



# Newcastle Inner City Bypass – Rankin Park to Jesmond

## Preserving our local history

Transport for NSW seeks to avoid, minimise and mitigate the impacts of roads and other infrastructure on the environment during the development and design of its projects.

The Hollywood shanty town and Wallsend Plattsburg tramway are located in the construction footprint; therefore, impact is unavoidable. To minimise this impact a salvage program is being completed under a Historical Archaeological Research Design & Excavation Methodology as part of the Rankin Park to Jesmond project.

The methodology provides a comprehensive way to mitigate the impacts to the identified historical (non-Aboriginal) archaeology.

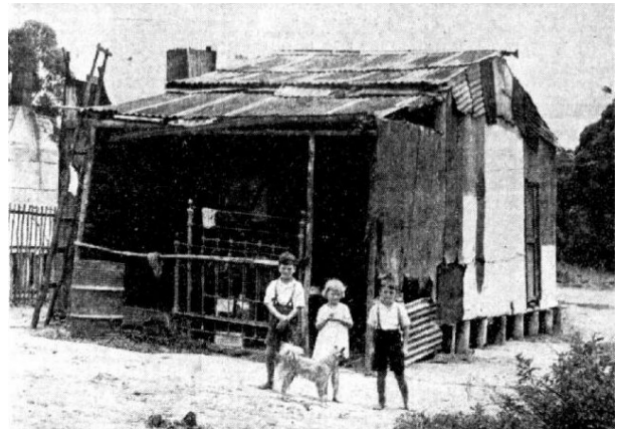
### Hollywood

The Lambton Camp, known to some as Doggyville or more popularly by the community as Hollywood, was located in Jesmond Park from the 1920s until the early 1960s.

Historical records indicate that Hollywood:

- was established in the 1920s, around the time the Great Depression hit Newcastle
- housed a community of up to 130 people, including men, women, children and families who lived in about 40 different buildings

- was not connected to formal council services like electricity and water, but some residents connected to utilities through their own means
- was vacated in the early 1960s, including through evictions, and was demolished soon after.



Two roomed structure at Hollywood. (Source: Newcastle Sun, 24 January 1941, page 5)

In 1949, 70 to 80 families lived in shanties primarily along the paper road (central dirt track running through shanty town) from the tramway at Jesmond stretching for about 550 metres to the heavily incised creek valley to the south. The shanty town is documented in historical newspaper articles from the 1940s and 1950s and in grainy features on a 1954 air photo.

By 1957, Hollywood had continued to grow, some residents had lived there for 37 years (since 1920), others had moved in when other nearby camps closed at Nobby's, Belmont and Stockton.



Portion of a 1944 aerial photograph showing a central track running through Hollywood. Source: <https://lachlanwetherall.com/then-and-now/hollywood/> (Run 5, Image 01465, Newcastle Library, Local Studies)

Archaeological evidence of the shanty town and associated activities were identified during the field survey carried out for the project's Environmental Impact Statement. This evidence included corrugated iron, kerosene tins and other metal fragments concentrated at several sites.



February 2023: Archaeologist with remnant bricks

The shanty town survives in the landscape having been relatively untouched since the demolition in the 1960s, what remains includes building foundations, occupation deposits and artefacts. The Hollywood shanty town is a rare Depression-era archaeological site with scientific potential for expanding knowledge of Depression-era shanty town settlement patterning and material culture. As such, it is considered to be of local heritage significance.

We have recently started salvage of the site and a number of interesting artefacts have been found, including hair combs, spoons, toys, marbles and bricks from remnant housing.



February 2023: Artefacts found in recent salvage

Transport has compiled oral histories from residents who lived in the camp and these, together with the artefacts and information from local historians, will be documented in an archaeological excavation report

We are working to ensure the preservation of artefacts found at Hollywood and share the important local history with the community.

## Wallsend Plattsburg Tramway

The Wallsend Plattsburg tramway forms the northern boundary of the Hollywood shanty town and was integral to the pattern of the shanty settlement. The tramway was constructed between 1886 and 1887 to provide reliable transportation between the Newcastle and the satellite mining and industrial villages.

The original steam tramway was converted to electric traction between 1923 and 1926. Decreasing patronage threatened the viability of the tramway, with the eventual closure in 1949.

The tramway has since been converted to a shared path with all the original fabric removed, leaving only the earthen embankment (for about 1.5 kilometres) through Jesmond Park.

The tramway contains local historical value as a tangible reminder of past light rail transport and as an element of the Hollywood shanty town site.

## More information

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team:

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### Translating and interpreting service

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 818 433**

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