

## **6. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY - OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS**

### **6.1 IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM SIGNIFICANCE**

The identification of heritage values in the statement of significance brings with it implications for conservation policy. The objective of conservation policies is to conserve, as far as is possible, the attributes of the place assessed as being of heritage significance. The following dot-points summarise the implications arising from the assessed significance of the Sydney University grounds.

- The Aboriginal occupation of the landscape, and the early European utilisation of the university area, being subtly but significantly reflected in the present landscape, should be recognised and interpreted where opportunities exist. The direct evidence within the grounds is restricted to general landform, such as Petersham Ridge, and the creek lines of Orphan School Creek and the former swampy area around the Old Darlington School site. The only residual built feature, the lake still present in altered form in Victoria Park, is not managed by the university, and is therefore outside the scope of the policies
- The historical associations resulting from the long and continuous use of the university, reflected in the grounds, should be conserved. This might include adaptation by controlled and sympathetic management, and development of significant spaces or areas.
- The values of the significant set of Gothic / Tudor revival buildings (Main Building, Anderson Stewart Building, Gate Lodges, and St Paul's, St. Johns and St. Andrews Colleges) should be conserved by appropriate management of the buildings and their settings and surrounds. Interpretation of the significant links between some of the scattered elements of the group should be part of the overall interpretation of the Camperdown campus. The policies, however, cannot deal directly with the college buildings in this group, which are not managed by the University.
- The sports grounds (Hockey Square, Ovals 1 and 2, University Avenue tennis courts, and those associated with the colleges) are important open spaces with historic, aesthetic and social significance. As such they are key components of the grounds, and should be managed as open space, with ongoing appropriate sporting functions while that demand exists, and compatible uses found where sport is no longer a desired or feasible use.
- Elements of the Grounds, such as gardens, landscape features, plantings, roads, street furniture, views and vistas, which support the significance of individual buildings or groups identified in the S.170 register, should be managed so as to retain associational significance and building settings.
- The residual evidence of the suburb of Darlington, including surviving buildings and streets, and former street alignments reflected in building alignments, movement corridors and the underlying pattern of the development of the campus, are significant

relics in their own right, and provide an historical and aesthetic setting for the development of the Darlington campus. The conservation of surviving buildings, areas of archaeological sensitivity, and respect for residual street alignments in future planning should be an objective in the continuing development of the campus.

- The plantings, landscape features and views identified in the analysis of components of significance (see 5.2) as making a high contribution to the aesthetic, social or historical significance of the grounds should be managed so as to retain their significance.
- The archaeological potential of parts of the university to provide evidence of earlier uses and occupiers of the grounds should be recognised, and steps taken to integrate archaeological investigations and site protection into any development proposals affecting those areas.

The social value of the grounds introduces another layer of value of the University which has a number of complexities. These complexities include:

- the varying size of areas and components which have social value;
- that some of these values overlap; and
- the differing communities and groups for whom areas and components have social value, including communities outside of the University.

As with all heritage values, social value deserves to be carefully considered and fully respected in the management of the University grounds. Part of this involves recognising and respecting the interests of the affiliated communities and groups, and ensuring heritage management processes involve them. In addition, opportunities should be sought or taken to interpret, support, celebrate or reinforce social value through the affiliated communities or groups.

## **6.2 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Indigenous Heritage**

The protection of Indigenous sites and remains is governed by a number of legislative Acts at both the state and Commonwealth level. In brief, the most directly applicable law is the National Parks and Wildlife Act, which makes it an offence to disturb or destroy Aboriginal sites, deposits or relics without written consent. The legislative framework is outlined at Appendix B.

### **Commonwealth Legislation: Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975**

Individual places and areas within the University of Sydney are entered in the Register of the National Estate database. These are listed at Table 6.1.

