



Government Gazette

of the State of

New South Wales

Number 119–Planning and Heritage

Friday, 18 March 2022

The New South Wales Government Gazette is the permanent public record of official NSW Government notices. It also contains local council, non-government and other notices.

Each notice in the Government Gazette has a unique reference number that appears in parentheses at the end of the notice and can be used as a reference for that notice (for example, (n2019-14)).

The Gazette is compiled by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website (www.legislation.nsw.gov.au) under the authority of the NSW Government. The website contains a permanent archive of past Gazettes.

To submit a notice for gazettal, see the Gazette page.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place boundary extension

Pursuant to section 84 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, I, the Minister for Environment and Heritage, being of the opinion that the place known as Shaws Creek is, and was, of special significance to Aboriginal culture, declare the lands described in Schedule "A" as an Aboriginal place, being an extension to the lands declared an Aboriginal Place no. 47 in Gazettal No. 59 on 30 June 2014.

The value for which the Aboriginal Place is of special significance to Aboriginal culture includes, but is not limited to, the area having special significance to the Darug and other local Aboriginal peoples. The western part of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place lies within Yellomundee Regional Park, a narrow strip of land bordering the Nepean River before it joins the Grose River and becomes the Hawkesbury River. The eastern part of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place is Shaws Island, a contact point between the west and east banks of the Nepean River.

Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place sits within the traditional lands of the Boorooberongal clan of the Darug. Traditional rock engravings link across its landscape and depict different art formations connecting to artefacts which are all physical and spiritual links to ancestors. It was once a traditional meeting place for the Aboriginal people of Western Sydney. The area contains numerous artefacts, rock art caves, engravings and tool workshops.

The place has a natural beauty where the elements of vegetation, rock formations and river created a highly aesthetic landscape; it was also a place that could sustain great numbers of people with ample water available from the river and having root vegetable harvests readily on hand, as well as animal foods.

Shaws Island is a major contact point between the western and eastern banks of the Nepean River. Located on the river's east bank rock platforms is a major tool workshop and remains of a fish trap. This area supplied tools to the whole of the Sydney region. Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place is a junction site for trading and ceremonial pathways along the Nepean River and through to the mountains. As a representation of a larger cultural precinct around the Nepean River – Castlereagh area, it holds strong spiritual values for both the local communities and for Aboriginal people across the country.

The regional park in which the Aboriginal Place sits was named after Yarramundi, a "clever man" and Chief of a Darug clan. Historically, it was also a site of confrontment, tragedy and loss as the Aboriginal camps at Shaws Creek suffered the vengeance of retaliation during the many conflicts that raged along the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers in the early days of settlement.

The intangible cultural heritage of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place remains strong despite changes to the land (ownership, farming, mining) and river (flooding, silting etc). Stories of songlines through Shaws Creek are well known amongst the local community and the area is recognised as a meeting point for Aboriginal people from far away. These values highlight the living significance of the site to people both past and present.

