



ULTIMO + PYRMONT

DECADE OF RENEWAL





MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As we celebrate the year of the built environment 2004, it is timely for us to acknowledge the many achievements of the corporations and communities, governments – local and State – and the residents who, combined, have created sustainable communities for current and future generations to enjoy.

In my role as Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, I am given the responsibility and stewardship for shaping and implementing the guidelines that will ensure long term sustainability of the State's major urban and rural built environments.

Ultimo + Pymont are landmark examples of how precincts can be transformed from what were, in many cases, post-industrial wastelands into strong communities with the right balance of residential, commercial and public space. Getting that balance right is never an easy task and it is largely through the creation of the City West Development Corporation in 1992 that this transformation was able to be achieved in just ten years.

Development Corporations are sunset organisations tasked with master planning, creating a "sense of place", encouraging commercial and private investment, delivering infrastructure and services and creating growth and prosperity for all stakeholders in these communities.

This task of achieving balance in urban design is not without its conflicts, passions and competing interests and priorities. However, I welcome the debate and am delighted that communities have such a passionate interest in ensuring their communities remain sustainable and vibrant.

As this booklet demonstrates, many factors combined to create the new communities, neighbourhoods and leisure precincts of Ultimo + Pymont.

I commend the work of the City West Development Corporation, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, City of Sydney and all local community groups who, together, through systematic public participation and consultation, have created a legacy for the people of Sydney throughout Ultimo + Pymont.

It is interesting to reflect ten years later, at the myriad businesses, community groups, resident demographics, infrastructure and public spaces that have been created through the work of NSW State Government departments and instrumentalities, local councils, commercial developers and community special interest groups.

Sydney truly is the jewel in the crown on both a State and national level and it is the NSW Government's intention to preserve, protect, enhance, cultivate and nurture that pre-eminent position for this city. I believe the excellent work undertaken in Ultimo + Pymont has left this city richer for the experience.

I congratulate everyone concerned with making Ultimo + Pymont a showcase for urban development and planning.



Craig Knowles MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning
Minister for Natural Resources

1994 to 2004

For **Ultimo + Pyrmont**, in

The Year of the Built Environment

this booklet is an exercise in mapping:

the **past** and **present**,
the **evolving** landscape,
the new **community**,

and the issues ahead for a peninsular

with an eminent standing in the life of this city.



Harbour Foreshore Authority

ultimo + pyrmont: decade of renewal a snapshot

	THEN (1994)	NOW (2004)
Population	3,000 (based on 1986 census figures)	13,000 (based on 2001 census figures)
Number of Jobs (based in Pyrmont/Ultimo)	5,000 (estimate)	22,000 (estimate)
Heritage buildings	4 sites in total Duke of Edinburgh Hotel Dunkirk Hotel Woolbrokers Arms Hotel, Lord Wolsley Hotel, Building,	21 sites in total (with many heritage buildings now fully restored) Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, Dunkirk Hotel, Quarryman's Hotel Sandstone Cliffs + Pyrmont Bridge Hotel, New York Hotel, Quarryman's Hotel Royal Pacific Hotel, Terminus Hotel, Sandstone Cliffs Bristol Arms Hotel, Glasgow Arms Hotel, Vulcan Hotel, Caledonian Hotel, Former CSR Coopage Former CSR Main Office, Former CSR Laboratory, The Harris Street and Ultimo Conservation Areas, Ultimo, The Pyrmont Conservation Area, the Pyrmont and Murray Streets Residential Group, and the John Street Terrace Group, McCaffery's Building.
Community Surveys (Post Occupancy Surveys)	N/A	1996 – 318 households interviewed 2000 – 302 interviews conducted 2004 – ongoing
Number of affordable housing ¹	N/A	365 units (in 11 locations housing 800 people with 81 units at planning stage)
Number of public places	3	15
Open space per resident ²	N/A (recommended 15m ²)	19.8 m² (24% more than target stipulated in 1991 Precinct Planning Study, NSW Department of Planning)
Parks and gardens in hectares	7.7 hectares (estimate)	25.8 hectares with another 7.1 hectares proposed
Number of public transport options	Buses and Monorail	Buses – 443 (upgraded), 501, 449 & 888 (new) Ferry services – 23 weekday & 21 weekends Light Rail – 8 new stations Monorail – link from Darling Harbour to CBD
Median House Prices ³	Ultimo \$222,500 Pyrmont \$250,000	Ultimo \$560,000 (2003) Pyrmont \$585,000 (2003)
Median Unit Prices ³	Ultimo \$155,000 Pyrmont \$265,000	Ultimo \$405,000 (2003) Pyrmont \$484,000 (2003)
Harbour Access	5% (estimate)	60% of the peninsula's 15.2km with 100% by 2008 projected.
Pedestrian Links	N/A	Series of links via paths, stairwells, lifts, bridges and cycleways has been created.
Total Government Funding spent	\$18.2 million (spent on infrastructure between 1992 and 1994)	\$223 million excluding land dedicated to parks, footpaths, squares, light rail and other infrastructure (over 10 years)

