

# MINUTES

## WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023



### PRESENT

|                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cr Ann Martin (Chair)                 | Fiona Reynolds via Microsoft Teams  |
| Aara Welz                             | Meredith Hutton via Microsoft Teams |
| Nicholas Gill – <i>leaving 6:23pm</i> | Rod Logan via Microsoft Teams       |
|                                       |                                     |

### IN ATTENDANCE

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC | Chris Stewart – Manager City Strategy WCC<br>via Microsoft Teams |
| Denise Marinkovic – Heritage Officer WCC | David Green - Land Use Planning Manager -<br>WCC                 |

### 1 WELCOME

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 5:15pm and welcomed all present.

### 2 APOLOGIES

Hillary Powell, Sofia Gibson, Sandra Pires, David Bottin

### 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

### 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interests was made by the Membership.

### 5 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### 6 NSW HERITAGE STRATEGY

Joel Thompson – Heritage Coordinator (WCC) provided information in regards NSW Government are preparing a Heritage Strategy for whole State, starting the process with a survey.

The survey will be open to receive insights until 31 March 2024.

There is no draft material associated to the survey, so it is unclear the purpose and outcome of the survey.

The link to complete the survey, which has been shared in previous Business Papers, is as follows:

[A Heritage Strategy for NSW | Have Your Say](#)

Discussion occurred around the following:

- Relevance of submitting individual submissions.
- Heritage NSW it is about to move department.

## 7 MIALA HOUSE

Joel provided an update and overview of the detail provided in the business paper report and advised that the Heritage Listing has now been finalised, with an expanded curtilage which includes the adjacent Fig Trees. Further, the Planning Proposal amended the Minimum Lot Size applicable to the curtilage area to prevent future Torrens Title Subdivision of the property.

## 8 NORTH WOLLONGONG SLSC

Joel provided an overview of the detailed report provided in the business paper and advised of the recent addition of the North Wollongong SLSC to the NSW Heritage Listing curtilage of the North Beach Precinct. The amended listing was gazetted on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.

Discussion occurred around the following:

- Site-specific exemptions, for ongoing maintenance for example, which are already incorporated (footpaths, gardening, etc)
- Discussion of planned and existing interpretation signage in the precinct.

## 9 WHRG MEETING DATES 2024

Planned WHRG Meeting dates for next year were confirmed as follows:

22 February 2024 at 5:15pm

23 May 2024 at 5:15pm

Discussion occurred in relation to Local Government Elections planned for September 2024, and caretaker mode is scheduled to start in August 2024

Discussion occurred around the following:

- Finding a date for a meeting during July, considering school holidays.
- Relevance of which ongoing projects/sites are requiring clarity before the new Council starts.
- Heritage Strategy and Implementation Plan providing guidance and focus for future meeting agendas

**Action – Members requested a proposed additional meeting date in July 2024 be proposed.**

*This date has now been proposed as Thursday 4 July 2024 and is awaiting member feedback/availability.*

## 10 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Joel Thompson Heritage Coordinator (WCC) gave the following updates as detailed in the business paper report:

- Draft Wollongong Industrial Lands Review
- Corrimal Coke Works redevelopment and current DA status update
- NSW Government Proposed Housing Policy Amendments
- Smith's Hill (Battery Park) and Flagstaff Hill Fortifications Conservation Planning
- Meredith Hutton noted that the National Trust would be keen to be involved in this project.
- Hill 60
- Discussion occurred around the following:
  - o Major works underway in accordance with approvals, most of the excavations finished.

- Port Kembla Community Infrastructure Fund – project developed with this funding in stages.
- Sensitivity of the site, working closely with the Land Council – control the impacts by working in areas that are highly disturbed.
- Ngarraba-aan Trail – Master Plan – process of engagement with the community – complexities of working in stages and not as a complete project. Tell the story of the site from the aboriginal point of view and the military history as well.
- Discussion occurred in relation to the possibility of including Sandra Pires video work in the area as she has apparently secured more funding for additional local stories.
- Discussed the continued direct connection of people in the community with the history of the site and its stories and potential to capture this in audio-visual displays.
- Discussion about the tunnels and use options. For example, to project those stories there. Issues about security, management, graffiti, accessibility.

