



Main Road, Boolaroo

Heritage Interpretation Plan

Lake Macquarie City Council

Prepared by Artefact Heritage and Environment

11 October 2024



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Artefact acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of our land, Australia.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people as the custodians of Pirrama (Pyrmont) where our offices are located. We pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders past and present. We extend our respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with whom we work.

When we travel to Country we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we walk.

We acknowledge the Awabakal people, the traditional owners and custodians of the lands and waters where this project was undertaken. We thank them for sustaining and caring for Country for millennia.

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Cultural warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this report contains the names and images of people who are deceased.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Lake Macquarie City Council (Council) is in the process of developing a Master Plan for Boolaroo. As part of this process Council has commissioned a Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) to establish a cohesive interpretive vision for Main Road that balances its historic significance with Boolaroo's evolution into a modern hub and growth centre for the city. Artefact Heritage and Environment (Artefact) has been engaged by Council to develop the HIP, identifying heritage interpretation opportunities within the streetscape. The project is shaped by community consultation and supported by funding from Heritage NSW under the Local Government Heritage Grants program.

The HIP focuses on Main Road, Boolaroo (Boolaroo Heritage Precinct or the Precinct) as defined in the Main Street Heritage Study (1997), which is centred around Main Road and delineated by Eighth Street and First Street at the southern and northern extents respectively. Boolaroo Precinct is located within the Lake Macquarie City Council Local Government Area (LGA) and falls within the boundaries of the Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council (Biraban LALC).

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 Heritage interpretation plan

A HIP is a tool that provides a targeted approach for delivering messages about the cultural heritage values of a place to users and other audiences. Utilising the relevant interpretive themes identified for the subject site, the HIP presents recommendations for a suite of interpretive media, potential content and broad design options, and potential locations for the site.

The HIP addresses both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage for Boolaroo in order to create a cohesive suite of interpretive recommendations.

As the HIP is a planning document, it does not include the final design of interpretive elements or final content.

1.2.2 Concept plan and sketches

A concept plan and concept designs have been developed for Main Road and included in this HIP to visually represent interpretive elements and their potential locations throughout the Precinct.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 Background research: existing studies and strategic plans

For the development of the HIP a background literature review was undertaken of existing studies and strategic plans relevant to heritage interpretation at the site and Lake Macquarie City. These have been summarised in Appendix B.

1.3.2 Site visit

A site visit was conducted 18 June 2024 by Senior Heritage Consultant Sabrina Roesner and Senior Associate Jennifer Castaldi from Artefact with Landscape Architect Coralie McPhie from Lake Macquarie City Council. The aim of this visit was to identify opportunities and constraints for the heritage setting of the precinct as well as potential locations for interpretive elements.

A summary of discussions, findings and outcomes from this site visit has been provided in 2.3.

1.3.3 Consultation with stakeholders

Artefact, in conjunction with Council’s Community Engagement team, conducted extensive consultation with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders. Two consultation sessions were hosted on 22 May 2024 to seek input on Aboriginal and historic heritage values for Boolaroo. This included a Walk on Country with Biraban LALC and a community workshop to develop a draft vision and values for the Precinct with Boolaroo residents and business owners. The outcomes from this consultation have been summarised in 4.3. Additionally, an online survey was hosted on Lake Macquarie City Council’s Shape Lake website, seeking community input on the draft vision and values for the Precinct. A community consultation outcomes report was also published to Shape Lake Mac. See Appendix A: Community consultation outcomes report.

1.4 Reference documents

1.4.1 Documents relevant to Boolaroo Precinct

- Boolaroo Heritage Study 1997
- Lake Macquarie Heritage Study 1993
- Lake Macquarie Aboriginal Heritage Management Study 2011
- Lake Macquarie Arts, Heritage and Culture Plan 2017
- Lake Macquarie Aboriginal Community Plan 2019
- Lake Macquarie Local Environment Plan 2014
- Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan 2014

¹ NSW Heritage, *Heritage Information Series: Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines*, 2005, <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Heritage/interpreting-heritage-places-and-items-guidelines.pdf>.

1.4.2 Documents relevant to interpretation planning

1.4.2.1 NSW Heritage Office, *Interpreting Heritage Places and Items, Policy and Guidelines*, 2005

The NSW Heritage Office, Heritage Interpretation Policy states that:

The interpretation of New South Wales’ heritage connects the communities of New South Wales with their heritage and is a means of protecting and sustaining heritage values. Heritage interpretation is an integral part of the conservation and management of heritage items, and is relevant to other aspects of environmental and cultural management and policy. Heritage interpretation incorporates and provides broad access to historical research and analysis. Heritage interpretation provides opportunities to stimulate ideas and debate about Australian life and values, and the meaning of our history, culture and the environment.¹

The NSW Heritage Office provides ‘The Ingredients for Best Practice’ as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Best practice principles²

Ingredient	Outline
1: Interpretation, people and culture	Respect for the special connections between people and items.
2: Heritage significance and site analysis	Understand the item and convey its significance.
3: Records and research	Use existing records of the item, research additional information, and make these publicly available (subject to security and cultural protocols).

² NSW Heritage, *Heritage Information Series: Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines*, 9-28.

Ingredient	Outline
4: Audiences	Explore, respect and respond to the identified audience.
5: Themes	Make reasoned choices about themes, stories and strategies.
6: Engaging the audience	Stimulate thought and dialogue, provoke response and enhance understanding.
7: Context	Research the physical, historical, spiritual and contemporary context of the item, including related items, and respect local amenity and culture.
8: Authenticity, ambience and sustainability	Develop interpretation methods and media which sustain the significance of the items, its character and authenticity.
9: Conservation planning and works	Integrate interpretation in conservation planning, and in all stages of a conservation project.
10: Maintenance, evaluation and review	Include interpretation in the ongoing management of an item; provide for regular maintenance, evaluation and review.
11: Skills and knowledge	Involve people with relevant skills, knowledge and experience.
12: Collaboration	Collaborate with organisations and the local community.

1.4.2.2 Australian ICOMOS, Burra Charter (2013) and Interpreting Practice Notes (2013)

The Burra Charter (2013) defines interpretation as ‘all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place’, which may be achieved through a combination of the treatment of heritage fabric, the use of the place, or activities undertaken at the place, and the introduction of material explaining this history (Article 1.17). Interpretation should provide and enhance understanding of the history, significance and meaning, as well as respect and be appropriate to the cultural significance of a place (Article 25).³

To aid in the development of effective interpretive material, Australia ICOMOS developed seven key principles to guide approaches to the interpretation of places:

- Facilitate understanding and appreciation
- Communicate
- Safeguard the tangible and intangible values
- Respect authenticity
- Contribute to sustainable conservation
- Encourage inclusiveness
- Develop technical and professional guidelines.

1.4.2.3 ICOMOS, Ename Charter

The ICOMOS Ename Charter for Interpretation of Cultural Heritage Sites recognises that interpretation and presentation are part of the overall process of cultural heritage conservation, this charter has established seven cardinal principles upon which interpretation should be based⁴:

³ Australia ICOMOS. *Burra Charter – The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*. 2013

⁴ International Council on Monuments and Sites, *Ename Charter: ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites*, 2008.

- Principle 1: Access and understanding
- Principle 2: Information sources
- Principle 3: Attention to setting and context
- Principle 4: Preservation of authenticity
- Principle 5: Planning for suitability
- Principle 6: Concern for inclusiveness
- Principle 7: Importance of research, training and evaluation.

1.5 Limitations and exclusions

As the HIP is a planning document, it does not include final content (final text, hi-res images, art/design concepts, etc.) or design of interpretive elements.

1.6 Authorship and acknowledgements

This HIP has been prepared by Artefact Senior Heritage Consultant Sabrina Roesner, Heritage Consultant Katherine Chalmers and Senior Associate Jennifer Castaldi, with input and review by Principal, Carolyn MacLulich.

This HIP has been prepared with the assistance of the following Council staff: Senior Strategic Land Use Planner Amber Vergot, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead Amelia Parrott and Landscape Architect Coralie McPhie. Their assistance during the development of the HIP was greatly appreciated.

Artefact has worked in collaboration with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stakeholders and community members to produce this report and would like to thank all participants for their generosity in sharing their knowledge for this project.

2. SITE CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

This section provides the broader geographical and social context of Boolaroo and a summary of the heritage character of the Precinct.

2.2 Site location and setting

2.2.1 Lake Macquarie City Council

Main Road, Boolaroo, falls within the Lake Macquarie LGA. The LGA is centred around Lake Macquarie, and is bound by the Tasman Sea to the east, Central Coast LGA to the south, Cessnock LGA to the west and Newcastle LGA to the north. As of the most recent census in 2021, the population of the Lake Macquarie LGA was 213,845. 5.5 per cent of the population identifies as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and the remaining population identify as having English, Australian, Scottish or Irish decent. 58.3 per cent of the population live in family homes with one or more parents.⁵

The shire of Lake Macquarie was proclaimed on 16 May 1906, then was proclaimed as a municipality on 1 January 1977 and finally became as city on 7 September 1984.⁶ The city is about 648km² with Lake Macquarie occupying a significant portion of the LGA with a circumference of 174km. The LGA has 34km of coastline and 13 forests that make up the Watagan mountains.⁷

⁵ Australia Bureau of Statistics, 2021. 'Lake Macquarie', accessed via <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA14650>

⁶ Lake Macquarie City, n.d. 'Our History', accessed via <https://www.lakemac.com.au/Our-Council/About-us/Our-history>

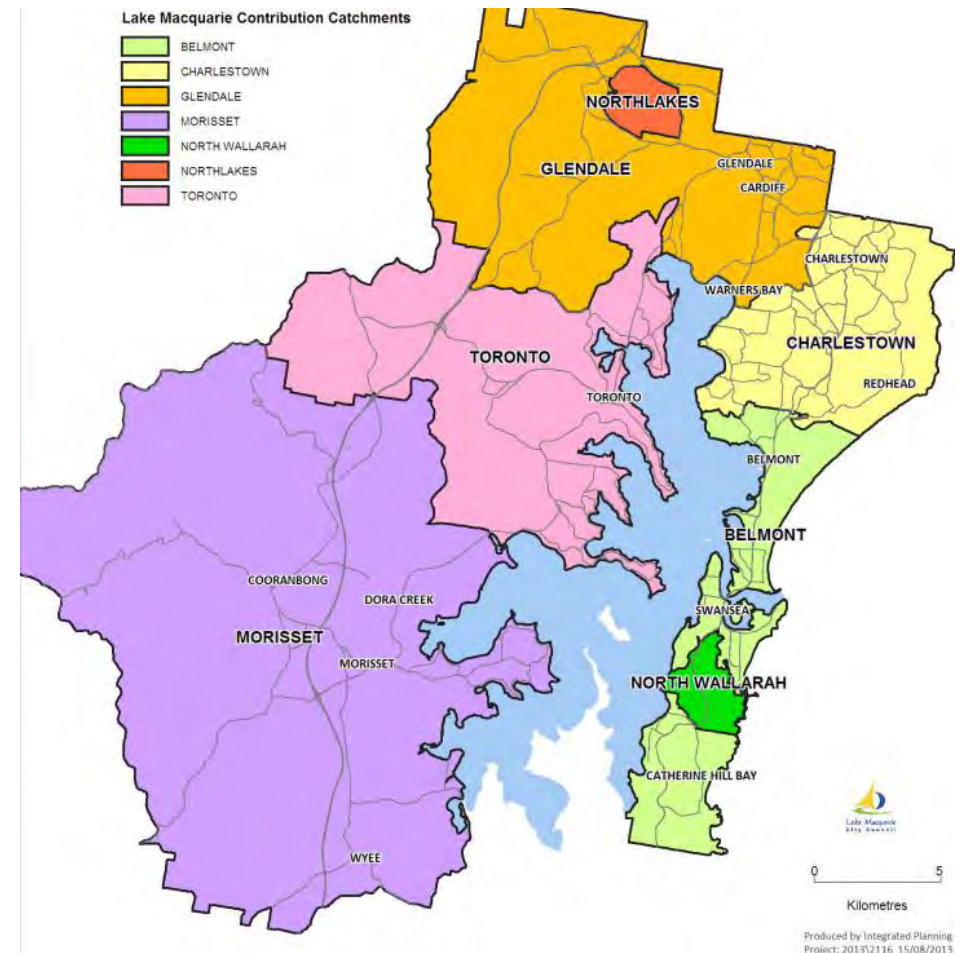


Figure 1: Lake Macquarie City contribution catchment map (Source: Lake Macquarie City Council)

⁷ Lake Macquarie City, n.d. 'City by numbers,' accessed via <https://www.lakemac.com.au/Our-Council/About-us/City-by-numbers>

2.2.2 North West Catalyst Area

The North West Catalyst Area has been identified as the Council as an area that offers the opportunity for urban renewal within eight precincts, one of which in the Boolaroo-Speers Point Precinct, to assist the realisation of targets outlined in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036. It is anticipated that the North West Catalyst Area will generate at least 6000 new jobs, 4000 new homes and \$1.8 billion in economic benefit to NSW.

The North West Catalyst Area Place Strategy envisions Boolaroo-Speers Point Precinct as a destination for recreation, culture and lifestyle, centred around Speers Point Park. The vision is to create a highly accessible and walkable community, with large open spaces, sports and cultural facilities, and an efficient transport network. The development in this area in accordance with the place strategy seeks to mix the heritage of the area with modern development, while offering a wide variety of residential dwellings.⁸



Figure 2: North West Catalyst Area. (Source: Lake Macquarie City Council)

⁸ Lake Macquarie City, 2024, 'North West Catalyst Area precincts', accessed via <https://www.lakemac.com.au/Projects/North-West-Catalyst-Area>

2.2.3 Boolaroo heritage precinct

Boolaroo is laid out in a rough grid with Main Road acting as the central north south axis. Boolaroo Heritage Precinct, as defined in the Boolaroo Main Street Heritage Study 1997 stretches along Main Road between First and Eighth streets, with these boundaries selected to encapsulate what was considered to be the early layout of the town. During the initial development of the town in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the town centre was condensed, but as more people moved to this area, the commercial precinct spread along Main Road between First and Seventh Street.



Figure 3: View along Main Road, Boolaroo, showing shop awnings, footpaths and road (Source: Artefact 2024)

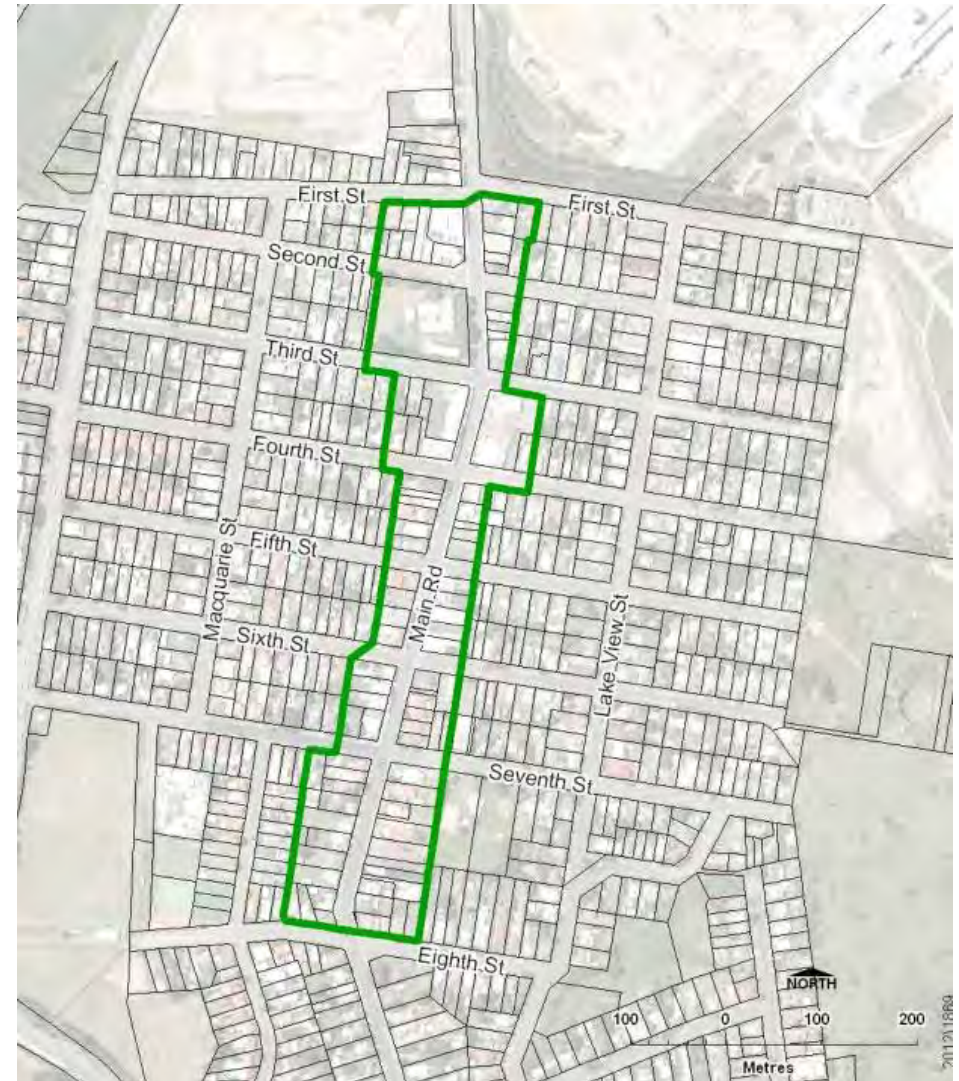


Figure 4: Current Boolaroo Heritage Precinct boundary

2.2.4 Heritage and built character

The heritage buildings along Main Road are dominated by four architectural periods:

1. Federation: The oldest surviving buildings are Federation buildings dating to the turn of the twentieth century. This style of structure is predominantly timber, with austere parapeted frontages that feature little ornamentation.
 2. Inter-war: The majority of Inter-war buildings in the precinct are public brick buildings as well as the majority of housing that front Main Road.
 3. Post war: Several commercial and religious buildings in Boolaroo date from the post war decades of the 1940s-1950s. These buildings tend to have simple designs with minimal ornamentation.
 4. Late twentieth century: Main Road features buildings built after the 1960s. They are predominantly face brick, some of which are considered intrusive to the heritage streetscape.⁹
- the former Pasminco smelter
 - Cockle Creek
 - Mount Sugarloaf
 - the former Sulphide Hotel
 - the former tram route along Main Road
 - Munibung Hill.

