

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021



PRESENT

Martin Gorrick	Fiona Reynolds
Meredith Hutton	Lorraine Neate
John Shipp	Doug Boleyn
Cr Ann Martin	Chris Stewart

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	

1 WELCOME

The chair opened the meeting at 5:15pm and welcomed all present remotely via Microsoft Teams, due to the Covid19 Pandemic social distancing requirements.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sharralyn Robinson, Martin Gorrick and Georgina Element.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson Cr Martin 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 19 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

Moved by John Shipp and seconded by Doug Boleyn

6 BLUE PLAQUES

Joel Thompson spoke to item.

It is unclear how many are being delivered under round one of the program.

Ryan Park has sought input from the Heritage Reference Group. Council Heritage Staff do not have capacity to nominate a range of sites.

Cr Martin suggested Wollongong Council funded project of plaques for local area as way of capturing collective knowledge. Add to review of Heritage Strategy improve management of strategic interpretation throughout the City including for Aboriginal Heritage sites and language.

National Trust considering the Illawarra Escarpment, Harbour Complex and Belmore Basin including Old Courthouse and other sites for nomination. Will circulate short list to circulate. Encourage acknowledgement of precincts rather than sole individual items.

Museum Building was nominated to Paul Scully's office by Illawarra Museum including context in Market Square.

Garrawarra Cemetery – no access

Small amount of information due to size 'plaque' format.

Sharralyn Robinson raised Aboriginal Places Sandon Point and Bellambi Point.

The Reference Group resolved that members:

- a) ***Develop a priority list of nominations that can be forwarded to the relevant local MP for consideration.***
- b) ***Request that a letter be prepared to Local MP's requesting that priority consideration be given to the sites identified by the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group and itemised in the priority list.***

Moved by Cr Martin moved and seconded by Meredith Hutton.

7 CORRIMAL COKE WORKS – UPDATE

Chris Stewart gave update on the formal exhibition of the Corrimal Coke Works Planning Proposal.

The progression of the State Heritage Nomination currently being considered by the State Heritage Listing Committee of the Heritage Council was also discussed. It was noted that Council nominated the site as per the resolution of Council and requirements of the Gateway Determination to consider the potential state significance of the site, however will remain independent in any recommendations for progression of the nomination by the Heritage Council.

If a State Heritage listing is progressed, any future development application for the redevelopment of the site would require an integrated development under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 and Section 60 approval.

Doug Boleyn has provided an Engineers Australia nomination for recognition to Heritage NSW as a formal submission.

It is noted that submissions to the Heritage Council close on 11 November 2021.

Individual members are making a submission to the public exhibition of the State Heritage Nomination of the Corrimal Coke Works Site.

The Reference Group noted the information.

8 HERITAGE REFERENCE STRATEGY & END OF TERM

Council's Heritage Staff and Cr Martin extended their thanks the Membership for their continued involvement in the Reference Group in its current format since 2018.

Feedback and role of Heritage Reference Group and goals or priorities for the review of the Heritage Strategy upcoming in 2022 following the Council elections was discussed.

Key Priorities identified for the upcoming review include:

- Greater recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and values across the LGA;
- Cultural Landscapes and Precincts;
- Heritage Interpretation opportunities;
- Local character and design considerations in broader strategic planning processes.

Carol Herben's contribution to the Heritage Reference Group and earlier Committee over their life and her role in the conservation of the City's Heritage was gratefully acknowledged by the Members.

The Membership discuss and acknowledge their achievements over the life of the current WHRG Committee and outline any recommendations relating to key strategic directions, priorities or suggestions for the upcoming review of the Wollongong Heritage Strategy.

9 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.

The Reference Group resolved to request that Council Heritage Staff write to Paul Scully to seek an update on the progression of the consideration of the State Heritage Nomination of the Kembla Heights Village.

Moved by Lorraine Neate and seconded by Meredith Hutton

9 STREAM HILL UPDATE

Joel Thompson noted that no formal update was provided by Council's Property Division.

Cr Martin noted that the issue has continued to be been raised by herself at Council Briefings and is awaiting Council's Property Division to prepare report.

It is noted a Report on the West Dapto Suburb Naming will be considered by Council at the 1 November meeting including the potential name 'Streamhill'.

The Reference Group noted the information.

