



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



CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	7
1.1	Background	7
1.2	Purpose of This Review of Environmental Factors	9
1.3	Options	9
1.4	Consideration of Ecologically Sustainable Development	9
2	STATUTORY PLANNING AND OTHER APPROVALS	10
2.1	Environmental Planning, Assessment Act 1979 and Local Government Act 1993	10
2.2	State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	10
2.3	Water Management Act 2000	11
2.4	Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016	11
2.5	Fisheries Management Act 1994	11
2.6	Heritage Act 1977	11
2.7	National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974	12
2.8	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	12
2.9	Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997	12
2.10	Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2023	13
3	CONSULTATION	15
4	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL	16
4.1	Location	16
4.2	Project Overview & Scope of Works	16
4.2.1	Vehicular Access	16
4.2.2	Proposed Pedestrian and Cyclist Access	17
4.2.3	Electrical Access	17
4.2.4	Other Service Access	17
4.2.5	Parking	17
4.3	Construction Equipment	21
4.4	Construction Materials	21
4.5	Utilities	21
4.6	Compound	21
4.7	Stockpile Sites	22
4.8	Workforce and Working Hours	22
4.9	Project Duration	22
4.10	Post-project Requirements	22
5	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT, POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES	23
5.1	Topography, Geology, Soils and Drainage	23
5.1.1	Topography and Geology	23
5.1.2	Soil Landscapes	23
5.1.3	Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS)	23
5.1.4	Salinity	23
5.1.5	Surface Water	23
5.1.6	Groundwater	25
5.1.7	Flooding	25



5.1.8	Construction Impacts	25
5.1.9	Operational Impacts	25
5.1.10	Mitigation Measures	27
5.2	Contaminated Soils	28
5.2.1	Existing Environment	28
5.2.2	Operational Impacts	28
5.2.3	Mitigation Measures	28
5.3	Biodiversity	31
5.3.1	Existing Environment	31
5.3.2	Construction Impacts	35
5.3.3	Operational Impacts	36
5.3.4	Mitigation Measures	36
5.4	Air Quality	38
5.4.1	Existing Environment	38
5.4.2	Construction Impacts	38
5.4.3	Operational Impacts	38
5.4.4	Mitigation Measures	38
5.5	Noise and Vibration	39
5.5.1	Existing Receivers	39
5.5.2	Construction Impacts	40
5.5.3	Operational Impacts	40
5.5.4	Mitigation Measures	40
5.6	Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Heritage	43
5.6.1	Mitigation Measures	44
5.7	Waste & Resource Management	44
5.7.1	Construction Impacts	44
5.7.2	Operational Impacts	45
5.7.3	Mitigation Measures	45
5.8	Traffic and Parking	47
5.8.1	Construction Impacts	47
5.8.2	Operational Impacts	47
5.8.3	Mitigation Measures	47
5.9	Urban Design and Visual Impacts	49
5.9.1	Construction Impacts	49
5.9.2	Operational Impacts	49
5.9.3	Mitigation Measures	50
5.10	Cumulative Impacts	50
6	CONCLUSION	51
6.1	Summary of Findings	51
6.2	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	51
6.3	Concluding Statement	51
7	REFERENCES	53



APPENDICES

- Appendix A Design Plans - CLB3 General Arrangement Plan
- Appendix B Civil Design Drawings Horwood Place
- Appendix C Civil Design Drawings Phillip St
- Appendix D Civil Engineering Report
- Appendix E Stormwater Management Plan
- Appendix F Contamination Interpretive Report
- Appendix G Remedial Action Plan
- Appendix H Limited Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Appendix I EPBC Act - Protected Matters Search
- Appendix J Likelihood of Occurrence Table
- Appendix K Aboriculture Management Plan
- Appendix L Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
- Appendix M Aboriginal Cultural Due Diligence
- Appendix N Historical Archaeological Research Design
- Appendix O Historical Archaeological Assessment
- Appendix P Heritage Interpretation Strategy
- Appendix Q Statement of Heritage Impacts
- Appendix R Aboriginal Archaeological Test Excavation Report
- Appendix S Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Appendix T Traffic Management Plan
- Appendix U TMP Approval
- Appendix V Urban Design Report
- Appendix W Accessibility Report

