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**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport – Airspace and flight path design

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Technical paper 9: Heritage

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Terms and abbreviations

| Term/abbreviation | Definition |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2016 EIS | 2015-2016 Western Sydney Airport Environmental Impact Statement |
| Aboriginal Cultural Values Focus Area | That part of the airspace study area that falls within the Deerubbin, Tharawal and Gandangara LALC boundaries as identified in Figure 1.10 |
| AGL | above ground level. Altitude information is shown with reference to AGL which is taken to be at runway level, which is approximately 260 feet or 80 metres above sea level |
| AHIMS | Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System – the database of known Aboriginal sites |
| Airspace Study Area | The area identified in Figure 1.9 being the EIS study area |
| ANSP | Air Navigation Services Provider |
| AP | Aboriginal Place – a place of special significance gazetted under the <i>National Park and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (NSW) |
| ATC | Air Traffic Control |
| ATSIHP Act | <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i> (Cth) |
| BMCC | Blue Mountains City Council |
| BP | Before Present. A term used in radiocarbon dating of archaeological sites to mean a specified point in time before A.D. 1950 (the origin of practical radiocarbon dating techniques) |
| CHL | Commonwealth Heritage List |
| Cth | Commonwealth of Australia |
| Darug | Alternative spelling ‘Dharug’. The name of the people who are the traditional owners of the area now known as the Cumberland Plain |
| DAWE | [Former] Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Australian Government) |
| DEOH | Defence Establishment Orchard Hills |
| Dharug | Alternative spellings ‘Darug’. The name of the people who are the traditional owners of the area now known as the Cumberland Plain. Also, the name of the language spoken by these people |
| DITRDC | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Australian Government) |
| EPA Act | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (NSW) |
| EPBC Act | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |

| Term/abbreviation | Definition |
|-------------------|---|
| EPA | Environment Protection Authority |
| First Nations | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People |
| Gandangara | Alternative spellings Gundungurra, Gundungara, Gandangarra, Gandangara. The Aboriginal traditional owners of land that includes present day Goulburn, Wollondilly Shire, parts of the Blue Mountains and the Southern Highlands. They are the southwestern neighbours of the Dharug |
| GBMA | Greater Blue Mountains Area (World Heritage and National Heritage Place) |
| GIS | Geographical information systems |
| Gundungurra | Alternative spellings Gundungara, Gandangarra, Gandangara. The Aboriginal traditional owners of land that includes present day Goulburn, Wollondilly Shire, parts of the Blue Mountains and the Southern Highlands. They are the southwestern neighbours of the Dharug |
| ha | hectare |
| HIAL | high intensity approach lighting |
| HNSW | Heritage NSW |
| ICOMOS | International Council on Monuments and Sites |
| ILS | instrument landing systems |
| km | kilometre |
| KSA | Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport |
| LALC | Local Aboriginal Land Council |
| LEP | Local Environmental Plan |
| LGA | Local Government Area |
| m | metre |
| MAP | Million Annual Passengers |
| MNES | Matters of National Environmental Significance |
| MSL | Mean Sea Level |
| NDB | Non-Directional Beacon |
| NEV | national environmental significance |
| NHL | National Heritage List |
| NP | National Park |
| NPW Act | <i>National Park and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)</i> |
| NPWS | National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW |
| NSW | New South Wales |

| Term/abbreviation | Definition |
|-------------------|---|
| OHS | Occupational Health and Safety |
| OUV | Outstanding Universal Value |
| PAAM | Plan for Aviation Airspace Management |
| RAAF | Royal Australian Air Force |
| RRO | Reciprocal Runway Operations |
| SHI | State Heritage Inventory |
| SHR | State Heritage Register |
| SIA | social impact analysis |
| Study Area | Refer to Airspace Study Area and Aboriginal Cultural Values Focus Area |
| Tharawal | Aboriginal group traditionally from the south-eastern and southern Sydney Basin identified by the Dharawal language |
| TMA | terminal manoeuvring area |
| WHA | World Heritage Area |
| WHL | World Heritage List |
| WSI | Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport |

Executive summary

The project

The Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) Airspace and Flight Path Design is being developed to facilitate aircraft operations at WSI. This report investigates the potential impact of the proposed flight paths on cultural values associated with heritage places and practices within the WSI airspace study area.

Legislation/policy/guidelines

This technical paper has been prepared to address the requirements of the Guidelines in relation to cultural heritage, as shown in Table ES.1. The requirements primarily relating to heritage are outlined in section 7.3 of the Minister's Guidelines (EPBC 2022/9143).

This technical paper will inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in accordance with Section 87 of the EPBC Act 1999 (EPBC 2022/9143). The EIS will assess the noise and visual impacts on communities, ecological and heritage impacts, and the effects on local air quality and impacts of aircraft emissions arising from the Action. The project will be assessed to meet the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC) and Regulations, Condition 16 of the Airport Plan, and the Minister's Guidelines.

The heritage sites and places considered have been identified through statutory lists compiled under Commonwealth and New South Wales (NSW) State legislation including:

Table ES.1 Commonwealth and New South Wales (NSW) State legislation and resulting heritage listings

| Legislation | List |
|--|---|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i> | World Heritage List National Heritage List Commonwealth Heritage List |
| <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)</i> | Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System Aboriginal Places (gazetted under s84) |
| <i>Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)</i> | State Heritage Register |
| <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)</i> | Local Environmental Plans (heritage schedules) |

Existing environment

Much of the airspace study area is already overflown by aircraft from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport (KSA) but also from Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Richmond and Bankstown Airport, however despite this there is little or no baseline information on the impacts to underlying heritage places. Additional areas will be overflown by large aircraft at lower altitudes as aircraft approach and depart from the WSI airport. Key concerns raised by First Nations knowledge holders and by owners and managers of heritage properties include:

- the potential for increased noise at heritage places especially where the cultural values relate to connecting with nature, spirituality (including but not limited to connections between the skyscape and landscape), experiencing a sense of serenity and wellbeing, and
- the potential for long term, as yet unquantifiable impacts to heritage fabric particularly in relation to Aboriginal rock art and historic sandstone buildings.

Assessment methodology

The assessment involved a desk top review of the range and nature of heritage places in the study area as well as consultation with Dharug, Gundungurra and Tharawal First Nations knowledge holders and a range of Aboriginal organisations including Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) with a mandate for cultural heritage protection.

There are 13,538 Aboriginal sites within the airspace study area that are recorded in Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), and this number is likely to be a substantial under estimation as the Greater Blue Mountains Area (GBMA) and other National Parks within the airspace study area have never been systematically surveyed for Aboriginal sites. Consultation with First Nations knowledge holders and stakeholders assisted in identifying places of particular cultural value. This consultation resulted in a list of places of particular cultural value that were considered in the design of the flight paths and where possible, direct over flight of these places has been avoided. Sites of archaeological value such as artefact scatters were not carried forward for assessment as these would not be directly or indirectly impacted by the project.

A review of all available statutory lists revealed over 19,000 historical heritage places in the airspace study area. The assessed values of these sites were considered along with a consideration of their fabric and likely vulnerability to impact from the flight paths. There are 2 World Heritage Areas (WHAs): the GBMA and the Opera House, in addition to 4 properties (Hyde Park Barracks, Cockatoo Island, old Government House and Domain, and the Great North Road) that form the NSW component of the Australian Convict WHA. All WHAs apart from the GBMA have been avoided by the flight paths. Impact to the Outstanding Universal Value of the GBMA is specifically assessed in WSP 2023.

There are 18 places on the National Heritage List, a further 89 places on the Commonwealth List, and 273 places on the NSW State Heritage Register. Of all these places, most occur at a distance greater than 10 kilometres (km) from WSI. A total of 18,888 heritage places are included on Local Environmental Plans as places of cultural value to local communities.

Main findings

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Several key places of concern were identified by the First Nations knowledge holders. These places were:

- Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place, Yellomundee Regional Park
- Red Hands Cave Aboriginal Place
- Emu engraving site, Faulconbridge
- Bents Basin State Conservation Area
- Linden Ridge (multiple sites)
- The Three Sisters (Seven sisters) Aboriginal Place
- Upper Kedumba Valley Aboriginal Place
- Kings Tableland – rock art
- Emu Cave Aboriginal Place
- Traditional walking tracks (now roads, often connecting significant sites) and one described as a ceremonial circuit is articulated in Appendix C and which connects several of the places listed above (see Figure 7.2)
- Appin Massacre Site – now protected as the Appin Massacre Cultural Landscape on the SHR (just outside the airspace study area)
- Shaws Creek Rock Shelter Aboriginal Place
- Euroka near Glenbrook Aboriginal Place
- Mt Yengo (outside the airspace study area)
- Mermaid Pools Women’s site on the southern edge of the airspace study area)

- Thirlmere Lakes
- Cubbitch Barta National Estate Area.

Of these places, Appin massacre site are outside the airspace study area and will not be adversely affected by the proposed flight paths which does not directly overfly the place. Mt Yengo is outside the airspace study area and the mountain peak itself will not be overflown, however, it is within 2.7 km of a flight path. Aircraft will be high at an altitude of 20,000 ft descending to 17,500 ft however concerns were raised during First Nations consultation regarding the proximity of the flight paths to the many ceremonial and spiritual sites associated with Mt Yengo and it was requested that consideration be given during detailed design to moving the flight path slightly to the west as it passes Mt Yengo.

The proposed flight paths have avoided overflying the following Aboriginal Places (APs): The Three Sisters, Red Hands Cave, Kings Tableland, the Upper Kedumba Valley, as well as the Linden Ridge sites and the Emu engraving at Faulconbridge. Potential impact to the cultural values of Thirlmere Lakes and Mermaid Pools is considered to be negligible. These places are on the southern edge of the airspace study area and are not directly overflown.

While aircraft avoid direct over flight of the Three Sisters formation, aircraft will be visible crossing through the expansive vistas viewed from Echo Point. It is estimated that they will be over 10,000 feet (ft) above Mean Sea Level (MSL) as they pass over Mt Solitary. In experiential terms this means that they will appear as small and distant; however, they are likely to still be heard from Echo Point.

The emu rock engraving site at Faulconbridge (AHIMS #45-5-4910 is not directly under the proposed flight paths however the location is close to a proposed departure transition area for WSI which means that it could be overflown depending on conditions. It is close to the outer edge of the proposed flight path for non-jet aircraft departing Runway 05 during the day- evening period however frequency of flight is anticipated to be low (~2-6) time passes approximately 80 metres (m) south-west of the site. It is also close to overnight departure flights from Runway 23 however aircrafts will be relatively high climbing between 10500 feet and 13300 feet an infrequent with only maximum of 1 flight per night from this runway. Noise is expected to around 60–65 dBA. Knowledge holders noted that around March to April was the most important time for the connection between the emu in the sky and this site. Aircraft flying over this site during this time would be detrimental to the cultural values of the site.

Bents Basin is a culturally significant spiritual or Dreaming site it is also a contemporary gathering place for the Gundungurra, Tharawal and Dharug families. The proposed flight paths pose an unacceptable, severe impact on the cultural values of the place. The site will be directly overflown and combined with the height of aircraft and the expected frequency of aircraft arrival and departures (over 200 flights per day by 2055) will have a severe impact on the peace and tranquillity of this significant cultural place. There is also potential for impact from emissions on the rock art in this area and on the water body that is the home of Gurungaty a Dreamtime being whose story line journeys from the south coast through the southern highlands and across the GBA to the western side of the mountains. The scour pool at Bents Basin, known to its First Nation owners as Gulguer is a sacred site and part of an Aboriginal creation story that traverses the lands of Tharawal, Gundungurra and Dharug people from the south coast through the southern highlands and westward from Bents Basin through the GBMA. The impacts on Bents Basin will severely impact the cultural values of the place and without removing flight paths from this area it is unlikely that minor changes at the detailed design phase will be able to effectively mitigate the impacts on the cultural values of this place.

The current proposal does not avoid impact to Euroka/Nye Gnorang, the Emu Cave AP, Shaws Creek AP in Yellomundee Regional Park and Bents Basin. These are sacred sites that knowledge holders have advised are culturally significant to them, both in terms of their spiritual meaning, and also the contemporary practices carried out at these places. The likely impacts to these places are expected to be moderate to severe and it is therefore recommended that adjustments to the proposed flight paths are made to avoid these significant places. It seems likely that the impact due particularly to noise and frequency of aircraft traffic will have a substantial impact on the values of the Shaws Creek – Yellomundee area and on Bents Basin which are important places for Dharug women and in the case of Bents Basin to Tharawal and Gundungurra women as well.

The airspace study area contains an extensive suite of Aboriginal rock art which is concentrated in the areas dominated by sandstone geology. However, while there is general understanding that airborne pollution can impact both sandstone and traditional pigments used in rock art, the desktop review revealed little specific research into the impacts of aircraft emissions on Aboriginal rock art. Multiyear research is recommended to monitor and understand conservation issues related to emissions associated with the arrival and departure flight paths for WSI. A number of recommendations are made to mitigate potential impacts.

Historic heritage

A large number of historic places of primarily non-Indigenous cultural value were also identified in the airspace study area. Many of these are already overflowed by existing flight paths. Many others are clustered in residential areas such as Katoomba, and are, to the extent possible, avoided by the proposed future flight paths. However, questions remain regarding the long-term impacts of emissions (or cumulative impacts given existing flight paths) on the fabric of some historic structures, particularly sandstone structures and historic gardens. For the most part, a meaningful understanding of cumulative impacts especially from noise and emissions on heritage places is not possible because despite these factors impacting many heritage sites and places since at least 1924 (with the inception of the Kingsford Smith Airport (KSA)), no specific or long-term research could be found documenting such impacts.

The fact that many historic heritage places occur in populated areas such as Katoomba means that the first principle of flight path design has served to protect them from direct overflight, although in some cases aircraft may still be visible in the distance and will be heard. Windsor and Richmond townships are exception to this. While the Richmond township contains a number of locally significant heritage items, there are a range of factors such as the proximity of the RAAF base that restrains the flight path options in this area. Aircraft will be relatively high by this point, however, at greater than 10,000ft (above MSL) and there is expected to be less than 10 flights per day by 2055.

Mulgoa is an historic rural village with several significant historic heritage properties such as Fernhill Estate and St Thomas's Church. These properties will be subject to moderate impacts as they will be directly overflowed by aircraft departing overnight from Runway 05 at relatively low altitudes (2,500–5,000ft) by 10–20 flights per day by 2055. Some aircraft may fly lower altitude depending on weather and operations conditions. There will be some daytime flights at descending from 8000 ft to 5000 ft arriving to Runway 05. The expected noise levels will shift from the tranquillity of a rural location to disruptions of approximately 65 dBA. The impact of emissions on physical fabric particularly of sandstone buildings is undetermined but of concern. It is recommended that the flight paths be reconsidered, so as to avoid Fernhill Estate and Mulgoa.

Unfortunately, as with the case of Aboriginal rock art there is little available information about the impacts of aircraft emissions on heritage building fabric. In particular, emissions may be expected to have some impact over the long term on sandstone heritage items and possibly other building fabric such as traditional limestone mortars, but such impact is currently unable to be quantified.

Conclusion

The WSI flight paths will fly over a large number of significant sites and places, however in many cases existing flight paths already traverse the airspace above these sites and places. In addition, many types of heritage places are considered robust in the face of impacts such as air pollution, noise and visual impacts. In most cases aircraft will be at such a distance as to render the impact from these factors as minimal. However, the places closest to the airport are likely to experience higher impacts. A range of recommendations have been made to understand the long-term cumulative impacts, mitigate likely impacts and maximise the retention of cultural values and these are described in Chapter 7. Developing our understanding of long-term impacts will assist property managers and owners to adapt management of heritage places to ensure sustainability and will enable planners and regulators to more effectively assess future cumulative impacts.

Many historic properties are located in towns centres and the flight path design principles that seek to avoid population centres have also worked to protect such places from major impact. It is inevitable that some properties however will suffer some impact from noise given that in many cases to the west and southwest of WSI the properties are located in rural contexts. Any noise mitigation modifications of heritage buildings may involve secondary impacts to their heritage values and individual building assessments and heritage approvals from Heritage NSW may be required prior to such adaptive works.

Several sites of particular significance to Aboriginal stakeholders were identified in the course of this study. Recommendations have been made to avoid direct flight over these places so that any impacts from noise, visual intrusion and emissions are minimised.

There will also be impact to the land–sky connection of the ‘Emu in the Sky’ story. Although direct overflight of the Emu engraving at Faulconbridge has been avoided, by avoiding population centres, it is within the flight path corridor and there will be physical intrusion of aircraft between the engraving and the constellation except when the constellation is directly overhead. The flight paths also transect Emu Cave AP.

By far the greatest impact to Aboriginal cultural values identified occurs outside the GBMA at Bents Basin and Yellomundee. The impacts on Bents Basin and the Shaws Creek Yellomundee AP will be of major concern to First Nations people and particularly the Dharug, Gundungurra and Tharawal women who have stressed the cultural importance of these places and the requirement for peace, tranquillity and connection to nature to maintain the cultural values of these places. The impacts on Bents Basin will severely impact the cultural values of the place and without removing flight paths from this area it is unlikely that minor changes at the detailed design phase will be able to effectively mitigate the impacts on the cultural values of this place. It is noted that while outside the GBMA Bents Basin is connected to sites within the WHA through a creation story that connects sites that are of significance to Gundungurra, Tharawal and Dharug First Nations.

In relation to the cultural values of the GBMA this report notes that the internationally recognised values (or the Outstanding Universal Values) are the natural values of the property, and these have been assessed elsewhere (WSP 2023b Technical paper 14: Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Technical paper 14)). However, there are increasing calls to recognise the cultural values, some of which are referred to in the statement of integrity for the GBMA, and many of which have been subject to assessment over the past several decades. Unfortunately, the baseline data needed to assess the likely cumulative impact of aircraft emissions on the valuable and finite suite of Aboriginal rock within the GBMA is not available and it is recommended that specimen sites are identified prior to flight commencing which can be used to establish the baseline data necessary to track any related changes.

Chapter 1 Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the proposed airspace and flight path design for the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI). This includes the background to WSI and its accompanying airspace and flight path design (the project) which impacts on the existing Sydney Basin airspace. It describes the key features and objectives of the project and identifies the purpose and structure of this technical paper.

1.1 Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport

1.1.1 Background

In 2016, the then Australian Minister for Urban Infrastructure approved development for a new airport for Western Sydney, now known as the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI), under the *Airports Act 1996* (Commonwealth). The site of the new airport (the Airport Site) covers approximately 1,780 hectares (ha) at Badgerys Creek, as shown in Figure 1.1. The Airport Site is located within the Liverpool local government area (LGA).

Following the finalisation of the *Western Sydney Airport – Environmental Impact Statement* (2016 EIS), the Western Sydney Airport – Airport Plan (Airport Plan) was approved in December 2016. The Airport Plan authorised the construction and operation of the Stage 1 Development. It also set the requirements for the further development and assessment of the preliminary airspace design for WSI. The Australian Government has committed to developing and delivering WSI by the end of 2026.

The 2016 approval provided for the on-ground development of Stage 1 Development of WSI (a single runway and terminal facility capable of initially handling up to 10 million passengers per year) utilising indicative ‘proof of concept’ flight paths. These flight paths, presented in the 2016 EIS demonstrated that WSI could operate safely and efficiently in the Sydney Basin. WSI will be a 24-hour international airport and will:

- cater for ongoing growth in demand for air travel, particularly in the rapidly expanding Western Sydney region, as well as providing additional aviation capacity in the Sydney region more broadly
- provide a more accessible and convenient international and domestic airport facility for the large and growing population of Western Sydney
- provide long term economic and employment opportunities in the surrounding area
- accelerate the development of critical infrastructure and urban development.

The Australian Government has committed to developing and delivering WSI by the end of 2026.

The design and assessment process for the next phase of the airspace design (referred to as the preliminary airspace design) was set by Condition 16 of the Airport Plan. This included the future airspace design principles and the establishment of an Expert Steering Group. Key to these design principles was the need to minimise the impact on the community and other airspace users while maximising safety, efficiency and capacity of WSI and the Sydney Basin airspace. The airspace design must also meet the requirements of Airservices Australia and civil aviation safety regulatory standards.

Led by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA), the Expert Steering Group has developed the preliminary flight paths and airspace arrangements for WSI (the project). The preliminary airspace design is the subject of the Draft EIS and this assessment on the impacts to human health.

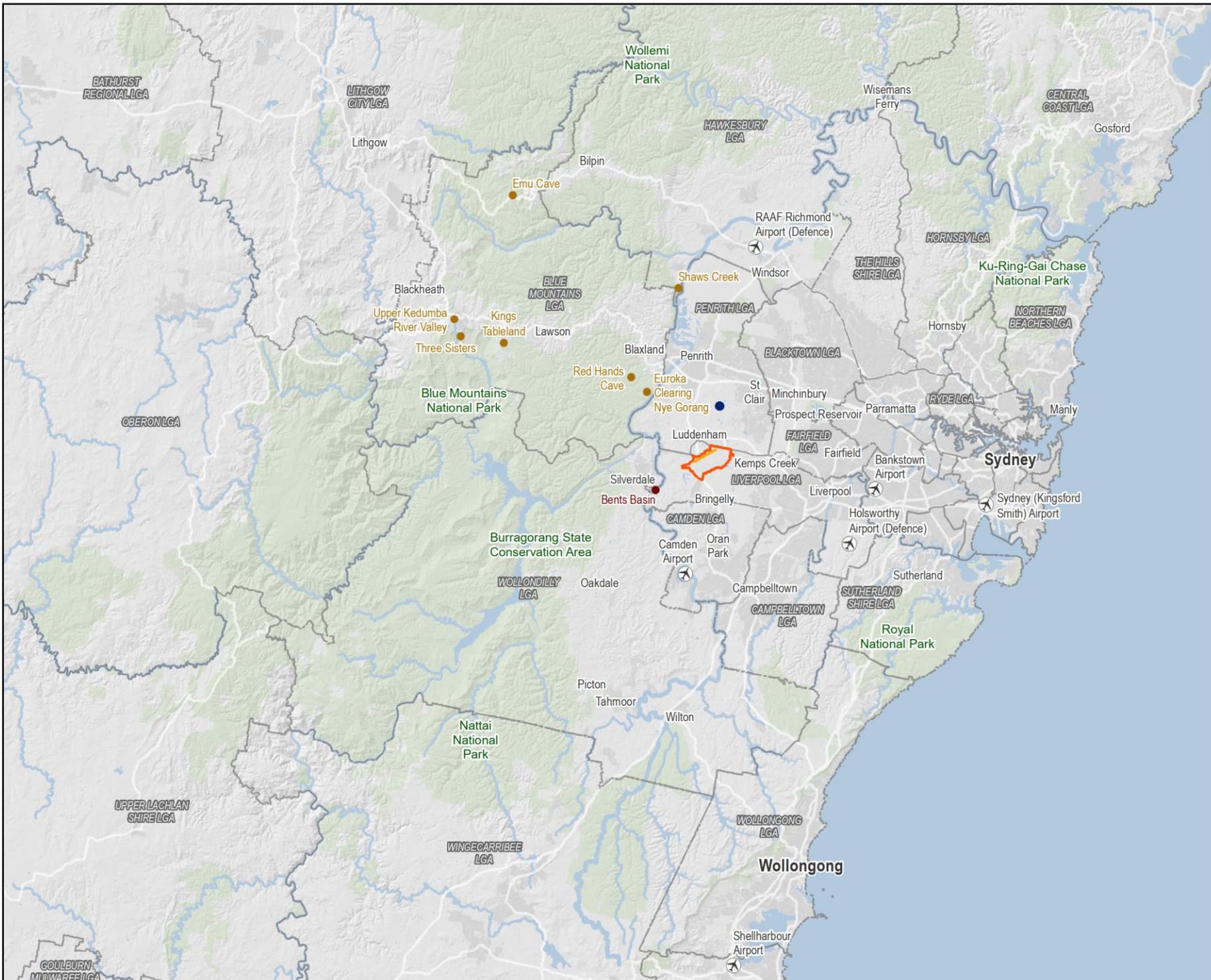


Figure 1.1

Regional Context of the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport

- Legend**
- WSI Runway
 - Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport land boundary
 - State local government area (LGA)
 - Orchard Hills Defence Establishment
 - Aboriginal Places raised during consultation (NPW Act)
 - Site of Aboriginal significance



0 10 20 km

Coordinate system: GDA 1994 NSW Lambert
 Scale ratio correct when printed at A4
 1:750,000 Date: 27/06/2023

Data sources: - DTSC, DCS, Geoscience Australia, Esri, HERE, Garmin, IG, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community, Airbus, USGS, NOAA, NASA, CIGAR, NCEAS, NLS, GE, NMA, Geonames, Esri, USA, USI and the GIS user Community

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1.1.2 The Airport

1.1.2.1 Stage 1 Development

The Stage 1 Development of WSI has been approved and is limited to single runway operations. It will handle up to 10 million annual passengers and around 81,000 air traffic movements per year by 2033 including freight operations (a movement being a single aircraft arrival or departure). Single runway operations are expected to reach capacity at around 37 million annual passengers and around 226,000 air traffic movements per year in 2055.

The approval provides for the construction of the aerodrome (including the single runway), terminal and landside layout and facilities, and ground infrastructure such as the instrument landing systems and high intensity approach lighting arrays. Construction of the Stage 1 Development commenced in 2018. Figure 1.2 shows location of the single runway within the Airport Site.

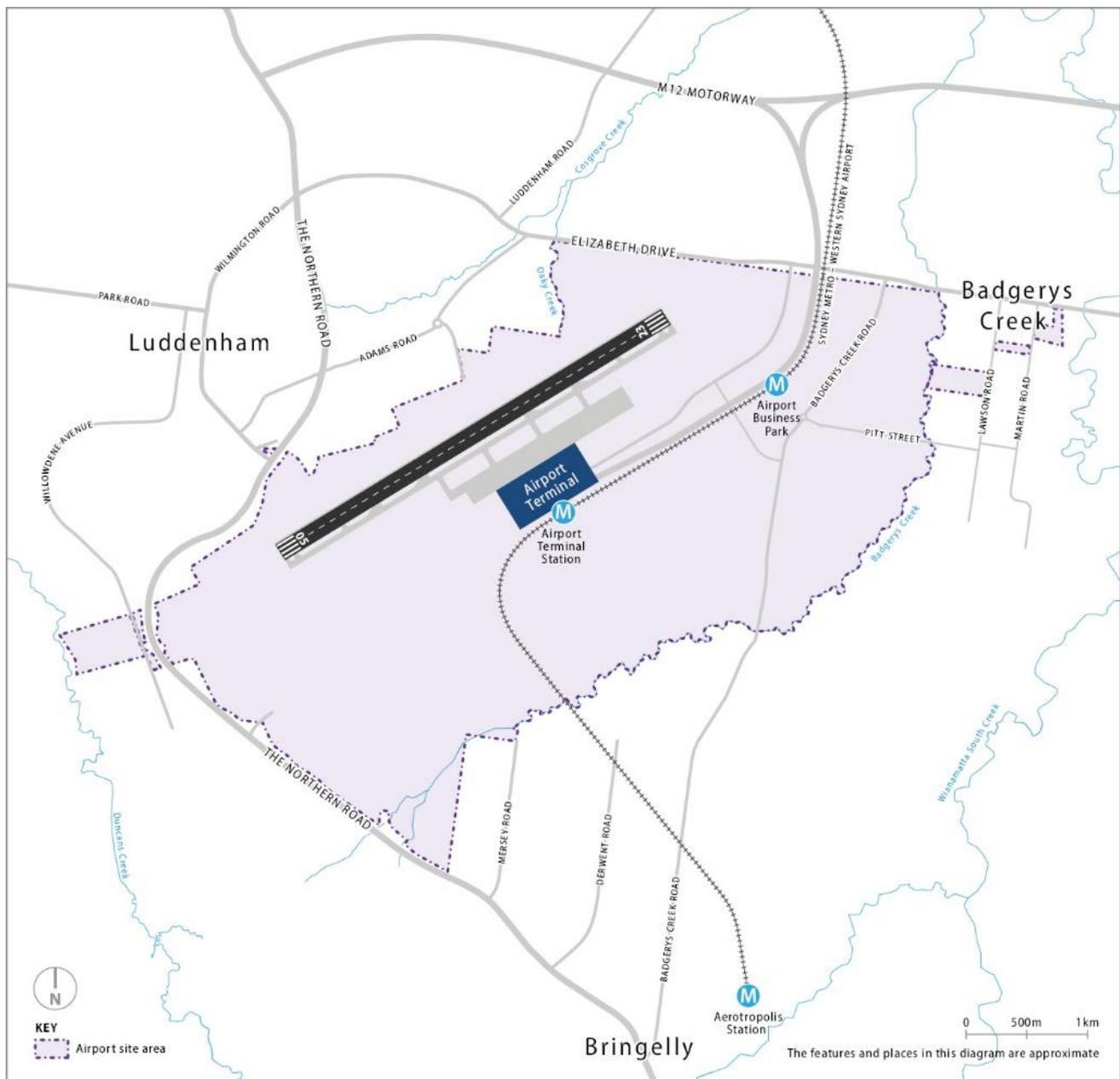


Figure 1.2 Western Sydney International Stage 1 Development

1.2 The project

The project consists of the development and implementation of proposed flight paths and a new controlled airspace volume for single runway operations at WSI. The project also includes the associated air traffic control and noise abatement procedures for eventual use by civil, commercial passenger and freight aircraft. The airspace and flight paths would be managed by the Air Navigation Services Provider (ANSP), Airservices Australia.

The project involves flight paths for all-weather operations on Runway 05 and Runway 23 during the day (5:30 am to 11 pm) and night (11 pm to 5:30 am), as well as head-to-head Reciprocal Runway Operations (RRO) during night-time periods (when meteorological conditions and low flight demand permit) to minimise the number of residences subjected to potential noise disturbance.

The flight paths differ during the day and night. Flight paths at night differ to take advantage of the additional airspace capacity offered when the curfew for Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport is in force. The proposed flight paths are depicted in Figure 1.3 to Figure 1.7.

The project does not include any physical infrastructure or construction work.

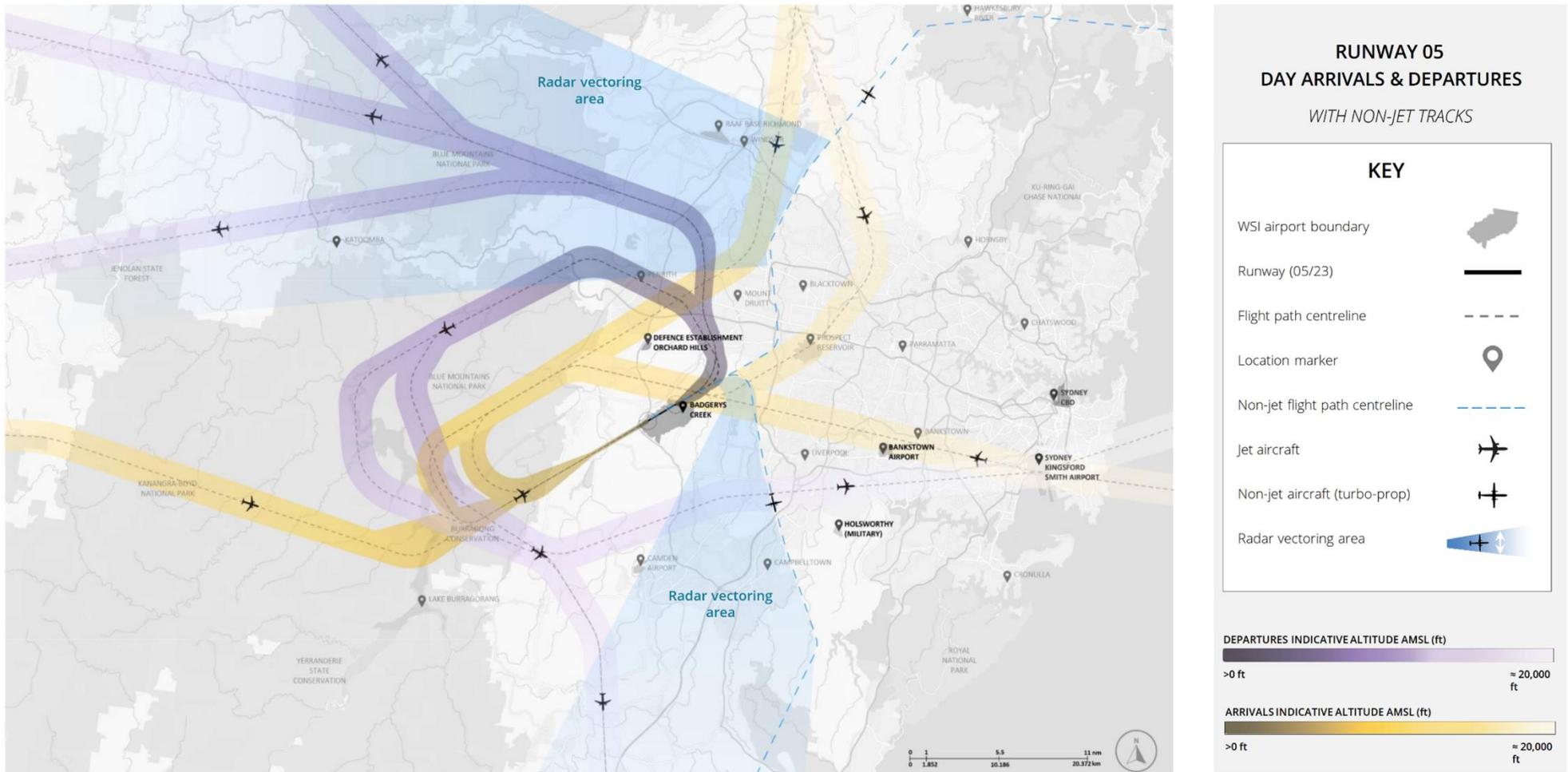


Figure 1.3 Proposed flight paths for Runway 05 (day)

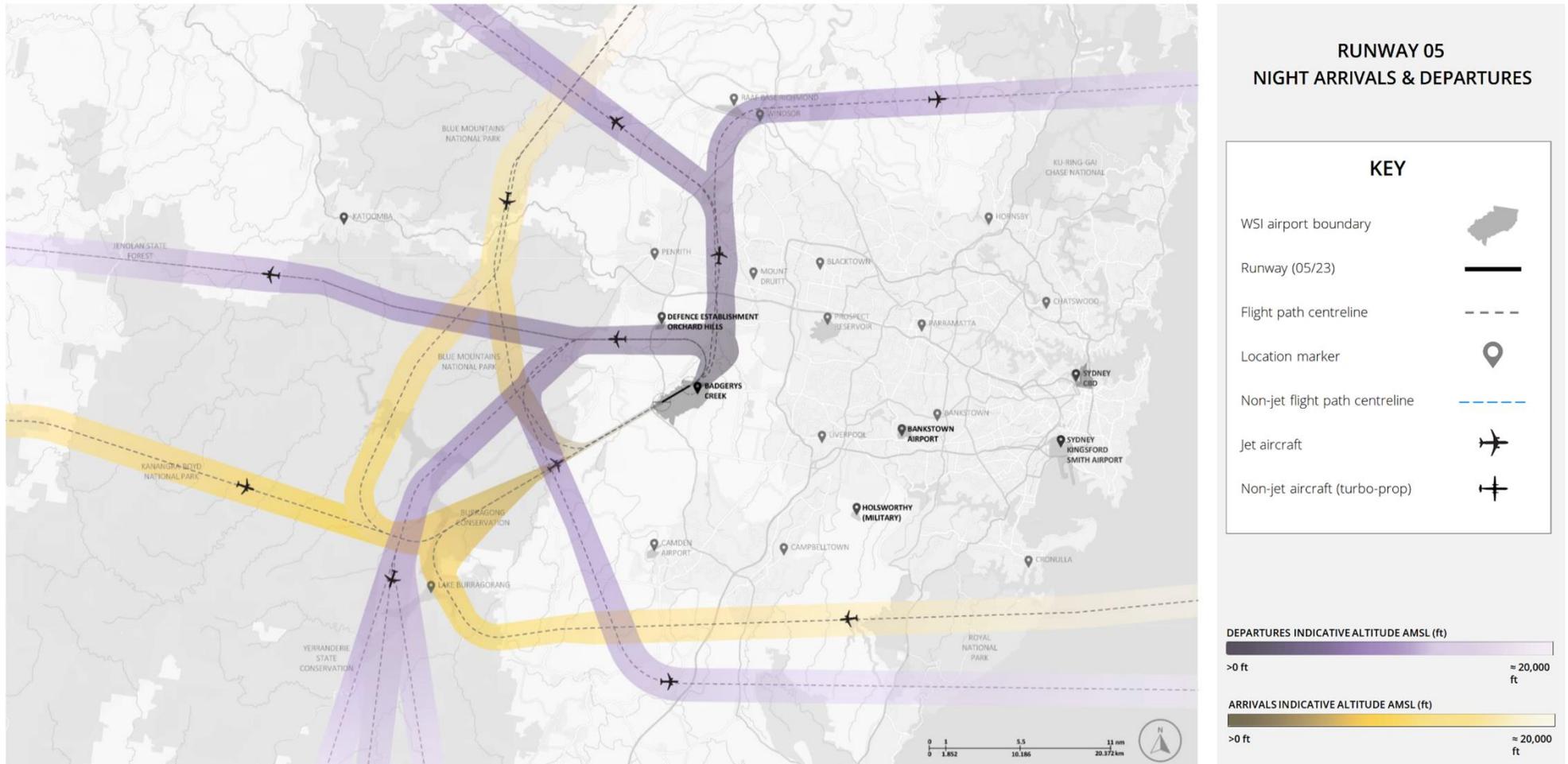


Figure 1.4 Proposed flight paths for Runway 05 (night)

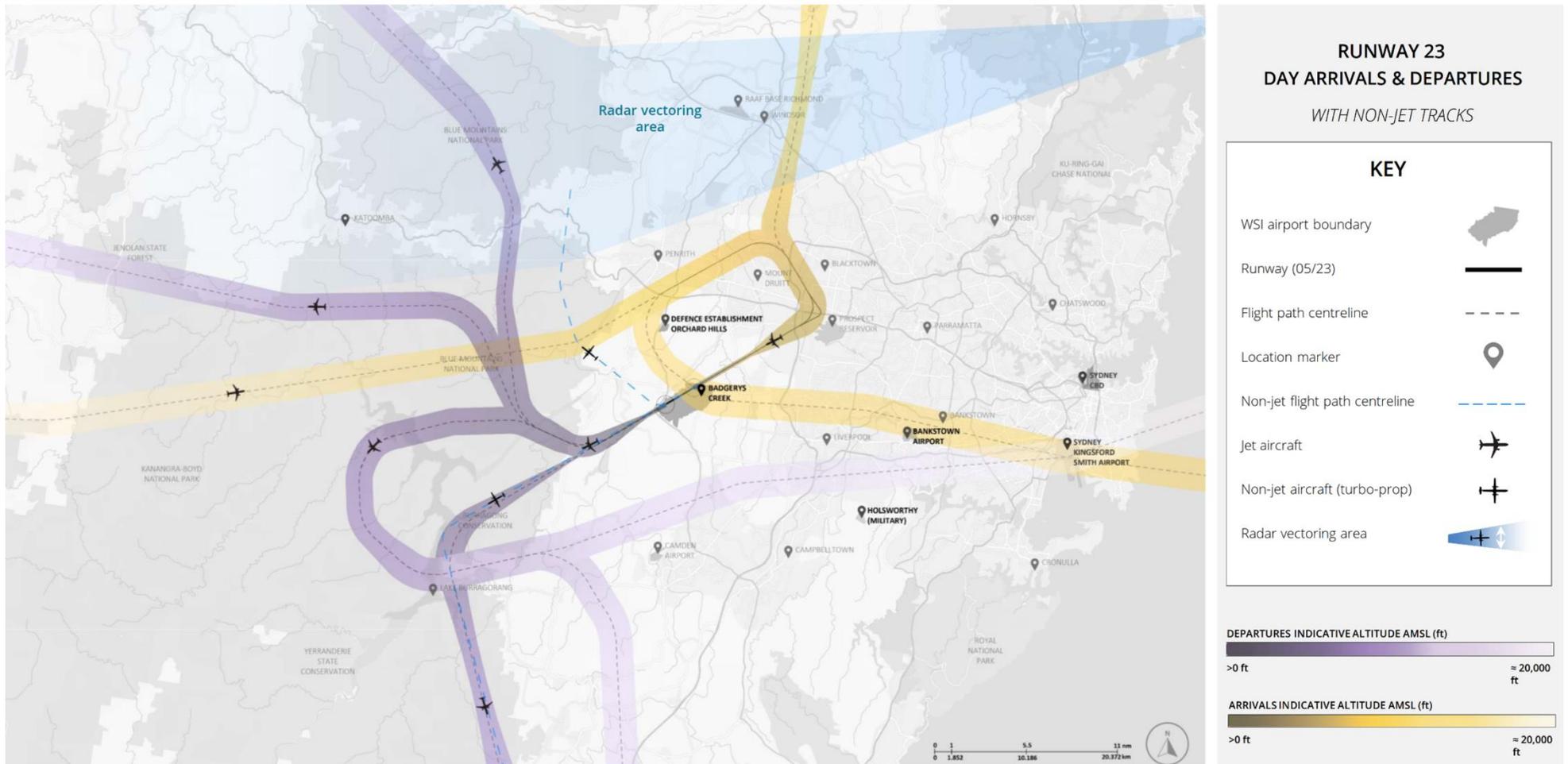


Figure 1.5 Proposed flight paths for Runway 23 (day)



Figure 1.6 Proposed flight paths for Runway 23 (night)

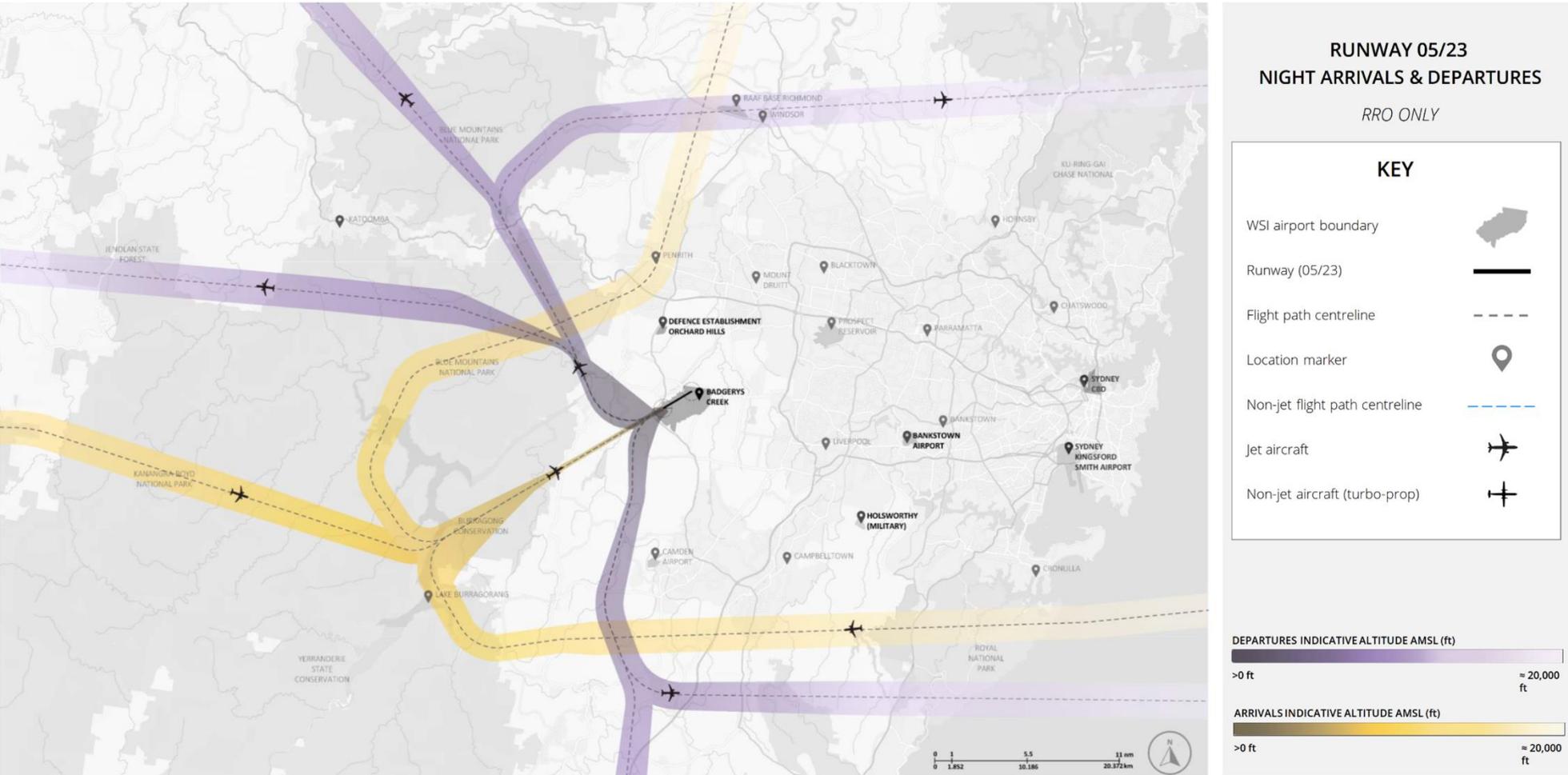


Figure 1.7 Proposed flight paths for Runway 05/23 (night)

1.2.1 Objectives of the project

The overall objectives for WSI are to:

- improve access to aviation services for Western Sydney
- resolve the long-term aviation capacity constraints in the Sydney Basin
- maximise the economic benefit for Australia by maximising the value of the Airport as a national asset
- optimise the benefit of WSI for employment and investment in Western Sydney
- deliver sound financial, environmental and social outcomes for the Australian community.

The project will assist in achieving these overall objectives as it would enable single runway operations to commence at WSI through the introduction of new flight paths and a new controlled airspace volume.

The Western Sydney Airport Plan sets out 12 airspace design principles that the design process is required to follow (see Figure 1.8). The principles were informed by and reflect community and industry feedback on the 2016 EIS. The principles seek to maximise safety, efficiency and capacity, while minimising impacts on the community and the environment. For further information on the airspace design principles refer to the Draft EIS.

The following principles will apply to the comprehensive airspace design process for single runway operations:

1. Overflights of residential areas and noise sensitive facilities will be avoided to the maximum extent possible.
 - The most advanced satellite-based navigation technologies will be used to guide the design of flight paths that avoid residential and other noise sensitive areas as far as it is possible to do so.
2. Where flight paths are unable to avoid residential areas:
 - to the extent practicable, residential areas overflown by aircraft arrivals should not also be overflown by aircraft departing the airport; and
 - noise abatement procedures should be optimised to achieve the lowest possible overall impact on the affected community, taking into account safety and other operational factors.
3. Specific noise abatement procedures will be developed to minimise the community impacts of aircraft operations at night while not constraining airport operations and the economic benefits they would bring for Western Sydney.
 - When comparing options, operations that are conducted at night or on weekends will be treated as being more sensitive than those that occur during the daytime or on weekdays.
 - The use of head-to-head operations to and from the south-west, when it is safe to do so, is an important preferred option for managing aircraft noise at night. This preferred option will be thoroughly evaluated through further detailed assessment.
4. Noise mitigation measures will be developed consistent with Airservices commitment to aircraft noise management and the strategies developed by ICAO in its *Balanced Approach to Aircraft Noise Management*.
5. Aircraft arrivals will use a continuous descent approach where possible to keep aircraft at higher altitudes with low power settings and reduced noise (and greenhouse) emissions.
6. Aircraft arrivals will not converge through a single merge point over any single residential area.
7. Consideration will be given to the impacts of aircraft operations on natural and visually sensitive areas such as the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.
8. In determining the final flight paths, the community, aerodrome operators and airspace users will be consulted extensively, and flight path designs will be subject to referral under the EPBC Act.
9. Changes to current noise sharing arrangements at Sydney Airport will be avoided.
10. Current airspace restrictions such as those associated with military establishments will be reviewed to improve efficiency and environmental impacts from commercial operations, while meeting Australia's future defence requirements.
11. The Australian Government will work with the New South Wales and local governments to ensure land use planning continues to prevent noise sensitive development in the highest noise exposure areas.
12. Safety is non-negotiable – only practical solutions that uphold Australia's long tradition of world-leading aviation safety will be implemented.

Figure 1.8 Future airspace design principles (Airport Plan – Western Sydney International (Nancy Bird Walton) Airport September 2021:46

1.3 Purpose of this technical paper

This technical paper investigates the potential impact of the proposed flight paths on cultural values associated with heritage places and practices within the WSI airspace study area.

It considers the likely and potential environmental (heritage) impacts of the operation of flight paths on the cultural heritage values of the airspace study area including on the cultural values of specific significant heritage places. This information will be one of the technical inputs that inform the final flight path design.

1.3.1 Assessment requirements

The project was referred to the Minister for the Environment and Water in 2021 (EPBC 2022/9143) in accordance with Section 161 of the EPBC Act and Condition 16 of the Airport Plan. In response, the delegate for the Minister for the Environment and Water determined that an EIS would be required and issued the EIS Guidelines on 26 April 2022.

This technical paper has been prepared to address the requirements of the Guidelines, as shown in Table 1.1. The requirements primarily relating to heritage are outlined in section 7.3 of the EIS Guidelines.

Table 1.1 Summary of Minister’s EIS Requirements (EPBC 2022/9143)

| EIS Guidelines reference | Information required | Location in this report |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 7.3.1 | <p>Detailed assessment of any likely impact that the proposed action may facilitate on the natural, cultural, heritage and socio-economic values of the GBMA, (WHA), and any other World Heritage properties or National Heritage places identified as relevant to the impacts of the proposed action.</p> <p>Include explicit assessment against the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity of the property. This should be based on (but is not limited to) the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noise and light assessments • visual assessment of representative viewpoint locations and visual amenity impact on tourist drives • impacts on biological attributes of the GBMA • assessment of risks to heritage associated with the proposed action (such as contamination risk from fuel jettisoning or increased risk of bushfire). | <p>This assessment focuses on the cultural values of the GBMA and the airspace study area see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections 5.4 and 5.5 regarding the impact of emissions • Section 5.4.6.1 re fuel jettisoning • Section 5.6 with regard to noise and visual intrusion |
| 7.3.2 | <p>A description of how the design of the proposed action was selected to avoid and minimise impacts on the GBMA and any other World Heritage properties or National Heritage places.</p> | <p>The process of design of the flight paths is described in Chapter 6 (Project development and alternatives) of the Draft EIS</p> |
| 7.3.3 | <p>Assessment of impacts to any places in the area surrounding the airport with heritage value as a component of the whole of the environment, with reference to consultation undertaken to identify values and their importance to the community.</p> | <p>Chapter 5 But also, Section 3.2 and Section 4.2</p> |

| EIS Guidelines reference | Information required | Location in this report |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 7.3.4 | <p>A discussion of impacts on the natural, cultural, heritage and socio-economic values of the GBMA. This discussion must include, but not limited to, the consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitats, species and ecological communities within the GBMA, and the processes that support their connectivity, productivity and function • the benefit of national parks for people, businesses and the economy • living and historic cultural heritage recognising Indigenous beliefs, practices and obligations for country, places of cultural significance and cultural heritage sites • non-Indigenous heritage that has aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance. | As regard cultural values this is included in Section 5.2.1 |
| 7.3.5 | <p>For World Heritage, discuss how the proposed action adheres to, and is not inconsistent with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia’s obligations under the World Heritage Convention and the provisions in the 2021 Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention • the Australian World Heritage management principles (Schedule 5 of the EPBC Regulations) • the 2009 Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan and 2016 Addendum and any future iterations in place at time of report preparation • the 2013 IUCN advice note on environmental assessments. | See Section 8.1 |
| 7.3.6 | <p>For National Heritage, discuss how the proposed action adheres to, and is not inconsistent with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Heritage management principles (Schedule 5B of the EPBC Regulations) • an agreement to which the Commonwealth is party in relation to the National Heritage place • the 2009 Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan and 2016 Addendum and any future iterations in place at time of report preparation. | See Section 8.2 |

The impact on the GBMA (see point 7.3.4 in Table 1.1 above) is explicitly dealt with in Technical paper 14. Also related to heritage are the EIS requirements outlined in section 7.4 of the EIS guidelines for the assessment of impacts on and engagement with people and communities (see EPBC 2022/9143). In this regard, assessments have been prepared (refer to Technical Paper on Social Impacts (WSP 2023c) and Economic Impacts (WSP 2003c). The requirements have influenced the approach to consultation undertaken in this heritage assessment and the outcomes of consultation in both assessments have been shared.

1.4 Study area

The lateral extent of the EIS study area is the WSI-specific aviation airspace contained within the north-western quadrant of the Sydney Basin. This is defined generally from Runway 05/23 to joining the enroute airways beyond the airport terminal airspace control area, often referred to as the terminal manoeuvring area (TMA). The TMA is a notionally circular configuration centred on the airport. The boundaries of the airspace study area are:

- North – Hawkesbury River in the vicinity of Pitt Town, Wilberforce and East Kurrajong
- Northeast – coast in the vicinity of Palm Beach and Barrenjoey Headland
- East – the coastline where aircraft on WSI flight paths operate at altitudes generally above below aircraft from other Sydney Basin airports
- Southeast – Bargo River in the vicinity of Tahmoor
- South – as above
- Southwest – western boundary of the GBMA
- West – as above
- Northwest – as above.

