



HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEETING MINUTES – 492

4 August 2021 | 09:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Via Teleconference

ATTENDANCE	
MEMBERS	
Mr Frank Howarth AM PSM	Chair
The Hon Robyn Parker	Deputy Chair
Dr Nicholas Brunton	Member
Mr Ian Clarke	Member
Mr Paul Knight	Member
Mr Dillon Kombumerri	Observer
Dr Brian Lindsay	Member
Ms Colleen Morris	Member
Ms Louise Thurgood	Member
Mr Brett Whitworth	Member
APOLOGIES	
Nil	
GUEST PRESENTERS AND EXTERNAL ATTENDEES	
Ms Debbie Mills	CEO, National Trust of Australia (NSW) (3.1)
Mr David Burdon	Director Conservation, National Trust (NSW) (3.1)
Ms Jane Alexander	Advocacy Manager, National Trust (3.1)
Ms Kirstie Allen	DPC secondee assisting with Heritage Act Review and ACH reforms (4.1)
Mr Chris Duncan	Senior Policy and Project Officer, Crown Lands (4.1)
HERITAGE NSW	
Ms Pauline McKenzie	Executive Director (outgoing)
Mr Sam Kidman	Executive Director (incoming)
Mr Tim Smith	Director Heritage Operations
Mr Matthew Clark	Director Heritage Strategy and Policy

Ms Sarah Jane Brazil	Senior Team Leader Major Projects (3.1 and 5.6)
Mr David Nix	Senior Heritage Officer Major Projects (3.1)
Dr Siobhan Lavelle	Senior Team Leader Specialist Services (3.1 and 4.3)
Ms Caroline Ford	Senior Team Leader Strategy (4.1)
Ms Lucy Albani	Senior Team Leader Heritage Policy, HNSW (4.1)
Ms Rochelle Johnston	Manager Heritage Act Programs (5.1 and 7.1)
Ms Anna London	Acting Senior Team Leader Streamlining Team (4.3 and 5.1)
Ms Rebecca Newell	Senior Historical Archaeology Officer (4.3)
Mr James Sellwood	Acting Senior Team Leader Strategic Relationships and Planning (5.1 and 7.1)
Ms Jan Nye	Senior Team Leader Communications and Engagement (5.2)
Ms Maruschka Loupis	Senior Programs Officer (5.2)
Ms Rosanna Luca	Senior Programs Officer (5.4)
SECRETARIAT	
Ms Olgica Lenger	Senior Team Leader Secretariat
Ms Elizabeth Thomas	Advisory Panels Co-ordinator

IN-CAMERA SESSION

This item was not minuted.

Item 1. Welcome and Formalities

The Chair, Frank Howarth, opened the meeting at 9:20 AM, delivered an Acknowledgment of Country and welcomed attendees.

There were no apologies received and it was noted that a quorum had been met.

Item 1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

For *Item 3.1 Central Precinct redevelopment - National Trust presentation*, standing declarations were noted from:

- Louise Thurgood as a non-Executive member of Sydney Metro;
- Brett Whitworth with regard to the planning assessment process; and
- Colleen Morris who is a member of the National Trust Committee but has no specific involvement with the National Trust.

There were no other conflicts of interest declared.

Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions

There were no decisions made out of session since the last meeting.

Item 1.3 Minutes from the Previous Meeting – 7 July 2021

Resolution 2021-43
The Heritage Council of NSW: 1. Confirmed the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (7 July 2021) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting.
Moved by Paul Knight and seconded by Dr Nicholas Brunton

Item 1.4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 1.5 Action Report

The Heritage Council of NSW agreed to close items recommended for closure. The register was updated to reflect the additional discussion and further actions requested.

Item 2. Committees Update

State Heritage Register Committee (SHRC)

Robyn Parker, Chair of the State Heritage Register Committee, provided an update on key outcomes for items considered at the 3 August SHRC meeting.

Approvals Committee (AC)

Dillon Kombumerri, Chair of the Approvals Committee, provided an update on key outcomes for items considered at the 3 August AC meeting.

Dillon Kombumerri left the meeting at 9:45 AM.

