

Comments are invited on the City of Sydney's proposed heritage listing of industrial and warehouse buildings. Sixty-four listings are proposed for more than a hundred industrial sites across two-thirds of our local area, as shown in the attached map. These listings will be on exhibition from **2 June 2015** and open for comment until **30 June 2015**. Some of the subject sites are pictured below.

These listings were recommended in a recently completed heritage study; believed to be the first large-scale council study of industrial heritage in New South Wales. This study and the recommended listings seek to better acknowledge the value of this under-recognised form of heritage.

The following gives you a brief overview of the places proposed for listing.



Above: North Alexandria area (left); 602-612 Botany Road, Alexandria (centre); 13-15 Marshall Street, Surry Hills (right)

### **Industrial heritage**

The modest architecture or utilitarian nature of industrial buildings can mean they are overlooked for heritage listing. Yet the buildings proposed for listing represent Sydney's peak period of industrialisation during the twentieth century and the major changes industrialisation brought for the development of Sydney and Australia. As part of one of the largest known collections of industrial and warehouse buildings in Australia, these buildings survive as evidence of a former industrial heartland of Australia.

Through the number of people who worked at these sites and the products they made, used in many Australian households, farms, businesses and hospitals during the twentieth century, these industrial buildings arguably affected the lives of more Australians than some better-recognised types of heritage.

### **What places and why**

Most listings are for twentieth-century factories, warehouses and substations, plus sewer and water infrastructure. The largest concentrations are located in Alexandria, Surry Hills and Rosebery. Major changes and achievements of the twentieth century associated with these buildings are outlined below.

**Technology:** Many of the buildings represent technological achievements of their time. They include some of Sydney's first buildings constructed using reinforced concrete and plywood, sites of early Australian manufacturing of lifts and other twentieth-century technology, and one of the city's first skyscrapers. The substations record the early supply of electricity to Sydney's industries and homes.

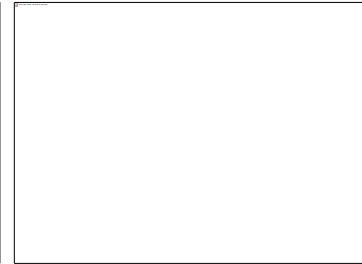
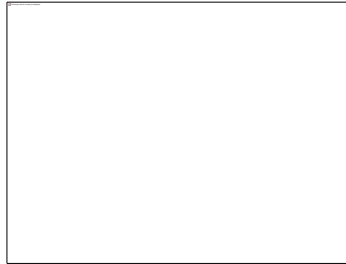
**World War II:** Many were also instrumental in supplying Australia's defence forces during World War II, including three shadow factories where Australian tanks, bombers and explosives were manufactured.

**Architecture:** Works by significant architects are represented, notably Harry Seidler and Robertson and Marks.

**Town planning:** A number of buildings demonstrate early achievements in Sydney's town planning, including model industrial buildings from one of Sydney's first planned suburbs of Rosebery, and amongst the first city slums reclaimed and replanned by the local council to improve the sanitation, buildings and streets of Sydney city.

**Australian industry & products:** These sites document the early development of Australian industries, well-known products and brands including Westinghouse fridges, Bonds clothing, Cyclone fences, Wrigley's gum and Rosella soup to name a few.

**Society:** They were also the site of major social change, such as employment of women, migrants and strikes for better working conditions.



Above: 52-54 O'Riordan Street, Alexandria (left); Sheas Creek stormwater channel (centre); 47-49 Bourke Road, Alexandria (right)