

# Redfern Station Upgrade New Southern Concourse Project

Heritage Interpretation Plan  
Stage 2



# Document Information

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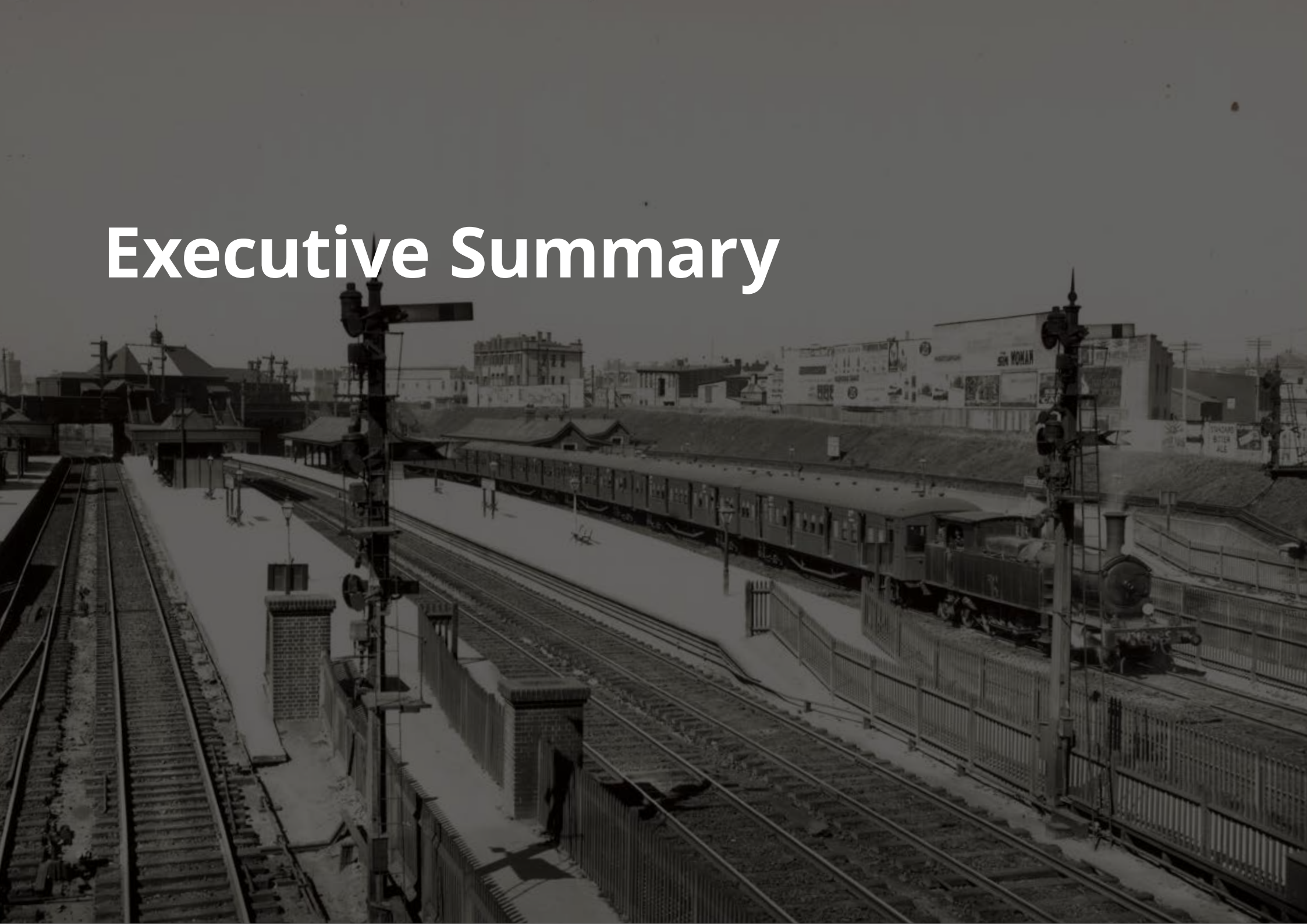


**We acknowledge the Gadigal people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which Redfern Station sits today. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.**

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# Executive Summary



# Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd have been commissioned by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to prepare a Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) for the Redfern Station Upgrade- New Southern Concourse, the project.

The subject site is located in Redfern, 1.3km from Central Station. The New Southern Concourse spans the rail corridor at the southern end of Redfern Station between Little Eveleigh Street and Marian Street and provides both lift and stair access to the above ground platforms, Platforms 1-10. It also includes the building located at 125-127 Little Eveleigh Street, the roadway Little Eveleigh Street between Lawson Street and Ivy Lane, and the TfNSW land to the north of 1-9 Marian Street.

The Plan has been developed to to satisfy Conditions of Approval for application No. SSI10041, condition D7 and to provide analysis and recommendations for interpretation at key locations of the upgraded Redfern Station site.

Given the history of the site and surrounding area, the Plan will provide the perfect opportunity to develop and incorporate innovative interpretation elements into the Redfern Station Upgrade, that will convey an inclusive account of Redfern's rich history, showcasing the stories of the local community, both past and present.

The key objectives of this interpretation plan are to:

- 01 Outline the interpretive process which is proposed for the subject area
- 02 Identify constraints and opportunities that may impact the implementation of interpretation in the subject area
- 03 Identify and summarise the key interpretive themes and storylines for the subject area
- 04 Consult with a wide range of stakeholders to capture stories and ideas for heritage interpretation
- 05 Provide recommendations for appropriate interpretive elements that are beautifully designed and provide a clear and engaging interpretation of the relevant parts of Redfern's history, natural environment and community.

This plan has been prepared with reference to (but not limited to) key client documentation and current best practice guidelines as detailed below:

- Curio Projects 2018, *Heritage Interpretation Plan, Interim Final Report*
- Curio Projects 2020, *Conservation Management Plan*
- Curio Projects 2016, *Interpretation Strategy for Australian Technology Park*
- Tonkin Zulaikha Greer 2021, *Heritage Interpretation Strategy*
- DesignInc 2021, *Redfern Station Upgrade - New Southern Concourse Urban Design and Public Domain Plan*
- *Heritage Information Series: Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines*, NSW Heritage Office 2005
- *Heritage Information Series: Heritage Interpretation Policy*, NSW Heritage Council and NSW Government Department of Planning 2005
- Australia ICOMOS, 2013 *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)*

# Conclusions & Recommendations

The planning approval requirement to prepare an interpretation plan has provided an opportunity for heritage interpretation at key locations of the Redfern Station Upgrade site to be considered.

The key themes and storylines developed as part of this process form a strong basis for developing interpretation that is relevant to the history of the site. In particular, there is an opportunity to create meaningful interpretation products that not only continues to celebrate the significance of the subject site, and its surrounding area, but also encourages and instills local pride in place, community, history, and future.

Curio Projects have reviewed relevant background material and consulted with stakeholders to identify constraints and opportunities related to interpretation on the site.

The information included in this Heritage Interpretation Plan forms the basis for the development of interpretation products that support innovative and engaging storytelling at this site.

Detailed content and design will be developed and finalised as part of Stage 3 of the Heritage Interpretation Plan, lead by Curio Projects and in consultation with Transport for NSW and the community.



01

# Storytelling and Interpretation Vision





## **Storytelling and Interpretation Vision**

To interpret the rich and diverse history of Redfern Station and the surrounding area in a meaningful and authentic way that allows the community to gain a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the significant history of Redfern and its people, whilst also honouring the resilience of the Traditional Owners of the land.

02

# Context



# Context

## 2.1

### Site Context

Redfern Station is located in the City of Sydney local government area on the western most end of Redfern, 1.3km from Central Station. The Station itself is bounded by Lawson Street to the north, Marian Street and the Eveleigh Railway Workshops to the south, Gibbons Street to the east, and Little Eveleigh Street to the west (See Fig 2.1). Redfern Station is an important interchange in the Sydney Railway network, and provides access to nearby facilities for locals, commuters, business precincts, as well as the students and staff of the nearby University of Sydney.

The study area covered in this Interpretation Plan includes the new southern concourse, which spans the railway corridor between the new railway entrances at 125-127 Little Eveleigh Street and Marian Street. The new southern concourse will also provide access to the above ground Platforms 1-10 from the southern end of the station. (See Fig 2.2).



**Figure 2.1:** Redfern Railway Station location

Source: SIX Maps 2018, site marked by orange dot





**Figure 2.2:** Redfern Railway Station location in relation to Eveleigh Railway Workshops and the University of Sydney  
Source: SIX Maps 2018  
with Redfern Station highlighted orange

- New Southern Concourse
- New station entrances

## 2.2

## Development Context

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been prepared by Curio Projects for Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) for the Redfern Station Upgrade – New Southern Concourse. This upgrade sits within the footprint of the Redfern Waterloo Authority Sites State Significant Precinct, which also includes North Eveleigh, South Eveleigh and Carriageworks sites.

Redfern Station is the 6th busiest train station in NSW, and caters to close to 70,000 commuters on average weekday, making it among the most important stations in the Sydney area.

Redfern Station has been identified as a priority station for upgrades:

- to cater to increasing growth in use by commuters, both as a transfer station and as a final destination;
- to improve and enhance customer and commuter experience and overall accessibility;
- to develop and create a design that can be easily integrated into future customer growth and future station upgrades, up to 2036;
- to reduce the time it takes for passengers to leave the platform after disembarking from a train;
- and finally, to provide convenient access to platforms 1 to 10.



**Figure 2.3:** Architectural render of New Southern Concourse  
Source: DesignInc, 2021



### 2.2.1

#### Redfern Station Upgrade – New Southern Concourse

The Redfern Station Upgrade - New Southern Concourse ultimately aims to provide accessible and safe access to the station through modern, secure, and integrated transport infrastructure.

The project involves the construction of a new pedestrian concourse located to the south of the existing Lawson Street concourse. The southern concourse will provide a new pedestrian connection across the rail corridor via new entrances at Marian Street and Little Eveleigh Street.(Fig 2.4).



