



# HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

## MEETING MINUTES – 538

7 May 2025 | 9:00 AM – 4:25 PM

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

## ATTENDANCE

### Members

Ms Sally Barnes	Chair
Dr Nicholas Brunton	Member
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

Nil

### External Attendees

Mr David McCracken	Program Director, Property Development NSW (item 3.1)
Ms Kate Luckraft	Project Director, Property Development NSW (item 3.1)
Ms Rachel Moody	Project Manager, Property Development NSW (item 3.1)
Mr Chris Taylor	Senior Design Advisor, Government Architect NSW (item 3.1)

### Heritage NSW

Ms Elizabeth Owers	A/Executive Director
Mr Tim Smith	Director Heritage Assessments
Ms Anna London	Senior Manager Heritage Listing Programs
Ms Lucy Albani	Director Policy and Strategy (items 2.0, 4.3 & 4.4)
Mr Matthew Clark	Director Policy and Strategy (items 2.0)
Dr Caroline Ford	Manager Policy and Reform (item 2.0)
Ms Katrina Stankowski	Manager Assessments (item 4.2)
Ms Sonia Limeburner	Manager Strategy & Implementation (items 4.3 & 4.4)
Ms Ashley Edwards	Senior Policy Officer (item 4.3)
Mr Nicholas Lackner	Senior Policy Officer (item 4.4)
Ms Rochelle Johnston	Senior Assessments Officer (item 4.5)
Ms Andreana Kennedy	Senior Assessments Officer (item 4.5)
Ms Anna Simanowsky	Senior Assessments Officer (item 4.5)
Mr Blake Bartley	Graduate, Listing Programs

### 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 that no apologies were received for this meeting and that a quorum had been met.

### Item 1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

#### *Item 3.1 Parramatta North Rezoning Proposal.*

- Anthea Sargeant and Julian Siu have previously declared a conflict of interest. Members agreed that Ms Sargeant and Mr Siu will be excused for this item and papers were redacted from their view.

#### *Item 4.5 MLC Building (former), North Sydney*

- Members considered Nicholas Brunton's historical conflict of interest and agreed that Dr Brunton will be excused for this item and the papers were redacted from his view.
- Alan Croker noted his potential perceived conflict of interest and recused himself from this matter going forward in an abundance of caution.

In addition, Julian Siu reported that:

- GML has been engaged and delivered a peer review for *197 Church Street, Parramatta*, however Mr Siu was not personally involved.
- GML is providing advice to Thales Australia regarding the SHR nomination for *Lithgow Small Arms Factory*, Mr Siu was not personally involved.

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the following standing declarations:

- Sally Barnes: former head of NPWS (2007-2011) and CEO of OEH (2012-2014)
- Nicholas Brunton: current member of NPWS Audit and Risk Committee
- Alan Croker: Design 5
- Vanessa Holtham: appointed expert on local planning panels for City of Sydney, Inner West, North Sydney, Blue Mountains, Ryde, Sutherland and Liverpool Councils; spouse employed as Director, NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Anthea Sargeant: Executive Director, State Rezoning, NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Julian Siu: GML Heritage

### Item 1.2 Out of Session Decisions – 15 April 2025

Resolution 2025-22
<p>The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Confirm</b> the minutes of the out of session meeting (15 April 2025) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting, as amended.</li> </ol>
Moved by Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Vanessa Holtham

**Item 1.3 Minutes from the Previous Meeting – 2 April 2025**

<b>Resolution 2025-23</b>
The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to: 1. <b>Confirm</b> the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (2 April 2025) as a complete and accurate record of that meeting.
Moved by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Lisa Trueman

**Item 1.4 Matters Arising**

The Council congratulated Vanessa Holtham on her reappointment to the Heritage Council for a further three year term.

**Item 1.5 Action Report**

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the report and closed the items recommended for closure.

**Item 2. Heritage Council Strategic Planning Workshop**

The Heritage Council of NSW discussed the outcomes of the strategic planning workshop held on 6 May 2025 and the next steps for preparing the action plan.

*Ms Anthea Sargeant left the meeting at 10:45 AM.*

**Item 3. External presentations****Item 3.1 Parramatta North precinct – draft rezoning proposal**

*Mr Julian Siu was excused for this item.*

The Heritage Council of NSW received a presentation from Property Development NSW (PDNSW) on their response to submissions for the Parramatta North precinct - draft rezoning proposal.

The Chair welcomed the Government Architect to the meeting for this presentation.

PDNSW outlined the proposed adjustments to the building heights, footprints, and land use to address heritage concerns and optimise the site's development potential.

The Council thanked PDNSW for the presentation and noted supplementary view analysis information will be provided to the Council in coming days

Following the presentation, the Council discussed the proposed revisions and how they respond to the Council's resolutions from the February and March 2025 meetings. Notwithstanding the commercial and development objectives of the Government's proposal, the Council emphasised the importance of conserving the very significant International, National and State heritage values of the precinct and encouraged sustainable reuse of existing buildings wherever possible.

A detailed response will be provided to PDNSW once all material, including the supplementary view analysis information, has been reviewed by the Council out of session.

