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7 December 2022

The General Manager  
Hornsby Shire Council  
Attention: Mr Trevor Carlyle-Hoggan  
Project Manager | Major Projects

E| [tcarlylehoggan@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tcarlylehoggan@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

## **RE: Hornsby Park Embellishments – Heritage Impact of Works in Areas**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This Heritage Impact Statement has been prepared for Hornsby Shire Council to accompany a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for proposed works at Hornsby Park, Hornsby, west of Peats Ferry Road, formerly known as the Hornsby Quarry. This statement follows the format of the NSW Heritage document, 'Statements of Heritage Impact'. The site comprises a former dolerite quarry surrounded by bushland, and is under transformation into a park for active and passive recreation.

The proposed work involves the completion of the adaptive works enabling this former quarry to become a park, following further detailed design. The works within the park that are outside the areas shown in Figure 3.2 were approved in the Hornsby Quarry Stage 2. This statement updates and draws on the Hornsby Quarry Stage 2 Statement of Heritage Impact for GHD by Artefact, dated November 2018.

Details of the development proposal have been prepared by Clouston Associates, a Division of Beveridge Williams, landscape architects.

The former Hornsby Quarry is listed as an item of environmental heritage with local significance on the *Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013* (LEP) (Item Nos, 538 and A54). The Sydney North Regional Planning Panel approved the Hornsby Quarry Rehabilitation Works Development (DA/101/2019) on 4 November 2020. In a staged approach, those works allowed for bulk earthworks, associated civil works, and site rehabilitation contributing to the wider site becoming a recreation park. The 'Hornsby Quarry Rehabilitation Works Heritage Management Plan' contained recommended mitigation measures.

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This Heritage Impact Statement reviews the proposal in terms of the relevant heritage provisions of the Hornsby LEP 2013 and the requirements of the Hornsby Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013, and the Impact Assessment Criteria guidelines endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council.

## **2.0 Methodology**

This Heritage Impact Statement has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013, known as The Burra Charter, and the Heritage NSW publication, the NSW Heritage Manual.

The Burra Charter provides definitions for terms used in heritage conservation and proposes conservation processes and principles for the conservation of an item. The terminology used, particularly the words place, cultural significance, fabric, and conservation, is as defined in Article 1 of The Burra Charter. The NSW Heritage Manual explains and promotes the standardisation of heritage investigation, assessment and management practices in NSW.

## **3.0 Site Location**

The site is located to the west of the Hornsby business district in Old Mans Valley that includes the former quarry. The site is accessed from Quarry Road and the earlier extent of Hornsby Park alongside Peats Ferry Road. The NSW Land Registry Services (LRS) identifies the site as covering:

- Lots A, B, C, D, and E in DP 318676
- Lot 1 in DP114323
- Lots 1 and 2 in DP 169188
- Lot 1 in DP926103
- Lot 1 in DP926449
- Lot 1 in DP743359
- Lot 1 in DP1157797
- Lot 13 in DP734459
- Lot 7079 in DP 1050579
- Lot 7017 in DP 1052646
- Lots 7018 and 7019 in DP1059310
- Lots 7081 and 7082 in DP1059313
- Lot 1 in DP 594698
- Lot 1 in DP 859646
- Part of the Bridge Road road reserve
- Part of the Quarry Road road reserve



**Figure 3.1** The overall site works are within the blue line site boundary, however the works addressed within this report are a scattering of much smaller areas accumulating to 3.8ha.

Source: NSW Spatial Information Exchange (SIX Maps)

