

Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office Update

September 2016



Latest news

UrbanGrowth NSW is restoring the outside of the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office as part of the Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation and Transport Program.

The heritage restoration works will include the balconies, building paintwork, ground surfaces and connection to utilities. We had the plans reviewed by heritage specialists at Sydney Trains, the City of Sydney and OCP Architects.

Carfax Commercial Constructions and NASR Group will undertake the works over approximately 12 months. Standard work hours will be 7.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 7.30 am to 3.30pm on Saturdays, with safety inspections from 7.00am. We will keep you up to date with this monthly newsletter and invite enquiries to 1800 756 953.

What's happening at the CME?

This month the key task of restoring the brickwork will begin. Sections of brick will be covered with a special mask that, when removed, lifts paint and corrosive grime and will be carefully removed from the site.

Paint in buildings of this era often contains lead and this method of removal contains any airborne dust.

A scaffold wrapped in shade cloth, polyurethane ground protection, silt socks and safety mesh will contain dust and debris.



Timber damage on the exterior wooden balcony

Work in progress

A unique scaffold that will support and contain the building will be built on one section of the building. When restoration on this first section is complete, the scaffold will move to the next section.

Work coming up

Carfax will identify the type of timber used on the balcony and ensure the same kind of timber is used in restoration work. Ironwork will be carefully removed for restoration at one of Sydney's working foundries.



The Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation and Transport Program aims to progressively transform government-owned land along 3km of the rail corridor between Central and Erskineville Stations over the next 30 years. It will help to meet current and future needs for local residents and a growing global Sydney by providing new community facilities and open space, a mix of new housing and employment opportunities, and improved connections across the rail corridor.

Central to Eveleigh Program news

Local businesses had the opportunity to learn more about the Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation and Transport Program at a briefing in Redfern in early September.

More than 30 local businesspeople representing a range of industries attended the event, delivered in partnership with the South Sydney Business Chamber at the creative hub, 107 Projects, in Redfern.

It was a valuable opportunity to have a lively and productive discussion about future opportunities and challenges for business in the area.

About the CME Office

The Chief Mechanical Engineers worked in this building to design the steam locomotives, passenger carriages and freight wagons that were manufactured in the Eveleigh Workshops. They were also responsible for planning new rail routes and managing the railway workshops.

Drafters sat at drawing boards positioned in natural light using pencils, compasses, protractors and triangles to draw by hand the detail, dimensions and visual assembly information for locomotives, trains and other machinery.

Eveleigh Stories

"This place was an industrial city within the city of Sydney."
Field Day interview former Eveleigh worker Bill Driver 2010

For many years the NSW Railways, of which Eveleigh formed a significant part, were the biggest industrial employer in Australia. Generations of engineers and craftsmen received their training here.

Eveleigh Stories have been told by historic archive material and the voices of people in our community who worked at the Eveleigh Railway Workshops. Take a self-guided historical tour on the mobile friendly website or contribute your story to www.eveleighbstories.com.au



Industrial designers and draftsmen 1908
Powerhouse Museum Collection

UrbanGrowth NSW reasonably believes this document is correct at the date of publication (or date of printing), but gives no warranty or representation as to its accuracy or completeness. To the extent permitted by law, UrbanGrowth NSW (including its agents and employees) disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with, reliance upon, or use of this document by any person.

