



Connecting to Country Statement

Residential Apartment Development

38 Stockton Street & 8A Tomaree Street NELSON BAY NSW 2315

Revision: D
Project No: 0159
18.03.25



Summary of revisions

Revision	By	Date	Comment
D	BH	18.03.25	Development Application – Revised (Change of Architect)

Checked: BH

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Connecting with Country - Architect Statement

The Connecting with Country Framework produced by the Government Architect New South Wales was considered in how to respond to Country in the planning, design and delivery of the development.

The Worimi are the traditional owners of the Port Stephens Area.

The Worimi Nation was made up of eighteen tribes known as Ngurras according to the Elders. There were 4 Ngurras of Port Stephens and surrounding areas each occupying a definite area. Two of these were salt-water groups, and two were inland groups.

The Saltwater group (Maiangal) encompasses Nelson Bay.

From the outset, the design approach for this development has been to connect to the broader landscape from within the Nelson Bay Town Centre. The site's prominent & elevated position allowed for the design to be considered in relation to the surrounding landforms and watercourses.

In particular, the connection to the ridgeline of Kurrara Hill which forms the backdrop to the town centre below and the connection to the bay & coastline was considered critical to the design approach which sought to promote sightlines and views to connect to the broader cultural landscape.

In strengthening the connection to the earth, water & sky the built form was shaped to better integrate with the site & its environment.

Understanding that in-between spaces are seen within Aboriginal culture as places of transformation, where individuals can connect & communicate with others, the ground floor connection of thresholds to the street was seen as an opportunity to create such space. In particular, the spaces which address the residential & commercial entries have been integrated with landscape & given space for social interaction between users of the building.

Public entry & foyer spaces have been designed to be welcoming & visible but not confrontational, and multiple ways to approach the building have been included so individuals or groups have options for how they would prefer to enter the site.

Further, the ground floor residential foyers & upper lift lobby spaces frame views to Kurrara Hill and the sky such that this connection to country experience occurs throughout the proposed development.

Communal open space is provided at Ground Level & Level 1 with choice of indoor & outdoor space to allow groups to interact in private.

Landscape design has considered the principles of Designing with Country in the selection of indigenous plant species to provide a healthy & supportive landscape environment within the development.

