
FORMER BUNNERONG POWER STATION

Heritage Conservation Area

The site retains structures and mature landscape elements dating from its use by the Bunnerong Power Station.

The Former Bunnerong Power Station Conservation Area is located on the north-western side of Military Road, in Matraville.

What is the area's significance?

Aesthetic Significance:

The site of the former Bunnerong Power Station is an open landscape with considerable visual appeal. There are a large number of mature trees, in avenue plantings and set in lawn areas. The tree species include Canary Island Date Palms, Ficus, Cypress, Melaleuca and Norfolk Island Pines. Other evidence of the original design of the power station garden areas survives in the form of roadways, paths, garden beds and fence posts on the street boundary. The concrete retaining walls of the site of the power station building are a major element in long distance views from the west.

The remains of the switching station gardens show their strong relationship to the features of the site.

The conservation area complements the landscapes of the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium and Botany Cemetery on the opposite side of Military Road.

Historic Significance:

The conservation area has historic significance as evidence of its former use as a coal-fired power station. Bunnerong Power Station was constructed between 1925 and 1929. The site remains under the management of the electricity utility, Energy Australia. The association with the power generation and distribution industry is continued by the modern Bunnerong Substation No 7340, just outside the north-east boundary of the conservation area.

Social Significance:

The conservation area is an Inter-War period landscape which is appreciated by the community for its aesthetic values.

The remnants of the switching station's formal 1920's entry, lily ponds and terraced gardens represent the sense of involvement and pride that the power station's employees had in their workplace. The paperbark grove is also significant as the site of the worker's recreation area.

Technical/Research Significance:

The conservation area may have the potential to yield information on the design and characteristics of Inter-War period power stations.

Themes Represented:

The following historical themes, identified in the 1989 Randwick Heritage Study, are directly illustrated in the conservation area:

- Modifying the landscape
- Government and institutions
- Industry and commerce

The following theme is indirectly represented:

- Transport and communications

