# EXTENT

**HERITAGE ADVISORS**
TO AUSTRALIA AND
THE ASIA PACIFIC

# Cumberland LGA Comprehensive Heritage Study

## Stage 1—Main Report

## Volume 1—Project Context

Client: Cumberland City Council

Version: Final

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## Document information

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| Extent Heritage project no.: | 20190020 |
| Client: | Cumberland City Council |
| Project: | Cumberland City Council Comprehensive Heritage Study—Main Report |
| Site location: | Cumberland Local Government Area (LGA) |
| Heritage advisor(s): | Corinne Softley, Eleanor Banaag, Kim Watson, Ruth Berendt |
| Author(s): | Corinne Softley, Dr. MacLaren North, Kim Watson, Gabrielle Harrington, Mark Dunn (reviewed Thematic History) |

## Document control

| Version | Internal reviewer | Date | Review type |
|---|---|---|---|
| Draft 01 | Dr. MacLaren North | 30 May 2019 | Technical/QA |
| Draft 01 | Kate Hatch | 31 May 2019 | Copyedit (L2) |
| Final Draft | Corinne Softley | 12 November 2019 | Update with client comment |
| Final | Corinne Softley | 06 March 2020 | Update with minor client comment |

# Executive summary

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd was commissioned by Cumberland City Council to prepare a Cumberland Local Government Area (LGA) Comprehensive Heritage Study (the 'Heritage Study'). Cumberland City Council is the amalgamation of the majority of the former Holroyd City Council area, parts of the former Auburn City Council area and parts of Parramatta City Council area. The purpose of the study is to prepare a comprehensive review and assessment of existing items of environmental heritage within the LGA, and to identify potential items of environmental heritage that may warrant inclusion as environmental heritage on the Cumberland Local Environmental Plan environmental heritage schedule.

The Heritage Study includes a review of the <u>existing</u> items of environmental heritage, which is predominantly associated with early European settlement and the establishment of the towns and suburbs of the area. This review includes built and industrial heritage, historical archaeological sites, cultural and natural landscapes, as well as Aboriginal objects and/or places. In addition, the Heritage Study also includes an assessment of potential <u>new</u> heritage items, heritage conservation areas and historical archaeological sites. Aboriginal objects and/or places are not included in the assessment of potential new listings.

The Heritage Study has been divided into two stages:

| STAGE 1 | STAGE 2 |
|---|---|
| • Prepare thematic history<br>• Review existing items of environmental heritage, including fieldwork audit of all places across the LGA<br>• Identify potential items for delisting<br>• Identify potential items for State Heritage Register nomination<br>• Identify places that require additional heritage documentation<br>• Prepare updated mapping<br>• Prepare Main Report, summarising outcomes of Stage 1 | • Identify potential new items of environmental heritage for inclusion on the consolidated Cumberland LEP<br>• Fieldwork audit of all potential places across the LGA<br>• Identify potential items for State Heritage Register nomination<br>• Identify places that require additional heritage documentation<br>• Prepare updated mapping<br>• Prepare Secondary Report, summarising outcomes of Stage 2 |

The purpose of the Main Report is to outline the findings of Stage 1, which included a review of Schedule 5 in the *Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013*, the *Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010* and *the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011* to determine the future actions for existing heritage listings.

The Main Report is split into three volumes:

| Vol 1 PROJECT CONTEXT | Vol 2 RECOMMENDATIONS | Vol 3 INVENTORY |
|---|---|---|
| •LGA identifiication<br>•Thematic history<br>•Statutory context<br>•Development context | •Actions<br>•Implementation of report<br>•Future investigations | •Items of environmental heritage<br>•Heritage conservation areas<br>•Mapping<br>•Inventory sheets |

This document forms Volume 1 of the Main Report.

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# 1.  Introduction

## 1.1  Project brief

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (Extent Heritage) was commissioned by Cumberland City Council (the 'Council') to prepare a Cumberland Local Government Area (LGA) Comprehensive Heritage Study (the 'Heritage Study'). As per the project brief, the key outcomes of the Heritage Study are to:

▪ provide an overview report on the history and the heritage of the LGA (see Section 3);

▪ provide inventory sheets for all items of environmental heritage as currently listed within the Holroyd Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013, the Auburn LEP 2010 and the Parramatta LEP 2011 that are located within the Cumberland LGA area (see Volume 3 of this report);

▪ make recommendations, with supporting assessment documentation, including inventory sheets, on items or areas with heritage value that are not currently listed in the relevant LEP and are located within the LGA (subject to Stage 2 assessment);

▪ make recommendations, with supporting background information and inventory sheets, on existing listed heritage items that have declined in heritage value and so may warrant delisting from the Cumberland LEP (see Volume 2); and

▪ make recommendations, with justification, for further studies or activities, if required (see Volume 2); this may include:

 • identifying potential items for State Heritage Register (SHR) nomination, and

 • identifying places that require additional heritage documentation.

## 1.2  Purpose and structure of main report

The purpose of the Main Report is to outline the findings of Stage 1, which included a review of Schedule 5 in the *Holroyd LEP 2013*, the *Auburn LEP 2010* and the *Parramatta LEP 2011* to determine the future actions for existing heritage listings.

The Main Report is split into three volumes:

| Vol 1<br>PROJECT CONTEXT | Vol 2<br>RECOMMENDATIONS | Vol 3<br>INVENTORY |
|---|---|---|
| •LGA identification<br>•Thematic history<br>•Statutory context<br>•Development context | •Actions<br>•Implementation of report<br>•Future investigations | •Items of environmental heritage<br>•Heritage conservation areas<br>•Mapping<br>•Inventory sheets |

This document forms Volume 1 of the Main Report.

## 1.3  Methodology

*Best practice guidelines*

The methodology used in the preparation of this heritage study is in accordance with the principles and definitions set out in the guidelines to *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*.[1] This study was also prepared in accordance with the New South Wales heritage manual *Assessing Heritage Significance*.[2]

*Thematic history*

The preparation of the thematic history considered specific themes relevant to the local circumstances within their chronological phases. The thematic history allows related events to be considered in terms of their chronological, social and geographic relationships, where the historical events and processes are considered in the context of a specific topic or theme. The selection of the relevant themes reflects an overall understanding of the chronological history of the area. The use of themes operates to sift the information into categories that facilitate comparisons and illustrate the relativities of historical development across the whole area. The thematic history is not an exhaustive history of the Cumberland LGA.

The Cumberland LGA is an amalgamation of several former LGA's and ultimately its boundaries are based on an administrative decision and not on historical or geographic grounds. This study has identified significant growth areas within the LGA using historical maps and overlays.

Limited research of primary sources has been conducted in the study area. The relevant pre-existing historical studies that have been used in the preparation of this report include:

▪ Kass, T. 'Auburn Heritage Study Volume 2 Historical Context Report.' Unpublished report prepared for Auburn Council, 1996.

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1    Australia ICOMOS, *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Burwood, Vic.: Australia ICOMOS, 2013).
2    NSW Heritage Office, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Sydney: Office of Environment and Heritage, 2001).

- Broomham, R and T Kass. 'Holroyd Heritage Study Thematic History'. Unpublished report prepared for Holroyd City Council, 1992.

- City of Parramatta. *City of Parramatta Heritage Study. Part Two: History and Heritage*. Parramatta, NSW: City of Paramatta, 1993.

*Review of existing inventory of heritage items*

The review of existing heritage within the Cumberland LGA had two key aims:

1. To identify if any existing items do not meet the New South Wales heritage criteria for listing and therefore are appropriate for delisting.

2. To update the existing information for items that are to remain on the list, to ensure it is current and accurate, and to provide relevant management recommendations.

To undertake this review, the following key activities occurred:

- a review of mapping provided by Council to ascertain exactly which items are now located within the Cumberland LGA;

- a review of previous community and staff correspondence provided by Council, identifying heritage places which required a review either for the quality of the information provided in them, or their potential to be de-listed;

- a review of available supporting documentation provided by Council on particular properties, including conservation management plans, plans of management and heritage impact statements;

- a comprehensive fieldwork program, including a site inspection of each heritage item (fieldwork was organised by suburb and included photography from the public domain, 'ground truthing' of existing listing sheet information and completion of an inspection form to capture any new, undocumented details);

- a review of the quality of information provided on each heritage inventory listing sheet, sourced either from the State Heritage Inventory (SHI) database or from Council hard copy records;

- an update of information on the heritage inventory (or 'listing') sheet in a new, revised template prepared on Microsoft Word (the inventory sheet included an update to existing listing sheets of the heritage items property details, an annotated curtilage and location map, a statement of significance, physical description, historical context, set of recommendations, reference list, and at least one current photograph);

- the identification of items for potential delisting and the preparation of an inventory sheet for these items, which included a revised statement of significance outlining how the item no longer meets the New South Wales heritage criteria, an update of physical description and

historical context (as required), the provision of recommendations to delist, and the provision of contemporary photography; and

▪ an update of the SHI database with finalised listing sheet information via Microsoft Access.

*Mapping*

A comprehensive set of GIS mapping data was provided by Council at the beginning of the project. Mapping was updated using ArcGIS, in response to anomalies identified throughout the review process.

*Consultation*

Extent Heritage committed to two sessions of consultation with Cumberland City Council's Heritage Committee for the preparation of this report:

1. Attendance at a Heritage Committee meeting on 12 February 2019 to present to the aims and objectives of the Comprehensive Cumberland Heritage Study. A draft heritage inventory sheet template was provided during this meeting and the committee were given two weeks (26 February 2019) to provide feedback.

2. Attendance at a Heritage Committee on 11 June 2019, which in part addressed the Cumberland Comprehensive Heritage Study. During this meeting, items which have been identified for potential delisting and potential SHR nomination were presented with the intention of allowing committee members to provide feedback.

## 1.4   Limitations

The sites were inspected and photographed by the authors of this report between February and May 2019. Access to all heritage items was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. Only publicly accessible areas were assessed: the interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not assessed as part of this heritage study.

Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain. This information should be used as a guide only, to be supported with additional research and physical investigation, prior to any development decisions.

Unless additional research was required, historical research for all heritage items was based on an assessment of previous LGA heritage studies, the Thematic History (refer to Vol 1, Section 3), existing information in former heritage listing sheets and, where available, heritage documents such as conservation management plans.

## 1.5 Authorship

The following staff members at Extent Heritage have assisted in the preparation of this Main Report:

| Staff | Role |
|---|---|
| Dr. MacLaren North, Managing Director | Technical and Quality Assurance Review |
| Corinne Softley, Senior Heritage Advisor | Heritage assessment and Main Report preparation |
| Tony Brassil, Principal Heritage Advisor | Thematic history |
| Kim Watson, Heritage Advisor | Thematic history and heritage assessment |
| Gabrielle Harrington, Research Assistant | Research support |

The thematic history was externally peer reviewed by historian Mark Dunn.

## 1.6 Terminology

The terminology in this report follows definitions presented in the *Burra Charter*. Article 1 provides the following definitions:

**Place** means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

**Cultural significance** means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric*, setting, *use*, *associations*, *meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*.

Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

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

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

**Maintenance** means the continuous protective care of a *place* and its *setting*.

Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair which involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

**Preservation** means maintaining a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

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

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

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

**Use** means the functions of a *place*, including the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the place or are dependent on the place.

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

**Setting** means the immediate and extended environment of a *place* that is part of or contributes to its *cultural significance* and distinctive character.

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

# 2. LGA identification

## 2.1 Location

The Cumberland Local Government Area (LGA) is situated twenty kilometres west of Sydney CBD and covers seventy-two square kilometres. It incorporates the majority of the former Holroyd City Council area, parts of the former Auburn City Council area and parts of Parramatta City Council area. Cumberland City Council (hereby referred to as 'Council' area) stretches sixteen kilometres from the Rookwood Necropolis to Reconciliation Road in Pemulwuy.

The LGA consists of twenty-eight suburbs, though some suburb boundaries fall into other LGAs as well (refer Figure 1):

- Rookwood
- Homebush West
- Lidcombe
- Berala
- Auburn
- Regents Park
- Chester Hill
- Holroyd
- Granville
- South Granville
- Guildford
- Guildford West
- Yennora
- Fairfield

- Merrylands
- Merrylands West
- Woodpark
- May's Hill
- Westmead
- Wentworthville
- South Wentworthville
- Greystanes
- Smithfield
- Pendle Hill
- Girraween
- Toongabbie
- Pemulwuy
- Prospect
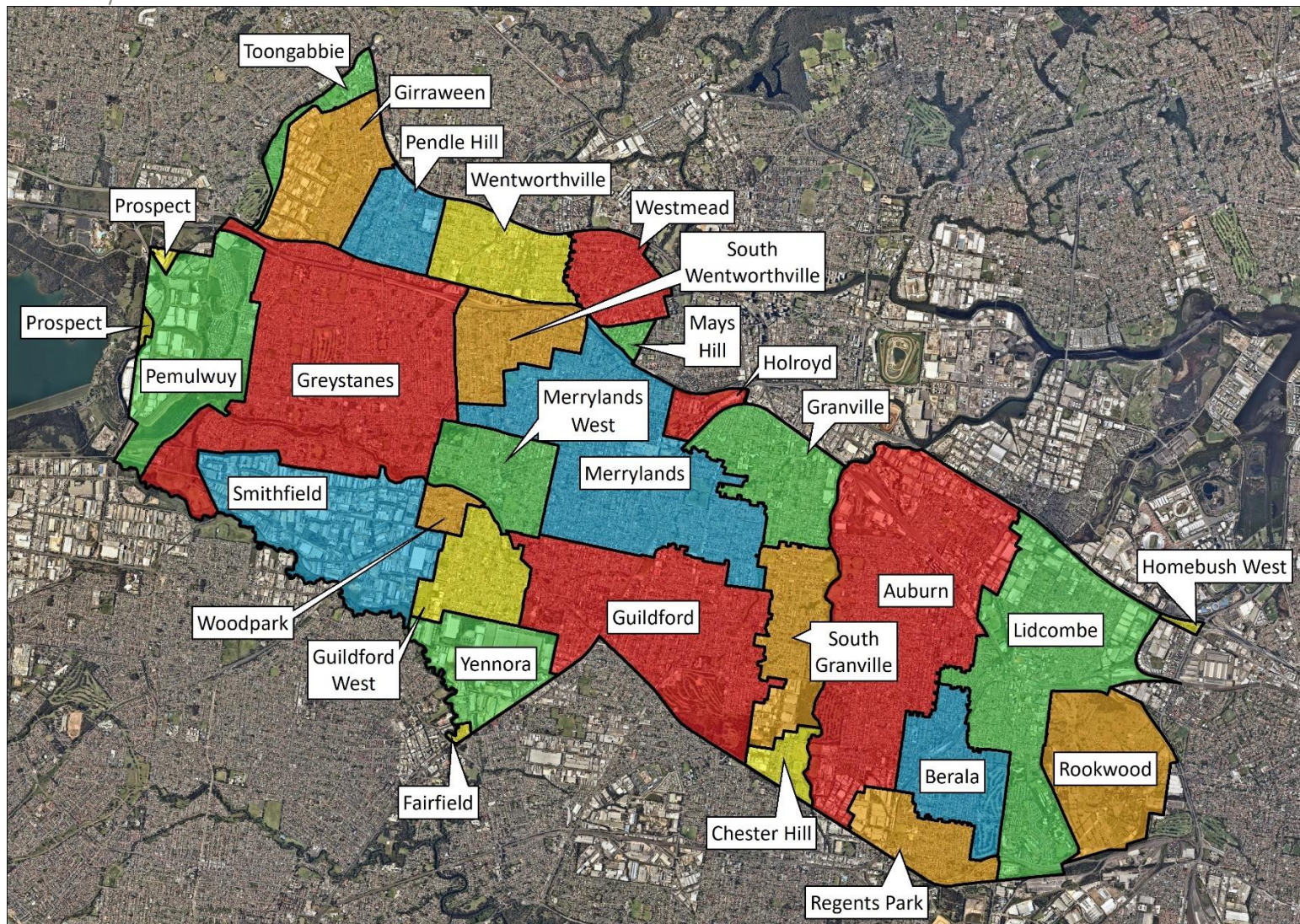
Figure 1. Overview of Cumberland LGA, showing 28 suburbs. Source: Extent Heritage, 2018.

## 2.2 Character and setting

### 2.2.1 Demographic

The population of the Cumberland LGA is currently estimated at 236,900 people, making it the fourth most populous local government area in greater Sydney.[3] Approximately 47.8% of the population was born overseas and 61.4% speak a language other than English at home. As a result, Cumberland City Council is one of the most linguistically, ethnically and culturally diverse areas in Australia.[4]

The following table provides a brief community profile for each suburb located within the Cumberland LGA.

Table 1. Suburb demographic descriptions.

| Suburb | Brief description |
|---|---|
| Auburn | Auburn is a large suburb with a population of approximately 37,000 that comprises of a mixture of residential, commercial and industrial areas (2016 Census). It is characterised by several parks, including Auburn Botanic Gardens, a railway station and Auburn Hospital. The main commercial area is located close to Auburn Railway Station on Queen Street and Auburn Road. Auburn is one of the most popular areas in Sydney for the settlement of overseas migrants, with large Turkish, Lebanese and Vietnamese communities. |
| Berala | Berala is a small suburb with a population of under 10,000 (2016 Census). It is a mostly residential area with a small commercial centre along Woodburn Road and a railway station. |
| Chester Hill | A very small portion of Chester Hill is encompassed by the Cumberland LGA. This part of Chester Hill has an industrial precinct to the west and is a mixture of residential areas and parkland to the east. |
| Fairfield | Only a small portion of Fairfield lies within the Cumberland LGA and this is mostly residential. Fairfield is known as a highly multicultural suburb in Sydney with more than half its residents being born overseas and a majority speaking a language other than English at home. |
| Girraween | Girraween is a small residential suburb with a population of about 10,000 (2016 Census). It is a highly multicultural area with a large proportion of residents being born overseas and speaking a language other than English at home. |
| Granville | Granville is a large residential and commercial suburb with a population of approximately 15,000 (2016 Census). The southern portion of Granville, south of the railway station, is included within the Cumberland LGA. It has a small town centre along South Street, which is located close to Granville Railway Station. Granville Station is a major interchange serviced by the Inner West and Leppington Line as well as the North Shore and Western Line. Large commercial and residential developments are mainly along Parramatta Road, outside of the Cumberland LGA |

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[3]    ABS 2018
[4]    Cumberland City Council, 'Request for Quotation: Prospect Hill Plan of Management' (document issued 1 December 2017).

| Suburb | Brief description |
|--------|-------------------|
| | boundary. Medium density residential housing characterises the remaining suburb of Granville within the Cumberland LGA. |
| | Over half the population were born outside of Australia and the majority of residents speak more than one language in their homes. The most predominant religions are Catholicism, Islam and Hinduism. |
| Greystanes | Greystanes is largely a residential suburb that contains several parklands and a small retail precinct. It has a large golf course, Cumberland Country Golf Club, in its centre. The suburb has large Maltese, Lebanese and Irish communities, with Catholicism being the most prominent religious affiliation. |
| Guildford | Guildford is a residential and commercial suburb with a population of about 16,000 (2016 Census). It has a small retail area located on Guildford Road near Guildford Railway Station. The suburb houses the most significant portion of the Arabic-speaking diaspora in Australia. Consequently, it has a large Islamic community. |
| Guildford West | Guildford West is a small residential suburb with less than 5,000 residents (2016 Census). It has a small commercial area located on the main streets, Fairfield Road and Fowler Road. The majority of the population were born in Australia and the most prominent religious affiliation is Catholicism and Islam. |
| Holroyd | Holroyd is a small residential area with a population of 1,275 (2016 Census). It is characterised by large spaces of parkland and the Holroyd Gardens Estate which is a medium density development. Almost 70% of residents were born outside of Australia with many being born in India, Afghanistan and China. |
| Homebush West | Homebush West is a residential and commercial suburb that is crossed by Centenary Drive and serviced by Flemington railway station. A very small portion of Homebush West lies within the Cumberland LGA. This portion of the suburb is undeveloped and consists of greenspace. |
| Lidcombe | Lidcombe is a large suburb with a population of about 20,000 (2016 Census). The majority of Lidcombe, apart from a small portion north of the Western Motorway, lies within the Cumberland LGA. It has a mixture of residential, commercial and industrial developments. The main commercial area is located around Lidcombe Railway Station on Church Street, Railway Street and John Street. Almost 70% of residents were born overseas and Lidcombe is home to large Chinese and Korean communities. |
| Mays Hill | Mays Hill is a residential suburb known for the Mays Hill Cemetery (outside of the LGA) and the Sydney Murugan Temple. A small portion of Mays Hill lies within the Cumberland LGA. |
| Merrylands | Merrylands is a large residential and commercial suburb with a population of approximately 30,000 (2016 Census). It is characterised by a large commercial area centred around the Merrylands Railway Station, Merrylands Road and McFarlane Street. It has several churches as well as a number of parklands and reserves. The population is largely multicultural with the most common ancestries being Lebanese, Australian, English, Chinese and Indian. |
| Merrylands West | Merrylands West is a residential suburb with a small commercial area located along Sherwood Road. The suburb contains several schools and a retirement village. |
| Pemulwuy | Pemulwuy is predominately a residential and industrial suburb that consists of high-density residential development to the east and large warehouse and distribution facilities to its west. Within Pemulwuy lies Prospect Hill which is the highest point between the Blue Mountains and Sydney. |

| Suburb | Brief description |
|---|---|
| Pendle Hill | Pendle Hill is a residential suburb that has a small commercial area close to the railway station on Pendle Way. It has a large Indian and Sri Lankan community. |
| Prospect | A very small portion of Prospect lies within the Cumberland LGA. This part of the suburb contains part of Prospect Reservoir and a large industrial precinct. |
| Regents Park | Regents Park is mainly a residential suburb with a small commercial area near to the railway station on Amy Street. It has a large Chinese community. The northern half of Regents Park, separated by the Potts Hill Reservoir, lies within the Cumberland LGA. |
| Rookwood | Rookwood consists entirely of the site of Rookwood Cemetery, the largest necropolis in the Southern Hemisphere. |
| Smithfield | Smithfield is a large residential, commercial and industrial suburb characterised by low-density housing across two LGAs. The northern half of the suburb that lies above Prospect Creek is part of the Cumberland LGA. This area is entirely industrial. |
| South Granville | South Granville is predominately a residential area with an industrial precinct to the south of the suburb. There is a large Islamic community within the area. |
| South Wentworthville | South Wentworthville is a residential suburb that is bounded to the north by the Western Motorway and Great Western Highway, and to the west by the Cumberland Highway. The population is predominately Australian born and the most common religious affiliation is Catholic. |
| Toongabbie | Toongabbie is a large residential suburb that has its commercial area located near the railway station on Portico Parade and Aurelia Street. It has large Indian and Sri Lankan communities. A small portion of Toongabbie (west of Girraween Creek and south of Wentworth Avenue) lies within the Cumberland LGA. |
| Wentworthville | Wentworthville comprises of both residential and commercial areas. The southern portion of Wentworthville, below the railway station, is located within the Cumberland LGA. The main residential area is located on Station Street near Wentworthville Station. The Wenty Leagues Club, to the south of the suburb also forms a significant part of the commercial and recreational areas. There are large Indian and Sri Lankan communities within Wentworthville with the most common religious affiliation being Hinduism. |
| Westmead | The southern portion of Westmead, below the railway line and station, is located within the Cumberland LGA. This area is predominately residential and is characterised by several churches, schools and a nursing home all located close to or on Hawkesbury Road. The eastern portion of the suburb lies on the outskirts of Parramatta Park. There is a large Indian community residing in Westmead. |
| Woodpark | Woodpark is a small residential suburb with a high proportion of the population being Australian born and Catholic. The suburb is crossed by Woodpark Road and lies to the east of the Cumberland Highway. |
| Yennora | The portion of Yennora that lies within the Cumberland LGA is a highly dense industrial area located north-west of Yennora railway station. This includes Yennora Distribution Centre. |

## 2.2.2 Place types

The diversity of items on the current heritage schedules ranges from residences, shopfronts, public buildings, infrastructure, landscapes and natural features, sculpture and monuments, industrial areas, archaeological sites and areas with significant cultural values. While this area

is known for its diverse and hard-working, blue collar background, its heritage is extremely layered and expansive, which is one of the Cumberland LGA's most surprising and fortunate qualities.

### 2.2.2.1 Residential buildings (private)

Within the Cumberland LGA, there are generally five (5) broad architectural styles reflected in the built environment. These are Colonial, Victorian, Federation, Inter-War and Post-War architectural styles.

The historic building stock of the Cumberland LGA is reflected in the early Colonial system of land grants, in which the accumulation of large land grants by single landowners is particularly evident in the areas such as Wentworthville and Westmead where there are extant gentlemen estates. The subsequent changes in architectural styles is reflective of broad trends associated with the subdivision of large land grants into smaller allotments, the emerging industries which created additional jobs and stimulated population growth, and residential development. Broadly, the housing trends of the 1880s and 1900s is expressed in the construction of various Victorian terraces and cottages. This is superseded by the increased housing boom from 1900 to the 1920s, which saw the construction of Federation period dwellings. Following World War One, the Federation period was superseded by the Inter-War housing boom. Many of the listed items associated with the Inter-War housing boom are associated with government initiatives, such as the War Service Homes and the Housing Commission. There are a limited number of Post-War buildings heritage listed throughout Cumberland LGA.

### 2.2.2.2 Commercial buildings

A variety of commercial buildings are located along the high street of most suburbs. These are generally located in close proximity to railway stations. There are two distinct architectural trends arising from the commercial boom periods, being similar to those of the housing booms that occurred between 1880 and 1890 and between 1910 and 1920. As a result, there is a mix of both Victorian and Federation influences in the shopfronts listed on the heritage schedules.

### 2.2.2.3 Religion

There are three (3) broad religious architectural styles present within the Cumberland LGA, all of which are associated with Christian churches. These are generally Gothic churches, Federation period churches and Modernist churches. Materiality ranges from sandstone to weatherboard and brick. Mosques form another religious typology, although they are not currently included on the heritage schedules.

### 2.2.2.4 Cemeteries

The entire suburb of Rookwood is a designated burial ground of the Rookwood Necropolis. The north-west portion of site, encompassing the former Mortuary Station 1, Old Roman Catholic Cemetery No.1, Old Wesleyan Cemetery No.1, Old Anglican No.1, as well as the Old Presbyterian, Old Jewish, Old General and Old Independent Cemeteries, is registered on the State Heritage Register.

### 2.2.2.5 Utilities

**Water**

The LGA features a variety of interrelated water services. The area was historically serviced by Prospect Reservoir and the Lower Prospect Canal, which formed part of the Upper Nepean Scheme. Key features associated with the water supply system include Prospect Reservoir, the Lower Prospect Canal Reserve, including Boothtown Aqueduct, Boothtown Syphon, Aqueduct Valve House No 1, Aqueduct Valve House No 2, Culvert No 1 under Aqueduct and Culvert No 2 under Aqueduct. The corridor stretches for approximately 7.7 km from Prospect Reservoir to the Sydney Water Pipehead at Albert Street, Guildford.

Key features associated with the Sydney Water Pipehead included the water supply pipelines extending through the suburbs of Guildford and Lidcombe.

The area also includes various stormwater drains and localised works to improve sanitation, with the canalisation of creeks such as Haslams Creek and Duck Creek.

**Electricity**

Heritage items associated with electricity supply are substations. There are two main types of substations extant in the area: those supplied by the Sydney Municipal Council and smaller standardised substations provided by the former local municipality. Several substations were constructed in Auburn, Lidcombe, Guildford, Wentworthville, Merrylands and Westmead to a standardised design.

**Transport**

Heritage items associated with transport largely include railway precincts. Within the railway precinct, items generally include station buildings, platforms, footbridges, overbridges, underbridges and signal boxes.

Other items associated with transport, specifically significant roads, included milestones. These milestones are small markers often constructed of concrete or sandstone which mark the distance in miles to a particular place. Several milestones along Parramatta Road, the Great Western Highway and Woodville Road were captured in the study.

### 2.2.2.6 Public facilities

Within the Cumberland LGA, there are a variety of heritage-listed public facilities. These include buildings associated with postal and telecommunications, government and administration, health services, education, law enforcement and fire brigades. Associated buildings included post offices, town halls, hospitals, ambulance stations, schools, police stations, and fire stations.

### 2.2.2.7 Public domain

Heritage items within the public domain broadly relate to three categories. They are; monuments and memorials, parks, gardens and trees, and recreation and entertainment. Several monuments are commemorative pieces, and places of remembrance are integrated into memorial parks and reserves, and Returned and Services Leagues (RSLs). Items relating to recreation and entertainment include sporting ovals, swimming pools, and cinemas.

# 3.  Thematic history

## 3.1  Introduction

There are two major methods of organising historical writing utilised in recent decades: the chronological history, a familiar approach; and the thematic history, where the historical events and processes are considered in the context of a specific topic or theme. Where a chronological history tends to highlight major events in their sequence, a thematic history allows related events to be considered in terms of their chronological, social and geographic relationships. However, many historical events and processes do not necessarily fit into neat preconceived categories; focusing upon themes may marshal information in a way that does not easily express the interconnections between themes and thematic events. As Kass explains in his introduction to his *Thematic History of Western Sydney*:

> It is not a model which should be used for the preparation of the contextual history of any study area. This format enhances knowledge, but it is only a constricted and partial view of that history. Each theme is not fully set within its context, and, unless there is a mind-numbing amount of repetition, it cannot be…[5]

On the other hand, the arrangement of a chronological history into sections that focus on the immediate historical context of the events is a simple and effective tool to aid the appreciation and assessment of the significance of the built environment, which is the ultimate purpose of this thematic history. The establishment of, for example, railway stations in differing locations illustrates the relative development of those different parts of the area but does not provide information regarding the importance, if any, of these events in the history of the development of the railway system. Similarly, a holistic focus on the rise and fall of individual retail centres within a geospatial context provides a specific context for understanding the differences in building stock, in factors such as age, design, materials and location, in different parts of the Cumberland LGA area.

Consequently, in the preparation of this thematic history for the Cumberland LGA, the following history adopts a blended approach, considering specific themes relevant to the local circumstances within their chronological phases of significant change. The selection of the relevant themes reflects an overall understanding of the chronological history of the area. The use of themes operates to sift the information into categories that facilitate comparisons and illustrate the relativities of historical development across the whole area.

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[5]  T Kass, Western *Sydney Thematic History: State Heritage Register Project* (Sydney: NSW Heritage Office, 2005).

The following table presents the relevant Australian and NSW historical themes as they correlate to the Cumberland LGA area and are reflected within this thematic history.[6]

Table 2. Relevant themes.

| Australian Theme | NSW Theme | Refer to Section |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Tracing the natural evolution of Australia | Environment – naturally evolved | 3.2 The natural environment of Western Sydney |
| 2. Peopling Australia | Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures | 3.3 Aboriginal cultures and interactions<br>3.4.2 Contact and conflict with Aboriginal people<br>3.5.2 Aboriginal displacement<br>3.6.6 Aboriginal Recognition and Reconciliation |
| | Convict | 3.4 Early colonial development (1788 – 1855) |
| | Migration | 3.6.2 Post-War immigration |
| 3. Developing local, regional and national economies | Agriculture | 3.4.3 Agriculture and Industry |
| | Communication | 3.5.3 Communication services |
| | Environment – cultural landscape | 3.6.3 Public gardens and greenspaces |
| | Events | 3.6.7 Events |
| | Industry | 3.4.3 Agriculture and Industry<br>3.5.9 Industries<br>3.6.5 Major Industries Ups and Down |
| | Transport | 3.4.4 Roads and Transport<br>3.5.1 Railways, towns and closer settlement |
| 4. Building settlements, towns and cities | Towns suburbs and villages | 3.5.1 Railways, towns and closer settlement<br>3.6.4 Quarter-acre blocks to blocks of flats |
| | Utilities | 3.5.6 Modernity – gas, electricity and water |
| | Accommodation | 3.6.1 The car and the house |
| 5. Working | Labour | 3.5 The burgeoning city (1855-1945) |
| 6. Educating | Education | 3.5.8 Education |
| 7. Governing | Defence | 3.5.4 War and Peace |
| 8. Developing Australia's cultural life | Creative endeavour | 3.5.5 Recreation – sport, cinemas and social activities |
| | Leisure | 3.4.3 Public gardens and green spaces |

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[6] NSW Historical Themes, October 2001, Heritage Council of NSW
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/themes2006.pdf

| Australian Theme | NSW Theme | Refer to Section |
|---|---|---|
| | Religion | 3.5.7 Churches and places of worship |
| | Social institutions | 3.5.5 Recreation – sport, cinemas and social activities |
| | Sport | 3.5.5 Recreation – sport, cinemas and social activities |
| 9. Marking the phases of life | Birth and Death | 3.5.10 Inhumations and institutions |

Refer to **Appendix D** for historical mapping of the Cumberland LGA.

