

# Menangle Park - The Riverview Hillside

Why does this site matter!!

Housing Matters but so does this historical pasturelands, only few sites left in Sydney remain but none so significant as the Menangle Valley.



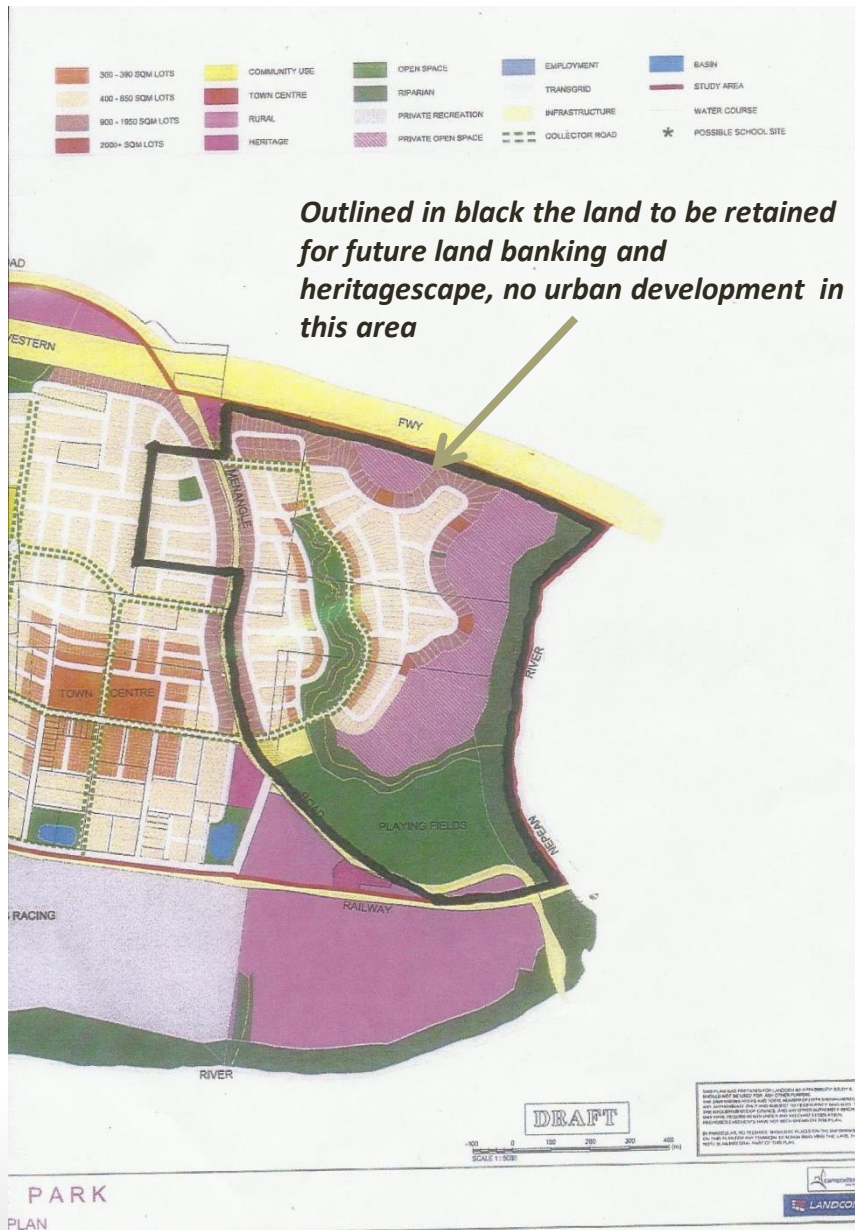
This is an historical landscape that inspired Governor Hunter in 1795 to coin the area the “The Cowpastures”.

- Campbelltown Council/Developers and The NSW Department of State Planning have approved the 40 hectare site on the hillside of MT Riverview for urban development. It is located within a 200 meter radius of AGL GAS DEPOT. What are the consequences in terms of human health and safety once the AGL GAS Depot site is reconstituted?
- Yes, housing is important but why should this pastureland along the Nepean River which lies on the south west boundary of Campbelltown Council be left in perpetuity for the people of Australia and not developed for housing. How can we communicate the values here?

