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ITEM DETAILS						
Name of Item	South Bronte-Calga Headland Landscape Conservation Area					
Other Name/s	Calga Reserve					
Former Name/s						
Item type (if known)	Landscape					
Item group (if known)	Landscape					
Item category (if known)						
Area, Group, or Collection Name						
Street number						
Street name						
Suburb/town	Bronte				Postcode	2024
Local Government Area/s	Waverley					
Property description	The LCA includes the Bronte Cutting (Calga Place), the former tram corridor that connected Macpherson Street to Bronte Beach. It forms part of a much larger cliff-scape along the esteemed Coastal Walk from Bronte to Bondi with dramatic topography and geological attributes combined with sweeping ocean views.					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude	-33.907390		Longitude	151.269205	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing	

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Owner	Waverley Council	
Current use	Public reserve	
Former Use	Public Reserve, tramway cutting	
Statement of significance	South Bronte-Calga Headland Landscape Conservation Area (LCA) is significant for its natural heritage values and its history and attributes as a cultural landscape. The location is significant for its long history of seaside bathing for women and men and for its association with the beginnings of the surf lifesaving movement. It supports the heritage-listed Bronte Ocean Pool (and its former array of dressing sheds) and the c.1911 Bronte tram cutting. It also has historic associational value with Bronte Park. The headland has significant aesthetic value based on its dramatic sandstone cliff-scape and the expansive views north toward Bondi Beach available from the southern side of Bronte. It is associated with civic consciousness and the municipal development of modern conveniences and amenity for locals. The area's scenic features are held in high esteem by locals and tourists who utilise Calga Cutting and the adjoining Calga Reserve to traverse the coastal walkway from Bronte to Coogee. The headland, including the Calga Cutting, is well-known and esteemed as a prominent corridor of coastal public land, with dramatic topographical and geological attributes combined with sweeping ocean views. The headland also has local historic value as part of the Bronte arrival experience for tram travellers from the early 1910s. The Calga Cutting, carved from sandstone for the former tram track, has technical value as an engineering exemplar of early 20th-century municipal council coastal landscape civic works that improved access to the city's beaches.	
Level of Significance	State	Local ☒

DESCRIPTION	
Designer	N/A
Builder/ maker	Waverley Council



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Physical Description	South Bronte headland is an important natural coastal reserve that is part of a much longer cliff-scape between Bronte Beach and Clovelly Beach. The area stretches from a line to the west of the Bronte Ocean Baths south to Trafalgar Street. The western edge of the LCA is defined by the property boundaries of a grouping of houses which lie along the eastern side of the most southerly portion of Bronte Road and Calga Avenue. The LCA encompasses the Calga Cutting, the former tram corridor that connected Macpherson Street to Bronte Beach, now a vehicular parking area and pedestrian corridor.					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The LCA is in reasonable overall condition. The landscape has potential to contain Aboriginal archaeological remains. This would occur where there are intact, undisturbed natural soil profiles or sandstone platforms and outcrops which have previously been disturbed. Little colonial archaeological potential exists for this site, other than in the exploration of the construction and explosive techniques used to establish Calga Cutting.					
Construction years (re cultural landscape)	Start year	c.1910	Finish year	Ongoing	Circa	
Modifications and dates	Removal of tram infrastructure in the current bus terminus area in Calga Cutting. Since the cessation of the tram service to Bronte, Calga Cutting has been used as a vehicular parking area and pedestrian corridor.					
Further comments						

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HISTORY

Historical notes

1836-1856: A series of colonial grants made to Mortimer William Lewis, 1836, 1837, 1838; Robert Lowe 1848; Charles Nathan 1853; and Robert Harrison 1856. These grants were consolidated as the Bronte Estate.

1882: The Bronte Estate was subdivided into residential lots under DP 1033 by Fletcher Dixon and Charles McDonald. Land within 100 feet of the high-water mark on Mortimer Lewis's grants was reserved.

