

PROPOSED STAGE 1 MASTERPLAN WORKS

FOR THE

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW VISITORS CENTRE AND ANCILLIARY INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE MEETING PLACE PRECINCT KAMAY BOTANY BAY NATIONAL PARK, KURNELL

HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT



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Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 SUMMARY

The Kamay Botany Bay National Park is within the Gweagal Country of the Dharawal speaking peoples.

The site is of national importance as the first contact point between the Aboriginal peoples who inhabited the area and the crew of Lieutenant Cook's ship HMB *Endeavour* in 1770 that led to the eventual arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.

The place has become a site of commemoration for European and other settlers being seen as the birthplace of modern Australia. It is also a site of great significance of Aboriginal peoples across Australia as the landing commenced a process that saw the decimation of the indigenous peoples, the marginalisation of much of the culture and livelihood and the loss of their country and their traditional associations with it.

The site was not the place of settlement for the First Fleet and was later used for farming then recreation that saw changes in the landscape and the construction of buildings to accommodate the new uses. The site also saw the construction of memorials relating to Cook's voyage and landing and to the botanists Sir Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander.

The proposed works are for a new visitors' centre to replace the existing, and new pathways to provide more ready access through the site for all users and connect its important elements. The works also include the upgrade of parking areas and other facilities to support the recreational uses and allow these to continue and the construction of a new foreshore, revetment wall.

The proposals also aim to rebalance the meanings and associations of the site by retaining its European commemorative aspects while providing for a greater emphasis on the Aboriginal uses and meanings associated with the site by the introduction of additional education facilities, display and ceremonial areas.

The works will also allow for the investigation and interpretation of both Aboriginal and European archaeology and maintain the display of artefacts gathered from the site and those related to Cook's landing and subsequent development including historical records.

The proposals for the new visitors' centre are superb response to the site and the new pathways will allow more equitable access across the site for all visitor and staff and provide connectivity to the important elements within the Precinct.

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

This statement of heritage impact is to be considered a self-assessment for the purpose of understanding whether referral to the Commonwealth is required under the EPBC Act to address any protected matters related to the National Heritage Place. This self-assessment considers that there will be no impact on protected matters relating to the National Heritage Place and referral is not required."

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 AN ENCOUNTER OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE

On the 29th April 1770 Lieutenant James Cook and the crew of the HMB *Endeavour* turned into Botany Bay after the voyage to Tahiti and made land on the southern shores of the Bay at what is now known as Silver Beach. The HMB *Endeavour* had been seen travelling north along the coast by local Aboriginal people.

The arrival of the HMB *Endeavour* was resisted by the local Aboriginal people. Threatened by spear carrying warriors, the crew responded with musket shot.

After exploring the area for eight days the *Endeavour* left but the visit set the clock ticking on the eventual landing of the First Fleet in 1788 that saw the dispossession and disconnection to country for Aboriginal peoples and the transformation of part of the country to a British convict settlement and free settlement to other areas.

The significance of the place to all Australians cannot be overstated. The Kamay Meeting Place commemorates the events surrounding both the arrival of the HMB *Endeavour* and the traditional indigenous occupation of the area.

The aim of the proposed upgrade is partly to improve facilities for visitors but also rebalance the significance and meanings of the place to greater reflect both its Aboriginal origins and also its current meanings and significance to Aboriginal people.

The place has numerous overlays of use that are examined in detail in the various heritage studies on the place including:

- Indigenous Occupation
- Cook's landing 1770
- Dispossession
- Early grants and 19th Century Farming
- Recognition and Commemoration
- Reserve and Recreational Use
- Establishment of the National Park

Each of these elements will continue as part of the place by the retention of built structures and monuments, landform, landscaping, trees and recreation areas with the major changes being the redevelopment of the visitor centre and the provision of additional pathways through the site to connect the existing path network, link important elements and allow equitable access.

2.2 THE BRIEF

The following report has been prepared to accompany a Section 60 application to the NSW Heritage Council for the redevelopment of the Visitors Centre, upgrading of associated facilities and pathways and reworking of some of the commemorative elements to better reflect both the post-colonial meanings of the place and balance these with a greater appreciation of the Aboriginal understanding of the place,

The report has been prepared on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

2.3 THE STUDY AREA

The Meeting Place Precinct is the name given to an area of over 20 Hectares on the Kurnell side of the Kamay Botany Bay National Park (Figures 1.1 & 1.2).



Figure 1.1 Location Plan

Source: ACHAR 2023



Figure 1.2 Study Area

Source: ACHAR 2023

2.4 PREVIOUS REPORTS

A number of heritage studies have been carried out for the precinct:

Design 5 – Architects Pty Limited, *The Meeting Place Precinct, Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell, Heritage Assessment, Volumes 1-2 and Appendices*, dated March 2006 (referred to as D5HA below).

The report was prepared in association with Biosis Research Pty Limited and Geoffrey Britten Heritage and Design Consultant.

Armstrong, Jennifer and Catherine Donnelly, *Conservation Management Plan for The Alpha Farm Site including the Kurnell Accommodation House, Cape Solander Drive, Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell*, dated June 1999.

Sydney Artefacts Conservation, *Stage 1 Assessment of the Captain Cook's Landing Place Collection with the Moveable Heritage Collection of Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell*, dated October 2006.

2.5 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

A conservation management plan has been prepared for the study area:

Context Pty Limited in association with Urban Initiatives Pty Limited, *Meeting Place Precinct, Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell, Conservation Management Plan*, dated February 2008 (referred to as the CMP below).

For this report, the CMP provides the primary tool for the assessment of the impact of the proposals using its comprehensive conservation guidelines for the place.

2.6 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was prepared for the Stage 1 Masterplan Works:

Coast History and Heritage, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, Stage 1 Master Plan Works, Kamay Botany National Park, Kurnell NSW, Sutherland LGA*, dated November 2019 (referred to as ACHAR below).

The Master Plan work have been the subject of design development and an Aboriginal cultural heritage impact statement has been prepared to accompany the Section 60 application as part of an AHIP (Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit) submission:

Coast History and Heritage, *Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report: Stage 1 Masterplan Works, Kamay Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell NSW*, dated March 2023 (referred to as ACHAR 2023 below).

2.7 HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

A historical archaeological assessment has been prepared for the works:

Dominic Steel Consulting Archaeology, *The Meeting Place Precinct Kamay-Botany National Park NSW, Historical Archaeological Assessment and Future Works Impact Mitigation and Management Strategy*, dated September 2023 (referred to as DSCA Report below).

2.8 OTHER REPORTS

The design development has been informed by several other reports:

Kamay Botany Bay National Park Kurnell Master Plan, 2019.

Narla Environmental, *Ecological Constraints Assessment, Commemoration Flat, Kamay Botany Bay National Park*, dated January 2020.

Narla Environmental, *Flora and Fauna Assessment Report, Kamay Botany Bay National Park*, dated September 2022.

2.9 STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The place is the traditional lands of the Gweagal Clan of the Dharawal speaking Aboriginal people who have occupied the area for several thousand years.

The design has been developed in close association with traditional landholders, local elders and other stakeholders to ensure that Aboriginal themes and meanings are incorporated and celebrated in the proposals. The Project Board includes the Chair of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (LPLALC) and the Head of Aboriginal Affairs NSW.

The Masterplan proposals were the subject of community consultation that was the subject of a report on October 2018:

Context, Kamay Botany National Park, Project 2000, Report on Community Engagement: Draft Plan of Management and Draft Master Plan, dated October 2018.

The report notes that community engagement was undertaken between 1st August and 30th November 2016 and also between April 2018 and August 2018. The engagement involved face to face engagement and through an on-line public consultation portal. The broad stakeholders were identified as:

Broader Community:

- Park users and neighbours:
- Visitors: casual and regular visitors including specific communities: Swedish community, Macedonian community, Vietnamese community, Arabic-speaking communities (etc)
- Schools and education users: including the Environmental Education Centre, schools
- that use KBBNP and the NPWS Discovery Schools Program
- Businesses: those that offer services within KBBNP

Local communities adjoining the park

- Local organisations, businesses, and residents.

Aboriginal people – and their organisations including:

- Aboriginal communities (individuals and families):
- Local community members including those with traditional owner and/or historical connections.
- Aboriginal organisations: primarily locally based.

Park Advocates:

- Volunteers: including conservation groups, friends, volunteers.
- History, heritage and cultural interests: including those engaged in research and writing about history, landscape, botany etc.

The proposals were advertised through the media, the NPWS public consultation web portal and in static displays at a number of locations.

There were also targeted interest group workshops and targeted Aboriginal Community involvement including meeting with two local Aboriginal families (Timbery and Simms families) and a community open day for Aboriginal community members. A briefing on both plans was provide to the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council on 1st August 2018.

Information on the public exhibition was also shared with the wider Kurnell community.

Submissions and feedback were recorded and summarised in the Context Report and taken into consideration in the Masterplan and current design proposals.

There were subsequently two community consultation days convened by NMN and Bibi Barba in May 2021 and November 2021.

2.10 LIMITATIONS AND TERMS

The terms *fabric, conservation, maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation, compatible use and cultural significance* used in this report are as defined in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter.

No further historical research was carried out for this report.

2.11 METHODOLOGY

This report was prepared in accordance with the *NSW Heritage Manual* "Statements of Heritage Impact" and "Assessing Heritage Significance Guidelines". The philosophy adopted is that guided by the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013.

The CMP provides the primary reference document for an assessment of the impact of the proposals.

2.12 AUTHORS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report, including all diagrams and photographs, was prepared by John Oultram (B. Arch, Dip. Arch, NSW ARB 7359) of John Oultram Heritage & Design, unless otherwise noted. John Oultram Heritage & Design was established in 1998 and is on the NSW Heritage Office list of heritage consultants.

3.0 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The site has been the subject of extensive historical research. The following historical timeline is taken from the D5HA.

3.1 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT/OBSERVATION
	Arrival of the British and Possession of the Land
18 April 1770	The Endeavour was watched by the Aboriginal people of Kurnell as it entered Botany Bay
	Landing of Captain Cook's party - Cook recorded in his journal the confrontation that occurred between his party and 2 Aboriginal men when his party attempted to land
1770	Banks and Solander collected plant samples from around the bay, which were sketched by Parkinson.
	Master's mate of the Endeavour recorded, <i>upon digging we found vast quantities of the oyster shell which seems to have been underground a great while</i>
21 January 1788	First Fleet entered Botany Bay and cleared a spot near the watering place – they began clearing land, sinking wells near the freshwater stream on Point Sutherland and digging sawpits on the headland of Cape Solander
	Within days the Fleet then relocated to Port Jackson to the north
	19 th Century Farming
1815	Governor Macquarie granted 700 acres of land and 160 acres of salt marshes to James Birnie, a retired sea captain, shipping agent and merchant (portion 1, Botany) – Birnie called it Alpha Farm
1821	The Philosophical Society of Australasia erected a commemorative plaque on the cliff face 201m east of Point Sutherland in recognition of the Cook's and Bank's visit to Botany Bay in 1770 on their voyage of discovery
1828	Estate bought by John Connell, a neighbouring landowner (granted 1,000 acres on Quibray Bay in 1821)
	Connell constructed a cottage, but did not reside there
1844/46	Cundlemung, last full-blood Kurnell born Aboriginal elder/chief died under the western most of the 1845 Norfolk Island Pines
	He was reported to have been buried close to the garden fence, 150-200m directly behind the cottage, the site marked by 4 posts
1845	2 Norfolk Island Pines planted – obtained from Mr Shuttleworth, who used Kurnell for shooting, and taken to Kurnell by Elias Laycock, grandson of John Connell
1849	John Connell died – Alpha Farm passed to his grandson, John Connell Laycock
1856	Mr Justice, superintendent for Mr Laycock and then later for Mr Holt (1856- 1869) stated there were no trees on the flat when he arrived. He ploughed the land for corn. Justice lived in Alpha Farm House.
1861	John Laycock, MLA, was heavily in debt – sold estate to Thomas Holt, MLC, wool merchant and politician, for £3,000
	Described as Birnie Estate of 1080 acres; pretty homestead fronting the bay; consisting of weatherboard verandah cottage, containing hall and 6 rooms; stone house of rooms adjoining; detached kitchen, laundry, stable and other outbuildings; paddock
1860s	Holt engaged convicts, runaway sailors and Aboriginal people to work on his estates. He employed William Rowley, a Gweagal man born at Pelican Point (Towra Point), as his foreman at Kurnell
1860s-1870s	Thomas Holt tried grazing first sheep and then cattle on his estate without success. He then sold timber-cutting rights resulting in trees being ringbarked across site. This all resulted in massive degradation of the sand dunes to the south of the study area.
1870	Thomas Holt erected obelisk to commemorate anniversary of Cook's landing.
c. 1880-82	Thomas Holt built the 1st wharf on the site.

DATE	EVENT/OBSERVATION
1881	Holt leased estate to Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Company – syndicate intended to lease estate to tenant farmers on smallholdings. Venture was unsuccessful.
9 August 1881	Princes Albert (Duke of Clarence) and George (later King George V) visited and planted 4 trees at the landing place site – 1 survived in 1899
9 October 1882	Auction sale of the fourth Holt Sutherland Estate – included Captain Cook's Landing Place. Steam ferry shown operating between Botany tram from Sydney and Holt's pier at Kurnell (this was not a regular service). Cook's monument and the trees planted by the princes are also noted on the plan.
1888	Holt died leaving estate to son Frederick Holt
1890	Parliament enacted Holt Sutherland Act to release land for freehold sale
	Captain Cook Landing Place Trust
1899	NSW colonial government resumed approximately 25 hectares at the landing place site
2 May 1899	Site dedicated as a public reserve – 6 trustees appointed - Thomas Henry Hassell (first chair), Hon Joseph Hector Carruthers (Minister for Lands), William Houston, William John Lyne, John See, Cecil West Darley
1899	Flagpole erected on foreshore. While digging the hole for the pole Mr George Collis found a skull and a forearm bone about 3' down
7 January 1901	First re-enactment of Cook's landing in honour of the establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia – 5,000 people attended.
1901	Plans for Kurnell Accommodation House prepared by Government Architect's office under W L Vernon
24 April 1901	Accommodation house opened to public – built on the site of the former Alpha Farm House
1901-1908	J Hespe, caretaker undertook extensive program of planting (300-400 trees, vegetable garden and orchard)
1901	Three dams built across the creek
April 1906	Premiers' Conference visited Captain Cook's Landing Place. Photographs show the visitors under the old pine trees in front of the Accommodation House with Botany Bay and the thatched roofed shelter sheds in the background
1908	Plans prepared by Government Architects for addition of extra rooms and a bathroom at the rear of the accommodation house
1909	Sydney Immigration and Tourist Bureau published a booklet, which stated – Trustees had recently constructed a new boat jetty and cut a new walkway through the thick natural growth to Inscription Point and back along the seafront to the Trustees' cottage; swings for children, summerhouses, shelter sheds; other facilities for picnickers and campers among the groves of banksias; first class accommodation was available at Trustees Cottage for approved visitors for 8 shillings a day
	On Sundays and public holidays the steam ferry left from Brighton, Sans Souci, Botany Pier and La Perouse.
1911	Grazing eliminated from the Reserve.
1911-1912	Inscription path upgraded and continued to Point Solander giving access to the road above. Human remains and rude implements of considerable antiquity were unearthed during the work
1912	Skulls removed from Skeleton Cave – 1 male, 1 female (reported to be from Aboriginal people who died from smallpox in 1789). Subsequently 2/3 of cave floor was dug over and 5 adult and 7-8 children's skulls were removed. Most were about 1' below the surface. All remains were sent to Australian Museum with 2 subsequently returned to the Trust
1911-1912	An additional boat landing was erected on the east side of the wharf
1912	Ferry service commenced from La Perouse to Kurnell
1911-1912	A weatherboard cottage was erected for the head labourer at Kurnell adjacent to Polo Street
1912	4 shelter sheds were completed – they were constructed of round hardwood posts and split slabs with concrete floors and stringy bark roofs. These probably included a larger shelter behind the western dune (adjacent to site of the future cricket pitch) and one larger and a couple of smaller sheds on the grassed area, replacing the earlier thatched shelters. (These are shown on the 1954 map of the site.)

DATE	EVENT/OBSERVATION
	A 5th shed was under construction on the ocean side of the reserve and was to have redwood shingles instead of bark or oak shingles as they were considered less flammable
1911-12	New stone wing walls were added to the Cook's stream dam
1912-13	Wire boundary fence replaced by turpentine post and rail fence
1913	Heavy seas damaged the jetty.
1914	Solander monument erected by Swedish community to commemorate the contribution of Dr Daniel Carl Solander to Cook's expedition
13 April 1914	Auction sale of Kurnell Park Estate, adjacent to the Landing Place Reserve
1916	As a result of waterlogging problems during heavy rains, 700 yards of open drains were cut across the site
	Walking tracks were cleared within the reserve, generally running in a N-S direction. Earlier tracks generally ran E-W
1920	Plan by the Government Architect shows the proposed location for a marquee and band enclosure to the NE of Kurnell cottage (accommodation house) and to the SW of the Solander monument. A marquee was often used during celebrations for serving refreshments to visitors and participants
1920	Houston presented a list of Aboriginal names for walking trails within the reserve to the Trustees
1921	Aboriginal names for paths were adopted by the Trustees. These names were not necessarily local names, but rather from lists compiled and available at the time
1923	The concrete cricket pitch was constructed. It was set out for Saturday afternoon matches
1923-24	A substantial new landing was erected on the western side of the wharf
1925	78 eucalypts and 145 cabbage palms were received from the director of the Botanic Gardens – palms planted in 4 separate groups
1932-33	A new shelter, similar to the earlier rustic timber shelters, was built at Houston Lookout in memory of William Houston, former trustee and treasurer
	2 metal plaques commemorating the lives and services of long-term trustees, Sir Joseph Carruthers and William Houston, were fixed to the caretaker's cottage
	A tablet to mark the burial place of Forby Sutherland was donated by the Royal Australian Historical society, but placed by the Trustees – the place was identified by Elias Laycock in 1923 (an elderly Aboriginal woman, Sally Mettymong, had pointed it out to him when he was a boy living at Alpha Farm)
c. 1936	Aboriginal skull unearthed about 50 yards from Forby Sutherland monument. 2 other skulls were unearthed near the dam (Aboriginal)
1936-37	Skeleton found near the Forby Sutherland monument
6 February 1937	Trust resolved to prohibit camping in the cave used as a burial cave by the Aboriginal people (probably Skeleton Cave).
1937-38	New concrete lavatories constructed
1938-39	The old lavatories south of the Trustees' cottage were removed and new ones built to the east of the cottage – corrugated, galvanized steel walls and roof on concrete slab
	A dressing shed was erected on the foreshore in front of the Trustee's cottage adjacent to the site locally known as boat harbour (possibly Birnie's harbour from the early 19th century). The shed was weatherboard on a concrete slab with a corrugated gal steel roof.
1938	Photographs of celebrations marking the landing of Governor Philip at Kurnell (18 January 1938) show the planting of a new ceremonial avenue of Norfolk Island Pine trees along the foreshore linking the Cook and Solander monument sites. The area between the dam over Cook's Stream and the beach has been reclaimed, leaving little evidence of the original stream
	The photos also show a gabled shelter shed had been added on the end of the wharf and ceremonial flags lining both sides of the wharf. This shed is also shown in later photos of Cook's monument

DATE	EVENT/OBSERVATION
1939-40	The old boat shed, which had been used as a store and workshop, was demolished
1940	New jetty completed on side of wharf to replace overturned in storm of 1938
1940s-50s	Heyday of camping in the reserve. Many of the sites were permanent, with some of them even on the flat near the main flagstaff.
1940-41	The decision was made to mark the anchorage point of the 'Endeavour', 'Landing Rock' and other points of interest.
	2 small shelter sheds on the grassed area to the NE of the Trustees' cottage were reconditioned. The 3rd was found unsafe and demolished.
	A new white painted park rail fence was erected from the new storage shed to Solander Path. This separated the camping area from the picnic
1941-42	Several trenches were dug at the rear of the trustees' cottage to provide air raid shelters for the public. Wire netting screens were placed over the windows of the cottage
17 April 1942	Trust resolved to continue present policy of only planting Australasian trees in the Reserve
8 October 1942	Trust resolved to offer Aboriginal remains held at Kurnell to the Australian museum
1942	The army and navy occupied the Reserve, using heavy vehicles and horses on the site
1943	5 Aboriginals reported cutting down 11 native pear trees and taking the timber back to La Perouse
1944	Trust supported the establishment of a Koala sanctuary in the Reserve (suggested by Mr Hallstrom)
1945	Bad bushfire – burnt Houston Lookout shelter
1945-46	The Banks Memorial Seat was constructed, funded by Mr E.J.L. Hallstrom, a member of the Trust, representing the Royal Zoological Society of NSW
1946	Trustees planted more Norfolk Island Pines to the west of the Trustees' Cottage (to extend the row along foreshore?).
17 Sept 1946	Royal Visit – Duke & Duchess of Gloucester & Prince William planted memorial trees
1946-47	Stone steps destroyed at Inscription Point in 1944 were replaced by wooden steps constructed of heavy timber removed from the wharf during repairs
22 February 1947	First motor bus to Kurnell – route 64 operated by Stanley Richard Latta
1947	Stone artefacts found near the Banks memorial seat
1947-48	Large Navy hut converted to a shelter shed and ambulance room (location unknown).
7 February 1948	Monument to Isaac Smith unveiled
21 July 1950	Sutherland Shire Council gazetted the existing track from Cronulla to Kurnell as a public road 80' wide – to be known as Captain Cook Drive
1952-53	New men's lavatory erected in camping area. Kitchen at Trustee's cottage repaired. Trustee's lavatory renovated. New drainage system for cottage no.2. Fence around the dam was renewed. Small shelter shed NE of Trustee's cottage renovated. New sighting poles for the Endeavour anchorage.
	Oil Refinery approved for Kurnell
20 June 1952	A rough but trafficable road was constructed from the end of the new road to the Reserve boundary. This resulted in a large boost to visitor numbers to the reserve.
1953-54	In response to the opening of the new road, a new parking area (8-9 acres) was cleared, levelled and fenced along the Polo Street frontage from the bay (Australian Oil Refining Ltd contributed to this). The area had been uneven and thickly covered with tea tree.
	A shelter was constructed for the car park attendant and new sanitary conveniences constructed for the parking area.
	A new road entrance and gates were constructed on Polo Street and a scenic drive constructed from Polo Street to Cape Solander. A new park rail fence was constructed along Polo Street to replace the previous post and wire fence.

DATE	EVENT/OBSERVATION
1953-54	Additional parking extended over the cricket oval, but this became waterlogged.
	The arboretum was closed due to overshadowing by mature trees (planted by trust).
1954-55	In response to the increased numbers of visitors, the public facilities on the site were extensively upgraded and the site generally tidied up.
1955-56	Upgrading of the site continued
	Grassed path in front of dam flagged because of wear caused by increased visitor numbers. Ambulance station accommodated in main shelter shed. New concrete floor in shelter at Parking area. Construction of potting shed and nursery. New stable and yard for saddle horse.
	Site selected for a new kiosk to be designed by Mr Colin Smith. An old workshop occupying an adjacent site was demolished. New camping area cleared. Proposed to clear old camping area to provide additional parking.
	A new cottage was being erected from materials donated by the Oil Refinery (former site office). Cottage to be occupied by Trust employee to keep watch over central workshop, proposed new camping area and entrants to the inner portion of the reserve.
5 May 1957	Due to increased visitation by road, the ferry service became unprofitable and ceased operations
15 February 1957	Trust lease on Kurnell jetty expired
1957-58	New kiosk completed
	Holders of permits for semi-permanent camps in the old camping ground were given notice that their occupancies would terminate 30 June 1959
1958-59	The old dressing sheds were demolished and re-erected on new site to the rear of the previous site, higher up off the beach.
1959-60	All campers were removed from the old camping ground by the end of 1959. Of the 55 camps originally occupying the site, 39 had been demolished and 16 were transferred to the new camping area (shielded by scrub). Conditions: increased fees and better class of cabin erected in lieu of canvas covered structures
	The old camping site was cleared and increased picnic, parking and toilet facilities were considered for the foreshore.
15 February 1960	Gravel roadway into cricket pitch completed.
1959-60	It was decided to use the navigational buoy on eastern side of present entrance channel to mark the Endeavour anchorage and it was named Captain Cook's Buoy
1960-61	Road sealed from the entrance gates to the kiosk with a new collector's booth erected in the centre of the main entrance road. New gates were erected across the entrance to Solander Drive
29 Nov 1961	2 skeletons found in reserve
1961-62	Gravel road built into new car park on old camping ground.
	A stone sea wall was constructed 110' long and 4'6" high to check erosion of the foreshore opposite the swimming place. Eroded beach (near dressing sheds) was consolidated with rock excavated from the site of the Electricity Commission vault (from laying of underground cable through reserve)
	Low lying swampy ground near the main shelter shed was drained and filled. (Probably on Commemoration Flat)
1963-64	Old sheds and garages at rear of Trustee's cottage demolished. New garages (3), toilet and caterer's laundry being constructed
1964	The Trust selected a site for a new museum – to be conveniently and centrally located in the picnic area near the works depot. Building designed by Raymond Jones of Brewster, Murray and Partners - suggested inclusion of sandstock bricks in the exterior wall.
1964-65	2 new toilet blocks in lower car park area replaced – built of coloured cement blocks and tiled interior.
1965	Sandstone rock and plaque installed at the location of the Prince's tree.
April 1966	Construction of new museum commenced. 1966
1966	Cape Solander tourist road sealed.

DATE	EVENT/OBSERVATION
	National Parks and Wildlife Services
1967	NPWS formed and the Captain Cook's Landing Place Historic Site came under the control of the Director of the NPWS. Trust retained until 1979.
29 April 1967	Opening of Captain Cook's Landing Place Museum and Information Centre by T.J. Lewis, MLA, Minister for Lands.
1967	J V S Megaw, Sydney University, conducted an archaeological excavation along the foreshore between the dam and the wharf – found midden material, stone tools, flakes and fish hooks etc. similar to those collected by Banks in 1770
	Megaw also found artefacts from early European settlement – square headed nail, button (pre 1850), bottle glass (late 18th C to early 19th C)
1967	Cottage on Polo Street was demolished, the foundations and debris buried. Fence around Solander monument removed
1968-72	Accommodation house became ranger's accommodation and was occupied by the Erskine family. Trustees' room used as meeting room
1968	Photo shows an area of crazy paving added in front of the plaques on the Banks memorial seat. The flagpole behind it has been replaced
1969-70	Renovation of Cook Monument
	Replacement of Prince's Tree plaque which was stolen from the rock with two plaques – one describing tree, one describing circumstances of planting
10 October 1970	Minister for Lands presented one of 6 restored 'Endeavour' guns to the Trust for display in the museum
1970	8 stone groynes constructed along Silver Beach to reduce loss of sand
1970	Royal visit of Queen Elizabeth II – planted a Norfolk Island Pine. Re-enactment of Cook's landing for bicentenary celebrations. A large marquis and viewing platform were set up on the foreshore in front of Cook's Obelisk for the official party.
	Political demonstrations in relation to the disenfranchisement of Aboriginal people took place during the celebrations.
1971	Stone axe found whilst leveling ground adjacent to anchor display at the entrance to the park
1972	Anchor memorial erected at front entrance to Reserve. Plaque installed 1973
1973	Gift of two 12 pound guns and shot from Trustees of Zoological Parks Board (shot to go to La Perouse)
1974	Plaque installed on foreshore to draw attention to 'landing rock'
1974	Wharf destroyed in a severe storm. Photos show the deck of the timber jetty washed away in a storm and lying on Silver Beach well to the SW of the wharf site. The foreshore area generally appears to have been severely gouged by the sea
1976	Demolition of old workshops south of Museum
1979	Trust disbanded by NPWS
24 April 1981	Prince's tree cut down after vandalism and ringbarking
29 May 1981	Eastern of the 2 Norfolk Island Pines in front of Alpha Farm cut down
1983/1985	Aerial photos clearly show the removal of the Prince's tree and the pine trees in front of cottage No.1 (Alpha House). The camping ground appears to have been abandoned by this time
Late 1980s	Plans prepared by J W Thompson, Government Architect, show additions to the south side of the original museum building, providing a new education and assembly area, shop and toilets
1988	Botany Bay National Park gazetted and the museum opened as the Discovery Centre
1991	Cook exhibition developed in Discovery Centre
1994	Plans prepared by the Dept. of School Education show the conversion of the kiosk building into a Field Study Centre. The refreshment room was converted to a classroom and the kiosk to a reception and office. A new kitchen fitout was installed in the old kitchen and a shower and toilet were provided in the storeroom
1996	'Captain Cook's Landing Place' sign taken down from entrance to reserve
c. 1997	Gravel car park developed at Discovery Centre.
1998	Cricket pitch shelter shed collapsed.

DATE	EVENT/OBSERVATION
25 May 1998	Sorry Day was celebrated on the foreshore of the reserve
c. 1998	The staircase up to the northern side of the Discovery Centre was covered over or removed and the land was reformed to make a grassed amphitheatre
1999	Aboriginal smoking ceremony conducted at Kurnell to clear ill feeling from the site where Europeans and Aboriginal people first met. Aboriginal elders welcomed more than 200 people who took part in the ceremonies, including dancing and speeches – conducted in spirit of reconciliation
Sept 2000	Aboriginal healing ceremony held at Captain Cook's Landing Place led by Kevin Burracott, Arabunna Elder (Lake Eyre) – <i>Finding the Foot</i>
2002	As part of statewide repatriation program, Aboriginal remains, previously sent to the Australian Museum, were repatriated to the La Perouse Aboriginal community and were reburied in a specifically designated keeping place on the Kurnell Peninsula
2003	National Parks and Wildlife Services masterplan completed
2004	New loop road constructed through from Cape Solander Drive to Commemoration Flat. New car parks developed to the south of the Discovery Centre and on the site of the old camping ground
2008	Construction of the circular sandstone "meeting Place" structure
	Removal of the dam across the Freshwater Stream at the Botany Bay foreshore, removing the stormwater pipe and reopening of the mouth of the Freshwater Stream to Botany Bay
	Construction of a steel and timber bridge across at the location of the Freshwater Stream
	Construction of a jetty structure at the location of the wharf destroyed by a storm in 1974
	Masterplan for the Meeting Place Precinct completed by NSW Government Architect's Office, Merrima Design and Freeman Ryan Design
2010	New Welcome Wall and new carpark and Visitors Centre forecourt by NSW Government Architects Office and Freeman Ryan Design
	Sandstone Meeting place + Burrawang walk Interpretive material
	Cooks Stream revitalization and timber bridge Interpretive material
2016	Commencement of Kamay 2020 board and development of a new Kamay Botany Bay National Park Masterplan
2018	Public exhibition of Kamay Botany Bay National Park Draft Masterplan of three stages:
	Stage 1 – Foreshore Loop and Ferry
	Stage 2 – Arrival at Kurnell and new beach park
	Stage 3 – Broader Park upgrades
2019	Alpha House alterations and additions – compliance upgrades works commence
2020	<i>Kamay Botany Bay National Park: Kurnell Plan of Management completed</i>
	Cap Solander whale watching platform on the rocky foreshore designed by Oculus
	<i>Kamay Botany Bay National Park: Kurnell Precinct Master Plan completed</i>
2022	Alterations and conservation works carried out to Alpha House
	Kamay 2020 Project – Selection of Commemorative Installation artworks
	'Eyes of the Land and Water' by Alison Page with Nik Lachaczak on the foreshore in front of Cooks Monument
	'Wi-Yanga and Gurung The Whales' by Julie Squires and Theresa Ardler on the foreshore at eastern edge of Commemoration Flat
	'Nuwi' canoes sculpture by Julie Squires and Theresa Ardler on foreshore of Commemoration Flat.

3.1.1 Memorials

The D5HA report goes on to list the various memorials in the study area and the works carried out to them over time including:

- Cook's Stream
- Inscription Plate
- Cook's Obelisk
- Prince's Tree (later cut down)
- Forby Sutherland's Grave
- Flagstaffs
- Solander Monument
- Cook's Well
- Banks Memorial Seat
- Isaac Smith Monument
- Captain Cook's Buoy
- Anchor

Since the completion of the D5HA report, sculptures have been placed at the site; *The Nuwi Canoes* and *Wi-Yanga and Guring The Whales* by Theresa Ardler and Julie Squires; the *Rock Weave* hand made by Aboriginal Master Weaver Phyllis Stewart; *The Eyes of the Land and Sea* an abstraction of the ribs of the HMB *Endeavour* by Alison Page and Nik Lachaczak.

The sculptures were installed to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the encounter that took place between the crew of HMB *Endeavour* and the local Aboriginal people with connection to country.

3.1.2 Structures

The history and development of the various structures in the Precinct is also included in the report.

