

Urban Consolidation

Pymont peninsula experienced dramatic changes of fortune, as described by the following authors:

- 1890s: "In the 1890s, Pymont and Ultimo were thriving industrial suburbs with a combined population of 19,177" (Powerhouse Museum, 2005, Paradise, purgatory and hellhole: a history of Pymont and Ultimo: 19 March 2005-January 2006: teachers' exhibition notes, p3)
- 1891: "... by 1891 Pymont and Ultimo had become the most densely populated area in NSW" (Powerhouse Museum, 2005, Paradise, purgatory and hellhole: a history of Pymont and Ultimo: 19 March 2005-January 2006: teachers' exhibition notes, p3)
- 1920: "By 1920 Ultimo-Pymont was fully developed but since that time there has been a steady deterioration in the industrial activities of the area" (McCauley, Conran & Briger, 1983, Merino Central: Environmental Impact Statement: Conversion of AML&F, Goldsbrough Mort and Pitt Son & Badgery woolstores Ultimo/Pymont to commercial centres, p4)
- Late 1950s: O'Brien noted of Pymont: "The area became known as Sydney's 'Sink' and it bred people to match. As late as the 1950s, it was said that if you hadn't lost all your teeth by age 13, you weren't a real Pymont lad" (O'Brien, G., 1987, Pymont braces for the development axe, Sydney Morning Herald, 26 December 1987, p.6)
- Early 1960s: "There could hardly be a locality in Sydney which has suffered as much as Ultimo/Pymont during the last twenty years. Rapid changes in transportation and goods handling technologies have caused the incursion of freeways and the redundancy of large facilities surrounding Darling Harbour. The city markets and the railway goods yard itself have been rendered obsolete and their relocation has left large tracts of derelict real estate in their wake" (McCauley Conran & Briger, 1983, Merino Central One: conversion of AML&F woolstores to commercial centre, p7)
- Late 1960s: Developments from the late 1960s saw the wool handling industry shift from Ultimo-Pymont to Yennora (McCauley, Conran & Briger, 1983, Merino Central: Environmental Impact Statement: Conversion of AML&F, Goldsbrough Mort and Pitt Son & Badgery woolstores Ultimo/Pymont to commercial centres, p3)
- 1960s/early 1970s: There was a 'browning effect' in Darling Harbour, Pymont and Ultimo ... due to rusting of sheds etc." (Pentecost, R., 1987, The Darling Harbour Development Project, p2)
- 1974: "Due to the obsolescence of the Darling Harbour Goods Yard, the 1974 Sydney Area Transportation Study recommended the phasing out and relocation of their rail distribution functions and that the vacant Yard be sold for residential and commercial purposes" (McCauley, Conran & Briger, 1983, Merino Central: Environmental Impact Statement: Conversion of AML&F, Goldsbrough Mort and Pitt Son & Badgery woolstores Ultimo/Pymont to commercial centres, p18)

- 1978: "The prevailing atmosphere of Pyrmont was that of a forgotten decayed inner suburb" (Stapleton Transportation Planning, 1983, Merino Central: transport report: conversion of AML&F, Goldsbrough Mort and Pitt Son & Badgery woolstores Ultimo/Pyrmont to commercial centres, p2).
- 1980s: "By the 1980s the area had experienced a serious decline in industrial and maritime activity as industries moved out or were superseded" (NSW Department of Housing, 1994, Bowman Street Master Plan)
- 1984: "Residential development [at Pyrmont] is currently limited to scattered pockets of old houses, some of which are dilapidated and some of which have been restored or better maintained, including a substantial Council flat at Ways Terrace" (Maritime Services Board of NSW, 1984, Environmental Impact Statement: Redevelopment of Berths Nos 19-25 Pyrmont, p46)
- 1989: "In early 1989, a cabinet subcommittee was appointed to oversee the preparation of the City West Urban Strategy" (NSW Department of Planning, 1990, City West Urban Strategy: Planning Opportunities)
- 2004: "In 2004, the Pyrmont-Ultimo area is a place renewed" (OxleyLearning.org, 2009)

Massive changes in the employment base of the peninsula were reflected in a declining population, from some 30,000 people at the turn of the twentieth century to a low of 1586 in 1981. Almost 95% of the peninsula's population had left in just 80 years.

Source: John Broadbent, *Transformations: ecology of Pyrmont peninsula 1788-2008*, p572

Population changes on Pymont peninsula

Year	Total
1890	19,000
1891	19,177
~1900	30,000
1953	5,000
1966	4,914
1971	2,598
1976	2,013
1978	<2,000
1981	1,586
1986	2,631
1990	~3,200
1991	3,132
1994	3,000
1996	8,000
2001	10,949
2002	11,624
2003	12,584
2004	12,764
2005	14,000
2006	17,579

City of Sydney website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/

CMPS&F Environmental, 1994, An Environmental Impact Statement to accompany a development application for the extraction of yellow block sandstone at McCaffery's site, Pymont

McCauley, Conran & Briger, 1983, Merino Central: Environmental Impact Statement: Conversion of AML&F, Goldsbrough Mort and Pitt Son & Badgery woolstores Ultimo/Pymont to commercial centres

Maritime Services Board of NSW, 1984, Environmental Impact Statement: Redevelopment of Berths Nos 19-25 Pymont

NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996, Affordable Housing: Revised City West Affordable Housing Program

The Point News, 1997

Powerhouse Museum, 2005, Paradise, purgatory and hellhole: a history of Pymont and Ultimo: 19 March 2005-January 2006: teachers' exhibition notes

City Residential Monitor No. 39:

<http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/AboutSydney/CityResearch/ResidentialMonitor.asp>

City West Development Corporation and Margaret Park, 1997, Doors were always open: Recollections of Pymont and Ultimo

Source: John Broadbent, *Transformations: ecology of Pymont peninsula 1788-2008*, p573