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 Block 3, courtesy of the City of Parramatta Council	7
Figure 1-2 Site Location	8
Figure 2-1 Land use zones	14
Figure 4-1 Site location	18
Figure 4-2 Site Location, detailed	19
Figure 4-3 Council Land Ownership, courtesy of the City of Parramatta Council	20
Figure 5-1 Acid Sulfate Soils	24
Figure 5-2 Flood risk map	26
Figure 5-3 Plant Community Types (PCTs)	32
Figure 5-4 Threatened species	34
Figure 5-5 Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)	37
Figure 5-6 Sensitive Receiver Map	42

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1 Consideration of principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD)	9
Table 5-1 Mitigation measures for soil and water (SW)	27
Table 5-2 Mitigation measures for contamination (C)	29



Table 5-3 Flora species list of the subject site and surrounding area	33
Table 5-4 Tree Planting Palette	35
Table 5-5 Mitigation measures for construction impacts (CI)	36
Table 5-6 Mitigation measures for air quality (AQ)	38
Table 5-7 Mitigation measures for noise and vibration management (NV)	40
Table 5-8 Mitigation measures for heritage items (H)	44
Table 5-9 Mitigation measures for waste and resource management items (WR)	46
Table 5-10 Mitigation measures for traffic management (T)	47
Table 5-11 Mitigation measures for public amenity management items (PA)	50

