



# STATE HERITAGE REGISTER COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

1 April 2025 | 9:00 AM – 12:23 PM

*Meeting held via Teams videoconference.*

## ATTENDANCE

### State Heritage Register Committee

|                    |              |
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| Dr. Brian Lindsay  | Acting Chair |
| Dr. Wayne Johnson  | Member       |
| Ms Lisa Trueman    | Member       |
| Ms Natalie Vinton  | Member       |
| Ms Vanessa Holtham | Member       |
| Mr Julian Siu      | Member       |

### *Apologies*

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| Dr. Stephen Gapps | Member           |
| Ms Sally Barnes   | Alternate Member |

### Heritage NSW

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| Ms Elizabeth Owers | A/Executive Director                        |
| Ms Anna London     | Senior Manager, Heritage Listings Programs  |
| Ms Nicola Roche    | Manager, State Heritage Register listing    |
| Ms Lucy Albani     | Director Policy and Strategy (item 2.1)     |
| Ms Caroline Ford   | Manager Policy and Reform (item 2.1)        |
| Ms Sarah Hawkins   | Senior Heritage Officer ( <i>item 3.1</i> ) |
| Dr Stuart Read     | Senior Heritage Officer ( <i>item 3.2</i> ) |
| Dr Damian Tybussek | Senior Heritage Officer ( <i>item 3.3</i> ) |
| Ms Meggan Walker   | Senior Heritage Officer ( <i>item 3.4</i> ) |
| Ms Judith Coombes  | Senior Heritage Officer ( <i>item 4.0</i> ) |

### External presenters

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| Mr Andrew Downes   | VP Government Relations and Communications ( <i>item 3.4</i> ) |
| Ms Madeleine Ellis | Legal Counsel ( <i>item 3.4</i> )                              |

### Secretariat

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| Ms Olgica Lenger | Manager Secretariat |
| Ms Natasha Agaki | Secretariat Officer |

## Item 1. Welcome and Formalities

Acting Chair Brian Lindsay opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and delivered an Acknowledgment of Country.

The Committee noted an apology from Stephen Gapps and that a quorum had been met.

### Item 1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared with items on the agenda.

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the following standing declarations:

- Sally Barnes: Former Head of NPWS (2007-2011) and CEO of OEH (2012-2014)
- Wayne Johnson: Place Management NSW
- Natalie Vinton: Curio Projects; Powerhouse Museum, Ultimo and MLC Building, North Sydney
- Stephen Gapps: Artefact Heritage and Environment
- Julian Siu: GML Heritage
- Vanessa Holtham: Spouse employed as Director, NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

### Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the below resolution endorsed out of session on 10 March 2025:

| Resolution 2025-21   |
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| The State Heritage Register Committee resolved to:   |
| 1. <b>Approve</b> the extension of the advertising period of its notice of intention to consider listing an amendment for the <b>Seidler Family Precinct, Wahroonga</b> , for a further 60 days until 10 May 2025. |
| 2. <b>Write</b> to Donna Seidler to express condolences on the passing of Brian Seidler AM.  |
| Moved by Lisa Trueman and seconded by Julian Siu   |






### Item 1.3 Minutes from the Previous Meeting – 4 March 2025

| Resolution 2025-22   |
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| The State Heritage Register Committee:   |
| 1. <b>Confirmed</b> the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (4 March 2025) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting. |
| Moved by Wayne Johnson and seconded by Natalie Vinton  |



### Item 1.4 Matters Arising

Nil

### Item 1.5 Action Report

Nil

## **Item 2 Matters for Consideration**

### **Item 2.1 Findings of the SHR listing process review**

The State Heritage Register Committee noted a presentation on the Findings of the SHR listing process review, from Lucy Albani and Caroline Ford, Heritage NSW.

*Key points:*

- The 2021 Upper House Inquiry recommended reform of the State heritage listings process and considered features of a possible community-driven nominations process.
- Heritage NSW discussed findings of the internal review carried out in 2023 including key issues, recommendations for improvement to the process, and potential timeframes for change.
- The Committee considered the benefits of better aligning the nomination process with a thematic approach, including a more representative SHR, engaged community, and resource efficiency.
- The Committee considered opportunities and impacts of any potential commitments coming under the Draft NSW Heritage Strategy, which is currently in development.
- The Committee reinforced the importance of securing appropriate resourcing for research, marketing, and communications; and ensuring that any language used in requesting nominations equally reflects the value of intangible heritage items.

The A/Chair thanked Lucy Albani and Caroline Ford for their presentation.

## **Item 3. SHR Nominations – Notice of Intention**

### **Item 3.1 Seidler Offices and Penthouses – NOI**

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the report on Seidler Offices and Apartments – NOI by Sarah Hawkins, Heritage NSW.

