

Lot 1, Military Road, Port Kembla

Historical Heritage Assessment

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for MMJ Real Estate on behalf of Olly Vujic

22 March 2018

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Glossary

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| c. | Circa |
| CBD | Central Business District |
| CHL | Commonwealth Heritage List |
| DA | Development Application |
| DEE | Department of Environment and Energy |
| DP | Deposited Plan |
| EP&A Act | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> |
| EPBC Act | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> |
| Heritage Act | <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> |
| LEP | Local Environment Plan |
| m | Metre |
| mm | Millimetre |
| NHL | National Heritage List |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| OEH | NSW Office of Environment and Heritage |
| SoHI | Statement of Heritage Impact |
| SHR | State Heritage Register |
| SHI | State Heritage Inventory |
| Study area | The area of impact for the proposed works |
| WLEP | Wollongong Local Environmental Plan |

Summary

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by MMJ Real Estate on behalf of Mr Olly Vujic to undertake a heritage assessment and statement of heritage impact of an area of land proposed for development of residential uses (study area). The study area is located at Lot 1 Military Road, Port Kembla, approximately 9.4 kilometres southeast of Wollongong. The site is bounded by Military Road, Marne Street, Reservoir Street and Electrolytic Street.

The study area encompasses 2.19 hectares of private land, It is currently zoned as B4 – Mixed Use. This report has been formulated to support a planning approval under Part 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

Identified Heritage values

The Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (WLEP) contains schedules of heritage items that are managed by the controls in the instrument. The study area is listed as an item of local significance on the WLEP 2009 Schedule 5:

- Port Kembla Public School, Military Road, Lot 1, DP 811699, Local, Item #6304
- Former Fire Station, 99 Military Road, Lot 13 and 14 Section 3, DP 5856, Local, Item # 6307
- St Stephen's Anglican Church of Australia including rectory and hall, 111 Military Road, lots 35 and 26, DP 7804, Local, Item #6307
- House and Shop, Military Road, Lot 28, section 4 DP 7804, Local, Item # 6311

This report provides a heritage assessment to identify if any heritage items or relics exist within or in the vicinity of the study area. The heritage significance of these heritage items has been investigated and assessed in order to determine the most appropriate management strategy.

Results of the assessment

The assessment has identified that the study area contains one locally listed heritage item and three locally listed heritage items adjacent to the study area. The study area has a listing for the Port Kembla Public School which was constructed in 1916 with additions in 1931, it was the first purpose built permanent school building in Port Kembla. It indicated the industrial development and population growth at the turn of the century, the school was demolished in 2013. The school provided public education for the local community for over 80 years, it is closely associated with James Henry who was the headmaster of the school when it first opened at Military Road. It is suggested that his activity went beyond the usual role of a school headmaster and was a popular and honoured member of the local community. The item has social and cultural value as the school site and building served an important function in the community for more than 80 years. The site and building served as an educational and important community facility. The school building and site underwent expansion through additional buildings, this is a reflection of the expansion of the surrounding community and the growth of school education in the local area.

The physical inspection confirmed that there were little remains of the Port Kembla Public School and its associated buildings. There were physical remains of the basketball court and the flooring of the ground floor of the 1916 building. The study area is adjacent to three locally listed heritage items, the former Port Kembla Fire Station, St Stephens Anglican Church and the House and Shop.

An assessment of the archaeological resources likely to be present within the study area has concluded that these are likely to be limited to structural and depositional remains associated with the 1916 and 1932 buildings. Based upon the assessment of impacts, the following statements of heritage impacts have been formulated for the proposed development for Lot 1, Military Road:

Statement of heritage impact

There will be no impacts to built fabric within the study area as the former Public School Buildings has been demolished to ground level. Whilst archaeological remains associated with the footings and occupational deposits may be present within the study area, these have been assessed as possessing limited archaeological research potential. As such, the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the item as the items significance relates to intangible elements such as its historical, associative and social significance. These elements would be best managed through a program of interpretation that is incorporated into the proposed development and that celebrates the sites contribution to Port Kembla.

The project will result in an indirect aesthetic impact upon the significance of the adjacent heritage items along Military Road, Port Kembla. These are considered to be minor and can be managed through ensuring that the developments design and landscaping is sympathetic to these items.

Recommendations

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

Recommendation 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan

The analysis for this report has determined that the site has limited potential to contain archaeological resources of local or state significance. However, a heritage interpretation plan is suggested that celebrates the history of the study area as the former Port Kembla Public School and its contribution to Port Kembla as a suburb.

Recommendation 2 Use of sympathetic colours during project works

The project should use sympathetic colour treatments. Colours that match the existing palette will ensure that the adjacent heritage items are not visually dominated by the proposed works.

Recommendation 3 Unexpected archaeological finds

In NSW, archaeological sites of State or local significance are considered "relics", which are protected by the *Heritage Act 1977*. In NSW impacts to relics are only permitted with a section 140 approval (excavation permit) or an exception for the requirement of a section 140 approval (exception notification). This document has been drafted to act as supporting documentation for a section 140 (excavation permit).

Although this assessment has determined that there is limited potential for relics to be present, if during construction, structural or depositional remains are encountered all works should cease. A determination

¹ Australia ICOMOS 2013

should then be made by an appropriately qualified archaeologist of whether the remains identified are likely to be "relics" under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. Where the remains are identified as being "relics" and protected, NSW Heritage Division should be contacted and relevant permits sought.

It should be noted that it is an offence under section 146 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* to fail to notify NSW Heritage Council of the discovery of a relic.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by MMJ Real Estate on behalf of Olly Vujic to undertake a historical heritage assessment of the proposed development located at Lot 1 DP 811699, Military Road, Port Kembla, New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1 and Figure 2), referred to as the 'study area' herein. The proposed development will be assessed under Part 3 of the *EP&A Act*.

1.2 Location of the study area

The study area is located, which is located on Military Road within the suburb of Port Kembla, Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA), Parish of Kembla, County of Camden (Figure 1). It encompasses 2.2 ha of the former Port Kembla Public School site, Lot 1 DP 811699.

1.3 Scope of assessment

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

The following is a summary of the major objectives of the assessment:

- Identify and assess the heritage values associated with the study area. The assessment aims to achieve this objective through providing a brief summary of the principle historical influences that have contributed to creating the present – day built environment of the study area using resources already available and some limited new research.
- Assess the impact of the proposed works on the cultural heritage significance of the study area.
- Identifying sites and features within the study area which are already recognised for their heritage value through statutory and non – statutory heritage listings.
- Recommend measures to avoid or mitigate any negative impacts on the heritage significance of the study area.

² NSW Heritage Office 2001; NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Planning 2009; Australia ICOMOS 2013

1.4 Limitations

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

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

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

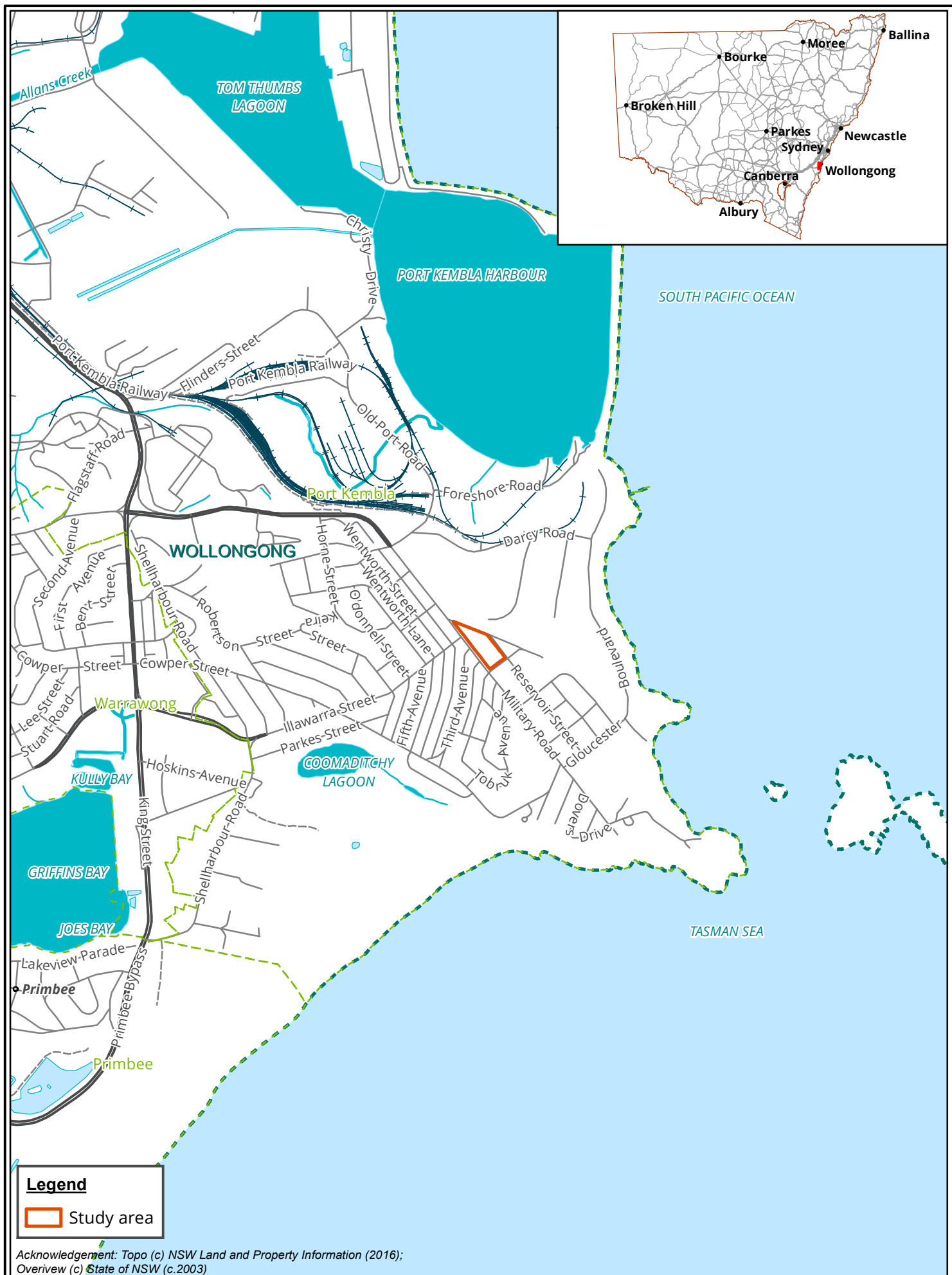
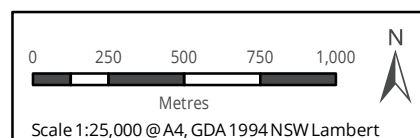


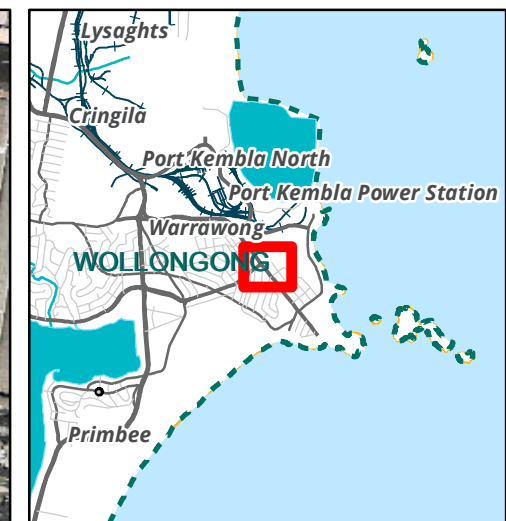
Figure 1: Location of the study area



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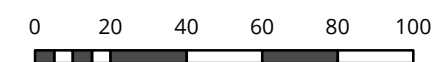




Legend

Study area

Figure 2: Study area detail



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2 Statutory framework

This assessment will support a planning proposal under Part 3 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). In NSW cultural heritage is managed in a three-tiered system: national, state and local. Certain sites and items may require management under all three systems or only under one or two. The following discussion aims to outline the various levels of protection and approvals required to make changes to cultural heritage in the state.

2.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

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

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

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

2.2 NSW Heritage Act 1977

Heritage in NSW is principally protected by the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) (as amended) which was passed for the purpose of conserving items of environmental heritage of NSW. Environmental heritage is broadly defined under Section 4 of the Heritage Act as consisting of the following items: "*those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of State or Local heritage significance*". The Act is administered by the NSW Heritage Council, under delegation by the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage. The Heritage Act is designed to protect both known heritage items (such as standing structures) and items that may not be immediately obvious (such as potential archaeological remains or 'relics'). Different parts of the Heritage Act deal with different situations and types of heritage and the Act provides a number of mechanisms by which items and places of heritage significance may be protected.

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

⁴ "Commonwealth Heritage List Criteria"

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

2.2.1 State Heritage Register

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

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

There are no items listed on the SHR within the study area.

2.2.2 Archaeological relics

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

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

"Any deposit, object or material evidence:

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

It should be noted that not all remains that would be considered archaeological are relics under the NSW Heritage Act. Advice given in the Archaeological Significance Assessment Guidelines is that a "relic" would be viewed as a chattel and it is stated that *"In practice, an important historical archaeological site will be likely to contain a range of different elements as vestiges and remnants of the past. Such sites will include 'relics' of significance in the form of deposits, artefacts, objects and usually also other material evidence from demolished buildings, works or former structures which provide evidence of prior occupations but may not be 'relics'.⁵"*

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

Section 139 of the Heritage Act requires any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that their proposed works will expose or disturb a 'relic' to first obtain an Excavation Permit from the Heritage Council of NSW (pursuant to Section 140 of the Act), unless there is an applicable exception (pursuant to Section 139(4)). Excavation permits are issued by the Heritage Council of NSW in accordance with sections 60 or 140 of the Heritage Act. It is an offence to disturb or excavate land to discover, expose or move a relic without

⁵ NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Planning 2009, 7

obtaining a permit. Excavation permits are usually issued subject to a range of conditions. These conditions will relate to matters such as reporting requirements and artefact cataloguing, storage and curation.

Exceptions under Section 139(4) to the standard Section 140 process exist for applications that meet the appropriate criterion. An application is still required to be made. The Section 139(4) permit is an exception from the requirement to obtain a Section 140 permit and reflects the nature of the impact and the significance of the relics or potential relics being impacted upon.

