

## waterloo incinerator site



history of the incinerator



### a controversial past

The Waterloo Incinerator, which used to incinerate the municipal waste neighbouring councils including Waverley & Woollahra, has stood on its current site for the last 35 years. The first 20 years of its existence were controversial to say the least, with residents and neighbours complaining of pollution from virtually the first day the Incinerator opened. Only since the Incinerator was closed in 1997 (after much community protest) has its presence on the South Sydney skyline been benign.



### waste disposal for the eastern suburbs

The use of the site as a waste disposal venue is quite different from its earlier history as a major industrial site, milling flour in the early 19th century and producing bricks through the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Even more different still is the earliest known use of the site as the hunting, fishing and living ground of the Kamilaroi people. This sub-clan of the Eora were the first Aboriginal people to make contact with European explorers and the first to be devastated by introduced disease.

The Waterloo Flour Mills was the original business to operate on the site. The Mill, which was owned by Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levy, was one of the largest commercially successful employers of labour in the district during the first decades of the 19th century.

The Waterloo Company & the Industrial Brick Co which operated on the site between c.1914 until 1966 were similarly successful major employers.

Waverley and Woollahra Councils purchased the site in 1966 and the Incinerator commenced operations in 1972.

There are a variety of ways (including public art) that the stages of the site's history and pre-history can be acknowledged in new public spaces in the Green Square Town Centre.



Waterloo Incinerator



## history of the incinerator

# significant dates in the history of the waterloo incinerator

Long term home of the Kamilaroi People (sub-clan of the Eora)

First contact with European explorers 1788

Death of the last of the Eora due to smallpox, influenza & measles 1820

Waterloo flour mills erected by Daniel Cooper 1821

World War I: site converted to a brickworks 1914

Waterloo Municipality Garbage Destructor established on site 1933

Garbage Destructor no longer used but Waterloo Firebrick Company & Industrial Brick Co still operational 1949

Site purchased by Waverley & Woollahra Councils 1966

Development application to build current Incinerator approved 1968

Waterloo Incinerator begins burning waste 1972

After community protest, State Pollution Control Commission investigates emissions & issues unacceptable air pollution statement 1991

Waterloo Incinerator closed after much community protest 1997

New Planning Controls for Green Square Town Centre approved 2006

Work due to commence on first element of the Green Square Town Centre - demolition of the Incinerator 2007



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