

# SUBMISSION

MOOREBANK INTERMODAL  
TERMINAL  
(MIC INTERMODAL TERMINAL  
CONCEPT PLAN)  
&  
SIMTA TERMINAL FACILITY  
STAGE 1



Kitchener House, Liverpool Camp 1910  
AWM Photographs Collection ID P00595.042

MOOREBANK HERITAGE GROUP  
7 FEBRUARY 2016

7 February 2016

NSW Planning Assessment Commission  
pac@pac.nsw.gov.au

Attention:  
Mr Paul Forward (Chair)  
Ms Robyn Kruk AM  
Mr Stephen O'Connor

The Moorebank Heritage Group, wish to thank the Commission for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Moorebank Intermodal Terminal facilities.

We strongly object to the proposed developments. Our concerns relate to the European heritage significance of items within, and in the vicinity of, the project areas.

The assessment contained in the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal Project EIS prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff n.d. - Chapter 21 - European heritage, we believe is incomplete and not inclusive. The EIS therefore does not meet the guidelines of both the Commonwealth EPBC Act 1999 or the NSW SEARS under the NSW EP&A Act 1979. It is deficient in respect to these heritage items through:

- Not fully assessing the level of significance of Kitchener House c1895,
- Not considering the potential adverse impacts to Kitchener House and the gateway entrance to the former Yulong Oval,
- Not identifying and assessing the potential archaeological deposits at the former Liverpool Australian Army Field Hospital site c1915-1916,
- Not identifying and assessing potential adverse impacts to the Harris Creek Railway Bridge c1917, and
- Not identifying and assessing the dumping of surplus ordnance by the Australian Army in the Georges River and a pond located within the project site.

In support of our claims we submit the following submission. Please note that this submission has been prepared by including only the salient points. We hold research material on Kitchener House, Harris Creek Bridge, the former Army Field Hospital Liverpool, and Liverpool Military Area generally should you require further supporting information.

We thank the Commission for its consideration of our concerns.

Yours sincerely  
Pam Browne



Phil Hurren



Vicki Andrews



## 1. KITCHENER HOUSE c1895

**1.1 Kitchener House is of State significance. It may be currently only listed as being of Local significance but a thorough investigation and assessment through the EIS process would have established it to be of State significance as:**

- it is the only remaining intact element of the former Liverpool Military Area [Liverpool Manoeuvre Area] associated with WWI and to pre-Federation Army training camps. The Liverpool Manoeuvre Area was the first official Army field training area in New South Wales.
- it is associated with William Alexander Smith who as the landowner built the cottage c1895, (then called 'Arpafeelie'). Smith held senior positions in the NSW and National Temperance movements, and was a pioneer of industrial insurance in Australia.

(Please note 'Arpafeelie' is spelt incorrectly in the EIS at page 21-11)

- it is associated with Field Marshall Lord Kitchener. Kitchener used the property as his headquarters during his review, at the Liverpool Camp, of the status of the Australian Army (6 and 7 January 1910). The house was extensively refurbished for this purpose. There is still some conjecture as to whether, or not, Kitchener stayed overnight.
- it is associated with Australian-based Army field hospitals and Army nursing during WWI. Kitchener House was used as the nurses' home for the Liverpool Army Field Hospital, (which was the first WWI purpose-built field hospital in NSW and possibly Australia). The hospital was sited directly across Moorebank Avenue from Kitchener House and within the project area.
- the presence of nursing sisters at the Liverpool camp predates that of the erection of the hospital as a permanent structure.
- there is evidence that during WWI nursing sisters working at the hospital subsequently enlisted in the Army and served overseas.

NURSES' HOME AT THE LIVERPOOL CAMP.



THE COTTAGE NOW USED BY THE NURSES WAS OCCUPIED BY EARL KITCHENER DURING HIS VISIT TO LIVERPOOL IN CONNECTION WITH THE MILITARY MANOEUVRES OF A FEW YEARS AGO. THE BUILDING HAS BEEN EQUIPPED BY THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Sydney Morning Herald 6 November 1915 p.9

- it is associated with the Australian Red Cross Society and its WWI home hospital activities. The Society equipped the cottage for use by WWI Army nursing sisters at a cost of £225. It also built and equipped the Liverpool Army Field Hospital wards (17) and a recreation and convalescent room c1915-1916.
- it is the last surviving former rural house in this part of Moorebank from the Moorebank Estate development of the 1890s period.
- it is associated with significant senior members of the Australian Army. The property was for over 20 years the Australian Army on-base married quarters for the Moorebank Area Commander and Commander 1st Australian Task Force.

For example, Brigadier Peter John Francis TUCKETT who became the first Director-General of Defence Force Logistics, and Major General John Nelson STEIN AO who went on to become Chief of Logistics. We can provide a more comprehensive list if required.

- it is associated with the Australian Women's Army Service during WWII as it housed some Signal Corps members who worked at the Signals Offices, located on the other side of Moorebank Avenue within the project area, and adjacent to the then School of Artillery.



