



Review of Environmental Factors

Civic Link Block 3 Project

City of Parramatta Council

18 December 2025



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Board and employees of Water Technology acknowledge and respect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We specifically acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our offices reside and where we undertake our work.

We respect the knowledge, skills and lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, who we continue to learn from and collaborate with. We also extend our respect to all First Nations Peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past and present.



Artwork by Maurice Goolagong 2023. This piece was commissioned by Water Technology and visualises the important connections we have to water, and the cultural significance of journeys taken by traditional custodians of our land to meeting places, where communities connect with each other around waterways.

The symbolism in the artwork includes:

- Seven circles representing each of the States and Territories in Australia where we do our work
- Blue dots between each circle representing the waterways that connect us
- The animals that rely on healthy waterways for their home
- Black and white dots representing all the different communities that we visit in our work

Hands that are for the people we help on our journey



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The City of Parramatta Council, in partnership with the NSW Government, is transforming the heart of Parramatta through the Civic Link project 24 kilometres west of Sydney CBD. Once completed, Civic Link will be a vibrant green pedestrian corridor extending from Parramatta Square to the Parramatta River. This pathway will connect Parramatta Square's railway and light rail, the future Sydney Metro West, and the Powerhouse Parramatta Museum at the river's edge (Figure 1-1).

Civic Link has been divided into four blocks with the following progress:

- Block 1: Parramatta Square – Delivered by Council
- Block 2: Sydney Metro West – To be delivered by NSW Government
- **Block 3: Phillip Street and Horwood Place – Current**
- Block 4: Powerhouse Museum – To be delivered by NSW Government

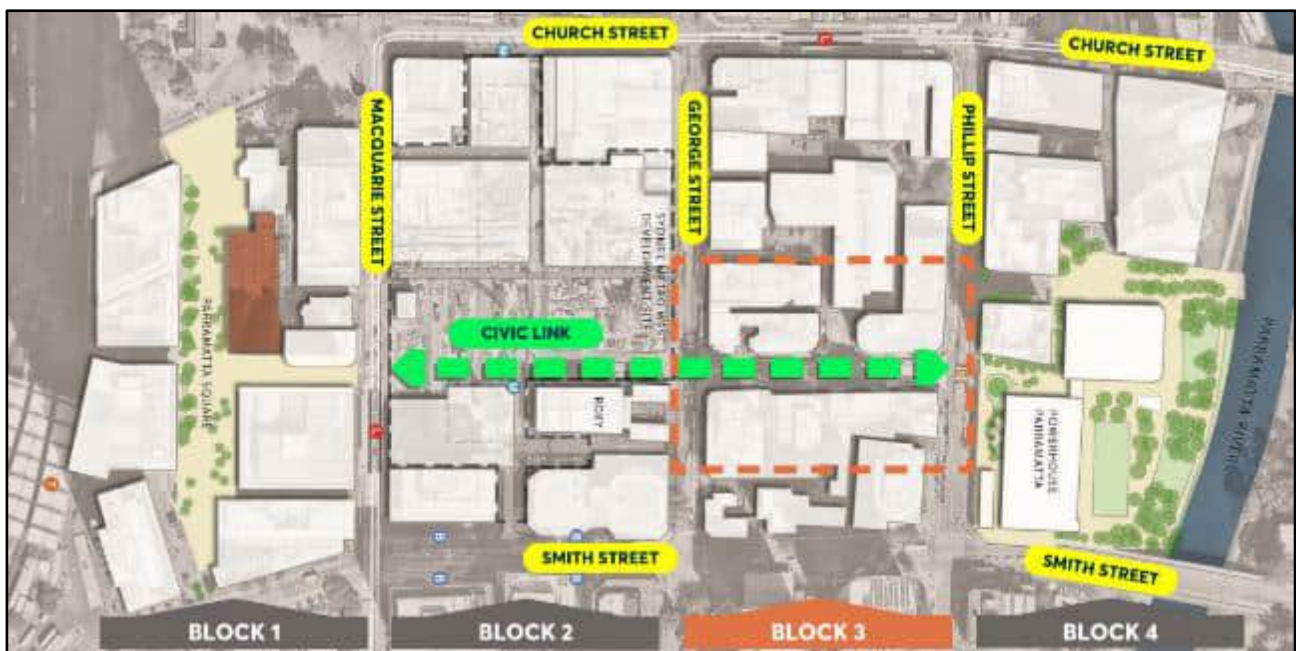
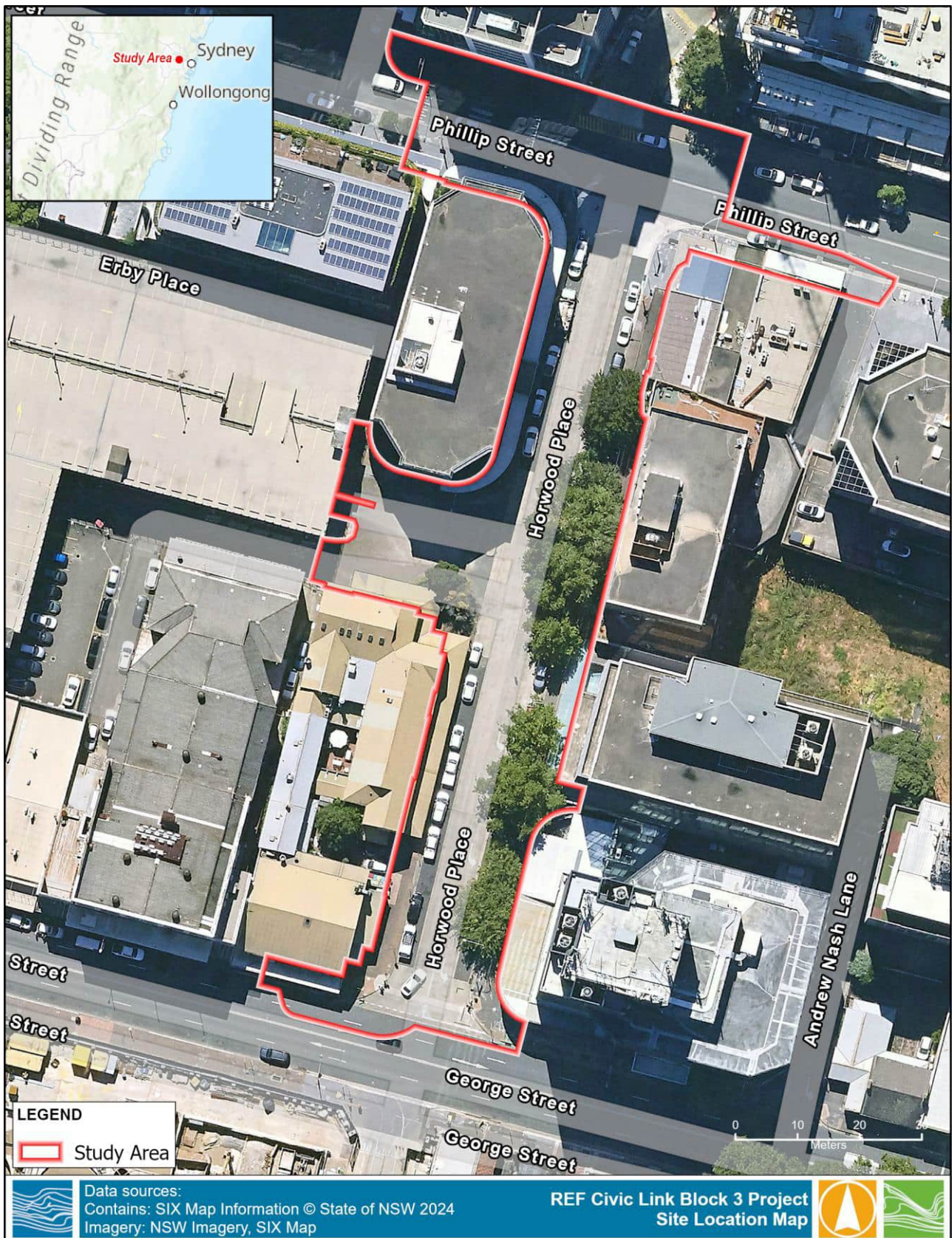