2.2.5 Precinct boundary relevance

The current boundary of Boolaroo Heritage Precinct as shown in the Boolaroo Main Street Heritage Study 1997 has been assessed as relevant. However, the boundary line as shown in Figure 5, where Eighth Street and Main Road intersect, sits outside of Boolaroo. Therefore, it is recommended to reduce the Precinct boundary line to the intersection of Seventh Street and Main Street, see Figure 5. Additionally, there are sites located outside the Precinct boundary that should be linked to, and referenced in, interpretive elements outlined in the Heritage Interpretation Plan. These include:

⁹ Suters Architects, 1997, *Boolaroo Main Street Heritage Study*, 3.

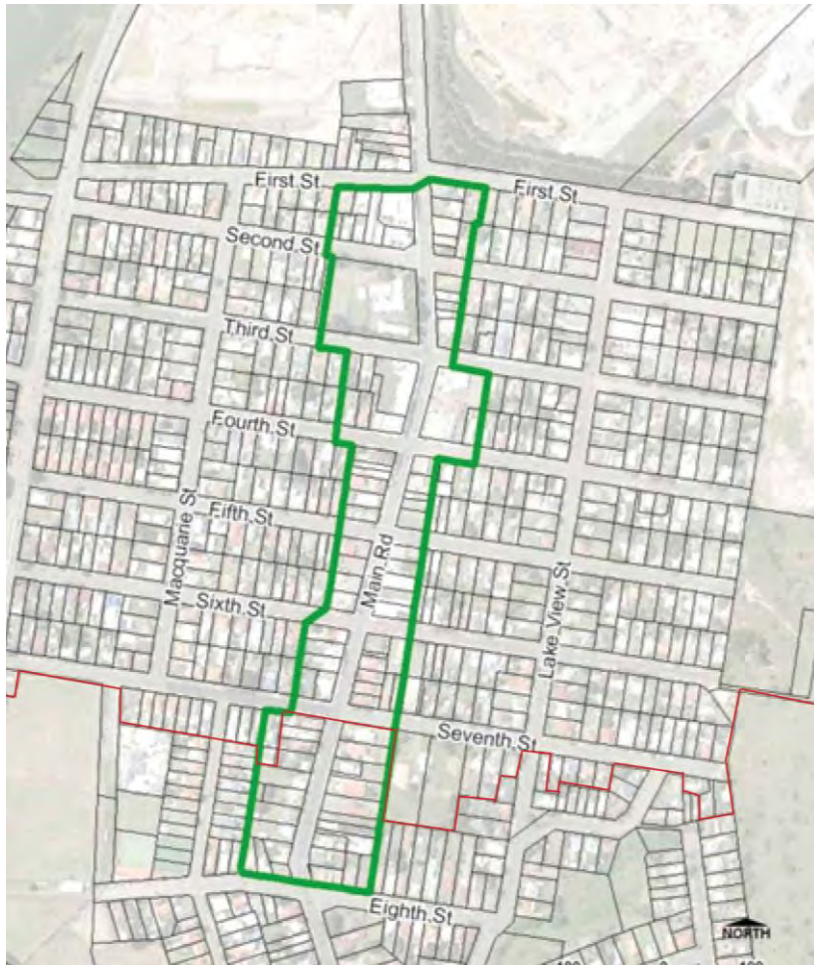


Figure 5: Current Boolaroo Precinct boundary (green outline) as shown in Boolaroo Main Street Heritage Study 1997 overlaid with Boolaroo suburb boundary (red outline).

2.3 Site visit

A site visit was conducted on 18 June 2024 by Senior Heritage Consultant Sabrina Roesner and Senior Associate Jennifer Castaldi from Artefact with Council's Landscape Architect Coralie McPhie.

A summary of findings and discussion on opportunities and constraints for Main Road are provided in the following section.

2.3.1 Summary of key findings and discussion

2.3.1.1 Opportunities and constraints

Opportunities

- Views along Main Road are no longer dominated by the former Pasminco smelter (demolished), and views of the landscape can be enhanced.
- The location of Albert Reserve is advantageous to achieving long, sweeping views west to the mountains and waterways nearby.
- Albert Reserve offers a quiet, elevated place with potential to design spaces for formal and informal meetings. It has an amenities block, which is in fair condition but could be upgraded in the future to be accessible.
- The creation of points of connection along Main Road, and to areas beyond, would allow for the articulation of significant stories associated with the eagle Biraban, the Serpent of Cockle Creek, and the platypus, as well as plants used for weaving, which were once abundant in the area.
- Restoration and conservation of historic building facades and signage to articulate the historical streetscape.

- Development of the vacant land on the corner of Main Road and Second Street as an open space to hold community events.
- Improved streetscape design including: potential footpath widening, new plantings, street furniture and planter boxes.
- Improved accessibility to shops and restaurants from the street.
- Improved accessibility to public open spaces and public facilities.
- Expansion of the boundary of the heritage precinct to include the Boolaroo Bowling Club.

Constraints

- Views along Main Road may be affected by future development depending on planning regulations of surrounding areas.
- Albert Reserve would require considerable redesign to accommodate the establishment of new meeting places.
- Cost involved for private owners in restoration of historic facades.
- Street improvements, including footpath widening and increased planting, affected by traffic engineering regulations.
- Accessibility improvements require significant redesign and reconstruction of paths and ramps.
- Cost to upgrade public facilities.

The above-mentioned opportunities and constraints have been considered in the selection of possible interpretive elements. Further investigations are required to determine appropriate treatment of streetscape and public domain elements as part of a future Masterplan for Boolaroo.



Figure 6: Lake Cinema, Boolaroo (Source Artefact, 2024)



Figure 7: Motor garage. (Source: Artefact, 2024)



Figure 8: Commercial Hotel, heritage-listed building on Lake Macquarie LEP. (Source: Artefact, 2024)



Figure 10: Former post office, heritage-listed building on Lake Macquarie LEP. (Source: Artefact, 2024)



Figure 9: Albert Reserve. (Source: Artefact, 2024)



Figure 11: Former butcher's shop, 18 Main Road. (Source: Artefact, 2024)

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

This section provides a summary of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal histories of Boolaroo.

3.1 Aboriginal history

3.1.1 Awabakal Country

Before the Europeans arrived, the land and waters around present-day Newcastle were called *Mulubinba* – meaning ‘place of sea ferns’ in the Awabakal language. Awabakal Country traditionally stretched from Lake Macquarie to Newcastle, and parts of the lower Hunter Valley region. The Awaba people on the south side of the Hunter River had close connections with the Worimi, whose lands extended north from Stockton to Port Stephens, and also with the Wonnarua in the Hunter Valley and Darkinjung on the Central Coast.¹⁰

An important historical source on traditional Aboriginal life are the diaries and works of the Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld who opened a Christian mission for Aboriginal people near Newcastle in 1826. Over a period of 21 years, Threlkeld recorded the language and some Dreaming stories of the Awabakal people with the guidance of Birabaan (Biraban), a man of some standing who became a translator, interpreter, and intermediary for Threlkeld and other colonists.¹¹

¹⁰ University of Newcastle Special Collections, 2013. “The many names of Newcastle – Mulubinba.” There is one reference to the people of Newcastle being known as the Mulubinba (Moolabinda), rather than the place. J F Mann who arrived at Brisbane Water in 1842 recalled that the ‘the New-castle, or “Moolabinda” tribe’ was ‘at enmity’ with the coastal Darkinjung (or Wannungine) around Brisbane Water. However European observers were renowned for mistaking or conflating place and people. J F Mann, ‘Brisbane Water 95 Years Ago. Quaint Story of Olden Times’, *Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate* 29 October 1936, p. 9

¹¹ Threlkeld did not use the term ‘Awabakal’ to describe the people he worked with or their language that he documented; the term is thought to have derived from the works of a later linguist, adapting the Aboriginal name for Lake Macquarie – Awaba. Biraban was born around

The mouth of the Hunter River or *Maiyaa* (which means ‘snake’ in the Awabakal language), and its surrounding beaches, woodlands and waterways provided a rich array of resources for the Awabakal and their neighbours. In the surrounding open forests fire-stick farming was practiced to keep terrain clear and encourage animals and plant regrowth. Men hunted larger animals such as kangaroos, wallaby and emus, while women and children hunted smaller animals and collected fruits, berries and medicinal plants. The giant lily and wild yams were important staples. Tall, open forests of river and swamp oak, broad leaved paperbarks and the occasional cabbage tree palm surrounded the area. The cabbage tree’s fibres were used to make fishing line and nets, and its broad leaves used for roof thatching. Varieties of banksia and tea tree, Sydney golden wattle and blady grass grew closer to the beachfront. All these were used by the Awabakal for food and medicine.¹²

Awabakal were saltwater people – their settlements were concentrated around *Maiyaa* and the coast. On the coast, people caught fish such as *parimankaan* (salmon) and *kirul* (mullet) and collected many types of shellfish including *munboonkaan* (oysters), pipis and mussels. Women dived for lobsters and fished using lines and nets, while men generally fished using *kalaara* (spears) made with sharpened stones or shellfish. Whales that stranded on the beach were an important feasting moment, and Threlkeld noted that, on these occasions, messengers were despatched to all the neighbouring tribes who gathered to partake in the feast.¹³

The Awabakal used *nauwai* (tied-bark canoes) to skilfully navigate rivers and fish in deeper coastal waters. Often made from the bark of the Stringybark tree, a stone axe was used to cut the shape of the canoe, and the bark

Lake Macquarie but grew up in Sydney after he was taken there when he was a boy to work as a servant. He returned to the Lake Macquarie / Newcastle area in 1833 where he was recognised a chief and took the name Biraban meaning ‘eagle hawk’. His fluency in English meant he was engaged for work as a translator, guide and constable. See Cary, 2010

¹² Miromaa Aboriginal Language & Technology Centre, 2020:12; AMBS 2005: 31.

¹³ AMBS 2005: 33

would be carefully prised from the tree, immersed in water and then passed over a hot fire to cure and shape it. Most canoes were generally around four to five metres long, and each end was bound with vine and plugged with clay or grass tree resin. A small fire was kept on a bed of clay in the canoe. Long poles were used, as well as paddles made of seasoned hardwood and shaped like a large spoon, generally used in a kneeling position from the middle of the canoe, with one in each hand. Anchors were made with vine ropes and large stones. Hundreds of shell middens found along the foreshores and catchments of the waterways and coast around Mulubinba attest to thousands of years of sustainable fishing practices and coastal life in the region.¹⁴

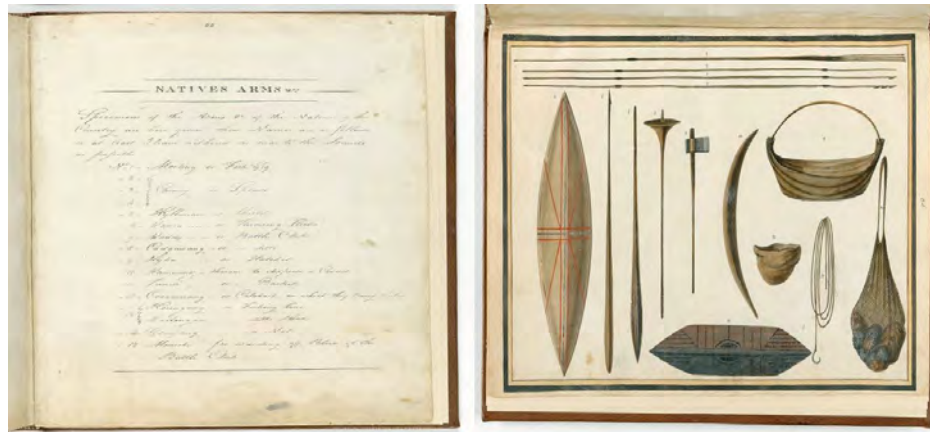


Figure 12: Native Arms' T. R. Browne, Newcastle N. S. W, 1813 (State Library NSW)

Sustaining these resources was critical and the Awabakal well understood this and moved through areas of their Country in regular cycles, in tune with seasonal conditions. This helped ensure they didn't hunt, fish or harvest an area too much so there would be food for the next season. They also had totem animals that were not hunted. For example, at Lake Macquarie, the men had 'great veneration' for the flying fox believing that "if a man were to

kill one purposely, he will also be killed." According to Threlkeld "they would not look at it nor speak its name." The women were unaffected by the flying fox, but had a similar relationship with a small bird like a woodpecker. Totems also had a bearing in kinship and marriage.¹⁵

Wooden weapons and utensils such as boomerangs, woomeras (spear-throwers) and digging sticks were made from trees such as wild myrtle. Various plant gums and resins were used as adhesives for certain weapons tools. Various stones were used to make axe heads, scrapers, knives, chisels and spear heads. In the Newcastle area, chert (a flint-like quartz) was mined for tool-making. All these tools and other items would have been traded among the Awabakal clans as well as with neighbouring groups including Wonnarua and Worimi people, and further afield. Threlkeld reported that in the winter of 1826, Biraban, who had become his 'assistant' at the Lake Macquarie mission, "went to the mountains with upwards of 60 spears to exchange for opossum cord made of the fur".¹⁶

3.1.2 Post-colonisation

With the arrival of the Europeans to Australia, a penal settlement was quickly established in the Hunter region and the *Maiyaa* became known as the Hunter River, named after Governor Hunter. In addition to colonisers claiming Awabakal land and pushing the local Aboriginal community off Country, European-introduced diseases had a catastrophic effect on Aboriginal people, who had no immunities to cholera, smallpox, influenza, measles and venereal disease. From the first outbreak of smallpox in 1789 at least 50 per cent, possibly 90 per cent of Sydney Aboriginal people had died from the disease. With extensive trade and kinship networks along the coast, Mulubinba was no doubt impacted, and later bouts of influenza took their toll in the 1820s and 1830s in the region. The cultural and natural landscape, too, was systematically decimated by colonists. After Newcastle was established as a penal colony for re-offending convicts in 1804, they

¹⁴ Worimi Conservation Lands, (n.d)

¹⁵ Brayshaw, 1987:35, 76; Worimi Conservation Lands, (n.d); Fawcett, 1898: 152; Threlkeld in Gunson 1974:55

¹⁶ Brayshaw, 1987: 35; Maynard et al 2021; Threlkeld in Gunson 1974:42, 54, 206

felled swathes of forests and dug out ancient shell middens for lime, used in the mortar for construction of buildings.¹⁷

Still, there was a strong surviving Aboriginal presence in the region for many years. During the 1820s, former convict and artist Joseph Lycett travelled to Newcastle and Lake Macquarie and painted several watercolours depicting the daily life of Aboriginal communities at this time. Though these images are from a colonial perspective, they are valuable in showing Country prior to intensive colonial development, as well as the diverse cultural, social and economic activities of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples in particular.¹⁸



Figure 13: Aboriginal people resting by campfire, near the mouth of the Hunter River, Newcastle, New South Wales (Joseph Lycett, c. 1817) (Source: NLA)

In 1818, 'the attacks of the Natives' were reported as a constant problem at Port Stephens. Convicts were regularly punished for 'harming Aborigines'. In the Hunter Valley, conflict broke out largely between the Wonnarua and

the increasing number of settlers occupying their lands. Yet at the same time Aboriginal people were working closely with the colonists around Newcastle, often employed as trackers in search of escaped convicts.¹⁹

3.1.3 Survival and opportunity

By the 1820s, the settlement at Newcastle was growing rapidly and Aboriginal people could not contain such an influx of people and sheep and cattle on their lands. Many however, moved in towards the settlement rather than away from it. In 1837, the missionary Threlkeld complained that Aboriginal people at Lake Macquarie had all:

"taken up their abode for the present at Newcastle, leaving at this place not a single resident tribe; and we are only now occasionally visited by the small remnants of the inhabitants of the Lake."

In 1839, Threlkeld explained that some were 'engaged in fishing, some as water carriers, messengers, servants, and some on board the numerous vessels ... [and] many have learned to become good horsemen'.²⁰

Still, the early promise of work for Aboriginal people in the centres of Newcastle and Port Stephens dissipated as more Europeans arrived in the district. In 1840, the visiting American Charles Wilkes observed people camped near Newcastle as "wretched in the extreme".²¹

In 1854, there was still a 'blacks camp' on the beach at Newcastle. One man took up a role as a guide. *The Australian* newspaper reported that "the black fellow, Harry Brown of Newcastle, led all the fishing, boating, shooting or oystering parties" in the area. Harry had been at Threlkeld's mission but found a niche as a well-known and respected guide for Europeans. He also accompanied the European explorer Ludwig Leichhardt on an expedition.²²

¹⁷ See AMBS 2005

¹⁸ See Maynard 2014

¹⁹ Hunter Living Histories, <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/57446>

²⁰ Threlkeld, L. E., 'The Annual Report on the Mission to Aborigines, Lake Macquarie, New South Wales', 1837 and 1839, online at <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/dreaming/>

²¹ Wilkes (1845) p. 262

²² *Maitland Mercury*, 21 June 1854, p. 2; 'Dr Leichhardt's expedition', *The Australian*, 30 December 1845, p. 4; Blyton, (2015) pp. 63-82

From the late nineteenth century, many Aboriginal people were forced by oppressive government policies to reserves and missions such as at Karuah. The expanding town centre of Newcastle saw few Awabakal or other Aboriginal people until from the mid-twentieth century, struggles for Aboriginal rights meant more people could live and work where they chose.

