

Large Erecting Shop South Eveleigh

Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan

CURIO
PROJECTS

Mirvac Projects
August 2022



Document Information

Citation

Curio Projects 2022, Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Large Erecting Shop, South Eveleigh Project, prepared for Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE)

Local Government Area

Sydney City Council

Issue no.	Issue date	Version	Notes/Comments	Author	Review
1	20 May 2022	Draft Report	For client review	Matt Nix	Natalie Vinton
2	8 June 2022	Final Draft Report	For client review	Matt Nix	Natalie Vinton
3	12 August 2022	Final Report	For submission	Matt Nix	Natalie Vinton

This report has been prepared based on research by Curio Projects specialists. Historical sources and reference material used in the preparation of this report are acknowledged and referenced at the end of each section and/or in figure captions.

Unless otherwise specified or agreed, copyright in the intellectual property of this report vests jointly in Curio Projects Pty Ltd.

Curio Projects Pty Ltd
5 Blackfriars Street
Chippendale NSW 2008, Australia

We acknowledge the Gadigal people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Large Erecting Shop sits today. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Contents

Document Information	2	03 Purpose	34
Executive Summary	6		
01 Storytelling and Interpretation Vision	13	04 Storytelling Principles	36
02 Context	15	4.1 Themes and Storylines	37
2.1 Site Context	16	4.2 Timeline of Key events	43
2.2 Development Context	18	4.3 Zones for Interpretive Elements	44
2.2.1 Enhancing the South Eveleigh Precinct Experience	19	4.4 Thematic mapping	46
2.2.2 Heritage Items in the Vicinity	20	4.5 Potential Interpretive Products	47
2.3 Heritage Significance	21	4.5.1 Adaptive re-use	48
2.3.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance	21	4.5.2 Rolling stock	49
2.3.2 Large Erecting Shop (LES) Heritage Significance	22	4.5.3 Sub Foreman's Cabins	51
2.4 Interpretive framework	25	4.5.4 Structural fabric	53
2.4.1 Framework background	25	4.5.5 Patina, finishes and existing signage	51
2.5 Assessment of Existing Interpretation	26	4.5.6 Inspection pits	54
2.5.1 Surrounding Artwork and Interpretation	27	4.5.7 Overhead travelling cranes	58
2.6 Opportunities	30	4.5.8 Sub stations	60
2.7 Constraints	31	4.5.9 Moveable Heritage	62
2.8 Stakeholder Consultation	32	4.5.10 Installation	64
2.9 Public Art & Co-Design	33	4.5.11 Inlays	66
		4.5.12 Digital	68
		4.5.13 Landscape	70
		4.5.14 Welcome to Country	72
		4.5.15 Signage	73
		4.5.16 Public Art	74
		05 Summary of conclusion	77
		Summary of recommendations	78
		5.2 References & Endnotes	79

An aerial, black-and-white photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a dense urban landscape. A large railway yard with multiple tracks runs diagonally through the center. Several large, rectangular industrial buildings are situated near the tracks. The surrounding area is filled with residential and commercial buildings, streets, and some greenery. The overall scene depicts a major transportation hub within a city.

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd have been commissioned by Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) to prepare a Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) for the proposed redevelopment of the Large Erecting Shop (LES), South Eveleigh (the project).

The subject site is located at the south-western end of the South Eveleigh precinct. The Large Erecting Shop is located on land currently owned by Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

The requirement for heritage interpretation of the LES, which sits within the South Eveleigh Precinct, has provided an opportunity for the building's history to be celebrated and considered, both now and into the future.

Curio's involvement in the interpretation, planning, community engagement and design installation across the entire precinct, including at South Eveleigh, Redfern Station and North Eveleigh, ensures the continuity of heritage interpretative storytelling across the whole of the site, with a strong focus on delivering unique experiences across the precincts without being repetitive or reductive.

Given the history of the site and surrounding area, the Plan will provide the perfect opportunity to develop and incorporate innovative interpretation

elements within the LES site that will convey an inclusive account of the site's rich history, it's function within the Eveleigh Railway Workshop as well as accounts from the local community, both past and present.

This Heritage Interpretation Plan forms Stage 1 of the proposed interpretation for the site, which is a three-stage process.

Stage 1 provides principles for the Re-zoning Application, and will be further developed during the subsequent SSDA process.

Stage 2, which relates to specific interpretative content development, is to be prepared during the construction phases of the development, and;

Stage 3, which is the physical implementation of the interpretative elements, is required to be completed prior to site occupation.

The key themes and storylines produced as part of this process form a strong basis for developing interpretation that is relevant to the history of the site. The information included in this HIP forms the provisional basis for the development and installation of physical and digital interpretation products to support innovative and engaging storytelling at the subject site.

The key objectives of this interpretation plan are to:

- 01
Outline the interpretive process which is proposed for the subject area
- 02
Identify constraints and opportunities that may impact the implementation of interpretation in the subject area
- 03
Identify and summarise the key interpretive themes and storylines for the subject area
- 04
Ensure continuity with existing heritage interpretation strategies, plans undertaken to date at South Eveleigh, North Eveleigh, and Redfern Station, into the overall context of proposed elements
- 05
Provide emblematic recommendations for appropriate interpretive elements that will provide a clear and engaging interpretation of the relevant parts of the LES's history, natural environment and community.

This plan has been prepared with reference to (but not limited to) key client documentation and current best practice guidelines as detailed below:

- Curio Projects 2022,
Redfern North Eveleigh Precinct Renewal Paint Shop Sub-Precinct, Heritage Interpretation Strategy
- Curio Projects 2022,
Redfern Station Upgrade New Southern Concourse Project, Heritage Interpretation Plan Stage 2
- Curio Projects 2016,
Interpretation Strategy for Australian Technology Park
- *Heritage Information Series:*
Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines, NSW Heritage Office 2005
- *Heritage Information Series:*
Heritage Interpretation Policy, NSW Heritage Council and NSW Government Department of Planning 2005
- Australia ICOMOS, 2013
The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)

Limitations

This Interpretation Plan forms Stage 1 of the Interpretation process. This report is limited to the preparation of Stage 1 Interpretation documentation only, and is not intended to provide specific content and design details.

It is proposed that community consultation will be undertaken as part of Stage 2. An inclusive consultation process is considered to be the key developmental point in the finalisation of interpretative products and stories.

The historical overview as presented in this document has predominantly been sourced from the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Large Erecting Shop site, prepared by Curio Projects. No additional, detailed primary historical research was undertaken as part of the preparation for this document.

A request was made to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in February 2022 to request the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces undertake a State-led rezoning to enable the adaptive reuse of the LES site. Specifically, a letter was sent to formally request that DPIE prepares Study Requirements to inform a future State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study for the LES site.

The following table provides a summary of the Study Requirements addressed by all heritage reports, including this SoHI, and where the relevant requirement is addressed.

STUDY REQUIREMENTS	REFERENCE
4. HERITAGE	
<p>4.1</p> <p>Prepare an Integrated Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study for the site that:</p>	<p>Refer to the following reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study & Statement of Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>a) Undertakes Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the site and surrounds including Aboriginal archaeology, culture, country, and intangible and social heritage, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes the results of consultation with relevant Aboriginal stakeholders and knowledge holders for the site and surrounds; Provides an overall Statement of Significance for Aboriginal values within and beyond the South Eveleigh precinct and recommendations to guide the protection, conservation and management of tangible and intangible Aboriginal values, in the context of the development Assesses the likely impact of the proposal on any identified Aboriginal cultural heritage; 	<p>Refer to the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study & Statement of Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 3 (pg 29-31) of the above-mentioned report.</p> <p>Refer to Chapters 7 (pg 72-77) and 10 (pg 95-97) of the above-mentioned report.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 8 (pg 78-86) of the above-mentioned report.</p>
<p>b) Undertakes an assessment identifying all heritage items (state, local and potential) and conservation areas within and near the site, including built heritage, landscapes and archaeology, with detailed mapping of items and an assessment of why the items and Site(s) are of heritage significance;</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pg 31-35) and 6 (pg 106-117) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pg 30-35) and 6 (pg 127-142) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.

STUDY REQUIREMENTS	REFERENCE
<p>c) Provides recommendations to guide future development with specific consideration to the bulk height and scale of existing significant items within the South Eveleigh precinct, including its setting, context, streetscape and visual and physical character of the locality, broader Eveleigh Railway Workshops, surrounding conservation areas and heritage items. This should be integrated with the Urban Design Framework;</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 9 (pg 174-177) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 8 (pg 153-158) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>d) Includes a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) to assess the likely impact of the proposal on any identified non-Aboriginal cultural heritage, including to the broader State Heritage Register listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops, with recommendations for the management of the cultural and industrial heritage of the site and measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate heritage impacts;</p>	<p>Refer to Chapters 8 and 9 (pg 137-177) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>e) Includes a comprehensive archaeological management plan and framework strategy to capture and collate all recent archaeological investigations and guide the management of potential archaeological resources.</p>	<p>Refer to Chapters 5 (pg 95-104) and 8 (pg 152-155) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 5 (pg 115-126) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>f) Informs and supports the preparation of the site planning framework.</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pg 31-35) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pg 30-35) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapters 1 and 2 (pg 11-26) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study & Statement of Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>4.2</p> <p>Prepare a document that outlines an integrated approach to guide zoning and development proposals at North and South Eveleigh, including an updated Statement of Significance to inform the future opportunities and constraints for change that do not significantly diminish the heritage values of the SHR listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops.</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 8 (pg 156-168) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Also refer to the following additional documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otto Cserhalmi + Partners, 2022 (Curio Projects update). <i>ERW Overarching Conservation Management Plan</i>. Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Overarching Opportunities & Constraints – ERW</i>.

STUDY REQUIREMENTS	REFERENCE
4.3	Refer to the present report.
Prepare a Heritage Interpretation Strategy for the site that:	
a) Recognises and celebrates Aboriginal connection to the site and addresses the full story of the place;	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pg 15, 21 & 33) and 4 (pg 37-38) of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>. 2. Context: 2.3.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance 2.9 Public Art & Co-design 4. Storytelling principles 4.1 Themes and Storylines
b) Identifies key themes, social values, interpretive opportunities, measures and locations as an integral component of creating a unique and exciting destination as part of the broader State Heritage Register listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops item.	<p>Refer to Chapter 4 (pg 36-37) of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>. 4. Storytelling Principles: 4.1 Themes and Storylines
c) Provides the strategic direction for heritage interpretation having regard to the site's heritage significance (in particular the sites social, intangible, industrial and engineering values) and regard to the place's relationship with nearby heritage items, as an integral component of the development of detailed design;	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pg 15-33) and 4 (pg 36-37) of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>. 2. Context 4. Storytelling principles 4.1 Themes and Storylines
d) Accounts for existing and planned (where possible) interpretive approaches as part of other projects within and in the vicinity of the site.	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pg 26-29) of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>. 2. Context: 2.5 Assessment of existing interpretation

Summary of conclusion

The redevelopment of the Large Erecting Shop (LES) provides the perfect opportunity to expand and complete the layered interpretation and integrated cultural tourism already established throughout the South Eveleigh precinct. This site is the final building in this precinct to be redeveloped and offers the chance to continue the interpretive experience at key locations, encouraging visitors to explore the entire precinct upon arrival from one of the many entry points, including the immersive approaches from Redfern Station, and as part of the already established Eora Journey.

The Large Erecting Shop is the most prominent single purpose structure surviving on the South Eveleigh site that has not yet been adaptively reused. It provides a unique opportunity to interpret how the building functioned and operated, and its integral role in the entire Eveleigh Railway Workshop.

The key themes and storylines developed as part of this process form a strong basis for developing interpretation that is relevant to the history of the site. In particular, there is an opportunity to create meaningful interpretation products that not only continue to celebrate the significance of the subject site, but also the highly significant on-going Aboriginal cultural heritage connection to the place.

Curio Projects have reviewed extensive background material to identify constraints and opportunities related to interpretation on the site, and will continue to refine opportunities for final interpretive products as part of the detailed Stage 2 HIP process.

The information included in this Heritage Interpretation Plan forms the basis for the development of interpretative products that will support innovative and engaging storytelling at this site that is complimentary to, and compatible with the rest of the 'Eveleigh Story' across the whole of the site.

Concepts, content and locations will be developed as part of Stage 2 of the Heritage Interpretation Plan, lead by Curio Projects and in consultation with Mirvac and the community.

Summary of recommendations

The following recommendations are made with respect to the overall plan and responds to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage interpretation:

- An inventory of all movable heritage items, as at c.2022, within the Large Erecting Shop must be prepared prior to renewal works commencing and the preparation of an updated Heritage Interpretation Plan (Stage 2) for the project
- Where an inventory already exists, it should be updated to reflect the current nature of the collection
- This Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) must be used to inform and develop interpretive designs for the project
- This Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) must be superseded/or supplemented with the detailed Stage 2 HIP which outlines a final heritage interpretation overlay as part of any development work proposed to be undertaken on site (following on from this re-zoning phase of the project, should re-zoning be approved)
- The overall heritage interpretation approach should also be integrated with the Public Art Strategy, particularly in relation to Aboriginal heritage and involvement of Aboriginal artists. A world-class program of public art for the precinct should be developed in consideration of interpretive themes, embedding heritage messages within the artistic expressions at the subject site. This is especially important in the case of engaging Aboriginal artists and designers for involvement in future public art planning.
- The Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) should link interpretive elements to key Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal historic heritage themes
- The Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) should develop a range of interpretive media options across the site to suit multiple audiences and interests
- Interpretive elements should be co-designed with Aboriginal knowledge holders and artists/designers, with appropriate permissions and intellectual property rights in place
- Key policies and guidelines relating to heritage interpretation, including Heritage NSW (2005) Heritage Interpretation Policy and Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines, GANSW (2020) Connecting with Country framework, and Transport for NSW /Sydney Trains, 2019) Heritage Interpretation guidelines should be referenced

01

Storytelling and Interpretation Vision



Storytelling and Interpretation Vision

The first and final stops are the ultimate milestones of any journey. They mark a significant point in any event, story or people.