1886: (October), the NSW Government resumed 14 acres of the former Bronte Estate for the purpose of a public park. Facilities for the public were constructed the following year, including the Bronte baths and the women's dressing shed located alongside. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, *Bronte Park CMP* 2003)

1880s: Other improvements to the park, such as landscaping and construction of sandstone walls to the northern gully slopes, were made over the next several years with commercial endeavours such as a refreshment booth opening in the early 1890s. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, *Bronte Park CMP* 2003)

1899-1902: Council received many complaints regarding the neglected state of Bronte Park. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, *Bronte Park CMP* 2003)

1903: Bronte's Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) was formed in 1903. The first swimming club was built in 1904 on the cliffs over the baths, but the SLSC had to wait seven years before its club house was constructed in the beachfront park, with a correlating dressing shed built on the northern cliffs in the same year. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, *Bronte Park CMP* 2003)

1909: NSW Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works inquiry (NSWLAVP) into the expediency of extending the tramway to Bronte Beach.

c1910: The Men's Bogey Hole was cleared and male visitors were provided with their own dressing sheds, located above the baths. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, *Bronte Park CMP* 2003)

1911: Tramline extended to Bronte Beach from its previous terminus at Waverley Cemetery. The construction period for the works was approximately 36 weeks and the accepted tender for the project was approximately 12,595 pounds. The successful tenderer was Wilmot and Morgan Pty Ltd, who were commissioned on 31 April 1910. It was estimated that 26,000 cubic yards of rock and sand would have to be moved for the creation of the tram line extension. (Railway and Tramway Construction Specification 1909– 1910 No 28 Public Works Dept.)

This led to a big increase in tourist numbers at Bronte Park and beach. This was accommodated with the provision of new shelter sheds in the park's north-east and

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	construction of the main curved path, which remains today leading away from the tram passenger shelter shed. The cultural fabric of the tram line and the Calga Cutting corridor has remained virtually intact since its construction, except for the removal of tram infrastructure in the current bus terminus area. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, <i>Bronte Park CMP</i> 2003. Government Transport correspondence files 1902–1937 Box 8/1414, Extension Waverley Terminus to Bronte Beach.) Residential lots adjoining the cutting (now Calga Reserve) were at that time owned by Adophus Rogalsky but remained undeveloped. (Certificate of Title 2325-77) 1914 and 1916: A beach improvement scheme supplied a seawall, bandstand, kiosk and shelter sheds. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, <i>Bronte Park CMP</i> 2003) 1917: An amount of £400 was set aside in Council's budget for the filling and levelling the park (presumably the area immediately behind the beach), possibly for the first time. Public access ways into the Cutting and from the LCA have remained largely unchanged since the early 20th century, except for the recent cantilevered coastal walk across the front of Waverley Cemetery. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, <i>Bronte Park CMP</i> 2003) 1954: Lots east of Calga Avenue that now comprise Calga Reserve were purchased by Waverley Council. 1960: Tram service to Bronte ceased. 1963-1964: Land on the South Bronte headland between the residential lots and the ocean was resumed for Public Recreation Ground c1970: Development of dressing shed structures above the Bronte Ocean Baths occurred from the 1880s and some remained in place until c.1970. The development of these structures involved the establishment of concrete paths and foundations across the sandstone benches of the headland cliff-scape, above the pool. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, <i>Bronte Park CMP</i> 2003)
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THEMES	
National historical theme	1 Tracing the natural evolution of Australia 2 Peopling Australia 3 Developing local, regional and national economies 4 Building settlements, towns and cities 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
State historical theme	1 Environment – naturally evolved- Features occurring naturally in the physical environment which have shaped or influenced human life and cultures; 2 Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures - Activities



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	associated with maintaining, developing, experiencing and remembering Aboriginal cultural identities and practises, past and present. 3 Environment – cultural landscape: Development of cultural landscapes, shaping the physical surroundings. 3 Events – Activities & events that mark the consequences of natural & cultural occurrences. 3 Transport – Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another. 4 Towns, suburbs and Villages – Creating, planning & managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles. 8 Leisure – activities associated with recreation & relaxation. 8 Social institutions – activities and organisational arrangements for provision of social activities.
<i>Local historical theme</i>	Pre-European Settlement Headland, Geological formation 2.1 Living as Australia's earliest inhabitants; 3.11 Altering the environment; Early Development of Waverley 2.5 Promoting settlement; Traffic and Transport - Bronte tram extension to the beach Leisure and Recreation 8.1.4 Enjoying the natural environment; 8.2 Going to the beach; 3.23 Catering for tourists; 3.26.3 Developing alternative approaches to good health; Community 8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid; 8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests; Amenity and Infrastructure 8.13 Developing public parks & gardens

