



HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW

MEETING MINUTES – Approvals Committee

Tuesday, 3 June 2025 | 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM

via teleconference

ATTENDANCE

Members

Dr Nicholas Brunton	A/Chair
Mr David Burdon	Member
Mr Alan Croker	Member
Mr David McNamara	Member
Mr Bruce Pettman	Member
Ms Sally Barnes	Heritage Council Chair / Alternate Member

Apologies

Dr Caitlin Allen	Member
Ms Julie Marler	Member

Heritage NSW

Mr Tim Smith	Director Heritage Assessments
Mr Rajeev Maini	Manager Heritage Assessments (item 2.1)
Ms Shikha Jhaldiyal	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.1)
Ms Andreana Kennedy	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.1)
Mr Michael Ellis	Manager Heritage Assessments (item 2.2)
Ms Sam Gibbins	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.2)
Ms Rochelle Johnston	Strategic Manager Heritage Referrals (items 2.3 & 2.4)
Ms Tempe Beaven	Senior Assessments Officer (items 2.3 & 2.4)
Ms Lily Chu	Senior Assessments Officer (item 2.4)
Ms Elizabeth Thomas	Senior Project Officer

1. Welcome and formalities

The A/Chair, Nicholas Brunton, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM.

The A/Chair delivered an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed attendees.

The A/Chair noted the apologies for this meeting, and it was confirmed that a quorum had been met.

1.1 Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Approvals Committee noted the following standing declarations:

- Dr Nicholas Brunton: current member of NPWS Audit and Risk Committee
- Dr Caitlin Allen: Sydney University; current President ICOMOS; appointed Member of the Sydney Opera House Conservation Council
- Sally Barnes: Former head of NPWS (2007-2011) and CEO of OEH (2012-2014)
- Alan Croker: Design 5.

Item 2.1 Me Mel (Goat Island) (SHR 00989) - section 60 partial demolition of crane

- Dr Brunton confirmed that he has no actual or perceived COI for Item 2.1, noting that the matter has not come before the NPWS audit and risk committee and is unlikely to at any stage.

Item 2.2 197 Church Street, Parramatta

- Dr Brunton previously declared a conflict of interest for *197 Church Street, Parramatta*. Members noted that Dr Brunton will be excused for this item and the papers were redacted from his view.

1.2 Out of Session decisions

Nil.

1.3 Minutes from Previous Meeting – 6 May 2025

Resolution 2025-18
The Heritage Council Approvals Committee: 1. Confirms the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting (Tuesday, 6 May 2025), as a complete and accurate record of that meeting, pending minor amendments.
Moved by David Burdon and seconded by Bruce Pettman

1.4 Matters Arising

Nil.

1.5 Action Report

The Committee noted the report and closed the items recommended for closure.

2. Matters for Consideration

2.1 Me Mel (Goat Island) (SHR 00989) - section 60 partial demolition of crane

The Approvals Committee received a report from Heritage NSW seeking determination of a section 60 application (HMS 9303) for partial dismantling and removal of the *Me-Mel (Goat Island) Tower Crane*.

Members discussed the response provided by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW) on 19 May 2025 following the committee's request for further information required to determine the application.

The Committee considered:

- the safety risks posed by the deterioration of the heritage fabric and the proposal to partially retain the tower crane structure
- the competing needs to preserve other heritage significant assets on the island, and
- opportunities for heritage interpretation.

Resolution 2025-19
<p>The Heritage Council Approvals Committee resolved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval is granted to the section 60 application (HMS 9303) for the dismantling and removal of only the 4-10 ton fixed electric tower crane cantilever rotary jib and upper tower at Goat Island (SHR 00989) in accordance with the recommended conditions in the assessment report provided at Tab 2.1A and the section 60 letter of approval provided at Tab 2.1B of this report.
<p>Moved by Bruce Pettman and seconded by David McNamara</p>

2.3 Jenner House – section 60 following Integrated Development Application

The Approvals Committee received a report from Heritage NSW seeking determination of a section 60 application for design amendments submitted following an integrated development application for *Jenner House* at Potts Point.

The Committee considered the heritage impacts of the revised design and discussed:

- the applicant's response to the request for further information
- the remaining inconsistencies between the intent of the General Terms of Approval (GTAs) and the section 60 application, and
- the proposed amendments to the conditions for unresolved items which aim to provide further clarity about the GTAs and their intent.