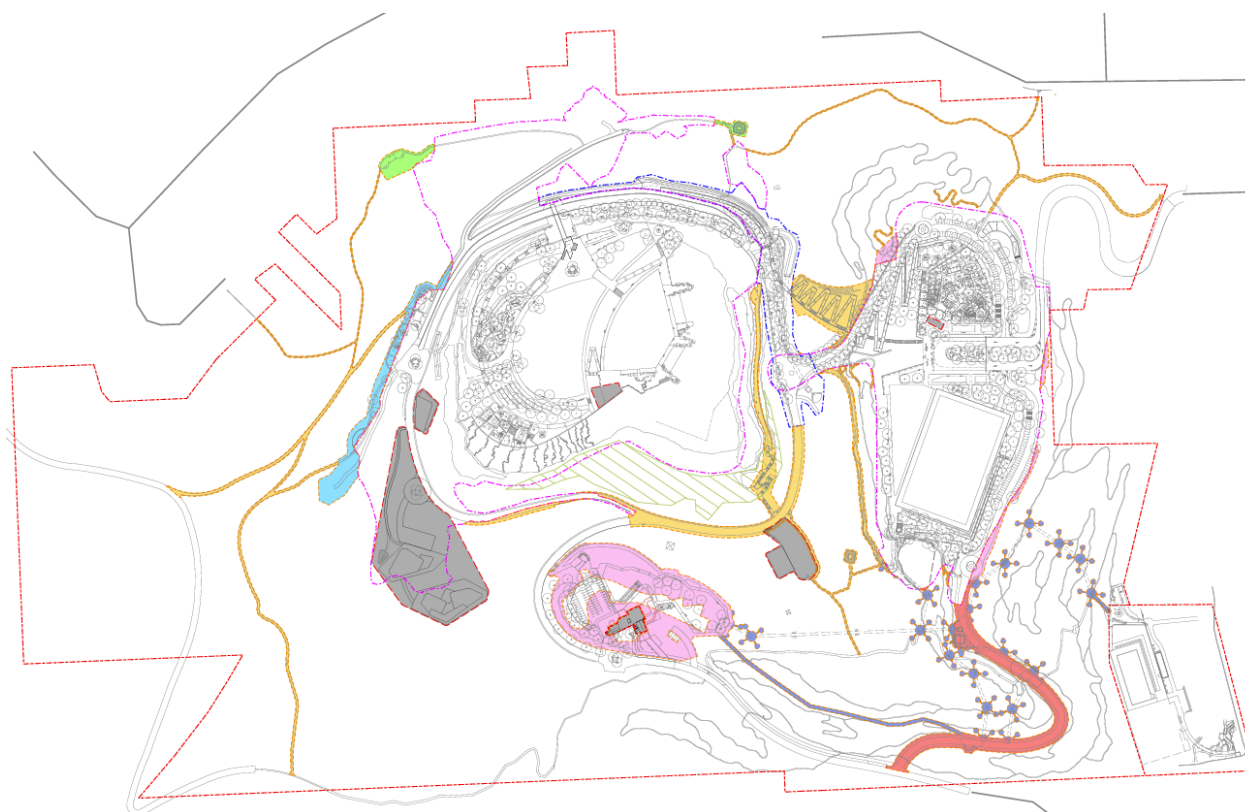









Figure 3.2 The site plan for the Hornsby Park Embellishments showing areas of work coloured, but grey areas will be protected and are outside these works.

#### KEY PLAN

#### LEGEND

	Northern Mound - Impact area: 1170.7m <sup>2</sup>
	West Platform - Impact area: 2972.1m <sup>2</sup>
	Circulation - Impact area: 13821.9m <sup>2</sup>
	Skywalk & Boardwalk - Impact area: 3735.4m <sup>2</sup>
	Fire trail - Impact area: 4894.1m <sup>2</sup>
	Jump track - Impact area: 7.5m <sup>2</sup>
	Other - Impact area: 11508.8m <sup>2</sup>

TOTAL AREA: 38110.4m<sup>2</sup>

## 4.0 Heritage Significance

The proposed works to Hornsby Park are within several allotments listed as landscape items of environmental heritage with local significance on Schedule 5 of the *Hornsby Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013*. The south-east corner of the works site is within the Peats Ferry Road Precinct of the Hornsby West Side Conservation Area C5, listed in Schedule 5 of the *Hornsby LEP 2013*.

- 1X Quarry Road, Hornsby (Old Mans Valley / Hornsby Quarry) – Item No: I538; and
- XX Street Name, Suburb (Old Mans Valley / Sandstone Steps) - Item No: I537
- 203X Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby (Hornsby Park R52588) - Item No: I513



Other heritage listed items in the vicinity of the subject site are visually and physically separated from the site by local topography.

