

Heritage is the foundational and defining element of Central Precinct that establishes the precinct's role, identity, and character, enables connections of the area's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history and reflects social and cultural values both past and present.

## Protecting and celebrating heritage at Central

### How will Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage be protected and celebrated at Central?

Central Precinct is recognised for its unique heritage values. A principal heritage planning objective is to respect, enhance, and manage these rich values while delivering a world class precinct renewal.

A suite of detailed studies has been prepared as part of the State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study to identify:

- cultural heritage and heritage assets
- assess and provide recommendations to minimise potential impacts
- celebrate and enhance Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage at Central.

### How has the indicative masterplan considered heritage?

The SSP Study and indicative masterplan have carefully considered the unique Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage values of Central to ensure heritage is preserved, enhanced and opportunities for new connections to heritage assets become celebrated as part of the precinct renewal.

The Central Precinct Renewal Program offers an opportunity to breathe life into Central's heritage assets through adaptive reuse, revitalisation and providing new opportunities for the community to view, appreciate and connect with these assets.

New public open space, pedestrian connections and location of new buildings have been designed with heritage as a key consideration. This includes minimising impacts to key heritage views of the clocktower, creating new views of the clocktower from the over station development, opening Mortuary Station up to the community, adaptive reuse of Former Prince Alfred Substation and providing new viewing opportunities of the Bradfield Flying Junctions via new rail pedestrian bridges.

## Have heritage stakeholders been consulted on the plans for Central?

Since 2021, the project has been working with key heritage stakeholders to help inform the SSP and indicative masterplan including Heritage Council and Heritage NSW. For more information on stakeholder engagement as part of the preparation of the SSP Study, please see the Consultation Outcomes Report on Department of Planning and Environment [website](#).

## Aboriginal heritage

### How has Aboriginal heritage been considered as part of the SSP Study?

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (ACHS) for Central Precinct has identified the tangible and intangible Aboriginal heritage values of Central, identified specific areas of cultural significance and assessed the potential archaeological impacts of the precinct renewal on the site. The study has been informed by consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders and sets out recommendations to guide the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage as the plans for Central progress.

### What is a Connecting with Country Framework?

The Connecting with Country Framework is a holistic framework that captures narratives and principles drawn from Country for use in design. The Framework is informed by consultation with the local Aboriginal community and gives guidelines for the design team to:

- embrace the Aboriginal historical and contemporary identity
- engage visitors to explore the story of the place
- integrate Aboriginal culture and narratives to create well-connected and welcoming places within the precinct

The Framework aims to provide a basis for co-designing with the locally connected Aboriginal community throughout the life of the precinct renewal. It identifies seven Statements of Commitment for the renewal, with accompanying principles for action, considerations, and challenges, and twelve key themes for design integration.

### How do the Aboriginal heritage studies prepared as part of the SSP align with the Connecting with Country Framework?

The Aboriginal heritage studies prepared as part of the SSP Study, have been informed by the Connecting with Country Framework and embed the recommendations and principles outlined in the Framework.

The twelve themes identified in the Framework align with the interpretive themes of 'journey's and 'gatherings' in the Heritage Interpretation Strategy. These themes will guide the design and planning for coordinated public art and heritage interpretation across the precinct.

### What engagement has occurred with First Nations stakeholders outside of preparing the Connecting with Country Framework?

As part of the preparation of the SSP Study, engagement with a range of First Nations stakeholders was undertaken to understand their aspirations for the precinct renewal. This engagement occurred with knowledge holders including local Elders and community members, the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, First Nations representatives from local organisations and an Aboriginal anthropologist and archaeologist.

## What feedback was heard out of the engagement with First Nations stakeholders?

First Nations stakeholders identified six key themes for the project team to consider as part of the Program. These included:

- Support and endorsement of the precinct renewal but future engagement recommended
- Central Precinct must be anchored in Gadigal identity to properly connect with Country
- The design of Central Precinct must reflect the strong Aboriginal history of Central
- The design of Central Precinct should explore and respect Aboriginal culture and heritage
- Embedding Aboriginal voices at all stages of the project is key in ensuring Central Precinct is a welcoming and inclusive place for First Nations people
- Relationship building with peak Indigenous stakeholders is critical in identifying opportunities for Indigenous economic development and improving project processes.

## How has the SSP Study and indicative masterplan incorporated feedback provided by First Nations stakeholders?

Feedback heard from First Nations stakeholders has been incorporated into several SSP Studies and the indicative masterplan.

This has included:

- the Connecting with Country Framework, informing the development of the seven Statements of Commitment and twelve key themes for design integration
- the Public Art Strategy which identifies the need for significant Aboriginal art by Aboriginal artists and a number of significant commissions available only to Aboriginal artists
- the Heritage Interpretation Strategy which identifies Aboriginal stories to be told at Central, with the telling of these stories a priority for the precinct renewal
- the Public Domain Strategy bringing these studies together to provide a diverse and holistic cultural framework for Central.

We will continue to meaningfully engage with First Nations stakeholders and the locally connected Aboriginal community throughout the planning and design of Central Precinct to ensure the new Precinct reflects the strong history of Central and explores and respects Aboriginal culture and heritage.

For more information on this engagement and feedback heard, see the Aboriginal Engagement Strategy SSP Study on the Department of Planning and Environment website.

## How will the Central Precinct recognise and acknowledge the history of Platform 1 for Aboriginal people?

Recognising and acknowledging Aboriginal history has been integral to the design and planning of Central Precinct. As part of the Connecting with Country Framework, an Acknowledging and Healing theme has been developed to acknowledge the history of Platform 1, its role in the movement of the Stolen Generations and how the design of Central can work towards reconciliation and healing. We'll continue to work closely with Aboriginal stakeholders to acknowledge and integrate this theme into the designs for Central.

