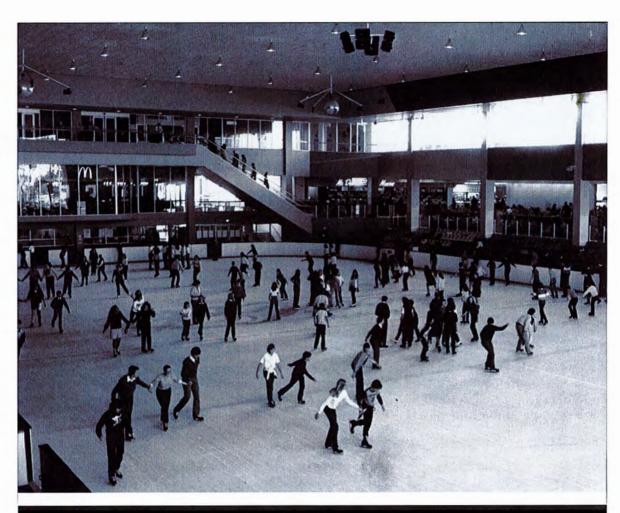


Macquarie Ice Rink

Heritage Assessment

Prepared for City of Ryde Council September 2019



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Report Register

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Quality Assurance

GML Heritage Pty Ltd operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2016.

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

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Issue No.	2	Issue No.	2
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Date:	13 September 2019	Date:	13 September 2019

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) has been commissioned by City of Ryde Council (Council) to provide a heritage assessment of the Macquarie Ice Rink in order to determine if it reaches the threshold for listing as a heritage item within the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014 (RLEP; Ryde LEP).

The Macquarie Ice Rink is located on Level 1 of the Macquarie Centre, 197–223 Herring Road, Macquarie Park. The ice rink was constructed as part of the original design for the Macquarie Centre, which opened in 1981. The ice rink has operated at this location since its construction.

Council received a development application (LDA2018/0498) in December 2018 from AMP Capital for Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Macquarie Centre, which involved the demolition of the ice rink and construction of a new four-storey platform for retail premises, two basement levels, two additional levels of parking, and creation of a Station Plaza to link to the nearby railway station.

The proposal to demolish the ice rink resulted in significant backlash from the Ryde local community and beyond. In response, AMP Capital placed the development application on hold. An Interim Heritage Order (IHO) (IHO No. 147) was imposed on the property by the NSW Minister for Heritage on 4 February 2019. The IHO is attached to this report at Appendix B.

The NSW Heritage Office is currently assessing the site's potential state significance. This report considers the significance of the ice rink at the local and state level.

1.2 Identification of Study Area

The subject site is located on Level 1 of the Macquarie Centre, which is in Macquarie Park and is bounded by Talavera, Waterloo and Herring roads. The site is zoned B4—Mixed Use.

The location of the site is identified in Figures 1.1 and 1.2.

1.3 Heritage Context

The site is not currently listed as a heritage item, nor is it within a heritage conservation area.

Nearby listed heritage items are identified in the following table.

Table 1.1 Heritage Items in the Vicinity of the Subject Site.

Item Name	Address	Significance	Listing	
Macquarie University (ruins)	73 Talavera Road, Macquarie Park	Local	Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014	

1.4 Limitations

The background research for this report has been limited to a desktop analysis of available information only. No additional primary or archival research has been included in the scope of this assessment.

1.5 Methodology

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage publication *Assessing Heritage Significance*. It is also consistent with the relevant principles and quidelines of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter*, 2013 (the Burra Charter).

1.6 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Isabelle Rowlatt (Heritage Consultant) and Lisa Trueman (Associate). Minna Muhlen-Schulte (Senior Heritage Consultant, Historian) provided the background historical analysis.

1.7 Terminology

The terminology used in this report is consistent with the NSW Heritage Manual, prepared by the Heritage Office (now Heritage Division), and the Burra Charter.

Place means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so to retain its cultural significance.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning the place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use.

Use means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.

Compatible use means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Curtilage is defined as the area of land surrounding an item that is required to retain its heritage significance. The nature and extent of the curtilage will vary and can include but is not limited to lot boundaries and visual catchments.

Setting means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

Related place means a place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.

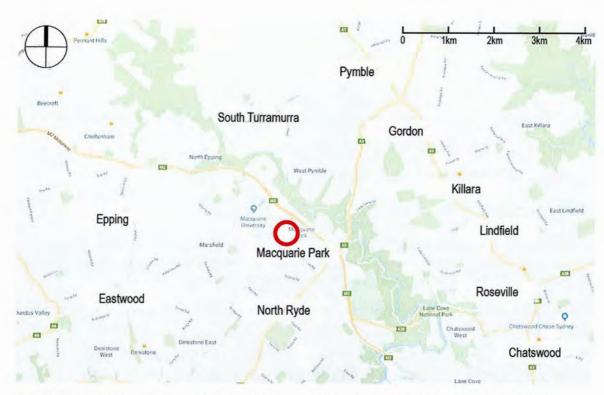


Figure 1.1 Map showing the location of the Macquarie Centre, Macquarie Park. (Source: Google Maps with GML overlay, 2019)



Figure 1.2 Location plan with the Macquarie Ice Rink circled in red and the shopping centre outlined in orange. (Source: SIX Maps with GML overlay, 2019)

2.0 Statutory Context

2.1 Introduction

In NSW, items of heritage significance are afforded statutory protection under the following Acts:

- Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) (Heritage Act); and
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EPA Act).

2.2 Heritage Act 1977

The Heritage Act is a statutory tool designed to conserve NSW's environmental heritage. It is used to regulate the impacts of development on the state's heritage assets. The Heritage Act describes a heritage item as 'a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'.

The subject site is not listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR). There are no items listed on the SHR in the vicinity.