Members AWAS Signal Corps at Kitchener House 1942  
[Trivellion Collection](#)

## **1.2 The EIS does not assess Kitchener House in respect to vibration impacts associated with localised demolition, construction and operation of the proposed project as:**

- the cottage's foundations and built fabric were not constructed to a standard to withstand these types of vibrations, in particular vibrations caused by uninterrupted heavy vehicle traffic movements.
- the property has been vacant for many years and is showing the affects from the lack of basic upkeep, maintenance and conservation measures.
- A survey should be undertaken by a structural engineering professional to assess the likely adverse impacts to the cottage's structural integrity.

**1.3 The EIS does not assess the likely potential impact to access to, and from, the property via Moorebank Avenue resulting from the proposed Moorebank Avenue / Anzac Road intersection upgrade, any future upgrade of the southern side of the Moorebank Avenue / M5 Motorway intersection or to bus stops potentially sited on Moorebank Avenue adjacent to the property.**

- Access to the property is already compromised.
- Further restrictions of access to, and from, the property will jeopardize any opportunity for adaptive re-use, and therefore also potential income streams necessary to facilitate conservation works.

**1.4 The EIS does not assess the likely potential heritage impact by the reduction of the curtilage to Kitchener House and land size through planned road widening and upgrades.**

- Its current visual and physical setting, and streetscape should be retained to conserve its cultural significance and to enable ease of interpretation.

**1.5 The EIS does not assess the likely potential heritage impact to the gateway entrance to the former Yulong Park, (sited adjacent to Kitchener House), resulting from the proposed Moorebank Avenue / Anzac Road intersection upgrade, any future upgrade of the southern side of the Moorebank Avenue / M5 Motorway intersection or bus stops potentially sited on Moorebank Avenue adjacent to the property.**

## 2. ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL LIVERPOOL c1915

**2.1 The EIS has not identified and assessed the potential archaeological deposits at the former Liverpool Army Field Hospital site. These have the potential for heritage values to exist at Commonwealth and State level because the hospital:**

- is the first WWI purpose-built Army field hospital in NSW, and possibly Australia.
- has the potential to have been the largest Army field hospital in Australia at the time of construction.
- it is associated with Army medical activities, and medical and nursing staff during WWI.
- it is associated with the Australian Red Cross Society and its WWI activities. The Society provided and equipped the field hospital wards (17) and a recreation and convalescent room c1915-1916.

The Australian Red Cross Home Hospital Committee, owing to the dust and heat, erected the permanent structure [Army field hospital] at Liverpool replacing the tents that were in use. Through Major Holman the Government provided the labour.

- was the site of the first military engineering course conducted at the Liverpool Manoeuvre Area in 1923; 16 years prior to the establishment of the Royal Australian School of Engineering at Moorebank.
- it was converted for use as married quarters c1945 to alleviate the stress of insufficient accommodation stocks.



Australian Army Field Hospital Liverpool n.d. [AWM Pictures Collection ID H18453](#)



1943 Aerial SIX NSW Lands Dept



Aerial Photography SIX NSW Lands Dept accessed 27 January

### 3. HARRIS CREEK RAILWAY BRIDGE c1917

**3.1 The EIS has not identified and assessed the potential impacts to the Harris Creek Bridge by any upgrade to, or duplication of, Heathcote Road resulting from increased heavy vehicle traffic movements created by the intermodal projects. The Harris Creek Bridge is of Commonwealth and State heritage significance as:**

- it was constructed for the Defence Department as part of the Liverpool to Old Holsworthy line. The line was commenced in August 1916 and was opened in January 1918, it serviced the Liverpool Military Camp, Anzac Rifle Range (Anzac Road), the Remount Depot (Heathcote Road near Harris Creek) and terminated at the German Concentration Camp (GCC) at Old Holsworthy.
- it is believed to be the only example of such a railway in Australia; the bridge along with a large portion of the line was constructed with labour, mostly internees, from the Liverpool GCC.
- it is excellent example of the early 1900s rail bridge construction.
- it is the last intact remnant of the Old Holsworthy line; the only other remaining items are six concrete piers in the Georges River adjacent to Liverpool station where the line crossed the river, the ruins of the railway terminus and railway siding, and remnant embankments.
- it is one of the last vestiges of the Liverpool Military Area associated with WWI; where thousands of men were trained and despatched overseas.
- the bridge is adjacent to the Remount Depot that was served by the line and where thousands on horses were broken in, trained and despatched via rail for shipping overseas. Thus it is has association to Australia's WWI Light Horse Regiments
- it is associates with Army ordnance activities and in keeping Australia's WWI overseas and home armies supplied.
- it survives, along with the other WWI elements at Old Holsworthy, as evidence of the largest internment camp in Australia during WWI.



