



HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

State Heritage Register Committee Minutes

9:00 am – 1:30 pm
Tuesday, 29 September 2020
Teleconference

ATTENDANCE	
MEMBERS	
Ms Sheridan Burke	Chair
Ms Colleen Morris	Deputy Chair
Mr Steven Barry	Member
Dr Wayne Johnson	Member
Dr Brian Lindsay	Member
Dr Lisa Murray	Member
Ms Lisa Newell	Member
Mr Frank Howarth AM PSM	Alternate Member
Apology	
Mr Paul Knight	Member
HERITAGE NSW	
Ms Jan Willett	A/Executive Director
Mr Tim Smith	Director Heritage Operations (Item 2.2)
Mr Matthew Clarke	Director Heritage Strategy (Item 3.2)
Dr Aleisha Buckler	SHR Listings Coordinator, Heritage Strategy (Item 2.1)
Ms Rochelle Johnston	Manager, Heritage Programs (Item 2.2)
Ms Diana Cowie	Senior Policy Officer, Heritage Strategy (Item 3.1)
SECRETARIAT	
Ms Olgica Lenger	Senior Team Leader, Secretariat
Ms Linda Bugarin	Secretariat Officer

In-Camera Session

This item is not minuted.

Item 1. Welcome and formalities

The Chair, Ms Sheridan Burke, opened the meeting at 9:00 am, delivered an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed attendees.

It was noted that Mr Paul Knight was an apology and quorum had been met.

Item 1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Nil reported.

Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions

Nil reported.

Item 1.3 Minutes from Previous Meeting – 1 September 2020

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the unconfirmed minutes from the previous ordinary meeting of Tuesday, 1 September 2020 and agreed on additional action items raised by the Chair regarding the local government strategic project and reporting on Aboriginal Places and SHR listing issues.

Resolution 2020-78

The State Heritage Register Committee confirmed the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (Tuesday, 1 September 2020) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting, including the following additional action items:

- Item 1.4 Action Report
 5. HNSW to activate the local government strategic project (Brett, Sheridan, Frank, Matt)
 6. Paul Knight to report back re AP/SHR listing issues to October agenda

Moved by Ms Colleen Morris and seconded by Ms Sheridan Burke.

Item 1.4 Action Report

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the report and discussed the following:

- The Committee raised concerns about referencing out of date guidelines in the Draft Exemptions Gazettal, noting that number of documents in the Heritage Manual need an update or rewrite. The Committee questioned the timeframe to finalise the updated set of guidelines (action item 122).
- The Committee is of the view that the Burra Charter and its practice notes should be referenced in the Draft Exemptions Gazettal.
- Requested further update on making public communications around the SHR triage process (action items 119 and 120).

Resolution 2020-79

The State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Recommends** to the Heritage Council that the Draft Exemptions Gazettal be amended to include reference to the Burra Charter and its practice notes.
2. **Seeks** an urgent update from Heritage NSW on priority/timing to update the Heritage Manual components referenced in the Draft Exemptions Gazettal.
3. **Requests** Heritage NSW to provide a draft letter to local councils and key stakeholders regarding the SHR triage process to the November meeting of the State Heritage Register Committee.

Moved by Ms Sheridan Burke and seconded by Dr Brian Lindsay.

Item 2. Listings Matters**Item 2.1 Listings Matters Monthly Report & Watchlist**

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the report and presentation from Dr Aleisha Buckler.

Key points raised:

- The Committee is seeking a joint meeting with the Heritage Council to discuss the Newcastle Recreational Reserve listing nomination.
- Requested Heritage NSW to organise a site visit to Wingello Park.
- The delays between the resolution to make a recommendation to list and the making of the listings may impact on the positive relationship with item owners during the listing process.
- The public is not aware of changes to the SHR triage processes. The Committee is seeking to discuss options and timeframes for messaging around the SHR triage processes the November biannual prioritisation meeting, including the website update, a draft letter to key stakeholders and a meeting with the National Trust of Australia to discuss the new process.

Resolution 2020-80

The State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Requests** a joint meeting of the State Heritage Register Committee and the Heritage Council of NSW to discuss the Newcastle Recreational Reserve nomination.
2. **Notes** with concerns the delays between the resolution to make a recommendation to list and the making of the listings, and the risk that this represents to maintaining the positive relationship with item owners.

Moved by Ms Colleen Morris and seconded by Ms Sheridan Burke.

Item 2.2 Triage of New SHR Nominations

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the report from Mr Tim Smith.

Key points raised:

- The historical significance of the Harwood Building and its relationship to the site as a whole is of primary heritage value.

- The significance of the Harwood Building's current function of providing workshops, which has been ongoing for nearly 40 years.
- The building has been substantially altered and reconstructed, the tolerance for change of the fabric of the building is very high.
- The owner's intention to improve and modernise the facility and its functionality.
- The independent reports on significance assessment of the Harwood Building do not support the threshold of state significance.
- The National Trust of Australia (NSW) did not include the Harwood Building in the original nomination for the Powerhouse due to time and resource constraints.
- Requested Heritage NSW to examine differences between Don Godden's 1981 and 2003 reports, to inform the Heritage Council's considerations at the 30 September meeting and sought update on the City of Sydney's position, noting they have excised the Harwood Building and dismissed the LEP in 2012.