## 3.2  The natural environment of Western Sydney

### 3.2.1 Landscape and ecology

The now Cumberland LGA is located on the Cumberland Plain, an extensive low-lying plain within the Sydney Basin covering seventy-two square kilometres commencing at Lidcombe in the east to Prospect in the west. The area overlies the Bringelly sub-group of the Wianamatta Group shales and the surficial geology is dominated by alluvial materials derived from the Wianamatta Group. The local topography is characterised by level to gently undulating alluvial floodplains.[7]

The landscape of the majority of the now Cumberland LGA forms part of the Parramatta River catchment, with Duck River as a major tributary. Duck River has a catchment area of approximately forty-one square kilometres to its confluence with the Parramatta River. Duck Creek and A'Becketts Creek are tributaries of the Duck River; Girraween Creek, Toongabbie Creek and Haslams Creek are tributaries of the Parramatta River. These watercourses played an important role in the development of specific areas at different times, from pastoral uses to the development of industries along Duck River. The eastern side of the study area includes a watercourse, now known as Haslams Creek, that flows into the Paramatta River.

The south-west border of the Cumberland LGA runs along Prospect Creek. Prospect Creek forms part of the Georges River catchment area that covers a large portion of Western Sydney. This and other nearby tributaries attracted a number of endemic species including eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) and brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), as well as a host of migratory and non-migratory birds.

South-west of the Parramatta River, the area in the now Cumberland LGA, including the suburbs of Wentworthville, Toongabbie, Pendle Hill and Girraween, consisted of mainly flat and undulating land, relieved only by Prospect Hill in the extreme west, a feature which gave rise to

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7    Chapman et al., *Soil Landscapes of the Sydney*, 1:100,000 Sheet map (Sydney: Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2009).

both nineteenth and twentieth century industries. Prospect Hill itself is largely composed of dolerite, which intruded millions of years ago, while around its base lies rich black soils laid down at the same time. First quarried in 1824, its plentiful reserves of dolerite (blue metal) are still being exploited. The rich soils around the base ensured that some of the earliest attempts at agriculture were sited around the base of Prospect Hill, prompting a land use that continued into the latter half of the nineteenth century and on a smaller scale in the twentieth. Wentworthville itself was described as 'a beautiful field of wheat and waving corn'.[8]

The original landscape was heavily wooded, with the woodland consisting of iron-barks, blackbutt, box, stringybark and other varieties of eucalypts. Vegetation across the site included broad-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*) stringy bark (*E. eugenoides*), woollybutt (*E. lonifolia*), red mahogany (*E. resinifera*), and turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*). In the lower-lying land between the ridges, paperbarks (*Melaleuca secra* and *M. nodosa*) were present. Ridges lining the Cumberland Plain were thick with scrub and bush, most of which continued to exist until the 1880s. The area was largely understood as open forest, with the soil being first described by Europeans as poor and forbidding, though their evaluation of the land was based on its potential for pastoralism and agriculture.[9] The phosphorus levels in the soils determined soil fertility; this was usually found in the upper soil layers. The now Cumberland LGA was largely ideal for growing citrus trees and orchards due to the phosphorus levels in the soils.

## 3.3   Aboriginal cultures and interactions

### 3.3.1 Earliest occupation

Aboriginal people arrived in Australia at least 45,000 to 65,000 years ago, during the Pleistocene epoch, when sea levels were much lower and mainland Australia was connected by land to New Guinea.[10] The date of settlement for the Sydney region is still unknown, as it is difficult to determine how and when Aboriginal groups dispersed across Australia from the north-west where they arrived.[11] The earliest occupation dates near Sydney as derived from evidence are approximately 17,800 years ago along the Nepean River and approximately 11,800 years ago near West Pennant Hills; however, initial occupation of the Sydney region may have been much earlier.[12] Factors such as discrepancies in dating methods, degradation of early sites and the difficulty of locating early sites affect our ability to understand and accurately determine early occupation using archaeological evidence.[13] It is certain, however, that Aboriginal people have occupied the Sydney region and the vicinity of the now Cumberland LGA for many thousands of years. In the Cumberland Plain region specifically, Aboriginal occupation dates back well into

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8    W Freame, *Wentworthville and Districts* (Sydney, 1922), 7.
9    Chapman et al. *Soil Landscapes of the Sydney*.
10   Hiscock, P, *Archaeology of Ancient Australia* (USA and Canada: Routledge, 2008), 21, 45. *Also see*: Clarkson et al. 'Human occupation of northern Australia by 65,000 years ago', *Nature* 547, (2017): 306–310.
11   Hiscock, *Archaeology of Ancient Australia,* 21. *Also see*: V Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records,* 2nd ed. (Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 2010), 20.
12   Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past*, 20.
13   Hiscock, *Archaeology of Ancient Australia*, 29.

the Pleistocene period, a period that occurred approximately 30,000 to 18,000 years ago and continues into the Holocene period.[14]

### 3.3.2 Adaption and change during the Holocene

Although inland areas of the Cumberland Plain are likely to have remained relatively stable for many thousands of years, changing sea levels would have greatly affected the coastal environment of Sydney. Sea levels were much lower 20,000 years ago. Sydney Harbour would have been a river running through a deep sandstone valley and the coast was six to twenty kilometres further east than it is today.[15] Aboriginal groups have continually adapted to change in the Sydney region, particularly in the last 7,000 years when coastal areas flooded.[16] This environmental change marked the beginning of the Holocene epoch, which first began approximately 8,000 years ago.[17] The encroaching sea both increased the marine resources available and reduced the amount of available land for the Aboriginal groups living in the Sydney area.[18] Although the now Cumberland LGA was further from the coast, the extensive environmental changes would have had a practical and cultural effect on groups in the study area as well, who likely travelled to the coast and interacted with other coastal Aboriginal societies. Most surviving archaeological sites in Australia date to around the time of and after this environmental change. They tell us that the Aboriginal people adapted to the change by reorganising how they used the landscape, procured food and their economies, which led to the emergence of new technologies and social organisations.[19] These continued to evolve up to and after the arrival of Europeans.[20]

### 3.3.3 Occupation during the Holocene

Aboriginal groups living and travelling throughout the now Cumberland LGA made extensive use of the diverse flora and fauna of this local environment, maintaining the landscape with seasonal fire management. The waterways, soils and resources encountered by the European settlers when they arrived were carefully managed and manipulated, rather than a 'natural' environment unaffected by human activity.[21] Resources were available from both the land and water, including wallabies, kangaroos, possums, birds, fish, eels and oysters.[22] The Parramatta River and its tributaries were exploited for eels, fish, shellfish and molluscs, travelling and fishing in canoes made from bangalay and stringybark. Women would fish from canoes and men fished from the shore.[23] Throughout the woodlands of the study area, men trapped and hunted larger animals such as possums but also gathered bull ants and witchetty grubs. Fire management was also used to hunt larger game.[24] Women dug yams out of riverbanks, collected berries,

14    Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past*, 21.
15    P Irish, *Hidden in Plain View* (Sydney New South Publishing, 2017), 13–14.
16    Ibid.*,* 4.
17    Hiscock, Archaeology of Ancient Australia, 162.
18    Irish, *Hidden in Plain View*, 14.
19    Hiscock, Archaeology of Ancient Australia, 162.
20    Irish, *Hidden in Plain View*, 16–19.
21    Karskens, *The Colony* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2009), 28–29.
22    H Goodall and A Cazdow, *Rivers and Resilience* (Sydney: UNSW Press, 2009), 32.
23    Kass et al., *Parramatta: A Past Revealed* (Parramatta: Parramatta City Council, 1996), 6. *Also see*: Goodall and Cazdow, *Rivers and Resilience*, 33.
24    Kass et al., *Parramatta: A Past Revealed*, 6–7.

seeds and fruits, obtained nectar from native flowers and collected eucalyptus leaves for medicinal purposes.[25] One type of plant that was stored, traded and eaten was the burrawang seed. These are poisonous if not prepared appropriately but could be ground into a type of flour.[26]
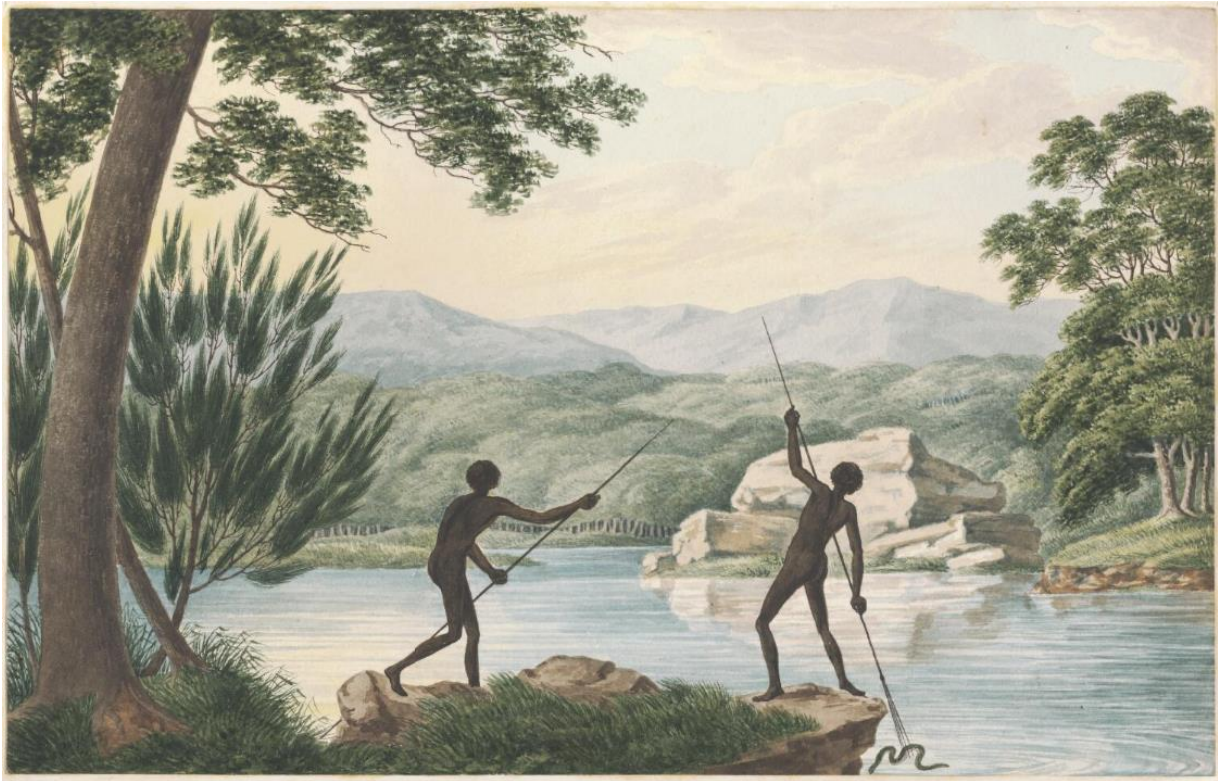


Figure 2. Two Aboriginal people spearing eels in the Hawkesbury area, Joseph Lycett c.1817. Source: National Library of Australia, Call No. PIC MSR 12/1/4 #R5679.

The vegetation was also an important resource for various tools. Grass tree stalks were tipped and barbed with silcrete, shell and bone using resin and eucalyptus gum as a kind of glue. Bark was used for shelters, water carriers and canoes, bark fibre for string and rope, tree roots and timber for digging implements and weapons and animal skins for clothing.[27] Numerous hunting traps were recorded between the Parramatta and Richmond areas, including 'bird decoys', full of feathers, hollowed-out trees and a tapering chute at the foot of Richmond Hill 'between forty and fifty feet in length', constructed of earth, weeds, rushes, and brambles.[28]

Other resources available for the Aboriginal groups in the study area were stone materials such as pebbles, cobbles and occasional large boulders (up to 20 cm in size) of silcrete, silicified

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25    Ibid., p.6.
26    Ibid., p.6.
27    Ibid., p.7.
28    D Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, Vol. 1 (London: T. Cadell Jun. and W. Davies, 1798), May 1791, December 1793.

wood, quartzite and quartz. Silcrete was a particularly important resource for Aboriginal people and was used extensively to create tools, such as scrappers, points and axe heads.[29]

For Aboriginal people in the study area, the land was more than a resource for use. Clans saw themselves as belonging to the land, with travel routes, resources and landforms forming their sense of place in their environment.[30] Landforms of importance within the study area include Pemulwuy, or Prospect Hill, close to the western border of the Cumberland LGA. Prospect Hill is one of the highest points in the region from the Blue Mountains to the coast.[31] Waterways and creek lines are also important features, used for trade and travel routes.[32] Important waterways include Duck River and Prospect Creek, within the study area, and the nearby Parramatta and Georges Rivers.[33]

### 3.3.4 Aboriginal occupation at the time of European colonisation

Over thirty separate Aboriginal groups populated the Sydney region in 1788, each of which had their own country, practices, diets, dress, and dialects. These groups are now known of as 'clans', each of which is also identified with broader cultural-linguistic groups, sometimes referred to as 'tribes'. Sydney tribes included Darug, Darkinjung, Gundungarra, Tharawal, Guringai (Coastal Darug), Eora (Coastal Darug) and Awabakal.[34]

The now Cumberland LGA was home to several clans of the Darug people.[35] The Cennemegal or Weymaly clan occupied what is now Prospect and Greystanes and the Bidjigal clan occupied the areas now known as Merrylands, Guildford, Villawood and Bankstown. The Burramattagal clan of Parramatta and Granville were part of the western Darug clan. Darug land extends from Parramatta to Sydney Harbour. The Auburn area was located on the border between the Darug inland group and the Darug and Dharawal coastal groups. The Wangal and Wategoro clans are recognised as the original inhabitants of the Auburn and Homebush Bay regions. The boundaries for these clans are approximate and different clans often shared the same areas of land. In many cases, this led to multiple associations and values for the same places, highlighting the interconnectedness of Aboriginal groups in and around the Cumberland LGA.[36]

Each clan was made up of thirty to fifty people who had their own defined territory. Clans occasionally converged with other clans to trade, hunt, fight, feast, arrange marriages, conduct ceremonies, resolve disputes, and share information. There was often tension between neighbouring groups and the boundaries between territories were not lightly traversed (White 1790). On an expedition north-west of Parramatta, Watkin Tench records that his guides,

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29  Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants. 'Holroyd Substation Site Archaeological Survey and Assessment' (Unpublished report prepared for TransGrid, 2003), 7.

30  Cumberland Council, 'Aboriginal History'. Cumberland Council (website). Viewed 1 April 2019. Available at [https://www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/council/my-community/aboriginal-history].

31  Cumberland Council, *Prospect Hill Plan of Management* (Cumberland Council, Issued 1 December 2017).

32  DECC NSW, 'The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study' (Report prepared for Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), 2008), 23–24.

33  Goodall and Cazdow, *Rivers and Resilience*, 32.

34  Attenbrow, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past*, 23–32.

35  Cumberland Council 'Aboriginal History'.

36  DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study* (Sydney: DECC, 2008), 24.

Colebee (Gadigal) and Ballederry (Burramattagal), quickly found themselves in 'country unknown'.[37]
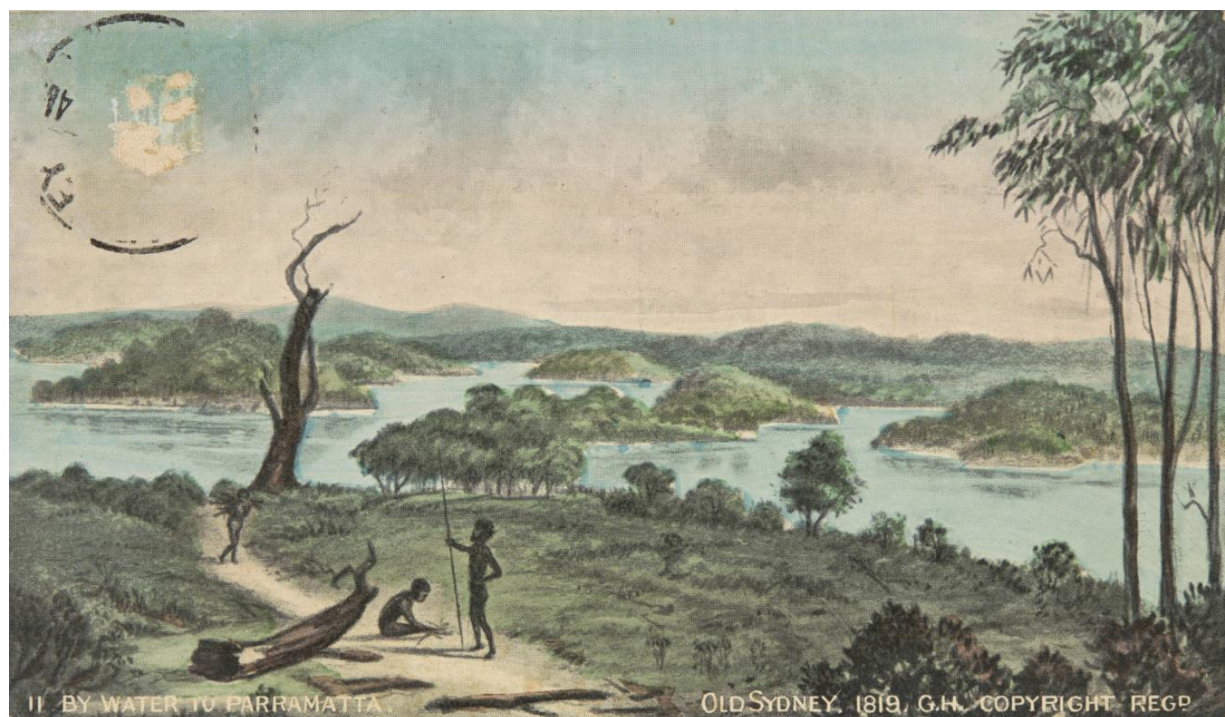


Figure 3. By Water to Parramatta, 1819. Source: National Museum of Australia, Call No. NMA 1986.0117.6189.

Clans from more inland areas were known as the people from the flat, woody country.[38] European classifications of Aboriginal groups tend to focus on 'coastal' versus 'woodland' labels; however, the natural river system of the Sydney region was an important pathway that linked all groups for travel and communication across long distances.[39] An important part of Aboriginal culture was interaction and connection between people and groups, who were linked both in and beyond the coastal area of Sydney.[40] Physically, these links were maintained through Aboriginal paths across the Cumberland Plain, many of which still exist as current roads and waterways.[41] Waterways were important to Aboriginal people for many reasons. Water sources were cared for by women[42] and rivers, creeks and drainage lines provided food, other resources and access routes.[43] Two major rivers lead towards the study area from the coast,

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[37]   W Tench. *Sydney's First Four Years: Being a Reprint of 'A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay' and 'A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson'* (Sydney: Angus & Robertson, 1961), 225–226.
[38]   Kass et al. *Parramatta: A Past Revealed*, 6.
[39]   Goodall and Cazdow, *Rivers and Resilience*, 32.
[40]   Irish, *Hidden in Plain View*, 18.
[41]   Muir and Madden, 'Belmore'. *Dictionary of Sydney*, viewed 25 March 2019, http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/belmore.
[42]   J French, *Let the Land Speak* (Sydney: HarperCollins, 2013), 44.
[43]   Goodall and Cazdow, *Rivers and Resilience*, 32.

providing access to the Cumberland LGA from Sydney Harbour via the Parramatta River and from Botany Bay via the Georges River.

However, the rivers marked boundaries as well as pathways. Although we know that Aboriginal people travelled back and forth between the Cumberland Plain and the coast, it seems that there were closer associations between coastal groups to the north and south. Coastal groups appear to have known the Parramatta River up to Parramatta but, further west, in the vicinity of the Cumberland LGA, inland people had their own, closer associations with other river-dwelling groups. They lived along the river corridors where food was more abundant and used higher areas of land for ceremonies.[44]

Early colonial records of Aboriginal land use within the study area include several observations made during an inland exploration expedition from 22–27 April 1788 and another from 26–27 June 1789. Both expeditions travelled from Parramatta to Prospect, passing through the northern portion of the study area. The 1788 expedition recorded several Aboriginal huts, a swamp 'not unlike the American rice grounds' and several burning trees that were thought to be for hunting purposes.[45] The huts were 'a single piece of bark, about eleven feet in length, and from four to six feet in breath, being, when stripped from the tree, bent in the middle, and sat up as children put up a card, affording shelter against a shower of rain if you sit under it'.[46]

Oral history tells us that the Cumberland Plain was an important camping and meeting place for Aboriginal people travelling over the Blue Mountains and into Parramatta and Sydney, even after colonial times.

## 3.4 Early colonial development (1788–1855)

### 3.4.1 Colonial settlement and land grants

In February 1788, soon after the arrival of the British, members of the First Fleet explored upriver from Port Jackson to find the more open countryside of Parramatta. The settlement of Parramatta was established in November 1788 to develop an agricultural community to make the colony self-sufficient. A party of convicts was immediately sent to clear the ground for cultivation. Shortly after, Governor Philip ordered a town laid out, oriented around the river and the hillside on which the governor's house was soon built. From the beginning, the Parramatta settlement was an essential support for the first settlement at Sydney.[47]

Initially named 'Rose Hill', the traditional name for the area, 'Parramatta', the Aboriginal word meaning 'Head of the River', or 'Place where eels lie down', was readopted in 1791. Its first structures were huts for the convict workers and a residence for the Governor. These were

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44    Karskens, *The Colony*, 42.
45    J White, *Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales* (London: J. Debrett, 1790), 25 April 1788.
46    A Phillip to Lord Sydney, 15 May 1788, *Historical Records of Australia,* Series 1, Volume 1 (Sydney: William Applegate Guillick, Government Printer, 1914).
47    Parramatta City Council, *City of Parramatta Heritage Study. Part Two: History and Heritage* (Parramatta, NSW: City of Paramatta, 1993), 12.

followed by places for work and its products, such as storehouses, and then by permanent accommodation for the military garrison guarding the convicts.



Figure 4. A view of Governor's House at Rose Hill, in the Township of Parramatta, 1798, James Heath. Source: State Library of Victoria, Call No. Image 30328102131629/2.

The first grant was made at Rosehill to James Ruse in April 1791, followed by thirteen grants of land at Prospect in July 1791, made to ex-convicts. Subsequently, the granting of land was expanded but the rate jumped rapidly during the tenure of the officers of the New South Wales Corps, between Governor Bligh's overthrow in 1808 and the arrival of Governor Macquarie in 1812. Macquarie reversed many of these grants but himself oversaw the extensive granting of land to all classes of the colony. Small grants were largely assigned to regular settlers such as ex-convicts or ex-marines, whereas larger grants were apportioned to officers, officials and merchants. These grants formed part of a wider policy to establish self-sufficient food production for the New South Wales colony.[48]

Broadly throughout western Sydney, small grants were given along creeks and on good soils such as at Prospect, Hawkesbury and, further south-west, between the Georges River and Bunbury Curran Creek in the Airds district. They were also laid out along transport routes, especially along Liverpool Road through Bankstown and the former suburb of Liberty Plains

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[48]    Auburn Council, *Liberty Plains A History of Auburn: Centenary Edition'*, revised ed. (Sydney: Council of the Municipality of Auburn, 1992), 12.

(now the suburbs of Auburn, Lidcombe, Newington and Homebush Bay). However, despite attempts to lay out land according to its suitability for tillage, a process of amalgamation of grants into large estates counteracted the original layouts. Many small grantees quickly sold their land to nearby wealthy landowners, who soon acquired large tracts.



Figure 5. Sydney 1802, showing the limited number of land allotments granted up to this time—mostly the veteran's grants around the Field of Mars (the name given to this land granted by Governor Phillip in January 1792). Minor grants are seen in a semi-circle around Prospect Hill. The area around modern Greystanes is marked as 'Good Land'.

This accumulation of large land grants by single landowners is particularly evident in areas such as Granville, Auburn, Guildford and Wentworthville. Granville was originally part of the land grant known as Drainwell Estate, given in 1806 to Garnham Blaxcell. This grant consisted of 1,125 acres, which was used as collateral for Blaxcell's commercial enterprises. The estate was then mortgaged to Sir John Jamison, who took it over when Blaxcell fled the colony in 1817. The land was largely undeveloped until the 1860s when it was subdivided.

Auburn was first developed the 1790s, when a track from Sydney to Parramatta was first developed and early land grants were given to free settlers and ex-convicts in the area. Most

early land grants were small, measuring between 30 and 100 acres, and were awarded to people such as Edward Gould, Henry Marr, Thomas Bates and John O'Donnell. Larger grants were given to established merchants and officials, such as James Chisholm, a merchant, who received a 600 acres grant, and Joseph Hyde Potts, who was given 410 acres.

Settlement around the suburb of Guildford began in the 1820s and 1830s when land was granted in the surrounding area to individuals such as Henry Whittaker, Lieutenant Samuel North, William Sherwin and the Lackey Family. The suburb of Guildford is named after the estate of ex-military officer and civil servant Lieutenant Samuel North who received 640 acres in 1837.

Similarly, a portion of Wentworthville came under the tenure of D'Arcy Wentworth who had by 1821, been awarded a total of 17,000 acres, 2200 acres of which were later subdivided to form the present Wentworthville area.

Other large tracts of land in the Cumberland LGA were assigned by the Government for their own purposes. The government-established Churches and School Corporation required that one seventh of all land in the colony be put aside for the support of religion and education. There are various church and school estates established in Cumberland, notably within what is currently Guildford's residential centre. The remaining portion of land that now includes Wentworthville and Westmead originally formed a part of the western portion of the Domain of Government House at Parramatta (known as Parramatta Park by the 1850s). An extensive portion of the Domain was subdivided in 1859–1861, this followed the completion of the new Government House at Bennelong Point in Sydney in 1845. By 1857, the Domain landscape had been reduced to 246 acres.

Owing to the soil quality of the Cumberland Plain, farming was of limited success. The system of agriculture in the colony discussed in an anonymous letter written in 1819 identifies that settlers in the Parramatta area struggled with the climate, as well as the success and failures experienced with various types of crops and livestock.[49]

Convicts provided the manual labour for many of these properties; they cleared the land, erected buildings and formed roads. In addition to work in Government gangs, convicts were provided to large landowners 'on assignment' and convicts who possessed a skill or trade, such as stone masons, brickmakers, carpenters and blacksmiths, were highly sought after. Convicts retained for government work tended to be the minor rule-breakers or those considered unsuitable for work in the community. The construction and improvement of Parramatta Road was one example of government work in the Cumberland area.

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49    State Library NSW, Miscellaneous papers mainly relating to agriculture and land, ca.1817–1917, accessed via https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/australian-agricultural-and-rural-life/first-farms,1–8.

Figure 6. West view of Parramatta, 1819 Joseph Lycett. Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Call No. ML 53.

## 3.4.2 Contact and conflict with Aboriginal people

Aboriginal communities did not disappear when European settlers colonised the Western Sydney region; however, they were displaced in many areas by the incomers and decimated by disease and violence. In 1789, smallpox spread rapidly throughout the Sydney region.[50] The devastating outbreak forced major reorganisations among clan groups. When William Bradley sailed into Sydney in May 1789, he recorded the 'dreadful havoc' that smallpox had wrought amongst Aboriginal communities. '[We] did not see a Canoe or a Native the whole way coming up the Harbour & were told that scarce any had been seen lately except laying dead in & about their miserable habitations'.[51] As entire communities were destroyed by the disease, traditional burial practices broke down and clans merged together for survival.[52] Bradley reported that

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[50]     Karskens, *The Colony*, 372–375.
[51]     W Bradley, *A Voyage to New South Wales: The Journal of Lieutenant William Bradley RN of HMS Sirius, 1786–1792* (Sydney: Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales in association with Ure Smith, 1969).
[52]     J Hunter, *An Historical Journal of the Transactions at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island*. (London: Printed for John Stockdale, 1793), Chapter XV, March 1790 to April 1790; Chapter XX December 1790 to February 1791.

bodies were found in caves, along streams, around the harbour and along the entire path between Port Jackson and Broken Bay.

Various conflicts occurred as European settlement expanded further west and displaced Aboriginal groups. A recent project mapping and compiling historical sources relating to Aboriginal massacres in Australia has, at this stage, recorded only four massacres near Sydney, one near Appin and three near Windsor.[53] However, this research is only preliminary and further information will likely come to light as the study area is known for contact and conflict, particularly near Prospect and Parramatta. Several incidents of conflicts are recorded by colonial sources in the area of Prospect Hill, in the western portion and to the west of the study area.[54] Another was recorded in 1793 between Parramatta and Toongabbie and several were recorded that involved Pemulwuy, a prominent figure in Sydney's contact history.[55]

The continued European presence prompted the organised Aboriginal resistance to the spread of settlement, with the commencement of a violent frontier conflict. A series of armed raids occurred when the local groups began objecting to their lands being taken with no recognition of customary law of reciprocal obligation to provide for their needs. Pemulwuy and his Bidjigal clan played a central role in the frontier wars. Pemulwuy was a Bidjigal man from country surrounding Salt Pan Creek, a tributary of the Georges River, to the south of the study area. However, he is primarily known for his visible confrontations with European settlers along the Parramatta River and Prospect Creek.[56] Although Pemulwuy is portrayed as a leading figure in these conflicts, it is likely that large numbers of Aboriginal people resisted the marginalisation to which they were subjected after the European invasion in and around what is now the Cumberland LGA.[57]

On 1 May 1801, Governor King took drastic action, issuing a public order requiring that Aboriginal people around Parramatta, Prospect Hill and Georges River be 'driven back from the settlers' habitations by firing at them'. Kings edicts appear to have encouraged a shoot-on-sight attitude whenever any Aboriginal men, women or children appeared.

With the death of Pemulwuy, the main resistance leader, in 1802, Aboriginal resistance gradually diminished near Parramatta, although outer areas were still subject to armed hostilities. Prospect Hill is recognised as being the site of the first Aboriginal and European reconciliation held in Sydney on 3 May 1805. A group of Aboriginal women together with John Kennedy, a free settler, facilitated a meeting on Prospect Hill between the Aboriginal leaders of the Darug clan and European settlers headed by Reverend John Marsden. Reverend Marsden was prompted by local Prospect Aboriginal groups to hold a conference 'with a view of opening the way to reconciliation'. At that meeting, on 3 May 1805, local Aboriginal representatives discussed with Marsden ways of ending the restrictions and indiscriminate reprisals inflicted on

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53   Allam et al., 'The Killing Times: A Massacre Map of Australia's Frontier Wars', *Guardian* (4 March 2019), viewed 26 March 2019, https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/ng-interactive/2019/mar/04/massacre-map-australia-the-killing-times-frontier-wars.
54   White, *Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales*. *Also see*: Phillip, *Historical Records of Australia* and Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*.
55   Goodall and Cazdow, *Rivers and Resilience*.
56   Goodall and Cazdow, *Rivers and Resilience*, 43.
57   Goodall and Cazdow, *Rivers and Resilience*, 48-49.

them by soldiers and settlers in response to atrocities committed by other Aboriginal clans. The conference led to the end of the conflict for the Aboriginal clans around Parramatta and Prospect and was a landmark in Aboriginal-European relations.

Governor Macquarie took an active interest in the welfare of Aboriginal people and focused on 'civilising the native' in an effort to reduce the escalating tensions. Macquarie's aim was to assimilate Aboriginal people into colonial society through education, conversion to Christianity and offering small land grants for farming.[58] Some grants were made to Aboriginal people in the Blacktown and South Creek area from 1819 onwards; however, records providing detailed information are scarce. It appears that many of the grant recipients eventually returned to their 'traditional' lifestyle or had their grants removed by the Aborigines Protection Board that was established in 1883.[59]

Aboriginal people living and travelling throughout the Cumberland LGA remained present and active members of their own and European communities. In fact, many European roads, including the first alignment of the Great Western Highway, followed previously established Aboriginal routes.[60]



Figure 7. The annual meeting of the native tribes at Parramatta, New South Wales, the Governor meeting them c.1826, Augustus Earle 1793–1838. Source: NLA, Call No. PIC Solander Box A35 #T95 NK12/57.

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[58]  DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 36.
[59]  DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 37–38.
[60]  NSW OEH, 'eSPADE: NSW Soil and Land Information System (SALIS)', viewed 25 March 2019, http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/eSpadeWebApp.