Resolution 2025-21
<p>The Heritage Council Approvals Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes that most of the General Terms of Approval that required information to be provided in a section 60 application have been addressed. 2. Notes that there are four main elements that are unresolved or are inconsistent with the intent of the General Terms of Approval issued by the Approvals Committee, that is the two storey Orchid House, the garage addition façade and the revised lift as outlined in the summary report prepared by Heritage NSW and provided at Tab 2.3A Section 2 and Tab 2.3D of this report. 3. Approves the section 60 application (following an Integrated Development approval) for alterations and additions to Jenner House, subject to the conditions outlined in Section 5 of Tab 2.3B of this report. 4. Note that if the proponent seeks to amend the plans in a matter that is inconsistent with the plans in the General Terms of Approval, they will have to lodge a modification, and the Approvals Committee would encourage a presentation prior to submission.
<p>Moved by David Burdon and seconded by Nicholas Brunton</p>

2.4 Tresco – Heritage NSW update

The Approvals Committee received a report and update from Heritage NSW following the site meeting held on 15 May 2025 at Tresco (SHR 00780) with the Chairs of the Heritage Council and the Approvals Committee and the owners and representatives from their design consultant team.

The Committee discussed the potential tolerance for change and reiterated their view that the site development should be guided by the Conservation Management Plan (CMP). Members noted the State significant values of this rare surviving integrated villa in its connected harbourside landscape and setting.

Resolution 2025-22
<p>The Heritage Council Approvals Committee resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare a draft letter which responds to discussions held on site at Tresco about the Heritage Council's tolerance for change at this SHR listed site, and circulate it to the Approvals Committee for final approval. 2. Support Heritage NSW engaging with the proponent in additional pre-lodgement advice on any amended scheme.
<p>Moved by Alan Croker and seconded by David McNamara</p>

2.2 197 Church St Parramatta – state significant archaeology – Heritage NSW update

Dr Nicholas Brunton left the meeting and Sally Barnes chaired the Committee for this item and the remainder of the meeting.

The Approvals Committee received a report from Heritage NSW on the status of *197 Church Street, Parramatta*, where archaeological test excavation under an s140 permit has uncovered State significant archaeology related to two convict brick huts subsequently converted to form the first government 'charity school'.

Members discussed the compliance report received on 7 May 2025 including photographs of the requested site stabilisation and protection works which have now been completed, and noted that the compliance investigation is ongoing.

The Committee explored various options for in situ conservation and heritage interpretation opportunities for the site.

Resolution 2025-20
<p>The Heritage Council Approvals Committee resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the report and the document titled <i>197 Church Street Parramatta, New South Wales: Final Archaeological Report</i>, prepared by Austral Archaeology, dated 14 April 2025. 2. Note the recommendations in the GML Heritage's independent peer review of Austral Archaeology's report that confirms the significance of the site and supports the need for further archaeological investigation. 3. Re-confirm the Approval Committee's resolution 2025-11 made on 1 April 2025, that the First Nations contact and the convict-period archaeological resource at 197 Church Street, Parramatta is rare surviving evidence that is distinctive and uncommon in the history of Parramatta, New South Wales, and Australia. 4. Confirm that additional archaeological investigation should be undertaken to further understand the nature, extent and significance of the archaeological resource at 197 Church Street, Parramatta. This should inform options for <i>in situ</i> conservation and modification of the Development Application. 5. Write to the City of Parramatta to confirm the need for further archaeological investigation and express the Heritage Council's interest in finding an innovative way to inform new construction and enable <i>in situ</i> conservation and public interpretation of State significant archaeological remains in any new development at 197 Church Street, Parramatta. This includes the two convict brick huts and first government 'charity school.'
<p>Moved by Bruce Pettman and seconded by Alan Croker</p> <p><i>Dr Nicholas Brunton left the meeting for this item.</i></p>

3.0 General Business

3.1 Forward agenda

The Approvals Committee noted the forward agenda, and Tim Smith provided a verbal update on various matters currently being managed by Heritage NSW.

4.0 Meeting Close

There being no further items of business, Sally Barnes, A/Chair, declared the Approvals Committee meeting closed at 12:15 PM.



Dr Nicholas Brunton

Chair, Heritage Council Approvals Committee

Date: 1 July 2025