3.1.4 Today

By 2021, 11,759 people identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the Lake Macquarie LGA. Over the past fifty years, a range of community organisations and Aboriginal groups have been established to improve the quality of life for the Aboriginal community, including the Awabakal and Worimi LALC, and many other local Aboriginal groups and knowledge holders. A number of organisations have developed resources in Awabakal language, including programs developed by Miromaa Language and Technology Centre. The Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle provides support to Indigenous students at the university and facilitates an Elders in Residence and Cultural Mentors programme to “reinforce the significance and teachings of our cultures.”²³

²³ University of Newcastle, 2022.

²⁴ Lake Macquarie City Library, n.d. “Boolaroo,” accessed 10 May 2024, <https://history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1089&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=16#:~:text=Boolaroo per cent20began per cent20to per cent20develop per cent20in, per cent2C per cent20Briggs per cent2C per cent20Coventry per cent20and per cent20Rees.>

²⁵ Boolaroo Public School, 1975. *Boolaroo 75th Anniversary Magazine*, https://boolaroo-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doe/sws/schools/b/boolaroo-p/75th_anniversary_Booklet.pdf, pg. 7.

3.2 Non-Aboriginal history

3.2.1 Early European land use

The first European land grant in near today’s Boolaroo was obtained by William Brooks on 16 May 1839. Brook’s land grant was 1280 acres stretching from the railway line at Cockle Creek to the shore of Lake Macquarie and north to the Cardiff railway workshops.²⁴ He named his land Lochend, meaning end of the lake.²⁵

Sir James Fairfax gained ownership of Brooks’ land in the mid-1880s, which he subdivided in the 1890s and again in 1900. The first subdivision of the ‘Boolaroo Estate’ was declared in 1896 and encompassed the land around Lakeview Road stretching between First and Seventh streets. By 1899, a second subdivision was declared for the ‘Township of Boolaroo’, auctioning land between Main Road, Creek Road, First Street and Seventh Street.²⁶ Despite official subdivision occurring in the 1890s, people had already moved into the area by 1886, due to the opening of the Stockton Boreholes Colliery at Cockle Creek, west of Boolaroo.²⁷ However, many of the men who had moved to the area to work in the mines were living in rudimentary dwellings including tents and bag huts.²⁸

The remainder of Sir James Fairfax’s land was purchased by Thomas James Thompson in February 1900. Thompson set about subdividing the land further and by 1902 three residential subdivisions had occurred as well as the formal delineation of Main Road, Creek Road, First and Seventh streets.

²⁶ Boolaroo, Lake Macquarie History, Accessed 10 May 2024, <https://history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1089&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=16#:~:text=Boolaroo per cent20began per cent20to per cent20develop per cent20in, per cent2C per cent20Briggs per cent2C per cent20Coventry per cent20and per cent20Rees.>

²⁷ Suters Architects Boolaroo Main Street Heritage Study, 1997, 2

²⁸ Boolaroo, Lake Macquarie History, Accessed 10 May 2024, <https://history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1089&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=16#:~:text=Boolaroo per cent20began per cent20to per cent20develop per cent20in, per cent2C per cent20Briggs per cent2C per cent20Coventry per cent20and per cent20Rees.>



Figure 14: Boolaroo Township subdivision, 1896 (Source: State Library of NSW)

3.2.2 The township of Boolaroo

In 1896, the Sulphide Corporation (Ashcroft Process) Ltd cleared the land north of First Street in preparation for the construction of a lead and silver ore treatment plant. Due to the employment opportunities afforded by the treatment plant, more people began to move into Boolaroo, acquiring the 214 residential lots that were offered for sale by the Sulphide Corporation.²⁹ Alongside increased residential development, businesses were established in the town, predominantly along Main Road, formerly known as Government Road. These included T.C. Grocery, Finlay's sawmill located near Watkins' Bridge, G. Hawkins and Sons transport and construction firm which operated in the town from 1896 until the 1980s and the first Commercial Hotel built in 1898.



Figure 15: Boolaroo Main Road (Source: Lake Macquarie City Libraries)

In addition to private businesses, civic buildings were also being established in Boolaroo, such as the school and post office.

3.2.2.1 Boolaroo Public School

In 1897, a provisional school was opened, with at least 22 pupils in the first month. It became Boolaroo Public School in 1900.



Figure 16: Boolaroo Public School, not dated. (Source: Lake Macquarie City Libraries)



Figure 17: Pupils at Boolaroo Public School, not dated. (Source: Flickr)

3.2.2.2 Boolaroo Post Office

The first post office was opened in 1901 and replaced by a brick building in 1924.



Figure 18: First Boolaroo Post Office, 1908. (Source: Lake Macquarie City Libraries)



Figure 19: Boolaroo Post Office, built in 1924. (Source: Lake Macquarie Libraries)

3.2.2.3 Boolaroo Fire Brigade & Ambulance Station

By 1910, the town had a fire brigade and by 1922 an ambulance station, which was the first ambulance station in the greater Newcastle area.³⁰



Figure 20: Boolaroo Ambulance Station, no date (Source: Lake Macquarie City Libraries)



Figure 21: Boolaroo Fire Station, 1922 (Source: Lake Macquarie City Libraries)

Commercial development along Main Road continued throughout the twentieth century with the establishment of the Co-operative Store in 1917, the art deco service station in the 1930s, the Bank of NSW and the Hawkins office buildings in 1935, and a number of theatre complexes including the Royal (Arthur Bedford's Picture Hall), which ran between 1915 and the 1950s, eventually superseded by Lake Cinema in 1974.



Figure 22: Boolaroo Co-Operative Society Ltd., staff and customers 1924. (Source Lake Macquarie Libraries)

Steam trams were installed in 1912 along the right-hand side of Main Road connecting to Speers Point Park. These ceased operating in the 1930s.

3.2.2.4 T.C. Frith's

One of the most notable businesses in Boolaroo was T.C. Frith's Grocery, established by Thomas Charles Frith after the success of his first store in Waratah. Recognising the business opportunity presented by the growing population of Sulphide Plant workers and their families, Frith purchased a large block of land between Main Road and First Street in Boolaroo in 1897 to build his grocery store. Before trading hour restrictions were implemented, Frith opened the store early in the morning to accommodate workers on their way to the plant. The Boolaroo store thrived, leading Frith to open additional stores throughout the region during the first half of the twentieth century. However, financial pressures in the latter half of the century led to the closure of the Boolaroo store in 1990.



Figure 23: T.C Frith & Co. Store, Boolaroo (Source: Lake Macquarie City Library)



Figure 24: T C Frith's delivery truck decorated, no date. (Source: Lake Macquarie City Library)



Figure 25: T C Frith's store, Main Road, Boolaroo, no date. (Source: Lake Macquarie City Library)

3.2.2.5 Sulphide Corporation and the Pasminco smelter

In 1895 Sulphide Corporation (Ashcroft Process) Ltd, a London-registered company, acquired land alongside Cockle Creek, just north of Boolaroo to establish an industrial plant. The site was isolated from the population centre but had ample access to coal, water and rail. When the plant opened in 1897, it initially focused on the electrolytic zinc process, however this operation ceased in July 1897 and the plant was converted to an orthodox lead smelter.³¹ Over the course of the next 106 years, the smelter, also referred to as the Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter, was used for the smelting of zinc metals and alloys, cadmium metals, copper sulphates, sulphuric acid and lead bullion.³² The smelter became one of the Hunter region's largest employers, at one time having at least 800 employees, and was a major contributor to the local and regional economies. There were several large-scale modifications to the plant including in 1917 with the construction of a full-scale lead refinery and a new zinc-lead smelter commissioned in 1961, which expanded the functions of the plant. In 1950 the Sulphide Corporation entered voluntary liquidation, after which they formed the Sulphide Corporation Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Consolidated Zinc Company Ltd. By 1988, the smelter came under the ownership of Pasminco. In 1992, a community health survey was released revealing widespread soil and dust contamination and elevated blood lead levels for those working at the site, requiring the company to improve environmental conditions. By the turn of the century, despite infusions of capital to improve operating and business conditions from the NSW Government, Pasminco entered voluntary administration in 2001, and the smelter was closed in September 2003.³³



Figure 26: The Cockle Bay Sulphide Corporation plant (Source: Lake Macquarie City Library)



Figure 27: Sulphite Corporation, Boolaroo (Source: Lake Macquarie City Library)

³¹ "Sulphide Corporation history", Lake Macquarie City Libraries, accessed 10 May 2024, <https://history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1085&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=3688>.

³² Major Projects group, n.d "Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter" accessed 09 May 2024, <https://www.majorprojects.net/project/pasminco-cockle-creek-smelter/>

³³ Lake Macquarie City Libraries, n.d. "Sulphide Corporation history," accessed 13 May 2024, <https://history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1085&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=3688>

4. VALUES AND SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Introduction

This section outlines the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage values of Boolaroo and the surrounding area to inform the planning for interpretive media along Main Road. This section considers both legislative heritage listings and Aboriginal cultural significance and values. Additionally, it outlines a draft future vision and values for the Boolaroo Precinct, developed during community consultation.

4.2 Aboriginal heritage significance

The locations and details of Aboriginal sites are considered culturally sensitive information. It is recommended that this information, including the information relating to registered AHIMS sites and Aboriginal artefacts, is removed from this report if it is to enter the public domain.

The land and waterways upon which Boolaroo Main Road is located, on Awabakal Country, has been cared for by Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years. Tangible reminders of this longstanding custodianship remain, including Aboriginal sites located within the area.

The local Aboriginal community continue to maintain deep connections to Boolaroo and the surrounding area.

4.2.1.1 Registered Aboriginal sites and places

A basic search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) was carried out on 23 August 2024 by Artefact for Main Road Boolaroo (15 Main Road) with a 1000m buffer. The search indicated that there were no registered sites within the boundary of the study area, however there were three registered sites within the 1000m buffer area of the site. See Appendix C: *Basic AHIMS search results*.

4.2.2 Non-Aboriginal (historic) heritage significance

A comprehensive search of national (National Heritage List), state (NSW State Heritage Register) and local heritage (Local Environment Plans or LEPs) registered indicated that there are three items within the currently defined Boolaroo Precinct boundary. They are listed locally on Lake Macquarie LEP 2014.

The register search is summarised below, and the listings are shown in Table 2.

4.2.2.1 Statutory listings

The non-Aboriginal (historic) heritage values of the Boolaroo are largely demonstrated by the local listing of three heritage items within the Boolaroo Precinct Boundary.

Table 2: Statutory listings within the Boolaroo Precinct boundary

Item	Significance	Listing
Commercial Hotel	Local and regional	Lake Macquarie LEP 2014 (no. 25)
Former motor garage	Local	Lake Macquarie LEP 2014 (no. 26)
Former Boolaroo Post Office	Local	Lake Macquarie LEP 2014 (no. 27)

4.2.2.2 Statement of significance

The statement of significance for Commercial Hotel (LEP no.25), extracted from the NSW SHI database, is as follows:

A good-looking and substantially intact example of a residential hotel of its style and period. The site has contained a pub or hotel since its first subdivision in 1899 (or earlier). For about 70 years this building has had an intimate association with workers and staff of the Sulphide Corporation (now Pasminco) Works it adjoins. Forms a notable contribution to the streetscape of Boolaroo, and is a landmark at the northern (from Newcastle) entrance to the main commercial street.³⁴



Figure 28: Commercial Hotel built in 1897 by James Jones on Main Road, Boolaroo, facing south. Photographed by D Evans. (Source: Lake Macquarie City Library)

³⁴ NSW Heritage Office, n.d. "Commercial Hotel," accessed 20 May 2024, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1910028>

The statement of significance for Former motor garage (LEP no. 26), extracted from the NSW SHI database, is as follows:

The petrol station and motor garage use of this site was directly associated with and descended from the original use, by carriage makers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths. The site was associated with the carriage trade (horse and motor) for about 90 years. The building is an extremely rare example of a style much admired in small commercial buildings in the 1940s & 1950s. Few such buildings survive, most having been renovated beyond recognition or replaced.³⁵



Figure 29: Virtue Motors, Shell Petrol Station, Boolaroo. (Source: Lake Macquarie City Library)

³⁵ NSW Heritage Office, n.d. "Former Motor Garage," accessed 20 May 2024, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1910027>

The statement of significance for Former Boolaroo Post Office (LEP no. 27), extracted from the NSW SHI database, is as follows:

One of the few substantial government buildings in the district. It has served the local community for over 70 years. It is a prominent item in the central Boolaroo streetscape.³⁶



Figure 30: Boolaroo Post Office, built 1924. (Source: Lake Macquarie City Library)

³⁶ NSW Heritage Office, n.d. "Former Boolaroo Post Office," accessed 20 May 2024, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1910026>

4.3 Community consultation

Artefact and Lake Macquarie City Council undertook in-person and online community consultation with key stakeholders and the broader Lake Macquarie community to gather input and feedback on the future vision, historic heritage and Aboriginal cultural values for Boolaroo Precinct. A detailed community consultation outcomes report by Artefact was provided to Council. The full report can be found in Appendix A: Community consultation outcomes report and is available to view online at shape.lakemac.com.au.

4.3.1 Key stakeholders

Boolaroo Precinct key stakeholders consist of the following groups:

- Local residents
- Local business owners or operators
- Biraban LALC
- Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre
- Elders and local knowledge holders
- Boolaroo Public School

4.3.2 Summary

Lake Macquarie City Council and Artefact hosted two dedicated consultation sessions, in addition to an online survey at shape.lakemac.com.au.

The first was on the morning of 22 May 2024, when a Walk on Country was hosted by Biraban LALC and Uncle Norm Archibald together with

participants from Artefact (Sabrina Roesner and Kristen Tola) and Council representatives. The second was an interpretation opportunities workshop hosted later that same evening for Boolaroo residents and business owners to develop a set of key values and draft vision for Boolaroo and to seek input into key interpretive stories for interpretation.

4.3.3 Walk on Country with Biraban LALC and Uncle Norman Archibald, 22 May 2024

Artefact and Council consulted with Biraban LALC and participated in a Walk on Country with Uncle Norman Archibald on 22 May 2024. During the Walk on Country participants observed the landscape and landforms as well as the built environment and open spaces of Boolaroo.



Figure 31: View across Albert Reserve to Main Road, Boolaroo, and Mt. Sugarloaf beyond. (Source: Artefact 2024)

4.3.3.1 Cultural values and observations

The following is a summary of cultural values discussed during the Walk on Country with Uncle Norman Archibald:

- Uncle Norm discussed the Boolaroo area and its surrounds, describing significant landforms surrounding Boolaroo, such as Munibung Hill, Mount Sugarloaf, Lake Macquarie, Cockle and Biddabah Creeks, which are all connected.

Once you connect with Country, you automatically want to take care of it [and] tell the story of connection ~ Uncle Norman Archibald

- Boolaroo has significant stories associated with the eagle, Biraban, and the Serpent of Cockle Creek.
- The name Boolaroo means ‘place of many flies’.
- Swamp mahogany, scribbly gums and weaving plants are all important in the area.
- Plants used for weaving that were once abundant in the area.
- Albert Reserve was observed to be a quiet location, with a sloped elevation placing it above the busy main road and providing sweeping views west to the mountains and waterways nearby.
- The creation of connection points along the Main Road and to areas beyond were discussed.
- With the subdivision and recent land development occurring above Main Road, damage to nearby bushland areas was a concern to the Aboriginal and broader community and requires further protection and conservation management.

4.3.3.2 Opportunities for Aboriginal heritage interpretation at Boolaroo

- The involvement of local Aboriginal artists and children is important and would be beneficial for the interpretation of Boolaroo Precinct.
- Connection to place is a key component for the area.

- The use of language and endemic flora and fauna for interpretation purposes would be welcomed.
- Plantings of endemic species along the roadside, such as Gymea lily, rather than small planter boxes and inclusion of larger gardens or strips for plantings.
- Create a yarnning circle in Albert Park for people to gather.
- Create a mural artwork by an Aboriginal artist on the side of the building that can be seen from Albert Reserve.
- Lead people along the street through interpretative means to different points of interest.
- Cockle Creek path to connect back to Main Road and Albert Reserve.
- Create a storytelling video with the Aboriginal community. This would be an impactful way for Aboriginal voices to be heard.
- Opportunities for the local primary school to learn to use local language, speak to Country and interpret the landscape.

4.3.3.3 Consultation

Uncle Norman made recommendations for ongoing consultation related to interpretation for Main Road:

- Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre – for inclusion of language on signage
- Uncle Norman Archibald – Elder, Biraban LALC
- Doug Archibald – Council
- Boolaroo Public School – involvement of students in interpretation projects
- Biraban LALC - ongoing communication and consultation

4.3.4 Community workshop, 22 May 2024

In collaboration with Council, Artefact conducted a community workshop on 22 May 2024 with 20 participants who were a mix of new and long-term residents and business owners. Flyers with an invitation to attend the session were distributed to about 360 residences within the Boolaroo Precinct, as well as business along Main Road.

The workshop aimed to engage key stakeholders and community members in discussions about the heritage significance and values of the Boolaroo Precinct. Attendees explored the precinct's notable buildings and sites, identified potential threats and opportunities, and established four key values for the area. Participants also collaboratively envisioned a future for Boolaroo, discussed interpretive themes and stories, and considered suitable locations for interpretive elements within the precinct. The outcomes are summarised in the following section:

4.3.4.1 Key values

Four key values of Boolaroo Precinct were distilled by workshop participants. They included:

- Community: The village feel
- The unique heritage of Boolaroo: People, places and stories
- A connected and walkable precinct
- The businesses of Boolaroo: Convenient access to services

4.3.4.2 Potential threats for Boolaroo

Workshop participants discussed potential threats and future challenges for Boolaroo Precinct. The four key threats and challenges identified during the workshop were:

- overdevelopment
- traffic and lack of safe pedestrian access

- lack of adequate maintenance for Council-owned assets and recreational areas
- potential threat of losing essential services

4.3.4.3 Opportunities

The following opportunities were raised to improve the Boolaroo Precinct:

- Improvement of green and recreational spaces such as Albert Reserve and Kenny Park.
- Improve the streetscape of Main Road through plantings and seating.
- Maintain and restore historic building facades along Main Road.
- Improve active transport links to Cockle Creek.
- Main Road activations including fairs and events.
- Highlight historical buildings along Main Road through interpretation.
- Improve pedestrian safety along Main Road.

