

Captains Flat former Station Master's Cottage Historical Interpretation

Consultation outcomes report

August 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Transport for NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal people and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

Many of the transport routes we use today – from rail lines, to roads, to water crossings – follow the traditional Songlines, trade routes and ceremonial paths in Country that our nation's First Peoples followed for tens of thousands of years.

Transport for NSW is committed to honouring Aboriginal peoples' cultural and spiritual connections to the lands, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

Table of Contents

1.	Executive Summary	4
1.1	Overview	4
1.2	Consultation objectives.....	5
1.3	Consultation summary	5
1.4	Consultation outcome	5
2.	Consultation Methodology	6
2.1	How the consultation was carried out.....	6
2.2	Who we spoke to.....	6
2.3	Consultation process	7
3.	Consultation feedback	8
3.1	Reviewing the feedback	8
3.2	Summary of feedback	8
3.3	Preferred heritage interpretation option identified	8
3.4	Alternative options.....	9
3.5	Heritage interpretation themes	11
4.	Next steps for Captains Flat Historical Interpretation.....	11
4.1	Stay involved	11



Transport for NSW invited the Captains Flat community and stakeholders to take part in a heritage interpretation consultation to help identify a possible commemorative tribute for the Captains Flat former Station Master’s Cottage.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Overview

This consultation outcomes report relates to the community and stakeholder consultation undertaken for the Captains Flat former Station Master’s Cottage (Site) Historical Interpretation Project (Project). The Site is managed by Transport for NSW (Transport) on behalf of Transport Asset Manager of NSW (TAM).

The Site is located on the Country Regional Network (CRN) at 2 Copper Creek Road in Captains Flat, NSW and is adjacent to the Captains Flat load out facility and weigh bridge.