- Holt's Wharf
- Trusts Wharf
- Sea Wall
- Alpha House (Accommodation House, Trustees Cottage, Cottage No. 1).
- Shelter Sheds
- Cottage No. 3
- Education Centre (kiosk)
- Discovery Centre
- Dressing Sheds

Many of the earlier structures have been removed.

4.0 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

An inspection of the Precinct was carried out by John Oultram in August 2020 and September 2021. The current layout of the area and the Visitor Centre is shown in Figures 3.1 and 3.2.

The Precinct is very well described in the CMP and D5HA report and this is not repeated here.

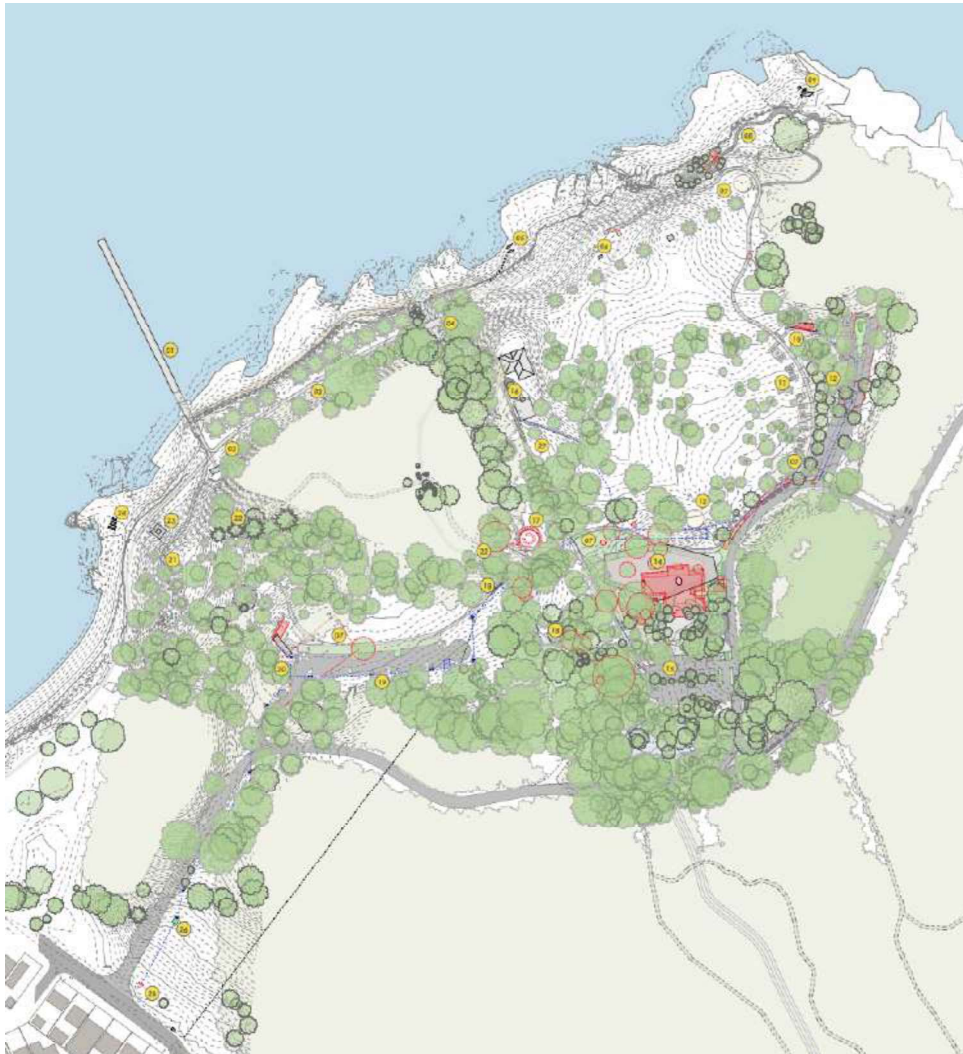


Figure 3.1 Kamay Meeting Place Precinct

Site Plan

Source: Neeson Murcutt + Neille

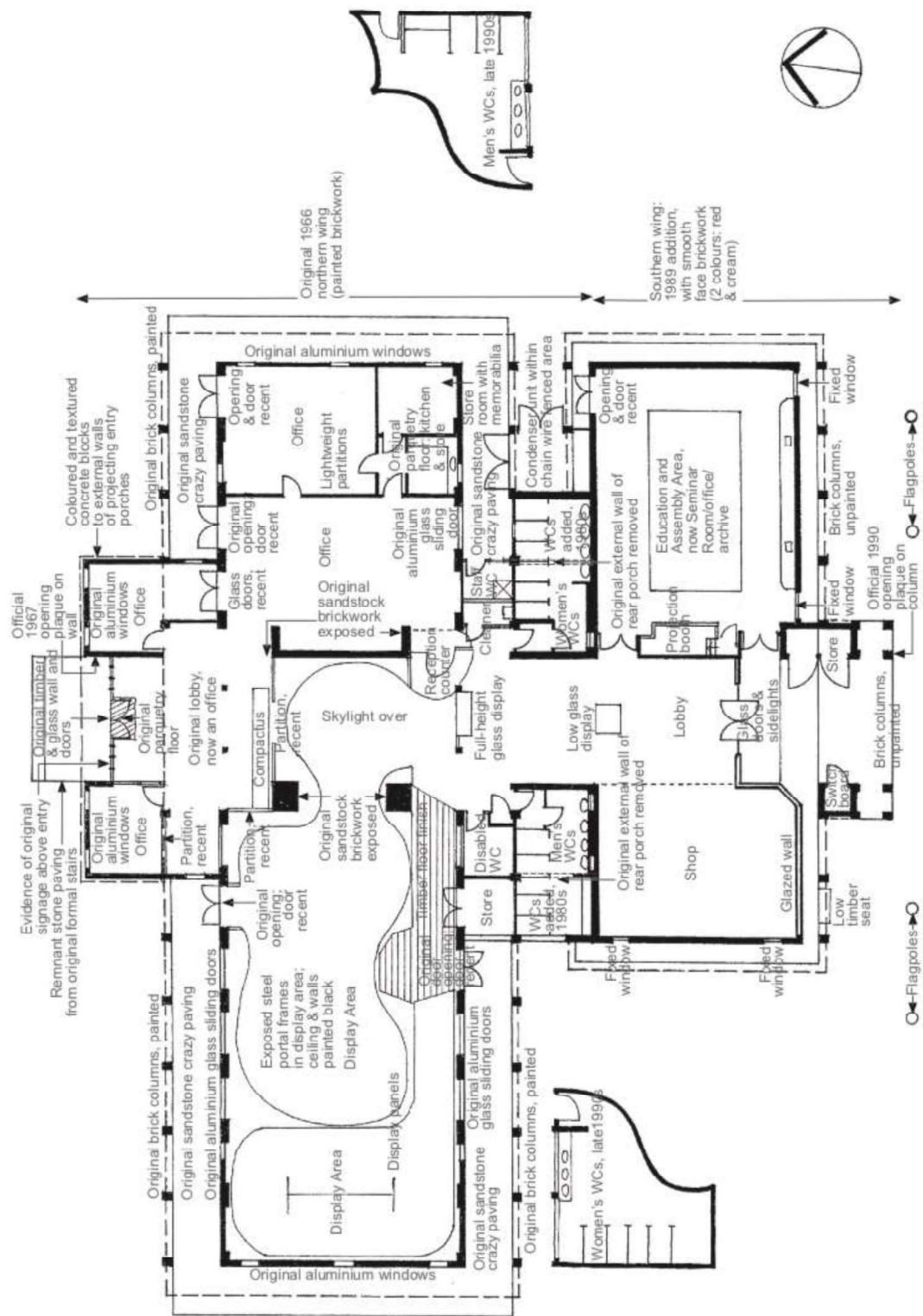


Figure 3.2 Discovery Centre – plan prior to the 2008 works

The drawing notes the changes to the building

Source: D5HA p. 98

5.0 STATUTORY HERITAGE LISTINGS & CONTROLS

The statutory framework applying to the place is outlined in Section 3.3 to 3.5 of the CMP including:

5.1 STATUTORY CONTROLS

Statutory Control/Authority	Note
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999, and Regulations, 2000	Kamay Botany Bay National Park is listed on the National Heritage List known as the Kurnell Peninsula, including the Meeting Place Precinct
Australian Heritage Council	
Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act, 1986, and the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Regulations, 1987	
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974	
<i>Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage</i>	
<i>National Parks and Wildlife Regulation</i>	
<i>Kamay Botany Bay National Park Plan of Management (NPWS, January 2020)</i>	The POM replaced the earlier POM dated February 2002 that is referred to in the CMP
<i>Meeting Place Precinct Master Plan, Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell (NPWS, April 2003)</i>	
NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995	
NSW Heritage Act, 1977	
<i>State Agency Heritage Guide: Management of Heritage Assets by NSW Government Agencies</i>	NPWS and DPE maintains a Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS) which contains information on all historic heritage which is over 25 years old and on lands managed by NPWS/DPE (approximately 9,000 heritage items and sites)
	The HHIMS database for Kamay Botany Bay National Park contains 58 items and 'complexes' (collections of items). Of these, 22 items are within the Meeting Place Precinct and 13 individual items and one complex (the monument group) are included on the S170 Register.
<i>Historical Archaeological Relics</i>	The Meeting Place Precinct at Kurnell may contain historical archaeological relics, in particular within the vicinity of existing buildings.
NSW Environment Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation, 2000	
State and regional planning policies	
<i>State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 4—Development without Consent and Miscellaneous Complying Development</i>	
<i>Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (SREP) 17—Kurnell Peninsula, 1989</i>	This SREP excludes all land within its boundaries (the entire Kurnell Peninsula, including all areas under PWG management) from the controls of the <i>Sutherland Shire Local Environmental Plan 2006</i> .
State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 60—Exempt and Complying Development	

5.1.1 State Heritage Register

Under the Heritage Act 1977, the NSW Heritage Council, administered by Heritage NSW of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, maintains the State Heritage Register (SHR), a register of items and places that are considered to have heritage significance at a state level.

The study area is listed on the Register as part of the Kamay Botany National Park and Towra Point Nature Reserve.

SHR REF	ADDRESS	ITEM
01918	Cape Solander Drive	Kamay Botany National Park (North and South) and Towra Point Nature Reserve



State Heritage Register - SHR:01918 - Plan: 2565

Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Towra Point Reserve

Cape Solander Drive Kurnell

Gazettal Date: 29/11/2013

0 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000 Meters

Scale: 1:97,000 @A4

Datum/Projection: GCS GDA 1994

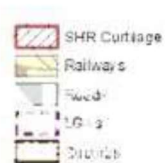


Figure 4.1 Kamay Botany National Park and Towra Point Reserve. Plan under the NSW Heritage Act No. 2565

Development at the place would require the consent of the NSW Heritage Council via a Section 60 application. Standard exemptions under Section 57(2) of the Act have been granted allowing minor works such as maintenance and repairs and minor works that will have no impact on the significance of the place.

Site Specific Exemptions have also been granted under Section 57(2) of the Act that do not require approval under Section 57 (1) of the Act:

	Exempt activities include
	Activities identified as having an acceptable level of heritage impact in a Plan of Management for Kamay Botany Bay National Park or Towra Point Nature Reserve
	Cultural practices by Aboriginal people and the sharing of these practices with others.
	Conservation works and activities clearly identified in the maintenance schedules or schedule of works outlined in a Conservation Management Plan for the site or elements within the site which has been endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW.
	Temporary infrastructure associated with Festivals, filming and events.
	Bush regeneration activities including re-vegetation that do not involve any impacts on archaeological resources and relics.
	Threatened species and communities' recovery and pest management activities
	Emergency management and response activities related to significant incidents, which may require immediate and urgent action.
	New tracks, track maintenance, upgrades and improvements which do not materially affect the significance of the park and do not involve any impacts on archaeological resources and relics.
	Infrastructure maintenance and improvement including: energy saving works and the installation of sustainable technologies (solar power, water tanks etc) electrical supply infrastructure, navigation aids, water and sewerage pipelines, pump stations and pits, existing toilet facilities and enclosed infrastructure, fences, erosion control and soil conservation works, Park User Fee infrastructure (including parking metres and E-tag technologies), maintenance of existing roads, fire and other trails and tracks, including sub-grade, pavement and drainage works where these works do not involve any impacts on archaeological resources or structures identified as being significant.
	Maintenance and upgrade of existing visitor facilities including toilets, bbq's, picnic shelters, signage, car parks, walking track, fencing, bollards, road barriers and road works
	Beach re-nourishment activities
	Roadside vegetation control including manual, mechanical and chemical treatment of non-culturally significant vegetation
	Asset management zone vegetation control manual, mechanical and chemical treatment of non-culturally significant vegetation.
	Signage associated with park use and management.
	Environmental rehabilitation work including temporary silt fencing, tree planting, and weed removal and rubbish removal.

5.1.2 State Heritage Inventory

Heritage NSW also compiles the State Heritage Inventory (SHI, a collated database of all places listed on statutory heritage lists, including Local Environmental Plans. The following elements at the place are listed on the Inventory.

REF	ADDRESS	ITEM
2440804	Cape Solander Drive	Captains Cook landing site
2440807	Cape Solander Drive	Captains Cook watering well
2440805	Cape Solander Drive	Captains Cook monument
2440809	Cape Solander Drive	Landing place and wharf abutment
2440802	Cape Solander Drive	Banks Memorial
2440775	Cape Solander Drive	Kurnell Monuments (in Kamay National Park)
2440801	Cape Solander Drive	Alpha Farm site
2440236	Old Princes Highway	Forby Sutherland Monument
2440811	Cape Solander Drive	Solander Monument
2440803	Cape Solander Drive	Captains Cook landing place
2440808		Flagpole

The listings have no statutory implications for development at the place but reflect the listing of the items in the *Sutherland Local Environmental Plan 2015*.

5.2 OTHER POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Policy/Guidelines	Note
The Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS)	The <i>Burra Charter</i> (Australia ICOMOS, 1999) is the principal guiding document for Australian cultural heritage conservation and establishes a 'best practice' approach to which all Australian heritage conservation bodies subscribe.
Australian Natural Heritage Charter	The <i>Australian Natural Heritage Charter: for the conservation of places of natural heritage significance</i> (2nd ed.) recognises the coexistence of natural and cultural heritage values of places. In making decisions that will affect the future of a place, the Natural Heritage Charter emphasises the importance of considering all the values of a place, encompasses a wide interpretation of natural heritage, and is fundamentally based upon a respect for that heritage.
Museums Australia	Regarding guidelines for moveable heritage, the Museums Australia document <i>Previous Possessions, New Obligations: Policies for Museums in Australia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait People</i> , accepted by all museums of the Museums Australia network, is referred to as a benchmark document in regard to establishing and maintaining good working relations between Indigenous people and museums.
NSW Heritage Office – Movable Heritage	Regarding guidelines for moveable heritage, the NSW Heritage Office publication <i>Objects in their Place: An Introduction to Movable Heritage</i> , 1994, and <i>Movable Heritage Principles</i> , 2000, provide two key principles relating to the conservation of moveable heritage.

5.3 OTHER STANDARDS AND LEGISLATION

Standard	Note
Australian Standards and legislation for safety and disability access	Of particular relevance to the management of activities and works within the Meeting Place Precinct are the national building codes, disability access regulations and Australian Standards, which along with NSW occupational health and safety legislation influence the day-to-day management of the site.
Disability Discrimination Act 1992	The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) is Commonwealth legislation requiring that people with disabilities be given equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to the range of social, political and cultural activities. The legislation is a complaints based law which requires people who consider themselves discriminated against to lodge a complaint with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission
Building Code of Australia (BCA)	The Building Code of Australia (BCA) is intended to provide nationally consistent standards for building design and construction. It replaces the former state based building regulations and sets out uniform provisions for all forms of commercial, industrial and domestic structures. The goals of the BCA are to maintain acceptable standards of structural sufficiency, safety, health and amenity for the benefit of the broader community.

Standard	Note
Australian Standards	AS 1428 <i>Design for Access and Mobility</i> is the Australian Standard to the design of facilities to accommodate people with disabilities. Part 1 (AS1248.1) established minimum design criteria for new building work to enhance access for people with disabilities. This includes guidelines for the design of ramps, landings, steps, handrails, toilets, car parks, signage and the like. Compliance with this standard will generally satisfy the access requirements of the BCA.
New South Wales Work Health and Safety Act 2011 No. 10	The New South Wales Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (WHS Act) is a state Act that establishes responsibilities and obligations relation to workplace health and safety. In particular it establishes that employers must ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees when at work, and must ensure the health and safety of people visiting or working at their places of work, who are not their employees, by not exposing them to risk.

6.0 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 DESIGN 5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Appendix 2 of the CMP included the statement of significance taken from the D5HA report. The reference numbers below are those used in the CMP pp. 190-192.

6.1.1 Summary Statement of Cultural Significance

The Meeting Place Precinct on Botany Bay is both historically and socially unique within NSW and Australia, and is therefore of national significance.

- 6.1.1 *It is the place where the first European, Lieutenant James Cook, set foot on the eastern shores of Australia in April 1770, during his first voyage of exploration of the Pacific. Although the first British settlement did not occur on this site as initially intended, the place has taken on a symbolic association with the founding of the Australian nation.*
- 6.1.2 *It is here also that the first contact was made between the British, who were later to possess and settle the land, and the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land, the Gweagal people of the Dharawal nation. For Aboriginal people, the place has come to represent their dispossession from the land, with Botany Bay becoming an incredibly important stage for Aboriginal protests against forms of history that ignore, silence and deny their own experiences of colonisation.*
- 6.1.3 *It was at this place that the first scientific collections of Australian native flora (collected by Sir Joseph Banks and Dr Daniel Carl Solander) and indigenous cultural artefacts (collected by James Cook) were made and the first description of the land and its people was recorded both in words (by Cook and Banks) and artwork (by Sidney Parkinson and Tupaia).*
- 6.1.4 *The Meeting Place Precinct has long been used by individuals and groups within settler Australian society as a site to commemorate, celebrate and reflect on the Cook expedition. The collection of monuments and memorials, dating from as early as 1821, which are set within a ceremonial landscape that allows for and promotes the conduct of commemorative ceremonies and parades, strongly reflects the importance of the site for this purpose. The creation of the Captain Cook's Landing Place Reserve, now the Meeting Place, in 1899, marks the beginning of a coordinated effort to conserve the place as a publicly owned historic site of state and national significance.*
- 6.1.5 *The place is strongly associated with several figures of international significance, through their participation in the activities that took place at the site in April 1770 - Captain James Cook (British explorer), Sir Joseph Banks (British Botanist and promoter of Botany Bay for the establishment of a new British colony) and Dr Daniel Carl Solander (Swedish naturalist).*

6.1.2 Secondary significance

The Meeting Place Precinct is also significant for the following reasons:

- 6.2.1 *The place is prominently located on the Kurnell Peninsula headland, which together with Cape Banks, frames the entrance to Botany Bay. The well-vegetated dunes and cliffs of these sites contrast with the low-lying, flat and highly developed residential and industrial areas that generally surround Botany Bay.*
- 6.2.2 *The place is one of natural beauty that provides opportunities for visitors to experience first hand the landscape of the bay, the beaches, rock platforms, cliffs, open parklands and bushland. It provides both panoramic and framed views across Botany Bay.*
- 6.2.3 *The orientation of the 20th century cultural landscape of the precinct towards Botany Bay reflects the importance of the primary access to the site, which for the whole of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, was by water across Botany Bay.*
- 6.2.4 *The ferry crossing from La Perouse to Kurnell has historic, aesthetic and social significance. The physical experience of the crossing and the view of the place that the ferry provided heightened visitor expectation and experience of the place.*
- 6.2.5 *Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the place has provided, and today continues to provide, opportunities for visitors, both local and from the broader community, to participate in recreational and social activities, including picnicking, walking, swimming, fishing, bird watching, and socialising. Historically, visitors also participated in camping and hunting.*
- 6.2.6 *The place contains endangered ecological communities as listed under the NSW Threatened Species Act 1995 - EEC Kurnell Dune Forest (coastal scrub on sand) and EEC Swamp Scherophyl Forest (Swamp Forest) and the habitat of several rare and endangered species.*
- 6.2.7 *Together with Banks' and Solander's 1770 collection of native flora from the region, the remaining endemic vegetation communities have the potential to provide evidence of the vegetation communities that existed on the site in 1770.*
- 6.2.8 *The place has strong cultural and spiritual associations for the Gweagal and Dharawal people, who occupied the land prior to European settlement and after. It is a place where they can pass on their knowledge of the environment, cultural practices, history and spiritual connections to the land to future generations.*
- 6.2.9 *The view across Botany Bay from La Perouse to Kurnell is important to the local Aboriginal community as it provides a visual link to country. The ferry that once operated between the two places provided an important physical link for this community.*
- 6.2.10 *The place, together with its archaeological remains, the collections of artefacts taken from the site in 1770 and since, and the oral history of the Gweagal people, has the potential to reveal information about the life and customs of the Gweagal people who occupied the land prior to European settlement.*

- 6.2.11 *The place contains several significant Aboriginal sites including among others the shell midden on which Alpha House is built, Skeleton Cave and a rock art site.*
- 6.2.12 *In recent years, the place has developed a high level of potential as a place that can foster reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.*
- 6.2.13 *The place was the first place cleared by white settlers for the establishment of a new British colony, although under the direction of Governor Arthur Phillip, the settlement was relocated to Port Jackson after only 6 days.*
- 6.2.14 *The place was part of the first land grant made on the southern side of Botany Bay, that being to James Birnie, who established Alpha Farm on the site.*
- 6.2.15 *Several significant items of built heritage occupy the site. These include Alpha House, which includes the cellar of the previous farmhouse, the Inscription Plate, the Cook Obelisk, the Solander monument, the Banks Memorial Seat, other monuments in the group, the shelter shed and the remains of the Trust wharf. Of lesser significance are the Discovery Centre and the other buildings associated with the development of the place as a public reserve.*
- 6.2.16 *The place, together with its monuments, ceremonial plantings and the records of the Captain Cook Landing Place Trust, provides evidence of the changing ways in which different groups of settler Australians have interpreted, understood and constructed their histories.*
- 6.2.17 *The place, together with its archaeological remains and associated collections of illustrative and documentary material, has the potential to reveal information about the 19th century occupation and agricultural use of the place and its environs.*
- 6.2.18 *The place, together with its remaining structures, archaeological remains, plantings, site works and the records of the Captain Cook Landing Place Trust, has the potential to provide information on the development and management of a 20th century historic site and recreational grounds, and early approaches to regeneration of a previously degraded environment.*
- 6.2.19 *The place is closely associated with Hon. Joseph Hector Carruthers, former NSW Minister for Lands and long term trustee of the Captain Cook Landing Place Trust.*
- 6.2.20 *The place is associated with Joseph Henry Maiden, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, who, during the early part of the 20th century contributed to the planting program undertaken on the site.*
- 6.2.21 *The place has been the subject of three Royal visits - Princes Albert and George in 1881, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester in 1946 and Queen Elizabeth II in 1970.*
- 6.2.22 *The place has been used in the education of school children in both Australian history and the environment throughout the 20th century.*
- 6.2.23 *The place provided, in its camping grounds and foreshore caves, opportunities for temporary accommodation during the Depression years, of which there are some limited remains.*

6.2.24 *The place is associated with environmental politics and preservation, particularly through the work of early conservation groups and resident action groups.*

6.2.25 *The place, which is used by many cultural groups, provides an opportunity to strengthen the sense of community and cross cultural interaction.*

CMP pp. 190-192

6.2 NEW UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE - CMP

Section 2 of the CMP expanded on the D5HA statements of significance under a number of headings. Revised statements of significance are not provided in the CMP though the expanded interpretations are reflected in the conservation guidelines in the CMP.

6.2.1 Symbolic Meanings and Connections

The D5HA notes

6.1.1 It is the place where the first European, Lieutenant James Cook, set foot on the eastern shores of Australia in April 1770, during his first voyage of exploration of the Pacific. Although the first British settlement did not occur on this site as initially intended, the place has taken on a symbolic association with the founding of the Australian nation.

The CMP suggests expansion of this aspect of significance to the complex symbolic meanings of the place including the:

...layered and contradictory, encompassing opposites: possession and dispossession; beginnings and endings; national and invisible.

(For settler Australians) the need for a foundation on which to build a new identity – first local and then national – meant the imbuing of certain places, events, and people with greater meaning than could have possibly been imagined by the actors on that historical stage.

The symbolic meaning of the meeting Place Precinct:

...are embodied in what is there, and what is missing. Intangible heritage refers to aspects of heritage that are embodied in traditions, knowledge, cultural and social practices, language, performance (etc) rather than through tangible places and objects. In reality, the intangible and the tangible are like the warp and the weft of our cultural cloth, neither existing alone, and this is strongly apparent at the Meeting Place.

CMP p. 10

6.2.2 Community Connections

Statements 6.2.4, 6.2.5, 6.2.22, 6.2.23, 6.2.24 and 6.2.25

The CMP also provides additional commentary of some of the aspects of secondary significance identifies in the D5HA report expanding areas of significance generally, for Aboriginal peoples and for migrants:

The Meeting Place Precinct as a people's landscape is a place that is practiced, experienced and lived' is a strongly linked to the symbolic importance of the place as part of a national narrative, but also as part of local or community-specific narratives.

For the local Aboriginal people, for example, the sense of connection to or disconnection from the Meeting Place Precinct, is immediate and deeply felt. The Kurnell area, including the Meeting Place Precinct, is a part of the traditional country of some Aboriginal people, and is a part of the wider Botany Bay seascape and landscape for others, a place long valued and used

CMP p. 11

Another specific 'community' with strong past associations with the Meeting Place Precinct are those who occupied the camps in the vicinity from the late 1920s.

Their experiences....are evidence of strong and enduring connections across a wide community of visitors and locals. The Meeting Place Precinct is held in high community esteem and it has served as an important reference point in community identities across several generations. Even for those who reject its focus on Cook or as a place of foundation, it offers opportunities for alternative viewpoints and different readings of the past.

For more recently arrived migrant or ethnic communities, the Meeting Place Precinct may have quite different resonances in relational to national identity. For some migrant communities, this place has been used for forty or more years as a place for large family and community gatherings; for other communities the use is more recent. Based on the limited research that has been undertaken, the Meeting Place Precinct can be expected to have distinct meanings for each community, reflecting the social circumstances of the community and cultural views about nature. Consultation for the Meeting Place Master Plan (2003) revealed strong interest in Aboriginal history and 'reconciliation' amongst some recent migrant groups.

- *The Meeting Place Precinct is of potential social significance to several specific ethnic/migrant communities that actively use the site for community gatherings - Macedonian, Arabic-speaking, Pacific Islander, Vietnamese and Korean communities. It may be of importance to the Swedish community who held their annual picnic day here until 1995 (Solander monument).*
- *The values held across the wider community may also be relevant to ethnic communities.*

CMP p. 12

The CMP concludes that the Meeting Place Precinct has wide and more complex meanings than those identified in the D5HA:

Understanding contemporary attachments to the Meeting Place Precinct is complex. The place does not have a fixed nor a singular meaning. Rather, there are many and changing meanings, influenced by the nature of people's associations with the place and by national dialogues about identity, foundation and Aboriginal dispossession and disadvantage.

Social practices – our ways of being, our perspectives on the past and future – change over time, and are a strong influence on how people connect to place and the meanings they derive. For some places, little change may be evident, but for the Meeting Place Precinct change over time is strongly apparent.

In terms of symbolic meanings, the physical attributes of the Meeting Place Precinct demonstrate past expressions of national identity and the foundation story, and are part of the historical significance of the place. Aspects of the place that demonstrate nineteenth century processes of memorialisation and commemoration are readily apparent, as is the 1960s National Parks layer with the Discovery Centre and the introduction of site-based education and interpretation.

Contemporary expressions, those that relate to today, are not physically present within the landscape, and rely on personal reflection based on on-site information and interpretation.

In summary, the symbolic meanings of the Meeting Place Precinct are multiple, not singular. They are far more than the foundation story. The possession of the landscape is embodied in naming, landscape change, use and management. The process of seeking to create national identity, and therefore needing a 'foundation' time and place, has resulted in the creation of this place to enable that moment to be marked and commemorated in an ongoing way, and the creation of a space in which to reflect. Cook has been created as 'founding father and a discoverer', a mythic figure for settler and Indigenous people, each seeing the agency of 'Cook' in very different ways.

Symbolic meanings change over time, and the challenge will be to recognise this. Equally, there is a need to allow for and encourage the expression of a diversity of perspectives.

CMP pp. 12 & 13

6.2.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Values

Statements 6.2.8, 6.2.9, 6.2.10, 6.2.11 and 6.2.12.

Section 2.3 of the CMP provides an expansion of the assessment of the assessment of Aboriginal Cultural significance based on further research and test excavations carried out by Paul Irish, consultant archaeologist in 2007. The CMP notes:

The majority of the Meeting Place Precinct has high Aboriginal archaeological potential. The Heritage Assessment suggests that the following areas where substantial disturbance has occurred in the past have a low level of potential: roads, car parks, Discovery Centre and car park, cricket pitch, Education Centre, Alpha House site, marquee site, Cook memorial, Banks memorial, dam, and the foreshore area (Design 5 2006: 147)

CMP p. 13

It also notes that further Aboriginal deposit (middens, burial sites, a bora ring and scarred trees) may be present on the site. The foreshore edge and water are potential places for the location of Aboriginal cultural evidence. This section concludes:

- *The majority if not all of the Meeting Place Precinct is of high Aboriginal archaeological potential, and the areas identified in the Heritage Assessment as of low potential need to be treated with caution.*
- *The extent of Aboriginal cultural evidence located in the past through intentional archaeological investigation or unintentional ground disturbance, combined with the historical record continuing use of the site by Aboriginal people, confirms the likelihood that Aboriginal cultural evidence is present throughout the Meeting Place Precinct.*
- *The archaeological record, combined with the historical record from the Cook encounter onwards and Aboriginal community knowledge, means that this site offers a particularly important interpretative opportunity.*
- *Aboriginal community views on this newly assembled information on the extent of documented and potential evidence will be important to help guide decisions about future investigations, conservation and interpretation.*

CMP p. 16

In regard to Aboriginal Community Involvement the CMPO notes:

To create a robust Conservation Management Plan for the Meeting Place Precinct, it is essential to understand:

- *why Kurnell/The Meeting Place Precinct is important to Aboriginal people who have associations with this area*
- *what is known about Aboriginal sites and objects at Kurnell/The Meeting Place Precinct*
- *how Aboriginal sites, objects and values need to be looked after into the future*
- *how to maintain the connection with Kurnell for Aboriginal people (for individuals and as a community)*
- *the roles Aboriginal people can play in the future research, interpretation and management of Kurnell/Meeting Place Precinct (for example through participation in projects, employment, sharing stories and knowledge, education etc).*

Aboriginal community views and on the values expressed from past studies and consultation will provide a valuable basis for policy.

CMP p. 18

The CMP concludes:

Aboriginal heritage values are complex and layered. The landscape of the Meeting Place Precinct is imbued with many meanings: Most of these are not represented directly in the physical landscape, although the rich evidence of Aboriginal history represented in the middens, burials, engravings offer a tangible foundation for interpretation.

The intangible heritage of the Meeting Place Precinct is embedded in traditions, story, language, knowledge and experience. The place is known, and its history – long past and recent – is remembered and told by Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal community with traditional and experiential connections to the Meeting Place Precinct are being encouraged to get more involved in considering the significance of this place. On the other hand, PWG/DECC is being asked to create new opportunities for Aboriginal input into management, conservation and interpretation.

The multi-dimensions of significance and the likelihood that understandings will change, need to be recognised in policy.

CMP p. 19

6.2.4 Cultural Landscape, Land Form and Vegetation

Section 2.4 of the CMP reconsiders the assessment on the D5HA in regard to the *cultural patterns inscribed across the landscape, the underlying geomorphology, the remnant vegetation and cultural plantings*. The assessment is based on the research in the D5HA and new research and consultation.

The CMP expands each of the themes identified in the D5HA under the following titles.

6.2.4.1 The Enduring Landscape

Statements 6.2.2 and 6.2.3.

In regard to the secondary significance identified in 6.2.2 and 6.2.3 of the D5HA the CMP notes the assessment should be expanded to include:

...the connections between the land form and character of the landscape in the present and the auspicious orientation of the place to the bay, the bay itself, the beaches, rock and shallow sandstone platforms, cliffs, open parklands and bushland which have endured from the past.

CMP p. 21

These aspects remain embodied by the existing landform and character of the site itself and that formed the backdrop to the experiences of Cook and his crew, to Banks and Solander's collecting, (and) was lived in by the original Aboriginal inhabitants.

The CMP notes:

In addition to being a continuous element of the landscape, the land form has remained relatively intact and, together with the remnant vegetation (in particular the Angophora forests), represent a tangible and clearly legible aspect of the place which physically and symbolically connect the landscape of encounters and scientific endeavours, with the pre-1770s landscape of the original Aboriginal inhabitants, and these landscapes with the landscape of the present. Paragraph 6.2.3 should include these understandings.

