

# MINUTES

## WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON THURSDAY 18 MAY 2023



### PRESENT

Cr Ann Martin	Aara Welz
Rod Logan	Fiona Reynolds
Nicholas Gill	

### IN ATTENDANCE

David Green – Land Use Planning Manager WCC via Microsoft Teams	Samantha Figueroa – Team Leader Local Studies Library (Acting) WCC
Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC	Chris Stewart – Manager City Strategy
Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC via Microsoft Teams	Sofia Gibson – City Cultural + Activation Manager WCC

### 1 WELCOME

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 5:15pm and welcomed all present.

### 2 APOLOGIES

Linda Davis, Sandra Pires, David Bottin and Meredith Hutton.

### 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed all Aboriginal people present.

### 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interests were made by the Membership:

- Rod Logan – Item 9.1 of Staff Report Update on Stage 2 of Heritage Schedule Review
- Fiona Reynolds – Item 7 Wollongong Heritage Grant Allocation 2023/24
- Ann Martin – Item 7 Wollongong Heritage Grant Allocation 2023/24

### 5 MINUTES OF MEETING

The Reference Group recommend that ***the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23 February 2022*** noting incorrect spelling of Fiona Reynolds name to be updated.

Moved by Rod Logan and Nick Gill.

### 6 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY AND DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2023-2027

It was noted that comments were provided by Fiona Reynolds and Aara Welz following circulation of the draft Strategy document to Members via email on 11 May 2023. Noted that proposed minor adjustments and corrections will be made in response.

Members discussed the order of the Objectives and suggested that the order should be reconsidered, in order of importance and be actioned by Council's Heritage Staff.

Members also discussed that the corresponding Implementation Plan for Strategy 1 could be strengthened to include an action related to 'working with a diverse cross section of the community' to recognise people focused (social) heritage values. Council's Heritage Staff to work with Nick Gill to further consider this.

Add core business action to *Strategy 1 - strengthen and broaden ways in which a more diverse cross section of the community can be involved in heritage projects. Include consideration to Aboriginal heritage, migrant heritage, oral histories, social history.*

***The membership resolved to note that following the above minor amendments, the Draft Heritage Strategy and draft Implementation Plan will be reported to Council and if endorsed, exhibited for community comment subject to amendments and additional consideration of Strategy 1.***

***Moved by Fiona Reynolds and Aara Welz***

## 7 ALLOCATION OF HERITAGE GRANTS 2023/2024

The Grant Sub-committee spoke to the proposed 2023/24 Heritage Grant allocation and the projects that were assessed.

Council's Heritage Staff also provided an update on the progression of the 2022/23 grant projects and noted that the Keera Vale staircase project was not able to be completed and the funding was reallocated to the next highest scoring unfunded projects, as per the scoring assessment.

It was noted that the final allocation of the 2023/2024 grants is awaiting final approval by the Manager City Strategy, following which all applicant's will be notified of the outcome of the grant assessment.

**The membership noted the funding allocation and thanked the Sub-Committee for their time.**

## 8 MEETING DATES FOR 2023/2024

The Chair noted that there is an upcoming Local Government election in September 2024, which will require the Membership to be dissolved.

The proposed meeting dates consistent with current schedule were noted and a calendar invitation will be circulated to the members for the following dates:

- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Fiona Reynolds noted an apology for the proposed 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 meeting.

## 9 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Joel Thompson gave an update on the items listed in the Heritage Staff Report.

In relation to Item 9.3 Members discussed the expression of interest of the sale of the Council owned Stream Hill property. The Membership indicated that Council had not demonstrated best practice heritage asset management of this asset over many years. Members moved and passed the following resolution:

***The WHRG encourages Council to better manage their heritage assets in light of the lack of maintenance of the Stream Hill property.***

***Moved Fiona Reynolds, seconded by Nick Gill.***

## 10 UPDATES FROM LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

Aara Welz from Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council gave the following updates:

- A management of cultural coastal assets project is beginning with WCC as part of the Coastal Zone Management Plan work.
- ILALC are commencing project looking at where various Aboriginal Objects from the Wollongong Local Government Area are currently held in collections etc.

Sofia Gibson City Cultural + Activation Manager (WCC) provided the following:

- WCC has received a Draft Museums and Galleries NSW Report on the inventory of the Breakwater Battery collection, which will be able to be brought to the WHRG at the next meeting as an Agenda item.
- The Mount Kembla Heritage Mining Collection has now been transferred to Illawarra Historical Society.

Fiona Reynolds (Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust) gave the following update:

- The National Trust festival has just concluded with a Heritage 101 Seminar.
- The National Trust has been advocating for the nomination of the North Beach Surf Life Saving Club to form part of the State Heritage North Beach precinct.
- Involved in the community engagement for the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Plan

- 29<sup>th</sup> of May the National Trust will be represented at a community engagement session Brooks Consulting on behalf of Legacy regarding Corrimal Coke Works development.

## 11 OTHER MATTERS

The sale of the Denmark Hotel, on Lawrence Hargrave Drive Bulli was noted and discussed.

The date for the site visit Bulli Miners cottage requested by Membership was noted as having been scheduled for 1.30pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June.

***Councillor Martin closed the meeting at 6.45pm***

## ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Who	Status
1	Site visit to Bulli Miners Cottage	Heritage Staff	<b>Complete – Visit held 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>
2	Site visit to Kembla Heights/Mount Kembla	Heritage Staff	<b>Date to be arranged.</b>
3	Update on Breakwater Battery Collection Inventory	Cultural & Community Services	<b>This item has been deferred for the November 2023 meeting as key stakeholder engagement is ongoing.</b>