



# maitland

## city council

## **A brief history of the land at Walka Water Works and surrounding Council land**

### **Walka Water Works**

- The land at Walka was resumed by the then State Government in connection with the supply of water on 21 June 1881.
- The water supply works ceased in 1931.
- The site was reopened as a temporary coal power station in 1951.
- The power station was decommissioned and dismantled on site in 1978.
- Walka Water Works site became Crown Reserve 97511 for the purpose of 'preservation of historical sites and buildings' notified on 2 November 1984. The reserve comprised the whole of Lot 445 DP 722263 being an area of approximately 64 hectares. The area of the reserve remains as 64 hectares today.
- After 1984 and prior to 2007, the reserve was managed by a board of volunteers and Ex Officio members on behalf of the State Government.
- Maitland City Council was appointed to manage the reserve in 2007.

### **Council owned community land east of Walka Water Works**

- Council resolved to acquire a former dairy farm adjacent to Walka Water Works on 12 April 2005.
- The land was purchased using developer contribution funds from Council's 1995 Citywide Contributions Plan.
- It was thought at the time the site may be able to address a deficiency in active open space and be used for active recreation purposes.
- It was acknowledged at the time of purchase that the site was significantly constrained within a designated floodway. Importantly, however, it had direct river access and frontage.
- This land is shown below shaded as orange, being Community land, and comprises several lots totalling 47.629ha.
- This land has never been a part of the Walka Water Works reserve.

## Land west of Walka Water Works

- West Maitland Municipal Council acquired this site west of Walka (on the other side of the railway line) in 1941.
- From 1943 an abattoir was operated initially by Council and subsequently by a private operator, providing employment to the local community.
- In 1995 after the abattoir was closed, the site was planned to be developed into industrial and residential lots.
- Over time lots were sold and there are only two remaining residual lots owned by Council. One is used by the SES and the other is vacant land. The whole former abattoir site is shaded in red on the map below and the two remaining lots are shaded in yellow within that boundary.
- These land parcels have never been part of the Walka Water Works reserve.

## Map of Walka Water Works and surrounding lands