The re-purposed Large Erecting Shop will be both the beginning, from Erskineville Station, and the final stop, from Redfern Station, of the South Eveleigh precinct.

It will contribute to the already rich layers of storytelling throughout the precinct, as well as provide meaningful interpretation of the LES and its integral role within the historical and contemporary landscape.

02

Context



Context

2.1

Site Context

The Large Erecting Shop, South Eveleigh site is strategically located approximately 5km south of the Sydney CBD, and is located at the south western end of the former Eveleigh Railway Workshops, now the Locomotive Workshops.

The Large Erecting Shop (LES) comprises land bounded by Locomotive Street to the south, commercial uses to the south, an active rail corridor to the north, transport uses to the west and the Locomotive Workshops building (commercial and retail) immediately east. Redfern Station is located 450m to the north east.

The surrounding context of the study area is characterised by a mix of residential, commercial, educational, and retail uses, located within the suburbs of Alexandria to the south and southeast, Erskineville to the west, and Darlington and Redfern to the north.

The immediate site is bounded by the railway line, Sydney Trains Infrastructure and North Eveleigh (Carriageworks) to the North, the Channel 7 Building to the south, Locomotive Workshops to the east and housing to the west.

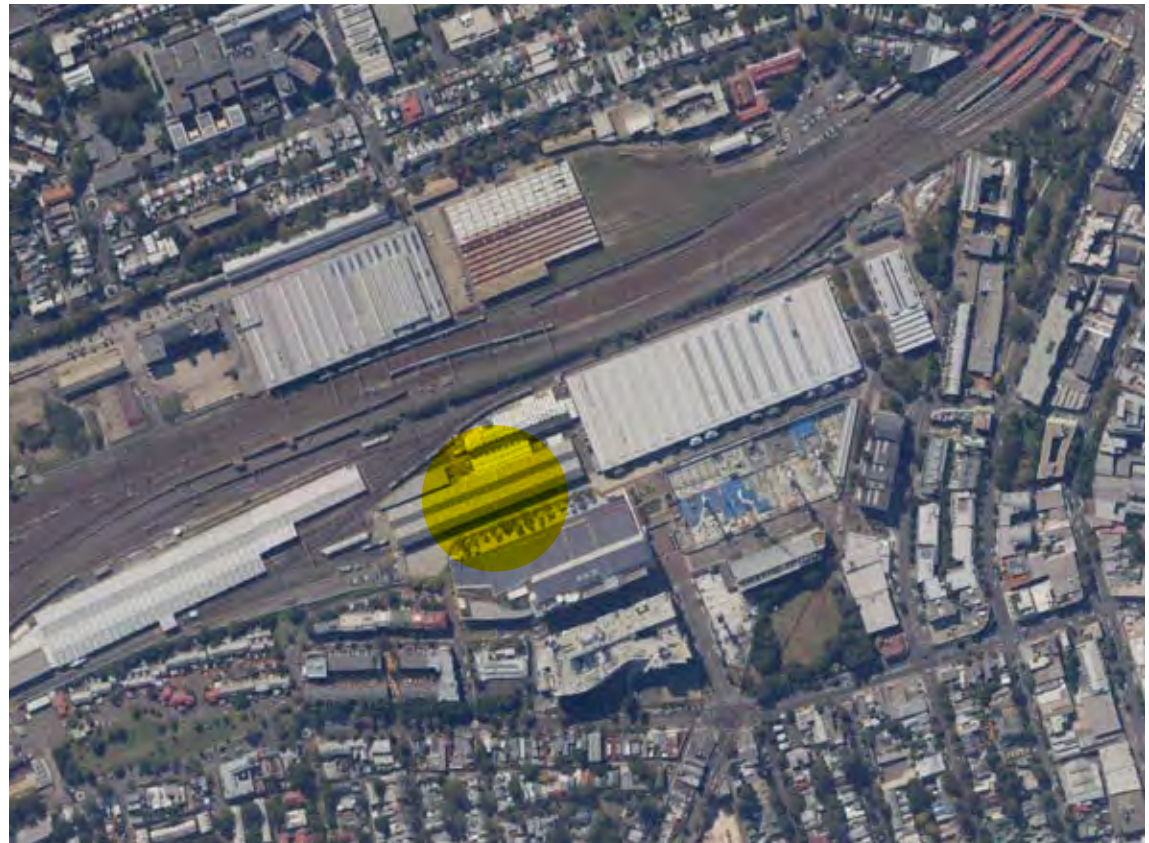


Figure 2.1: Large Erecting Shop, South Eveleigh location
Source: SIX Maps 2022, site marked by yellow dot

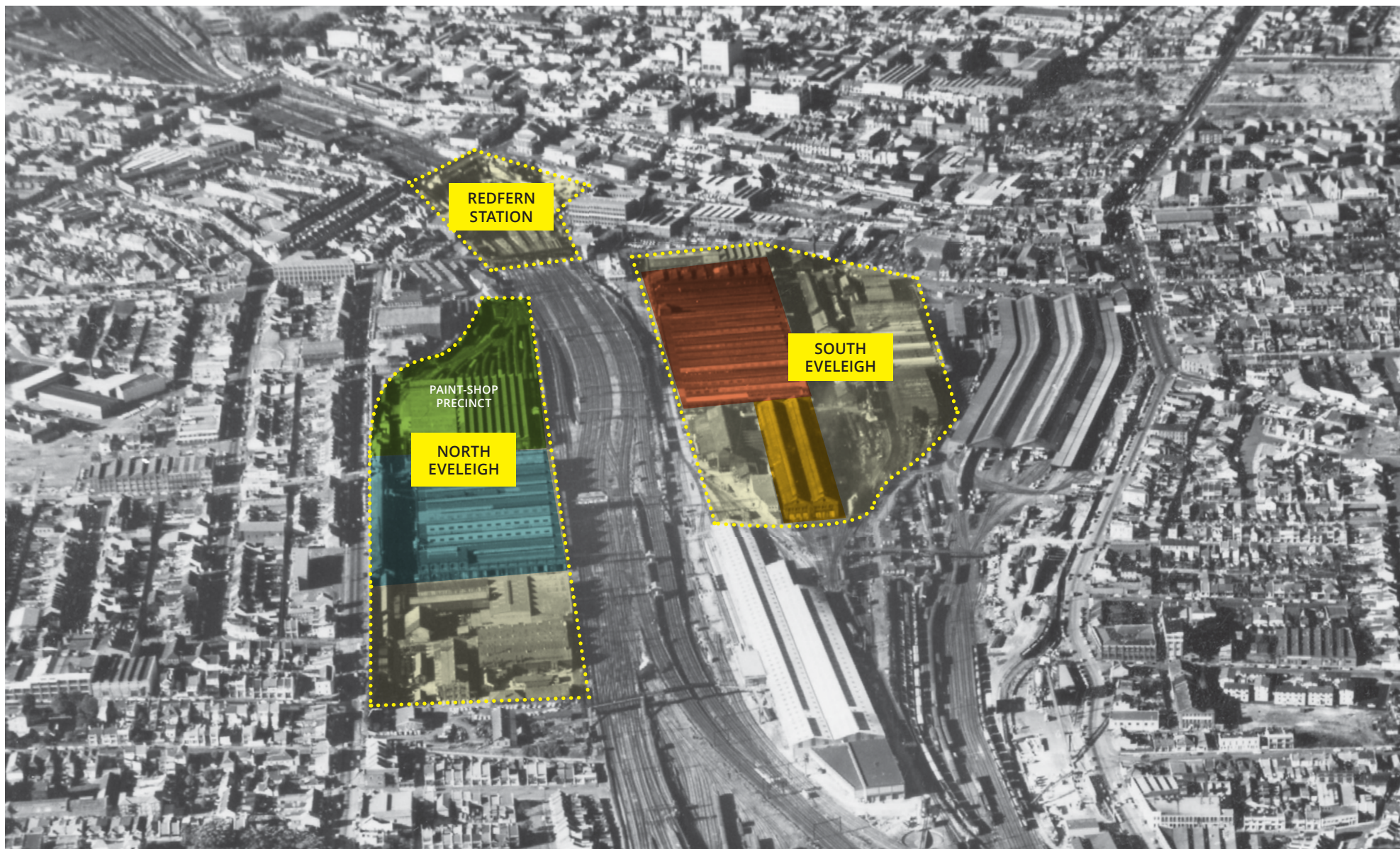


Figure 2.2: Precinct locations

2.2

Development Context

A re-purposed LES building, as part of the result of a re-zoning process, will celebrate and revitalise the heritage significance of the existing building, while providing a contemporary workplace aimed at creating a connected destination for work and activation.

The project vision;

- Transform the existing heritage building into a re-purposed workplace, incorporating commercial use, complemented by an activation/communal space and retail amenities
- Provide a positive contribution to the South Eveleigh precinct
- Celebrate and interpret the heritage significance of the building
- Provide an interesting and appealing workspace to appeal to a diverse range of tenants
- Recognise the cultural significance of the site to First Nations through authentic and meaningful engagement, interpretation and co-design



Figure 2.3:

Reference scheme only for the Re-zoning Application. Design is subject to detailed design, SSDA and planning approvals'

2.2.1

Enhancing the South Eveleigh Precinct Experience

The Large Erecting Shop is the final piece in the puzzle of the South Eveleigh precinct. Currently inaccessible to the public, its historical context and connection to the former Locomotive Workshops is extremely significant but difficult to interpret through its surviving structure alone.

The overall aim of this heritage interpretation plan is to address these limitations and enhance the entire South Eveleigh Precinct experience for the community, residents, employees and visitors alike.

The revitalisation of the site, including its re-zoning, offers a unique opportunity for a multi-faced and multi-layered history of the LES that interprets its long history as Gadigal Country, and its important function as part of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops.

Curio's involvement in the interpretation, planning, community engagement and design installation across the entire precinct, including at South Eveleigh, Redfern Station and North Eveleigh, ensures the continuity of heritage interpretative storytelling across the whole of the site, with a strong focus on delivering unique experiences across the precincts without being repetitive or reductive.

Interpretive designs and strategies will be developed with consideration given to Best Practice Heritage Interpretation Guidelines, Heritage and Cultural Tourism Frameworks, existing interpretation strategies, conservation management plans and future redevelopment concepts.



Figure 2.4:
Large Erecting Shop, 2022

2.2.2

Heritage Items in the Vicinity

The Large Erecting Shop is one of several buildings on the State Heritage Register (SHR) which includes the Locomotive Workshops, the Works Manager's Office and the New Locomotive Workshops, Carriage Workshops; the Paint Shop; the Blacksmith's Shop; the Eveleigh Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office and the Scientific Services Building No.1, as well as the machinery collection.

To the northeast sits Redfern Station which was an integral part of the day to day operations housed in South Eveleigh and North Eveleigh (Carriageworks), the two halves of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops.



Figure 2.5:
Locomotive Workshops

2.3

Heritage Significance

An initial draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for South Eveleigh, including the LES building was commissioned by Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) and completed by Curio Projects in 2022. As part of the draft CMP process the cultural heritage significance of the LES and its individual elements were assessed in detail against the NSW Heritage Significance Criteria, and in light of the existing assessment of significance for the site, as detailed in the NSW State Heritage Inventory Datasheet.

It provides an update to the original 2002 CMP for the LES 'Otto Cserhalmi + Partners PL, *Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops, Conservation Management Plan*,' and the 2013 CMP for the former ATP site Godden Mackay Logan, *Australian Technology Park - Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1*'. As part of the re-zoning process, this initial draft CMP will be on exhibition for review. It will continue to be refined following stakeholder consultation and review as part of the re-zoning process.

2.3.1

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance

The Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the Redfern and Eveleigh surrounds has always been an important place for activism, reconciliation and gathering for mob seeking equality in all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander people of the nation.

As a place of welcoming for communities, Redfern and surrounding area provided a safe haven for the traditional owners, the Gadigal, and those off-Country who came to call Redfern to home and build their families.

Aboriginal activism started in 1938 with the Walk on Australia Hall where mob from Country walked for their rights. This movement led to a peek in the Redfern area during the 1970s where local Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander groups stood up and made sure their voice was heard. The area has always been a prolific place of activism politically, culturally and economically.

Redfern is the true heart of Aboriginal Australia, remaining to this day as the place for urban Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander people to know their home. It has become a haven for Aboriginal medical and health services, children and youth group mentoring and partnerships, a sporting hub and as a gathering place for elders.

As a cultural heartland it's essential to recognise the significance and intangible heritage value of Redfern and surrounding as an area with a continuous, living Aboriginal culture and connection. From that perspective, this Heritage Interpretation Plan has considered that the site has very high cultural significance for the Aboriginal community.

2.3.2

Large Erecting Shop (LES) Heritage Significance

The Large Erecting Shop is the most prominent single purpose structure surviving on the South Eveleigh site that has not yet been adaptively reused.

The building provided a pivotal role in the maintenance, and erection of steam locomotives at the Eveleigh Railway Workshop for over 70 years and was used for storing and repair of locomotives up until 2021.

