The National Heritage List is a record of places in the Australian jurisdiction that have outstanding natural, Indigenous or historic heritage values for the nation. These places they are protected by federal law under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Nominating a place for the National Heritage List means identifying its national heritage values on this form and providing supporting evidence. If you need help in filling out this form, contact (02) 6274 2149.

Form checklist

1. read the Nomination Notes for advice and tips on answering questions in this form.
2. add attachments and extra papers where indicated (Note: this material will not be returned).
3. provide your details, sign and date the form.

Q1. What is the name of the place?

‘Coal River Precinct’ including the following sites:

The Coal River Precinct, Newcastle (NSW State Heritage Register No.1674)
(Also formally on the RNE ID number 1284 & 1283 ‘Fort Scratchley’ registered 1978 & Nobbys Head
ID number 100016 registered 1980, & Soldiers Baths, Shortland Esplanade ID 100270 registered 1980

Precinct is in the Newcastle Conservation Areas of Newcastle East

Nobbys Lighthouse, Nobbys Road, Newcastle East NSW is on the Commonwealth Heritage List
https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;search=state%3DNSW%3Blist_code%3DCHL%3Blegal_status%3D3%3Bkeyword_PD%3D0%3Bkeyword_SS%3D0%3Bkeyword_PH%3D0;place_id=105373

Q2a. Where is the place? Address/location:

The Coal River Precinct is situated at the southern entrance to the Port of Newcastle, New South Wales. It includes landmarks such as Nobbys Headland, Macquarie Pier (Breakwater), the southern headland (Colliers Point/Signal Hill and Flagstaff Hill) including Fort Scratchley, and adjoining foreshore, the Soldiers Baths, 1801 Campsite and the Pilot Station (Submarine Trap, Gun Emplacement and Stone Boat Harbour - Relic).

The Precinct is government owned and continuously managed since 1801 to current day. The Precinct is the location of the government mine sites, the historic coal mines are drifts or horizontal passageway, the earliest of their type and are the first working coal mines in Australia.
Q2b. Boundary:

The Coal River Precinct is bounded by Fort Drive, Nobby's Drive, Foreshore Drive, Shortland Esplanade and Scott Street. Nobby's Lighthouse is a Commonwealth Heritage Place and Fort Scratchley was a Commonwealth Heritage Place up until recently when it was transferred to the Newcastle City Council.

Coal River Precinct Lat:151.79210464 Long:-32.92417821

A large portion of this area is on the NSW State Heritage Register, other sites within the precinct have the following locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roads and Maritime</th>
<th>1054 /1189091</th>
<th>Wave Trap area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roads and Maritime</td>
<td>1053/1189091</td>
<td>Macquarie Pier &amp; Nobby's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads and Maritime</td>
<td>1051/1189091</td>
<td>Signal tower Nobby's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Crown</td>
<td>1052/1189091</td>
<td>Nobby's Lighthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle Council</td>
<td>2/817695</td>
<td>Parkland off Nobby's Rd Through to harbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Land</td>
<td>11/720672</td>
<td>Part, Shortland Lawn &amp; Nobby's Beach Car Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads and Maritime</td>
<td>100/1190502</td>
<td>Cornish Dock area &amp; Torpedo Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle Council</td>
<td>1/407886</td>
<td>Fort 1801 First settlement site, Scratchley &amp; Convict Coal mines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobruk cadets site</td>
<td>1/817695</td>
<td>Commonwealth of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle Council</td>
<td>2953/756247</td>
<td>severed triangle of Land off Nobby's Rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q2c. Type of map you have supplied:

A map of the area showing the Coal River Precinct for National Heritage Listing

compiled by Russell Rigby
Feb 2017
Q3a. Who owns it? Owner’s name (If more than one owner, attach a list - Appendix A):
The place is public land owned and controlled by Commonwealth, State and Local Governments. The most immediate authority is Newcastle City Council. (see separate sheet for other owners)

Newcastle City Council, City Administration Centre, 282 King St, Newcastle
State: NSW  Postcode:2300
Telephone: 02 4974 2000  Fax: 02 4974 2222  Email: 02 4974 2000

Roads and Maritime, 266 King St, Newcastle 2300
(Locked Bag 30 Newcastle NSW 2300)
Tel: 131 782

Crown Lands, NSW Department of Industry - Lands
PO Box 2185
DANGAR NSW 2309

Q3b. Is the owner(s) aware of the nomination?

NO ☐  YES ☐  SOME ARE X  (Please list):
Q4. Who has an interest in the place? This could include the property’s manager, local environment or historical groups, local council, Indigenous people and developers or industry groups. Please provide names and contact details.

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Claydon MP, 02 49261555

NSW Member for Newcastle, Tim Crakanthorp, MP
414 Hunter Street, NEWCASTLE NSW 2300 (02) 4926 1126

Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Cr Nuatali Nelmes & Councillors

Newcastle City Council, Patty McCarthy, Team Co-ordinator, ph 02 4974 2879

Office of Environment & Heritage NSW
Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, Locked Bag 1002, Dangar, NSW, 2309 or Sydney Office (02) 9995 5000

Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (ATOAC)
Kerrie Brauer and Shane Frost, 49 588170

Awabakal Land Council
Contact - 02 4965 4532

Worimi Land Council
Contact - 02 4965 1500

National Trust of Australia (New South Wales)
Contact - Graham Quint (Conservation Director), ph 02 9258 0123

Hunter Regional Committee National Trust - Ann Hardy Secretary, PO BOX 2151 DANGAR NSW 2309 ph 0438509139

Parks and Playgrounds Movement Incorporated
Contact - Doug Lithgow ph 02 4943 1781

Hunter Heritage Network Incorporated
Contact - Tessa Boah-Mah, President, Newcastle Cultural Heritage Manager
PO Box 428, Hamilton, NSW, Australia, 2303 ph 02 4940 4200

Department of Primary Industries (Catchments & Lands) 02 4920 5085

University of Newcastle’s Hunter (Living) Histories Initiative
Contact - Gionni di Gravio ph 02 4921 5819

Newcastle Now - Edward Duc (Chairperson) Shop 1 / 137 King Street, Newcastle NSW 2300, ph 02 4929 4644

Fort Scratchley Historical Society Inc
Contact - President, ph 02 4927 0889

Newcastle Family History Society
Contact - Ken and Maree Shilling ph 4963 2813

Engineers Heritage Australia (Newcastle)
Contact - ph 02 4926 444

Surf Life Saving Association of NSW
Contact - ph 02 9984 7188

Newcastle East Residents Group Contact -Karen Read (Chair) 0413972458

Friends of King Edward Park
Contact- Kim Oestinga, 02 4929 7647
Q5. What is its significance? How would you tell people that this place has great importance to Australia? For example, why does this place, unlike other similar places, best highlight an outstanding aspect of Australia’s heritage?

Coal River Precinct has outstanding significance to the Nation because of the Natural, Indigenous and historic heritage values that it holds, it is a place of ‘living history’. The first and most important industrial centre in Australia and has outstanding heritage value because of the characteristics it shows, not known to exist elsewhere. The precinct has strong association with mining, maritime and military themes. The elements of this single environment represent modes of early construction, engineering and surveying techniques that were used in conjunction with an understanding of the natural earth formations, geology, ocean and river systems. The precinct includes the site of Australia’s first coal mine, Macquarie Pier a most remarkable feat of convict construction, the site of the first navigational aids for coastal shipping and Hunter River traffic, and the site of a series of fortifications designed to protect the growing settlement and its precious coal reserves. The precinct demonstrates characteristics of a place of convict labour and punishment in a location where extensive labour was needed to build the Macquarie Pier.

Australia’s first economy
Coal River Precinct has outstanding significance to the Nation for its role in the development of Australia’s first industry and economy (coal mining), a role that has been continuous creating wealth for the Nation spanning three centuries. Heritage significance of the precinct lies in evidence of a process of adaption and transformation over time. The landscape tells these stories in a dramatic fashion; through its changing landforms shaped by the demands of industry, through its archaeological remains intact and in situ, and through the continued and inescapable presence of a bustling working harbour. The shaping of the landscape through settlement, development and infrastructure; using natural resources, coal, the development of industry and communications, all of which continue to be represented there and important to Australia economically.

The Coal River Precinct exhibits historic qualities, it has coal mines that operated in 1801, it was the centre from where the Nation’s first profit was made, and there are physical reminders in the historic landscape that forged a future for coal mining operations that would later spread throughout the Hunter Region. Macquarie Pier has exceptional historic qualities, constructed using convict labour to ensure a safe harbour. The pier and operational Nobbys Lighthouse continue to be used to ensure safety of the Port of Newcastle.

Living & Dynamic Heritage
The precinct continues to sustain industry and export and in 2017 is the largest coal port in the world. These resources are largely due to the legacy of skills and labour of transported convicts, committed for secondary punishment. The area is a “functional precinct, a living zone, a scene of business and recreation and dwelling, providing a remarkable fusion of heritage and the everyday….illustrates the vibrant interactions between natural and cultural forces communicating a sense of origin while tracing a long and complex history of economic and industrial transformation.” (Roberts & Eklund 2012) These ‘living’ qualities make the heritage values at this precinct unique because of the longevity and continuous use of the place, it is not a redundant relic, nor is it fully intact, but is an active and dynamic landscape because of its coastal environment. These qualities make the precinct distinctively unique.