Item 3. External Presentations

Item 3.1 Central Station Redevelopment – National Trust presentation

The Heritage Council of NSW received a report from Sarah Jane Brazil and a presentation from the National Trust of Australia (NSW) on the Central Station redevelopment proposal.

Key points raised in the presentation:

- The Central Railway Station was originally listed in 1976 by the National Trust and the Central Station Precinct and surrounding area of Haymarket Urban Conservation Area was listed in 1980.
- The Station and Precinct have evolved overtime with various improvements made since the original design, to become a significant transport hub for the city.
- The intended street patterns form connections to the surrounding areas and together with the bespoke heritage buildings, have highly significant heritage values which should be considered holistically at a macro level.
- The National Trust were of the strong view that the development should be framed by a Masterplan that is shaped by the heritage significance and include recognition of the original street view lines and retention of the visual prominence of the Clock Tower.
- The National Trust presented various options to develop the site that aim to respect the requirements for the transport node without visually detracting from the existing site and built form.
- The National Trust consider the Devonshire Street linkages critical elements that will enable new connections to be established with appropriate zoning, improve the yield footprint, and provide office location connectors.

The Council noted:

- The Western Gateway Strategic Vision prepared by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) aims to recognise the Precinct's heritage significance as an integral part of this major transportation hub and provide the context and strategic rationale for further development.
- The Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) are working closely with TfNSW to further consider the detailed building envelopes and building designs that maintain and protect the Precinct's heritage significance.
- The Council has ongoing discussions with TfNSW to get an integrated heritage conservation strategy for the entire area and across the station, that recognises the exceptional significance of the Central Station Precinct in juxtaposition with future development.
- The relationship between heritage and modern buildings is integral to a developing city and the Council welcomed the ongoing dialogue between key stakeholders to improve placemaking outcomes to ensure a positive legacy for the Central Precinct.

Resolution 2021-44
<p>The Heritage Council of NSW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thanks the National Trust of Australia (NSW) for their engaging presentation. 2. Notes that the Council will continue to raise and discuss matters concerning the Central Station Redevelopment with Transport for NSW.
<p>Moved by Ian Clark and seconded by Robyn Parker</p>

Item 4. Legal, Policy and Administration

Item 4.1 Heritage Act Review update

The Heritage Council of NSW received a report and update from Matthew Clark, Lucy Albani and Caroline Ford on the heritage legislation review.

The Chair welcomed Kirstie Allen and Chris Duncan to the discussion, who provided a brief outline of their roles in supporting the Department of Premier and Cabinet's (DPC) work on the *Heritage Act Review* and ACH reforms.

Heritage NSW reported that:

- The Minister has provided evidence to the Parliamentary Review Committee (PRC) which was livestreamed and is available for viewing on YouTube. The transcript will be made available in the near future.
- Due to Covid-19 restrictions, further presentations to the PRC, as well as the public hearings, originally due to be held on 2 and 6 August 2021, have been deferred.
- The Jurisdictional Legislation Review report by Dr Mark Dunn is being finalised and will be circulated to the Council out of session.
- Heritage NSW is currently analysing the 295 published submissions received by the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues and policy papers are being developed.

The Council welcomed the ongoing engagement with DPC throughout the review..

Item 4.2 Standard Exemptions Update

The Heritage Council noted that this item was withdrawn from the agenda and will be provided at the September Council meeting.

Item 4.3 Archaeology Exceptions

The Heritage Council of NSW received a report and verbal update from Anna London, Dr Siobhan Lavelle and Rebecca Newell.

The Council noted:

- The opportunity to simplify archaeological approval processes and reduce the regulatory burden for external and internal stakeholders by introducing two new non-notifiable exceptions for local heritage significance items which only have minor works and/or no relics to manage.
- Removing the need for minor works permits will reduce red tape and costs for customers and provide greater clarity about the pathways for non-notifiable exceptions.
- Archaeology excavation permits would only be required for major works, which currently equates to around 30% of applications received.

The Council thanked the team for the work undertaken to streamline this process and for the concise report provided.