#### **4.1 Significance of Old Mans Valley (Sandstone Steps)**

The following Statement of Significance for the Name Item, at Old Mans Valley Hornsby nearest to Peats Ferry Road, is sourced from the Hornsby Heritage Register, heritage item No. I537:

*Outstanding example of stone steps provided as public infrastructure improvements within the Hornsby Shire under the "works for the relief of unemployment" program from Great Depression period when unemployment reached 23.4% (Average for Australia's 1930-34).*

#### **4.2 Significance of Old Mans Valley (Hornsby Quarry)**

The following Statement of Significance for the local heritage item that is Old Mans Valley (Hornsby Quarry), at 1X Quarry Road, Hornsby, is sourced from the Hornsby Heritage Register, heritage item No. I538:

*Volcanic Rock in an area predominantly of sandstone has created an unusual environment, part of which is recreational reserve, part used for quarrying blue metal. It reflects the mix of landuse (industrial and recreational) in the Shire.*

#### **4.3 Significance of Hornsby Park (R52588) 203X Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby**

The following Statement of Significance for the local heritage item that is Hornsby Park, at 203X Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby, is sourced from the Hornsby Heritage Register, heritage item No. I513:

*A well laid out and well-constructed park of 1930's period conserving old trees with bushland glimpses. Includes Anzac commemorative Lone Pine tree and fountain with plaques. Of significance for the northern area of Sydney. Of regional significance.*

Note that this item of environmental significance is of local, and not regional significance.

#### **4.4 Significance of Items in the Vicinity**

The following Statement of Significance for the Higgins Family Cemetery, archaeological is sourced from the Hornsby Heritage Register, heritage item No. A55:

*Unusually late private cemetery, reflecting the comparative isolation of Old Man Valley within the development of Hornsby Shire*

Note that this item is listed on the State Heritage Register. The proposed works are kept outside this state significant heritage item and all its curtilage.



Figure 4.1 Extract from Heritage Map - Sheet HER\_017B in the *Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013* with the overall site boundary outlined in blue by Umwelt

#### 4.5 Significance of the Name Conservation Area

The following Statement of Significance for the Hornsby West Side Conservation Area C5 is sourced from the Hornsby West Side Conservation Area (Mt Errington Precinct) Review by Tropman & Tropman dated July 2002.

The Mount Errington precinct, (in association with the Pretoria Parade and Old Town precincts which comprise the Hornsby West Side Heritage Conservation Area), clearly demonstrates the historical development of Old Hornsby. The Mount Errington precinct, as one of the first areas in Hornsby to be subdivided and developed, still retains evidence of the original subdivision of the land in the 1880s. The historical associations between the development of the residential area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the railway and the dramatic setting are still evident in the pattern of roads, streets, lanes, residences, landscape and geology. The surviving evidence in the area is important, as later development has erased most of the historical evidence north and east of the Old Town.

The houses, their gardens (in particular from the Federation and Inter-War periods) and the landscape contribute to quality streetscapes that strongly evoke the nature of the early residential development in Hornsby. The social hierarchy is still evident in the built form where modest houses were built closer to the railway, better class homes further west and grander residences on the western ridge overlooking the valley.

The dramatic setting contributes to a high level of aesthetic significance which is demonstrated by the interaction of handsome residences and landscape; in particular the backdrop of the bushland which encircles the area on three sides, and the dominant tree canopy of the remnant and regeneration forests found in the street reserves, road verges and in the gardens of the area. Lisgar Gardens makes a special contribution to an understanding of how the original bushland was modified and how the remnant bushland interacts with the introduced exotic landscape.

Pockets of recent development in the Study area are inconsistent with the scale and appearance of the early development and detract from the aesthetic qualities. The impact of the unsympathetic development is moderated by the dominance of the landscape.

## 5.0 Brief Site History

*The following history is a condensed version of that available in the Hornsby Quarry Stage 2 Statement of Heritage Impact for GHD by Artefact, dated November 2018.*

The Hornsby area is the traditional land of the Darug language group of Aboriginal people who lived on much of the northern region of Sydney. Colonisation had a devastating effect on Aboriginal people in the Hornsby region from 1789 onwards.

The first permanent settlers to the Hornsby area were the Higgins family. Thomas Edward Higgins (1800-1865) was the son of a convict transported on the Second Fleet. Higgins was promised a grant of 25 acres of land in the Hornsby area by Governor Brisbane in 1823, in the area called Old Mans Valley. The grant was formally recorded in 1835, though by that time Higgins had cleared the site and set up timber getting and sawmilling of the blue gums and ironbark trees for the Sydney market. He also developed orchards and market gardens on the land, taking advantage of the fertile volcanic soils of the area. These activities were continued by the Higgins extended family on part of the land up until the 1960s when the area was prepared for quarrying.

The Higgins Family built several houses and other structures within the site area between the 1860s and 1890s. On the slope rising to the east, the sandstone was carved to form a cool room, associated with Higgins family. The Higgins family also developed their own cemetery at the Hornsby Quarry site just to the western side of Old Mans Valley. In the 1890s, Dural and the Hills district was the chief supplier of citrus fruit for most of Australia.