Part 3 of the Heritage Act allows the Minister to make an interim heritage order on a place that the Minster considers may, on further investigation, be found to be of state or local heritage significance. The NSW Minister for Heritage imposed an IHO on Macquarie Ice Rink on 4 February 2019 (IHO No. 147). The IHO is attached to this report at Appendix C.

2.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EPA Act is administered by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and provides for environmental planning instruments to be made to guide the process of development and land use. The EPA Act also provides for the protection of local heritage items and conservation areas through listing on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) which provide local councils with the framework required to make planning decisions.

2.3.1 Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014

Ryde LEP is the principal environmental planning instrument applying to the land. Schedule 5 of the Ryde LEP identifies heritage items and heritage conservation areas. The objectives of Clause 5.10 are as follows:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Ryde,
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,
- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,
- (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

The subject site is not currently listed as a heritage item, nor is it within a heritage conservation area, within the Ryde LEP.

3.0 Historical Overview

3.1 Introduction

This history provides an overview of the development of the Macquarie Centre Ice Rink. This history does not cover the Aboriginal occupation of Ryde but acknowledges the Wallumedegal people who have lived in the area for hundreds of generations.

3.2 Macquarie Centre

In 1968, Grace Bros bought 16 acres of land at North Ryde with plans to build a multimillion-dollar centre. David Jones had also developed preliminary plans for a shopping centre, but Grace Bros prevailed, appealing planning decisions at Ryde Municipal Council until approval was granted in 1969. However, a slowed economy stalled progress until an amended development application was approved at the end of 1978.

The design sought to incorporate new philosophies of natural light, interior greenery and extensive leisure and recreation facilities into one centre. The three-level spiral ramp made it one of the longest malls in the world which, while broadening accessibility for users, also confused many consumers when navigating the space. However, the intent of the project architects Whitehead and Payne was to develop an interior that was 'humanised and intimate in scale.' An estimated 4,500 plants from 40 different species were used throughout the centre and to soften the concrete exterior.

In 1979, the AMP Society became the major shareholder and financed the majority of the \$80 million required for the construction of the complex. In November 1981, the Centre was officially opened by NSW Premier Neville Wran via satellite link from Japan. Facilities included 130 shops and services such as a post office and a medical centre, and although other recreational facilities had not passed through the development stage, the Olympic-sized ice skating rink was approved and constructed.

3.3 Macquarie Ice Rink

3.3.1 Construction of the Rink

At the time the Macquarie Centre was built, the ice rink feature was unique to shopping centres in Australia. The inclusion of this leisure facility was part of a trend of commercial shopping redevelopments in the 1980s to diversify the consumer experience and encourage people to linger in centres longer during their shopping visit. Measuring 60 by 30.5 metres with seating for 1,200 people, it was initially planned to operate for 24 hours a day. The opening times were reduced but it still operated seven days a week, becoming a chief attraction in the marketing of the Macquarie Centre. Touring guest appearances from the Canadian Ice Hockey Team and the Australian Speed Skating Team as well as hosting of the NSW Professional Figure Skating Championships bolstered its appeal.

Despite some early artificial ice rinks appearing in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney (all coincidentally called Glaciariums) during the first part of the twentieth century, and subsequent ice parks and rinks built mid-century, there are no surviving examples of ice rinks in Australia built prior to the 1970s. The Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink, opened in 1971, is the longest-running ice rink in Australia.³

3.3.2 Social History

The Macquarie Ice Rink quickly became part of the social experience of visiting the Macquarie Centre. People from throughout Sydney and NSW brought their children to skate or have lessons; schools used the rink for excursions as did students from the neighbouring Macquarie University. Many Sydneysiders learnt to skate at the rink and as a social venue it became especially popular with teenagers, one of whom, Kate, remembers:

... The opening of the Macquarie Centre. It was important for teenage girls to visit the centre in its first month (it was kind of rite of passage at my high school). It was the first major shopping centre I visited without my parents. Because the public transport links to the centre were good, I went regularly after school with a friend: we would window shop and ice skate.⁴

Skating at the rink was a popular pastime, especially with teenagers and older children who could easily visit the shopping centre after school. School holidays saw particularly high patronage, and the rink would often have to turn away people who hadn't brought their own skates as there were no more rental skates available. One former Ryde resident, Katie, remembers that she 'started skating at Macquarie Ice Rink when I was 8 years old ... until I was about 25. I literally grew up at the ice rink.' This is echoed by Kayla, who also grew up at the rink 'as part of the Friday night regulars'.⁵

Over its 40-year lifespan, the rink has also been used for a training ground for figure skaters and Olympians such as gold medallist Steven Bradbury, who trained there as a child and won his first national championship there in 1983, describing the experience as 'one of the highlights of my skating career'.⁸ The rink is also the only venue outside of the northern hemisphere to have hosted a senior World Championship in a skating discipline.⁹

It is the home ground rink for the Australian Ice Hockey League (AIHL), the Sydney Bears and Sydney Ice Dogs. Josie Jerome, secretary of the Sydney Bears Ice Hockey Club, couldn't face telling her sons their dreams of playing hockey for Australia would never come true, as the closure would 'realistically have meant the end of their hockey, which would have pretty much meant the end of the world to them'.

Several Olympic hopefuls have relocated to the Ryde area in order to have better access to the rink and train in preparation for the 2022 Olympic Games. ¹⁰ Andrew Dodds, an ice dance competitor, moved to the Ryde area for the opportunities available at the rink. He said of the potential closure: 'Everyone in the skating community around Australia has been a part of this rink at some point, it is a part of all of us, and we are all feeling it today.'

In addition to the Macquarie Ice Rink's own learn to skate programs, a number of skating schools and clubs use the Macquarie Ice Rink as their training base. These include the Sydney Speed Skating Club, one of only two speed skating clubs in NSW; the Sydney Bears Hockey School; iStage Sydney Ice Dancing School; and the Macquarie Ice Skating Club. The ice rink hosts prominent events in the skating community throughout the year, including the Sydney Synch Festival and the Australian Figure Skating Championships.