Resolution 2021-45

The Heritage Council of NSW:

1. **Approves** the section 139 exceptions order for gazettal establishing two non-notifiable exceptions (attachment A of the report).
2. **Agrees** that the Chair signs the section 139 order establishing the new exceptions (attachment A of the report).

Moved by Dr Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Colleen Morris

Item 5. Matters for Consideration

Item 5.1 Heritage Impact Statement – Revised Policy and Templates

The Heritage Council of NSW received a report and verbal update from Rochelle Johnston seeking the Council's approval for the updated Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) Policy and Template.

Key Points Raised:

- The Heritage Impact Statement Policy and Template have been revised to incorporate the Council's initial feedback, as well as detailed input from a HIS working group comprising Heritage and Technical Advisory Panel members.
- Heritage NSW will partner with DPIE, who oversee the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, to offer induction workshops to local government on the new HIS Policy and Template and its tiered approach.
- Noting that Heritage Impact Statements do not require the formal approval of the Heritage Council, the Council stressed the importance of having clear messaging around the HIS process when promoting the new templates to the heritage community.

The Council thanked Rochelle Johnston and the team for their excellent work on finalising the HIS project and acknowledged the significant input of the members of the Heritage and Technical Advisory Panels.

Resolution 2021-46
The Heritage Council of NSW: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) Policy and Template at Tab 5.1B of the report. 2. Approves the proposed framework for the HIS Induction and Workshop of Local Government HIS Issues (Tab 5.1D of the report) to allow for consultation with local government on whether the template and tiered approach are of use to them and, if so, how to best implement them across councils.
Moved by Dr Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Brett Whitworth

Item 5.2 Heritage Council Communications Strategy Update

The Heritage Council of NSW received a report and verbal update from Jan Nye and Maruschka Loupis.

The Council noted:

- The *Communications and Engagement Strategy 2021-22* is designed to reflect the joint communications and promotion priorities of the Heritage Council of NSW and Heritage NSW for the period July 2021 – December 2022.
- The Strategy aligns with DPC's media protocols and communications framework, which also sets out the complaints process for staff to respond quickly via DPC channels for any defamatory posts on social media pages.
- Specific user data is gathered via surveys with success measures currently focused on growth and traction, such as the number of shares and responses received to various posts.

- A review of the reach of Heritage NSW's social media channels will be undertaken and information provided to Council at a future meeting.

Dillon Kombumerri re-joined the meeting at 12:30 PM.

The Council asked that Heritage NSW continue to monitor communications and engagement activities and develop additional KPIs for relevant components of the strategy, including social media. Once established, progress against KPIs should be included in future media reporting.

The Heritage Council thanked Jan Nye and Maruschka Loupis for their hard work in preparing the communications strategy and were pleased to note the recent improvements made to Heritage NSW's social media posts.

Resolution 2021-47

The Heritage Council of NSW:

1. **Agrees** to adopt the Heritage NSW and Heritage Council of NSW Communications Plan and accompanying Strategy 2021-22 (Tab A and Tab B of the report).

Moved by Ian Clarke and seconded by Louise Thurgood

Item 5.3 Heritage Council Annual Report

The Heritage Council of NSW received a brief verbal update from Matthew Clark.

Heritage NSW are currently preparing the statutory annual report for the Heritage Council. The report will be provided to the Council for endorsement at the September meeting prior to being incorporated into the DPC Annual Report.

Louise Thurgood and Sam Kidman left the meeting at 12:37 PM.

Tim Smith joined the meeting at 1:15 PM.

Item 5.4 Blue Plaques Program Update

The Heritage Council of NSW received a verbal update from Tim Smith and Rosanna Luca.

The Council noted opportunities to include items from previously sourced stories, as well as the options for digital storytelling and the use of existing data sets and links to various sources.

Heritage NSW provided an update on the consultation underway and noted that:

- Heritage NSW proposes a phased approach to deliver the Blue Plaques across NSW.
- There has been some initial consultation with other NSW Government agencies and local councils.
- Heritage NSW will seek further advice and input of Aboriginal members of the Council and ACHAC as to the appropriate engagement with Aboriginal communities and inclusion of First Nation's stories.
- Further information will be circulated to Council members seeking feedback on the nomination criteria, as well as ideas about promoting key places, people and stories.