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APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	The South Bronte-Calga Headland LCA has historic significance at a local level for its ability to demonstrate the development of coastal public lands and civic improvement as an integral part of the local municipal history. It demonstrates the emergence of beach culture as an element of national identity that had the capacity to shape landscapes into a significant cultural and recreational facilities. Together with the adjoining Bronte Park and Bronte Ocean Baths, the South Bronte-Calga Headland LCA and the incised Calga Tram Cutting collectively demonstrate the role public recreation and improved public transportation had on the development of Sydney and of Bronte bay as a tourism, recreation and residential destination from the late 19th century. The Calga Cutting demonstrates the construction of the transport infrastructure that supported the rapid development of the eastern suburbs and Sydney in the time of Federation. The fashioning of the headland's geological formation to support public access, via a tramway, is associated with the development of beachside suburbs in Sydney in the decade leading up to Federation in the wake of the sale and subsequent sub-division of the area's original marine villa estates. Other suburbs, including Bondi and Coogee experienced similar large-scale topographical "ameliorations" and interventions to provide suitable grades for tram corridors.
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	Whilst no individuals are directly associated with the creation of the Calga Cutting, the infrastructure works demonstrate the ongoing significance placed by Waverley Council on the development of coastal infrastructure to support recreation destinations and beach culture as it emerged in Sydney.
Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	The aesthetic significance of the site lies with its distinctive geological formations, sandstone cliff-scapes, and expansive views toward Tamarama and Bondi, which together have helped create the world-renowned Coastal Path Walk.



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Social significance SHR criteria (d)	With the extension of the coastal walk from Bondi to Bronte and further to Maroubra (and from Bondi to Manly), the South Bronte Headland has gained greater prominence as a part of this lengthened cultural corridor. The headland is one of a series of popular vantage points along the coastal walk, principally due to its elevation compared to the headlands to its immediate north. The southern end of the LCA especially, at the base of Calga Reserve LCA, is a popular point of rest for walkers between Bronte and Waverley Cemetery. Professional and recreational photographers use the vantage points on the sandstone outcrops along the cliff-edge on the eastern side of Calga Cutting. The area also supports rock climbers who utilise the faces of the cutting, although this use has been decreasing. The area is held in high esteem by the community as a natural landscape setting and passive and active recreational venue. It enjoys and supports high visitation, courtesy of its beachscape frontage and its spatial contribution to an established coastal walking trail.
Technical / Research significance SHR criteria (e)	The site is unlikely to have any particular scientific value, other than possibly geological investigations of the nature of the sandstone bedrock and outcrops within the conservation area and in further assessment and recording of endemic vegetation across the South Bronte Headland to Shark Point cliff-scape. The coastal cliffs and Calga Reserve were previously assessed as having potential to contain Aboriginal archaeological deposits and/or rock engravings or grinding grooves. Any previously unrecorded Aboriginal archaeological deposits or features in the area would have the potential to contribute information to our understanding of Aboriginal use of the area not available through other documentary sources. Carved from sandstone for the former tram track, the dramatic Calga Cutting has a high degree of technical achievement at a local level as an engineering exemplar of early 20th-century municipal council coastal landscape civic works. The LCA has research potential relating to the construction and explosive techniques used to establish Calga Cutting in the early 20th century.
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	The Calga Cutting corridor, has rarity value at a local level for its formation as a historic tramway route. Further research and mapping could be conducted on similar landform modifications across the LGA and Sydney to establish a schedule of places where natural topographical conditions were changed to service public amenity and thoroughfares.