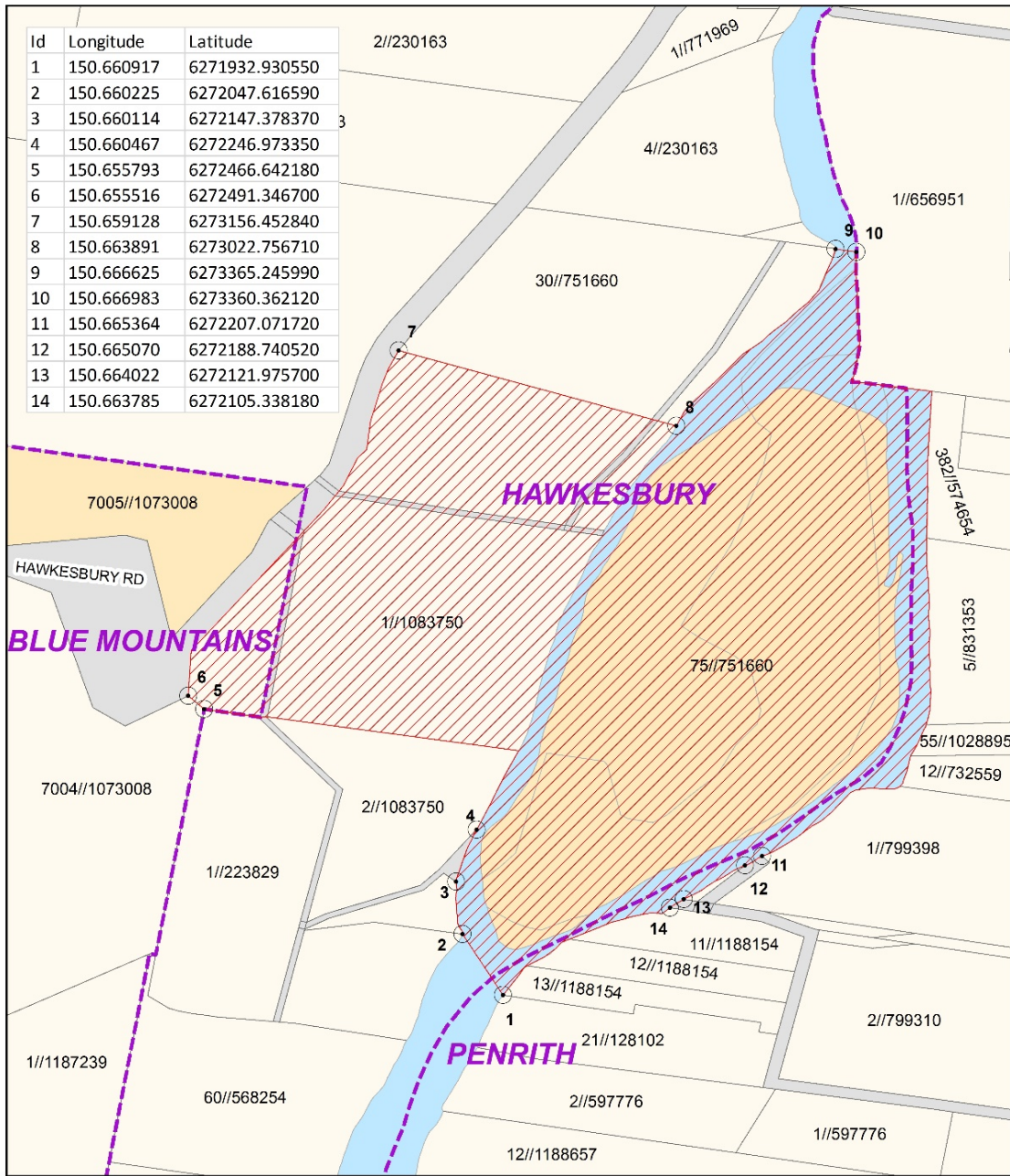
The Darug people used the place then, and now, as an educational place and a resource rich place where children and young people could learn from Elders about traditional practices, such as fishing, collecting and using the readily available bush foods and natural medicines in the area. The area acted and still acts as a bush school room, where today's children also learn about their history and are taught traditional stories. Part of their story includes the frontier violence that took place across this site and across the region as colonists settled along the rivers. Its story tells of resistance as Aboriginal warriors fought to hold onto their lands and to find justice for their people. It is a story of resilience as Aboriginal people survived. The story of their leaders, their warriors, and their resilience should be told and recognised.

The Hon James Griffin MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage

Sydney this 7th day of March 2020

SCHEDULE "A"

All those pieces or parcels of land known as Lot 1 DP1083750, Part Lot 30 DP751660 (contained within the Yellomundee Regional Park), Lot 75 DP751660 (known as Shaws Island) and the Crown Waterways surrounding Lot 17 DP751660; in the Parish of Nepean, County of Cook, approximately 90.6 hectares, being the area shown by hatching in the diagram below.



**Proposed Amendment to Aboriginal Place:
Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place
Yarramundi**

0 200 400 600 metres

Scale: 1:10,000@A4
Datum/Projection: GCS GDA 1994
Date: 28/10/2019



- Proposed Boundary
- LGAs
- CrownParcel
- Land Parcels
- CrownWaterway
- Roads