The precinct has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the special association with environmental activism. Australia’s first environmental action took place in 1853-1854 on behalf of a community to protect a natural landform (Nobbys Headland). Environmentalists, climate protestors and anti-coal campaigners continue to use the site and have a special association as it symbolises ‘coal’ and history of procurement of this resource.

It also has significance as a place where technical achievement occurred, with the transfer of knowledge of the first coal mining in the Southern Hemisphere and marks the use of the transfer of the ‘bord and pillar’ coal mining techniques from across the world to Australia. Coal operations at this place were solely Government owned and managed, representing the commitment of the colonial government.

Indigenous Values
The Coal River Precinct demonstrates outstanding cultural significance because the early Aboriginal and European association with Whibaygamba or Nobbys Headland, a cultural and spiritual Aboriginal place that tells the Dreaming story of the giant kangaroo.
Cultural Values
It is also a place of significant cultural achievements in early Australia, many artistic objects and works were created by colonial artists in Newcastle of Nobby's Headland and surrounds, by notable artists such as Joseph Lycett, James Wallis and Thomas Skottowe.

See the Nomination Notes for examples on how criteria might be interpreted.

Q6. Which criteria does it meet? Please try and identify each criterion from the list below applies to the place and explain why it meets that criterion (attach evidence in relation to each criterion claimed to have been met).

Natural, Indigenous and historic heritage values that make the **Coal River Precinct** is an outstanding heritage place of national significance is described using the following themes, **Aboriginal, historic and Intangible heritage**.

Regarding definitions we declare that the site has importance for the Nation based particularly on the categories “a”, “d”, “g” and “i”.

- **a** - the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia’s natural or cultural history

  Coal River Precinct is of outstanding heritage value to the Nation because of the characteristic of Australia natural and cultural environment that is not known to exist elsewhere. The elements of this single environment represents modes of construction, engineering and surveying techniques that were used in conjunction with a sound understanding and respect of the natural earth formations, ocean and river systems.

  Coal has shaped the nation and provided the energy required at the start of the Industrial revolution in Australia. The European settlement at Newcastle and the industrial revolution happened roughly at the same, technical and scientific knowledge were put into practice at Newcastle in 1801 and 1804, convicts and officials applied practices bought with them across the globe to establish industry.

  - The Coal River is of central importance to Australia in building a national economy and contributed to how economic, political or social processes were formed.
  
  - The Coal River represents patterns of economic and social development of the early colonial period through the movement from government-controlled and convict-worked industry to the arrival of free labour and the beginnings of private enterprise.
  
  - The Coal River Precinct best represents a convict penal settlement that is directly related to beginning of Australian industry (coal mining) through the first discovery, first export and first profit of a natural resource.
  
  - The Coal River Precinct is an exceptional example of the forced migration of convicts and developments associated with punishment and reform of the criminal elements, an important stage of human history in the modern era.
• The Coal River Precinct best shows how a landscape has changed over time due to the large-scale transformation of local geography to meet industrial, commercial and residential demands and is expressed in a tangible way.

• The Coal River Precinct has a high degree of significance in regard to Australian convict heritage, particularly convict labour and the associated convict built heritage of the site, and is reflected in port related works, especially Macquarie Pier.

• Nobby’s Lighthouse is significant as an important element in the establishment of navigational aids along the New South Wales coast, which reflects the economic development of the surrounding region. The lighthouse is significant as the first example of the series of maritime lights installed in conformity with the Trinity House Codes, after the Commission of 1856 reported upon Australian lighthouse building and maintenance (Lucas, Stapleton & Partners 2007 p 8).

• The Soldiers Baths are historically significant as one of the first ocean baths to be built for public use in NSW and are amongst the earliest beach developments in Australia. They represent the evolution of public bathing and the emergence of the beach as a focus of leisure activities in Newcastle, NSW and Australia, from the late nineteenth century. They also evoke Newcastle's military past through their association with the soldiers stationed at Fort Scratchley, an important phase in Newcastle's and NSW's history as a major defence post for the port of Newcastle and the eastern coastline. (Soldiers Baths Location: 35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East- Newcastle Heritage Inventory- SHI no. 2170253)

• The Coal River Precinct that is an extraordinary example of the National understanding of Aboriginal languages, Biraban and Threlkeld’s work is the earliest and the most accomplished in Australia. Their work documents the Awabakal Dreaming story of the ‘giant kangaroo’ at Nobbys Headland that represents the association of the Aboriginal culture with the natural landscape formations. (The known Awabakal language was the first to be translated in Australia)

• The Coal River Precinct is highly significant because of the cultural association with the Macquarie era that led to the creation of artistic objects of exceptional artistic significance, such as the Macquarie Chest, Wallis Album, Skottowe manuscript and other notable engravings and paintings depicting the precinct. Nobbys Island/headland has become a recognisable symbol.

[X] b - The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia’s natural or cultural history

The Coal River Precinct is unique because it represents an early major public works project in Australia, (Macquarie Pier -Nobbys Breakwater) that not only provided a safe entrance into the Hunter River, but contributed to the Colony’s growing coal export trade. The convict breakwater is testament to the skill and technology used in the Colonial period, that has become the foundation of Nobbys Beach, now a popular surfing beach.

• The Coal River Precinct is a remarkable example of the transition of Australia’s first industry, the coal mining industry (its inception at the foot of Nobbys Island and the Flagstaff Hill) to a modern city that continues to contribute to the Australian economy.

• The Coal River Precinct is nationally rare because it possesses an early Australia public work (Macquarie Pier) constructed primarily using convict labour that remains in use for the purpose in which it was established.

• The Coal River Precinct is nationally rare because it possesses Australia’s oldest surviving physical evidence of coal mining (Fort Scratchley) and convict tunnels (Nobbys Headland).

• Nobbys Lighthouse is rare because it is the oldest surviving lighthouse on the east coast of Australia that replaced the earlier coal fired beacon located on Signal Hill, first lit in 1804.
The Coal River Precinct is nationally rare because it possesses an intact coastal fortification (Fort Scratchley) showing patterns of evolution in construction and military technology from the 1880s to the 1940s.

The Soldiers Baths along with the Bogey Hole in King Edward Park are rare survivors of such a public amenity built during the Victorian era, predating those at Bondi and Bronte.

The Coal River Precinct is nationally rare because Nobbys beach has been formed along the line of the Macquarie Pier (breakwater) and is indicative of the shift from work and industrial usages to leisure-orientated pursuits and contemporary beach culture; in essence the beach has formed due to human intervention.

The Coal River Precinct has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia’s natural or cultural history.

The early convict coal mines have immense cultural value and potential to significantly enrich knowledge of colonial and convict life in Australia through archaeological research. The place has significant potential to reveal, through archaeological field work knowledge of Australia’s early industrial and mining heritage, including the convict workings (coal adits) and tunnelling of Nobbys Headland (pre 1850s).

Macquarie Pier has outstanding heritage value to the nation because it advances knowledge of industrial convict sites, and our understanding of convicts as a cultural group and the contribution made by their enforced labour. The pier contributes to an understanding of Australia’s largest and earliest colonial public work projects begun with convict labour. There is the potential to develop further knowledge about the nature of construction and techniques used in the convict-era.

The Coal River Precinct in general has proven research significance as having provided engineering, surveying and geological knowledge.

The Coal River Precinct has outstanding heritage value to the nation because the recording of the ancient Awabakal language. This was the first systematic study of an Aboriginal language anywhere in Australia by Biraban, Chief of the Newcastle Tribe (now known as the Awabakal) and the Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld and published in a series of works from 1826 to 1892. This is one example of the unique cultural relationship that is mirrored in Newcastle between Aboriginal and Colonial peoples. (See Appendix E) and (Letter of support from Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Appendix F). There is the potential for scholars to yield further information from unpublished works that will contribute to knowledge of Aboriginal language and culture. (Roberts, 2008)

The Coal River Precinct can help us understand aspects of the Australian language. Newcastle was where the first Australian dictionary of ‘flash language’ was compiled in 1819 (Vaux, James Hardy), author also wrote the first autobiography in Australia. Australia’s first full length autobiography and dictionary compiled by James Hardy Vaux in 1811-1814. (See Appendix D)

See the Nomination Notes for examples on how criteria might be interpreted.

The Coal River Precinct has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

- a class of Australia’s natural or cultural places, or
- a class of Australia’s natural or cultural environments
While other places with similar characteristics exist (Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasmania), this place shares all those characteristics and emerges from that group as the earliest example of a working convict coal mine in Australia, and the southern hemisphere.

While other places with similar characteristics exist in terms of public infrastructure (example, the Old Great North Road in NSW) the construction of Macquarie Pier is major public works project developed by convict labour and emerges as unique because the structure continues to be used for the purpose in which it was built.

