

May 2007

SUMMARY REPORT: DOONSIDE RESIDENTIAL PARCEL - PRELIMINARY PUBLIC ART PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

a. Summary of the Developmental Process to Date of Public Art Planning for the Doonside Residential Parcel

To ensure the integration of planning for the opportunities to involve artists, craftspeople, and professional artists working with communities in the creation of the Doonside residential development, Landcom appointed a Public Art Consultant as an Advisor to its Design Team in April 2006. The Consultant's work included:

- Attending and participating in Project Team meetings during the development of the current stage of the project;
- Providing specialist advice and comment on public art planning to the urban design and landscape architectural consultants on the Design Team;
- Making presentations to Landcom and its Project Manager on model public art practice and preparing a detailed paper on Landcom's funding of a Public Art Program for the Bungaribee Precinct;
- Meeting with Blacktown City Council's Cultural Planning Coordinator, the Director of the Blacktown Arts Centre, and the Centre's Visual Arts Officer (Curator) to understand the opportunities for linking future public art opportunities in the Bungaribee Precinct with Council's current and future cultural planning priorities for its local government area;
- Identifying preliminary possible locations and commission typologies within the Precinct Landscape Master Plan; and
- Preparing elements of the Bungaribee Precinct draft Development Control Plan in close collaboration with the Design Team and in acknowledgment of the draft Social Sustainability Plan for the Precinct.

The following outline summarises the outcomes of this preliminary advisory role of the Public Art Consultant to date.

b. Preliminary Summary of the Conceptual Basis for Public Art Planning in the Doonside Residential Parcel

Landcom is committed to the principle of integrating site-specific commissioned public art into its planning, design, development, construction, and community development of the Doonside parcel.

The development of a Public Art Strategy shall investigate those ways in which public art may recognise, preserve, and enhance the precious opportunities for place-making in this unique precinct presented by:

- the presence within and movement through this area of Indigenous people for as long as 40,000 years,
- the heritage-listed Bungarribee House Precinct,
- its locational and archaeological context, gardens, and vistas,
- the House Precinct's visual and land-use relationship to Eastern and Bungarribee Creek and other elements of relatively undisturbed riparian habitat in relation to the surrounding historic farming context,
- the presence of locally-endangered native plant and fauna species and opportunities for environmental education of local residents and conservation;
- the remnants of native grasslands and the interpretation of their importance for biodiversity;
- the opportunity for retention and interpretation of remaining vegetation as an important flora/fauna corridor in the larger greenspace context of this Council and Sydney Parklands area; and
- the rich, diverse contemporary Western Sydney cultural heritage of the Doonside residential area in which this development is occurring, including a significant resident population of Indigenous young people and where over one-third of other local residents were born in a non-English speaking country.

The village character of the development within this unique parklands setting will be enhanced through carefully-conceived place-making in different areas of the Precinct, with a presence of public art and coordinated streetscape amenities.

c. **Underlying Development Principles for Public Art and Placemaking in the Doonside Residential Parcel**

It is Landcom's intent to integrate public art into the development's streetscape, the Bungarribee House Precinct, the Parklands perimeter, and in association with the provision of any possible community facilities at appropriate locations to aid in the creation and interpretation of places of unique character within the site.

A key principle of the Doonside development is the involvement of artists, craftspeople, and selected community groups with the design team and developer in the creation of a distinctive contemporary community in a parkland setting. The layering of a public art program into the site shall be an integral, not additive, part of the development of landscape and urban form.

The interpretation by artists and craftspeople of the attributes, characteristics, ecosystem, rich contemporary multi-cultural diversity, and the Indigenous and post-contact heritage of this rich site in relation to the Doonside area shall be understood as a significant contributing element in the definition of the site's intended character.