¹ City West Housing Corporation

² 1991 Precinct Planning Study of Ultimo + Pyrmont prepared by the NSW Department of Planning

³ Property Prices sourced from Australian Property Monitors



“ I remember the horse and carts pulling the sugar up along Harris Street. It was a poor suburb. When we were children we wanted to get out of Pyrmont to better ourselves. Now everybody wants to get back in. ”

Herb Shields, board member City West Housing, born in Pyrmont in 1932.



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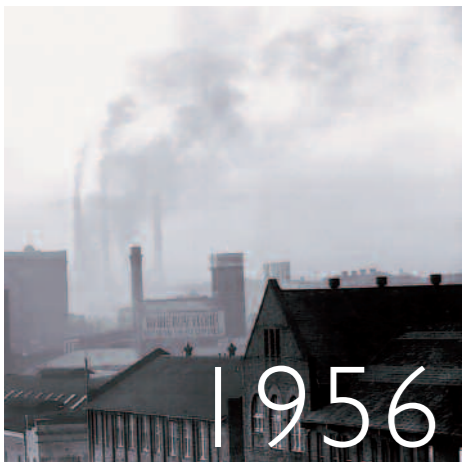
ULTIMO + PYRMONT: THE FUTURE 31



c 1920



c 1940



1956

- 1917 : Smoke near the water: Pyrmont goods yards by Harold Cazneaux. Courtesy National Gallery Australia.
- c 1920 : Sweet times: bagged sugar at CSR refinery. Courtesy CSR Limited.
- c 1940 : Industrial age: the workhorse of Pyrmont and Darling Harbour. Courtesy Rail Corporation NSW.
- 1956 : Sentinels of industry: a smeared landscape. Photo by Fairfax.



1917

a point in history

Suburbs of sweat and toil – and a drop of rum – before a new chapter is written

The peninsula has come a long way since it was sold to John Macarthur for a gallon of rum in the late 1700s. Ultimo + Pyrmont have a history of change and transformation: waterside suburbs of boom and bust, now boom again.

The Cadigal Aboriginal people named the point 'Pirrama' – meaning 'rocking stone' – using its high ground as a vantage from which to hunt, its sandstone shoreline to fish, and its rocks to chip off oysters.

In 1795 the point entered British legal records as a land grant of 55 acres to soldier Thomas Jones. He sold it to a sergeant who in turn sold it to then captain John Macarthur for £10 of rum.

The headland was named 'Pyrmont' in 1806 by a young lady on a picnic at Cockle Bay, its pure spring reminding her of the spa town of Pyrmont in Germany.

The peninsula, which included colonial surgeon John Harris' Ultimo Estate, was subdivided during the 1860s. Sandstone cottages mixed with terraces and early industries such as the Atlas Iron Works and Castlemaine Brewery.

At century's turn the neighbourhood was a workhorse. From here the woolclip was shipped, sugar refined,

flour milled, bottled milk dispatched, and electricity generated to light Sydney streets and run trams to Bondi. These were suburbs of sweat and toil, defined by the smokestacks of the Colonial Sugar Refinery.

But half a century later the district had fallen into decline. By the 1950s heavy industries closed, rusted and moved away – its maritime history was folding with the flux of the times. For nearly 40 years it remained a point of neglect, a relic of a past era of old industry.