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

2.2.3 Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers

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

Statutory obligations for archaeological sites that are listed on a Section 170 Register include notification to the Heritage Council in addition to relic's provision obligations.

There are no items within or adjacent to the study area that are entered on a State government instrumentality Section 170 Register.

2.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

2.3.1 Local Environmental Plan

The Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (WLEP) contained schedules of heritage items that are managed by the controls on the instrument. As the project is being undertaken under Part 4 of the *EP&A Act*, council is responsible for approving controlled work via the development application system. Heritage items in the vicinity of the study area are identified in Figure 3 and in Table 1.

Table 1 Heritage items within the study area

| Item name | Address | Lot & DP | Significance | Item |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|------|
| Items within the study area | | | | |
| Port Kembla Public School | Military Road | Lot 1, DP 811699 | Local | 6304 |
| Items within the vicinity of the study area | | | | |
| Former Fire Station | 99 Military Road | Lots 13 and 14, Section 3, DP 5865 | Local | 6307 |
| St Stephen's Anglican Church of Australia, including rectory and hall | 111 Military Road | Lots 35 and 36, DP 7804 | Local | 6305 |
| House and Shop | Military Road | Lot 28, Section 4, DP 7804 | Local | 6311 |

2.3.2 Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009

The Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 (WDCP) outlines built form controls to guide development. The WDCP supplements the provisions of the WLEP.

The WDCP provides guidelines for the design and assessment of development proposals upon land containing an item of environmental heritage or land within a heritage conservation area as well as land within the vicinity of a heritage item or heritage conservation area. The following chapters relate specific guidelines for the current proposed adaptive reuse of the Port Kembla Public School. The following parts of the DCP relate to development in the vicinity of a heritage item, and are applicable to the project:

14.1 General

1. For the purposes of this section, 'vicinity' is defined as land adjoining or located within the visual catchment of a heritage site. The visual catchment will vary depending upon the location of the heritage site and the bulk and scale of the proposed development. For example the visual catchment of a heritage site located on a hilltop would cover a larger area than that of an item in a secluded location. A rural homestead will also have a larger curtilage and setting than a dwelling in a residential street.

14.2 Development Controls

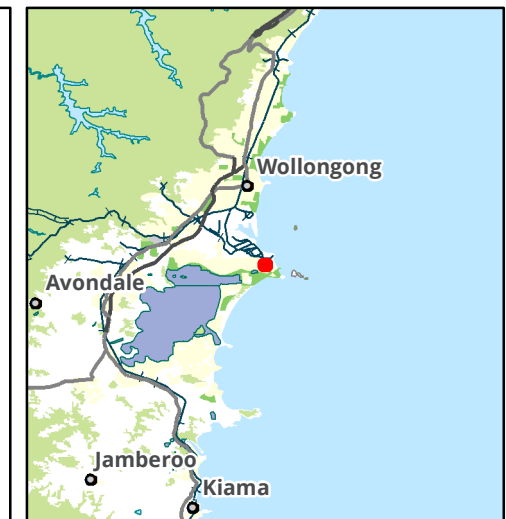
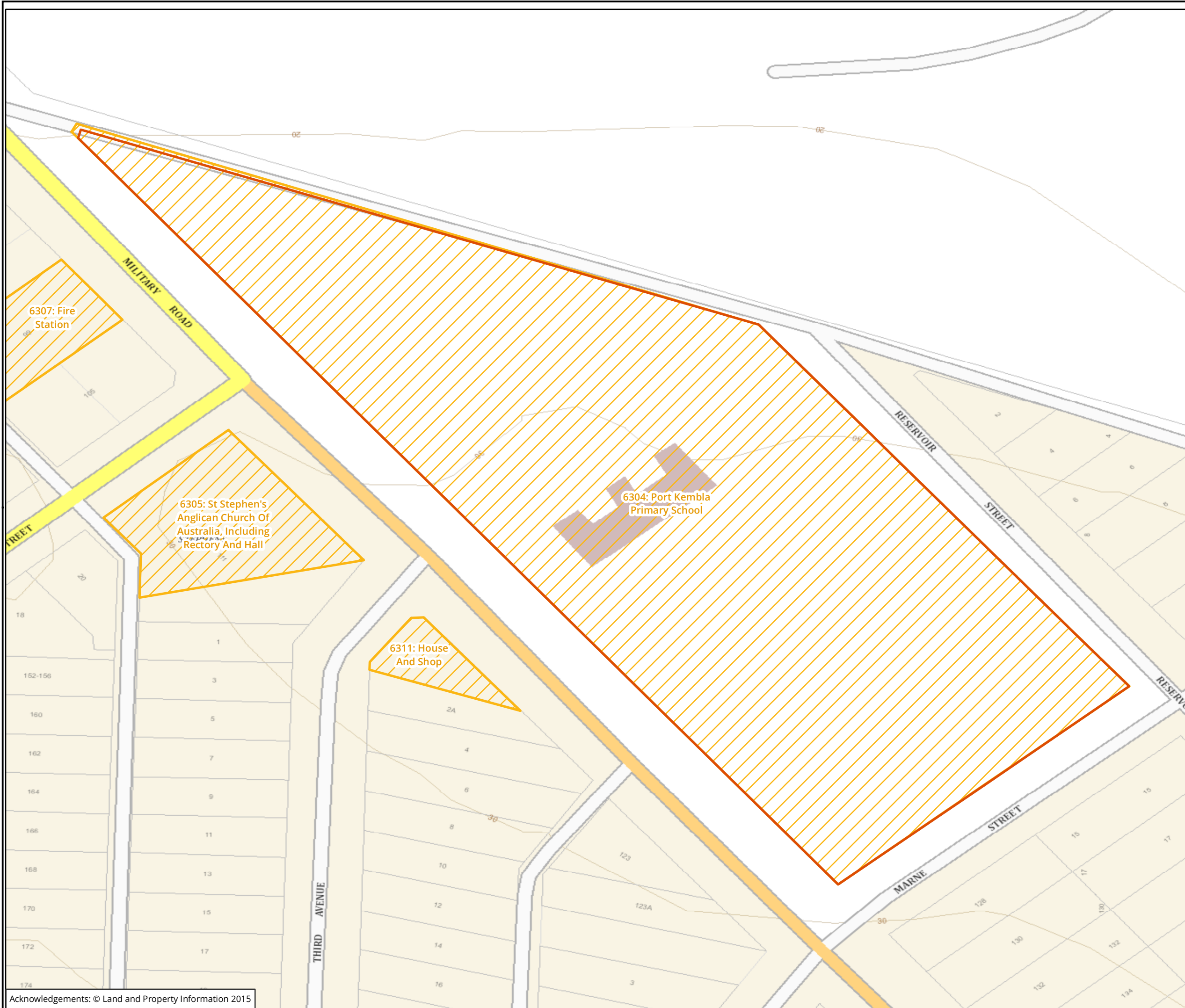
1. Development on land adjacent to or within the vicinity of a heritage item or a heritage conservation area should not detract from the identified significance or setting of the heritage building or the heritage conservation area.

2. Where development is proposed adjacent to or within the vicinity of a heritage site or heritage conservation area, the following matters must be taken into consideration:-

- a) The character, siting, bulk, scale, height and external appearance of the development;*
- (b) The visual relationship between the proposed development and the heritage item or heritage conservation area;*
- (c) The potential for overshadowing of the adjoining heritage item or any building within a heritage conservation area;*
- (d) The colours and textures of materials proposed to be used in the development; (*
- e) The landscaping and fencing of the proposed development;*
- (f) The location of car parking spaces and access ways into the development;*
- (g) The impact of any proposed advertising signs or structures;*
- (h) The maintenance of the existing streetscape, where the particular streetscape has significance to the heritage site;*
- (i) The impact the proposed use would have on the amenity of the heritage site; and*
- (j) The effect the construction phase will have on the well-being of a heritage building.*

3. Development in the vicinity of a heritage item should give strong regard to any significant views to and from the heritage item or heritage conservation area and any public domain area.

4. Where subdivision is proposed in the vicinity of a heritage item, the impact of future development of the lots should be considered.



Legend

- Study area
- LEP - Heritage items

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

0 10 20 30 40 50
Metres

Scale: 1:1,110 @ A3
Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994



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3 Historical context

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

3.1 Topography and resources

The Illawarra escarpment rises steeply from the narrow coastal plain behind Wollongong and the coastal towns to the north where the escarpment progressively comes closer to the coast until it drops straight into the sea at Coalcliff. Beyond the escarpment a plateau dips gradually to the North West and the escarpment is progressively lower to the north.⁶

The area of Port Kembla is formed on inter-bedded quartz-lithic sandstone, siltstone and claystone of the Illawarra Coal Measures. The Coal Measures are exposed at the headlands and rock shores, with coarse marine quartz Holocene sands. Upon settlement vast areas of the land was cleared for grazing and the foreshore of Port Kembla Harbour is based on disturbed land with introduced rock and soil fill.

3.2 Aboriginal past

The earliest undisputed radiocarbon date from the region comes from a rockshelter site on the western side of the Nepean known as Shaws Creek K2 which has been dated to 14,700 years before present (BP)⁷. This site is over 50 km north from the study area along the Nepean River. To the south, along the coast just north of Shellharbour, the site of Bass Point has been dated at 17,101 +/- 750 BP.⁸

Our knowledge of the social organisation of Aboriginal people prior to European contact is, to a large extent, reliant on documents written by European people. Such documents are affected by the inherent bias of these authors. They can, however, be used in conjunction with archaeological information in order to gain a picture of Aboriginal life in the region.

The study area is recognised as being within the traditional lands of the Wodi Wodi tribal group, which extended from around Stanwell Park to the Shoalhaven River, and inland to Picton, Moss Vale and Marulan. The Wodi Wodi spoke the Dharawal language. However Dharawal (Tharwal) was not a word they had heard of or used themselves⁹. Many of the town and place names of the Illawarra are derived from the Dharawal language.

⁶ Biosis Pty Ltd 2011

⁷ Attenbrow 2002

⁸ Flood 1999

⁹ Tindale 1940

One significant area in the Port Kembla locality was Hill 60, the land had always been occupied by the local Aboriginal community.¹⁰ In 1909 the land was acquired by the Commonwealth under the *Lands Acquisition Act 1906* for defence purposes at Port Kembla, however once acquired little was done and as such it was continued to be occupied by the local Aboriginal people who had maintained a connection to the land for thousands of years.¹¹ In 1928, a motion was put forth to remove all persons living at Hill 60. This was put forward by local Alderman Jarvie and the motion was carried, however there was some opposition to this and the Progress Association agreed to protest the motion to vacate all Aboriginal people from the hill.¹² In 1939 the department of Defence took over Hill 60 and this put pressure on the Aboriginal People still living on the hill, they were eventually forced to move in September 1942 and either moved to Coomaditchie, Nowra, Jervis Bay or La Perouse.¹³

As Port Kembla grew and expanded, local Aboriginal People were forced off their land and thus being cut off access to their food supplies in the area, this only heightened the tension between the local Aboriginal People and the non-Aboriginal people of Port Kembla. By the mid 1940's Coomaditchie was the only local area where the Koori People lived.¹⁴

3.3 Illawarra– historical development

3.3.1 Early Settlement in the Illawarra

From the deck of the Endeavour, Lieutenant James Cook first sighted the locality of Port Kembla on 27 April 1770 and named the peninsula Red Point after the colour of the sands and what would become Mount Keira, formally known as Hat Hill.¹⁵ It was not until 1796 that Matthew Flinders, George Bass and a crewman named Martin in the Tom Thumb set foot in the district.¹⁶

The study area is situated within one of the first five land grants made in the Illawarra. The grant was made to David Allan on 24 January 1817 and consisted of 2,200 acres which was situated at Five Islands and included Red Point.¹⁷ The grant became known as “*Illawarra Farm*” and David Allan built a comfortable cottage on this property, but by June 1822 Allan departed the colony and the whole 2,200 was advertised for lease including the cottage and offices (see Figure 4). An area of 200 acres had been cleared and it was subdivided into paddocks. Richard Jones purchased the whole 2,200 acres of Illawarra Farm on the 31 October 1827 for the sum of £1,617.¹⁸ Eventually, Illawarra Farm was purchased by William Charles Wentworth on 31 July 1828 for £1,700 who renamed the property Five Islands Estate. During this time Five Islands Estate was mainly comprised of agricultural leases, the study area was located within a part of the estate known as “Cotton Tree Flat” (see Figure 4). William Charles Wentworth died on 20 March 1872 leaving his Five Islands Estate to his

¹⁰ Dallas 2000

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² Niche 2015

¹³ Eklund 2002

¹⁴ *ibid*

¹⁵ Cousins 1948, 10

¹⁶ McDonald 1975; Jervis 1942

¹⁷ Lindsay 1994; Dowd 1977

¹⁸ Department of Lands Deed Book J No. 878

son Darcy Bland Wentworth.¹⁹ There is no indication of any structures or historical features within the study area during this time.