Local attachment to the rink has been further highlighted in newspaper coverage of its potential closure in 2018. The Member for Ryde and NSW Customer Service Minister Victor Dominello said, 'Growing up in Ryde, I spent many weekends and evenings ice skating with friends and family.'¹¹ The founding secretary of the Macquarie Ice Skating Club, Margaret Coe, posted to the 'Save Macquarie Ice Rink' Facebook page that there are people who are still skating there who had started when the rink opened.¹²

3.3.3 Current Development Pressures

In 2015, the NSW State Government changed the zoning requirements of the area where the Macquarie Centre is located as part of the Macquarie University Priority Precinct. As a result, the permissible building heights at the Macquarie Centre increased from 10 storeys to 65 metres, 90 metres and 120 metres. The permissible building height over the ice rink is now 120 metres. The following year the Ryde LEP was updated to align with these changes.

The Ryde DCP 2014 Part 4.5: Macquarie Park includes controls requiring a station plaza east of Macquarie University Station to enhance commuter experience and create a new outdoor meeting place. The plaza is required to have minimum dimensions of 80 metres by 80 metres.¹³ A concept plan for redevelopment of the Macquarie Centre, including the station plaza and the provision of four new towers, was recommended for approval by the Joint Regional Planning Panel on 10 November 2016 (LDA2015/0655). This concept plan included the demolition of the ice rink in order to facilitate the development of the station plaza, and included development of a 37 storey tower at this location with a retail and outdoor dining precinct. In 2016, Council entered into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with owners of the Macquarie Centre, AMP Capital, to build a library and creative hub as part of the redevelopment of the site.

In December 2018, Council received a development application (LDA2018/0498) for the demolition of part of the Macquarie Centre (including the ice rink) and redevelopment of the station plaza (Figure 3.13), and were strongly opposed by the Ryde community. The proposed closure was the subject of national news coverage, and a petition to save the ice rink gathered 31,213 signatures by February. In addition to this, the state member for Ryde, Victor Dominello, sought an IHO on the property which was imposed by the Minister on 4 February 2019 after significant lobbying by the community. In response to the public response to the closure of the Ice Rink, AMP requested that the development application be put on hold on 18 January 2019.

The opposition to the proposed demolition highlights the significance of the ice rink not only to the local Ryde community, but to the wider region. An Extraordinary Meeting of City of Ryde Council held on 29 January 2019 saw attendees fill the council chambers to capacity and out the door. Speakers in support of the Macquarie Ice Rink included representatives from the Sydney Bears Ice Hockey Club, Sydney Ice Dogs, Macquarie Dominoes Synchronised Skating Team, and the NSW Ice Skating Association, who together highlighted the importance of having an Olympic-sized facility catering to competitors at an elite level as well as junior players. ¹⁴ Following the news that AMP was withdrawing its application, community responses were wholeheartedly relieved, with many public comments of support for the ice rink and the 'really wonderful news for all those who use the rink and who will use the rink in the future'. ¹⁵ LDA2015/0655



Figure 3.1 Macquarie Centre under construction, March 1981. (Source: Coles Myer Archive, Macquarie Centre newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 1, State Library Victoria)

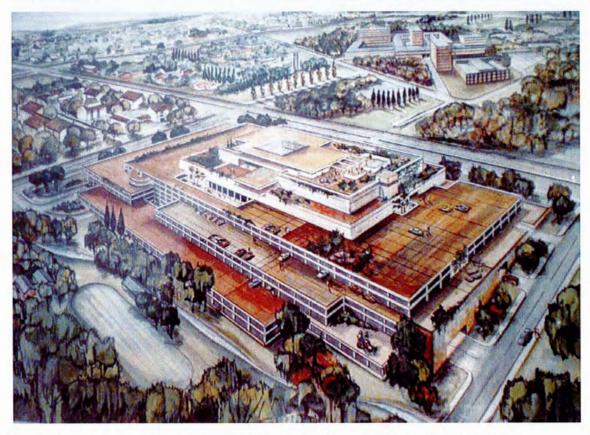


Figure 3.2 Architect's depiction of Macquarie Centre, 1980. (Source: Coles Myer Archive, MS13468, State Library Victoria)



Figure 3.3 Macquarie Ice Rink, 1983. The viewing area from the food court can been seen on the far wall at left. (Source: Photograph by Adrian Greer for Sydney Morning Herald)

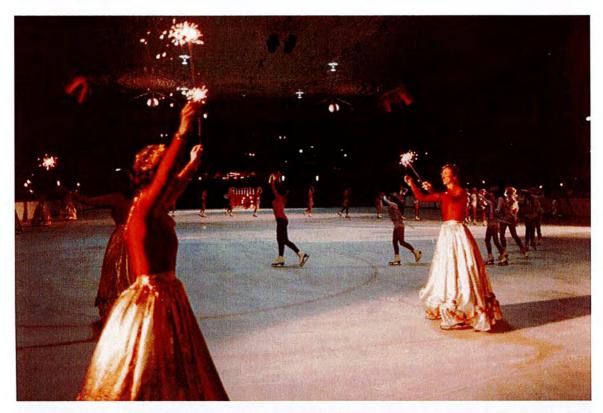


Figure 3.4 Ice dancers in the Christmas concert at Macquarie Ice Rink. This photograph was undated but likely taken in the 1980s or early 1990s. (Source: Margaret Coe, 'Save the Macquarie Ice Rink' Facebook page, 24 January 2019)



Figure 3.5 The Estonian Dance Troupe performing in the Folkloric Festival, c1980s. (Source: Margaret Coe, 'Save the Macquarie Ice Rink' Facebook page, 24 January 2019)