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Representative-ness SHR criteria (g)	South Bronte - Calga Headland LCA is representative of other cliff-scapes within the City beaches area where cultural modifications (sometimes extensive) occurred to establish vehicular and pedestrian thoroughfares which serviced the boom in popularity of seaside bathing and oceanfront recreation during the early 1900s. Similar projects occurred at Tamarama Marine Drive and the development of the Havelock Avenue tram cutting at South Coogee (c.1901).
Integrity	The LCA retains much of its overall integrity as a transport corridor and the proportions and layout of the c.1910 tram cutting, which punctured the headland, and the dimensions and fabric of the ocean baths that lie at its base. The integrity of the natural landscape was compromised by the development of the cutting, but the phases of coastal transport development remain. Incremental impacts could also continue to occur through the intensity of use by the coastal walk community and Bronte beach-goers. The cultural fabric of the tram line and the Calga Cutting corridor has remained virtually intact since its construction, except for the removal of tram infrastructure in the current bus terminus area. (Mayne-Wilson & Associates, <i>Bronte Park CMP</i> 2003)

HERITAGE LISTINGS

Heritage listing/s	The South Bronte Headland Landscape Conservation Area is listed on the <i>Waverley Local Environmental Plan 2012</i> .
	Bronte Ocean Baths (within the headland LCA) is listed as a heritage item on the Waverley 2012 LEP.

INFORMATION SOURCES

Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Heritage Study	Mayne-Wilson & Associates	Bronte Beach Conservation Management Plan	2003	Waverley Council
Report	Dominic Steele Consulting / Waverley Council	<i>Indigenous Heritage Assessment Report: Waverley Cemetery, St Thomas Street Bronte NSW</i>	September 2003	Waverley Council

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Manage impacts to ensure natural, cultural and historic significance is retained and maintained. Manage the landscape to ensure the area's geodiversity and biodiversity are protected, in accordance with the Australian Natural Heritage Charter. Further research should be undertaken into the history of tramway cuttings across the LGA, adjoining LGAs and more broadly within Sydney. Investigations should also be undertaken into the methodology of early 20th-century excavation or explosives used for the creation of such corridors. Calga Cutting should be heritage listed within a broader listing for the full length of the former tram corridor, from its former terminus site at Bronte to Calga Cutting's junction with Macpherson Street. A comprehensive heritage interpretation strategy for the Bronte Bay cultural landscape should be prepared including Bronte Park, Bronte Beach, Bronte Ocean Baths and Calga Cutting, in discussion with the local Aboriginal community. Future works in the area should be undertaken with consideration of the site's archaeological potential. This should be done in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and qualified archaeologists. Continuing remedial work could be undertaken to remove weed overgrowth and garden-escape plants within the area.
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SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

Name of study or report		Year of study or report	
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report			
Inspected by	GML Heritage Pty Ltd		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?	Yes ☒ No ☐		
This form completed by	GML Heritage Pty Ltd	Date	November 2019
	Reviewed by Architectural Projects PL		2023