**Table 6.1 University of Sydney places assessed for the Register of the National Estate (RNE)**

Place	RNE Status
Fence, Gates and Lodge, City Rd	Registered
Gate Lodge (former), City Rd	Registered
Institute Building	Registered
Medical School	Registered
Physics Building	Registered
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	Registered
Science Road Precinct	Registered
Botany Building	Registered
Commercial Bank of Sydney Facade (former)	Registered
Macleay Museum Building	Registered
Science Road Bridge	Registered
St Andrew's College	Registered
St John's College	Registered
St Paul's College	Registered
Sydney University Main Building Precinct	Registered
Gates and Gate Lodge (Parramatta rd)	Registered
Main Building - East Range and Great Hall	Registered
Main Building Additions & Quadrangle	Registered
Terraces and Street Trees, 86-131 Darlington Rd, Darlington	Registered
The Womens' College	Registered
Two Three-Quarter Columns, Science Rd	Removed from Interim List, not of sufficient significance for entry
Union Building, Science Rd	Removed ditto
Zoology Building	Removed ditto
Badham Building Facade	Removed ditto
John Woolley Building	Removed ditto
Old Geology Building	Removed ditto
Refectory Building, Science Rd	Removed ditto

The last seven places in this table were entered in the Interim list of the Register of the National Estate in 1979, but were objected to by the University of Sydney. An independent assessor found them not to be sufficiently significant individually to enter in the Register, so they were removed. That assessment might be reviewed in the light of the research and assessments undertaken to develop the S.170 register (all of the places are recommended for the s.170 register), and in response to this conservation plan. The Science Road Precinct, following the precedent of the National Trust classification on which it is based, takes as its boundary the edges of the buildings, so the buildings are not themselves included in that registration.

Entry in the Register of the National Estate imposes a requirement on Commonwealth Ministers and departments to take the significance of a registered place into account in making decisions affecting it. The Australian Heritage Commission Act 1976, which establishes the Register of the National Estate, requires in section 30 that all Commonwealth Ministers and Commonwealth bodies do everything within their power, consistent with other relevant laws, not to take any action that adversely affects as part of the national estate any place that is entered in the Register, unless he or it is satisfied that there is no "feasible and prudent alternative" to such an action, in which case all reasonable measures must be taken to minimise the adverse affect.

Before any action is taken, the Minister or authority must inform the AHC of the proposal, and give it reasonable opportunity to comment. "Action" is taken to include the making of a decision or recommendation, including the recommendation to provide financial assistance or grants to a State, the approval of a program, issue of a license or the granting of permission.

The AHC Act does not bind State or local government, only the actions of the Commonwealth. However, where Commonwealth decisions (such as the location of Commonwealth facilities) or Commonwealth funding are concerned, the Act clearly impacts on the ability of the manager to proceed with any actions which the Commonwealth (especially the AHC) thinks are not in the best interests of the National Estate.

### **State Legislation: NSW Heritage Act 1977**

The NSW *Heritage Act 1977* requires State government agencies to prepare a register of heritage property under their control (the S.170 register), to properly manage them on behalf of the community, and to report on their condition in their annual reports. Section 170A aims to integrate heritage conservation into asset management from the strategic planning level right down to the routine maintenance, in accordance with the Total Asset Management Guidelines prepared by the Department of Public Works and Services. A component of the TAM guidelines deals specifically with Heritage Asset Management.

The 1999 amendments to the *Heritage Act* established the State Heritage Register, listing on which controls activities such as alteration, damage, demolition and development. Local Environmental Plans (LEP) prepared by local government in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Assessment Act, 1979*, also include heritage schedules, which impose a heritage layer to the local development approvals process. LEPs constrain local councils, as consent authorities, not to grant consent for development of a heritage item or area unless it is of the opinion that the development would:

- conserve the associated heritage significance of the place and any associated places or areas;
- integrate heritage conservation into the planning and development control processes;
- investigate and record sites with archaeological potential;
- provide for public involvement in the process;
- be sympathetic to and not detract from the heritage significance of related places, landscapes, streetscapes or setting;
- ensure sympathetic adaptation for any new uses; and
- include heritage impact statements or conservation management plans where considered (by the Council) to be necessary.

Without the consent of the consent authority (local council), in relation to a scheduled item or area it is an offence to:

- demolish or alter a scheduled item;
- damage a relic (as defined);
- excavate land for the purpose of discovering, exposing or moving a relic;
- damage or despoil a place;
- erect a building or subdivide;
- damage any tree or land; or
- make structural changes to the interiors of buildings.

The South Sydney LEP Schedule is described below.

The *Heritage Act* also controls the disturbance of non-Indigenous archaeological materials older than 50 years, and this would include any historic era remains of this age within the ground associated with the university's buildings and grounds. Any intervention with areas known or suspected to contain archaeological remains would require a permit from the Heritage Office and the involvement of a qualified archaeologist.