In 1992 the City West Development Corporation was created with a charter to renew the precinct. Plans were for an increased residential community and workforce with harmonious mixed-use development.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority inherited these responsibilities in 1999 and continues the urban rejuvenation. More than \$200 million in government funds has been invested in public infrastructure and affordable housing in the past decade.

Ultimo + Pyrmont's new landscape – open space, mixed housing, white collar businesses, harbour access – makes it again a vibrant neighbourhood community, a place in which people come to live and work.

decade of renewal: 1994 - 2004

Before and after: ten years of a master plan makeover

In 1994 Ultimo + Pymont resembled a building site. Fewer than 5,000 people lived on the 1.6km² peninsula adjoining the Sydney CBD. Disused industrial structures were being cleared and everywhere bulldozers turned over soil, hardhats were worn and the foundations laid for the rebirth of a neighbourhood.

It was a work in progress. Foreshore Road (now Pirrama Road) was partially completed, boardwalks and marinas were under construction, and grass was planted on Pymont Bay Park and Community Park while site demolitions and rehabilitation works opened up the landscape.



ABOVE, then and now: looking north towards Sydney Harbour Bridge. Before and after Pymont Point Park and Giba Park (in foreground). Black and white photo courtesy City of Sydney Council Archives.



ABOVE: Sydney Harbour Trust Map, *Birds eye view of general wharfage scheme west of Dawes Point as it will appear when completed, 1912.* Shows proximity of Ultimo + Pymont peninsular to Dawes Point, The Rocks. Courtesy National Library of Australia



Then and now: Pirrama Road looking northwest toward Pymont Point before and after Jones Bay Wharf and Pymont Point Park.



Then and now: Pirrama Road looking southeast toward the city before and after Star City Casino.



Then and now: Mill Lane Walkway before and after the Casino and Watermark Apartments.

In 1994 \$18.2m of infrastructure work was completed – part of the \$241m earmarked for renewing the precinct funded jointly by Federal and State Governments through the Building Better Cities program.

It was an urban redevelopment project of a scale never before undertaken in Australia.

In 2004 Ultimo + Pymont is a place renewed. A peninsular of old industrial buildings and smokestacks has more than eight hectares of new parks. More than 13,000 residents now live in the two postcodes – addresses characterised by high quality medium-density housing designed for a mixed and harmonious community.

Cafés, restaurants and the Pymont and Ultimo Community Centres have opened, public transport now services this once out-of-line destination, and the harbour waterfront is becoming accessible to all.

All these social and economic outcomes were aims or principles of the 1992 Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 26 – City West. It remains the guiding planning document for the redevelopment of the precinct.

ULTIMO + PYRMONT neighbourhood renewal

“ It’s a very varied neighbourhood.



An interesting place to live. A lot of the children participate in community events. Most of the enrolments are now from the local area. There’s a real sense of community that is building.

Ruth Hall, Ultimo Public School teacher and local resident since 1996.

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people

In 1901 there were 19,000 people living in the neighbourhood



ABOVE, left to right: exercise with a harbour view; enjoying the foreshore promenade; relaxing at Pyrmont Bay Wharf; heading home from school.

Ultimo + Pyrmont’s population has mirrored the peninsula’s economic fortunes. These were suburbs of boom and bust – and now boom again.

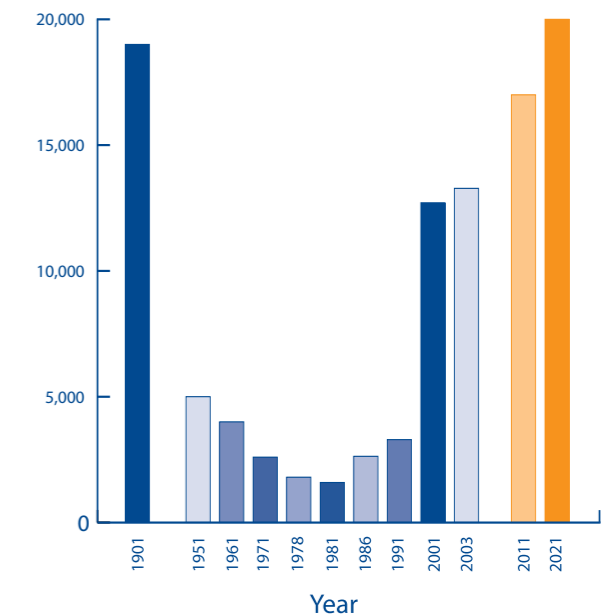
A rapid increase in residents in the mid 1800s paralleled the growth of other suburbs such as Balmain, Glebe and Paddington.