CMP p. 21

And adds

The assessment of significance should also recognise indigenous cultural values and the layering of indigenous and European values in this regard. It is understood that the address and orientation of the 20th century cultural landscape echoes the pre-1770 Aboriginal landscape, in particular the auspicious siting of Alpha House on its grassy knoll with a good prospect out to the bay and in close proximity, sits above (and confuses interpretation of) the midden and in close proximity to a stream that had/has indigenous cultural meaning relating to the meeting of fresh with salt water. Paragraph 6.2.3 should therefore be inclusive of this complexity

CMP p. 21

6.2.4.2 Native and Local Vegetation

The CMP notes that new research has expanded the different vegetation communities from five to eight types and clarifies the classification of rare and endangered vegetation communities and remnant plant communities from pre settlement.

The CMP notes:

Relative to the new understanding of vegetation types, the two natural vegetation communities identified in this list can be further clarified as follows: The 'rare and endangered plant communities', identified as being of regional significance for historic, scientific and rarity values, refers to:

- *remnant vegetation occurring within the 'coastal scrub/woodland on sand knolls' vegetation type, and located on the southern sandy knoll of the western dune. It is part of the listed Endangered Ecological Community (Kurnell Dune Forest); and*
- *remnant 'Swamp forest' vegetation within and adjacent to Commemoration Flat (eastern side), that is consistent with the listed Endangered Ecological Community Swamp Sclerophyll Forest.*

CMP p. 21

The 'remnant plant communities from pre-settlement', identified as being of regional significance for historic, aesthetic, scientific and rarity values, refers to:

- *species consistent in type and location with the eight vegetation types described above (and shown graphically in Figure 2.1); and*

- the *Casuarina glauca* species on the foreshore of Commemoration Flat. These are likely to have regenerated from a pre-1770s genotype and therefore have genetic importance as seed (or root) stock. This cove of *Casuarina glauca* persists as a remnant of the swamp forest community.

6.2.4.3 Areas Adjacent to the Meeting Place

The CMP notes:

*The native vegetated areas adjacent to the Meeting Place Precinct (largely *Angophora costata* dominated 'scrub on sandstone' vegetation), were not included in the significance assessment because they are largely outside of the historic precinct. However, they are considered to be vitally important to the natural landscape and cultural experience of the place.*

CMP p. 22

6.2.4.4 Cultural Values of the Natural Place

Statements 6.2.2, 6.2.6, 6.2.7, 6.2.18 and 6.2.2.4.

The CMP proposes expansion of the assessment of the significance of the cultural values of the natural place because:

...the Statement of Significance lacks consideration of what Harrington discusses in relation to social values (2006: Appendix G) and the importance of the natural environment as a cultural value.

To this end, the natural landscape and native vegetation should be acknowledged as integral to, and embodying, important cultural values; including where cultural values of natural (or natural appearing) landscapes are inconsistent with scientific understandings of natural values.

CMP p. 23

6.2.4.5 Historic Planting

Statements 6.2.9 and 6.2.14.

This section suggests the following plantings be understood as follows:

Commemorative plantings

- The 'other commemorative plantings', identified as being of local significance for historic and representative values, refers to plantings recorded in the Captain Cook Landing Place Trust Tree Register.

Structural and historic plantings

- The 'plantings associated with Maiden and the Royal Botanic Gardens' should derive their significance as a collection of plantings, rather than as individual specimens. These are identified in the Heritage Assessment (Section 5.9) as being of local significance for historic and aesthetic reasons. The most clearly legible collection of plantings associated with Maiden plantings and the RBG are situated between Alpha House (to the west) and the freshwater stream.

- The significance of '2 Pine Trees in front of Alpha House', identified in the Heritage Assessment as being of exceptional significance, at a regional level, for historic, aesthetic and rarity values, should be understood to be embodied by the framed view from Alpha House and how this interprets the view from and relationship between the original stone cottage and original plantings. It is also the use of a pair of *Araucaria heterophylla* species that is significant, rather than the extant individual trees.
- There are other (non-commemorative) historic plantings listed in other records, also planted by the CCLPT as structural plantings, beautification plantings, replacements for those damaged by storms, gales or fire, and to display specimens of Australian plants, for example. The locations of some of these plantings are known, but for others only an approximate region is known.
- Photographic evidence suggests the pair of mature Italian Cypress trees (*Cupressus sempervirens*) at the rear of Alpha House is likely to be contemporary with the c1950s phase of changes to the extant building. Associated with this phase of changes to Alpha House, the pair of trees have been assessed as having no significance. Additional work has led to the following new understandings of significance:
 - The Heritage Assessment expresses the significance – secondary significance – of the landscape of early settlement and farming use as follows:
 - 6.2.14 The place was part of the first land grant made on the southern side of Botany Bay, that being to James Birnie, who established Alpha Farm on the site.

Subsequent site investigations with Geoffrey Britton, Georgina Eldershaw, Doug Benson and the project team has determined that the remnant cultural plantings associated with early post- 1770s use of the landscape for farming, concludes the existing Flax plants (*Phormium tenax*, within the scrub on sand stone vegetation east of commemoration flat, and the mature African Olive (*Olea africana* to the west of the Cook Obelisk) are of moderate significance as possible evidence of the early use of the place for farming – as either original specimens relating to the use of the landscape for farming (from 1815 to c1882), or their progeny.

- The Heritage Assessment expresses the significance – secondary significance – of the views across Botany Bay from La Perouse to Kurnell as follows:
- 6.2.9 The view across Botany Bay from La Perouse to Kurnell is important to the local Aboriginal community as it provides a visual link to country. The ferry that once operated between the two places provided an important physical link for this community.

For Aboriginal communities, the negative values associated with the prevalence of non-native vegetation, expressed in Harrington's report on social values, should also be acknowledged in relation to the European cultural landscape character and historic plantings (2006: Appendix G).

CMP pp. 23 & 24

The CMP concludes:

The values of the cultural landscape, the enduring land form, remnant local native vegetation and cultural plantings are complex, layered and interconnected with the many values embodied by the Meeting Place Precinct.

The landscape is both integral to and provides the setting for understanding and telling the stories of the place. However, as both a designed cultural and remnant natural landscape, subject to natural dynamic processes and changing management approaches, philosophies and political intentions, the landscape also contributes subtly to the ambivalence of the place; in part by obscuring or confusing aspects of the places history and, in part, by emphasising others.

As the backdrop to current experiences of the place, the enduring land form, remnant vegetation, sandy beaches, sandstone cliffs and shallow sandstone platforms, and natural bushland, provide a tangible connection between the pre-1770s landscape of the original indigenous inhabitants, the landscape of encounters and the present. Together with the remnant local native vegetation, it also provides a link to the landscape of the first scientific collections.

The enduring aspects of the natural landscape and the ceremonial and recreational aspects of the cultural landscape have provided and continue to provide the setting and context for continued meetings of cultures, recreational activities and interactions between cultures, as they have from the 19th century to the present.

The natural values of the landscape have important historic and scientific values. The natural landscape is also invested with cultural meanings and attachments, represented by past and continuing expressions of conservation and environmental concern for the natural environment. Furthermore, they also form an integral component of lived and embodied experiences of the place, for local Aboriginal and Kurnell communities and visitors. As such, the natural landscape embodies important cultural values, irrespective of the presence or absence of scientific values.

The natural landscape of the Meeting Place Precinct's setting, including the bay and the Angophora dominated woodland to the east and southeast of the study area boundary (but within Botany Bay National Park), are important for providing a locally-native dominated vegetation landscape setting that give a sense of the original landscape character of the Kurnell peninsula, and connection to the pre-1770 landscape and landscape of encounters.

CMP pp 24 & 25

The amendments to the analysis of landscape and plantings are accompanied by diagrams included below.

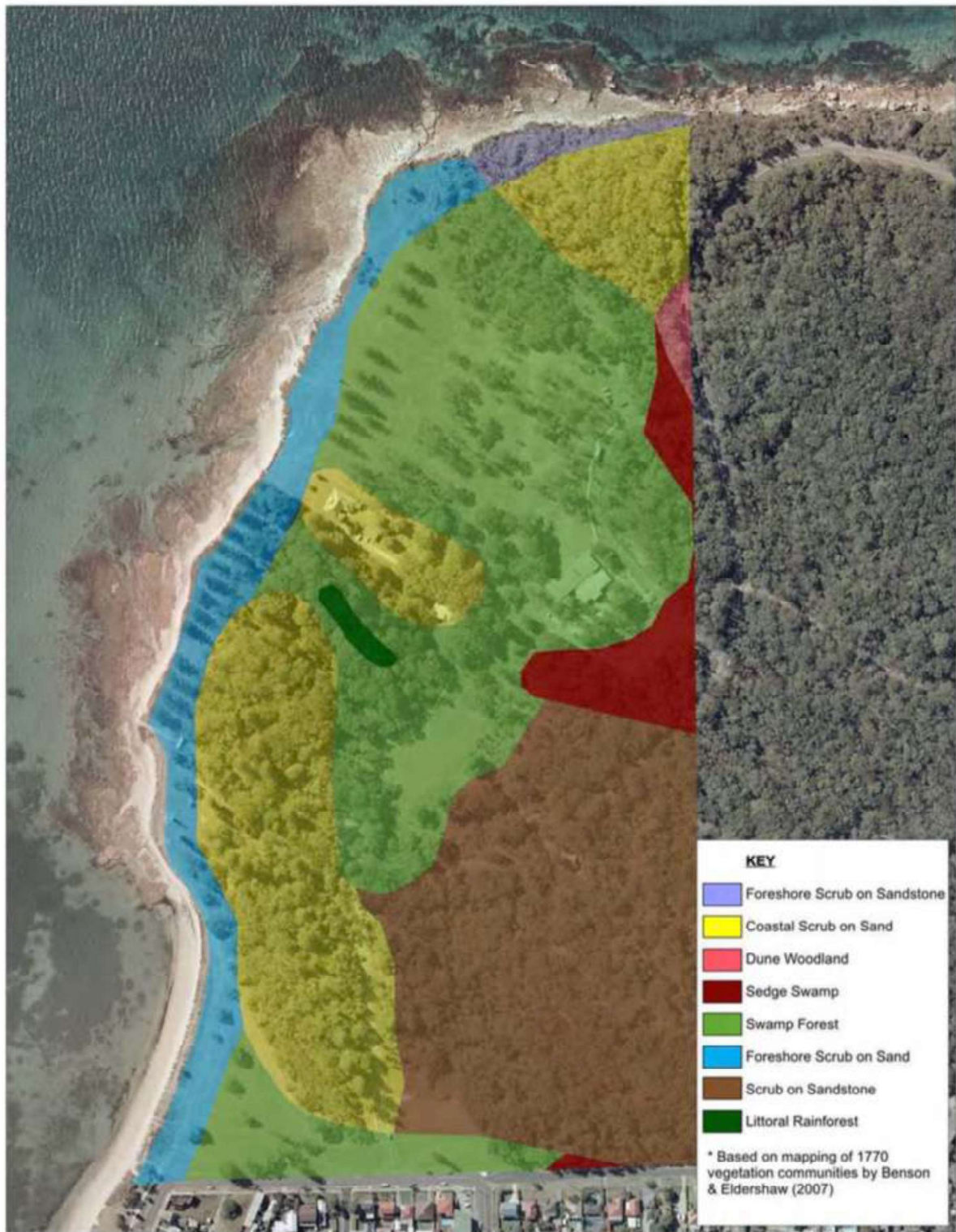


Figure 2.1 1770s vegetation communities

CMP p. 26, Figure 2.1 1770s Vegetation Communities. (The vegetation communities have been remapped by the Department of Planning)



— NSW Class

■	Coastal Dune Dry Sclerophyll Forest
■	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands
■	Coastal Freshwater Lagoons
■	Coastal Headland Heaths
■	Coastal Heath Swamps
■	Coastal Swamp Forests
■	Coastal Valley Grassy Woodlands
■	Cumberland Dry Sclerophyll Forests
■	Dry Rainforests
■	Eastern Riverine Forests
■	Littoral Rainforests
■	Mangrove Swamps
■	Maritime Grasslands
■	N/A
■	North Coast Wet Sclerophyll Forests
■	Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll

Revised Mapping of Vegetation Communities by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment - The Native Vegetation of the Sydney Metropolitan Area (SEED)

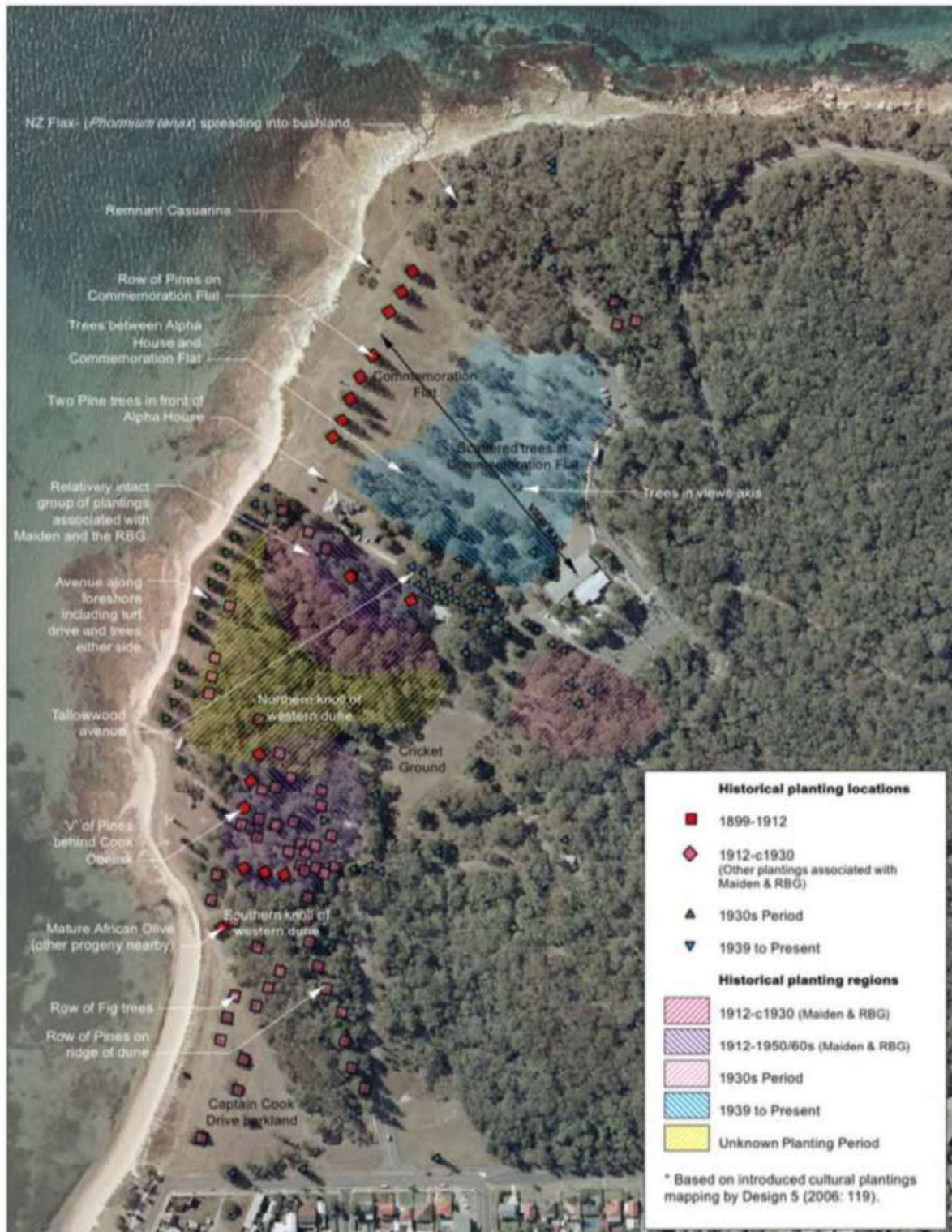
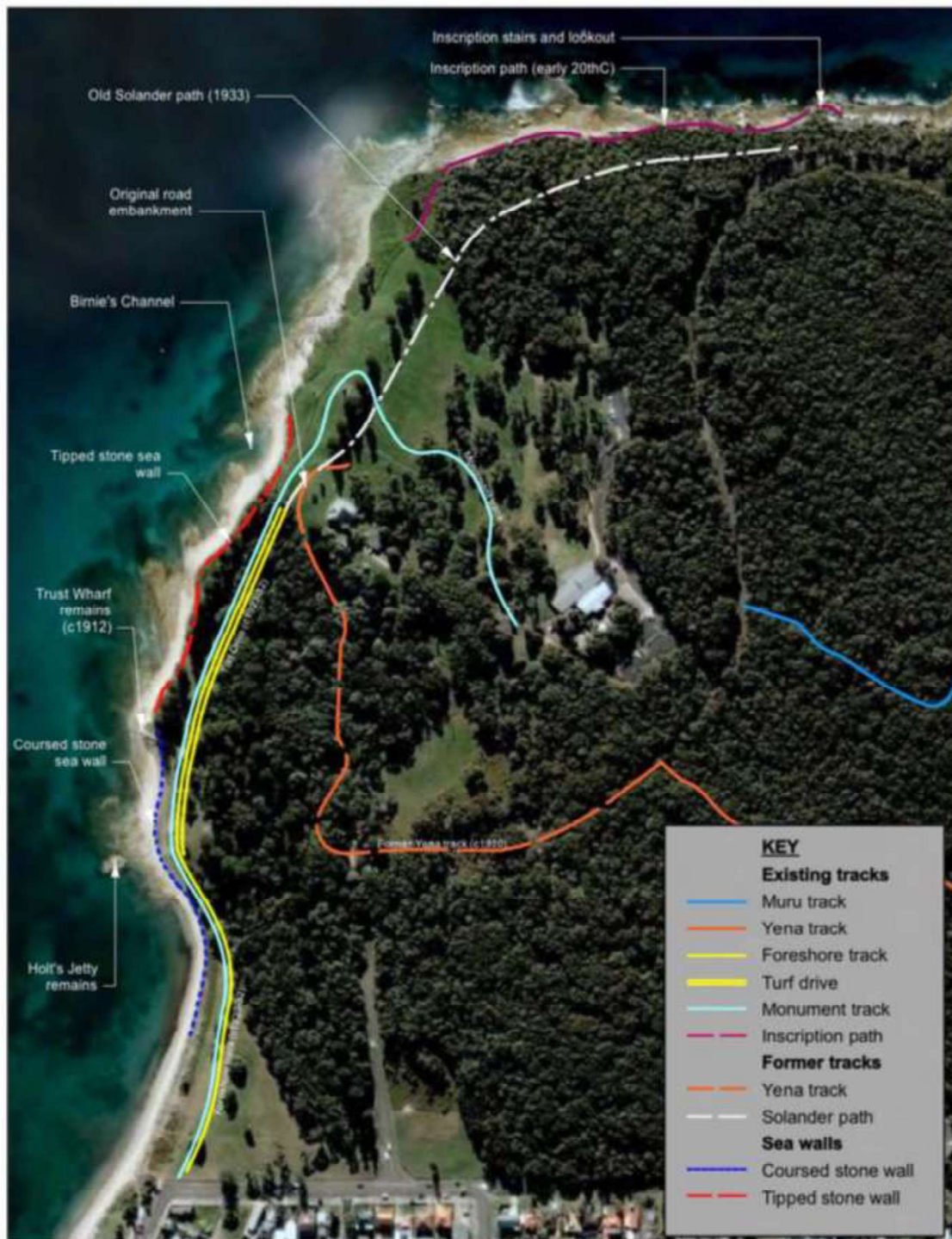


Figure 2.2 Cultural plantings

CMP. P. 27 - Figure 2.2 Cultural Plantings



* Locations are indicative only and subject to survey and archaeological investigations. Locations have been drawn from historic site plans, the current DECC track map (2007), site surveys in section 3 of the Heritage Assessment (Design 5, 2006) and the Archaeological Assessment of the Meeting Place Precinct 2006, Prepared by BIOSIS Research, Figures 3-13. (Appendix E: Design 5, 2006)

Figure 2.3 Circulation patterns throughout the Meeting Place Precinct (existing tracks, former tracks) and sea walls

CMP p. 28 Figure 2.3 Circulation patterns throughout the Meeting Place Precinct (existing tracks, former tracks) and sea walls

6.2.5 Buildings and Structures

Section 2.5 of the CMP provides additional commentary of historic buildings and structures.

6.2.5.1 Alpha House and Surrounds

The Heritage Assessment identifies Alpha House as making an Exceptional contribution to the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole. The significance relates to the following elements of the place.

Heritage significance	Attributes
Exceptional significance	Original fabric (joinery items, fireplaces and chimneys), openings and spaces, dating from 1902-1908, and remains of stone basement of early 19th century farmhouse (Design 5 2006: 5.4.20).
Intrusive	Little
No significance	1950s and 1960s modifications
Note	Some of the 1950s and 1960s modifications were removed from the buildings as part of the 2022 works

CMP p. 29

6.2.5.2 Discovery Centre

The Heritage Assessment identifies original 1967 elements of the Discovery Centre as making a high contribution to the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole, and the later 1989 modifications to the Discovery Centre as being of moderate significance.

Heritage significance	Attributes
High significance	Original fabric, openings, hardware and joinery, spaces and uses, dating from 1967
Moderate Significance	Fabric and uses associated with 1989 modifications.
No significance	Other aspects of the Discovery Centre that do not fall within these periods.

CMP p. 29 & 30

6.2.5.3 Ferry Shelter Shed

The Heritage Assessment identifies original c1910 elements of the Ferry shelter shed as being of high significance for its contribution to the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole.

Heritage significance	Attributes
High significance	Original fabric and siting that date from its original c1910 construction
No significance	Other aspects of the structure that do not date from these periods.

CMP p. 30

6.2.6 Synthesis of Significance

Section 2.6 provides a synthesis provides summary of the above and identifies key concepts to allow an integration of the elements of significance and provide a key basis for the conservation guidelines.

The Meeting Place Precinct has many aspects of significance. The place has been substantially modified throughout its post-1770 history and is characterised by a complex layering of land- uses, landscape perceptions, community attachments and aspirations and management practices.

From 1770, the landscape with strong cultural and spiritual meanings for the Dharawal people, and which formed the setting for the first encounters, has been altered by the impacts of clearing, farming and grazing, the creation of ceremonial and recreational spaces, and commemorative plantings, vegetation management strategies, and parkland and amenity plantings. Structures have been built for practical, ceremonial and educational purposes; many have also been removed or rebuilt.

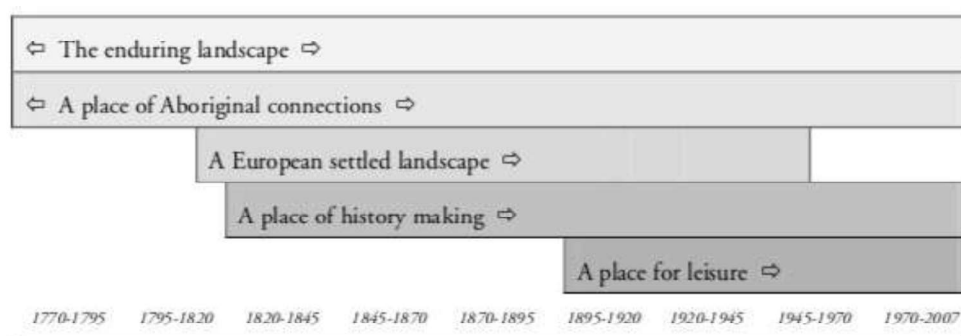
Dharawal traditions and activities have continued, but the opportunities for these cultural practices have been impacted by changing ownership, management and access arrangements, amongst other things. Other traditions have been created, as part of the ceremonial role of the site or by communities and families establishing their own traditions.

To provide a simpler and more integrated understanding of significance, building on the Heritage Assessment and the further considerations of significance in the previous section, this report defines the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as comprising five integrated concepts:

- *The enduring landscape*
- *A place of Aboriginal connections*
- *A European settled landscape*
- *A place of history-making*
- *A place for leisure.*

CMP p. 30

This is lustrated diagrammatically against a timeline:



CMP p. 31 – Diagram illustrating the relationship between the layers.

The CMP then ranks these concepts in terms of primary and secondary significance:

Primary significance:

- *The enduring landscape*
- *A place of Aboriginal connections*
- *A place of history-making*

Secondary significance:

- *A European settled landscape*
- *A place for leisure* Each of these integrated concepts of significance is presented below, covering (in summary):

CMP p. 30

This expansion of the assessment of significance is reflected in the CMP conservation guidelines for the place. In this Heritage Impact Statement, the primary and secondary concepts have been used as a tool for the assessment of the impact of the works along with the assessment of the impact against the conservation guidelines in the CMP.

6.3 STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

The State Heritage Register database for the place (Database No. 5061543) contains a statement of significance for the Kamay Botany National Park (North and South) and the Towra Point Nature Reserve:

Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Towra Point Nature Reserve are of outstanding state heritage significance as a rare place demonstrating the continuous history of occupation of the east coast of Australia. The place holds clear and valuable evidence of Indigenous occupation prior to European settlement and the natural history of the state. It is also the place where the shared history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia began. It was the place where Lieutenant James Cook first stepped ashore to claim the country for Britain and plays a central role in the European history of arrival, the history of Indigenous resistance, dispossession and devastation through illness, land grants, cultivation and development.

Traditional Aboriginal custodians of the land and the current Aboriginal community have strong historical association with Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Towra Point Nature Reserve. Gweagal warriors resisted the arrival of Cook and continue to be important symbols of Aboriginal resilience. There are two important burial repatriation sites within the curtilage which are designated Aboriginal Places and have high social significance for the Aboriginal community.

The place is also significant for its historical association with important European explorers and scientists and their life's work. These include James Cook, Joseph Banks, Daniel Solander, Comte de Laperouse, Pere Receveur and Joseph Lepaute Dagelet. It is also associated with the First Fleet and the first Governor of NSW, Arthur Phillip.

The place is of state significance for the technical achievement of Banks and Solander who during their visit in 1770 made the first important collection of fauna and flora from Australia which included some items that had never before been described and classified. Previous archaeological excavations indicate that Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Towra Point Nature Reserve have significance for their high level of archaeological potential.

Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Towra Point Nature Reserve have aesthetic value as landmark headlands and natural areas with a collection of historic monuments that, combined, have important symbolism to the state of NSW. Both northern and southern parts of the national park, together with the nature reserve, contain a valuable research resource relating to Indigenous occupation, the natural history of the State and the early settlement of the colony.

Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Towra Point Nature Reserve are of state heritage significance as they contains rare remnant vegetation and flora communities and is a critical link in the network of parks and reserves that conserve the biodiversity of NSW.

The La Perouse part the national park provides evidence of the history of French exploration in the Pacific in the late 19th century and continues to have ongoing cultural associations with the French community today.

7.0 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

7.1 CURRENT PROPOSALS

The Department of Planning and Environment proposes to replace the current Discovery Centre with a larger building in a similar location. The new, enlarged building will provide improved facilities and support a larger range of activities for users. New pathways are proposed to link to existing pathways, car parking areas, new Visitors Centre and the significant structures and features at the place. The car parks will be reconfigured and the amenities buildings replaced with new structures.

7.1.1 Kamay Visitor Centre

The proposals are shown on the following drawings:

Drawing Ref	Title	Revision
S60.0	Cover Sheet	01
S60.1	Site Plan	01
S60.2	VC Demolition Plan	01
S60.3	VC Ground Level Plan	01
S60.4	VC Roof Level Plan	01
S60.5	VC Elevations	01
S60.6	VC Elevations	01
S60.7	VC Sections	01
S60.8	Amenities Plan, Elevations and Sections	01
S60.9	Site Diagrams	01
S60 Heritage	Archaeological Potential	27/1/22

dated March 2023 and prepared by Neeson Murcutt & Neille Architects.

- Demolition of the current centre and amenities buildings
- New Visitors Centre

The visitor centre will be placed in a similar location to the existing but is larger and in a curved form. The centre has entrances to the north to Commemoration Flat with a second entrance to the current car park to the southeast. The building is constructed in recycled brick with a folded, metal roof incorporating a small number of skylights with extensive glazing all round and central throughway to a large exhibition space/internal verandah facing Commemoration Flat and Botany Bay.

7.1.2 Other Buildings

- Replacement amenity blocks

The new amenity blocks will replace the existing amenity blocks to the north of the Visitor Centre on Commemoration Flat and at the Cricket Pitch car park. The structures are single storey with precast concrete walls and flat, concrete roofs with timber screening and a central breezeway.

7.1.3 Services

Major services upgrades will be undertaken to bring essential services into compliance with current standards, enhance the visitor experience and incorporate environmentally sustainable measures within the new building. The works are shown on the following drawings Nos:

Drawing Ref	Title	Revision
C01.01	Cover Sheet, Drawing Schedule and Locality Plan	07
C01.11	Specification Notes – Sheet 01	07
C01.12	Specification Notes – Sheet 02	07
C01.21	General Arrangement Plan	07
C02.01	Sediment and Soil Erosion Control Plan – Sheet 01	06
C02.02	Sediment and Soil Erosion Control Plan – Sheet 02	06
C02.03	Sediment and Soil Erosion Control Plan – Sheet 03	07
C02.11	Sediment and Soil Erosion Control Details	07
C03.11	Bulk Earthworks Cut to Fill Plan – Sheet 01	05
C03.12	Bulk Earthworks Cut to Fill Plan - Sheet 01	05
C03.13	Bulk Earthworks Cut to Fill Plan - Sheet 02	06
C03.21	Bulk Earthworks Cut to Fill Sections - Sheet 01	05
C04.01	Siteworks and Stormwater Management Plan – Sheet 01	06
C04.02	Siteworks and Stormwater Management Plan – Sheet 02	06
C04.03	Siteworks and Stormwater Management Plan – Sheet 03	06
C04.04	Siteworks and Stormwater Management Plan - Sheet 04	06
C04.05	Siteworks and Stormwater Management Plan – Sheet 05	07
C04.06	Siteworks and Stormwater Management Plan – Sheet 06	07
C04.07	Siteworks and stormwater Management Plan – Sheet 07	06
C04.08	Siteworks and Stormwater Management Plan – Sheet 08	07
C05.31	Stormwater Details – Sheet 01	07
C05.32	Stormwater Details – Sheet 02	06
C06.01	Creek Plan and Longitudinal Section	06
C06.11	Creek Cross Section – Sheet 01	06
C06.12	Creek Cross Section – Sheet 02	06
C06.21	Creek Details – Sheet 01	04
C06.22	Creek Details – Sheet 02	04
C07.01	Siteworks Setout Control Plan – Sheet 01	05
C07.02	Siteworks Setout Control Plan – Sheet 02	05
C07.03	Siteworks Setout Control Plan – Sheet 03	05
C07.04	Siteworks Setout Control Plan – Sheet 04	05
C07.05	Siteworks Setout Control Plan – Sheet 05	05
C07.06	Siteworks Setout Control Plan – Sheet 06	05
C08.01	Loop Path Centreline Long Sections – Sheet 01	04
C08.02	Loop Path Centreline Long Sections – Sheet 02	04
C08.03	Loop Path Centreline Long Sections – Sheet 03	04
C08.11	Typical Road Cross Section	04
C08.21	Road Longitudinal Section	03
C08.31	Road Cross Sections – Sheet 01	03
C08.32	Road Cross Sections – Sheet 02	03
C10.11	Retaining Wall Elevations – Sheet 01	03
C11.01	Pavement, Signage and Linemarking Plan – Sheet 01	06
C11.02	Pavement, Signage and Linemarking Plan – Sheet 02	06

C11.03	Pavement, Signage and Linemarking Plan – Sheet 03	07
C13.01	Details – Sheet 01	07
C13.02	Details – Sheet 02	05
C13.03	Details – Sheet 03	07
C14.01	Turning Path Plan – Sheet 01	06
C14.02	Turning Path Plan – Sheet 02	06
C14.03	Turning Path Plan – Sheet 03	07
C15.01	Services Coordination Plan - Sheet 01	07
C15.02	Services Coordination Plan - Sheet 02	07
C15.03	Services Coordination Plan - Sheet 03	08
C15.04	Services Coordination Plan - Sheet 04	08

Prepared by Northrop.