Until the late 1800s, the creeks and waterways throughout the Cumberland Plain remained accessible and could still supply various resources, despite the increase of European presence throughout the study area.[61] Aboriginal people traded their tools, labour and native food with the European invaders for food and other resources. In some cases, they begged or stole. On the Cumberland Plain, many estates record Aboriginal employees. Aboriginal people worked as tree fellers, wool scourers and shepherds. Women sometimes undertook domestic labour.[62] There is little recorded of these activities, but occasional references remain. Alan Cunningham wrote in 1827:

> The Aborigines are not so nearly debased as around Sydney, and most of them will live in huts if built for them. Many of these too will work at harvest, and attend to other matters about the farm, having been brought up from infancy among the farming whites.[63]

## 3.4.3 Agriculture and industry

Farming on the modest early grants around Wentworthville and Toongabbie was a tenuous procedure, barely achieving subsistence as a result of the clay soil which was unsuitable for agriculture. This was the case for most of the area south of Parramatta Road, apart from Prospect Hill. This was noted by Watkin Tench, who reported in 1791 that some of the settlers were 'in a state of despondency expecting to starve'.[64]

On his tour in 1810, Macquarie found 'the soil of those farms [in Toongabbie] … [is] in general, very bad, and exhausted by the settlers constantly keeping the same fields in tillage and giving them no artificial manure'. He found the houses there 'very bad, mean, and inconveniently constructed, the settlers very badly clothed and apparently very ill and poorly fed'. In contrast, Macquarie praised the soil at Prospect Hill, where he found the houses of small ex-convict settlers to be better and the people living more comfortably.[65]

Eastwards from Prospect, the soil was generally ill suited for agriculture, although some fruit growing was attempted and there were several orchards of citrus fruit established within the Granville area. Sir John Jamison's Dog Trap Farm covered much of modern Granville and was used largely as a grazing run. Jamison made several improvements and the land is described as being fenced with a cottage, stockyard and other premises erected for the cattle and servants using the land.[66]

Development was similarly slow around Lidcombe/Rookwood, where land was often unoccupied and valuable only as collateral for financial transactions. The census of 1828

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[61] DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 54.
[62] DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 55.
[63] DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 55.
[64] Tench in Karskens, *Holroyd: A Social History of Western Sydney* (Sydney: NSW University Press, 1991), 28.
[65] L Macquarie, *Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales: Journals of His Tours in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land* (Sydney: Library of Australian History, 1979), 33–5.
[66] T Fowlie and Granville Historical Society, *A History of Granville 1919* (Granville: Granville Historical Society, 2001), p.10.

recorded only 137 people living in the area around present-day Auburn, with only nine properties in active use (some of which were north of Parramatta Road).[67]



Figure 8. View of the farm of J. Hassel (Hassall) Esqr, Cow Pastures 1825–28 By Augustus Earle. State Library of New South Wales [a223002 / PXD 265, 2].

The first industry was timber getting and charcoal burning. Mr Nevett, an early timber getter in Granville, had several men employed to cut down ironbarks, which were then hauled by bullock through bush to a point along Duck Creek where they were rolled into the water and floated down the creek at high tide. Nevett continued his timber trade until the railway arrived and the need for sleepers intensified the timber getting.[68] 'Scott and Jolly' won the contract to provide timber sleepers for the Sydney to Parramatta Railway. They had a steam mill setup along Duck Creek and had purchased a portion of Newington Estate to log.[69] When Louisa Ann Meredith moved to Wentworth's Homebush in January 1840, she found the house standing on the highest ground, with 'for some hundreds of acres all around not a native tree nor even a stump was visible, so completely had the land been cleared, although not worth cultivation'.[70]

From the late 1830s to the 1850s, Mr Nevett, a timber contractor, had his home on the east side of Duck River, in what is now Auburn. He had teams of men who cut down the Ironbarks in the vicinity. The logs were hauled to a spot along the Duck River where they were put into the water where boats took them in tow to Sydney.[71]

## 3.4.4 Roads and transport

The first Parramatta Road connecting Sydney with Parramatta was a three-metre-wide track carved through the bushland by convict labour in the years between 1789 and 1791. By 1794, this bush track had been widened and cleared to make it more suitable for carriages.[72] It was

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67  E Perrin and T Kass, *Liberty Plains*, Dictionary of Sydney (2008), https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/liberty_plains.
68  J Watson, *Granville From Forest to Factory* (Granville: Granville Historical Society, 1992), 6.
69  Fowlie and Granville Historical Society, *The History of Granville 1919*, 114–6.
70  Mrs Charles Meredith, *Notes and Sketches of New South Wales* (London, 1844), 129–30.
71  Fowlie and Granville Historical Society, *A History of Granville 1919*, 114–6.
72  Department of Main Roads, *The Roadmakers: A History of Main Roads in New South Wales* (Sydney: Department of Main Roads, 1976), 3.

remade in 1806 and again in 1810. Parramatta Road became a major thoroughfare for the colony, with a constant stream of people and goods passing back and forth.

The Cowpastures Road was surveyed as a track southward from Parramatta/Prospect beginning in 1805 by Surveyor James Meehan. It remained a rough road for many years, as it was largely superseded as a route southward by the creation of a more direct route from Sydney, extending from the Parramatta Road near today's Ashfield.

Construction of the road southwards from Ashfield to Liverpool was commenced in 1814. William Roberts, an entrepreneurial ex-convict, was contracted to build a road from Sydney to Liverpool in 1813 and by April 1814, a second road from Liverpool to the Western Road near Parramatta (later to be called Dog Trap Road and then Woodville Road) was also in progress. These early roads largely frame the present-day Cumberland LGA and were responsible for encouraging settlement where the land was suitable for farming or grazing. These areas were initially around Camden and Campbelltown, but soon spread southwards into the southern highlands.
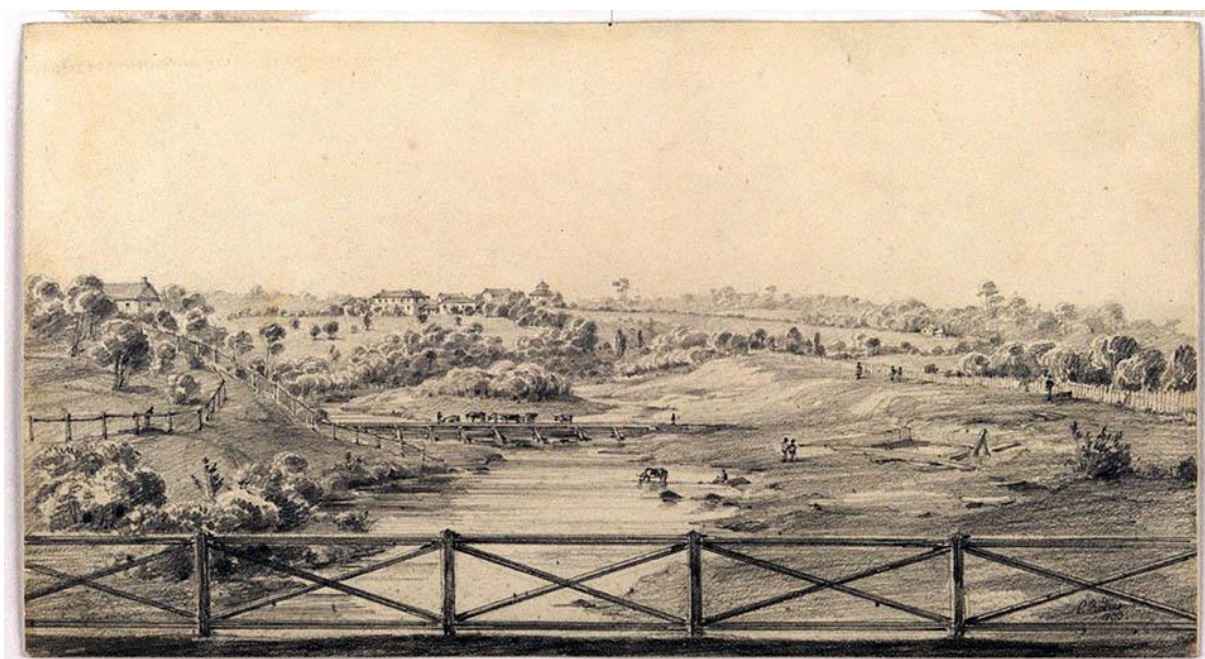


Figure 9 View of the Government House Parramatta from the bridge over the river, 1833. By Charles Rodius. State Library of New South Wales [a635006 / PXA 997, 6].

Contrastingly, settlement near the now Cumberland LGA remained sparse. In 1848, the Parish of Concord, which included all of modern Concord, Burwood, Croydon and Enfield, was recorded as having a mere 216 houses and a population of 1172.[73] Many of these were located around the main roads, the Western Road and the Liverpool Road, with residents supplying food, accommodation and supplies to travellers.

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[73]  WH Wells, cited in G Wotherspoon, 'The Road South-West', Dictionary of Sydney (2011), viewed 4 April 2019, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/the_road_south_west.

In 1850, the New South Wales Government approved the construction of a steam-powered railway line to be constructed between Sydney and Parramatta by the Sydney Railway Company. Construction began in 1852 but the Company had financial issues and the project was taken over by the New South Wales Government in 1854. The line opened to traffic in September 1855, with terminals at Sydney and Parramatta (today's Granville), with four intermediate stopping places Newtown, Ashfield, Burwood and Homebush.



Figure 10. Extract of an 1833 Map of New South Wales, showing the major roads through the south-west of Sydney. Source: New South Wales. (with) Sydney, from the *New South Wales Almanack*; engraved by J. & C. Walker; published 1 September 1833.

## 3.5   The burgeoning city (1855–1945)

### 3.5.1 Railways, towns and closer settlement

Until the arrival of the railway line, there were no specific town centres within the Cumberland LGA area. Parramatta was the nearest town, with Sydney to the east and Liverpool to the south. Settlement was, rather, clustered along Parramatta Road. The drought and economic recessions of the 1840s had ruined many of the larger and wealthier landowners in the district, although several enterprises continued to operate for their new owners and/or the banks and mortgagees. Other prominent landowners had died during the 1840s, including Sir John Jamison of Drainwell Estate, leaving their properties to be divided amongst their heirs.

After 1855, several events together ushered in major changes to the area. The railway from Sydney to Parramatta opened in January 1855 and the stopping places along the line quickly attracted merchants and markets and rapidly became town centres, the railway providing a means to work in the city and live outside in the countryside. It was also the harbinger of the new steam-powered world of machines and manufacturing, which freed industry from its

previous reliance upon wind and water and ushered in the new fuel, coal. The public announcement of gold discoveries at Bathurst, combined with the sudden and relatively massive wave of emigration that followed the collapse of the potato crops in Ireland and Scotland (and Europe) in the 1840s, saw an influx of new settlers and new technologies which permanently changed the prevailing order. From a total metropolitan population of approximately 52,000 in 1851, with only 20% in the 'suburbs', the population had reached over 137,000, with nearly 50% resident in the suburbs, twenty years later.[74]

Railway stopping places on the Main Western Line were initially limited to four stations between the termini at Sydney (now Redfern) and Parramatta Junction (now Granville), being at Newtown, Ashfield, Burwood and Homebush. As traffic grew, additional stopping places were established at Petersham (1857) and Haslams Creek (1858) (renamed Rookwood, now Lidcombe). The line was extended to Parramatta proper in 1860 and Parramatta Junction (1860) (now Granville) opened in place of the original terminus. Within the Cumberland area, further stations opened at Auburn (1877) and Rosehill Junction (1882) (now Clyde). Construction of the line westwards continued, reaching Blacktown in 1860 and Penrith in 1863. The new Parramatta Station opened in 1860, Toongabbie was added in 1880, Wentworthville in 1883 and Pendle Hill in 1924.

Construction of the Main South Line from the Parramatta terminus to Liverpool, commenced in 1855, and was opened in January 1856. As with the Western Line, intermediate stations were opened along the line as required, with Guildford opening in 1876 and Merrylands in 1878. The opening of intermediate stations is a direct reflection of the level of population development in the vicinity and the stations quickly became the focus of local development. The establishment of a railway station at Guildford was immediately followed by Whittaker's subdivision of the Orchardleigh Estate. Railway stations were also typically the location of the original postal service in any area, a separate post office only being added when the level of activity outgrew the ability of the railway staff to manage the postal services in addition to their existing duties.

As the populations grew around the railway stations, many of the original land holdings were subdivided and sold as residential housing blocks, further cementing the area as a largely residential area within a larger city landscape. Along the railway line, several industrial enterprises were established, taking advantage of the 'greenfield land' with railway connections to the city. Granville was amongst the first of these towns to develop, driven greatly by the establishment of several significant industrial enterprises in the vicinity of the railway line. Hudson's established what evolved into the Clyde Engineering Works alongside the Duck River in 1883. Robert Hudson imported ironworkers from the Clyde region in Scotland and that name was given to the area around the Hudson works, with its workers' housing, and to the railway station that had been built in 1880 to service the developing industries. South along the railway line, R A Ritchie and Sons (1882) and Vale Bros (1884) established works manufacturing railway carriages, locomotives and agricultural machinery.

The western portion of the Cumberland LGA remained slower to develop with many of the large estates used for grazing, with some vineyards and orchards established. This remains evident

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[74]   Census figures cited in P Ashton and D Waterson, *Sydney Takes Shape—A History in Maps.* (Brisbane; Hema Maps, 2000), 25.

in the construction of large mansions during the 1890 boom period with George McCredie's 'Linnwood', Alexander Campbell's 'Boori' and Colonial Treasurer Sir William McMillian's 'Dunmore House'.
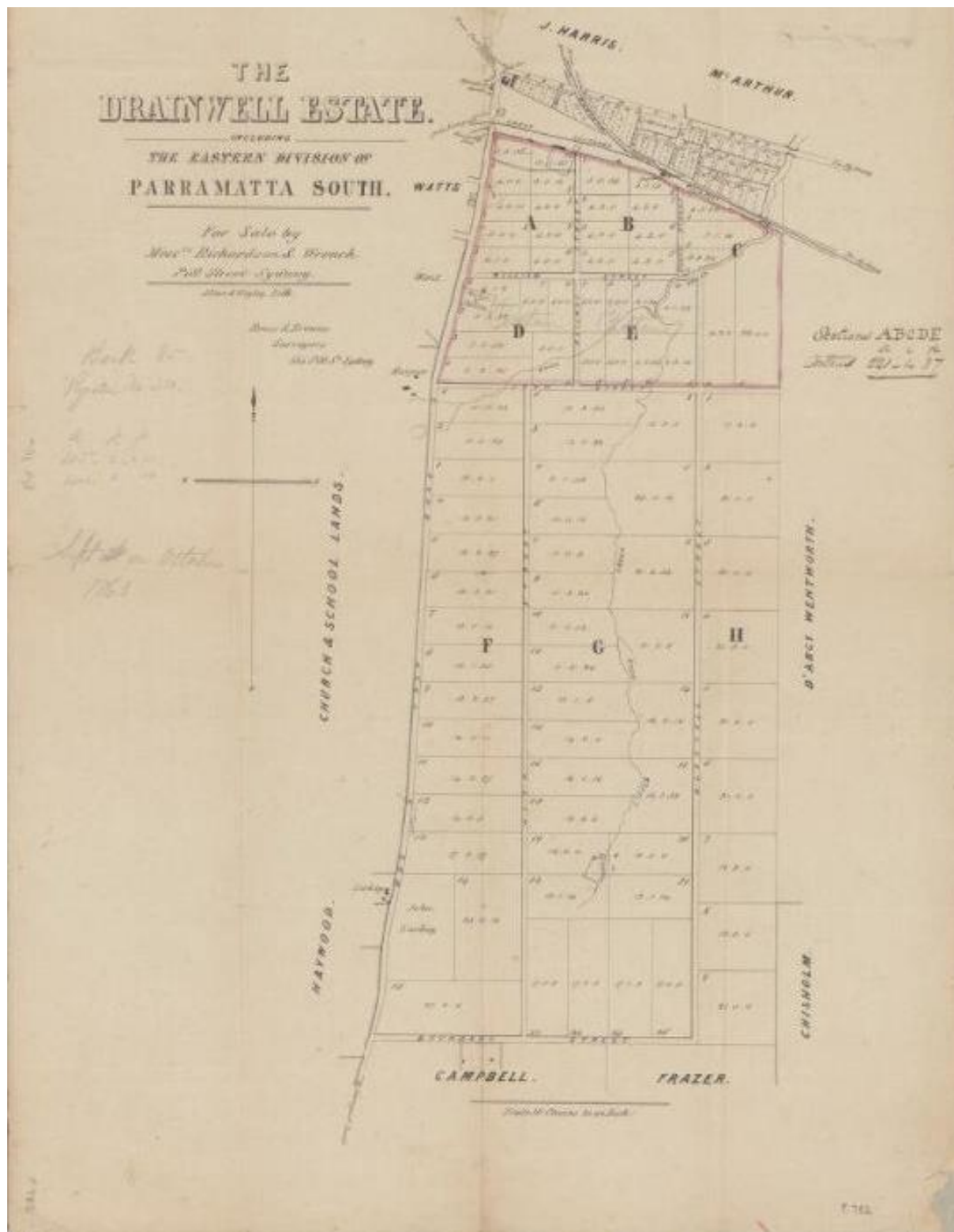


Figure 11. The Drainwell Estate, including the Eastern Division of Parramatta South, 1863. Source: National Library of Australia MAP F 782.

The later subdivision patterns of major estates varied from narrow allotments intended for workingmen with frontages around twenty feet, to cottage lots with frontages of forty-five to fifty feet. The sizing of allotments slightly further from the railway favoured the establishment of villas and of small farms, orchards and vineyards with slightly larger street frontages. Despite the seemingly active real estate entrepreneurs, only a few clusters of settlement developed, and they were located around the industrial sites, the railway line and further north of the now Cumberland LGA, along Parramatta Road. The predominance of Federation Bungalows within the eastern portion of the now Cumberland LGA is indicative of this later land subdivision and residential boom.
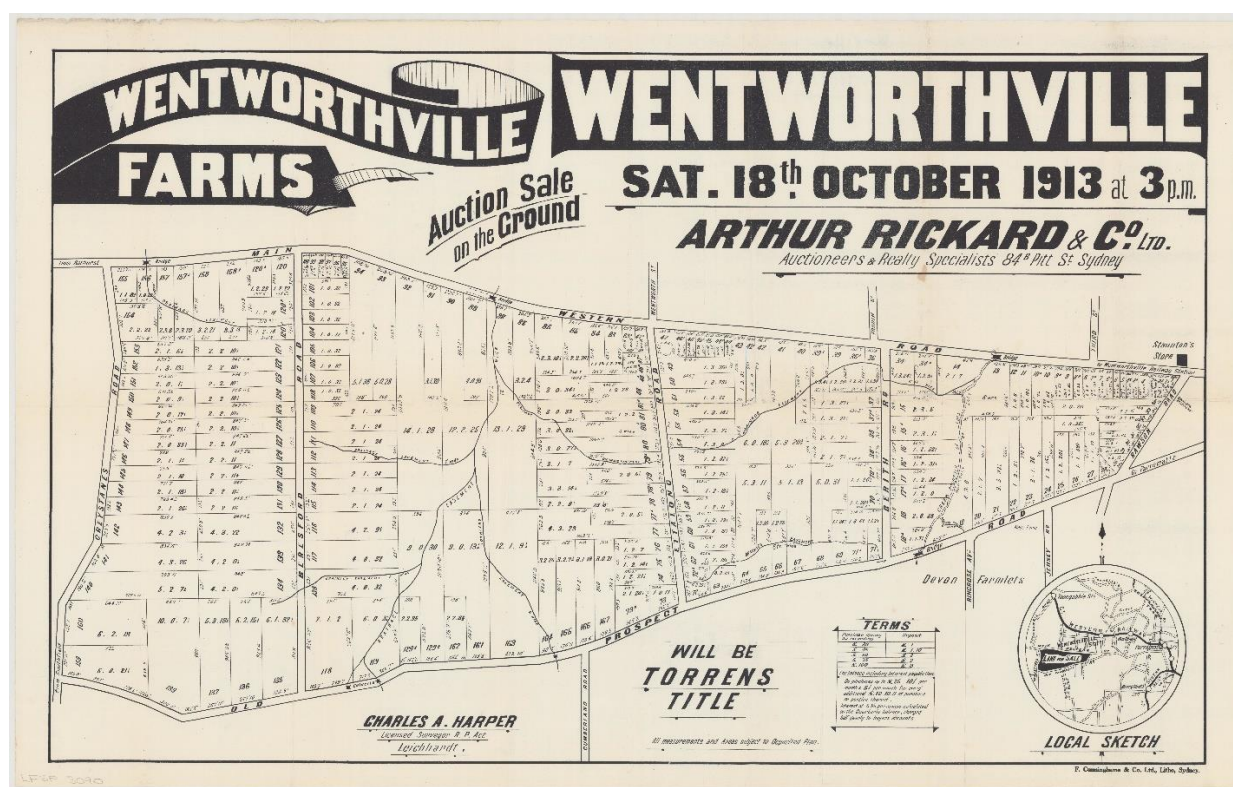


Figure 12. 1913 subdivision of Wentworthville. Source: State Library of New South Wales, Call No. Z/SP/W8.

**Council Municipalities**

Local councils were formed to represent the residents and to manage the provision of local roads and municipal services. Parramatta Council was incorporated in 1861, Granville Council was created in 1885, Holroyd Council was created in 1872 as the Municipal District of Prospect and Sherwood and Auburn Council was created in 1892.

Granville municipality grew quickly in the 1880s and 1890s and had gained a Town Hall by 1888. In John Nobbs's speech, as Mayor of Granville, at the opening ceremony, Nobbs referred to the rapid growth of Granville over the decade. He noted that the suburb had grown from twelve or thirteen houses, to 900 buildings, including 760 houses, 60 shops, two banks, three public halls, including a School of Arts, seven churches, two public schools and thirteen

factories, of which, two were the largest in the colony.[75] Granville Council remained until it was amalgamated with Parramatta Council in 1949.

The former Holroyd Council evolved from the Municipal District of Prospect and Sherwood. The Council Chambers and Town Hall were established on Arcadia Street, Merrylands, and served from February 1915 to May 1962.

Auburn Council was established by residents as the Auburn Progress Association and was officially incorporated as a municipality in 1892. Auburn Council was amalgamated with Lidcombe in 1948.

## 3.5.2 Aboriginal displacement

The government attitudes towards Aboriginal communities and continued expansion of land subdivision restricted access to activities associated with their traditional way of life. The later impacts of unemployment during the Great Depression of the 1930s also increased the number of Aboriginal people displaced. The movement through the Cumberland Plain was extensive.

The government believed that the best way to help Aboriginal people was by a policy of 'protection'. The *Aborigines Protection Act 1883* was established with the intent to provide 'asylum for the aged and sick who are dependent on others for help and support; but also, and of at least equal importance to train and teach the young, to fit them to take their places amongst the rest of the community.'[76] This policy lasted from the 1880s to the 1930s.

Aboriginal people were encouraged to live on government reserves and church missions. They were given food, clothes, blankets and sometimes basic education by the Aboriginal Protection Board. There were approximately 180 Aboriginal reserves gazetted in New South Wales between 1883 and 1939, some managed by government-appointed staff, others left unmanaged.[77] Managed reserves provided some rations, health, housing and education to residents, though, as the records show, this was usually insufficient and usually of a poor standard.[78] While there were no listed reserves in the now Cumberland LGA, there were some nearby in Penrith, Burragorang, and Mittagong. Several of these missions were delisted by 1926, with the implementation of the Commonwealth's Soldier Settlement Scheme after World War I. Those delisted were subdivided for the occupation of tenant farmers.

As the reserves brought their inhabitants under greater control from the government, the alternative was for Aboriginal people to set up fringe camps where the supervision and intervention was less frequent. The region's Aboriginal population began to increase further during the interwar period despite the dispersal policies of assimilation that forcibly broke up Aboriginal communities.

The fringe camp established at Salt Pan Creek to the south of the now Cumberland LGA, a tributary off the Georges River, began as a halfway point between reserves of western Sydney

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[75]    Office of Environment and Heritage, 'Granville Town Hall' listing sheet.
[76]    DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 54.
[77]    DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 54.
[78]    DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 54.

and La Perouse. The site became a meeting ground for the Aboriginal political activists of the day and housed members of the Aborigines Progressive Association, who continued the struggle for Aboriginal civil rights.[79] Another significant fringe camp located near the now Cumberland LGA includes Plumpton Ridge (located near the Blacktown area). Plumpton Ridge is significant as a site of a stone tool quarry and fringe camps. It is recorded that several epidemics in the early twentieth century forced many families and children to relocate to The Gully at Katoomba for community support. Some families by the 1930s had moved closer to Parramatta, near the Gasworks Bridge.[80]

### 3.5.3 Communication services

In colonial New South Wales, the government held a monopoly on the collection of delivery mail from 1825, with the first *Postal Services Act*. The first Postmaster General in Sydney was the former convict, Isaac Nichols, responsible for distributing parcels and letters in Sydney and the rest of the colony. In 1825, This Act gave the Postmaster General the authority to establish post offices within Sydney and to convey mail within the limits of the Colony of New South Wales.[81]

With small numbers of people distributed across wide areas, the establishment of multiple Post Offices within a district was uneconomical. To convey mail efficiently, the practice of establishing unofficial mail offices was instituted. In this system, the Postmaster General would tender to the general public for an agent to convey mail to the area. This was convenient for an area with a small population, as it created a distribution network without the need to establish a post office.

The postal system, particularly parcel services, was keen to take advantage of the speed and carriage offered by railways after 1855. The New South Wales postal services were reorganised in 1865 and the process began to improve in increments, with many post offices opening at or adjacent to railway stations. The postal service first reached the Rookwood (Lidcombe) area in 1869, when postal services were offered at several railway stations along the western railway, including Haslam Creek (now Lidcombe). [82] Later postal establishments within railway land include a post office at Auburn Railway Station opened on 16 June 1880.[83]

In conjunction with the development of the postal services, the telegraph services were also extended from Sydney and a network of telegraph lines were linked to telegraph offices in main towns. Although associated with the post office, the telegraph was commonly a separate building with its own services. A telegraph line was opened in Rookwood Cemetery by 1879. One of the motivators for this was communication errors between the mortuary and the cemetery, with 'unprepared' graves for the bodies of those who arrived. The construction of a telegraph line was considered a means of ending this problem.[84]

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79    DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 58.
80    DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 58.
81    Postage Act 1825, 33. Available at
     [http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/num_act/pa1825n22124/].
82    *The Cumberland Mercury*, 'Rookwood', 21 Jun 1879, 4.
83    Australia Post, 'Auburn North Post Office History', typescript (1988), i.
84    *The Cumberland Mercury*, 'Rookwood' 15 March 1879, 4.

The construction of a post office signified the development of a town. Many postal services in western Sydney had their post forwarded on from Parramatta. It was common for local agitation to petition for the construction of a post office. This was successfully achieved in Granville in 1878, following a petition from the residents for a post office in the immediate vicinity of Parramatta Junction.[85] This post office began operating from a private room within the Stationmaster's residence but, in 1881 (following relocation of the station), the old railway ticket and telegraph office was transferred to the Postal Department.[86] A separate telegraph office opened in March 1885; however, by 1891, the telegraph office and post office had recombined. A new Post Office Building, designed by the Government Architect, was constructed on land fronting Railway Parade in 1891.

In November 1889, residents of Wentworthville began to lobby for postal services in their district. However, as the postal inspector's visit to Wentworthville led to a report of no settled population in the area, the request for a post office was refused. Continued lobbying saw this decision reversed the following year.

While the road and rail were significant factors that facilitated the urban growth of the eastern portion of the now Cumberland LGA, the western portion remained isolated, with services and public amenities few and far between. Steps to reduce the isolation was undertaken towards the end of the nineteenth century with the establishment of postal services in Merrylands (1880), Merrylands West (1898), Toongabbie (1887), Wentworthville (1890), Auburn (1880), Toongabbie West (1922), Pendle Hill (1924) and Berala (1925).

The Post Office agency opened in Pendle Hill at the same time that the railway station was established, in 1924. J Dorahy, already operating the local grocery store and tea rooms, was Postmaster. Both the railway station and the Post Office were established as a result of George Bond opening a textile factory on his property in 1923. This factory became the centre of a successful manufacturing business, known mostly for its iconic 'Chesty Bond' men's underwear.

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85    Watson, *Granville From Forest to Factory*, 68.
86    Fowlie and Granville Historical Society, *A History of Granville 1919*, 106.

Figure 13. J Dorahy's Post Office Store and Tea Rooms, circa 1928. Source: Holroyd Library.

### 3.5.4 War and peace

Apart from the battles to force the pre-existing inhabitants off their land in the early years of settlement, warfare was relatively rare for Australians in the nineteenth century. Whilst there was some minor engagement with British conflicts (the Maori Wars; the Boer War), this was on a voluntary basis and militarism in Australia has its origins with the creation of the Commonwealth government at Federation.

*The Defence Acts* of 1903 and 1904 empowered the Australian Government to call up 'unexempted' males in time of war. The *Defence Act 1909* made training and service compulsory in time of peace. In 1911, compulsory military training commenced, forcing all males between the ages of 19 and 21 to undertake basic military training, which was applied as participation in drill exercises, conducted at identified training centres. Drill halls were constructed in population centres throughout Australia between 1911 and 1918, with a second wave added between 1939 and 1942, coinciding with the outbreaks of World War I and World War II respectively.

Within Cumberland LGA, drill halls had been established in Merrylands and Auburn. By 1914, drill halls were established in the neighbouring suburbs of Homebush, Bankstown and Parramatta. The Auburn Drill Hall featured in local newspaper reports in 1916, when:

> Universal trainees refused to *drill* at Auburn last night, owing to the increased number of compulsory *drills* on the card issued on Saturday. They assaulted the *drill hall,* and smashed every window in the place. The officers endeavoured to quell the disturbance, but were assailed

with blue metal. Grabbing three of the ringleaders, they took refuge inside the *hall* and barricaded the doors.[87]

Those who failed to register for military training were punished with fines or jail sentences. Many boys did not register for their military training and, between 1911 and 1915, there were 34,000 prosecutions, with 7,000 jail sentences imposed.[88]

Drill halls, during World War I, were quickly turned into recruitment and preliminary training centres for volunteers signing up for service with the Australian Imperial Forces. During the war, compulsory military training continued and post-war, the drill halls reverted to centres for conducting and administering Universal Military Training. In 1929, however, for economic and political reasons, the whole scheme was cancelled.

In the far west of the now Cumberland LGA, the Veteran Hall property, which had been resumed for the construction of Prospect Reservoir, was taken over by the Army as a Remount Depot, for the assembling and training of horses, from 1912 to 1915. This was relatively short-lived, with the Army relocating after 1915 and the land reverting to low-scale livestock agistment.

International conditions again saw a reintroduction of compulsory military training, this time in the form of National Service, commencing on 1 January 1940. The arrangements required unmarried men turning twenty-one in the call up period to undertake three months training with the militia. As with the previous scheme, all National Servicemen could be compulsorily recruited into the military forces if required for the 'defence of Australia'. In January 1943, the definition of 'defence of Australia' was broadened to include 'such other territories in the South-west Pacific Area as the Governor-General proclaims as being territories associated with the defence of Australia.'[89] Drill halls again were active in the administration of National Service.

After the entry of Japan into the war, Sydney, as with many other parts of Australia, became a key centre for American military forces assembling, training and equipping for action in the Pacific theatre. In the now Cumberland LGA, the US Naval Base Hospital No. 10—Navy 135 was established in Granville Park in Merrylands between 1943 and 1945. It was dismantled and removed soon after the end of the war in 1945. In Regents Park, US forces set up the Regents Park Stores Depot in 1942, with a railway connection to the main line at Regents Park and the RAAF took it over after the war as the RAAF No. 2 Stores Depot.

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87    *Leader*, 'Another Riot', Wed 16 Feb 1916, 2.
88    National Archives of Australia—Fact Sheet 160—Universal Military Training.
89    National Archives of Australia—Fact Sheet 162—*National Service and war, 1939–45.*
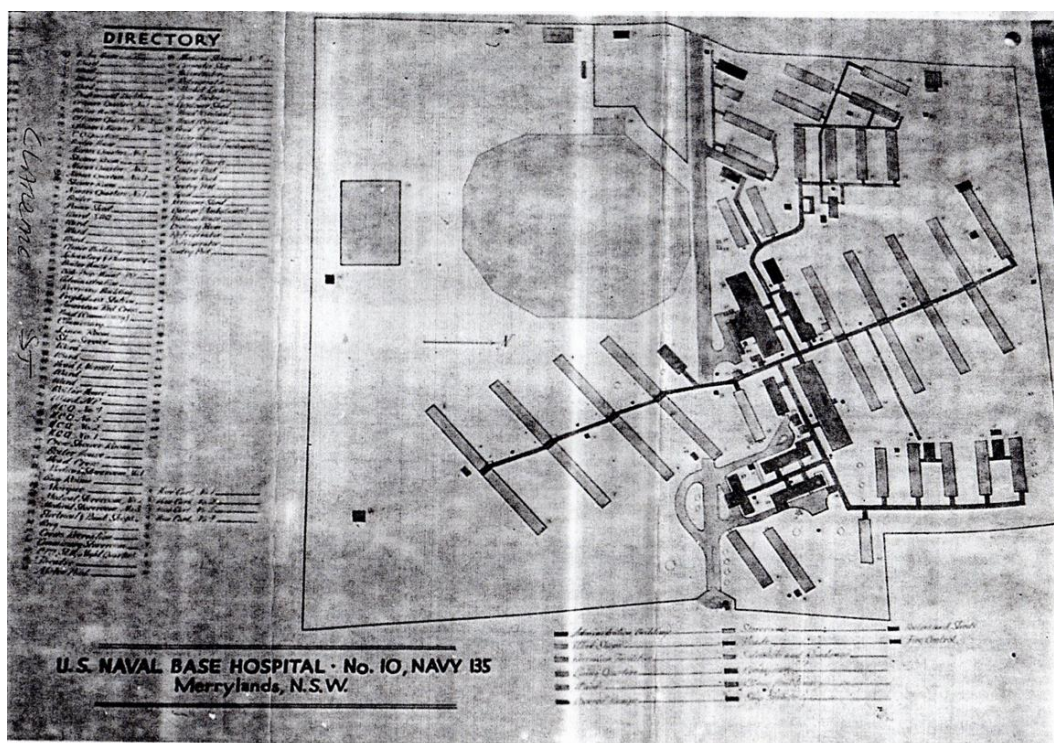
Figure 14. Plan of US Naval Base Hospital No. 10—Navy 135. Source: Ozatwar.