*Key points:*

- The Seidler Offices and Penthouses was nominated in 2003 by the NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects as part of a bulk set of nominations and set for progression in 2018.
- The Seidler Offices and Penthouses is a precinct comprising three buildings and Harry's Park, which may be of State heritage significance for its associative, aesthetic, rarity and representative values.
- The item has remained in the ownership of the Seidler family who are supportive of the listing and will work with Heritage NSW on site specific exemptions.
- The proposed curtilage would also include Harry's Park, a public park/ forecourt which is owned by Crown Lands NSW.
- Crown Lands NSW has not opposed the listing to date and is expected to provide further comment in due course.
- The Committee briefly discussed management of the adjacent park land, also owned by Crown Lands NSW, and suggested carrying out a title search to clarify any questions around boundaries.

The Chair thanked Sarah Hawkins for her presentation.

**Resolution 2025-23**

The State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Considers** the item known as Seidler Offices and Penthouses at 2-4 Glen Street, Milsons Point, defined in accordance with the curtilage shown at Tab 3.1C of the report, may be of State heritage significance.
2. In accordance with section 33(1)(a) of the *Heritage Act 1977*, will **give** each person that it considers to be an affected owner or occupier written **notice** that it is going to consider whether or not to recommend the listing of the item concerned (a *notice of intention to consider listing*).
3. In accordance with section 33(1)(b) and section 33(1)(c) of the *Heritage Act 1977*, within 14 days after notice of intention to consider listing is given, will cause a **notice** of intention to consider listing to be **published** in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the item is situated, inviting submissions on the listing, specifying a date as the closing date for the receipt of submissions of 28 days after the publication of the newspaper notice and the manner in which submissions may be made.

Moved by Natalie Vinton and seconded by Vanessa Holtham

**Item 3.2 Vacluse House, Vacluse (Amendment) – NOI**

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the report on Vacluse House, Vacluse (Amendment) – NOI by Stuart Read, Heritage NSW.

*Key points:*

- Vacluse House was listed on the SHR in 1999 as part of a bulk listing but included limited information.
- The item is of State significance for its historic, aesthetic, social, research and rarity values as a relatively intact early marine villa estate on Sydney Harbour, associated with statesman W.C. Wentworth and family, and as NSW's first house museum.
- The proposed amendments expand on the statement of significance to ensure the full heritage significance of Vacluse House is reflected in the listing and aligns with best practice. A full significance assessment has also been added, as well as updates to the item description and documentation of its history and condition.
- The amendment process will allow for public comment on the proposed amendments, particularly the precinct's heritage values and how these are recorded on the SHR.
- No change is proposed to the existing curtilage.
- The owner, Museums of History NSW, is supportive of the proposed amendments.
- The Committee asked that further consideration be given to amending the listing name, for example, Vacluse House and Grounds/Garden/Landscape.

**Resolution 2025-24**

The State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Considers** the item known as Vacluse House at 69A Wentworth Road, Vacluse, defined in accordance with the curtilage shown at Tab 3.2C of the report, continues to be of State heritage significance.
2. In accordance with section 33(1)(a) of the *Heritage Act 1977*, will **give** each person that it considers to be an affected owner or occupier written **notice** that it is going to consider whether or not to recommend an amendment of the listing item concerned (a *notice of intention to consider a listing amendment*).

3. In accordance with section 33(1)(b) and section 33(1)(c) of the *Heritage Act 1977*, within 14 days after notice of intention to consider a listing amendment is given, will cause a **notice** of intention to consider a listing amendment to be **published** in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the item is situated, inviting submissions on the listing amendment, specifying a date as the closing date for the receipt of submissions of 28 days after the publication of the newspaper notice and the manner in which submissions may be made.

Moved by Wayne Johnson and seconded by Lisa Trueman

### Item 3.3 Port Kembla Telephone Exchange Moveable Collection – NOI

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the report on Port Kembla Telephone Exchange Moveable Collection – NOI by Damian Tybussek, Heritage NSW.

#### Key points:

- Port Kembla Telephone Exchange was nominated for SHR listing in July 2007 by the Australian Telephone Collectors Society Inc., including both the exchange building (built in the 1950s) and the moveable collection located within it.
- The telephone exchange building is owned by Telstra Corporation. The moveable collection is owned by Heritage Telecommunications Ltd – an independent, not for profit, subsidiary of Telstra Corporation.
- Telstra does not support the listing of the exchange building and in 2021 the SHRC resolved to progress the nomination of the collection alone.
- In January 2025, Heritage NSW was advised by the owners that the intactness and integrity of the moveable collection has been severely compromised by the systematic removal of copper by scavengers.
- Impacts of the disturbed equipment mean that any inspection of the site would require specific hazardous substance control measures, and Telstra has not given permission for Heritage NSW to inspect the moveable collection.
- The system as a whole is no longer in a workable condition or representative of a complete example of the step-by-step and crossbar systems typically installed in mid-20th century rural telephone exchanges. Therefore, it may no longer meet the threshold of State heritage significance.

The Chair thanked Damian Tybussek for his presentation.