4.3.4.4 Improvement priorities

When asked about improvement priorities for the Boolaroo precinct, workshop participants raised the following:

- Main Road streetscape improvements including footpaths, seating and landscaping.
- Maintain and improve parks and recreational areas.
- Maintenance and restoration of historic buildings along Main Road including shop awnings.
- Maintain key services for Boolaroo.

4.3.4.5 Draft vision

During the community workshop participants collaboratively developed a draft vision for the Boolaroo Precinct:

Boolaroo: A community that values and preserves our distinct heritage, honouring our buildings, places, people and their stories, now and into the future.

4.3.4.6 Significant Places

Workshop participants discussed places of special importance for Boolaroo, both built and natural. The buildings and places that were highlighted as significant and characteristic for Boolaroo included:

- Lake Cinema
- the Commercial Hotel
- the former butchery
- the former post office
- Boolaroo sports club
- Albert Reserve
- Kenny Park
- the churches
- former motor garage (now Lakeside Tyres and Auto)
- Spar building (The former Boolaroo Co-operative Society)
- Boolaroo Public School
- Cockle Creek.

4.3.5 Shape Lake Mac online survey

Following the in-person consultation, Council sought input from the wider community on the key values, draft vision, opportunities, threats, and improvement priorities for Main Road, developed during the workshop. An online survey was conducted on Council's Shape Lake Mac platform, attracting responses from 97 participants.

5. INTERPRETIVE APPROACH

5.1 Introduction

This section outlines the approach that is recommended for interpretation within Boolaroo Precinct, incorporating Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage values, historical themes and key stories of the site into a comprehensive suite of interpretive media. Five interpretive approaches are discussed in the following sections. These are further outlined in Section 6 and visualised in a concept plan in Section 7, highlighting potential locations along Main Road.

5.2 Interpretive principles

The following principles will guide the development of heritage interpretation for Boolaroo:

- Present the subject site as a distinct cultural landscape, with tangible and intangible heritage significance and a strong community and mining focus.
- Incorporate documentary research and graphic materials in form of signage to illustrate the heritage significance of Boolaroo and surrounds in a clear and engaging manner.
- Collaborate and consult with relevant stakeholders to ensure interpretation approach is appropriate and adheres to the cultural heritage significance of the area.
- Ensure that interpretive media are physically and conceptually accessible and designed to engage and stimulate interest.

- Ensure that interpretive media are designed in a way that complements the facility of the site and the historical characteristics of the setting.

5.3 Audience identification

Heritage interpretation is most effective when potential audiences are identified and specifically targeted. It is important to define audience categories to ensure that interpretive media - their location, orientation, content and design - are designed to provide engaging and informative experiences relevant to those audiences. The following audiences have been identified for Boolaroo.

5.3.1 Residents of Boolaroo

One of the key audience groups for Boolaroo are the residents. The Australian Bureau for Statistics Census 2021 reveals the following statistics:³⁷

- Boolaroo's population totalled 1,636, with a slight majority of 52 per cent female and 48 per cent male residents.
- Around 4.6 per cent of Boolaroo's population identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, inclusive of the Awabakal people and Aboriginal people from across the nation.
- The median age in Boolaroo was 39 years.
- The primary ancestries reported were English (43.7 per cent), Australian (43 per cent), Scottish (12 per cent), and Irish (10.1 per cent).
- Christianity was the predominant religion, with 51.3 per cent of residents aligning with various Christian denominations.

³⁷ Australian Bureau for Statistic, 2021 Census, Boolaroo. Accessed 29 April 2024 via [2021 Boolaroo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

- Key industries in Boolaroo included 'Technicians and Trades Workers' (16.5 per cent), 'Community and Personal Service Workers' (16.2 per cent), and 'Clerical and Administrative Workers' (13.4 per cent).
- Family structures in Boolaroo encompassed 33.1 per cent families with children, 39.6 per cent families without children, and 26.2 per cent single parent families. Family households were the most common (65.1 per cent), followed by single-person households (30 per cent), and group households (4.9 per cent).

5.3.2 Visitors to Boolaroo and Lake Macquarie

Visitors to Boolaroo and Lake Macquarie make up another target audience.

Lake Macquarie's Destination Management Plan targets between 2.5-3.9 million visitors to the region by 2023. It references heritage experiences as:³⁸

Lake Macquarie's heritage is recognised, valued and protected, providing the community and visitors with a sense of living history and a physical link to the work and way of life of earlier generations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is celebrated.

Nearby tourist attractions to Boolaroo include Speers Point Park and within it the new Multi-Arts Pavilion *mima* and the Variety Playground, the largest all abilities playground in Australia.

5.3.3 Aboriginal community in Boolaroo and Lake Macquarie

The local Aboriginal community are key stakeholders in the Boolaroo Heritage Interpretation Plan. Lake Macquarie has the second largest

population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW, after Blacktown.

In the 2021 Census³⁹, 11,759 residents in Lake Macquarie City stated they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, or both.

The Aboriginal community is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a median age of 22 compared to 42 years.

5.4 Historical themes

To successfully interpret a site, the contextual background should be presented in a way that is concise, easily accessible, informative, and engaging. Successful interpretation is best achieved by structuring the interpretive approach around key themes or stories directly associated with the site in order to provide a clear context for understanding the heritage values of the site.

The Heritage Council of NSW (2001) has established 32 NSW historical themes to connect local issues with the broader history of NSW and the nation. Historical themes provide a context within which the heritage significance of an item can be understood, assessed and compared. Themes help to explain why an item exists, how it was changed and how it relates to other items linked to the theme.

The Australian and NSW historical themes that relate to Boolaroo are listed in Table 3.

³⁸ Lake Macquarie City Council, *Destination Management Plan Executive Summary 2022-2026*, p.6

³⁹ Australian Bureau for Statistic, 2021 Census, Boolaroo. Accessed 29 April 2024 via [2021 Boolaroo, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/boolaroo-census-all-persons-quickstats)

Table 3: Boolaroo historical themes

Australian historic theme	NSW theme	Local context
Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interaction with other cultures Activities associated with maintaining, developing, experience and remembering Aboriginal cultural identities and practices, past and present, with demonstrating distinctive ways of life, and with interactions demonstrating race relations.	Boolaroo is located within the traditional Country of the Awabakal people. The Awabakal have cared for this Country for tens of thousands of years. Cockle Creek and nearby Lake Macquarie were key transport routes and provided resources such as food and raw materials. Despite 200 years of displacement and oppression, the Awabakal People still retain a deep connection to Country.
Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	Boolaroo's Main Road was the centre point for commercial activities and services, developing soon after the establishment of the township of Boolaroo during the late nineteenth century. Key businesses included T.C. Grocery, Finlay's sawmill located near Watkins' Bridge, G. Hawkins and Sons transport and construction firm, which operated in the town from 1896 until the 1980s, and the first Commercial Hotel built in 1898.
Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport	The Speers Point steam tram route holds significant historical importance within the context of transportation in New South Wales. Operating from 1912 to 1930, the tram

Australian historic theme	NSW theme	Local context
		served as the primary mode of daily transport for residents of Speers Point, Boolaroo and neighbouring suburbs connecting them to Newcastle. Additionally, it became a favoured means of travel for picnickers and holidaymakers seeking to visit Speers Point and other areas around Lake Macquarie. Notably, the Newcastle to Wallsend and then Speers Point tram route, stretching about 25 kilometres, was reputed to be the longest in the state. It also featured the last steam trams to operate in Newcastle, marking one of the final steam tram services in New South Wales.
Developing local, regional and national economies	Industry Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods	The Pasminco Smelter, also known as Cockle Creek Smelter, was a key driver for industrial and economic development in Boolaroo and the Hunter region, and responsible for much of the urban and commercial development around Main Road.
Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages	In 1896, the Sulphide Corporation played a significant role in the development of the suburb of

Australian historic theme	NSW theme	Local context
	Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Boolaroo by clearing land north of First Street to construct a lead and silver ore treatment plant. This industrial initiative attracted workers to the area, prompting the rapid growth of the local community. In response to the influx of people, the Sulphide Corporation offered 214 residential lots for sale, facilitating the establishment of a more permanent settlement in Boolaroo. This marked a key moment in the town's development, contributing to its urbanisation and growth as part of the broader trend of building settlements, towns, and cities in New South Wales.

5.5 Key themes and stories for interpretation

Key themes are a vehicle for structuring information to convey the layered history of an area and its cultural landscape. They are informed by an analysis of the historic themes outlined above, historical research and by feedback from community consultations undertaken. The key themes identified for Boolaroo Heritage Precinct are:

Country of the Awabakal people

Boolaroo and surrounds are located on Awabakal Country where the Awabakal, known as saltwater people, have deep connections to the coast, estuaries, lakes and wetlands. The waterways of Cockle Creek and Lake Macquarie provided abundant resources, including fish, shellfish and lobsters. The Awabakal looked after Country and practiced fire-stick farming in open forests, encouraging healthy and balanced eco-systems. Men hunted larger animals like kangaroos and emus, while women and children gathered fruits, berries and smaller animals. They used materials from the local flora, such as cabbage tree fibers for fishing lines and leaves for thatching. The Awabakal also held spiritual connections with totem animals, which were not hunted. These totems played a role in kinship and marriage, with specific animals being revered, such as the flying fox for men and a small bird for women.

Tales behind the facades: Boolaroo's businesses and people

During the late nineteenth century, Boolaroo experienced rapid residential and commercial growth, and a diverse array of businesses and services emerged predominantly along Main Road. T.C. Frith's Grocery stood out as a cornerstone of the community. Founded by Thomas Charles Frith, who saw an opportunity to serve the burgeoning population of Sulphide Plant workers and their families, the grocery opened its doors in 1897 on a substantial plot between Main Road and First Street. Frith strategically began operating early mornings to accommodate plant workers, contributing to the store's significant success.

Other notable businesses included Finlay's sawmill, near Watkins' Bridge, and G. Hawkins and Sons, a prominent transport and construction firm operating from 1896 until the 1980s. The Commercial Hotel, established in

1898, and Shinnys Hotel, also known as the Sulphite Pub, a popular meeting place for the employees of the Sulphide Corporation, continue to play a central role in Boolaroo's social fabric.

Main Road in Boolaroo was not only a hub of commerce but also home to several vibrant social venues and theatres. Among these were the Sulphide Hall, the Royal Picture Palace, the Central, operating as a cinema from the 1920s, and the Lake Cinema, the sole surviving picture theatre in the region, which started screening from 1974.

In addition to these private enterprises, civic amenities were established to support the growing community. The Provisional School, inaugurated in 1897 and officially named Boolaroo Public School in 1900, quickly became a hub of education with an initial enrolment of 22 pupils. The town also saw the establishment of its first post office in 1901, later replaced in 1924. By 1910 a Fire Brigade was operational, and by 1922 Boolaroo boasted the first ambulance station in the greater Newcastle area.

The local business and services continue to provide essential services today and contribute to the town's liability.

Sulphide Corporation and the Pasminco Smelter

The Pasminco Smelter played a significant role in Boolaroo's development employing up to 800 workers at its peak and contributing to the local and regional economy. Throughout its history, the plant underwent major expansions, including a lead refinery in 1917 and a new zinc-lead smelter in 1961. However, the environmental impact of its operations became a growing concern, with a 1992 health survey revealing widespread contamination and elevated blood lead levels. Despite attempts to improve conditions, the company faced financial difficulties, ultimately closing the smelter in 2003 after entering voluntary administration.

Local landmarks and living landscapes

Significant landforms surround Boolaroo, holding deep cultural significance for the local Aboriginal community. These include the waterways of Cockle Creek, Biddabah Creek, and Lake Macquarie, as well as Munibung Hill and Mount Sugarloaf. The area is rich in cultural stories, including those of the eagle, Biraban, and the Serpent of Cockle Creek.

The landscape of this area was dramatically changed and disturbed more than 200 years as a result of European settlement. The Awabakal, who occupied this land, had found abundant resources in and along Cockle Creek and nearby Lake Macquarie, and wildlife thrived within a healthy ecosystem. They relied on swamp mahogany, wild myrtle, scribbly gums and lomandra for tools, medicine, and weaving. Nauwai (tied-bark canoes) were crafted from stringy-bark trees for navigating rivers and fishing, while wooden weapons and utensils, like boomerangs and woomeras, were made from wild myrtle. The impact of the European settlement was profound, greatly altering the landscape and denying people access to their traditional resources and ceremony sites. Despite the changes to the landscape, the Awabakal maintain strong spiritual and cultural connections to the region to this day.

6. INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 Introduction

This section presents a range of interpretive methods and media to communicate the Aboriginal and historic heritage values of Boolaroo Heritage Precinct. These interpretive elements, selected through extensive community consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, residents and business owners explore key stories associated with the precinct and are designed to provide residents and visitors with a creative, accessible and engaging heritage experience.

6.2 Interpretation methods

The interpretive options recommended for Boolaroo Precinct are:

- interpretive panels
- heritage trail
- windows in time
- oral histories
- public artworks
- interpretive placemaking.

Descriptions of each interpretive media option and examples of its successful use are provided in the following sections. Section 7 provides indicative locations for each proposed interpretive element and showcases how interpretive media could be incorporated into Boolaroo Main Road.

6.2.1 Interpretive panels

Visually attractive and well-written interpretive panels are an excellent media for effectively conveying key information about the history of a precinct. Interpretive panels for key sites and buildings along Boolaroo Main Road was one of the interpretive methods favoured by participants of the community consultation.

If integrated into the streetscape and buildings along Main Road, interpretive panels can be strategically located to gain appropriate exposure.

It is therefore recommended that interpretive panels are installed at key sites along Main Road each exploring a key interpretive story and providing valuable contextual information for other interpretive elements that may be installed at a future stage. The interpretive panels should be placed in areas of pedestrian activity and in proximity to relevant sites and/or other interpretive elements.

6.2.1.1 Key stories

The key stories associated with interpretive panels are as follows:

- Country of the Awabakal people
- Tales behind the facades: Boolaroo's businesses and people
- Sulphide Corporation and the Pasminco Smelter
- Local landmarks and living landscapes

6.2.1.2 Panel locations

Indicative panel locations have been provided in Section 7. Seven locations are initially recommended:

- Ambulance Station, 1 Main Road
- The Commercial Hotel, 2 Main Rd
- The former motor garage, 19 Main Road

- The former Co-operative store, 26 Main Road
- The former T.C Frith's Store, 39 Main Road
- Lake Cinema, 62 Main Road
- Albert Reserve.

6.2.1.3 Examples

The following images provide examples of interpretive panels and heritage trails that explore both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal histories, using historical images and artworks. A variety of interpretive panels made from diverse materials can cater to different needs and settings. These include panels designed for mounting on building facades, freestanding panels positioned in natural areas with scenic views, and panels seamlessly integrated into landscaping features.



Figure 32: The Gantry and Camperdown Brick Markets signage (Source: Artefact, 2024)



Figure 33: Panel in Regent St, Redfern (Source: Artefact)



Figure 34: Left - Interpretive panel at Putney Hill by Trigger Design. Right - Glasshouse Mountains lookout interpretive signage.

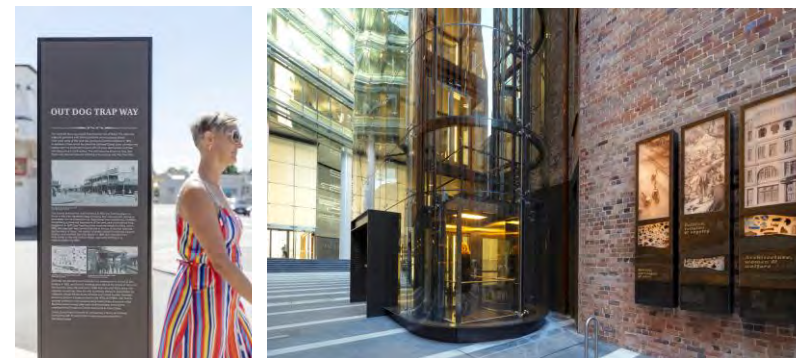


Figure 35: Left - Good Street, Granville (Source: Artefact, 2024. Photo: Simon Wood Photography). Right - 161 Castlereagh Street panels by FRD design.

Freestanding interpretive panels are recommended along Main Road, consistent in style and material and in coordination with Council's wayfinding style. Below is a concept design showing an interpretive panel outside the Lake Cinema.



Figure 36: Concept design interpretive panel with QR code linking to oral histories website at Lake Cinema, Main Road. Panel design and content indicative only. (Source: Artefact, 2024)

6.2.2 Heritage trail

The panels along Main Road could be connected through a heritage trail, available as both a digital and printed map, showcasing panel locations and providing brief information about each site. As part of future master planning this trail could be extended to include the former Pasmenco Smelter site as it becomes developed. The heritage trail map could be hosted on Council's website and offered at Council visitor centres. Additionally, QR codes on each panel could direct users to a dedicated Boolaroo oral histories website – see 6.2.4 – featuring audio content narrated by residents and business owners for each location.