There are also tracks and staircases winding into the valley to the south, and to the west of Old Mans Valley is a set of hand cut and split sandstone steps. They are thought to have been built in the 1930s as part of unemployment relief works, however some oral history evidence from Higgins family descendants stating that the stairs may have predated the Depression to the Higgins family need to access the village.

Mining for blue metal (dolerite) for road base and gravel began on site in 1903. Council bought up the land over 1969-80. Quarry Road was built in the 1970s. After massive extraction over the twentieth century,

the quality of extracted material at the quarry lessened by the 1990s, which lead to the closure of the quarry.

CSR owned the quarry lease from 1959 until 2002, when Hornsby Shire Council was required to purchase the site at a price of \$26 million, established through the Land and Environment Court. After 2003, the quarry site was fenced for safety reasons and the pit filled with water to create a lake. Bushwalking tracks, heritage walks, and 6kms of mountain bike trails have been developed in the Old Mans Valley area. The most recent activity within the study area has been Stages 1 and 2 of the current project, which included NorthConnex using the quarry pit to place fill.

## 6.0 Physical Evidence

*The following description is an edited update of the descriptions of the relevant heritage items in the Hornsby Heritage Register.*

Old Mans Valley is an eroded valley of volcanic rock surrounded by land being adapted as a park. A blue metal quarry occupied the lower portion of the valley until the 1990s, leaving deep excavation. The eastern section of excavation was partly infilled in the last decade to enable a sports field to be built. The peripheral land is mostly remnant forest, frequently compromised by noxious weeds. The Great North Walk passes through the western section of Hornsby Park.

The eastern part of the site was known as Hornsby Park since the inter-war period, but this name now covers a much larger area spreading west to include the former dolerite quarry and surrounding slopes. The enlarged park area is situated on mostly sloping land in Old Mans Valley. The inter-war eastern section is well laid out with sandstone flag paths, lawns, Doric columned pergolas and mixed border garden. The light standards are from the inter-war period. The park conserves a group of mature turpentine trees as remnant forest specimens. More recent plantings (from 1960's onward) are a mature Argyle Apple (*Eucalyptus cinerea*), jacaranda, golden cypress, Chinese elm, Japanese maple, camellias and agave. The park has well-maintained rose beds and a shrubbery. The commemorative Aleppo Pine tree, planted in 1937, was grown from seed taken from the original Lone Pine on the Anzac Peninsula. An ornamental fountain from 1970 commemorates the Bicentenary of Captain Cook's navigation by Australia. The centrepiece is a great 3m high basalt slab cut from the quarry below the park. Another plaque states: "Memorial to Mr Thomas Higgins the first settler in the area. He took up residence in Old Mans Valley (adjacent to this park) in 1836 and pioneered the timber and fruit industries." On the north side is a well laid drystone retaining wall supporting a higher walking and seating terrace. A rough path in the north west corner leads down to the eucalyptus/turpentine forest in Old Mans Valley. The 1960's pool was rebuilt in the early twenty-first century.

The sandstone steps leading west from the traditional Hornsby Park are interspersed with gently sloping sandy gravel paths with vertically set stone borders, traversing steep slopes leading down westwards toward the new sports field. Traverses are generally 5-8 sandstone steps leading over escapement leading to Old Mans Valley with approximately 1.8m wide dirt and gravel path between steps, six multiples formed from dressed sandstone (sparrow picked) and blocks generally laid over an alternating 1/3 - 2/3 joint system. The upper slope is defined by good to poor vertical stone border. The head of the path incorporates incised mark with initials "RN" in a square.



## Site photographs



Figure 6.1 upper end of the sandstone steps north of the Hornsby swimming pool.



Figure 6.2 the sandstone steps west of Hornsby TAFE showing good workmanship from the inter-war era



Figure 6.3 the sandstone steps about halfway down



Figure 6.4 typical thin soils with rock floaters above bedrock, site for the eastern skywalk pylons



Figure 6.5 the sandstone cliff south-east of the sports field



Figure 6.6 the cutting in a sandstone rock shelf likely cut by the Higgins Family to form a cold store, south-east of the sports field near Figure 6.5.