The study area is shown in Figure 1.9.

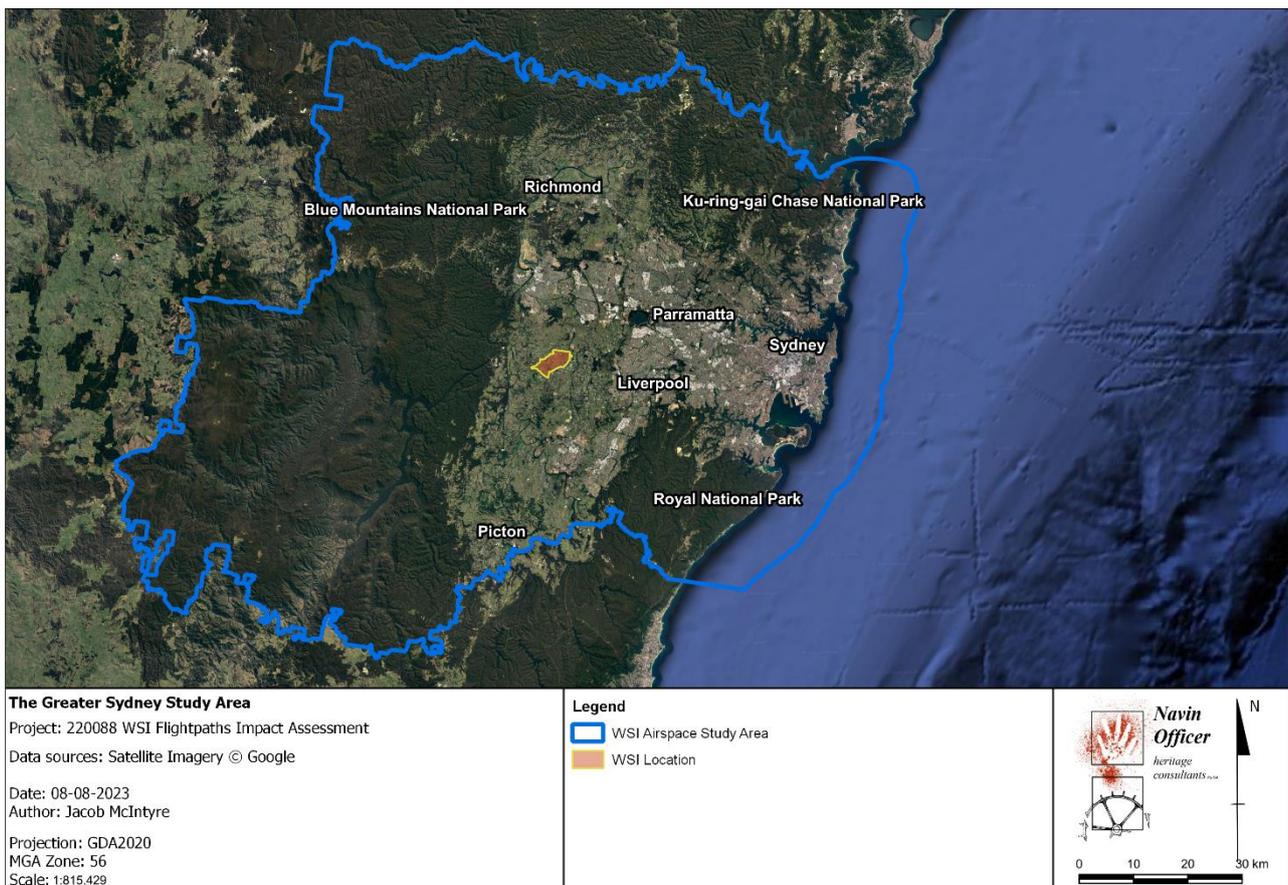


Figure 1.9 The airspace study area for the flight paths assessment project encompasses the Greater Sydney Basin

When flying at altitudes above 10,000ft, it is unlikely that aircraft noise levels heard on the ground would be above 60 dBA. Nevertheless, there is potential for aircraft overflights to result in environmental effects between 10,000–20,000ft in altitude above ground level (AGL). Aircraft could be audible and/or visible beyond these notional study area boundaries. Due to low ambient noise levels during night-time hours or in rural (residential) communities or non-residential areas under some flight paths, aircraft noise is likely to be noticeable and, combined with visual contact, could be a source of annoyance for some people. For this reason, the assessment will consider the potential of such impacts to determine their materiality to the EIS.

1.4.1 Focus area for First Nations engagement

Much of the eastern portion of this broad study area is already overflown by aircraft leaving from and arriving at KSA. Any new impact to cultural values from flight paths associated with WSI is likely to be focused on the western part of the airspace study area where there are extensive areas of undeveloped protected areas that are not currently overflown at low heights or in the same density as the eastern part of the study area. For this reason, a focus area was adopted for the Aboriginal cultural values assessment that generally followed the combined boundaries of the Deerubbin, Gandangara and Tharawal LALC areas (see Figure 1.10). It is from this area that knowledge holders were sought and interviewed.

The adoption of this area did not preclude stakeholders from raising concerns about the impact of sites outside the focus area, or from recommending other knowledge holders who might currently live outside this area. The adjacent LALCs (Metropolitan LALC and La Perouse LALC), whose areas of responsibility lie within the airspace study area and adjacent to the Aboriginal heritage focus area, were consulted to identify any cultural heritage values of concern.

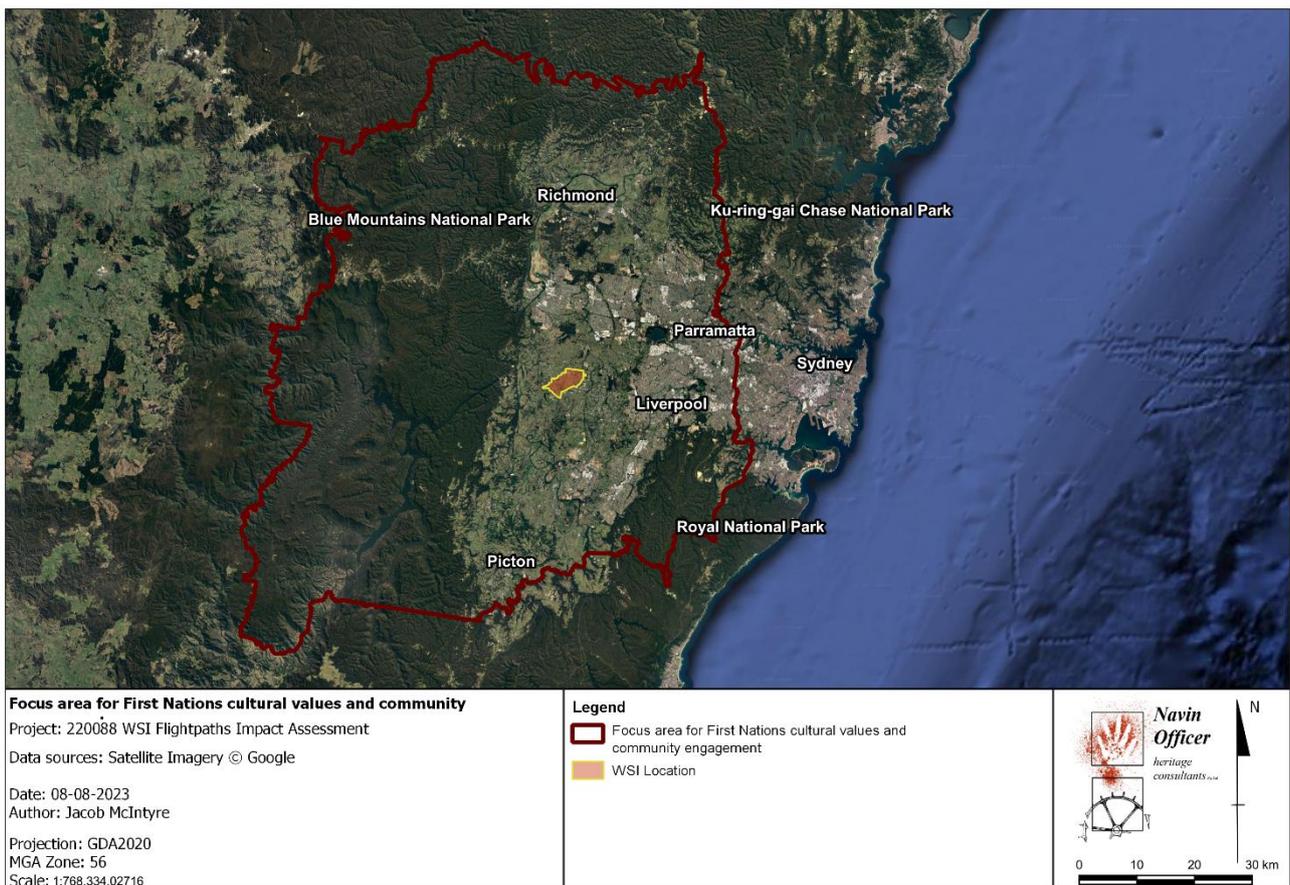


Figure 1.10 The focus area for First Nations’ Engagement – area covered by Deerubbin, Tharawal and Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Councils

Chapter 2 Legislation and strategic context

This chapter provides an overview of the broader heritage policies, legislation and strategies relevant to the project and considered in this technical paper.

In Australia there is a tiered regime for the protection of heritage places and values, which aligns across local, State and Commonwealth governments so that heritage of local, state and national significance is recognised and managed at the appropriate level. Many cultural heritage places within the airspace study area have been identified and recorded on the various lists and registers established under Commonwealth and State legislation and their associated regulations, strategies and policies. International conventions, the Australian Heritage Strategy (Commonwealth 2015) and the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013 (Burra Charter) provide guidance on how our heritage places should be managed.

While the approval process for this project is subject to Commonwealth legislation and national guidelines the tiered system of heritage protection in Australia means that local and state governments play an important role in the identification of places of cultural heritage value. The need to work in partnership across all levels of government is a stated objective of the Commonwealth government (Commonwealth 2015: Outcome 2 Objective 5). The primary legislation and associated guidelines are outlined below.

2.1 Commonwealth legislation and national guidelines

Specifically, the significance of any potential environmental effects will be assessed by an EIS for the activity issued in accordance with Section 87 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (EPBC 2022/9143). The EIS will assess the noise and visual impacts on communities, ecological and heritage impacts, and the effects on local air quality and impacts of aircraft emissions arising from the Action. The project will be assessed to meet the requirements of the EPBC Act and Regulations, Condition 16 of the Airport Plan, and the Minister's Guidelines.

The relevant legislation, conventions and guidelines applying to the impact of the activity are as noted below.

2.1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The EPBC Act together with the National Heritage management principles set out in the Regulations (Schedule 5B) of the Act, is the Australian Government's national environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places – defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance (NES). To this end, it establishes:

- the National Heritage List – a list of Indigenous, historic and natural places of outstanding significance to the nation, and
- the Commonwealth Heritage List – a list of Indigenous, historic and natural heritage places owned or controlled by the Australian Government.

The EPBC Act also establishes requirements for environmental approval of activities that will have a significant impact on a declared World Heritage property – heritage places of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) included in the World Heritage List established by UNESCO and recognised under the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

The EPBC Act requires activities with a significant impact on declared World Heritage properties or a National Heritage place to be approved.

The GBMA lies within the airspace study area for WSI and the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the GBMA is the subject of a separate assessment (see Technical paper 14).

This report addresses the potential for the project to impact the heritage values of specific cultural heritage sites which are within or adjacent to the GBMA.

2.1.1.1 The World Heritage management principles

The Australian government has established a set of principles to guide the management of World Heritage properties across Australia. These are outlined in Schedule 5 of the EPBC Act Regulations. Of relevance to this current assessment are the General Principles and those relating to environmental impact assessment and approval.

General principles

- The primary purpose of management of natural heritage and cultural heritage of a declared World Heritage property must be, in accordance with Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention, to identify, protect, conserve, present, transmit to future generations and, if appropriate, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the property.
- The management should provide for public consultation on decisions and actions that may have a significant impact on the property.
- The management should make special provision, if appropriate, for the involvement in managing the property of people who:
 - have a particular interest in the property; and
 - may be affected by the management of the property.
- The management should provide for continuing community and technical input in managing the property.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Approval

- This principle applies to the assessment of an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a property (whether the action is to occur inside the property or not).
- Before the action is taken, the likely impact of the action on the World Heritage values of the property should be assessed under a statutory environmental impact assessment and approval process.
- The assessment process should:
 - identify the World Heritage values of the property that are likely to be affected by the action; and
 - examine how the World Heritage values of the property might be affected; and
 - provide for adequate opportunity for public consultation.
- An action should not be approved if it would be inconsistent with the protection, conservation, presentation or transmission to future generations of the World Heritage values of the property.
- Approval of the action should be subject to conditions that are necessary to ensure protection, conservation, presentation or transmission to future generations of the World Heritage values of the property.
- The action should be monitored by the authority responsible for giving the approval (or another appropriate authority) and, if necessary, enforcement action should be taken to ensure compliance with the conditions of the approval.

2.1.1.2 The National Heritage management principles

The National Heritage management principles provide a litmus test for actions that are proposed that may impact the heritage values of national heritage places. The principles are set out in the Regulations (Schedule 5B) of the EPBC Act and are as follows:

1. The objective in managing National Heritage places is to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit, to all generations, their National Heritage values.
2. The management of National Heritage places should use the best available knowledge, skills and standards for those places, and include ongoing technical and community input to decisions and actions that may have a significant impact on their National Heritage values.

3. The management of National Heritage places should respect all heritage values of the place and seek to integrate, where appropriate, Commonwealth, state, territory and local government responsibilities for those places.
4. The management of National Heritage places should ensure that their use and presentation is consistent with the conservation of their National Heritage values.
5. The management of National Heritage places should make timely and appropriate provisions for community involvement, especially by people who:
 - a. Have a particular interest in, or associations with, the place; and
 - b. May be affected by the management of the place.
6. Indigenous people are the primary source of information on the value of their heritage. The active participation of Indigenous people in identification, assessment and management is integral to the effective protection of Indigenous heritage values.
7. The management of National Heritage places should provide for regular monitoring, review and reporting on the conservation of National Heritage values.

2.1.2 Commonwealth National Heritage Strategy 2015

The Commonwealth National Heritage Strategy 2015 (the Strategy) applies to the identification, protection and management of heritage places across all jurisdictions. The Strategy presents the Australian governments vision for heritage in Australia.

Our natural, historic and Indigenous heritage places are valued by Australians, protected for future generations and cared for by the community (Commonwealth 2015:4).

The Strategy recognises that heritage conservation is not just a government function but requires strong partnerships and community involvement. The strategy supports broad community consultation on heritage values and management.

It is clear that while specific groups can claim ownership of specific parts of Australia’s heritage, all Australians have rights to have a say in protection and management of the nation’s heritage. A shared responsibility approach to heritage protection and management can deliberately recognise all the relevant stakeholders – community, organisations and government agencies; at all relevant levels—local, regional, state, national and international. It is a deliberate multi-party relationships approach to managing the heritage (James and Schmider 2012 cited in Commonwealth 2015:29).

2.1.3 Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values

‘Ask First’ (Australian Heritage Commission 2002) was developed to provide guidance on appropriate consultation with First Nations people in order to determine the significance of places in accordance with their culture as the first step in achieving agreements between parties on how places and heritage values should be managed. The guide notes that Indigenous heritage is dynamic and includes tangible and intangible expressions of culture that link generations. It promotes an inclusive approach to heritage consultation including Traditional Owners with rights and interests, as well as acknowledging that there may be other Indigenous people with historical connections to heritage places.

This document provides guidance for the consultation methodology on this project and complements the guidance provided by the Burra Charter.

2.1.4 Airservices Australia’s Environmental Management of Changes to Aircraft Operations 2022

Airservices Australia’s Environmental Management of Changes to Aircraft Operations 2022 (AA-NOS-ENV2.100) (Airservices Australia, 2022) prescribes the requirements for environmental impact assessment (EIA), social impact analysis (SIA) and community engagement prior to implementing changes to aircraft operations.

2.1.5 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cth) (ATSIHP Act) can protect areas and objects that are of particular significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The ATSIHP Act allows the Minister for the Environment to make a declaration to protect an area, object or class of objects which have been identified by First Nations people (or person) as being of particular significance and which is under threat of injury or desecration.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or their representatives can apply to protect a specified area or objects under the ATSIHP Act (DAWE 2021).

2.1.6 The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013

Australia ICOMOS is the national chapter of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The Burra Charter and its associated series of Practice Notes provides the best practice standards for managing cultural places in Australia. The Charter has been adopted by the Commonwealth, the NSW government and most local governments including those within the airspace study area. The Burra Charter is formally acknowledged as a guiding document for heritage management in the Australian Heritage Strategy (Commonwealth 2015:9).

2.2 New South Wales legislation

2.2.1 The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) is the primary legislation protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage objects and places in NSW. The Act and associated Regulations require consideration of harm that may be caused by the project to Aboriginal objects and places. Harm is defined to mean destroying, defacing, damaging or moving an object from the land. The Act also provides protection for non -indigenous heritage items owned and managed by the National Parks Wildlife Service.

All Aboriginal sites are protected in NSW whether they are known or as yet undiscovered. Heritage NSW maintains the Aboriginal Heritage and Information Management System (AHIMS) which is a database of known and recorded sites. However, it is important to understand that as many of these sites are recorded and registered during the course of various impact assessment processes, large parts of the airspace study area including most of the National Parks, which have not been subjected to development pressure have not been systematically surveyed for sites. Therefore, while 13,538 Aboriginal sites are registered on AHIMS within the airspace study area, the distribution of known sites can only be used as an indicator of the range and geographic spread of Aboriginal sites and many more are likely to exist. Unlike the *Heritage Act 1977*, listing on AHIMS is not subject to meeting significance thresholds. All sites are recorded regardless of the type or degree of cultural value.

The airspace study area (see Figure 1.9) encompasses in whole or part, the following National Parks as well as a number of nature reserves and state conservation areas:

- Berowra Valley National Park
- Blue Mountains National Park
- Garigal National Park
- Georges River National Park
- Kamay Botany Bay National Park
- Kanangra Boyd National Park
- Kuringai Chase National Park
- Lane Cove National Park

- Nattai National Park
- Murrumbidgee National Park
- Muogamarra National Park
- Royal National Park
- Western Sydney Regional Park.

The Act (s84) also provides for the declaration of places that are of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. These places are referred to as Aboriginal Places (APs). The curtilage of each AP is published in the NSW Government Gazette, and it is an offence to carry out any activity that might harm them without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit. For the purpose of this assessment, which is undertaken in accordance with Commonwealth guidelines, APs may be understood to be places of demonstrable high cultural value to NSW First Nations people.

2.2.2 The Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) is intended to promote understanding and conservation of the State's heritage and provides for identifying and registering items of State heritage significance. It protects items of environmental heritage which are defined as 'those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of State or local heritage significance'. The Act, the Heritage Regulations 2012, and Heritage Compliance Policy 2017 require the protection and conservation of archaeological relics in NSW and apply to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct of State heritage or Local heritage significance.

Items that have been identified by the Heritage Council of NSW as being of significance to the State are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR). Any impacts to such items are closely regulated through permits.

In addition, to the protection offered to items of recognised State heritage significance, the Heritage Act also requires government instrumentalities (NSW government agencies and State-owned corporations) to establish and maintain a register of their heritage assets, known as a Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register.

The Act also protects archaeological relics. A 'relic' is defined as:

any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

(a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and

(b) is of State or local heritage significance.

As noted above the archaeological protections under the Heritage Act specifically exclude Aboriginal archaeological deposits as these are protected under the NPW Act, whether known and registered or not.

It should also be noted that some historic places also have Aboriginal cultural values associated with them which may not have been identified.

There are 273 places listed on the SHR within the airspace study area and there are a further 18,888 places listed on the SHI for their local heritage value.

2.2.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The relevant provision of this Act relates to the Local Environmental Plans made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EPA Act), which include schedules of local heritage items and historical archaeology, recorded as heritage items of local environmental significance. Standard provisions for local environmental plans are set out in the Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan (2006 EPI 155a). Section 5.10 provides for the conservation and management of environmental heritage, which can include buildings, works, places, relics, trees, objects or archaeological sites. Heritage items and heritage conservation areas on the land to which the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) applies are identified and described in Schedule 5 environmental heritage. As noted above there are 18,888 items listed for their local heritage value on LEPs within the airspace study area.

Chapter 3 Methodology

This chapter provides an overview of the methodology for the heritage assessment, including the approach to assessment, consultation carried out, dependencies with other studies and any limitations and assumptions.

3.1 Impact assessment approach

The project seeks to understand if there are cultural values that will be impacted by flight paths. These values may be associated with places on the ground which will not be physically impacted by the development of the airport. The study seeks to understand if the action of aircraft flying overhead is likely to negatively impact traditional spiritual values, impact the continuation of cultural practices and uses of places, and/or physically exacerbate conservation issues that will ultimately result in a loss of values.

The airspace study area is described in Section 1.4, however most potential impacts to cultural heritage places will occur relatively close to the WSI, where emissions, noise and visual impacts from the take-off and landing of aircraft may pose a new impact to cultural places and their values. Therefore, our assessment focused on:

- places within a 5 km and 10 km radius of the airport
- places in the Blue Mountains LGA that are vulnerable to impacts
- Aboriginal rock art sites were also investigated as a specific site type potentially vulnerable to atmospheric pollution.

Recognising that Sydney Basin's airspace is the most complex and busiest airspace in Australia involving an extensive network of flight paths and operational procedures associated with existing civil airports (Sydney (Kingsford Smith), Bankstown, Camden, Shellharbour); Defence facilities (RAAF Base Richmond, Holsworthy Military Airport); overflight restrictions at the Defence Establishment Orchard Hills (DEOH); recreational aviation activities (gliders, ballooning, parachuting); and transiting flights. This assessment sought to ascertain from technical experts the likely additional noise, vibration and pollution effects within the radii noted above (see DITRDCA, 2023c).

In relation to Aboriginal sites, discussions with Aboriginal stakeholders did not exclude places of concern to them outside these areas and included consideration of the type or nature of the Aboriginal site and whether or not it had a particular spiritual significance or current use that might be impacted by flight paths overhead.

3.1.1 Desktop assessment

The desktop component of the project involved:

- reviewing existing information relating to the Indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values of the airspace study area; noting that these categories are not mutually exclusive. The range of documentary sources that were reviewed included:
 - previous cultural heritage studies undertaken for the WSI
 - previous cultural heritage studies related to the GBMA
 - selected heritage assessments and heritage values studies related to the airspace study area
 - existing databases such as AHIMS, State Heritage Inventory (SHI), National Heritage List (NHL), Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), National Trust (NSW) database
 - previous studies relating to the potential impact of atmospheric pollution on Aboriginal rock art sites, specifically within the airspace study area and more generally across Australia
- compiling and identifying a list of Knowledge Holders i.e., those people likely to have specific information relating to the range of cultural heritage values that might be impacted.

3.1.2 Historic heritage places and their values

The NHL, CHL, and SHR were each reviewed to identify places with significant cultural values. All LGAs within the airspace study area have had LGA-wide heritage studies completed which have resulted in a large number of places listed on the heritage schedule of LEPs and the SHI.

In Australia, accepted heritage best practice involves the assessment of a place against value-based criteria. In relation to the NHL¹ these are:

- a. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history
- b. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history
- c. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history
- d. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:
 - a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or
 - a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments
- e. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group
- f. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period
- g. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
- h. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history
- i. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

Note: The cultural aspect of a criterion means the Indigenous cultural aspect, the non-Indigenous cultural aspect, or both.

NSW employs a similar set of criteria against which heritage places are assessed, however there are 2 threshold levels – one to meet the requirements for listing on the SHR as a place that is significant to the State, and another to be listed on an LEP as a place of significance to the local community.

The 7 value-based criteria used in NSW are (NSW Heritage Office 2001:9):

- Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)
- Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)
- Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)
- Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

¹ [National Heritage List criteria - DCCEEW](#) viewed 27/01/2022

- Criterion (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)
- Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)
- Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's:
 - cultural or natural places; or
 - cultural or natural environments or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.

This means that each listed item includes documentation of the cultural values which contribute to its significance, although the quality and depth of that documentation varies depending on the thoroughness of the original nomination dossier. Unfortunately, listings are rarely updated if new values are identified, or existing ones are found to be compromised after listing.

For the purpose of this assessment the identified significant cultural values of those heritage items under the proposed flight paths were accepted as they have been recorded and considered to identify those values that might potentially be impacted by the flight paths.

3.1.3 Aboriginal cultural places and their values

Most Aboriginal sites in NSW are recorded and lodged with the State's Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) and most have not been assessed against any specific values-based criteria unless the place is a gazetted AP under s84 of the NPW Act or has been listed on the SHR. While there already exists a wealth of information about the diversity and nature of Aboriginal cultural places in the airspace study area, there is less comprehensive information about the cultural values associated with those places. The majority of sites listed in the airspace study area consist of isolated artefacts and artefact scatters many of which have since been destroyed by development and expansion of the cities and suburbs in the greater Sydney area. While all sites including archaeological sites such as artefacts scatters are important to First Nations people in NSW as evidence of the lives of their ancestors, certain sites hold deep cultural values linked to spirituality and contemporary practices. Such sites are likely to include natural landforms that depict activities and beings from the creation period (the Dreamtime), ceremonial sites such as stone arrangements, bora grounds, burial and massacre sites, rock art sites including shelters with pigment art and rock engravings. Places of contemporary use for family or clan gatherings, places where contemporary practices and trans-generational learning occur are also likely to be of high cultural value.

Select publications and accessible unpublished reports were reviewed to identify the range and types of places that may have Aboriginal cultural values in order to foster and prompt discussions with Aboriginal stakeholders.

Due to the size of the airspace study area, the nature of the project (i.e., aircraft flying above sites) and the number of recorded sites within it, it was considered helpful to focus discussions with knowledge holders. For this reason, 2 levels of maps were generated as visual aids used in consultation. Firstly, a map of the overall airspace study area and secondly a series of maps that covered much of the sandstone-based terrain and forested areas where shelters with rock art, rock engravings and ceremonial sites are known to occur, referred to in this report as the Aboriginal cultural values focus area.

In order to avoid excessive amounts of data with limited application, a search of the AHIMS for the location of Aboriginal rock art sites was undertaken within a subset of the airspace study area (refer Figure 5.10). The search area included all site distributions within relative proximity to the WSI and all of the GBMA within the study area, excepting the most distant western and southern portions.

The Aboriginal Nations closest to the airport site are the Dharug, Tharawal and Gundungurra nations and for this reason a focus area (the Aboriginal cultural values focus area) equivalent to the combined lands of the Deerubbin, Gandangara and Tharawal LALCs, was adopted to focus one-on-one discussions. Direct engagement with individuals and organisations from across this area provided information about the cultural values, the places associated with them and concerns about perceived impacts.

The 2021 census noted the Aboriginal population of Greater Sydney to be 87,140 people.² Generally, in the airspace study area there is a large Aboriginal population dominated by people who have migrated to or who are descended from people who migrated to the area from other Aboriginal traditional lands for work, education or other reasons. In some cases, families may have lived in the area for several generations and may therefore have developed historical connections to country, even though it may be outside their traditional country. For this reason, each of LALCs in the Sydney Basin (the Deerubbin, Gandangara, Tharawal, Metropolitan and La Perouse) were contacted about the project and consulted regarding any known individual Knowledge Holders. To the extent possible, given the timeframe for consultation, the project ensured that multiple interests were considered in the methodology and opportunity was given to individuals and organisations to identify others that may hold cultural knowledge relevant to this project.

Each of the organisations listed in Table 3.1 was contacted by email and provided the opportunity to identify relevant knowledge holders, who were then contacted and if available and willing, interviewed regarding cultural values and concerns regarding perceived impacts to those values. Multiple opportunities for engagement were provided to individuals regarding opportunities to meet and have input. Over the course of the assessment in excess of 120 phone calls, emails, virtual meetings and face to face meetings with First Nations people and organisations were held.

Table 3.1 Aboriginal engagement approach

| Who to engage | How to engage |
|---|--|
| Traditional Owners, Native Title claimants or Indigenous land use agreement parties. Individual knowledge holders recognised as native title claimants with cultural heritage knowledge. Knowledge holders (descended from other Nations, but who have lived in the area a long time and who have the cultural authority to speak). Individuals recognised as holding cultural heritage knowledge from previous studies and who are accepted as such by at least one of the organisations listed below. | Seek advice from relevant organisations to identify individuals who are likely to hold such knowledge. One-on-one interviews to ascertain values and significant sites within the airspace study area (interviewees are paid; some may be small group interviews, depending on stakeholder preference). |
| Local Aboriginal Land Councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tharawal LALC • Deerubbin LALC • Gandangarra LALC • Metropolitan LALC • La Perouse LALC. Local Government Advisory committees Other organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murru Mittigar • Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation • Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation • Dharug Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation • Western Sydney Aboriginal Regional Alliance • Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation • Cubbitch Barta • Gundungurra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation • Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association • Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre. | Briefing letters requesting suggestions regarding knowledge holders. Offers to present at group meetings. Follow up phone calls were made offering further information sharing opportunities. |
| Broader Aboriginal community (anyone with an interest in the area) | As per the project’s broader community engagement approach. |

² <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/IQS1GSYD> viewed 20/12/2022

Through the consultation process a number of people with knowledge or interests in the cultural values of the WSI airspace study area, and particularly the focus area identified in Section 1.4.1, were contacted about the project and if available, interviewed with a view to identifying places of particular cultural value and to gain and understanding of how such values may or may not be impacted by the proposed flight paths.

Table 3.2 In addition to briefing letters to organisations a number of individuals were interviewed or otherwise contacted directing by phone or email about the project

| Group | Individuals interviewed | Other individuals contacted |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Dharug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncle Shane Smithers • Jacinta Tobin • Corina Norman • Vanessa Possum • Julie Jones • Raelene Lock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leanne Watson |
| Tharawal/Dharawal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aunty Glenda Chalker • Rebecca Chalker • Peter Williams • Barbara Simms • Yvonne Simms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncle Ivan Wellington |
| Gundungarra | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazan Brown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David King • Uncle Greg Simms • Aunty Sharon Hall • Aunty Edna Watson • Aunty Carol Cooper |
| Others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Randall (Deerubbin LALC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Moran (Metropolitan LALC) |

3.2 Field work, gathering data

3.2.1 First Nations heritage

All individuals noted in Table 3.2 were contacted and offered an opportunity to meet with the team one-on-one. Where acceptable to the stakeholder, the interviews were recorded to allow the researchers to review and identify places of high cultural value. Transcripts were returned to the stakeholder and recordings were not retained permanently by the researchers. A copy of the consent form used is attached as Appendix A. In general, each meeting and interview involved multiple follow up phone calls with the First Nation participant. In cases where individuals had other commitments alternative opportunities were provided including phone calls, the opportunity to email the team, face to face meeting on alternative days and virtual meetings.

All organisations noted in Table 3.2 were contacted by email, provided information about the project and invited to advise of any members who may hold relevant cultural knowledge. An offer to provide a group briefing to members or a briefing to the board was made.

Following the launch of the WSI Flightpaths Tool (wsiflightpaths.gov.au) an online briefing of First Nations people who had been involved in the project was held. That online briefing was also open to friends and colleagues of those who had participated.

3.2.2 Non-Indigenous heritage

This component relied largely on desk top assessments but also involved collecting any information gathered through the WSI community consultation strategy including the pop-up community forums. Consultation with heritage officers at Heritage NSW was undertaken by phone to clarify if any relevant studies or initiatives are underway and to gather insights into vulnerable cultural values.

3.3 Dependencies and interactions with other technical papers

The information presented in this paper has been informed by the following:

Table 3.3 Dependencies and interactions with other Technical Papers

| Technical Paper | Relevance |
|---|--|
| Technical paper 1: Aircraft noise (Technical paper 1) | This technical paper was used to understand the likely impact to cultural values caused by noise related to the proposed flight paths. |
| Technical paper 2: Air quality (Technical paper 2) | This technical paper was used to understand the likely impact to cultural values caused by emissions related to aircraft using the proposed flight paths. |
| Technical paper 4: Hazards and risk (Technical paper 4) | This technical paper was used to understand the likely incidence and potential impact to cultural values caused by fuel jettisoning related to aircraft using the WSI. |
| Technical paper 10: Social (Technical paper 10) | This technical paper was reviewed to determine potential impacts to cultural values which were raised in other forums. |
| Technical paper 14: Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Technical paper 14) | The technical paper was used to understand the specific impacts associated with the GBMA. |

Advice from other technical specialists engaged in the assessment process was sought to address concerns raised about potential impacts arising related to impact from emissions, noise and visual intrusion to ascertain whether these perceived impacts are likely to be real; if so, to what degree they might impair the cultural values of the place.

Similarly, feedback from the social assessment team’s community pop up consultation meetings was reviewed to identify any heritage concerns raised.

3.4 Analysis of information gathered and reporting

Information from the desktop research and that received from stakeholders was analysed with a view to:

- identifying places of high cultural value
- identifying potential risks to such places and concerns re the impact of the project on cultural values and practices.

Perceived threats were investigated and where possible clarified as real or negligible.

Given the large number and wide distribution of known and recorded cultural heritage places several strategies were used to sort data into:

- areas that were more likely to be overflown by aircraft at lower altitudes and/or
- types of places where cultural values might be more vulnerable.

For this reason, non-indigenous places while also considered over the entire airspace study area were also sorted into those places located within a 5 km radius of WSI and 10 km radius of the centre point of WSI. In relation to recorded Aboriginal cultural values a focus area corresponding to the land within the boundaries of Deerubbin, Gandangara and Tharawal LALCs was selected as a focus for interviews with First Nations knowledge holders. In relation to known and recorded Aboriginal sites, those site types generally known to have cultural values, other than archaeological values, were discussed. These included rock art sites (both painted and engraved), stone arrangements (often associated with ceremony), burials, massacre sites, dreaming or spiritual sites and places of contemporary use.

3.4.1 Assessing impact

Assessing impact on cultural values is somewhat easier when dealing with physical impacts that can be measured and seen. However, when considering intangible values, such as spirituality, wellbeing, connectedness with nature, a more qualitative approach is needed. A consideration of impact must consider what the tipping point might be in determining whether or not a place remains suitable for or can sustain the cultural practices and belief systems that are associated with that place. For the purpose of this assessment the following terms have been used to describe the potential impacts:

- Negligible to low – an impact on the cultural value of a place is considered negligible to low where those impacts will not cause physical damage and are unlikely to affect the cultural practices undertaken at a place.
- Moderate – an impact is considered moderate where it may have an impact on the values of the place, or the cultural practices carried out at the place but where these impacts may be tolerated or mitigated in some way.
- Severe – an impact is considered severe where it would damage or compromise the values of the place or heritage item and/or render the cultural practices associated with the place no longer practical or possible.

This report articulates the range of heritage values discussed, considers how they might be impacted and suggests mitigation actions. Figure 3.1 is provided as a framework for understanding in assessing the likely impact of noise levels at heritage places. For the purposes of this assessment a predicted noise level of 70dBA and above is classed as a severe impact, particularly where those heritage places were otherwise located in a tranquil rural or bushland location. Other factors that may affect the severity of noise related impact relate to the frequency of flights (and therefore frequency of disturbance) and whether or night flights occur at night when background noise in rural areas is at its lowest.

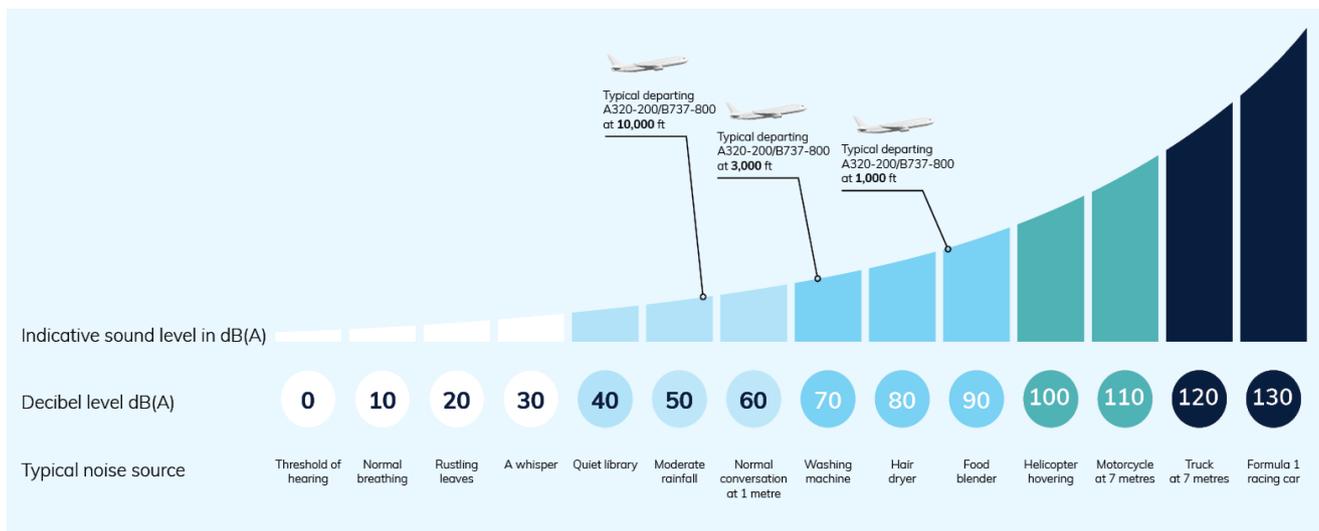


Figure 3.1 Understanding indicative noise levels

3.5 Limitations and assumptions

While all stakeholders were asked if they knew of other knowledge holders that they thought should be consulted, it is acknowledged that there may be people identified who were not available for interview within the project timeframe. To address this, multiple opportunities were provided to the First Nation knowledge holders to connect with the study team and to provide input (see Technical paper 9 for details on the First Nations engagement). Multiple opportunities for engagement were provided to individuals regarding opportunities to meet and have input. Over the course of the project in excess of 120 phone calls, emails, virtual meetings and face to face meetings with First Nations people and organisations were held. (see Section 3.2).

While theoretically the process of identification and assessment of heritage places for listing on the NHL, CHL, SHR and LEPs should result in all cultural values being identified and robustly substantiated; this is dependent on the quality and depth of the associated documentation and the thoroughness of the original nomination dossier. Unfortunately, listings are rarely updated if new values are identified, or subsequent studies reveal different heritage values, or if the integrity of the site has been affected by events or actions which have occurred after listing. For the purpose of this study, we have relied on the recorded heritage values and any values reported to us by stakeholders.

The GBMA is subject to a separate technical paper (Technical paper 14) which focuses on the OUV for which the property is recognised and the potential impacts arising from the Action. The property is listed for its natural values under the following criteria:

ix) to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals and

x) to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.³

While the property is listed for its natural values only there is a growing call for some of the cultural values of the property to be recognised at the national level in the first instance and eventually to be considered in a renomination of the property for additional areas and values.

This report considers the cultural values of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal sites within and adjacent to the GBMA which are of local or state significance. Therefore, to get a complete understanding of heritage impacts both technical reports need to be considered.

³ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917/> viewed 25/1/2023

Chapter 4 Existing conditions

This chapter describes the existing conditions and features of the study area to provide a baseline against which the project's impacts can be assessed.

There are a number of properties within the airspace study area that are on the World Heritage, National Heritage and Commonwealth Heritage Lists. These lists are established under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This section describes the range of heritage sites and places that are known to occur within the airspace study area. These include 2 WHAs: the GBMA and the Sydney Opera House, as well as elements of a third WHA – the Australian Convict Sites (Hyde Park Barracks, Cockatoo Island, Old Government House, Old Great North Road).

Within the airspace study area there are also a number of nationally listed places and several places on the Commonwealth Heritage List. There are many more places protected under NSW legislation including those on the SHR protected under the *Heritage Act 1977*, those on LEPs, and Aboriginal sites protected under the NPW Act.

Aboriginal sites abound throughout the study area with 13,538 such sites having been recorded on AHIMS. Most of these comprise stone artefacts scatters and isolated finds and have been recorded in the course of environmental impact assessments associated with urban and industrial expansion of the greater Sydney area.

These sites and their vulnerabilities to impact are discussed in the sections below.

4.1 Known heritage places and values

4.1.1 World Heritage Areas

World Heritage Areas are properties which have been recognised as having OUV which go beyond the values that they hold for a single nation. The airspace study area for WSI contains 2 WHAs: the GBMA and the Opera House, in addition to 4 properties (Hyde Park Barracks, Cockatoo Island, old Government House and Domain and the Great North Road) that form the NSW component of the Australian Convict WHA. All are also listed as National Heritage places (Table 4.1).

Flightpaths for the project do not fly directly over the Sydney Opera House or the Australia Convict Sites located within the study area. As such, these sites are not considered further in the assessment.

4.1.1.1 The GBMA

The GBMA is in closest proximity to WSI and is therefore the most likely to experience an increase in overhead air traffic compared to the other World Heritage Areas. A detailed assessment of the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the GBMA is subject of a separate technical paper (Technical paper 14).

The OUV for which the WHA is recognised are natural values, and the boundary of the WHA excludes the existing townships and settlements; nevertheless, within the boundaries of the GBMA there are many Aboriginal sites. There are also several historic heritage places, although most recorded significant historic heritage places lie outside the WHA boundary in the adjacent townships. The cultural values of these places fall within the remit of this technical report.

The GBMA was inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHL) in 2000 and comprises the Wollemi National Park (NP), Yengo NP, Gardens of Stone NP, Blue Mountains NP, Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve, Kanangra-Boyd NP, Nattai NP and Thirlmere NP and covers more than 1,000,000ha. The property is listed for its natural values, and it is these natural values that are recognised as having OUV.

Criterion (ix): The Greater Blue Mountains include outstanding and representative examples in a relatively small area of the evolution and adaptation of the genus *Eucalyptus* and eucalypt-dominated vegetation on the Australian continent. The site contains a wide and balanced representation of eucalypt habitats including wet and dry sclerophyll forests and mallee heathlands, as well as localised swamps, wetlands and grassland. It is a centre of diversification for the Australian scleromorphic flora, including significant aspects of eucalypt evolution and radiation. Representative examples of the dynamic processes in its eucalypt-dominated ecosystems cover the full range of interactions between eucalypts, understorey, fauna, environment and fire. The site includes primitive species of outstanding significance to the evolution of the earth's plant life, such as the highly restricted Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) and the Blue Mountains pine (*Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii*). These are examples of ancient, relict species with Gondwanan affinities that have survived past climatic changes and demonstrate the highly unusual juxtaposition of Gondwanan taxa with the diverse scleromorphic flora.

Criterion (x): The site includes an outstanding diversity of habitats and plant communities that support its globally significant species and ecosystem diversity (152 plant families, 484 genera and c. 1,500 species). A significant proportion of the Australian continent's biodiversity, especially its scleromorphic flora, occur in the area. Plant families represented by exceptionally high levels of species diversity here include *Myrtaceae* (150 species), *Fabaceae* (149 species), and *Proteaceae* (77 species). Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus*, *Angophora* and *Corymbia*, all in the family *Myrtaceae*) which dominate the Australian continent are well represented by more than 90 species (13% of the global total). The genus *Acacia* (in the family *Fabaceae*) is represented by 64 species. The site includes primitive and relictual species with Gondwanan affinities (*Wollemia*, *Pherosphaera*, *Lomatia*, *Dracophyllum*, *Acrophyllum*, *Podocarpus* and *Atkinsonia*) and supports many plants of conservation significance including 114 endemic species and 177 threatened species.⁴

While the focus of the World Heritage recognition is on natural values and the boundary of the WHA excludes the townships and settlements there are nevertheless many sites, places and constructed features within the boundaries of the GBMA that have cultural value. Over the years since its inscription on the World Heritage List for its natural values there has been an unwavering call for the area to be renominated for its cultural values. Indeed, the area was originally nominated by the Australian Government for both its natural and cultural values, although at the time the World Heritage Committee concluded that the case had not yet been made to substantiate a claim of OUV under the cultural criteria. Substantial work has been done since inscription to more comprehensively document and understand the cultural values of the area (Mackay 2015; McGrath 2015) including geoheritage values (Washington and Wray 2015:33-34) all supporting a cultural landscape approach to understanding the values. Proposals have also been developed to advocate for extensions to the WHA.

The evidence for cultural values includes many Aboriginal sites including occupation sites, stone arrangements, Aboriginal rock art sites and dreaming sites to which contemporary First Nations people have a deep connection. The Aboriginal cultural values within the Greater Blue Mountains are embodied in the rich resources of rock art and occupation sites scattered across the area.

There are also historic heritage places, many of which have not been formally recorded on lists and registers, which have cultural values. These include places connected with the early conservation movement in Australia such as the early network of cliff-face walking tracks linking the east-west chain of Blue Mountains towns to their adjacent protected valleys and gorges, staircases and lookouts. Most recorded significant historic heritage places lie outside the WHA boundary in the adjacent townships. The cultural values of these places fall within the remit of this technical report.

Given the size of the GBMA and the many hundreds of known Aboriginal and historic heritage places plus the understanding that there will be hundreds of others that exist but have not been recorded, this assessment does not claim to have assessed impacts on each site individually. Instead, this assessment has focused on understanding what sort of impacts flight paths could possibly have on heritage values of the range of heritage places that occur. These potential impacts are discussed in detail in Technical paper 9. Some types of heritage items are likely to be robust in the face of those impacts. For example, the heritage values of Aboriginal stone artefact scatters are unlikely to be impacted by the

⁴ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917/> viewed 10/01/2023

flightpaths, unless those places also hold other values; whereas Aboriginal rock art sites often have a spiritual value and sometimes a ceremonial value that might be affected by noise, visual intrusion and or physically by emissions.

Similarly historic heritage places range from places of memory and commemoration to heritage gardens and physical buildings some of which may be susceptible to emissions and some of which may not. While heritage items may be subjected to increased noise, they may or may not have current or proposed compatible uses that are sensitive to noise impacts.

A values-based approach is consistent with the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013)

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. (Article 1.2)

4.1.1.2 The Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House was inscribed on the WHL in 2007 under criterion (i) *to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius*.

Criterion (i): The Sydney Opera House is a great architectural work of the 20th century. It represents multiple strands of creativity, both in architectural form and structural design, a great urban sculpture carefully set in a remarkable waterscape and a world-famous iconic building.⁵

4.1.1.3 The Australian Convict Sites

The Australian Convict Sites was inscribed on the WHL in 2010 and consists of 11 complementary sites. Four of these occur within the airspace study area; they are The Old Great North Road, Cockatoo Island, Hyde Park Barracks, Old Government House and Domain (Parramatta Park). It constitutes an outstanding and large-scale example of the forced migration of convicts, who were condemned to transportation to distant colonies of the British Empire; the same method was also used by other colonial states. The property is recognised as having OUV under criterion (iv) and (vi).

Criterion (iv): The Australian convict sites constitute an outstanding example of the way in which conventional forced labour and national prison systems were transformed, in major European nations in the 18th and 19th centuries, into a system of deportation and forced labour forming part of the British Empire's vast colonial project. They illustrate the variety of the creation of penal colonies to serve the many material needs created by the development of a new territory. They bear witness to a penitentiary system which had many objectives, ranging from severe punishment used as a deterrent to forced-labour for men, women and children, and the rehabilitation of the convicts through labour and discipline.

Criterion (vi): The transportation of criminals, delinquents, and political prisoners to colonial lands by the great nation states between the 18th and 20th centuries is an important aspect of human history, especially with regard to its penal, political and colonial dimensions. The Australian convict settlements provide a particularly complete example of this history and the associated symbolic values derived from discussions in modern and contemporary European society. They illustrate an active phase in the occupation of colonial lands to the detriment of the Aboriginal peoples, and the process of creating a colonial population of European origin through the dialectic of punishment and transportation followed by forced labour and social rehabilitation to the eventual social integration of convicts as settlers.⁶

⁵ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/166/> accessed 10/01/2023

⁶ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1306/> accessed 10/01/2023

4.1.2 Nationally listed heritage places

Australia's most valued Indigenous and historic heritage sites are listed on the NHL in accordance with the criteria contained in the statutory provisions of the EPBC Act and Regulations. These places reflect the richness of Australia's heritage and the story of its development, from its original inhabitants to present day, and its unique landscapes. The places that are included on the NHL which are located within the airspace study area for WSI are provided in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Places on the National Heritage List which are located within the airspace study area for WSI

| Nationally listed place | Distance from WSI (km) |
|--|------------------------|
| Bondi Beach Campbell Parade | 51 |
| Cockatoo Island | 42 |
| First Government House Site | 45 |
| Hyde Park Barracks | 45 |
| Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Lion, Long and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves | 55 |
| North Head – Sydney North Head Scenic Drive | 54 |
| Old Great North Road/The Old Great Northern Road | 62 |
| Royal National Park and Gawarra State Conservation Area | 40 |
| Sydney Opera House 2 Circular Quay East | 46 |
| Centennial Park Oxford Street | 47 |
| Cyprus Hellene Club – Australian Hall | 45 |
| Governors' Domain and Civic Precinct | 46 |
| Kamay Botany Bay: botanical collections sites | 46 |
| Kurnell Peninsula Headland | 49 |
| Old Government House and the Government Domain Parramatta | 27 |
| Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions | 27 |
| Sydney Harbour Bridge Bradfield Highway | 45 |
| The Greater Blue Mountains Area | 10 |

4.1.3 Places on the Commonwealth Heritage List

The CHL is a list of Indigenous, historic and natural heritage places owned or controlled by the Australian Government. These include places connected to defence, maritime safety, communications, customs and other government activities that also reflect Australia's development as a nation. Places on the CHL are protected by the EPBC Act and Regulations.

Table 4.2 shows those places on the CHL within the airspace study area. Most are located east of WSI along the east coast. Only one of these heritage items on the CHL is within 10 km of the airport.

Most of the places on the CHL are located well to the east of WSI (see Table 4.2). The closest places are:

- Orchard Hills Cumberland Plain Woodland, The Northern Rd, Orchard Hills, NSW, Australia (4.1 km)
- Shale Woodland Llandilo Stony Creek Rd, Shanes Park, NSW, Australia (17.3 km)
- Cubbitch Barta National Estate Area Old Illawarra Rd, Holsworthy, NSW, Australia (17.7 km)
- North Base Trig Station Dight St, Richmond RAAF Base, NSW, Australia (30.6 km)
- Old Army/Internment Camp Group Holsworthy Artillery Rd, Holsworthy, NSW, Australia (21.5 km).