GCC imprint in the support pier Phil Hurren Jan 2016





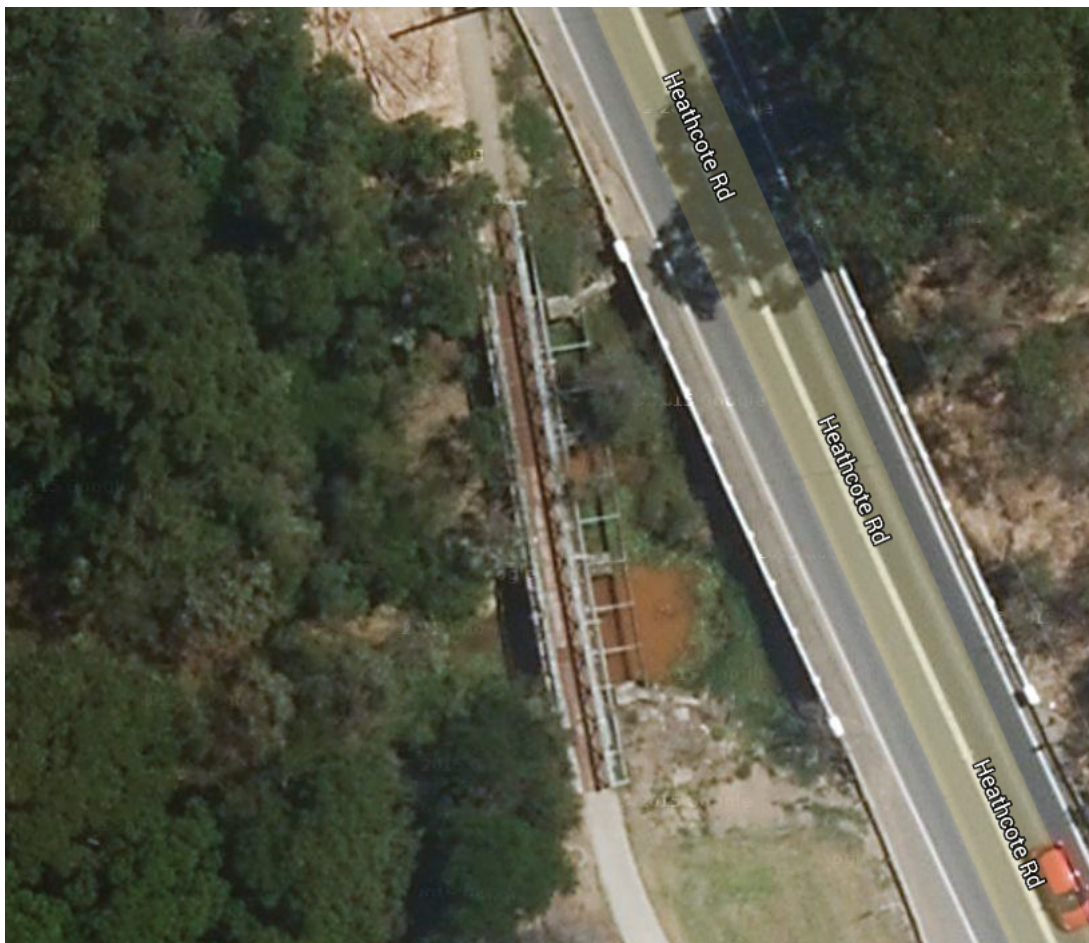
Harris Creek Bridge Phil Hurren Jan 2016



Remaining superstructure under the Bailey bridge span Phil Hurren Jan 2016



Harris Creek military railway bridge 1943 Aerial Photography SIX NSW Lands Dept



Harris Creek military railway bridge Google Maps accessed 27 January 2016

## 4. BED OF THE GEORGES RIVER

### 4.1 The EIS has not identified and assessed the potential archaeological material of surplus ordnance dumped by the Australian Army in the Georges River and a pond located in the project area - Precinct 1.

- An eye witness account tells of wholesale dumping of surplus Army ordnance in the early 1960s, some WWI era, being dumped in the pond located in Precinct 1 (ABB industrial site).
- The Army eventually fenced the pond possibly because there was a drowning, and it also became aware that local children were retrieving dumped items from the pond.
- The Army was later sighted dumping a truckload of surplus material into the Georges River opposite Casula, (basically in a direct line from the former 2BOD main entry).
- Items sighted include tools, trenching tools, machetes, WWI helmets, dixies, cooking utensils, and stretcher bearer bases.



Location of pond - ABB site SIX NSW Lands Dept accessed 27 January 2016

## 5. PROPOSED MITIGATION STRATEGIES

**5.1 Should the projects be approved, we fully support the strategies as outlined at section 21.5.3 Proposed mitigation strategies (pages 21-58 & 21-59). However, we recommend that:**

- all the strategies are incorporated into the project conditions of consent.
- the former Liverpool Australian Army Field Hospital site is included in Dot Point 7.
- the pond on the ABB site and the area of the Georges River where Army dumping is alleged is included.
- further assessment of likely heritage impacts to Kitchener House and Yulong Park gateway are included; incorporating preparation of an updated Conservation Management Plan, a report on potential access issues, and advice from a structural engineering professional.
- multiple interpretation signage is located at relevant heritage sites/precincts/items, to assist with the interpretation of the site and its layered history, including Traditional and historic land ownership, military use, agricultural and industrial activities from pre European settlement period to current.
- the process of developing an Interpretation Strategy and an Archaeological Salvage Program is initiated prior to commencement of any site works.
- the Moorebank Heritage Group is included and 'closely consulted' in the development and preparation of the Interpretation Strategy and Archaeological Salvage Program.