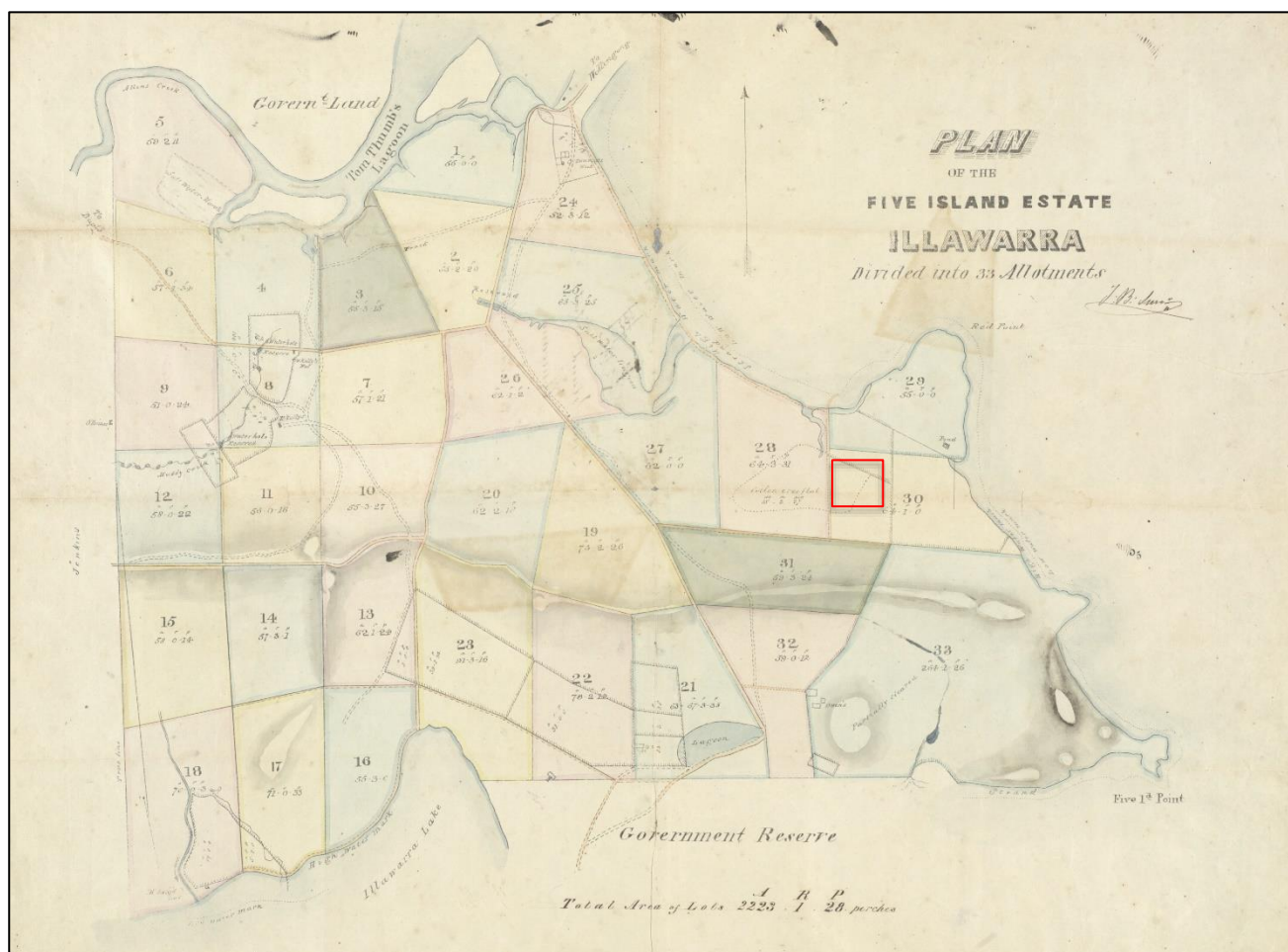


Figure 4 19th Century subdivision plan of Illawarra Farm showing the study area within cotton tree flat. Location of the study area is indicated by the red rectangle (Source: Australian Library)

3.3.2 Industrial development of Port Kembla

Darcy Bland Wentworth leased 30 acres to Mount Kembla Coal and Oil Company on 1 July 1882.²⁰ In 1883 the company completed a coal loading jetty and railway from the port to its mine at Mount Kembla at a cost of between £25 000 and £30 000.²¹ In 1887 the Wollongong-based Southern Coal Company constructed its jetty, which shipped coal from its mines at Mount Keira, Mount Pleasant Corrimal and South Bulli.²² The alignment

¹⁹ Department of Lands Deed Book 800 No. 943

²⁰ Department of Lands Deed Book 676 No 491

²¹ Eklund 2002, 15

²² *ibid*

of the railway line is still present and is located in the vicinity of the study area to the north of Five Islands Road. The Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Company opened a cokeworks at Port Kembla in late 1899, utilising coal from the Mt Kembla mine. The Mt Lyell Company had 50 ovens operating by November 1899 with a further twelve added the following year.²³ The houses and company buildings of Port Kembla were confined to the two jetties. The Mount Kembla Company's jetty comprised a total of four houses, a store and the school with a similar number of houses associated with the Southern Coal Company's jetty. The limited development within Port Kembla at this time was due to the lease both companies had with the Wentworth estate which limited housing construction.²⁴ None of these buildings are located within the vicinity of the study area.

The *Port Kembla Harbour Act 1898* changed this situation as a deep-water harbour was planned for Port Kembla. It was hoped that this development would aid the local coal industry which was being handicapped through the lack of a safe all-weather harbour.²⁵ In 1900, the Public Works Department opened a quarry, built a railway between the quarry and the site of the eastern breakwater, and began reclamation work on swampy land around the harbour. The quarry, which borders the northern boundary of the study area but was exhausted by 1906 with operations moving elsewhere. The Public Works Department also initiated major projects such as the construction of the low-level jetty (1911), the northern breakwater (1912), the Port Kembla Power House (1914) and new coal loading facilities (1915).²⁶ The labour market developing around Port Kembla was characterised by uncertainty. Harbour maintenance and quarry work employed 80 to 100 men, and itinerant workers supplemented this workforce in times of peak demand. The labour force was temporarily bolstered in 1907 through the abortive attempt to relocate the Dapto-based Australian Smelting Corporation Ltd to Port Kembla.²⁷ Unfortunately, this scheme resulted in failure with the company ceasing operations in 1907 and going into liquidation in 1908.

The result was large scale unemployment as works were left waiting in vain for the project to recommence. This was alleviated later in 1908 through the establishment of a new copper smelter at Port Kembla by the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Company of Australia Ltd (ER&S). ER&S employed around 300 to 350 men whilst significantly boosting the labour market and enabled the town of Port Kembla to be established. The configuration of Port Kembla in 1911 is shown in Figure 5. The study area is located within the land resumed as part of the harbour works. No development can be attributed to the study area during this time. The adjacent land was subject to subdivision in 1913 as part of the second subdivision of the Five Islands Estate.²⁸ With the subdivision of Five Islands Estate came an influx of new buildings, one of these was the first St Stephens Anglican Church which was initially built in 1903 of a simple weatherboard structure, however this was replaced by the current church which was built in 1924-1925. This wasn't the only building along Military Road to be built, the former Fire Station built C.1920 and opened in 1928.²⁹

²³ *ibid*

²⁴ Eklund 2002, 18

²⁵ Eklund 1995, 15

²⁶ Eklund 2002, 24

²⁷ *ibid*

²⁸ NSW Mitchell Library, Port Kembla Subdivision Plans Z/TP/P3/17

²⁹ 1928 'Port Kembla Fire Station Opened' The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842-1954), 17 August 1928 p. 12. Viewed 25 Jan 2018, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/16487405>

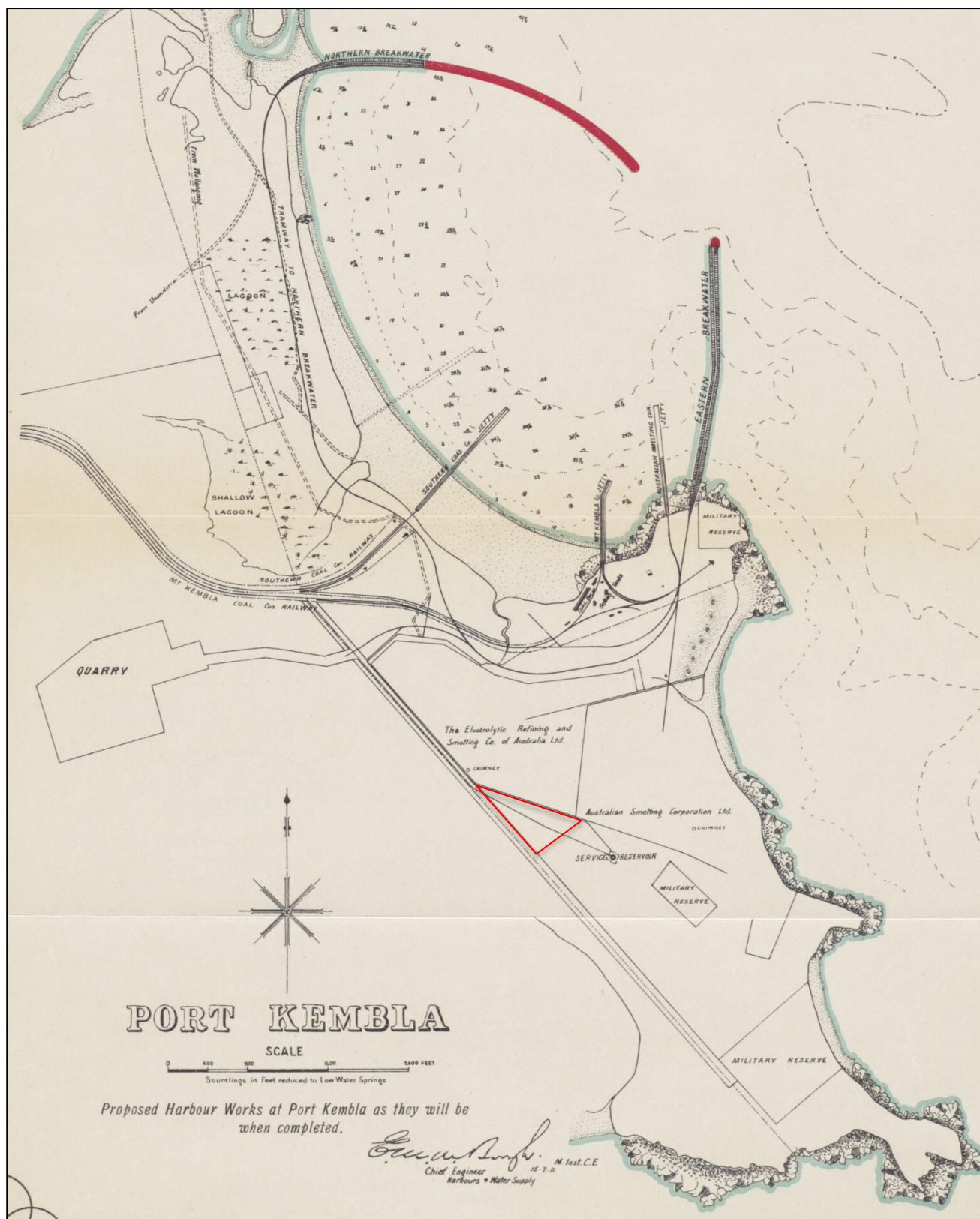


Figure 5 1911 configuration of Port Kembla and the proposed harbour works at Port Kembla
(Source: National Library of Australia)

3.3.3 Early schooling in Port Kembla (1890 – 1901)

On 1 March 1890 an application was made for the establishment of a Public School at Port Kembla as there were approximately 25 children in the neighbourhood who required educational facilities. The application was approved and the school came into operation in July 1890. The school was opened in a small cottage or iron building rented from the Mount Kembla Coal Company near No. 3 jetty of Port Kembla Harbour.³⁰ By March 1892, there were 16 students enrolled at Port Kembla with an average attendance of 13. At this time Berkeley had 16 students enrolled with an average attendance of 10. From 1892 Port Kembla and Berkeley Public Schools became half-time schools. The Department had implemented half-time schools since 1867 in order to provide an alternative to closure where two schools with low enrolments were close enough together to consolidate teaching resources.³¹ This arrangement persisted until 1901. The location of school in relation to the study area can be seen in Figure 6.

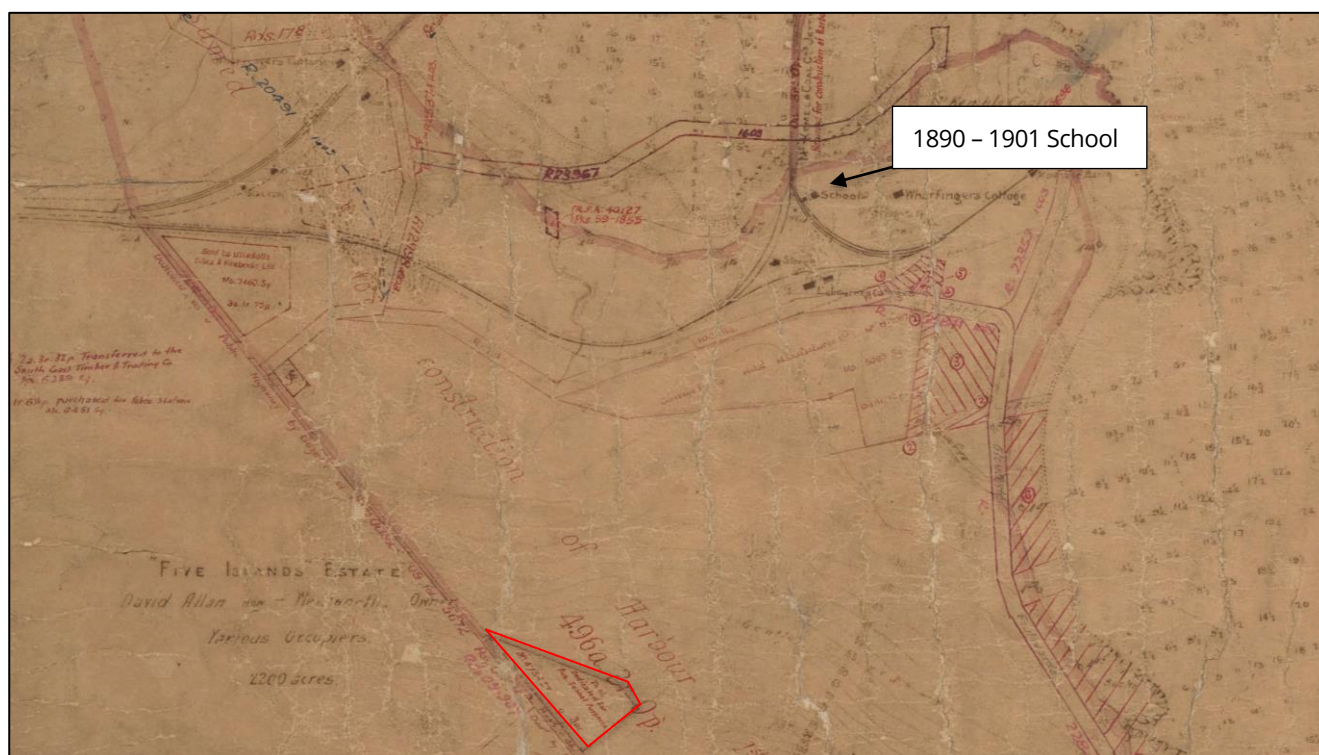


Figure 6 1909 survey of Port Kembla showing the configuration of late nineteenth century buildings including the 1890 – 1901 school in relation to the study area (identified in red) (Source: NSW Department of Lands Crown Plan 1911.Sy)