The Large Erecting Shop, known simply as 'the Large', was both the birthing chamber and surgeons table for the locomotives at Eveleigh. The variety of parts forged and constructed in the main workshop all came together to be erected into a fully-formed locomotive, which would then return periodically to the LES for repairs and eventually, dismantling.

The uniqueness of the LES was the consistency of its use right up till the end of the steam era and beyond. It readily adapted to the changed demands of maintenance of the diesel fleet, and combined functions as a bogie repair facility. Long after the remainder of the Eveleigh Workshops complex had been sold for redevelopment, State Rail continued operations in the building.

The LES was among the longest lasting parts of the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops, remaining in use as a bay for restoration, storage and occasional construction of heritage steam locomotives, such as the majestic 3801's and 3830's, up until 2021 by volunteer train/heritage transport. [Transport to confirm]



Figure 2.6:

One of the Large Erecting Shop's massive overhead cranes carries an engine's bogie, consisting of its wheelset and axles (Source: NSW State Archives)

2.4

Interpretive Framework

‘activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships ... rather than simply to communicate factual information’

Freeman Tilden, *Interpreting Our Heritage*, 1957

1

Any interpretation that does not somehow relate what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.

2

Information, as such, is not interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based upon information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.

3

Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical, or architectural. Any art is in some degree teachable.

4

The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction, but provocation.

5

Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part and must address itself to the whole man (sic) rather than any phase.

6

Interpretation addressed to children (say, up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentations to adults but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.



Interpretation

Interpretation communicates what is important about the place and contributes to recognising and retaining the cultural significance of that place through building understanding, awareness and engagement.

It is key to revealing and helping retain the significance, (natural, cultural or both) of the place through public awareness and understanding.

2.4.1 Framework background

Heritage NSW The NSW Heritage Council Interpretation Policy Statement (2005) *notes that:*

The interpretation of New South Wales' heritage connects the communities of New South Wales with their heritage and is a means of protecting and sustaining heritage values. Heritage interpretation is an integral part of the conservation and management of heritage items and is relevant to other aspects of environmental and cultural management and policy. Heritage interpretation incorporates and provides broad access to historical research and analysis.

Heritage interpretation provides opportunities to stimulate ideas and debate about Australian life and values, and the meaning of our history, culture and the environment. The Heritage Office, Department of Planning, is committed to encouraging imaginative, inclusive and accurate interpretation of the heritage of New South Wales and to establishing and sustaining best practices in content, methodology, implementation and evaluation of heritage interpretation.

ICOMOS Burra Charter Interpretation Practice *notes*

In 1999, and in 2013, the Burra Charter was revised in order to emphasise the importance of interpretation to the process of conserving significant cultural heritage sites and places. 'Interpretation' as defined by the Burra Charter means 'all ways of presenting the cultural significance of the place'.

Article 24.1 of the Burra Charter states that:

'Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.'

Article 25 also notes that:

'The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretations should enhance understanding and enjoyment and be culturally appropriate.'

It also contains Practice Notes to provide guidance on the interpretation of places of cultural significance.

National Framework of Historic Themes Interpretation Practice *notes*

In order to place the history and significance of a place within a broader Australian context, it is important to be able to use an established and widely-recognised framework of historic themes as the basis for determining what key elements of a site would be considered significant at local, state and national levels.

The Australian Heritage Commission published a national framework of historic themes in 2001. Nine national key theme groups were identified, with a subset of 84 national sub-themes and a further sub-set 116 themes. The NSW Heritage Council has developed a series of NSW State-specific that are linked to the Australian National Historical Themes. These 36 state historic themes provide the overarching framework for the local themes relevant to the study site.

The national and state historic themes relevant to the Eveleigh Railway Workshops and Redfern Station Precinct have been widely considered as part of recent redevelopment works at Central Station, Redfern Station and at South Eveleigh. Key relevant themes are highlight in this sub-section of the document but should be used as a guide only, because the significance of a place and the associated thematic, storytelling opportunities should always continue to evolve over time.

Interpreter Sam Ham developed **four basic principles** to develop good interpretation.

Excellence in interpretation can only be achieved if it is:

- 1 **Entertaining**
- 2 **Relevant**
- 3 **Organised**
- 4 **Themed**

2.5

Assessment of existing interpretation

The following section provides a summary of heritage interpretation relevant to this HIP. There are currently a wide variety of layered heritage interpretation elements implemented within the wider South Eveleigh Precinct; throughout the interior of the Locomotive Workshop building and across its public domain and green spaces; but no elements presently installed within the Large Erecting Shop site.

To ensure heritage interpretation delivered is consistent, yet avoids being repetitious, Curio's in-depth involvement in the interpretation, planning, community engagement and design installation across all precincts; South Eveleigh, Redfern Station and North Eveleigh, will guarantee different heritage interpretative storytelling experiences are told across the whole of the site.

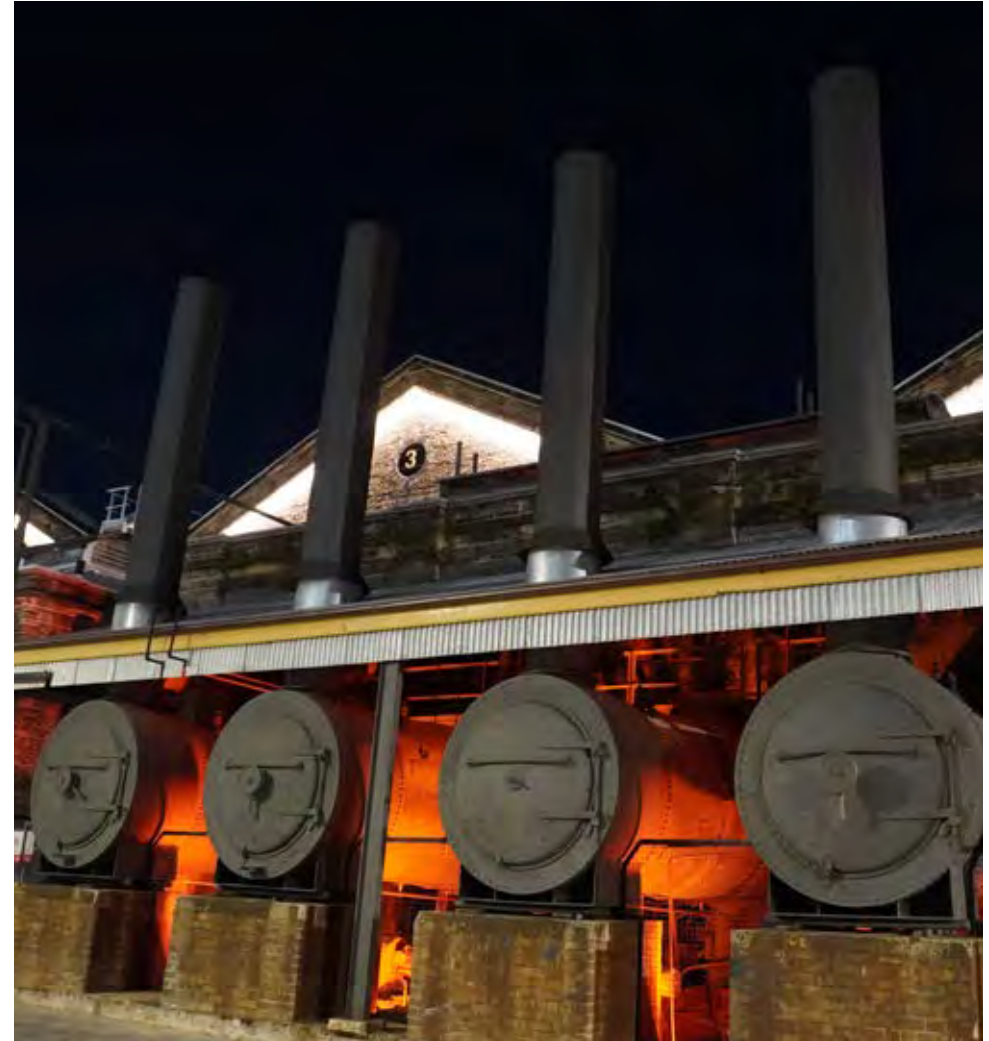


Figure 2.7:
Locomotive Workshops, 2022

2.5.1 Surrounding Artwork and Interpretation

South Eveleigh Heritage Interpretation

The South Eveleigh precinct, home to the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops, contains a multitude of physical and digital interpretive products designed to;

- enhance heritage understanding and appreciation of the Eveleigh precinct;
- connect people to place through the art of interpretative design that is engaging, authentic and meaningful;
- create activation opportunities within the precinct to ensure repeat visitation;
- provides meaningful cultural heritage tourism and school education products and opportunities

The layered interpretation responds to complex cultural heritage of the site, contributing significantly to the urban landscape, to engage with a diverse and varied audience.

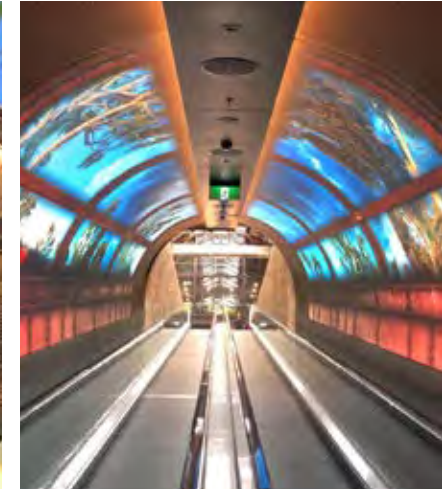
Interpretive elements include permanent exhibition displays with interactive sound elements and digital touchscreens that allow visitors to explore the inner workings of the workshops in detail, public art and large external installations such as the 'workers wall', as well as a world-first Indigenous rooftop farm and a cultural community garden, offering an array of compelling interpretive engagement focused on celebrating Aboriginal culture.



Digital storytelling



Kinetic 'Workers Wall'



Immersive digital travelator



Timecard wall display



'Making a Nation' exhibition



Aboriginal native garden

Redfern Station Heritage Interpretation

The Gibbons Street entrance to Redfern Station contains a variety of interpretive design elements relating to the important Aboriginal associations of Redfern.

The artworks throughout the station represent a sense of movement, community and resilience.

Alongside the bollard sleeves and tree guards, which incorporate known and important Aboriginal motifs, one of the most significant interpretative elements is the flanking of the entrance with Aboriginal art panel 'fins' and bright and contemporary glazing of the station's interior.

The panel fins represent both a connection with the traditional Aboriginal culture with its interchanging and adaptive present, with all the colours representing people and cultures from all around the world. It also represents the undulating stream and flowing waters that travelled through the site.

Further interpretation is currently in development for implementation throughout the New Southern Concourse project.



Panel fin exterior



Tree guard sculpture



Glazing interior



Bollards

Carriageworks (North Eveleigh Precinct) Heritage Interpretation

Interpretation in the North Eveleigh precinct is limited to interpretive panels associated with Carriageworks. It generally comprises a number of photoanodised didactic panels, installed in 2007.

These summarise the history of the site prior to and during its use as the Eveleigh Railway Workshop and include a site plan, a detailed discussion of the former gasworks and historical overview of the Carriage Workshops, Locomotive Workshops, Blacksmiths workshops and surroundings landscape.

Some insitu remnant machinery in the former Blacksmith's (now Carriageworks Markets), and interpretive remnant railway tracks also feature.



Didactic signage



Didactic signage



Remnant machinery



Remnant railway tracks



Didactic signage

2.6

Opportunities

There are a number of potential opportunities for heritage interpretation throughout the Large Erecting Shop site.

Potential zones have been identified based on visitor journey and use of space in unison with the form, nature and interactivity of potential interpretive elements.

Different spaces and design elements need to be considered to ensure that the site can cater to the diverse needs of multiple audience groups.

There is opportunity to:

- Highlight the significance of the site, and its surrounds, to the local community, including the Aboriginal community, in consideration of ongoing cultural connection to the site and wider Eveleigh/Redfern/Alexandria area;
- Acknowledge and consider interpretation opportunities that link to other interpretation initiatives, public art and strategies in the surrounding areas (e.g. South Eveleigh, North Eveleigh, Redfern Station);
- Expand and complete the South Eveleigh Cultural Heritage Tourism Activities and Interpretation developed for the South Eveleigh Precinct;
- Retain a locomotive insitu on site – as an interactive interpretative element, including opportunities for adaptive reuse as a key destination eg. café /bar, mini-museum;
- Opportunity for Aboriginal people to interpret their own cultural heritage by ensuring that the development of interpretative products/devices is led by Aboriginal voices from within the local community;
- Highlight several different themes and stories, which facilitate the engagement of a diverse range of audiences and interests including daily workers, students and the local community; to engage with relevant historic and heritage aspects;
- Tell the relevant and significant phases of the site's history and ensure they are adequately considered and interpreted;
- Conserve, maintain and interpret the heritage significance of the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshop, its remnant machinery collection and intangible assets;
- Create display and exhibition spaces within the public realm;
- Include contemporary elements to draw site users to the LES, such as pop up retail, exhibitions, light-weight elements that work within the space;
- Allow uninterrupted views along Locomotive Street that highlight and interpret the significant connection between the LES and the Locomotive Workshop;
- Work within the adaptive reuse framework of the LES design intent to create relevant and engaging heritage interpretation opportunities from furniture to wayfinding.

2.7

Constraints

There are a number of constraints that will influence and guide any heritage interpretation throughout the Large Erecting Shop site.