Table 4.2 Properties listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List within the airspace study area

| Heritage places on the Commonwealth Heritage List | Suburb |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Admiralty House Garden and Fortifications 109 Kirribilli Ave | Kirribilli, NSW, Australia |
| Admiralty House and Lodge 109 Kirribilli Av | Kirribilli, NSW, Australia |
| Army Cottage with return verandah Old South Head Rd | Vaucluse, NSW, Australia |
| Bankstown Airport Air Traffic Control Tower Tower Rd | Bankstown, NSW, Australia |
| Barracks Block | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Barracks Group HMAS Watson Hornby Light Rd | Watsons Bay, NSW, Australia |
| Batteries A83 and C9A Suakin Dr | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Battery B42 Middle Head Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Battery for Five Guns Suakin Dr | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Biloela Group | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Bondi Beach Post Office 20 Hall St | Bondi, NSW, Australia |
| Botany Post Office 2 Banksia St | Botany, NSW, Australia |
| Building VB1 and Parade Ground Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Building VB2 Guard House Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Buildings 31 and 32 Endeavour Rd North | Garden Island, NSW, Australia |
| Buildings MQVB16 and VB56 Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Buildings VB13, 15, 16 & 17 Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Buildings VB41, 45 & 53 Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Buildings VB60 and VB62 Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Buildings VB69, 75 & 76 including Garden Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Buildings VB83, 84, 85, 87 & 89 Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Buildings VB90, 91, 91A & 92 Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |

| Heritage places on the Commonwealth Heritage List | Suburb |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Camden Post Office 135 Argyle St | Camden, NSW, Australia |
| Cape Baily Lighthouse Sir Joseph Banks Dr | Kurnell, NSW, Australia |
| Chain and Anchor Store (former) West Rd | Garden Island, NSW, Australia |
| Chowder Bay Barracks Group Chowder Bay Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Cliff House Hornby Light Rd, HMAS Watson | Watsons Bay, NSW, Australia |
| Cockatoo Island Industrial Conservation Area | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Commonwealth Avenue Defence Housing Commonwealth Av | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Cottage at Macquarie Lighthouse Old South Head Rd | Vaucluse, NSW, Australia |
| Cronulla Post Office 41 Cronulla St | Cronulla, NSW, Australia |
| Cubbitch Barta National Estate Area Old Illawarra Rd | Holsworthy, NSW, Australia |
| Customs Marine Centre Ben Boyd Rd | Neutral Bay, NSW, Australia |
| Defence site - Georges Heights and Middle Head Middle Head Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Factory West Rd | Garden Island, NSW, Australia |
| Fitzroy Dock | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Garden Island Precinct Cowper Wharf Rd | Garden Island, NSW, Australia |
| Gazebo Wylde St | Potts Point, NSW, Australia |
| General Post Office 1 Martin Pl | Sydney, NSW, Australia |
| Golf Clubhouse (former) Middle Head Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| HMAS Penguin Middle Head Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Headquarters 8th Brigade Precinct Cross St | Clifton Gardens, NSW, Australia |
| Headquarters Training Command Precinct Middle Head Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Kirribilli House 111 Kirribilli Av | Kirribilli, NSW, Australia |
| Kirribilli House Garden & Grounds 111 Kirribilli Av | Kirribilli, NSW, Australia |
| Lancer Barracks Smith St | Parramatta, NSW, Australia |
| Lancer Barracks Precinct Smith St | Parramatta, NSW, Australia |
| Macquarie Lighthouse Old South Head Rd | Vaucluse, NSW, Australia |
| Macquarie Lighthouse Group Old South Head Rd | Vaucluse, NSW, Australia |
| Macquarie Lighthouse Surrounding Wall Old South Head Rd | Vaucluse, NSW, Australia |
| Malabar Headland Franklin St | Malabar, NSW, Australia |
| Marine Biological Station (former) 31 Pacific St | Watsons Bay, NSW, Australia |
| Marrickville Post Office 274A Marrickville Rd | Marrickville, NSW, Australia |
| Mess Hall (former) | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Military Guard Room | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Military Road Framework - Defence Land Middle Head Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |

| Heritage places on the Commonwealth Heritage List | Suburb |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Naval Store Return Stores La | Garden Island, NSW, Australia |
| Navy Refuelling Depot and Caretakers House Chowder Bay Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| North Base Trig Station Dight St | Richmond RAAF Base, NSW, Australia |
| North Head Artillery Barracks North Head Scenic Dr | Manly, NSW, Australia |
| North Sydney Post Office 92-94 Pacific Hwy | North Sydney, NSW, Australia |
| Office Building Office Sq | Garden Island, NSW, Australia |
| Officers Mess, HQ Training Command Suakin Dr | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Old Army / Internment Camp Group Holsworthy Artillery Rd | Holsworthy, NSW, Australia |
| Orchard Hills Cumberland Plain Woodland The Northern Rd | Orchard Hills, NSW, Australia |
| Paddington Post Office 246 Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Powerhouse / Pump House | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Prison Barracks Precinct | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Pyrmont Post Office 148 Harris St | Pyrmont, NSW, Australia |
| RAAF Base Richmond McNamara Av | Richmond RAAF Base, NSW, Australia |
| Reserve Bank 65 Martin Pl | Sydney, NSW, Australia |
| Residences Group Hill Rd | Garden Island, NSW, Australia |
| Rigging Shed and Chapel Riggers La | Garden Island, NSW, Australia |
| School of Musketry and Officers Mess, Randwick Army Barracks Bundock St | Kingsford, NSW, Australia |
| Shale Woodland Llandilo Stony Creek Rd | Shanes Park, NSW, Australia |
| Shark Point Battery Vaucluse Rd | Vaucluse, NSW, Australia |
| Snapper Island | Drummoyne, NSW, Australia |
| Spectacle Island Explosives Complex | Drummoyne, NSW, Australia |
| Sutherland Dock | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Sydney Airport Air Traffic Control Tower General Holmes Dr | Sydney Airport, NSW, Australia |
| Sydney Customs House (former) 31 Alfred St | Sydney, NSW, Australia |
| Ten Terminal Regiment Headquarters and AusAid Training Centre Middle Head Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Thirty Terminal Squadron Precinct Middle Head Rd | Georges Heights, NSW, Australia |
| Underground Grain Silos | Cockatoo Island, NSW, Australia |
| Victoria Barracks Perimeter Wall and Gates Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Victoria Barracks Precinct Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Victoria Barracks Squash Courts Oxford St | Paddington, NSW, Australia |
| Villawood Immigration Centre Miowera Rd | Villawood, NSW, Australia |
| Woolwich Dock Clarke Rd | Woolwich, NSW, Australia |

4.1.4 Places on the State Heritage Register

State listed heritage places are properties of special significance to NSW. The NSW SHR currently has 273 records of heritage places which have been assessed as meeting the threshold of State significance located within the airspace study area for WSI (Figure 4.6 and Appendix A, Table A.1). Many of these places occur towards the coast, none occur within 5 km of WSI (see Section 5.1.2), however 10 heritage items occur between 5 and 10 km of WSI. Table 4.3 list those heritage items within a 10 km radius of WSI.

Table 4.3 SHR items within 10 km radius of WSI

| Heritage Item Name | SHR # | Address | LGA |
|---|-------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Coxs Cottage | 00171 | 2 St Thomas Road Mulgoa | Penrith |
| Fernhill Estate | 00054 | Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa | Penrith |
| St Thomas' Anglican Church Mulgoa | 00426 | St Thomas Road, Mulgoa | Penrith |
| Fairlight Homestead and Barn | 00262 | Fairlight Road, Mulgoa | Penrith |
| Megarrity's Bridge | 01367 | Warragamba Dam, Warragamba | Wollondilly |
| Warragamba Emergency Scheme | 01376 | Warragamba Dam, Warragamba | Wollondilly |
| Warragamba Dam – Haviland Park | 01375 | Warragamba Dam, Warragamba | Wollondilly |
| The Church of the Holy Innocents, Churchyard and Cemetery | 02005 | 130 Rossmore Avenue West, Rossmore | Liverpool |
| Kelvin | 00046 | 30 The Retreat, Bringelly | Liverpool |
| Maryland | 01690 | 773 The Northern Road, Bringelly | Camden |

Of the 273 SHR heritage items in the airspace study area, 72 heritage items listed on the SHR are located under the proposed flight paths (see Figure 5.6).

Twenty-eight places occur within that part of the study area that falls within the Blue Mountains LGA (Table 4.4). The concentration of significant heritage places in the LGA reflects not only the rich history of the area but also the community's appreciation of that heritage. Narratives about early crossing of the mountains are linked to stories of early exploration, convict labour and discovery, and there is a rich heritage of art and literature linked to places and vistas in the Blue Mountains (see Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3) that adds depth to the historical record. Many heritage places also relate to tourism and leisure pursuits of a more affluent 19th and early 20th Century Sydney (see Figure 4.4 and Figure 4.5). The Blue Mountains and the GBMA remain a place of escape, respite and recreation for the people of Sydney (Stanbury and Bushell 1985; Szafraniec 2019; Low 2019) and this is reflected in the range of listed heritage places.



Figure 4.1 Convicts building road over the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, 1833 (Source: Water colour by Charles Rodius, 1833, National Library of Australia)



Figure 4.2 View from the Summit of Mt York, looking towards the Bathurst Plains, Convicts breaking stones NSW (Source: Watercolour by Augustus Earle c.1826, National Library of Australia)



Figure 4.3 Kings Table Land, Blue Mountains, New South Wales, ‘the appearance of the new road’, c.1826 (Source: Water colour by Augustus Earle, National Library of Australia)



Figure 4.4 Bush walking couple in the Blue Mountains c.1912 (Source: Black and white photos by G.A. Druce, Blue Mountains City Library)



Figure 4.5 Sun Bath Road, Hydro Majestic (Source: Black and White print unknown photographer, Blue Mountains City Library)

Table 4.4 Places listed on the State Heritage Register within the Blue Mountains LGA and their present use

| Name | Current use |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Linden Observatory Complex | Observatory and visitor centre |
| Mount St Marys College and Convent | Unoccupied |
| Valley Heights Railway Station and Locomotive Depot | Heritage Museum |
| Carrington Hotel | Carrington Hotel |
| Glenbrook Railway Residence | Unoccupied |
| Cox's Road and Early Deviations – Linden, Linden Precinct | Unused road |
| Cox's Road and Early Deviations – Woodford, Appian Way Precinct | Unused road |
| Norman Lindsay Gallery | Norman Lindsay Gallery |
| Christ Church Anglican Church | Christ Church Anglican Church |
| Railway Gatehouse | Private Residence |
| Valley Heights Steam Tram Rolling Stock | Valley Heights Railway Museum |
| Woodford Academy | National Trust Museum |
| Buckland Convalescent Home & Garden | Aged care complex |
| Weatherboard Inn Archaeological Site | Recreation area and park |

| Name | Current use |
|--|---|
| Lennox Bridge | Lennox Bridge |
| Cox's Road and Early Deviations – Woodford, Old Bathurst Road Precinct | Unused road |
| Springwood Railway Station Group | Springwood Railway Station |
| Davisville | Private Residence |
| Wynstay Estate | Museum |
| Lilianfels | Lilianfels Resort and Spa |
| Lawson Railway Station Group | Lawson Railway Station |
| Blue Mountains Walking tracks | Blue Mountains Walking tracks |
| Glenbrook Railway and World War Two Mustard Gas Storage Tunnel | Glenbrook Railway & Museum |
| The Paragon | The Paragon Café – currently unoccupied |
| Katoomba Railway Station and yard group | Katoomba Railway Station |
| Medlow Dam | Medlow Dam |
| Katoomba Post Office (former) | Retail Building |
| Everglades | National Trust House and Gardens |

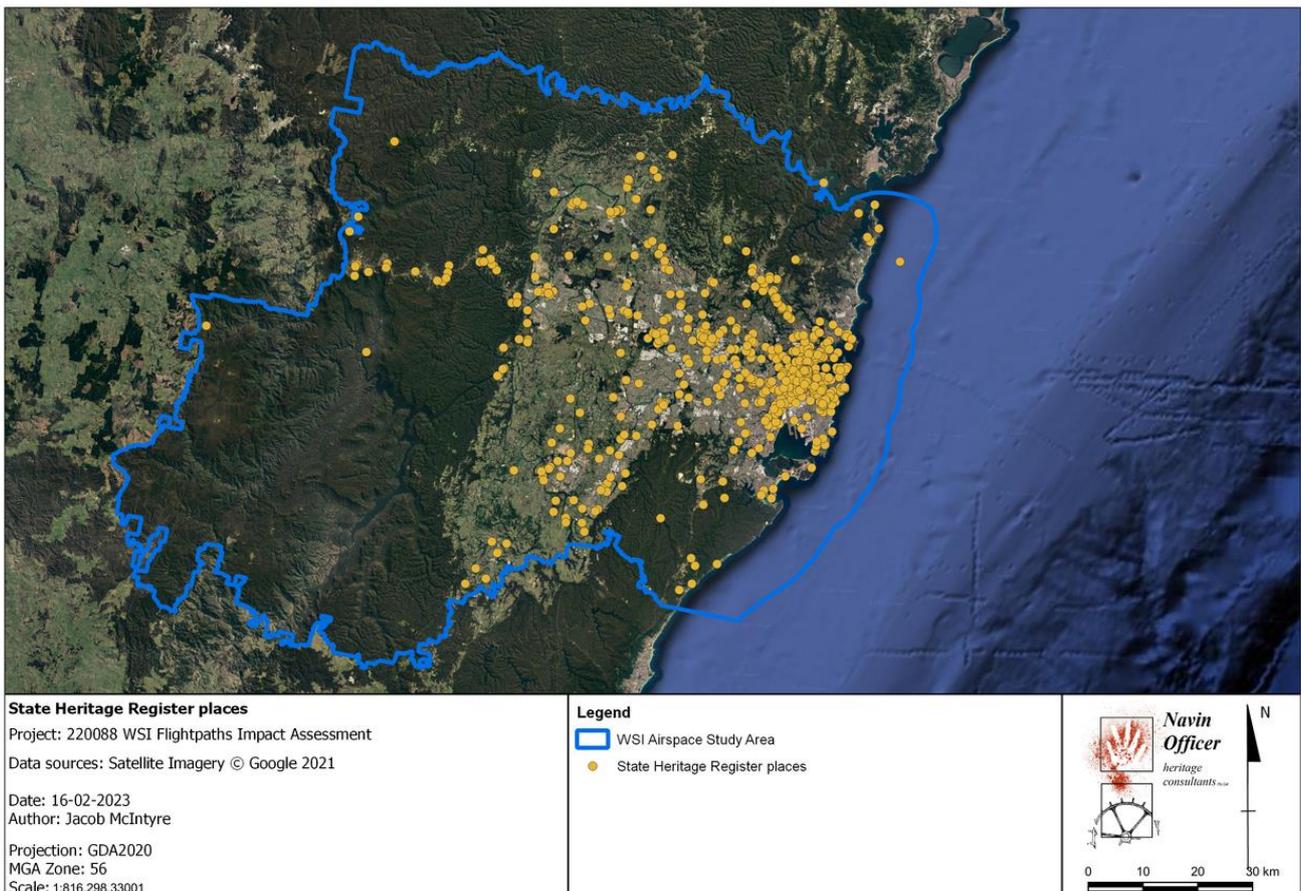


Figure 4.6 Distribution of places of State heritage significance included on the NSW State Heritage Register that occur within the airspace study area

4.1.5 Locally listed heritage places

Locally listed heritage places are significant within the context of a local area, contributing to the uniqueness of a streetscape, townscape or landscape of a region or community. The NSW SHI contains around 18,888 heritage places listed predominantly in the heritage schedule of LEPs and on s170 register of state government entities within the airspace study area (Figure 4.7). This represents more than one-third of all heritage places listed in LEPs in NSW.

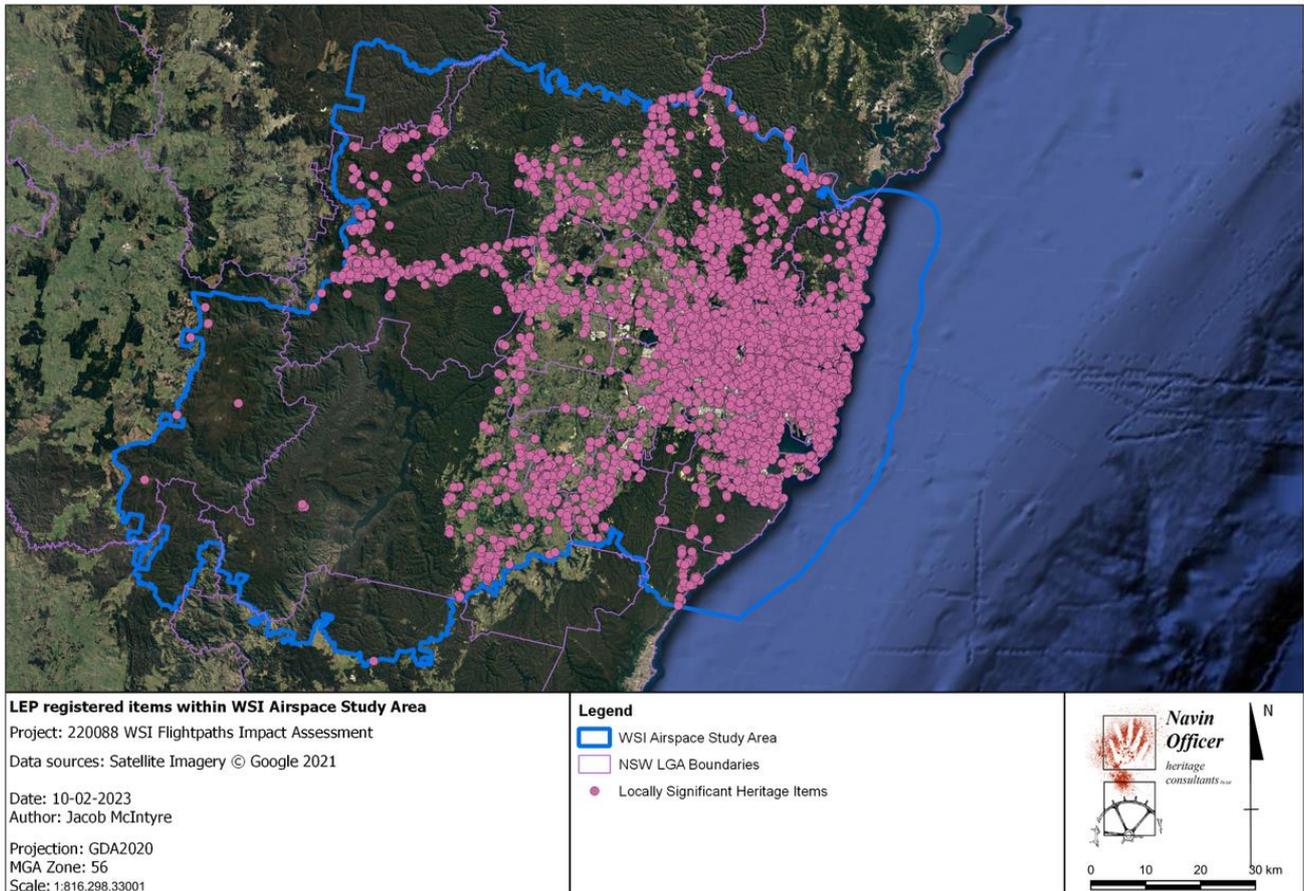


Figure 4.7 All locally significant items listed on LEPs within the airspace study area

4.1.6 Aboriginal heritage sites

There are many thousands of Aboriginal sites within the airspace study area, with 13,538 sites recorded on the AHIMS. However, it is important to note that not all sites are likely to have been recorded. As most sites have been identified during archaeological surveys which are routinely undertaken as a part of development assessment, there is a bias in the data towards those places in the developed area of the Cumberland Plain. The majority of the sites in this area comprise artefact scatters and isolated finds and many recorded sites have since been destroyed and/or subject to archaeological salvage to make way for the expanding cities and suburbs. The Sydney Basin is surrounded on 3 sides by national parks which largely coincide with the distribution of Hawkesbury sandstone geology. The Hawkesbury sandstone country is known to contain a wide range of Aboriginal sites as it provides a combination of rich food resources, freshwater, and shelter, the latter in the form of sandstone overhangs or rock shelters. The rugged nature of some of the landscape and the fact that it was relatively undesirable to the early colonial invaders whose focus was on arable land, meant that it also served as refugia for First Nations people in the first few decades of European settlement. Shell middens occur along the coastal areas and along the riverbanks and occasional burial sites have been recorded associated with both shell middens and in rock shelters.

Some Aboriginal sites may have no visible objects or modification but may be landscape features of sacred or mythological significance and some places with objects of technical or scientific value may also have special significance to First Nations people in terms of intangible or spiritual values. Under s84 of the NPW Act, the Minister may *'declare any place specified or described in the order, being a place that, in the opinion of the Minister, is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture, to be an Aboriginal place for the purposes of this Act'*.

The APs range from small ceremonial sites to lagoons and mountains of spiritual significance and can include to repatriation sites for ancestral remains. Often the recognition of such places comes after extensive Aboriginal community consultation and a significance assessment process. These places can therefore be assumed to be of the utmost importance to First Nations people. Within the airspace study area there are 21 gazetted APs.

Table 4.5 Gazetted Aboriginal Places within the airspace study area

| Name of Aboriginal Place | LGA | LALC | NSW Gov. Gazette Reference |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Upper Kedumba River Valley | Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) | Deerubbin | 17/05/2022 #87 pp3120-3121 |
| Kings Tableland | BMCC | Deerubbin | 4/11/2011 #106 p6537 |
| Three Sisters | BMCC | Deerubbin | 17/01/2014 #7 p86 |
| Red Hands Cave | BMCC | Deerubbin | 26/06/2015 #52 pp1801-1802 |
| Euroka Clearing Nye Gnorang | BMCC | Deerubbin | 30/09/2015 #79 p2936 |
| Emu Cave | BMCC | Deerubbin | 24/04/2020 #85 p1515 |
| Collingwood precinct | Liverpool | Tharawal | 6/03/2009 #50 p1338 |
| Shaws Cave Yellomundee | Hawkesbury | Deerubbin | 18/03/2022 #118 |
| Bujiwa Bay Resting Place | Hornsby | Metropolitan | 30/09/2005 #120 p8036 |
| Guragalung Gayanayung (Maroota Historic Site) | Hornsby | Metropolitan | 26/06/2015 #52 pp1800-1801 |
| Towlers Bay Resting Place | Northern Beaches | Metropolitan | 30/09/2005 #120 p8038 |
| Reef Beach Resting Place | Northern Beaches | Metropolitan | 30/09/2005 #120 p8036 |
| Quarantine Station Resting Places | Northern Beaches | Metropolitan | 30/09/2005 #120 p8037 |
| Moon Rock | Northern Beaches | Metropolitan | 14/10/2016 #82 p2770 |
| Cromer Heights Rock Engraving and Shelter | Northern Beaches | Metropolitan | 6/02/2020 #21 p374 |
| Coast Hospital Cemetery resting Place | Randwick | La Perouse | 30/09/2005 #120 p8037 |
| Camp Wonawong Resting Place | Sutherland | Gandangara | 19/12/2003 #197 p 11534 |
| Towra Point Resting Place | Sutherland | La Perouse | 3/01/2003 #6 p40 |
| Costens Point Resting Place | Sutherland | La Perouse | 30/09/2005 #120 p8036 |
| Dharawal Resting Place, Middle Rill | Sutherland | La Perouse | 16/07/2010 #92 p3564 |
| Era Beach Resting Place | Wollongong | Illawarra | 30/09/2005 #120 p8036 |

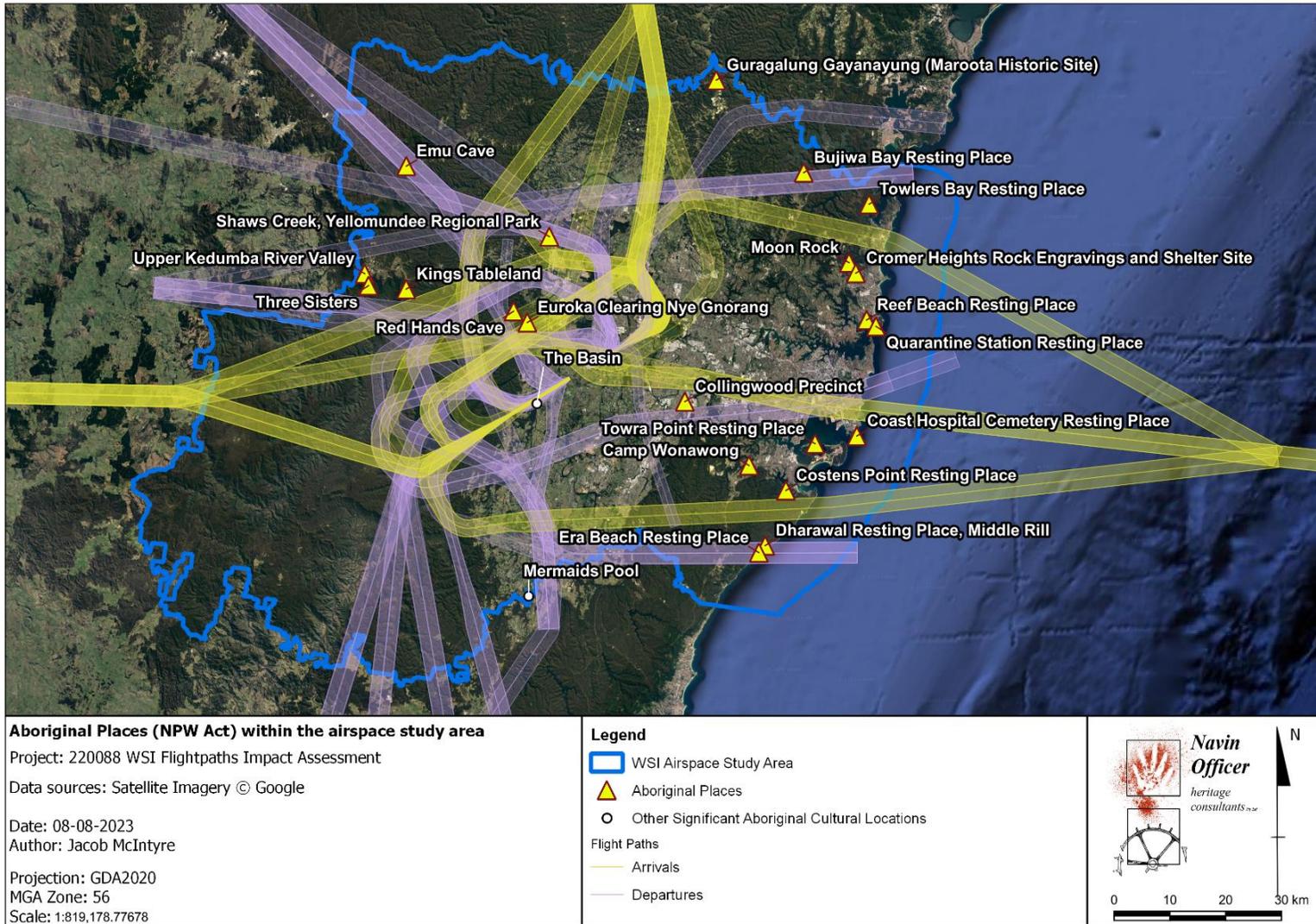


Figure 4.8 All Aboriginal Places (gazetted under the NPW Act) within the airspace study area

4.1.6.1 Aboriginal heritage sites – subset Blue Mountains

The Greater Blue Mountains region contains 1,400 recorded Aboriginal sites. This number is likely to be an under-representation of the actual sites that exist as the majority of the area which comprises the GBMA has not been systematically surveyed. Where surveys have occurred a wide range of site types have been identified including a number of sites that are often associated with spiritual and/or ceremonial values. These sites include shelters with pigment rock art, rock engravings, mythological sites or story places that are linked to Dreamtime beings, and ceremonial sites. Since inscription of the GBMA in 2000 there has been a growing recognition that the Aboriginal heritage values of the WHA are greater than were represented when the area was originally nominated (Mackay 2015:79). While the area has always been known to contain rock art sites the range, quantity and complexity of the art has been further documented through discoveries and documentation of new sites (Tacon 2002, 2011; Tacon et al. 2007, Tacon et al. 2008).

Those within the focus area for First Nations Engagement (see Figure 1.10) are closest to the WSI and include the 6 APs within the Blue Mountains City LGA (see Section 4.1.4) and another located nearby adjacent to the Nepean River at Yellomundee within the Hawkesbury LGA.

These 7 APs are:

The Three Sisters Katoomba: The Three Sisters are connected to Aboriginal spirituality and ceremony and provide a visual testament to the dreamtime stories. The statement of significance supporting the nomination notes that:

For Gundungurra, Darug, Wiradjuri and Tharawal people the Three Sisters is a spiritual place of ancestors and a mythical site of legends and stories telling how the Three Sisters came to command a view of the valley in traditional times. The Gundungurra tell one story of how the three sisters fell in love against traditional lore, and another that tells how there were originally seven sisters and not just the three seen here today.

Another story associated with the Legend of Three Sisters has a warning for youngsters and warns them not to stray too far from their homes. This kind of warning runs through many versions of stories told to the Gundungurra young.

The view over the valley and down to the Kedumba Creek is part of the Three Sisters story.

This is an educational place that demonstrates a traditional era of ceremony and custom. The area has great beauty, and the magnificent Three Sisters rock formation stands as testament to traditional times. The valley below the Three Sisters and down to the Kedumba Creek line has many sites as testament to the ceremonies and traditional stories that have been passed down to present day Aboriginal educators. (www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au SHI place record viewed 17/01/2023)

Emu Cave: Emu Cave is an important rock art site that continues to be of special significance to First Nations people. The AP protects the exact location of the cave within a general buffered area. Emu Cave is actually a deep sandstone shelter, in open eucalypt forest. The innermost recess and entire western wall are covered with track-like engravings. A recording of the site undertaken in 2003 recorded 172 engraved figures as well as 5 faint red hand stencils. Most engravings resemble bird tracks but there are also macropod tracks (kangaroo and wallaby), grooves, ovals, Y-shapes and a single U-shape.

Emu Cave is one of at least 31 art sites within the GBM WHA evoking the emu. The cave's panel of mostly emu tracks is of a distinctive style of engraving, which contributes to the very diverse body of art sites within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Tacon et al 2007). The statement of significance notes:

Located above Bells Line of Road on a north-south ridge between Lithgow and Richmond, Emu Cave is of special significance to multiple Aboriginal groups including the Darug, Darkinjung, Gundungurra and Wiradjuri peoples, as a significant marker on a Dreaming track which passes through an inter-tribal boundary. This area connects Aboriginal people with the Dreaming, the landscape and each other.

Aboriginal people believe Emu Cave was a ceremonial site where people were taught sacred stories, spiritual lore and the sacred practice of art along the Dreaming track. Some also believe it was a place-marker which indicated the location of hunting groups or the boundary between totem groups. The site retains cultural significance to Aboriginal people today and provides an ongoing link to Ancestral beings and the Dreaming, past cultural practices and belief systems, and current understandings of Country and shared Country.

The cave contains 172 engraved figures, mostly of emu tracks, which have been dated using radiocarbon dating to be at least 1900 years old (1900 ± 220 BP). The cave also features red stencils and paintings, and contains an ochre pit (red and yellow, with several possible exhausted pits) which explains its rich rock art. It is widely recognised as the oldest dated example of rock art in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA). Emu Cave has significant research potential, with detailed research on rock art, artefacts and landscape features continuing in this special part of the world to continue the story of Aboriginal Australia. (www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au SHI Place record viewed 18/01/2023)

Euroka Clearing Nye Gnorang is located at Glenbrook within the Blue Mountains National Park. The statement of significance notes that it is significant to the Dharug people because:

... of their continued connection to the area. They have visited the area in the National Park for many years for cultural ceremonies and to pass on their cultural knowledge to their younger generations. They have collected ochre, rejuvenated their sites, held their smoking ceremonies for mourning and healing, and naming ceremonies for children and adults. In Euroka Clearing, on Appletree Flat, the Darug community and family members have for many years carved burial trees that represent their connection to their past. (www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au SHI Place record viewed 18/01/2023)

Kings Tableland near Wentworth Falls is a camping and meeting place of significance to Gundungurra people. The statement of significance for this place is as follows:

Kings Tableland Aboriginal Place is significant to Aboriginal culture because it includes, but is not limited to, a sandstone rock platform with extensive grinding and other grooves, a shelter with rock art that has been recorded as being the oldest Aboriginal site in the Blue Mountains region and containing unique vertically engraved depictions of kangaroo and bird tracks.

It also provides the Gundungurra peoples with a traditional and historical connection to the Blue Mountains area. The area was used as a camping and meeting place where connections with neighbouring Aboriginal groups travelling through their Country and along the traditional walking tracks (now known as the Great Western Highway and the Ingar Fire Trail) occurred. The Kings Tableland was historically used as a camping site by Aboriginal residents of the Burratorang Valley Aboriginal camp who would walk to Wentworth Falls and Katoomba for employment purposes until the early 1900s (www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au SHI Place record viewed 18/01/2023).

Red Hands Cave near Glenbrook: Red Hands Cave is situated within the Blue Mountains National Park and was named because of red, orange and white First Nations people's hand stencils located within the cave.

According to Aboriginal stories the cave was the abode of Aboriginal ghosts that represented the children left there by the Great Spirit. There are 45 hand markings both left and right and some of these are children. There is also documented evidence that there was a Bora Ring on the top of the cave. Over the years there has been significant vandalism to the cave. (www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au SHI Place record viewed 18/01/2023).

The cave was badly vandalised before it was gazetted as an AP, and this caused distress to First Nations people and resulted in the cave being enclosed.

Shaws Creek AP in Yellomundee Regional Park: Unfortunately, the significance of this site in the SHI is poorly articulated being a general description of the place rather than focusing on the cultural values for which it is important, but it does notes that:

The place has a natural beauty where the elements of vegetation, rock formations and river created a highly aesthetic landscape; it was also a place that could sustain great numbers of people with ample water available from the river and having root vegetable harvests readily on hand, as well as animal foods.

The place is known for a number of Aboriginal engravings and significant cultural values are associated with the rock engravings and rock shelters/occupation sites (Kohen et al. 1984; Stockton 1973, 1977a). One of these rock shelters, KI, was found to have a subsurface artefact density of 6,000/m³, and both KI and KII were key sites in the development of the timeframe and description of the Bondaian stone tool tradition and the Australian Eastern Regional Sequence (of stone tools) and are thus important archaeologically. These sites are located in a resource rich environment with easy access to raw materials in the Nepean gravels for stone tool making and plentiful food resources. The long occupation sequences at the excavated sites (i.e., back to around 13,00BP), the variety of site types and numbers of artefacts within the AP all attest to this place being an enduring and important gathering and/or ceremonial place for First Nations people in the past. For First Nations people today it has become an important place evidencing the connection with their ancestors and Yellomundee Regional Park is used as a contemporary place to camps, gather resources and teach younger generations about their culture.

Upper Kedumba River Valley -The Gully is a former Aboriginal fringe settlement. The statement of significance is as follows:

In the pre-1788 era, the Gully was an important meeting and camping place for Aboriginal people.

Gundungurra people established a permanent residential settlement in the Gully from at least 1894. The Aboriginal settlement at the Gully was outside the control of the NSW Government's Aboriginal Protection Board, which meant that residents were relatively independent, built their own huts, and established a strong community. A culture of sharing was an important feature of life in the Gully: residents shared resources and helped each other, especially during the Depression in the 1930s. Lyn Stranger remembers the Mission Church, which members of the Aboriginal community helped build in 1910, as being 'very important in the community life of the Gully'. It was a meeting place for local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

In 1957 the residents of the Gully were forcibly evicted to make way for the construction of a car racing track. The eviction caused emotional distress and upheaval for the local Aboriginal community.

Local Gundungurra and Darug ex-residents and their descendants continue to visit the former settlement because many of their relatives were born, grew up, or lived at the Gully. Dawn Colless, a Gundungurra woman, who lived at the Gully as a child, describes her relationship to the place: 'when I go there, I feel the people who have lived there... it is such a special place - a sacred place' (www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au SHI Place record viewed 18/01/2023).

4.2 Aboriginal community values

On one level it should be noted that all Aboriginal sites have cultural value for First Nations people as tangible connections to their ancestors and that Aboriginal sites (both recorded and yet to be recorded) are present across the entirety of the NSW landscape except where they have been removed by development activity. This project however is seeking to identify places of high cultural value to First Nations people either in terms of spiritual values or contemporary use that are likely to be negatively impacted by the flight paths passing over them. Given that the flight paths are in the air above sites, most of the sites in the airspace study area will not be physically impacted by them.

Many Aboriginal cultural sites that result from pre-invasion traditional activities such as campsites, quarries and artefacts scatters are robust to the impacts of noise and emissions and will not be affected by flight paths overhead. For example, stone tools which are a primary signature of Aboriginal activity across the Cumberland Plain are very unlikely to be impacted by noise or aircraft emissions. While the locations of some of these sites may once have held other intangible values to the people who lived there and created them, in the main the intangible values that these places may once have held have been lost over time or have been overwritten by post invasion land use activities that have modified the former cultural landscape.

There are many types of Aboriginal sites in NSW that are of cultural value but may not be of substantial scientific or archaeological value. These are sites that are important to First Nations people as places of current or past ceremonial activity, or places that are spiritually important as places created during the Dreaming associated with creation stories (Organ 1994, Johnson 2014, Reed 1982, Robinson 1966, Smyth 1878, 1972). In some cases, there may be no humanly modified elements such as the presence of artefacts or other physical changes, and the place may comprise a natural

landscape feature or a place where ceremonial practice has imbued the place with spiritual energy. Other places that may have important cultural values include burials, or massacre sites associated with spirits of ancestors, and places currently used by members of the Aboriginal community for resource gathering and culture camps. Both of these activities work to refresh and maintain cultural connections and their locations are important places for cultural revival and intergenerational transmission of culture to current and future generations.

Within the airspace study area an overview of such places which have been recorded was considered. To aid discussion with knowledge holders' maps were prepared that showed the distribution of known and recorded rock art sites, stone arrangements, natural mythological sites, burial sites and massacres within the focus area for Aboriginal consultation.

During consultation with First Nations knowledge holders there was robust and broad ranging discussion about what constitutes impact from activity associated with flight paths. Stakeholders were asked:

Are there places that you currently visit for cultural purposes? Including for example:

- *Places where your family and/or community meet for regular gatherings.*
- *Places where you fish or collect other resources.*
- *Places that you use to teach others/family about your culture.*
- *Are there places of spiritual significance to you, your family or community?*

The following places were identified as being of particular importance to the Aboriginal community:

- Emu rock engraving site, Faulconbridge
- Shaws Creek AP, Yellomundee Regional Park
- Bents Basin
- Linden Ridge (multiple sites)
- The Three Sisters (Seven sisters)
- Kings Tableland – rock art – Eagle site
- Mt Yengo
- Emu Cave AP
- Balgenny Farm – Koobawilla – place where stars are reflected in the water at South Camden
- Walls Cave, Blackheath
- Red Hands Cave (AHIMS #45-5-0103)
- Wianamatta (South Creek)
- The Nepean River
- Traditional walking tracks (now often developed into road corridors, often connecting significant sites) e.g.:
 - especially the ceremonial circuit encompassing Bells Line of Road (see Appendix C)
 - Bells Line of Road
 - The Northern Road
 - Putty Road
 - Parramatta Road
 - Cowpastures Road
 - Blacktown Road
 - Queens Road Lawson
- Possum dreaming site at Little Hartley (outside the airspace study area)
- The Mirror Shelter, Woodhouse Creek, near Mt Gilead (where the sky is reflected in the water)

- Appin Massacre Site – now protected as the Appin Massacre Cultural Landscape (outside the airspace study area)
- Thirlmere Lakes
- Mermaid Pools.

In relation to these sites the knowledge holders interviewed were asked:

Thinking about these places, do you think a flight path overhead would affect your cultural use of or practices carried out at the place? And if so, how?

This was a complex question for people to address. In some case people said no, or only marginally if the aircraft were intermittent and so high that noise was not a factor. Others responded that any flights over the place would impact its values and affects its use, however this was more of a generic answer, and they could not explain why. However, several places were clearly of a particular concern and for specific reasons.

In terms of the nature of the values embodied in these places these could be broadly considered in terms of:

- cultural values which relate to concepts of peace, tranquillity, and connecting with nature, and
- spiritual places and places associated with the Dreaming.

4.2.1 Cultural values relate to concepts of peace, tranquillity, connecting with nature

Consultation with knowledge holders revealed a number of places where visual and/or noise intrusions were considered likely to impact the cultural values of the place. For example: Shaws Creek AP, Yellomundee.

Well see, we married into Burraburongal, so it's really Burraburongal people's land. But we've been considered the caretakers over time for that space from Burraburongal. So, we have some sort of custodianship with, with the blessing of Burraburongal people now, of today. Yeah. And they all come down too, and we all care for the site.

That's one of the places, where when you talk about flight paths and the sorts of things that happen on that country, it would be very disruptive. It is a gathering place for lot of mobs to come together and we do different cultural camps there. It's really, taken a long time and a lot of work from people who have gone before me that I respect, to enable that. And I just think it would be very sad for everybody, not just us, if we were sitting there and we had a plane going over our head, that would be terrible. Especially when you think about how long that it's taken for us to be able to get permission to use the place for our culture camps in this place that was so significant. So, if we were there teaching or learning and you know, trying to speak, and to hold space in a cultural way. It would be, very disruptive to have the noise of a big engine and 'Wait, hang on, we'll just wait now talk', you know? It's not proper way. (Dharug Aboriginal women 15/11/2022 pers. comm.)

The Shaws Creek AP has a number of very important rockshelter sites with Art and occupation deposit e.g., AHIMS 45-5-54 (McCarthy 1948:28, Fig 92).

In recognition of the special significance of the Shaws Creek area to the Dharug people, the NSW Minister for the Environment declared the area an AP (see NSW Gov., Gazette 118 18/03/2022). The statement of significance notes in part that the place is significant in part because:

The Darug people used the place then, and now, as an educational place and a resource rich place where children and young people could learn from Elders about traditional practices, such as fishing, collecting and using the readily available bush foods and natural medicines in the area. The area acted and still acts as a bush school room, where today's children also learn about their history and are taught traditional stories. Part of their story includes the frontier violence that took place across this site and across the region as colonists settled along the rivers. Its story tells of resistance as Aboriginal warriors fought to hold onto their lands and to find justice for their people. It is a story of resilience as Aboriginal people survived. The story of their leaders, their warriors, and their resilience should be told and recognised. (Statement of Significance www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au)



Figure 4.9 Yellow Rock lookout escarpment, Yellomundee Regional Park (Image: John Yurasek/Department of Planning and Environment (DPE))

Bents Basin is another place where clans are reported as coming together in the past and where Aboriginal families from Dharug, Gundungurra and Tharawal people still gather today to renew their cultural ties to each other and to country. Interviewees from each of the 3 nations referred to Bents Basin, noting that in addition to the sacred basin itself there are a number of important art sites and women’s sites in the surrounding area.

Bents Basin is another shared space that’s really important for our people to come together for ceremony, so I really want that noted (Dharug informant #1 pers. comm. 15/11/2022)

That’s an important song line for the Eel Dreaming. It’s a primordial waterhole its very significant (Dharug informant #2 pers. comm. 15/11/2022).

The Aboriginal women consulted about this site were concerned that visual and noise intrusion from aircraft flying overhead would have a serious impact on the cultural values of this place where currently they take Aboriginal youth to camp and reconnect with nature and their culture. Part of this transgenerational sharing of culture relies on the feeling of tranquillity and isolation from urban life.



Figure 4.10 Bents Basin State Conservation Area, Nepean River (Image: Kevin McGrath/DPE)

4.2.2 Spiritual/Dreaming cultural values

The Three Sisters Dreaming site, set within its cultural landscape including the vistas from Echo Point is a site which typifies this category for natural places with spiritual and Dreaming values. While the 3 rock formations at this point may be central to the story, knowledge holders pointed out that they were part of a much larger storyline. The relatively unmarred view of the cultural landscape as viewed from the lookout was important to an appreciation and understanding of the cultural values of the site. It was noted that occasionally aircraft were visible in the distance and while this was not ideal, they were relatively infrequent, at a high altitude and some distance way, and so did not pose a significant impact. The current level of tourism impact, noise and traffic at Echo Point were noted as existing impacts detrimental to heritage values. However, all knowledge holders were united in the view that any future increases in visual intrusion or aircraft noise would have a severe impact on the cultural values of the site.

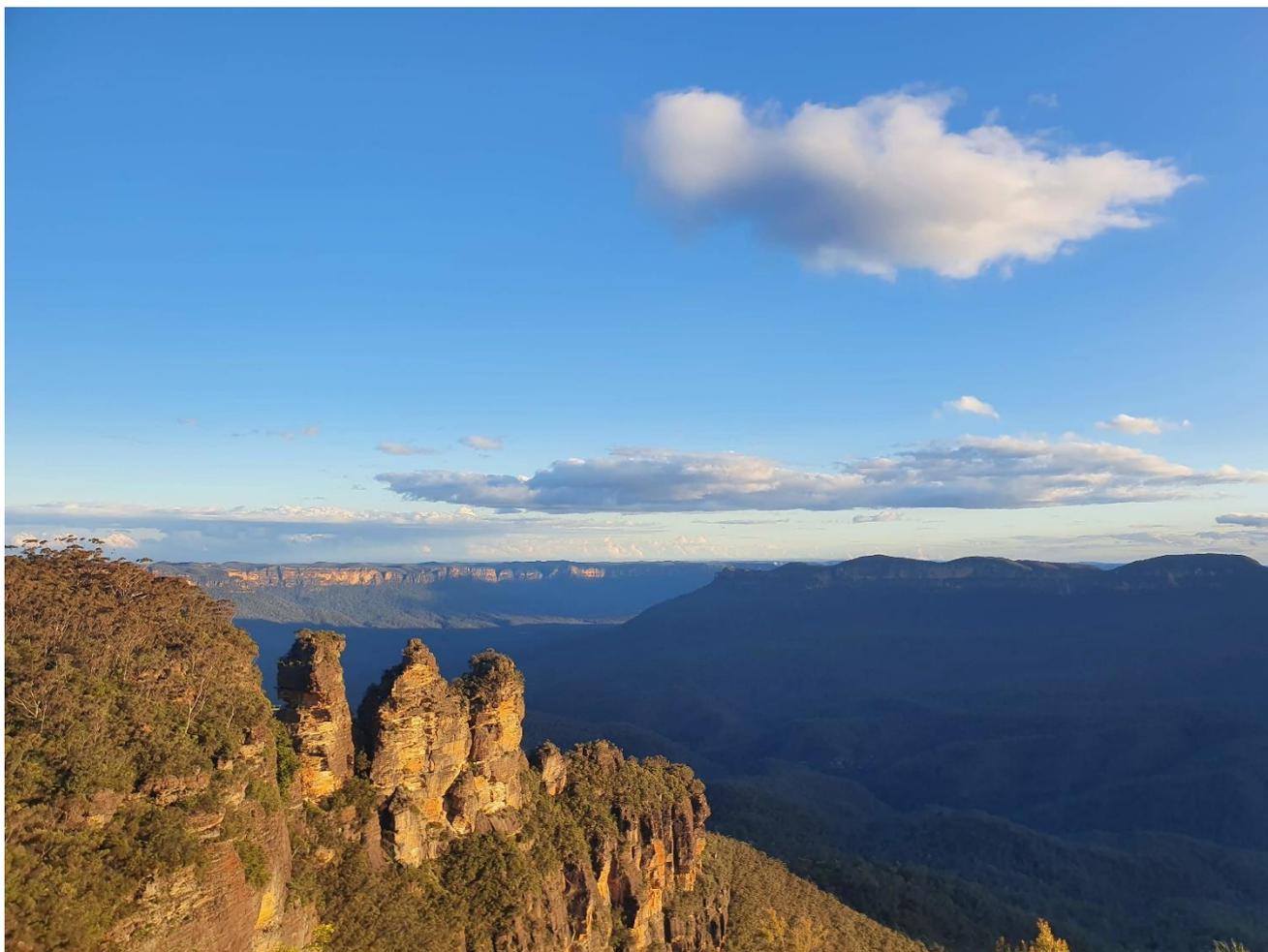


Figure 4.11 The Three Sisters and cultural landscape context (Image: Louise Clifton/DPE)

The Emu rock engraving at Faulconbridge and Emu Cave are both associated with Dreaming stories related to Emu. The engraving site is reportedly linked to the ‘Emu in the Sky’ constellation. The First Nations people were concerned particularly with disruption to the airspace above the site during the period when the Emu in the Sky constellation is most visible. Emu Cave is said to be part of a dreaming track that extends

Red Hands Cave is another site with spiritual connections and an early recording of the beliefs associated with the site maintain that:

This cave was the abode of the blackfellows [sic] ghosts. The hands [stencils] represented the children left there by the Great Spirit. If the hand of a living youth corresponded to one of the stencilled hands, he was believed to be re-incarnated and was in time to become the local chief. (pers. com. Miss Daisy Booth to S. Erickson and recorded on AHIMS # 45-5-0103)

Even though there has been substantial conservation intervention at Red Hands Cave to protect it from vandalism it remains an important place for Dharug people.



Figure 4.12 Red Hands rock shelter (Image: Nick Cubbin/DPE)

Bents Basin or ‘Gulguer’ is particularly important to Dharug, Gundungurra and Tharawal First Nations people. First Nations Women currently use this place a safe place for family gatherings and passing on cultural knowledge to their children. The actual basin or scour pool is considered a sacred place and is home to a dangerous being called variously Gurungadge, Gurangatch or Gurungaty. This creature travelled to and created many places in the Dreamtime and is linked to other places including a freshwater spring (the Gurungaty Water Place) Wollongong and further along the south coast; and from the southern highlands along the Wollondilly to the Wombeyan Caves and across the GBMA to the Jenolan Caves and waterholes on the Fish River.

Stories about Gurungaty were recorded by ethnographer R.H. Mathews’ (1904:35)

Gu-ru-ngaty is the name of an aquatic monster among the Thurawal and Gundungarra tribes. He resides in deep waterholes, and would drown and eat strange blacks, but would not harm his own people. He usually climbed a tree near the water, from which he kept a look out. If he saw a stranger approaching, he slid down and dived into the water, without making a splash, or leaving any ripples on the surface. As soon as the individual began to drink, he was caught by Gurungaty.

Dharug traditions include stories of Gurangatch and Mirragan , beings who link places along a Dreaming trail from Joadja in the southern highlands to Jooliundoo a waterhole in the Upper Fish River (Smith 1992)

The pursuit of Gurangatch a ‘dreamtime serpent’ with some of the qualities of the Murray Cod, by Mirragan, a Quoll, passes through areas, such as Wombeyan Caves, the Jamison Valley and Jenolan Caves, associated with the cultural routes of non-Aboriginal tourism. From the 1830s cattlemen used part of the Gurangatch and Mirragan track to move stock between the Burratorang and Megalong Valleys. (Smith 1992)

First Nations people continue to recount these Dreamtime stories and to teach their children to respect the place created by these beings. A contemporary version of the story of Gurungatch and Mirragan is told by Aunty Val Mulcahy and can be heard at this link <https://youtu.be/e-g98I2s11E>.

4.2.3 Places of memory and family experiences

Some places are culturally significant because of the connection they provide to the recent historical past. Such connections sometimes be traumatic or bittersweet. One example is the Upper Kedumba River Valley AP, also known as 'The Gully'. This is an example of a place that prior to invasion served a popular camping place for First Nations people and there are sites that physically attest to this early occupation of the area. Post invasion it evolved into a place of refuge for First Nations people avoiding and resisting government control. It is a former fringe settlement of the Gundungurra people.

Gundungurra people established a permanent residential settlement in the Gully from at least 1894. The Aboriginal settlement at the Gully was outside the control of the NSW Government's Aboriginal Protection Board, which meant that residents were relatively independent, built their own huts, and established a strong community. A culture of sharing was an important feature of life in the Gully: residents shared resources and helped each other, especially during the Depression in the 1930s.⁷

The settlement continued until residents were forcibly evicted in 1957 to make way for a car racing track. First Nations people maintain a strong connection to this place.



Figure 4.13 Kedumba Valley, GBMA (Image: Craig Marshall/DPE)

⁷ <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/> Heritage Item ID: 5062893

Chapter 5 Impact assessment

5.1 Perceived and potential impacts

The potential impact to cultural heritage impact place associated with the proposed flight paths is indirect in that there is no associated mechanical destruction of sites or heritage items. In Section 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 below the perceived and potential impacts of the flight paths on cultural heritage values are outlined. These are then discussed in more detail in the following sections which consider the impact of emissions on Aboriginal rock site and on non-indigenous heritage items and the potential impacts of noise and visual intrusion on cultural heritage values. The assessment of noise impacts is based on composite contours and reflects 3 different runway operating scenarios. Actual impacts at a given location may be lower, depending on the operating scenario that is ultimately adopted.

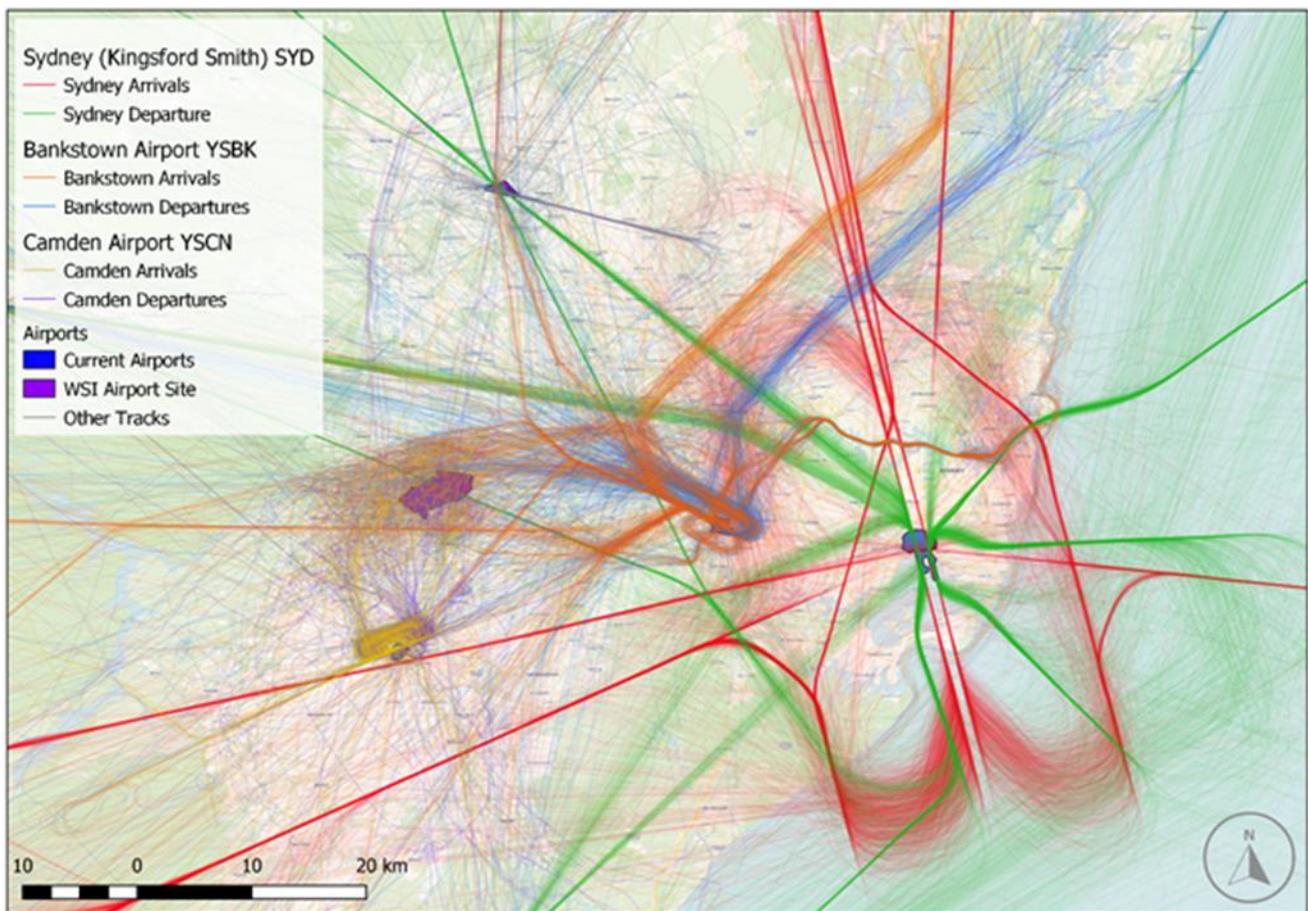


Figure 5.1 Example of flight paths from existing airports over a one-week period in 2019 (source Airservices 2023)

5.1.1 Aboriginal cultural places and values that may be impacted

As noted in Chapter 4, many Aboriginal sites such as artefact occurrences (including 'isolated finds' 'artefact scatters', 'open camp sites' and sub-surface artefact distributions) will not be physically impacted by the proposed flight paths. However, there are places where the physical fabric of the place may potentially be impacted. These include Aboriginal rock engravings, and pigment art, which in the study area occur on sandstone surfaces. These places may be affected physically through dust or chemical interaction of pollutants on rock surfaces. Some rock engravings and pigment art sites along with stone arrangements, ceremonial sites, and natural mythological sites may also have intangible spiritual values that may be vulnerable to noise or visual intrusion.

