



INGLESIDE PRECINCT
Indigenous Heritage Assessment
Executive Summary

Prepared for Department of Planning and Environment,
Pittwater Council and UrbanGrowth NSW

Pittwater Local Government Area

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KELLEHER NIGHTINGALE CONSULTING PTY LTD
Archaeological and Heritage Management
ACN 120 187 671

Level 10, 25 Bligh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone 02 9232 5373
Fax 02 9223 0680

INGLESIDE PRECINCT: Indigenous Heritage Assessment

Summary of findings

1.1 Introduction

The Department of Planning and Environment, in partnership with Pittwater Council and UrbanGrowth NSW, commissioned an Indigenous Heritage Assessment of the Ingleside Precinct to identify and assess Aboriginal cultural heritage items and values within the precinct, in consultation with Stakeholder Aboriginal Communities, to be considered in planning for the future development of the area.

Aboriginal community consultation is a key factor in achieving this aim. Nine registered Aboriginal stakeholder groups and individuals participated throughout the assessment process. Stakeholder consultation is ongoing.

The Ingleside area has been identified as having Aboriginal cultural heritage values that are important to the local Aboriginal community as well as of interest to the broader community. A number of Aboriginal heritage sites have been recorded within and near the precinct, including in surrounding national parks, as a result of previous studies in and around Ingleside.

The adjacent Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, along with Lion, Long and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves, is a listed place on the National Heritage List. The listing recognises the natural heritage values of the place and notes the extensive evidence of past Aboriginal use and occupation of the place, mostly as shell middens along the foreshore but also rock engravings and paintings, grinding grooves, stone arrangements, burials and occupation sites.

Rock engravings are the most common recorded site type in the area, generally occurring on exposed sandstone platforms along ridge crests and slope contexts. Shelter sites also occur in the area. Natural shelter formations occur in Hawkesbury Sandstone where overhangs have formed on ridge slopes, or beneath large exposed rock outcrops in ridge crest contexts. Archaeological investigations have demonstrated that shelters were utilised for a variety of purposes. Remaining evidence of those activities might include stone artefacts, shell midden material, pigment art, stencils and engravings.

1.2 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and values in the precinct

Background research and targeted archaeological field survey has revealed 28 archaeological sites recorded in the precinct. Over 80% of these sites were rock engraving sites, with a smaller number of grinding groove sites and rock shelters with art and/or archaeological deposit. The precinct also contained two areas of overlap with the National Heritage Listed Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

Archaeological sensitivity of the precinct is strongly linked to geology. Aboriginal rock engravings, grinding grooves and rock shelter sites occur where there are suitable sandstone outcrops and overhangs. Open scatters of artefacts are less prevalent in sandstone geology, with no artefact scatters having been recorded in the precinct.

Engraving sites occur widely in Ingleside Precinct and the generally low levels of development have preserved some of the landscape connectivity between them. Several site contexts are further enhanced by the surrounding native vegetation and still extant views to the ocean or other prominent landscape features such as Sugarloaf Hill.



When considered both individually and as a body, the engraving sites display demonstrable value in their ability to express the Aboriginal cultural landscape still present within Ingleside Precinct. The Aboriginal cultural heritage and history of the region is displayed physically through these sites. The weathered condition of a number of engravings and the presence of graffiti or other minor damage does not detract from the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance expressed in these sites.

Two shelter sites occur in the Ingleside Precinct: a shelter with art and deposit and a shelter with midden. The shelters demonstrate a differing landscape use on the fringes of the main ridgeline than is expressed by the engraving sites or grinding grooves present in a similar environmental context. The shelter with art and deposit has been identified as having particular Aboriginal cultural heritage value. Existing graffiti and disturbance to the shelter is relatively minor and does not detract from its cultural heritage significance, with the art remaining in good condition.



Grinding groove sites also occur within the Ingleside Precinct. Grinding grooves can be isolated sites or found in association with recorded engraving sites. These features express the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the region by marking the actual places people worked in the past.

All Aboriginal sites within the Ingleside Precinct are significant and worthy of conservation. Rock marking sites (engravings, paintings and grinding grooves) are fixed points in the landscape and represent hard connections with the past. Conservation of as many Aboriginal sites as possible is a desirable outcome of the planning process. The spatially discrete nature of Aboriginal

archaeological sites which occur in the Ingleside Precinct have the ability to be conserved more readily within detailed development layouts given they usually have clearly defined boundaries.



1.3 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and draft Structure Plan

A review of the draft Structure Plan for the Ingleside Precinct in relation to these findings (see Figures 1 and 2) showed that:

- half of the recorded Aboriginal sites were situated within Land Proposed for Conservation (43% of sites) or Existing National Park Estate (7% of sites). These sites are conserved as part of the planning process.
- Eight sites (28%) were situated in potential future development areas including Low Density Residential (14%) and Medium Density Residential (14%). These sites may be able to be conserved through informed and sympathetic detailed design. The planning process should highlight these locations as worthy of conservation.
- Four sites (14%) were situated in the Mona Vale Road Upgrade Corridor (East and West). These sites are currently conserved within future road designs.
- One site (4%) was situated in Rural Lots in the north of the precinct. Informed and sympathetic development should be able to conserve this site.
- One site (4%) was situated inside the precinct boundary but outside the development area, in the existing golf course. Informed and sympathetic use of this location should be able to conserve this site.

The results of the Indigenous Heritage Assessment for the Ingleside Precinct can be used as a guide for future development in the area. It provides a baseline level of information to assist in development planning and due diligence assessment.

Aboriginal archaeological sites and objects are protected and regulated under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. It is recommended that development planning avoids impact to Aboriginal sites where possible. Further assessment and continued consultation with registered Aboriginal stakeholders would be required where proposed activities may harm Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places.