The service works include installation of:

- a new hydrant booster assembly at the park entry
- a fire booster pump in enclosed pumphouse near the park entry
- underground hydraulic fire service reticulation to the new visitor centre building
- new sewer infrastructure throughout the park, including new rising mains, cold water and electrical connections to each amenity block

7.1.4 Landscaping and Site Features

The landscape proposals are shown on the following Drawings:

Drawing Ref	Title	Revision
L001	Title Page	-
L002	Schedules	-
L004	Key Plan	-
L101	Demolition 1 of 8	-
L102	Demolition 2 of 8	-
L103	Demolition 3 of 8	-
L104	Demolition 4 of 8	-
L105	Demolition 5 of 8	-
L106	Demolition 6 of 8	-
L108	Demolition 7 of 8	-
L109	Demolition 8 of 8	-
L201	Setout Plan 1 of 8	-
L202	Setout Plan 2 of 8	-
L203	Setout Plan 3 of 8	-
L204	Setout Plan 4 of 8	-
L205	Setout Plan 5 of 8	-
L206	Setout Plan 6 of 8	-
L208	Setout Plan 7 of 8	-
L209	Setout Plan 8 of 8	-
L301	Surface 1 of 8	-
L302	Surface 2 of 8	-
L303	Surface 3 of 8	-
L304	Surface 4 of 8	-
L305	Surface 5 of 8	-
L306	Surface 6 of 8	-
L308	Surface 7 of 8	-
L309	Surface 8 of 8	-
L401	Grading 1 of 8	-
L402	Grading 2 of 8	-
L403	Grading 3 of 8	-
L404	Grading 4 of 8	-
L405	Grading 5 of 8	-
L406	Grading 6 of 8	-
L408	Grading 7 of 8	-
L409	Grading 8 of 8	-
L501	Planting 1 of 8	-
L502	Planting 2 of 8	-
L503	Planting 3 of 8	-
L504	Planting 4 of 8	-
L505	Planting 5 of 8	-
L506	Planting 6 of 8	-
L508	Planting 7 of 8	-
L509	Planting 8 of 8	-
L550	Planting Schedules	-
L600	Commemoration Flat Sections	-
L602	Visitor Centre Sections	-
L603	Cricket Pitch Sections	-

L604	Whales Boardwalk Sections	-
L605	Timber Bridge Sections	-
L651	Teaching and Learning Garden	-
L652	Visitor Centre Eastern Terrace	-
L653	Fire Track Walk	-
L700	Paving Details	-
L701	Boardwalk Sections	-
L704	Fence Details	-
L705	Fence Details	-
L706	Planting Details	-
L710	Fixtures Details	-
L711	Furniture Details	-
L712	Furniture Details	-
L715	Furniture Details	-
L716	Boardwalk Details	-
L717	Typical Boardwalk Details	-
L718	Typical Boardwalk Details	-
L719	Boardwalk Module Details	-
L720	Whale Boardwalk Base plan	-
L721	Whale Boardwalk Details	-
L722	Whale Boardwalk Details	-
L723	Whale Boardwalk Details	-
L724	Whale Boardwalk Details	-
L725	Whale Boardwalk Details	-
L726	Whale Boardwalk Details	-
L727	Whale Boardwalk Details	-
L728	Whale Boardwalk Details	-
L729	Bridge Details	-
L730	Bridge Details	-
L731	Bridge Details	-
L732	Bridge Details	-

dated August 2023 and prepared by Taylor Cullity Lethlean (TCL)

The proposals include:

- Reconfiguration of the entry forecourt to the Visitor Centre
- Reconfiguration of the Meeting Place structure and Collection Garden
- Removal of the piped section of the stream and re-landscaping with indigenous plantings
- Extension pathways to connect the existing paths, car park and visitor centre
- Extension of the Cricket Pitch car park and new rain gardens
- Resurfacing of the central track to Alpha Farm
- New DDA compliant boardwalk access to a viewing platform to whale sculpture to the north of Commemoration Flat
- New performance circles above the foreshore overlooking the whale sculptures and on Commemoration Flat below the new visitor centre
- Relocation of shade structures and barbecues
- Minor reconfiguration of the Commemoration Flat car park
- New and replacement plantings
- Replacement of the temporary sandbag sea wall with permanent stone revetment to protect the foreshore zone and Araucaria plantings

The new pathways will provide link to the current path network and connect the car parks and Visitor Centre to the various monuments, the current foreshore path and other features in the precinct. The path provide compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act* (DDA).

The current entry forecourt to the Visitor Centre will be reconfigured to incorporate new plantings.

The current Meeting Place structure will be reconfigured as a Collection Garden with representations of the flora collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander from Botany Bay.

The on-grade section of the pathways will be in concrete and the elevated sections will use concrete and fibre reinforced plastic (FRP).

7.1.5 Foreshore Wall

It is proposed to stabilise the foreshore between the western end of Commemoration Flat and the existing wharf where storm damage in 2018 required the installation of a sandbag revetment wall to protect the foreshore zone and Araucarias from wave erosion. The sandbag structure was installed as an emergency measure and provides only a temporary solution to achieve this protection.

The proposed wall is shown in the following Drawings Nos.

Drawing Ref	Title	Revision
L000	Cover Sheet	D2
L010	Survey Plan	D2
L100	General Arrangement Site Plan	D1
L200	General Arrangement Plan Sheet 1 of 3	D2
L201	General Arrangement Plan Sheet 2 of 3	D2
L202	General Arrangement Plan Sheet 3 of 3	D2
L204	Transition Zone Detail Plan	D2
L205	Stairs Detailed Plan	D2
L300	Setout Plan Sheet 1 of 3	D2
L301	Setout Plan Sheet 2 of 3	D2
L302	Setout Plan Sheet 3 of 3	D2
L400	Sections	D2
L401	Sections	D2
L402	Sections	D2
L801	Landscape Details	D1
L802	Landscape Details	D1
	Materials and Finishes Schedule	28/03/2023

dated March 2023 prepared by Oculus. The works include:

- New, stepped, stone log retaining wall
- New path and stone steps to the western edge

The wall be constructed in loose laid stone logs 500x500mm square in varying lengths supported on the rock foreshore and existing sandbags to minimise ground disturbance.

The logs are laid in stepped pattern up from the beach and are feathered into the stream outlet to avoid blocking this with a set of steps to allow safe access to the foreshore. The area at the creek mouth will be cleared of silt and revegetated each side with the existing section of rock wall retained to the east of this. All existing trees in the vicinity will be protected and retained.

8.0 IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

8.1 GENERALLY

The Meeting Place Precinct is a place of national significance being a site of settlement for Aboriginal people for thousands of years.

The Precinct was the arrival point for the British explorer Lieutenant Cook in 1770 that led to establishment of a British penal colony after the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.

It is the focal point for the commemoration of Cook's landing in Australia and the later development of the place as a farm and, more recently a place for recreation.

The site is of immense significance to local and wider Aboriginal people as Cook's landing led to the selection of the place for the convict settlement brought to Australia by the First Fleet that saw the complete alteration of Aboriginal culture and the land that Aboriginal people had belonged to for thousands of years.

The significance of the place to the Aboriginal people cannot be overstated.

Visitor numbers have increased substantially during COVID and this is likely to continue. The area is popular for visitors to the National Park, the Discovery Centre and monuments. It is also popular for walkers drawn to its attractive coastal setting and (often large) groups of picnickers on Commemoration Flat. The new Visitor Centre will likely attract more visitors and the mooted ferry wharf and ferry service will provide more ready access for visitors from La Perouse.

The current Discovery Centre was built in 1966/67 but the demand for its services has outstripped its capacity to service the growing numbers of visitors to the site. The requirement to increase the size of the facility is obvious and the aim of the proposal is to do this with the least disturbance to the current landforms.

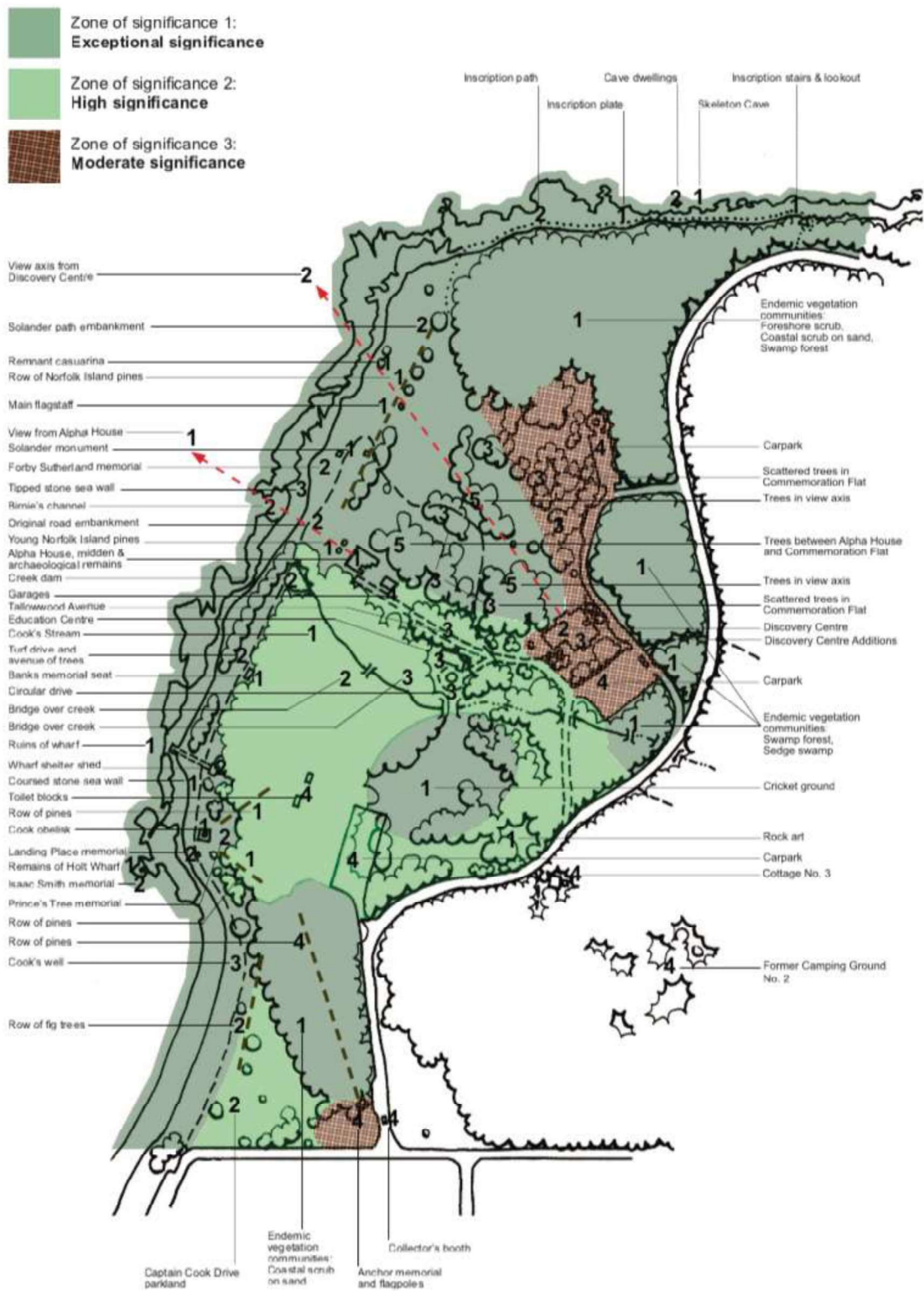
The aim is also to provide a visitor centre that rebalances the significance of the place to greater reflect the impact of European settlement on Aboriginal people. The centre will celebrate Aboriginal culture and the meanings while allowing for educational facilities and meeting points to present this to the wider Australian community.

The proposal will improve the facilities for all visitors and provide a connecting pathways through the site to allow a more formalised appreciation of the qualities and the built and landscape elements at the site and allow an appreciation of its outstanding, waterside setting.

The proposals maintain all of the significant memorials in the Precinct in their current locations and improve access to these for all visitors. Some of the recently constructed commemorative and interpretive elements will be reconfigured to better represent Aboriginal themes and meanings with selected plantings to reinforce the pre-colonial landscape while allowing for gathering and ceremonial places.

The proposal retains the open recreation area to the centre of the Precinct and the associated leisure facilities to allow this to allow visitors to enjoy this aspect of the site. The following assessment of the impact of the works follows the themes and assessments of significance set out in the D5HA and the CMP

NR – NOT RANKED IN THE CMP



Gradings of significance across the Meeting Place Precinct: Zones of significance, together with the significance gradings for the individual site elements

Figure 7.1 Grading of Significance across the Meeting Place Precinct

8.2 CMP CONCEPTS

Section 2.6 of the CMP identifies five concepts of significance, three being of Primary Significance and two being of Secondary Significance:

8.2.1 Primary Significance

- The enduring landscape
- A place of Aboriginal connections
- A place of history-making

8.2.2 Secondary Significance

- A European settled landscape
- A place for leisure

The concepts provide a succinct assessment tool for the proposed works as the proposed development can be assessed against each to establish the impact of the proposals on both the primary and secondary significance of the place. Only the relevant elements of tangible and intangible significance are assessed in the Sections below.

8.2.3 Primary Significance

8.2.3.1 The Enduring Landscape

	Primary Significance	Attributes
	The Enduring Landscape	The enduring landscape refers to the land, water, plants and animals that connect Aboriginal people and the Cook party to the place in the present (6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3). These are elements of the landscape that existed prior to 1770, and have endured from that moment as continuous aspects of the place
	Tangible elements include	The underlying landform (dune morphology, landform profile, soil profile)
		The freshwater stream and littoral rainforest vegetation character along the gully
		The local native (1770s) vegetation communities, and associated animals (6.2.6)
		The collections of plant specimens collected by Banks and Solander (6.2.7)
		The waters of Botany Bay and the orientation of the site to the bay (6.2.3)
		The rocky, sandstone coastal edge and sandy beach (6.2.2).
	Intangible elements include	The application of two different knowledge systems to this place: the traditional Aboriginal knowledge of the landscape, and its plants and animals, and the observations made by the Cook expedition, bringing a European scientific model to the place
		Spiritual (totemic) connections to this landscape by Aboriginal (Dharawal) people (6.2.8).

8.2.3.2 A place of Aboriginal Connections

	Primary Significance	Attributes
	A place of Aboriginal connections	A place of Aboriginal connection recognises the long and continuing connection between Aboriginal people and this whole landscape. A place of Aboriginal connection refers to the whole of the landscape – land, water, plants, animals – as well as the associational and totemic relationships between Aboriginal people and that landscape.
		Some changes to the landscape, especially the clearing of local native vegetation, introduction of pines and the introduction of memorials impact on the sense of connection for some Aboriginal people
	Tangible elements include	the landscape as a whole entity
		known midden areas along the foreshore to the east and west of the stream
		Skeleton Cave and other places where Aboriginal people are known to have been or still be buried
		rock engravings
		the likelihood that substantial evidence of Aboriginal people remains undisturbed within the site
	Intangible elements include	traditional and continuing Aboriginal knowledge of the landscape, and its plants and animals
		spiritual (totemic) connections to this landscape by Aboriginal (Dharawal) people (6.2.8)
		the views of Kurnell and La Perouse across Botany Bay offer a link to traditional country and places of long association for Indigenous people (6.2.9)
		cultural traditions, long-standing and relatively recent
		the use of the site for as a stage for protests against the telling of history that ignores, silences and denies Aboriginal experiences of colonisation (6.1.2)
		personal and community stories, memories and oral traditions.

8.2.3.3 A Place of History Making

	Primary Significance	Attributes
	A Place of History Making	The landscape layer of history-making (6.1.4, 6.2.16) comprises the formal structural elements of the landscape, the landmark and avenue plantings (most prominently the rows of Norfolk Island Pines). These are most evident as towering vertical forms in shades of green contrasting with the muted grey-greens and prostrate forms of Australian coastal vegetation. The memorials sit within this landscape.
		Although it evolved over a long period of time, and was created by many hands, the memorials and landscape provide evidence of the use of the site by settler Australian society to commemorate and reflect on the Cook expedition. It also demonstrates how the place has been managed as a nationally and state significant public landscape. As a public landscape, there is a strong relationship between the landscape of history-making and the recreational landscape, in terms of chronology, spatial arrangement of the landscape and use. The patterns inscribed in the landscape relating to the making of history do not strongly relate to the landscape of early use.
	Tangible elements include	the commemorative plantings
		the ceremonial spaces (Commemoration Flat) and linking spaces between Commemoration Flat and the Cook Obelisk
		the monuments, as a grouping and individually, including plaques and associated flagpoles
		main flagpole
		the monumental and structural plantings
		Alpha House
		Discovery Centre
	Intangible elements include	traditions of commemoration, celebration and protest
		personal and community memories and oral histories.

8.2.4 Secondary Significance

8.2.4.1 A European Settled Landscape

	Secondary Significance	Attributes
	A European Settled Landscape	A European settled landscape refers to the two distinct periods of 'settling' the landscape. The first relates to the earliest European land clearance close to the stream by the First Fleet in 1788, followed by the acquisition of the land for a farm (Alpha Farm) by James Birnie in 1815, with subsequent clearing of vegetation, building of a cottage and fencing (etc) – a phase of settlement which lasted until 1899 when the site was acquired as a public park.
		The second phase relates to the unofficial development of small settlements during the 1920s, as informal camps used by fishermen turned into shacks, becoming permanent dwellings in the 1930s depression, and remaining a significant land use on the coastal edge towards Inscription Point, on the camping grounds and in other parts of the park until the 1950s, when these 'campers' were moved on and the dwellings were removed. This phase of activity is linked to the concept A place for leisure as it was, in part, the attractions of the park combined with its relative isolated location that made it ideal for the establishment of these informal settlements.
		Evidence of these phases forms an interesting part of the overall landscape but is considered of secondary significance compared to the three primary concepts of significance.
	Tangible elements include	cleared landscape (6.2.13)
		farmed landscape (6.2.14, 6.2.17)
		remnant plantings potentially planted in association with the early use of the land for farming – New Zealand Flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>) (most likely these are later progeny from an early specimen) and a mature African Olive (<i>Olea africana</i>)
		Alpha Farm, including associated archaeological sites, including the servant's outhouse, farm dairy and boat shed (Design 5 2006: 110), and the positioning of the pair of pines (<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>) in front of Alpha House
		cave dwellings and camping areas (6.2.23)
		views.
	Intangible elements include	personal and community memories and oral histories associated with the twentieth century camp settlements.

8.2.4.2 A Place for Leisure

	Secondary Significance	Attributes
	A place for leisure	In areas such as Commemoration Flat, the picnic and cricket grounds, evidence of the post-contact European recreational landscape is prominent, characterised by large expanses of mown lawn with scattered trees, with soft unmown edges gradually merging into the bushland.
		Initially cleared for early farming activities (from 1815 to 1900), people began to visit and its creation as a public park intensified visitation. Access was by water, with the ferry wharf offering the primary entry. Facilities for visitors were developed over the years, accommodating a changing range of activities from picnicking, walking, swimming and fishing through to whale watching being popular today. The open spaces and coastal setting attracted community and cultural groups for larger gatherings.
		The landscape demonstrates how the place has been managed as a nationally and state significant public recreational landscape, with a strong relationship between the patterns of the recreational landscape and the landscape of history-making.
	Tangible elements include	cultural plantings of introduced vegetation, including the plantings associated with Maiden and the Royal Botanic Gardens as part of a designed park landscape (6.2.20)
		Commemoration Flat
		picnic grounds, cricket ground and cricket pitch
		the Trust wharf and remains, Holt's Jetty remains, the Ferry shelter shed, and stone sea walls (6.2.3, 6.2.4)
		the monumental and structural plantings
		Alpha House
		Discovery Centre
		Cottage No. 3 (outside the defined Meeting Place Precinct)
		land management practices (of the Trust and NPWS) creating a recreational landscape (6.2.18, 6.2.19)
		the bay side setting and views (6.2.2)
	Intangible elements include	long community associations with the use of the site for recreation and leisure
		long-standing and continuing traditions of use for community groups (and probably families) (6.2.5)
		personal and community memories and oral histories.

8.3 KAMAY VISITOR CENTRE

CMP	
HIGH	Original fabric, openings, hardware and joinery, spaces and uses, dating from 1967
MODERATE	Fabric and uses associated with 1989 modifications.
NONE	Other aspects of the Discovery Centre that do not fall within these periods.

CMP p. 30

8.3.1 Demolition

8.3.1.1 Background

The Discovery Centre (Visitor Centre) was opened in 1967 in the year that the control of the Park passed to the National Parks and Wildlife Service from the Captain Cook's Landing Place Trust. The Trust had been in control of the site since its establishment in 1899 and the opening of the centre coincidentally marked the change.



Figure 7.2 Discovery Centre and Lavatories

The centre was designed by Raymond Jones of Brewster, Murray and Partners. The practice had been founded in 1946 by Colin Campbell Brewster and Alan James Murray. The CMP does not contain a comparative study of their work but their early work included housing on the North Shore before the practice expanded in the 1950s into the design of industrial, warehousing and manufacturing plants throughout Australia and New Zealand, a key project being the Bushell's plant at Concord in Sydney.

Other works included the Channel 9 television station at Willoughby, offices at 44 Bridge Street, Sydney, Smiggins Holes alpine resort, the AMP building at Milsons Point, BP House, Eagle House, the Sharp building, the Prince Centre at Haymarket and the Golden Gate Plaza Hotel.

The Discovery Centre is quite a restrained piece of architecture that did not have a strong architectural expression.

8.3.2 Assessment of Significance

The D5HA notes the Discovery Centre to be only of local significance (p. 156) and a neoclassical style building of a type that was common for government buildings (p. 135). The building has been altered and painted and could not be considered a high-quality piece of architecture. Its significance is largely embodied in its social values as it provides the main point for visitors to learn and understand the history and meanings associated with the place.

8.3.3 Proposed Demolition

Visitor numbers are rising and it is proposed to replace the Discovery Centre with a new, purpose-built structure that expands on the range of facilities offered particularly in its educational and exhibition spaces. The new visitor centre will also provide for a café and upgraded accommodation for staff.

The current building on the site is ill suited to provide for the expanded facilities required due to its cellular nature and would require extensive alteration and extension to accommodate these. Although it fronts Commemoration Flat and is low set, it does not engage with the landscape being on it rather than part of it.

We consider that the current building on the site is not of a quality or significance that would preclude its demolition provided that the replacement building matches its social significance and provides for a high-quality building that engages with the site and reflects its significant values.

The same comments would apply to the lavatory blocks adjoining the Discovery Centre.

8.3.4 Landform and Tree Removal

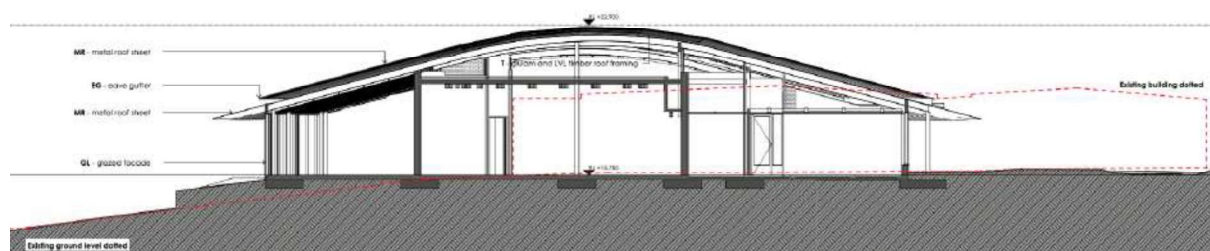


Figure 7.3 Section through Visitor Centre

Source: Neeson Murcutt + Neille

The current centre sits on a low embankment above Commemoration Flat that will be extended northwards at the higher ground level to provide a level area in front of the proposed verandah with the embankment reformed at a similar grade to the existing. The current centre is built on fill and this will be extended slightly but will have little impact on Commemoration Flat.



Figure 7.4 Landscape proposal and Tree Removal

Source: TLC Drawing L305

A number of trees will be removed including non-native trees and others not endemic to the site. The trees have not been identified as significant and provide little in terms of a setting to the centre. The trees at the entry forecourt will be replaced with indigenous plantings.

8.3.5 Proposed Visitors Centre

The proposed Visitor Centre will replace the existing building in a similar location with a series of internal pods arranged off an entry way through the building with a large, glazed verandah to the north.

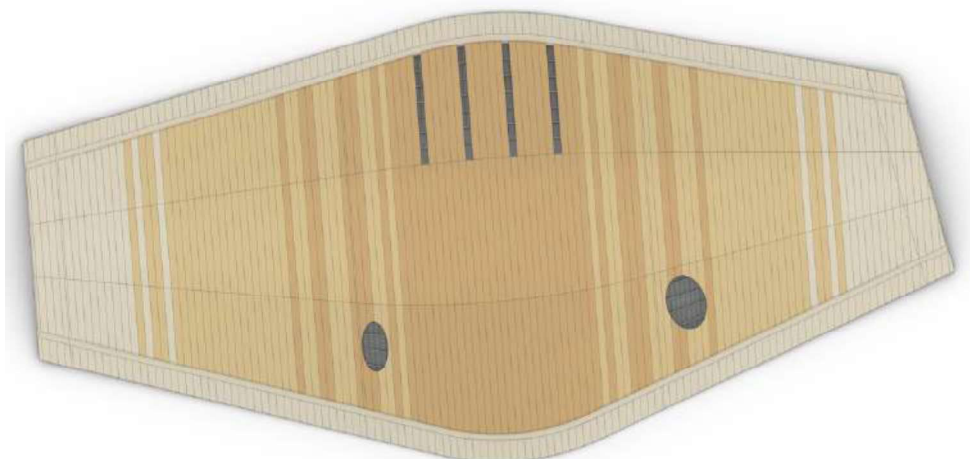
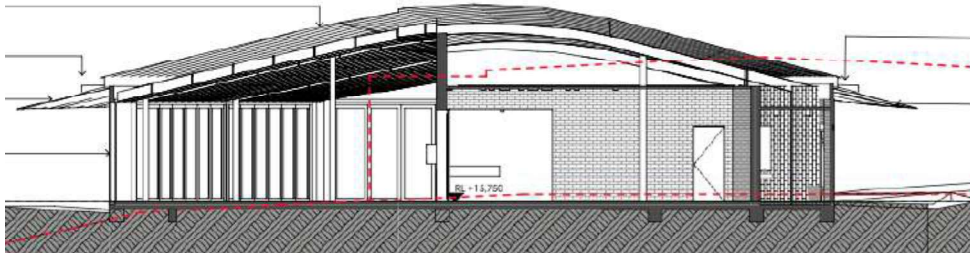
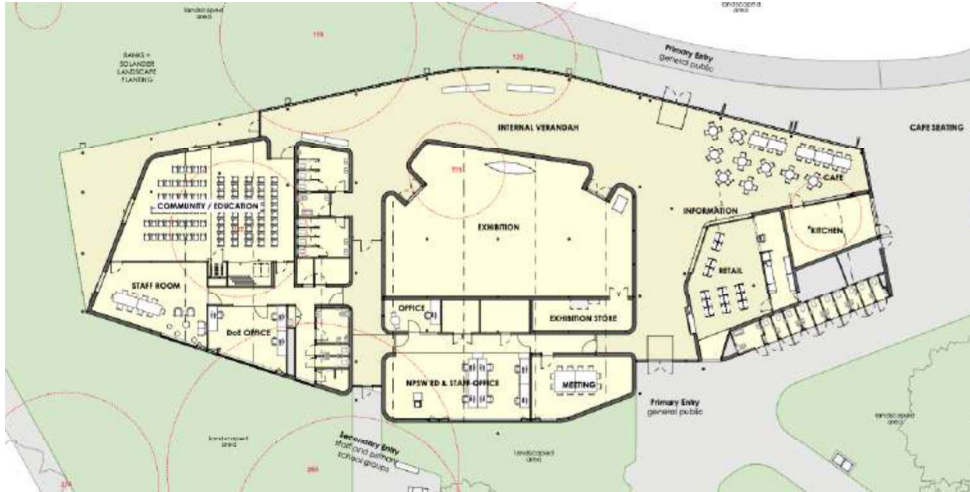


Figure 7.5 Proposed Visitor Centre – Plan, Section and Roof Plan

Source: Neeson Murcutt + Neille

The public and staff pods are arranged off a central axis hall that allows views through building across Commemoration Flat to the monuments and foreshore beyond with an expansive, glazed verandah to the north overlooking Commemoration Flat.

The visitor centre includes educational facilities to allow historic themes to be represented and interpreted for visitors while providing display and exhibition areas for the movable collections from the Discovery Centre.

The building is constructed in recycled brick to provide a scaler detail to the elevations and reflect the current building on the site with a curved, folded roof providing a sense of enclosure to allow the building to settle into the sloping topography. The roof has a steel structure internally to support the roof form, the latter being redolent of an Aboriginal shield.



Figure 7.6 Front of the shield reputedly collected at Botany Bay in 1770 by Captain James Cook. British Museum, registration number Oc1978, Q839. Image number AN 585093001, reproduced courtesy of The Trustees of the British Museum

Source: Attenbrow, Valerie J & Caroline Wright - *An Aboriginal Shield collected in 1770 at Kamay Botany Bay: an indicator of pre-colonial exchange systems in south eastern Australia*, Antiquity Publications Ltd

The sheltering roof form also echoes other Aboriginal references such as the stingray (or daringyan) reflecting the early naming of Botany Bay as Stingray Bay.

The roof has a small number of skylights to provide natural light into building.

The building does not seek to dominate the landscape but rather engage with in terms of its form and materials. It will not block views to any of the significant elements on the site but will provide open views through the entrance hall and from the curved verandah that will have expansive views to Commemoration Flat and Botany Bay beyond.

The proposed building is superb response to the site and its cultural and landscape qualities. It will provide for the necessary upgrade of the building while providing for a complementary, moulded form that sits into the landscape while allowing expansive views to the north and through a central entry space providing delight for visitors as they enter the building. The folded roof form protects the visitor while hugging the raised landform.

8.3.6 CMP Concepts Assessment

Primary Concepts	Assessment
The Enduring Landscape	The building is sited on an altered landform that will be maintained and extended allowing views over the lower landscape and to the foreshore
	Visitor appreciation of the enduring landscape will be enhanced by the improved aspect of the building over Commemoration Flat, and better integration of the building with the landscape than is achieved by the existing visitor centre
	No significant plantings will be affected by the works
Tangible Elements	
Underlying landform	The modified land profile will be maintained and extended
Local native vegetation	No 1770s vegetation will be impacted by the works
The Waters of Botany Bay and the orientation of the site to the bay	Views over the lower landscape and to the monuments and foreshore will be maintained and enhanced
Intangible Elements	
Two knowledge systems	The centre will allow for the display and interpretation of both Aboriginal and Post European material and includes education and exhibition areas and higher quality, environmentally controlled storage areas
Totemic Connections	The building design includes reflections on Aboriginal totems such as the Stingray and warrior's shield
A Place of Aboriginal Connection	
Aboriginal connections	The centre will allow for the display and interpretation of both Aboriginal and Post European material and includes education and exhibition areas
	The building design includes reflections on Aboriginal totems such as the Stingray and warrior's shield
Tangible elements	
Landscape as an entity	The modified land profile will be maintained
	Views over the lower landscape and to the monuments and foreshore will be maintained and enhanced
Aboriginal remains	The area has been extensively disturbed and has been assessed as being of low archaeological potential
	The museum-grade exhibition and artefact storage areas that will be contained within a fire-rated pod inside the building and will provide improved environmental conditions for preservation of artefacts, and a safer, more secure facility within which artefacts can be stored, exhibited and protected.

Intangible elements	Assessment
Aboriginal knowledge	The centre will allow for the display and interpretation of both Aboriginal and Post European material and knowledge.
	The new building provides education, community and exhibition areas to provide a venue for cultural activities and to support teaching by Aboriginal people
Spiritual Connection	The centre will allow for a greater emphasis and display of Aboriginal material and knowledge and includes education and exhibition areas
Views to Kurnell and La Perouse	The axial views through the centre will be enhanced along with views over the foreshore and to Botany Bay from the glazed verandah
Cultural Traditions	The centre will allow for a greater emphasis on Aboriginal material and knowledge and includes education and exhibition areas for the sharing of these
Personal and community stories, memories and oral traditions	The centre will allow for a greater emphasis on Aboriginal knowledge and includes education and exhibition areas for the sharing of this
Primary Concepts	Assessment
A place of history making	
The landscape layer	No significant plantings will be affected by the new building
The use of the site by settler Australia	The centre will continue to be used by visitors from Australia and includes interpretation of significant events post settlement
Commemoration and reflection on Cook's expedition	The centre will continue to have extensive movable items, records and oral recollections of Cook's voyage
The recreational landscape	The recreation areas in Commemoration Flat will be accessible and visible from the centre and the centre includes for a café and meeting areas
Tangible elements	
Ceremonial spaces	The visitor centre will provide education and community rooms with the internal verandah space being used for assembly with catering support provided by the cafe
Discovery Centre	The new building will replace the existing Discovery Centre maintaining its social significance
Intangible elements	
Traditions of commemoration, celebration and protest	The new centre will provide a focus for these activities
Personal and community memories and oral traditions	The centre will allow for a greater emphasis on Aboriginal knowledge and includes education and exhibition areas for the sharing of this

	Secondary Concepts	
	A European settled landscape	
	Tangible elements	
	Formed landscape	The centre is sited on part of the formed landscape and will maintain its setting on the rise above Commemoration Flat
		The new visitor centre faces outward with glazed walls on the north elevation of the building allowing visitors to look across Commemoration Flat and to Alpha House
	Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the new building
	Views	Views over the lower landscape, the foreshore and to Botany Bay will be maintained and enhanced by the large, north facing verandah
	Intangible elements	
	Personal and community, memories and oral histories	The centre will allow for interpretation of these
	A Place for Leisure	
	Facilities for visitors	The centre will considerably improve the services offered to visitors and allow for exhibitions and educational activities
	Tangible elements	
	Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the new building
	Discovery Centre	The new building will replace the existing Discovery Centre maintaining this aspect of social significance on the site
	Bay side setting and views	The centre is sited on part of the formed landscape above the Bay and will maintain its setting on the rise above Commemoration Flat and views over the lower landscape, to the foreshore and to Botany Bay will be maintained and enhanced
	A Place for Leisure	
	Intangible elements	
	Community associations	The centre will allow for interpretation of these
		The community rooms will also provide a venue for community organisations to meet and strengthen community associations
	Community Use	The centre will continue to serve visitors and allow for exhibitions and educational activities
		Community groups able to book and use meeting rooms, a service not currently available in the Visitors' Centre
	Personal and community memories and oral histories	The centre will allow for interpretation of these

8.4 AMENITIES BLOCKS

CMP	
NR	The structures are not discussed in the assessment of built structures in the D5HA

The new amenity structures will replace the existing lavatory blocks on Commemoration Flat and at the Cricket Pitch car park. The structures are single storey with pre cast concrete walls and flat concrete roofs with timber screening and a central breezeway.