While other places with similar characteristics exist, this place differs to Port Arthur and Norfolk Island as a place of secondary punishment, in that it progressed to economic and cultural transitions and is a convict ‘living’ site.

**e** - The Coal River Precinct has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

Aesthetically the **Coal River Precinct** is a rare example of the transformation of the natural landscape that has been shaped by convict labour and early European occupation and intervention. The precinct, especially Nobbys Headland is an outstanding landmark.

- Nobbys Island/Headland has a high degree of aesthetic value, many individuals have found creative inspiration from the landscape, Europeans have depicted ‘Nobbys’ in visual sources since 1804 to current day and whose works have documented the transformation of the place shaped by human intervention.

- The aesthetic qualities of Nobbys Headland were ‘saved’ by the community in the 1850s when Government authorities had plans to significantly level this landmark it using explosives. A successful plea from the community stopped the destruction of the headland and Nobbys has since remained a recognisable landmark nationally.

- The Soldiers Baths provides some evidence of the construction of early ocean baths in Australia

**f** - The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

- The Coal River Precinct is an outstanding example of Australia's early position at the forefront of applied coal mining technological achievement in the early 1800s this contribution to the nation’s economic development. Introduction of the ‘bord and pillar’ coal mining techniques from across the world to Australia occurred at the precinct.

- There is no other comparable evidence surviving as that of the physical evidence at the coal adits at Colliers Points, and is a potential source of knowledge which can contribute to a wider understanding of Australia’s industrial beginnings and technology.

- Shows innovative and technical achievement related to masonry, quarrying and construction techniques to build Macquarie Pier, to provide a safe entrance into the port and contributing to the growth of Australia’s coal industry.

- Stone Boat Harbour is a rare surviving example of one of several boat harbours in Newcastle during the 19th century, which served a variety of purposes. It has the capacity to demonstrate the development of the Port of Newcastle during the latter half of the 19th Century, as Newcastle emerged as a major coal port. Previously home to a pilot station, it provides evidence of the significant activity of guiding ships to safe harbour.
- The Coal River Precinct represents the establishment of the coal industry that continues to be a major strength of the Australian economy.

- **g** - The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

  - Nobbys Headland holds special meaning to the Awabakal and non-Aboriginal people who share the spiritual Dreaming stories of *Whibayganba* (Nobbys Headland), a cultural and spiritual Aboriginal place that tells the Dreaming story of the giant kangaroo.

- **h** - The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, or importance in Australia’s natural or cultural history.

  - Nobbys Headland has a strong association with Captain Cook who sighted the Island on his voyage in 1770.
  
  - The Coal River Precinct is closely associated with the re-offending convicts following the 1804 Irish rebellion at Castle Hill (also referred to as the Vinegar Hill Rebellion) who were the first convicts sent to the permanent settlement of Coal River.
  
  - The Coal River Precinct is closely associated with Governor Macquarie who implemented many Government projects (such as Macquarie Pier) supporting the development of the coal industry and economic growth of the Colony.
  
  - Nobbys Lighthouse is associated with its designer Alexander Dawson, Colonial Architect of NSW.
  
  - The Soldiers Baths are highly significant for their association with the soldiers based at nearby Fort Scratchley, who were frequent users and for whom the baths were named.
  
  - The Nobbys Headland is closely associated with Indigenous and migrant relations that lead to new knowledge of Aboriginal culture to be further understood. The relationship between Biraban the Aboriginal Awabakal leader and Reverend Threlkeld is significant documenting for the first time Aboriginal language.

- **i** - The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

  - **Coal River Precinct** contains sites of outstanding significance for local Indigenous people. *Whibayganba* (Nobbys Headland), and the *Coquun* (The Hunter River) are the locations of a dreaming story that details Newcastle and the Hunter’s earthquake history. Dreaming stories represented at the site including Tahlbihn (Fort Scratchley). *Whibayganba* and *Tahlbihn* were approved for dual naming by the NSW Geographical Names Board in July 2016.

*Q7a. TIP* When describing the place, think about its physical aspects and surrounds, its uses by people, aesthetic qualities and any spiritual or cultural associations. You should include photographs and a site map or sketch plan if appropriate. See the Nomination Notes for details.
Q7a. How would you describe the place?

The proposed **Coal River Precinct** is a cultural landscape rich in historical importance that is comprised of sites which represent the birthplace of Australia’s second oldest city, and invoke and exhibit themes of transition. The Coal River Precinct is unique and shows the transition from an Aboriginal landscape to colonial penal settlement to a civil society to a major port city, and the transition from a place of punishment, to a place of outstanding economic importance to the nation.

The principal heritage elements of the nomination are:

**Nobbys Headland**
Nobbys is the icon of Newcastle and immortalised in an Aboriginal dreaming story and later in historic documents and artworks from the beginnings of European contact. The operational Lighthouse standing on Nobbys Headland at the entrance to the Port of Newcastle. This lighthouse is the oldest functioning lighthouse on the Australian mainland, built in 1857, is unique because the headland where it is situated was cut down to erect the lighthouse. Prior to this a coal fired beacon on Fort Scratchley had operated from 1804, this was the earliest light beacon in the Colony. As a landmark, the lighthouse it is clearly identified with the southern arm and the entry to the Port of Newcastle. The Lighthouse is intact and free standing. “Nobby’s Lighthouse is the lighthouse built on Nobby’s Headland in 1857... It remains highly intact and operative to this date. The lighthouse consists of a free-standing stone tower, cast iron glazed lantern, conical roof and vent, cantilevered gallery, internal access ladder (not seen) and original optic. Historically, Nobby’s Light & Signal Station were used as a day marker for shipping as well as at night,” (Clive Lucas Stapleton 2007, p.2).

In the early 1850s convicts excavated three tunnels into the base of Nobbys Head to place gunpowder, for blasting the top off the headland, to provide a platform for building the lighthouse. However, due to a public petition the explosives were never ignited. This stands as Australia’s first documented environmental action on behalf of a community to protect a natural landform. (Hardy & di Gravio, 2015) Historical photographs show the entrances to two of these tunnels. The entrances are now covered by rock fall debris. (Kerr, Roslyn 2011)

**Signal Hill - Colliers Point Mines (Known as Fort Scratchley)**
Seams of coal at the entrance to the river, outcropping at Nobbys and on Colliers Point/Signal Hill were the focus of the first systematic coal mining in Australia beginning officially in 1801. There were several entrances to the coal drifts from Signal Hill, the strata which continued a yard six inches thick. From geological records, and later written evidence, we know this seam to be the upper split of the Dudley seam. (Lt Menzies in HRNSW, 367). These mine entrances exist and were investigated in 2006. (Wilson, John, and Alex Widgery 2006)

**Macquarie Pier**
Construction of the Pier started in 1818 and was completed in 1846 and is testament to the skill and technology used in the Colonial period (Davies 1996.p 41). Many of the convicts remained in Newcastle to complete the pier. The Macquarie Pier was strategically established to serve the purpose of industry, defence and the growing economy. This structure not only provided a safe entrance into the Hunter River, but contributed to the Colony’s growing coal export trade.

**Stone Boat Harbour (Relic)**
Stone Boat Harbour is believed to have been necessitated by the collapse of the remaining section of old convict stockade in 1864 which had been occupied by pilots since 1840 (EJE Heritage, p. 32). Stone Boat Harbour was constructed at the eastern extremity of the newly constructed Queens Wharf and provided a protected berth for pilot boats. Following the construction of the Harbour, a waiting room and lifeboat shed were built and in 1869 a pilot station and residence were built (EJE Heritage, p. 32). A number of similar boat harbours were used by ferries and other small craft. By the end of the 19th Century, the number of boat harbours had increased significantly, due to the pressures that the coal industry placed on wharf accommodation (EJE, p. 30). Stone Boat Harbour is one of the only remaining Boat Harbours on the southern shore, with one remaining at North Stockton, possibly as part of the defence system of Fort Wallace (Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study, Thematic History, p. 36, 46).

In 1881, as part of the plans for Fort Scratchley, a submarine mining depot was constructed on the eastern side of the entrance to Stone Boat Harbour. Cables were used to position the mines in the shipping channel between
Stockton and Stone Boat Harbour and could be fired by electrical pulse. The cables were stored in the bunker where a concrete cable tank is still extant (EJE, p. 33). In the same year, the western side of the Boat Harbour was reconstructed. In 1894, the bunker was equipped with one 37 mm Nordenfelt Quickfiring as protection against torpedo boats. The Pilot Station was also the headquarters of the lifeboat service from approximately 1869 until 1946 when it was terminated (EJE, p. 33). In 1959, the Pilot station was demolished.