**Figure 2.4:**  
left: Architectural render of Marian Street Concourse entrance  
right: Architectural render of Little Eveleigh Street Concourse entrance  
Source: DesignInc, 2021

### 2.2.2

#### Heritage Items in the Vicinity

Redfern Station is surrounded by several State significant heritage items, including the State Heritage Register (SHR) Listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops.

The SHR listing for the Eveleigh Railway Workshops includes the Locomotive Workshops, the Works Manager's Office and the New Locomotive Workshops, the Large Erecting Shop; Carriage Workshops; the Paint Shop; the Blacksmith's Shop; the Eveleigh Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office and the Scientific Services Building No.1, as well as the machinery collection.

Redfern Station was, and remains, an integral part of the day to day operations housed in the south (South Eveleigh) and north (Carriageworks) sections of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops.



## 2.3

## Conditions of Consent – Heritage Interpretation

Approval of the Redfern Station Upgrade Project was granted by the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport, 10 December 2020, under Division 5.2 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). A Heritage Interpretation Strategy was initially prepared for inclusion in the Response to Submissions Report for the Project to provide additional detail on the planned heritage interpretation outcomes for the Project.

The Heritage Interpretation Strategy has subsequently been updated to meet Conditions of Approval D5 and D6 which state:

**D5 The Proponent must prepare an updated Heritage Interpretation Strategy to provide the strategic direction for heritage interpretation across the SSI site and to inform the Heritage Interpretation Plan required by Condition D7 and the Urban Design and Public Domain Plan required by Condition D35.**

The Strategy must:

- (a) have regard to the precinct's historic significance (particularly its social, intangible and industrial heritage values);
- (b) recognise the spiritual, intangible and cultural values of the site to Aboriginal people and address the full story of the place (i.e. landscape through the eyes of Indigenous inhabitants);
- (c) consider the site's relationship to the broader vicinity including the Eveleigh Railway Workshops and Central Railway Station;
- (d) have regard to the interpretation strategy that has been developed for the Eveleigh Railways Workshop site; and
- (e) be prepared in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan for the site and relevant Heritage NSW guidelines.

**D6 The Heritage Interpretation Strategy must be prepared in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, Heritage NSW, the MLALC, Aboriginal Stakeholders and the City of Sydney Council and submitted to the Planning Secretary for information prior to the construction of permanent built works that are the subject of the Urban Design and Public Domain Plan required by Condition D35.**

The preparation of the HIP is to fulfill Condition of Approval D7 which states:

**D7 A Heritage Interpretation Plan must be prepared, consistent with the Heritage Interpretation Strategy, which identifies how interpretation will be integrated into the broader design of the SSI (where relevant) including design elements (form and fabric), landscaping and cultural design principles. The Plan must identify how interpretive themes and heritage values will be implemented and provide a timeframe for their installation during construction. The Plan must be prepared in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, Heritage NSW, MLALC and the City of Sydney Council and submitted to the Planning Secretary and Heritage NSW for information prior to the construction of permanent built works that are the subject of the Urban Design and Public Domain Plan required by Condition D35.**

## 2.3.1

### Minister's Conditions of Approval

The CoA relevant to this Plan are listed in Table A. A cross reference is also included to indicate where the condition is addressed in this Plan or other Project management documents.

COA NO.	CONDITION REQUIREMENTS	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	HOW ADDRESSED
D5	<p>D5 The Proponent must prepare an updated Heritage Interpretation Strategy to provide the strategic direction for heritage interpretation across the SSI site and to inform the Heritage Interpretation Plan required by Condition D7 and the Urban Design and Public Domain Plan required by Condition D35. The Strategy must:</p> <p>(a) have regard to the precinct's historic significance (particularly its social, intangible and industrial heritage values);</p> <p>(b) recognise the spiritual, intangible and cultural values of the site to Aboriginal people and address the full story of the place (i.e. landscape through the eyes of Indigenous inhabitants);</p> <p>(c) consider the site's relationship to the broader vicinity including the Eveleigh Railway Workshops and Central Railway Station;</p> <p>(d) have regard to the interpretation strategy that has been developed for the Eveleigh Railways Workshop site; and</p> <p>(e) be prepared in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan for the site and relevant Heritage NSW guidelines.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following documents have been used to inform this Heritage Interpretation Plan.</li> <li>• Curio Projects 2018, Heritage Interpretation Plan, Interim Final Report</li> <li>• Curio Projects 2020, Conservation Management Plan</li> <li>• Curio Projects 2016, Interpretation Strategy for Australian Technology Park (South Eveleigh)</li> <li>• Tonkin Zulaikha Greer 2021, Heritage Interpretation Strategy</li> </ul>
D7	<p>A Heritage Interpretation Plan must be prepared, consistent with the Heritage Interpretation Strategy, which identifies how interpretation will be integrated into the broader design of the SSI (where relevant) including design elements (form and fabric), landscaping and cultural design principles. The Plan must identify how interpretive themes and heritage values will be implemented and provide a timeframe for their installation during construction. The Plan must be prepared in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, Heritage NSW, MLALC and the City of Sydney Council and submitted to the Planning Secretary and Heritage NSW for information prior to the construction of permanent built works that are the subject of the Urban Design and Public Domain Plan required by Condition D35.</p>	<p>Section 4.4</p> <p>Section 4</p> <p>Section 5.1</p> <p>Section 2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Heritage Interpretation Plan has been prepared to include:</li> <li>• Design elements including the landscape and design principles in section 4.4</li> <li>• Interpretive themes and heritage values will be implemented in Section 4</li> <li>• Timeframes associated with heritage interpretation in Section 5.1</li> <li>• Summary of consultation with relevant stakeholders in Section 2.9. This plan was submitted to Heritage Council of NSW, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, Heritage NSW, MLALC and the City of Sydney Council for feedback. The final plan will be submitted to Heritage HNSW and Planning Secretary for information.</li> </ul>

Table A: Conditions of Approval relevant to the Heritage Interpretation Plan

COA NO.	CONDITION REQUIREMENTS	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	HOW ADDRESSED
D36	<p>The updated UDPDP must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person(s) in consultation with City of Sydney Council, Heritage NSW, MLALC, Aboriginal stakeholders, the community and affected landowners and businesses. The updated UDPDP must meet the reasonable requirements of these stakeholders. The updated UDPDP must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <p>(a) an analysis of the built, heritage, natural and community context and values and articulate the urban design objectives, principles and standards for the SSI;</p> <p>(b) the design of the SSI elements including their form, materials and detail, with a focus on high quality concourse and station entrance design that integrates with the existing context and the safe functioning of shared zones;</p> <p>(c) documentation of the design development and review process, including opportunities explored for increasing transparency of the concourse and reducing its bulk and scale;</p> <p>(d) the design of all shared zones, including consideration of relevant City of Sydney Council design guidelines and standards;</p> <p>(e) the location of existing heritage items and measures for ensuring appropriate separation between heritage fabric and new elements;</p> <p>(f) identification of opportunities for heritage interpretation during design and construction consistent with the Heritage Interpretation Plan required by Condition D7;</p> <p>(g) visual screening elements to provide visual separation and privacy for residents;</p> <p>(h) the design of the buffer between property boundary lines and the shared zone on Little Eveleigh Street;</p> <p>(i) demonstrated integration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles into the detailed design process, including on Little Eveleigh Street;</p> <p>(j) design and landscaping elements demonstrating that the visual outcomes of the streetscapes are in keeping with local residents' reasonable requirements and preserve the visual, heritage and Aboriginal cultural identity of the local area including the character, setting and fabric of heritage elements and landscapes;</p> <p>(k) development and delivery of public artwork opportunities using local artists;</p> <p>(l) developed visuals, cross sections, elevations and plans showing the proposed design outcome; and</p> <p>(m) details of the proposed vegetation planting on Little Eveleigh Street, Marian Street, the new station entrances, and Gibbons Street Reserve demonstrating</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UDPDP was approved by the Department on 8 October 2021, with the condition referencing Condition D36(f) and the Heritage Interpretation Plan.</li> <li>• This HIP has been prepared to be consistent with the UDPDP in terms of theme and locations.</li> </ul>



2.3.2  
Revised Environmental Mitigation and Management Measures

Relevant REMMMs are listed in Table B. This includes reference to required outcomes, the timing of when the commitment applies, relevant documents or sections of the environmental assessment influencing the outcome and implementation.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OUTCOME	DOCUMENT REFERENCE	HOW ADDRESSED
Communicate the heritage value of the Project by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementing the heritage interpretation strategy for the Project</li><li>• Considering the guidelines provided in Sydney Trains Interpretation Guidelines, and the City of Sydney Council signage policies</li><li>• Undertaking further community consultation as part of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy</li><li>• Developing a Signage Plan to ensure that the design is contemporary and of high design quality, and reflects traditional patterns</li><li>• Interpreting the current position of the Platform 1 Office building after the building is relocated</li><li>• Interpreting the association of Redfern Station with the Aboriginal community of Redfern</li><li>• Interpreting the historic gardens on the platforms at Redfern Station</li><li>• Interpreting the story of the former footbridge (1914-1996) at the proposed car park entry</li></ul>	Section 2.1 Section 4.4.7 Section 4.4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Heritage Integration Strategy has been used to inform this Heritage Interpretation Plan.</li><li>• Summary of consultation with relevant stakeholders in Section 2.10. Noting this plan will be submitted to Heritage Council of NSW, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, Heritage NSW, MLALC and the City of Sydney Council for feedback. The final plan will be submitted to Heritage HNSW and Planning Secretary for information.</li><li>• Interpreting the historic gardens and platform 1 building relocation in Section 4.4.7</li><li>• Interpreting the story of the former footbridge Section 4.4.5</li></ul>

Table B: Revised Environmental mitigation and management measures relevant to this Heritage Interpretation Plan

## 2.4

## Heritage Significance

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Redfern Station Group was commissioned by Transport for NSW and completed by Curio Projects in 2020. As part of the CMP process the cultural heritage significance of the Redfern Station Group and its individual elements were assessed in detail against the NSW Heritage Significance Criteria, and in light of the existing assessment of significance for the site, as detailed in the NSW State Heritage Inventory Datasheet.