The current lavatory blocks are utilitarian structures of no merit but are a necessary facility for users. Their demolition will have no impact on the significance of the place.



Cricket Ground lavatories

Commemoration Flat lavatories

Figure 7.7 Lavatories

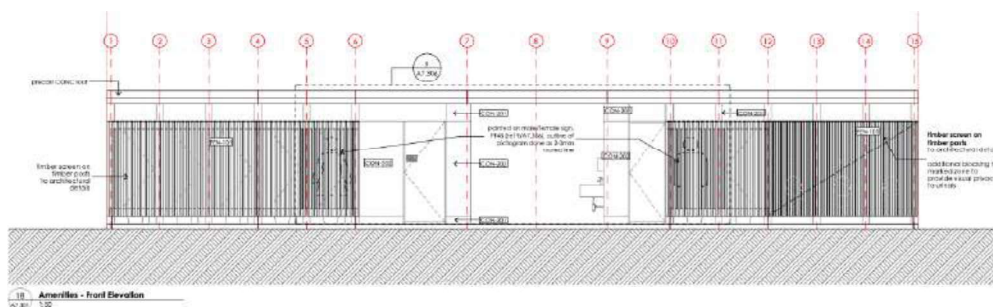


Figure 7.8 New amenities blocks

Source: Neeson Murcutt + Neille

The replacement buildings are simple, well-crafted structures and are sited at or close to the existing structures that are close to the major car parks. The new buildings are a distinct improvement on the existing. They will not block any significant view lines in the landscape or views to significant structures and do not involve the removal of any significant plantings.

8.4.1.1 CMP Concept Assessment

The amenity blocks are part of the European landscape areas and are only assessed against the relevant secondary concepts.

	Secondary Concepts	
	A European settled landscape	
	Tangible elements	
	Formed landscape	The facilities are set within the formed landscape
	Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the new buildings
	Views	The structures will have no additional impact in views
		The cricket pitch amenity block is being moved to one side away from the route between the cricket pitch and the foreshore decreasing its impact on views
	A Place for Leisure	
	Facilities for visitors	The lavatory blocks will provide improved facilities for visitors, support increased visitation and enhance the use of the place for leisure
	Tangible elements	
	Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the new facilities
	Land management practices	The facilities will continue the Trust and NPWS management practices of providing facilities to support the recreational use of the place
	Cricket ground	The new building is outside of the cricket ground area and close to the later car park
	Intangible elements	
	Use for recreation and leisure	The facilities will support the recreational use of the place and increased visitation and enhance the use of the place for leisure
	Community use	The facilities will support the community use of the place

8.5 LANDSCAPE AND EXTERNAL WORKS

8.5.1 Reconfiguration of the entry forecourt to the Visitor Centre

CMP	
MODERATE	The assessment is based on the assessment D5HA (see Figure 7.1 above)

The current entry is rather formal and acts as an introductory and way-finding point with a signage wall (that post-dated the CMP) outlining aspects of the Park and its connections with Aboriginal people.

	
Discovery Centre car park	Welcome Wall
	
Discovery Centre entrance forecourt	
Figure 7.9 Entry forecourt	

The proposed design adopts a more informal approach with irregular paths and plantings that provide a more relaxed sense of arrival. New plantings will reinforce the indigenous plantings in the area and separate the new building from the car park that will be maintained.

The proposals reinforce the sense of the throughway through the new building that has views through the entry foyer to Commemoration Flat.

The proposals will enhance the arrival by road through the Visitor Centre car park and provide a DDA compliant accessway into the new building. The proposals will also support learning about the place by providing an outdoor space in which school groups can sit and be taught. The new plantings will showcase endemic plant species,



Figure 7.10 Proposed layout and view of the entry forecourts

Source: TLC Drawing L651 & L652

8.5.1.1 CMP Concept Assessment

The entry forecourt is part of the European landscape area and is only assessed against the relevant secondary concepts. The Welcome Wall is a modern interpretive element that will be replaced by interpretation in other locations.

	Secondary Concepts	
	A European settled landscape	
	Tangible elements	
	Formed landscape	The entry forecourt is set within the formed landscape
	Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the new building
	Views	The works will have no additional impact in views and the open entry foyer to the new centre
		The alignment of the forecourt with the entry foyer to the visitor centre will allow people entering the building to see through it under the roofline and enhance axial views to Commemoration Flat
	A Place for Leisure	
	Facilities for visitors	The forecourt will provide the main arrival point for visitors to the centre
	Tangible elements	
	Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the reconfiguration of the forecourt
		Non-endemic species will be removed (e.g. pittosporums) and focus drawn in the landscape to the mature eucalypts that are endemic to Kamay
	Commemoration Flat	The open entry foyer to the new centre will allow axial views to Commemoration Flat
	Picnic Grounds	The picnic grounds will be accessible from the forecourt via the centre and new pathway
	Land management practices	The facilities will continue the Trust and NPWS management practices of providing facilities to support the recreational use of the place
	Intangible elements	
	Use for recreation and leisure	The forecourt will support the recreational use of the place
	Community use	The forecourt will support the community use of the place
		The proposals will also support learning about the place by providing an outdoor space in which school groups can sit and be taught. New plantings will showcase endemic plant species.

8.5.2 Reconfiguration of the Meeting Place Structure and new Collection Garden

CMP	
MODERATE	The assessment is based on the assessment D5HA (see Figure 7.1 above)

The current stone structure post-dates the D5HA report and was intended to be a meeting place with commemorative plaques and images reflecting on the Aboriginal occupation of the place. The structure is also reflective of the history of the precinct as a place where different clans would meet and provides interpretation of the Aboriginal occupation of the area.

While these elements are important in understanding the place the structure is more akin to the earlier monuments in its rather heavy design.

	
Meeting Place	Meeting place
	
Meeting place commemorative plaque	Meeting place commemorative images
Figure 7.11 Meeting place	

The proposal will alter the structure to a less formal and less enclosed element with seating to allow a stop point on the new pathways to allow reflection and enjoyment of the views while maintaining the sense of a meeting circle in Aboriginal terms. The new Visitor Centre will be the primary point for the interpretation of the history and meanings of the site and the plaques and other images will no longer be required.

The area will also be a point for the interpretation of the indigenous flora of the area based on plants collected by Sir Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander. This will be in the form of both plantings and pressed images in the manner of the images from Bank's Floregium.

The changes will reinforce the overall sense of direction that is evident in the design proposals to lessen the sense of the place as one of colonial occupation and development and will have a positive heritage impact:

- Social values will be enhanced as the place provides a point for visitors to learn and understand the history of meanings associated with the place
- Cultural plantings will be both made and referenced in interpretation including those associated with the Enduring Landscape intangible element of two knowledge systems through traditional uses of plants
- Enhancing the Meeting Place as an Aboriginal knowledge element of A Place of Aboriginal Connection
- The place will provide an enhanced understanding of the social values of the stream as a food source and meeting place

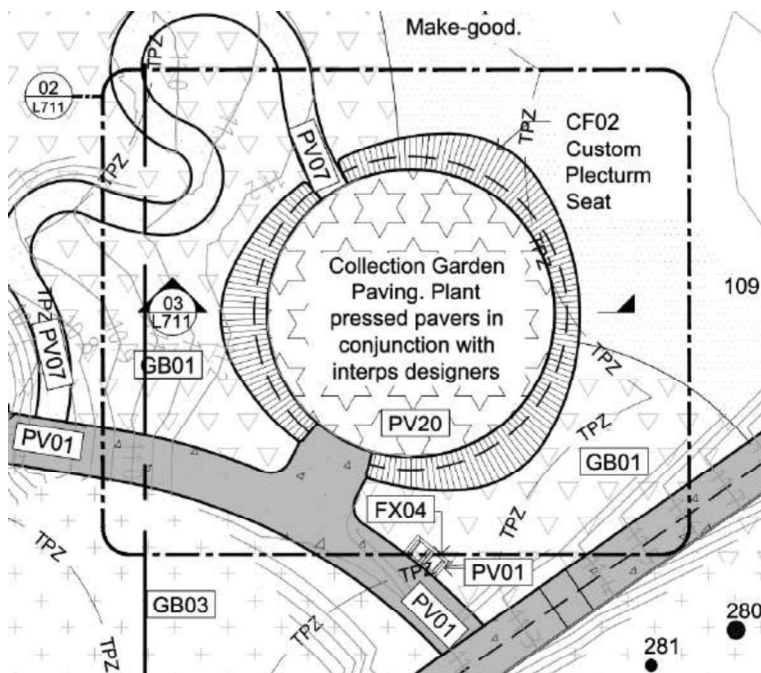


Figure 7.12 Collection Garden

Source: TLC Drawing L305



Figure 7.13 Pressed images of plants to be set in the ground plane

8.5.3 CMP Concepts Assessment

Primary Concepts	Assessment
The Enduring Landscape	The Collection Garden will allow for plantings and representations of the Indigenous plantings at the site both prior to and at the time of the landing in 1770
Tangible Elements	
Underlying landform	The modified land profile will be maintained
Local native vegetation	The Collection Garden will allow for plantings and representations of the Indigenous plantings at the site both prior to and at the time of the landing in 1770 expanding the display and interpretation of these aspects of the site
The Banks and Solander plant collection	The Collection Garden will allow for plantings and representations of the Indigenous plantings collected by Banks and Solander
	Both elements will allow for a greater understanding of indigenous plantings at the time of Cook's landing and their collection by Banks and Solander providing enhanced educational opportunities for visitors
Intangible Elements	
Two knowledge systems	The Collection Garden will allow for the display and interpretation of indigenous plants seen at the time of the 1770 landing under both Aboriginal and European names
	The garden will provide enhanced teaching opportunities for the understanding of local plant systems
Totemic Connections	The garden will provide a distillation of plants found in the area at contact
A Place of Aboriginal Connection	
Aboriginal connections	The Collection Garden will allow for the display and interpretation of indigenous plants seen at the time of contact under both Aboriginal and botanical names significantly enhancing education opportunities and an understanding of Aboriginal use of indigenous plants
Tangible elements	
Landscape as an entity	The modified land profile will be maintained
	Views over the lower landscape and to the foreshore will be maintained
Aboriginal remains	The area has been previously disturbed
Intangible elements	
Aboriginal knowledge	The Collection Garden will allow for the display and interpretation of indigenous plants seen at the time of contact under both Aboriginal and botanical names
Views to Kurnell and La Perouse	Views to Botany Bay will be maintained
Cultural Traditions	The Collection Garden will allow for the display and interpretation of indigenous plants seen at the time of contact under both Aboriginal and botanical names
Personal and community stories, memories and oral traditions	The Collection Garden will allow for enhanced opportunities for the teaching the Aboriginal knowledge, use and meanings of indigenous plantings

Primary Concepts	Assessment
A place of history making	
The landscape layer	No significant plantings will be affected and the new Garden will replace the moribund interpretive element
The use of the site by settler Australia	The garden will interpret the indigenous plants collected by Banks and Solander
Commemoration and reflection on Cook's expedition	The garden will interpret the plants collected by Banks and Solander that was a one of the primary tasks for the voyage
	The Garden will showcase of species collected by Banks and Solander and provide space for visitors to sit and absorb this information.
	The opportunity to commemorate and reflect on Cook's expedition is being enhanced significantly
The recreational landscape	The garden will provide a significantly improved place of reflection and education for visitors
Tangible elements	
Ceremonial spaces	The garden will provide an improved area for gatherings, interpretation and education
Intangible elements	
Personal and community memories and oral traditions	The Collection Garden will allow for the teaching of the Aboriginal meanings of indigenous plantings and their use

Secondary Concepts	
A European settled landscape	
Tangible elements	
Formed landscape	The current structure is part of the formed landscape
Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected and the garden will include indigenous plants and representations
Views	Views over the lower landscape, the foreshore and to Botany Bay will be maintained
	The plantings will significantly improve the appearance of the place and its impact on views and setting
Intangible elements	
Personal and community, memories and oral histories	The Collection Garden will allow for the improved teaching of the Aboriginal meanings of indigenous plantings and their use

A Place for Leisure	Assessment
Facilities for visitors	The Collection Garden will provide a high quality meeting place of reflection and education
Tangible elements	
Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected and the garden will be significantly upgraded to interpret the indigenous plants collected by Banks and Solander
Bay side setting and views	Views over the lower landscape, to the foreshore and to Botany Bay will be maintained and the general setting of the place improved
Intangible elements	
Community associations	The Collection Garden will enhance the leisure activities at the place and provide an improved area for education
Community Use	The Collection Garden to serve visitors and allow educational activities
Personal and community memories and oral histories	The Collection Garden will allow for the teaching of the Aboriginal meanings of indigenous plantings and their use

8.5.4 Removal of the Piped Section to the Stream and Indigenous Plantings

CMP		
EXCEPTIONAL	Stream	State
HIGH	Dam and early crossing on the freshwater stream	Local



Figure 7.14 Stream

The freshwater stream is a vital element in the history of the place that provided fresh water for the Aboriginal community and for the crew of the *HMB Endeavour*. The supply of water was essential for the crew and the ongoing voyage, and its location led to the ship remaining at the site to allow for its collection.

The stream is partly open, partly piped and the proposals will remove the pipe and open the stream and replace later planting with indigenous species to amplify the original, natural setting of the stream.

No works are proposed to Cook's Well.

The works are a strong positive in heritage terms.

8.5.5 CMP Concepts Assessment

Primary Concepts	Assessment
The Enduring Landscape	The removal of the culvert will amplify the understanding of the importance of water to the Aboriginal landholders and to Cook's party
Tangible Elements	
Underlying landform	The works will recreate the unmodified landform
Local native vegetation	Later plantings will be replaced with indigenous species
Intangible Elements	
Two knowledge systems	The works will strengthen the visible stream and signal the importance of water to the Aboriginal landholders and to Cook's party
Totemic Connections	The works will allow a better appreciation of the stream and its importance to the Aboriginal landholders
A Place of Aboriginal Connection	
Aboriginal connections	The works will allow a better appreciation of the stream and its importance to the Aboriginal landholders
Sense of connection	The works will allow a better appreciation of the stream

Primary Concepts	Assessment
A Place of Aboriginal Connection	
Tangible elements	
Landscape as an entity	The stream will be uncovered for much of its length and its more natural setting will be reinforced
Intangible elements	
Aboriginal knowledge	The works will allow a better appreciation of the stream and its importance to the Aboriginal landholders
Totemic connection	The freshwater stream would have been of vital to the Aboriginal landholders and the works will allow a greater appreciation of the stream and its setting
Cultural Traditions	The freshwater stream would have been of vital to the Aboriginal landholders and the works will allow a greater appreciation of the stream and its setting
Personal and community stories, memories and oral traditions	The openings of the stream will allow for the teaching of the Aboriginal meanings of water and its use
A place of history making	
The landscape layer	The works will reinstate a very significant component on the site and its naturalist setting
The use of the site by settler Australia	The works will allow a better appreciation of water getting by early farmers, settlers and recreational users
Commemoration and reflection on Cook's expedition	The works will allow a better appreciation of the stream that provided fresh water for Cook's crew
The recreational landscape	The works will allow a better appreciation of water getting by recreational users
Intangible elements	
Personal and community memories and oral traditions	The works will allow a better appreciation of the stream and its importance to the Aboriginal landholders and allow for an education point

8.6 PROPOSED PATHWAYS

CMP		
GENERALLY	The path will traverse areas of Exceptional High and Moderate Significance (see Figure 7.1)	State
EXCEPTIONAL	Freshwater Stream	State
	Western Dune	NA
	Commemoration Flat	State
	Cricket Ground	State
	Foreshore	NA
	Rocky sandstone coastal edge	NA
HIGH	Commemoration Flat embankment	Local
	Bridge over creek (north)	NA
MODERATE	Bridge over creek (south)	NA
NR	Former Solander Track	Local
	Monument Track	Local

The primary aim of the proposal is to improve visitor access throughout the Meeting Place Precinct and provide a level of connectivity between significant elements and the new Visitor Centre. The works will considerably enhance access throughout site and allow a greater appreciation of its landscape and historic qualities.

The development is subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act and the new path is partly a response to this as, for instance, access from the cricket pitch car park to the Visitor Centre is currently across the Cricket Pitch or via the main access road. Access to the foreshore from the car park is between trees and over the grassed knoll that is steep in parts.

The existing path along the foreshore does not provide direct access to the whale sculpture to the northeast of the site. It is not proposed to provide level access towards this section of the site to a viewing platform close to the sculpture to allow for an appreciation of this by less able visitors.

There is currently only a central link path back to the Discovery Centre.

It is proposed to extend the pathways through the area to link the current paths, the car parks, the Visitor Centre, monuments and sculptures at a lesser grade to allow access to less able visitors.

The pathway will provide access to all of the study area for people of all ages and ability including children and strollers and allow ease of access to the Visitor Centre and recreational areas from the three, main car parks.

The pathway travels west from the new Visitor Centre across the northern side of the cricket ground. There is a section of path close to the whale sculpture monument and the path then carries across the eastern section of Commemoration Flat along the car park back to the Centre.

The path is in a variety of materials (though largely in concrete) depending on the archaeological potential of the affected areas with timber or fibre reinforced plastic boardwalks in areas of sensitivity or where the ground is low lying and water prone. The path also includes seating to allow for reflection and an appreciation of the landscape and views.

The impact of the path is partly visual and partly archaeological. The latter aspect is assessed by the archaeological consultants.

The pathway extension is a low-key intervention that will allow a sequential understanding of the built and landscape features of the site for all visitors. Great care has been taken in the placement of the path to avoid tree removal and disturbance to existing landforms. The path is set to the outer edges of cleared areas at the interface of grassed areas and the tree lines with the paths following the site contours where possible.

The major open space to the centre of the precinct will remain as such apart from a narrow, accessible track to Alpha House.

Overall, the pathway extension is strongly positive as it will improve access and allow for a greater public appreciation of the place, its landform and landscape, monuments and sculptures and provide ready access to and from the Visitor Centre.

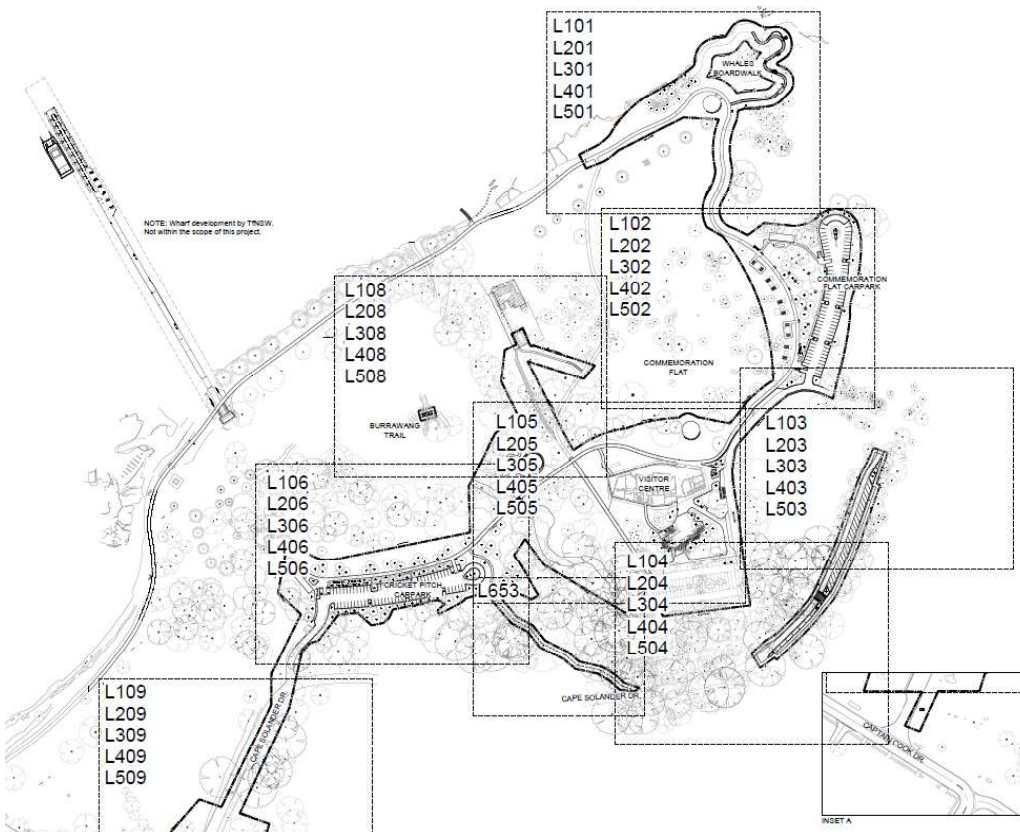


Figure 7.15 Proposed Pathway

Source: TCL L004

The various sections of the path are assessed below.

8.6.1 Visitor Centre



Figure 7.417 Visitor Centre

Source: TLC Drawing L305

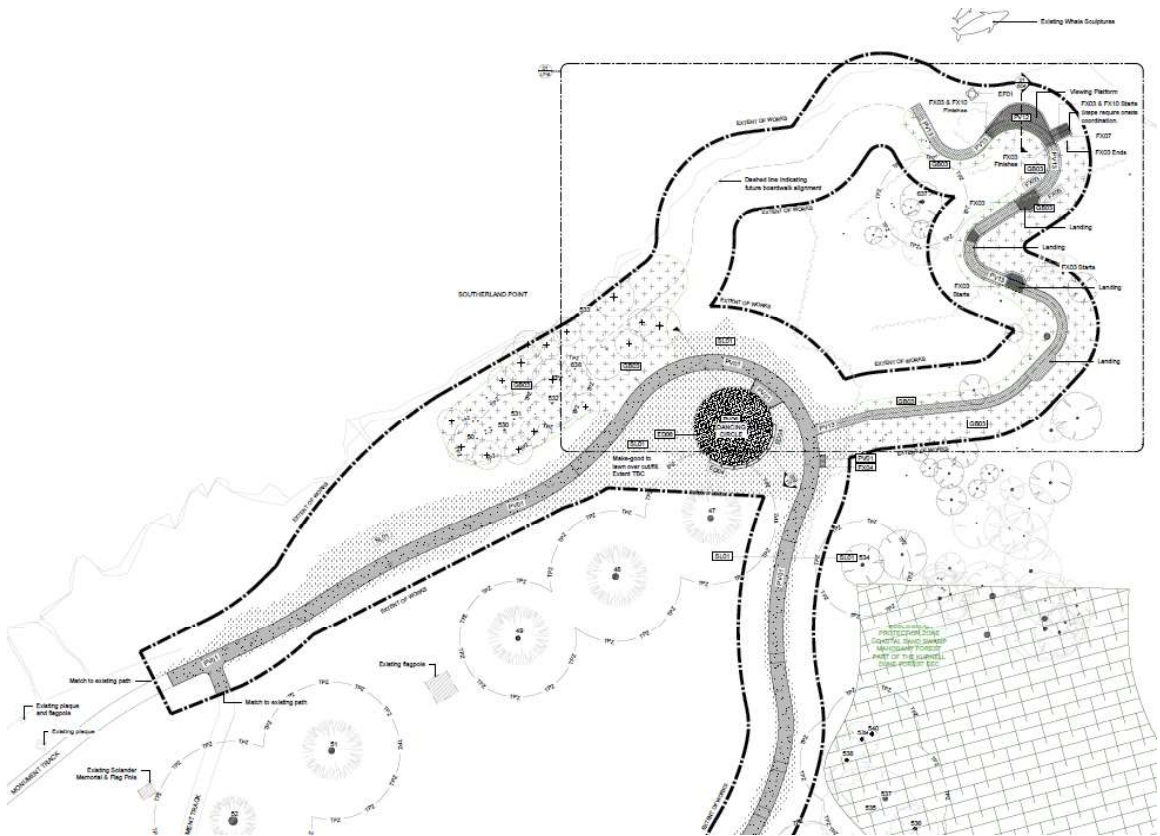
The path is set to the north of, and connects to, the proposed Visitor Centre at the base of the small rise. The path then winds westwards towards the cricket ground through the trees. The path is largely in concrete apart from the 'bridge' at the daylighted creek that is in timber where the ground is low lying and boggy.

Element	Impact
Landform/Topography	The path is at grade or slightly elevated with no change to the landform
Material	The path is in concrete to ensure longevity with boardwalks where the ground is low lying or waterlogged
Tree removal	See below
Visual impact	Low

8.6.3 Whale Sculpture and Lower Section of Commemoration Flat



View looking northeast | View looking southwest
 Figure 7.23 Commemoration Flat above the foreshore



Source: TLC L301

The path extends the existing Monument Track to allow visitors to get closer to the whale monument and rock shelf to the northwest. The ground here is steeper and the path is winding to follow the contours and provide for as low a walking grade as possible. The path is in concrete apart from at the foreshore that is in Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) to limit the impact on the rock shelf with small viewing platforms to a similar detail. The steeper section will require handrails but these will be partly set within existing plantings.

There is also a performance circle with seats to allow for gatherings, commemoration events and educational activities.

	Element	Impact
	Landform/Topography	The path is at grade or slightly elevated with no change to the landform
	Material	The path is in FRP to ensure longevity but does not extend over the exposed rock shelf
	Tree removal	2 No Swamp She Oaks to be removed but other retained and self-propagation will be allowed
	Visual impact	Some
		The works will introduce paths where there are none currently and these will be exposed and visible
		There is no formal access currently though the area is popular and well visited and existing situation results in braided muddy tracks across the area
		The track will be formalised to avoid erosion from foot traffic and the use of FRP will allow vegetation to grow around and through the mesh of the path and visually blend it into the landscape
		The paths will allow greater access to the whale sculpture (including for less able visitors) allowing access through the place for all visitors

8.6.4 New Performance Circle to Commemoration Flat

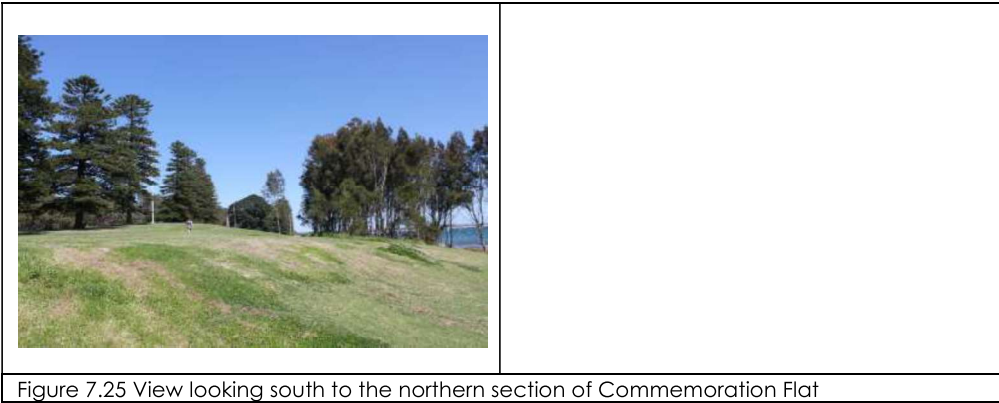


Figure 7.25 View looking south to the northern section of Commemoration Flat

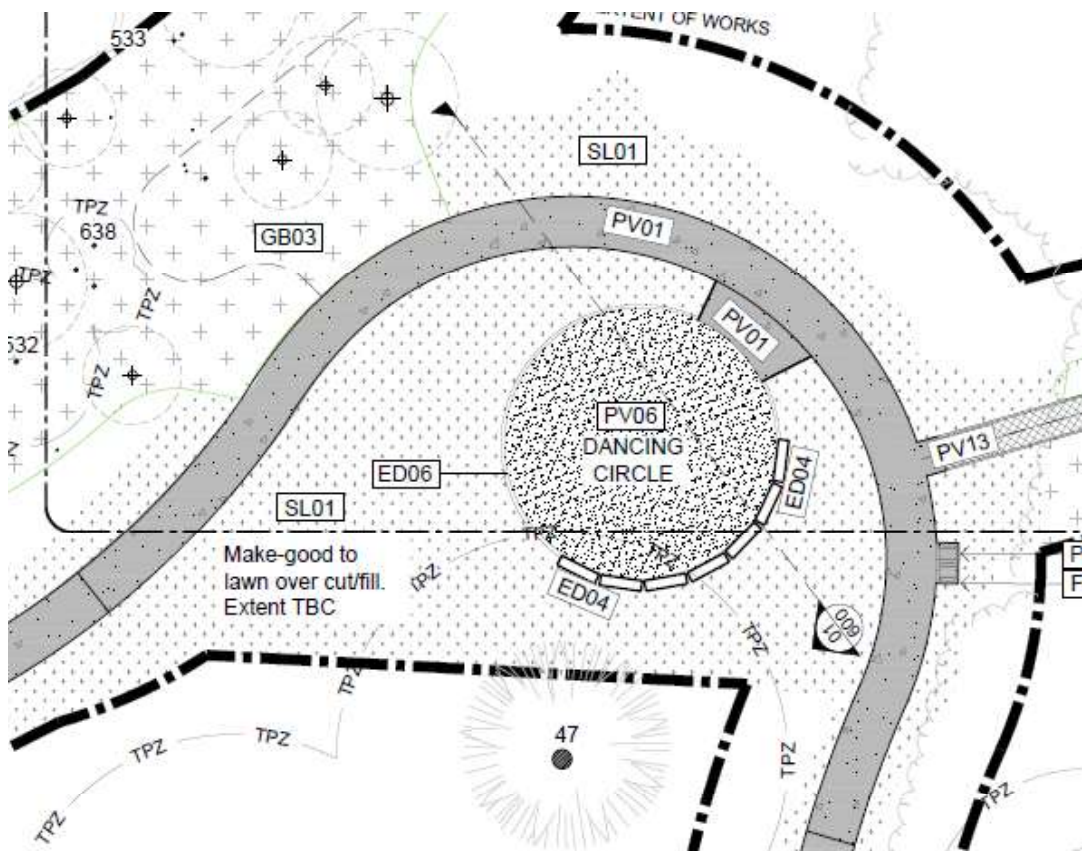


Figure 7.26 New Dancing Circle

Source: TLC L301

The dancing circle provides a further stop point along the pathway and to allow reflection and enjoyment of the views while maintaining the sense of a meeting circle in Aboriginal terms. There are currently no spaces of this sort along the waters' edge and the circle augments the European commemorative elements along the foreshore walk that signal Cook's landing.

The changes do not involve alteration of the landform and are largely neutral in heritage terms but will reinforce the overall direction that is evident in the design proposals to lessen the sense as a place of colonial occupation and development.

