

The site has both an Aboriginal and European history which is important to share with future generations.

## Aboriginal Heritage

Studies over the past 8 years have identified aboriginal archaeological sites in many parts of the development site. The aboriginal community has been involved in all of these studies.

We have been working with the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation and Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation to preserve the history of aboriginal people.

### A Strategic Management Model

was developed early in the planning process, which identified areas of high archaeological and social significance and how aboriginal archaeological sites within each village will be managed. These areas, almost without exception, fall within the Regional Park. Where the development will impact on archaeological sites, we are working with the three aboriginal groups and National Parks and Wildlife Service to manage the heritage values of the Site. As well as increasing our understanding of these sites, the Strategic Management Model will ensure that our communication and interpretation of these sites in the future increases public awareness of this rich heritage.

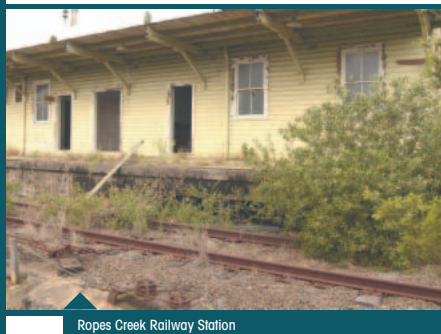
## European Heritage

In the early 1800s, the site was settled and used as grazing land. Previous uses such as farming, grazing, and timber harvesting have resulted in substantial clearing of the original native forest on the site.

During the 1940s, the site was purchased by the Government for a large-scale munitions assembly and storage complex, comprising more than 800 buildings at the peak of its operations.

After World War II, the complex was closed, but reopened in 1955. It operated continuously for the next 29 years until it was closed in the early 1990s.

The majority of buildings have been demolished, but there are three existing structures in the Eastern Village which are more than 50 years old, and therefore require investigation for their heritage value. These structures are the Ropes Creek railway station, remnants of the Beacroft Butchery and an Administration building.



Ropes Creek Railway Station



Beacroft Butchery, Eastern Village

Opportunities for recognising heritage aspects of the site may include:

▶ an interpretive trail throughout the development areas and the Regional Park;

▶ adoption of historically relevant names, perhaps thematically based, from the history of the property;

▶ integration and building reuse options (if both affordable & sustainable).

*A Management Model will ensure that our communication and interpretation of these sites in the future increases public awareness of this rich heritage.*