Noise can impact cultural values where for example those values include the need for peace, tranquillity, and spiritual connection. Noise can also impact values where those values are rooted in the role of the place as a site of intergenerational cultural education e.g., at Shaws Creek AP, Yellomundee Regional Park which is used as a venue for cultural education of Aboriginal youth.

Some places are significant for their spiritual values, and these were of particular concern to the knowledge holders interviewed. For example, the Emu in the Sky constellation is associated with several places on the ground and this connection is potentially disrupted by the intrusion of aircraft (see Chapter 4).

It was acknowledged by the knowledge holders interviewed, that designing flight paths to avoid all Aboriginal sites of cultural value would be impossible, however the places referred to in their discussions (see Section 4.2) were places of particular concern.

5.1.2 Non-Aboriginal heritage places and values

Most of the listed non-Indigenous heritage places consist of built heritage structures which will be relatively robust in the face of impacts caused by noise and pollution. Perceived impacts relate to increased grime build up on buildings from aircraft emissions, citing for example existing air borne pollution under KSA flight paths close to the airport; and noise that will diminish the values associated with peace, serenity and wellbeing of some sites that currently have such values, such as those associated with the GBMA and other rural and bushland settings.

In most cases, listed heritage items are already under the myriad of flight paths into and out of KSA and other airports (Figure 5.1); this example of flight paths from existing airports over a one-week period in 2019 provides an understanding of both the areas overflowed by existing flight paths and the complexity involved in adding new flight paths. It is reasonable to assume that those places most likely to be subject to appreciable impact are in close proximity to WSI as this will be where arriving and departing aircraft would be at lower altitudes and over different places than those currently subjected to low flying aircraft. Visual and noise intrusions and any emissions reaching the heritage item would be greater than at places further away where aircraft would be higher. In general, the noise from departing aircraft can be expected to be louder close to the airport as they are climbing. For this reason, consideration was given to places that occurred within a 5 km radius of the airport and then within a 10 km radius of the airport.

5.1.3 Listed heritage places

Most statutory heritage registers, apart from AHIMS, list significant assessed places of Indigenous and non- Indigenous values and/or natural values.

The assessment of cultural values in NSW (and Australia generally) follows the principles of the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013). The records for places that meet the threshold for listing on the SHR, NHL and WHL include a statement of significance against set criteria. This is ideally, but not always, done for locally significant places listed on LEPs also. The following sections consider the potential impact to places on those lists.

It should be noted that the lists are not mutually exclusive. For example, a place that is of World Heritage significance will also be of national significance and usually also recognised as having state and local significance. In this way the lists get larger as one moves down the tiers to places that are significant to local communities and smaller or more exclusive as one moves up through higher thresholds of significance.

Table 5.2 provides a summary of all heritage listed places within a 10 km radius of WSI.

5.2 Potential impact to World heritage listed sites

The airspace study area for WSI encompasses parts of 3 WHAs: the GBMA and the Opera House, and parts of the Australian Convict WHA (Hyde Park Barracks, Cockatoo Island, old Government House and Domain and the Great North Road). Of these it is the GBMA that is the closest, and the only property overflowed by the proposed flight paths. It is also the largest and most complex, consisting of multiple national parks with a diversity of flora and fauna, international significant geological features, hundreds of Aboriginal sites and important historical sites both within and adjacent to the WHA.

The assessment of impact on the natural values for which the GBMA is listed is outside the scope of this technical report, however there are a range of important cultural values that are relevant to proposals for additional areas and values to be added to the listing.

5.2.1 The Greater Blue Mountains Area

The proceeding discussion about impacts has focused on individual cultural sites or categories of cultural sites and much of it is also relevant to the GBMA. Only part of the WHA is included within the airspace study area (refer to Figure 1.9) and it is also relevant to note that the GBMA is already overflowed by aircraft flying into and out of KSA; to date this has not been raised as an issue that negatively impacts the World Heritage values of the property.

As noted in Section 4.1.1.1 the recognised OUV for which the GBMA was listed are natural values rather than cultural values; however, there has been a long call from within Australia to renominate the property for its cultural values and there is a current review underway of the national listing to consider which cultural values may meet the threshold for NHL. There are a range of significant cultural values of the property which are widely recognised within the Australian community including the aesthetic, historic and Indigenous heritage values of the area. Some of these values are robust in relation to the potential impact of aircraft flying overhead. For example, one of the additional cultural values being considered is historic value related to the historic crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth in 1813.

The Mt York sector, one of the additional areas under assessment, may have outstanding value to the nation under National Heritage criterion (a) for its historic values. The Blue Mountains Crossing place is associated with an enduring story of exploration. On 28 May 1813 the Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth expeditionary party reached Mt York on the western flank of the Blue Mountain ranges. From this mountain vantage point they were able to see large areas of land considered suitable for grazing. They had also identified, marked and surveyed a route across the Blue Mountains which enabled the development of a transport corridor for commerce and initiated a new phase of colonial expansion west over the mountains. This achievement has been recognised as a turning point in the development of the early colony in NSW. Access across the mountains to new territory and the economic opportunities it provided enhanced the colony's capacity to grow and develop beyond its then primary function as a penal colony. Features expressing this explorer legend and significant turning point in Australia's colonial history include the 1813 explorer route, the remnant historic road fabric and rock markings associated with Cox's 1814 road, and the historic fabric and rock markings associated with Macquarie's 1815 excursion along Cox's Road. The view of the landscape west from Mt York and of the River Lett is also significant for its ability to demonstrate the potential of the land for expansion of the colony that the Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth expedition identified in 1813.⁸

This value will not be impacted by the flight paths as the historic feat remains unaltered and inarguable, regardless of any consideration of noise or emission and is not dependent in any way on the uninterrupted connections between land and sky. However other values are more vulnerable to potential impacts, and these are considered below.

⁸ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/places/world/blue-mountains/additional-values-areas#national-heritage-criterion-e> viewed 07/06/2023

5.2.1.1 Aesthetic values

The GBMA is comprised of over 862,00ha of bush land across a geographically rugged and awe-inspiring landscape. It is a powerful, spectacular and distinctive landscape that is highly valued by the Australian community generally and by many community and cultural groups. This landscape has been a source of inspiration for art and literature since the early days of the colony (see for example Figure 4.1, Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3) and while Aboriginal rock art should not be assumed to equate in any direct way to European art, it is clear that the landscape and artistic expression were inextricably linked long before the arrival of European invaders.

Recognition and appreciation of these aesthetic values and natural beauty are evidenced in high visitation rates to parts of the place and extensive representation and acknowledgement in paintings, photographs, books, journals, poems, and films. Specific awe-inspiring landscapes include those from Govetts Leap Lookout of the Grose Valley and associated bluffs and peaks; Wentworth Falls; the Three Sisters and Mt Solitary; Kanangra Walls; and high cliffs in the Capertee Valley at Glen Davis. Stunning geographical features of the GBMA include panoramic valley views, such as the Jamison and Megalong valleys from high ridge line or cliff top vantage points; gorges and valleys of the Grose, Wollangambe and Colo Rivers; many undisturbed skylines; long cliff lines; sandstone escarpments; and pagoda rock formations. Other features demonstrating particularly high aesthetic values within a more limited view field include slot canyons and karst cave formations and arches at Jenolan Caves.⁹

Should flight paths disrupt these significant view lines they would potentially have a negative impact on them. The impact would to some extent be dependent on the height of the aircraft as this would have a bearing on the visual and noise impact.

5.2.1.2 Aboriginal heritage values

Since the GBMA was added to the WHL in the year 2000, there has been a growing body of work documenting the Aboriginal values of the WHA, along with a recognition that the cultural values are more substantial than reflected in the original nomination dossier (see NSW NPWS 1998). Amongst other changes, The Three Sisters, Kings Tableland, Red Hands Cave, Euroka and Mt Yengo have each received statutory recognition as 'Aboriginal Places' (i.e., places of particular cultural significance to First Nations people) under the NPW Act. Of these all are within the airspace study area with the exception of Mt Yengo, which is further to the north, beyond the airspace study area, in Darkinjung country. Mt Yengo is significant as the places where the Dreamtime being, Baiame, left the earth after creating the world (NPWS 2009).

The existing statement of integrity recognises the interconnectedness of Aboriginal values, traditional custodial relationship and the rich cultural landscape comprised of rock art and other sites.

An understanding of the cultural context of the GBMA is fundamental to the protection of its integrity. Aboriginal people from six language groups, through ongoing practices that reflect both traditional and contemporary presence, continue to have a custodial relationship with the area. Occupation sites and rock art provide physical evidence of the longevity of the strong Aboriginal cultural connections with the land. The conservation of these associations, together with the elements of the property's natural beauty, contributes to its integrity.

Contemporary First Nations people have a relationship with the landscape of the GBMA that has been shaped and influenced by more than 200 years of post-colonial impact. Traditional mechanisms of transmission of knowledge and information have been disrupted, and meanings and practices have been at times informed by new discoveries and historical research and cultural renewal. Sometimes the very act of dislocation and dispossession resulted in the development of new places of cultural significance. One example of this is the Gully in Katoomba which before 1788 was a meeting and camping place. Gundungurra and Dharug people re-established settlement here circa 1894, when it was outside the jurisdiction of the Aboriginal Protection Board and the place grew in significance as a place of community strength and freedom.

⁹ <https://www.dccew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/places/world/blue-mountains/additional-values-areas#national-heritage-criterion-e> viewed 07/06/2023

Many of the traditional stories of the creation of the landscape are still actively shared by First Nations people today. For example:

the Gundungurra story about the creation beings, serpent Gurangatch and quoll like Mirrigan, tells the tale of their fight across and under the landscape, resulting in the creation of the Wollondilly and Coxs River valleys, its waterholes and pools, and the caves of Jenolan (see Matthews in Stockton and Merriman 2009) (Mackay 2015:87).

Other places that have active stories include The Three Sisters rock formation which is a focus of both Dharug and Gundungurra legends. Traditional stories also connect this place to the Seven Sisters stories linked to the Pleiades, an important group of stars which form the basis of a similar Dreamtime connection across Australia.

Consultation within this report has focused on Dharug, Gundungurra and Tharawal people because these are the 3 groups that cover that area where the airspace study area and the GBMA, however when considering the whole of the WHA there are 6 Aboriginal language groups that have cultural interest in the area. They are the Darkinjung, Dharug, Gundungurra, Tharawal, Wanaruah and Wiradjuri people.

While there are likely to be many places that individuals and families visit to continue and deepen their relationship with the country and the spirits, there are some that have become important places for contemporary ceremony and practice. These include Kings Tableland AP, Eureka Clearing, 'Nye Gnorang' AP, Red Hands Cave, and Mt Yengo. Activities at each of these places would be sensitive to noise volume and frequency. Direct flights over Mt Yengo should be strictly avoided as this is the site of Baiame's ascension and there is a direct connection between the mountain and the sky. As has previously been discussed at length, there is a lack of the data needed to assess the long-term impact of emissions on Aboriginal rock art of the region and this is an issue to consider for Kings Tableland, Red Hands Cave and Mt Yengo NP.

5.2.2 The Sydney Opera House

The proposed flight paths do not overfly the Sydney Opera House and there is no anticipated impact on the cultural values of this property.

5.2.3 The Australian Convict Sites WHA

With the exception of the Great North Road, the proposed flight paths do not fly over the properties that make up this world heritage site. Aircraft flying over the Great North Road will be at a height that precludes significant noise or visual impact.

5.3 Potential impact to National Heritage listed sites

The closest nationally listed site is the GBMA which at its closest point is approximately 10 km to the west of the centre point of WSI. The flight paths do cross over parts of the GBMA and the implications of this are discussed in Section 5.2.1 above). The flight paths avoid impact to other properties on the NHL (see Figure 5.2) either because they either avoid direct overflight and/or because the distance from WSI means that aircraft will be much higher.

5.3.1 Royal National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area

This protected area was inscribed on the NHL in 2006. Royal National Park was Australia's first official national park, proclaimed in 1879. Together Royal NP and Garawarra State Conservation Area are part of the lands of the Dharawal speaking First Nations people who continue to have a strong connection to these lands. While its identified national values related to its plant species richness and intangible historical and social values associated with the history of the conservation movement (Hutton and Connors 1999) it has well documented tangible cultural values that are evident in its many Aboriginal sites (see for example Attenbrow 2012; Bursill 1993; Megaw 1965; Cox et al 1968; Stockton 1977b) and its historic structures and physical remnants (NPWS 1992; Holloway 2019) and intangible social values for many sectors of the Community (see for example Thomas 2001; Prinsen 2013).

This place is currently overflowed by some arrivals and departures from KSA, for example, in March 2023 there was an average of 11 flights per day arriving or departing from KSA¹⁰. These flights come from different direction and are at a range of heights:

- Arrivals into KSA from the north travel southwards across the city of Sydney to join the final approach that begins over water. Aircraft using this flight path will generally be at altitudes within the range of 5,000 to 7,000 feet as they pass over the NP.
- Aircraft arriving into Sydney from the south-west will pass over suburbs such as Barden Ridge and Yarrawarrah before turning southwards and flying over the Royal National Park to cross the coast. They will be generally within the altitude range of 6000 to 8,000 feet.
- Aircraft coming from the west will turn southwards over suburbs such as Illawong, Bangor, Jannali and Loftus as they head towards the coast. They will be generally within the altitude range of 6000 to 8,000 feet.
- As aircraft fly past Kurnell or Gamay (also known as Cook's Landing Place) on their final approach to KS's east runway they will be around 1000 ft and descending those approaching the western runway will be at around 1200 ft.

By contrast proposed aircraft arriving at night (between 1100pm and 5:30am) into Runway 05 at WSI will be travelling across the NP at between 13,300 and 17,500 ft. Departures from runway 05 and 23 overnight would overfly Garawarra NP at 20,000 ft and climbing.

In terms of noise impacts the area is outside the N70 noise contours for WSI, however aircraft may still be visible and heard at a noise level of about 42 decibels.

As noted in Section 5.4.5 Royal National Park has suite of Aboriginal rock art sites (including both painted art and engravings). It also has several places of local and State heritage significance as well (see Table 5.1). No publicly available research or monitoring of the impact of aircraft emissions on these places over the past 123 years that KSA has been operational, has been located although such impacts have been speculated (see Bursill 1993 referred to in Section 5.4.4). However, it is arguable that given the height of aircraft associated with WSI any additional emissions impacting cultural heritage at ground level would be negligible and negative impact if any would be associated with aircraft using KSA.

¹⁰ <https://aircraftnoise.airservicesaustralia.com/2020/04/30/sydney-how-many-aircraft-fly-near-me/#>

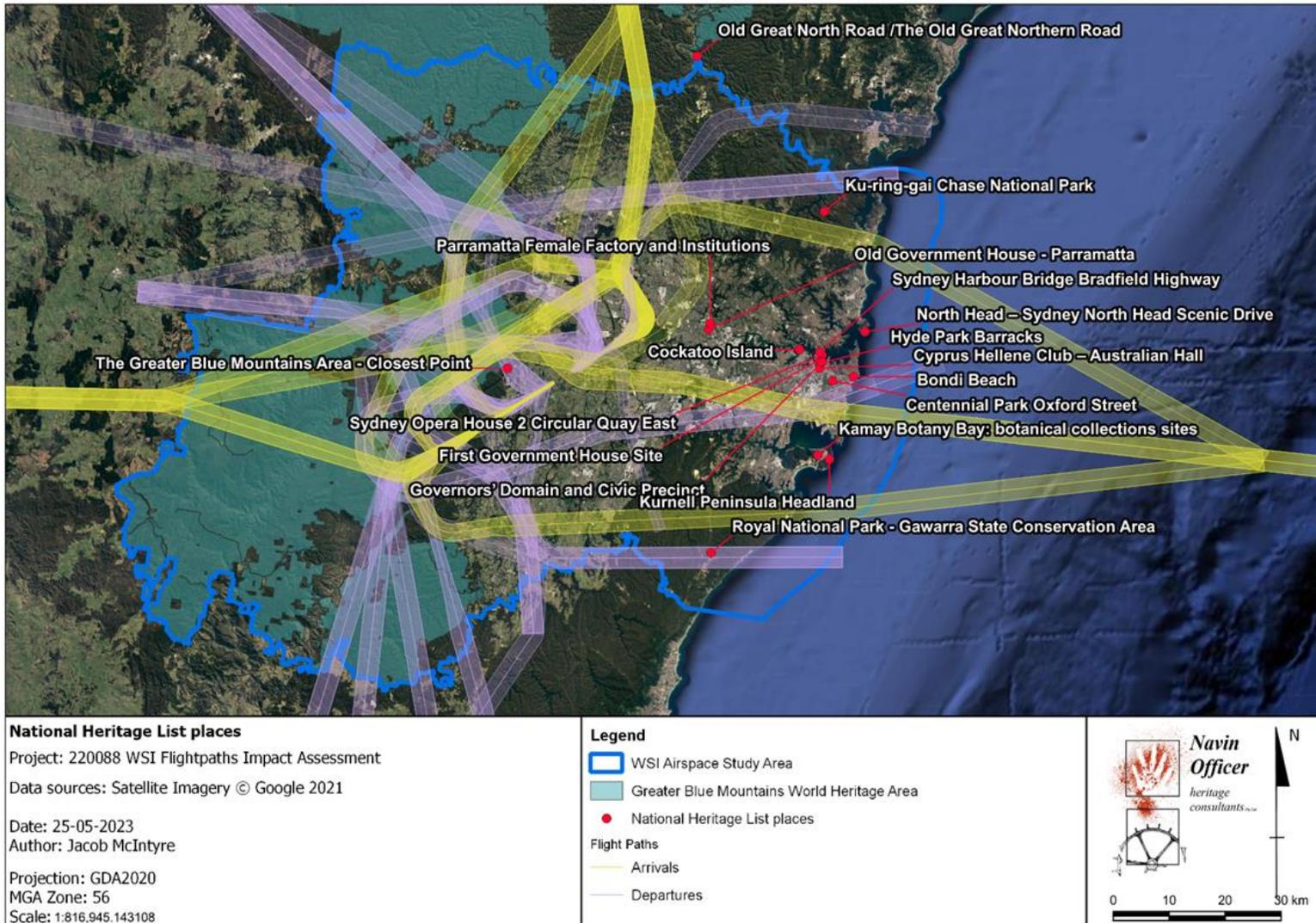


Figure 5.2 Nationally listed heritage places in relation to proposed flight paths (Note: this includes those places which are also WHAs)

5.3.1.1 Commonwealth Heritage List

There is one heritage item on the CHL within a 10km radius of the airport. This is the Orchard Hills Cumberland Plain Woodland.

The next closest CHL listed places are the Shale Woodland Llandilo followed by the North Base Trig station and the RAAF Base Richmond both located at Richmond; and the Old Army internment Camp Group and the Cubbitch Barta National Estate both located within the Holsworthy Army land. These latter 4 places are already overflowed by military craft.

Of these places the 2 woodlands will be impacted by multiple flight paths.

Orchard Hills Cumberland Plain Woodland (Place ID 105317) is located approximately 4.1 km north of WSI. It is listed for its natural values which are well documented (Benson and Howell 1990; French et al. 2000; NPWS 1997, 2000).

Orchard Hills is almost entirely vegetated with remnants and regenerating areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest. Cumberland Plain Woodland is listed as an endangered ecological community at both State and Commonwealth level. At State level, Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest is regarded as an endangered ecological community that is underrepresented in reserves. Orchard Hills is regarded as a core biodiversity area for conservation of both these communities.

The place comprises the least disturbed and largest remaining remnant of Cumberland Plain Woodland. The size of the Orchard Hills remnant provides a comparatively large area of continuous habitat for species likely to be excluded from small and isolated remnants, particularly the Cumberland Plain Woodland bird community. Mature tree heights at Orchard Hills reach 50 metres and include some of the most outstanding examples of Forest Red gum trees remaining in western Sydney.

The tributaries of Blaxland Creek at Orchard Hills are among the least disturbed catchments remaining on the Cumberland Plain and on Wianamatta Shale in western Sydney. Blaxland Creek tributaries are richer in aquatic macro-invertebrate genera than most other creeks in western Sydney. The macro-invertebrate community of this catchment has a high representation of disturbance-sensitive species. Stoneflies, LEPTOPHLEBIID mayflies and pollution-sensitive families of caddisflies appear to be confined to such streams within the Cumberland Plain. Orchard Hills therefore acts as a refuge and reservoir of regional conservation significance for such species that are dependent on low levels of agricultural and urban development.

The bush thickknee (*Burrhinus grallirius*), a rare bird, is listed as endangered in NSW and is regarded as a species of the greatest conservation concern in the Cumberland region. It has been recorded at Orchard Hills.

Orchard Hills has one plant listed as vulnerable in NSW, prickly spider-flower (*GREVILLEA JUNIPERINA*). Six other plant species are found in the place which are regarded as being of regional conservation significance. These are spreading bush-pea (*Pultenaea microphylla*), fuzzweed (*Vittadina pustulata*), watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum simulans*), dwarf skullcap (*Scutellaria humilis*), early nancy (*Wurmbea biglandulosa*) and the grass (*Panicum obseptum*). An additional 32 plant species are found at Orchard Hills which are regarded as inadequately conserved in western Sydney.

The low level of disturbance in the tributaries of Blaxland Creek within Orchard Hills provide a valuable benchmark to measure the degradation of creek systems generally in western Sydney. The absence of fire at Orchard Hills for approximately 50 years provides an opportunity for ecological research on regenerating Cumberland Plain Woodland.¹¹

¹¹ Summary statement of significance https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;search=state%3DNSW%3Blist_code%3DCHL%3Blegal_status%3D35%3Bkeyword_PD%3D0%3Bkeyword_SS%3D0%3Bkeyword_PH%3D0;place_id=105317

It is noted that there are potential historic heritage values (in remnants of the Mulgoa Irrigation Scheme 1890) and Aboriginal heritage values on the property, however these have not been assessed.

The Shale Woodland Llandilo (Place ID 105534) is located approximately 17.3 km north-northwest of WSI (see Figure 5.3). It is recognised for its natural values as,

...one of the largest remnants of the natural vegetation of the Cumberland Plain. It includes communities that are characteristic of Wianamatta shale, Tertiary alluvium, and low-lying recent alluvium, including the nationally endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland which is also endangered in NSW, Sydney Coastal River-flat Forest which is endangered in NSW, Castlereagh Ironbark Forest and Shale/Gravel Transition Forest. The co-occurrence of these community types and the relatively large size of the remnants within the place highlight its significance in the western Sydney region. The significance of the place is enhanced by its contiguity with remnant ecological communities contained within the Western Sydney Shale Woodland – St Marys RNE place.

The remnant vegetation contains populations of a nationally endangered plant species, *PERSOONIA NUTANS*, three nationally vulnerable plant species *PULTENEA PARVIFLORA*, *DILLWYNNIA TENUIFOLIA* and *MICROMYRTUS MINUTIFLORA*, and two regionally significant species *GREVILLEA JUNIPERINA* and *DODONAEA FALCATA*. *PERSOONIA NUTANS* and *PULTENEA PARVIFLORA* are also endangered in NSW, and *DILLWYNNIA TENUIFOLIA*, *GREVILLEA JUNIPERINA* and *MICROMYRTUS MINUTIFLORA* are vulnerable in NSW.

The diversity and large size of the vegetation remnants at this place provide important habitat for native flora and fauna. Llandilo Natural Area is recognised as being of regional significance for fauna, especially Castlereagh Woodland birds.¹²

While there are multiple studies that attest to its natural values (Benson 1986; Dames and Moore Pty Ltd 1988; Fox 1992; Kinhill 1955; NPWS 1997; James et al. 1999) the area has not been surveyed or assessed for its cultural values. It is highly likely however to contain Aboriginal archaeological sites typical of the Cumberland Plain.

As noted above, multiple flight paths are proposed which would overfly these 2 CHL places (see Figure 5.3). Cultural values associated with these 2 places have not been assessed but those that are referred to in the place descriptions – that is, remnants of historic irrigation works, and Aboriginal campsites/artefact scatters – are likely to be robust in relation to the impacts from non-physical disturbance associated with the proposed flight paths. The values at most risk are the natural values and assessment of impact to these values is outside the scope of this report and will be addressed in the ecological assessment technical report (Technical paper 8: Biodiversity). Impact assessment should consider the impact of emission on flora and noise on the fauna, including the rare birds referred to. The cumulative impact from ongoing development of the Cumberland Plain and the interactions with the stresses of climate change are also relevant considerations.

¹² Summary statement of significance https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;search=state%3DNSW%3Blist_code%3DCHL%3Blegal_status%3D35%3Bkeyword_PD%3D0%3Bkeyword_SS%3D0%3Bkeyword_PH%3D0;place_id=105534

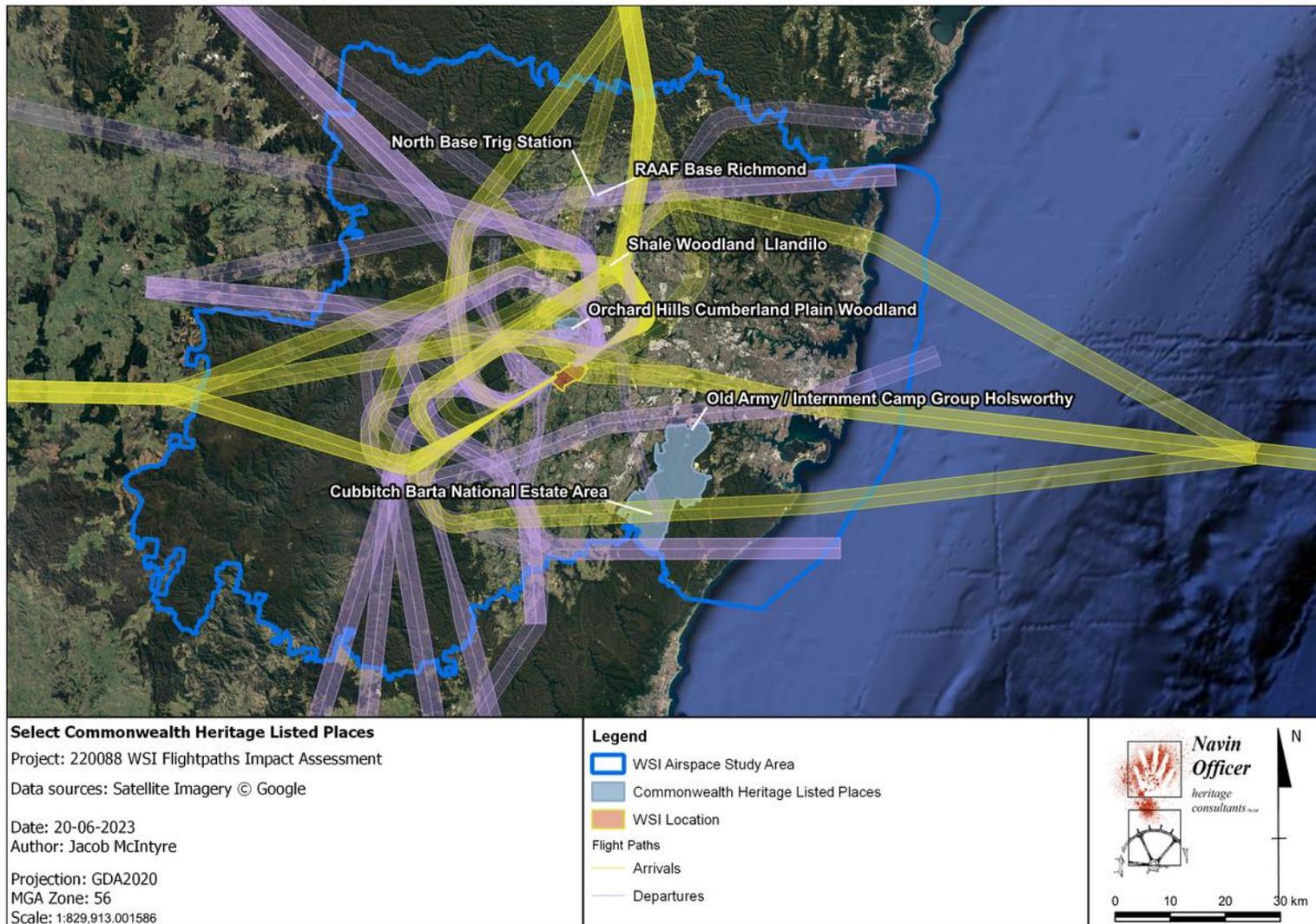


Figure 5.3 Selected places included on the Commonwealth Heritage List in closest proximity to WSI

5.3.1.2 NSW State heritage register

There are no SHR listed places within the 5 km radius of WSI (see Figure 5.4); and only 10 SHR listed heritage items within a 10 km radius of WSI (see Figure 5.5). These are:

- Coxs Cottage
- Fernhill Estate
- St Thomas' Church Mulgoa
- Fairlight Homestead and Barn
- Megarrity's Bridge
- Warragamba Emergency Scheme
- Warragamba Dam – Haviland Park
- The Church of the Holy Innocents
- Kelvin
- Maryland.

There are 72 places of State significance listed on the SHR which are located under the proposed flight paths (see Table 5.1 and Figure 5.6). For a full list of SHR items within the airspace study area see Appendix A.

Most places listed on the SHR have a detailed statement of significance which refers to the specific criteria which have met the threshold for State significance. There are exceptions to this detailed significance assessment process as some older entries were registered before this became standard practice. Where the values are described, these have been included in Table 5.2 for those places within a 10 km radius of WSI.

At greater distances from WSI, noise and eventually the visibility of aircraft begins to diminish, and emissions are likely to disperse over a greater area and therefore be less concentrated. However, some cultural values remain sensitive to any additional noise and the frequency of flights can exacerbate this. This applies to the GBMA and many Indigenous and non-Indigenous places within it that are valued for their serenity and their ability to connect people to the spirituality of nature. There are 37 walking tracks listed on the SHR under the collective name of Blue Mountains walking tracks (SHR #00980). These are:

- Causeway to Red Hands Cave Glenbrook
- Grotto Tracks Springwood
- Florabella Pass Warrimoo & Blaxland
- Kings Cave Track Linden
- Princes Rock Track Wentworth Falls
- Den Fenella Track Wentworth Falls
- Jamison Creek Corridor/Darwin's Walk Wentworth Falls
- Valley of the Waters Track Wentworth Falls
- National Pass Wentworth Falls
- Federal Pass Katoomba/Leura
- Giant Stairway Katoomba
- Orphan Rock Track Katoomba
- Prince Henry Cliff Walk Katoomba/Leura
- Track from Lilianfels Park to Lady Darleys Lookout Katoomba

- O’Sullivan’s Road Katoomba
- Grand Canyon Track Blackheath
- Point Pilcher Track Blackheath/Medlow Bath
- Perrys Lookdown to Blue Gum Forest Blackheath
- Engineers Track Grose Valley (Darling Causeway to Nepean River)
- Bruce’s Walk Lawson to Mt Victoria
- Six Foot Track Katoomba to Jenolan Caves
- Lawsons Long Alley Mt Victoria
- Lockyers Road Mt Victoria
- Berghofers Pass Mt Victoria
- Section of Bells Line of Road Mt Tomah
- Kanangra Walls Cattle Track Oberon
- Megalong Valley Aboriginal Routes Katoomba
- Mount Victoria Escarpment Complex Mt Victoria
- Mt York Roads Complex Mt Victoria
- Wentworth Falls Complex Wentworth Falls
- Cox’s Road Complex Faulconbridge to Mt York
- Parkes Garden Tracks Complex Faulconbridge
- 33 3900332 Wolgan Railway Complex Newnes Railway
- 34 3900333 Upper Grose Valley Aboriginal Passes – Complex Blackheath
- 35 3900334 Track to Base of Govetts Leap – Complex Blackheath
- 36 3900335 Tracks to Ruined Castle – Complex Katoomba
- 37 3900336 Grose Valley Cliff Edge – Complex Blackheath.

This collection of walking tracks is of demonstrable State significance (claims have been made for National significance). While the fabric and functionality of the tracks will not be impacted by overhead flight paths, it is important to note that these tracks are a key to facilitating visitor access and are how most visitors experience those other intangible values imbued in the GBMA – that is, serenity, connection to nature and spirituality. They are a way for many to escape the noise, stress and pressure of busy urban lives. Any intrusion particularly noise but also to some extent visual intrusion will impair the effectiveness of these track as gateways to the intangible values of the GBMA.

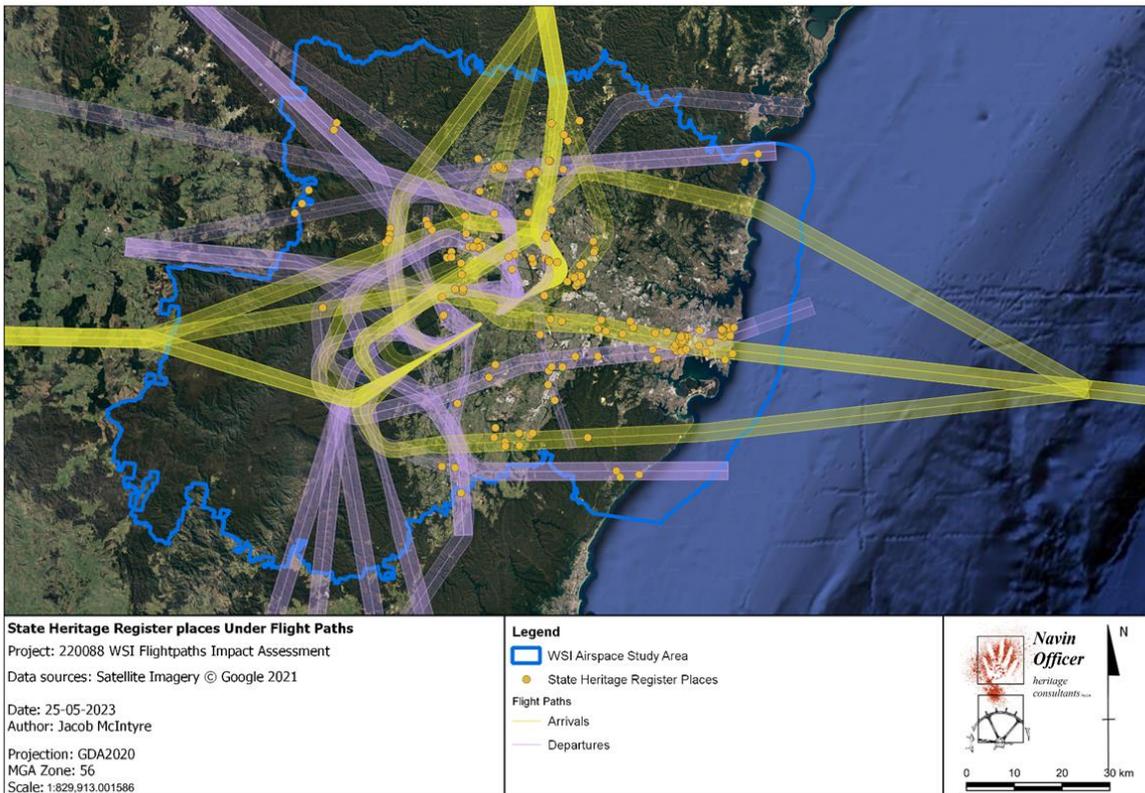


Figure 5.6 Cultural heritage places of State significance (listed on the State Heritage Register) in relation to the proposed flight paths

Table 5.1 There are 72 State Heritage Register places under flight paths

| Place name | Listing # |
|--|-----------|
| Mountain View | 44 |
| Prospect Reservoir and surrounding area | 1370 |
| Jarvisfield | 305 |
| Botany Water Reserves | 1317 |
| Mamre | 264 |
| Shand Mason Curricle Ladders (1898) | 1899 |
| Menangle rail bridge over Nepean River | 1047 |
| Camden Park Estate and Belgenny Farm | 1697 |
| Fire and Rescue Fleet | 1902 |
| Glenleigh Estate | 346 |
| Fernhill | 54 |
| Grantham Poultry Research Station (former) | 1382 |

| Place name | Listing # |
|--|-----------|
| Craithes House | 378 |
| St Bartholomew's Anglican Church & Cemetery | 37 |
| Mclver Women's Baths | 1869 |
| NSW Fire Brigades No 10 Vehicle Number Plates | 1519 |
| Victoria Bridge | 1950 |
| Upper Canal System (Pheasants Nest Weir to Prospect Reservoir) | 1373 |
| Hadley Park | 2009 |
| Brownlow Hill Estate | 1489 |
| Horsley complex (homestead, outbuildings, garden, farm) | 30 |
| Ancient Aboriginal and Early Colonial Landscape | 1863 |
| Building, outbuildings, grounds, trees | 753 |
| Bowman House | 468 |
| Scheyville National Park | 1817 |
| Fairlight Homestead & Barn | 262 |
| Bungarabee Homestead Complex - Archaeological Site | 1428 |
| Buckland Convalescent Home & Garden | 371 |
| Substation | 935 |
| Royal National Park Coastal Cabin Communities | 1878 |
| Lower Prospect Canal Reserve | 1945 |
| Arncliffe Railway Station | 1076 |
| Helensburgh Railway Station group | 1168 |
| Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former) | 749 |
| Rooty Hill, The | 1756 |
| Track | 1372 |
| Richmond Park | 1808 |
| Emu Plains (Nepean River) Underbridge | 1830 |
| Arncliffe Market Gardens | 1395 |
| Richmond Railway Station and yard group | 1236 |
| Edward Smith Headquarters Switchboard (1909) | 1901 |
| Western Outfall Main Sewer (Rockdale to Homebush) | 1647 |
| Mount Gilead | 2020 |

| Place name | Listing # |
|---|-----------|
| Pearce Family Cemetery | 593 |
| Ahrens Fox PS2 Fire Engine (1929) | 1717 |
| Woronora Dam | 1378 |
| Cox's Cottage | 171 |
| Rose Cottage and Early Slab Hut | 1392 |
| Bird In The Hand Inn (former) | 373 |
| Maryland | 1690 |
| Sewage Pumping Station 38 | 1344 |
| Bonnyrigg House | 281 |
| St Thomas Anglican Church | 426 |
| Shand 7 Inch Manual Fire Engine | 1717 |
| Dennis Big 6 Fire Engine (1939) | 1718 |
| Shand Mason Fire Engine (1891) | 1716 |
| Former Great Western Road, Prospect | 1911 |
| Land Next to Male Orphan School | 1390 |
| Penrith Railway Station group | 1222 |
| Glenfield Farm | 25 |
| St Andrew's Anglican Church, Hall & Rectory | 57 |
| Glenmore | 74 |
| Seymours House | 681 |
| Malabar Headland | 1741 |
| Hobartville, including outbuildings | 35 |
| House | 45 |
| Lydham Hall | 477 |
| Beverly Hills Railway Station group | 1086 |
| Natural Area | 649 |
| Ford 21W Fire Brigade | 1900 |
| St Peters Anglican Church Group | 2028 |
| Cattai Estate | 982 |

5.3.1.3 Locally listed places on local environmental plans

There are thousands of places listed on the heritage schedules of LEPs within the airspace study areas. There are no heritage places identified as having local heritage significance on LEPs within 5km radius of the airport however there are 53 within a 10 km radius. There are also 664 heritage items listed on LEPs located under the proposed flight paths. Figure 5.7 shows those heritage items listed on LEPs that occur under the proposed flight paths.

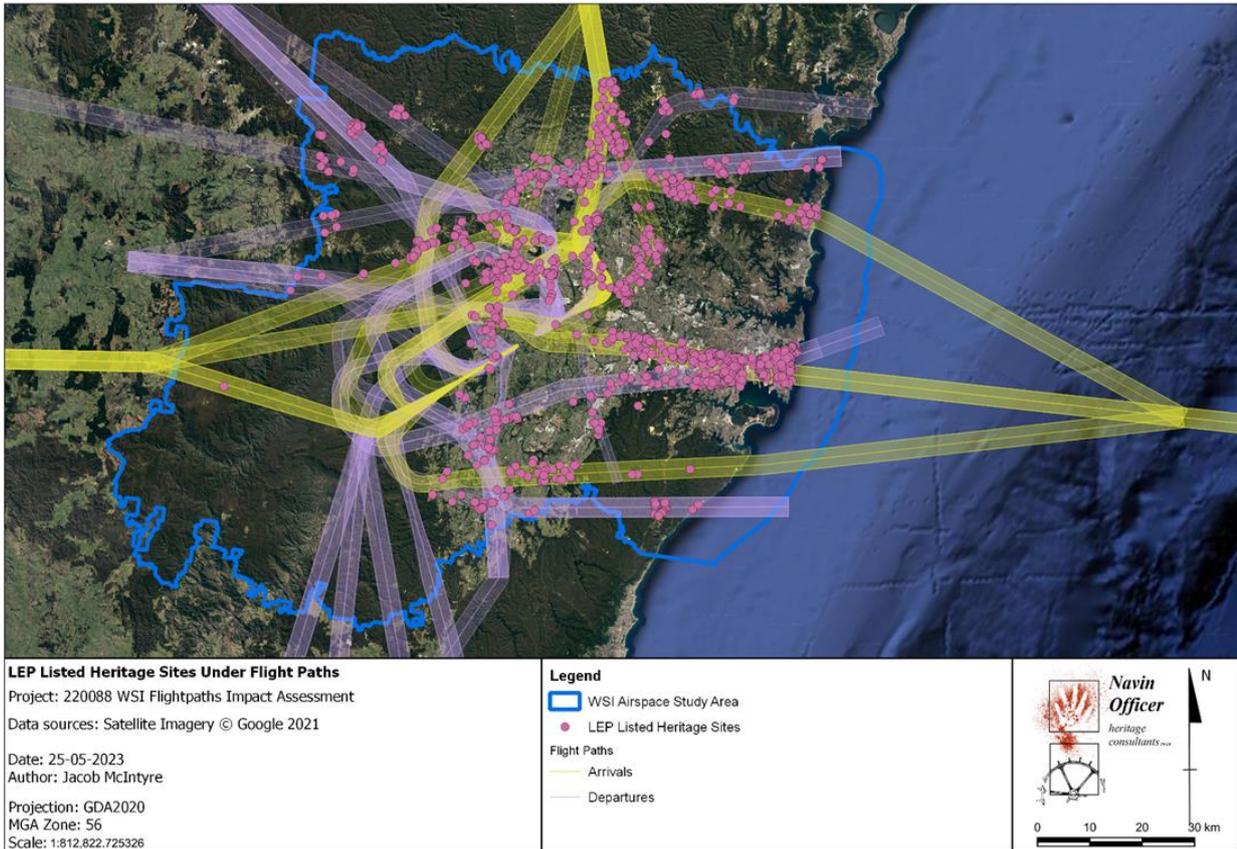


Figure 5.7 Places listed on a Local Environment Plan under the proposed flight paths

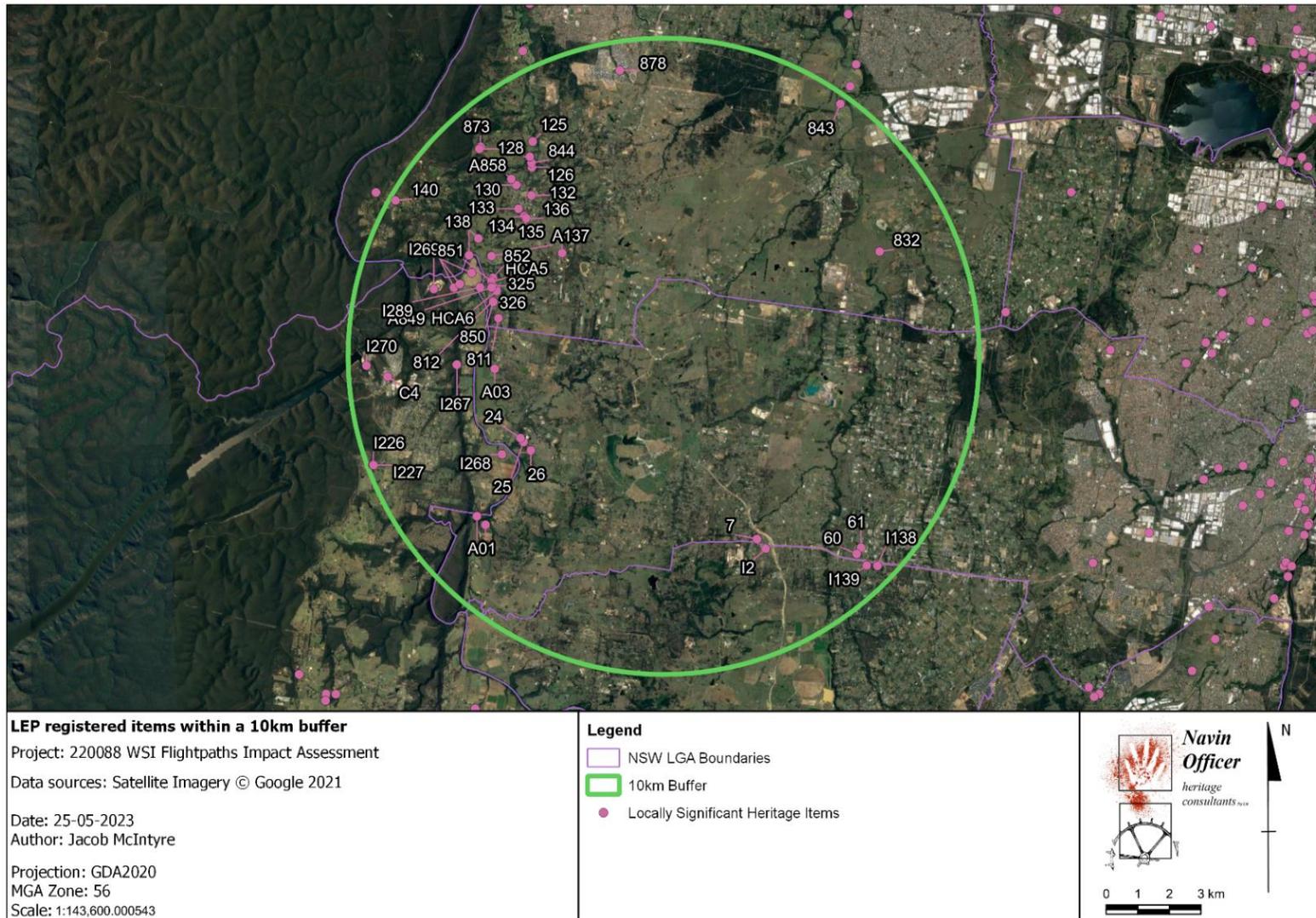


Figure 5.8 Locally significant sites (listed on a Local Environment Plan) within a 10 km radius of WSI

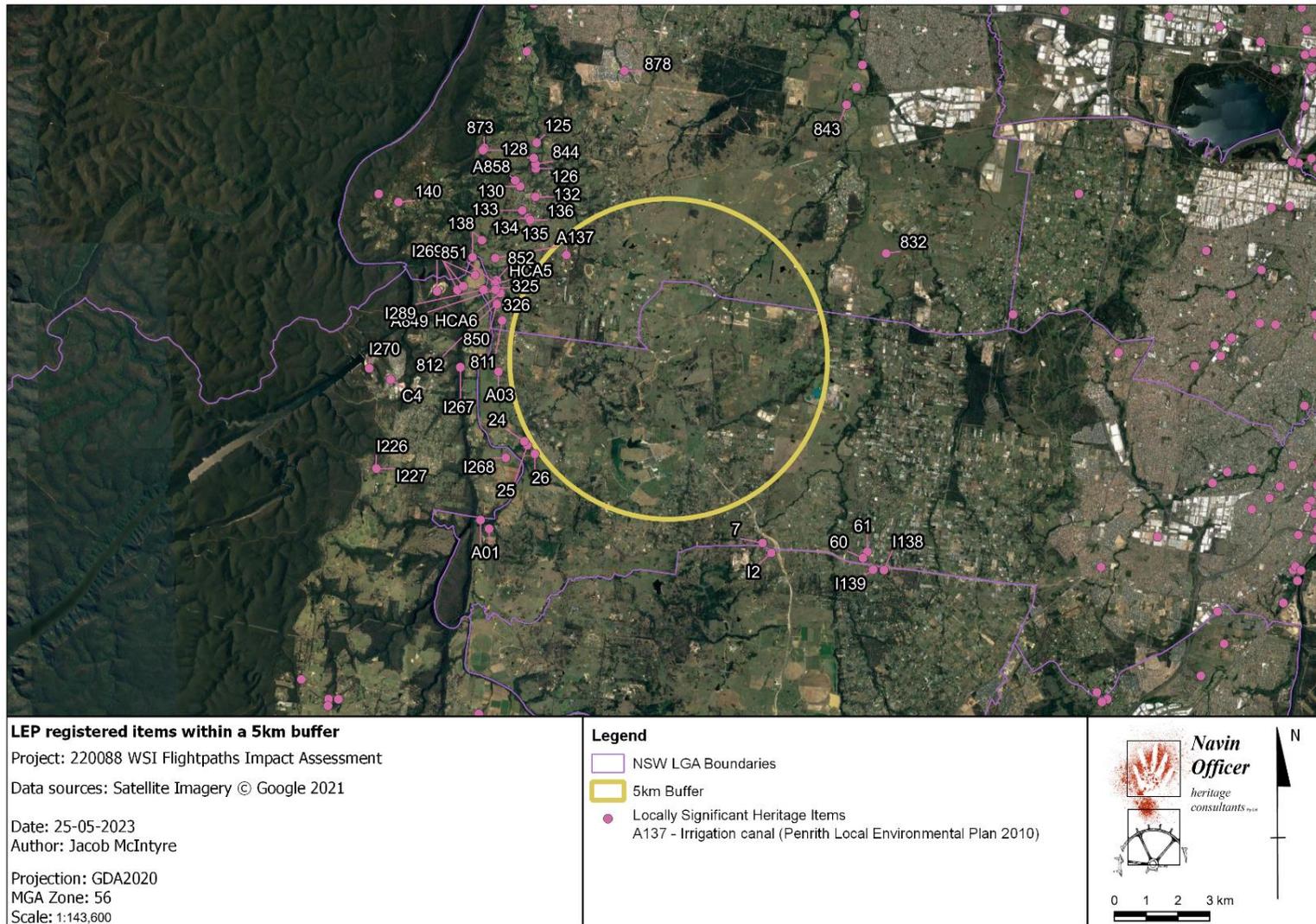


Figure 5.9 There is only one locally significant site recorded on a Local Environment Plan located within 5 km of WSI

Table 5.2 Cultural heritage items listed on a statutory list within a 10 km radius of WSI

| Statutory list | Item | Listing number | LGA | Criterion: cultural values |
|----------------|--|----------------|-----------|--|
| NHL | Nil | | | |
| CHL | Orchard Hills Cumberland Plain Woodland, The Northern Rd Orchard Hills | 105317 | PENRITH | Listed for natural values under outdated Commonwealth criteria. Now likely criteria 1 (natural history), 2 (rare and uncommon natural history) and 4b (a class of natural environment). Not assessed for cultural values – possibly 8. Historical – rare or endangered cultural history 9. Research – Potential to yield Information re cultural history. |
| SHR | Kelvin (rural estate various buildings colonial, Georgian stuccoed brick bungalow, brick and timber slab outbuildings) | 46 | LIVERPOOL | Not assessed against criteria Likely values Historic, Aesthetic |
| | Fernhill (Sandstone buildings) | 54 | PENRITH | a. Historical c. Aesthetic |
| | The Church of the Holy Innocents, Churchyard and Cemetery (early gothic revival brick building) | 2005 | LIVERPOOL | a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic e. Research Also rare f. and representative |
| | Fairlight Homestead & Barn | 262 | PENRITH | Not assessed against criteria. Appears a. Historical b. Historical Association c. Aesthetic |
| | Cox’s Cottage | 171 | PENRITH | a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic d. Social e. Research Also rare f. and representative g. |

| Statutory list | Item | Listing number | LGA | Criterion: cultural values |
|----------------|---|----------------|-------------|--|
| | Maryland (highly intact major mid-19th Century rural estate, built on an 1816 grant of 3000 acres within the Cumberland Plain which continues as a working estate. Sandstone buildings) | 1690 | CAMDEN | a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic d. Social e. Research Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | St Thomas Anglican Church (sandstone) | 426 | PENRITH | Not assessed against criteria Architectural, aesthetic |
| | Warragamba Dam - Haviland Park | 1375 | WOLLONDILLY | f. Rare (aesthetically) which implies it also meets criterion c. |
| | Megarritys Bridge | 1367 | WOLLONDILLY | f. Rare (historically) which implies it also meets criterion a. |
| | Warragamba Emergency Scheme | 1376 | WOLLONDILLY | f. Rare (historically) which implies it also meets criterion a. |
| LEP | St Thomas Anglican Church and Cemetery | 126 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic d. Social e. Research Also rare f. |
| | Winbourne (Sandstone colonial estate buildings) | 138 | PENRITH | Local Assessment a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Former irrigation office & police station (brick cottages) | 135 | PENRITH | Local assessment a. Historical c. Aesthetic representative g. |
| | Cottage 96-100 Greendale Rd Wallacia | 811 | PENRITH | a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. |

| Statutory list | Item | Listing number | LGA | Criterion: cultural values |
|----------------|---|----------------|-------------|---|
| | Former Mulgoa Road | 844 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical associations c. Aesthetic Also rare f. |
| | Blaxland's Farm | 1269 | WOLLONDILLY | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic e. Research Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Former St. Andrews Anglican Church (weatherboard) | 326 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. |
| | Blaxland's Crossing at Nepean River | 1289 | WOLLONDILLY | Local Assessment: a. Historical Also rare f. |
| | School (Wallacia Public School weatherboard) | 852 | PENRITH | a. Historical d. Social Also representative g. |
| | Bellfield Farm Group, including homestead, slab kitchen, slab cottage, smoke house and interiors (brick, timber slab buildings) | 61 | LIVERPOOL | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic d. Social e. Research Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Charleville | 1267 | WOLLONDILLY | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Irrigation canal | A137 | PENRITH | No assessment |
| | Post Office – Wallacia | 851 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical Also representative g. |
| | Winbourne | 138 | PENRITH | As for SHR above |

| Statutory list | Item | Listing number | LGA | Criterion: cultural values |
|----------------|---|----------------|-------------|---|
| | Fernhill, curtilage (listing says see 128) | 873 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. |
| | Warragamba Conservation Area (township) | C4 | WOLLONDILLY | Local Assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic d. Social Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Greendale Roman Catholic Cemetery (brick church) | 26 | LIVERPOOL | Not assessed against criteria but assumed a. Historical and d. Social |
| | Allenby | I139 | CAMDEN | Not assessed against criteria but assumed a. Historical and also locally rare f. |
| | Rossmore Public School (weatherboard buildings) | I138 | CAMDEN | Local Assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic d. Social e. Research |
| | Cottage 1296 Mulgoa Road | 134 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also representative g. |
| | Former St Marks Anglican Church Group, including cottage, church cemetery and interiors (Victorian Gothic Revival stone church with a slate roof- now private residence & cemetery) | 25 | LIVERPOOL | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical associations c. Aesthetic e. Research |
| | The Fleurs Radio Telescope Site | 832 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical associations e. Research Also rare f. |

| Statutory list | Item | Listing number | LGA | Criterion: cultural values |
|----------------|---|----------------|-------------|---|
| | Passadena – House (weatherboard cottage) | 132 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic Also rare f. |
| | Bents Basin Inn site (archaeological site) | A01 | LIVERPOOL | Local assessment: a. Historical e. Research Also representative g. |
| | All Saints Anglican Church (Weatherboard) | 1226 | WOLLONDILLY | Local Assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic d. Social Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Luddenham Road Alignment | 843 | PENRITH | Local Assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic |
| | Bringelly Public School Group, including schoolhouse and former headmaster’s residence (weatherboard) | 7 | LIVERPOOL | Local Assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic e. Research Also representative g. |
| | House (Californian Brick Bungalow) 38 Greendale Rd, Wallacia | 812 | PENRITH | Local Assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. |
| | Church of the Holy Innocents Group, including church, interior and churchyard | 60 | LIVERPOOL | See also SHR above. Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic e. Research Also rare f. |
| | Remnants of former farm homestead ("Pemberton") – archaeological site | A03 | LIVERPOOL | Local assessment: a. Historical e. Research |

| Statutory list | Item | Listing number | LGA | Criterion: cultural values |
|----------------|---|----------------|-------------|--|
| | Mulgoa Road Conservation Area | HCA5 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also representative g. |
| | Cottage – 1186 Northern Road Bringelly | 12 | CAMDEN | Not assessed against criteria |
| | Mulgoa Public School Building, hall residence and trees (Brick teacher's residence and classroom block) | 130 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Warragamba Supply Scheme and Warragamba Emergency Scheme | 1270 | WOLLONDILLY | See SHR above a. Historical |
| | Fernhill, outbuildings, landscape & curtilage (Sandstone house and outbuildings) | 128 | PENRITH | See also SHR above. Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. |
| | Wallacia Hotel (brick interwar) | 325 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. |
| | Scarred tree and Aboriginal artefact scatter | 878 | PENRITH | No assessment |
| | Cottage 1306 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa (weatherboard) | 136 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also representative g. |
| | Park Road Conservation Area (interwar cottages) | HCA6 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also representative g. |
| | Blaxland's Farm | 1269 | WOLLONDILLY | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic e. Research Also rare f. and representative g. |

| Statutory list | Item | Listing number | LGA | Criterion: cultural values |
|----------------|--|----------------|-------------|---|
| | Ravenswood brick cottage and outbuildings | I268 | WOLLONDILLY | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Slab cottage site – archaeological site | A858 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic |
| | The Cottage | 125 | PENRITH | No information |
| | Irrigation canal | A137 | PENRITH | Not assessed against criteria – archaeological site |
| | Fairlight (Brick farmhouse) | 140 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic |
| | Luddenham Homestead Site – archaeological site | A849 | PENRITH | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical association e. Research Also rare f. |
| | St. Marys Catholic Church | 133 | PENRITH | Local Assessment: a. Historical c. Aesthetic d. Social Also rare f. and representative g. |
| | Hall – 40 Greendale Rd Wallacia (weatherboard) | 850 | PENRITH | Local assessment: d. Social Also representative g) |
| | Silverdale Progress Hall (timber) | I227 | WOLLONDILLY | Local Assessment: a. Historical d. Social Also rare f. and representative g. |

| Statutory list | Item | Listing number | LGA | Criterion: cultural values |
|----------------|--|----------------|-----------|--|
| | Shadforth Monument (former pioneer's monument) | 24 | LIVERPOOL | Local assessment: a. Historical b. Historical association c. Aesthetic e. Research Also rare f. |

5.4 Air pollution and impacts to Aboriginal rock art sites

There is general acknowledgement that air pollution is likely to be detrimental to Aboriginal rock art (MacLeod 2014; Smith et al. 2022; Sundstrom and Hayes-Gilpin 2011); however, there has been little direct research on sites within or close to Sydney. Internationally, research findings suggest that air pollution can accelerate the rate of stone deterioration in urban settings, by weakening the fabric of the stone, making it more susceptible to other stresses such as physical weathering (Giesen et al. 2014; Tzanis et al. 2009).