6.2.2.1 Key stories

The key stories associated with interpretive panels are as follows:

- Country of the Awabakal people
- Tales behind the facades: Boolaroo's businesses and people
- Sulphide Corporation and the Pasmenco Smelter
- Local landmarks and living landscapes

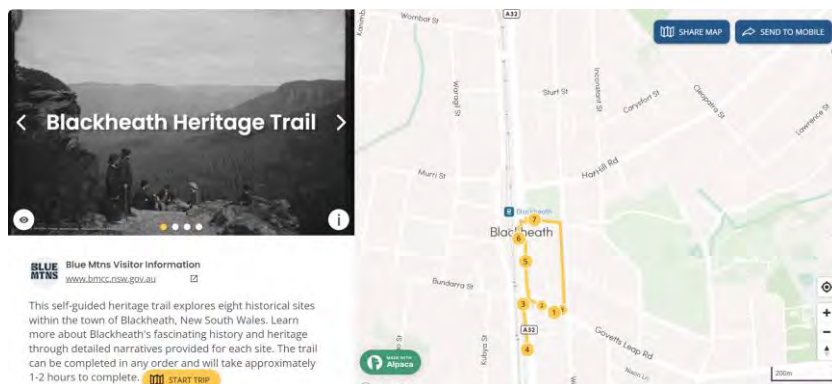


Figure 37: Blackheath online heritage trail by Blue Mountains City Council.

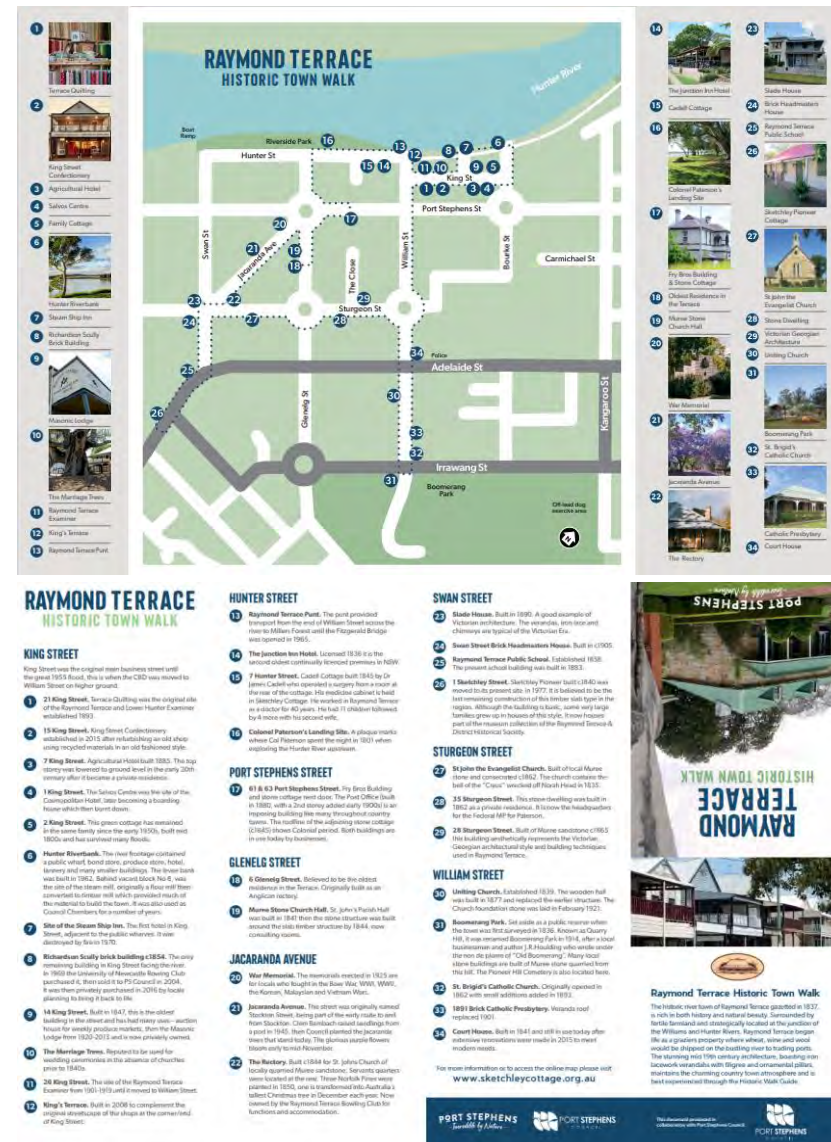


Figure 38: Raymond Terrace Historic Town Walk. Port Stephens Council.

6.2.3 Windows in time

'Windows in time' is an interpretive media option that brings history to life through the use of window decals or stickers placed in shop windows. These decals can feature historical and archival images of the shops and their occupants as they appeared in the past, allowing passersby to glimpse into the original appearance and atmosphere of these locations. By overlaying the old with the new, windows in time can create a powerful visual narrative that connects the present with the past, fostering a deeper appreciation for the historical evolution of the community. This method not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the area but also serves as an educational tool, inviting viewers to engage with the history of their surroundings in a meaningful and accessible way.

Installing windows in time in the many historic shopfronts of Main Road, or on temporary hoardings associated with construction and new development projects, would be an engaging, effective and cost-efficient way to activate both the storefronts and the streetscape. This interpretive option would highlight the many stories of the local businesses, services and those who operated and frequented them. This option is particularly well-suited for temporarily vacant shop windows and fronts, offering a dynamic and visually appealing way to connect the community with its rich history.

6.2.3.1 Key stories

The key story associated with this interpretive option is:

- Tales behind the facades: Boolaroo's businesses and services
- Sulphide Corporation and the Pasminco Smelter

6.2.3.2 Window locations

A selection of potential locations for windows in time have been provided in Section 7, however, this list is not exhaustive. It is envisaged that this media is not used as a static option, but rather implemented within shop fronts as opportunities arise.

6.2.3.3 Examples



Figure 39: Window decal with archival image at King William Street, Adelaide (Source: Sensational Adelaide)



Figure 40: Top and bottom: 110 Years Rio Branco Exhibition, installed in the Iphan Institute. REC Design. Lithgow: faces behind the facades program. Image Ciara Bastow.



Figure 41: Top and bottom – Creative Hoarding program City of Sydney. (Source: City of Sydney)

Below is a concept design showing a window in time featuring historic images of the former post office in the street-facing windows of the building.



Figure 42: Concept design: Windows in time installed at the former post office. (Source: Artefact, 2024)

6.2.4 Oral histories

A positive way to engage the community and capture the rich layers of information about Boolaroo's history is to develop an oral history project, where community members recount their stories and perspectives on local histories. Oral histories could be used to capture the experiences of certain groups within Boolaroo, such as Aboriginal communities, former Pasminco Smelter workers, religious groups, community organisations, business owners, etc. During community consultation oral history projects were mentioned as a desired and important resource for the Boolaroo community.

The outcome of an oral history project could either be in hard-copy publication or produced digitally with audio and video components on a website. Partnerships with local history and community organisations such as Lake Mac Libraries and the local studies collection should be explored.

Oral history recordings, hosted on a dedicated website, could be accessed through QR codes located on interpretive panels along Main Road. This would allow visitors to listen to personal stories from residents and shopkeepers, bringing Boolaroo's history and the stories behind its historic buildings to life as they explore the area.

6.2.4.1 Key stories

- Country of the Awabakal people
- Tales behind the facades: Boolaroo's businesses and people
- Sulphide Corporation and the Pasminco Smelter

6.2.4.2 Examples

The following figures are examples of oral history projects implemented across historic sites.



Figure 43: The Store, oral history project, Newcastle. [The Store Oral History Project / Living Histories \(newcastle.edu.au\)](http://newcastle.edu.au) (Source: The University of Newcastle)



Figure 44: Harbour Trust, oral history project
<https://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/discover-and-learn/oral-history-project/> (Source: Harbour Trust)

6.2.5 Public artwork

Public artworks, such as murals, installations and designs integrated into functional elements, can be an evocative and successful tool in interpreting the heritage significance of a precinct while also enhancing its aesthetic and cultural character. This type of interpretive media creates a visual statement about the cultural heritage of an area and is important in place-making for the public domain. Public art may work in tandem with other interpretive elements, such as lighting, landscaping and functional or ground plane elements.

Public art can be an engaging medium for carrying heritage interpretation messaging, if based on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage interpretation themes, thus creating a further connection through an exciting visual form to the heritage of a site.

For Boolaroo a number of different public art opportunities have been identified across Council-owned assets and, pending permission of owners, private properties including landmark buildings on Main Road.

These artworks can be permanent or temporary nature and implemented as funding and strategic opportunities arise.

The types of possible artworks described further below and their suggested locations in Section 7 are indications and suggested examples only. They represent what could be possible but are not limited to these options, and their locations are not fixed.

There may be opportunities for Council to partner with private property owners on community art projects such as an evolving mural program highlighting historic buildings along Main Road, engage locally connected Aboriginal artists to create work connected to Country, and to engage with young people from the community on arts programs shown in the public domain.

The following section provides examples of artworks integrated into the public domain, showcasing opportunities to interpret the Aboriginal and historic heritage values of Boolaroo.

6.2.5.1 Key stories

The key stories associated with public art are as follows:

- Country of the Awabakal People
- Tales behind the facades: Boolaroo's businesses and people
- Sulphide Corporation and the Pasminco Smelter
- Local landmarks and living landscapes

6.2.5.2 Types of public artworks

Public art can take many forms including sculpture, installations, murals, digital work, ground plane elements and so forth. For Boolaroo Main Road, a selection of possible types of public art has been identified through community consultation. The options provided below are not exhaustive and as opportunities arise, other types of public art may be realised. Other public art or creative design opportunities are also explored in Section 6.2.6. The key is to integrate public art and creative designs reflecting the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural values of Boolaroo through a range of elements to create an immersive and varied experience for residents and visitors. For Main Road, the following types of public art are recommended:

- Murals
- Fences and screens
- Bus shelters

Murals

A number of prominent building walls exist along Main Road that would be suitable for the display of temporary or permanent murals. Locally connected artists could be engaged to create murals that depict the historic and Aboriginal cultural values of Boolaroo. Council could support the creation of these murals as funding opportunities arise and assist in liaising with local property owners and artists in the development and installation of the work. Successful examples of mural and street art projects that involved Council and local community organisations include: Katoomba Urban Art Trail⁴⁰ in the Blue Mountains, and Banna Lane Festival⁴¹ in Griffith.

Examples

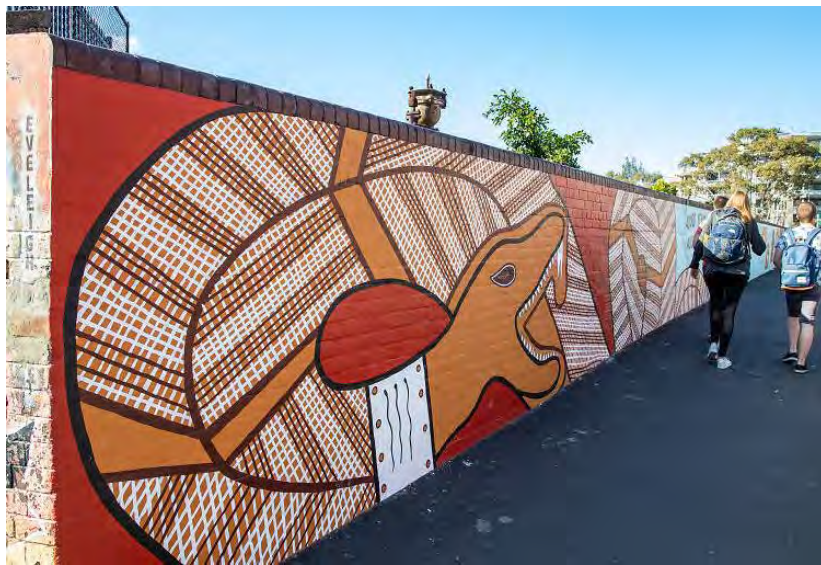


Figure 45: '40,000 Years' mural, Redfern Train Station, Sydney. (Source: TimeOut)

⁴⁰ Katoomba Urban Art Trail: <https://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/katoomba-urban-art-trail>



Figure 46: Banna Lane artwork, site four by Bronte Naylor (Source: Banna Lane festival)



Figure 47: 'Caring for Country' by Maddie Gibbs for Sydney Metro.

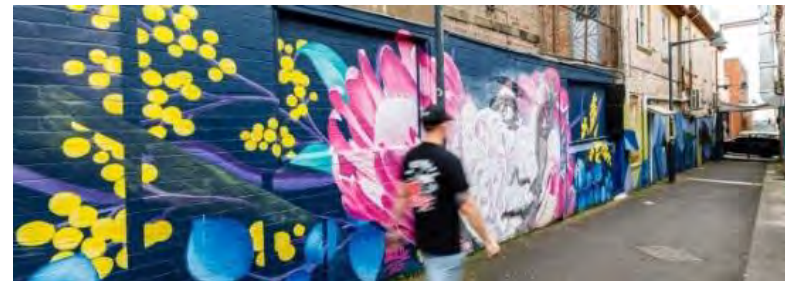


Figure 48: Katoomba Urban Art Trail with artwork by Mandy Schoene-Salter.

⁴¹ Banna Lane Festival: <https://www.bannalanefestival.com/>

Fences and screens

Creative fence and screen designs incorporating artwork or historical images, can enhance the look and feel of the surrounding street scape. Designs can reference and depict local stories, buildings, characters and landscape features. Several prominent fences exist along Main Road, including the fence line of Boolaroo Public School, and the street fence of the Commercial Hotel.

Examples



Figure 49: 'Mura Pathways' fence artwork by Maddie Gibbs at Stanmore Station.



Figure 50: Archibald Residences ventilation screens, Bondi Junction.



Figure 51: Mura (Pathways) screen design at Blackheath Station by Shay Tobin.

Bus shelters

Two bus shelters are located at opposite sides on Main Road at the corner of Sixth Street. Drawing on their advantageous location, with views to nearby landmarks such as Sugarloaf Mountain and towards the former Pasmenco Smelter site, they present potential canvases for artworks and historical images. For example, subject to approval, the image from the 'Smelter plaque', c.1990-2003, by Brad Lambert could be featured on the back wall of one of the bus shelters to highlight what the street scape used to look like during the existence of the Pasmenco smelter. An artwork by a locally connected Aboriginal artist could be featured on the second bus shelter wall, see Figure 52. The concept mock-ups on the next pages highlight how artworks and images could be incorporated.

Additional bus stops are situated along Main Road, but only those at Albert Reserve currently have shelters. A future Master Plan should consider the provision of additional bus shelters, which would benefit visitors, residents, and students using public transport. This would also provide additional opportunities to integrate public art and heritage interpretation within the public domain.



Figure 52: Concept design: Bus shelter artwork featuring the 'Smelter plaque', c.1990-2003, by Brad Lambert. (Source: Concept design by Artefact. Artwork from Lake Macquarie Cultural Collection, Lake Macquarie City Council)



Figure 53: Concept design bus shelter artwork featuring a snake artwork design from Bayikulinan -Aboriginal Community Plan 2019-2023, Lake Macquarie City Council, as an example only. (Source: Concept design by Artefact, snake artwork Lake Macquarie City Council)

6.2.6 Interpretive placemaking

Interpretive placemaking is a powerful tool for creating spaces that are not only functional but also deeply meaningful, reflecting the cultural and historical narratives of a community. For Main Road a number of placemaking opportunities have been identified that could enhance the public domain. They include:

- Planter boxes
- Seating and meeting place at Albert Reserve

6.2.6.1 Key stories

The key stories associated with interpretive placemaking for Main Road are:

- Country of the Awabakal People
- Local landmarks and living landscapes

6.2.6.2 Landscaping and planter boxes

Interpretive landscaping is an effective approach to evoke past landscapes within public domains. Landscaping devices, including use of planter boxes and planting certain species, can create immersive experiences for the public space users.

Plantings of species that were in the Lake Macquarie area prior to European arrival and therefore part of the Indigenous landscape experienced by the local Aboriginal community, is a powerful interpretive approach for landscaping. Planting patterns, where trees and understory plants were clumped rather than planted in lines, are preferred to enhance the naturalistic feel and to echo Country.

Planter Boxes

The existing planter boxes along Main Road currently feature a mix of species, some of which are not native or endemic. By consulting with the local Aboriginal community, these boxes could be replanted with a selection of endemic species, accompanied by small signs that indicate the

plant names and their traditional uses. This project would need to be community-led, with volunteers contributing to plant selection, developing content for interpretive signage, and assisting with ongoing maintenance, such as watering the plants. Future streetscape works may also result in the removal or replacement of existing planter boxes.



Figure 54: Existing planter boxes along Main Road. (Source: Artefact, 2024)

Examples



Figure 55: Top left - Truganini memorial planting, Cascades Female Factory by Curio Projects. Top right - Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp). Bottom left and right - Interpretive panels for native plants at Murray Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park by Artefact.

Additionally, the planter boxes offer a unique opportunity to contribute to creative placemaking on Main Road. Creative and colorful designs on the planter boxes could significantly enhance their appearance, adding vibrancy to the streetscape. Boolaroo residents, community groups, and young people – such as students from Boolaroo Public School – could be invited to design one of the planter boxes, fostering a sense of community ownership and involvement.

Examples



Figure 56: Hannay Lane, Dunsborough District, City of Busselton.

Seating at Albert Reserve

Albert Reserve could incorporate a circular seating and meeting place that reflects traditional Indigenous designs. Circular formations hold significant cultural meaning, encouraging connection, exchange and the gathering of people. By integrating these shapes into a seating arrangement, a space could be created that encourages social interaction and community engagement. The seating could feature patterns or motifs by locally connected Aboriginal artists or local natural materials including native plantings, shells or sandstone, further embedding cultural significance into the design.

Suitability of seating at Albert Reserve is subject to further site investigations and assessment of site constraints including accessibility and slope constraints.