## 2.4.1

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance

The Redfern Station CMP does not detail the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the station, however it is known that this area has been a part of a larger extension of land that was traditionally occupied by the Cadigal (or Gadi, Gadigal) people, spanning from South Head to Botany Bay and west to Petersham. Additionally, the 'Eora people' was originally understood as the name given to the coastal Aboriginal people of Sydney – an answer to the colonists when asked about their origins, meaning 'from this place'. Currently, the Eora Nation represents a collective name for the various Aboriginal groups of the Sydney metropolitan area, in which Redfern Train Station is no exception.

Additionally, the Redfern area was, and continues to be, active in the political and social activities related to Aboriginal rights, culture and artistic engagement – which demonstrates the necessity of recognising the significance and intangible heritage value of Redfern as an area with a continuous, living Aboriginal culture and connection. Redfern has come to serve as a de-facto 'heartland' for a variety of Aboriginal groups across New South Wales, and as a place of belonging, safety, and defiance for the Aboriginal community. From that perspective, this Heritage Interpretation Plan has considered that the site has very high cultural significance for the Aboriginal community and has subsequently taken into account and incorporated ideas raised during Aboriginal community consultation.

## 2.4.2 Redfern Station Heritage Significance

Redfern Station is an important and historically significant location that retains deep connections to the surrounding suburbs, as well as the city of Sydney itself. The station has a close connection to the nearby Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops, serving as a convenient transport hub for workers and locals alike, and ultimately worked as a catalyst for the urban growth and development of the suburbs of Darlington, Chippendale and Redfern. Redfern Station also stands as a representation of the evolution of the Sydney train network as a whole, with the addition of multiple platforms over time to deal with the increase in new lines and rail traffic.

In a physical and aesthetic sense Redfern Station is a uniquely valuable piece of railway heritage, owing to its array of nineteenth and early twentieth century station buildings, which makeup the largest set of such buildings in NSW. These structures, such as the overhead booking and ticket office on Lawson Street built in the distinctive 'Queen Anne' style, were intended to stand as set designs that other stations should follow, to provide a consistency of styles throughout the rail network of 1890-1925. The booking office is of particular value, being among the only surviving structures in its style. Similarly, the surviving brick ventilation shafts on platform 1 and extending diagonally to South Eveleigh, are unique to Redfern Station and represent the station's strong connection to the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops.



2.5

## Interpretive Framework

**‘activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships ... rather than simply to communicate factual information’**

Freeman Tilden, *Interpreting Our Heritage*, 1957

1

Any interpretation that does not somehow relate what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.

2

Information, as such, is not interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based upon information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.

3

Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical, or architectural. Any art is in some degree teachable.

4

The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction, but provocation.

5

Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part and must address itself to the whole man (sic) rather than any phase.

6

Interpretation addressed to children (say, up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentations to adults but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.



## Interpretation

Interpretation communicates what is important about the place and contributes to recognising and retaining the cultural significance of that place through building understanding, awareness and engagement.

It is key to revealing and helping retain the significance, (natural, cultural or both) of the place through public awareness and understanding.



## 2.5.1

### Framework background

#### Heritage NSW

The NSW Heritage Council Interpretation Policy Statement (2005) *notes 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. The Heritage Office, Department of Planning, is committed to encouraging imaginative, inclusive and accurate interpretation of the heritage of New South Wales and to establishing and sustaining best practices in content, methodology, implementation and evaluation of heritage interpretation.

#### ICOMOS Burra Charter Interpretation Practice *notes*

In 1999, and in 2013, the Burra Charter was revised in order to emphasise the importance of interpretation to the process of conserving significant cultural heritage sites and places. 'Interpretation' as defined by the Burra Charter means 'all ways of presenting the cultural significance of the place'.

Article 24.1 of the Burra Charter states that:

**'Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.'**

Article 25 also notes that:

**'The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretations should enhance understanding and enjoyment and be culturally appropriate.'**

It also contains Practice Notes to provide guidance on the interpretation of places of cultural significance.

#### National Framework of Historic Themes Interpretation Practice *notes*

In order to place the history and significance of a place within a broader Australian context, it is important to be able to use an established and widely-recognised framework of historic themes as the basis for determining what key elements of a site would be considered significant at local, state and national levels.

The Australian Heritage Commission published a national framework of historic themes in 2001. Nine national key theme groups were identified, with a subset of 84 national sub-themes and a further sub-set 116 themes. The NSW Heritage Council has developed a series of NSW State-specific that are linked to the Australian National Historical Themes. These 36 state historic themes provide the overarching framework for the local themes relevant to the study site.

The national and state historic themes relevant to the Eveleigh Railway Workshops and Redfern Station Precinct have been widely considered as part of recent redevelopment works at Central Station, Redfern Station and at South Eveleigh. Key relevant themes are highlight in this sub-section of the document but should be used as a guide only, because the significance of a place and the associated thematic, storytelling opportunities should always continue to evolve over time.

Interpreter Sam Ham developed **four basic principles** to develop good interpretation.

Excellence in interpretation can only be achieved if it is:

- 1 **Entertaining**
- 2 **Relevant**
- 3 **Organised**
- 4 **Themed**

## 2.6 Assessment of existing interpretation

The Gibbons Street entrance of Redfern Station contains a variety of interpretation elements which are described in detail in the next section.

In the immediate vicinity, the footpath along Redfern Street connecting Gibbons and Regent streets contains Aboriginal interpretation via bronze inlays depicting distinct footprints.

Additionally, there are two Aboriginal interpretive walls along Lawson street that are under the Redfern Station group area: one along the Southern side of Lawson Street ('The Mob' 'Just Say Know' Mural) and one along the Northern side of this street. While the Northern Mural represents an updated interpretive initiative for Aboriginal history and community engagement (finished in 2018), the "Just Say Know" mural was undertaken by the NUAA as the 'Tribes' project in 1998.



### Bronze inlay footprints



Plaque acknowledging Redfern  
Intelligence Liaison Officers (RILOs)



### Wall murals

## 2.6.1 Surrounding Artwork and Interpretation

### Gibbons Street Entry Heritage Interpretation

The Gibbons Street entrance to Redfern Station contains a variety of interpretive design elements relating to the important Aboriginal associations of Redfern.

The artworks throughout the station represent a sense of movement, community and resilience.

Alongside the bollard sleeves and tree guards, which incorporate known and important Aboriginal motifs, one of the most significant interpretative elements is the flanking of the entrance with Aboriginal art panel 'fins' and bright and contemporary glazing of the station's interior.

The panel fins represent both a connection with the traditional Aboriginal culture with its interchanging and adaptive present, with all the colours representing people and cultures from all around the world. It also represents the undulating stream and flowing waters that travelled through the site.



Panel fin exterior



Tree guard sculpture



Glazing interior



Bollards



## South Eveleigh Heritage Interpretation

The South Eveleigh precinct, home to the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops, contains a multitude of physical and digital interpretive design products.

The layered interpretation responds to the cultural heritage of the site, contributing significantly to the urban landscape, to engage with a diverse and varied audience.

From exhibition displays with interactive sound elements and digital touchscreens that allow visitors to explore the inner workings of the workshops in detail, to a world-first Indigenous rooftop farm and a cultural community garden, offering an array of compelling interpretive engagement focused on celebrating Aboriginal culture.



Digital storytelling



Kinetic 'Workers Wall'



Immersive digital travelator



Timecard wall display



'Making a Nation' exhibition



Aboriginal native garden

## 2.7

## Constraints

There are a number of constraints that will influence and guide any heritage interpretation throughout the Redfern Station - New Southern Concourse.

As the new concourse will provide a focal point for community connection, it is important that the content, form, and locations selected for installation of interpretative elements aim to be accessible and inclusive of all of Redfern's local community and visitors, regardless of age, cultural background, education, or interest.

Constraints include:

- All interpretation must respect the main functionality of the place as a railway station that receives the pressure of thousands of daily commuters. This limits the size and scope of many potential interpretation installations, as they must not interfere with or hinder commuters in their ability to traverse and use the station;
- Safety requirements and protocols for signage, wayfinding, access, lighting, crowd management and naming of areas/spaces;
- Interpretation must be in accordance with a larger approach that is consistent with the identity and visual appearance of NSW's railway stations when trying to respond to the uniqueness of this site's stories and culture;
- Any interpretation installations intended for the new footbridge that links the two entrances, and 125-127 Little Eveleigh Street should be designed in consideration for the high number and potential extreme volume of commuters that will be passing through these spaces. This includes designs that are both robust and durable, as well as non-invasive to customers;
- It is important that any interpretation associated with the Redfern Station Upgrade - New Southern Concourse project takes into consideration the nearby heritage interpretation installations in South Eveleigh, to ensure a cohesive and non-repetitive approach to the whole precinct.



## 2.8 Opportunities

There are a number of potential opportunities for heritage interpretation throughout the Redfern Station Upgrade - New Southern Concourse. Locations have been identified based on visitor journey and use of space in unison with the form, nature and interactivity of proposed interpretive elements. Different spaces and design elements have been considered to ensure that the site can cater to the diverse needs of multiple audience groups.

