

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON THURSDAY 19 AUGUST 2021



| PRESENT | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Martin Gorrick | Fiona Reynolds |
| Meredith Hutton | Lorraine Neate |
| John Shipp | Sharralyn Robinson |
| Cr Ann Martin (from 6pm) | |

| IN ATTENDANCE | |
|---|---|
| David Green – Land Use Planning Manager WCC | Chris Stewart – City Strategy Manager WCC |
| Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC | |
| Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC | |

The membership appointed Chris Stewart as acting Chairperson for the meeting in Councillor Ann Martin's absence.

1 WELCOME

The chair opened the meeting at 5:25pm and welcomed all present remotely via Microsoft Teams, due to the Covid19 Pandemic social distancing requirements.

2 APOLOGIES

Georgina Element, Hillary Powell and Doug Boleyn.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chris Stewart provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed all Aboriginal people present.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil declarations of interest.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2020

The Reference Group recommend that *the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30 March 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

Moved by John Shipp and seconded by Meredith Hutton.

Councillor Martin joined the meeting at 6pm and resumed the role of Chairperson.

6 CORRIMAL COKE WORKS – EXHIBITION

David Green Land Use Planning Manager gave an update on the public exhibition of the Corrimal Coke Works Planning Proposal Exhibition. The opportunity for the Membership to provide feedback was discussed.

The availability of employment land in the northern Illawarra was raised and discussed. The importance of reserving some industrial zoned land for industrial uses in the future to create jobs in the Community was raised.

Sharralyn Robinson spoke to the cultural significance of site to the local Aboriginal Community as a gathering place and raised that an Aboriginal site will be required to be destroyed to achieve the concept plan, which is strongly objected to by the Aboriginal Community.

Meredith Hutton raised that the process of rezoning of the land and the upvaluing should be tied firmly to the protection of the significant heritage values of the site and a conservation outcome. The potential hurdles in this approach and lack of a direct funding mechanisms as part of a Planning Proposal were discussed.

Council's Heritage Coordinator noted that the State Heritage nomination for the site remained under consideration by the NSW Heritage Council and noted that input was being sought from Heritage NSW on this issue.

The Reference Group resolved to recommend that in finalising any draft Planning Proposal for the Corrimal Coke Works Site, Council should:

- ***Ensure that the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage impacts of the proposed development are genuinely considered, with careful consideration to the submissions and input provided by the Local Aboriginal Community.***
- ***Explore all opportunities to secure an appropriate funding mechanism for, and certainty around, ensuring agreed Heritage Conservation outcomes and appropriate heritage Interpretation for the site.***
- ***Consider opportunities to provide for a creative employment hub on the site and/or in the broader Northern suburbs, to ensure the availability of suitable land for industry in the future.***
- ***Ensure that the progression of the State Heritage Nomination (which has been prioritised by the NSW Heritage Council) is pursued and that the implications of this listing for the future conservation and management of the site are understood through consultation with Heritage NSW.***

7 CITY CENTRE PLANNING PROPOSAL – EXHIBITION

Council Staff advised that the Reference Group had previously noted their support for the progression of the Draft Planning Proposal in March 2021. The membership supports the carrying through of the resolution from the (cancelled) June 2021 meeting for inclusion in the post exhibition Council Report.

The Wollongong Heritage Reference Group support the progression of the Draft Planning Proposal for the listing of 19 additional heritage items on Schedule 5 of the Wollongong LEP 2009.

8 SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

10.1 Kembla Heights Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee noted that they have not met as yet due to Covid-19 restrictions. The update on the Kembla Heights Village State Heritage Nomination provided in the Heritage Staff Report was noted.

9 STREAM HILL UPDATE

David Green noted that no formal update was provided by Council's Property Division.

Cr Martin noted that the issue has continued to be raised by herself at Council Briefings.

The Reference Group noted the information.