³⁰ 1931 'School Additions Opened.', South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus (NSW : 1900 - 1954), 17 July, p. 19. , viewed 25 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article142619775>

³¹ 1892 'HALF-TIME SCHOOLS.', Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), 24 March, p. 2. , viewed 23 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article132288623>

3.3.4 First Port Kembla Public School (1902 – 1908)

Following the resumption of the land for the Port Kembla Harbour which increased the local workforce school enrolments dramatically increased. In 1901, tenders were called for the erection of a Public School at Port Kembla on a site to the north-west of the study area. The school house was described as:

"The building will be a wooden structure, and the size of the school room 36 feet by 21 feet, affording floor space for 94 pupils. No school house ever before was erected in the district that was more needed than this, as teachers, pupils, and parents can testify by latte experience."³²

In November 1901 a tender from Mr. A. Rankin for £340 to construct the school house was accepted.³³ However, this tender lapsed and fresh tenders had to be called, in October 1901 Mr. H.A. Baglee, was awarded the contract for £355.³⁴ The school was opened on 9 July 1902 and was described as being *"...situated on a nice hill overlooking the waters of the bay. The building is a wooden one, capable of accommodating some 90 pupils, and the playground is ample."*³⁵ An additional row was added in 1903 to accommodate further pupils.³⁶

³² 1901 'PORT KEMBLA SCHOOL.', Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), 21 September, p. 2. , viewed 23 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13235266>

³³ 1901 'Port Kembla New School.', Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), 30 October, p. 2. , viewed 23 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article132349899>; 1901 'SOUTH COAST ITEMS.', South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus (NSW : 1900 - 1954), 9 November, p. 8. , viewed 23 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article143027909>

³⁴ 1902 'The Port Kembla School.', Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), 15 January, p. 2. , viewed 23 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article132346987>

³⁵ 1902 'PORT KEMBLA PUBLIC SCHOOL', Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), 23 July, p. 2. , viewed 23 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article132124419>

³⁶ Graham Brooks & Associates 2002, 9



Plate 1 Photograph of the first Port Kembla Public School in its original location (Source: outh Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, 21 December, p. 5.)

The construction of the deep-water harbour and the continued development of the coal mining industry led to the development of secondary industries in Port Kembla. In 1907 the Public Works department opted to sell 50 acres of resumed land and construct Military Road on the western boundary of this property. These proposed works encompassed the Port Kembla Public School and as a result, the Department of Education were required to seek an alternative location. This presented a number of difficulties as the current school was located close to the workers camp associated with the harbour works and an alternative location for this camp had not been determined. By 1908 the Department of Public works had determined that the camp should be located in the north of the resumed area and the school was provided with a corresponding location close to the proposed camp location. The school closed on 4 February 1908 and the school buildings were dismantled and relocated to their new location.³⁷ Unfortunately the camp ended up not being relocated to the anticipated location which left the school over one kilometre from the town. The majority of students as a result had to cross a railway line and Salty Creek (formerly known as Salt Water Creek) to get to the school. Salt Water Creek was subject to repeated flooding which often left it with over two foot of water over the crossing. This resulted in a great level of concern by local parents and locals. Criticism was levelled at the Department of Education over the selection of the new site, with claims that an alternative site closer to the township of Port Kembla should have been selected. The Port Kembla Progress Association was formed in 1908 and began to actively lobby the Public Instruction Department for a new school.³⁸ By 1911 the school

³⁷ 1908 'WEEK BY WEEK.', South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus (NSW : 1900 - 1954), 8 February, p. 10. , viewed 26 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article142020393>

³⁸ 1908 'Port Kembla Progress Association.', Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), 21 August, p. 2. , viewed 23 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article132113006>

had an enrolment of around 120 which rose to 155 by 1914. A portable room had to be erected and a class had to be taken in a rented room in the town, however the school remained overcrowded. Whilst a commitment was given in 1915 by the Minister for Education to erect a new public school in the township of Port Kembla and despite intense local pressure no school was forthcoming until 1916.³⁹

3.3.5 Port Kembla Public School (1916 – 1953)

An area of three acres adjoining the Electrolytic Refining Company's premises was surveyed by the Education Department for public school purposes on 13 June 1916. The site was dedicated for this purpose on 27 October 1916.⁴⁰ The survey of the land for the public school does not indicate that any buildings were present (see Figure 7).

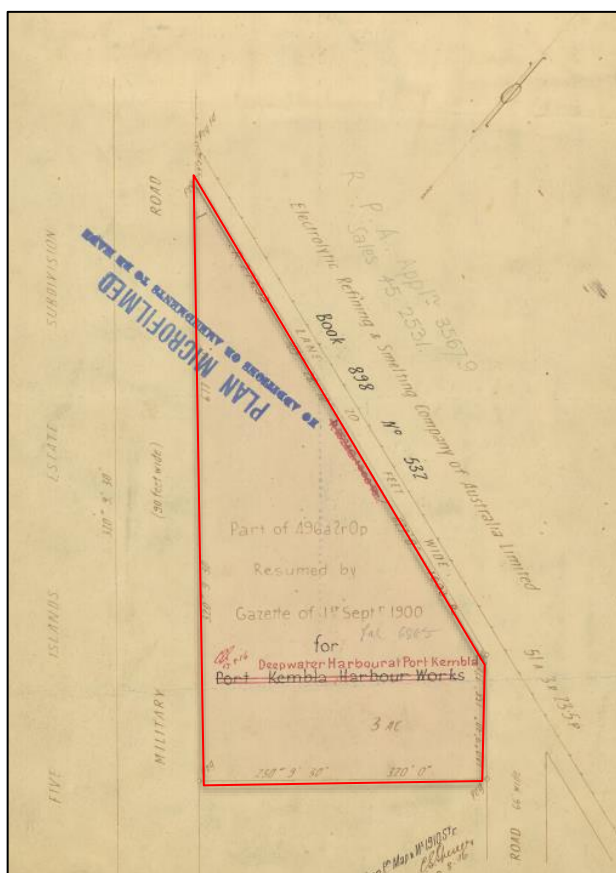


Figure 7 1916 plan showing the land proposed by the Education Department for Public School Purposes (Source: NSW Department of Lands, Ms4754 Sy.)

³⁹ 1915 'PORT KEMBLA.', Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW : 1856 - 1950), 23 July, p. 2. , viewed 23 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article135944199>

⁴⁰ NSW Department of Lands, Crown Plan Ms4754 Sy.

The Department of Education issued a call for tenders on 22 September 1916 for the erection of a new school building at Port Kembla.⁴¹ The successful tenderer was £4467 from Mr. Fred Dinham of Merrickville.⁴² Construction commenced quickly and the school was officially opened 30 June 1917.⁴³ The school was described as:

"The school is erected on an elevated site containing an area of two acres, just above the electrolytic works. It is of two storey, constructed of brick, with pick dressing, and contains six class rooms 24 feet and 22 feet,, head master's room 12 x 12, cloak rooms 12 x 12, store room 8 x 12, concrete stairs and floors. The class rooms on each floor are divided by folding partitions, while special attention has been given to ventilation and light The roof is of asbestos slate. Verandahs and balconies surround the building, being enclosed with ornamental wire. First class lavatory accommodation has also been provided, and the grounds are enclosed with lawn wire fencing. The contract price, with extras, will be about £4,700."⁴⁴

The enrolment at this time was over 200 and the first headmaster was Mr. James Henry. Attendance at the school increased and it became necessary to provide two portable classrooms to accommodate the students. It was not until April 1929 that the portable classroom was installed, furthermore it was not until July 1931 that the extensions were ready. The extensions to the Public School, plus renovation works were done by the Education Departments own building staff at a cost of £5,500.⁴⁵ A two storey extension was added in 1931 which increased the number of classrooms from six to 10. In addition to the classrooms a new porch verandah and extensions, two bathrooms, store, and fireproof staircase and additions to the outbuildings were completed.⁴⁶ As such the double portable classroom was taken away.

⁴¹ 1916 'TENDERS FOR WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS.', Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW : 1901 - 2001), 22 September, p. 5674. , viewed 25 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article225845737>

⁴² 1916 'WEEK BY WEEK', South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus (NSW : 1900 - 1954), 3 November, p. 10. , viewed 25 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article141649263>

⁴³ 1917 'New School at Port Kembla', South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus (NSW : 1900 - 1954), 6 July, p. 19. , viewed 25 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article141639677>

⁴⁴ 1917 'New School at Port Kembla', South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus (NSW : 1900 - 1954), 6 July, p. 19. , viewed 25 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article141639677>

⁴⁵ Graham Brooks and Associates, 2002, 18

⁴⁶ 1931 'School Additions Opened.', South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus (NSW : 1900 - 1954), 17 July, p. 19. , viewed 25 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article142619775>

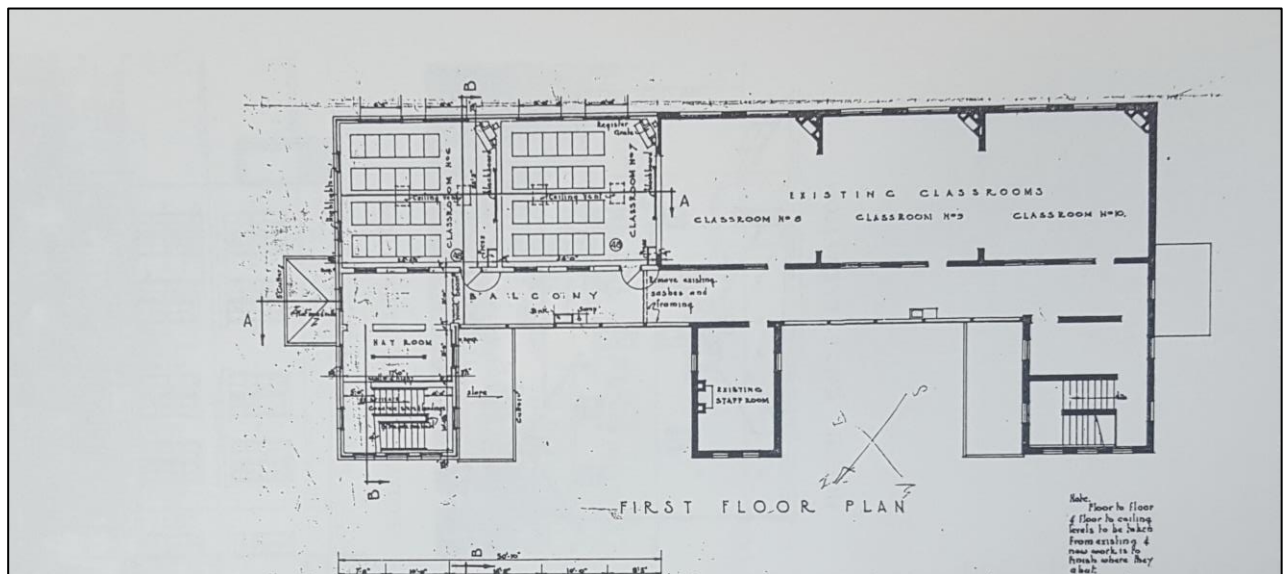


Figure 8 1931 Floor plans for the extension (First Floor). (Source: NSW Public Works).

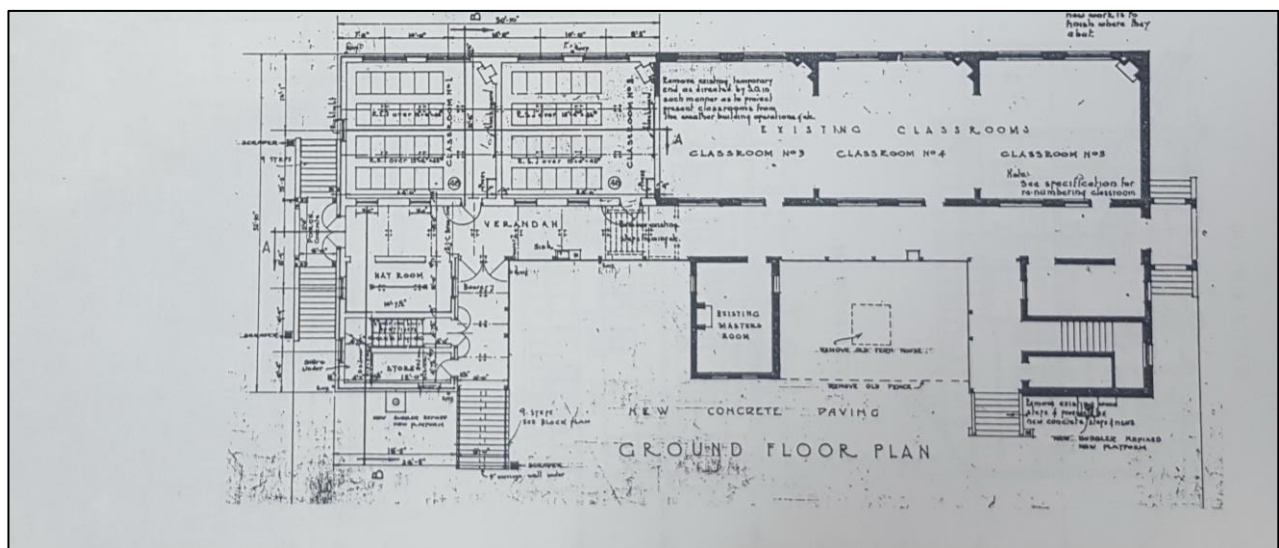


Figure 9 1931 Floor plans for the extension (Ground Floor). (Source: NSW Public Works)