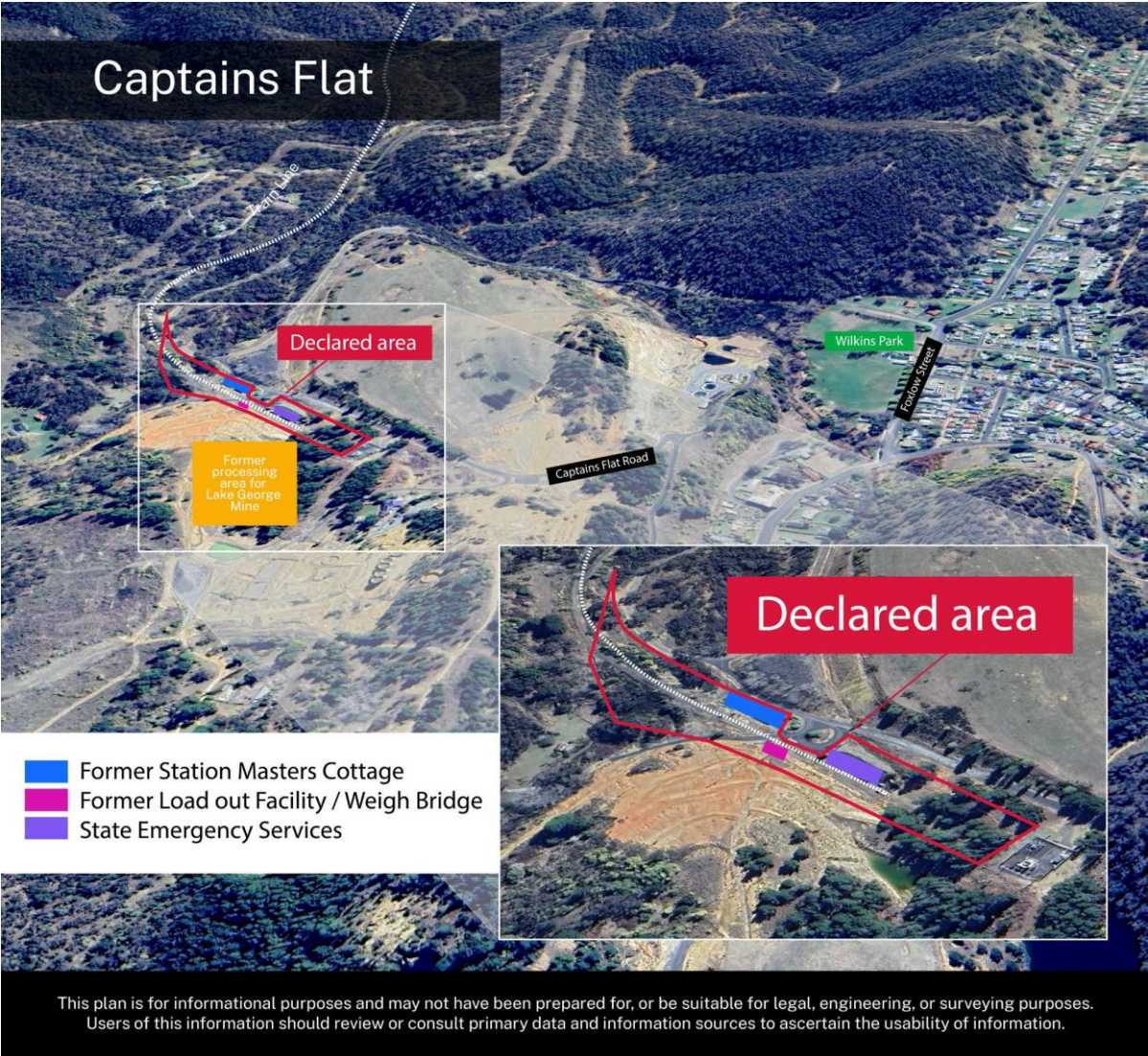


Figure 1: Map of Captains Flat Former Station Master’s Cottage and surrounding area.

The purpose of the project was to understand:

- the 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.

1.2 Consultation objectives

We engaged with the community and stakeholders to:

- inform stakeholders about the project and heritage interpretation process
- listen to key stakeholders and community
- understand local concerns and expectations
- identify potential and preferred options for the site
- build strong relationships through open communication
- help determine the next steps for heritage interpretation.

1.3 Consultation summary

The consultation reached and engaged a range of stakeholders including the community across a variety of consultation activities. A snapshot of the consultation is presented below.



Figure 2: Snapshot of consultation.

1.4 Consultation outcome

Following review of consultation feedback, Transport’s preferred historical interpretation option is interpretive signage showcasing local history combined with a picnic shelter for community use. Subject to budget availability, Transport for NSW will also consider opportunities to improve local amenity through landscaping. Community consultation identified rail, mining and local history as the most popular themes to explore. Implementation of this option will need to consider the remediation needs of the site.

2. Consultation Methodology

2.1 How the consultation was carried out

To ensure broad participation, we used multiple ways to connect with the community and key stakeholders:

- **Online survey:** Community consultation was conducted through an online survey available on the NSW Government Have Your Say website. Community consultation was open from 2 April 2025 until 14 May 2025. The consultation period was extended from standard 28 days to account for the Easter public holiday period.
- **Workshops:** Transport hosted three online workshops with key stakeholders:
 - 7 February 2025
 - 5 March 2025
 - 26 March 2025.
- **Emails:** Emails were sent to Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council, State Member for Monaro, Steven Whan MP, Captains Flat Community Association and to the project subscriber database.
- **Website:** Information on the project was available on the:
 - Transport for NSW project webpage: bit.ly/captains-flat-fsmc-hip-project
 - NSW Government Have Your Say website: bit.ly/Captains-Flat-Cottage-HYS.
- **Traditional media:** A media release was issued by Transport for NSW: bit.ly/captains-flat-fsmc-media-release.
- **Social media:** Two geo-targeted Facebook campaigns ran between 2 April and 14 May 2025. Combined statistics from all the social media campaigns were:
 - **Reach:** 3,164
 - **Engagement:** 10
 - **Clicks:** 34
 - **Re-shares:** 4.

2.2 Who we spoke to

We engaged with a wide range of audiences, including:

- Local residents and families
- Community groups
- Local MP
- Local government representatives
- Local Aboriginal land council.