At century’s turn the neighbourhood was hard at work in heavy industry. Historical reckonings have the resident workforce peaking at 19,000 in 1901, a population that declined to about 1,590 in 1981.

The 1986 Census recorded 2,631 people living in the two postcodes.

With urban renewal, this number increased to 12,708 residents by 2001. Recent estimates have about 13,300 people living in the precinct, with the likely population rising to 17,000 by 2011.

Residential Population for Ultimo + Pyrmont



Projected Population

SOURCE: Shirley Fitzgerald – City of Sydney Historian, ABS, Post Occupancy Survey 2000, Cox Richardson Open Space Review 2004



workforce

From industrial refineries to e-commerce: employment's changing nature

The Industrial Age has turned into the Information Age. Ultimo + Pyrmont was a peninsular of shipyards, iron foundries, woolstores, refining mills and coal power stations. Now it is home to e-commerce and electronic media.

Telecommunications and entertainment companies that have moved into the precinct include Network 10, ABC, Foxtel, Australis, Galaxy TV, Star City Casino and radio stations Nova, 2SM and 2GB. Educational institutions include Sydney TAFE, University of Technology Sydney and the Powerhouse Museum.

New technologies replaced the old. From an estimated workforce of 10,000 people in 1986, the working population has increased to 21,506 according to 2001 Census figures. A planned 26,000 jobs will be based in the two suburbs by 2021.



ABOVE, from left: Star City Casino is a big employment draw-card; sampling produce at the Growers' Market at Pyrmont Bay Park; the ABC expands its national headquarters in Ultimo; Channel Ten goes to air in Pyrmont.

“ We moved here when there was no-one around and Elizabeth Healy Reserve was just concrete rubble. We always did well on weekends. Now we're busy everyday. We've got a great suburb here. I've met heaps of good people and have some really loyal customers. We just need to add more retailers - fashion, books, bikes, whatever - and the future will be great.

Craig McKay with son Sammy. Concrete Café Owner and local resident since 1997.

”



demographic snapshot

Facts and figures about those who live here



ABOVE, left to right: stick retrieval lessons with the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the background; stepping out together in the local neighbourhood; catering to the local seafood appetite at Sydney Fish Market.

Ultimo + Pyrmont residents are predominately young couples with no children who earn on average \$693.30 a week from a professional occupation. Within this typical profile there are, of course, many variations.

The 2001 Census figures show the neighbourhood is becoming more multicultural: 35% of residents were born in Australia (down from 47% in 1991), with 8% born in China and 7% from the United Kingdom.

Indonesian-born residents live in the area in far greater numbers (5%) than the Sydney average (1%). Other frequent birthplaces are New Zealand, South Korea and Malaysia.

The suburb is also growing younger. Of the total population, 48% were aged between 20 and 34 years in 2001 – an increase of 6% in this same age bracket from 1991. The male to female ratio is 51:49.

building community

Building community involves more than just bricks and mortar

The transformation of Ultimo + Pyrmont needed to be managed in a way that supported existing residents through a period of substantial change while building community links for the thousands of new arrivals that entered as the area was reborn.

Community building initiatives have been incorporated. Some of the more innovative initiatives designed to build community in Ultimo + Pyrmont have included:

- a series of funded heritage projects, including the oral history project and published book “Doors Were Always Open” and heritage signage systems;
- creating opportunities for local businesses to trade out as well as the funded development and launch of Object Studios;
- producing directories and other publications to support local businesses, especially during the renewal of Ultimo + Pyrmont as a retail area;
- media management to promote new businesses arriving in Ultimo + Pyrmont.

Community input into the design of Ultimo + Pyrmont has also been substantial. Design competitions were introduced with winning designs attached to sale of development lots. This ensured better design outcomes overall.

Community also played a vital role in park and infrastructure design, with Fig Lane Park and the award winning Pyrmont Point Park children’s play area designed with input from Ultimo Primary School students.