Resolution 2020-81

The State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Notes** that Heritage NSW considers the site meets criterion "a" at the state significance level. Its preliminary review did not find that the site meets state value threshold against other criteria, nor overall would the Harwood Building meet the threshold test for SHR nomination based on a single criterion assessment. Heritage NSW notes that whilst an Item can be found to meet a State significance threshold under a single criterion (section 33(3)(b) of the *Heritage Act 1977*) and be recommended by the Heritage Council, that is only available for exceptional cases and where the 'test' meets a very high threshold. The standard requirement is for an Item to meet more than one (i.e. two or more) criterion before the Heritage Council recommends consideration to list on the SHR.
2. **Confirms** the historic significance of the Harwood Building as part of the significance of the Ultimo Powerhouse. The Powerhouse Group, including the Harwood building, is of state significance because of their influence on the geographic and suburban development of Sydney which was enabled by the electrification and expansion of the Sydney tram network (criterion 'a').
3. **Agrees** that the tolerance for change of the Harwood Building appears to be relatively high (the current situation of the fabric requires a contemporary assessment), its form, historic function and location are significant and should be carefully considered in the future of the site, opportunities for its adaptive reuse and interpretation.
4. **Notes** that the Harwood Building's current adaptive function as conservation workshop servicing the Powerhouse collection reinforces its association and significance with the Powerhouse Group.

Moved by Ms Lisa Newell and seconded by Dr Wayne Johnson.

Resolution 2020-82

Subject to further information requested, the State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Recommends** to the Heritage Council consider extending the current curtilage of the current Powerhouse Museum listing to include the Harwood Building and its land.
2. **Recommends** that the site specific exemptions be identified with the owners in tandem with the listing process.

3. **Agreed** to consider the Harwood Building nomination at the Prioritisation meeting in November.

Moved by Ms Lisa Newell and seconded by Dr Lisa Murray.
Dr Brian Lindsay voted against **Item 1**.

Item 2.3 Rural Heritage Working Group – Update

The Rural Heritage Working Group update from Ms Colleen Morris will be circulated to members out of session.

Ms Colleen Morris reported on her meeting with the Conservation Director, National Trust of Australia (NSW), including a request for the Heritage Council to provide a briefing on rural listings.

Item 3. Policy, Strategic and Administrative Matters

Item 3.1 Landholder Owner Engagement Process – Project Scope

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the report from Ms Diana Cowie.

Key points raised:

- The project outputs should include an appropriate notification letter sent to landholders/owners where the SHR nomination is not moving forward.
- The need to inform prospective owners about heritage listings at a local and State level (eg. approvals and costings) in the context of the Heritage Act and the *Environment Protection Act* approval processes.
- A project timeline will be presented to the Committee before the end of the year.
- The Committee noted the visual representation of related Heritage NSW and Heritage Council work that may influence owners' experience (the map provided in the report), and requested the Heritage Council Strategic Projects Status Update to be provided at the November meeting.
- The Committee thanked Ms Diana Cowie for the report.

Resolution 2020-83

The State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Agrees** with the proposed scope of the SHR Landholder/Owner Engagement Project.
2. **Notes** the mapping of key audiences requiring SHR information (Tab 3.1B of the report) and that each audience's specific needs will be further researched.
3. **Requests** Heritage NSW to extend the project scope to:
 - a. address how the approval process for items on the SHR works with local consents and the approvals nexus between the *Environment Protection Act* and the *Heritage Act*.
 - b. Incorporate the review of the letters going to nominees who are not proceeding to the SHR listing.

Moved by Ms Sheridan Burke and seconded by Ms Colleen Morris

Item 3.2 SHR Listings Coordinator – Extension of role

The State Heritage Register Committee noted a report from Mr Matthew Clark and Ms Rochelle Johnston.

Key issues raised:

- There is a demonstrated need for an ongoing role of SHR Listings Coordinator as part of the Heritage NSW core business.
- Arrangements should be put in place to transition from a project funded role to an ongoing role within the Heritage NSW establishment.
- Members acknowledged the successful outcomes achieved by this role.
- A budget plan for this position for the new financial year or the end of 2021
- A recruitment process is currently in progress to fill the role in accordance with the government recruitment processes. Further update will be presented at the December meeting of the Heritage Council.
- The proposed funding for the role will be included in the budget paper to be considered by the Heritage Council in November.
- The Chair and Deputy Chair will consider this matter out of session and provide an update to the Heritage Council.

RESOLUTION 2020-84

Confirmed at the 3 November 2020 SHRC meeting due to lack of quorum on 29 September.

Resolution 2020-84

The State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Supports** the demonstrated need for ongoing position of the SHR Listings Coordinator.
2. **Notes** with concerns that the position is not seen as core business for Heritage NSW and seeks further consideration of staffing priorities and transitional arrangements from a Heritage Council funded position to a permanent position.
3. **Requires** further consideration regarding the 18-month funding extension of the SHR Listings Coordinator starting 30 March 2021 at a total cost of \$223,000, pending response to item 2.
4. **Delegates** to the Chair and Deputy Chair to make a recommendation on the matter to the Heritage Council out of session.

Moved by Ms Lisa Newell and seconded by Ms Sheridan Burke.

Item 4. General Matters

Item 4.1 Forward Agenda

The Committee noted the forward agenda and sought confirmation that Transport for New South Wales will be presenting at the November meeting on the management strategy for the working harbour heritage assets.

Item 4.2 Matters Arising

Nil reported.

Meeting Close

There being no further items of business, the Chair, Ms Sheridan Burke, closed the meeting at 1:30 pm.



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Ms Sheridan Burke
Chair, State Heritage Register Committee
Date: 3 November 2020