

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2020



PRESENT – VIA SKYPE & LEVEL 10 COMMITTEE ROOM 2

Councillor Ann Martin	Lorraine Neate
Meredith Hutton	John Shipp
Martin Gorrick	Fiona Reynolds
Sharralyn Robinson	

IN ATTENDANCE – VIA SKYPE & LEVEL 10 COMMITTEE ROOM 2

David Green – Land Use Planning Manager WCC	Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC
Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC	Chris Stewart – Manager City Strategy - WCC
Stuart Barnes – Destination Wollongong	

1 WELCOME

Councillor Martin opened the meeting at 5:15 pm and welcomed all present remotely via Skype, due to the Covid19 Pandemic social distancing requirements.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Councillor Cox, Georgina Element, Doug Boleyn and Linda Davis.

INTRODUCTION

Councillor Martin requested that all present adhere to the Skype Meeting ground rules circulated prior to the meeting.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Martin provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed Aboriginal people present.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Fiona Reynolds declared that in relation to Item 6, she is a resident of the defined City Centre Study Area.

The Reference Group noted the Declaration of Interest by Fiona Reynolds.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 November 2019

The Reference Group resolved that:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 November 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record following the correction of minor spelling amendments.

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by Fiona Reynolds.

6 A CITY FOR PEOPLE: WOLLONGONG CITY CENTRE PLANNING REVIEW

The membership discussed the information videos on the draft Wollongong City Centre Planning Review prepared by Council's Land Use Planning Team and Bridget Jarvis – Strategic Project Officer provided an overview of the City Centre Planning Review project.

The potential future impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the City Centre and broader Wollongong Region was discussed by the membership. The Group discussed that the recommendations of the review should ensure that these potential impacts are considered in the recommendations. Bridget Jarvis noted that the project team was considering the implications of the pandemic and any submissions that raised these impacts as part of the engagement process.

The membership also discussed the importance of urban greening and open space throughout the City Centre and the LGA and opportunities in the review to support Council's adopted Urban Greening Framework.

Sharralyn Robinson also raised that the Aboriginal cultural significance of the City Centre should be acknowledged in the review, and be carefully considered and integrated into any future recommendations.

It was noted by Fiona Reynolds that the Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust had provided a submission and an action to arrange a meeting with the project team to discuss their comments has been added to the minutes.

The Reference Group thanked Bridget Jarvis for her time and resolved the following:

The Heritage Reference Group note the recommendations of the City Centre Planning Review and recommend further consideration of the following:

- 1. The potential implications of post Covid-19 Pandemic on retail, commercial and residential development patterns in the City Centre;***
- 2. The conservation of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Heritage;***
- 3. An emphasis on the importance of urban greening in the City Centre.***

Moved by Martin Gorrick and seconded by Meredith Hutton.

7 HELENSBURGH TOWN CENTRE PLAN

Bridget Jarvis provided an update on the progression of the draft Helensburgh Town Centre Plan and Landscape Masterplan.

It was noted that public exhibition of the draft Plan has been delayed but is expected before the next Heritage Reference Group in June.

The membership noted the update on the Draft Helensburgh Town Centre Plan and Council's Heritage Staff will ensure the Group is notified of the exhibition dates and provide opportunities for Members to comment via email and online.

8 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE GRANT FUND 2020/2021

The membership discussed the outcome of the previous financial year grant funding. It was noted that the Northing Uniting Church in Bulli received funding to undertake remedial works to sandstone paving surrounding the Church building to improve drainage and stop water seeping into sandstone foundations, which were completed.

An update on the 2019/2020 financial year grant program and the final 2020/2021 allocation will be reported to Council in the coming months.

The Reference Group resolved to form a sub-committee to assess the 2020/2021 Heritage Grant Applications consisting of:

- ***Meredith Hutton***
- ***Doug Boelyn***
- ***Fiona Reynolds***
- ***Georgina Element***

It was noted that Sharralyn Robinson and Martin Gorrick are available as reserves if other members are unable to participate.

Moved by Ann Martin, Seconded by Lorraine Neate.

9 HERITAGE SCHEDULE REVIEW – STAGE 1

Council's Heritage Staff provided an update on the Heritage Schedule Review Project – Stage 1 Housekeeping Amendments. It was noted that Stage 2 has been delayed, and the project will be subject to 2 separate reporting processes as previously discussed. Stage 1 is scheduled to be reported at the Council meeting on the 25th of May 2020.

Fiona Reynolds provided some minor corrections to the list of amendments, to be updated by Council's Heritage Staff.

It was noted that Stage 2 of the Project (relating to new items) will be progressed separately and the Membership will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal as an Agenda Item at a future meeting of the HRG.

The Group resolved:

The Wollongong Heritage Reference Group recommend that Council prepare and exhibit a draft Planning Proposal to progress the Stage 1 housekeeping amendments to the Heritage Schedule and update the associated LEP Heritage Maps accordingly.

Moved by Martin Gorrick and Seconded by Meredith Hutton.

10 STREAM HILL UPDATE

Council's Heritage Staff gave a brief update on the progression of works at Stream hill.

It was noted that the fencing surrounding the homestead, that was removed in order to undertake the lantana removal works has now been replaced by Council's Infrastructure & Works Team. Council's Property Division is following up with additional works to secure the property including boarding up windows. A further update will be sought from Property Division for the next Reference Group meeting in June.

The membership noted the update.