# Challenging the proposed South West Macarthur Land Release, absolutely against the development of this heritage landscape but why?

## Importance of retention for the following reasons.

1. Natural gateway to the birthplace of Aussie agriculture – landscape to be retained for visitor Centre and eco heritage recreation.
2. Original pasturelands virtually untouched since pre -colonial times
3. The high vantage point of the hillside points to landmarks significant for pointing out the important agricultural first of the Menangle valley.
4. The potential for future food production from the site either farming, dairy and herd animals.
5. Small pockets of pasturelands left in Sydney should be kept for food security





## 2. PROPERTY SERVICES

### 2.1 Menangle Park (Council Holdings) EOI

#### Reporting Officer

Manager Property Services

#### Attachments

Nil

#### Purpose

To seek Council approval to undertake an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the marketing/sale of Council's development land holdings at Menangle Park.

#### History

Council has previously over a period of time purchased a number of properties at Menangle Park as part of its development reserve.

In recent times Council in conjunction with UrbanGrowth NSW have prepared release area studies for the proposed Menangle Park Release Area. This has included the exhibition of the draft LEP for the Menangle Park Release Area which closed in February 2013.

In the intervening period Council has been seeking a commitment from the NSW State Government in respect to the funding and provision of the infrastructure necessary to accommodate the release area of approximately 3600 homes.

In light of recent representations a briefing was provided to Council on 25 August 2015 which is subject to further discussions in the body of this report.

#### Report

Council has approximately 134 hectares of land situated within the proposed Menangle Park Release Area which has been identified for residential development, provision of infrastructure and open space. This land is predominantly vacant land which is currently zoned Non Urban 1 (40 hectare minimum) under Campbelltown IDO No. 15 and is currently used for grazing purposes under agistment.

There are two distinct holdings one situated on the northern side of Menangle Road having an area of approximately 9.567 hectares and the larger holding on the southern side of Menangle Road having an area of approximately 124.41 hectares. Having being acquired as part of the development reserve the properties are identified as being classified as operational land.

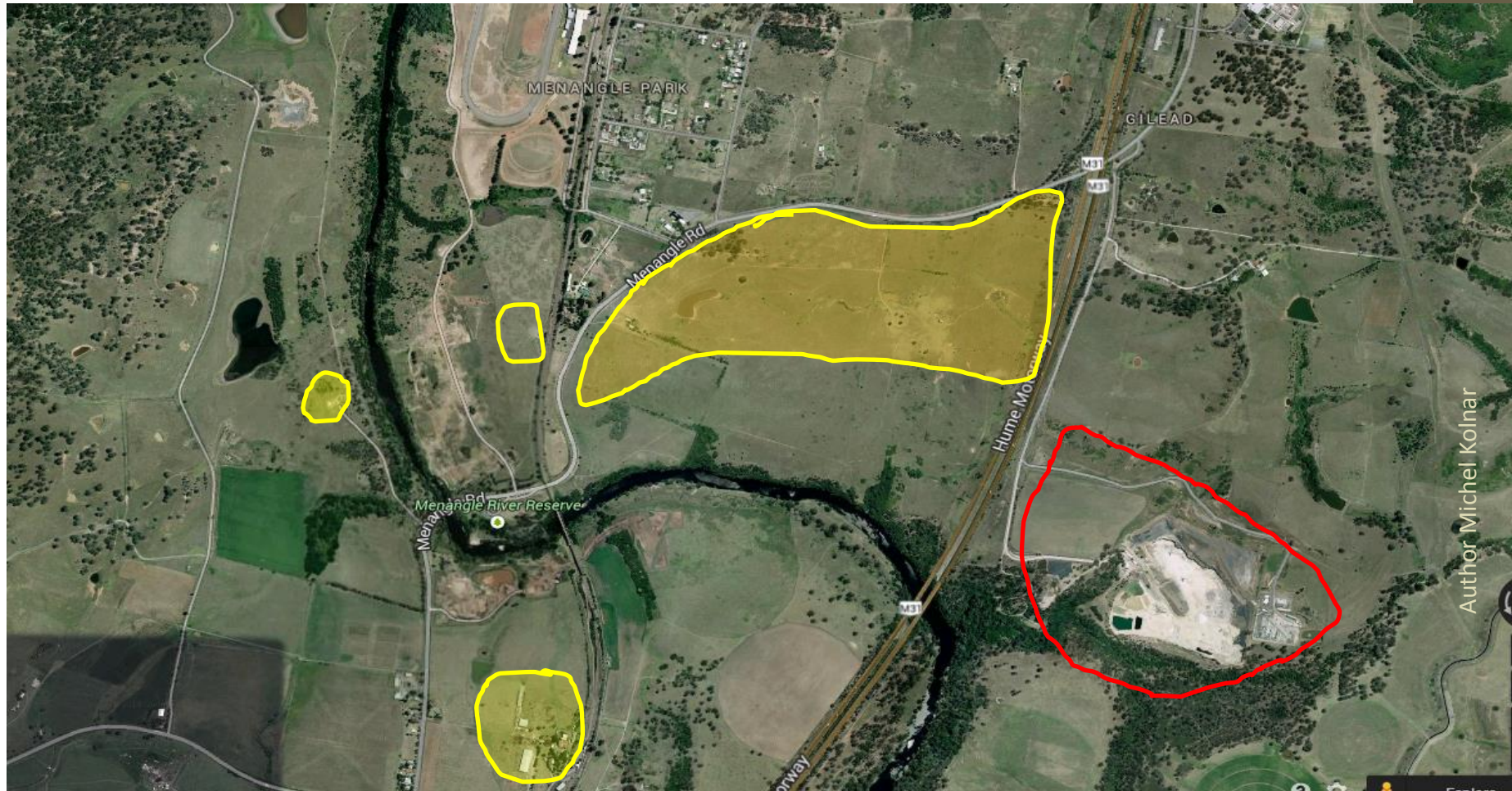
Campbelltown Council want to sell the community land immediately to profit from the South West Urban Land Release. See EOI