- The new footbridge bridge will allow for extensive views of Redfern Station to the North-East, and of South Eveleigh to the South-West creating excellent opportunities to highlight and interpret these two important aspects of Railway history, as well as the potential to interpret the now demolished footbridge that was an important landmark used by workers of the Locomotive Workshops and Carriageworks, as well as students and the wider local community
- The Redfern Station Upgrade will also involve the adaptive reuse of the structure of 125-127 Little Eveleigh Street, as well as the area around the current Platform 10 entrance on Marian Street. Both of these areas will be re-purposed as entrances for the new concourse and offer excellent potential for relevant and engaging heritage interpretation opportunities;
- Redfern Station is a unique site to engage a diverse audience, including students, daily commuters and the local community;
- Redfern Station lies in a land in which a long ongoing process of Aboriginal occupation, social engagement, labour unionism and industrial enterprise coexist until the present days, being crucial aspects that help understanding this neighbourhood. It provides an excellent range of opportunities for future interpretation that is engaging and relevant to contemporary society;
- The site possesses a captive audience for many different relevant historic and cultural themes;
- Redfern Station is a commuting facility that many university and school students use regularly, creating an opportunity for these potential audiences to engage with relevant historic and heritage aspects;
- The Redfern area possesses a very dense and engaged local and broader Aboriginal community;
- Redfern Station is directly utilised by the workers of the redeveloped South Eveleigh;
- The upgraded site can engage easily with local businesses and their own history;
- The Redfern Station Upgrade represents a unique opportunity to highlight several different stories, which facilitate the engagement of people from different age groups and interests;
- The site presents the opportunity and amenities to do innovative and creative heritage interpretation solutions/ products.

2.9

# Community Consultation

Consultation was held with representatives from the following key stakeholders during the preparation of this Plan, and their feedback incorporated into this Herirtage Interpretation Plan:

- Aboriginal stakeholders
- Heritage NSW
- City of Sydney Council
- Rail Tram and Bus Union
- former Locomotive Workshop workers & volunteers
- Australian Railway Historical Society NSW Division
- REDWatch

The consultation was designed to capture stories and ideas for heritage interpretation at key locations of Redfern Station. The community consultation workshops also provided an important opportunity for all participants to contribute their own stories and ideas for interpretive elements, as well as to refine the proposed story ideas and provide overarching feedback on the proposed heritage interpretation at Redfern Station.

**Several key ideas that were consistently raised by multiple participants have subsequently been implemented into the final interpretation plan. These relevant key concepts are:**

**Fire and Water**

Waterways and rivers were a key part of the local Aboriginal culture of Redfern, as was the knowledge of fire and its use in managing the land.

**Modern Aboriginal history**

The role that Redfern played, and continues to play, as a place of belonging for a variety of dispossessed Aboriginal groups and non-Aboriginal people alike.

Redfern serves as a heartland and place of inclusion and resistance.

**Plant Knowledge**

All flora that is present in the interpretation should be native to the area, and those plants that are edible and part of Aboriginal bush-tucker should be highlighted and explained in detail ie. how they were used and consumed.

**Old Footbridge**

Recognition should be given to the now removed footbridge that once connected north and South Eveleigh. Located further down the railway track from the newly positioned concourse, the old footbridge was an important landmark used by workers of the Locomotive Workshops and Carriageworks, as well as students and the wider local community.

## 2.10

## Co-Design

Curio's interpretation team have co-designed with Aboriginal artist and lighting designer, Matt Fellingham to ensure interpretive elements at key locations throughout the Redfern Station site draw on Aboriginal knowledge to consider all layers and perspectives of history. This has ensured a holistic approach to heritage interpretation guaranteeing that we design with respect to the natural surrounds, and draw inspiration from the local area and community. It has also helped identify ways of acknowledging and respecting the identity of the place, the people who have shaped it and the people who have ongoing connections to it.

Matt's knowledge and perspective have helped explore storytelling opportunities, with a focus on learning and people connected to place. He also brings an understanding about the local plants, animals and culture allowing us to explore opportunities that offer places for all people to connect with each other, nature and Country.

This approach includes a yarning circle, Aboriginal artworks and co-design elements incorporated into the design to enrich the Redfern Station Upgrade site, creating and re-establishing a connection between the Redfern Station area and its original landscape prior to European intervention, as well as to celebrate the enduring and contemporary culture of Redfern's Aboriginal people.

**'My Father, his twin brother and their older Sister lived in housing Commission in Walker Street Redfern early 60's (1963). The three siblings growing as Aboriginal teens saw the beginning of what would shape Redfern today. Not always the safe haven for Aboriginal people it is today, they felt like they belonged and made it their home. My fathers stories of youth; travelling each day from Redfern to Hurstville to attend Blakehurst High.**

**They not only caught the train from Redfern to School, the station and its surrounds became a place to gather, meet and to yarn with friends and other locals.**

**My kinship and connection stayed strong with stories from my Dad, Uncle and Aunt, also visiting the Redfern Markets in the early 80's. Dad would drive past the same streets, telling us the same stories. I wanted to honour my Father, my single Parent Grandmother - a hardworking woman who also used rail to travel into the city daily.'**

Matt Fellingham  
Proud Awabakal man

## 2.11

### Management

Management and supervision of the interpretative media is the responsibility of the owners of the site (Transport for NSW).

Management must ensure:

- The users of Redfern Station are aware of the heritage values of the site
- Furniture, plantings, signs, etc do not obscure interpretative media
- The interpretative media is not damaged
- The interpretative media is covered by the insurance policy

Detailed responsibilities to be defined prior to handover of interpretive products.

**More specific management requirements, relating to the management of interpretive media of different mediums, will be included in the detailed content and design phase of the Heritage Interpretation Plan Stage 3.**

03

# Purpose



# Purpose

The Redfern Station Upgrade - New Southern Concourse Project provides an enrich opportunity to interpret the history and significance of the site. It aims to holistically capture and celebrate the history of the site, showcasing stories and elements of the areas rich history to present an integrated and inclusive account of Redfern's history, people, life, and pride.

This Heritage Interpretation Plan provides an opportunity to engage with the community, both local and those in transit, through interpretation of the site that is both authentic and accessible. Layered interpretation that also connects the site with its local Aboriginal community will aid in deepening the understanding of the enduring Aboriginal curatorship and care for Country.

The Plan will assist in creating a sense of place that is grounded in the site's history and traditions, and intrinsically linked to unique historical narrative of the traditional owners, their connection to Country and establishment in Australia.

Given the site's history from its pre-European environment, through to being a central gateway for thousands of commuters from all over Sydney and regional NSW, the New Southern Concourse Project provides the perfect backdrop for innovative interpretation that incorporates Redfern's history and community stories.

Based on exhaustive research and Community Consultation, detailed interpretative concepts have been determined to move forward with and implement in the final design phase.



04

# Storytelling Principles





# Storytelling Principles

## 4.1

### Themes and Storylines

The comprehensive history of the site is organised into key themes, each of which has its own set of relevant facts, concepts, and main stories. These local themes have been identified and selected for the clarity of the message to be conveyed via the interpretative elements, rather than a result of themes that are personally of interest to an individual writer, guide, or interpreter.

These themes are not constrained to a single subject, a single time period, or a single place. Each theme relates to a range of stories and topics from pre-European history, post-European history, the present and the future of the site.

The following local themes and the thematic storylines have been developed from the National and State historical themes as determined by Heritage NSW, to be specific to the Redfern Station site.

**NB.** While they have not been individually referenced in this Plan, Curio Projects have drawn heavily upon the themes from the South Eveleigh Heritage Interpretation Plan. This ensures we align the relevant history that closely links both sites. However, the themes for this Interpretation Plan have been expanded upon to ensure we tell the unique stories of Redfern Station and its history.



**The following themes have been selected and crafted to enable thematic interpretation of what makes Redfern Station historically and culturally significant.**

The table also provides corresponding storylines and topics relevant to each interpretive theme.

AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED REDFERN STATION THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
<b>Peopling Australia</b>	<b>Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures</b>	<b>Aboriginal Heartland</b>	<p>The Aboriginal Heartland theme should be understood in the many different aspects of its local Aboriginal community and their continuous connection to the land.</p> <p>From the natural environment of pre-European Redfern, which offered a wide variety of abundant flora and fauna that sustained life and culture for the local Aboriginal people, to a place of gathering and safety, where displaced local and regional Aboriginal people alike came for shelter and belonging, the land that now makes up Redfern Station is especially significant and important to the Aboriginal community.</p> <p>The local Redfern Aboriginal community are actively engaged with Redfern's art, culture, history and political activism for Aboriginal rights in Australia, and represent a significant aspect of this area.</p> <p>This theme follows several storylines, incorporating cultural translations of sky, fire, community and connection, which weave together Aboriginal voices and aspirations with those of the broader community, culminating in a story piece that the whole community can celebrate.</p> <p>More broadly, Redfern represents the epicentre of urban Aboriginal communities in the Sydney metropolitan area, which comprises many other historic themes that are related to the Redfern Train Station site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connection to Country</li> <li>• Darug language</li> <li>• Aboriginal Totems</li> <li>• Fire importance</li> <li>• Sky Knowledge</li> <li>• Edible flora/foilage</li> <li>• Local Aboriginal community of Redfern</li> <li>• Pre-European Environment</li> <li>• Migration</li> <li>• Place of belonging</li> <li>• Animal tracks and hunting</li> </ul>

AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED REDFERN STATION THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Working</b></li><li>• <b>Governing</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Labour</b> Activities associated with work practises and organised and unorganised labour</li><li>• <b>Welfare</b> Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations</li></ul>	<b>Resistance &amp; Activism</b> (Aboriginal Heartland, Industrial Revolution)	<p>Redfern is the birthplace of the urban Aboriginal civil rights movement in Australia. Serving as the base for a variety of Aboriginal activist causes, businesses, and organisation, Redfern is one of the most important places in modern Aboriginal history. It has come to represent resistance and survival.</p> <p>Additionally, the area has long been a place of heavy Labor and Union activism. The nearby Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops were home to a variety of Unions who played a significant role in Australia's largest industrial conflict, the Great Strike of 1917.</p> <p>The Boot Trade Union Hall, opposite 125 Little Eveleigh Street, was an important Union meeting place, as well as well-known gathering place for Aboriginal workers.</p> <p>Redfern was also a place to fight for change. Aside from Aboriginal and Union activism, Redfern was, and continues to be, an important place for students, feminists, and other groups to protest and fight against harm, injustice or exploitation.</p> <p>At Redfern's core is a thriving and dynamic community, home to many of Australia's political and cultural trailblazers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aboriginal activism, resistance and resilience</li><li>• The Great Strike 1917</li><li>• Labour and Union activism</li><li>• Women's rights</li><li>• Student activism</li></ul>

AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED REDFERN STATION THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
<b>Developing local, regional and national economies</b>	<b>Transport</b> activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	<b>Ebb and Flow</b> (Aboriginal Heartland, Industrial Revolution, Evolution and Urban Renewal of Redfern Station)	<p>Redfern Station represents one of the most important railway stations of NSW and it is intimately related to the growth and modernisation processes of the NSW rail system and its correspondent industrial activity in the Inner West area of Sydney. It's long been a connection point for hundreds of locals, workers and commuters who pass through daily.</p> <p>The creation of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops in the late 1800s saw a daily flux of workers use the station, many of who used the now removed pedestrian footbridge that linked North and South Eveleigh.</p> <p>During the 1920s, Aboriginal people from rural areas migrated to Redfern in greater numbers alighting at Redfern station, lured by work opportunities at the Eveleigh rail-yards.</p> <p>Today, Redfern Station is the 6th busiest station in NSW, with approximately 70,000 commuters on an average weekday. As a station, it continues to evolve to accommodate the growing numbers of local and daily commuters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport hub</li> <li>• Connection to Sydney</li> <li>• The Southern pedestrian footbridge</li> <li>• Daily commuters</li> <li>• A major daily thoroughfare</li> <li>• Aboriginal displacement/employment</li> <li>• Migration</li> </ul>

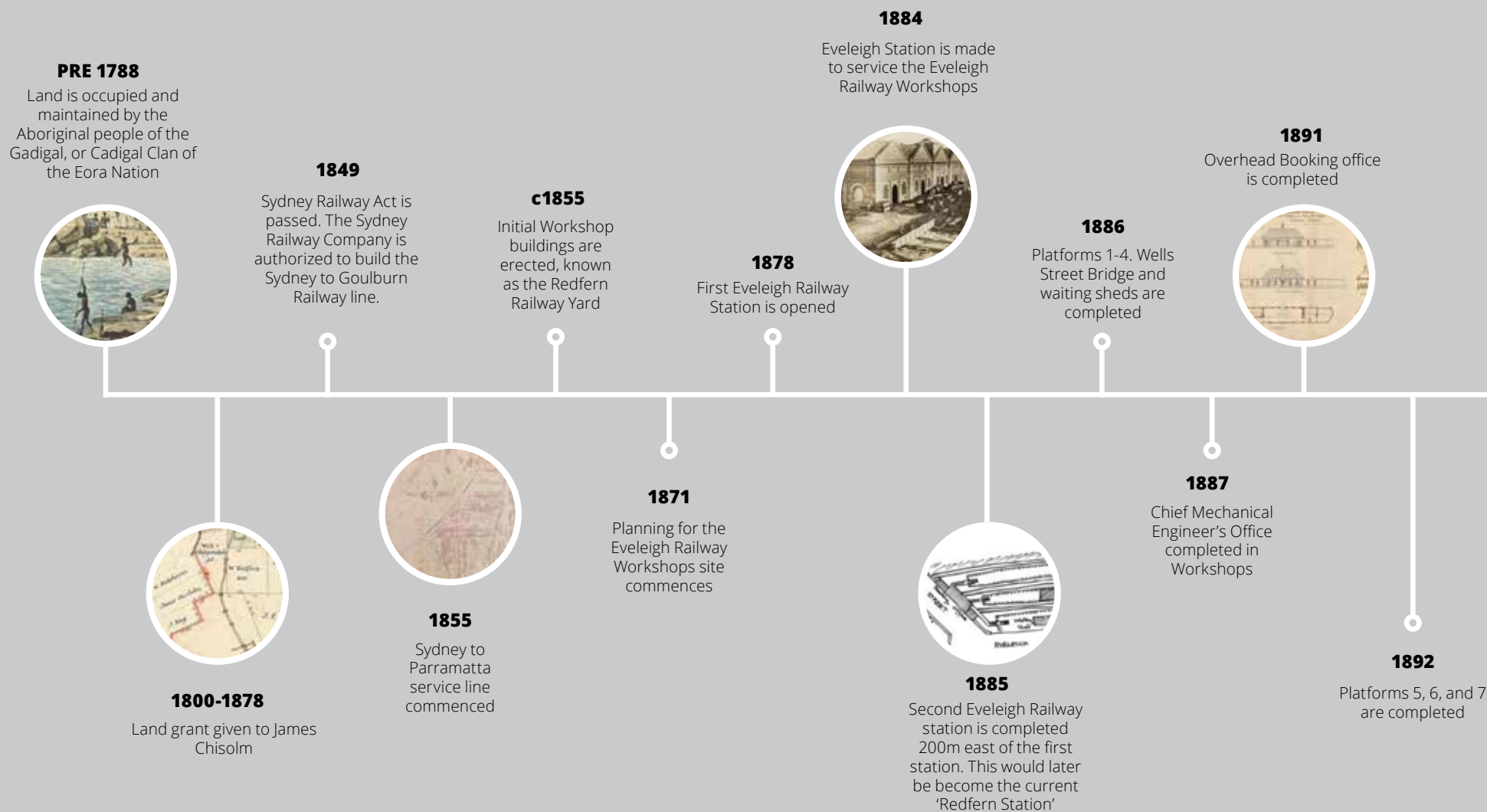
AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED REDFERN STATION THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
<b>Working</b>	<b>Labour</b> Activities associated with work practises and organised and unorganised labour	<b>Working Life</b> (Industrial Revolution)	<p>Redfern Station is intimately related to the development and expansion of the rail industry, especially by the creation of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops. The connection between North and South Eveleigh with Redfern Station at its centre was a key part of the transportation hub at Eveleigh. The production and workforce of Eveleigh influenced how the station should be adapted and the Alexandria Goods Yard played an important role in the flux of trains and goods passing through Redfern Station.</p> <p>This vast workshop complex employed workers in the thousands who undertook the assembly, repair and maintenance of imported steam locomotives and the construction and maintenance of carriages used throughout the NSW railway network.</p> <p>The area was also home to various warehouses, one of which will be one of the new entrances to the Southern Concourse. This building, constructed between 1923 and 1925, housed Alfred Wyld's brush and broom manufacturing business. The building would pass to Wyld's children and subsequently a variety of other owners and tenants and was used for a variety of industrial and manufacturing purposes, ranging from the making of clothing, shoes, and hairdressing and equipment, to electric switches, telephone equipment, and lithographs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eveleigh Works and the Railway</li><li>• Worker's daily life</li><li>• Local employment</li><li>• 125-127 Little Eveleigh Street</li></ul>