11 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

Fiona Reynolds: Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust

Fiona noted that the National Trust continued to be involved in advocating for the Corrimal Coke Works site as well as providing comment on a range of development including the North

Wollongong Surf Club. As well as providing more general comment on principles relating to infill development and height limits within the City Centre.

Fiona and Meredith are both also representing the local branch of the National Trust as part of the West Dapto Suburb Naming Project.

Martin Gorrick: Thirroul Village Committee

Martin advised that the Thirroul Village Committee had considered community submissions at their most recent meeting relating to the Austinmer Bathers Pavilion refurbishment.

Martin and Fiona requested that the Heritage Impact Statement prepared by Council's Heritage Staff be provided.

Martin also raised concerns relating to a specific development application in Cliff Parade Thirroul.

Stuart Barnes: Destination Wollongong/Inside Industry

Stuart Barnes on behalf of Destination Wollongong gave an update on the potential progression of projects to establish regular Blue Mile Heritage Tours, and Port Kembla Heritage Tours.

Sharralyn noted that the local Aboriginal Community should continue to be consulted as part of the development of any heritage tours, particularly relating to Hill 60 to ensure the Tours are culturally appropriate and important local stories were told.

Meredith suggested that the National Trust would be interested in having further discussions with Destination Wollongong to support future tour opportunities.

The Membership resolved that:

The Heritage Reference Group recommend Council allocate a modest budget to encourage local heritage tourism's partnerships with Destination Wollongong and Inside Industry.

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by Martin Gorrick

12 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Council staff provided a brief overview of the information contained within the Heritage Staff report. The membership discussed the following items:

12.1 Corrimal Coke Works

The membership discussed the 'gap' between the progression of a local heritage listing for the site and the lapsing of the Interim Heritage Order in May 2020. Council Staff advised that assurances have been received from the owner/developer of the site that demolition will not be undertaken without formal approvals. Further, Council's understanding is that the exhibition of the Draft Planning Proposal for heritage listing of the site would prevent the use of the existing Complying Development Approval until the finalisation of the draft planning proposal for heritage listing.

Fiona noted that the National Trust has now progressed a listing for the Corrimal Coke Works site on the National Trust Heritage Register.

Council Staff gave an update on the outcomes of the NSW Heritage Committee meeting of the 27th of April 2020 and noted that considerations of the State Heritage significance of the site have been deferred awaiting additional information.

Sharralyn raised that the Aboriginal heritage sensitivities of the site should be address as part of any Planning Proposal Process and it was noted that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report has been prepared. Consultation with the Aboriginal Community will be an important part of the exhibition process to inform the progression of the draft Planning Proposal for rezoning of the site.

12.2 Archaeological Digs in the City Centre

The Group requested that photographs and/or videos etc. of the archaeological finds around the City Centre be circulated via email.

12.3 Blue Mile Heritage Tours Update

The Membership noted Stuart Barnes' update as part of item 11 and the information provided in the business paper.

12.4 Update on Smith's Hill Fortifications

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

The Reference Group resolved -

The Wollongong Heritage Reference Group support the listing of the Former Corrimal Coke Works site on Schedule 5 of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan as a heritage item.

Moved by Lorraine Neate and seconded by Martin Gorrick.

12 OTHER MATTERS

Bulli Miners Cottage Adaptive Reuse Project – Council Staff advised that an architectural firm has now been engaged to prepare plans as part of the design process for the adaptive re-use of the Bulli Miners Cottage. The project involves the re-use of the Cottage site to support an Artist in Residence Program as per the previous decision of Council (as supported by the previous Membership of the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group). Council has now received draft 30% Concept Plans for the Adaptive Re-Use of the Bulli Miners Cottage Project.

Staff noted that the plans include a range of issues and heritage concerns that need to be addressed but in the interest of ensuring that the Membership have the opportunity to influence the draft Plans, that these would be provided to Members for comment and input. Staff advised that the plans would be circulated via email for comment by Monday the 4th of May. It was noted that due to the unrefined nature of the plans, these were being provided to members on a confidential basis and Members were asked not to share the plans with their networks.

It was noted that the Membership will have additional opportunities to provide input to the process as the project progresses, and will be kept informed of any updates at future meetings.

Former Coach House, Finders Street Wollongong – Sharralyn raised the current condition of the Former Coach House Building on Flinders Street, a local heritage item as a matter of concern.

Council Staff were requested to write to the current owners regarding the condition of the property and request a site visit.

Councillor Ann Martin thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:05 pm.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Who	Status
1	Site visit to the former Corrimal Coke Works be organised for Reference Group Members.	Heritage Staff	Carried over - Awaiting meeting date from proponent – to align with exhibition dates.
2	Council's Heritage Staff to reschedule meeting on site at Garrawarra with NSW Department of Infrastructure	Heritage Staff	Carried over – Awaiting update from Chris Stewart
3	Council's Heritage Staff to circulate confidential concept plans for the Bulli Miners Cottage Adaptive Reuse Project to membership via email for comment	Heritage Staff	Completed – Email sent 30th April 2020
4	Council's Heritage Staff to circulate photographs of the recent archaeological excavations in Wollongong City Centre	Heritage Staff	
5	Council's Heritage Staff to write to the owner of the Former Coach House in Flinders Street, Wollongong and offer support and encouragement to undertake maintenance.	Heritage Staff	Completed – Letter prepared and sent 26 May 2020.