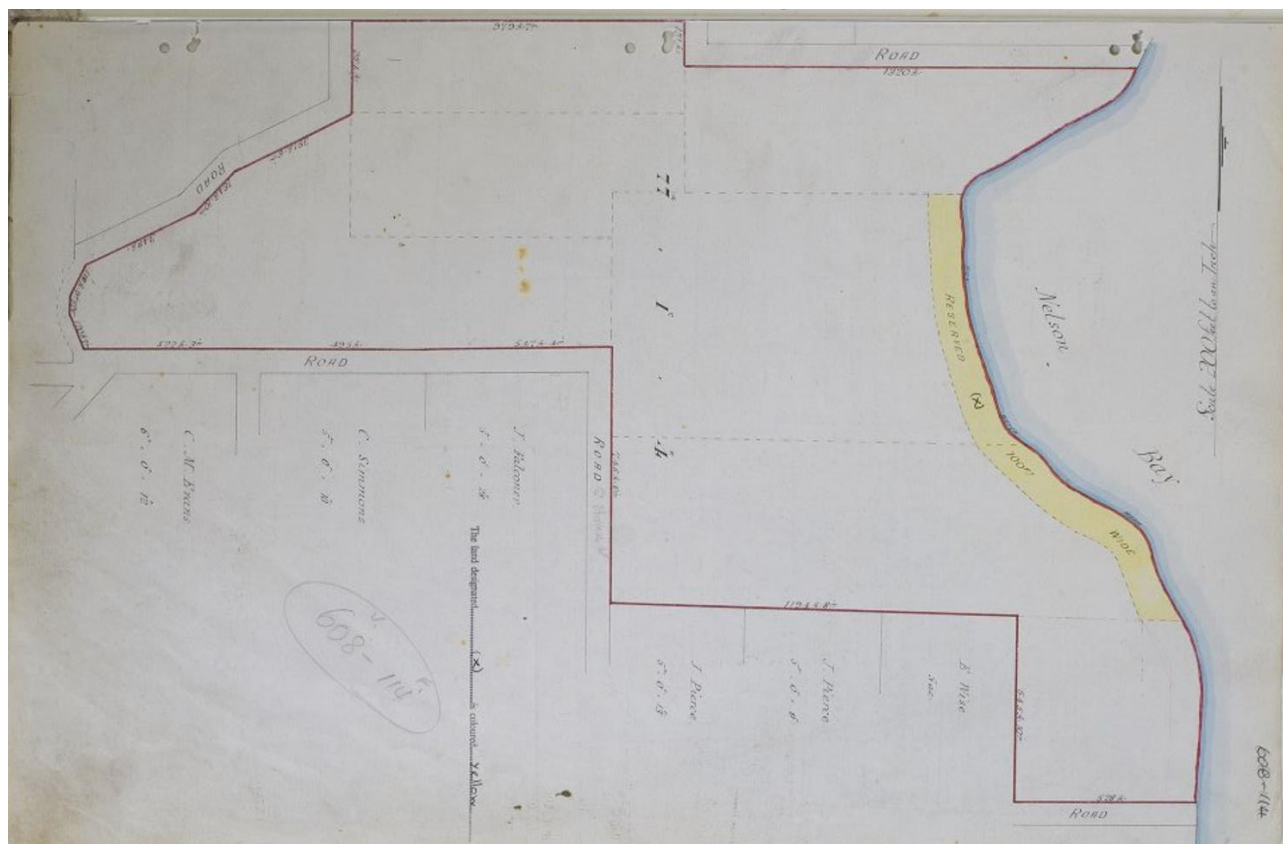


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IMAGES

Image caption	Bronte Estate, 1882, prior to subdivision. Note the 100-foot-wide foreshore reservation to the northern section of the LCA coloured yellow.				
Image year	1882	Image by	Certificate of Title 608-114	Image copyright holder	Land and Property Information



