



HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEETING MINUTES – 523

6 December 2023 | 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Meeting Room 14, Heritage NSW, Level 11, 4PSQ, 12 Darcy Street Parramatta & via teleconference

ATTENDANCE

Members

Mr Frank Howarth AM PSM	Chair
The Hon. Robyn Parker	Deputy Chair
Dr Nicholas Brunton	Member
Mr Ian Clarke	Member
Ms Vanessa Holtham	Member
Dr Brian Lindsay	Member
Ms Colleen Morris	Member
Ms Anthea Sargent	Member
Mr Dillon Kombumerri	Observer

Apologies

Nil

External Presenters

Ms Carrie Wilkinson	Senior Project Officer, National Parks & Wildlife Service (<i>item 3.1</i>)
Mr Donald MacDonald	Senior Project Officer, National Parks & Wildlife Service (<i>item 3.1</i>)
Ms Catherine Forbes	Principal, GML Heritage (<i>item 3.1</i>)

Heritage NSW

Mr Sam Kidman	Executive Director
Ms Anna London	Director Heritage Programs
Mr Tim Smith	Director Heritage Assessments
Ms Maxine Moffat	Graduate Policy & Strategy
Ms Lindsey Nguyen	Graduate Customer Service
Ms Lucy Albani	Director Policy & Strategy (<i>section 4.0</i>)
Mr Matthew Clark	Director Policy & Strategy (<i>section 4.0</i>)
Ms Sonia Limeburner	Manager Strategy & Implementation (<i>items 3.1, 4.1 & 4.2</i>)
Ms Ashley Edwards	Senior Policy Officer (<i>items 3.1, 4.1 & 4.2</i>)
Ms Caroline Ford	Manager Policy & Reform (<i>item 4.3</i>)
Ms Julia Dowling	Senior Policy Officer (<i>item 4.3</i>)
Ms Rose Cullen	Manager Policy & Reform (<i>item 4.3</i>)
Ms Gabby Delange	Policy Officer (<i>item 4.3</i>)

Secretariat

Ms Olgica Lenger	Manager Secretariat
Ms Elizabeth Thomas	Senior Secretariat Officer

IN-CAMERA SESSION

This item was not minuted.

Item 1. Welcome and Formalities

The Chair, Frank Howarth, opened the meeting at 10:30 AM and delivered an Acknowledgment of Country.

Item 1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared for this meeting.

Robyn Parker noted that with the dissolution of the Greater Cities Commission this conflict of interest will no longer be in effect as of 31 December 2023.

The Council noted previous declaration from Nicholas Brunton, being a member of the Audit and Risk Committee at the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions

The Heritage Council of NSW held an out of session meeting on 21 November to consider the *Ravensthorpe Homestead Complex and Setting* – Recommendation to List.

Resolution 2023-43

The Heritage Council of NSW:

1. **Confirmed** the minutes of the out of session meeting (21 November 2023) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Ian Clarke

Item 1.3 Minutes from the Previous Meeting – 1 November 2023**Resolution 2023-44**

The Heritage Council of NSW:

1. **Confirmed** the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (1 November 2023) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Ian Clarke

Item 1.4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 1.5 Action Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and closed the items recommended for closure. The register was updated to reflect further actions required.

Item 2. Heritage NSW and Committees Updates**Item 2.1 Executive Director, Heritage NSW**

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and a verbal update from the Executive Director for various heritage matters including:

- the *Badangi* SHR Listing
- the *Lake Victoria Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit* (AHIP) signing On Country
- progress of compliance matters for *Kenmore*, Goulburn, and
- the Australian Institute of Architects 2023 Reconciliation Prize awarded to the Heritage Council and Heritage NSW for the *Appin Massacre Cultural Landscape* SHR listing.

The Council discussed opportunities for promoting of SHR listed items.