Figure 3.6 A women's skating team, c1985. (Source: Hayley Smith, 'Save the Macquarie Ice Rink' Facebook page, 30 January 2019)

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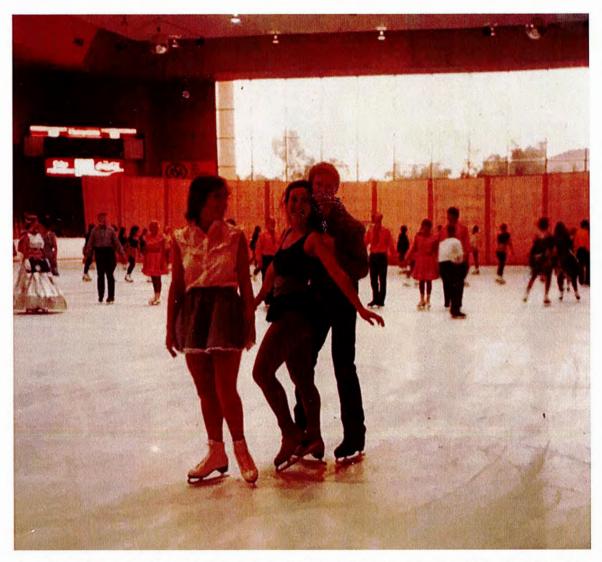


Figure 3.7 Social skaters at the Macquarie Ice Rink, c1985. (Source: Hayley Smith, 'Save the Macquarie Ice Rink' Facebook page, 30 January 2019)



Figure 3.8 Olympic gold medallist Steven Bradbury at Macquarie Ice Rink, 1991. (Source: Sydney Morning Herald)



Figure 3.9 Steven Bradbury (left) on the podium at Macquarie Ice Rink, 1991. (Source: Sydney Morning Herald)



Figure 3.10 Children learning to skate at the Macquarie Ice Rink. (Source: Brooke Mitchell for Sydney Morning Herald, 2 February 2019)



Figure 3.11 Members of iStage Sydney, an ice dancing troupe who use the Macquarie Ice Rink to train. (Source: Jordan Shields for Northern District Times, 6 February 2019)



Figure 3.12 Members of the Sydney Bears Ice Hockey Club gathered at the Macquarie Ice Rink. (Source: Sydney Bears, 2019)



Figure 3.13 An artist's impression of the proposed redevelopment of the Macquarie Centre, showing the entrance to Macquarie University Station at the far right and the outdoor plaza at centre (the current location of the ice rink). (Source: AMP Capital)

3.4 Endnotes

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- City of Ryde, Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting, 29 January 2019, viewed 5 July 2019 https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Council/Agendas-and-Minutes/Council/Extraordinary-Council-Meeting-29-January-2019.
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4.0 Site Analysis

4.1 Local Context

The subject site is located within the Macquarie Centre in Macquarie Park, bounded by Waterloo Road, Herring Road and Talavera Road. It is approximately 15 kilometres northwest of the Sydney CBD. Macquarie Park is a predominantly commercial area, with a number of corporate business precincts. It is a small suburb defined by the park-like campus of Macquarie University in the northwest, and the Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium in the southeast.

4.2 Macquarie Ice Rink

The ice rink is located on Level 1 of the Macquarie Centre. The Macquarie Centre is a shopping complex with four levels and includes major department stores, a cinema, fitness centres, grocery stores, and over 100 other speciality shops. There are up to 5000 parking spaces available at the centre spread across a number of levels. Nearby stores include Macquarie Medical Imaging, Macquarie Health Professionals, and a range of health insurance shopfronts.

The ice rink's foyer is accessed via a set of stairs leading up from a public walkway and has a carpeted floor, ticketing desk, a waiting area, and windows providing a view of the rink. There is a café located next to the foyer.

The ice rink is located in a double-height space with painted masonry walls and a concrete floor. It measures 60 metres by 30.5 metres and is encircled by a solid barrier with gates to provide access to the ice. There is a full height multi-paned window on the southwestern wall, looking out onto a garden with Waterloo Road beyond. The room is lit by spotlights arranged on the panelled ceiling, where there is also a mirrored ball for events.

The rink has capacity for 1225 spectators. There is tiered seating on both sides of the ice rink, with a long mezzanine with a glass balustrade along the northwestern wall accessed by stairs next to the foyer. The space below the mezzanine is enclosed and houses the shoe-hire desk, male and female toilets, and storage/services. At the southern end of the mezzanine is a raised platform with a large television screen, audio equipment and additional seating.

The ice rink can be viewed from the food court on Level 2 of the Macquarie Centre, which provides a full-height glazed wall overlooking the rink.

During the school term, the ice rink is visited by approximately 3,500 patrons per week. In school holidays, visitation rises to around 6,500-7,000 per week.

The ice rink was upgraded in 2017, including a refurbishment of the rink and laying of new ice.

4.2.1 Photographs of the Macquarie Ice Rink

The following photographs were taken by GML on 3 May 2019.



Figure 4.1 View of the ice rink from the foyer, looking towards tiered seating at the side of the rink.



Figure 4.2 View of the ice rink from the foyer, towards Waterloo Road.

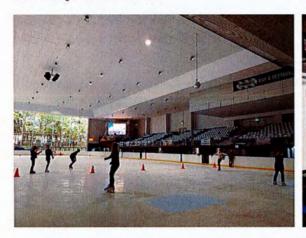


Figure 4.3 View of the ice rink looking towards the mezzanine.



Figure 4.4 View of the entrance foyer and ticketing desk.

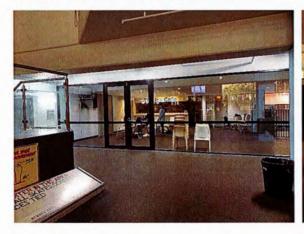


Figure 4.5 The kiosk adjacent to the ticketing desk.