2.3 Consultation process

The consultation process consisted of the following stages:

	Transport Stakeholder Workshop	Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council Workshop	Captains Flat Association Workshop	Community Consultation
When	7 February 2025	5 March 2025	26 March 2025	2 April – 14 May 2025
How	Online workshop	Online workshop	Online workshop	Online survey Pop up event at Captains Flat Community Market
Who	Transport for NSW subject matter experts	Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council	Captains Flat Association members	Community
Why	Gather insights into values, issues and desired outcomes.	Opportunity to take a deeper dive and discuss preferred options.	Opportunity to involve key community stakeholders in the development of preferred options.	Opportunity for community to provide feedback and discuss preferred options.

Figure 3: Consultation process.

Communication collateral, media, community and stakeholder consultation activities included:

Community consultation	• 13 responses to the online survey • 226 visits to the Have Your Say consultation webpage and 35 document project factsheet downloads • 442 residents received 1 community notification • 180 views on Transport project webpage, with 65 active users and an engagement rate of 72.9% • 2 emails sent to 75 project subscribers with average open rate of 59.1% and Click-Through-Rate of 2.1% • 2 targeted Facebook posts received 34 link clicks, 10 likes, shares or comments, reached almost 3,164 people with an average click rate of 1.1% • Spoke to approximately 50 people at the Captains Flat Community Country Markets
Stakeholder consultation	• 3 stakeholder workshops online attended by 21 participants • 8 consultation outreach emails to key stakeholders
Media	• 1 media release by Transport • Radio coverage on ABC Radio Canberra Interview

Figure 4: Communications collateral, media and consultation activities.

3. Consultation feedback

3.1 Reviewing the feedback

Transport considered the following criteria when assessing the historical interpretation options and when considering community feedback for the Captains Flat FSMC:

- Remediation timeline - the Site needs to be remediated before a commemorative tribute may be delivered.
- Ongoing management or maintenance of the commemorative tribute.
- Budget is limited and financial considerations need to be taken into account.

3.2 Summary of feedback

Transport received a total of 13 submissions from the NSW Government's Have Your Say survey, and 3 submissions from Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council.

Of these submissions:

- 37.5% supported historical interpretation signage (6 submissions).
- 62.5% supported an alternative historical interpretation option, such as public art, sculpture, mural or a museum (10 submissions).

Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council was supportive of historical signage, incorporated with rich content such as augmented reality experiences or oral history content and also supported improvements to landscaping.

3.3 Preferred heritage interpretation option identified

Historical signage and shelter

After considering all options and the community feedback received, **Transport will now proceed with the preferred option of installing a picnic table or shelter with historical signage.**

This option represents a practical and future-proofed solution for the community that honours the history and values of Captains Flat former Station Masters Cottage. The shelter and signage will be installed on land owned by Transport. This option also offers the potential to be incorporated into future community initiatives – such as a heritage trail – once remediation is complete.

This approach represents the most appropriate outcome given the extent of contamination at the Site, which limits the feasibility of other commemorative options.

In addition to this, Transport acknowledges the community's suggestion to enhance public amenities. Subject to budget availability, Transport will consider potential improvements such as improvements to landscaping.

Community consultation identified rail, mining and local history as the most popular theme to be captured in the historical interpretation option.

3.4 Alternative options

The following table outlines alternative options to historical signage received from the submissions by the community and council, and Transport's responses to these suggested alternative options.

Community feedback	Transport for NSW response
Rebuild the cottage or keep it for community use (4 mentions)	
2 x would like to see the former cottage replaced with a new building to be used as a museum.	In 2023, Transport consulted with the community on the future land use for the Site. This consultation found that the preferred remediation strategy was to demolish the cottage and consider a commemorative tribute which recognises its historical significance to the local community.
2 x want to see the cottage restored for community use.	Due to the extent of contamination, high costs associated with remediation, construction, and ongoing maintenance requirements, it is not feasible to rebuild or restore the cottage for community use. Effective remediation requires demolition and remediation of the land. Neither Transport nor Council have the capacity to manage additional assets which would require ongoing maintenance, such as a museum. Transport must deliver its projects and services in a way that is efficient, cost-effective, and benefits the broader NSW community. Given the substantial remediation costs required, a partial or full rebuild of the site is not viable within current budget constraints.
Development of a heritage trail or heritage walk (3 mentions)	
3 x would like to see the development of a heritage trail or heritage walk	Transport is generally supportive of initiatives that promote local heritage and would be happy to explore feasibility, subject to budget availability and broader planning discussions for the Site with the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Any future development would need to align with site constraints, including contamination levels and accessibility.