Since the 2000s, Australian research has focused on the potential impact of airborne pollutants on painted and engraved rock art from an industrial complex on Murujuga ('Burrup Peninsula') in the Dampier archipelago, Western Australia (Black et al. 2017a, 2017b; Markley et al. 2015; Smith et al. 2022). Murujuga contains the largest concentration of petroglyphs in the world (estimated at over 1,000,000). The Dampier Archipelago petroglyphs are carved into the weathered surface rind of granophyre and gabbro igneous rocks, and are situated in open contexts (that is, not in rock shelters). Also known as 'engravings' the visibility of these petroglyphs depends on the contrast of the surrounding dark rock patina or rind, with the lighter underlying rock exposed by carving. The patina, known as 'desert varnish', develops over thousands of years in environments characterised by low rainfall and arid conditions.

Although rock art involving desert varnish is not directly applicable to the Sydney Basin context, the research conducted on potential impact from nearby industrial air pollutants has identified processes of deterioration which are potentially applicable. These are the acidification of rock surfaces from airborne contaminants, largely NO_x compounds (nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide) causing acid rain, and the deposition of nitrogen (as Ammonium nitrate PM₁₀ dust). Depending on the chemical composition of the rock, increased acid levels will accelerate the erosion of constituent minerals both in the rock substrate as well as the patina or rind. Increased nitrogen in the form of surface dust will encourage the growth of micro-organics, which in turn can increase surface deterioration and chemical processes of deposition and erosion (Rosenfeld 1985; Black et al. 2017b; MacLeod 2005; Smith et al. 2022).

Another source of potentially applicable research is the impact of air pollution on building materials, and in particular, stone masonry. Although the substantial differences in the environmental context and surface condition of building masonry compared to Aboriginal rock art makes this research not directly applicable, many of the identified processes of deterioration may still be relevant (Ip et al. 2011; Doehne and Price 2010). A counter view is suggested by a recent comparison of pollution effected weathering crusts on masonry and natural outcrops of Carpathian sandstone (in Central Europe) by Marszalek et al. (2014). This study found that the crusts on natural outcrops were hardened with silica and iron and consequently less porous and better protected from atmospheric agents than their masonry counterparts. This suggests that the analysis of the erosion of building masonry may not be directly applicable to natural outcrops of sandstone, which constitutes the predominant support and matrix for Sydney Basin rock art.

The following is a summary of potential processes of rock art deterioration which be caused by or contributed to by air contaminants resulting from burning aircraft fuel. Further research is required to address questions relating to the role (if any) that aircraft fuel plays in the deterioration of rock art in the Sydney Basin.

5.4.1 Oxides of nitrogen, sulphur and carbon

Sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide are all soluble in water and create an acidic solution which can then react with calcareous materials (including sandstones). The creation of Carbonic acid from the solution of carbon dioxide is responsible for the normally weak acid nature of rainwater, giving it a pH of around 5.5 (Bell 1982). Much lower and damaging pH levels are created by the solution of sulphur dioxide (to form Sulphuric acid) and nitrogen oxides (to form nitric acid). These oxides are created by burning fossil fuels and are the main sources of acid rain in the Sydney metropolitan area and its surrounding regions (Bell 1982; Sesana et al. 2020). Acid rain has a pH of between 1.5 and 5.6. Measurements of acid rain in Sydney in 1980–1981 resulted in an average pH measurement of 4.4 (Bridgman 1989; Ayers and Gillett 1984).

Acid rain can also be caused by emissions of volatile organic acids from natural vegetation, and possibly from sea salt aerosols in onshore winds (Bridgman 1989; Ayers and Gillett 1983, 1984).

Acidity in rainwater has the potential to dissolve constituent minerals from rock art supports and substrates, as well as the products of weathering and patinas on the rock surface, with the effect of weakening the rock matrix and increasing erosion rates and the loss of rock or pigment surfaces.

Sulphur oxides dissolve in rain to form sulphuric acid, which when in contact with carbonate containing rock, such as in sandstone, forms Gypsum (calcium sulphate). The formation and crystallisation of Gypsum (often described as efflorescence) is a major cause of stone decay in Sydney masonry (Gordon 1978). The formation of salts (including Gypsum) within a rock matrix involves considerable expansion and the consequential stresses fracture and separate the rock grains.

Carbon dioxide is more soluble in cold water, meaning that cold moist environments and seasons are more likely to be associated with carbonic acid than dry hot environments.

The formation of acid rain in the Sydney context cannot be understood solely in chemical terms and must be appreciated as a complex interplay of meteorological and physical, as well as chemical factors, including wind speed, wind direction, time of day and rainwater deposition per event (Ayers and Gillett 1984).

The impact of pollution related acid rain in the erosion and deterioration of Sydney Basin rock art is poorly understood, especially compared to natural sources of acidity in rock art sites, such as ground water, soil chemistry, and the effect of micro-topography and micro-climates.

5.4.2 Dust accumulation and surface nutrients

The settlement of airborne dust particles onto rock art panels situated in rock shelters has a range of potentially detrimental impacts (NOHC 2016; Silver 2008):

- visual obscurement of the art pigments or marks, so that they appear to fade. Over the long term, dust deposits may bond permanently to the surface through mineralisation
- in some cases, dust can be chemically reactive and even corrosive, causing chemical decay of the pigment or the underlying rock substrate
- dust deposits may become hygroscopic and as a result of water retention:
 - weaken underlying pigment layers through differential expansion and contraction, or
 - create environments for destructive organics or micro-organisms.

The growth of organics, such as bacteria, yeasts, fungi and lichens are associated with the release of metabolites which are organic acids and similarly, increase the chemical decay of pigments and/or the underlying rock substrate (Rosenfeld 1985).

The most numerous studies in regard to the effects of dust on rock art panels have been conducted in Europe over the last 40 years and relate to the parietal art of the Upper Palaeolithic (Silver 2008:12). These studies deal with geologies and micro-climatic environments that are significantly different to the Sydney Basin and are therefore not directly applicable to its open and siliceous geological contexts.

A number of studies of dust deposits at rock art sites have been conducted in Australia (Watchman 1998; Gillet et al. 2006; Wallis et al. 2015; NOHC 2016, 2020). These studies are characterised by the analysis of both environmental aerosol dust samples and in-situ rock surface deposits to identify the source of the dust. Most have identified anthropogenic origins such as nearby roads, industrial complexes, and mining/quarrying as significant and recent dust sources. Methodologies included scanning electron microscopy, aerosol spectrometry, particle induced X-Ray emission spectroscopy, energy dispersive X-Ray analysis, and portable X-Ray fluorescence.

Studies in the Hunter Valley have identified recent visual changes in the colour and density of dust on rock shelter panels to be a consequence of aerosol dust deposition from nearby open cut coal mining and associated vehicle haulage (NOHC 2016, 2020). Similar dust deposits have been identified in rock shelter sites throughout the upper Hunter and are postulated to be a result of regional fallout of coal mine derived aerosol dusts (pers. comm. David Lambert 2020).

5.4.3 Contributors to climate change

Anthropogenic generation of carbon dioxide is regarded as a primary cause of climate change which is now recognised to include increases in the rate and severity of wildfire, fluctuations and extremes in temperature, humidity, precipitation, and storm events (IPCC 2022). All of these are key factors in the natural erosional processes of rock art and increases in their frequency and severity will increase the rate of rock art erosion and deterioration. These processes involve differential expansion of the rock constituents due to thermal, hydration and chemical changes.

Extreme changes in temperature during wildfire events is a documented cause for the loss of rock art from rock panel exfoliation (Lambert and Welsh 2011; Gunn 2011; Sefton 2011). Wildfire is also a major source of atmospheric dust which can be deposited on rock art panels in the still air within rock shelters (DECC 2007).

Increased precipitation, acidity, and subsurface water flow is likely to mobilise more dissolved salts in the substrates of rock art sites. When combined with climate change related increases in temperature, greater airflow and greater surface evaporation, the impact of salt crystallisation caused by the evaporation or cooling of salt solutions in both rock shelters and open sites, is likely to increase (Lambert 1989; Doehne and Price 2010). Expansion from the crystallisation of salts, within rock pores, can generate stresses that are sufficient to overcome the stone's tensile strength, causing areas of granular decay, and surface blistering and spalling (Rosenfeld 1985; Lewin 1982). Lambert has estimated the rate of erosion of sandstone surfaces in rock shelters from salt decay is in the order of 0.1mm per year (Lambert 1980). The salt is postulated to come from both rainwater and groundwater and thought to build up in surface areas subject to evaporation and a lack of flushing from rainwater (Lambert 1989). Lambert states that the impact of erosion by salt action at open sites such as sandstone engravings (petroglyphs) is unknown, however notes that erosion from salt spray in coastal areas may take place in a different form to that evident in rock shelters (Lambert 1989:15).

The expansion of clay minerals in the matrix of sandstone due to hydration is also a postulated process of surface erosion in Sydney Basin rock shelters (Hughes 1976). Pressures exerted by hydration within the rock tend to enlarge cracks or pores and can cause either flaking, spalling or grain-by-grain attrition (Rosenfeld 1985).

The formation of salts and their impact is likely to be a complex process in which the presence of water flushing, the persistence of moisture, and the surrounding soil chemistry and micro-climate are critical factors.

5.4.4 The Sydney Basin – air pollution and rock art

Although considerable resources are expended on the conservation of rock art in the Sydney Basin, most of these are focused on managing the direct impacts of natural erosion processes such as from water, organics and animals, or the management of human visitation (including site interpretation) and the consequences of visitation, such as graffiti and physical erosion (Sullivan 1977; Lambert 1989, 2007; NPWS NSW 2011). The potential impact of air pollution is sometimes acknowledged as a self-evident source of erosion and deterioration, however the research required to demonstrate this is yet to be conducted (Bursill 1993; Korff 2020). The extent to which air pollution may contribute to processes of rock art deterioration in the Sydney Basin remains unquantified and largely unresearched.

Bursill has argued that the effects of airborne pollution are a major factor in the reduction of the depth of grooves in open site petroglyphs, noting the corrosive effect and acidity of exhaust emissions (Bursill 1993:86-88). By comparing historical notes on groove depth with contemporary field measurements, Bursill considered that a substantial reduction in depth has occurred since the turn of the century and that this corresponds with local industrialisation (Bursill 1993:95).

An analysis of petroglyph groove depth, relative to rock panel slope, at sites situated in Royal National Park led Bursill to consider that greater weathering rates in level contexts was a consequence of extended exposure to the acid products of local air pollution (Bursill 1993:94).

Bursill noted the results of an air quality study by Hyde and Johnson (1990) which found that parts of southern Sydney and suburbs to the west are subject to a very high degree of airborne pollution, mainly of an acidic nature, particularly during the summer months, and derived from motor vehicle exhausts, industrial plumes and the emissions from aircraft using Sydney's KSA.

Bursill's conclusions regarding the impact of acidic air pollution on open petroglyph sites must remain tentative until further research can rule out alternative explanations, such as natural weathering processes, the impact of local topography, micro-climates, soils and site visitation patterns. The lack of applicable data underlines the need for research in this area. The lack of research on chemical and atmospheric weathering of open context petroglyph sites (excepting Murujuga) and compared to rock shelter and pigmented sites has been noted as an international bias not peculiar to Australia (Darvill and Fernandes 2014). It seems likely that past conclusions that acid rain in relation to health standards and ecological damage was not a significant problem in Australian metropolitan areas (compared to the European experience of burning coals with higher sulphur contents), has hidden this as a potential issue (c.f. Bell 1982; DECC 2007).

5.4.5 The distribution of rock art sites relative to the WSI site and flight path emissions

Figure 5.10 shows the distribution of Aboriginal rock art sites within the study area boundaries. Site proximity to WSI is in the range of 11 km to 64 km, depending on direction (refer Section 1.4 for an explanation of the study area boundaries). In the Sydney Basin, art sites only occur in sandstone-based topographies (formed on the Hawkesbury and Narrabeen sandstones) which support open sandstone platforms and overhangs. Rock art sites do not occur on the Cumberland Plain bedrock shales on which the WSI site is largely situated. The closest rock art sites occur approximately 11 km to the west and southwest where sandstone ranges rise above the plain or incised valleys have exposed the sandstones underlying the shale.

The distribution of the majority of known rock art sites occurs in 3 major groupings relative to the WSI (Figure 5.10):

- to the northwest and southwest, within the GBMA, extending from the WSI starting from a distance of approximately 18 km and 11 km respectively
- to the southeast on the Woronora Ramp (southeast of Campbelltown), extending from approximately 36 km away, and
- to the northeast in the Lower Hawkesbury catchments extending from approximately 55 km to the north.

It should be noted that the actual number and incidence of rock art sites within the GBMA is likely to be greater and higher than that shown in Figure 5.10. This is because the conduct of archaeological recording (and the number of resulting site recordings) in these environmental reserves is much lower than on the Cumberland Plain where development proposals require archaeological assessments. For this reason, it should be assumed that the number of rock art sites across the sandstone topographies of the GBMA are likely to be much greater than indicated by the current database of known sites, upon which Figure 5.10 is based. However, the distances to the nearest rock art sites from the WSI, across the Cumberland Plain shale topographies (see above), are likely to be accurate, given the absence of suitable sandstone exposures for rock art across these trajectories.

As a consequence of the relative location of the WSI on the Cumberland Plain and its spatial separation from the nearest distributions of rock art sites, it can be concluded that any local concentrations of atmospheric pollutants associated with the airport (such as within a 5 km radius) will not be situated in the proximity of rock art sites (DITRDCA 2023a, Appendix C).

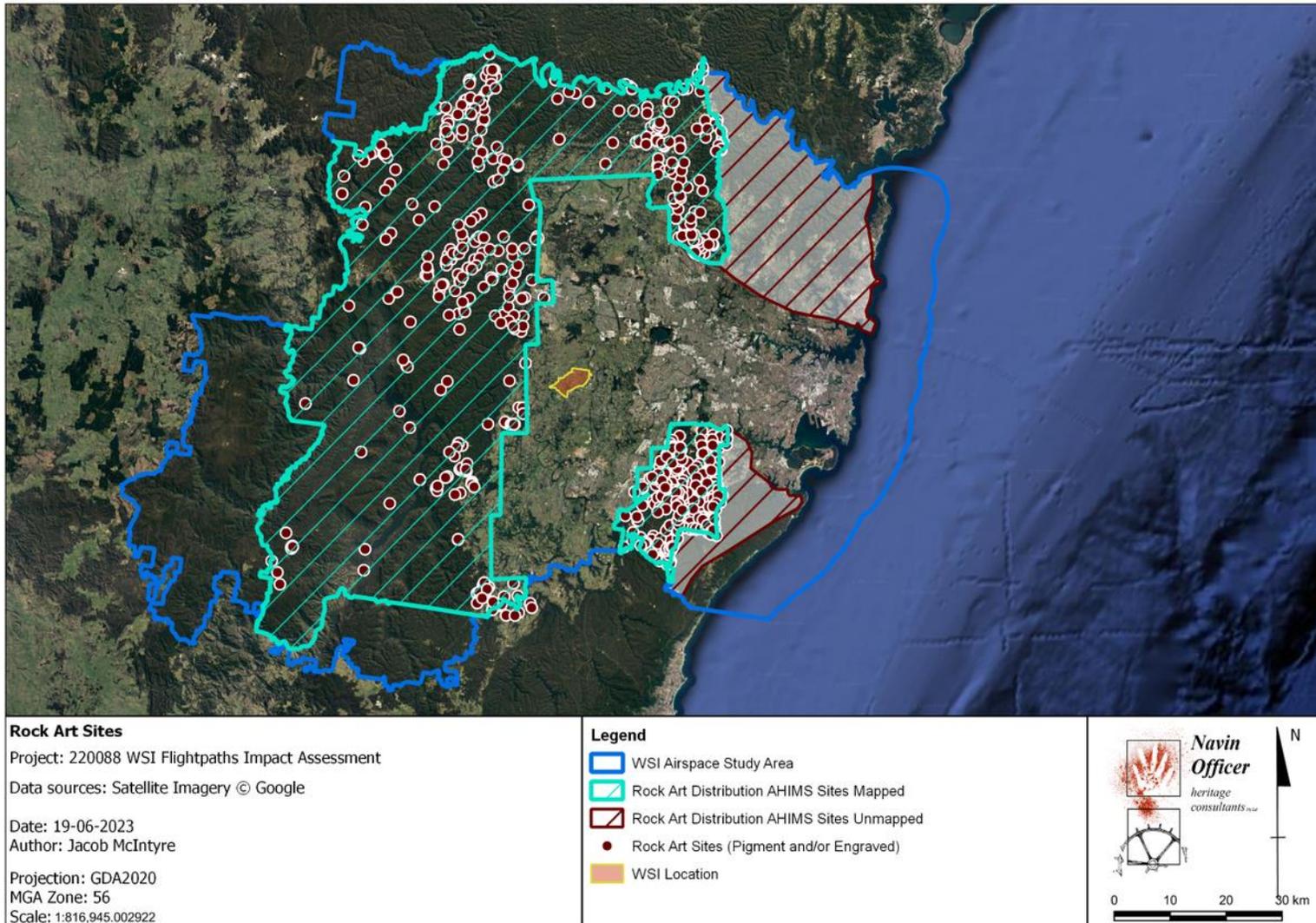


Figure 5.10 Location of Aboriginal rock art sites relative to the WSI site (Note: separate mapped and unmapped site distribution areas within the study area)

Figure 5.11 shows period and seasonal windroses for Badgerys Creek (2014–2021). From these it can be observed that winds are varied but predominantly occur from the southwest and the west-southwest. In the summer, winds of lesser speed predominantly occur from the east. This demonstrates that the prevailing trend is for potential airborne pollutants to remain close to the airport or be moved away from the closest rock art sites which are situated in the Blue Mountain range lands to the west.

Elevated off-site concentrations of air pollutants (such as NO₂) are generally predicted to occur to the north, northeast and southwest of the airport (DITRDCA 2023a). Figure 5.12 and Figure 5.13 present a selection of predicted contour plots of various emissions and dispersion across the WSI local and regional areas showing the focus of higher concentrations in the immediate proximity of the airport, and the associated influence of the prevailing winds (DITRDCA 2023a).

The air quality assessment (DITRDCA 2023a, Section 10) for the local area around WSI has concluded that predicted levels of the assessed air pollutants would be below (regulatory) criteria except for PM_{2.5} and NO₂ during 2055 at several receptors located immediately northwest of the runway. The particulate matter (PM) finding is a consequence of predicted elevated background particulate levels at the time and it is concluded that the project effect would be intangible and insignificant. The assessment of the regional area found similar small scale NO₂ impacts with predicted levels above criteria in close vicinity to WSI in 2055. The project's assessed impact on concentrations of all other assessed pollutants was found to be negligible and unlikely to be discernible within existing background concentrations (DITRDCA 2023a, Section 10).

It is unknown how the regulatory criteria (air quality standards) used in making the above conclusions about air quality may relate to levels of pollutants that effect rock art deterioration. This is because of the lack of research on the potential impact of air pollutants on rock art in comparable contexts. In the absence of relevant or comparable data, there is an obligation to generate and compile data to test if flight-path pollutants contribute towards rock art deterioration.

Apart from prevailing winds, the location of flight paths and associated low aircraft elevations during arrival-descent and departure-ascent could be expected to have a significant role in the incidence and distribution of aircraft emissions. Figure 5.11 provides a visualisation of flight paths to and from the WSI runways. It can be seen that a significant proportion of both arrival and departure flight paths overfly the sandstone ranges to the west of Sydney within the GBMA. The location of these flight paths and associated low approach and leaving aircraft elevations provide a basis for positioning transects and test locations for the monitoring and testing of aircraft emissions with reference to their potential impact on rock art sites.

Away from the immediate potential of emission impacts under and near flight paths, WSI aircraft emissions will also contribute to the general air quality of the Sydney Basin. International studies have shown that emissions from airport operations are small when compared to the regional context of emission inventories (Ratcliff et al. 2009). This is supported in the Sydney context by the air emissions inventory for the Greater Metropolitan Region in NSW (EPA 2012) which shows that emissions from existing airport operations in Sydney in 2008 were less than 3% of total emissions for the region. However, in relation to the western side of the airspace study area where there are large tracts of national park and minimal industrial development in the past, the potential impact of new or increased emissions from the proposed flight paths to these environments requires consideration.

It can be concluded that any potential for WSI aircraft emissions to impact upon rock art sites is probably situated:

- under the more frequently flown sections of flight paths, especially close to the WSI, notably to the west of the WSI, and
- to a lesser extent, WSI emissions will contribute to the potential impact of the net air pollution from the Sydney Metropolitan area on Sydney Basin rock art sites.

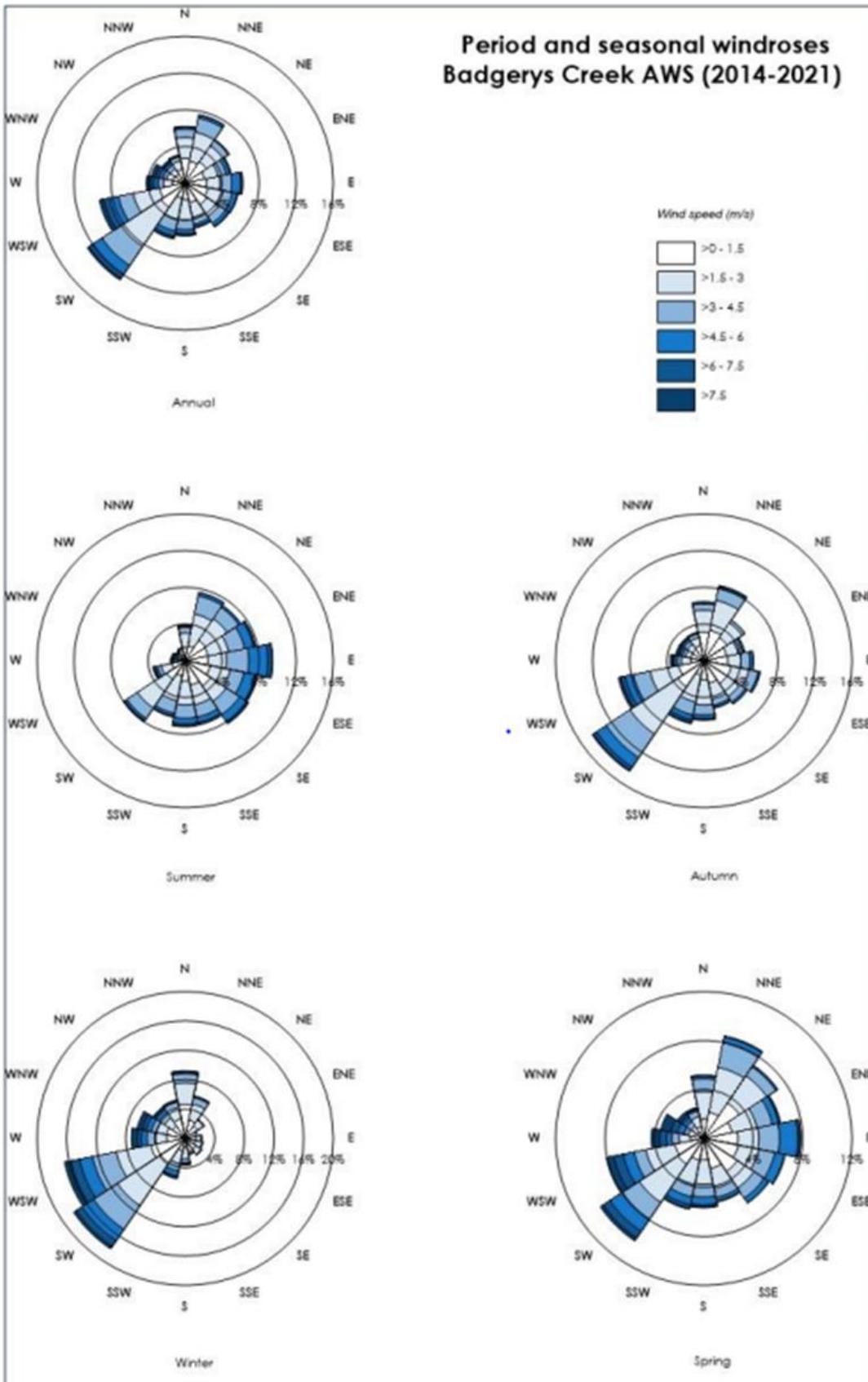


Figure 5.11 Period and seasonal windroses for Badgerys Creek AWS (2014–2021) (DITRDCA 2023a:Figure 4-4)

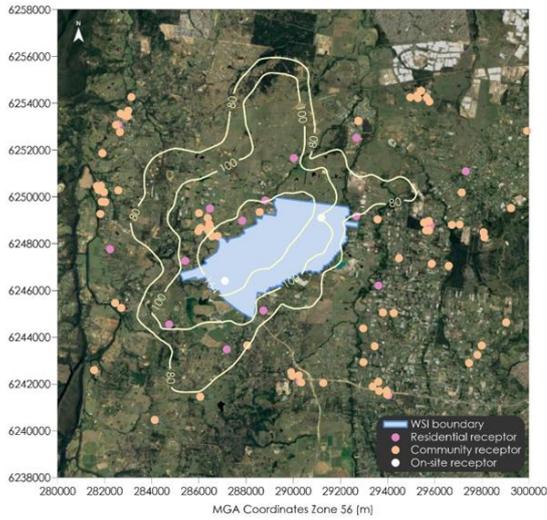


Figure 7-1 Predicted maximum 1-hour average NO₂ concentrations (µg/m³) for 2055 – 53

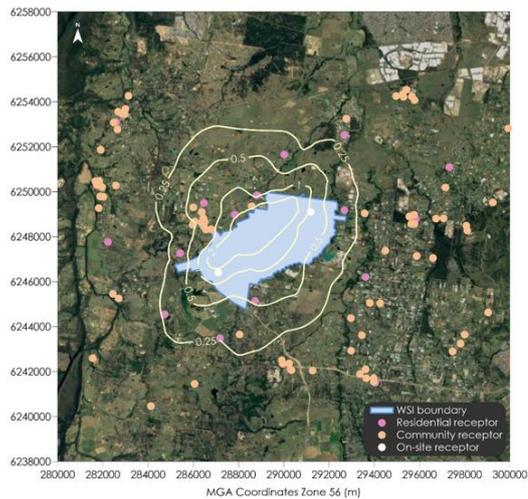


Figure 12-33 Predicted incremental maximum 24-hour average PM_{2.5} concentrations (µg/m³) for 2055 - 54

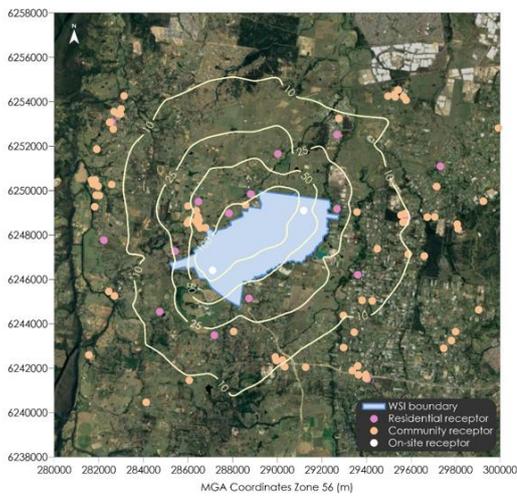


Figure 12-53 Predicted incremental maximum 1-hour average SO₂ concentrations (µg/m³) for 2055 – 54

Figure 5.12 A selection of predicted contour plots of various emissions and their dispersion across the WSI local area showing the local focus of higher concentrations, and the influence of the prevailing winds (DITRDCA 2023a [Figure nos. and captions retained from original source])

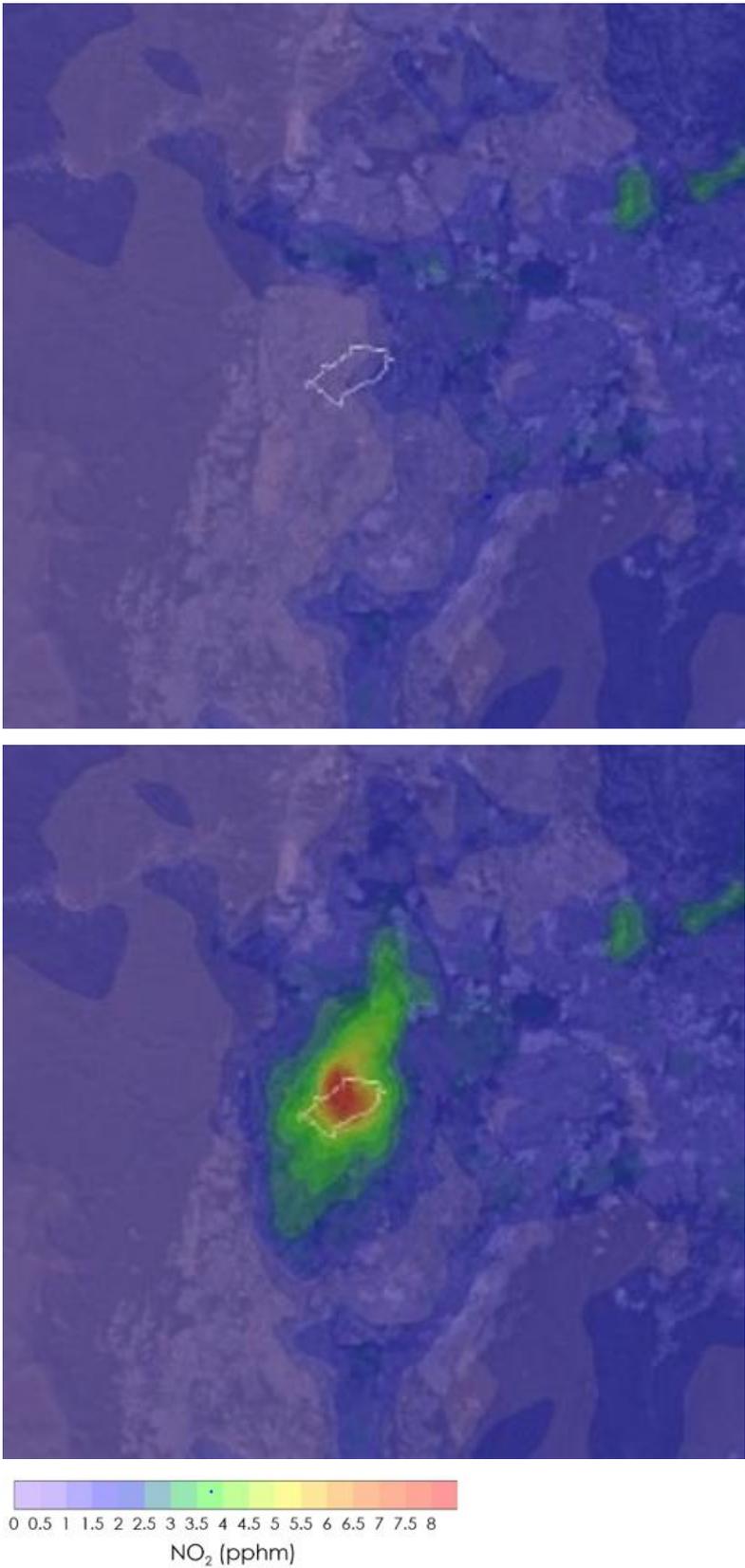


Figure 5.13 Maximum predicted 1-hour NO₂ concentrations for base case (above) and 2055 Scenario 3 (below) (DITRDCA 2023a: Figure 7-13)

5.4.6 The impact of WSI aircraft emissions

Although it is possible to outline processes of potential rock art deterioration related to aircraft emissions, it is as yet, impossible to evaluate the risk presented by these processes, or indeed to identify and quantify resulting damage. This is due to a lack of previous research and comparative data, as well as the difficulty in differentiating aircraft emission derived deterioration from other anthropogenic pollution sources via the same processes (such as acidity, nutrients and dust). Many of the subject processes of deterioration are also naturally present or are pre-existing phenomena of metropolitan and industrial areas (such as dust deposition), and the proportional contribution of aircraft emissions is difficult to quantify.

Air pollution standards and thresholds have mostly been developed in relation to human health requirements, or human perceptions of environmental toxicity (refer Chapter 3 of the Technical paper 3: Greenhouse gas emissions). It remains unknown how these relate to conditions which may or may not be conducive to the conservation of rock art.

In these circumstances, reasonable strategies to pursue are:

- the promotion of research and monitoring to gain a better understanding of processes and impacts, and
- adopt a precautionary approach and where possible meet existing emission control guidelines and minimise emissions that may contribute towards the acidification of rain and aerosols, increases in surface nutrients, and airborne dust.

The need to reduce the generation of greenhouse gases and their role in promoting climate change are now established principles of State and Federal policy. The rock art conservation imperatives to reduce the frequency of storm events, and the extent and duration of climatic humidity and temperature variations are shared with many other environmental and ecological fields of concern.

5.4.6.1 Fuel jettisoning

If required for operational safety purposes, the dumping (or jettisoning) of aircraft fuel is typically undertaken in a controlled manner and in accordance with established procedures so as to eliminate any risk to sites on the ground (Technical paper 4). Civil Aviation Regulation 150 allows 'in an emergency, the jettisoning of liquid fuel or cargo over areas where hazard to persons or property on the ground or water is not created' (1988 No.158 Civil Aviation Regulations).

The ability to dump fuel in flight is limited to wide-body aircraft. The need to dump fuel is a very rare occurrence, normally involving the requirement for an aircraft to return to its airport of origin soon after take-off because of a mechanical or passenger incident. Fuel jettisoning would occur in accordance with the Manual of Air Traffic Services (MATS) – Section 4.2.11 Fuel Dumping (Airservices Australia, 2023).

Most jet fuel is highly volatile and when jettisoned readily breaks up into small droplets which subsequently vaporise. Clewell found that the type of fuel, height of jettisoning and ground temperature all affect the proportion of fuel to evaporate prior to reaching the ground (Clewell 1980). The evaporation of unburnt fuel droplets releases volatile organic compounds, such as benzene (and carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere, some of which can remain in a vapour phase with a residence time of between 1 day and 2 weeks, depending on climate and other pollutants present (PEL 2016:82). Although fuel jettisoning is extremely rare and the likelihood of fuel reaching the ground is very low, its potential impact on the ground, to the environment and the micro-climate of Aboriginal rock art sites would be detrimental. No occurrences of jettisoned fuel reaching the ground have been recorded in the history of commercial jet aviation in Australia.

Based on the National Aviation Occurrence Database (Australian Transport Safety Bureau), a total of 144 events involving fuel dumping or burn offs have occurred since 2010 when systematic reporting commenced. Of these, 43% involved fuel dumping, and 77% were a consequence of an incident occurring on take-off (necessitating fuel reduction prior to a return to the airport). This corresponds to 48 fuel dumping incidences. Over the period 2010–2020, there were an estimated 9,281,707 commercial air transport take-off operations, providing a fuel dumping incident rate of 5.17×10^{-6} per take-off movement (DITRDCA 2023b, Section 9.1.2). The risk assessment conducted for this EIS concluded that a fuel dumping incident giving rise to impacts at ground level anywhere in the vicinity of WSI is estimated to be extremely remote (DITRDCA 2023b: Section 9.1.2). Consequently, the likelihood of a fuel jettisoning occurrence related to the use of WSI impacting upon an Aboriginal rock art site is also extremely remote.

5.5 Air pollution impacts to non-Indigenous heritage places

Despite the cost of maintenance of some historic structures and in particular Sydney's historical sandstone structures, there are few studies on the impact of air pollution and its mitigation. While some studies have looked at air pollution generally, little specific information is available in the public domain regarding the contributory impact of aviation pollution. No Australian studies could be located that consider the potential impacts on other types of building fabric, although some studies have focused on impacts on other types of stone building materials (e.g., Basu et al. 2020) and limestone mortars (Martinez-Ramirez et al. 1998). The following points summarise the information available:

- Anthropogenic air pollution is a major cause of damage to heritage buildings including 19th Century sandstone structures in Sydney.
- The principal sources of anthropogenic ambient pollution in Sydney are emissions from motor vehicles and coal fired power stations.
- No known published studies have linked pollution from aircraft directly to the destruction of heritage items.
- Aircraft engines produce pollution over urban areas making them contributors to ambient air pollution in general, especially when flying at altitudes below 1 km.
- The presence of air pollution is generally known to increase the rate of natural weathering by about one to 2 times, regardless of the stone used for construction.
- Sydney (yellow block) sandstone, a building material employed in many 19th Century buildings in Sydney, is a highly porous and friable building material vulnerable to weathering from natural and anthropogenic pollution.
- Sulfuric and nitric acid, deriving from sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in air pollution from motor vehicles and aircraft, decreases the pH of rain causing acid rain and contributing to the precipitation of secondary minerals in sandstone building materials.
- Acid rain and secondary minerals (salts) are major contributors to the destruction of the outer layers of sandstone architecture in urban areas.
- Recent changes in air pollution standards internationally have led to a shift in the causes of damage to stone heritage buildings away from traditional sources of air pollution, such as diesel vehicle emission, to increased activity by algae.
- The growing impacts of climate change provide an important backdrop to the possible enhanced impacts of pollution, including exaggerated cycles of wet/dry climate, humidity and increasing threats from micro-organisms.

Air pollution has long been considered a cause of damage to built heritage in both urban and rural areas (e.g. Inkpen 2004; Watt et al. 2009). The principal sources of ambient air pollution globally are industrial activities and vehicle emissions, while in Sydney they are motor vehicle exhaust and to a lesser extent coal fired power stations (Paton-Walsh et al. 2019).

Atmospheric conditions mean that air pollution impacting cultural heritage sites can travel long distances and is not restricted to local sources (Stray and Dahli 1999). This phenomenon explains the contributions of fine atmospheric particles made by power stations to Sydney's pollution levels (Paton-Walsh et al. 2019), despite the fact they are largely located in the Hunter Region to Sydney's north or west of the Blue Mountains to Sydney's west.

There appear to be no published studies investigating the impacts of air pollution directly from the aviation sector on heritage items. However, it is well understood that aircraft produce large amounts of pollution, especially beneath flight paths and around airports, and are an important contributor to ambient air pollution in urban areas generally. For example, 5–7% of total jet fuel is consumed within 1km above ground level during airport operations (Masiol and Harrison, 2014).

Many 19th Century buildings in Sydney were constructed from locally quarried (yellow block) Sydney sandstone. Sandstone is a highly porous and friable building material which makes it vulnerable to the impacts of natural and anthropogenic air pollution. Sydney sandstone contains a large amount of sand (60–68%) which is bound together by 16–25% clay matrix (Stuart et al. 2008). The loose arrangement of sand grains, high porosity and clay mineral content make Sydney sandstone highly susceptible to weathering.

Recession (erosion) rates of architectural sandstone vary considerably according to the physical and chemical composition of the rock and the location of the heritage item. Buildings situated in urban areas generally experience accelerated rates of damage compared with their rural counterparts (Varotsos et al. 2009). Sandstone heritage items in Sydney are especially vulnerable to damage due to the combined impacts of salt in the coastal air, humidity, wet/dry climate phases (such as La Nina/El Nino cycles), and natural (bushfires) and anthropogenic air pollution.

In general, the presence of air pollution is known to increase the rate of natural weathering by about one to 2 times, regardless of the architectural stone used (Varotsos et al. 2009). The presence of air pollution results in the formation of secondary minerals, principally through increased acid concentrations, and exfoliation of the outer layers of sandstone which are typically loose and friable (Marszalek et al. 2014).

Notably, air pollution from motor vehicles and aircraft contains sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) which reacts with water to produce sulfuric and nitric acid (Sesana et al. 2020). Their presence can further decrease the pH of rain causing acid rain (Sesana et al. 2020) which also causes the precipitation of secondary minerals, chiefly salts, which are a commonly used marker of the level of environmental pollution in sandstone buildings (Marszalek et al. 2014).

Smith et al. 2008 note that weathering crusts contain secondary salt minerals, mainly gypsum, which reduces the resistance of surface stone to weathering. It also has the side effect of lowering the stone's aesthetic quality. Crust layers caused by pollution seal in airborne particulates, hampering the free exchange of stone moisture with the air, and increasing the migration of soluble salts from inner parts of the stone (Smith et al. 2008). This leads to the loosening of the rock structure, and ultimately, granular disintegration of the stone.

Studies on sandstone buildings and natural sources of similar sandstone overseas have demonstrated that the outer crust that develops on natural sandstone surfaces such as tors and boulders operates to protect the inner rock from decay but the crust that forms on building sandstone in cities operates differently and does not protect the inner stone. This may mean that similar levels of pollution will have less severe physical impact on natural stone surfaces such as in rock shelters and sandstone exposures used for Aboriginal engravings and a more severe impact on sandstone buildings similarly exposed. Further research in the Australian context is needed to understand this.

The mechanism of developing weathering crust is similar on the surfaces of sandstone tors and of architectonic sandstone elements. The course of weathering of rock surfaces depends besides inherent petrographic features (mineral composition, texture, structure) also upon environmental conditions, being particularly affected by atmospheric pollution. In the regions of low pollution, the sandstone surfaces become covered with the natural weathering crust that provides a long-term protection of inner rock layers from further alterations.

The weathering crust developed as an effect of pollution in urban areas contains considerable amounts of secondary salt minerals, mainly gypsum, reduces the resistance of surface stone layers to weathering and, as a side effect, lowers the stone aesthetic quality. The crust layer additionally sealed with airborne particulates hampers a free exchange of stone moisture with the air, a migration of soluble salts from inner parts of stones outwards and their crystallisation on the surface. All this leads to the loosening of the rock structure and finally, to the granular disintegration of the stone (Marszalek et al. 2014:14033-4).

Particulate pollution, especially from diesel vehicles, has long been responsible for the deposition of a black coating on urban heritage buildings. This coating of potentially soluble gypsum and soot particles comprises mostly salts (Smith et al. 2008; Marszalek et al. 2014) and is seen commonly on sandstone in urban areas. In Sydney, this weathering crust can be easily observed, for example, on the sandstone buildings at the University of Sydney, St Mary's Cathedral, St Andrew's Cathedral, Central Station, the Rocks, and other 19th Century sandstone buildings around Sydney.

Changes in vehicle emission standards in developed economies over recent decades have also led to a shift in the major causes of damage to heritage buildings. These resulted in changes to the composition of air pollution, with fewer diesel and lead emissions and increased ethanol, enhancing the effects of biological (algal) precipitated weathering (Smith et al. 2008). This has led to changes in the distribution and colour of soiling (weathering crusts), specifically increased amounts of complex biomineralogic crusting due to elevated ambient nitrogen levels (Smith et al. 2008), on the stone of heritage buildings.

Studies of the impacts of climate change on stone heritage buildings in London considered a broad range of stone materials including limestone, marble, granite, sandstone, slate, flint as well as bricks.

In the urban environment of London, with progressive build up in the concentration of atmospheric nitrogen oxides leading to an increasingly acidic environment and, with predicted climate change, the diverse stone-built heritage will be affected. (Basu et al. 2020:788)

From the discussion above it is clear that emissions have an impact on the physical fabric of buildings and in particular are known to have an impact on sandstone (see for example Figure 5.14), which is a material used in many of Sydney’s significant historical buildings. It is likely that other fabrics and finishes are also affected over time (Building Effects Review Group 1989; Sharma et al. 2023).

Glass can undergo chemical alteration in polluted environments. Sodium can be leached out of the surface layers of modern glass in atmospheres rich in sulphur and carbon dioxide. Overseas studies have shown that medieval glass can be leached of its potassium and calcium content, weakening the structure and durability (Inkpen 2004).

Metals can also be chemically altered within a polluted atmosphere. The degree of alteration depends to a great extent on the presence of moisture (and how long the metal remains wet), the concentration of pollutants present and the supply of oxygen to the reacting surface (Inkpen 2004).

However, it is not currently possible from the available data to quantify the contributory impact of emissions from aircraft as there have been no long-term baseline studies undertaken to monitor long term impacts of such industrial emissions (see Chapter 6 for discussion of cumulative impacts). Additional work is needed in this area especially in view of the potential increased maintenance costs for heritage structures over time as they deteriorate.



Figure 5.14 A gargoyle damaged by acid rain (Image: Nino Barbieri via Wikimedia Commons)

5.6 The impact of noise and visual intrusion

The impact on cultural values of both Aboriginal and non-indigenous places of noise and visual intrusion is dependent on a combination of the expected type of aircraft, height of the aircraft above the ground surface, the position of the heritage item in relation to topographic features that might mitigate noise or shield from site, the frequency of flights and whether an aircraft might be expected to be climbing in altitude, cruising or idling. While it is not possible to give precise predictions for every heritage item under the proposed flight paths some estimations are provided in Table 5.3 and Table 5.4.

5.6.1 In relation to significant non-indigenous heritage items

The flight paths avoid all of the WHAs and the Nationally listed sites, except for the GBMA and the Royal National Park – Gawarra State Conservation Area. In relation to the Royal National Park – Gawarra State Conservation Area, while aircraft will be visible, they will be much higher than the current aircraft overflying the area to and from KSA and noise is not expected to be significant at 42 decibels or lower (see Section 5.3.1). While aircraft might still be visible from the other sites (see Figure 5.6) even though they are not directly overflown, it is expected that noise and visual intrusion to these places will be minimal and have a negligible impact on their values.