The potential for involving appropriate multicultural community groups within the Doonside and Blacktown LGA in the successive briefing processes for artists creating site-specific works in the development is one of:

- **helping to engender a palpable sense of welcome and community connection** between new residents and those residents in existing adjacent neighbourhoods,

- **strengthening a mutual ongoing stewardship** among all residents, existing and new, for this precious area of natural and cultural heritage,
- **revealing and celebrating** the remarkable, rich multiculturalism of the existing community both to itself and to new residents, and
- **nurturing community cultural development** and close linkages between the new residential development and the existing Doonside residential areas.

d. **Objectives of the Doonside Residential Parcel Public Art Strategy**

Landcom confirms its intention to prepare a Public Art Strategy for the Precinct by which it shall:

- Integrate a public art program in the Precinct as an **essential** part of the development and interpretation of the area's unique landscape and urban form;
- Involve artists, craftspeople and specialist community groups with the design team and developer in commissions and projects contributing to the creation of a distinctive environment. These commissions and projects will be carefully selected and developed to acknowledge, interpret, and/or celebrate both the past history and layers of occupation of the site as well as the rich contemporary culture of Western Sydney in which the development is occurring;
- Provide for elements of the expression and celebration of the wide diversity in ethnicity, custom, and art forms characteristic of Doonside and the Blacktown LGA in the design of the public realm and the provision of public art.
- Determine the means for the linking of selected specialist community groups, arts collectives, local artisans, and/or landcare organisations with the project design team and commissioned artists, craftspeople, and artisans during the preparation of design briefs and the design orientations for public art commissions intended to acknowledge and interpret local and regional identity and place;
- seek feasible ways of facilitating and strengthening one or more elements of local cultural industry development as part of the planning and execution of the Precinct's public art program.
- Include one or more commissions which are developed to interpret aspects of the cultural significance of the residential parcel and associated parklands. Oblique reference shall be made within these commissions to such characteristic elements as the site's landscape, ecosystem, and history of occupation, and the possible commission locations shall include both the public spaces associated with residential areas as well as open space.
- seek ways to facilitate community cultural development within the art program as related to the site's development process which reinforce the role of the site in providing and developing identity for the community and cohesion between the existing and new residents. This community cultural development aspect of the Art Program shall be sought through development of the community's understanding of and pride in the interpretation of the site's:

1. natural heritage,
2. Aboriginal heritage,
3. post-contact nineteenth and twentieth century heritage and immigration patterns,
4. open space systems and the riparian ecosystem,
5. contemporary cultural diversity and transitory lifestyles among residents,
6. built form and streetscape design, and
7. contemporary Western Sydney visual, craft, performing, and community arts practice.

e. Summary of the Basis for the Development of the Doonside Parcel Public Art Strategy

Landcom has determined that site-specific public art is to be provided for the Doonside residential development as an integrated element of the hard and soft landscape and built form design and as part of an overall community cultural development strategy integrated within the Doonside development.

The site's public art is to include works of contemporary artists, craftspeople, designers, and/or artisans as well as the design of functional objects. These works of art and design shall explore and interpret those "key ideas of place" relating to the Doonside residential parcel's community, heritage, and environment which can reinforce the development's unique "village within the parklands" identity.

These works or functional objects are to aid in the creation of landmarks, pedestrian itineraries, safe gathering places for youths, families with young children, and the elderly, as well as public amenities with a strong sense of local and regional identity.

Through the Public Art Strategy, a Public Art Master Plan of specific locations and types of works of art/craft/design is to be prepared, identifying appropriate sites, commissions, projects, desired conceptual intent, media, and specific opportunities for integration with the Landscape Master Plan, the Social Sustainability Plan, and the eventual Community Development and Social Sustainability Strategies for the Doonside residential development.

The Strategy will identify how works of public art, craft, and design shall be commissioned from a range of nationally-based, regional and local artists and craftspeople. More than one of these works shall be designed or fabricated as an "artist with community" project by a highly experienced professional artist in collaboration with an appropriate community group with special skills from within the adjacent Doonside or Blacktown LGA communities.

Based on the Landscape Master Plan for the Precinct containing possible locations and basic conceptual parameters for the works of public art to be included, the Precinct's Development Application (DA) shall re-confirm the requirement for the inclusion of site-specific public art or projects as an integrated element of the urban, landscape, and building design of the Precinct.