Stone Boat Harbour is located at the eastern extremity of Queens Wharf. The harbour encloses an irregular rectangle with a narrow, entrance with rounded corners, widening to allow several pilot boats to be in the harbour simultaneously. The stone block walls of the harbour are slightly sloped from the vertical and incorporate some natural outcrops. A sill lies between the block walls and the low wall, and has been painted white. The block walls are possibly a recent addition. A steep stairway is cut into the harbour wall on the western side of the entrance. The boat dock on the eastern side of the harbour consists of a slipway made of large stone blocks while on the northern side of the dock there is the original boat shed and an additional slipway. (Newcastle Heritage Inventory SHI no. 2170258 - Stone Boat Harbour (Relic) Location: 48 Wharf Road, Newcastle East)

Soldiers Baths
The Soldiers Baths (formally known as Newcastle Public Baths & Fortification Baths) completed in 1883 are historically significant as they are one of the earliest large public ocean baths constructed in NSW and among the earliest beachside developments in Australia. Along with the Bogey Hole in King Edward Park the Soldiers Baths are rare survivors of such a public amenity built during the Victorian era, predating those at Bondi and Bronte. The baths are also highly significant for their association with the soldiers based at nearby Fort Scratchley, who were frequent users and for whom the baths were named. The name recalls the military's role in Newcastle's history, particularly as a key defence outpost in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The baths represent the era in which public sea bathing was gaining popularity and acceptance as a legitimate health giving and leisure activity, preceding the rise of surfing and beach culture that has figured so prominently in Australian social and cultural history. The baths continue to be used, though to a lesser extent, as a site for aquatic recreation, popular with scuba divers and fishing enthusiasts. Their commemoration in a heritage plaque on the Bathers Way indicates that they are also likely to have social significance for the local community and visitors, contributing, with other beachfront sites to Newcastle's sense of place as (Soldiers Baths Location: 35 Nobbys Road, Newcastle East- Newcastle Heritage Inventory- SHI no. 2170253) The pool is formed by a rubble sea wall around a depression in the rocks. The area enclosed measures 550 square feet, with a depth of 9 feet in the middle. Landslides have deposited large rocks in the baths and these have remained. The baths are highly visible at low tide. (Australian Heritage Database - Soldiers Baths, 1980)

Q7b. What condition is it in? Describe whether the place is intact or if there has there been any damage or disturbance.

The City of Newcastle is a principal landowner and manager of assets within the Coal River precinct. Council has expressed its support over many years for the listing of the Coal River precinct. The iconic assets in the precinct reinforce our Novocastrian sense of place, pride and identity. The place has remained in public ownership because of its great significance to harbour, port, defence and other strategic functions. This has contributed to its present spatial integrity with a considerable amount of surviving physical evidence in the sites identified in this nomination.

Highly significant sites within the Coal River Precinct with tangible convict sites that include Nobbys Headland (Whibayganba), Macquarie Pier (breakwater), convict coal mines under Fort Scratchley (Tahlbihn).

- Nobbys Headland is intact and there is public access to Nobbys which has been a successful joint venture between Council, NSW Government, Newcastle Now and community groups. Council continues to work cooperatively with the Port Corporation and other stakeholders to manage the precinct.
The 1850s gunpowder tunnels dug into the side of Nobby's Head for blasting the top off the headland are still intact. The tunnel entrances are no longer visible, but potential exists for future archaeological investigations of the chambers.
Macquarie Pier is intact. In recognition of Macquarie 2010, The University of Newcastle’s Coal River Working Party embarked on the quest to locate the Foundation and Inscription Stone laid in Newcastle by Governor Lachlan Macquarie back in 1818, and believed lost for over 190 years. The research work continues, with a thorough GPR test to be conducted. A commemorative event with the Governor of NSW was held in recognition of this tangible link to the public infrastructure work of Governor Macquarie.

The convict coal mines, under the Fort Scratchley are intact. In September 2005 these mines beneath Fort Scratchley were re-discovered by the University’s Coal River Working Party who successfully researched and located the historic site of the first convict coal mines at Newcastle. This significant discovery located the site of the historic first profit ever made in the fledgling colony of New South Wales, at Coal River in 1801.

The Fort Scratchley Historic site is intact. Ownership, investment and joint management of the Fort Scratchley Historic Site, and maintenance and promotion of the place as an outstanding historical attraction. Council is guided by an adopted Conservation Management Plan as well as a Plan of Management for Fort Scratchley which ensures that Council activities and operations sustain the heritage significance of the Fort into the future. Council works cooperatively with the Fort Scratchley
Q8. What is its history? Summarise its origins and development. You may need to attach additional information.

Newcastle was the first area of white occupation in New South Wales outside of the Sydney basin with an early settlement in 1801, which was abandoned in 1802 and was permanently re-established as a place of secondary punishment in 1804. By 1819 there were almost 700 convicts in the area, and by 1820 the total resident white population was approximately 1,200. The area was of major economic importance as a source of coal, timber, lime and salt for the new colony. The closure of the penal settlement at Newcastle in 1823 led to a decade or two of stasis. Population growth, trade and wealth shifted towards the lower Hunter Valley, and the principal town of Maitland and its nearby port Morpeth.

According to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies 2000 “The Aboriginal people who occupied the present area of Newcastle prior to Contact belonged to the Awabakal language group. Their nearest neighbours were the Worimi to the north who were centred around Port Stevens however it is believed the Hunter River, as a major geographic feature, was the demarcation line between these two language groups”.

Awabakal and Worimi people live in and around the Hunter River. The Awakabal’s traditional country ranges from Lake Macquarie to the southern shore of the Hunter River, while the Worimi live in what became known as the Stockton Bight/Port Stephens area. From the late 1790s initial contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people tended to be sporadic, but after 1804, the Awabakal had to contend with the permanent occupation of their country by convicts and their gaolers. Written, visual and archaeological evidence indicates that traditional patterns of their economy, society and kinship were maintained into the 1850s. Thereafter, traditional societies were overwhelmed by more widespread and intensive land use with many Aboriginal people choosing, or being forced, to relocate to a mission on Lake Macquarie which was established by Reverend Threlkeld in the 1820s. Others moved to the Lake Macquarie area, and their ancestors are resident in the region today, and continue to still have connections to their culture and land.
It was the presence of coal which initially attracted Europeans to the area in the early 1800s. The outlet of the Hunter River and the presence of coal were officially noted by Lieutenant John Shortland in 1797. Shortland’s journey north of Sydney in the Governor’s whaleboat in September 1797, his eye-sketch of the river he named after Governor Hunter, his optimistic impression of the area, and his return of coal samples to Sydney were historically important factors in the eventual expansion of the newly-established penal colony out of the Sydney Basin.\textsuperscript{ii}

Shortland’s visit was not the first landing in the area by Europeans. William and Mary Bryant, along with six other escaped convicts and two children from Sydney, may have landed in the area in March 1791.\textsuperscript{iii} There is some debate whether they entered what was later known as the Hunter River, and most likely they landed at Glenrock Lagoon, five kilometres south of the Hunter River. The Bryants are well known to Australian history since they, remarkably, made it all the way to Timor, only to be found out by British officers from the recently-wrecked Pandora.\textsuperscript{iv} In Newcastle history, however, their claim to fame rests with their discovery and use of coal at Glenrock Lagoon.\textsuperscript{v}

Another pre-1797 European contact came in June 1796. David Collins, Judge-Advocate for the fledgling colony, detailed a visit by a party of fisherman ‘from a bay near Port Stephens’.\textsuperscript{vi} This party brought back samples of coal to Sydney. Unlike Shortland, a navy man with a subsequent heroic career, these unnamed fishermen of lowly status were difficult candidates to eulogize as European explorers, despite the impeccable European credentials of Collins as a source. Moreover, their visit to Coal River had been an occasion for violence between the visiting party and local Aborigines. Collins reported that the party ‘conducted themselves improperly on shore, two of them were severely wounded by the natives...’\textsuperscript{vii} Collins does not record nor did he probably know of the outcome for local Aborigines. Coupled with these on-shore visits by Europeans was Captain Cook’s sighting of what later became ‘Nobbys Island’ in May 1770.\textsuperscript{viii}

Further exploration in 1801 confirmed the area’s resources and potential. In June 1801 Lieutenant Colonel William Paterson, together with Lieutenant Grant, Ensign Barrallier, a party of marines and a gang of convicts arrived at Coal River to work the coal and exploit the cedar, accessible via the Hunter River.\textsuperscript{ix} The more senior and capable officers left in July leaving Corporal Wixstead in charge. The 1801 settlement struggled under the inexperienced leadership of Wixstead and later the overly severe Surgeon Mason, and was withdrawn in early 1802.

Governor King first established the outpost in 1801 to control unchecked exploitation by private traders and provide hard labour for re-offending convicts. The settlement was withdrawn in 1802, but re-established in 1804 following the Irish rebellion at Vinegar Hill. Systematic extraction of coal continued in the immediate area from 1804 to 1817, after which newer mines west of the nominated area were opened. The Australian Agricultural Company took over the government mines in 1831. Free labour eventually replaced convict workers from the 1840s (Pemberton, 1986).