Figure 15. Granville Park, Merrylands in 1943. Source: LPI SIM Maps.

The are several places of remembrance throughout the Cumberland LGA that commemorate the lives of soldier's lost in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. In recent years these have become the primary focus for local communities to reflect on the impact of that period. The Merrylands West Memorial Reserve is an early example of this type of memorial, in which a stone plinth was erected in 1922 by the residents of Prospect and Sherwood.

In 1920, land along Fullagar Road, Wentworthville, was subdivided and purchased by the War Service Homes Commission. The War Services Homes Commission was a Commonwealth government initiative established under the *War Services Act 1919* to assist the rehousing of returned soldiers and their families. This Act was related to a Commonwealth policy of rehabilitating ex-servicemen and their dependants. The Commission aided veterans through low interest rate loans to construct a new house, purchase or complete an existing house, or discharge an existing mortgage. The focus of the Commission during the first two years was focused on the construction of new houses, a measure 'designed to help solve, and not accentuate the national housing problem'. The houses built by the Commission were to a standard design under the direction of their principal architect.

## 3.5.5 Recreation—sport, cinemas and social activities

Hotels were establishments used for recreation, leisure and socialising. Initially they catered for travellers but, in the 1870 and 1880s, they also began to cater for local residents. Hotels became the meeting place for many local clubs and groups prior to the construction of community halls or Town Halls. Numerous hotels were located in the vicinity of railway stations and along prominent roads, as evident at Lidcombe, Auburn and Granville.

During the 1880s and 1890s, Local Progress Associations begun to appear, made up of local businessmen and landowners, who petitioned governments for public works and services and organised local public events. The School of Arts movement aimed at providing education and access to cultural activities for the working class. Their halls were venues for education lectures, courses in trades, plays, art music, exhibitions and debating and were actively used by the community.

The Wentworthville School of Arts hall was opened in 1914 and was donated by Fitzwilliam Wentworth, although it was too small to meet the requirements of the rapidly growing population.[90] The School of Arts was the only hall in Wentworthville for many years and was thus the meeting place for many social, political and public associations. The School of Arts was used for a variety of purposes by organisations such as the Wentworthville Patriotic Association and for worship by the local Anglicans. In 1917, the Ratepayers Association was also formed here.[91]

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[90]   Freame, *Wentworthville and District*, 12.
[91]   Freame, *Wentworthville and District*, 12.

Figure 16. Station St, Wentworthville, in the 1930s. Source: Parramatta Library.

On 9 October 1920, a Masonic Lodge was opened in Wentworthville. It began with 25 members and, by 1922, it had 85 members.[92] The Wentworthville Masonic Temple was built in the Inter-war Stripped Classical Style in 1927 on Garfield Street. There were several other societies established at Wentworthville. For example, in 1928, the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society held its annual ball at the Wentworthville Masonic Lodge.[93]

**Sporting facilities**

By 1890, moves were afoot to pressure the government to set aside land for public parks. The more established municipalities such as Granville had acquired land for the purposes of a public park in 1887. The park, located off Woodville Road, formed part of the Church and School grounds. Upon its acquisition by the local council, it was fenced, drained and planted with ornamental plantings. Rookwood (Lidcombe) followed in 1892 and Auburn 1898, following persistent lobbying from local residents. Auburn Park, formally part of the Gibbons Estate, was gazetted on 26 March 1898.[94] Auburn Council was appointed as trustees in April 1898. The park was used for a variety of sports.[95]

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92    Freame, *Wentworthville and District*, 7–12.
93    Elias and Coppins, *Pictorial History Holroyd* (Alexandria: Kingsclear Books, 2013), 94.
94    Lands, Ph Liberty Plains, 1902–19, A. 0. Map 25797-8; Lands, Miscellaneous Branch, Parks Register, 1867–1950, A. 0. 11/22037, p. 95.
95    Auburn Council. *Liberty Plains A History of Auburn NSW,* 197.

During the 1920's, several sports clubs were formed in the suburbs of Wentworthville, Girraween and Pendle Hill. Cricket was popular within these suburbs, with both Girraween and Wentworthville participating in the Parramatta District competition. Rugby league was also popular in the area, with a team being established in Wentworthville by 1913 named the Wentworthville Rovers Club; by 1923, they were known as the Wentworthville Football Club. The home ground was known as Lane's Paddock's after the first club president, William Lane. They played as part of the Western District League Association.[96]

Other sporting activities were supported by the provision of land for the establishment of sporting ovals. Lidcombe Oval officially opened in 1933. The land surrounding Lidcombe Oval had been acquired by the government in 1926 for the creation of a recreation reserve, Wyatt Park. Wyatt Park continued to expand with the inclusion of a swimming centre in 1959 and formation of a basketball and netball centre and other associated sporting fields.

During the 1930s, four Olympic swimming pools were constructed in Sydney; at Enfield and Bankstown (c.1933), North Sydney (c.1935/36), and Granville (1936). This has been linked to swimming's growing popularity as a sport and leisure activity, as well as to Australia's success at the 1932 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.[97] The popularity of the Enfield Olympic Swimming Pool (and revenue from admissions) meant that the proposed pool at Granville was viewed by at least one Alderman as a sound financial venture, despite the significant investment of ratepayers' money that would be required. Estimates at the time placed the cost of construction at approximately £22,000.[98] In February 1934, Bergan's paddock was selected by Granville Council as the site for the new baths, due to its 'excellent natural drainage', and proximity to the railway station, school, and main shopping centre.[99] Construction commenced on 20 March 1936, and Granville Swimming Pool officially opened on 10 October that year.[100]

**Cinemas**

Cinemas emerged as a major entertainment in the twentieth century, transitioning from the open-air cinema to purpose-built structures. These cinemas were generally located within the town centres and were sometimes situated close to the railway stations. The earliest cinema in Auburn was an open-air structure in Rawson Street near the corner of Macquarie Road. It opened on 13 January 1911 and operated until about 1919.[101] Granville also received an open-air cinema in 1911 along South Street.

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[96]  Elias and Coppins, *Pictorial History Holroyd,* 95–6.
[97]  Boyd, 'National Trust of Australia (NSW) Classification Report: Granville Olympic Pool, Enid Avenue' (National Trust of Australia (NSW), 2003).
[98]  *Construction and Real Estate Journal* 'Swimming Pools to Be Built', 6 March 1935, p.5, viewed 28 Feb 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222915627; *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate,* 'NO Reply', *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 11 July 1935, 2, viewed 28 Feb 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article105091721.
[99]  *Building : The Magazine For The Architect, Builder, Property Owner And Merchant,* 'Two New Olympic Swimming Pools: North Sydney and Granville', 1935, vol. 56, no. 334, p.59; *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate,* 'Swimming Pool For Granville?', 1 February 1934, p.2, viewed 28 Feb 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article104569990.
[100]  *The Biz*, 'Granville', 3 April 1936, p.1., viewed 28 Feb 2018, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article76357788; Boyd, 'National Trust of Australia'.
[101]  Auburn Council, *Liberty Plains*, 192–3.

The first purpose-built cinema building in the western suburbs was the Queen's Theatre, Auburn. This cinema, built from fibreboard and timber, opened on 21 November 1913.[102] In February 1914, Alfred James Beszant took over as manager, and improved the facilities. By 1920, Beszant had gained control of the Queens Theatre and had brought it under the control of his Parramatta Cinema Ltd chain, where the building was extensively rebuilt.[103] Beszant became the principal stakeholder of a number of cinemas within the area, including the Castle Theatre and the Picture Palace in Granville in 1923.



Figure 17. Granville Cinema, 1942, by Sam Hood. State Library of New South Wales -[hood_23558].

By 1934, Beszant had founded the company 'Western Suburbs Cinemas Ltd', which controlled suburban theatres in Western Sydney. Theatres were constructed in Auburn, Parramatta, Burwood and Granville. By 1937, it was reported the company had a chain of fourteen theatres. Western Suburbs Cinemas were known for being continually built or upgraded to include the latest technological advancements in sound and picture quality.[104] In March 1944, it was reported that the chain Hoyts Theatres Ltd had acquired a shareholding in the Western Sydney Cinemas.[105] This saw the formation of Hoyts' Western Suburbs Cinemas. Granville Hoyts Castle was the first of two Quonset cinemas built by Hoyts' Western Suburbs Cinemas. The first one

102   Auburn Council, *Liberty Plains*, 193.
103   KJ Cork, *Beszant (A Boy from Parramatta) The Story of a Showman* (Rooty Hill: Endeavour Printing, 1985), 7–8, 11.
104   *The Auburn and Lidcombe Advancement* (NSW: 1925–1939) 'The History of the Queens Theatre, Auburn', 11 March 1937, 3.
105   Cork, *Beszant: A Boy from Parramatta*, 29–30.

opened on 26 December 1947 and was built on South Street on the site of the original 1911 Castle Theatre. The Quonset cinema building remains known, however, as 'Chateau Blanc'. The Crest Theatre followed in 1948, which was built in Granville.



Figure 18. Crest Theatre, photograph taken 2019. Source: Extent Heritage, 2019.

### 3.5.6 Modernity—gas, electricity and water

The supply of gas, electricity and water, along with a functional sewerage system, greatly improved the urban landscape and living conditions of residents in Western Sydney. Progress in the provision of these services and amenities was slow in sections of the Cumberland area due to the smaller, sparsely settled population, the ineffectiveness of the local government and lack of interest from the major governmental bodies.

**Gas**

The supply of gas was viewed as the acme of modernity in the nineteenth century. When the first gaslight was lit on 25 May 1841 in Sydney, it was described the next day by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as 'one of the most important inventions of modern times'. Gas was primarily supplied by the Australian Gaslight Company (AGL), which initially had gasworks based in Darling Harbour and later, from 1880, at Mortlake. At the same time, many councils and small companies were established to produce gas for local distribution. Typically within the Sydney region, these were progressively acquired by AGL and the small local gasworks were subsequently closed.

Although accessible and comparatively cheaper than other states, the supply of gas was not a cheap commodity for the working class and was not commonly found in households for the use

of cooking and heating until the early twentieth century. Households continued to cook on wood stoves and relied on firewood merchants to supply the wood to fuel their heating and cooking needs. The early uses for gas were primarily for lighting public buildings and for street lighting.

Gaslights, supplied by the Parramatta Gas Company, had first appeared in Parramatta in 1876 and, by 1884, the company had extended its mains into Harris Park and Granville. In April 1886, 22 streetlamps commenced operating in Granville. In 1889, the Parramatta Company was bought out by AGL and supply was taken from Mortlake and distributed through the Parramatta Company network. Reticulation gradually expanded throughout much of the area during the twentieth century.

### Electricity

The Sydney Municipal Council's Electric Lighting Bill was passed in October 1896 and a power station was built in Pyrmont in 1900. Meanwhile, the NSW Railways and Tramways had commenced generating power at Ultimo in 1899. Both organisations quickly moved into supplying electrical power in bulk to local councils, for local reticulation. However, many local councils established municipal electrical supplies and Parramatta and Granville Electrical Supply Company commenced operation in 1913. It ceased generating for itself after 1917, taking bulk supply from the Sydney Municipal Council via a substation at Merrylands. It later swapped to supply from the Railways and was purchased by the Electric Light and Power Supply Corporation (ELPSC) in the 1940s, with supply then provided from Balmain.

In the eastern part of the now Cumberland LGA, supply was generally acquired from the Sydney Municipal Council and several substations were constructed in Auburn, Lidcombe, Guildford, Wentworthville, Merrylands and Westmead to a standardised design.

These supply arrangements changed very little when the Electricity Commission was formed in 1950 and took control of all generation facilities and became the bulk supplier to county councils and municipalities. The supply from individual generation authorities ceased and supply was acquired from the New South Wales state electricity grid.

### Water

In February 1880, work began to create Prospect Reservoir.[106] This was part of the Upper Nepean Scheme, built between 1880 and 1888, an ambitious scheme to transport water from the Nepean, Cataract and Cordeaux Rivers through a gravity canal approximately 100 kilometres into the city.[107]

While the Upper Nepean Scheme was under construction in the early 1880s, Sydney suffered a severe drought. In 1885, Hudson Brothers' engineering works at Clyde commenced construction of a series of temporary pipes and flumes to connect the partially built sections of the Upper Nepean Scheme with the existing Botany Swamps Supply system; the Temporary

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[106]   *Sydney Morning Herald*, 'The Water Supply of Sydney – Commencement of the Upper Nepean Scheme', 10 Feb 1880, 6.

[107]   WV Aird, *The Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage of Sydney* (Sydney, Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board, 1961): 17.

Scheme started operating on 30 January 1886. The Temporary Scheme was dismantled in 1888 after the Upper Nepean Scheme came fully into operation.

When the Upper Nepean Scheme was commissioned, Prospect Reservoir served as the primary storage reservoir, from which a gravity canal, the Lower Canal, carried the water overland to a screening facility at Guildford, then through pipelines to balance reservoirs at Potts Hill. From Potts Hill, pipelines distributed water to Service Reservoirs located on high points, supplying their immediate vicinity. In the early years of the scheme, the reticulation infrastructure in sparsely settled areas such as the Cumberland LGA was non-existent. Mains were progressively laid and houses connected and, by 1916, these areas were being supplied from either service reservoirs at Prospect Hill or Greystanes (Holroyd Reservoir). Owing to the topography, no other service reservoirs were erected within the now Cumberland LGA with supply coming via reservoirs at Smithfield, Prospect, Ashfield and Bankstown, outside of the LGA boundaries.

**Sewerage**

Following the improvements to the water supply, improvements to the sewerage systems soon followed. The population increase saw the growth of suburbs spreading along the railway lines west and south of the city and the rapid clearance of forest and farmlands for not just more houses but for more dairies, piggeries, poultry farms and stables. The town centres were at least, partly sewered, but the suburbs were not, with human, animal and bird waste all washed into the local creeks and waterways after any heavy rain. Duck River and the Parramatta River were greatly polluted by the discharge from the surrounding industries and residents.

The suburbs were provided sewerage systems in the 1930s. This was achieved through the construction of the Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (the 'NSOOS') connecting the sewers from Parramatta to Manly. The NSOOS was completed in stages, with the first sections (up to the Lane Cove River) commissioned in 1924 and the western sections (up to Dundas) in 1930. Further extensions were commissioned in 1938 and the system has continued to expand in following years.

The sewage from the Parramatta city area, as well as Harris Park, Merrylands, Guildford, Granville, Auburn, Berala, Lidcombe and the Duck River area was directed to a large pumping station at Camellia (commissioned in 1930), from where it was pumped across the Parramatta River to discharge into the NSOOS near Dundas Railway Station.

The eighth section of the NSOOS was constructed from Dundas to Northmead in 1938 to serve additional parts of north and north east Parramatta as well as the Westmead area. The latter drains to pumping station No.103 at the junction of Toongabbie Creek and Parramatta River, which also served Wentworthville and its surrounds.

## 3.5.7 Churches and places of worship

The church was an important aspect for the early colony. The mix of free settlers and convicts brought with them varying religious faiths, including Presbyterians, Baptists and Jewish, with the majority being Anglican, followed by the Catholics, who were, in this era, predominantly Irish. While there were religious services held within the district from the beginnings of

settlement (pioneer religious services typically were provided by travelling clergy in a house of a prominent individual) and small local churches from the 1840s, it wasn't until the 1880s that substantial churches were built. Churches were located in town centres and more appeared in the wake of subdivisions and were indicative of population growth in the vicinity. The nature of their construction also reflected the wealth of their parishioners to some extent, with wealthier areas erecting buildings of brick or stone masonry and less wealthy areas having slab or weatherboard churches.[108]

In Granville, St Marks Anglican Church was built in 1884 and Knox Presbyterian Church in 1885. St Joseph Catholic Church opened in a timber building in 1888, with a substantial brick church erected in 1905. At Wentworthville, St Paul's Church of England was completed in early 1920. In 1922, the Catholics commenced work on Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and, in 1928, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (designed by architect, James Hume) was moved from Parramatta stone-by-stone and re-erected in McKern Street, Wentworthville.[109] In 1942, St Bartholomew's Anglican Church (Prospect) was built to serve Toongabbie, Seven Hills, Prospect, Pendle Hill, Girraween and Wentworthville.[110]



Figure 19. Knox Presbyterian Church built in 1885 (left) and St Marks Anglican Church was built in 1884 (right). Source: Extent Heritage 2019.

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[108]  Karskens *Holroyd*, p.99.
[109]  Elias and Coppins, *Pictorial History Holroyd*, p 93
[110]  Freame, *Wentworthville and District*.

Figure 20. St Phillips Anglican built in 1921. Source: Extent Heritage 2019.

In the eastern areas of the LGA, particularly in Auburn there were no church buildings constructed until the 1880s. St Phillip's Church of England was the first place of worship to be erected in Auburn. The records of the services of St. Phillips date back to 1883, when services were held in a school hall, situated on the corner of Parramatta Road and St. Hilliers Road. The present St. Phillips Church in Auburn was constructed in 1921. The first Catholic Church in Auburn was completed in April 1893, functioning as a church on Sunday and a school during the week. Rookwood (Lidcombe) was a little earlier, in 1884, with the original church building replaced in 1926. These dates are similar to the development of Anglican services in the district, with Anglican services held in halls which doubled as a school from 1883, with a dedicated church building (St Phillip's) erected in 1921.

The diversity of nonconformist religions increased in the 1920s and 1930s with the introduction of Plymouth Brethren, Salvation Army, Church of Christ, Lutherans and Seventh Day Adventists but their adherents were not numerous. In the early twentieth century, Catholicism emerged as one of the most significant denominations in the western portion of now Cumberland LGA, owing to large populations of Italians, Maltese and Lebanese Christian immigrants.[111]

## 3.5.8 Education

Early education in the colony was the responsibility of the Church with one seventh of all land in the colony put aside for religion and education. The earliest government assisted schools in the colony were established to provide literacy skills, religious instruction and domestic or industrial training for destitute children and those whose parents could not afford to provide them with a basic education. There were two types of schools initially; orphan schools established under Governors King and Macquarie, and Church schools. Church schools were

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[111]  Karskens, *Holroyd*, 231

provided funding from the Government, this was reinforced by the establishment of the Clergy and Schools Land Corporation in 1826.[112]

A centralised administration for schools in New South Wales, the Council of Education, was established under an Act to make better provision for public education in 1866. In 1880, the Minister for Public Instruction assumed responsibility for education in New South Wales. The introduction of the *Public Instruction Act 1880* repealed the early 1866 Act and provided for the establishment of a range of public school types, separate high schools for boys and girls, and a system of teacher training. This Department was responsible the introduction of compulsory education and the withdrawal of government funding from denominational schools.

The establishment of schools also hallmarked the towns development as they were generally at the insistence of local members that they be established. Education in the Granville area was initiated with an application submitted to the Council of Education on 24 September 1874 by a committee of prominent local gentlemen of the Granville area. They consisted of Messrs Morris Asher, John George Lackey, John Bergan, John Nobbs, W Bernett and John Rayner. They submitted the application with 70 signatures from parents and a list of 212 children aged between one and 17 years old.[113] In 1878 it was reported that there were 600 permanent residents living in the area, and this was increasing. The public school was approved in January 1879 and completed by 1880. This trend is broadly reflected across the Cumberland LGA.

## 3.5.9 Industries

In 1870, James Bergan established a woollen mill on the south side of the railway, west of Duck Creek, in Granville. The mill was near the railway line, adjacent to Duck Creek, and Bergan also constructed a weir on Duck Creek to obtain the water supply for wool scouring and dyeing. Bergan's Woollen Mill primarily manufactured tweeds and the mill was initially very successful. Bergan died in 1885, yet the business continued for several years. By the end of the 1890s, however, business became intermittent owing to the heavy importation of woollen goods in anticipation of the Government Tariff and this overstocking forced the colonial woollens trade to a standstill. Bergan's Woollen Mill essentially closed down at the turn of the century.

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[112]    Overview of Education in New South Wales 1788-1979, https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/school-records-guide.

[113]    Watson, *Granville From Forest to Factory*, 40.
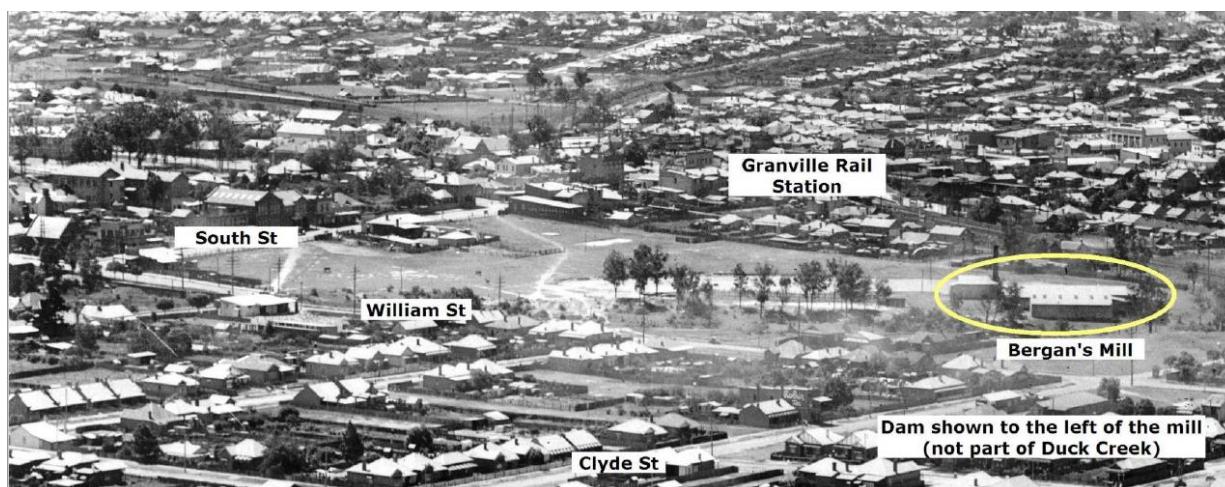
Figure 21. Photograph showing Bergan's Mill and pond (left of mill) in Granville, c.1932. Source: Douglas Partners 2017, p.8.

In 1872, brick making was started in Bergan's Mill paddocks. The early cottages in Vulcan Street (Granville) and the 150 feet high chimney stack at Goodlett and Smith (formerly the Parramatta Brick and Tile Works) were built from Bergan's brick pit. Bergan's brickyard closed in the early 1880s and the clay pits were formed into a water reserve where the drainage from the surrounding land was stored in a pond to supply the mill and other local industries.

At Haslams Creek, the Sydney Meat Preserving Company was established in 1869 on a 400-acre (161.87 hectares) site, most of which was used for stock yards. Activities on the site included slaughtering, butchering, preserving, trimming and boiling down, with most product canned for export.[114] Most of the shareholders were pastoralists seeking a stabilising influence on the market price for their stock, rather the speculators, and preserved meat provided a new and additional market, particularly for sheep predominantly grown for wool.[115] In 1875, the plant and equipment of the works included a tin room, tinsmith's room, boning room, extract room, preserving room, engine houses and tallow house and up to 500 staff were employed.[116]

The location suited the works, as many large graziers used the land in the vicinity for resting stock prior to being shipped to the Glebe Abattoir and, with the establishment of the Sydney Meat Preserving Company, complementary business were drawn to the area. In 1877, part of the Francisville Estate at the corner of Francis Street and Parramatta Road was converted into a tannery by John Garthwaite, from South Creek. Other industries associated with animal by-products were Wrights glue works and Bennett's boot factory.[117] These industries were reinforced when the new State Abattoir opened at Homebush in 1915.

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[114]  KTH Farrer, *A Settlement Amply Supplied—Food Technology in Nineteenth Century Australia.* (Carlton, Vic.:Melbourne University Press, 1980), 88, 118–20.
[115]  Kass, 'Auburn Heritage Study, Volume 2'; 18
[116]  Kass, 'Auburn Heritage Study, Volume 2', 18
[117]  *Echo*, 'The Suburbs of Sydney No XXXIV, The Unincorporated Suburbs comprising Rookwood, Auburn, Bankstown etc', 11 Dec 1890, New South Wales Government Gazette, 27 August 1877.
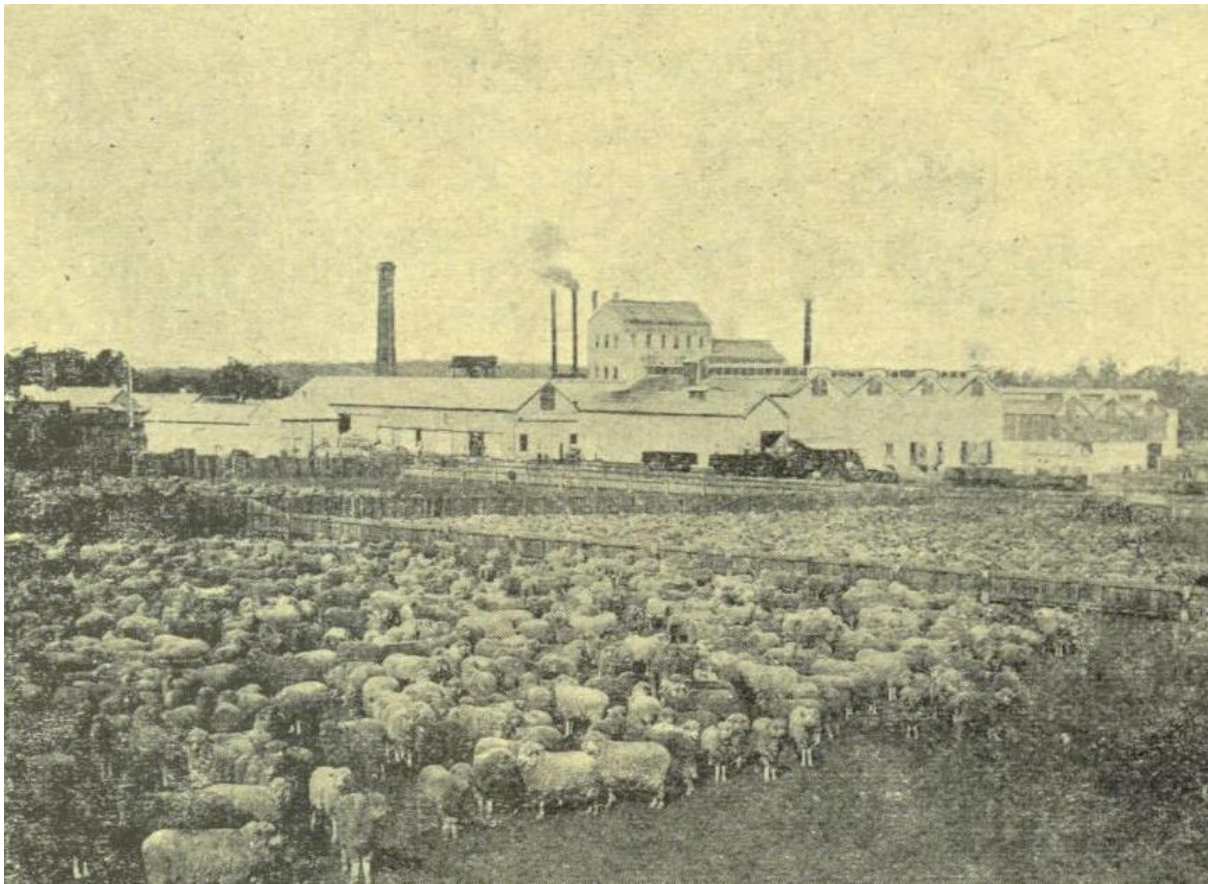
Figure 22. The Sydney Meat Preserving Company Works at Auburn. Source: The Lone Hand—Vol 9 No 50; 1 June 1911.

Between Auburn and Granville, the twin advantages of a railway connection and open space saw the establishment of several heavy engineering works. The largest was Hudson Bros, already one of the largest engineering works in the State based at a site in Redfern. They selected 200 acres alongside the Duck River and built a new and extensive works to manufacture rolling stock for the expanding NSW Railways network. A railway station was provided for the works, with the NSW Railways choosing to call it 'Clyde', in recognition of both the strong Scottish contingent of workers and the heavy industry in the vicinity. Opening in 1882, it was reformed as the Clyde Engineering Company Limited in 1898 and the site remained one of Australia's largest heavy engineering centres until changing conditions saw operations transferred elsewhere and the Granville site closed and sold in the 1970s.

Hudson Bros were not alone in the railway and tramway rolling stock market. Robert Ritchie had commenced manufacturing agricultural machinery at a site in Parramatta in the 1860s and, having secured contracts to supply rolling stock to the NSW Railways, became one of the biggest contractors for government rolling stock. In 1882, the firm moved to Clyde and, in 1883, merged with Hudson Bros, with Robert Ritchie becoming works manager. The former RA Ritchie works were acquired by his son, who established Ritchie Bros and carried on manufacturing railway carriages, iron bridges and agricultural machinery. The firm survived into the 1950s at its Auburn site.

Figure 23. The Clyde Engineering Company works in the early 1900s. Source: Murray; Phoenix to the World op cit.

Another notable manufacturer of railway and tramway rolling stock was H J Vale and Sons, located alongside the railway line at Auburn. Henry Vale had originally been in partnership with William Lacy in the firm of Vale & Lacy, the original engineering contractor to the NSW Railways, who assembled virtually all of the early rolling stock shipped out from England. The firm was continued by his sons and remained a highly-respected supplier of railway materials and iron/steel products well into the twentieth century.

These railway-focused enterprises were matched by the NSW Railways, who acquired land around Clyde and Auburn in 1874, with the Clyde Marshalling Yard opening that same year. These yards expanded rapidly over the following decades. In 1892, a wagon repair works was established on the south side of the line as the major repair centre for goods rolling stock. Various sidings to nearby industrial sites, many of which were associated with the railways, were added between the 1880s and the 1930s.

Duck Creek saw other industrial concerns, such as the Australian Linoleum Company Ltd, which set up a large manufacturing works at Auburn in 1924. The process used linseed oil and linseed cake, both of which were readily available from the Meggitts plant at Parramatta, which also had financial interest in the new company. It was, however, a difficult decade economically and, in 1927, Michael Nairn & Co. Ltd of Kirkcaldy Scotland was invited to take over the business and renamed the company Michael Nairn & Co. (Aust) Ltd. The factory expanded and prospered into the 1960s but faltered in the 1970s. Production ceased in 1976 though the company continued as a distributor; the plant at Auburn was demolished in 1983.

Brickworks were ubiquitous across Sydney in the late nineteenth century, with several operating in the Cumberland LGA. The Auburn Brickworks (at today's Regents Park), the Sherwood Tile Works at Merrylands West, Goodlet and Smith at Merrylands, and Clyde Brickworks at Auburn, were all operating in the area around the turn of the century. Most were affected by the opening of the State Brickworks in Homebush in 1911 and many were absorbed into larger companies during the 1930s. A small number survived into the 1960s but all were closed by the 1970s. Most of the claypits have been subsequently filled but small lakes remain at the Goodlet & Smith

site (now Holroyd Gardens Park, Merrylands), the Sherwood Tile site (now the Holroyd Central Gardens, Merrylands Road) and the Clyde Brickworks site (Pondage Link, Homebush Bay).