Landscaping and picnic tables to encourage visitation of the proposed heritage trail (3 mentions)	
2 x want to see picnic tables built to encourage visitation to proposed heritage trail.	Transport is generally supportive of interpretation options that enhance the community's enjoyment and access to the Site, such as picnic tables and landscaping with the intention of improving amenity for any future heritage trail.
1 x wants to see improvements to landscaping to enhance amenity.	Transport's preferred option to serve the community now and into the future is to install a hard picnic shelter stand – potentially similar to the Molonglo River picnic stand and historical signage installation currently located in Captains Flat. This stand would also include interpretative signage, offering both a functional community space and a meaningful way to celebrate the site's heritage.
Improve public facilities to promote access between the Site and town (2 mentions)	
2 x want to see improvements made to carparking to improve accessibility between the Site, heritage trail and town.	Transport is generally supportive of interpretation options that enhance the community's access between the Site and town. However, establishing a new formal car park or a public amenities block are not considered viable options due to the high costs associated with construction and the ongoing maintenance requirements.
1 x wants to see the addition of a public amenities block to encourage access to the Site.	
Demolish the building and no interpretation (1 mention)	
1 x would like to see the building demolished and remediation to occur	Transport is progressing with plans to demolish the cottage and remediate the site, reflecting the consultation outcomes identified in 2023. A Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) has been prepared alongside the Review of Environmental Factors (REF). The REF will be placed on public exhibition from 13 August to 11 September 2025 . For more information go to https://bit.ly/captains-flat-fsmc-ref-HYS .

3.5 Heritage interpretation themes

The historical interpretation survey invited the community and stakeholders to consider which themes or values the historical interpretation option should consider. The following summary presents the key themes that were identified through the consultation:

- Rail history (9 mentions)
- Mining history (8 mentions)
- Local histories, characters and stories (7 mentions)
- Aboriginal culture and history (2 mentions).

4. Next steps for Captains Flat Historical Interpretation

The outcomes of this consultation will help guide the approval process for the preferred commemorative tribute, which is historical signage and a picnic shelter.

Remediation planning is underway to determine the next steps for the remediation project. Once remediation is complete, the historical signage will be installed. For more information about the remediation project, visit the project website at <https://bit.ly/capt-flat-project>.

Transport appreciates the time taken to participate in this consultation and we thank the community and stakeholders for providing feedback. Feedback captured has provided a better understanding of community values, issues and opportunities for the Site, allowing us to make an informed decision about the heritage interpretation.

Once demolition and remediation of the Site and surrounding area is complete, the Historical Interpretation Project will deliver the following:

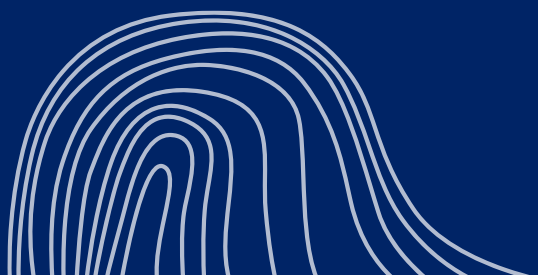
- submit the preferred option for internal approval
- obtain approval to proceed with preferred option
- inform community and stakeholders of the preferred option
- develop a concept design and submit for approval
- detailed design – if required based on preferred option
- implementation of preferred option once site remediation is complete.

Transport will keep the community informed as the project progresses.

4.1 Stay involved

We value your input and encourage you to stay engaged. To stay up to date on project progress or to register to receive updates, please visit the project website at bit.ly/captains-flat-fsmc-hip-project. If you have questions or ideas, you can contact us at:

- **Email:** regionalassetmanagement@transport.nsw.gov.au
- **Phone:** 1800 491 566.



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