### South Sydney Local Environmental Plan

The Local Environmental Plan 1998 for South Sydney Council (as of Amendment 8, 4 May 2001) includes in *Schedule 2—Heritage items*, the following places within Sydney University Grounds.

**Table 6.2 University Places in South Sydney LEP**

LEP Item Number	Place
199	Womens College Group
232	Gate Keepers Lodge, City Road
233	James Spring Drinking Fountain and Horse Trough (City Road)
234	St Pauls College Group
235	Institute Building
348	terrace house, 88 Darlington Road
349	terrace house, 90-93 Darlington Road
350	terrace house, 94 Darlington Road
351	terrace house, 95 Darlington Road
352	terrace house, 96-103 Darlington Road
353	terrace house, 104-123 Darlington Road
354	terrace house, 124-131 Darlington Road
355	former Darlington Primary School
719	St Andrews College building
720	St Johns College building
833	Site landscaping, including perimeter fence, Ross Street, Parramatta Road and City Road gates and pillars, pergola and two Doric columns and fountain [ie the Grounds of Camperdown campus]
834	J.D. Stewart building (Vet. Science)
835	Physics Building
836	Edward Ford Building
837	R.D. Watt Building (Agriculture)
838	Anderson Stuart Building
839	Badham Building
840	Botany building
841	Bank Building`
842	Baxters Lodge
843	John Woolley Building
844	Macleay Museum Building
845	Main Building and Quadrangle Group
846	Old Geology Building
847	Refectory Building
848	Science Road Bridge (War Memorial Bridge)
849	Holme Building
850	Heydon Laurence Building (ex Zoology)
CA47	Sydney University Conservation Area (Camperdown Campus only)

The Victoria Park group including the gatehouse and landscaping, is also scheduled.

### 6.3 EXISTING UNIVERSITY PLANNING POLICIES

The University’s planning policies, as they impact on heritage resources, implement action to satisfy State heritage law, as well as ensure that heritage considerations inform ongoing maintenance, restoration and redevelopment works on campus.

A S.170 register has been developed for the University (DPWS Heritage Design Services and Otto Cserhalmi & Partners, 2000) for heritage buildings and groups across the whole campus. A Heritage Fabric Study has been undertaken to determine the general status of heritage fabric, and individual conservation plans have been prepared for a number of heritage buildings. The University has developed a strategy for the long term conservation of the external fabric of its heritage buildings. Work is currently under way (2001) on the Main Building as part of this strategy.

The 1990 *University of Sydney Strategic Plan* (Conybeare Morrison & Partners 1990), and the *University of Sydney Landscape Masterplan* which stemmed from it (Conybeare Morrison & Partners 1993), while no longer regarded as binding planning policies, have been influential in guiding planning thinking within the university. The strategy and masterplan provide useful baseline information, and propose planning approaches, many of which are reflected in the University’s *10 Year Capital Development Plan*, which are addressed at section 6.4, below, to the extent that they potentially impact on the conservation planning for the university grounds.

### 6.4 MANAGEMENT’S REQUIREMENTS, ASPIRATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### Capital Development Plan

A series of projects are proposed in the University’s *Capital Development Plan*. The 10 year projected commitments indicate the University’s current aspirations, though there is the possibility of amending proposals, especially in the case of longer-term projects. Projects with direct implications for identified heritage values in the grounds are shown in Table 6.3.

**Table 6.3 Heritage implications of project commitments generated through the Capital Development Plan – 10 year projection**

	Project Title	Scope	Heritage Implications	Status
<b>New Buildings</b>				
1.	Economics Building	Removal of original terrace houses and relocation of Grounds storage compound. Large new academic building	Has taken into account the existing street configuration, and has had an archaeological study of the site	Completed