**Resolution 2025-24**

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved to:

1. **Note** the presentation from Property and Development NSW.
2. **Provide** a written response on the Parramatta North Draft Rezoning Proposal to PDNSW.

Moved by Nicholas Brunton and seconded by Brian Lindsay  
*Ms Anthea Sargeant and Mr Julian Siu left the meeting for this item.*

*Mr Julian Siu rejoined the meeting at 11:45 AM.*

## **Item 4. Legal, Policy & Administration**

### **Item 4.1 St Mary's (SHR 017090) – LEC Class 1 proceedings - update**

The Heritage Council received a verbal update from the Chair and Dr Brunton regarding the Class 1 Land and Environment Court proceedings underway for *St Mary's Precinct*, Sydney.

### **Item 4.2 Heritage Council, Heritage NSW & Transport for NSW - Timber Rail Bridges Working Group**

The Council received a verbal update from Lisa Trueman and Vanessa Holtham on the *Heritage Rail Bridges Working Group* and discussed appropriate Council and Heritage NSW representation on this group for future meetings.

**Resolution 2025-25**

The Heritage Council of NSW:

1. Has **considered** the nature and goals of the TfNSW /HC Timber Rail Bridge Working Group and determined to **substitute** Heritage NSW staff in place of Heritage Council appointed members in this Working Group. This is done on the understanding that Heritage NSW staff will bring any issues which require specific advice from the Heritage Council to them as required.

Moved by Sally Barnes and seconded by Nicholas Brunton

### **Item 4.3 Standard exemptions review and draft exemptions policy update**

The Council received a report from Heritage NSW on development of the exemption framework review, including the results of recent stakeholder surveys.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the effectiveness of the current exemptions framework and outlined proposed exemptions and supporting practices that need to be updated. The draft policy will include reporting requirements, staff guidance documents, and processes for review of exemptions and compliance matters.

Members noted that implementation of the review will be multifaceted, and Heritage NSW will consult with the Council periodically for feedback. It is expected that this work will be completed by September 2025. The Council supported the proposed approach to the exemption framework review.

Heritage NSW also sought the Council's feedback on development of the *Sustainable Heritage Builders Guide* and the *Solar Panels Practice Note*. This work aligns with the Heritage Council's *Climate Change Action Plan* and the draft *Heritage Strategy* and aims to support owners and the community to care for heritage and improve information and guidance for heritage owners and managers.

#### **Item 4.4 Maintenance and repair policy – conceptual draft**

The Council received a report from Heritage NSW on the preparation of a conceptual draft policy for Heritage Maintenance and Repair.

Members discussed the draft policy which aims to:

- improve the culture of maintenance and repair of heritage assets
- increase awareness and make inspection requirements publicly visible
- take a risk based approach to address ruination risks
- provide public recognition of best practice heritage maintenance projects, and
- improve the online usability and practical application of inspection reporting.

The Council noted the opportunity to present the draft policy to the State heritage agency network for further feedback.

#### **Item 4.5 MLC Building (former), North Sydney - update**

*Dr Nicholas Brunton and Mr Alan Croker were excused for this item.*

Members clarified their historical involvement on this project and noted potential perceived conflicts listed on the COI register for this item.

The Heritage Council received an update from the Chair on correspondence received from the proponent for the MLC Building.

Members reflected on the iterative design review and amendments presented by the proponent to the Council over several months. Council confirmed pre-lodgement feedback provided to the proponent on the separate commercial and education schemes to date.

The Council noted that the development application for the commercial scheme has now been lodged and is under assessment with Heritage NSW. The assessment report will be provided to the Heritage Council for consideration in the near future.

### **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 6 May SHRC meeting, including:

- notices of intention (NOI) to list the *BHP Administration Precinct*, Mayfield North;

- recommendations to list *Balls Head Reserve*, Waverton; *Yurulbin Park and Foreshore*, Birchgrove; *Australian Museum*, Sydney; *Abercrombie Bridge*, Abercrombie; *Transport House*, Sydney; and
- preliminary assessment of SHR nominations for *MV Beardmore*, Harwood Island; *Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre*, Liverpool; *Kings Beach and Surrounds*, Broken Head.

#### **Item 5.4 Approvals Committee**

Nicholas Brunton, A/Chair of the Approvals Committee (AC), provided an update on the key outcomes for items considered at the 6 May AC meeting, including:

- pre lodgement consultation for *142 – 154 Macquarie Street, Parramatta* (former Cumberland press site)
- a section 60 application for partial demolition of the *Tower Crane* at *Me Mel* (Goat Island)
- an SSD EIS proposal for a *Teaching and Learning Hub at the University of Sydney*, and a
- an update on unauthorised works related to the *Welcome Inn Hotel* (now known as the Bristol Arms Hotel), Sydney.

The Council held a broader discussion around compliance matters and the legislative reform process required to enable greater enforcement to address issues of non-compliance.

#### **Item 5.5 Planning Report (DPHI)**

The Heritage Council of NSW noted the monthly planning report.

#### **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.

#### **Item 8. Meeting Close**

There being no further items of business, the Chair, Sally Barnes, closed the meeting at 4:25 PM



Sally Barnes

**Chair, Heritage Council of NSW**

4 June 2025