Figure 1-1 Block 3, courtesy of the City of Parramatta Council

The Council is currently undertaking the development of Block 3 of Parramatta Civic Link. The extent of the works area is shown in Figure 1-2.



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28/01/2025

Figure 1-2 Site Location



1.2 Purpose of This Review of Environmental Factors

Division 17, of State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 (TISEPP) permits Council, as a public authority, to undertake the proposed works without development consent. However, these works must be approved by Council under the *Local Government Act, 1993* which means they meet the definition of an activity under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Accordingly, their environmental impacts must be assessed by Council under Part 5 of the EP&A Act. Council is therefore both the proponent and determining authority for the works.

This Review of Environmental Factors (REF) documents the City of Parramatta Council's consideration and determination regarding those impacts in accordance with the requirements under Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act. Accordingly, the proposal has been considered against the matters listed in subsection 171 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EP&A Regulation) to determine whether, with mitigation measures in place, it is likely to have significant impacts.

During construction the main potential environmental impacts of the proposal are typical construction impacts such as biodiversity, waterways, traffic, noise pollution, Aboriginal heritage, and non-Aboriginal heritage. The assessment shows that if Council adopts the mitigation measures identified in this REF, the proposal would not have a significant environmental impact. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

1.3 Options

Option 1 - Do Nothing: The area will remain the same, with sparse vegetation and limited community use.

Option 2 –Block 3 Civic Link: (Preferred option) The Block 3 Civic Link works would improve access for pedestrian and cyclists and provide a socialising area. The completion of this project will ultimately increase vegetation with new plants and garden beds. Water sensitive urban design will be integrated into the project construction improving water quality.

1.4 Consideration of Ecologically Sustainable Development

The proposal has been considered against the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) (refer to Table 1-1).

Table 1-1 Consideration of principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD)

ESD Principle	Consideration in REF
Precautionary principle	The proposal will not result in serious or irreversible environmental damage and there is no scientific uncertainty relating to the proposal.
Intergenerational equity	The proposal will help to meet the needs of future generations by providing a more vegetated aesthetic within Philip Street and Horwood Place, which can be used by future generations.
Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity	The proposal will not significantly impact on biological diversity or impact ecological integrity and increased vegetation of the area will be part of the proposal.
Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms	The proposal will provide cost efficient use of resources and provide optimum outcomes for the community, environment and with respect to financial cost.