Item 2.2 State Heritage Register Committee

Robyn Parker, Chair of the State Heritage Register Committee (SHRC), provided an update on key outcomes for items considered at the 4 December meeting, including:

- Notice of Intention for *199 Cleveland Street*, Redfern
- Recommendation to List for *Greenway*, Vacluse; *Victoria Pass and Berghofers Pass*, Mount Victoria; *Wellington Town Common*; and *Glenlee*, Lugarno
- Amended site specific exemptions for *The University of Sydney*, *University Colleges and Victoria Park*
- Updates on SHR nominations for *Meadowvale*, Appin and *Port Kembla Telephone Exchange*, and
- Further discussions regarding the SHR listings process review and priority themes for 2024.

The Council discussed the opportunity to develop guiding principles for engagement with heritage owners and handling of owner objections within the statutory framework, informed by precedence, to ensure consistency and support in decision making processes.

The SHRC acknowledged the strong collaboration and positive engagement with Heritage NSW, noting a number of complex and diverse SHR listing nominations brought forward during 2023.

Item 2.3 Approvals Committee

Ian Clarke, Chair of the Approvals Committee (AC), provided an update on the key outcomes for items considered at the 5 December AC meeting, including:

- Integrated Development Applications for *Broadmeadow Locomotive Subdivision* (DA2022/01269 / SHR 01100) and *Anambah House*
- an update on *Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct Vision and Heritage Guidelines Project* (SHR 01682), and
- development of guidelines for consideration of assessment matters by the Heritage Council and Approvals Committee.

The Council noted that the Department of Planning and Environment is developing a Place Management Strategy for the Broadmeadow Precinct.

Item 3. External Presentations

Item 3.1 Developing a Bushfire Risk Vulnerability Framework for Historic Heritage

The Council received a presentation from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on the (NPWS) *Historic Heritage Bushfire Risk Vulnerability Assessment Framework for NSW*.

Key points raised:

- NPWS is developing an assessment framework with a systemic coding methodology to classify the bushfire vulnerability attributes for historic heritage items.

- A range of vulnerability assessment criteria have been identified, with assessment parameters and rankings for different types of heritage and mitigation measures designed to reduce the risk; pre, during and post fire.
- The vulnerability of cultural landscapes was not in scope. The NPWS bushfire science and soil conservation groups are working with Aboriginal communities to look at cultural landscapes and opportunities to increase awareness and knowledge on the use of cool burning practices.
- Modelling of the vulnerability is being developed; further data gathering and qualitative information are required to identify inputs for the model and to address critical data gaps.
- Awareness of the State Heritage Inventory and data sets and opportunities for mapping overlays is currently limited.

Members noted that this work aligns with several actions in the *Heritage NSW Climate Change Action Plan* and provided feedback on the draft Framework including the potential to gather risk assessment data from local government and insurers.

The Council acknowledged the challenges for private heritage owners to understand the risks to their properties and discussed ways to increase the level of awareness to protect their heritage assets. Members encouraged the use of consistent language to note fire, floods and storms as ‘*natural events*’.

Members noted the complexity and need to engage with several agencies to adequately manage bushfire risks. Reliable and current datasets are required to ensure that vulnerability assessment can be used effectively in decision making. The Council suggested the formation of an interagency working group to progress this work.

The Council thanked NPWS and GML Heritage for the presentation and Heritage NSW for the report and looks forward to an update from Heritage NSW around ways to support the Framework and progress this initiative.

Item 4. Legal, Policy and Administration

Item 4.1 SHR Amendments

The Council received an update from Heritage NSW on the process for amending and revising information on the State Heritage Inventory (SHI) and the State Heritage Register (SHR). A draft policy and procedure will be developed to determine the manner and form of the SHR and how the SHI is to be maintained, including minimum information requirements and process for amendments to the information on the SHR and SHI.

Members provided feedback on the proposed approach and timeline, including:

- Consideration of the regulatory impacts for amendments to listings and the potential for this to be incorporated into the foundational Heritage Act reforms work
- How updates to Statements of Significance may be appropriately made
- Updating ACH values for Statements of Significance as part of the implementation phase
- Suggesting a scaled approach to support a simple and robust process.

The Council thanked Heritage NSW for the report and noted internal consultation will commence in early 2024 before returning to the Council for further consideration.