The 2016 EIS noted that:

...Aircraft technology is continually evolving to improve noise performance of aircraft, with the latest generation of aircraft being about 75% quieter than those designed 40 years ago. Given that the full operating capacity of the long-term development is not anticipated to be achieved for close to 50 years, it is likely that older generation aircraft, including the Boeing 747 would have been replaced by quieter and more efficient aircraft as technology continue to improve¹³

The long-term impact of cultural values due to noise is difficult to determine. If the noise is such that it disrupts the cultural practices at a site to the extent that its use is discontinued, then this would have a profound impact on the cultural values associated with the place. This can be particularly important to historic heritage items such as buildings and building complexes which have existing sympathetic uses that are noise sensitive. Such heritage items often require a substantial income stream to help fund their long-term maintenance.

Considering the high number of non-Indigenous heritage places within the study areas, a selection of State heritage places were considered in detail as exemplars. These are shown in Table 5.3. The rationale for selecting these examples is as follows:

- Fernhill Estate is located in Mulgoa. The village of Mulgoa and surrounds has a number of items of local and State significance. Potential impacts on Fernhill Estate are likely to apply to these other nearby places. The Estate comprises an extensive area of modified and natural landscape that provides a picturesque setting for the house completed in 1842 for Edward Cox. The house itself was built in the Greek revival style by indentured Irish stonemasons from stone quarried on the site (JPA & D 2019). It is currently described as *A place of natural beauty. A place of quiet contemplation and to feel part of nature*¹⁴. There are a number of other historic places of State and local significance located in Mulgoa. Impacts as described for Fernhill will be similar for those other heritage places. Fernhill was purchased in 2017 by the NSW government for \$27mil, since then conservation and maintenance works have been carried out on the property. Western Sydney Parklands has detailed some of their broad aspirations for the property in the plan of management for the property (Greater Sydney Parklands 2021). The property is no longer a residential home and therefore night time noise may not pose a negative impact on the use of the historic property, however proposed future uses include hiring of the venue for weddings and similar events and it is advertised as a place for tranquil rural enjoyment so daytime noise and visual intrusion is a consideration. The principle potential impact however relates to the impact of emission on the building fabric particularly the sandstone.

¹³ WSA-EIS-Volume-3-Chapter-38-Greater-Blue-Mountains World Area p 151
<https://www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/sites/default/files/WSA-EIS-Volume-3-Chapter-38-Greater-Blue-Mountains-World-Heritage-Area.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.westernsydneyparklands.com.au/about-us/fernhill-estate/>

- Lillianfels in the Blue Mountains is an example of an historic property in Katoomba whose heritage conservation is funded through its commercial use as a wellness spa; any impact to its commercial viability will have a flow on impact on its cultural values. The impact on Lillianfels is considered as indicative of the impact on other heritage properties in Katoomba, particularly those at the edge of the urban sprawl at the junctions with the GBMA forests.
- The Carrington is a heritage listed hotel in the centre of Katoomba. Currently a hotel, it was built as a 19th Century grand resort built in 1883 to take advantage of the healthy mountain air. The building is sprawling complex which includes not only the original spa and hotel with music room, ornate stained-glass windows and numerous original features. It also includes the remains of a power station built in 1910 at the back of the Carrington Hotel to provide the first electricity supply, not only to the Carrington Hotel but also to Katoomba and other Blue Mountains towns. Katoomba is comprised of many historic buildings, many of which rely on the hospitality/tourism sector. Any issues and potential impacts facing the Carrington are likely also relevant to other heritage items within Katoomba township.
- Everglades house and gardens was selected as an example of a heritage garden. Heritage gardens in the Blue Mountains are currently subject to a range of existing and emerging pressures related to climate change. They are often maintained in part through the revenue from tourism and that tourism is based on their ability to showcase established cool climate gardens and offer tranquil walks and idyllic photo opportunities.
- Linden Observatory is a unique heritage place that is used as a dark sky site by amateur astronomers. It is managed by a private Trust. There are also a number of Aboriginal sites along Linden Ridge.
- Wynstay Estate is located at Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains. This privately-owned property, originally conceived as a park-like estate in the English picturesque tradition, is much older than the current homestead. The original cottage was built in 1875 by Richard Wynne, while the current Wynstay, a large sandstone house in the Georgian Revival style, was built by his grandson in 1923. The property is a good example of a heritage complex rather than a single building. As well as the main house there are the 2 earlier houses, the Turkish Bath, the Lodge/gatehouse, the stables and extensive heritage gardens.
- Kirkham Stables and Precinct c1816 is located in Narellan and provides an example of a large, early colonial property south of WSI. The property was originally part a 243ha grant to John Oxley. The buildings relate to the former horse stud and dairy. The property is currently a beef cattle farm. This heritage complex includes multiple buildings including homestead, workers cottage, managers cottage, stud breeding building, small stables building, horse stables, garages and other outbuildings. Any potential impacts to this property can be seen as typical of the potential impacts to other local and State heritage listed places in the Narellan/Camden area.
- Camden Park Estate and Belgenny Farm. This heritage item is an important cultural landscape comprised of multiple historical features. Camden Park House itself is an outstanding exemplar of Australia's Colonial Regency style of architecture designed by John Verge. Belgenny Farm was originally the home farm within Camden Park estate and was established by John and Elizabeth Macarthur in 1805. It contains the earliest collection of colonial farm buildings in Australia. Many of these are vernacular timber buildings. The property is currently an educational centre. Due to its picturesque setting, it is also a venue for weddings and corporate events.
- Thompson Square Conservation Area, Windsor. The 'square' itself is a small area recognised as one of Australia's earliest surviving public spaces and is surrounded by a number of State and locally significant heritage places. Those heritage places are built from a range of building materials including old sandstock bricks, sandstone and lime mortar. Windsor is comprised of many State, and locally significant heritage buildings and any potential impacts to Thompson Square Conservation Area features may be considered applicable to these other heritage items. In addition, the heritage item suffered recent impacts from the construction of the new Windsor Bridge and so it highlights the need to consider cumulative impacts to heritage places.
- Hobartville Estate, Richmond, is a substantially intact early colonial homestead group, featuring one of the finest pre-1830 houses in the country. The property is owned and managed by the National Trust of Australia (NSW). The house itself is a two-story sandstock brick mansion with sandstone features such as the front portico. It was built by William M. Cox junior and is reputed to be designed by Francis Greenway. Richmond is an historic town comprised of a number of State and locally listed heritage items. Richmond is already overflown by aircraft from Richmond RAAF Base and will also be overflown albeit at a much higher altitude by the new flight paths. Impacts and issues relating to Hobartville Estate can be expected to apply to other places in Richmond.

Table 5.3 Estimated noise and visual intrusion at a selection of historic heritage items of cultural value

| Item name | Sensitivity issues | Noise range modelled average sound levels) L _{Amax} (dBA) | N60 (24-hours) number of movements | Potential impacts | Image |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| Fernhill Mulgoa SHR 54 | Sandstone buildings – possible impact of emissions on building fabric. Noise Visual Emissions – effect on sandstone | ~65 dB(A) | 10–20 movements per 24-hrs at or above 60 dB(A) | <p>The homestead is currently in a quiet rural setting. The property will be directly overflown by aircraft departing overnight from Runway 05. Approximate altitude of aircraft 2,500–5,000ft.. There will be some day-evening incoming flights to Runway 05 descending from 8,000 ft to 5,000 ft.</p> <p>Some aircraft (overnight or day-evening) may fly lower altitude depending on weather and operations conditions.</p> <p>Likely impact of noise on the cultural values will be moderate given the tranquil rural setting.</p> <p>The impact of emissions on physical fabric is undetermined but of concern.</p> <p>Impacts will be similar to St Thomas Church (SHR 426) and locally significant places in Mulgoa.</p> |  |
| Lilianfels SHR 431 | The maintenance is supported through its sympathetic reuse as a wellness spa. Noise, Visual | 50–55 | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | <p>Not underneath the flight paths but less than 5 km away. The altitude of aircraft will be >10,000 ft (MSL)</p> <p>Impact low.</p> |  |

| Item name | Sensitivity issues | Noise range modelled average sound levels) L _{Amax} (dBA) | N60 (24-hours) number of movements | Potential impacts | Image |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Everglades gardens SHR 1498 | Air pollution/cumulative pressures added emissions and climate change | 50–55 dBA | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | <p>Not underneath the flight paths but less than 5 km away. The altitude of aircraft will be >10,000 ft (MSL) KSA already overflies the property. Noise and visual impacts expected to be low.</p> <p>Cumulative impact emissions and climate change undetermined.</p> |  |
| Linden Observatory SHR 1807 | Dark sky proposal; visual, sensitive to noise night-time flights | 60–65 dBA. | 10–20 flights per 24-hrs at or above 60 dB(A) | <p>Flight path avoids direct over flight but is close to proposed overnight arrival flightpaths to Runway 05. Aircraft will be visible. The altitude of arriving aircraft will be 5,000–8,000 ft (MSL). Noise levels and visual impacts are expected to impact cultural values especially 'dark sky' and amateur astronomy. Impact expected to be moderate. Aircraft departing Runway 23 overnight will be higher climbing between 10,500 feet and 13,300 feet above runway level at this location. Some aircraft may fly at a lower altitude depending on weather and operational conditions.</p> <p>There are also daytime flights departing WSI from Runway 23 over this place climbing between 10500 feet and 13300 feet.</p> |  |

| Item name | Sensitivity issues | Noise range modelled average sound levels) L _{Amax} (dBA) | N60 (24-hours) number of movements | Potential impacts | Image |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Wynstay Estate 1875 68–78 The Ave Mt Wilson SHR 1520 | Significant buildings; combination of materials brick, sandstone, corrugated iron | Under 60 dB(A) | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Aircraft will be less than 2 km away to the southwest and flying at more than 10,000 ft (MSL). Noise and visual impact – low |  |
| Kirkhams Stables and Precinct c1816 130 Kirkham Ln, Kirkham New South Wales 2570 (Camden) SHR 1411 | Building complex Masonry, iron roof, rough cast cement on stone foundations Effects of emissions on building fabric and treatments | Under 60 dBA | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Flight path avoids direct over flight but will be distantly visible less than 5 km away to east and north. The altitude of aircraft will be greater than 10,000 ft (MSL). Likely impact negligible |  |
| Thompson Square Windsor SHR 126 | Cumulative impacts after major impact of TfNSW – Windsor Bridge | Under 60 dBA | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Thompson Square will be directly overflown. The expected altitude of aircraft will be greater than 10,000 ft (MSL). Proposal impact alone is likely to be minor but cumulative impact on liveability of historic homes may be significant given other recent impacts. |  |

| Item name | Sensitivity issues | Noise range modelled average sound levels) L _{Amax} (dBA) | N60 (24-hours) number of movements | Potential impacts | Image |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| The Carrington, Katoomba SHR 00280 | Building fabric - unknown impacts of emissions on building fabrics Noise sensitivity for patron/guests | 50–55 dB(A) | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Katoomba Township will be avoided as a residential area. Flight path avoids direct over flight but will be distantly visible less than 5 km away to east and north. The altitude of aircraft will be greater than 10,000 ft (MSL). Impact negligible to low. |  <p>[Image: NSW Gov photo G Hicks 1984]</p> |
| Hobartville, Richmond SHR 00035 | Complex of buildings from early colonial period. Sandstock brick mansion, slate roof, stone elements | Under 60 dBA | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Example for Richmond township Due to restrictions posed by RAAF Base Richmond township will be overflowed as main north–south flight path. Flight paths run above the RAAF flight paths. The property will be directly overflowed. Aircraft are expected to be at an altitude of greater than 10,000 ft (MSL) Noise and visual impacts expected to be minor. Cumulative impact of emissions on building fabric undetermined. |  |

| Item name | Sensitivity issues | Noise range modelled average sound levels) L_{Amax} (dBA) | N60 (24-hours) number of movements | Potential impacts | Image |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Camden Park Estate/Belgenny Farm SHR 01697 | Cultural landscape /cultural complex – any features. Camden Park house – stuccoed sandstock brick, local cut stone detail, sandstone Effects of emissions on building fabric and treatments Noise visual | Under 60 dBA. | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Will not be overflown. Flight path avoids direct over flight but will be distantly visible less than 5 km. The altitude of aircraft will be greater than 10,000 ft (MSL) Low impact |  |

5.6.2 In relation to Aboriginal sites

One of the most common concerns raised by Aboriginal stakeholders consulted was the impact of the noise of aircraft on their spiritual connection with the landscape and /or the disruption that aircraft noise would have on their continuing cultural practices. For instance, if they were running a camp for young people to connect with country at Shaws Creek AP, Yellomundee, having loud aircraft noise passing over would disrupt the connection between people and country and impair their ability to transmit culture to the younger generations.

To identify those places most likely to be impacted in any of the above ways, the sites nominated by stakeholders and those identified as being of a type that have potential cultural value (i.e., rock art, stone arrangements, burials and massacre sites, ceremonial sites, and spiritual mythological sites) were reviewed and mapped in relation to the proposed flight paths. The distance from WSI and likely height above ground (the later as a range) was noted (see Appendix B for a list of such places).

In order to determine those places where noise and visual intrusion might impact cultural practices and/or current usage the discussions with the knowledge holders were reviewed. Six places particularly stand out as places where noise and visual intrusions should be minimised to avoid detrimental impact to the significant cultural values. Of the 6 places noted below, the last 2 are assessed as likely to suffer no or negligible adverse impacts from the current proposal:

- The Three Sisters rock formation
- Bents Basin in Bents Basin Conservation area (see Figure 5.16)
- Yellomundee including Shaws Creek rock shelters and the camping area (see Figure 5.15)
- Emu Engravings Faulconbridge/Ticehurst Park – particularly at night, March–April when the constellation is most visible
- Thirlmere Lakes – there is some evidence that the lakes are home to a dangerous creature (Brodie ND in DPE 2022:5), possibly the Gurugaty also at Bents Basin. Thirlmere Lakes will not be negatively impacted by the proposed flightpaths
- The Mermaid Pools – women’s site is located on the boundary of the study area and will not be impacted by the current proposal (see Figure 7.1).

Table 5.4 lists the modelled average sound levels expected at these locations or the nearest location referred to in Technical paper 1. Where quantitative data was not available some estimates of impact have been given based on expected height of aircraft in the vicinity of the heritage item.

The 2 places that stand out as subject to severe negative impacts are Yellomundee which includes the Shaws Creek AP and Bents Basin State Recreation Area. While Yellomundee is currently overflowed by aircraft departing KSA those aircraft are almost all non-jet aircraft at approximately 10,000 ft. The current proposal from WSI will significantly increase the number of daytime flights over this area.

At Bents Basin (refer Table 5.4) the height of departing and arriving flights is much lower than any current flight passing over this area. Due to the proximity to WSI aircraft will be either accelerating (departure) or decelerating (arrivals) increasing the noise impacts. The frequency of expected flights is also an issue. The impact on Aboriginal cultural values will be severe.

Bents Basin or ‘Gulguer’ is particularly important to Dharug, Gundungurra and Tharawal First Nations women and is currently used a safe place for family gatherings and passing on cultural knowledge to their daughters. The actual basin or scour pool is considered a sacred place and is home to a dangerous being called variously Gurungadge, Gurangatch or Gurungaty (Section 4.2.2).

Table 5.4 Estimated noise and visual intrusion at a selection of sites of high cultural value

| Heritage item | Noise range (modelled average sound levels) L _{Amax} (dBA) | Visual intrusion | N60 (24-hours) – number of movements | Comment |
|-------------------|--|--|---|---|
| The Three Sisters | 50–55 dB(A) | Aircraft will be visible in the distance less than 5 km away. They but will be at an approx. height greater than 10,000 ft (AMSL). | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | <p>While the expected noise levels are low, given the sweeping views from the lookout the visual impact is likely to be more noticeable than for other parts of the Blue Mountains. First Nations participants were concerned about any increase in noise or visual intrusion.</p> <p>Impact on cultural values expected to be low to moderate given expected altitude and noise projections.</p> |
| Bents Basin | 80–85 dB(A) | <p>The property will be directly overflown. Aircraft will be relatively low.</p> <p>Aircraft arriving into WSI Runway 05 during the day – evening period and overnight will be descending between 2,500 ft and 750 ft.</p> <p>Aircraft departing from WSI Runway 23 during the day-evening period and overnight will be climbing between 2500 feet and 5000 feet. Some aircraft may fly at a lower altitude depending on weather and operational conditions.</p> | ~200 movements above 60 dB(A) | <p>The impact on values is expected to be extremely high. The frequency of flights during peak hours (6–8 am and 4–6 pm) is expected to be a flight every 3 minutes.</p> <p>Impact on cultural values – severe.</p> |

| Heritage item | Noise range (modelled average sound levels) L _{Amax} (dBA) | Visual intrusion | N60 (24-hours) – number of movements | Comment |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Shaws Creek AP, Yellomundee Regional Park | 60–65 dBA | The place will be directly overflown. Aircraft will be frequent and visible (approx. 6,000–8,000 ft (MSL) and climbing) departing from Runway 05. Overnight aircraft into WSI on Runway 23 will be descending between 8,000 feet and 5,000 feet above runway level at this location. Some aircraft may fly at a lower altitude depending on weather and operational conditions. | 10–20 movements above 60 dB(A) | The main north south flight paths over fly Yellomundee. It is expected that only 1–2 overnight flight into runway 23 would occur. Departing from Runway 05 an average of 23, up to a maximum of 55 departures, could overfly this location during the Day - Evening period. The impact on cultural values is expected to be significant. |
| The Mermaid Pools | Under 60 dBA | Aircraft will be less than 5 km way but flying at greater than 10,000 ft AMSL. | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Aircraft may be visible but noise relatively low. The expected impact on cultural values is low. |
| Red Hands Cave AP | 60–65 dBA | Flight path is less than 2 km away and aircraft will be at 5,500–6,500 ft AMSL. | <10 movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Expected impact low to moderate. |
| Euroka Clearing | 60–65 dBA | The site will be directly overflown with aircraft at an expected height of 5,500–6,500 ft AMSL. | <10 movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Even though noise levels are not expected to be high, impact to the current use of the site which includes mourning and smoking ceremonies will be noticeable. Impact to cultural values moderate. |
| Linden Ridge sites | 60–65 dBA | Aircraft will be visible to the east less than 2 km away. Aircraft will be 6,000–8,000 ft AMSL. | 10–20 movements at or above 60 dB(A) | The ridge is not overflown but the adjacent valley is. Impact low to moderate. |
| Emu Cave AP | Under 60 dBA | The AP is directly overflown. Aircraft will be visible but relatively high at greater than 10,000 ft AMSL. | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Spiritual significance – Impact expected to be low to moderate. |

| Heritage item | Noise range (modelled average sound levels) L_{Amax} (dBA) | Visual intrusion | N60 (24-hours) – number of movements | Comment |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Emu Rock Engraving Faulconbridge | 60–65 dBA | Flight path is less than 2 km away and aircraft will be visible. Altitude of aircraft 6,000–8,000 ft AMSL. | < 10 movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Noise is likely to be a minor issue, however the link to the Emu in the Sky constellation is strongest March–April; likely to be impacted by night-time flights during this time. Impact – moderate. |
| Kings Tableland AP | 50–55 dBA | Aircraft will be less than 5 km away and visible from this AP but do not fly overhead; they will be at an altitude of greater than 10,000 ft AMSL. | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Impact expected to be low |
| Mt Yengo sacred site | Negligible (outside selected N60 noise contours) | The nearest flight path is 2.7 km away and aircraft will be high between 17,500 and 20,000 ft. | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Aircraft may be visible but at high altitude noise will be negligible. First nations concern over disruption of spiritual values. |
| Mermaid Pools | <42 dB(A) | Aircraft flight paths are around 5 km away and will be at altitudes of between 13,300 and 17,500 ft. | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | Aircraft may be visible but will be at high altitude. Impact negligible. |
| Thirlmere Lakes | ~42 dB(A) | The lakes are not directly over flown. The closest flight path is 7.3 km away. Aircraft departing runways 23 during the Day-evening will also fly over this area at an altitude of 20,000 ft. | No movements at or above 60 dB(A) | The closest flightpath is from Runway 05 Departure south (Hot) Day. And departures Runway 23 south day. Aircraft may be visible but high. Impact negligible. |

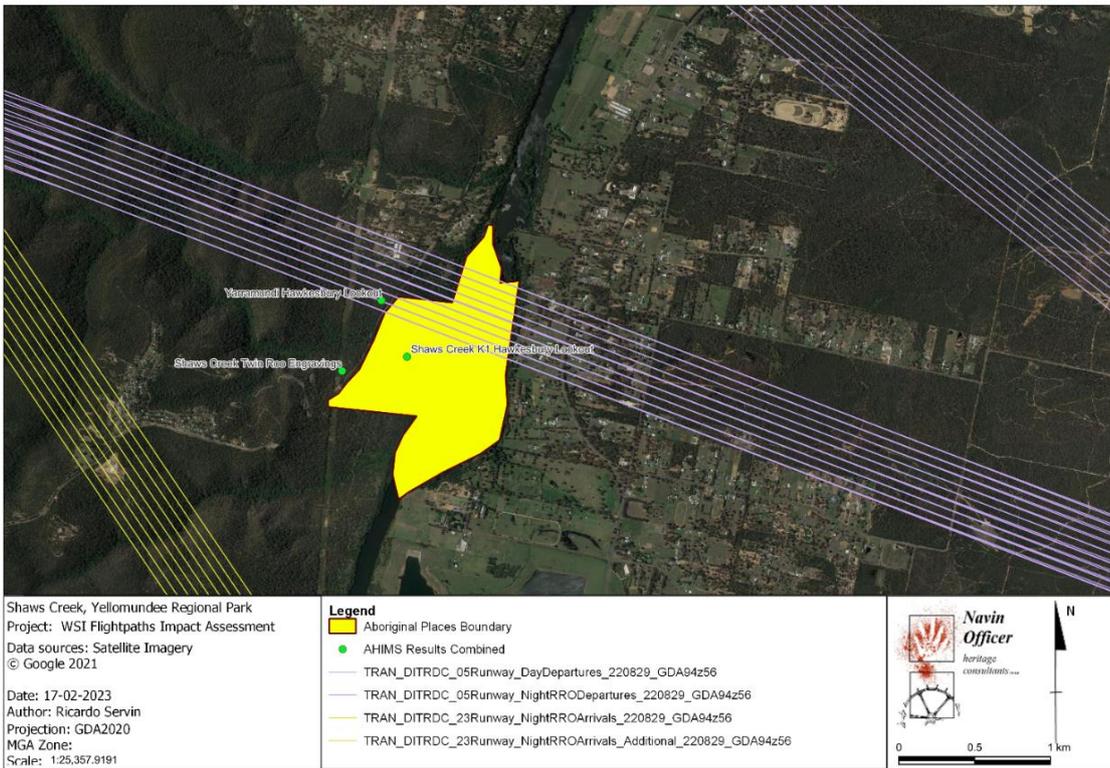


Figure 5.15 Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place, in Yellomundee Regional Park crossed by proposed flight paths; this was a particular concern of the Dharug women interviewed

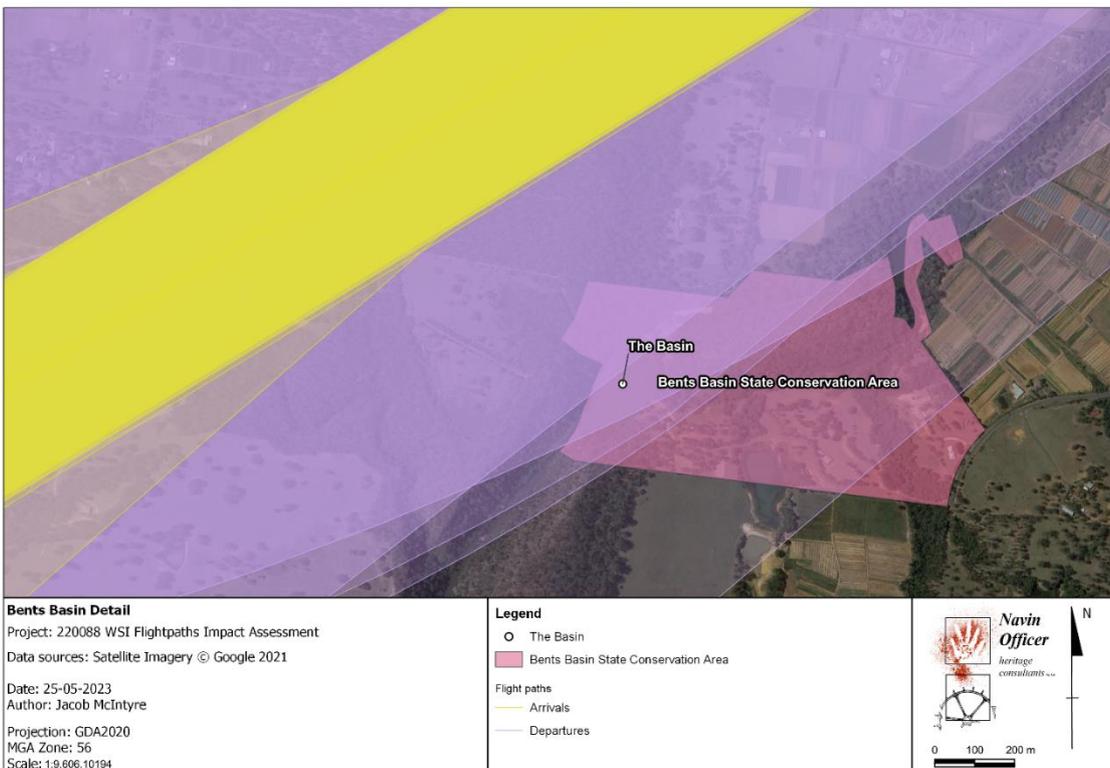


Figure 5.16 Bents Basin State Conservation Area in relation to the proposed flight paths

Bents Basin is an important cultural place that lies under the proposed flight paths (Figure 5.16) and by 2055 it is expected that more than 200 flights throughout the day and night will pass over it. The noise is expected to be 80–85 dBA. The aircraft will be low at around 2,500–3,500 ft MSL and noise of aircraft, particularly departing aircraft, is expected to be significant. The frequency of aircraft will give little respite, with an estimated aircraft every 3 minutes during morning and evening peak hours. The impact to the cultural values of this spiritual place will be severe and it seems unlikely that the impact can be reasonably mitigated given other flight path design parameters. The current flight path is incompatible with respecting the cultural values of the place.

All gazetted APs within the airspace study area are places of high cultural value. Specifically, those in that part of the Blue Mountains that fall within the airspace study area should be avoided by flight paths:

- Shaws Creek, Yellomundee
- Upper Kedumba Valley
- Kings Tableland
- The Three Sisters
- Emu Cave
- Euroka Clearing Nye Gnorang
- Red Hands Cave.

In most cases the flight path design has sought to avoid impacts on APs however further adjustments should be considered to reduce the impacts on Emu Cave AP, Euroka Clearing Nye Gnorang and at Shaws Creek in Yellomundee.

Flight paths have been designed to avoid flying over the following additional sites of high cultural values:

- Emu engraving site (AHIMS 45-5-4910), Faulconbridge, especially in March–April when the connection between this site and the constellation known as the ‘Emu in the Sky’ is strongest.
- Linden ridge (multiple sites) – where stakeholders considered flight paths would disrupt the ceremonial values.

While the recommendation is that flight paths should be designed so that they do not fly over the following places of high cultural value; if approval is given to flight paths that pass close to them then these sites (not exclusively but as a minimum) should be included in a long-term monitoring program aimed at understanding the impacts of aviation related air pollution on rock art sites (see Recommended Mitigation Measures):

- Red Hands Cave
- Linden Ridge (multiple sites)
- Art sites at Bents Basin.

There was a strong call from the First Nations knowledge holders that participated in the project that the Commonwealth promote the efforts to avoid and mitigate impact on Aboriginal heritage. Even if all sites could not be avoided, they considered it important to acknowledge both their concerns and the efforts undertaken to consider cultural heritage values in the design of the flight paths.

5.7 Disruption of land–sky connection

Some Aboriginal sites are connected to the Dreaming and have a spiritual value that extends beyond their physical fabric. Perhaps this is most clearly reflected in sites that are connected to stories that link places on the land with the stories about the constellations. One such place raised by the stakeholders who provided cultural information for this project is the Emu engraving at Faulconbridge. This engraving is reported by knowledge holders to be related to the Emu in the Sky.

The astronomical sites associated with Aboriginal cosmology have received renewed research attention in the past 15 years with a resurgence in the field of cultural astronomy since the International Year of Astronomy in 2009 (Bhathal 2010; Bhathal and Mason 2011; Fuller et al. 2014a, 2014b). They have always been of high importance to First Nations people as part of their complex cosmology and knowledge system. The Dreaming is not simply in the past; rather it continues to guide, influence and impact the day-to-day lives of First Nations people.

Stories about the Emu and the corresponding constellation are held by several First Nations peoples across Australia. The sites on the ground associated with these stories include engravings, stone arrangements and rock painting sites that are often associated with ceremony, initiation and the seasonal abundance of Emu eggs or the life cycle of the bird. The earliest known references by European observers to the Emu in the Sky story come from diverse geographic locations in the late 19th Century from across Victoria, NSW, Qld and South Australia (Stanbridge 1857; Ridley 1873; Palmer 1885 and Bates 1904; Smyth 1972 [1876]). The Emu is seen in the Coalsack nebula, dark spaces of the Milky Way under the Southern Cross (Stanbridge 1857; Basedow 1925; Bhathal and Mason 2011; Norris and Norris 2009; Raven et al. 2021). The head and neck of the Emu can be seen in the sky as early as March, it reaches its first appearance in full length after sunset in April and May, when it is seen stretching from the south to the southeast. The description below comes from northern NSW but is generally known by different Aboriginal groups throughout NSW, although ceremonies at associated with these sites vary:

At this time, the Kamilaroi and Euahlayi say the Emu has legs, and appears to be running. This reflects the behaviour of female emus, who chase the males during the mating season. Because emus are laying their eggs at this time, the appearance of the celestial Emu is a strong reminder to the Kamilaroi and Euahlayi people that eggs are available. In June and July, the appearance of the Emu changes. The legs disappear, and the Emu, which is now seen as male, is sitting on its nest, hatching the new chicks. After female emus lay the eggs, it is the males that broods the eggs. At this time, the eggs are still an available resource, and can be taken from the nest (Fuller 2014b:6).

The emu transforms as the seasons progress, becoming smaller and less discernible as it sits closer to the horizon (Fuller et al. 2014a, 2014b; Leaman and Hamacher 2019; Leaman 2019).

5.7.1 Emu engraving (AHIMS #45-5-4910)

Several Emu engraving sites in the greater Sydney have been recorded as associated with this story including one in Ku-ring-gai Chase NP and the one at Faulconbridge in the Blue Mountains. Knowledge holders interviewed stated that around March–April was the most important time for the connection between the emu and the sky and the engraving site at Faulconbridge (AHIMS # 45-5-4910). The intrusion of aircraft overhead at this time would be most detrimental to the cultural values of the site. The outer edge of the current proposed flight path for day departures for non-jet aircraft from Runway 05 passes approximately 80 m southwest of this engraving site. During the night, although aircraft avoid flying over the site, they will still be visible. During March to April when the Emu in the Sky constellation is most visible, the visual intrusion is likely to have a negative cultural impact, disrupting the direct connection between the constellation and the land surface at the engraving.

5.7.2 Emu Cave (AHIMS #45-4-0018) and Emu Cave Aboriginal Place

There is also a rock shelter 45-4-0018 associated with the emu story (see Section 4.1.6.1). The wall of this rock shelter is engraved with numerous emu footprints and there are axe grinding grooves on the stone surface above the cave. Early excavations were undertaken in the mid-1930s led by F.D. McCarthy of the Australian Museum (McCarthy 1948:978); and the deposit was later dated to 3650 + 100 BP (ANU 010 in McCarthy 1978:55). The Emu Cave AP was gazetted to protect associated sites. This cave is believed by contemporary knowledge holders to be an important spiritual site associated with the Emu dreaming. The rock shelter itself is close to a road cutting and local folklore says it was used by convicts and other people in the past. It has been subject to various disturbances, although the depth of the rock shelter has served to protect the emu track engravings from weathering. This factor is also likely to provide protection from any impact from emissions.

The proposed day departures (non-jet) flight path from Runway 05 passes over this site and the site is approximately 500 m west of night departures from Runway 23. Due to its accessible location the cave is relatively well-known and highly visited. A flight path cuts across part of this AP.

Chapter 6 Cumulative impacts

Cumulative impacts are a result of incremental, sustained and combined effects of human action and natural variations over time and can be both positive and negative. They can be caused by the compounding effects of a single project or multiple projects in an area, and by the accumulation of effects from past, current and future activities as they arise (DPE 2023).

Despite a number of significant heritage sites existing for many years under the KSA flight paths there has been no specific consideration of the physical impacts of emissions on heritage items. Undertaking a study to consider this issue near KSA would be complex given the other contributors to airborne pollution nearby and the lack of a pre KSA baseline. The WSI provides an opportunity to investigate the impacts of aircraft emissions, if any, and thereby develop effective mitigation strategies.

Given the size of the study area and operational timeframes of the project, other relevant projects or developments considered likely to contribute to cumulative impacts have been restricted to those of sufficient scale to contribute materially to cumulative impacts at a regional level with similar or overlapping spatial or temporal characteristics. A list of major projects and strategic developments considered for cumulative impacts is provided in the Draft EIS.

Potential cumulative impacts related to Aboriginal and historic heritage places and values would result from the project operating in the study area in conjunction with other major developments and existing airports in the study area.

Potential cumulative impacts include:

- increased impact to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural places and values
- cumulative impacts of new emissions and climate change on heritage gardens
- cumulative impacts to cultural values due to additional noise and visual intrusion
- further disruption to land–sky connection.

6.1 Increased impact to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural places and values

Given the range of current and proposed developments in western Sydney it is difficult to calculate cumulative impacts with any degree of accuracy. This is exacerbated in the case of Aboriginal sites because for some decades Heritage NSW has not maintained an accurate record of destroyed sites as area-wide Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits are granted for development that cover the destruction of known and unknown sites within the area. It may be assumed that despite the large number of sites within the airspace study area, many of these have been destroyed since they were recorded. This means that it is important to take a precautionary approach to approving impacts to Aboriginal heritage rather than basing assessment on the perceived commonness of site type.

6.1.1 Cumulative impacts of new emissions to Aboriginal rock art sites

The cumulative impacts of WSI related air pollution across WSI airspace are best understood as a contributing factor to the totality of air pollution present across the Sydney airshed.

- The air emissions inventory for the Greater Metropolitan Region in NSW (EPA 2012) showed that emissions from existing airport operations in Sydney in 2008 were less than 3% of total emissions for the region.
- In 2019, off-road transport, including ships and aircraft were estimated to contribute 10% of the total human made PM_{2.5} emissions across Sydney (TfNSW 2019).
- Motor vehicles, by comparison were found to contribute 13% of PM_{2.5} and 55% of Nitrogen oxides. Other major contributors include wood heaters (50% of PM_{2.5}) and industry (18% of PM_{2.5} and 13% of oxides of Nitrogen) (TfNSW 2019).
- The 2016 EIS assessment for WSI found that, during operation, Stage One airport emissions would represent an increase of 0.1% to 0.7% of predicted total emissions in the Sydney Airshed in 2030 (DITRDC 2016).

Despite the low estimates of the proportional contribution of WSI airspace emissions to the totality of air pollution within the Sydney Airshed, there remains the possibility that the cumulative impact of locally increased emission levels, such as for particulate matter, or the precursors of acid rain, in the proximity of flight paths with lower altitude aircraft, will have an impact on nearby rock art sites over time.

There is currently no comparative data or research to test this possibility. It is not known, for example, if airborne pollutants from lower-altitude aircraft could raise rock-surface acidity levels at nearby or over-flown rock art sites beyond the natural acidity expected from the surrounding groundwater, soil and bedrock chemistry. Distinguishing local area aircraft from other more generalised airshed sources of pollutants is also an issue in this context. Similarly, natural processes of surface mineralisation and case-hardening across natural rock surfaces may also offer some protection against raised acidity.

The deposition of airborne particulate matter onto rock art panels appears a more clearly defined contender for a significant cumulative impact over time. Any increase in airborne dust content, whether above or below acceptable thresholds determined by human health risks, provides an opportunity for increased deposition of dust onto rock art panels. This will gradually impact their visibility and long-term conservation. It can be expected that all rock shelter sites within and around the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Region will be impacted by accumulated deposits of dust from the aerosol particulate matter of the Sydney airshed. It would be expected that within this general fall-out, and subject to local climatic conditions, heavier particulate matter may settle closer to its source than lighter fractions. A consequence of this expectation is that rock shelters under or close to flight paths used by low-altitude aircraft (such as during descent/arrival and ascent/departure), may experience greater dust fall-out, and therefore cumulative impacts.

In order to evaluate the role which WSI airspace emissions may have in cumulative impacts on rock art, a research program is required to both collect baseline and monitoring data in comparative locations, and to investigate possible processes of deterioration related to air pollution.

This research can be used to identify any significant impacts and to draft appropriate management strategies. In the case of impact from dust deposition, this can be partially reversed through the careful and controlled removal of dust from effected surfaces panels using dry brushing techniques (NOHC 2020).

6.1.2 Cumulative impacts to historic heritage fabric

As noted in the discussion in Section 5.5, while it is known that air pollution has a negative impact on some historical building fabric such as sandstone there has been little research into understanding the sources and contributory impact of emissions from industrial generators. It can be expected that not only will additional emissions add to the general impact on stone buildings and there is growing evidence that the deterioration will be accelerated by other anthropogenic factors such as climate change (Basu et al. 2020). Contemporary weathering is dependent on the constituents of the building materials and the past weathering history of the material, as well as on current pollution (Inkpen 2004:1).

Given the cost, on both the State and private owners, of managing our built heritage resource it is important to gain an understanding of the contributory impact of emissions on the deterioration of significant building fabric.

6.2 Cumulative impacts of new emissions and climate change on heritage gardens

While we know that the climate of Sydney and the Blue Mountains is already changing (see Office of Environment and Heritage and Adapt NSW, 2014) it is not currently possible to provide any quantifiable assessment of the likely cumulative impact of any emission related to the proposed WSI flight paths in addition to the existing and emerging climate change impacts on heritage gardens (see for example Figure 6.1 and Figure 6.2) because no baseline data exists regarding the current climate change impacts (see Department of Planning and Environment NSW 2023: Case study Everglades historic garden). Little research has been undertaken regarding climate change impacts on the heritage gardens of the Blue Mountains area despite the focus on gardens as part of Blue Mountains tourism. Several of the SHR listed sites include significant gardens e.g., Everglades and Lilianfels. Heritage gardens in the Blue Mountains are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as a warming environment (Bramwell 2007). The Blue Mountains region is predicted to experience fewer cold nights and frosty mornings and increased autumn rainfall. Daytime temperatures in the region will become increasingly warmer. Wet and dry spells are likely to be longer and more severe (Office of Environment and Heritage and Adapt NSW 2014). These changes will not only increase risks associated with bushfires but are likely to also lead to plant disease and mildew and rust on leaves of exotic species like the rhododendrons, for which the gardens of the area are famous. The introduction of new or increased airborne pollutants will have an unknown impact on the ability of these gardens to cope and adapt to environmental changes.

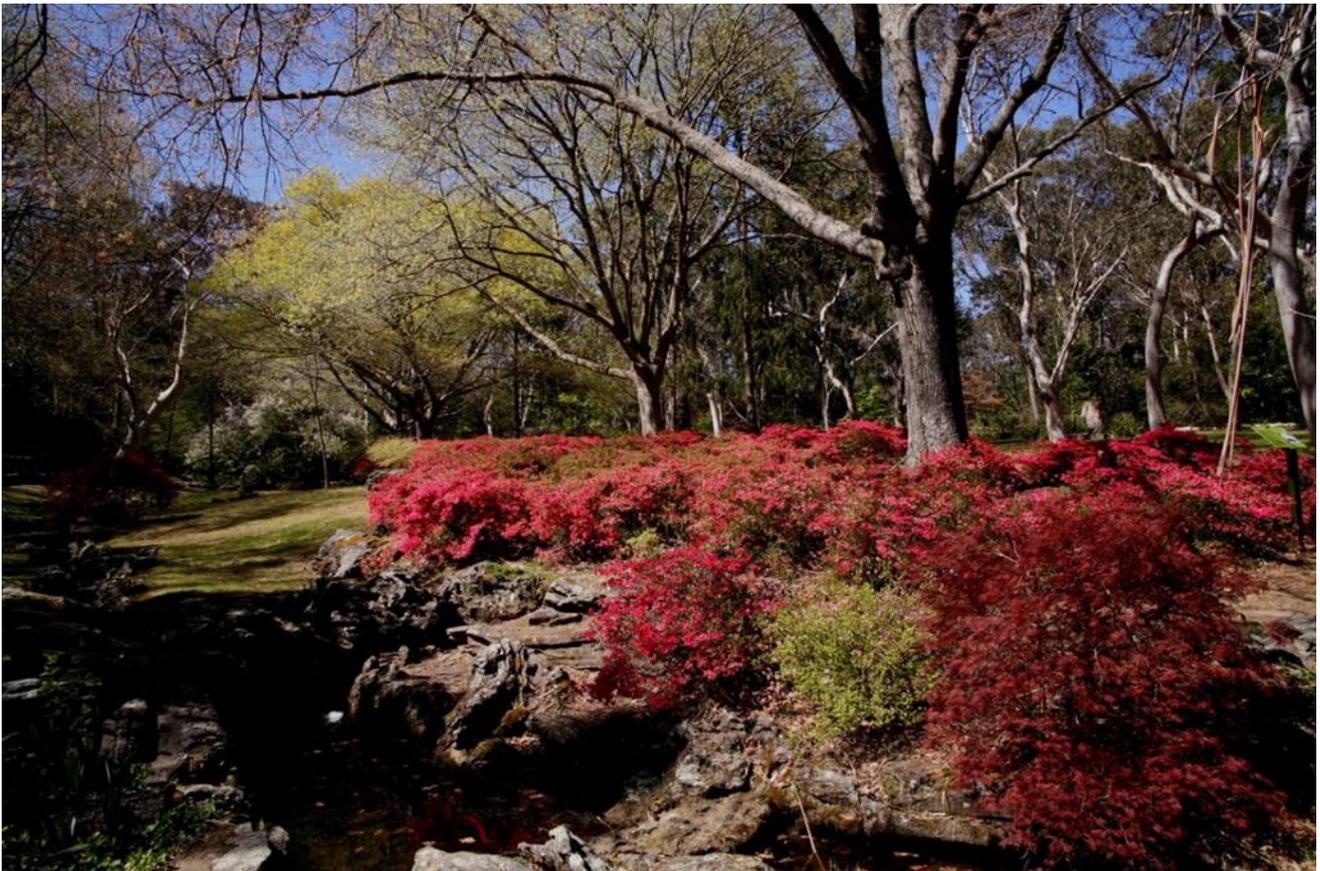


Figure 6.1 Everglades National Trust Garden, Leura NSW (Image: Christine Osborne)



Figure 6.2 Lilianfels is another property with significant heritage gardens

6.3 Cumulative impact to cultural values due to additional noise and visual intrusion

During the discussions with First Nations Knowledge holders, it was clear that community accessibility of sites and places played a large part in the selection of the cultural places people were most concerned about. First Nations people carry out contemporary gatherings, ceremonies and transgenerational training at places that are historically important to them, provide the suitable mental and physical landscape conditions i.e., connection to nature, sense of remoteness from urban life and tranquillity; and which are accessible to them. For this reason, should the visual noise and frequency of aircraft render treasured places unsuitable for cultural practice then this will further restrict First Nations people from accessing country and revitalising their heritage. As accessible places become rarer, the cumulative impact caused by the loss of such places becomes severe. This is a concern in the case of Shaws Creek AP in Yellomundee Regional Park and Bents Basin where predicted impacts particularly from noise and frequency of flights poses a real risk that these places will no longer be suitable for the cultural practices for which they are currently used.

In relation to historic heritage items again human tolerance for episodic noise and/or visual intrusion is variable. The acoustical environment of national park cultural and historic sites is an important part of the setting and helps create meaningful connections for park visitors. In some places where there has previously been little noise such as those heritage items set in tranquil bushland or rural settings even less frequent intrusions may be less tolerable than in places already experiencing anthropogenic noise pollution. In particular, noise may be a factor that could affect the sustainable

use of an historic place if that use was predicted on a tranquil setting e.g., such as well-being retreat or guesthouse. While there has been some research on heritage soundscapes and the impact of noise on tourist experiences these have tended to focus on either maintaining soundscapes associated with heritage items (Bartalucci and Luzzi 2020; Ednie et al 2022), tourist experience in environments that are already noisy (see for example Oquendo and Santos 2020; Merchan et al., 2014) or the issue of sustainable tourism and the impact of tourism including noise on host communities at heritage places (see for example Latip et al 2020; Sheng and Tang 2015).

While there is research on the impacts of intrusive noise on visitor experience to national parks and protected areas (Miller et al 2018; Manning et. Al 2006; Benfield et al 2010) there is little research available regarding the tipping point, or guest tolerance for cumulative changes in noise at such places and such impacts may only become apparent after some time has elapsed from the addition of the new noise source.

6.4 Further disruption to land–sky connection

The proposed new flight paths will be visible from several spiritual sites. For example, while flights at high altitude can already been seen crossing the vista of the Three Sisters in their dramatic cultural landscape, adding more visual intrusions will over time continue to erode this iconic scene and produce a disconnect between the spiritual values and the landscape. If aircraft must fly here, then it will be important to ensure that they are at a sufficient altitude to reduce the visual intrusion.

As noted in Section 4.2.2 and Section 5.7 there is one significant story from within the airspace study area that involves a direct spiritual link between the land surface and the sky and this is the story of the emu. The Emu is seen in the Coalsack nebula, dark spaces of the Milky Way under the Southern Cross (Stanbridge 1857; Basedow 1925; Bhathal and Mason 2011; Norris and Norris 2009; Raven et al. 2021). The head and neck of the Emu can be seen in the sky as early as March, it reaches its first appearance in full length after sunset in April and May, when it is seen stretching from the south to the southeast. Progressive light pollution of the night sky reduces the visibility of the Emu. The proposed flight paths do not fly directly over the Emu engraving at Faulconbridge that is said to be directly connected to the astronomical feature, however any night-time flights to the immediate south and southeast of the site are likely to disrupt the visual connection.

Chapter 7 Management and mitigation measures

The design of the flight paths has been an iterative process with consideration being given to significant cultural places and the values which might be impacted by aircraft flying overhead.

7.1 Mitigating the impact of emissions on rock art

While many flightpaths do pass over rock art sites, and areas of relatively high rock art site density (see Figure 5.10) this is a consequence of the incidence of rock art sites in unavoidable sandstone-based topographies.

Given the absence of both previous research and comparative data regarding safe or acceptable emission levels regarding the deterioration of rock art in the Sydney Basin, it remains prudent to at least comply with current air pollution standards (which are based on human health requirements and environmental toxicity), until a better understanding can be gained through monitoring and research. Where feasible, the generation of fine particulate matter (PM10) and airborne pollutants which generate acid rain or acidic aerosols (including SO_x and NO_x), should be reduced and minimised.

Based on the relative proximity, and the significance of Aboriginal rock art sites in the GBMA, the conduct of research and monitoring programs within these areas is justifiable, both in terms of sampling methodology and obligations to conserve and manage world heritage values.

Monitoring of rain acidity (and its precursors: NO_x and SO₂) both prior to and following airport operation, along controlled transects and test locations relevant to rock art sites, will assist in determining if this is a significant issue for their conservation management. The inclusion of control sites and baseline conditions (such as soil and ground water chemistry) would be an important component of such a study. This research should be paired with monitoring of the surface condition and chemistry of rock art surfaces, including any change in nutrient levels and organics. In the absence of air quality standards which reference the conservation management of rock art, it remains prudent to at least comply with current State and Commonwealth air quality standards, until a better understanding can be gained through monitoring and research.

Unlike the management of acidity, which requires the control of precursor emissions, and the physical impacts of which cannot be reversed, the management of dust deposition on rock art panels includes a number of directly effective strategies, including reversal of impact. These are: testing the distribution, nature and chemistry of dust particles to determine origin; and where feasible and advantageous, the removal of dust deposits (Lambert 1994; NOHC 2016, 2020).

A program of dust monitoring, including the conduct of baseline studies, to determine dust deposition prior to and during WSI operation, could be used to analyse the potential contribution of aircraft emissions to rock art surfaces in rock shelters, and to identify where and if dust removal is feasible and constitutes a positive management intervention. This could be done along transects under selected flight paths, and within and around selected art sites. Again, inclusion of control sites and baseline studies would be an important component of such a program.

In the design and conduct of all monitoring and research programs, the integration of Aboriginal stakeholder consultation and participation is a critical and necessary factor. Actions need to be compatible with cultural values and focused with reference to traditional owner knowledge and priorities. A program of monitoring and research should investigate:

- the potential impact of acid rain and acidic aerosols derived from WSI aircraft emissions on rock art
- the potential impact of rock art surface micro-nutrients derived from WSI aircraft emissions on rock art
- the potential impact of airborne dust derived from WSI aircraft emissions on rock art surfaces.

Such a program should focus on, but not be limited to, locations and impact closest to WSI and within the GBMA and include pre WSI operational baseline and control studies. The results of such research would provide valuable information to guide future decision making in relation to flight paths. This program should commence prior to the commencement of flights to and from WSI so that baseline data can be established. Monitoring of WSI airspace emissions and potential impacts should extend over a period of at least 5 years, and further where justifiable by research objectives.

In the eventuality of a very rare and extreme emergency involving a fuel dumping event with the potential to impact rock art sites (that is, contrary to established procedure, and over sandstone dominated topography and below 6,000 ft), the condition of any potentially effected rock art sites should be monitored and assessed for any required conservation actions.

Consultation with, and participation of, local Aboriginal stakeholders must be an integral component of the program.

7.1.1 Mitigating impact on sites of spiritual and high cultural significance

During consultation with the Aboriginal community, key places were repeatedly identified as having particular significance for spiritual values. Several of these places were also important places for intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge and practice. These places included:

- Shaws Creek Aboriginal Park, Yellomundee Regional Park
- Red Hands Cave AP
- Emu engraving site, Faulconbridge
- Bents Basin State Conservation Area
- Linden Ridge (multiple sites)
- The Three Sisters (Seven sisters) AP
- Upper Kedumba Valley AP
- Kings Tableland – rock art
- Emu Cave AP
- Traditional walking tracks (now roads, often connecting significant sites) in particular one described as a ceremonial circuit is articulated in Appendix C and which connects several of the places listed above (see Figure 7.2)
- Appin Massacre Site – now protected as the Appin Massacre Cultural Landscape on the SHR (just outside the airspace study area)
- Shaws Creek Rock Shelter AP
- Euroka near Glenbrook AP
- Mt Yengo (outside the airspace study area and confirmed not overflown)
- Mermaid Pools Women’s site (at the boundary of the airspace study area and confirmed not directly overflown).

In line with the flight path principles (see Figure 1.8), these sites to the extent possible should be avoided and in the case of the Emu Engraving site, consideration should be given to restricting night flights between March and April at the least.

In most cases the flight path design has sought to avoid impacts on APs however further adjustments should be considered to reduce the impacts on Emu Cave AP, Euroka Clearing Nye Gnorang and at Shaws Creek in Yellomundee.

Flight paths have been designed to avoid flying over the following additional sites of high cultural values:

- Emu rock engraving site (AHIMS 45-5-4910), Faulconbridge, especially in March–April when the connection between this site and the constellation known as the ‘Emu in the Sky’ is strongest
- Linden ridge (multiple sites) – where stakeholders considered flight paths would disrupt the ceremonial values.

While the recommendation is that flight paths should be designed so that they do not fly over the following places of high cultural value; if approval is given to flight paths that pass close to them then these sites (not exclusively but as a minimum) should be included in a long-term monitoring program aimed at understanding the impacts of aviation related air pollution on rock art sites (see Recommended Mitigation Measures): Red Hands Cave, Linden Ridge (multiple sites), art sites at Bents Basin.

