

# MINUTES

## WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019



PRESENT	
Councillor Mithra Cox	Councillor Ann Martin
Douglas Boleyn	Martin Gorrick
Fiona Reynolds	Meredith Hutton
Georgina Element	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Chris Stewart – Manager City Strategy WCC	Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC
David Green – Manager Land Use Planning WCC	Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC

### 1 WELCOME

2 **APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Mark Riordan (Acting Director Planning + Environment), Jenny Mcconchie, Mark Sleigh, John Shipp, Lorraine Neate and Sharralyn Robinson.

3 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** – Councillor Cox provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

4 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – Carly disclosed a non-significant non-pecuniary interest relating to the 2019/2020 Heritage Grant applications due to her previous employer being an applicant.

### 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2019

The Reference Group resolved that:

***The **updated** minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.***

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by Fiona Reynolds.

### 6 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY REVIEW 2019/2022

Joel gave a brief update of the changes made to the draft Heritage Strategy 2019-2022 and thanked Members for their feedback. Joel advised that Carly had integrated the comments and updated the imagery of the draft Strategy as per suggestions from the Reference Group.

Members discussed the draft and provided a number of further comments in relation to the inclusion of references to the natural landscape.

The Reference Group Resolved that:

- The Strategy be updated to include reference to “natural landscapes” in Strategy 6 and Part 6.1 of the Implementation Plan.***
- The updated Strategy then to be recommended to Council for endorsement prior to being placed on public exhibition.***

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by Councillor Ann Martin.

## 7 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE GRANT FUND 2019/2020

Joel provided a brief overview of this year's grant funding program, noting an increase in interest with almost double the applications received compared to last year. Applications closed on 10 May, with Council having received 22 applications.

Joel outlined the assessment process, advising that a meeting with the sub-committee members will be organised to assess the applications. Fiona noted that she will be on two weeks leave (6-23 June) which may impact on the proposed dates for the sub-committee to meet.

Carly Boag noted that she has a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in relation to one of the applications.

Members discussed other incentives offered by Council to promote positive conservation outcomes. David Green provided an overview of the various incentives including, heritage advice, fee reimbursements and exemptions that are available as part of Council's development / planning proposal process.

The Reference Group Resolved that:

***The Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund information provided be received be noted.***

Moved by Councillor Ann Martin and seconded by Georgina Element.

## 8 STREAM HILL UPDATE

Fiona Reynolds briefed members on representations made to Meredith Hutton, Doug Boleyn and herself from a local community member who has raised concerns regarding the current condition of this Council owned heritage listed site.

Members discussed the recent history of the site and the broader issue of management of heritage sites and assets within the LGA. The group agreed that a visit to this important site should be arranged in order to view the current state of the property. Two possible date options (30 May and 20 June) were established for the Group's visit.

Following the discussion, the Heritage Reference Group resolved that:

- 1 ***The Heritage Reference Group acknowledge the tabled correspondence from Mr Ron Knowles and commend his advocacy for Stream Hill as a significant heritage item;***
- 2 ***The Heritage Reference Group visit Stream Hill as soon as practical;***
- 3 ***That the draft Heritage Asset Management Strategy be presented to the Reference Group for their information and discussion;***
- 4 ***The Wollongong Heritage Reference Group recognises that Wollongong City Council needs to better manage the Stream Hill property and set an appropriate precedent for best practice Heritage item/asset management within the community.***

Moved by Meredith Hutton and seconded by Fiona Reynolds.

## 9 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

**Meredith Hutton** – Meredith raised concerns regarding the recent Dendrobium Community Meeting advising of the possible mine closure in 2024 and the potential long term impact on the Kembla Heights Village heritage status.

Joel confirmed that Council has had initial discussions with South 32 in relation to their long term plan and strategy for the village. Members discussed options to progress the state heritage nomination for the site that is currently with the NSW Heritage Council for review and requested that Council seek an update on the status of the nomination.

**Action – Council’s Heritage Staff to seek an update on the State Heritage Nomination for Kembla Mine and Village from the NSW Heritage Council.**

**Fiona Reynolds** – Fiona advised that the Wollongong Harbour Master Plan is currently back under consideration. This item was discussed and the groups concerns for the management of the heritage significance of the place expressed.

**Doug** – Doug advised that the Engineers Australia Engineering Heritage Recognition program has formally recognised the contributions made by Lysaghts (Bluescope) in the defence of Australia during WWII. A plaque recognising the development and production of the “Owen Gun” is to be situated at the entry of Bluescope’s visitor centre.

**Fiona Reynolds** – Fiona updated the group on the Australian Heritage Festival, providing information of events being held across the Country. She invited members to an upcoming tour of Seaview, at Wongawilli on 18 May 2019. This includes a site tour of the cottage, which is an early example of stone craftsmanship.

Members discussed Wollongong Council’s level of involvement in the Heritage Festival program and events. It was agreed that this be raised as a future agenda item for the November meeting to allow further discussion by the Group ahead of the 2020 Heritage Festival.

**Action – Heritage Festival to be placed on the Agenda for the November Heritage Reference Group meeting.**

## 10 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Joel provided a brief overview of the information contained within the Heritage Staff report including the following items:

- 10.1 Hill 60 Update
- 10.2 The Denmark Hotel Update
- 10.3 Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program
- 10.4 Conflict of Interest Procedures

## 11 OTHER MATTERS - Nil

The meeting concluded at 7.00pm.

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Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held on 25 July 2019.

### 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	Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund – Sub-Committee meeting to assess 2019-20 grant applications	Sub-committee /Heritage Staff	<b>Complete</b> - Meeting held on 28 June 2019
3	Stream Hill site visit be organised for Heritage Reference Group Members	Heritage Staff	<b>Complete</b> - Site Inspection held June 2019.
4	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	Request sent to OEH, currently awaiting response.
5	Heritage Festival to be placed on the Agenda for the November Heritage Reference Group meeting.	Heritage Staff	Awaiting November WHRG Meeting