A convict settlement was re-established in 1804. This was designated a place of secondary punishment. The first convicts sent to Coal River were Irish rebels who participated in the Castle Hill insurrection. Coal mining had the dual value of being both dangerous, punishing work, while also producing a potentially valuable resource for the new colony. Captain Wallis established a refractory for women on Nobbys Island around 1816, he did this because there were increasing problems in managing both men and women together. Women convicts also came to Coal River, Nobbys was used as a factory for women. (Windross 11)

Coal mining was seen by early colonial administrators as a possible means to make the colony more financially self-sufficient. Governor Hunter had reported that the coal sighted at Coal Cliff, south of Sydney, was inaccessible, but the Coal River deposits outcropped at convenient locations at the entrance of the Hunter River. In 1797 Lieutenant Shortland was impressed with the loading and trade potential of the area: ‘Vessels from 60 to 250 tons may load there with great ease.’ (Shortland, 1798 in \textit{HRNSW}, 481-82) It was these seams at the entrance to the river, outcropping at Nobbys and on Colliers Point/Signal Hill, that was the focus of the first systematic coal mining. The officer in charge of the 1804 settlement, Lieutenant Menzies, wrote that to Governor King that ‘an excellent mine has been opened, the strata of which continues a yard six inches thick.’ From geological records, and later written evidence, we know this seam to be the upper split of the Dudley seam. (Lt Menzies in \textit{HRNSW}, 367)
From 1811 both coal production and the settlement’s population increased. From 73 persons in 1811 the population almost doubled to 134 by 1812. Similarly coal production increased from 800 tons in 1808 to 1400 tons in 1811, and peaked at 2193 tons in that decade. The penal settlement continued until 1823 with the convicts mining coal, preparing lime from shell and timber getting. The increase in convict numbers and production levels at Coal River coincided with Governor Macquarie’s decade-long programme of public works and construction. Such ambitious colony building would not have been possible without the resources provided by the Newcastle outpost. (Broadbent in Broadbent & Hughes, 1992, 157) For example, the first Government House at Parramatta was constructed using imported lime to secure the sandstone bricks, while Macquarie’s extensive building programme utilised the vast amounts of lime from Coal River.

If the first occupation of the 1800s was largely about coal, subsequent free settlers of the early 1820s were attracted by land. It was the availability of fertile land with rich alluvial soils adjacent to the Hunter, Williams and Paterson Rivers which was especially appealing. The Hunter Valley was opened to free settlement in 1823, and extensive numbers of settlers, sheep and cattle entered the valley in the next five years. Some of the more recalcitrant convicts were removed to the new penal station at Port Macquarie. However, convicts remained in the town, as assigned servants, as labourers on the town gang, and after 1831, as miners working for the Australian Agricultural Company, which took over the ownership and operation of the Government mines. Some convicts were also sent to Newcastle Gaol during the 1830s after conviction in the Sydney courts. (McCabe, 1999, 179). During the 1830s, one historian estimates that 165 female convicts passed through Newcastle goal whether on their way to private assignment, after conviction in Sydney, for punishment, or for re-assignment (McCabe, 1999, 181). By the 1830s, the Hunter Valley included a number of wealthy landowners with large estates, many owned by ex-army officers, which typically had considerable demand for convict workers. (Walsh, 2006, 67-90)

In the 1830s large numbers of convicts returned to Newcastle. The convict lumber yard was renamed ‘the stockade’ and a large gang was put to work on finishing the Macquarie Pier. A guard house was built adjoining the stockade in 1833 as the public work gang returned to continue the breakwater. Work on the pier had lapsed in 1823. It was finally complete by 1846. Over this period Nobbys was also used to ‘stockade’ convicts, usually as a method of punishment.

By the 1850s Newcastle resumed stronger economic growth. The gold rushes momentarily unhinged the regional labour market, but the ending of the Australian Agricultural company’s monopoly in coal mining in 1847 and the boom in emigration in the 1850s and 1860s, sparked a new round of coal mine development which shaped the urban typography and demographic makeup of the developing suburbs of Newcastle. These new developments around the pit top towns of Adamstown, Hamilton, Waratah and Wallsend, were inaugurated by private companies. The coal mining industry of the Hunter Valley had finally transformed into a market economy.

This firm economic base encouraged other related industries such as railway workshops, regional steamship companies and secondary manufacturing, as well as naturally created further demands for improvements in harbour facilities, navigational services, and coal loading technology. From 1857 the Great Northern Railway, augmented by the private lines of the coal companies, formed the backbone of the regional economy, linking Newcastle with the produce and trade of the valley, and ultimately eclipsing Morpeth and Maitland as the economic hub of the region. It wasn’t until 1887, when a direct rail connection to Sydney was opened, that the centrality of the port in Newcastle’s maritime economy was significantly challenged.

Likewise by the 1850s elements of the Coal River Precinct had firmly entered the hearts of Novocastrians. Nobbys Head by this time was a clearly identifiable image of the town so much so that plans to remove Nobbys via explosive methods were vigorously resisted. An 1854 petition called on the government to halt the destruction of Nobbys. This petition represents one of the nation’s earliest demands for the preservation of a culturally-significant landmark. The subsequent construction of the 1857 lighthouse on a preserved Nobbys crowned Newcastle’s most identifiable landmark. It announced the maritime connections of the town, and the port community’s continuing battle with the vagaries of the sea and the dangers it posed to seafarers. At a deeper cultural level strong feelings for Nobbys showed that Novocastrians no longer evinced a migrant sensibility as they embraced their local environment and its significant features in a place they now called home.
Nobbys is a distinctive landmark at the mouth of the Hunter River, noted by Captain James Cook during his voyage of discovery up the east coast of Australia. On 10 May 1770 Cook wrote in his ship’s log that the Endeavour passed by a ‘small clump of an island lying close to shore’. Shortland named the island Hacking Island, in his ‘Eye Sketch’. Paterson named it Coal Island presumably because of the visible coal seams. The Aboriginal name was Whibayganba, and this has been documented in Mitchell’s survey sketch book of 1828. On his chart of Coal Harbour in 1801, surveyor Ensign Francis Barrallier estimated the island to be 203 feet (62 metres) high. Rigby and Fryer (2010) have estimated that the original height of Nobbys was actually less than this, at about 142 feet (43 metres). The height of Nobbys Head is now only 98 feet (30 metres). (Kerr, R 2011)

Nobbys Island was used as a place of confinement for the worst convicts before the island was joined to the mainland. Several tunnels were cut into Nobbys for the blowing up of the headland and these tunnels were visible for many years and gradually becoming sealed by falling rock. (Windross 12) The entrance to a tunnel shelter in the northern cliff face has been covered by rock falls.

A meeting was held in Newcastle in June 1854 to protest against a perceived threat to remove the island in the interests of navigation. However Nobbys was cut down a lighthouse was established there in 1857 replacing the coal-fired beacon that had been operating at Signal Hill.

Colliers Point Mines

Lieutenant Colonel Paterson writing to Governor King named the headland Collier’s Point and explained that:

The point is composed of two strata in sight and one, which is bare at low-water mark only. This is by much the best coal, which you will see by the specimen I desired might be kept apart from the other, which is the middle strata, about 16 inches deep; that below is 22 inches; the distance between them is about 20 feet.

In 1801 and 1804 John Platt, a skilled coalminer set out the mines in what was clearly the method at the forefront of mining technology - the bord and pillar system. He advised Governor King of the damage done when the mines were not properly regulated and timbered. Colliers Point was the site of the first coaling in Australia, which continued at the location until 1814. Dr D F Branagan has identified the lower seam and the middle seam as the Dirty or Dudley seam.

The Newcastle Morning Herald 29 January 1885 reported on the old convict coal workings and the wall then being built the fort:

All necessary precautions having been taken by filling in or roofing the many underground chambers their entrances were finally blotted out of sight for ever by a thick wall of concrete and masonry.

Macquarie Pier

Governor Lachlan Macquarie laid the foundation stone for ‘Macquarie Pier’ on 5 August 1818. The pier was the most ambitious harbour improvement project of a convict era.

The connection to Nobbys Island was completed in June 1846. Heavy seas in subsequent years breached the pier, which was later strengthened on the seaward side by using huge sandstone blocks transported by rail from a quarry at Waratah. The work was completed by 1872. A sand dune system and the popular Nobbys Beach have formed on the ocean side of Macquarie Pier. In 1957 the harbour side of the breakwater was cement rendered except for a small stairway near Nobbys.

The Macquarie Pier, constructed to enable safe entrance into the harbour was started in 1818 with Governor Macquarie laying the foundation stone. This was the Colony’s largest public works project and is not only important to the history of capital works programs of the Colonial Government, but to convictism and early technology in Australia. The construction of Macquarie Pier assisted in safe harbour access, it was essential structurally and strategically in enhancing the efficiency of the coal exported, thus increasing profits for the
British Empire. The provision of convicts to construct Macquarie Pier was in the economic interest of the Colony.

**Signal Hill**

Signal Hill is an important and historic landmark with a commanding position overlooking the river entrance. The northern extremity was Colliers Point.

Lieutenant Shortland camped at the base of the hill when he entered and surveyed the river in 1797 and noted the coal seams in the cliff face.

Fresh water was available from a small watercourse at the base of the hill.

The coal-fired beacon erected on Signal Hill in 1804 to guide and warn mariners was probably the first light on the Australian coast. It was extinguished in December 1857 when the new lighthouse at Nobbys commenced operation. On the hill were also erected a signal station, a distinctive pagoda like building as a residence for the stoker and signalman, and about 1860, a house for the harbourmaster (Captain Allen).

