



HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

RESOLUTIONS – Approvals Committee

Tuesday, 5 November 2024 | 9:00 – 11:30 AM

via teleconference

1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations
Nil
1.2 Out of Session Decisions
Nil
1.3 Minutes from Previous Meeting – 30 September 2024
Resolution 2024-45
The Heritage Council Approvals Committee: 1. Confirms the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (Monday, 30 September 2024), as a complete and accurate record of that meeting.
Moved by Bruce Pettman and seconded by David McNamara
1.4 Matters Arising
Nil
1.5 Action report
The Committee noted the action report, including the correspondence and meetings about Busby's Bore.
2.1 Agency exemptions for Department of Communities and Justice
Resolution 2024-46
The Heritage Council Approvals Committee: 1. Thanks the Department of Communities and Justice for their presentation and acknowledges their commitment to the Conservation Management Plan process and improvements made to heritage management including liaison within the Department. 2. Notes and supports the proposed agency exemptions for the Department of Communities and Justice.
Moved by Bruce Pettman and seconded by Caitlin Allen
3.1 Western River Precinct Project, Parramatta - prelodgement consultation
Resolution 2024-47
The Heritage Council Approvals Committee: 1. Thanks the applicant and their consultant team for presenting to the Approvals Committee. 2. Considers the attached documents and the presentation from the consultant team.

3. **Supports in principle** the active transport connections, activation and landscaping of both riverbanks and pathways.
4. **Provides** the following comments to the applicant regarding this project:
 - a. There are currently four bridges in the roughly 1km east - west stretch of the Parramatta River from the Parklands to the (pedestrianised) Lennox Bridge on Church Street in the CBD. The demand for another river crossing in this location and the Desire Line that would use the proposed bridge, rather than the alternatives, is unclear.
 - b. The proposed project area is situated within a highly sensitivity area for Aboriginal cultural heritage values, both tangible and intangible. The foreshore lands are part of the territory of the Burrumuttagal people. Parramatta Park and Old Government House was a place of significant interaction between Aboriginal and European people. The potential for the use of fish traps in the vicinity of the Marsden Street Weir has also been noted.
 - c. The proposed project area is in the vicinity of several State Heritage Register items, including the *Kings School Group (former)* and *Marsden Rehabilitation Centre Group; Parramatta Park and Old Government House; and Parramatta District Hospital – Archaeology* (also known as the Parramatta Justice Precinct). The significance of these items includes the values outlined below”
 - i. the *Kings School Group (former)* and *Marsden Rehabilitation Centre Group* is of significance for its relationship to the Parramatta River and picturesque siting principles of the 18th and 19th centuries
 - ii. *Parramatta Park and Old Government House* is of significance because it demonstrates early town planning and landscaping design and features strategic and picturesque views and vistas
 - iii. *Parramatta District Hospital – Archaeology* is of historical and archaeological significance as a record of convict settlement of the site dating back to 1790.
 - d. The proposed project area is in the vicinity of the World Heritage listed *Australian Convict Sites* (Old Government House and Domain).
 - e. Bridge Alignment Option 1 is oriented along a viewline between the former Kings School portico and the Justice Precinct and St Andrews Spire and will potentially have a less adverse visual impact on views of the weir and the wider landscape than Bridge Alignment Option 2. A single-span structure that is as transparent and lightweight as possible could be considered in the absence of other alternatives.
 - f. The proposed Bridge Alignment Option 2 will have an adverse visual impact on views of the weir and wider landscape. In its current form, the insertion of the single pier will also result in direct impact to the sandstone rubble associated with the weir (assessed as moderate significance). Bridge Alignment Option 2 is therefore not supported.
 - g. It is noted that both bridge alignment design options currently involve the removal of approximately 8m in length of the sandstone wall associated with the Marsden Street Weir, which has been assessed as being of very high significance. Design options that avoid or minimise impacts to the sandstone wall should be explored.
 - h. It is noted that both bridge alignment options and associated landscaping and access works have the potential to impact Aboriginal, historical and maritime archaeological resources. Archaeological conservation is a longstanding and underlying management principle in this significant area, especially within this Parramatta Justice Precinct. Any new work should be informed by archaeological testing and ensure that State significant archaeological remains are retained, protected and where appropriate interpreted.
5. **Recommends** that:
 - a. Other options are considered, including using existing crossings to the east and west, integrated into existing and new walking or cycling pathways. If a crossing is required in this location, reconsider the use of the Weir for a new lower level river crossing and pathway connection (notwithstanding early investigation identified potential safety issues and maintenance challenges). The AC notes that the Weir was the original colonial river crossing in 1818 (and therefore possibly a pre-colonial crossing point). Use of the Weir

will also facilitate the connection to State Heritage Register items on either side of the river (the riparian landscape edge)

- b. Any future application includes the following:
 - i. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), including the results of any test excavations undertaken in accordance with the necessary approvals
 - ii. Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI)
 - iii. Visual impact assessment, including photomontages
 - iv. Historical and Maritime Archaeological Assessments, including the results of any test excavations undertaken in accordance with the necessary approvals
 - v. Detailed plans, sections and elevations
 - vi. Arborist report
 - vii. Interpretation strategy.
- c. Updated historical and maritime archaeological impact assessments should be prepared, informed by archaeological testing in the area between Jeffrey House and the Parramatta River expected to contain evidence associated with the second and third Parramatta hospitals. Testing will need to be undertaken in accordance with the necessary approvals under the NSW Heritage Act, 1977.
- d. As the proposed project area is in the vicinity of the World Heritage listed *Australian Convict Sites* (Old Government House and Domain), advice should be sought from the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) regarding all relevant Commonwealth matters of national environmental significance.

Moved by David Burdon and Julie Marler

4.1 Forward agenda

The Heritage Council Approvals Committee noted the forward agenda.

Meeting Close

There being no items of further business, the Chair, Ian Clarke, closed the meeting at 11:30 AM.

Secretariat
Heritage Council of NSW