#### Resolution 2025-25

The State Heritage Register Committee:

1. **Notes** the damage to the Port Kembla Telephone Exchange Moveable Collection caused by unlawful activity which has adversely impacted its intactness and integrity.
2. **Considers** that the item known as the Port Kembla Telephone Exchange Moveable Collection may no longer be of State heritage significance.
3. **Recommends** that further consideration of the Port Kembla Telephone Exchange Moveable Collection is deferred until more detailed information on condition and integrity of the components can be gathered, when it is safe to do so.

Moved by Natalie Holtham and seconded by Wayne Johnson

**Item 3.4 Lithgow Small Arms Factory, Lithgow – NOI**

The State Heritage Register Committee welcomed Madeleine Ellis, Legal Counsel, and Andrew Downes, Vice President, Government Relations and Communications from Thales Australia to the meeting to deliver a presentation on the Lithgow Small Arms Factory NOI.

The Committee noted that Thales Australia does not support listing Lithgow Small Arms Factory on the SHR.

The presenters argued that a listing would place defence preparedness at risk and preclude expansion or redevelopment of a defence production facility. The presenters emphasised that adaptability is critical to meeting the ongoing defence needs of Australia, including ‘surge’ requirements, and that any listing would restrict this ability.

The Committee thanked Ms Ellis and Mr Downes for their presentation.

The State Heritage Register Committee noted a report on the Lithgow Small Arms Factory, Lithgow – NOI by Meggan Walker, Heritage NSW.

*Key points:*

- Lithgow Small Arms Factory was last nominated for SHR listing in October 2024 due to security concerns following a burglary in August 2024. Previous nominations were not progressed.
- Thales Australia has requested that the listing process be delayed to allow further internal consultation. A 90-day public submission period is proposed to allow consultation to occur.
- The proposed curtilage matches the existing local heritage listing. Whilst Thales Australia objects to the listing and has not provided comment on a preferred curtilage, they do not dispute the significance of the place.
- There is an active community campaign in support of the listing. This includes a petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly.
- The Committee considered possible impacts of listing the site, noting that the Commonwealth can modify legislative provisions in a state of emergency, and that several arms factories are listed on the SHR and/or at the Federal level and are not precluded from further development.
- The Committee felt that it would be useful to have a heritage assessment of the site and a more up to date Conservation Management Plan (last completed in 2001).

The Chair thanked Meggan Walker for her presentation.

| Resolution 2025-26   |
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| <p>The State Heritage Register Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Considers</b> the item known as the Lithgow Small Arms Factory at 69 Methven Street, Lithgow, defined in accordance with the curtilage shown at Tab 3.4C of the report, may be of State heritage significance.</li><li>2. In accordance with section 33(1)(a) of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>, will <b>give</b> each person that it considers to be an affected owner or occupier written <b>notice</b> that it is going to consider whether or not to recommend the listing of the item concerned (a <i>notice of intention to consider listing</i>).</li><li>3. In accordance with section 33(1)(b) and section 33(1)(c) of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>, within 14 days after notice of intention to consider listing is given, will cause a <b>notice</b> of intention to consider listing to be <b>published</b> in a newspaper circulating in the area</li></ol> |

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| in which the item is situated, inviting submissions on the listing, specifying a date as the closing date for the receipt of submissions of 90 days after the publication of the newspaper notice and the manner in which submissions may be made. |
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| Moved by Lisa Trueman and seconded by Vanessa Holtham |
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## Item 4. Preliminary Assessment of New SHR Nominations

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the Preliminary Assessment of New SHR Nominations report by Lauren Thomson, Heritage NSW.

### Item 4.1 Ball-Eastaway House

This item was nominated for State heritage listing by Daniel North, Director, Downie North Architects. It was noted that comparative information concerning other Murcutt houses was particularly helpful in this decision.

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| <b>Resolution 2025-27</b> |
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| The State Heritage Register Committee: |
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| 1. <b>Considers</b> that the Ball-Eastaway House may be of State heritage significance and therefore the nomination should be progressed. |
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| Moved by Lisa Trueman and seconded by Julian Siu |
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### Item 4.2 Soldiers' Memorial School of Arts, Liverpool

This item was nominated for State heritage listing by Thomas Wheeler, Heritage Officer, Liverpool City Council. It was noted that the summary clearly identifies the item's local significance, and the Committee felt that state significance was unlikely to be met.

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| <b>Resolution 2025-28</b> |
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| The State Heritage Register Committee: |
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| 1. <b>Considers</b> that the Soldiers' Memorial School of Arts, Liverpool is unlikely to be of State significance and therefore the nomination should not be progressed. |
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| Moved by Julian Siu and seconded by Lisa Trueman |
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## Item 5. SHR Listings Monthly Report

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the report.

## Item 6. General Matters

### Item 6.1 Forward Agenda

The State Heritage Register Committee noted the forward agenda.

## Meeting Close

There being no further items of business, the Acting Chair, Brian Lindsay, closed the meeting at 12:23 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Lindsay", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

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Dr. Brian Lindsay

**Acting Chair, State Heritage Register Committee**

Date: 6 May 2025