ABOVE, top to bottom: Jewellery maker showing her wares in the Object Studios, Pyrmont; kids enjoying the swings at the award-winning children’s playground at Pyrmont Point Park.

“



This is so close to the city.

People love to have that city atmosphere, but here is a lot more quiet and comfortable. It's like a home. There is a lot of open space and waterfront areas. People love the area.

Victor Ng, director L.J. Hooker Ultimo and local resident.

”



new standards in housing

A focus on architecture to create a quality built environment



ABOVE, left to right: Contemporary apartment living at The Promontory, Pirrama Road, Pyrmont; Quay Point Apartments overlooking Giba Park; and The Watermark behind James Watkinson Reserve.

The character of the new Ultimo + Pyrmont neighbourhood is defined by its housing; a diverse mix of quality medium-density new apartment living interspersed with affordable units and terraces from a past century.

It is a built environment layered with history and changing residential aspirations. The built environment also reflects the positive role of architecture in creating a community space and place.

This built landscape has been – from the earliest redevelopment – a study in quality housing. The Point Apartments, built in 1995, were among the first private buildings in Australia to be constructed as the result of an architectural design competition.

It was a blueprint for the standard of development in Ultimo + Pyrmont.

In order to raise the quality of the built form on its land, the City West Development Corporation (the predecessor of SHFA) introduced a process of selling its sites with Development Approvals (DAs) setting a benchmark for quality. These DAs were the result of limited architectural competitions by some of NSW's finest architects. They also had to comply with a minimum 2.7m floor to ceiling height (considerably above the Building Code of Australia's 2.4m minimum) and take advantage of natural cross ventilation.

Design guidelines within competition briefs have ensured premier apartment living and a harmonious response to the landscape.

affordable housing

Encouraging a community that is accessible to all

The Ultimo + Pyrmont community had a legacy of housing at affordable prices for those working in local industries. This social principle continues. City West Housing Pty Ltd (CWH) provides 365 units of accommodation, in 11 locations, housing about 800 people on the peninsula.

The company, set up in 1994 to implement the State Government's 'Affordable Housing Program', has a further 81 units at planning stage. The projection is to provide 600 financially self-sufficient units of accommodation by 2024.

"Our aim is to provide affordable housing for people who had lived or worked in the area," says CWH general manager, Richard Perkins.

"We want to try to retain these people and encourage a community that is accessible to all."

An initial \$50m from the Building Better Cities funding started the program. In addition, all new development in the peninsula attracts an affordable housing levy of 4% of land sales. This was negotiated by City West Development Corporation and has been continued by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

In fact, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has contributed \$3.7 million of its land sales income over the past three years to fund affordable housing on the peninsula.

"City West Housing builds housing the way the private sector does it. We use private architects. We go to tender for builders. It's proved very effective at salt and peppering people who need affordable housing throughout the community and this is good policy."

Herb Shields - board member City West Housing and former resident.



ABOVE, left to right: raising the standard in affordable housing at Quarry Master Drive, Pyrmont; Bulwara Road Ultimo, adjacent to Mary Ann Park, Ultimo; Harris Street, Pyrmont.

public places

The importance of popular meeting places

Herb Shields was born in Pyrmont in 1932 and remembers what it once was like. "You couldn't get down to any of the foreshores when I was a young fellow because they were all wharves or all factories," he says. "Today, access to the foreshore is wonderful."

A ribbon of public green space around the Ultimo + Pyrmont waterfront is a planning principle of the precinct's master plan – as is the provision of public spaces and places. These are areas of community communion: meeting points where the neighbourhood gathers in public squares, community centres, outdoor theatres, or landscaped parks.

These areas have been developed by mutual consent. It has been a collaborative effort by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, NSW Department of Planning, City of Sydney, the federal government through Building Better Cities funding and, most

importantly, the local community.

Popular public places include Union Square, landscaped in 1998 with the closure of Union Street, once a main thoroughfare across the peninsula. Pyrmont Community Centre opened in the former Pyrmont Public School building in 1993, and the new Ultimo Community Centre reopened in 1996 – both being focal points for the neighbourhood.

Public art installations have enriched the character of public places, with site-specific sculpture part of Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority's Promenart program (see top right photo page 22).

All of these issues of urban design, development of the public domain, and needs for social facilities and cultural activities are outlined in *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 26 – City West* and its supporting documents.