The main industry in Prospect since the early days of colonisation was quarrying of gravel for road surfacing, known as 'blue metal'. The Prospect quarry is formed by an intrusion of dolerite rock into Ashfield Shale and local roads were paved with broken grey dolerite from Prospect Hill as early as the 1820s and a steady trade continued throughout the nineteenth century. In 1903, the Emu and Prospect Road Gravel and Metal Company was formed and acquired the rights to Prospect Hill. Through various changes of ownership, quarrying continued through the twentieth century until the early 2000s, when diminishing reserves led to the closure of the quarry and conversion of the site into a building development, containing light industrial, housing and open space.
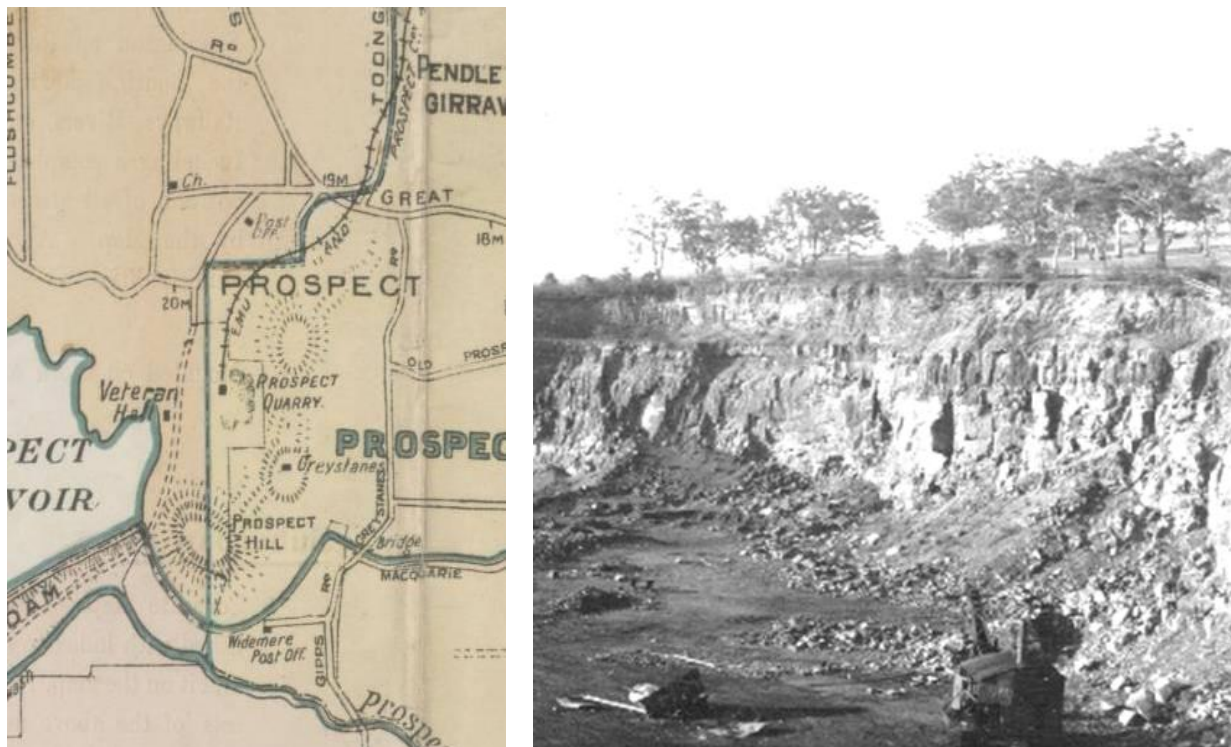


Figure 24. Prospect Quarry, shown on an early twentieth century map (left) and a typical quarry face (right). Source: Robinsons Map of Sydney Suburbs (Left) and Prospect Heritage Trust (right).

In 1923, in the suburb of Pendle Hill, George Bond's company, George A. Bond & Co opened the first cotton spinning mill in Australia. Operating originally in Redfern, in June 1920 Bond converted his enterprise into a public company. In the same year, bought Dunmore House in Wentworthville for his family residence and built his spinning mill in the open paddocks adjacent. This led to an increase of jobs within the area and thus several experienced cotton mill workers were brought out from England to help start up the mill and train local workers.

Figure 25. Granville—the famous 'Chesty Bond' logo, date unknown. Source: Albury City Collection Call No. ARM 01.263.

In the late 1920s, there were five hundred people employed at the mill, the majority being women. By the mid-1930s, it employed almost a thousand staff in the local area. The company thrived throughout World War II and expanded post-war. However, in the late 1980s, a combination of factors led to its purchase by Pacific Brands. By 2009, all manufacturing was moved offshore, and consequently, the mill in Wentworthville closed in 2010.

Lidcombe was an area which hosted mostly small industrial firms. Small metal fabrication works manufactured a range of products. Browns Australian Pump Works at Church Street, Lidcombe, was registered on 22 March 1921.[118] Its general office and showrooms were located in a two storeyed hall on John Street in the 1920s.[119] Hamilton & Co, of Samuel Street, Lidcombe was another small engineering firm. The founder, V. C. Hamilton had worked for Ritchie Brothers at Clyde and Purcell Engineering at Auburn. He commenced his works in Lidcombe in 1922, manufacturing turnstiles. His first order was for Water's grocery store in Lidcombe and other orders came from swimming pools.[120]

Waygood-Otis, which had originally imported lifts and escalators, opened a factory at Auburn after its amalgamation with Brand Brothers in 1923.[121] In 1928, A. E. Goodwin, a heavy engineering firm which produced railway locomotives, rolling stock and roadmaking machinery, moved its operation to Lidcombe. By 1941, it was manufacturing mobile cranes, steel pipes, hydraulic presses and pumps and steel framed buildings.[122] Industrial Steels Pty Ltd, was

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[118]    Registrar General—Companies Office, Registers of Finns, A. 0. 2/8551.
[119]    Auburn Council. *Liberty Plains*, 261.
[120]    SI Rolph, *I Was Born Lucky -A Family History of Vere and Emily Hamilton* (Blacktown: Hexagon Press, 1989), 57–60.
[121]    C Forster, 'Industrial Development in Australia 1920–1930' (thesis, Australian National University, 1959), 120.
[122]    SC Wayland, *Lidcombe and its Development as an Industrial Centre* (Lidcombe, NSW: Council of the Municipality of Lidcombe, 1941), 38–9.

operating at a works in Railway Parade, Lidcombe by 1941. They used special electric furnaces to produce high-class industrial steel.[123]

Jantzen (Australia) Ltd established a factory facing Parramatta Road between Mons & Ostend Streets in 1928, manufacturing swimwear in direct competition with local brand Speedo. Jantzen remained a notable manufacturer in this market until the 1970s.[124]



Figure 26. Poster advertisements for Jantzen Swimwear. Source: ANMM collection Reg #00044247.

The inter-war period saw a level of protectionism and stimulus to local manufacturing and many government contracts stipulated that local manufacturing was preferred. In 1922, Babcock and Wilcox established a plant at Regents Park to manufacture boilers, structural steel and accessories for power houses. The boom in electricity consumption made work for local factories, ensuring full order books for decades.[125] Associated General Electric (AGE) Industries Ltd set up a works at Lidcombe in 1926, manufacturing the electric motors used to drive trams. Within a short time, they had manufactured the largest electrical railway motors produced in the world so far. In 1930, the merger of Metropolitan Vickers Australia, the AGE Company and Ferguson Pail amalgamated production at Lidcombe.[126]

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[123] Wayland, *Lidcombe and its Development*, 44
[124] Kass, 'Lidcombe' *Dictionary of Sydney*.
[125] Forster, 'Industrial Development in Australia 1920–1930', 120
[126] *Express Newspaper for the Council of the Municipality of Lidcombe,* Lidcombe Gala Week, June 10 to 16, 1933, 37–9.

Throughout World War II, Lidcombe became a vital link in the network of factories producing military aircraft. Aluminium for the planes was produced at Alcan, Granville while the Beaufort bombers and Beaufighter fighter planes were assembled at the Chullora Railway Workshops. Australian Forge and Engineering Pty Ltd manufactured forgings of high-quality steel which were then further machined and incorporated into Pratt and Whitney Wasp engines manufactured by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation factory in Birnie Avenue, Lidcombe.[127]



Figure 27. Babcock & Wilcox factory at Regents Park in 1937. The Auburn Brickworks are visible in the background. Source: Milton Kent aerial views of Darlington, Regents Park and Waterloo; NSW State Archives.

### 3.5.10 Inhumations and institutions

Two places in the eastern part of Cumberland LGA have had an enduring impact upon their vicinity and upon Sydney generally, the Rookwood Necropolis and Lidcombe Hospital, both occupying extensive tracts of land in the eastern part of the now Cumberland LGA.

In the mid-nineteenth century, it was apparent that, with rapid population growth, the existing general cemetery at Devonshire Street (now Central Railway Station) would be quickly exhausted and, consequently, the government purchased land at Haslam's Creek to allow for a

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[127]   DP Mellor, *The Role of Science and Industry* (Canberra: Australian War Memorial, 1958), 384–391.

new and extensive cemetery to serve the city. The first burial occurred in 1867 and, by 1875, the Necropolis was well-developed, with paths, park-like plantings and small chapels serving the major denominations.

However, residents of nearby Haslams Creek felt that the association with the cemetery was unfortunate and petitioned for, and received, an official change of name of the suburb to 'Rookwood' in 1876. The cemetery also quickly became known by the new name and, by 1913, residents again petitioned for a new name for the suburb. The name 'Lidcombe', a portmanteau of the names of two former mayors, 'Lidbury' and 'Larcombe', was adopted on 1 January 1914.

Rookwood Cemetery was served by a rail spur from the main line from 1867 until 1948, with several stopping platforms and a terminal station within the cemetery grounds. After 1948, the platforms within the cemetery were demolished and the Rookwood Terminus building was sold and moved to Canberra in 1957, to be reconstructed as the All Saints Church.



Figure 28. Mortuary train at the Haslams Creek (Rookwood) Cemetery terminal circa 1867. Source: NSW State Archives.

On the western side of the cemetery, the New South Wales Government proposed to establish the Rookwood Boys Reformatory & Model Farm, where they would live in cottage homes and be taught farming. Several buildings were actually constructed in 1886 but were never occupied for this purpose, with the site being converted to an Asylum for the Aged and Infirm in 1892, with numerous substantial buildings erected over the ensuing three decades. In 1914, it was renamed the State Hospital and Asylum for Men and, in 1927, it became Lidcombe State Hospital and Home. At various stages, the grounds were used for cropping and for grazing animals as part of the general operation and as occupational therapies at the institution. In the 1930s, it was considered to be the largest institution of its kind in Australia, with more than 1500

men, the majority of whom were 'physically afflicted', accommodated on the site. The site operated as a hospital until 1997 when it became the Olympic Media Village. After 2007, the site was converted into a planned residential precinct named 'Botanica'.

Figure 29. Lidcombe Hospital in the 1930s. Source: NSW State Archives.

## 3.6   New faces, new places (1945–present)

### 3.6.1 The car and the house

Changes in transportation were critical to the spread of the suburbs. Sydney was at the forefront of such developments in Australia, with the advent of the railway as the dominant form of transport in nineteenth-century Sydney. The railway line superseded significant roads that initiated the processes that lead to the creations of suburbs in Western Sydney. This was particularly evident for areas such as Granville, Auburn and Lidcombe in contrast to the areas of Wentworthville, Westmead, Girraween and Pendle Hill. Although the areas further west had railway stations, they were hindered by the lack of services and distance to working opportunities. These areas were largely reliant on local roads and the use of motor transport to enable the infill of urbanisation between the town centres and transport networks.

The use of motor transport enabled the isolated semi-rural municipalities to be connected to the wider districts. Just as the railway and early roads enabled better access and thus facilitated development, the motor car enabled the development of these former rural areas. The area further west experienced an increase in population as a result. This had a large impact on the way suburbs were reshaped and organised. Proximity to the workplace was less important now.

The number of motor cars on the road had significantly increased by the 1960s. This increased use necessitated the tarring and concreting of roads to better handle the greater loads. Several roads were also widened and had their roadside kerbs redone. The Department of Main Roads had made it a priority to improve the road conditions following the post-war period. This was not only as a result of the increased usage of motor cars, but also provided work to men returning

from service to civilian life.[128] In a bid to attract newcomers to municipalities, in the late 1950s Councils ordered its road-making priorities to ensure that roads for bus services were prioritised so that buses could run where they were most needed.[129]

In areas further west, the lack of public transport was premised on the expectation of car ownership, even though 20 per cent of households in western Sydney were still without a car in 1971.[130]

The rise of the motor car presented planners with two related problems: how to get the people into the suburbs without congesting the existing main roads. The Department of Main Roads developed new routes to connect the main cross streets from Wentworthville to Smithfield Industrial area opened as the 'F4'. A section of this road between north Granville and Wentworthville opened in 1987.

The construction of now M4 motorway occurred in stages beginning from 1971. This radically altered transport pattern and initially took a great deal of pressure off Parramatta Road. The later privatisation of part of the M4 attracted a great deal of public opposition, and again drew traffic back to Parramatta Road as vehicles chose to avoid the toll charge at the section of the M4 between Auburn and Parramatta.[131]

The section of the M4 motorway between Parramatta and Homebush is now known as the New M4. This section of road was widened from three-lanes to four-lanes and was officially opened on the 16 July 2017 in an attempt to ease congestion of the road.

## 3.6.2 Post-War immigration

Of the 80 percent majority of inhabitants from Western Sydney that were Australian born and English speaking, these included children of Italian migrants who had settled here in the first two decades of the twentieth century. [132] In addition to British immigrants, the post-war migrant settlers were mainly from Malta and Italy. Other countries represented were Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Holland, Poland, the Ukraine, the former USSR and Yugoslavia. Many were attracted by the farming opportunities available in the rural areas, but others came because they had become familiar with the area while staying in the migrant hostels at Wallgrove and Villawood nearby.[133]

Although waves of post-war immigration brought a range of ethnically different groups who brought their own practices, customs, eating habits, ways of building and systems of belief, this process from Federation in 1901 to 1973 was restricted by the White Australia Policy.[134] This policy was abandoned in the 1970s with the Whitlam's Government introduction of Ethnic

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128   Department of Main Roads, *The Roadmakers*, 191.
129   Department of Main Roads, *The Roadmakers* 191.
130   P Spearritt and C Demarco, *Planning Sydney's Future* (Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 1988).
131   *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 June 1994, 5.
132   Broomham and Kass, 'Holroyd Heritage Study Thematic History' (unpublished report, 1992), 69.
133   Broomham and Kass, 'Holroyd Heritage Study', 69.
134   G Gwyther, 'Western Sydney' *Dictionary of Sydney* (2008), viewed 4 April 2019, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/western_sydney.

Communities Councils and with the Fraser Government adoption of cultural pluralism. This opened migration from Asian and non-European countries. The post-war migrants that settled in Australia experienced a period of economic growth and an economy with a need for labour following the building boom of the 1960s and increased demand for housing.[135]

In 1968, an agreement between the Australian and Turkish governments established an assisted migration program. The influx of new arrivals began slowly and grew steadily in the early 1970s, with Victoria receiving a large proportion followed by New South Wales. The Turkish immigrants arriving in Sydney were taken to the Villawood Migration Centres and shortly after assisted with accommodation and employment, settling in the vicinity of Auburn and surrounding suburbs.[136]

During the post-war period in this region, the Catholic population markedly increased from 19.2 to 36.3 per cent, while Anglicans decreased from about half to one third. The post-war immigration further diversified the suburbs of western Sydney within the Cumberland LGA. This is expressed through the variety of religious architecture constructed to administer the religious needs of the population. Lidcombe is distinguished by the Ukrainian church and community centre along Church Street which was built to serve the growing Ukrainian community in the 1960s.

Many people from the Middle East immigrated in the 1960s and 1970s and settled in the area, making it one of the major Arabic/Middle Eastern centres in Sydney vying only with Canterbury Bankstown LGA. Several mosques were built in the 1990s and the early 2000s, catering to the changing cultural demographic of the area. The Auburn Gallipoli Mosque is of particular note for its construction between 1986 and 1999 by a group of Turkish migrants. The works were primarily funded by the local Muslim community, who collected approximately $6,000,000 over thirteen years.

More recently, however, the eastern suburbs of the Cumberland LGA feature an increased South Korean and Chinese community. In 1991, the census showed that 47.2 % of the population of the Lidcombe municipality were born overseas, a 20% increase from the census of 1986. The largest groups came from Vietnam, followed by Lebanon and Turkey.[137]

Suburbs further west, such as Wentworthville, Westmead, Pendle Hill and Girraween, also show an increased population of residents born overseas. The census data from 2017 notes the highest percentage of residents born overseas originate from southern and central Asia, with Hinduism as the most prominent religious affiliation in the area, followed by Christianity.[138]

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[135] Gwyther, 'Western Sydney'.

[136] National Trust Australia, 'Auburn Gallipoli Mosque – National Trust' National Trust Australian (NSW), viewed 3 April 2019, https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/auburn-gallipoli-mosque.

[137] Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW, *The People of New South Wales—Statistics from the 1991 Census* (Sydney: Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW, 1994), 43–4.

[138] Australian Bureau of Statistics, 'Pendle Hill – Girraween', last updated 29 October 2018, accessed 3 April 2019, http://stat.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary&region=125041588&dataset=ABS _REGIONAL_ASGS2016&geoconcept=ASGS_2016&datasetASGS=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS201 6&datasetLGA=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2017&regionLGA=LGA_2017&regionASGS=ASGS_2016

From the post-war period to now, the Cumberland LGA has come alive as a region of dynamic development and social significance celebrated for its diverse cultural experiences, both in the secular and non-secular spheres. This is evident in the several local festivals held across the Cumberland LGA.Festivals that celebrate the cultural diversity include the Lunar New Year; Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights; the Autumn Colours Festival and Cherry Blossom Festival held at Auburn Botanical Gardens and the Ramadan Street Food Festival. The Ramadan Street Food Festival is a part of the Cumberland Local Festival. The month-long festival extends throughout May and celebrates the diverse culture of Cumberland with food stalls, Lebanese feasts, poetry, stories, songs and sketches by the Auburn Poets and Writers Group, as well as tours of the Sydney Murugan Temple in Mays Hill.[139]

### 3.6.3 Public gardens and green spaces

The Auburn Botanic Gardens, established in 1977, owe their origin to the Cumberland Planning Scheme (1946–1951) which set aside the area along the banks of the Duck River for recreation purposes. In July 1968, Eric Black, chief engineer of Auburn Council presented a detailed report to the council on proposing a mixture of sporting grounds and intensive cultivation of the Duck River parklands. Black envisaged a series of gardens representing national styles from around the world. This vision was later reduced, though some elements survived, including the Japanese gardens and lake, the formal gardens and reflection pool, and the different Australian habitats. The next crucial step was the Whitlam Government (1972–1975) pioneering federal government recognition of local government through direct funding. Through the regional development program, Auburn Council received funding in 1974 and 1975–76 to develop the gardens.

Other significant gardens such as the Holroyd Gardens Park and the Central Gardens Nature Reserve, Merrylands, had their origins as brick pits. The Central Gardens Nature Reserve in Merrylands was originally the Sherwood Brick and Tile Works established by Mr Arthur Todd Holroyd in c.1869. The site was acquired by the then Holroyd City Council in the 1970s and the former brick pit was redeveloped to form the Doug McLaren Lakes in 1974. The former Goodlet and Smith brick pits in Holroyd, which ceased operating in 1989, were also converted into recreational parklands in 2004. It was first known as Walpole Street Gardens and presently as Holroyd Gardens Park.[140]   Both these parks are now large open recreational spaces with a variety of notable elements such as playgrounds, picnic equipment, tennis courts, wildlife sanctuary (Central Gardens), outdoor educational spaces, significant revegetation and remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland.

Within these garden spaces, the now Cumberland LGA hosts several festivals. Notably, the Auburn Botanical Gardens host two important festivals each year, the Autumn Colours Festival in late May and the Cherry Blossom Festival in mid to late August.[141] The Autumn Colours

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[139]  Concrete Playground. 2019. 'Cumberland Local Festival'. Accessed via:
       https://concreteplayground.com/sydney/event/cumberland-local-festival-2019
[140] HLA-Envirosciences. 1995. *A Conservation Plan for the former Goodlet and Smith Brickworks, Merrylands.*
[141]  National Trust NSW branch. 'Auburn Botanical Gardens'
       https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/auburn-botanic-gardens/

Festival celebrates the natural beauty of Auburn Botanical Gardens at their peak in Autumn with musical and dance performance, foods stalls and guided tours through the park. The Cherry Blossom Festival is a ten-day festival that celebrates the Japanese cherry blossom season, with two Hanami ('flower viewing') weekends that include food trucks, cosplaying and other activities.

There are also several parks and reserves within the now Cumberland LGA, created to memorialise significant events and people associated with the local areas. Granville Memorial Park, Holroyd Gardens and Lidcombe Remembrance Park are some examples of these public memorial spaces which feature memorial statues, plaques, gardens and landscaping.

## 3.6.4 Quarter-acre blocks to blocks of flats

Western Sydney is largely comprised of moderately sized towns clustered around transport routes and interspersed with farm holdings and bush. The post-war period of the 1940s and 1950s saw a severe housing shortage, heightened by immigration and increased fertility rates. The post-war vision for western Sydney had been one of medium density surrounded by a green belt and connected by satellite cities.

This period saw an intensified suburban development that was a regulated process by local and state government authorities. The two main influences that affected the manner in which subdivisions were conducted were the introduction of the County of Cumberland Scheme and the creation of the Housing Commission. The County of Cumberland Scheme, which was gazetted in 1951, established planning controls over all land in the County of Cumberland. The pressure of the post-war urban growth was concerning; the scheme was intended to provide guidance and control of growth in the county. A notable feature was the famous 'Green Belt', an encircling ribbon of land which was to remain in rural use. As the City of Parramatta was identified as a growth centre, the Green Belt areas included land on either side of Marsden Road, Carlingford and a large portion of land from Toongabbie and Pendle Hill through to Model Farms (now Winston Hills).[142] The piercing of the Green Belt from 1959 onwards, due to the difficulties of putting utility services through the Green Belt, ensured a gradual but measured release of that land after 1960.

After the abolition of the Housing Board in the 1920s, State government interest in public housing was not seen again until the creation of the Homes for the Unemployed Trust in the 1930s, aimed at assisting the unemployed to house themselves. Ideas surrounding social welfare and the role of the state became politicised in the 1940s, with the passing of the *Housing Act* in 1941 and the establishment of the Housing Commission in 1942.[143]

The Housing Commission took over the role of the Trust in 1942 and commenced its own programme of works, providing housing on a broader basis than the earlier government schemes. The earliest Housing Commission estate was completed in Montgomery Avenue, Granville in December 1944. Housing Commission estates were also completed along Clyde and Blaxcell Streets, Oakleigh Avenue and Chiswick Road, South Granville. The Commission was very active across western Sydney, where most of its iconic schemes were built,

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[142]  D Winston, *Sydney's Great Experiment*, map (Sydney, 1957).
[143]  The Housing Commission of NSW, *Public Housing in Australia*, 195, 4.

incorporating new layouts and designs as well as mass-produced housing in its earliest years, in order to cater for the dire need for accommodation after the war.

As the population in Sydney has continued to expand to the 21st century, one of the larger housing trends has been an increased density of residential housing around employment centres and transport nodes.[144] Across most of the study area, the traditional quarter-acre block is still the dominant type of housing; however, in line with wider trends, apartment complexes are now commonly found in land zoned for mixed use and higher density residential uses adjacent to the railway corridor and in proximity to railway stations and town centres. Although regulated by local government planning regulations, this construction is driven by private developers, responding to State Government objectives for increased densities and supply of housing generally.

### 3.6.5 Major industries ups and downs

The post-WWII period for industry in the now Cumberland LGA is characterised by the progressive redundancy and eventual closure of virtually all of the industries that had been established in the district in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. From a strong ethos and government support for local manufacturing in the early twentieth century, the latter period saw an ever-increasing internationalisation of production, accompanied by commodification of consumer goods. The period was marked by the disappearance of steam as a motive power, the stabilisation and expansion of electrical technologies, the replacement of coal gas by natural gas and the widespread adoption of the motor vehicle both for goods transport and for domestic purposes. Aeroplanes and container ships changed Australia's relationship with international markets and increasing sophistication of telephones and computing devices changed the average person's approach to daily activities. Retail outlets concentrated into supermarkets and then, from the 1960s, shopping malls which encouraged access by private cars.

Clyde Engineering became Clyde Industries in the 1950s; it diversified and invested in a range of manufacturing entities in Australia and overseas and, in the 1960s and 1970s, wound down production at Clyde. The plant closed in 1972 and the site sold for redevelopment soon after. Neither Vale & Sons and Ritchie Bros survived the 1950s, victims of both obsolescence and overseas competition.

The Sydney Meat Preserving Company had boomed during both World Wars but canned meats ceased to be productive after the World War II. The business ceased operations on 31 July 1964 and the works at Auburn were put up for sale. The Michael Nairn & Co. (Aust) Ltd linoleum factory expanded and prospered into the 1960s but faltered in the 1970s. Production ceased in 1976 though the company continued as a distributor; the plant at Auburn was demolished in 1983.

The various brickworks in the now Cumberland LGA were all affected by the post-war expansion of available building products, from asbestos-concrete sheeting to aluminium siding, and their

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144    NSW Greater Sydney Commission, *Greater Sydney Regional Plan* (2018) viewed 12 April 2019, https://www.greater.sydney/metropolis-of-three-cities, 32.

clay pits were being heavily used. They progressively closed and their lands were converted for other uses including public gardens. The Prospect blue metal quarries continued operations into the 1990s but all production ceased by the 2000s, and the land was converted into residential and commercial development lands.

This story was repeated countless times across south-western Sydney, with the old manufacturing industries being replaced by warehouse and distribution centres or new manufacturing conducted in new buildings using new technologies. The removal of protective tariffs in the 1970s and 1980s was another notable factor, causing many local branches of international companies to close their local plant and concentrate on delivery of products from their overseas manufacturing plants. Babcock & Wilcox, AGE and other works closed during the 1970s at Regents Park. Alongside the closure of the RAAF No.2 Stores Depot (this and the RAN's depot at Zetland were replaced by the Defence National Services Distribution Centre (DNSDC) at Moorebank), this large area of land was quickly redeveloped as an industrial park, containing warehouses and distribution centres for a wide range of industries.

These industrial parks represented a new trend in land use, with industrial activities intentionally concentrated on large parcels of land that were able to be isolated from the adjacent residential areas and were close to important road and rail links. A large area at Yagoona that had survived as open paddocks into the 1960s was adopted by the Australian Wool Corporation as a warehouse site, concentrating all of the storage that had previously been centred at Pyrmont/Ultimo. This area subsequently boomed as an industrial distribution centre.

Further north, the closure of the Sydney Meat Preserving Works at Lidcombe provided greenfield opportunities and Tooheys Brewery acquired a large area, closing several breweries around the city to establish a mega-production facility. The surrounding lands were also quickly adopted by large warehousing firms. A similar area at Girraween, on the western side of the now Cumberland LGA has developed on former open paddocks. Even the NSW Railways have significantly altered their form of operations, with the Clyde Marshalling Yards (originally authorised to replace the Granville Yards for the interchange of south and west wagon traffic in 1891) now largely providing fleet maintenance services operated by commercial contractors in purpose-built facilities.

### 3.6.6 Aboriginal recognition and reconciliation

After World War II, the Aboriginal reserves continued to close. Housing was inadequate on the reserves and the government hoped to integrate Aboriginal people living in these fringe camps with the wider colonial society.[145]

However, the 1970s Aboriginal land rights movement saw the formation of a Lands and Rights Council and Aboriginal Lands Board in New South Wales. This period hallmarked the move away from policies of assimilation to self-determination.

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council, a non-statutory group, was established in 1977 as a specialist Aboriginal lobby on land rights. The group called for the full-scale recognition of

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145      DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 54–55.

Aboriginal land rights, the formation of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, and the abolition of the Aboriginal Lands Trust. The Council campaigned as a voluntary group for land rights until the passage of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NSW)* in 1983. They called for community ownership of land on the basis of traditional ownership rights, cultural heritage, and social and economic needs; and emphasised the aspirations of local communities to have direct control over the land they occupied.

The Council proposed that a land rights system in NSW would centre on local community councils, supported by Aboriginal Regional Land Councils and the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council. The Aboriginal Regional Land Councils were abolished in 2006, introducing a two-tier land council system.

Today, there are three Local Aboriginal Land Councils relevant to the Cumberland LGA: Derrubbin, Gandangara and Metropolitan. They have been involved in developing heritage protocols for the area.[146] Currently, Cumberland City Council is developing a Reconciliation Action Plan for the study area, to affirm its commitment to valuing and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples within the Cumberland community.[147]

**Significant dates**

There are a number of dates that remain significant for Aboriginal people today, including Australia Day, which many choose to refer to as Survival Day, on 26 January and National Sorry Day on 26 May, which commemorates and remembers the Stolen Generations. Specific to the Cumberland LGA is a commemoration ceremony at Prospect Hill, held on 3 May each year. This commemorates the first Aboriginal-European reconciliation at a meeting on that day in 1805 at Prospect Hill. This day has been celebrated since 2010.

**Significant places**

There are several significant Aboriginal heritage sites within the now Cumberland LGA including the Duck River, Prospect Hill, Prospect Creek, Pemulwuy and Old Prospect Road. These significant areas also contain sacred sites. One such sacred site in the Cumberland LGA was a meeting place between the Darug, Gandangara, Guringai and Tharawal people.[148] Various suburbs and streets throughout Cumberland's LGA have been given Darug and D'harawal names as part of Aboriginal recognition.

The Auburn area was once used by Aboriginal people as a marketplace for the exchange of goods, a site for ritual battles and a 'Law Place' for ceremonies. Close to Auburn, visitors can still see evidence of Aboriginal settlement in Millennium Park where four scar trees are preserved.[149]

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[146]   DECC, *The Western Sydney Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study*, 10.
[147]   Cumberland Council 'Aboriginal History'.
[148]   Cumberland Council 'Aboriginal History'.
[149]   Cumberland Council 'Aboriginal History'. Accessed via:
        https://www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/council/my-community/aboriginal-history

## 3.6.7 Events

**Granville Train Disaster**

The impact of the Granville Railway Disaster of 1977 and the massive loss of lives sustained led to the erection of a memorial monument and garden at the corner of Railway Parade and Carlton Street, Granville. The land on which the Granville Railway Disaster monument is placed was dedicated on 18 January 1997 by the State Rail Authority to the local council in commemoration of the eighty-three lives lost, the over 200 injured and to those associated in the rescue effort.

The incident occurred on 18 January 1977 when the 6.09am electric locomotive with 8 passenger carriages from Mount Victoria derailed on an 80km/h curve in a deep cutting at Granville. The electric locomotive collided into the supports of the Bold Street bridge above the tracks. The impact of the locomotive caused the road bridge to collapse atop carriages three and four. Constructed of concrete and steel, the bridge weighed approximately 470 tonnes and was not designed to be supported on only one set of trestles.[150]

A comprehensive rescue team of police, fire fighters, ambulance crews, doctors, nurses, engineers and railway workers assisted in the aftermath. The rescuers performed extraordinary feats of bravery to help some of the injured who were trapped in wrecked carriages. They worked continuously for up to 22 hours, often under the spray of hoses, as there was a danger of igniting gas leaking from the cylinders in the carriages that were part of the trains heating system. Throughout the rescue operation, there was a real danger that the rest of the bridge would collapse onto the track and those working in that area.

An inquiry headed by then NSW District Court chief judge, Justice James Staunton, in February 1977 revealed that the Bold Street bridge had been struck by derailments on the same section of track twice before; a locomotive in 1967 and a loaded coal wagon in 1975. The inquiry also found the track was in a very unsatisfactory condition having been poorly fastened and badly aligned causing the tracks to spread wider than standard gauge. This design issue caused the locomotive's front left wheel to drop inside the track, sending it careering into the bridge supports.

Recommendations of the inquiry highlighted issues surrounding track inspection and maintenance, as well as disaster management and psychological and pastoral care for emergency service workers. A $200-million railway improvement plan was immediately provided by the Wran Government.

The Granville train disaster remains the worst rail accident in Australian history based on loss of life. To this day, many people and families in the Blue Mountains, Parramatta and the local Granville area carry the physical and emotional scars of the crash. Each year a memorial service is held on the Bold Street bridge with 83 roses dropped in commemoration of the lives lost.

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[150]  Report on the Formal Investigation of an Accident on or about the Up Main Western Railway Line at Granville on 18th January, 1977, (Report), p.20 in NSW Parliamentary Papers (NSW PP), 1976-77-78. Vol.10, p.1118

Figure 30. Unknown photographer, c.1977 Granville Train Disaster. Source: Blue Mountains Local Library, Image No. PF 1472-3.



Figure 31. Unknown photographer, c.1977 Granville Train Disaster. Source: Blue Mountains Local Library, Image No. PF 1472-2.

# 4. Statutory context

Heritage places within the Cumberland LGA are subject to the following Acts:

- *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW);

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW)*;*

- *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW)*;* and

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A) Act 1979* (NSW)*.*

The statutory requirements of these Acts have been explained in more detail below.