Element	Impact
Landform/Topography	The circle is at grade
Material	The circle is in white sand to reflect its waterside setting and allow for barefoot dancing
Tree removal	None
Visual impact	Little

8.6.5 Commemoration Flat

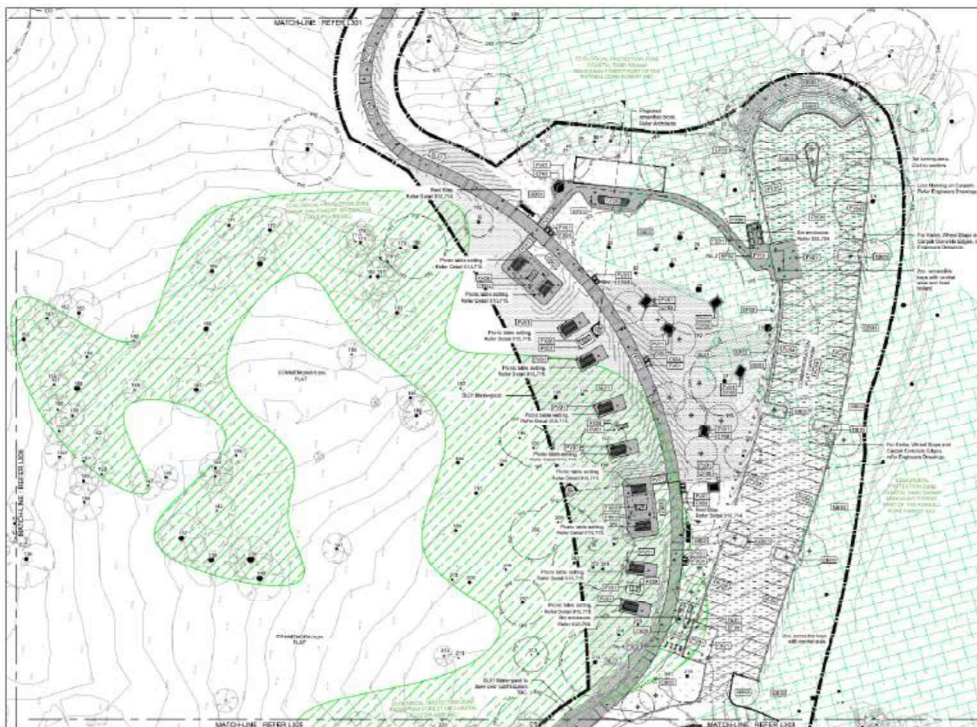
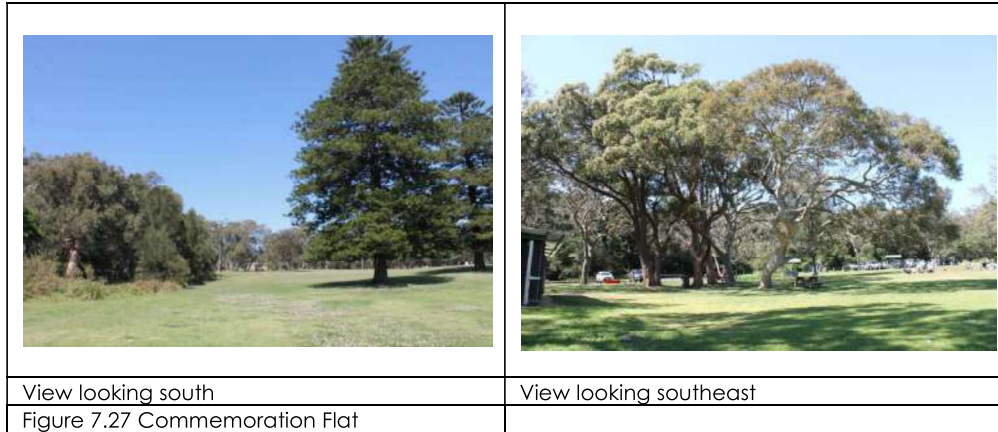


Figure 7.28 Commemoration Flat path

Source: TLC L302

The path provides the final link through the site to the Visitor Centre and provides paved access to the new amenity block and the barbecue areas. The path is set to the west of the current car park and crosses the front of the Centre with a performance circle close to the Visitor Centre to allow for performances, ceremonies and educational activities.

The path is in concrete and there are number of rest stops that are timber seats on a concrete base.

	Element	Impact
	Landform/Topography	The path is at grade with no change to the landform
	Material	The path is in concrete to ensure longevity
	Tree removal	1 No small tree of indeterminate species will be removed#
	Visual impact	Low. The path will read as part of the formed landscaped and winds through trees limiting its visual impact

8.6.6 Relocation of Shade Structures and Barbecues

CMP		
NR	Picnic structures	



Figure 7.30 Relocation of barbecue structures

Source: TLC L 302

The picnic and barbecue structures are modern elements of little significance though they signal the ongoing use of Commemoration Flat as a place of leisure and recreation. These will be replaced and relocated along the pathway and closer to the car park to reduce the visual clutter to the eastern side of Commemoration Flat. The gas bottle store will also be removed.

The changes are largely neutral in heritage terms but will reduce the visual impact of the structures while providing DDA compliant pathways, seating and BBQ units improving the recreational facilities for all park visitors.

Element	Impact
Landform/Topography	No change
Material	Simple timber structures on concrete base
Tree removal	None
Visual impact	Low and an improvement on the existing due to higher quality structures and DDA compliant access

8.6.7 New Central Track from the Visitor Centre to Alpha Farm



Current drive

Figure 7.31 Alpha House Track

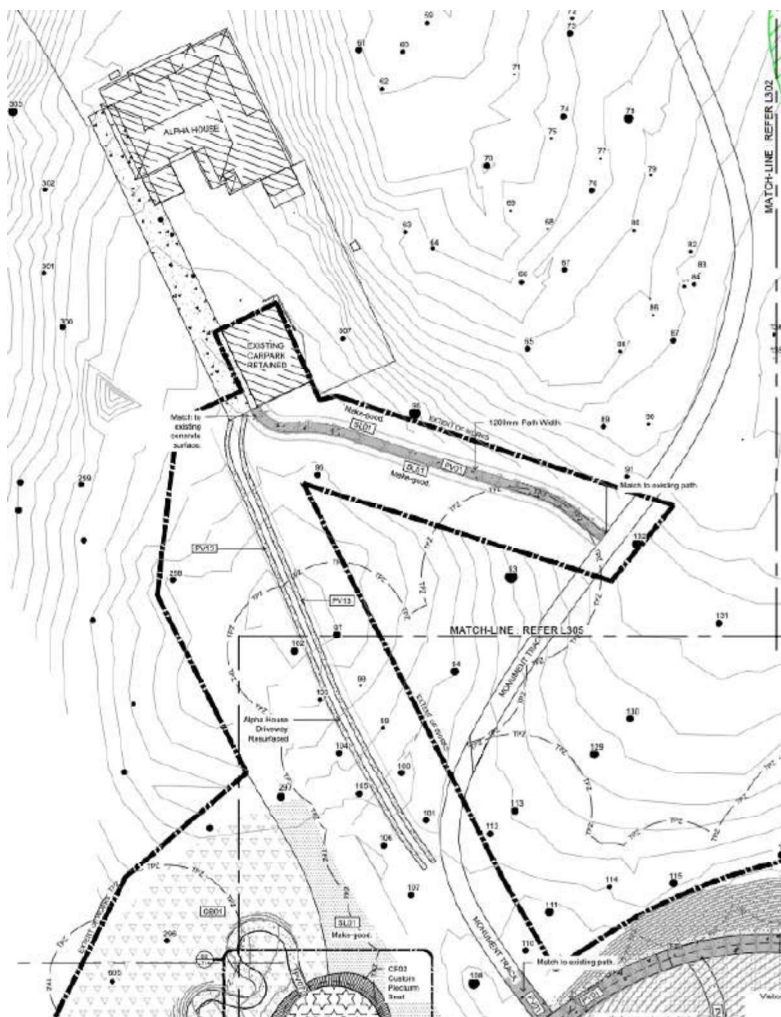


Figure 7.32 Proposed track to Alpha House

The track will provide for an accessible path to Alpha House. It is a pedestrian alternative to the existing grass track that provides vehicular access to Alpha House that currently is used for maintenance and servicing. The track is separated from Commemoration Flat and the impact of the track will be low.

Element	Impact
Landform/Topography	The path is at grade with no change to the landform
Material	The narrow path is in concrete to ensure longevity
Tree removal	None
Visual impact	Low

8.6.8 CMP Concepts Assessment

Primary Concepts	Assessment
The Enduring Landscape	
Tangible Elements	
Underlying landform	The modified and natural land profile (including the rock shelves) will be maintained
Local native vegetation	No 1770s vegetation will be impacted by the works and the path is suspended where there is likely to be any impact on tree roots
The Waters of Botany and the orientation of the site to the bay	Views over the lower landscape and to the foreshore will be maintained and enhanced
	Enjoyment of views will be available to all via the DDA compliant pathway
The rocky sandstone edge	The paths will not impact on sandstone rock shelves at The Whales sculpture and will allow access to and enjoyment of these sculptures by all visitors
Intangible Elements	
Two knowledge systems	The path will link the new Visitor Centre to the Collection Garden, the Cook's landing monuments and the new areas provided for events and ceremonies
Totemic Connections	The path will connect the new areas for Aboriginal ceremonies with the Visitor Centre linking the areas for education and ceremony
A Place of Aboriginal Connection	
Aboriginal connections	The path will connect the new areas for Aboriginal ceremonies with the Visitor Centre and provides for areas for education and ceremony
Landscape Changes	There is little change to the landscape and trees to be removed are in poor condition and of no heritage significance
Tangible elements	
Landscape as an entity	The modified land profile will be maintained
Rock engravings	No known rock engravings will be affected by the works
Aboriginal remains	The area has been previously disturbed and any excavation and fixings for paths is the subject of archaeological assessment
Intangible elements	
Aboriginal knowledge	The path will allow for the interpretation of both Aboriginal and Post European material and knowledge and includes ceremonial areas for the display and teaching of Aboriginal culture, practice and knowledge

Primary Concepts	Assessment
Spiritual Connection	The path will allow for a greater emphasis and display of Aboriginal knowledge and includes new ceremonial areas
Views to Kurnell and La Perouse	Views to Botany Bay and beyond will be enhanced
Cultural Traditions	The path will allow for a greater emphasis and display of Aboriginal knowledge and includes new ceremonial areas for the sharing of this
Personal and community stories, memories and oral traditions	The centre will allow for a greater emphasis on Aboriginal knowledge and includes ceremonial areas for the sharing of this
A place of history making	
The landscape layer	The formal structure of the landscape will be maintained and no significant plantings will be affected by the works
The use of the site by settler Australia	The path will connect and provide for easier access from the Visitor Centre and car parks to the Collection Garden, monuments and sculptures and Commemoration Flat
Commemoration and reflection on Cook's expedition	The path will link the monuments of Cook's voyage to the Visitor Centre
The recreational landscape	The path will link to and provide ready access to the recreation areas in Commemoration Flat
Tangible elements	
Commemorative Plantings	No commemorative plantings will be affected by the works and paths are suspended where close to the roots of significant trees
Ceremonial spaces	The ceremonial circles areas will provide areas for meeting and gatherings
The Monuments	The path will connect and provide for easier access from the Visitor Centre to the Collection Garden that celebrates the work of Banks and Solander and monuments
Man flagpole	The main flagpole will remain alongside the current foreshore path
Monumental and structure plantings	The monumental and structural plantings will remain
Alpha house	The works include a low key, accessible path to Alpha House
Discovery Centre	The path will connect and provide for easier access from the Visitor Centre and car parks to the Collection Garden, monuments, sculptures and new ceremonial areas
Intangible elements	
Personal and community memories and oral traditions	The new ceremonial areas will allow for a greater emphasis on Aboriginal knowledge and activities

Secondary Concepts	Assessment
A European settled landscape	
The stream	The stream will remain with the path bridging over to allow an appreciation of its location
Alpha Farm	The works include a low key, accessible path to Alpha House
A place of leisure	The path will connect the recreation areas in Commemoration Flat to the Visitor Centre, the monuments and sculptures and the new ceremonial areas to encourage visitors to look beyond the use of the place as a picnic area
Tangible elements	
Formed landscape	The path follows existing contours as far as is possible
Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the new building
Alpha Farm	The works include a low key, accessible path to Alpha House
Camping Areas	The path will not affect the previous areas for camping
Views	Views over the lower landscape, the foreshore and to Botany Bay will be maintained and enhanced by the new pathways
Intangible elements	
Personal and community, memories and oral histories	The ceremonial areas will allow for interpretation of these
A Place for Leisure	
Facilities for visitors	The path will provide ready access to the recreation areas and former cricket ground
	The works will enhance the recreational use of the precinct and allow visitors to gain a deeper understanding of the place by allowing easily accessible paths of travel around the precinct and its significant elements and interpretation area
Tangible elements	
Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected
Commemoration Flat	The path will connect the recreation areas in Commemoration Flat to the Visitor Centre, the monuments and sculptures and the new ceremonial areas to encourage visitors to look beyond the use of the place as a picnic area
Picnic grounds, cricket ground and cricket pitch	The path will connect these spaces though the cricket ground is to be altered (see below)
Trust remains, wharf and shelter shed	The wharf is to be reinstated (outside of the scope of the current works). The shelter shed and wharf will be retained and be linked by the path to the Visitor Centre and car parks
Alpha House	The works include a low key, accessible path to Alpha House
Discovery Centre	The new Visitor Centre will be the focus of the path and provide for a starting point on the journey of discovery and remembrance through the site
Land Management Practices	The path reflects the aims of the NPWS to improve accessible access and link the major elements at the site
Bay side setting and views	Views over the lower landscape, to the foreshore and to Botany Bay will be maintained and enhanced with the seating areas providing locations for reflection and enjoyment of views

	Secondary Concepts	
	A Place for Leisure	
	Intangible elements	
	Community associations	The pathways will allow for interpretation of these and connect the recreation areas to the Visitor Centre
	Community Use	The place will continue to serve visitors as a place of recreation and allow ease of access to its elements
	Personal and community memories and oral histories	The pathways will allow for interpretation of these

8.7 CAR PARK EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATION

8.7.1 Cricket Pitch Car Park

CMP		
EXCEPTIONAL	Cricket Pitch	State
LITTLE	Car Parks	

A concrete cricket pitch was constructed in 1923 and set out for Saturday afternoon matches but has now been removed. The area signals the ongoing use of the Precinct as a place of recreation and the transition of the place from a productive farm to a place of leisure. Shelter sheds were provided nearby (now removed) and gravel roadway was constructed to the site in 1960.

The area is an open grassed area surrounded by dense vegetation and trees with a car park to the west.

	
Cricket Pitch looking east	Cricket Pitch looking west
	
Cricket Pitch car park	
Figure 7.33 Cricket Pitch	

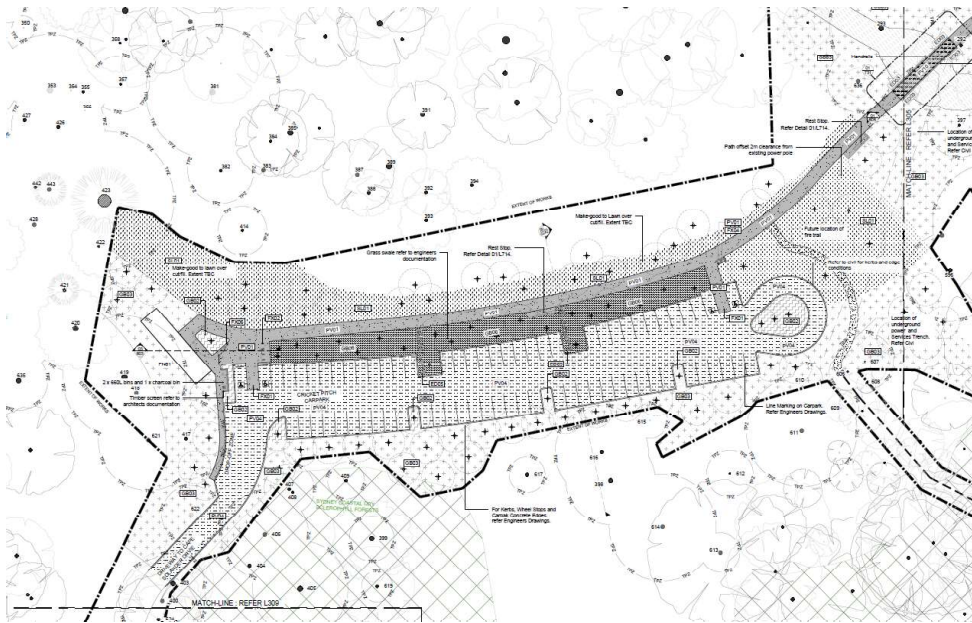


Figure 7.34 Proposed Cricket Pitch car park extension

Source: TLC Drawing L306

The site has few areas for additional car parking and it is proposed to extend the current car park into the flat area of the Cricket Pitch and then connect this to the path.

The concrete cricket pitch has been removed and the site is not ideal for the game as it is not of an adequate size apart for informal or practice games.

The car park extension will remove some sense of its early use and its connections to the increased use of the place as a place of leisure. It is not reported that any Aboriginal teams or people ever played cricket at the site though Aboriginals have been involved in the game since the mid Victorian times with the first Aboriginal team touring England in 1868.

The current Cricket Ground is an area of weed-infested, exotic turf that becomes severely waterlogged and damaged both by its current overflow parking use and by park visitors (illegally) accessing the area and driving vehicles through waterlogged areas damaging the vegetation.

There is currently limited visitation to the Cricket Ground other than by visitors using the space for overflow parking and the area is underappreciated and not well understood. The proposals can allow for interpretation works to signal the former use of the place.

The extension of the car park will provide for a hardened pavement that contains vehicles into a defined area that extends over only a small part of the Cricket Ground, prevents damage from vehicles, reduces erosion into the Freshwater Stream, and provides areas of restored vegetation within the car park in the traffic islands and in the rain gardens.

The footprint of the Cricket Pitch impacted by the proposed new car park would be less than the area impacted under the (NSW Heritage-endorsed) 2019 Master Plan, which not only enlarged the existing Cricket Pitch car park but also positioned part of the new Visitor Centre building over the east end of the Cricket Pitch. The Masterplan also re-aligned the main park entry road over the southern edge of the Cricket Ground. The impact of the enlarged parking area now proposed is lower impact than the 2019 Master Plan concept. The proposal retains the space as an open area not overlooked by major buildings with Visitor Centre now more distant and separate.

The enlarged car park will support the social significance of the place through provision of an upgraded facility suited to the current high (and increasing) levels of visitation catering for a strong demand from park users for access to the site and the recreational and cultural opportunities it presents.

As noted in the CMP:

Continuation of public use of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole is essential to retaining significant community associations.

CMP p. 91

Supporting the increasing visitation is critical to the ongoing public use of the space providing the opportunity for all visitors to enjoy and appreciate the historical, cultural and recreational at the place.

Section 3.8 of the CMP also notes:

Visiting the place has been and continues to be a fundamental way that people have engaged with this site since its reservation in the late nineteenth century. It is important that the journey and approach to the site and the activities shared within the landscape of the Meeting Place Precinct continue to frame people's experiences of the place.

Alternatives have been explored (see above) and there is no other location within Kamay Botany Bay National Park where additional parking can be provided without a greater impact on the heritage elements of Kamay.

The car park is quite a 'hidden space' within the precinct and does not enjoy views to any of the commemorative elements, plantings and Botany Bay. Its location means that works here will have far less visual impact than on other sites in the precinct. The extension of the car park is a 'best fit' in heritage terms maintaining the most significant aspects of the place while providing for increased visitor numbers that are likely to be generated by the other works and the new Visitor Centre.

8.7.1.1 CMP Concepts Assessment

	Secondary Concepts	
	A European settled landscape	
	Tangible elements	
	Cleared landscape	A major portion of the cricket ground will remain an open, grassed area
	Formed landscape	The current car is part of the formed landscape and will extended at grade
	Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the car park extension and rain gardens will be provided between the parking bays
	Views	No significant views will be affected by the works
	Intangible elements	
	Personal and community, memories and oral histories	The car park can include interpretive devices to signal the former use of the area
	A Place for Leisure	
	Cricket pitch lawn areas	A major portion of the grassed area will be retained
	Facilities for visitors	The car park will improve facilities for visitors and will enhance the recreational use of the precinct by providing ready access to the new pathways and visitor centre
	Tangible elements	
	Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected
	Cricket ground and cricket pitch	There is currently no pitch on the site that is low lying and boggy
		A major portion of the grassed area will be retained and the car park can include interpretive devices to signal the former use of the area
		The proposal will prevent the past, inappropriate use of the area by motor vehicles that has seen turfed areas damaged by wheel tracks
	Land Management	The extended car park reflects the aims of the NPWS to improve access and facilities for visitors
	Intangible elements	
	Community associations	A major portion of the grassed area will be retained and the car park can include interpretive devices to signal the former use of the area
	Community Use	The grassed area can remain in use for games
	Personal and community memories and oral histories	The car park can include interpretive devices to signal the former use of the area

8.7.2 Commemoration Flat Car Park

CMP		
Little	Car Parks	



Figure 7.35 Commemoration Flat Car Park



Figure 7.36 Commemoration Flat Car Park

Source: TLC L302

The car is a relatively modern element of little significance. The site has few areas for additional car parking and it is proposed to slightly reconfigure and extend the car park to allow for additional parking spaces.

The car park sits between plantings each side with dense planting to the north and east and has little visual relationship with the major spaces and elements in the precinct. The works are largely neutral in heritage terms and the proposals includes for new plantings along the new pathways to screen the expanded parking areas.

8.7.2.1 CMP Concepts Assessment

	Secondary Concepts	
	A European settled landscape	
	Tangible elements	
	Cleared landscape	The impact will be similar to the existing car park
	Formed landscape	The current car park is part of the formed landscape and will extended at grade
	Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the car parking bays
	Views	No significant views will be affected by the works
	A Place for Leisure	
	Facilities for visitors	The new car parking will improve facilities for visitors
		The car park will improve facilities for visitors and will enhance the recreational use of the precinct by providing ready access to the new pathways, visitor centre, recreation areas and facilities
	Tangible elements	
	Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the works
	Land Management	The car parking reflects the aims of the NPWS to improve access and facilities for visitors
	Intangible elements	
	Community associations	The car park will improve access to the Precinct
	Community Use	The car park will improve access to the Precinct

8.7.3 Car parking to Cape Solander Drive

CMP		
Moderate	Circular Drive	

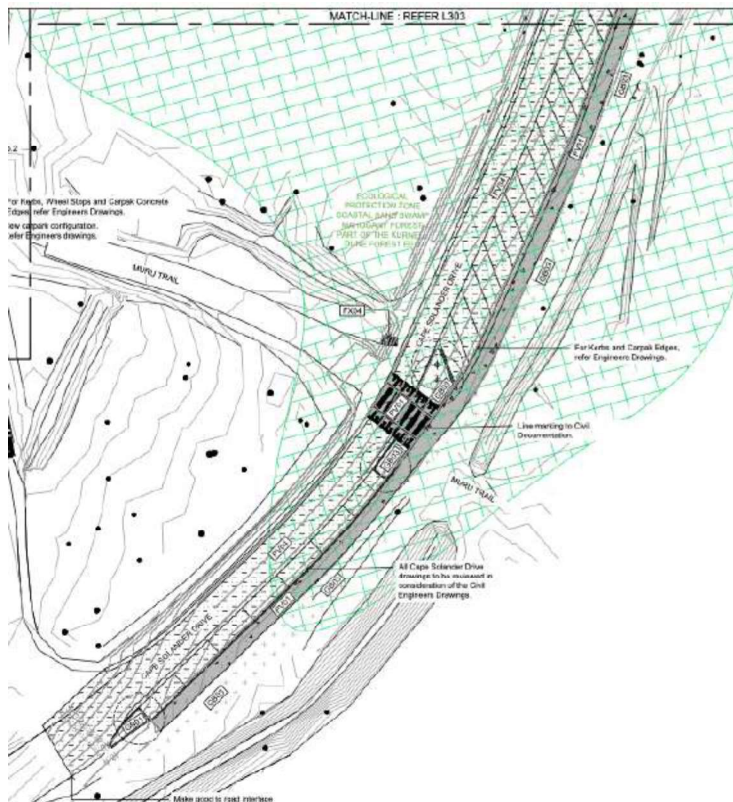
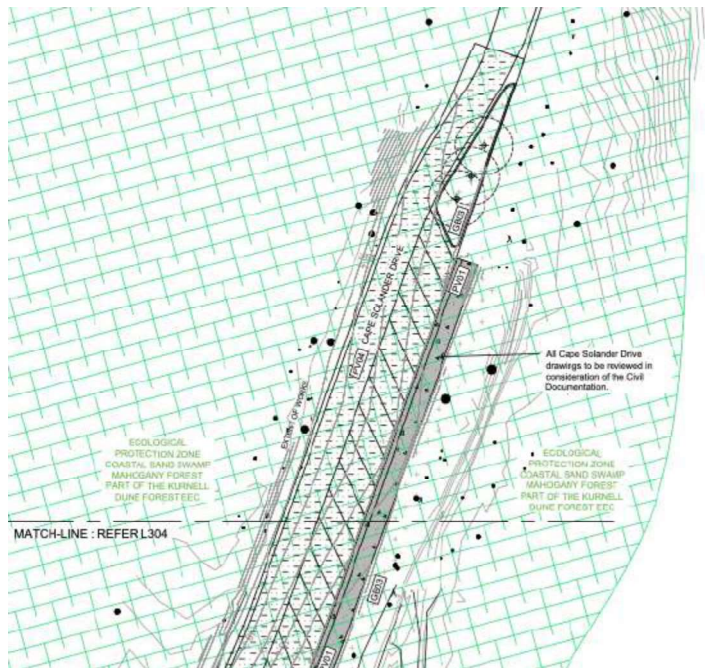


Figure 7.37 Cape Solander Drive Car Park

Source: TLC L303 & L304

Cape Solander Drive is a relatively modern element of only moderate significance. The site has few areas for additional car parking and it is proposed to provide angled parking along the drive.

The drive sits between dense plantings and the car parking will be adjacent to the roadway and will have a limited impact as there is no visual relationship with the major spaces and elements in the precinct. The works will provide increased visitor amenity and ease of access that is part of the overall aim of the proposals to improve facilities in the Meeting Place Precinct.

8.7.3.1 CMP Concepts Assessment

	Secondary Concepts	
	A European settled landscape	
	Tangible elements	
	Cleared landscape	The impact will be similar to the existing drive
	Formed landscape	The current drive is part of the formed landscape and will extended at grade
	Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the car parking bays
	Views	No significant views will be affected by the works
	A Place for Leisure	
	Facilities for visitors	The new car parking will improve facilities for visitors
	Tangible elements	
	Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the works
	Land Management	The car parking reflects the aims of the NPWS to improve access and facilities for visitors
	Intangible elements	
	Community associations	The car park will improve access to the Precinct
	Community Use	The car park will improve access to the Precinct

8.8 LANDSCAPE

8.8.1 Hard Landscape Elements

The place has both indigenous and exotic plantings of significance including commemorative plantings along the foreshore and these are identified in the CMP.

Significant hard landscape elements are also identified in the CMP.

CMP	Aboriginal	
EXCEPTIONAL	Landscape as an entity	State
	Landscape	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Land Profile form	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Soil profile	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Western Dune	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Northern knoll of western dune	NA
HIGH	Southern Knoll of western dune	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Eastern Dune	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Rocky sandstone coastal edge	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Sandy beaches	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Waters of Botany Bay	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Commemoration Flat	State
EXCEPTIONAL	Freshwater stream	State
EXCEPTIONAL	Cricket ground	State
HIGH	Dam and earl crossing on the freshwater stream	Local
LITTLE	Camping ground No. 1	NA
LITTLE	Camping ground No. 2 (former)	NA
HIGH	Captain Cook Drive parkland	NA
HIGH	Birnie's channel	Local
EXCEPTIONAL	Trust Wharf remains (1912)	Local
EXCEPTIONAL	Holt's jetty remains (c. 1880s)	Local
EXCEPTIONAL	Trust Wharf remains (1912)	Local
MODERATE	Tipped stone sea wall	NA
HIGH	Inscription Path	Local
EXCEPTIONAL	Inscription stairs and lookout	NA
NR	Yena Track	Local
NR	Muru Track	Local
NR	Solander Track	Local
HIGH	Solander path embankment	NA
NR	Monument track	Local
HIGH	Original road embankment (below Alpha House)	NA
EXCEPTIONAL	Inscription stairs and lookout	NA
MODERATE	Circular drive	NA
HIGH	Bridge over creek (north)	NA
MODERATE	Bridge over creek (north)	NA
LITTLE	Carparks (x3)	NA

NA Not Assessed

All of the identified elements of significance will be retained in the works and any built works affecting the current landform, landscape elements and plantings are discussed above.

8.8.2 Foreshore Revetment

It is proposed to stabilise the foreshore between the western end of Commemoration Flat and the existing wharf. Storm damage in 2018 required the installation of a sandbag revetment wall to protect the foreshore zone and araucarias from wave erosion. The sandbag structure was installed as an emergency measure and provides only a temporary solution to achieve this protection. The sandbag structure will remain in place to avoid disturbance of the ground in this zone with the new, sandstone block wall constructed over.

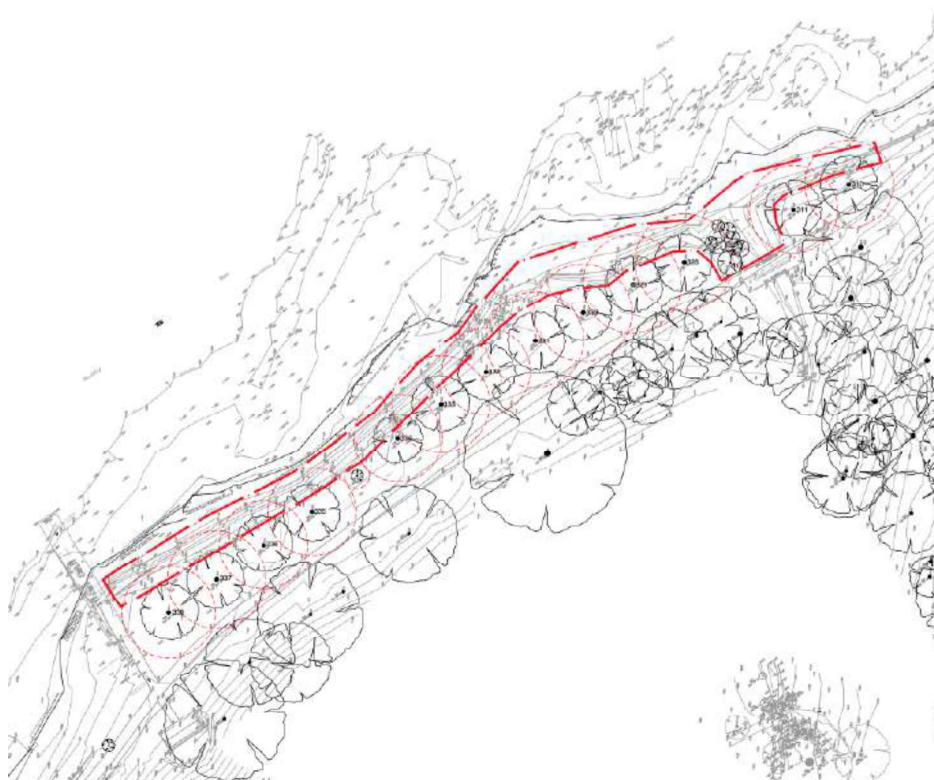


Figure 7.38 Proposed foreshore wall extent

Source: Oculus

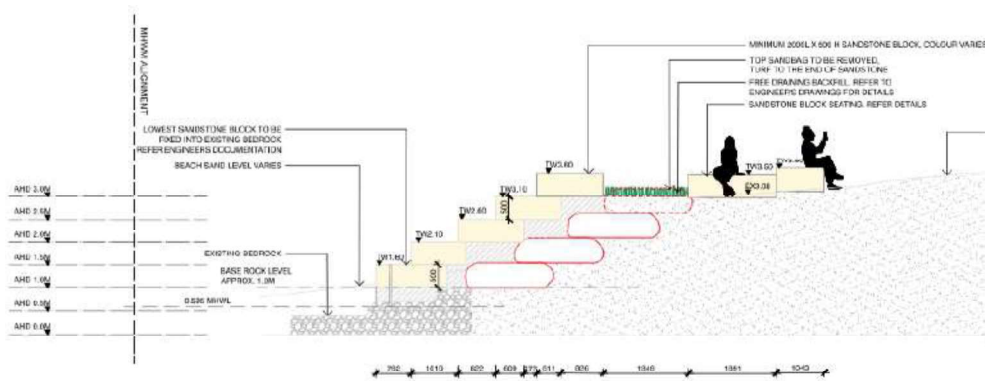


Figure 7.39 Proposed foreshore wall detail

Source: Oculus

An existing stone sea wall was constructed in 1961/62 in part of the new works area to check erosion of the foreshore opposite the swimming place. The eroded beach (near dressing sheds) was consolidated with rock excavated from the site of the Electricity Commission vault (from laying of underground cable through the reserve). The current wall is noted as of Moderate Significance.

The wall is in poor condition and requires repair and the proposed revetment wall is a low-key and simple approach to stabilizing the foreshore with the stepped stones providing opportunities for access and seating. The wall is 'broken' at the stream outlet to the beach to avoid disturbing this important feature.

The revetment wall incorporates and integrates with the existing stone sea wall through coursing of the new stone blocks into the existing stonework retaining the existing stone each side. The wall is loose laid with the stones set on benching on the sloping ground to avoid disturbing any underground remains.

The creek mouth will be cleared of silt and the ground area revegetated at ground level with the existing Casuarinas retained.

Overall the revetment is necessary protection work and is a low key approach that has the advantage of providing steps to the foreshore, setting and lookout points.

The Aboriginal archaeological impact of the works is assessed in the ACHAR 2023 report.