## Site photographs

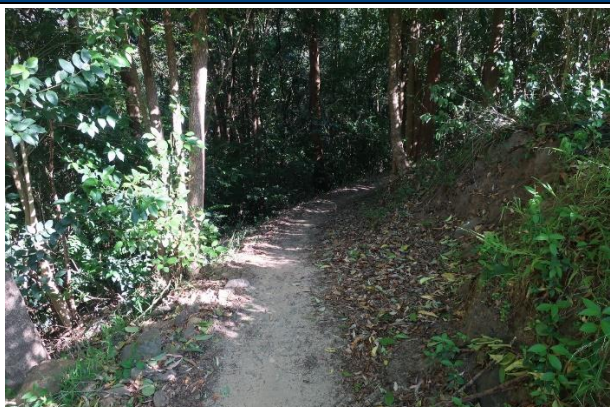


Figure 6.7 dirt path through privet and blue gum forest by the western edge of the Old Mans Valley precinct, looking north.

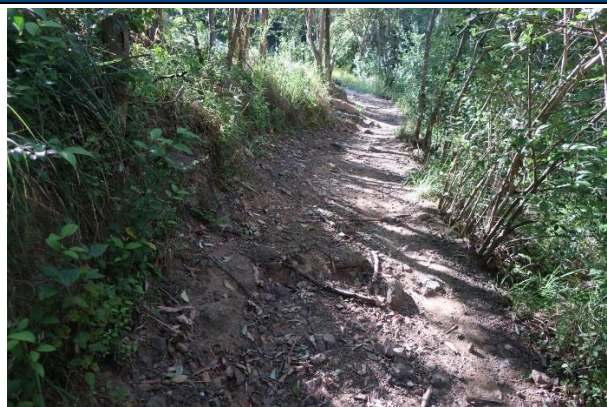


Figure 6.8 dirt path through privet and blue gum forest by the western edge of the Old Mans Valley precinct, looking south



Figure 6.9 westerly view from Old Mans Valley towards the Quarry West zone where minor landscape works would reconstruct the forest and direct surface water towards Berowra Creek, circled.



Figure 6.10 location for a bird hid on the northern slopes above the deeper quarry



Figure 6.11 Looking north-west towards the site of the proposed ramp in the west of Old Mans Valley



Figure 6.12 site of the proposed ramp in the west of Old Mans Valley



## Site photographs



Figure 6.13 the site of the zig-zag ramp descending from the western edge of Old Mans Valley is occupied by privet and manufactured boardwalks.

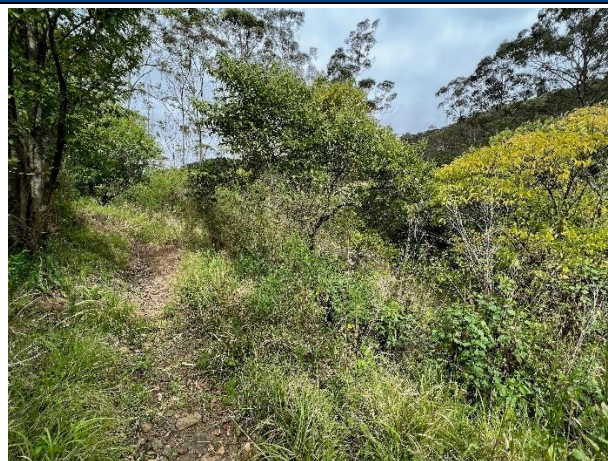


Figure 6.14 the site of the zig-zag ramp descending from the western edge of Old Mans Valley is occupied by privet and manufactured boardwalks.



Figure 6.15 the fire trail approximately 100m south of the sports field, looking south



Figure 6.16 the fire trail near the intersection with Quarry Road, looking north.

## 7.0 The proposal

The proposed additional development works, designed by Clouston Associates, a division of Beveridge Williams, includes the following work:

- Construction of a lightweight viewing platform on the western end of the Northern Mound, above the deep former quarry. A lightweight bird watching platform would be built on the eastern end of the Northern Mound.
- Minor landscape works to the West Platform area, west of the deep former quarry, to help drain surface water away from the former quarry.
- Various light-weight boardwalks to the south and east of the deep former quarry.
- Equal access zig zag ramp east of the deep former quarry, with a parallel set of steps to improve pedestrian access to see the quarry landscape.

- Construction of a skywalk and boardwalk with twenty new footings for steel pylons needing to be excavated. The skywalk would have steel trusses extending between the pylons to support the elevated boardwalk.
- The dirt fire trail would be covered in bitumen for improved access to the sports facilities.
- Stabilisation and landscape to the cliff and bank on the east side of the sports oval.
- Landscaping around the approved carparking by the former crusher plant.

