HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEETING MINUTES – Approvals Committee

Tuesday, 4 June 2024 | 9:00 AM – Noon

via teleconference

ATTENDANCE

Members

Mr Ian Clarke	Chair
Dr Nicholas Brunton	Deputy Chair
Dr Caitlin Allen	Member
Mr David Burdon	Member
Dr Danièle Hromek	Member
Ms Julie Marler	Member
Mr David McNamara	Member
Mr Frank Howarth AM PSM	Heritage Council Chair / Alternate Member

Apologies

Ms Vanessa Holtham	Member
Mr Bruce Pettman	Member

External Presenters

Ms Kerime Danis	Director, City Plan Heritage (item 2.1)
Ms Carole-Lynne Kerrigan	Associate Director, City Plan Heritage (item 2.1)
Ms Asmita Bhasin	Heritage Consultant, City Plan Heritage (item 2.1)

Heritage NSW

Mr Michael Ellis	A/Director Heritage Assessments
Mr Rajeev Maini	Manager Assessments (item 2.1)
Ms Shikha Jhaldiyal	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.1)
Ms Rochelle Johnston	Senior Manager Major Projects (item 2.2)
Ms Andreana Kennedy	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.2)
Ms Elizabeth Thomas	Senior Secretariat Officer

1. Welcome and formalities

The Chair, Ian Clarke, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM.

- The Chair delivered an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed attendees.

- Apologies were noted for this meeting, and it was confirmed that a quorum had been met.

1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no actual conflicts of interest declared.

The Committee noted the historical involvement of members advised prior to the meeting for *Item 3.1 Lands Building SSD Modifications*, including:

- Caitlin Allen's note that she had written a detailed analysis of the building's heritage significance and worked on the CMP but was not involved with the refurbishment, and that

- David Burdon was previously involved in the Lands Building project as an employee of Purcell Architects, but no longer has any professional involvement.

Moved by Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Julie Marler

1.2 Minutes from Previous Meeting – 7 May 2024

Resolution 2024-21
The Heritage Council Approvals Committee: 1. **Confirms** the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (Tuesday, 7 May 2024), as a complete and accurate record of that meeting.
Moved by Nicholas Brunton and seconded by David McNamara

1.3 Out of Session decisions

Nil.

1.4 Matters Arising

Nil.

1.5 Action Report

The Committee noted the action report and verbal update from Michael Ellis.

2. External Presentations

2.1 Draft Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Heritage Design Guidelines – interim reporting

The Approvals Committee received a report from Heritage NSW and a presentation from City Plan Heritage on the preliminary *Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Heritage Design Guidelines*.

Members noted the extensive stakeholder and community consultation carried out in collaboration with Heritage NSW and the City of Sydney, including workshops, online surveys and an interactive mapping tool.

The guidelines have been revised in response to the feedback received, with an illustrated *DCP style* document created that sets out clear objectives and guidelines for the conservation of the precinct. The document is structured under three sections: the introduction; heritage conservation vision statement; and general heritage design guidelines.

Members were pleased to see the use of plain English and graphic illustrations and discussed:

- the opportunity to frame the document with an emphasis on what the guidelines are seeking to achieve
- stronger linkage between the principals and the guidelines and suggested amendments for clarity
- the inclusion of photos to demonstrate the guidelines and support diagrammatic illustrations, and
- the potential refinement of the guidelines once in use by the Community to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

The Committee agreed to provide detailed comments to Heritage NSW and thanked City Plan for the update.

Resolution 2024-23
The Heritage Council Approvals Committee resolved to:
1. **Note** the update provided and **thank** City Plan Heritage for their presentation.
2. **Provide** comments on the updated draft *Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Heritage Design Guidelines* at **Tab 2.1A** of this report.
3. **Note** that the final document will be presented to the Approvals Committee for endorsement.
Moved by David Burdon and seconded by Julie Marler

3.0 Heritage NSW presentation

3.1 Lands Building – State Significant Development Modifications

The Approvals Committee received a report from Heritage NSW on the proposed *Clocktower Modification 20* and *Strong Room Modification 21 for SSD 7484* for the Sandstone Precinct and approval for the *Lands Building's Movable Heritage Collections Management Plan* (compliance with condition B46).

Members noted the heritage significance of the building and discussed:

- the SSD elements for the Clocktower that were approved following the exhibition process in 2017
- the challenges associated with timekeeping, maintenance, and the cleaning methodology for the Clocktower to ensure compliant and safe management of the heritage fabric, noting a tethered ladder system is currently in place
- the importance of the Strongroom's heritage fabric including reinstating and restoring the operable functionality of the umbrella so that is opens and closes and allows sunlight into the space
- the need for more detailed drawings to better understand elements to be retained such as the handrails and balustrades
- the challenges related to public access for moveable heritage and the need for exceptional heritage to remain insitu and on display, including opportunities for public open days to allow access to view these on occasion with tours potentially aligned to annual events such as the *Sydney Open* and the *National Trust Heritage Festival*
- the potential impacts to moveable heritage if relocated and the need for further details to be provided for the proposed interpretation and display opportunities for significant elements, and
- the importance of a *Heritage Collection Management Plan* that clearly sets out the custodianship and responsibilities of the owner (Capella Hotel Group) for the ongoing conservation of the moveable heritage collection.

Members noted the opportunity to seek further information at the site visit to the *Lands Building* being hosted by the Pontiac Land Group and held together with members of the Heritage Council, AC and Heritage NSW on 5 June 2024. The Committee agreed to provide a more detailed resolution out of session following the site visit.

Resolution 2024-24
The Heritage Council Approvals Committee resolved to: 1. **Note** the information provided in the detailed paper at Tab 3.1.A of this report.   2. **Note** that a site visit will be held on 5 June 2024 and further information will be required.   3. **Agreed** to provide a circular resolution by 7 June 2024 and include more specific advice.
Moved by David McNamara and seconded by Julie Marler

3.2 Caring for Country considerations

The Approvals Committee discussed how reading Country and Community voices are interpreted into Caring for Country and design opportunities.

Members noted the importance of protecting First Nations culture and heritage and discussed:

- the elements and key principals that may be considered and developed to ensure a culturally responsive approach forms an integral part of competent design development and masterplan processes, and

- the complex and layered interpretations of Country and bloodline connections as distinct from Cultural Areas that relate to a mob's area of trade, historical associations and the like.

The Committee thanked Danièle Hromek for leading this informative discussion.

4.0 General Business

4.1 Forward agenda

The Approvals Committee noted the forward agenda.

Heritage Compliance

Members highlighted some recent failures to comply with site conditions and discussed compliance issues and appropriate pathways to escalate matters of concern.

5.0 Meeting Close

There being no further items of business, Ian Clarke, Chair, declared the Approvals Committee meeting closed at Noon.

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Mr Ian Clarke
Chair, Heritage Council Approvals Committee
Date: 2 July 2024