## 4.1 *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW)

### 4.1.1 State Heritage Register

**Overview**

The *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) was established to conserve the environmental heritage of NSW. Specifically, the Act provides protection for items of State heritage significance that are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), as well as for unlisted archaeological relics.

Section 4 of the Act describes State heritage significance as:

> In relation to a place, building work, relic, movable object or precinct, means significance to the State in relation to the historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, natural or aesthetic value of the item.

Works proposed for items protected by the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) are approved by the Heritage Council of NSW or its delegates, as appropriate.

Proposed works and disturbing or destroying archaeological relics on places included on the SHR, requires approval under Section 63 of the Heritage Act, unless exemptions under Section 57 of the Act (to the requirement to obtain approval) apply.

The Heritage Act defines a 'relic' as any deposit, object or material evidence:

(a) that relates to the settlement of the <u>area</u> that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement; and

(b) that is of State or local heritage significance.

There are three types of Exemptions that apply under Section 57 of the Act:

10. Standard exemptions for all items on the State Heritage Register. Typical activities that are exempted include building maintenance, minor repairs, alterations to certain interiors or areas and change of use.

11. Site specific exemptions for an individual heritage item approved by the Minister on the recommendation of the Heritage Council. Site specific exemptions can only be for works which have no potential to materially affect the item (Standard Exemption 6). Site specific exemptions must be specifically identified as 'exemptions in a CMP endorsed by the Heritage Council or its delegate' and using wording agreed upon prior to Heritage Council endorsement.

12. Agency specific exemptions for activities related to sites listed on the SHR, to allow usual maintenance and other activities relating to railway operations.

Historical archaeological 'relics' on land not included on the SHR (as well as land on the SHR) are afforded protection under Heritage Act. Section 139[1] of the Heritage Act applies to land not included on the State Heritage Register and states that:

> A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.

**Cumberland Context**

There are several items in the Cumberland LGA which have been included on the State Heritage Register. These include:

- Electricity Substation No 167 (1790),

- Auburn Signal Box (01023),

- Granville Town Hall (01679),

- Crest Theatre (01664),

- Linnwood (01661),

- Lower Prospect Canal Reserve (01945),

- Pipehead, water supply canal and associated works I01629),

- Former Lidcombe Hospital Site (07144),

- Prospect Hill (01662),

- Prospect Reservoir and Surrounding Area (01370),

- Rookwood Cemetery or Necropolis (00718),

- No 1 Section Buildings, Relics and Place Rookwood (00718), and

- Essington (00204).

These items must be managed in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Heritage Act. In most instances, development approvals will be managed in isolation by the Heritage Division. In other cases, this approval will be co-managed via an Integrated Development between the Heritage Division and Cumberland City Council.

These assets must also be managed in accordance with the minimum standards specified under s 118 of the *Heritage Act 1977* and Part 3 of the *Heritage Regulation 2005*. The minimum standards of maintenance and repair of a listed item relate to the following:

(a) the protection of the listed item from damage or deterioration due to weather;

(b) the prevention of and the protection of the listed item from damage or destruction by fire;

(c) security (including fencing and surveillance measures) to prevent vandalism; and

(d) essential maintenance and repair (being maintenance and repair necessary to prevent serious or irreparable damage or destruction).

## 4.1.2 Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register

**Overview**

Section 170 of the Heritage Act requires that all Government departments or agencies must maintain a Heritage and Conservation Register, which includes all property and assets owned or in the care and control of the relevant department or agency that are of State or Local heritage significance. These items are subject to the requirements of 170A of the *Heritage Act 1977*. Specifically, the government agency is required to provide 14 days prior notice to the Heritage Council of NSW in the event that it:

(a) removes any item from its register under section 170, or

(b) transfers ownership of any item entered in its register, or

(c) ceases to occupy or demolishes any place, building or work entered in its register

**Cumberland Context**

The Cumberland LGA also contains a large number of Government agency owned assets which currently sit on a Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register (S170 Register). These agencies include:

- RailCorp,

- Ausgrid,

- Roads and Maritime Services,

- NSW Fire Brigades,

- NSW Police Force,

- Land and Housing Corporation,

- Department of Education, and

- Sydney Water.

The quality and accessibility of these S170 Registers varies across the Government Agencies as the requirements for keeping such registers is varied, and is monitored and enforced by the Heritage Division, of OEH. The exact number of S170 items within the LGA is therefore unclear.

## 4.2   *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW)

In addition to the range of other environmental and land management matters, the National Parks and Wildlife Act also includes provisions, which to apply to Aboriginal sites and relics. If Aboriginal cultural material is found during excavation activity on the site, the National Parks and Wildlife must be informed under Section 89A of the Act. Excavation would then require a permit issued under Section 90 of the Act.

## 4.3   *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW)

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, acknowledges the traditional ownership and occupation of the state of New South Wales by the Aboriginal people. This Act has established Aboriginal Land Councils at State, Local and Regional levels. The local Aboriginal Land Council should be notified of any works that may impact on Aboriginal heritage values.

## 4.4   *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* is an Act 'to institute a system of environmental planning and assessment for the State of New South Wales'. For environmental assessment purposes, the Act requires that a determining authority 'examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment with respect to the proposed works'. Heritage is an environmental element which must be considered.

Under the Act, an Environmental Planning Instrument (EPI) is made. An EPI can be a Local Environmental Plan (LEP), a Development Control Plan (DCP), a Regional Environmental Plan (REP), or a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). The applicable LEP's and DCP's for Cumberland City Council have been outlined below.

### 4.4.1 Local Environmental Plan

The Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Standard Instrument provides for the protection of environmental heritage, with items and areas of such heritage listed in Schedule 5 of the LEP. Specifically, Clause 5.10(1) of the LEP recognises the following objectives:

a. to conserve the environmental heritage of the area;

b. to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views;

c. to conserve archaeological sites; and

d. to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

These objectives specifically relate to the heritage places listed on Schedule 5 (Environmental Heritage) of the LEP. For the Cumberland LGA, environmental heritage is currently listed under the *Holroyd LEP 2013*, *Auburn LEP 2010* and the *Parramatta LEP 2011*.

The list provided in Schedule 5 was formed using background information such as heritage studies, inventories, other reports and previous listings. This background information is also utilised by Cumberland City Council to provide advice on development applications, assess proposed works to heritage items, and enable Council to promote and conserve Heritage within the LGA. The findings of this report will contribute towards a consolidated heritage list on Schedule 5 of the Cumberland LEP, including the former Holroyd, Auburn and Parramatta LGAs or their parts.

## 4.4.2 Development Control Plan

A Development Control Plan (DCP) provides detailed planning and design guidelines to support the planning controls in the LEP. These development controls are used as part of the Development Application process to ascertain if a proposal is in keeping with the desired planning outcomes of the LGA. In the case of Cumberland City Council, there are currently three DCPs in use being the *Auburn DCP 2010*, *Holroyd DCP 2013* and *Parramatta DCP 2011*. Each DCP addresses heritage in various ways, with Auburn integrating development controls within the wider planning themes while Holroyd and Parramatta include a specific heritage themed chapter. A new Cumberland DCP is currently in preparation that will generally retain the existing heritage controls.

## 4.4.3 State Environmental Planning Policy

Below is a list of SEPPs and deemed SEPPs that apply to the Cumberland LGA with regards to heritage matters. Depending on circumstances, the policy may be specifically applicable to the land that is the subject of a planning proposal. The SEPPs are available on the Department of Planning and Environment website. Relevant SEPPs include:

▪ State Environmental Planning Policy No.1 – Development Standards

▪ State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004

▪ State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008

▪ State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005

- State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011

# 5. Heritage management context

## 5.1 The value of heritage

A heritage place is an area, site or object, as large a whole region or landscape, or a small area such as a feature or building, which is valued by people for its natural and/or cultural heritage significance. Heritage can also be of an intangible nature, such as practices, expressions, knowledge and skills. Heritage is a form of inheritance, passed from one generation to the next. It encompasses many things – the way we live, our traditions, our history, our character and our values. A key part of this is the natural and cultural diversity of places and objects that help us to understand our past and our continuing impact on the environment.

An individual, group or community may want to protect heritage places for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- they are a link with the past, a reminder of key moments in lives, history or culture to learn from and reflect on;

- they have important values which should be handed on to future generations;

- they form part of a special identity for a place which help to define the character and meaning of a community;

- they bring benefits such as economic advantage;

- there are social, spiritual or ethical obligations to protect and manage that heritage; and

- there are legal obligations to do so contained in environmental protection, planning, indigenous sites or endangered species legislation.

When communities work together to identify and conserve heritage places, they can build stronger bonds for the future.

## 5.2 Opportunities for heritage places

Many heritage places are capable of absorbing some degree of change without impacting adversely on significance. This may be a small degree of change, such as a new colour scheme, repair works or minor alterations, or a large change such change of use, an extension or major development within the wider setting of a place. It may also include the provision of heritage interpretation, devices which create a link between people and place through the communication of information about the significance of that place. While there is always the risk that change may impact on cultural significance, a well developed and thought out solution can instead enhance the significance, meaning or connection of a place to the community. This can add social, cultural and economic value, thereby extending the lifespan and appreciation of the place.

## 5.3 Aboriginal heritage management

Over 7,000 sites have been recorded on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database for the Cumberland Plain sub-region, a vast area stretching from Sydney to the Blue Mountains that incorporates the Cumberland LGA. There are up to 20 site types that can be registered on AHIMS. The majority of sites in the Cumberland Plain are artefacts (open camp sites or isolated finds), followed by Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs), grinding grooves and other undefined site types. Other site types in western Sydney include stone quarries, non-human bone or organic material, shell and water holes.

Particular landforms are known to have been favoured locations for repeated or long-term Aboriginal occupation and are therefore more likely to retain archaeological evidence of past Aboriginal use. These landforms were favoured as they tend to be points in the landscape which offered advantages such as good vantages or access to resources. The DPIE specifies five landscape features which are likely to indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects:

- within 200m of waters;

- located within a sand dune system;

- located on a ridgetop, ridge line or headland;

- located within 200m below or above a cliff face; and

- within 20m of or in a cave, rock shelter, or a cave mouth.[151]

Within these areas, discrete high-density deposits may be present, possibly associated with micro-landforms and areas of localised elevation. In contrast, near low order streams and drainage lines there are usually fewer sites and those sites that are present tend to have lower artefact densities.

Regional archaeological studies suggest that site distribution is characterised by proximity to permanent water sources, and the presence of resources, both of which can be found in the general vicinity of the study area. The permanency of the Parramatta River to the north of the study area implies the presence of significant and complex archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of this important water body, but not necessarily within the Cumberland LGA.

The following observations can be made about the nature and survivability of the archaeological record within the Cumberland LGA, based on the landscape and land use context, and regional archaeological context:

- Aboriginal archaeological sites most likely to be prevalent throughout the Cumberland LGA are artefact sites (comprising artefact scatters and isolated finds). These sites can be identified across all landforms, even in disturbed contexts, but sites of increased density

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[151] Department of Environment, Climate Changes & Water, 'Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales', (Sydney, 2010), 13.

and complexity are typically found along watercourses. They typically appear as surface scatters of stone artefacts in areas where vegetation is limited, and ground surface visibility is increased. Such scatters of artefacts are often exposed by erosion, agricultural events such as ploughing, and the creation of informal, unsealed vehicle access tracks and walking paths. These sites are likely to be found in close proximity to the Parramatta River, as well as on the banks of minor watercourses including Duck River, Duck Creek, A'becketts Creek, Prospect Creek.

- Culturally-modified trees bear the marks of modification as a result of cutting bark from tree trunks. These sites are typically found across all landforms, but particularly in areas where remnant, old growth/mature vegetation survives. Such places may include State Forests, Reserves and local Parks within the Cumberland LGA, and may also include Rookwood Cemetery.

- Rockshelters, grinding grooves and art sites are typically associated with areas of underlying sandstone geology, in areas where sandstone rock outcrops form suitable surfaces for painting, engraving, or appropriate overhangs for occupation. The underlying geology of the Cumberland LGA is shale-based, and as such these types of sites are unlikely to be present within the LGA.

## 5.4   Development pressures

In recent years, the Cumberland LGA has become a significant locality in the Sydney region for its development potential. It has been identified as one of Sydney's key growth areas, particularly for suburbs located along the Main Western railway line and in areas located a short distance from Parramatta, which is now known as Sydney's second CBD. The Cumberland LGA is now, more than ever, under pressure to meet residential targets as set by the NSW Government, as well as to provide commercial development that will support jobs for and meet the needs of the local population. Such development will come in many forms, including new buildings or infrastructure, which will see the demolition of existing structures with an increase in height, scale and form for higher-density development or alterations and additions and as adaptive reuse, with the integration of contemporary standards such as provision of disability access, fire safety upgrades and environmental sustainability targets.

The pressure from the potential development will inevitably impact on heritage, either to individual heritage places and precincts, or to historic landscapes such as green spaces, streetscapes and street patterns. In some instances, this may have a positive impact, giving life, meaning and respect to a heritage place which was lacking previously. Alternatively, development may be incompatible and have a detrimental effect on the heritage values of that place. Therefore, as part of the development process, it is important that heritage places and streetscapes are appropriately and holistically managed so that their integrity is not compromised.

This chapter identifies key development pressures which are relevant to present day Cumberland LGA.

## 5.4.1 Population growth

Australia's population is projected to grow to nearly 40 million by 2055 (ABS 2016). This increase will be concentrated in the capital cities, in particular Sydney and Melbourne. By 2036, Sydney's population is projected to have grown from 212,550 (ABS 2016) to 315,000 people and the Cumberland LGA from 217,250 to 292,450 (ABS 2016). Population growth will affect all aspects of the environment, including heritage. The 2016 Australian State of the Environment report summarises development pressures as a result of population growth, stating:

> The growth of urban and coastal populations places pressure on existing cultural sites, particularly those in areas selected for new suburban development. Construction of new infrastructure (such as roads, airports, energy supply facilities and telecommunications networks) can affect both natural and cultural heritage. Communities are under pressure to allow residential densities to increase—freestanding dwellings are replaced by apartment blocks, open areas are subdivided and developed, and heritage items are demolished to make way for new projects.[152]

Typically, residential and commercial heritage items within the Cumberland LGA are low-scale structures located on small historic subdivisions. Their adaptability for medium to high-density development is poor, with a high potential for impacts to heritage setting, form and use. Further to this, landscape items can be encroached upon, risking impacting natural and cultural heritage either directly or indirectly.



Figure 32. Westmead, 'Allengreen' Federation Bungalow adjacent to medium-density development.



Figure 33. Wentworthville, substation site now occupied by medium-density development.

Alternatively, with the growth of urban population, this can sometimes create opportunities for heritage in the form of innovative conservation projects such as adaptions of historic buildings and precincts for new uses. In some cases, historic places which have been previously perceived as abandoned, underdeveloped and unutilised spaces are given a new life and level of appreciation within the community.[153] This is exemplified in the Cumberland LGA with the development of the Goodlet and Smith former brickworks in Merrylands for residential use and open green spaces, and potentially in the future with the proposed development of the Former

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[152]   Department of Environment and Energy, 'Heritage', accessed 24 May 2019, https://soe.environment.gov.au/theme/heritage.
[153]   Department of Environment and Energy, 'Heritage'.

Bonds site in Pendle Hill for residential use. Both of these redevelopment sites retain key elements of those former uses.


Figure 34. Merrylands, Goodlet & Smith.


Figure 35. Pendle Hill, Former Bonds site.

## 5.4.2 Town centre development

Cumberland City Council has five key/major town centres; Lidcombe, Auburn, Granville, Merrylands and Wentworthville. Each town centre is generally low-scale in nature with heritage buildings and other twentieth century constructions at up to three storeys in height. These centres generally contain a higher density of heritage items than other areas of the LGA. In recent years, pressure for residential and commercial development, amendments to LEP planning schemes, and planning proposals have allowed for medium to high density development to occur either within or on the borders of heritage places.


Figure 36. Auburn Town Centre, Baptist Church.


Figure 37. Lidcombe Town Centre, former Police Station.

## 5.4.3 Major projects

A key development pressure on the heritage values of the Cumberland LGA are major projects. Major projects come in two forms; large Development Applications (DA) or Planning Proposals. Council provided a summary list of large Development Applications which have been approved in the last 24 months (mostly in former Auburn and Parramatta Council areas) and a summary list of Planning Proposals at varying stages of the process for consideration in this report.

From this list, a series of trends are evident for major projects in the LGA:

- there is a dominance for medium to high-density residential development (providing between 20 and 1600 units) for large Development Applications;

- there is a lower trend towards non-residential developments for large Development Applications;

- planning proposals seek extremely high quantities of residential units, with up to 2,500 units identified on one particular proposal; and

- most residential and mixed-use developments are in close proximity to the existing town centres and along the railway line.

These trends will ultimately put development pressures on heritage places within the LGA, in particular those in key growth centres.

## 5.4.4 Costs of projects involving heritage

Sound management practices in the heritage system are ultimately determined by available resources, especially funding. Caring for a heritage place can involve additional costs to undertake works, such as restrictions on materials that may be used, the need for specialised tradespeople and/or equipment, ongoing maintenance and care, and the need to incorporate the heritage items into the redevelopment site and design. In this instance, perceived economic benefits may override the value of culture, seeing local heritage at risk of neglect or destruction in favour of new developments.[154]

Ultimately, the issue of who pays for heritage conservation (the owner, community or government) is contentious and is something which continues to apply to all heritage places today, including those in the Cumberland LGA.[155] Council and the New South Wales Government are attempting to alleviate the pressure by providing a series of funding and support options, which assists and encourages private owners of heritage listed properties to appropriately care for their properties. See Section 5.5 for further detail.

## 5.4.5 Land use zones

For each of the former LGA, Part 2 of the relevant LEP includes the land use zones (otherwise known as zoning) which is a process of dividing a municipality into zones where certain land uses are permitted or prohibited. The type of zones which falls upon an area can affect all aspects of the environment, including heritage.

The land use zones found across the three LEP's includes:

- R1 General Residential (Parramatta only)
- R2 Low Density Residential
- R3 Medium Density Residential

- IN2 Light Industrial
- IN3 Heavy Industrial (Parramatta only)

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154    Department of Environment and Energy, 'Heritage'.
155    Department of Environment and Energy, 'Heritage'.

- R4 High Density Residential
- B1 Neighbourhood Centre
- B2 Local Centre
- B3 Commercial Core (Parramatta only)
- B4 Mixed Use
- B5 Business Development
- B6 Enterprise Corridor
- B7 Business Park (Auburn only)
- IN1 General Industrial

- SP1 Special Activities (Parramatta and Auburn only)
- SP2 Infrastructure
- RE1 Public Recreation
- RE2 Private Recreation
- E2 Environmental Conservation
- E3 Environmental Management (Parramatta only)
- W1 Natural Waterways (Parramatta and Auburn only)
- W2 Recreational Waterways (Parramatta only).

Definitions for each vary slightly across the three LEPs, though their basic objectives remain largely the same.

An assessment of the land use zones against the heritage items listed across the three LEP's has been provided below, to exemplify which properties may be under development pressure as a result of the planning system. Maps of Land Use Zoning with heritage items overlaid have been provided in **Appendices A–C.** In particular, items within a 'B' or R4 or R3 zoning may be subject to pressures of redevelopment (on site or adjacent areas) as land owners seek to realise that potential.

Table 3. Auburn LEP 2010

| Map # | ID | Item Name | Zone | Comments |
|-------|-----|-----------|------|----------|
| 002 | I1 | Auburn Ambulance Station | B4 | A low-scale building subject to high density development in the vicinity. |
| | I19 | St Phillips Anglican Family Church | B4 | A low-scale building subject to high density development in the vicinity. |
| | I16 | Keighery Hotel | B4 | A low-scale building subject to high density development in the vicinity. |
| | I2 | Auburn Baptist Church | B4 | A low-scale building subject to high density development in the vicinity. |
| | I8 | Dwelling | R2 | Dwelling in the vicinity of a B4 area. |
| | I11 | Dwelling | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density development area. |
| | I21 | Uniting Church Auburn Parish and adjacent Victory Hall | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density development area. |
| 003 | A53 | Berala Railway Station | B2 | Railway station to subject site high density development in surrounds. This is common across Sydney. |

| Map # | ID | Item Name | Zone | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | I12 | Grey Box Reserve | R3 | Park within medium a density development area with potential for overshadowing impacts. |
| | I24 | Brush Box Street Trees | R3 | Park within medium a density development area with potential for overshadowing impacts. |
| 004 | I43 | Commercial Building | R3 | Two-storey building within a medium density development area. |
| 005 | I1790 | Electricity Substation No 167 | B6 | Low-scale building within an enterprize corridor. |
| | I30 | Fenton House | R2 | Single-storey dwelling on the border of an enterprize corridor. |
| | I28 | Dwelling | R2 | Single-storey dwelling on the border of an enterprize corridor. |
| | I33 | Lidcombe Police Station | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area which encourages high density residential development |
| | I39 | St Joachims Catholic Church, Parish Hall and School | B4 | Church site within mixed use area which encourages high density residential development |
| | I31 | Hotel Lidcombe | B4 | Three-storey hotel within mixed use area which encourages high density residential development |
| | I32 | Lidcombe Fire Station | B4 | Three-storey building within mixed use area which encourages high density residential development |
| | I34 | Lidcombe Post Office | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area which encourages high density residential development |
| | I37 | Railway Hotel | B4 | Two-storey hotel within mixed use area which encourages high density residential development |
| | I38 | Royal Oak Hotel | B4 | Two-storey hotel within mixed use area which encourages high density residential development |

Table 4. Holroyd LEP 2013

| Map # | ID | Item Name | Zone | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 004 | I1 | "Targo Mahal", Federation bungalow | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |

| Map # | ID | Item Name | Zone | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | I101 | St Edna's Church Hall (inter-war hall, circa 1929) | B2 | A low-scale building within Local Centre. |
|  | I103 | Portico Park | B2 | Park within Local Centre. |
|  | I93 | Former Bonds Bobbin Mill facade | R4 | A low-scale industrial building within a high density residential area. |
|  | I95 | "Ashwood House", Inter-war Georgian Revival residence | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
|  | A7 + I109 | Bonds administrative building, storage building, cutting room and cotton bale stores | R4, B2 and RE1 | Former industrial site within high density residential area. |
|  | I99 | "Rosedale", late Victorian cottage/ Cumberland Model Farms Estate | R3 | A low-scale site within a medium density residential area. |
| 005 | I131 | Inter-war cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
|  | I133 | Federation period residence | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
|  | I108 | Former post office, circa 1926 | B2 | A low-scale building within Local Centre. |
|  | I135 | Federation cottage | RE1 | A low-scale building adjacent to high density residential area. |
|  | I143 | "Dalremos", Federation/Queen Anne bungalow | R3 | A low-scale building building within a medium density residential area. |
|  | I144 | Federation/Queen Anne bungalow | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
|  | I122 | Inter-war bungalow | R2 | A low-scale building adjacent to a high density residential area. |
|  | I123 | Inter-war bungalow | R2 | A low-scale building adjacent to a high density residential area. |
|  | I124 | Inter-war bungalow | R2 | A low-scale building adjacent to a high density residential area. |
| 006 | I80 | Memorial reserve, historic memorial and cannon | R4 | Park within a high density residential area. |
|  | I61 | Former Council Chambers, circa 1914 | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |

| Map # | ID | Item Name | Zone | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | I78 | Federation period (Art Nouveau detailing) residence | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I45 | Fibro and weatherboard cottage, circa 1938–1946 | R4 | A low-scale building within a low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I82 | Late Victorian cottage | R2 | A low-scale building adjacent to a high density residential area. |
| 007 | I01661 | "Linnwood" | R2 and R3 | Includes one section of medium density residential area within the SHR item. Adjacent to high density residential area. |
| 008 | I142 | Inter-war bungalow | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I151 | Inter-war bungalow | R4 | A low-scale building within a low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I155 | Federation residence | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I163 | Federation period cottage | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I164 | Attached residence | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I165 | Attached residence | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I166 | Attached residence | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I145 | "Allengreen", Federation bungalow | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I60 | "Hampden", Federation period cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| 009 | I67 | Merrylands Uniting Church, inter-war church, circa 1928 | B4 | Low-scale building with in a mixed use / town centre area. |
| | I68 | Electrical substation | B4 | Low-scale building with in a mixed use / town centre area. |
| | I72 | Baby health care centre, circa 1947 | B4 | Low-scale building with in a mixed use / town centre area. |
| | I79 | Federation period cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I31 | Federation/Queen Anne cottage | R3 | A single-storey dwelling within a medium density residential area. |

| Map # | ID | Item Name | Zone | Comments |
|-------|-----|-----------|------|----------|
| | I33 | "Kelvin", Federation/Queen Anne bungalow | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I34 | Federation bungalow | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I46 | "Myrnaville", late Victorian period cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I47 | Late Victorian cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I37 | Electricity substation | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |

Table 5. Parramatta LEP 2011

| Map # | ID | Item Name | Zone | Comments |
|-------|-----|-----------|------|----------|
| 006 | I224 | House | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I239 | House | R4 | A low-scale building within a high density residential area. |
| | I227 | St Mary's Anglican Church Group | B2 | A low-scale building within a local centre. |
| | I228 | Guildford Fire Station | B4 | A low-scale building within a mixed use area |
| | I229 | Guildford Shop Group | B2 | A low-scale building within a local centre. |
| | I321 | Cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| 007 | I225 | Wingello | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I226 | Cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I219 | Bolton Street Group | R3 | A low-scale building group within a medium density residential area. |
| | I234 | Cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I235 | Catherine | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I236 | House | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |
| | I231 | House | R2 | Adjacent to |

| Map # | ID | Item Name | Zone | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 010 | I167 | Wendover | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I168 | Single storey residence | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I166 | Single storey residence | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I131 | Inter-war cottage | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I134 | Federation period cottage | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I01679 | Granville Town Hall | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I97 | Nallabrae | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I170 | Conjoined residences | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I171 | Conjoined residences | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I169 | Conjoined residences | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I147 | Inter-war bungalow | B4 | A low-scale building within mixed use area. |
| | I173 | Young's Buildings | B2 | A low-scale building within local centre. |
| | I174 | Royal Hotel | B2 | A low-scale building within local centre. |
| | I175 | Chateau Blanc | B2 | A low-scale building within local centre. |
| | I177 | Shops | B2 | A low-scale building within local centre. |
| | I214 | Conjoined residences | B6 | A low-scale building within enterprise corridor. |
| | I215 | Single storey residence | B6 | A low-scale building within enterprise corridor. |
| 011 | I152 | Granville RSL Club | R4 | A large but low-scale commercial building within a high density residential area. |
| | I205 | William Street Cottages Group | R4 | A low-scale cottage within a high density residential area. |
| | I609 | Stone cottage | R3 | A low-scale building within a medium density residential area. |

## 5.5  Funding and support

The New South Wales Government and Cumberland City Council offer a range of funding and support in the form of grants and awards for heritage projects in the Cumberland LGA.

### 5.5.1 Cumberland City Council

*Heritage Rebate Program*

The Cumberland Local Heritage Rebate Program is an annual activity which assists and encourages private owners of heritage listed properties, and of properties within listed heritage conservation areas, to undertake positive works that will improve their overall appearance. It recognises the additional costs that can be involved in undertaking works to heritage items or properties which would not otherwise arise with a contemporary site and for works that will support or enhance the heritage value of the item. The Rebate Program is part of a wider Council effort to generate greater interest in the history and heritage of the area by the community.

Eligible projects include those which involve repair or maintenance works to privately owned heritage properties, as well as reinstatement of missing elements. Eligible projects are to be located on the exterior of the building, including front fences, verandahs, windows / stained glass, roofing and decorative details.

The current annual total Council budget for the Program is $50,000. Each year the level of rebate funding allocation per application is limited to a maximum of $4,000, with applicants required to cover at least 50% of the project cost. The applicant has up to 12 months to complete the project.

*Local Heritage Awards*

The Cumberland Local Heritage Awards seeks to recognise the work undertaken by owners of heritage properties, to involve and educate school children about local history and heritage, and to promote the value and benefit of heritage to the local community. Run annually, there are currently six categories for the awards including:

1.  Best Maintained Heritage Property,

2.  Restoration and Development (including adaptive reuse),

3.  HistoResearch: researching our local history,

4.  Keeper of the Stone (children's heritage award),

5.  Writing Competition, and

6.  Artwork Competition.

### 5.5.2 New South Wales Government

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage offers a range of grants for local and state significant heritage places.

*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants*

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Grants are intended to help support connection to Country. The category is for:

- improving knowledge and understanding of items by developing conservation management documents for Aboriginal cultural heritage nominated for or gazetted as Aboriginal Places or listed on the State Heritage Register;

- doing works within a conservation management document to conserve and protect items of Aboriginal cultural heritage that are gazetted as Aboriginal Places or listed on the State Heritage Register; and

- increasing understanding, respect, and celebration of and cultural participation in Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Funding opportunities include:

- a maximum of $20,000 (excluding GST) for conservation management documents (Plans of Management and Conservation Management Plans or Strategies);

- a minimum of $20,000 (excluding GST) and maximum of $70,000 (excluding GST) for activities and works identified in a finalised heritage management document or tool; and

- a minimum of $10,000 (excluding GST) and maximum of $50,000 (excluding GST) for cultural participation projects that engage the wider community to understand, celebrate and participate in Aboriginal cultural heritage.

*Caring for State Heritage Grants*

The Caring for State Heritage Grants category provides financial incentives from the New South Wales Government to owners, managers or custodians of State Heritage Register heritage items to support better management, maintenance, conservation and activation of State Heritage Register listed items.

Funding opportunities include:

- a maximum of $20,000 (excluding GST) to assist funding conservation management documents; and

- a minimum of $20,000 (excluding GST) and maximum of $150,000 (excluding GST) for use over two financial years for physical conservation works, activation, maintenance and compliance works.

*Community Heritage Grants*

The community heritage grants category focuses on enabling local councils and communities to identify, conserve, interpret and promote heritage.

Funding opportunities include:

- a minimum of $10,000 (excluding GST) and maximum of $50,000 (excluding GST) for Community Engagement Projects dedicated to the celebration and promotion of heritage;

- a minimum of $10,000 (excluding GST) and maximum of $40,000 (excluding GST) for Interpretation Projects concerning an item on the State Heritage Register;

- a minimum of $10,000 (excluding GST) and maximum of $60,000 (excluding GST) for Local Government Heritage Studies;

- a maximum of $10,000 (excluding GST) for Small Heritage Grants Programs to conserve local heritage; and

- a maximum of $10,000 (excluding GST) to support Local Heritage Advisor Services.

*State Heritage Register Emergency Works Grants*

The purpose of this grant category is to support the protection or repairs to State Heritage Register Listed items or items under an Interim Heritage Order that have been damaged by unexpected events (such as an extreme storm or accident) and where insurance does not cover this cost.

Funding for this grant includes a minimum of $1,000 (excluding GST) and a maximum of $10,000 (excluding GST) in emergency works.

