



HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEETING MINUTES – 537

2 April 2025 | 9:00 AM – 3:45 PM

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

ATTENDANCE

Members

Ms Sally Barnes	Chair
Mr Alan Croker	Member
Ms Vanessa Holtham	Member
Dr Brian Lindsay	Member
Ms Anthea Sargent	Member
Mr Julian Siu	Member
Ms Lisa Trueman	Member

Apologies

Dr Nicholas Brunton	Member
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Approvals Committee Members (item 2.1)

Mr Bruce Pettman	Member
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External Attendees

Ms Abbie Galvin	Government Architect NSW (item 2.1)
Mr Sean McPeake	Principal, FJC Studio (item 2.1)
Ms Natalie Vinton	CEO, Curio Projects (item 2.1)
Ms Janine Lonergan	Housing Taskforce Lead, DPHI (item 4.1)
Mr Mark Finch	Development Director, Investa (item 2.1)
Mr Callan Salter	Development Manager, Investa (item 2.1)
Mr Tony Kim	Architect, FJC Studio (item 2.1)
Mr Corey Kenny	Architectural Designer, FJC Studio (item 2.1)

Heritage NSW

Ms Elizabeth Owers	A/Executive Director
Mr Tim Smith	Director Heritage Assessments
Ms Anna London	Senior Manager Heritage Listing Programs
Ms Rochelle Johnston	Strategic Manager Heritage Referrals (item 2.1)
Ms Anna Simanowsky	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.1)
Ms Louise Doherty	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.1)
Mr James Cole	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.1)
Ms Nicola Roche	Manager Heritage Programs (item 3.2)
Ms Ashley Edwards	Senior Policy Officer (items 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4)
Ms Susan Kennedy	Senior Policy Officer (items 3.2 & 3.3)
Ms Lucy Albani	Director Policy and Strategy (items 3.2 & 3.3)
Mr Matthew Clark	Director Policy and Strategy (items 3.2, 3.3 & 4.1)
Dr Caroline Ford	Manager Policy and Reform (items 3.2 & 3.3)
Ms Nicole Davis	Manager Assessments (item 4.1)
Mr Demos Hammond	Graduate
Ms Sofia Rosenberg	Graduate

Secretariat

Ms Olgica Lenger	Manager Secretariat
Ms Elizabeth Thomas	Senior Secretariat Officer

IN-CAMERA SESSION

This item was not minuted.

Item 1. Welcome and Formalities

The Chair, Sally Barnes, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM.

The Chair delivered an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed attendees.

The Chair noted the apologies received for this meeting and that a quorum had been met.

Item 1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Nil

Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions

Nil

Item 1.3 Minutes from the 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 and closed the items recommended for closure.

Item 2. External presentations

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

The Heritage Council of NSW received a presentation from Investa and their design consultants for the alterations and additions proposed for educational purposes for the *MLC Building (former)*, 105 Miller Street, North Sydney.

The Chair welcomed the Government Architect and members of the Approvals Committee who joined the meeting for this pre-lodgement consultation.

The proponent noted previous pre lodgement presentations and discussions with the Heritage Council and advised that the development application (DA) for a commercial use was lodged with North Sydney Council in December 2024. They advised they would be progressing a parallel development application seeking approval for an education scheme.

The proponent noted the majority of components for the new Denison Street Tower education scheme are consistent with the submitted commercial DA. The design team outlined the differences in the education scheme including the redesign of the Miller Street ground floor entry

and proposed pedestrian movements. The design team outlined how the submitted DA and the proposed education DA responded to the Council's previous feedback, including options that had been considered but deemed not possible for the retention of heritage fabric in situ including bathrooms, the dining room, squash courts and awnings between the Miller Street Colonnades.

Members sought clarification around the:

- design scheme and mitigation measures proposed to address the flooding issues of the former MLC Building
- proportions of the Miller Street Colonnade resulting from adjustments to the ground floor level
- possibility of a change of use providing additional opportunity for the retention of heritage fabric, heritage interpretation and proposed colour schemes
- views analysis, the juxtaposition of the two buildings and the proposed façade treatments, and
- the timeframe for finalising tenancies, which will inform the final scheme.

The Council did not object to the proposal for an education use within the precinct to progress to DA stage. They were pleased to see the proposal responds to the *Caring for Country* guidelines and discussed the heritage interpretation approach. Members noted that retention of the significant fabric and conservation of the heritage values of the former MLC Building should be prioritised over heritage interpretation.