It is important that the content, form, and locations selected for installation of interpretative elements aim to be accessible and inclusive of all residents and visitors, regardless of age, cultural background, education, accessibility requirements or interests.

Constraints include:

- Ensuring all stories associated with the subject site are told in a way that is inclusive;
- Financial considerations, ongoing maintenance and care, reach of the audience for the zone, and the need to protect both the artefacts/moveable heritage items on display, as well as the audience that may be interacting with/in the vicinity of the items;
- Safety requirements and protocols for signage, wayfinding, access, lighting, crowd management and naming of areas/spaces;
- Consultation with relevant stakeholders, the local community and local Aboriginal community (where interpretation is to address Aboriginal cultural heritage values) during the process of development;
- Interpretation that is consistent with the identity and visual appearance (look and feel) of the South Eveleigh precinct when trying to respond to the uniqueness of this site's stories and culture;
- Weather consideration for interpretive products required to ensure interpretive elements are as robust and durable as possible;
- Consideration for the high number of daily workers, locals and visitors that will be passing through these spaces. This includes designs that are both robust and durable, as well as non-invasive to visitors;
- Consideration of the nearby heritage interpretation installations, colour and form in South Eveleigh, to ensure a cohesive and non-repetitive approach to the whole precinct and beyond;
- Keeping provenance items in, or as close to, their original locations on site. This would function as both an opportunity for heritage interpretation, as well as constraint with regards to tying heritage items to specific site locations;
- The subject site will be visited by a wide range of people, some of whom may require mobility access or be vision or hearing impaired. It is important that interpretation be made accessible where possible through the integration of Braille on interpretation panels, or where required large print handbooks, adequate seating and audio alternatives to written interpretation.

2.8

Stakeholder Consultation

A vital part of the identification of community values is consultation with the local stakeholders and community members. This can include, but is not limited to local residents, the local Aboriginal community, previous workers of the Large Erecting Shop and broader Eveleigh Railway Workshops and their families, heritage enthusiasts, NSW Heritage, City of Sydney etc.

Consultation is designed to capture stories and ideas for heritage interpretation. It provides an important opportunity for all participants to contribute their own stories and ideas for interpretive elements, as well as to refine the proposed story ideas and provide overarching feedback on the proposed heritage interpretation at the LES.

Sustained consultation with Aboriginal knowledge holders should be continued during planning for future development throughout the site.

Stakeholder Engagement will often add different perspectives, authenticity and will create interest for a project.

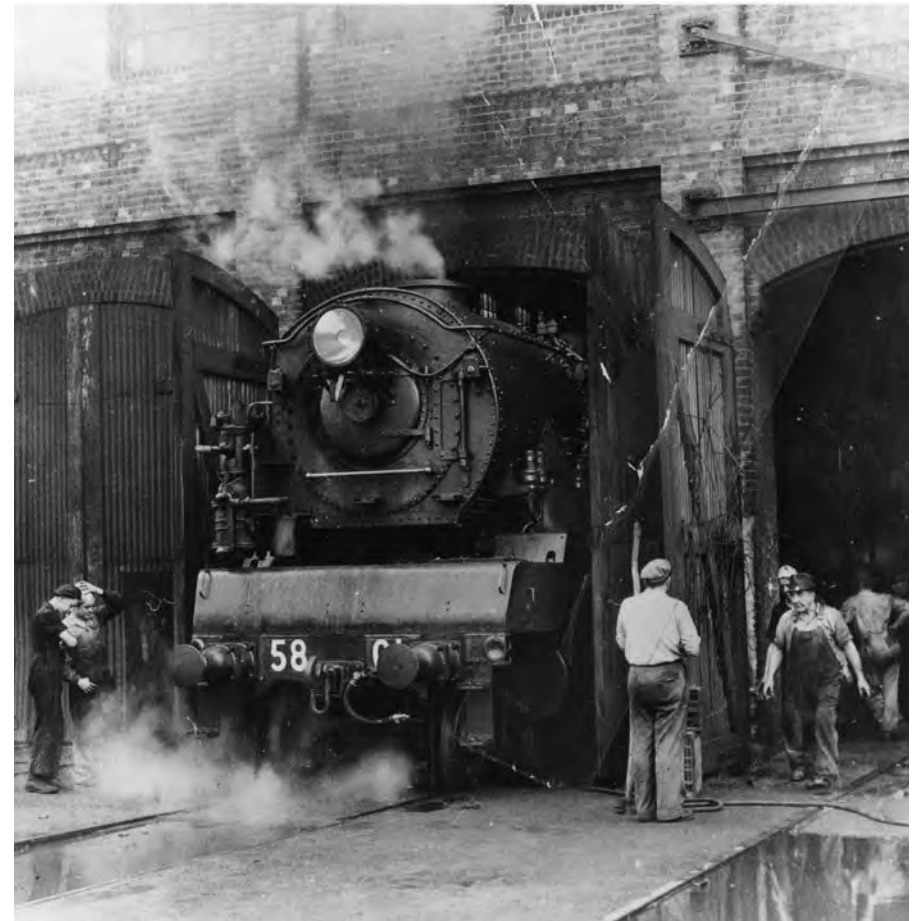


Figure 2.8:

A steam locomotive engine leaves the Large Erecting Shop after maintenance (Source: NSW State Archives)

2.9

Public Art & Co-Design

Where appropriate, the overall heritage interpretation approach will also be integrated with the Large Erecting Shop Public Art Strategy, particularly in relation to Aboriginal heritage and involvement of Aboriginal artists.

To ensure culturally appropriate developments embedded in Country are integrated into the interpretative public art, it is essential that Aboriginal artists/designers/curators, with appropriate permissions and intellectual property rights in place, work with project design teams.

It is recommended that a program of public art for the precinct should be developed in consideration of interpretive themes, embedding heritage messages within the artistic expressions at the subject site. This is especially important in the case of engaging and co-designing with Aboriginal artists and designers for involvement in future public art planning.

Matt Fellingham (FCAD - Aboriginal-Led Consultancy and Design) has been involved from the outset to assist in the Re-zoning application, and to help translate Connection to Country into design and social outcomes for Aboriginal people. Matt's knowledge and perspective will help create contemporary Indigenous art pieces that share cultural stories and the history of Indigenous Australia, as well as exploring storytelling opportunities with a focus on learning and people connected to place.

This approach to co-design is particularly important to ensure interpretive elements at key locations throughout the site draw on Aboriginal knowledge to consider all layers and perspectives of history. This will ensure a holistic approach to heritage interpretation guaranteeing that we design with respect to the natural surrounds, and draw inspiration from the local area and community. It will guide ways of acknowledging and respecting the identity of the place, the people who have shaped it and the people who have ongoing connections to it.



Figure 2.9:

ngarunga nangama: calm water dream, Judy Watson
200 George Street, Sydney

03

Purpose



Purpose

The purpose of this interpretation plan is to provide a working framework for the implementation and installation of interpretative elements across the Large Erecting Shop site.

There are a large range of interpretive products and initiatives available to ensure that the key stories at a site are told effectively, authentically, accurately and as engaging as possible.

At this stage of the interpretation planning process, the purpose is to clearly identify a range of interpretive themes and storylines that may be able to be implemented as part of the interpretation for the site.

It is not intended that all suggested interpretive products are to be implemented, but rather that they are identified to provide appropriate options for further discussion and consideration during the next stage of planning (Stage 2 HIP).

The final interpretative products, including their detailed design, content preparation and implementation will be determined by the client in consultation with Curio Projects, key stakeholders and relevant parties as part of the Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Interpretation Planning process.

04

Storytelling Principles



Storytelling Principles

4.1

Themes and Storylines

The comprehensive history of the site is organised into key themes, each of which has its own set of relevant facts, concepts, and main stories. These local themes have been identified and selected for the clarity of the message to be conveyed via the interpretative elements, rather than a result of themes that are personally of interest to an individual writer, guide, or interpreter.

These themes are not constrained to a single subject, a single time period, or a single place. Each theme relates to a range of stories and topics from pre-European history, post-European history, the present and the future of the site.

The following local themes and the thematic storylines have been developed from the National and State historical themes as determined by Heritage NSW, to be specific to the Large Erecting Shop site.

As the Large Erecting Shop sits within the South Eveleigh precinct and was an integral part of the working life at the Eveleigh Railway Workshop, a selection of the themes from the South Eveleigh Heritage Interpretation Plan have been reproduced. This ensures we align the relevant history that links the precinct, however, the themes for this Interpretation Plan have been expanded upon to ensure we tell the unique stories of Large Erecting Shop and its history.

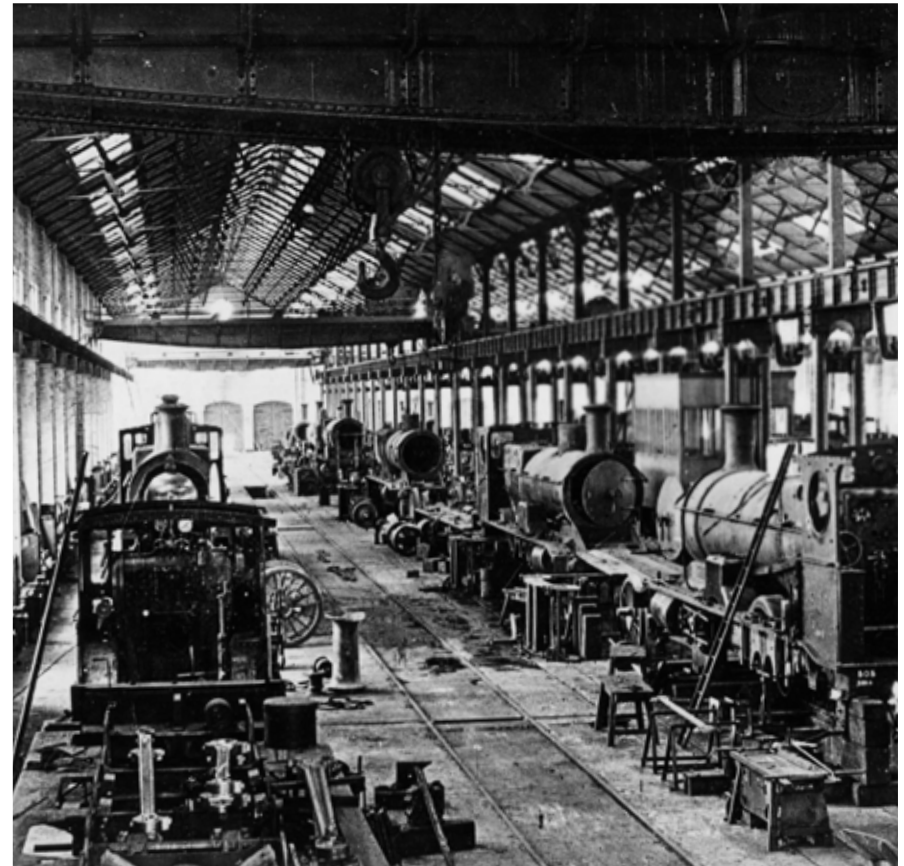


Figure 4.1:

The Large Erecting Shop filled with steam engines. Note the benches covered in tools to the left and the foreman's sheds visible alongside the central columns (Source: NSW State Archives)

The following themes have been selected and crafted to enable thematic interpretation of what makes the Large Erecting Shop historically and culturally significant.

The table also provides corresponding storylines and topics relevant to each interpretive theme.

AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED LES THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
Peopling Australia	• Aboriginal cultures and interacting with other cultures Activities associated with maintaining, developing, experiencing and remembering Aboriginal cultural identities and practices, past and present.	Aboriginal Connections: Past and Present	<p>Acknowledgement of the traditional ownership of the land by Aboriginal people; their enduring connection to Country; use of the land; and the impact of dislocation of Aboriginal people from their traditional land through the processes of European colonisation. Connection of Aboriginal people to the Redfern-Eveleigh area, employment of Aboriginal people at the ERW, movement of families from the country and regional areas, to Redfern, representation of Aboriginal people in the ERW records, how families lived and worked, the rise of Aboriginal activism.</p> <p>Aboriginal people would have worked within the Locomotive Workshops, but also within the Large Erecting Shop. In addition, the whole South Eveleigh precinct lies within a significant Aboriginal landscape and community hub (i.e. Eveleigh/Redfern area).</p> <p>Many Aboriginal people were employed at Eveleigh, and their involvement in the fight for better workplace conditions and unionism at Eveleigh is often suggested to be the start of an increase of Aboriginal activism in the area.</p> <p>Opportunities for interpretation exist within the LES as well as generally in the public domain, that link to the wider Aboriginal community of the area, and encourage accessible and visible Aboriginal heritage interpretation such as public artwork to be present within the public domain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection to Country • Darug language • Aboriginal Totems • Environmental significance • Natural resources • Displacement and Migration • Local Aboriginal community • Employment at Eveleigh

