

# MINUTES

## WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2019



### PRESENT

Councillor Mithra Cox

Martin Gorrick

Georgina Element

Meredith Hutton

John Schipp

Lorraine Neate

### IN ATTENDANCE

David Green – Manager City Strategy (Acting) WCC

Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC

Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC

- 1 **WELCOME** Councillor Cox opened the meeting at 5.17 pm and welcomed all present.
- 2 **APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Councillor Ann Martin, Director Planning + Environment (Acting) Chris Stewart, Doug Boleyn, Fiona Reynolds and Sharralyn Robinson.
- 3 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** – Councillor Cox provided an Acknowledgement of Country.
- 4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – Georgina Element declared a Non-Pecuniary, Non-Significant Conflict of Interest in Item 11.3 due to the site being in close proximity to her place of living and stated that she would remain in the room for discussion on this item.

Noted by the Reference Group.

### 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019

The Reference Group resolved that *the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 May 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

Moved by Councillor Cox and seconded by Meredith Hutton

### 6 STREAM HILL UPDATE

Council staff advised that an onsite meeting occurred this week with various Council Divisions in relation to the scope and costing exercise for delivery of the necessary works. The scope of works for Stage 1 including ensuring vegetation protection, water entry, roof protection and stabilisation of the site was discussed. It was noted that Property Division were preparing a report to EMC seeking approval to secure funding for these works.

The potential for the vegetation to increase risks of further damage to the structures as well as bushfires were discussed and its removal was noted as a priority.

The Reference Group resolved that –

- 1 *Wollongong City Council staff write to the Property Division advocating on behalf of the Heritage Reference Group, that this report be discussed at the Executive Management Committee as a priority.*
- 2 *This item become a Standing Item on the Agenda for the Heritage Reference Group.*
- 3 *Property Division be invited to provide an update to the Heritage Reference Group at the next meeting.*

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by Martin Gorrick.

## 7 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY 2019/2022 EXHIBITION

Council staff advised that the submissions included in the draft Heritage Strategy 2019-2022 highlighted the importance of social media in relation to cultural tourism. Council's new Website has now also been connected to the NSW Heritage Database Search option to provide the community with more easily accessible information on local heritage items.

Members discussed the importance of at risk rural landscape and industrial sites throughout the LGA and the conservation of cultural landscapes, particularly in relation to the Illawarra Escarpment. The Membership agreed that a stronger emphasis could be placed on the conservation of cultural landscapes in the Strategy and that the Implementation Actions relating to the conservation of rural, natural and industrial landscapes could be strengthened.

The Reference Group Resolved that ***the Draft Strategy be updated with the recommended Actions and Minor Amendments to the revised Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022 following Council's Heritage Staff liaising with Martin Gorrick in relation to rural and cultural landscape actions, prior to reporting to Council for adoption as Council Policy.***

Moved by John Shipp and seconded by Lorraine Neate.

## 8 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE GRANT FUND 2019/2020

Council staff addressed the meeting explaining that the Sub-Committee who assessed the applications in relation to the Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund for 2019/2020 comprised of Doug Boleyn, Fiona Reynolds, Meredith Hutton and Martin Gorrick.

Council staff gave an update on the Northern Uniting Church in Bulli explaining to the Group that \$10,000, highlighted in the table (attachment to the report) had been allotted to this project due to the urgent need for conservation works, which include structural repairs, addressing drainage issues and removing concrete paving which contributes to moisture problems.

Council staff advised that funding had been provided in the past to the Mount Keira Scout Camp and advised that Council has become aware that the site is owned by National Parks and Wildlife Service and as a State Government Asset it cannot currently be considered for funding under the Financial Assistance Policy. The Membership noted that in moving forward the Policy may need to be amended in order to allow projects initiated by community groups such as the Scout Camp to be considered.

David Green spoke in relation to the application for heritage interpretation for the Miners' Cottage along Lawrence Hargrave Drive, as part of the Grand Pacific Walk, which was also raised in a Notice of Motion to Council, in relation to signage along that route. This action was also addressed as part of the report to Council for Item 7 – Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022.

Georgina Element advised that she had written to Paul Scully in relation to the Mt Kembla Mine Site State Heritage nomination and advised that she would circulate this correspondence for the Reference Group's information and informal discussion at the next meeting.