Signal Hill was also known as Beacon Hill, Captain Allan’s Hill and Flagstaff Hill by 1840. Due to a perceived threat from Britain’s enemies in the 1870’s, substantial fortifications were erected at key outposts in British colonies, such as Fort Scratchley in 1881.

Extensive quarrying to gain material for Macquarie Pier and other purposes has dramatically altered the shape of Signal Hill and the old convict coal workings beneath the hill were sealed up with a thick wall of concrete in 1885.

**Q9. TIP**

*We’d like to know about other places that have similar characteristics to the place that you are nominating. For example, these other places might have similar species or rock formations; they might be similar buildings or places with similar histories, traditions or beliefs attached to them. We want to know what makes the place you’ve nominated a better example than these other places, in short, why is it outstanding? See the Nomination Notes for more tips.*

Q9. What other places have similar characteristics? How do these places compare with the place you are nominating?

No other convict sites in Australia exhibit the range of transitions in their surviving physical evidence as shown by the proposed. These other sites, including Port Arthur Historic Site, Norfolk Island, Fremantle Prison, and Hyde Park Barracks, show important features of the convict story yet there is no tangible link to subsequent economic and cultural development The outstanding heritage value of the proposed Park lies in this relationship between our colonial past and our present, and in the archaeological and surviving built evidence.

It is important to bear in mind that Norfolk Island was initially established in 1788 not as a place of secondary punishment, but as a way to divide the colony’s resources in the face of scarcity. It was only after the closure of the Newcastle penal settlement in 1823 that Norfolk Island was re-established as a place of secondary punishment in 1825, its regime and underlying philosophy based on the first such experiment at Coal River. The personnel for the new site of punishment later included Commandant James Thomas Morriset, who had spent three years at Newcastle from 1819 to 1823. Newcastle was indisputably the first place of secondary punishment and an experimental outpost which was highly influential on later convict policy. Similarly, the Sarah Island site, on the west coast of Van Diemen’s Land, was established the year after Newcastle was closed. It too was a convict outpost that sought to exploit the local resources of coal, timber, and lime. The successful Newcastle experiment must have weighed heavily in this case too.

Furthermore, while places such as Norfolk Island, Fremantle Prison, and Port Arthur are particularly strong on evidence of changing incarceration and punishment regimes, they are less revealing in terms of the convict industrial and economic role. The First Government House site is an evocative place that says much about colonial society and the personalities that controlled the convict system yet again it does not evoke the role of the convict workforce. At the Coal River Precinct the presence of the convict coal mine and the nearby
convict lumber yard is an especially significant pairing which reveals much about the economic role of convictism in producing crucial resources for the emerging colonial economy.

Other sites of secondary punishment such as Port Macquarie, Sarah Island, and Moreton Bay have less physical remains than the Coal River Precinct. These sites are often located in isolated areas with difficult access. The Coal River Precinct sits at the ocean gateway to Australia’s largest regional city. The well-populated Central Coast and Hunter Valley regions, together with the nation’s largest city, Sydney, are only a short drive away.

National recognition and further development of the Coal River Precinct represent an unparalleled opportunity to show large numbers of Australian and overseas visitor’s crucial elements of the convict story in a vibrant, lively and accessible precinct.

Q10. What other information is available on the place? List any articles, books, reports or heritage studies that may provide evidence supporting your nomination. You may also have information from Traditional Owners and Custodians, scientists or heritage specialists. If they have agreed to share their knowledge, please include their contact details.

Also Refer to APPENDIX G- Photographs

On-line Resources

Coal River Working Party (H(L)HI) Blog
https://hunterlivinghistories.com/

Online diary for local researches and events involving the University’s Hunter Living Histories Initiative (formally known as Coal River Working Party), with links to thousands of online digitized resources relating to history of the Region.

http://coalriver.wordpress.com/history/

http://coalriver.wordpress.com/dreaming/

http://coalriver.wordpress.com/key-documents/

Primary Sources


1797 - Lieutenant John Shortland. An eye sketch of Hunter’s River. 1797. Signed L.S. [initials presumed to be those of Lieutenant John Shortland]. Copy is held in the University Archives at Shelf Location A6472 (iii) Original is held in the Hydrographic Department. Ministry of Defence, Taunton, Somerset, United Kingdom: C642/1.


1801 - Captain James Grant Aboard the Lady Nelson


1805 - John Platt’s Account of the coal mines at Newcastle. Platt, John (5 May 1805), Account given by John Platt a coal miner of the coal mines at Newcastle. Sydney Gazette.


1816 - Joseph Lycett (c1774/75 – 1828). Newcastle, New South Wales, looking towards Prospect Hill. c.1816-1818. [Detail 1] [Detail 2] [Detail 3] A gift by Port Waratah Coal Services to Newcastle Region Art Gallery. Photographed by Bruce Turnbull [Courtesy Newcastle Region Art Gallery]


1818 - Lachlan Macquarie Journal to and from Newcastle [http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/all/journeys/1818/1818.html]


1818 - Walter Preston (fl.1811-1820) Newcastle, Hunter’s River, New South Wales. c.1818 -1820 [1.02MB Version] [Detail] Photographed by Bruce Turnbull [Courtesy Newcastle Region Art Gallery]

1818 - Walter Preston (fl.1811-1820) Corroboree, or dance of the natives of New South Wales, New Holland c.1818 -1820 Photographed by Bruce Turnbull [Courtesy Newcastle Region Art Gallery]

1818 - [Corroboree at Newcastle / oil painting by Joseph Lycett] c.1818 [State Library of New South Wales] [Image ]

1819 - John Slater’s Letter to his wife in Nottingham

1819 - Wentworth’s Description of New South Wales
1821 - Lachlan Macquarie's Voyage and Tour of Inspection
http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/all/journeys/1821/1821b.html


http://uoncc.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/1821-close.jpg
c.1825 - Close, Edward Charles. [Panorama of Newcastle along current day Watt Street]
http://uoncc.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/1825-close.jpg
The Panorama above is constituted of the following paintings in Sketchbook of scenes of Sydney, Broken Bay, Newcastle and region, New South Wales, 1817-1840, (Courtesy of the National Library of Australia) once attributed to Sophia Campbell, now Edward Charles Close, 1790-1866 (Thanks to Mark Metrikas for identifying this find) The individual paintings that make up this Panorama from the Sketchbook are listed in order from left to right: (1) Commandant’s house from in front of the old gaol, Newcastle, New South Wales, ca. 1828 [picture] (2) Dwellings, fenced land and the windmill on the hill, Newcastle, New South Wales, ca. 1820 [picture] (3) Barracks with Christ Church in the distance, Newcastle, New South Wales, ca. 1820 [picture] (4) Dwellings and buildings in Newcastle, New South Wales, ca. 1820 (5) View over buildings towards the signal mast and Nobby Head, Newcastle, New South Wales, ca. 1820. Reconstructed in 2010 by Gionni Di Gravio. Utilised and discussed in Capturing Time Panoramas of old Australia by Edwin Barnard. ISBN 9780642277503, National Library of Australia, October 2012.

1827 - Threlkeld, L. E. (Lancelot Edward), 1788-1859. Specimens of a Dialect of the Aborigines of New South Wales; Being the first attempt to form their speech into a written language. Sydney: Printed at the Monitor Office, 1827. (1.29 MB PDF) [Archives Shelf Number A 6704 Percy Haslam Collection]

1828. - Mitchell, Sir Thomas Livingstone (1792-1855) Field Book - Port Jackson and Newcastle, 1828 (C 40) 55MB PDF (Courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales)

1828-1830. - Mitchell, Sir Thomas Livingstone (1792-1855) Field, Note and Sketch Book, 1828-1830 (C 42) 14MB PDF Database Picman (Courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales)

1828 - Cross, Joseph. Map of the River Hunter and its Branches (1828)

1828 - Peter Cunningham's Two Years in New South Wales
Cunningham, Peter Miller. (1827) Two Years in New South Wales; New Burlington Street pp.142-161.

1828 - A View of King's Town (Late Newcastle) 1828 Engraver: Joseph Cross
Full Version (1MB)
Small Version (181KB)
Detail (354KB)
Detail2 (171KB)

Published in:
Danger, H. (Henry), 1796-1861
Title: Index and directory to map of the country bordering upon the River Hunter ; the lands of the Agricultural Company, with the ground plan and allotments of King’s Town, New South Wales : containing a detail of the annual quit rent and amount of the redemption of the same ; also historical notes upon the tenure and principle of granting lands in the colony since 1810 ; also for the guidance of emigrant settlers, a description of the unlocated country in the vicinity of Hunter’s River ; useful geographical notes on Liverpool Plains ; the present regulations and conditions upon which grants and sales of land are made by government, with observations thereon, with a view of the present state of agriculture in the colony, price of land, advice to settlers, &c. the whole forming with regard to land affairs in that colony, a complete emigrant’s guide / by H.
1828 - Threlkeld, L.E. (Lancelot Edward), 1788-1859. [Manuscript] A Journal Kept By Lancelot Edward Threlkeld, Missionary. [87 MB PDF] This original manuscript Journal of the Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld covers the period from December 1828 to circa February 1846 and is now lost. As it begins on page 63, it presumably formed part of a series of Journal diaries. It originally was in the possession of an owner in Cattai. Prior to his death, the manuscript was lent to Mrs Raven, who then lent it to the Mitchell Library who digitised it. The Journal was then returned to the owner. After his death the manuscript disappeared and every avenue of locating it pursued by Mrs Raven has come to no avail causing great concern for the fate of such an important historical document to Hunter Region and Australian history.

