



Australian Institute of  
Landscape Architects

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## **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (AILA) SUBMISSION**

Comment on intended listing on the State Heritage Register

**Item:** Fitz Roy Iron Works Archaeological Site (under consideration)

**Address:** On Country/ traditional lands of the Gandangara.  
Highlands Marketplace 197 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong, NSW 2575

**Link:** <https://apps.environment.nsw.gov.au/dpcheritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5063183>

### **PREFACE**

#### **The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) leads a dynamic and respected profession: creating great places to support healthy communities and a sustainable planet'**

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the peak national body for Landscape Architecture. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. We provide our members with training, recognition and a community of practice to share knowledge, ideas and action.

With our members, we anticipate and develop a leading position on issues of concern in landscape architecture. Alongside government and allied professions, we work to improve the design, planning and management of the natural and built environment.

In operation since 1966, AILA represents landscape architects and promotes excellence in planning and designing for life outdoors. Committed to designing and creating a better Australia, landscape architects have the skills and expertise to improve the nation's liveability through a unique approach to planning issues via integrated design solutions. In doing so, landscape architects contribute towards better environmental, social and economic outcomes for all Australians.



A central purpose of the AILA (NSW) Landscape Heritage Group is to inform, inspire and enrich the culture of the discipline of landscape architecture in Australia and particularly the identification and understanding of both natural and cultural landscapes in NSW together with the role of such knowledge in the processes of planning and design.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Fitz Roy Iron Works Archaeological Site on traditional lands of the Gandangara.

Excavated in 2005 and remaining as ruins within the carpark of Highlands Marketplace, 197 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong, New South Wales, the site was gazetted in 2015, for listing on the State Heritage Register, and is currently under consideration for its heritage significance to the people of New South Wales, in accordance with section 33(1) (a) of the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*. We concur with the draft curtilage map and that it is likely to be of;

- State heritage significance for its strong association with prominent iron industrialists in Australia, Enoch Hughes (1829-1893) and William Sandford (1841-1932)
- State and possibly national significance for the research values afforded by the ruins and contemporary lithographs, as the only known physical remains of a nineteenth century iron processing facility in Australia
- State and national significance for providing unique potential education and interpretation experiences, holding rare surviving features of the development of iron processes in Australia and forming a substantial part of a larger landscape heritage interpretation trail throughout the historic settlement at Mittagong, curated by local historian, Leah Day and others. Artworks by influential artists including Eirene Mort (1879-1977) and possibly Arthur Streeton (1867-1943) depict the iron works in their landscape setting and record the impacts of industrialisation on Gandangara Country and the early colonial settlement landscape.
- State and national significance as a 19<sup>th</sup> century assemblage relating to the iron process comparable to the Esk Bank Iron Works at Lithgow (1874), the Newcastle Steel Works (1915), and Port Kembla Steel Works (1928) and providing the most intact known example of the group.

AILA supports, in principle, the listing of the Fitz Roy Iron Works site on the State Heritage Register.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

AILA acknowledges the Fitz Roy Iron works site provides the most intact known and complete demonstration of the process of nineteenth century iron making in NSW and supports its listing on the SHR to ensure its conservation and management is carried out in accordance with the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) and the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter 2013*.



Review and assessment of the landscape heritage significance for the site, its landscape setting and comparable sites, is needed to guide the landscape conservation and policies for the place. At a minimum, inclusion on the relevant DCP(s), review of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in terms of landscape heritage, provision of guidelines and implementation of awareness programs are recommended.

## CONCLUSION

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (NSW) supports, in principle, the Heritage Council of NSW intention to list the Fitz Roy Iron Works on the State Heritage Register for its research, education and cultural landscape values, as a rare and representative example of the early stages of development of the iron industry in Australia. The listing process will provide valuable protection for further study of industrial heritage and cultural landscape dimensions. A CMP review is needed to integrate landscape heritage significance, possibly in relation to its broader context, and as part of a group, and determine a course of prudent action.

Sincerely yours,

**Tanya Wood**  
AILA NSW President

### SUBMISSION TEAM

*This submission has been prepared by a committee of AILA NSW members, The AILA Landscape Heritage Group co-ordinated by Annabel Murray RLA and comprising Professor Emeritus Helen Armstrong AM FAILA, Craig Burton FAILA, Oi Choong FAILA and Matthew Taylor RLA.*