10 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

Fiona Reynolds: Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch National Trust

Fiona gave the following updates on the local Branch of the National Trust activity:

- Nominating Surf life Saving Club for inclusion in North Beach Precinct following the completion of the conservation works currently being undertaken.
- Commented on the Win Block redevelopment and are generally supportive of the activation and greening of the site. Noted support for the retention of façade of Marcus Clarke Building and Grand Hotel, as well as advocated for retention of the row of federation shops along Kiera Street.
- Provided a submission to the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Biking Strategy.
- Provided comment on update to Riparian Land Management DCP Chapter.
- Provided comment on the Wollongong City Centre Heritage Study.
- Provided submission in support for the Crown Land project to upgrade Dix's Jetty and Wharf.

Meredith Hutton: NSW National Trust

The NSW National Trust is continues to advocate during the ongoing Heritage Act Review.

A set of priorities for Heritage Conservation in NSW has been compiled to be sent out to local Councillors prior to the local government election.

Noted that the National Trust the published polices on planning and conservation available on the National Trust website at the link below:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/services/bushland-management/policies/>

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

The National Trust will be running house inspections in Goulburn and an Austinmer Walking Tour will be run in April 2022.

Meredith noted she is not standing for re-election to National Trust board in 2022.

Doug Boleyn: Engineers Australia

Doug gave an updated on a current project to document timeline of engineering history of NSW.

John Shipp: Illawarra Museum

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

The Illawarra Historic Society has provided a submission on Win Grand proposal Dix's Wharf (Option 1) and the City Centre Heritage Study.

Lorraine Neate: Illawarra Historical Society

The recent Historical Society Garrawarra Publication has done well and acknowledged Carol Herben for her work.

The Historical Society have also put in grant for the publication of a new book 'Misfortune or Fraud'.

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.

11 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Council's Heritage Coordinator spoke to the items within the Staff Report and members noted the information. Only item 12.2 was discussed as below:

12.2 Steel Works Centenary

Doug Boleyn raised the upcoming centenary of the Port Kembla Steelworks in 2028. Doug has written to BlueScope both at Port Kembla and their Melbourne head office suggesting they might consider producing a commemorative book to celebrate the occasion. Members are supportive of the idea.

12 OTHER MATTERS

The following matters were also discussed by the Membership:

Bulli Park - Bike Track

Meredith Hutton raised the public exhibition of a dirt bike track in Bulli Park. Council's Heritage Staff noted her submission to the project are now liaising with the Project Team regarding the potential heritage issues raised.

Pendlebury Park – Brickwork

The current status of the brickwork in Pendlebury Park was raised by the Members and it was noted the Park current has fencing around the entrance. Council's Heritage Staff noted that the he entry walls have been compromised by roots of trees in park and further investigation is currently being undertaken to established a way forward for the repair of walls and retention of trees.

Lower Crown Street – Sandstone Kerbing

The Members raised the current road reserve upgrades to Lower Crown street works and sandstone kerbing that was uncovered.

Council's Heritage Staff noted that they were involved in the project design and approval. It was anticipated that there was potential to uncover sandstone kerbing and a process was put in place for this scenario.

The kerbing identified however was not intact or in a condition that would allow its retention or integration into the upgrades. Material that was able to be salvaged will be reused in the landscaping.

There is also potential for kerbing to be retained in better condition on the northern side of Crown Street, which will be considered as works continue.

Market Square Overgrown

Fiona raised that ivy is encroaching on plantings in Market Square. Council's Heritage Staff will raise the issue with the Open Space Team to ensure that the Ivy is not impacting on the significant plantings. An action has been included in the minutes.

16-18 Market Place – CDC Certificate

The Illawarra Historical Society and National Trust have raised issue of a complying development certification (CDC) being obtained for demolition of dwellings at 16-18 Market Place.

Council has now written to the owner to ensure they comply with the archaeological provisions of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 to protect the identified archaeology relating to the earlier Hotel building on the site.

Concerns were raised about leaving site vacant with construction fencing which will have visual impacts on Market Place.

Councillor Martin closed the meeting at 6.46pm

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 Letter to Members for Parliament regard Blue Plaques to be circulated	Heritage Staff	
4	Council Heritage Staff to request update on Kembla Heights Village State Heritage Nomination	Heritage Staff	
5	Council Heritage Staff to raise request with Open Space Team to assess Ivy impacts on significant plantings in Market Square.	Heritage Staff	