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Heritage Implications</b>	<b>Status</b>
2.	Animal House	New building of similar scale and character to adjoining buildings Possible removal of mature trees Possible need to negotiate use of St Paul's College land	Potential impact on adjacent building curtilages and landscape features and plantings.	Committed in current Capital Plan
3.	McMillan Building extension	New building over previously constructed building foundation	No apparent negative impact, may enhance enclosure?	Committed in current Capital Plan
4.	Eastern Avenue mid-block redevelopment site	Demolition of Edgeworth David Building, Stephen Roberts Theatre and carpark Large new consolidated building incorporation additional floor area and subsurface multi-storey carparking station Possible removal of mature trees	Removal of components of moderate heritage significance. potential impact on the setting/appreciation of the Anderson Stuart building. Potential to either introduce, or cut off, views from eastern Avenue into Victoria Park. Impact of tree removal probably transitory and minor heritage impact, though the developed vista along eastern road should be guarded. Further 'wall' effect along Avenue should be avoided. potential to reduce traffic flow in sensitive areas through the replacement of existing surface carparking	Early FMO consideration
5.	City Road (south) redevelopment site	Demolition of Art Workshops, Tin Sheds Gallery, demountable and possibly St Michaels College Large new infill building occupying majority of site	need to implement archaeological investigation and monitoring.	Early FMO consideration
6.	Cleveland Street development site	Large new infill building occupying majority of existing grassed site	need to implement archaeological investigation and monitoring.	Early FMO consideration
7.	Maze Crescent development site	New building partly over existing open space	Potential to further erode appreciation of former Darlington Road alignment. need to implement archaeological investigation and monitoring.	Early FMO consideration
8.	Shepherd Street development site	Demolition of Rose Street Building and carpark New larger building of similar scale to adjoining buildings	need to implement archaeological investigation and monitoring. need to maintain existing street configuration	Early FMO consideration

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Heritage Implications</b>	<b>Status</b>
9.	University Sports & Aquatic Centre Extension	Demolition of original University Garage and Raglan Street Building Likely removal of mature tree New building of similar scale and character to existing Sports Centre building	need to implement archaeological investigation and monitoring. need to maintain existing street configuration in new design	Advanced proposals developed by Sports Union
10.	Western Avenue redevelopment site	Demolition of either or both Bosch 1A and 1B buildings New replacement building on adjusted building envelope of similar scale to Blackburn Building	would maintain and enhance appreciation of Blackburn Building and back-views to Wesley College	Early FMO consideration
11.	Holme Building redevelopment	Major refurbishment of existing Union services Restoration of original building forms and facades Possible demolition of Footbridge Theatre	need to assess and respect heritage significance of place, and especially of impacted areas, and likely impact on surrounding grounds, especially along Science Road.	Early proposals developed by Student Union
12.	Veterinary Science Precinct redevelopment	Demolition of redundant buildings including McMaster Annexe, store houses, horse stables and animal holding pens Redevelopment of clinic facilities	need to implement archaeological investigation and monitoring. need to respect heritage values need to maintain precinct enclosed character, and reinforce it in any new development	Early FMO consideration  In part completed (see 14 below)
13.	City Road (north) development	Removal of existing surface carpark New gateway building and setting	need to avoid impacts on existing gates, fences and gatehouse, and on Eastern Avenue view need to maintain sense of City Road as boundary to Camperdown campus	possible development site, no current proposals
<b>Grounds Upgrade</b>				
14.	Veterinary Science carpark (see also 12 above)	Demolition of redundant buildings and structures New carpark (with approx. 20-year life)	need to implement archaeological investigation and monitoring. need to maintain the enclosed precinct character, and reinforce it in any new development	completed
15.	Ross Street Building	Building demolition for replacement landscape treatment incorporating reduced long term building envelope	need for specific assessment, and recording program if to be removed. need for sensitive design of new building and grounds, in view of relationship to significant Science Road and Vet Sciences precincts.	Early FMO consideration