## **How will the Central Precinct recognise the cultural significance of Redfern to Aboriginal people and the ongoing connection to Gadigal Country beyond the precinct boundary?**

Through consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, we've heard the importance of Redfern to the Aboriginal community, as the urban Aboriginal heartland of Sydney, and the historical connection of Redfern to Central and down to Sydney Harbour.

Reconnection of Redfern and the Harbour has been identified as a key theme of the Connecting with Country Framework and is one of the key objectives of the precinct renewal. New pedestrian connections on the over station development will improve connectivity between Central and the surrounding suburbs of Redfern, Ultimo, Chippendale and Surry Hills. As the program progresses, we will continue to work closely with locally connected Aboriginal stakeholders and the Redfern North Eveleigh Precinct Renewal project team to identify opportunities to strengthen connections to Redfern.

## **Non-Aboriginal heritage**

### **Will the renewal maintain significant views to the clocktower?**

The indicative masterplan has carefully considered the key heritage views to the clocktower from surrounding streets and has been designed to retain and minimise impacts on those key views.

### **Will the renewal create new views of the clocktower?**

Yes, new and varied views of the clocktower will be created from the over station development. This will include from Central Avenue, walking towards the Sydney Terminal Building and from Central Green, a new green open space, offering opportunities for the community to appreciate and connect with the heritage of the clocktower and Sydney Terminal Building.

### **Can the proposed new buildings be located further away from the Sydney Terminal Building?**

As part of the renewal, we have carefully considered the proximity of new buildings to key heritage buildings such as the Sydney Terminal Building. This will ensure we breathe life into heritage assets to celebrate the iconic heritage of Central Station and create new opportunities for the community to connect with and appreciate heritage at Central. Strong pedestrian connections through and around the Grand Concourse, new green open space and activated buildings in proximity to the Sydney Terminal Building will ensure it becomes the heart of the precinct, amongst the bustle of daily life.

### **What is the Sydney Terminal Building Revitalisation project?**

As the Precinct progresses through the SSP rezoning, the NSW Government has initiatives underway to provide the community with new and exciting spaces including the Sydney Terminal Building Revitalisation project. This project aims to rejuvenate Central Station's Sydney Terminal Building, by improving the customer experience and creating vibrant, activated and a safe place for people.

It will create a unique destination that celebrates heritage, creates new and enhanced public open spaces for the community to gather, increases amenity and safety, whilst improving the customer experience of a world class transport interchange.

While the project forms part of the overall Central Precinct Renewal, it does not require rezoning approval and can be approved independently of the SSP rezoning. Transport for NSW has lodged an initial scoping study to the Department of Planning and Environment to refurbish and restore the Sydney Terminal Building.

## **What is the Former Prince Alfred Substation Adaptive Reuse project?**

As the Precinct progresses through the SSP rezoning, the NSW Government has initiatives underway to provide the communities and businesses with exciting new spaces. The former Prince Alfred Substation will be re-furbished into a potential new space for tech and creative industries or start-ups. The renovations will create 1,800 square metres of commercial space with modern fixtures, finishes, and accessibility improvements including new lift, stairs, and pedestrian access to Prince Alfred Park. The project will preserve the important heritage values of the former substation, while providing safety and access improvements. The development application for the project received approval from City of Sydney in April 2022.

## **What are the plans for Mortuary Station?**

As part of the precinct renewal, Mortuary Station will open to the community for the first time. With its historic garden setting, it will create a new area of public domain, becoming the new front door to the precinct from Chippendale and connecting into the Goods Line. Conservation and adaptive reuse work will be undertaken in line with specialist heritage advice to acknowledge the State heritage values of Mortuary Station.

## **What are the plans for the Goods Line as part of the precinct renewal?**

The precinct renewal offers the opportunity to reconnect the Goods Line by opening currently inaccessible sections, providing a pedestrian connection from Central Precinct to Darling Harbour connecting with UTS and the Powerhouse Museum.

## **Will steam trains continue to operate at Central?**

Yes, steam trains will continue to operate at Central Station as part of the Precinct renewal.

## **Will the Bradfield Flying Junctions be impacted by the renewal?**

No, the Bradfield Flying Junctions will be celebrated in the new precinct. New rail pedestrian bridges will offer opportunities for the community to view and appreciate these heritage assets.

## **Heritage interpretation**

### **What is heritage interpretation?**

Heritage interpretation provides a way of presenting the cultural significance of a place or heritage asset and can include initiatives such as signage, public art, heritage displays, moveable heritage, restoration and conservation, public programs, tours, and digital initiatives.

### **How will heritage interpretation be implemented at Central?**

The Heritage Interpretation Strategy prepared for Central Precinct sets out a framework for future interpretation planning around two overarching themes of 'Journeys' and 'Gatherings'. These themes are intentionally broad to capture the diverse cultural, social, intangible, industrial and engineering values of Central, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, and provide a framework for expressing meaningful site stories through the precinct renewal.

The Heritage Interpretation Strategy has been informed by First Nations engagement undertaken as part of the preparation of the SSP Study.

## Want to know more?

This Frequently Asked Questions document provides an overview of the SSP Studies. To read the technical reports associated with Culture and Heritage FAQ see the below studies on the [Department of Planning and Environment webpage](#):

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study
- Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study
- Conservation Management Plan
- Heritage Interpretation Strategy
- Connecting with Country Framework
- Aboriginal Engagement Strategy

For more information about the Program visit the [Central Precinct Renewal Program webpage](#).