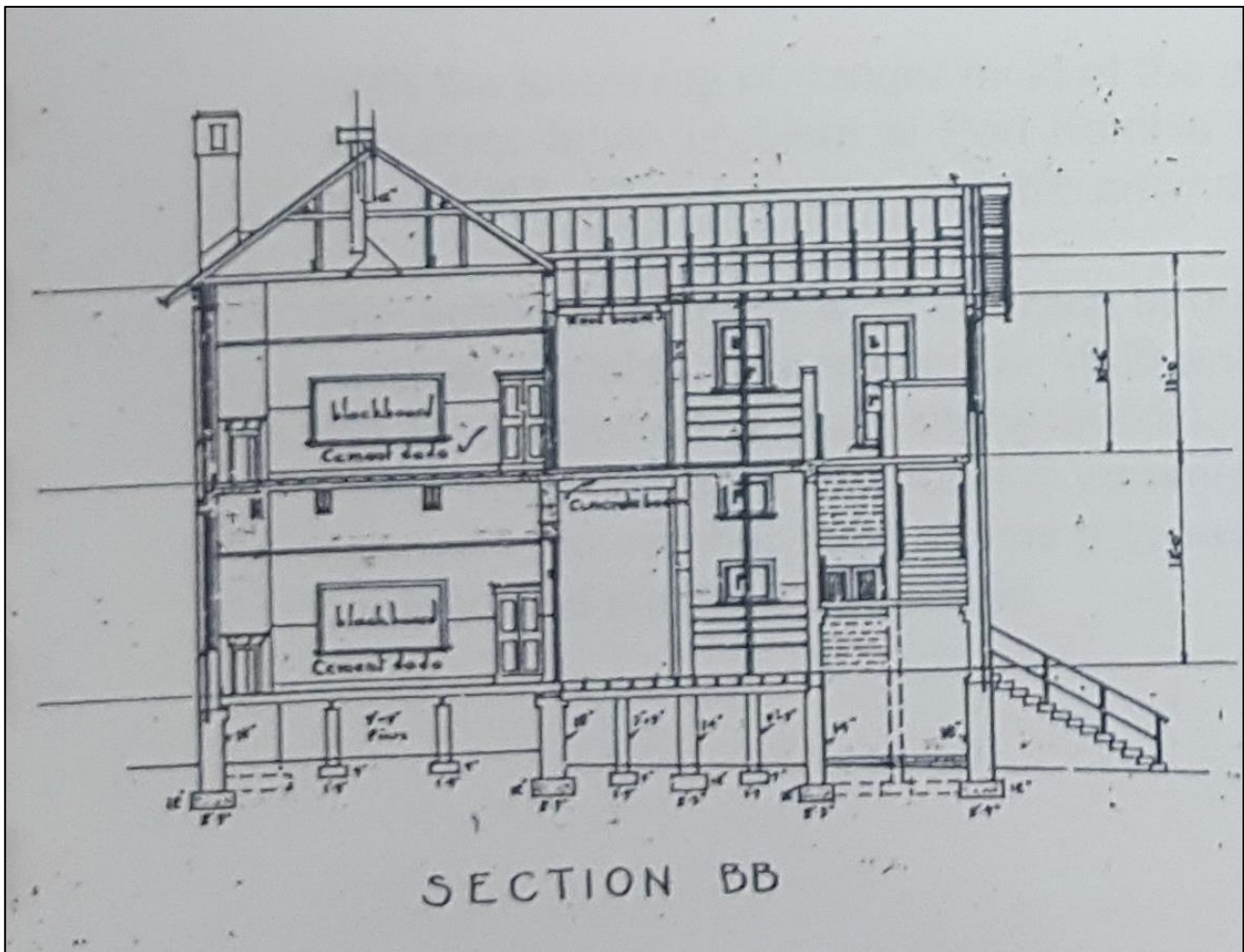


Figure 10 The extensnsion 1931 and elevations, note floor cavity beneath ground floor (Source: NSW Puiblic Works)

The enrolment at the Public School had increased to around 460 pupils by 1934 with an increase to 480 by May of the same year. This led the Parents and Citizens Association to ask the Department to increase the school site by buying the two lots adjoining the school between Military and Reservoir Street. This area, as previously discussed had been subdivided and auctioned by the Department of Public Works in 1916. The land inspector was eager to acquire the land for the school but was over-ruled on the grounds that three acres was ample.⁴⁷

The Department came to acquire all 14 allotments within the block. However, only eight were vacant at the time with two under cultivation. Reports conclude that there was a shop and a dwelling on one and houses on the remaining three lots. These dwellings can be seen in the 1935 Plan (Figure 11) that shows the acquired allotments. The plan shows nine buildings, a brick shop situated within lot 6, a shed located between lot 5 and

⁴⁷ Graham Brooks & Associates 2002)

6. Lot 10 consisted of cotta No. 5 with associated water closest, lot 11 with cottage No. 7 with associated water closest and shed and lot 12 with cottage No. 8 with associated water closest.

The purchases and resumptions were undertaken during 1935- 36; however tenants remained in the dwellings for some time.

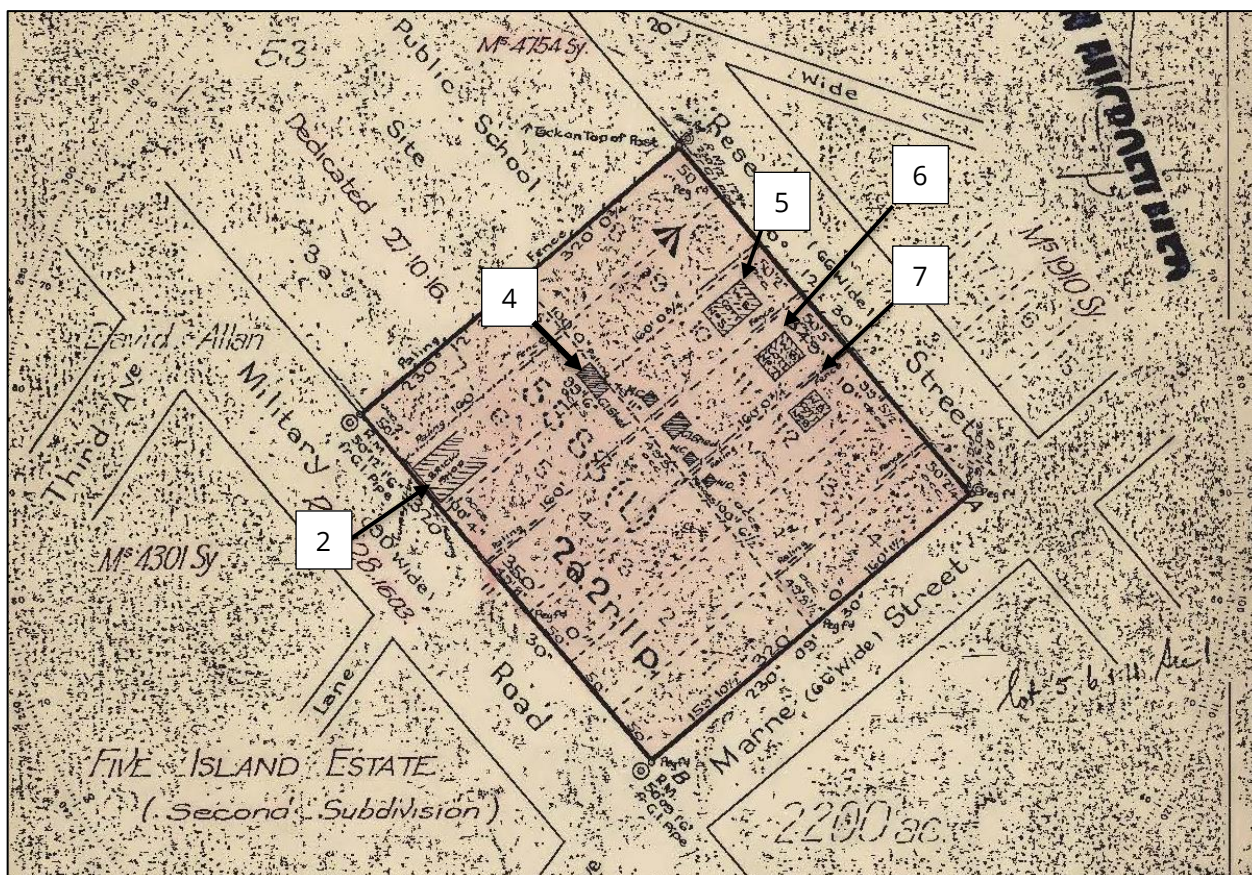


Figure 11 1935 Plan showing the land proposed by the Education Department for Public School Purposes (Source: NSW Department of Lands, Ms9079 Sy.)

Expansion of the Port Kembla Public School continued into 1939 with the discussion to erect an infant's building to accommodate the 600 enrolled children. A double portable classroom had been erected in 1937 to solve the overcrowding issues, while waiting for the new building to be built. One cottage had been demolished but due to the delay of the construction of the infant building, it was decided to leave the other buildings there.

The delay of construction was due to the outbreak of WWII in 1941, Port Kembla was evacuated and enrolment fell to 382. By 1943 most of the evacuees returned and the accommodation issue increased and remained a problems until 1947 when a double portable classroom arrived. The school underwent further improvements in 1949:

The concreting of a wide area entirely around the school is progressing steadily. When this is completed there will be assembly space for the three departments. It is hoped to terrace the rest of the grounds and put them under grass. This should be most effective, especially when the unsightly portable rooms are removed. However, the headmaster Mt Reilly believe that even when the new infants' school is built, the portables will still be necessary, so rapidly is the enrolment increasing.

*Already it has been necessary to resume, as playing area the ground occupied by a nearby cottage, as well as another allotment.*⁴⁸

The long awaited construction of the new infant's building was underway during 1953 and was near completion:

The new building for the Infants' Department for the Port Kembla Public School is progressing so satisfactorily it is hoped to enter into occupation after the May vacation.

This will release the whole downstairs floor of the present building to the Boy's Department. in the grounds of the new school a most up-to-date Oslo-lunch-cutting room, fully equipped, will be provided.

*Part of this room will be furnished with tables and chairs, where the children may eat their lunches.*⁴⁹

The Infants' Department was finally opened in November 1953. It was a two-storey structure with 11 rooms and a hall. A canteen and shelter also opened.⁵⁰

Two of the three 1916 classrooms had been refurbished in 1990 for the centenary celebrations. The classrooms has been painted in "heritage colours" to bring up the early days, stated by Brooks in his 2002 assessment of the Port Kembla Public School⁵¹

⁴⁸ 1949 'Port Kembla Public School' Illawarra Mercury (Wollongong, NSW: 1856 – 1950), Sep 1, p.1. viewed 21 Feb 2018 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/136534618>

⁴⁹ 1953 'Port Kembla Infants' School Nears Completion' Illawarra Daily Mercury (Wollongong, NSW: 1950-1954) 26 Feb, p. 9. Viewed 21 feb 2018. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1340349345>

⁵⁰ Graham Brooks & Associates 2002

⁵¹ Graham Brooks & Associates 2002b

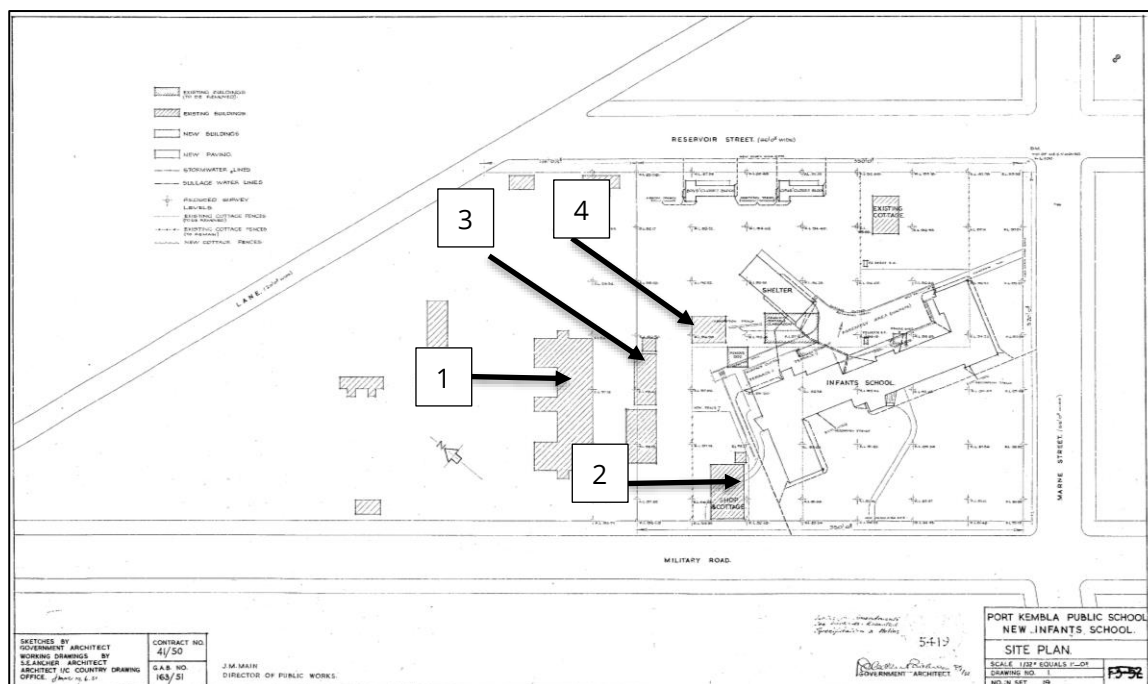


Plate 2 Sketches by Government architect of Port Kembla Infants' building (building two) Source: NSW