Figure 4.6 The skating shoe-hire desk with mezzanine above.





Figure 4.7 Foot measurement guide located next to the stairs to the mezzanine level.

Figure 4.8 View from the spectator seating area over the ice rink. Note the food court viewing area at the rear, on Level 1 of the shopping centre.



Figure 4.9 Panoramic image of the ice rink, as viewed from the top of the mezzanine. (Source: City of Ryde, 2019)

5.0 Assessment of Significance

5.1 Comparative Analysis

The initial desktop review of currently available information regarding the heritage values of the subject site found limited material able to inform a comparative assessment. In this context, this comparative assessment has sought to identify criteria relevant to assessing the heritage significance of the subject site relative to:

- other ice skating rinks in the Sydney area; and
- built heritage places within the Ryde LGA and Sydney with heritage significance linked to their use as a recreational or sporting facility.

5.1.1 Ice Rinks in Sydney

The Macquarie Ice Rink is one of four Olympic-sized ice rinks (60 metres x 30 metres) in the greater Sydney area. Others include:

- Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink, Canterbury (opened 1971);
- Liverpool Catholic Club Ice Rink, Liverpool (opened 1979); and
- Penrith Ice Palace, Penrith (opened 2000).

Other Olympic-sized ice rinks in NSW include the Hunter Ice Skating Stadium, Warners Bay (2000), and the Erina Ice Arena, Erina (2003).

None of the above ice rinks, or indeed any ice rinks in NSW, have been assessed as having cultural heritage significance and are not included on the State Heritage Inventory.

5.1.2 Heritage-listed Recreational Facilities

A search of the State Heritage Inventory was undertaken to identify sporting and recreational community facilities listed on Schedule 5 of the Ryde LEP. The search was filtered by the following criteria:

- Local Government Area: Ryde;
- Item Type: Built; and
- Item Group: Recreation and Entertainment.

The search found one result: the Eastwood Park Grandstand, an item of local significance (I163). The State Heritage Inventory provides a statement of significance for the place as follows:

The Eastwood Park Grandstand is of aesthetic and historical significance as a highly intact 1933 architect-designed grandstand of high quality.

The search was then widened to identify heritage items across the greater Sydney area. The following comparable recreational sporting facilities with social value to the community were identified.

Address	Milsons Point			
Date	1935–ongoing			
Significance	State			
Listing(s)	State Heritage Register (SHR 01811)			
	North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (10536)			
Statement of Significance	The sile now known as Luna Park Precinct is historically significant as the sile of the first regular ferry transport between Sydney and the North Shore, and later the busiest ferry wharf on the Harbour, with the exception of Circular Quay. The Milsons Point site was a major transport interchange during the later part of the 19th Century connecting ferry, train and trams. The site later became crucial to the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Fabrication and assembly of steel components for the bridge was done on site at the 1925 Dorman Long and Company workshops. After removal of the workshops the Luna Park amusement park was constructed on the site in 1935 and became a centre for recreation for generations of Sydney residents and visitors. Luna Park has strong association with former park artists Rupert Browne, Peter Kingston, Gary Shead, Sam Lipson, Arthur Barton, Richard Liney and Martin Sharp. Martin Sharp is an important Sydney artist with an international reputation who was influential in the Australian Pop Art movement in the 1960's and 70's. The Luna Park Precinct has important aesthetic values in its own right, a celebration of colour and fantasy originally in the art deco style, and as a landmark on Sydney Harbour. Luna Park occupies an important and prominent location on the northern foreshore of Sydney Harbour and is highly visible from Circular Quay and the Opera House and other key harbour vantage points. Luna Park is one of Sydney's most recognisable and popular icons, the Luna Park face in particular is an instantly recognisable symbol of Sydney. The prominence of Luna Park is enhanced by the high quarried cliff face and the fig trees which provide a landscaped backdrop together with the way it is framed by the Harbour Bridge when viewed from the east. Luna Park includes a rare collection of murals and amusements that demonstrate mid-20th century popular and traditional technologies. These have been complemented by the art works of Martin Sharp, Richard Liney, Gary Shead and Peter Kin			

Luna Park Precinct

elements are the Entrance Face and Towers; Midway; the Rotor; Coney Island; Crystal Palace; Wild Mouse; the Cliff Face and the Fig Trees.¹

Dawn Fraser Swimming Pool

Address	Glassop Street, Balmain	
Date	1882–1924	
Significance	State	
Listing(s)	State Heritage Register (SHR 01398), Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2013 (I237) National Trust of Australia (NSW)	
Statement of Significance	The pool is a complete swimming complex extending back to the turn-of-the century. It is an excellent example of pool architecture no longer practiced and a well-known Sydney landmark set in an attractive harbourside location which has become a feature of the pool. It is representative of the development of a harbourside recreational and social facility and is associated with prominent swimming identities and world champions. It provides evidence of the major popularity of swimming as a competitive and recreational sport in Australia. ²	

North Sydney Oval

Address	2 Fig Tree Lane, North Sydney	
Date	c1867	
Significance	Local	
Listing(s)	North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 (I1125)	
Statement of Significance	The most used and familiar facility in St. Leonards Park and one of the oldest cricket grounds still in use in Australia. Fine example of a traditional Cricket Oval, with Edwardian features and buildings creating an ambience associated with the English cricketing tradition. Contains some interesting buildings, the Grandstand, Scoreboard and three Turnstile buildings all dating from 1928 and the Bob Stand (1895) relocated from the Sydney Cricket Ground. ³	

Tennis Court and Pavilion

Address	96–108 Kent Street, Millers Point	
Date	c1960	
Significance	Local	
Listing(s)	Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (1920)	

Tennis Court and Pavilion

Statement of Significance

The site is historically significant as it demonstrates the use of the area for early Government quarries and areas of land specifically reserved to supply stone for the completion of Public Works. It is significant for its association with the National School and in providing for the recreational needs of school children and local residents. The continued use of the site as a tennis court since the 1960s is of historical and social significance.