10 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

Meredith Hutton: NSW National Trust

The National Trust will be hosting Open Houses and Garden Tours in Goulburn in February 2022.

A walking tour with Martin Gorrick of Austinmer in April 2022 with access to local properties and a focus on the cultural significance of the Illawarra Escarpment is also being planned.

The NSW National Trust have been working on online data and archives projects behind the scenes as well as progressing maintenance works, whilst the NSW Lockdown is in place.

Meredith also noted the National Trust is taking an active involvement in advocating for 'Willowgrove' at Parramatta in response to the future Powerhouse Development.

Sharralyn Robinson: Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council

Sharralyn advised she has recently met Heritage NSW to speak about Aboriginal Places in the Illawarra.

An Interpretive Strategy in Sandon Point has been prepared by the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and distributed to the Aboriginal Community for input and comment.

Sharralyn continues to object to the Corrimal Coke Works Planning Proposal representing the views of Aboriginal Community.

John Shipp: Illawarra Museum

John advised that the Illawarra Museum has been closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Lorraine Neate: Australian Historical Society

Lorraine advised that the Royal Australian Historical Society Conference has now shifted online in November 2021 due to covid-19 restrictions.

Lorraine continues to have a monthly History spot on ABC Radio on 2nd Saturday of the month after 9.30am. Members are encouraged to tune in.

Fiona Reynold: National Trust (Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch)

Fiona advised she represented the local branch of the National Trust and spoke at the Council meeting in support of the heritage listing for 14 Acacia Street, Gwynneville and the Wollongong City Centre Heritage Study and Planning Proposal at the May Council meeting.

Fiona brought the Novotel Penthouse Court matter to the attention of the Membership and noted the development was approved by the Court.

The National Trust AGM to be held in mid-November, with Aunty Sharralyn appearing as a Guest speaker.

Martin Gorrick: Thirroul Village Committee

Martin extended his thanks to Fiona and Meredith for input and promotion of the Northern Illawarra Walk and collaboration with the National Trust, focusing on benefits of the Austinmer Heritage Conservation Area.

Martin advised that the Northern Illawarra Action Group have held their AGM. Both the NIAC and Thirroul Village Committee have been focused on providing comment to the Transport NSW Traffic proposal.

Councillor Martin – Chair

Councillor Martin noted that works are beginning under the Hill 60 Section 60 Approval and AHIP.

Noted that Dix's Jetty on Lake Illawarra is being considered for maintenance works. Advised that the Reference Group will be given the opportunity to input into the conservation project.

11 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Council's Heritage Coordinator spoke to the items within the Staff Report and members noted the information. Only item 11.5 was discussed as below:

11.5 West Dapto Suburb Shortlist

The progression of the West Dapto Suburb Naming project was discussed. Meredith noted that 'Stream Hill' had been identified as one of the three shortlisted options for west Kembla Grange.

The West Dapto Aboriginal Cultural History and opportunities for meaningful and engaging interpretation opportunities to celebrate the significance of the area was also discussed by Members.

12 OTHER MATTERS

October Meeting Date

Due to the Local Government Elections being moved to December, there will now be an additional meeting of the Heritage Reference Group scheduled for October. Heritage Staff will circulate dates for consideration of the Membership.

Thirroul-Bulli Traffic Improvement Plan

The Membership discussed the Transport NSW Bulli-Thirroul Traffic Improvement Strategy and Cr Martin advised that Council has endorsed a formal submission to the public exhibition. A Copy of the submission to be circulated to the Membership for their information.

Councillor Martin closed the meeting at 7.20pm

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 – on hold due to Covid19 |
| 2 | Council's Heritage Staff to reschedule meeting on site at Garrawarra with NSW Department of Infrastructure | Heritage Staff | Carried over – on hold due to Covid19 |
| 3 | Copy of Council Submission to Thirroul-Bulli Traffic Transport NSW to be circulated to the Committee. | Heritage Staff | Completed – 20 August 2021 |