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# Appendix A. Auburn LEP 2010 land zoning maps

*Note: This section only includes land zoning maps for the portion of land within the Cumberland LGA.*

Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010

Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_001

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| B7 | Business Park |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP1 | Special Activities |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| W1 | Natural Waterways |
| DM | Deferred Matter |
| MD | SEPP (Major Development) 2005 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 25/05/2010 © Land and Property Information (LPI)

Heritage Items

**Drawn by:** Alexander Murphy
**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 5 March 2020

0   100   200   300   400   500
Metres

PARRAMATTA LGA

I148
I150
I152
I109
A50

Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_002

Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| B7 | Business Park |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP1 | Special Activities |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| W1 | Natural Waterways |
| DM | Deferred Matters |
| MD | SEPP (Major Development Project) 2005 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 07/09/2017 © Land and Property Information (LPI)

Heritage Items

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Checked by: Corinne Softley
Date: 5 March 2020

**Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010**

Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_004

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| B7 | Business Park |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP1 | Special Activities |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| W1 | Natural Waterways |
| DM | Deferred Matter |
| SSP | SEPP (State Significant Precincts) 2005 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 23/04/2018 © Spatial Services

Heritage Items

**Drawn by:** Alexander Murphy
**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 5 March 2020

0 100 200 300 400 500
Metres

Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010

Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_006

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| B7 | Business Park |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP1 | Special Activities |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| W1 | Natural Waterways |
| DM | Deferred matters |
| MD | SEPP (Major Development) 2005 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 05/12/2014 © Land and Property Information (LPI)

Heritage Items

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Checked by: Corinne Softley
Date: 5 March 2020

0  100  200  300  400  500
Metres

**Auburn Local Environmental Plan 2010**

Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_008

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| B7 | Business Park |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP1 | Special Activities |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| W1 | Natural Waterways |
| DM | Deferred Matter |
| MD | SEPP (Major Development) 2005 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 25/05/2010 © Land and Property Information (LPI)

Heritage Items

**Drawn by:** Alexander Murphy
**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 5 March 2020

0  100  200  300  400  500
Metres

C07144

A00718

I36

BANKSTOWN
LGA

# Appendix B. Parramatta LEP 2011 land zoning maps

*Note: This section only includes land zoning maps for the portion of land within the Cumberland LGA.*

**Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011**

Land Zoning Map-Sheet LZN_006

**Zone**

- B1 Neighbourhood Centre
- B2 Local Centre
- B3 Commercial Core
- B4 Mixed Use
- B5 Business Development
- B6 Enterprise Corridor
- E2 Environmental Conservation
- E3 Environmental Management
- IN1 General Industrial
- IN2 Light Industrial
- IN3 Heavy Industrial
- R1 General Residential
- R2 Low Density Residential
- R3 Medium Density Residential
- R4 High Density Residential
- RE1 Public Recreation
- RE2 Private Recreation
- SP1 Special Activities
- SP2 Infrastructure
- W1 Natural Waterways
- W2 Recreational Waterways

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 25/03/2014 © Parramatta City Council

Heritage Items

EXTENT
HERITAGE ADVISORS

**Drawn by:** Alexander Murphy
**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 6 March 2020

0        500
Metres

Holroyd LGA

MERRYLANDS

GUILDFORD

I71, I72, I74, I73, I315, I314, I319, I243, I242, I244, I651, I240, I229, I228, I227, I224, I234, I239, I233, I44, I32, I43, I39, I320, I321

**Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011**

Land Zoning Map-Sheet LZN_007

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B3 | Commercial Core |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B5 | Business Development |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| E3 | Environmental Management |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| IN3 | Heavy Industrial |
| R1 | General Residential |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP1 | Special Activities |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| W1 | Natural Waterways |
| W2 | Recreational Waterways |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 25/03/2014 © Parramatta City Council

Heritage Items

**EXTENT**
HERITAGE ADVISORS

**Drawn by:** Alexander Murphy
**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 6 March 2020

0   100   200   300   400   500
Metres

Holroyd LGA

Fairfield LGA

Bankstown LGA

GUILDFORD

I01629
I44
I225
I239
I234
I238
I32
I651
I223
I219
I235
I226
I231
I223
I236
I223
I223
I217
I223

Land Zoning Map-Sheet LZN_011

**Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011**

**Zone**

- B1 Neighbourhood Centre
- B2 Local Centre
- B3 Commercial Core
- B4 Mixed Use
- B5 Business Development
- B6 Enterprise Corridor
- E2 Environmental Conservation
- E3 Environmental Management
- IN1 General Industrial
- IN2 Light Industrial
- IN3 Heavy Industrial
- R1 General Residential
- R2 Low Density Residential
- R3 Medium Density Residential
- R4 High Density Residential
- RE1 Public Recreation
- RE2 Private Recreation
- SP1 Special Activities
- SP2 Infrastructure
- W1 Natural Waterways
- W2 Recreational Waterways

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 25/03/2014 © Parramatta City Council

Heritage Items

**Drawn by:** Alexander Murphy
**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 6 March 2020

0 100 200 300 400 500

Metres

**EXTENT**
HERITAGE ADVISORS
TO AUSTRALIA AND
THE ASIA PACIFIC

**Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011**

Land Zoning Map-Sheet LZN_012

**Zone**

- B1 Neighbourhood Centre
- B2 Local Centre
- B3 Commercial Core
- B4 Mixed Use
- B5 Business Development
- B6 Enterprise Corridor
- E2 Environmental Conservation
- E3 Environmental Management
- IN1 General Industrial
- IN2 Light Industrial
- IN3 Heavy Industrial
- R1 General Residential
- R2 Low Density Residential
- R3 Medium Density Residential
- R4 High Density Residential
- RE1 Public Recreation
- RE2 Private Recreation
- SP1 Special Activities
- SP2 Infrastructure
- W1 Natural Waterways
- W2 Recreational Waterways

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 25/03/2014 © Parramatta City Council

Heritage Items

**EXTENT**
HERITAGE ADVISORS
Drawn by: Alexander Murphy
Checked by: Corinne Softley
Date: 6 March 2020

0 100 200 300 400 500
Metres

I221  I601  I3  I601  I608  I604  I3  I3  I3  I602  I606  I34  I223  A59

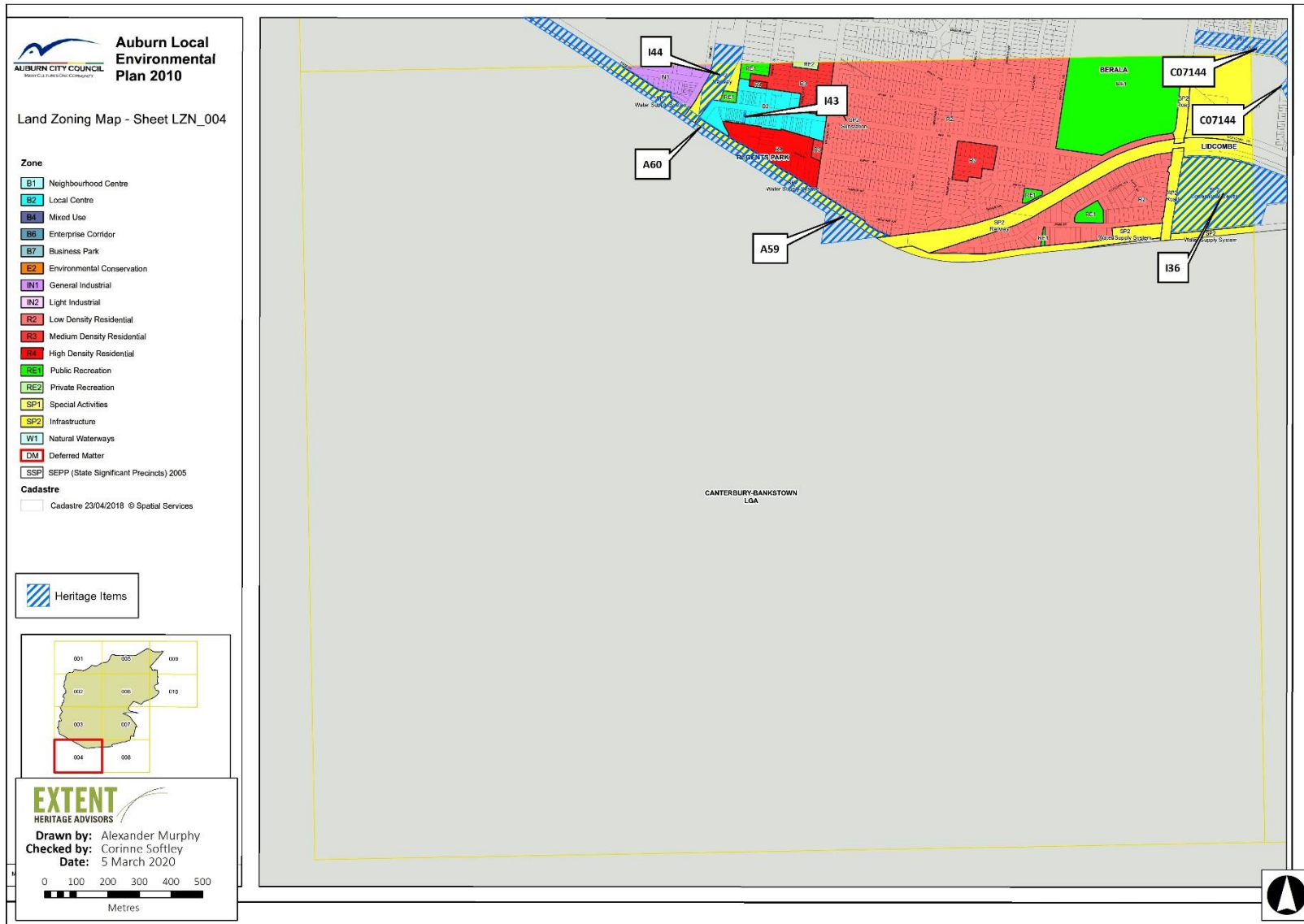GUILDFORD  SOUTH GRANVILLE  CHESTER HILL  Auburn LGA  Bankstown LGA
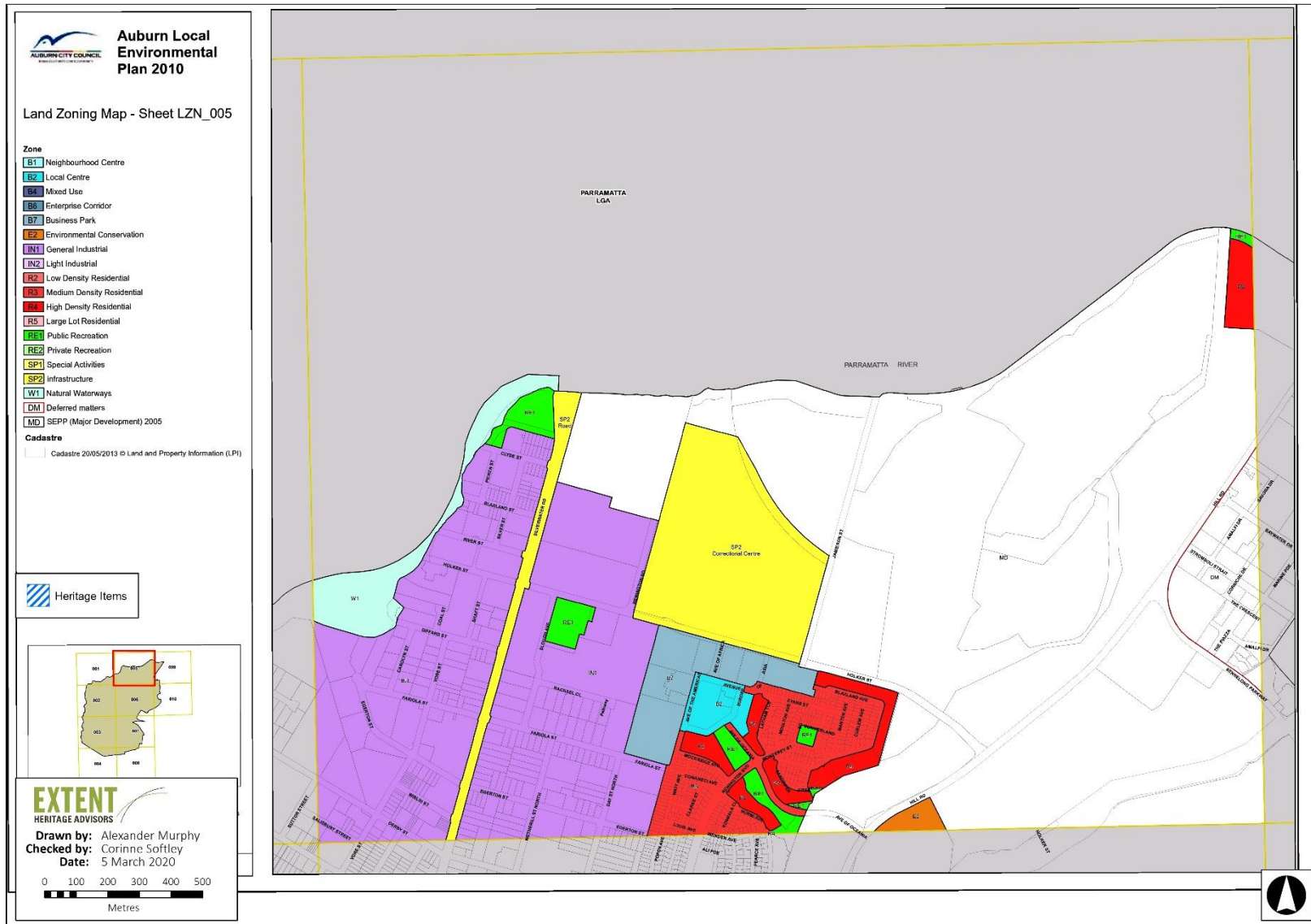
# Appendix C. Holroyd LEP 2013 land zoning maps

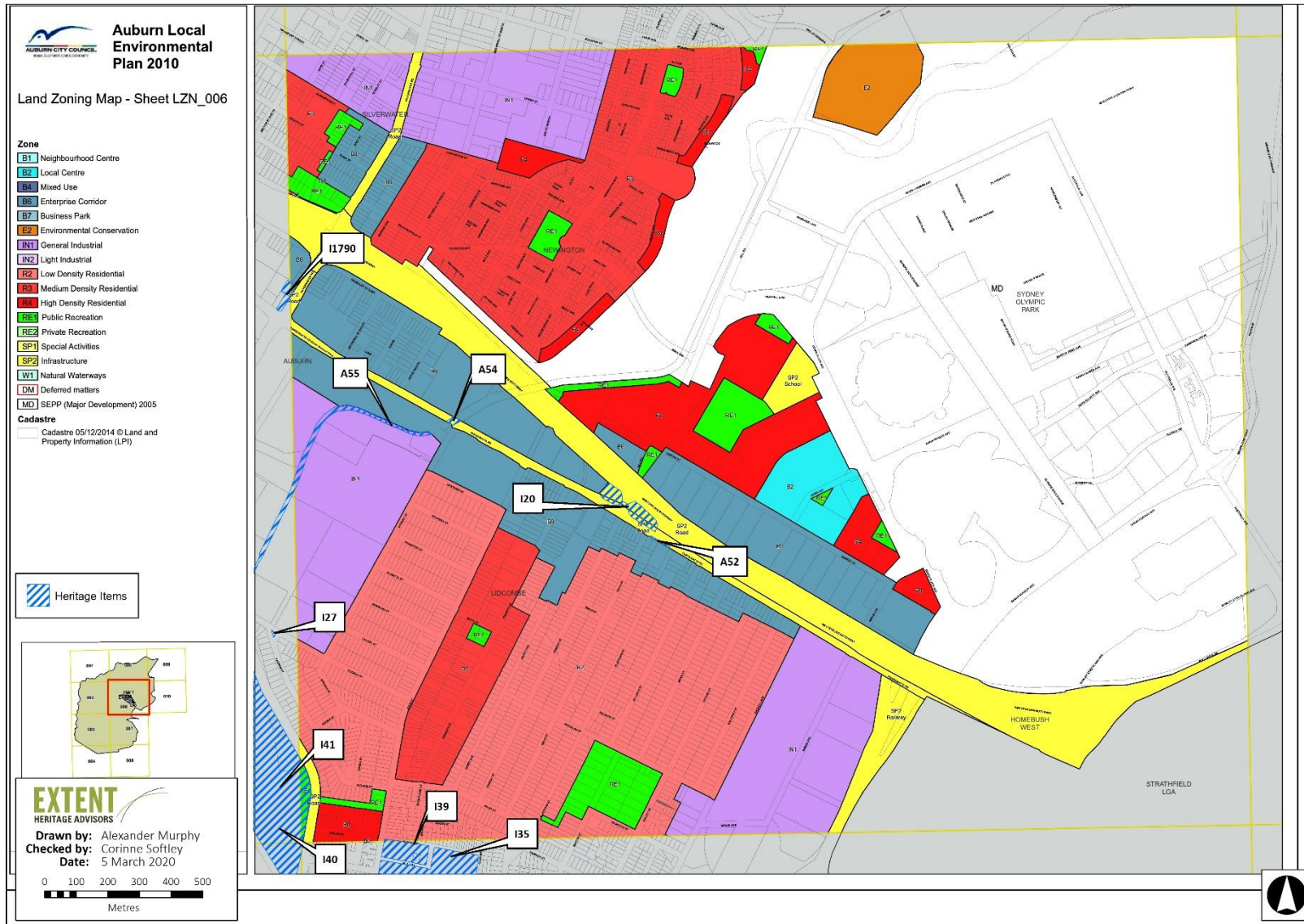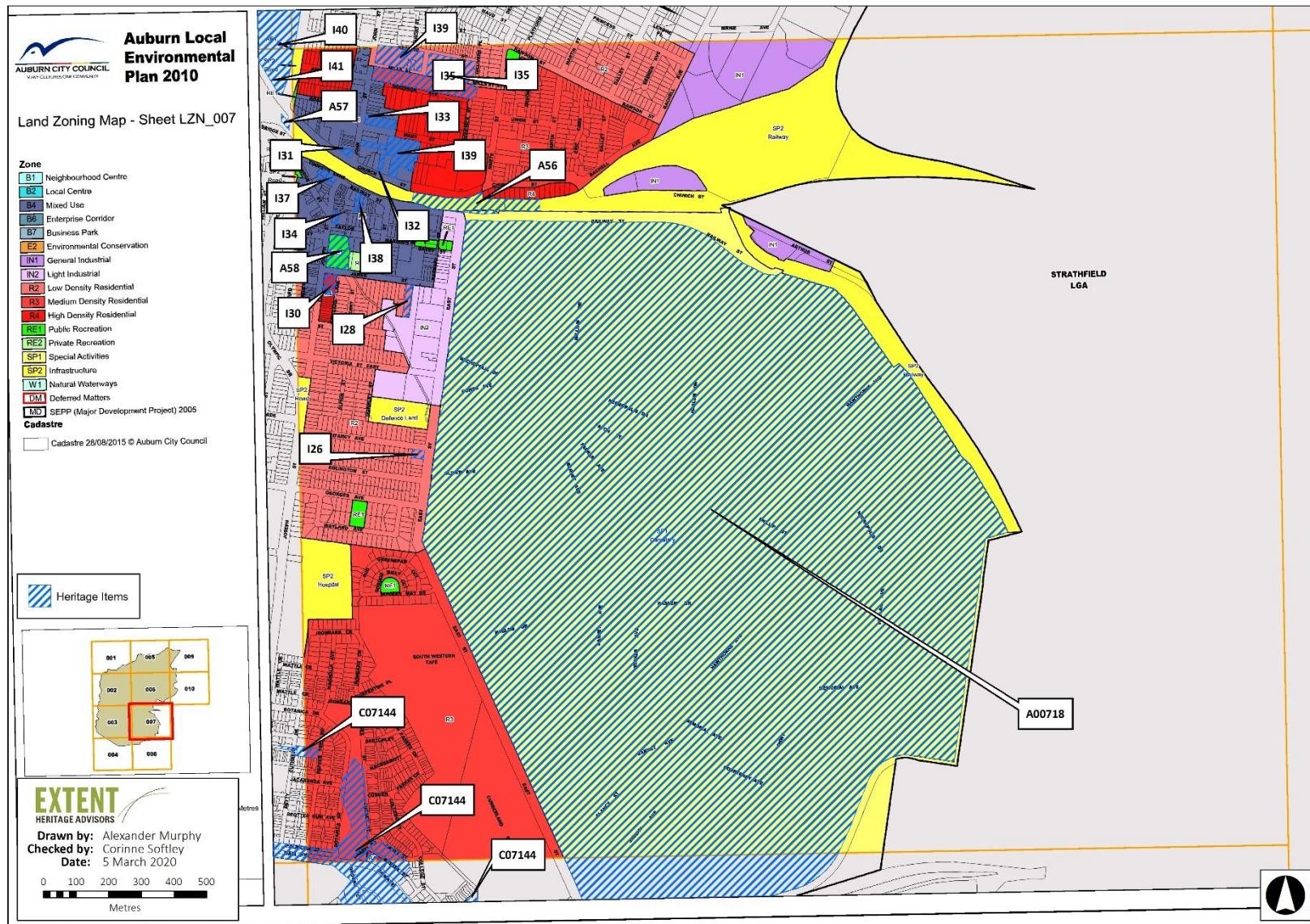*Note: This section only includes land zoning maps for the portion of land within the Cumberland LGA.*

Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013

Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_001

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B5 | Business Development |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| UL | Unzoned Land |
| MD | SEPP (Major Development) 2005 |
| WSE | SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 |

**Cadastre**
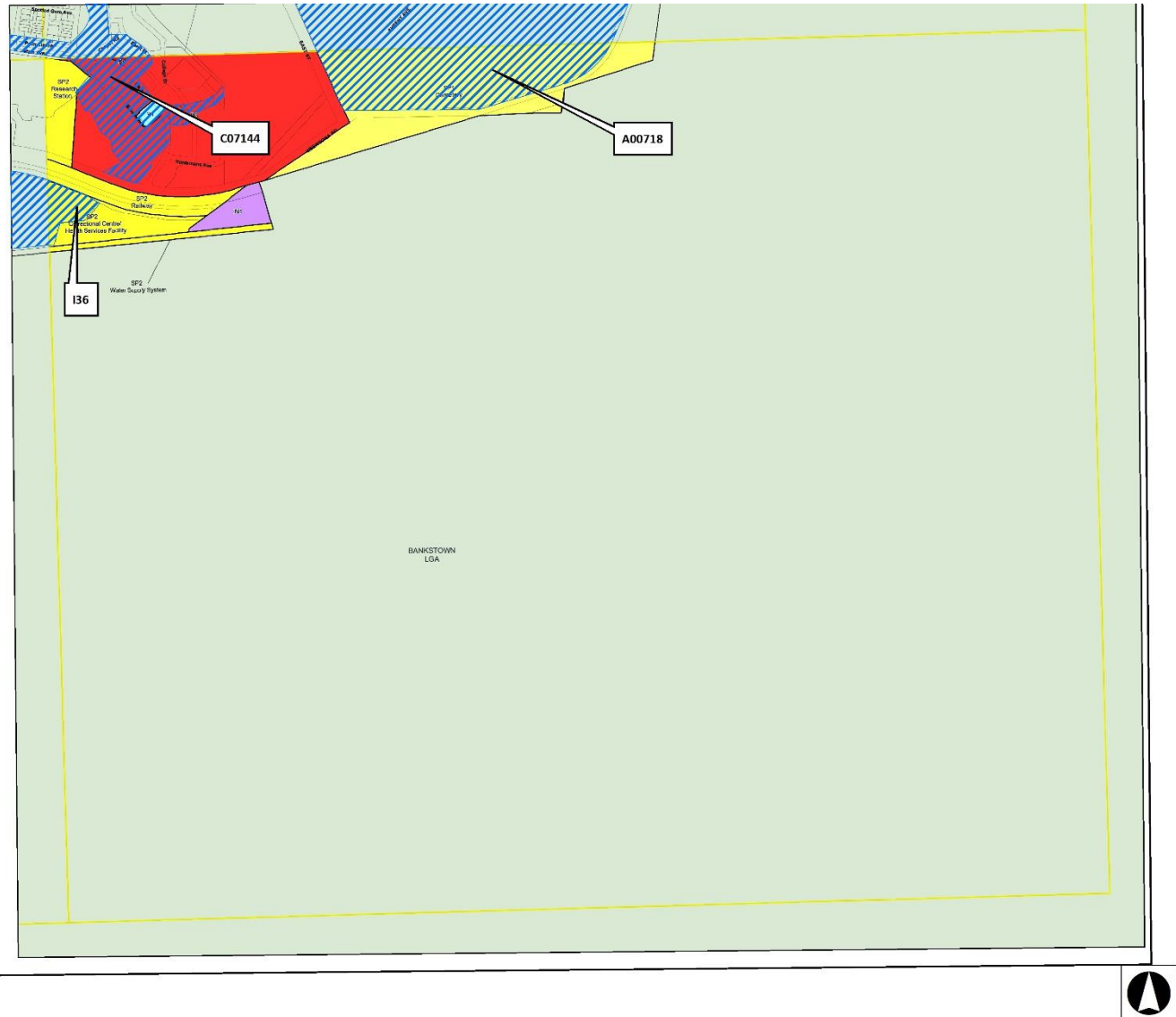
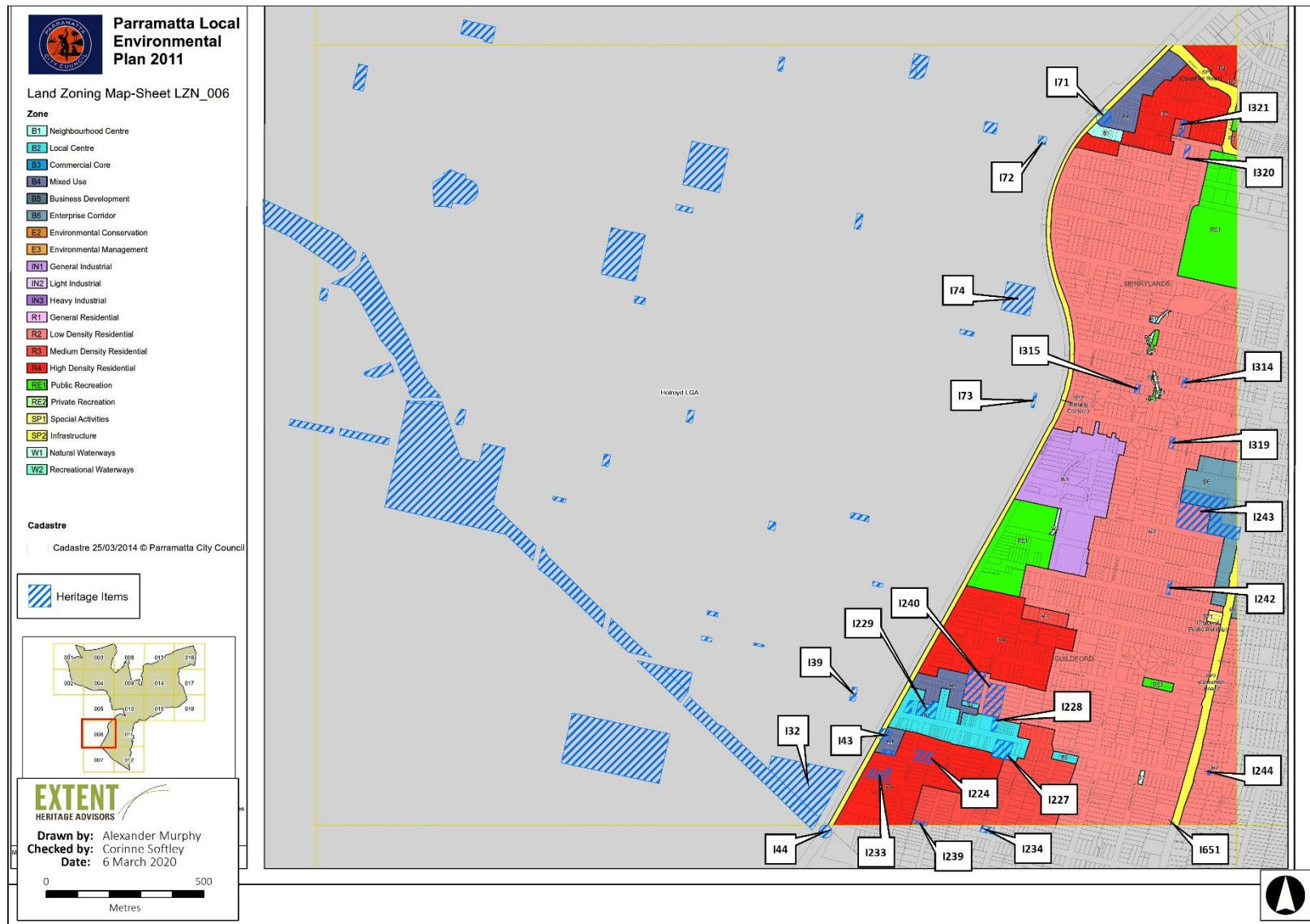Cadastre 24/11/2012 © Land and Property Information (LPI)

Heritage Items

Drawn by: Alexander Murphy
Checked by: Corinne Softley
Date: 6 March 2020

0 100 200 300 400 500
Metres

BLACKTOWN LGA

TOONGABBIE

GIRRAWEEN

GREYSTANES

PEMULWUY

Land Zoning Map
Sheet LZN_002

**Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013**

**Zone**

| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B5 | Business Development |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| UL | Unzoned Land |
| SS | SEPP (State Significant) 2005 |
| WSE | SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 07/07/2017 © Cumberland Council

Heritage Items

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**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 6 March 2020

0    100   200   300   400   500
Metres

Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_003

Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B5 | Business Development |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| UL | Unzoned Land |
| MD | SEPP (Major Development) 2005 |
| WSE | SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 24/11/2012 © Land and Property Information (LPI)

Heritage Items

Drawn by: Alexander Murphy
Checked by: Corinne Softley
Date: 6 March 2020

0  100  200  300  400  500
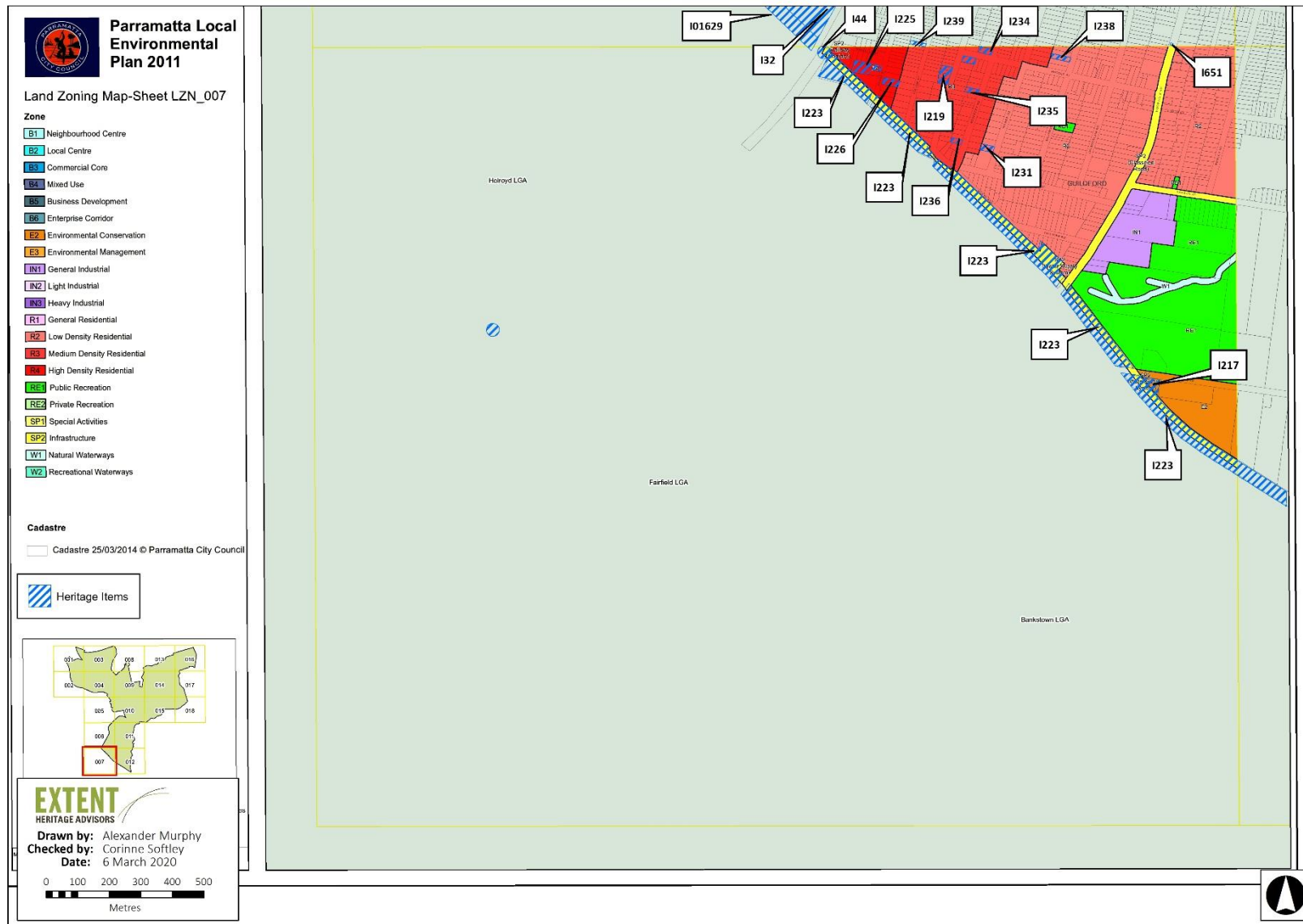Metres

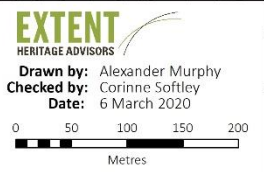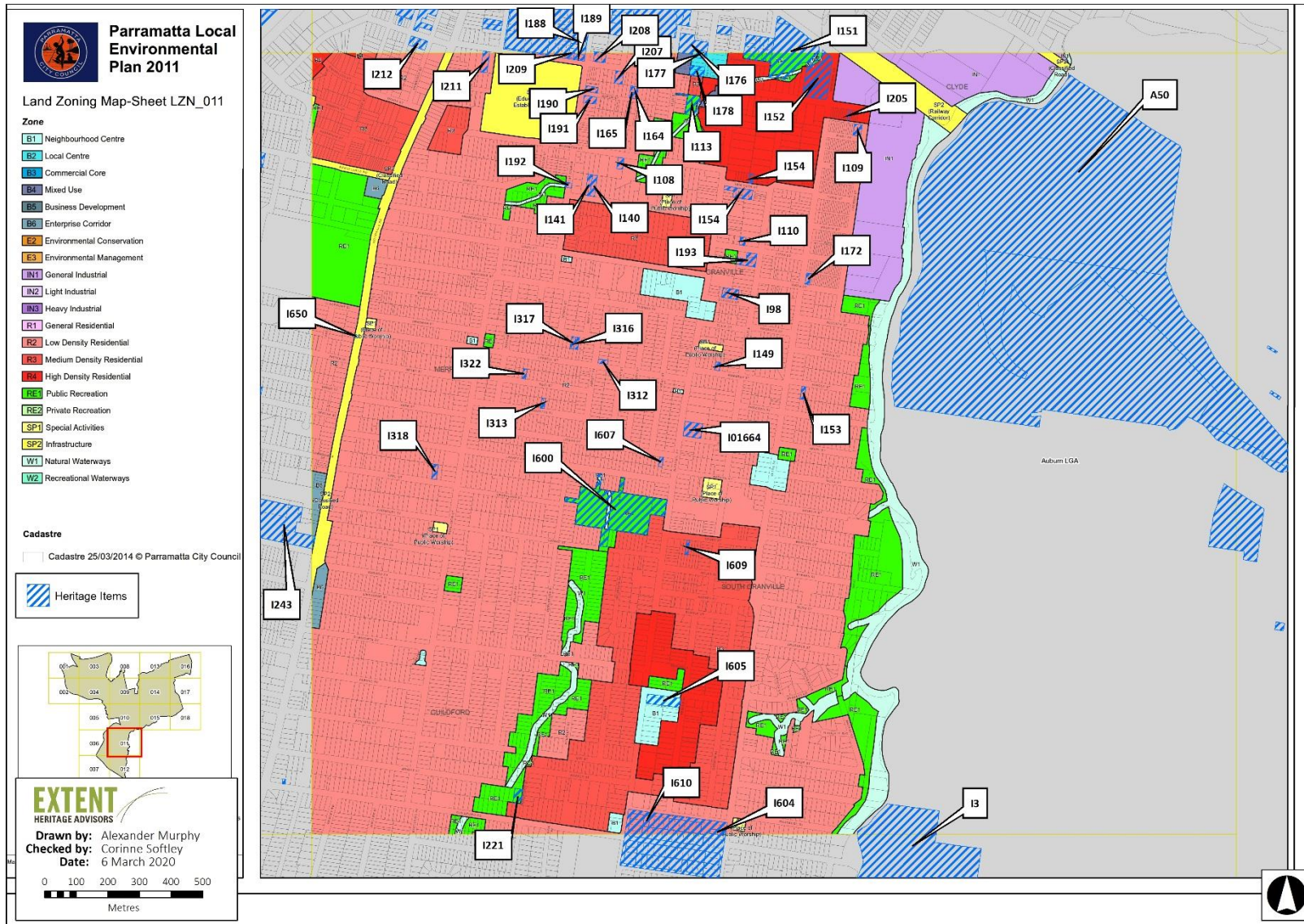Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013