Figure 57: Albert Reserve. (Source: Artefact, 2024)

Examples

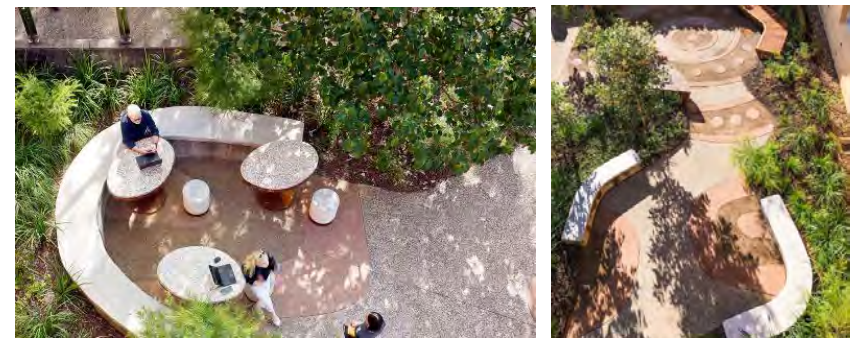


Figure 58: Top - Bendigo TAFE Seasonal Calendar. Bottom left and centre - UQ Reconciliation Garden Multhana.

7. CONCEPT PLAN

The following concept plan illustrates potential locations for interpretive elements along Main Road. This plan is indicative only, serving as a visualisation of how interpretive elements can be integrated, rather than serving as a fixed or final plan.



Interpretive panels

- 1 Ambulance Station -1 Main Rd
- 2 The Commercial Hotel -2 Main Rd
- 3 Former motor garage -19 Main Rd
- 4 Former Co-operative Store -26 Main Rd
- 5 Former T.C. Frith Store -39 Main Rd
- 6 Lake Cinema -62 Main Rd
- 7 Albert Reserve - Mount Sugarloaf





Public artworks

- 1 Boolaroo Public School (on fence)
- 2 Lake Cinema -62 Main Rd (mural)
- 3 Bus stop
- 4 Bus stop

Window decals

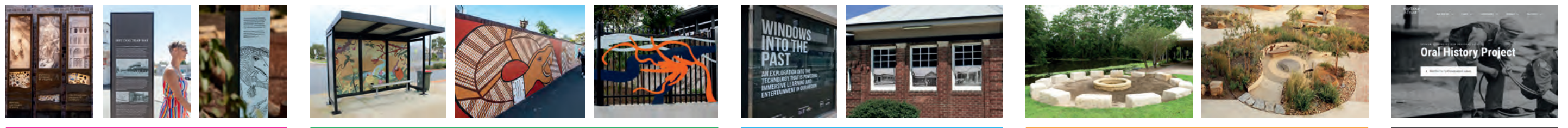
- 1 Motorcycle shop -10 Main Rd
- 2 Former butchery -18 Main Rd
- 3 Former T.C. Frith Store -39 Main Rd
- 4 Former post office -91 Main Rd

Landscaping

-  **Albert Reserve**
Circular seating elements and native plantings
-  **Planter boxes**
-  **Vantage points**
-  **Main Road Heritage Trail**

Online platforms

Oral histories project



8. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following considerations should be taken into account for future heritage interpretation planning for Boolaroo Main Road.

8.1 Coordination with other relevant plans

It is important that this HIP is developed in collaboration with Council's other relevant plans and policies including a future Master Plan for Boolaroo, Lake Macquarie LEP 2014, DCP 2014, the Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2017–2027 and Aboriginal Community Plan 2019-2023. Many of these plans and guidance documents cross-over in their coverage of relevant devices that can be used to tell key Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage stories on the site.

8.2 Community participation

For interpretation to be effective and embraced by the community, it is essential to actively involve local stakeholders in the planning, creation, and implementation of interpretive elements. Engaging the community, including public schools and local community groups, in the design and creation of these projects fosters a sense of connection and ownership over the interpretive elements, making them more meaningful and appreciated.

This HIP and proposed interpretive opportunities are built upon the outcomes from community consultation conducted by Council and Artefact in 2024. Continuing this collaborative approach as interpretation elements are implemented along Main Road is crucial. Regularly updating and involving the community as new opportunities arise ensures that the interpretive elements along Main Road remain relevant and reflective of the community's values and history. This ongoing dialogue will not only strengthen community ties but also enhance the authenticity and impact of heritage interpretation efforts, ensuring they resonate with both current and future generations.

8.3 Fixtures to heritage fabric

The installation or application of any material on fabric of heritage listed items, such as interpretive panels or murals, should be guided by the principles of Lake Macquarie's LEP (2014) and DCP (2014).

8.4 Working with private property owners

Council should proactively engage and consult with private property owners along Main Road to explore opportunities for conservation, restoration, and interpretation. Council can encourage restoration efforts that enhance the streetscape, such as through the local Heritage Fund. When interpretive opportunities arise near or on private properties along Main Road — such as public murals, interpretive panels or 'windows in time' — Council can collaborate with property owners and offer support in sourcing artists, historical images, and assisting with the fabrication and installation of these elements.

8.5 Reproducing images

All images (photographs, maps, illustrations, etc.) in this report are of a low quality. For the detailed design stage of interpretive elements, high-resolution images will need to be purchased. Generally, copyright is in place up until 70 years from the end of the year in which the creator of an image died or 70 years from the end of the year in which the image was first published. Images that are within copyright require permission to reproduce from the copyright holder and may incur a copyright fee and sourcing fee, as well as copyright acknowledgement as specified by the image holder. All images more than 70 years old require permission to reproduce from the image holder and an acknowledgment as specified by the image holder.

Any images of identifiable deceased Aboriginal people should not be shown without permission from known relatives or Traditional Owners, and the image should be captioned with 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are advised that this panel contains images of people who are deceased'.

8.6 Maintenance

Interpretive elements, such as panels and artworks, may require on-going maintenance such as regular cleaning and periodic remedial work to remove graffiti. It is recommended that a six-monthly condition check be undertaken by Council on all interpretive elements installed along Main Road.

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10. APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES REPORT

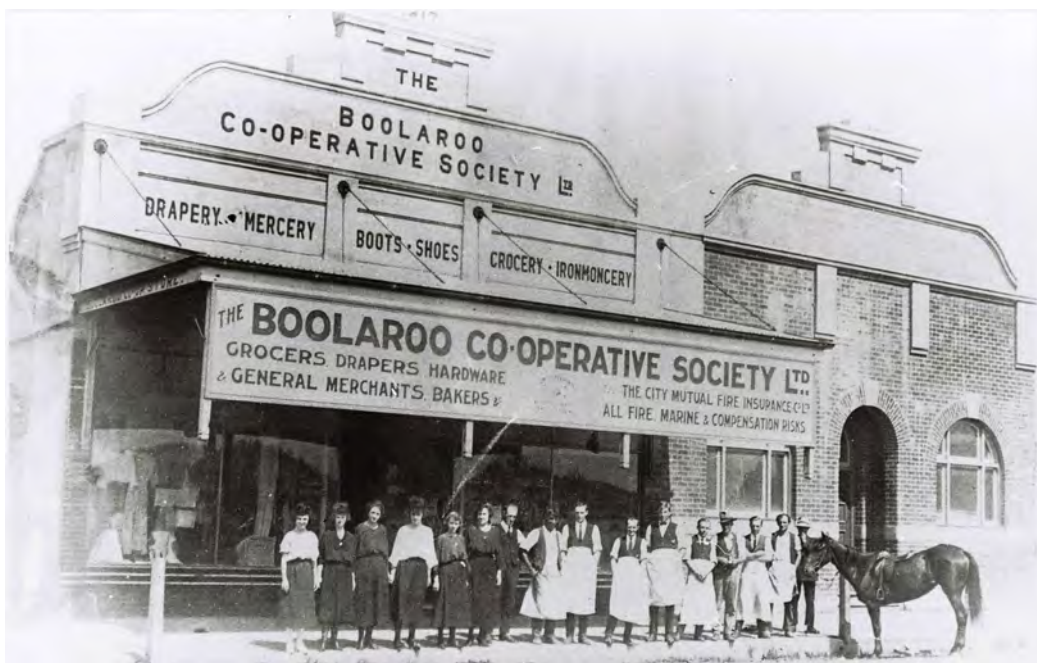


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Boolaroo Main Road Heritage Interpretation Plan Community consultation outcomes report

Lake Macquarie City Council (Council) is creating a Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) for the historic precinct of Boolaroo (Main Road) to preserve its unique heritage and celebrate its cultural values. For this purpose, Artefact Heritage and Environment (Artefact) has been engaged by Council to conduct community consultation and prepare the HIP.

Artefact and Council undertook in-person and online community consultation with key stakeholders and the broader Lake Macquarie community to gather input and feedback on the precinct's future vision and identify its historic heritage and Aboriginal cultural values and possible interpretation opportunities along Main Road and beyond. The outcomes from this consultation are summarised in this report and will inform the HIP for Boolaroo.



Boolaroo Co-operative Society Ltd., staff and customers 1924 (Source: Lake Mac History)

Summary

Council and Artefact hosted two dedicated consultation sessions in addition to an online survey.

Walk on Country

A Walk on Country was hosted on 22 May 2024 by Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) with local Elders to learn about the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the site to inform the planning of appropriate interpretive media.

Interpretation opportunities workshop

On the same day, an interpretation opportunities workshop was hosted by Council and Artefact for Boolaroo key stakeholders, including residents and business owners, to develop a set of key values and draft vision for Boolaroo and to seek input into key interpretation opportunities for Main Road.

Online survey

Following the in-person consultation, Council sought input from the wider community on the key values, draft vision and interpretation opportunities developed during the workshop. An online survey was conducted on Council's Shape Lake Mac platform from 12 June – 9 July 2024, receiving responses from 92 participants.

Consultation outcomes

Walk on Country: Opportunities for Aboriginal heritage interpretation at Boolaroo

During the Walk on Country on 22 May 2024, Aboriginal stakeholders identified several Aboriginal cultural values and stories connected to the area and discussed opportunities to meaningfully integrate these into the heritage interpretation approach for Boolaroo.

It is important to note that when planning and designing interpretive media including Aboriginal cultural heritage values and stories for Boolaroo, consultation with stakeholders must be undertaken throughout the process to ensure that interpretation is appropriate, engaging and relevant for the site itself and those who will use it. As the traditional owners of the land, the local community maintains a dynamic connection to Country which informs their identity, culture, language and ways of living.



View across Albert Reserve to Main Road, Boolaroo, and Mt. Sugarloaf beyond (Source: Artefact 2024)

Opportunities identified during the Walk on Country for interpretive media exploring the Aboriginal cultural values of Boolaroo and the wider area included:

- The involvement of local Aboriginal artists and children in the interpretation of Boolaroo is important. This could take the form of a public artwork created by local Aboriginal artists in collaboration with Aboriginal children from the local public school.
- Connection to place underscores everything and should be considered in interpretive approaches.
- The use of language and highlighting endemic flora and fauna for interpretation purposes would be welcomed.

- Plantings of endemic species along the roadside, such as Gynea lily, rather than small planter boxes, and inclusion of larger gardens or strips for plantings is a preference.
- Create a yarning circle at Albert Reserve for people to gather and meet.
- Create a mural artwork by an Aboriginal artist
- Lead people along Main Road through interpretative means to different points of interest such as Speers Point, Cockle Creek and Munibung Hill.
- Create a storytelling video with the Aboriginal community. This would be great way for Aboriginal voices to be heard.
- Opportunities for the local primary school: learn to use local language, speak to Country and interpret the landscape.

Interpretation opportunities workshop

In collaboration with City Council, Artefact conducted a community workshop on 22 May 2024 with 20 participants who were mostly new and long-term residents and business owners. The workshop aimed to engage key stakeholders in a discussion about the heritage significance and values of Boolaroo. Attendees explored notable buildings and sites, identified potential threats and opportunities, and established four key values for the area. They also collaboratively envisioned a future for Boolaroo, discussed interpretive themes and stories, and considered suitable locations for interpretive elements within the precinct. The outcomes are summarised in the following section.



*Interpretation opportunities workshop with community stakeholders on 22 May 2024
(Source: Lake Macquarie City Council 2024)*

Key Values

Four key values for Boolaroo were distilled by workshop participants:

- Community: The village feel
- The unique heritage of Boolaroo: People, places and stories
- A connected and walkable precinct
- The businesses of Boolaroo: Convenient access to services

Potential threats and challenges for Boolaroo

Workshop participants discussed potential threats and future challenges for the Boolaroo precinct. The four key threats and challenges identified during the workshop were:

- Overdevelopment
- Traffic and lack of safe pedestrian access
- Lack of adequate maintenance for Council-owned assets and recreational areas
- Potential threat of losing essential services

Opportunities

The following opportunities were raised to improve Boolaroo precinct:

- Improve the green and recreational spaces such as Albert Reserve and Kenny Park
- Improve the streetscape of Main Road through plantings and seating
- Maintain and restore historic building facades along Main Road
- Improve active transport links to Cockle Creek
- Main Road activations including fairs and events
- Highlight historical buildings along Main Road through interpretation
- Improve pedestrian safety along Main Road

Improvement priorities

When asked about improvement priorities for the Boolaroo precinct, workshop participants raised the following:

- Main Road streetscape improvements including footpaths, seating and landscaping
- Maintain and improve parks and recreational areas
- Maintenance and restoration of historic buildings along Main Road including shop awnings
- Maintain key services for Boolaroo

Draft vision

During the community workshop participants collaboratively developed a draft vision for the Boolaroo precinct:

Boolaroo: A community that values and preserves our distinct heritage, honouring our buildings, places, people and their stories, now and into the future.

Significant places

Workshop participants discussed places of special importance for Boolaroo, both built and natural. The buildings and places that were highlighted as significant and characteristic for the Boolaroo precinct included:

- Lake Cinema
- The Commercial Hotel
- The former post office
- Boolaroo Sports Club
- Albert Reserve
- Kenny Park
- The churches
- Former motor garage (now Lakeside Tyres and Auto)
- Spar Building (The former Boolaroo Co-operative Society)
- Boolaroo Public School
- Cockle Creek

Interpretation opportunities

Workshop participants discussed interpretation opportunities including interpretive methods and media to communicate historic heritage values of Boolaroo. Suggestions included:

- Interpretive signage along Main Road highlighting key historical buildings and the businesses and people that occupied them.
- Oral-histories project with long-term residents of the area.
- Interpretation integrated into placemaking and functional elements to improve streetscape such as street furniture, planter boxes and bus shelters.
- Interpretation in ground plane elements such as paving, bricks and inlays using names of business and personalities connected to Boolaroo.
- Highlight connections to key places such as Cockle Creek, Munibung Hill, former Pasminco Smelter and Speers Point. This could be achieved

through active transport links, online self-guided heritage trails and improved wayfinding.

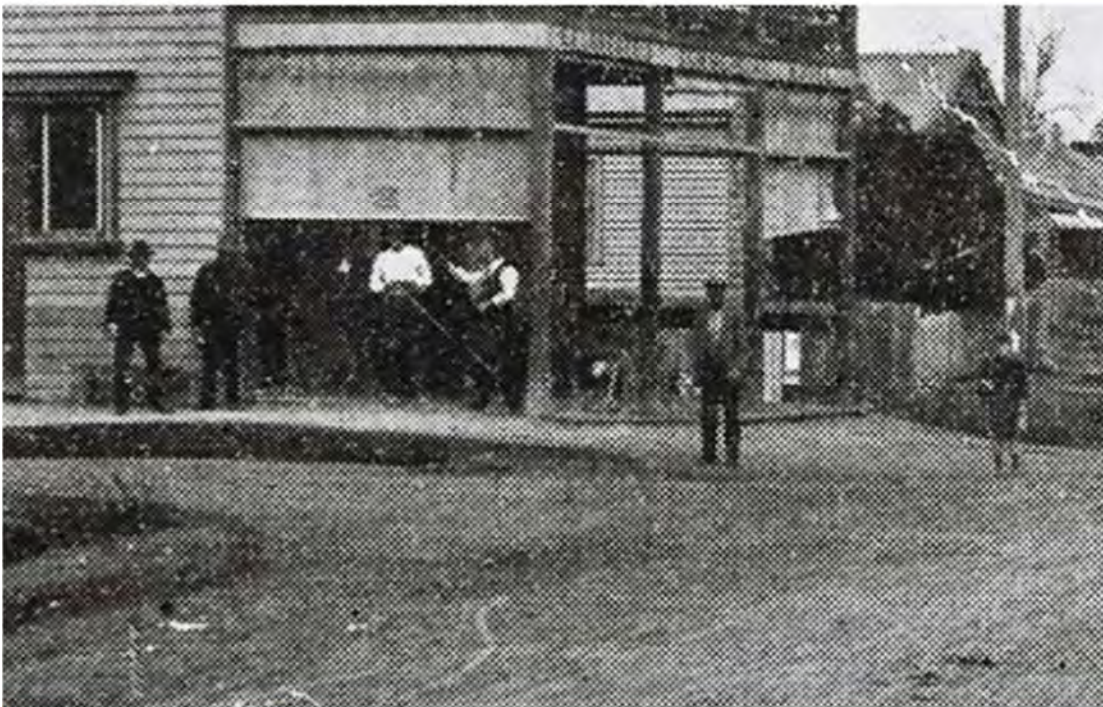
- Public artwork along the Main Road.
- Improve public reserves and create meeting places.



Example images of interpretive panels and public art in placemaking. Left - Good Street Granville, (Source: Artefact, 2024. Photo: Simon Wood Photography). Right - Hannay Lane revitalisation project. (Source: City of Busselton)

Online survey

After the in-person consultation, Council sought broader community input on the key values, draft vision, opportunities, threats, and improvement priorities for the Boolaroo Precinct, developed during the workshop. An online survey was conducted on Council's Shape Lake Mac platform from 12 June – 9 July 2024 attracting responses from 92 participants.