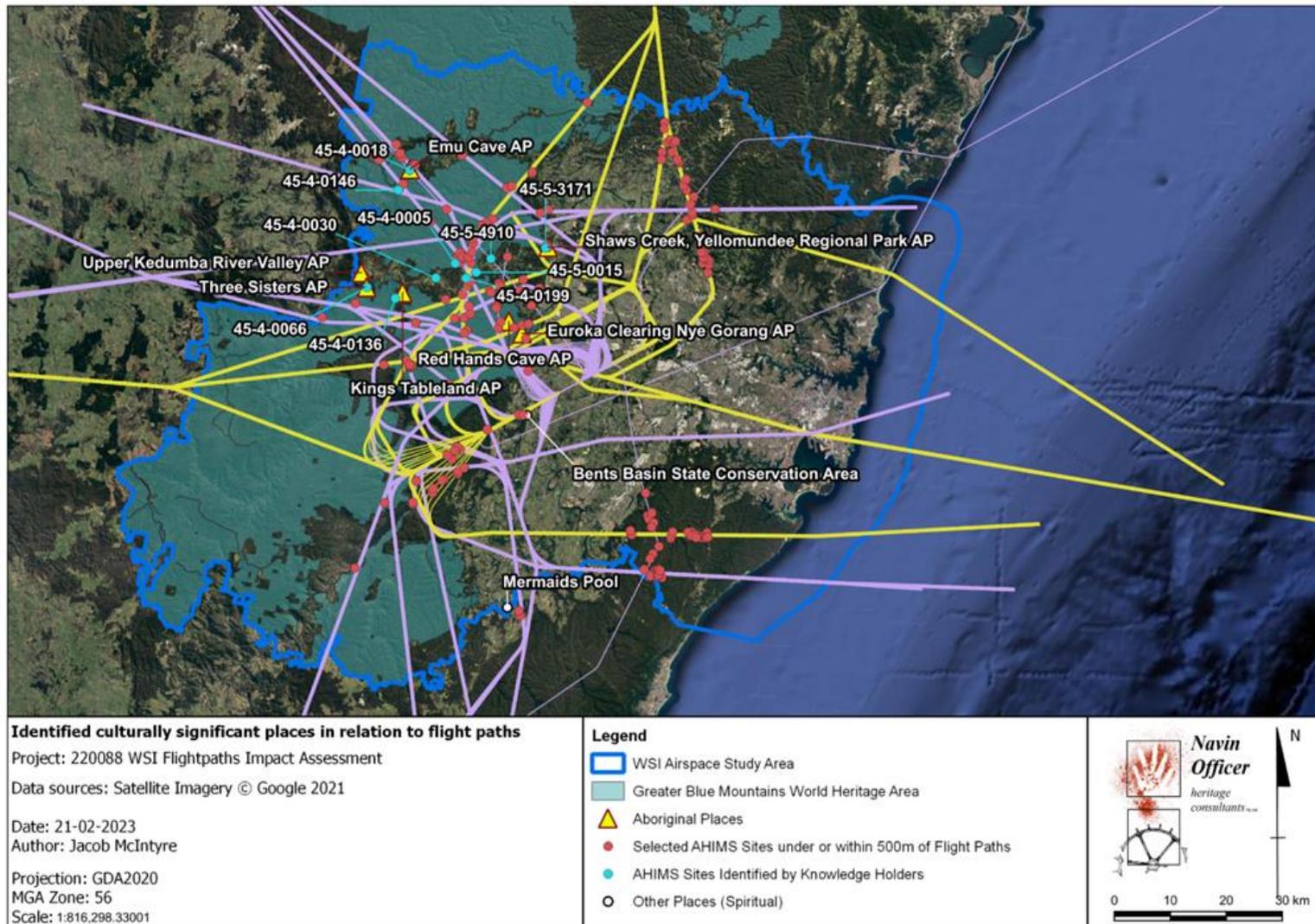


Figure 7.1 Proposed flight paths overlying the subset of culturally significant AHIMS sites, and gazetted Aboriginal Places

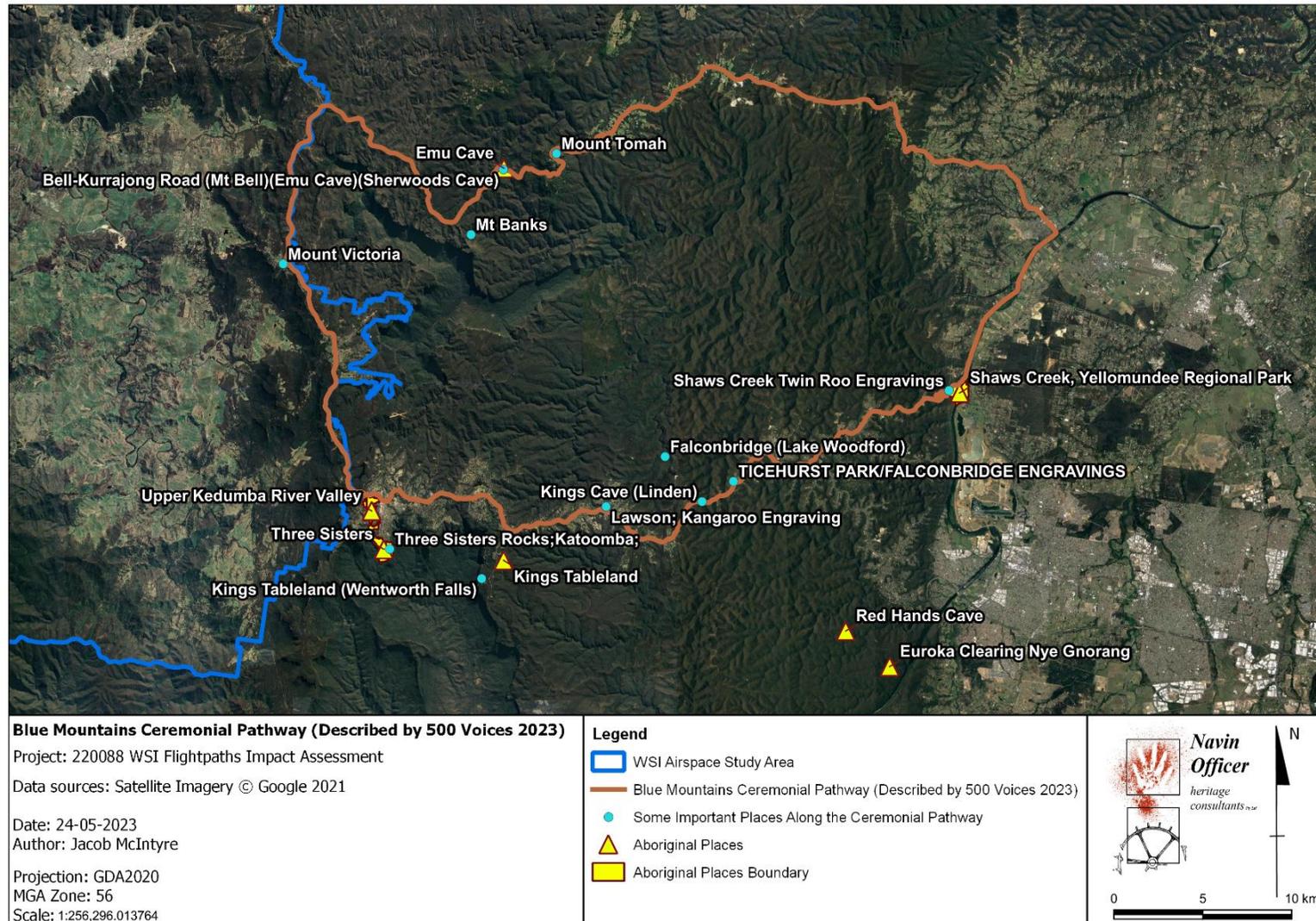


Figure 7.2 An approximation of the ceremonial pathway that follows key ridgetops (now roads) as described by Shane Smithers of 500 Voices (see Appendix C)

While all knowledge holders expressed that they felt emotionally drained and, in some cases, overwhelmed by the cumulative impacts of successive developments in western Sydney, they did see some potential benefits associated with WSI if suitable initiatives were in place. They were quick to stress that this should not be trade-off for protection of the significant places they had identified:

1. Opportunities for First Nations employment should be maximised and in particular long-term permanent employment opportunities for First Nations people at WSI.
2. Opportunities to interpret and promote the local Aboriginal culture and history should be maximised at the airport itself and through new indigenous tourism opportunities, while at the same time recognising that tourism impacts on cultural heritage places needs to be carefully managed.

7.1.2 Mitigating the impacts on the cultural values of historical sites

Despite a number of significant heritage sites existing for many years under the KSA flight paths there has been no specific consideration of the physical impacts of emissions on heritage items. Undertaking a study to consider this issue near KSA would be complex given the other contributors to airborne pollution nearby and the lack of a pre KSA baseline. The WSI provides an opportunity to investigate the impacts of aircraft emissions, if any, and thereby develop effective mitigation strategies.

Heritage gardens are an important element of many Blue Mountains heritage properties e.g., Lilianfels, Mt Annan Botanic Gardens. It is predicted many of these cool climate, historically significant gardens will come under increased pressure as the climate changes¹⁵, any added pressure from additional pollutants may affect the tipping point for such heritage places. The collection of specific data over several years will allow this issue to be appropriately addressed in the Sydney Basin-wide review of flight paths planned for 2030.

There are a number of sandstone heritage properties close to WSI that could be potentially included in a monitoring program aimed at quantifying the impacts of aircraft emissions on sandstone buildings. For example, St Mark's Anglican Church Group, Winbourne, Fernhill, Maryland, St Thomas' Anglican Church, and Cemetery (see Table 5.2).

The flight paths have been designed according to the flight path design principles, the first of which states '*Overflights of residential areas and noise sensitive facilities will be avoided to the maximum extent possible*'. However, for some historic properties especially those in rural contexts where night-time noise has been low, noise may be a consideration for historic buildings that are used as residences. It should be noted that any adaptations to listed heritage properties to mitigate noise impacts may require non-standard methods that protect heritage values and are likely to require permits and approval from Heritage NSW. In particular it is recommended that the flight paths in the vicinity of Fernhill Estate are altered to avoid impact to the property

A program of monitoring and research similar to that for Aboriginal rock art sites is needed for heritage buildings. This should investigate:

- the potential impact of acid rain and acidic aerosols derived from WSI aircraft emissions on the fabric of heritage buildings, including on timber, stonework paint finishes and roofing materials
- the potential impact of micro-nutrients derived from WSI aircraft emissions on stonework, lime mortars and timber fretwork
- the potential impact of airborne dust derived from WSI aircraft emissions on heritage structure surfaces.

The program should include several sites under or close to flight paths and several control sites outside flight paths and should include pre WSI operational baseline and control studies. The study should commence as soon as possible and before the commencement of flights to and from WSI and extend over a period of at least 5 years.

A program of monitoring and research should be undertaken to quantify and understand the impact of aircraft emissions on heritage gardens in the Blue Mountains. This should also consider the cumulative impact of stress from emissions and climate change in the area.

¹⁵ [Everglades historic garden case study | NSW Environment and Heritage](#)

Where significant impact from WSI operation is detected, the program should make recommendations about appropriate mitigation and management strategies. The information would usefully contribute to future decision-making regarding flightpaths including the next whole-of-basin flight path review scheduled for 2030.

Table 7.1 Recommended impact mitigation measures

| ID No. | Issue | Suggested mitigation measures | Owner | Timing |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| Aboriginal Heritage | | | | |
| H1 | Aboriginal heritage | DITRDCA will ensure that the detailed design phase considers Aboriginal cultural places and values, noting that safety is not negotiable and that capacity, environment and efficiency factors must also be considered in the flight path design. | DITRDCA | Pre-operation (Detailed design, 2024–2026) |
| H2 | Heritage | A research program will be undertaken to investigate the potential impact of aircraft emissions on historic and Aboriginal heritage sites (including rock art sites), with a particular focus on sites within the Greater Blue Mountains Area. The research program will be designed and implemented in consultation with Heritage NSW and include participation of local First Nations stakeholders. | DITRDCA/ Airservices Australia/ WSA Co | Pre-operation (Detailed design, 2024–2026) and Operation (Implementation, 2026–ongoing) |
| H3 | Heritage consultation | WSA Co will establish a CACG for WSI which will facilitate consultation with stakeholders and community on a range of matters including heritage issues. | WSA Co | Pre-operation (Detailed design, 2024–2026) |

Chapter 8 Conclusion

The WSI flight paths will fly over many significant sites and places, however in many cases existing flight paths already traverse the airspace above sites. In addition, many types of heritage places are considered robust in the face of any impacts such as air pollution, noise, and vibrations and/or aircraft will be at such a distance as to render the impact from these factors as minimal. Generally, the places closest to the airport are likely to experience higher impacts.

However, there is little data on the impact of aviation emissions on specific heritage places and their fabric in the Sydney Basin despite the years of operation of KSA and flight paths that cross Sydney's historic sandstone buildings and the sandstone art sites within nearby Royal National Park. It is possible that while such impacts may be minor in the short-term, they may have an incremental impact over time and also when compounded by other emerging impacts such as those associated with climate change. Therefore, it is important to gather data to gain a better understanding that can inform future decision-making. A range of recommendations have been made to understand any long-term cumulative impacts, mitigate likely impacts and maximise the retention of cultural values and these are described in Chapter 7. Developing our understanding of long-term impacts will assist property managers and owners to adapt management of heritage places to ensure sustainability and will enable planners and regulators to more effectively assess future cumulative impacts.

The commencement of a new airport in western Sydney provides an opportunity to gather baseline data on the pollutants affecting both Aboriginal art sites and significant heritage structures in the Blue Mountains by selecting several sites to monitor over time, commencing before WSI begins operation and then for a period of time afterward. This will provide a better understanding of the impacts of such emissions on the fabric of significant sites. The sample of sites selected for monitoring should include at least Aboriginal rock engraving sites (both under and outside a flight path), an Aboriginal rock shelter with art (both under and outside a flight path), a significant historic building(s) with a variety of building fabrics, and a heritage garden.

Many historic properties are located in towns centres and the flight path design principles that seek to avoid population centres have also worked to protect such places from major impact. It is inevitable that some properties however will suffer some impact from noise given that in many cases to the west and southwest of WSI the properties are located in rural contexts. Any noise mitigation modifications of heritage buildings may involve secondary impacts to their heritage values and individual building assessments and heritage approvals from Heritage NSW may be required prior to such adaptive works.

It is inevitable that visual impacts and noise will affect some Aboriginal sites within the Greater Blue Mountains area. While flight paths already cross the Blue Mountains, they currently do so at heights that minimise these intrusions. The new flight paths will mean that aircraft are lower than before over the western side of the airspace study area, as they approach and depart the new airport. However, many Aboriginal sites are located in protected valleys and due to the complexity of terrain height and orientation of rock shelters in the rugged sandstone country it is not possible to predict to what extent this will be an issue for many of the sites. Several measures have been proposed to mitigate the impacts identified and it is recommended that the results of the further research inform the decision making around the basin-wide flight path review scheduled for 2030.

Several sites of particular significance to Aboriginal stakeholders were identified in the course of this study. Recommendations have been made to avoid direct flight over these places so that any impacts from noise, visual intrusion and emissions are minimised.

Mt Yengo is outside the airspace study area and the mountain peak itself will not be overflown. However, it is within 2.7 km of a flight path. Aircraft will be high at an altitude of 20,000 ft descending to 17,500 ft however concerns were raised during First Nations consultation regarding the proximity of the flight paths to the many ceremonial and spiritual sites associated with Mt Yengo and it was requested that consideration be given during detailed design to moving the flight path slightly to the west as it passes Mt Yengo.

The proposed flight paths have avoided overflying the following Aboriginal Places (APs): The Three Sisters, Red Hands Cave, Kings Tableland, the Upper Kedumba Valley, as well as the Linden Ridge sites and the Emu engraving at Faulconbridge. Potential impact to the cultural values of Thirlmere Lakes and Mermaid Pool is considered to be negligible as these latter places are on the southern edge of the airspace study area and are not directly overflown.

The impacts on Bents Basin and the Shaws Creek Yellomundee AP will be of major concern to First Nations people, and particularly the Dharug, Gundungurra and Tharawal women who have stressed the cultural importance of these places and the requirement for peace, tranquillity, and connection to nature to sustain the cultural values of these places.

The scour pool at Bents Basin, known to its First Nation owners as Gulguer is a sacred site and part of an Aboriginal creation story that traverses the lands of Tharawal, Gundungurra and Dharug people from the south coast through the southern highlands and westward from Bents Basin through the GBMA. The impacts on Bents Basin will severely impact the cultural values of the place and without removing flight paths from this area it is unlikely that minor changes at the detailed design phase will be able to effectively mitigate the impacts on the cultural values of this place.

There will also be impact to the land–sky connection of the ‘Emu in the Sky’ story. Although direct overflight of the Emu engraving at Faulconbridge has been avoided, by avoiding population centres, it is within the flight path corridor and there will be physical intrusion of aircraft between the engraving and the constellation except when the constellation is directly overhead. The flight paths also transects the Emu Cave AP and although aircraft will generally be between heights of 13300 ft MSL – 17500 MSL First Nations people are concerned about disruption between the land and sky at this significant site.

8.1 World Heritage

Australia, as a signatory to the World Heritage Convention has an agreed obligation to identify, protect, conserve, and present World Heritage properties. Once listed, world heritage properties require ongoing management to ensure that the OUV for which they have been recognised are conserved and managed for present and future generations. To do this the Commonwealth has adopted a set of principles to guide the management of World Heritage Places. These are outlined in Schedule 5 of the EPBC Act Regulations (see Section 2.1.1.1 and include. These include principles to guide environmental impacts assessment and approval. The principles relating to environmental impact assessment are consistent with the ‘World Heritage Advice note: Environmental Assessment (IUCN 18 November 2013).

The airspace study area for WSI encompasses the whole or part of 3 WHAs: the GBMA and the Opera House, and parts of the Australian Convict WHA (Hyde Park Barracks, Cockatoo Island, old Government House and Domain and the Great North Road). The current report has considered the cultural values of the identified world heritage places that are likely to be impacted by the proposal and where relevant proposed monitoring and mitigation measures relevant to perceived impacts. These are summarised in Section 5.2.

This technical report contributes to that assessment and demonstrates that there will be no impact to Opera House or to the Australian Convict sites posed by the proposed flight paths.

Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the heritage site and its attributes for which it has been listed. In determining integrity, consideration is given to:

- the extent in which the area includes all elements necessary to express its OUV
- whether the area is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the area’s significance, and
- whether or not the property suffers from the adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

The statement of integrity for the GBMA also included a component connected to cultural associations, specifically the need to conserve:

- the ongoing cultural practices by First Nations people and their continuing custodial relationship with the GBMA
- physical evidence of the longevity of the strong Aboriginal cultural connections to the land.

The project would not have a direct impact on the physical evidence of the cultural connection to the GBMA. Although it is possible to outline processes of potential rock art deterioration related to aircraft emissions, it is as yet, impossible to evaluate the risk presented by these processes, or indeed to identify and quantify any resulting damage as a result of the project. This is due to a lack of available research and comparative data, as well as the difficulty in differentiating aircraft emission derived deterioration from other anthropogenic pollution sources via the same processes (such as acidity, nutrients and dust). However, there remains a potential impact that the introduction of new or increased emissions from the proposed flight paths to these environments may potentially result in some impact to known (or previously

undiscovered) rock art, in particular in areas under the more frequently flown sections of flightpaths, though the likelihood of this is considered to be generally minimal. This is why the identification of test sites and the taking of baselines measurements and recordings has been recommended prior to flights commencing. Fuel jettisoning, should it impact rock art sites or other natural values within the GBMA, would be in contradiction of established procedures and likely the result of a rare and extreme emergency. Should such emergency occur immediate assessment of impacts to rock art should be considered in the environmental response.

It is inevitable that visual presence and aircraft noise would impact some Aboriginal sites within the GBMA, and the integrity of these areas with respect to custodial relationships. While flight paths associated with Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport already cross the Greater Blue Mountains Area, they currently do so at heights that minimise these intrusions. The proposed flight paths would mean that aircraft are lower over areas of the Blue Mountains National Park, as they approach and depart WSI. The project would not affect all Aboriginal cultural places and practices throughout the much larger expanse of the GBMA, and First Nations people will continue to have a custodial relationship with the area. Sites considered in this assessment that are located within the GBMA (identified through engagement with stakeholders on sites of high cultural value) would not be severely impacted, and assessed sites would not be comprised to the level that comprises the values of the place, or would result in discontinuation of cultural practices at these sites. Mitigation includes a requirement for DITRDCA to ensure that the detailed design of flight paths considers Aboriginal places and sites of high cultural value, where safe and feasible. As such, it not expected that the project would have a significant impact on the overall integrity of the GBMA, with respect to ongoing custodial relationship with the GBMA. Many other Aboriginal sites are located in protected valleys that are overflowed by WSI aircraft. Due to the complexity of terrain height and orientation of rock shelters in the rugged sandstone country it is not possible to predict to what extent noise and visual impact this will be an issue for many of sites.

In relation to the question of integrity of Aboriginal cultural values and connection to the landscape of the GBMA it is important to note that boundaries of protected areas do not neatly contain cultural practices and/or belief systems. Many of the Aboriginal sites within the GBMA will be connected to places outside the boundaries of the WHA. One example is Bents Basin known as Guluguer to First Nations people. This site is part of a much large creation story that traverses the GBMA and extends well beyond it.

8.2 National Heritage

The WSI flight paths proposal has considered potential impacts to national heritage places. This assessment has been undertaken with reference for the National Heritage management principles and is consistent with those principles. It has considered a broad range of values and the possible impacts on them arising from the proposed flight paths. This has included both direct and indirect impacts which have not previously been considered. Consistent with the principles, First Nations people have been consulted over those places of particular significance to them and the range of potential impacts has been explored with them. This assessment has integrated the information available on the heritage values of places across Commonwealth, State and local government jurisdictions.

Outside the GBMA there is no discernible impact on the cultural values of nationally listed places. Most such places occur towards the east coast and the flight paths avoid them (see Figure 5.2).

In relation to the GBMA, while the Commonwealth's reassessment of the Indigenous national heritage values of the GBMA has not been completed, the proposed flight paths avoid or minimise potential impacts on several places likely to have national values i.e., Kings Tableland AP, the Three Sisters AP, and the Linden Ridge engravings.

While some known places of spiritual significance have been avoided in the design of the flight paths, others will be impacted to some extent. This includes:

- disruption to the connection between the Emu in the Sky constellation and the Emu engraving at Faulconbridge
- some overlap of flight paths and the Emu Cave AP.

Concern remains around the long-term impacts of additional aircraft emissions on the significant suite of rock art in the GBMA. There is insufficient data available to quantify this impact, but this question will only become more urgent as time, development, and climate change progress. To address this, targeted long-term research has been recommended (see Section 7.1.2). Establishment of specimen sites and the collection of baseline data should take place prior to flights commencing from WSI.

8.3 Commonwealth Heritage

Of the 89 places on the CHL, only 2 are within close proximity to WSI and/or are likely to be adversely impacted by the flight paths. These are:

- Orchard Hills Cumberland Plain Woodland, and
- Shale Woodland Llandilo.

Both of these places have been listed for their natural values including both flora and fauna and potential impact on these values are addressed elsewhere (WSP 2023b). These properties have not formally been assessed by the Australian Heritage Council for their cultural values, but reference is made in the listings to the probability of historical and Aboriginal cultural values. However, the features noted in relation to possible cultural values are industrial features and archaeological sites which are robust in relation to any likely impacts from the proposed flight paths.

8.4 State Heritage listed places

There are 273 State Heritage listed places within the airspace study area, again many of these sites are located to the east of the airspace study area and are unlikely to be noticeably impacted by the proposed flight paths. Only 10 of Sites listed on the SHR are within a 10km radius of WSI. Many listed places will be relatively robust in relation to the impact of flight paths but there are some areas of concern. Fernhill Estate and other heritage items in Mulgoa will be significantly impacted and cumulative impact to heritage places in Windsor and Richmond is also of concern.

It is recommended in Section 7.1.2 that flight paths in the vicinity of Fernhill Estate are reconsidered during detailed design to reduce impact.

Concern remains around the long-term impacts of additional aircraft emissions on the significant heritage building fabric and on significant heritage gardens in the Blue Mountains. There is insufficient data available to quantify this impact, but this question will only become more urgent as time, development and climate change progress. To address this, targeted long-term research has been recommended (see Section 7.1.2). This should commence prior to the commencement of flights to and from WSI so that baseline data can be established.

Chapter 9 References

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- WSP 2023d Technical Paper 10 – Social, Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, Western Sydney International Airport Airspace and flight path design EIS.

Appendix A

Heritage items listed on the State Heritage Register within the airspace study area

A1 Items within airspace study area listed on the State Heritage Register

Table A.1 273 heritage items listed on the State Heritage Register for their significance to the State of NSW within the airspace study area

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|----------------------|-----------|
| Mountain View | HAWKESBURY | 44 |
| Lewisham Railway viaducts over Long Cove Creek | INNER WEST | 1043 |
| Kirkham Stables and Precinct | CAMDEN | 1411 |
| Edwardian Terrace | SYDNEY | 848 |
| Cottage | HAWKESBURY | 107 |
| Linden Observatory Complex | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1807 |
| Timber Slab Cottage | INNER WEST | 1412 |
| Yasmar | INNER WEST | 1379 |
| Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery | WILLOUGHBY | 1491 |
| North Head Quarantine Station & Reserve | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1003 |
| Pressure Tunnel Shaft No.1 & associated infrastructure | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1334 |
| Department of Education Building | SYDNEY | 726 |
| Sugar House | SYDNEY | 417 |
| Warehouses (former) | SYDNEY | 413 |
| Prospect Reservoir and surrounding area | BLACKTOWN | 1370 |
| Avondale | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 239 |
| Pipe Organ from Bourke Street Congregational Church (former) | HORNSBY | 382 |
| Wilberforce Park | HAWKESBURY | 1868 |
| Stone Cottage | CAMPBELLTOWN | 1388 |
| Customs House (former) | SYDNEY | 727 |
| The Chalet | HUNTERS HILL | 1727 |
| Torin Building | PENRITH | 1796 |
| Women's College, University of Sydney | SYDNEY | 1726 |
| Winsbury Terrace | SYDNEY | 930 |
| Cleveland House | SYDNEY | 65 |
| Trinity Uniting Church | BURWOOD | 1671 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Duncan House | WILLOUGHBY | 742 |
| Ingleholme & Garage | KU-RING-GAI | 71 |
| Jarvisfield | WOLLONDILLY | 305 |
| Tahmoor Railway Station Group | WOLLONDILLY | 1258 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 647 |
| Colebee and Nurragingy Land Grant | BLACKTOWN | 1877 |
| Petersham Service Reservoir & Site | INNER WEST | 1331 |
| Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church | SYDNEY | 1816 |
| Strand Arcade | SYDNEY | 1864 |
| Purulua | KU-RING-GAI | 184 |
| Mount St Marys College and Convent | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1681 |
| Grafton Bond Store and Sandstone Wall | SYDNEY | 1431 |
| Prince Alfred Square and potential archaeological site | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1997 |
| Cattai Estate | THE HILLS SHIRE | 982 |
| Botany Water Reserves | BAYSIDE | 1317 |
| Liverpool Railway Station group | LIVERPOOL | 1181 |
| St Luke's Anglican Church | LIVERPOOL | 86 |
| General Post Office | SYDNEY | 763 |
| MLC Building North Sydney(former) | NORTH SYDNEY | 2050 |
| Parramatta Correctional Centre | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 812 |
| Cumberland Place and Steps | SYDNEY | 1542 |
| Roseneath Cottage | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 42 |
| Middle Harbour Syphon NSOOS | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1628 |
| Macquarie Arms Inn (former) | HAWKESBURY | 282 |
| Callan Park House – Rozelle Hospital | INNER WEST | 823 |
| Nutcote | NORTH SYDNEY | 505 |
| Gordon Public School | KU-RING-GAI | 757 |
| Substation | INNER WEST | 941 |
| Elizabeth Bay House Grotto Site and works | SYDNEY | 116 |
| Shops and Residences | SYDNEY | 1594 |
| Travellers Rest Inn Group | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 748 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Relay Test Centre | INNER WEST | 933 |
| Homestead, The | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 448 |
| Sewer Vent (Ben Buckler) | WAVERLEY | 1637 |
| Redfern Park and Oval | SYDNEY | 2016 |
| Wahroonga Reservoir (Elevated) (WS 0124) | KU-RING-GAI | 1352 |
| Police Station (former) | RYDE | 1017 |
| Hilton | WILLOUGHBY | 374 |
| Horningsea Park | LIVERPOOL | 255 |
| Hereford House | SYDNEY | 460 |
| St James Railway Station group | SYDNEY | 1248 |
| Royal College of Radiologists | SYDNEY | 522 |
| Wyoming | INNER WEST | 772 |
| CBC Bank | CAMPBELLTOWN | 499 |
| Bare Island Fort | RANDWICK | 978 |
| Patrick White House, The | SYDNEY | 1719 |
| Jenner House | SYDNEY | 776 |
| Redfern Post Office | SYDNEY | 1439 |
| Walter Burley Griffin Lodge | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1510 |
| Bushells Building | SYDNEY | 1534 |
| GIO Building | SYDNEY | 683 |
| Mamre | PENRITH | 264 |
| NSW Housing Board Building (former) | SYDNEY | 1564 |
| Red Cross House | SYDNEY | 1511 |
| Monterey, residential apartments | MOSMAN | 367 |
| Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1850 |
| Fishwick House, The | WILLOUGHBY | 1751 |
| Substation | SYDNEY | 934 |
| Sewage Pumping Station 1 | SYDNEY | 1336 |
| Dawes Point Battery remains | SYDNEY | 1543 |
| Cossington | KU-RING-GAI | 1763 |
| Raby | CAMDEN | 1694 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Hampton Villa | INNER WEST | 1725 |
| Wentworth Mausoleum and site | WOOLLAHRA | 622 |
| Terrace House | SYDNEY | 921 |
| St John's Uniting Church, Hall and Manse | KU-RING-GAI | 1670 |
| Shand Mason Curricle Ladders (1898) | PENRITH | 1899 |
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 923 |
| Middle Head Military Fortifications | MOSMAN | 999 |
| St Marys Railway Station Group | PENRITH | 1249 |
| Marrickville Railway Station group | INNER WEST | 1186 |
| Sydney Cove West Archaeological Precinct | SYDNEY | 1860 |
| Tryon Road Uniting Church | KU-RING-GAI | 1672 |
| Menangle rail bridge over Nepean River | WOLLONDILLY | 1047 |
| Burns Philp Building | SYDNEY | 347 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 859 |
| Don Bank | NORTH SYDNEY | 31 |
| Railway Square road overbridge | SYDNEY | 1232 |
| Double Bay Compressed Air Ejector Station | WOOLLAHRA | 1324 |
| Waterview Wharf Workshops | INNER WEST | 687 |
| Hastings | NORTH SYDNEY | 567 |
| Federation Hall and courtyard | SYDNEY | 1546 |
| Welcome Inn Hotel | SYDNEY | 408 |
| Strickland House | WOOLLAHRA | 722 |
| Marsden Rehabilitation Centre Group | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 826 |
| House | HAWKESBURY | 150 |
| Kelvin | LIVERPOOL | 46 |
| Babworth House | WOOLLAHRA | 1300 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 917 |
| Chatswood Reservoirs No. 1 and No. 2 | WILLOUGHBY | 1321 |
| Camden Park Estate and Belgenny Farm | WOLLONDILLY | 1697 |
| Taylor Square Substation No.6 & Underground Public Conveniences | SYDNEY | 1700 |
| Hollowforth | NORTH SYDNEY | 450 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Harrisford | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 248 |
| Barrenjoey Head Lightstation | NORTHERN BEACHES | 979 |
| Valley Heights Railway Station and Locomotive Depot | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1276 |
| Harbour View Hotel and site | SYDNEY | 634 |
| Flats | SYDNEY | 869 |
| Shop & Residence | SYDNEY | 893 |
| Como Rail Bridge | GEORGES RIVER | 1624 |
| Conservatorium of Music | SYDNEY | 1849 |
| Windsor Railway Station Group and Former Goods Yard | HAWKESBURY | 1287 |
| McQuade Park | HAWKESBURY | 1851 |
| Rose Cottage | HAWKESBURY | 358 |
| Carrington Hotel | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 280 |
| Fire and Rescue Fleet | PENRITH | 1902 |
| Cecil Hills Farm | LIVERPOOL | 774 |
| Newtown Railway Station group and Former Newtown Tramway Depot | SYDNEY | 1213 |
| Tenements, pair three-storey brick | SYDNEY | 1599 |
| Watch House | SYDNEY | 501 |
| Argyle Cut | SYDNEY | 1523 |
| Redcoats Mess House | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 218 |
| Yobarnie Keyline Farm | HAWKESBURY | 1826 |
| Woollahra Reservoir WS022 | RANDWICK | 1356 |
| Garrison Anglican Church Precinct | SYDNEY | 644 |
| Clear Oaks Moxey's Farm House | HAWKESBURY | 58 |
| National Art School, Former Darlinghurst Gaol, Former East Sydney Technical College | SYDNEY | 2048 |
| Liner House | SYDNEY | 589 |
| Shop, Zia Pina Pizzeria | SYDNEY | 1591 |
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 924 |
| Chatswood South Uniting Church and Cemetery | LANE COVE | 694 |
| Glenbrook Railway Residence | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 713 |
| NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Office | INNER WEST | 1964 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Building | SYDNEY | 847 |
| Undercliffe Terrace | SYDNEY | 902 |
| Merriville House & Gardens | BLACKTOWN | 91 |
| Government Cottage Archaeological Site | HAWKESBURY | 1843 |
| Nant Gwylan and Garden | CAMDEN | 243 |
| Glenleigh Estate | PENRITH | 346 |
| Reussdale | SYDNEY | 292 |
| Redstone | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1795 |
| St John's Anglican Cathedral | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1805 |
| Camelot | CAMDEN | 385 |
| Cox's Road and Early Deviations – Linden, Linden Precinct | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1953 |
| Lucas Watermills Archaeological Sites | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 1988 |
| Gresham Hotel | SYDNEY | 291 |
| Edwardian Shop/Residences | SYDNEY | 888 |
| Louisville | INNER WEST | 189 |
| North Sydney Technical High School (former) | NORTH SYDNEY | 517 |
| Electricity Power House | NORTH SYDNEY | 931 |
| Railings, Sydney Cove | SYDNEY | 1572 |
| Carisbrook | LANE COVE | 112 |
| The Barn – Scout Hall | MOSMAN | 188 |
| Cox's Road and Early Deviations – Woodford, Appian Way Precinct | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1955 |
| Sewer Vent | INNER WEST | 1640 |
| Sydney Opera House | SYDNEY | 1685 |
| Illoura Reserve | INNER WEST | 1923 |
| Iolanthe | KU-RING-GAI | 227 |
| First Government House Site | SYDNEY | 1309 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 846 |
| Dawn Fraser Swimming Pool | LEICHARDT | 1398 |
| Ritz Theatre | RANDWICK | 348 |
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 1608 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 912 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 925 |
| Fernhill | PENRITH | 54 |
| Waverley Cemetery | WAVERLEY | 1975 |
| Edgerley | SYDNEY | 671 |
| Kings School Group (former) | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 771 |
| Grantham Poultry Research Station (former) | BLACKTOWN | 1382 |
| St Matthew's Anglican Church, Rectory, Stables & Cemetery | HAWKESBURY | 15 |
| Cronulla Sand Dune and Wanda Beach Coastal Landscape | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 1668 |
| Sydney Trades Hall | SYDNEY | 322 |
| International House | SYDNEY | 579 |
| Shops | SYDNEY | 870 |
| Clydesdale – Grand House, Barn & Cottage | BLACKTOWN | 674 |
| Craithes House | PENRITH | 378 |
| BMA House | SYDNEY | 252 |
| Elizabeth Bay House | SYDNEY | 6 |
| South Head Signal Station | WOOLLAHRA | 1436 |
| Hexam Terrace | SYDNEY | 872 |
| Jack House | KU-RING-GAI | 1910 |
| Royal Naval House | SYDNEY | 1574 |
| Banco Road Court, Sydney Supreme Court House | SYDNEY | 799 |
| Parramatta Railway Station | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 696 |
| Sewage Pumping Station 67 | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1643 |
| Currawong Workers' Holiday Camp | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1784 |
| Townhouse | SYDNEY | 880 |
| Retreat, The | RYDE | 506 |
| Hermitage and Garden | RYDE | 777 |
| Harry and Penelope Seidler House | KU-RING-GAI | 1793 |
| Australiana Pioneer Village | HAWKESBURY | 1683 |
| Crown Hotel | SYDNEY | 733 |
| Terrace Houses | SYDNEY | 415 |
| St Bartholomew's Anglican Church & Cemetery | BLACKTOWN | 37 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Garibaldi, The | HUNTERS HILL | 135 |
| Norman Lindsay Gallery | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1503 |
| Warbys Barn & Warbys Stables | CAMPBELLTOWN | 497 |
| Centennial Park, Moore Park, Queens Park | RANDWICK | 1384 |
| APA Building | SYDNEY | 682 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 914 |
| Woolley House | MOSMAN | 1514 |
| Box Hill Inn | THE HILLS SHIRE | 724 |
| Terrace Building | HAWKESBURY | 75 |
| Christ Church Anglican Church | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 130 |
| Cooks River Sewage Aqueduct | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1322 |
| Bradleys Head Light Tower | MOSMAN | 1430 |
| Shop and office | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 278 |
| Mclver Women's Baths | RANDWICK | 1869 |
| Cottage | SYDNEY | 443 |
| Commercial building | SYDNEY | 1540 |
| Great Drain and two-house sites | THE HILLS SHIRE | 1402 |
| St Mary's Anglican Church and Pipe Organ | WAVERLEY | 160 |
| Sydney Water Head Office (former) (1939 building) | SYDNEY | 1645 |
| The Gunnery | SYDNEY | 927 |
| Lennox House | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 751 |
| Lawson House | SYDNEY | 1557 |
| MLC Building | SYDNEY | 597 |
| Swifts | WOOLLAHRA | 146 |
| Undercliffe Cottage (former) | SYDNEY | 929 |
| Prince Henry Site | RANDWICK | 1651 |
| Croydon Sewer Vent | BURWOOD | 1639 |
| Merchants House | SYDNEY | 1561 |
| Playfair's Terrace | SYDNEY | 1570 |
| Wolli Creek Aqueduct | BAYSIDE | 1355 |
| St Cloud and Site | BURWOOD | 564 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|----------------------|-----------|
| NSW Club House Building | SYDNEY | 145 |
| Royal Cricketers Arms Inn | BLACKTOWN | 660 |
| St Anne's Church | WAVERLEY | 1706 |
| Crest Theatre | CUMBERLAND | 1664 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 905 |
| Rosebank | LIVERPOOL | 1729 |
| Hydraulic Pump Station (former) | SYDNEY | 125 |
| Qantas House (No. 1 Chifley Square) | SYDNEY | 1512 |
| Peninsula House, Tebbutt's Observatory | HAWKESBURY | 28 |
| Hyde Park | SYDNEY | 1871 |
| Great Synagogue | SYDNEY | 1710 |
| Coach House | SYDNEY | 1539 |
| Harris Creek Rail Bridge | LIVERPOOL | 2056 |
| Wilsons Farm House | BAYSIDE | 487 |
| Cenotaph | SYDNEY | 1799 |
| Elizabeth Farm | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1 |
| Priory and Grounds | BURWOOD | 287 |
| Ashfield Reservoir (Elevated) (WS 0003) | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1622 |
| Townhouse | SYDNEY | 861 |
| Stables at rear of Police Station | HAWKESBURY | 1018 |
| NSW Fire Brigades No 10 Vehicle Number Plates | PENRITH | 1519 |
| Sydenham Pit & Drainage Pumping Station 1 | INNER WEST | 1644 |
| Georges Head Military Fortifications | MOSMAN | 987 |
| Victoria Bridge | PENRITH | 1950 |
| Canterbury Railway Station group | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1109 |
| St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1880 |
| Shops and Residences | SYDNEY | 1593 |
| Kyle House | SYDNEY | 654 |
| Holly Lea & Plough Inn | CAMPBELLTOWN | 343 |
| Robin Hood Farm | CAMPBELLTOWN | 1387 |
| Upper Canal System (Pheasants Nest Weir to Prospect Reservoir) | LIVERPOOL | 1373 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape | WAVERLEY | 1786 |
| Terrace Duplexes | SYDNEY | 919 |
| Bradleys Head Forts and HMAS Sydney 1 Mast and Associated Memorials | MOSMAN | 1838 |
| Mercantile Hotel | SYDNEY | 1560 |
| The Church of the Holy Innocents, Churchyard and Cemetery | LIVERPOOL | 2005 |
| Enginemans Resthouse | SYDNEY | 723 |
| Police Station (former) | SYDNEY | 293 |
| Raywell | INNER WEST | 93 |
| Eryldene | KU-RING-GAI | 19 |
| Macquarie Grove Cottage | CAMDEN | 493 |
| Judges House, The | SYDNEY | 60 |
| Baker's Terrace | SYDNEY | 1530 |
| Grahame's Corner | SYDNEY | 736 |
| Camden | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 250 |
| The Metro Theatre (formerly Minerva Theatre) | SYDNEY | 2049 |
| St Helen's Park | CAMPBELLTOWN | 406 |
| Kyeemagh Market Gardens | BAYSIDE | 1393 |
| Shops and Residences, Terrace | SYDNEY | 1596 |
| St Paul's Anglican Church (former) | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 56 |
| Hadley Park | PENRITH | 2009 |
| Engehurst | WOOLLAHRA | 575 |
| Johnson's Building | SYDNEY | 1554 |
| Circular Quay Railway Station group | SYDNEY | 1112 |
| Corn Exchange | SYDNEY | 1619 |
| Fenton and surrounds | WOOLLAHRA | 249 |
| Linsley Terrace | SYDNEY | 907 |
| Nielsen Park | WOOLLAHRA | 1988 |
| Prospect Post Office (former) | BLACKTOWN | 1385 |
| Willandra | RYDE | 26 |
| Brownlow Hill Estate | WOLLONDILLY | 1489 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Varroville | CAMPBELLTOWN | 737 |
| Pressure Tunnel and Shafts | INNER WEST | 1630 |
| Waverley Reservoir (Elevated) (WS 0136) | WAVERLEY | 1646 |
| Intercontinental Hotel former Treasury Building | SYDNEY | 355 |
| Shop and Residence | SYDNEY | 1583 |
| Little Hunter and Hamilton Street Precinct | SYDNEY | 599 |
| Bushells Warehouse (former) and Bushells Place | SYDNEY | 1535 |
| Epping Forest | CAMPBELLTOWN | 1298 |
| Lidcombe Hospital Precinct | CUMBERLAND | 1744 |
| Lilyvale | SYDNEY | 1558 |
| Sydney Club | SYDNEY | 583 |
| Railway Gatehouse | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 220 |
| Belmore Railway Station Group | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1081 |
| Potts Hill Reservoirs 1 & 2 and Site | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1333 |
| St James' Anglican Church | SYDNEY | 1703 |
| Horsley complex (homestead, outbuildings, garden, farm) | FAIRFIELD | 30 |
| Bishopscourt | WOOLLAHRA | 362 |
| Argyle Terrace – Caminetto's Restaurant | SYDNEY | 1525 |
| Ancient Aboriginal and Early Colonial Landscape | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1863 |
| Manly Cove Pavilion | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1433 |
| Municipal Building | SYDNEY | 693 |
| Metropolitan Hotel | SYDNEY | 663 |
| Vermont Terrace | SYDNEY | 910 |
| Sergeant Major's Row (terrace) | SYDNEY | 1579 |
| Penrhyn House | SYDNEY | 1568 |
| Gladesville Drill Hall | RYDE | 782 |
| Mount Wilga House | HORNSBY | 535 |
| Building, outbuildings, grounds, trees | HAWKESBURY | 753 |
| Houses | SYDNEY | 878 |
| Endrim | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 379 |
| Houses | HAWKESBURY | 110 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| West Maling (Revival Life Centre) | GEORGES RIVER | 269 |
| Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1839 |
| Strathfield Railway Station group | STRATHFIELD | 1252 |
| Stanwell Park Rail Viaduct over Stanwell Creek | WOLLONGONG | 1054 |
| Sandgate | RANDWICK | 67 |
| Pymble Reservoir No.1 (Covered) (WS 0097) | KU-RING-GAI | 1632 |
| Macquarie Arms Hotel | HAWKESBURY | 41 |
| Bethungra | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 224 |
| New York Hotel (former) – DFS (Duty Free Store) | SYDNEY | 1563 |
| The Priory | HUNTERS HILL | 1720 |
| Bowman House | HAWKESBURY | 468 |
| Rothwell Lodge & Factory | SYDNEY | 591 |
| Pymont and Glebe Railway Tunnels | SYDNEY | 1225 |
| Loder House | HAWKESBURY | 3 |
| St Peter's Anglican Church | INNER WEST | 32 |
| Norma Parker Correctional Centre | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 811 |
| Belvedere | NORTH SYDNEY | 320 |
| Scheyville National Park | HAWKESBURY | 1817 |
| Stanmore House | INNER WEST | 662 |
| Box Hill House in grounds of McCall gardens | THE HILLS SHIRE | 613 |
| Fairlight Homestead & Barn | PENRITH | 262 |
| Heathcote Hall | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 191 |
| Ashton and its grounds | SYDNEY | 1684 |
| Glenmore Hotel | SYDNEY | 1549 |
| Goldfinders Inn Group | HAWKESBURY | 1978 |
| Lilyvale railway tunnels | WOLLONGONG | 1179 |
| Vienna | HUNTERS HILL | 459 |
| Queen Street Buildings Group | CAMPBELLTOWN | 7 |
| St Peters Railway Station group | INNER WEST | 1250 |
| Post Office Stores | SYDNEY | 608 |
| Monteith | SYDNEY | 592 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Trust Building | SYDNEY | 676 |
| Rockwall | SYDNEY | 20 |
| Hestock | HUNTERS HILL | 92 |
| Burwood Railway Station group | BURWOOD | 1106 |
| Darlinghurst Court House and Residence | SYDNEY | 792 |
| Shop and Residence – Bakers Oven | SYDNEY | 1588 |
| Ryde Pumping Station and site | RYDE | 1634 |
| Mahratta and Site | KU-RING-GAI | 708 |
| Stoneleigh | SYDNEY | 187 |
| Broughton House | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1302 |
| Upper Castlereagh Public School and residence | PENRITH | 339 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 68 |
| Tulkiyan | KU-RING-GAI | 1733 |
| Valley Heights Steam Tram Rolling Stock | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1977 |
| Rockdale Railway Station Group | BAYSIDE | 1238 |
| Tempe Railway Station Group | INNER WEST | 1266 |
| Strathfield rail underbridges | STRATHFIELD | 1055 |
| Cumberland Street Archaeological Site | SYDNEY | 1845 |
| Hy Brasil | NORTHERN BEACHES | 79 |
| University Hall & Cottages | SYDNEY | 128 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 879 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 901 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 853 |
| Sydney Observatory | SYDNEY | 1449 |
| Waverton Railway Station group | NORTH SYDNEY | 1284 |
| Woodford Academy | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1509 |
| Katoomba House | SYDNEY | 890 |
| MSB Stores Complex | SYDNEY | 1435 |
| Observer Hotel | SYDNEY | 1565 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 896 |
| Fenwick & Co Boat Store | INNER WEST | 1396 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Experiment Farm Cottage | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 768 |
| Bungarribee Homestead Complex – Archaeological Site | BLACKTOWN | 1428 |
| Buckland Convalescent Home & Garden | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 371 |
| Substation | RANDWICK | 935 |
| Mort's Dock | INNER WEST | 1854 |
| ANZAC Memorial | SYDNEY | 1822 |
| St Stephen's Uniting Church | SYDNEY | 1704 |
| Mount Dorothy Reservoir | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1329 |
| Marika | HUNTERS HILL | 300 |
| Royal National Park Coastal Cabin Communities | WOLLONGONG | 1878 |
| Paddington Reservoir | SYDNEY | 515 |
| Camden Park | WOLLONDILLY | 341 |
| The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia | SYDNEY | 1968 |
| Metters Building | SYDNEY | 732 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 410 |
| Warders Cottages | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 709 |
| Weatherboard Inn Archaeological Site | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 595 |
| Darling Harbour Woodward Water Feature | SYDNEY | 1933 |
| Hardware House | SYDNEY | 580 |
| Australian Hotel | SYDNEY | 1528 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 864 |
| North Sydney Post Office | NORTH SYDNEY | 1417 |
| Substation – Bellevue, Cammeray | NORTH SYDNEY | 937 |
| Tarella | NORTH SYDNEY | 270 |
| Accountants House | SYDNEY | 1521 |
| Gannon House & Shop | SYDNEY | 1548 |
| Boronia | MOSMAN | 69 |
| Lower Prospect Canal Reserve | CUMBERLAND | 1945 |
| Phillip Street Terraces | SYDNEY | 621 |
| Sailor's Home (former) | SYDNEY | 1576 |
| Rose Seidler House | KU-RING-GAI | 261 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| Lennox Bridge | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 24 |
| Rathven | RANDWICK | 139 |
| Liverpool TAFE College (former Liverpool Hospital) | LIVERPOOL | 1809 |
| Essington | CUMBERLAND | 204 |
| Carss Cottage | GEORGES RIVER | 587 |
| Arncliffe Railway Station | BAYSIDE | 1076 |
| Watson's Butchery | SYDNEY | 1592 |
| Helensburgh Railway Station group | WOLLONGONG | 1168 |
| King George Hotel (former) and Haymarket Post Office | SYDNEY | 615 |
| Commonwealth Bank | SYDNEY | 1427 |
| Rushcutters Bay and Yarranabbe Parks | SYDNEY | 2041 |
| Igloo House, The | MOSMAN | 1652 |
| Gordon Railway Station group | KU-RING-GAI | 1150 |
| Loggan Rock | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1779 |
| Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain | SYDNEY | 1070 |
| South Head General Cemetery | WAVERLEY | 1991 |
| Simpson-Lee House I | KU-RING-GAI | 1800 |
| St Anne's Roman Catholic Church (former) | STRATHFIELD | 508 |
| Toxteth | SYDNEY | 928 |
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 1610 |
| Stone House | SYDNEY | 900 |
| Picton railway viaduct over Stonequarry Creek | WOLLONDILLY | 1051 |
| Avonmore Terrace | RANDWICK | 565 |
| Susannah Place | SYDNEY | 1310 |
| Shop and Residence | SYDNEY | 1586 |
| Innisfallen Castle and Grounds | WILLOUGHBY | 404 |
| House & Outbuildings | HAWKESBURY | 5 |
| Sydney Cricket Ground – Members Stand and Lady Members Stand | SYDNEY | 353 |
| Georgian Townhouse | SYDNEY | 523 |
| Bantry Bay Explosives Depot | NORTHERN BEACHES | 977 |
| Paddington Town Hall | SYDNEY | 561 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Coroner's Court (former) – Shops & offices Terrace | SYDNEY | 1541 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 858 |
| Carousel, The | SYDNEY | 1620 |
| Argyle Street Railway Substation | SYDNEY | 1022 |
| Comfort Lodge Building | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 283 |
| Building | MOSMAN | 430 |
| Cairnsfoot Special School | BAYSIDE | 551 |
| Ewenton | INNER WEST | 197 |
| Prospect Reservoir Valve House | BLACKTOWN | 1371 |
| Briars, The | KU-RING-GAI | 274 |
| Menangle Railway Station group | WOLLONDILLY | 1191 |
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 926 |
| Rydalme Hospital Precinct (former) | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 749 |
| Wales House | SYDNEY | 586 |
| Shop – Phillip's Foote Restaurant | SYDNEY | 1580 |
| Townhouse | SYDNEY | 881 |
| Clydebank | SYDNEY | 524 |
| Rooty Hill, The | BLACKTOWN | 1756 |
| Track | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1372 |
| Fernleigh | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 302 |
| Burwood Post Office (former) | BURWOOD | 1490 |
| White Hart Inn Archaeological Site | THE HILLS SHIRE | 2007 |
| Richmond Park | HAWKESBURY | 1808 |
| Emu Plains (Nepean River) Underbridge | PENRITH | 1830 |
| Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital | CANADA BAY | 119 |
| Dunbar Shipwreck Group | WOOLLAHRA | 1675 |
| Harrington Park | CAMDEN | 1773 |
| Charing Cross | WAVERLEY | 449 |
| Campbell's Stores | SYDNEY | 1536 |
| British Seamen's Hotel (former) | SYDNEY | 1532 |
| Northwood House & Cottage | LANE COVE | 440 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Rev. Peter Turner Cottage and Well | HAWKESBURY | 202 |
| White Bay Power Station | INNER WEST | 1015 |
| Dayton House | BLACKTOWN | 325 |
| Brush Farm | RYDE | 612 |
| Blacktown Native Institution | BLACKTOWN | 1866 |
| Rose Bay Seawall, Promenade and its Setting | WOOLLAHRA | 1932 |
| Graythwaite | NORTH SYDNEY | 1617 |
| Substation | KU-RING-GAI | 940 |
| Sydney Terminal and Central Railway Stations Group | SYDNEY | 1255 |
| European Rock carvings | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 680 |
| House | HAWKESBURY | 109 |
| Arncliffe Market Gardens | BAYSIDE | 1395 |
| Johnston's Creek Sewer Aqueduct | INNER WEST | 1325 |
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 1606 |
| Imperial Hotel | BLACKTOWN | 114 |
| Bella Vista | THE HILLS SHIRE | 754 |
| Richmond Railway Station and yard group | HAWKESBURY | 1236 |
| Big Stable Newmarket | RANDWICK | 388 |
| The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park | SYDNEY | 1974 |
| Cyprus-Hellene Club | SYDNEY | 773 |
| Shop and Residence – Ariel Bookshop | SYDNEY | 1587 |
| Toongabbie Government Farm Archaeological Site | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1903 |
| Long Bay Correctional Centre | RANDWICK | 810 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 652 |
| St Brigid's Roman Catholic Church & School | SYDNEY | 645 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 911 |
| Shop and Residence | SYDNEY | 865 |
| Redfern Railway Station group | SYDNEY | 1234 |
| Man O'War Steps | SYDNEY | 1432 |
| Shops, Victorian pair/Samson's Cottage | SYDNEY | 1597 |
| Edward Smith Headquarters Switchboard (1909) | PENRITH | 1901 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Wahroonga Railway Station group | KU-RING-GAI | 1280 |
| Eveleigh Railway Workshops | SYDNEY | 1140 |
| Australian Museum | SYDNEY | 805 |
| Baker's Terrace | SYDNEY | 1531 |
| Pymble Reservoir No.2 (Covered) (WS 0098) | KU-RING-GAI | 1633 |
| House | HAWKESBURY | 108 |
| Gladswood House | WOOLLAHRA | 496 |
| Sydney Harbour Bridge, approaches and viaducts (road and rail) | SYDNEY | 781 |
| Railway electricity tunnel under Sydney Harbour | LEICHARDT | 1231 |
| Unwin's Stores | SYDNEY | 1613 |
| Samson's Cottage (wall remains) | SYDNEY | 1577 |
| Lennox Bridge | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 750 |
| Western Outfall Main Sewer (Rockdale to Homesbush) | BAYSIDE | 1647 |
| Liverpool Courthouse (former) and Potential Archaeological Site | LIVERPOOL | 1999 |
| BOOS (Bondi Ocean Outfall Sewer) | WAVERLEY | 1623 |
| Alma House | MOSMAN | 70 |
| Toomevara Lane Chinese Market Gardens | BAYSIDE | 1394 |
| Royal Prince Alfred Hospital – Victoria & Albert Pavilions | SYDNEY | 829 |
| CBC Bank (former) | SYDNEY | 428 |
| Stone Shop | SYDNEY | 860 |
| Mount Gilead | CAMPBELLTOWN | 2020 |
| Cox's Road and Early Deviations – Woodford, Old Bathurst Road Precinct | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1954 |
| Wylie's Baths | RANDWICK | 1677 |
| Sydney Central Local Court House | SYDNEY | 802 |
| Shop and Residence | SYDNEY | 1584 |
| Bomera & Tarana | SYDNEY | 1400 |
| Pearce Family Cemetery | THE HILLS SHIRE | 593 |
| Juniper Hall | WOOLLAHRA | 268 |
| Government House, Movable Heritage Collection and Gardens | SYDNEY | 1872 |
| Neoblie | BLACKTOWN | 245 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|----------------|-----------|
| Evatt House | KU-RING-GAI | 1711 |
| Ahrens Fox PS2 Fire Engine (1929) | PENRITH | 1717 |
| Croydon Railway Station Group | INNER WEST | 1125 |
| Big House Hotel | SYDNEY | 513 |
| Goat Island | UNINCORPORATED | 989 |
| M24 Japanese Midget Submarine wreck site | UNINCORPORATED | 1785 |
| Denfield | CAMPBELLTOWN | 540 |
| Drummoyne Reservoir | CANADA BAY | 1625 |
| Sharpies Golf House Sign (The Golf House) | SYDNEY | 1655 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 842 |
| Shipwrights Arms Inn (former) | SYDNEY | 850 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 525 |
| Fossil Collection | PENRITH | 971 |
| Randwick Presbyterian Church | RANDWICK | 1777 |
| Justice and Police Museum | SYDNEY | 673 |
| Chief Secretary's Building | SYDNEY | 766 |
| Sewage Pumping Station 18 | SYDNEY | 1339 |
| Site of Ficus superba var. henneana tree | WOOLLAHRA | 578 |
| Glenlee, outbuildings, garden & gatelodge | CAMPBELLTOWN | 9 |
| Rosemont | WOOLLAHRA | 294 |
| Glebe Railway Viaduct | SYDNEY | 1034 |
| Terrace Duplexes | SYDNEY | 918 |
| Glebe Island Bridge | LEICHARDT | 1914 |
| Wentworth Memorial Church and Moveable Heritage Collection | WOOLLAHRA | 1882 |
| Residence | SYDNEY | 894 |
| Pallister | LANE COVE | 574 |
| Petrology Collection | PENRITH | 973 |
| Watch House Terrace | SYDNEY | 223 |
| Sydney Supreme Court House (Old Court House) | SYDNEY | 800 |
| Government Depot Site (former) | BLACKTOWN | 345 |
| Building | HAWKESBURY | 610 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|------------------|-----------|
| Cronulla Railway Station group | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 1123 |
| Crown Street Reservoir & Site | SYDNEY | 1323 |
| Reynolds's Cottages | SYDNEY | 1573 |
| Orielton | CAMDEN | 1693 |
| Homestead, The | LIVERPOOL | 214 |
| Marrickville Town Hall (former) | INNER WEST | 573 |
| St Paul's Anglican Church and Pipe Organ | BURWOOD | 436 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 845 |
| Audley historic recreational complex | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 976 |
| Highlands | HORNSBY | 34 |
| Toxana | HAWKESBURY | 14 |
| ASN Hotel Building (former), Visa Offices | SYDNEY | 1527 |
| Alfred's Terrace | SYDNEY | 837 |
| Woronora Dam | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 1378 |
| Stanmore Railway Station Group | INNER WEST | 1251 |
| History House | SYDNEY | 692 |
| ASN Co Building | SYDNEY | 1526 |
| Regency Townhouses | SYDNEY | 887 |
| Cox's Cottage | PENRITH | 171 |
| Housing Board Building | SYDNEY | 1552 |
| Transport House | SYDNEY | 1271 |
| Dalgety Terrace | SYDNEY | 867 |
| Springwood Railway Station Group | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1247 |
| Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis | CUMBERLAND | 718 |
| Ultimo Road Railway Underbridge | SYDNEY | 1062 |
| Brooklyn Hotel | SYDNEY | 1533 |
| Shops | SYDNEY | 891 |
| St Jude's Anglican Church, Cemetery, Rectory, Vergers Residence | RANDWICK | 12 |
| Terrace Cottages | SYDNEY | 64 |
| Fort Denison | UNINCORPORATED | 985 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 844 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Playfair Street Terraces | SYDNEY | 1569 |
| Residence | MOSMAN | 210 |
| Macquarie Field House | CAMPBELLTOWN | 424 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 1601 |
| Archaeological Site and associated artefacts | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 2027 |
| Gladesville Bridge | CANADA BAY | 1935 |
| Grace Building | SYDNEY | 712 |
| Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Towra Point Reserve | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 1918 |
| Electricity Substation No. 269 | WAVERLEY | 1791 |
| Paddington Post Office | WOOLLAHRA | 1418 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 1602 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 871 |
| Silverwater Prison Complex Conservation Area | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 813 |
| Substation | NORTHERN BEACHES | 936 |
| Sewage Pumping Station 3 | SYDNEY | 1343 |
| Ivanhoe Park (including Manly Oval) cultural landscape | NORTHERN BEACHES | 2029 |
| Rose Cottage and Early Slab Hut | PENRITH | 1392 |
| Fitzroy Terrace | SYDNEY | 83 |
| Auburn Railway Signal Box | CUMBERLAND | 1023 |
| Sydney Town Hall | SYDNEY | 1452 |
| Former Health Department Building | SYDNEY | 1912 |
| Warehouses | SYDNEY | 526 |
| Campbelltown Post Office (former) | CAMPBELLTOWN | 265 |
| Durham Hall | SYDNEY | 221 |
| Union Bond Store (former), Westpac Bank | SYDNEY | 1612 |
| Cumberland District Hospital Group | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 820 |
| St Stephen's Anglican Church and Cemetery | INNER WEST | 462 |
| Tranby | SYDNEY | 21 |
| St Johns Anglican Church Precinct | CAMDEN | 2006 |
| Crown Street Public School | SYDNEY | 562 |
| City Mutual Life Assurance Building | SYDNEY | 585 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Royal Oak Inn (former) | THE HILLS SHIRE | 698 |
| Old Man's Valley Cemetery | HORNSBY | 1764 |
| Bull Cave | CAMPBELLTOWN | 1993 |
| Lewisham Sewage Aqueduct | INNER WEST | 1326 |
| Egyptian Room Scottish Temple | INNER WEST | 118 |
| Westpac Bank | SYDNEY | 664 |
| Victorian Terrace | SYDNEY | 922 |
| Substation | NORTHERN BEACHES | 938 |
| Richmond Post Office | HAWKESBURY | 1410 |
| Corana and Hygeia | RANDWICK | 454 |
| St Andrew's Anglican Cathedral and Chapter House | SYDNEY | 1708 |
| Eagleton Terrace | SYDNEY | 882 |
| Milthorpe | HUNTERS HILL | 688 |
| Alexandra Canal | SYDNEY | 1621 |
| Eveleigh Railway Workshops machinery | SYDNEY | 1141 |
| Shop and Residence | SYDNEY | 1581 |
| 1 st /15 th Royal NSW Lancers Memorial Museum Collection | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1824 |
| Roxy Theatre | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 711 |
| South Steyne (S.S.) | UNINCORPORATED | 755 |
| Dundee Arms Hotel | SYDNEY | 416 |
| Sewer Vent | NORTH SYDNEY | 1641 |
| Trocadero | SYDNEY | 1380 |
| Capitol Theatre | SYDNEY | 391 |
| Bird In The Hand Inn (former) | HAWKESBURY | 373 |
| Maryland | CAMDEN | 1690 |
| Davisville | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 401 |
| Cliffbrook | RANDWICK | 609 |
| Harts Buildings | SYDNEY | 1550 |
| Bulletin Place Restaurant | SYDNEY | 651 |
| Oran Park | CAMDEN | 1695 |
| Denham Court & Chapel | CAMPBELLTOWN | 212 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|----------------------|-----------|
| Sewage Pumping Station 38 | BAYSIDE | 1344 |
| Old Sugarmill | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 290 |
| Sewage Pumping Station 27 | INNER WEST | 1341 |
| Old Pyrmont Cottages | SYDNEY | 1986 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 1605 |
| Veteran Hall – House Remains | BLACKTOWN | 1351 |
| St Mary's Catholic Cathedral and Chapter House | SYDNEY | 1709 |
| Parliament House | SYDNEY | 1615 |
| Hawker & Vance Produce Exchange | SYDNEY | 409 |
| Exeter Farm | BLACKTOWN | 205 |
| St Paul's Anglican Church | THE HILLS SHIRE | 332 |
| Thompson Square Conservation Area | HAWKESBURY | 126 |
| Goodman's Buildings | INNER WEST | 672 |
| Royal George Hotel | SYDNEY | 411 |
| Houses | WOOLLAHRA | 209 |
| House of Bodleigh | SYDNEY | 873 |
| Wynstay Estate | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1520 |
| Collingwood | LIVERPOOL | 1774 |
| Bunyas | INNER WEST | 317 |
| Lyons House | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 1930 |
| Bonnyrigg House | FAIRFIELD | 281 |
| Yiu Ming Temple | SYDNEY | 1297 |
| Overthorpe | WOOLLAHRA | 246 |
| Shop, Ken Duncan Gallery | SYDNEY | 1589 |
| Dappeto | BAYSIDE | 638 |
| Bankstown Reservoir (Elevated) | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1316 |
| Fortune of War Hotel | SYDNEY | 1547 |
| Woolloomooloo Finger Wharf | SYDNEY | 1437 |
| Royal College of Pathologists (former) | SYDNEY | 843 |
| Jenolan Caves Reserve | OBERON | 1698 |
| Nugal Hall | RANDWICK | 173 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Terrace Duplexes | SYDNEY | 868 |
| Police Station (former) – Australian Craftworks Gallery | SYDNEY | 1571 |
| Hunting Lodge (former) | THE HILLS SHIRE | 632 |
| Emu Plains Railway Station group | PENRITH | 1136 |
| Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church | INNER WEST | 11 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 908 |
| Luna Park Precinct | NORTH SYDNEY | 1811 |
| Riverstone Railway Station and yard group | BLACKTOWN | 1237 |
| Uniting Church and Pipe Organ | SYDNEY | 747 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 916 |
| Oddfellows Arms Inn | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 276 |
| Denbigh | CAMDEN | 1691 |
| Waimea House | WOOLLAHRA | 226 |
| Captain Tench Arcade | SYDNEY | 1537 |
| St Thomas Anglican Church | PENRITH | 426 |
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 1609 |
| Lilianfels | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 431 |
| Shand 7 Inch Manual Fire Engine | PENRITH | 1717 |
| Ahimsa | HORNSBY | 1494 |
| St David's Uniting Church | INNER WEST | 1669 |
| Stone House | SYDNEY | 876 |
| Mosman Bay Sewage Aqueduct | MOSMAN | 1328 |
| Lawson Railway Station Group | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1177 |
| Tank Stream | SYDNEY | 636 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 854 |
| Milsons Point Railway Station group | NORTH SYDNEY | 1194 |
| St John's Anglican Cemetery | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 49 |
| The Glass House | WILLOUGHBY | 1981 |
| Studley Park | CAMDEN | 389 |
| Dennis Big 6 Fire Engine (1939) | PENRITH | 1718 |
| Skinnners Family Hotel | SYDNEY | 584 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Murphys House | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 238 |
| Manly wharf | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1434 |
| Shand Mason Fire Engine (1891) | PENRITH | 1716 |
| Glenalvon | CAMPBELLTOWN | 4 |
| Callan Park Conservation Area & Buildings | INNER WEST | 818 |
| Russell Hotel and shop | SYDNEY | 1575 |
| State Library of NSW | SYDNEY | 1071 |
| Blue Mountains Walking tracks | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 980 |
| Lynton | BURWOOD | 284 |
| Sydney Harbour Naval Precinct | SYDNEY | 1705 |
| Pipehead, water supply canal and associated works | CUMBERLAND | 1629 |
| House | SYDNEY | 1551 |
| Lands Department Building | SYDNEY | 744 |
| ANZ Bank (former) | SYDNEY | 85 |
| Shop and Residence | SYDNEY | 1582 |
| Kailoa | NORTH SYDNEY | 179 |
| Glenbrook Railway and World War Two Mustard Gas Storage Tunnel | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1861 |
| Petersham Railway Station group | INNER WEST | 1223 |
| Royal Prince Alfred Hospital – Admission Block | SYDNEY | 830 |
| Wesleyan Chapel | SYDNEY | 457 |
| Shop and Residence | SYDNEY | 1585 |
| Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital | CANADA BAY | 115 |
| Waratah Park | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1944 |
| Burwood rail underbridge | BURWOOD | 1030 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 1600 |
| Land Titles Office | SYDNEY | 962 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 849 |
| Former Great Western Road, Prospect | BLACKTOWN | 1911 |
| Railway Institute Building | SYDNEY | 1257 |
| Kellys Bush Park | HUNTERS HILL | 1391 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| St Peter's Church & Precinct | SYDNEY | 148 |
| Fairwater | WOOLLAHRA | 1381 |
| El Alamein Memorial Fountain | SYDNEY | 1847 |
| Terraces/Harbour Rocks Hotel | SYDNEY | 1611 |
| Balls Head Coal Loader Complex | NORTH SYDNEY | 2051 |
| Federation Pavilion, Cabarita Park | CANADA BAY | 1454 |
| Warehouse (former) | SYDNEY | 653 |
| AWA Building and Tower | SYDNEY | 665 |
| Lindesay | WOOLLAHRA | 686 |
| Avery Terrace | SYDNEY | 1529 |
| Lord Nelson Hotel | SYDNEY | 509 |
| Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator | WILLOUGHBY | 84 |
| Abbotsford | WOLLONDILLY | 73 |
| Land Next to Male Orphan School | FAIRFIELD | 1390 |
| Young Street Terraces | SYDNEY | 974 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 856 |
| Bronte House | WAVERLEY | 55 |
| Martin Place Railway Station | SYDNEY | 1187 |
| Windsor Court House | HAWKESBURY | 804 |
| Gledswood | CAMDEN | 1692 |
| Cranbrook Group | INNER WEST | 418 |
| Dalkeith Property | NORTH SYDNEY | 310 |
| Gilligaloola | HORNSBY | 271 |
| Argyle Bridge | SYDNEY | 1522 |
| Rouse Hill House and Farm | BLACKTOWN | 2 |
| The Paragon | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1959 |
| Iona | SYDNEY | 176 |
| Royal Automobile Club | SYDNEY | 700 |
| St John's Uniting Church and Pipe Organ | NORTH SYDNEY | 423 |
| Sewer Vent and Cottages | INNER WEST | 1636 |
| Shubra Hall, including stables and garden | BURWOOD | 1939 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Burwood Sewer Vent | BURWOOD | 1638 |
| Tenements | SYDNEY | 1598 |
| Mint Building and Hyde Park Barracks Group | SYDNEY | 190 |
| Juanita Nielsen's House | SYDNEY | 1929 |
| Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct | SYDNEY | 1682 |
| Captain Cook Hotel | SYDNEY | 511 |
| Uniting Church and Hall | HAWKESBURY | 735 |
| Redfern Aboriginal Childrens Services and | SYDNEY | 1951 |
| St John's Anglican Church & Rectory | SYDNEY | 461 |
| Shops | SYDNEY | 863 |
| Mackenzie House | HAWKESBURY | 735 |
| National House | SYDNEY | 581 |
| Shop, Rockpool Restaurant | SYDNEY | 1590 |
| Lake Parramatta Dam | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1879 |
| Loftus Junction railway signal box | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 1182 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 414 |
| House | HAWKESBURY | 142 |
| La Perouse Mission Church | RANDWICK | 1893 |
| Linley | LANE COVE | 350 |
| Stannix Park House, cattle tanks and site | HAWKESBURY | 598 |
| Picton Railway Station group | WOLLONDILLY | 1224 |
| Oatley Railway Station group | GEORGES RIVER | 1214 |
| Windsor Gardens | WILLOUGHBY | 571 |
| Lansdowne Bridge | FAIRFIELD | 1472 |
| Hall of Champions (collection) | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1295 |
| Tusculum | SYDNEY | 27 |
| Public Reserve associated with Elizabeth Farm | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 285 |
| Balmoral Bathers Pavilion | MOSMAN | 760 |
| Electricity Substation No. 349 | RANDWICK | 1792 |
| Public Trust Office | SYDNEY | 1019 |
| Macquarie Lighthouse Site | WOOLLAHRA | 677 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Old Sydney Holiday Inn | SYDNEY | 1566 |
| Warragamba Dam – Haviland Park | WOLLONDILLY | 1375 |
| National Mutual Building | SYDNEY | 234 |
| Manly Dam | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1327 |
| Pymont Post Office | SYDNEY | 1440 |
| Blyth Terrace | SYDNEY | 839 |
| Oswald Bond Store | SYDNEY | 527 |
| Bridge over Tunks (Pearces) Creek | HORNSBY | 1478 |
| Liverpool Weir | LIVERPOOL | 1804 |
| Cadman's Cottage, grounds, trees, space | SYDNEY | 981 |
| The Manse | BLACKTOWN | 206 |
| Woodlands | KU-RING-GAI | 1762 |
| Premiers and Railway Commissioners Rail Car Collection | SYDNEY | 1650 |
| Waverley Reservoir No.1 (WS 0132) | WAVERLEY | 1353 |
| Rhodes Railway Station group | CANADA BAY | 1235 |
| Victoria Bridge over Stonequarry Creek | WOLLONDILLY | 1484 |
| Penrith Railway Station group | PENRITH | 1222 |
| Glenfield Farm | LIVERPOOL | 25 |
| GA Zink & Sons Building | SYDNEY | 658 |
| Busby's Bore | SYDNEY | 568 |
| Museum Railway Station | SYDNEY | 1207 |
| Laurelbank | WILLOUGHBY | 657 |
| Egglemont | NORTH SYDNEY | 321 |
| Eric Pratten House | KU-RING-GAI | 1443 |
| Cathedral of the Annunciation of Our Lady | SYDNEY | 1881 |
| Perth House and Stables | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 155 |
| Queen Victoria Building | SYDNEY | 1814 |
| Oakleigh | SYDNEY | 425 |
| Parramatta Park and Old Government House | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 596 |
| St Andrew's Anglican Church, Hall & Rectory | BLACKTOWN | 57 |
| Methodist Parsonage (former) | HAWKESBURY | 735 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|--|----------------|-----------|
| Addington House | RYDE | 33 |
| Glenmore | PENRITH | 74 |
| Emanuel School | RANDWICK | 386 |
| Carthona | RANDWICK | 555 |
| Sydney School of Arts | SYDNEY | 366 |
| Science House (including original interiors) | SYDNEY | 1578 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 897 |
| Eagleton Terrace | SYDNEY | 904 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 1604 |
| Millers Point Post Office | SYDNEY | 1408 |
| Granville Town Hall | CUMBERLAND | 1679 |
| Couridjah Railway Station | WOLLONDILLY | 1121 |
| Argyle House | SYDNEY | 838 |
| Ildemere | NORTH SYDNEY | 390 |
| Rail Paybus FP1 | WOLLONDILLY | 1673 |
| Seymours House | HAWKESBURY | 681 |
| Thurlow House | GEORGES RIVER | 1980 |
| Milford Haven | INNER WEST | 518 |
| Electricity Substation No. 167 | CUMBERLAND | 1790 |
| Macquarie Schoolhouse/Chapel and St. John's (Blacket) Church | HAWKESBURY | 1836 |
| Malabar Headland | RANDWICK | 1741 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 909 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 906 |
| Hobartville, including outbuildings | HAWKESBURY | 35 |
| Jobbins Terrace | SYDNEY | 1553 |
| Hawkesbury River Railway Station group | HORNSBY | 1166 |
| Katoomba Railway Station and yard group | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1174 |
| House | HAWKESBURY | 45 |
| Mortuary Railway Station and site | SYDNEY | 157 |
| Pinnacle House | SYDNEY | 582 |
| Tresco, grounds and trees | SYDNEY | 780 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Building | SYDNEY | 852 |
| Dundas Railway Station group | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1133 |
| Linsley Terrace | SYDNEY | 883 |
| Balmain Hospital – Main Building | INNER WEST | 814 |
| Sydenham Railway Station group | INNER WEST | 1254 |
| Mary Immaculate Group | WAVERLEY | 626 |
| Julian Ashton Art School | SYDNEY | 1556 |
| Simmons Hardware Store | HAWKESBURY | 667 |
| Ben Buckler Gun Battery 1893, 9.2” Disappearing Gun | WAVERLEY | 1742 |
| Sydney Emden Memorial | SYDNEY | 1946 |
| Challis House | SYDNEY | 666 |
| Third Government Farm (former) | THE HILLS SHIRE | 1448 |
| Riverview House, Outbuildings etc | RYDE | 775 |
| St Leonards Park | NORTH SYDNEY | 1941 |
| Shops and Residences – stone | SYDNEY | 1595 |
| Hero of Waterloo Hotel | SYDNEY | 633 |
| St Patricks Estate | NORTHERN BEACHES | 1724 |
| Perpetual Trustee Company | SYDNEY | 678 |
| Vaucluse House | WOOLLAHRA | 955 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 841 |
| Medlow Dam | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1366 |
| Otford railway tunnel (former) | WOLLONGONG | 1219 |
| Beulah | CAMPBELLTOWN | 368 |
| Cottage | SYDNEY | 857 |
| Homebush Railway Station group | STRATHFIELD | 1170 |
| Meadowbank rail bridge over Parramatta River | CANADA BAY | 1189 |
| Buhrich House II | WILLOUGHBY | 1513 |
| Katoomba Post Office (former) | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1453 |
| Chinese Market Gardens | RANDWICK | 1299 |
| Air Defence Headquarters Ruin Sydney (former) | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1857 |
| Boomerang | SYDNEY | 38 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Royal College of Pathologists (former) | SYDNEY | 851 |
| Evans' Stores, Harbour Rocks Hotel | SYDNEY | 1545 |
| Milton Terrace | SYDNEY | 885 |
| Parramatta District Hospital – Brislington and Landscape | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 59 |
| Venice | RANDWICK | 175 |
| Ultimo Power House | SYDNEY | 2045 |
| Old Registry Office, Sydney Supreme Court House | SYDNEY | 801 |
| Brett Whitely House and Visual Curtilage | NORTH SYDNEY | 1949 |
| Parramatta District Hospital – Archaeology | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 828 |
| Sugarloaf Farm | CAMPBELLTOWN | 1389 |
| Megarritys Bridge | WOLLONDILLY | 1367 |
| Lydham Hall | BAYSIDE | 477 |
| Eveleigh Chief Mechanical Engineers Office | SYDNEY | 1139 |
| Derrylyn | INNER WEST | 279 |
| Pitt Street Uniting Church | SYDNEY | 22 |
| Sewer Vent and Cottage | INNER WEST | 1635 |
| Bidura House Group | SYDNEY | 1994 |
| Pymont Bridge | SYDNEY | 1618 |
| Ingleburn Military Heritage Precinct and Mont St Quentin Oval | CAMPBELLTOWN | 1891 |
| Leura | WOOLLAHRA | 47 |
| Merriman Street Terraces | SYDNEY | 903 |
| Bellevue | SYDNEY | 470 |
| Orient Hotel | SYDNEY | 1567 |
| Cleland Bond Store (part of Argyle Stores) | SYDNEY | 1538 |
| Terrace Duplexes | SYDNEY | 920 |
| Hambledon Cottage, Grounds and Archaeology | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 1888 |
| St John's Roman Catholic Church and Cemetery (former) | CAMPBELLTOWN | 193 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 412 |
| Palisade Hotel | SYDNEY | 510 |
| Mirrabooka and garden | THE HILLS SHIRE | 2043 |
| Beverly Hills Railway Station group | GEORGES RIVER | 1086 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Ultimo Post Office | SYDNEY | 502 |
| Royal Edward Victualling Yard | SYDNEY | 1855 |
| Salisbury Court | WOOLLAHRA | 251 |
| Sze Yup Temple & Joss House | SYDNEY | 267 |
| Cronulla Fisheries Centre | SUTHERLAND SHIRE | 1011 |
| Osborne House | SYDNEY | 886 |
| Prospect Hill | CUMBERLAND | 1662 |
| Natural Area | PENRITH | 649 |
| Tempe House & St Magdalene's Chapel | BAYSIDE | 725 |
| Penshurst Reservoirs | GEORGES RIVER | 1330 |
| Bourke Street Congregational Church & School (Former) | SYDNEY | 382 |
| Sewer Vent | SYDNEY | 1642 |
| Ozanam House | SYDNEY | 701 |
| Mining Museum (former) | SYDNEY | 1555 |
| Claremont Cottage | HAWKESBURY | 738 |
| Sir Joseph Banks Hotel (former) | BAYSIDE | 76 |
| Earlwood Aboriginal Art Site | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN | 1801 |
| Rozelle Hospital – Broughton Hall | INNER WEST | 831 |
| Lyndhurst | SYDNEY | 158 |
| Bank of NSW | SYDNEY | 80 |
| Metcalfe Bond Stores | SYDNEY | 1562 |
| State Theatre | SYDNEY | 446 |
| Argyle Stores | SYDNEY | 1524 |
| Walsh Bay Wharves Precinct | SYDNEY | 559 |
| White's Creek Aqueduct | INNER WEST | 1354 |
| ES & AC Bank (former) – Amo Roma Restaurant | SYDNEY | 1544 |
| Stevens Terrace | SYDNEY | 862 |
| View Terrace N & W Facades | SYDNEY | 1614 |
| Dredges Cottage | CAMPBELLTOWN | 640 |
| Fairfield Railway Station group | FAIRFIELD | 1143 |
| Dunara | WOOLLAHRA | 539 |