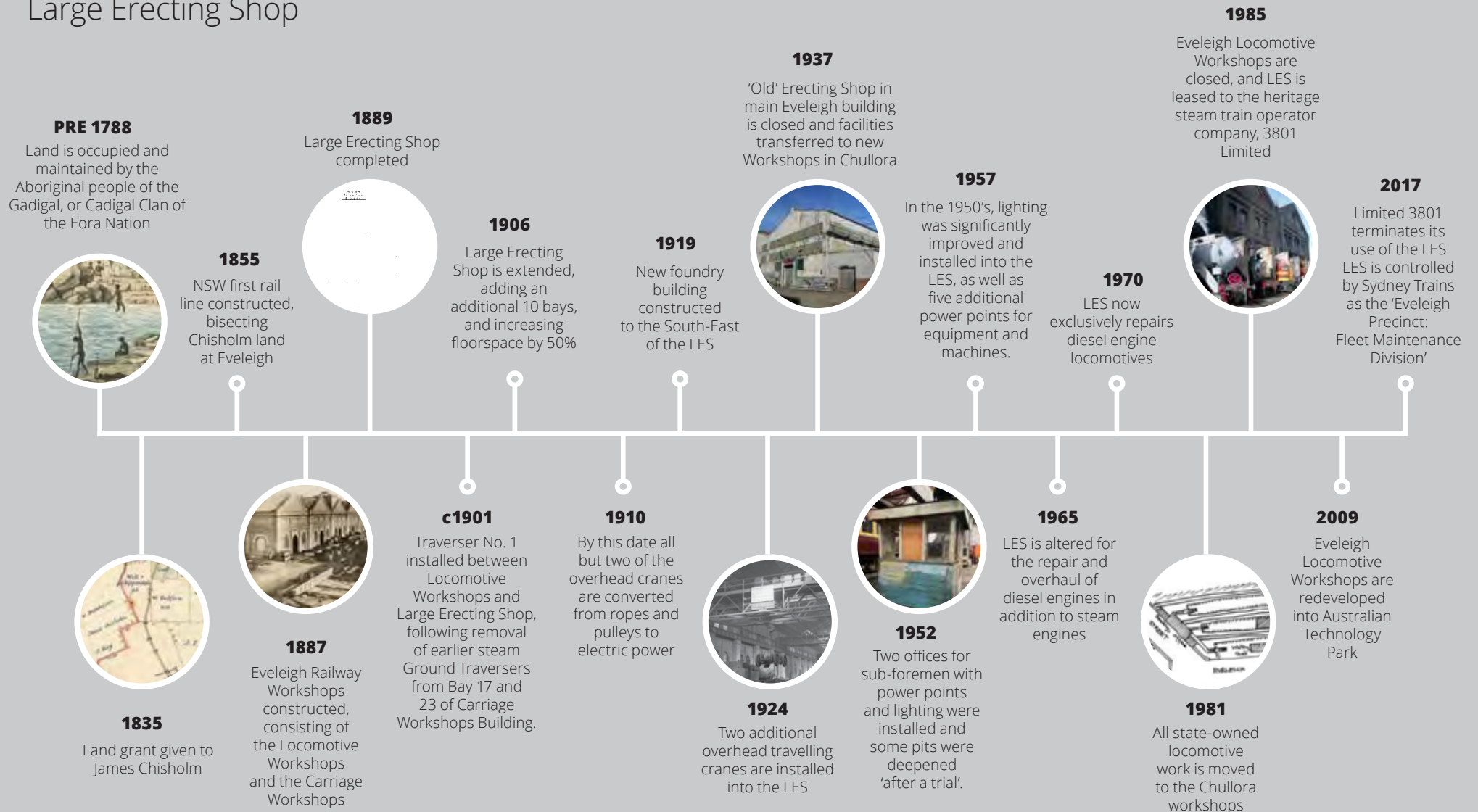
AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED LES THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing local, regional and national economies • Working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods • Labour Activities associated with work practises and organised and unorganised labour 	Work, Safety and Strikes	<p>Like the entire Eveleigh Railway Workshop, work inside the Large Erecting Shop was dirty, noisy, hard and sometime risky.</p> <p>The handling of large, heavy and dirty steam engines and their parts was the working life of men at Eveleigh.</p> <p>It was a dangerous and tough place to work, with frequent occupational accidents, that at times led to seriously injury and death. Work, Health and Safety legislation and allowances did not exist at this time, and the conditions in which the workers functioned every day were hot, loud, and fraught with danger. Many oral accounts tell stories of workers being seriously injured or killed by machinery, with common place work activities including workers breathing in thick dust and smoke, loud noise, and regular burns, among other things.</p> <p>The combination of these factors saw a very high union membership at Eveleigh, and a strength of activism and strikes at Eveleigh. Stories of the unity of workers, pride in their work and workplace, teamwork, camaraderie and leadership can all be addressed through this story that takes root in deeply personal aspects of many human lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eveleigh Works and the Railway • Worker's daily life • Local employment • The Great Strike 1917 • Labour and Union activism

AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED LES THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing local, regional and national economies • Working • Peopling Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods • Transport Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements • Technology Activities and process associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences • Labour Activities associated with work practices and organised and unorganised labour • Migration Activities and places associated with the resettling of people from one place to another and the impacts of such movements 	Wheel of life	<p>The Large Erecting Shop was ultimately one of the most important parts of the overall Locomotive Workshops. It's where the steam engines were overhauled or repairing, and later decommissioned.</p> <p><i>"This is the hospital of the steam engine, which makes its start in life from here, returns from time to time for repairs during its career, and comes back finally, when worn out, for dismantlement -the locomotive's death."</i> (Illustrated Sydney News 1891)</p> <p>Additionally, the workforce, particularly the fitters and turners got basic training for their roles in the LES which was necessary part of their apprentice training in their careers, many returning to work there later in their career.</p> <p>Many 'metal' tradesmen who graduated beyond their basic 'metal trades' qualifications spent at least some of their trade experiences in the LES.</p> <p>The Large Erecting Shop also saw much change over the years, expanding and developing into the building it is today. An array of extensions, alterations and attachments interrupt the repetitive rhythm of the exterior. Most prominent are the two ablutions wings to the north and south elevations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life of the steam engine • Basic training • Labour and Union activism • The building's expansion and development • Toilet facilities • LES connection/context within ERW

AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED LES THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing local, regional and national economies • Working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods • Technology Activities and process associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences • Labour Activities associated with work practices and organised and unorganised labour 	Tools of the trade	<p>As the primary place of construction and maintenance for the ERW's locomotives and steam engines, the Large Erecting Shop was naturally home to a huge variety of tools and machines used by fitters for this purpose.</p> <p>Moveable hand tools were highly prized by workers and often required a long process of bureaucracy to obtain when needed. Senior workers would generally have their own accumulated set of tools, which were often made by hand during their apprenticeships. These tools were kept in locked cupboards and lockers along the outside walls and central columns of the LES, where they were protected against theft or mis-allocation.</p> <p>Clothing worn in the LES was subject to levels of seniority, with newer fitters usually wearing boiler suits and other highly durable, easily cleaned clothing. As one rose up the ladder of command, more fashionable clothes such as dust coats became more common, until one reached the level of foreman and sub-foreman, who frequently wore bowler hats, suits and ties.</p> <p>The six, huge overhead cranes, three for each bay, were originally controlled by hand via a series of ropes and could lift entire steam engines over one another. While ordinary crane lifts could be done in-house, the crane-lifting of an entire locomotive or a particularly heavy object required a specialized 'heavy-lifting-gang' brought over from another part of the workshop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools and machines • Work clothing • Foreman's offices • Overhead cranes and lifting gangs • Overhaul and repair processes

AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED LES THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
• Developing local, regional and national economies	• Industry Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods	A changing neighbourhood	<p>The neighbourhoods of Eveleigh, Darlington, Alexandria, Waterloo, and Redfern, were in no small part created and defined by the presence of the Eveleigh Workshops. The many cottages and terrace houses that are still present in these surrounding suburbs today, were built in response to the need to house workers close to the railway workshops who worked in the Large Erecting Shop.</p> <p>The Large Erecting Shop was responsible for the repair of Class 1 steam engines for many years but as these steam engines gradually became less and less common on NSW railways, the Large Erecting Shop changed to the repair and overhaul of diesel engines instead. By 1970, work on steam engines was no longer undertaken at all at the LES, instead providing maintenance facilities for the more modern diesel engines and their locomotive components.</p> <p>By 1981 a final decision was made to close the Large Erecting Shop and relocate all state locomotive work to the workshop at Chullora. The LES was leased to the heritage steam train operator.</p> <p>The Large Erecting Shop did not exist in isolation to its surrounding area, but rather grew with and as part of the wider neighbourhood feel of this inner city living, helping to define not just its past, but the present character that we see today.</p> <p>Interpretation within the public domain could potentially relate to the wider neighbourhood and in doing so, reach to the wider local community who live and function today within the neighbouring suburbs to the precinct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th century growth • Local manufacturing • Building a neighbourhood • Changing architecture • Technology and development • Job and skill loss • Changing demographics

4.2

Timeline of Key Events**Large Erecting Shop**

4.3

Zones for Interpretive Elements

Zones for interpretive elements also needs to consider the practicality of the available and accessible locations at a site, with respect to the shape, form, and function of the individual site, how different areas of the site are used/accessed, and by whom.

Subject to detailed design and the interface of interpretive elements, the number of products and their locations will be further refined.

Factors to consider during the selection of appropriate locations for heritage interpretation include:

- **Use of space (ie. dwell, transitional etc.)**
- **Trafficability & visibility**
- **Physical area (m2) available**
- **Indoor vs Outdoor**
- **Public vs private domain**
- **Consideration of heritage fabric and buildings**
- **Historical context**

Stage 2 of the Interpretation Strategy will further investigate and consider which interpretation opportunities/zones identified should be pursued as part of the re-development and the associated heritage interpretation.

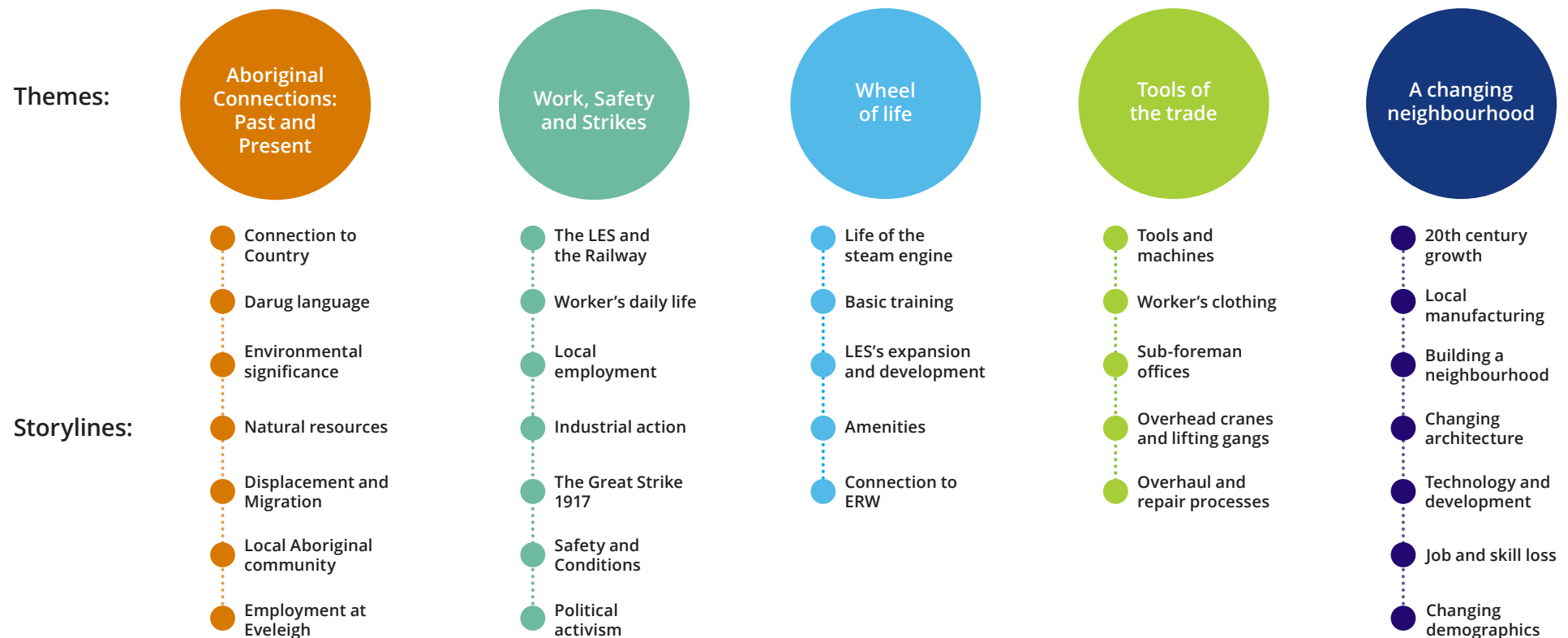
Any heritage interpretation within the Large Erecting Shop site will be considered further through a future DA, for which this report will then be able to form a basis for the refinement of opportunities in this location.

The specific heritage interpretation themes for each zone as identified through the course of this report are summarised on the next page, for ease of reference.

