

Mt Druitt Waterholes

Ward 4 Property 10



Ward 4 Property 10 – Mt Druitt Waterholes

PROPERTY NAME	Mt Druitt Waterholes
ADDRESS	Great Western Highway/Simpson Hill Road, Mt Druitt. Lot 1 DP 90408 Lot 19 DP 242102
DESCRIPTION	The waterholes are a natural feature forming part of Mount Druitt's natural heritage. The commemorative gardens are a formal design of masonry, vegetation and furniture.
HISTORICAL CONTEXT	The waterholes supplied water to the early settlers of Mount Druitt and travellers along the Great Western Highway. The Remembrance Gardens were established in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.
LISTINGS	Blacktown City Council LEP
STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway location accessible and visible • Multiple access points • Large area • Some interpretive work done • Federation Garden/memorial • Existing picnic tables • Adjacent to Mt Druitt Park with limited toilet, sporting, kiosk and playground facilities • Adjacent to Federation Forest and Garden
WEAKNESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little shade • Major electric transmission lines/ pylons/towers run SE to NW through site • No toilets (nearby park toilets are locked during the day) • Poor lighting • Car barrier fencing only to Great Western Highway and Simpson Hill Road • Wetlands were almost dry on recent inspection (may not be permanent wetlands)

OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic cottage across road (adjacent to Federation Garden) could be used for interpretation or park facilities if owned or acquired by Council • Could incorporate Federation Garden into overall precinct • Opportunity to link the historical, social and natural aspects of the site and surrounds through education (particularly school curriculum) and interpretation. • Fairs/festivals/fetes • More interpretive work • Investigate likelihood of association with Cobb and Co • Further development of war memorials • Improve fencing on Highway side of property • Improve existing signage and plaques • Parking available onsite or on Simpson Hill Road in non-residential area/streets • Potential to close Simpson Hill Road and link site directly with Federation Garden and Forest.
THREATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of materials for interpretation that are not suitable for long-term outside exposure • Potential vandalism • Potential neglect • Proposal for an interpretive centre in Works Improvement Program (as yet unfunded) • Lack of adequate fencing on main road may deter users • Potential overdevelopment of the site eg inappropriate expansion of the wetlands and addition of inappropriate or unnecessary buildings
CONCLUSION	The Mt Druitt Waterholes is one of the few heritage areas in the City with large open spaces that can accommodate large numbers of visitors and associated parking. It is a highly visible and significant open space with interpretive and educational opportunities and is amenable to host visiting school groups and staging outdoor events.
RECOMMENDATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of an interpretive centre in the form of a building on site should not be supported 2. Investigate potential of old cottage on Simpson Hill Road for use as part of interpretation of area 3. Consider interpretation of the site through signage, public art or other open air interpretation 4. Promote and consider the further interpretation of the site as part of Mt Druitt Heritage Trail 5. Investigate potential of site and adjoining areas for use in school curriculum

	6. Continue to develop links with Returned Service Organisations as part of the provision of memorials for armed conflicts (including WW2 and more recent conflicts) 7. Investigate provision of toilet and shade facilities and fencing 8. Investigate potential for community festival/events linked to Mt Druitt Festival 9. Any development of the wetland should only take place after identification of the original extent of the wetland area
--	--

REFERENCES	State Heritage Inventory No 1140039 Jonathan Falk Planning Consultants P/L et.al. <i>Blacktown Heritage Study</i> , 1988.
------------	--

Non Budgetary and Optional Budgetary Items							
Property	Ward	Proposed Purpose	Project	Priority	Reason for priority	Date	Estimated Cost (\$)
Mt Druitt Waterholes	4	Tourism & Interpretation	Promote and consider further interpretation of the site as part of the Mt Druitt heritage Trail	3	desireable and should take place as heritage trail is updated/promoted	2006-2007	5000
Mt Druitt Waterholes	4	Tourism & interpretation	Consider interpretation of site through signage, public art or other open air interpretation	4	desireable but not necessity	2007-2008	20 000
Mt Druitt Waterholes	4	Parkland/Development	Provide toilets	5	only required if parkland to become more of a community and educational space	2009-2010	50 000 (25 000 per block)

Mt Druitt Waterholes	4	Parkland/Development	Provide shade facilities	5	only required if parkland to become more of a community and educational space	2009-2010	30 000 (10 000 per structure)
Mt Druitt Waterholes	4	Parkland/Development	Improve fencing along Great Western Highway	5	only required if parkland to become more of a community and educational space	2009-2010	unknown

Recommended Use – retain existing reserve use

Minimum required budget

\$0

Recommended minimum non budgetary and optional budgetary items

\$105 000+

Minimum upfront funding required

\$105 000