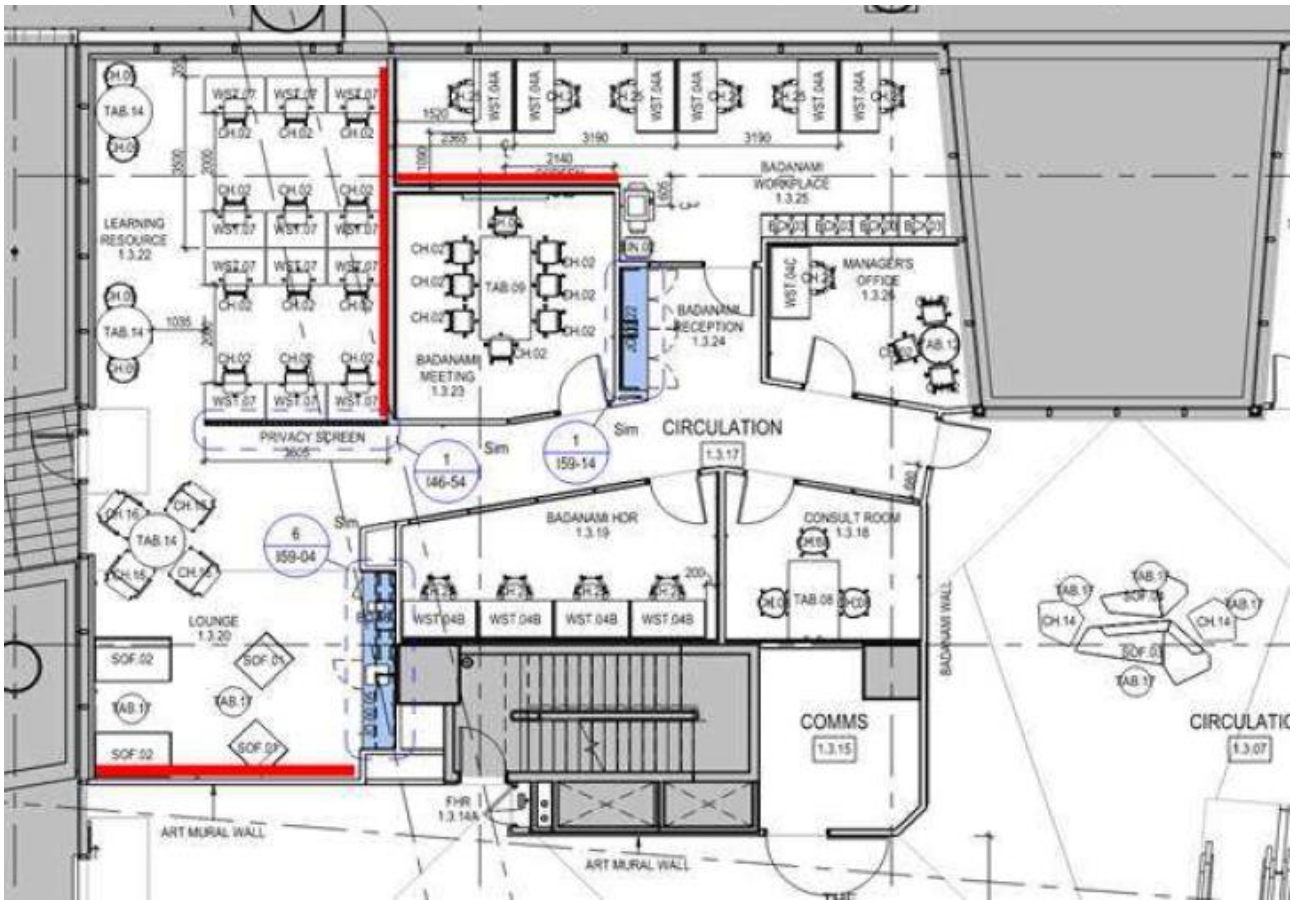


Figure 50 – Layout of the Badanami Centre, with appropriate spaces for art displays outlined in red.

Source: HDR, Western Sydney University

The Western Sydney Art Collection includes over 1400 artworks. It is proposed to include artworks by prominent female Aboriginal artists within the Badanami Centre. These works include *Medicine Lead* (2011) by Abbie Loy Kemarre (Figure 51) and *Yam Leaf* (2011) by Jeannie Pitjara (Figure 52). Each of these artworks are Acrylic on Canvas. Western Sydney University have identified a strong focus to purchase artworks from local artists, particularly of Dharug, Gundungurra, or Dharawal background, as this is an identified gap in the Universities art collection. There may be an opportunity for additional works (including murals) to include the Totems of the area, namely the possum and flying fox.

