



## HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

### MEETING MINUTES – Approvals Committee

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

*via teleconference*

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Members

Mr Ian Clarke	Chair
Dr Caitlin Allen	Member
Mr David Burdon	Member
Ms Vanessa Holtham	Member
Dr Danièle Hromek	Member
Ms Julie Marler	Member
Mr David McNamara	Member
Mr Bruce Pettman	Member

##### Apologies

Dr Nicholas Brunton	Deputy Chair
Mr Frank Howarth AM PSM	Heritage Council Chair / Alternate Member

##### External Presenters

Ms Catherine Colville	Senior Manager, Environment and Heritage Planning, DCJ (item 2.1)
Ms Sarah Welfare	A/Manager, Environment and Heritage Planning, DCJ (item 2.1)
Mr Garth Shayler	Senior Design Manager, City of Parramatta (item 3.1)
Mr Dominic Powell	Senior Principal, Archipelago (item 3.1)
Mr Patrick Atkinson	Senior Heritage Consultant, GML (item 3.1)

##### External Observers

Ms Abi Cryerhall	Principal, GML (item 3.1)
Mr Riley Moore	Structural Engineer, Bonacci Infrastructure (item 3.1)

##### Heritage NSW

Mr Tim Smith	Director Heritage Assessments
Ms Sonia Limeburner	Manager Strategy & Implementation (item 2.1)
Ms Ashley Edwards	Senior Policy Officer (item 2.1)
Ms Samantha Gibbins	A/Manager Assessments (item 3.1)
Ms Tempe Beaven	Senior Assessments Officer (item 3.1)
Ms Rose Cullen	Senior Policy Officer (observer)
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.

The Committee congratulated Dr Allen on her recent appointment as President of Australia ICOMOS.

### 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. <b>Confirms</b> 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

#### *Sydney Football Stadium Car Park*

The Committee noted the recent discussions and correspondence with Venue NSW regarding the proposed car park development and heritage interpretation for Busby's Bore. Heritage NSW will continue to liaise with Venues NSW and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure as the project progresses. Members sought clarification on whether there will be an opportunity for the Council to provide any further feedback on the heritage interpretation plan.

### 1.5 Action Report

The Committee noted the action report and sought a status update on the works proposed by the National Parks and Wildlife Services for *Me Me!* (Goat Island).

## 2. Matters for Consideration

### 2.1 Agency exemptions for Department of Communities and Justice

The Approvals Committee received a report from Heritage NSW and a presentation from the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) on the agency exemptions for the department.

The DCJ provided examples of how the exemptions could be applied, and members noted that:

- the DCJ manages 27 SHR items including courthouses, correction centres and other justice related facilities owned by the state Government
- a joint funding agreement was finalised in 2020 with Public Works NSW to address priority works under the *Minister's Stoneworks Program*
- a review of Conservation Management Plans (CMP) for all SHR listed sites has been carried out and any proposed works are assessed by the department against the Statement of Significance and the CMP to develop a project scope
- guidelines have been developed and made available, in particular for courthouse upgrades and maintenance, and
- the DCJ is looking to enhance efficiencies in their management and decision making in relation to low-risk day to day operational and maintenance activities which is in keeping with the government's policies aimed at streamlining the works approval process.

Members sought clarification on the development of guidelines for vegetation and landscape conservation and noted that the CMPs have been updated to identify individually significant trees.

Heritage NSW noted that reporting requirements form part of the exemptions process, and a protocol is also being developed that will require agencies to provide a compliance report against the relevant standards set out in their exemptions.

The Committee thanked the department for the presentation and acknowledged the DCJ's commitment to heritage conservation.

Members thanked Heritage NSW for the comprehensive report and noted that the final draft exemptions will be presented to the Heritage Council for endorsement.

<b>Resolution 2024-46</b>
<p>The Heritage Council Approvals Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Thanks</b> the Department of Communities and Justice for their presentation and <b>acknowledges</b> their commitment to the Conservation Management Plan process and improvements made to heritage management including liaison within the Department.</li><li>2. <b>Notes and supports</b> the proposed agency exemptions for the Department of Communities and Justice.</li></ol>
Moved by Bruce Pettman and seconded by Caitlin Allen

### 3.0 External Presentations

#### 3.1 Western River Precinct Project, Parramatta - prelodgement consultation

The Approvals Committee received an update from Heritage NSW and a presentation from the City of Parramatta (CoP) on the proposed alignment and design options for the construction of a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the Parramatta River, near the Marsden Street Bridge.

The consultant team presented the two design options being worked through for the landscape design, boardwalk alignment and bridge works, including the views analysis and key potential heritage impacts.

Whilst the archaeological assessment is yet to be completed, early assessment has identified sensitive zones for Aboriginal archaeology, and there is also the potential for historical archaeological artefacts to be found in some areas

Members sought clarification around:

- the need and ambitions for the project, the public benefit and how this project aligns with the broader *CoP pedestrian and cycle strategy* and the *Justice Precinct Masterplan*
- opportunities to explore a design option that uses the existing weir for the pathway connection notwithstanding early investigation which identified potential safety issues and maintenance challenges
- how the First Nations people have been consulted during the process to date as well as any ongoing engagement proposed
- the landscape and vegetation considerations, and
- how archaeological impacts will be managed during excavation works noting the potential for historical remains to be found and the need to be mindful of this in the design process.

The CoP committed to providing some more information to the committee on the overall strategy for pedestrian and cycle movements.

The Committee thanked the applicant for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal and suggested heritage and archaeological assessments should be undertaken to inform the detailed design.

## 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

## 4.0 General Business

### 4.1 Forward agenda

The Approvals Committee noted the forward agenda and the proposed 2025 meeting schedule.

Heritage NSW provided a verbal update on various heritage matters including:

- *Varroville* and a peer review underway for conservation works carried out by the Catholic Cemeteries Trust, and
- a heritage training facility proposed for *Hillview* following the assignment of the lease to the Hillview Foundation Australia.

## 5.0 Meeting Close

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



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 Mr Ian Clarke  
 Chair, Heritage Council Approvals Committee  
 Date: 3 December 2024