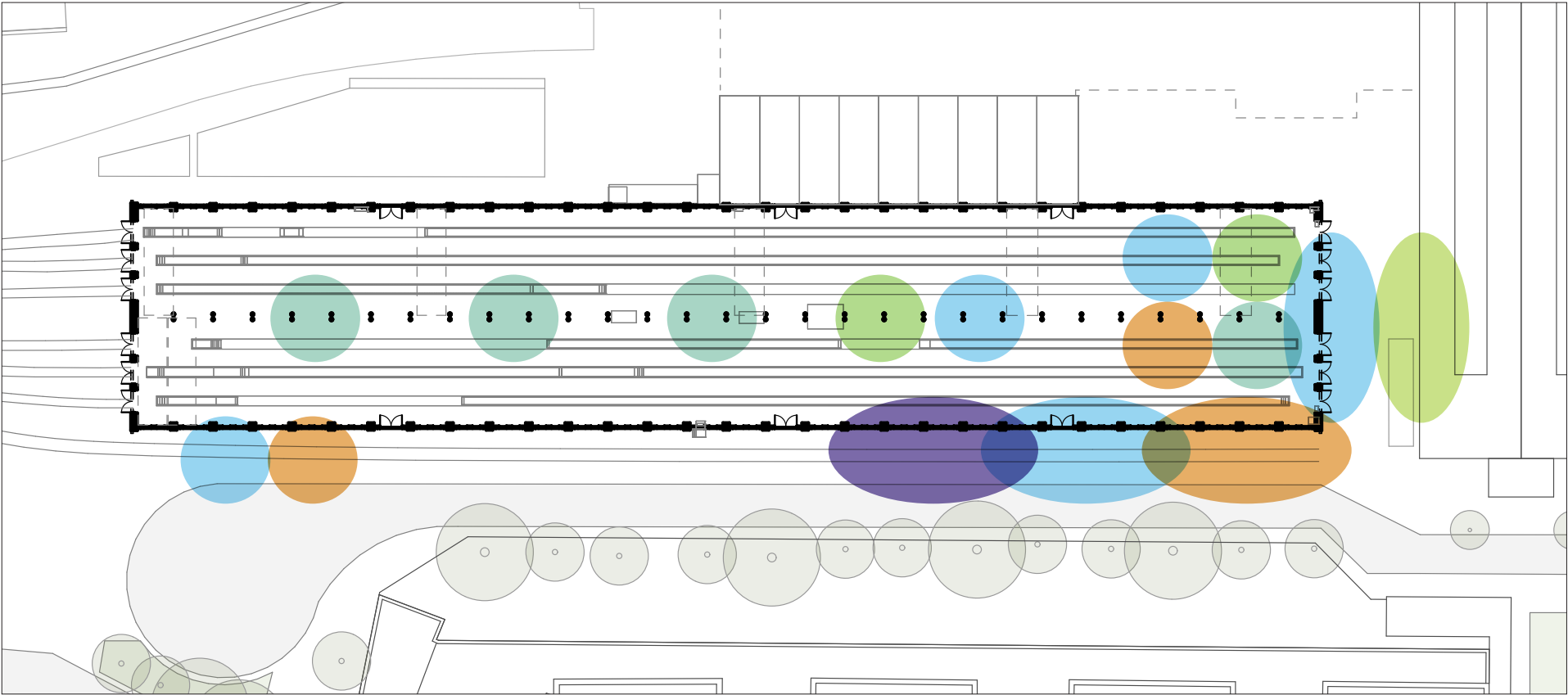
4.4

Thematic mapping

Thematic mapping offers a visual representation of site specific themes and stories and where they can be implemented within a landscape or building. Those shown in Figure 4.2 have been placed to reflect proposed designs for a project and key locations within the landscape and where interpretation can be used to communicate each sub precinct specific theme.



Thematic mapping



Figures 4.2
Thematic zones

- Aboriginal Connections: Past and Present
- Work, Safety and Strikes
- Wheel of life
- Tools of the trade
- A changing neighbourhood

4.5

Potential Interpretive Products

At this initial stage of the interpretation planning process, the purpose is to clearly identify a range of potential interpretive options and concepts that may be implemented as part of the final interpretation of the site.

There are a large range of interpretive products and initiatives available to ensure that the key stories at a site are told in the most effective and engaging manner possible, however, it is not intended that all suggested interpretive products would be implemented on this site, but rather that the following potential options provide for further discussion and explored in the future SSDA process.

4.5.1 Adaptive Re-use

Sympathetic and engaging adaptive reuse of the Large Erecting Shop building and its structural elements is an integral component of its renewal, and will provide a visual reminder of the scale, context and former use of the building and its relationship to the Locomotive Workshops.

Where retention of some of the fabric of these elements is not possible, opportunities should be explored for their materials to be re-used or re-purposed across the building's site to preserve their meaning and function within the South Eveleigh landscape.

Adaptive re-use breathes new life into a building, object or machine. It encourages social interaction and creates a reason to engage with the heritage where previously, it may not have allowed. For example, throughout the Locomotive Workshops several of the building's crane beams have been re-adapted as public seating facilitating visitor engagement.

The following outlines interpretative products and recommendations for possible materials that could be considered for heritage interpretation at the Large Erecting Shop.



Figures 4.3
Example of adaptive re-use,
Locomotive Workshops

4.5.2

Adaptive Re-use

Rolling stock

The Large Erecting Shop is the last remaining building within the South Eveleigh precinct that offers opportunities for heritage interpretation.

Curio proposes that as much of its original use be communicated to visitors through the retention of key elements relevant to the building, most importantly the retention of trains (rolling stock) currently stored in the building.

This form of adaptive reuse has been successfully implemented throughout the world as well as locally in Australia.

Possible options for the adaptive re-use of the LES's rolling stock are endless and could include anything from boutique retail to cafes or restaurants, to a mini-museum.

As such, retention of rolling stock within the Large Erecting Shop as an opportunity for heritage interpretation would enhance and encourage continued visitor engagement, and retention of the area's contextual history and heritage significance.



Figures 4.4
Examples of adaptive
trains and trams



Figures 4.5
Examples of adaptive transport re-use

4.5.3

Adaptive Re-use

Sub Foreman's Cabins

Six Sub Foremen's small timber office cabins are located at various locations around the shop floor of the building. All date from the pre-1968 steam era and have been moved around in different locations to suit operational needs of the time.

They have always fulfilled a useful purpose and are appropriate to the heritage context of the building interior. They were last used by 3801 Limited as offices and others were used as amenities, for storage of archives and records and storage of small parts.

Their sizes differ greatly allowing for a wide variety of uses and purposes. Curio recommend that they be re-adapted for future LES tenants and utilised as meeting rooms, acoustic pods and breakout spaces throughout the building.

The potential adaptive reuse of these timber cabins integrated into the design as functional interpretive elements would maintain the existing industrial character of the subject site.

Their re-use will be considered further in the future SSDA process.



Figures 4.6
Examples of Sub Foreman offices,
Large Erecting Shop



Figures 4.7
Examples of re-adapted structures - shipping container, cement pipe, pick-up truck

4.5.4

Adaptive Re-use

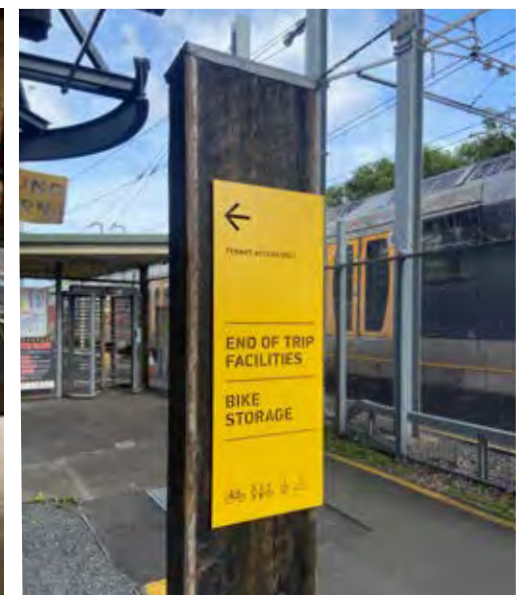
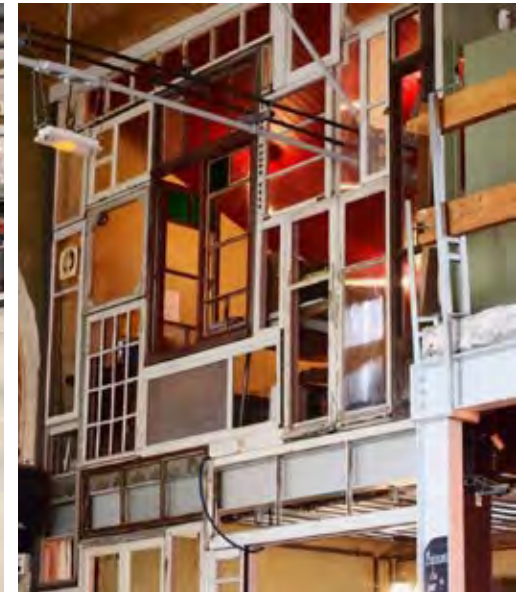
Structural fabric

A wide variety of heritage materials and remnant fabric exists in the LES that has the potential to be incorporated into furniture and other features such as wayfinding signage, in order to emphasise the industrial significance of site.

Heritage material present at the LES include steel rails, train parts (windows and doors), tools, corrugated iron, brick, concrete and ballast.

The adaptive reuse of these materials would maintain the existing industrial character of the subject site, ignite the public's imagination, and continue the precedent of reusing and re-purposing materials used throughout the South Eveleigh precinct.

Text relating to the object, or stories associated with the LES could also be incorporated into furniture through etchings, engravings and inlays.



Figures 4.8
Example of adaptive
re-use of building fabric

4.5.5

Adaptive Re-use

Patina, finishes and existing signage

Adaptive reuse of the LES building offers an exciting opportunity for the original building materials, patinas and internal features such as historic graffiti and signage to be exposed and preserved through their retention.

Exposure of these materials and finishes will provide a look back in time, helping to communicate the building's purpose. Their preservation will assist in maintaining the character and industrial nature of the reused building.

Examples of this include hand painted numbers or letters on walls, flaking layers of paint, exposed brick, timber, steel, roof trusses, pipes, floor finishes, graffiti (historic and contemporary) and building shadows.

This framework could take inspiration from ad hoc construction methods used across the ERW landscape, where materials such as rails were re-used to modify and adapt buildings for new or updated purposes.



Figures 4.9

Example of patina, Large Erecting Shop



Figures 4.10
Examples of patina, finishes and original signage
Large Erecting Shop

4.5.6 Inspection pits

There are a number of pits located throughout the Large Erecting Shop that have potential to be incorporated for interpretive purposes into the building's renewal.

Inspection pits are depressed areas between two parallel railway lines built for the purpose of giving convenient access and facilitate parts of a vehicle for repair or erecting on the respective tracks.

A reinforced glass or metal mesh floor covering the pits would provide tangible and contextual evidence of their function within the LES, and their connection to the rolling stock and maintenance associated with it.

Strategies for the pits could include allowance to house items associated with the maintenance of the trains, as well as the story of the fitters, their workspace and daily conditions.

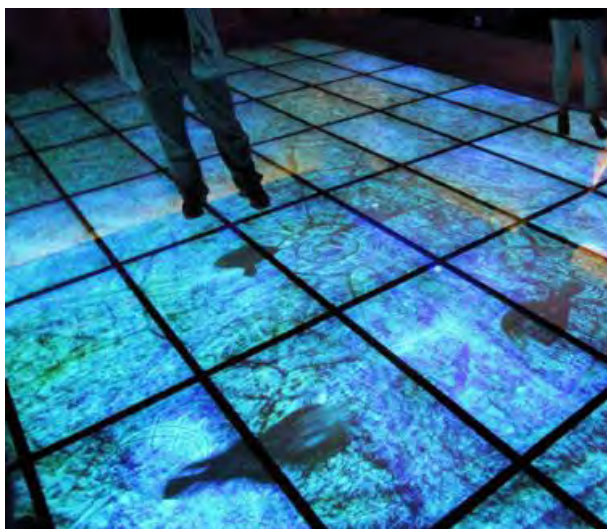
Lighting will play an integral role in highlighting and providing atmosphere to the area. Digital technologies ie. VR/AR, or digital screens should also be explored to supplement and enhance the interpretive experience, potentially incorporating references to the steam of the engines.



Figures 4.11
Examples of Inspection pits,
Large Erecting Shop



Figures 4.12
Examples of archaeology view
reinforced glass floors with lighting



Figures 4.13
Examples of digital interpretation including interactive floor,
lighting projection and digital screens

4.5.7 Overhead travelling cranes

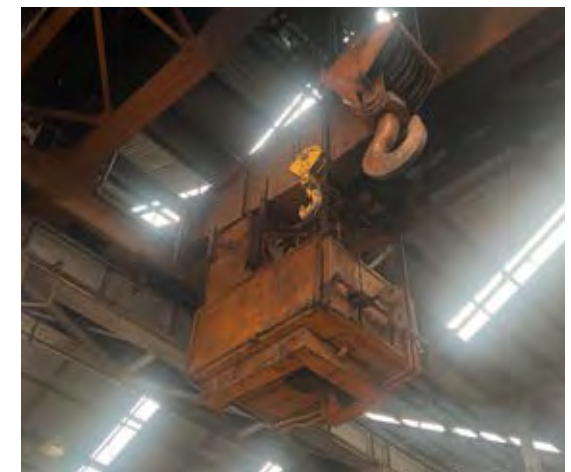
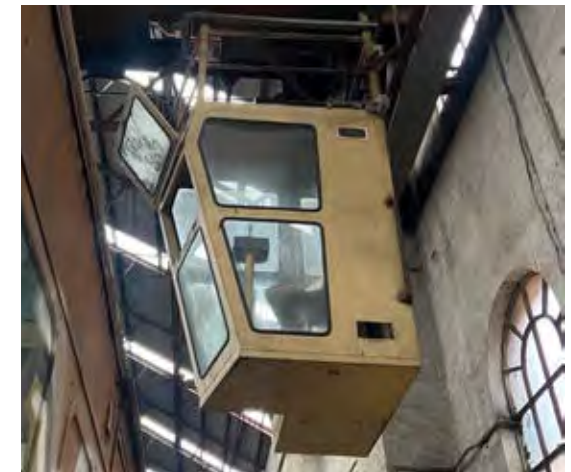
Overhead travelling cranes with hoists were installed in the building for heavy lifting work.

