

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2018



PRESENT	
Cr Mithra Cox (Chair)	Fiona Reynolds
Meredith Hutton	John Shipp
Douglas Boleyn	Sharralyn Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE	
David Green – Manager Land Use Planning- WCC	Carly Boag – Heritage Officer - WCC
Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage - WCC	Hilary Powell – Local Studies Library – WCC
Chris Stewart – Manager City Strategy - WCC	

1 WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Lorraine Neate, Martin Gorrick, Georgina Element, Andrew Carfield (Director Planning + Environment), Megan McKell (Cultural Development) and Mark Sleigh (Destination Wollongong).

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Councillor Cox (Chair) provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – Meredith Hutton declared a pecuniary interest in relation to her property which is noted on the list of draft Stage 1 Schedule Review changes document.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2018

The Reference Group Resolved that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by Fiona Reynolds.

6 MOUNT KEIRA SUMMIT PARK DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT –

The Reference Group discussed Council's Mount Keira Summit Park Draft Plan of Management and the associated National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Illawarra Escarpment Draft Mountain Biking Strategy.

Sharralyn Robinson expressed the local Aboriginal Community's frustration and disappointment that the cultural significance of Mount Keira in particular, does not appear to be reflected in the NPWS Illawarra Escarpment Draft Mountain Biking Strategy and that the consultation with the Aboriginal Community during development of the strategy was inadequate.

Concern was also raised regarding the recategorisation of land surrounding the Mount Keira Summit Park from Cultural Significance to general community use as per Part 2 of the Mount Keira Summit Park Draft Plan of Management. The potential for Council to enter into licences or leases and construct structures or other hard infrastructure in this in this area, without consultation with the local Aboriginal Community if the land is recategorised, was discussed by the Reference Group.

The importance of the scenic, ecological and landscape values of Mount Keira was also raised.

Following the discussion, the Heritage Reference Group resolved to recommend that:

- 1 ***The area currently categorised as cultural significance remain and not be recategorised as general community use;***
- 2 ***Council recognises the enormous Aboriginal Heritage values of Mount Keira and recommend that Council work with the ILALC to manage and protect the cultural, scenic and environmental heritage values of Mount Keira;***
- 3 ***Council's Heritage Staff convey the view of the Heritage Reference Group that they oppose Mountain Biking on Mount Keira and Mount Kembla, to the Council representatives on the Mountain Bike Strategy Working Group;***
- 4 ***An extension be requested for the Mt Keira Draft POM and NPWS Illawarra Escarpment Draft Mountain Biking Strategy consultation period to allow the community more time to make submissions.***

Moved by Sharralyn Robinson and seconded by Meredith Hutton.

5 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY UPDATE –

A video was shown by Cnr Cox of an adaptive reuse project in Germany. The Reference Group then discussed the current gaps in the 2014-2017 Heritage Strategy and the priorities of the current membership for the updated Strategy. The following key priorities came out of the discussion:

- Incentivising the adaptive re-use of industrial sites within the Wollongong LGA for a variety of purposes that are not restricted to residential;
- Identifying key Industrial Sites that are likely to be re-zoned in the future;
- Developing a strategy and vision for the adaptive re-use of these sites;
- The Regional Museum feasibility Assessment undertaken in 2011 be re-visited;

- Consider investigating the feasibility of including a repository for excavated archaeological artefacts NSW wide as part of the Regional Museum;
- Prioritise developing a strategy for protecting cultural landscapes, significant trees, plantings and open spaces in the Wollongong LGA.

General planning issues were also raised by the membership.

ACTION:

Heritage Staff draft a working version of the Heritage Strategy 2019 - 2022 to be reviewed by the members for comment at the next Reference Group Meeting in February 2019.

6 HERITAGE SCHEDULE REVIEW PROJECT BACKGROUND

Joel Thompson provided an overview of Council's Heritage Schedule Review Project in accordance with the presentation material. Members were provided with a copy of the draft Schedule of LEP Amendments for Stage 1 updates for their information and consideration.

ACTION:

Heritage Schedule Review slideshow presentation and other background material to be circulated to the Reference Group Membership.

9 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

Fiona Reynolds– Fiona advised that the Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust is continuing to liaise with Council to make submissions to various Development Applications that affect heritage properties.

Joel noted that Development Applications were being referred to the local branch of the National Trust and the Illawarra Historical Society by Council's Heritage Staff on a case by case basis.

Meredith Hutton – Meredith advised that the Old Wollongong Court House Committee has finished the exterior painting works of the Old Wollongong Courthouse and the interior painting works are about to commence. The colours are based on paint scraping of the original colour scheme.

Sharralyn Robinson – Sharralyn brought the Reference Group's attention to the Recreation Spaces for Dogs 2018 Policy that is currently on exhibition by Council. Three new dog off leash park areas are proposed in the policy, including an area off Bott Drive Bellambi. The documents are available on Council's website at the link below:

<https://www.haveyoursaywollongong.com.au/Recspaces4dogs>

10 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Joel noted that information has been provided in the Heritage Staff Report relating to updates on various Council and other projects for the members review.

11 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Following discussion of future meeting dates, members agreed that the second Thursday of every second month was a suitable time to schedule the Heritage Reference Group meetings for 2019. The 2019 meeting dates are as following:

- *Thursday 14th February 2019;*
- *Thursday 14th March;*
- *Thursday 9th May 2019;*
- *Thursday 25 July 2019 (note – this is the 4th Thursday of the month to avoid School Holidays);*
- *Thursday 12 September 2019;*
- *Thursday 14 November 2019.*

All meetings will be held at 5.15pm in the Level 9 Function Room unless an alternative venue is advised.

12 OTHER MATTERS

No other matters arose.

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held on 14 February 2019.