ABOVE, left to right: outdoor seating in the lunchtime sun; al fresco dining at kerbside cafés; space for a chat at Pyrmont Bay Park; catching up in Union Square.

parks and gardens

An old industrial heartland is greened and tree-softened



ABOVE, left to right: children's adventure playground, Pymont Point Park, Pymont; lunchtime football opposite Sydney TAFE, Mary Ann Park, Ultimo; award-winning sculpture Tide to Tide, Pymont Point Park.

Ultimo + Pymont are turning greener. Waterfront promenades, public open reserves, pocket parks, landscaped playgrounds and recreational trails have opened across the peninsula. The 2.7ha Pymont Point Park on a former maritime industrial site is symbolic of this new softened landscape.

Green spaces added in the last 10 years include Pymont Point Park, Giba Park, Fig Lane Park, Refinery Square Park, Mary Ann Park and Pymont Bay Park – a total area of more than eight hectares. New parks in progress include Waterfront Park, Distillery Hill Park at Jackson's Landing, Darling Island Point Park and Darling Island Community Park.

With its waterfront location ensuring an open visual edge, the precinct enjoys the same, and in some cases more, open space as many comparable

high-density inner-city suburbs.

Parks in Ultimo + Pymont are landscaped to a high quality to match the social expectations of the evolving community. Playground equipment has been designed in consultation with local schoolchildren, as well as interpretive elements such as sculptural works including the award-winning Tide to Tide at Pymont Point.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has spent \$50m over the past ten years creating over 8ha of open space and spends \$550,000 per annum on the maintenance and cleaning of Ultimo + Pymont parks. It has a policy of planting native species such as Sydney red apples, paperbarks, Port Jackson figs, cabbage tree palms and native shrubs.

New residents often ask how much open space is legislated for Ultimo + Pymont and how does

For Ultimo + Pymont it's a question of creating the right amount of parkland for a community evolving in a former industrial precinct. The answer is in finding a balance: an equitable mix of residential and commercial land use, public infrastructure and open space, to create a vibrant and mixed community.

The 1991 Precinct Planning Study of Ultimo + Pymont prepared by the NSW Department of Planning recommended a public open space ratio of 15m² per resident.

A report undertaken in 2004 by urban planning firm Cox Richardson found that there is now 25.8ha of open space in the precinct.

This equates to a current open space ratio of 19.8m² per resident. This is 24% more open space per resident than the 15m² target stipulated by the 1991 NSW Department of Planning Study.

These targets, areas and ratios are calculated using a definition of open space from the 1991 Precinct Planning Study of Ultimo + Pymont, which includes 50% of Wentworth and Tumbalong Parks.

The Cox Richardson Report concludes that based on population projections, the ratio will remain above the target during the next decade even if no new open space is built. In fact, the population would have to rise to about 20,000 before the ratio reaches the target minimum level.

Importantly, by 2006 another 3.4 hectares of new waterfront parkland will be developed at Jackson's Landing, Elizabeth Macarthur Bay and Darling Island in Pymont.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has created more open space for Ultimo + Pymont than that recommended by Government guidelines. This is open space for all people to enjoy: designed and landscaped to match the profile of a community evolving in a former industrial area.

“



The community feeling around here is like a village atmosphere. It's a city life with a really local feel. It's like a phoenix out of the ashes – an old industrial area that's risen as a thriving residential community.

Steven Radcliff, publican, The Point Hotel, since 1996.

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OVERVIEW OF PARKS, GARDENS, OPEN SPACE, AND FORESHORE BOARDWALK IN ULTIMO + PYRMONT.



Public open space created Public open space proposed upgrades Waterfront access Waterfront access proposed/under construction

ABOVE: Map of Ultimo + Pyrmont showing public open space and waterfront access created and still under construction.

traffic and transport

A once out-of-line destination is back on the transport map



ABOVE, left to right: ferry passengers alight at Pymont Bay Wharf; new Light Rail stations built to link Ultimo + Pymont directly to Central Railway Station.

The story of traffic in Ultimo + Pymont is common to that found throughout the Sydney metropolitan area – car usage continues to increase and multiple car ownership per household is also on the rise.