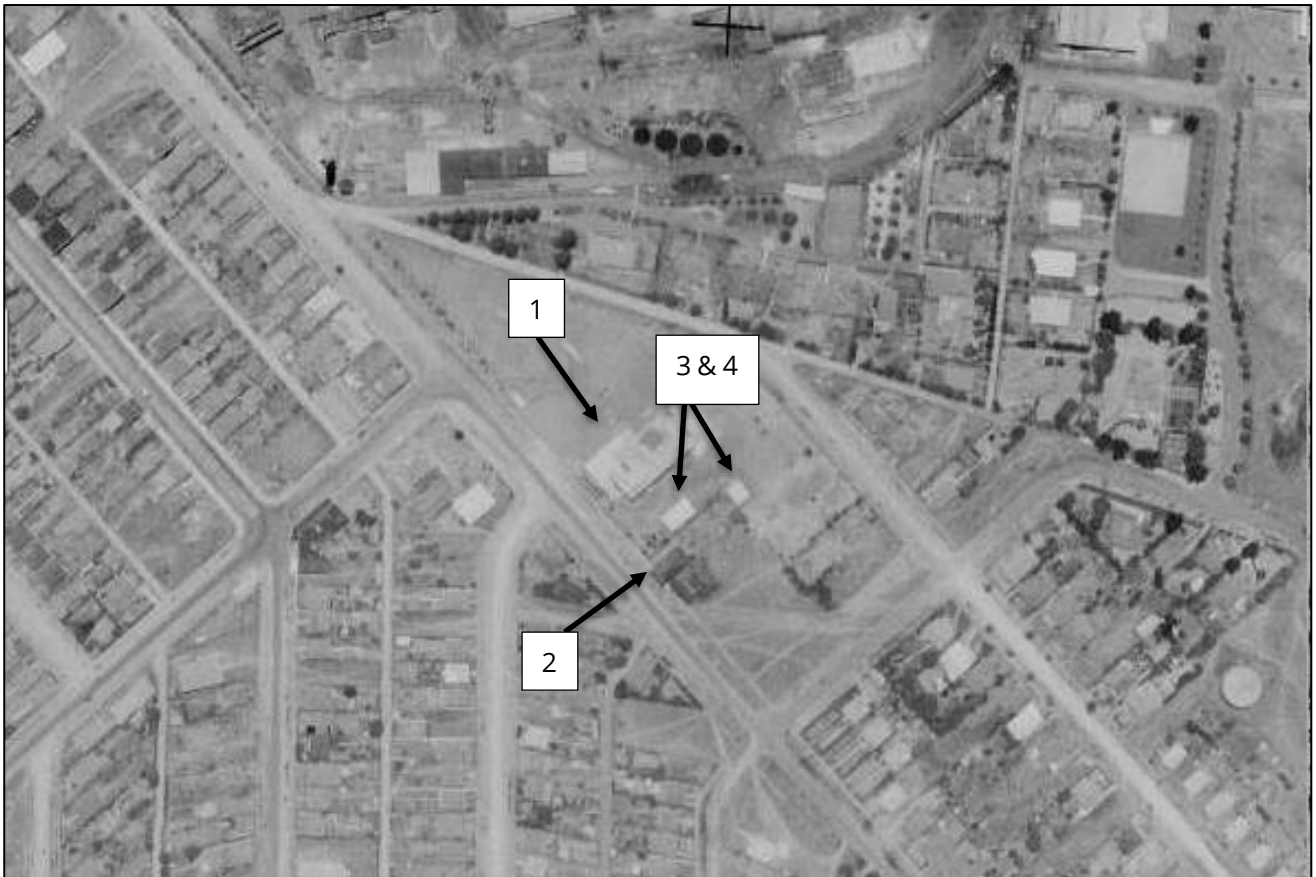


Plate 3 1948-1951 aerial of the study area (Source: NSW LPI)

The 1948-51 aerial shows the original school building (building 1), and the brick shop, building 2 as outlined in the 1935 plan (Figure 11). Building 3, could be that of the various portable buildings that occupied the study area throughout the occupation period of the Port Kembla Public School. Building 4 as depicted in Figure 11 and Plate 2 could be that of the GI shed. The Port Kembla Public School site saw many changes since 1916 onwards. The 1961 aerial shows again the main Public School building (building 1)

The 1961 aerial shows the original Public School building (building 1), the Infants' Building (building 8) and the associated outbuildings (buildings, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13). It can be seen that one of the possible portable buildings is still occupying the same space as in the 1948-51 aerial.

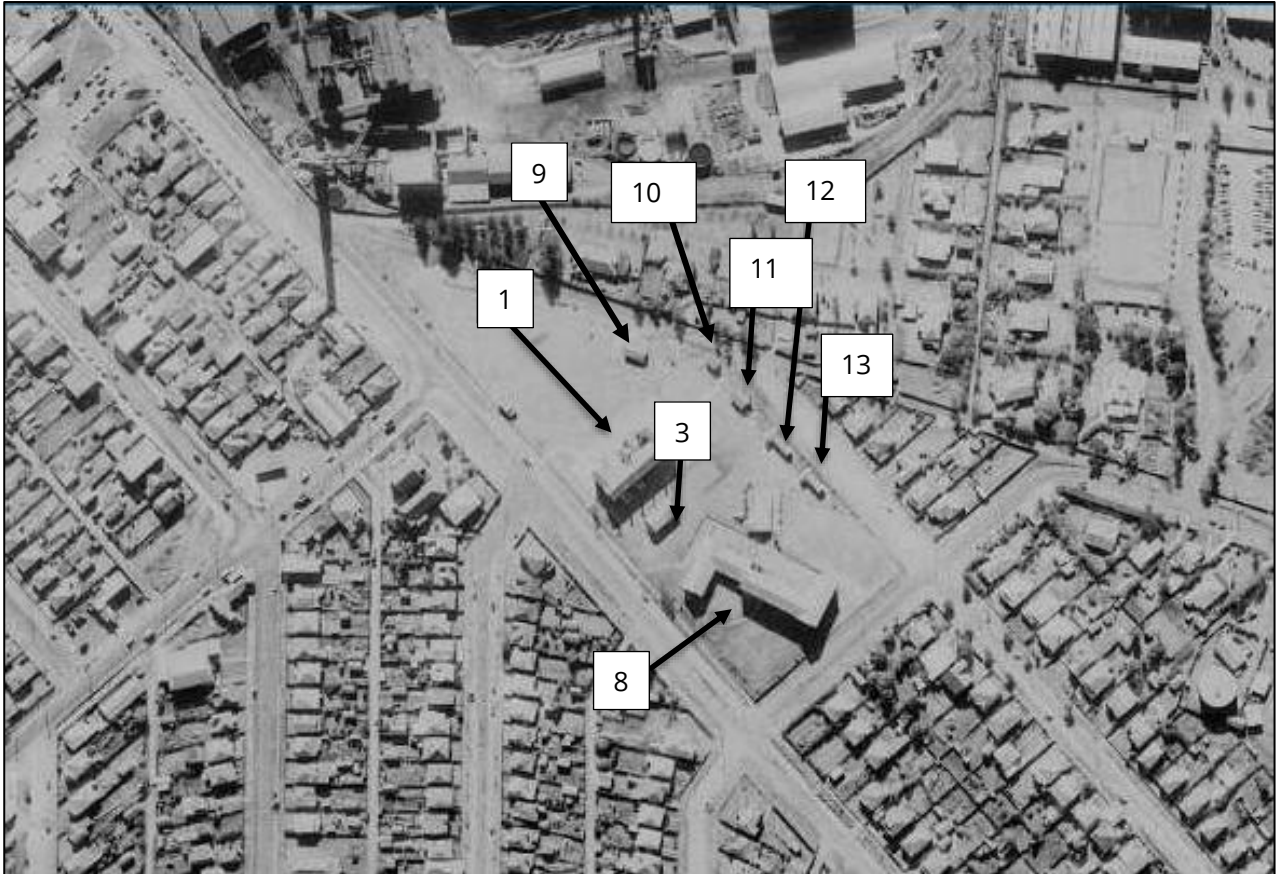


Plate 4 1961 aerial of the study area (Source: NSW LPI)

The neighbouring ER and S Co., having changed their name to “Southern Copper Limited”, closed the plant in January 1995. However, in December of 1996 the NSW Government decided to grant a Japanese consortium a licence to reopen the copper smelter. The plan to reopen the smelter in 1999 caused frustration in the community due to the unsafe levels of lead and arsenic in the soils found in the school’s ground.

In March 1997, after years of complaining about the health fears of the neighbouring smelter, the Premier, Mr Carr agreed to remove the children declaring that the Government:

Maintains its views that environmental conditions imposed on the development are stringent and will be met...the education of children would have been disrupted by the ongoing concern among parents and teachers about the school's existing location

The new school was built for 240 students on a former warehouse site on Gloucester Boulevard. This saw the closure of the Port Kembla Public School in 1999 although; the new school was not opened until March 2000.⁵² The former Port Kembla Public School was later bought by Port Kembla Copper in 2001.⁵³

⁵² Graham Brooks & Associates 2002b

⁵³ Eklund 2002



Plate 5 The Old Port Kembla Public School, Military Road, Port Kembla. Source Wollongong City Library

Graham Brooks and Associates undertook a heritage assessment in 2002⁵⁴ of the Port Kembla Public School, describing the school as an imposing element in the Military Road streetscape. Brooks assessed areas of the overall site as having high significance, which included the 1916 school building and the 1931 extension. The historic school building stood at the centre of the original school ground. The lower portion of the original school ground was identified as having medium significance and areas of low significance included, fencing and landscaping of the original portion of the school ground, the 1953 former infants school and associated shelter and the two outbuildings.

Brooks assessed the original school building as having components of high significance due to the overall scale of the building as it went through extensive transformations since 1931. The design and material of the exterior which included all brickwork, such as arched window heads, brick sills and ornaments and the painted concrete lintels. The wording “public school 1916” which is located on the Military Road façade is of high significance. It also had original (1916) and early (1931) internal finishes, including classroom windows and doors, which were originally external windows and doors, timber boarded ceilings to classrooms, surviving timber partitions, folding doors, cabinets and picture rails. Components with medium significance

⁵⁴ Graham Brooks & Associates 2002b

were also identified, which included the ground floor veranda and the balcony on the upper floor and also components of low significance, which consisted of; infill extension on the north-eastern façade, a modern extension containing lavatories, modern ceilings to classrooms and modern finishes in toilets.

Based on his findings, Brooks recommended that the original portion which contains the 1916 building, of the school site be retained. The other part, the southern portion of the school grounds may be available for redevelopment, a program of making the site and retained building more secure against unwanted entry is recommended, and any future adaptive use for the historical building may need to be the subject to a separate study to ensure it does not materially affect the identified heritage significance of the building and it's setting.⁵⁵

The abandoned school building burned down in January of 2013.⁵⁶ Later that month, the remains of the school were demolished.⁵⁷

| Established Dates | Feature No. | Feature |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| C.1900 - 1939 | 2 | Brick shop |
| | 4 | Single storey shed |
| | 5 | Single storey cottage |
| | 6 | Single Storey cottage |
| | 7 | Single storey cottage |
| 1916-2013 | 1 | Two story brick school building |
| 1931- 1961 | 3 | Single storey portable building |
| 1939- 2013 | 8 | Double Storey infant school building |
| 1961 - 2013 | 9,10,11,12,13 | Single storey outbuildings |

3.4 Research themes

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

⁵⁵ Graham Brooks & Associates 2002b

⁵⁶ 2013 'Old Port kembla school building destroyed by fire' ABC News 4 Jan. Viewed 15 Jan 2018
www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-04/port-kembla-fire/445288

⁵⁷ 2013 'Old Port Kembla school demolition begins' Illawarra Mercury 16 Jan. Viewed 15 Jan 2018.
www.illawarramercury.com.au/story.1237474/old-port-kembla-school-demolition-begins/

Australia at the time. Such themes have been established by the Australian Heritage Commission and the NSW Heritage Office and are outlined in synoptic form in New South Wales Historical Themes.⁵⁸

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

A review of the contextual history in conjunction with the thematic history of Wollongong has identified one historical theme which relates to the occupational history of the study area.⁵⁹ Kass, in a report of the Thematic History of the City of Wollongong, highlights the evolution of education throughout Wollongong from the early 1820s until 2001.⁶⁰

This historical themes for the study area is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 Identified historical themes for the study area

| Australian Theme | NSW Theme | Local Theme |
|---------------------|-----------|---|
| 6. Educating | Education | Activities associated with teaching and learning by children and adults, formally and informally. |

⁵⁸ NSW Heritage Council 2001

⁵⁹ <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2700588> viewed 11/01/2018

⁶⁰ Kass 2010

4 Physical inspection

A physical inspection of the study area was undertaken on 12 January 2018, attended by Alex Beben, Principal archaeologist and Amy Butcher, archaeologist. The principal aims of the survey were to identify heritage values associated with the study area; this included any heritage items (Heritage items can be buildings, structures, places, relics or other works of historical, aesthetic, social, technical/research or natural heritage significance. 'Places' include conservation areas, sites, precincts, gardens, landscapes and areas of archaeological potential).

4.1 Site Setting

The study area is situated amongst a residential and industrial backdrop. To the north and east of the study area is a large industrial complex of the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Co. (ER & S). Adjacent to the study area, to the west is the former fire station which was opened in 1928, house and shop and the St. Stephens Anglican Church, which was opened in 1903.

The former Port Kembla Public School site is located on Military Road, Port Kembla, set several metres back from the main road and also set behind native trees (Plate 6). The view from the study area looking to the west encompasses three heritage listed buildings, the former Fire Station, St Stephens Anglican Church and the House and Shop. The view from the study area facing north is dominated by the remains of the former Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Co (Plate 7) and to the south of the study area, residential housing lines Marne Street. Large portions of the study area are covered by flooring remains of the now demolished Port Kembla Public School along with an asphalt-paved basketball court that is located to the west of the now demolished building. There are no standing structures within the study area.



**Plate 6 South eastern view of Study Area,
Military Road**



**Plate 7 Northern view of the former
Electrolytic Refining and Smelting
Co. from the study area.**

There are three heritage listed building adjacent to the study area on Military Road. These include, to the south a House and Shop, St Stephens Anglican Church of Australia including a rectory and hall, and to the north the Former Fire Station.

4.1.1 House and Shop

The House and Shop (Plate 8 to Plate 10) at 123 Military Road, Port Kembla is a single story timber house with a CI roof. The shop has a brick addition at the front. The building received alterations in 1958 and 1959. A new carport was added in 1965. The building received alterations in 1992, a new fence in 2003 and further alterations in 2007.⁶¹

⁶¹ <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageltemDetails.aspx?ID=2700591> viewed on 27 February 2018



Plate 8 North eastern aspect of the 'House and Shop'.



Plate 9 Eastern aspect of the Shop, "House and Shop".



Plate 10 Eastern aspect of the house, "House and Shop".