The tennis court and pavilion is a significant streetscape element along Kent Street as an undeveloped space in comparison to the intensity of development surrounding it which comprises of late nineteenth century and early and late twentieth century development. The vacant land allows the dramatic cut (Agar Walls) adjacent the Agar steps to be appreciated and contributes to this important characteristic of the Millers Point area. Retention of the land as undeveloped recreational space in the CBD is rare and provides a break in the intensely developed area.⁴

5.1.3 Summary Comparative Analysis

The heritage items listed in this comparative analysis have been assessed as having historic and social significance at a local and state level. The analysis of the heritage listed sporting facilities across the wider Sydney area has demonstrated that these properties have a number of key similarities with the Macquarie Ice Rink, as follows.

- These heritage items and the Macquarie Ice Rink all have significant landmark qualities within their local context. The Macquarie Ice Rink, although located within the Macquarie Centre and not directly visible from the street, is widely known to be located there and the shopping centre itself is highly distinctive in the streetscape.
- These heritage items and the Macquarie Ice Rink share similar functions to a traditional park, providing a designated space for all members of the community to gather and enjoy leisure time in pursuit of a passive or active recreational activity.
- The ice rink and the above heritage items are important elements in their respective communities' sense of place. Local community members have strong memories associated with the place involving sports events, birthday parties, and other social gatherings and outings.
- These heritage items and the ice rink have social value to their communities as a meeting place for competitive sports events, which is highly valued by spectators and families associated with those events as an important part of their lifestyle and community involvement. As the chosen home rink of Sydney's two AIHL teams, all competitive AIHL games played in Sydney are played at the Macquarie Ice Rink, taking place around once per week during the season.
- The Macquarie Ice Rink and the Dawn Fraser Pool are both associated with prominent Australian sporting identities who have gone on to see international success.



Figure 5.1 Eastwood Park Grandstand. (Source: State Heritage Inventory)



Figure 5.2 Luna Park Precinct, Milsons Point. (Source: State Heritage Inventory)



Figure 5.3 Dawn Fraser Swimming Pool, Balmain. (Source: State Heritage Inventory)



Figure 5.4 North Sydney Oval, c1987. (Source: Stanton Library)



Figure 5.5 Tennis Court and Pavilion, Millers Point. (Source: State Heritage Inventory)

5.2 Assessment

This section sets out an assessment of the heritage significance of the Macquarie Ice Rink in accordance with the standard criteria identified in the NSW Heritage Office guidelines. The evaluation includes consideration of the original and subsequent layering of fabric, uses, associations and meanings of the place, as well as its relationship to both the immediate and wider setting.

The NSW Heritage Manual guidelines, prepared by the NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (July 2001), provide the framework for the assessment and the Statement of Significance in this report. These guidelines incorporate the five types of cultural heritage values identified in the Burra Charter into a specially structured framework, which is the format required by heritage authorities in New South Wales.

Under these guidelines, items (or 'places' in Burra Charter terminology) are assessed in accordance with a specific set of criteria, as set out below. An item is significant in terms of the criterion if the kinds of attributes listed in the inclusion guidelines help to describe it. Similarly, the item is not significant in terms of that criterion if the kinds of attributes listed in the exclusion guidelines help to describe it. The inclusion and exclusion guidelines are checklists only—they do not cancel each other out. The exclusion guidelines should not be applied in isolation from the inclusion guidelines, but should be used to help review and qualify the conclusions reached about the item's significance.

To apply the assessment criteria, both the nature and degree of significance of the place need to be identified. This is because items vary in the extent to which they embody or reflect key values and in the relative importance of their evidence or associations.

The assessment also needs to relate the item's values to its relevant geographical and social context, usually identified as either local or state contexts. Items may have both local and state significance for similar or different values/criteria.

The criteria for assessment established by the NSW Heritage Council in accordance with the Heritage Act is set out in Appendix A of this report.

5.2.1 Criterion A (Historical Significance)

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- Macquarie Ice Rink has historical interest and value as the first ice rink to be constructed in Australia as part of a shopping centre development.
- The ice rink is representative of the trend of shopping centre redevelopments in the 1980s to diversify the consumer experience. Its inclusion in the centre is an unusual design feature which has contributed to the public interest and continuous use of the space since its opening.
- The ice rink is the only venue in the southern hemisphere to have hosted a senior World Championship for the International Skating Union.

Macquarie Ice Rink is considered to be significant at a local level under this criterion.

5.2.2 Criterion B (Historical Association)

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- The rink has associative significance as the home of the Sydney Bears since the formation of the club in 1982. The Bears won the 1989 championships and were instrumental in developing a hockey school program designed to teach newcomers to the sport and develop their skills into fully fledged ice hockey players. The Sydney Bears Club operates an ice hockey school at Macquarie Ice Rink which is highly valued by its members and young players. The rink is also the home of the Sydney Ice Dogs, Sydney's other team in the AIHL.
- The rink has associative significance with former Olympian Steven Bradbury, who won his first national championship there in 1983 at the age of 10. Bradbury later recalled that the event was one of the highlights of his sporting career. Bradbury spent most of his early years training at the Canterbury Ice Rink, but preferred the Macquarie Rink for training when it came to competition time because of the quality of the rink.

Macquarie Ice Rink is considered to be significant at a local level under this criterion.

5.2.3 Criterion C (Aesthetic Significance)

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

- Macquarie Ice Rink is highly recognisable in the local community and is an integral part of the Macquarie Centre. It may be considered to have landmark qualities as an identifiable institution within the Macquarie Centre.
- The rink does not demonstrate particular creative or technical achievement. It is not a major work
 by an important designer or artist, and is not the inspiration for creative or technical innovation.
- When compared to other ice rinks in Sydney, the Macquarie Ice Rink is not a particularly outstanding or fine example of the ice rink typology, which are typically not built or designed to be aesthetically distinctive.