Abbie Loy Kemarre's artworks are all influenced by the Dreamings which she has inherited and link to the themes identified by RAPs during consultation, namely inherited Totems, Dreamings, songlines and stories.

Jeannie Pitjara's artworks also connect to the themes of inherited Totems, songlines and stories which have been passed down to her.



Figure 51 – *Medicine Leaf* (2011) by Abbie Loy Kemarre

Source: Supplied by Western Sydney University



Figure 52 – *Yam Leaf* (2011) by Jeannie Pitjara

Source: Supplied by Western Sydney University

4.7.5. Digital Media

4.7.5.1. QR Codes

Digital media, notably websites, QR codes and interactives, are an opportunity to tap into the popularity of technology amongst the 18-25 year old age group which is a key demographic of Western Sydney University, often known as the 'digital natives' generation. This taps into the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

phenomenon, in which many people carry a smart phone with capability to scan QR codes or download and use apps with comfort.

As such, there may be an opportunity to establish QR codes on signage throughout the building. This may include captions accompanying artworks or murals within the Badanami Centre, pop-up space, or the murals at the Appian Way or Paul Keating Park facades of the building. A QR code may be an appropriate, easy to use function to link to additional digital or 'off site' interpretation such as website text or multimedia such as a short video. This may be an opportunity for artists to further elaborate on their artwork and culture.

There may also be an opportunity for a QR code accompanying signage for the Acknowledgement to Country. This may link to a separate website page, potentially on the campus page or Western Sydney University webpage which could discuss the history of the area and cultural significance to Aboriginal people. There may be opportunity for a webpage to incorporate multimedia such as videos, high-resolution photographs, and oral history including soundbites.