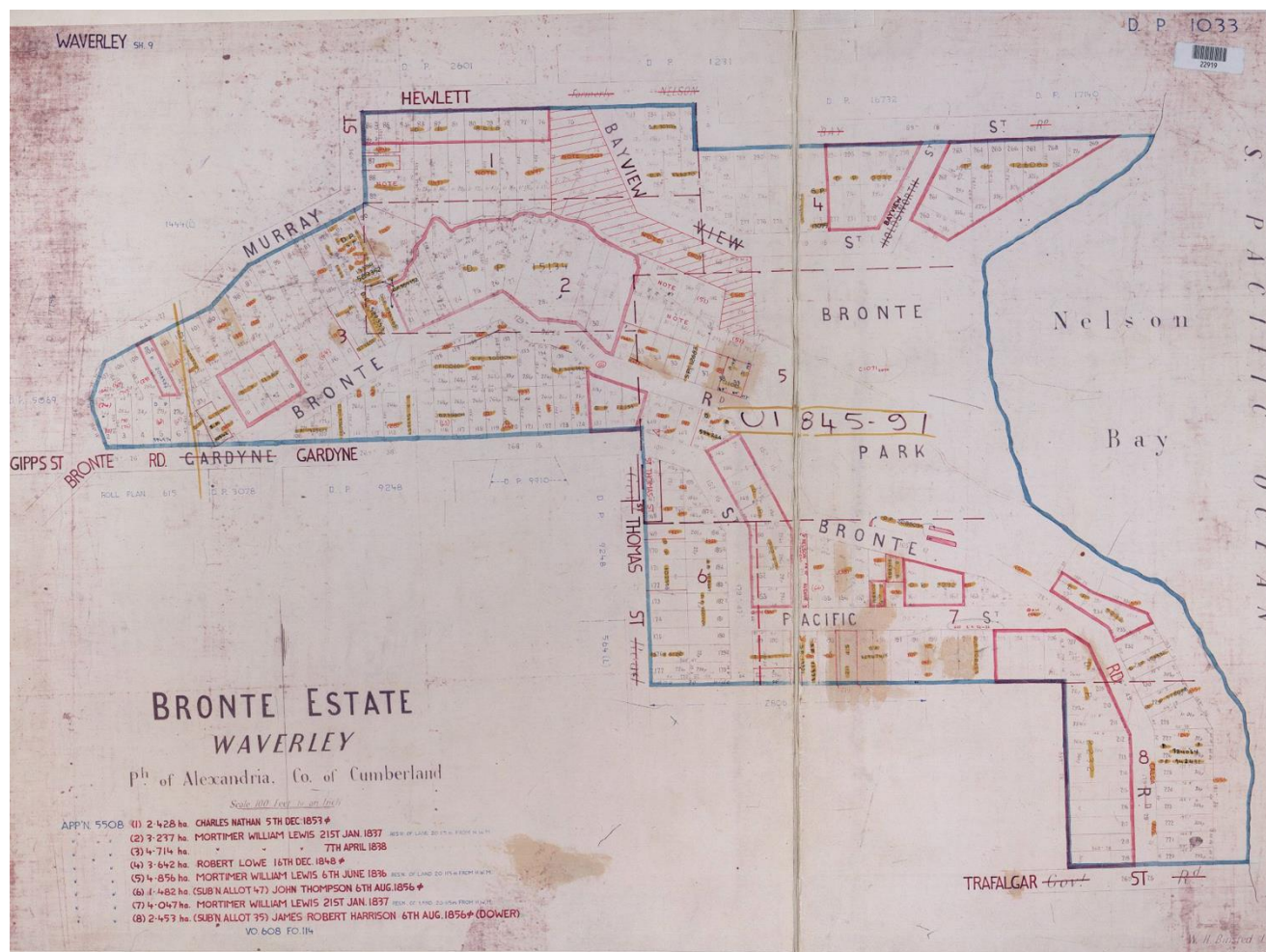


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Image caption	Bronte Estate, Waverley Showing the 1882 Subdivision of the Bronte Estate under DP 1033 Note the residential lots later resumed for Calga Cutting and reserve.				
Image year		Image by	DP 1033	Image copyright holder	Land and Property Information



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Image caption	View east c.1909 along the southern sector of Bronte Park, the area which now contains the café strip on the right. Whilst the tram line had not yet been extended to Bronte, power poles had already been provided to the beachfront zone. Note the first baths buildings at centre left, with the first women's dressing sheds arrowed. The house at the centre right is where SLSC member R. McKenzie lived. The adjoining open shed is where the SLSC stored its equipment until 1910. Image courtesy of Mr. Robert Mills.				
Image year	c.1909	Image by	Unknown	Image copyright holder	Land and Property Information



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Image caption	Tram in Bronte Cutting, c. 1950s				
Image year	c.1950s	Image by	Unknown	Image copyright holder	Waverley Library Local History Collection



