

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEETING RESOLUTIONS - 537

2 April 2025 | 9:00 AM - 3:45 PM

Meeting Room 14, Level 11, 4PSQ, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta & via teleconference

Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions

Nil

Item 1.3 Minutes from previous meeting - 5 March 2025

Resolution 2025-16

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

1. **Confirm** the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (5 March 2025) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Lisa Trueman

Item 1.4 Matters Arising

Nil

Item 1.5 Action Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report.

Item 2.1 MLC Building, North Sydney (former) (SHR 02069)

Resolution 2025-17

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

- 1. **Note** the presentation by Investa, ficstudio, and Curio Projects.
- 2. **Support** the adaptive reuse of the MLC Building, North Sydney (former).
- 3. **Note** the Heritage Council has given in-principle support to the demolition of the existing Denison Street Wing and building core, and the erection of new replacement structures. In concert with this, the Miller Street Wing and forecourt are to be retained.
- 4. **Provide** the following comments on the education scheme as presented:
 - a. An educational use would allow for greater retention of the remaining fabric that represents aspirations of the original Modernist design, given there are strong synergies between educational uses and the Modernist approach to providing amenities to staff and community.
 - b. Retention and conservation of significant spaces and fabric should be prioritised, in line with the *Burra Charter*, as a means of retaining the embodied significance of the place. The Heritage Council strongly supports an approach to conservation in which the balance between retention and interpretation favours the former as a means to minimise impact to the identified State heritage values.

- c. The focus for the Miller Street Wing should be retention and conservation of its key heritage features/attributes in accordance with its status as a State heritage item. The following options should be considered:
 - (i) limit the amount of demolition or replacement of significant fabric and spaces
 - (ii) prioritise the conservation and retention of the curtain wall fabric of the Miller Street Wing as a key element of the building's significance
 - (iii) upgrade the fire rating of the floor slabs without demolition and replacement
 - (iv) alleviate flooding without raising the ground floor level of the Miller Street Wing.
- d. The education scheme's core is larger in area than that of the commercial scheme. The visual impacts of the larger core including any proposed changes to the fenestration and key views of the building, need to be clearly assessed to minimise the heritage impacts and promote the retention of fabric and spaces.
- e. The educational scheme provides a unique opportunity to retain the squash courts (exceptional significance) and the former dining room (high significance). It is the Heritage Council's preference that these elements are retained *on situ* and incorporated into a re-configured core design.
- f. Renders of the proposal, in particular from the west, should accurately depict the proposed scheme, including the core and new Denison Street Wing.
- g. The education scheme seeks to address concerns related to the proportions of the Miller Street façade colonnade through the introduction of an awning. The awning is not supported and the proportions of the Miller Street façade colonnade need to be revisited.
- h. The integration of a *Connecting with Country* narrative in the connection to Brett Whitely Plaza is supported in concept. Ongoing consultation with relevant Aboriginal groups in developing the design is encouraged.
- i. Reinstatement of the original external stair on the Miller Street façade should be considered or justification as to why the stair will not be reinstated.
- 5. The design of the southern facade of the Denison Street Wing should be refined to reflect the visual solidity of the southern facade of the Miller Street Wing to improve the visual consistency between the two wings.
- 6. Future presentation to the Heritage Council of NSW should demonstrate how the Heritage Council's comments have been addressed.

Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Alan Croker

Item 3.1 St Mary's (SHR 01709) – LEC Class 1 proceedings – monthly update

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the update.

Item 3.2 The State Heritage Register: the past, the present and the future

Resolution 2025-18

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

1. **Note** the analysis provided at Tab 3.2A of the report that has informed this paper.

2. **Support in principle** the strategic approach to amendments to existing State Heritage Register listings throughout the 2025-2026 financial year to meet minimum data requirements and inform appropriate risk-based regulation of State items.

Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Julian Siu

Item 3.3 Managing State government heritage assets

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and presentation from Heritage NSW.

Item 3.4 Strategic Priorities 2023-25 analysis

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report from Heritage NSW.

Item 4.1 Housing Taskforce – DPHI briefing

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the briefing provided by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Item 5. Executive Reports

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the reports.

Item 6. Heritage NSW reporting

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the reports.

Item 7. General Matters

Resolution 2025-19

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

1. **Extend** the appointment of Thomas Bowyer, Gary Waller and Daire Fleming to the Technical Advisory Panel until 31 July 2025.

Moved by Vanessa Holtham and seconded by Julian Siu

Item 7.1 Forward Agenda

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the forward agenda.

Meeting Close

There being no items of further business, the Chair, Sally Barnes, closed the meeting at 3:45 PM.

Secretariat Heritage Council of NSW