| Item | LGA | Listing # |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 895 |
| Stone Cottage & Wall | SYDNEY | 840 |
| Linnwood | CUMBERLAND | 1661 |
| Mount St Mary Campus of the Australian Catholic University | STRATHFIELD | 1965 |
| Ford 21W Fire Brigade | PENRITH | 1900 |
| Substation | WOOLLAHRA | 939 |
| Macarthur House | CITY OF PARRAMATTA | 50 |
| St Peters Anglican Church Group | HAWKESBURY | 2028 |
| Sewage Pumping Station 271 | INNER WEST | 1342 |
| Hooper Cottage | RANDWICK | 87 |
| Chinese Garden of Friendship | SYDNEY | 2017 |
| Warragamba Emergency Scheme | WOLLONDILLY | 1376 |
| Everglades | BLUE MOUNTAINS | 1498 |
| Randwick Post Office (former) and Jubilee Fountain | RANDWICK | 1409 |
| Terraces | SYDNEY | 1607 |
| Macquarie Place Precinct | SYDNEY | 1759 |
| Sydney Downing Centre | SYDNEY | 393 |
| Wilberforce Cemetery | HAWKESBURY | 1837 |
| Ebenezer Church (Uniting), Old Schoolhouse, Cemetery & Tree | HAWKESBURY | 138 |
| Centennial Park Reservoir WS001 | RANDWICK | 1320 |
| Christ Church St Laurence Anglican Church and Pipe Organ | SYDNEY | 123 |
| Terrace | SYDNEY | 1603 |
| Mariners' Church | SYDNEY | 1559 |
| Millers Point Conservation Area | SYDNEY | 884 |
| Building | SYDNEY | 855 |

Appendix B

High cultural value Aboriginal sites

B1 Analysis of Aboriginal sites of potential sensitive cultural value and proximity to proposed flight paths

As noted in Section 4.1.6 there are many thousands of Aboriginal sites recorded within the airspace study area. Those sites considered to be potentially vulnerable to impact from overhead flight paths were considered to be rock art sites both painting in shelters and engravings on natural sandstone platforms, stone arrangements and other ceremonial sites, spiritual/mythological sites, burials and massacre sites. Table B.1 is the subset of these sites that occur under a proposed flight path or within 500 m of one. This information is not restricted as no confidential data is shared and the maps are not at a scale that would allow the sites to be relocated. The maps were produced at a much large scale (A1) for use in the interviews with knowledge holders they are reproduced here to provide indicative locations.

Table B.1 Aboriginal sites of high Aboriginal cultural value

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|--|---|--|--------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|--|
| The Three Sisters and The Gully at Katoomba (AP) | Spiritual, Dreaming | N \geq 5 km south of Runway 5 departures | | N | | N | | N | | Aircraft will be at greater than 10,000 ft MSL with a frequency of less than 10 flights per day. Noise will be 50–55 dBA. Given the significant view shed the visual impact on the cultural landscape will be low- moderate. |
| Emu Cave (AP) (the cave is AHIMS#45-4-0018) | Spiritual, Dreaming, rock painting | Y Runway 5 departures | | | | N but <1 km west of departures | | N <500m west of departures | | Directly overflown. >10,000 ft MSL Under 60 dBA Frequency less than 10 flights per day by 2055. Impact low to moderate |
| Kings Tableland near Wentworth Falls (AP) | Engravings, shelter with art, grinding grooves. Camping and meeting place | N \geq 5 km south Runway 5 departures | | N | | N | | N | | Aircraft will be visible but at altitude of >10,000 ft MSL. Noise 50–55 dBA and less than 10 flights per day by 2055. Impact negligible to low |
| Emu engraving at Falconbridge AHIMS 45-5-4910 | Engraving, spiritual | N but < 2 km | | | | | | | | Aircraft will be <2 km away and at an altitude of 6,000–8,000 ft MSL. Noise will be 60–65 dBA and <10 flights per day by 2055. Impact low–moderate |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Red Hands Cave (AP) | Ceremonial, story place | N | | N ~ 2 km north of arrivals | | N | | N | | Altitude of aircraft will be 5,500–6,500 ft MSL and noise 60–65 dBA. Frequency of flights is less than 10 flights per day by 2055. Impact low |
| Euroka near Glenbrook (AP) | Archaeological sites, contemporary use, reconnection, camping, spiritual site | N | | Y | | Y | | N | | Aircraft will be 5,500–6,500 ft with less than 10 flights per day by 2055 Noise level 60–65 dBA. Given the spiritual nature of the place and burial and contemporary community use – impact moderate. |
| Shaws Creek (AP), (in Yellomundee Regional Park) Includes art sites 45-5-0054 and 45-5-0053 | Cultural gatherings/archaeological sites (artefacts, fish trap, rock engravings); natural beauty; resource gathering past and contemporary; bush school-intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge | Y Runway 5 Day departures | | N | | Y | | Y | | Directly overflown aircraft will be at 6,000–8,000 ft MSL with 10–20 flights per day by 2055. Noise 60–65 dBA Impact significant |
| Yengo near Wollombi | Spiritual, Dreaming | N Outside the airspace study area | N Outside the airspace study area | N Outside the airspace study area | N Outside the airspace study area | N Outside the airspace study area | N Outside the airspace study area | N Outside the airspace study area | N Outside the airspace study area | No impact. The Mountain is not overflown. |
| Upper Kedumba River Valley (AP) | Pre 1788 meeting and camping place Gundungurra settlement from 1894 until 1957 | N > 3 km south of Runway 5 Day departures | | | | N | | N | | Low impact |
| Bents Basin (SCA) | Spiritual, Dreaming/contemporary teaching. Meeting/trading place of the Gundungurra, Tharawal and Dharug people. Also known as Gulguer (meaning whirlpool or spinning), Bents Basin is associated with Gurungadge or Gurungaty a dangerous aquatic creature. Bents Basin and the adjoining Gulguer Aboriginal rock art and artefact sites | N | | N | | Y | | Y | | 2,500–3,500 ft MSL Noise 80–85 dBA Frequency >200 Mvts @N60 by 2055 Severe impact |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Thirlmere Lakes/Couridjah | 5 freshwater lakes, which are thought to be around 15 million years old Meeting place between Tharawal and Gundungurra | Outside the airspace study area | Outside the airspace study area | Outside the airspace study area | Outside the airspace study area | Outside the airspace study area | Outside the airspace study area | Outside the airspace study area | Outside the airspace study area | No impact |
| Mermaid pools (Tahmoor Gorge) | Spiritual/dangerous | N | N but <5 km | N but <5 km | | N | | N | | >10,000 MSL Under 60 dBA <10 mvts@N60 Negligible to Low |
| 45-2-0004 | Rock Shelter with art | N | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | |
| 45-2-0033 | Rock Shelter with art | N | Y | Y | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-2-0099 | Rock Shelter with art | N | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | |
| 45-2-0182 | Rock Shelter with art | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-2-0184 | Rock Shelter with art | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-2-0198 | Rock Engraving | N | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-2-2596 | Rock art or engraving | N | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | |
| 45-4-0001 | Rock Shelter with art | | Y | | | | | | | |
| 45-4-0018 | Rock engraving, shelter with deposit | Y (dep non-jet) | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | |
| 45-4-0045 | Rock Shelter with art | N | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | Y | |
| 45-4-0046 | Axe grinding groove, rock engraving | N | N | Y | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-0054 | Rock Shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y | |
| 45-4-0057 | Rock art | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-0069 | Rock art | N | N | Y | N | N | N | N | Y | |
| 45-4-0076 | Axe Grinding Groove, Shelter with Art, Deposit | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-0078 | Rock Shelter with art | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | – | Y – departures | – | |
| 45-4-0079 | Rock Shelter with art | Y – departures | | N | N | Y – departures | | Y – departures | | |
| 45-4-0080 | Rock art | Y – departures | – | N | - | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-4-0094 | Rock art | N | Y | Y – arrivals | | Y – departures | | Y – departures | | |
| 45-4-0097 | Rock Shelter with art | N | | Y – departures | | | | | | |
| 45-4-0135 | Rock Shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0146 | Rock Engraving | N | Y – departures | | | | | | | |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|---|--------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| 45-4-0199 | Rock Shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0215 | Rock Engraving | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0216 | Rock Engraving | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0217 | Stone arrangement | N | - | Y – arrivals | - | Y – departures | - | Y | - | |
| 45-4-0218 | Stone arrangement | | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0220 | Rock Shelter with art, deposit | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0222 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-4-0223 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-4-0224 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-4-0225 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0230 | Stone arrangements | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0236 | Stone arrangements | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0238 | Axe Grinding Groove, Rock Engraving | N | Y – departures | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-0239 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-0239 | | | | Y – arrivals | | | | | | |
| 45-4-0244 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0905 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | Y – departures | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | Y – non jet | y | - | |
| 45-4-0907 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | Y – arrivals | - | Y – departures | Y – non jet | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-4-0909 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | Y – arrivals | - | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-4-0913 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | Y – departures | N | Y – arrivals | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | |
| 45-4-0956 | Rock art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-0963 | Rock art | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | Y | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-1004 | Rock art | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-1005 | Rock art | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-1006 | Rock art | | Y – departures | | | | Y – departures | | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-1007 | Rock art | Y – departures | - | N | N | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-4-1008 | Rock Art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | |
| 45-4-1009 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|--|--------------|--|----------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| 45-4-1014 | Rock art | Y – departures | - | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1016 | Rock art | Y – departures | - | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1017 | Rock art | Y – departures | - | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | | |
| 45-4-1018 | Rock art | Y – departures | - | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1019 | Rock art | Y – departures | - | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1020 | Rock art | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1021 | Rock art | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1022 | Rock art | Y – departures | - | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1023 | Rock art | N | Y – departures | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1024 | Rock art | Y – departures | Y – arrivals | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1025 | Rock art | N | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | |
| 45-4-1053 | Rock art | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | |
| 45-4-1085 | Stone arrangement | N | Y – departures | N | N | No | Y – departures | No | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-1145 | Rock Art | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-4-1146 | Rock Art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-1147 | Rock Art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-1151 | Rock art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-4-1155 | Rock art | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | |
| 45-5-0002 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0003 | Axe Grinding Groove, Rock Engraving | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0008 | Rock Engraving | N | N | Y – arrivals additional | Y – arrivals | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-5-0009 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-5-0011 | Rock Art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-5-0012 | Rock art | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-5-0013 | Axe Grinding Groove, Rock Engraving | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures within 50 m | |
| 45-5-0025 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| 45-5-0026 | Rock art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – arrivals |
| 45-5-0051 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0053 | Rock engraving | Y – departures | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0054 | Rock engraving, shelter with deposit | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0059 | Rock shelter with art and deposit | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | Y – arrivals | - | - |
| 45-5-0060 | Rock shelter with art and deposit | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | Y – arrivals | - | + |
| 45-5-0063 | Rock Engraving | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0064 | Rock Engraving | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0066 | Rock art | N | Y – departures and departures (non-Jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | N- |
| 45-5-0072 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | Y – arrivals (additional) | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | Y – departures |
| 45-5-0077 | Rock art | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures |
| 45-5-0080 | Engraving | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0085 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – arrivals Y – departures | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | Y – departures |
| 45-5-0086 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – arrivals Y – departures | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | Y – departures |
| 45-5-0087 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0088 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0091 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departure (Non-jet) | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0092 | Stone arrangements | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | No | Y – departures | Y – departures |
| 45-5-0109 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0117 | Stone arrangement | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0118 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0120 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| 45-5-0131 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| 45-5-0139 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0140 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0150 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0161 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0162 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0163 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0165 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0166 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0169 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0170 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0174 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-00175 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-00177 | Rock shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-00179 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0188 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | |
| 45-5-0191 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | Y – arrivals | | | | | | | | |
| 45-5-0192 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | Y – arrivals | - | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-5-0193 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | Y – arrivals | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0197 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0199 | Axe grinding groove, campsite, rock engraving | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0204 | Rock engraving | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0205 | Rock art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-5-0250 | Rock Engraving | N | Y – departures | N | Y-Arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0295 | Rock Shelter with art | N | N | N | Y-Arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0341 | Stone arrangement | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-5-0597 | Rock Shelter with art | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-0846 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 45-5-0847 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – arrivals | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-5-0978 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | Y – arrivals | - | Y – arrivals | - | Y-Departures | Y – departures (non-jet) | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-5-2049 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | Y – arrivals | - | |
| 45-5-2052 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – arrivals (additional) | Y – arrivals | |
| 45-5-2055 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | Y – arrivals | - | |
| 45-5-2271 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – departures (non-Jet) | N | Y-Arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-2272 | Rock engraving | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-5-2273 | Rock Engraving | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | Y-Departures | - | |
| 45-5-2274 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | Y - Departures | - | |
| 45-5-2311 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – arrivals Y – departures | Y – arrivals | - | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures (within 50 m) | |
| 45-5-2318 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | Y – departures | Y – arrivals | Y – arrivals | - | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | |
| 45-5-2331 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | |
| 45-5-2420 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-2422 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-2466 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | | Y – departures (non-jet) | | | | | | | |
| 45-5-2485 | Rock shelter with art | Y – departures (non-jet) | - | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-5-2492 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | |
| 45-5-3171 | Rock Art | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-3207 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | Y – departures | | |
| 45-5-3627 | Rock art | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 45-5-3958 | Rock art | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-3959 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-3983 | Rock art | | | Y – departures | | | | | | |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-----------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| 45-5-4910 | Rock art – Emu Engraving Faulconbridge | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 45-5-5220 | Rock Art | N | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | |
| 45-6-2412 | Rock Engraving | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | Y – departures | N | - |
| 52-1-0017 | Burial/s, Carved tree | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-1-0019 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 52-1-0020 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 52-1-0039 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-1-0040 | Axe Grinding Groove, Shelter with Art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-1-0042 | Burial/s, Carved tree | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-1-0077 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-1-0080 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-1-0081 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-1-0087 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-1-0164 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-1-0165 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | Y – arrivals | Y – arrivals | N | N | Y – departures | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-1-0179 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0042 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-0045 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-0046 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-0211 | Rock engraving | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-0212 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-0303 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0312 | Rock engraving | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0313 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0314 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | Y – departures | - | |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|----------------|--|--------------|--|----------------|--|
| 52-2-0348 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0349 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0350 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0351 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0472 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | | |
| 52-2-0561 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0597 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0781 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0784 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0785 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0787 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 52-2-0789 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0790 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0791 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0793 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0794 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – departures | - | - | - | Y – departures | - | |
| 52-2-0795 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-0797 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | Y – departures | - | |
| 52-2-0965 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1337 | Rock shelter with art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1341 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1342 | Rock Engraving | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1344 | Axe Grinding Groove, Rock Engraving | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1347 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | Y-Arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1389 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-1398 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1399 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1429 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | N | |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| 52-2-1432 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1500 | Rock Engraving, Water Hole/Well | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1501 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1502 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1505 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1509 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1553 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1554 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1560 | Rock art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1690 | Rock shelter with art, deposit | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | Y – departures | - | N | N | |
| 52-2-1696 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1698 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-1700 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | Y – departures | N | N | |
| 52-2-2292 | Rock art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-2696 | Rock art | N | | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-2725 | Rock art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-2757 | Rock art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-2932 | Rock art | N | N | Y – arrivals | - | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-2933 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-2949 | Rock art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-3065 | Rock art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-3180 | Rock art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-3186 | Rock art | N | Y – departures (non-jet) | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-3716 | Rock art | N | N | Y – departures | - | N | N | N | Y – departures | |

| Place | Cultural value | Under the flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under the flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 5 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Day departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Under flight path Night departures and arrivals Runway 23 Y/N | Within 500 m | Estimated height of aircraft when passing overhead |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|--------------|--|----------------|--|--------------|--|----------------|--|
| 52-2-4055 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-4056 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-4062 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-4172 | Rock art | N | N | | Y – departures | N | N | N | Y – departures | |
| 52-2-4697 | Rock art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 52-2-4698 | Rock shelter with art | N | N | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |
| 5-4-0959 | Rock shelter with art | Y – departures | - | N | Y – arrivals | N | N | N | N | |

Appendix C

Blue Mountains Ceremonial Pathway

(prepared by 500 Voices)



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Ceremonial pathway

Many east coast peoples live on sandstone country. Compared to basalt or granite, sandstone is relatively soft and easy to carve. This factor allowed the Dharug people to engrave patterns and figures into the sandstone. The resulting rock art or petroglyphs describe many sacred stories, compose many teaching sites and specifically hold key knowledge relied upon in the preparation of young men and boys for initiation. Some sites are chosen for their location mirroring stars in astronomical constellations and some locations are chosen as part of a ceremonial procession or pathway.

The Dharug people had composed a ceremonial pathway along which the initiates were walked. As they traversed the ceremonial pathway the initiates had to overcome certain challenges and visit teaching sites and ceremonial sites. One such ceremonial pathway starts at the meeting of the Hawkesbury/Nepean River and the Grose River at Grose Vale. The boys walked to a kangaroo site near Shaw's creek at Yarramundi for their first ceremony. The women cried as they surrendered their sons to men's ceremony. At the completion of the ceremony the boys were led away by the old men. And so, they started their ceremonial journey into manhood.

The ceremonial pathway heads up through valleys and ridges toward Springwood to Falcounbridge where they were taught at an emu/kangaroo site. They proceeded through to King's cave at Linden, to Linden ridge and then on to a teaching site at Lawson, then Bullaburra and up to Wentworth Falls where they received more teaching and entered another initiation ceremony. Ultimately, they walked on through Katoomba, Blackheath, Mt Victoria, across the Darling causeway to Bell's line of road via the Emu Cave, Mt Tomah, for yet another ceremony, and back down toward Grose Vale, to the junction of the rivers where their final ceremony was held. They completed their ceremonial walk and were introduced to the tribe as men. After this, the newly initiated men lived in the men's camp and learned men's lore and hunted with the men. They only returned to the family camp when they were given a wife.

In brief, the ceremonial pathway starts at Grose Vale proceeds along Hawkesbury Road up to Springwood, then allowing for excursions to sites along the way, the pathway follows the great western highway to Mt Victoria. Then traverses the Darling causeway and heads east along the Bell's line of road, diverting through Grose Wald and finishes at the junction of the rivers at Grose Vale.

The ceremonial pathway is important to Dharug people and Dharug men and boys in particular. Despite the fact that we no longer take our boys on a long ceremonial walk as part of their initiation, we do still take all initiates to the sites along that pathway and still use the lessons encapsulated at each site to share the lessons of manhood and lore. This makes the ceremonial pathway through the blue mountains incredibly important to our people.

Furthermore, as one of a number of men seeking to, not only use these sites as teaching sites but as part of our initiations we both keep these sites alive, and the sites keep our culture alive.

Key sites

There are many key sites along the pathway. However, not all of them can be identified. In some cases, important sites are lost or were destroyed. But in most cases, it's because these sites cannot be discussed without breaching the secret/sacred line. The following list is not exhaustive as it excludes a range of non-public ceremonial sites or places related the ceremonial practices. Nevertheless, there are enough sites listed to make a picture.

Sites:

Shaw's Creek kangaroo site

Emu/Kangaroo site at Falconbridge, behind Salvation Army Church.

Linden Ridge (Multiple sites)

King's cave (Linden)

Kangaroo street Lawson, (Kangaroo site)

Near Lawson Golf Course (scarred trees at Initiates camp site)

King's Tableland (multiple sites)

The Seven Sisters site Katoomba (wrongly named Three Sisters)

Narrow Neck, Ceremonial site

Mt Hay

Mt Banks

Dargan

Emu Cave

Mt Tomah

There are many sites along this pathway where the boys camped and could not stray. Some of these sites are still marked with carved trees. The location of these sites cannot be shared as they relate to ceremonial secrets. But they are on the pathway described, at or near the sites listed above.

Additionally, much of the mid mountains from Falconbridge to Lawson is considered ceremonial country.

Likewise, the area around Wentworth Falls, and the eagle site at King's tableland is considered men's country (line of site to Mt Yengo), as are sites at Katoomba (where the courthouse currently stands) and while the Seven Sisters site is not strictly a men's site it was an important site along the ceremonial pathway as the boys were taught many lessons about correct marriage, the proper treatment of women and what it was to be a good man. There are also key sites around Blackheath and Mt Victoria and along the causeway and Bell's line of road (Emu Cave etc). Boys were taught about the stages of life, about walk-about, about rights and responsibilities and about certain songlines that crossed the country to the west. Mt Wilson has both cave art and ceremonial sites. Mt Tomah has a line of site to Mt Yengo and was a men's ceremonial place. There were initiation ceremonies carried out where the botanical gardens are today.

The final ceremony along this pathway took place where their journey began at Grose Vale, at the joining of the Grose and Hawkesbury rivers.

Seasonal association:

Wrongly named, the Emu hunt, the carvings at Ticeshurst park in Falconbridge include a number of emus, one of which represents the emu in the sky. Its location along the ceremonial pathway is important as it forms the basis of teachings about the seasons, and the correct time to conduct men's ceremony. This site also has carvings of Baiami's footprints (mundoes), which are used to teach the initiates lessons about growth and responsibility. Importantly, this site indicates the correct season for men's ceremony.

Overview of concerns

Writing an overview of concerns related to the proposed flight paths and their impact on the ceremonial pathway is somewhat fraught because the most convincing points are on the far side of the secret/sacred line and therefore cannot be discussed. Nevertheless, in essence, Aboriginal lore is based on a set of principles that firstly recognises the connection between all things, between sacred sites and stars, constellations and ancestral beings, whose campfires can be seen in the sky at night. Even our spiritual practice and meditation relates to our connection to the stars.

Specifically, the sites at Yarramundi, Linden Ridge, Kangaroo Street Lawson, the Eagle site at King's tableland, the Seven Sisters, Narrow neck, Mt Hay, the Emu Cave and Mt Tomah all require unbroken connection to the stars above. These sites should not be flown over as that breaches the sacred connection between those sites and the spirits that relate to them in the sky.

I cannot stress the importance of respecting these sites and many others including Mt Yengo, Devil's rock Maroota and many sites around middle harbour and the Sydney basin. These sites are significant to our Aboriginal heritage, traditional culture and maintaining our spiritual connection to our ancestral traditions and also moving forward into the 21st century as culturally engaged Aboriginal people. Please respect our culture and plan flight paths that avoid flying over these sites.

Dr Shane Smithers

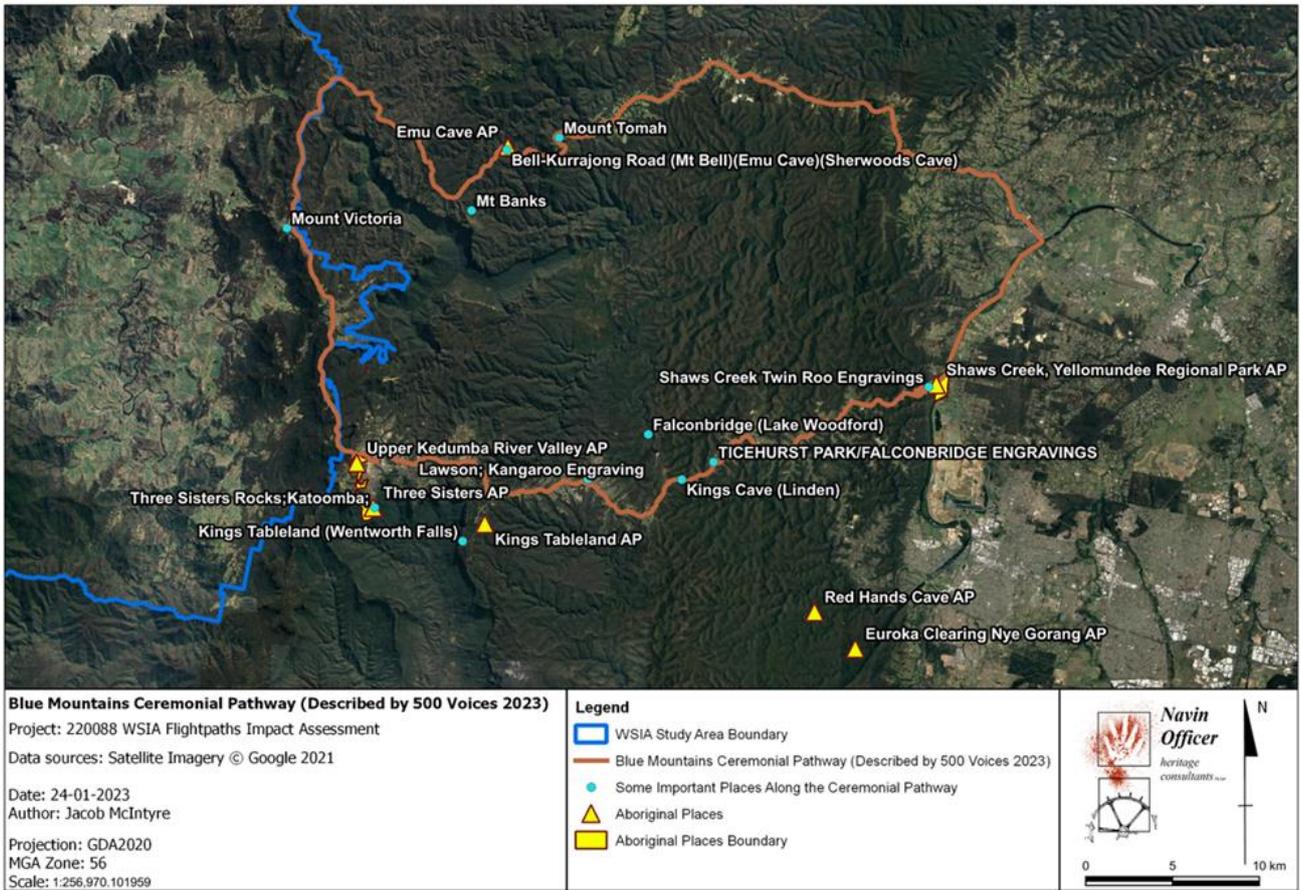


Figure C.1 An approximation of the ceremonial pathway described by Shane Smithers



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