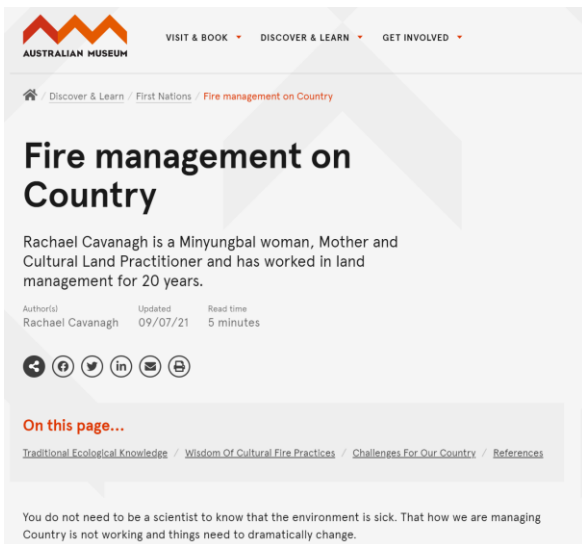


Figure 53 – Website story

Source: Australian Museum

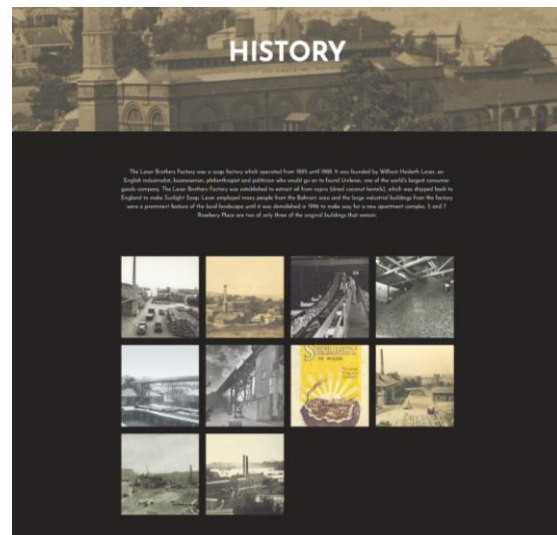


Figure 54 – Historical web page

Source: Sunlight Soap factory

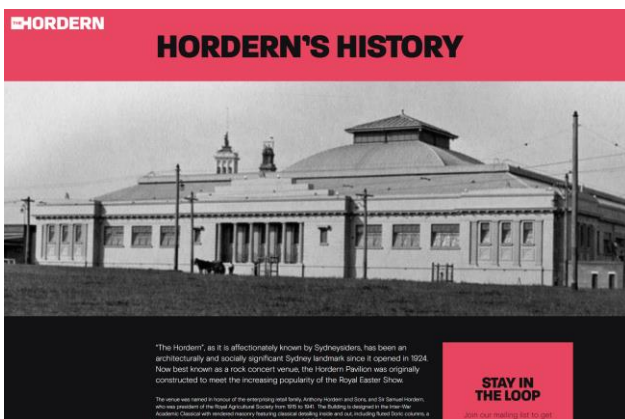


Figure 55 – Hordern Pavilion webpage

Source: Hordern Pavilion



Figure 56 – History webpage example

Source: Imperial War Museum

4.7.6. Public Programming

It is understood that Western Sydney University holds several public programme and event days throughout the year. There may be an opportunity to arrange art exhibitions, educational programs, or talks to coincide with calendar events such as Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. Consultation with RAPs determined that public programming undertaken by Western Sydney University is generally well done and in collaboration with the relevant community members, and as such, RAPs are content for public programming to proceed as currently proposed.

4.7.7. Naming Strategy

A naming strategy is a subtle and respectful way to commemorate significant community members or elements. The building name is currently being considered by Western Growth Steering Committee. Additional spaces that could be named may include garden spaces, terraces, lobby spaces or conference rooms.

GLALC advised during consultation that they should be contacted by Western Sydney University directly through a formal consultation process to identify significant community members that may be appropriate for a naming strategy. It is understood that WSU have commenced this process and are considering various names, and that additional input and consultation will be undertaken internally with the Badanami Centre and the Elders on the relevant Western Sydney University board and organisations.

4.8. SUMMARY OF INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

As above, this Heritage Interpretation Plan has proposed the following interpretive media, which would reflect the following themes, as outlined below in Table 3.

Table 3 – Interpretation Strategy Summary

Element	Represented themes
Acknowledgement of Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bankstown as Dharug Country ▪ A place of Education and Learning
Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bankstown as Dharug country ▪ Stories, songlines and Totems ▪ A place of Education and Learning ▪ Earth, skin and sun
Built Form Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Earth, skin and sun
Public Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bankstown as Dharug country ▪ Stories, songlines and Totems ▪ Earth, skin and sun
Digital Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bankstown as Dharug country ▪ Stories, songlines and Totems ▪ A place of Education and Learning
Public Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bankstown as Dharug country ▪ Stories, songlines and Totems ▪ A place of Education and Learning
Naming Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bankstown as Dharug country

5. CONCLUSIONS

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been prepared to satisfy the Conditions of Consent for SSDA 9831, namely:

D16. Prior to the commencement of operation, the Applicant must consult with Registered Aboriginal Parties about the potential of interpretation of the Aboriginal history and cultural heritage values of the Bankstown area on the site.

D17. The Applicant must submit a Heritage Interpretation Plan based on the above consultation to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The plan must:

- (d) Be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced expert in consultation with Heritage NSW and Council;*
- (e) Include provision for naming elements within the development that acknowledges the site's heritage; and*
- (f) Incorporates interpretative information on the site.*

As part of this HIP, the following key themes and narratives relating to Aboriginal heritage have been identified:

- Bankstown as Dharug country
- Totems, song lines and storylines linked to Bankstown
- Meaning of the flag: Earth, sun, and skin and how this is connected to ongoing activism
- Education of Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal people who have played an important role in education.

Six interpretive elements are proposed within this HIP:

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Landscaping
- Public Art and Murals
- Digital Media
- Public programmes
- Naming Strategy.

NEXT STEPS

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been circulated to the project team and relevant community stakeholders including Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for comment. Feedback provided has been incorporated.

This final document should be submitted to Heritage NSW and Canterbury-Bankstown Council (CBC) in accordance with the Conditions of Consent for the project. Following approval of the Plan from Heritage NSW and CBC, implementation, manufacture, and installation of interpretive elements will be undertaken.

As per the consultation undertaken with RAPs, Urbis also recommend that consideration to display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags at each entrance to the subject site is considered.

Urbis also recommend that GLALC are contacted to begin a formal process for a naming strategy throughout the subject site. Western Sydney University will review proposed names based on consultation with internal and external stakeholders.

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