Land Zoning Map
Sheet LZN_005

**Zone**

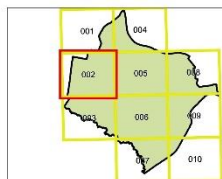| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B5 | Business Development |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| UL | Unzoned Land |
| SSP | SEPP (State Significant Precincts) 2005 |
| WSE | SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 28/02/2018 © Cumberland Council

Heritage Items

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**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 6 March 2020

0   100   200   300   400   500
Metres

Land Zoning Map
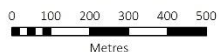Sheet LZN_006

**Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013**

**Zone**

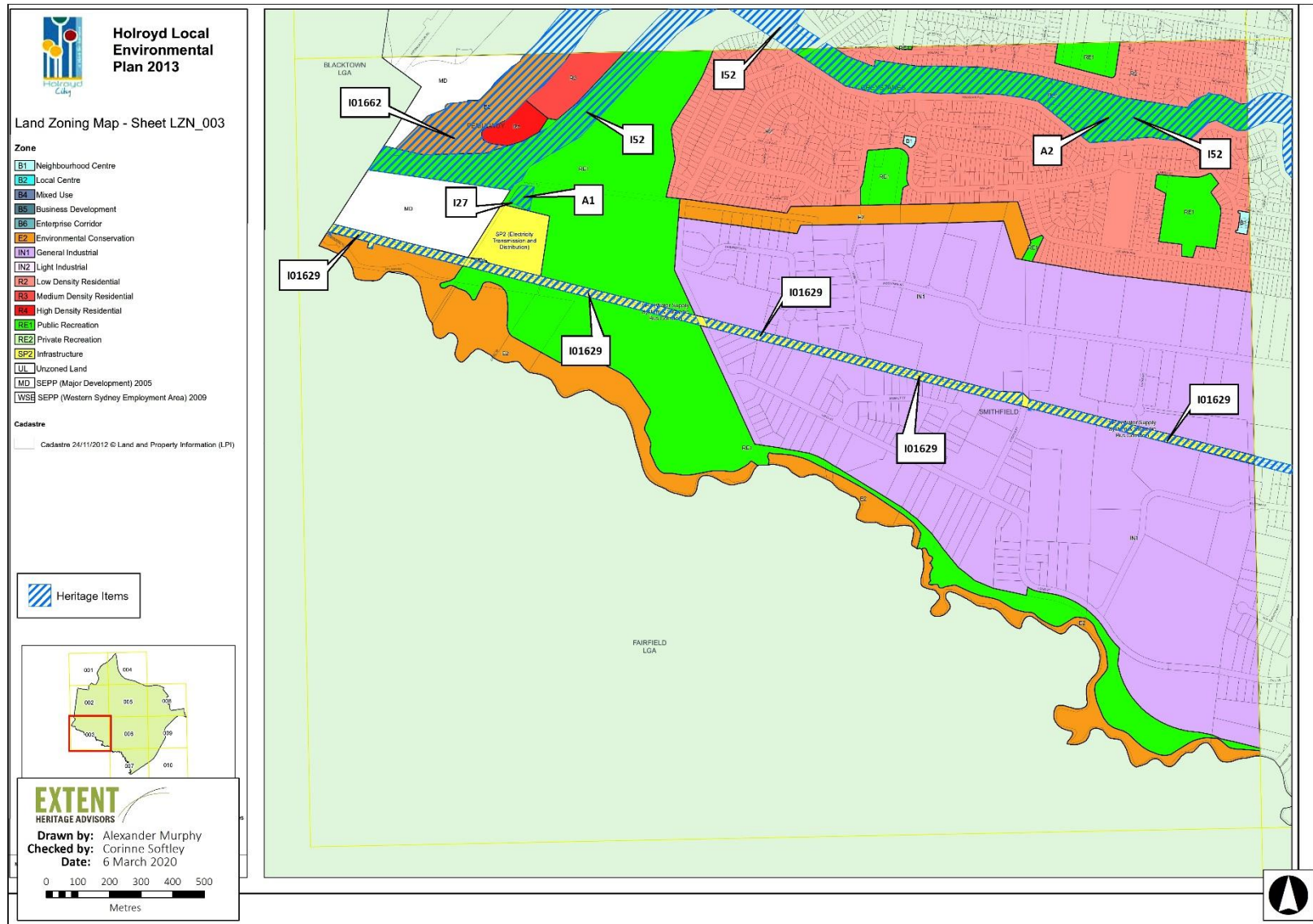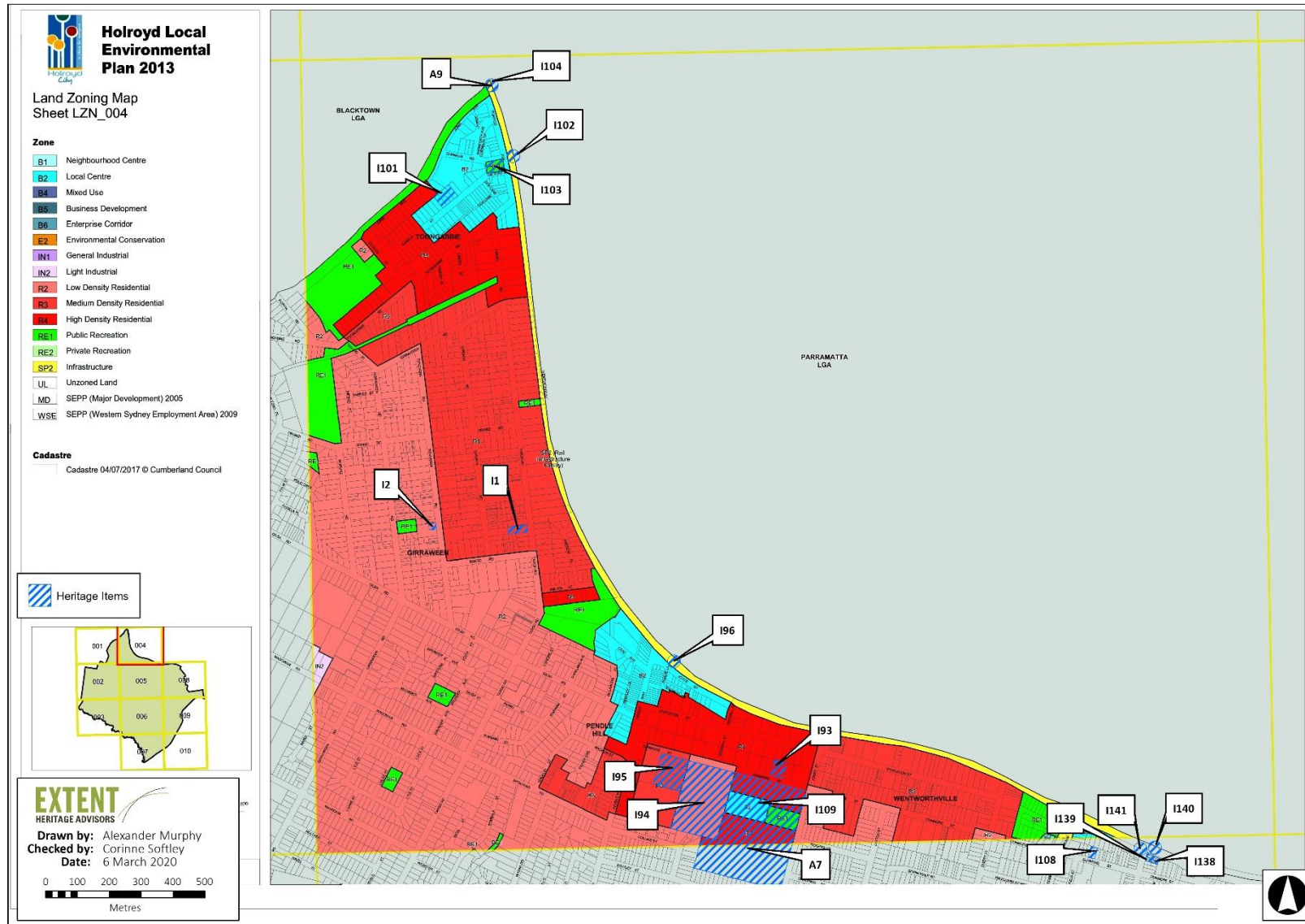| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B5 | Business Development |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| UL | Unzoned Land |
| SS | SEPP (State Significant) 2005 |
| WSE | SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 |

**Cadastre**

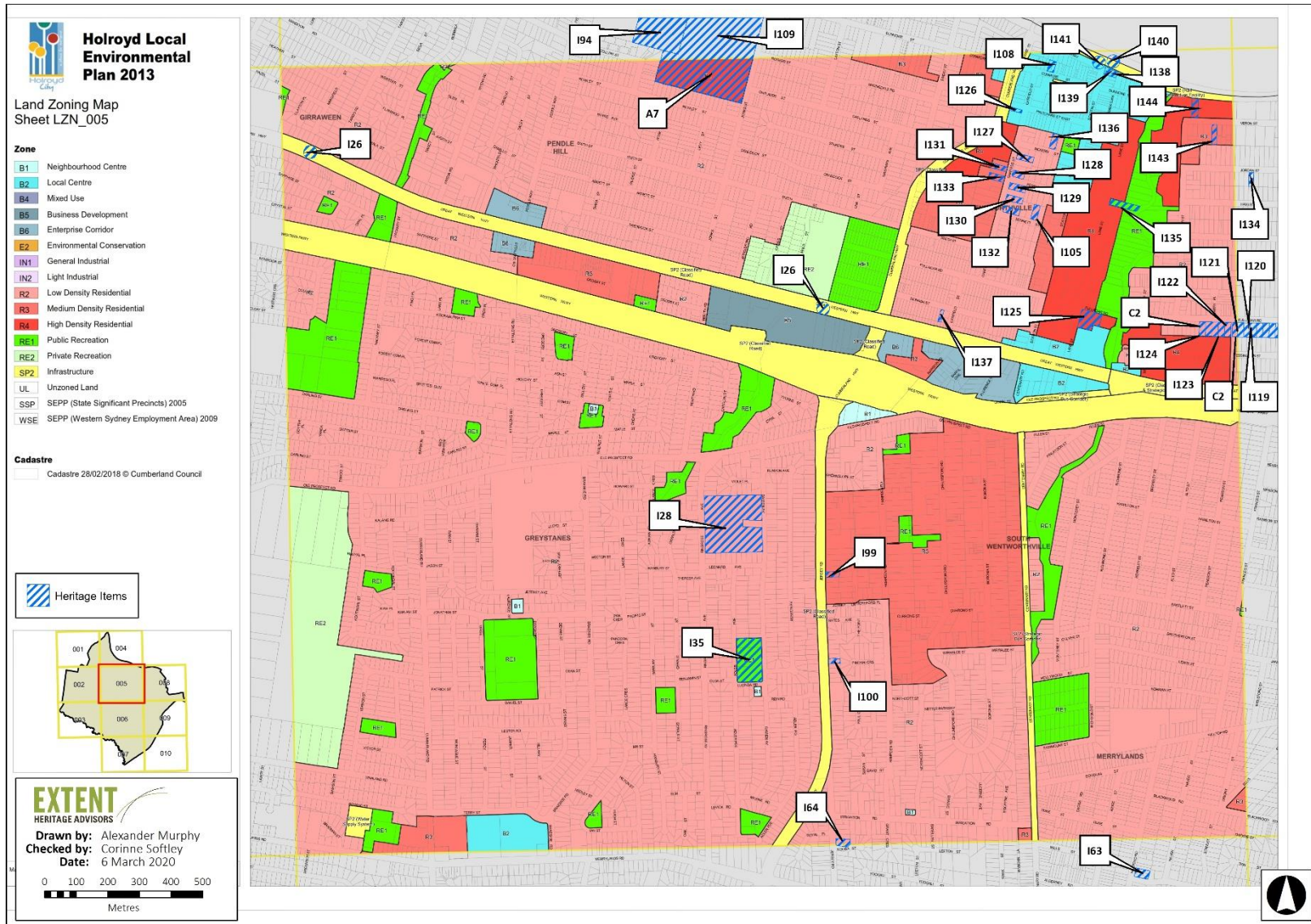Cadastre 10/05/2017 © Cumberland Council

Heritage Items

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Date: 6 March 2020

0 100 200 300 400 500
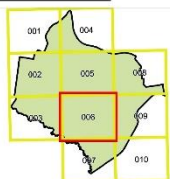Metres

Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013

Land Zoning Map
Sheet LZN_007

**Zone**

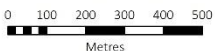| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B5 | Business Development |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| UL | Unzoned Land |
| MD | SEPP (Major Development) 2005 |
| WSE | SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 |

**Cadastre**

Cadastre 11/11/14 © Holroyd City Council

Heritage Items

**EXTENT**
HERITAGE ADVISORS

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**Date:** 6 March 2020

0  100  200  300  400  500
Metres

Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013

Land Zoning Map
Sheet LZN_008

**Zone**
- B1  Neighbourhood Centre
- B2  Local Centre
- B4  Mixed Use
- B5  Business Development
- B6  Enterprise Corridor
- E2  Environmental Conservation
- IN1  General Industrial
- IN2  Light Industrial
- R2  Low Density Residential
- R3  Medium Density Residential
- R4  High Density Residential
- RE1  Public Recreation
- RE2  Private Recreation
- SP2  Infrastructure
- UL  Unzoned Land
- MD  SEPP (Major Development) 2005
- WSE  SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009

**Cadastre**
Cadastre 11/05/15 © Holroyd City Council

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Date: 6 March 2020

0  100  200  300  400  500
Metres

Land Zoning Map
Sheet LZN_009

**Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013**

**Zone**

| | |
|---|---|
| B1 | Neighbourhood Centre |
| B2 | Local Centre |
| B4 | Mixed Use |
| B5 | Business Development |
| B6 | Enterprise Corridor |
| E2 | Environmental Conservation |
| IN1 | General Industrial |
| IN2 | Light Industrial |
| R2 | Low Density Residential |
| R3 | Medium Density Residential |
| R4 | High Density Residential |
| RE1 | Public Recreation |
| RE2 | Private Recreation |
| SP2 | Infrastructure |
| UL | Unzoned Land |
| SSP | SEPP (State Significant Precincts) 2005 |
| WSE | SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 |

**Cadastre**

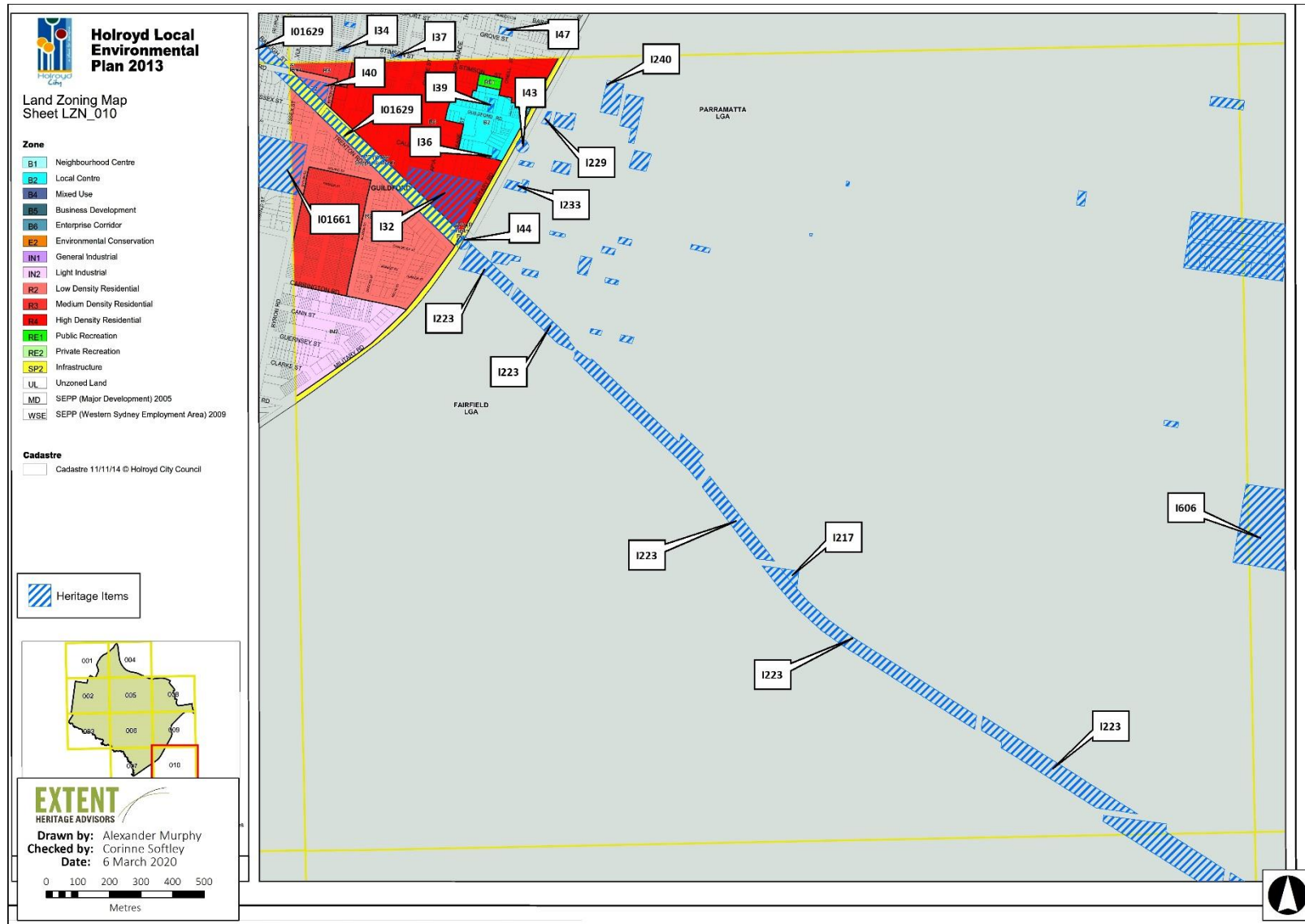Cadastre 18/07/2017 © Cumberland Council

Heritage Items

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**Checked by:** Corinne Softley
**Date:** 6 March 2020

0  100  200  300  400  500
Metres

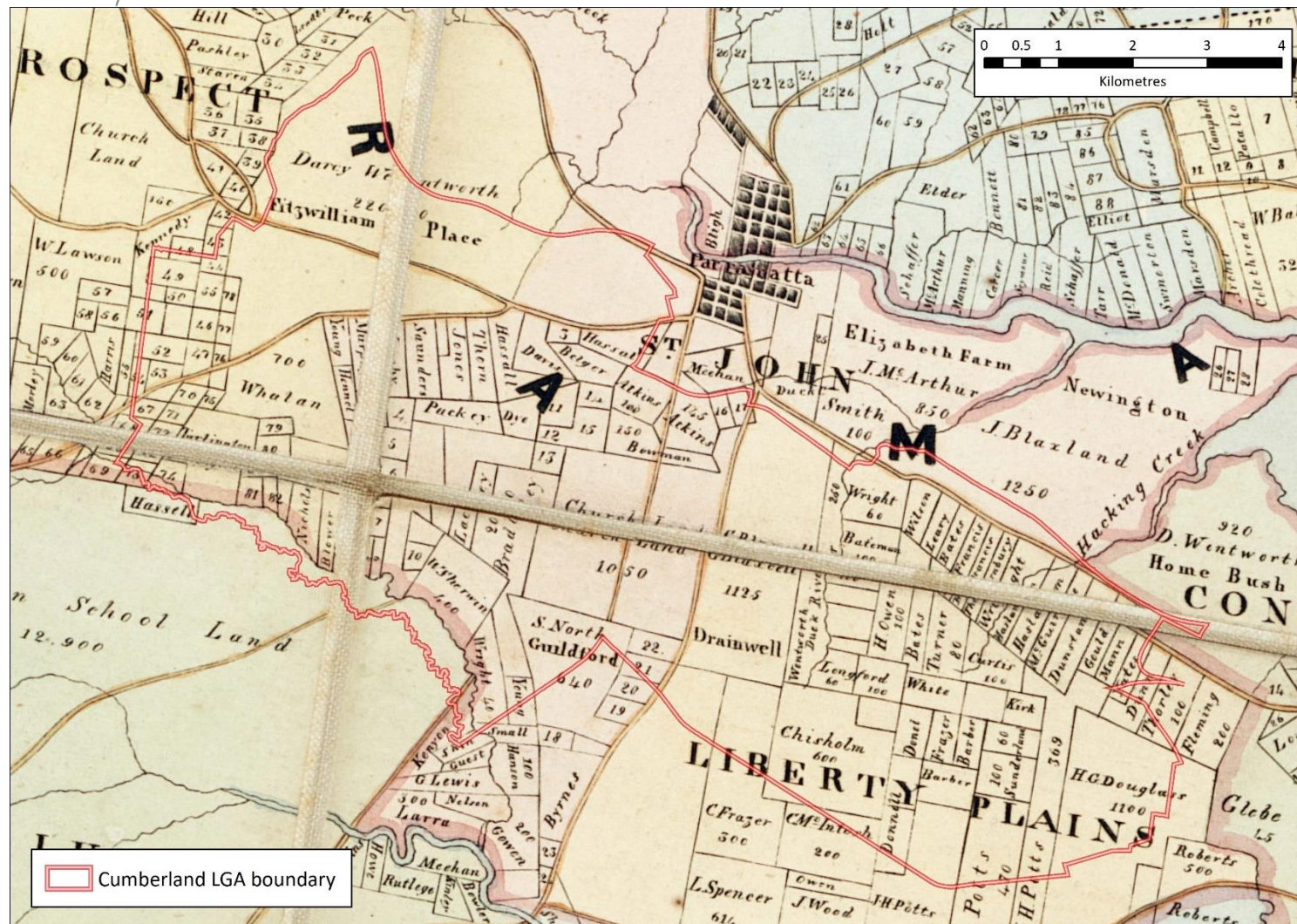# Appendix D. Historical maps of Cumberland LGA

Figure 38.1840 plan showing the Cumberland LGA boundary. Source: State Library of NSW, Map of the County of Cumnerland, Z/MC 811.1/1840/2A.
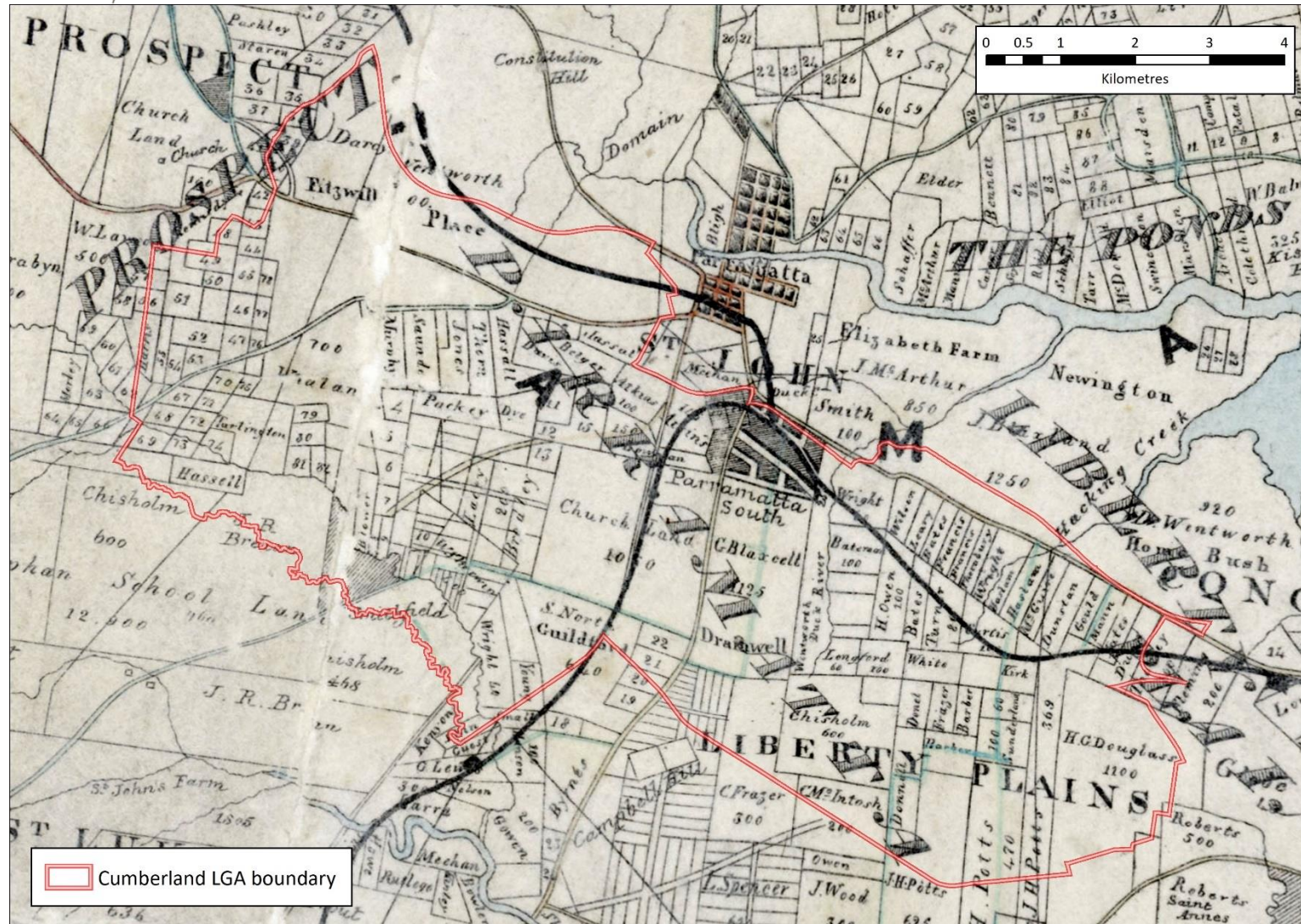
Figure 39. 1864 plan showing the Cumberland LGA boundary. Source: State Library of NSW, Defenses of New South Wales, Maps/0026.

Figure 40. 1917 plan showing the Cumberland LGA boundary. Source: National Library of Australia, Map of the City of Syndey and environs, Bib ID 3080752.
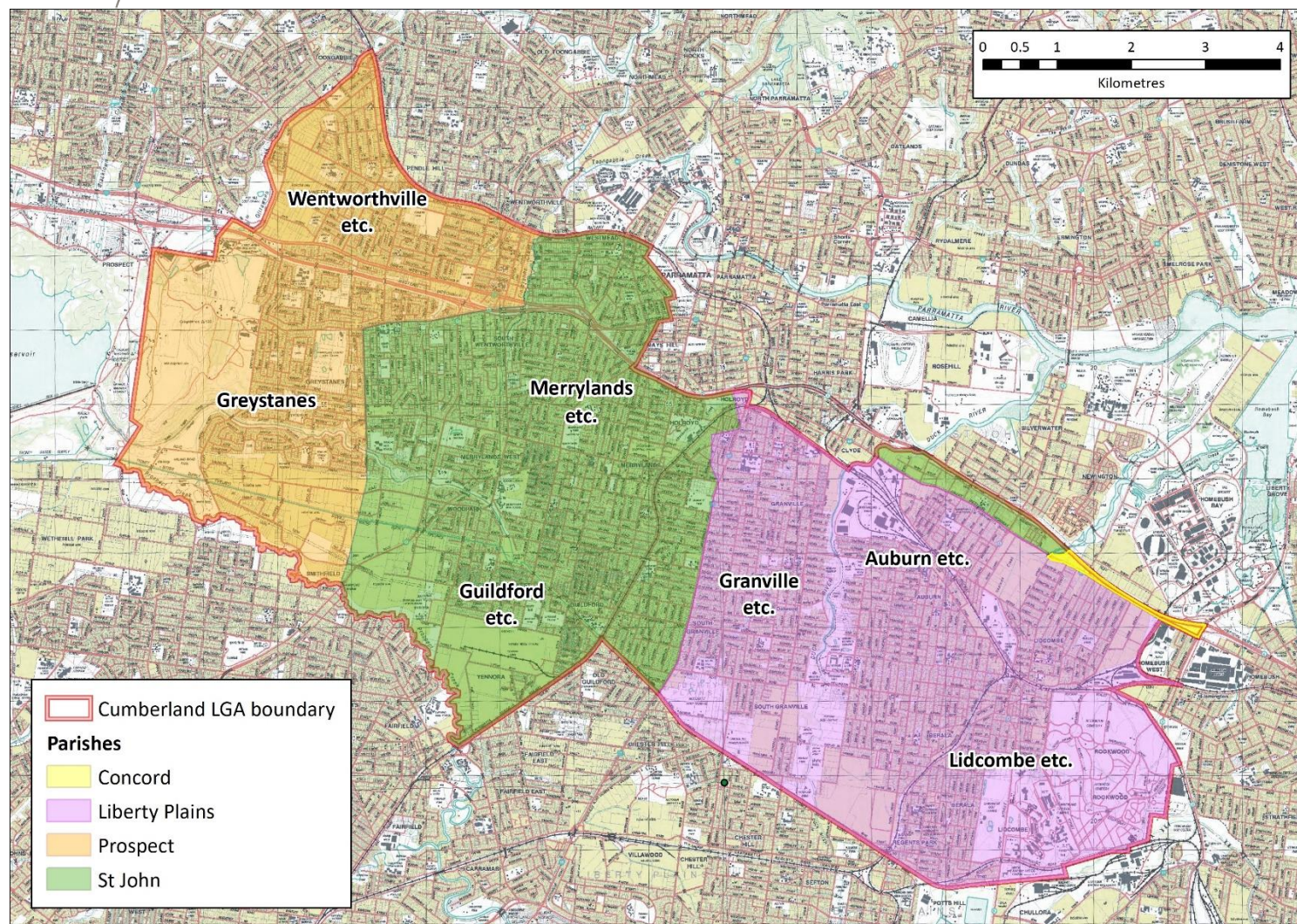
Figure 41. 2006 parishes plan showing the Cumberland LGA boundary. Source: National Library of Australia, TopoView raster 2006, Bib ID 6151535.