The aim of the proposal is to adapt the former quarry as a public recreation reserve with substantially improved habitat for indigenous species.

## 7.1 Documentation Evaluated

The drawing package S20-0043 in Volume 01 to 10, Issue D, dated 30 September 2022, prepared by Clouston Associates, was reviewed in the preparation of this report:

## 8.0 Assessment of Heritage Impact

### 8.1 Introduction

This Heritage Impact Statement has been prepared in response to the impact assessment criteria in the following documents: the *Hornsby Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013*, the *Hornsby Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013* and the NSW Heritage Division guidelines, *Altering Heritage Assets* and *Statements of Heritage Impact*, contained within the NSW Heritage Manual.

### 8.2 Overview of Potential Heritage Impacts

PROPOSED WORKS	HERITAGE IMPACT
There would be a permanent bird hide at the overland flow area at the western side of the upper slopes of the former quarry.	<p>Neutral heritage impact</p> <p>The bird hide would be a light-weight structure with steel footings and a timber structure. It would be a small structure dominated by surrounded trees. The design has a low visual impact with dark muted colours in the timber composite boarding. Rock and dense planting would be used to imply naturalism and minimise its visual impact. The bird hide is intended to increase public appreciation of the environmental heritage at Hornsby Park</p>
There would be a permanent bird hide on the north-east upper slopes of the deeper former quarry.	<p>Neutral heritage impact</p> <p>The bird hide would be a light-weight structure with steel footings and a timber structure. It would be a small structure dominated by surrounded trees. The design has a low visual impact with dark muted colours in the timber composite boarding. Rock and extra planting would be used to imply naturalism and minimise its visual impact. The bird hide is intended to increase public appreciation of the environmental heritage at Hornsby Park.</p>



PROPOSED WORKS	HERITAGE IMPACT
<p>For an area west of the deep former quarry, known as the Quarry West zone and coloured light blue on plan HPE_REF_LA_STE_02.04 a 1.5m wide bush trail has been approved. Further landscaping is proposed to assist with draining surface water away from the former quarry, and towards Berowra Creek in the western overflow design by the civil engineer. This includes massed planting of wetland plants over the drainage area.</p> <p>A low boardwalk connecting the bird hide to Berowra Valley National Park would be built. The bird hide would be constructed with a steel frame and 2.5m high composite timber panels. The structure would be screened by planting for minimum visibility.</p> <p>There would be additional landscaping including planting to reconstruct a blue gum high forest community. A small area would be given to hardstand and fixtures such as a bubble, picnic table and bins. Minor landscape works will assist with diverting surface water towards Berowra Creek, and away from the former quarry.</p>	<p>Positive heritage impact</p> <p>The drainage works would minimise surface water filling the former quarry. This ensures that the former quarry can be interpreted, and they will provide for public safety.</p> <p>The proposed works will provide habitat for native species and restore the type of forest present more than a century ago. The minor landscape works will direct surface water away from the deeper former quarry that the landscape there can be available for use on most days of the year.</p>
<p>The steps and zig-zag ramp descending from the level of the playground westward down to the former deeper quarry would have 3m wide hardstand paths and switchbacks amid massed planting of blackbutt forest community species over most of this area, and blue gum forest community species over the lower section.</p>	<p>Positive heritage impact</p> <p>The land where the zig-zag ramp is proposed is currently covered in low-medium rise weed species including privet. These works will not remove elements of environmental significance, and will leave the site better vegetated with a reconstructed indigenous forest community.</p> <p>The ramp will provide equal access to the former quarry, as well as a more direct stepped route across the site to the deeper quarry hole. This will enhance the public appreciation of the environmental heritage of Hornsby Park. It will enhance drainage, ecological restoration and local habitat.</p>
<p>An area in Old Manas Valley, north-west of the zig-zag ramp leading west from the playground towards the deeper former quarry, would be landscaped with a reconstruction of a blackbutt ecological community. See drawing HPE_REF_LA_OMV_60.01</p>	<p>Positive heritage impact</p> <p>This site is currently sloping land supporting exotic weeds such as privet. The proposed works will provide habitat for native species and restore the type of forest present more than a century ago.</p>
<p>An additional area around the former crushing plant would be landscaped for parkland use.</p> <p>A composite timber deck would be built around the former crusher plant.</p> <p>Areas of turf would be planted, some with capacity for functions / overflow parking.</p> <p>Paved paths and retaining walls would be constructed.</p> <p>The topography would be used for an abseiling wall with stair access.</p> <p>A play area, picnic spaces and bike hire stand would also be constructed.</p>	<p>Positive heritage impact</p> <p>The proposed works will provide habitat for native species and restore the type of forest present more than a century ago. The grassed and paved spaces would be useful for the community. The planting of blackbutt community trees would enclose the social spaces, and give the sense of continuous forest cover over the southern section of Hornsby Park. No significant vegetation would be removed as part of these works.</p>