Resolution 2025-17

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

1. **Note** the presentation by Investa, fjstudio, 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

Vanessa Holtham joined the meeting at 11:45 AM

Item 3. Legal, Policy & Administration

Item 3.1 St Mary's (SHR 017090) – LEC Class 1 proceedings - update

The Heritage Council received an update from the Chair regarding the Class 1 LEC proceedings underway for St Mary's Precinct, Sydney.

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

The Council received a report and presentation from Heritage NSW on the history of the State Heritage Register (SHR), its composition and its current state.

The Council noted the proposed areas of focus for 2025-26 will assist with the timely processing of applications with efficient use of resources and align with the NSW Heritage Strategy.

Resolution 2025-18
<p>The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Council received a report and presentation from Heritage NSW on the work being undertaken by Heritage NSW in relation to section 170 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (Act).

Members discussed the role of Heritage NSW and the Heritage Council in the SHR listings process, and the challenges and opportunities in the management of State owned heritage asset.

Item 3.4 Heritage Council Strategic Priorities 2023-25 analysis

The Council noted the draft agenda and material being prepared by Heritage NSW for the half-day workshop being held on 6 May 2025 to develop the Council's new Strategic Priorities for 2025-27.

Item 4. Matters for consideration

Item 4.1 Housing Taskforce – DPHI briefing

The Heritage Council received a briefing from Janine Lonergan, Housing Taskforce Lead for the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on the work of this multi-agency team which brings together government and industry to deliver housing for the State.

Key points noted

- Under governance arrangements the Housing Taskforce (HT) sits alongside but is separate to the Housing Delivery Authority.
- There is a shared sense of responsibility across all levels of government to address the housing crisis for the State and the Taskforce streamlines agency involvement in the planning processes to ensure that approvals and advice are delivered with the local authorities in a coordinated approach.
- Meeting legislative timeframes is mapped across agencies to identify areas for improvement and this workstream has various projects underway.
- Heritage NSW is consistently meeting its targets with over 96% of applications achieved within timeframes.
- Heritage NSW is mindful that the care and wellbeing of Heritage NSW staff should remain a priority.

The Council thanked Janine Lonergan for the informative briefing and acknowledged the excellent work of Nicole Davis who represents Heritage NSW on the taskforce working group.

Members congratulated Heritage NSW on making continuous improvements to customer service to meet delivery timeframes.

Item 5. Executive Reports

Item 5.1 Chair, Heritage Council of NSW – Monthly Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the verbal update provided by the Chair.

Item 5.2 Executive Director, Heritage NSW

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and a verbal update from the Executive Director.

Item 5.3 State Heritage Register Committee

Brian Lindsay, A/Chair of the State Heritage Register Committee (SHRC), provided an update on the key outcomes for items considered at the 1 April SHRC meeting, including:

- notices of intention (NOI) to list the *Seidler Offices and Penthouses*, Milsons Point; *Port Kembla Telephone Exchange Moveable Collection*, Port Kembla; *Lithgow Small Arms Factory*, Lithgow
- an amended NOI for *Vaucluse House*, Vaucluse; and
- preliminary assessment of SHR nominations for *Ball-Eastaway House*, Glenorie; *Soldiers' Memorial School of Arts*, Liverpool.

Item 5.4 Approvals Committee

Alan Croker, member of the Approvals Committee (AC), provided an update on the key outcomes for items considered at the 1 April AC meeting, including:

- pre lodgement consultation for a proposed new Dorrigo Arc Rainforest Centre and Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk at *Gondwana Rainforests of Australia* (SHR 01002);
- pre lodgement consultation for proposed sporting fields and tidal baths at *Callan Park* (SHR 00818), Lilyfield; and
- consideration of State significant archaeology at 197 Church Street, Parramatta.

Item 5.5 Planning Report (DPHI)

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the monthly planning report and verbal update from Anthea Sargeant.

Item 5.6 Advisory Panels Report

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the Advisory Panels report.

Item 6. Heritage NSW monthly reports

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the monthly operational reports and verbal updates from Tim Smith and Anna London on heritage assessments, compliance and SHR listings matters.

Item 7. General Matters

Item 7.1 Forward Agenda

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the forward agenda.

Lisa Trueman and Vanessa Holtham provided an update on the *Heritage Rail Bridges Working Group* meeting which they attended on 27 March 2025.

Item 7.2 Membership 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 8. Meeting Close

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



Sally Barnes

Chair, Heritage Council of NSW

7 May 2025