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Heritage Implications</b>	<b>Status</b>
16.	University Avenue	Reconstruction of roadway and provision of new Victoria Park entrance Gatehouse replacement (?)	reinforces original axis and views to and from Main Building strengthens linkages in management between University and Victoria Park	Advanced documentation phase
17.	Hockey Square modifications	Replacement of grass surface and provision of facilities for exclusive use as a high standard hockey field	Significant change to the existing and historical use of the site Potential conflict with social, aesthetic and historical significance of the Square Proposed use may result in change from open sports space to one with new structure, which might have heritage implications. needs specific heritage component in a planning study	Schematic proposals developed by Women's Sports Association
18.	Blackburn Forecourt (contingent on implementation of Western Avenue redevelopment site, project No.10 above)	Demolition of Queen Elizabeth II Building Expansion and re-levelling of building entry to create large new forecourt landscape	Opportunity to implement a conceptual Wilkinson vista linking Western Avenue with the University ovals and Ross Street need to maintain and enhance appreciation of Blackburn Building and back-views to Wesley College	Early FMO consideration
19.	Maze Green (partly contingent on implementation of multi-level carpark, project No.4 and City Road (south) redevelopment site No. 5 above)	Existing parkland status and uses redefined and upgraded to incorporate a broader and more accessible community focus for the Darlington campus Improved pedestrian and recreational amenity generally	Possible further erosion of significance of the original Darlington street alignments need to implement archaeological investigation and monitoring.	Early FMO consideration
20.	Services Building carpark (partly contingent on implementation of Sports Centre extension, project No. 9 above)	Replacement and upgrade of existing carpark with more appropriate layout Improved pedestrian entrance and footpath linking Lander Street with Services Building	Removal of existing remnant laneways, reducing old suburban street remnants.	Earlier documented proposals awaiting modification

	Project Title	Scope	Heritage Implications	Status
21.	Transient Building, Fisher Road	Building demolition for replacement landscape treatment incorporating possible reduced long term building envelope	need for treatment of site to be appropriate to significance of the Physics Road view, and the setting of the Mills and Ford Buildings. need for individual assessment, and recording if removed. opportunity to open up new views of the southern and western side of the Anderson Stuart Building	Early FMO consideration

### Heritage Conservation and the s.170 Register

As outlined above, the University has an ongoing program of conservation works for buildings of heritage significance. This acknowledges the value of these buildings, and the aspiration to retain them in good condition as prestigious elements of the campus. The finalisation of the University's s.170 register will formalise obligations to maintain identified heritage places, which will include those already being actively conserved.

The draft S.170 Register (DPWS Heritage Design Services and Otto Cserhalmi & Partners, 2000) currently identifies the following places.

- The University of Sydney generally, including site, landscape and buildings
- The Main Building Precinct, including:
  - Main Building, additions and Quadrangle
  - Vice Chancellors Quadrangle and surrounding buildings
  - Science Road Bridge
  - Anderson Stuart Building
  - Botany building
  - Administration
- The Science Road Precinct, including:
  - The Macleay Museum
  - Old Geology Building
  - Pharmacy, Badham and Bank Buildings
  - The Union (Holme Building)
  - Refectory
  - Zoology
  - John Woolley Building
  - Milestone
  - R.D. Watt Building
  - Veterinary Science precinct
- Manning building
- Physics Building
- McMaster Laboratory
- Institute Building
- Old Darlington School
- perimeter fences and gate lodges, City Road and Parramatta Road

- Hockey Square
- Ovals No 1 and 2.

## **Carparking and Traffic Management**

The 1990 *University of Sydney Strategic Plan* (Conybeare Morrison & Partners 1990) saw vehicle movement and parking as a major invasive element in the environment of the University of Sydney campus. This view is still held by University Facilities Management, and is likely to lead to substantial changes in traffic flow and parking arrangements over the next decade.

The potential constraints on this process, from the point of view of heritage, include ensuring that any new car parking arrangements or changes to the landscaping of roads do not impact on significant elements in the grounds, and do not impede appreciation of significant buildings or vistas.

Potential opportunities include the removal or reduction of surface parking and vehicle movement in significant building settings (such as around the Main Building, Anderson Stewart and Pharmacy and Bank buildings), in significant open spaces, such as University Place and Botany Lawn, and in significant vistas, such as along University Avenue, Science Road and Eastern Avenue. The current volume of car parking and movement in these areas obstructs or compromises the appreciation of the heritage values. Generally speaking, a reduction in surface parking and a reduction in traffic flow within the Camperdown campus would substantially improve the appreciation and enjoyment of the heritage values of the grounds.