There are a total of eight cranes erected in the space and they were originally operated by a series of ropes and pulleys which were controlled by the driver on each crane by a clutch lever which gripped a continuous ropeway.

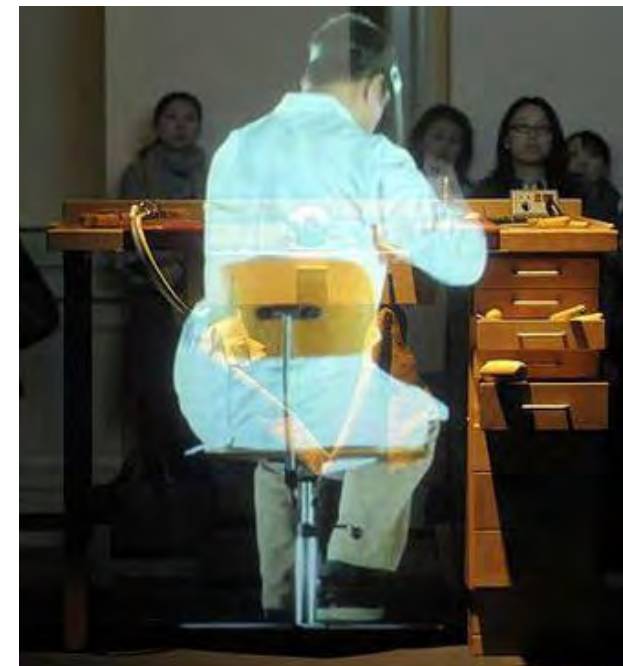
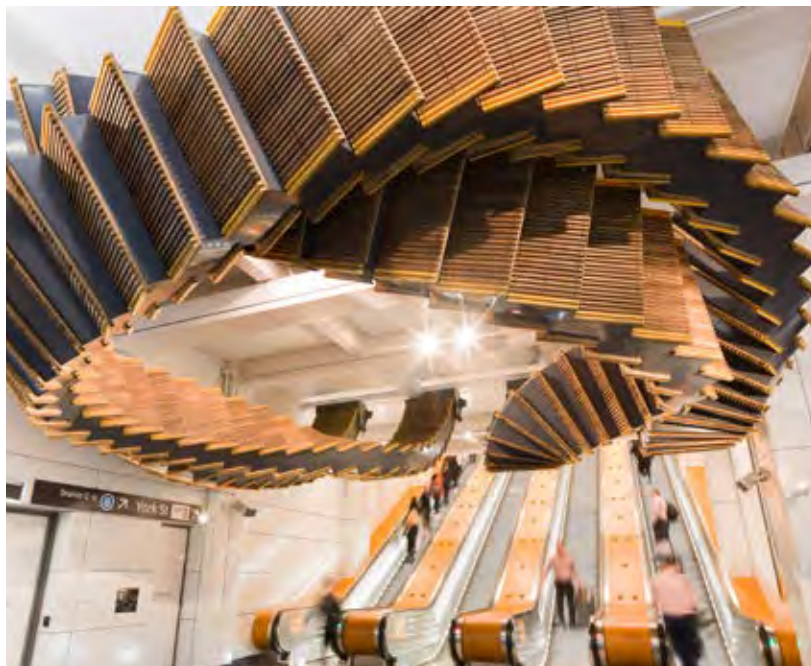
It's recommended that these overhead travelling cranes should be maintained throughout the building to maintain visual connection and provide a unique opportunity for the LES building's original purpose and context to be communicated with the public and tenants.

Their retention could also be supplemented by incorporating hanging elements, ie. re-adapted train parts to create public art that responds to the crane's use and the space. Potential digital projection/shadow play storytelling and physical imagery with sound would help retain the crane's meaning and significance within the building.

Digital and light media could include the use of holograms or projection to portray a story and function. For example, a hologram or projection of a crane driver in a crane box could be an engaging way to communicate their role and function, while providing a human association, with the audience watching someone 'at work'.



Figures 4.14
Overhead traveling cranes and crane boxes,
Large Erecting Shop



Figures 4.15
Example of sculptural hanging train element, digital screen projection, hologram



Figures 4.16
Potential large objects to display from crane hoists

4.5.8 Sub stations

It is vital that the Large Erecting Shop's relationship and context within the Locomotive Workshops be clearly interpreted through interpretive products.

The site specific theme 'Wheel of Life' would easily be incorporated in this interpretation to highlight the movement of engines and material between the two buildings.

Modern sub-station additions to be located on the southern side of the Large Erecting Shop provide an ideal canvas in which to tell this story.

Inclusions of an interpretative product on this element will provide additional public insight to the site's significant context and history within the Eveleigh Railway Workshops.

Substations attached to the Locomotive Workshops along Locomotive Street are good examples of interpretation utilising these modern and unattractive structures.

Sound and lighting could also be incorporated to further ignite the public's imagination, activating the space day and night.



Figures 4.17

Example of interpretation on existing sub-station, Locomotive Workshop



Figures 4.18
Examples of interpretation on existing sub-stations,
Locomotive Workshop

4.5.9 Moveable heritage

As demonstrated in the Locomotive Workshop redevelopment, it is recommended that the Large Erecting Shop be used to exhibit large items of movable heritage associated with the building.

The large floorspace in the building has substantial opportunities to house engaging and meaningful interpretive installations and displays that celebrate the site's context and history in the Eveleigh Railway Workshop landscape.

The overall purpose of the workshop space would be to encourage ongoing engagement with the building by the local community and visitors alike.

It is recommended that the LES's moveable heritage, which are quite minimal, are retained insitu or reinstated appropriately during the renewal and interpreted through signage supplemented by text and images, as well as a digital overlay incorporating QR codes. Lighting is an integral way to ensure the moveable heritage is showcased in a way that brings it to life.

Additionally, the preservation of tools and parts used in the building should also be considered as part of the project to ensure the character of the building is retained and celebrated.



Figures 4.19

(left to right:) Examples of existing movable heritage item, Large Erecting Shop;
Display of moveable heritage item, Locomotive Workshops



WEBSTER & BENNETT 60" BORER

Figures 4.20
Examples of movable heritage items,
Locomotive Workshops

4.5.10 Installation

Exhibition display

As well as a selection of large objects of movable heritage, the Large Erecting Shop contains a collection of small objects, signs, tools, technical plans, token board cases, machinery parts and even a memorial to service men, that are associated with the site that could be interpreted through exhibition showcase displays.

Objects that are relevant and relatable add humanity to the history of a site and provide an authenticity that often words and image alone cannot convey.

Designed to tell the story of the building and its use, the showcases would allow objects to be creatively displayed. This could be supplemented by a digital component in the form of QR codes or interactive screens.

Existing filing drawers, cupboards and storage units currently within the LES could be adaptively re-used as showcases for the exhibition, which would allow visitors to explore the LES's history in an engaging and self-guided way, offering moments of surprise and delight.

It would be recommended that an exhibition space be established at the site to allow these objects to be creatively showcased in a meaningful way. The internal public domain spaces inside the proposed redeveloped building could facilitate such displays.



Figures 4.21
(from top): Example of a cabinet, storage cupboards and service men memorial, Large Erecting Shop



Figures 4.22
(from top): Key cabinet, Sutho's Shed, Locomotive Workshop; Locker door interpretation, Locomotive Workshops



Figures 4.23
Examples of object display
showcases/exhibitions

4.5.11 Inlays

Rail and trolley tracks which connected the foundries with the Large Erecting Shop transporting materials and finished components remain in the floor within the building. Each gallery has three parallel rail lines laid along the floor in concrete where steam engines were repaired.

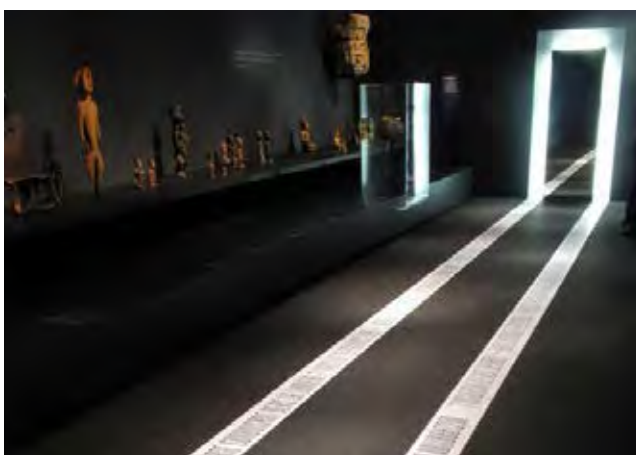
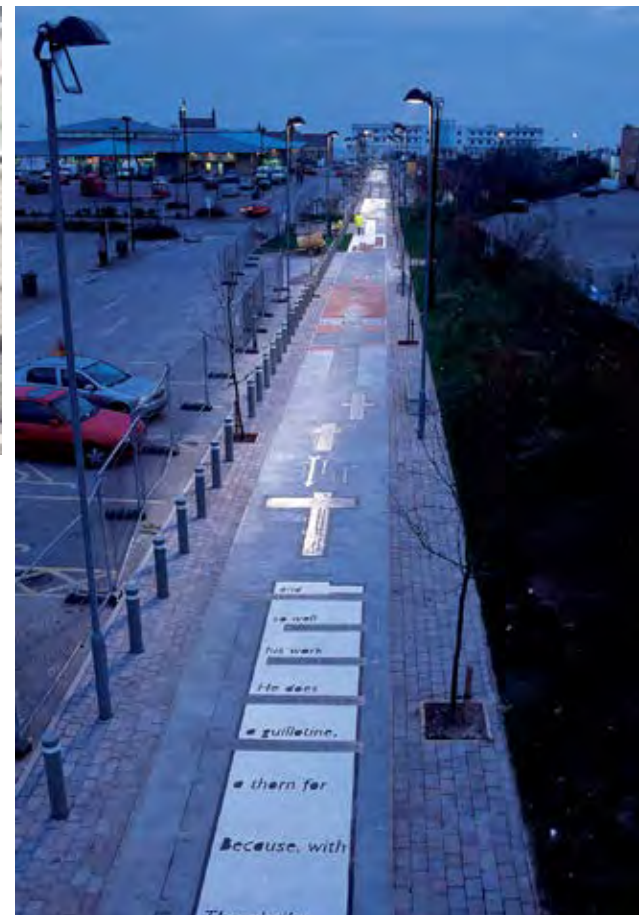
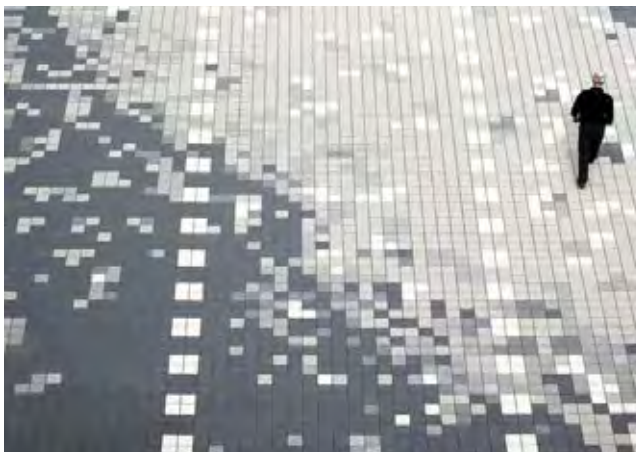
Where insitu retention is not feasible, inlays, or other in-ground features such as linear light features, integrating tracks of contrasting materials into the finishes zone should all be considered.

Interpretation could also take the form of inlays depicting architectural plans of the building and it's evolution of over time, quotes, the titles of workers and the LES's various bay numbers that inform the site's cultural heritage.

Design and materiality of the inlay should be subtle and sympathetic to the character of the Large Erecting Shop and nearby heritage listed items and conservation areas, yet also be created in a progressive and modern way. Inlays could incorporate the adaptive re-use of materials such as rails, brick or timber.



Figures 4.24
Example of inlays, Locomotive Workshops



Figures 4.25
Example of inlays

4.5.12

Digital

Media and projections

The interpretation of tangible heritage items and fabric of the site could be further strengthened and supported by the introduction of digital heritage interpretation.