8.8.2.1 CMP Concepts Assessment

	Secondary Concepts	
	A European settled landscape	
	Tangible elements	
	Formed landscape	The impact will be similar to the earlier sea wall
		The wall will provide positive protection to the foreshore beyond and the Araucaria pines from storm damage and erosion
	Remnant plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the works
	Views	No significant views will be affected by the works
	A Place for Leisure	
	Facilities for visitors	The wall will provide safe access to the beach
	Tangible elements	
	Cultural Plantings	No significant plantings will be affected by the works
	Land Management	The wall will provide long term protection for erosion and storms
	Intangible elements	
	Community Use	The revetment wall will provide safe access to the beach and incorporate access points for less able persons to access viewing points overlooking the canoe sculptures

8.8.3 Plantings

The CMP and D5HA identified significant plantings including plant communities though these were not mapped or numbered.

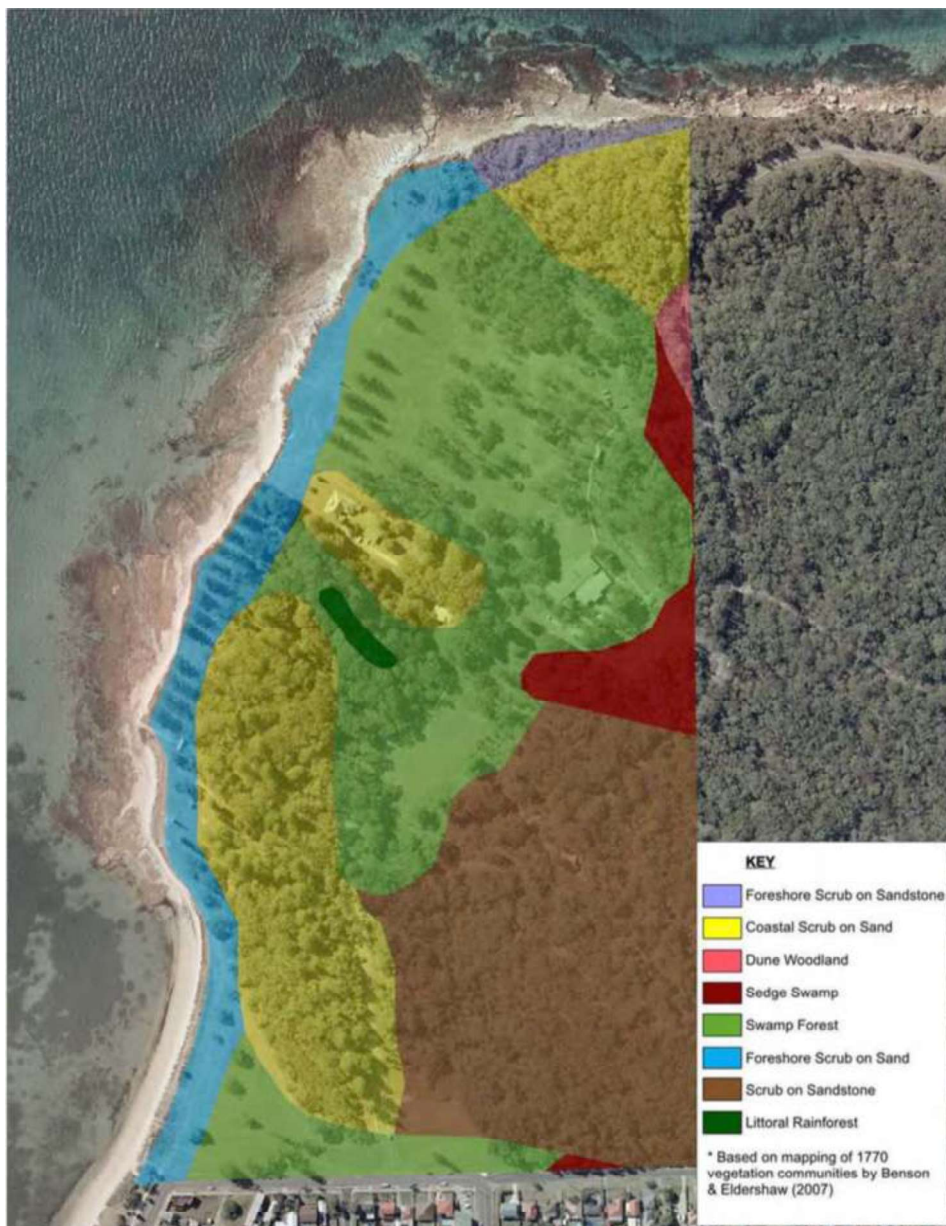


Figure 7.40 Vegetation Communities

Source: CMP p. 26

The vegetation communities have since been re-mapped by NSW Department of Planning and Environment



NSW Class	
■	Coastal Dune Dry Sclerophyll Forest
■	Coastal Floodplain Wetlands
■	Coastal Freshwater Lagoons
■	Coastal Headland Heaths
■	Coastal Heath Swamps
■	Coastal Swamp Forests
■	Coastal Valley Grassy Woodlands
■	Cumberland Dry Sclerophyll Forests
■	Dry Rainforests
■	Eastern Riverine Forests
■	Littoral Rainforests
■	Mangrove Swamps
■	Maritime Grasslands
■	N/A
■	North Coast Wet Sclerophyll Forests
■	Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll

Figure 7.41 Revised Mapping of Vegetation Communities

Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment - The Native Vegetation of the Sydney Metropolitan Area (SEED)

Historical plantings and regions were mapped on the CMP.



Figure 7.41 Cultural Plantings

CMP, P. 27 - Figure 2.2 Cultural Plantings

CMP		
EXCEPTIONAL	Area and endangered plant communities	NA
	Coastal scrub on Sand	
	Swamp Forest	
EXCEPTIONAL	Remnant plant communities from pre settlement	Regional
	Eight remnant plant communities	
	Remnant casuarinas	
EXCEPTIONAL	2 Pine Trees in form of Alpha House	Regional
EXCEPTIONAL	Row of Pines on Commemoration Flat	Regional
EXCEPTIONAL	V of Pines behind Cool Obelisk	Regional
EXCEPTIONAL	Avenue along foreshore including turf drive and trees either side	Regional
HIGH	Other commemorative plantings	Local
HIGH	Plantings associated with Maiden and the Botanic Gardens	Local
HIGH	Row of fig trees	NA
MODERATE	Tallowood Avenue	NA
MODERATE	Historic non-commemorative plantings in CCLPT records	NA
LITTLE	Row of pines (on ridge of western dune	NA
MODERATE	Scattered trees in Commemoration Flat (x2)	NA
INTRUSIVE	Trees between Alpha House and Commemoration Flat	NA
	Plantings from early farm use (or progeny of)	NA
LITTLE	African Olive	NA
LITTLE	New Zealand Flax	NA

The Visitor Centre, pathways and car park extensions will require the removal of a small number of trees but none of these have been identified as significant and, where possible, current plantings will be augmented by the planting of trees and shrubs indigenous to the area.

8.8.4 Tree and Plant Removal and New Plantings

The impact of the proposed changes in regard to tree and plant removal, additional plantings and the impact on ecological communities assessed in the Landscape Impact Statement.

The following trees will be removed:

TREES TO BE REMOVED					
Tree no.	Botanical Name	Common Name	Health	Tree Height (m)	Canopy (m)
116	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Queensland Box	Good	10-15	10-15
117	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Lemon-scented Gum	Fair	10-15	15-20
118	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Lemon-scented Gum	Fair	10-15	15-20
119	<i>Endiandra sieberi</i>	Corkwood	Poor	10-15	5-10
120	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Queensland Box	Good	10-15	10-15
121	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Royal Paulownia	Good	15-20	15-20
263	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	Flooded Gum	Good	10-15	<5
264	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	Flooded Gum	Good	20-30	15-20
265	-	-			
269	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	Flooded Gum	Good	20-30	20-30
274	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Willow Myrtle/Peppermint	Good	5-10	10-15
295	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Royal Paulownia	Good	10-15	10-15

Source: TCL Drawing L550

No significant planting or endangered species will be affected by the works. The works are largely replacement of more modern plantings, new indigenous plantings and the removal of weeds and exotic plantings that are considered intrusive.

The works include reinforcement of existing native plantings in areas affected by the works (such as, for example, the car parks) and specimen planting in and around the Collection Garden with interpretation of non-planted specimens (see Section 8.5.2 above).

8.9 SERVICES

The proposals also include works to existing services including:

- a new hydrant booster assembly at the park entry
- a fire booster pump in enclosed pumphouse near the park entry
- underground hydraulic fire service reticulation to the new visitor centre building
- new sewer infrastructure throughout the park, including new rising mains, cold water and electrical connections to each amenity block

The location of new water supply lines, new sewer lines and electrical services will be the subject of archaeological assessment.

The new booster assembly at the Park entrance and the substation at the Cricket Pitch car park are low-key (and necessary) elements that will have little visual impact and that are appropriately sited.

8.10 MOVABLE HERITAGE

8.10.1 Captain Cook's Landing Place Collection Report (2006) (CA)

The Discovery Centre contains a collection of movable heritage that is documented in *Stage 1 Assessment of the Captain Cook's Landing Place Collection (2006) (CA)*. The report notes:

The Captains Cook Landing Place collection consists of approximately 980 object and documents collected between 1899 and 1999 to commemorate the landing of Captain Cook and his ship's company at Botany Bay in April 1770 and their encounters with the local Gweagal people.

CA p. 1

The items are on display or stored at the museum.

The report notes:

The collection has high historic, research and social significance and moderate aesthetic significance. It contains some items of exceptional historic value and international significance such as the Endeavour cannon.

CA p. 2

The report made a number of recommendations as to the treatment including items to be conserved, stored and displayed.

The collection includes:

- A small number of relics from the Endeavour and Resolution journeys (including the Endeavour cannon)
- A small number of personal possessions of Captain cook himself
- A vast collection of commemorative materials celebrating the journey, ranging from early 19th Century engravings of Cook, Banks, Solander and the Endeavour to coins, medals, stamps and photographs, commemorating important anniversaries of Cook's journeys including the 1928 sesquicentenary celebrations in Hawaii and the 1969-97 bicentenary celebrations in Australia and throughout the world.
- Maritime and scientific instruments typical of the items used by Cook and the Endeavour company
- Aboriginal artefacts similar to those observed in the journals of cook and/or Banks on later stages of the Endeavour journey
- Oceanic artefacts similar to those observed in the journals of Cook and/or Banks on later stages of the Endeavour journey
- A collection of engravings celebrating important botanists donated by the National Herbarium Royal Botanic Gardens (Sydney)
- Replicas and replica models of objects used on the Endeavour journey (including the Endeavour itself)

- Papers, documents, plans and other memorabilia associated with the management of 'Captains Cook's Landing Place' by the Landing Place Trust since 1899
- A taxidermy collection of birds, ducks and other natural samples such as bird eggs were donated to related to the natural history of the site
- A library of books relating to Captain Cook, including several rare items
- Ephemeral copies of reference materials relating to cook and the Endeavour journey

8.10.2 Statement of Significance

The report also contains a statement of significance:

The collection of the Captain Cook Landing Place site (CCLP) is a multifaceted assemblage of more than 980 items associated with and inspired by the landing of Cook and the Endeavour's company at Kurnell, and their meetings with the local Gweagal people during their eight days ashore in 1770.

Acquired largely by the CCLP Trust from 1899 to 1970, the collection is small and relatively new in comparison to the most treasured Cook and Endeavour collections across the globe, but it does boast some rare and original pieces including one of the six Endeavour cannon thrown overboard when the ship ran aground off the Queensland coast. The collection also contains an impressive selection of Cook and Endeavour memorabilia, coins, stamps and medals (with a strong focus on the 1969-70 bicentenary celebrations), replicas and relics representative of objects used, owned or collected by the Endeavour crew, many donated by significant NSW public figures and local residents.

The collection as a whole is of high historic significance as an archive of the commemoration of a historic figure, the 'discovery' of the east coast of Australia, its impact on local Indigenous people and the importance of these histories to the people of New South Wales and Australia (criteria a and b).

It is significant as a representative example of creative achievement in 19th- and 20th-century memorabilia (criterion c) and an assemblage esteemed by Cook devotees, visitors to the Discovery Centre and the people of the Sutherland Shire (criterion d). It yields potential for research into the lifeways of the local Gweagal people before and after the 1770 Endeavour landing and the CCLP Trust who managed the site from 1899 to 1979 (criterion e).

CA p. 24

8.10.3 Proposed Treatment

The collection will be carefully removed and stored till the new Visitor Centre is complete and selected items reinstalled. The items for inclusion in displays are yet to be assessed but all items will be retained in the new Visitor Centre (apart from where other treatment is indicated in the report) in a suitably secure and environmentally controlled storage area. The Visitor Centre proposals include for a considerable upgrade of the security and environmentally controlled storage and display areas.

The recommendations in the report as to the treatment of the items can be implemented at that time.

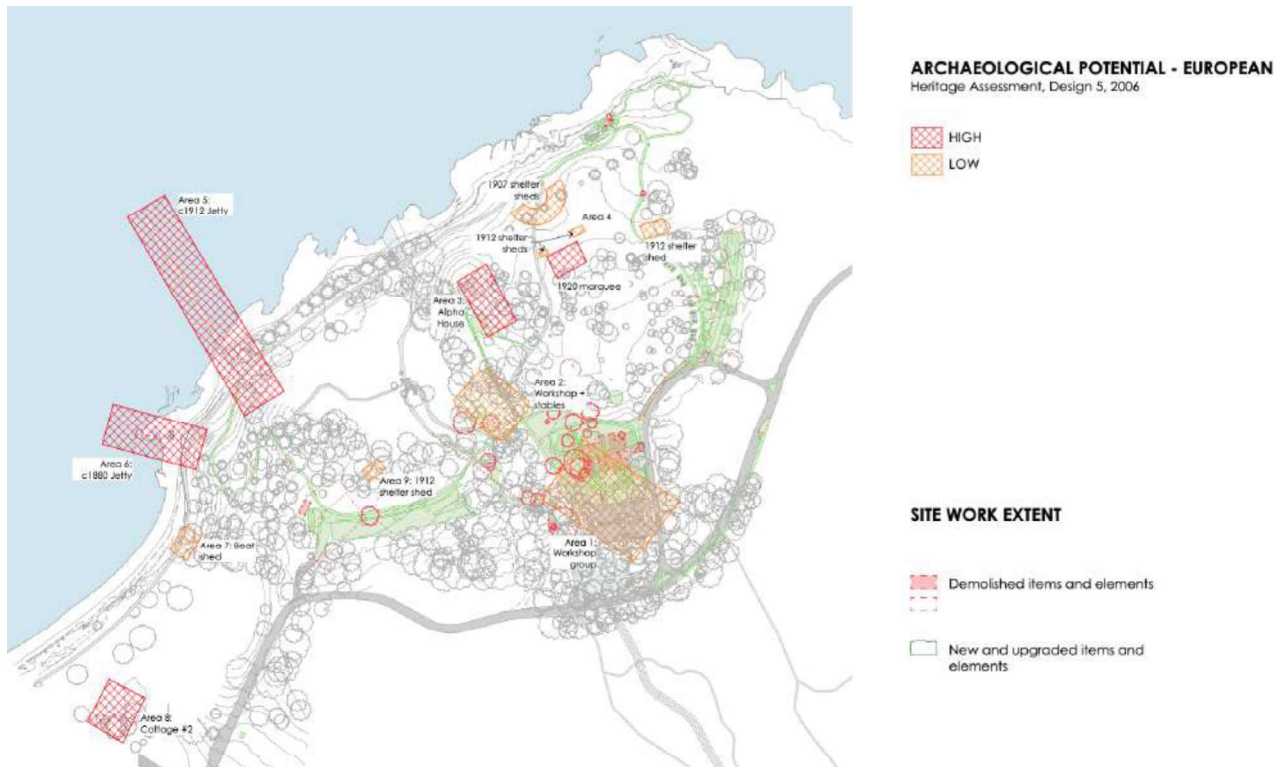


Figure 7.43 Zones of historical archaeological potential in relation to proposed works

Source: Neeson Murcutt Neille

The only areas identified as being of high significance are the site of Cottage No. 2, the c. 1880 jetty, the c. 1912 Ferry jetty, the Alpha Farm Group and the site of the 1920 Marquee that are outside of the works area.

Other sites are noted as of low potential.

The major work is the redevelopment of the Visitor Centre that was the site of the Workshop Group (1935 and 1961) that has been demolished and the area was heavily disturbed by the development of the current centre that is set on raised fill.

The report notes that the area has:

Low archaeological potential – the overlays suggest this site is in the location of the current Discovery Centre and car park area. The location around these has also been heavily landscaped. Limited, if any, may remain of the foundations of these buildings

D5HA p. 150

Other works (car parks and pathways) are largely not located within and do not traverse sites of known archaeological potential and the proposals will generally have no impact in this regard.

The report notes of the Cricket Pitch:

Low archaeological potential exists of these remains, limited features were associated with the cricket pitch may be present on the site, and later, additional drainage placed on the site would also remain from the 1960s upgrade of the site.

D5HA p. 150

Part of the new pathway at the Cricket Pitch car park is close to the site of the southern shelter shed that was one of several such structures on the site. The report notes that the sheds have:

Limited archaeological remains exist of these structures, as they were light building, only post holes are likely to remain where these structures once stood

8.11.2 DSCA Report

The DSCA Report contains a more detailed assessment of the likely archaeological impact of the works and concludes:

It is considered that the potential for future works to impact upon significant historical-archaeology is limited. Archaeological heritage inductions with project managers and contractors prior to the commencement of future works, and historical-archaeological monitoring and recording of works in the vicinity of identified heritage items is proposed to enable early archaeological detection, assessment and management. Managing unexpected finds that may be discovered during future works outside of these historic heritage zones and/or as a result of future Aboriginal archaeological test excavation and monitoring of construction works will assist in mitigating the risk of adverse archaeological impact.

DSCA Report p. 34

There is a generally low probability that future works will expose intact and in situ historical-archaeology but the future discovery of potentially culturally significant relics cannot be discounted not can the future discovery of isolated relics and/or disturbed archaeological materials. Future measures proposed for implementation prior to and during future site works phases to further reduce the risk of archaeological impact include completing on- site heritage inductions before site works activities start, undertaking historical-archaeological monitoring and recording during works in the vicinity of identified historical-archaeological sensitivity, and responding to and managing unexpected finds.

DSCA Report p. 108

9.0 ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE CMP CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

9.1 PREAMBLE

The following assessment is against the relevant conservation guidelines in the CMP.

Where the works are likely to have an impact outside of what is anticipated in the guidelines then these are further assessed by reference to the impact assessments in Section 8.0 above or in further discussion.

The obligations of the guidelines are set out in Section 5.1 of the CMP and include:

- *Recognising and conserving all aspects of the heritage significance of the Meeting Place Precinct, framed by the five over-arching concepts of significance in this report (Context 2007: Section 2).*
- *Conserving the significant physical elements that contribute to the significance of the place, including the underlying landscape, the local native (1770s) vegetation and cultural plantings, the extensive evidence of Aboriginal history, and assemblage of monuments and commemorative spaces.*
- *Respecting, retaining and supporting the significant associations between people and this place, including enduring Aboriginal connections, and providing opportunities for participation in conservation, management and interpretation.*
- *Respecting the significant and diverse meanings of this place to people, including spiritual meanings, and supporting activities and processes that enable people to engage with these meanings.*
- *Retaining and enhancing the evocative experiential qualities of the place created by the landscape and setting, along with the overlain commemorative design.*
- *Actively encouraging the respectful co-existence of the multiple cultural values attributed to this place by different people and cultural groups.*
- *Engaging people in understanding and developing their own perspectives on the history of this place as part of an ongoing process of history-making, commemoration and celebration.*
- *Managing this place in accordance with best-practice conservation principles, recognising that the nature of this place and its values will require particular care in all aspects of management and monitoring.*

CMP pp. 94 & 95

9.2 ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.3	Place as a Whole	
	Objectives	
	To conserve the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole, recognising and respecting its current associations and meanings, retaining and conserving significant fabric and facilitating ongoing processes of community engagement with the place.	Complies. The overall significance of the place will be conserved and its representation of Aboriginal themes and meanings amplified. The development will significantly improve the amenity and accessibility of the place for all allowing a greater appreciation of its highly important values
5.3.1	The Meeting Place Precinct will be managed and conserved in a way that recognises the importance of the place as a whole, in addition to the values of individual elements.	Complies. The place will continue to be managed by the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service in close consultation with traditional owners
5.3.2	In conserving the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole, the contribution of both tangible and intangible elements will be recognised and respected.	Complies. Built elements and landscape features and plantings elements will be conserved (apart from the current Discovery Centre) and the representation of tangible and intangible themes amplified particularly in regard to Aboriginal themes
5.3.3	In conserving the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole, conservation of the three primary concepts of significance should be given precedence over the two secondary concepts of significance should any conflicting conservation requirements arise.	Complies – see Section 8.0 above
5.3.4	Conservation of individual elements will be based on their contribution to the significance of the place as a whole and to the concepts of significance in Policy 5.3.2 (see Table 2, Section 2):	
	elements of exceptional and high heritage significance must be conserved and maintained	Largely complies. The Discovery Centre will be replaced with a very high-quality building that will enhance the amenity for visitors and that provides a superb response to the landscape and cultural values of the place
	elements of moderate heritage significance should be conserved, but may be removed where this would allow the recovery of aspects or elements of greater significance	Complies
	elements of little heritage significance may be removed following careful consideration and recording (see Policy 5.13 – Archival recording)	Complies. The amenity blocks will be replaced with higher quality buildings and the current car parks will be reconfigured to increase capacity
		The expansion of the car parks will considerably increase the amenity for users and allow for greater visitor numbers
5.3.7	The Meeting Place Precinct as a whole will be conserved and managed to ensure that the existence of multiple cultural values and meanings attributed to place will be recognised and respected. Further, the co-existence of cultural values will be recognised, respected and encouraged, especially where these values conflict ³¹ , and the Code on the Ethics of Co-existence in conserving significant places will be used to guide management processes.	Complies. The overall cultural significance of the place will be conserved and its representation of Aboriginal themes and meanings amplified. The development will significantly improve the amenity and accessibility of the place for all allowing a greater appreciation of its highly important values
5.3.8	Communities and groups for whom the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole has special associations or meanings, or who have special cultural responsibilities for the place will be involved in decisions that may impact on this aspect of its significance. This includes Aboriginal people (see Section 5.4).	Complies. There has been extensive community consultation including with Aboriginal stakeholders (see Section 2.10 above)

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.3.9	<i>The Meeting Place Precinct is a part of a wider landscape, and the setting of the Meeting Place Precinct – Botany Bay (including the northern headland and La Perouse) and the other parts of the Botany Bay National Park (South) – contributes to its significance. The attributes, qualities and connections evident in this setting that contribute to the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole should be conserved.</i>	No change
5.3.10	<i>In relation to the conservation of the values, the primary use of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole will be for the understanding of the place, its history and the multiple meanings it holds for people.</i>	Complies. The understanding of the place has guided all development decisions
5.3.11	<i>The experience of being in the Meeting Place Precinct is strongly evocative, as a result of the qualities of its 'enduring' land and waters – including a sense of connection to an Aboriginal landscape and history - and the retained 'bush' areas. The local native vegetation species within the existing bush areas that enhance these experiences will be restored and reinstated, and conserved.</i>	Complies. No significant plantings or endangered species will be affected by the works that are largely replacement of more modern plantings and reinforcement of the indigenous plantings in the Precinct including the removal of weeds and exotic plantings that are considered intrusive.
5.3.12	<i>Interpretation of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole will respect the significance of the place as a whole and its significant elements, tangible and intangible, and seek to present the multiple meanings of the place.</i>	Complies. The works will allow interpretation of all themes
5.3.13	<i>Priorities for conservation action on significant elements within the Meeting Place Precinct will be based on:</i>	
	<i>the significance of the element in terms of its contribution to the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole</i>	Complies. The significance of elements identified in the CMP has been carefully considered
	<i>the significance of the element in terms of its relative importance as assessed against the NSW Heritage Register criteria</i>	Complies. The significance of elements and their relative importance identified in the CMP has been carefully considered
	<i>the immediacy and potential impact of any risk or threat that is prompting the conservation action.</i>	Noted
5.4	<i>Living Connections</i>	
	<i>Aboriginal people</i>	
5.4.1	<i>Aboriginal associations, deriving from traditional and contemporary associations with the Meeting Place Precinct will be strengthened through initiatives designed to assist and support Aboriginal people's participation in planning, managing and interpreting this place. These initiatives may include</i>	Complies. There has been extensive consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders (see Section 2.10 above)
	<i>community education and visitor interpretation.</i>	Complies. The new Visitors Centre and the new ceremonial spaces will expand the education services and exhibition areas particularly in this regard – see also below
5.4.2	<i>Aboriginal knowledge, spiritual and totemic relationships, and cultural traditions relevant to the Meeting Place Precinct and its wider landscape will be respected. Where agreeable to Aboriginal people, this knowledge may be shared with managers of and/or visitors to the Meeting Place Precinct to enable them to gain a richer appreciation of Aboriginal history and culture.</i>	Complies. This will be a key plank of the education services and resources in the new Centre to ensure that <i>The Aboriginal story of the 1770 encounter, and the time before and after, should be told at the Meeting Place Precinct by Aboriginal people</i>

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
	Other Associated Communities	
5.4.10	Associated communities will be encouraged to continue to visit the park and to participate in cultural activities and events that help maintain and strengthen their connection to this place.	Complies. The proposals will significantly improve the amenity and accessibility around the precinct for all groups
	Access	
5.4.15	Recognise that for some communities and cultural groups to maintain their special associations with this place, special provision may be required in terms of access, allocation of defined spaces or exclusive use for a defined period. Cultural traditions may also require flexibility in park management from time to time.	Complies. The Precinct will remain open to all visitors
5.4.16	The Meeting Place Precinct will be a place where multiple perspectives on the history and meanings of this place will be actively encouraged through:	
	Programs, events and interpretation	Complies. The new Centre will considerably improve and allow expansion of these services
	Landscape	
	Cultural Landscape	
5.5.1	Significant stories evidenced by the cultural landscape of history-making and commemoration should be retained, conserved and interpreted within a context that allows other stories, associations and meanings to emerge.	Complies. Significant monuments will be retained and access to all visitors considerably improved. Commemorative events will continue and the opportunities for the teaching and display of Aboriginal themes and meanings enhanced
5.5.2	The introduction of new elements in the landscape that obscure the existing key concepts of significance is not appropriate. The introduction of new elements that would have adverse impacts on the significance and appreciation of individual elements is also not appropriate.	Complies. The new pathways and boardwalks will increase the level of access through the precinct and provide a linked walk to its significant features and new gathering and ceremonial places
5.5.3	Ad hoc and incremental change must be avoided.	Complies. The design has been informed by a Masterplan, careful design consideration and extensive community consultation
5.5.4	Significant elements of the cultural landscape of history-making must be conserved, maintained, remain clearly legible in the landscape and be interpreted. This includes the following elements of exceptional and high significance:	Complies
5.5.5	Significant elements of the cultural landscape that express the Meeting Place Precinct as A place of leisure should be conserved, maintained, interpreted and managed to enhance the understanding of this aspect of the place's significance. (See also Policy on Circulation Patterns, 5.5.11-5.5.18.) This includes the following elements of exceptional and high significance:	Complies. The precinct will remain open for passive and active recreational use
5.5.6	The cricket ground should remain an open area. The addition of new buildings or planting of trees or other vegetation is not appropriate.	Partly complies. The car park location means that works here will have far less visual impact than on other sites in the precinct and the proposal are of lesser impact than the approved Masterplan. The extension of the car park is a 'best fit' in heritage terms and the cricket pitch site can be interpreted
5.5.7	Remaining physical evidence of A European settled landscape - should be conserved and maintained in accordance with its contribution to the significance of the place as a whole and its individual significance, or recorded in situ prior to removal, and interpreted.	Complies. There is limited change to the modified landscape and significant plantings will be retained

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.5.8	<i>A European settled landscape is expressed by the siting of Alpha House, represented by the pair of Pines, and faintly expressed by the cleared landscape areas of Commemoration Flat and the loss of local native vegetation. The former use and extent of A European settled landscape, relative to the current Meeting Place Precinct should be interpreted.</i>	No change
	<i>Circulation patterns, pathways and walkways</i>	
5.5.11	<i>Management of circulation patterns and individual pathways and tracks should be in accordance with Policy 5.5.5 above, regarding tracks as evidence of A place for leisure.</i>	Complies – see above. There are no changes to the informal or existing tracks through the Precinct and the pathways will enhance access and amenity for all users
5.5.12	<i>Historic circulation patterns should be conserved, maintained and interpreted.</i>	Complies. There are no changes to the informal or existing tracks through the Precinct and the pathways will enhance access and amenity for all users
5.5.14	<i>Historic approaches to, and circulation patterns between, elements within the Meeting Place Precinct should be conserved, restored or reconstructed and interpreted.</i>	Complies- There are no changes to the informal or existing tracks though access will be amplified by the new pathways
5.5.15	<i>The visual prominence of the Tallowwood avenue should be reduced.</i>	The number of tallowwoods will be reduced
5.5.18	<i>Proposals for new pathways should seek to re-use or link into historic pathways rather than creating new lines across the landscape (or intruding into the landscape).</i>	The proposal reuses existing pathways with a new pathway that is carefully sited to meld with the landscape and plantings with the paths laid at grade where possible or as boardwalks to avoid boggy area, rock shelves and tree roots
	<i>Views and Broader Setting</i>	
5.5.19	<i>Significant views from, within and towards the Meeting Place Precinct should be retained and conserved.</i>	Complies. The proposal will have no impact on significant views and the pathways will allow additional views and the views to Botany Bay and over Commemoration from the new Visitors' Centre will be greatly improved
	<i>the view axis from the Discovery Centre to the main flagstaff. Plantings within Commemoration Flat that intrude on this view should be removed.</i>	The new Centre will have expansive views over Commemoration Flat both through the building and from the new verandah
5.5.21	<i>The sense of enclosure created by bushland to the south and east, the dune to the west and the sense of openness to the north; towards the bay and La Perouse on the opposite headland should be conserved and maintained.</i>	Complies. No change
5.5.22	<i>Significant elements of the cultural landscape that express or have the potential to express The enduring landscape of the Meeting Place Precinct should be conserved, maintained, restored, interpreted and managed to enhance the understanding of this concept of the place's significance.</i>	Complies. There is limited change to the modified landscape and significant plantings including commemorative plantings will be retained including the sense of enclosure form the surrounding bushland
5.5.23	<i>The underlying geomorphology and land form of the western dune should be conserved and maintained. New structures on the western dune are not appropriate.</i>	Complies. There is limited change to the modified landscape and no works are proposed the western dune
5.5.24	<i>Removal of introduced cultural plantings of moderate or little significance, that obscure understanding of the western dune would be desirable, as their removal would help recover the original land form profile. Removal of introduced plantings to enable restoration and reinstatement of the original vegetation community on the western dune would also be appropriate and desirable. (Refer to Policy 5.6.27- 5.6.43)</i>	Partly complies – not all later plantings will be removed

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.5.26	<i>Introduction of new elements including visitor facilities must consider and avoid impacts on the land form and on the potential for its understanding and interpretation.</i>	Complies. The new elements are set on the current landform
		The Visitor Centre is set on both an the current and raised landform in an area previously disturbed
5.5.27	<i>Landscape treatments such as pathway surfaces must reflect the underlying land form and geomorphology.</i>	Complies. The pathways are at grade or are suspended boardwalks
5.5.29	<i>Long term options for recovering the geology and hydrology of the southern end of the freshwater stream and locations where it is piped should be explored. (Refer to Policy 5.6.61-5.6.69).</i>	Complies. The pipework will be removed and the open stream reinstated with the pathway set on a 'bridge' over
5.5.30	<i>Activities, uses, new buildings, landscaping and plantings which would result in adverse physical or visual impacts on the geomorphology and land form, and which hinder understandings of the enduring landscape would not be appropriate and must be avoided.</i>	Complies. The pathway works and car parks are largely at grade and do not involve significant alteration of the current landform. The mound to the Visitors Centre will be extended to suit but this will provide an appropriate setting to the Visitors Centre comparable with the existing
5.6	<i>Vegetation</i>	
5.6.2	<i>Commemorative plantings planted individually and as structural groups must be conserved and maintained as a group.</i>	Complies. Commemorative plantings will be retained
5.6.5	<i>Commemorative plantings of exceptional significance must be conserved and maintained in open, mown grass settings, as existing.</i>	Complies. Commemorative plantings will be retained
5.6.7	<i>Other individual and structural groups of commemorative plantings listed in the CCLPT register and identified as being of high significance must be conserved and maintained.</i>	Complies. Commemorative plantings will be retained
5.6.9	<i>Other individual and groups of commemorative plantings listed in the CCLPT register and identified as being of moderate significance should be conserved, but may be removed where this would allow the recovery of aspects or elements of greater significance. Removal and replacement should be in accordance with policy for managing change to significant historic plantings (Policy 5.6.44-60).</i>	Complies. Some elements of lower significance will be removed along with intrusive species
5.6.10	<i>The spatial and ceremonial qualities of the landscape created by commemorative plantings, their setting and placement in relation to the bay and other structural plantings that express the original design intent for the ceremonial and commemorative function of the place should be conserved and maintained.</i>	Complies. The spatial setting of the Commemorative plantings will be retained
5.6.12	<i>Structural and historic plantings of exceptional significance should be conserved and maintained. This includes: a pair of pines in front of Alpha House.</i>	The pines have been removed
5.6.14	<i>Structural and historic plantings of high significance should be conserved and maintained</i>	Complies. Significant plantings will be retained