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

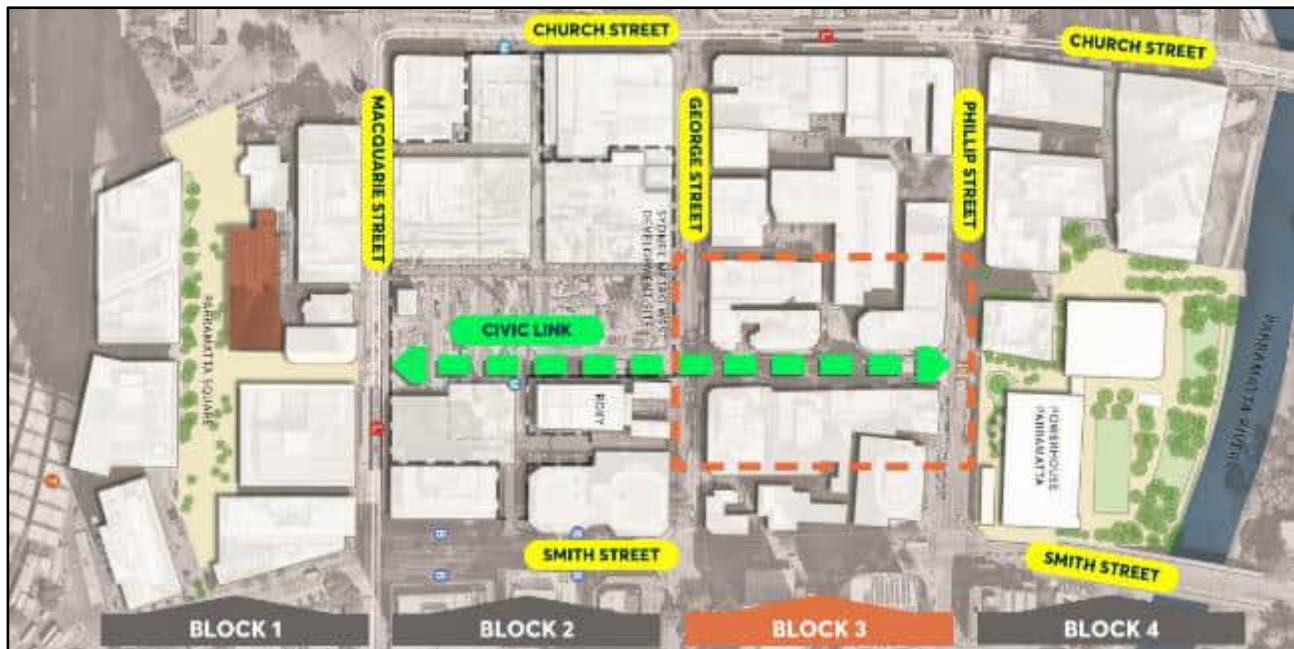
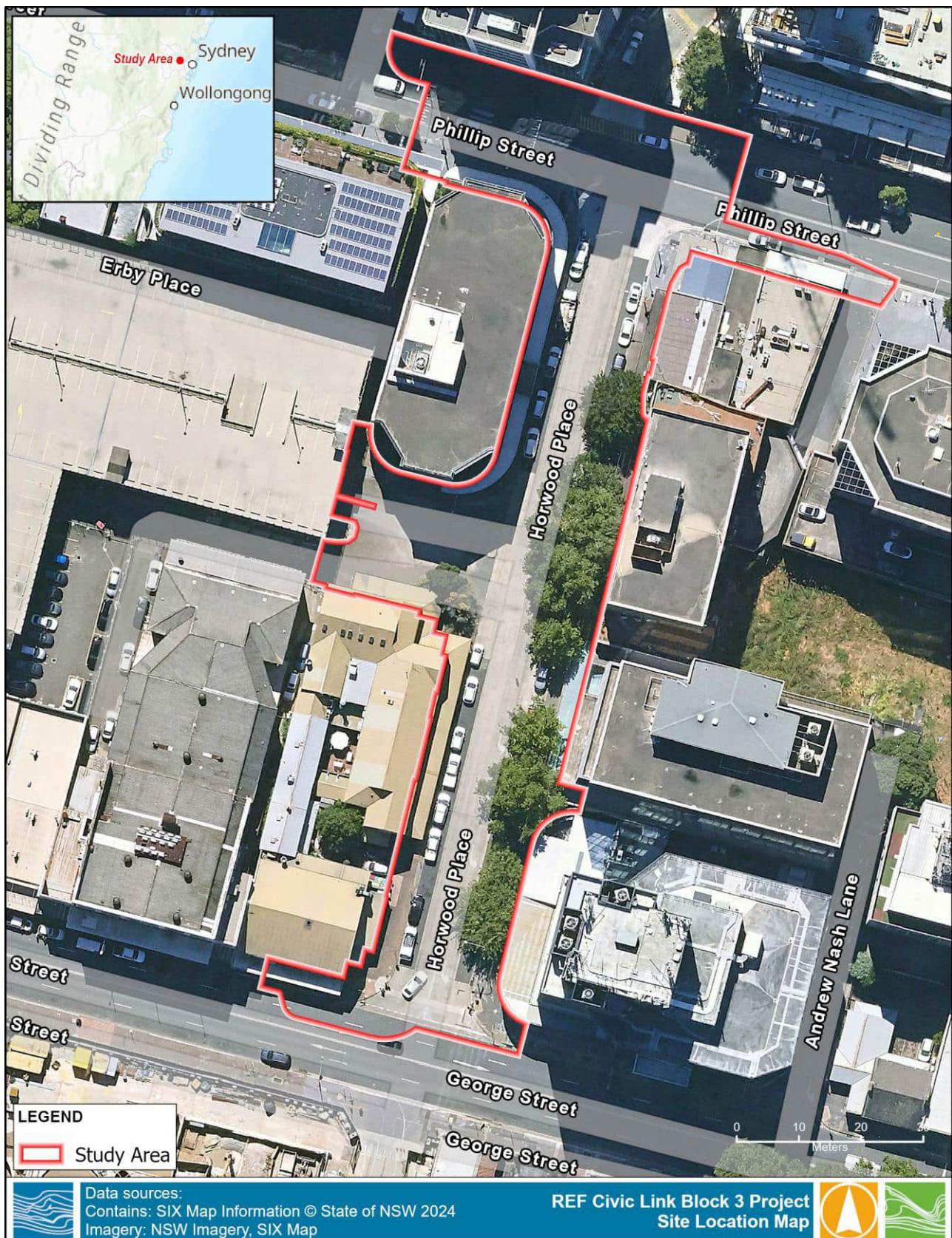


Figure 1-1 Block 3, courtesy of the City of Parramatta Council

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.