The Reference Group Resolved that –

- 1 The Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund allocation be received and noted.**
- 2 The Sub-Committee be thanked for their work in assessing the submissions.**

Moved by Georgina Element and seconded by Meredith Hutton

## 9 SMITH'S HILL FORT BATTERY

Council staff gave an update of the issues at Smith's Hill Fort Battery Park advising that an onsite meeting had taken place with Illawarra Rotary on 11 September to discuss maintenance and conservation works to various components of the Park. It was confirmed that Illawarra Rotary will continue to assist with minor maintenance works with support from Council.

The membership discussed the future activation of Battery Park and it was noted that discussions had taken place with Destination Wollongong regarding potential future heritage trail tours.

The Reference Group resolved that the information be received and noted.

Moved by John Shipp and seconded by Georgina Element.

## 10 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

**John Shipp (Illawarra Historical Society and Museum)** mentioned concerns on behalf of volunteers in relation to risks associated with ensuring the safe evacuation of children during a fire whilst visiting the Illawarra Museum and potential safety upgrades being explored by the Historical Society.

**Meredith Hutton** (National Trust) advised that the Annual General Meeting of the National Trust was scheduled soon. Meredith also raised concerns in relation to the Garrawarra Hospital site, advising that she had met with Ryan Park on this matter. David Green advised of the formal resolution of Council on 24 June 2019 objecting to the demolition of buildings at Garrawarra Hospital Centre. The potential for a site visit with NSW Infrastructure and the Reference Group was raised.

There was general discussion regarding Council's opportunity to be involved in the upcoming National Trust Heritage Festival in 2020.

**Action – Heritage Festival 2020 to be placed on the Agenda for the November Heritage Reference Group meeting.**

## 11 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Council staff provided a brief overview of the information contained within the Heritage Staff report including the following items -

### 11.1 Bankbook Park Renaming

Council staff confirmed the submission of a Naming Application to the Geographical Names Board in May 2019 for the Reserve to be officially named "Bankbook Park" was approved.

### 11.2 Wollongong Harbour Masterplan Update

It was noted by the Membership that on 24 June 2019, Council unanimously resolved to endorse the Draft Masterplan. The Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust have written to Council and expressed concern about the endorsement of the Masterplan and outlined their concerns with some of the inclusions in the Plan, which have been noted and raised by Council's Heritage Staff.

### 11.3 Proposed Road Renaming, Cordeaux Road Kembla Heights

Council staff raised the proposed renaming of the northern part of Cordeaux Road at Kembla Heights, that was initiated by Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) as the numbering on the subject road is not in sequence.

The Reference Group discussed the potential heritage impacts of the proposed Road Renaming. Council's Heritage Staff noted that a formal submission objecting to the proposal is being prepared.

The Reference Group resolved to:

**Object to the road renaming proposal of Cordeaux Road noting the historical significance of the Road and the Cordeaux Valley. The Reference Group suggests renumbering of Cordeaux Road as a potential solution.**

Moved by John Shipp and seconded by Lorraine Neate

## 12 OTHER MATTERS

### Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Plan

General discussion took place regarding the Draft Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Plan that has been prepared jointly by Shellharbour Council and Wollongong City Council and was recently on public exhibition, including issues relating to –

- Aboriginal Heritage
- Jetty issues – Dicks Wharf
- Shore Birds
- Foreshore matters
- Mangroves

#### **Chairperson for Heritage Reference Group**

Councillor Cox advised that this Meeting could possibly be her last meeting in the Chair, explaining that every September a report is submitted to Council electing Councillor Delegates to Committees and Reference Groups.

The Reference Group resolved to:

***Move a Vote of Thanks to Councillor Cox for her support and role in the Chair for the last 12 months.***

Moved Georgina Element seconded John Shipp.

The meeting concluded at 7.02pm.

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Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held on Thursday, 14 November 2019.

## ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Who	Status
1	Site visit to the former Corrimal Coke Works be organised for the Reference Group Members.	Heritage Staff	Carried over - Awaiting meeting date from proponent – to align with exhibition dates.
2	Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund – Sub-Committee meeting to assess 2019-20 grant applications	Sub-committee /Heritage Staff	<b>Complete</b> - Meeting held on 28 June 2019
3	Stream Hill site visit be organised for Heritage Reference Group Members	Heritage Staff	<b>Complete</b> - Site Inspection held June 2019.
4	Council's Heritage Staff to seek an update on the NSW Heritage Nomination for Kembla Mine and Village from the NSW Heritage Council.	Heritage Staff	Georgina Element to circulate response from Heritage Branch
5	Heritage Festival to be placed on the Agenda for the November Heritage Reference Group meeting.	Heritage Staff	<b>Complete</b> – Agenda item 8