

## PART 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This Conservation Management Plan has investigated the former School of Artillery through detailed historical analysis of physical fabric and assessment of cultural significance. The Artillery School complex is recommended for inclusion with North Head in listing as an item of National Significance, due to its high level of historical, aesthetic, social and technological/scientific significance. The site should be included as a specific item within the existing National Heritage listing which at present includes only the Quarantine Station. This study focuses on the components of the site located in the outer areas, which comprise many of the smaller support facilities for both the School of Artillery and North Fort. Some of the structures have a mundane utilitarian purpose, nevertheless in many cases essential to the operation of the defence establishment. Many of the structures are of modest architectural design and their heritage values are often not immediately evident, unlike the more recognisable Art Deco core group of buildings. Nevertheless these structures are highly significant for their role in the military training programs of the School of Artillery and contribute to the heritage value of the total site. Several structures were key elements in the defence of Sydney Harbour during World War 2 and others provided important support facilities and services to the School of Artillery.

This Conservation Management Plan has been prepared as a component of the Plan of Management for the former School of Artillery campus at North Head, Sydney, prepared by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. The area of study was confined to the built environment of the School of Artillery, with detailed analysis of the outer buildings of the complex, along with their setting, scenic views, and associated cultural landscape elements.

The central group of structures and cultural landscape located in the core area of the School of Artillery site is the subject of **Volume 1: The Core Areas** of this study. This Core Areas and the site overall are referred to in the current study to the extent necessary in order to gain an understanding of the School of Artillery as a whole.

The primary objective of this study as briefed was to establish the cultural heritage significance of the School of Artillery and its component parts as a basis for determining conservation requirements and appropriate recommendations for future use options.

The major outcomes of this Plan are consistent and complementary with Volume 1, and include the following:

- This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has confirmed that the School of Artillery including the central core and outer areas, is a complex of structures and landscape elements with an outstanding level of cultural significance. North Head is recognised by Council and is zoned Special Use 5A on the Manly Local Environmental Plan 1988. The site is included on the Australian Heritage Database, the Commonwealth Heritage List.
- The significance of the structures located in the outer areas of the School of Artillery site has been assessed as part of this study and appropriate policies prepared in the context of adaptive reuse of the entire former School of Artillery site.
- The proposed conservation and preservation of the School of Artillery complex as an example of interwar military heritage is compatible with the conservation objectives of this Plan.
- The proposed use of the site as a support facility for a sanctuary on North Head is compatible with other objectives for adaptive reuse.

- Future and long-term use of the complex, including potential disposal of the non-significant elements, should be conditional on adoption of the policies outlined in this Plan. Conservation, upgrading and future use of the site should retain and enhance the heritage significance of the place.
- The building fabric should be appropriately conserved using advice from conservation professionals and appropriately qualified tradespeople.
- This Plan outlines priorities for short-term and long term conservation programs to prevent deterioration of fabric and protect the site from vandalism and exposure to the elements
- The former military and training functions of the **School of Artillery** complex, and the outer area component parts should be explained through the conservation of significant fabric and suitable interpretive measures.
- The former defence role of structures associated with the **coastal defences and North Fort battery during World War 2** located within the confines of the grounds of the School of Artillery should be explained through the conservation of significant surviving fabric and suitable interpretive measures.
- The outer areas are particularly vulnerable to the encroachment of surrounding bushland and invasive species. The CMP addresses strategies for control and management of this issue.