

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2019



PRESENT

Councillor Ann Martin	Lorraine Neate
Meredith Hutton	Doug Boleyn
Martin Gorrick	Fiona Reynolds

IN ATTENDANCE

David Green – Manager City Strategy (Acting) WCC	Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC
Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC	Lucielle Power – Manager Property + Recreation (Acting) WCC
Blake Lampert – Property Services Manager (Acting) WCC	Sue Trevisi – Personal Assistant to Manager City Strategy (Acting) WCC

1 WELCOME

Councillor Martin opened the meeting at 5:15 pm and welcomed all present.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Councillor Cox, John Shipp, Sharrayln Robinson, Linda Davis, Andrew Carfield, Chris Stewart and Sofia Gibson.

INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Martin requested that all present introduce themselves.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Martin declared that in relation to Item 7, she is employed by the Department of Planning however does not deal with any matters within the Wollongong Local Government Area.

The Reference Group noted the Declaration of Interest by Councillor Martin.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 September 2019

The Reference Group resolved that *the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by Lorraine Neate.

6 CORRIMAL COKE WORKS UPDATE

Council staff noted that in a report to Council on 28 October 2019, Council resolved to extend the Interim Heritage Order over the Corrimal Coke Works site for an additional six (6) months until the 20 May 2020 over the existing gazetted curtilage. The resolution means in effect no structures on the site can be demolished under the complying development certificate obtained by the proponent.

The possibility of running a parallel planning proposal process to ensure the site was listed as a local heritage item under Schedule 5 of the Wollongong LEP 2009 before the expiration of the IHO was discussed.

The Membership raised to outstanding action for Council staff to organise a site inspection with Illawarra Coke Company and Legacy Property for the Reference Group.

The Reference Group resolved –

- 1 The information received be noted.
- 2 That a site inspection be arranged as soon as possible.

Moved by Martin Gorrick and seconded by Meredith Hutton.

7 STREAM HILL UPDATE

Council's Property Division gave an update on the progression of works at Streamhill. Council's Property and Infrastructure Divisions, in consultation with Council's Heritage Staff has now developed a scope of works which would be required to secure the property and prevent further damage.

An internal funding request is currently being progressed to secure funding to support this task. The scope of works subject to this funding process include:

- Tree and vegetation management
- Rubbish removal and site clean up
- Asbestos removal
- Structural assessments, repairs and waterproofing
- Pest Management and Treatments
- Fencing and securing of the property
- Ongoing maintenance of the site.

Property Division noted that this phase of works is a short term solution which targets at stabilising and preventing further damage and decay of the property, including tree and vegetation management in order to alleviate any further damage to the area. It was further noted that the first stage of vegetation removal is scheduled for 20 November 2019 and will involve a range of Council staff. The longer term future of the property will continue to be discussed.

After works have been completed on 20 November 2019, a further assessment will be undertaken to determine a suggested approach for the future. Property Division noted that the costs of the works required are unable to be accurately determined prior to this assessment.

The membership discussed the retention of significant landscape elements on site during vegetation removal. Council's Heritage staff noted that they would be on site during the process

and that lantana removal was being undertaken by hand to prevent any damage to the site or removal of potentially significant plantings. It was noted that the conifer is to be retained.

The membership requested that before and after photographs be taken and circulated.

The Reference Group noted the information.

8 HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2020

This agenda item was requested by the Membership to discuss Council's involvement in the upcoming 2020 Heritage Festival. The Australian Heritage Festival runs from 19 April to 19 May 2020, it was noted that the theme for 2020 is yet to be announced by the National Trust.

The Membership discussed the ways in which Council had supported the Festival in the past including:

- Producing a local calendar of Festival Events;
- Council's Heritage Staff have previously run City Centre Heritage Tours based on the Wollongong City Centre Heritage Trail;
- Wollongong Botanic Garden events including "Back in Time Tours of Gleniffer Brae" and the "Ghost of Puckey's Estate Tour";
- Council's Library and Art Gallery have previously had themed displays and exhibitions during the festival;
- Council's Cultural Services section have in the past arranged dedicated exhibitions and displays to align with the Festival.

Discussion took place on a number of potential activities and events that could be supported by the Membership, including a tour of the tunnels at Smiths Hill and Flagstaff Hill. It was noted that Council's Heritage staff have been working with Destination Wollongong develop a pilot Blue Mile Heritage Tour that could be run during the festival. The opportunity to reexhibit the junior Local History Prize in the Wollongong Library was also discussed.

The Reference Group suggested that an email detailing potential opportunities for involvement be circulated to various Council stakeholders, including Lost Wollongong, the Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong City Libraries and Destination Wollongong.

An action to this effect has been added to the minutes.