PROPOSED WORKS	HERITAGE IMPACT
Arcs of mass planting around the grassed spaces would reconstruct a blackbutt ecological community.	
The construction of the skywalk will cause approximately twenty footings for steel pylons to be excavated in the ground and bedrock in the south-east section of the site. Some of these excavation site are within the Hornsby West Side Conservation Area. Steel trusses would support walkways between the pylons. The skywalk and boardwalk will be visible within the forest.	<p>Acceptable heritage impact</p> <p>The excavation will be limited and sited to avoid known and potential archaeological features and sites of key natural beauty, such as the rock shelf. Detailed site investigations led to a design with minimal impact on indigenous trees and other environmental heritage. While the skywalk will be visible among the trees, it will enable closer examination of the forest, and greater public appreciation.</p>
The covering of the dirt fire trail with bitumen to improve the amenity of this track for vehicles. Council intends that access for vehicles be limited to the site from Quarry Road.	<p>Neutral heritage impact</p> <p>The dirt track was established in the 1970s and is not as aspect of significance in the landscape item or the Hornsby West Side Conservation Area. The covering of the dirt texture will have no adverse heritage impact. The addition of bitumen to the track will have no adverse heritage impact.</p>
The sandstone cliff/embankment south-east of the sports field would be landscaped for visual amenity and to manage the drainage of surface water. Adjacent hardstand for vehicles is approved. New gabions would act as bollards and protect the new planting and soil from erosion. Subsoil drainage would connect to the site-wide system. New massed planting of up to 3m width of blackbutt community species at the bottom of the exposed cliff would soften the appearance of the sports facilities.	<p>Positive heritage impact</p> <p>The new soil and planting will augment the naturalism of the environmental heritage of the enlarged Hornsby Park. The planting will screen the sports facilities from nearby forested areas. The drainage system will protect the new soil and plants from erosion. The planting of indigenous blackbutt community species will enhance the habitat of Hornsby Park.</p>

### 8.3 Evaluation of the Guidelines of the NSW Heritage Division

The following assessment is based on the assessment criteria set out in the Heritage Division publication, 'Statements of Heritage Impact', contained within the NSW Heritage Manual. The standard format has been adapted to suit the circumstances of this application.

*The following aspects of the proposal respect or enhance the heritage significance of the item or conservation area for the following reasons:*

- The vegetation of the landscape heritage items will improve the ecological value of the land enormously. Much of the land has noxious weeds predominating and the bush care and reconstruction of indigenous ecological communities will contribute natural heritage value to the wider site, and the sites of this review of environmental factors in particular.
- The drainage works in this review of environmental factors will protect reconstructed indigenous habitat, and be a protective measure against the deeper former quarry filling with excessive surface water.

- The works will allow equal access to a wider area of Hornsby Park. This will enhance public appreciation of the ecological communities as existing and approved, and includes additional planting of indigenous forest types.
- The additional structures within this review of environmental factors will enhance community use of the park, without any adverse impact on contributing elements of the items of environmental heritage or the conservation area. These additional public spaces will be screened by vegetation from other areas of the park.

*The following aspects of the proposal could detrimentally impact on heritage significance. The reasons are explained as well as the measures to be taken to minimise impacts:*

- The excavation for the sky walk will make holes in the sandstone rocks and bedrocks of the sclerophyll forest of eucalypts and turpentines. The design anticipates that between two and five indigenous trees will be removed in the vicinity of pylons 8, 15 and 16 for the construction of the skywalk. Nonetheless, the skywalk will enhance public appreciation of the conserved forest, which will enhance its social value. The skywalk will be screened by existing vegetation in distant views, so it is unlikely to be seen as an intrusive element. The removal of a small number of indigenous trees will be greatly outweighed by the planting of very many indigenous trees across the larger Hornsby Park site.