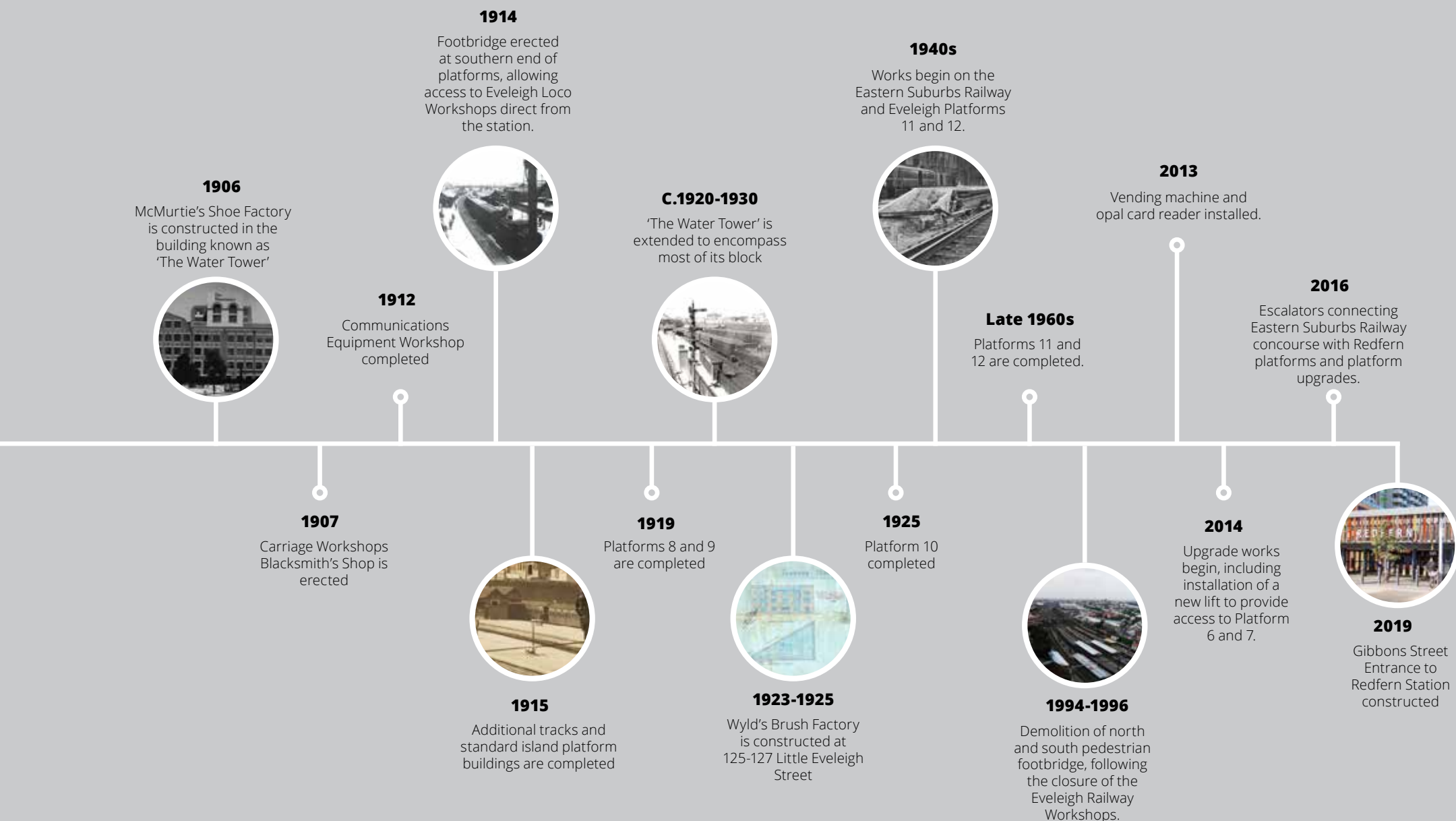


AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED REDFERN STATION THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
<b>Building settlements, towns and cities</b> <b>Peopling Australia</b>	<b>Towns, suburbs and villages</b> activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	<b>Changing Face of Redfern Station</b> (Evolution and Urban Renewal of Redfern Station)	<p>Redfern Station and its surrounds has undergone a wide range of changes, both geographically and culturally. From an abundant natural environment to a humble colonial farm, to a now bustling, modern train station.</p> <p>Redfern Station has many stories to tell including its landscaped gardens, which adorned platforms 1 and 10. These trees and flowerbeds were so lush and meticulously maintained that it won the Best Station Garden Award in 1985. While they have sadly been reduced to a few sparse ferns, the station gardens represent a different side to the hustle and bustle of a train station.</p> <p>This storyline celebrates the diversity and variety of histories, stories, experiences, and cultures that together make up today's Redfern Station and surrounding area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolution of Redfern Station</li> <li>• Changing uses of buildings</li> <li>• Changing architecture</li> <li>• Former station gardens</li> <li>• Community integration and connectivity</li> <li>• Local and civic pride</li> </ul>

## 4.2

## Timeline of Key Events





## 4.3

## Locations for Interpretive Elements

Location of interpretive elements also needs to consider the practicality of the available and accessible locations at a site, with respect to the shape, form, and function of the individual site, how different areas of the site are used/accessed, and by whom. Subject to detailed design and the interface of interpretive elements, the number and location of products will be further refined.

Factors to consider during the selection of appropriate locations for heritage interpretation include:

- Trafficability & visibility
- Physical area (m2) available
- Indoor vs Outdoor

The appropriate locations for Interpretative elements within the Redfern Station Upgrade - New Southern Concourse project have been identified below;

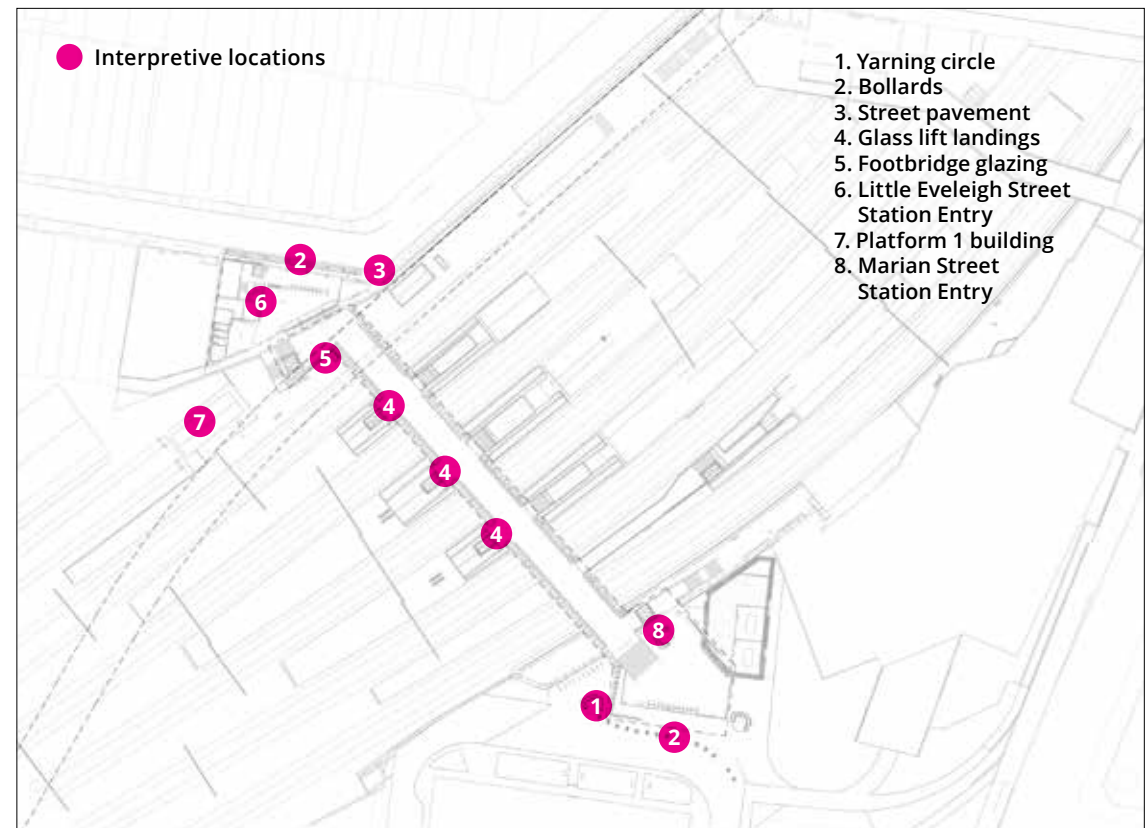


Figure 4.12  
Interpretative Locations



## 4.4

## Potential Interpretive Products

## 4.4.1

Marian Street

### Yarning Circle

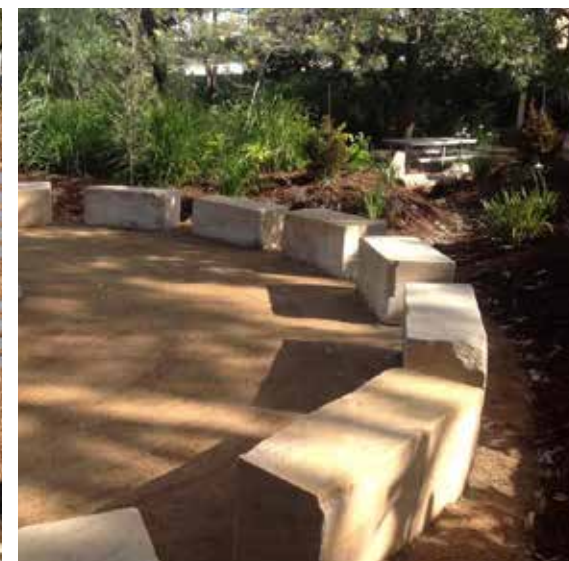
**Theme****Aboriginal Heartland****Storyline**

Curio Projects have proposed an area for the local community and visitors alike that will increase visibility, respect, and support for Redfern's vibrant and enduring Aboriginal people and Country.

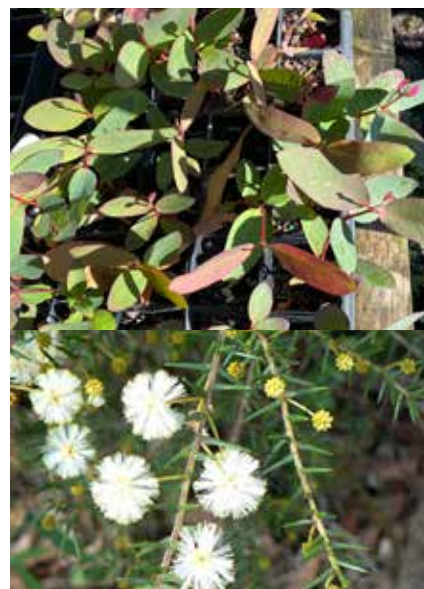
The Yarning Circle will provide a place for respite and healing, for coming together, for dialogue and communication, and for connecting with Country. It should naturally be a place where visitors feel comfortable spending time.

Key elements that can be incorporated into the Yarning Circle include use of inlays and etchings with central ground artwork to represent fire/fire-pit. There will also be allowance for a coolamon to use during smoking ceremonies. Landscaping elements such as native edible plantings are to also be featured.

It is recommended that the area around the yarning circle also feature an 'Acknowledgement of Country' panel or totem that recognises Aboriginal peoples as the Traditional Owners of land.



**Figures 4.1**  
Examples of yarning circles, inlays and etching



Figures 4.2

Smoking ceremony; native local edible plants; signage examples

## Fire

Interpretation of the importance of fire will provide visitors with an understanding of what this element means to Aboriginal customs and culture.

Fire brings new beginnings, the change of seasons and new life. Fire has been used by Aboriginal people to take care of the lands in back-burning and to allow the land to rejuvenate.

The centre of the yarning circle provides the perfect opportunity to showcase this important story.

## Edible native plantings

The Aboriginal connections to Country, and the knowledge associated with the plants will increase visitors' understanding of, and appreciation for the site.

Native edible plantings are proposed as an interpretive element of the site. This unique experience will be a key attractor for many visitors, who seek knowledge of the types of plantings, their characteristics and their uses. The plantings will enliven the visitors senses.

Small-scale panels are to be installed surrounding the plantings to provide an overview of information about each plant and how they were used and consumed.

A QR activated link could supplement the signage by providing a map of endemic plantings, images, and more detailed information regarding individual plants.

## Acknowledgement of Country

There is an opportunity to incorporate a permanent Acknowledgement of Country that respects and recognises Aboriginal peoples as the Traditional Owners of land and the continuing connection of Aboriginal peoples to Country.