The Macquarie Ice Rink is not considered to meet the threshold for inclusion under this criterion.

5.2.4 Criterion D (Social Significance)

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

- Macquarie Ice Rink is highly valued by the skating community of the local area and NSW generally, as a training facility catering to all levels of skating from recreational, national, international and Olympic skaters since opening. It caters to all skating disciplines, including speed skating, figure skating and ice hockey. It is an important institution as one of few ice rinks in Sydney and NSW built to the international Olympic standard.
- The rink is valued by the wider community as an important and unique recreational facility in Ryde
 and the wider northern suburbs area. It hosts dances, discos, children's birthday parties and social
 gatherings. The rink provides the opportunity for people of all ages to interact with their community.
- The rink is especially valued by competitive skaters who spend years training at the facility, many
 of whom have relocated to the area specifically for better access to the rink. A range of festivals
 and events are held at the rink each year, and it is the home rink for figure skating, speed skating
 and ice hockey schools and clubs.

- The rink is significant as the home rink of Sydney's two ice hockey teams in the AIHL, making it the only rink in Sydney where AIHL games are played, hosting teams from across Australia. It has social value to followers of the league in Sydney and the wider region, for whom attending games is a valued part of their lifestyle and community involvement.
- The social significance of the rink is also linked to its location within the Macquarie Centre, which
 is considered to be a major landmark within the Macquarie Park and Ryde areas. Soon after
 opening, the rink quickly became part of the social experience of visiting the shopping centre.
- The loss of the ice rink would cause a significant sense of loss to the Ryde community, evidenced by the immense outpouring of support for the ice rink after its demolition was proposed. Demolition of the Macquarie Ice Rink and construction of a new rink in a new location is considered unlikely to recreate this social attachment.

Macquarie Ice Rink is considered to be significant at a state level under this criterion.

5.2.5 Criterion E (Research Potential)

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- At the time it was built, Macquarie Ice Rink was described as being 'the most advanced in the country' for not only its quality and size, but also because it was purposely designed to integrate into a shopping complex built at the same time.
- However, it is not likely to yield new or further scientific and/or archaeological information. Any
 information the ice rink could contain would be readily available from other sources.

Macquarie Ice Rink is not considered to meet the threshold for inclusion under this criterion.

5.2.6 Criterion F (Rarity)

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

- The ice rink is one of only four contemporary Olympic-sized ice-skating rinks in New South Wales and while it is not rare, ice skating rinks are uncommon in Australia, particularly because ice skating is typically associated with northern hemisphere sporting activities due to climate. It is the only ice rink in its local area and its loss would be detrimental to the amenity and lifestyle of its regular visitors.
- The Macquarie Ice Rink is rare as the only known Olympic-sized and world-class standard ice rink
 to be purposefully incorporated into a retail shopping centre, which is an unusual design feature
 in itself, and has contributed to the popularity and accessibility of the rink.

Macquarie Ice Rink is considered to be significant at a local level under this criterion.

5.2.7 Criterion G (Representativeness)

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local area's):

- cultural or natural places; or
- cultural or natural environments

- The Macquarie Ice Rink is a good example of its type, being one of four Olympic-sized ice rinks
 in Sydney. It demonstrates attributes typical of activities associated with ice skating and the
 skating community. It is part of a small group of Olympic-sized ice rinks which are integral to the
 continuation and popularisation of skating in Sydney and NSW.
- The rink's incorporation into a shopping centre significantly contributes to defining its unique and
 iconic setting, as well as its accessibility to all members of the community. The rink is held in great
 esteem by three generations of the local community, evident in the community's reaction to the
 prospect of its demolition.

Macquarie Ice Rink is considered to be significant at a local level under this criterion.

5.3 Statement of Significance

The Macquarie Ice Rink has cultural heritage significance at a state level as an important place of public recreation since the time of its opening in 1981. Its purposeful incorporation into a shopping centre is unusual and is representative of the growing trend at the time to diversify the retail experience with intimate spaces, open space, recreational facilities and indoor gardens. Macquarie Ice Rink is associated with former Olympian Steven Bradbury and is the chosen home rink for Sydney's two Australian Ice Hockey League (AIHL) teams, the Sydney Bears and Sydney Ice Dogs. It is also the home of many skating schools and training groups for people of all ages. The rink is highly valued by the local and regional community as a place to gather, play, socialise and compete, with its accessibility to people of all ages enhanced by its inclusion in the shopping centre and links to public transport and surrounding facilities. The rink is significant as one of few Olympic-sized ice rinks in Sydney, meaning it is able to cater to all skating disciplines and is particularly valued by those training or competing at an Olympic level, and those associated with the AIHL.

5.4 Endnotes

- Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory, 'Luna Park Precinct', viewed 5 July 2019 https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5055827.
- Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory, 'Dawn Fraser Swimming Pool', viewed 5 July 2019 https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1940252.
- Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory, 'North Sydney Oval', viewed 5 July 2019 https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2180914.
- Office of Environment and Heritage, State Heritage Inventory, 'Tennis Court and Pavilion', viewed 5 July 2019 https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2426279.

6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

This report has assessed the heritage significance of the Macquarie Ice Rink based on historical research and an investigation of its local context. It includes a detailed assessment of the site against the SHR standard evaluation criteria to determine the significance of the place to the Ryde LGA and NSW.

The report concludes that the Macquarie Ice Rink demonstrates heritage significance at a state level for the following reasons.