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.6.16	<i>The broad expanse of mown turf of the foreshore avenue must be conserved and maintained, as existing so that it continues to be read and understood in the landscape as a processional space linking the Cook Obelisk to Commemoration Flat. The row of pines that define the foreshore side of the avenue should be conserved and maintained. An opposing edge to the avenue (the dune side) should also be conserved and maintained. The dune-side edge should be as close as possible to the existing dune edge of the foreshore avenue. An edge that ensures the dune is visible would be preferable (i.e. mown grass) or other low vegetation.</i>	Complies. The turf areas will be retained and the pathway is a discrete element at grade. The processional to the Cook Obelisk will be retained along with the row of pines (where extant)
5.6.18	<i>The spatial and ceremonial qualities of the landscape created by structural and historic plantings of high significance and that express the ceremonial and commemorative function of the place should be conserved and maintained.</i>	Complies. The spatial and ceremonial qualities will be retained
5.6.19	<i>The group of plantings associated with Maiden and the RBG to the west of Alpha House should be conserved, managed and interpreted as a group or collection.</i>	Complies. The plantings will be retained where extant
5.6.21	<i>Historic (non-commemorative) plantings recorded in the CCLPT records should be identified in the landscape, reconciled with documentary records of their planting event, located on a survey plan, tagged and photographically recorded. Where individual specimens or groups cannot be reconciled exactly, an approximation of their location should be recorded.</i>	Complies. Trees have been remapped, numbered and identified
<i>Other introduced plantings</i>		
5.6.23	<i>Other introduced plantings identified as being of moderate significance should be conserved, but may be removed where this would allow the recovery of aspects or elements of greater significance.</i>	Complies. Where removed introduced plantings will generally be replaced with indigenous species
5.6.24	<i>The scattered trees in Commemoration Flat and in the picnic ground at the rear of Commemoration Flat should be retained and conserved for visitor amenity. Replacement of these trees should use local species from native vegetation communities present in the vicinity. Additional trees and understorey plantings are not appropriate where this would obscure views towards and the visual relationship between this recreational space and the bay.</i>	Complies. The trees will be retained and introduced plantings will generally be replaced with indigenous species
5.6.26	<i>Intrusive elements should be removed.</i>	Complies. Weeds and noxious plants will be removed in the areas affected by the works
<i>Local native vegetation communities</i>		
5.6.27	<i>Rare and endangered plant communities and remnant plant communities from pre-European settlement of exceptional significance must be retained and conserved</i>	Complies. No rare or endangered plant communities will be removed
<i>Aboriginal use and collection of plant materials</i>		
5.6.38	<i>Aboriginal use and collection of plant materials for cultural purposes should be supported except where it poses an unacceptable risk to the vegetation community or specific species.</i>	Complies. Plant collection may continue under this guideline

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
	<i>Interpretation</i>	
5.6.40	<i>Connections between the pre-European settlement vegetation and the scientific collections made by Banks and Solander should be interpreted.</i>	Complies. This will be carried out at the meeting place close to the Visitor Centre
	<i>Managing change to significant historic planting</i>	
5.6.45	<i>Significant historic plantings of exceptional and high significance must be conserved and maintained</i>	Complies. Significant plantings will be retained
5.6.47	<i>Significant historic plantings of moderate significance should be retained or removed where removal would recover an aspect of greater significance.</i>	Complies. Some elements of lower significance will be removed along with intrusive and weed species in the works area
	<i>Freshwater Stream</i>	
5.6.61	<i>The remnant of the freshwater stream should be retained and the sense of a stream in the landscape evoked by existing riparian-style vegetation should be conserved and maintained. Its spiritual connections and meanings for Aboriginal people, the resources provided by the stream and its connection to the sea, and its historical association with the Cook expedition should be interpreted.</i>	Complies. The piped section of the stream will be removed and the naturalistic setting of the stream reinstated
5.6.62	<i>Selective removal of some introduced species and introduction of local native species to maintain this sense of place would be appropriate. Mature species which are not consistent with typical littoral rainforest vegetation communities (in the local area) but which contribute to this sense of place should be retained in the short to medium term.</i>	Complies. Some elements of lower significance will be removed along with intrusive and weed species in the works area
5.6.66	<i>If restoration of the original stream's hydrology and flow is not possible in the short to medium term, reconnection of the stream to the bay for interpretive and symbolic purposes would be appropriate.</i>	Complies. The piped section of the stream will be removed and the naturalistic setting of the stream reinstated
	<i>Kurnell Edge</i>	
5.6.71	<i>Loss of the prominent vertical forms of the Norfolk Island Pines along ridge of the western dune would be appropriate where this enables recovery of the 1770s vegetation community. Their removal should be managed in consultation with the local community as part of a community engagement strategy developed for the 1770s vegetation restoration and reinstatement</i>	Not proposed as part of this application
	<i>Weeds and other environmental threats</i>	
5.6.76	<i>Weed species of moderate or little cultural significance should be removed where they are assessed to pose unacceptable risks to the conservation of other significant values.</i>	Complies. Weed species will be removed
5.6.78	<i>Provenance of all local species must be local, unless species can no longer be found locally and the use of non-local seed source can be justified. Provenance for local species must be prioritised to be sought firstly from within the immediate native plant community, then within Botany Bay National Park (south), then from the Kurnell Peninsula.</i>	Complies. Introduced plantings will generally be replaced with indigenous species

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.6.80	<i>Individuals regenerating from introduced trees species should be removed. Seeding/parent trees should also be removed unless identified that they must be conserved and maintained in accordance with their contribution to the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole.</i>	Complies Regenerated species and seeding trees species will be removed
5.7	<i>Aboriginal cultural heritage</i>	
5.7.1	<i>Conserve the tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage elements and values of the Meeting Place Precinct that are of exceptional and high significance, recognising the fundamental rights and interests of Aboriginal people in all aspects of this place.</i>	Complies. The Masterplan and proposals have been the subject of extensive Aboriginal engagement and consultation and feedback incorporated into the Masterplan and the proposed design. Aboriginal engagement and consultation will continue (see below)
5.7.3	<i>Involve Aboriginal people in the assessment of the significance of Aboriginal heritage, including consideration of the assessments contained in this Conservation Management Plan. It is expected that new understandings of the significance of this place for Aboriginal people will emerge and into the future. Allowing for the emergence of these understandings and adapting the associated policies is to be encouraged.</i>	Complies. The Masterplan and design development has been carried out in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders
5.7.4	<i>Work with Aboriginal people with traditional or long-standing associations with the site to document:</i>	
	<i>Aboriginal cultural evidence (such as a ceremonial ground and marker tree mentioned in a recent oral history interview)</i>	Complies. Education programmes and exhibition displays will be developed in association with Aboriginal stakeholders
	<i>culturally sensitive sites or areas that may need special protection or limitations on access</i>	Capable of compliance. Aboriginal stakeholders will be involved in the future management of the place
	<i>sources of materials and food on the site and within the park used by Aboriginal people in living memory (many Aboriginal people have visited and collected resources from this landscape during the last 50-70 years)</i>	Capable of compliance. Aboriginal stakeholders will be involved in the future management of the place
	<i>traditions, memories and stories.</i>	
5.7.5	<i>Involve Aboriginal people with traditional or long-standing associations with the site in the development of protocols for the protection and interpretation of Aboriginal cultural heritage, tangible and intangible</i>	Complies/Capable of compliance. The Masterplan and design development has been carried out in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders and the Visitor Centre education programme and exhibition displays will be developed in association with Aboriginal stakeholders
5.7.6	<i>Establish ways in which Aboriginal people can enact and pass on their custodial responsibilities for country, including participating in interpretation, environmental management and protection.</i>	Capable of compliance. The Visitor Centre education programme and exhibition displays will be developed in association with Aboriginal stakeholders and they will be involved in the future management of the place
5.7.7	<i>Enable Aboriginal use of the park's natural and cultural resources for cultural purposes, within the constraints of the sustainability of the natural environment and the potential fragility of these resources, by establishing a clear process for consent.</i>	Capable of compliance. This will be part of NSW Parks and Wildlife Management processes
5.7.8	<i>Engage Aboriginal people in the planning and management of a program of local native vegetation restoration, recognising that reinstatement of these areas will help Aboriginal people reconnect to the Meeting Place Precinct.</i>	Complies. The Masterplan and design development has been carried out in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.7.9	<i>Bring Aboriginal history, meanings and stories into the Meeting Place Precinct interpretation, recognising that people's stories and associations are their own</i>	Complies. This will be a key focus of Visitor Centre education programme and exhibition displays
5.7.10	<i>Support Aboriginal involvement in the Meeting Place Precinct, recognising the extent of involvement desired by Aboriginal people and that this may change over time, and seek to achieve long-term outcomes for the Aboriginal community/people and for the conservation of the place and its values as a whole.</i>	Capable of compliance. This will be part of NSW Parks and Wildlife Management process
5.8	Archaeology	See Archaeological Assessments
5.9	Built environment	
	Alpha House and site	No change
	Discovery Centre	The centre will be demolished – see above
5.9.53	<i>Public access through the northern entrance to the building should be re-instated, as part of works restoring the physical and visual relationships between the Discovery Centre and the flagstaff on Commemoration Flat.</i>	Complies. The new centre has views through entry foyer and large a viewing verandah facing Commemoration Flat
5.9.55	<i>Removal of the Discovery Centre would only be considered where it would recover or enhance an aspect of the Meeting Place Precinct of greater significance. If the Discovery Centre is removed, the location of the building, its purpose, and axial relationship between the Discovery Centre site and the main flagstaff should be interpreted.</i>	See above. The new centre is set in the same location and maintains the axial relationship with the main flagstaff
5.9.58	<i>The Discovery Centre should be publicly accessible, including for disabled persons.</i>	Complies. Allied to the new pathways the design includes the required DDA provisions
5.9.59	<i>Significant connections, both physical and visual, between the Discovery Centre and Commemoration Flat (and public picnic areas) should be recovered by reinstating the original formal staircase between these areas. Restoring public access through the northern entrance to the building would also be desirable.</i>	Complies. The new Visitors Centre significantly improves the visual and physical connections to Commemoration Flat with extensive views and connectivity provide by the public verandah overlooking the Flat
5.9.60	<i>The visual relationship between the interior space of the Discovery Centre and the exterior setting of the Meeting Place Precinct should be recovered.</i>	Complies. The new Centre significantly improves the visual connections to and from the Meeting Place
5.9.62	<i>A photographic record should be made before, during, and on completion of any significant conservation, alteration or refurbishment works. Photographic recording should not be considered as an alternative to the conservation and maintenance of significant fabric. (See Policy 5.13)</i>	Capable of compliance. The current centre will be achivally recorded prior to demolition
	Education Centre	This has been removed
	Ferry Shelter Shed	No change
	Cave dwellings	No change
	Entry booth, anchor and flagpoles at entry	No change

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.10	Monuments	
5.10.1	<i>Original fabric and setting of all monuments and memorials should be conserved and maintained, in situ. Change to the monuments should be minimised, and ad-hoc, piecemeal change must be avoided.</i>	No changes proposed
	<i>Setting, landscape and curtilage</i>	
5.10.6	<i>The visibility of individual monuments in their open landscape setting must be conserved and maintained.</i>	Complies
5.10.7	<i>New works, including landscaping or structures, would only be permitted within the monuments curtilage (Design 5: 161), if they do not have adverse visual impacts on the setting or views of monuments, including the view of the Cook Obelisk from Botany Bay and from the Kurnell edge.</i>	Complies. The new pathways are at grade and will largely not impact on the setting of the monuments.
5.10.8	<i>Views within, to and from the heritage curtilage of the monument group, especially those from Botany Bay, should be retained and enhanced.</i>	Complies. The proposals will have no impact on significant views to the monument group
5.10.9	<i>The landscape setting of each monument should be left clear and undisturbed. A mown lawn setting should be maintained around each monument, unless other use constraints, such as wear patterns etc, dictate otherwise.</i>	Complies. The lawn areas around the monuments will be retained.
5.10.12	<i>Interviews should be sought and recorded with people who were present at the unveiling of each monument, and their stories recorded as part of the historical research on the Meeting Place Precinct. (See also Policy 5.15 Research; 5.16 Interpretation)</i>	Capable of compliance. This can be developed as part of the Interpretation display in the new Centre
5.10.13	<i>No physical interpretive structures or signs should be installed within the setting of individual monuments (See also Policy 5.16 Interpretation). Appropriate interpretation could include hand-held leaflets or walking guides that make use of the monuments as stopping points to promote various aspects of the place's history, in particular its significance as A place of history- making.</i>	Capable of compliance. This can be developed as part of the Interpretation policy
5.10.14	<i>Visitors, Aboriginal people and community groups should be permitted to continue to commemorate events associated with the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct through appropriate events, festivals and ceremonies.</i>	Complies. This will continue to be the management policy of NSW Parks and Wildlife
5.10.15	<i>Commemorative activities must not have permanent or physical impacts upon the fabric, setting or significance of the monuments nor on the significance of intangible values of the Meeting Place Precinct.</i>	Complies. This will continue to be the management policy of NSW Parks and Wildlife
5.10.17	<i>New monuments intended as permanent structures should be assessed in accordance with the process outlined in policy 5.17 Managing change.</i>	No new monuments proposed
5.10.18	<i>Consideration should be given to ways of marking or revealing the long Aboriginal connections with the Meeting Place Precinct, and their enduring presence before and after the arrival of Cook.</i>	Capable of compliance. This can be developed as part of the Interpretation policy and display in the new Centre

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
	Access	
5.10.19	<i>All monuments should be visually accessible by all members of the public (with the exception of the Inscription Plate). Taking into account that some monuments are more difficult to access than others, physical access should be permitted and facilitated, where it would not adversely impact on the fabric, or the aesthetic and historic significance of individual monuments, their setting, and the monument group.</i>	Complies. The new pathways will improve access for all visitors
	Individual Monument Policies	No changes are proposed to the fabric of any monuments
5.11	Objects, collections and records	See also section 7.4 above
5.11.1	<i>Conservation and management of the objects, collections and records within the Meeting Place Precinct should be consistent with the policies contained in this document, and those expressed in the following documents:</i>	Capable of compliance. The guidelines in Section 5.11.1 to 5.11.19 will form part of the management policy of NSW Parks and Wildlife
	Interpretation	
5.11.20	<i>An assessment of the nature of the objects, collections and record of the Meeting Place Precinct should be undertaken to determine the potential for items to assist in interpretive programs at the Meeting Place Precinct.</i>	See Section 5.10 above
5.12	Use, access and visitors	Capable of compliance. These guidelines will form part of the management policy of NSW Parks and Wildlife and access will continue as at present
	Use and access	
5.12.1	<i>Public use of and access to the Meeting Place Precinct for a range of social, recreational, leisure and community purposes should continue. Appropriate uses are those that:</i>	Complies. The pathways, the Visitor Centre, the Collection Garden and ceremonial spaces will allow for greater appreciation of both Aboriginal and European values and recreational activities will continue
	<i>respect the cultural significance of the Meeting Place Precinct</i>	Complies
	<i>respect and assist the continuation of significant associations, connections and meanings</i>	Complies
	<i>are assessed as being culturally appropriate, recognising that the has place multiple values and associations</i>	Complies
	<i>involve no permanent physical or visual impacts on the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole</i>	Complies. There is some change but this is well considered and the visual impacts of the new elements will be neutral or low and overall, the proposals are a strong positive in heritage terms
	<i>will not have physical or visual impacts on individually significant cultural landscape, buildings and structures, monuments and memorials, and their settings, subsurface archaeological deposits and remains</i>	Largely Complies. The major changes are the replacement of the Visitor Centre and expansion of the cricket ground car park. The former will enhance an appreciation of the place and the latter is low key and separated from the primary areas of significance
	<i>will not have permanent physical impacts on vegetation or the underlying land form</i>	Complies. Only non-significant or intrusive vegetation will be removed or replaced
	<i>enable the continued use of the precinct for leisure, walking, swimming, diving, Christmas picnics and other cultural celebrations and events, whale watching, simultaneously by individuals and large community groups.</i>	Complies. These uses will continue at the place and the pathways will allow greater access along the foreshore for all users

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.12.2	Major events, festivals etc should occur in the Commemoration Flat area, unless other factors determine a more appropriate location. The Cricket Ground could also be used for large gatherings.	Noted
5.12.3	The impacts of noise on equitable use of the Meeting Place Precinct should also be a consideration in determining appropriate uses.	There will be little change in this regard and only due to increased visitor numbers
5.12.4	The use of the Meeting Place Precinct for special community events (regular or one-off events) should be allowed, while not reducing general public access.	Noted. Community events will continue at the place
5.12.5	In line with NPWS policy on access there will be public access to and use of the Meeting Place Precinct for a range of social, recreational, leisure and community purposes.	Complies. The current uses will continue with enhanced areas for Aboriginal ceremonial events and education
5.12.6	Commercial activities may be allowed within the Meeting Place Precinct only if they can be demonstrated to make a positive contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Meeting Place Precinct, do not impact on the cultural values of the place and have no adverse long or short term impact. Such activities would require assessment under policy 5.17.	Noted
5.12.7	Introduction of new elements including visitor facilities must consider and avoid potential impacts on the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole, and on individually significant elements – including landscape, the setting of significant buildings, monuments and memorials – its understanding and its interpretation	Complies. The new Visitors Centre replaces the existing centre and other facilities will be a like for like replacement or reorganisation to lessen their visual impact. The new meeting circles will reflect the Aboriginal use of the place and allow for education and performances
5.12.8	Adaptations to the site required for events and activities and peak seasonal use of the Meeting Place Precinct would only be considered appropriate where:	Noted
	they would not have adverse physical impacts	Noted
	they would not have an adverse visual or other impacts on the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct.	Noted
5.12.9	Adaptations to the Meeting Place Precinct for visitor facilities required for large events or peak seasonal use of Botany Bay National Park (that is, outside of the Meeting Place Precinct) are not appropriate. This includes but is not limited to additional car parking, bus parking, set-down and drop-off areas, toilets, etc. These should be located outside of the Meeting Place Precinct.	Noted
5.12.10	The impacts of any new visitor facilities proposed for the Meeting Place Precinct should be assessed in accordance with the process outlined in the NSW Heritage Office guidelines for preparing Statements of Heritage Impact.	This report has been prepared in accordance with relevant Heritage NSW guidelines
5.12.11	Car parking beyond the existing three car parks within the Meeting Place Precinct must not be allowed to overflow onto Commemoration Flat, at any time.	Noted. The car park expansion and upgrades will facilitate this

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
5.12.12	<i>Car parking beyond the existing three car parks within the Meeting Place Precinct could be allowed to overflow onto the cricket ground, but only where overflow car parking is required to support large events and activities held within and that are consistent with the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct.</i>	Complies. The overflow car parking at the cricket ground will be formalised
	Visitor Facilities	Capable of compliance. These guidelines will form part of the management policy of NSW Parks and Wildlife
5.12.13	<i>Physical impacts associated with high visitor numbers should be monitored and appropriate measures taken to discontinue an action where adverse and irreversible impacts are observed.</i>	The replacement Visitor Centre car park expansion and upgrades will facilitate this
5.13	Archival Recording	
	General policies	
5.13.1	<i>Archival records should be made to standards required for items of State heritage significance as detailed by the NSW Heritage Office publication, How to prepare archival records of heritage items, Heritage Information Series.</i>	Capable of compliance. Any buildings or structures, landscaping and site features to be removed to altered can be archivally recorded prior to the works commencing
5.13.2	<i>For each item, the records should detail, where possible or relevant, its current state and condition, location, evidence of change, significant features, information on relationships to people and place, history of ownership, and map location and/or floor plans, site plans and spatial relationships.</i>	Capable of compliance. This can form part of the archival recording
5.13.3	<i>Each set of records should be produced in three copies, with one copy retained by Park Management, one copy sent to the State Library of NSW, and one copy to the Heritage Council of NSW.</i>	Capable of compliance
	Vegetation	
5.13.4	<i>A graphic inventory and survey should be prepared by a qualified arborist as a priority. It should document the following:</i>	Complies. This has carried out as part of this application. Trees have been remapped, numbered and identified
	<i>commemorative plantings</i>	Trees have been remapped, numbered and identified
	<i>historic, non-commemorative plantings recorded in the CCLPT records</i>	Trees have been remapped, numbered and identified
	<i>the group of plantings associated with Maiden and the Royal Botanic Garden to the west of Alpha House.</i>	Trees have been remapped, numbered and identified
5.13.5	<i>The graphic inventory and survey should include the following information</i>	Complies
	<i>formal plant identification</i>	Trees have been remapped, numbered and identified
	<i>physical condition</i>	Trees have been remapped, numbered and identified
	<i>life expectancy</i>	Trees have been remapped, numbered and identified
	<i>significance</i>	This has not been carried out as part of the tree survey though significant plantings are identified in the Design 5 Report and the CMP
	<i>photographic recording</i>	Capable of compliance
	<i>GPS coordinates, and location clearly marked on survey plan (even if given an approximate area location).</i>	Capable of compliance
5.13.6	<i>All plantings of exceptional, high and moderate significance should also be tagged.</i>	Capable of compliance

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
	<i>Built Elements</i>	
5.13.7	<i>As standard conservation practice, archival recording should be undertaken for all built elements in the following scenarios</i>	Capable of compliance. Any buildings or structures, landscaping and site features to be removed to altered can be archivally recorded prior to the works commencing
	<i>before making decisions on the management of the item (e.g. when preparing a conservation plan)</i>	Capable of compliance
	<i>when developing or carrying out a maintenance and monitoring program for the item (e.g. for annual maintenance inspections)</i>	Capable of compliance
	<i>before and during work to the item (e.g. alterations and additions)</i>	Capable of compliance
	<i>before full or partial demolition of the item</i>	Capable of compliance
	<i>before and during archaeological investigations.</i>	Capable of compliance
5.13.18	<i>Archival recording should not be considered as an alternative to the conservation and maintenance of significant fabric. Copies of the archival records should be held on-site, by the PWG/DECC, and lodged with the State Library of NSW.</i>	We would strongly accord with this view. The demolition of the current Discovery Centre is discussed above
5.13.19	<i>Archival recordings should be undertaken according to standards set out in the NSW Heritage Office Guidelines How to Prepare Archival Records of Heritage Items (1998).</i>	Capable of compliance
15.4	<i>Consultation and participation</i>	
15.4.1	<i>Develop and implement a community engagement plan for the Meeting Place Precinct that recognises:</i>	The proposals have been the subject of community engagement with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders
	<i>the diversity of interests and perspectives</i>	Noted
	<i>the need for different types of engagement depending on the issues involved</i>	Noted
	<i>the different needs, resources and interests of particular stakeholders</i>	Noted
	<i>the importance of ongoing rather than ad hoc community engagement in creating an atmosphere of trust and respect</i>	Noted
5.15	<i>Research</i>	
5.15.1	<i>Establish a research framework for the Meeting Place Precinct that</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>is founded on the significance of the place</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>enables research undertaken on the site to contribute to wider questions of importance</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>sets appropriate limits on research that may impact on the significance of the place</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>contributes to and helps frame an interpretation plan for the site (to ensure the interpretation plan is based on important questions and perspectives about the site).</i>	Capable of Compliance
5.15.2	<i>New research and understandings of the Meeting Place Precinct and broader understandings of its environment and environmental change should be recognised and should inform decision-making.</i>	Noted
5.15.3	<i>Continue and develop an oral history program for the Meeting Place Precinct including components on:</i>	Capable of compliance. This will form part of the operation of the Visitor Centre and National Park
	<i>communities that have used the site for events and community gatherings</i>	This will form part of the operation of the Visitor Centre and National Park

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
	people with associations with the camp settlements	This will form part of the operation of the Visitor Centre and National Park
	Aboriginal associations	This will form part of the operation of the Visitor Centre and National Park
	people involved in site management (works crews, supervisors, managers, contractors) prior to and during NPWS/PWG period.	This will form part of the operation of the Visitor Centre and National Park
5.15.4	Continue to support development of Aboriginal oral history skills through the training of and support for community members, and ensure that this work can be drawn on for the wider oral history program.	Capable of compliance. This will form part of the operation of the Visitor Centre and the National Park
5.16	Interpretation	Interpretation of the place will play a key role in the activities, education, exhibitions and displays in the new Centre
5.16.1	Interpretation should assist understanding all of the stories and meanings of the place in all their complexity.	Complies. This has been considered in the development proposals
5.16.2	Interpretation should encourage multiple perspectives on the history and meanings of the Meeting Place Precinct.	Complies. This has been considered in the development proposals
5.16.3	The principal focus for interpretation should be the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole, as:	Complies. This has been considered in the development proposals
5.16.4	Interpretation should recognise the meanings of the Meeting Place Precinct to all Australians (as a symbolic and imagined place), and to the communities who have strong and direct associations with the place.	Complies. This has been considered in the development proposals
15.16.4	Interpretation should recognise the meanings of the Meeting Place Precinct to all Australians (as a symbolic and imagined place), and to the communities who have strong and direct associations with the place.	Complies. This has been considered in the development proposals and the proposals have been the subject of community engagement with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders
15.16.5	Interpretation should enhance community connections to the Meeting Place Precinct. It should assist understanding of the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct by Aboriginal people/community, the local Kurnell community and by visitors in an equitable manner.	Complies. This will be an especial focus for the Centre and is also reflected in new meeting places and plantings
15.16.6	Effective and sensitive interpretation of the history and significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole, and of individual elements of significance must form a part of the conservation and ongoing management of the Meeting Place Precinct.	Capable of Compliance
15.16.7	Interpretation should acknowledge that the meanings of the Meeting Place Precinct will change over time. Therefore interpretation should form an ongoing part of the management of the Meeting Place Precinct.	Capable of Compliance
15.16.8	Appropriate forms of interpretation should include but not be limited to signs. It may also encompass a wide range of actions including temporary signs in visually sensitive locations, brochures, guided tours, exhibitions, education programs, artworks, activities, performance, naming, events (and the wider promotion of activities, events) and publications.	Capable of Compliance The interpretation policies and devices will be the subject of further development and do not form part of this application
5.16.9	Signage should sensitively designed and sited. It must not have	Signage policies and devices will be the subject of further development and do not form part of this application

	Conservation Guideline	Comment
	<i>adverse physical impacts on The enduring landscape</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>adverse physical impacts on the fabric of significant buildings or structures</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>adverse physical or visual impacts on elements of the cultural landscape or vegetation</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>adverse visual impacts on the appreciation and setting of the bushland setting of the Meeting Place Precinct</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>adverse visual impacts on significant views, and the setting and appreciation of significant buildings, monuments and memorials and ceremonial spaces</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>adverse visual or physical impacts on the wider bushland and coastal setting</i>	Capable of Compliance
	<i>adverse cumulative impacts on the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole.</i>	Capable of Compliance
5.16.10	<i>The use of the Meeting Place for activities and events that would enhance and assist interpretation of the significance of the Meeting Place Precinct as a whole should be allowed and encouraged.</i>	Capable of Compliance
5.16.11	<i>The content of interpretative media should respect the many meanings and associations the place and be culturally appropriate.</i>	Capable of Compliance
5.16.12	<i>Culturally appropriate means of telling stories of the place of Aboriginal connections should be developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community/people.</i>	Complies. The new performance circles are designed to assist in this and provide places for meeting, ceremonies and education
5.16.13	<i>Interpretation should consider using the local Aboriginal language and names, subject to Aboriginal input, cultural appropriateness and protocols</i>	Capable of Compliance
5.16.4	<i>Interpretation should acknowledge that the communities who use the Meeting Place Precinct represent diverse ethnicities and consider the need for multi-lingual signage and other interpretative media (tours, brochures, exhibitions, for example).</i>	Capable of Compliance
5.16.15	<i>Conservation actions and changes to the Meeting Place Precinct should also be interpreted, before, during and on completion of works.</i>	Capable of Compliance. The current Discovery Centre can be interpreted in the new works
5.17	<i>Managing change</i>	
5.17.1	<i>Establish a clear process for the consideration of heritage impacts associated with proposals including:</i>	
	<i>the use of this Conservation Management Plan to assess impacts (Appendix 7)</i>	Complies. This has been done as part of this report
	<i>how and when the HIS and REF processes will be applied</i>	This report
	<i>how impacts on intangible elements and values will be considered</i>	By reference to the CMP
	<i>how associated communities will be consulted</i>	There has been extensive Aboriginal and community consultation
	<i>how the proposed change complies with or helps achieve the conservation objectives of this Plan.</i>	Assessed in this report

	<i>Conservation Guideline</i>	<i>Comment</i>
5.17.2	<i>Proposals for change addressed under this policy should include</i>	
	<i>changes associated with use, activities and events, visitor needs and interpretation (including the introduction of new uses, activities, events, facilities, interpretation etc)</i>	See Section 7.2
	<i>changes associated with management and resourcing</i>	Capable of Compliance. Management of the place will continue to be under the NSW Parks and Wildlife
	<i>changes designed to reveal or enhance as aspect of significance</i>	Complies. The works are strongly aimed at enhancing the understanding of the landscape and the Aboriginal and European values and meanings associated with the place
	<i>all other changes that may impact on significance.</i>	Capable of Compliance
5.18	<i>Management and decision making process</i>	The proposals are not assessed against these guidelines
5.19	<i>Monitoring</i>	The proposals are not assessed against these guidelines
5.20	<i>Adoption, implementation and review</i>	Complies. The proposals have been assessed against relevant guidelines
6	<i>Implementation</i>	Capable of Compliance. These guidelines can form part of the management policy of NSW Parks and Wildlife

We consider that the proposals are in accordance with the relevant guidelines or provide for an acceptable departure mitigated by the improvements in services, amenity, access and interpretation and the siting and detail of new structures and elements.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT, 1999 AND REGULATIONS, 2000

Based on the above, we consider that The proposed works are consistent with the National Heritage listing of the site and do not have a significant impact on the heritage values of the place, and it is considered that Commonwealth referral under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is not required."

11.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 SUMMARY

The proposed Visitor Centre is a very high quality, architectural building and a superb response to the site and its inherent qualities. It sensitively draws on Aboriginal themes and meanings to provide a focal point for education and interpretation. The Centre responds well to the built and visual qualities of the place and will have a limited and acceptable impact on the cultural significance of the place while providing for enhanced views to Commemoration Flat and beyond.

The proposals will improve the amenity and accessibility to the area while providing for a greater interpretation of Aboriginal and European themes through expansion of the interpretive facilities at the site.

The new pathways will provide a connection to all of the significant features and landscape of the site for all visitors. They will also provide links between the existing pathways, monuments, sculptures and site areas with new areas for ceremonial meetings and events.

The upgrade of the car park areas is largely generated by the increasing popularity of the place and has been carefully considered in terms of location and the significance of the affected areas.

The works have been carefully controlled to retain the significant landform and landscape features and provide, wherever possible, at grade access across the site. The proposals also respect the landscape qualities of the site by retaining commemorative and indigenous plantings and reinforcing the latter in the areas affected by the works.

Overall, we consider that the proposed upgrade of the Meeting Place Precinct is an outstanding response to the immense cultural significance and sensitivities of a site of National Significance. The proposals will significantly enhance the usability of the site and visitors' experience of the place while providing richer opportunities for the interpretation of Aboriginal meanings and themes.

The proposals maintain and enhance the cultural significance of the place as identified in the CMP and are largely in accordance with the CMP conservation guidelines with well-considered departures to improve the usability and amenity of the place.

In heritage terms, we consider that the proposal should be approved.

11.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

We would recommend the following:

11.2.1 Archaeology

Any recommendations in the archaeological assessments and CMP be implemented as part of the ongoing design and development process and construction works.

11.2.2 Archival Recording

Prior to the works commencing, the current Discovery Centre and its immediate surrounds and any other structures to be demolished be photographically archivally recorded in accordance with the Heritage NSW guidelines for digital capture and the record lodged with a suitable archive.

11.2.3 Interpretation and Signage

An Interpretation Plan and Signage Plan be prepared and included in the operation of the new Centre and Precinct to ensure that the interpretation of the place gives due weight to both the Aboriginal and post European significance of the place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Oultram'.

JOHN OULTRAM