Plate 11 Archived photograph of the House and Shop. (Taken from the OEH website)

4.1.2 St Stephens Anglican Church of Australia, including rectory and hall

The St Stephens Anglican Church of Australia, including rectory and hall (Plate 12 to Plate 15) is a simple brick structure with a pitched roof. The church building demonstrates principal characteristics of Federation Gothic style. The first St Stephens Anglican Church was built in 1903 as a simple weatherboard structure. The current church was built in 1924-1925 and has been in use since 1925 and was re-consecrated in 1935. The rectory was built in 1922-1925 and the hall in 1936.⁶²

⁶² <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageltemDetails.aspx?ID=2700591> viewed on 27 February 2018



Plate 12 Eastern aspect of St Stephens Anglican Church, including rectory and Hall



Plate 13 Northern aspect of St Stephens Anglican Church.



Plate 14 Eastern aspect of the Hall of St Stephens Anglican Church/



Plate 15 Eastern aspect of the St Stephens Anglican Church.

4.1.3 Port Kembla Fire Station

The former Port Kembla Fire Station (Plate 16 to Plate 18) is built of dark brick with a hipped roof of slate tiles with terracotta capings and projecting gables. The Windows are paired and double hung 4/4, with stone intels and sills. The building was apparently altered in the interwar period when a low brick fence was added to the front of the property. The fire station also includes rams horn terracotta finials, decorated barge board with collar ties and a timber door to the engine garage. The building represents architectural features of the Federation period, which has been noted as being rare in the local area. It has been indicated, in the State Heritage register that a carport was demolished in 1989, and a quadruple carport was created in the same year.



Plate 16 Eastern aspect of the Former Fire Station.



Plate 17 Northern aspect of the Former Fire Station.



Plate 18 Southern aspect of the Former Fire Station.



Plate 19 Archived photograph of the Former Port Kembla Fire Station.

4.2 Archaeological assessment

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

4.2.1 Archaeological resource

The potential archaeological resources relates to the predicted level of preservation of archaeological resources within the study area. Archaeological potential is influenced by the geographical and topographical location, the level of development, subsequent impacts, levels of onsite fill and the factors influencing preservation such as soil type. An assessment of archaeological potential has been derived from the historical analysis undertaken during the preparation of this report. This section discusses the archaeological resource within the study area. The purpose of the analysis is to outline what archaeological deposits or structures are likely to be present within the study area and how these relate to the history of land use associated with the study area.

Based upon this review of documentary sources, the study area has been identified as previously containing the Port Kembla Public School, associated outbuildings and additions. The public school was constructed on brick foundations that would have formed a subfloor cavity within which occupational deposits could have accumulated. The school would have been constructed with a septic system and mains water supply and as such there is limited potential for backfilled artefact laden deposits associated with earthen closets or wells to be present. The septic tanks would have been used until 1960 when the public sewer was connected and as such any backfilled deposits associated with the septic tanks are likely to date to this period.⁶³

Prior to organised waste removal the only way for people to dispose of their waste was by digging out a pit in which to discard the waste products. As the study area was a public school, it is unlikely that it would have generated dense artefactual deposits in the form of rubbish pits. The organised removal of solid waste first appeared in London in the late 18th century around the 'dust yards' as the coal ash had a market value for brick making. By 1875 the Public Health Act had made it compulsory for every household to dispose of their weekly waste in removable receptacles for disposal. There is limited evidence for the implementation of formal waste removal, however it is likely to have been implemented by the time that the Port Kembla Public School was constructed in 1916.

Due to the date of the construction of the school, the study area has limited potential to contain dense archaeological deposits in the form of subfloor deposits and or rubbish pits. This is primarily due to the school having been constructed on brick or concrete footings and having been constructed with a water

⁶³ NSW Water Archives Plan DS4872

supply and waste system. The study area is likely to contain evidence of the footings of the Port Kembla Public School, including evidence of its construction, destruction by fire and demolition.

The infant's school was built around 1939 and has been extensively recorded in various resources. With the construction, there have been few references to buildings 2,4,5,6 and 7 and their deconstruction. These buildings would have been typically simple single story structures with no subflooring and this no physically evidence of these building having existed. Building 3 was a portable building that was easily moved and would leave no physical trace. Buildings 9 to 13 would have been simple one story outbuildings. The study area has limited potential to contain archaeological deposits in the form of subfloor deposits and or rubbish pits.

4.2.2 Integrity of sub-surface deposits

In 2013 the former Port Kembla Public School burned down. All buildings within the site, as a result of fire damage was demolished to ground level. As a result of the demolition, it is likely that the foundations of the original 1916 building have been capped along with any depositional remains associated with the school. The study area has not undergone any significant transformations since the school was demolished and therefore any archaeological remains associated with the school are likely to still be present.

4.2.3 Research potential

Archaeological research potential refers to the ability of archaeological evidence to provide information about a site that could not be derived from any other source and which contributes to the archaeological significance of that site. Archaeological research potential differs from archaeological potential in that the presence of an archaeological resource (i.e. archaeological potential) does not mean that it can provide any additional information that increases our understanding of a site or the past (i.e. archaeological research potential). The research potential of a site is also affected by the integrity of the archaeological resource within a study area. If a site is disturbed, then vital contextual information that links material evidence to a stratigraphic sequence may be missing and it may be impossible to relate material evidence to activities on a site. This is generally held to reduce the ability of an archaeological site to answer research questions. Assessment of the research potential of a site also relates to the level of existing documentation of a site and of the nature of the research done so far (the research framework), to produce a 'knowledge' pool to which research into archaeological remains can add.

Developing local, regional and national economies: Industrial growth

The study area forms part of the off-site fabric of the historic area of Port Kembla, with its original purpose to reduce overflow of students from the local school in Salty Creek. The study area neighbours the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Co. (ER&S) formed strong links with the school and influenced practices within the school to ensure that were able to obtain a skilled workforce. This is evidenced through the ER&S lending a woodwork instructor once a week to the school. Whilst archaeological remains could contain evidence relating to the education of the youth of Port Kembla and the social and economic conditions of Port Kembla at this time, this information is readily available through contemporary documentary sources dating to this period including public census, enrolment records and school curriculum. As such, any archaeological remains are unlikely to answer substantive research questions.

Building settlements, towns and cities: Education

The study area is located on Military Road and is bounded by Marne Street to the south and Reservoir Street to the west. It represents an aspect of the facilities that were available to families that were living in Port Kembla at the time. By the early 1900s the government allocated money for education and this was used to pay teachers, erect and equip schoolhouses and buy necessary textbooks. As a government school, the government supplied a strict curriculum guidelines that dictated how teachers and students behaved and

what activities were allowed or we not allowed within the school grounds. The school curriculum was standard across Australia with little differentiation from one school to another.⁶⁴ The construction, layout and configuration of the school site is well documented through detailed architectural drawings made prior to construction and the alteration of the building. As a result, the structural remains of the building are unlikely to yield information that is beneficial to understanding the configuration of the site. Whilst the study area is likely to contain occupational deposits within the sub-floor cavities, these are unlikely to provide information that cannot be obtained through documentary sources. As a result, the archaeological remains within the study area are unlikely to yield information that will answer substantive research questions.

4.2.4 Summary of archaeological potential

Through an analysis of the above factors a number of assumptions have been made relating to the archaeological potential of the study area.

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

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

The individual elements that comprise the Port Kembla Public School are summarised below:

The original Port Kembla Public School: Building 1 (1916- 2013)

The former original public school building (building 1) was built in 1916 and underwent various renovations throughout its occupation of the study area. The school building went into disuse in 1999 when the school site moved sites. It was then in 2013 the school building was affected by a large fire and extensive damage was done to the building, as such the building was demolished that same year. The study area is likely to contain archaeological remains relating to the structural configuration of the building.

Prior to the fire and demolition, in 2002 Brooks and associates undertook an archaeological assessment of the building and assessed the significance of building 1, its features and the use of the building over its time period. The report is a thorough assessment of the building and its historical use as a school. With such assessments, various books and reports, 19th century schooling throughout NSW has been well documented. With so much known about the various school buildings, what they looked like, how they were used and what was taught throughout this time, the archaeological resource within the study area is unlikely to contribute

⁶⁴ Austin, A.G 1975

any further knowledge into schooling during the 19th century. As a result of this assessment, the Port Kembla Public School has been assessed as possessing a low level of archaeological potential.

Infants Building and shelter: Building 3 (1953- 2013)

The infants building was constructed and opened in 1953 and was a simple single/two-storey school building. To make way for this building it appears that various cottages and associated buildings which existed on the lot before the original Port Kembla Public School was built, were demolished. However, these buildings have little evidence of having existed. It is known that one cottage was demolished in 1939 to make way for the Infant building, but due to delays no more of the buildings were demolished. Along with the original school building, the Infants building was also damaged by fire and demolished in 2013

The construction and opening of the Infant building is well documented through newspaper articles and the Brooks (2002) assessment of the school site. These articles and reports document the activities that the building was used for and why it was built. With these references and what is known about the use of the building, no further archaeological research would contribute to the knowledge of schooling throughout the 19th century.

Other structural remains

In a 1935 plan of the study area several structures appear that were not previously sighted on the 1916 plan of the study area. Through reference material, it is known that these buildings were demolished to make away for the development of the Port Kembla Public School site. Crown plans tell us the occupation of the study area and the properties that occupied the space before development. Reference material has extensively provided information about the development of the school site. With these resources and what is known about the development of Port Kembla and the possible use of these buildings, no further archaeological research would contribute to the knowledge of early life in Port Kembla.

The study area has been assessed as possessing a **low** level of archaeological potential.

5 Significance assessment

An assessment of heritage significance encompasses a range of heritage criteria and values. The heritage values of a site or place are broadly defined as the 'aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values for past, present or future generations'⁶⁵. This means a place can have different levels of heritage value and significance to different groups of people.

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

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

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

- Historical significance (evolution and association).
- Aesthetic significance (scenic/architectural qualities and creative accomplishment).
- Scientific significance (archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values).
- Social significance (contemporary community esteem).

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

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

⁶⁵ NSW Heritage Office, 2001

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

5.1 Levels of heritage significance

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

Local heritage items

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

State heritage items

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

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

5.2 Evaluation of significance

Criteria 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).

The item has historical value as it was the fourth location of the Port Kembla Public School since being first established in 1890. The original school building was constructed in 1916 with additions in 1931, it was the first purpose built permanent school building in Port Kembla. It indicated the industrial development and population growth at the turn of the century. The school provided public education for the local community for over 80 years. Whilst the school has been demolished the study area is still significant due to its history as the site of the Port Kembla Public School.

The item satisfies this criterion at **local** level.

Criterion B: *An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The former Port Kembla Public School is closely associated with James Henry who was the headmaster of the school when it first opened at Military Road. It is suggested that his activity went beyond the usual role of a school headmaster and was a popular and honoured member of the local community. Whilst the school building has been demolished the study area still retains this association.

The item satisfies this criterion at **local** level.

Criteria 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).*

The item had architectural and townscape values as the building was characteristically simple with almost no decorative elements. It largely retained its original architectural character and integrity. Before the building demolition, its imposing mass and well-proportioned facades were an important component in the townscape. Since the building has been demolished, the study area no longer demonstrates the aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW or the local area.

The item does not satisfy this criterion at **local** or **state** level.

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.*

The item has social and cultural value as the school site and building served an important function in the community for more than 80 years. The site and building served as an educational and important community facility. The school building and site underwent expansion through additional buildings, this is a reflection of the expansion of the surrounding community and the growth of school education in the local area. Whilst the school building has been demolished, the study area still retains this strong and special associated with the local community.

The item satisfies this criterion at **local** level.

Criterion E: *An item has the 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).*

Whilst the Port Kembla Public School is likely to contain archaeological remains in the form of footings and occupational deposits, these have been assessed as being unlikely to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW cultural or natural history due to the extensive research and reference material that contain knowledge of schooling and the culture of NSW and the local area. Further research into the Port Kembla Public School would not produce important information relating to public education at a local or state level.

The item does not satisfy this criterion at **local** or **state** level.

Criterion F: *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the area's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The former Port Kembla Public School has previously been assessed as being a rare public building that dates from the industrial growth period of Port Kembla. However, as the building has been demolished, it no longer possesses any uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the area's natural history.

The item does not satisfy this criterion at **local** or **state** level.

Criterion G: An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments. (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places, or cultural or natural environments).

The item used to have representative value as an example of a school building that was in use from the 1910s until after WWII. The buildings fabric was significant in demonstrating the principal characteristics of school buildings dating to this period through its retention of its early fabric. Since the study area has been demolished it no longer contains fabric that demonstrates the principal characteristics of early 20th century schools in Port Kembla.

The item does not satisfy this criterion at **local** or **state** level.

5.3 Statement of Significance

Study area

The following statement of significance has been formulated for the study area:

The site of the Port Kembla Public School is of significance for the local area for historical, associative and social community reasons. Although the study area no longer contains the school buildings it still has historical significance as a site of education of the children of the Port Kembla region since 1916 and its association with James Henry who was notable as a headmaster in the locality. The study area is also of importance for the local community for social reasons due to its 80 year history as a school where the majority of local residents would have attended. .

The item is considered to be significant at a **local** level.

The following statements of significance have been formulated based upon their heritage inventory listings for adjacent heritage items:

Former Fire Station

Former Port Kembla Fire Station is of significance for the local area for historical and aesthetic reasons and as representative of Fire Stations with architectural features of the Federation period, which is relatively rare in the local area. Its existence presents evidence of the development of Port Kembla as a separate town centre from Wollongong. The building makes an important contribution to the streetscape and presents one of the local area landmarks.

The item is considered to be significant at a **local** level.

House and Shop

The house and shop at 123 Military Road are of significance for the local area for historical and reasons of representativeness. The buildings, albeit modified, retains potential to interpret the history of the local area. The house is an important element in the streetscape, it is readily identifiable as part of the historical building stock of the area, and the integrity of the fabric presents as relatively high when viewed externally.

The item is considered to be significant at a **local** level.

St Stephens's Anglican Church of Australia, including rectory and hall

The St Stephens Anglican Church and associated buildings are of significance to the people of Port Kembla for historical, associative, aesthetic, social and reasons of representativeness. The site has been associated with religious use for the Anglican community since at least 1901. The creation of today's St Stephens Anglican Church, rectory and hall was associated with significant historical phases of European settlement. The complex presents a local

landmark and is of importance for the local community for spiritual and cultural reasons. The c. 1925 church building demonstrates principal characteristics of Federation Gothic style of church architecture. The c. 1923 former Rectory and the c. 1937 vernacular church hall are of significance in their own right and representative of typical design of buildings of their respective types and dates of creation. Each of the three buildings has a very high degree of integrity. The mature vegetation on the site strongly contributes to the setting of the heritage item.