- It is an important place of public recreation and is highly valued by the community. The rink's
 location within a shopping centre means that it is highly accessible and has become part of the
 social experience of the shopping centre since its opening in 1981.
- As an Olympic-sized rink, it caters to all skating disciples and is highly valued by people training
 or competing at an Olympic level as well as to those who use the rink as a recreational facility. It
 is valued well beyond its local area, as the size and quality of the rink attracts people from across
 the state who relocate to the area in order to train there.
- It is associated with prominent figures in the skating industry, including former Olympian Steven Bradbury, and Sydney's AIHL teams the Sydney Bears and Sydney Ice Dogs.
- Its inclusion in the design of the Macquarie Centre was unusual and unique for its time.

It is recommended that:

- The Macquarie Ice Rink should be listed as a heritage item of local significance on Schedule 5 of the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014. An application should be made to the NSW Heritage Office for its inclusion on the State Heritage Register.
- 2. The rink should be retained in its current form and location. The significance of the ice rink is embodied in the rink itself and the general volume of the space should be retained. The cultural significance of the ice rink is embodied in its social value to the community as a place of public recreation and as a training ground for past and future Olympic competitors. However, the form, layout, size and location of the ice rink is an important part of this significance. Although the physical fabric of the place itself is not considered to be significant, it cannot be expected that the community sentiment and social values of the existing rink could be transferred to a new rink in an alternative location. A new rink would lose the significant association and social significance of the existing rink, and it is unlikely it could recreate these values.
- 3. There is scope for future alterations and adaptations of the area in the vicinity of the ice rink, including the surrounding tiered seating or ancillary facilities. The rink should be retained in its current location in any future redevelopment proposal of the Macquarie Centre in order to retain its significance and value to the community.

The assessment of the current development application should have consideration for these recommendations.

GML Heritage

7.0 Appendices

Appendix A

NSW Heritage Office Assessment Guidelines

Appendix B

Interim Heritage Order No. 147

GML Heritage

Appendix A

NSW Heritage Office Heritage Assessment Guidelines

Appendix A—NSW Heritage Office Heritage Assessment Guidelines

The NSW Heritage Manual guidelines, prepared by the NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (July 2001), provide the framework for the assessment and the statement of significance in this report. These guidelines incorporate the five types of cultural heritage value identified in the Burra Charter into a specially structured framework, which is the format required by heritage authorities in New South Wales.

Under these guidelines, items (or 'places' in Burra Charter terminology) are assessed in accordance with a specific set of criteria, as set out below. An item is significant in terms of the particular criterion if the kinds of attributes listed in the inclusion guidelines help to describe it. Similarly, the item is not significant in terms of that particular criterion if the kinds of attributes listed in the exclusion guidelines help to describe it. The inclusion and exclusion guidelines are checklists only—they do not cancel each other out. The exclusion guidelines should not be applied in isolation from the inclusion guidelines, but should be used to help review and qualify the conclusions reached about the item's significance.

The criteria for assessment established by the NSW Heritage Council in accordance with the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act) are set out below.

Criterion (a)—An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion	
 shows evidence of a significant human activity; is associated with a significant activity or historical phase; or maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity. 	 has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes; provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance; or has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association. 	

Criterion (b)—An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion	Guidelines for Exclusion	
 shows evidence of a significant human occupation; or is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons. 	 has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events; provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance; or has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association. 	

Criterion (c)—An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion		Guidelines for Exclusion	
•	shows or is associated with creative or technical innovation or achievement;	is not a major work by an important designer or arti has lost its design or technical integrity; its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark an scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded; or	
•	is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement;		
•	is aesthetically distinctive;		
	has landmark qualities; or exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology.	 has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement. 	

Criterion (d)—An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Guidelines for Inclusion		Guidelines for Exclusion	
•	is important for its associations with an identifiable group; or	is only important to the community for amenity reasons; or	
•	is important to a community's sense of place.	 is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative. 	

Criterion (e)—An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion		Guidelines for Exclusion	
•	has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information;	the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture;	
	is an important benchmark or reference site or type; or	has little archaeological or research potential; or	
	provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere.	 only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites. 	

Criterion (f)—An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Guidelines for Inclusion		Guidelines for Exclusion	
•	provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process;	is not rare; or is numerous but under threat.	
•	demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost;		
•	shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity;		
	is the only example of its type;		
	demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest; or		
•	shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community.		

GML Heritage

Criterion (g)—An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local area's) cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments

Guidelines for Inclusion		Guidelines for Exclusion	
	is a fine example of its type;	is a poor example of its type;	
•	has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items;	does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type; or	
•	has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity;	does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type.	
	is a significant variation to a class of items;		
•	is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type;		
•	is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size; or		
•	is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held.		

Appendix B

Interim Heritage Order No. 147



Government Gazette

of the State of

New South Wales

Number 10 Monday, 4 February 2019

The New South Wales Government Gazette is the permanent public record of official NSW Government notices. It also contains local council, private and other notices.

From 1 January 2019, each notice in the Government Gazette has a unique identifier that appears in round brackets at the end of the notice and that can be used as a reference for that notice (for example, (n2019-14)).

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GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Planning and Environment Notices

HERITAGE ACT 1977

INTERIM HERITAGE ORDER NO. 147

Macquarie Ice Rink

In pursuance of Section 24 of the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW), I, the Minister for Heritage, do, by this my order:

- (i) make an interim heritage order in respect of the item of the environmental heritage specified or described in Schedule 'A'; and
- (ii) declare that the interim heritage order shall apply to the curtilage or site of such item, being the land described in Schedule 'B'.

The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP Minister for Heritage

Sydney, 1 Day of February 2019

SCHEDULE "A"

The property known as Macquarie Ice Rink, situated on the land described in Schedule "B".

SCHEDULE "B"

All those pieces or parcels of land known as Part Lot 1 DP 1190494 in Parish of Hunters Hill, County of Cumberland shown on the plan catalogued HC 3231 in the office of the Heritage Council of New South Wales.

(n2019-275)