4.4.2  
Marian & Little Eveleigh Sts  
**Bollards**



Little Eveleigh Street



Marian Street

**Theme**  
**Aboriginal Heartland**  
**Ebb and Flow**

**Storyline**

A key element of interpretation on site are the bollards that surround the station's two new entrances. The interpretation will create and re-establish a connection to the original landscape prior to European colonisation.

It also is a celebration of Aboriginal knowledge sharing and a way to acknowledge the enduring and contemporary culture of Redfern's Aboriginal people.

Key elements to be incorporated into the bollards may include inlays and etchings that represent local Aboriginal Totems, Darug language, and native plant and animal species.

The interpretation will translate themes of water, fire, creation, community and connection that weave together Aboriginal voices and aspirations with those of the broader community, culminating in a story piece that the whole community can celebrate.



Figures 4.3  
Examples of bollard artwork; Aboriginal Totem, etchings

### 4.4.3

Little Eveleigh Street

### Street pavement



#### Theme

**Resistance & Activism**  
**Aboriginal Heartland**

#### Storyline

Street-level interpretation will be installed on the pavement leading to the entry point of the New Southern Concourse. The purpose of this interpretation will be to communicate the struggles fought by many in the community including Aboriginal people, unions, feminists and students.

It will enlighten people entering and exiting the station, as well as passing pedestrians on Little Eveleigh Street, with the community's resilience and activism on many issues including land rights and environmental survival and protection, the forced removal of children by government agencies, education, health, and labour issues.

This interpretation takes the form of pavement inlays, showcasing the many various causes and struggles that define the thriving and dynamic community of Redfern, as well as allowing pedestrians to walk in the footsteps of the resistance.

The design and materiality of the inlays will be robust and distinct to the pique the curiosity and interest of passersby.



Figures 4.4

Examples of etching and inlays; protest placards/signs/banners



#### 4.4.4

#### Concourse

#### Glass lift landings - Viewing platforms



#### Theme

#### Ebb and Flow

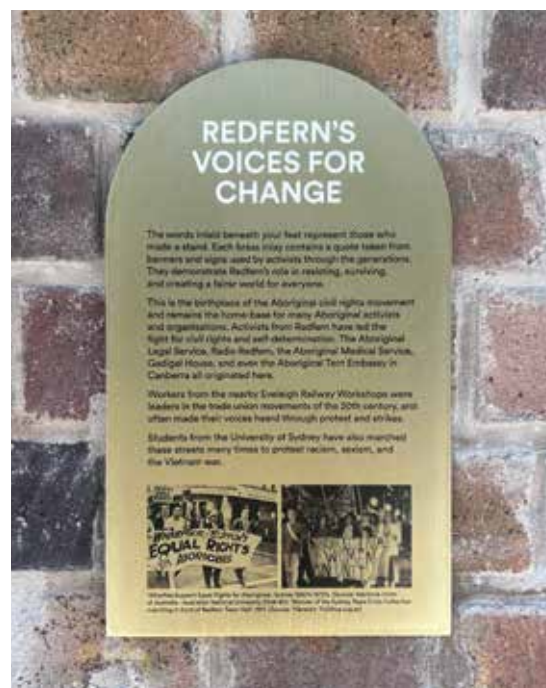
#### Storyline

Standing before beautifully crafted signage, viewers will be offered a vivid portrayal of the former industrial landscape of Redfern as seen through each concourse viewing platform. The interpretation, located at strategic vantage points along the concourse, will highlight the urban environment, capturing the dynamic essence of Redfern's past industrial heritage.

The signage will feature high-resolution historic imagery, showcasing the rail corridor looking towards the former workshops, factories and rail lines and platforms that characterise the area.

As viewers peer through each window, interpretive text frames the visual, narrating the history of Redfern's industrial evolution, its role in Sydney's economic growth, and the vibrant community that has flourished amidst these structures. The signage will bridge the past and present, and foster a deeper appreciation for Redfern's unique industrial charm.

*Following review, installation of signage is planned for Quarter 3 2025.*



**Figures 4.5**

Example of interpretive brass signage with imagery installed throughout the Redfern site.



Above: Historic images to be featured on signage which showcase the rail corridor, industry and daily commuters and locals on the bustling Redfern Station platforms.

#### 4.4.5

##### Concourse

##### Footbridge glazing



##### Theme

##### Working Life

##### Storyline

On the new southern concourse, Curio Projects have proposed utilising the west view over the rail lines as a location to interpret the changing life of the area. The glass glazing on the concourse provides the perfect opportunity to reflect upon the now demolished pedestrian footbridge that once connected both North and South Eveleigh.

Used by hundreds of workers, the southern pedestrian footbridge allowed workers of the ERW to access Redfern Station, and connected the Locomotive Workshops and Carriage Workshops to each other for many years until its removal in 1996 following the closure of the Workshops.

The footbridge was also used heavily by University of Sydney students on their way to classes and lectures.

This interpretation will provide viewers with an understanding of the exact location of the footbridge as well as an understanding of how it provided a link to both sides of the station.

It will take the form of an etched glazing illustration or image showcasing the former footbridge and its former location.



**Figures 4.6**

Examples of glass image/illustration;  
Former southern pedestrian footbridge



#### 4.4.6

125-127 Little Eveleigh Street

#### Entrance interior



#### Theme

#### Working Life

#### Storyline

Access to the new concourse will be via an old industrial warehouse situated at 125-127 Little Eveleigh Street. The building's interior offers an ideal canvas for interpretation. Throughout the years hand-painted signs were applied directly to the exterior brick wall to advertise the building's occupants and businesses. Over time, they have since faded as they have succumbed to the elements.

Curio Projects will use a paint treatment to interpret the former uses throughout its history including its industrial past, and the various charities and organisations that occupied the space. NB. final finish on bricks wall interior to be confirmed.

This style of interpretation allows for the visitors to experience a sense of discovery, much like that of an archaeologist, finding snippets of the building's history at a time.

There is also potential for the display of objects/material from Redfern Station that can be incorporated and viewed by the public.

In future, opportunities also exist for projection display on the building's facade.



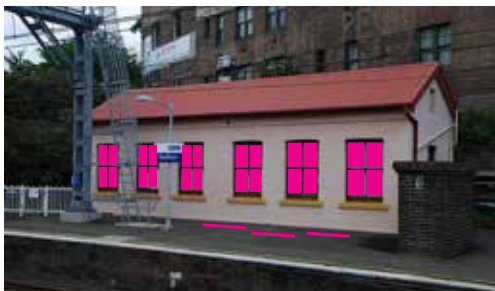
Figures 4.7

Example of brick paint treatment and light projection;  
125-127 Little Eveleigh Street building signage/advertising;  
Salvaged crane for possible display

#### 4.4.7

##### Platform 1

##### Platform Office



##### Themes

##### Changing Face of Redfern Station, Working Life, Ebb & Flow

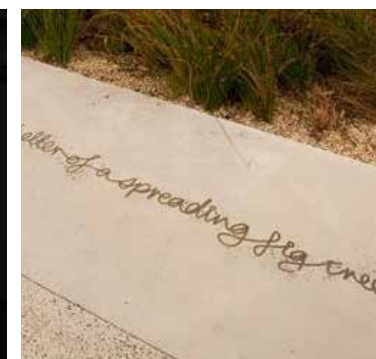
##### Storyline

The Platform 1 office building at Redfern Station has State Heritage Significance. Constructed in 1891 it was originally used as an Electrical Workshop associated with the Eveleigh Railway Workshops.

During the Redfern Station Upgrade project the office was moved 60m from its original position to its current location. As part of a commitment of the Environment Mitigation & Management Measures interpretation is required. This will take the form of signage and providing QR access to historical information of the building and footage of the building move.

Interpretation will also feature on the building, offering visitors a window to its past. This interpretation will take the form of window glazing, possible digital projections and pavement inlays showcasing the daily life of Redfern Station, its staff and commuters.

Specific stories to be integrated into this element would be refined in Stage 3 Interpretation Detailed Design, but options to explore include stories related to the gardens of Platform 1 which were meticulously cultivated and maintained by its railway workers representing a symbol of pride, creativity, and competition.



Figures 4.8

Examples of glass graphic treatment, digital silhouette and projection, and ground text inlay



#### 4.4.8

##### Marian Street

##### Concourse



##### Theme

##### Aboriginal Heartland

##### Storyline

Interpretative public art is proposed for the entrance wall at the Marian Street entrance of the new concourse.

This interpretation will reflect the diversity of voices within the community through relevant artwork that will contribute significantly to the urban landscape of Redfern.

It's recommended that the artist to be commissioned, have strong ties to the area and connections to the Aboriginal community.

The site of the proposed interpretation is located in a central and prominent section of the new concourse, providing an authentic connection to Redfern as 'Aboriginal Heartland', as well as Aboriginal concepts of being and knowing.

Curio Projects will co-design the interpretive public art to ensure its robustness and buildability.



**Figures 4.9**  
Examples of interpretive public art



4.4.9  
Signage

Permanent signage with a coherent language and style is proposed for each piece of physical heritage interpretation throughout the Redfern Station Upgrade site.

Heritage interpretation signage plays an important role in providing additional layers to the interpretation. It allows for the audience to gain further insight into the meaning and stories of the element, as well as helping to build the narrative by providing contextual significance about the interpretation and its place on site.

The heritage interpretive signage needs to be clear, concise, and easily digestible as it will be read by both people without any prior information, and also by those who are well versed on the subject.

4.4.10  
Digital

To supplement the interpretive signage, Curio Projects proposes that the physical heritage interpretation elements be strengthened, and supported in the form of scanable QR codes (digital heritage interpretation).

This would allow the presentation of historical information in layers, as appropriate for different types of user engagement in a heritage context.