We sincerely thank Mrs Marjorie Raven, great grand daughter of the late Reverend Threlkeld for her permission to publish this important Journal.


See: Newcastle in 1830 - http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2013/02/07/newcastle-in-1830/

1832 - NSW Directory 1832


1833 - Breton's Excursions

Breton, William Henry (1833), Excursions in New South Wales, Western Australia and Van Diemen's Land, during the years 1830, 1831, 1832, and 1833. London : Richard Bentley. pp. 86-299.

1834 - Lang, John Dunmore (1834), An historical and statistical account of New South Wales, both as a penal settlement and as a British colony. London: Cochrane and M’Crone. pp. 849-127.


“At the entrance of Newcastle there is a small high island, called by the English Nobby’s Island. The blacks have a tradition that it is the abode of an immensely large Kangaroo which resides within the centre of the high rock that occasionally he shakes himself which causes the Island to tremble and large pieces to fall down.” Rev L.E. Threlkeld in the Christian Herald, 17th February 1855, Vol.III, p.5-6. [Published in Australian Reminiscences & Papers of L.E.Threlkeld, Missionary to the Aborigines, 1824-1859. 2 vols, ed. Niel Gunson. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, 1974:65


1889 - Holmes, Charles Thomas (1889) *Diary of Charles Thomas Holmes (1864-1926) relating to his trip to Newcastle on the 29th March 1889.*

Recent Research

2017 - COAST AUSTRALIA - Season Three Episode 2  

2016 - Fedder, Renee. Dual Naming approved for eight Newcastle sites. *Newcastle Herald*  

2013 - Di Gravio, Gionni. “Corporal Wixtead and the fate of Newcastle’s first settlement in 1801” (CRWP)  


2012 - Virtual Newcastle Circa 1800-1830  

2012 - [Video] Announcement of Newcastle Treasures of the Macquarie Era Exhibition. (CRWP)  

2012 - Morrison, Dr Tessa. Reconstructing Victorian Newcastle. (CRWP)  


2012 - Di Gravio, Gionni. “John Skinner Prout in Newcastle and the Hunter” (CRWP)  

2012 - Murray, David “Words for the Heat of Deeds” - A Story of Newcastle’s Convict Years. (CRWP)  

2012 - History Channel. Tony Robinson’s Time Walks Episode 5 - Newcastle.  

2012 - Di Gravio, Gionni. “George Pugh - Wanderings over Belmont, Newcastle and New Caledonia (1873-1874)” (CRWP)  

2012 - Video. Convict Era Tunnel (c1816) and brick Culvert (1850s) (CRWP)  
[http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2012/05/01/convict-era-tunnel-c1816-and-brick-calvert-c1850s/](http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2012/05/01/convict-era-tunnel-c1816-and-brick-calvert-c1850s/)

2012 - Video. Government Farm c1810 Archaeological Site Visit. (CRWP)  

2012 - Precis of Seminar. Professor Michael Rosenthal on Edward Charles Close. (CRWP)  

2012 - Video. Unveiling the Wallis Album. Newcastle Art Gallery. (CRWP)  
[http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2012/02/22/unveiling-the-wallis-album/](http://coalriver.wordpress.com/2012/02/22/unveiling-the-wallis-album/)
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Department of Environment and Heritage
http://www.environment.gov.au

NSW Heritage Office

Dangars index and map

University of Newcastle web sites
http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/aboriginalsourcebook

Pictures/images of Newcastle

Cultural Collections on Flickr
http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/
Our online repository of over 40,000 images relating to the history of the University and its region including Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the Hunter.

State Library of New South Wales

Fort Scratchley, Newcastle
http://www.fortscratchley.org/

Newcastle on the Edge, History Week Project 2008
http://newcastleontheedge.blogspot.com

Q11. Are there sensitive issues associated with the place? These may be issues that need to be kept out of the public eye such as matters relating to sacred or religious sites, or the location of rare fossils, plants or fragile places.

NO ☐ YES ☐

If you answer yes, we will contact you to discuss the issues.

An explanation of themes is available in the Nomination Notes. For information on current themes for National Heritage List nominations, visit www.deh.gov.au/heritage or call 1800 020 625.

Q12a. Do the values reflect a National Heritage Theme announced by the Minister?

NO ☐ YES ☐
Q12b. If you answered yes, please state which theme:

Your details are needed in case we require more information on the nominated place. Your identity is protected under the Federal Privacy Act 1988 and will not be divulged without your consent or as allowed for under that Act.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: Mr</th>
<th>First name: Gionni</th>
<th>Family name: Di Gravio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Are you nominating a place on behalf of an organisation?  
NO ☐ YES ☒

If you answered no, please complete the address details below, if yes, please name the organisation and your position in it and then complete the address details for the organisation below:

Organisation: Coal River Working Party, University of Newcastle  
Position: Chair

Address: c/- University of Newcastle’s Coal River Working Party  
Cultural Collections  
Level 2 Auchmuty Library  
University of Newcastle  
Callaghan NSW 2308  
Australia  
State: NSW  
Postcode: 2308

Telephone: 02 49 215819  
Fax: 02 49 215833  
Email: Gionni.DiGravio@newcastle.edu.au

FINAL CHECKLIST

Before signing and dating your nomination form, please make sure that you have:

☑️ completed name, location, boundary, significance and criteria questions  
☑️ attached and labelled the location/boundary map and/or site plan  
☑️ attached and labelled any photographs and supporting evidence or extra information.

Signature of nominator: ___________________________  
Date: ___________________________

Send your completed nomination form and attachments:

By mail to:

The Nominations Manager  
Heritage Division  
Department of the Environment and Water Resources  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If the person making this nomination is, or is representing, a small business (a business having fewer than 20 employees), please provide an estimate of the time taken to complete this form.  
hours __________ minutes __________

Please Include

The time spent reading the instructions, working on the questions and obtaining the information; and  
The time spent by all employees in collecting and providing this information.

---

2 Lieutenant John Shortland of the *H.M.S. Reliance* named and charted the River on the 9th September 1797 whilst en route to Port Stephens. The letter to his father reporting the discovery is in *Historical Records of NSW*, Vol.3 pp481-82.


David Collins, *An account of the English colony in NSW from its first settlement in January 1788 to August 1801 : with remarks on the dispositions, customs, manners &c. of the native inhabitants of that country : to which are added some particulars of New Zealand, compiled ... from the Mss. of Lieutenant-Governor King, and an account of a voyage performed by Captain Flinders and Mr. Bass ... abstracted from the journal of Mr. Bass*, London : Printed by A. Strahan ... for T. Cadell and W. Davies ..., 1804, 2nd edition, 4 p328.


Captain Cook's voyages round the world ; the first performed in the years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771 ; the second in 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775 ; the third and last in 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780 ;for making discoveries in the northern and southern hemispheres, by order of his present Majesty. Containing a relation of all the interesting transactions which occurred in the course of the voyages. Including Captain Furneaux's journal of his proceedings during the separation of the ships. With a narrative of Commodore Phipps's voyage to the North Pole. And an abridgement of Foster's introduction to his history of northern discoveries on the progress of navigation. To which is added, Governor Phillip's voyage to Botany Bay [sic] ; with an account of the establishment of the colonies of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island, &c. &c Published Newcastle : Printed by M. Brown ..., 1790, 1790 V.1 pp437-39.

Lieutenant Grant to Governor King, 14th June 1801 in *Historical Records of New South Wales*, vol.4 Hunter and King 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, Sydney, Charles Potter, 1896, pp404-09.
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

List of Owners

- City of Newcastle, Frank Cordingley
  Acting General Manager
  City Administration Centre,
  282 King Street, Newcastle, NSW, 2300

- Road & Maritime Services, General Manager (Roads)
  20-44 Ennis Road, Milsons Point.
  LOCKED BAG 928, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

- NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW.
  Alison Stone (Dep. Director)
  437 Hunter Street
  Newcastle NSW 2300. NSW Government
  PO Box 2185 DANGAR NSW 2309
APPENDIX B

Coal River Precinct have the earliest coal mines in Southern Hemisphere and first discoveries of Coal in 1791 by escaping convicts (See: James Martin (fl.1786 - 1792) Memorandoms: Escape from Botany Bay, 1791: being 'Memorandoms' by James Martin; introduction and notes by Victor Crittenden (Canberra: Mulini Press, c1991 pp.2-3) and 1796. According to the 1930 Royal Commission into the Coal Industry (p.50):

“The discovery of good quality coal dates from the earliest period of white settlement in Australia... During early exploration of the coastal belt outcrops of coal were found near Newcastle in 1796 and at Coal Cliff, near Wollongong in the following year. The importance of the discovery was not overlooked at the time, although there was no knowledge then of the immense extent of these coal beds, which have been by far the most productive of all that have been discovered in Australia and have exercised a powerful influence upon the development of New South Wales.”

