



Project Fact Sheet and FAQs

Captains Flat Former Station Master's Cottage Historical Interpretation Project

March 2025



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.

The former Station Master's Cottage in Captains Flat holds cultural and historical significance for the community and surrounds.

To honour the history and values of the Site and identify a possible commemorative tribute, we are undertaking a historical interpretation project.

About the project

Transport for NSW (Transport) identified lead in the soil and on the premises at the former Station Master's Cottage (Site) resulting from historical mining activities and is currently planning to remediate the Site.

The strategy for the Site is demolition and remediation, followed by a process known as historical interpretation.

To help us identify a possible commemorative tribute following the demolition, Transport is consulting key stakeholders and the community.

Purpose

The project aims to understand:

- historical values of the Site.
- how these values can be best interpreted.
- a possible commemorative tribute that reflects the historical, cultural and community importance of the Site.

Project benefits

- Opportunity for community and stakeholders to have their say and shape future options.
- Honour the historical, cultural and community importance of the Site.
- Deliver greater community value by leveraging local knowledge and understanding community vision for the Site.

Project scope

In scope

- Capture community values and historical significance associated with the vacant Site.
- Determine how we can best honour the history of the Site.
- Identify a suitable and possible historical interpretation option following demolition.

Not in scope

- Investigate remediation options. Remediation of the Site will be managed by the Transport Land Management Project.
- Consult on options to repurpose the building.
- Consult on rail corridor.
- Options to repurpose the building.

Limitations

Remediation: Remediation is required before any commemorative tribute can be installed.

Ongoing management: Options may be limited depending on capacity to undertake ongoing maintenance.

Budget: Financial considerations need to be taken into account.

Consultation

We are continuing to build our knowledge of the Captains Flat Former Station Master's Cottage to help us identify how to effectively interpret the historical, cultural and community importance.

Community and stakeholder input is vital to help us achieve this.

What does consultation look like?

We are speaking with and listening to internal subject matter experts, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, key community groups and the wider community.

The consultation approach is outlined below.

- Internal consultation
- Consultation with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
- Consultation with key groups
- Community and stakeholder survey and community pop-up at the local markets
- Inform of consultation outcome

Community consultation

We have developed an online survey and invite the community and stakeholders to share their thoughts so we may understand all the ways this Site contributes to the community.

Survey dates

The survey opens on **Wednesday, 2 April 2025** and closes on **Wednesday 14 May 2025**.

What do we want to know

We want to better understand the community's values, key issues, and aspirations for the Site, so that we may be able to identify and prioritise options.

How will the information be used

The information from the survey will be collated as well as feedback from previous consultations on the Site and used to identify themes and trends which we will consider when planning our work.

Supporting information

We have developed some FAQs on the next page which provides additional information on the project.

Have your say



To complete the survey,
please scan the QR code
or visit

bit.ly/Captains-Flat-Cottage-HYS



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Frequently asked questions

Where is the Site located?

The Site is located at 2 Copper Creek Road, Captains Flat, NSW. It is on the Country Regional Network (CRN) and is adjacent to the Captains Flat Rail Corridor.

What is the history of the asset?

The former Station Master's Cottage was built around the same time as the Captains Flat Railway Station, which opened in 1940.

About the Land Management Project

What is the background of the Captains Flat Land Management Project and how is it connected to this Project?

As a part of the Land Management Program, Transport identified elevated levels of lead in the soil and concentrations in dust samples inside the former Station Master's Cottage in Captains Flat in January 2021, and the residents of the premises were relocated.

The Site was reported to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in February 2022 and declared significantly contaminated in October 2022.

Transport Asset Management (TAM) acquired the former Station Master's Cottage in December 2022.

Transport sought community feedback on potential future land uses of the Site in September and October 2023. This consultation determined that the building would be demolished.

The Detailed Site Investigation phase has been completed and the project is now in the Remediation Planning phase.

During this phase, Transport will consult with the community.

Transport commenced the Captains Flat Former Station Master's Cottage Historical Interpretation Project (Project) to acknowledge the significance of the Site.

For more information on the Captains Flat Land Management project, please visit <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/captains-flat-contamination>.

Why does the building need to be demolished?

In April 2022, a Remediation Options Assessment commenced. During the process, several constraints were identified which would impact the ability to retain the buildings, including:

- Widespread contamination across the Site
- Contamination underneath the house, garage and shed
- Confined spaces with limited access
- Asbestos in the walls
- Health risk of lead dust
- Structural and engineering issues.

When will demolition works begin on this project?

Demolition and remediation work for the cottage is planned for financial year 2025-2026, following approval of the Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

About previous consultations

What were the outcomes from the consultation held in 2023?

In 2023, Transport sought feedback on the future land use for the former Station Master's Cottage in Captains Flat.

As a part of this, Transport consulted with the community to capture feedback on the preferred

strategy which included a community information session and a public exhibition.

14 people attended the community event and 22 responses were received from the online public exhibition via Transport's website and email.

Community members expressed varying views on the future use of the Site including preference not to use the building for commercial purposes, retaining the historic building, and refurbishing the building into a museum, tourist information centre, community services centre or post office.

Transport held a follow up community event to inform of the outcome of the consultation. At this community event, Transport provided feedback to the community on the engagement, what was heard and how this information was considered.

Transport informed the community that the most suitable outcome was to demolish the cottage.

About the Historical Interpretation Project

What is historical interpretation?

Historical interpretation is the process by which we describe, analyse, evaluate, and create understanding of the significance of a site.

Historical interpretation presents stakeholders with the opportunity to participate in future planning, by allowing us to understand all the ways the former Station Master's Cottage contributes to the community.

What will happen after demolition?

Based on previous consultations, the preferred option for the Site following demolition is to resume the land into the rail corridor to be remediated.

What are some possible historical interpretation options?

The purpose of this project is to determine what the possible options for a commemorative tribute are.

Based on internal and Council consultation, Transport's preferred option is installation of historical signage either at the Site or nearby.

An example of possible historical signage is the installation at Blayney Railway Station. To see the example, please go to: [New display at railway station highlights Blayney's importance | Blayney Chronicle | Blayney, NSW](#)

Transport is open to other ideas from the community and stakeholders which will be considered following the consultation.

What are some possible historical interpretation themes?

Transport wants to hear from the community about what theme the proposed commemorative tribute should highlight. Some ideas that have been raised include:

- Aboriginal history
- rail history
- local characters or stories.

The community will have an opportunity to share their ideas during the consultation.

How will you carry out the consultation?

Our approach to the consultation will provide an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to engage with Transport across a range of mediums including written, online and face-to-face.

We will do this using a variety of communication channels such as email, hard and soft copy community updates, social media, project webpage, online survey, workshops, briefings and possibly a community drop-in session based on community interest.

What happens after the consultation?

Once consultation is complete, Transport will:

- Assess all feedback to determine feasible options.
- Develop and publish a consultation report summarising consultation approach and feedback received.

- Identify a preferred option and submit for internal approval.
- Obtain approval to proceed with preferred option.
- Inform community and stakeholders of the preferred option.
- Develop a concept design and submit for approval.
- Develop a detailed design – if required based on preferred option.
- Implement the preferred option.

When will the consultation report be circulated?

The consultation report will be made publicly available in Q3 2025. We will post this on our website and email the report to those on our mailing list. If you would like to join our mailing list, please complete our subscriber form on the project webpage: bit.ly/captains-flat-fsmc-hip-project.

When will the project be delivered?

The delivery timeframe has not been determined at this stage. The Site will need to be remediated before any commemorative tribute can be installed.

Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 491 566**



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bit.ly/captains-flat-fsmc-hip-project



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