

Ropes Crossing - Timeline

Before the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people, who are the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of the land. We pay our respect to elders past and present, and acknowledge the Aboriginal people for their custodianship of the land.

Ropes Crossing was originally part of the suburb of St Marys. The suburb is named after Anthony Rope, a First Fleet Convict who lived in the area. The name was assigned by the Geographic Names Board on 26 August 2005.

Pre 1788	Prior to the settlement of New South Wales by Europeans, the Blacktown district was inhabited by the Darug Aboriginal people
1787	The First Fleet sails from England. Among the convicts are Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley. Lt Philip Gidley King is Aide-de-Camp to Governor Arthur Phillip.
1804	Governor Philip Gidley King makes land grants around South Creek and Ropes Creek. The first grant is to Reverend Samuel Marsden, who called his property 'Mamre'.
1820	Anthony Rope purchases William Faithfull's estate on South Creek.
1898	Philip Gidley King (grandson of Governor King) subdivides the family holdings at South Creek. George Beacroft buys 22 acres which later becomes part of Ropes Crossing.
1941	The Federal Government builds a munitions factory at St Marys. The site of Ropes Crossing, along with land owned by the King family in the west, is compulsorily acquired.
1942	The Pyrotechnics section, manufacturing flares, flame floats and sea markers is established at present day Ropes Crossing.
1945	At the end of World War II, the munitions factory closes, to be used in part as a migrant hostel. Other industries were established in the buildings
1950	With the start of the Korean War, munitions again are built at the St Marys factory.
1975	With the end of the Vietnam War, production of munitions is scaled down.
1988	The Federal Government registers a new company, ADI Ltd, to run the munitions factory as a commercial venture
1990	ADI Ltd decides the St Marys factory is no longer commercially viable and seeks to rezone the land.
1994	ADI selects Lend Lease as its joint venture partner in developing the land of the former munitions factory.
2003	The NSW State Government releases the Eastern Precinct of the St Marys development
2004	The precinct is named Ropes Crossing, after the Rope-Pulley family, early pioneers in the area.
2005	The Ropes Crossing Sales and Information Centre opens and land sales commence
2006	First residents move into the suburb.
2008	Ropes Crossing Public School opens. Ropes Crossing Village Central Shopping centre opens. Establishment of Wianamatta Regional Park.
2009	Construction of Rochford Place Retirement Village started in 2009 and completed in 2011. Named after the birthplace of Anthony Rope.
2011	Ropes Crossing Community hub opens on 2 April. Population, 1,479 (Census).

Ropes Crossing - Timeline

2013	Winner of Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) award for best masterplan community
2015	Official Opening of Wianamatta Regional Park on 13 June.
2016	Population 6,171 (Census).
2021	Population 7,280 (Census). Blacktown City Council took part in the trial of an innovative coating on local roads in Ropes Crossing – first trial among NSW councils.