It was from Coal River Precinct that there was the first export of Coal in 1799. Coal Cliff proved unworkable, yet Newcastle (Coal River) proved to be the site of the first export.: “We have also some hopes that coal with which the country abounds will be of much Colonial advantage. A ship lately returned to Bengal loaded with coals, and it gave no small satisfaction to every person interested in the prosperity of the colony to see this first export of it; and I am hopeful from these advantages that New South Wales, however contemptible it may at present appear in the list of our colonies, may yet become an acquisition of value to the mother country.- 1799, September 8.” (Mr John Thomson to Captain Schanck, H.R.N.S.W., Vol. III, pp. 716 - 718)

Governor King to The Duke of Portland in a letter dated 21st August 1801 in speaking about the first export from Coal River says:

“I have established a small post there, consisting of a trusty non-commissioned officer and eight privates, with twelve prisoners to collect coals for such Government vessells as can go for them. Since the Lady Nelson went there, two Government vessells have brought 45 tons of coals which has been bartered with the master of the Cornwallis for articles for the public use. This being the first natural produce of the colony that has tended to any advantage, I have enclosed the Commissary’s statement
of that exchange, being more a matter of curiosity than of consequence. At present several boats are employed getting coals for the Cornwallis, and a prize brig, belonging to an individual, is now at the Coal Harbour lading with coals and timber for the Cape of Good Hope. By the inclosure your Grace will observe that I have made the coals and timber an article of revenue. How far it will be productive must depend on events.- Governor King to The Duke of Portland, H.R.N.S.W., Vol. IV, p. 477.

Coal River was also the site of the first return (or profit) made in the fledgling colony of New South Wales, (2 pounds, 5 shillings) and was recorded by Governor King in a letter to Sir Joseph Banks in August 1801

“The first cargo of coals brought from the Coal River in a Government vessel I exchanged with the master of the Cornwallis, who goes to Bengal from hence for iron, which he gave at 30 per cent. Profit for our coals at two pounds five shillings per chaldron. I believe this is the first return ever made from New South Wales.”

(Governor King to Sir Joseph Banks (Banks Papers.), H.R.N.S.W., Vol.IV, p. 359).

APPENDIX C

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1031461X.2012.706620
APPENDIX D

APPENDIX E

Aboriginal

The uniqueness of this culturally significant place and its association with Aboriginal and historic heritage themes are important to consider together because of the emergence of new knowledge, research and fresh interpretations of the place. Recent work has provided a greater understanding of Aboriginal culture and resources that they used in the area. Aboriginal people of the area are believed to be the only Aboriginal Tribe to discuss coal in their legends (Threlkeld in Gunson, 1974, 65).

Furthermore, Aboriginal culture was quite sophisticated and the mining of coal was common practice, long before European occupation. There is a strong theme of Aboriginal economy, with sites that include shell middens, grinding areas, clay digs and stone tools. Chert, is still present at the base of Nobbys head and was a major source of raw material for the fashioning of stone tools. It is very rare for such material to be found so close to a large regional city (Walker et al, 1989, 25). ‘The area today, known as Newcastle was an industrial and trading centre long before white intrusion.’ (Maynard, 2003, 250).

The Coal River Precinct holds great meaning and significance to the Awabakal peoples and local Aboriginal community because it is associated with Dreaming stories that depict the laws of the land and signify how people should behave in regard to the environment. The Awabakal people lived in this area enjoying its rich and varied environment. Despite extensive changes, evidence of Aboriginal occupation can still be found in the Landscape. Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld, a ‘Missionary to the Lake Macquarie Aborigines' between 1824 and 1859 was coached in his interpretations by M’Gill, an Awabakal chief, also known as Biraban meaning ‘eaglehawk’. Places along the Newcastle coastal environment are important to the Awabakal people, Whibayganba or Nobbys Headland is one of these places, and it is a Dreaming place for the Awabakal people and represents a site of fundamental importance to Aboriginal people. Also significant is Yi-ran-na-li a cliff face at South Newcastle Beach and is within the Government Domain Precinct. (Albrecht) This was a ‘fearful’ place where it was Aboriginal custom to be silent when passing the cliffs due to the occurrences of rock falls, believing that speaking would invariably make overhanging rock and stone fall to the ground.
Whibayganba or Nobbys Headland is a significant and spiritual Aboriginal place that tells the Dreaming story of the giant kangaroo. It is also related to the history of earthquakes in the region. This Awabakal Dreamtime story has been written about by various people as told by the Awabakal people. These recordings signify the important associations that were formed to increase understanding of Aboriginal culture and of the special relationships that existed between Aboriginal people and migrants of the area. A fresh interpretation of our cultural history is providing new knowledge of Aboriginal culture that is in need of extensive examination. The story of the ‘giant kangaroo’ (first published in the Christian Herald, 17th February 1855, Vol.III, p.5-6) tells of the codes of behavior that are significant to an understanding, and sophistication of Aboriginal culture in terms of Aboriginal lore/law (of the Kangaroo being chased by wallabies for a wrong deed and finding refuge on Nobbys Island, becoming trapped inside). The kangaroo was thought to put “desire before code of behaviour” after attacking a female wallaby. This “conflicted with the laws governing kinship pattern of survival based on the purity of blood lines. It destroyed the totemic structure, so strongly emphasised in the Bora teaching.” (Percy Haslam Papers, A5410(i) leaves 7). This illustrates a strong Awabakal culture and highlights the association that the Awabakal people had with nature and the environment. The Dreaming story of the ‘Giant Kangaroo’ is of historical importance to the Nation because it shows the continued link that people have with the Mulubinba landscape.

There is also evidence that Corroborees took place in and around the Government Domain, these events are documented in many written and visual sources (Percy Haslam Papers, A5410(i) leaf 7). Governor Macquarie’s visit to Newcastle in 1818 where he was entertained on the evening of the 6th August by Burigon (alias “Jack”), King of the Newcastle tribe along with about forty men, women and children who performed a “Carauberie” (Corroboree) at the rear of Newcastle’s Government House. (Macquarie’s Diary - Journal to and from Newcastle 27 July 1818 - 9 August 1818) This event was probably illustrated in Plate 6 of James Wallis’ An historical account of the colony of New South Wales and its dependent settlements: in illustration of twelve views engraved by W. Preston from drawings taken on the spot by Captain Wallis (London: Printed for R. Ackermann by J. Moyes, 1821) entitled “Corrobborree or Dance of the Natives of New South Wales New Holland”. This book was a tribute to Governor Macquarie, from Captain James Wallis, and his engraving of the corroboree has a grinning or laughing Burigon (Buriejou) sitting in the foreground as a charming memento. The site of Prospect Hill or Obelisk Hill was a place where feuds and punishments between tribes were resolved. A actual duel is recorded as occurring in November 1801 at the very dawn of European settlement in Newcastle. (see ‘A Native Duel in 1801 in Newcastle’ in Huntington, H. W. H. (Henry William Hemsworth) “History of Newcastle and the Northern District Number XXXVIII” from Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate. 14th December 1897).

A panorama painting by Edward Charles Close circa 1821 also portrays Aboriginals in corroboree at the site of the windmill, which later became the present Obelisk site. See Panorama of Newcastle 1821. Panorama of Newcastle: watercolor drawings by Edward Close. Call No. PXD 576 (State Library of New South Wales) Lycett also depicts Aboriginal people in his paintings, portraying the human story that connects the Awabakal story of Nobbys and the convict colony at Newcastle. The painting by Lycett “Aborigines resting by a campfire near the mouth of the Hunter River, Newcastle, New South Wales” shows Nobbys in the background and structures on Colliers Point. It was the Aboriginal connection to the site of the Government Domain that led Newcastle first chair of the Chamber of Commerce, John Bingle, to foresee the King Edward Park Recreation Reserve as a place where petty feuds and squabbles among his fellow Newcastle citizens could be resolved, just as they had been for thousands of years prior among the Aboriginal people. In his memoirs published in 1873 as The Past and Present Records of Newcastle, New South Wales, he said that his fractured and bickering community was at its best at times of patriotism (pp 45-46). It is interesting that the King Edward Park reserve later becomes a focal point for marches and commemorations after the war years prior to the formation of Civic Park. The Wattle Day League in celebration of Arbor Day would initiate commemorative tree plantings, and the processions would send their way from the Newcastle Post Office up Watt Street to King Edward Park. Another reflection of the influence of Aboriginal culture and place on European culture and place.
APPENDIX F

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM AWABAKAL TRADITIONAL OWNERS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION FOR COAL RIVER (MULUBINBA) AND GOVERNMENT DOMAIN NATIONAL NOMINATION
APPENDIX G

COAL RIVER PRECINCT - PHOTOGRAPHS