Item 4.2 Heritage Council Governance Review – Code of Conduct update

The Council received a report from Heritage NSW on the proposed amendments to the *Heritage Council of NSW Code of Conduct* to align with the Department of Environment and Planning (DPE) Lobbying Policy.

Resolution 2023-45

The Heritage Council of NSW:

1. **Endorsed** the amended Heritage Council of NSW Code of Conduct (Tab 4.2A of the report).

Moved by Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Vanessa Holtham

Dillon Kombumerri left the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Item 4.3 NSW Heritage Strategy - update

The Heritage Council of NSW received an update from Heritage NSW on the development of the *NSW Heritage Strategy*.

The Council noted the key themes emerging from the discussions being held with targeted stakeholder groups. Members were encouraged to share the '*Have Your Say*' survey with their professional networks.

Members highlighted the need for the strategy to have achievable and measurable outcomes and for heritage to be elevated so that it is seen as an enabler.

Item 4.4 State Heritage Register listing process and legislative timing

The Heritage Council of NSW received a report from Heritage NSW on the SHR listing process.

The Council noted legislative requirements for the process and timeframe for listing items on the SHR, and the role of the Heritage Council, as set out in the *Heritage Act 1977*.

Members discussed the opportunities to strengthen the process and the potential efficiency gains that may be derived from streamlining processes and undertaking actions concurrently where appropriate.

Item 5. Matters for Consideration**Item 5.1 Connecting with Country Framework**

The Heritage Council of NSW received a presentation from Dillon Kombumerri on the Government Architect's *Connecting with Country Framework*.

The Framework was launched in July 2023 and provides foundational planning concepts and asks people to make a commitment to a Country-centric approach to delivering projects.

It includes guidance around dual place naming and case studies on living cultural practices to enable these to be supported in proposals and for design outputs to have greater meaning and involvement of community.

The framework promotes thinking around:

- the evolution of Country over time to enable a shared history to guide development
- the purpose of Country and how a project contributes to the health of Country more broadly
- the connection to the broader landscape, beyond site boundaries, and
- the best use of cultural resources.

A *Connecting with Country Brochure* has been developed as a quick reference guide and a *Connecting with Country film* has also been produced.

The Council acknowledged the excellent work done by the Government Architect and agreed to promote the Framework to jurisdictional counterparts.

Item 6. Executive Reports

Item 6.1 Chair, Heritage Council of NSW – Monthly Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the verbal update provided by the Chair.

Item 6.2 Planning Report (DPE)

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the planning report and verbal update provided by Anthea Sargeant.

Item 6.3 Advisory Panels Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Advisory Committee and Panels report.

The Chair of the Heritage Advisory Panel (HAP) provided feedback from the 13 November meeting that sought to increase awareness and strengthen the communication with key stakeholders on the need to use the *Guidelines for preparing a Heritage Impact Statement*.

Item 7. Heritage NSW Reporting

Item 7.1 Heritage Operations – Monthly Reports

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the monthly reports and verbal updates from Tim Smith and Anna London.

The Council discussed the progression of SHR listing matters including the *Nan Tien Temple*, *The Maltings*, *Mittagong* and the *Warringah Civic Centre Precinct*.

Item 8. General Matters

Item 8.1 Forward Agenda

The Heritage Council of NSW reviewed the forward agenda.

Item 8.2 2024 Calendar

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the 2024 meeting schedule for the Heritage Council and its committees.

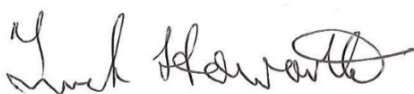
Item 8.3 Pecuniary Interest Declarations – annual update

The Heritage Council of NSW noted that Pecuniary Interest Declarations are due for annual renewal.

Item 9. Meeting Close

The Chair thanked the Council for all their hard work during the year and thanked Heritage NSW and the Secretariat for their support.

There being no further items of business, the Chair, Frank Howarth, closed the meeting at 3:30 PM.



.....

Frank Howarth AM PSM

Chair, Heritage Council of NSW

Date: 7 February 2024