## 11 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY

Joel gave an update on the Wollongong Heritage Strategy and its adoption by Council and thanked Members for their input and involvement in the process and highlighted the following points:

- The Heritage Strategy and accompanying Implementation Plan should now inform the prioritisation of Council's Heritage work and the work of the WHRG going forward.
- Link to the updated document is provided below:  
[Wollongong-Heritage-Strategy-2023-2027.pdf \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/heritage/heritage-strategy-2023-2027)

Discussion occurred around the following:

- Port Kembla and Wentworth Street
  - Existing draft Heritage Conservation Area
  - Councillor Ann Martin mentioned a list of interests in and around Port Kembla.

## 12 DJEERA (MOUNT KEIRA) ABORIGINAL PLACE

Joel gave an update regarding the nomination of Djeera as an Aboriginal Place as per the business paper report. The following matters were discussed:

- Heritage NSW are considering the Aboriginal Place declaration
- Council report and resolution to support the inclusion of Council's land
- The need for a workable Management Plan, which has now been drafted by ILALC and provided for review.
- Discussion occurred in relation to the mechanisms of the Management Plan and the complexities of the approval process, including discussion of some of the learnings from the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place.
- Ownership within the proposed Place was discussed:
  - Council
  - National Park (majority)
  - Girls and Boy Scouts
  - Private landowners
  - Water NSW, Sydney Water
  - Energy providers

## 13 GENERAL UPDATES

- Rod Logan: no updates
- Meredith Hutton (National Trust):
  - o Mentioned the good work on recent restoration of the Town Hall organ and a Conservatorium Concert she attended.
- Fiona Reynolds (National Trust):
  - o Noted concerns of National Trust about proposed Mountain bike tracks, operation and maintenance and need to shut down illegal tracks.
  - o North Beach SLSC precinct – SHR nomination progressed.
  - o Kembla Fortress - Harry Anneveld (Secretary) has prepared a history of the WWII sites for the National Trust including Port Kembla. Copy will be provided for inclusion in the Library's collection and for Council records.
  - o Heritage Trust Awards 2024: open, and entries close on the 6th of March. All the details on the website. Link: [The National Trust Heritage Awards – National Trust](#)
- Aara Walz (ILALC):
  - o Mentioned that ILALC have made a submission in relation to the proposed offshore wind farm and are contributing to the First Nations clean energy roundtable. Key issues included:
  - o Works been proposed in an area without any Aboriginal heritage assessment. Would like to see some data to make informed decisions.
  - o Potential submerged archaeology. Consider the area was above sea level 6000 – 7000 years ago.
  - o Key lines and vistas from heritage places and how this may impact cultural values of Aboriginal Places.
  - o Connection with Whales and their storylines and how this may impact on the whale's migration
  - o Acknowledging that this is Dharawal Sea Country and considering equity sharing and having a positive outcome for the community.

## 14 OTHER MATTERS

David Green noted that the Draft Wollongong City Foreshore Plan of Management was endorsed by Council on Monday to be sent to Crown lands for their approval before Exhibition (expected time: 6 -18 months). This plan covers the Coastal Reserves between Stuart Park in the north to the Golf Course in the south.

**Action – To be added to Agenda for future WHRG Meeting.**

*Councillor Martin closed the meeting at 6.45pm*

## ACTION SUMMARY

| Item | Action  | Who           | Status  |
|------|---|---------------|---|
| 1    | Propose new date for July meeting before WCC caretaker mode                               | Heritage Team | <b>Complete – 4 July proposed.</b>                    |
| 2    | Draft Wollongong City Foreshore Plan of Management to be included in future WHRG Meeting. | Heritage Team | <b>Complete – Presented to February 2024 meeting.</b> |
|      |   |               |   |