## Answer

- This land positioned on the fringes on the boundaries of Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils has been a prime pasture land prior to European colonization and throughout post colonization of Australia.
- Maintained under management by Aboriginal peoples pre-colonisation, the open grassland divided by the Nepean River was a natural food bowl harvested for the grazing wildlife of Kangaroo, migratory birds and reptiles.
- From the time of First Fleet this pastureland was inhabited because of its natural abundance, firstly by the lost herd of the first fleet in April 1788 and then claimed by John Macarthur through land grants petitioned to Lord Camden in 1801. From the Camden Estate the regional land supported the Merino flocks and government cattle herds. This land is the last of heritage remnant pastureland of Sydney, it should be land banked for its future food production potential and recognized for its heritage value and contribution to the wheat, cattle, dairy and sheep industries. The high hillsides (MT Riverview) owned currently by Campbelltown Council has been proposed for 1500 houses under the NSW department of planning, Macarthur South West land Release.
- However, the challenge has been communicating the heritagescape that lies here. There is a complete failure by layers of local and state government to recognize the agricultural heritage of this proposed housing site and consider how the unique landscape of river flats and high ridges created a food bowl that should be retained and left in memory of the contribution this site and the high views over the Menangle valley through to the Razorback Mountains made to feeding of the Sydney colony and building of nationhood.
- The essence of the land remains untouched it is a small site to consider for land banking and other retrospective farming activities such as re-introduction of tenant farming and developing open museums capes of heritage tourism through to visitor centers explaining to local and international peoples the landmark sites of the birth place of Australian Agriculture.
- Why bury the land that highlights the beauty and origins of Australian agriculture for as little as 1500 houses. Please keep this important and historical farmingscape.
- See below a google map representing the land features to be considered.
- Also see a map of the famous site which can be seen from the Riverview Hill site planned for housing.
- This site would best left for the benefit of the greater population than for the housing of a few.
- Both for the interpretation of history a living landscape and for future food security. This site is and should be retained as a future Sydney food bowl.