The Council acknowledged the great work done to date to establish the Program and the proposed implementation.

Item 5.5 Last Quarter Century Study – Final report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted that this item has been moved to the September meeting to allow time for the consultant's report to be finalised.

Item 5.6 CMP Review – delivery plan and updated publications

The Heritage Council of NSW received a report and update from Tim Smith and Sarah Jane Brazil.

The Council noted:

- The plan's delivery, including six induction sessions, has been achieved within budget.
- Webinar induction sessions are being held to present the new suite of advisory materials to Heritage NSW staff, external asset owners and heritage consultants. The webinar sessions are capped at 30 attendees and all six sessions have been filled.
- Over 100 people have been placed on a waiting list with additional webinars being considered, pending available funding and resources.
- A range of other potential training measures were presented by the consultant through the project but have been descoped. These include delivering training and development courses and exploring the potential for a third-party training provider.
- Heritage NSW are also looking at the best approach to finalise the remaining CMPs which have been previously lodged in the system for endorsement.

The Council acknowledged the excellent work done by Sarah Jane Brazil and the team to deliver this Program and asked that as an addendum to this CMP review, a 'publicly announceable' policy for updating endorsed CMPs be drafted for Council's consideration.

Resolution 2021-48

The Heritage Council of NSW:

1. **Notes** the successful completion of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) Review project, with the finalisation of the agreed-to implementation outcomes.
2. **Supports** the running of additional webinars, if funding is available.
3. **Thanks** Sarah Jane Brazil, Colleen Morris and Bruce Pettman for successful running of this program.

Moved by Robyn Parker and seconded by Dr Brian Lindsay

Item 6. Executive Reports

Item 6.1 Executive Director, Heritage NSW – Monthly Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and verbal update from Pauline McKenzie.

Tim Smith provided an update on the State Significant Development application for Fort Street Public School.

Sam Kidman re-joined the meeting at 2:37 PM.

On behalf of the Council, the Chair and Deputy Chair sincerely thanked Pauline McKenzie for all her hard work and support of the Heritage Council during her time as Executive Director. The Council reflected on the significant contribution Pauline has made to the public service and in particular her leadership of Heritage NSW.

Resolution 2021-49

The Heritage Council of NSW:

1. **Recognises** and **thanks** Pauline McKenzie for her leadership of Heritage NSW over the last six years and for her very significant personal contribution to the conservation and protection of heritage in NSW, and in particular of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Moved by Dr Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Ian Clarke

Item 6.2 Chair, Heritage Council of NSW – Monthly Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the verbal update.

Item 6.3 Chief Planner's Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Chief Planner's report.

Item 6.4 Advisory Panels Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Advisory Committee and Panels report.

Item 6.5 Strategic Project Status Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the verbal update from Matthew Clark.

Item 7. Heritage NSW Reporting**Item 7.1 Heritage Operations – Annual Reporting****Item 7.1.a 2020-21 Applications Annual Report**

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Heritage NSW Annual Applications Report 2020/21 and verbal update provided by Matthew Clark.

Item 7.2 Heritage Operations – Monthly Reports**Item 7.2.a Conservation Major Projects – Monthly Report**

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and verbal update provided by Tim Smith.

Item 7.2.b Delegated Decisions – Monthly Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Delegated Decisions Report.

Item 7.2.c Listing Matters

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Listings Matters monthly report.

Item 7.2.d Social Media, Publicity and Heritage Celebration - Monthly Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Social Media Report.

Item 8. General Matters**Item 8.1 Standard Exemptions update**

The Heritage Council of NSW noted a formal update will be provided at the next meeting. In the interim, Council were invited to provide initial feedback to Heritage NSW on the draft exemptions as provided in these meeting papers.

Item 8.2 Forward Agenda

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the forward agenda.

Item 9. Meeting Close

There being no further items of business, the Chair, Frank Howarth, closed the meeting at 3:00 PM.



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Mr Frank Howarth AM PSM

Chair, Heritage Council of NSW

Date: 1 September 2021