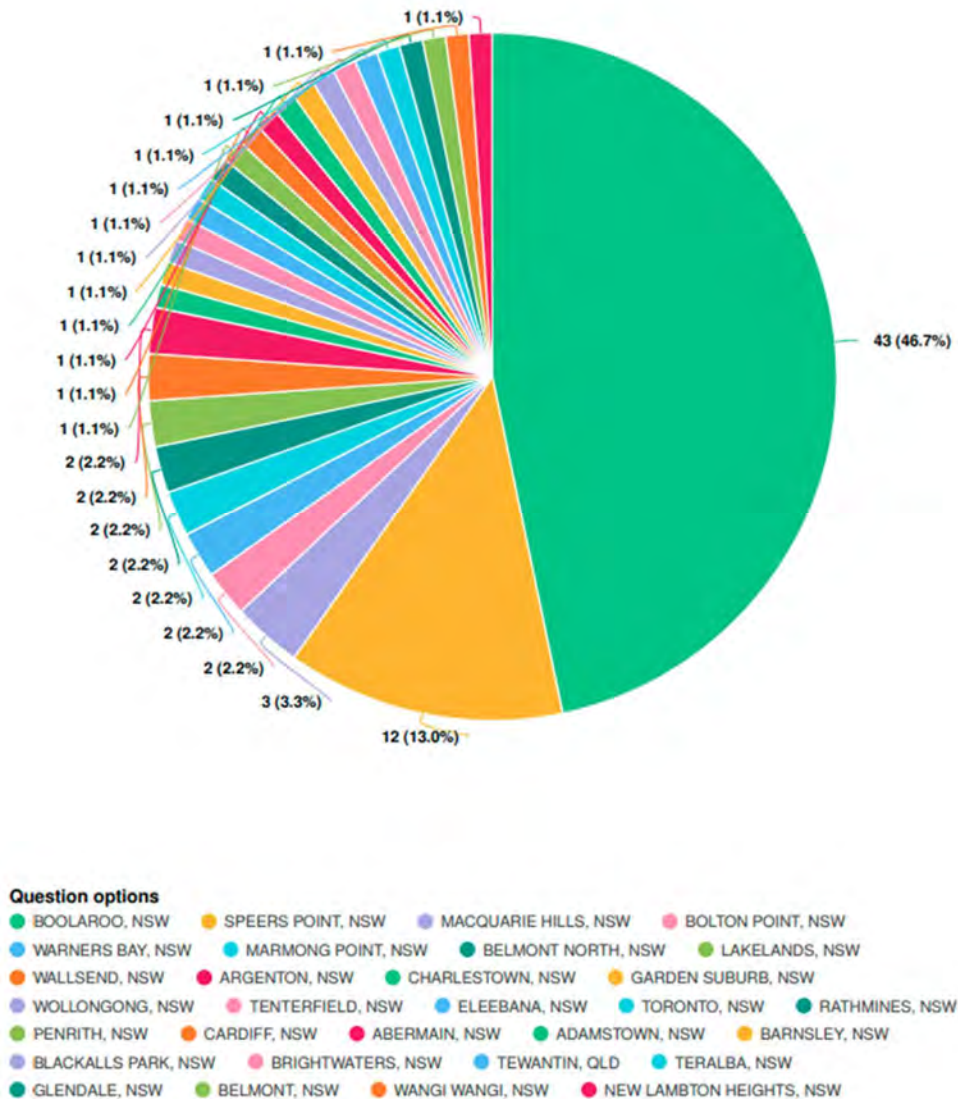


The survey provided participants with the opportunity to express their support or opposition for the above-mentioned elements. Additionally, participants could suggest ideas for interpretive storylines and identify key buildings and places for potential interpretive opportunities. The following sections outlines the survey results.

Demographics

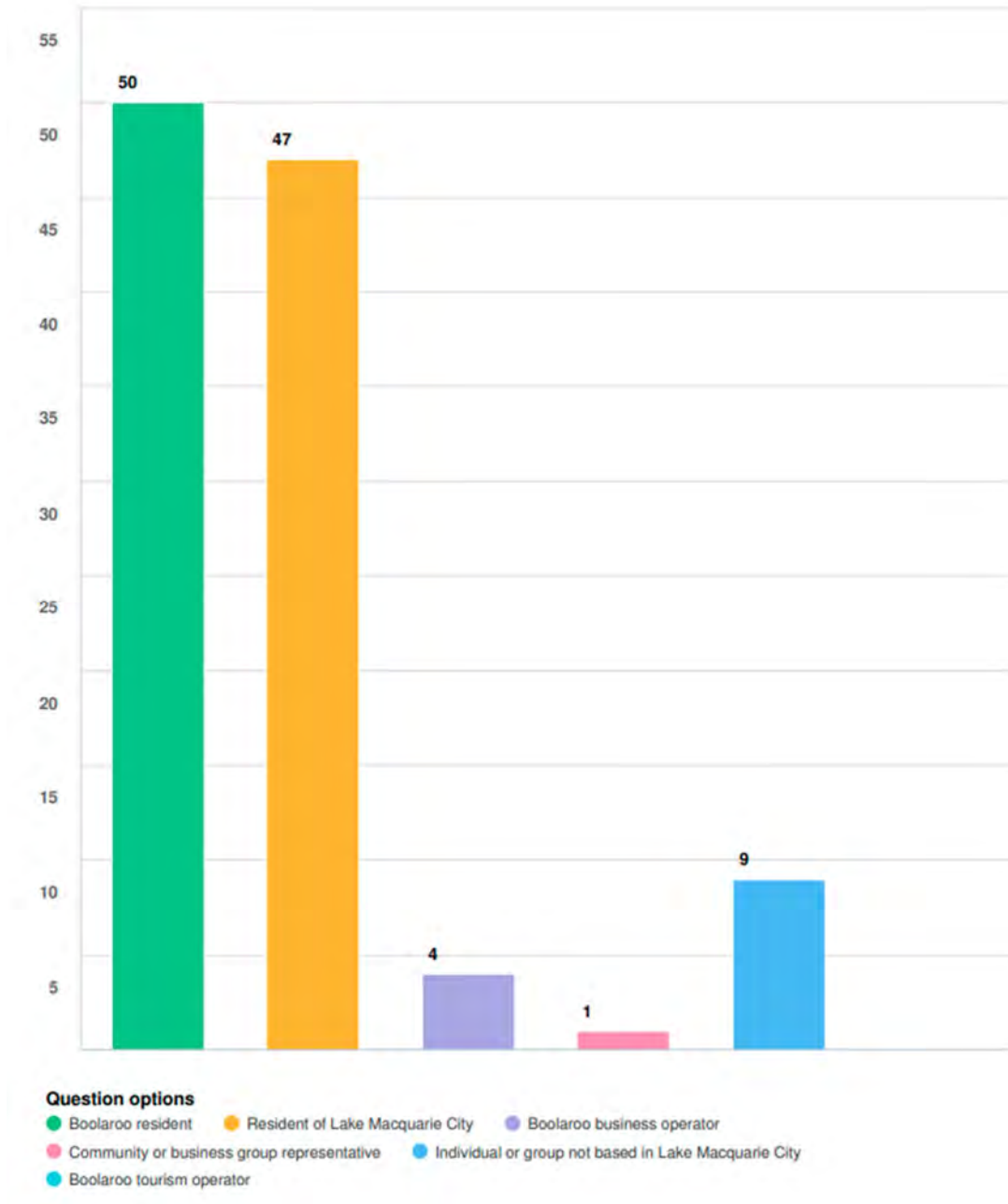
Place of residence

Of the survey respondents, most were based in Boolaroo (46.7 per cent), followed by Speers Point (13 per cent) and Macquarie Hills (3.3 per cent). The remainder of survey respondents were more broadly located across the Lake Macquarie local government area, other areas of NSW and Queensland.



Representation

50 respondents were residents of Boolaroo and 47 were based in the wider Lake Macquarie area. Nine were individuals or groups not based in Lake Macquarie City, four represented Boolaroo business operators, and one person was a community or business group representative.

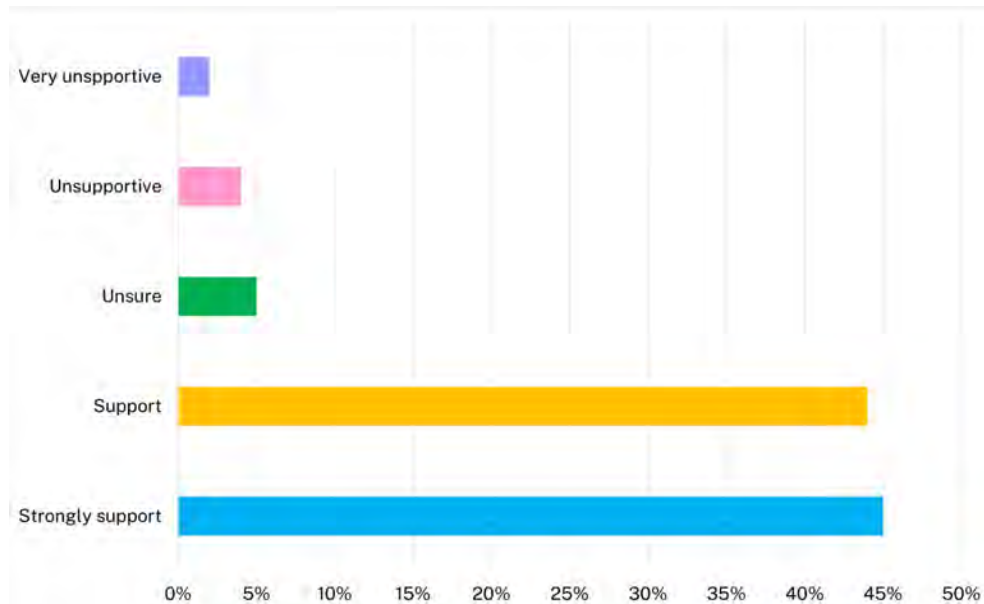




Level of support for key values and draft vision for Boolaroo

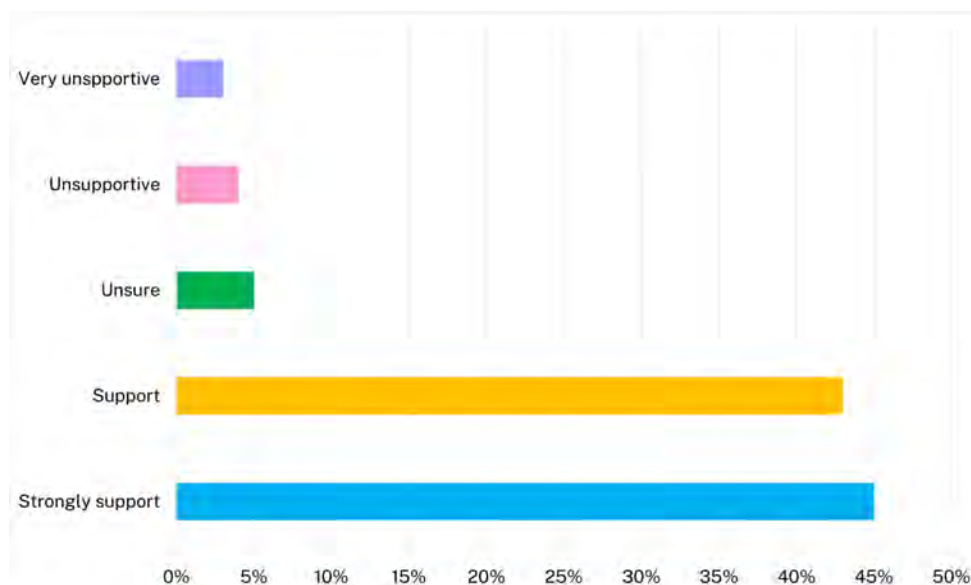
Community: The village feel

The majority of survey participants either strongly supported (45 per cent) or supported (44 per cent) this value. Five per cent were unsure, while four per cent were unsupportive, and two per cent were very unsupportive.



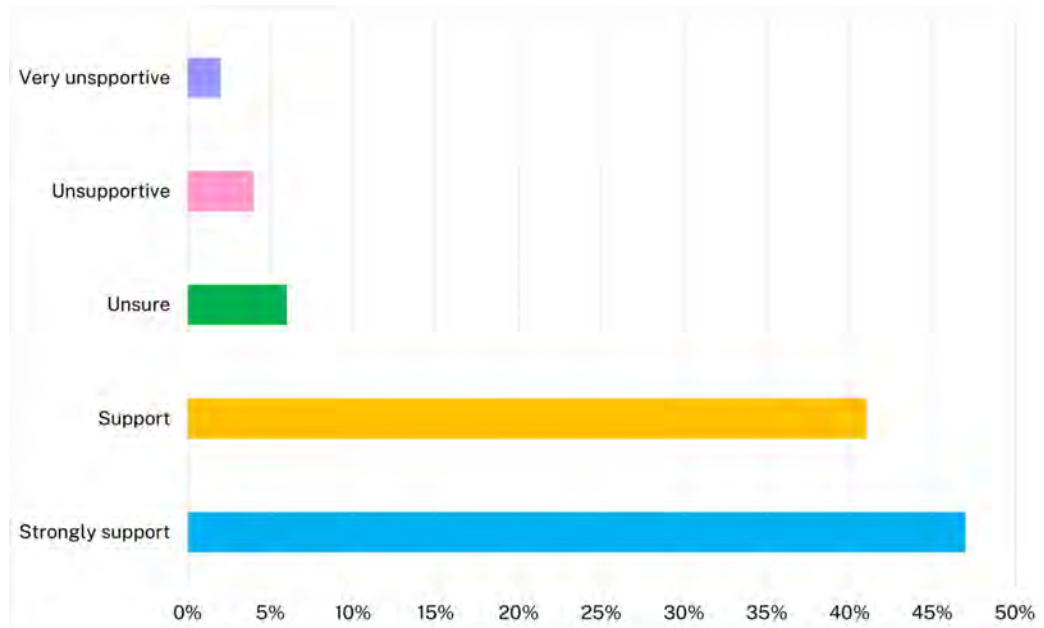
The unique heritage of Boolaroo: People, places and stories

Most survey participants either strongly supported (45 per cent) or supported (43 per cent) this value. Meanwhile, five per cent were unsure, four per cent were unsupportive, and three per cent were very unsupportive.



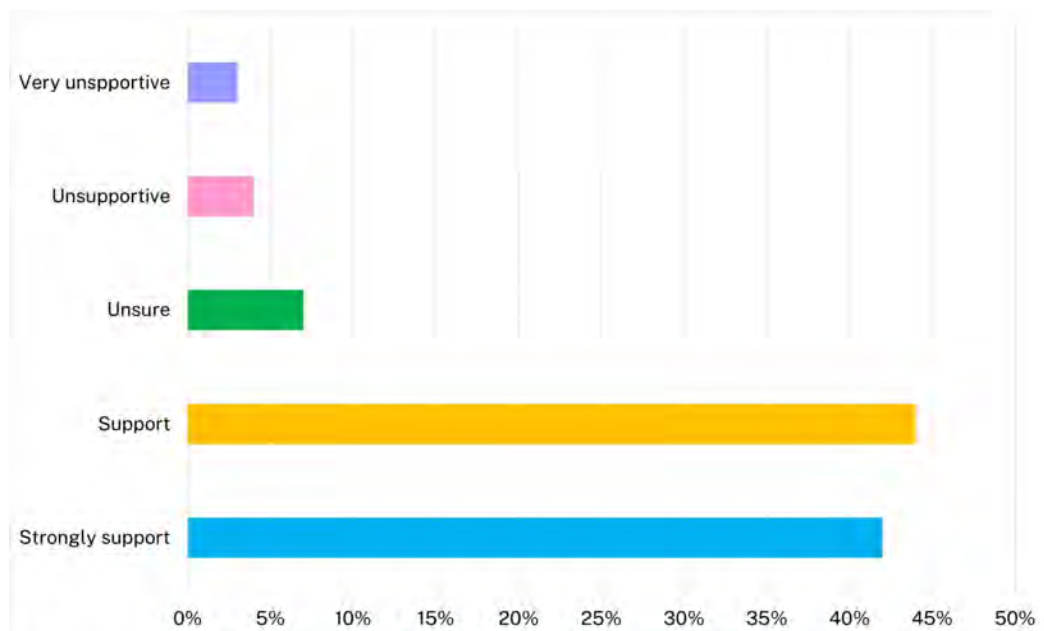
A connected and walkable precinct

There was strong support by 47 per cent and support by 41 per cent of participants for this value. Six per cent were unsure, four per cent were unsupportive and two per cent very unsupportive of this value.



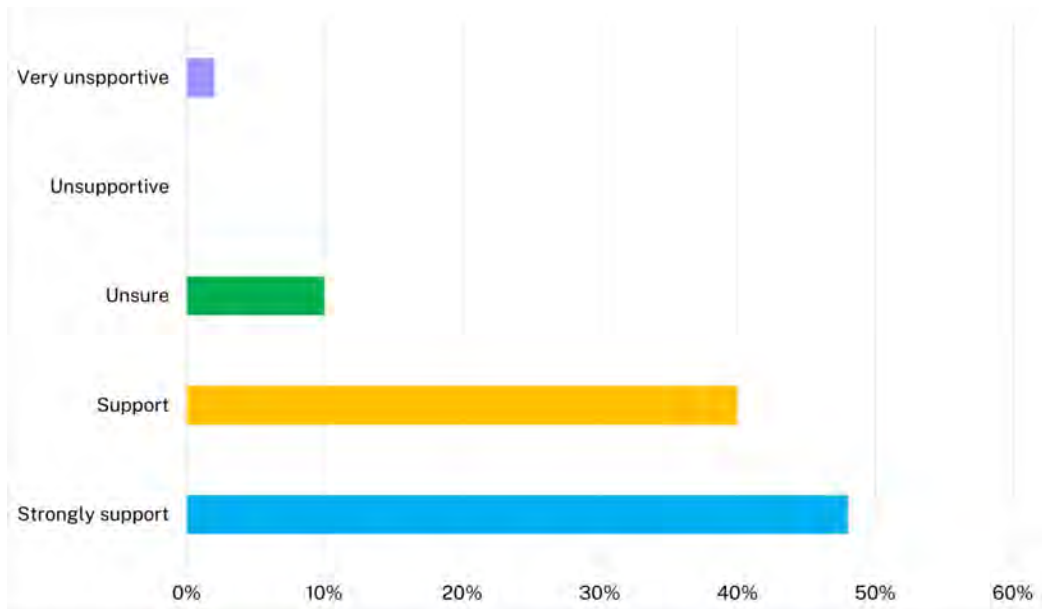
The businesses of Boolaroo: Convenient access to services

42 per cent of participants were very supportive and 44 per cent supportive of this value. Seven per cent were unsure, four per cent were unsupportive and three per cent very unsupportive of this value.