The preliminary planning stage of public art integration within the Doonside development has identified **opportunities** for commissions and projects which, among others:

- provide creative elements of the special fencing which may be required for parkland conservation zones;
- create special sculptural pedestrian bollards which enhance community safety and encourage walking and physical activity;
- enhance urban design finishes and amenities (e.g. special seating in public places) which increase the pride of existing Doonside residents in the public spaces available for their use;
- interpret, celebrate, and reveal the natural values of threatened species associated with region of the development site such as the Cumberland Plain Land Snail and microbats as well as the presence of native grasslands, Shale Plains woodland, and the Swamp Oak Flood Plain Forest;
- involve the on-site bush-milling by specialist timber craftspeople of any appropriate native or introduced-species trees which are approved for removal as part of the development, followed by the seasoning of the timber and the commissioning of the design and fabrication of special timber functional elements (e.g. benches, planter boxes, native bird nesting boxes and bird hides, etc) for the public areas of the residential development;
- interpret and celebrate the presence of Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage and its resonance on this remarkable site;
- utilise contemporary site-specific works of art to enhance and preserve essential view corridors; and
- involve artists, craftspeople, and specialist designers, if appropriate, in the design and fabrication of one or more creative adventure play environments within the development to enhance outdoor active use and passive enjoyment by families, youth, and the elderly.

These commissioning opportunities shall be explored and further refined in the preparation of the Precinct's Public Art Strategy.

f. Summary of the Recommended Methodology for Implementation of the Site-Specific Public Art Program by Landcom

Landcom has confirmed its intention that the development's public art shall be commissioned, coordinated, and installed at Landcom's cost with a minimum total Art Program Budget to be specified in the Public Art Strategy.

Landcom intends to engage an experienced Public Art Consultant to prepare the Public Art Strategy for the Doonside Residential Parcel, thereby ensuring a continuity of professional public art practice on the site in support of Council's cultural planning objectives for its local government area.

Among other elements, the Public Art Strategy shall detail the composition of a Doonside Residential Parcel Art Advisory Committee which shall be instituted for the duration of the public art development and implementation period of the development. The diverse and carefully-selected members of the Committee shall be appointed, managed, and resourced by Landcom upon the advice of its Public Art Consultant. The Committee's

purpose will be to provide appropriate critique, comment, and advice on Landcom's intended methods for provision of a high quality of public art within the Doonside development parcel, art which is indelibly linked to the history and contemporary character of the unique site and which maintains and enhances contemporary public art standards within the Blacktown LGA.

Landcom will also engage a Public Art Consultant for the implementation of the Public Art Strategy including the commissioning, coordination, and installation of works of art and the provision of maintenance manuals to Council for the public art within the development. The selected Public Art Consultant shall be briefed by Landcom to work in accord with the Objectives and Provisions of the site specific DCP in the provision of integrated public art within the development.

The Art Advisory Committee appointed and resourced by Landcom shall be activated at key points in the public art implementation to consider, comment on, and critique the specific proposals prepared by the Public Art Consultant and, where appropriate, to recommend approval to Landcom and Council of the site-specific public art commission proposal(s) or projects for the Doonside residential parcel development.

To facilitate this process of review and recommendation, Landcom intends that, following approval of the Public Art Strategy, at the appropriate time in relation to the stages of development's detailed design and construction, Landcom's Public Art Coordinator will present to the Art Advisory Committee a cohesive Master Plan identifying the proposed names of the artist(s) to be commissioned and the Design Briefs forming the basis for those commissions. Subsequent presentations to the Committee will include the artists' Schematic Design submissions for the work(s) of art and the Developed Design submissions by the artists, prior to the approval to proceed into fabrication and installation of the works.

Following approval by the Committee and Council of the developed designs for the site-specific public art as an integral element of the landscape and urban design for the Precinct, Landcom will ensure that the works of art are commissioned, coordinated, and installed in keeping with the design intent approved by Council and the Public Art Budget specified in the Public Art Strategy for the Precinct.

Landcom will also ensure that permanent attribution plaques shall be installed in the vicinity of the installed works of art in keeping with the intellectual property and moral rights of the artists, and, as noted above, that copies of the Maintenance Manuals for the commissioned works and records for archive purposes will be provided to Council at the conclusion of the installation of the Works to ensure a proper continuity of care.