The item is considered to be significant at a **local** level.

6 Statement of heritage impact

This SoHI has been prepared to address impacts resulting from the proposed redevelopment of the study area. The SoHI identifies the level of impact arising from the proposed development and discusses mitigation measures which must be taken to avoid or reduce those impacts. This section of the report has been prepared in accordance with the Heritage Manual guideline *Statements of Heritage Impact*.⁶⁶

6.1 Proposal details

The proposed development seeks to rezone the study area for medium density residential use. The planning proposal request proposes that the site be rezoned from B4 Mixed Use to R3 Medium Density Residential and RE2 Private Recreation. In conjunction with the rezoning, the proposal seeks to change the floor ration controls from 0.5:1 to 0.75:1, and reduce the minimum lots size from 1,999 square metres to 299 square metres.

The indicative site development scheme consist of;

- Small lot housing fronting Marne Street to the south (1-2 storeys),
- Medium density housing products such as townhouses and terraces (2-3 storeys) through the middle of the site, some with basement parking and some with individual garages at ground level.
- Pedestrian access ways (or laneways) as through-links from Military Road and Reservoir Street. Controlled access points for vehicular movements are identified from Marne, Reservoir and Electrolytic Streets to and from the overall site.
- Three storey residential flat buildings at the northern end of the site, closer to nearby commercial and industry land uses.
- A 'green zone' is proposed along the northern boundary (Electrolytic Street) as a buffer from nearby industry land and activities.

6.2 Assessing impact to heritage item(s)

6.2.1 Discussion of heritage impact(s)

The discussion of impacts to heritage can be centred upon a series of questions which must be answered as part of a SoHI which frame the nature of impact to a heritage item. The Heritage Manual guideline *Statements of Heritage Impact* includes a series of questions in relation to indicate the criterion which must be answered⁶⁷ These are:

⁶⁶ Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs & Planning 1996

⁶⁷ *ibid*

- *How is the impact of the new development on the heritage significance of the item or area to be minimised?*
- *Why is the new development required to be adjacent to a heritage item?*
- *How does the curtilage allowed around the heritage item contribute to the retention of its heritage significance?*
- *How does the new development affect views to, and from, the heritage item? What has been done to minimise negative effects?*
- *Is the new development sympathetic to the heritage item? In what way (e.g. form, siting, proportions, design)? • Will the additions visually dominate the heritage item? How has this been minimised?*
- *Will the public and users of the item, still be able to view and appreciate its significance?*

6.2.2 Quantifying heritage impact(s)

Based upon the discussion of Impacts to heritage items, impact to these items can be quantified under three main categories: direct impacts, indirect impacts and no impact. These kinds of impacts are dependent on the proposed impacts, nature of the heritage item and its associated curtilage.

Direct impacts

Direct impacts are where the completion of the proposed development will result in a physical loss or alteration to a heritage item which will impact the heritage value or significance of the place. Direct impacts can be divided into whole or partial impacts. Whole impacts essentially will result in the removal of a heritage item as a result of the development whereas partial impacts normally constitute impacts to a curtilage or partial removal of heritage values. For the purposes of this assessment direct impacts to heritage items have been placed into the following categories:

- Physical impact - whole: where the development will have a whole impact on a heritage item resulting in the complete physical loss of significance attributed to the item.
- Physical impact - partial: where the project will have a partial impact on an item which could result in the loss or reduction in heritage significance. The degree of impact through partial impacts is dependent on the nature and setting of a heritage item. This typically these impacts are minor impacts to a small proportion of a curtilage of an item or works occurring within the curtilage of a heritage item which may impact on its setting (i.e. gardens and plantings).

Indirect impacts

Indirect impacts to a heritage item relate to alterations to the environment or setting of a heritage item which will result in a loss of heritage value. This may include permanent or temporary visual, noise or vibration impacts caused during construction and after the completion of the development. Indirect impacts diminish the significance of an item through altering its relationship to its surroundings; this in turn impacts its ability to be appreciated for its historical, functional or aesthetic values.

Cumulative impacts

Cumulative impacts relate to minimal or gradual impacts from a single or multiple developments upon heritage values. A cumulative impact would constitute a minimal impact being caused by the proposed development which over time may result in the partial or total loss of heritage value to the study area or associated heritage item. Cumulative impacts may need to be managed carefully over the prolonged period of time.

No impact

This is where the project does not constitute a measurable direct or indirect impact to the heritage item.

6.3 Assessment of impacts

A discussion, assessment and mitigation of Impacts to heritage items located within or adjacent to the study area is presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Assessment of impacts to heritage items either within or adjacent to the study area

| Heritage Item | Significance | Discussion | Assessment | Mitigation measures |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|------------|---------------------|
| Former Fire Station | Local | The development is located on the adjacent side of Military Road and therefore any perceived impacts from the development are minimal and could relate to the visual appreciation of the heritage item. There are three heritage listed items that occupy the streetscape and hold high significance within the community of Port Kembla. The development may result in a temporary visual and noise impact to the heritage items during construction but this will be resolved upon completion of the project. The Military Road streetscape has been irreversibly eroded through architecturally unsympathetic developments. This has removed any necessity to incorporate any stylistic changes to the proposal. As such the development does not represent a measurable impact upon the significance of the Former Fire Station | No impacts | N/A |
| House and Shop | Local | The development is located on the adjacent side of Military Road and therefore any perceived impacts from the development are minimal and could relate to the visual appreciation of the heritage item. There are three heritage listed items that occupy the streetscape and hold high significance within the community of Port Kembla. The development may result in a temporary visual and noise impact to the heritage items during construction but this will be resolved upon completion of the project. . The Military Road streetscape has been irreversibly eroded through architecturally unsympathetic developments. This has removed any necessity to incorporate any stylistic changes to the proposal. As such the development does not represent a measurable impact upon the significance of the House and Shop | No impact | N/A |
| St Stephens Anglican church | Local | The development is located on the adjacent side of Military Road and therefore any perceived impacts from the development are minimal and could relate to the visual appreciation of the heritage item. There are three heritage listed items that occupy the streetscape and hold high significance within the community of Port Kembla. The development may result in a temporary visual and noise impact to the heritage items during construction but this will be resolved upon completion of the project. . The Military Road streetscape has been irreversibly eroded through architecturally unsympathetic developments. This has removed any necessity to incorporate any stylistic changes to the proposal. As such the development does not represent a measurable impact upon the significance of the St Stephens Anglican Church. | No impact | N/A |

| Heritage Item | Significance | Discussion | Assessment | Mitigation measures |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|------------|-------------------------|
| Port Kembla Public School | Local | There will be no impacts to built fabric within the study area as the former Public School Buildings have been demolished to ground level. Whilst archaeological remains associated with the footings and occupational deposits may be present within the study area, these have been assessed as possessing limited archaeological potential. As such, the proposed development will not have a significant impact in the item as the items significance relates to intangible elements such as its historical, associative and social significance. These elements would be best managed through a program of interpretation that is incorporated into the proposed development and that celebrates the sites contribution to Port Kembla. | No Impacts | Interpretation strategy |

6.4 Statement of heritage impact

Whilst the Study Area is situated adjacent to three heritage items on the WLEP 2009 as *Former Fire Station, House and Shop and St Stephens Anglican Church of Australia including rectory and hall, Military Road Port Kembla*, all three heritage items are listed at a local level the buildings hold high significance within the community of Port Kembla as they represent an early industrial development of Port Kembla.

The study area once contained the former Port Kembla Public School, however this building was destroyed by fire in 2013 and all above ground remains were demolished. The building was noted as being a *rare public building that dates to the industrial growth period of 1916 in Port Kembla. It indicates the industrial development and population growth at the turn of the century*. The study area still retains intangible heritage values through its historical, associative and social significance. As a result the proposed development has been assessed as not having a measurable impact upon the heritage significance of the item or the items adjacent to the study area. This is based upon the heritage character of the streetscape associated with Military Road having been almost completely eroded to the extent that it contributes only on a minor level to the significance of the wider area. The modern nature of the development is not significantly different to the designs implemented as part of local residential dwellings in particular those on Marne Street. The only built heritage values which need to be considered relate to the preservation of the existing streetscape through retention of the existing landscape. The development does not represent a measurable impact upon the significance of the heritage items on Military Road.

Assuming the mitigation measures discussed are implemented, the proposed development and the proposed works are acceptable from a heritage perspective.

7 Conclusions and recommendations

7.1 Conclusions

The Study Area is located upon the old Port Kembla Public School site that is listed on the WLEP 2009 and adjacent to three heritage listed buildings. The assessment has identified that the study area no longer contains any structural remains associated with the Port Kembla Public School. The study area has been assessed as not possessing and archaeological remains of significance. The study area retains intangible heritage significance through its historical, associative and social significance, these values will not be impacted upon by the proposed development, however should be managed through a program of heritage interpretation. As a result there will be no significant impacts upon the significance of the site.

The three locally listed heritage items within the locality were located a sufficient distance from the study area do not require additional assessment. The development has been assessed as not representing a measurable impact upon the significance of the Port Kembla Public School or the Former Fire Station, House and Shop and or the St Stephens Anglican Church.

Based upon the current proposed impacts the proposed development is acceptable from a heritage perspective assuming the recommendations detailed in this assessment are implemented.

7.2 Recommendations

These recommendations have been formulated to respond to client requirements and the significance of the site. They are guided by the ICOMOS *Burra Charter* with the aim of doing as much as necessary to care for the place and make it useable and as little as possible to retain its cultural significance.⁶⁸

Recommendation 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan

The analysis for this report has determined that the site has limited potential to contain archaeological resources of local or state significance. However, a heritage interpretation plan is suggested.

Recommendation 2 Use of sympathetic colours during project works

The project should use sympathetic colour treatments. Colours that match the existing palette will ensure that the adjacent heritage items are not visually dominated by the proposed works

Recommendation 3 Unexpected archaeological finds

In NSW, archaeological sites of State or local significance are considered "relics", which are protected by the *Heritage Act 1977*. In NSW impacts to relics are only permitted with a section 140 approval (excavation permit) or an exception for the requirement of a section 140 approval (exception notification). This document has been drafted to act as supporting documentation for a section 140 (excavation permit).

⁶⁸ Australia ICOMOS 2013

Although this assessment has determined that there is limited potential for relics to be present, if during construction, structural or depositional remains are encountered all works should cease. A determination should then be made by an appropriately qualified archaeologist of whether the remains identified are likely to be "relics" under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. Where the remains are identified as being "relics" and protected, NSW Heritage Division should be contacted and relevant permits sought.

It should be noted that it is an offence under section 146 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* to fail to notify NSW Heritage Council of the discovery of a relic.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Details of Proposed Development

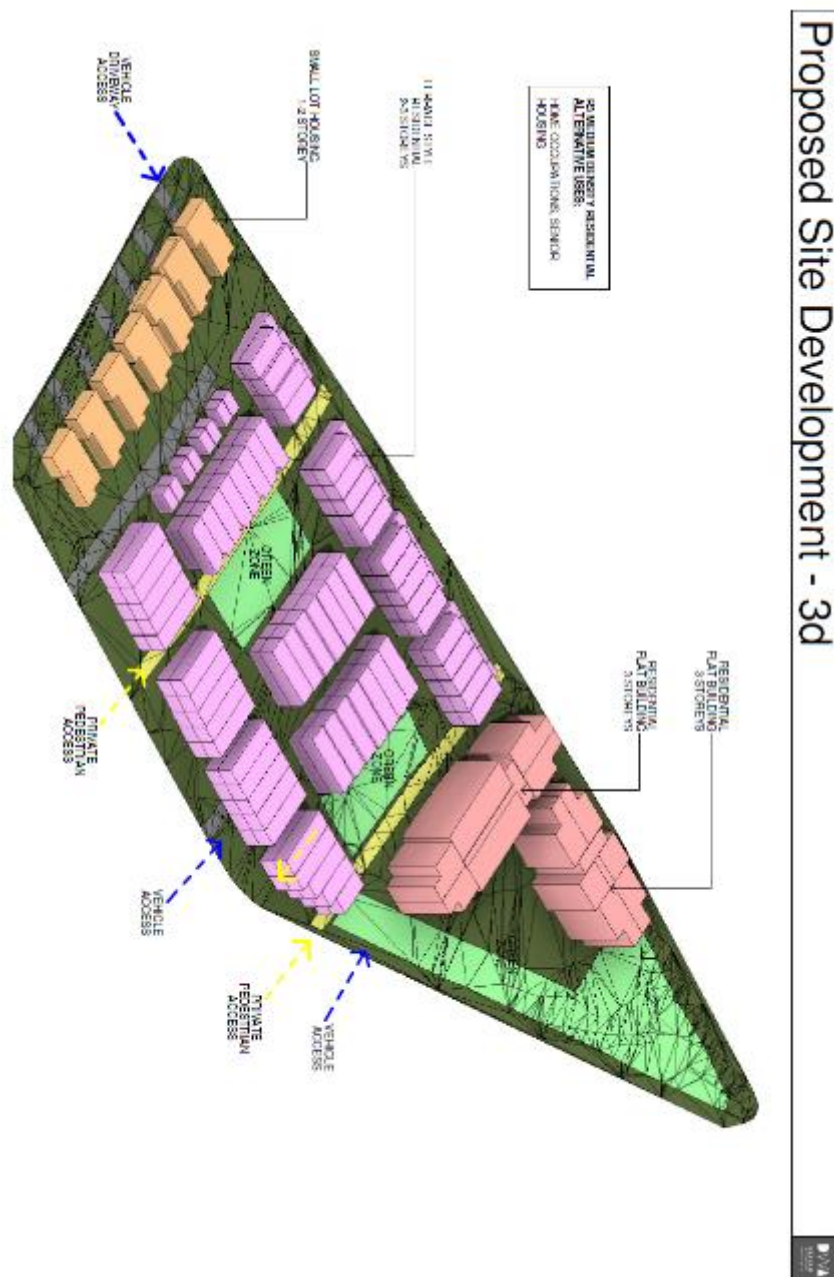


Figure 12 Proposed development plan