9 POTENTIAL 2020 MEETING DATES

Council staff noted that this was the final meeting for 2019. The purpose of this agenda item was to provide an opportunity for the Membership to discuss a proposed future meeting schedule for 2020. It was noted that the current meeting day of Thursday appears to have been problematic for some members and clashed with any extra-ordinary Council meetings and briefings that may be added to the calendar.

General availability of the Group was discussed, and a more suitable meeting day was considered for the Membership present to be Wednesday meetings.

The Reference Group requested that an appropriate day for the Group to meet be identified as soon as possible in consultation with those Members who were not present at the meeting.

10 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

Doug Boleyn: Engineers Australia Conference – The Engineers Australia Conference in 2021 will be held in Wollongong. However no dates are currently set.

Meredith Hutton: Old Court House Committee – The Group was advised that painting of the Old Court House has recently been completed.

Meredith also advised the Group of the passing of the President of the National Trust, Brian Powyer.

Fiona Reynolds: Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust

Fiona stated that the National Trust continued to be involved in advocating for the Corrimal Coke Works and Garrawarra Centre as well as providing comment on a range of development including the site known as “The Belmore” adjacent to Osborne Park, within the Wollongong Harbour State Heritage Conservation area.

The proposal to construct high-rise apartments on the site of “Marlene Court” in Smith Street was also discussed. The potential of the site to contain remains associated with Charles Throsby’s stockman’s hut and associated stockyard were discussed as well as potential impacts on the heritage-listed monument which marks the location of Charles Throsby’s stockman’s hut.

The Group was reminded by Council’s Staff that the Group’s responsibilities under the Charter does not include commenting on specific development applications.

Lorraine Neate: Friends of the Library

Lorraine advised that herself and Council’s Heritage Officer were involved in a competition organised by the Friends of the Wollongong Library for Primary school aged children. The competition encouraged students to learn about their local history and to gain valuable research skills from the Library Staff. The entries are currently displayed at the Wollongong City Library.

The membership discussed the potential that the competition entries be displayed during the Heritage Week Festivities.

11 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

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

11.1 Garrawarra Hospital Site Visit

Council’s Heritage Staff advised that the Garrawarra Hospital site visit was to take place on Tuesday, 12 November 2019 with Martin Gorrick attending as the Reference Group representative was cancelled due to the Catastrophic fire danger warning.

The National Trust members advised that they had recently met with NSW Infrastructure on site who had indicated potential uses for the site and alternatives to demolition were being explored.

11.2 Heritage Strategy 2019-2022

Council’s Heritage Staff advised that the Heritage Strategy has now been adopted by Council on 28 October 2019 and was available on Council’s website. The Group requested that a copy of the adopted Strategy be available at every meeting.

11.3 Crown Reserve Planning

Council staff advised that changes in Crown land management legislation now requires Council to apply Local Government Act 1993 community land categories to 46 Crown reserves.

Council has now proposed a community land category or a mix of community land categories for each of the 46 Crown Reserves and is seeking initial feedback to inform the progression of planning. It is noted that many of these Crown Reserve Parcels either contain Heritage Items, are known to be of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance, or have acknowledged heritage significance.

Council staff advised each site is mapped and listed on the 'Have Your Say' website and that updates will be provided to the Heritage Reference Group by Council's Community Land Management Officer.

The Reference Group received and noted the staff report.

Moved by Doug Boleyn seconded Fiona Reynolds.

12 OTHER MATTERS

Smith's Hill Fort – Council Staff advised that the Illawarra Rotary was undertaking painting maintenance works with Council's support as well as the installation of interpretative signage on site.

Cordeaux Road Renaming Proposal – Council Staff advised after formal objection from the Heritage Reference Group on the proposal, Council was now not considering the renaming of Cordeaux Road, but was exploring renumbering as a potential solution.

The Reference Group received and noted the information.

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

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting in February 2020.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Who	Status
1	Site visit to the former Corrimal Coke Works be organised for the Reference Group Members.	Heritage Staff	Carried over - Awaiting meeting date from proponent – to align with exhibition dates.
2	Council's Heritage Staff to seek an update on the NSW Heritage Nomination for Kembla Mine and Village from the NSW Heritage Council.	Heritage Staff	Complete - Emailed 29 April 2020
3	Heritage Festival to be placed on the Agenda for the November Heritage Reference Group meeting.	Heritage Staff	Complete – Agenda item 8
4	Council's Heritage Staff to email membership potential 2020 meeting dates	Heritage Staff	Complete – Emailed 27 November 2019
5	Council's Heritage Staff to email stakeholders regarding 2020 Heritage Festival	Heritage Staff	Complete – Emailed 29 January 2020
6	Council's Heritage Staff to circulate before and after photos of Stream Hill	Heritage Staff	Complete – Emailed 27 November 2019
7	Council's Heritage Staff to reschedule meeting on site at Garrawarra with NSW Department of Infrastructure	Heritage Staff	Awaiting Update Chris Stewart