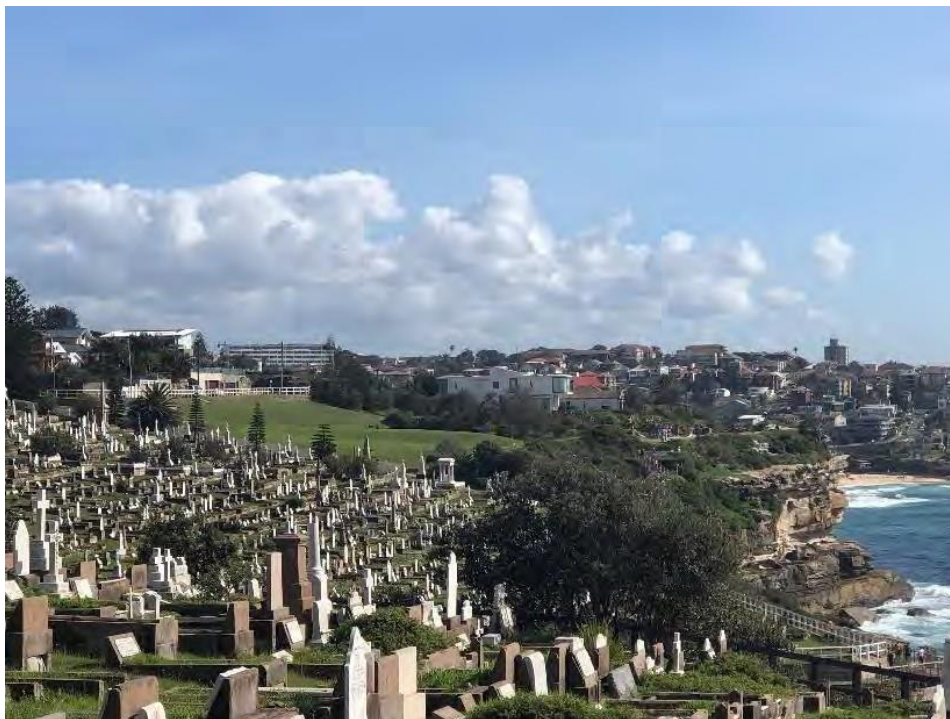
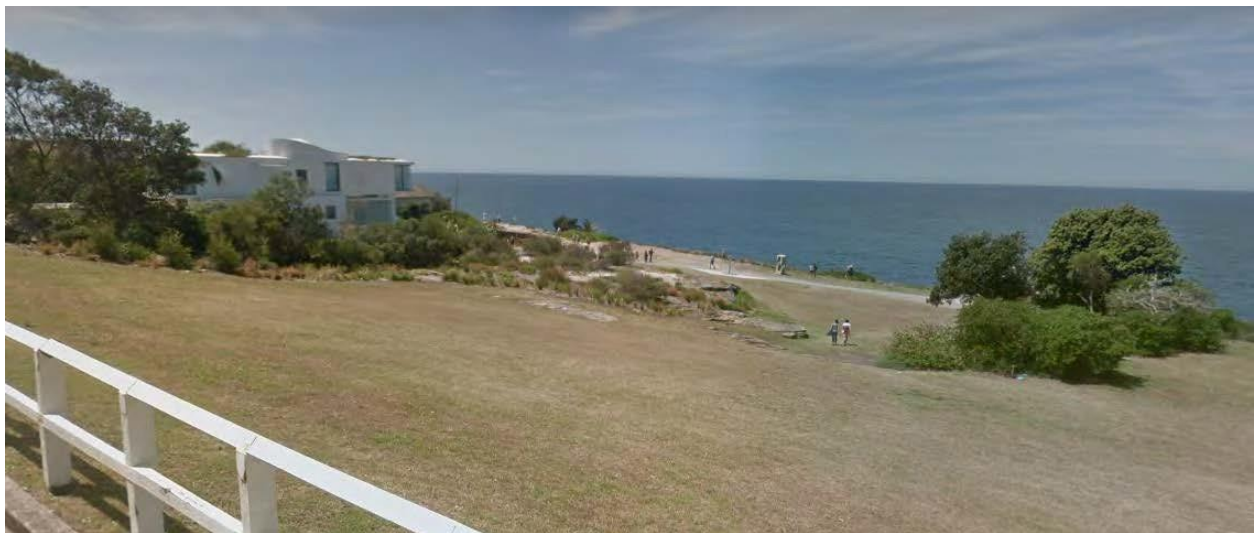
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Image caption	Tram in Bronte Cutting, late 1950s				
Image year	c. late 1950s	Image by	Unknown	Image copyright holder	<i>Bondi to the Opera House: The Trams That Linked Sydney</i> , by Budd and Wilson



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Image caption	Calga Reserve, which is proposed for inclusion in the extended South Bronte-Calga Headland Landscape Conservation Area.				
Image year	2020	Image by		Image copyright holder	Waverley Council



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Image caption	Boundaries of the extended South Bronte- Calga Headland Landscape Conservation Area with area map				
Image year	2020	Image by		Image copyright holder	Waverley Council, Google





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