# Instant Threats



1500 hundred houses  
planned

AGL GAS COLLECTION SITE  
WITHIN 200METRES OF  
PROPOSED LAND RELEASE

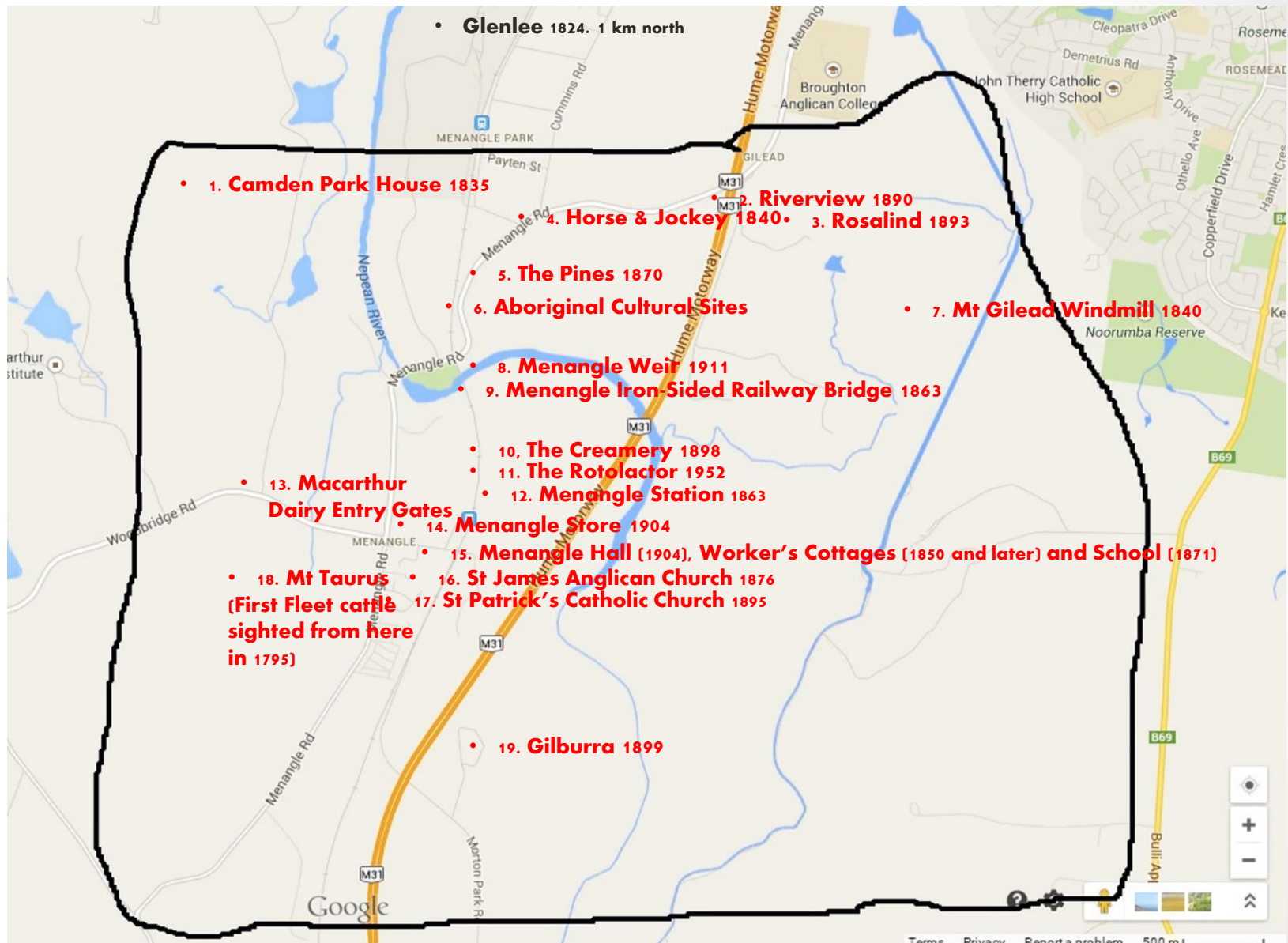


Camden House

Rotorlactor Paddocks



Tabcorp Park permitted to destroy  
Aboriginal site for building of stable  
complex , Campbelltown Council  
Approved February 2014



**Black line indicates boundary listing.**