Digital interpretation would also allow for the presentation of many high-resolution archival images, plans and maps that would be difficult to produce physically in a space. By presenting this information online, it can be linked to media platforms and channels, allowing users to share content that is engaging for them, thereby widening the network of people who receive the information and connecting people across time and space.

Digital interpretation is readily updated and refreshed, allowing content and functionality to be updated over time to keep users interested and enhance the user experience.



Figures 4.10  
Examples of interpretive signage,  
and use of QR codes

#### 4.4.11

### Architectural Influence (Built Form) Heritage Responsiveness

The physical architecture and fabric of the New Southern Concourse designed by DesignInc establishes a visual connection to the heritage of the site through new built design elements, forms, and materials.

The new concourse soffit pattern references the industrial steel truss of the old steel pedestrian footbridge that used to connect North and South Eveleigh work sites and which was removed in the 1990's. The battens between the truss of the ceiling provide a play on angles adding to the experience of the space. Colour underlay to the battened ceiling references the colours used in the Gibbons Street entrance.

The pattern of the perforated metal screen on the concourse is a geometric interpretation of the gaseous state of water, reflecting a narrative that references past natural landscapes, people, ceremonies and the transport industry. These include: the native wetland landscape; the Aboriginal smoking ceremonies; and the smoke of the old steam and coal engine operations.

The landscape design of the new station forecourts and surrounding local connections references the local heritage, landscape, geology and flora of the area. The Marian Street Entrance from lower Gibbons Street will be visible as a station entry and landmark to enable wayfinding.

Colours to be used in the landscape design include grey marle, red clay and black charcoal associated with the geology of the site and also its heritage.

#### Landscape materials selection references:

- The colours of the underlying geology of the place, and of the rail corridor cutting
- The industrial heritage of the brickwork of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops
- Paving patterns referencing Aboriginal history
- Landscape seating referencing Aboriginal gathering places
- The Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub of the Sydney Basin Bioregion

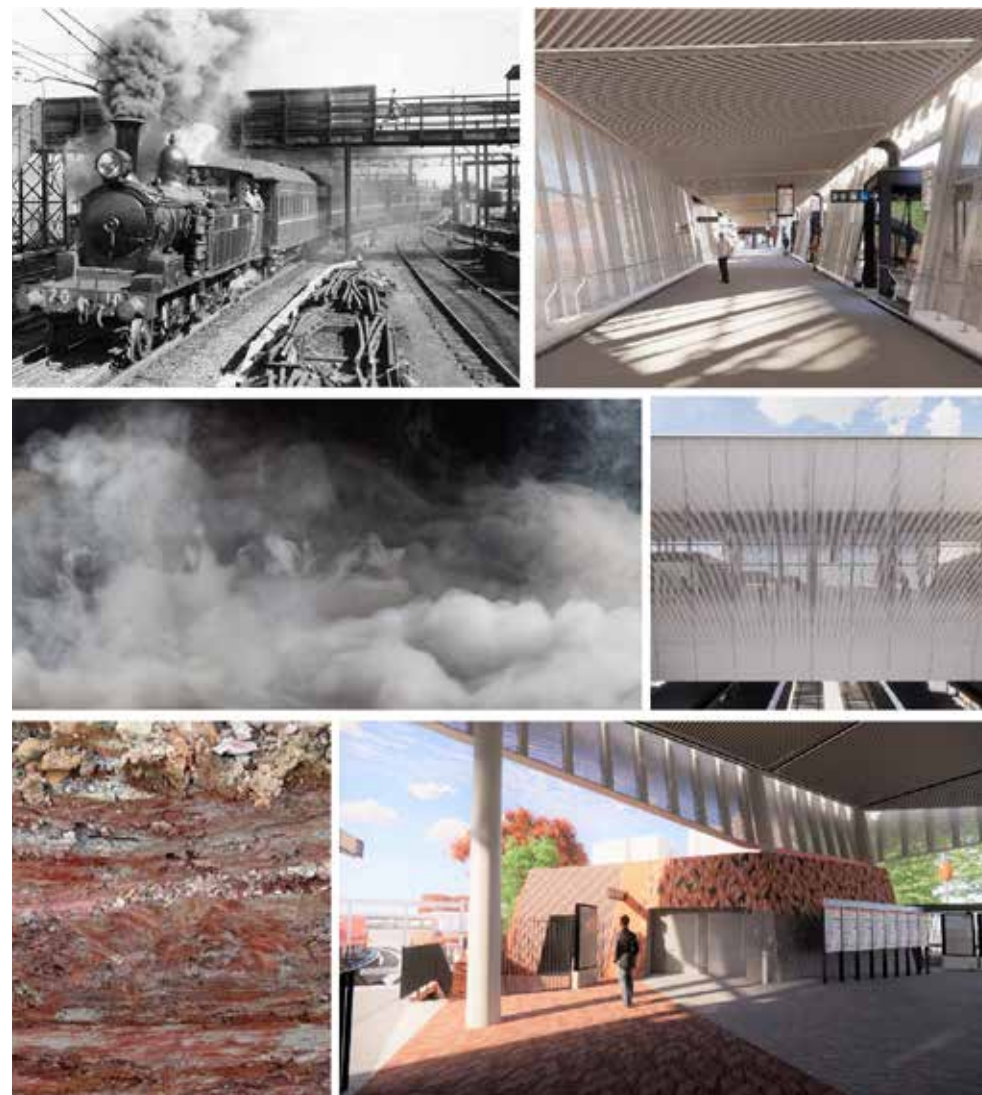


Figure 4.11  
Inspiration/Demonstration in Design



05

# Conclusion



## Conclusions & Recommendations

The planning approval requirement to prepare an interpretation plan has provided an opportunity for heritage interpretation at key locations of the Redfern Station Upgrade site to be considered.

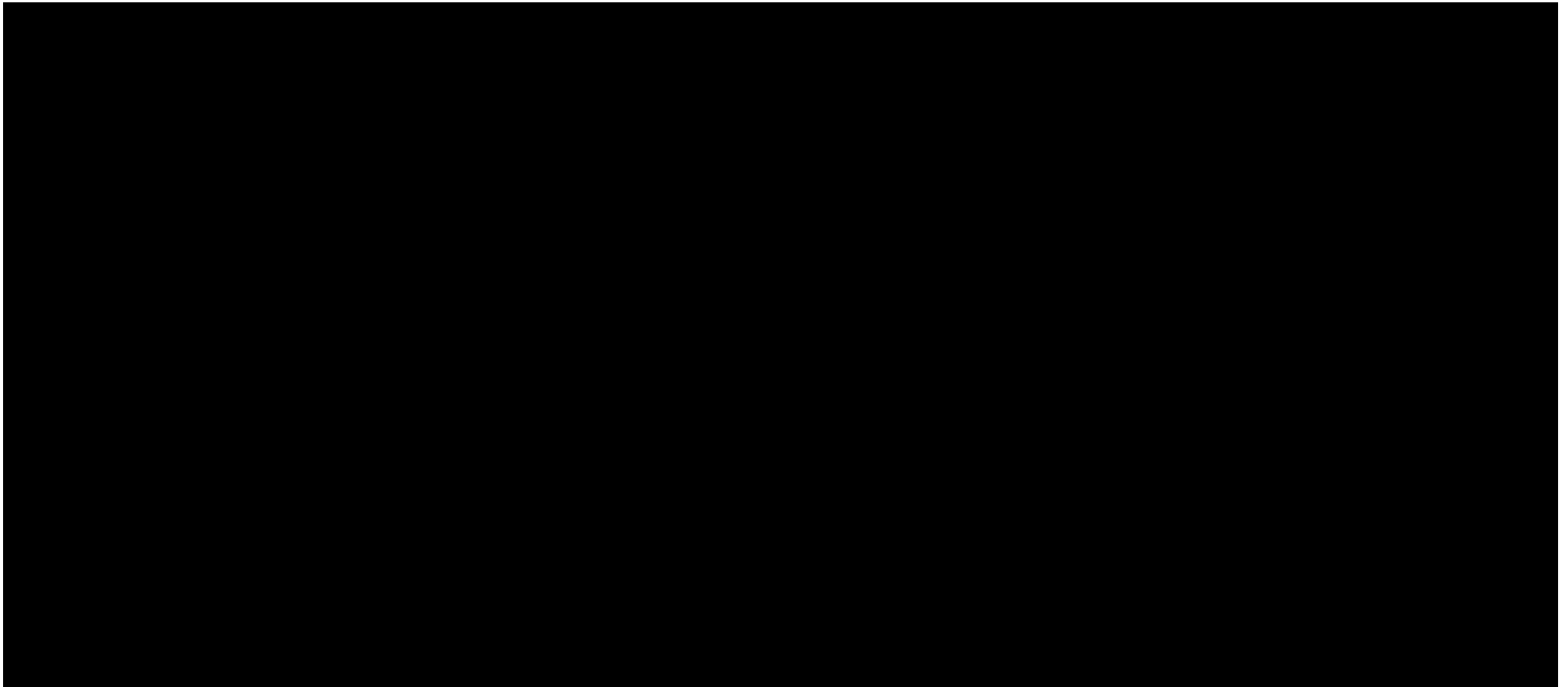
The key themes and storylines developed as part of this process form a strong basis for developing interpretation that is relevant to the history of the site. In particular, there is an opportunity to create meaningful interpretation products that not only continues to celebrate the significance of the subject site, and its surrounding area, but also encourages and instills local pride in place, community, history, and future.

Curio Projects have reviewed relevant background material and consulted with stakeholders to identify constraints and opportunities related to interpretation on the site.

The information included in this Heritage Interpretation Plan forms the basis for the development of interpretation products that support innovative and engaging storytelling at this site.

Detailed content and design will be developed and finalised as part of Stage 3 of the Heritage Interpretation Plan, lead by Curio Projects and in consultation with Transport for NSW and the community.

## 5.1 Timeframe





## 5.2 References & Endnotes

Australia ICOMOS, 2013, *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)*

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