Draft vision

Most survey participants (48 per cent) were very strongly supportive of the draft vision for Boolaroo Precinct. This was followed by 40 per cent being supportive of the draft vision, nine per cent being unsure, nil being unsupportive and two per cent being strongly unsupportive.



Key places of Boolaroo

Are there any other places and/or buildings within Boolaroo that you think are important?

Survey respondents provided several additional suggestions for buildings and places to consider for the Heritage Interpretation Plan. Not all are within the precinct boundary but some represented connector points to and from the precinct and Main Road. They included:

- Access points to Munibung Hill
- The row of heritage shops at the Boolaroo Public School crossing
- Former Westlakes Advertiser building on Main Road
- Location of former Watkins Bridge
- Former Sulphide Corporation
- Boolaroo and Teralba District ambulance transport station
- Former Boolaroo Police Station
- Hawkins building
- Headmaster's residence for Boolaroo Public School

- The former T.C. Frith building
- George Rinker's barber shop
- Pasminco office building
- Munibung lookout
- Virtue's Garage
- Motorbike shop
- Hippy Java building
- The Sulphide Hotel (Shinnies)
- Lance Needs Butchery
- The five islands and bridges that used to connect to the west side of the lake
- Connection to Speers Point Park
- Former tramline that used to connect Boolaroo to Newcastle
- Catholic Church
- Church of England
- Boolaroo Bowling Club



Left - Steam tram at First Street, Boolaroo. Right - T.C Frith store front

Challenges and potential threats to Boolaroo

Are there any additional challenges and potential threats to Boolaroo that should be considered?

Survey respondents identified additional potential threats and challenges to those identified during the community workshop. They included:

- Traffic on the Main Road
- Lack of adequate maintenance for Council-owned assets and recreational areas.

- Lack of safe entry and exit points to the cycleway (e.g., at Bunnings and seventh Street).
- Insufficient pedestrian crossing.
- Deterioration and decay due to underdevelopment.
- Inadequate footpaths and building gutters.
- Threat of new buildings being used only for office spaces, not for businesses.
- Dangerous entry and exit to Spar as pedestrians are not using nearby pedestrian crossing.
- Tobacco shops.
- Insufficient parking.
- Lead in soil.
- Essential services and businesses closing.
- Loss of emergency services.
- Poor road maintenance.
- Insufficient pedestrian crossings.
- Increased through traffic due to new development.
- Rising crime and anti-social behaviour (vandalism, graffiti, hooning, theft).
- Poor street drainage.
- Overdevelopment.
- Lack of acknowledgment of historical relevance of sites/buildings could result in their destruction or demolition.
- Lack of plans to upgrade Cockle Creek train station.
- Lack of greenery along Main Road.
- Need to consider the capacity of Boolaroo Public School due to new residential development.
- Demolition of mid-1900s houses threatens the character of Boolaroo Heritage Precinct.
- Loss of village ambiance.
- Overdevelopment is threatening the character and village feel of Boolaroo.

Are there additional opportunities for Boolaroo that should be considered?

A number of survey respondents provided suggestions for additional opportunities for Boolaroo. They included:

- Highlight historical buildings along Main Road through interpretation.

- Improve green and recreational spaces such as Albert Reserve and Kenny Park.
- Provide grants to historic building owners to restore facades and awnings.
- Improve access to public transport and support facilities.
- Establish a museum for local heritage items.
- Install speed humps on Main Road.
- Improve pedestrian access across TC Frith Avenue for bicycle paths, parks and train station.
- Improve pedestrian access across Munibung Road for access to the commercial estate via bikes and walking.
- Utilise empty bush area between Cockle Creek Train Station and TC Frith Avenue (possibly a skate park).
- Install raised pedestrian crossings at the school.
- Create links to Speers Point Park to encourage visitors to move up Main Road.
- Implement traffic management during peak hours.
- Improve street lighting and install CCTV cameras for increased security.
- Include parks and playgrounds in new residential developments.
- Install roundabouts near Bunnings.
- Improve general street plantings.
- Improve pedestrian access to Cockle Creek.
- Stop building high rises on Main Street.
- Install traffic lights.
- Widen Main Road.
- Construct more footpaths.
- Protect existing historical buildings along Main Road.
- Create a stronger food scene.
- Provide opportunities for local businesses to promote themselves.
- Offer interpretive information on panels in Main Road.
- Encourage restaurants on Main Road to open for dinner.
- Realise public transport from the proposed Glendale interchange, such as light rail or more bus routes.
- Encourage more cafes and restaurants along Main Road.
- Establish a dedicated community centre with public toilets, a room for hire, and an information station for activities like kids' holiday activities and local group meetings.

- Create a Men's Shed.
- Develop a community garden.
- Recognise the Sulphide Corporation's significant role in Boolaroo's history.
- Discourage the use of Main Road as a thoroughfare for non-residents by reducing the speed limit and adding traffic control measures.
- Improve safety at night by updating street lighting.
- Install bus shelters at all designated bus stops.
- Ensure accessibility for those living with disabilities.

Stories about Boolaroo and individuals connected to the area who should be shared and celebrated

Many survey participants shared stories and historical information about Boolaroo, and emphasised the value of speaking with long-term residents who hold invaluable local knowledge. A selection of stories, historical figures and themes suggested for interpretation by survey participants is listed in the following section together with selected quotes:

People's stories

- Mr. Albert Hawkins, entrepreneur and community benefactor
- Mr Lance Needs, the butcher
- Mr McEnerney, Boolaroo Public School principal
- The many stories of the Sulphite Corporation workers
- The business owners and civic service providers along the Main Road of Boolaroo

"It would be good to tell stories of people who used key buildings (e.g. butchers, police officers and any ongoing connections to the area through their families)."

- Cressy Family
- Alan Craig
- George Rinker, the barber
- Oral histories: Share the stories of long-term Boolaroo residents

"You will find that if you speak to any of the older folk in the neighbourhood, they are most likely second or third generation Boolaroo residents and can share a lot of stories about Boolaroo."

- Bob Mason, operator of Lakeside Theatre
- Gundy Roberts, Newsagency

- The Frith Family
- The Mitchel family

"As a young boy, I used to help run the cattle of the Hawkins Hill. Also used to help my godmother wash the Boral trucks when it at the top of Third Street."

Places

- Tell the stories about the Sulphite Corporation and Pasmico Smelter
- The social hubs of Boolaroo: The Commercial and Sulphite Hotel, the Lake Cinema and public halls, the Boolaroo Bowling and Sports Club
- Share stories and information about important local landmarks such as Cockle Creek, Munibung Hill and Speers Point

Next steps

The outcomes from community consultation will inform the Heritage Interpretation Plan and its recommendations for interpretive opportunities along Main Road. It is anticipated that the Heritage Interpretation Plan will be finalised by the end of 2024.

For more information and project updates, please visit:

<https://shape.lakemac.com.au/boolaroo-hip>

11. APPENDIX B: BACKGROUND RESEARCH - EXISTING STUDIES AND STRATEGIC PLANS

Boolaroo Heritage Study 1997

The Boolaroo Heritage Study, prepared by Suturs Architects in July 1997, sought to analyse the Main Street area of Boolaroo and prepare recommendations for improvements and management of future development. The project was jointly funded by Council, the NSW Heritage Assistance Program and the Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter, Boolaroo, to address the growing concern that the heritage streetscape was being eroded by new non-cohesive developments, resulting in a loss of commercial identity.

The study involved a review of historical information, a series of Boolaroo Main Street committee meetings, a public workshop and a field survey.

The study noted that the dominant architectural styles along main street were Federation period buildings, Inter-war buildings, post war and late twentieth century buildings. The study then identified buildings along Main Street or in the immediate surrounds that were assessed as having heritage significance stemming from their prominence in the streetscape, historic or social associations, or their architectural quality. At the time the draft Lake Macquarie LEP had listed three of the properties the report identified as significant including the former Post office, the Commercial Hotel and Woods Electric. In addition, the report recommended that the Boolaroo Public School and the former Ambulance Station and associated outbuildings be locally listed. In addition to recommended listings, the report graded all of the buildings along Main Street according to the level of contribution to the overall streetscape designating buildings as key

elements (items for listing), background elements, neutral elements and intrusive elements.

The report provided guidelines regarding works on any buildings within the study area, identifying key principles to any works on heritage fabrics as well as more specific guidelines for elements such as parapets and facades, verandas, awnings, shopfronts, advertising and signage, fenestrations, colour schemes, materials and maintaining local character.

Following the guidelines, the report provided priority actions which the Council could implement to protect and enhance the character of Boolaroo Main Street including the removal of intrusive signage, basic restoration of facades, installation of sympathetic street signs and furniture, landscaping opportunities, reconstruction of awnings and verandas and the alteration of unsympathetic facades. The following initial actions were recommended:

- new designs for signage
- consolidation of street seating design
- design of new and better street lighting
- adaptation and consolidation of planter boxes
- building and streetscape enhancement through new paint and minor works.

Longer term goals included:

- the enhancement and formalisation of the natural gateways at the north and south entrances to Boolaroo
- formalisation and implementation of a tree planting scheme along Main Road
- construction of bus shelters

- large scale building works such as reconstruction, adaptation and new development.

Lake Macquarie Heritage Study 1993

In 1992, Lake Macquarie City Council commissioned the production of a heritage study for all the suburbs within the LGA. Suters Architects Snell were engaged to prepare the study which was published in 1993. The study identified and reported on heritage sites in each suburb and locality, including details of each site including the address, owner, category, name, characteristics, descriptions, historical information and architectural details as well as a statement of significance.

The Heritage Study identified 13 sites and items in Boolaroo which were considered to be of heritage significance. In addition to identify heritage significant items, the heritage study also provides recommendations to ensure the protection of the heritage significance of some of the items.

Item	Recommendation
BR-01: Group of 4 cottages, Creeks Reserve Road	Discourage the external use of inappropriate modern materials
BR-02 Boolaroo Post Office, 91 Main Road	The aesthetic contribution of the post office. to the streetscape would be improved by removal of the flat roofed porches and return of the front elevations to the original form
BR-03 Lake Cinema, 62 Main Road	More information is needed
BR-04 Former Motor Garage, 19 Main Road	Encourage continued commercial and domestic use and interpretation using compatible signs
BR-05 Commercial Hotel, 2 Main Road	More information is needed
BR-06 House "Alida", 48 Lakeview Street	Investigate probable associations with local business families or Sulphide Corporations

Item	Recommendation
BR-07 Pasminco Metal Sulphide, Main Road Boolaroo	This important site merits a full archaeological study
BR-08 Former T.C. Frith Department Store, 39 Main Road	More information is needed
BR-09 Shop, 8 Main Road	Former Grocer's Shop needs rehabilitations and restoration and removal of inappropriate imitation-brick cladding
BR-10 Shop, 14 Main Road	No recommendations provided
BR-11 Shops, 16 Main Road	No recommendations provided
BR-12 Shop, 18 Main Road, Boolaroo	No recommendations provided
BR-13 Former Boolaroo Reservoir, 1(a) Sixth Street	No recommendations provided

Lake Macquarie Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy 2011

Umwelt prepared the Lake Macquarie Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy on behalf of the Council to set out how Council and the local Aboriginal community will work together to implement the LMCC's Statement of Commitment, which was ratified by the Awabakal, Bahtabah and Koombahtoo LALCs. The Statement of Commitment identifies how the Council intends to work towards cultural reconciliation and sustainable management of Aboriginal cultural resources in the city's landscape. The strategy addresses five key management the representing the main areas of Council's operations that are relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage values:

1. Communication:
 - Section 4.0 of the strategy sets out the Council's policy for managing culturally sensitive information and establishes

guidelines for consultation with Aboriginal communities as well as Aboriginal cultural awareness material.

2. Strategic planning

- Section 5.0 of the strategy provides information about land use planning in culturally sensitive landscapes and identifies sensitive lands that are under threat and should be conserved.

3. Streamlined development assessment

- Section 6.0 of the strategy presents revised clauses to address Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Lake Macquarie LEP (2004) and DCP (2004, amended 2009).

4. Managing public land

- Section 7.0 of the strategy identifies priority land parcels for which to prepare plans of management to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the site.

5. Partnerships and community support

- Section 8.0 of the strategy seeks to reinforce the importance of Aboriginal community participating in management decisions, particularly those that affect Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

The preparation of the strategy relied on extensive consultation with the local Aboriginal community, and was guided by a Project Steering Committee which included representatives from:

- Awabakal, Bahtabah and Koombahtoo LALCs
- representatives of Elders groups including the Keepa Keepa Elders
- Council's Aboriginal community workers.

This group was guided by the Awabakal Descendants Traditional Aboriginal Owners Corporation and Awabakal Traditional Aboriginal Owners Corporation.

The final section of the strategy is an implementation plan which outlines recommended actions and responsibilities associated with each of the five themes. Each action was assigned a relative level of priority to indicate to Council which actions needed to be undertaken immediately and those that would take longer periods to implement.

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 is the first Metropolitan Plan prepared for Greater Newcastle. The plan sets out strategies and actions that aim to drive sustainable growth across the LGAs within the Greater Newcastle including Cessnock City, Lake Macquarie City, Maitland City, Newcastle City and communities in Port Stephens. The plan assists in the realisation of the Hunter Regional Plan 2036. The vision of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan is to create a dynamic and entrepreneurial city, with a competitive economy, an exciting inner city and green suburban communities, and a city that is a national leader in the new economy with smarter cities and carbon neutral initiatives and collaborative governance. The plan identifies five elements which will help to achieve these aims:

1. Metro Heart: Newcastle City centre is being revitalised through public and private investment to draw residents back into the city and to encourage new businesses to thrive in the area.
2. Metro Core: The Metro Core sits east of the Pacific Motorway and is surrounded by the harbour, Lake Macquarie and the Pacific Ocean. This area currently includes two thirds of Newcastle's homes and jobs, and revitalisation of major transport routes is being undertaken to create greater connectivity and improve commutes.
3. Metro Frame: Newcastle is surrounded by an arc of cities and towns, located by the water or in the bush. These places have strong identities, and this plan aims to enhance and celebrate their character and improve connectivity throughout the Greater Newcastle area.

4. Trading Hub: Greater Newcastle is in the only place in regional NSW where national rail and road routes intersect and there are opportunities to improve the connection between these modes of trade.
5. Iconic tourism destinations: Greater Newcastle boasts nationally and internationally admire tourist destinations and events, which need to be maintained and celebrated.

Based on the Hunter Regional Plan 2036, the Greater Newcastle Plan sets out four outcomes and associated strategies to achieve the vision, and an implementation plan was developed in conjunction with this plan to assist the five local councils to enact these strategies.

Outcome	Strategy
Create a workforce skilled and ready for the new economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce the revitalisation of Newcastle City centre and expand transformation along the waterside Grown the airport and the aerospace and defence precinct at Williamtown Increase domestic and global trade capabilities at Newcastle port Grow health precincts and connect the health network Expand education and innovation clusters Promote tourism, major events and sporting teams on the national and international stage Respond to the changing needs of the new economy Address changing retail consumer demand Plan for jobs close to homes in the metro frame
Enhance environments, amenity and resilience for quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create better buildings and great places Create more great public spaces where people come together Enhance the Blue and Green Grid and urban tree canopy Protect rural amenity outside urban areas Improve resilience to natural hazards Plan for Carbon Neutral Greater Newcastle by 2050
Deliver housing close to jobs and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise the delivery of infill housing opportunities within existing urban areas


Outcome	Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlock housing supply through infrastructure coordination and delivery Deliver well planned rural residential housing areas Prepare local strategies to deliver housing
Improve connections to jobs, services and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate land use and transport planning Prepare for technology-enhanced mobility changes that improve connectivity Create higher speed connections to Sydney to encourage new employment opportunities Protect major freight corridors.

Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan 2014

The Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2014 is the statutory instrument that governs development in the Lake Macquarie City. The LEP is supported by the Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014, which provides guidelines for development in line with the requirements stipulated in the LEP. Heritage items listed under Schedule 5 of the Lake Macquarie LEP 2014 are managed in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.10 Heritage Conservation of this LEP. The objectives of Section 5.10 are set out below:

-
- (1) *Objectives: The objectives of this clause are as follows:*
 - (a) *To conserve the environmental heritage of Lake Macquarie City*
 - (b) *To conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including fabric, settings and views*
 - (c) *To conserve archaeological sites*
 - (d) *To conserve Aboriginal object and Aboriginal places of heritage significance*
-

12. APPENDIX C: BASIC AHIMS SEARCH



AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : Artefact Heritage
Client Service ID : 923143

Sabrina Manuela Roesner
Suite 56, Jones Bay Wharf, 26-32 Pirrama Rd
Pyrmont New South Wales 2009
Attention: Sabrina Manuela Roesner
Email: sabrina.roesner@artefact.net.au

Date: 23 August 2024

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Address : 15 MAIN ROAD BOOLAROO 2284 with a Buffer of 1000 meters, conducted by Sabrina Manuela Roesner on 23 August 2024.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

3	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *



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Pyrmont NSW 2009
Australia

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