As traffic volumes increase so does the need for improved infrastructure. In 1980, prior to the construction of the Western Distributor, traffic crawled across Glebe Island Bridge bumper to bumper along Bank Street, as those who lived in the north-west of Sydney used the peninsula as an arterial thoroughfare.

The opening of Anzac Bridge in December 1995 diverted large volumes of through-traffic away from Ultimo + Pymont but the problem of through-traffic remains an issue.

According to Road Traffic Authority figures, in 1993 the average daily traffic count through the intersection of Harris Street and Union Street was 8,810, reduced to 7,540 in 2002 despite an increase in activities at Darling Harbour.

The intersection of Pymont Bridge Road with the Western Distributor saw an increase in volumes from 18,796 in 1996 to 21,012 in 2002. However, the Allen Street off ramp saw a reduction over the same period from 14, 517 to 9,597.

The Western Distributor and Anzac Bridge provide the main connection between the city and Victoria Road and the City West Link Road to Haberfield and beyond. Major through-traffic is now separated from the local road network and the Cross-City Tunnel (opening 2005) may see this volume of through-traffic reduced still further.

The local traffic network, however, has to deal with increased vehicle usage arising from the new residential and office worker populations that have moved into the revitalised Ultimo + Pymont area.

A high standard public transport system was seen as an essential ingredient of the redevelopment of the peninsula.



ABOVE: Aerial of the Anzac Bridge and surrounding areas, September 1999. Photo by Robert Pearce.

Ferries, the light rail and new bus routes all now service the precinct. In fact, Pyrmont's historic swingspan bridge – reopened in 1988 with the addition of the Monorail – remains a primary link for commuting workers and residents plus improved pedestrian, pram and wheelchair access now means a twenty-minute stroll from Ultimo + Pyrmont takes you via Darling Harbour to the CBD.

Ferry services to Pyrmont Bay Wharf commenced in October 1996. The current timetable has 23 weekday services to Circular Quay, with 21 on Saturdays and Sundays.

There has been significant increase in the patronage of bus services in Ultimo + Pyrmont in the past ten years. Three new bus services (443, 449, 501) run through Ultimo + Pyrmont. State Transit Authority estimates 26,000 passengers use route 443 (Pyrmont to Circular Quay) each week with around 6,000 weekly passengers travelling on the 501 service (West Ryde to QVB via Pyrmont).

The most significant public transport infrastructure introduced into Ultimo + Pyrmont has been the construction of the Sydney Light Rail system. Installed along the historic Darling Harbour goods line the new Sydney Light Rail was funded initially by a \$40m federal grant from the Building Better Cities program.

Opened in August 1997 the light rail linked Ultimo + Pyrmont workers and residents directly to the city's main transport hub, Central Station. Now it offers services every 5 minutes in peak periods and every 11 minutes at other times. As it is electrically powered, it imposes no pollution burdens on the air quality, and compared to the number of cars and buses moving the equivalent number of people, it significantly reduces carbon dioxide levels for Ultimo + Pyrmont residents.

Stations at Wentworth Park, Fish Market, John Street Square, Casino and Pyrmont Bay provide a clean affordable public transport choice, improved accessibility and air quality.

harbour access

Residents of a suburb blessed by water can at last dip their toes in



ABOVE, left to right: enjoying public access to the foreshore at Pymont Point Park; and Pymont Bay Wharf; on the boardwalk at Pymont Point Park.

Public access to the entire foreshore was a planning principle of the 1992 Sydney Regional Environmental Plan for Ultimo + Pymont. This social objective has continued along the water's edge.

About 60 per cent of the peninsula's 15.2 kilometres of foreshore is currently accessible to the public. A continuous promenade around all finger wharves and bays will be established once Stage 2 of Darling Island and Waterfront Park at Jackson's Landing are completed in 2006.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has reclaimed foreshore lands and created community foreshore parks, to deliver the NSW Premier's vision of establishing an unbroken waterfront link connecting Woolloomooloo to Blackwattle Bay.

BELOW: In the beginning; looking down the spine of this former industrial heartland. A photograph taken prior to the 1992 Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 26 - City West, the blueprint for renewing the neighbourhood.



BELOW: The result of a decade of renewal of one of Sydney's most significant peninsulas: Ultimo + Pyrmont.





Harbour Foreshore Authority