### **8.3.1 New Landscape Works and Features (Including Carparks and Fences)**

- *How has the impact of the new work on the heritage significance of the existing landscape been minimised?*
- *Has evidence (archival and physical) of previous landscape work been investigated? Are previous works being reinstated?*
- *Has the advice of a consultant skilled in the conservation of heritage landscapes been sought? If so, have their recommendations been implemented?*
- *Are any known or potential archaeological deposits affected by the landscape works? If so, what alternatives have been considered?*
- *How does the work impact on views to, and from, adjacent heritage items?*

#### **Comment:**

The works in this this review of environmental factors will have no adverse impact on the elements of the items of environmental heritage that contribute to the significance of the items. Care has been undertaken to identify significant vegetation, geological formations, habitats, elements of historical archaeology and potential Aboriginal deposits.

The landform is a cultural landscape dominated by the mining phase, an also bearing cultural layers of the small-scale agricultural phase and Depression era works. The remnants of these historical phases will be retained, in addition to actual and potential Aboriginal deposits. The major area of work to reinstate aspects of significance on the items of environmental heritage it the reconstruction of known indigenous forest types. This will increase the quality and quantity of indigenous trees on the site of works. Umwelt anticipates that there will be no adverse impact on the archaeology of the site. If significant archaeological

relics are uncovered, the recommendations in the archaeological report make the necessary procedures clear.

Hornsby Council has employed a large team of expert archaeologists with skills in Aboriginal and historical archaeology, arborists, landscape assessors and landscape designers in these adaptive works to enhance the park.

The skywalk will be visible in relatively short views within the park, and is likely to be glimpsed in part from high vantage points in the west, north and eastern sections of the park. Nonetheless, the skywalk will be constructed among the trees, and is not intended to dominate them. The skywalk is intended to enhance public appreciation of the forests of the park, and so enhance its social significance. Other built elements in this review of environmental factors would be designed to be screened with new planting.

#### **8.4 Heritage Objectives of the Hornsby LEP 2013**

The proposed development is acceptable, from a heritage perspective, for the following reasons:

- Retains the elements of the enlarged Hornsby Park that contribute to its significance as items of environmental significance. This includes potential Aboriginal deposits as identified to date, known archaeological deposits and works, significant landforms of natural and fabricated origin, and the indigenous ecological communities.
- The site of state significance would be avoided, and there would be no impact on the Higgins Family Cemetery.
- The new fabricated works would be screened by existing and proposed vegetation. These works are intended to enhance public enjoyment of the park for recreation and interpretation of the natural and cultural significance of the site.

The proposal is, therefore, consistent with the relevant heritage objectives of the Hornsby LEP 2013, which are:

##### ***5.10 Heritage conservation***

###### ***(1) Objectives***

*The objectives of this clause are as follows:*

*(a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Hornsby,*

*(b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,*

#### **8.4.1 Heritage Conservation Areas**

The subject property is located within the Hornsby West Side Conservation Area (Mt Errington Precinct).

The works in this review of environmental factors will have no adverse heritage impact on the tree canopy or bushland, which are the relevant site elements that contribute to the conservation area.



## 8.5 Division 5.1 Processes under EP&A Act

Hornsby Shire Council owns and is responsible for the enlarged Hornsby Park site. Development without consent applies to activities with little adverse environmental impact undertaken by local government or other agencies as part of their regular responsibilities. Environmental assessment of these activities is undertaken under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The EP&A Act defines activity as:

- *the use of land*
- *the subdivision of land*
- *the erection of a building*
- *the carrying out of a work*
- *the demolition of a building or work.*

Council has authority to determine this a review of environmental factors (REF).

## 9.0 Conclusion

This review of environmental factors finds that the proposed works in drawing package S20-0043 in Volume 01 to 10, Issue D, dated 30 September 2022, prepared by Clouston Associates will have an overall positive impact on the heritage significance of Hornsby Park and the Hornsby West Side Conservation Area.

The design of the works has been carefully considered to retain the significant fabric of the site, natural and cultural. The works include new planting to enhance the area of reconstructed indigenous forests, to screen built items from distant view, and enhance the spatial character of the site. Proposed built elements will be visually recessive and will not dominate the park.

Views across the park and from vantage points outside will be enhanced a balance of vistas, open spaces and new planting of large-growing tree species.

The proposed works are consistent with the heritage objectives of the *Hornsby LEP 2013* and the Hornsby DCP 2014. In Umwelt's view, Hornsby Council has good reason to approve the review of environmental factors with respect to landscape and built heritage.

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