In the Darlington campus, car parking might be considered part of the evolved character of the former suburb. Car parking in streets such as Darlington Road, for example, is an accepted part of a suburban setting, and traffic flow has decreased rather than increased over recent years. Car parking does not necessarily add to heritage values, but neither does it necessarily detract from them. The management of car parking and traffic flow is much less a heritage issue in Darlington than on the Camperdown campus—it is more of an amenity issue. Heritage impacts would only arise if there was a substantial increase of surface parking or parking structures in sensitive areas, such as in the vicinity of Maze Green where it might impact on the area's archaeological potential, or within the curtilage of the former Darlington Public School, or on the alignment of Darlington Road/Maze Crescent south, where it could conflict with historic and aesthetic heritage values.

## **Access for People with Disabilities**

The provision of disabled access to the university's buildings has a potential impact on the adjacent grounds. However, the issue is best assessed in relation to the heritage values and management needs of the particular building and its setting, bearing in mind the impact any external ramp or other devices might have on the grounds.

## **Aboriginal Archaeological Resources**

All Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and objects are protected by legislation, even if they are not registered in the NSW National Parks & Service Aboriginal Sites Register.

Legislation relevant to the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage that may be present in the Sydney University grounds is contained in Appendix B of this report. Any field investigations which are undertaken to determine the presence of sub-surface Aboriginal sites or objects within the University grounds will need to comply with these legislative requirements. Such investigations will require further consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and any other relevant Aboriginal communities.

Even though the areas with potential archaeological deposit (identified at 4.4 above) are considered to be of low significance, archaeological investigations may be necessary if any of these areas and the possible deposits they contain are to be disturbed by future developments.

A policy is presented below which proposes a positive approach to recognising and protecting potential Aboriginal sites, with clear procedures to follow should future development be proposed that might impact on those areas.

The nature of the archaeological investigations will depend on the nature of any proposed development and its exact location. It is recommended therefore that if any developments are to proceed in the archaeologically sensitive areas, an archaeological consultant experienced in pre-colonial Aboriginal sites be employed at the time, early in the planning process, to determine the level of investigation necessary. In areas found through this process to possibly contain undisturbed sub-surface archaeological deposits, a rigorous conventional test excavation may be appropriate in order to identify the degree of disturbance as well as to determine whether archaeological evidence is present. In contrast, in disturbed deposits shovel testing may be all that is necessary, or monitoring of earthworks during development. If archaeological materials are discovered during such investigations, or even at any other time in the future, long-term conservation of some areas of land may be justified.

### **Historic Archaeological Resources**

The University is bound by the *Heritage Act* not to undertake works that might disturb archaeological materials over 50 years old without a permit, so care should be taken to ensure that a qualified archaeologist is involved, and a permit is sought, before sensitive sites are disturbed. The University has successfully followed this process already for recent work on the Darlington campus.

The potential historical archaeological resources are identified in sections 4 and 5 above. A policy is presented below which proposes a positive approach to recognising and protecting potential historical archaeological sites, with clear procedures to follow should future development be proposed that might impact on those areas.

Any works that affect those areas should be preceded by archaeological investigation and assessment. That assessment may make recommendations ranging from ‘no further work required’, through ‘archaeologist to monitor works’, to ‘archaeological excavation required before works proceed’.

## Opportunities

A number of opportunities present themselves for the University to better conserve and present the heritage values of the grounds.

### *Opportunities to enhance the appreciation of heritage places*

As indicated in the assessment of significance, there are a small number of buildings of moderate or lesser degrees of significance that reduce the extent to which the heritage values of more significant buildings or features can be appreciated. The opportunity exists to consider the option of removing or lessening the impact of these buildings whenever their refurbishment or removal is being considered.

Opportunities include:

- Replacing the Fisher Street Transient Building (see Table 6.3) with a structure and/or open space or landscaped area that opens up views of the Anderson Stuart building from the south west along Fisher Road, and improves the visual quality of the termination of the view east along Physics Road. In the longer term, the treatment of this space might enhance the opportunity to appreciate the western side of any new building or landscape feature located on the site of the present Chemistry Building, and linking the Anderson Stuart and Madsen buildings visually.
- Replacing the existing Chemistry Building, when its replacement is due, with a structure and/or open space that is more sympathetic with the heritage values of the Anderson Stuart Building. The present Chemistry Building is located in close proximity to the southern wall of Anderson Stuart, and limits the appreciation of that buildings aesthetic qualities. the opportunity also exists to design a replacement building that respects the Petersham Ridge crest, and visually links the sandstone Madsen Building with Anderson Stuart and the Main Building.
- Removing or redesigning the Seymour Centre, and the non-significant Gordon Yu-Hoi Chiu Building and improve the presentation and appreciation of the old Darlington Road alignment along the southern part of Maze Crescent. The opportunity also exists to draw greater attention to the suburban origins of the Darlington campus, and the University's intention to conserve those associations. Such action would recognise the historical and social links with the campus still felt within surrounding suburban communities, and potentially improve community relations.
- Removing or redesigning the Education Building and Annex, when life-cycle replacement becomes an issue, to re-emphasise the Wilkinson vista between the Refectory and St Paul's college.
- Removing or redesigning the Bosch Building 1A and the Queen Elizabeth II Research Institute building and addition (see Table 6.3), to enhance the appreciation of the heritage aesthetic values in the Western Avenue/Wesley College/Oval 1 and Blackburn building precinct.
- Ensuring that if and when the Ross Street Transient Building and /or the Birdcage at the Ross Street gates (see Table 6.3) are redeveloped or removed, any replacement building and landscaping respects, and enhances the appreciation of, the historic, social

and aesthetic values of the Science Road precinct, the Veterinary Science precinct opposite, and the Western Avenue/Ross Street planning axis.

### ***Opportunities to enhance the interpretation of heritage values***

There is currently little active interpretation of the history or heritage of the University of Sydney Grounds. The opportunity exists, using the information provided in this plan and in the s.170 Register study (see above), to provide interpretative signs or displays at key points throughout the campus. The selected points need to be easily accessible, well frequented, and relate visually to components of heritage significance.

Topics which might effectively be included in interpretation include:

- earlier landforms and occupation, Indigenous and European;
- development of the university over time;
- significant buildings and grounds features;
- significant views and vistas;
- significant trees and plantings; and
- memorials and memorial trees.

Interpretation activities should be coordinated by an interpretation policy or plan, which would determine which stories are told where, how the interpretation stations are identified and cross referenced, and the range of most appropriate presentation approaches to use, such as signage, photo-and text display panels, guided tours, and self-guide or topic-based brochures.

Localities for signage/display panel presentation should be carefully chosen. Suggested key locations might include:

- Science Road near Union / Bank;
- Southern terrace of Main Building (outside Nicholson Museum), with views of Anderson Stuart, Main Building, Manning Road and Hockey Square;
- Eastern Avenue (at southern edge of University Place?) oriented to both Eastern Avenue and Anderson Stewart / Main Buildings;
- At Main Building entrance or University Place, near axis of University Avenue (though siting and design would have to be sensitively done); and
- Pedestrian overpass between Wentworth and Biochemistry buildings, overlooking Maze Green.

## **6.5 OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

### **Planning Authorities**

The South Sydney Council and the NSW Heritage Office are key stakeholders in the heritage management of the University of Sydney grounds. This conservation plan is prepared, in part, in the context of the S.170 obligations under the *Heritage Act*, and the Heritage Office has a major decision-making role in agreeing the plan. While the past involvement of South Sydney Council in planning decisions on-campus appears to have been little or none, the creation of the S.170 register is likely to increase the level of scrutiny of proposals by the Council.

The opportunity also exists for a dialogue with South Sydney Council about the management of Victoria Park in the context of the management of the adjacent university grounds. The overall historical significance of Grose Farm and the university, and the significance of a number of vistas, inextricably link the management of the university grounds and Victoria Park.

### **Communities of Interest**

The University has a complex and extensive range of affiliated communities and groups. They can be regarded as communities of interest in the heritage planning of the grounds. The complexity of these communities relates to:

- these communities being both on the campuses as well as in adjacent suburbs;
- there is overlapping membership of communities (for example, a staff member who lives at one of the Colleges and is active in one or several of the sporting clubs); and
- there is a changing quality in the affiliation between individuals and the University over time, perhaps resulting in changing membership of communities (for example, the student who graduates from the University but maintains a link through an alumni organisation).

The overall number of members of communities and organisations is also impressive. For example, there are currently about 40,000 enrolled students and 5,600 staff, the Sydney University Sporting Union has 40 affiliated clubs and 20,000 members, and there are 48 alumni organisations.

In general terms these communities variously include:

- staff, current and former, academic and administration/support;
- students, current and former, residential and not; and
- nearby residents.