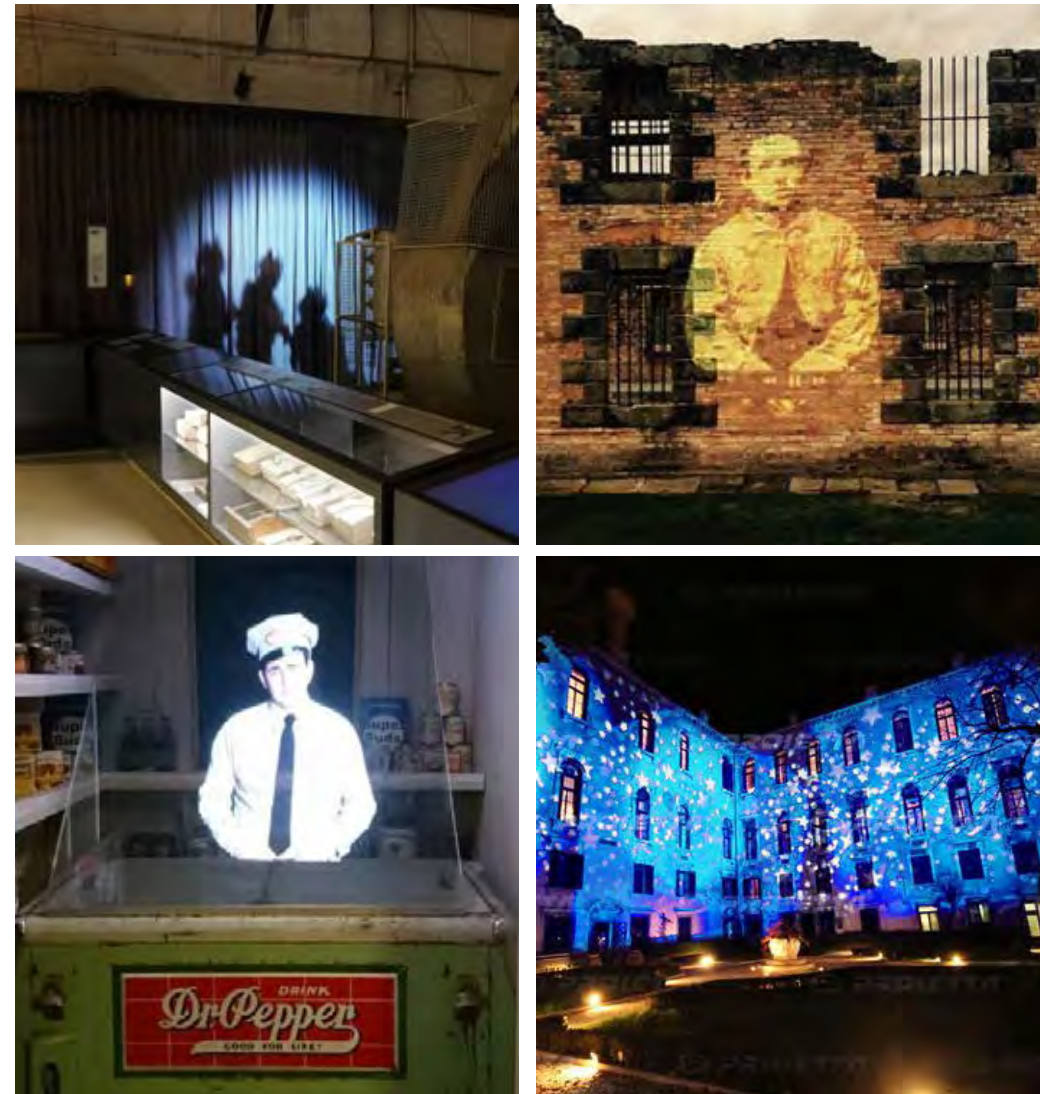
Whether it's the use of Vivid-style projection mapping on the face of the building, or digital kiosks featuring oral histories and first-hand accounts of those in the community who have been connected with the site, digital media provides a multi-layered approach to different types of user engagement in a heritage context.

The implementation of augmented reality would provide the user with a live direct view of the physical environment incorporating historical elements as they would have been viewed when the LES was in operation.

Digital interpretation would also allow for the presentation of many high resolution archival images, plans and maps that would be difficult to produce together in one space.

Digital kiosks or scanable QR codes can supplement heritage interpretation by providing links to media platforms and channels as well as allowing users to share content that is engaging for them, thereby widening the network of people who receive the information and connecting people across time and space.

Digital interpretation is readily updated and refreshed, allowing content and functionality to be updated over time to keep users interested and enhance the user experience.



Figures 4.26

Examples of digital media, projection, hologram, projection mapping

Figures 4.27
Digital travelator experience,
Locomotive Workshops



4.5.13

Landscape

Native gardens, inlays, seating

Landscaping at a site provides an exciting opportunity for integration with heritage interpretation. It offers wide ranging opportunities for interpretation through furniture, pavement inlays, signage, lighting, structural elements and plantings sympathetic to the heritage and natural environment of a site.

Interpretive strategies could include the integration of native vegetation and trees that once served as an edible resource for local Aboriginal groups. It would provide an opportunity for the Aboriginal and natural history of the area to be communicated with visitors.

Pavement inlays allow heritage interpretation to be incorporated across a site in subtle and distinct ways, leading people through landscapes or communicating the contextual story of an event, building or place. Pavement inlays are proposed across the site to interpret rail tracks, inspection pits and site specific themes.

Public furniture such as bench seating could potentially utilise shapes and materials sympathetic to the industrial nature of the site, or directly incorporate building fabric from the building.

Seating is a key design feature in the public domain, allowing groups of people to dwell, meet and connect. Embedding heritage interpretation elements on and within gathering spaces provides a rich context and engagement.

It recalls the practice of gathering in the public domain often referred to in the Aboriginal community as 'yarning'. Yarning circles, spaces which enable and enhance communication, are regarded as an important cultural practice within Aboriginal culture.

Developed in consultation with Aboriginal knowledge holders, the inclusion of yarning circles in the public domain could be a powerful interpretive device, as well as facilitating meaningful interactions and connections amongst groups and individuals.

Utilising patterning, text and graphic images with interpretive elements throughout the public domain provides an engaging opportunity for people to pause, read and reflect absorbing messages and stories about the site.

The heritage interpretation within public domain areas should work in collaboration with the landscape architects, Aboriginal artists/designers and knowledge holders, and the community to further develop appropriate locations and potential implementations across the site.

Similar techniques have been used at the nearby South Eveleigh redevelopment.



Figures 4.28
Example of edible native garden,
South Eveleigh



Figures 4.29
Examples of yarning circle, ground inlays,
laser etched seating

4.5.14

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country is to acknowledgement the traditional owners, knowledge holders and elders, their stories, their songlines and custodianship of the land. By doing so, we are being welcomed to the land.

Acknowledgment of County is generally done by a stakeholder, knowledge holder or personnel within the space to acknowledge those owners and custodians that have come before. A welcome is only done by a traditional owner.

It is recommended that a Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land, be installed at prominent location within the development, possibly at main entrance to the building or in the exterior public domain to provide an opportunity for respectful pause and reflection before entering the land.

A sound recording of acknowledgment could potentially play. The Welcome to Country could be in the form of a designed element created by an Aboriginal artist, as well inclusion of a sound recording or digital Acknowledgement message. The message should be both the Sydney language group and English.



Figures 4.30
Examples of Acknowledgement of
Country

4.5.15 Signage

Permanent heritage interpretation signage plays an important role in providing additional layers to the interpretation. It allows for the audience to gain further insight into the meaning and stories of the subject, as well as helping to build the narrative by providing contextual significance about the interpretation and its place on site.

Interpretive signs can also incorporate QR codes which allow users to access more information as they wish. Signage can serve multiple purposes, telling the story of an object, building (past or present), occupation phase, plant, person or event. It can draw people to an area or guide them to another.

The LES is an excellent site for this form of interpretation due to its multi-layered and expansive history, as well as its anticipated use by a variety of individuals and groups.



Figures 4.31
Examples of interpretive signage

4.5.16 Public Art

Public art can be an evocative and successful tool in interpreting the heritage significance of a site while also enhancing its aesthetic and cultural character. Interpretive public art is a powerful tool of cultural expression, able to tell stories and visually communicate cultural messages to a wide audience.

Integration of public art will provide an opportunity for the site's multi-faced history to be communicated in a visually engaging way. Public art is a powerful medium for heritage interpretation in its ability to reflect the unique history and stories associated with a site, as well as the connections of former workers, the local Aboriginal community, and former residents.

By working with specialists such as collection and exhibition designers, local artists and digital producers, heritage stories and concepts can be effectively and creatively communicated to a wide range of audiences.

A Public Art Strategy has been prepared for the redevelopment of the site, and the heritage interpretation process will work closely with their various artists on the development and implementation of this strategy to help showcase heritage themes through public art installations.



Figures 4.32
Fireworks, Matt Fellingham

The Public Art Strategy recommends integrating large scale art within the public zones of the Large Erecting Shop redevelopment. For example, a large scale artwork on the north east entrance of the site would provide a visual focal point to draw people along Locomotive Street. This opportunity could represent one of the five elements significance to the local Aboriginal community.

The design and production of public artworks with Aboriginal cultural themes must be undertaken by Aboriginal artists/designers with links to the local community to ensure clarity and depth of message, as well as following the guidelines outlined in the Public Art Strategy for the Large Erecting Shop.



Figures 4.33
Example of public art
Yaburgurt Memorial, Mandurah

05

Conclusion



Summary of conclusion

The redevelopment of the Large Erecting Shop (LES) provides the perfect opportunity to expand and complete the layered interpretation and integrated cultural tourism already established throughout the South Eveleigh precinct. This site is the final building in this precinct to be redeveloped and offers the chance to continue the interpretive experience at key locations, encouraging visitors to explore the entire precinct upon arrival from one of the many entry points, including the immersive approaches from Redfern Station, and as part of the already established Eora Journey.

The Large Erecting Shop is the most prominent single purpose structure surviving on the South Eveleigh site that has not yet been adaptively reused. It provides a unique opportunity to interpret how the building functioned and operated, and its integral role in the entire Eveleigh Railway Workshop.

The key themes and storylines developed as part of this process form a strong basis for developing interpretation that is relevant to the history of the site. In particular, there is an opportunity to create meaningful interpretation products that not only continue to celebrate the significance of the subject site, but also the highly significant on-going Aboriginal cultural heritage connection to the place.

Curio Projects have reviewed extensive background material to identify constraints and opportunities related to interpretation on the site, and will continue to refine opportunities for final interpretive products as part of the detailed Stage 2 HIP process.

The information included in this Heritage Interpretation Plan forms the basis for the development of interpretative products that will support innovative and engaging storytelling at this site that is complimentary to, and compatible with the rest of the 'Eveleigh Story' across the whole of the site.

Concepts, content and locations will be developed as part of Stage 2 of the Heritage Interpretation Plan, lead by Curio Projects and in consultation with Mirvac and the community.

Summary of recommendations

The following recommendations are made with respect to the overall plan and responds to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage interpretation:

- An inventory of all movable heritage items, as at c.2022, within the Large Erecting Shop must be prepared prior to renewal works commencing and the preparation of an updated Heritage Interpretation Plan (Stage 2) for the project
- Where an inventory already exists, it should be updated to reflect the current nature of the collection
- This Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) must be used to inform and develop interpretive designs for the project
- This Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) must be superseded/or supplemented with the detailed Stage 2 HIP which outlines a final heritage interpretation overlay as part of any development work proposed to be undertaken on site (following on from this re-zoning phase of the project, should re-zoning be approved)
- The overall heritage interpretation approach should also be integrated with the Public Art Strategy, particularly in relation to Aboriginal heritage and involvement of Aboriginal artists. A world-class program of public art for the precinct should be developed in consideration of interpretive themes, embedding heritage messages within the artistic expressions at the subject site. This is especially important in the case of engaging Aboriginal artists and designers for involvement in future public art planning.
- The Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) should link interpretive elements to key Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal historic heritage themes
- The Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) should develop a range of interpretive media options across the site to suit multiple audiences and interests
- Interpretive elements should be co-designed with Aboriginal knowledge holders and artists/designers, with appropriate permissions and intellectual property rights in place
- Key policies and guidelines relating to heritage interpretation, including Heritage NSW (2005) Heritage Interpretation Policy and Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines, GANSW (2020) Connecting with Country framework, and Transport for NSW /Sydney Trains, 2019) Heritage Interpretation guidelines should be referenced

5.2 References & Endnotes

- Australia ICOMOS, 2013, *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)*
- Ham, S., 2013, *Interpretation – Making a Difference on Purpose*, Fulcrum Publishing, Colorado
- Ham, S. & Weiler, B. 2003, *Thematic Interpretation in South Australia*, University of Idaho & Monash University
- Karskens, G 2020, *People of the river: lost worlds of early Australia*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney.
- NSW Heritage Office, 2005, *Heritage Information Series: Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines*
- NSW Heritage Council and NSW Government Department of Planning, 2005, *Heritage Information Series: Heritage Interpretation Policy*
- i. Tilden, Freeman (1957). *Interpreting our heritage*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press
- ii. Ham, Sam (1992). *Environmental interpretation--A practical guide for people with big ideas and small budgets*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing.
- 2003, 'Eveleigh Large Erecting Shop: Conservation Management Plan', Simpson Dawbin Associates
- 1891 'The N.S.W. Railway Workshops at Eveleigh.', Illustrated Sydney News (NSW : 1881 - 1894), 18 July, p. 12. , viewed 27 Apr 2022, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63616851>
- 1902 'Our Railways.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 29 January, p. 7. , viewed 27 Apr 2022, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14455524>
- 2002 'Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops Conservation Management Plan Vol I' Otto Cserhalmi & Partners
- 'Eveleigh Heritage Trail', Australian Technology Park, date unknown, p.4, viewed 6 May 2022, Eveleigh Heritage Trail | South Eveleigh Heritage (eveleighstories.com.au)
- 2003, 'Eveleigh Large Erecting Shop: Conservation Management Plan', Simpson Dawbin Associates
- OCP Architects 2017a, (DRAFT) ERW- Overarching Conservation Management Plan, Prepared for UrbanGrowth NSW.
- NSW Railways, F Fewtrell, internally written 'History of Eveleigh Workshops' for Chief Mechanical Engineer, 1955, NSW Mechanical Branch File No. 55/1 0322-39, p. 1
- Godden Mackay, 1986, *Eveleigh Workshops Heritage Study*, Sydney.
- 'The N.S.W Railway Workshops at Eveleigh: A State Enterprise' Illustrated Sydney News, Sat 18 July, 1891, p.12. Accessed 9 May 2022 from: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/63616851/5568718>



5 Blackfriars Street, Chippendale NSW 2008 | 02 8014 9800 | curioprojects.com.au