Other major or related affiliations arise in relation to the:

- staff union, the University branch of the NTEU;
- residential colleges, associated with current students;
- alumni organisations, including residential college associations for former residents;
- student unions, general and sporting; and
- resident action or other resident groups for adjacent suburbs.

### **The Colleges**

While this plan does not directly affect planning within the college lands (which the University does not manage), it does make assessments that link the heritage significance of the colleges with that of the university campus. There is an opportunity to develop a better dialogue between the colleges, and between the colleges and the Facilities Management Office, about heritage planning issues.

### **National Trust of Australia (NSW)**

The National Trust has Classified a number of sites and areas within the University of Sydney grounds. These are:

- Edward Ford Building (Institute of Tropical Health)
- Main Building Precinct:
  - Main Building, east range and Great Hall
  - Main Building additions and Quadrangle
- Institute Building
- Medical School (Anderson Stewart)
- Parramatta Road Gates and Gatehouse
- City Road fence, gates and lodge
- Fountain and horse trough, City Road (outside Institute)
- War Memorial Bridge
- Physics Building
- Science Road Precinct;
  - Union/Holme Building
  - Refectory
  - Botany Building (A12)
  - Macleay Museum Building and collections
  - Zoology Building (A08)
  - Old Geology Building
  - Commercial Bank Façade (Bank Building)
  - John Woolley Building
  - Badham Building façade
  - Two columns between Badham and Woolley
  - Porch R.D. Watt Building (Agriculture)
  - J.D. Stewart Building (Veterinary Sciences)
  - Milestone, Science Road
- Former Darlington Public School
- Darlington Road houses (86-131 Darlington Road)
- St Andrew's College
- The Women's College
- St Paul's College
- St John's College

While the National Trust Register has no statutory implication, the assessment by the Trust alerts the community and managers of property to heritage values, and has a strong influence on community views.

## **6.6 CONDITION AND INTEGRITY**

### **Views, Vistas and Axes**

For the purpose of considering the condition and integrity of views and vistas, 'integrity' is taken to relate to the extent that the view or vista is still able to be observed, or could be so with minimal work, such as vegetation pruning. A vista or view would lose integrity if a building has been constructed which blocks it. 'Condition' would apply to the maintenance of the view or vista—whether it been kept free of inappropriate or overgrown vegetation which might block it. As an example, the integrity of the St Paul's College to Refectory across Hockey Square has been compromised by the encroachment of the new

Education Buildings, while its condition has been lessened by the growth of trees blocking the vista.

A number of views out of Eastern Avenue to the east have been blocked by buildings and tree growth, while the integrity and condition of other significant views and vistas identified at section 4 is generally good. The condition of the University Avenue vista from the Main Building through Victoria Park has been improved by the recent works in Victoria Park, and would be further improved with proposed works in the University section along University Avenue. Sensitive planning of this latter project is required to avoid lowering integrity by the placement of structures along the vista axis.

## **Plantings**

The management of plantings in the grounds over the recent years has been said (by Alan Correy, former lecturer in Landscape Design at the University) to have been characterised by the gradual reduction in the species diversity on campus. There has been a tendency, for example, to use Plane trees, *Murraya* and *Agapanthus* to simplify plantings and reduce maintenance loads.

This trend has two distinct outcomes, one related to heritage and one to amenity value of the plantings. Firstly, the reduction in species diversity may have the result of changing the aesthetics and historical structure and texture of the planting pattern of the University landscape, and the settings for significant components within the grounds. Secondly, these new plantings are less useful for teaching purposes.

Some trees are reaching old age, and a plantings management program is needed to monitor and plan for the orderly replacement of senescent trees without major disruption of important views, planting groups, or individually significant trees.

## **Gates, Fences and Walls**

In general, gates, fences and walls are in fair condition. Some iron palisade fencing exhibits weathered and cracked sandstone wall sections, though this has been renewed in a number of places at different times. Garden walling within the campus is generally in good condition.

## **Sports Grounds**

The sports grounds on campus are maintained in a fair to good condition.

## **Roads and Paths**

Roads and paths throughout the campus are generally maintained in a fair to good condition. The integrity of some roads in the Darlington campus have been diminished by developments over the last decade, and current proposals will further reduce the number of surviving roadways.